

North Carolina Summer Nutrition Program Profiles:

Data Sources and Calculation Information

- Data for the profiles on SUN Meals and SUN Meals To-Go came from June-August 2024 Summer Food Service Program and National School Lunch Program Seamless Summer Option meal claims data from the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NC DPI) received October 31, 2024.
- Data on SUN Bucks came from SUN Bucks Statistics from the NC Department of Health and Human Services as of December 13, 2024.
- Data on the number and percentage of children eligible for free and reduced-price school meals came from October 2023 meal claims data from the NC DPI. These numbers only include students attending the 115 traditional public school districts in NC.
- The number of children receiving SUN Bucks was calculated by adding the number of children who were streamlined certified with the number of children approved via application. The amount of funding distributed in each county through SUN Bucks was calculated by multiplying the number of children receiving benefits by \$120.
- NC Summer Meals Funding for SUN Meals and SUN Meals To-Go refers to the amount of federal reimbursement received by program sponsors for serving meals through these programs.
- Hybrid meal sites serving both congregate and non-congregate meals were categorized as non-congregate meal sites for data purposes only.
- Average daily participation was calculated for July 2024 using the instructions from the USDA Food and Nutrition Service (<https://www.fns.usda.gov/sfsp/revisions-instructions-calculation-average-daily-attendance-form-fns-418>). It was calculated by dividing the number of meals served during each site's primary meal service (meal period where highest number of meals were served for the month) by the number of operating days for the month. Average daily attendance for all sites in the county/state were added together. For county-level profiles for two counties that did not serve meals in July 2024, June 2024 data was reported.
- The amount of funding that would have been brought into the county/state if every student eligible for free and reduced-price meals received breakfast and lunch Monday-Friday (55 days) during the summer are conservative estimates calculated using the lower SFSP meal reimbursement rates (\$2.9225 for breakfast and 5.13 for lunch). Potential reimbursement is calculated as the number of children eligible for free and reduced-price school meals in October 2023 x the rate x 55 serving days (based on weekdays, however, weekend meals can also be reimbursed). Information on 2024 reimbursement rates for the Summer Food Service Program can be found here: <https://www.fns.usda.gov/sfsp/fr-011924>.

For additional questions on data or calculations, contact Jessica Soldavini, PhD, MPH, RD, LDN at Jessica6@live.unc.edu. Jessica is a research specialist with the Carolina Hunger Initiative and No Kid Hungry NC, based at the UNC Center for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention.