

**Supplemental file 2.** Characteristics of the survey population by survey period

|                            | Total sample<br>n=2166 |             | August-September<br>2020<br>N=858 |             | January-February<br>2021<br>N=1308 |             | p-value     |
|----------------------------|------------------------|-------------|-----------------------------------|-------------|------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
|                            | N                      | Mean (SD)/% | N                                 | Mean (SD)/% | N                                  | Mean (SD)/% |             |
| <b>Parent responses</b>    |                        |             |                                   |             |                                    |             |             |
| <b>Parent age</b>          |                        |             |                                   |             |                                    |             | <b>0.3</b>  |
| 18-24                      | 8                      | 0.4         | 1                                 | 0.1         | 7                                  | 0.5         |             |
| 25-34                      | 268                    | 12.4        | 112                               | 13.1        | 156                                | 11.9        |             |
| 35-44                      | 923                    | 42.6        | 377                               | 43.9        | 546                                | 41.7        |             |
| 45-54                      | 762                    | 35.2        | 292                               | 34          | 470                                | 35.9        |             |
| 55-64                      | 205                    | 9.5         | 76                                | 8.9         | 129                                | 9.9         |             |
| <i>Missing</i>             | -                      | -           | -                                 | -           | -                                  | -           |             |
| <b>Parent occupation</b>   |                        |             |                                   |             |                                    |             | <b>0.03</b> |
| Higher                     | 1341                   | 61.9        | 556                               | 65          | 785                                | 60          |             |
| Lower                      | 825                    | 38.1        | 302                               | 35          | 423                                | 40          |             |
| <i>Missing</i>             | -                      | -           | -                                 | -           | -                                  | -           |             |
| <b>Geographical region</b> |                        |             |                                   |             |                                    |             | <b>1</b>    |
| East Midlands              | 158                    | 7.3         | 68                                | 7.9         | 90                                 | 6.9         |             |
| Eastern                    | 196                    | 9           | 72                                | 8.4         | 124                                | 9.5         |             |
| London                     | 282                    | 13          | 117                               | 13.6        | 165                                | 12.6        |             |
| North East                 | 92                     | 4.2         | 38                                | 4.4         | 54                                 | 4.1         |             |
| North West                 | 240                    | 11.1        | 95                                | 11.1        | 145                                | 11.1        |             |
| Northern Ireland           | 73                     | 3.4         | 27                                | 3.1         | 46                                 | 3.5         |             |
| Scotland                   | 161                    | 7.4         | 59                                | 6.9         | 102                                | 7.8         |             |
| South East                 | 300                    | 13.9        | 122                               | 14.2        | 178                                | 13.6        |             |
| South West                 | 197                    | 9.1         | 76                                | 8.9         | 121                                | 9.3         |             |
| Wales                      | 109                    | 5           | 43                                | 5.0         | 66                                 | 5.0         |             |
| West Midlands              | 182                    | 8.4         | 57                                | 7.8         | 115                                | 8.8         |             |
| Yorkshire &<br>Humberside  | 176                    | 8.1         | 74                                | 8.6         | 102                                | 7.8         |             |
| <i>Missing</i>             | -                      | -           | -                                 | -           | -                                  | -           |             |
| <b>Number in household</b> |                        |             |                                   |             |                                    |             | <b>0.4</b>  |
| 2                          | 160                    | 7.4         | 66                                | 7.7         | 94                                 | 7.2         |             |
| 3                          | 624                    | 28.8        | 248                               | 28.9        | 376                                | 28.7        |             |
| 4                          | 939                    | 43.4        | 361                               | 42.1        | 578                                | 44.2        |             |
| 5                          | 318                    | 14.7        | 124                               | 14.5        | 194                                | 14.8        |             |
| 6+                         | 125                    | 5.8         | 59                                | 6.9         | 66                                 | 5.0         |             |
| <i>Missing</i>             | -                      | -           | -                                 | -           | -                                  | -           |             |
| <b>Child ethnicity</b>     |                        |             |                                   |             |                                    |             | <b>0.1</b>  |
| Asian                      | 245                    | 11.4        | 95                                | 11.1        | 151                                | 12          |             |
| Other†                     | 209                    | 9.7         | 69                                | 8.1         | 140                                | 11          |             |
| White                      | 1691                   | 78.8        | 687                               | 80.8        | 1004                               | 78          |             |
| <i>Missing</i>             | 21                     | -           | 8                                 | -           | 13                                 | -           |             |
| <b>Child age (years)</b>   | 2166                   | 12.4 (3.2)  | 858                               | 12.4 (3.2)  | 1308                               | 12.4 (3.2)  |             |

|                                     |      |      |     |    |      |     |            |
|-------------------------------------|------|------|-----|----|------|-----|------------|
| <i>Missing</i>                      | -    | -    | -   | -  | -    | -   |            |
| <b>Child sex</b>                    |      |      |     |    |      |     | <b>0.7</b> |
| Female                              | 1076 | 49.7 | 422 | 49 | 654  | 50  |            |
| Male                                | 1090 | 50.3 | 436 | 51 | 654  | 50  |            |
| <i>Missing</i>                      | -    | -    | -   | -  | -    | -   |            |
| <b>Child receives FSM</b>           |      |      |     |    |      |     | <b>0.5</b> |
| Yes                                 | 675  | 31.5 | 260 | 31 | 415  | 32  |            |
| No                                  | 1467 | 68.5 | 587 | 79 | 880  | 68  |            |
| <i>Missing</i>                      | 24   | -    | 11  | -  | 13   | -   |            |
| <b>Child responses</b>              |      |      |     |    |      |     |            |
| <b>Potential food insecurity</b>    |      |      |     |    |      |     | <b>0.5</b> |
| Yes                                 | 431  | 20.6 | 165 | 20 | 266  | 21  |            |
| No                                  | 1659 | 79.4 | 667 | 80 | 992  | 79  |            |
| <i>Missing</i>                      | 76   | -    | 26  | -  | 60   | -   |            |
| <b>Any food bank use</b>            |      |      |     |    |      |     | <b>0.9</b> |
| Yes                                 | 561  | 25.9 | 224 | 26 | 337  | 26  |            |
| No                                  | 1605 | 74.1 | 634 | 74 | 971  | 74  |            |
| <i>Missing</i>                      | -    | -    | -   | -  | -    | -   |            |
| <b>Food insecure*</b>               |      |      |     |    |      |     | <b>0.7</b> |
| Yes                                 | 763  | 35.2 | 298 | 35 | 465  | 36  |            |
| No                                  | 1403 | 64.8 | 560 | 65 | 843  | 64  |            |
| <i>Missing</i>                      | -    | -    | -   | -  | -    | -   |            |
| <b>Find FSM embarrassing</b>        |      |      |     |    |      |     | <b>0.3</b> |
| Yes                                 | 62   | 9.7  | 26  | 11 | 36   | 9.0 |            |
| No                                  | 578  | 90.3 | 214 | 89 | 364  | 91  |            |
| <i>Missing</i>                      | 1526 | -    | 618 | -  | 908  | -   |            |
| <b>Stressed/worried<sup>†</sup></b> |      |      |     |    |      |     | -          |
| Every/most days                     | 236  | 18   | -   | -  | 236  | 18  |            |
| Some/rarely                         | 1053 | 82   | -   | -  | 1053 | 82  |            |
| <i>Missing</i>                      | 19   | -    | -   | -  | 19   | -   |            |

<sup>†</sup>The Other ethnicity category includes the following groups: Black African, Black Caribbean, other Black background, mixed, and other background.

\*Defined as responding affirmatively to any of the 6 potential food insecurity questions or indicated any food bank use

<sup>†</sup>Responses available only among a children participating in the January-February 2021 survey.

p-value differences between survey periods