

## Overview:

We know dollar stores are important outlets for buying both food and other products. In this study we are interested in learning about your experience shopping during the COVID-19 pandemic.

## Qualitative Dollar Store Study



### What makes dollar stores interesting?

#### Dollar stores are prominent in communities with limited grocery options

- There are more than 30,000 dollar stores in the U.S.<sup>1</sup>
- In 2015, 2 of every 3 new stores in low-income communities were dollar stores<sup>2</sup>
- Dollar stores target communities with medium household income around \$35,000<sup>3</sup>

#### Dollar stores may heighten existing diet-related health inequities

- Many dollar stores focus on sales of high-profit items such as packaged goods, not fruits and vegetables<sup>1</sup>
- Cities can adopt retailer policies to limit the number of dollar stores in a given community and make space for full-service grocery stores<sup>5</sup>

#### Many people rely on dollar stores to purchase food and beverages

- In areas where full-service grocery stores struggle to turn a profit, dollar stores provide access to food<sup>3,4</sup>
- In 2018, consumable products (food & beverages) accounted for 78% of dollar store sales<sup>7</sup>

#### Dollar stores have the potential to provide access to healthier food options

- Dollar General recently announced "DG Fresh" an initiative to provide more fresh produce and distribute perishable goods<sup>4</sup>
- Some retailers are expanding food options to include bread, milk, meat, and frozen products<sup>6</sup>

# Community Resources

## CalFresh Program

### You may be able to get CalFresh benefits if you are:

- Working for low wages or working part-time
- Unemployed
- Receiving welfare or other public assistance payments
- Elderly or disabled and are low-income
- Homeless
- A US citizen or legal resident

### CA Resources: eligibility and enrollment

- [CalFresh benefits](#)
- [Benefits.gov](#)
- CalFresh Information: 877-847-3663
- EBT Information: 877-328-9677
- [Pandemic EBT](#)

### City of Fresno:

- [Housing, Income loss & food](#)

## Fresno Area Food Pantries

### Community Food Bank Fresno

- 4010 E. Amendola Drive Fresno, CA - 93725  
(559) 237-3663

### Life Cathedral Food Pantry

- 6865 N Maple Ave Fresno, CA - 93710  
(559) 299-4747

### Butler's Food Pantry

- 3542 E. Butler Avenue Fresno, CA - 93702  
(559) 375-0415

### Fresno Central SDA Community Services

- 422 E Shields Ave Fresno, CA - 93704  
(559) 221-4247

### Mountain View Community Church

- 3600 N Fowler Ave Fresno, CA - 93727  
(559) 291-9199

### Fresno Food Pantry Listings & Food Resources:

- [Food pantry listings](#)
- [Food services](#)
- [Food pantry locator](#)

## Helpful Links: Dollar stores in the news

- 1 [NPR. 2019. Dollar Stores Effects on Communities](#)
- 2 [CBS News. 2015. Big Grocery Chains Leave U.S. Food Deserts Parched](#)
- 3 [Bloomberg. 2017. Dollar General Hits a Gold Mine in Rural America](#)
- 4 [Supermarket News. 2019. Dollar General Shifting to Self-distribution of Fresh and Frozen](#)
- 5 [Tulsa World. 2018. City Council Approves Restrictions on Dollar Stores in North Tulsa](#)
- 6 [Huffpost. 2018. Dollar Stores Sell More Food Than Whole Foods](#)
- 7 [Retail Leader. 2019. Meet America's Fastest Growing Food Retailer](#)

For more information please contact our research team at [dollarstores@tufts.edu](mailto:dollarstores@tufts.edu)