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 46th District has the second lowest proportion of residents living in a Priority Area of all legislative districts with 16%, compared to 23.5% citywide.
- Racial disparities persist with nearly 13,500 (32%) of Black residents living in Priority Areas, compared to under 3,700 (6%) White residents.
- Children are the most likely of any age group to live in Priority Areas.

RESIDENT PERSPECTIVE

“I observe the contributions my Latinx neighbors make to the food environment including Latinx – owned food business, culturally relevant foods, and daily food practices that connect many Latinx residents to homelands to which they may never return.”

Katie Miller
2017 Resident Food Equity Advisor, District 46

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 46TH DISTRICT RESIDENTS

How to read this graph (example):
Of all the children living in the 46th District, 6,143 (27%) live in a Healthy Food Priority Area.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>District</th>
<th>City</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>City</td>
<td>146,077</td>
<td>146,077</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children</td>
<td>6,143</td>
<td>6,143</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adults</td>
<td>10,712</td>
<td>10,712</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seniors</td>
<td>1,505</td>
<td>1,505</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>13,476</td>
<td>13,476</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>3,669</td>
<td>3,669</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>199</td>
<td>199</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>1,016</td>
<td>1,016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic**</td>
<td>968</td>
<td>968</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2018 Food Environment Map - District 46

Food Retail

Healthy Food Priority Areas
Legislative Boundaries
Neighborhood Boundaries

Supermarkets (12)
Small Grocery & Corner Stores (113)
Convenience Stores (53)

Harbor, Lakes, & Streams
Parks
Non-Residential

Farmers Markets (6)
Public Markets (2)
Virtual Supermarkets (4)

Baltimore City Health Department

Johns Hopkins
Center for a Livable Future

Baltimore Development Corporation
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**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Avg HFAI Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SMALL GROCERY AND CORNER STORES</td>
<td>113</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CONVENIENCE STORES</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DISCOUNT</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHARMACY</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PUBLIC MARKETS</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SUPERMARKETS</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

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

- **WIC: Women, Infants and Children**
  - Only 15 small grocery and corner stores (out of 113 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. 134 (out of 166) small grocery, corner, and convenience stores accept SNAP, yet most only carry the minimum stocking requirements.

**SMALL GROCERY AND CORNER STORES**

District 46 has 113 stores in this category; a high number compared to most districts. Many of these stores are clustered in the neighborhoods around Patterson Park. The average HFAI score for these stores is 10.7, which is above citywide average and may be related to the prevalence of ethnic, particularly Latinx stores.

**CONVENIENCE STORES**

- **Chain Convenience**: The 33 stores have an average HFAI score of 9.1, indicating some may carry healthy food, but not significant amounts.

- **Discount**: District 46 has 9 discount stores that sell a variety of non-perishable and some perishable foods, yet the overall HFAI score is low. All 9 stores accept SNAP but none WIC, which may mean they are not accessible to all shoppers.

- **Pharmacy**: Overall, pharmacies have an average score of 11.3. Many have the potential to carry more staple foods, perhaps by connecting specific healthy foods to medical needs.

**PUBLIC MARKETS**

Public markets like Cross Street and Broadway Markets provide opportunities for small food business incubation, employment, and food access.

**SUPERMARKETS**

Overall, supermarkets provide the widest variety of healthy staple foods. The 12 supermarkets are run by 10 different operators, and while similar in basic stocking, may vary in features not scored or measured by this analysis, such as quality or affordability.
FOOD AND NUTRITION ASSISTANCE

SUMMER MEALS
Nearly 22,500 kids live in the 46th District, 27% of whom live in Priority Areas. The district served almost 238,000 summer meals across 118 sites in 2016.

AFTER SCHOOL MEALS
46 after school meals sites serve the 46th District.

FOOD PANTRIES AND MEAL SITES
There are 57 sites across the 46th District that are served by the Maryland Food Bank.

SENIOR MEALS
Nearly 10,000 seniors live in the 46th District, 15% of whom live in Priority Areas. There are 12 Eating Together sites in the district serving 301 seniors.

VIRTUAL SUPERMARKET
The Virtual Supermarket primarily serves senior and disabled housing sites. There are 4 sites in the 46th District.

URBAN AGRICULTURE

FARMERS MARKETS
There are 7 farmers markets in the 46th District. All markets accept SNAP and WIC.

URBAN FARMS
There are 3 urban farms in the 46th District.

COMMUNITY GARDENS
The 10 community gardens in the district may provide opportunities for household-level food access.

HEALTHY FOOD ENVIRONMENT STRATEGY
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

FOR MORE INFORMATION
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FOOD ENVIRONMENT REPORT

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.