ACCESS TO FOOD SAFETY NET IN MASSACHUSETTS

BACKGROUND

Food insecurity or the inability to secure a safe, adequate food for an entire or part of one’s household often results in a lack of resources. Since the beginning of the economic recession in 2008, the rate of food insecurity in Massachusetts has nearly doubled to 14%.

While the lack of resources that contribute to food insecurity can be purely financial, there can also be a series of complex factors that make food deserts and barriers to finding food, especially hard to find. Food deserts are considered to be areas with low levels of comprehensive access to the types of food and food assistance networks. In a recent study by Walker et al. (2011), a review of food deserts literature was conducted to reveal the common factors contributing to food insecurity and food access in the United States. Some key factors include income insecurity, education, and social influences. To determine what these factors might be there are a series of programs that must be in place in order to allow for the food insecurity needs to be met as part of this project.

To study the access to food-related services in the United States and are guidelines for determining income eligibility for public assistance programs. While SNAP and WIC are meant to be temporary programs that serve families over a relatively short span of time, super-centers or large grocery store).

METHODS

To analyze Massachusetts residents’ access to food-related safety net programs, address data was collected for the SNAP and WIC programs, emergency food programs, and food pantries. All addresses were imported into ArcMap, joined to the Census tract shape file and formatted into choropleth maps.

ACCESS TO FOOD SAFETY NET PROGRAMS

CONCLUSION

There may not be access to food-related services throughout the state or at the state level, and a more specific view of where lower income individuals and families have access to these supports. This project of the USDA ERS Food Access Research Atlas, which analyzes the concentration of retailers and emergency food programs in Massachusetts, and with the exception of addressing those in the safety net single count. Comparing this to the distribution of low income individuals throughout the state and the specific areas of low income/low access to food insecurity (as indicated by the Food Access Research Center of the U.S. Department of Agriculture), the maps include information about the state where low income individuals and families can access these supports.

For the purpose of this analysis, the distribution of the variables and emergency food programs in Massachusetts was the focus, with the exception of addressing those in the safety net single count. Comparing this to the distribution of low income individuals throughout the state and the specific areas of low income/low access to food insecurity (as indicated by the Food Access Research Center of the U.S. Department of Agriculture), the maps include information about the state where low income individuals and families can access these supports.

Food insecurity in Massachusetts has grown by over 43%. Based on data from 2011, the state residents reached 14% household members due to lack of resources. Since the beginning of the economic recession in 2008, the rate of food insecurity in Massachusetts has nearly doubled to 14%.

Food insecurity or the inability to secure a safe, adequate food for an entire or part of one’s household often results in a lack of resources. Since the beginning of the economic recession in 2008, the rate of food insecurity in Massachusetts has nearly doubled to 14%.

While the lack of resources that contribute to food insecurity can be purely financial, there can also be a series of complex factors that make food deserts and barriers to finding food, especially hard to find. Food deserts are considered to be areas with low levels of comprehensive access to the types of food and food assistance networks. In a recent study by Walker et al. (2011), a review of food deserts literature was conducted to reveal the common factors contributing to food insecurity and food access in the United States. Some key factors include income insecurity, education, and social influences. To determine what these factors might be there are a series of programs that must be in place in order to allow for the food insecurity needs to be met as part of this project.

To analyze Massachusetts residents’ access to food-related safety net programs, address data was collected for the SNAP and WIC programs, emergency food programs, and food pantries. All addresses were imported into ArcMap, joined to the Census tract shape file and formatted into choropleth maps.

ACCESS TO FOOD SAFETY NET PROGRAMS

CONCLUSION

There may not be access to food-related services throughout the state or at the state level, and a more specific view of where lower income individuals and families have access to these supports. This project of the USDA ERS Food Access Research Atlas, which analyzes the concentration of retailers and emergency food programs in Massachusetts, and with the exception of addressing those in the safety net single count. Comparing this to the distribution of low income individuals throughout the state and the specific areas of low income/low access to food insecurity (as indicated by the Food Access Research Center of the U.S. Department of Agriculture), the maps include information about the state where low income individuals and families can access these supports.

For the purpose of this analysis, the distribution of the variables and emergency food programs in Massachusetts was the focus, with the exception of addressing those in the safety net single count. Comparing this to the distribution of low income individuals throughout the state and the specific areas of low income/low access to food insecurity (as indicated by the Food Access Research Center of the U.S. Department of Agriculture), the maps include information about the state where low income individuals and families can access these supports.

Food insecurity in Massachusetts has grown by over 43%. Based on data from 2011, the state residents reached 14% household members due to lack of resources. Since the beginning of the economic recession in 2008, the rate of food insecurity in Massachusetts has nearly doubled to 14%.

Food insecurity or the inability to secure a safe, adequate food for an entire or part of one’s household often results in a lack of resources. Since the beginning of the economic recession in 2008, the rate of food insecurity in Massachusetts has nearly doubled to 14%.

While the lack of resources that contribute to food insecurity can be purely financial, there can also be a series of complex factors that make food deserts and barriers to finding food, especially hard to find. Food deserts are considered to be areas with low levels of comprehensive access to the types of food and food assistance networks. In a recent study by Walker et al. (2011), a review of food deserts literature was conducted to reveal the common factors contributing to food insecurity and food access in the United States. Some key factors include income insecurity, education, and social influences. To determine what these factors might be there are a series of programs that must be in place in order to allow for the food insecurity needs to be met as part of this project.

To analyze Massachusetts residents’ access to food-related safety net programs, address data was collected for the SNAP and WIC programs, emergency food programs, and food pantries. All addresses were imported into ArcMap, joined to the Census tract shape file and formatted into choropleth maps.