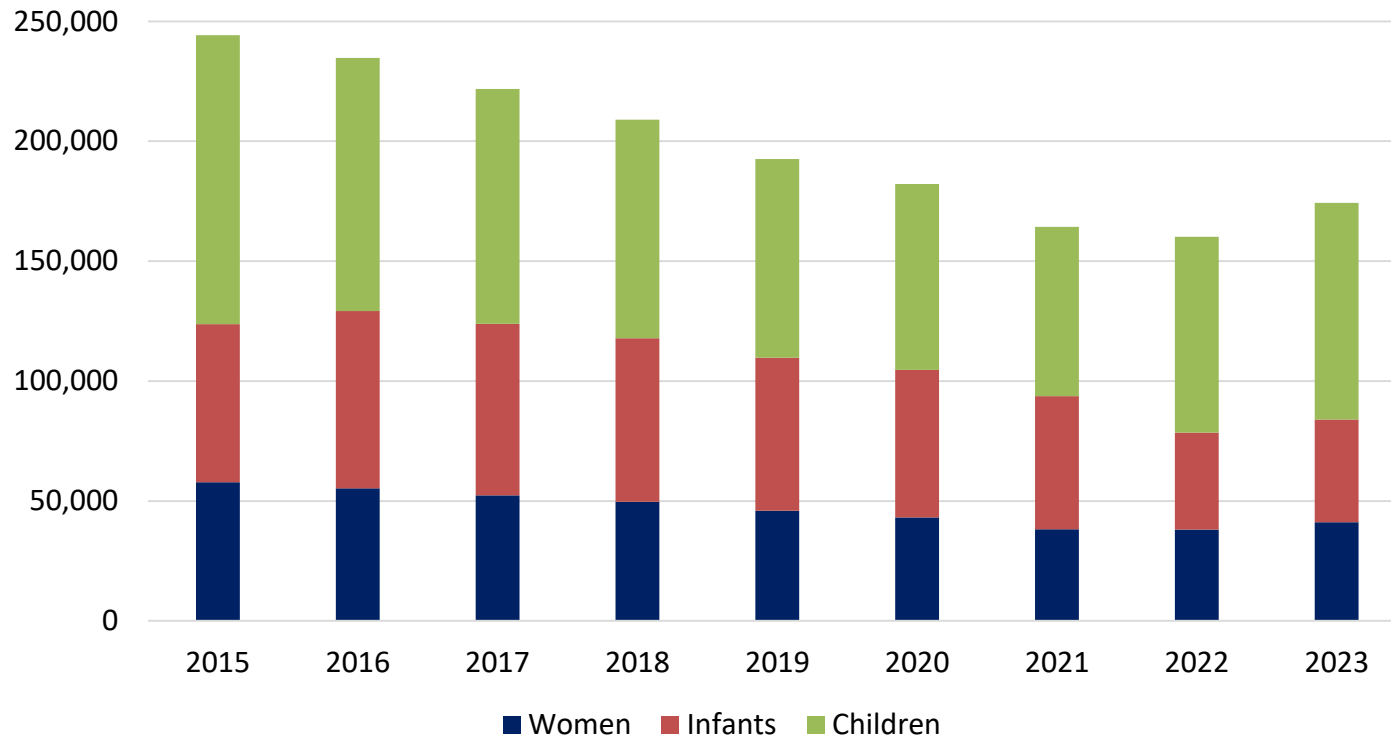


Participation in Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) increases in FFY 2023 after years of decline

Ohio WIC Participation FFY 2015-2023*



*Data for 2023 are preliminary.

Source: United States Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service

- The number of Ohio WIC participants declined from 244,000 in FFY 2015 to 160,000 in FFY 2022 (34.4%). In FFY 2023, participation increased from a nine-year low in FFY 2022 to 174,000 (8.9%).
- WIC eligibility includes pregnant, postpartum, and breastfeeding women, infants, and children up to five years of age with household income up to 185% FPL.
 - On average, from FFY 2015 to FFY 2023, WIC participation by population was as follows: 24% women, 30% infants, and 46% children.
- The average monthly benefit per person ranged from a high of \$55.63 in FFY 2023 to a low of \$30.37 in FFY 2017.
- Approved foods include whole grains, cereal, eggs, iron-fortified infant formula, and milk.
- WIC improves pregnancy outcomes, reduces infant mortality, and provides infants and children with a healthy start.