



Urban Soils as the Foundation for Urban Agriculture

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NYC Soil & Water Conservation District

Thank you, NACD



A Little About NYC

An aerial photograph of New York City, including Manhattan, the Bronx, and parts of Westchester County. The image is overlaid with a color-coded map where green represents parks and open spaces, and purple/pink represents urban areas and buildings. The Hudson River is visible on the left, and the Harlem River and East River are visible in the center and right.

- **8.5 million people**
- **~60 million tourists annually**
- **305 square miles, ~72% impervious cover**
- **Estuarine ecosystem - hundreds of species of birds and marine organisms**



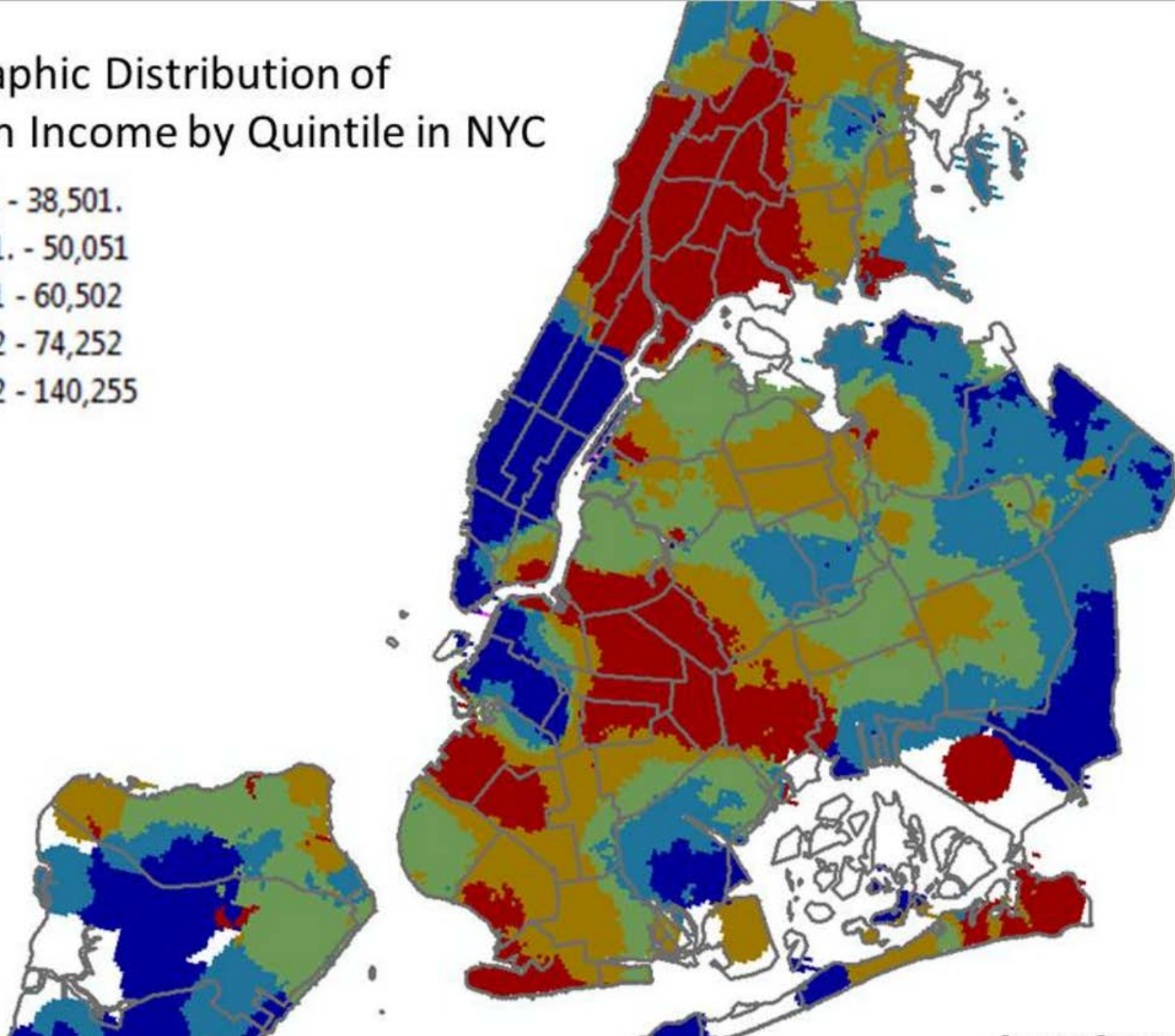
How Much Do New Yorkers Eat?

**133 pounds per person per year of wheat flour
= 565,000 tons of wheat flour**

**47 pounds per person per year of potatoes
= 200,000 tons of potatoes**

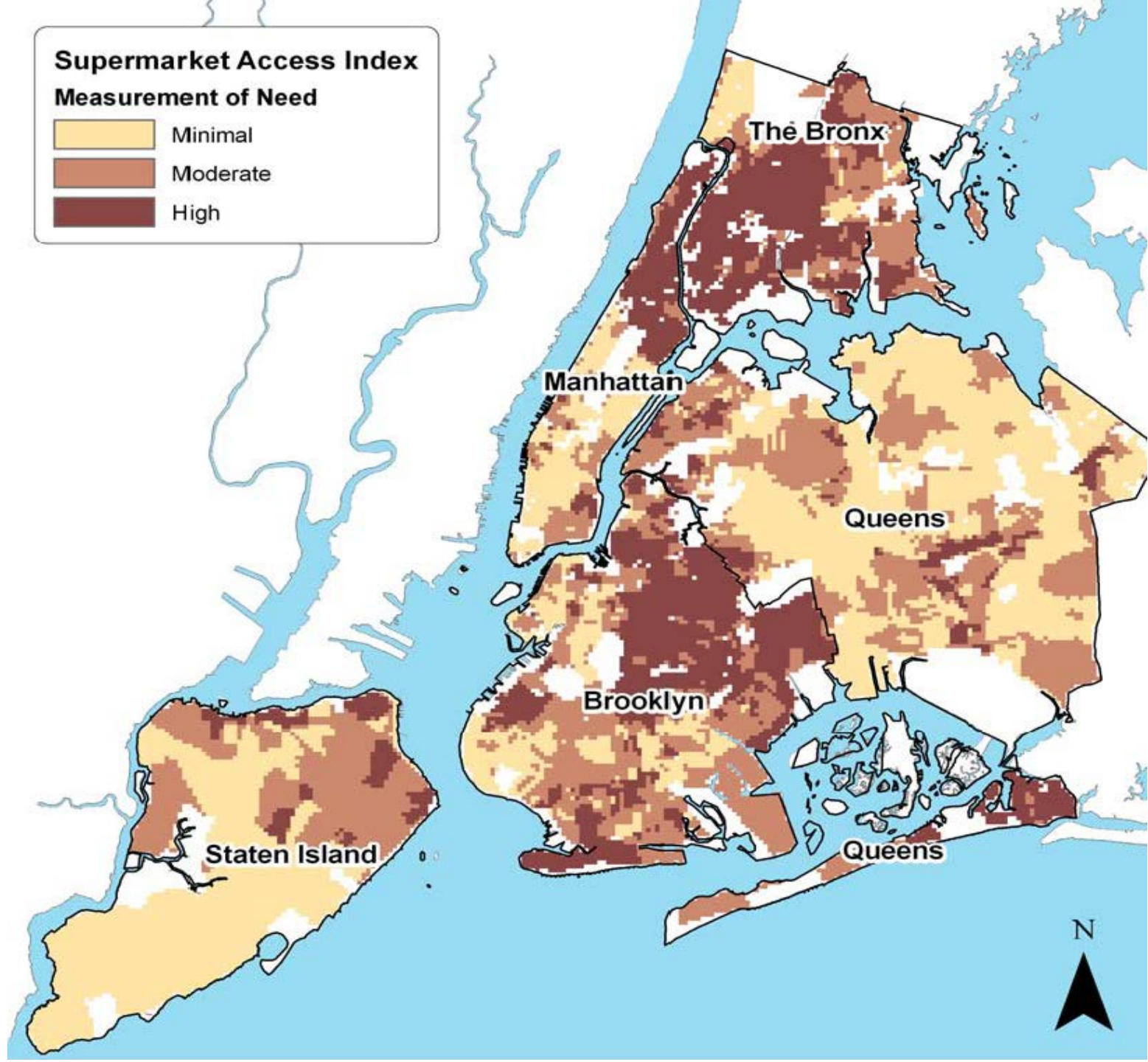
Geographic Distribution of Median Income by Quintile in NYC

- 2,200. - 38,501.
- 38,501. - 50,051
- 50,051 - 60,502
- 60,502 - 74,252
- 74,252 - 140,255

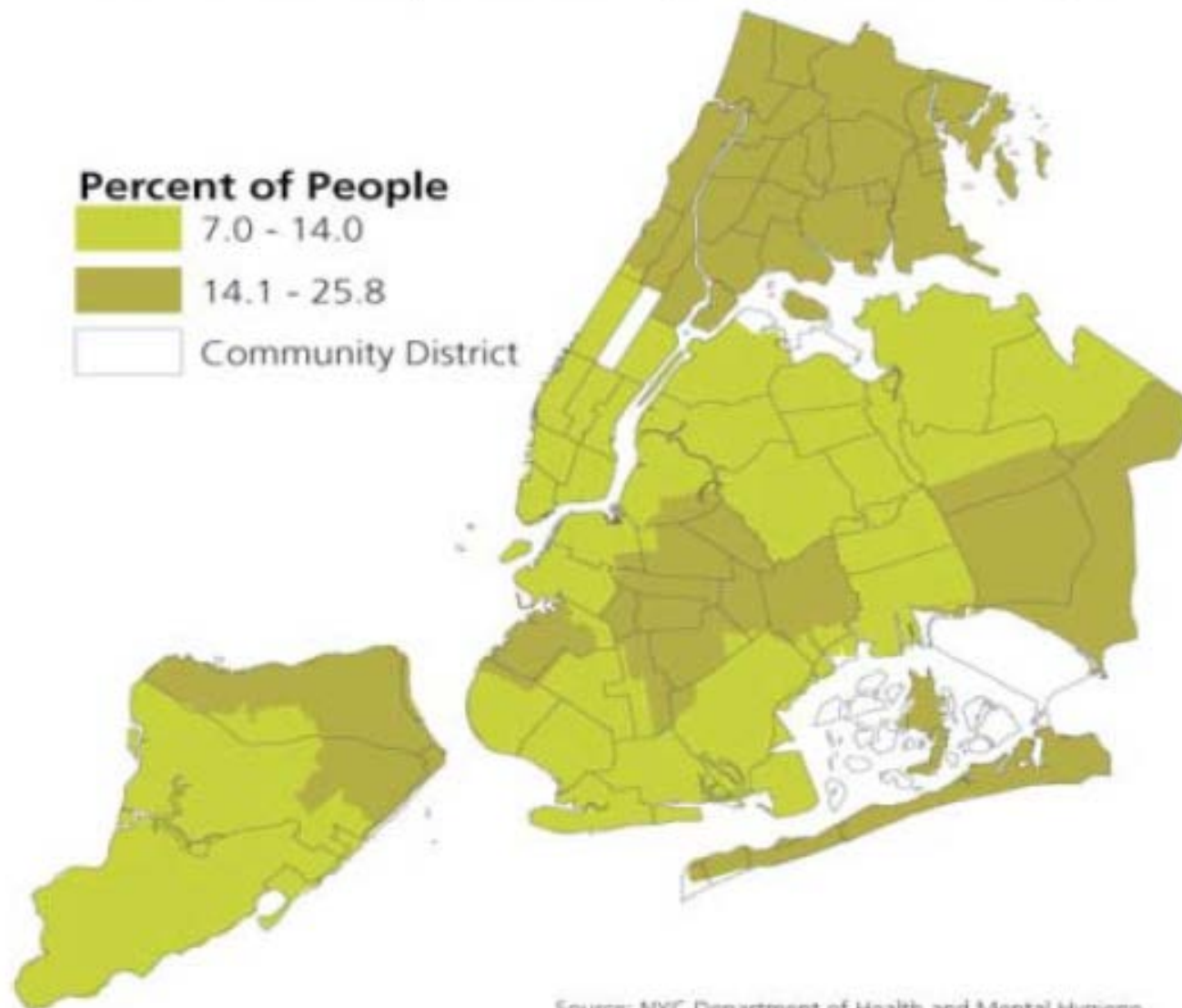


Supermarket Access Index

Measurement of Need

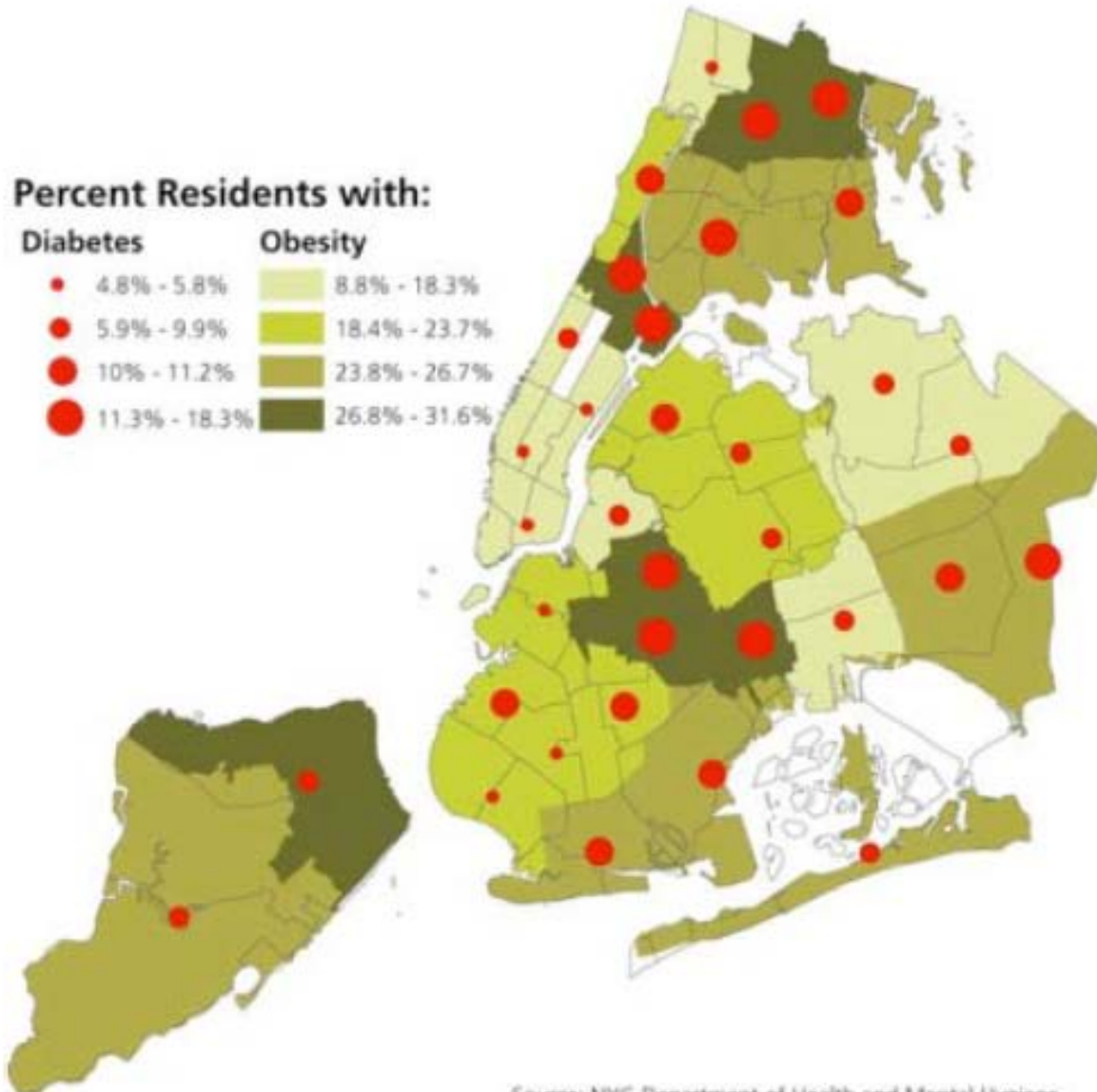


Percent of people reporting they consumed NO fruit or vegetables the previous day by the United Hospital Fund Neighborhoods



Source: NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

Prevalence of Diabetes and Obesity reported in neighborhoods defined by the United Hospital Fund (UHF)



Source: NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

Taking Matters into Their Own Hands

One square meter plot can produce:

- **200 tomatoes a year**
- **36 heads of lettuce every 60 days**
- **10 cabbages every 90 days**
- **100 onions every 120 days**

EAST NEW YORK
FARMS!







RED HOOK COMMUNITY FARM



A Project of
Added Value
www.added-value.org
718-855-5531

Youth Empowerment & Urban Agriculture for a Sustainable Future in Brooklyn

Added Value's mission is to promote the sustainable development of Red Hook by nurturing a new generation of youth leaders. We work toward this goal by creating opportunities for the youth of South Brooklyn to expand their knowledge base, develop new skills, and positively engage with their community through the creation of a socially responsible urban farming enterprise.

Added Value is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. All proceeds from our programs are used to support our mission. For more information, please contact us at 718-855-5531 or www.added-value.org.









Soil Garden Lead Map of NYC

Legend

◆ Gardens

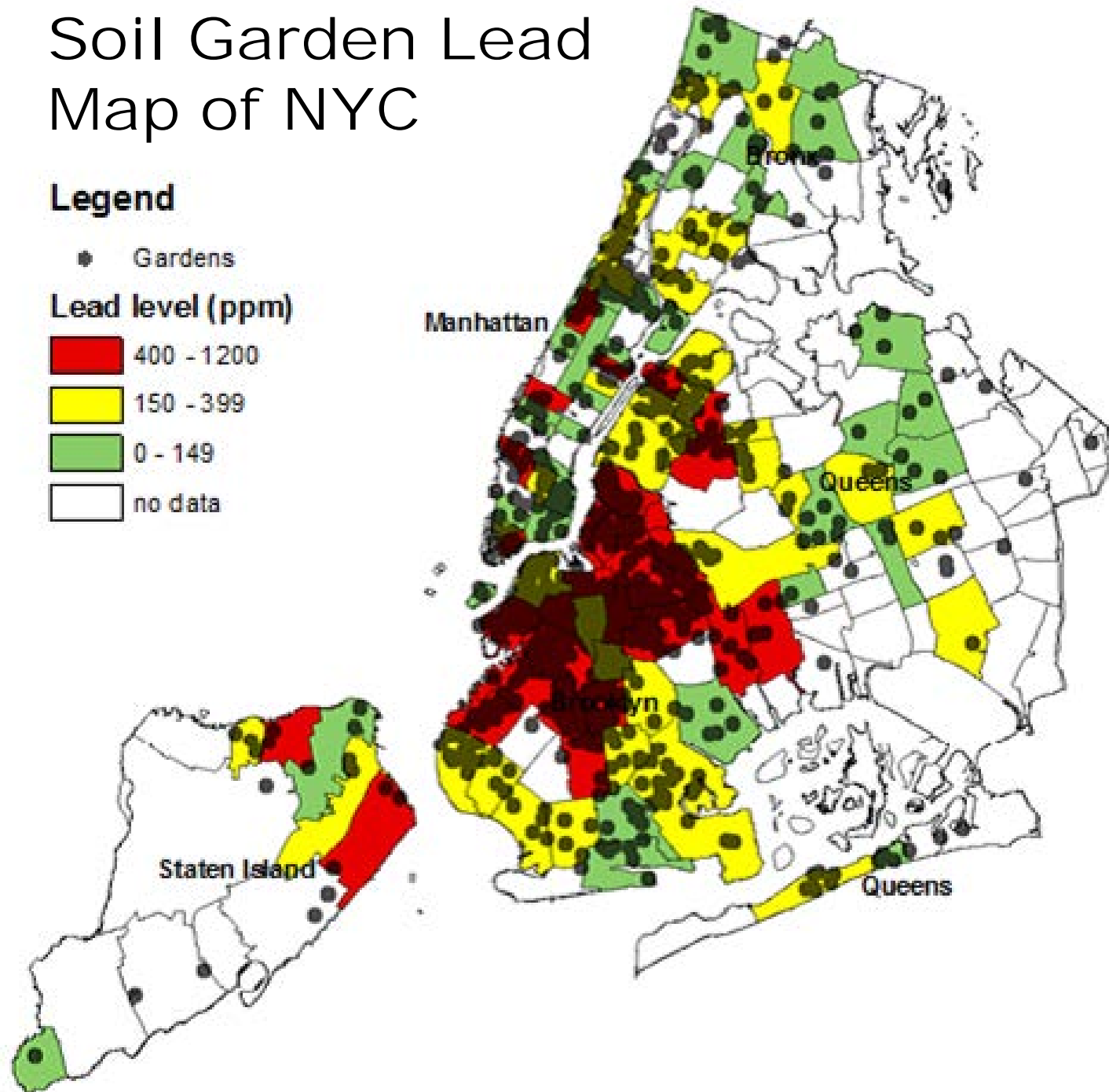
Lead level (ppm)

400 - 1200

150 - 399

0 - 149

no data



Need for Technical Assistance

Novice farmers/gardeners

Unique challenges of urban environment

- **Soil quality**
- **Contaminants**
- **Appropriate crops**

Urban Soils Institute



New York City Soil & Water Conservation District



Brooklyn College, School of Earth & Environmental Sciences



United States Department of Agriculture - Natural Resources Conservation Service

Urban Agriculture Technical Assistance

Outreach to farmers in food deserts

A series of 3 workshops

Technical resources development

Field visits

Online “clinic”

Series of Workshops

Soil Health Basics

Soils Interpretation

Crop Science

Technical Resources

Soil Health Assessment Kit

- **What is soil?**
- **What is soil health?**
- **Why is protecting my soil's important?**
- **How to use the soil health assessment**
- **How to examining soil conditions**
- **Video tutorials**

Field Visits & Online Clinic

Workshop participants receive a field visit

Hands-on trouble shooting with the expert

Online clinic with real life problems

A photograph of a lush garden. In the foreground, several large, blue-leafed cabbages are growing in a row. To their left, there are green leafy plants and some red-stemmed weeds. The background features a colorful mural with abstract shapes and flowers in shades of blue, green, yellow, and red. The overall scene is bright and colorful.

Thank you!

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