

Healthy Food Access Initiative

Food Environment Analysis



OFFICE OF
SUSTAINABILITY

CITY OF AUSTIN

Background

Food Insecurity (USDA):

Consistent access to adequate food
is limited by a lack of money
and other resources
at times during the year.

Food insecurity in Austin



* There are 73 zip codes in Austin.



City Departments Working on Food System Initiatives



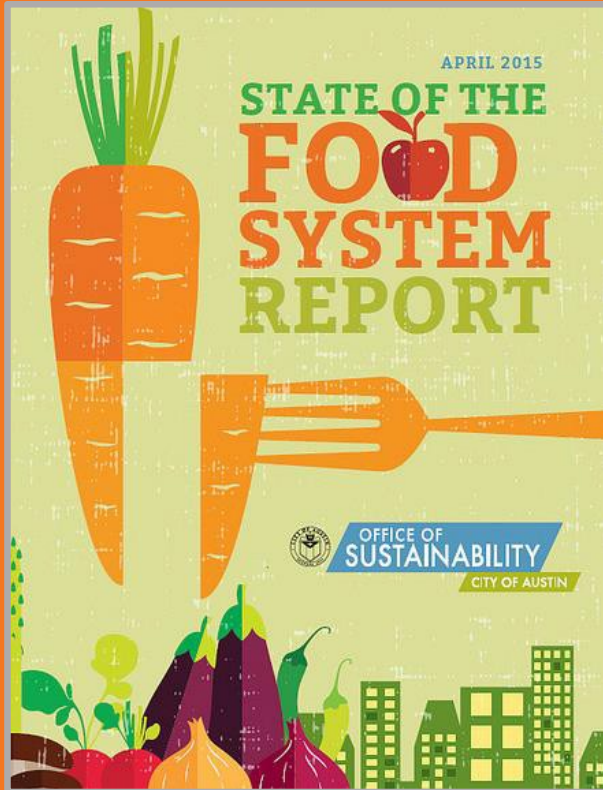
City of Austin Strategic Plan

Priority Area: Health & Environment

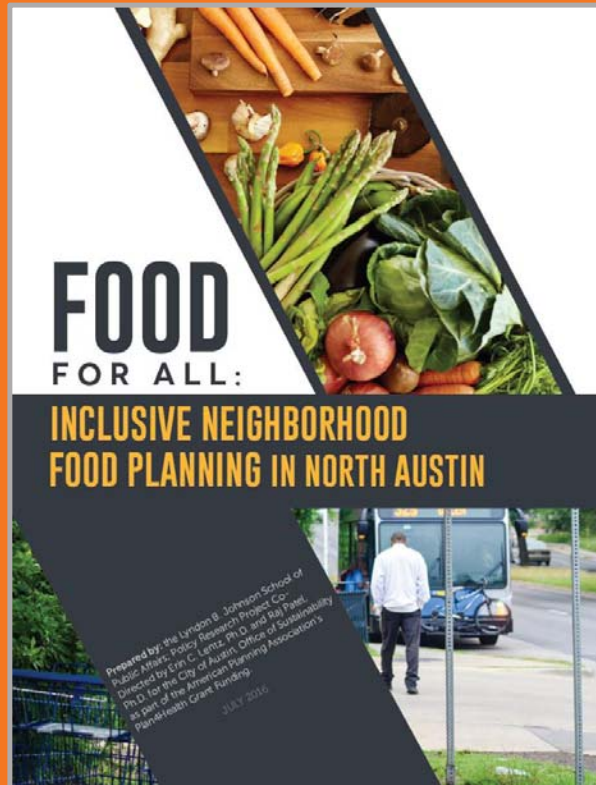
Implement community-informed initiatives that make healthy and affordable foods easily accessible to all, especially for our vulnerable populations and historically marginalized communities.

Metrics

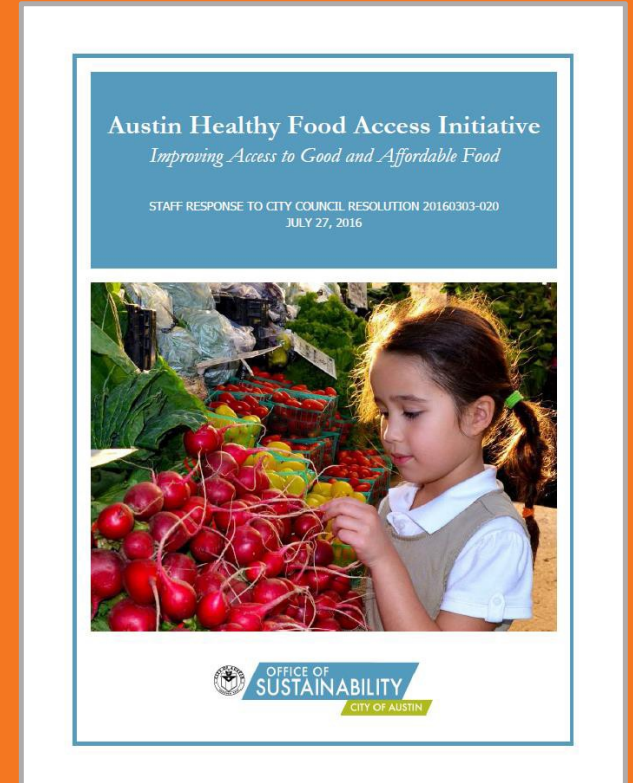
- Percentage of residents experiencing food insecurity
- Number and percentage of residents living in healthy-food priority areas
- Number of students participating in free and reduced lunch programs at local schools
- Percentage of residents eligible for SNAP and WIC who are enrolled in the program
- Number of City-supported fresh food access points in healthy food priority areas



2015



2016



2016

Barriers to food access

Availability

Affordability

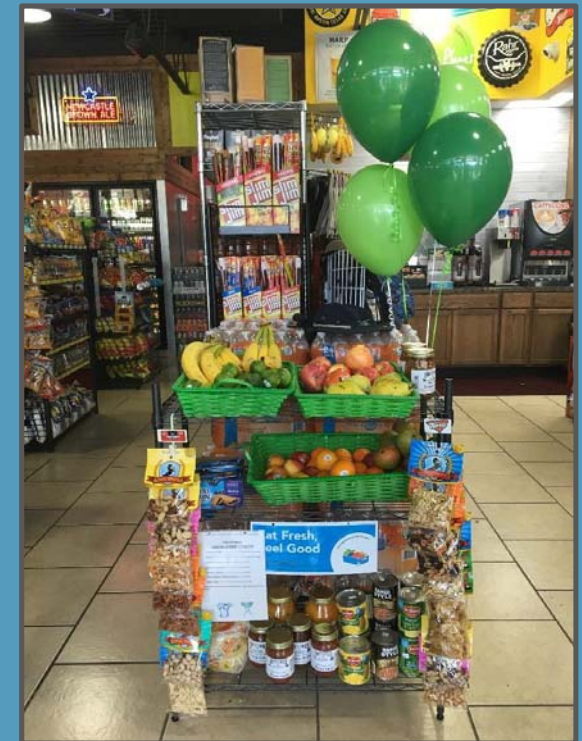
Awareness

Accessibility /

Mobility Options



Initiatives to improve AVAILABILITY



Austin Public Health program includes Farm Stands, Mobile Markets, and Healthy Corner Stores

Initiatives to improve AFFORDABILITY



Nutritious Food Incentive Pilot

Strategies to increase AWARENESS

Campaign to address barriers to SNAP / WIC enrollment:

- Language
- Literacy
- Isolated / mobile populations
- Cumbersome process
- Stigma
- Documentation
- Customer service
- Perception of value



Community Health Workers

Initiatives to address ACCESSIBILITY



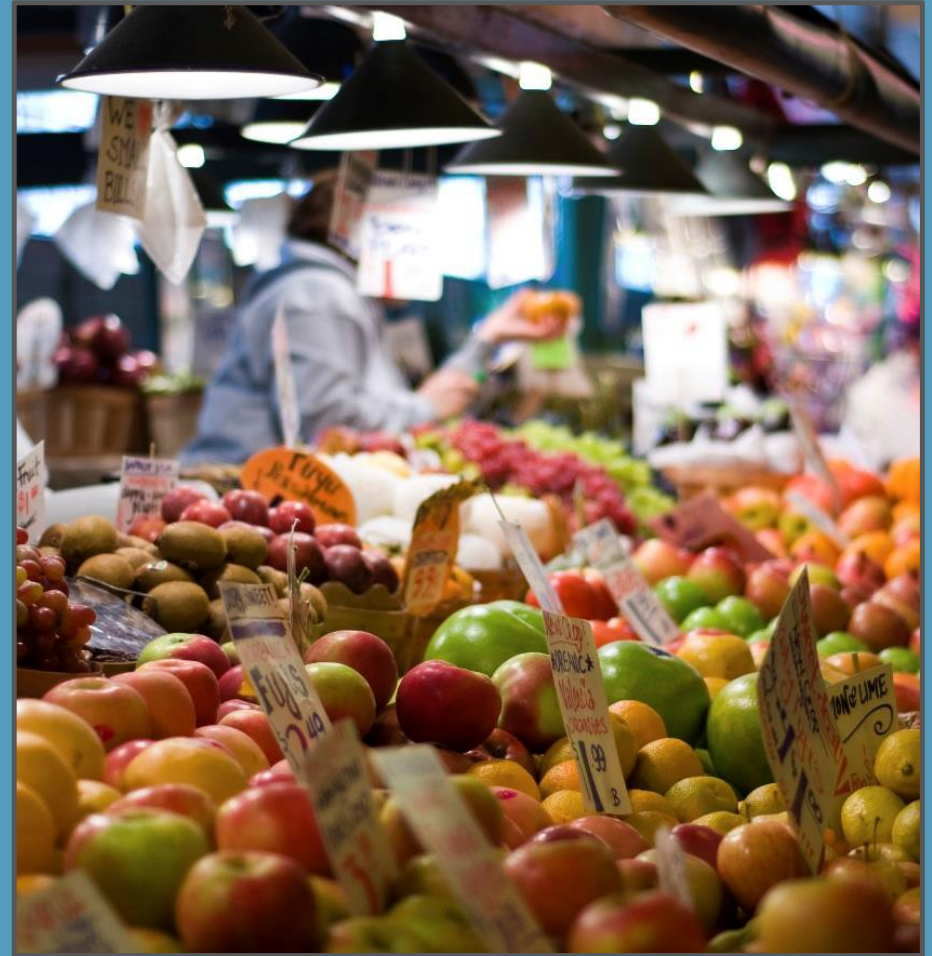
Get people to healthy food –
Safe Routes to Market



Get healthy food to people –
Mobile Markets & Farm Stands

We know *WHAT*
the barriers are...

...we needed to know
WHERE the barriers are.



Methodology

Food Environment Analysis

Basis for research – Johns Hopkins University

Healthy Food Priority Area Factors:

PROXIMITY

- Distance to healthy food outlet is more than ¼ mile (urban settings) or 1 mile (rural areas)

INCOME

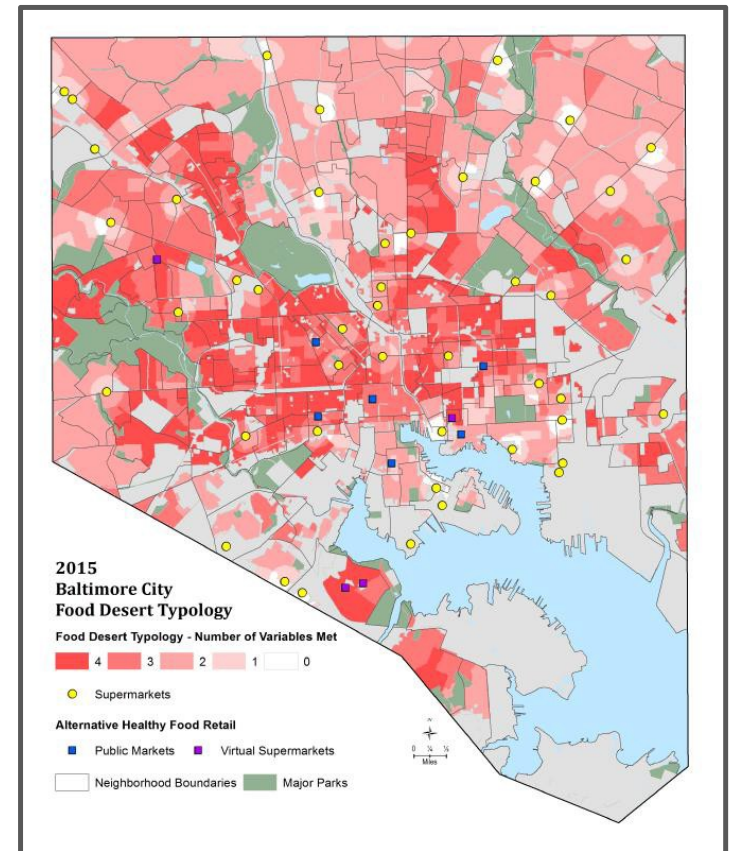
- Median household income is less than \$44,863 per year for a family of four

VEHICLE AVAILABILITY

- 10% or more households do not have access to a vehicle

SUPPLY OF HEALTHY FOOD

- Average healthiness rating of food retail is low (0 – 8.83 HFAI score)



City of Baltimore Food Environment Analysis

Data collection

900+ food retail locations

- Types and quantities of food available
- Quality of the store and food there
- Accessibility of the store

Healthy Food Availability Index
calculated for each store



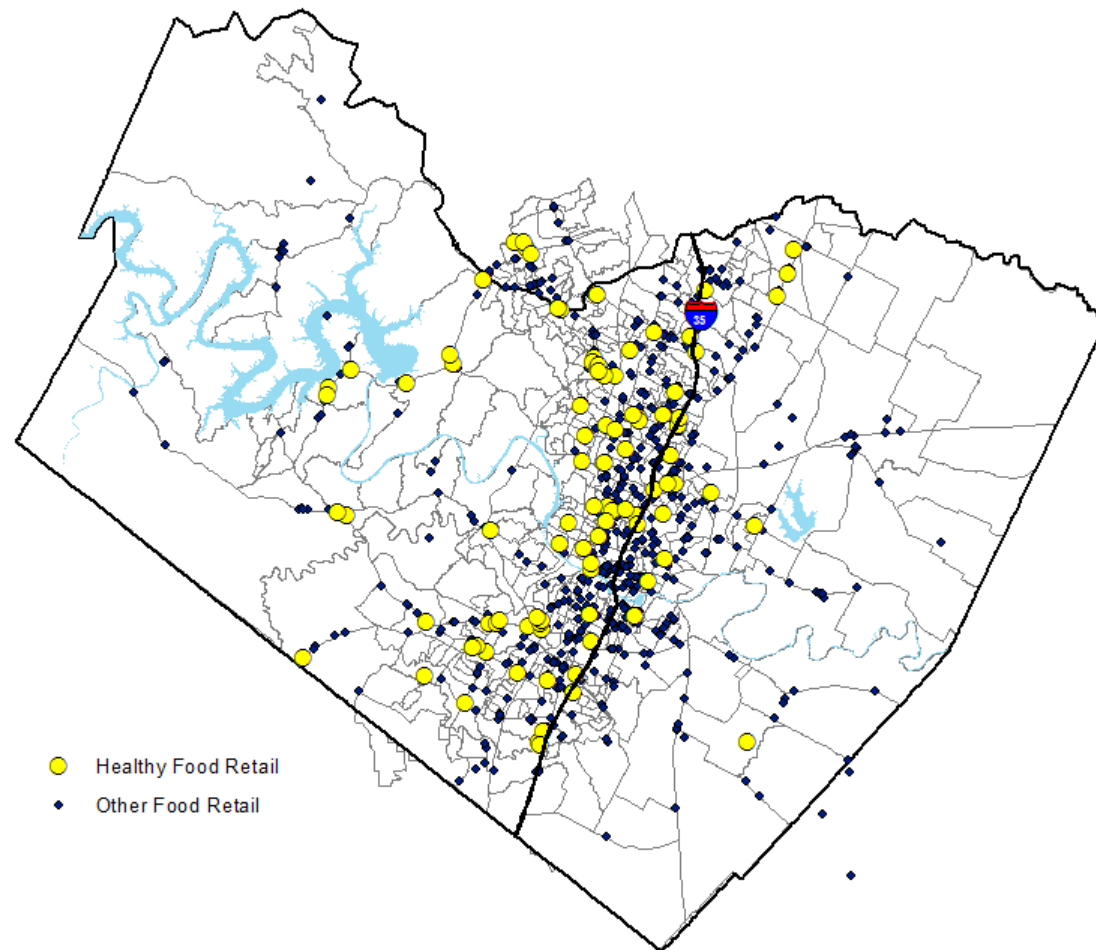
Mapping

- Food retail locations
- Other sources of food
- Healthy food availability
- Proximity to healthy food retail
- Vehicle ownership
- Household income



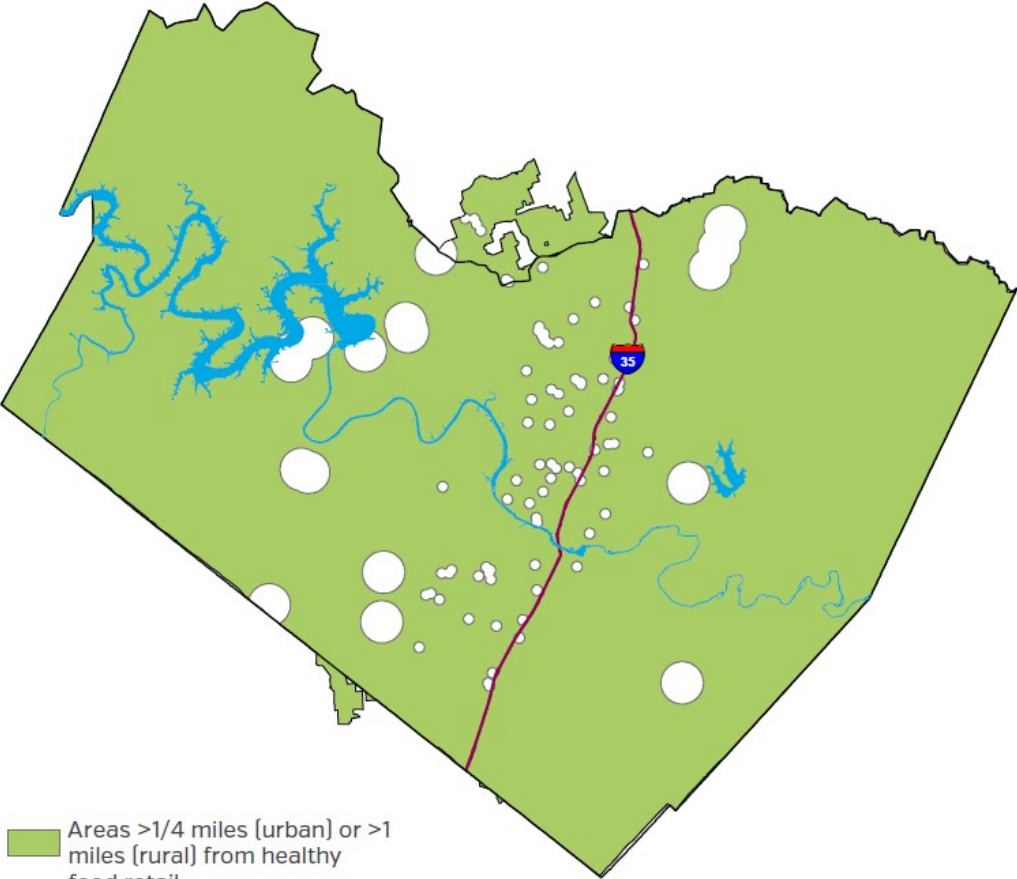
Key Findings

All Food Retail



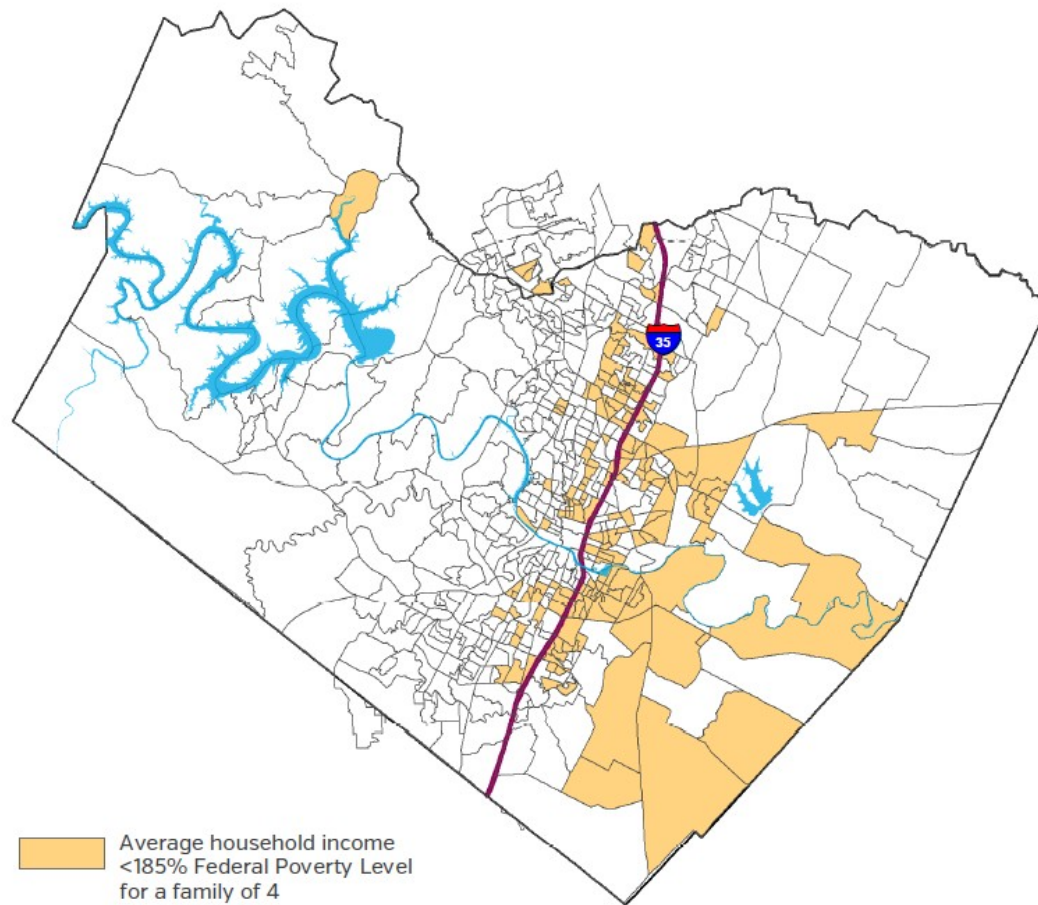
Low Proximity to Healthy Food

FACTOR
1



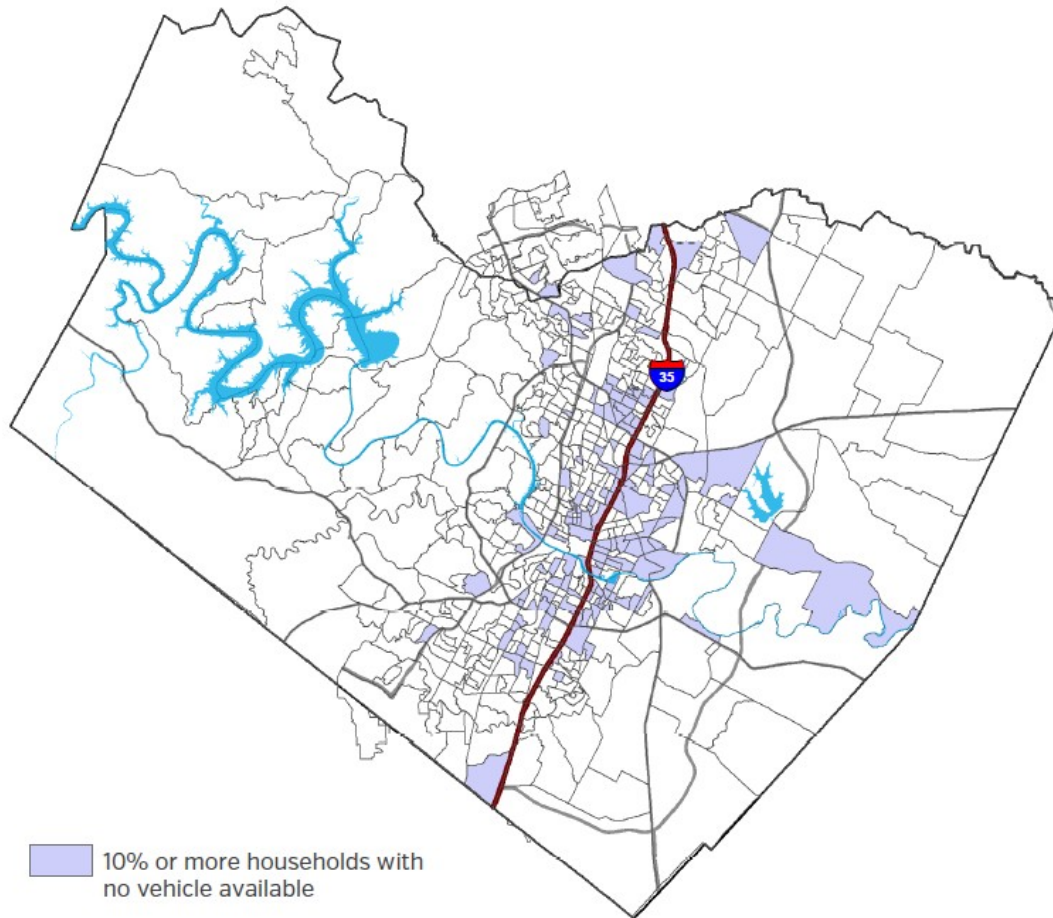
Lower Household Income

FACTOR
2



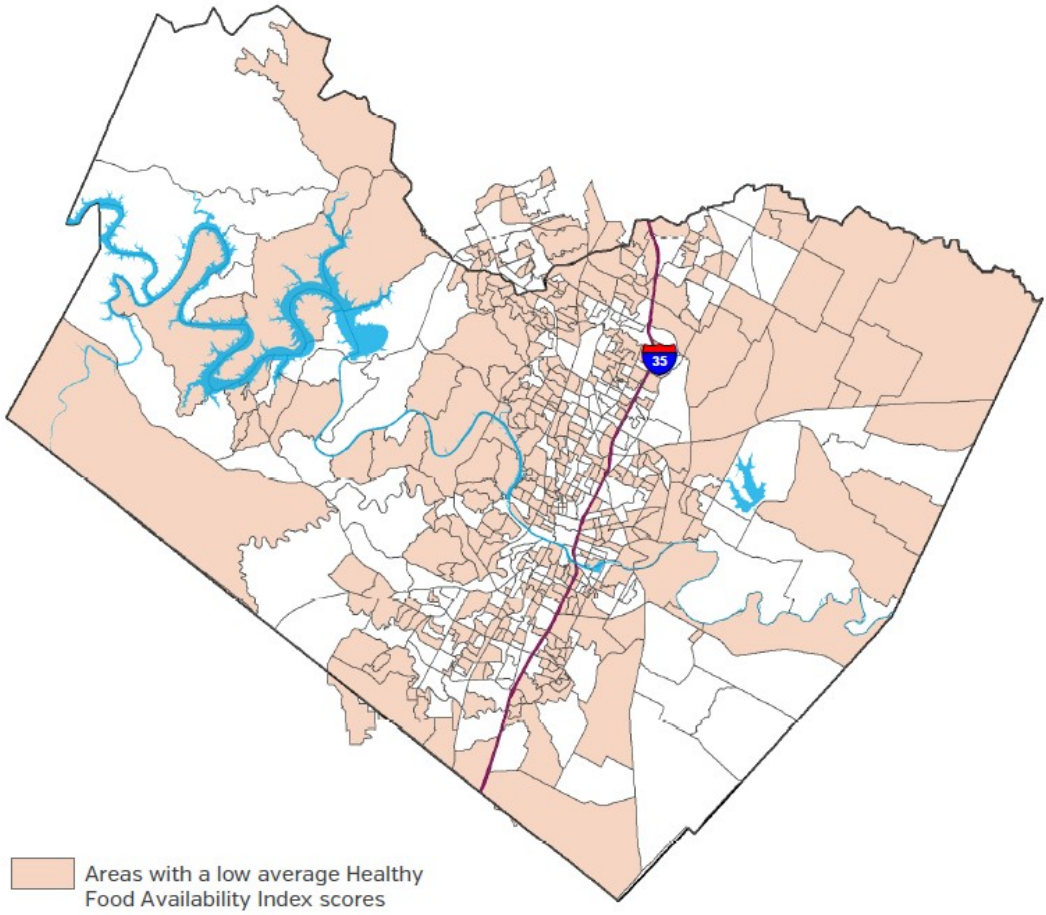
Low Vehicle Availability

FACTOR
3



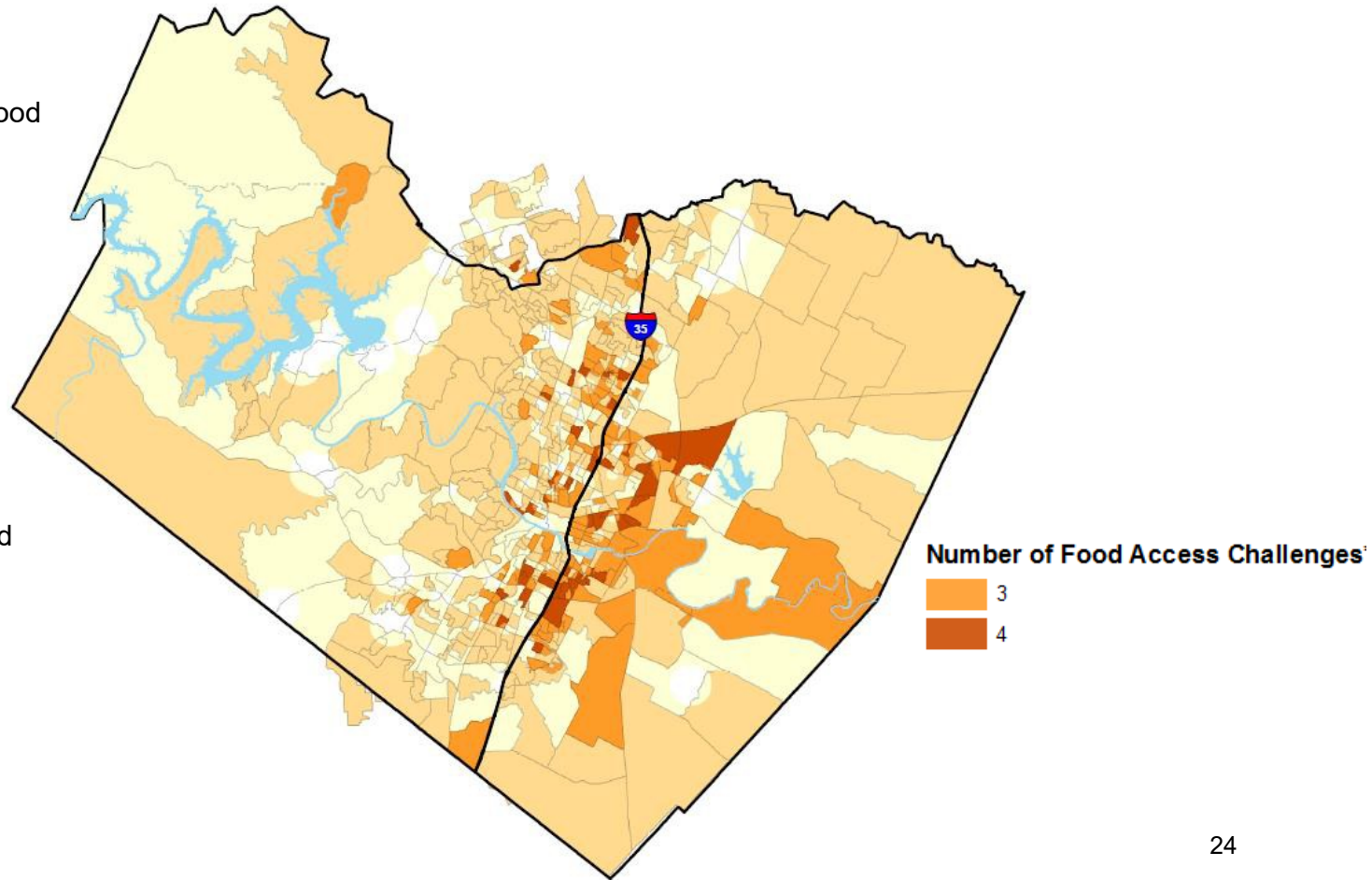
Low Supply of Healthy Food

FACTOR
4



Healthy Food Priority Areas

- 1 Low Proximity to Healthy Food
- 2 Lower Household Income
- 3 Low Vehicle Availability
- 4 Low Supply of Healthy Food



District Level Analysis



CRITICAL HEALTH INDICATORS RELATED TO HEALTHY FOOD ACCESS

District 3 Residents vs. Austin Average

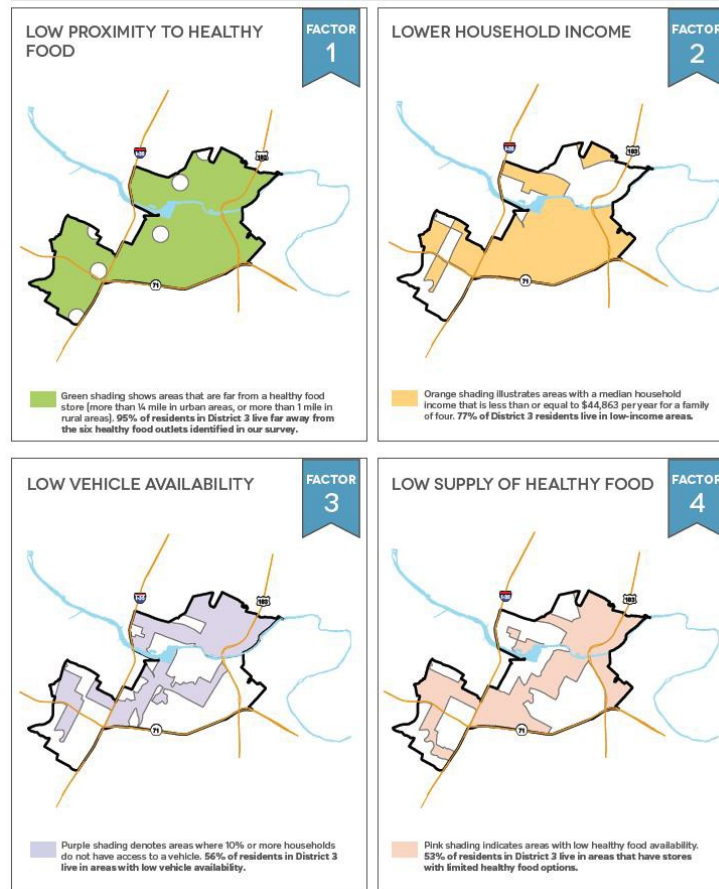
29% are obese vs. 26%

10% have diabetes vs. 7%

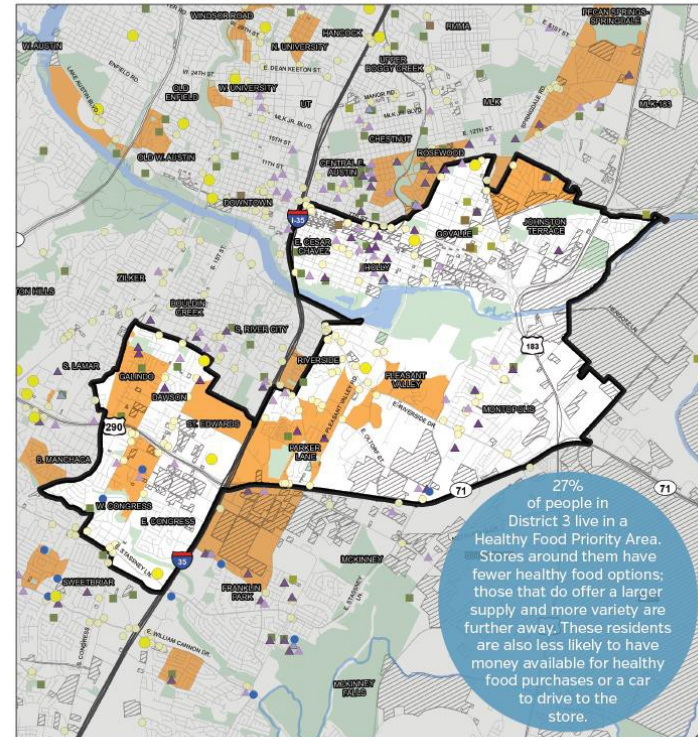
12% experience poor mental health vs. 10%

21% are food insecure vs. 16%

HEALTHY FOOD PRIORITY AREA FACTORS



DISTRICT 3 HEALTHY FOOD PRIORITY AREAS



COMPOSITE MAP OF 4 HEALTHY FOOD PRIORITY AREA FACTORS



What's Next

Recommendations

Use Analysis insights to guide future outreach with residents in Healthy Food Priority Areas.

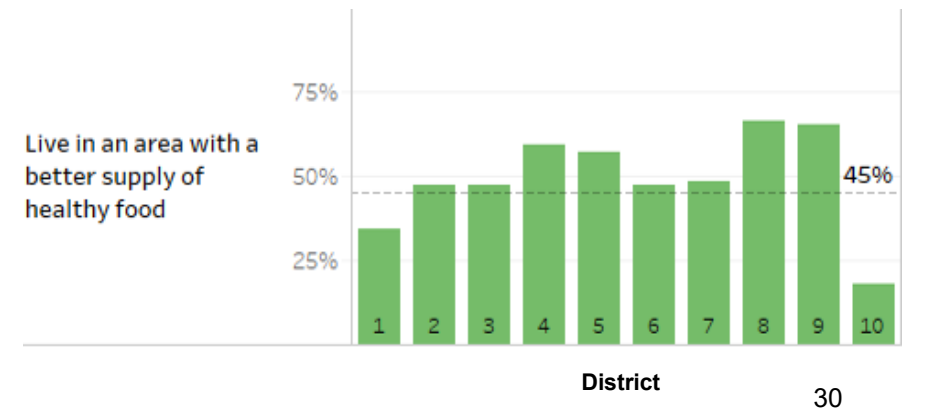
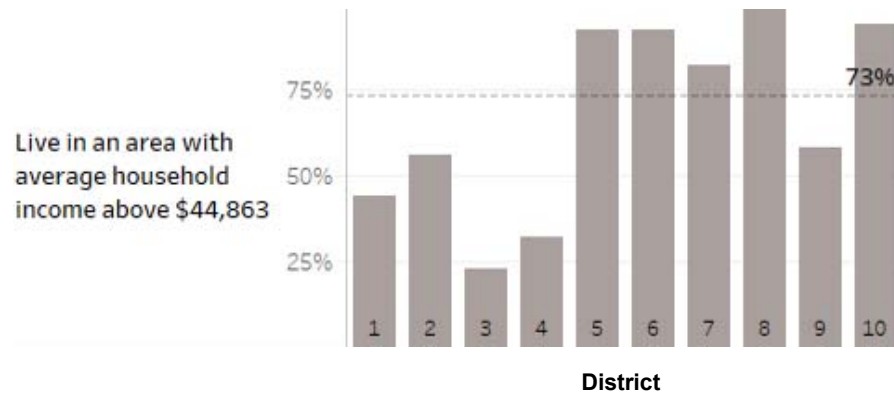
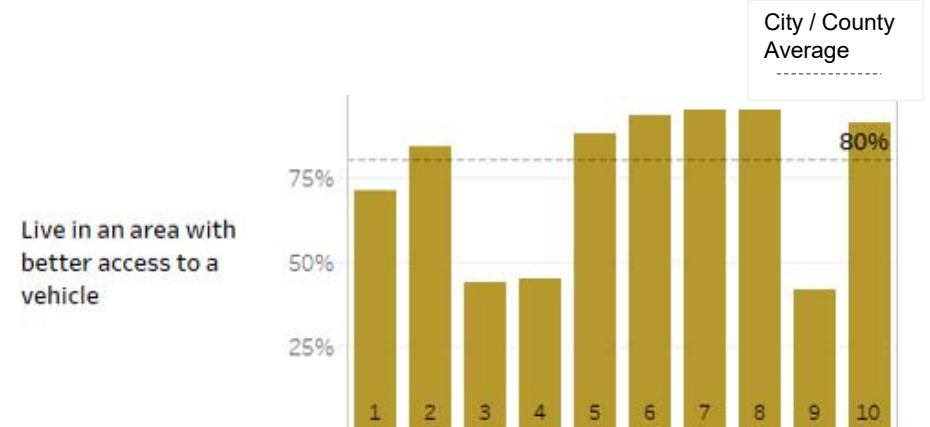
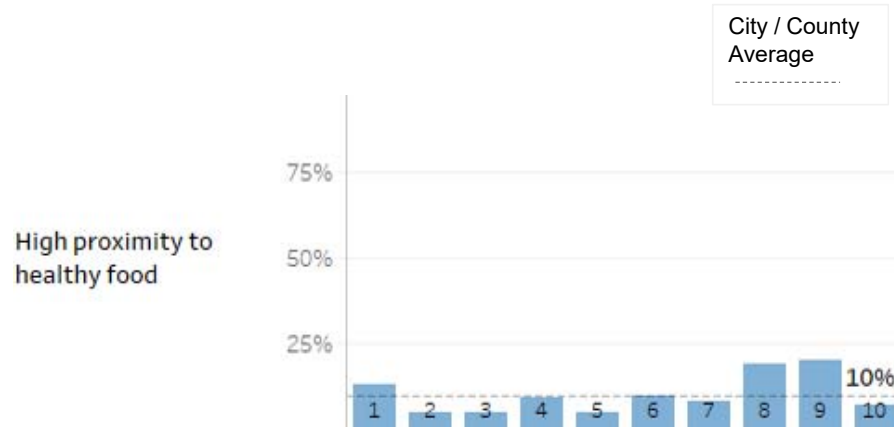
Align affordable housing, public transit, and healthy food retail to improve the quality of life for vulnerable populations in Austin-Travis County.

Next Steps

- Meet with individual Council Members and County Commissioners
- Share with teams leading City and County planning efforts
 - Neighborhood Housing
 - Austin Transportation Department
 - Corridor Program Office
 - Travis County Economic Development
- Share with local organizational stakeholders
 - Boards and Commissions, non-profits, academic researchers

Back-up Slides

District Comparison



Additional Data Collected

500+ Consumer Behavior Surveys

- Measured food and shopping preferences
- Conducted in English and in Spanish
- Collected through online surveys and in-person interviews and focus groups
- Results available Spring 2018

42+ Food Pantry Surveys

- Conducted on-site visits and interviews
- Recorded types and quantities of food available
- Will inform resilience planning and food insecurity programs
- Results available Spring 2018