

## 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

## SNAP Program

### You may be able to get SNAP 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

### SNAP benefits: eligibility and enrollment

- [MA.gov SNAP Benefits](#)
- [Benefits.gov](#)
- SNAP Information: 877-382-2363
- EBT Information 800-997-2555
- [Pandemic EBT](#)

### City of Boston:

- [Housing, food, transportation](#)
- [Hunger & Food Resources for Households](#)

## Boston Area Food Pantries

Allston: Allston Brighton APAC 143 Harvard Ave, Boston 617-783-1485

Boston: Haley House 23 Dartmouth St, Boston 617-236-8132

Cambridge: Margaret Fuller House 71 Cherry St, Cambridge 617-547-7680

Dorchester: Harvard Street Neighborhood Health Ctr. ,895 Blue Hill Ave., 617-825-3400

Somerville: West Pantry 139 Alewife Parkway, Somerville 617-776 7687

Roxbury: Elm Hill FSC 22 Elm Hill Ave, Roxbury 617-442-5900

### Other Boston Area Food Resources:

- [Food pantries](#)
- [MA Covid-19 Public Resources](#)
- [Food Resources Map](#)
- [Summer Eats](#)
- [Meals on Wheels](#)

## 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)