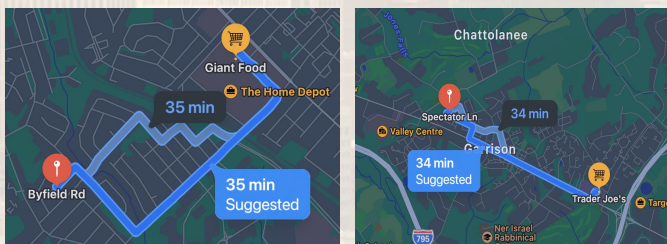


What is a food desert?

“The term ‘food desert’ means an area in the United States with **limited access** to affordable and nutritious food, particularly such an area composed of **predominantly lower-income neighborhoods and communities.**”
(Food, Conservation, and Energy Act, 2008)

Who in Baltimore County Lives in a Food Desert?

According to a 2018 data study by Towson University, both Baltimore County and Baltimore City have almost the same percentage of zip codes that are considered food deserts. **In Baltimore County, 64.29 percent are food deserts.** In Baltimore City it's 64.58 percent.

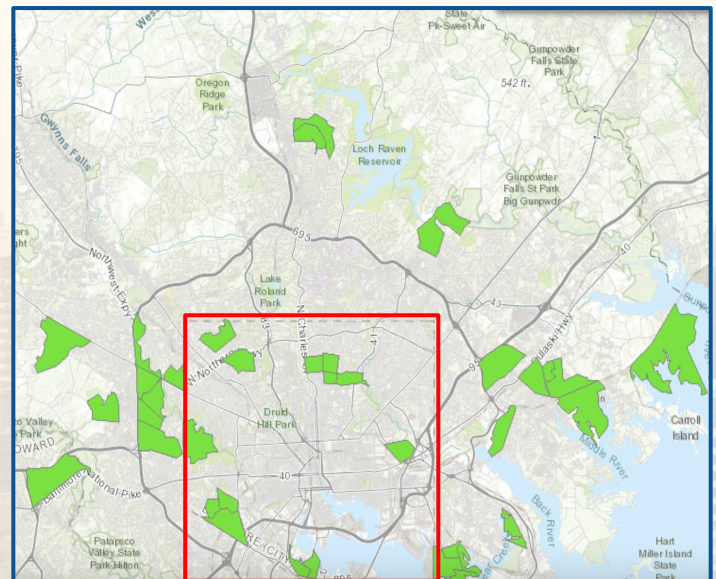


To make matters worse, the Baltimore City 2018 Food Environment Brief, found more than **30 percent of households that are in a food desert do not have a vehicle available.** Without a car in suburban communities, a trip to a supermarket could take between **30 minutes to an hour.**

Racial and Income Disparities

Since food deserts offer a lower variety of healthy food options, residents of these areas are less likely to have a balanced diet—leading to **adverse health outcomes among disadvantaged groups.**

Highlighted in Green are areas deemed to be **low-income and low food access** by the USDA



Areas just outside Baltimore City especially along the Baltimore Beltway and other major highways are prone to low food access. **This could affect the diet and health of thousands of low-income Baltimore County residents.**

Desert to Oasis: Tackling Baltimore County's Food Deserts

*"Local policymakers should be looking at **the quality of infrastructure** in poor and minority neighborhoods to see if it could **better support businesses.** . . and they should think about ways to **incentivize supermarkets to locate in minority neighborhoods.**" - Kelly Brown, Assistant Professor at JHU School of Nursing*

This bill proposes giving tax credits to grocery stores that open and operate in Baltimore County's food deserts. This would give Baltimore County's disadvantaged communities greater access to healthy food options and potentially help **mitigate the adverse health outcomes** related to poor nutrition. Additionally, the tax credits would help **promote local businesses and jobs** in the communities that need it most.