



NYC
Food Policy

Mayor's Office of Food Policy

January 2025 Food by the Numbers

Food and Health



City Food Standards Compliance in FY24
219,376,000 meals and snacks were served across city agencies, with a **93%** NYC Food Standards compliance rate.

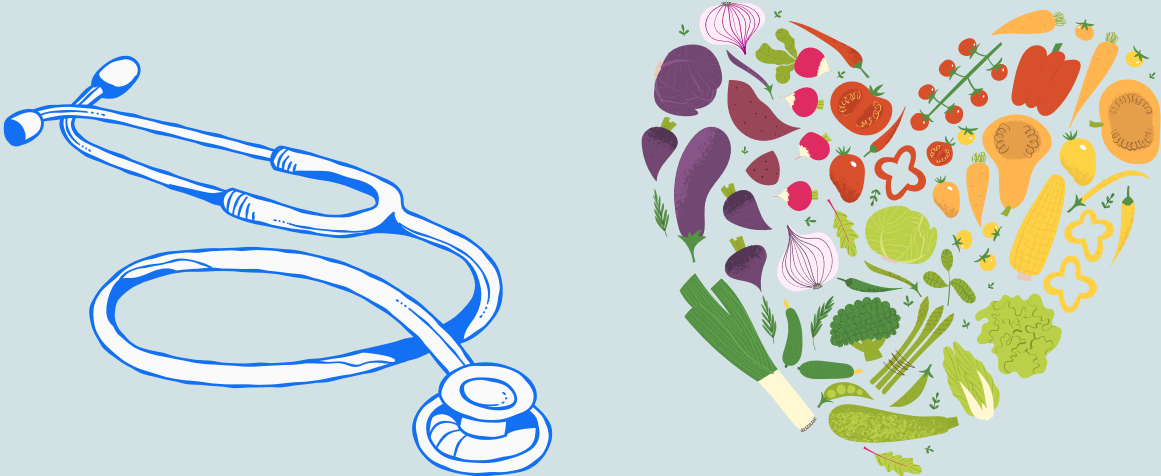
Plant-based Defaults January-September 2024

NYC Health + Hospitals (H+H) serves culturally-diverse, **plant-based meals** as their primary dinner option in **all 11 public hospitals** to promote positive health outcomes.

687,581
plant-based meals served

98%
acceptance rate

51%
plant-based meals uptake



Lifestyle Medicine

There are **seven Lifestyle Medicine Programs** at H+H sites across **all five boroughs**.

Jacobi, Sept. 2023

Lincoln, Mar. 2024

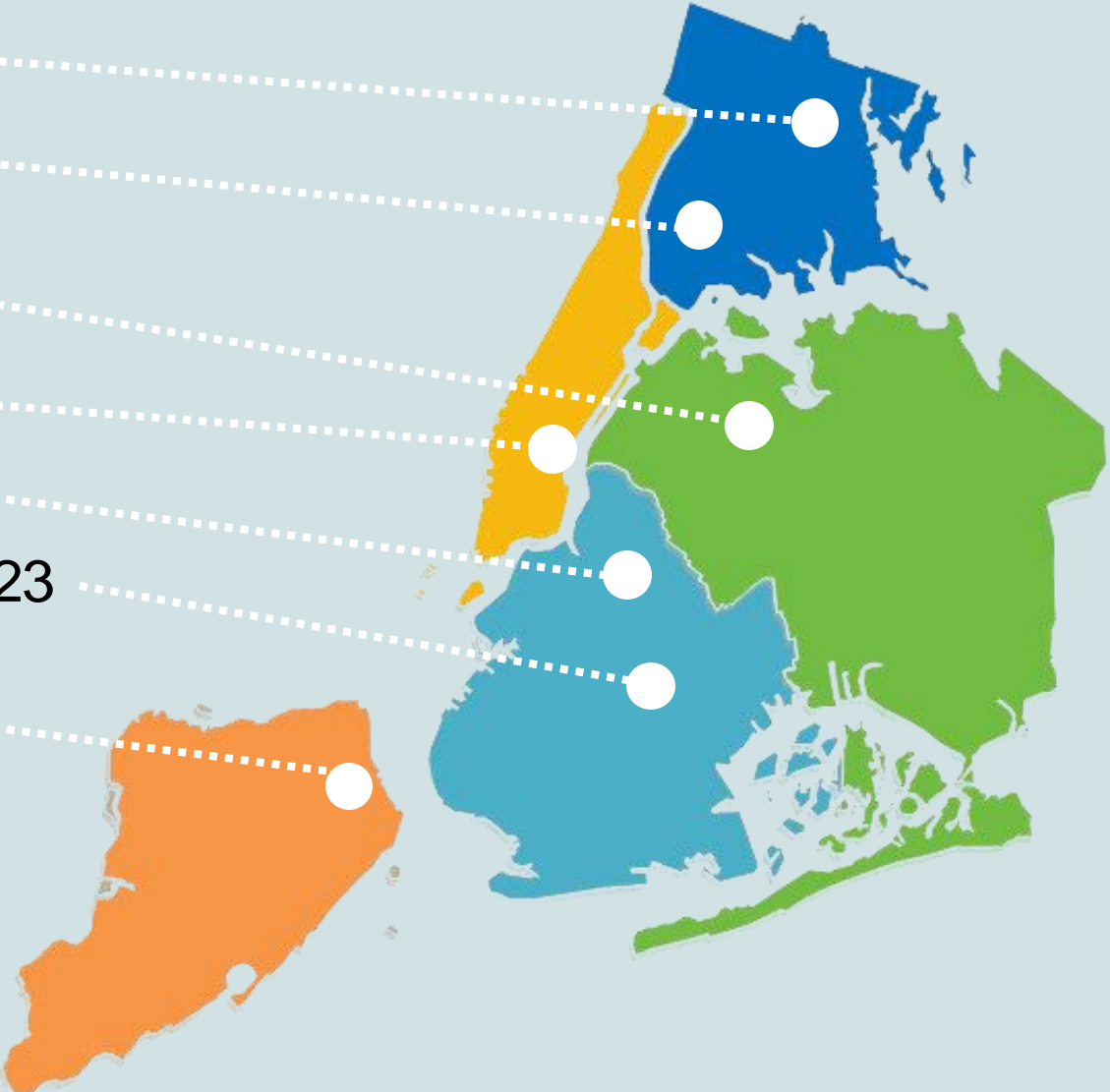
Elmhurst, Jan. 2024

Bellevue, Jan. 2019

Woodhull, Nov. 2023

Kings County, Nov. 2023

Gotham Health Vanderbilt, Feb. 2024



3,035 patients have engaged in our programs since its 2019 launch, including **1,546 patients in FY24**.

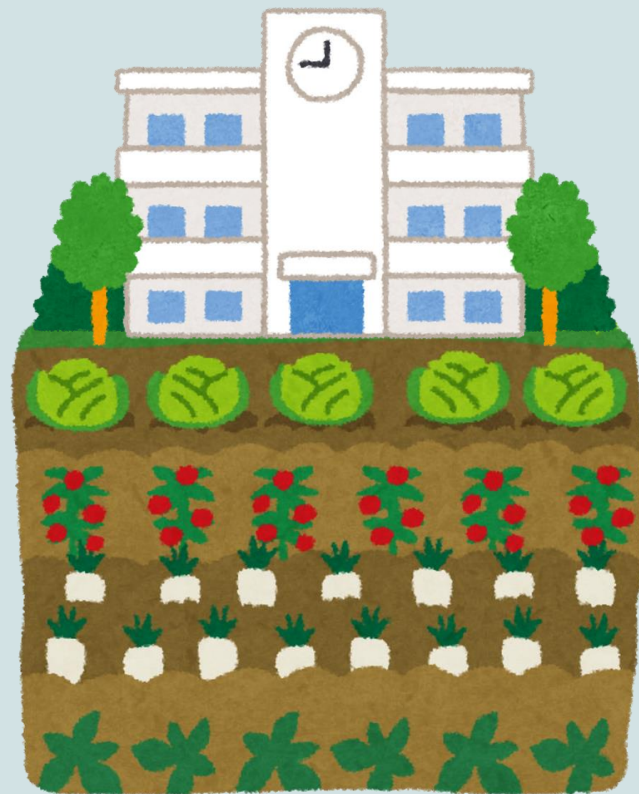
Food in Schools

23-24 School Year

New York City Public Schools averaged approximately **220,000 meals for breakfast** and **540,000 meals for lunch** daily.

252 schools have undergone **Cafeteria Enhancement Experience (CEE)** renovations, with more installations scheduled for this year.

550 schools have benefited from **Chefs in the Schools** thus far, with **another 600** being impacted this school year.



School Gardens

There are **966 registered school gardens** during the 2024-25 school year:

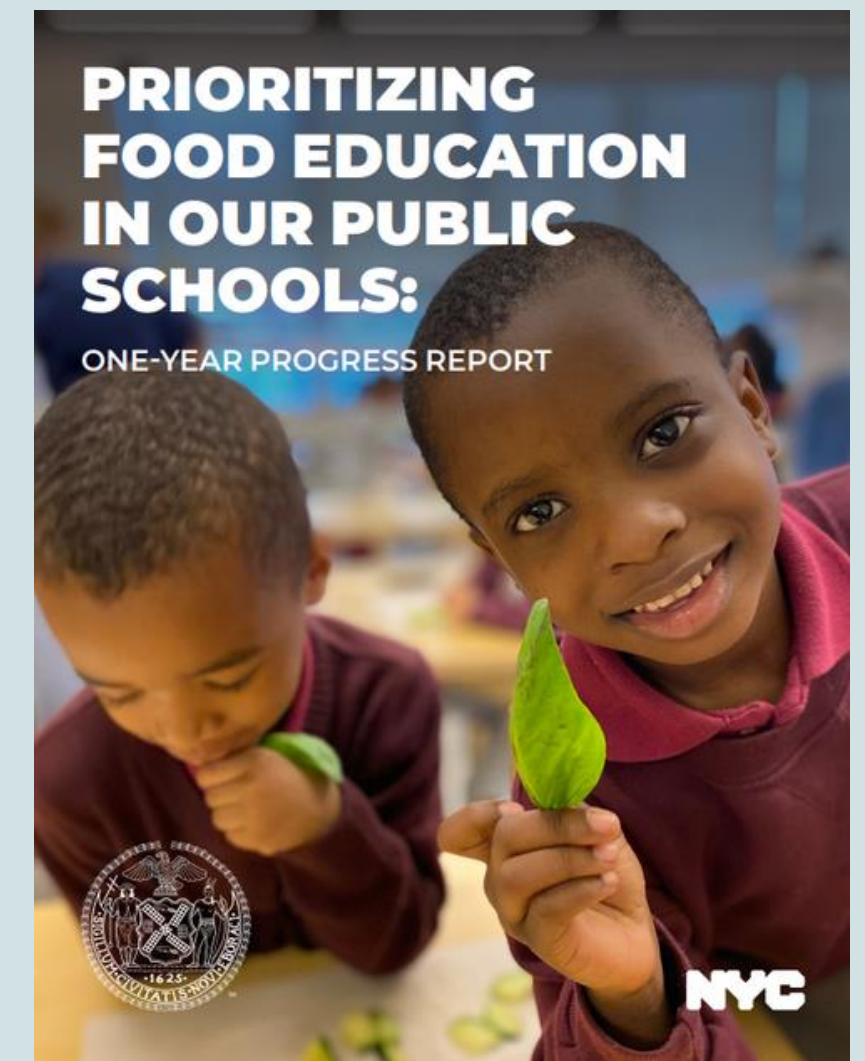
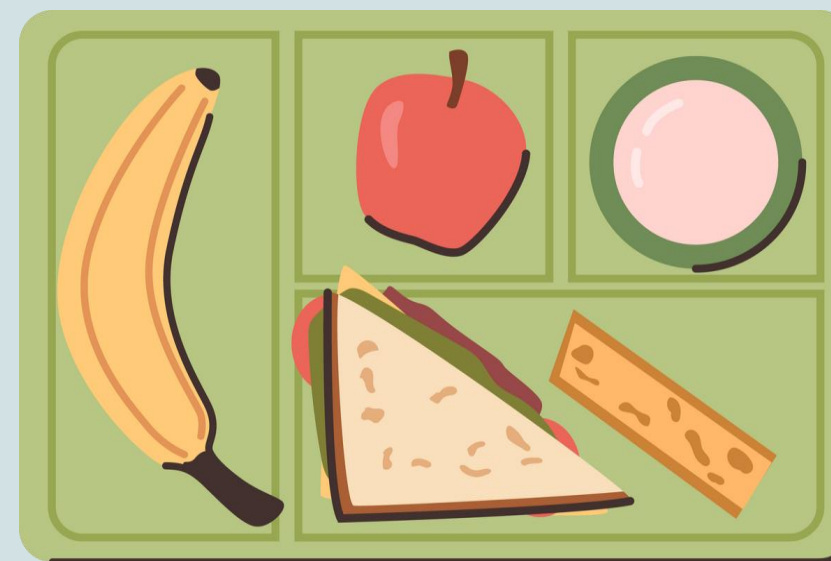
- Bronx 210
- Brooklyn 326
- Manhattan 183
- Staten Island 39
- Queens 208

Summer EBT

\$135 million in **Summer EBT** benefits have been issued to **1.1 million children** as of December 7, 2024.

Food Education Grant Program

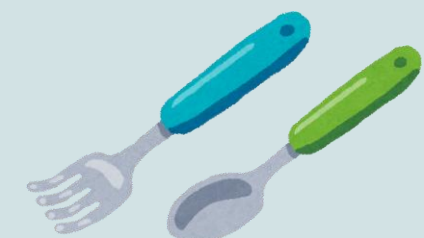
In the 2024-25 school year, **190 schools** will participate in the **Food Education Grant Program**, receiving \$6,000 each.



Food Insecurity By Borough as of 2022

Citywide population: **8,258,000**

Citywide food insecurity rate: **14.6%** (over 1,200,000 New Yorkers)



New York County

245,880 people (14.9%)

42,090 children (17.9%)

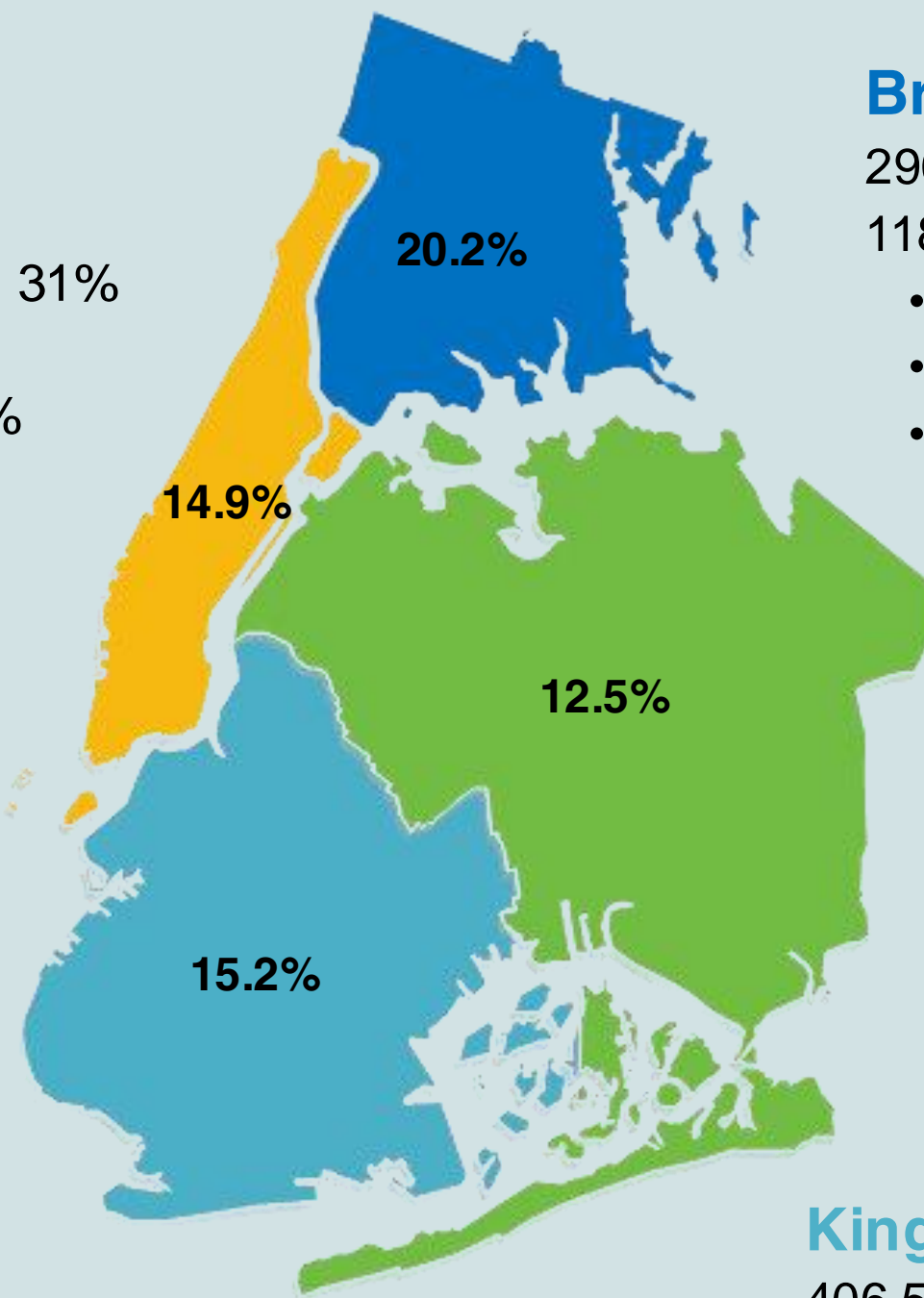
- Black/African American: 31%
- Hispanic/Latino: 29%
- White, non-Hispanic: 9%

Richmond County

56,480 people (11.5%)

15,190 children (14.2%)

- Black/African American: 23%
- Hispanic/Latino: 20%
- White, non-Hispanic: 6%



Bronx County

290,990 people (20.2%)

118,320 children (33.2%)

- Black/African American: 30%
- Hispanic/Latino: 30%
- White, non-Hispanic: 14%

Queens County

294,240 people (12.5%)

87,960 children (18.7%)

- Black/African American: 18%
- Hispanic/Latino: 21%
- White, non-Hispanic: 10%

Kings County

406,560 people (15.2%)

152,830 children (25.3%)

- Black/African American: 24%
- Hispanic/Latino: 26%
- White, non-Hispanic: 12%



Food Insecurity Risk In 2023

Food Secure Food Insecure



40.2% of adults lived in a household at risk for food insecurity in 2023, continuing a rising trend.



Diet-related Indicators

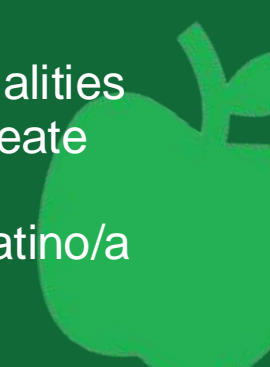
13% of NYC adults have been diagnosed with diabetes as of 2023

People of color are **twice as likely** to experience diabetes than their White counterparts.

30% of NYC adults have been diagnosed with hypertension as of 2023.

Hypertension is higher among people of color compared to their White counterparts.

Historical and ongoing systemic inequalities unfairly distribute opportunities and create barriers to maintaining good health, disproportionately burdening Black, Latino/a and low-income New Yorkers.



Food Access

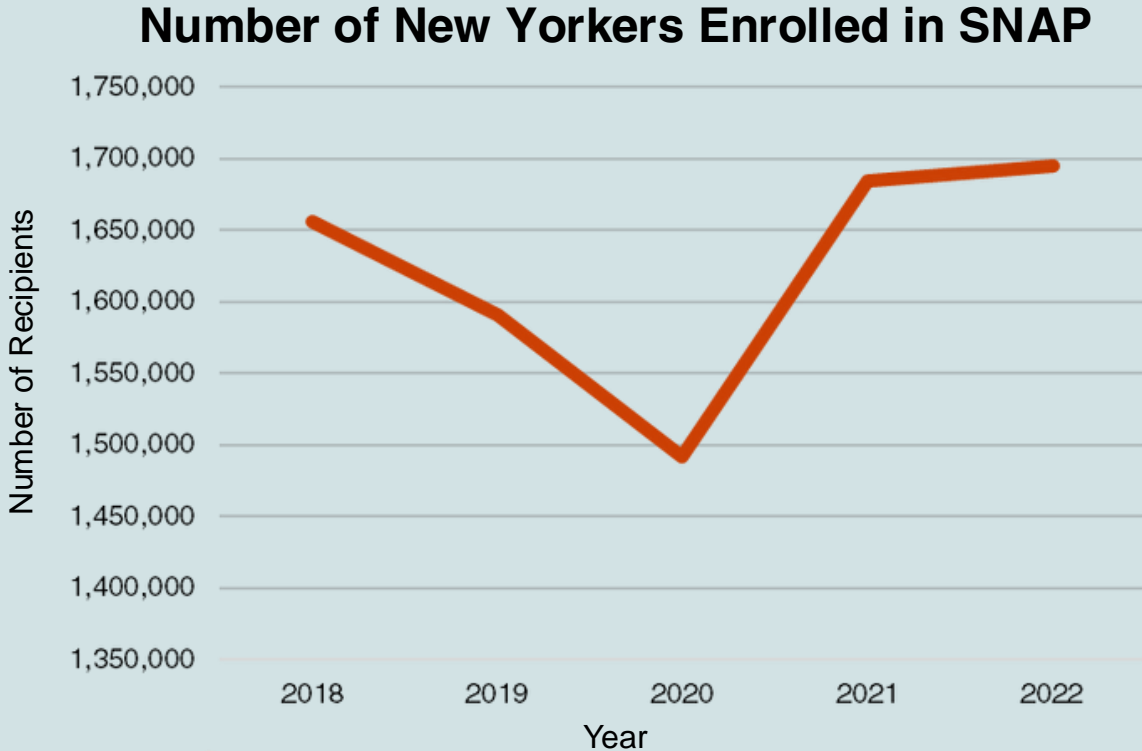
Federal nutrition programs serve millions of New Yorkers, helping to put food on families' tables.



Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

1,804,020

SNAP participants as of September 2024 including **328,000** older adults (age 65 or above) as of June 2024



Special Supplemental Nutritional Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)

Each month of FY24, on average there were

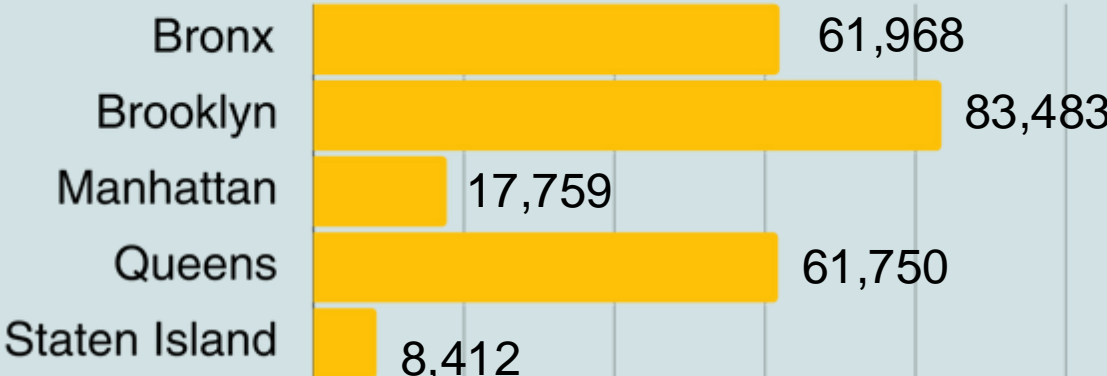
233,372 WIC participants in NYC

47,354 infants (<1 year of age)

134,753 children (1 to 4 years of age)

51,265 women

WIC participants by Borough



\$4.9 Billion

in total SNAP expenditures for FY24

Food Access

SNAP Outreach in FY24

665 SNAP outreach-specific events engaging over **10,000 SNAP clients and potential clients.**

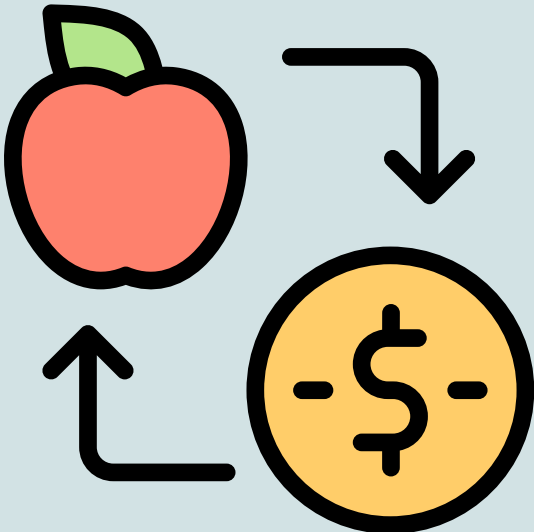
DSS Office of Community Outreach (OCO)

50

co-sponsored claims assistance events

87

community partner sites served



NYC Benefits

\$9.75M

in funding to direct service providers and technical assistance providers

35

direct service providers funded



Food Access



Community Food Connection (CFC)

as of FY24

694 participating programs
 604 food pantries
 90 soup kitchens

35,256,775* Visits

*duplicate count

\$43.1M

Total Food Spend

\$15M

Produce & Refrigerated Food



Nutrition Security Programs

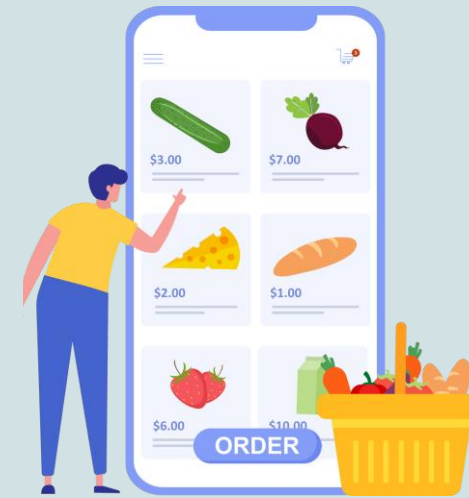
Get the Good Stuff

\$1 for \$1 match on SNAP purchases of eligible fruits, vegetables and beans at participating supermarkets.

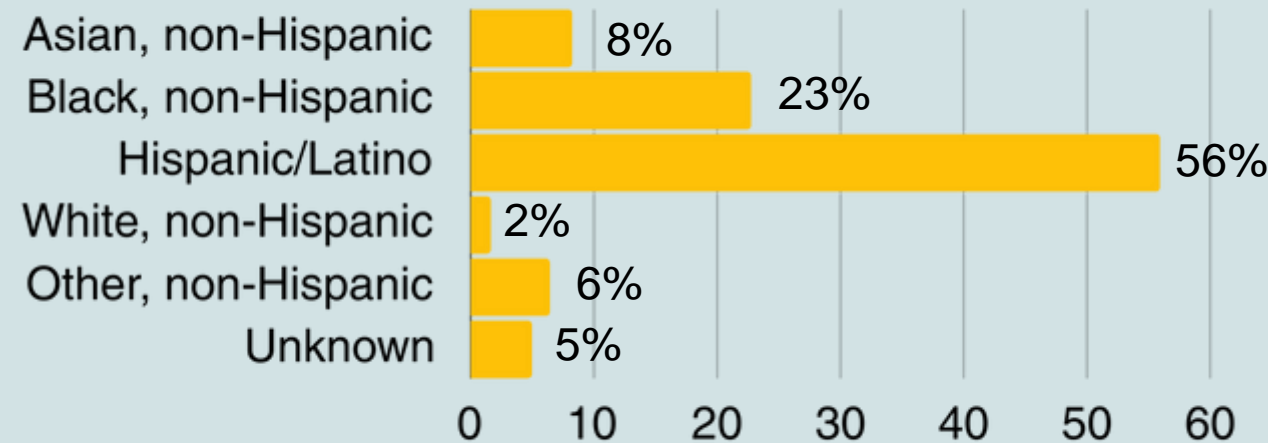
Over **\$1.4 million** worth of fruits, vegetables, and beans were redeemed by New Yorkers at **17 participating supermarkets** in the Bronx, Brooklyn, Manhattan, and Queens in FY24.

Groceries to Go

Monthly credits to H+H NYC Care members to purchase SNAP-eligible groceries for delivery or pickup via an online platform. Participants get a **50% discount** on purchases of fresh produce made with credits.



4,075 participants in FY24



Health Bucks

\$2 coupons redeemable at all farmers markets for purchases of fruits and vegetables.

Over **1.15 Million** Health Bucks were distributed in 2023, valued at over

\$2M

in fruits and vegetables funded by local and federal government.



Food Retail

There are **1,002 grocery stores** in NYC as of 2023, amounting to **over 15.6 million square feet** of food retail space.

Storefront vacancies are trending downward.

More than 70% of NYC neighborhoods saw an increase in food and drink businesses since 2020.

201 regional farmers selling across **46 GrowNYC Greenmarkets** in FY24, promoting regional agriculture and ensured a continuing supply of fresh, local produce for all New Yorkers.

Shop Healthy

Shop Healthy works with food retailers, suppliers, distributors, community residents and organizations to increase access to healthy foods in neighborhoods with high rates of nutrition-related diseases.

2,129 stores promoting healthier items

1,394 stores increasing access

24 zip codes served;
added Bushwick in Brooklyn
and Highbridge in the Bronx



Food Retail Expansion to Support Health (FRESH)

The **FRESH** program provides zoning incentives and tax benefits to property owners who agree to build a full-service food market in communities with a high need for access to fresh food, to address limited access to grocery stores in low-income communities.

1.35 million New Yorkers live within a half mile radius of a FRESH supermarket

42 FRESH supermarkets are currently open

16 more FRESH supermarkets in development

In FY24:

13 FRESH projects received zoning incentives

20 FRESH projects received tax benefits

Note: some projects receive both zoning and tax benefits

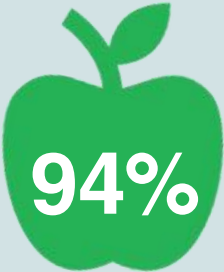
Food and Valued Workforce

NYC Department of Correction and NYC Administration for Children's Services

in partnership with Hot Bread Kitchen and the Carbon Neutral Cities Alliance delivered **culinary trainings** at Rikers Island. The two-year project began in January 2024 and will integrate new recipes in 2025.



hours of training provided to nutrition service staff



staff satisfaction for new culinary skill development



new delicious cultural recipes introduced



culinary tastings



culinary professionals completed training



senior chefs completed Train-the-Trainer



Chefs in the Schools



Chefs from NYC Public Schools participated in trainings, supporting their work in transforming school meals into nutritious and delicious offerings.



Food and Climate

In 2023, NYC pledged to reduce its food-related carbon emissions **33% by 2030**.



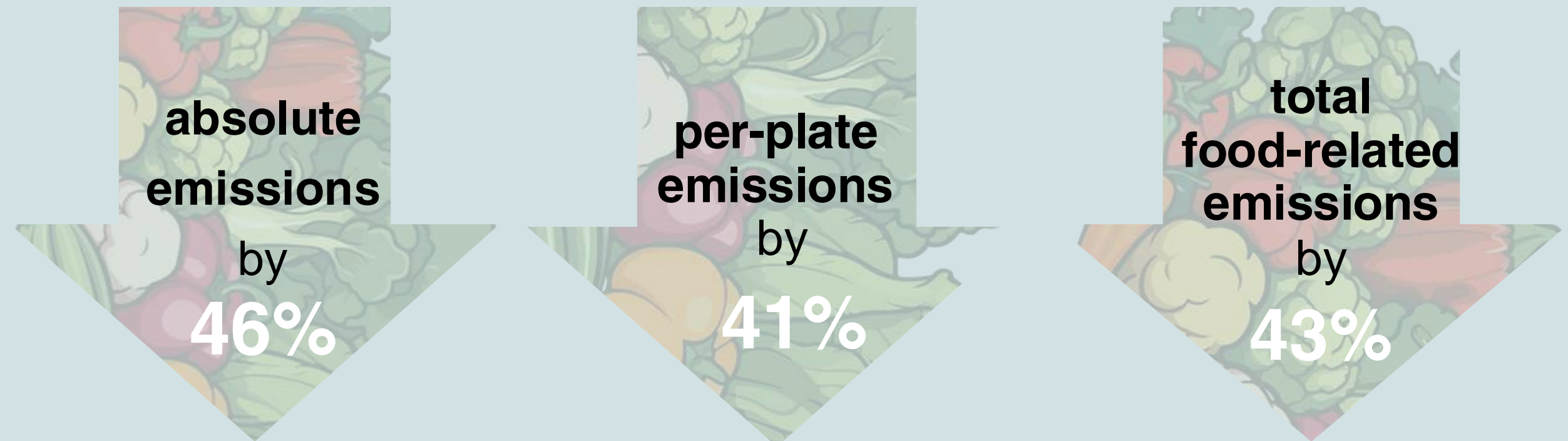
29%

Since 2019, NYC has achieved a **29% reduction in our total absolute emissions**, putting us on track to go beyond our target by 2030.

NYC Public Schools

NYC public schools have gone above and beyond to decrease their climate and environmental footprint through their plant-forward initiatives, including Meatless Mondays, Plant-Powered Fridays, and Chefs in the Schools.

Between FY19 and FY23, schools decreased their



NYC Health + Hospitals

H+H's plant-based meal program has achieved a **36% reduction** in **food-related carbon emissions** in the first year of implementation - and a cost savings of **59 cents** per meal.

Food and Climate

The Plant-Powered Carbon Challenge

calls upon private corporations to pursue a **25% reduction in food-related carbon emissions by 2030.**

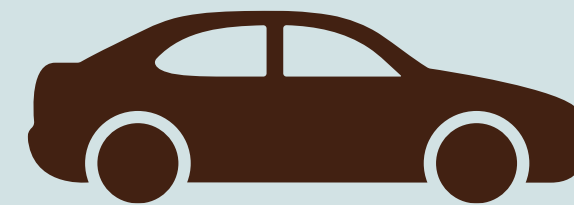
18 signatories

from across higher education, philanthropy, hospitality, food service, finance, recreation, and sports entertainment sectors. Since joining, partners have served over

24.1 million meals

An estimated **410 million kg CO₂e** will be averted if signatories meet the **25%** reduction target by 2030.

Emitting 410 million kg CO₂e is equivalent to...



1 billion miles
driven by a gas-powered car



452 million pounds
of coal burned

Averting 410 million kg CO₂e is equivalent to...



almost **500,000 acres of forests**
sequestering carbon for a year



6.7 million trees planted
and grown for 10 years

Sources

- [Feeding America Map the Meal Gap](#)
- New York City Department of City Planning
- New York City Department of City Planning - [Storefront Activity in NYC Neighborhoods](#)
- New York City Department of Education, Office of Food and Nutrition Services
- New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
- New York City Department of Social Services
- New York City Health + Hospitals - Sodexo
- New York State Department of Health
- Economic Development Corporation

