

HIA and Food Policy

2nd National HIA Meeting,
9/25/13

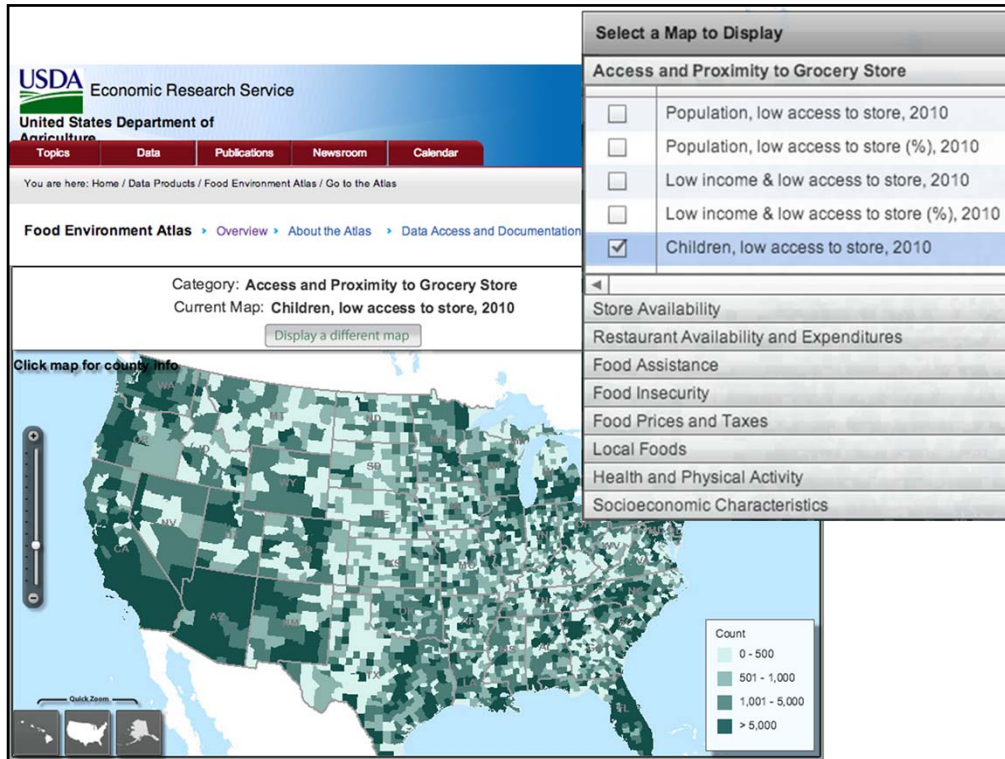
Moderator:
Dr. Tia Henderson
Upstream Public Health
SOPHIA Secretary, Steering Committee

THE SOCIETY OF
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HEALTH IMPACT ASSESSMENT
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PUBLIC HEALTH

Those of you here likely know that HIAs help ensure that decision makers think broadly about health – especially in fields that are typically “non-health”

So you may be wondering why we would need to conduct HIAs on Food Policy – Food affects our health, that much is obvious given knowledge that when we are hungry we can’t focus or learn, and that nutrient rich foods like fruits and vegetables helps protect our bodies from chronic health conditions such as type two diabetes and heart disease.



What is not always clear is when decisions affect our ability to access healthy food, or hinder it. Nor is it always clear about possible unintended consequences of “non-food” policies have might have on our hungry, or food insecure, families.

This is one example map from a rough mapping tool on the USDA’s website call the Food Environment Atlas, here we can see which states have the highest numbers of children living more than a mile away from a grocery store. Children may not be the main shoppers in the family, but the distance required to travel to buy food affects the amount of money a household has to purchase healthy food options.

Our food environment determines our ability to make choices that support our health.

Policy Determines Food Access Opportunities

- **South LA Fast Food Health Impact Assessment**
- **HIA on SNAP and Sugar Sweetened Beverages**
- **HIA: National Nutrition Standards for Snack and a la Carte Foods and Beverages Sold in Schools**

It's my honor today to introduce you to three projects looking at how different policies affect people's healthy food options.

Breanna Morrison of Community Health Councils will be discussing how land use regulations affect South Los Angeles's Food Resource Environment.

Jessica Lynch of Illinois Public Health Institute

Jessica Donze Black of Kids' Safe & Healthful Foods Project