

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910962049003321
Titolo	Developing and evaluating methods for using American Community Survey data to support the school meals programs : interim report // Panel on Estimating Children Eligible for School Nutrition Programs Using the American Community Survey ; Allen L. Schirm and Nancy J. Kirkendall, editors ; Committee on National Statistics, Division of Behavioral and Social Sciences
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Washington, D.C., : National Academies Press, 2010
ISBN	0-309-16156-8 1-282-78751-9 9786612787515 0-309-15453-7
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (139 p.)
Collana	National Research Council
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Soggetti	School children - Nutrition
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Bibliographic Level Mode of Issuance: Monograph
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references.
Nota di contenuto	1. Introduction -- 2. The school meals programs -- 3. The American Community Survey and other data sources -- 4. Conceptual framework and design of school district case studies -- 5. Technical approach to estimation -- 6. Evaluation of estimates -- 7. Operational feasibility.
Sommario/riassunto	The National School Lunch Program and the School Breakfast Program, administered by the Food and Nutrition Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), are key components of the nation's food security safety net, providing free or low-cost meals to millions of school-age children each day. Under the most commonly adopted provisions, USDA reimburses districts for meals served on the basis of data collected in a "base year," during which applications are taken. After 3 or 4 years, applications must be taken again to establish new base-year data, unless the district provides evidence that local conditions have not changed. A special provision that does not require applications to be taken every few years would reduce burden, be more attractive to

school districts, and potentially increase student participation by expanding access to free meals. To support the development of such a provision, the Food and Nutrition Service asked the National Academies to study the technical and operational issues that arise in using data from the American Community Survey (ACS)-a new continuous survey replacing the long-form survey of the decennial census-to obtain estimates of students who are eligible for free and reduced-price meals for schools and school districts. Such estimates would be used to develop "claiming percentages" that, if sufficiently accurate, would determine federal reimbursements to districts for the schools that provide free meals to all students under a new special provision that eliminates the base-year requirements of current provisions.
