Feeding the City: Food Access and Grocery Stores

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Feeding the Gem City: the Food Desert of Dayton, Ohio
Tiffany Hendricks
Dr. Danielle Rhubart, SOC339—Social Inequality

Causes of Dayton’s Food Desert

- Population loss
- Concentrated Poverty
- Expansion of highway systems and differentiated access to personal vehicles

Conditions: Surviving in the Food Desert

- Decrease in grocery stores, increase in convenience stores
- Increase in access to unhealthful foods, decrease in quantity of healthful foods
- Access to transport dictates access to healthful foods

Effects of the Desert

- Psychosocial cognitions
- Aggregate health effects
  - Malnutrition
- Business motives take priority over citizen health

Combative Efforts: Fighting in the Desert

- The Urban Renewal Farm (TURF)
- Mission of Mary Farm
- Gem City Market Project
- Recommendations for government subsidized grocery stores & food co-operatives

Sociological Framework & Theory

- Conflict Theory
  - Inequalities in distributions create tensions between classes
- Food Desert vs. Food Insecurity
  - May be available in area but inaccessible to members of the community

"If [convenience stores] do ever have produce it isn’t very fresh. It’s old. So people who need food can have a hard time getting it.”
-Jamesetta Lewis, “My Life in Dayton”

"Food accessibility is an issue...we need a full-time market where you can get fruits & vegetables, one where you can feel safe.”
-Dorothy Woods, “The Ties that Bind”

resources:

maps: