# The Impact of Food Insecurity on the North End Community

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# Background

According to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), 11.8% of households in the U.S. experienced food insecurity in 2017.<sup>3</sup> By comparison, 1 in 5 Wayne County, Michigan residents experience food insecurity.<sup>4</sup> The need to improve coordination among food program resources is a challenge in the North End neighborhood (48202) of Detroit. The purpose of this field study was for a team of students in a graduate level Public Health course to collaborate with Breakers Covenant Church in the North End community, and to develop a food support resource guide to be used by the community.

#### **Objectives:**

- Understand the meaning of food insecurity and malnutrition.
- Appreciate the importance of community-based participatory research .
- Compare the different levels of food insecurity experienced between the populations of Wayne County, Detroit, and the North End Community.
- Recognize the efforts and outcomes of the evidence-based project the graduate students (nursing and public health) of Wayne State University implemented.

## Methods

Kreiger's Ecosocial Theory was used to guide the project. Kreiger's model emphasizes the importance of considering the multiple levels of health influence.<sup>2</sup>

Urban Health Equity Assessment Response Tool was utilized (HEART)<sup>1</sup>:

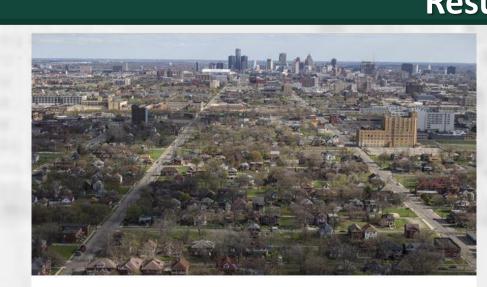
- 1. Build a team
  - Inclusive team built of 5 students, 1 faculty advisor, 1 community leader.
- 2. Define local indicators for equity
  - Dr. Ralph Williams II indicated the need his community voiced for food resources and requested a food resource pamphlet from us.

#### 3. Assemble Data

- The Detroit Food Policy Council and evidence-based literature was reviewed.
- 4. Generate Evidence
  - Data Driven Detroit confirmed level of food insecurity experienced by the North End Community.
- 5. Assess equity gaps
  - Field work by students identified barriers in accessing resources.
- 6. Identify a response to health equity issues
  - Food resource pamphlet created and project to continue on with future public health student groups.

#### Wayne Coun

- Population 1,76
- 34% child pover rate
- 65.2% of their students eligib free or reduced priced lunches
- 22.6% of house in food assista programs



Field work by the student team confirmed six food support resources accessible to the North End community. All sites provided food at no cost. These establishments were visited to confirm operating hours, range of support resources and requirements for participation. This information was compiled and added onto a resource guide for the North End population. Over 2,000 individuals in Detroit's North End now have access to this resource guide highlighting the food aiding organizations in the community.



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Observations		
nty <sup>7</sup>	North End Community <sup>7</sup>	<ul> <li>Functional health illiteracy is a silent barrier to accessing resources and making positive health care decisions.</li> <li>Food Insecurity is related to negative health outcomes.<sup>2,5</sup></li> <li>Difficulty in accessing food resources can be due to difficulty in reaching food services by phone, the posting of inaccurate hours of service and location, and most resources having limited weekly hours.</li> <li>Racial disparities were also observed.<sup>6</sup></li> </ul>
63,822	Population 16,664	
erty	<ul> <li>60.1% child poverty rate</li> </ul>	
total ole for d	<ul> <li>78.6% of their total students eligible for free or reduced priced lunches</li> </ul>	
seholds ance	<ul> <li>38.1% of households in food assistance programs</li> </ul>	

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Evidence-based projects such as this one can provide public health professionals with the opportunity to make a tangible, community-wide impact by collaborating with other disciplines and community leaders to empower those who are food insecure.

## **Future Considerations**

- North End Community.
- needs to be addressed.

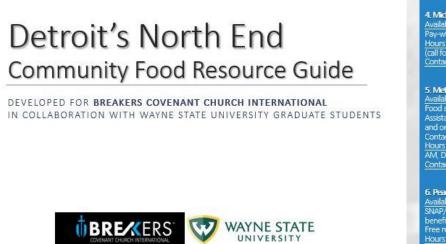
We would like to acknowledge Dr. Ralph Williams and the Breakers Covenant Church International for allowing us to conduct our research through their organization.

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#### Results





Detroit Black Community Food Security Network is an organization unded to support African American involvement in the food and urba griculture movement – They are currently developing a co-op expected to open in 2019. For more info: 313-345-3663 or info@d

<u>anguard</u> is a community development organization, focused on Detroit's lorth End Neighborhood. They regularly hold community education eminars. For more info: 313-872-7831

The W – Wayne State University Food Pantry provides food assistance currently enrolled Wayne State students. For more info: 313-577-0154

# Conclusion

1. The need for promoting access to food resources is integral for the

2. Difficulty in accessing food resource information from organizations

3. Future groups should focus on further building relationships and improving communication across organizations.

4. Addressing food insecurity in the North End Community is an upstream approach that could influence overall nutrition among the community and decrease adverse health outcomes.

# Acknowledgements

### References

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