

Tray #	Quarter Waste (0, 1/4, 1/2, 3/4, or 1)					
	Roasted Turkey Breast	Wild Rice and Apple Pilaf	Squash	Pear and Cranberry Cobbler	Milk	Total Waste
1	0	0	0	0	n/a	0.00%
2	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%
3	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%
4	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%
5	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%
6	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%
7	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%
8	0	0	3/4	0	0	15.00%
9	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%
10	3/4	1/2	1/2	1/4	n/a	40.00%
11	0	0	0	0	n/a	0.00%
12	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%
13	1/4	0	1/2	0	0	15.00%
14	0	0	3/4	0	0	15.00%
15	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%
16	1/2	0	1	1	0	50.00%
17	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%
18	0	1/4	1/4	1/4	0	15.00%
19	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%
20	0	1/4	0	0	0	5.00%
21	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%
Averages	7.14%	4.76%	17.86%	7.14%	0.00%	7.38%

This plate waste study was conducted at Hapeville Senior Center. Open Hand provides many senior center County with congregate meals five days of the week (Monday through Friday).

There were 26 seniors accounted for at lunch, and I was able to conduct the plate waste study using 21 seniors. Three seniors were excluded because they chose the tuna meal and I was focusing on the turkey. Remaining two seniors threw away their trays in a different location where I was unable to visually evaluate amount of plate waste.

The most wasted item from lunch was the squash. 17.86% of all squash was left over on plates and thrown away. Many senior citizens complained the product was mushy, overcooked, and bland.

Every senior citizen that took one milk carton from the serving line consumed the entire carton (100%). Because I was unable to visually evaluate how much milk was left, I picked up each carton as I was throwing the trays away and determined if it had any milk remaining.

7.14% of the turkey and 7.14% of the pear and cranberry cobbler were left over on trays and thrown away. Additionally, 4.76% of the wild rice and apple pilaf was discarded.

The average for the total plate waste was 7.38% of the five menu items wasted. There were 14 participants with zero plate waste. The highest percentage of total plate waste was 50% remaining on their tray at the end of lunch (participant)

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