



Summer Rural Delivery Meals Program Survey Results Summer 2015



Background of the Program

Since summer 2013, the Ohio Association of Foodbanks has partnered with the Governor’s Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives to offer the summer rural delivery meals program. The intent of the program is to provide meals for at-home consumption by children without access to traditional summer meals sites. The program targeted children in several rural counties in Ohio with high rates of child food insecurity and/or poverty.

The Ohio Association of Foodbanks partnered with community organizations that served as sponsors for the program. Those sponsors implemented methods of rural food delivery for children who were unable to participate in a traditional USDA Summer Food Service Program. The sponsors had the option of delivering the meals directly to the homes of the children or setting up weekly distribution times for the families to pick up the boxes of meals. These models were utilized with the expectation that picking up meals once a week for at-home consumption or receiving home-delivered meals would be more convenient and viable for food insecure families in rural areas with limited transportation.



The program provided 11 nutritious, kid-friendly, shelf-stable meals weekly to participating children. The meals included lunch for five weekdays and breakfast, lunch, and dinner for two weekend days, plus one 32 oz. shelf-stable milk.

Purpose and Background of the Survey

Thanks to the support of a No Kid Hungry Out of School Time Local Impact grant from Share Our Strength, generously supported by the Arby’s Foundation, the Ohio Association of Foodbanks developed and distributed a survey instrument for parents/guardians of participating children at select summer rural delivery meals program locations.

Through the survey, the association sought to measure:

1. Program Participant Demographics
2. Program Satisfaction
3. Program Need and Impact

“The kids look forward to getting their boxes. It’s like Christmas as they go through them oohing and ahhhing over the stuff inside. The food really helps out a lot and I know that they have decent food to eat and snack on when I’m not there.”

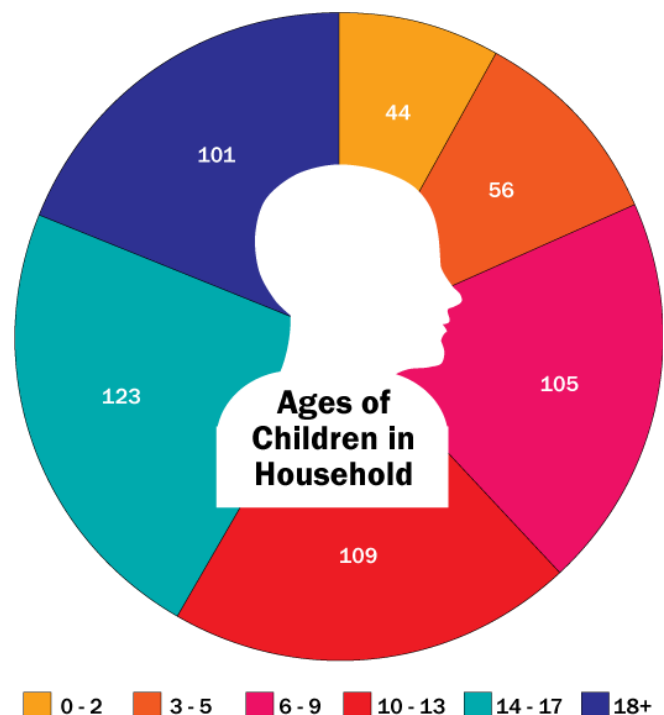
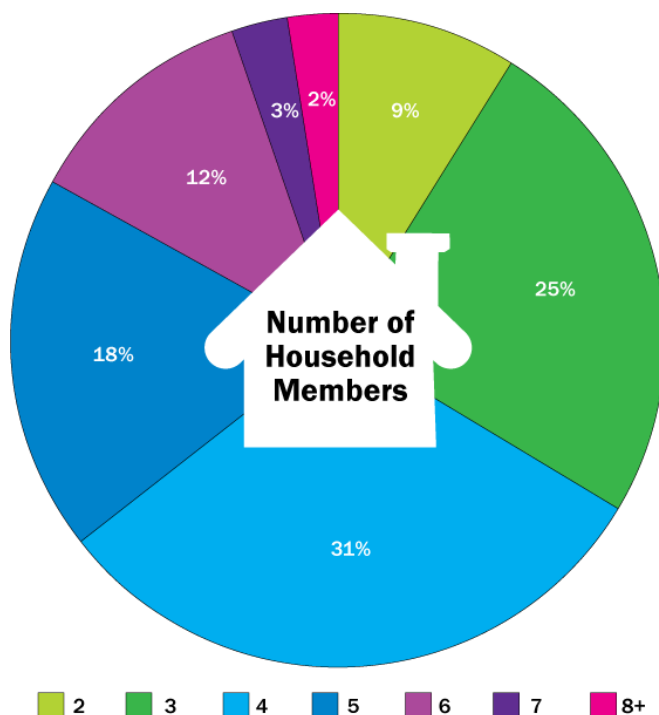
Parent from Pinkerman South Webster Community Church

The association distributed surveys to 500 parents/guardians of participating children at select locations in summer 2015. Parents were offered a \$10 gift card for their participation in the survey. In total, 196 surveys were returned for a 39.2 percent return rate. The following locations were selected in order to include families from a broad spectrum of geographic locations, distribution days, and distribution times.

Site	County Served	Day of Distribution	Time of Distribution	# of Surveys Distributed	# of Surveys Returned
Lakeville United Methodist Church	Holmes	Saturday	9 - 11 a.m.	15	3
Millersburg United Methodist Church	Holmes	Wednesday	10 - 12 p.m.	35	18
Community Action Committee of Pike County	Pike	Daily, Tues. through Fri.	Home delivery system	80	28
Pinkerman South Webster Community Church	Scioto	Thursday	6 - 8 p.m.	165	67
Minford Elementary School	Scioto	Wednesday	10 - 12 p.m.	95	47
St. Francis Center	Vinton	Wednesday	9 - 12 p.m.	100	33
St. Sylvester Church	Vinton	Thursday	1:30 - 3 p.m.	10	0
Total				500	196

Program Participant Demographics

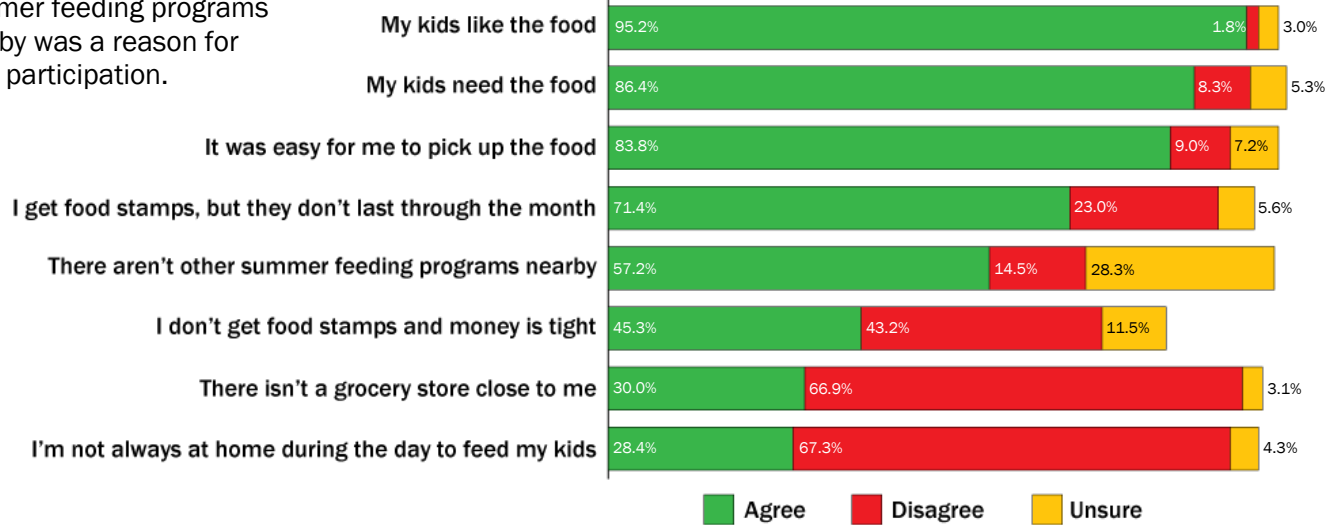
The size of the households ranged from 9 percent of households with two members (one adult and one child) to 2 percent of households with eight or more members. The most common household size was four household members (31%).



Many households had multiple children living in their households. The most prevalent age groups for children in surveyed households were ages 14 to 17, ages 10 to 13, and ages 6 to 9.

Households were surveyed about their reasons for participating in the program. Almost all respondents agreed that their kids liking the food (95.2%) and their kids needing the food (86.4%) impacted their decision to participate in the program. Many (71.4%) said they get food stamps, but they don't last through the month. An additional 63 households (32% of all respondents) said that they don't get food stamps, which makes it more difficult to stretch their budget. A majority of respondents (57.2%) also indicated the lack of other summer feeding programs nearby was a reason for their participation.

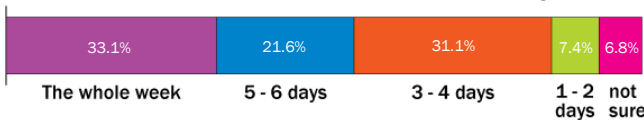
Reasons for participating in the program



Program Satisfaction

The majority of households (54.7%) said the meals provided last their child at least five days or more. Respondents overwhelmingly said that they think the food provided was either “very healthy” or “somewhat healthy.” Zero respondents said the food was “not healthy at all.”

The food that comes in the box lasts my child:

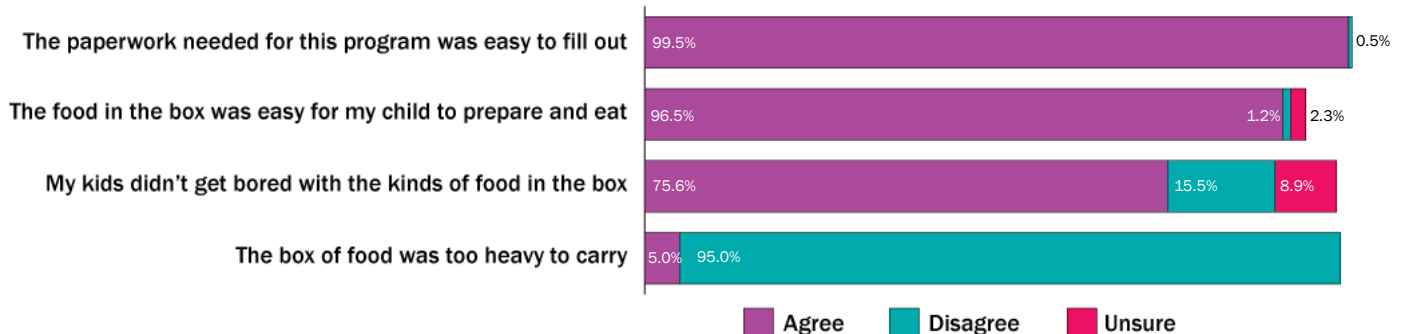


I think the food that comes in the box is:



The survey asked some additional questions about the administrative requirements of the program and satisfaction with the food provided. Almost all respondents (99.5%) indicated that they felt the paperwork needed for the program was easy to fill out. Similarly, almost all respondents (96.5%) said the food provided was easy for their child to prepare and eat. Most (75.6%) said their kids did not get bored with the kinds of food provided. Almost all (95%) said the box of food was not too heavy to carry.

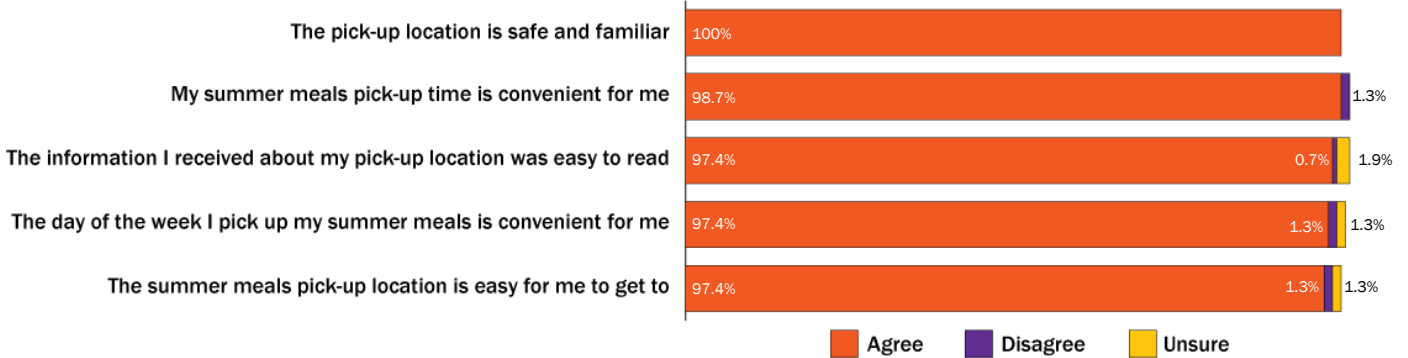
Satisfaction with program structure



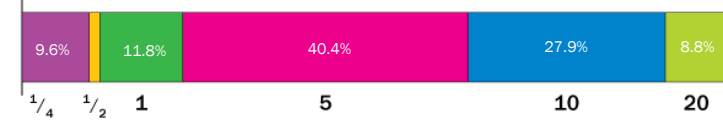
The survey also asked respondents about their satisfaction with the meal pick-up model and their pick-up locations. Overall, respondents had no challenges with the pick-up locations or the times or days of the week of their pick-up. Most sponsors gave participants a choice of locations and times to pick up their meal boxes. All respondents (100%) indicated that they felt their pick-up location was safe and familiar. If picking up the meals was a challenge, respondents were asked what made it challenging. Of the respondents who had difficulty picking up the box (17.8% of all respondents), 25 households (71.4%) indicated that unreliable access to transportation was a barrier for them.

**Participants in the Community Action Committee of Pike County's home-delivered meals model were not asked to respond to these questions.*

Satisfaction with pick-up location



What's the longest trip (in miles) you would be able to travel to get to a pick-up location weekly?

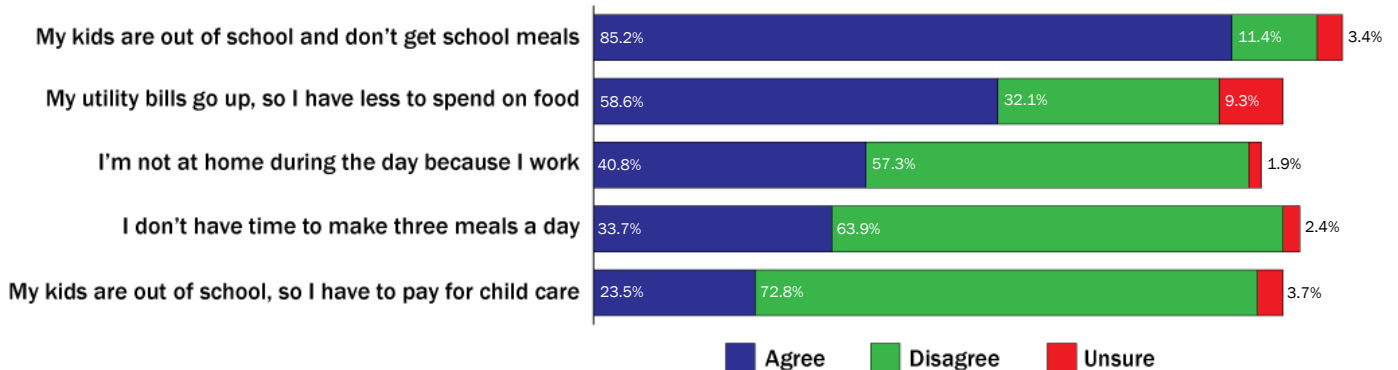


About 2 in 5 respondents (40.4%) said they would be able to travel up to 5 miles to get to a meal pick-up location each week, while about 1 in 5 (22.9%) said they would be able to travel 1 mile or less each week.

Program Need and Impact

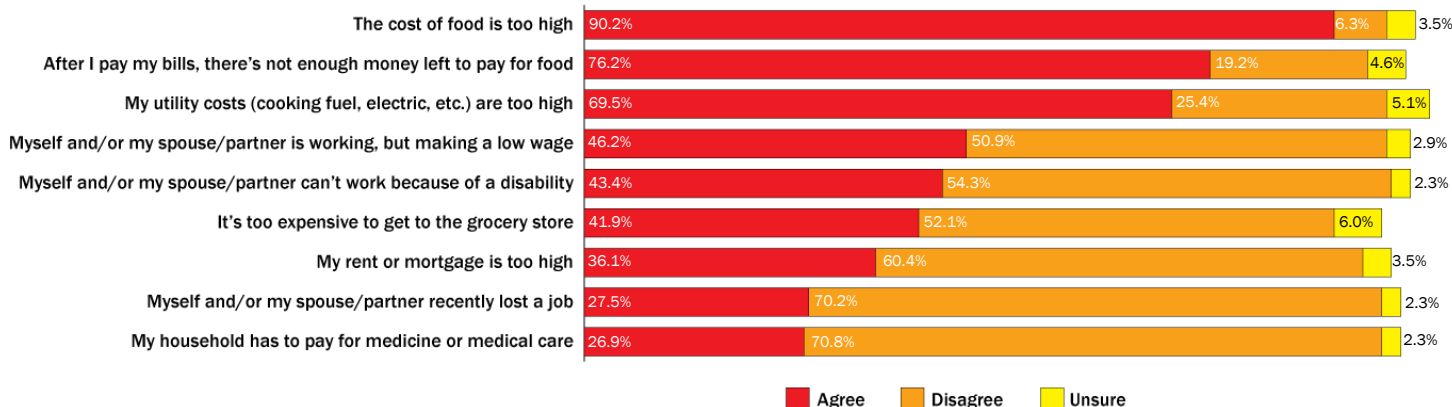
The survey asked respondents about their ability to afford food during the summer and throughout the year, and the reasons they feel they have difficulty affording food for their household on their own. Most respondents (85.6%) said that affording food for their families on their own is harder during the summer. Respondents most commonly cited lack of school meals (85.2%) and higher utility costs (58.6%) as the contributing factors for increased difficulty affording food.

Reasons affording food in the summer is harder



More than 5 in 6 respondents (82.5%) said that their household had trouble affording food on their own at some point during the past 12 months. More than 9 in 10 respondents (90.2%) cited high food costs as a reason their household had trouble affording food on its own. More than 3 in 4 respondents (76.2%) said that after they pay their bills each month, they don't have enough money left to pay for food. Other common factors contributing to difficulty affording food included high utility costs (69.5%), adults working but earning low wages or not getting enough hours at work (46.2%), adults unable to work due to a disability (43.4%), and high housing costs (36.1%).

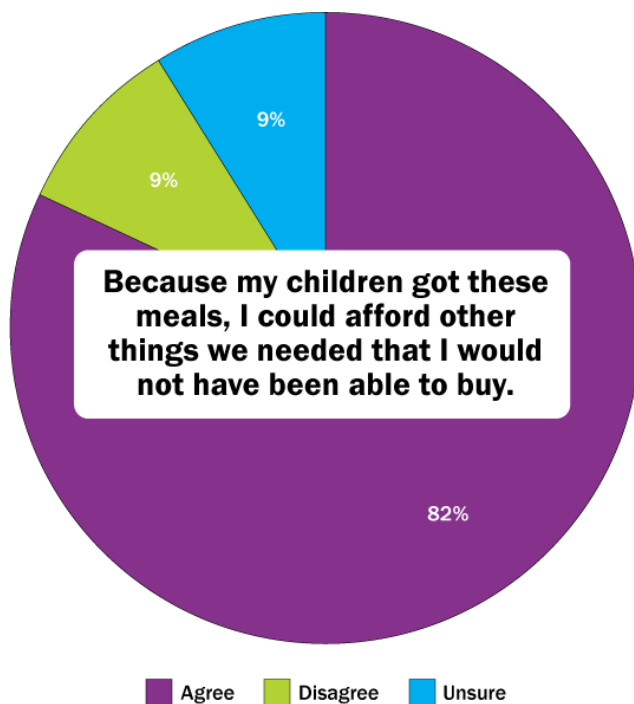
Reasons affording enough food during the past year was difficult



Respondents overwhelmingly said that receiving meals through the program helped them afford other household expenses. More than 5 in 6 households (82%) said that because their children received meals through the program, they could afford other things their household needed that they would not have been able to purchase otherwise.

“The program was very beneficial to my family. My family looked forward to receiving the boxes because it helped on being able to purchase other items and stretched out meals. My husband is not able to work and we also have an 18 year old son with a disability and during the summer I have to be laid off due to lack of work.”

Parent from Minford Elementary School



Summary and Conclusions

The majority of respondents (85%) said it is more difficult for their household to afford food on their own during the summer, but the same number (85%) said they were either not aware of or did not have access to another summer feeding program nearby. Results clearly demonstrate that a lack of school meals during the summer months has a significant impact on low-income households, and that families without access to traditional summer meals sites chose to participate in the rural delivery meals program because they felt their kids needed the food. Overall, survey results indicate that the program model is largely convenient for participating families and that access to meals provided through the program helped to stretch tight household budgets when school meals were not available.

Data Tables

Characteristic	Count	Percentage
Household Size		
2 Members	16	9.0%
3 Members	44	24.7%
4 Members	55	30.9%
5 Members	33	18.5%
6 Members	21	11.8%
7 Members	5	2.8%
8 Members	2	1.1%
9 Members	1	0.6%
10 Members	1	0.6%
11+ Members	0	0.0%
Total excluding nonresponse	178	100%
Age of Children in Household		
0 – 2 years	44	8.2%
3 – 5 years	56	10.4%
6 – 9 years	105	19.5%
10 – 13 years	109	20.2%
14 – 17 years	123	22.9%
18+ years	101	18.8%
Total excluding nonresponse	538	100%
How did you first hear about the program?		
Letter from school	108	54.5%
Friend/neighbor	39	19.7%
Food pantry	32	16.2%
Flyer	0	0.0%
Newspaper	0	0.0%
Other	19	9.6%
Total excluding nonresponse	198	100%
Years of participation		
3 rd year participating	50	25.6%
2 nd year participating	83	42.6%
1 st year participating	62	31.8%
Total excluding nonresponse	195	100%
How long does the food in the box last your child?		
The whole week	49	33.1%
5 – 6 days	32	21.6%
3 – 4 days	46	31.1%
1 – 2 days	11	7.4%
Unsure	10	6.8%
Total excluding nonresponse	148	100%

Characteristic	Count	Percentage
I think the food that comes in the box is:		
Very healthy	87	60.8%
Somewhat healthy	55	38.5%
Not healthy at all	0	0.0%
Unsure	1	0.7%
Total excluding nonresponse	143	100%

Reasons for participating

No other summer feeding programs nearby		
Agree	95	57.2%
Disagree	24	14.5%
Unsure	47	28.3%
My kids need the food		
Agree	146	86.4%
Disagree	14	8.3%
Unsure	9	5.3%
I don't get food stamps and money is tight		
Agree	63	45.3%
Disagree	60	43.2%
Unsure	16	11.5%
I get food stamps, but they don't last through the month		
Agree	115	71.4%
Disagree	37	23.0%
Unsure	9	5.6%
There isn't a grocery store close to me		
Agree	49	30.0%
Disagree	109	66.9%
Unsure	5	3.1%
It was easy for me to pick up the food		
Agree	140	83.8%
Disagree	15	9.0%
Unsure	12	7.2%
My kids like the food		
Agree	159	95.2%
Disagree	3	1.8%
Unsure	5	3.0%
I'm not always at home during the day to feed my kids		
Agree	46	28.4%
Disagree	109	67.3%
Unsure	7	4.3%

Characteristic	Count	Percentage
Measuring satisfaction with program structure		
The paperwork needed for the program was easy to fill out		
Agree	183	99.5%
Disagree	1	0.5%
Unsure	0	0.0%
My kids didn't get bored with the kinds of food in the box		
Agree	136	75.6%
Disagree	28	15.5%
Unsure	16	8.9%
The food in the box was easy for my child to prepare and eat		
Agree	166	96.5%
Disagree	2	1.2%
Unsure	4	2.3%
The box of food was too heavy to carry		
Agree	9	5.0%
Disagree	172	95.0%
Unsure	0	0.0%
Because we got these meals, I could afford other things we needed		
Agree	150	82.0%
Disagree	17	9.3%
Unsure	16	8.7%
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Affording food for our family on our own is harder during the summer		
Agree	166	85.6%
Disagree	21	10.8%
Unsure	7	3.6%
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Total excluding nonresponse	194	100%
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Reasons affording food is harder during the summer		
My kids are out of school and don't get school meals		
Agree	150	85.2%
Disagree	20	11.4%
Unsure	6	3.4%
My kids are out of school, so I have to pay for child care		
Agree	38	23.5%
Disagree	118	72.8%
Unsure	6	3.7%
I don't have time to make three meals a day		
Agree	56	33.7%
Disagree	106	63.9%
Unsure	4	2.4%
I'm not at home during the day because I work		
Agree	64	40.8%
Disagree	90	57.3%
Unsure	3	1.9%
My utility bills go up, so I have less to spend on food		
Agree	95	58.6%
Disagree	52	32.1%
Unsure	15	9.3%

Characteristic	Count	Percentage
We have had trouble affording food on our own at some point during the past 12 months		
Agree	160	82.5%
Disagree	27	13.9%
Unsure	7	3.6%
Total excluding nonresponse	194	100%

Reasons for trouble affording food at some point during the past 12 months

Myself and/or my spouse/partner recently lost a job		
Agree	47	27.5%
Disagree	120	70.2%
Unsure	4	2.3%
Myself and/or my spouse/partner is working, but making a low wage		
Agree	80	46.2%
Disagree	88	50.9%
Unsure	5	2.9%
Myself and/or my spouse/partner can't work because of a disability		
Agree	75	43.4%
Disagree	94	54.3%
Unsure	4	2.3%
It's too expensive to get to the grocery store		
Agree	70	41.9%
Disagree	87	52.1%
Unsure	10	6.0%
After I pay my bills, there's not enough money left to pay for food		
Agree	131	76.2%
Disagree	33	19.2%
Unsure	8	4.6%
My household has to pay for medicine or medical care		
Agree	46	26.9%
Disagree	121	70.8%
Unsure	4	2.3%
My rent or mortgage is too high		
Agree	61	36.1%
Disagree	102	60.4%
Unsure	6	3.5%
My utility costs (cooking fuel, electric, etc.) are too high		
Agree	123	69.5%
Disagree	45	25.4%
Unsure	9	5.1%
The cost of food is too high		
Agree	157	90.2%
Disagree	11	6.3%
Unsure	6	3.5%

Characteristic	Count	Percentage
Measuring satisfaction with meal pick-up location		
The information I received about my pick-up location was easy to read		
Agree	151	97.4%
Disagree	1	0.7%
Unsure	3	1.9%
My summer meals pick-up time is convenient for me		
Agree	153	98.7%
Disagree	2	1.3%
Unsure	0	0.0%
The day of the week I pick up my summer meals is convenient for me		
Agree	150	97.4%
Disagree	2	1.3%
Unsure	2	1.3%
The summer meals pick-up location is easy for me to get to		
Agree	149	97.4%
Disagree	2	1.3%
Unsure	2	1.3%
The pick-up location is safe and familiar		
Agree	153	100%
Disagree	0	0.0%
Unsure	0	0.0%
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What is the longest trip you would be able to make to get to a meal pick-up location every week?		
Up to .25 miles	13	9.6%
Up to .50 miles	2	1.5%
Up to 1 mile	16	11.8%
Up to 5 miles	55	40.4%
Up to 10 miles	38	27.9%
Up to 20 miles	12	8.8%
Total excluding nonresponse	136	100%

Characteristic	Count	Percentage
If your pick-up time is not convenient, what time(s) would be better?		
Morning (between 9:00 a.m. and Noon)	36	40.9%
Afternoon (between Noon and 4:00 p.m.)	12	13.6%
Evening (between 4:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.)	40	45.5%
Total excluding nonresponse	88	100%
If the day of the week you pick up your meals is not convenient, which day(s) would be better?		
Monday	14	17.1%
Tuesday	7	8.5%
Wednesday	19	23.2%
Thursday	27	32.9%
Friday	8	9.8%
Saturday	7	8.5%
Total excluding nonresponse	82	100%
If your pick-up location is not easy to get to, what makes it hard?		
It takes too long to get there	1	2.9%
I didn't always have transportation to get there	25	71.4%
It can be a long wait to pick-up the meals	9	25.7%
Total excluding nonresponse	35	100%