Community ➡ ⬅ Data

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MAPC

Metropolitan Area Planning Council

MAPC supports food systems data access across the Commonwealth	3+ years

Compiling Food Systems Data

MAPC's Public Health team **promotes healthy communities** in our region by working with municipalities and local organizations to **assess community conditions** that support – or are barriers to – the **well-being of residents** and to help municipalities become **better prepared and more resilient** in the face of future threats to public health.

Massachusetts Food Systems Database

Click to Access

FIND A HIP LOCATION NEAR YOU
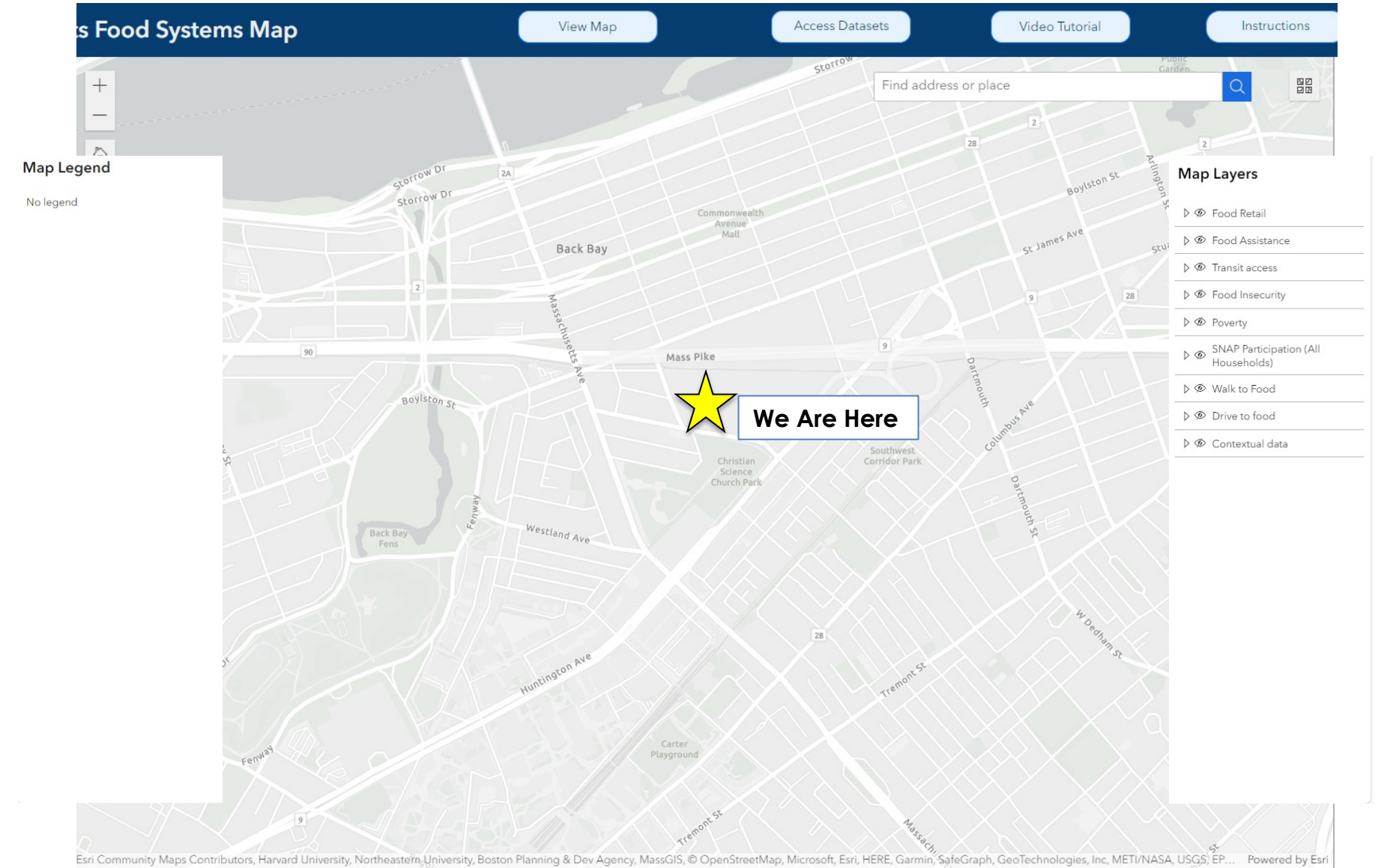
HIP RETAILERS

Creator: MAPC Data Team

Funder: Mass in Motion

Key Data Partners:
- Project Bread
- Greater Boston Food Bank
- Food Bank of Western MA
- Feeding America
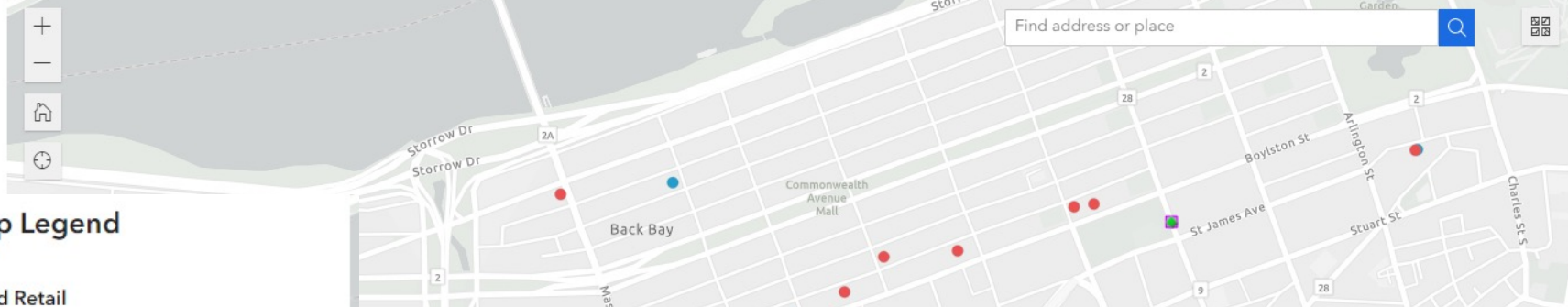- MDAR
- MassDOT
- DESE
- Tufts University

We accept SNAP/EBT

MA Food Systems Map

Food Retailers

Food Retailers & Walk to Food
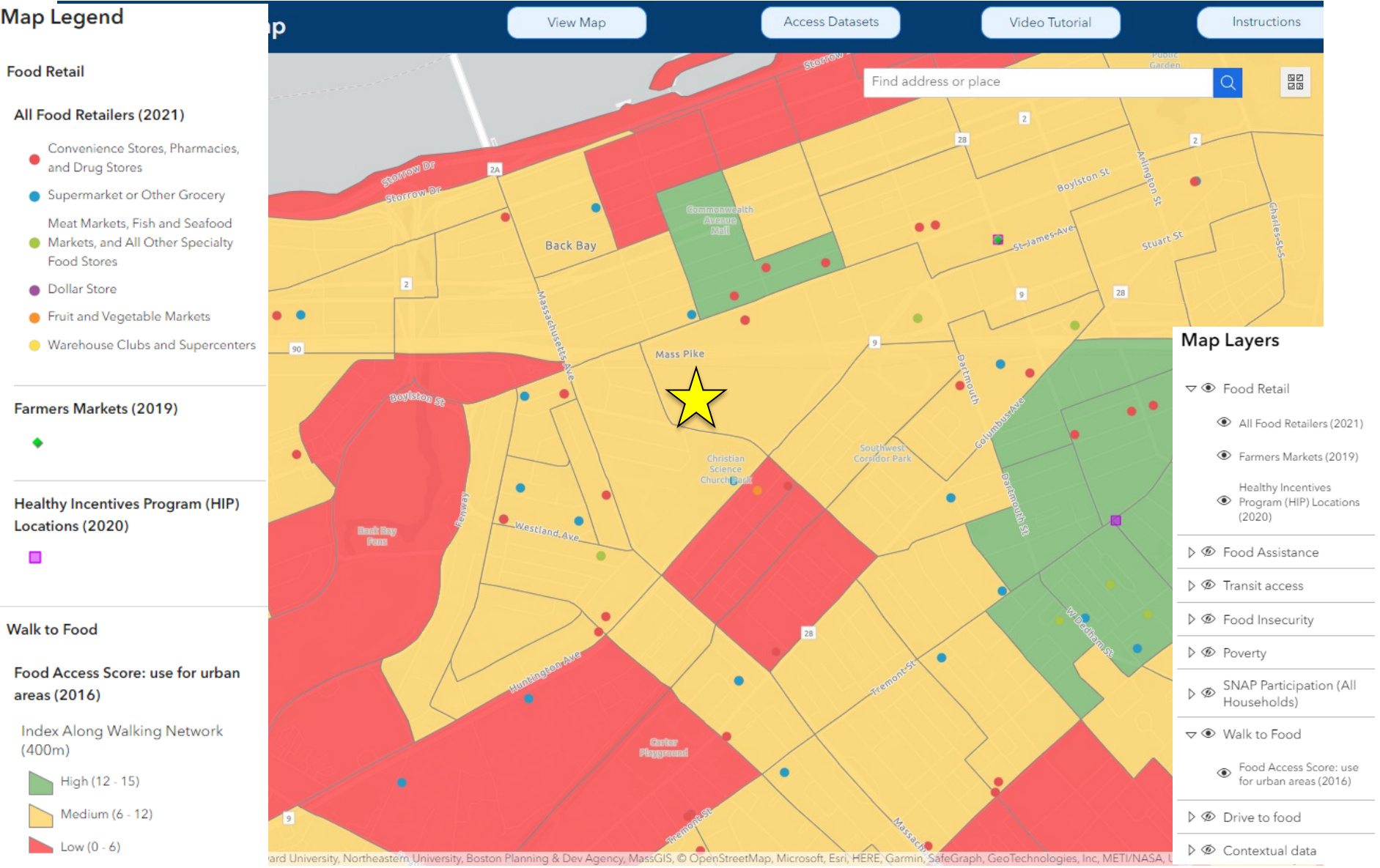
Food Retailers & Drive to Food

Datasets for Download

	Dataset	Dataset Description	Link to Dataset	Information Available	Dataset Source(s)
DATASET CATEGORY — Food Retailers		Count 5			
1	Food Retailers (2021)	This is a Massachusetts food retailer dataset. Food retail...	Click to Open	Downloadable Spatial Data · Downl...	Data Axle
2	Food Retailers (2016)	This is a Massachusetts food retailer and farmers marke...	Click to Open	Downloadable Spatial Data · Downl...	Reference USA · MassGIS
3	Farmers Markets (2016)	MassGIS downloadable data is from 2016. To access to-...	Click to Open	Downloadable Tabular Data · Downl...	MassGIS · MA Dept. of Agri...
4	Food Retailers - SNAP Stores	Stores accepting SNAP benefits in Massachusetts. SNAP...	Click to Open	Downloadable Spatial Data · Downl...	Food and Nutrition Service
5	Health Incentives Program (HIP) Retailers	To-date retailers participating in Healthy Incentives Pro...	Click to Open	Downloadable Spatial Data · MAPC	MA Dept. of Agricultural Res...
DATASET CATEGORY — Emergency Food Providers		Count 4			
6	Project Bread Meal Pickup Locations (2020)	Feature service containing grab and go meal pickup loc...	Click to Open	External Interactive Map	Project Bread
7	Greater Boston Food Bank Community Meals and ...	Community meal program sites for the GBFB service are...	Click to Open	External Interactive Map · MAPC Int...	Greater Boston Food Bank
8	Western Mass Food Bank Community Meals and F...		Click to Open	External Interactive Map · MAPC Int...	Food Bank of Western Massa...
9	Project Bread Meal Sites (2017)	Includes statewide data for Food Pantries, Meal Progra...	Click to Open	MAPC Interactive Map	Project Bread
DATASET CATEGORY — Food Access Index Scores		Count 5			
10	Walk to Food: Food Access Score at 1/4-mile (use ...	The Food Access Index assigns a score to block groups ...	Click to Open	Downloadable Spatial Data · Downl...	MAPC · Tufts University
11	Drive to Food: Food Access Score at 1/2-mile (use ...	The Food Access Index assigns a score to block groups ...	Click to Open	Downloadable Spatial Data · MAPC	MAPC · Tufts University
12	Drive to Food: Food Access Score at 1-mile (use fo...	The Food Access Index assigns a score to block groups ...	Click to Open	Downloadable Spatial Data · Downl...	MAPC · Tufts University
13	Food Access Index (Block Groups)	The Food Access Index assigns a score to block groups ...	Click to Open	Downloadable Spatial Data · Downl...	MAPC · Tufts University

Community Sessions with the MA Food Systems Database
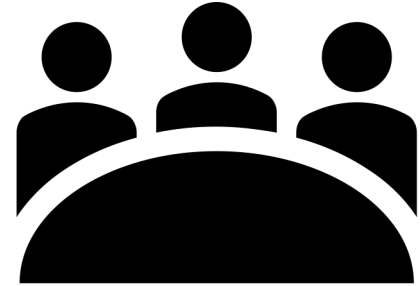
Guiding Discussion Questions

- What surprises you?
- What makes sense, what resonates?
- What patterns do you see?
- What story does this data tell us?
- What actions would you recommend?

Equity-Focused Group Selection

- What are the priority populations in this community?
- Who will be most affected by decisions made with this data?
- Whose voices have not yet been heard?

Bringing Data to Communities
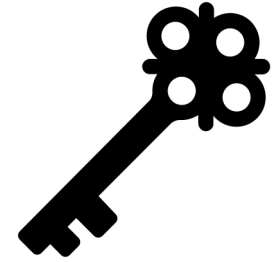
Key Takeaways

- Importance of utility

- Out of date data may be equivalent to erroneous data

- Community context matters and reveals lived experiences

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Bringing Data to Communities

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Building Data with Communities

Boston Urban Agriculture Strategy – Geographies of Focus

Municipal Level
A Nivel Municipal

Neighborhood Level
A Nivel De Vecindario

Boston Urban Agriculture Strategy – Engagement & Data Creation Activities

Research & Review
Investigación y revisión

Interviews
Entrevistas

City of Boston Department Meetings
Departamento de la ciudad de Boston Reuniones

Neighborhood
Committees
Comités vecinales

Neighborhood Events
Eventos en el vecindario

Project Team Coordination
Coordinación del equipo del proyecto

Artist involvement
Participación de los artistas

Food Producer Engagement – Urban Farming Institute Leads
Participación de los productores de alimentos - Líderes del Instituto de Agricultura Urbana

Boston Urban Agriculture Strategy – Engagement & Data Creation Activities

(garden feature)
Plots/farms professionally farmed for low-cost community distribution
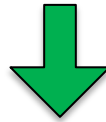
Building Data with Communities

Key Takeaways

- Relationship and trust building

- Be ready to invest time and resources

- Language access

- Data quality and quantity challenges

Mixing data with communities bidirectionally enables the richest understanding and implementation readiness.

Bringing Data to Communities

Building Data with Communities