

Assessment questions and indicator metrics for investigating the community and consumer food environment

Strategies to address food deserts work to increase affordability, access, acceptability, and accommodation throughout the food system at the levels that reflect socio-ecological levels: interpersonal/individual, organizational, community, policy

Community Food Environment

- WHERE and WHEN are the food deserts? (Eg. Geography and time of day, month, or year)
- WHO experiences a food desert? (Eg. Demographics, age). In WHICH ways is the community experiencing the food desert? (Eg. Physical access, acceptability, affordability)
- WHY did this come to be? (Eg. Historical context, food systems context)
- WHAT role are organizations and/or community policies playing in the food desert experience? WHO has the power and/or responsibility to change the social, economic, or physical food environment? (Eg, which food system influencer category and/or consumers)

Consumer Food Environment

- WHERE and WHEN are the food deserts? (Eg. Home, work, school; urban/rural, time of day, month, or year/seasonality)
- In WHICH ways are individuals experiencing the food desert? (Eg. Lack of money, transportation, sharing; social, cultural, or safety barriers to shopping; knowledge and skills barriers; poor quality or acceptability of foods)
- HOW are food system dynamics influencing individuals' experiences? (Eg. Policy, education, social factors, research and technology, economics, marketing)



Graphic 2. Assessment indicators and multi-level strategies to address food deserts from the food systems & justice lens