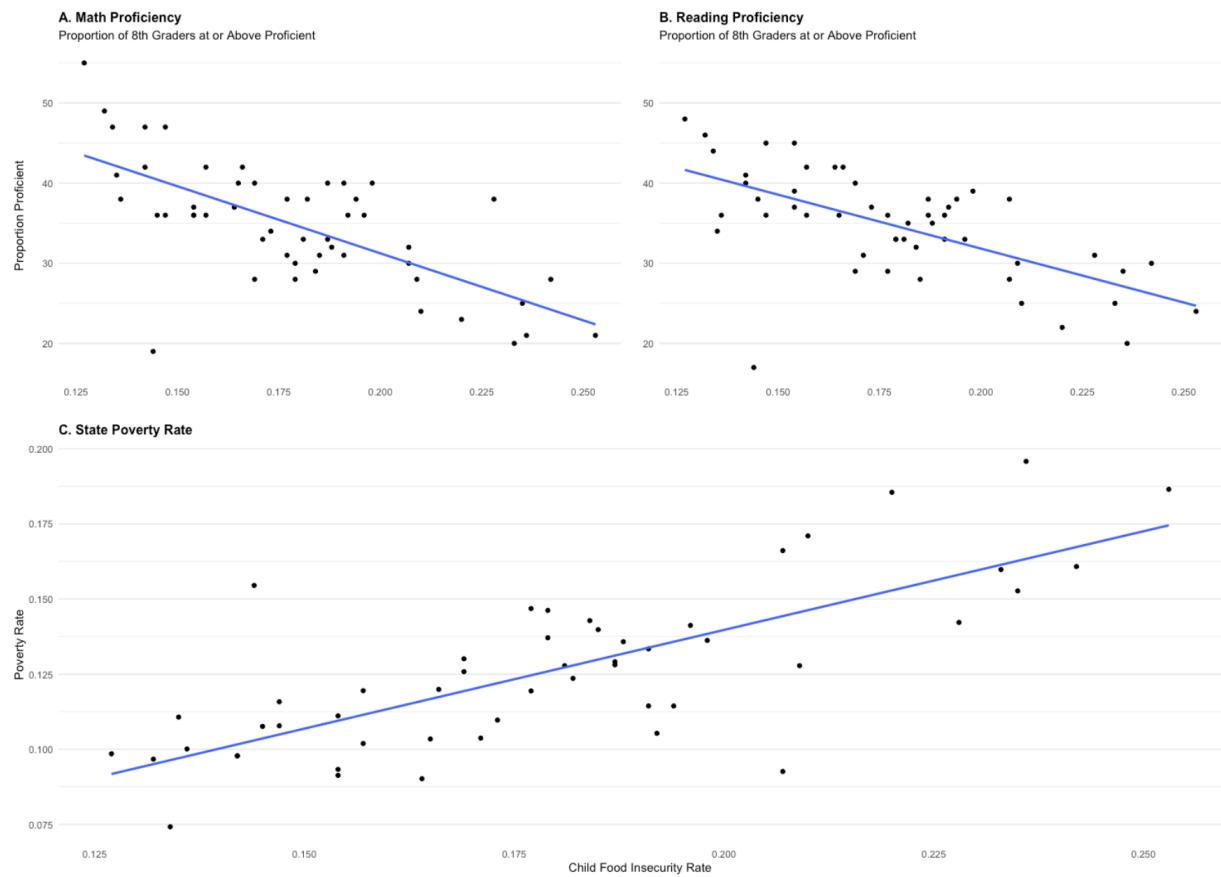


Higher Rates of Childhood Food Insecurity Correlate With Lower Test Scores and Higher Poverty Rates



States with higher rates of child food insecurity experience higher poverty rates and worse educational outcomes. Charts A and B demonstrate the strong relationship between poor food security and proficiency in both mathematics and reading respectively among 8th graders. Falling behind early in education is difficult to overcome and leads to worse outcomes later in life such as lower high school graduation rates. The high correlation between poverty and food security indicates this problem could be alleviated via better access to welfare programs, leading to better outcomes for children.