

4-1

# Identifying and Mapping Food Access Points

Welcome to Part 4: Access and Storage. In Part 3 the team collected data about the foods people eat in the community. Now the team will begin collecting data about where people are accessing this food and how they are storing it. Having access to food and being able to store it before it spoils can be issues for some people in a community. Understanding local food access and storage may help the team when working with the problem question, **How do we ensure good nutrition for all?** This may also help you understand what is influencing which food groups people choose to eat and why.

## Objective



In this task, the team will identify on your research site map and score the locations of all places where food can be accessed. The team will use this map to focus research in later tasks to understand possible food access issues for different people in the community.

In this task, the team will be focusing on the following questions from the question map:

- **Where are all of the access points for food in the community?**
- **What evidence could we collect to help define food- and nutrition-related problems in our community?**

1. Go to the Task 4-1 folder and get the Identifying and Mapping Food Access Points instructions. You will also need the research site map you created in Task 2-1.



2. As a team, use the instructions and research site map to identify, map, and score all of the food access points in or around your research site.

3. As a team, discuss:

- How could this map be useful when thinking about the question, **Where are all of the access points for food in the community?**
- How could this map be useful when thinking about the problem question, **How do we ensure good nutrition for all?**

Hooray! You completed Task 4-1. Check it off the task list. *Go to Task 4-2!*



## Task 4-1. Identifying and Mapping Food Access Points

### Make a List

1. Look at your research site map from Task 2-1. (If you have not yet done Task 2-1, do that task first). Depending on the current size of your research site, you may need to increase or decrease the size to include a variety of food access points on your map.
2. As a team, use the data table below to make a list of all food access points in and around your research site. A food access point is any place or business where you can get food items. Food access points may include:
  - Food markets and grocery stores
  - Restaurants
  - Street food stalls, trucks, and stands
  - Convenience stores, gas stations, and corner markets
  - Community, personal, and shared gardens
  - Community food pantries and food services
  - Locations of wild edible plants, such as fruits or vegetables
  - Food vending machines
3. For each location, make sure to document the address, cross-streets, or a general description of the approximate location or area to help the team when mapping.
4. Using your list of community partners from Task 2-6, identify people who could help add to your list of food access points. Contact the partner and ask them where they access food. This could include asking parents, friends, and family members where they access food most often. Add these places to your team list and don't forget to include some location information to help when mapping.

### Add Food Access Points to Your Map

1. On your research site map from Task 2-1, add information for food access points to the map legend. Designate different colors or icons for the different types of access points you identified. This will help you later in your analysis.
2. Using the location information for each access point, plot each food access point on the research site map. Use the different symbols/icons/colors when plotting each access point.
3. If your map does not have a scale, consider adding one now. Use the instructions in Task 2-1 as needed to do so.



4. Are there any neighborhood boundaries for different communities that could be added to your map? Consider adding these boundaries now if you have not already done so.
5. Have you marked on your map where your team meets or where the people on your team live? Consider doing so now if you would like.

Name of access point	Access point type (market, restaurant, garden, etc.)	Location (address and description)	Notes




### Add Transit and Parking Information to Your Map

If you haven't already done so, add transit location information to your map. You might include:

- Train/metro/subway stations
- Bus stops
- Parking lots
- Bike/scooter/skate board lanes/trails/routes
- Walking paths/routes/trails

### Analyze the Map

1. Analyze the overall spread of different types of food access points across your map.
  - Are there any areas of your map where certain types of food access points are clustered? Why might this be?
  - Are there any areas of your map where there are very few food access points? Why might this be?

2. Do you see any trends in the availability of different types of food access points to different neighborhoods in your community, where your team meets, or near the homes of people on your team?
3. Do you see any potential food deserts? A food desert is a neighborhood or area of a community with poor or no access to healthy foods.
4. Do you see any food access points that can be easily reached using different types of transit (walk, bike, bus, train, car)?
5. Do you see any food access points that are not as easily reached using different types of transit (such as only accessible by car)?

### **Create Buffer Zones for Food Access Points**

To calculate food accessibility scores for each food access point, the team must create buffer zones on the map using the food access point as the epicenter. Mark a circular buffer zone around each food access point at the following distances from the epicenter (that is, the food access point).

- 0.5 km (0.3 miles)
- 1.0 km (0.6 miles)
- 1.5 km (0.9 miles)
- 2.0 km (1.2 miles)

### **Calculate Food Accessibility Scores**

1. Using the food accessibility point scale below, use the information from your team's map to begin compiling basic information about food accessibility in your research area. This should include:
  - Name of food access point
  - Food accessibility score
  - Number of residences in buffer zones
  - Number of transit options in buffer zones
2. Mark each point value on the Food Access Point List below.
3. Add up the points for each access point to determine a food accessibility score for each.

### Food Accessibility Point Scale

Points for each residence present in each buffer zone:

Each residence in the 0.5 km buffer = 4 points  
Each residence in the 1.0 km buffer = 3 points  
Each residence in the 1.5 km buffer = 2 points  
Each residence in the 2.0 km buffer = 1 point  
Each residence outside of any buffer = 0 points

Each MOH\* in the 0.5 km buffer = 8 points  
Each MOH in the 1.0 km buffer = 6 points  
Each MOH in the 1.5 km buffer = 4 points  
Each MOH in the 2.0 km buffer = 2 points

\***MOH** = Multi-Occupant Housing: apartment complexes, condo buildings, duplexes, group homes; any structure that is marketed and intended to hold several households.

Points for each transit option present in each buffer zone:

For each public transit station (train, bus, other) and non-car (walking, bike, scooter, moped) infrastructure (path/trail/lane) within the 0.5 km mile buffer = 2 points  
For each parking lot within the 0.5 km buffer = 1 point

### Categorization of Access Points

Mark the food access points with the highest and lowest accessibility scores (total points) on the Food Access Point List below.

### Discuss

As a team, discuss your findings.









- Why do these access points have such high or low accessibility scores?

- Is food access a problem in our community? If so, what are some ideas of how we could make food more accessible?
- Are there any trends or relationships in the availability of food access points and population or income levels in the community?
- When looking at the data, are there any potential healthy food deserts (places without easy access to healthy food) in your community?
- What forms of transportation do most people currently use in your community?
- Are food access points easily accessible by walking or public transportation in your community?



### Food Access Point List

Using your research area map, complete the following list to calculate your community's food accessibility score.

Name of access point	# of  0.5 km buffer (4 pts.)	# of  1.0 km buffer (3 pts.)	# of  1.5 km buffer (2 pts.)	# of  2.0 km buffer (1 pt.)	Total  points	# of  0.5 km buffer (2 pts.)	# of  0.5 km buffer (1 pt.)	Total  points	<b>Total points</b>

