



A Foodscape of **Southeast Queens**

UHF Neighborhood #409 (zip codes 11001, 11004, 11005, 11040, 11411, 11413, 11422, 11426, 11427, 11428, 11429)
Includes parts of City Council Districts 23, 27, and 31



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](#).

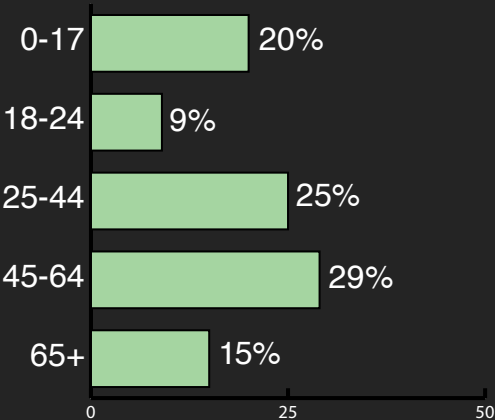
The reports also specify the City Council Districts that are part of each UHF, and districts often span several UHF neighborhoods. Council members and residents can then view the distinct neighborhoods within their districts, to compare and contrast both the needs and assets within each area. Recognizing 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 Southeast Queens

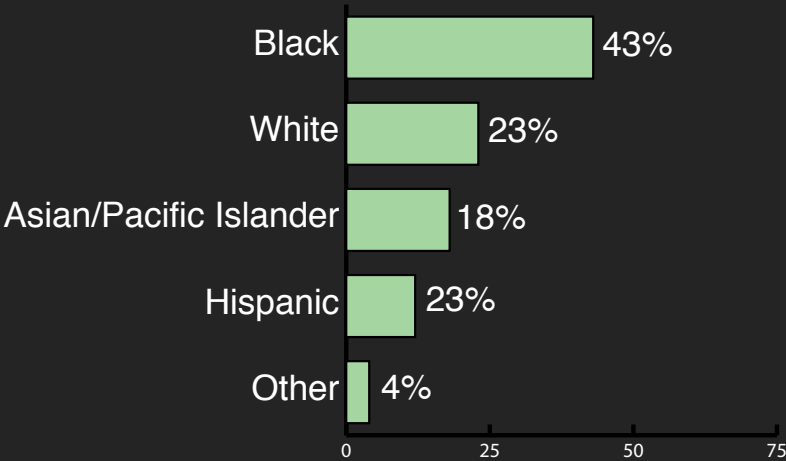
Population: 269,239



Age



Race



Southeast Queens is primarily **Black**.

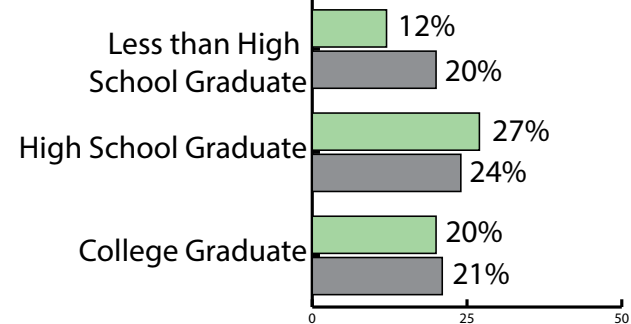


In Southeast Queens, one in five residents are college graduates, similar to New York City overall. Only 12% of neighborhood residents have less than a high school degree compared with 20% citywide.

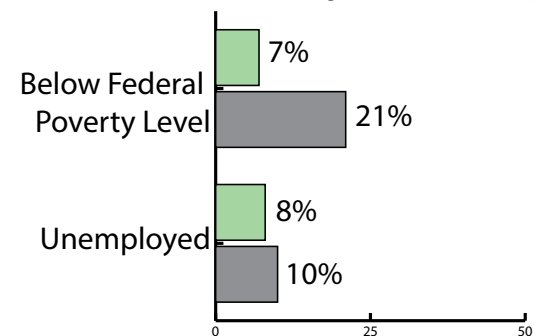
In this neighborhood, 7% of residents live in poverty (vs. 21% citywide) and 8% are unemployed.

 **Southeast Queens**
 **Citywide**

Education



Poverty and Unemployment



Food and Beverage Consumption in Southeast Queens

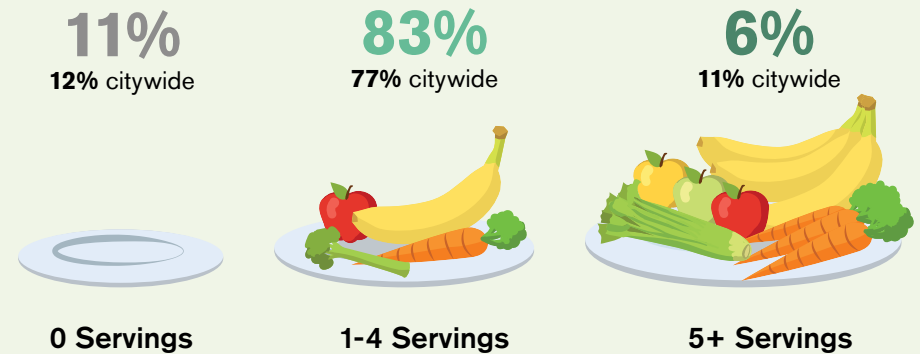
According to the 2015 U.S. Dietary Guidelines,¹ Americans should eat **five or more servings of fruits and vegetables each day**.

A lower percentage of Southeast Queens residents are meeting this standard (6% vs. 11% 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

One quarter of Southeast Queens residents consume one or more sugary drinks each day, the same as citywide.

Daily Consumption of Fruits and Vegetables



Daily Consumption of Sugar-Sweetened Drinks



Walking Distance to Fresh Fruits and Vegetables



38% live 5 minutes or less
49% citywide



18% live between 5-10 minutes
18% citywide



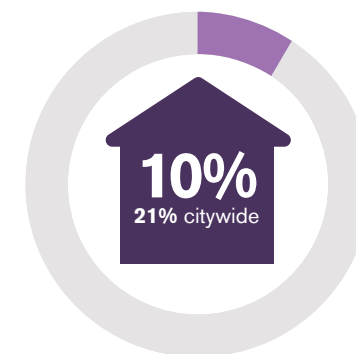
43% live 10 minutes or more
32% citywide

Access to Healthy Food and Food Security in Southeast Queens

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 Southeast Queens, only 38% 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 Southeast Queens, 10% of households receive SNAP benefits, compared with twice that in New York City overall (21%).

Nutrition-Related Chronic Diseases in Southeast Queens



In Southeast Queens, the prevalence of childhood obesity is similar to New York City as a whole—more than 1 in 5 children is obese. 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 slightly higher than citywide (26% vs. 24%). Obesity can lead to serious health

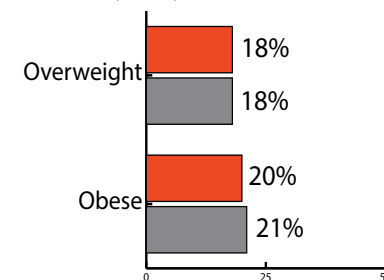
conditions, including diabetes and heart disease.

Diabetes prevalence is the same in Southeast Queens and New York City, at 12%. Uncontrolled diabetes can cause blindness, renal disease, and amputations.

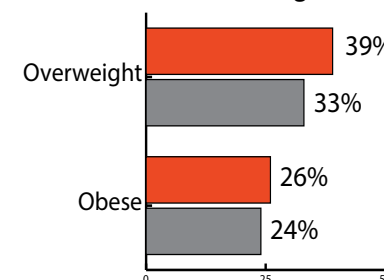
A higher percentage of neighborhood residents have high blood pressure (34% vs. 29% in NYC), a leading risk factor for heart disease.

■ Southeast Queens
■ Citywide

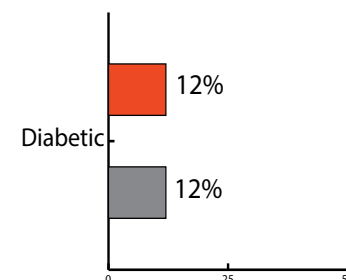
Children (5-14) Who Are Overweight or Obese



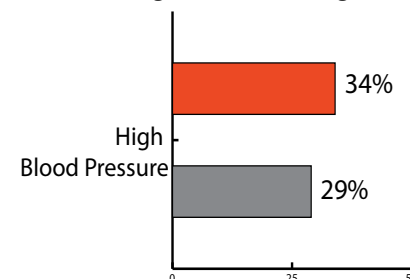
Adults Who Are Overweight or Obese



Adults Diagnosed With Diabetes



Adults Diagnosed With High Blood Pressure





Citywide Initiatives to Increase Access to Healthy Foods in **Southeast Queens**

GreenThumb Gardens

There are over 600 [GreenThumb](#) community gardens across the city, and any resident can join a garden. In Southeast Queens, there is **one GreenThumb Garden** (which totals more than 10,000 square feet). 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 Southeast Queens, there are **13 Grow to Learn—registered network schools**. Find the most up-to-date list of school gardens using Grow to Learn's [searchable Garden Maps](#).

Farmers' Markets

There are no farmers' markets in Southeast Queens. The closest markets are in Jamaica or Bay Side/Little Neck/Fresh Meadows. For a 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.

SNAP Enrollment Sites

There are no SNAP enrollment sites in Southeast Queens. The closest site is in Jamaica.

Jamaica -- 165-08 88th Ave, 3rd Fl, Jamaica, 11432

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

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 Southeast Queens:

Irwin Altman Middle School 172 -- 81-14 257th St, Queens, 11004

Queens Library (Cambria Heights) -- 218-13 Linden Blvd, Queens, 11411

P.S. 015 Jackie Robinson -- 121-15 Lucas St, Queens, 11413

Queens Library (Laurelton) -- 134-26 225th St, Queens, 11413

NYC Parks Castlewood Mini-pool -- Little Neck Pkwy & 72nd Ave, Queens, 11426



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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