Feeding the City: Food Access and Grocery Stores

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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

Combative Efforts: Fighting in the Desert

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

Sociological Framework & Theory

• 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

"If [conveniences 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”

"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"

Dayton Population Growth

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Population Growth</th>
<th>Growth Rate</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>166,469</td>
<td>0.40%</td>
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<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>166,779</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>167,131</td>
<td>0.22%</td>
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<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>167,852</td>
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<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>168,208</td>
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<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>168,711</td>
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<tr>
<td>2020</td>
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<td>2021</td>
<td>169,516</td>
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<tr>
<td>2024</td>
<td>170,954</td>
<td>0.28%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

References

Dayton’s Food Access: "Dayton Food Access Data."
Dayton’s Food Security: "Dayton Food Security Data."
Dayton’s Food Insecurity: "Dayton Food Insecurity Data."
Dayton’s Food Deserts: "Dayton Food Deserts Data."
Dayton’s Food Pantries: "Dayton Food Pantries Data."
Dayton’s Food Banks: "Dayton Food Banks Data."
Dayton’s Food Co-ops: "Dayton Food Co-ops Data."
Dayton’s Food Markets: "Dayton Food Markets Data."