Mapping the Food Environment to Inform Multi-Dimensional Intervention Strategies to Enhance Community Health and Well-Being

Purpose
The objectives of this project were to develop an understanding of the food environment in this area, compare food environments of diverse populations living in different neighborhoods, and provide community partners and policy makers with reliable data pertaining to food security, food access, food patterns and behaviors, health conditions, and neighborhood characteristics. We seek to integrate localized primary data into mapping tools to better spatial, temporal, cultural, economic, personal, social, and service delivery domains.

Impact
25 OSU student volunteers and 2 community members administered 200 in-person surveys at 15 community sites (with an additional 700 online). 10 students participated in additional data entry, food store data collection, and data analysis.

Descriptive infographics were created for 10 Columbus-area zip codes describing disparities in food security, food access, and health. These are being distributed through the extensive community network for use in grant preparation, baseline for program development, and to inform policy makers.

How to get Involved:
• Invest in our community partners working to implement creative community-based interventions by supporting our partners with a financial contribution to further their impressive work and improve community food security!
• Support funding our project’s website development.
• Support funding graduate student opportunities for continued mapping, analysis, and future research efforts.

To get involved, contact:
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The Food Mapping Team has published four papers regarding community-university engagement and research processes, community-based food strategies to address food security in households with children, and a comprehensive state of the food mapping literature.

Ohio State Colleges/Units Involved
- College of Social Work
- Glenn College of Public Affairs
- Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity
- College of Arts and Sciences- Geography
- College of Medicine -Medical Dietetics, Health Sciences
- College of Engineering/Knowlton School of Architecture (City and Regional Planning)
- Center for Urban and Regional Analysis
- College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences
- Horticulture and Crop Science
- Agroecosystems Management Project
- OARDC
- OSU Extension

Community Partners Involved
- Columbus Public Health
- Local Matters
- Fresh Foods Here Healthy Corner Store Initiative
- Franklinton Gardens
- Mid-Ohio Foodbank