11.2% of DC households are food insecure.

Food insecurity means lacking consistent access to quality, affordable, healthy food.

The District has:

- 62 farmers markets
- 18 urban farms
- 40 full service grocery stores
- 73 active community gardens
- 71 healthy food corner stores

Source: DC Food Policy Council
The lack of healthy food access can be linked to poorer health outcomes, disproportionately effecting residents who make less money. Residents who earn less than $25,000 per year have more than double the rate of hypertension (related to poor diet) than those earning greater than $75,000 per year.

One in 10 DC residents has difficulty accessing healthy and affordable food. DC has 40 full-service grocery stores, but only four are located east of the Anacostia River. In total, 11.2% of DC households are food insecure.

How’s the food quality in your neighborhood?

SNAP-Ed Program is a state-wide program that delivers nutrition education and promotes physical activity: Contact DC Health at 202.442.9171 or at info.snap-ed@dc.gov.

The Special Supplemental Nutritional Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) is a program that provides services to pregnant women, new mothers, infants, and children up to age 5: Contact DC Health at 202.442.9397.

Looking for community gardens? Visit dpr.dc.gov/page/community-gardens or 202.714.4331.
The net worth of White households in DC is 81 times higher than Black households.

White: $284,000  
Black: $3,500

There are 43,000 DC residents who qualify as “extremely low-income.”

91% of “extremely low-income” families are Black.

108,732 DC residents lived below the poverty line in 2012.

115,119 residents lived below the poverty line in 2017.

Source: Urban Institute  
Source: DC Fiscal Policy Institute  
Source: DC Office of Planning
While equity includes gender, age, ethnicity, social class, language, sexual preference, and mental and physical ability, it must start with race. Racial equity is an integral element of a truly sustainable city.

Communities of color are more prone to experience deep and persistent gaps in income, health, employment, and education. While the District’s prosperity is growing, the benefits have not been experienced by all residents.

The wealth gap between people of color — especially Blacks — and Whites is growing. The Black median household income in DC is roughly $42,000, less than a third of the White median household income of $134,000.

Between 2007 and 2014, the median household income in DC increased by $10,000 but remained flat for Black households.

Source: DC Commission on African American Affairs

The Health Equity Report informs and reframes discussion on improving the health of residents to include factors beyond insurance and access to healthcare: dchealth.dc.gov.

Source: U.S. Census Survey, American Community Survey and DC GIS

RESOURCES