



# IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON SCHOOL NUTRITION PROGRAMS: BACK TO SCHOOL 2020

A SUMMARY OF SURVEY RESULTS

## ABSTRACT

SNA surveyed its school nutrition director members in September 2020 to understand how COVID-19 has impacted school nutrition operation finances, student participation, fall 2020 re-opening service for distance and in-person learning, and most immediate concerns.

School Nutrition Association





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Cover Photo Credit: Alhambra Unified School District School Nutrition and Fitness



## Objectives

- Identify the ongoing impacts of COVID-19 on school nutrition operation finances and student participation
- Understand how many school nutrition programs are providing meals and food assistance and how they are serving students in distance learning and in-person instruction scenarios
- Assess the most pressing concerns and needs of school nutrition operators as they feed children during the pandemic

## Background and Sample

<b>Dates survey open</b>	September 9 – September 24, 2020
<b>Full sample of surveyed school districts</b>	4,025
<b>Total number of responding school districts</b>	1,614
<b>Response Rate</b>	40.1%



## Responding School District Characteristics

**Table 1. USDA FNS Regions**

	n	%
Mid-Atlantic	168	10.4
Midwest	447	27.7
Mountain Plains	127	7.9
Northeast	160	9.9
Southeast	309	19.1
Southwest	177	11.0
Western	226	14.0
Total	1614	100.0

**Table 2. District Enrollment**

	n	%
<1,000	223	13.8
1,000 - 2,499	425	26.3
2,500 - 4,999	365	22.6
5,000 - 9,999	287	17.8
10,000 - 24,999	192	11.9
25,000 +	122	7.6
Total	1614	100.0

**Table 3. District Free and Reduced Percentage**

	n	%
<25%	310	19.2
26 - 50%	537	33.3
51 - 65%	379	23.5
>65%	388	24.0
Total	1614	100.0



Table 4. Geographic Type		
	n	%
A large city	145	9.0
A suburb near a large city	363	22.5
A small city or town	611	37.9
A rural area	495	30.7
Total	1614	100.0



## Results

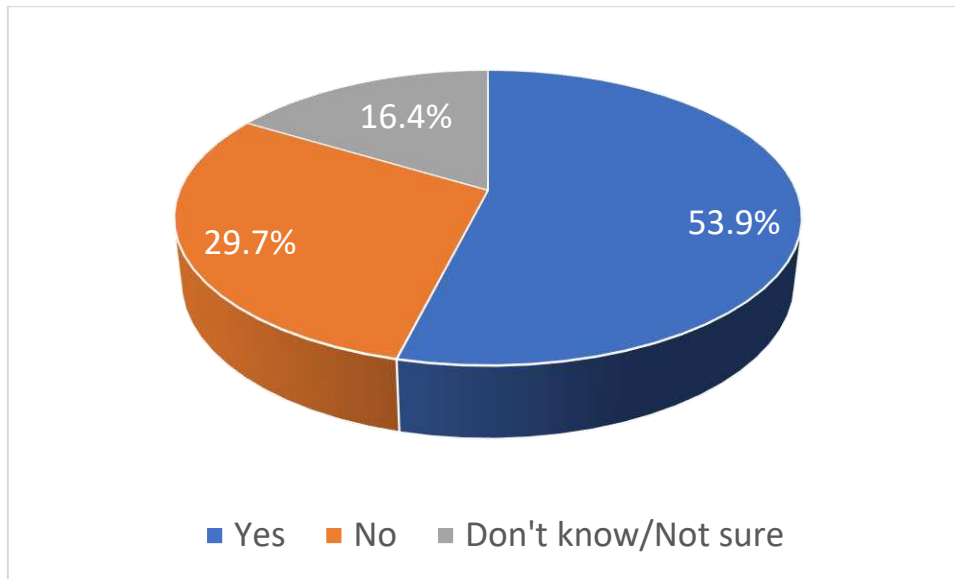
### *School Nutrition Operation Finances*

Over half of respondents report that their programs experienced a financial loss in SY 2019/20. Programs in the Northeast region, programs with 25% or less free and reduced rate, programs with more than 10,000 students enrolled, and/or programs located in a suburb near a large city reported most frequently that they experienced a financial loss in SY 2019/20.

Table 5. Taking Into Account Revenue and Expenses (Not Including Reserve), Did Your Program Experience a Financial Loss in SY 2019/20?					
		Yes	No	Don't know/Not sure	n=
	<b>Overall</b>	<b>53.9%</b>	<b>29.7%</b>	<b>16.4%</b>	<b>1614</b>
<b>USDA FNS Region</b>	Mid-Atlantic	63.7%	19.6%	16.7%	168
	Midwest	48.3%	34.0%	17.7%	447
	Mountain Plains	52.8%	26.8%	20.5%	127
	Northeast	70.0%	21.9%	8.1%	160
	Southeast	43.7%	38.2%	18.1%	309
	Southwest	57.6%	30.5%	11.9%	177
	Western	58.0%	23.9%	18.1%	226
<b>Free and Reduced %</b>	<25%	65.8%	23.2%	11.0%	310
	26 - 50%	56.6%	27.4%	16.0%	537
	51 - 65%	46.7%	32.5%	20.8%	379
	>65%	47.7%	35.6%	16.8%	388
<b>District Enrollment</b>	<1,000	35.4%	35.0%	29.6%	223
	1,000 - 2,499	53.2%	29.2%	17.6%	425
	2,500 - 4,999	54.8%	31.0%	14.2%	365
	5,000 - 9,999	54.0%	32.1%	13.9%	287
	10,000 - 24,999	63.0%	27.6%	9.4%	192
	25,000 +	73.0%	16.4%	10.7%	122
<b>Geographic Type</b>	A large city	57.9%	24.1%	17.9%	145
	A suburb near a large city	66.9%	22.3%	10.7%	363
	A small city or town	52.7%	30.1%	17.2%	611
	A rural area	44.6%	36.4%	19.0%	495



**Figure 1. Taking Into Account Revenue and Expenses (Not Including Reserve), Did Your Program Experience a Financial Loss in SY 2019/20?**





Programs located in the Southwest and Western regions, programs with free and reduced rates over 65%, programs with over 10,000 district enrollment, and/or programs located in large cities reported largest net losses for SY 2019/20.

Table 6. Overall Net Loss (Not Including Reserves) for SY 2019/20								
		10th Percentile	25th Percentile	50th Percentile (Median)	75th Percentile	90th Percentile	n=	Total Net Loss for All Programs
	<b>Overall</b>	<b>\$22,500</b>	<b>\$50,000</b>	<b>\$150,000</b>	<b>\$400,216</b>	<b>\$1,365,000</b>	<b>844</b>	<b>\$483,544,464</b>
<b>USDA FNS Region</b>	Mid-Atlantic	\$28,400	\$62,500	\$175,000	\$327,500	\$1,160,000	101	
	Midwest	\$15,000	\$39,000	\$80,000	\$200,000	\$445,000	210	
	Mountain Plains	\$30,000	\$75,000	\$188,000	\$500,000	\$1,800,000	67	
	Northeast	\$20,000	\$44,000	\$100,000	\$200,000	\$419,200	111	
	Southeast	\$25,000	\$80,000	\$220,000	\$650,000	\$3,150,000	126	
	Southwest	\$25,000	\$60,000	\$300,000	\$1,000,000	\$2,500,000	99	
	Western	\$30,000	\$75,000	\$250,000	\$905,250	\$1,990,000	130	
<b>Free and Reduced %</b>	<25%	\$17,700	\$58,500	\$150,000	\$383,356	\$750,000	198	
	26 - 50%	\$20,000	\$50,000	\$129,000	\$348,500	\$1,230,000	293	
	51 - 65%	\$25,000	\$50,000	\$120,000	\$300,000	\$985,000	175	
	>65%	\$26,800	\$68,000	\$250,000	\$800,000	\$2,730,000	178	
<b>District Enrollment</b>	<1,000	\$9,000	\$15,000	\$30,000	\$74,718	\$120,000	75	





	1,000 - 2,499	\$20,000	\$35,000	\$60,500	\$100,000	\$195,563	218
	2,500 - 4,999	\$31,600	\$70,000	\$147,000	\$242,000	\$400,000	197
	5,000 - 9,999	\$33,300	\$111,000	\$214,000	\$420,332	\$737,715	152
	10,000 - 24,999	\$108,217	\$273,000	\$550,000	\$1,120,500	\$1,787,520	117
	25,000 +	\$468,821	\$1,200,000	\$2,293,586	\$4,000,000	\$8,400,000	85
<b>Geographic Type</b>	A large city	\$45,000	\$200,000	\$864,990	\$2,700,000	\$5,060,000	80
	A suburb near a large city	\$40,800	\$100,000	\$279,000	\$757,690	\$2,000,000	237
	A small city or town	\$21,600	\$50,000	\$11,676	\$260,750	\$646,978	312
	A rural area	\$17,000	\$39,000	\$80,000	\$180,000	\$329,600	215
Note: This question was only asked of programs who responded that they experienced an overall net loss (not including reserves) for SY 2019/20.							

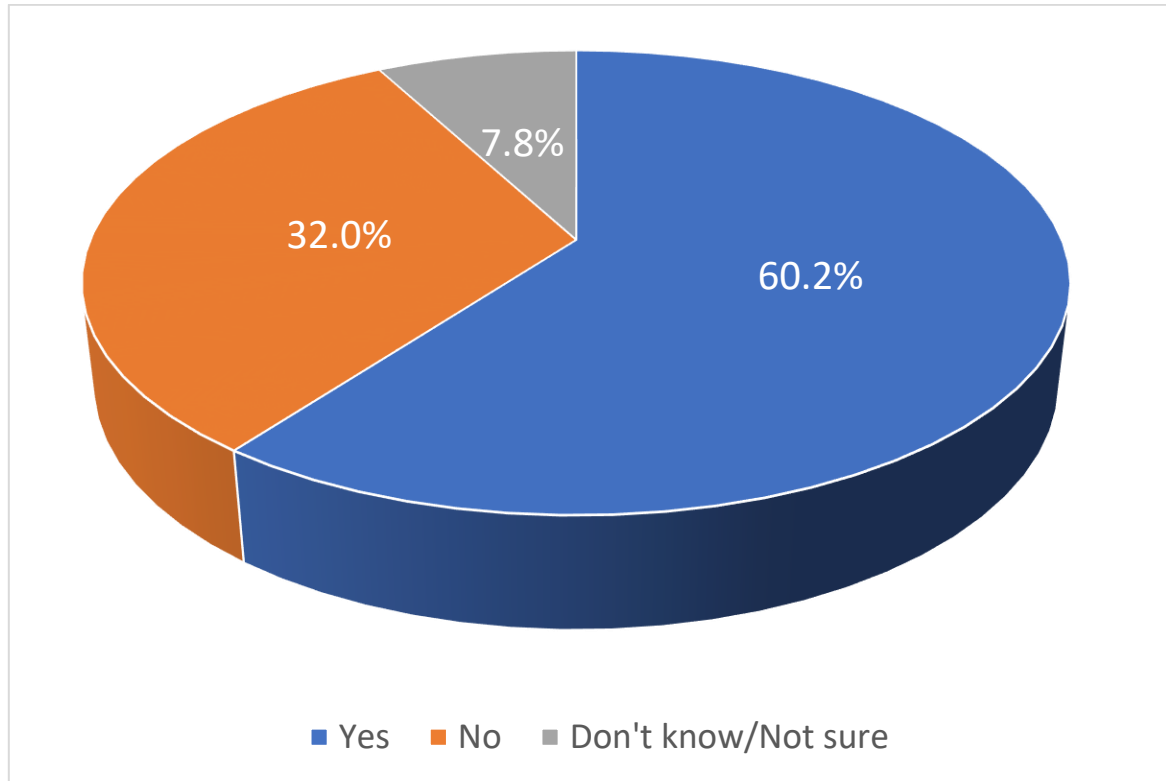


Programs located in the Northeast region, with 25% or less free and reduced rate, a district enrollment of 2,499 or less, and/or located in a rural area reported higher percentages of not having sufficient reserve funds to cover their net loss for SY 2019/20.

Table 7. Did Your Program Have Sufficient Reserve Funds to Cover Your Net Loss for SY 2019/20?					
		Yes	No	Don't know/Not sure	n=
	<b>Overall</b>	<b>60.2%</b>	<b>32.0%</b>	<b>7.8%</b>	<b>870</b>
<b>USDA FNS Region</b>	Mid-Atlantic	60.7%	27.1%	12.1%	107
	Midwest	67.1%	27.3%	5.6%	216
	Mountain Plains	58.2%	29.9%	11.9%	67
	Northeast	47.3%	46.4%	6.3%	112
	Southeast	68.9%	25.2%	5.9%	135
	Southwest	64.7%	30.4%	4.9%	102
	Western	48.1%	40.5%	11.5%	131
<b>Free and Reduced %</b>	<25%	55.9%	37.3%	6.9%	204
	26 - 50%	56.6%	34.5%	8.9%	304
	51 - 65%	64.4%	29.4%	6.2%	177
	>65%	67.0%	24.3%	8.6%	185
<b>District Enrollment</b>	<1,000	45.6%	44.3%	10.1%	79
	1,000 - 2,499	50.9%	39.4%	9.7%	226
	2,500 - 4,999	59.5%	31.5%	9.0%	200
	5,000 - 9,999	69.7%	25.2%	5.2%	155
	10,000 - 24,999	67.8%	27.3%	5.0%	121
	25,000 +	71.9%	21.3%	6.7%	89
<b>Geographic Type</b>	A large city	70.2%	22.6%	7.1%	84
	A suburb near a large city	64.2%	28.8%	7.0%	243
	A small city or town	60.6%	31.7%	7.8%	322
	A rural area	51.6%	39.4%	9.0%	221
Note: This question was only asked of programs who responded that they experienced an overall net loss (not including reserves) for SY 2019/20.					



**Figure 2. Did Your Program Have Sufficient Reserve Funds to Cover Your Net Loss for SY 2019/20?**



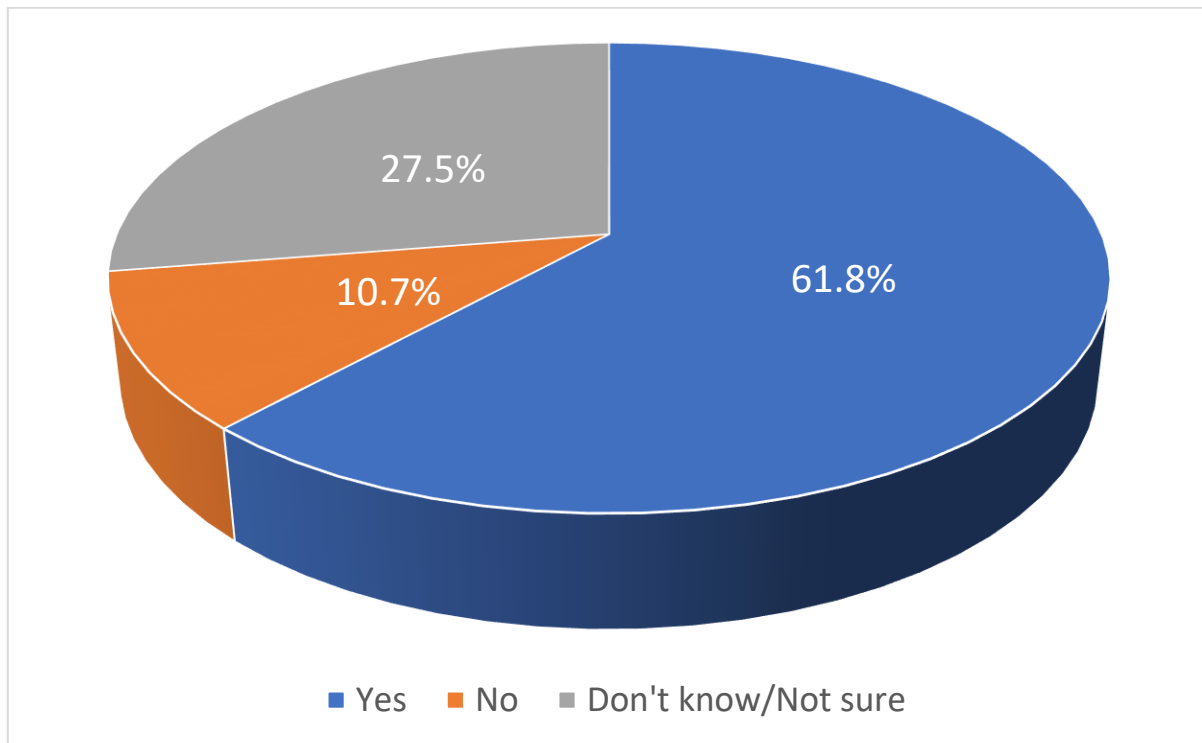


Programs located in the Western region, with a district enrollment over 10,000, and/or located in a suburb or a large city reported anticipating an overall net loss (not including reserves) for SY 2020/21 at the highest rates.

Table 8. Do You Anticipate an Overall Net Loss (Not Including Reserves) for SY 2020/21?					
		Yes	No	Don't know/Not sure	n=
	<b>Overall</b>	<b>61.8%</b>	<b>10.7%</b>	<b>27.5%</b>	<b>1609</b>
<b>USDA FNS Region</b>	Mid-Atlantic	62.5%	8.3%	29.2%	168
	Midwest	57.5%	11.9%	30.6%	447
	Mountain Plains	63.5%	11.9%	24.6%	126
	Northeast	62.7%	10.8%	26.6%	158
	Southeast	59.1%	11.0%	29.9%	308
	Southwest	63.1%	10.8%	26.1%	176
	Western	70.8%	8.8%	20.4%	226
<b>Free and Reduced %</b>	<25%	64.5%	11.9%	23.5%	310
	26 - 50%	61.0%	10.7%	28.3%	534
	51 - 65%	60.4%	10.8%	28.8%	379
	>65%	61.9%	9.6%	28.5%	386
<b>District Enrollment</b>	<1,000	43.7%	18.0%	38.3%	222
	1,000 - 2,499	60.1%	10.1%	29.7%	424
	2,500 - 4,999	62.3%	10.7%	27.0%	363
	5,000 - 9,999	63.4%	9.4%	27.2%	287
	10,000 - 24,999	74.0%	8.3%	17.7%	192
	25,000 +	76.0%	5.8%	18.2%	121
<b>Geographic Type</b>	A large city	72.9%	4.9%	22.2%	144
	A suburb near a large city	69.6%	10.5%	19.9%	362
	A small city or town	57.8%	12.0%	30.2%	609
	A rural area	57.7%	10.9%	31.4%	494



**Figure 3. Do You Anticipate an Overall Net Loss (Not Including Reserves) for SY 2020/21?**



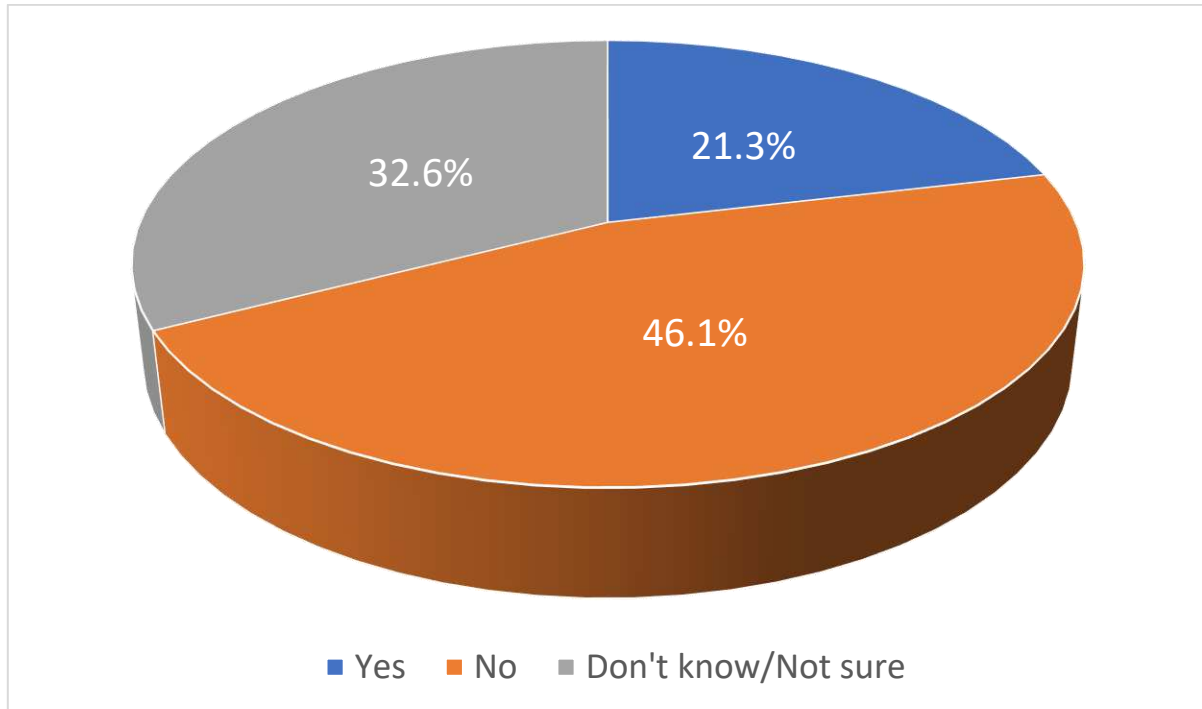


For programs anticipating financial losses for SY 2020/21, there is a considerable amount of uncertainty if reserves will be able to cover losses - about a third of programs responded 'Don't know/Not sure'. Programs located in the Northeast and/or with 25% or less free and reduced rate report that they anticipate their program will not have sufficient reserves to cover losses for SY 2020/21 at the highest rates.

Table 9. Do You Anticipate Your Program Will Have Sufficient Reserves to Cover Losses for SY 2020/21?					
		Yes	No	Don't know/Not sure	n=
	<b>Overall</b>	<b>21.3%</b>	<b>46.1%</b>	<b>32.6%</b>	<b>991</b>
<b>USDA FNS Region</b>	Mid-Atlantic	14.3%	51.4%	34.3%	105
	Midwest	27.2%	40.1%	32.7%	257
	Mountain Plains	17.7%	53.2%	29.1%	79
	Northeast	18.2%	57.6%	24.2%	99
	Southeast	22.5%	38.5%	39.0%	182
	Southwest	25.5%	40.9%	33.6%	110
	Western	15.7%	54.1%	30.2%	159
<b>Free and Reduced %</b>	<25%	14.5%	58.5%	27.0%	200
	26 - 50%	20.6%	49.5%	29.8%	325
	51 - 65%	23.1%	37.1%	39.7%	229
	>65%	26.2%	39.7%	34.2%	237
<b>District Enrollment</b>	<1,000	20.6%	45.4%	34.0%	97
	1,000 - 2,499	17.8%	53.0%	29.2%	253
	2,500 - 4,999	24.9%	42.7%	32.4%	225
	5,000 - 9,999	20.9%	40.1%	39.0%	182
	10,000 - 24,999	27.5%	42.3%	30.3%	142
	25,000 +	14.1%	54.3%	31.5%	92
<b>Geographic Type</b>	A large city	29.5%	40.0%	30.5%	105
	A suburb near a large city	17.9%	47.2%	34.9%	252
	A small city or town	21.4%	46.6%	32.0%	350
	A rural area	21.1%	46.8%	32.0%	284
Note: This question was only asked of those who indicated that they anticipated an overall net loss (not including reserves) for the 2020/21 SY.					



**Figure 4. Do You Anticipate Your Program Will Have Sufficient Reserves to Cover Losses for SY 2020/21?**

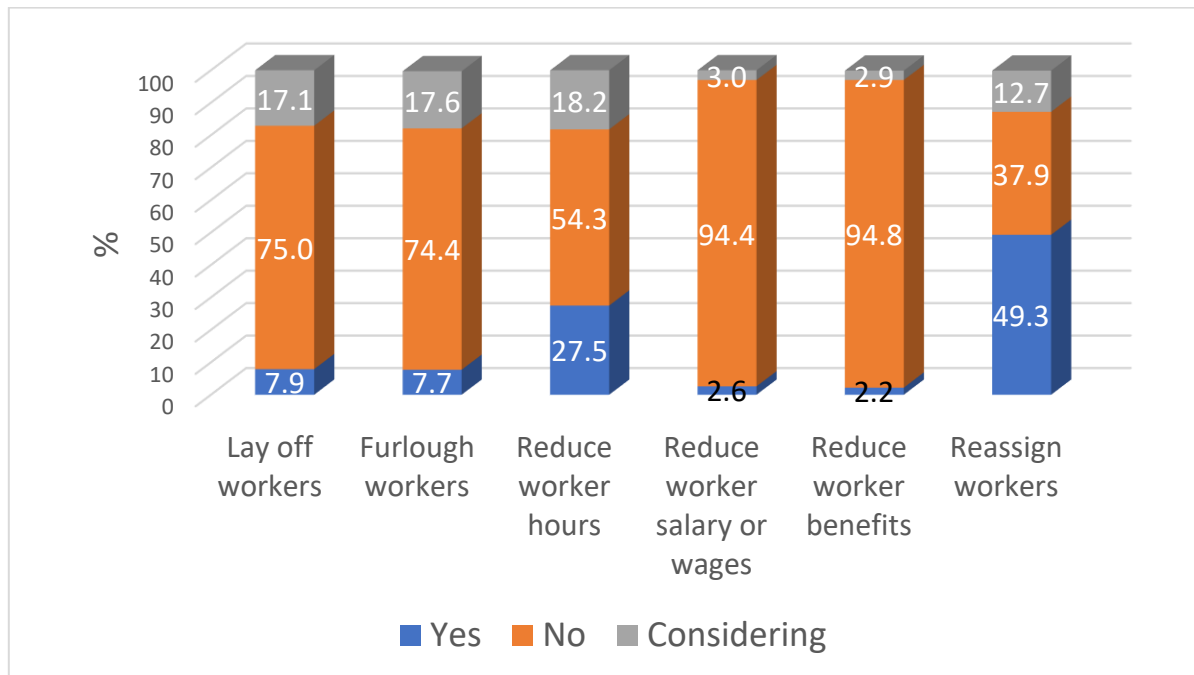




Half of programs report reassigning workers and just over a quarter report reducing worker hours. For a breakdown of this information by USDA FNS region, free and reduced rate, district enrollment, and geographic type, please see tables 10A - 10F beginning on page 40 in this report's appendix.

Table 10. For SY 2020/21, Has Your School Nutrition Operation Had To...								
	Yes		No		Considering		Total	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Lay off workers	121	7.9	1142	75.0	260	17.1	1523	100.0
Furlough workers	116	7.7	1128	74.4	266	17.6	1510	100.0
Reduce worker hours	429	27.5	847	54.3	284	18.2	1560	100.0
Reduce worker salary or wages	38	2.6	1387	94.4	44	3.0	1469	100.0
Reduce worker benefits	33	2.2	1391	94.8	43	2.9	1467	100.0
Reassign workers	770	49.3	592	37.9	199	12.7	1561	100.0

Figure 5. For SY 2020/21, Has Your School Nutrition Operation Had To...







## SFSP/SSO Waiver Extensions

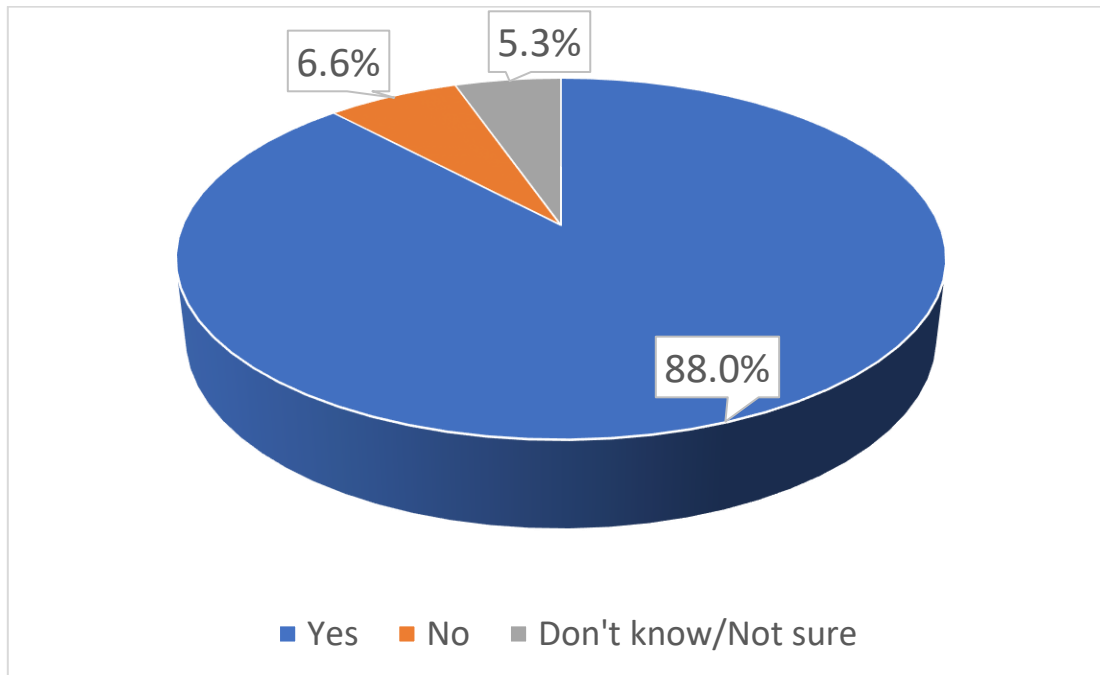
A supermajority of programs report that they are utilizing or plan to utilize the USDA's waiver extensions to serve meals via SFSP/SSO for as long as available for SY 2020/21. Programs with an enrollment of 1,000 or less more frequently reported they were not utilizing or did not plan to utilize the USDA's waiver extensions to serve meals via SFSP/SSO for as long as available for SY 2020/21.

Note: When the survey was distributed, USDA's SFSP/SSO waivers were available through as late as December 2020, or until funds were exhausted. On October 9, 2020, USDA extended these waivers through the end of SY 2020/21.

Table 11. Program is Utilizing or Plans to Utilize the USDA's Waiver Extensions To Serve Meals Via SFSP/SSO For As Long as Available for SY 2020/21					
		Yes	No	Don't know/Not sure	n=
	<b>Overall</b>	<b>88.0%</b>	<b>6.6%</b>	<b>5.3%</b>	<b>1614</b>
<b>USDA FNS Region</b>	Mid-Atlantic	90.5%	5.4%	4.2%	168
	Midwest	84.8%	7.4%	7.8%	447
	Mountain Plains	85.0%	8.7%	6.3%	127
	Northeast	91.9%	4.4%	3.8%	160
	Southeast	93.2%	3.9%	2.9%	309
	Southwest	79.1%	14.1%	6.8%	177
	Western	91.6%	4.4%	4.0%	226
<b>Free and Reduced %</b>	<25%	84.5%	6.8%	8.7%	310
	26 - 50%	90.3%	4.7%	5.0%	537
	51 - 65%	89.7%	5.5%	4.7%	379
	>65%	86.1%	10.3%	3.6%	388
<b>District Enrollment</b>	<1,000	74.4%	16.1%	9.4%	223
	1,000 - 2,499	89.6%	5.2%	5.2%	425
	2,500 - 4,999	87.9%	6.8%	5.2%	365
	5,000 - 9,999	92.7%	4.5%	2.8%	287
	10,000 - 24,999	89.6%	4.2%	6.3%	192
	25,000 +	94.3%	2.5%	3.3%	122
<b>Geographic Type</b>	A large city	87.6%	7.6%	4.8%	145
	A suburb near a large city	90.6%	5.2%	4.1%	363
	A small city or town	86.3%	7.9%	5.9%	611
	A rural area	88.5%	5.9%	5.7%	495



**Figure 6. Program is Utilizing or Plans to Utilize the USDA's Waiver Extensions to Serve Meals Via SFSP/SSO For as Long as Available for SY 2020/21**





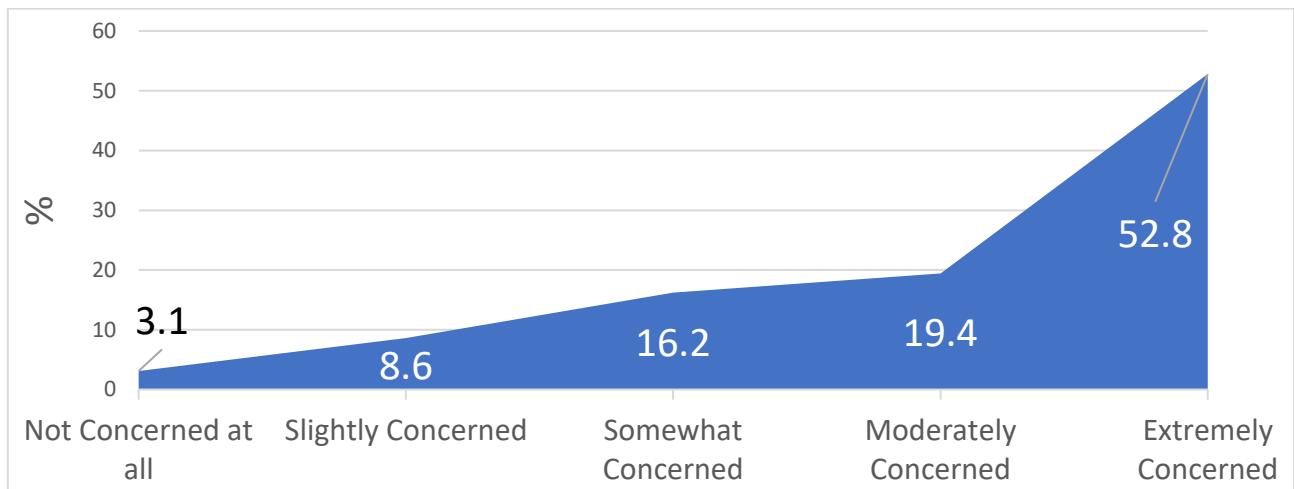
Almost three-quarters, or 72.2%, of respondents reported they were either moderately or extremely concerned regarding the SFSP/SSO waiver extension expiring in December 2020, before the end of SY 2020/21. Levels of concern were particularly high in the Western region and for districts with enrollment over 10,000.

**Table 12. Level of Concern Regarding SFSP/SSO Waiver Extensions Expiring in December 2020, Before the End of SY 2020/21**

		Not concerned at all	Slightly concerned	Somewhat concerned	Moderately concerned	Extremely concerned	n=
	<b>Overall</b>	<b>3.1%</b>	<b>8.6%</b>	<b>16.2%</b>	<b>19.4%</b>	<b>52.8%</b>	<b>1421</b>
<b>USDA FNS Region</b>	Mid-Atlantic	3.3%	12.5%	15.8%	19.1%	49.3%	152
	Midwest	3.7%	10.3%	19.5%	19.3%	47.2%	379
	Mountain Plains	5.6%	11.1%	15.7%	21.3%	46.3%	108
	Northeast	1.4%	8.8%	16.3%	20.4%	53.1%	147
	Southeast	2.1%	8.0%	14.2%	17.7%	58.0%	288
	Southwest	5.7%	5.7%	18.6%	22.9%	47.1%	140
	Western	1.4%	3.9%	11.6%	17.9%	65.2%	207
<b>Free and Reduced %</b>	<25%	2.7%	10.7%	16.4%	17.2%	53.1%	262
	26 - 50%	1.9%	8.7%	17.9%	22.3%	49.3%	485
	51 - 65%	3.5%	7.9%	15.0%	17.6%	55.9%	340
	>65%	4.8%	7.5%	14.7%	18.6%	54.5%	334
<b>District Enrollment</b>	<1,000	8.4%	15.1%	23.5%	18.7%	34.3%	166
	1,000 - 2,499	3.4%	10.0%	19.4%	20.7%	46.5%	381
	2,500 - 4,999	1.9%	8.7%	14.3%	21.8%	53.3%	321
	5,000 - 9,999	3.0%	6.4%	15.4%	16.5%	58.6%	266
	10,000 - 24,999	0.6%	4.7%	9.9%	19.2%	65.7%	172
	25,000 +	1.7%	5.2%	11.3%	15.7%	66.1%	115
<b>Geographic Type</b>	A large city	2.7%	10.7%	16.4%	17.2%	53.1%	262
	A suburb near a large city	1.9%	8.7%	17.9%	22.3%	49.3%	485
	A small city or town	3.5%	7.9%	15.0%	17.6%	55.9%	340
	A rural area	4.8%	7.5%	14.7%	18.6%	54.5%	334



**Figure 7. Level of Concern Regarding SFSP/SSO Waiver Extensions Expiring in December 2020, Before the End of SY 2020/21**





194 respondents, or 11.9% of the total sample, reported they were not serving or planning to serve meals via SFSP/SSO during SY 2020/21. Of the provided reasons in the select all that apply multiple choice, 'Confusion for families/students in switching programs' was the most cited. However, a large percentage of 'Other, please specify' responses indicates that the provided list was not sufficient to capture most of the reasons for not serving or planning to serve meals via SFSP/SSO during SY 2020/21.

**Table 13. Why Program Not Serving/Planning to Serve Meals via SFSP/SSO During SY 2020/21**

	n	%
Confusion for families/students in switching programs	76	39.4
Waiver extension expiration on/before December 2020	56	29.0
Lack of Guidance from USDA/State Agency	55	28.5
Confusion for staff in switching programs	49	25.4
Program operates CEP*	17	8.8
Schools open and operating as normal*	13	6.7
Low Free and Reduced %, do not qualify for SFSP*	11	5.7
Lack of staff capacity*	10	5.2
Other	73	37.8

Note: This question was only asked of programs that responded that they were not serving or were not sure if they would serve meals via SFSP/SSO during SY 2020/21. Programs could select multiple options, therefore '%' will not add up to 100.

\* Respondents were given an option to select an 'Other, please specify' and enter free-text responses. These categories were created from the free-text responses.



## Participation

The majority of programs (93%) reported serving fewer NSLP lunches at the beginning of SY 2020/21, as compared to the same time period in SY 2019/20. Programs in districts with over 10,000 students enrolled and/or located in large cities most frequently reported serving fewer NSLP lunches, as compared to the same time period last year.

Only 12 programs reported serving more NSLP lunches in SY 2020/21, as compared to the same time frame last year.

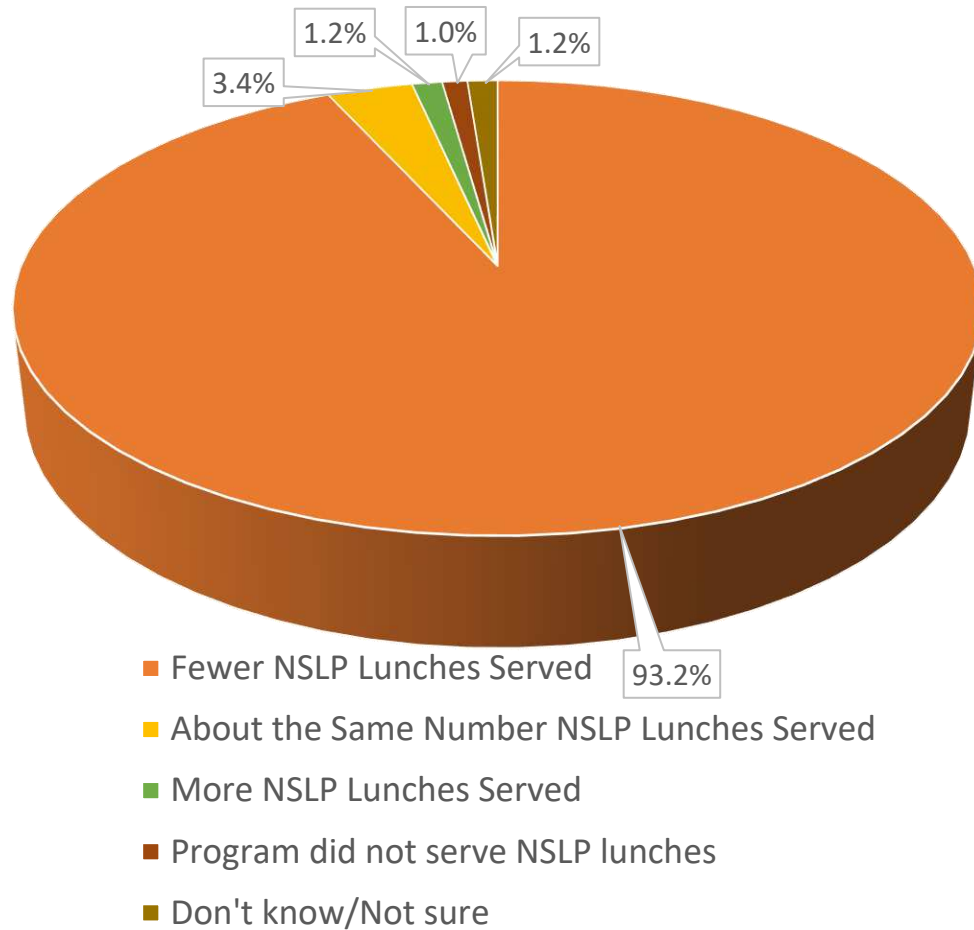
Table 14. How Did the Number of NSLP Lunches Served Per Week in SY 2020/21 Compare to Same Time Frame Last Year?							
		Fewer NSLP Lunches Served	About the Same Number NSLP Lunches Served	More NSLP Lunches Served	Program did not serve NSLP lunches	Don't know/Not sure	n=
	<b>Overall</b>	<b>93.0%</b>	<b>3.4%</b>	<b>1.2%</b>	<b>1.0%</b>	<b>1.2%</b>	<b>911</b>
<b>USDA FNS Region</b>	Mid-Atlantic	89.9%	2.9%	4.3%	1.4%	1.4%	69
	Midwest	94.2%	3.7%	0.8%	0.4%	0.8%	243
	Mountain Plains	85.5%	10.5%	2.6%	0.0%	1.3%	76
	Northeast	76.2%	0.0%	4.8%	9.5%	9.5%	42
	Southeast	94.7%	2.1%	1.6%	1.1%	0.5%	188
	Southwest	96.0%	3.3%	0.7%	0.0%	0.0%	150
	Western	95.8%	2.1%	0.0%	0.7%	1.4%	143
<b>Free and Reduced %</b>	<25%	90.6%	4.1%	0.0%	2.4%	2.9%	170
	26 - 50%	91.8%	5.0%	1.8%	0.7%	0.7%	279
	51 - 65%	94.0%	1.8%	1.4%	1.4%	1.4%	218
	>65%	95.1%	2.5%	2.0%	0.0%	0.4%	244
<b>District Enrollment</b>	<1,000	81.9%	11.8%	3.1%	0.0%	3.1%	127
	1,000 - 2,499	93.2%	2.1%	1.7%	1.3%	1.7%	237
	2,500 - 4,999	93.4%	4.0%	1.5%	0.5%	0.5%	198
	5,000 - 9,999	95.6%	1.9%	0.0%	1.9%	0.6%	158
	10,000 - 24,999	97.4%	0.0%	0.0%	1.7%	0.9%	115
	25,000 +	97.4%	0.0%	2.6%	0.0%	0.0%	76
	A large city	96.8%	2.2%	1.1%	0.0%	0.0%	93



<b>Geographic Type</b>	A suburb near a large city	92.6%	2.1%	2.1%	2.1%	1.1%	189
	A small city or town	94.0%	3.3%	0.8%	0.8%	1.1%	364
	A rural area	90.6%	4.9%	1.9%	0.8%	1.9%	265
Note: This question was only asked of programs who responded that they had been serving meals under NSLP/SBP for at least two weeks before the time they took this survey.							



**Figure 8. How Did the Number of NSLP Lunches Served Per Week in SY 2020/21 Compare to Same Time Frame Last Year?**







Of the 846 programs reporting they served fewer NSLP lunches this year as compared to the same time period last year, nearly 54% report their approximate total number of NSLP lunches to be down 50% or more. Over one-fifth (22.7% or 192 programs) report they have served between 75 - 100% fewer NSLP lunches per week, as compared to last year. Programs in districts with student enrollment over 5,000 students, programs located in the Western region, and/or programs in large cities or suburbs near a large city report disproportionately fewer total NSLP lunches per week served, as compared to the same time period last year.

Table 15. Approximate Percentage Total Number of NSLP Lunches Per Week is Down, as Compared to Same Time Period Last Year						
		1 - 24%	25 - 49%	50 - 74%	75 - 100%	n=
	<b>Overall</b>	<b>13.1%</b>	<b>33.1%</b>	<b>31.1%</b>	<b>22.7%</b>	<b>846</b>
<b>USDA FNS Region</b>	Mid-Atlantic	8.1%	40.3%	19.4%	32.3%	62
	Midwest	20.5%	38.0%	31.0%	10.5%	229
	Mountain Plains	32.3%	32.3%	21.5%	13.8%	65
	Northeast	6.3%	34.4%	34.4%	25.0%	32
	Southeast	6.8%	40.7%	39.0%	13.6%	177
	Southwest	9.0%	31.9%	26.4%	32.6%	144
	Western	8.0%	13.1%	35.0%	43.8%	137
<b>Free and Reduced %</b>	<25%	13.0%	30.5%	30.5%	26.0%	154
	26 - 50%	12.2%	35.7%	30.2%	22.0%	255
	51 - 65%	16.1%	34.6%	29.3%	20.0%	205
	>65%	11.6%	30.6%	34.1%	23.7%	232
<b>District Enrollment</b>	<1,000	33.7%	37.5%	22.1%	6.7%	104
	1,000 - 2,499	15.8%	43.9%	28.1%	12.2%	221
	2,500 - 4,999	11.4%	37.3%	31.9%	19.5%	185
	5,000 - 9,999	11.3%	24.5%	36.4%	27.8%	151
	10,000 - 24,999	2.7%	24.1%	32.1%	41.1%	112
	25,000 +	0.0%	15.1%	38.4%	46.6%	73
<b>Geographic Type</b>	A large city	5.6%	18.0%	30.3%	46.1%	89
	A suburb near a large city	4.6%	21.7%	34.9%	38.9%	175
	A small city or town	18.1%	35.7%	29.2%	17.0%	342
	A rural area	15.0%	43.3%	31.3%	10.4%	240
Note: This question was only asked of those programs who responded that they had been serving meals under NSLP/SBP for at least two weeks before the time they took this survey, and that their total number of NSLP lunches was down, as compared to the same time period last year.						

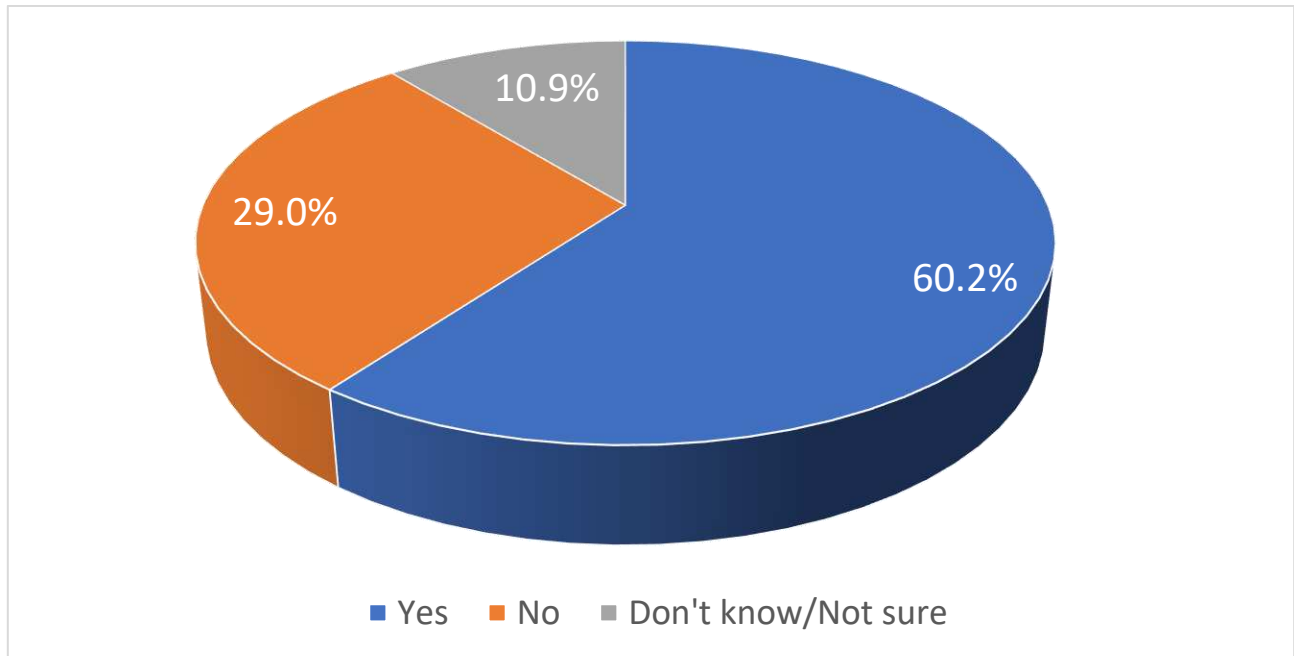


Programs located in districts with enrollments over 10,000, and/or large cities, most frequently reported that the USDA's initial requirements that schools return to serving students via NSLP/SBP for SY 2020/21 negatively impacted their program's efforts to serve students.

Table 16. Did USDA's initial requirement that schools return to serving students via NSLP/SBP for SY 2020/21 negatively impact your program's efforts to serve students?					
		Yes	No	Don't know/Not sure	n=
	<b>Overall</b>	<b>60.2%</b>	<b>29.0%</b>	<b>10.9%</b>	<b>911</b>
<b>USDA FNS Region</b>	Mid-Atlantic	47.8%	43.5%	8.7%	69
	Midwest	49.8%	34.6%	15.6%	243
	Mountain Plains	42.1%	50.0%	7.9%	76
	Northeast	34.1%	41.5%	24.4%	41
	Southeast	73.0%	19.0%	7.9%	189
	Southwest	62.7%	28.0%	9.3%	150
	Western	81.1%	11.9%	7.0%	143
<b>Free and Reduced %</b>	<25%	56.5%	27.6%	15.9%	170
	26 - 50%	57.1%	30.7%	12.1%	280
	51 - 65%	60.1%	28.9%	11.0%	218
	>65%	66.3%	28.0%	5.8%	243
<b>District Enrollment</b>	<1,000	35.4%	53.5%	11.0%	127
	1,000 - 2,499	50.8%	32.4%	16.8%	238
	2,500 - 4,999	65.5%	24.9%	9.6%	197
	5,000 - 9,999	67.7%	22.2%	10.1%	158
	10,000 - 24,999	74.8%	18.3%	7.0%	115
	25,000 +	78.9%	18.4%	2.6%	76
<b>Geographic Type</b>	A large city	73.1%	23.7%	3.2%	93
	A suburb near a large city	68.3%	23.3%	8.5%	189
	A small city or town	56.2%	30.6%	13.2%	363
	A rural area	55.3%	32.7%	12.0%	266
Note: This question was only asked of programs who responded that they had been serving meals under NSLP/SBP for at least two weeks before the time they took this survey.					



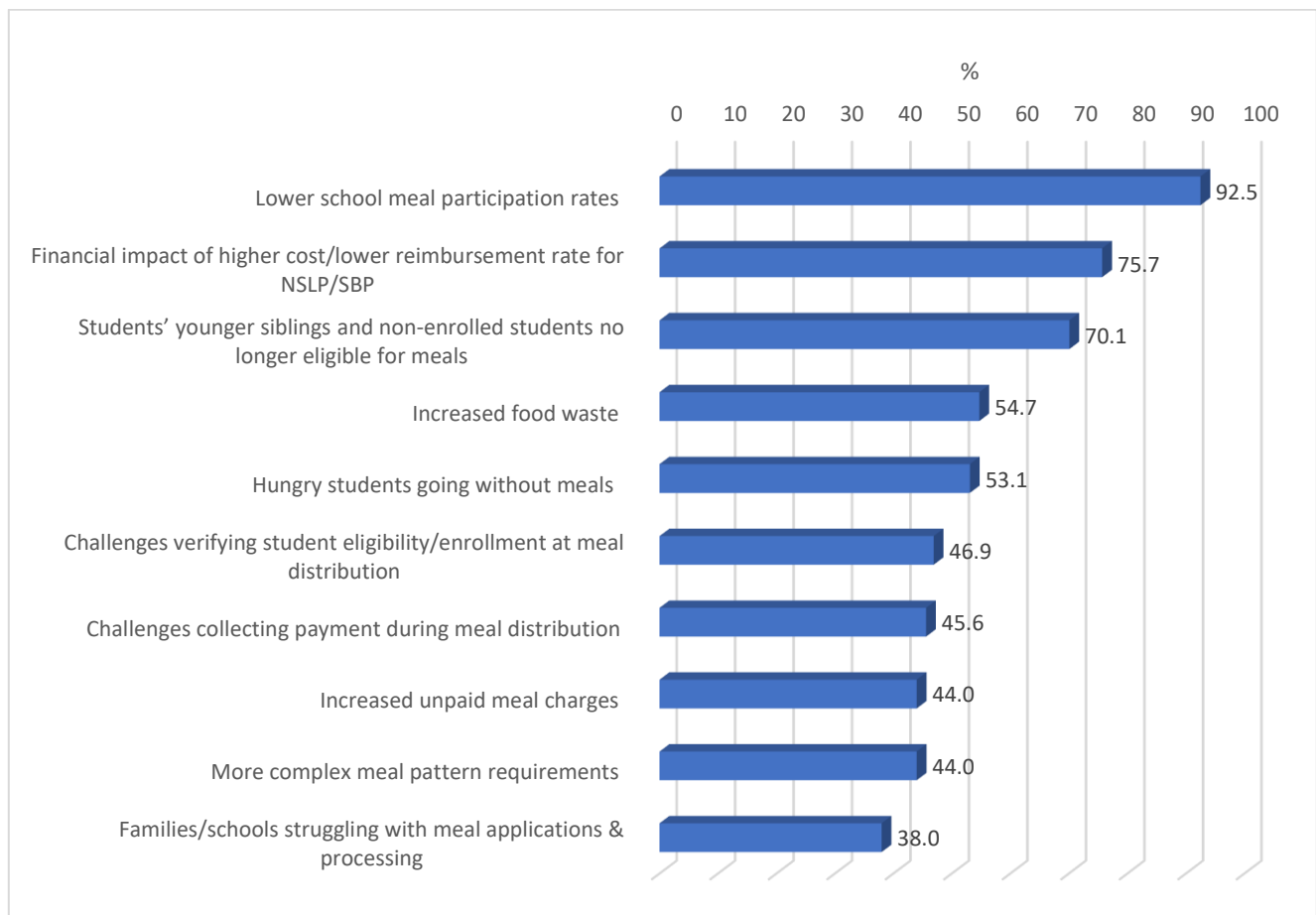
**Figure 12. Did USDA's initial requirement that schools return to serving students via NSLP/SBP for SY 2020/21 negatively impact your program's efforts to serve students?**














Of the 60.2% (548 programs) of programs that reported being negatively impacted by the initial mandate to serve under NSLP/SBP, the most cited impact was the lowering of school meal participation rates, followed by the financial impact of higher cost and lower reimbursement rates for NSLP/SBP, and third, students' younger siblings and non-enrolled students no longer being eligible for meals.

**Figure 13. Negative Impacts Program Experienced Due to Initial Mandate to Serve Under NSLP/SBP for SY 2020/21**





**Table 17. Ranked Concerns Compared: Fall 2020 vs. Spring 2020**

Concern	Trend	Fall 2020	Spring 2020
Financial Losses to SN Program		93%	90%
Reduced School Meal Participation	*	92%	*
Student Hunger		81%	86%
Availability of Product/Distributor Challenges		80%	84%
Regulatory restrictions on serving students during closures		75%	68%
Transportation Challenges for Student Meal Pick-Up		74%	57%
Staff Safety		67%	85%
Staff Shortages		64%	69%
Menu Variety	*	56%	*
Safety of Students and Families When Accessing Meals		53%	62%
Lack of PPE		30%	46%

Note: The percentages in this table represent the percentage of respondents who rated each item as 'Moderately' or 'Extremely' concerning.

\* indicates that an item was not asked on the spring 2020 survey, therefore comparison cannot be given.



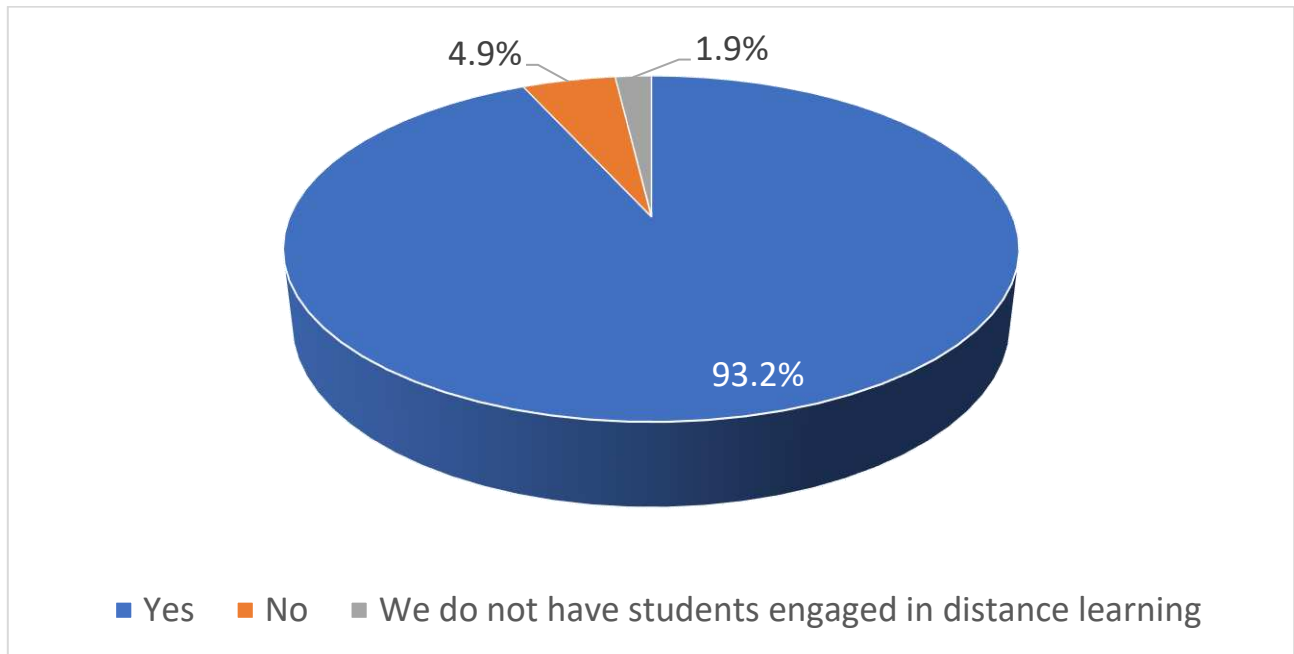
### *Fall 2020 Re-Opening Service and Plans for Distance and In-Person Learning*

Over 93% of reporting programs were offering or planned to offer meals to students engaged in distance learning. All programs located in school districts with more than 10,000 enrolled students (314 programs) reported they were offering or planned to offer meals to students engaged in distance learning.

Table 18. This month (September 2020), are you offering or do you plan to offer meals to students engaged in distance learning?					
		Yes	No	We do not have students engaged in distance learning	n=
	<b>Overall</b>	<b>93.2%</b>	<b>4.9%</b>	<b>1.9%</b>	<b>1614</b>
<b>USDA FNS Region</b>	Mid-Atlantic	94.6%	3.6%	1.8%	168
	Midwest	91.1%	7.4%	1.6%	447
	Mountain Plains	84.3%	11.8%	3.9%	127
	Northeast	95.0%	3.1%	1.9%	160
	Southeast	95.5%	2.9%	1.6%	309
	Southwest	97.2%	1.7%	1.1%	177
	Western	94.2%	3.5%	2.2%	226
<b>Free and Reduced %</b>	<25%	92.6%	4.8%	2.6%	310
	26 - 50%	92.0%	5.8%	2.2%	537
	51 - 65%	93.1%	5.3%	1.6%	379
	>65%	95.6%	3.4%	1.0%	388
<b>District Enrollment</b>	<1,000	82.5%	10.8%	6.7%	233
	1,000 - 2,499	91.3%	6.6%	2.1%	425
	2,500 - 4,999	93.4%	5.5%	1.1%	365
	5,000 - 9,999	96.9%	2.4%	0.7%	287
	10,000 - 24,999	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	192
	25,000 +	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	122
<b>Geographic Type</b>	A large city	95.2%	4.1%	0.7%	145
	A suburb near a large city	95.3%	4.1%	0.6%	363
	A small city or town	93.3%	5.1%	1.6%	611
	A rural area	91.1%	5.5%	3.4%	495



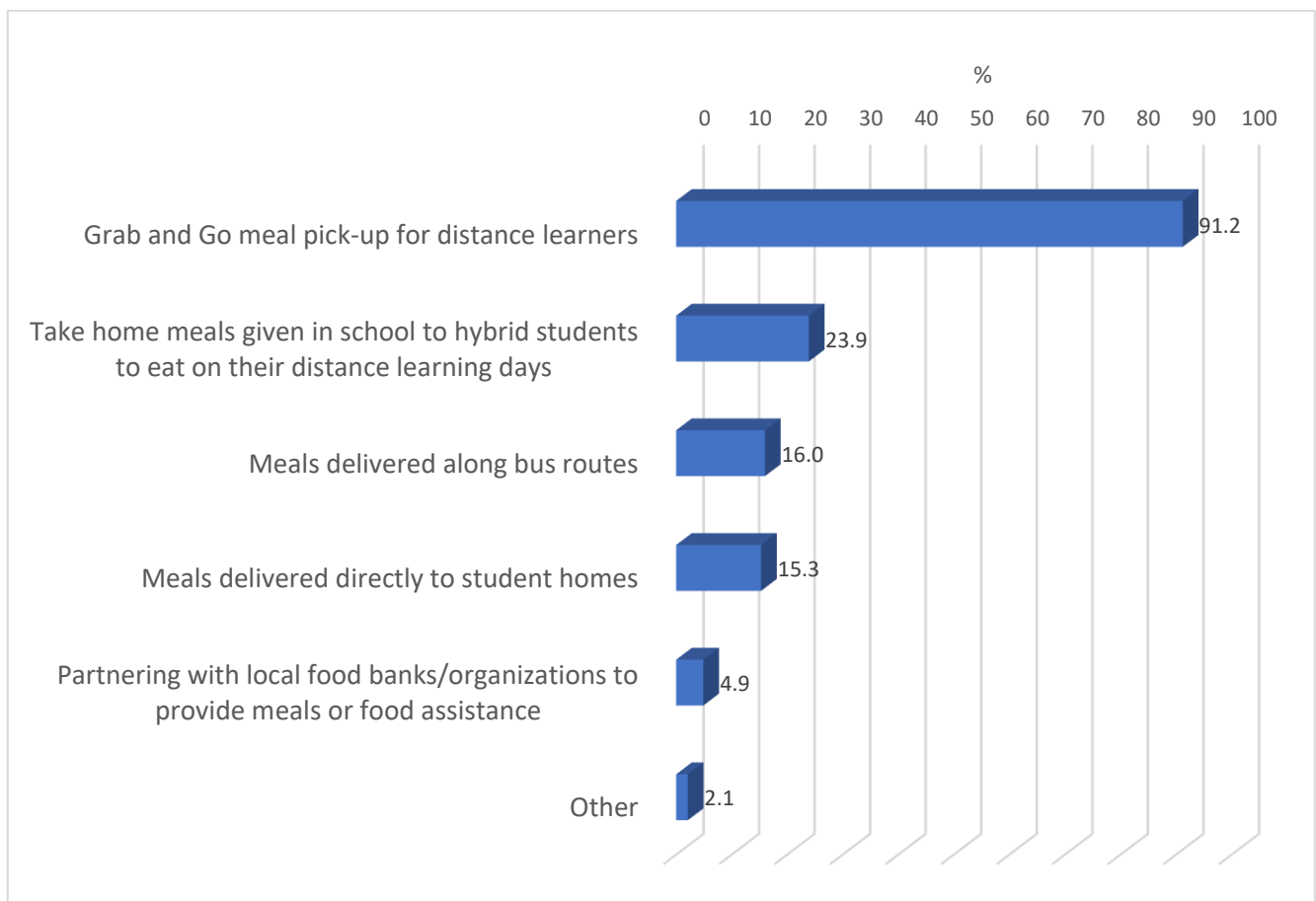
**Figure 15. This month (September 2020), are you offering or do you plan to offer meals to students engaged in distance learning?**





Of the 1,504 programs reporting they were providing meals to distance learners (or were planning to in September 2020), 91% report they are providing meals via grab-and-go pick-up. Nearly a quarter are providing take home meals given in school to hybrid students to eat on their distance learning days.

**Figure 16. How Program is Distributing Meals to Distance Learners**

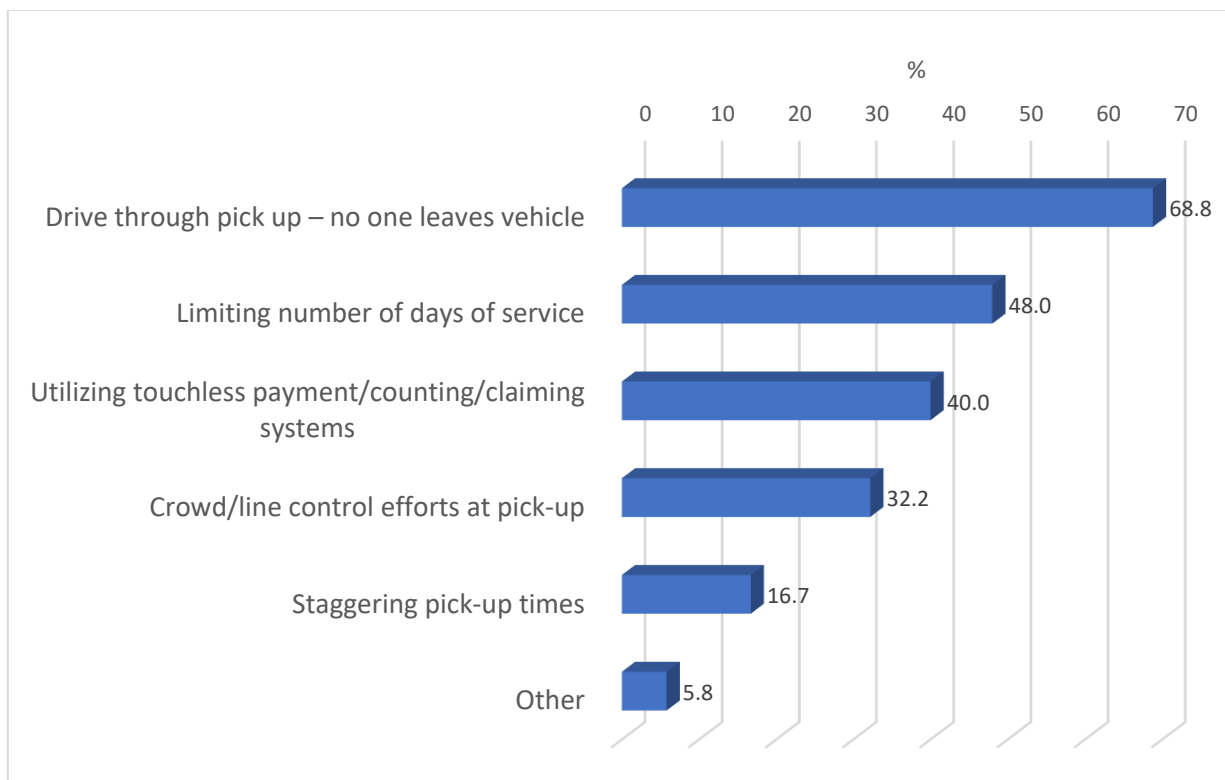






The most common safety/social distancing measure taken to protect distance learners during meals service is a drive-through pick-up where no one leaves the vehicle and the meal is dropped into the car by school nutrition staff (69% of programs or 1,038 programs), while almost half of programs (48% or 722 programs) reported limiting the number of days of service to reduce contact, and 40% of programs (602 programs) reported utilizing touchless payment/counting/claiming systems.

**Figure 17. Safety/Social Distancing Measures Program Has Implemented During Meal Service for Distance Learners**





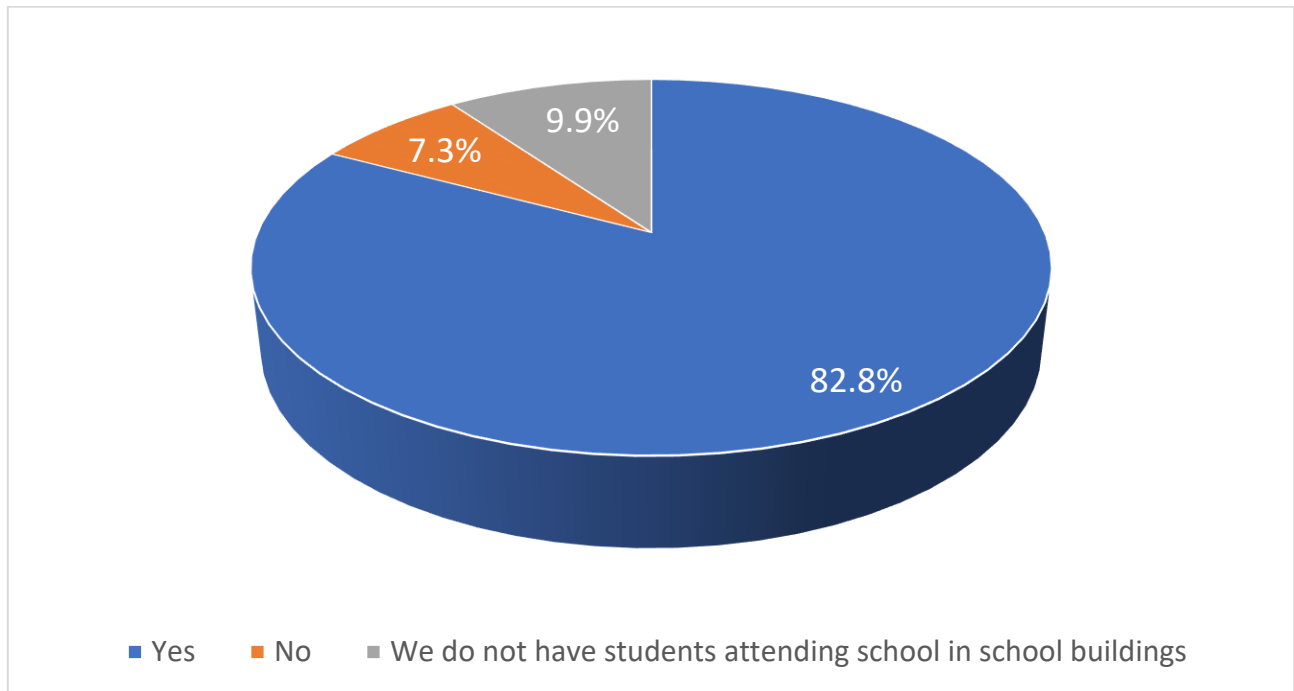
Almost 83% of programs (1,336 programs) reported they were offering or planned on offering meals to students in at least one school building in their district in September 2020. Programs located in the Mountain Plains and the Southwest regions, with district enrollments under 5,000, and/or programs located in rural areas most frequently reported they were offering or planned to offer meals to students in school buildings.

**Table 19. This month (September 2020), are you offering or do you plan to offer meals to students in any school buildings?**

		Yes	No	We do not have students attending school in school buildings	n=
	<b>Overall</b>	<b>82.8%</b>	<b>7.3%</b>	<b>9.9%</b>	<b>1614</b>
<b>USDA FNS Region</b>	Mid-Atlantic	81.0%	7.7%	11.3%	168
	Midwest	89.0%	3.4%	7.6%	447
	Mountain Plains	92.9%	1.6%	5.5%	127
	Northeast	90.6%	2.5%	6.9%	160
	Southeast	86.4%	6.5%	7.1%	309
	Southwest	91.0%	6.2%	2.8%	177
	Western	49.1%	23.5%	27.4%	226
<b>Free and Reduced %</b>	<25%	87.1%	5.8%	7.1%	310
	26 - 50%	88.8%	5.4%	5.8%	537
	51 - 65%	83.4%	5.3%	11.3%	379
	>65%	70.4%	13.1%	16.5%	388
<b>District Enrollment</b>	<1,000	85.7%	8.1%	6.3%	223
	1,000 - 2,499	86.8%	5.4%	7.8%	425
	2,500 - 4,999	86.0%	4.9%	9.0%	365
	5,000 - 9,999	80.1%	9.4%	10.5%	287
	10,000 - 24,999	71.4%	10.4%	18.2%	192
	25,000 +	77.9%	9.8%	12.3%	122
<b>Geographic Type</b>	A large city	72.4%	15.9%	11.7%	145
	A suburb near a large city	75.5%	8.8%	15.7%	363
	A small city or town	84.9%	6.2%	8.8%	611
	A rural area	88.5%	5.1%	6.5%	495

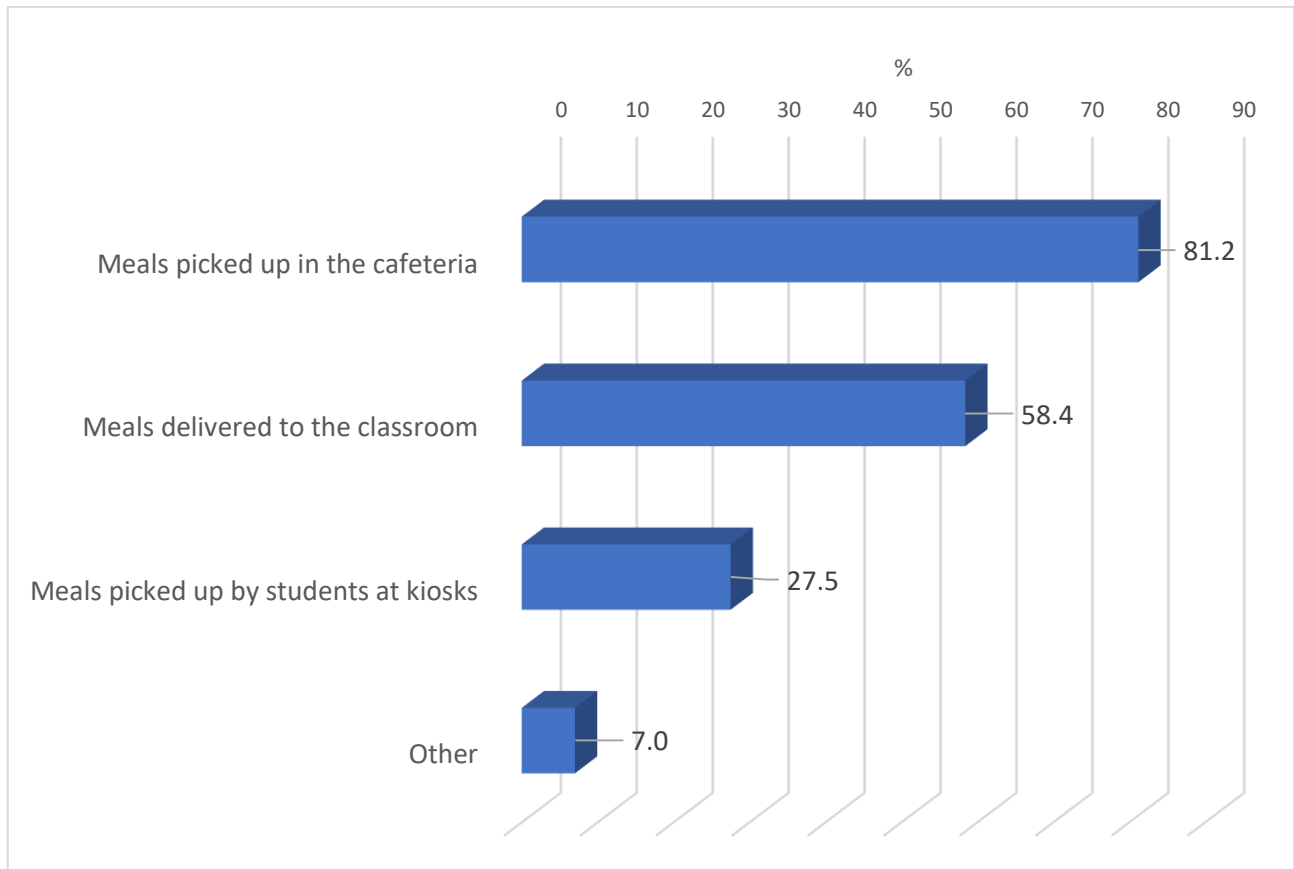


**Figure 18. This month (September 2020), are you offering or do you plan to offer meals to students in any school buildings?**





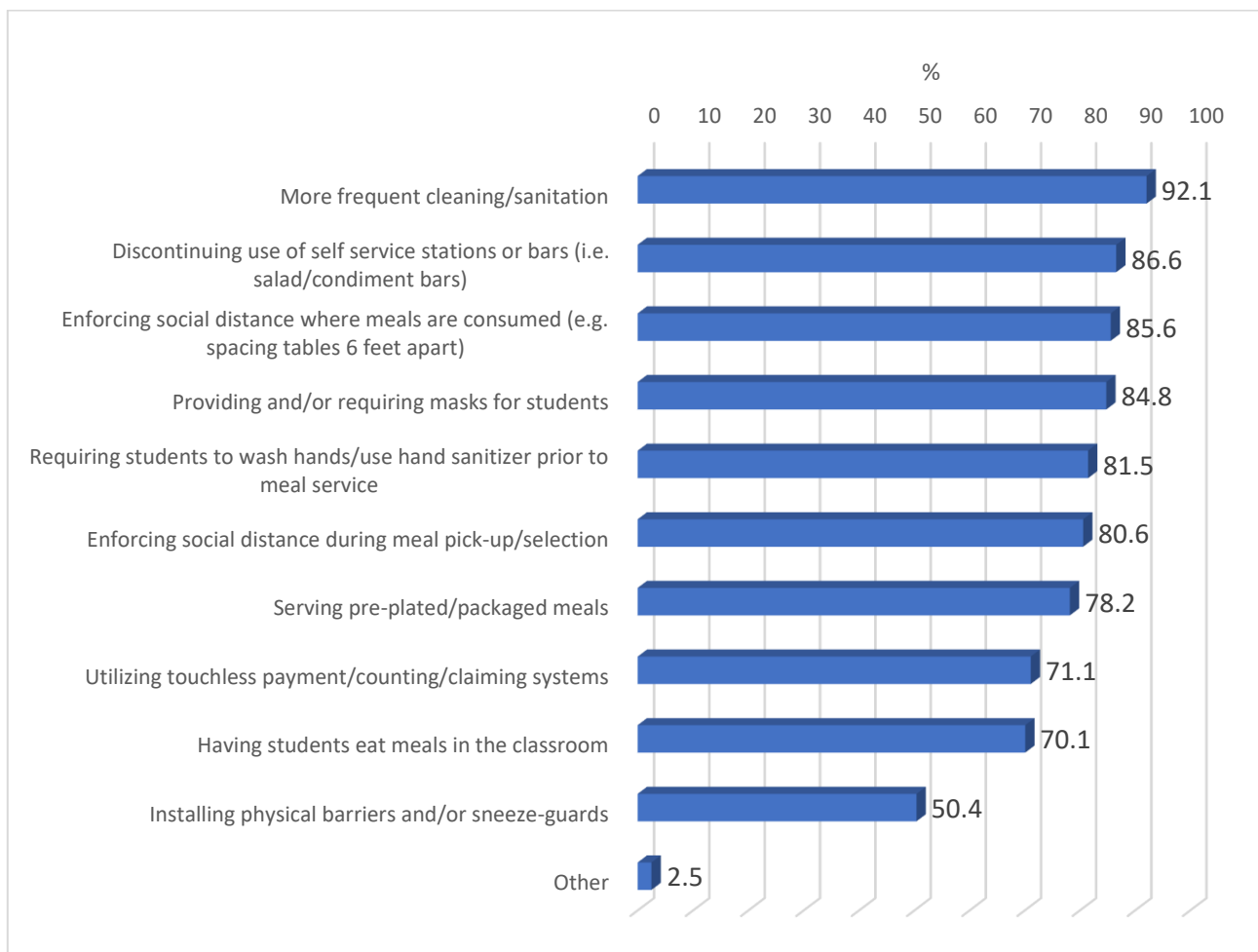
**Figure 19. How Program is Serving Food to Students Attending School for In-Person Instruction**





Of the 1,336 programs reporting they were offering or planning to offer meals to students attending school in school buildings, the majority report doing more frequent cleaning sanitation (92.%), discontinuing the use of self-service stations or bars (87%), and enforcing social distance where meals are consumed (86%). 85% are providing and/or requiring masks for students.

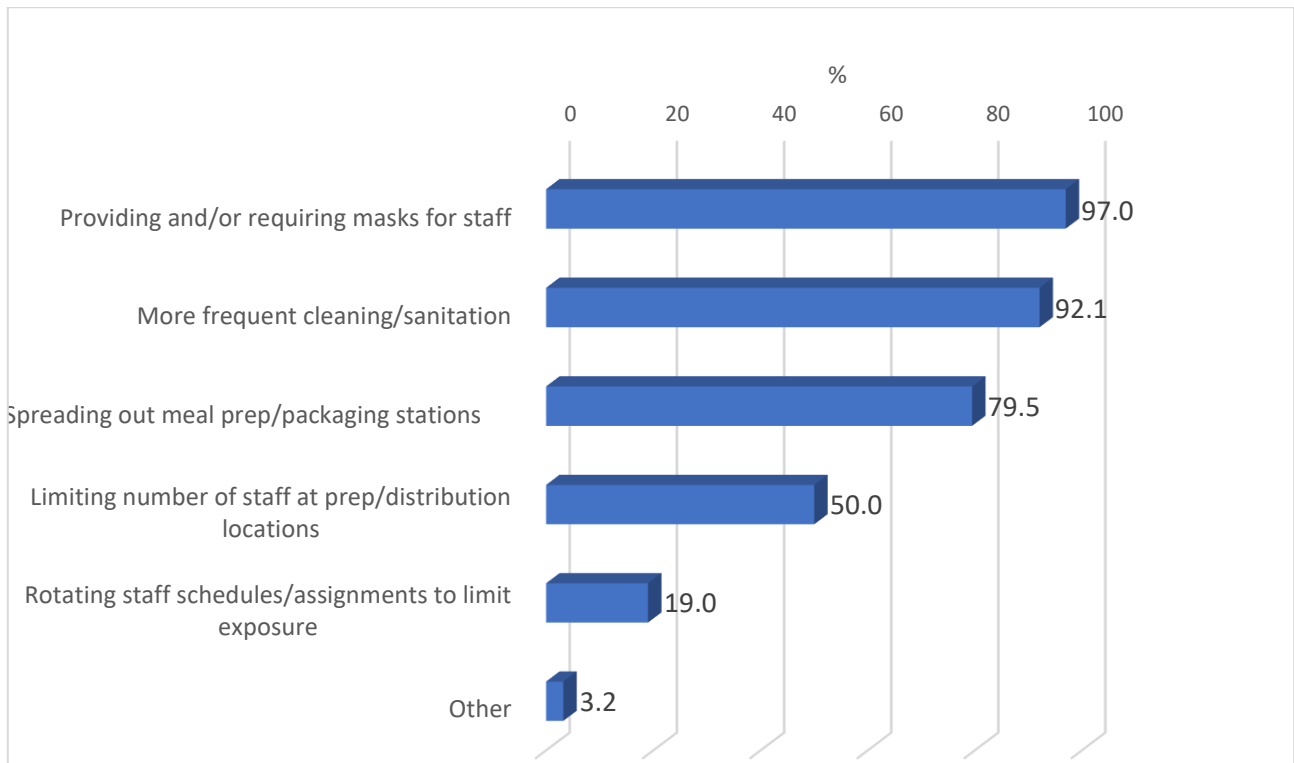
**Figure 20. Safety/Social Distancing Measures Program Has Implemented During Meal Service Inside School Buildings**





97% of programs report providing and/or requiring masks for staff. Several programs also reported providing face shields.

**Figure 21. How Program Is Maintaining Social Distance and Safety Among School Nutrition Staff/Employees**





### *Types of Meals/Assistance Offered and Meal Options*

Aside from lunch, which was reported to be provided at nearly the same percentage at both time points, the percentage of school nutrition programs providing all of the following types of meal assistance increased from April 2020 to September 2020. The percentage of programs providing adult meals more than quadrupled, the percentages of programs providing USDA Foods Donations and Supper respectively doubled, and the percentage of programs providing snacks almost quadrupled.

Table 20. Types of Meal Assistance Provided					
Meal Assistance	Trend	Fall 2020		Spring 2020	
		<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%
Lunch	=	1598	99.0	1785	99.4
Breakfast	↑	1560	96.7	1695	94.4
Adult meals upon request (not for reimbursement)	↑	530	32.8	120	6.7
USDA Foods donations	↑	461	28.6	198	11.0
Fresh fruits/vegetables via the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP)	↑	359	22.2	211	11.8
Snack	↑	307	19.0	94	5.2
Supper	↑	174	10.8	92	5.1
Note: Programs could select multiple items, therefore the sum from the 'n' column will not equal survey sample total and '%' will not equal 100.					



Entrees/sides to be heated at home and shelf-stable meal options were provided at much higher rates in September 2020, as compared to April 2020. Meanwhile, hot meals were provided at a slightly lower rate.

Table 21. Meal Options Provided: Fall 2020 vs. Spring 2020					
Meal Option	Trend	Fall 2020		Spring 2020	
		<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%
Entrees/sides to be heated at home	↑	1598	99.0	1161	64.7
Shelf-stable meals	↑	1560	96.7	1155	64.3
Hot meals	↓	530	32.8	649	36.2
Locally-sourced foods	↑	461	28.6	388	21.6
Bulk foods (e.g. gallon of milk, loaf of bread, head of lettuce)	↑	359	22.2	289	15.8
Note: Programs could select multiple items, therefore the sum from the 'n' column will not equal survey sample total and '%' will not equal 100.					





*Appendix A: Tables 10A – 10F: Staffing Changes Breakouts*

Table 10A. For SY 2020/21, Has Your School Nutrition Operation Had To Lay Off Workers					
		Yes	No	Considering	n=
	<b>Overall</b>	<b>7.9%</b>	<b>75.0%</b>	<b>17.1%</b>	<b>1523</b>
<b>USDA FNS Region</b>	Mid-Atlantic	11.1%	71.6%	17.3%	162
	Midwest	9.2%	78.2%	12.7%	426
	Mountain Plains	6.8%	79.5%	13.7%	117
	Northeast	12.9%	54.4%	32.7%	147
	Southeast	5.2%	75.3%	19.5%	287
	Southwest	4.3%	79.3%	16.5%	164
	Western	6.8%	79.1%	14.1%	220
<b>Free and Reduced %</b>	<25%	9.6%	69.5%	20.9%	282
	26 - 50%	8.9%	76.0%	15.1%	516
	51 - 65%	5.6%	74.4%	20.0%	355
	>65%	7.6%	78.4%	14.1%	370
<b>District Enrollment</b>	<1,000	11.3%	82.5%	6.1%	212
	1,000 - 2,499	6.0%	75.8%	18.1%	397
	2,500 - 4,999	7.5%	76.1%	16.4%	347
	5,000 - 9,999	9.6%	72.3%	18.1%	271
	10,000 - 24,999	7.8%	68.7%	23.5%	179
	25,000 +	6.0%	70.9%	23.1%	117
<b>Geographic Type</b>	A large city	10.4%	71.9%	17.8%	135
	A suburb near a large city	8.8%	71.8%	19.4%	340
	A small city or town	7.6%	76.4%	16.0%	580
	A rural area	7.1%	76.5%	16.5%	468

Table 10B. For SY 2020/21, Has Your School Nutrition Operation Had To Furlough Workers					
		Yes	No	Considering	n=
	<b>Overall</b>	<b>7.7%</b>	<b>74.4%</b>	<b>17.6%</b>	<b>1510</b>
<b>USDA FNS Region</b>	Mid-Atlantic	14.9%	62.7%	22.4%	161
	Midwest	5.9%	79.8%	14.3%	421



	Mountain Plains	7.4%	72.7%	19.8%	121
	Northeast	6.9%	60.0%	33.1%	145
	Southeast	5.4%	80.0%	14.6%	280
	Southwest	5.4%	77.1%	17.5%	166
	Western	11.1%	75.9%	13.0%	216
<b>Free and Reduced %</b>	<25%	12.1%	66.3%	21.6%	282
	26 - 50%	7.2%	73.9%	18.9%	513
	51 - 65%	7.4%	76.6%	16.0%	350
	>65%	5.2%	80.5%	14.2%	365
<b>District Enrollment</b>	<1,000	4.8%	88.0%	7.2%	208
	1,000 - 2,499	6.5%	78.6%	15.0%	387
	2,500 - 4,999	7.4%	75.0%	17.6%	340
	5,000 - 9,999	9.8%	70.2%	20.0%	275
	10,000 - 24,999	11.4%	62.5%	26.1%	184
	25,000 +	6.9%	67.2%	25.9%	116
<b>Geographic Type</b>	A large city	8.2%	71.6%	20.1%	134
	A suburb near a large city	12.2%	63.5%	24.3%	345
	A small city or town	6.8%	77.4%	15.9%	574
	A rural area	5.3%	80.7%	14.0%	457

Table 10C. For SY 2020/21, Has Your School Nutrition Operation Had To Reduce Worker Hours					
		Yes	No	Considering	n=
	<b>Overall</b>	<b>27.5%</b>	<b>54.3%</b>	<b>18.2%</b>	<b>1560</b>
<b>USDA FNS Region</b>	Mid-Atlantic	36.1%	44.0%	19.9%	166
	Midwest	32.6%	53.1%	14.3%	435
	Mountain Plains	24.0%	57.0%	19.0%	121
	Northeast	37.3%	30.1%	32.7%	153
	Southeast	20.1%	58.1%	21.8%	298
	Southwest	24.0%	61.7%	14.4%	167
	Western	18.6%	69.1%	12.3%	220
<b>Free and Reduced %</b>	<25%	36.9%	41.6%	21.5%	298
	26 - 50%	28.6%	53.2%	18.2%	521
	51 - 65%	26.3%	55.3%	18.4%	365



	>65%	19.7%	64.9%	15.4%	376
<b>District Enrollment</b>	<1,000	23.3%	63.5%	13.2%	219
	1,000 - 2,499	30.8%	52.7%	16.5%	406
	2,500 - 4,999	25.6%	54.0%	20.5%	352
	5,000 - 9,999	26.1%	49.3%	24.6%	280
	10,000 - 24,999	31.5%	50.5%	17.9%	184
	25,000 +	26.9%	61.3%	11.8%	119
<b>Geographic Type</b>	A large city	26.6%	55.4%	18.0%	139
	A suburb near a large city	32.4%	48.9%	18.8%	352
	A small city or town	28.3%	54.9%	16.9%	587
	A rural area	23.2%	57.3%	19.5%	482

**Table 10D. For SY 2020/21, Has Your School Nutrition Operation Had To Reduce Worker Salary or Wages**

		Yes	No	Considering	n=
	<b>Overall</b>	<b>2.6%</b>	<b>94.4%</b>	<b>3.0%</b>	<b>1469</b>
<b>USDA FNS Region</b>	Mid-Atlantic	3.9%	94.1%	2.0%	153
	Midwest	3.2%	94.9%	1.9%	412
	Mountain Plains	1.7%	94.9%	3.4%	117
	Northeast	0.7%	95.7%	3.6%	138
	Southeast	2.2%	93.5%	4.3%	279
	Southwest	1.9%	95.7%	2.5%	161
	Western	3.3%	92.8%	3.8%	209
<b>Free and Reduced %</b>	<25%	3.3%	93.8%	2.9%	272
	26 - 50%	3.2%	93.7%	3.0%	495
	51 - 65%	2.6%	94.8%	2.6%	343
	>65%	1.1%	95.5%	3.3%	359
<b>District Enrollment</b>	<1,000	3.4%	94.2%	2.4%	206
	1,000 - 2,499	3.2%	94.1%	2.7%	375
	2,500 - 4,999	3.6%	93.7%	2.7%	332
	5,000 - 9,999	1.5%	95.5%	3.0%	268
	10,000 - 24,999	0.0%	95.5%	4.5%	179
	25,000 +	2.8%	93.6%	3.7%	109



<b>Geographic Type</b>	A large city	1.5%	93.1%	5.3%	131
	A suburb near a large city	2.4%	94.9%	2.7%	331
	A small city or town	2.9%	94.3%	2.9%	560
	A rural area	2.7%	94.6%	2.7%	447

<b>Table 10E. For SY 2020/21, Has Your School Nutrition Operation Had To Reduce Worker Benefits</b>					
		Yes	No	Considering	n=
	<b>Overall</b>	<b>2.2%</b>	<b>94.8%</b>	<b>2.9%</b>	<b>1467</b>
<b>USDA FNS Region</b>	Mid-Atlantic	3.9%	92.8%	3.3%	152
	Midwest	3.1%	94.9%	1.9%	414
	Mountain Plains	2.6%	96.6%	0.9%	116
	Northeast	2.1%	94.3%	3.6%	140
	Southeast	0.4%	94.6%	5.1%	277
	Southwest	0.0%	97.5%	2.5%	159
	Western	3.3%	93.8%	2.9%	209
<b>Free and Reduced %</b>	<25%	4.0%	92.6%	3.3%	272
	26 - 50%	2.4%	94.4%	3.2%	496
	51 - 65%	2.6%	94.7%	2.6%	342
	>65%	0.3%	97.2%	2.5%	357
<b>District Enrollment</b>	<1,000	2.5%	96.1%	1.5%	204
	1,000 - 2,499	2.7%	94.7%	2.7%	377
	2,500 - 4,999	3.0%	94.3%	2.7%	331
	5,000 - 9,999	1.5%	95.5%	3.0%	266
	10,000 - 24,999	1.7%	92.2%	6.1%	180
	25,000 +	0.9%	97.2%	1.8%	109
<b>Geographic Type</b>	A large city	0.0%	96.2%	3.8%	130
	A suburb near a large city	3.3%	94.6%	2.1%	331
	A small city or town	2.3%	94.8%	2.9%	559
	A rural area	2.0%	94.6%	3.4%	447



**Table 10F. For SY 2020/21, Has Your School Nutrition Operation Had To Reassign Workers**

		Yes	No	Considering	n=
	<b>Overall</b>	<b>49.3%</b>	<b>37.9%</b>	<b>12.7%</b>	<b>1561</b>
<b>USDA FNS Region</b>	Mid-Atlantic	52.1%	32.7%	15.2%	165
	Midwest	49.1%	40.3%	10.6%	434
	Mountain Plains	50.4%	38.2%	11.4%	123
	Northeast	49.3%	28.9%	21.7%	152
	Southeast	45.6%	39.1%	15.3%	294
	Southwest	49.1%	40.9%	9.9%	171
	Western	52.3%	39.2%	8.6%	222
<b>Free and Reduced %</b>	<25%	56.6%	31.3%	12.1%	297
	26 - 50%	50.1%	35.8%	14.1%	525
	51 - 65%	50.5%	36.3%	13.2%	364
	>65%	41.3%	47.7%	10.9%	375
<b>District Enrollment</b>	<1,000	30.5%	61.0%	8.5%	213
	1,000 - 2,499	38.1%	46.5%	15.4%	409
	2,500 - 4,999	49.9%	36.2%	14.0%	351
	5,000 - 9,999	59.5%	25.4%	15.1%	379
	10,000 - 24,999	66.8%	24.2%	8.9%	190
	25,000 +	68.1%	23.5%	8.4%	119
<b>Geographic Type</b>	A large city	59.9%	28.9%	11.3%	142
	A suburb near a large city	64.7%	27.4%	7.9%	354
	A small city or town	47.0%	40.3%	12.6%	593
	A rural area	37.5%	45.6%	16.9%	472