



Health Inequalities Pool

FOOD RESOURCE PACK



Food Mapping

Food mapping is a term applied to the process of developing a picture of the extent of provision of an aspect of food in a certain area. Food access is the aspect that is most commonly mapped, through for example gaining understanding of where food can be obtained, and what kinds of food are available. It is also common to map different food services being delivered in an area, for example meals on wheels, luncheon clubs etc. An effective food mapping exercise might identify 'food deserts', i.e. the places where access to food is poor. Also by mapping the kinds of food that are accessed and consumed, we can get an understanding of nutritional needs in different communities.

A food map is not necessarily compiled in the geographical sense, i.e. like an A-Z, or Ordnance Survey of Manchester, but might exist simply as information on a database. There are however a lot of advantages to mapping food data on a geographical map, such as a GIS (Geographical Information System), which can be made publicly accessible through the internet. The advantage with GIS is that it enables users to obtain easily understandable visual representations of a situation, plus users have flexibility and choice in how they access and cross-examine data.

Food Mapping in Manchester

Food Mapping in Manchester is currently being led by the Primary Care Trust (PCT), although there are some early mapping projects, conducted by Bloom Healthy Living Network, and MERCi, that are related, and which have had an impact on more current PCT work.

North Manchester

- North Manchester PCT are currently mapping the 8 wards in their jurisdiction. The focus is on availability and access to food, and what kinds of produce are being consumed. This work is being co-ordinated by PCT dietetic assistants, and is being made publicly accessible on **mCHIP**, which is Manchester's public health web database.

Access PCT Food Mapping data on mCHIP at: www.healthprofile.org.uk. For more information on NMPCT food mapping phone Kate Yaffe on 0161 205 4796.

- MERCi (Manchester Environmental Resource Centre Initiative) conducted a food mapping exercise in Miles Platting and Ancoats in 2003, which highlighted food desserts in the area. The 'Herbie' fruit and veg van project was established largely as a result of the food deserts identified through this mapping programme. For more information on this, phone MERCi on 0161 273 1736.
- In addition to PCT work, Manchester Markets are also currently conducting food mapping in the area. The focus of their research is a resident's survey, about shopping and eating habits. The mapping is being done in conjunction with the establishment of a new food market, which is planned to open in Miles Platting.

Central Manchester

- Bloom Healthy Living Network undertook a fair amount of food mapping in the Hulme ward around 2003. This work was being done in partnership with Central Manchester PCT.
- Central PCT have continued with this mapping, where Bloom has left off. Work is currently being undertaken by Jagjit Heera, who is a dietetic assistant. For more information phone Jagjit on 0161 861 2333.

South Manchester

- South Manchester PCT covers the Wythenshawe area. Food mapping is not yet underway in this area, although it is planned to be delivered by the PCT, in a similar way to which it is being delivered in North and Central Manchester.

Fresh Findings

When MERCi undertook their food mapping in Miles Platting and Ancoats in 2003, they also produced a guide to carrying out food mapping called Fresh Findings. This is available as a free download from Imagine Manchester at: www.imaginemanchester.org.uk

Valuing Older People

VOP is a local partnership initiative to improve the quality of life of older people in Manchester, which was initiated by the City Council. They have a '**Local Groups' database** that can be searched on **mCHIP**, including information on a wide variety of different food related older people's groups. For more information refer to the Food and Older People in Manchester information paper included in the Health Inequalities Food Resource Pack.

To access the Local Groups database with **mCHIP** go to: www.healthprofile.org.uk and follow the: 'What Information is there about ...' and 'Older People' links). **mCHIP** also includes lists of food stores, locations of allotments and quality of life survey data on consumption of fruit and vegetables.

Young Peoples' Steering Group for Food and Physical Activity

A new steering group has been established to lead on work relating to food, physical activity and young people. With an introductory mapping exercise the group shared 'the what', 'the where', 'the how' and 'the with who' for their organisation. Time was also spent looking at what the main national and local drivers are that direct individual services. Contact Lucy Nobes or Claire Duggan, Manchester Public Health Development Service, Manchester Healthy Schools Partnership: phone - on 0161 882 2300 / email - lucy.nobes@northpct.manchester.nwest.nhs.uk
claire.duggan@northpct.manchester.nwest.nhs.uk

SUSTAIN

The Alliance of Food and Farming web site has a free downloadable report called **Reaching the Parts ... Community mapping - working together to tackle social exclusion and food poverty**.

"Community Mapping uses participatory appraisal methods to enable local people to analyse their food economies and work with others to develop sustainable solutions to the problems they face in eating a healthy diet." The full colour report illustrates the process and findings of the pilot projects in Brighton, Coventry and Leicester. It concludes with a range of recommendations to help tackle food poverty and increase people's control over their communities.

To obtain the report go to www.sustainweb.org, and follow the 'Food Poverty Project' link.



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