Feeding the Gem City: the Food Desert of Dayton, Ohio
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Causes of Dayton’s Food Desert

- Population loss
- Concentrated Poverty
- Expansion of highway systems and differentiated access to personal vehicles

Conditions: Surviving in the Food Desert

- Decrease in grocery stores, increase in convenience stores
- Increase in access to unhealthful foods, decrease in quantity of healthful foods
- Access to transport dictates access to healthful foods

Effects of the Desert

- Psychosocial cognitions
- Aggregate health effects -> Malnutrition
- Business motives take priority over citizen health

The Urban Renewal Farm (TURF)
- Mission of Mary Farm
- Gem City Market Project
- Recommendations for government subsidized grocery stores & food co-operatives

Combative Efforts: Fighting in the Desert

- Conflict Theory
  -> Inequalities in distributions create tensions between classes
- Food Desert vs. Food Insecurity
  -> May be available in area but inaccessible to members of the community

“Food accessibility is an issue. . . we need a full-time market where you can get fruits & vegetables, one where you can feel safe.”
-Dorothy Woods, “The Ties that Bind”

“[convenience stores] do ever have produce it isn’t very fresh. It’s old. So people who need food can have a hard time getting it.”
-Jamesetta Lewis, “My Life in Dayton”

Dayton Population Growth
Through the 1960s, Dayton experienced significant growth, increasing 115,250 residents to 194,678, and then experienced a decline in the 1980s, dropping to 283,512 residents. However, the population began to rise again, topping in 2018 at 298,430 residents. Recent estimates show that the population has changed 1% since the last census, suggesting that the rate of population may be slowing down and efforts to accommodate this may be necessary.

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<th>Year</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Growth</th>
<th>Growth Rate</th>
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<tr>
<td>2010</td>
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Sociological Framework & Theory

Resources

[Dayton Population Growth Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2018]
[Dayton Demographics Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2018]
[Dayton Population Trends Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2018]