# Mapping Health and Food Access Inequalities in Black Neighborhoods of Charlotte

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA CHARLOTTE

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B.A. Anthropology | Urban Youth and Communities Senior - University of North Carolina at Charlotte Research Question: How does food access affect the health outcomes of Black communities in Charlotte?

# Introduction

Urban segregation by race and economics has resulted in many of Charlotte's lower-income, predominantly Black communities having sparse access to essential healthcare and food services. They face a compounding mix of barriers, including their proximity to fresh, preparable produce, inadequate and disproportionate sidewalk infrastructure, and reduced proximities to health services, which enhance the prevalence of chronic ailments like diabetes and obesity. This study applies geographic information systems to spatially analyze these inequities in Charlotte, with particular focus on Black neighborhoods. Through comparisons of mapped food access, health data, levels of income, and infrastructure, this study aims to highlight the structural origins of these disparities and create a data-driven basis for more equal public health and urban planning in the future.

# Methodology

Utilized ArcGIS Pro to generate maps visualizing:

- Black populations and their relation to grocery density
- Obesity & Diabetes prevalence
- Black populations and their proximity to health services
- sidewalk availability

Utilized ArcGIS to generate spatially linked charts highlighting:

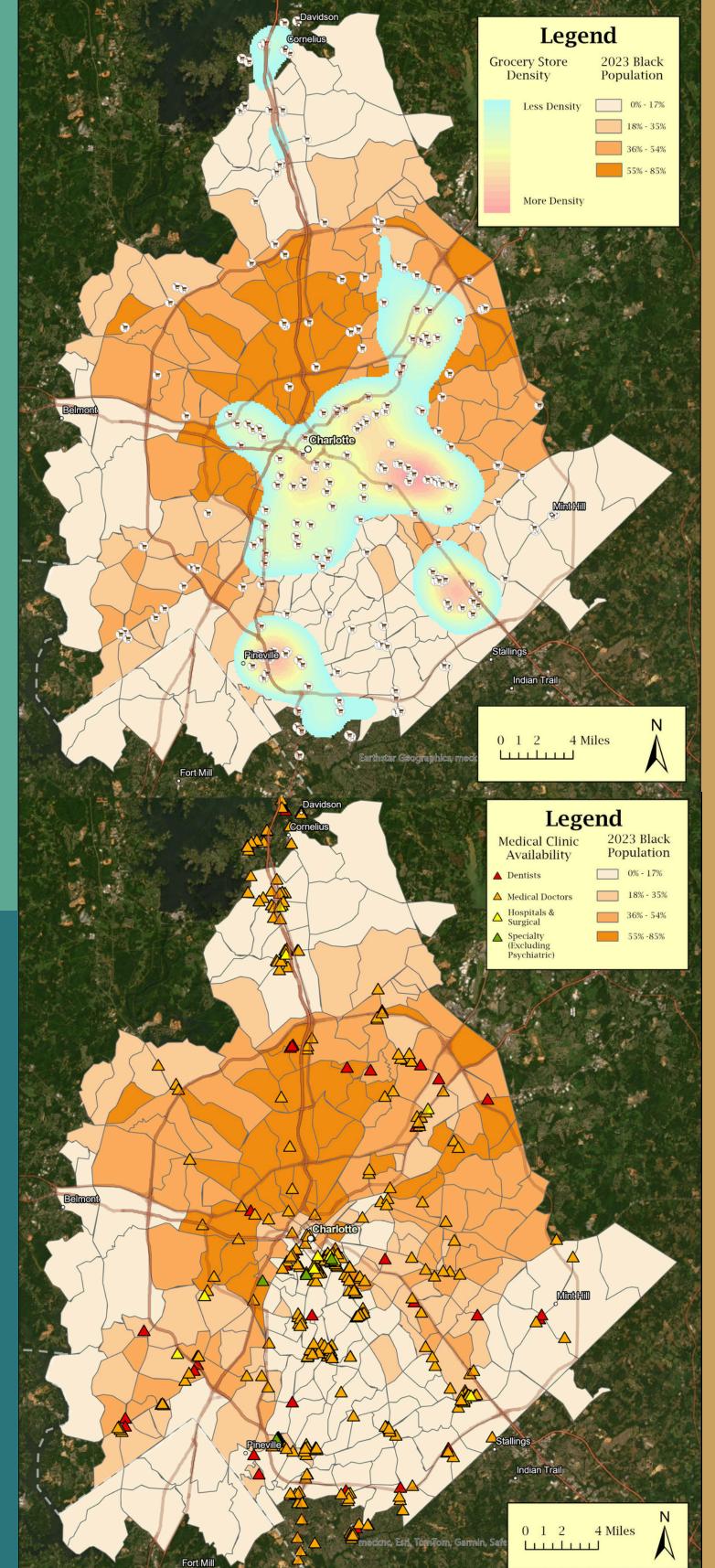
- Median Household Income
- Proximity to grocers by NPA

NPA: Neighborhood Profile Areas
(Based on Census Data)

# Results/Findings

Maps reveal significant overlap between predominantly Black Neighborhoods and:

- Low proximity to grocery stores providing preparable produce and health services
- Higher rates of Obesity and Diabetes
- Disproportional sidewalk/ walkability infrastructure
- In over 160 NPAs, fewer than 10% of residents live within a ½ mile of a grocery store.
- The largest number of households have incomes concentrated in the \$25k-\$75k range



# For the Future of Charlotte

Charlotte is expected to grow by 50% by 2050, raising concerns about low-income housing, nutrition and health. In the future this study, once expanded, could be used in:

POLICY PLANNING

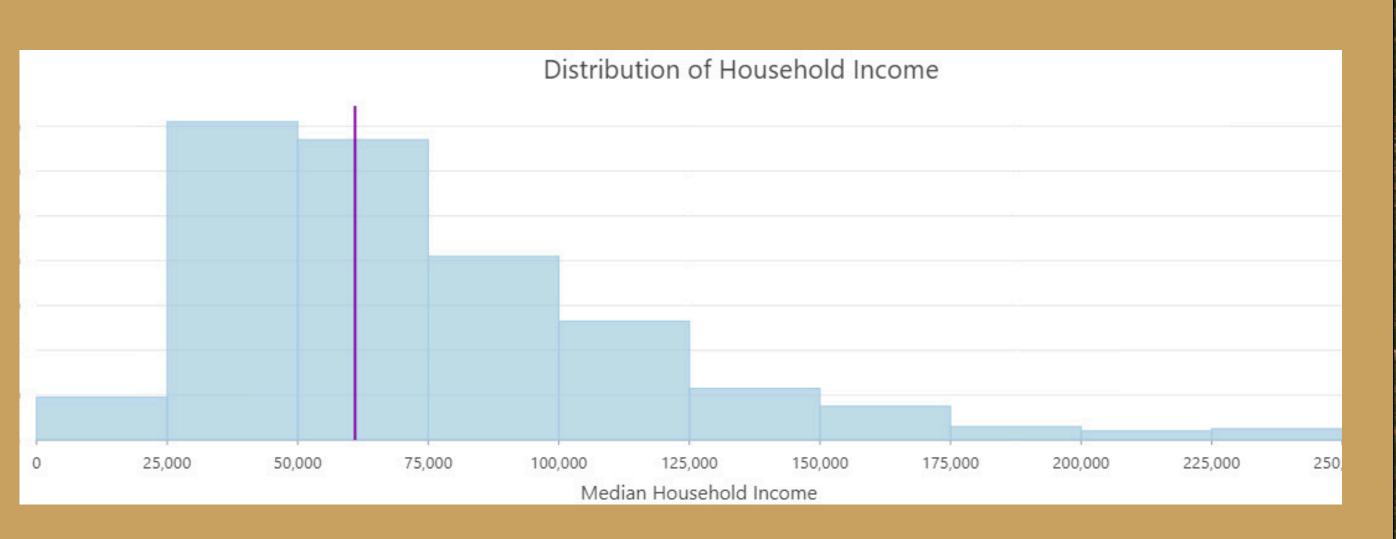
- Target high-need zones for grocery store incentives, community health clinics, and walkability projects.
- Use GIS data to inform racial equity-focused urban development.

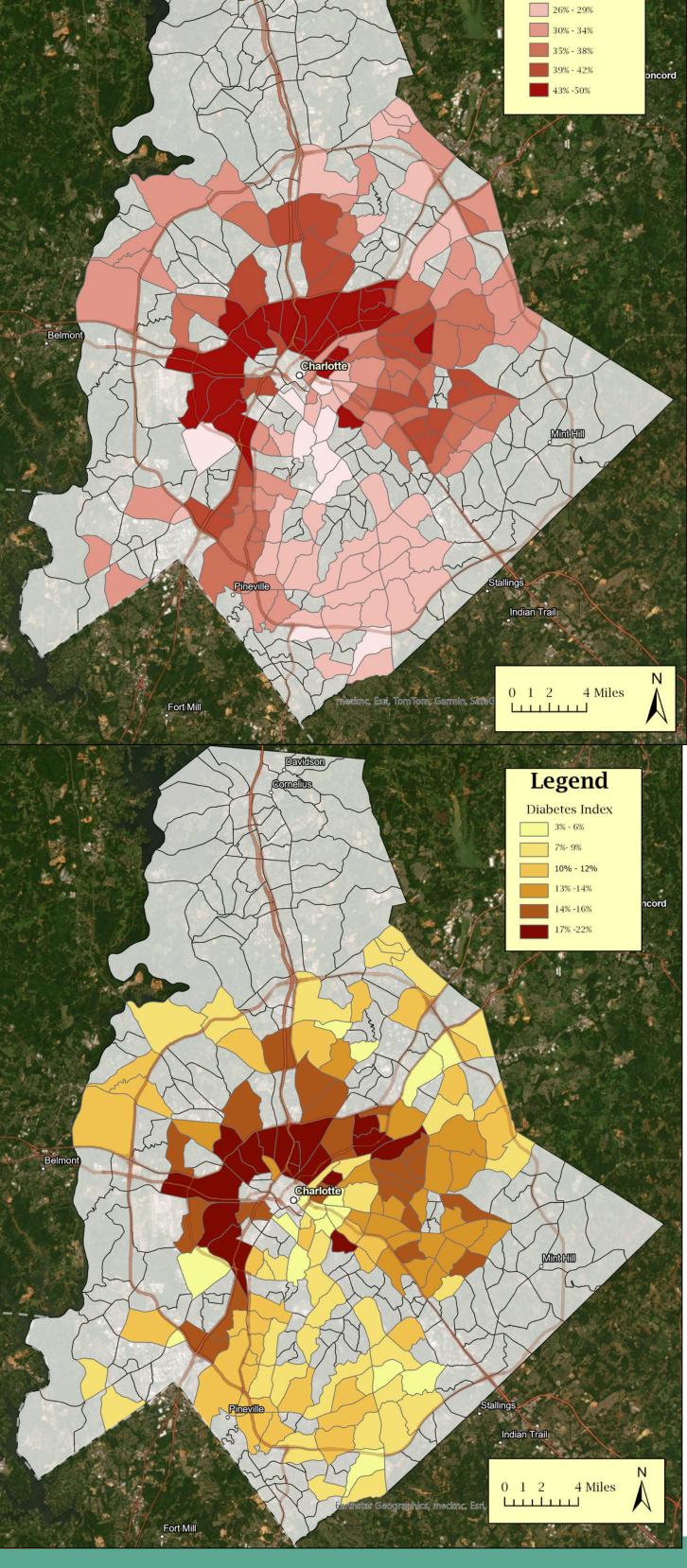
## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

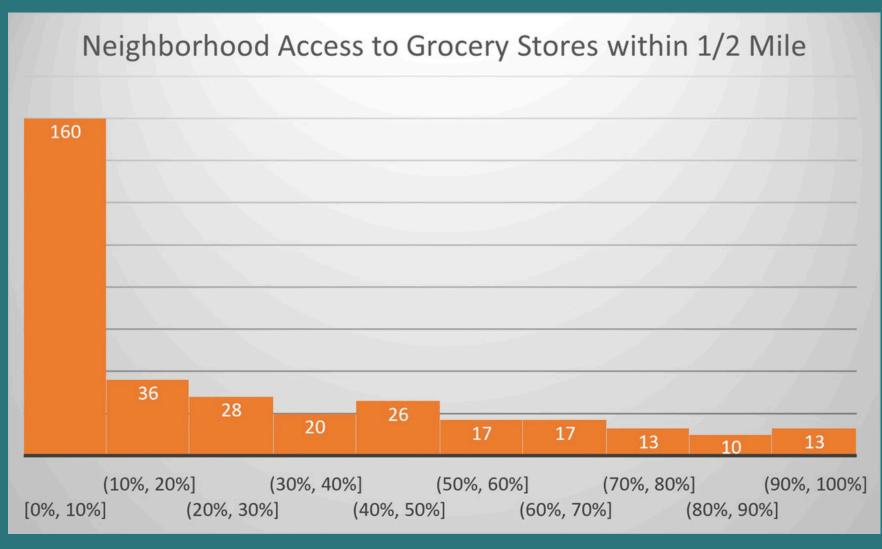
 Include resident voices in planning processes to ensure culturally competent solutions like community gardens and volunteer healthcare clinics or programs

## RESEARCH

- Longitudinal tracking of health outcomes postintervention.
- Combine with qualitative interviews to humanize spatial data.

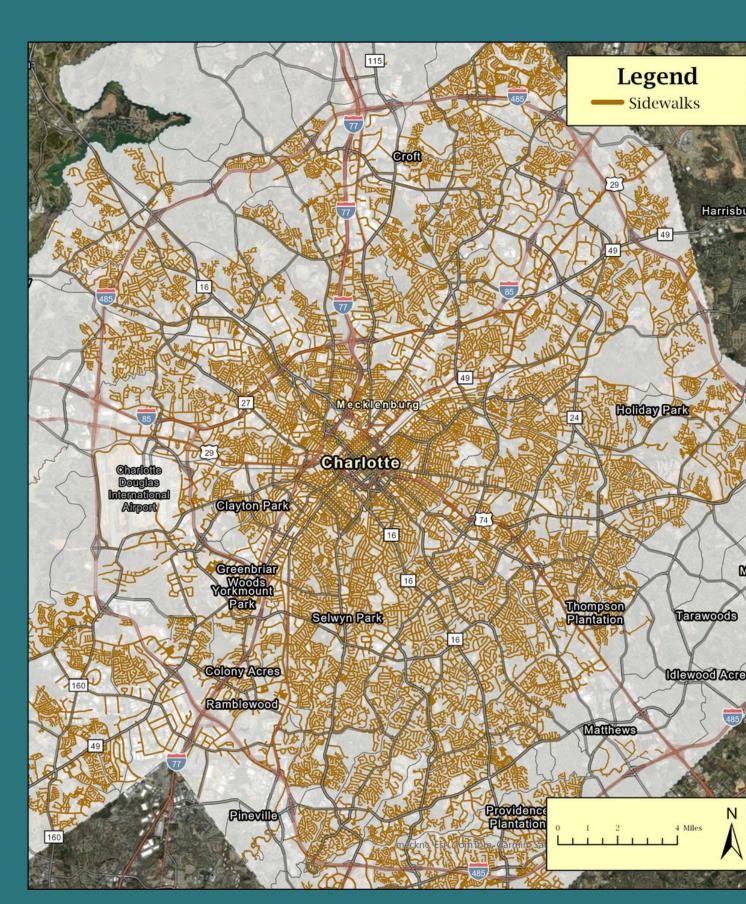






### Acknowledgements

Thank you to Penn State University for hosting the ARISE program and to Dr. Laura Weyrich for directing such an inspiring and impactful experience. I'm especially grateful to all the research talk speakers, as well as Dr. Jacob Holland-Lulewicz and Matthew Keenan for their guidance in the GIS module. A big thank you also to the amazing graduate students who kept the program engaging and running smoothly throughout.



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Diabetes and Obesity:

https://services6.arcgis.com/tuxY7TQIaDhLWARO/arcgis/rest/services/Charlotte\_NC/FeatureServer/10

https://services6.arcgis.com/tuxy/1QlaDhLWARO/arcgis/rest/services/Charlotte\_NC/FeatureServer/10
Charlotte, NC 2023 Black Population (pct) by Census Tracts:
https://pennstate.maps.arcgis.com/home/webmap/viewer.html?layers=ade8b76993f34379bec56d50c8d61e29&useExisti
Grocery Store locations: City of Charlotte Open Data Portal:
https://data.charlottenc.gov/datasets/charlotte::grocery-stores-view-of-points-1/explore?location=35.262811%2C-80.820

https://data.charlottenc.gov/datasets/charlotte::medical-facilities-points-2/about Income: https://services6.arcgis.com/tuxY7TQlaDhLWARO/arcgis/rest/services/Charlotte\_NC\_Income\_WFL1/FeatureServices/Ch