



the school food people

School Meal Uptake Research

November 2019

Independent research conducted by Dewberry Redpoint Ltd June 2019 – September 2019



These findings are part one of a research project designed to analyze the UFSM scheme within key stage 1 and 2

The research conducted by Dewberry Redpoint involved collecting data from 27 local authorities who served hot meals to 4.5 million pupils across key stage 1 and key stage 2 in England and Wales

Overview of respondents

27 local authority areas took part

The local authorities surveyed provide the lunch time service to an average of 74% of the schools in their LA area

4,589,857 children attend the 3,977 schools covered in the study

17% of children are entitled to a Free School Meal

100% of providers say that all pupils in their authority are offered a hot meal at lunch-times

LACA regions covered

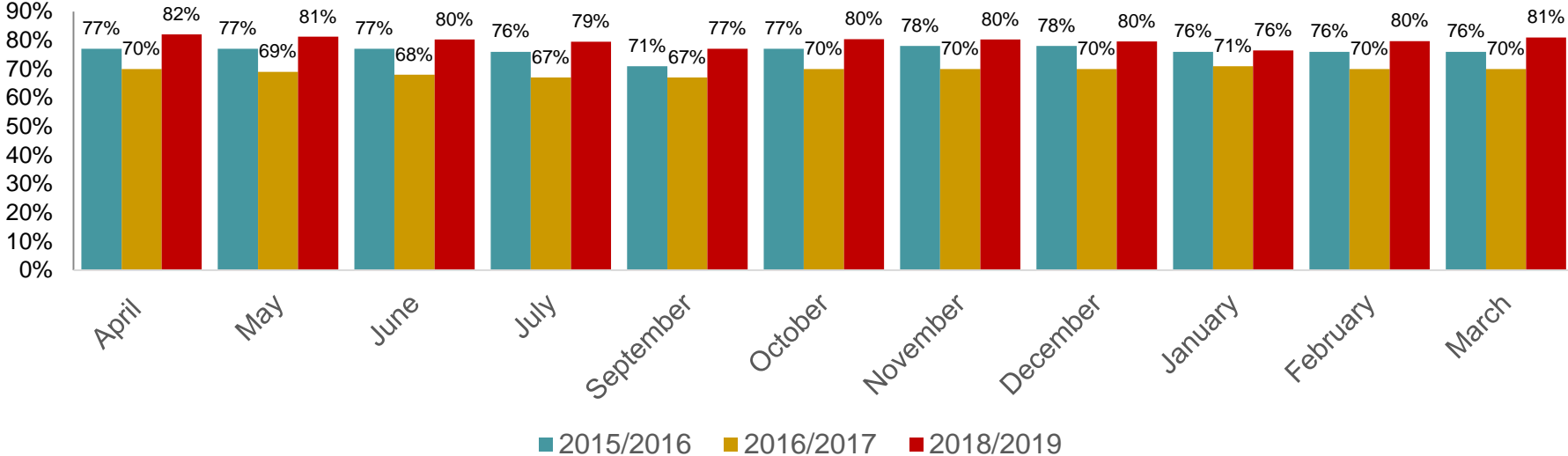
- East Midlands
- East of England
- London
- North East
- North West
- South East
- South West
- Wales
- West Midlands
- Yorkshire and Humberside

Key stage 1: UIFSM take-up

There has been an increase in take up of UIFSM month-on-month over the period 2018/2019 compared to 2016/2017

Take-up was lowest in September 2018 and January 2019

Combined average from 27 responding local authorities:

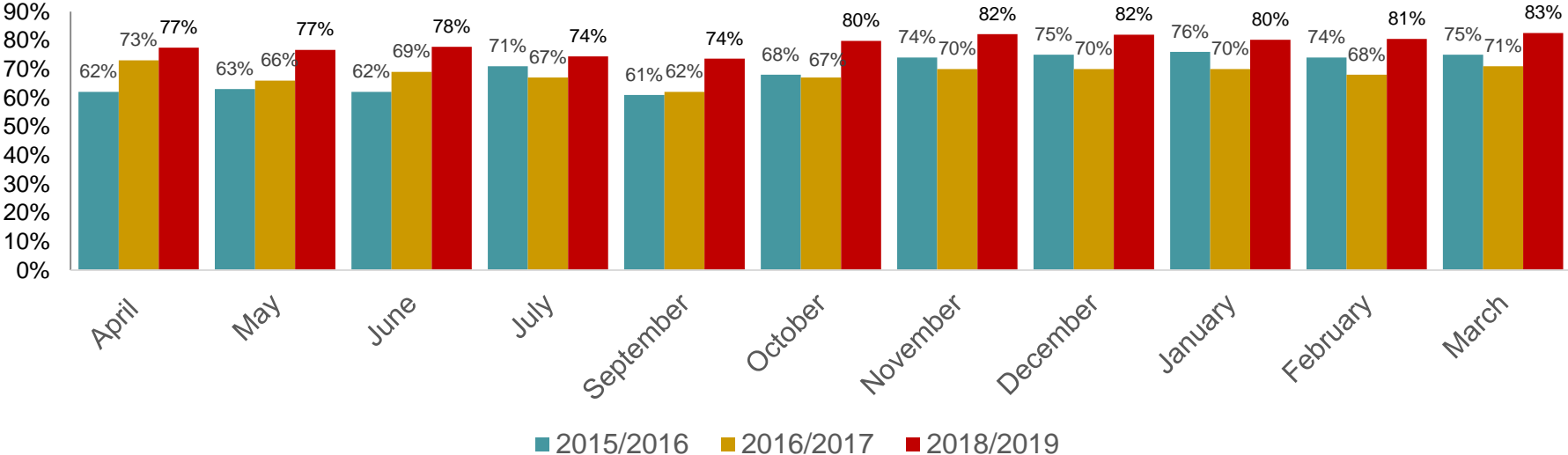


Key stage 1: FSM take-up

In 2018/2019, approximately eight in ten students entitled to free school meals took these up

Take-up was at its lowest in July and September.2018

Combined average from 27 responding local authorities:

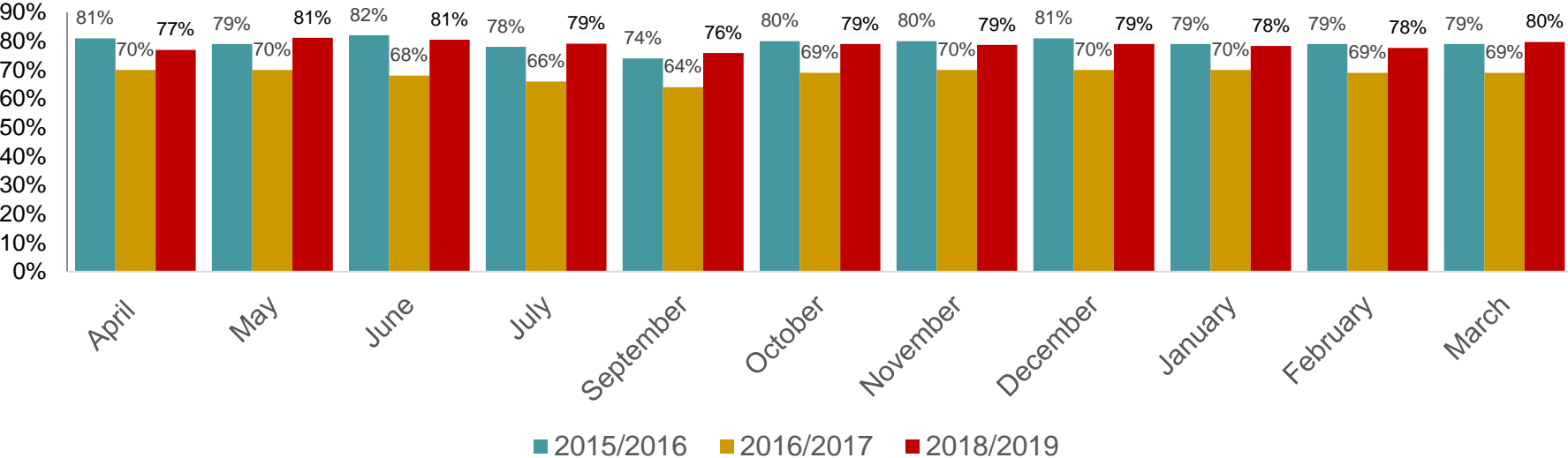


Key stage 1: Total take-up for UIFSM & FSM

There has been an increase in total take-up for UIFSM and FSM over the period 2018/2019 compared to the period 2016/2017

Take-up peaked in May and June 2018

Combined average from 27 responding local authorities:

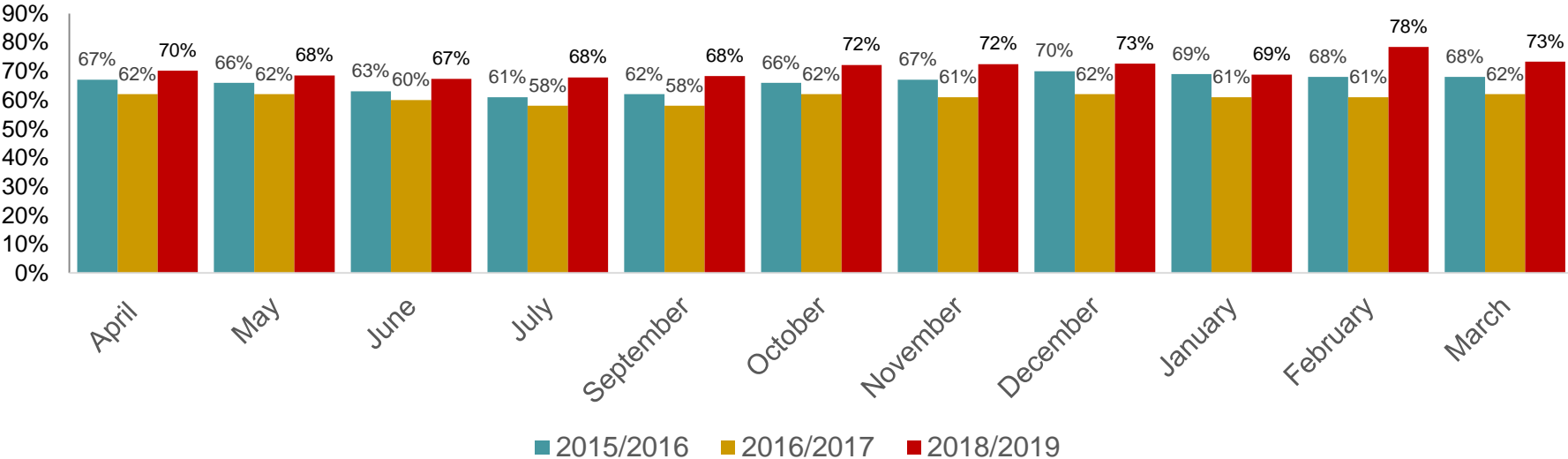


Key stage 2: FSM take-up

Average take-up of FSM over the period 2018/2019 is noticeably higher than take up over the period 2016/2017

Take up has peaked in the period February 2019

Combined average from 27 responding local authorities:

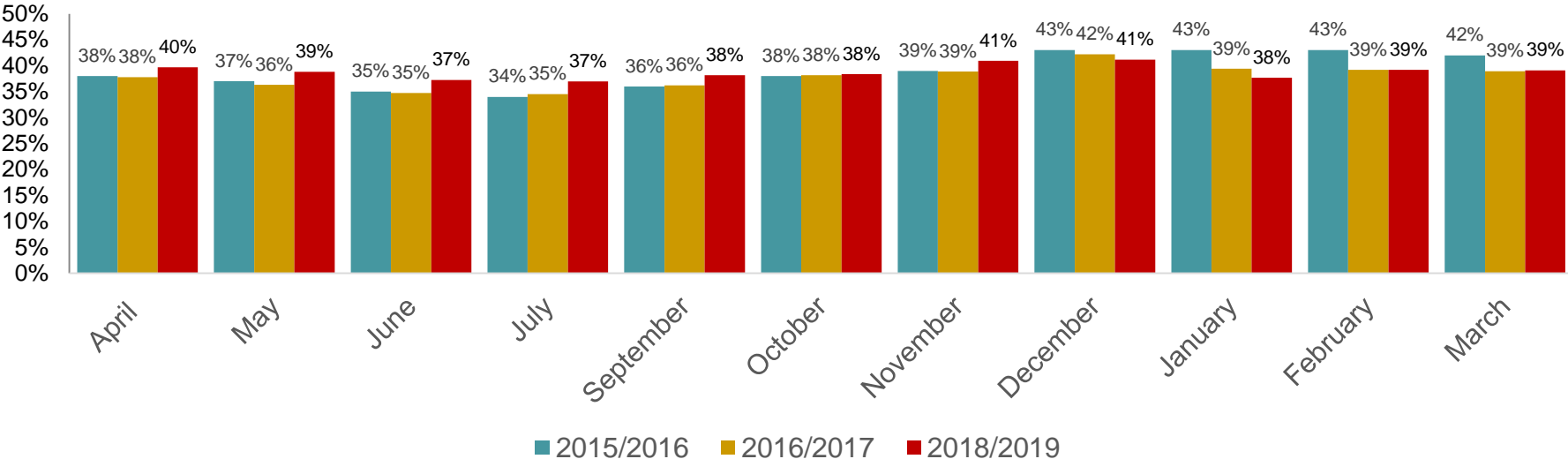


Key stage 2: Total take-up of paid meals

Average total take-up of paid meals in key stage 2 is noticeably lower than average total take-up of UISFM in key stage 1

Average take-up in 2018/2019 is very similar to levels of take-up over the period 2016/2017

Combined average from 27 responding local authorities:

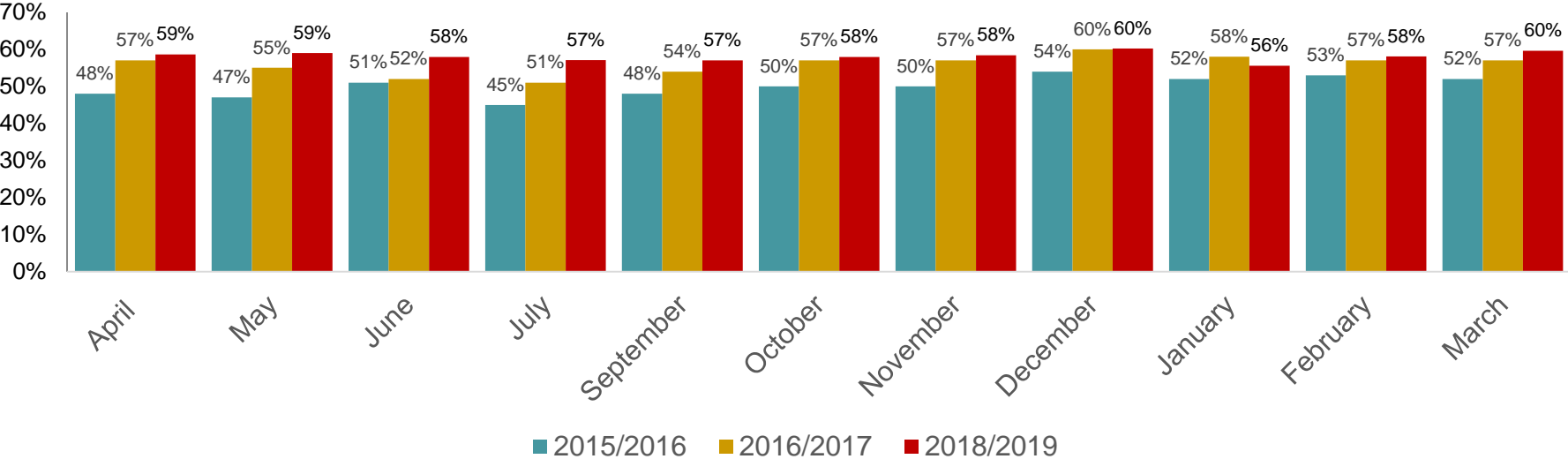


Key stage 2: Total take-up for paid & FSM

Average take up for 2018/2019 for paid and FSM combined is higher compared to average take-up over the period 2016/2017

Take up has peaked in December 2018 and March 2019

Combined average from 27 responding local authorities:



Average take-up year-on-year comparison

Total average take-up comparison

Key stage 1	2015/2016	2016/2017	2018/2019
KSI UIFSM	76%	69%	80%
KS1 FSM	69%	68%	79%
KS1 UIFSM & FSM	79%	69%	79%
Key stage 2	2015/2016	2016/2017	2018/2019
KS2 FSM	66%	61%	71%
KS2 PAID	39%	38%	39%
KS2 PAID AND FSM	50%	56%	58%

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