



Fast Facts

- Michigan is the second most agriculturally diverse state in the nation.¹
- The food and agriculture industry in Michigan contributes \$101.2 billion annually to the state's economy, an increase of about 15 percent from 2010 to 2014.²
- But more than 1.8 million Michigan residents—including 300,000 children—live in lower-income communities with limited access to the healthy fruits and vegetables they need.³ It doesn't add up.
- A recent report entitled "Food for Every Child: The Need for Healthy Food and Financing in Michigan" and prepared by The Food Trust for the American Heart Association demonstrates the significant need for healthy food access in Michigan.
 - Through new mapping, it shows a connection between lack of healthy food access and higher rates of diet-related illnesses.
 - It also shows how lack of access to healthy food impacts rural and urban communities alike.
- The implications are serious for the health of our children and families.
 - In Michigan, more than 30 percent of residents are obese—the second highest rate of obesity in the Midwest.⁴
 - Obesity alone costs us \$3 billion annually in related medical costs.⁵
- We also know that poverty and diet-related illnesses such as obesity disproportionately impact communities of color.⁶
 - In 2011, 32.6 percent of Michigan's youth ages 10–17 were overweight or obese.⁷
 - More than a half million Michigan kids lived in poverty, defined as \$23,600 or less a year for a two-parent family of four. Child poverty is particularly high in communities of color.⁸
- Increasing access to healthy food today can save Michigan residents billions in future obesity-related healthcare costs.
 - One study showed that if Michigan reduces its population's average body mass index by just 5 percent, the state would save nearly \$9 billion in health care costs by 2020 and over \$24 billion by 2030.⁹

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¹ USDA, Retrieved from: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/stateoffapp?mystate=mi&area=home&subject=landing&topic=landing>

² MDARD, Retrieved from MSU Product Center. Retrieved from <http://www.michigan.gov/mdard/0,4610,7-125-1572-7775--,00.html>

³ Population in low-income, low-supermarket tracts. Derived from: Nielsen TDLinx Data (2014). American Community Survey 2008–2012, 2014 ESRI Data & Maps

⁴ The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and Trust for America's Health (2014). The State of Obesity: Better Policies for a Healthier America, p. 10. Retrieved from: <http://stateofobesity.org/files/stateofobesity2014.pdf>

⁵ A Special Message from Governor Rick Snyder: Health and Wellness (2011). www.michigan.gov. Retrieved from: <http://crcmich.org/PUBLICAT/2010s/2014/rpt387.pdf>

⁶ Michigan Department of Community Health (2009). Michigan Behavioral Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS). Retrieved from: <http://www.michigan.gov/brfs>

⁷ 2011 National Survey of Children's Health (2011). Retrieved from: <http://www.childhealthdata.org/browse/allstates?q=2415>

⁸ Kids Count in Michigan Data Book 2015. Retrieved from: <http://www.mlpp.org/many-kids-stuck-in-poverty-without-solutions>

⁹ Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and Trust for America's Health (2012). F as in Fat: How Obesity Threatens America's Future 2012. Retrieved from: <http://healthyamericans.org/assets/files/TFAH2012FasInFatFnlRv.pdf>

