

The Food Deserts of Los Angeles

Comparing Food Access in Beverly Hills and South LA During 2019

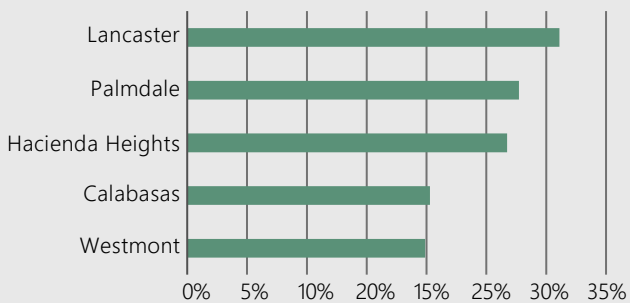
What is a food desert?

“A census tract with a poverty rate greater or equal to 20 percent and has at least 33 percent of the population located more than 1 mile from the nearest supermarket or large grocery store.” -USDA ERS

Why aren't low poverty areas with few grocery stores considered food deserts?

Distance matters in high poverty areas and not so much in low poverty areas because individuals living in poverty often do not own cars and the local transportation system may be inaccessible. Below are cities with the lowest food access in Los Angeles County.

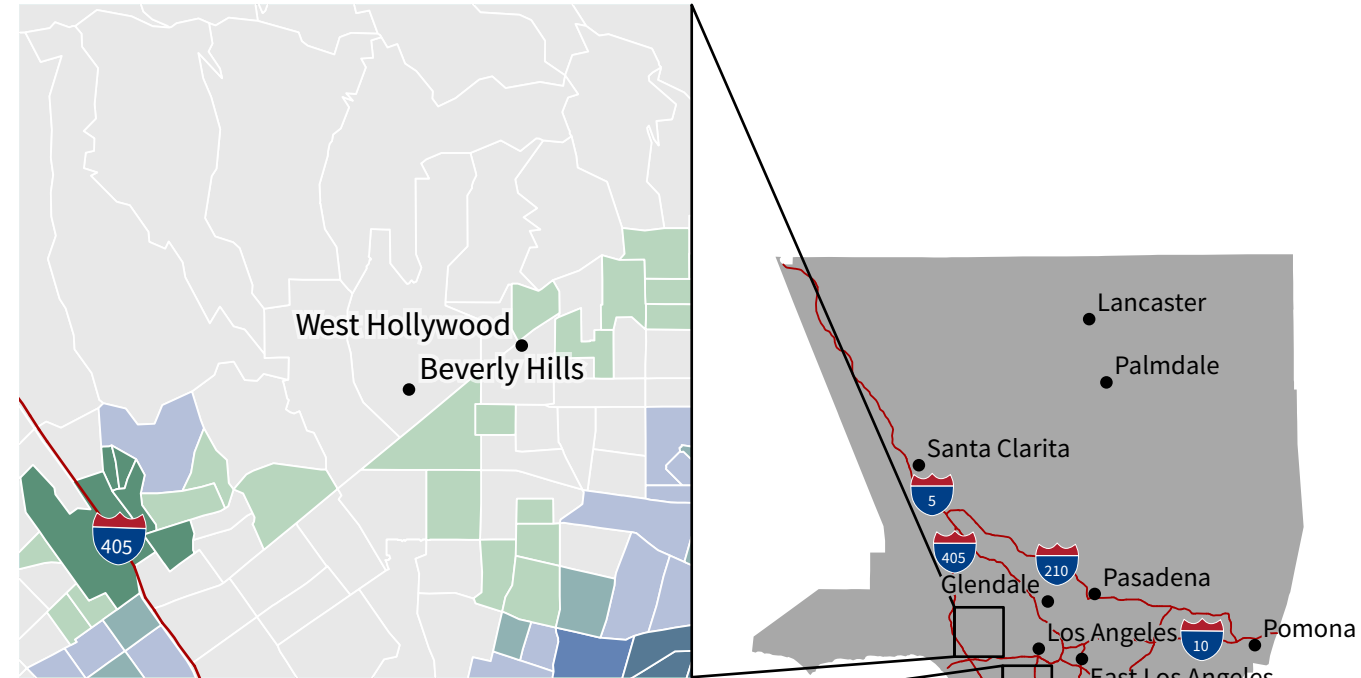
Percentage of the Population Living in Close Proximity to a Supermarket or Grocery Store



Of these 5 cities, Westmont has the worst food access, and Westmont has a high poverty rate so this city and the surrounding area has the most food deserts and low food access zones in LA County.

Beverly Hills

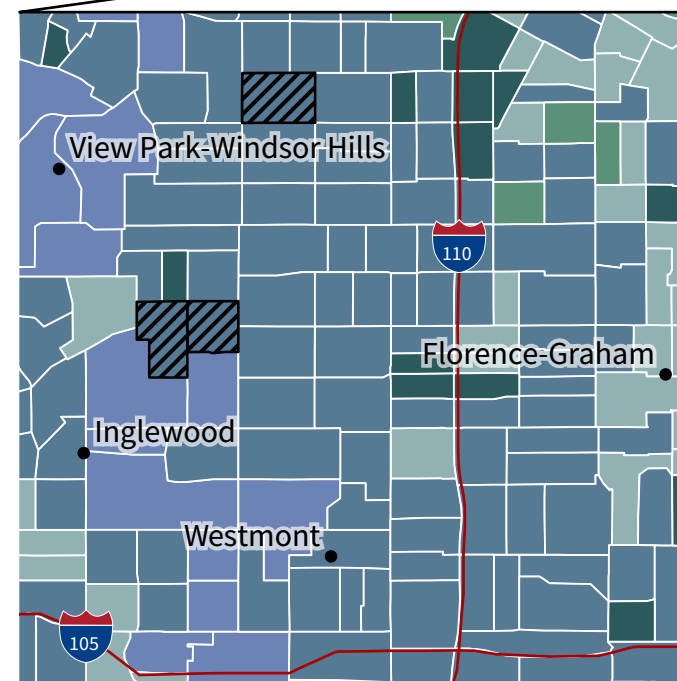
Beverly Hills is a city located on the western side of Los Angeles County, and it is known for its luxurious homes and the celebrities that reside there. This city has zero food deserts because of low poverty rate. Although some residents of Beverly Hills live far from grocery stores, many don't have issues with access to healthy food because most residents who live here can afford owning a car or using other means for transportation. This map exposes the reality that a low poverty rate is often associated with a low percentage in the people of color.



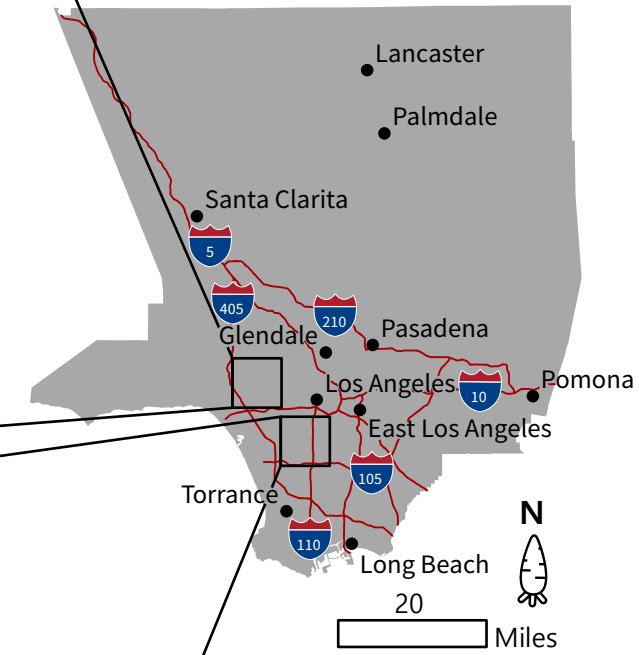
1 Miles

South LA

Only 11 miles away from Beverly Hills is South Los Angeles, formerly known as South Central Los Angeles. Just over a short distance, the poverty rate dramatically increases along with the amount of people of color. South Los Angeles has 3 census tracts that are designated as food deserts by the USDA Economic Research Service. Individuals living in food deserts like these often rely on fast food and convenience stores for food, but reliance solely on these options can be extremely detrimental to health. Unfortunately, South Los Angeles has a large population of people of color, so people of color are disproportionately affected.



1 Miles



 Food Desert

