Increasing Access to Nutritious Foods For Low-Income and Low-Access People

IC Team #22050

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BACKGROUND

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19 million people in
U.S. reside in low-income
areas with no access
to large grocery stores

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Motivation

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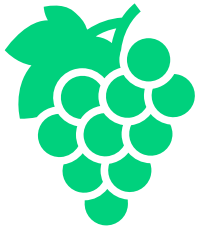
How to increase food access for these low-income low-access people while also encouraging their fruit and vegetable intake?

Research Design



1. Identify low-income and low-access population

1) Least income
2) Farthest distance to a nearby supermarket
3) No access to transportation

2. Determine their top obstacles in access using both data and previous research

3. Policy recommendations

Tools

1. Data: 2012 USDA Food Acquisition and Purchase Survey (FoodAPS)
2. Data Visualization: Tableau
3. Data Cleaning: Python

RESULTS

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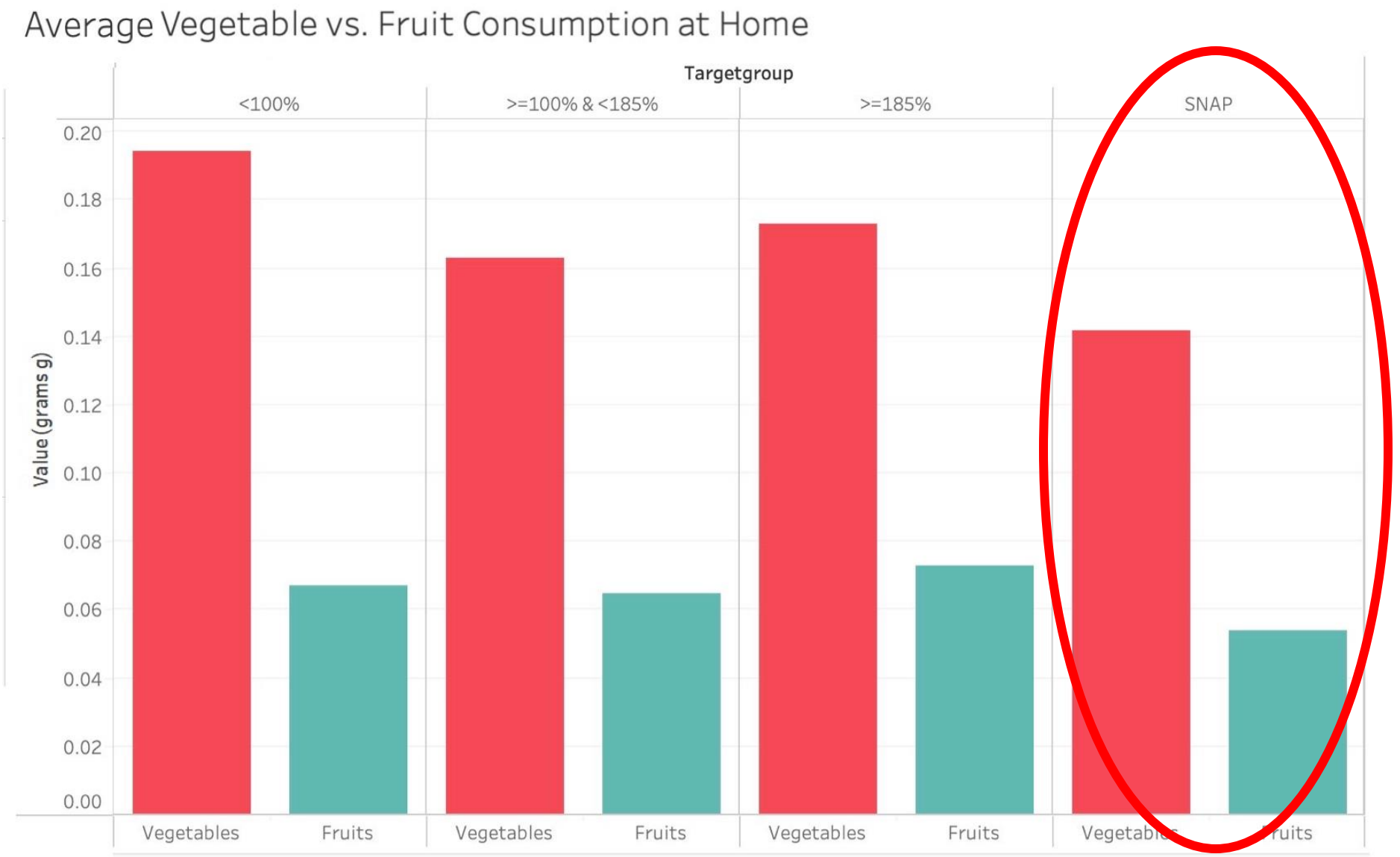
Income Groups with No Transportation Located Farthest from Nearby Supermarket

Foods At Home

Foods Away From Home


Average Vegetable vs. Fruit Consumption at Home
Targetgroup
<100%
>=100% & <185%
>=185%
SNAP
Value (grams g)
0.20
0.18
0.16
0.14
0.12
0.10
0.08
0.06
0.04
0.02
0.00
Vegetables
Fruits
Vegetables
Fruits
Vegetables
Fruits
Vegetables
Fruits

Average Meats vs. Dark Green Vegetables Consumption At Home

Obstacles To Access

1. Farthest Distance To Nearby Supermarket
2. No Transportation Access
3. Low Income
4. High Prices
5. Nutritionally Illiterate

Policy Recommendations

1) Increasing access to supermarkets

2) Incentivizing food delivery services for low-access locations

3) Supporting local food businesses

4) Expanding urban agriculture

5) Increasing efficiency in the perishable food supply chain

6) Partnering with food delivery services to launch a tech education program

7) Have more food delivery services accept SNAP and WIC

Future Work

We recommend examining access to technology or implementing smartphone delivery applications as an intervention to low food access in this demographic.

UBER EATS

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GRUBHUB

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Questions?

References