



# Serving Maryland's Children

*Measuring Access to the Summer Nutrition Programs*

Maryland Hunger Solutions | June 2012

**F**or Maryland's low-income children, summer vacation doesn't just mean a break from classes. For many of these students, it also means losing access to the regular nutritious meals they rely on during the school year — a gap their families, whose resources are limited, struggle to fill.

The federally funded Summer Nutrition Programs are designed expressly to ensure that children have access to nutritious food during the summer. Yet in summer 2011, fewer than one in five low-income Maryland children who depended on the National School Lunch Program during the regular 2010–2011 school year benefited from the Summer Nutrition Programs. As a result, tens of thousands of low-income children and their families struggled to access adequate nutrition during the summer months. What's more, Maryland counties missed out on more than \$3.5 million in federal funding by not looking for ways to increase awareness of and participation in the Summer Nutrition Programs.

The recession's impact on this issue cannot be overstated. Put simply, as the need for summer nutrition has grown, opportunities for low-income students to receive it have declined. Faced with ongoing fiscal challenges, state and local governments have reduced funding for summer school and youth programs throughout the state. When school systems and communities do not make summer programming a priority, it becomes increasingly difficult to reach the children most in need of healthy meals. While the number of low-income children eating free or reduced-price lunch during the school year continued to increase from 2009–2010 to 2010–2011, in 2011 the Summer Nutrition Programs actually reached fewer children than the previous year — the second straight year of decline.

These declines are not inevitable. As some Maryland jurisdictions have discovered, when both school systems and community partners are actively engaged and committed, fewer children go hungry during the summer months. To ensure that *all* of Maryland's low-income children have access to regular nutritious meals during the summer months, there must be a renewed commitment at the state and local levels to increase awareness of, access to, and participation in the Summer Nutrition Programs.

Children in 2011 Summer Nutrition Programs per 100 Children in 2010-2011 Regular School Year Lunch Program	
<b>Top Five Jurisdictions</b>	
Baltimore City	49.5
Somerset	32.4
Montgomery	20.9
Worcester	17.3
Prince George's	16.8
<b>Bottom Five Jurisdictions</b>	
St Mary's	3.1
Cecil	1.8
Garrett	1.5
Carroll	1.1
Talbot	0.0

## State Findings in 2011

Even though record numbers of low-income children were eligible for and receiving free and reduced-price meals during the 2010–2011 school year, statewide participation in the Summer Nutrition Programs decreased.

- In July 2011, the Summer Nutrition Programs served lunch to only 48,288 children on an average day. The total number of children participating in the Summer Nutrition Programs statewide decreased by 892, or 1.8 percent, from July 2010 to July 2011. This is the second straight year of decline, leaving more of Maryland’s low-income children vulnerable to hunger, poor nutrition, and obesity when school is out.
- The number of low-income children receiving free or reduced-price lunch during the regular school year is a reliable indicator of the need for the Summer Nutrition Programs. Consequently, Maryland Hunger Solutions uses it as a benchmark against which to measure summer participation in the state. In July 2011, only 19.6 children participated in the Summer Nutrition Programs for every 100 low-income students who received free or reduced-price lunch during the 2010–2011 school year — the lowest rate in the last four years. According to this measure, fewer than one in five children who needed summer meals received them.
- The 2011 ratio of 19.6:100 was a significant decrease when compared to the ratio of 21:100 children in July 2010. The magnitude of the decline was due to the fact that the number of children being fed during the summer fell slightly (by 892 children), while the number of low-income children relying on the school lunch program grew significantly (by 11,906 children) during the 2010–2011 school year, reflecting the growing need in the aftermath of the “Great Recession.”
- Lower participation in the Summer Nutrition Programs not only means that fewer children in need are being reached, but also that even more available federal dollars are being left on the table. In July 2011, Maryland missed out on more than \$3.5 million in federal funding by not reaching the programmatic goal of 40 low-income children receiving Summer Nutrition for every 100 participating in school lunch.

County Rank By Percent Change in Number of Children Served from 2010 to 2011	
<b>Top Five Jurisdictions</b>	
Frederick	58.1
Caroline	54.3
Howard	39.1
Calvert	37.2
Anne Arundel	25.3
<b>Bottom Five Jurisdictions</b>	
Kent	-21.0
Baltimore	-36.0
St. Mary's	-39.4
Garrett	-69.6
Cecil	-75.2

### About the Summer Nutrition Programs

The two federal Summer Nutrition Programs — the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) — provide funding to serve meals and snacks to children at sites where at least half the children in the geographic area are eligible for free or reduced-price school meals; at sites in which at least 50 percent of the children participating in the program are individually determined eligible for free or reduced-price school meals; and at sites that serve primarily migrant children. Once a site is eligible, all of the children can eat for free. The NSLP also reimburses schools for feeding children that attend summer school, using the regular year (individually determined free or reduced-price meal) reimbursements.

Public and private nonprofit schools, local governments, and private nonprofit organizations can participate in the SFSP and operate one or more sites. Only schools are eligible to participate in the NSLP (but they can use the NSLP to provide meals and snacks to both school and nonschool sites over the summer).

The U.S. Department of Agriculture provides the funding for both programs, which are administered in Maryland by the State Department of Education.

Maryland Hunger Solutions (MDHS) focuses this report on July participation data because July is typically the highest summer food participation month, and because calculating average daily lunch attendance in June or August can be complicated since schools are in session for only part of these months. MDHS focuses on lunch participation because it is the meal most commonly served in the Summer Nutrition Programs, and since there is broad participation in the National School Lunch Program during the school year, it creates a natural benchmark against which to measure participation in the Summer Nutrition Programs.

### Summer Nutrition in Maryland's Jurisdictions

Summer Nutrition in Maryland's Jurisdictions									
July 2010 Summer Nutrition					July 2011 Summer Nutrition				
Jurisdictions	Summer Participants	School Year F&RP Lunch Students	F&RP Students in Summer per 100 in School Year Lunch	Jurisdiction Rank Summer	Summer Participants	School Year F&RP Lunch Students	F&RP Students in Summer per 100 in School Year Lunch	Jurisdiction Rank Summer	Percent Change in Children Served
Allegany	339	3,636	9.3	15	371	3,730	9.9	12	9.3
Anne Arundel	1,798	12,685	14.2	9	2,254	14,296	15.8	6	25.3
Baltimore	3,322	29,826	11.1	13	2,127	31,999	6.6	17	-36.0
Calvert	100	1,978	5.1	20	138	2,223	6.2	18	37.2
Caroline	124	2,208	5.6	18	191	2,249	8.5	15	54.3
Carroll	0	2,861	0.0	23	34	3,022	1.1	23	N/A
Cecil	328	4,133	7.9	16	81	4,409	1.8	21	-75.2
Charles	632	5,470	11.6	11	535	5,706	9.4	13	-15.3
Dorchester	325	2,065	15.7	8	294	2,120	13.9	9	-9.5
Frederick	336	5,946	5.7	17	531	6,492	8.2	16	58.1
Garrett	74	1,641	4.5	21	23	1,550	1.5	22	-69.6
Harford	893	7,517	11.9	10	883	8,020	11.0	11	-1.1
Howard	142	5,881	2.4	22	198	6,300	3.1	19	39.1
Kent	162	802	20.2	5	128	863	14.9	7	-21.0
Montgomery	6,986	30,599	22.8	3	6,918	33,056	20.9	3	-1.0
Prince George's	9,302	52,216	17.8	7	9,009	53,687	16.8	5	-3.2
Queen Anne's	110	1,149	9.6	14	119	1,273	9.3	14	7.4
St. Mary's	187	3,356	5.6	19	113	3,639	3.1	20	-39.4
Somerset	498	1,259	39.6	2	420	1,296	32.4	2	-15.8
Talbot	0	1,134	0.0	23	0	1,221	0.0	24	N/A
Washington	789	7,028	11.2	12	934	7,513	12.4	10	18.3
Wicomico	937	5,233	17.9	6	852	5,746	14.8	8	-9.1
Worcester	411	1,920	21.4	4	356	2,057	17.3	4	-13.4
Baltimore City	21,382	44,013	48.6	1	21,782	43,994	49.5	1	1.9
State	49,180	234,557	21.0		48,288	246,463	19.6		-1.8

## County Findings in 2011

While participation in the Summer Nutrition Programs dropped statewide, the performance differed dramatically among the 24 jurisdictions in Maryland.

- Participation in the Summer Nutrition Programs continues to vary widely across the state, from a high of 49.5 low-income children being served in Baltimore City for every 100 receiving lunch during the regular school year, to zero children in Talbot County. In July 2011, thirteen jurisdictions (Talbot, Carroll, Garrett, Cecil, St. Mary's, Howard, Calvert, Baltimore, Frederick, Caroline, Queen Anne's, Charles, and Allegany counties) served fewer than one in 10 of their low-income children.
- The five most populous jurisdictions in Maryland (Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Montgomery, and Prince George's counties and Baltimore City) account for 73 percent of children enrolled in free or reduced-price meals at school, and together serve 87 percent of children participating in Summer Nutrition Programs statewide. But participation increased in only two of these jurisdictions in 2011 – Anne Arundel County and Baltimore City — and only Baltimore City reached the programmatic goal of serving 40 low-income children per 100 eating school lunch during the regular school year.

- Nine jurisdictions increased participation, and six experienced substantial double-digit growth (Anne Arundel, Calvert, Caroline, Frederick, Howard, and Washington) in the Summer Nutrition Programs.
- Many jurisdictions with increased participation rates benefited from strong community collaboration and/or committed public school systems. Three of the top six counties with the greatest percent increase in the number of children served from July 2010 to July 2011 (Frederick, Washington, and Anne Arundel) had significant public school system commitment to and involvement in the Summer Nutrition Programs.
- Five of the eight Hunger-Free Community jurisdictions (Allegany, Anne Arundel, Caroline, Carroll, and Frederick) increased participation in the Summer Nutrition Programs. Although Garrett County had a decrease in participation, without involvement of the Hunger-Free Community partners, no children would have received free summer meals in 2011.

If Counties Reached a Ratio of 40 Children in Summer Nutrition Programs per 100 in School Year NSLP				
Jurisdiction	2010		2011	
	Additional Children Reached	Additional Federal County Would Receive	Additional Children Reached	Additional Federal County Would Receive
<b>Allegany</b>	1,115	\$74,842	1,122	\$72,620
<b>Anne Arundel</b>	3,276	\$219,783	3,465	\$224,329
<b>Baltimore</b>	8,608	\$577,571	10,673	\$691,054
<b>Calvert</b>	691	\$46,357	752	\$48,661
<b>Caroline</b>	759	\$50,955	708	\$45,864
<b>Carroll</b>	1,144	\$76,777	1,175	\$76,081
<b>Cecil</b>	1,325	\$88,922	1,683	\$108,946
<b>Charles</b>	1,556	\$104,409	1,747	\$113,142
<b>Dorchester</b>	501	\$33,603	554	\$35,866
<b>Frederick</b>	2,042	\$137,021	2,065	\$133,737
<b>Garrett</b>	582	\$39,076	598	\$38,693
<b>Harford</b>	2,114	\$141,832	2,325	\$150,531
<b>Howard</b>	2,210	\$148,311	2,323	\$150,392
<b>Kent</b>	159	\$10,636	217	\$14,048
<b>Montgomery</b>	5,254	\$352,489	6,305	\$408,247
<b>Prince George's</b>	11,584	\$777,253	12,466	\$807,189
<b>Queen Anne's</b>	349	\$23,440	391	\$25,292
<b>St. Mary's</b>	1,155	\$77,526	1,343	\$86,934
<b>Somerset</b>	5	\$358	99	\$6,390
<b>Talbot</b>	453	\$30,427	488	\$31,630
<b>Washington</b>	2,022	\$135,665	2,071	\$134,110
<b>Wicomico</b>	1,156	\$77,579	1,447	\$93,685
<b>Worcester</b>	358	\$23,997	467	\$30,253
<b>Baltimore City</b>	0	\$0	0	\$0
<b>State</b>	<b>48,421</b>	<b>\$3,248,829</b>	<b>54,482</b>	<b>\$3,527,694</b>

### Missed Opportunities in the Most Populous Jurisdictions

The majority of Maryland’s children enrolled in free and reduced-price school meals live in the most populous jurisdictions in the state—Anne Arundel County, Baltimore City, Baltimore County, Montgomery County, and Prince George’s County.<sup>1</sup>

Together, they serve 87 percent of children participating in summer meals statewide. These jurisdictions have an important role to play in ensuring vulnerable children in their communities are connected to important nutritional supports like the Summer Nutrition Programs, yet these counties failed to keep up with the increased need. While the combined number of children participating in free or reduced-price school meals increased from 169,339 in 2010 to 177,032 in 2011 — a gain of 7,693 students — 700 fewer low-income children received summer lunch in these five jurisdictions in July 2011, dropping from 42,790 to 42,090.

In three of these counties (Baltimore, Montgomery, and Prince George’s), Summer Nutrition Programs participation rates declined last year. Baltimore County, which served 36 percent fewer children, suffered the most dramatic decline. Montgomery and Prince George’s counties remained in the top five jurisdictions serving summer meals relative to school lunch participation, yet both served fewer children in 2011 than in 2010. Montgomery County served only 20.9 low-income children during the summer for every 100 participating in school lunch, while Prince George’s County reached only 16.8:100.

<sup>1</sup> Maryland State Department of Education, Free and Reduced Price Meal Data, SY 2010-2011. <http://bit.ly/KXo6Y1>

Baltimore City was the sole jurisdiction to exceed the Summer Nutrition Programs' goal of serving 40 low-income children for every 100 who participate in free or reduced-price school lunch. That ratio actually grew during 2011, increasing from 48.6:100 in 2010 to 49.5:100. Baltimore City also recorded a 1.9 percent increase in the number of children served during July 2011, for an additional 400 children on average per day. Anne Arundel County recorded an even more sizable increase of 25.3 percent, serving an additional 456 children each day in July. Yet Anne Arundel's participation rate of 15.8:100 still fell well short of program goals.

The impact of these shortfalls is twofold: Not only does Maryland fail to provide tens of thousands of low-income children with nutritious meals during the summer, every year it leaves significant amounts of federal money on the table. Had Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Montgomery, and Prince George's counties reached the programmatic goal of 40 children participating in the Summer Nutrition Programs per 100 children in free or reduced-price lunch during the regular school year, they could have secured a total of \$2.1 million in additional federal funds — a tremendous boon for local governments during tough fiscal times. And most importantly, they would have reached nearly 33,000 additional low-income children with summer food. Overall, Maryland missed out on more than \$3.5 million in federal child nutrition funding during the summer by not reaching the goal of 40:100.

Summer Lunch Sponsors and Sites 2010-2011					
Jurisdictions	July 2010 Summer Nutrition		July 2011 Summer Nutrition		
	Number of Sponsors 2010	Number of Sites 2010	Number of Sponsors 2011	Number of Sites 2011	Percent Change in Children Served
Allegany	4	14	4	13	9.3
Anne Arundel	3	31	3	43	25.3
Baltimore	7	144	7	130	-36.0
Calvert	2	2	2	2	37.2
Caroline	1	2	4	5	54.3
Carroll	0	0	1	1	N/A
Cecil	1	7	1	7	-75.2
Charles	1	26	1	31	-15.3
Dorchester	5	8	5	8	-9.5
Frederick	1	9	2	14	58.1
Garrett	1	6	1	3	-69.6
Harford	1	12	1	14	-1.1
Howard	0	0	1	2	39.1
Kent	1	2	1	3	-21
Montgomery	1	108	2	105	-1
Prince George's	4	184	4	205	-3.2
Queen Anne's	1	4	1	3	7.4
St. Mary's	3	4	2	3	-39.4
Somerset	4	9	4	10	-15.8
Talbot*	1	1	0	0	N/A
Washington	2	25	2	31	18.3
Wicomico	2	24	2	25	-9.1
Worcester	1	10	2	11	-13.4
Baltimore City	9	491	7	505	1.9
<b>State</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>1,123</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>1,174</b>	<b>-1.8</b>

\*Program did not serve lunch in 2010, but did serve snacks. Program did not serve in 2011.

## **Making Summer Meals a Priority**

The benefits of this underutilized federal nutrition program are overwhelming. Combined with summer enrichment programming, summer meals enhance children’s development and reduce summer learning loss. And by providing healthy, balanced meals when school is not in session, the Summer Nutrition Programs also prevent the weight gain that many children experience during the summer — at a rate two to three times faster than during the school year.<sup>2</sup>

What then stands between Maryland jurisdictions and increased participation? Numerous barriers exist, for both children in need and organizations that want to provide summer meals, including lack of transportation, programming, funding, and basic awareness. Jurisdictions that have overcome these barriers provide a powerful model for the rest of the state: namely, when school systems and community organizations make it a priority, participation in the Summer Nutrition Programs increases.

For example, nine jurisdictions increased participation last summer and six experienced substantial double-digit growth (Anne Arundel, Calvert, Caroline, Frederick, Howard, and Washington). Much of the success in these counties can be attributed to the strong commitment and involvement of the school systems, as well as the use of innovative strategies and community collaboration to overcome common barriers to participation during the summer.

### ***School System Success***

The involvement and leadership of the local school system can greatly impact the effectiveness of the Summer Nutrition Programs throughout Maryland. Quite simply, when school systems are actively engaged and committed, fewer children go hungry during the summer months.

In summer 2011, the jurisdictions with some of the greatest growth in Summer Nutrition Programs participation were those in which the school system took part in the program for the first time (Frederick), or strengthened their involvement (Anne Arundel and Washington).<sup>3</sup> Local school systems can be a model for successful Summer Nutrition Programs implementation in the community, promoting greater awareness of the program and ultimately, higher participation among low-income children. Schools are trusted and safe locations for children, and when open during the summer provide a much-needed resource for all children within the community to gather and receive a free summer meal.

Conversely, according to school representatives, in many other counties there was a direct correlation between decreased Summer Nutrition Programs participation and a reduction in funding for summer school and other summer enrichment programs available through the local school system (Baltimore, Cecil, Garrett). While they appear to solve a short-term budget problem, these cuts can have a long-term, negative impact on the health and well-being of low-income children. By promoting healthy eating and physical activity, and by providing access to nutritious meals, summer learning programs are a key part of the solution to preventing childhood hunger and obesity when school is out of session.

### ***Community Collaboration Counts***

Throughout Maryland, organizations are capitalizing on community collaboration to implement innovative strategies to overcome barriers and expand participation in the Summer Nutrition Programs.

Effective community partnerships, at both the state and local level, can be crucial in addressing hunger during the summer months. The Governor’s Partnership to End Childhood Hunger in Maryland continues to play a major role in promoting the Summer Nutrition Programs statewide and in engaging local partners in their efforts, especially in Baltimore City. In 2011, with a significant investment of resources — both staff and money — the Governor’s Partnership to End Childhood Hunger, including Maryland Hunger Solutions, was able to recruit new sites and reach more families in Baltimore City, resulting in a 1.9 percent increase in participation in the Summer Nutrition Programs. The impact of this coordinated response becomes clear

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<sup>2</sup> National Summer Learning Association. (November 2009) “Research in Brief: Summertime and Weight Gain.”

<sup>3</sup> To learn more about the steps taken by these school systems, visit our Summer Nutrition Best Practices page at: <http://bit.ly/OkhyUI>.

when you consider that this increase in summer participation came despite a slight decrease in the number of children participating in the free and reduced-price school lunch program during the 2010–2011 school year.

Committed community partners make a real difference; so do grant funding and targeted outreach. In spring 2011, the Governor’s Partnership to End Childhood Hunger received a Hunger-Free Communities Grant. Over the past year, Maryland Hunger Solutions used this grant to work with the eight target jurisdictions, building community support and creating networks to promote and expand the Summer Nutrition Programs.<sup>4</sup> Five of these jurisdictions (Allegany, Anne Arundel, Caroline, Carroll, and Frederick) increased the number of children served in summer 2011. And when Garrett County cut summer programming in 2011, endangering the Summer Nutrition Programs, Maryland Hunger Solutions used the Hunger-Free Communities Grant to do targeted outreach in the county, ensuring that summer sites were available and that low-income Garrett County children had access to free summer meals last summer.

Collaboration also increases participation. Faith-based and community organizations with small budgets and volunteer bases find that by working together and pooling resources they can have a big impact on vulnerable children. Successful examples of collaboration include community canvassing, a mobile meals project, sites sponsored by faith-based coalitions, and mini-grants to support new and expand existing sites.

As these and other innovative strategies demonstrate, the success of the Summer Nutrition Programs requires effective collaboration at *all* levels to overcome barriers that inhibit participation. Federal, state, and local agencies and community organizations can work together effectively to assess where low-income children are located in the summer, determine how to get nutritious meals to sites in those areas, and utilize both government and private dollars to provide quality summer enrichment programming and meals to children in need when school is out.

In an effort to highlight the promising practices that continue to emerge around summer meals in the state, Maryland Hunger Solutions has created a *Best Practices in Summer Meals* page (<http://bit.ly/OkhyU>). This page highlights the successful strategies that have been implemented by school systems, community organizations, and faith-based organizations throughout Maryland to increase the number of children served through the Summer Nutrition Programs, including:

- Local school systems making summer meals a priority with positive results.
- Faith-based volunteers supporting a summer site in Frederick County.
- Mobile meal pilot project in Baltimore City.
- Summer Meals Outreach Workgroup in Montgomery County.

### **About the Partnership to End Childhood Hunger in Maryland**

Created by Governor Martin O’Malley in the fall of 2008 and led by the Governor’s Office for Children and Share Our Strength, the Partnership to End Childhood Hunger in Maryland is a large, broad-based coalition of federal, state, and local agencies, nonprofit organizations, advocates, faith-based organizations, and members of the private sector. Members of the Partnership include the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Maryland Department of Human Resources, the Maryland Department of Education, Maryland Hunger Solutions, the Maryland and Capital Area Food Banks, End Hunger Calvert County, Catholic Charities, and the Family League of Baltimore, along with many others.

The Partnership is working together to implement a five-year plan for ending childhood hunger in Maryland by 2015, through increased participation in federal nutrition programs. The Summer Food Service Program is one of the primary areas of focus, and increasing participation is a key priority for the Partnership.

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<sup>4</sup> To learn more about the Hunger-Free Communities Grant in Maryland, visit: <http://bit.ly/KyD8xf>

## Moving Forward

What will this summer hold for low-income children? Maryland jurisdictions face many of the same challenges they did in 2011: a growing need for food assistance and cuts to the very summer programming that could provide low-income children with access to nutritious meals so crucial for their health and development. Will vulnerable children continue to bear the burden of budget cuts for another summer?

Now is the time to learn the lessons of July 2011. Maryland can reverse the trend of declining participation by identifying innovative solutions being developed throughout the state and expanding these best-practice models to jurisdictions that are failing to meet the needs of their low-income children. Building on successes in 2011, the following strategies should be implemented:

- Offer summer meals in all of Maryland's public schools where 50 percent or more of the students are eligible for free or reduced-price meals.
- Advocate for the state and local jurisdictions to fund summer school programming and other summer enrichment activities that are so critical for children when school is out.
- Create county-level summer workgroups to address the barriers that exist locally around the Summer Nutrition Programs and develop innovative solutions to overcome these challenges through community engagement, support, and collaboration.
- Continue building the capacity of sponsors to accommodate new sites as the need continues to grow. Also, conduct direct outreach to potential sites to increase the number participating across the state.
- Continue to implement a marketing and outreach strategy that utilizes a variety of media platforms, including backpack postcards, billboards and bus ads, ConnectEd messages, community canvassing, radio and video PSAs, and yard signs, while also building grassroots community support to increase awareness of the Summer Nutrition Programs and educate families about how to participate.
- Continue to provide grant funding for outreach efforts and start-up and expansion costs to maximize participation at sites and reach more children through the Summer Nutrition Programs.
- Improve nutrition quality of summer meals served to children by utilizing the Food Research and Action Center's Summer Food Standards of Excellence<sup>5</sup> to raise awareness about the criteria for a high-quality Summer Food site and to encourage sponsors to improve their programs.

To ensure that more low-income children have access to nutritious meals this summer, strong leadership and coordinated action at the state and local level are essential. Low-income children need a safe place in their community to stay active and get the nutritious meals they need to thrive during the summer months.

## Technical Notes

The data in this report are collected from the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) and individual sponsors that work across jurisdictions (Maryland Food Bank, Archdiocese of Baltimore). Participation data for July 2010 and July 2011 is based on the average number of lunches served daily through the Summer Nutrition Programs, as provided by MSDE and sponsors, as noted above. Due to rounding, totals in the tables may not add up to 100 percent. This report utilizes the Food Research and Action Center 2011 Summer Meals Calculator to generate summer participation ratio, jurisdiction rank, and federal dollars lost. The calculator can be found online at <http://bit.ly/LWq8r8>.

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<sup>5</sup> The standards are available online at <http://bit.ly/LLxi24>.



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## Resources

- **Maryland Hunger Solutions** is dedicated to ending hunger and promoting well-being in Maryland by maximizing participation in all federal nutrition programs, including the Summer Nutrition Programs; educating the public and key stakeholders to the realities of hunger in our state and to solutions that are already at hand; and improve public policies to end hunger, reduce poverty, and promote nutrition. Maryland Hunger Solutions is an initiative of the Food Research and Action Center. [www.mdhungersolutions.org](http://www.mdhungersolutions.org)
- The **Food Research and Action Center** (FRAC), a national anti-hunger nonprofit organization, has information and resources on the Summer Nutrition Programs and other federal nutrition programs, including state-by-state data and an outreach center. <http://bit.ly/LuXP1r> To identify and promote quality summer food sites, FRAC created the Summer Food Standards of Excellence. These standards give a framework to rank Summer Food sites (gold, silver, or bronze), evaluate what works and what does not, identify areas of improvement, and encourage sites to reach the next level of program excellence. <http://bit.ly/LLxj24>
- The **Maryland State Department of Education's** (MSDE) Eat Smart Maryland website has an overview of the child nutrition programs available to state residents, including the Summer Nutrition Programs. [www.eatsmartmaryland.org](http://www.eatsmartmaryland.org)
- The **Partnership to End Childhood Hunger in Maryland** hosts a website with information on the federal nutrition programs and the efforts of the Partnership to expand awareness and participation in the state. The website also enables children and families to search and map the closest meal sites available to them. The Partnership also operates a toll-free hotline that connects children to their closest meal site during the summer. [www.nokidhungrymd.org](http://www.nokidhungrymd.org) or 1-877-731-9300.
- The **United States Department of Agriculture's** (USDA) Food and Nutrition Service has a website with more information about the Summer Nutrition Programs. [www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/summer/](http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/summer/)

## Contact

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