



# Benton-Franklin Health District

## WIC Facts: 2006

Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC)

### Infants Born in County Served by WIC

Benton.....	58%
Franklin .....	70%
Statewide .....	50%

### Women, Infants and Children Served

**Total: 10,290**

Infants and children under 5.....	7,503
Pregnant, breastfeeding and postpartum women.....	2,787

### WIC and the Farmers Market Nutrition Programs Benefit the Local Economy

Dollars to grocery stores	\$3,568,088
Dollars to farmers	\$38,584

### WIC Families

Working families.....67%

Families living in poverty..... 70%

Even though they are working, the majority of WIC families are living in poverty. In 2006, the monthly income for a family of four living in poverty was \$1,613 or less.

### WIC Nutrition Education Promotes Healthy Choices

Total nutrition education sessions.....20,499

WIC nutrition education:

- Emphasizes healthy habits so families can eat better and stay active to prevent obesity and other chronic diseases.
- Promotes breastfeeding for at least the first year of life. And, helps working mothers breastfeed longer by providing breast pumps.
- Helps prevent early childhood caries by giving parents ideas for healthy snacks and stressing dental care by age one.



### WIC Attracts Families to Preventive Health Services

WIC referrals..... 44,864

WIC helps families get the services they need.

\* Maternity Support Services

# Washington WIC

"...improving the lifelong health and nutrition of women, infants and young children"

# Benton-Franklin Health District

## WIC Sites

Connell  
Kennewick  
Pasco  
Richland  
Tri Tech Skill Center

## Statewide WIC Facts 2006

### WIC served 273,000 pregnant women, new mothers and children under age 5

- 67% were from working families.
- 11,500 were women in the armed services, and women and children living in military households.
- Families received healthy foods, education and counseling on nutrition and physical activity, referrals, and breastfeeding support.

### WIC contributed \$103 million in local grocery stores sales

- Each client received checks to purchase an average of \$58 a month in healthy foods.
- Families buy healthy food with their WIC checks at more than 700 grocery stores statewide.
- In addition, through the Farmers Market Nutrition Program, WIC families bought more than \$792,000 in fresh fruits and vegetables from local farmers in 30 counties.

### WIC's breastfeeding rate is 4th highest in the nation<sup>2</sup>

- All pregnant women on WIC receive breastfeeding education and support; 80% of WIC mothers breastfed their babies.<sup>2</sup>
- Children who are not breastfed have higher rates of infections, allergies, asthma, diabetes, SIDS, and childhood obesity.<sup>3</sup>
- Breastfed infants are 80% less likely to die before age 1 than those never breastfed.<sup>4</sup>
- Mothers who breastfeed have lower rates of breast cancer and osteoporosis.<sup>3</sup>

### In the past 30 years, Washington WIC has contributed more than \$1 billion in grocery sales and saved an estimated \$700 million in health care costs.<sup>5</sup>

1 Federal Fiscal Year 2006.

2 "Mothers Survey, Ross Products Division, and Abbott Laboratories." 2004-Abbott Laboratories.

3 U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services. HHS Blueprint for Action on Breastfeeding, Wash.D.C., DHHS, Office of Women's Health, 2000.

4 Forste R, Weiss J, Lippincott E. "The Decision to Breastfeed in the United States: Does Race Matter?" Pediatrics. 2001; 108; 291-296.

5 Mathematica Policy Research: The savings in Medicaid costs for newborns and their mothers from prenatal participation in the WIC program. Prepared for U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, October 1990.



WIC is an equal opportunity program

## Contact Us

Visit [www.doh.wa.gov/cfh/wic](http://www.doh.wa.gov/cfh/wic) to find more information about Washington WIC, a copy of our Annual Report, and county-specific fact sheets. You can also call 1.800.841.1410 and press 0, or write PO Box 47886, Olympia WA 98504-7886. For persons with disabilities, this document is available on request in other formats.

