City of New York - Office of the Mayor. Data Science Division. Saint Peter's University

CITATION REPORT ON AFRICAN RESTAURANTS IN NYC

Prepared for: The Mayor of New York City

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Introduction

The presence of rodents and cockroaches in restaurants is a pressing issue in New York City. This report analyzes the health inspection data for African cuisine restaurants, identifying trends in hygiene violations and their impact on public health. The findings highlight problem areas and suggest measures to improve restaurant sanitation and transparency for consumers.

Analysis of Trends in Violations

Rodent and Roach Violations

- Total rodent-related violations (rats & mice): 19
- Total roach-related violations: 5
- Rodent to roach violation ratio: 3:1

Rodents are a significantly larger issue compared to cockroaches in African cuisine restaurants. The data suggests that rodent control measures require urgent reinforcement to improve food safety.

Frequent Violators

- Borough with the most violations: Brooklyn (46 violations)
- Restaurant with the most violations: B AND B RESTAURANT, located on West 26 Street, Manhattan
 - Total violations: 13
 - Total closures due to violations: 7

A concerning trend is that despite multiple health violations and closures, B AND B Restaurant continues to operate with an average rating of 4.5 with many 5-star reviews. This raises concerns about enforcement effectiveness and consumer awareness regarding restaurant hygiene.

Recommendations for Action

- 1. Strengthen Inspection Enforcement:
 - o Increase inspection frequency for high-risk establishments.
 - o Impose stricter penalties on repeat offenders.

2. Enhance Public Awareness:

- Educate consumers on how to access restaurant violation reports before dining.
- Implement QR code-based links on restaurant entrances for instant access to health inspection data.
- 3. Rodent and Pest Control Initiatives:
 - o Improve waste management policies around food establishments.
 - Collaborate with pest control services for mandatory rodent-proofing measures in restaurants.
- 4. Consumer Protection Measures:
 - Consider requiring restaurants with repeated critical violations to display a warning notice visible to customers.
 - o Promote food safety awareness campaigns across NYC.

Conclusion

The findings indicate that African cuisine restaurants, particularly in Brooklyn, face persistent issues with rodents and cockroaches. The high violation rate in B AND B RESTAURANT demonstrates that current health inspections and closures may not be sufficient deterrents. To protect public health, the city should adopt stricter enforcement measures, improve transparency, and educate consumers on making informed dining decisions.

By taking decisive action, we can ensure a safer dining experience for all New Yorkers while promoting accountability among restaurant operators.

Appendix

Rat Only Violations by Borough (Excluding Queens, Manhattan and SI with 0% 'rat' violations)

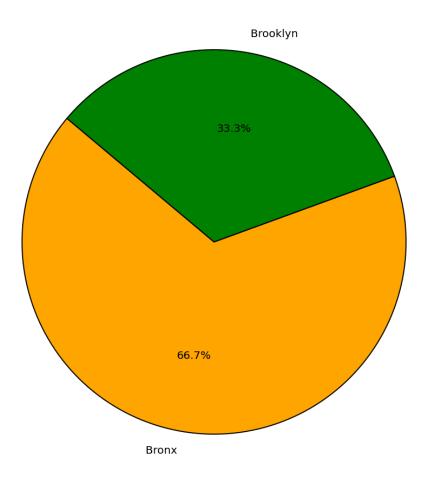


Figure 1: Rat Only Violations by Borough