# East Tennessee State University Maternal and Child Health Research Symposium

Biology, Behaviors and Environments – Resilience to Poor Health Outcomes

### Nutrition and Obesogenic Environments

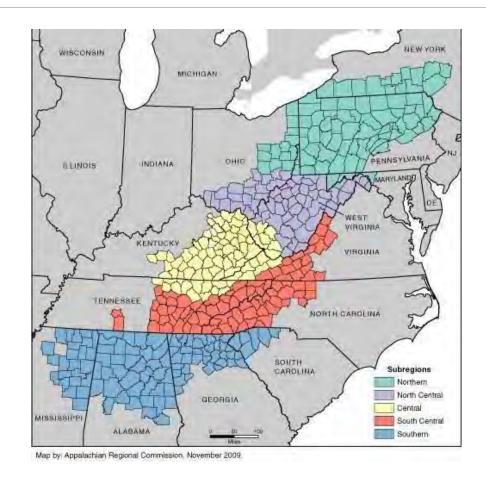
STEPHANIE JILCOTT PITTS

EAST CAROLINA UNIVERSITY

MARCH 30, 2017

### Snapshot of the Appalachian Region

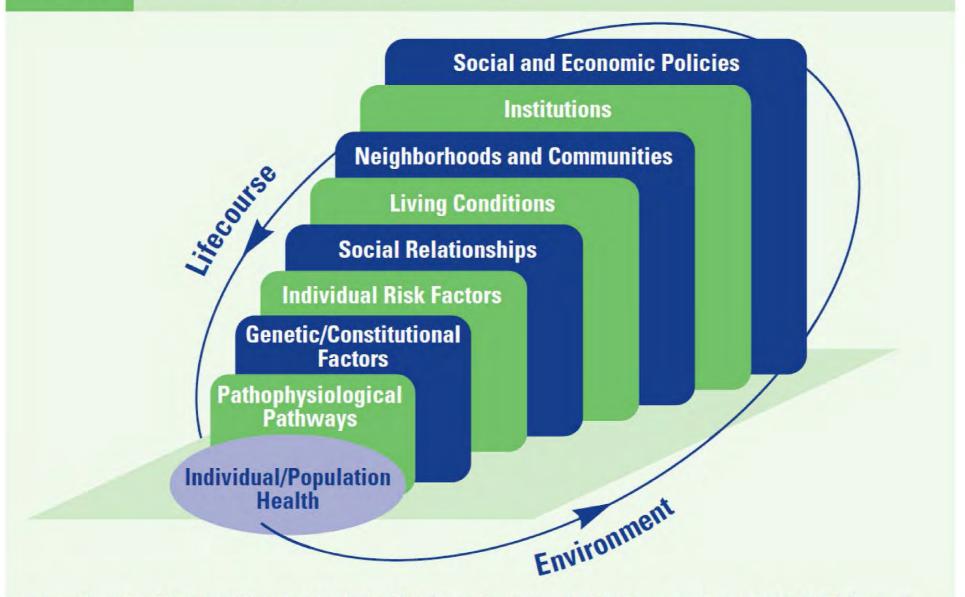
- Population of 23 million in 420 counties and 13 states.
  - Forty-two percent of the region's population is rural.
- Highest in the nation for percentage of overweight or obese youth (32.9% versus 31.1%)
- Compared to other areas of the country, people living in Appalachia face a heavier burden from chronic diseases and higher rates of premature mortality.



### Objectives

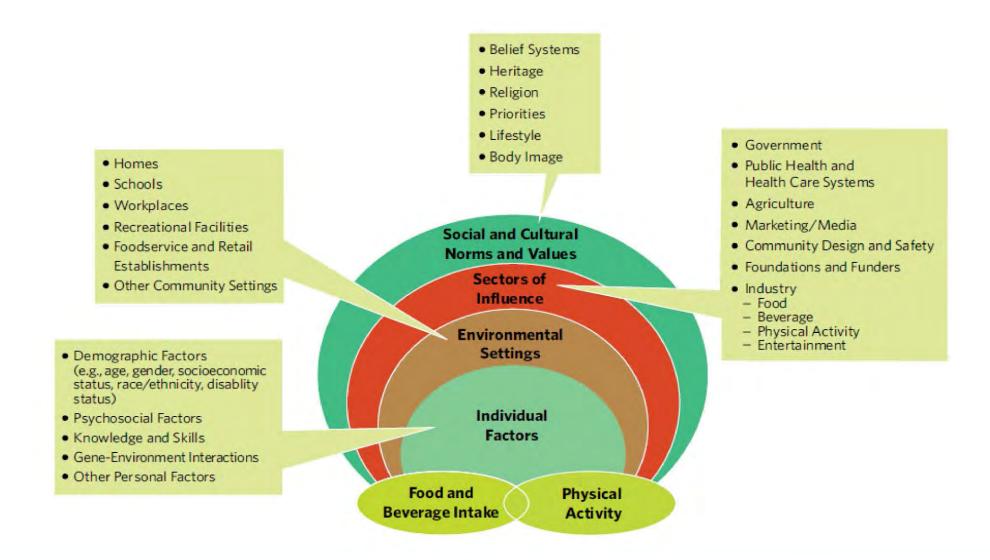
- 1. Describe key features of community and consumer food environments, the types of methods used to measure food environments, and their strengths and limitations.
- 2. Discuss the roles of geography and rurality in producing food environments that promote obesity.
- 3. Identify potential environmental and policy-related solutions to prevent obesity among rural children and their caregivers.

Figure 2. A Multilevel Approach to Epidemiology

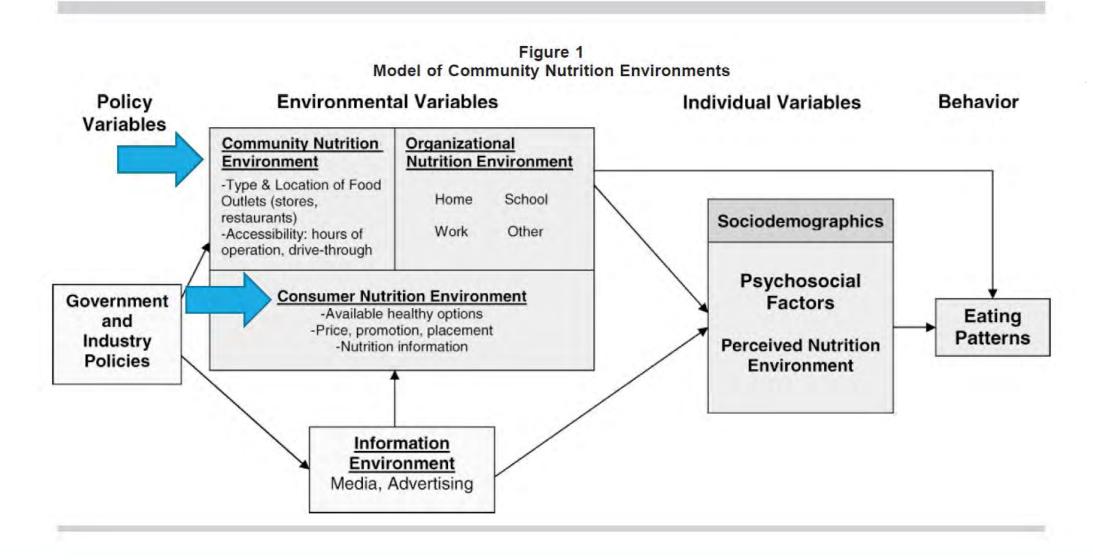


Source: Smedley BD, Syme SL (eds.), Institute of Medicine. Promoting Health: Strategies from Social and Behavioral Research. Washington, D.C.:, National Academies Press, 2000.

#### FIGURE 6 1: A Social Ecological Framework for Nutrition and Physical Activity Decisions



### Community and consumer food environments



### Obesogenic food environment

Obesogenic environment – "an environment that promotes gaining weight and one that is not conducive to weight loss within the home or workplace." (Swinburn B, et al (1999))

Factors in the environment that support obesity-related behaviors

- Lack of access to healthy foods (food deserts)
- Plenty of access to less healthy foods (food swamps)

### Food Deserts and Food Swamps

- •Van Ploeg, M. (June 2009). Access to Affordable and Nutritious Food: Understanding Food Deserts and their Consequences, Economic Research Service, United States Department of Agriculture.
- •Cohen DA, Sturm R, Scott M, Farley TA, Bluthenthal R. Not enough fruit and vegetables or too many cookies, candies, salty snacks, and soft drinks? *Public Health Rep* 2010;125(1):88-95.

## Methods used to measure food environments: Five "As" of Access

Availability—Is there an adequate supply of healthy foods?

Number of supermarkets near home.

Accessibility—Where is the location of the food supply and ease of getting to that location?

Travel time and distance.

Affordability—What is the price of food and perceptions of worth relative to the cost?

Salad versus French fries.

Acceptability—Does the given food environment meet personal standards?

Quality of products.

Accommodation—How well do local food sources meet residents' needs?

Hours open, types of payment accepted.

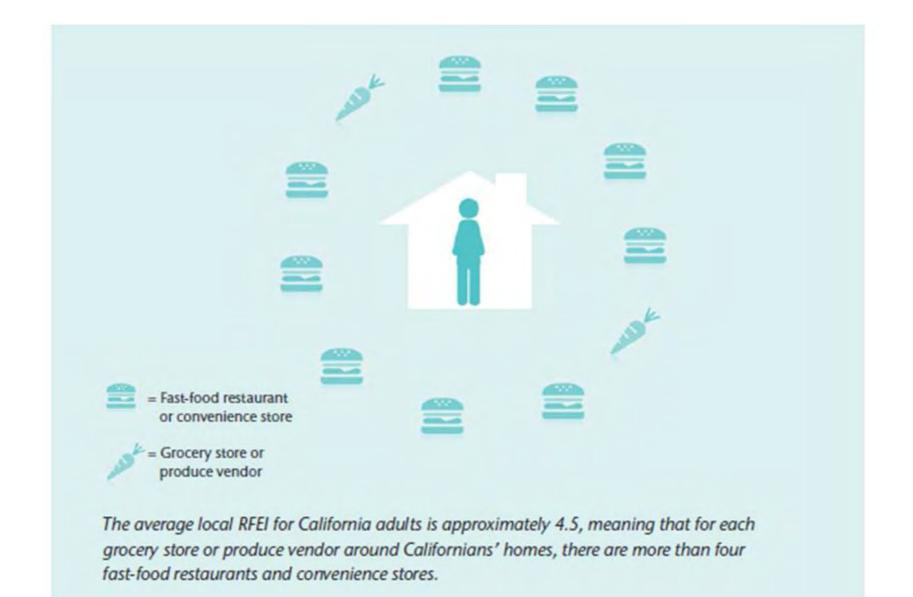
## Methods used to measure food environments: Community food environment

- Type and location of food outlets
- •Geographic Information Systems databases constructed to determine coverage of or proximity to various food venues:
  - -Sharkey, J. R. Measuring potential access to food stores and food-service places in rural areas in the U.S. *AJPM* 2009; 36(4 Suppl): S151-5.
- Retail Food Environment Index (RFEI)
  - -Babey S, et al. Designed for Disease: The Link Between Local Food Environments and Obesity and Diabetes. April 2008.
  - -Spence JC, et al. Relation between local food environments and obesity among adults. *BMC Public Health* 2009;9:192.

#### The Retail Food Environment Index (RFEI)

The Retail Food Environment Index is constructed by dividing the total number of fast-food restaurants and convenience stores by the total number of grocery stores (including supermarkets) and produce vendors (produce stores and farmers' markets) within a radius around an individual CHIS respondent's home (0.5 mile in urban areas, 1 mile in smaller cities and suburban areas, and 5 miles in rural areas).

The result is the ratio of retail food outlets around an individual's home that are likely to offer little in the way of fresh fruits and vegetables or other healthy foods to those in which such products are likely to be more readily available. For example, an individual whose RFEI is 2.0 has twice as many fast-food restaurants and convenience stores nearby as grocery stores and produce vendors.



## Methods used to measure food environments: Community food environment

Jilcott Pitts, S. B., et al. (2013). Associations between access to farmers' markets and supermarkets, shopping patterns, fruit and vegetable consumption, and health indicators among women of reproductive age in eastern North Carolina. *Public Health Nutrition*, 16 (11), 1944-1952.

- → Take home: Used a novel measure of access that took into account hours markets were open (relative to supermarkets) + distance to markets.
- → Among students, greater access was associated with less frequent farmers' market shopping.

## Methods used to measure food environments: Community food environment

Crawford, T., et al. (2014). Conceptualizing and Comparing Neighborhood and Activity Space Measures for Food Environment Research. *Health and Place (30)*, 215-225.

- Take home: Rural participants had larger activity spaces than urban participants.
- → Employed participants had larger participant-defined neighborhood size than unemployed participants.

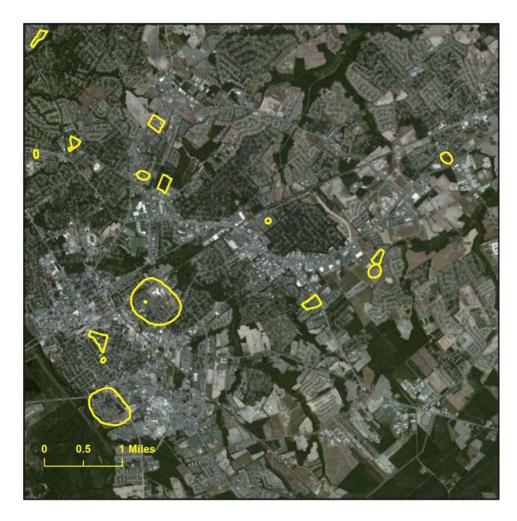


Fig. 2. Self-defined sketch neighborhoods for selected participants, map image randomly rotated for confidentiality.

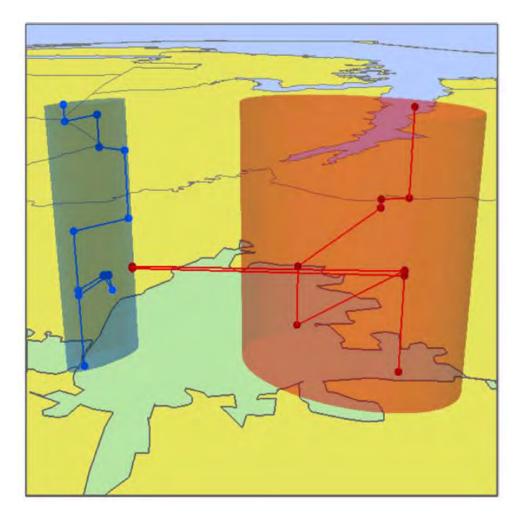


Fig. 4. Time-weighted standard deviational ellipses (SDE) and time-space path for 2 selected participants. Vertical dimension represents a single 24-h day. Paths are for one 24-h day, ellipses are based on a 3-day period, green shaded and bounded area is the city of Greenville NC.

## Types of methods used to measure food environments: Community food environment

#### Policy observation form

- Jilcott Pitts SB., et al. (2015). Disparities in healthy food zoning, farmers' market availability, and fruit and vegetable consumption among North Carolina residents. *Archives of Public Health, 73*, 35.
- Take home: At the county-level, healthier food zoning was greater in more urban areas and areas with less poverty.
- At the individual-level, self-reported fruit and vegetable consumption was associated with healthier food zoning.

BTG-COMP FOOD CODE/ POLICY AUDIT FORM2011	Site ID		Observation ID						
Date: / /	Coder:		Coding Time (in hrs/mins): Hrs						
Community Name:	Community Type		Policy Source(s) (Select all that apply)						
	[Select all that apply]		On-line publisher Other code publisher	3					
State:	Region	2003	[ BOT 0 CLD	2					
ev www.	County		Community web site	3					
State FIPS:	Municipality	3	Planning/Zoning Office web site	4					
17/4 V COMP + 1500 CO A A	Town/Township	6	Community mail/email	5					
County FIPS 1:	Other (specify)	5	Other	6					
	Specify:	2000	No policy (verified)	7					
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Use Allowed-Permitted Use, Conditional Use or Accessory Use; Prohib=Prohibited Use; No=Use not specified \*Do not fill in Addressed if category is not present; Do not fill in Types of Uses if Addressed=No

#### \*\* Categories of Districts/Zones:

Agricultural: Agricultural

Code Reform: New urbanist, transect, TOD, SmartCode, Form-based code

Commercial: Commercial, downtown, highway, shopping, primarily commercial PUD or mixed types of PUDs, Ped-oriented bev/district

Mozed use: Mixed use

Public/civic/government/school: Public civic, government, or schools

Recreation: Recreation, parks, Open Space

Residential: Residential, TND, primar ly residential PUD or mixed types of PUEs

BTG-COMP FOOD CODE/POLICY AUDIT FORM - 2011	Community (D	

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b. Applies to non-chain restaurants	1	0	2	1	35	0		
c. Applies to vending machines	1	C	2	i 1		0		
d. Includes calorie labeling	1	0	2	1		0		
e. Includes fat content labeling	1	0	2	1	8	0		

\*Only code

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### Types of methods used to measure food environments: Consumer food environment

#### In store observations and audits

• Glanz K, et al. Nutrition Environment Measures Survey in stores (NEMS-S): development and evaluation. *AJPM*. 2007;32(4):282-9.

#### Shelf space for healthy versus unhealthy foods

• Rose D., et al. Neighborhood food environments and Body Mass Index: the importance of in-store contents. *AJPM*. 2009 Sep;37(3):214-9.

#### Checklist or market basket of foods

 Mojtahedi, MC, et al. Environmental barriers to and availability of healthy foods for people with mobility disabilities living in urban and suburban neighborhoods. *Arch Phys Med Rehab*. 2008;89(11):2174-9.

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Nutrition E	nvironment M Measure ‡	easures Survey (N.	EMS)
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D Availability			Comments
B. Availability			Comments.
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c. Whole			
C. Pricing All items should be same	brand		Comments:
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1 Total Types:	(Count # of yes respo	onses)								

## Types of methods used to measure food environments: Consumer food environment

- •Nutrition Environment Measures Survey-Stores, restaurants, corner stores, beverages
  - http://www.med.upenn.edu/nems/measures.shtml
- •Jilcott Pitts et al. A community assessment to inform a multi-level intervention to reduce CVD risk and risk disparities in a rural community. Fam Community Health. . 2013; 36(2): 135—146. <a href="https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4155752/">https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4155752/</a>
  - In general, small grocery (n = 6, scores ranged from 8 34) and convenience stores (n = 10, scores ranged from 4 14) had the lowest NEMS-S-Rev scores.
  - Dollar stores were next; (n = 2, scores ranged from 19 23).
  - Supermarkets had the highest scores (n = 5, scores ranged from 34 47), mainly due to higher availability and quality sub-scores.

## Nutrition Environment Measures Survey for Beverages (NEMS-B)

\*The next three slides – come from Dr. Karen Glanz\*





#### Rationale for NEMS-B



Public health experts recommend policies to reduce SSB consumption, including changes to marketing, portion size restrictions, and additional taxes.

- •In 2012, the New York City Board of Health announced the Portion Cap Rule, which would have required food service establishments to limit beverage containers for SSBs to 16 ounces or less
  - NEMS-B was originally developed to evaluate the impact of the NYC Portion Cap Rule on store and restaurant beverage environments.
- •In 2016, the Philadelphia City Council announced its beverage tax of 1.5 cents/oz on sugary and diet beverages.
  - NEMS-BPP was developed to evaluate prices and marketing of beverages before and after the 2017 tax implementation.

#### The measures have 2 main sections:

#### Product Availability, Size, and Price

- Fountain beverages
- Single-serving beverages available in bottles, cans, or cartons
- Blended beverages
- Coffee and hot beverages

#### **Promotional Signage**

- Beverage portion rule
- Location/content/size of signage within the store or restaurant
- Beverage price promotions (e.g., unlimited refills)



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Comments:														Sale Type Codes RP: Reduced Price RQ: Reduced Price for Quantity BO: BOGO OT: Other Sale (comment)

\*Yes, Included: Sign/label indicates that soda tax increased the cost of this item (not beverages generally) and this increase is already included in the price. Yes, Separate: Sign/label indicates that the soda tax increased the cost of this item and the added tax is NOT included in the price—tax will be added at the register. Added tax: If tax shown is "yes, included" or "separate," enter the amount of tax added/included for that item. If specific tax amount is not provided, leave "added tax" blank and explain in comment.

### Types of methods used to measure food environments – consumer food environment

- •Farmers' market audit tool: impact of improvements
  - Shopping frequency
  - Fruit and vegetable (FV) consumption
  - Audits of farmers' market amenities
    - Signage
    - Payment types accepted (SNAP & EBT)
    - Availability and quality of food and beverage products, with a focus on fruits and vegetables

#### FM Inventory, v.08

1. Farmers Marke	t (FM) Name (repeat from cover sheet)	,					
	t Address (or nearest intersection, e.g. Main St & Cross A	Ave) .	7. 19		<b>epted at market?</b> ket manager booth (cen	itral point of purchase) O Yes, i	ndivìdual vendors O
FM City	ги гр	county	8. V		ayment are accepted a Check OCredit/debit	at this Farmers' Market? t OSNAP OWIC	
2. Is this a "produ	Part 1; Interview cer-only" Farmers' Market? ONo			OWIC CVV	OWIC FMNP OSei	rograms distributed and/or acconior FMNP O Other  d incentive programs accepted	0
OYes	et layout plan available? ONo I business hours of market		11. N	lumber and typ # Educational Materials/ Monthly		rials distributed by Farmers' Ma	arket manager monthly
Months	Days	Hours			OGen. Nutrition O H	lealthy Recipes O Incentives O For lealthy Recipes O Incentives O For lealthy Recipes O Incentives O F	ood Safety O Other:
	OMon OTues OWed OThurs OFri OSat OSun OMon OTues OWed OThurs OFri OSat OSun		12. N	lumber of food	education events held /Per month	I, including cooking demonstra	tions
	OMon OTues OWed OThurs OFri OSat OSun		13. D		price exclusively	at advertised price or do they and OAdvertised price mostly OAII negotiation	negotiate deals? OHalf/Half O Don't know
	ers' Market receive national, state, or local funding to support O State support O Local funding	support the FM?  O None					
	g partner advertised via signage (or other way) at the QNo	e Farmers' Market?					

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### Types of methods used to measure food environments: Consumer food environment

- Bridging the Gap Community Measures Project
- In store observation form
  - Jilcott Pitts SB et al. Preferred Healthy Food Nudges, Food Store Environments, and Customer Dietary Practices in 2 Low-Income Southern Communities. J of Nutr Educ and Behav. 2016; 48 (10); 735-742.
  - $\rightarrow$  Take home: Significant association between the primary food store and consumption of fruits and vegetables (P = .005) and sugary beverages (P = .02).

BTG-COMP • FOOD STO				BUSINESS ID: 1 4 - 1 2				
OBSERVATION FORM •	2012			CORRESPONDING SEGMENT UNIT ID:				
BUSINESS ID :	COMPLETION CODE							
	COMPLETED		01					
BUSINESS I				PARTIALLY COMPLETED - CODE DISPOSITION	-100	□ 02		
ADDRESS:				NOT STARTED - CODE DISPOSITION		□ 03		
		_	Ш	NOT ELIGIBLE - CODE DISPOSITION		□ 96		
UL 1 8 - 2017	STAFF 2	AM C	_	DISPOSITION CODE				
START TIME 1.2:15 PM END TIME 1:	10	PM		Temporarily not accessible / Outside business hou	urs	1		
LITTERED CIGARETTE PACKS No Cellophane	With	Cellop	hane	Not safe		□ 2		
Number of bags used:	Asked to leave / Observation not allowed by staff		□3					
BUSINESS SAMPLE ATTRIBUTES N				Address not found		□ 5		
Business is within ¼ mile of index school		] 0	<b>1</b>	Does not meet study criteria – DESCRIBE IN NOTE	s	7		
Business replaces a primary sample observation			□ i	Permanently closed / Does not exist	□8			
NOTES				Other (SPECIFY):		□ 6		
		•				-		
A1. TYPE OF STORE	ENE	(AL		ID CHECK-OUT  A4. Does the store have a plexiglass or other	NO	YES		
Supermarket (Jewel-Osco, Kroger, Safeway)			100	divider at the cash register?				
Grocery (Aldi, Trader Joe's, "mom & pop")			2					
Limited Service CODE A1a				A5. Number of cash registers (IF 10+, CODE 10)	0	0.7		
A1a. TYPE OF LIMITED SERVICE - CODE ONLY	IF A1=	3	A	A6. Fast food or other individual, ready-to eat	1			
Convenience Store (7-11, White Hen, ampm)			1	Items available?	NO	YES		
Small Discount Store (Dollar General, 99¢ Store)				a. Salads/salad bar		□ 1		
Drug Store/Pharmacy (CVS, Rite Aid, Walgreens)				b. Sandwiches (cold)	Øo			
Liquor Store (Ryan's Liquor and Mini Mart)			5	c. Pizza	Ø.	□ 1		
Other, SPECIFY:				d. Hot dogs/corn dogs/hamburgers	Mo	□ 1		
A2. Are these available at CHECK-OUT?		YES		e. Mexican (tacos, burritos, taquitos, etc.)	<b>⊠</b> ∘			
a. Candy	0	M	1 A	A7. Is 50% or more of the store's inventory	NO	YES		
e. Fresh fruits or vegetables	× o		1	beer, wine, and/or liquor?		□ 1		
c. Bottled water	□ o	Ø	1	Escaratora a de la compansión de la comp		200 A A		
d. Sweetened beverages (soda, etc.)	□ 0	×	1 J:	1. Does the store sell any over-the-counter	NO	YES		
A3. Does the store have a?				Nicotine Replacement Products? (e.g., Nicorette gum, Commit lozenges, Nicoderm)	×٩	1		
a. Bank	NO Xo	YES	- 1	12. Does the store sell any tobacco products?  IF YES, ATTACH TOBACCO SUPPLEMENT		X 1		
b. Pharmacy	No.			HOTES		L		
c. Butcher or fresh meat service counter		K						
d. Deli counter			-					
e. Bakery	No.		-					
the same of the sa		-						

IF B1= NO, SKIP B2-B7		ABLE	B2. TYPE IF None, SKIP B3-B7		B3. QUALITY		B4. QTY	B5. UNIT IF None, SKIP 86-87		B6. CURRENT PRICE	87. PRICE TYPE	
JAN DE OF	NO	YES	ir Holle, Jair C	.5.07	POOR*	OK		ii None, skii da si		IF 77.77 (DK), SKIP B7	REG	SPECIAL
a. Apples 🗆 o		<b>Ø</b> 1	Red Delicious	<b>X</b> 1		<b>⊠</b> 2	1	Pound	<b>X</b> 1	. 149	Ø₁	□ 2
	0		Granny Smith	□ 2				Piece	□ 2	\$1.49		
		None of above	□8				None of above	□8	Loose? □ N 🙇 Y			
b. Bananas			Regular yellow	凶1	1 33			Pound	<b>□</b> 1			_
	<b>X</b> 1	None of above	□8	□ 1	⊠ 2	1	Piece	□ 2		№1	□ 2	
		- 1						None of above	□8	Loose? □ N 🖎 Y		1
		Wei	Navel	<b>X</b> 1		<b>⊠</b> 2	1	Pound	□ 1	\$49_	<b>Ø</b> 1	□²
c. Oranges		X 1	Valencia	□ 2				Piece	<b>12</b> 2			
			None of above	. 🗆 8				None of above	□ 8			
			Red Seedless	<b>3</b> 1		<b>⊠</b> 2	ı	Pound	<b>X</b> 1	\$_2.69	<b>⊠</b> 1	<b>□</b> 2
d. Grapes	0	<b>⊠</b> 1	Green	□ 2	□ 1			Bunch	□ 2			
			None of above	□8				None of above	□ 8			
			Full-sized	⊠1				Pound	K 1	4.0	- T.A	
e. Carrots 🗆 o 💆	<b>⊠</b> 1	Baby-sized	□ 2	1	<b>⊠</b> 2	t	Bunch	□ 2		<b>⊠</b> 1	□ 2	
		None of above	□8				None of above	□8				
	. Tomatoes □ 0 🖾 1		Regular slicing	区1	<b></b>	<b>⋈</b> 2	1	Pound	121			
f. Tomatoes		<b>1</b> 1	Roma	□ 2				Piece	□ 2	\$99	<b>Ø</b> 1	☐ 2
		None of above	<b>□</b> 8				None of above	□8	Loose? MN XY			
		Bunch	<b>□</b> 1				Pound	<b>Ø</b> 1			-	
g. Broccoli	□ o	<b>X</b> 1	Crown	X 2	□1	<b>⋈</b> 2	1	! Bunch	□ 2		<b>₹</b> ¶1	□ 2
			None of above	□ 8				None of above	□ 8			
h. Lettuce		□ o <b>⊠</b> 1	Iceberg	図1	_1	⊠2	١	Pound				_ 2
	□ o		Romaine	□ 2				Head	<b>1</b> ≥ 2	\$6.9 Loose? \ N \ \		
	16		None of above	□8				None of above	□8	Loose? ☑ N ☐ Y		
	NO	YES			POOR*	OK					REG	SPECIAL
B8. Total nur	nber o	f Fres	ruit option	s			,2	O , (IF 20+, CC	DE 20)			
B9. Total nur	nber o	f Fres	Negetable o	ptions			2	O_ (IF 20+, CC	DE 20)			
NOTES EACH	bro	ccol	i 尊 price	e per	Poun.	d ic	dif	ferent				

<sup>\* ≥ 25%</sup> of product batch is poor quality

## Limitations: Community food environment measures

- •Most tools are geography based and do not account for features of the consumer food environment.
  - Need to combine consumer and community food environments.
- Inaccuracy of secondary data sources for finding food venues.
  - Especially in rural areas.
- Transience of food venues.
- Defining 'healthy' versus 'unhealthy' food venues.
- Difficult to determine what a "neighborhood" is.
- Proximity not always equal to use.

## Limitations: Consumer food environment measures

- Some tools measure mostly healthy foods.
- •Few tools assess food environment features related to impulse purchases.
- •Most tools take a long time to complete!
- Validity of some tools may not be firmly established.

## Roles of geography and rurality in producing food environments that promote obesity

- •Rural food environment—Rural food deserts and food insecurity.
- •Food access issues—Lack of geographic access can promote purchase of calorically dense items with longer shelf-lives.
- •Long commute times—Increase exposure to fast, convenient food; less time for cooking;
- Rural "food culture"

### Food Deserts – More prevalent in low-income rural areas

Table 2-3
Household vehicle access and supermarket access

		Households without access to a vehicle					
Geographic area			/2 to 1 mile permarket	More than 1 mile from a supermarket			
	Total households <sup>1</sup>	Number	Percent	Number	Percent		
	Millions	Millions		Millions			
Total U.S.	104.9	3.4	3.2	2.4	2.3		
Low-income areas	25.1	1.6	6.4	0.9	3.8		
Urban areas	69.9	2.9	4.1	1,1	1.5		
Low-income areas	15.6	1.3	8.3	0.4	2.5		
Urban clusters	9.7	0.4	4.1	0.2	2.5		
Low-income areas	3.6	0.2	5.6	0.1	3.3		
Rural areas	25.3	0.2	0.8	1.1	4.4		
Low-income areas	5.9	0.1	1.7	0.4	7.4		

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> This column shows the total number of households regardless of vehicle access.

Source: USDA, ERS analysis based on data from Census of Population, 2000 and the ERS-compiled supermarket directory for the contiguous U.S. in 2006.

### Food Insecurity in the U.S.

In 2012, 14.5 percent (17.6 million households) were food insecure.

- Food-insecure households (those with low and very low food security) had difficulty at some time during the year providing enough food for all their members due to a lack of resources.
- Food insecurity was more common in large cities and rural areas than in suburban areas and exurban areas around large cities.
- http://www.ers.usda.gov/media/1183208/err-155.pdf

### Rural obesity, food deserts, and food insecurity

- Higher prevalence of obesity in rural vs urban areas.
- Complex interplay between lower access to healthy foods and food insecurity.

Regardless, the greater distances and greater amounts of time rural dwellers must spend to procure healthy food in general is an impediment to access. For instance, we know that increased travel time is associated with decreased grocery-shopping frequency in some rural communities.4 To maximize shopping efficiency and minimize the time spent driving, rural residents often make large-volume shopping trips once monthly to supercenters,5

> CHILDHOOD OBESITY October 2012 | Volume 8, Number 5 Mary Ann Liebert, Inc. DOI: 10.1089/chi.2012.0063

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The Concept of "Rural Food Deserts" Is Still Meaningful

Sean C. Lucan, M.D., M.P.H., M.S., Alison Gustafson, Ph.D., M.P.H., R.D., and Stephanie B. Jilcott Pitts, Ph.D.<sup>3</sup>