

## Homelessness

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### Definition/ cut-off value

A woman, infant or child who lacks a fixed and regular nighttime residence; or whose primary nighttime residence is:

- a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter (including a welfare hotel, a congregate shelter, or a shelter for victims of domestic violence) designed to provide temporary living accommodations;
  - an institution that provides a temporary residence for individuals intended to be institutionalized;
  - a temporary accommodation of not more than 365 days in the residence of another individual; or
  - a public or private place not designed for, or ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings.
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### Participant category and priority level

Category	Priority
Pregnant Women	IV or VII
Breastfeeding Women	IV or VII
Non-Breastfeeding Women	VI or VII
Infants	IV or VII
Children	V or VII

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### Justification

Homeless individuals comprise a very vulnerable population with many special needs. WIC Program regulations specify homelessness as a predisposing nutrition risk condition. Today's homeless population contains a sizeable number of women and children – over one-third of the total homeless population in the U.S. Studies show forty-three percent of today's homeless are families, and an increasing number of the "new homeless" include economically-displaced individuals who have lost their jobs, exhausted their resources, and recently entered into the ranks of the homeless and consider their condition to be temporary.

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### References

WIC Program Regulations; Sect. 246.7(e)(2)(iv).

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