

Foodscape Summary

Increasingly, researchers are implicating food choices in health and well-being. Food selection is affected by food accessibility, availability, quality, price, variety, and advertising. All of these factors play out in the local landscape—what we call the *foodscape*--and can be explored through a combined geographic, public health, and nutrition perspective. The research involves mapping the location of grocery stores (as a potential source for healthy, affordable foods) and fast-food outlets (as a potential source of high-calorie, low nutrient value foods) in Edmonton. Accessibility to these two food service types is calculated for each neighbourhood and for high need populations to identify potentially underserved areas. Selected “food rich” or “food poor” locations in Edmonton will be surveyed to understand the nuances of food options in these contrasting areas. The research will contribute theoretical information about the spatial aspects of food purchases, as well as engage policy makers in providing options for improved access to healthy food services. Practical information for the public will also be made available through a website and a workshop for Edmonton residents.

Investigators and Collaborators

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