Predicting Issues in WIC

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University of Maryland
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It’s Jobs, Stupid!

• Tax reform
  – Corporate taxes (rates and profits parked abroad)
  – Individual income taxes
  – Maybe border adjustment tax

• Budget
  – Pressure on discretionary spending
  – Social Security and Medicare/Medicaid
  – State and local budget pressures

• Immigration
  – Wall? Workforce enforcement? Muslim ban?
  – Dreamers/DACA

*How likely? I don’t know . . . but Wall Street is betting that Trump succeeds*
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Social Safety Net

• Social Security and Medicare
• Affordable Care Act
• Block granting Medicaid
• Mandated work activities
  – TANF!
  – SNAP?
  – Medicaid??
  – WIC???
What About WIC?
Findings from our report

- Adjunctive eligibility: up to +40%
- Monthly income: up to +20%
- Certification periods: up to +30%
- Nutritional risk: up to +25%
- Cohabitors: up to +20%
- Unauthorized immigrants: up to ??%
All Infants
WIC Eligibility vs. Recipiency
(2014-2015 estimated)

Millions of infants

WIC eligibles
(Besharov/Call)

WIC eligibles
(USDA)

WIC recipients

< 185% of poverty
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# of States with Medicaid Income Eligibility above 185% of Poverty

# of states

- 2003
- 2009
- 2016

Categories:
- Infants
- Children
- Pregnant

Income Percentages:
- 300%+
- 251%-299%
- 201%-250%
- 185%-200%
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Murphy Brown
$1 Million a year but no paid maternity leave
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# WIC Eligibility

## Married vs. cohabiting couple

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Married Couple w/2 children</th>
<th>Cohabiting Couple w/2 children</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Female income</td>
<td>$30,000</td>
<td>$30,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male income</td>
<td>$70,000</td>
<td>$70,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Measured income for eligibility determination</td>
<td>$100,000</td>
<td>$30,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eligibility threshold (185% of poverty)</td>
<td>$45,027</td>
<td>$45,027</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eligible?</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Effect of Marriage on Means-Tested Benefits
If the woman marries biological father of children vs. someone else

- **Best Case**
- **Worst Case**

If the woman marries biological father of children vs. someone else.
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Ratio of Infants On WIC to # of Infants Below 185% of Poverty

(2014-2015 estimated)

Ratio of WIC recipients to < 185% of poverty

185% of poverty cutoff (family household income)

WIC recipients
Increase in Percent of Hispanic Infants
1990-2015

![Graph showing increase in percent of Hispanic infants from 1990 to 2015. The graph compares Hispanic and Mexican infants, with the Hispanic line showing a steady increase and the Mexican line showing a fluctuating trend.](image-url)
Health Insurance Coverage for Low-Income Adults 19 or older, 2011
(Below 200 % of Poverty)

Source: Ku and Bruen, 2013
A Black Market?

Everyone’s asking if it’s WIC. No it’s not. I work for my own. I bought this while pregnant because it was recommended to stock up before the baby comes. But he doesn’t like this type.
All Infants

WIC Eligibility vs. Recipiency
(2014-2015 estimated)

Millions of infants

- WIC eligibles (Besharov/Call)
- WIC eligibles (USDA)
- WIC recipients

< 185% of poverty
Main Points

• Much bigger forces at work
• Across the board discretionary cuts?
• Immigration
• Medicaid block grant vs. adjunctive eligibility
• Marriage penalties
• Changing economy

How likely? I don’t know . . .

but we are in challenging times
# WIC Eligibility

**Married couple with one child and pregnant wife**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>During pregnancy</th>
<th>At birth</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Female income</td>
<td>$50,000</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eligible at 185% of poverty ($45,027)?</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eligible in 8 states at 300% of poverty ($73,017)?</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
A Black Market?

I am selling 12.4 oz (352g) similac advance, complete nutrition for your baby's first year for only $10. I have 10 box extra that I bought recently, the expiration date will be on 2020, and paid $18 for each one with taxes, so do not miss this deal for your baby's first year formula (birth-12 months).

If you are interested please feel free to contact me at [show contact info].

Thanks for viewing.