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## **NYS WIC caseload projections and trends**

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Timely and accurate caseload forecasting for WIC is necessary to determine permissible caseload ceilings, develop statewide caseload management strategies and caseload reallocation plans, determine the level of state funding needed, and provide data for required reporting to USDA. Time series models are employed to forecast caseload separately for women, infants and children using data from 1997 to 2002. Time series methods also are used to exam trends and fluctuation of participants. Results show that although major trends of children and women caseload are different, women caseload keep steady increasing while children caseload decreases since 1998, their fluctuations along the main trends are highly correlated. Fluctuations of women and children caseload show a two-year cycle and are highly related to WIC budget.