



SNAP Participation: Are there sufficient resources?

Helping to distribute resources more efficiently and equitably to ensure healthy food is accessible to all SNAP recipients.

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Photo: USDA



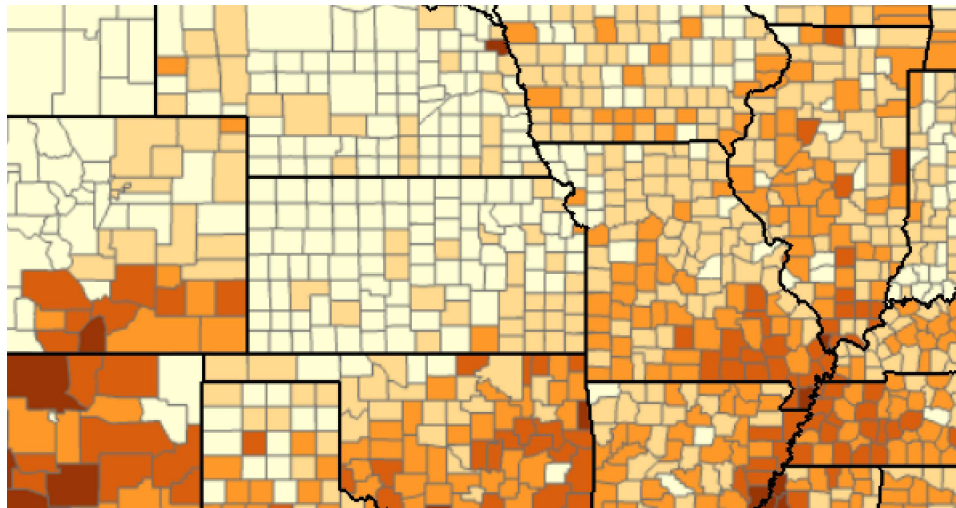
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)



SNAP is a federal program that helps families buy nutritional food to maintain their health and well-being.

A 2016 study of county-by-county participation in this program shows overall participation (SNAPRate) as well as Hot Spots and Cold Spots.

The SNAPRates by county are shown for all contiguous US counties [here](#)

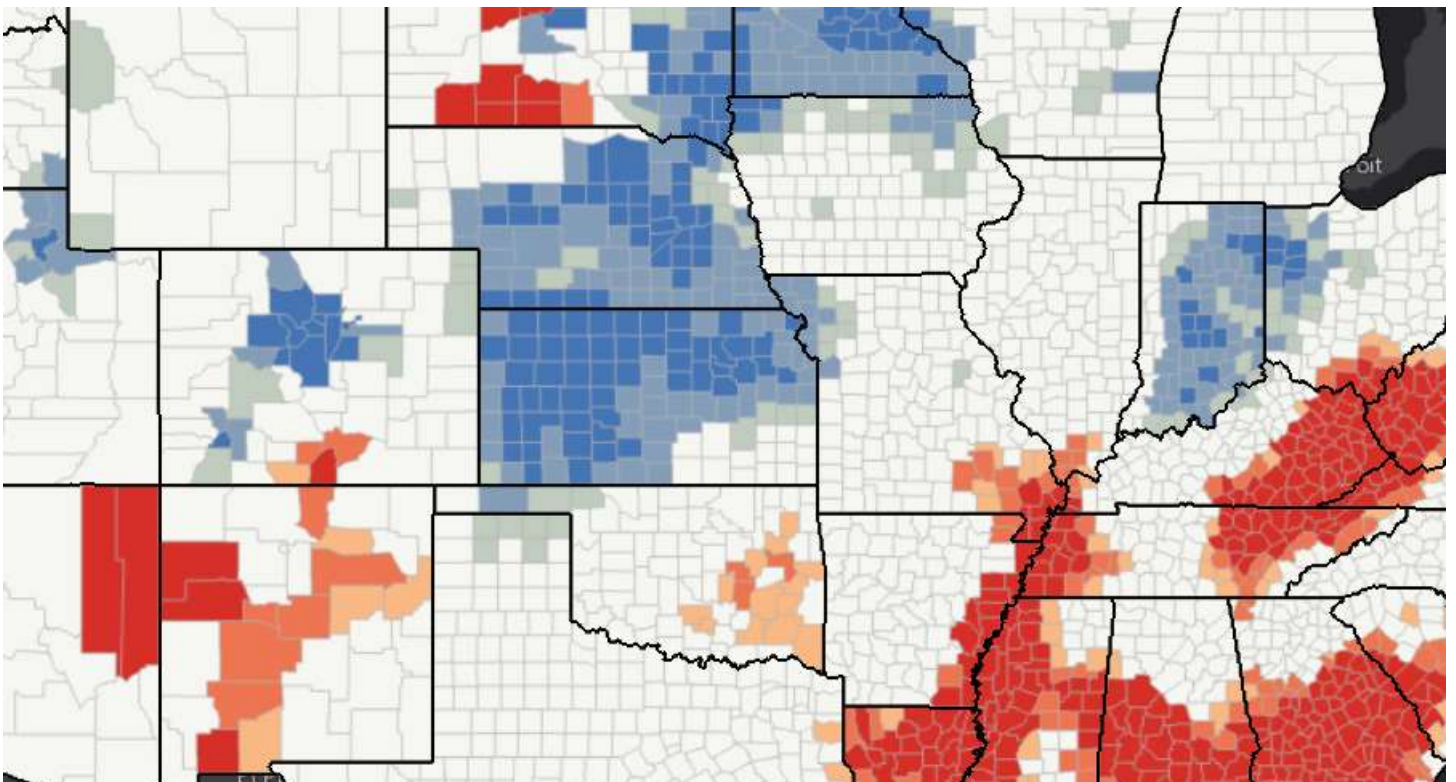


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Hot Spot Analysis

Meaningful patterns of high values and low values (hot spots v. cold spots) using optimized statistical cluster analysis tools demonstrates that, generally, the SNAP programs have statistically significant high SNAP participation in the southeastern areas of the US, and low SNAP participation in the north-central areas.



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In 2016, the primary source of food was through large scale grocery stores.



Local farmer's markets also provide nutritional foods for their local communities.

**SNAP can be used for:**

- Fruits and vegetables;
- Meat, poultry, and fish;
- Dairy products;
- Breads and cereals;
- Other foods such as snack foods and non-alcoholic beverages;
and
- Seeds and plants, which produce food for the household to eat.



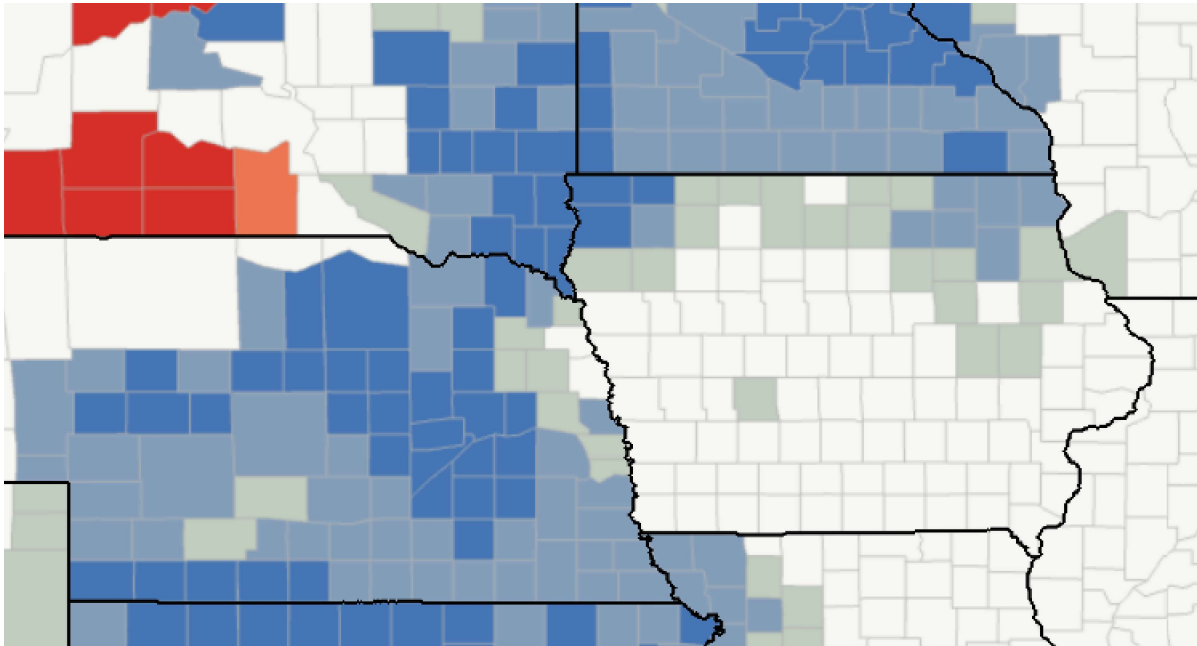
SNAP benefits CANNOT be used for:

- Beer, wine, liquor, cigarettes, or tobacco
- Vitamins, medicines, and supplements. If an item has a Supplement Facts label, it is considered a supplement and is not eligible for SNAP purchase.
- Live animals (except shellfish, fish removed from water, and animals slaughtered prior to pick-up from the store).
- Prepared Foods fit for immediate consumption
- Hot foods
- Any nonfood items such as:
 - Pet foods
 - Cleaning supplies, paper products, and other household supplies.
 - Hygiene items, cosmetics

Why was participation low in the north/ central areas?

It would be helpful to know if there is low participation due to low

need or if it is due to a lack of resources. Are there sufficient locations to purchase SNAP-eligible goods?

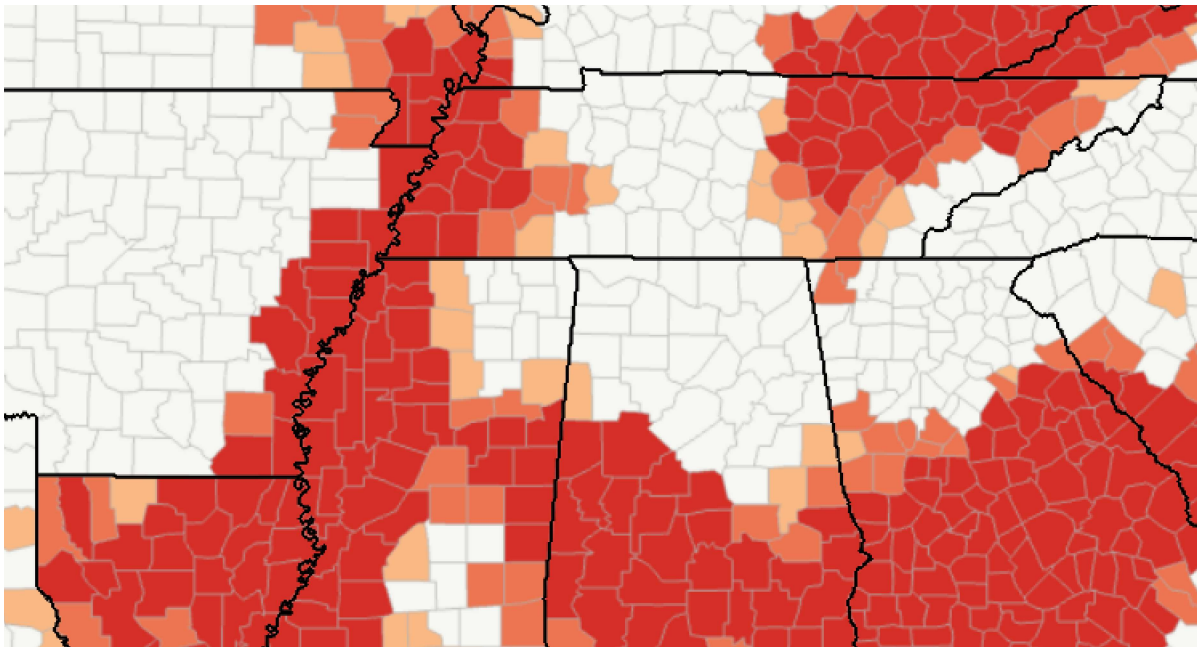


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How are Hot-Spots (areas of high SNAP participation) filling the needs of the communities?

Could lessons learned in these southeastern counties be applied to benefit the north/ central areas?



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Photo: MN DHS

Nutritious food is essential for human health. Good nutrition can help lower risk for many chronic diseases, including heart disease, stroke, some cancers, diabetes, and osteoporosis. Increased consumption of fruits and vegetables helps reduce the risk for heart disease and certain cancers as well. The SNAP program helps people meet this goal. It is essential that SNAP-eligible foods be available no matter where one lives.



The information used in this study was obtained through ESRI's MOOC: Spatial Data Science: The New Frontier in Analytics.

