Oasis in a Food Desert

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Background

- Food desert: “a low-income census tract where a substantial number of residents has low access to a supermarket or large grocery store”²
- Low-access area in an urban setting: individuals live more than one mile from a supermarket²
- 8.77% of Worcester population is classified as low-access to markets¹,³
- 1.64% of Worcester population is classified as low-access and low-income¹,³

Problem

- 15,000 individuals in Worcester have low-access to markets¹
- 1,500 of those individuals do not own an automobile¹
- People living in food deserts have trouble accessing supermarkets
- Goal:
  - Improve access to nutritional foods
  - Provide opportunity to cook fresh, healthy meals at a community kitchen

Evaluation Methods

- Track revenue: grocery stores, transportation agencies
- Survey participants: transportation assistance, educational value of program, use of community kitchen

Conclusions/Recommendations

- Reasons for food deserts: low access to food markets, low income levels
- Solution: pre-paid transportation to food markets, implementation of a community kitchen, volunteer-run classes

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References


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