# Food Access Data Analysis



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#### **Food Access Research**

- Motivation to identify and analyze communities with limited access to healthy food.
- Urban neighborhoods and rural towns without access to fresh, affordable food are known as food deserts.
  - About 23.5 million Americans live in food deserts.
  - Urban population more than 1 mile from nearest supermarket
  - Rural Population more than 10 miles from nearest supermarket



# Inequities Associated with Food Deserts

 Dominated by fast food providers and corner stores with lack of fresh produce

- These populations are thus prone to health issues:
  - Obesity, cardiovascular diseases, diabetes.
  - Covid-19 Pandemic exacerbated these issues.



# **Research Questions**

- What socioeconomic factors are associated with communities with limited food access?
- Does race share a correlation with food access?
- Motivation: Understand and analyze underserved communities.

# **Dataset Description**

- Source: United States Department of Agriculture Food Access Research Atlas 2019
  - Contains census tract information for every county in United States
  - Census Tract: a subdivision of the county level
    - 3143 counties, over 73,000 census tracts
  - Key Variables: demographic data, median family income, population, poverty rate, low access 1 and
     10.

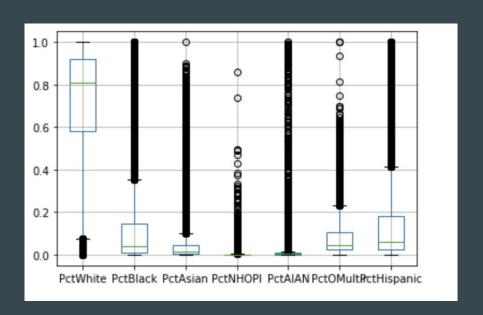
# **Exploratory Data Analysis**

Originally looked at racial data:

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Logistic Regression: 0.974
Scaled Logistic Regression: 0.981
Undersampled Logistic Regression: 0.982
SVM Accuracy: 0.982
```

- Great accuracy, however, PCA indicated one variable had too much weight
- Thus, we looked further at the income data.

# **Exploratory Data Analysis**



	Importance
Urban	0.065373
Pop2010	0.205181
OHU2010	0.194710
PovertyRate	0.165930
MedianFamilyIncome	0.182706
PctLowl	0.186100

# Machine Learning Analysis

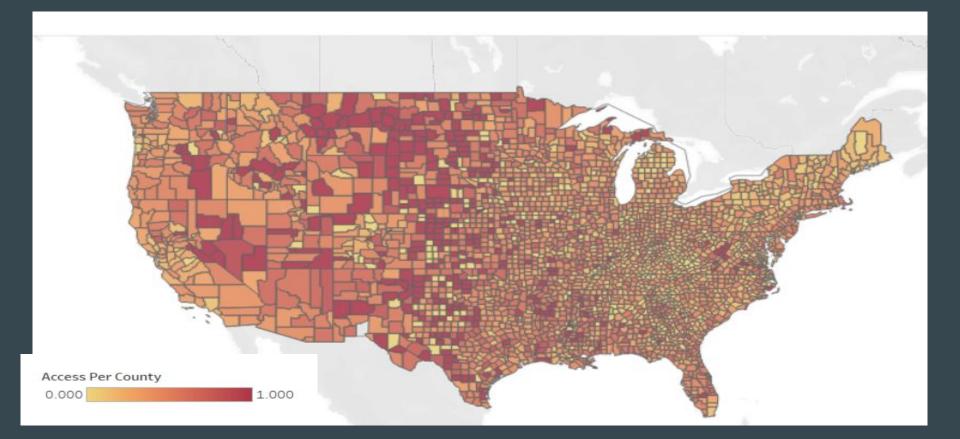
- Overall Accuracy: 69.72%
- Predicted food deserts with 72% accuracy
- Predicted non food deserts with 64% accuracy

• Used Supervised Machine Learning Model with low access 1 to 10 as target

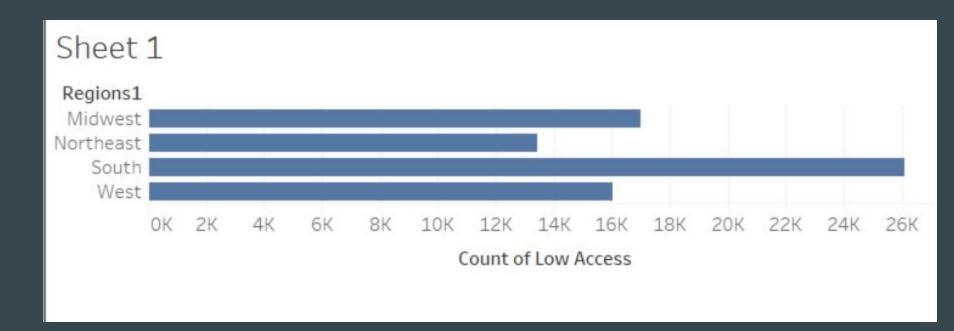
variable.

	Predicted 0	Predicted 1
Actual 0	9391	1756
Actual 1	3678	3121

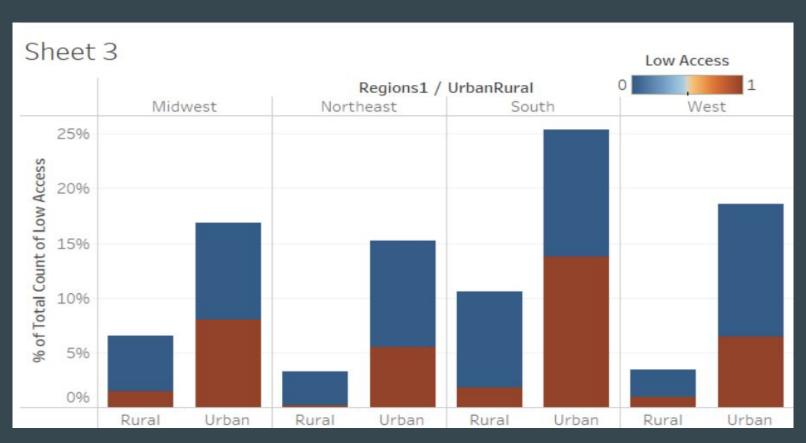
# Dashboard



### **Dashboard**



# Dashboard



#### Conclusion

- Racial data is significantly significant
- Income does not define food access for all populations.
  - This indicates other factors at play.