



A Foodscape of **Union Square/Lower Manhattan**

UHF Neighborhood #309/310 (zip codes 10002, 10003, 10004, 10005, 10006, 10007, 10009, 10038, 10048, 10280, 10282)

Includes parts of City Council Districts 1, 2, and 4



NEW YORK CITY
FOOD POLICY CENTER
AT HUNTER COLLEGE

HUNTER

The City University of New York





About Foodscapes

Access to affordable and nutritious food is one of the cornerstones of good health. Without this, individuals—and communities—are at a higher risk of serious chronic diseases, including obesity, diabetes and heart disease. To improve the health of New Yorkers, we must recognize that each neighborhood has a distinct food environment.

Purpose

This Foodscape provides a community-level snapshot of that environment, including data on healthy and unhealthy food consumption, food access, and nutrition-related diseases. Additionally, the report details a sampling of the many resources available to residents within their neighborhoods to support them in eating healthier.

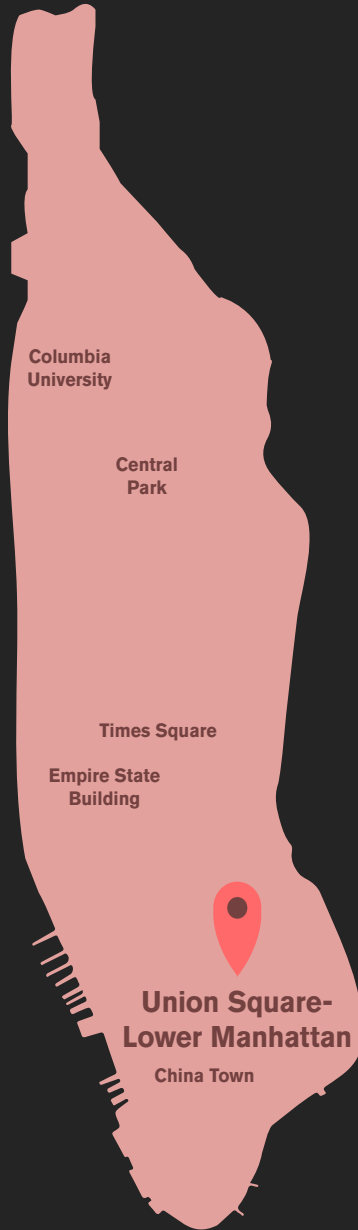
The Data

The data are presented by [United Hospital Fund \(UHF\) neighborhoods](#), which are defined by the [United Hospital Fund](#) and consist of multiple adjacent zip codes. UHF neighborhoods are commonly used in research, including the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene's [Community Health Survey](#).

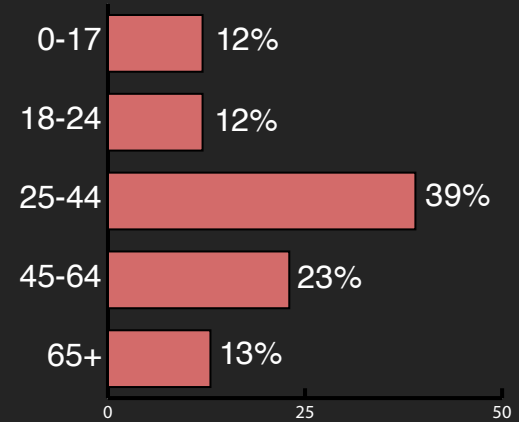
The reports also specify the City Council Districts that are part of each UHF, and districts often span several UHF neighborhoods. Council members and residents can then view the distinct neighborhoods within their districts, to compare and contrast both the needs and assets within each area. Recognizing that UHF neighborhoods are an imperfect way to capture council districts holistically, the hope is that future updates to the reports will use data more specific to each district.

About Union Square/Lower Manhattan

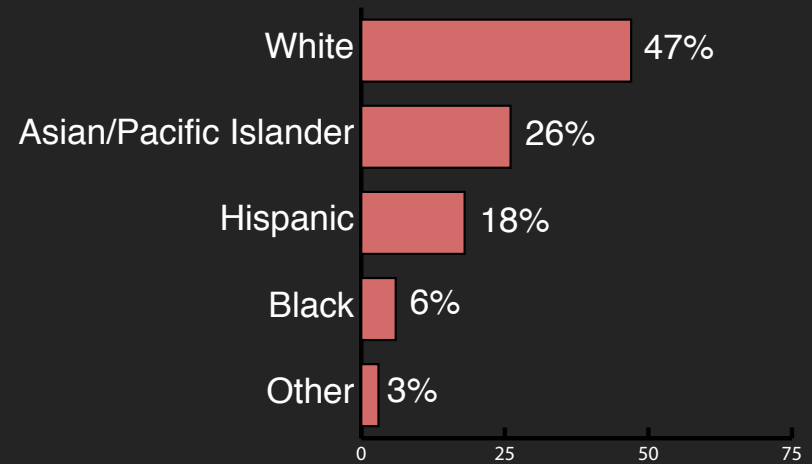
Population: **256,797**



Age



Race

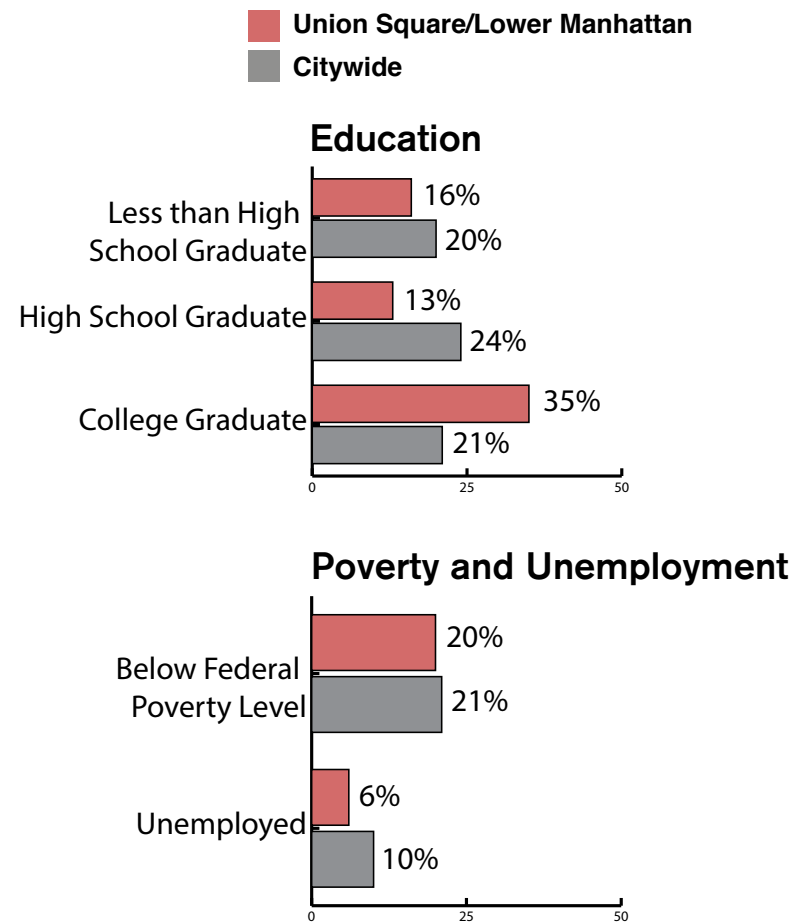


Union Square/Lower Manhattan is primarily **White**.



Levels of educational attainment in Union Square/ Lower Manhattan are higher than New York City as a whole; 35% of neighborhood residents are college graduates (vs. 21% citywide).

Poverty levels are similar in this neighborhood and New York City overall, with one in five residents living below the poverty level. Six percent of neighborhood residents are unemployed, less than the citywide rate of 10%.



Food and Beverage Consumption in Union Square/Lower Manhattan

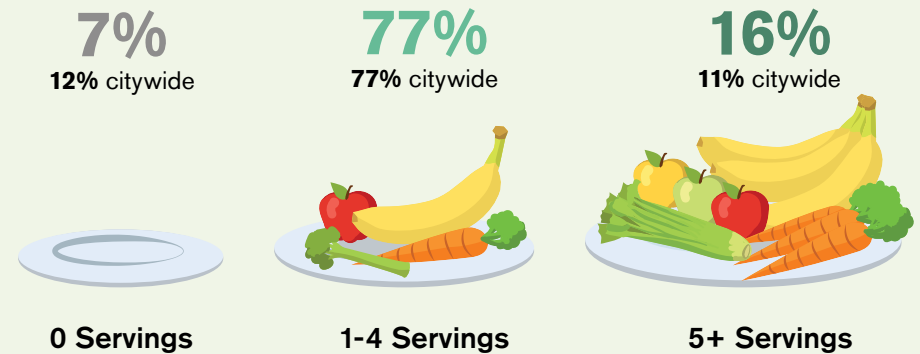
According to the 2015 U.S. Dietary Guidelines,¹ Americans should eat **five or more servings of fruits and vegetables each day**.

A greater percentage of Union Square/Lower Manhattan residents are meeting this standard (16% vs. 11% in NYC), but 7% consume no fruits or vegetables in a day (vs. 12% in NYC). The vast majority of residents both in this neighborhood and citywide consume between one and four servings of fruits or vegetables per day.

Federal dietary guidelines also recommend **limiting daily sugar intake** to no more than 10% of calories—that is, no more than **12 teaspoons of sugar for a 2000-calorie-a-day diet**. One 12-ounce can of soda has about 10 teaspoons of sugar, and **drinking one soda each day increases a person's risk of developing diabetes by 18%.**²

The majority (56%) of Union Square/Lower Manhattan residents do not consume sugary drinks, higher than citywide (45%). In this neighborhood, 13% of residents drink one or more sugary beverages daily, lower than New York City as a whole (24%).

Daily Consumption of Fruits and Vegetables



Daily Consumption of Sugar-Sweetened Drinks



Walking Distance to Fresh Fruits and Vegetables



57% live **5 minutes or less**
49% citywide



19% live **between 5-10 minutes**
18% citywide



24% live **10 minutes or more**
32% citywide



Access to Healthy Food and Food Security in Union Square/Lower Manhattan

Walking distance to fruits and vegetables is an indicator of access to healthy foods. Although access alone may not be sufficient to improve health, studies have found an association between better access and improved diet quality and other health indicators.³

In Union Square/Lower Manhattan, the majority (57%) of residents live within a five-minute walk to fresh produce, compared to 49% citywide.

Food security means having consistent access to safe, nutritious, and affordable food. The use of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits, or food stamps, is an indicator of food insecurity; the majority of households that receive SNAP are food insecure.⁴



Households Receiving SNAP Benefits

The U.S. Census Bureau estimates that 12.8% of all households in the United States received SNAP benefits at some point in 2015.

In Union Square/Lower Manhattan, 16% of households receive SNAP benefits, lower than New York City as a whole (21%).



Nutrition-Related Chronic Diseases in Union Square/Lower Manhattan

In Union Square/Lower Manhattan, the prevalence of childhood obesity is lower than New York City as a whole—14% of children are obese (vs. 21% citywide). Children who are obese are more likely to remain obese as adults.⁵ When children remain obese into adulthood their risk for heart disease and other comorbidities becomes more severe.⁶

Adult obesity in this neighborhood is also lower than citywide (8% vs. 24%). Obesity can lead to serious

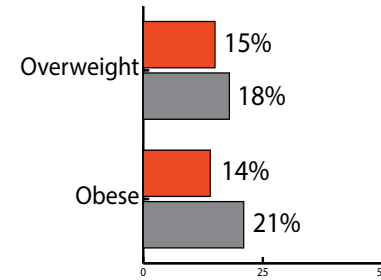
health conditions, including diabetes and heart disease.

Diabetes prevalence is slightly lower in Union Square/Lower Manhattan than in New York City overall (9% vs. 12%). Uncontrolled diabetes can cause blindness, renal disease, and amputations.

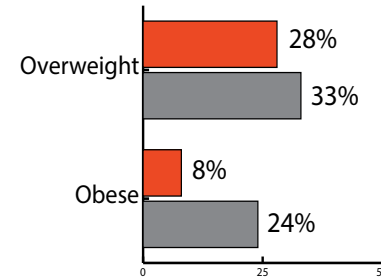
Additionally, **a lower percentage of neighborhood residents have high blood pressure (23% vs. 29% in NYC),** a leading risk factor for heart disease.

Union Square/Lower Manhattan
Citywide

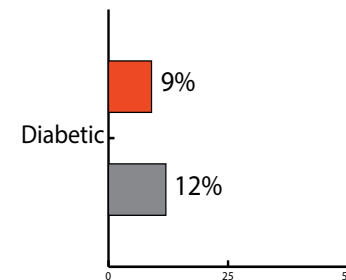
Children (5-14) Who Are Overweight or Obese



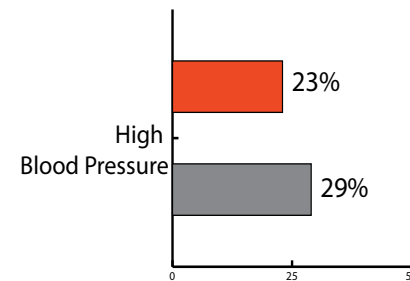
Adults Who Are Overweight or Obese



Adults Diagnosed With Diabetes



Adults Diagnosed With High Blood Pressure





Citywide Initiatives to Increase Access to Healthy Foods in **Union Square/Lower Manhattan**

GreenThumb Gardens

There are over 600 [GreenThumb](#) community gardens across the city, and any resident can join a garden. In Union Square/Lower Manhattan, there are **49 GreenThumb Gardens** (which total more than 328,000 square feet), 26 of which grow food. Find the most up-to-date list of gardens using GreenThumb's [searchable Garden Map](#).

Grow to Learn Gardens

[Grow to Learn NYC](#) is a school gardens initiative that includes more than 600 registered network schools throughout the city. In Union Square/Lower Manhattan, there are **28 Grow to Learn-registered network schools**. Find the most up-to-date list of school gardens using Grow to Learn's [searchable Garden Maps](#).

*SNAP is the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (formerly food stamps); EBT, electronic benefit transfer.

Farmers' Markets

All locations, unless otherwise noted, accept SNAP/EBT.* For an updated list of farmers' markets near you (including days/hours of operation) visit nyc.gov/health and search "farmers markets" or text "SoGood" to 877-877.

Gouverneur Health Youthmarket -- Madison St bet Clinton & Jefferson Sts

Lower East Side Youthmarket -- Grand Ave bet Pitt & Willet Sts

St. Mark's Church Greenmarket -- 10th St & 2nd Ave

Union Square Greenmarket -- 17th St & Broadway

Bowling Green Greenmarket -- Broadway & Battery Pl

Staten Island Ferry Whitehall Terminal Greenmarket -- 4 South St, inside terminal

Water Street Greenmarket -- Water Street & Coenties Slip

City Hall Greenmarket -- Broadway & Chambers St

Stuyvesant Town Greenmarket -- 14th St Loop bet 1st Ave & Ave A

Tompkins Square Greenmarket -- 7th St & Ave A

Tribeca Greenmarket -- Greenwich & Chambers Sts

SNAP Enrollment Sites

There are no SNAP enrollment sites in Union Square/Lower Manhattan. The closest site is in Chelsea/Greenwich Village.

Waverly -- 12 West 14th St, NY, 10011

Free Summer Meals

The New York City Department of Education offers free breakfast and lunch to children ages 18 and under at more than 1,100 sites across the city throughout the summer. Food served at summer meal sites meets federal nutrition requirements and the program is fully funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

Find the most up-to-date list of summer meal sites at schoolfoodnyc.org or download the free smartphone app [SchoolFood: Feed Your Mind](#).

Meal Sites in Union Square/Lower Manhattan:

P.S. 020 Anna Silver -- 166 Essex St, New York, 10002

P.S. 142 Amalia Castro -- 100 Attorney St, New York, 10002

P.S. 184M Shuang Wen -- 327 Cherry St, New York, 10002

Hamilton Fish Pool -- 128 Pitt St, New York, 10002

NYCHA Seward Park -- 64-66 Essex St, New York, 10002

(Mobile Unit) Sara D. Roosevelt Park -- 14 Rivington St, New York, 10002

NYC Parks Seward Park -- East Broadway & Essex St, New York, 10002

Sol Lain Playground -- East Broadway and Henry St & Montgomery St, New York, 10002

P.S. 002 Meyer London -- 122 Henry St, New York, 10002

P.S. 042 Benjamin Altman -- 71 Hester St, New York, 10002

P.S. 124 Yung Wing -- 40 Division St, New York, 10002

M.S. 131 -- 100 Hester St, New York, 10002

P.S. 015 Roberto Clemente -- 333 East 4th St, New York, 10009

Tompkins Mini Pool -- 9th St & Avenue A, New York, 10009

Dry Dock Pool -- East 10th St between Ave C & D, New York, 10009

P.S. 126 Jacob August Riis -- 80 Catherine St, New York, 10038



FRESH: Zoning and Discretionary Tax Incentives

The [Food Retail Expansion to Support Health \(FRESH\)](#) program offers zoning and financial incentives to promote the creation and maintenance of grocery stores in underserved neighborhoods.

FRESH benefits are available to stores within designated areas; tax incentives are discretionary and available on a case-by-case basis. To receive FRESH benefits, stores must provide at least:

- 6,000 square feet of retail space for grocery products;
- 50% of a general line of food products intended for home usage;
- 30% of retail space for perishable goods; and
- 500 square feet of retail space for fresh produce.

Find out more on the nyc.gov website.



The New York City Food Policy Center at Hunter College develops intersectoral, innovative and evidence-based solutions to preventing diet-related diseases and promoting food security in New York City and beyond. The Center works with policy makers, community organizations, advocates, and the public to create healthier, more sustainable food environments and to use food to promote community and economic development. Through interdisciplinary research, policy analysis, evaluation, and education, we leverage the expertise and passion of the students, faculty and staff of Hunter College. The center aims to make New York a model for smart, fair food policy.

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