

Impact of the New USDA School Meal Standards



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BACKGROUND

Students push back on new school lunches

by Nanci Hellmich, USA TODAY

Updated 9/28/2012 5:52 PM

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YouTube

Students appear in a video parody of the national school lunch policy mandated by the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010.

Healthier school lunches, required for the first time this year, are getting some push back from students and teachers across the USA who say they are still hungry after eating the noon meal.

A new YouTube video parody, created by two teachers and some high school students in Kansas, has students singing *We Are Hungry* as they try to make it through the school day. Among the lyrics: "Give me some seconds/ I need to get some food today/ My friends are at the corner store/ Getting junk so they don't waste away."

The video had been viewed more than 100,000 times by early Tuesday evening.

The New American

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Thursday, 01 November 2012 14:30

Republicans Demand Investigation of New School Lunch Standards

Written by [Brian Koenig](#)

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Protesting the Obama administration's "nanny-state" approach to curbing U.S. obesity, House Education and Workforce Committee Chairman John Kline (R-Minn.) is demanding a government investigation of the contentious new school lunch standards implemented this fall. The rules promote healthy foods while establishing limits on calorie intake for school lunches as a component of the 2010 **Healthy Hunger-Free Kids Act** — the first major overhaul of school lunches in 15 years — which authorizes funding and enacts policy for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) core child nutrition programs.



The New York Times

N.Y. / Region

WORLD U.S. N.Y. / REGION BUSINESS TECHNOLOGY SCIENCE HEALTH SPORTS OPINION

No Appetite for Good-for-You School Lunches



Librado Romero/The New York Times

ARE KIDS JUST THROWING OUT THEIR LUNCHES?



STUDY METHODS

- ⊙ Examined selection and consumption of school meals before (fall 2011) and after implementation (fall 2012) of the new standards
 - ⊙ Four schools in a low-income, urban school district
 - ⊙ Included 1030 elementary and middle school students (grades 3-8) with active consent



CONSUMPTION MEASURES

- ③ Examined consumption using plate waste study methods

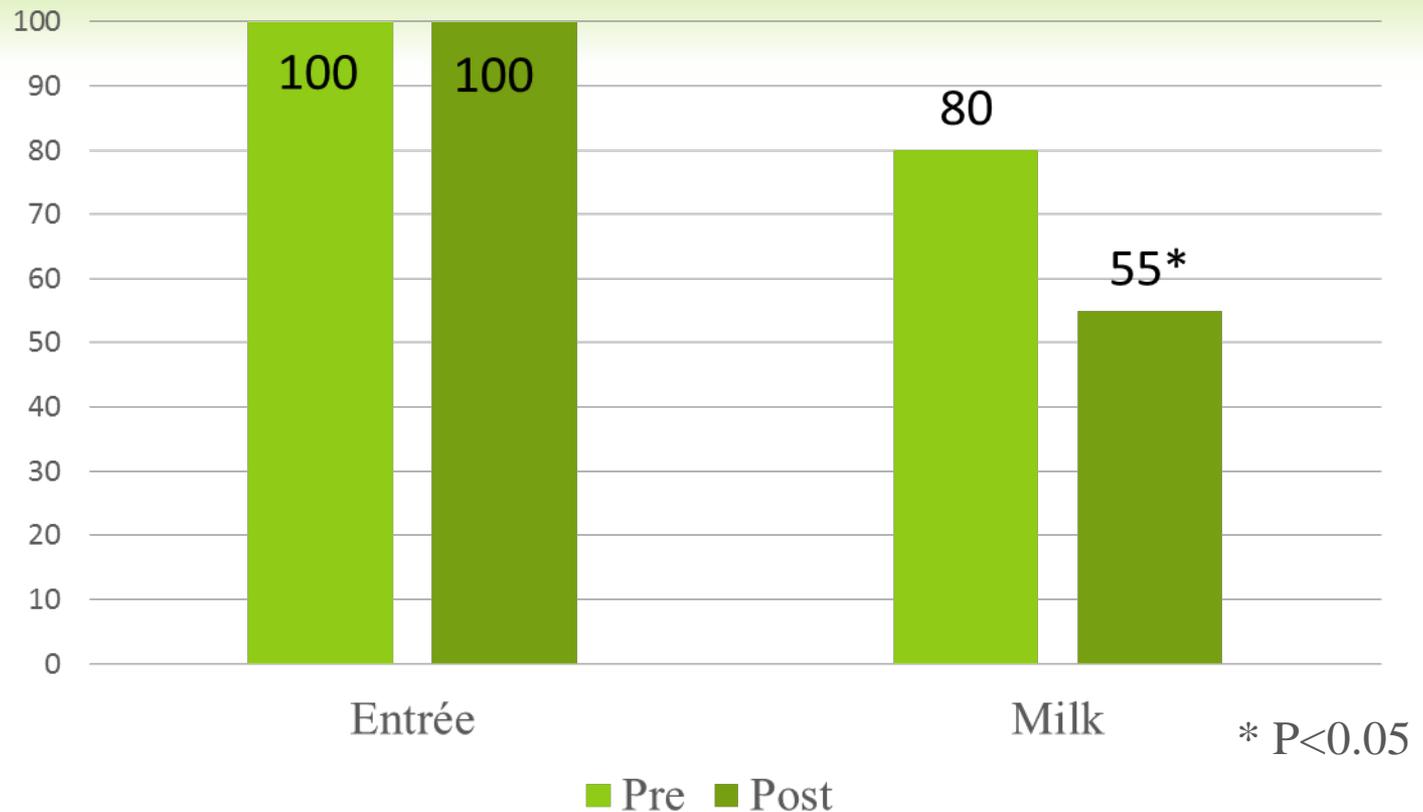


ANALYSES

- ⊙ Examined students with data from all four data collection days (n=864)
- ⊙ Comparison of average selection and consumption before (fall 2011) vs after (fall 2012)
- ⊙ Logistic regression and mixed-model analysis of variance with school as random effects
- ⊙ Adjusted for repeated measures from students, age, race/ethnicity, gender



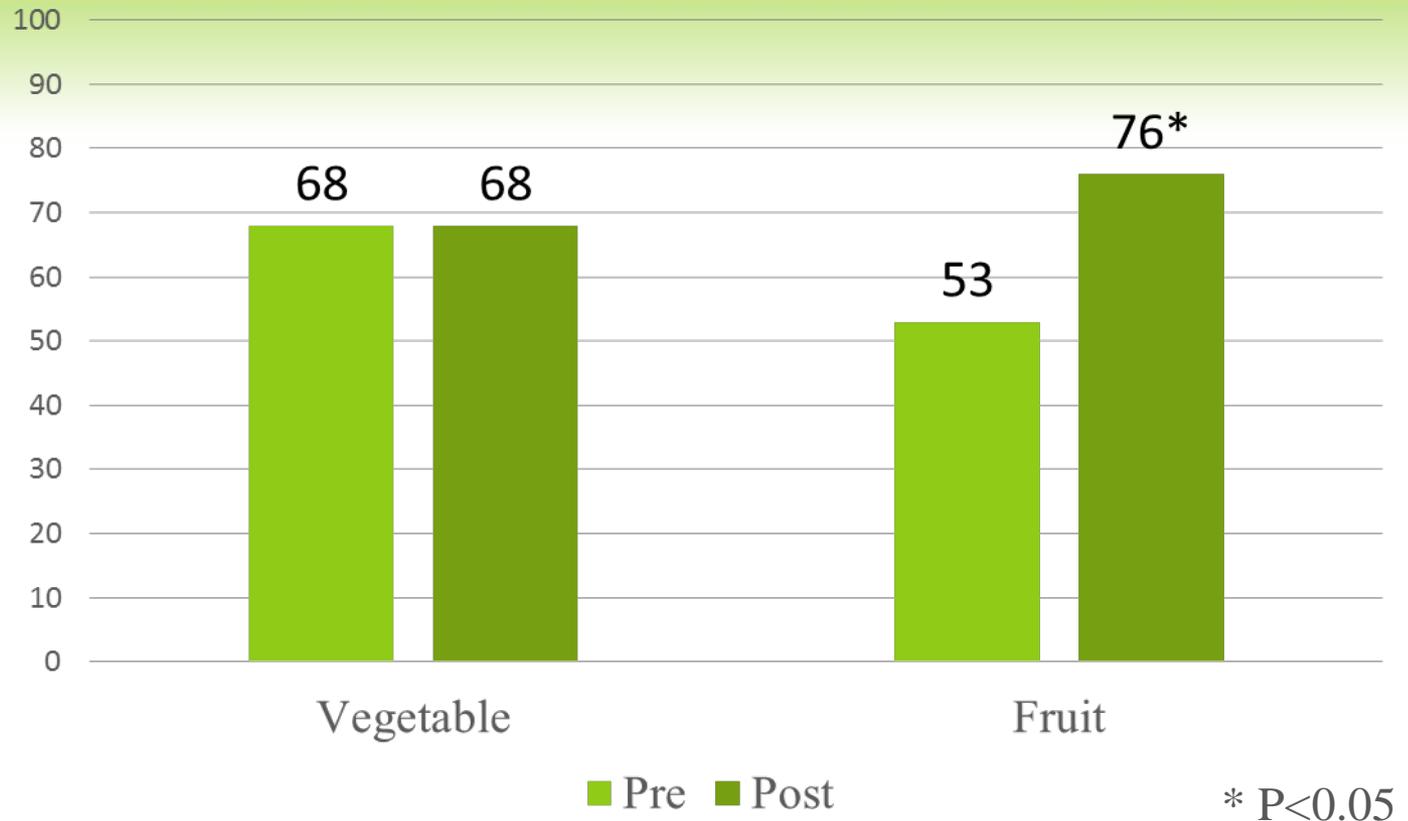
RESULTS- *SELECTION*



Results calculated using logistic regression, accounting for correlated data, with students nested within school and adjusted for gender, age, race/ethnicity, and lunch period time.

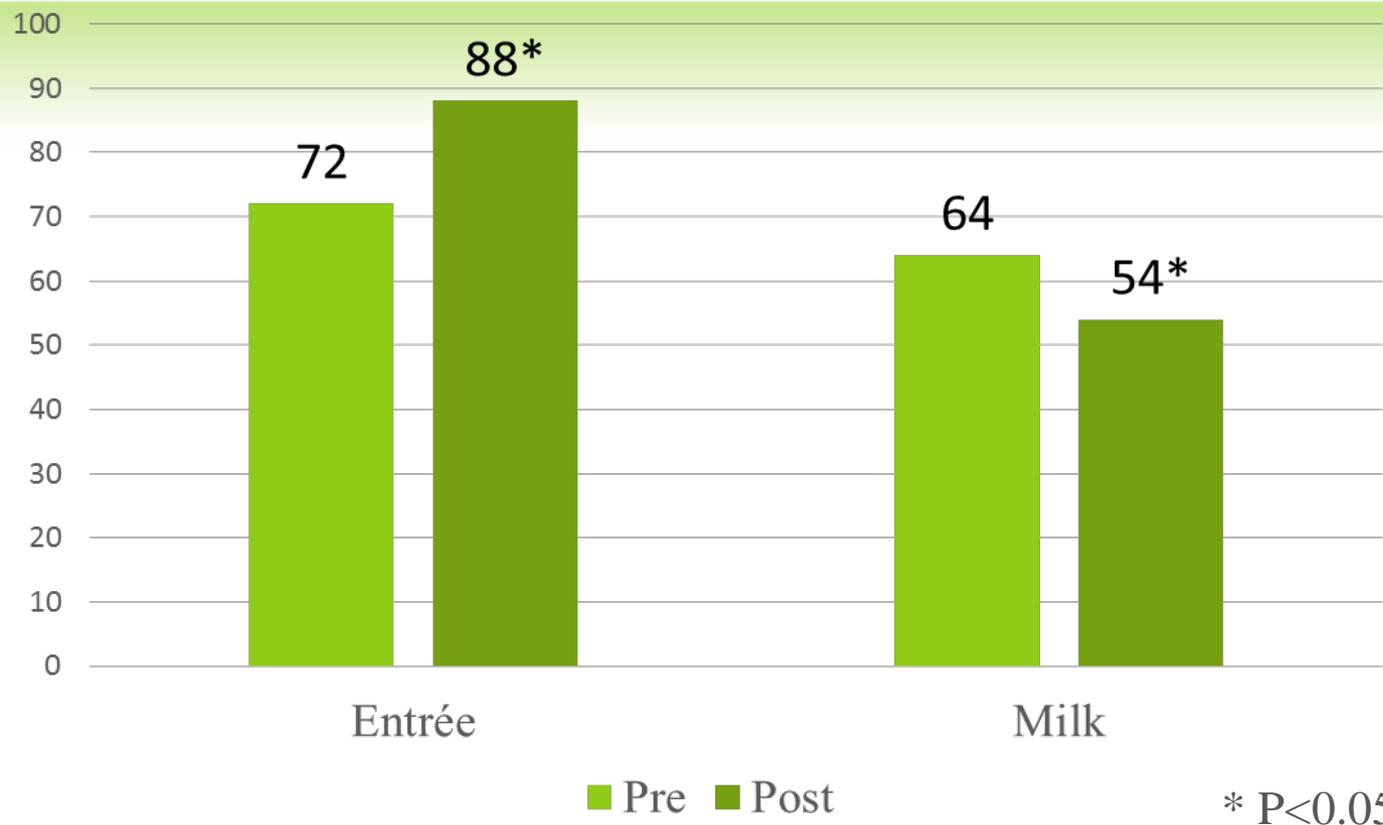
***Milk selection likely changed due to a new school policy that was unrelated to the updated USDA meal standards

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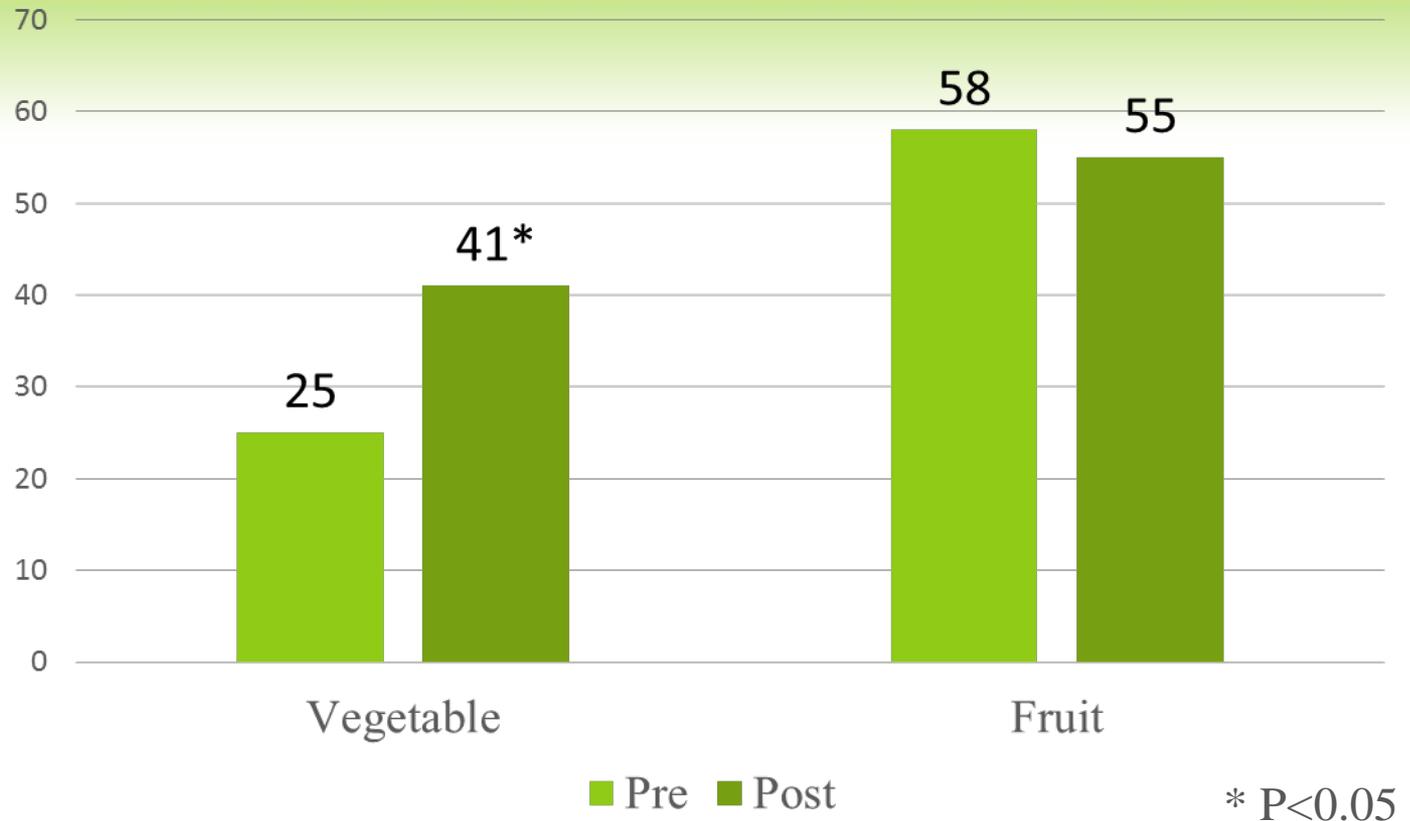
RESULTS- *CONSUMPTION*



Results are calculated based on students who selected the meal component, using mixed-model ANOVA, with school as a random effect (student nested within schools). Estimates are adjusted for gender, age, race/ethnicity, and lunch period time

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RESULTS- *CONSUMPTION*



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CONCLUSIONS

- ⊙ Contrary to public concerns, the new school meal standards did not lead to increases in meal waste for entrées, fruits, or vegetables
- ⊙ The consistently high levels of fruit and vegetable waste are concerning
- ⊙ Further weakening of the new school meals standards should not be considered