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 45th District is on par with the citywide average of residents living in a Priority Area with 24%, compared to 23.5% citywide.
- Racial disparities persist with over 25,000 (29%) of Black residents living in Priority Areas, compared to under 1,300 (5%) White residents.
- Children are the most likely age group to live in Priority Areas.

RESIDENT PERSPECTIVE

“I have seen so many friends and family members suffer from diseases such as diabetes and hypertension due to an unhealthy diet. It can be really hard to eat right in Baltimore because many lack the education, exposure, finances and time to do so.”

Mary Brown-Bey
2017 Resident Food Equity Advisor, District 45

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 45TH DISTRICT RESIDENTS

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Population Group</th>
<th>City</th>
<th>District</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Children</td>
<td>7,054</td>
<td>17,144</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seniors</td>
<td>2,988</td>
<td>70,077</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>25,146</td>
<td>146,077</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>1,276</td>
<td>27,186</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>127</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other*</td>
<td>637</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic**</td>
<td>372</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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How to read this graph (example):
Of all the children living in the 45th District, 7,054 (25%) live in a Healthy Food Priority Area.
2018 Food Environment Map - District 45

Food Retail

Healthy Food Priority Areas
Legislative Boundaries
Neighborhood Boundaries

Supermarkets (9)
Small Grocery & Corner Stores (94)
Convenience Stores (33)

Harbor, Lakes, & Streams
Parks
Non-Residential

Farmers Markets (2)
Public Markets (1)
Virtual Supermarkets (0)

Baltimore City Health Department
Baltimore Development Corporation

Johns Hopkins Center for a Livable Future
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:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score Range</th>
<th>Color</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(19.1 - 28.5)</td>
<td>Green</td>
<td>HIGH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(9.6 - 19)</td>
<td>Yellow</td>
<td>MEDIUM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(0 - 9.5)</td>
<td>Red</td>
<td>LOW</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

- **Number:** 94 stores
- **Avg HFAI Score:** 8.5
- **Description:** District 45 has 94 stores in this category. The average HFAI score for these stores is 8.5, which is below the Priority Area threshold.

### CONVENIENCE STORES

- **Discount:** 13 stores
- **Avg HFAI Score:** 8.7
- **Description:** District 45 has 13 discount stores that sell a variety of non-perishable and some perishable foods, yet the overall HFAI score is low. 11 stores accept SNAP but none WIC, which may mean they are not accessible to all shoppers.

- **Chain Convenience:** 10 stores
- **Avg HFAI Score:** 9.4
- **Description:** The 10 stores have an average HFAI score of 9.4, which is low. Some may carry healthy food, but not significant amounts.

- **Pharmacy:** 10 stores
- **Avg HFAI Score:** 10.0
- **Description:** Overall, pharmacies have an average score of 10.0. Many have the potential to carry more staple foods, perhaps by connecting specific healthy foods to medical needs.

### PUBLIC MARKETS

- **Number:** 1 market
- **Avg HFAI Score:** 20.0
- **Description:** Public markets like Northeast Market provide opportunities for small food business incubation, employment, and food access.

### SUPERMARKETS

- **Number:** 9 supermarkets
- **Avg HFAI Score:** 27.7
- **Description:** Overall, supermarkets provide the widest variety of healthy staple foods. The 9 supermarkets are run by 7 different operators, and while similar in basic stocking, may vary in features not scored or measured by this analysis, such as quality or affordability.

**HIGHER HFAI SCORES IN SNAP AND WIC STORES**

- **WIC: Women, Infants and Children**
  - Only 24 small grocery and corner stores (out of 94 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**
  - Stores that accept SNAP have an HFAI score 18% higher than stores of the same size that do not accept nutrition benefits. 110 (out of 127) small grocery, corner, and convenience stores accept SNAP, yet most only carry the minimum stocking requirements.
Food environment mapping and analysis inform and guide BFPI’s work. The 2018 food environment analysis led BFPI to refine 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 and 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