

## EITC Supports Healthy Moms and Babies

The **Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)** provides a refundable tax credit to lower-income working families. It encourages people to work by ensuring greater pay after taxes<sup>1</sup>.

The EITC reduces poverty and increases income for working families<sup>2</sup>. In 2015, it lifted **6.5 million people** out of poverty – including **3.3 million children**<sup>3</sup>.

The benefits of the EITC go even deeper to impact health. Research has shown that by increasing family incomes and reducing poverty, the **EITC improves the health of moms and babies**:



Improved physical and mental health of moms<sup>4</sup>



Reduced infant mortality rate (babies dying in 1<sup>st</sup> year of life)<sup>5</sup>



Reduced number of low-birthweight babies<sup>6</sup>

Low birthweight makes a child at risk for poor childhood development, lower educational status and reduced future earnings<sup>7</sup>.

By improving birth outcomes, EITC is a powerful tool for improving a child's health, educational attainment and future earnings.

***EITC has the power to change the life course of current and future generations.***

Please contact Amy Williamson at [aawilliamson@wisc.edu](mailto:aawilliamson@wisc.edu) with any questions.

1. Hoynes 2014, [Building on the Success of the Earned Income Tax Credit](#).
2. Strully 2010, [Effects of Prenatal Poverty on Infant Health: State Earned Income Tax Credits and Birth Weight](#); UW IRP-Dahl 2009, [Stepping Stone or Dead End? The Effect of the EITC on Earnings Growth](#); Hotz 2003, [The Earned Income Tax Credit](#); NBER-Meyer 2000, [Making Single Mothers Work: Recent Tax and Welfare Policy and its Effects](#).
3. Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, 2016, [Policy Basics: The Earned Income Tax Credit](#).
4. Evans 2010, [Giving Mom a Break: The Impact of Higher EITC Payments on Maternal Health](#).
5. Arno 2009, [Bringing Health and Social Policy Together: The Case of the Earned Income Tax Credit](#).
6. Hoynes 2015, [Income, the Earned Income Tax Credit, and Infant Health](#); Strully 2010.
7. Currie 2011, [Inequality at Birth: Some Causes and Consequences](#); Johnson 2011, [The Influence of Early-Life Events on Human Capital, Health Status, and Labor Market Outcomes Over the Life Course](#).

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