

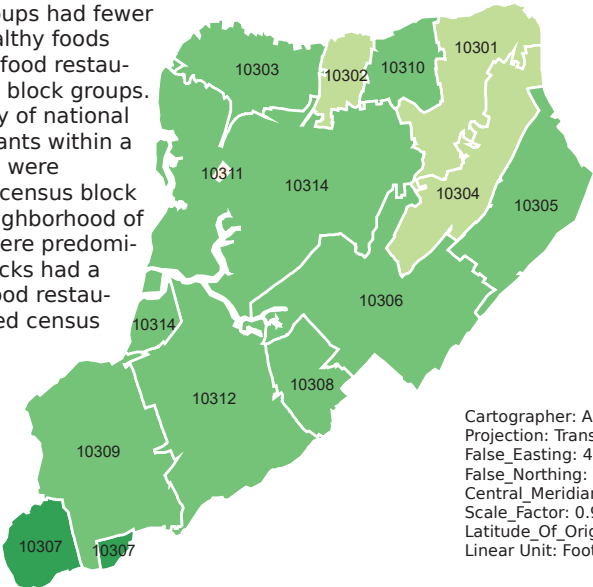
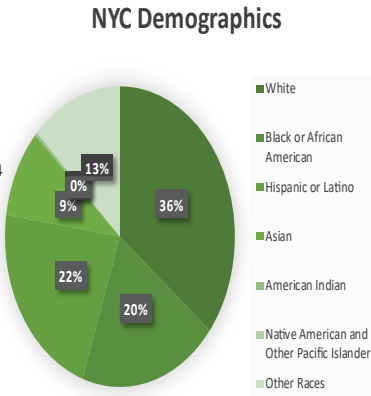
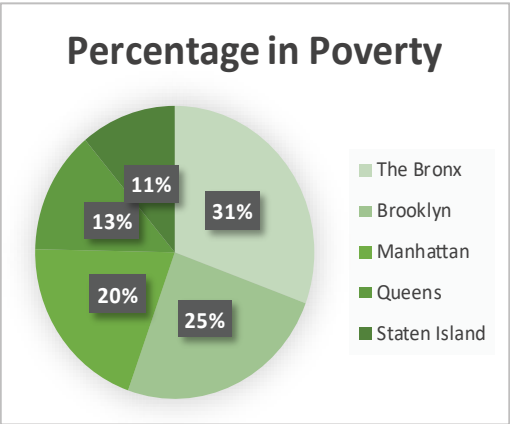
Mapping Food Deserts in New York City

New York City Restaurant Health Inspections by Zipcode

New York City is known for its rich cultural diversity, however, too many Americans are overweight and eat unhealthy food, a problem that falls disproportionately on poor and low-income people. For many urbanists, the main culprit has long been “food deserts”—disadvantaged neighborhoods that are underserved by quality grocery stores, and where people’s nutritional options are limited to cheaper, high-calorie, and less nutritious food.

In New York City, every restaurant is scheduled for an unannounced inspection at least once a year. This system was put in place to pressure restaurants to improve sanitary conditions. During the inspection, an inspector checks for compliance with city and state food safety regulations and marks points for any condition that violates these rules. Every restaurant is assigned a letter grade, and for this study this Choropleth Map reveals which areas of the city had the safest restaurants.

It is no surprise that the areas with lower restaurant health grades are areas that are home to minorities. A study of 448 block groups in New York found that African American block groups had fewer opportunities to obtain healthy foods and greater access to fast-food restaurants than did other ethnic block groups. Inequities in the availability of national and local fast-food restaurants within a single-minority community were reported in a study of 165 census block groups in a low-income neighborhood of East Harlem, New York, where predominantly Hispanic census blocks had a higher proportion of fast-food restaurants than did racially mixed census blocks.



Cartographer: August Nastasi
Projection: Transverse_Mercator
False_Easting: 492125.0
False_Northing: 0.0
Central_Meridian: -74.5
Scale_Factor: 0.9999
Latitude_Of_Origin: 38.833333333333334
Linear Unit: Foot_US (0.3048006096012192)

