

February 2024



U.S. Department of Health
and Human Services
Centers for Disease
Control and Prevention



Monthly Update: WIC Developmental Monitoring Project



<https://asphn.org/learn-the-signs-act-early/>

Upcoming Events

- **February 28th, 11 am ET: State Update & Networking Call**
- **March 27th, 11 am ET: Topic TBD**

Register in advance:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUlce6vpjwoG9RyWi9A3BmuVF3FJj5jsvXy>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

**Monthly trainings take place on the 4th Wednesday at 11 am ET.*

Sharing Updates/Resources

Would your state like to be featured in an upcoming newsletter? Please send an update on what your state is working on regarding developmental monitoring by the 20th of the month to be featured in the following month's newsletter.

Send to

amberbrown@asphn.org

Thanks!

ASPHN and CDC Updates



Highlighting a Resource

Cultural Sensitivity While Offering Milestone Checklists

Recorded Webinar Topic: Cultural Sensitivity While Offering Milestone Checklists

In January 2023 Dr. Sherri Alderman, MD, MPH, IMHM-E, FAAP, shared the research she has done as the Oregon Act Early Ambassador around cultural sensitivity to the milestone checklists. She shared how WIC staff can be aware of and take into consideration cultural needs when offering the checklists.

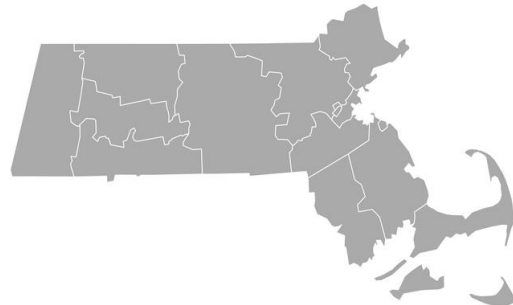
All previous webinars can be viewed at <https://asphn.org/learn-the-signs-act-early/> under "Past Webinars"

[Access the Training Here](#)

Sharing Successes

Massachusetts WIC

The Massachusetts WIC Program has been engaging in developmental monitoring since 2019, when 7 of its 31 local programs began pilot testing the Missouri Act Early model. Since the statewide rollout of the project in 2021, MA has been working to make sure developmental monitoring is available to all families, providing access to checklists from different platforms and in the most common languages. We have also been working to maximize developmental monitoring activities at WIC programs by providing guidance that is flexible and considers unique program operations.



In 2022, the [MA WIC Act Early](#) webpage was built to ensure all families have access to milestone checklists and are informed of local and national resources when there is a concern. This webpage contains different methods for completing a checklist and links to resources for families as well as healthcare providers.

To eliminate language as a barrier to checklist completion, MA WIC worked with the MA CDC Act Early Ambassador to build online checklists with MA-specific resources in four common languages. Recently, the Milestone Checklists for WIC Programs was translated into seven additional languages and the English checklist was reframed to use gender-inclusive language.

To increase opportunities for checklist completion and review at WIC programs, it has been important for MA to be flexible in their approach to

developmental monitoring efforts. This includes offering a checklist not only during certification appointments, but at any appointment when the opportunity presents itself, especially if the nutrition staff or caregiver has a concern. In addition, providing a checklist for families to complete prior to an appointment, versus during an appointment, can help streamline the process since limited time may make conducting developmental monitoring a challenge.

In an effort to enhance nutrition education around the milestones, MA WIC has developed online nutrition education lessons (WICSmart) by checklist age, starting with 9-month and 12-month modules. They capture all milestones within the four developmental domains and include sections on feeding skills that have been recently expanded to incorporate messages around the introduction of possibly allergenic foods. MA WIC will continue to expand this library of age-specific WICSmart modules, with a 15-month lesson currently in the works.

MA WIC continues to explore ways of making developmental monitoring a standard activity at WIC. A future goal would be to ensure that all children who participate in WIC are monitored for development at least once a year and that all children are connected to services if there is a concern. The efforts of all of our local WIC programs in this initiative has been greatly appreciated!

Core Developmental Monitoring Measures

During our January online training, CDC shared the results of the WIC Developmental Monitoring Evaluation Project. 7 core developmental monitoring measures were identified with input from the WIC advisory board. These 7 core measures and definitions were established to ensure that, when possible, states were collecting the same information and that any differences were documented.

It is suggested that others who are thinking about or are actively tracking developmental monitoring use these 7 core measures to guide data collection and reporting processes.

The seven core measures and the full definition for each of the 7 measures is in the document below.

Appendix: Core Developmental Monitoring Measures	
Below is the list of the 7 core developmental monitoring measures used throughout the project. These 7 core measures proved to be feasible in collecting data and helpful in understanding how developmental monitoring occurred in WIC agencies.	
Measure	Definition
# of children eligible for developmental monitoring	The total number of children who had certification or mid-certification visits* in a specified period AND have not already been identified with a developmental disability. *or another annual or semiannual visit selected by WIC staff for completion of DM
# of children offered a LTSAE checklist	The number of children eligible for DM who have been offered a milestone checklist by WIC staff.
# of children who have completed a LTSAE checklist	The number of children eligible for DM who have completed LTSAE Milestone checklist.
# of children who refused completing a LTSAE checklist	The number of children eligible for DM who have been offered and refused to complete a milestone checklist.
# of children with a completed LTSAE checklist AND referred for possible developmental concern(s)	The number of children eligible for DM who completed a checklist and/or had a concern and were referred to a healthcare provider or professional.
# of children who followed through on a referral for developmental concern(s)	The number of children eligible for DM who saw their healthcare provider or other professional because of the referral for developmental concerns.
# of children who received services because of the referral for developmental concern(s)	The number of children eligible for DM who followed through with the referral and as a result, received some kind of services to address a developmental concern.

Did You Miss Our January Online Training? Check Out the Recording Below

Topic: *WIC Developmental Monitoring Evaluation Project Webinar: Sharing Key Findings for States*

Presenter: *Samantha Budzyn, MPH*; LTSAE Lead Evaluator, National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities, Center for Disease Control and Prevention

Description: CDC shared the results of the WIC Developmental Monitoring Evaluation Project. This one-year project examined how 2 state WIC programs (Massachusetts and Wisconsin) engaged in developmental monitoring using LTSAE, including how they track their activities and what data they collect.

Samantha shared some of the project's key findings and recommendations for tracking developmental monitoring in WIC.

[Click Here to View the Recording and Slides](#)

[Access the Evaluation Project Report](#)

ASPHN's WIC Work Group

Did you know that ASPHN has a WIC Work Group that meets together quarterly to discuss different topics related to WIC? The workgroup is a great place for WIC members to work together and network.

The next meeting is **February 7th at Noon ET**. During this meeting, they will be discussing Farmers Markets in the WIC Program. Nancy Magaña-Benoit will provide an update about California's WIC Farmer's Market Program and their plan to implement an e-solution to accept FMNP and CVV at all Farmers' Markets statewide.

Join the meeting with the link below or contact Amber Brown at AmberBrown@asphn.org to be added to the calendar invite.

Join the meeting here: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85277726646?pwd=Ni8xOHl4RUl3bi8vRWdpchVJaTFxQT09>

Networking Questions!

During the Year 5 Extension, we will be doing more networking calls. Please send me any questions or topics that you are interested in talking with other

states about. Please email amberbrown@asphn.org with your suggestions!

You are receiving this monthly newsletter because you are a part of the ASPHN WIC Developmental Monitoring Project. This newsletter will feature updates from states within the project about what they are doing and successes and challenges they have had, information about upcoming trainings, and other news. If you have anything you'd like to contribute, you can reach out to Amber Brown at AmberBrown@asphn.org. Thank you!
<https://asphn.org/learn-the-signs-act-early/>

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