



# ***Healthy Food Access: Policies and Lessons from Across the Nation***

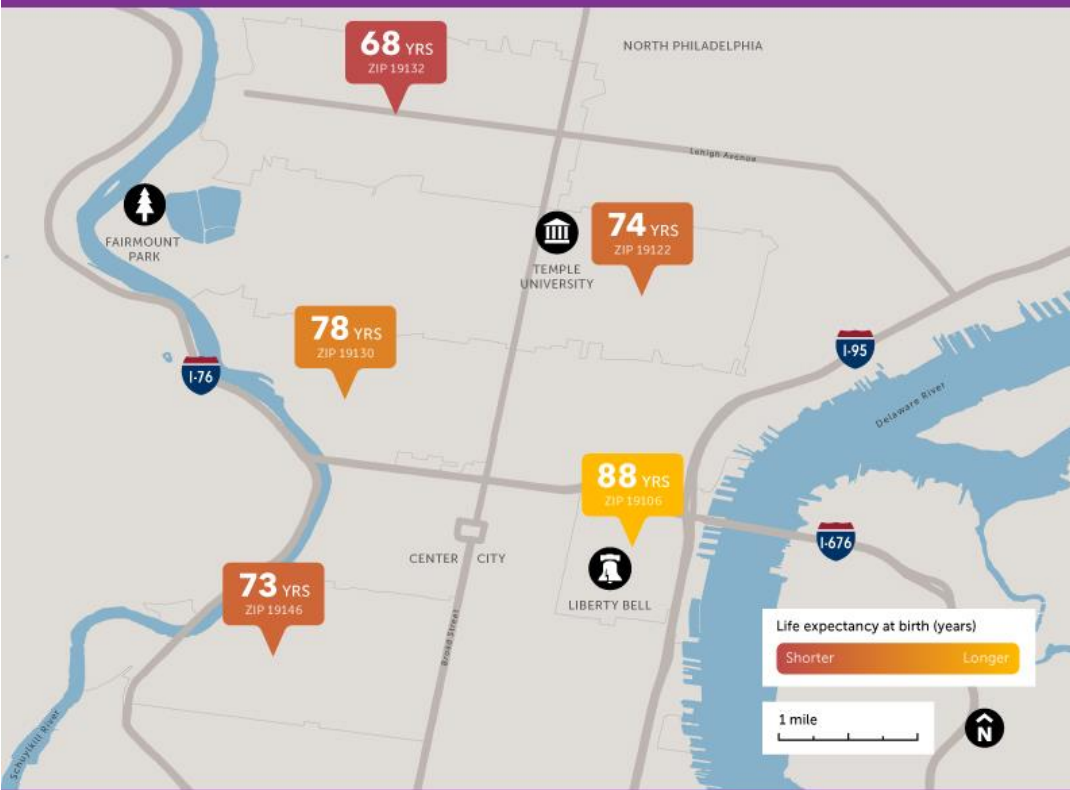
**Dwayne Wharton**  
**Director of External Relations**  
**The Food Trust**



## Short Distances to Large Gaps in Health

Follow the discussion

#CloseHealthGaps



Poorest, most obese and most at risk of diabetes.

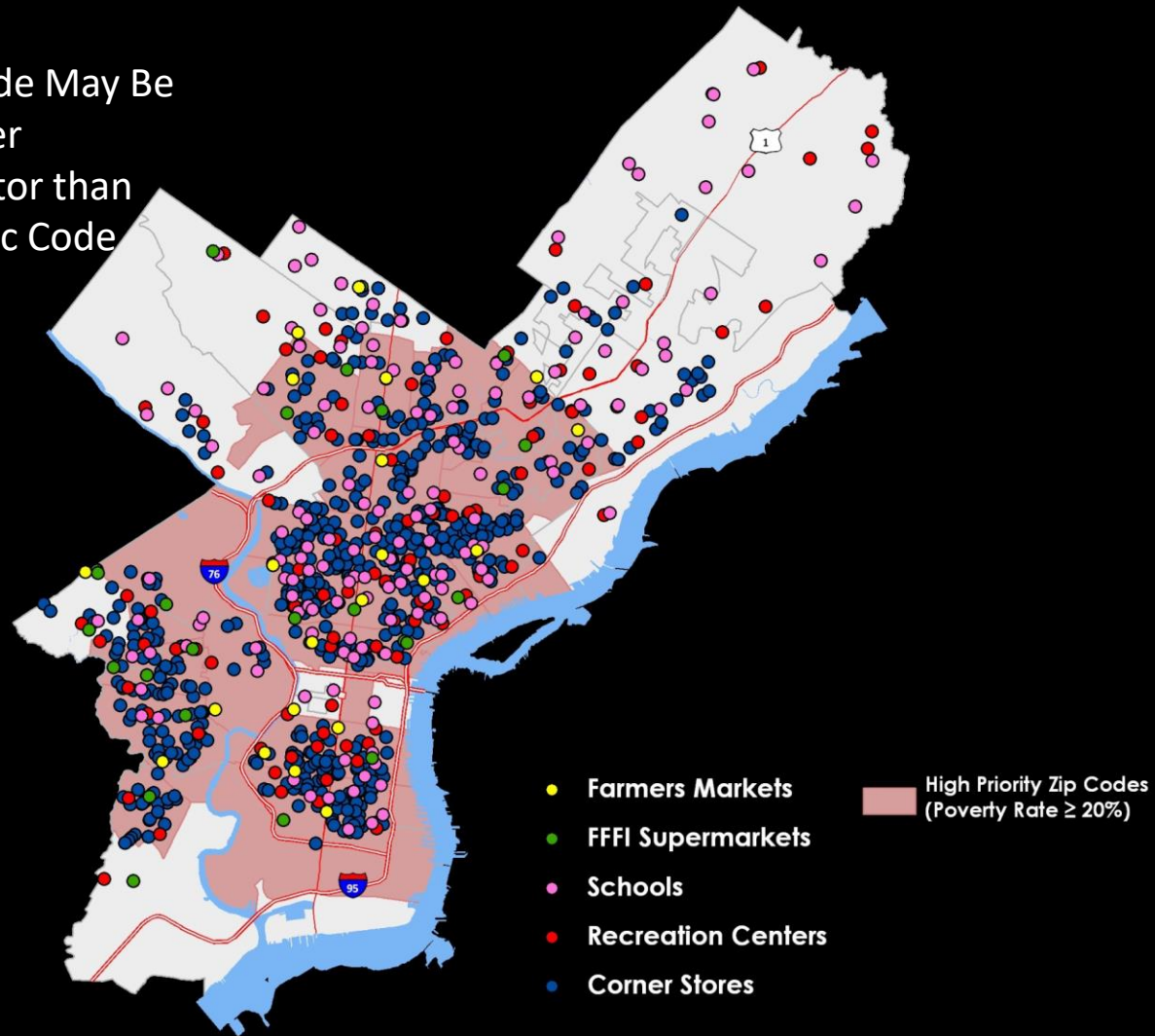
1/3 live below the poverty line.

7 out of 10 adults  
4 out of 10 kids  
overweight or obese.

2 out of 10 adults  
have diabetes.

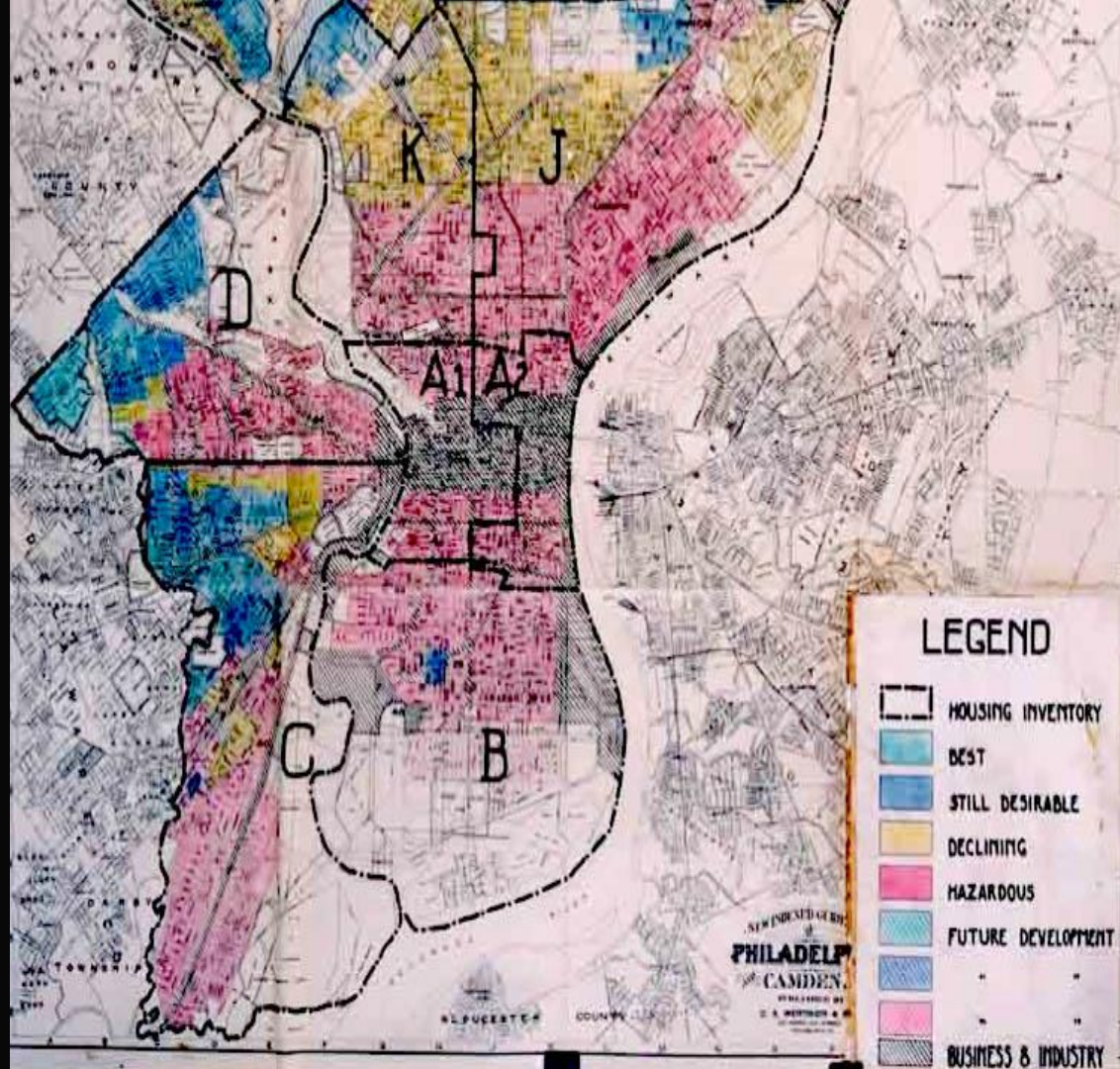
African-Americans are  
80% more likely  
to have diabetes.

Zip Code May Be  
a Better  
Predictor than  
Genetic Code



## Redlining & Urban Disinvestment

A HOLC 1936 security map of Philadelphia showing redlining of lower income neighborhoods. Households and businesses in the red zones could not get mortgages or business loans.



# Bank's redlining results in a \$32.7 million settlement



AP

Sep 24, 2015 3:30 PM EDT

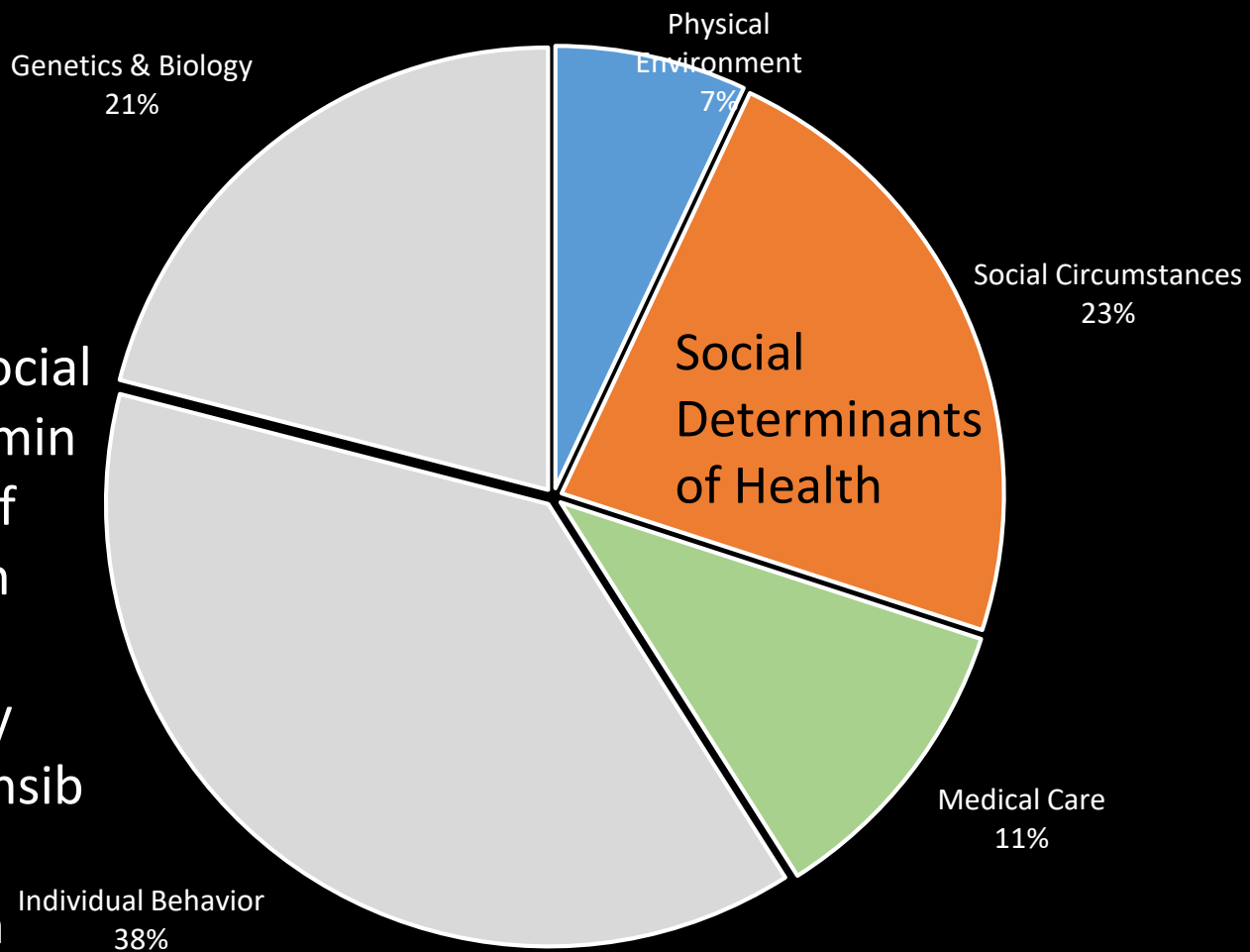
**WASHINGTON** - Mortgage discrimination against black and Hispanic communities has led to a proposed \$32.75 million settlement between Hudson City Savings Bank (**HSBK**) and the federal government.

The New Jersey-based lender located branches, chose mortgage brokers and marketed loans that discouraged borrowers in predominantly minority communities, said the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau and Justice Department Thursday.

If your family was denied a mortgage in the 1930s, or the 1950s, or the 1970s, then you may not have the family wealth or down payment help to become a homeowner today. In that way, the consequences of past redlining transcend time, even as new forms of it continue.



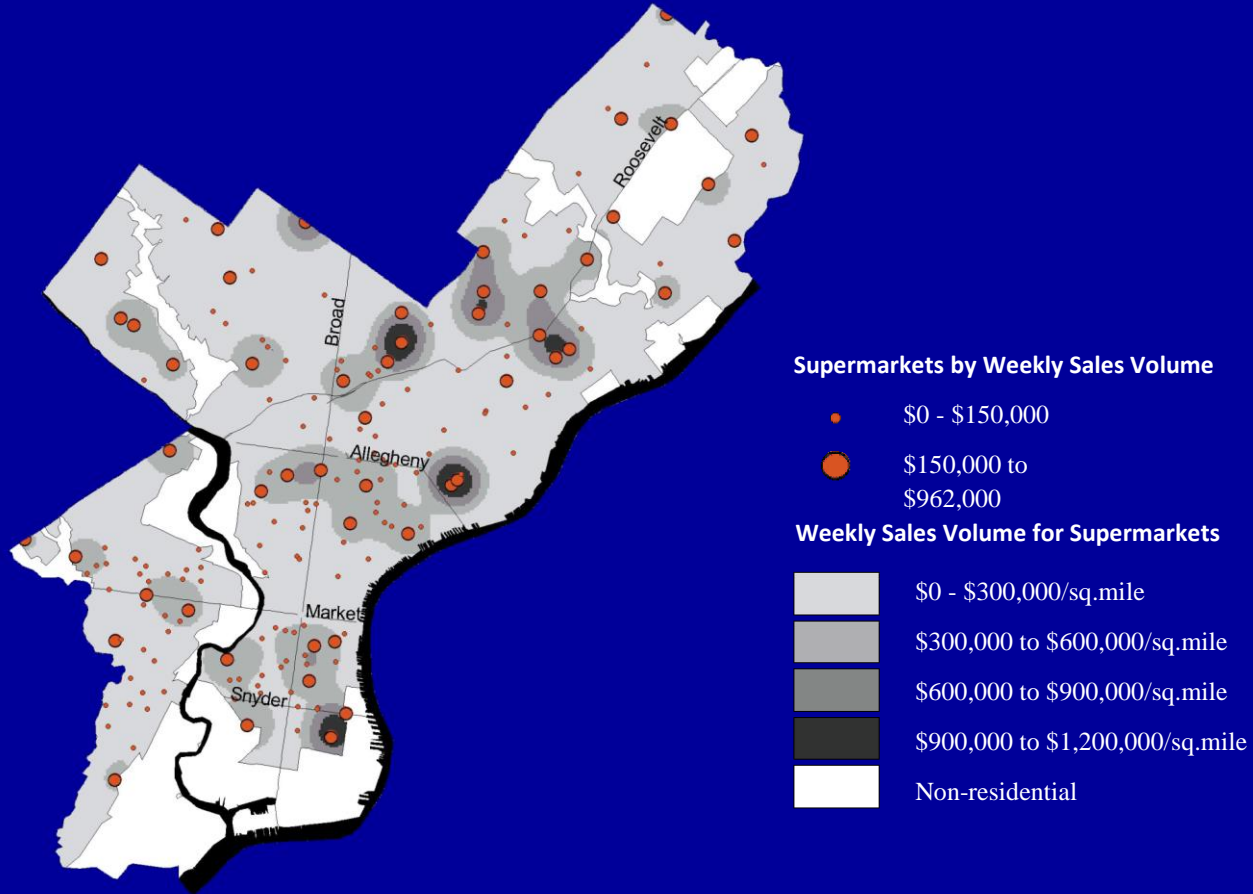
The Social  
Determinants of  
Health  
are  
mostly  
responsible for  
health  
inequities



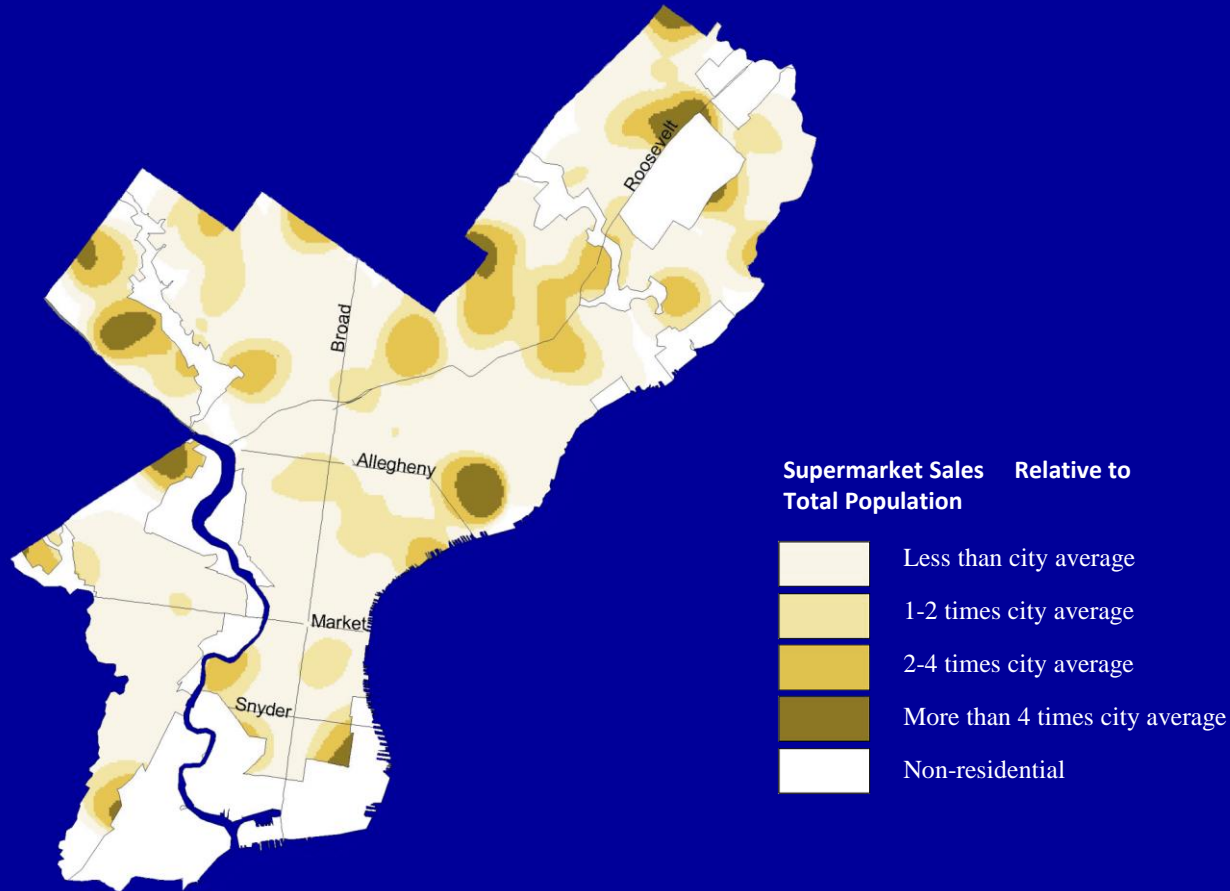
## Emotional, Social, Cultural, Economic & Environmental Barriers

| Income  | Perception & Knowledge  | SNAP Distribution & Pantries   | Culture   | Time Crunch  | Transportation  | SNAP Distribution   | Social Status & Education  | Housing & Community Assets   |
|---|---|--|---|--|---|---|--|--|
| Jobs are scarce in neighborhoods with struggling economies.   | Healthier foods are often perceived as more expensive than less healthy products.       | Spoilage associated with fresh products is a risk for families with limited incomes. | Certain kinds of food, sometimes very unhealthy, has been ingrained over the generations through necessity, family recipes, and traditions. | Preparation time may also prove challenging in light of these other factors.   | Households without cars find it difficult to access healthy retail – convenience , reliability.   | For SNAP recipients, the once monthly distribution of funds often results in bulk buying at the start of the month, which makes healthy eating more difficult later in the month. | Lack of social integration & support systems   | Availability of Healthy Food Retail  |
| Limited income means making hard choices between food & other basic needs such as rent, transportation , childcare & health care costs. | Knowledge of what is healthy is uncertain given misinformation and confusing marketing. | What is not eaten is wasted money.   |   | For someone working multiple jobs, with unpredictable work schedules and long commutes, the time associated with healthy meals is often much greater than that associated with less healthy options. | Corner stores, gas stations, discount stores become the default shopping destination but most of these stores do not provide many healthy, fresh products of good quality at an affordable price. | Pantries are used to subsidized monthly food supply often lacks healthy options.  | Americanization: For recent immigrants, the longer they settle in the U.S. the higher their risk of obesity. | Inadequate housing (limited food storage, kitchens, & tools)               |
| Weaker tax bases can't support quality schools.   | Knowledge on how to prepare fresh produce is a question.                                | The risk is not getting their families enough to eat exists.                         | It is reinforced through the food environment in low--income neighborhoods as well as marketing that reinforces less healthy                |  |   |   | Discrimination and Racism  | Access to safe routes, parks and opportunities to exercise, walk or cycle. |
|   |   |  |   |  |   |   | Literacy & Language  | Health Coverage  |
|   |   |  |   |  |   |   | Early Childhood Education  | Provider Availability & Quality  |
|   |   |  |   |  |   |   | Educational Obtainment   | Proximity to highways, factories & toxins.                                 |

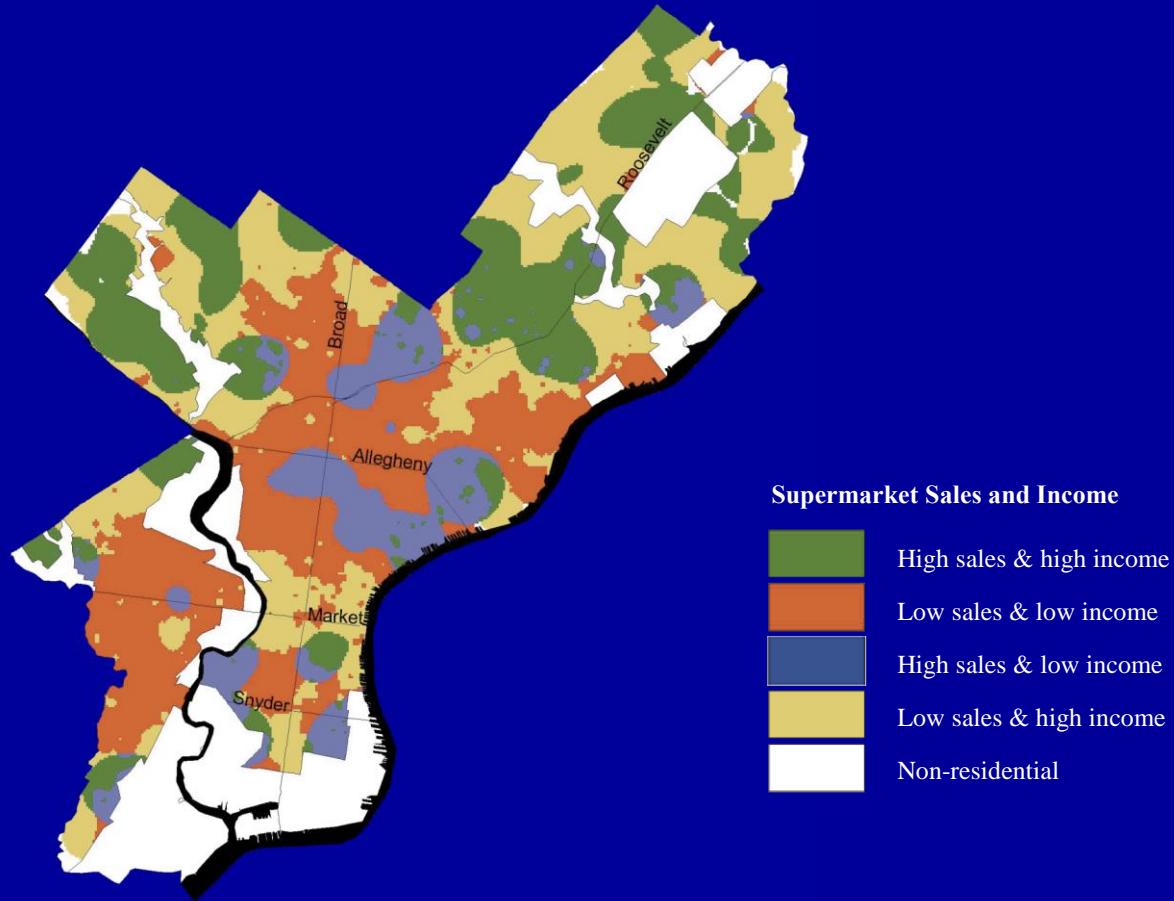
# Map 1: Weekly Sales Volume for Supermarkets



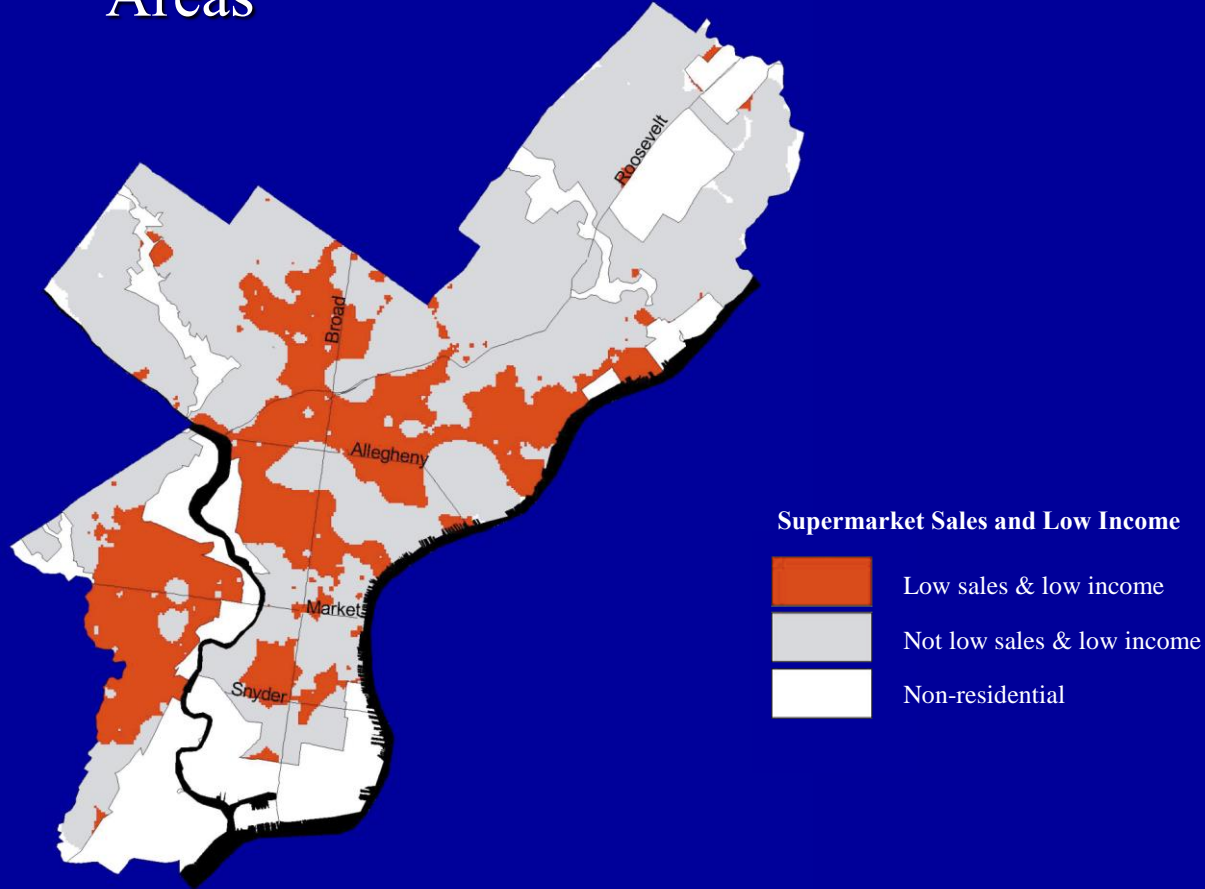
## Map 2: Supermarket Sales and Total Population



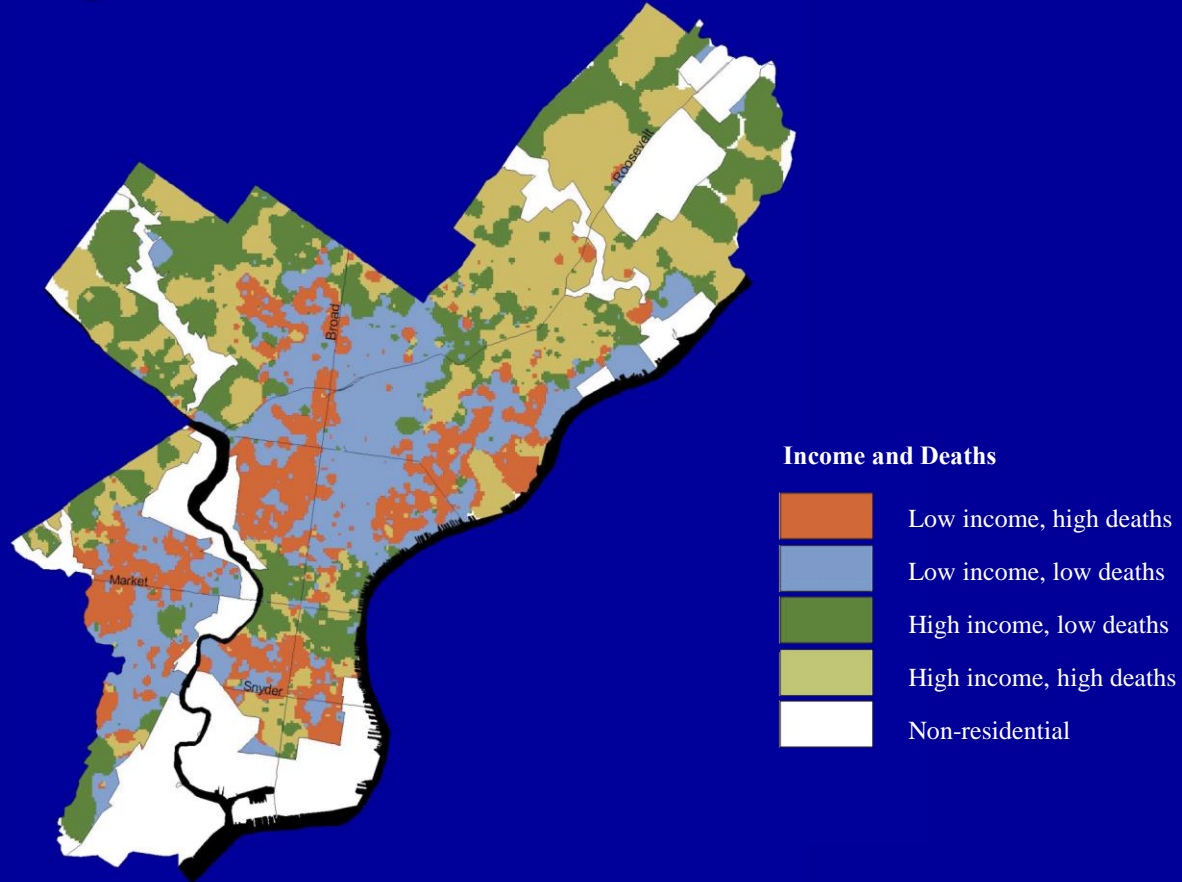
# Map 3: Supermarket Sales and Income



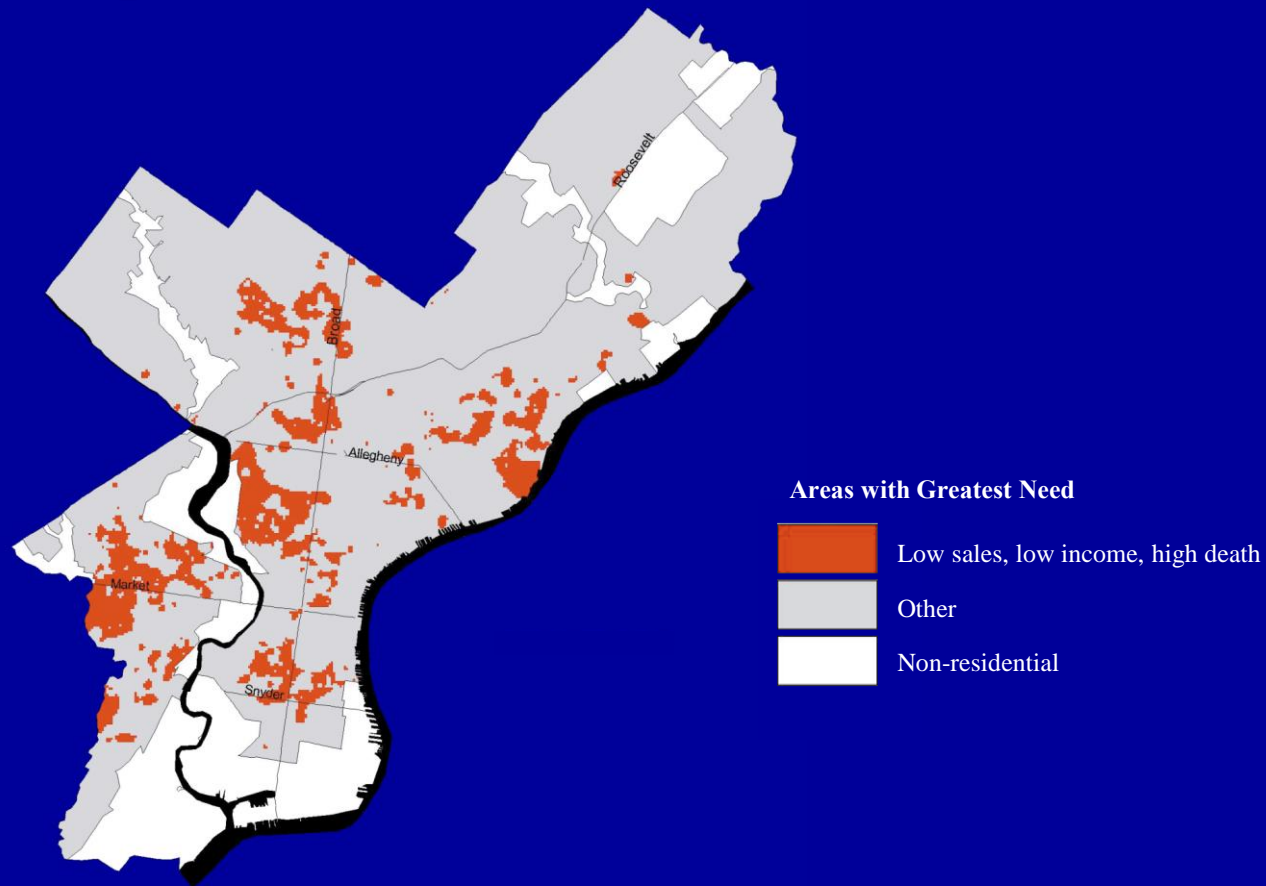
# Map 4: Low Supermarket Sales & Low-Income Areas



# Map 5: Income and Diet-Related Death



## Map 6: Areas with Greatest Need



## Findings

Philadelphia had the second lowest number of supermarkets per capita of major metropolitan areas.

There were large areas of the city with few supermarkets, and many neighborhoods where none exist.

This uneven distribution of food disproportionately affected large numbers of low-income people.

There is a direct correlation between diet-related diseases and lack of supermarkets.





# Fresh Food Access Task Force

## Barriers Identified

- Financing
- SNAP Benefits Distribution
- Land Assembly
  - Availability of suitable parcels
  - Parking and access
- High Rent
- Regulatory Environment & Zoning
- Workforce Training and Security
- Data on Demand for Healthy Food & Purchasing Power in Communities
- Perceptions of industry and of communities
- Transportation
- No Local Champions

## Policy Recommendations

- Federal, state & local governments should provide & promote financial incentives.
- Reduce barriers to SNAP & WIC
- Accurately assess buying power in underserved communities.
- Fast track permits and reduce regulatory delays in target areas.
- Assist with land assembly.
- Government partners with workforce development agencies.
- Partner with law enforcement and civic groups to create safe environment.
- Work with transportation agencies to meet needs of community.
- Partner to provide nutrition education.
- Convene leaders

**Healthy Food Finance Initiatives:** This public-private partnership creates jobs, spurs economic development, and helps combat America's obesity epidemic by providing access to affordable, healthy, fresh food options.

### **Pennsylvania Accomplishments**

- \$30M State Investment
- 83 new or renovated stores
- Over 5,000 jobs
- Over 500,000 now with access
- 1.6 million square feet of retail
- \$190 million total investment

### **National Momentum**

- National Healthy Food Financing Initiative (HFFI)
- California, Colorado, Houston, Illinois, New Orleans, New Jersey, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, New York, Virginia, South Carolina and the mid-South states of Louisiana, Mississippi and western Tennessee.



## New Orleans, LA

The average life expectancy for babies born to mothers in New Orleans can vary by as much as 25 years across neighborhoods just a few miles apart.

RWJF Commission  
to Build a Healthier America

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation





**Dwayne Wharton**

Director of External Affairs

The Food Trust

1617 JFK Blvd. Suite 900

Philadelphia, PA 19103

[dwharton@thefoodtrust.org](mailto:dwharton@thefoodtrust.org)

(267) 808-1015

Twitter: @DwayneWharton

[www.thefoodtrust.org](http://www.thefoodtrust.org)

[www.healthyfoodaccess.org](http://www.healthyfoodaccess.org)

[www.voicesforhealthykids.org](http://www.voicesforhealthykids.org)

**CENTER  
FOR HEALTHY  
FOOD ACCESS**

