

Data, Methods, and Glossary

The purpose of this Report is to review Social Determinants of Health, Food and Housing indicators for the Capital Region. As opposed to the previous Health Equity Reports where we were able to review indicators by race/ethnicity, gender, age, and socioeconomic status, this Report's "equity" focus will be on neighborhood, presenting census tract-level information for many of the food and housing indicators. A series of county-specific maps, presenting data at the census tract level, is contained in the Appendix 3 Neighborhood Atlas.

Food and Housing indicators were chosen based on such indicators being used in County Health Rankings (<http://www.countyhealthrankings.org/>) and the Community Health Needs Assessment and Food Environment Reports from Community Commons (<https://www.communitycommons.org/>). Census Tract information was generated using the maps available on Community Commons site.

Primary data sources were as follows:

Food Indicators

Population at or below 185% FPL - American Community Survey, 2011-15;

Students eligible for Free and Reduced Lunch Program - New York State Education Department, School Report Cards 2015-16;

Low income population with low food access - USDA Food Access Research Atlas, 2015;

Food Insecure Population-Feeding America (www.feedingamerica.org) - Map the Meal Gap, 2014;

Households receiving SNAP benefits - American Community Survey, 2011-15;

SNAP-authorized retailers per 10,000 pop. - USDA SNAP Retailer Locator, 2016;

Fast Food Restaurants per 100,000 pop. – Bureau of Census, Community Business Patterns, 2014.

Housing Indicators

Substandard Housing Units - American Community Survey, 2011-15;

Overcrowded Housing Units - American Community Survey, 2011-15;

Cost-burdened Households - American Community Survey, 2011-15;

Pre-1960 Housing Units - American Community Survey, 2011-15;

HUD-assisted Housing Units – U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, 2015

Glossary of Indicators

Federal Poverty Level (FPL) - A measure of income issued every year by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Federal poverty levels are used to determine your eligibility for certain programs and benefits. <https://www.healthcare.gov/glossary/federal-poverty-level-fpl/>

Free and Reduced-Price Lunch (FRPL)- Eligible for Free Lunch and Eligible for Reduced-Price Lunch percentages are determined by dividing the number of approved lunch applicants by the Basic Educational Data System (BEDS) enrollment in full-day Kindergarten through Grade 12. Families earning <130% FPL are eligible for free lunch and families earning <185% FPL are eligible for reduced-price lunch. <https://data.nysed.gov/glossary.php?report=reportcards>

Low Income with Low Food Access- Percentage of population living at <200% FPL who live greater than 1-mile from a grocery store (urban) or 10-miles from a grocery store (rural). <https://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/food-access-research-atlas/>

Food Insecure- Defined by the USDA as “a household-level economic and social condition of limited or uncertain access to adequate food.” This is not the same as *hunger*, which is defined as “an individual-level physiological condition that may result from food insecurity.” <https://www.ers.usda.gov/topics/food-nutrition-assistance/food-security-in-the-us/definitions-of-food-security.aspx>

Households Receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Benefits¹- Prior to July 1, 2016, the SNAP income eligibility was household income of <130% FPL. This report includes data through 2015. <http://otda.ny.gov/programs/snap/>

SNAP-Authorized Retailers- Stores are eligible to apply to be SNAP authorized retailers if they “(A) offer for sale, on a continuous basis, at least three varieties of qualifying foods in each of the following four staple food groups, with perishable foods in at least two of the categories: meat, poultry or fish; bread or cereal; vegetables or fruits; dairy products OR (B) More than one-half (50%) of the total dollar amount of all retail sales (food, nonfood, gas and services) sold in the store must be from the sale of eligible staple foods.” <https://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/retail-store-eligibility-usda-supplemental-nutrition-assistance-program>

¹ “A *household* includes all the people who occupy a *housing unit*. (People not living in households are classified as living in group quarters.) A *housing unit* is a house, an apartment, a mobile home, a group of rooms, or a single room occupied (or if vacant, intended for occupancy) as separate living quarters...

In 100-percent tabulations of the 2000 census, the count of households or householders always equals the count of occupied housing units. In sample tabulations, the numbers may differ as a result of the weighting process.” http://cber.cba.ua.edu/asdc/households_families.html

Substandard-Housing Units¹- “Owner- and renter-occupied housing units having at least one of the following conditions: 1) lacking complete plumbing facilities, 2) lacking complete kitchen facilities, 3) with 1.01 or more occupants per room, 4) selected monthly owner costs as a percentage of household income greater than 30 percent, and 5) gross rent as a percentage of household income greater than 30 percent.”

<https://maps.communitycommons.org/viewer/DataInfo.aspx?id=13194>

Overcrowded Housing Units¹- More than one person per room in a housing unit.

https://www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/programs-surveys/ahs/publications/Measuring_Overcrowding_in_Hsg.pdf

Cost-Burdened Households¹- Housing units costing more than 30% of the household income. Mortgage or rent, homeowners insurance, property taxes, and utilities are included in this cost.

<https://www.census.gov/housing/census/publications/who-can-afford.pdf>

Severe Cost-Burdened Households¹- Housing units costing more than 50% of the household income. Mortgage or rent, homeowners insurance, property taxes, and utilities are included in this cost. <https://www.census.gov/housing/census/publications/who-can-afford.pdf>

Pre-1960 Housing Units¹- Housing units built before 1960.

Housing and Urban Development-Assisted Housing Units²

Project-Based Section 8- For low-income renters who want to live in privately owned and managed properties.

Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher- For low-income renters who want to live in private market housing.

Section 202- For low-income seniors age 62 and older.

Section 811- For low-income renters who disabilities who are over the age of 18.

Section 236- For low-income renters.

Public Housing- Publicly owned and managed housing for low-income renters.

² For more information on income limits and guidelines, visit <https://www.huduser.gov/portal/datasets/il.html>