

The Impact of COVID-19 on Food Insecurity in NY

Context

Minority groups are *disproportionately* affected by certain social factors including *low food access*; therefore, often finding themselves living in *food swamps* and *food deserts*. Given the COVID-19 pandemic led to a drastic change in everyday activities, we wanted to explore how it affected those in communities of *low food access*.



Household Pulse Survey
Health and food insecurity info per state.



Emergency Food Assistance Program
Data on number of individuals and meals served in soup kitchens and pantries throughout NY since 2011.



Lottery Aid to Education
List of aid allotment to NY school districts since 2003



Snap Caseload and Expenditures
Monthly listings of households, recipients and expenditures for SNAP in NY



NY's All Items
NY table of Consumer Price Index (CPI) monthly change since 2002

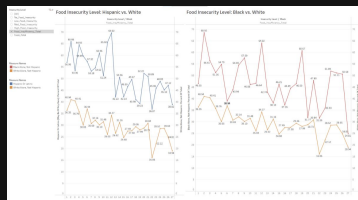
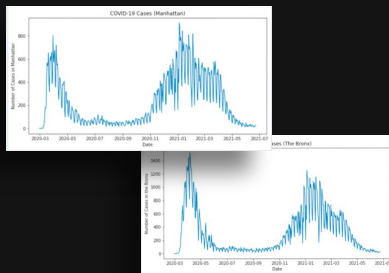


Food insecurity negatively affects health and education. We found a correlation between COVID-19's start date, unemployment rates, food kitchens, & consumer price index.

	2019	2020	2021
Food insecurity	10.1%	11.2%	12.3%
Unemployment rate	4.7%	8.1%	6.2%
Consumer Price Index	100	101.5	103.2
Food kitchens	150	160	170

Correlative graph indicating negative trend for food insecurity metric and graduation rate, household income; positive trend for food insecurity and poor health and lunch aid.

Rise in COVID-19 cases in The Bronx and Manhattan that span the same time as our health and education metric analysis. Indicating a connection between the rise in cases and increased food insecurity levels



Strong indication of racial group disparity between white vs black/hispanic. Showcasing food insecure group consists more of 'minority groups.'



Analysis

Based on the most recent data compared to pre-pandemic years, the Consumer Price Index (CPI), Soup Kitchens data, Unemployment Rates, and more have deviated from past trends. While some counties were more affected than others, most counties experienced enough change to show they were impacted by COVID-19. Together with the increase of food insecure people — minorities being the highest — and the fact that low food access has a negative impact on health and education, there is enough evidence to support that COVID-19 exacerbated food insecurity in NY.



Limitations

Due to the Pandemic the data may not be a true representation of the NY population. The spread of COVID-19 posed a challenge for accurate data collection as the number of people and businesses that responded was limited. Therefore our analysis may underestimate how much COVID-19 is truly affecting people living in food insecurity.



Next Steps

Even though it may seem society is slowly returning back to normal, the pandemic is still far from over with the spread of new covid variants. It is unknown for how long the pandemic's effects will last, but it is clear the population, especially minorities, is being affected and will continue to be even after the pandemic is completely over. It is essential these communities receive support during these times of crisis; our data can be used by NGOs, government representatives and the general public as a resource to educate and bring change. Further