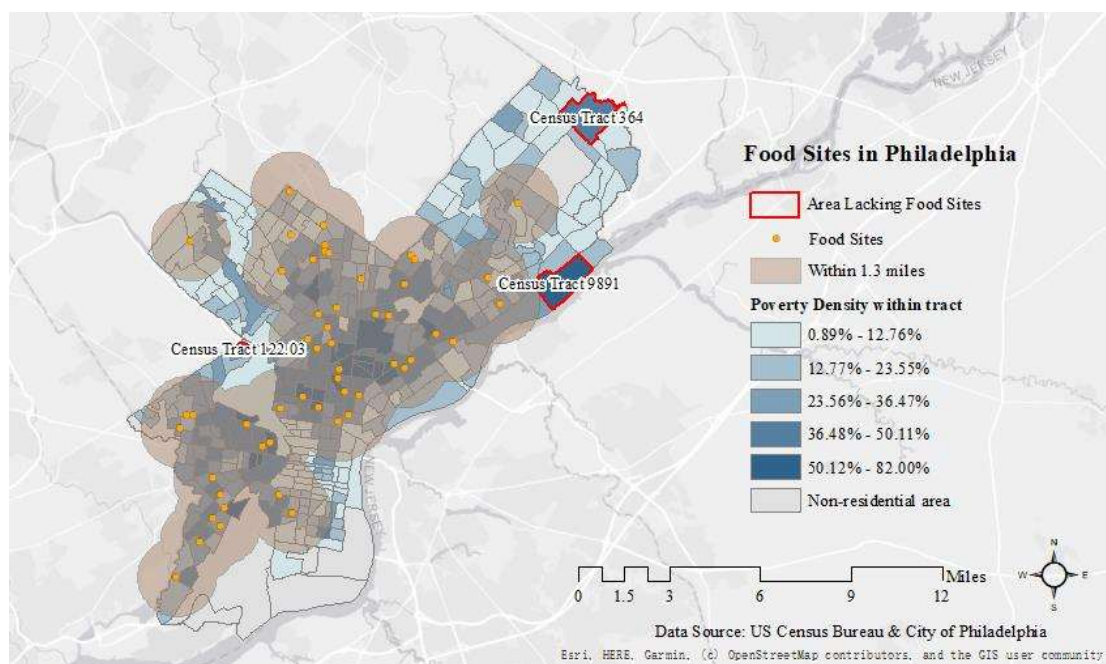


Free Food Access in Philadelphia

INTERPRETATION

Nearly 22% of Philadelphians are “food insecure”, which means that they are unsure of where their next meal is coming from. Hunger has existed in the City because low-income families have to choose between paying rising rent, utility and medical bills and buying food. When stretching food dollars, those families often purchase cheaper, unhealthier foods to get their children through the day and stave off the feeling of hunger. To deal with the social problem, the City has cooperated with Share Food Program, a non-profit organization that distributes discounted groceries to Philadelphians in need. Citizens could make orders of menu items in advance, and later pick up packages of discounted produce, meats, and other foods.



There have been more than fifty food sites involved in the Program. Most of them are gathered in the centre and southwest part of the city, where is also the most population in poverty settled. From this perspective, the program has run well. However, although fewer population in poverty live in other parts of the city, they should have enjoyed equal social security. Therefore, I take “1.3 miles”, the regular half-an-hour distance, as the standard to find out which tracts have not been covered by the current food sites. Among the selected areas, I would recommend three of the areas, *Census tract 122.03, 364 and 9891*, with denser poor population as the priority. The government could start building new food sites with these three areas, to achieve the final result that all citizen could have access to adequate and qualified food.