

Guide to Variables for WIC Administrative Data available through a Federal Statistical Research Data Center (FSRDC)

Abstract. USDA’s Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) aims to safeguard the health of low-income women, infants, and children up to age 5 who are at nutrition risk by providing nutritious foods to supplement diets, information on healthy eating, and referrals to health care and social services. This guide provides: a list of which States have micro-level, restricted use WIC administrative data accessible through a Federal Statistical Research Data Center (FSRDC) and that have a publicly available list of variables in the data; a list of which variables are available for a particular State for a selected year; and an appendix that describes WIC Participants and Program Characteristics data.

Changes to March 17, 2022 version: revision to Table 1 to add years of data for two States

April 27, 2022

**Guide to Variables for WIC Administrative Data
available through a Federal Statistical Research Data Center (FSRDC)**

1. Background

USDA's Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) aims to safeguard the health of low-income women, infants, and children up to age 5 who are at nutrition risk by providing nutritious foods to supplement diets, information on healthy eating, and referrals to health care and social services.

USDA's Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) administers WIC in partnership with State WIC agencies. Some State WIC agencies provide an extract of some of the State's WIC administrative data to the U.S. Census Bureau for statistical and research purposes. These data have been acquired since 2012 as part of the *Census-FNS-ERS Joint Project*, a cross-agency collaboration between the State SNAP and WIC agencies, the Census Bureau, and USDA's Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) and Economic Research Service (ERS). For more information about the Census-FNS-ERS Joint Project, see the webpage [SNAP and WIC administrative data](#) on the ERS website.

The WIC administrative data held at the Census Bureau are micro-level, restricted-use data that are subject to many safeguards to protect data confidentiality and to ensure that data are used only for approved purposes. Academic researchers can request access to these WIC administrative data through a Federal Statistical Research Data Center (FSRDC). To obtain access, a researcher must have an approved project and be granted Special Sworn Status (SSS) by the Census Bureau. SSS involves a federal Moderate Background Investigation (MBI); there is no fee to the researcher for an MBI for a project that has been approved by the Census Bureau. The process to complete the MBI and obtain SSS, if granted, can take 3 to 4 months following the Census Bureau's approval of the project. To prepare a proposal that may be suitable for approval, researchers benefit from information about the availability of WIC administrative data; researchers also benefit from working closely with an FSRDC Administrator, who can answer procedural questions not addressed by this manual. Researchers who lack SSS may still submit a proposal for approval and then apply for SSS if the proposal is approved.

To aid researchers in preparing proposals, information that can be shared publicly about restricted-use WIC administrative data includes:

- (1) the States and the (calendar) years for which WIC data are available (for approved projects by researchers with SSS); and
- (2) the variables that are on a State's data WIC data file that the State provides to the Census Bureau.

The manual includes an appendix that describes WIC Participants and Program Characteristics data.

2. List by State/years of WIC data available through FSRDCs

Some States make restricted-use micro-level WIC data and lists of variables available for research through an FSRDC and have a public list of variables that academic researchers can use to develop proposals to access the data. See Table 1 below for a list of States.

Table 1. State WIC Agencies that Make Restricted-Use Administrative Data and Lists of Variables Available for Research through a Federal Statistical Research Data Center (FSRDC) (as of April 2022)

State	(Calendar) Years for which Data are Available
Colorado	2017, 2018, 2019, 2020
Connecticut	2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021
Illinois	2017, 2018, 2019, 2020
Kansas	2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021
Maine	2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020
Montana	2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020
South Dakota	2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020

3. Variables in WIC Administrative Data, by State¹

While States typically provide several (calendar) years' worth of data to the Census Bureau, the list of WIC variables provided in this manual is for a given State for a single selected year. It is highly likely, but not a certainty, that the same variables are available for other years of WIC data provided by that same State; the variables a State provides are outlined in an agreement between the State and the Census Bureau, and that agreement is subject to revision from time to time.

It is noted that the WIC administrative data held at the Census Bureau contain more variables than those that are sent by the State WIC agency. The Census Bureau itself adds variables to the file to enhance the file's research uses. In particular, a variable known as the *Protected Identification Key* (PIK) is an individual-specific number, assigned by the Census Bureau, that serves as the linking variables between an individual's data in WIC administrative data and that same individual's data in other Census data products, such as the American Community Survey. The files may also contain a unique address identifier known as a MAFID which can be used to link records for the same household across data sources. The assignment of PIKs and MAFIDs is done through a process known as the Person Identification Validation System (PVS), for more information see Wagner and Layne (2014).

As shown in the lists below, files with names that include "rsch" include the variables sent from the states, while files with names that include "pvs" include the unique identifiers as assigned by the Census Bureau. These two types of files can be linked using a linking variable.

Acronyms used by the U.S. Census Bureau in Lists of Variables

CARRA	Center for Administrative Records and Research Application Following a reorganization, CARRA is not ongoing and its functions of data acquisition and of research have been divided between two other entities at the Census Bureau.
DQB	Data Quality Branch

¹ The lists of variables in the State WIC administrative records data shown in this document were cleared for release under DRB approval number CBDRB-FY22-112

- PVS** **Person Identification Verification System**
For more information, see the webpage [Record Linkage and the Person Identification Validation System \(PVS\)](#) on the Census Bureau website
- MAF** **Master Address File**
- PIK** **Protected Identification Key**
- RSCH** **research**

**Colorado
Calendar 2019 Extract**

File: pvs

Variable	Label
CARRA_HHID	CARRA Unique ID for Case/Address Record
CARRA_UID	CARRA Unique ID for Client Record
DQB_SOURCE_ID	DQB Linking Variable for Source Data
INP_STDECD	Input Standardized deceased indicator
MAFID	MAFMatch MAFID for Mailing Address
pik	PVS Validated PIK for Client
pvs_geoflag	PVS GeoFlag
pvs_verflg	PVS Verification/Search flag

File: rsch

Variable	Label
BirthDt	Participant date of birth
DQB_SOURCE_ID	DQB Linking Variable for Source Data
EarliestCertificationDate	The first date the participant was certified in the WIC Program
Ethnicity	Ethnicity
FamilyID	Unique identifier for the household
IncomeAmt1	Income Amount for first income provided by the participant
IncomeAmt2	Income Amount for 2nd income provided by the participant
IncomeAmt3	Income Amount for 3rd income provided by the participant
IncomeAmt4	Income Amount for 4th income provided by the participant
IncomeAmt5	Income Amount for 5th income provided by the participant
IncomeAmt6	Income Amount for 6th income provided by the participant
IncomeAmt7	Income Amount for 7th income provided by the participant
IncomeAmt8	Income Amount for 8th income provided by the participant
IncomeAmt9	Income Amount for 9th income provided by the participant
IncomeAmt10	Income Amount for 10th income provided by the participant
IncomePeriod1	Income Period for first income provided by the participant
IncomePeriod2	Income Period for 2nd income provided by the participant
IncomePeriod3	Income Period for 3rd income provided by the participant
IncomePeriod4	Income Period for 4th income provided by the participant
IncomePeriod5	Income Period for 5th income provided by the participant
IncomePeriod6	Income Period for 6th income provided by the participant
IncomePeriod7	Income Period for 7th income provided by the participant
IncomePeriod8	Income Period for 8th income provided by the participant
IncomePeriod9	Income Period for 9th income provided by the participant
IncomePeriod10	Income Period for 10th income provided by the participant
IncomeSource1	Income Source for first income provided by the participant

IncomeSource2	Income Source for 2nd income provided by the participant
IncomeSource3	Income Source for 3rd income provided by the participant
IncomeSource4	Income Source for 4th income provided by the participant
IncomeSource5	Income Source for 5th income provided by the participant
IncomeSource6	Income Source for 6th income provided by the participant
IncomeSource7	Income Source for 7th income provided by the participant
IncomeSource8	Income Source for 8th income provided by the participant
IncomeSource9	Income Source for 9th income provided by the participant
IncomeSource10	Income Source for 10th income provided by the participant
LatestCertificationDate	The most recent certification date for the participant
MailingCity	Mailing address city
MailingCounty	Mailing address county
MailingState	Mailing address state
MailingStreet1	Mailing street address line 1
MailingStreet2	Mailing street address line 2
MailingZipCode	Mailing address zip code
MemberID	The unique identifier for the participant
MothersEducation	Mother Education Code
ParticipantTypeCD	Participant type code
ParticipationIn	Participant received benefits for the reporting month
PrimaryCity	Physical address city
PrimaryCounty	Physical address county
PrimaryState	Physical address state
PrimaryStreet1	Physical street address line 1
PrimaryStreet2	Physical street address line 2
PrimaryZipCode	Physical address zip code
Race	Race
Sex	Sex Code
TermedIneligibleDate	The date that the participant was terminated from the WIC Program

Connecticut Calendar 2019 Extract

File: pvs

Variable	Label
CARRA_HHID	CARRA Unique ID for Case/Address Record
CARRA_UID	CARRA Unique ID for Client Record
DQB_SOURCE_ID	DQB Linking Variable for Source Data
INP_STDECD	Input Standardized deceased indicator
MAFID	MAFMatch MAFID for Mailing Address
pik	PVS Validated PIK for Client
pvs_geoflag	PVS GeoFlag
pvs_verflg	PVS Verification/Search flag

File: rsch

Variable	Label
Benefit_Start_Date	Benefit start date of the family
CaseID	Individual client ID
DOB	Individuals date of birth
DQB_SOURCE_ID	DQB Linking Variable for Source Data
Education	Individuals education level
Eligibility	Eligible to receive benefits
FamilyID	ID of active family
Hispanic	Individuals ethnicity
Income_Source	Income source
Mailing_Address	Mailing address of the family
Monthly_Income	Monthly income of the family at the time of certification
Phone_Number	Family preferred phone number
Race	Individuals race
Residence_address	Residence address of the family
Sex	Individuals gender
count	Record Count

**Illinois
2019 Extract**

File: demo_pvs

Variable	Label
CARRA_HHID	CARRA Unique ID for Case/Address Record
CARRA_UID	CARRA Unique ID for Client Record
DQB_SOURCE_ID	DQB Linking Variable for Source Data
INP_STDECD	Input Standardized deceased indicator
MAFID	MAFMatch MAFID for Mailing Address
Pik	PVS Validated PIK for Client
pvs_geoflag	PVS GeoFlag
pvs_verflg	PVS Verification/Search flag

File: demo_rsch

Variable	Label
DQB_SOURCE_ID	DQB Linking Variable for Source Data
address_apartment_number	Address apartment number
address_line1	Address line one
address_line2	Address line two
birth_date	Participants birth date
city	City
education	Education
employment	Employment
ethnicity	Ethnicity
fifth_race_cd	Fifth race code
first_race_cd	First race code
fourth_race_cd	Forth race code
hoh_phone_number	Head of household phone number
income_monthly	Income(Monthly)
proof_of_income	Proof of Income
recipient_phone_number	Recipient or Caretakers phone number
relationship_to_hoh	Relationship to head of household
second_race_cd	Second race code
sex	Sex
state	State
third_race_cd	Third race code
unique_identifier	Participant unique identifier
wic_family_id	The WIC Family ID
zip	Zip code
zip_ext	Zip code extension

File: bft_rsch

Variable	Label
DQB_SOURCE_ID	DQB Linking Variable for Source Data
food_center	Food Center
issue_ammount	Issue Amount
redeemed_amount	Redeemed Amount
unique_identifier	Participant unique identifier
valid_from_date	Valid from date

**Kansas
Calendar 2019 Extract**

File: pvs

Variable	Label
CARRA_HHID	CARRA Unique ID for Case/Address Record
CARRA_UID	CARRA Unique ID for Client Record
DQB_SOURCE_ID	DQB Linking Variable for Source Data
MAFID	MAFMatch MAFID for Mailing Address
PIK_01	PVS Validated PIK for Client
PIK_02	PVS Validated PIK for Care Giver
inp_stdcd_01	Input Standardized deceased indicator for Person 01 (Participant)
inp_stdcd_02	Input Standardized deceased indicator for Person 02 (Responsible Adult)
pvs_geoflag	PVS GeoFlag
pvs_verflg_01	PVS Verification/Search flag for Person 01 (Participant)
pvs_verflg_02	PVS Verification/Search flag for Person 02 (Responsible Adult)

File: rsch

Variable	Label
BirthDate	Date of birth
CertEndDt	Eligibility End Date
CertStartDt	Eligibility Begin Date
CurrentAddress	Current Address Yes or No
DQB_SOURCE_ID	DQB Linking Variable for Source Data
EducationLevel	EducationLevel
EligibilityTestSource	Income or Adjunctive
EnrolledDT	Date of Enrollment
FirstUseDt	First Date Benefits are available for use
Gender	M or F
HispanicInd	Hispanic Yes or No
IncomeAmt	Amount of income for current cert period
IncomePeriod	Y, H, M, O, P, W, B
IncomeSourceDesc	Income Source Description
MailingAddrCity	Mailing address city
MailingAddrLine1	Mailing address street 1
MailingAddrLine2	Mailing address street 2
MailingAddrSt	Mailing address state
MailingAddrZip	Mailing address zip code
NutritionRisk	Nutrition Risk Code
PHClientID	Client ID number
PHFamilyID	Household ID number
Phone1	Primary phone number

Phone2	Secondary phone number
RaceCode	primary race selected for client
RedeemedAmt	Amount of benefits used
Relationship	Parent, Child, Foster, Unknown
ReportDate	Report Date
StreetAddrCity	Physical address city
StreetAddrLine1	Physical address street line 1
StreetAddrLine2	Physical address street line 2
StreetAddrSt	Physical address state
StreetAddrZip	Physical address zip code.
TerminationDesc	Reason terminated from WIC
TerminationDt	Date Terminated

**Maine
Calendar 2019 Extract**

File: pvs

Variable	Label
CARRA_HHID	CARRA Unique ID for Case/Address Record
CARRA_UID	CARRA Unique ID for Client Record
DQB_SOURCE_ID	DQB Linking Variable for Source Data
MAFID	MAFMatch MAFID for Mailing Address
PIK_01	PVS Validated PIK for Beneficiary
PIK_02	PVS Validated PIK for Responsible Adult
inp_stdcd_01	Input Standardized deceased indicator for Person 01 (Participant)
inp_stdcd_02	Input Standardized deceased indicator for Person 02 (Responsible Adult)
pvs_geoflag	PVS GeoFlag
pvs_verflg_01	PVS Verification/Search flag for Person 01 (Participant)
pvs_verflg_02	PVS Verification/Search flag for Person 02 (Responsible Adult)

File: rsch

Variable	Label
ADJUNCTIVE_PROG	Source of supplemental income.
AUTH_RELATIONSHIP	Authorized representatives relationship to participant.
BENEFITS_AMT_RCVD	Amount of benefits received. 9999.99
BENEFITS_AMT_USED	Amount of benefits used. 9999.99
BENEFITS_RCVD_DT	Benefits received date. YYYY-MM-DD
DOB	Participants date of birth. YYYY-MM-DD
DQB_SOURCE_ID	DQB Linking Variable for Source Data
EDUCATION_LEVEL	Education level.
FILLER1	Filler1
HH_ID	Household ID number.
HH_SIZE	Household size.
HISPANIC	Is participant Hispanic?
HOMELESS	Is participant homeless?
LANGUAGE	Language spoken at home.
MAILING_ADDR	Mailing address street.
MAILING_CITY	Mailing address city.
MAILING_STATE	Mailing address state.
MAILING_ZIP	Mailing address zip code.
MIGRANT	Is participant migrant?
MONTHLY_INCOME	Monthly income. 9999
PART_YR_MON	Month and year of participation.
PHONE01	Primary phone number.
PHONE02	Secondary phone number.

RACE_ETHNICITY	Race and ethnicity.
RSDNT_ADDR	Physical address street.
RSDNT_CITY	Physical address city.
RSDNT_STATE	Physical address state.
RSDNT_ZIP	Physical address zip code.
SEX	Participants gender. Male or Female.
WIC_ID	Participants ID number.
WIC_STATUS	Breastfeeding, Child, Infant, Non-breastfeeding or Pregnant.

**Montana
Calendar 2019 Extract**

File: pvs

Variable	Label
CARRA_HHID	CARRA Unique ID for Case/Address Record
CARRA_UID	CARRA Unique ID for Client Record
DQB_SOURCE_ID	DQB Linking Variable for Source Data
MAFID	MAFMatch MAFID for Mailing Address
PIK_01	PVS Validated PIK for Client
PIK_02	PVS Validated PIK for Auth Rep
inp_stdcd_01	Input Standardized deceased indicator for Person 01 (Participant)
inp_stdcd_02	Input Standardized deceased indicator for Person 02 (Responsible Adult)
pvs_geoflag	PVS GeoFlag
pvs_verflg_01	PVS Verification/Search flag for Person 01 (Participant)
pvs_verflg_02	PVS Verification/Search flag for Person 02 (Responsible Adult)

File: rsch

Variable	Label
ADJUNCTIVE_PROG	Source of supplemental income
AUTH_RELATIONSHIP	Authorized representatives relationship to participant
BENEFITS_RCVD_DT	Benefits received date
DOB	Participants date of birth
DQB_SOURCE_ID	DQB Linking Variable for Source Data
EDUCATION_LEVEL	Education level
FILLER1	blank byte1
HH_ID	Household ID number
HH_SIZE	Household size
HISPANIC	Is participant Hispanic?
HOMELESS	Is participant homeless?
LANGUAGE	Language spoken at home
MAILING_ADDR	Mailing address street
MAILING_CITY	Mailing address city
MAILING_STATE	Mailing address state
MAILING_ZIP	Mailing address zip code
MIGRANT	Is participant migrant?
MONTHLY_INCOME	Monthly income
PART_YR_MON	Month and year of participation
PHONE01	Primary phone number
PHONE02	Secondary phone number
RACE_ETHNICITY	Race and ethnicity
RSDNT_ADDR	Physical address street

RSDNT_CITY	Physical address city
RSDNT_STATE	Physical address state
RSDNT_ZIP	Physical address zip code
SEX	Participants gender
WIC_ID	Participants ID number
WIC_STATUS	WIC Status Code

**South Dakota
Calendar 2019 Extract**

File: pvs

Variable	Label
CARRA_HHID	CARRA Unique ID for Case/Address Record
CARRA_UID	CARRA Unique ID for Client Record
DQB_SOURCE_ID	DQB Linking Variable for Source Data
MAFID	MAFMatch MAFID for Mailing Address
PIK_01	PVS Validated PIK for Client
PIK_02	PVS Validated PIK for Care Giver
inp_stdcd_01	Input Standardized deceased indicator for Person 01 (Participant)
inp_stdcd_02	Input Standardized deceased indicator for Person 02 (Responsible Adult)
pvs_geoflag	PVS GeoFlag
pvs_verflg_01	PVS Verification/Search flag for Person 01 (Participant)
pvs_verflg_02	PVS Verification/Search flag for Person 02 (Responsible Adult)

File: rsch

Variable	Label
ADJUNCTIVE_PROG	Source of supplemental income
BENEFITS_AMT_USED	Amount of benefits used
BENEFITS_RCVD_DT	Benefits received date
DOB	Participants date of birth
DQB_SOURCE_ID	DQB Linking Variable for Source Data
HH_ID	Household ID number
HH_SIZE	Household size
HISPANIC	Is participant Hispanic
HOMELESS	Is participant homeless
LANGUAGE	Language spoken at home
MAILING_ADDR	Mailing address street
MAILING_CITY	Mailing address city
MAILING_STATE	Mailing address state
MAILING_ZIP	Mailing address zip code
MIGRANT	Is participant migrant
MONTHLY_INCOME	Monthly income
PART_YR_MON	Month and year of participation
PHONE01	Primary phone number
RACE_ETHNICITY	Race and ethnicity
RSDNT_ADDR	Physical address street
RSDNT_CITY	Physical address city
RSDNT_STATE	Physical address state
RSDNT_ZIP	Physical address zip code

SEX	Participants gender
WIC_ID	Participants ID number
WIC_STATUS	WIC status

Appendix A. WIC Administrative Data in State Management Information Systems and in WIC Participant and Program Characteristics (PC) Data

The Management Information System of a State WIC agency collects information from WIC applicants that are necessary for administration of the program, including the determination of eligibility for WIC.

A State WIC agency provides the Census Bureau an *extract* of the WIC administrative data in its system. That extract can include many or few of the variables in the State’s data management system. As a result, the extracts of WIC administrative data files received by the Census Bureau contain different variables for different States; some States provide more variables than others.

A representation of the general types of variables in a State’s WIC data management system—which may or may not be included in a given State’s WIC data at the Census Bureau—can be found in WIC Participant and Program Characteristics (PC) data.

“The current system for reporting PC data is based on the automated transfer of a set of 20 data items, known as the Minimum Data Set (MDS), by State agencies to FNS. The data items represent information State and local WIC staff collect to confirm applicant eligibility for WIC benefits and issue food instruments. FNS developed the MDS in collaboration with the Information Committee of the National WIC Association and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).” (Kline, et al., 2020, p. ii)

Thus, the WIC PC data originate in the State WIC administrative data systems, as do the extract of the WIC administrative data held at the Census Bureau. The WIC PC data are collected every two years from the census of individuals certified to receive WIC benefits.

The types of data collected in the WIC Minimum Data Set (MDS) are reported in *WIC Participant and Program Characteristics 2018: National Sample File for Public Use Codebook*. (Insight Policy Research, 2020, pp. 3-6). The information is reproduced in this manual as **Appendix B. WIC Minimum Data Set (MDS)**. In addition, some States augment the MDS data with supplemental data, as described in *WIC Participant and Program Characteristics 2018* (Kline, et al., 2020, pp. 11-12).

There are some differences between PC data files available to the public and the WIC administrative data available through FSRDCs. The publicly available WIC PC data files represent a nationally representative *sample* of the census data drawn from which administrative records are drawn for the biennial WIC-PC report; the most recent report is for 2018 (Klein, et al. (2018)). In contrast, the WIC administrative data files held at the Census Bureau are a *census* of data—the extract may not include all variables from the system, but it is intended to include all WIC participants (the universe of WIC participants in a State). The WIC PC data are designed to be nationally representative; the WIC administrative data held at the Census Bureau are provided by States that choose to participate. The WIC administrative data held at the Census Bureau contain fewer variables than the WIC PC data. Even so, familiarity with WIC PC data can facilitate use of WIC administrative data held at the Census Bureau. While the WIC PC data are cross-sectional data, collected for a particular reference month (April) of the year, the WIC administrative data held at the Census Bureau are monthly data, supporting research that requires high-frequency data. The public-use [WIC Participant and Program Characteristics 2018 Data](#) are available on AgData Commons at USDA’s National Agricultural Library.

The WIC PC data are well-documented. The WIC administrative data do not all have documentation as thorough as the documentation of the WIC PC data, which makes familiarity with the documentation of the WIC PC data valuable even when a researcher plans to use the WIC administrative data for research.

It is noted that State naming conventions for variables differ across States. As a result, the names of variables in the WIC administrative data will not all correspond to the names of the variables in the WIC PC data (as listed in *WIC Participant and Program Characteristics 2018: National Sample File for Public Use Codebook*) even when both names represent the same “field” or variable in a State’s data management system

Appendix B. WIC Minimum Data Set (MDS)

1. **State Agency ID.** A unique number that permits linkage to the State agency where the participant was certified as eligible for WIC benefits. It is the first 7 digits of the 10-digit local agency code maintained by FNS in the WIC Local Agency Directory (WIC LAD)
- 2a. **Local Agency ID.** A unique number that permits linkage to the local agency where the participants was certified as eligible for WIC benefits. It is the last 3 digits of the 10-digit local agency code maintained by FNS in WIC LAD
- 2b. **Service Site ID.** A unique number that permits linkage to the service site where the participant was certified. For State agencies that submitted service site- or clinic-level data for WIC LAD, the Service Site ID appears in WIC LAD as the 3-digit code under Administering Agency
Note: For PC2018, Service Site ID is not a substitute for Local Agency ID (item 2a)
3. **Case ID.** A unique record number for each participant that maintains individual privacy at the national level. This should not be the case number of the participant as listed in State-held files
4. **Date of Birth.** Month, day, and year of participant's birth reported in MMDDYYYY format
5. **Race/Ethnicity.** This categorization requires participants to be classified based on ethnicity as well as race. The two ethnic categories are Hispanic/Latino or Non-Hispanic/Latino. The five racial categories, as required by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), are (1) American Indian or Alaska Native; (2) Asian; (3) Black or African American; (4) Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander; or (5) White. One or more racial categories may be selected

States may report race/ethnicity using one of two formats:
 - Yes/No for each of the categories, resulting in a six-digit code (1 = Yes; 2 = No)
 - Three digits to represent key combinations of racial selections; the first digit represents ethnicity, and the last two represent race combinations
- 6a. **Certification Category.** The category—one of five possible categories—under which a person is certified as eligible for WIC benefits. These categories are (1) pregnant woman, (2) breastfeeding woman, (3) postpartum woman (not breastfeeding), (4) infant (younger than 12 months), and (5) child (12–59 months)
- 6b-c. **Expected Date of Delivery or Weeks Gestation.** For pregnant women, the projected date of delivery (MMDDYYYY format) or the number of weeks since the last menstrual period as determined at WIC certification
7. **Date of Certification.** The date the person was declared eligible for the most current WIC certification as of April 2018. Month, day, and year should be reported in MMDDYYYY format
8. **Sex.** For infants and children, male or female
9. **Risk Priority Code.** Participant priority level for WIC certification at the time of the most recent WIC certification as of April 2018

10a-c. Participation in TANF, SNAP, Medicaid. The participant's reported participation in Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), or Medicaid at the time of the most recent WIC certification as of April 2018

11. Migrant Status. Participant migrant status according to the Federal WIC definition of a migrant farmworker (currently counted in the FNS 498 report)

12. Number in Family or Economic Unit. The number of individuals in the family or economic unit upon which WIC income eligibility was based

A self-declared number in the family or economic unit may be reported for participants whose income was not required to be determined as part of the WIC certification process. These participants include adjunctively income-eligible participants (as a result of TANF, SNAP, or Medicaid participation) and those participants deemed income-eligible under optional procedures available to the State agency in Federal WIC regulations, section 246.7(d)(2)(vi–viii) (means-tested programs identified by the State for automatic WIC income eligibility and the income eligibility of American Indian and instream migrant farmworker applicants)

13a-c. Family or Economic Unit Income. For individuals whose income is determined during the certification process, the income amount that was determined to qualify them for WIC during the most recent certification as of April 2018

FNS will convert income expressed in different measures (e.g., weekly, monthly, yearly) to annual amounts

For descriptive purposes only, for participants whose income was not required to be determined as part of the WIC certification process, the self-reported income at time of certification. These participants include adjunctively income-eligible participants and those individuals deemed eligible under optional procedures available to the State agency in Federal WIC regulations, section 246.7(d)(2)(vi–iii)

Zero should not be used to indicate income values that are missing or not available. Zero should indicate only an actual value of zero

Note: Because of the large proportion of WIC participants who are adjunctively income-eligible, their income information is essential to describe income among the overall WIC population. State agencies are required to provide income information on those adjunctively eligible for WIC according to Federal WIC regulations, section 246.7

14a-j. Nutritional Risks Present at Certification. The highest priority nutritional risks present at the WIC certification current as of April 2018, up to a maximum of 10. Uniform coding is required in submissions from all States according to WIC Policy Memorandum 98-9

15a-b. Hemoglobin or Hematocrit. The value for the measure of hemoglobin or hematocrit to assess anemia status that applies to WIC certification current as of April 2018

15c. Date of Hemoglobin or Hematocrit Test. The month, day, and year hemoglobin or hematocrit measure was collected and reported in MMDDYYYY format. States must submit this information for all participants reporting a hematologic measure

- 16a-b. Weight.** The participant's weight measured according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) nutrition surveillance program standards (nearest one-quarter pound). If weight is not collected in pounds and quarter pounds, weight may be reported in grams
- 17a-b. Height.** The participant's height (or length) measured according to the CDC nutrition surveillance program standards (nearest one-eighth inch). If height is not collected in inches and eighth inches, height may be reported in centimeters
- 18. Date of Height and Weight Measure.** The date of the height and weight measures that were used during the most recent WIC certification period as of April 2018 in MMDDYYYY format
- 19a. Currently Breastfed.** For infants and children aged 6 through 13 months in April 2018, whether the participant was currently receiving breastmilk
- 19b. Ever Breastfed.** For infants and children aged 6 through 13 months in April 2018, whether the participant ever received breastmilk
- 19c. Length of Time Breastfed.** For infants and children aged 6 through 13 months in April 2018, the number of weeks the participant received breastmilk
- 19d. Date Breastfeeding Data Collected.** For infants and children aged 6 through 13 months in April 2018, the date on which breastfeeding status was reported in MMDDYYYY format
- 20a-n. Food Codes.** States have the option of providing food data in a food package format or in an item-quantity format. The food package codes or item codes and quantities for all food prescribed for the participant during the month of April 2018
- 20o. Food Package Type.** A code representing the food package descriptor. This descriptor uniquely represents the FNS food package number (I through VII), participant type, breastfeeding status, and (for infants and children only) age, associated with the reported food code(s) for that participant

Source: Insight Policy Research (2020), pp. 3-6

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