**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 41st District is comparable to the city as a whole with 22% of residents living in a Priority Area, compared to 23.5% citywide.
- Racial disparities persist with nearly 23,000 (29%) Black residents living in Priority Areas, compared to fewer than 2,500 (7%) White residents.
- Children are the most likely of any age group to live in Priority Areas.

**RESIDENT PERSPECTIVE**

“Currently, in my neighborhood the only choices we have for food is take out and processed foods from corner stores. I feel that food security is a basic need that should be available to everyone.”

Chanelle Austin
2017 Resident Food Equity Advisor, District 41

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Population Group</th>
<th>0.0%</th>
<th>10.0%</th>
<th>20.0%</th>
<th>30.0%</th>
<th>40.0%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>City District</td>
<td>146,077</td>
<td>25,821</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children</td>
<td></td>
<td>6,209</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adults</td>
<td></td>
<td>15,650</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seniors</td>
<td></td>
<td>3,962</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td></td>
<td>22,891</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td></td>
<td>2,359</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td></td>
<td>70</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other*</td>
<td></td>
<td>501</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic**</td>
<td></td>
<td>295</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**How to read this graph (example):**

Of all the children living in the 41st District, 6,209 (25%) live in a Healthy Food Priority Area.
2018 FOOD ENVIRONMENT MAP - DISTRICT 41

FOOD RETAIL

2018 Food Environment Map - District 41
Food Retail

- Healthy Food Priority Areas
- Legislative Boundaries
- Neighborhood Boundaries

- Supermarkets (10)
- Small Grocery & Corner Stores (56)
- Convenience Stores (30)

- Harbor, Lakes, & Streams
- Parks
- Non-Residential

- Farmers Markets (3)
- Public Markets (0)
- Virtual Supermarkets (2)
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:**

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

### 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>8.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CONVENIENCE STORES</td>
<td>6.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SUPERMARKETS</td>
<td>27.8</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

District 41 has 58 stores in this category. The median HFAI score for these stores is 8.2, which is below the Priority Area threshold, and considerably below the citywide average.

### CONVENIENCE STORES

- **Discount:** District 41 has 12 discount stores that sell a variety of non-perishable and some perishable foods, yet the overall HFAI score is very low. 9 stores accept SNAP but none WIC, which may mean they are not accessible to all shoppers.
- **Pharmacy:** Overall, pharmacies have a median score of 9.6. Many have the potential to carry more staple foods, perhaps by connecting specific healthy foods to medical needs.
- **Chain Convenience:** The 9 stores have a median HFAI score of 9.8, indicating some may carry healthy food, but not significant amounts.

### SUPERMARKETS

Overall, supermarkets provide the widest variety of healthy staple foods. The 10 supermarkets are run by 9 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.

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

- **WIC:** Women, Infants and Children
  - Only 13 small grocery and corner stores (out of 58 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. 70 (out of 88) small grocery, corner, and convenience stores accept SNAP, yet most only carry the minimum stocking requirements.
### FOOD AND NUTRITION ASSISTANCE

#### SUMMER MEALS
Nearly 7,000 kids live in the 41st District, 25% of whom live in Priority Areas. The district served nearly 225,000 summer meals across 94 sites in 2016.

#### AFTER SCHOOL MEALS
47 after school meals sites serve the 41st District.

#### FOOD PANTRIES AND MEAL SITES
There are 73 sites across the 41st District that are served by the Maryland Food Bank.

#### SENIOR MEALS
Nearly 20,000 seniors live in the district, 20% of whom live in Priority Areas. There are 13 Eating Together sites in the 41st District serving 425 seniors.

#### VIRTUAL SUPERMARKET
The Virtual Supermarket primarily serves senior and disabled housing sites. Wayland Village Senior Apartments is in the 41st District.

### URBAN AGRICULTURE

#### FARMERS MARKETS
There are 3 farmers markets in the 41st District. 2 markets accept SNAP, all accept WIC.

#### URBAN FARMS
There are 2 urban farms in the 41st District.

#### COMMUNITY GARDENS
The 7 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

**HOLLY FREISHTAT, MS**
Baltimore City Food Policy Director
Baltimore Food Policy Initiative
holly.freishtat@baltimorecity.gov

**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.

*Updated 08/27/2019*
2018 Food Environment Map - District 41

Urban Agriculture

Bernard C. Young
Mayor