

Proposed Changes to SNAP-Authorized Retailer Requirements and the Availability of Healthy Foods in Small Stores Located in Low-Income Chicago Communities

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Disclosures

**My colleagues and I have
nothing to disclose.**

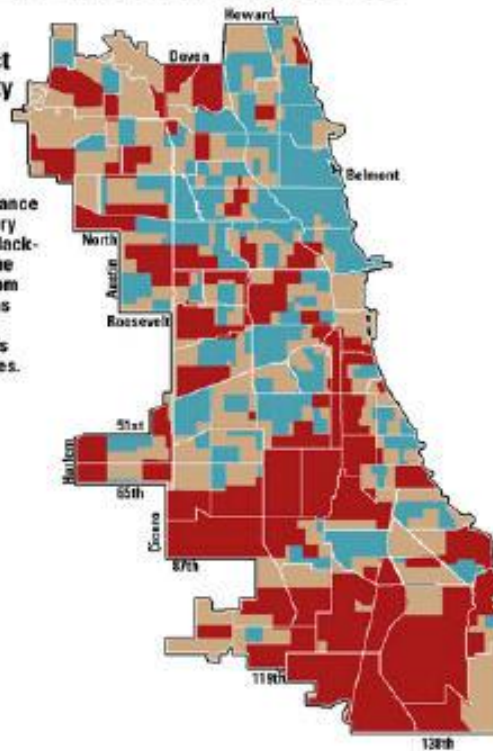
— Grocery Store Access in Chicago —

FOOD DESERTS IN CHICAGO

Distance to grocers by tract with community boundaries

The map shows distance to all types of grocery stores in Chicago. Black-colored areas are the farthest distance from grocers. These areas form three key food deserts on Chicago's West and South sides.

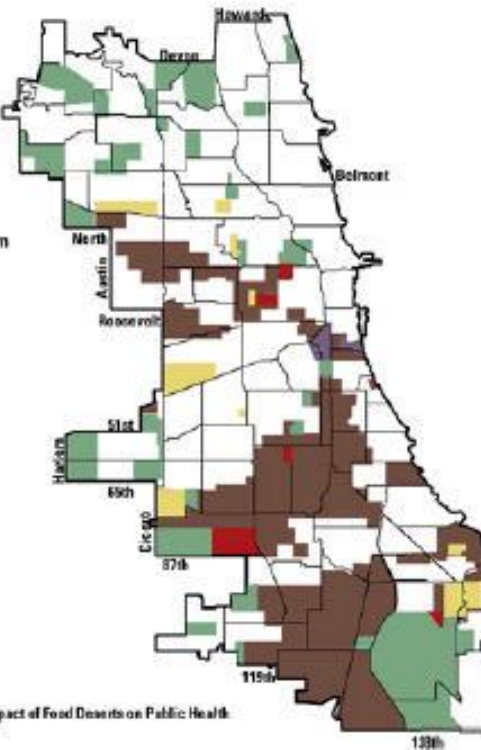
- CLOSEST DISTANCE
- AVERAGE DISTANCE
- FARTHEST DISTANCE



Food deserts are nearly exclusively African-American

The map shows only tracts that are in the farthest distance to grocers and shades them by race.

- WHITE
- BLACK
- HISPANIC
- ASIAN
- DIVERSE



SOURCE: Examining the Impact of Food Deserts on Public Health in Chicago

Gallagher et al. (2012) http://www.marigallagher.com/site_media/dynamic/project_files/Chicago_Food_Desert_Report.pdf

— Healthy Food Financing Initiative —

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DIET AND NUTRITION

White House Proposes Healthy Food Financing Initiative

The Obama administration announced in February a \$400 million initiative it hopes will lure retailers of healthy foods into the so-called food deserts of America. The program, proposed as part of the fiscal year 2011 budget, aims to boost public health by eliminating urban and rural food deserts within 7 years.

- In 2011, the US government announced the Health Food Financing Initiative (HFFI).
- The HFFI aims to increase the availability of healthy food in the US by offering financial incentives to develop or expand healthy food retailers.
- Efforts have included developing new supermarkets and healthier corner stores.
- **The Chicago Community Loan Fund and the Illinois Fresh Food Fund have received HFFI funding to develop new supermarkets.**

— UIC NOPREN Project —

Specific Aim: Assess the longitudinal impact of a new HFFI-supported supermarket on the retail food environment in two predominately low-income and African American communities in Illinois.

- Examine changes in food and beverage availability in surrounding food retail stores before and after the introduction of a HFFI-supported supermarket.
- Assess food and beverage interior and exterior store marketing in surrounding food retail stores before and after the introduction of a HFFI-supported supermarket.
- Monitor short-term and long-term availability, pricing, and marketing of foods and beverages of the HFFI-supported supermarkets.

— UIC NOPREN Project —

NOPREN Intervention and Comparison Communities

Community:	Store Name	Opening Date	% African American	% Poverty
Englewood	Whole Foods Market	October 2016	96%	49%
North Lawndale	Comparison Site	-	95%	47%
Rockford (West)	Save-A-Lot Supermarket	August 2015	50%	47%
Rockford (South)	Comparison Site	-	40%	46%

- **Eligible stores include small grocery stores, corner stores, gas stations, liquor stores, pharmacies, discount/dollar stores.**
- Baseline data were collected in 2015 from all sites.
- A second round of pre-intervention data for Englewood and North Lawndale and post-intervention data for Rockford were collected in 2016.
- Additionally, data were collected in Austin which is another HFFI eligible community in Chicago. It also lacks a supermarket.

— Food Store Characteristics —

Features of Food Retail Stores located in UIC NOPREN Intervention and Comparison Communities

	All Stores	Grocery	Limited Service	Chicago	Rockford
Store Feature:	N = 127	N = 34 (27%)	N = 93 (73%)	N = 87 (69%)	N = 40 (31%)
Limited Service Store Type:					
Convenience Store	53%	-	72%	54%	50%
Other ^a	21%	-	28%	16%	30%
Number of Cash Registers	1.6 (± 0.9) ^b	1.7 (± 1.0)	1.6 (± 0.9)	1.6 (± 0.9)	1.6 (± 0.9)
Accepts SNAP Benefits	86%	100%	82%	92%	74%
Butcher, Deli, or Bakery Available	26%	76%	7%	31%	15%
Exterior Store Features:					
Sells Gasoline	20%	0%	27%	19%	23%
Parking On Site	54%	44%	58%	37%	92%

a. Other include pharmacies, liquor stores and small discount stores

b. Mean (\pm SD) for number of cash registers

— Food & Beverage Availability —

Baseline Food and Beverage Availability in UIC NOPREN Communities

	All Stores	Grocery	Limited Service
	N = 127	N = 34 (27%)	N = 93 (73%)
Fresh Produce:			
Number of Fruit Options	1.8 (\pm 4.0)	4.8 (\pm 6.0)	0.7 (\pm 2.2)*
Number of Vegetable Options	2.9 (\pm 4.6)	8.8 (\pm 5.2)	0.8 (\pm 1.7)*
Canned and Shelf-Stable Produce:			
Number of Fruit Options	3.7 (2.3)	5.1 (\pm 2.5)	3.2 (\pm 2.1)*
Number of Vegetable Options	6.8 (3.3)	8.7 (\pm 2.5)	6.1 (\pm 3.2)*
Milk:			
1% or Skim	11.8%	14.7%	10.8%
Whole or 2%	85.8%	94.1%	82.8%
Bread:			
100% Whole Wheat	12.1%	21.2%	8.8%
White	84.0%	93.9%	80.4%
Soda:			
Diet	76.6%	63.6%	81.3%*
Regular	97.6%	97.0%	97.8%

Mean (\pm SD) for number of fruit and vegetable options

*Difference between grocery and limited service stores is statistically difference ($p < 0.05$)

— Changing SNAP Vendor Stocking Requirements —



- In 2016, proposed changes to the SNAP-authorized vendor stocking requirements were published and made available for public comment.
- The UIC NOPREN project is researching the SNAP-authorized vendor requirements in small food stores in our Chicago area NOPREN communities (i.e., Austin, Englewood, North Lawndale).
- **A new tool was developed and piloted to collect information on the extent small food stores were meeting the proposed rules.**
- Trained field workers audited food stores in August 2016.

— Changing SNAP Vendor Stocking Requirements —

Current	Proposed
✓ Stock at least 3 varieties of foods in all 4 USDA staple food categories.	✓ Stock at least 7 varieties of foods in all 4 USDA staple food categories.
✓ Stock perishable foods in at least 2 staple food categories	✓ Stock perishable foods in at least 3 staple food categories

- USDA staple food categories include: Fruits & Vegetables, Meat & Seafood, Bread & Cereal, and Dairy Products.
- A “variety” pertains to a specific type of food item: apple, banana, orange etc.
- **Information on depth of stock was not collected in 2016.**

— Results —

Food Stores in NOPREN's Chicago Sites Meeting Current and Proposed Requirements (2016)

Guidelines:	All Stores N = 113	Limited Service N = 83	P Value ^a
Current: 3 Varieties in 4 Categories	81%	75%	0.002
Fruits & Vegetables	91%	88%	0.05
Meat & Seafood	94%	92%	0.10
Bread & Cereal	98%	98%	0.39
Diary	87%	82%	0.01
Proposed: 7 Varieties in 4 Categories	22%	18%	0.08
Fruits & Vegetables	81%	73%	0.002
Meat & Seafood	79%	72%	0.005
Bread & Cereal	81%	73%	0.002
Diary	23%	19%	0.12

Note: All small grocery stores (N = 30) in audited in Chicago met the current and proposed guidelines

a. P Value compares small grocery stores to limited service stores.

— Results —

Food Stores in NOPREN's Chicago Sites Meeting Current and Proposed Requirements (2016)

Guidelines:	All Stores N = 113	Limited Service N = 83	P Value ^a
Current: Perishable Food in 2 Categories	95%	93%	0.13
New: Perishable Food in 3 Categories	94%	92%	0.10
Fruits & Vegetables	69%	59%	<0.0001
Meat & Seafood	95%	93%	0.13
Bread & Cereal	95%	93%	0.13
Diary	96%	94%	0.17

Note: All small grocery stores (N = 30) audited in Chicago met the current and proposed guidelines.

a. P Value compares grocery stores to limited service stores.

— Proposed vs. Final Requirements —

The Number of Items Required Under the Current, Proposed, Final, and Updated Rules

	Staple Food Categories	Number of Required Varieties	Number of Stocking Units per Variety	Total Number of Required Foods
Current	4	3	1	12
Proposed	4	7	6	168
Final	4	7	3	84
Updated	4	3	3	36

- Under the final rule, multiple ingredient items will count towards the number of required varieties. It's categorized based on 1st ingredient.
- Different varieties of plant-based milk (e.g., soy, almond, cashew) will count separately.
- Plant-based proteins (e.g., nuts, seeds, beans) will count towards the Meat & Seafood category.

In Summary

- A low percentage of small food stores in our Chicago communities met the proposed SNAP-authorized vendor stocking requirements.
- Meeting the proposed requirement of 7 varieties in every USDA staple food group may be a challenge for some small food stores in the Chicago area.
- Dairy appears to be the staple food group that will require the most expansion by food retailers in our selected communities.
- **The UIC NOPREN project recently updated our tool to assess the extent to which stores are able to meet the final rule (depth of stock is included!).**
- **A multi-site research project has been plan among the NOPREN collaborating centers. Data collection will take place between October and December 2017.**

Acknowledgments

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