



Memorandum

#11-155

TO: WIC Regional Directors
WIC Local Agency Directors

FROM: Linda Brumble, Unit Manager
Nutrition Education/Clinic Services Unit
Nutrition Services Section

DATE: December 12, 2011

SUBJECT: Formula Use Survey

The National WIC Association (NWA) has brought to our attention that attempts are being made to conduct surveys in Texas, Washington and Arizona concerning formula usage by WIC participants. The research company involved is attempting to gather information about the use of infant formula by WIC clients. They are targeting pregnant women in their third trimester and women with infants 11 months of age or younger. The company is offering to pay them \$20.00 to \$25.00 for their participation. This survey is not affiliated with or sanctioned by WIC. Clinic staff should take action in the following ways:

1. If any clients or WIC staff report receiving this type of call, let the State Agency (SA) know immediately. Contact Pat Koym, Clinical Nutrition Specialist, at (512) 341-4578 or patricia.koym@dshs.state.tx.us.
2. No one other than WIC staff should be allowed access to clients without prior approval from the SA in accordance with *Policy GA:18.0 Research or Auxiliary Services Involving WIC Participants*. This especially applies to companies who are unwilling to inform WIC staff or participants whom they are representing.
3. If clients ask for guidance, inform them that the SA strongly discourages their participation in this survey.

If you have any questions or have already received reports of these calls, please contact Sandra Brown, Food/Formula Specialist, Nutrition Education/Clinic Services Unit, at (512) 341-4576 or sandra.brown@dshs.state.tx.us.