



# GUAM WIC PROGRAM FY23 AFFIRMATIVE ACTION PLAN

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# Affirmative Action Plan

## Guam Overview and Demographics

Guam is a small island in the Micronesia subregion of the western Pacific Ocean. It is approximately 30 miles long and 1- 9 miles wide and about 225 square miles in area (Reed, 1952). It consists of 19 Villages; 2 big villages in the northern part of the Island, 11 smaller villages are centrally located and the 6 are in the southern region.

As of 2021, the population of Guam is projected at 170.18 thousand, up by 0.83% compared with 168.78 thousand in 2020 (Statistic Times, 2021). The native Chamorros comprise the largest ethnic group accounting for approximately 38% of the population. Asians (including Filipino, Korean, Chinese, and Japanese) accounted for 33% of the total population. Filipinos are the largest group among Asians accounting for 27%. Different ethnic groups of Micronesia (including those of Chuukese, Palauan, and Pohnpeians) accounted for 10%; 9.4% of the population were multiracial (two or more races); and White Americans made up 7.1% of the total population.



## Guam WIC Program

The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children also known as WIC program provides supplemental food, nutrition education, and social service and health care referrals to low-income pregnant, postpartum, and breastfeeding women, as well as infants and children up to 5 years of age who are at nutrition risk. The Guam WIC program has been in existence since May 24, 1983 serving a total of 5000 - 8000 individuals annually.

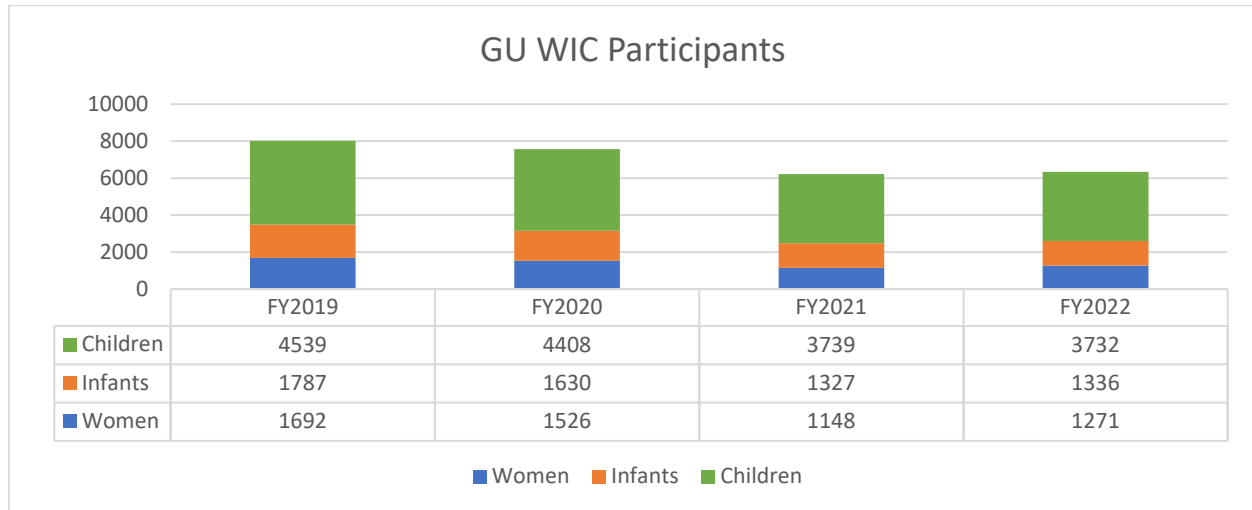
Guam WIC currently has four (4) clinics strategically located in the North, South and Central location on the island. The following clinic services the different villages on the Island but there is no wrong door as clients can visit any WIC clinic at their convenience.

Northern Regional Community Health Center	Tiyan Clinic	Sta Rita	Inarajan Community Health Center
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Dededo</li> <li>•Yigo</li> <li>•Tamuning</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Hagatna,</li> <li>•Asan-Maina</li> <li>•Barrigada</li> <li>•Mangilao</li> <li>•Mongmong-Toto-Maite</li> <li>•Tamuning</li> <li>•Sinajana</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Sta. Rita</li> <li>•Piti</li> <li>•Agat</li> <li>•Yona</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Yumatac</li> <li>•Inarajan</li> <li>•Talofofo</li> <li>•Merizo</li> </ul>

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### Guam WIC Participants

Prior to the Covid19 pandemic, Guam WIC program had an average population of 7000 - 8000 participants annually. There was a drop of participants beginning of FY 2020 and only started to pick up in FY 2022. By the end of FY 2022 a total of 6339 participants were enrolled to the program.



Data taken from HANDS eWIC caseload by fiscal month and category report.

### Evaluating WIC Penetration/Reach Among Eligible Population

In 2019, 16.8% of household on Guam were estimated to be in poverty level. There were 2,760 births in 2021 about 8 births per day, the crude birth rate is 16.24 per 1000 people. There was a total of 15,502 child under 5 years of age in 2021, according to Statistic Times.

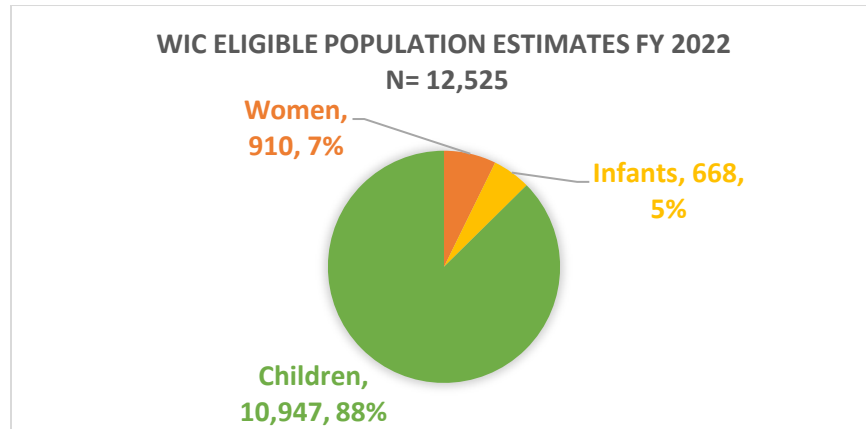
Guam WIC estimates the number of total population eligible for WIC based on data provided by the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) of the DPHSS Bureau of Health Care Finances and Administration (BHCFA), and Bureau of Economic Security of the Division of Social Welfare. Eligible women population was calculated from total number of infants utilizing the formula:

Women = infant x 1.25 (0.75 for pregnancy + 0.5 post-partum period)

### WIC Eligible Population provided by DPHSS BHCFA, and BES

There are an estimated 12,525 WIC eligible population on Guam; 88% of which are children 5 years of age and below, followed by Women (7%) and Infants (5%).

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### Penetration Rate

WIC has a population of 6,339 by Sept of FY2022, which is only half of the estimated WIC eligible population. This corresponds to 51% penetration rate in FY 2022. Below is the table of WIC Eligible population per villages and WIC caseloads with corresponding penetration rate.

GUAM WIC AFFIRMATIVE ACTION PLAN FOR FY 2023									
VILLAGE	CATEGORICALLY ELIGIBLE				WIC CASELOAD ASSIGNMENT	PERCENT		TOTAL NUMBER	
	Infants	Children	Women	Total		Eligible Served	Rank	Eligible Not	Rank
Agana Heights/Hagatna/Anigua	10	224	88	322	174	54%	10	330	4
Agat	26	421	32	479	220	46%	18	259	8
Asan	5	64	7	76	43	57%	9	33	21
Barrigada	31	515	39	585	265	45%	19	320	6
Chalan Pago-Ordot	20	328	25	373	186	50%	14	187	9
Dededo	210	3,676	263	4,149	1,943	47%	17	2,206	1
Harmon	12	192	15	219	127	58%	5	92	16
Inarajan	13	226	16	255	108	42%	22	147	10
Maina	2	27	2	31	10	32%	23	21	22
Maite	9	112	11	132	66	50%	13	66	17
Mangilao	72	1,067	90	1,229	584	48%	16	645	3
Merizo	12	164	15	191	98	51%	11	93	15
Mongmong	20	255	25	300	181	60%	4	119	13
Piti	6	85	8	99	65	66%	3	34	20
Santa Rita	9	171	11	191	133	70%	2	58	18
Sinajana	12	194	15	221	111	50%	12	110	14
Talofofo	9	210	11	230	102	44%	21	128	11
Tamuning	39	662	49	750	426	57%	8	324	5
Toto	20	255	25	300	173	58%	6	127	12
Tumon	4	58	5	67	47	70%	1	20	23
Umatac	5	74	6	85	38	45%	20	47	19
Yigo	90	1,493	113	1,696	975	58%	7	721	2
Yona	32	474	40	546	264	48%	15	282	7
TOTAL	668	10,947	911	12,526	6,339	51%		6,369	

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Among the 25 Villages on Guam, Dededo and Yigo in the North ranks first and second respectively in the number of eligible populations not served. This is followed by Villages in the Central Location Mangilao, Agana and Tamuning.

### **Action Plan/Recommendations**

To increase Guam WIC program penetration rate on WIC eligible clients, outreach program should be more robust in the 5 villages with low penetration rate based on the data. Majority of the low socioeconomic income population resides in the Northern part of the Island. Thus, outreach activities should target these areas and should seek assistance from the local agency (Mayor's Office). Guam WIC strategic goal is to increase WIC enrollees and retention of participants by 3% each year.

As the Public Health Emergency has been lifted on Guam and restrictions have eased, Guam WIC Health Educators are now able to resume their outreach efforts in the villages in conjunction with the Mayors council of Guam. Collaboration and partnerships with the Village Mayors, Head Start program, DPHSS Division of Public Welfare Bureau such as the SNAP program, Nursing and Childcare Program are being strengthened by the Guam WIC Director.

A Memorandum of Understanding between the DPHSS Guam WIC program and Guam Memorial Hospital Authority, the only public hospital on the island is being finalized to allow Guam WIC Health Educators to conduct outreach activities in the hospital 3x weekly.

Media Advertisement and radio exposure is also being planned to create more awareness to the community.

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**Reference:**

<https://statisticstimes.com/demographics/country/guam-demographics.php>