

Women, Infants, Children (WIC) program participation among 2007-2016 National Health Interview Survey (NHIS) participants who linked to Housing and Urban Development (HUD) administrative data

The Women, Infants, Children (WIC) program is a Special Supplemental Nutrition Program that provides federal grants to states for supplemental foods, health care referrals, and nutrition education for low-income pregnant, breastfeeding, and non-breastfeeding postpartum women, and to infants and children up to age five who are found to be at nutritional risk. The following table shows estimates calculated from the 2007-2016 NHIS data linked to HUD administrative data. NHIS participants included female sample adults, aged 18 to 49 years of age, and sample children (0-17 years) who were eligible for data linkage and who linked to HUD administrative data. Table 1 includes women who were age-eligible for WIC overall and by pregnancy status¹. Table 2 includes children by age group². More information about these data files can be found at:

<https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data-linkage/hud.htm>

Table 1. Unweighted sample size and weighted percentages of WIC program participation³, among 2007-2016 NHIS linkage-eligible⁴ female sample adults (aged 18 to 49⁵) receiving HUD assistance⁵ at the time of the NHIS interview overall and by pregnancy status⁶.

| Overall n=3401 | | Pregnant n=161 | | non-Pregnant n=3240 | |
|-------------------|----------------|-------------------|----------------|------------------------|----------------|
| Weighted % | 95% CI | Weighted % | 95% CI | Weighted % | 95% CI |
| 28.2 | (26.45, 29.93) | 59.6 | (49.15, 69.51) | 26.8 | (24.95, 28.71) |

Table 2. Unweighted sample size and weighted percentages of WIC program participation¹, among 2007-2016 NHIS linkage-eligible⁴ sample children receiving HUD assistance⁵ at the time of the NHIS interview overall and by age group.

| Overall n=2219 | | Age 0-5 years n=456 | | Age 6-17 years n=1477 | |
|-------------------|----------------|------------------------|----------------|--------------------------|----------------|
| Weighted % | 95% CI | Weighted % | 95% CI | Weighted % | 95% CI |
| 34.5 | (32.47, 36.56) | 62.1 | (58.45, 65.55) | 20.9 | (18.13, 23.95) |

Source: National Center for Health Statistics, 2007-2016 NHIS linked to HUD administrative data
n, unweighted sample size; CI, Confidence Interval; WIC, Women, Infants, And Children Program.

¹WIC age eligibility is determined by the self-reported age in the survey. WIC age-eligible women are females 12-55 years of age. However, the analyses were restricted to women aged 18-49 as NHIS question on pregnancy was restricted to this age group.

² Children aged 0-5 years are age-eligible for WIC. Children aged 6-7 years in households with women or other children age-eligible for WIC were also included.

³The NHIS question reads, "At any time during [the last calendar year] did [you/any family members living here] receive benefits from the WIC program, that is, the Women, Infants, and Children program?"

⁴ NHIS participants were considered eligible for linkage to HUD administrative data if they provided the last four digits of their social security number (SSN4) or an affirmative response to the follow-up question to allow linkage without SSN4, and they did not refuse to respond to questions about receiving rental assistance during the interview, and they provided the required data elements for linkage. The analysis was limited to the participants with linked HUD administrative data present concurrently with NHIS interview. For more information refer to methods and analytic guidelines:

<https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/datalinkage/NCHS-HUD-Linked-Data-Methodology-and-Analytic-Considerations.pdf>

⁵ NCHS has linked the 2016 National Health Interview Survey (NHIS) to Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) largest housing assistance programs: Housing Choice Vouchers, Multifamily, and Public Housing programs administrative data through 2016.

⁶ The NHIS question reads, "Are you currently pregnant?"