



**DETROIT**  
Food  
Metrics  
Report  
2024



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# FOOD SYSTEMS

A food system is everything from field to fork and back again.

A healthy and sustainable food system encompasses the goals of social **equity** and human health, economic vitality, and environmental health.

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# 1.

## INTRODUCTION

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# Introduction

Detroit's food system continued to see loss within the food retail space with four additional grocery store closures. Yet, the opening of the Detroit People's Food Coop shone a bright spot on community ownership and food sovereignty in the city.

The local urban agriculture movement advanced significantly with community gardens, farmers markets, and Detroit growers selling at Eastern Market all remaining consistent.

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# 2.

## MILESTONES



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## MILESTONES 2024

- After 11 years, the **Animal Husbandry** ordinance was passed, making it legal to have chickens, ducks and bees in the city.
- The **Detroit People's Food Co-Op** opened in May with a daylong community celebration.
- Senator **Debbie Stabenow**, who led the Senate Agriculture Committee that drafts the Farm Bill, stepped down.

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# 3.

## POLICY CHANGES



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# POLICY CHANGES 2024

## POSITIVE

- USDA standards allowed schools to specify **local food** when sourcing
- **Livestock** ordinance passed
- Detroit City Council passed **Dining With Confidence** ordinance, which allows restaurants to display a placard if they meet health code standards

## NEGATIVE

- None specifically affecting Detroit, although the 2024 election results caused concerns over expected decreased food inspections, SNAP cuts and more in a second **Trump** administration.

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# 4.

## ANNUAL FOOD METRICS

Since 2017, DFPC has been tracking a set of **12 metrics** for the Detroit food system.

We now have a common baseline and annual check-in with our partners in order to address gaps and improve the food system for all.

# ANNUAL FOOD METRICS 2024

**83%**

goal reached for 30k square feet of grocery per 10k people<sup>1</sup>

**23**

farmers markets and farm stands<sup>1</sup>

**60**

full-line grocery stores<sup>1</sup>

**~42k**

school meals served each day<sup>1</sup>

**67%**

of households food insecure<sup>2</sup>

**47**

Detroit-based growers at Eastern Market<sup>2</sup>

**~29k**

children enrolled in WIC program<sup>2</sup>

**\$20M**

school food spending<sup>2</sup>

**37%**

of households using SNAP<sup>3</sup>

**438**

community gardens<sup>3</sup>

**18%**

of eligible households not enrolled in SNAP<sup>3</sup>

**\$500M**

annual loss in grocery retail revenue<sup>3</sup>

# ANNUAL FOOD METRICS Change from 2023 - 2024

Improved | Worsened | No Change

**-5%**

goal reached for 30k square feet of grocery per 10k people<sup>1</sup>

**0**

farmers markets and farm stands<sup>1</sup>

**-4**

full-line grocery stores<sup>1</sup>

**0**

school meals served each day<sup>1</sup>

**-2%**

of households food insecure<sup>2</sup>

**+5**

Detroit-based growers at Eastern Market<sup>2</sup>

**-8k**

children enrolled in WIC program<sup>2</sup>

**0**

school food spending<sup>2</sup>

**0%**

of households using SNAP<sup>3</sup>

**+3**









community gardens<sup>3</sup>

**0**

of eligible households not enrolled in SNAP<sup>3</sup>

**\$500M**

annual loss in grocery retail revenue<sup>3</sup>

		Baseline (2017)	2017- 2018	2018- 2019	2019- 2020	2020- 2021	2021- 2022	2022- 2023	2023- 2024
Number of full-line grocery stores		74	▼ 3	▼ 3	▼ 4	▲ 2	▼ 3	0	▼ 4
Percent households eligible but not utilizing SNAP		19%	▼ 1	0	▼ 1	0	0	▲ 1	0
Percent met grocery square footage		92%	▼ 5	▼ 1	▼ 3	▲ 1	▲ 1	▼ 1	▼ 5
Percent households food insecure		70%	▼ 8	▲ 1	▲ 7	0	0	0	▼ 2
Percent households using SNAP		40%	▼ 1	▲ 1	▼ 7	▲ 3	▲ 1	0	0
Number of community gardens		432	▼ 6	▼ 52	▲ 23	▲ 32	▼ 46	▲ 50	▲ 5
Number of farmers markets and farm stands		17	▼ 2	▼ 1	▼ 4	▲ 8	▲ 4	▲ 1	0
Number of Detroit-based growers at Eastern Market		46	▼ 9	▲ 21	▼ 53	▲ 27	▲ 20	▲ 1	▲ 3

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# SOURCES: Annual Food Metrics

1. Detroit Food Map Initiative, **2024** (based on 30,000 sq ft of grocery available for every 10,000 people)
2. United Way, ALICE Report **2024**
3. US Census Bureau American Community Survey (ACS) **2023** - 5 year estimates

1. Detroit Community Markets & Eastern Market Corporation, **2024**
2. Eastern Market Corporation vendor list, **2024** & Keep Growing Detroit, Annual Report **2023** “Grown in Detroit”
3. Keep Growing Detroit, Annual Report **2023**

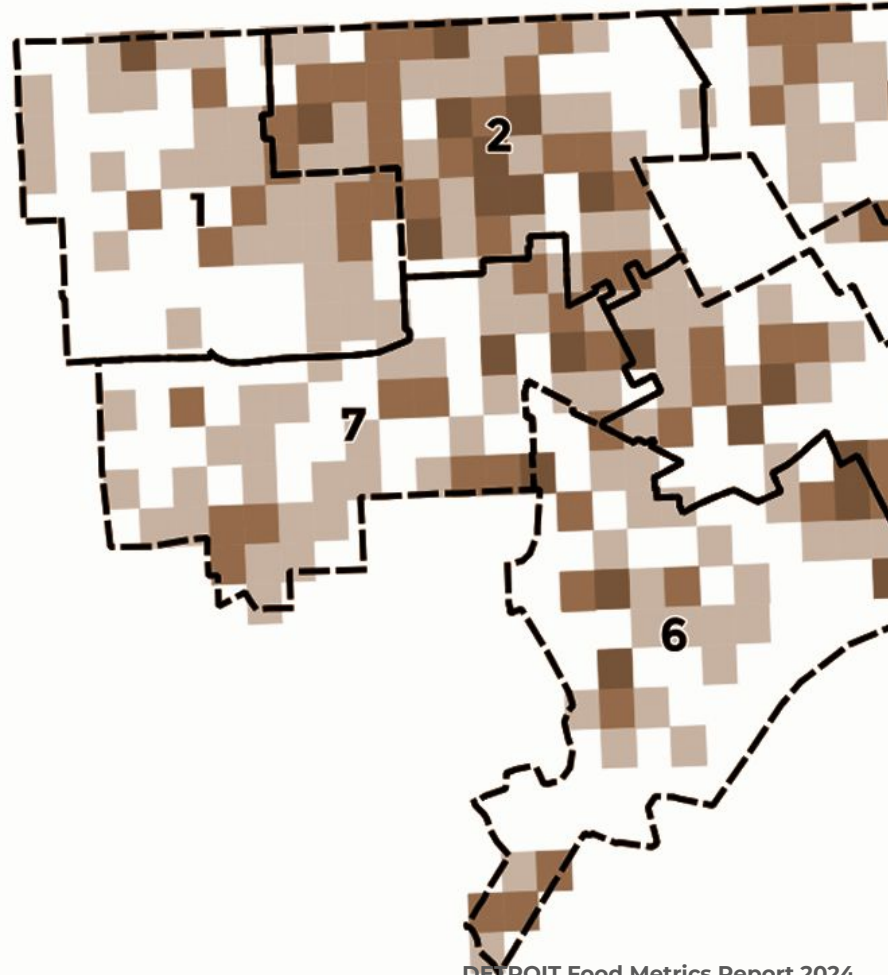
1. Detroit Food Map Initiative, **2024**
2. Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS), WIC Program, PedNSS Report, **2020**  
Includes enrollment counts for both local agencies operating in the City of Detroit: 1) Detroit Health Department; 2) Detroit Urban League
3. US Census Bureau American Community Survey (ACS) **2023** - 5 year estimates

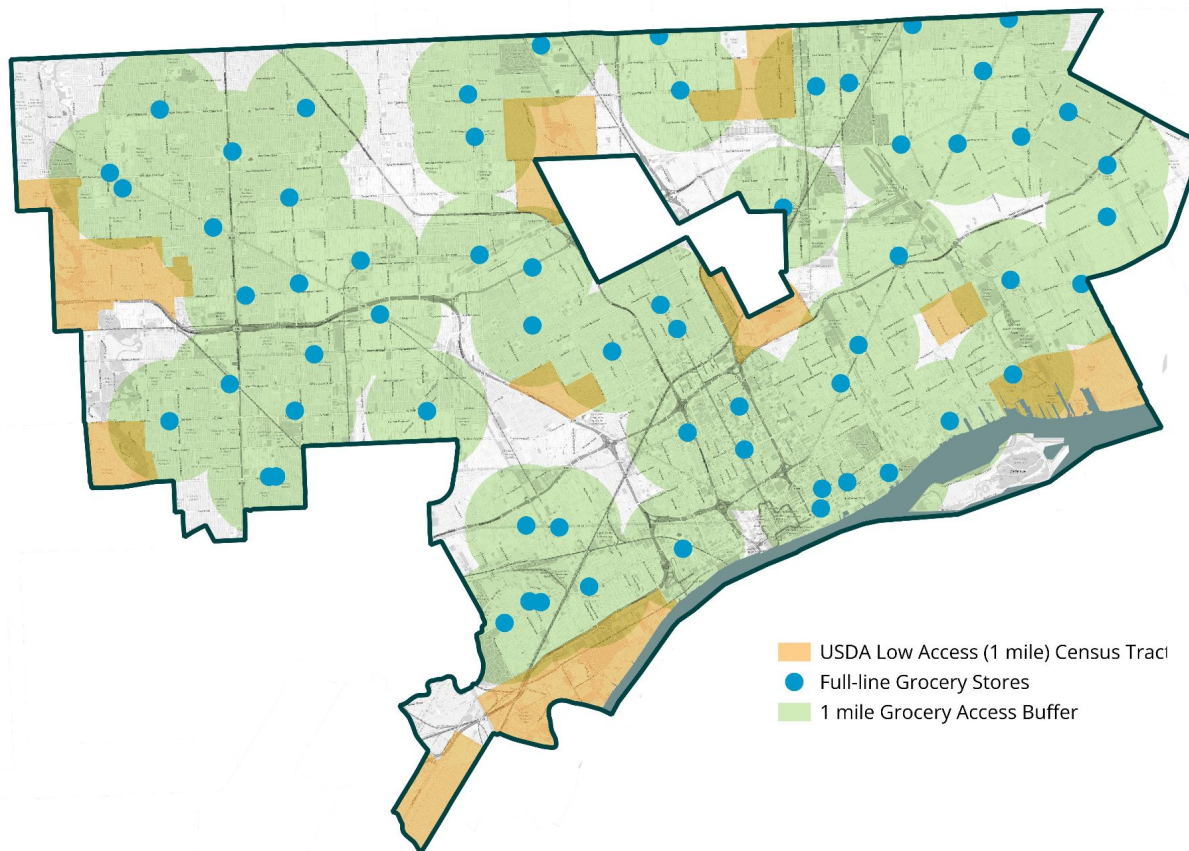
1. Detroit Public Schools Community District, Office of School Nutrition, **2023**  
<https://www.detroitk12.org/Page/7163>
2. Detroit Public Schools Community District, FY**2023**, Food Service Budget, “Expenditure: Supplies”  
<https://www.detroitk12.org/transparencyreporting>
3. **No new data**

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# 5.

## SUPPORTING MAPS & CHARTS





USDA “food desert” designations remain limited in the city.

The consistent data collection conducted by the Detroit Food Map Initiative regularly shows federal data is out of date.

There are a handful of new areas that do not have adequate grocery store coverage (grey areas on map). Areas of green and orange overlap also show disagreement between federal data and timely, local data tracking.

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# Detroit Health Department Community Health Assessment 2024

The Detroit Health Department (DHD) conducted their latest Community Health Assessment (CHA) in 2024 and specifically asked residents about quality of life factors. Affordable and accessible grocery stores were noted by almost 60% of the 6,258 residents surveyed.

## Top Factor for Quality of Life (2024)\*



**59%**

Of respondents indicated that affordable and accessible grocery stores were most important to their quality of life (n=6,258)<sup>1</sup>

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# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

## **Suggested Citation:**

Hill, Alex B. and Amy Kuras. Detroit Food Metrics Report 2024. *Detroit Food Policy Council* (2026).



Alex B. Hill is a Data and Research Director and Project Director of the Detroit Food Map Initiative.

## **Maps, Charts, & Report Design:**

Alex B. Hill

## **Photo Sharing:**

Planet Detroit

## **Data Sharing:**

Detroit Food Map Initiative, Detroit Health Department