Data Sources

Food Access Atlas, USDA

US Census Data

Geoapify API

In our analysis, high food desert scores in Northern California tend to come from counties with smaller populations, are more rural, from counties with population loss, and lower incomes.

We focused on three regions, Sacramento, Bay area, and Central valley. A little for fun/it’s were we are, but also because they had a good mix of rural, agricultural, suburban and urban areas.

You can see here in the Sacramento region, the percentage low access scores come from the more rural area. Here in the central valley, the more agricultural counties were lower with some breaks around the metro areas. And you can see the Bay Area is doing pretty well with access on a county level.

The presence of grocery store and superstore access are two of the most important indicators of low access to healthy food options, but we didn’t find as strong of a correlation as we expected.

We did find something interesting which was that fast food options stayed more or less constant in Northern CA even as other options, grocery stores for example, decreased. IN the second scatter plot, you can see that as in low access to increases fast food options remained the same.Here, we had a p-value of significantly less than .05 and a correlation coefficient of essentially zero (-.01)