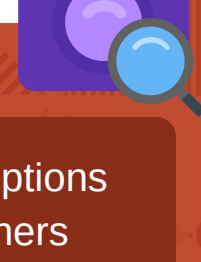
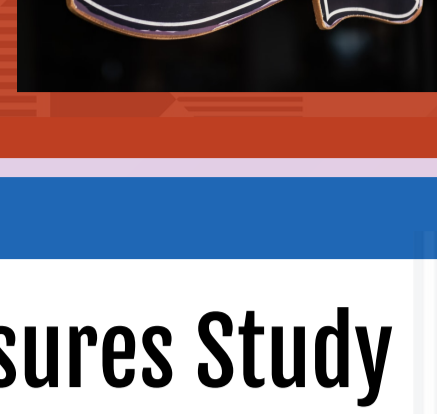


# Changes to the Food Retail Environment due to COVID-19 A Snapshot of the NYC Experience, May to July 2020



The COVID-19 pandemic has led to historical social and economic disruptions to communities in New York City (NYC). In particular, community partners expressed growing concerns over disproportionate impact to Manhattan Chinatown's businesses due to anti-Asian racism and xenophobic fears induced by the Chinese origin of the virus. In March 2020, the New York State (NYS) on Pause went into effect, shutting down many non-essential businesses, which likely further burdened Chinese businesses. However, the impact of COVID-19 on the food retail environment still remains unclear.

尊敬的顾客：因为疫情的原因，我们暂时关门。等疫情好转后，我们会尽快开业。谢谢！  
Dear Customers:  
Due to the recent coronavirus, our restaurant are temporarily closed. Sorry for any inconvenience! We will reopen soon!  
Thank you!



## CoClo The NYU Covid Closures Study

The NYU Covid Closures (CoClo) Study aimed to understand the impact that the COVID-19 pandemic has had on the closures of food retail stores, restaurants, and produce vendors in six NYC neighborhoods.



## CoClo The NYU Covid Closures Study

### Neighborhoods selected in Manhattan and Brooklyn

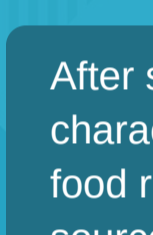
East Harlem & Upper East Side

Chinatown  
Park Slope

Brownsville  
Sunset Park

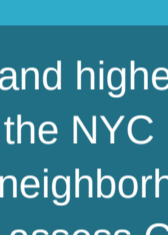


### Sources of Information



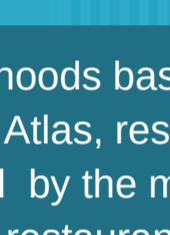
Restaurants

Source: NYC Restaurant Inspections Database



Food Retail Stores

Source: NYS Retail Food Source



Produce Vendors

Source: Google Street View, Past Surveillance Data\*

After selection of 6 lower- and higher-resourced neighborhoods based on characteristics reported in the NYC Neighborhood Health Atlas, restaurants and food retail stores for each neighborhood were ascertained by the most up-to-date sources of information. To assess COVID-19 closures for restaurants, food retail stores, and produce vendors, the study team followed a rigorous procedure of checks: *internet*, *call*, and *in-person*.

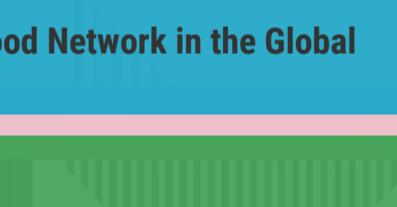
#### Step 1: Internet Check



#### Step 2: Internet Check



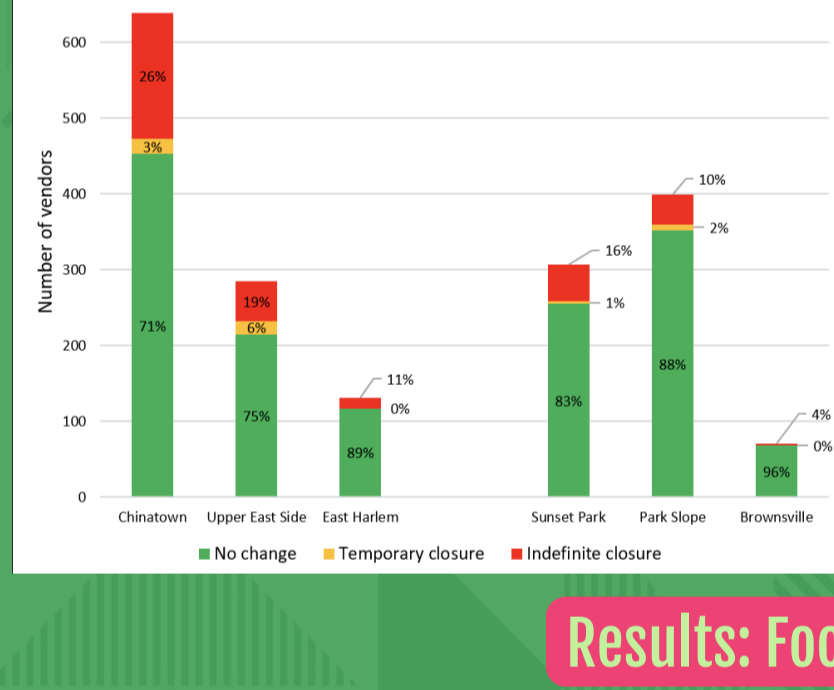
#### Step 3: In-person Check



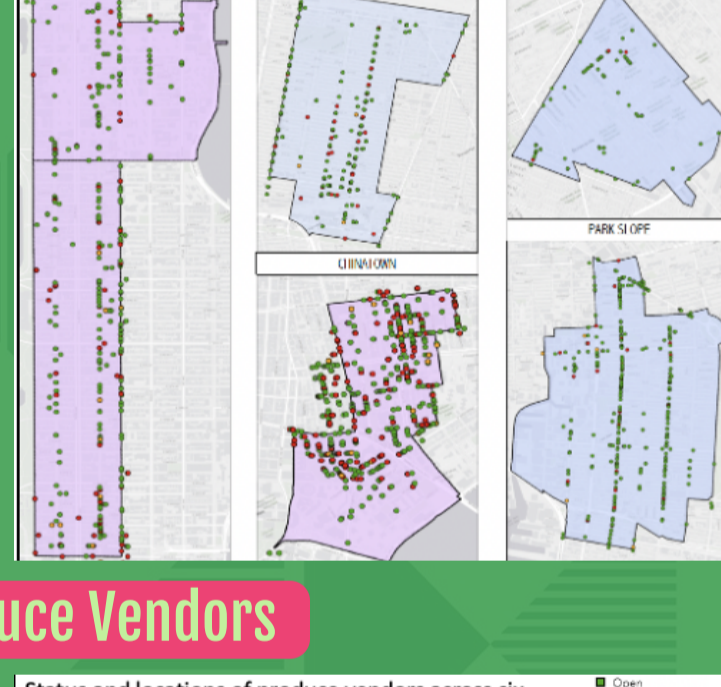
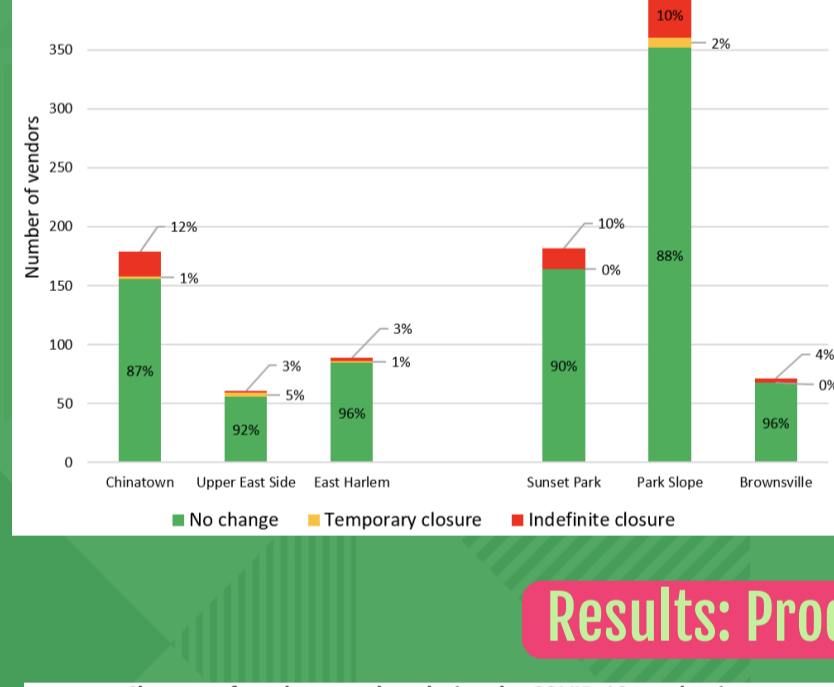
## CoClo The NYU Covid Closures Study

### Results: Restaurants

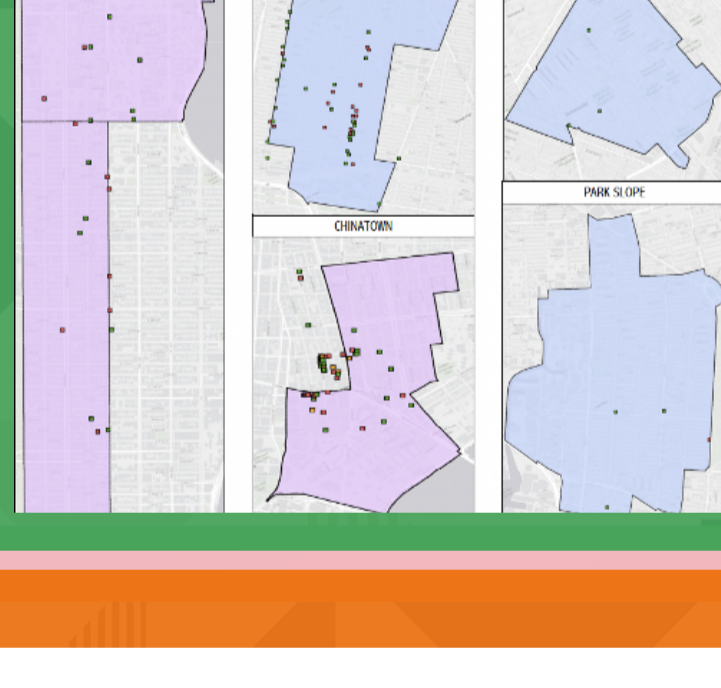
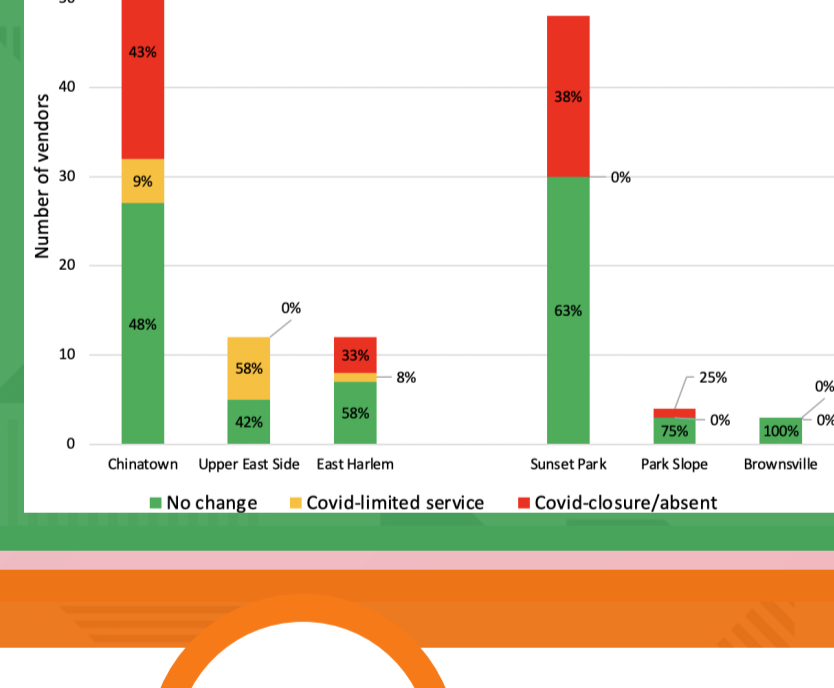
Order of neighborhoods on charts (LTR): Chinatown, Upper East Side, East Harlem, Sunset Park, Park Slope, Brownsville



### Results: Food Retail Stores



### Results: Produce Vendors



## CoClo The NYU Covid Closures Study

### Overall Findings:

Lower-resourced neighborhoods had **FEWER** food outlets.

Restaurants are more **LIKELY** to close than food retail stores.

Higher proportions of COVID-19 food outlet **CLOSURES** in Chinese neighborhoods compared to other neighborhoods.



### CONCLUSION

Food outlets in ethnically Chinese neighborhoods have faced a disproportionate impact during COVID-19. Restaurants and produce vendors were particularly socioeconomically impacted.

### Call for Action

- Implement economic/social policies and initiatives to support small business, particularly in Chinese neighborhoods
- Further research to understand why certain food outlets were open/closed during COVID-19
- Evaluate food outlet closures in other racially/ethnically communities - e.g. Chinatowns in other urban cities in the US

### How can you help?



Coronavirus: Chinatown Stories by Grace Young

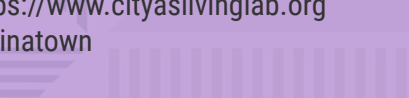
<https://posterhouse.org/special-project/corona-virus-chinatown-stories/>



<https://www.cityaslivinglab.org/chinatown>



<https://www.mofad.org/the-takeout>



<https://www.mofad.org/the-takeout>

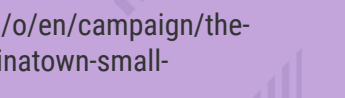


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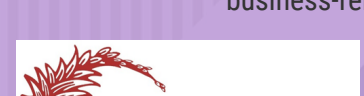
<https://www.cpc-nyc.org/campaigns/cpc-covid-19-relief-fund>



<https://www.heartofdinner.com/>



<https://charity.gofundme.com/o/en/campaign/the-longevity-fund-welcome-to-chinatown-small-business-relief-fund>



Contact: [Stella.Yi@nyulangone.org](mailto:Stella.Yi@nyulangone.org)  
[DrStellaYi](https://www.heartofdinner.com/)