

Introduction/Business Problem

- Food deserts were first identified by the USDA as locations within the United States where access to full service grocery stores was limited causing the local citizens to purchase foods at local convenience stores which increased the overall cost of groceries and decreased the access to healthy foods. (*Characteristics and Influential Factors of Food Deserts, Economic Research Report Number 140 by Dutko, Ver Ploeg, and Farrigan.*)
- Using zip code data, we will analyze if this situation can be identified at a zip code level by correlating the number of grocery stores by zip code with reported income by zip code
- The analysis will be conducted for the 3 largest cities in the U.S.:
 - *Los Angeles*
 - *Chicago*
 - *New York*