

South Carolina's position along the east coast places the state at high-risk for hurricane-related disasters. Each year, from 2015 to 2018, portions of the state have been impacted by hurricane flooding. Events like these have the potential to disrupt SC WIC operations as participants are forced to relocate or have difficulty accessing traditional service sites.

The most recent storm, Hurricane Florence, left several counties in the Pee Dee flooded, causing travel barriers for participants and many health departments in the area to shut their doors. Thankfully, the WIC mobile units have allowed us to minimize disruptions to WIC operations and continue serving flood-impacted communities.

**“Our WIC mobile units ensure that we can continue to support women, infants, and children so there is no interruption in receiving their benefits after an event,” said Berry Kelly, State WIC Director. “We are able to deliver the same services to our participants by meeting them where they are.”**

While some health departments were closed others in neighboring counties were open and accepting clients. In one of the hardest hit regions along the coast, staff took a boots-on-the-ground approach and used the SC WIC mobile unit to serve not only WIC participants but also handout immunizations to other residents in need. Staff rolled out its WIC mobile unit over a weekend and held two special clinics to help residents recovering from the storm. The clinics were highlighted in [ABC Columbia](#) and [ABC 15 in Myrtle Beach](#). During these special clinics, SC WIC gave out over **20 WIC vouchers** and over **20 Tdap shots**. This is a population who probably would not have been reached unless services were brought to them in nontraditional settings. Additionally, the SC WIC team was able to complete several other certifications while out in the field.

**“Dealing with a natural disaster can be rough for our participants,” said Kelly. “As we continue to use our mobile units we will keep working to grow our partnerships so that anytime an emergent event occurs we can bring our services to families in South Carolina.”**

The WIC mobile units are already a part of DHEC's service delivery but its value is amplified when we can use them in situations like natural disasters.