# Third National Survey of WIC Participants (NSWP-III)

# Appendix A2 Revised Local WIC Agency Survey

## **Local WIC Agency Survey**

#### Overview

The Local WIC Agency Survey will draw a sample of approximately 1,200 local agencies from the list of all local WIC agencies. The Local WIC Agency Survey will focus on the services that the local agency (LA) provides to the WIC participants, as well as the infrastructure of the WIC agency itself, including the (1) structure of the agency, (2) clinics and sites under the local agency, (3) income eligibility procedures, (4) certification procedures, and (5) food instrument or food distribution procedures. Local WIC agencies will also be asked about the policies and practices at their sites. These questions will characterize the heterogeneity in site-level policies and practices across the nation. The Local WIC Agency Survey was created by incorporating and modifying questions from NSWP-II. Some questions are new to the NSWP-III survey.

#### Protocol

The research team will email an invitation letter to all officials in the sample to request their participation in the study. The invitation email will let the officials know that a paper questionnaire will be mailed to them within a week, and that if they want to answer the survey sooner, they can access it online. A simple URL with a secure login and password will be provided.

Several days after the invitation is emailed, the research team will mail an invitation letter requesting participation in the study. The mail package will include a hard copy of the questionnaire, as well as instructions on how to access the survey online using the same secure login and password provided in the invitation email. Any respondent choosing the web version of the questionnaire will have the ability to complete the survey in more than one sitting, since their answers are saved automatically. In addition, the login and password provided will grant access to the survey for more than one person. The mail package will be sent using USPS priority mail so that the mail piece stands out among other mail items that the official may receive.

The survey may take approximately 43 minutes to complete. Respondent instructions are included with data collection document listed below.

#### **Pretest Protocol**

The research team will mail a hard copy of the invitation letter and two hard copies of the questionnaire (one to keep and one to return) to nine of the selected LA directors. Other details of the protocol including sampling, recruitment, data collection and analysis are described in the supporting statement for Generic OMB Clearance No. 0584-0606.







# A2. Local WIC Agency Survey

#### Instructions for Reviewers

The Local WIC Agency Survey will be delivered to local WIC agency representatives via an email link to a Web survey. This paper version approximates the layout of the survey and includes notes indicating how the Web survey will automatically route the respondent to the appropriate questions or data entry forms (these notes appear in the paper version in RED, CAPITALIZED text but will not be visible to the respondent in the Web version).

The NSWP-III version of the Local WIC Agency Survey is based on the research questions presented in the Performance Work Statement (PWS). Whenever possible, questions from NSWP-II are used for NSWP-III if they address the research questions from the PWS. This approach allows for more reliable comparisons between the two studies. The survey is organized into the following modules:

Table 1: Local WIC Agency Survey Sections	Page
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2. Residency	3
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4. Breastfeeding	5
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## Instructions for Respondents

**INTRO:** Thank you for participating in the pretest of the Third National Survey of WIC Participants. This survey is sponsored by the United States Department of Agriculture Food Nutrition Service and administered by 2M Research Services and Abt Associates. Please refer to the accompanying cover letter for full details of the research effort. If you have any questions, please contact Paul Ruggiere at 1-817-856-0871, or by email at <a href="mailto:pruggiere@2mresearch.com">pruggiere@2mresearch.com</a>.

This survey—along with surveys of State agencies and participants—is designed to provide FNS with additional information on policies and program operations, beyond those available from existing program sources.

You have been provided two copies of this survey—one to mail back to us and one to keep for your notes. Indicate your responses on the copy you send back to us. Your notes on the copy you keep may include your responses or any feedback you have regarding the content or clarity of the questions you could share with us during our debriefing interview. We are particularly interested in how well the questions were understood by you or any other feedback we should consider as we finalize the questionnaire for use with all local agencies administering the WIC program.







According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 0584-0606. It will take you, on average, 43 minutes to login and complete this survey.

#### **SCREENER**

We are surveying a random sample of local agencies to better understand the services that the local agency provides to WIC participants, as well as the infrastructure, policies and practices of the agency itself. The results of this survey will assist FNS in program operations.

S1. Does your local agency conduct certifications of WIC applicants, or does it serve as a purely administrative office, overseeing these functions at the clinic level?

• Agency to which this survey was addressed does certifications. [CONTINUE TO SURVEY]

• Agency serves as a purely administrative office

O Not sure

Please contact **Paul Ruggiere** at 2M Research Services to clarify if you should fill out this survey.

Phone: 817-856-0871

Email: pruggiere@2mresearch.com







# **Certification Policies**

# Identity

Q1. What types of documentation does your local agency accept as proofs of identity for a WIC applican	ī <b>?</b>
(CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)	
☐ Letter from government agency (including WIC) w/name form/letter☐ Driver's license, State ID	
☐ Work, school, or bus pass ID w/photo & name	
☐ Military ID	
☐ Social Security card	
☐ Voter's registration card	
☐ Foster placement letter	
☐ Passport or immigration records	
☐ Marriage license	
☐ Birth certificate	
Crib card, hospital discharge papers, or hospital ID bracelet	
☐ Immunization record	
☐ Other: PLEASE SPECIFY	
Residency	
,	
Q2. What types of documentation does your local agency accept to verify the residency of a WIC application (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)	nt?
☐ Driver's license	
☐ Current utility/tax bill, rent receipt, mortgage receipt, or lease receipt with name and address of	n it
☐ Letter from government agency (including WIC) w/name and address	
☐ State or Tribal-issued license or ID w/name and address	
3 State of Tribal-issued ficelise of 1D w/flatile and address	
Destroyled mail from valiable third newty with name and address	
☐ Postmarked mail from reliable third party with name and address	
☐ Checkbook, bank statement	
☐ Checkbook, bank statement ☐ Signed statement by applicant that he/she is victim of loss or disaster, or is homeless, a	
<ul> <li>□ Checkbook, bank statement</li> <li>□ Signed statement by applicant that he/she is victim of loss or disaster, or is homeless, a migrant person, or military personnel.</li> </ul>	
<ul> <li>□ Checkbook, bank statement</li> <li>□ Signed statement by applicant that he/she is victim of loss or disaster, or is homeless, a migrant person, or military personnel.</li> <li>□ Other: PLEASE SPECIFY</li></ul>	
<ul> <li>□ Checkbook, bank statement</li> <li>□ Signed statement by applicant that he/she is victim of loss or disaster, or is homeless, a migrant person, or military personnel.</li> <li>□ Other: PLEASE SPECIFY</li> <li>□ Other: PLEASE SPECIFY</li> <li>□ Other: PLEASE SPECIFY</li> </ul>	
<ul> <li>□ Checkbook, bank statement</li> <li>□ Signed statement by applicant that he/she is victim of loss or disaster, or is homeless, a migrant person, or military personnel.</li> <li>□ Other: PLEASE SPECIFY</li> <li>□ Other: PLEASE SPECIFY</li> </ul>	







#### Income

Q3. Which of the following documents satisfy the income documentation requirements of your local agency? Among those documents, rank the top three most-often provided documents (where "1" is most often provided, "2" is the second most often provided and "3" is the third most often provided):

Door	ument	Satisfies Document Requirement (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)	Three Most Frequently Provided Documents (RANK 1, 2, or 3)
a.	1 <sup>st</sup> Paystub/earnings statement		(RAINK 1, 2, 01 3)
b.	W-2 form		
C.	IRS tax return		
d.	Business records		
e.	Unemployment compensation (letter, check stub, copy of check)		
f.	Workers compensation (award statement, check stub, copy of check, statement from insurance company)		
g.	Social Security benefits (award letter, statement of benefits, check stub, copy of check)		
h.	State SSI or State disability insurance (notice of benefits, check stub, copy of check)		
i.	Public assistance or TANF (notice of benefits, check stub, copy of check)		
j.	Energy assistance (notice of benefits, check stub, copy of check)		
k.	Alimony or child support (copy of check, agreement, divorce/separation decrees, court order)		
I.	Any government or private pension, annuity, or survivor's benefits (notice of benefits, check stub or copy of check)		
m.	Estate or trust earnings statement		
n.	Interest or dividends statement		
0.	Savings account earnings statement		
p.	Veteran's payments (notice of benefits, check stub, copy of check)		
q.	Military pay (leave and earnings statement, check stub, copy of check)		
r.	Other documents		
S.	Other documents		
t.	Other documents		
u.	Other documents		

Q4. Which of the following satisfy the program participation documentation requirements for **automatic or adjunctive** eligibility of your local agency? Among those documents, rank the top three most-often method used (where "1" is most often, "2" is the second most often, and "3" is the third most often).

	Satisfies Documentation	Three Most Frequently
	Requirement	Method Used
Document	(CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)	(RANK 1, 2, or 3)
a. Valid program or member ID card		
b. Award letter or notice of benefits		
c. Active program voucher		







Document	Satisfies Documentation Requirement (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)	Three Most Frequently  Method Used  (RANK 1, 2, or 3)
d. Electronic access		, , ,
e. Other: PLEASE SPECIFY:		

## **Breastfeeding**

Q5. In your estimation, at what ages are infants being certified to receive "fully" (rather than "partially") breastfeeding food packages?

Infant Age at Certification	Percentage of Infant Certifications in the past 12 months
1-3 months	
4-6 months	
7-9 months	
10-12 months	
Total	100%

# **Denied Applications**

Q6. Does your local agency keep information on denied applications?
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•	res

$\mathbf{O}$	No: PLEASE EXPLAIN:	١G	O	T	O	Q	8

Q7. What information on denied applications do you retain and how is it retained? (ANSWER B. AND C. ONLY IF A. IS CHECKED.)

a. Information Retained (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)	b. How Retained (CHECK ONE)	c. Where Retained (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)
☐ Name of applicant	O Paper copy only	☐ WIC State Agency
	Electronic copy only	☐ Your Local Agency
	O Both paper and electronic	☐ Sites/Clinics
☐ Address	O Paper copy only	☐ WIC State Agency
	O Electronic copy only	☐ Your Local Agency
	O Both paper and electronic	☐ Sites/Clinics
☐ Phone number	Paper copy only	☐ WIC State Agency
	Electronic copy only	☐ Your Local Agency
	O Both paper and electronic	□ Sites/Clinics
☐ WIC applicant category	O Paper copy only	☐ WIC State Agency
	Electronic copy only	☐ Your Local Agency
	O Both paper and electronic	□ Sites/Clinics







	☐ Reason for denial	O Paper copy only	☐ WIC State Agency
		Electronic copy only	☐ Your Local Agency
		O Both paper and electronic	☐ Sites/Clinics
	□ Date of application	Paper copy only	☐ WIC State Agency
		Electronic copy only	☐ Your Local Agency
		Both paper and electronic	☐ Sites/Clinics
	☐ Date of denial	Paper copy only	☐ WIC State Agency
		Electronic copy only	☐ Your Local Agency
		Both paper and electronic	☐ Sites/Clinics
	months was denied certification? (SBOX)  ○ ≤10% ○ 11 - 20% ○ 21 - 30% ○ 31 - 40% ○ 41 - 50% ○ 51 - 60% ○ 61 - 70% ○ 71 - 80% ○ 81 - 90% ○ 91 - 100%   Q8A. How confident are you in the □ Very confident □ Somewhat confident □ Not very confident (i.e.		
Q9.	<ul> <li>○ ≤10%</li> <li>○ 11 - 20%</li> <li>○ 21 - 30%</li> <li>○ 31 - 40%</li> <li>○ 41 - 50%</li> <li>○ 51 - 60%</li> <li>○ 61 - 70%</li> <li>○ 71 - 80%</li> <li>○ 81 - 90%</li> <li>○ 91 - 100%</li> </ul> Q9A. How confident are you in the Uvery confident	P (SELECT ONE ANSWER IN EAC	
		, a lot of guesswork involved)	
Q10.	Please specify the percentage of der	nials reported above that are attribut	able to the following







eligibility problems. It is possible the percentages may sum to more than 100%, as applicants may be denied for more than one reason.

Rea	ason for Denial	Percentage Distribution for New Applicants	Percentage Distribution for Certification
a.	Lack of documentation provided for identity	-	
b.	Income ineligibility (over income limit)	_	
C.	No nutritional risk	_	
d.	Lack of documentation provided for residency	_	
e.	Categorical ineligibility (i.e., not pregnant, child over 5 years, etc.)		
f.	Other: PLEASE SPECIFY	_	
Tot	al	100%	100%

Q10A. How confident are you in the responses that were entered here?  Very confident Somewhat confident Not very confident (i.e., a lot of guesswork involved)
Q11. Does your agency send an official letter of denial to applicants who are determined ineligible for WIC?  O Yes O No O Other: PLEASE SPECIFY:
Q12. Can an applicant be screened and determined ineligible by telephone?  O Yes O No [GO TO Q14]
Q13. <b>IF Q11=YES AND Q12=YES</b> What is the percentage distribution of denials through screening phone calls versus formal, in-person applications in the past 12 months?

	Percentage of Certification	Percentage of Denials	Total
Screening phone calls			
Formal in-person applications			







# **Location of Certification**

Q14. Does your agency offer provide certification at alternative sites (e.g., satellite or off-site clinics at a hospital, school, etc.)?  Yes  No [GO TO Q15]  Q14A. Which of the following WIC categories does your agency offer certification at alternative site (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)  Pregnant woman  Postpartum woman  Breastfeeding woman  Infant  Child	es?
☐ None  Q15. Under what circumstances is certification provided at an alternative site? What is your agency's policy toward providing certifications at an alternative site?	7
Certification Staffing	
<ul> <li>Q16. Does your staff regularly perform ALL of the certification-related tasks shown below?</li> <li>Assess categorical eligibility criteria</li> <li>Assess residential eligibility criteria</li> <li>Assess nutritional risk criteria</li> <li>Assess income/adjunctive income eligibility</li> <li>Issue benefits (vouchers/EBT cards)</li> </ul>	
<ul><li>Yes, we have certification staff who perform ALL of those tasks.</li><li>No, our certification staff specializes in one or more of those tasks. [GO TO Q17]</li></ul>	
Q16A. What percentage of your certification staff performs ALL of those tasks?%	
Q17. Among all full-time staff in your jurisdiction who conduct certification, what is their average monthly caseload?  participants	
рагистрания	







## **Operations**

#### Administration

-	ır local agency (CHECK ONE)
•	part of the State agency
$\mathbf{O}$	a local government entity administering the WIC program
O	a tribal entity/organization administering the WIC program
$\mathbf{O}$	a non-profit organization that has been contracted to run the WIC program
O	not a local agency, but rather a clinic under a local agency
$\mathbf{O}$	Other: PLEASE SPECIFY
9	Ouler: PLEASE SPECIF I

### **Physical Space**

Q19	. Which descrii	otion most	closelv fit	ts the structure	in which yo	our local	agency is loc	ated?	CHECK	ONE)

- Health department or medical clinic
- O Social services office or agency
- Full service hospital
- O School
- O Head Start
- **O** Community center
- O Mobile clinic (van)
- O Migrant health center and/or camp
- Indian Health Service facility
- Religious center
- O Other: PLEASE SPECIFY \_\_\_\_\_

Q20. Of the spaces available at your local WIC agency, excluding such things as hallways, bathrooms, kitchen, and storage closets, how adequate would you rate the following spaces for optimally delivering WIC services to your participants at this time? Please rate each type of room. [ROOMS MARKED "SOMEWHAT ADEQUATE" OR "NOT AT ALL ADEQUATE," GO TO Q20A]

Type of Room	Completely Adequate	Mostly Adequate	Somewhat Adequate	Not at All Adequate	N/A
Large waiting rooms/reception areas (greater than 15x15 feet)					
Small waiting rooms/reception areas (15x15 feet or smaller)					
Rooms, offices, or cubicles where clients are seen					
Large training/conference/multipurpose rooms					
Small training/conference/multipurpose rooms					
Administrative offices (no clients seen)					
Administrative cubicles (no clients seen)					
Laboratory (height/weight taking areas)					
Other: PLEASE SPECIFY					

Q20A. Please explain why you selected [RESPONSE FROM Q20: "SOMEWHAT ADEQUATE" OR "NOT AT ALL ADEQUATE"] for the following rooms [TYPE OF ROOM ASSOCIATED WITH "SOMEWHAT ADEQUATE" OR "NOT AT ALL ADEQUATE" RESPONSE]:







<ul> <li>Very safe (no incidents) [GO TO Q22]</li> <li>Safe (occasional minor incidents) [GO TO Q22]</li> <li>Unsafe (occasional major incidents or frequent minor incidents)</li> <li>Very unsafe (frequent major incidents)</li> </ul>											
Q21A. Please explain why you selec	Q21A. Please explain why you selected [RESPONSE FROM Q21: "UNSAFE" OR "VERY UNSAFE"]:										
Services Information											
22. Please enter the <b>number</b> of other WIC sites that operate under the authority of this local agency, by type. <b>Clinics</b> (defined as a permanent location assigned to the WIC program; include main clinic)											
<b>Satellites</b> (defined a temporarily assigned equipment to the sit	d the WIC p	rograi									
<b>Mobile Units</b> (a vel certifications)	nicle assigne	ed to t	he WIC	progra	ım tha	t may m	iake mi	ıltiple	stops to	o condu	ct
Q23. To what extent are the following specified in the previous quest MOBILE UNITS COLUMN ONL	ion? [WEB !	SURVE	Y WILL	SHOW	CLINI	CS, SAT	ELLITE:				
	Local Agency		Clinics			Satellites		ı	Mobile Unit	s	
	Agency does this	All can do	Some can	None can do	All can	Some can	None can do	All can do	Some can do	None can	
Conduct certifications		O	O	O	O	O	C	C	O	O	
Perform blood testing		0	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	
Take anthropometric measurements for height, weight, and body mass index (BMI)		O	O	O	0	O	•	O	O	•	
Conduct nutrition counseling		0	O	0	O	O	O	O	O	O	
Offer other educational seminars (e.g., on breastfeeding)		O	O	•	0	O	•	O	O	0	
Provide food instruments (vouchers/EBT cards)		O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	
Provide referrals to other services		O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	
Access WIC participant records electronically		O	O	O	O	O	O	0	•	•	

Q24. Across all of the clinics under your local agency, on average, how many days per week, is the clinic open

Q21. How would you rate the physical security of your local agency's location (for example, protection from natural disasters such as fire, earthquake; burglary or vandalism of the site; unauthorized visitors; etc.)?







to clients/applicants? \_\_\_\_DAYS

Q25. Across all of the clinics	under your local age	ency, on average,	how many hou	ırs per week,	is the clinic open
clients/applicants?	HOURS		-	_	_

Q26. Across all of the clinics under your local agency, provide the opening and closing hours for a typical clinic in a typical week of operations in the table below.

Operating Hours	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Opening						
Closing						

Q26A. Is the typical clinic in a typical week of operations open over the lunch hour?

O Yes

O No

## **Staffing**

Q27. Across all of the clinics under your local agency, what is the number of full-time equivalent (FTE) staff who currently work at your local WIC agency or clinic? (IN CALCULATING, NOTE THAT IF THE STANDARD WORK WEEK IS 35-40 HOURS, FTE COULD BE COMPOSED OF 1 FULL TIME EMPLOYEE OR TWO OR MORE PART-TIME EMPLOYEES WHO, COMBINED, WORK THAT NUMBER OF HOURS.)

\_\_\_\_\_ FTE Staff

Across all of the clinics under your local agency, please provide the following information for each position listed below. [PLEASE GIVE NUMBER]	Number of <b>full-</b> <b>time</b> staff (working more than 32 hours/wk)	Number of part- time staff (working less than 32 hours/wk)	Of the total combined full and part-time staff, what percentage have worked at one of your clinics 12 months or less?	Of all of the employees who have held this position in the past 12 months, what percentage have left your agency (are not working at any of your clinics)?	Across all of the clinics under your local agency, what percentage of these positions are currently vacant?
a. WIC Director or Clinic Supervisor			%	%	%
b. Office Manager			%	%	%
c. Administrative Support Staff			%	%	%
d. Certification Specialist			%	%	%
e. Registered Dietitian			%	%	%
f. Degreed/Licensed Nutritionist			%	%	%
g. Trained Nutrition Paraprofessional			%	%	%
h. Registered Nurse/Physician Assistant			%	%	%
i. Physician			%	%	%
j. Social Worker/ Psychologist/ Therapist			%	%	%
k. Other Professional (non-medical)			%	%	%
I. Other: PLEASE SPECIFY			%	%	%
TOTAL STAFF			%	%	%







Q28. A	Across all clinics under your loca% of staff	al age	ncy, what percentage of all staff	are b	ilingual or multilingual?			
	What languages, other than Englagency to assist in providing WI							
	NONE		Hmong		Spanish			
	Arabic		Khmer		Swahili			
	Cambodian		Korean		Tamil			
	Cantonese/Mandarin		Laotian		Tagalog			
	Farsi		Portuguese		Urdu			
	French/Creole		Punjabi		Vietnamese			
	Fulani		Russian		Other: SPECIFY			
	Hindi		Somali					
-	Q30. What difficulties does your local agency face in retaining, recruiting, and hiring staff? (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)    Salaries not competitive   Salaries not commensurate with level of job duties   Benefits not competitive   Minimal training and job growth offered   Workload too great   Location of local agency unsafe   Location of local agency hard to get to   Physical space occupied by local agency crowded   Low employee morale throughout agency   Lack of support for WIC program from State   Limited career path or opportunities for promotion   Required skillset lacking in prospective employees   Other: PLEASE SPECIFY   None of the above							
Case	eload							
	Currently, approximately how modern combined per month?CLIENTS/MONTH	any cl	ients are served by all of the cli	nics u	ınder your local agency			







# Technology

Q32. Does the typical clinic under your local agency have on-site the necessary technology, equipment, supplies, etc., to do the following tasks?

		Yes	No	Don't Know
a.	Enter/access client certification information via a computer?	•	O	O
b.	Perform hematological tests?	•	0	O
C.	Take anthropometric measurements for weight and height, and to calculate BMI (body mass)?	O	O	O

Ret	ention					
Q33 1	O Yes	al agency calculate				
Q33 <i>A</i>	A. If your local	agency does, plea	se provide the for	mula or methodolo	ogy you use to calcu	ılate that rate
	O Weekly O Monthly O Quarterl O Annually O Other: P	y y LEASE SPECIFY			Federal fiscal years	(FY).
	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016	
	participant)?  O Yes  O No [Go				retention (for any ca	tegory of
∩34F	R What does v	our local agency u	use it for?			







Q35. Across all clinics under your local agency, what are the average WIC participant retention rates of your agency and service delivery sites, by eligibility category for the most recent Federal FY 2016?

Categories	Clinics
Pregnant woman	%
Postpartum woman	%
Breastfeeding woman	%
Infant	%
Child	%

particip	oes your local agency attempt to contact pregnant women who miss their first appointment (to apply for action in the program) in order to reschedule the appointment?  Yes  No
-	oes your local agency, or any of the clinics under your local agency, do any of the following to increase articipant retention rates? (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)
_ 	Advertise via traditional delivery channels (including on television, movie theaters, internet, print publication materials, radio, gas stations, etc.)  Post social media advertisements (Facebook, Pinterest, Twitter, etc.)  Send first birthday card to WIC caregivers on child's first birthday  Text message appointment reminders  Provide transportation to and from sites  Provide childcare onsite
	Encourage current participants to invite eligible family and friends to enroll and remain active  Encourage healthcare professionals (doctors, nurses, midwives, etc.) to inform eligible women to enroll and remain active  Decrease stigma associated with WIC participation: PLEASE EXPLAIN:
	Other: PLEASE SPECIFY

[SUBMIT]

## **End Survey**

Thank you for participating in this survey!





