# Food Equity in Prince George's County

**Darcy Drewyer, Laura Exar, Eva Macek, Katherine Rush, Adam Scheckman, Liana Torres, Jared Williams**

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE AND POLICY PROGRAM

# Outline

Project Goals

Updated Methods

Findings and Results

Policy Recommendations

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# Project Goals

Identify challenges and opportunities, and provide recommendations for creating a healthy, equitable, and sustainable food system that ensures every Prince Georgian has access to nutritious, affordable, sustainably grown, safe, and culturally appropriate food.

Goals:

- Provide the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) with an updated interactive map showing priority areas of access
- Identify food trends in the data and report on the associated demographic patterns
- Recommend future food endeavors and plans for the next capstone group to continue this work

# Updated Spatial Analysis Methods

Established vulnerability classifications in four levels (Jenks Natural Breaks)
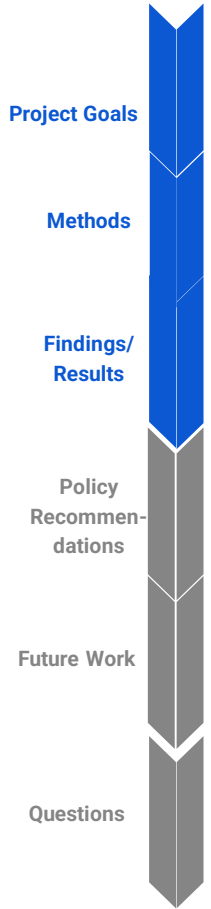- Low, Moderate, High, Very High

Created 0.5 mile buffers for spatial join and intersect operations

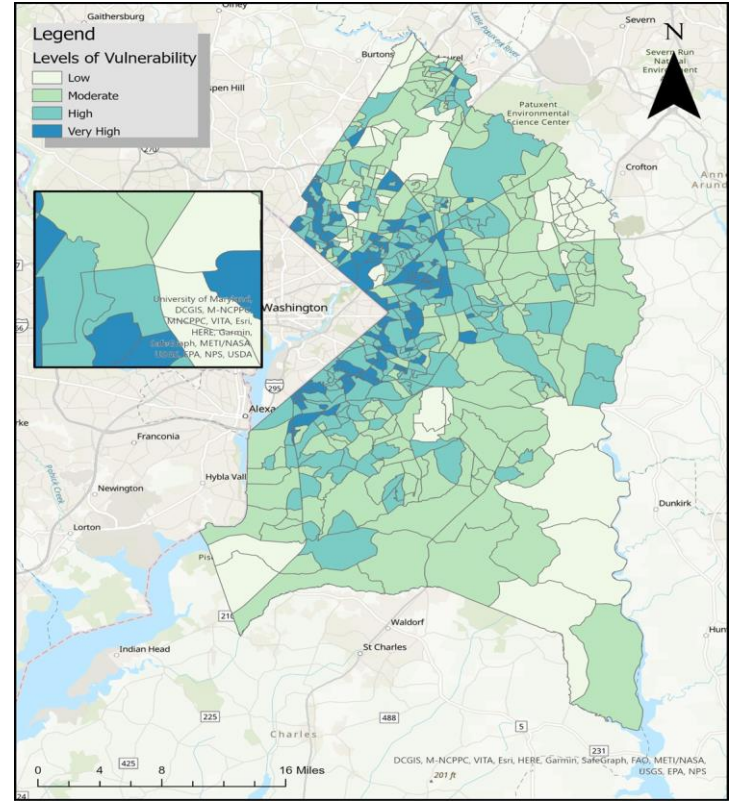Created a model to produce Kernel Density Estimation
- Extracted "Very High" vulnerabilty block groups
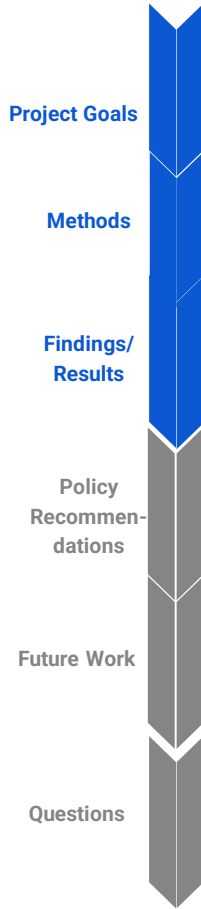- Clipped Kernel Density maps to "Very High" block groups to view "hot spots"
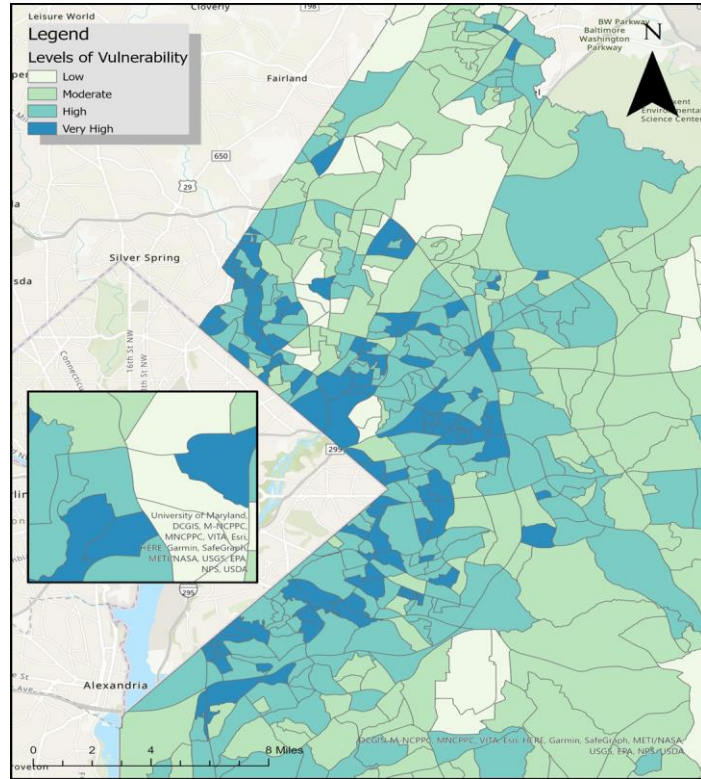
# Findings and Results

Levels of Vulnerability in
Prince George's County

Full Extent

Project Goals

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Findings/
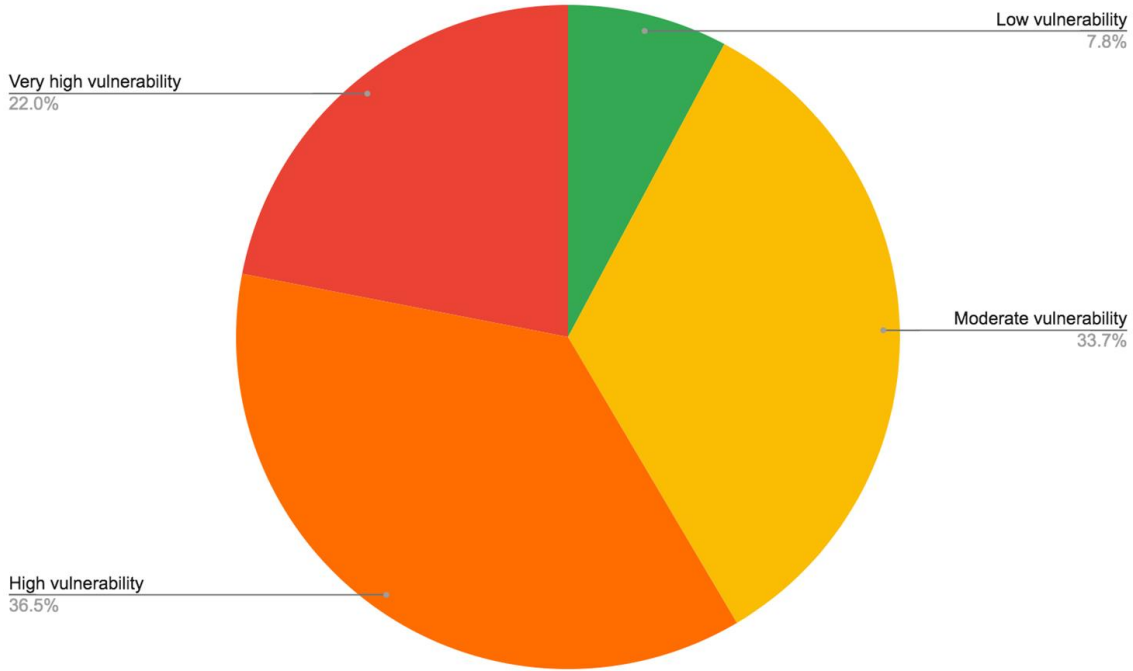Results

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Levels of Vulnerability in
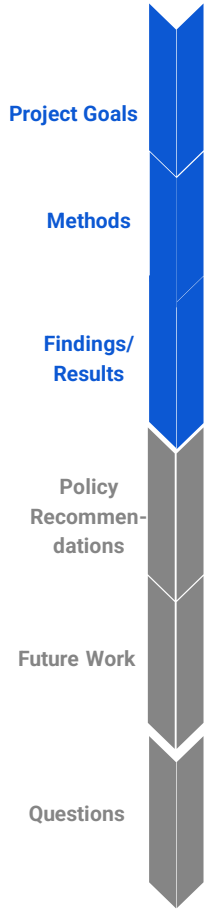Prince George's County
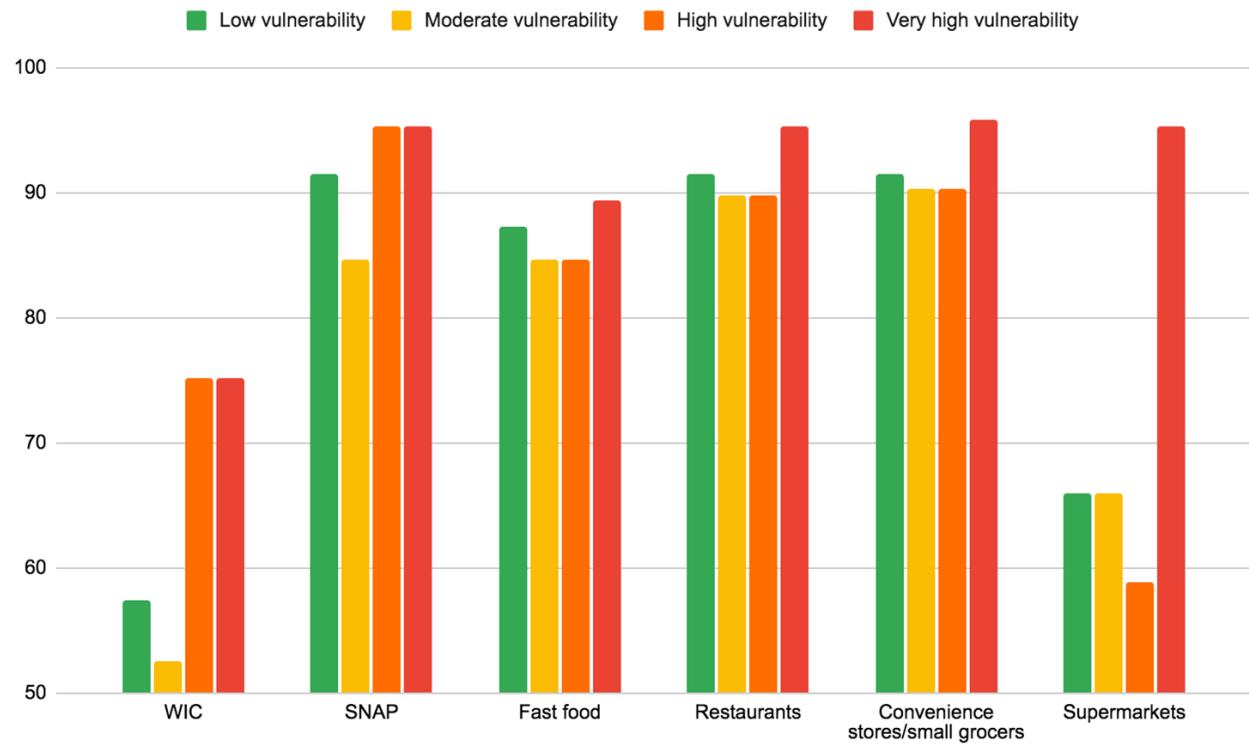


Most Vulnerable Block Groups Zoomed In

# Total Population of Prince George's County by Vulnerability Classification

Low vulnerability
7.8%

Very high vulnerability
22.0%

Moderate vulnerability
33.7%

High vulnerability
36.5%

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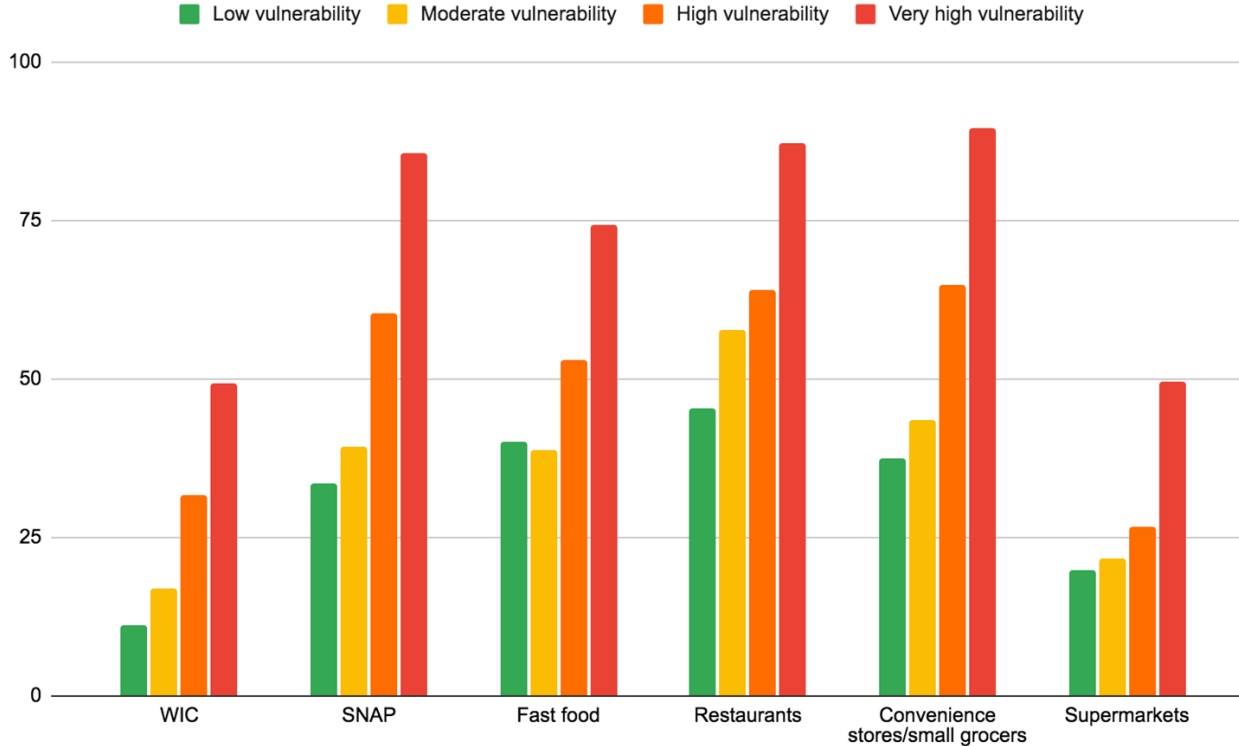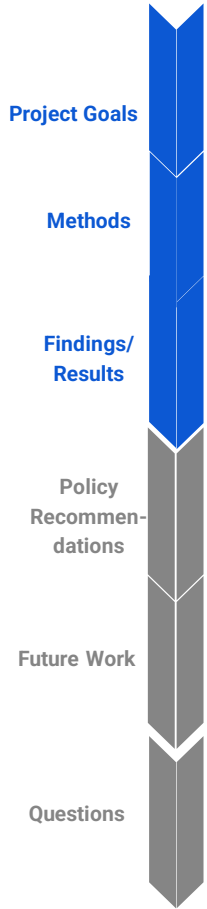
# Percent of Block Groups at each Vulnerability Level with Access to Food Locations

Percent of Residents at each Vulnerability Level with Access to Food Locations

Percent of Population with Access to Food Locations by Vulnerability Level
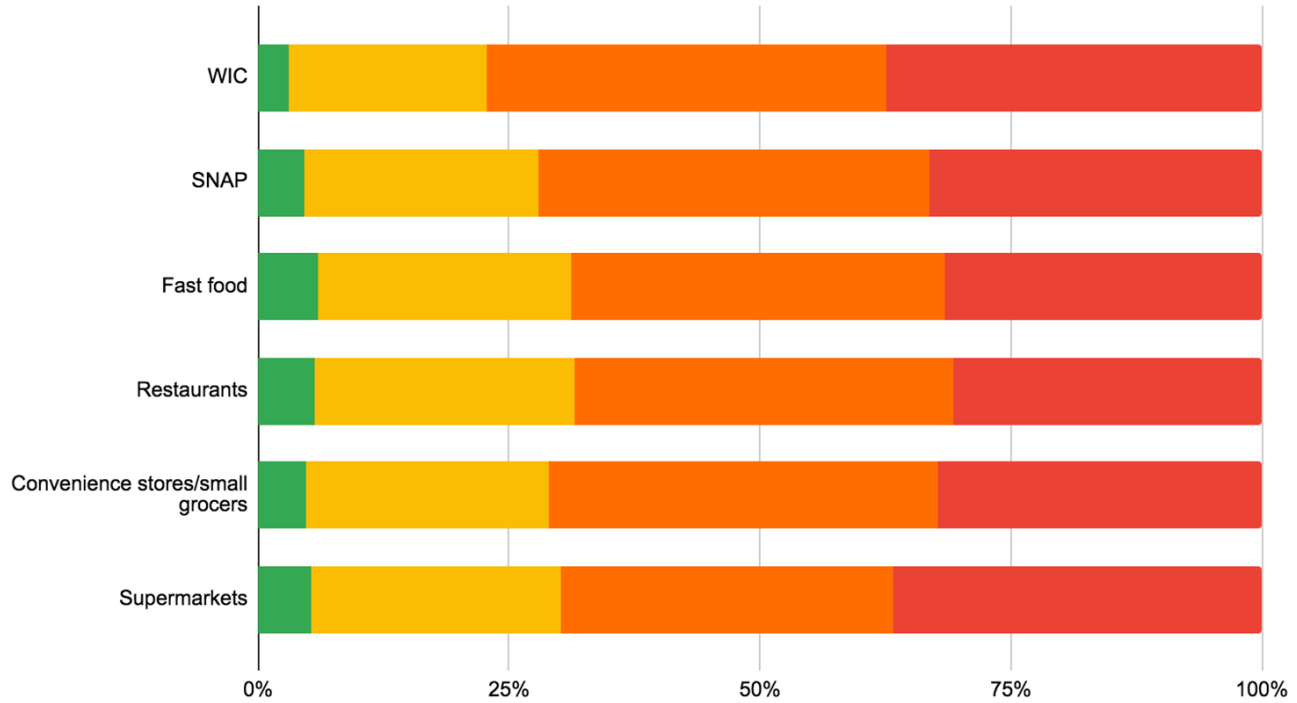
# Priority Areas

Trends in four regions:
- ○ A - Parkland Terrace and Marlow Heights along Suitland Parkway
- ○ B - Walker Mill, Yorkshire Knolls, and Carmody Hill
- ○ C - Langley Park and Adelphi area
- ○ D - College Park area mainly within University of Maryland's campus extension

Hot Spot Density Analysis of "Very High" Vulnerability Block Groups
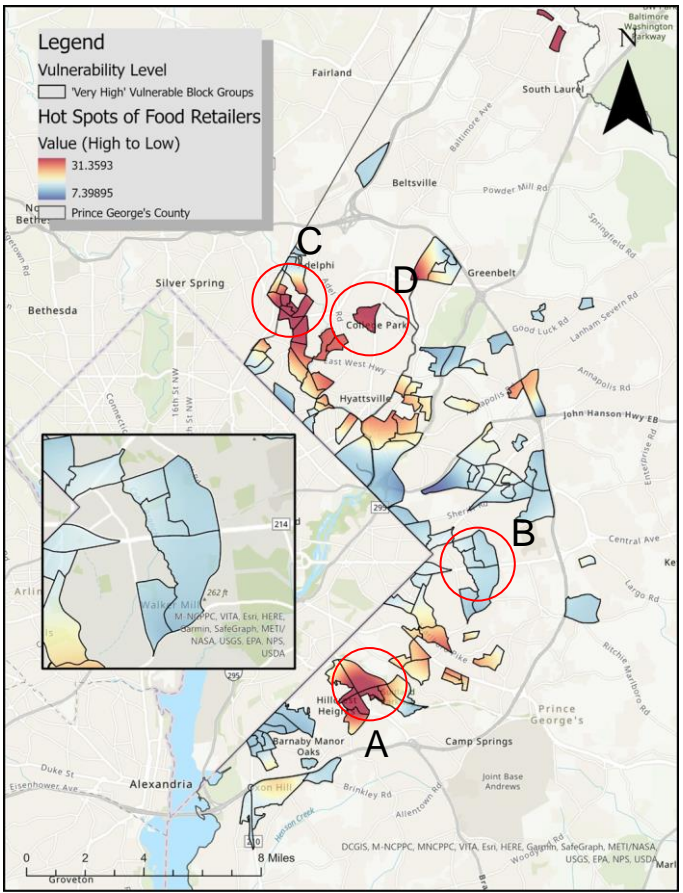
Hot Spots of all food retailers in
Prince George's County

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# Hot Spots of fast food retailers in Prince George's County

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Hot Spots of fast food retailers, convenience stores, and small grocers/corner stores
in Prince George's County

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Hot Spots of WIC vendors and SNAP retailers in Prince George's County
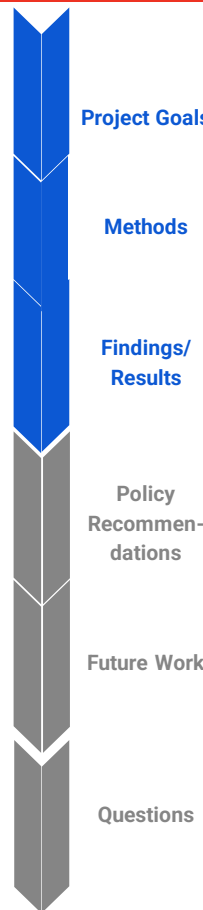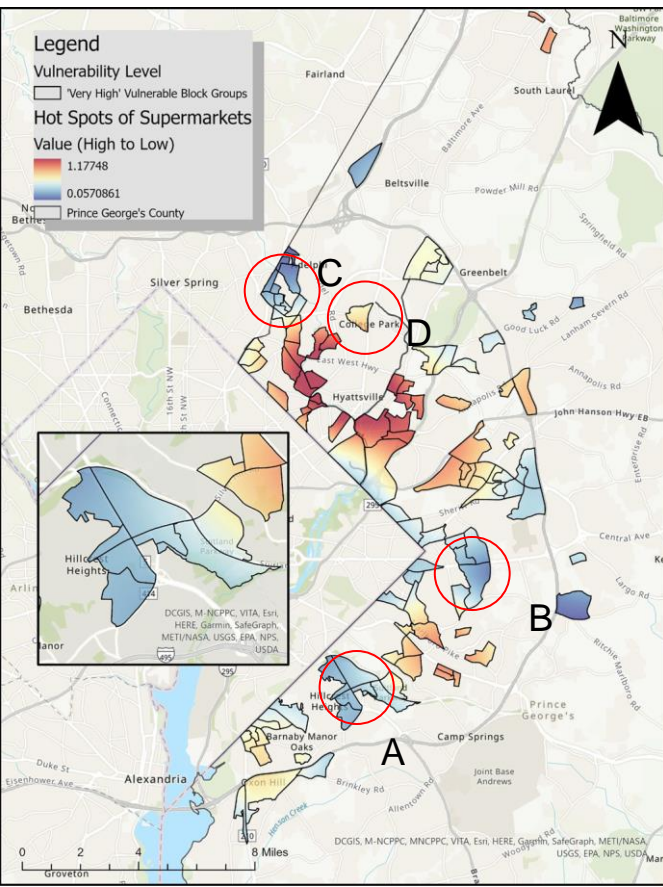
Hot Spots of supermarkets
in
Prince George's County

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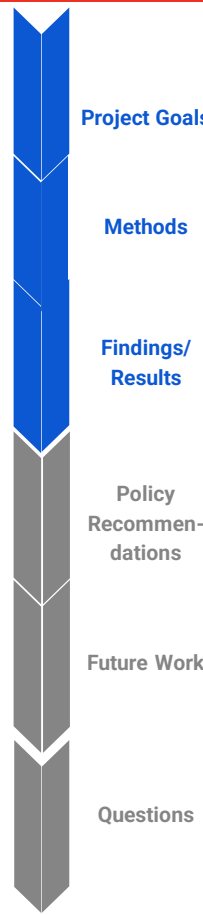
# Policy Recommendations: Fast Food Food Access

Reduce access to fast food
- Zoning ordinance to limit franchise expansion
- Fast food/soda tax
  - Maryland currently has 6% soda tax
  - Revenue to fund food equity programs

Fast Food Hot Spots
- D - College Park
- Chillum
- Berwyn Heights
- North Hyattsville and Brentwood
- Suitland and Forestville

https://youngmenshealthsite.org/guides/fast-food/

# Policy Recommendations: Supermarket Access

Increase access to supermarkets and farmers markets

- Expand supermarket locations
- Improve accessibility: bus routes, walking paths

Areas of limited access to supermarkets

- A - Parkland Terrace, Marlow Heights
- B - Walker Mill, Yorkshire Knolls, Carmody Hill
- C - Langley Park, Adelphi

Food Swamps (High Fast Food + Mid/Low Supermarkets)

- A - Parkland Terrace, Marlow Heights
- D - College Park
- New Carrollton



https://dcist.com/story/21/03/10/md-prince-georges-grocery-liquor-stores-bill/

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# Policy Recommendations: WIC Vendors Access



Expand number of WIC vendors

- Average 66.4% access across all block groups
- Less Vulnerable
    - Average 55% access in least and moderately vulnerable
- More Vulnerable
    - Average 77.8% access in vulnerable and most vulnerable

Areas of limited access to WIC vendors

- B - Walker Mill, Yorkshire Knolls, Carmody Hill
- DC border near Fairmount Heights

https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-
ncov/need-extra-precautions/pregnant-
people.html

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# Policy Recommendations: Small Business Support

Grant/loan programs
- Prince George's County COVID-19 Business Recovery Initiative (formerly Relief Fund)
- Provide additional small business stimulus

Community engagement
- Publicly promote local businesses
- Outreach to local businesses



https://www.worthingtonlibraries.org/about/news/2020-03/libraries-remain-closed-until-further-notice

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# Policy Recommendations: Support Urban Agriculture

Create tool to map urban farms

Institute school, community gardens

Expand existing urban agriculture programs
- ○ SNAP to Health - SNAP vendors at farmers markets
- ○ Urban agriculture tax credit ordinance
- ○ Bloomin' PGC



https://www.pgscd.org/urban-agricultural-conservation/urban-ag-property-tax-credit/

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# Future Work

o   Update sources with more accurate data

o   Culturally appropriate analysis of food sources

o   Public transportation data to provide an accessibility layer

o   COVID-specific data; its disruption of the food system

o   Deeper analysis of sub-locales (narrow generalizations)

o   Public health layer of relationship between access to fast food and prevalence of nutritional diseases

o   Community outreach



https://www.traffictechnologytoday.com/features/white-paper-how-ai-and-iot-can-reshape-public-transit-in-the-covid-era.html

# Questions?

https://theknow.denverpost.com/2019/05/09/farmers-markets-denver-spring/214543/

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