



# PLAN4Health Miami Valley

The Food System and Healthy Eating  
Workshop

October 9, 2024



# Agenda

- I. Welcome and Warm Up Activity (10 min)
- II. Miami Valley Food System and Healthy Eating Briefing (30 min)
- III. Small Group Activity and Discussion: Strategies to Improve the Food System (35 min)
- IV. Wrap Up (15 min)



# Orientation/Housekeeping

- Individual Worksheet

*Use this sheet to formulate ideas and take notes*
- Restrooms

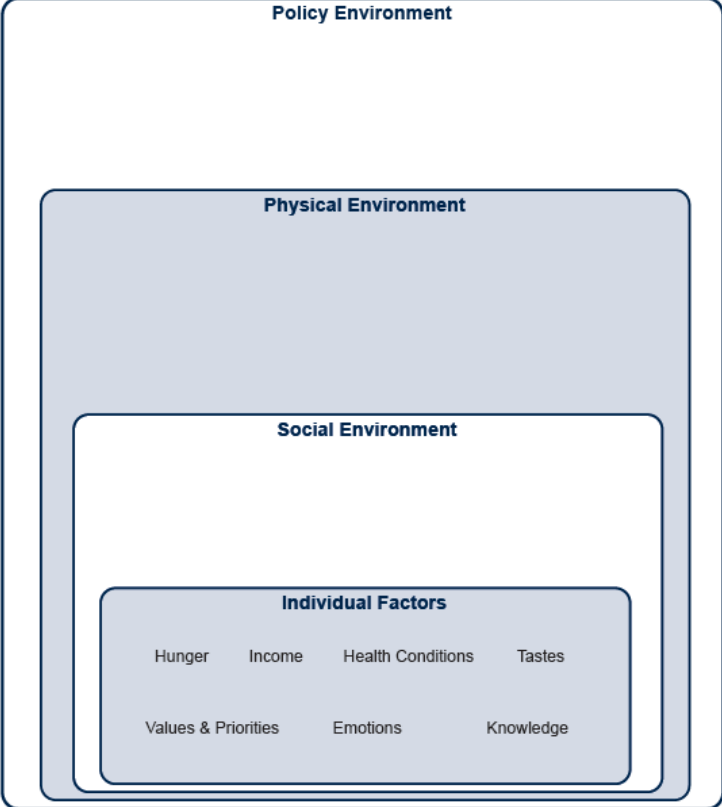
*Through the lobby*
- Informal Setting

*Ask questions and share your ideas*

**The Food System and Healthy Eating Workshop**

Individual conditions and preferences affect our food choices. However, our choices are also influenced by a number of external factors, such as food costs, proximity to a grocery stores, culture, etc.

While many people desire a healthy diet, our environments might not always support healthy eating. Considering how our food environment impacts our food choices, in the space below, write down ideas related to the policy environment, physical environment, social environment, and social environment that contribute to our food environment and may promote or hinder healthy eating.





**Policy Environment**

**Physical Environment**

**Social Environment**

**Individual Factors**

Hunger	Income	Health Conditions	Tastes
Values & Priorities	Emotions	Knowledge	

October 9, 2024

Convene and engage partners to improve environments that are known to be key determinants of health

Promote and advocate “Health in All Plans and Policies”

Advance planning efforts aimed at creating conditions for healthy people and communities



**PLAN**4Health  
Miami Valley





**A healthy community does not happen by accident.**

**It requires a comprehensive approach covering all aspects of social, physical, and economic environments.**

**PLAN4Health seeks to make the healthy choice, the easy choice.**



# Benefits of Planning for Health



## Physical

- Reduced BMI and chronic disease
- Increased physical activity
- Increased access to healthy foods
- Increased healthcare access



## Environmental

- Reduced exposure to pollutants
- Improved air quality
- Improved water quality



## Mental

- Increased contact with nature
- Improved access to healthy housing



## Communal

- Improved social cohesion
- Diverse neighborhoods
- Reduced social isolation



Understanding  
Where We Are



Identifying Barriers &  
Opportunities



Seeking Solutions &  
Building Capacity

## PLAN4Health – Miami Valley: A Planning for Health Initiative

- Health Environment Assessment (complete)
- Built Environment Assessment (complete)
- Active Living Interventions Best Practices (complete)
- Food System Overview (in progress)
- Community Health Mapping

- Local Plan Health Assessment (complete)
- Healthy Communities Needs Assessment (in progress)

- Healthy Communities Planning Toolkit
- Healthy Communities Roundtables (on-going, 6 events held to date)

# Improving Health Outcomes

Physical Activity

Healthy Eating

Active Living



עניין

Active Community Index

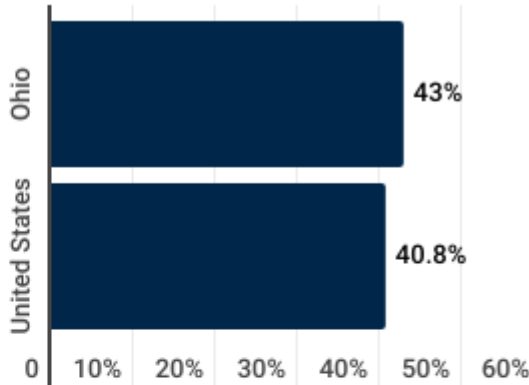




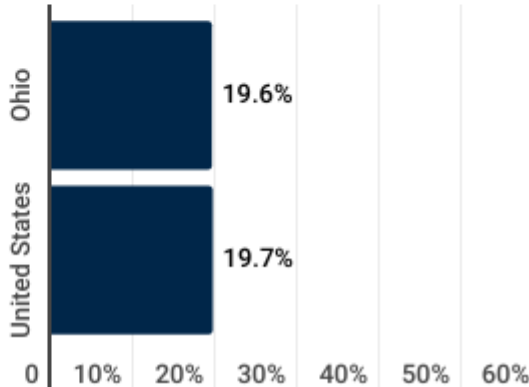
# Healthy Eating



Adults Who Consumed Less Than One Serving of Fruit Per Day



Adults Who Consumed Less Than One Serving of Vegetables Per Day



**Coronary Heart Disease: 6%**

Ohio Rate: 8%  
US Rate: 5%



**Adult Obesity : 36%**

Ohio Rate: 35%  
US Rate: 32%



**Diabetes: 11%**

Ohio Rate: 12%  
US Rate: 10%



**High Blood Pressure: 31%**

Ohio Rate: 35%  
US Rate: 30%



# Warm Up Activity

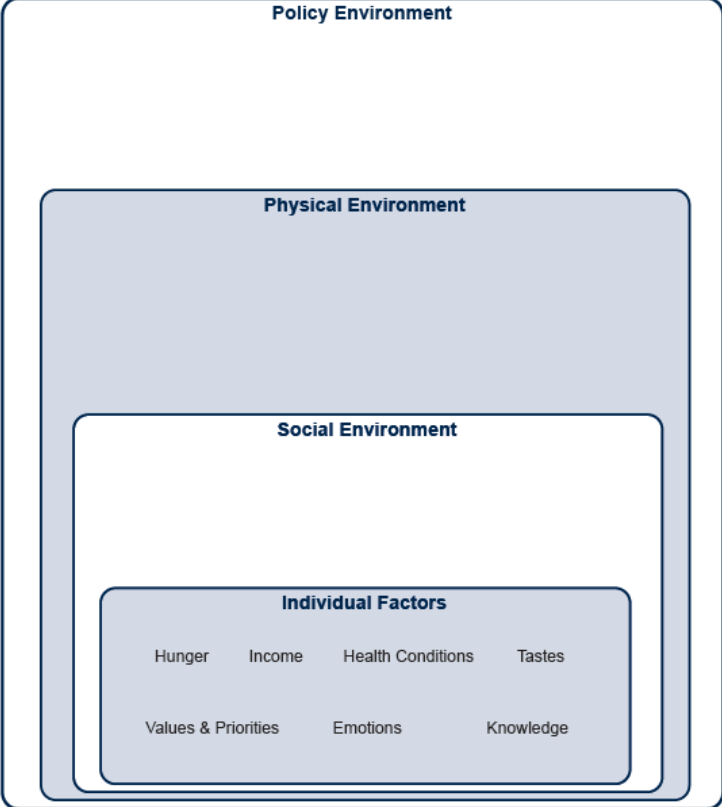
Our individual choices are influenced by the options available to us. These options may be enhanced or hindered by a range of factors.

Use your worksheet to write down examples under each category that may influence our food choices.

**The Food System and Healthy Eating Workshop**

Individual conditions and preferences affect our food choices. However, our choices are also influenced by a number of external factors, such as food costs, proximity to a grocery stores, culture, etc.

While many people desire a healthy diet, our environments might not always support healthy eating. Considering how our food environment impacts our food choices, in the space below, write down ideas related to the policy environment, physical environment, and social environment that contribute to our food environment and may promote or hinder healthy eating.





**Policy Environment**

**Physical Environment**

**Social Environment**

**Individual Factors**

Hunger	Income	Health Conditions	Tastes
Values & Priorities	Emotions	Knowledge	

October 9, 2024

# Warm Up Activity

## Policy Environment

Food Assistance Programs

Food Taxes

Policies that Affect Food Prices  
(i.e. Farming Subsidies)

School Meal Programs

Regulations on Food Marketing

## Physical Environment

Food Costs

Food Access -

Vehicle Availability, Sidewalks, Public Transit, Retail Locations, etc.

Food Marketing –

Advertising, Shelf Placement, Labels, Toys, etc.

Food Availability -

in Homes, Store Locations, Restaurants, Schools, etc.

## Social Environment

Culture

Religion

Eating Habits of Family, Friends, Coworkers, etc.

## Individual Factors

Hunger

Tastes

Health Conditions

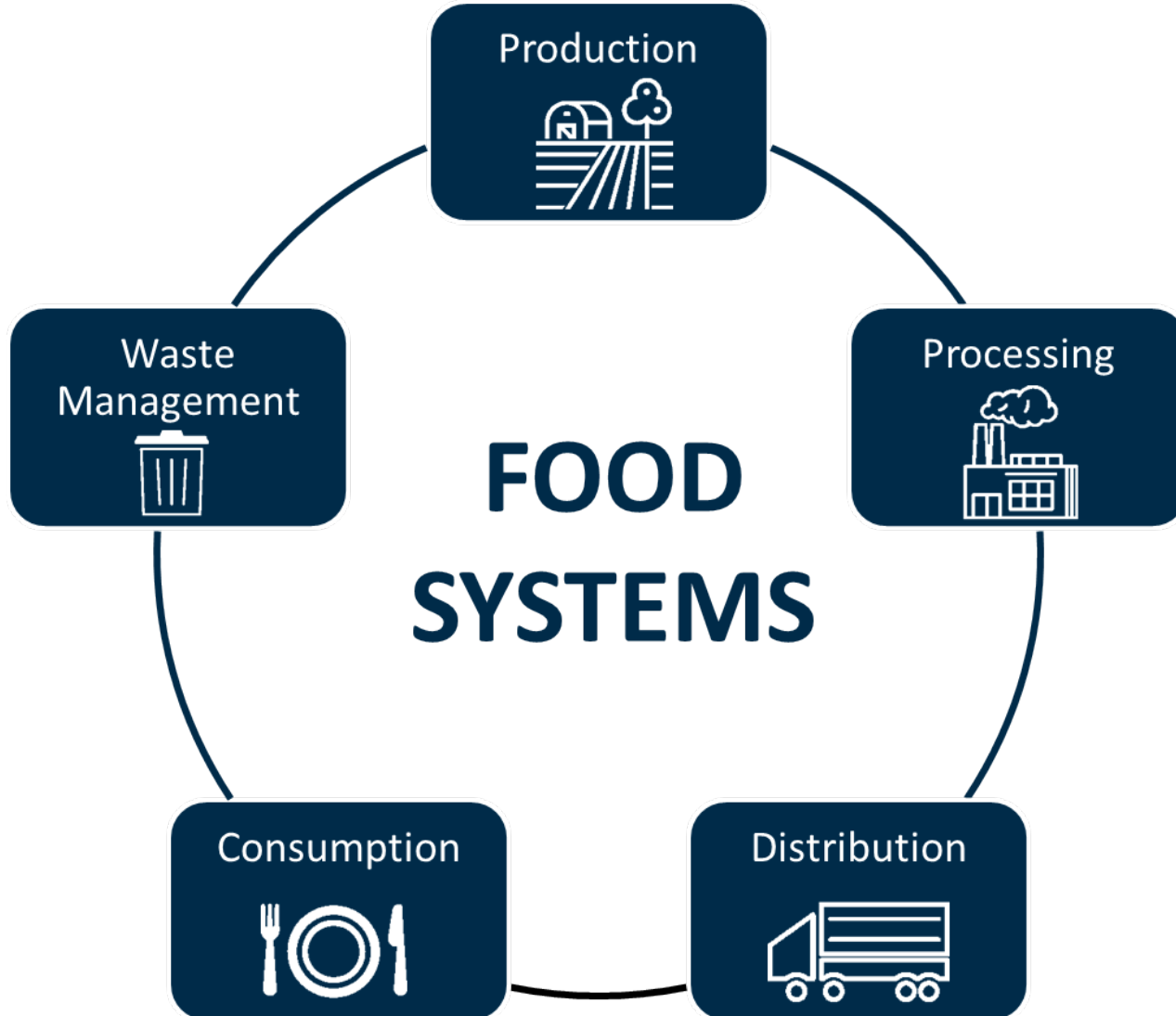
Values and Priorities

Income

Knowledge

Emotions

# Food Systems





Planning is fundamentally tied to our food system in terms of land use, transportation, environment, and economic development.



# Food Systems Matter to Planners Because...

Food system activities take up a significant amount of land

Planners can play a role to help reduce the rising incidence of hunger and obesity

The food system represents an important part of the local economy

Food takes a lot of fossil fuel energy to produce, process, transport, and dispose of

Farmland in metropolitan areas is being lost impacting local food production

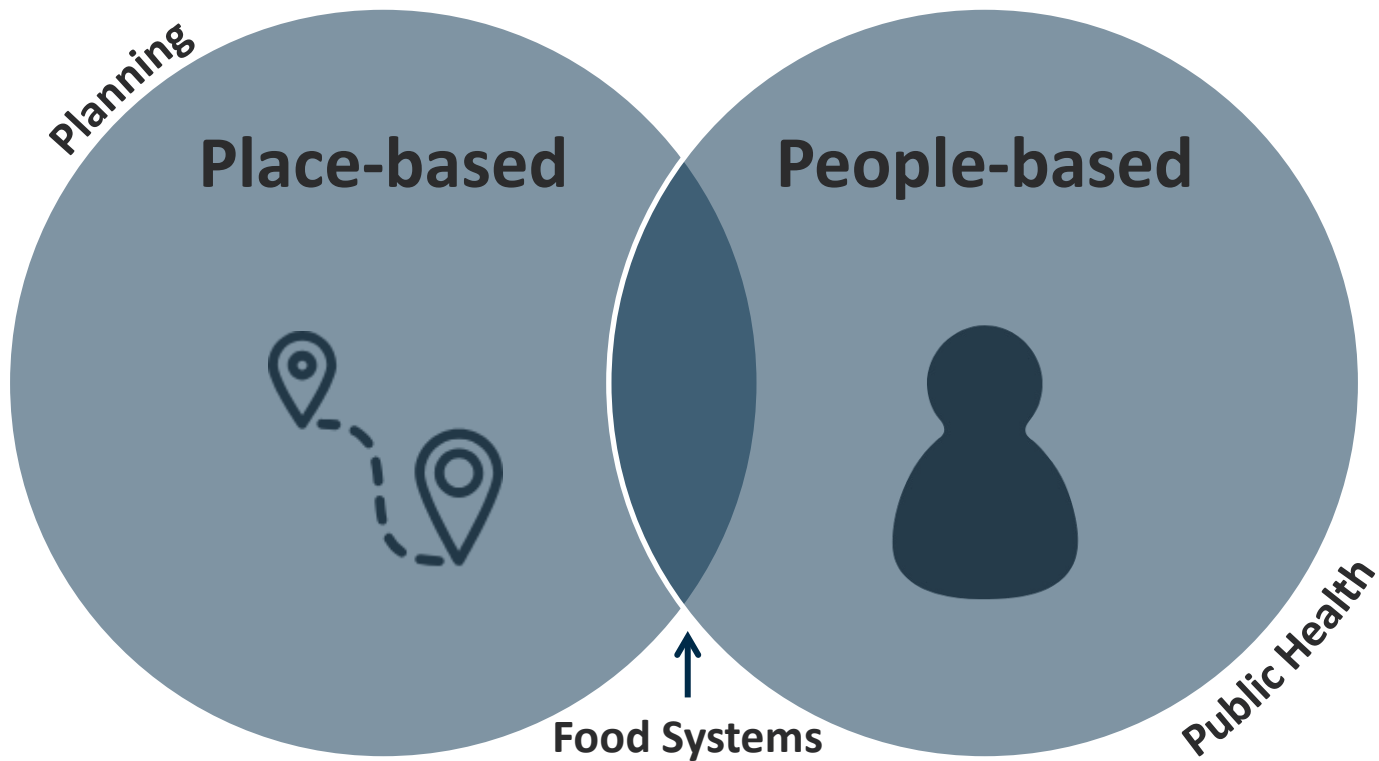
Pollution of water, caused by chemical fertilizers and pesticides, adversely affects drinking water supplies

Access to healthy foods in low-income areas is a problem for which urban agriculture can offer a solution

Benefits emerge from stronger community and regional food systems



# Improving Health Outcomes: Place-based and People-based Approaches





# Regional Food System Overview

PLAN4Health - Miami Valley Initiative

Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission | Published Date

Draft

**Under Construction**

[Introduction](#)

[Healthy Communities](#)

[Food Systems](#)

[Assets](#)

[Security](#)

[Access](#)

[Summary](#)

[Keep Learning](#)

[References](#)



# Regional Food System Overview

- Examines food assets, security, and access across the Miami Valley
- Aims to increase awareness about local conditions within the food system
- Includes a series of interactive maps on various topics
- Not intended to be a food systems plan nor does it cover all aspects of the food system



# Regional Food System Overview



## Assets



### Cultivation



### Production



### Distribution



## Security



### Income



### Food Costs



### Food Assistance



## Access



### Urban vs. Rural Area



### Low Income Status



### Vehicle Access



### Distance from Food Stores

# Regional Food System Overview



## Assets

- Regional agricultural facts and figures
- Regional food manufacturing firms and employment
- Key food distribution information related to stores, restaurants, etc.



## Security

- Data on local food insecure populations
- Average meal cost information
- Food assistance programs



## Access

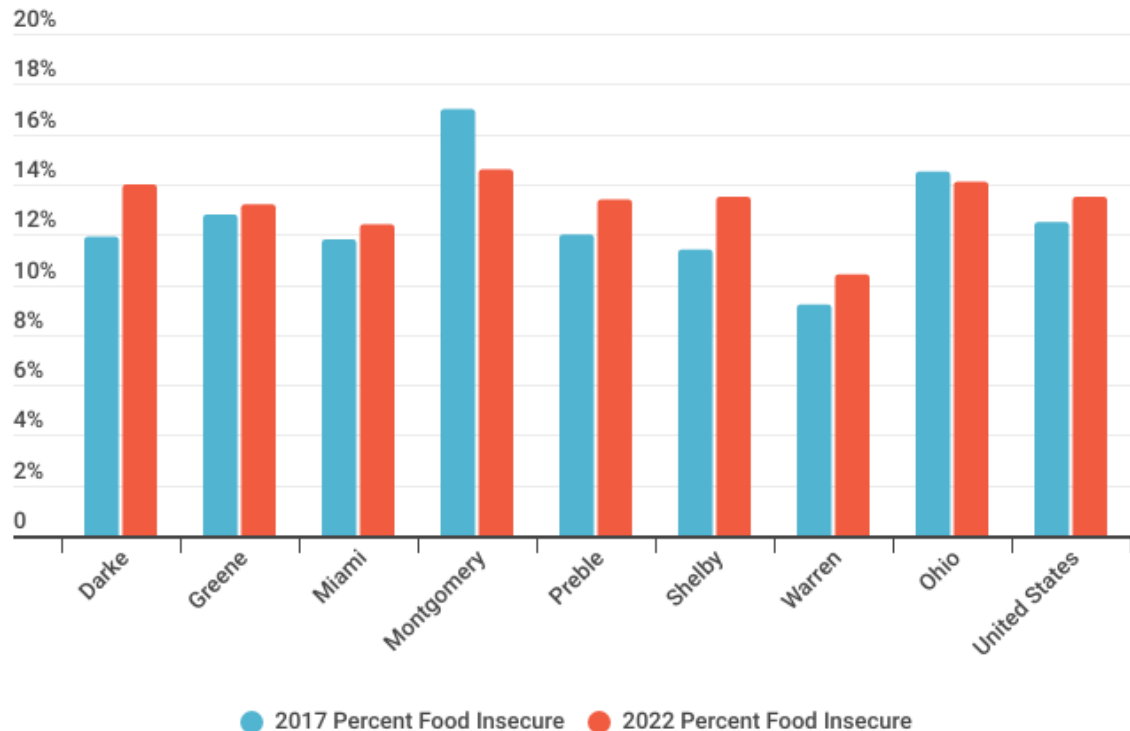
- How access is measured
- Maps showing low access measures
- Limited access to healthy food trends
- Low Access population information



# Security

In 2022, there were **more than 158,700** (13%), food insecure people in the Region.

**Food Insecure Population Change: 2017 to 2022**



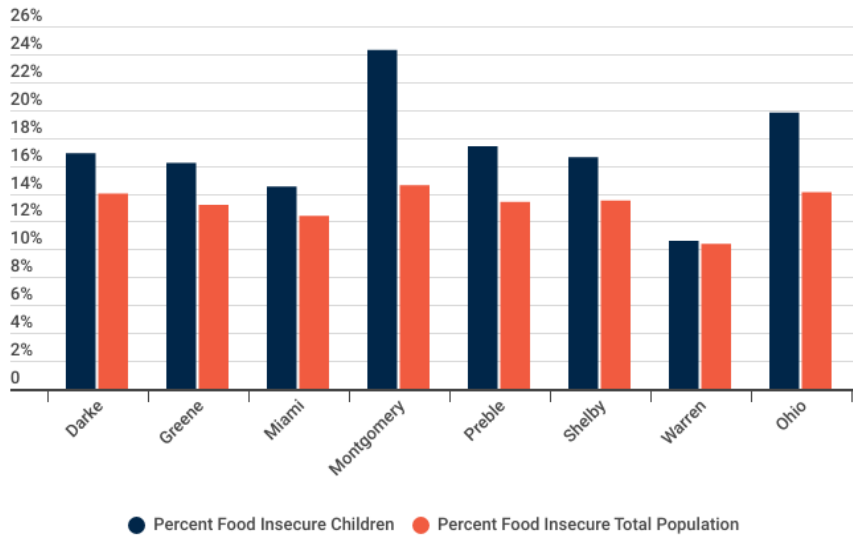
Source: Feeding America, 2017 & 2022 Data



# Security

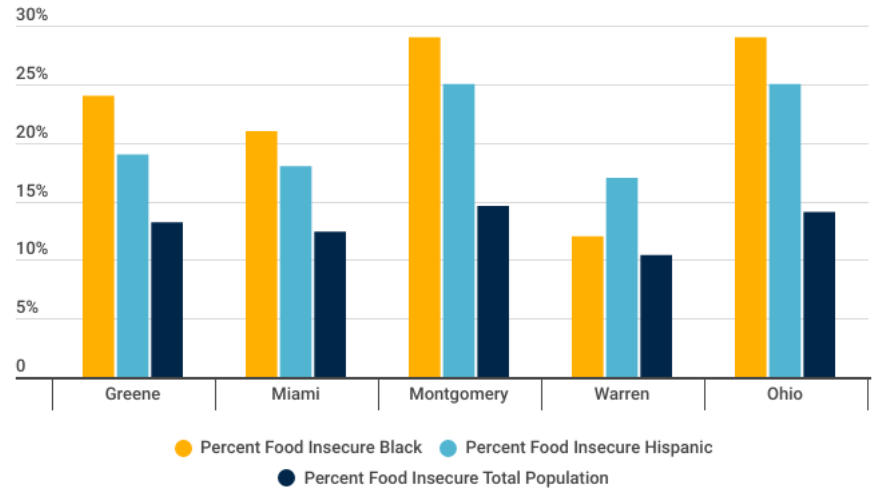
Some groups face higher rates of food insecurity.

### 2022 Food Insecure Children vs Total Population



Source: Feeding America, 2022 Data

### Food Insecurity Among Selected Populations



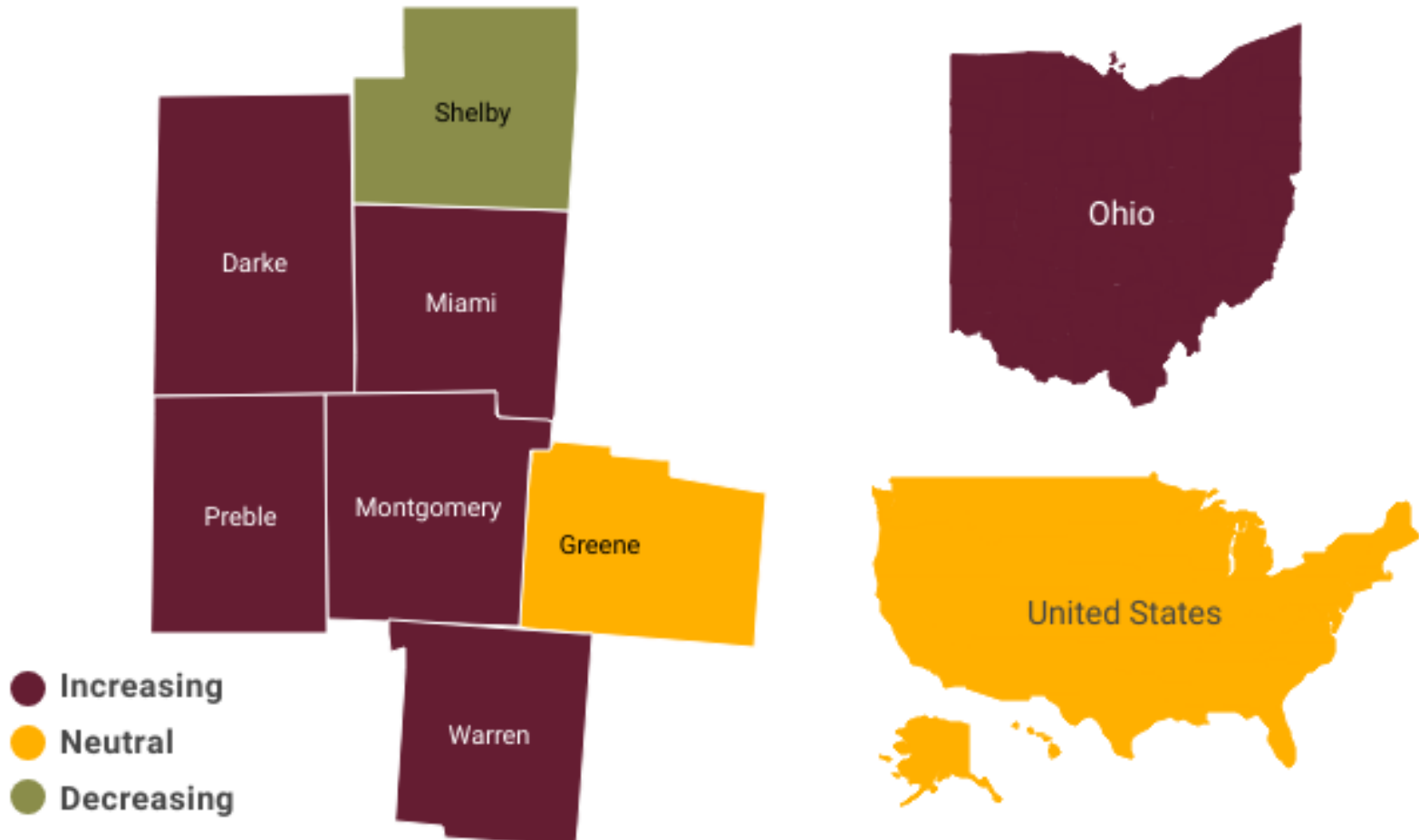
*There was limited or no data available for Darke, Preble, and Shelby counties. Data for other races and ethnic groups was not available.*

Source: Feeding America, 2022 Data



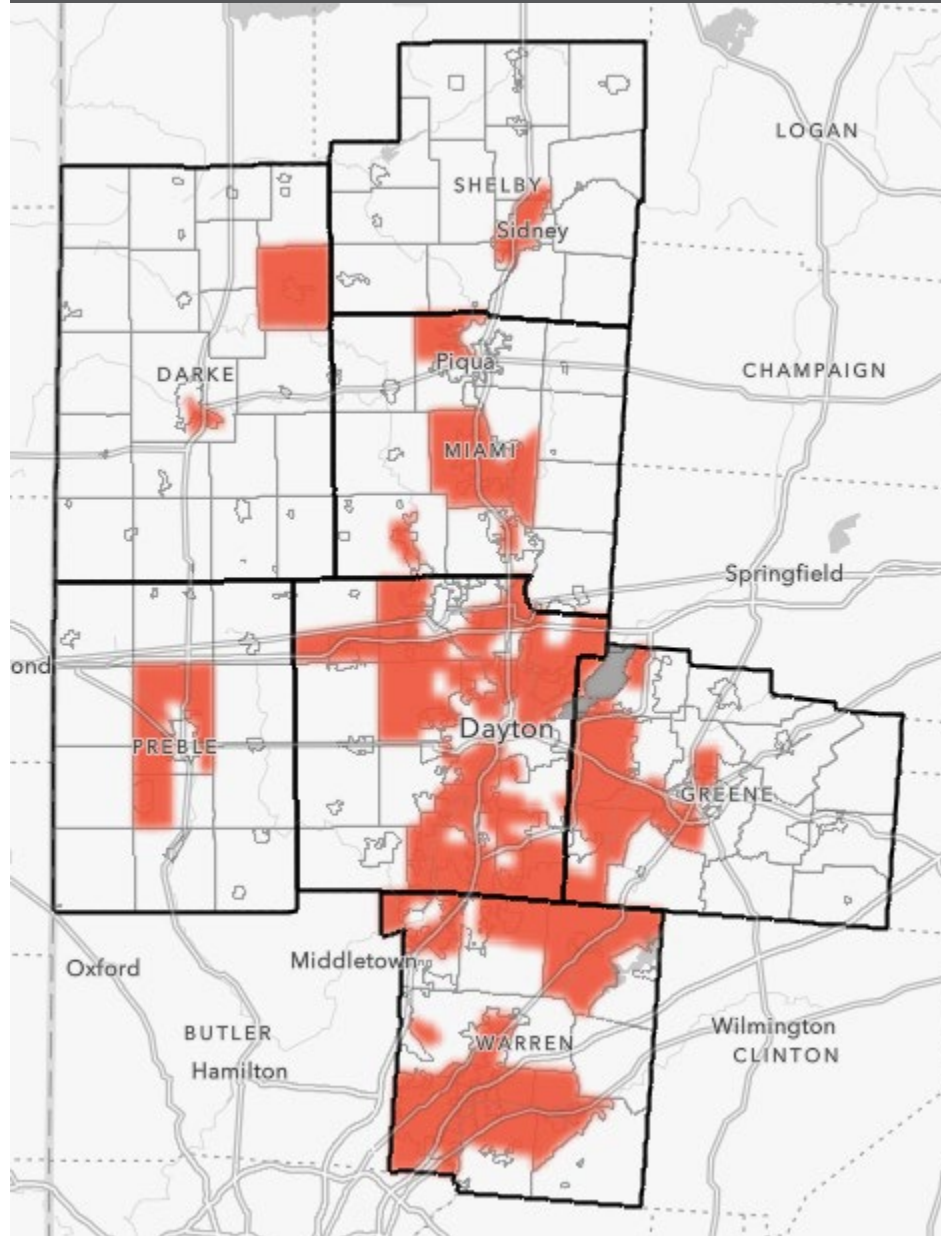
# Limited Access to Healthy Foods

Limited Access to Healthy Foods is a growing problem. Since 2015, most of the Region has seen an increase in the number of people with Limited Access to Healthy Foods.



Source: County Health Rankings and Roadmap

# Areas with Low Access



## Measuring Access



Urban vs. Rural Area



Low Income Status



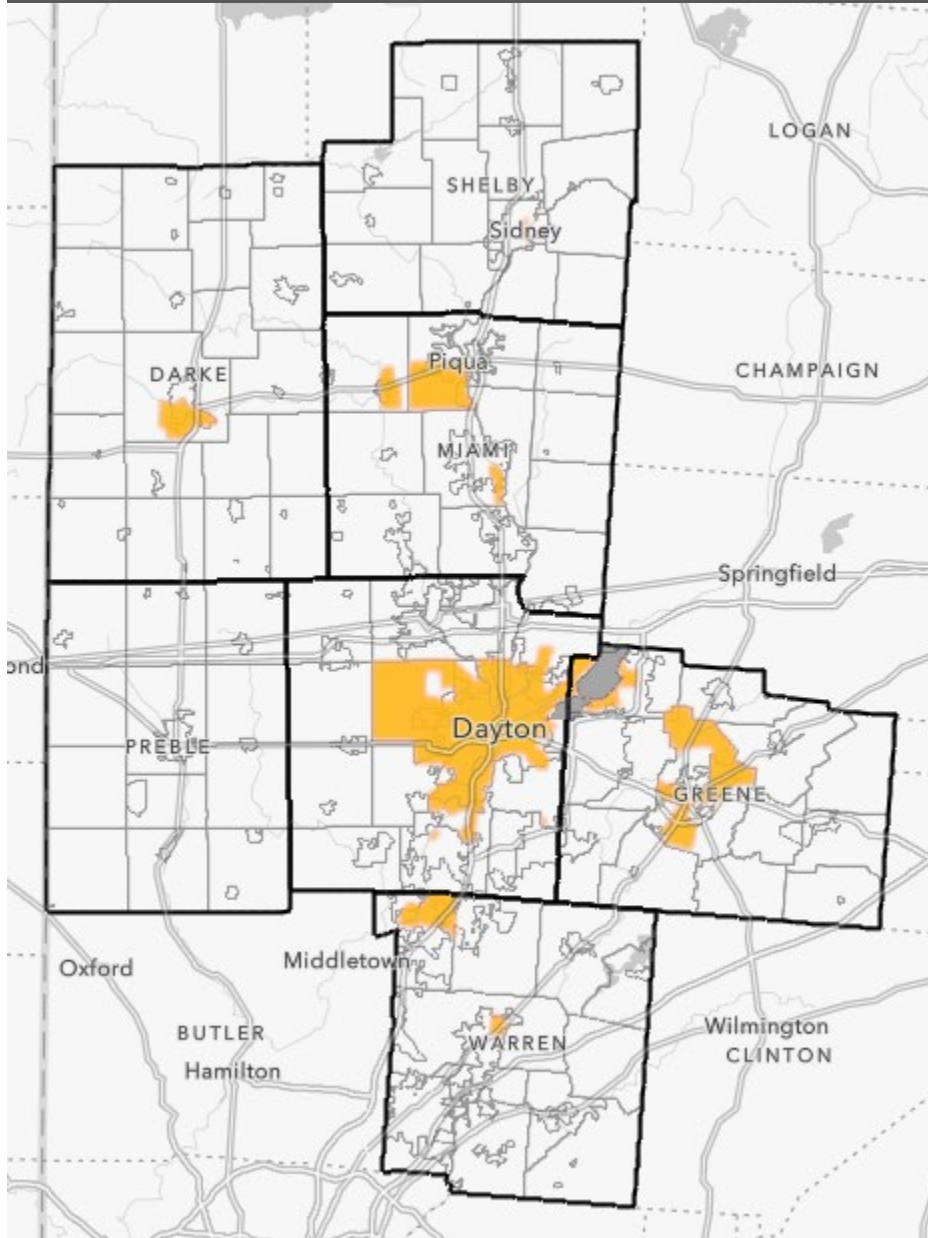
Vehicle Access



Distance from Food Stores



# Areas with Low Incomes



## Measuring Access



Urban vs. Rural Area



Low Income Status



Vehicle Access

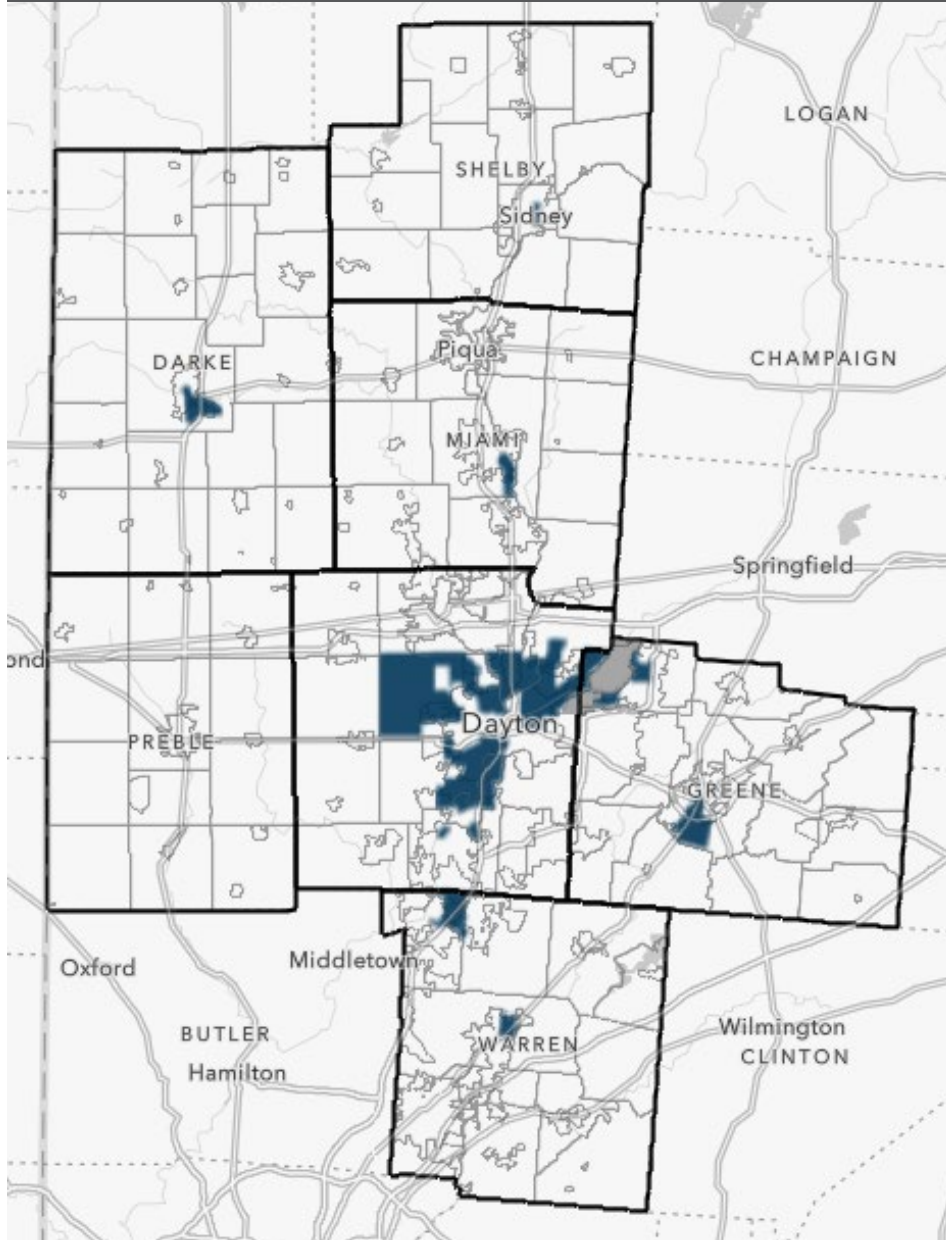


Distance from Food Stores





# Low Income & Low Access



## Measuring Access



Urban vs. Rural Area



Low Income Status

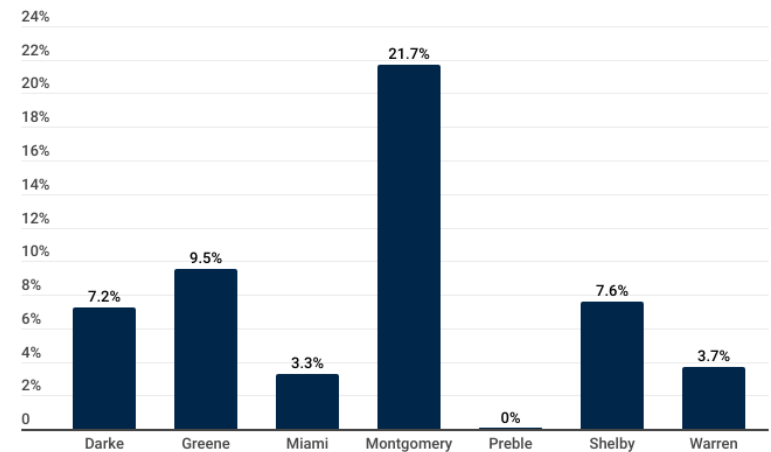


Vehicle Access



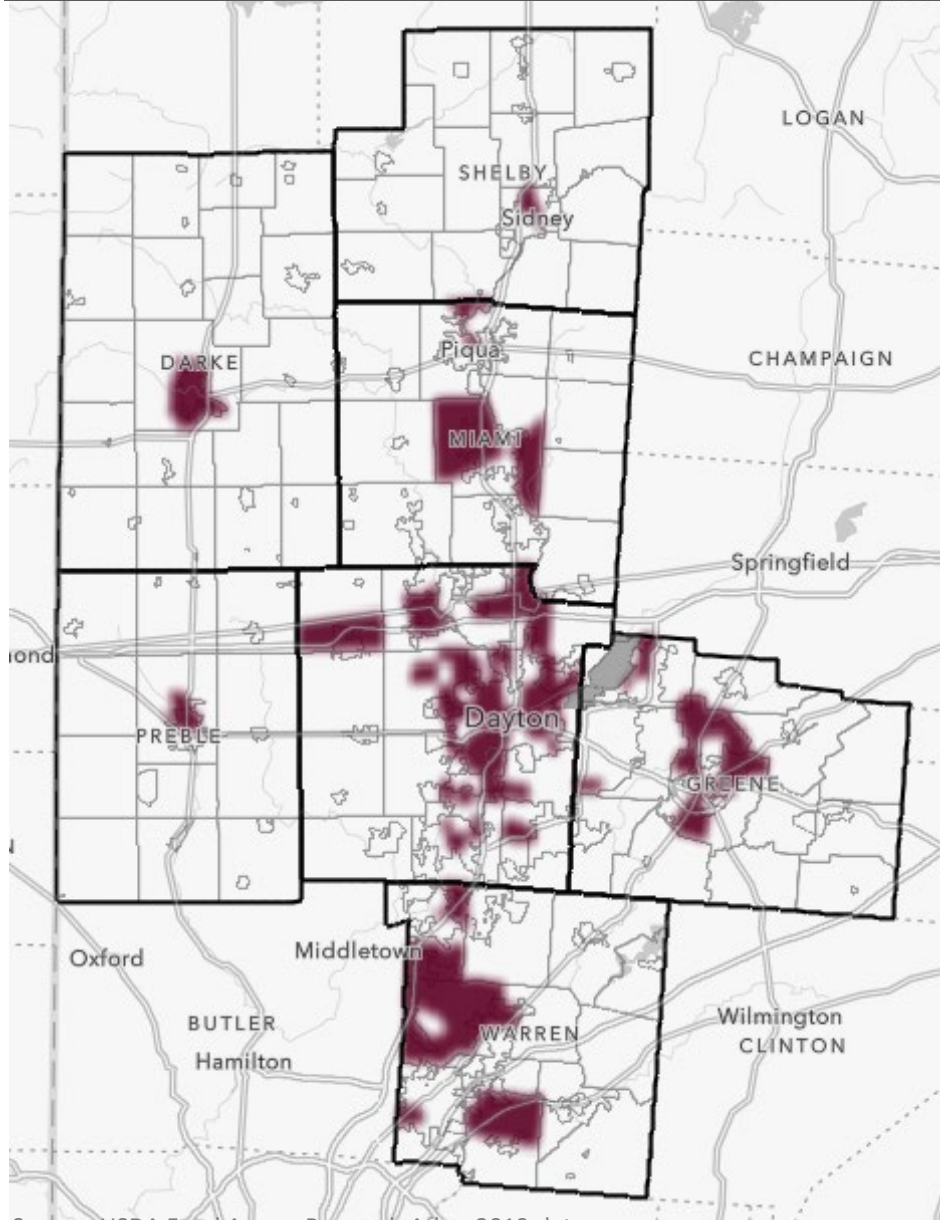
Distance from Food Stores

## Percent of Population in Low Income Low Access Areas



Source: Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission

# Low Vehicle Availability & Low Access



## Measuring Access



Urban vs. Rural Area



Low Income Status



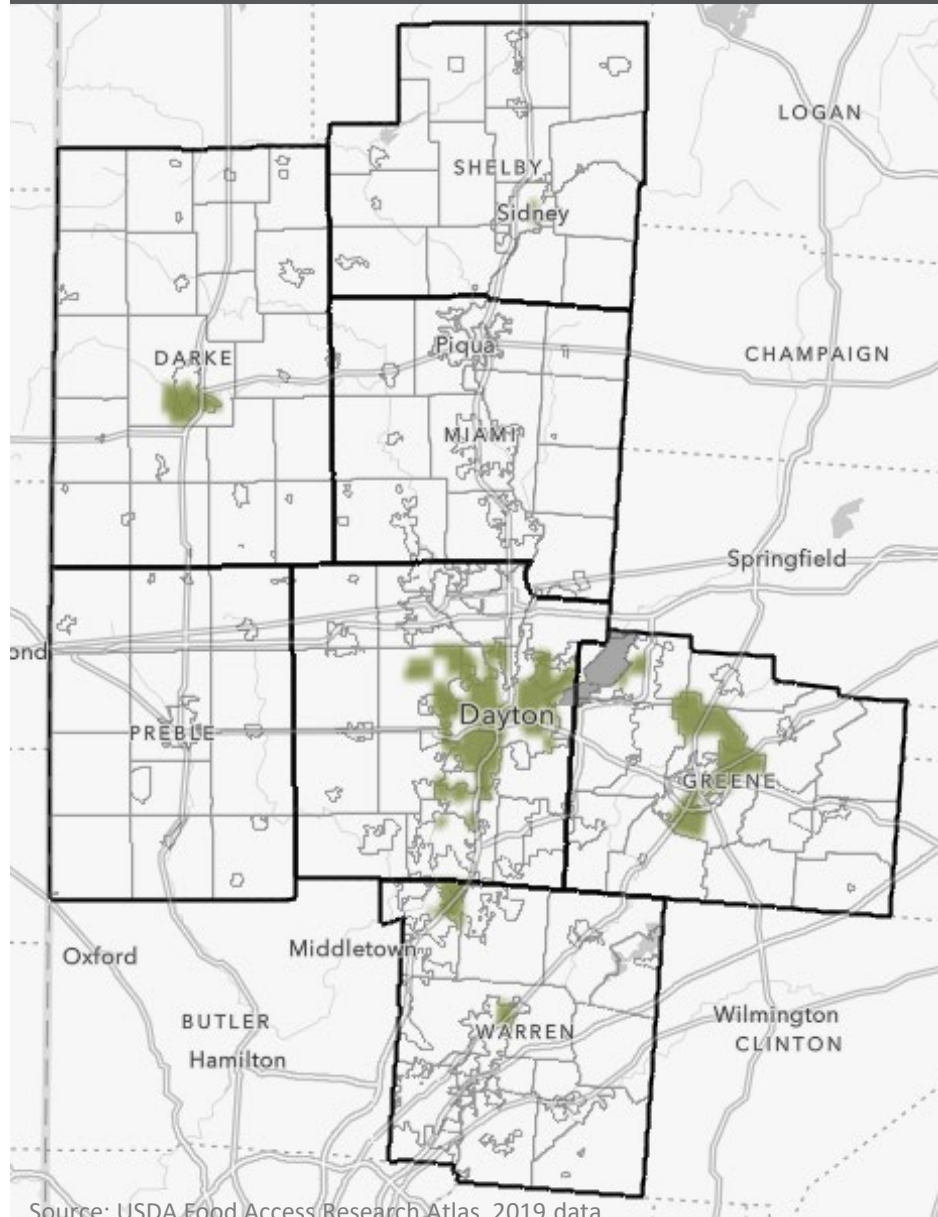
Vehicle Access



Distance from Food Stores



# Low Income, Low Access, & Low Vehicle Availability



Source: USDA Food Access Research Atlas, 2019 data

## Measuring Access



Urban vs. Rural Area



Low Income Status

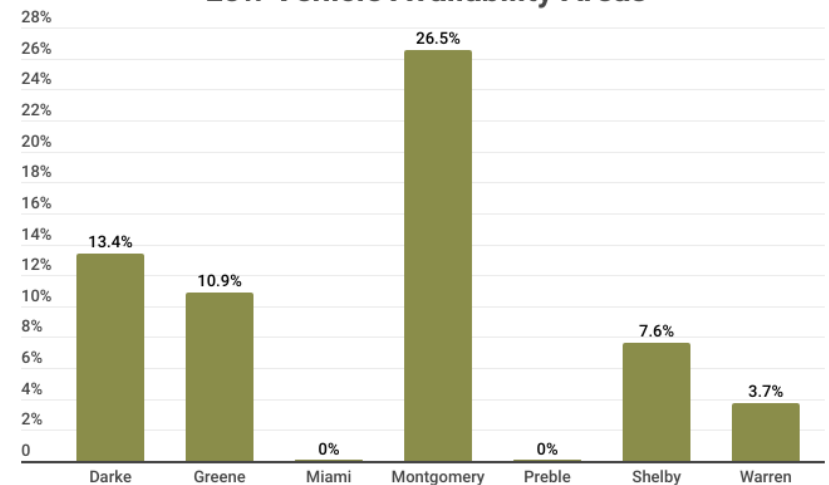


Vehicle Access



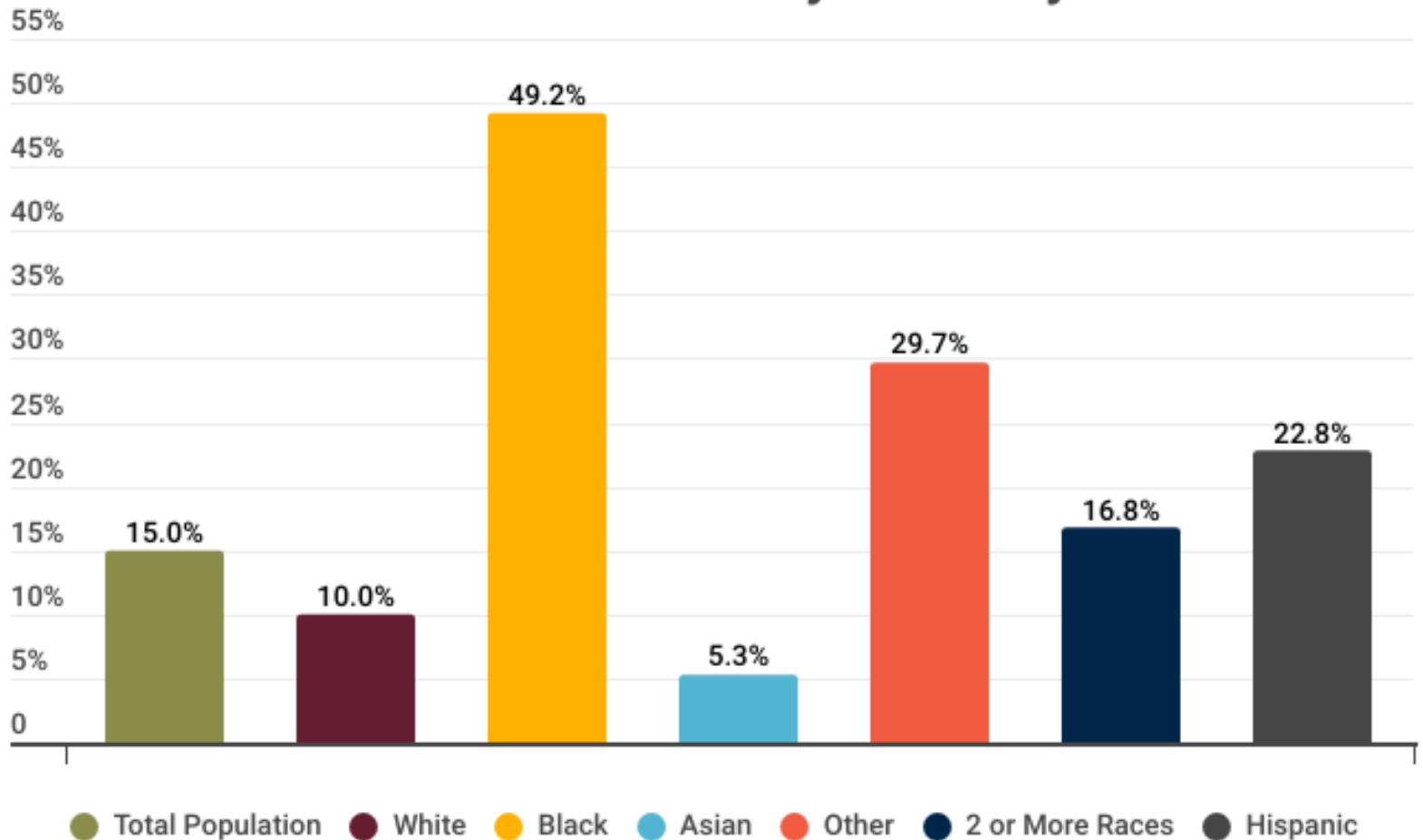
Distance from Food Stores

## Percent of Population in Low Income, Low Access, and Low Vehicle Availability Areas



Source: Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission

## Percent of Population in Low Income, Low Access, and Low Vehicle Availability Areas by Race





Ashley Mack  
Community Initiatives Manager  
Montgomery County Office of Strategic Initiatives



## Vision

A sustainable food system accessible to all in Montgomery County.

## Mission

Collaborate with food system stakeholders to educate and advocate for policy changes to improve food access and security.





## Steering Committee

Provides general oversight and approval of coalition plans.



## Leadership Team

Identifies strategic priorities for the coalition.



## Coalition

Collectively works on identified strategies to improve food access & security.



Thriving Local Economies

Sustainable Farms

Empowered Communities

**Goal 1:** Advocate for policies and initiatives that will increase food security and access in Montgomery County

**Goal 2:** Develop and implement policies that foster an equitable local economy

**Goal 3:** Develop and champion policies that focus on creating an environmentally sustainable food system

**Goal 4:** Enhance Coordination & Communication

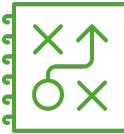




# Looking Ahead



Finalize Objectives and Strategies



Create Action Plans



Release Strategic Plan



Get to Work





# Improving Our Local Food System & Creating Healthy Eating Opportunities





Our development choices impact our food environment and health outcomes



# We can improve our food system when we...

Preserve  
productive  
agricultural land

Remove barriers to  
urban food  
production

Offer incentives for  
grocery stores in  
underserved  
communities

Prioritize local food

Create safe routes  
to markets

Support  
community  
gardens

Enable farmers  
markets or farm  
stands

Develop healthy  
food retail  
initiatives

What other ideas?

# Small Group Discussion

- Please try to sit with a mix of planners, public health, and food systems professionals
- Get creative! There are no bad ideas here. Give us everything from your moonshot to practical ideas.
- You can suggest things that are currently being done or could be done in the future.
- Your ideas can be for the planning sector, public health sector, food system sector, or partnership opportunities



## The Food System and Healthy Eating Workshop - Small Group Discussion Worksheet

Use this space to recommend any strategies related to each goal that could improve our regional food environment and/or bolster healthy eating. Be sure to consider ideas related to the policy environment, physical environment, or social environment.

Use the sticky dots to indicate whether the recommendation is for planners (blue dots), public health (green dots), and/or food systems stakeholders (red dots).

Goal: Increase Food Security

Goal: Increase Food Access

Goal: Foster an Equitable Local Food Economy

Goal: Support an Environmentally Sustainable Food System

# Small Group Discussion

- 1. Identify strategies related to each goal that could be implemented to improve our regional food environment and/or bolster healthy eating.***
- 2. Using the sticky dots, identify which group would be the most appropriate to take ownership of the strategy.***





# Wrap Up

## Small Group Reporting





# Wrap Up Activity

***Of the strategies listed on your group's worksheet which idea do you think should be the top priority?***

***Please write your favorite idea on a post-it note and place it on the poster.***



# Talk to Us!

***What ideas do you have for stakeholders to continue the conversation? We want to hear from you!***





# PLAN4Health Miami Valley

[www.mvrpc.org/regional-planning/plan4health-miami-valley](http://www.mvrpc.org/regional-planning/plan4health-miami-valley)

1.5 AICP CM Credits Available (Event #9297229)

