

Connecticut State Department of Education
Bureau of Health/Nutrition, Family Services and Adult Education

2015 Summer Meals Report

Summer Food Service Program
Seamless Summer Option of the National School Lunch Program
Academic Summer Schools



Summer Food Rocks!

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This document is available at
www.sde.ct.gov/sde/lib/sde/pdf/deps/nutrition/sfsp/sfspreport.pdf.

2015 Summer Meals Report

Overview

The Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) is a federally funded program administered by the Connecticut State Department of Education. The SFSP provides free, nutritious meals and snacks to children through 18 years of age in low-income areas. It helps children get the nutrition they need to learn, play and grow, throughout the summer months when they are out of school.



The 2015 Summer Meals Report presents a summary of Connecticut's summer food activities during summer 2015. It incorporates results from the three United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Child Nutrition Programs that provide opportunities to serve meals to children over the summer months. Summer meals refers to meals served in the SFSP, Seamless Summer Option (SSO) of the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and academic summer schools operated in schools participating in the NSLP.

- The SFSP is administered by approved sponsors, including school districts, local government agencies, camps and private nonprofit organizations. Sponsors receive an operating and administrative cost reimbursement based on the number of meals served. The SFSP was first created by the USDA as part of a larger pilot program in 1968, and became its own separate program in 1975.
- The SSO is limited to school districts and offers streamlined administrative procedures through reduced paperwork. Participants operate under the NSLP regulations and are paid applicable school lunch reimbursement rates. The USDA began the SSO in 2002 to increase participation in summer meals.
- Academic summer schools include NSLP school sites that provide meals only to enrolled summer school students. The meals are eligible for reimbursement at free, reduced-price and paid rates under the NSLP or the School Breakfast Program (SBP).

As indicated in this report, Connecticut's summer meals experienced a transition during 2015. Similar to the trend seen in the NSLP, the number of children served in Connecticut decreased. From 2014 to 2015, the total number of summer meals increased by 0.1 percent, and the number of statewide meal sites increased by 7.7 percent. The increase in meal sites provides a good foundation for increased access to summer meals by more children, and potentially more meals served in future years. A significant shift in sponsors from the SSO to the SFSP will result in sponsors having increased financial resources to support adequate staffing and increase meal quality.

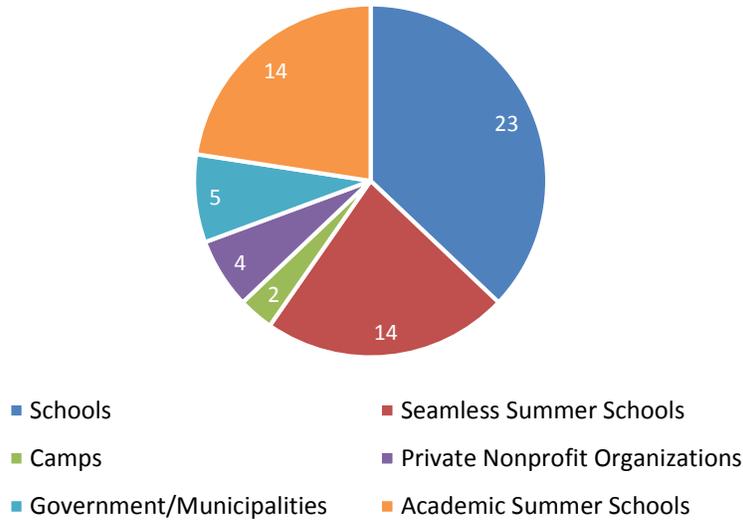


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Distribution of Sponsors

Only certain types of organizations can sponsor the SFSP. Eligible sponsors include schools, governments and municipalities, private nonprofit organizations, camps and National Youth Sports Programs. In 2015, Connecticut's summer meal programs included a total of 62 sponsors including 34 SFSP sponsors (54.8 percent), 14 SSO sponsors (22.6 percent), and 14 academic summer school sponsors (22.6 percent). Figure 1 indicates the number of each type of SFSP sponsor in 2015.

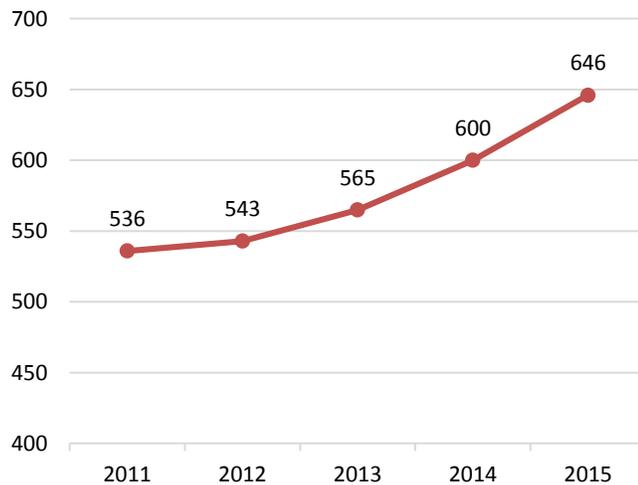
Figure 1. Distribution of Summer Meals Sponsors in 2015



Number of Sites

A summer meal site is a physical location where meals are served to children and where children consume meals in a supervised setting. In 2015, there were 646 summer meal sites among SFSP, SSO and academic summer schools. The SFSP represented 479 sites, the SSO represented 149 sites and academic summer schools represented 18 sites. The total number of summer meal sites increased by 7.7 percent from 2014 to 2015 (see figure 2). Since 2011, the number of summer meal sites has increased by 20.5 percent overall.

Figure 2. Number of Summer Meals Sites



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Average Daily Attendance

The average daily attendance represents the average number of children present and eating a meal at a summer meal site. The three programs combined had a 4.5 percent decrease in daily attendance from 2014 to 2015 (see figure 3).

Figure 4. Average Daily Attendance for Summer Meals in 2014 and 2015

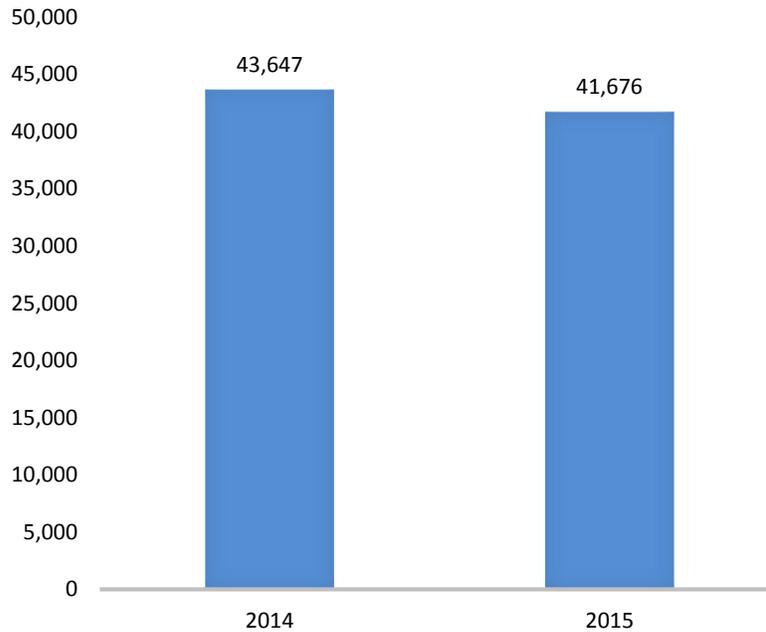
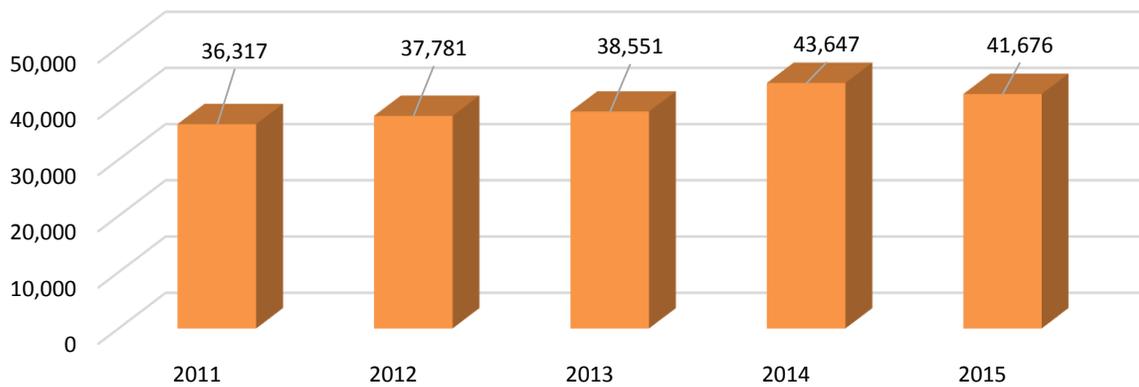


Figure 4 shows the five-year trend for average daily attendance of summer meals from 2011 through 2015. Since 2011, the average daily attendance for summer meal has increased by 14.8 percent overall.

Figure 4. Five-year Trend in Average Daily Attendance for Summer Meals (2011-2015)



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Total Summer Meals Served

The total number of summer meals served includes all program meals served by the SFSP, SSO and academic summer schools. Figure 5 shows the meals served by each program. From 2014 and 2015, the shift of sponsors from the SSO to SFSP resulted in a 39.3 percent decrease in SSO meals and a 43.3 percent increase in SFSP meals.

Figure 5. Total Summer Meals Served by Each Program in 2014 and 2015

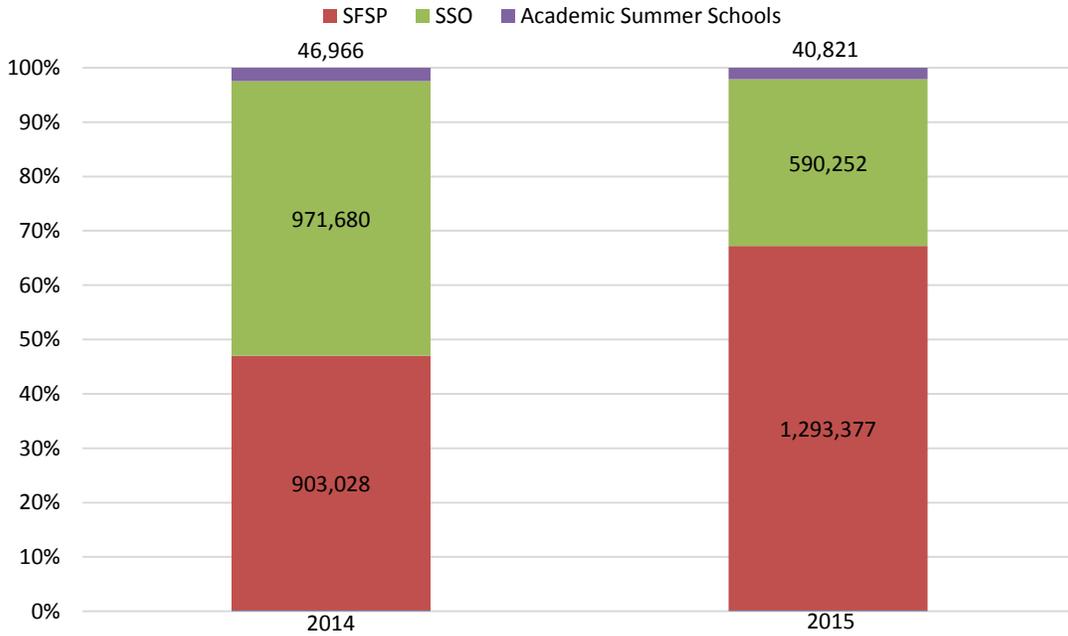


Figure 6 shows a five-year comparison of the total meals served from 2011 through 2015. Since 2011, the number of summer meals served has increased by 26.2 percent overall.

Figure 6. Five-year Trend in Total Summer Meals Served (2011-2015)

