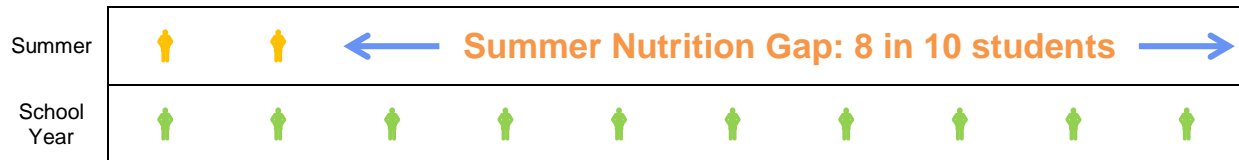


California's Summer Nutrition Gap

When school is out for the summer, children and youth across California are at risk of losing access to nutritious, affordable meals. In 2014, more than 1.9 million of California's low-income kids fell into the summer nutrition gap. That is, nearly 2 million (or 80 percent of) children and youth who benefitted from federally funded free or reduced-price lunches during the school year missed out on such lunches during the summer.



The need for nutritious, affordable meals persists year-round, yet free and reduced-price lunches reach far fewer children and youth during the summer than the school year. (See Table 1.)

Table 1. Daily Participation of Children Receiving Free or Reduced-Price Lunches: School Year Compared to Summer, 2014.

Free & Reduced-Price Lunches	School Year 2014	Summer 2014	Difference (Summer vs. School Year)
Daily Participation*	2,365,091	462,164	-1,902,927

*Daily participation is estimated using NSLP (public, non-charter school), SFSP, and SSFO data. See full report for methodological details.

Statewide Trends in the Number of Summer Lunches Served

July 2014 saw a six percent increase in the number of free and reduced-price summer lunches served compared to the previous year. The Seamless Summer Food Option (SSFO) saw the largest gains in the same period, serving more than 355,000 additional lunches, a 14 percent increase. (See Table 2.)

Table 2. Number of Free and Reduced-Price Lunches Served by Summer Meal Program and Year

Summer Meal Programs	Free & Reduced-Price Lunches Served*			
	July 2012	July 2013	July 2014	% Change (2013-14)
NSLP: National School Lunch Program				
K-12 public school sites (non-charter)	1,464,115	1,411,015	1,455,070	3%
All other sites (e.g., juvenile detention, residential child care centers)	555,221	454,252	409,314	-10%
SSFO: Seamless Summer Food Option (school sites & some community-based sites)	2,359,423	2,459,343	2,814,796	14%
SFSP: Summer Food Service Program (school and community-based sites)	2,145,302	2,352,684	2,424,777	3%
TOTAL	6,524,061	6,677,294	7,103,957	6%

*Based on CFPA's calculation of NSLP; SFSP; and SSFO data from July 2014 provided by the California Department of Education.

Additional Resources

- For the full report and related materials, please visit cfpa.net/sowa-2015
- Contact: Anna Fischer at 213.482.8200 ext. 204 or anna@cfpa.net