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 40th District has the second highest proportion of residents living in a Priority Area of all legislative districts with 39%, compared to 23.5% citywide.
- Racial disparities persist, with over 36,000 (46%) Black residents living in Priority Areas, compared to 6,500 (23%) White residents.
- Children are the most likely age group to live in Priority Areas.

RESIDENT PERSPECTIVE

“*I understand the human need for access to proper sustenance. I have been the difference between a disabled/unable person having their grocery list fulfilled or being hungry just one more day because they live too far from healthy food.*”

Sheena Ham
2017 Resident Food Equity Advisor, District 40

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 40TH DISTRICT RESIDENTS

How to read this graph (example):
Of all the children living in the 40th District, 11,164 (45%) live in a Healthy Food Priority Area.

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

| Population Group | City District | Children | Adults | Seniors | Black | White | Asian | Other | Hispanic
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>146,077</td>
<td>28,090</td>
<td>5,543</td>
<td>5,543</td>
<td>6,563</td>
<td>373</td>
<td>1,285</td>
<td>835</td>
<td>36,596</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent</td>
<td>44,797</td>
<td>11,164</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>85%</td>
<td>73%</td>
<td>73%</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>42%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Notes:**

1. FPL: Federal Poverty Level
2. All data is from the 2018 Food Environment Brief.
**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>151</td>
<td>8.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>8.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>9.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>9.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>17.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>27.3</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**

District 40 has 151 stores in this category, almost 30% of all small grocery and corner stores in the city. The median HFAI score for these stores is 8.3, which is below the Priority Area threshold.

**CONVENIENCE STORES**

- **Pharmacy:** Overall, pharmacies have a median 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.
- **Chain Convenience:** The 17 stores have a median HFAI score of 9.8, indicating some may carry healthy food, but not significant amounts. Chain convenience may have a higher baseline of healthy food than independently-owned stores.
- **Discount:** 7 discount stores sell a variety of non-perishable and some perishable foods, yet the overall HFAI score is low. 6 store accept SNAP but not WIC, which may mean they are not accessible to all shoppers, especially those with young children.

**PUBLIC MARKETS**

Lexington Market has an HFAI of 20 and Hollins Market has an HFAI of 15. The redevelopment of both markets seeks to increase the amount of staple healthy food and decrease the amount of processed foods.

**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 by this analysis, such as quality or affordability.

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

- **WIC: Women, Infants and Children**
  - Only 24 small grocery and corner stores (out of 151 small stores in the district) accept WIC and SNAP benefits, yet analysis shows a 41% increase in HFAI score compared to stores of the same size that only have SNAP.

- **SNAP: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program**
  - Stores that accept SNAP have an HFAI score 18% higher than stores of the same size that do not accept nutrition benefits. 144 (out of 184) small grocery, corner, and convenience stores accept SNAP, yet most only carry the minimum stocking requirements.
FOOD AND NUTRITION ASSISTANCE

SUMMER MEALS
Nearly 13,000 kids live in the 40th District, 45% of who live in Priority Areas. The district served over 255,000 summer meals across 128 sites in 2016.

AFTER SCHOOL MEALS
66 after school meals sites serve the 40th District.

FOOD PANTRIES AND MEAL SITES
There are 110 sites across the 40th District that are served by the Maryland Food Bank.

SENIOR MEALS
Nearly 14,000 seniors live in the 40th District, 40% of whom live in Priority Areas. There are 12 Eating Together sites in the district serving 343 seniors.

VIRTUAL SUPERMARKET
The Virtual Supermarket primarily serves senior and disabled housing sites. There are 5 sites in the 40th District.

URBAN AGRICULTURE

FARMERS MARKETS
There are 4 farmers markets in the 40th District. 3 markets accept SNAP, all have vendors that accept WIC.

URBAN FARMS
There are 6 urban farms in the 40th District.

COMMUNITY GARDENS
The 28 community gardens in the district may provide opportunities for household-level food access.

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

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

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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holly.freishtat@balimorecity.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

- 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

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.
**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:**

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

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sites</th>
<th>SUMMER MEALS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>94</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>AFTER SCHOOL MEALS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>47</td>
<td>47 after school meals sites serve the 41st District.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>FOOD PANTRIES AND MEAL SITES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>73</td>
<td>There are 73 sites across the 41st District that are served by the Maryland Food Bank.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>SENIOR MEALS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>VIRTUAL SUPERMARKET</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>The Virtual Supermarket primarily serves senior and disabled housing sites. Wayland Village Senior Apartments is in the 41st District.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>URBAN AGRICULTURE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>FARMERS MARKETS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>There are 3 farmers markets in the 41st District. 2 markets accept SNAP, all accept WIC.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>URBAN FARMS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>There are 2 urban farms in the 41st District.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>COMMUNITY GARDENS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>The 7 community gardens in the district may provide opportunities for household-level food access.</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 refine its guiding Healthy Food Environment Strategy. The following citywide goals have applications at the state, city, and neighborhood levels. These maps and analyses are used to inform, create, and evaluate food policies. Together, BFPI agencies implement the following strategies:

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

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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FOOD ENVIRONMENT REPORT

FOOTNOTES:

1. Chart displays 185% of Federal Poverty Level by count of residents adjusted for household size. Priority Area poverty calculations are based on household Median Income.

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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 43rd District has the lowest proportion of residents living in a Priority Area of all legislative districts with 12%, compared to 23.5% citywide.
- Racial disparities persist with over 11,000 (15%) Black residents living in Priority Areas, compared to under 2,000 (6%) White residents.
- Children are the most likely of any 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 43

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 43RD DISTRICT RESIDENTS

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

- City District: 13,790
- Children: 2,958
- Adults: 9,064
- Seniors: 1,768
- Black: 1,961
- White: 1,197
- Asian: 196
- Other*: 436
- Hispanic**: 289

How to read this graph (example):
Of all the children living in the 43rd District, 2,958 (13%) 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>District 43 has 62 stores in this category. The average HFAI score for these stores is 10.0, which is above citywide average.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>62</td>
<td>10.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CONVENIENCE STORES

- **Pharmacy**: Overall, pharmacies have an average score of 9.2, which is low, but many have the potential to carry more staple foods, perhaps by connecting specific healthy foods to medical needs.
- **Discount**: District 43 has 9 discount stores that sell a variety of non-perishable and some perishable foods, yet the overall HFAI score is very low. All 9 stores accept SNAP but none WIC, which may mean they are not accessible to all shoppers.
- **Chain Convenience**: The 10 stores have a median HFAI score of 9.5, indicating some may carry healthy food, but not significant amounts.

SUPERMARKETS

Overall, supermarkets provide the widest variety of healthy staple foods. The 5 supermarkets are run by 5 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 17 small grocery and corner stores (out of 62 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. 77 (out of 89) small grocery, corner, and convenience stores accept SNAP, yet most only carry the minimum stocking requirements.
### FOOD AND NUTRITION ASSISTANCE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sites</th>
<th>SUMMER MEALS</th>
<th>AFTER SCHOOL MEALS</th>
<th>FOOD PANTRIES AND MEAL SITES</th>
<th>SENIOR MEALS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>88</td>
<td>Over 22,000 kids live in the 43rd District, 13% of whom live in Priority Areas. The district served over 204,000 summer meals across 88 sites in 2016.</td>
<td>39 after school meals sites serve the 43rd District.</td>
<td>There are 60 sites across the 43rd District that are served by the Maryland Food Bank.</td>
<td>Nearly 13,500 seniors live in the 43rd District, 13% of whom live in Priority Areas. There are 10 Eating Together sites in the district serving 177 seniors.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### URBAN AGRICULTURE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sites</th>
<th>FARMERS MARKETS</th>
<th>URBAN FARMS</th>
<th>COMMUNITY GARDENS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>There are 3 farmers markets in the 43rd District. 2 markets accept SNAP, all accept WIC.</td>
<td>There are 3 urban farms in the 43rd District.</td>
<td>The 15 community gardens spread throughout the district may provide opportunities for household-level food access.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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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

- District 44A has the highest proportion of residents living in a Priority Area of all legislative districts with 41%, compared to 23.5% citywide.
- Racial disparities persist with over 15,000 (43%) of Black residents living in Priority Areas, compared to under 500 (15%) White residents.
- Seniors are the most likely of any 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 difference in the quality and freshness of the produce, seafood and meats.”

2017 Resident Food Equity Advisor, District 44A

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 DISTRICT 44A 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 District 44A, 4,305 (42%) 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Avg HFAI Score</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 47     | 8.9            | SMALL GROCERY AND CORNER STORES
District 44A has 47 stores in this category. The average HFAI score for these stores is 8.9, which is below the Priority Area threshold. |
| 1      | 7.5            | CONVENIENCE STORES
Chain Convenience: There is 1 chain convenience store in District 44A with an HFAI score of 7.5, which is very low for this store type. |
| 2      | 10.0           | Pharmacy: Overall, pharmacies have a median score of 10. Many have the potential to carry more staple foods, perhaps by connecting specific healthy foods to medical needs. |
| 4      | 10.8           | Discount: District 44A has 4 discount stores that sell a variety of non-perishable and some perishable foods. All 4 stores accept SNAP but none WIC, which may mean they are not accessible to all shoppers. |
| 1      | 6.5            | PUBLIC MARKETS
Public markets provide opportunities for small food business incubation, employment, and food access. Avenue Market seeks to increase the amount of staple healthy food and decrease the amount of processed foods in an upcoming renovation. |
| 1      | 25.5           | SUPERMARKETS
Overall, supermarkets provide the widest variety of healthy staple foods. There is a Save A Lot supermarket in District 44A. This store scores below average for supermarkets citywide. |

HIGHER HFAI SCORES IN SNAP AND WIC STORES

WIC: Women, Infants and Children

Only 10 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.

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. 44 (out of 54) small grocery, corner, and convenience stores accept SNAP, yet most only carry the minimum stocking requirements.
SUMMER MEALS
Over 10,000 kids live in District 44A, 42% of whom live in Priority Areas. The district served nearly 82,000 summer meals across 53 sites in 2016.

AFTER SCHOOL MEALS
24 after school meals sites serve District 44A.

FOOD PANTRIES AND MEAL SITES
There are 54 sites across District 44A that are served by the Maryland Food Bank.

SENIOR MEALS
Over 4,300 seniors live in District 44A, 45% of whom live in Priority Areas. There are 2 Eating Together sites in the district serving 60 seniors.

URBAN AGRICULTURE

FARMERS MARKETS
There are no farmers markets in District 44A.

URBAN FARMS
There are 2 urban farms in District 44A.

COMMUNITY GARDENS
The 3 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:

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- Address transportation gaps that impact food access

FOOD ENVIRONMENT REPORT

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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Baltimore Food Policy Initiative
holly.freishtat@baltimorecity.gov

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

RESIDENT PERSPECTIVE

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

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

PRIORITY AREA FACTORS

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

HEALTHY FOOD PRIORITY AREA FACTORS BY PERCENT OF 45TH DISTRICT RESIDENTS

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

How to read this graph (example):
Of all the children living in the 45th District, 7,054 (25%) live in a Healthy Food Priority Area.
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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score Range</th>
<th>Category</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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Avg HFAI Score</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>94</td>
<td>8.5</td>
<td>SMALL GROCERY AND CORNER STORES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>8.7</td>
<td>CONVENIENCE STORES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>9.4</td>
<td>Chain Convenience: The 10 stores have an average HFAI score of 9.4, which is low. Some may carry healthy food, but not significant amounts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>10.0</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>20.0</td>
<td>PUBLIC MARKETS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>27.7</td>
<td>SUPERMARKETS</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.

HIGHER HFAI SCORES IN SNAP AND WIC STORES

WIC: Women, Infants and Children

Only 24 small grocery and corner stores (out of 94 small stores in the district) accept WIC and SNAP benefits, yet analysis shows a 41% increase in HFAI score compared to stores of the same size that only have SNAP.

SNAP: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
(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. 110 (out of 127) small grocery, corner, and convenience stores accept SNAP, yet most only carry the minimum stocking requirements.

94

Number

27.7

41% 24

18% 110

WIC: Women, Infants and Children

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Number

20.0

45TH DISTRICT
2018 FOOD ENVIRONMENT BRIEF

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18% 110

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(formerly food stamps)
**SUMMER MEALS**
Over 28,000 kids live in the 45th District, 25% of whom live in Priority Areas. The district served over 246,000 summer meals across 105 sites in 2016.

**AFTER SCHOOL MEALS**
46 after school meals sites serve the 45th District.

**FOOD PANTRIES AND MEAL SITES**
There are 71 sites across the 45th District that are served by the Maryland Food Bank.

**SENIOR MEALS**
Over 11,500 seniors live in the 45th District, 26% of whom live in Priority Areas. There are 9 Eating Together sites in the district serving 235 seniors.

**URBAN AGRICULTURE**

**FARMERS MARKETS**
The Tuesday Market in Lauraville is in the 45th District. It accepts SNAP and some vendors accept WIC benefits.

**URBAN FARMS**
There are 8 urban farms in the 45th District.

**COMMUNITY GARDENS**
The 20 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:

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**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

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**FOOD ENVIRONMENT REPORT**

**FOOTNOTES:**

1. Chart displays 185% of Federal Poverty Level by count of residents adjusted for household size. Priority Area poverty calculations are based on household Median Income.

2. *Per US Census categories, “Other” is a combination of American Indian, other, Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, and “Two or More”. **Hispanic is an ethnic classification that includes all races. There may be overlap between Hispanic and other racial categories.

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

*Updated 08/27/2019*
2018 FOOD ENVIRONMENT MAP - DISTRICT 45

NUTRITION ASSISTANCE

2018 Food Environment Map - District 45

Urban Agriculture

- Healthy Food Priority Areas
- Legislative Boundaries
- Neighborhood Boundaries
- Urban Farms (8)
- Community Gardens (13)
- Harbor, Lakes, & Streams
- Parks
- Non-Residential
- Streets
2018 Food Environment Map - District 45

Nutrition Assistance

- Healthy Food Priority Areas
- Legislative Boundaries
- Neighborhood Boundaries
- Harbor, Lakes, & Streams
- Parks
- Non-Residential
- Streets
- After School Meal Sites (46)
- Kids' Summer Meal Sites (105)
- Senior Meal Sites (5)
- Food Pantries and Meal Sites (71)
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 46th District has the second lowest proportion of residents living in a Priority Area of all legislative districts with 16%, compared to 23.5% citywide.
- Racial disparities persist with nearly 13,500 (32%) of Black residents living in Priority Areas, compared to under 3,700 (6%) White residents.
- Children are the most likely of any age group to live in Priority Areas.

RESIDENT PERSPECTIVE

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

Katie Miller
2017 Resident Food Equity Advisor, District 46

PRIORITY AREA FACTORS

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

HEALTHY FOOD PRIORITY AREA FACTORS BY PERCENT OF 46TH DISTRICT RESIDENTS

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 46th District, 6,143 (27%) live in a Healthy Food Priority Area.
2018 Food Environment Map - District 46

Food Retail

Healthy Food Priority Areas
Legislative Boundaries
Neighborhood Boundaries
Supermarkets (12)
Small Grocery & Corner Stores (113)
Convenience Stores (53)

Harbor, Lakes, & Streams
Parks
Non-Residential

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

Streets
FOOD RETAIL

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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

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

### CONVENIENCE STORES

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

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

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

### PUBLIC MARKETS

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

### SUPERMARKETS

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

HIGHER HFAI SCORES IN SNAP AND WIC STORES

**WIC: Women, Infants and Children**

Only 15 small grocery and corner stores (out of 113 small stores in the district) accept WIC and SNAP benefits, yet analysis shows a 41% increase in HFAI score compared to stores of the same size that only have SNAP.

**SNAP: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program**

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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. 134 (out of 166) small grocery, corner, and convenience stores accept SNAP, yet most only carry the minimum stocking requirements.

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3 HIGHER HFAI SCORES IN SNAP AND WIC STORES

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SNAP: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (formerly food stamps)
FOOD AND NUTRITION ASSISTANCE

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

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

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

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

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

URBAN AGRICULTURE

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

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

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

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