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 1st District has the second lowest proportion of residents living in a Priority Area of all council districts with 3%, compared to 23.5% citywide.
- Over 800 (14%) Black residents live in Priority Areas, compared to only 450 (1%) 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 1

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 1ST DISTRICT RESIDENTS

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Population Group</th>
<th>City District</th>
<th>District Average</th>
<th>City Average</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>City</td>
<td>1,457</td>
<td>73%</td>
<td>85%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children</td>
<td></td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adults</td>
<td>855</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seniors</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td></td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>454</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>14</td>
<td></td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other*</td>
<td>166</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic**</td>
<td>241</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

How to read this graph (example): Of all the children living in the 1st District, 510 (8%) live in a Healthy Food Priority Area.
FOOD RETAIL

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)

**WIC: Women, Infants and Children**

Only 10 small grocery and corner stores (out of 51 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. 53 (out of 67) small grocery, corner, and convenience stores accept SNAP, yet most only carry the minimum stocking requirements.

**STORE CATEGORIES**

- **SMALL GROCERY AND CORNER STORES**
  - The 1st District has a high number of corner stores, primarily concentrated in the neighborhoods surrounding Patterson Park. Citywide, these small stores have low HFAI scores, but many scores in this district are noticeably higher. One factor may be the presence of a significant number of ethnic stores, primarily Hispanic or Latinx.

- **CONVENIENCE STORES**
  - **Chain Convenience**: The 13 stores have an average HFAI score of 9.2, indicating they carry a low amount of healthy food.
  - **Discount**: The Family Dollar sells a variety of non-perishable and some perishable foods, yet the overall HFAI score is low. It accepts SNAP but not WIC, which may mean it is not accessible to all shoppers, especially those with children.
  - **Pharmacy**: The CVS on Exeter has a modest amount of healthy food with an HFAI score of 14.5. The Rite Aid on Foster Ave has a score of 8.5.

- **PUBLIC MARKETS**
  - Broadway Market does not have the staple food stalls that other public markets have. The redevelopment of Broadway Market should consider opportunities for small food business incubation, employment, and food access.

- **SUPERMARKETS**
  - Overall, supermarkets provide the widest variety of healthy staple foods. The 7 supermarkets are run by 6 different operators, and while similar in basic stocking, may vary significantly in quality or affordability.
SUMMER MEALS
8% of children in the 1st District live in Priority Areas. Sponsors served over 69,000 summer meals across 26 sites in 2016.

AFTER SCHOOL MEALS
14 after school meals sites serve the 1st District, out of 268 sites citywide.

FOOD PANTRIES AND MEALS SITES
There are 13 sites that are served by the Maryland Food Bank, out of 425 sites citywide.

SENIOR MEALS
There are 4 Eating Together sites serving 71 seniors. 2% of seniors in the district live in Priority Areas.

FOOD AND NUTRITION ASSISTANCE

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

URBAN AGRICULTURE

FARMERS MARKETS
The Fells Point Farmers Market serves the district. It does not accept SNAP but some vendors accept WIC benefits.

URBAN FARMS
City Hydro is an indoor aquaponics operation growing microgreens.

COMMUNITY GARDENS
The 3 community gardens spread throughout the district may provide opportunities for household-level food access.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
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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
**OVERVIEW**

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**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**

- 17% of residents in the 2nd District live in a Priority Area, compared to 23.5% citywide. Priority Areas are clearly geographically concentrated in the district.
- Over 6,500 (22%) Black residents live in Priority Areas, compared to under 500 (5%) White residents.
- Children are the most likely of any 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 2

**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 2ND DISTRICT RESIDENTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Factor</th>
<th>District Average</th>
<th>City Average</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Area w/ low average HFAI score</td>
<td>68%</td>
<td>73%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Residents w/ income &lt;185% FPL1</td>
<td>36% 42%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Households w/o vehicle</td>
<td>23% 30%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt;1/4 mile from supermarket</td>
<td>86% 85%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>City District</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>146,077</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1,902</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adults</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>4,901</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seniors</td>
<td></td>
<td>489</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td></td>
<td>485</td>
<td></td>
<td>6,584</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td></td>
<td>48</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td></td>
<td>175</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other*</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>108</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic**</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

How to read this graph (example): Of all the children living in the 2nd District, 1,902 (18%) live in a Healthy Food Priority Area.
FOOD RETAIL

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

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Avg HFAI Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>9.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

There are 15 stores in this category. The average HFAI score for these stores is 9.1, which is below the Priority Area threshold and comparable to the citywide average.

### CONVENIENCE STORES

- **Chain Convenience**: District 2 has 9 chain convenience stores with an average HFAI score of 9.1, indicating it carries a low amount of healthy food.

- **Discount**: 7 discount stores sell a variety of non-perishable and some perishable foods, yet overall HFAI scores are very low. All 7 stores accept SNAP but none WIC, which may mean it is not accessible to all shoppers, especially those with children.

- **Pharmacy**: Overall, pharmacies have an average score of 10.8. Many have the potential to carry more staple foods, perhaps by connecting specific healthy foods to medical needs.

### SUPERMARKETS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Avg HFAI Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>27.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.

HIGHER HFAI SCORES IN SNAP AND WIC STORES

**WIC: Women, Infants and Children**

Only 1 small grocery and corner store (out of 15 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. 31 (out of 35) small grocery, corner, and convenience stores accept SNAP, yet most only carry the minimum stocking requirements.
FOOD AND NUTRITION ASSISTANCE

SUMMER MEALS
18% of children in the 2nd District live in Priority Areas. Over 79,000 summer meals were served across 21 sites in 2016.

AFTER SCHOOL MEALS
15 after school meals sites serve the 2nd District, out of 268 sites citywide.

FOOD PANTRIES AND MEALS SITES
There are 13 sites that are served by the Maryland Food Bank, out of 425 sites citywide.

SENIOR MEALS
There are 3 Eating Together sites serving 65 seniors. 12% of seniors in the district live in Priority Areas.

URBAN AGRICULTURE

FARMERS MARKETS
The 2nd District does not have any farmers markets.

URBAN FARMS
There are no urban farms in the 2nd District.

COMMUNITY GARDENS
The 4 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 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:

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- 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
3RD DISTRICT
2018 FOOD ENVIRONMENT BRIEF

OVERVIEW
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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 3rd District has the lowest proportion of residents living in a Priority Area of all council districts with 3%, compared to 23.5% citywide.
- Even with low impact, racial disparities persist. Nearly 1,100 (4%) Black residents live in Priority Areas, compared to only 23 (0.2%) White residents.
- Children are the most likely of any age group to live in Priority Areas.

RESIDENT PERSPECTIVE
“Corner stores can thrive if they are committed to treat the residents with respect and do what they can to supply the demand and in some cases – special orders.”

Cassandra Boykin
2017 Resident Food Equity Advisor, District 3

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 3RD DISTRICT RESIDENTS

PERCENT OF EACH POPULATION GROUP LIVING IN A HEALTHY FOOD PRIORITY AREA²

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Population Group</th>
<th>District Average</th>
<th>City Average</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>City</td>
<td>1,151</td>
<td>146,077</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children</td>
<td>291</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adults</td>
<td>789</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seniors</td>
<td>71</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>1,096</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>23</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other*</td>
<td>31</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic**</td>
<td>27</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

How to read this graph (example):
Of all the children living in the 3rd District, 291 (3%) live in a Healthy Food Priority Area.
FOOD RETAIL

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)

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 11 stores in this category. The average HFAI score for these stores is 7.5, which is below the Priority Area threshold, and considerably below citywide average. While having the lowest population living in Priority Areas, the 3rd District has the lowest average HFAI scores for small stores.

### CONVENIENCE STORES

**Pharmacy:** Overall, pharmacies have an average score of 8.5, which is low, but many have the potential to carry more staple foods, perhaps by connecting specific healthy foods to medical needs.

**Discount:** There are 7 discount stores in District 3 which sell a variety of non-perishable and some perishable foods. 6 stores accept SNAP but none WIC, which may mean they are not accessible to all shoppers, especially those with children.

**Chain Convenience:** The 4 stores have an average HFAI score of 8.8, indicating they carry a low amount of healthy food.

### SUPERMARKETS

Overall, supermarkets provide the widest variety of healthy staple foods. The 2 supermarkets are run by 2 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

No small grocery or corner stores (out of 11 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.

Stores that accept SNAP have an HFAI score 18% higher than stores of the same size that do not accept nutrition benefits. 23 (out of 25) small grocery, corner, and convenience stores accept SNAP, yet most only carry the minimum stocking requirements.
FOOD AND NUTRITION ASSISTANCE

SUMMER MEALS
3% of children in the district live in Priority Areas. The 3rd District served nearly 61,000 summer meals across 21 sites in 2016.

AFTER SCHOOL MEALS
10 after school meals sites serve the 3rd District, out of 268 sites citywide.

FOOD PANTRIES AND MEALS SITES
There are 12 sites that are served by the Maryland Food Bank, out of 425 sites citywide.

SENIOR MEALS
There are 3 Eating Together sites serving 52 seniors. 2% of seniors in the district live in Priority Areas.

HEALTHY FOOD ENVIRONMENT STRATEGY
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- Address transportation gaps that impact food access

FOOD AND NUTRITION ASSISTANCE

URBAN AGRICULTURE

FARMERS MARKETS
The Tuesday Market in Lauraville accepts SNAP, WIC and matches federal nutrition benefits.

URBAN FARMS
There are 3 urban farms in the 3rd District.

COMMUNITY GARDENS
The 4 community gardens in the district may provide opportunities for household-level food access.

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

FOOD ENVIRONMENT REPORT
https://planning.baltimorecity.gov/
baltimore-food-policy-initiative/
food-environment

FOOTNOTES:
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3. Percent increases are based on citywide averages as data by district is limited.

Updated 08/27/2019
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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 4th District has the third lowest proportion of residents living in a Priority Area of all council districts with 6%, compared to 23.5% citywide.
- Even with relatively low impact, racial disparities persist. Over 2,500 (8%) Black residents live in Priority Areas, compared to only 150 (2%) White residents.
- Children are the most likely of any age group to live in Priority Areas.

RESIDENT PERSPECTIVE

“My experience with food grown in the city has been interesting. Some of our schools have their own farms. They are created and maintained by the students. These products are used in the local school. The students really seem to enjoy them.”

Samone Flowers
2017 Resident Food Equity Advisor, District 4

Prior to content:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AREA WITH LOW AVERAGE HFAI SCORE</th>
<th>RESIDENTS WITH INCOME &lt;185% FPL</th>
<th>HOUSEHOLDS W/O VEHICLE</th>
<th>DISTANCE TO SUPERMARKET</th>
<th>DISTRICT AVERAGE</th>
<th>CITY AVERAGE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>City</td>
<td>78%</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>94%</td>
<td>85%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District</td>
<td>73%</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children</td>
<td>77%</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>94%</td>
<td>85%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adults</td>
<td>68%</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>94%</td>
<td>85%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seniors</td>
<td>63%</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>94%</td>
<td>85%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>78%</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>94%</td>
<td>85%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>68%</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>94%</td>
<td>85%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>68%</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>94%</td>
<td>85%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other*</td>
<td>68%</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>94%</td>
<td>85%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic**</td>
<td>68%</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>94%</td>
<td>85%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

How to read this graph (example):
Of all the children living in the 4th District, 683 (7%) live in a Healthy Food Priority Area.
FOOD RETAIL

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)

STORE CATEGORIES

The retail food environment includes various store types, and stores within each format can serve as sources of healthy affordable food. The 4th District has few food stores compared to other districts.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Avg HFAI Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SMALL GROCERY AND CORNER STORES</td>
<td>9.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CONVENIENCE STORES</td>
<td>10.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SUPERMARKETS</td>
<td>27.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

HIGHER HFAI SCORES IN SNAP AND WIC STORES³

WIC: Women, Infants and Children

Only 5 small grocery and corner stores (out of 15 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. 17 (out of 22) small grocery, corner, and convenience stores accept SNAP, yet most only carry the minimum stocking requirements.

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>9.6</td>
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<tr>
<td>CONVENIENCE STORES</td>
<td>10.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SUPERMARKETS</td>
<td>27.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Chain Convenience: District 4 has 1 chain convenience store with a score of 10.0, indicating it may carry healthy food, but not significant amounts. This is slightly higher than the small grocery and convenience stores on average in this district.

Discount: 2 Family Dollar stores sell a variety of non-perishable and some perishable foods. Neither accept SNAP or WIC, which may mean they are not accessible to all shoppers, especially those with children.

Pharmacy: 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.

Overall, supermarkets provide the widest variety of healthy staple foods. The Shoppers in the 4th District has an HFAI score of 27.5.
FOOD AND NUTRITION ASSISTANCE

SUMMER MEALS
7% of children in the district live in Priority Areas. The 4th District served nearly 64,000 summer meals across 27 sites in 2016.

AFTER SCHOOL MEALS
10 after school meals sites serve the 4th District, out of 268 sites citywide.

FOOD PANTRIES AND MEALS SITES
There are 20 sites that are served by the Maryland Food Bank, out of 425 sites citywide.

SENIOR MEALS
There are 5 Eating Together sites serving 90 seniors. 6% of seniors in the district live in Priority Areas.

URBAN AGRICULTURE

FARMERS MARKETS
The Govanstowne Farmers Market accepts SNAP and WIC and matches federal nutrition benefits. It also serves as a summer meal site.

URBAN FARMS
There are no urban farms in the 4th District.

COMMUNITY GARDENS
The 3 community gardens spread throughout 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 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

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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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
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 5th District has a midrange proportion of residents living in a Priority Area with 14%, compared to 23.5% citywide.
• Over 4,000 (19%) Black residents live in Priority Areas, compared to fewer than 2,000 (10%) White residents.
• Seniors are the most likely of any age group to live in Priority Areas.

RESIDENT PERSPECTIVE

“I live in a multifamily housing development housing over 200 seniors and persons with disabilities. Most of the residents depend on government food stamps and as such, struggle to eat healthy and affordable meals.”

Shirley Crowder
2017 Resident Food Equity Advisor, District 5

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 5TH 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 5th District, 1,386 (14%) live in a Healthy Food Priority Area.
**FOOD RETAIL**

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**

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 10 stores in this category. The average HFAI score for these stores is 9.3, which is below the Priority Area threshold. This type of store is noticeably absent east of Pimlico.

### CONVENIENCE STORES

**Discount:** 6 discount stores sell a variety of non-perishable and some perishable foods, yet overall HFAI scores are very low. All 6 stores accept SNAP but none WIC, which may mean it is not accessible to all shoppers, especially those with children.

**Pharmacy:** Overall, pharmacies have an average score of 10.3. Many have the potential to carry more staple foods, perhaps by connecting specific healthy foods to medical needs.

**Chain Convenience:** The 4 stores have an average HFAI score of 11.0, indicating some may carry healthy food, but not significant amounts. This is higher than the small grocery and convenience stores in this district, on average.

### 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.

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

**WIC: Women, Infants and Children**

Only 2 small grocery and corner stores (out of 10 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. 18 (out of 24) small grocery, corner, and convenience stores accept SNAP, yet most only carry the minimum stocking requirements.
FOOD AND NUTRITION ASSISTANCE

SUMMER MEALS
14% of children in the district live in Priority Areas. The 5th District served nearly 60,000 summer meals across 27 sites in 2016.

AFTER SCHOOL MEALS
14 after school meals sites serve the 5th District, out of 268 sites citywide.

FOOD PANTRIES AND MEALS SITES
There are 17 sites that are served by the Maryland Food Bank, out of 425 sites citywide.

SENIOR MEALS
There are 5 Eating Together sites serving 130 seniors. 16% of seniors in the district live in Priority Areas.

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

URBAN AGRICULTURE

FARMERS MARKETS
The Park Heights Community Farmers market serves the district and some vendors accept SNAP and WIC benefits.

URBAN FARMS
There are no urban farms in the 5th District.

COMMUNITY GARDENS
The 1 community garden in the district may provide opportunities for household-level 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.
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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

- 6th District has the third highest proportion of residents in a Priority Area with 38%, compared to 23.5% citywide.
- Impact is clustered and shows racial disparity with over 16,000 (45%) Black residents living in Priority Areas compared to only 300 (4%) White residents.
- Children are the most likely age group to live in Priority Areas.

RESIDENT PERSPECTIVE

“I grew up not liking vegetables and it was not until I had my own garden and tasted fresh vegetables that I knew how good they tasted, and wanted to eat them. Many people don’t eat vegetables because they have no taste... because they were harvested before becoming ripe, and shipped thousands of miles.”

Adamaah Grayse
2017 Resident Food Equity Advisor, District 6

HOW TO READ THIS GRAPH (EXAMPLE):

Of all the children living in the 6th District, 4,119 (43%) live in a Healthy Food Priority Area.
FOOD RETAIL

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

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 35 stores in this category. The average HFAI score is 8.5, which is below the Priority Area threshold, and considerably below citywide average. The stores are concentrated in certain areas and are noticeably absent east of Park Heights Avenue.

### CONVENIENCE STORES

**Chain Convenience:** The 4 stores in District 6 have an average HFAI score of 8.0, indicating they carry a low amount of healthy food.

**Pharmacy:** Overall, pharmacies have an average score of 9.0, which is low, but many have the potential to carry more staple foods, perhaps by connecting specific healthy foods to medical needs.

**Discount:** There are 2 discount stores that sell a variety of non-perishable and some perishable foods. The HFAI scores are above average for this type of store, but still don’t represent a wide range of healthy foods. Both stores accept SNAP but not WIC, which may mean they are not accessible to all shoppers, especially those with children.

### SUPERMARKETS

Overall, supermarkets provide the widest variety of healthy staple foods. The 3 supermarkets are run by 3 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 7 small grocery and corner stores (out of 35 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. 37 (out of 45) small grocery, corner, and convenience stores accept SNAP, yet most only carry the minimum stocking requirements.
FOOD AND NUTRITION ASSISTANCE

SUMMER MEALS
43% of children in the district live in Priority Areas. Nearly 91,000 summer meals were served across 40 sites in 2016 in the 6th District.

AFTER SCHOOL MEALS
21 after school meals sites serve the 6th District, out of 268 sites citywide.

FOOD PANTRIES AND MEAL SITES
There are 33 sites that are served by the Maryland Food Bank, out of 425 sites citywide.

SENIOR MEALS
There are 8 Eating Together sites serving 270 seniors. 34% of seniors in the district live in Priority Areas.

VIRTUAL SUPERMARKET
The Virtual Supermarket primarily serves senior and disabled housing sites. The site is at Wayland Village Senior Apartments.

URBAN AGRICULTURE

FARMERS MARKETS
The Cross Keys Farmers Market serves the district. The market accepts SNAP and some vendors accept WIC benefits.

URBAN FARMS
There are 2 urban farms—Food System Lab @ Cylburn and Afya Community Teaching Garden.

COMMUNITY GARDENS
The 6 community gardens in the district may provide opportunities for household-level food access.

HEALTHY FOOD ENVIRONMENT STRATEGY

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- Support urban agriculture, emphasizing historically disenfranchised populations and geographies
- Address transportation gaps that impact food access

FOOD ENVIRONMENT REPORT

HOLLY FREISHTAT, MS
Baltimore City Food Policy Director
Baltimore Food Policy Initiative
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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.
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   **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.

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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 7th District has the fourth highest proportion of residents living in a Priority Area of all council districts with 37%, compared to 23.5% citywide.
- Over 15,000 (43%) Black residents live in Priority Areas, compared to only 630 (9%) White residents.
- Children are the most likely of any age group to live in Priority Areas.

RESIDENT PERSPECTIVE

“The MTA bus has been the most used mode for the many years I was without a personal car. It left me very limited in the amounts of food I could purchase at once meaning I would have to make several visits within a short time frame or go without some items.”

Sheena Ham
2017 Resident Food Equity Advisor, District 7

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 7TH 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 7th District, 3,863 (39.5%) 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:**
- (19.1 - 28.5) HIGH
- (9.6 - 19) MEDIUM
- (0 - 9.5) LOW

**STORE CATEGORIES**

**SMALL GROCERY AND CORNER STORES**

There are 51 stores in this category, an above average number of small stores compared to most other districts. The average HFAI score for these stores is 7.8, which is below the Priority Area threshold, and considerably below the citywide average.

**CONVENIENCE STORES**

**Discount:** 4 discount stores sell a variety of non-perishable and some perishable foods, yet overall HFAI scores are very low. All four accept SNAP but none WIC, which may mean they are not accessible to all shoppers, especially those with children.

**Pharmacy:** Overall, pharmacies have an average score of 9, which is low, but many have the potential to carry more staple foods, perhaps by connecting specific healthy foods to medical needs.

**Chain Convenience:** The 3 stores have an average HFAI score of 10.5, indicating some may carry healthy food, but not significant amounts. This is higher than the small grocery and convenience stores on average in this district.

**SUPERMARKETS**

Overall, supermarkets provide the widest variety of healthy staple foods. The 3 supermarkets are run by 3 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 8 small grocery and corner stores (out of 51 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. 52 (out of 62) small grocery, corner, and convenience stores accept SNAP, yet most only carry the minimum stocking requirements.

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<td>51</td>
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<td>3</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>27.2</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
**FOOD AND NUTRITION ASSISTANCE**

**SUMMER MEALS**
Nearly 40% of children in the district live in Priority Areas. The 7th District served the second most summer meals of any district—147,769 across 68 sites in 2016.

**AFTER SCHOOL MEALS**
30 after school meals sites serve the 7th District, out of 268 sites citywide.

**FOOD PANTRIES AND MEAL SITES**
There are 48 sites that are served by the Maryland Food Bank, out of 425 sites citywide.

**SENIOR MEALS**
There are 2 Eating Together sites serving 43 seniors. 32% of seniors in the district live in Priority Areas.

**URBAN AGRICULTURE**

**FARMERS MARKETS**
The Druid Hill Farmers Market serves the district. The market accepts SNAP and some vendors accept WIC benefits.

**URBAN FARMS**
There are 4 urban farms, the most of any district.

**COMMUNITY GARDENS**
The 17 community gardens spread throughout 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 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:

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**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

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**FOOD ENVIRONMENT REPORT**  

**FOOTNOTES:**

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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 8th District is on par with the citywide average for proportion of residents living in a Priority Area of with 23%, compared to 23.5% citywide.
- Racial disparities are clear with nearly 9,700 (24%) Black residents live in Priority Areas, compared to only 460 (13%) White residents.
- Children are the most likely 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 8

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

![Graph showing the percentage of each population group living in a Healthy Food Priority Area.](image)

How to read this graph (example):
Of all the children living in the 8th District, 2,698 (25%) 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)

### STORE CATEGORIES

The retail food environment includes various store types, and stores within each format can serve as sources of healthy affordable food. The 8th District has few food stores compared to other districts.

#### SMALL GROCERY AND CORNER STORES
- **Number:** 18
- **Avg HFAI Score:** 8.3
- There are 18 stores in this category. The average HFAI score for these stores is 8.3, which is below the Priority Area threshold, and considerably below citywide average.

#### CONVENIENCE STORES

**Discount:** 3 discount stores sell a variety of non-perishable and some perishable foods, yet overall HFAI scores are very low. 2 accept SNAP but none WIC, which may mean they are not accessible to all shoppers, especially those with children.

**Pharmacy:** District 8 has no pharmacies. While pharmacies citywide typically have low HFAI scores, many have the potential to carry more staple foods, perhaps by connecting specific healthy foods to medical needs.

**Chain Convenience:** There are no chain convenience stores in District 8. On average citywide, chain convenience stores have slightly higher HFAI scores than independently owned corner stores, but still lack significant amounts of healthy food.

#### SUPERMARKETS
- **Number:** 2
- **Avg HFAI Score:** 28.0
- Overall, supermarkets provide the widest variety of healthy staple foods. The 2 supermarkets are run by 2 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 6 small grocery and corner stores (out of 18 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. 17 (out of 21) small grocery, corner, and convenience stores accept SNAP, yet most only carry the minimum stocking requirements.
FOOD AND NUTRITION ASSISTANCE

SUMMER MEALS
25% of children in the district live in Priority Areas. The 8th District served nearly 84,000 summer meals across 37 sites in 2016.

AFTER SCHOOL MEALS
17 after school meals sites serve the 8th District, out of 268 sites citywide.

FOOD PANTRIES AND MEAL SITES
32 sites are served by the Maryland Food Bank, out of 425 sites citywide.

SENIOR MEALS
There are 3 Eating Together sites serving 115 seniors. 22% of seniors in the district live in Priority Areas.

VIRTUAL SUPERMARKET
The Virtual Supermarket primarily serves senior and disabled housing sites. There is 1 site in the 8th District.

URBAN AGRICULTURE

FARMERS MARKETS
The Edmondson Village Farmers Market accepts SNAP and some vendors accept WIC benefits.

URBAN FARMS
The Samaritan Women’s Farm and Bee Friendly Apiary are located in the 8th District.

COMMUNITY GARDENS
The 5 community gardens spread throughout 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 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

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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

FOOD ENVIRONMENT REPORT
https://planning.baltimorecity.gov/
baltimore-food-policy-initiative/
food-environment

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
OVERVIEW

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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 9th District has the highest proportion of residents living in a Priority Area of all council districts with 56%, compared to 23.5% citywide.
- Over 23,000 (58%) Black residents live in Priority Areas, compared to only 1,600 (40%) White residents.
- Seniors are the most likely age group to live in Priority Areas.

RESIDENT PERSPECTIVE

“Just because you live near a grocery store does not mean that you have healthy choices. The grocery stores in Baltimore City are not all created equally - there is a drastic different in the quality and freshness of the produce, seafood and meats.”

2017 Resident Food Equity Advisor, District 9

PRIORITY AREA FACTORS

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

HEALTHY FOOD PRIORITY AREA FACTORS BY PERCENT OF 9TH 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 9th District, 6,886 (58%) live in a Healthy Food Priority Area.
FOOD RETAIL

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

- SMALL GROCERY AND CORNER STORES
  - There are 87 stores in this category, the most of any district. The average HFAI score for these stores is 8.8, which is below the Priority Area threshold, and considerably below citywide average.

- CONVENIENCE STORES
  - Chain Convenience: District 9 has 1 chain convenience store with a score of 7.5, indicating it carries a low amount of healthy food.
  - Pharmacy: Overall, pharmacies have an average score of 8.5, which is low, but many have the potential to carry more staple foods, perhaps by connecting specific healthy foods to medical needs.
  - Discount: 5 discount stores sell a variety of non-perishable and some perishable foods, yet overall HFAI scores are very low. All 5 accept SNAP but none WIC, which may mean they are not accessible to all shoppers, especially those with children.

- PUBLIC MARKETS
  - Hollins Market provides a certain level of healthy staple foods, but could serve an important role by increasing the amount of staple healthy food and decreasing the amount of processed foods. Avenue Market is close to the NE corner of the 9th District and will soon under go renovation and improvement.

- SUPERMARKETS
  - Overall, supermarkets provide the widest variety of healthy staple foods. The 1 supermarket in District 9 has an HFAI score of 27.5.

HIGHER HFAI SCORES IN SNAP AND WIC STORES

WIC: Women, Infants and Children

Only 18 small grocery and corner stores (out of 87 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. 75 (out of 95) small grocery, corner, and convenience stores accept SNAP, yet most only carry the minimum stocking requirements.

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 18 small grocery and corner stores (out of 87 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.

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**FOOD AND NUTRITION ASSISTANCE**

**SUMMER MEALS**
58% of children in the district live in Priority Areas. The 9th District served nearly 95,000 summer meals across 53 sites in 2016.

**AFTER SCHOOL MEALS**
31 after school meals sites serve the 9th District, out of 268 sites citywide.

**FOOD PANTRIES AND MEAL SITES**
There are 58 sites that are served by the Maryland Food Bank, out of 425 sites citywide.

**SENIOR MEALS**
There are 2 Eating Together sites serving 50 seniors. 60% of seniors in the district live in Priority Areas.

**VIRTUAL SUPERMARKET**
The Virtual Supermarket primarily serves senior and disabled housing sites. There are 2 sites in the 9th District.

**URBAN AGRICULTURE**

**FARMERS MARKETS**
The 9th District does not have any farmers markets.

**URBAN FARMS**
Bon Secours Community Works Urban Farm is the 9th District

**COMMUNITY GARDENS**
The 2 community gardens in the district may provide opportunities for household-level food access.

**HEALTHY FOOD ENVIRONMENT STRATEGY**

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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

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:**

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

**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>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>45</td>
<td>9.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Avg HFAI Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>8.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Avg HFAI Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>9.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **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>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>10.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 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>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>27.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**HEALTHY FOOD ENVIRONMENT STRATEGY**

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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 11th District has the fourth lowest proportion of residents living in a Priority Area of all council districts with 11%, compared to 23.5% citywide.
- Even with relatively low impact, racial disparities exist with over 4,000 (26%) Black residents live in Priority Areas, compared to only 400 (2%) White residents.
- Children are the most likely of any age group to live in Priority Areas.

RESIDENT PERSPECTIVE

“I have seen that small family run grocery stores are just as important as large supermarkets because the goal in making healthy produce more accessible should be more businesses that sell produce distributed throughout the city instead of being concentrated points of activity where a supermarket is placed.”

Valeria Fuentes
2017 Resident Food Equity Advisor, District 11

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 11TH 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 11th District, 1,492 (25%) live in a Healthy Food Priority Area.
FOOD RETAIL

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:

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- (9.6 - 19) MEDIUM
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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>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>There are 47 stores in this category. The average HFAI score for these stores is 8.3, which is below the Priority Area threshold, and considerably below citywide average.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CONVENIENCE STORES</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discount: 2 discount stores sell a variety of non-perishable and some perishable foods, yet overall HFAI scores are very low. Both accept SNAP but neither WIC, which may mean they are not accessible to all shoppers, especially those with children.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>9.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pharmacy: Overall, pharmacies have an average score of 9.8. Many have the potential to carry more staple foods, perhaps by connecting specific healthy foods to medical needs.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>10.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chain Convenience: The 6 stores have an average HFAI score of 10.1, indicating some may carry healthy food, but not significant amounts.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PUBLIC MARKETS</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The three public markets are quite different in size, and number and type of vendors. Lexington’s HFAI score is 20, Cross Street is 17.5, and Avenue is 6.5. All markets are currently or will be undergoing some sort of renovation in the near future.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SUPERMARKETS</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overall, supermarkets provide the widest variety of healthy staple foods. The 6 supermarkets are run by 5 different operators, and while similar in basic stocking, may vary in features not scored or measured by this analysis, such as quality or affordability.</td>
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HIGHER HFAI SCORES IN SNAP AND WIC STORES

<table>
<thead>
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<tr>
<td>Only 2 small grocery and corner stores (out of 47 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.</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SNAP: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (formerly food stamps)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stores that accept SNAP have an HFAI score 18% higher than stores of the same size that do not accept nutrition benefits. 59 (out of 76) small grocery, corner, and convenience stores accept SNAP, yet most only carry the minimum stocking requirements.</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Number | Avg HFAI Score |
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<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SNAP: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (formerly food stamps)
SUMMER MEALS
25% of children in the district live in Priority Areas. The 11th District served over 87,000 summer meals across 57 sites in 2016.

AFTER SCHOOL MEALS
18 after school meals sites serve the 11th District, out of 268 sites citywide.

FOOD PANTRIES AND MEAL SITES
There are 44 sites that are served by the Maryland Food Bank, out of 425 sites citywide.

SENIOR MEALS
There are 10 Eating Together sites serving 1,215 seniors. 11% of seniors in the district live in Priority Areas.

VIRTUAL SUPERMARKET
The Virtual Supermarket primarily serves senior and disabled housing sites. There are 3 sites in the 11th District.

URBAN AGRICULTURE

FARMERS MARKETS
The 11th District has 6 farmers markets, the most of any council district.

URBAN FARMS
There are no urban farms in the 11th District

COMMUNITY GARDENS
The 3 community gardens in the district may provide opportunities for household-level food access.

HEALTHY FOOD ENVIRONMENT STRATEGY
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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 12th District has a midrange proportion of residents living in a Priority Area with 28%, compared to 23.5% citywide.
- Nearly 11,000 (31%) Black residents live in Priority Areas, compared to only 1,300 (16%) White residents.
- Seniors are the most likely of any age group to live in Priority Areas.

RESIDENT PERSPECTIVE

“While I am not a big fan of corner stores, the one near my home is exceptional. They provide good customer service, some food choices and grocery items in addition to their regular snacks. Their prices are reasonable and the food presentation and cleanliness is maintained. My experience is not a typical one.”

Maya Brooks
2017 Resident Food Equity Advisor, District 12

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 12th District, 3,055 (36%) live in a Healthy Food Priority Area.
FOOD RETAIL

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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 59 stores in this category, an above average number of small stores compared to most other districts. The average HFAI score for these stores is 9.4, which is below the Priority Area threshold.

CONVENIENCE STORES

Pharmacy: Overall, pharmacies have an average score of 9.8. Many have the potential to carry more staple foods, perhaps by connecting specific healthy foods to medical needs.

Chain Convenience: The 9 stores have an average HFAI score of 10, indicating some may carry healthy food, but not significant amounts. This is higher than the small grocery and convenience stores on average in this district.

Discount: There is 1 discount store in District 12 which sells a variety of non-perishable and some perishable foods. The store accepts SNAP but not WIC, which may mean it is not accessible to all shoppers, especially those with children.

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Overall, supermarkets provide the widest variety of healthy staple foods. The 3 supermarkets are run by 2 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.

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Stores that accept SNAP have an HFAI score 18% higher than stores of the same size that do not accept nutrition benefits. 55 (out of 73) small grocery, corner, and convenience stores accept SNAP, yet most only carry the minimum stocking requirements.
### FOOD AND NUTRITION ASSISTANCE

#### SUMMER MEALS
36% of children in the district live in Priority Areas. The 12th District served 151,061 summer meals across 78 sites in 2016.

#### AFTER SCHOOL MEALS
29 after school meals sites serve the 12th District, out of 268 sites citywide.

#### FOOD PANTRIES AND MEALS SITES
There are 53 sites that are served by the Maryland Food Bank, out of 425 sites citywide.

#### SENIOR MEALS
There are 5 Eating Together sites serving 138 seniors. 40% of seniors in the district live in Priority Areas.

### URBAN AGRICULTURE

#### FARMERS MARKETS
2 farmers markets serve the district. Both market accepts SNAP and some vendors at both accept WIC benefits.

#### URBAN FARMS
There are 4 urban farms, the most of any district.

#### COMMUNITY GARDENS
The 15 community gardens spread throughout the district may provide opportunities for household-level food access.

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KEY FINDINGS
- The 13th District has a midrange proportion of residents living in a Priority Area with 30%, compared to 23.5% citywide.
- Racial disparities persist with nearly 12,000 (34%) Black residents live in Priority Areas, compared to only 730 (14%) White residents.
- Seniors are the most likely age group to live in Priority Areas.

RESIDENT PERSPECTIVE
“Transportation is a big issue for many. People want to feel safe with their purchases and not vulnerable. People, particularly seniors, enjoy feeling comfortable with those around them.”

Leonard Wills
2017 Resident Food Equity Advisor, District 13

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 13TH DISTRICT RESIDENTS

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Population Group</th>
<th>City District</th>
<th>City Average</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>City District</td>
<td>146,077</td>
<td>12,918</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children</td>
<td>3,371</td>
<td>8,026</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adults</td>
<td>8,026</td>
<td>1,521</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seniors</td>
<td>11,783</td>
<td>729</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>729</td>
<td>77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>329</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other*</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic**</td>
<td>226</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

How to read this graph (example):
Of all the children living in the 13th District, 3,371 (29%) live in a Healthy Food Priority Area.
FOOD RETAIL

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)

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>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CONVENIENCE STORES</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PUBLIC MARKETS</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SUPERMARKETS</td>
<td>3</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

There are 58 stores in this category, a high number compared to many other districts. The average HFAI score for these stores is 8.0, which is below the Priority Area threshold, and considerably below citywide average.

CONVENIENCE STORES

- **Discount**: 5 discount stores sell a variety of non-perishable and some perishable foods, yet overall HFAI scores are very low. All 5 accept SNAP but none WIC, which may mean they are not accessible to all shoppers, especially those with children.
- **Chain Convenience**: The 2 stores have an average HFAI score of 10.5, indicating some may carry healthy food, but not significant amounts. This is higher than the small pharmacy.
- **Pharmacy**: Overall, pharmacies have an average score of 11.0 and have the potential to carry more staple foods, perhaps by connecting specific healthy foods to medical needs.

PUBLIC MARKETS

Public markets like Northeast Market provide opportunities for small food business incubation, employment, and food access.

SUPERMARKETS

Overall, supermarkets provide the widest variety of healthy staple foods. The 3 supermarkets are run by 2 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 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. 59 (out of 69) 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 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.
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 14th District has a midrange proportion of residents living in a Priority Area with 17%, compared to 23.5% citywide.
- Racial disparities persist with over 6,000 (33%) Black residents live in Priority Areas, compared to only 860 (5%) White residents.
- Children are the most likely age group to live in Priority Areas.

RESIDENT PERSPECTIVE
“As a teacher and a former community organizer, I have seen how lack of access to quality food can affect a student’s performance or self-confidence, or an adult’s health and employability.”
2017 Resident Food Equity Advisor, District 14

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 14TH DISTRICT RESIDENTS

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Population Group</th>
<th>District Average</th>
<th>City Average</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>City District</td>
<td>7,342</td>
<td>146,077</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children</td>
<td>4,657</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adults</td>
<td>1,062</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seniors</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>859</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>95</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other*</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic**</td>
<td>118</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

How to read this graph (example):
Of all the children living in the 14th District, 1,623 (24%) live in a Healthy Food Priority Area.
FOOD RETAIL

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)

**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>23</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

There are 23 stores in this category. The average HFAI score for these stores is 10.9, which is above citywide average.

CONVENIENCE STORES

- **Chain Convenience**: The 6 stores have an average HFAI score of 9.1, indicating some may carry healthy food, but not significant amounts.
- **Discount**: 3 discount stores sell a variety of non-perishable and some perishable foods, yet overall HFAI scores are low. All 3 accept SNAP but none WIC, which may mean they are not accessible to all shoppers, especially those with children.
- **Pharmacy**: Overall, pharmacies have an average score of 9.3 and have the potential to carry more staple foods, perhaps by connecting specific healthy foods to medical needs.

SUPERMARKETS

Overall, supermarkets provide the widest variety of healthy staple foods. The 4 supermarkets are run by 3 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
- **SNAP**: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (formerly food stamps)

Only 7 small grocery and corner stores (out of 23 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.

Stores that accept SNAP have an HFAI score 18% higher than stores of the same size that do not accept nutrition benefits. 34 (out of 35) small grocery, corner, and convenience stores accept SNAP, yet most only carry the minimum stocking requirements.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SUMMER MEALS</th>
<th>Sites: 26</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>24% of children in the district live in Priority Areas. The 14th District served over 65,000 summer meals across 26 sites in 2016.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AFTER SCHOOL MEALS</th>
<th>Sites: 17</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>17 after school meals sites serve the 14th District, out of 268 sites citywide.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FOOD PANTRIES AND MEAL SITES</th>
<th>Sites: 19</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>There are 19 sites that are served by the Maryland Food Bank, out of 425 sites citywide.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SENIOR MEALS</th>
<th>Sites: 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>There are 2 Eating Together sites serving 35 seniors. 18% of seniors in the district live in Priority Areas.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### URBAN AGRICULTURE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FARMERS MARKETS</th>
<th>Sites: 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2 farmers markets serve the district. 1 market accepts SNAP and some vendors at both accept WIC benefits.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>URBAN FARMS</th>
<th>Sites: 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hillen Homestead and the Clifton Park site for Real Food Farm are in the district.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COMMUNITY GARDENS</th>
<th>Sites: 8</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The 8 community gardens spread throughout the district may provide opportunities for household-level food access.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 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:

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### FOR MORE INFORMATION

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

**FOOD ENVIRONMENT REPORT**  

**FOOTNOTES:**

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*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*