The goal of Michigan WIC is to improve the health outcome of low income nutritionally at-risk women and children by providing supplemental nutritious foods, offering nutrition education/counseling, breastfeeding support, and referral to other health and social services. This report is developed to provide specific local information regarding the health and nutritional status of WIC participants. In order to provide local statistics stratified by age and race/ethnicity, three-year averages were calculated for each health indicator. Consequently, point estimates represent the incidence or prevalence of an indicator between the years 2001 and 2003. Trends were constructed using rolling averages and cover the period between 1998 and 2003.

District Health Department #4 (DHD #4) consist of four counties: Alpena, Cheboygan, Montmorency, and Presque Isle counties. In 2000, 5.4% of the combined population of Alpena, Cheboygan, Montmorency, and Presque Isle counties were under the age of five years old. Among those children 18.8% lived below poverty. In 2003, an estimated 1,963 of all children participating in Michigan WIC, were served by DHD#4. PedNSS statistics about WIC participants of DHD #4 revealed:

- 7.4% of infants of DHD #4 were low birthweight;
- The incidence of high birthweight ranged from 11.7% in 1998-2000 to 10.5% in 2001-2003;
- 5.2% of infants and children under five years old were short in stature;
- The prevalence of underweight was 3.1% among infants and children under five years old;
- One third of children two to five years old were either overweight or at risk of overweight;
- 15.4% of infants and children under the age of two years old had iron deficiency anemia;
- Over half of infants (57.7%) were ever breastfed and 17.6% were breastfed to six months of age.

Figure 1. Racial/ethnic distribution among infants and children under five years old, 2001-2003 PedNSS

The vast majority (98.4%) of DHD #4 WIC infants and children were non-Hispanic White. Consequently, this report will not show statistics for health/nutritional indicators stratified by race/ethnicity.
Although the incidence of low birthweight increased among participants of DHD #4 between 2000-2002 and 2001-2003, the trend declined an average of 1.9% per year.

Since 1998, the average increase in the prevalence of infants ever breastfed was higher for participants of DHD #4 than state WIC infants: 3.4% compared to 2.6%.

The prevalence of iron deficiency anemia among infants and children of DHD #4 under the age of two years old was similar with their state WIC counterparts.

*Low birthweight is defined as having a birthweight less than 2500 grams (5lbs 9 oz) regardless of gestational age.

*For infants under the age of one year, iron deficiency anemia is defined as having either a hemoglobin concentration of 11.0 g/dL or a hematocrit level of less than 33%. For children two to five years old, iron deficiency anemia is defined as having either a hemoglobin concentration less than 11.1 g/dL or a hematocrit level below 33.3%.
The prevalence of short stature among children of DHD #4 two to five years old increased by an average of 8.4% per year.

A higher percentage of DHD #4 children two to five years old were at risk of overweight compared to their state and national peers.

The prevalence of infants and children who were underweight in DHD #4 increased 5.8%, on average, per year since 1998.
DHD #4 improved in all but one health/nutrition indicator: underweight.