About this Dashboard

The purpose of this dashboard is to help state governments find a way to adequately allocate their limited resources for fighting food insecurity and diet-related illnesses.

The first model takes non-health related data for every county, and outputs the probability that the county experiences a diabetes rate greater than the national average. The power of this model is that it allows state governments to collect meaningful health data without having to conduct costly/time-consuming health surveys. Furthermore, it allows states to determine health statistics without dealing with Protected Health Information (PHI), which can be a pain due to the strict privacy protocols necessary for handling this type of information.

The second model takes data regarding various factors such as food access, food insecurity, and socioeconomic statistics, and outputs the probability that a county within a state will experience a decrease in its number of grocery stores over the next 5 years. This model would be helpful to state governments who are trying to take action on reducing insecurity. Whenever a grocery store closes down, the neighborhood surrounding it potentially loses its primary source of fruits, vegetables, and whole grains, which could further exacerbate the problem of food insecurity in that county. Therefore, it is in the state’s best interest to stop stores from closing down. By being able to predict into the future, the government could take preventative action to keep stores from closing down, by offering tax breaks or some other incentive.

The two models should be used in conjunction to direct government resources towards the counties which need them most. The first model will diagnose where the problem exists, and the second model will offer insight into where preventative action can be taken.