



- [▶ CENTER](#)
- [▶ RESEARCH STUDIES](#)
- [▶ LEGISLATION](#)
- [▶ GRASSROOTS ORGANIZING](#)
- [▶ RESOURCES](#)



CCPHA Website Google

SEARCHING FOR HEALTHY FOOD

THE FOOD LANDSCAPE IN CALIFORNIA CITIES AND COUNTIES

OVERVIEW. On January 19, 2007 CCPHA released *Searching for Healthy Food: The Food Landscape in California Cities and Counties*. The report documented that in 2005, the state had more than four times as many fast-food restaurants and convenience stores as supermarkets and produce vendors. Given the increasing evidence that the foods available in neighborhoods influence what we eat and the likelihood of being obese, CCPHA called on policy makers to take steps to ensure that every California community has a healthy food environment.

THE STUDY. To assess the food landscape (or food environment) in California as a whole and in the most populous cities and counties, CCPHA analyzed data on fast-food restaurants, convenience stores, supermarkets and produce vendors. Using April 2005 data from the GIS and mapping software firm of ESRI, CCPHA determined the number of each type of retail

Study Documents

FACT SHEETS

[County Fact Sheets](#)

[City Fact Sheets](#)

Policy Brief

A summary of the study, findings, and policy recommendations.

[Detailed Methodology](#)

food outlet for counties and cities with populations greater than 250,000. For the state as a whole and for each of these counties and cities, CCPHA divided the sum of the number of fast-food restaurants and convenience stores by the sum of the number of supermarkets and produce vendors (both produce stores and farmers markets) to develop the Retail Food Environment Index (RFEI) for that area. For summary information, see the [Press Release](#) and [Press Kit](#), an accompanying [Policy Brief](#), and a [statement from Governor Schwarzenegger](#).

FINDINGS. The study found that in 2005 for California as a whole there were more than four times as many fast-food restaurants and convenience stores as supermarkets and produce vendors, yielding a statewide Retail Food Environment Index of 4.18. The RFEI varied substantially among counties and cities with populations greater than 250,000. Two counties (San Bernardino and Sacramento), and two cities (Bakersfield and Fresno), had nearly six times as many fast-food restaurants and convenience stores as supermarkets and produce vendors. For a summary of the RFEIs for all counties and cities with populations greater than 250,000, [click here](#).

Click on the following links for fact sheets for each county and city with population greater than 250,000.

- [○ 25 counties](#)
- [○ 13 cities](#)

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS. The report calls on federal, state and local policy makers to enact policies that promote a healthy food environment for all Californians. Specifically, CCPHA called on policy makers to enact [these specific policies](#).

Some of the media coverage of *Searching for Healthy Food* is listed below:

Sacramento Bee*	Modesto Bee	Bakersfield Californian
Los Angeles Times	Marin Independent Journal	San Bernardino Sun*
Santa Cruz Sentinel	Fresno Bee*	Stockton Record
San Jose Mercury News	Oakland Tribune*	The San Luis Obispo Tribune

* indicates front page coverage

[Printable Page](#)

Support for this project was provided by a grant from the California Vitamin Cases Consumer Settlement Fund.