Finding NYC Food Deserts

“If a parent wants to pack a piece of fruit in a child’s lunch...they shouldn’t have to take three city buses”

-Michelle Obama, 2011.

Finding Food Deserts with Geographic Data and Network Analysis

1. By using the location for NYC supermarkets and NYC roads we calculate ¼ mile walking distance areas around the supermarkets.
2. From the NYC Census Tracts we select tracts that have a poverty rate above 30%.
3. We then use our ¼ mile walking distance areas to see which tracts with high poverty are also more than a ¼ mile away from a supermarket. Those we call Food Deserts.