OVERVIEW

The Department of Planning and the Johns Hopkins Center for a Livable Future collaborate to examine the Baltimore food environment through research, analysis and mapping in order to inform the work of the City’s Baltimore Food Policy Initiative (BFPI). Please refer to Baltimore City’s Food Environment: 2018 Report for more in-depth information.

HEALTHY FOOD PRIORITY AREA

Healthy Food Priority Areas show where four factors related to food access overlap. The four criteria listed below determine if an area is a Healthy Food Priority Area. These areas were previously referred to as “food deserts.”

KEY FINDINGS

- The 10th District has the second highest proportion of residents living in a Priority Area of all council districts with 44%, compared to 23.5% citywide.
- Nearly 12,000 (52%) Black residents live in Priority Areas, compared to only 7,000 (38%) White residents.
- Seniors are the most likely of any age group to live in Priority Areas.

RESIDENT PERSPECTIVE

“As a child, my household size was four people and then five. We did not have a car for at least seven years and I remember having to walk to the market and hopefully catch a hack home if they were available.”

Shareka House
2017 Resident Food Equity Advisor, District 10

PRIORITY AREA FACTORS

1. The average Healthy Food Availability Index (HFAI) score is in the lowest tier
2. The median household income is at or below 185% of the Federal Poverty Level
3. Over 30% of households do not have a vehicle available
4. The distance to a supermarket is more than ¼ mile

HEALTHY FOOD PRIORITY AREA FACTORS BY PERCENT OF 10TH DISTRICT RESIDENTS

PERCENT OF EACH POPULATION GROUP LIVING IN A HEALTHY FOOD PRIORITY AREA

How to read this graph (example):
Of all the children living in the 10th District, 5,954 (49%) live in a Healthy Food Priority Area.
Healthy Food Availability Index (HFAI) scores show the quantity and variety of staple food groups and healthy options. Scores range from 0-28.5. HFAI awards stores points based on the presence of a market basket of staple foods and whether healthy options of common foods are available (i.e. whole grain bread).

**HFAI SCORE RANGE:**

- **HIGH** (19.1 - 28.5)
- **MEDIUM** (9.6 - 19)
- **LOW** (0 - 9.5)

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### STORE CATEGORIES

The retail food environment includes various store types, and stores within each format can serve as sources of healthy affordable food.

#### SMALL GROCERY AND CORNER STORES

There are 45 stores in this category. The average HFAI score for these stores is 9.4, which is below the Priority Area threshold, however, there are some individual stores, particularly Hispanic grocery stores that score considerably higher.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Avg HFAI Score</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>45</td>
<td>9.4</td>
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#### CONVENIENCE STORES

**Chain Convenience:** The 10th District has 12 chain convenience stores with an average score of 8.8, indicating a low amount of healthy food.

- **Pharmacy:** The 1 pharmacy in the district has a score of 9.5, which is low, but may have the potential to carry more staple foods, perhaps by connecting specific healthy foods to medical needs.

- **Discount:** 6 discount stores sell a variety of non-perishable and some perishable foods, with an average HFAI score of 10.3. All 6 accept SNAP but none WIC, which may mean they are not accessible to all shoppers, especially those with children.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Avg HFAI Score</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>8.8</td>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>9.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>10.3</td>
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#### SUPERMARKETS

Overall, supermarkets provide the widest variety of healthy staple foods. The 4 supermarkets are run by 4 different operators, and while similar in basic stocking, may vary significantly in features not scored or measured by this analysis, such as quality or affordability.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Avg HFAI Score</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>27.1</td>
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**HIGHER HFAI SCORES IN SNAP AND WIC STORES**

**WIC: Women, Infants and Children**

Only 7 small grocery and corner stores (out of 45 small stores in the district) accept WIC and SNAP benefits, yet analysis shows a 41% increase in HFAI score compared to stores of the same size that only have SNAP.

**SNAP: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program**

(Formerly food stamps)

Stores that accept SNAP have an HFAI score 18% higher than stores of the same size that do not accept nutrition benefits. 54 (out of 64) small grocery, corner, and convenience stores accept SNAP, yet most only carry the minimum stocking requirements.
**HEALTHY FOOD ENVIRONMENT STRATEGY**

Food environment mapping and analysis inform and guide BFPI’s work. The 2018 food environment analysis led BFPI to update its guiding Healthy Food Environment Strategy. The following citywide goals have applications at the state, city, and neighborhood levels. These maps and analyses are used to inform, create, and evaluate food policies. Together, BFPI agencies implement the following strategies:

- Support resident-driven processes to guide equitable food policy, programs and resources
- Improve small grocery, corner, convenience stores
- Retain and attract supermarkets
- Increase the ability of the public markets to anchor the healthy food environment
- Implement supply chain solutions that support healthy food distribution and small businesses
- Maximize the impact of federal nutrition assistance and meal programs
- Support urban agriculture, emphasizing historically disenfranchised populations and geographies
- Address transportation gaps that impact food access

**FOOTNOTES:**

1. Chart displays 185% of Federal Poverty Level by count of residents adjusted for household size. Priority Area poverty calculations are based on household Median Income.
2. *Per US Census categories, “Other” is a combination of American Indian, other, Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, and “Two or More”. **Hispanic is an ethnic classification that includes all races. There may be overlap between Hispanic and other racial categories.
3. Percent increases are based on citywide averages as data by district is limited.