

Appendix A Methodology and Interpretation

Enrollment of Mothers of Infants Participating in WIC

Methodology

Enrollment

Enrollment in WIC is determined by WIC information linked to Minnesota birth certificate data. Enrollment numbers do not include infants born in Minnesota who participated in WIC where the birth and WIC records were not successfully matched. Enrollment numbers do not include infants born outside Minnesota who participated in Minnesota WIC. WIC participation recorded on the birth certificate was ignored when determining WIC enrollment for the purposes of this report.

WIC participation categories

Minnesota WIC participation by mothers whose infants were born in Minnesota are divided into four categories.

- Infants not enrolled in WIC (never) – neither the mother nor infant were enrolled in Minnesota WIC, or the birth and WIC records were not successfully matched.
- Postpartum/infant only (no prenatal) – the infant was enrolled in WIC, and the mother either never participated or participated only postpartum.
- < 3 months of pregnancy (< 3 months) – mother enrolled in WIC within 90 days prior to her infant’s birth. For infants born on or after their due date, this would be the same as enrollment during the 3rd trimester of pregnancy.
- 3 or more months of pregnancy (\geq 3 months) - mother enrolled in WIC more than 90 days prior to her infant’s birth. For infants born on or after their due date, this would be the same as enrollment prior to the 3rd trimester of pregnancy.

Insurance

Insurance is based on payment method as reported on the Minnesota birth certificate.

- Medicaid/MA – Medicaid, Medical Assistance, or Minnesota Care. Recipients are adjunctively eligible to participate in the WIC program. Medicaid participation is known to be underreported on the birth certificate.
- Private – private insurance, typically employer-paid insurance
- Other - includes self-insured, uninsured, Champus/Tricare, other government insurance, and unknown.

Birth Order

Birth order is determined by number of living children as reported on the Minnesota birth certificate. Prior infants born to the current infant's mother who were reported as not living at the time of the current infant's birth were not included when calculating birth order. This makes birth order less accurate but a better estimate of the number of children living in a household at the time of the current infant's birth.

Interpretation:

Because not every WIC record is successfully matched to a Minnesota birth certificate, the number and percentage of infants whose mothers participate in WIC is underreported.

WIC participation increases with higher birth order. This may be partially explained by the fact that WIC income eligibility varies with household size. Higher birth order is also associated with timing of enrollment in WIC, with mothers with more children enrolling earlier in pregnancy.