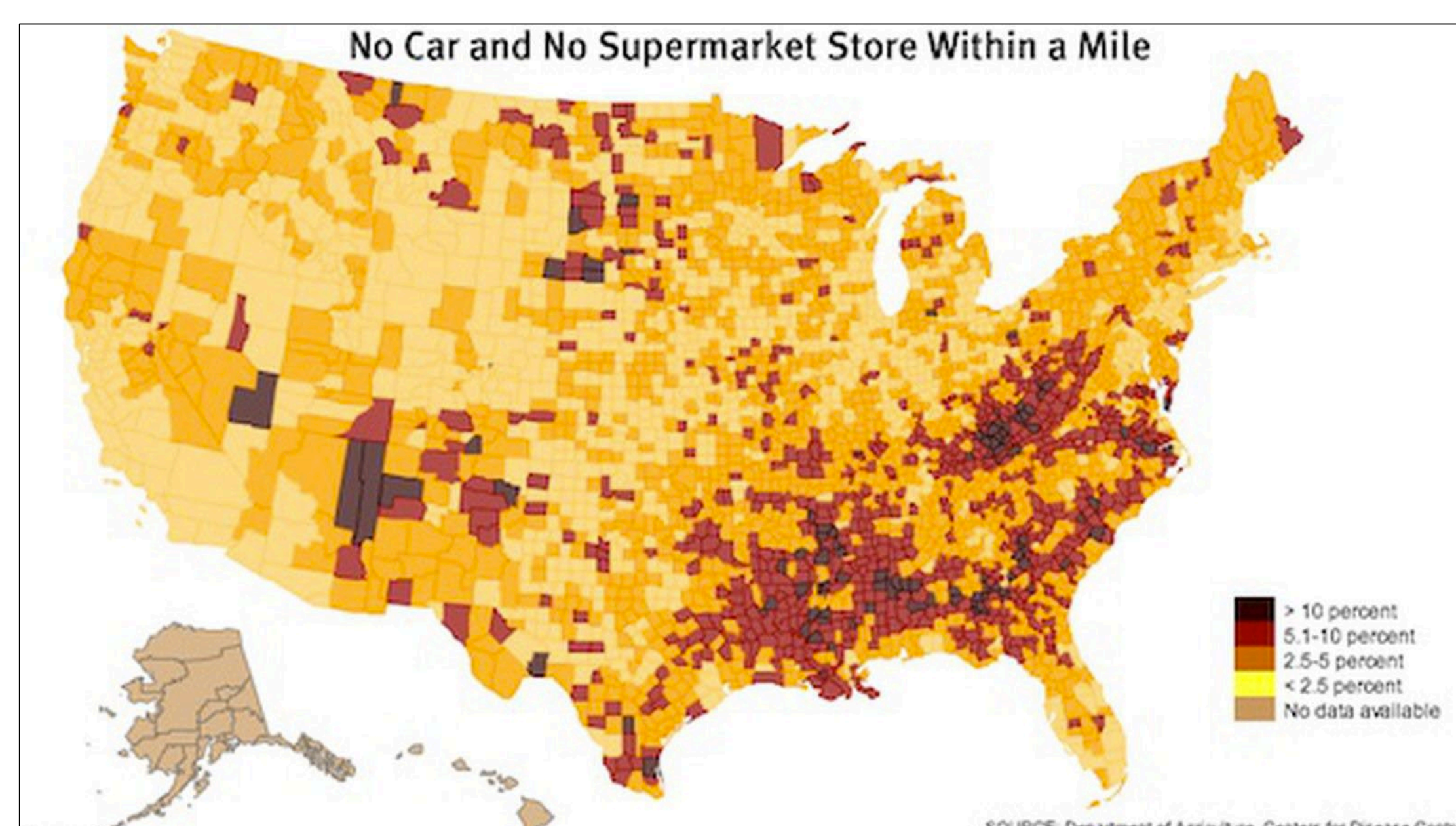
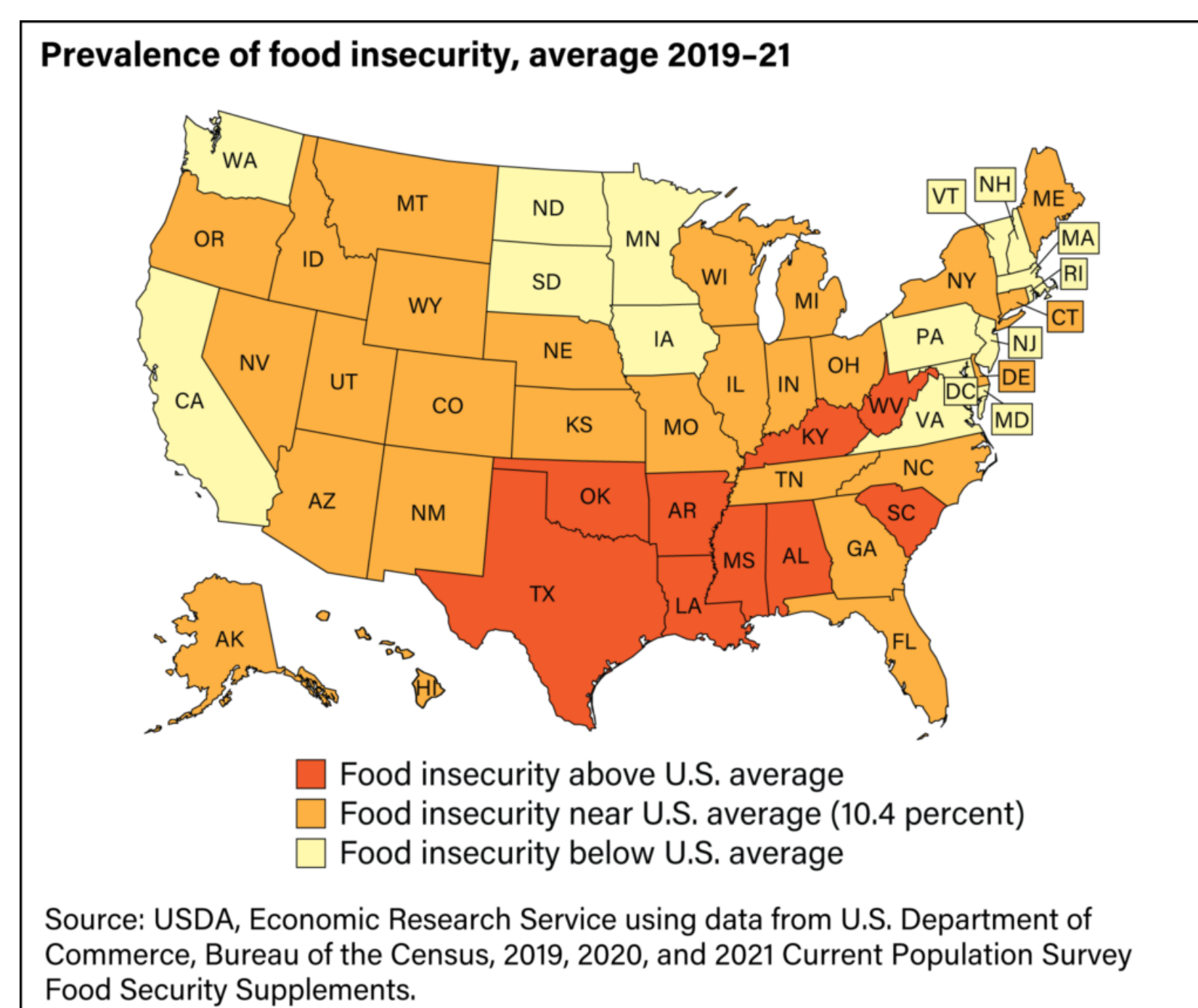


Angelos Lagoudakis

Food Access Inequality: Store Choices, Distance from Retailers, Food Away from Home, and Health Outcomes

Background and Motivation

- Through the 2014 Farm Bill, the U.S. government invested **\$125 million** in a national Healthy Food Financing Initiative (HFFI). The initial goal of the initiative was the elimination of food deserts
- The Economic Research Service of the United States Department of Agriculture recently announced that global food insecurity increased by almost 10% last year
- The National Strategy formed following the recent White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health is **the identification of nutrition trends using data sources, with the ultimate goal of reducing sodium and added sugars intake and eliminating hunger in the US**

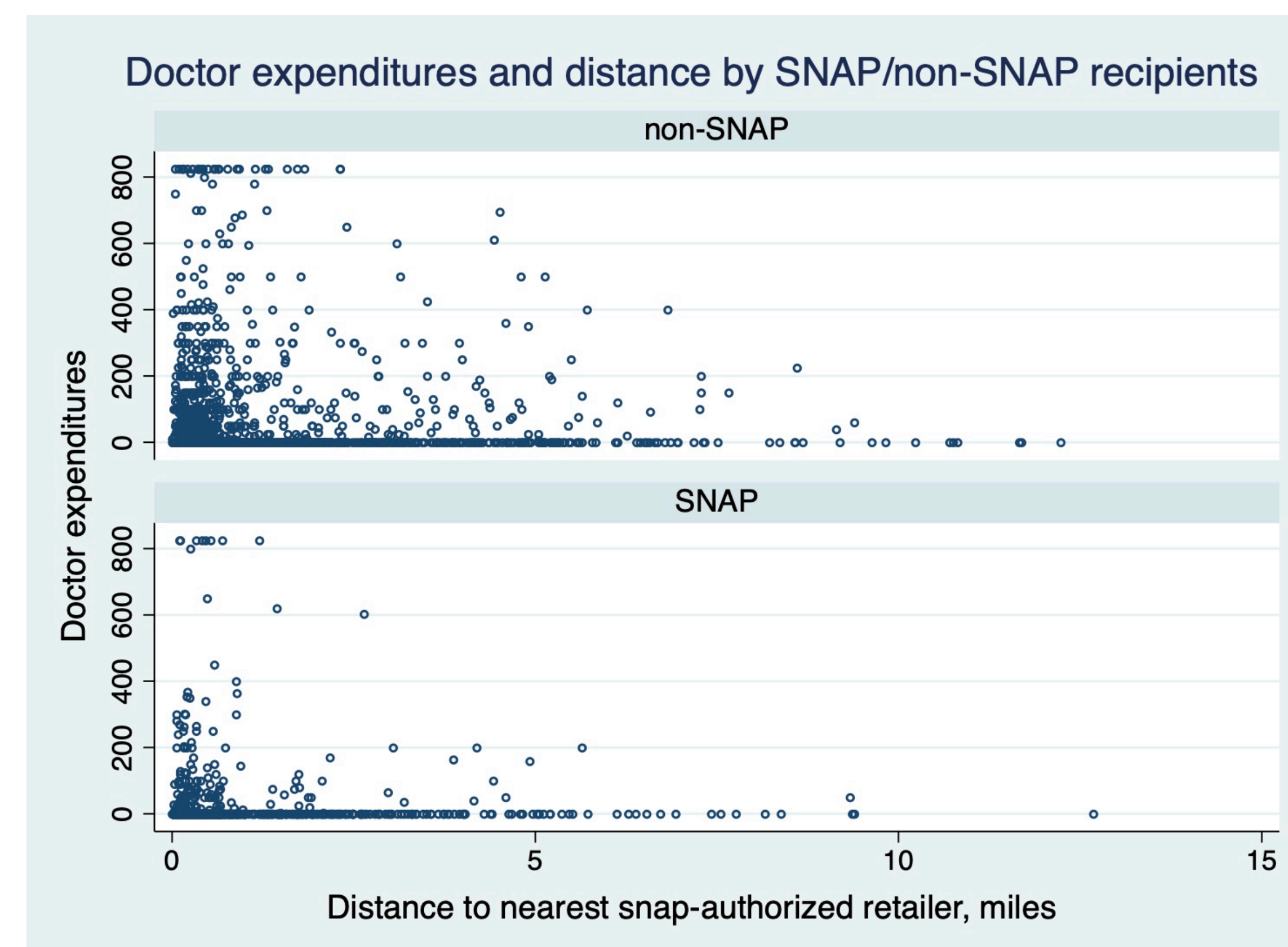


Data and Initial Results

- Most researchers, policymakers, and private corporations have used national survey data or single retailer proprietary scanner data

Data

The public-use version of the National Household Food Acquisition and Purchase Survey (FoodAPS)



Model

$$doctorexpenditures = a_0 + a_1 healthyeating + a_2 storetype + a_3 distance + a_4 vehicle + a_5 householdsize + a_6 householdincome + a_7 housingown + a_8 snap + a_9 rural + u$$

Results

- Owning a vehicle and a home can significantly increase health expenditures
- Having a SNAP recipient in the household decreases health-related costs
- The distance to the primary store is not statistically significant; it has a positive sign and is of minimal magnitude
- Shopping from a medium size grocery store reduces health-related costs when compared with superstore

Conclusion and Future Steps

My results agree with previous findings of the researchers who utilized the FoodAPS dataset and did not find an association between proximity to retailers with important outcomes (Bowen et al., 2016; Downing and Laraia, 2016; Wilde et al., 2014; Wilde et al., 2017; Ver Ploeg and Wilde, 2017)

Future Data Needs

- Household-level purchasing data (scanner data) at the day, store, and Universal Product Code (UPC) levels
- Information for packaged food and random-weight fresh food
- Access to more household characteristics
- Multiple grocery store locations and food away from home data
- Significant presence in midsize and small rural communities and ethnically diverse regions of the country (Native Americans, Latinos, etc.).
- 2019-present

Next Steps

- Analyze the retailer's distance effect on nutrition outcomes and hunger in midsize and rural US regions
- Estimate the changes in consumers' food purchases caused by the three economic impact payments issued by IRS during the coronavirus pandemic

How Americans Spent Stimulus Checks

First Round of Stimulus Checks

