

# 4<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT 2018 FOOD ENVIRONMENT BRIEF



## 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 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

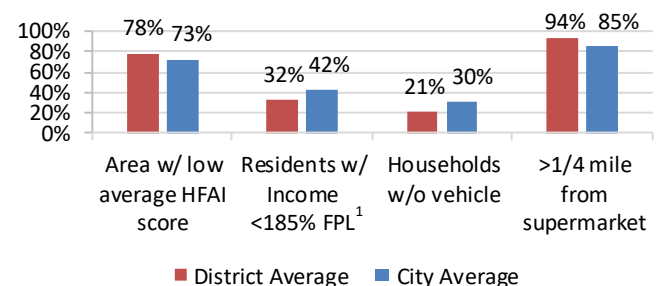
*“My experience with food grown in the city has been interesting. Some of our schools have their own farms. They are created and maintained by the students. These products are used in the local school. The students really seem to enjoy them.”*

*Samone Flowers  
2017 Resident Food Equity Advisor, District 4*

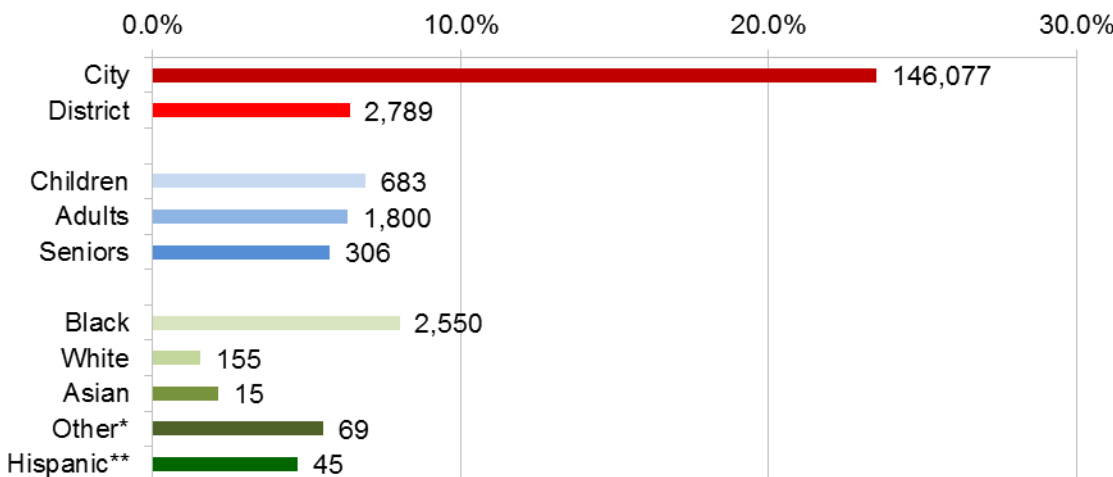
### PRIORITY AREA FACTORS

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 4<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT RESIDENTS

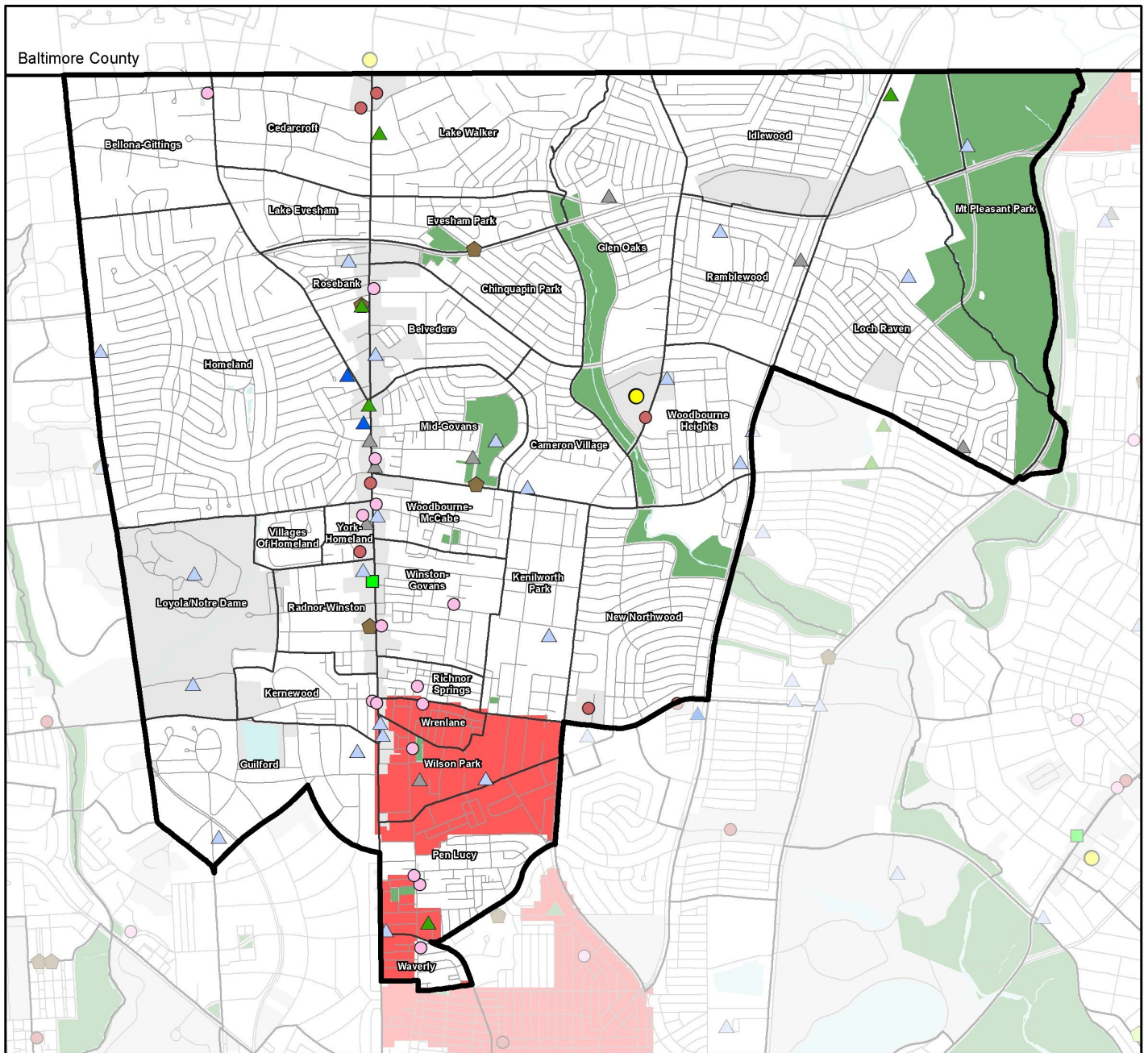


## PERCENT OF EACH POPULATION GROUP LIVING IN A HEALTHY FOOD PRIORITY AREA<sup>2</sup>



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

# 2018 FOOD ENVIRONMENT MAP - DISTRICT 4



## 2018 Food Environment Map - District 4

- Healthy Food Priority Areas
- Harbor, Lakes, & Streams
- Council Boundaries
- Parks
- Neighborhood Boundaries
- Non-Residential

### Food Retail

- Supermarkets (1)
- Small Grocery & Corner Stores (15)
- Convenience Stores (7)
- Farmers Markets (1)
- Public Markets (0)
- Virtual Supermarkets (0)

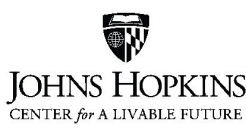
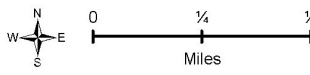
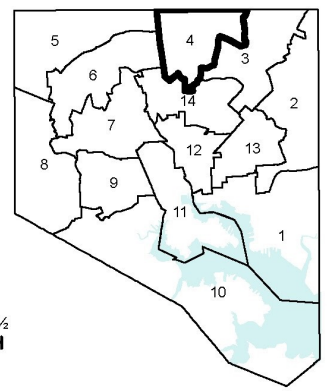
### Nutrition Assistance

- After School Meal Sites (10)
- Senior Meal Sites (5)
- Kids' Summer Meal Sites (27)
- Food Pantries and Meal Sites (20)

Streets

### Urban Agriculture

- Urban Farms (0)
- Community Gardens (4)








BALTIMORE  
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Baltimore  
Development Corporation

## FOOD RETAIL

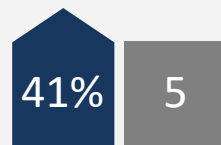
Healthy Food Availability Index (HFAI) scores show the quantity and variety of staple food groups and healthy options. Scores range from 0-28.5. HFAI awards stores points based on the presence of a market basket of staple foods and whether healthy options of common foods are available (i.e. whole grain bread).

### HFAI SCORE RANGE:

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

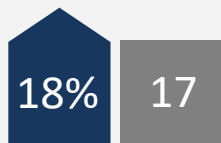
## HIGHER HFAI SCORES IN SNAP AND WIC STORES<sup>3</sup>

### 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

Number	Avg HFAI Score	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.
<b>SMALL GROCERY AND CORNER STORES</b>		
15	9.6	There are 15 stores in this category. The average HFAI score for these stores is 9.6, which is above the citywide average.
<b>CONVENIENCE STORES</b>		
1	10.0	<b>Chain Convenience:</b> 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.
2	10.0	<b>Discount:</b> 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.
4	10.0	<b>Pharmacy:</b> 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.
<b>SUPERMARKETS</b>		
1	27.5	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

**Sites**



**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**

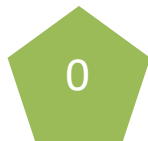
There are 5 Eating Together sites serving 90 seniors. 6% of seniors in the district live in Priority Areas.

## 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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**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.