

Changing Inner-city Food Environments: From food desert/swamp to Good Food Junction Co-operative and beyond

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The Good Food Junction

- The Good Food Junction (GFJ) – a large scale, full service cooperative grocery store opened in Sept 2012
- Located in the core neighborhoods of Saskatoon previously identified as a food desert/swamp
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YsEnxbgK3f4>



PLIES
GS

3

The Good Food Junction Co-op

LAUNDRY SUPPLIES
CLEANING SUPPLIES
FOILS/WRAPPS
HEALTH & BEAUTY NEEDS
PAPER PRODUCTS
PET FOOD

2

The Good Food Junction Co-op
ETHICAL FOOD
PASTA
SOUP
DIPS
JERKY
SOFT DRINKS



Meat

GRAPE TOMATOES \$2.99 ea

LONG ENGLISH TOMATOES \$2.99 ea

WATERMELONS \$3.99 ea

COOKING ONIONS \$1.99 / 3 lb bag

RED, WHITE & YELLOW ONIONS

GARLIC

RED ONIONS Locally Grown \$1.49 / lb \$2.28 / kg 4082

Pineapples \$2.99 ea
Watermelons \$3.99 ea

Garlic \$2.99 / lb \$6.59 / kg



Social Enterprises
Knowledgeable Economies
and Sustainable Communities

Community Conversations about the Good Food Junction Co-operative

Emily Hurd

**A research report prepared for the Northern Ontario, Manitoba,
and Saskatchewan Regional Node of the Social Economy Suite**

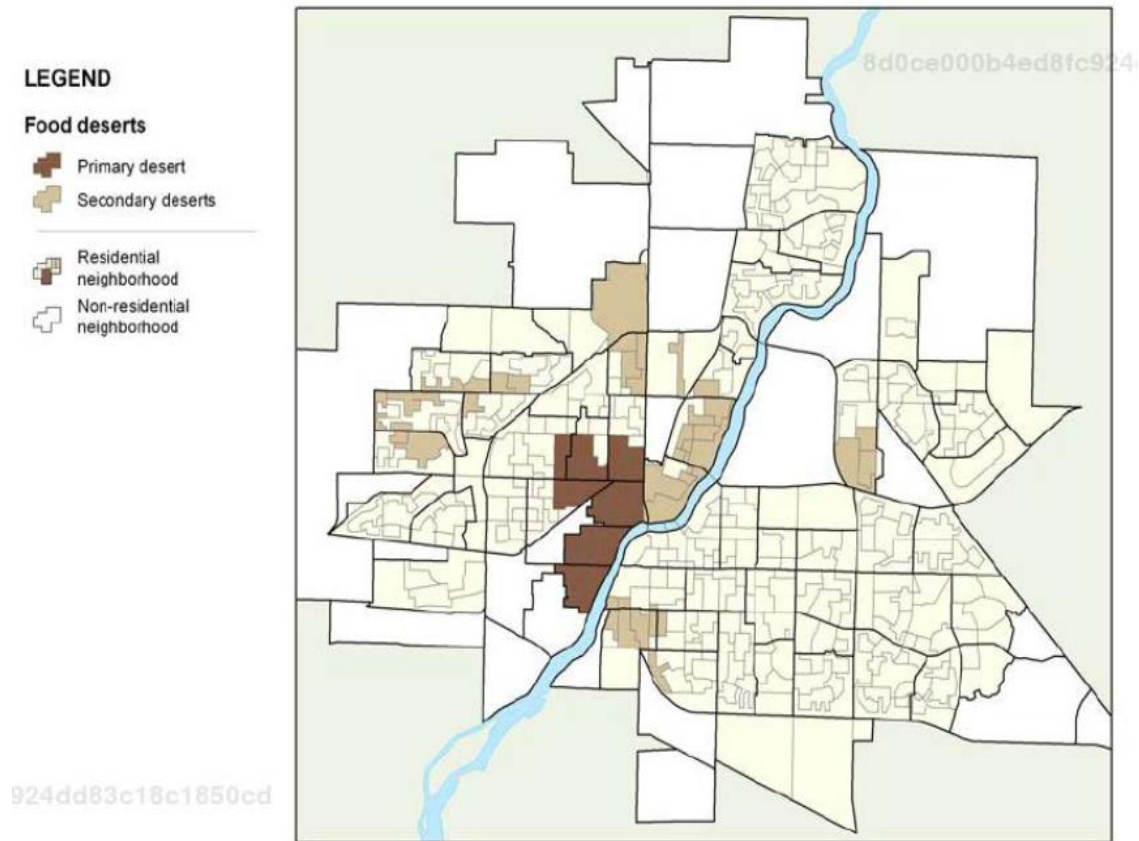
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Conseil de recherches en sciences humaines du Canada

Neighborhood area prior to GFJ opening

Figure 7: Food deserts in the city of Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, 2008

Largest food desert in Saskatoon; inner-city low-income neighbourhoods

These neighbourhood residents have a higher likelihood of poor health outcomes mainly due to socioeconomic disadvantage



Research objective

Examine the potential early impact of the Good Food Junction on the food security, food intake, and health of the residents in surrounding neighbourhoods, and specifically on vulnerable populations including Aboriginal people, seniors and new immigrants.

Data sources

- 1) Door-to-door food access and demographics survey within 750m road network distance of GFJ
- 2) Examination of sales data
- 3) 12-months (3X) longitudinal study of self-reported health, household food security, food intake and demographics of Good Food Junction shoppers

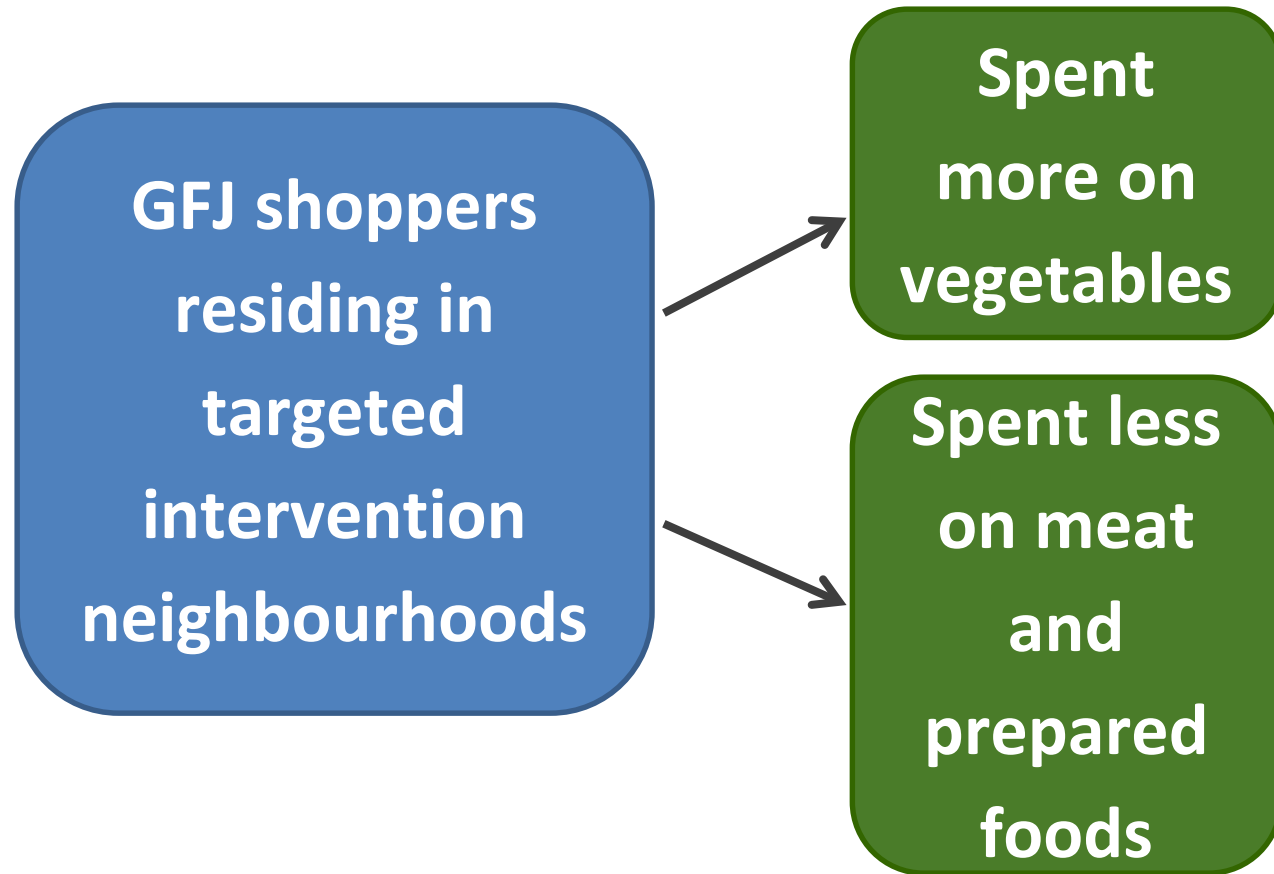
Awareness and use (door-to-door survey)

- 32% of all households participated in the study (365 of 1141)
- 95% of respondents were aware of GFJ's existence; 69% had shopped at GFJ at least once
- 8.2% of those surveyed chose GFJ as their primary grocery store
- Users of GFJ had a significantly lower annual household income and were more likely to use community-based food programs/services in comparison to non-users.

Who shops at GFJ?

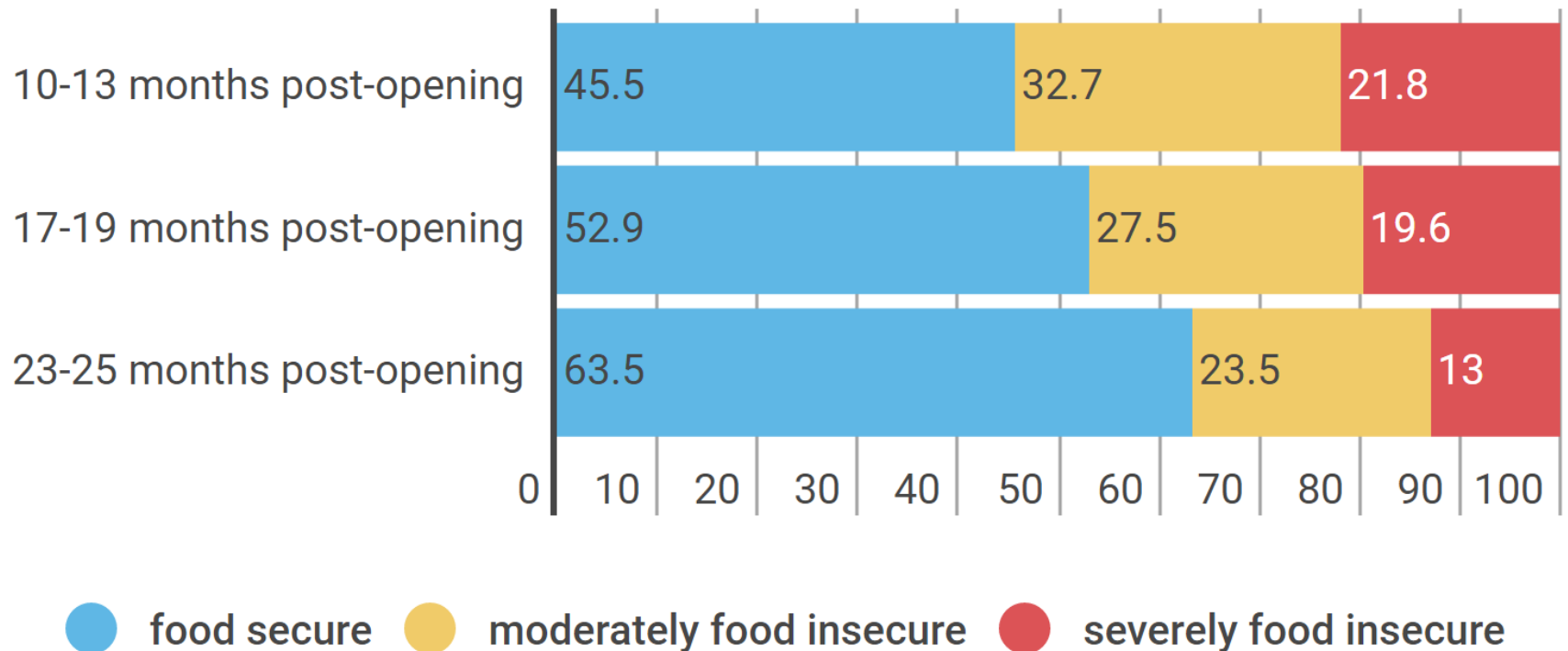
- significant proportion identified as Aboriginal.
- majority of households using GFJ have a household income of less than \$20,000 per year.
- significant proportion of GFJ users also used at least one food-based program

What do shoppers buy at GFJ? (Sales Data)



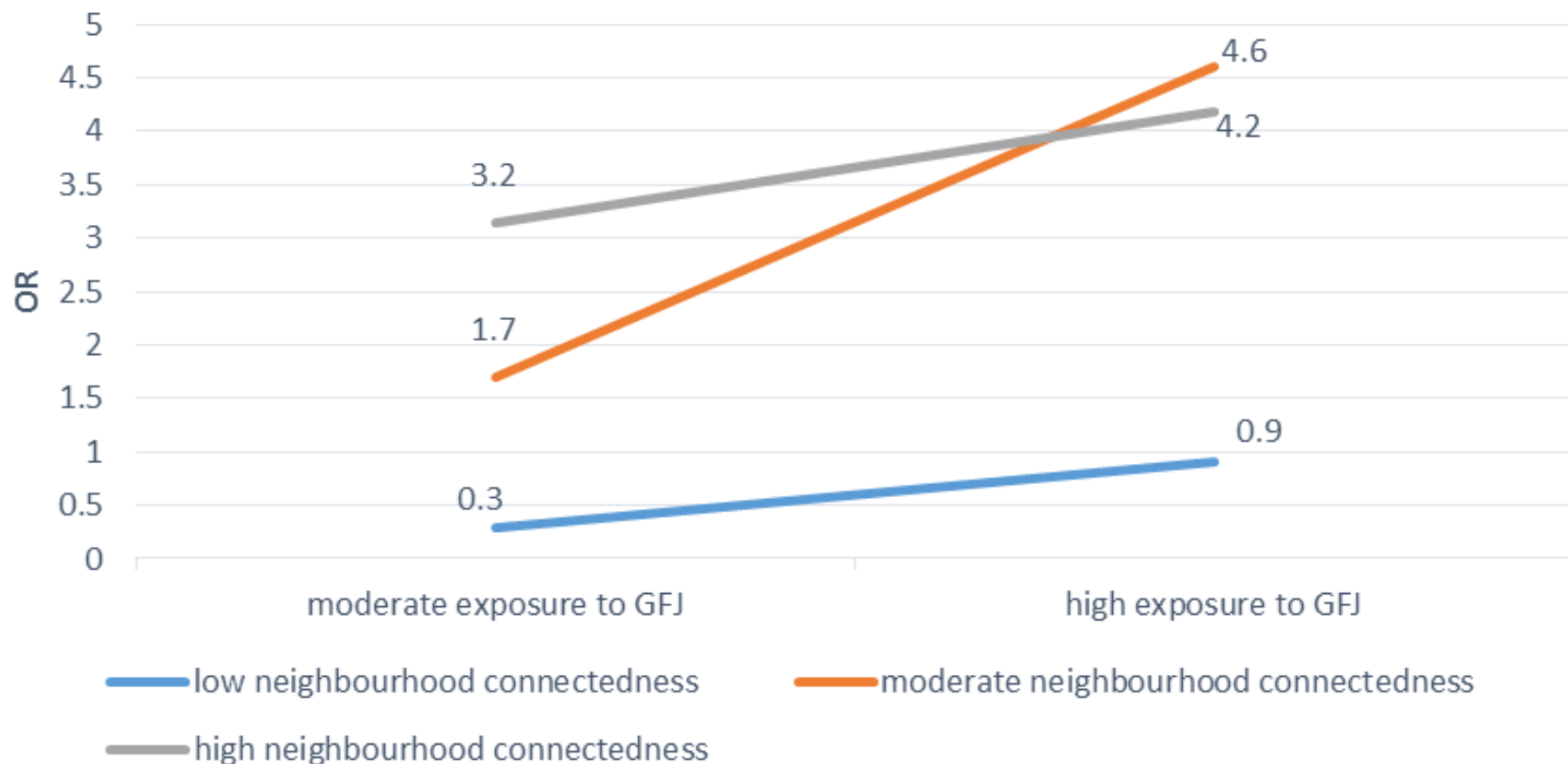
Early impact of GFJ amongst shoppers

Household food security status (%) of GFJ shoppers



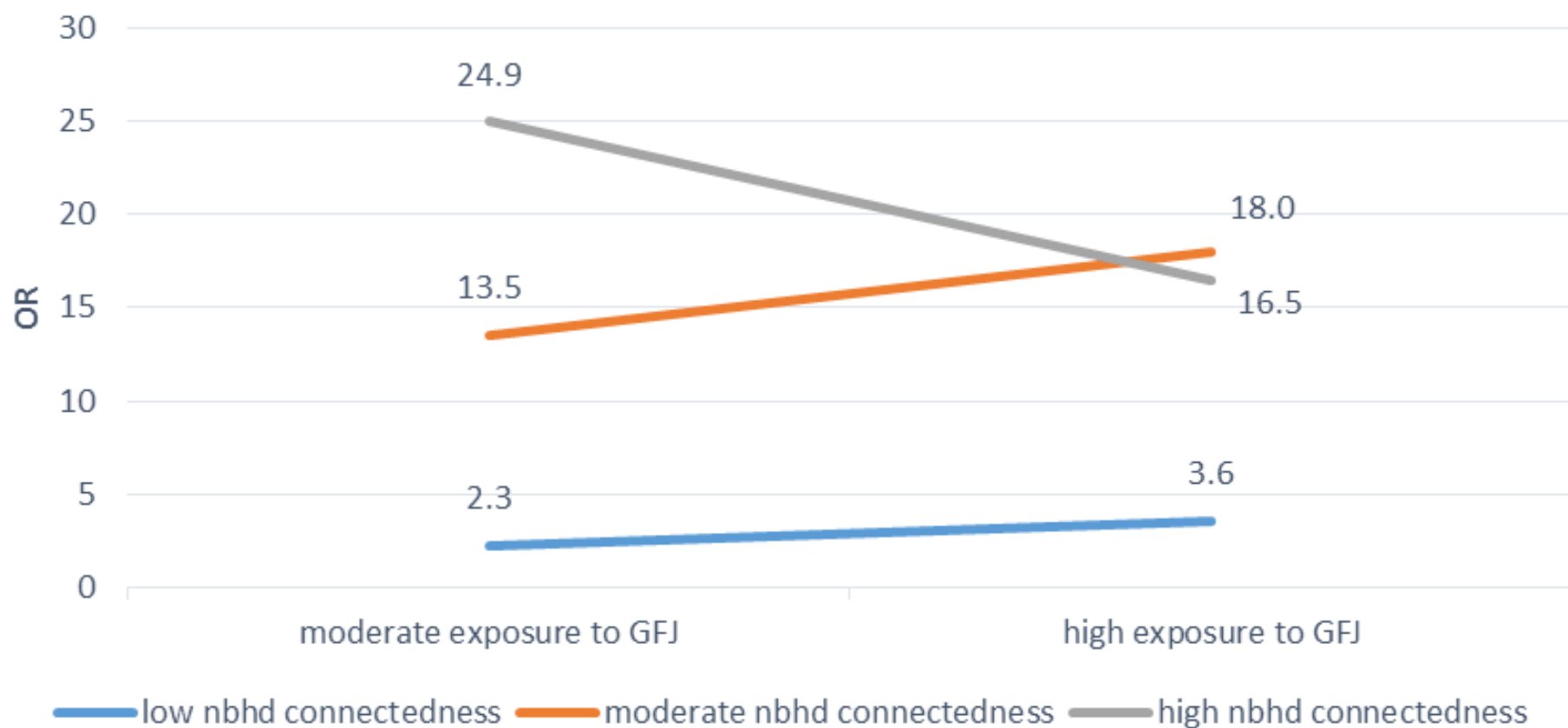
Modeling food security status over time (2 years post GFJ opening)

Household food security among less than high school educated participants



Modeling food security status over time (2 years post GFJ opening)

Household food security among high school and some post secondary educated participants



<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/saskatoon/good-food-junction-saskatoon-1.3404294>

<https://ca.news.yahoo.com/video/saskatoons-good-food-junction-calls-135623046.html>

Some final thoughts

- Why inner-city grocery stores fail need careful analysis. Are there causes common to all, or each case has singular causes?
- Deep and chronic poverty (and multiple disadvantages) in neighbourhoods where food retailers are located is a powerful impediment for intervention success.
- To transform inner-cities to food oasis, need a combination of market based and community based solutions.
- Community food services play a vital part in filling in the gaps, but they are often missing from analyses.

Original Paper

The Good Food Junction: a Community-Based Food Store Intervention to Address Nutritional Health Inequities

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Publications on topics covered (since 2014)

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2. Engler-Stringer R, Shah T, Muhajarine N, Bell S. (2014). *Geographic Access to Healthy and Unhealthy Food Sources for Children in Neighbourhoods and from Elementary Schools in a Mid-Sized Canadian City*. Journal of Spatial and Spatio-Temporal Epidemiology. Jul;11(October 2014):23-32.
3. Engler-Stringer, R. Muhajarine, N. Le, H. Del Canto, S. Ridalls, T. (2014) *Characterizing the Food Environment For Families with Children: Research Methods and Descriptive Results*. Saskatchewan Population Health and Evaluation Research Unit.
4. Del Canto, S. Engler-Stringer, R. Muhajarine, N. (2015) *Characterizing Saskatoon's food environment: A neighbourhood-level analysis of in-store fruit and vegetable access*. Canadian Journal of Urban Research, 24, 1, 62-77.
5. Wang, J. Engler-Stringer, R. Muhajarine, N. (2015) *Assessing the consumer food environment in restaurants by neighbourhood distress level across Saskatoon, Saskatchewan*. Canadian Journal of Dietetic Practice and Research.
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7. Fuller D, Engler-Stringer R, Muhajarine N. (2015) *Examining food purchasing patterns from sales data at a full-service grocery store intervention in a former food desert*. Preventive Medicine Reports 2;164-169.
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