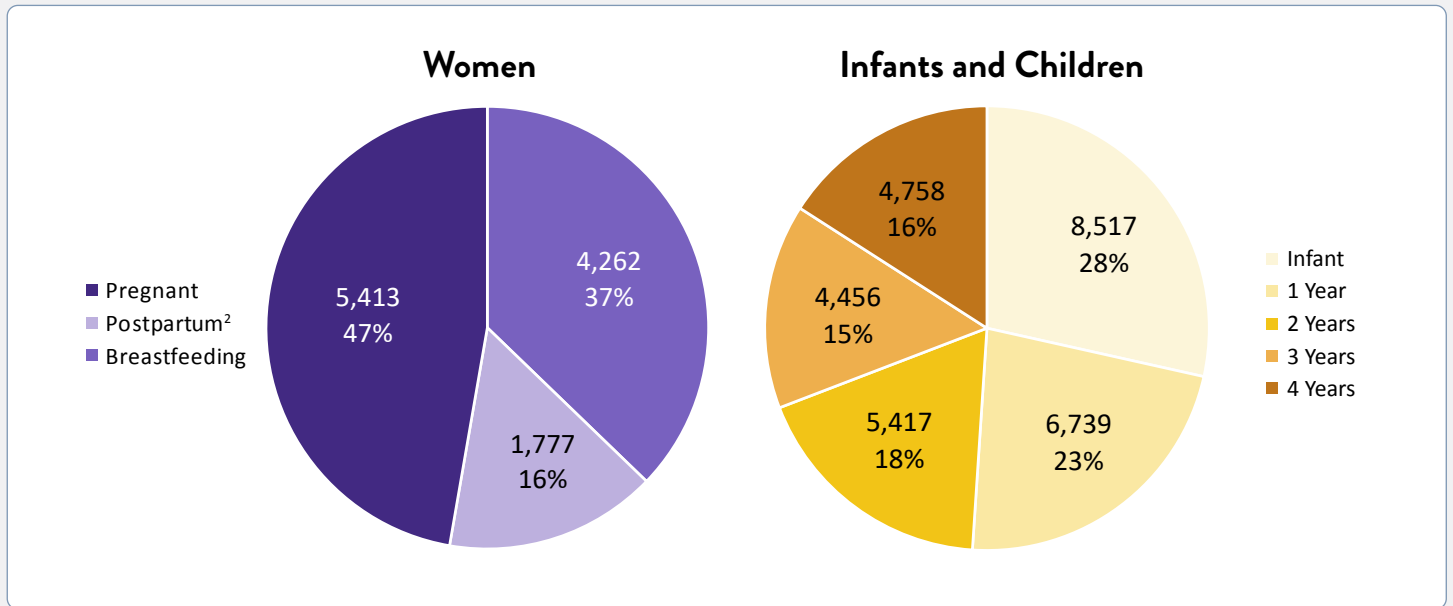
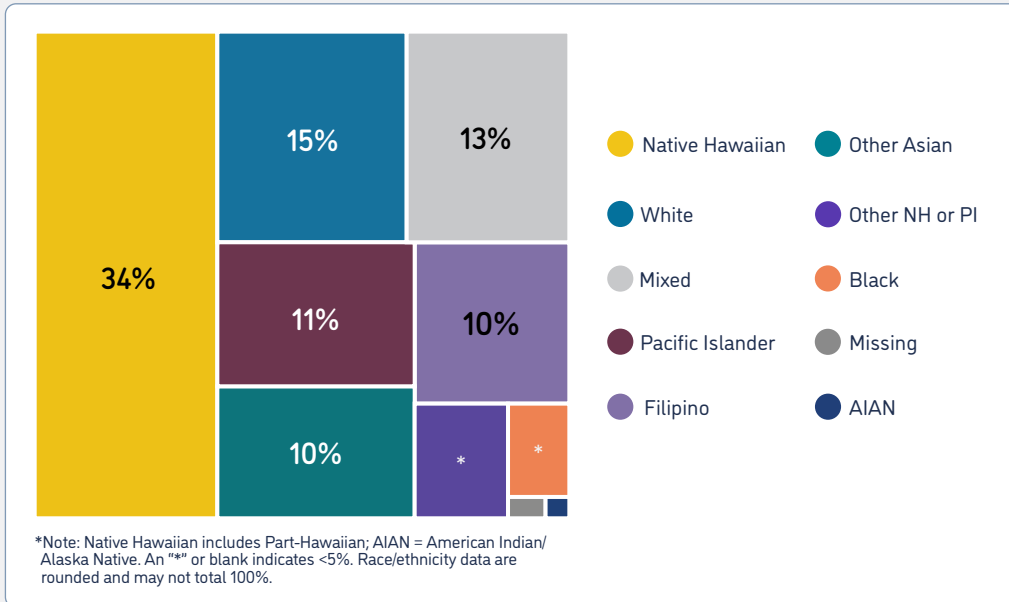


# HAWAII WIC PARTICIPANTS 2021

## Characteristics of WIC Participants<sup>1</sup>



## Race/Ethnicity



The federal Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) ensures the health of low-income, nutritionally at-risk women, infants, and children up to age 5.

WIC provides nourishing supplemental foods, nutrition counseling, breastfeeding support, and referrals to health care and social services to women and children.

Over **11,000 women** received food, education, and support during and after their pregnancy.

WIC food and formula supported the healthy development of almost **30,000 keiki**.

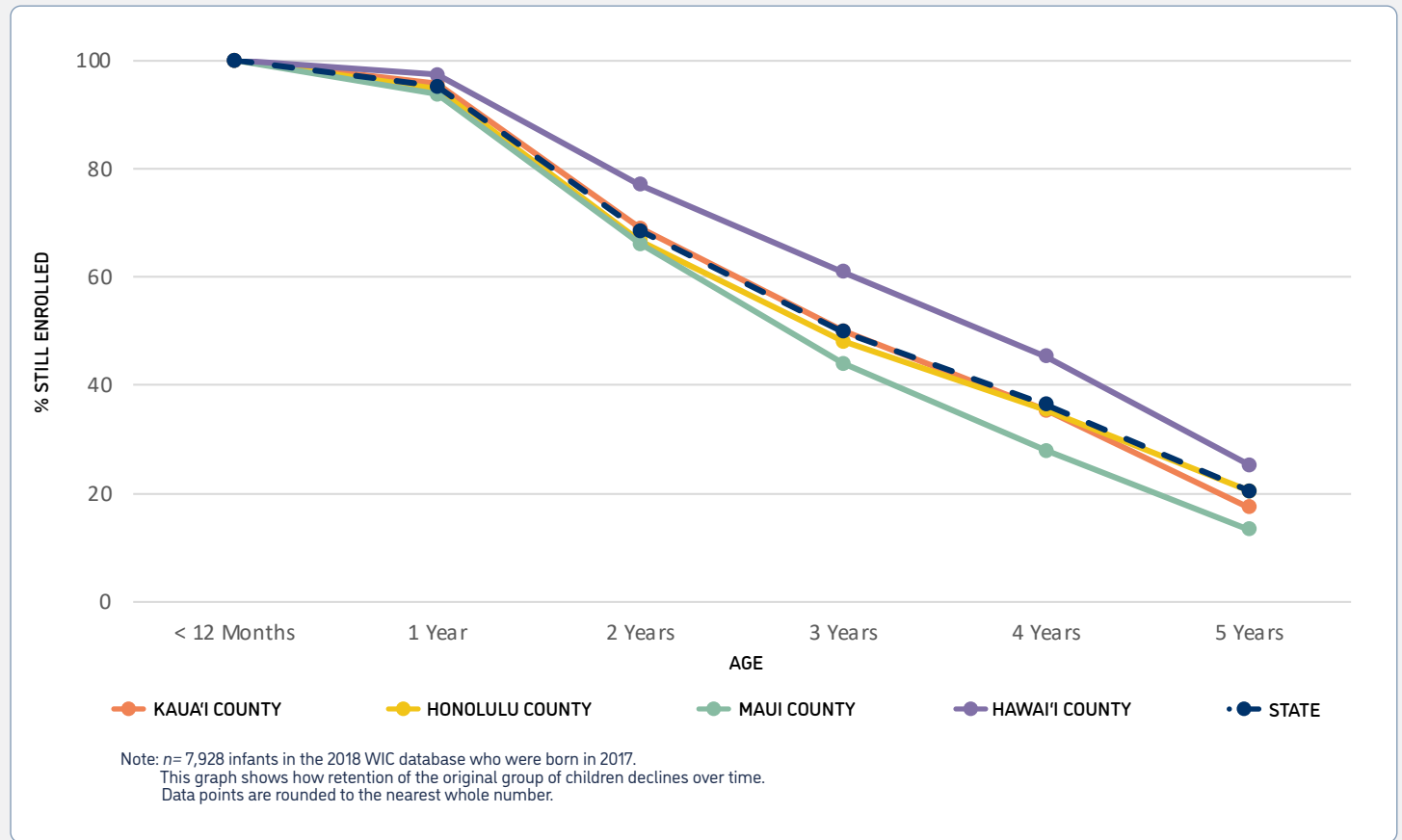
# HAWAI‘I WIC PARTICIPANTS 2021

Reducing food insecurity by increasing WIC enrollment is a high priority for our state.<sup>4</sup> Only **55%** of those who are eligible participate.<sup>5</sup>

## Program Retention<sup>3</sup>

WIC participation throughout early childhood supports positive outcomes, making retention a high priority. However, many children leave the program after their first birthday and few remain through age 60 months. Among a cohort of children who first enrolled in WIC as infants, 20.4% were certified at the cusp of their fifth birthday. This share was largest in Hawai‘i County (25.3%) and smallest in Maui County (13.4%).

## Infant Cohort: Retention Over Time



Suggested citation:

DeBaryshe, B. D., Stern, I. R., Nguyen, M., & Erari, S. M. (2023). *Hawai‘i’s WIC participants 2021*. Honolulu, HI: University of Hawai‘i Center on the Family. (Revised January, 2024.)



This work was supported by the State of Hawai‘i Department of Health and the National Institute of Food and Agriculture Hatch project #10179807.



Please visit the Center on the Family website at [uhfamily.hawaii.edu](http://uhfamily.hawaii.edu) for WIC State and County Snapshots.

<sup>1</sup> WIC participant data provided by the State Department of Health are from the Hawaii WIC Management Information System (Hi WIC) for calendar year 2021.

<sup>2</sup> Non-nursing mothers up to six months after birth or end of pregnancy.

<sup>3</sup> Program retention data are from the HiWIC system for calendar years 2018-2021.

<sup>4</sup> State of Hawai‘i Department of Health (2022). *Title V 2023 application. 2021 annual report*. Honolulu, HI: Author. <https://mchb.tvisdata.hrsa.gov/Home/StateApplicationOrAnnualReport#>

<sup>5</sup> Food and Nutrition Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture (2023). *National- and state-level estimates of the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) eligibility and WIC program reach in 2020 (summary)*. Washington, DC: Author. <https://www.fns.usda.gov/wic/eligibility-and-program-reach-estimates-2020>