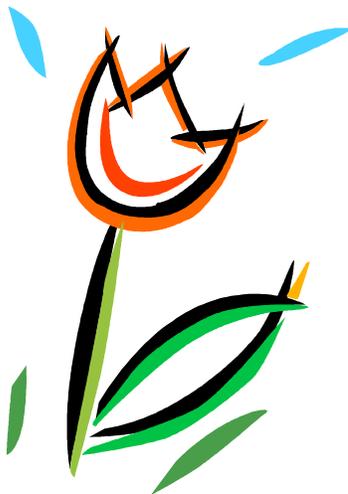




HEADLINES

What's New at WIC Works

Volume 4 Issue 6
Spring



WIC Works Headlines is published four times a year by the WIC Works Resource System. WIC Works is a joint project of the USDA Food and Nutrition Service, USDA National Agricultural Library, Food and Nutrition Information Center and University of Maryland, Department of Nutrition.

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To contribute to WIC Works
Headlines contact:
kdecker@nal.usda.gov

The WIC Works Resource System is an on-line center striving to meet all your WIC information needs. Why not visit the web site and see for yourself at <http://www.nal.usda.gov/wicworks>.

The WIC Works Resource System is excited to announce a **New and Improved Learning Center**. We have added topics like Food Buying and Shopping and rearranged information to help make it more accessible.

Take a look and see what you think. We welcome your suggestions and feedback.

We are also happy to announce an updated section on Childhood Obesity under **WIC Topics A-Z**. A recent dietetic intern, Amy Lechert, spent 8 weeks with our staff and helped us search out and update this section of the web site.

Other new topics have been added to A-Z as well. We will continue to add and enhance these sections.

We are always adding new information to the **State Sharing Center** and welcome your files. The most recent additions include Immunization Training from CDC and

updated Oral Health information. Stay tuned for the release of Fit WIC materials coming in June. Please continue to send us your files and suggestions for the site.

Work is continuing with the 12 on-line learning modules and we are hoping they will be ready for release this fall.

If you're not yet subscribed to WIC-Talk you're missing some very interesting and informative discussions. We look forward to you joining us. You can sign on at www.nal.usda.gov/wicworks.

Upcoming Meetings

♥National Maternal♥
Nutrition Intensive Course

July 14-16, 2003
University of Minnesota

Topics include: Prevention and management of infant food allergies during pregnancy and lactation; Iron deficiency and infant cognition; Update on

DHA/long chain fatty acids and maternal and infant health; Physical activity during pregnancy. Use of herbs and other non-nutritive substances during pregnancy; and Counseling methods, including motivational interviewing. For more information see <http://www.cpheo.umn.edu/nutrition/>.

♥Society for Nutrition♥
Education (SNE) Conference
"Food Choice: Why We Eat What We Eat"

July 26- 30, 2003
Philadelphia, PA
<http://www.sne.org/>



In 2001, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) **mandated that WIC agencies begin screening children for immunizations.**

This policy came about as a result of the increasing gap in the number of low-income children being vaccinated each year.

Since WIC targets low-income children, it seemed fitting for WIC staff to take on this task.

As it is not easy to implement new policies in your state and local agencies, the **WIC Works Resource System** is here to help!

On the homepage select **State Developed Materials** from the **Sharing Center** and then click on **Immunizations**. Here you will find reports, as well as staff training materials, and resources for educating and encouraging WIC participants to vaccinate their children.

Here are samples of materials you can find on the website:

♥ **Implementing the New WIC Policy for Immunization Screenings and Referrals:** Report from the National WIC Immunization Workgroup.

♥ **104 Slides to Educate WIC Staff About Vaccines:** PowerPoint presentation.

♥ **Forms that can be given to participants:**

- Immunization Reminder for Parents
- What If You Don't Immunize Your Child? (hand-out)
- Immunizations Due (reminder postcard)

If you would like to share materials your state has developed on child immunizations contact the **WIC Works Resource System**.

The Latest Folic Acid News

As you are aware, **folic acid is a naturally occurring B vitamin.** It is suggested that folic acid be taken before and during pregnancy. This vitamin helps a baby's neural tube, the part of a developing baby that becomes the brain and spinal cord, develop properly. Folic acid has also been shown to be beneficial in protecting against some forms of cancer and heart disease

About 2,500 children are born each year in the United States with neural tube defects (NTDs). Since NTDs originate in the first month of pregnancy, before many women know they

are pregnant, it is important for a woman to have enough folic acid in her system before conception. For more on folic acid check out the following resources:

♥ **Folic Acid Learning Module** Sponsored by the Association of Schools of Public Health and the March of Dimes. Available online at www.folicacid.net/login.asp.

The goal of the module is to train health professionals and students to counsel on the benefits of folic acid in the prevention of birth defects and other conditions. There is no fee for the module which takes about 30 minutes to complete.

♥ **March of Dimes**

Order materials to educate participants on folic acid at www.modimes.org/ (search on folic acid).

♥ **Centers for Disease Control**

Free folic acid booklets and fact sheets in both English and Spanish are available at <http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/folicacid/folres.htm>.

To find additional information about folic acid see the WIC Works Resource System Topics A-Z at www.nal.usda.gov/wicworks/Topics/Folic_Acid.html.