

Module 2, Lesson 7 Handout:

Poverty & Food Deserts Statistics Cheat Sheet

Food deserts can be defined in many ways: by the distance to a store or food pantry, or the number of these resources in a particular area, the income of those living in the area and the public transportation or access to a vehicle for those living in a specific area, to name a few. Here are the quick facts and eye-opening statistics that are the reality of global poverty and food deserts.

Poverty

- 10% of the world is living on less than \$2 a day
- 735 million people live in extreme poverty. 75% of all children living in extreme poverty live in Sub-Saharan Africa and Asia
- 39.7 million people in the U.S. live in poverty (2017). That is 12.3% of the population with an income less than \$33.26 per day

Food Deserts

- 23.5 million people live in food deserts (USDA). Living in a food desert is associated with a higher risk of adverse cardiovascular events
- 2.1 million people live more than a mile from the nearest supermarket and don't have a car
- Low-income zip codes have 30% more convenience stores than middle-income zip codes
 - People rely on these convenience stores and it may be the only foods affordable and accessible, which then contributes to the obesity problem
- People living in the poorest areas have 2.5 times the exposure to fast food restaurants than wealthier areas
 - Studies show people who live in these neighborhoods are 55% less likely to eat a high-quality diet compared to those who have better access to healthful food

Food Waste

- 1/3 of food grown is thrown away or wasted. It's estimated that 30-40% of the food supply in the U.S. is wasted
- In low-income countries, food waste occurs early on during production, handling, storage and processing. In wealthier countries, food waste occurs at later stages, when food is in the hands of consumers
 - Sub-Saharan Africa: 83% waste in early stages, 6% waste by consumers
 - North America & Oceania: 32% waste in early stages, 61% waste by consumers