



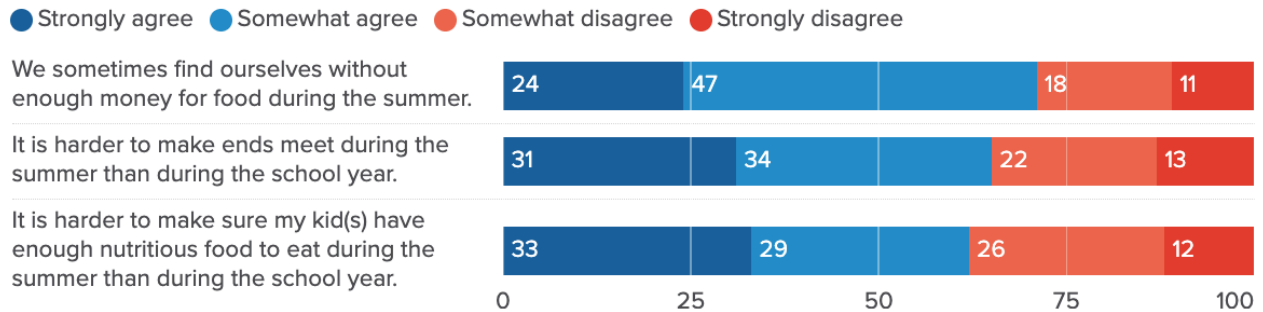
Tennessee Summer EBT Poll Results

Low-Income Families Struggle to Afford Food in Summer Months; Strong Bipartisan Support Statewide for Tennessee's Continued Participation in Summer EBT

Low-Income Families Face Food Hardship In Summertime

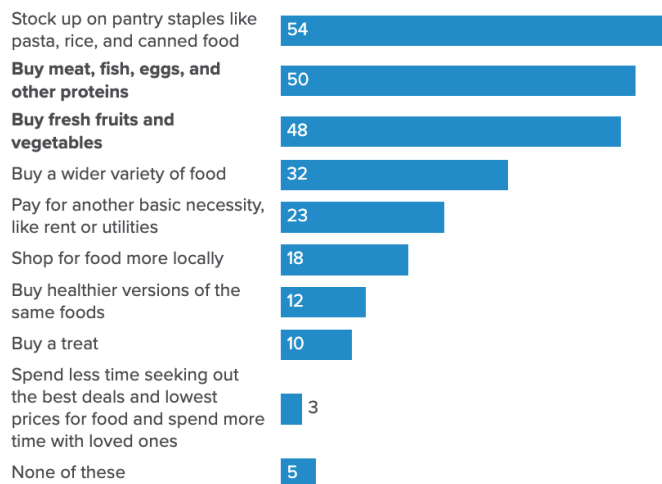
A recent poll¹ conducted by Change Research on behalf of No Kid Hungry shows that many low-income Tennessee families struggle to afford enough food during the summer. Of those who meet the income threshold for Summer Electronic Benefit Transfer (Summer EBT), also known as SUN Bucks, nearly three-quarters (71%) say they often find themselves without enough money for food during the summer, two-thirds (65%) say it is more difficult to make ends meet during the summer, and 62% say they struggle to make sure their children have enough nutritious food when school is out in the summer.

Tennessee families eligible for Summer EBT struggle in the summer months



Tennessee families who participated in Summer EBT in 2024 used benefits to buy nutritious food. Half (50%) of 2024 program participants said they bought more protein, and half (48%) bought more fresh fruits and vegetables. Just over half (54%) were able to stock their pantries, and one-third (32%) bought a wider variety of food.

Because you had Summer EBT money in your monthly grocery budget, did you: (Select all that apply)



“Summer EBT was an unexpected blessing when we needed it most. Thank you. My children were able to get the nutritious food they needed.”
 (Mom, 35-49, Cannon County)

“Sometimes we just don't buy groceries when the pantry gets low. We just eat what we have. We used the Summer EBT to keep the pantry fuller more often.”
 (Mom, 18-34, Humphreys County)

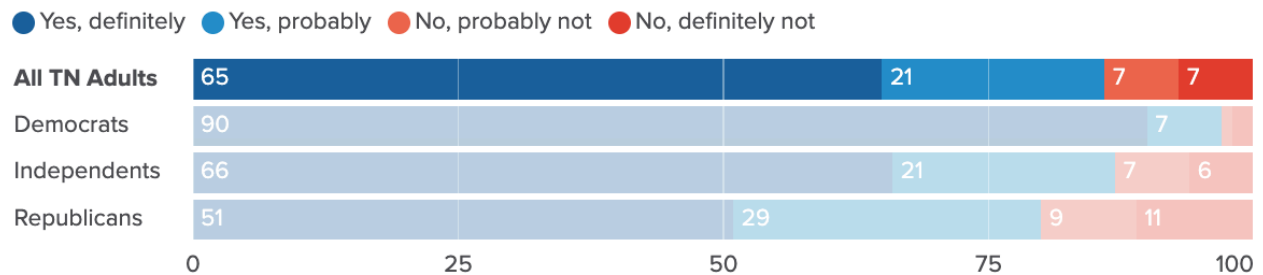
¹ Using its Dynamic Online Sampling Engine to obtain a sample reflective of the adult population in Tennessee plus an oversample of Summer EBT-eligible respondents, Change Research polled 1,172 people statewide from December 5-11, 2024. The modeled margin of error is 3.3%. Post-stratification weighting was performed on age, race/ethnicity, sex, education, region, and 2020 Presidential vote choice. Weighting parameters were based on U.S. Census and voter file data. See full methodology details [here](#).

Tennesseans Want to Continue Participation in Summer EBT

A strong majority (86%) of adults statewide would like Tennessee to continue participating in Summer EBT, with two-thirds (65%) saying the state should definitely continue participation. Support for the program is strong across the full partisan spectrum, including nearly all (97%) self-identified Democrats, 87% of independents, and 80% of Republicans. Four in five adults (81%) say they would be concerned if elected officials in Tennessee declined federal funding to help feed children, with 61% saying they would be very concerned.

Across the partisan spectrum, Tennesseans want Summer EBT to continue

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Q: All but a dozen states are already participating in the Summer EBT program to help ensure that children have a hunger-free summer and return to school well-nourished and ready to learn. Tennessee participated in the program in 2024. In your opinion, should Tennessee continue to participate in this program?

Demand for Bipartisan Action on Hunger

Nearly all Tennesseans agree that child hunger should not exist in the state (95% agree) and that ending childhood hunger in Tennessee should be a shared, bipartisan goal (92% agree). They want to see more action from elected officials to end childhood hunger, and four in five (80%) believe that Summer EBT and similar programs are core to achieving this goal.

Tennesseans want action to combat child hunger

