

Quality of Life and Food Deserts in Northern Rural Climates

Grocery stores are closing throughout rural America at a rapid rate, increasing the distance that rural residents must travel to reach the nearest grocery store. Research has shown that living in such a food desert negatively impacts quality of life. Using data from a 2009 survey taken in Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine, this research will use geospatial and econometric analyses to examine how the built environment and meal patterns impact quality of life in rural northern New England. This poster presentation will present previous research on rural food deserts, meal patterns, and quality of life indicators, and preliminary results from this study.