



**Illinois Prevention
Research Center**

Nutrition and Obesity Policy Research and Evaluation Network

Evaluation of the Healthy Food Financing Initiative on the Local Retail Food Environment

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Project Goals

- **Assess the impact of a new HFFI-supported full-service supermarket on the retail food environment in two predominantly African American low-income Chicago area communities.**
 - **Examine differences in availability, prices, and in-store and exterior marketing of healthy and less healthy foods and beverages and other store characteristics of surrounding food retail venues before and after introduction of HFFI-supported supermarket.**
 - **Test whether impacts on the retail food environment are moderated by the distance to the new supermarket.**
 - **Monitor short- and long-run availability, prices, and in-store and exterior marketing of healthy and less healthy foods and beverages and other store characteristics of the HFFI-supported supermarket.**



Strategies

- **Use a quasi-experimental design with the introduction of three new full-service supermarkets in two low-income, predominantly black, underserved neighborhoods.**
- **Use three matched control neighborhoods.**
- **Include pre- and post-intervention observations.**
- **Through direct observation, using an audit tool adapted from BTG-COMP, assess food and beverage availability, price, and promotion in community food stores (within 1 and 2 mile buffers around HFFI-supported store).**



Progress to Date

- Adapted data collection instrument from BTG-COMP. Adapted for stores in predominantly African American communities and incorporated additional in-store marketing measures.
- Developed training protocol for adapted audit tool.
- Matched control sites on demographic and socioeconomic characteristics of intervention sites, including mapping of existing food retail.
- Participated at the annual NOPREN Network meeting in Baltimore, February 2015.
- Planning reliability testing – June 2015.
- Working with community partners to monitor store openings of intervention sites.



HFFI Intervention Sites


- **Save a Lot, Rockford, IL, Summer 2015**
- **Farm Fresh Market, Harvey, IL, Fall 2015**
- **Whole Foods, Englewood, Chicago, IL, Summer 2016**



Matched Intervention-Control Sites: Example of Englewood

Figure 1: Comparison and locations of intervention and control neighborhoods

	Englewood	N. Lawndale – Garfield Park
Demographics		
Black (%)	97.1	95.7
Below Poverty (%)	48.1	45.8
Median HH Income (\$1,000)	20.4	23.3
Less than HS education (%)	28.5	25.7
No Car Access (%)	49.4	41.6
Violent Crime (per 100,000)	3582	3350
Mortality Rates (per 100,000)		
Colorectal Cancer	27.2	26.8
Diabetes	101.8	99.2
Coronary Heart Disease	182.7	183.3



Legend

- Englewood
- North Lawndale - Garfield Park
- 2 Mile Buffer
- Chicago Communities

Ongoing/Upcoming Activities

- **Train field workers**
- **Undertake reliability testing**
- **Refine food store audit instrument**
- **Refine training protocol**
- **Re-train field workers**
- **Monitor store openings of intervention sites**
- **Collect baseline data**



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