

# Agricultural Outlook Forum Data Visualization: Food Access Research Atlas

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# Background

- Limited access to retailers selling healthy and affordable food may make it harder for some people in the U.S. to achieve food security and a healthy diet.
- Distance, lack of transportation and limited resources could impact:
  - The choice set of stores at which to shop for food.
  - The time and monetary costs of travel to shop.
  - The frequency of shopping.
- Each of these could reduce food security and diet quality.





# Food Access Research Atlas



# What can users do with the Atlas?

- Presents a spatial overview of food access indicators at census tract level.
  - View indicators of food access for selected subpopulations (such as age, race/ethnicity, and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) participation); and
- Provides maps and data on food access indicators for populations that can be viewed, downloaded or printed.
- Compare food access measures based on 2019 data with the previous 2015 measures;
- Download census-tract-level data on food access measures.

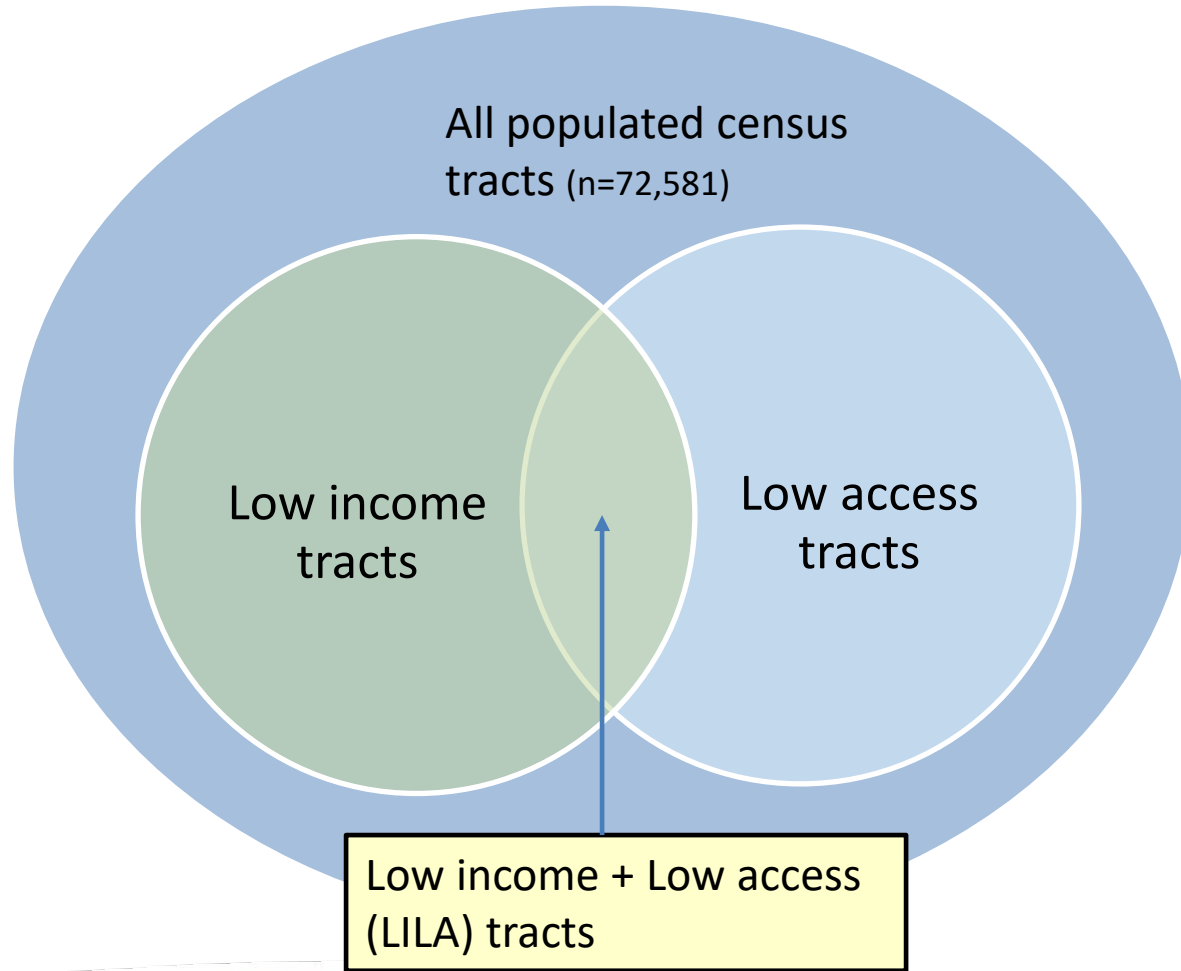


# How has the FARA been used?

- Used by Federal, State and local governments, community planners, researchers, media, and the general public to understand food store access in communities and the consequences of poor access. Some examples are:
  - Researching how food access influences food-related outcomes, diet, and health
  - Exploring the store environment
  - Exploring racial equity in food access



# FARA's Census Tract Measures of Foodstore Access



## Census tract count by LILA measurements, 2019

LILA 1 and 20 miles	8,140
LILA 1 and 10 miles	9,293
LILA vehicle access and 20 miles	10,126
LILA 0.5 and 10 miles	20,247
Low-income	30,287

Source: USDA, Economic Research Service, Food Access Research Atlas.







# Tutorial



**Economic Research Service**  
*www.ers.usda.gov*





# Food Environment Atlas





# Food Environment Atlas (FEA)

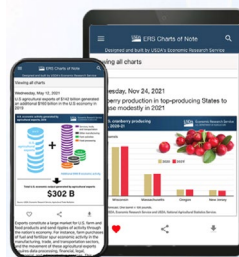
- Assembles statistics on food environment indicators to stimulate research on the determinants of food choices and diet quality.



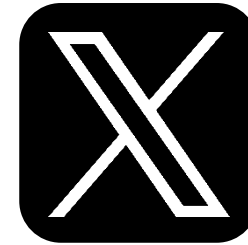
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