

American Academy
of Pediatrics



DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN™



National WIC Association
WIC for a Healthier America



FIRST FOCUS

MAKING CHILDREN & FAMILIES THE PRIORITY



CENTER FOR
Science IN THE
Public Interest

march  of dimes®

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The following statement was released today by the American Academy of Pediatrics, the National WIC Association, Center for Science in the Public Interest, First Focus and March of Dimes in response to the release of the Institute of Medicine's report, *Review of WIC Food Packages: An Evaluation of White Potatoes in the Cash Value Voucher*:

“The findings released today by the Institute of Medicine (IOM) confirm what health and nutrition experts have consistently urged: that science, not politics, should drive the decisions concerning foods in the WIC food package for nutritionally vulnerable women and children participating in the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program.

“WIC is an instrumental, effective program that improves birth outcomes, provides nutritional support to vulnerable women, infants and children, and saves costs. WIC's four decades of success are anchored by recommendations from nutrition science experts who understand the unique dietary needs of mothers, infants and children.

“Today's report by the IOM provides critical analysis and recommendations with respect to the WIC food packages. We urge the U.S. Department of Agriculture and Congress to heed the IOM's conclusions, particularly to re-evaluate their findings if the 2015 Dietary Guidelines for Americans (DGA) for consumption of starchy vegetables differs significantly from that of the 2010 DGA. The last food package recommendations were based on the 2005 DGA.

“Congressional action to thwart the IOM science-based process that USDA has come to rely on when making WIC food package decisions jeopardizes the program's ability to address dietary deficits in women and children by opening the door for other special interest groups to determine which foods they should and should not access.

“As leading health and medical organizations, the American Academy of Pediatrics, National WIC Association, Center for Science in the Public Interest, First Focus and March of Dimes urge Congress to protect WIC by rejecting any efforts to undermine its scientific integrity. The health and well-being of millions of women, infants, and children who rely on WIC should come first, and keeping the program backed by science is key to doing just that.”

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The American Academy of Pediatrics is an organization of 62,000 primary care pediatricians, pediatric medical subspecialists and pediatric surgical specialists dedicated to the health, safety and well-being of infants, children, adolescents and young adults. For more information, visit www.aap.org and follow us on Twitter @AmerAcadPeds.

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The National WIC Association, NWA, is a non-profit representing the over 8 million mothers and young children participating in the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) and the nation's 12,200 dedicated WIC service provider agencies.

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First Focus is a bipartisan advocacy organization dedicated to making children and families the priority in federal policy and budget decisions. First Focus leads a comprehensive advocacy strategy, with its hands-on experience with federal policymaking and a commitment to seeking policy solutions.

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The Center for Science in the Public Interest (CSPI) is a nonprofit health-advocacy group based in Washington, D.C., that focuses on nutrition and food safety. CSPI is supported largely by the 900,000 U.S. and Canadian subscribers to its Nutrition Action Healthletter and by foundation grants.

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The March of Dimes is a unique collaboration of scientists, clinicians, parents, members of the business community and other volunteers affiliated with 51 chapters representing every state, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. For over 75 years, the March of Dimes has engaged in research, education and advocacy to prevent birth defects, premature birth and infant mortality.