



The School Nutrition and Meal Cost Study-I: Findings Related to Improving Diet Quality, Weight, and Disparities in US Children

Guest Editor:

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Message from the Guest Editor

The School Nutrition and Meal Cost Study-I (SNMCS-I) is the most comprehensive school nutrition study in the US. It is a nationally representative sample of 502 school food authorities (SFAs), 1200 schools, 2400 students, and school meals (5404 lunches and 3360 breakfasts). The data collection (2014–2015 school year) includes detailed assessments of school meals and snacks (what was offered and the nutrient composition), the school food environment, measured plate waste, meal costs, a 24-hour student dietary recall, and the measurement of students' height and weight. The study was conducted by Mathematica and funded by the US Department of Agriculture.

This Special Issue will provide a general overview of the study design and data collection and analysis methods and several papers related to school meals and school food environments and assessing if disparities exist (e.g., urban/rural, lower- vs. higher-resource schools) and associations related to weight status, food insecurity, and implications for promising strategies related to improving diet quality and reducing obesity disparities.





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