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# Childhood Food Insecurity- SEA discontinuation and WIC

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Department of Health and Human Services

*Helping people. It's who we are and what we do.*





# Food Security Defined

“Food security” means the ability of a person to access enough food for an active and healthy life.

[NRS 232.4963](#)



# Food Insecurity in Nevada

- Feeding America ranks Nevada 8<sup>th</sup> (15.2%) nationally among states with the highest projected overall food insecurity rates (2021)
  - Ranked 8<sup>th</sup> for projected very low food security rates nationally
- Nevada's 3<sup>rd</sup> Congressional District is one of the areas with the highest national projected food insecurity rates (+36,970) as well as highest projected very low food security rates (+17,430)(2021).



# Childhood Food Insecurity

- Nevada ranks **5<sup>th</sup>** (23%) for states with **highest projected child food insecurity rates** in 2021.
  - Louisiana 26%
  - Hawaii 24.6%
  - New Mexico 23.7%
  - Texas 23.6%
- For states with project **very low food security rates** in children, Nevada ranks **2<sup>nd</sup>** (8.1%) just below Oklahoma (8.4%)

State	Overall		Children	
	Food Insecurity	Very Low Food Security	Food Insecurity	Very Low Food Security
Nevada	15.2%	6.2%	23%	8%



# What is the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Program ?

- Nutrition Education
- Breastfeeding Support
- Supplemental Foods
- Assessment & Referrals



## WIC OFFERS A HEALTHY FOOD PACKAGE\*

 BEANS	 WHOLE GRAINS	 FRUITS & VEGETABLES	 100% FRUIT JUICE
 CHEESE	 CEREAL	 EGGS	 INFANT FORMULA
 INFANT CEREAL	 PEANUT BUTTER	 MILK	 INFANT CEREAL & BABY FOOD





# Population Served

- Low income (185% FPL), nutritionally at risk:
  - Pregnant parents
  - Breastfeeding parents
  - Non-breastfeeding postpartum parents
  - Infants
  - Children up to age 5





# Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Participation



Year	2020	2021	2022
Age	Number of Children	Number of Children	Number of Children
0-1	13,630	12,610	11,631
1-5	31,595	31,141	28,392
Total	45,225	43,752	40,023

[Nevada WIC Data Dashboard](#)



# Child Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) participation



Year	April 2020	April 2021	April 2022	January 2023
Age	Number of Children	Number of Children	Number of Children	Number of Children
0-5	70,178	61,118	60,869	65,203
6-12	79,749	74,399	73,099	78,865
13-18	52,058	50,841	51,469	56,469
Total	201,985	186,358	185,437	200,537



# SNAP Emergency Allotment (SEA)



- Starting April 1<sup>st</sup> participants saw a decrease on their SNAP benefits
  - Decrease of \$43,000,000 per month in Nevada alone

Household Size	Current Max Allotment	Average monthly SEA Payment. (Amount lost as of April)	Average benefit amount after SEA ends	Average reduction per household when SEA's end
1	\$281	<b>\$132</b>	<b>\$149</b>	46.97%
2	\$516	<b>\$208</b>	<b>\$308</b>	40.31%
3	\$740	<b>\$251</b>	<b>\$489</b>	33.91%
4	\$939	<b>\$334</b>	<b>\$605</b>	35.56%



# SNAP Emergency Allotment (SEA)

- What does SEA look like for the average person, family, senior?
  - 31,940 single-parent SNAP households – average monthly loss is \$152.51
  - 47,918 one-person households where the member is 60 years or older – average monthly loss in SNAP benefits is \$131.86.
  - 11,444 two-person households where both members are 60 years or older – average monthly loss is \$230.49
  - Seniors who receive unearned wages (RDSI/SSI) will see a decrease from \$281 per month to \$23 per month



# Impacts of Childhood Insecurity - SEA



- Disproportionate impact on racial and ethnic minorities, senior citizens, households with children and people with chronic diseases.
- Programs will have to pivot quickly and enhance programming to adjust to the increased need.
  - Inflation is already making it harder for partners to purchase enough foods
- WIC anticipates an increase in participation as a result
  - WIC is maintaining increase in cash value benefits for fruits and vegetables
    - \$25 for child participants / month
    - \$44 for pregnant and postpartum participants / month
    - \$49 for exclusively breastfeeding participants / month
  - WIC program barriers still exist, such as:
    - Needed WIC technology advancements
    - Requirements to become certified
    - Maintain appointment schedule and nutrition education requirements
    - Still perceived as a “formula program” in the wake of formula recall



# Implications of Child Food Insecurity

- Birth complications
  - Low birth weight
  - Poor maternal outcomes
  - Iron deficiencies
- Development
  - Stunted growth
  - Anemia and asthma
  - Oral health problems
  - Mental disorders
  - Lower cognitive level
- Overall Implications
  - Negative health outcomes
  - Lower-quality diets (nutrition insecurity)
  - Higher health care costs
  - Higher obesity rates



# Current Efforts

- 2023 Food security strategic plan – ready for release February 2023.
  - More emphasis on collaboration across the food security ecosystem, non-typical food security partners, and those with lived experience.
- WIC and SNAP are working together to streamline referrals.
- WIC online ordering grant — expand shopping options for WIC participants to make shopping easier and reduce fear of stigma in stores.
- WIC is supporting multiple local organizations apply for an upcoming WIC innovation and outreach grant.



# Questions?



# Contact Information

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[Nevada WIC: Women, Infants & Children Nutrition Resources](#)



# Acronyms

- RSDI - Retirement, Survivors, Disability Insurance
- SEA - SNAP Emergency Allotment
- SNAP - Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
- US - United States
- SSI - Social Security Income
- WIC - Women Infants and Children Program