



Mayor's Office of Food Policy

December 2025 Food by the Numbers

Food and Health



Food Standards Compliance in FY25

220,587,668 meals and snacks were served across city agencies

95% NYC Food Standards compliance rate

Health + Hospitals Plant-Based Defaults

from January-October 2025

543,516

plant-based meals served

46%

of patients chose the plant-based option

98%

acceptance rate

Lifestyle Medicine

7 Lifestyle Medicine Programs across all 5 boroughs

Patient Engagement

5,705 total patients have engaged in the program since 2019, including **2,850** patients in FY25

>10,000 group visits

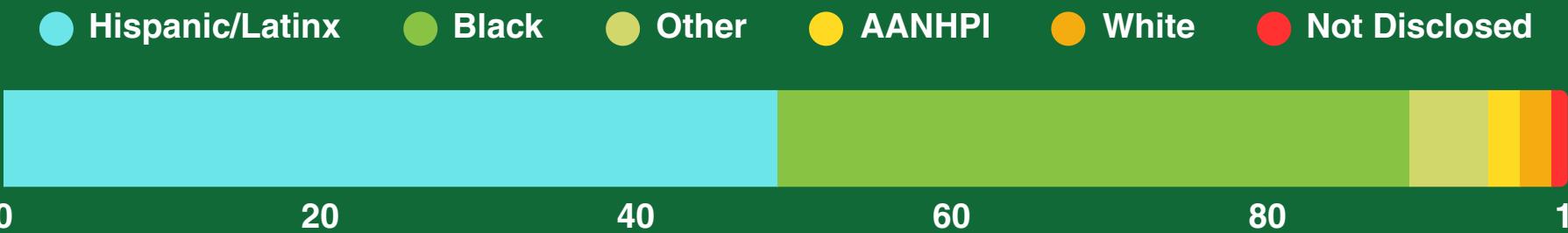
>1,500 total patients enrolled between November 2024-October 2025



>7,000 total boxes of free produce have been distributed since February 2024

Lifestyle Medicine Program Patient Racial/Ethnic Breakdown

from November 2024-October 2025



School Food

During the 2024-25 school year (SY):

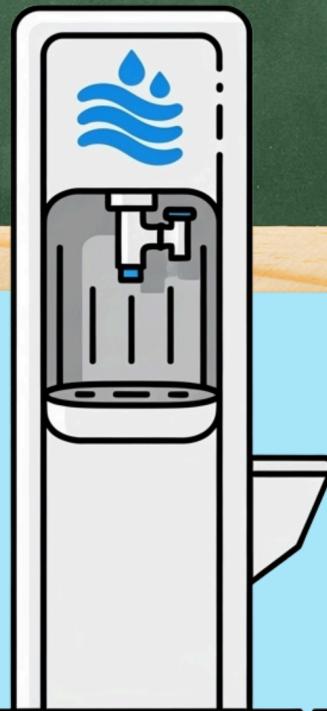
1,662 students taste-tested new recipes

41 new plant-based recipes were developed

As of December 2025:

1,162 schools featured salad bars

782 schools featured water jets in cafeterias



256 total schools with **Cafeteria Enhancement Experience** renovations
More than 30 CEE renovations
scheduled for the 2025-26 SY

During the 2024-25 SY, New York City Public Schools served **142.5 million meals**

 **220,000** breakfast meals daily

 **550,000** lunch meals daily



Food Education in Schools

Food Education Grant Program

202 schools received **\$6,000 each** to partner with **50+ nonprofit organizations** during the 2025-26 SY



Nutrition Collaborative Program

The City is **investing \$3M annually** to expand food education

274 schools received **\$10,000 each** in funding for the 2025-26 SY

400 meetings were held with **7,800 students, staff, and family members** from January-November 2025



Institutionalizing Food Education

During the 2024-25 SY

3500+ educators participated in food education professional learning sessions

50+ NYCPS teachers and administrators helped develop citywide Food Education Standards



School Gardens

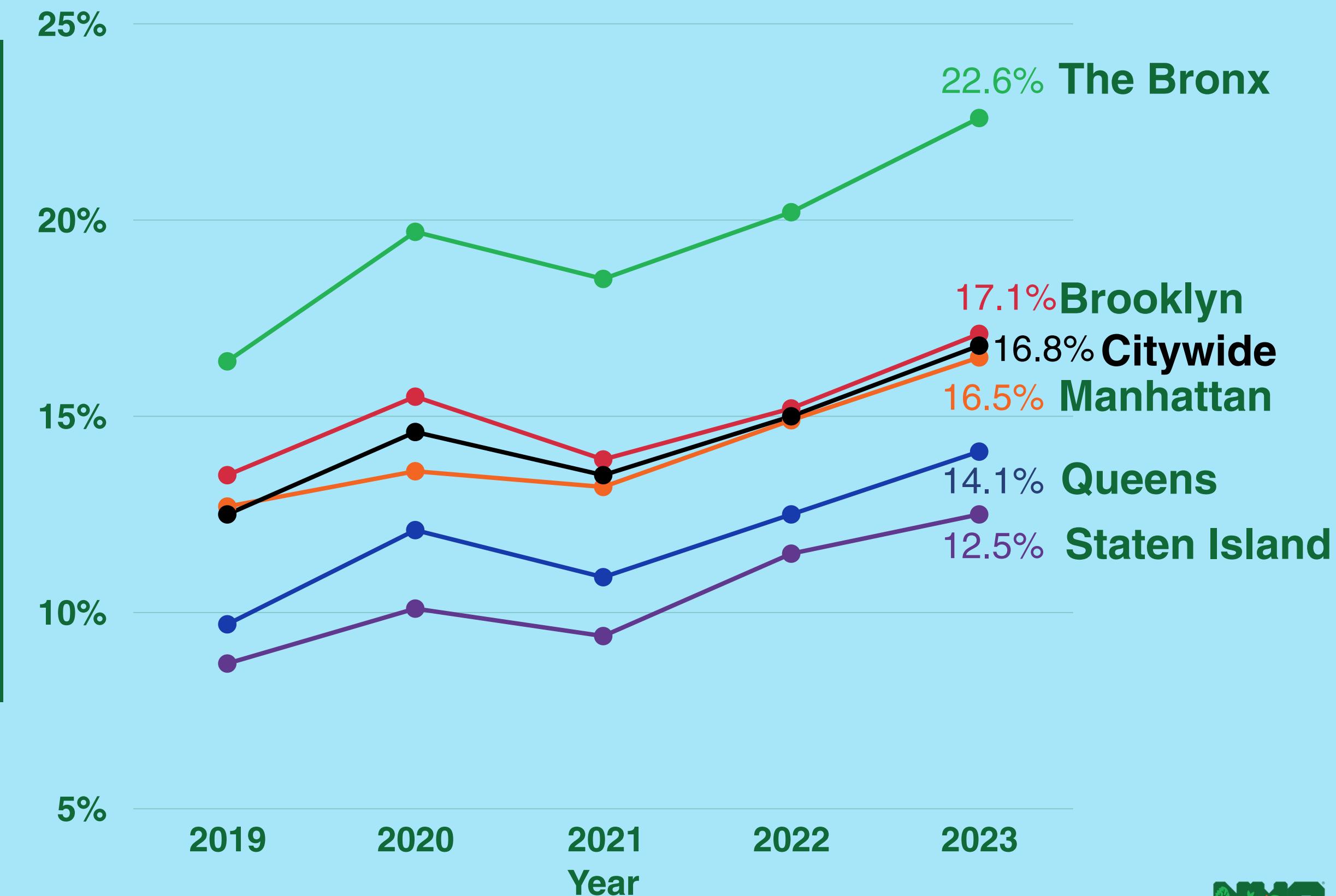
As of December 2025, there were **580 registered school gardens**

Food Insecurity

Overall food insecurity is on the rise across all boroughs of New York City, though rates vary significantly.

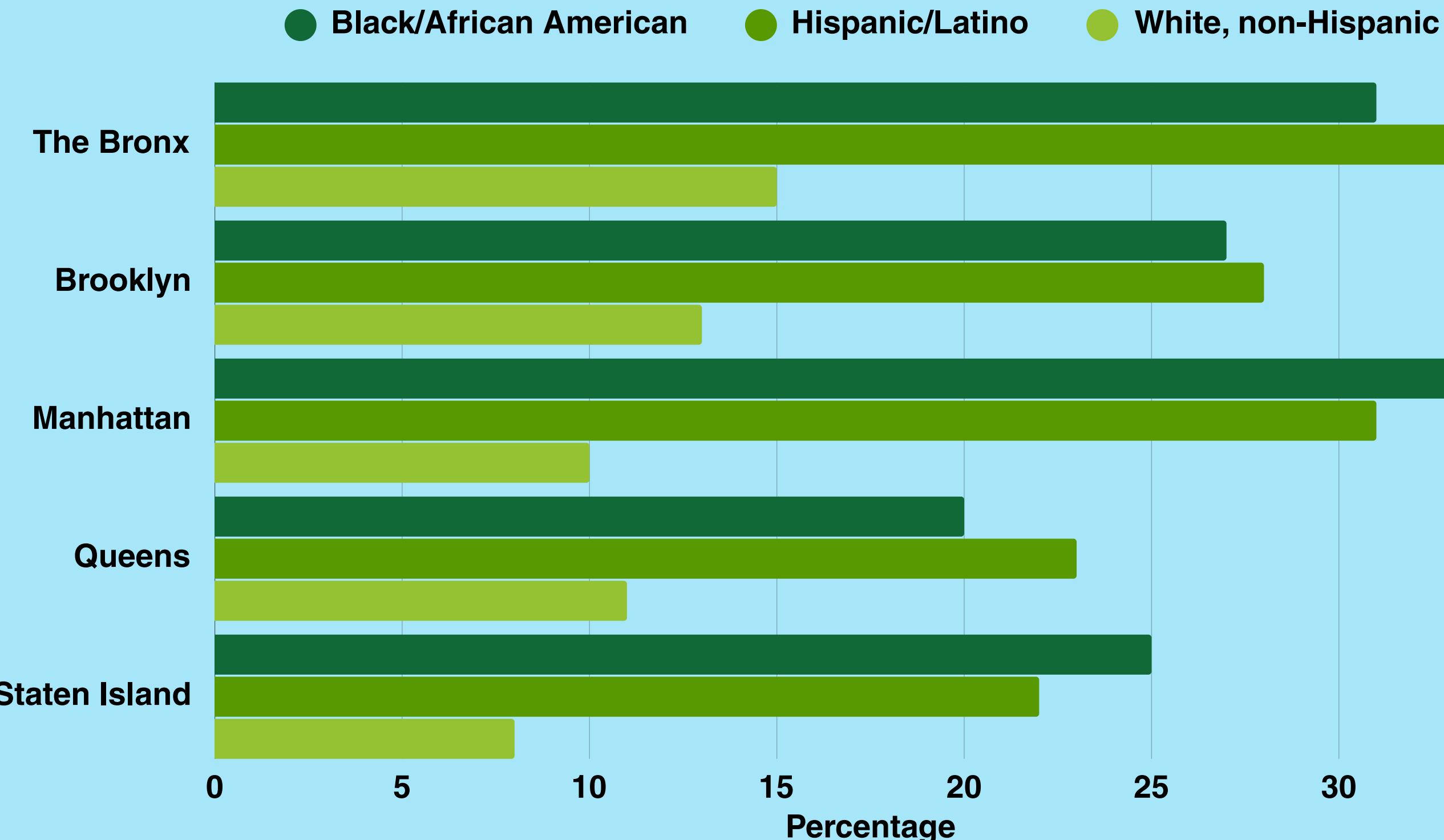
In 2023, **22.6%** of Bronx residents were considered food insecure, compared to **12.5%** of those living in Staten Island.

Food Insecurity Rate by Borough, (2019-2023)



Food Insecurity

Ethnic/Racial Breakdown of NYC Food Insecurity in 2023



The impacts of systemic inequalities, which disproportionately burden the health outcomes of New Yorkers who are Black and Latino/a, and low-income, persist today.

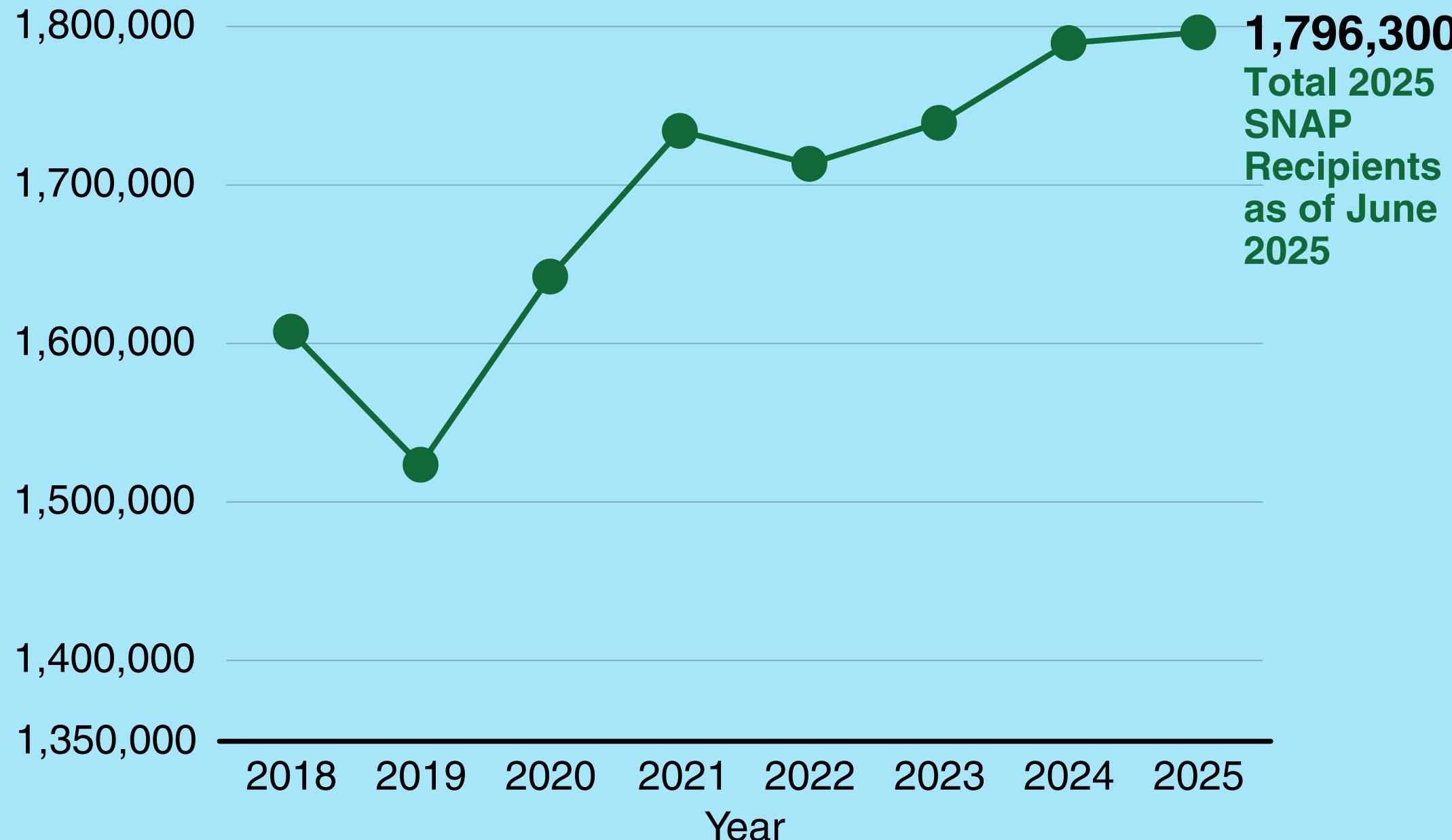
In Staten Island, Black individuals are more than **3 times** as likely to experience food insecurity compared to their white counterparts.

Data Source: Feeding America Map the Meal Gap data 2025

Food Access

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

New Yorkers Receiving SNAP, (2018-2025)



Data Source: New York City Department of Social Services, Office of Evaluation and Research,
Based on yearly point-in-time June data

\$5.1 Billion in total SNAP expenditures for FY25

Approximate SNAP Recipients by Borough, June 2025



Food Access: Connecting New Yorkers to Benefits in FY25



Department of Social Services (DSS)

Office of Community Outreach

5 co-sponsored events to reclaim benefits lost to skimming

78 community partner sites served

SNAP Outreach

7,199 SNAP clients and potential clients engaged

651 outreach-specific events

NYCBenefits

\$9.5M in funding to

3 technical assistance providers

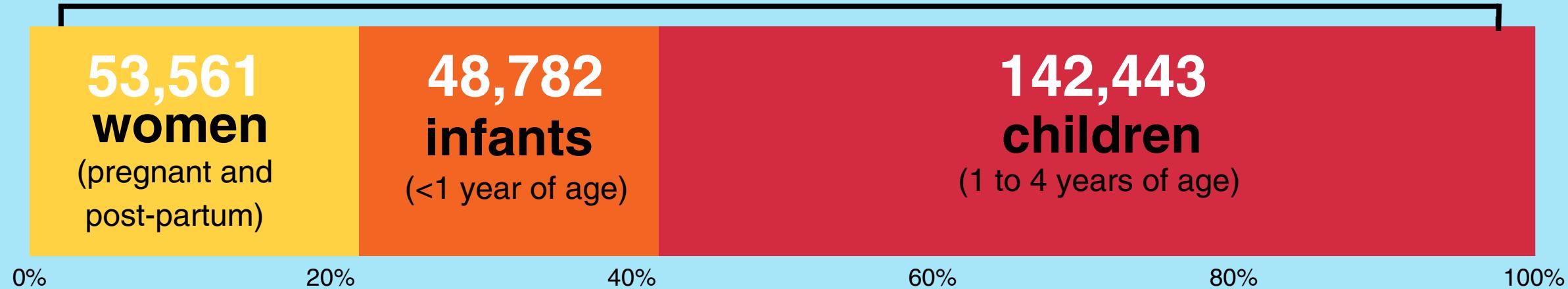
35 direct service providers

Food Access

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

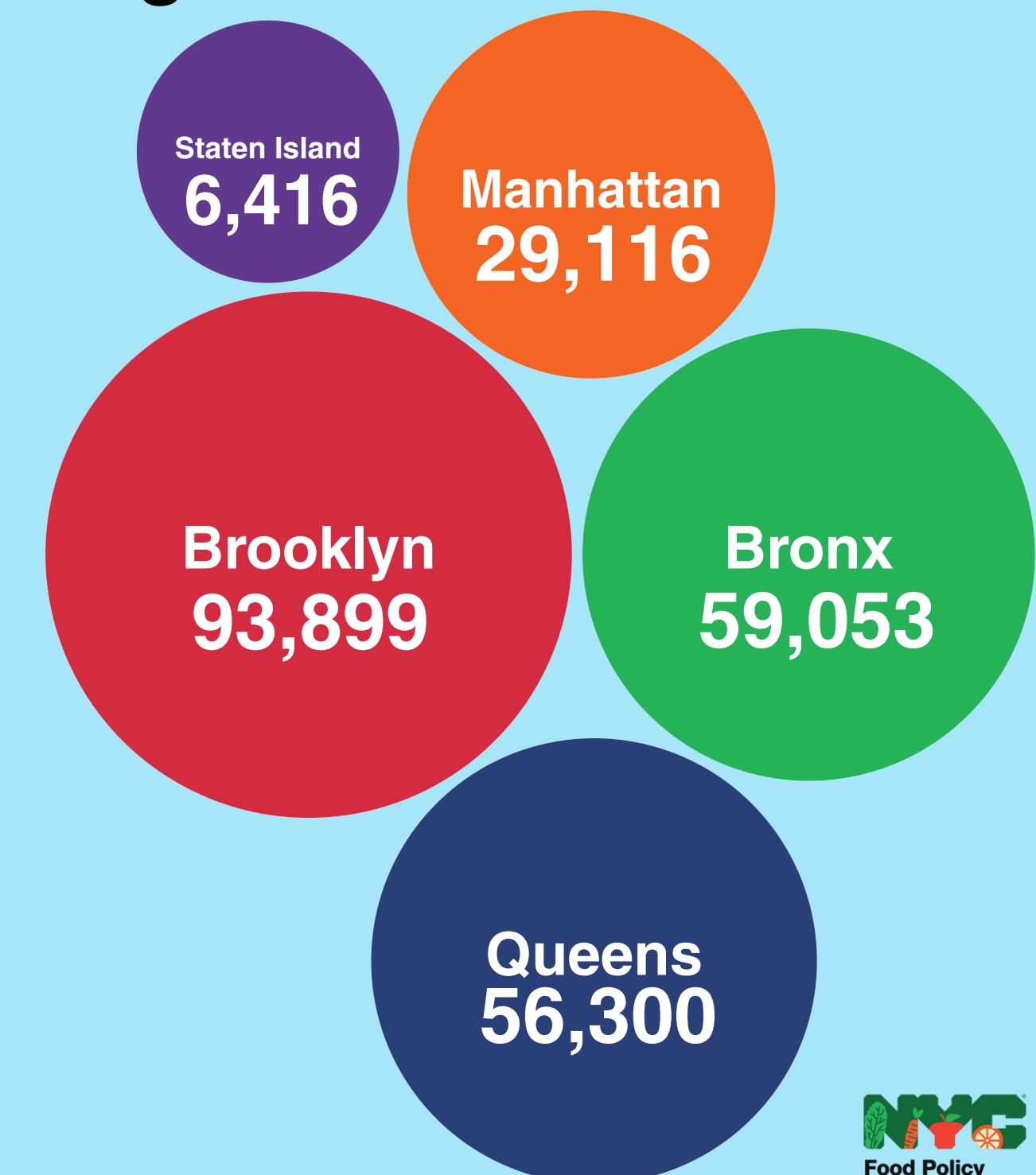
Monthly average participation in NYC during NYS FY25*

244,786 NYC WIC participants



NYC WIC Participants by Borough

Monthly Average in NYS FY25



Summer EBT

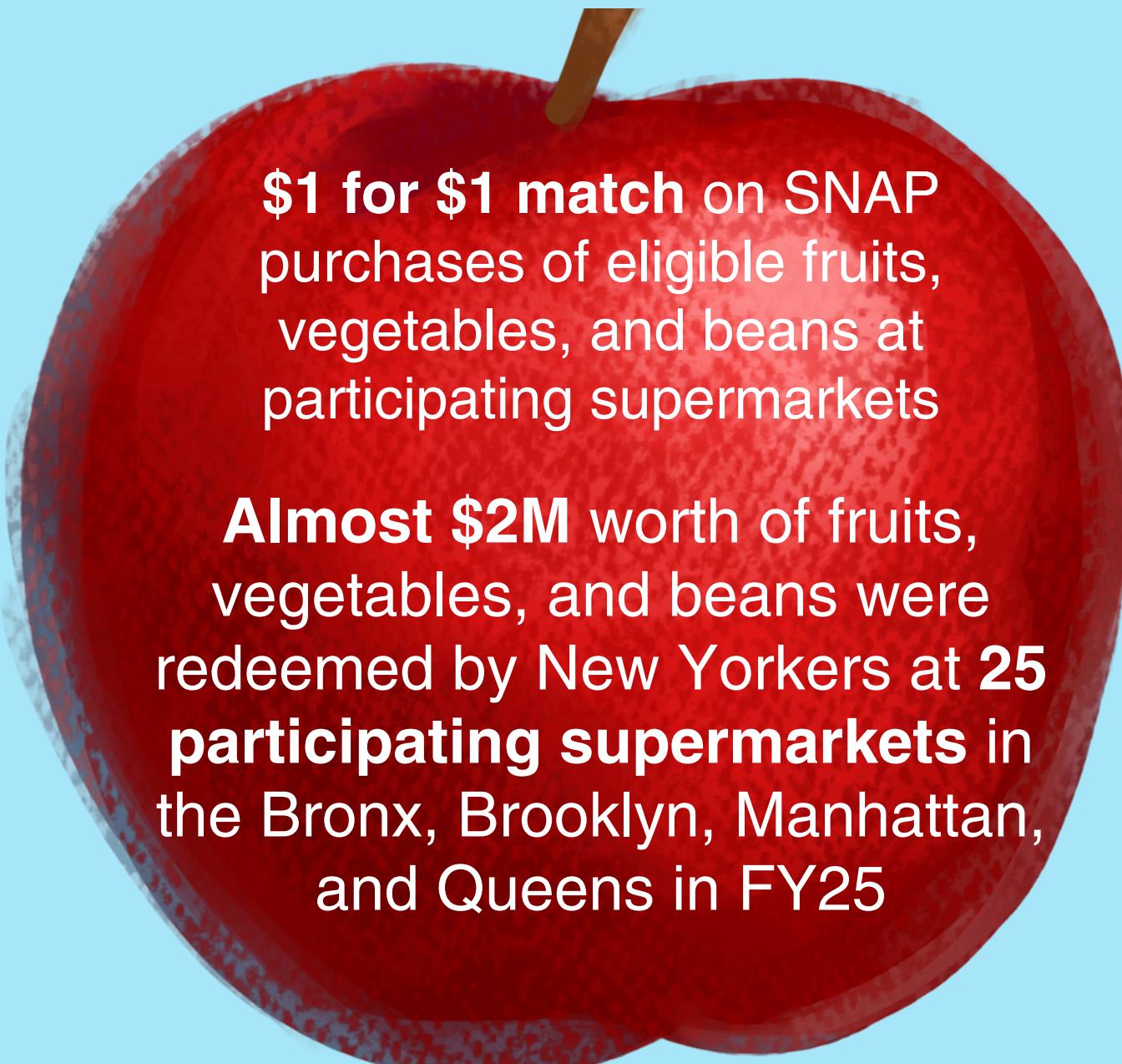
\$131.6M in Summer EBT benefits allocated to **1.1M children** from Jan-Nov 2025 in NYC

Community Food Connection (CFC) in FY25

- **\$51.9M** Budget
- Fresh produce makes up **33%** of the CFC Food Supply
- **37.2M** visits to 703 providers

Nutrition Incentives

Get the Good Stuff



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

Almost \$2M worth of fruits, vegetables, and beans were redeemed by New Yorkers at **25 participating supermarkets** in the Bronx, Brooklyn, Manhattan, and Queens in FY25

Groceries to Go



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

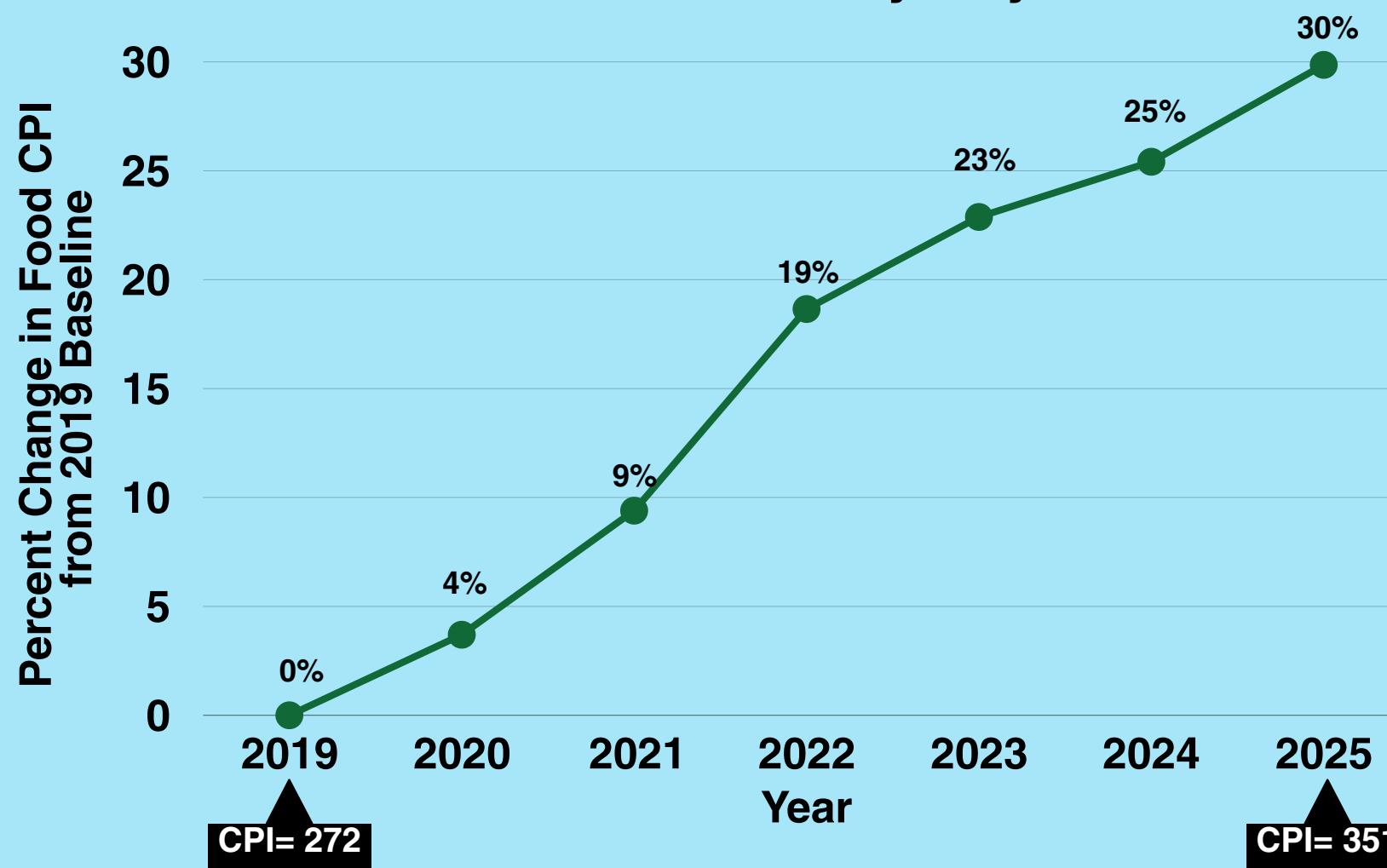
3,181 participants in FY25
Over \$7.4M spent on SNAP-eligible foods
\$500,000 saved on fresh produce

Health Bucks



Food Affordability

Percent Change in Food Consumer Price Index Since 2019, (2019-2025) New York-Newark-Jersey City Metro Area

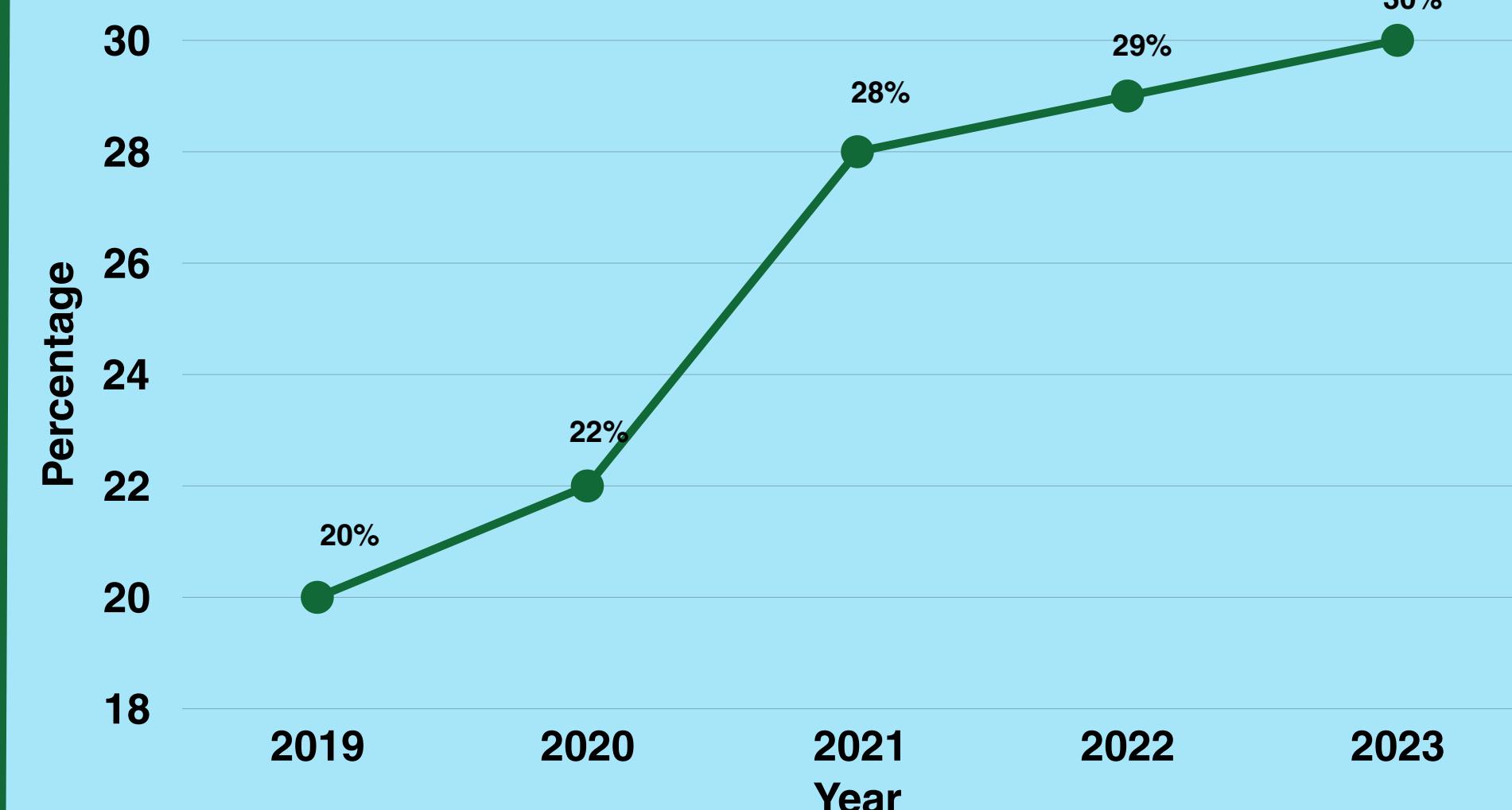


Data Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Based on yearly point-in-time September data

Food prices in the New York metro area have risen 30% since 2019.

That means what cost \$100 in 2019 now costs approximately \$130 in 2025, assuming prices tracked with inflation.

Percentage of Food Insecure New Yorkers with Income Above the SNAP Eligibility Limit, (2019-2023)



Data Source: Feeding America Map the Meal Gap data 2025

Note: Percentages in the figure were calculated by the NYC Mayor's Office of Food Policy based on Feeding America data

With rising food prices, more New Yorkers are struggling to put food on the table. Moreover, in 2023, an estimated 30% of food-insecure households earned too much to qualify for SNAP.

Food Retail

The Food Retail Expansion to Support Health (FRESH) Program

as of November 2025

FRESH provides zoning and/or discretionary tax benefits to property owners who build full-service food markets in communities with a high need for fresh food access.

47

FRESH supermarkets are currently operational

35

additional FRESH supermarkets in development

69

FRESH projects received zoning and/or tax benefits

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

There are **984 grocery stores** in NYC as of Nov 2025, amounting to **over 15 million square feet** of food retail space.

Shop Healthy NYC! 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.

2145 stores engaged in Shop Healthy promotion

1409 stores received additional training

25 zip codes served

113 stores receiving new programming

Food Workforce

NYC Public Schools

During SY24-25, **534 schools** completed culinary training through Chefs in the Schools, impacting **1078 OFNS staff**.

From February-June 2025, **140 hours** of individualized support was completed through the Cook Ambassadors program.



NYC Department for the Aging

Older Adult Center (OAC) Culinary Training

from January-November 2025



11
OACs
participating



44
hours of
training



20
staff members
trained

In March 2025, Aging hosted a “Plant-Based Cook-Off” to showcase creative, low-carbon dishes judged by celebrity chefs

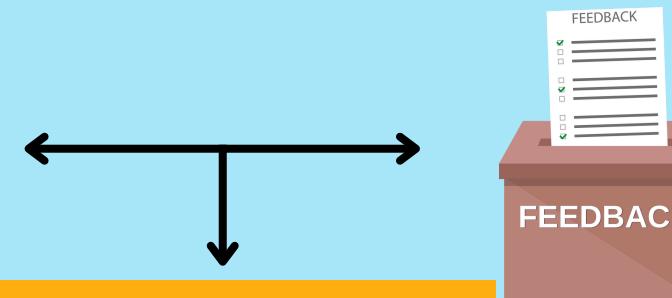
100+
attendees

9
chefs

Food and Climate

The **Food and Climate Strategy** presents a vision for a future where all New Yorkers can feed their families knowing their choices are good for their health and the health of the planet.

Convened a **10-person** Advisory Board to guide goal-setting

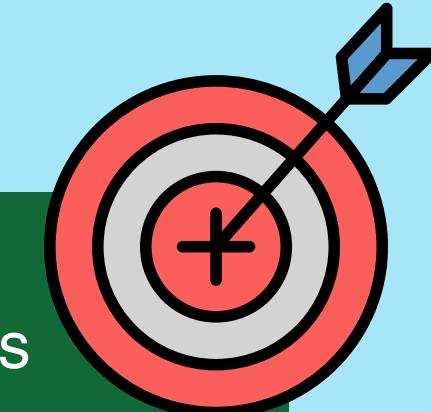


Established

Received feedback from **14 city agencies**

3 goals to drive a more sustainable and resilient food system:

- Mitigate the climate and environmental impacts of food consumed by New Yorkers
- Reduce food waste and divert all food waste from landfills
- Adapt NYC's food system to be resilient to shocks and disruptions due to climate change



8 strategies support the goals by guiding action across procurement, consumption, infrastructure, waste, and regional sustainability



30 innovative ideas for public and private sector implementation

Food and Climate



Department of Sanitation (DSNY) **SPOTLIGHT**

DSNY Waste Infrastructure
as of December 2025

43

food scrap
drop off sites

396

smart
compost
bins

3.4M

households with
curbside composting
access

Results



- Over 90,000 tons of organic material was diverted from landfills in FY25
- 20 Commercial Waste Zones are planned for implementation, with 2 zones in the Bronx and 1 zone in Queens launched in 2025
- In October 2025, DSNY released a draft of its **first Solid Waste Management Plan** in two decades

Sources

- Feeding America Map the Meal Gap 2025
- New York City Department for the Aging
- New York City Department of City Planning
- 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 Sanitation
- New York City Department of Social Services, Office of Evaluation and Research
- New York City Economic Development Corporation
- New York City Health + Hospitals - Sodexo
- New York City Parks & Recreation Department
- New York State Department of Health
- New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance
- U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics