The Supply Gap Analysis
Frequently Asked Questions

General Overview

Q1: What is the Supply Gap Analysis?

The Supply Gap Analysis is an annual assessment conducted by NYC Opportunity in collaboration with the Mayor's Office of Food Policy (MOFP). It measures the difference between the amount of emergency food available and the estimated demand across New York City. The findings help City government and partners in the emergency food space direct funding and resources to neighborhoods with the greatest need.

More information on the City emergency food program, Community Food Connection, can be found here.

Q2: Why is the Supply Gap Analysis so important?

The Supply Gap Analysis informs the amount of funding the Community Food Connection program receives from the New York City budget. The Supply Gap Analysis provides data-driven insights into food need, which guide policy decisions, improve funding allocations, and support emergency food providers. The analysis ensures that emergency food resources are distributed efficiently, helping to reduce food insecurity across the city.

Methodology & Data Sources

Q3: How is the Supply Gap Analysis conducted?

The annual Supply Gap Analysis is composed of two key assessment tools:

The Supply Gap Tool determines the difference in emergency food supply and emergency food demand by Neighborhood Tabulation Area (NTA). Food supply inputs are from the FeedNYC Tracker, which compiles the majority of emergency food data in the city. Data on food demand comes from the latest Feeding America report on food hardship, sourced from U.S. Census data.

The Neighborhood Prioritization Tool uses the Supply Gap results and additional factors (for instance, Taskforce on Racial Inclusion & Equity (TRIE) neighborhood designation, unemployment rate, presence of vulnerable populations, percent of SNAP recipients) to rank neighborhoods by need. Prioritization factors are reviewed on an annual basis, offering the flexibility to add or remove factors as policy goals and time-sensitive community needs evolve.

Q4: What are the data sources used in the Supply Gap Analysis?

The Supply Gap Analysis leverages data from:
- **Feeding America Demand Data:** uses US Census data to estimate food demand.
- **FeedNYC:** compiles data on emergency food distribution across the emergency food provider network.
- **Neighborhood Prioritization Inputs**: additional factors used to help prioritize areas in greatest need] including:
  - **Unemployment Rate:** American Community Survey 5-year Unemployment Rate estimates.
  - **Vulnerable Populations**: percentage of the population that is 65 and over, under 18, or a foreign-born non-citizen, as per American Community Survey 5-year estimates.
  - **TRIE Neighborhoods**: Determined by the Taskforce on Racial Inclusion & Equity, TRIE neighborhoods identify communities that have a high percentage of health and socioeconomic disparities.
  - **Responsive Input:** This part of the Supply Gap Analysis is assessed on an annual basis to be responsive to changing realities. For instance, the city included a boost in areas with large numbers of SNAP reduction of pandemic-era additional benefits, or in areas where new shelters were established for newly arrived migrants.

Q: Is the Supply Gap Analysis publicly available?

Yes, the Supply Gap Analysis dataset is available for public use and download through Open Data NYC under the name "Emergency Food Supply Gap" starting in 2024 and updated on an annual basis. Additionally, the Supply Gap Map can be found on the MOFP website Supply Gap Analysis Page, found here.