Michigan Department of Education
Office of Health and Nutrition Services
School Nutrition Programs

Alternate One Sample Size (Random Sampling)

Alternate One Sample size (Random Sampling) should include 3% of all applications approved by the School Food Authority (SFA) as of October 1 of the school year. This includes randomly selecting income-based *and* applications with case numbers for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF).

Random Sampling means each application has an equal chance of being selected. The SFA must determine a selection interval by dividing the number of applications by the required sample size.

Verification is not required for children approved through direct certification procedures such as Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF), Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR), Medicaid and foster children. Children directly certified through other programs including children who are documented as eligible migrant, runaway, homeless, foster children and children participating in Head Start or Pre-K Even Start are not included in the application pool.

Step 1. Count the total number of approved applications on file as of October 1. Multiply the total by 0.03. Always round up decimals to the next whole number. At least one application **must** be verified.

Example: 340 applications x 0.03 = 10.2 applications. Round up the decimal to equal 11 applications.

Step 2. Compare the result in Step 1 to 3,000. The sample size is the lesser number.

Example: In this example, 11 applications **must** be verified to meet the required sample size.

Step 3. Randomly select the required number of applications.

(1) Determine a selection interval by dividing the total number of approved applications on file as of October 1.

Example: If there are 340 applications on file and 11 are required to be verified, divide 340 by 11 = 30.9. In this case, the selection interval is 31. Number all the applications. Randomly select an application from the total approved, and then choose every 31st application until 11 applications have been selected.

(2) Another random method of selection would be to put all the applications in a container and draw the eleven applications out for the verification sample.