

# Mapping Food Access

February 2011

Where should we look first in considering neighborhood-based initiatives?

# Columbus Public Health Food Access Mapping Project

- Patterned from similar work in Chicago (2006) and Cuyahoga County (2008)
- Attempts to identify geographic areas of food “imbalance”

# Columbus Public Health Food Access Mapping Project

## Central Questions for Columbus:

- Are there areas of our community where it's harder to purchase fresh, nutritious food compared to less nutritious foods?
- Could knowing their locations help with more effective, coordinated interventions?

# Why is access to healthy foods important?

- Poor nutrition is related to poor health, including:
  - Heart Disease, Certain Cancers, Diabetes, Kidney Disease
  - Overweight and Obesity
  - High Blood Pressure
  - Pregnancy complications
  - Improper growth and development of children (from conception through teen years)

# Why is access to healthy foods limited?

Some communities (often low-income) face barriers:

- Some lack transportation to get to better food sources
- Dependence in some neighborhoods on small corner stores
  - Limited food choices
  - Poor quality
  - Higher prices

# Food Access Mapping: Project Principles

1. Community residents will generally use the types of food sources most readily available
2. Given this, community food “balance” important
3. Project considers food “balance” by comparing availability of area food markets (more desirable) with fast food locations (less desirable)
4. Food “balance” expressed as ratio score comparing: 1) distance to nearest full service food market with 2) distance to nearest fast food restaurant

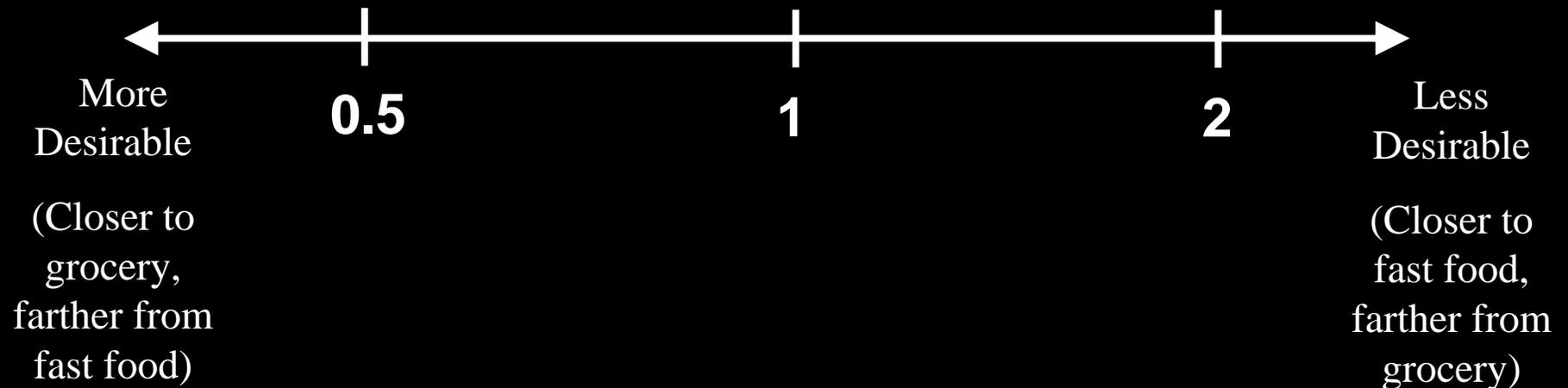
# Food Balance Scores

## Basic Example:

Grocery is 1 mile  
away and fast  
food is 2 miles  
away ( $1/2 = 0.5$ )

Grocery is 1 mile  
away and fast  
food is 1 mile  
away ( $1/1 = 1$ )

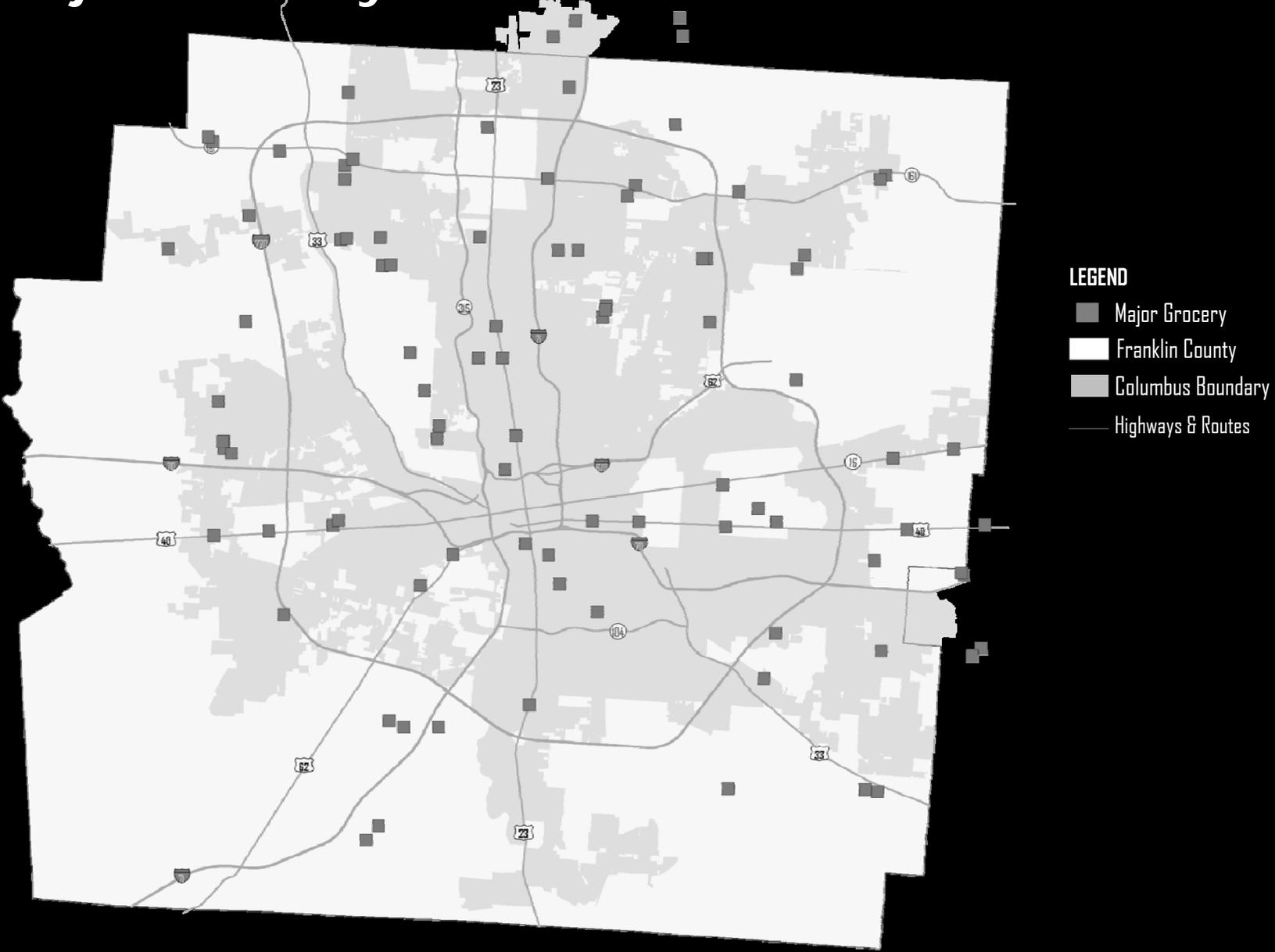
Grocery is 2 miles  
away and fast  
food is 1 mile  
away ( $2/1 = 2$ )



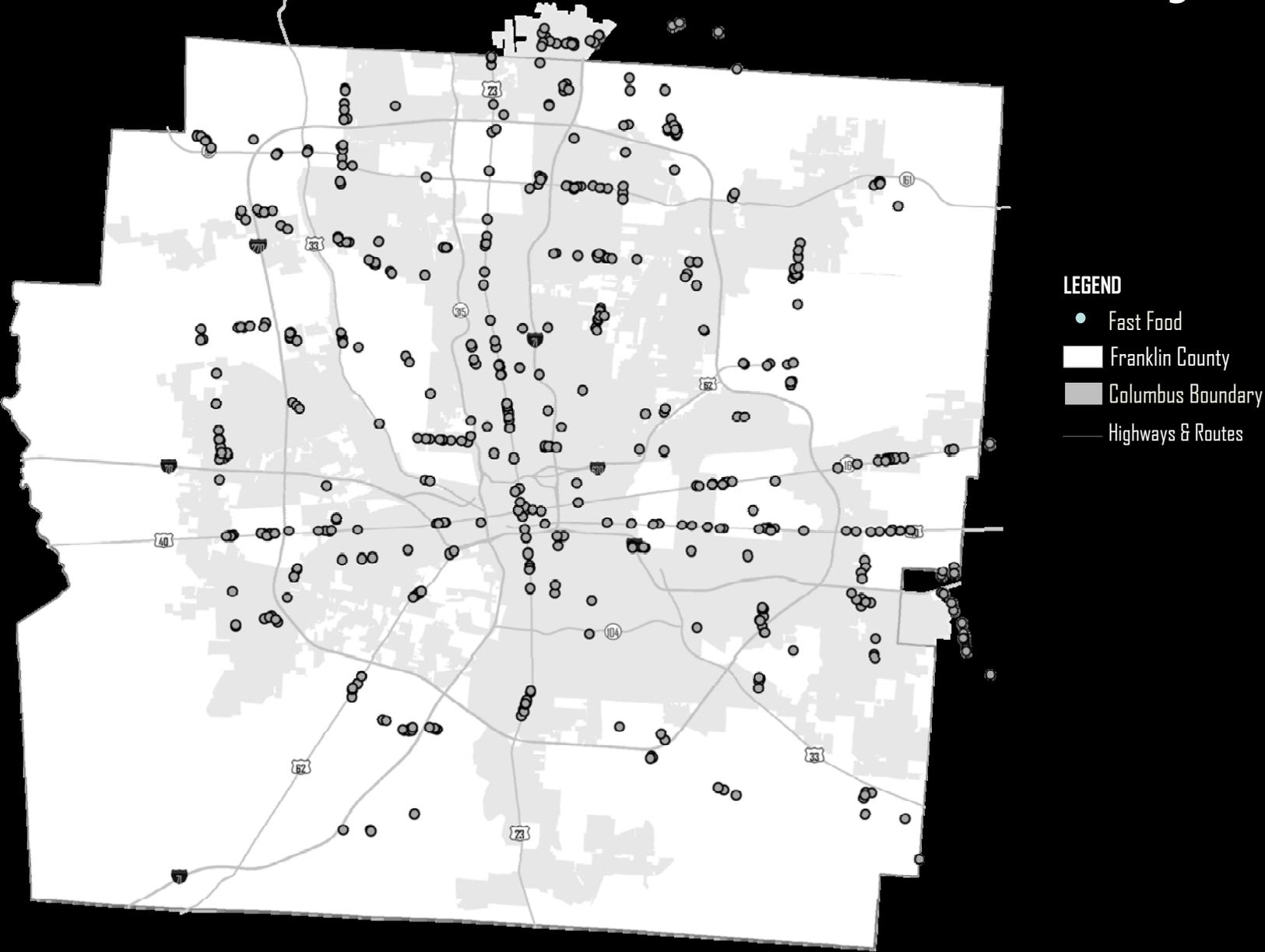
# Mapping the Data

- “Area Food Markets” = major grocery locations only
  - Predominantly national chains
  - Facilities > 25,000 square feet
- “Area Fast Food Locations” = recognizable national chains
  - Limited menus
  - Significant business via drive-through windows

# Major Grocery Locations – 92 in Franklin County



# Fast Food Locations – 588 in Franklin County



# How are locations compared?

- Analysis measures distance from center of individual census blocks to:
  - nearest full service grocery, and
  - nearest fast food restaurant
- Average Columbus census block score = 2.48
- Areas of greatest concern are neighborhoods where 50% of census blocks exceed this score

# Neighborhoods of greatest food "Imbalance"

\* Boundary designations from Columbus Department of Development

## LEGEND

-  Franklin County
-  Columbus Boundary
-  Neighborhoods where Census Blocks with Food Balance Scores Greater Than Columbus Average (2.48) Make Up >=50% of Area

1 Argyle Park	22 Shannon Heights
2 Brantzel	23 Shepard
3 Briklany Hills	24 South Linden
4 Central Hilltop	25 Springbourne
5 Christopher Woods	26 St. Mary's
6 Flint Road	27 Teakwood
7 Getaway	28 University
8 Glen Echo	29 Village at Forest Ridge
9 Highpoint-Glen	30 Wood Bridge Green
10 Hyde Park	31 Woodland Holt
11 Indiana Forest	32 Worthington Green
12 Madelon Mills	33 Worthington Highlands
13 Milo-Grogan	34 Riverplace
14 Necko	35 Golfview Woods
15 Northgate	36 Georgian Heights
16 Northwoods	37 Southwest Hilltop
17 Orlanagy High Bluffs	38 Olde Orchard
18 Ortol Heights	39 Westgate
19 Pocono	40 Gouvamours Square
20 Sanctuary	41 Eastmoor 2
21 Seven Oaks	42 Mount Vernon

# Identified Neighborhoods & Franklin County Zip Codes



# Summary

- Identified areas not food “deserts” – they have food sources
- Project simply identifies locations where accessing less nutritious food may be the easiest option
- Provides a starting point for considering all food sources available in a community, and options (if needed) to even the scale
  - Full-service groceries
  - Improving corner stores
  - Farmers Markets
  - Mobile produce vans
  - Community gardens
  - Community Supported Agriculture (CSA)

# For More Information.....

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