



CARSEY **INSTITUTE**

UNIVERSITY *of* NEW HAMPSHIRE

Rural Participation in Federal Child Nutrition Programs: Two Studies

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July 22, 2010

Overview

Importance for Child Nutrition Bill

- ❑ 43% of eligible rural households do not participate in the major child nutrition programs
- ❑ Reason: Transportation, transportation, transportation!

Study 1

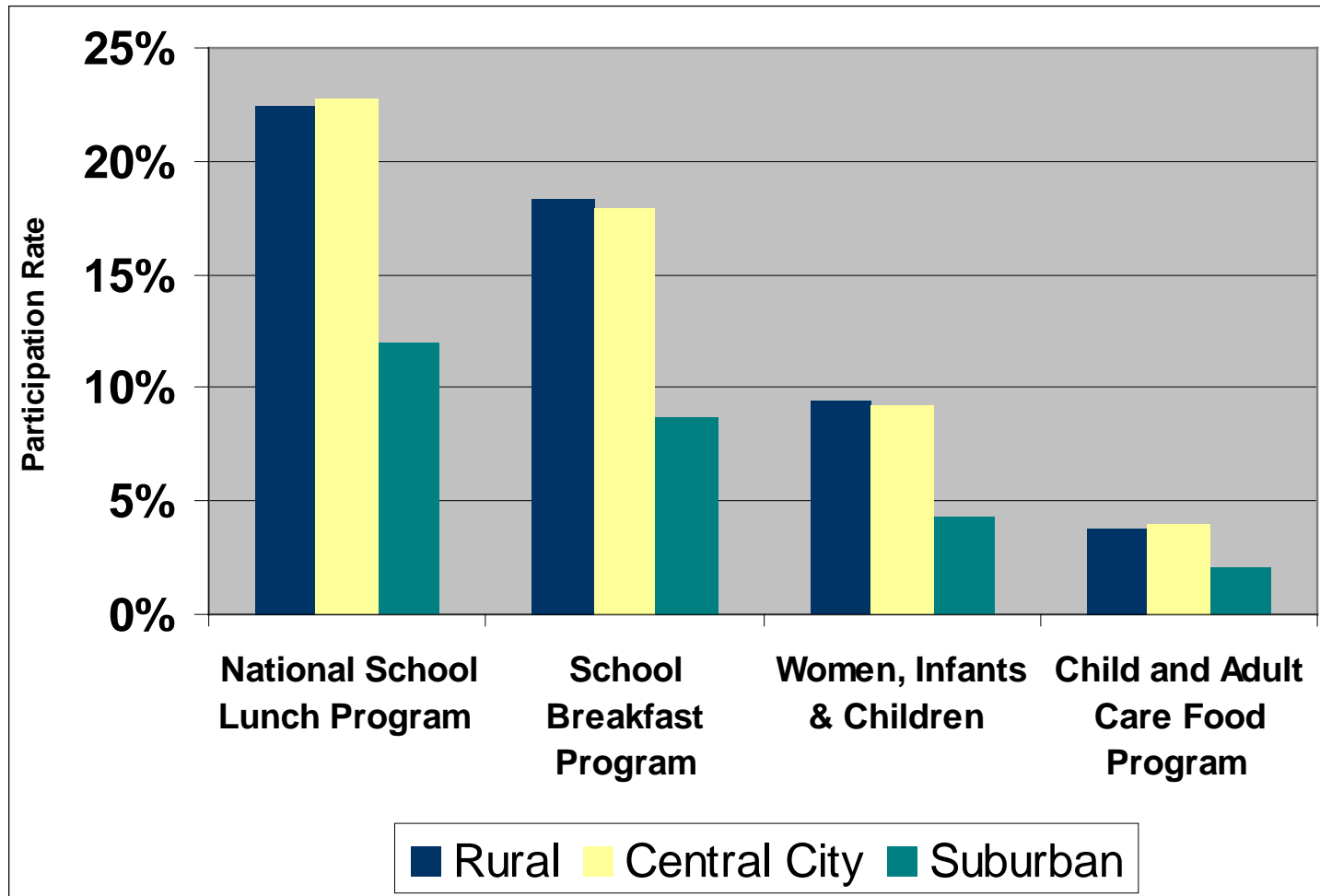
Rural Participation Rates in Four Federal Child Nutrition Programs

- ❑ **National School Lunch Program**
- ❑ **School Breakfast Program**
- ❑ **Women, Infants & Children (WIC)**
- ❑ **Child & Adult Care Food Program**

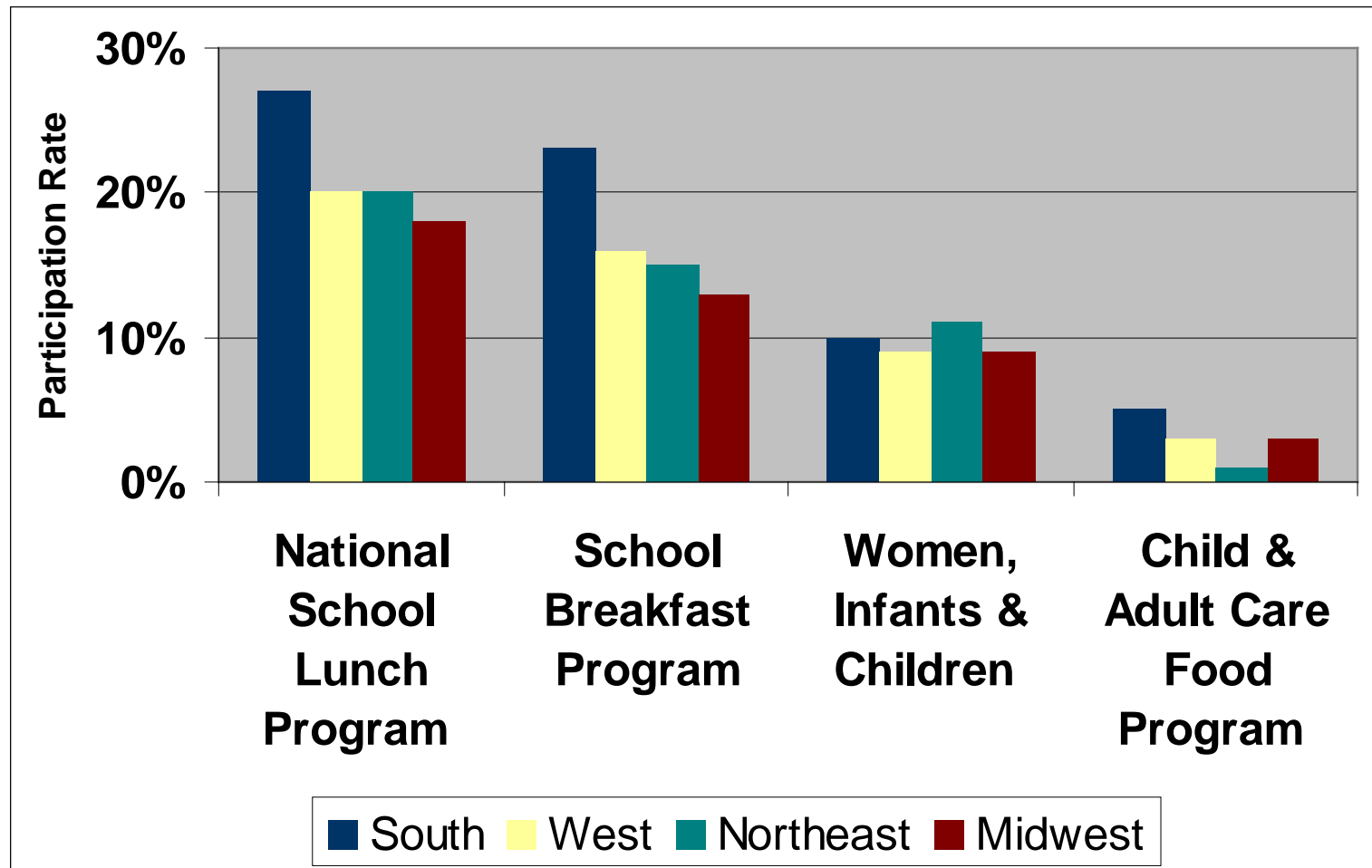
Among All 6.2 Million Rural Households with Children 18 and Under:

- ❑ 29% participated in at least one of the four child nutrition programs
- ❑ 20% participated in two or more of the four programs

Participation Among All Rural Households with Children 18 and Under



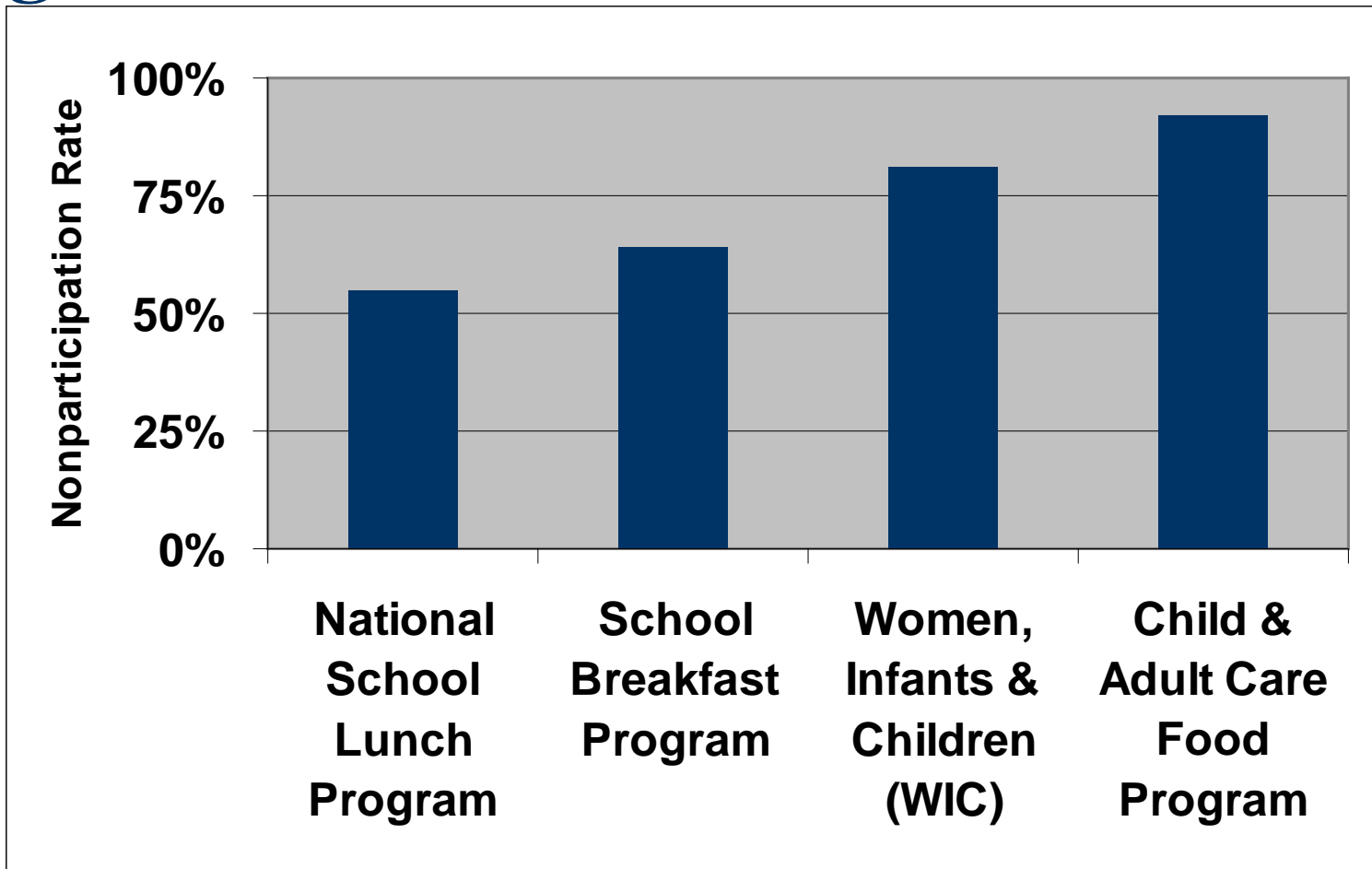
Participation Among All Rural Households with Children 18 and Under



Among All 6.2 Million Rural Households with Children 18 and Under:

- ❑ 45% or 2.8 million are eligible for the programs
- ❑ Of those, 43% or 1.2 million do not participate in any of the four programs

Nonparticipation Among 2.8 Million Eligible Rural Households with Children



Reasons for Rural Nonparticipation:

- ❑ Long distances and lack of public transportation
- ❑ Low density population
- ❑ Lack of resources in smaller schools and programs in rural areas

Study 2

Barriers to Rural Participation in the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP)

- ❑ Voluntary online survey and interviews with 8 SFSP State Administrators
- ❑ Voluntary online survey of 23 sponsors of SFSP programs in rural counties in 10 states across the country

Barriers to participation in SFSP due to :

**#1 - Transportation and travel
issues**

**#2 - Low population density in
rural areas**

**#3 - Family attitudes, awareness,
and perceptions of SFSP**

Respondents' Suggestions:

- 1. Increase modes and funding of transportation**
- 2. Lower area eligibility requirements from 50% to 40%**
- 3. Increase awareness of programs**
- 4. Increase appeal of program sites**

Conclusions:

- ❑ Less than half of eligible rural households are participating in the major child nutrition programs
- ❑ Primary reason: transportation



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