

May 26, 2005

Attn: Alberta Frost, Director - Office of Analysis
Nutrition, and Evaluation, Food and Nutrition Service
Department of Agriculture
Alexandria, VA 22302
Re: Feasibility of Computer Matching in the National School Lunch Program

Dear Ms. Frost:

I believe the proposed study to assess the Feasibility of Computer Matching in the National School Lunch Program is a valid and worthy study. While there are some ineligible children who do erroneously participate in the NSLP, I think that computer matching could have the potential to identify those children who are eligible and not participating and to enroll these children into the program.

I am concerned about the length of time that is proposed to conduct telephone interviews as compared to the shorter length of time estimated for the completion of the mail surveys. It is proposed that the mail surveys will take between 15-40 minutes depending on which position is targeted. This sounds reasonable. However, the telephone interviews are estimated to take sixty minutes each, which seems be an extraordinary amount of time, especially when the target respondents are most likely already challenged with burdensome workloads. In accordance with tenor of the Paperwork Reduction Act, I would suggest reevaluating the proposed surveys to ensure that they adequately weigh the need for information collection against the burden placed upon the respondents by having to take time away from their core duties in order to complete the telephone survey.

Sincerely,

Kelly Horton