Food Justice, Science, and Democracy

A Community Forum

June 6, 2015
The Capri Theater
Minneapolis

Center for Science and Democracy
at the Union of Concerned Scientists
Food Justice and Equity Community Survey

Data collection: April 3- May 31

193 responses

72 zip codes represented
Definitions

• **Food ACCESS** - Sources for healthy foods are easy to get to at a manageable distance from home or work, using affordable and convenient personal or public transportation

• **Food AFFORDABILITY** - You can buy most or all of the healthy foods you want with the money you have available

• **Food AVAILABILITY** - there are adequate amounts, quality, and variety of healthy options to choose from in stores and vendors you visit
Survey Respondents - Demographics

- **Gender Distribution**
  - Female: 147
  - Male: 42
  - Prefer not to answer: 3

- **Age Distribution**
  - Less than 12: 0
  - 12 to 17: 1
  - 18 to 35: 70
  - 36 to 55: 41
  - 55 and older: 41

- **Ethnicity Distribution**
  - African American: 41
  - African Born: 0
  - Native American: 14
  - Southeast Asian: 7
  - Latino: 2
  - Multi-Racial: 5
  - Caucasian: 123
How Important is What You Eat to Your Health and Well-being?

- Very Important: 170
- Somewhat Important: 21
- Not Important: 0
- I don’t have an opinion: 1
What Does Healthy Food Mean to You?
How Challenging are Access, Affordability, and Availability of Healthy Food for You?

- **Most challenging**
- **Somewhat challenging**
- **Least challenging**
- **Not a problem**

The chart displays the challenges in the following categories:

- **Access**
- **Affordability**
- **Availability**

Each bar represents the percentage of respondents facing challenges in these areas.
Unique Assets in Your Community?

- farmers
- healthy
- market
- community
- co-op
- WIC
- Minnesota
- CSA
- SNAP
- local
- grow
- garden
- produce
- eating
- income
- family
Northside Respondents’ Race/Ethnicity

- African Americans: 55%
- Caucasians: 39%
- Native American: 2%
- Latino: 2%
- Multi-Racial: 2%
How Do You Define Healthy Food?

- Fresh: 49%
- Nutritious/nourishing: 23%
- Sustainable/Ethical: 8%
- Other: 20%

Northside

- Fresh: 40%
- Nutritious/nourishing: 21%
- Sustainable/Ethical: 13%
- Other: 26%

Other zip codes
Google Search:
Restaurants Near Me ‘Northside’
How challenging are access, affordability, and availability of healthy food for you?

Northside

All zip codes
Local Food Policy Reform: What’s working

• Urban agriculture (including school and community gardens)

• Designated space for farmers markets

• SNAP acceptance at farmers markets

• Farm-to-school programs to bring fresh, local produce for student lunches
Local Food Policy Reform: What’s needed

- Farm-to-school programs to bring fresh, local produce for student lunches
- Urban agriculture (including school and community gardens)
- Consumer education about how to buy and prepare healthy food
- Menu labeling that provides nutrition and health information about food choices
Local Food Policy Reform: What’s needed

• Healthy food offerings through recreation or public programs
• Pricing strategies to promote the purchase of healthy food options
• Healthy food guidelines and promotion in municipal/tribal institutions (schools, child care facilities, hospitals/health centers, jails, parks)
• Incentivize donation of food from community gardens to local food bank
• Year-round food production infrastructure
Researchers/Scientists Connections with Community priorities
Identified Areas of Need

- Write grants
- Develop policy solutions
- Serve as bridge to scientific, technical...
- Advocate for community participation
- Provide latest research
- Inform about relevant data sources
- Form community-researcher partnership
- Fill in research or data gaps
- Develop metrics to evaluate impact of...
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[Bar chart showing the percentage of respondents for each area of need.]

Legend:
- All other respondents
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