

Mapping access to food in a deprived area: the development of price and availability indices

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Abstract

Objective: To develop and map indices to illustrate variation in the cost and availability of healthy food.

Design: Two contiguous wards in London were selected by virtue of their high Carstairs deprivation scores. A 2-km area was defined around a randomly chosen central point. All retail outlets selling food within the area were visited and their location recorded. A list of foods, acceptable to the local ethnically diverse population, which met current dietary guidelines, was devised. Data on the availability and price of 71 food items were collected. Indices were developed using SPSS and mapped using Geographic Information System (GIS) software.

Results: Information on availability and prices were collected from 199 outlets. The mean price index shows how expensive a shop is relative to other shops in the area. The least cost index shows the relative expense of a shop using the cheapest ways of buying their range of foods. Shorthand indices were tested, using data on 19 of the 71 prices. Availability indices are also discussed, including a green availability index and a fresh green availability index. Illustrative maps of the shop locations and the mean price index and fresh green availability index are shown.

Conclusions: Data can be collected and indices developed which indicate geographic variation in shop 'expensiveness', and in the price and availability of healthy food. GIS software can be used to map these indices, to identify areas with high food prices or low availability.

Keywords
Mapping
Food
Price
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Access

*'We recommend policies which will increase the availability and accessibility of foodstuffs to supply an adequate and affordable diet ... We recommend the further development of policies which will ensure adequate retail provision of food to those who are disadvantaged'*¹.

One in four of the British population, 13.8 million people, live in households with incomes below the European poverty line of half the average incomes; 9.6 million are in households receiving income support (means tested social provision) and the rest live on low or insecure wages².

The National (Household) Food Survey published annually by the government³ consistently shows that nutrient intakes are less likely to be adequate in the lowest income groups compared to the highest. In addition the survey of nutritional status in British adults⁴ found that men and women who were unemployed, or in households claiming benefit or in social classes IV and V, had significantly lower intakes of many vitamins (especially vitamin C, carotene and vitamin E) and minerals (especially iron) than people not in these categories. Other studies show similar results^{5–7}.

Many foods which are integral to a healthy diet are perceived as a luxury by those with low incomes⁸ and are an expensive form of calories⁹; such foods include fruits, vegetables and fish. In addition many healthier alternatives carry a price premium, for instance wholemeal bread, monounsaturated oils and lean meat^{10–12}. The relative expense of healthy foods is just one of the food price issues currently on research agendas; another is the issue of price variability between shops. Food is generally more expensive in corner shops, convenience stores and independent small supermarkets than in large supermarkets or discounters – for basic groceries and for those food items recommended for a healthy diet^{13,14}. Piachaud and Webb found that, on average, basic foodstuffs cost 24% more in small stores than in supermarkets; taking supermarket own brands into account, the differences in costs were 60%. They calculated that a household on benefits would have to spend 25% more of their income on food if they could not get to a large supermarket or street market¹³.

The price of healthy food and the variation between prices is, therefore, of major concern for those living on

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low incomes. Many of the poorest in Britain are concentrated in local authority housing in inner cities and there is evidence to suggest a continuing geographical polarization of income inequalities¹⁵. In many of these areas, shops and banks have withdrawn, partly because the inhabitants spend little and partly because of the retail concentration in superstores (defined as having a total floor surface area of >7620 m²) designed primarily for car access^{16,17}.

This situation poses questions about physical and economic access to reasonable food for those on low incomes: (i) how do we define access?, (ii) how do we measure access? and (iii) how do we improve access? The need for a systematic method to measure access to food in the United Kingdom was highlighted by the Low Income Project Team of the Nutrition Task Force in 1996, with recommendations for the development of indices of price and availability¹⁶. The problem of access to healthy food at a reasonable price has also been acknowledged in recent government policy documents^{1,14}.

This paper reports ongoing research into defining and mapping access to healthy food, addressing those questions above. It describes the development of indices to show variation in the price and availability of healthy food at a local level. These indices can then be mapped, using GIS software, with local geographical and socio-economic information, to define and describe areas with varying levels of provision. It is not assumed that because there is provision there is sufficient access but rather that provision is one of the key factors which needs to be systematically defined and examined before access, be it economic or physical, can be measured. We suggest that the indices described could be mapped with local information on road networks, public transport routes, population figures and deprivation indices, to enable local health authorities, councils or retailers to identify and target areas where it appears that there may be less physical and/or economic access to shops that provide a range of healthy food at a reasonable price.

The research is based in a deprived area in London. A geographical perspective relating to physical access to food in a defined area is pertinent to the measurement of economic access, given the geographical concentration of people living on low incomes.

Further work, out of the scope of this paper, has used the indices described here to target places which appear to have poorer food access, and, using participatory appraisal techniques, has engaged the communities in these areas in further exploration of their local and personal food access.

Methods

Two contiguous wards in London were selected by virtue of their high positive Carstairs deprivation scores¹⁸ and in consultation with the local health authority and local

authority. A 2-km area was defined around a central point located between two housing estates in these wards. A full census of all retail outlets selling food (including newsagents, garage forecourts, etc.) within the area was conducted. The 2-km radius was selected on the basis that it included a wide range of outlets including a choice of superstores and an area with shops specializing in the sale of Asian foods. Subsequent participatory appraisal work confirmed the choice of area as reasonable.

Eighty-six per cent of the local population was made up of four ethnic groups¹⁹. At the 1991 census, 44% of the population could be classified as white UK/Irish, 25% black Caribbean, 9% African and 8% Indian. A datasheet for collecting information about food prices and availability was constructed so that foods acceptable to the four ethnic groups were included, with enough flexibility built in to price standard packet sizes and loose goods, in addition to the largest and smallest sizes available. The range of foods and quantities were chosen such that they would:

1. Contribute to a 'healthy diet'.
2. Reflect the preferences of the ethnic mix within the area.
3. Take into account different household sizes.
4. Take into account ethnic variations in shopping practices (e.g. in terms of the quantity of an item bought at any one time).
5. Be acceptable to the local population (i.e. in terms of taste preferences and normal eating patterns).
6. Reflect the fact that many people within the area are living on low incomes.

In constructing the list of foods to be included on the datasheet, we drew on previous research with regards to typical food patterns^{3,20-23}. This was supplemented by information collected in the local area on what local people from different ethnic groups typically bought. This research was relatively informal, conducted through discussions with local community groups (namely two tenant association groups who met to discuss issues relating to their 'block', the Asian Women's Group, two nurseries where mothers also attended, and a kindergarten) and through meetings with the local health worker and community dietician who had extensive local knowledge of the eating habits of the local residents. The groups were selected on the basis that they represented a range of different types of people living in the area. In addition opportunistic interviewing took place outside a small supermarket, and receipts were collected outside one of the main local superstores. Shoppers' self-defined ethnicity, current postcode, duration of residence in the country and family size were noted. From this published and local information four 'healthy' lists were derived which represented foods which would be seen as acceptable, given current eating and shopping habits, by the four local ethnic groups. The foods in the lists are not

all mutually exclusive and indeed some foods, not instantly recognizable as being from any of these cultures, were common to all (for instance canned plum tomatoes and pasta). Table 1 shows the foods which were chosen to represent a typical, though not prescriptive, range of foods which would be bought by the majority of a given ethnic group.

By default, collecting information on the prices of these foods provides information as to their physical availability within a shop; availability in this sense represents presence and not the ability of someone to afford the item. However, to put information on the availability of these items into context, the availability of a wider range of food items was also collected, to build up a fuller picture of (healthy) food availability. For instance, for each shop,

information was collected on the extent of the range available in key products: fresh, tinned, frozen fruits and vegetables; fresh and frozen fish and meat; breakfast cereals; and the availability of alternatives and 'non-healthy' products (e.g. full fat milk, sweets and chocolates, carbonated drinks).

For each shop the datasheet was used to collect information on: availability; the prices of a subset of healthy foods; address and postal code; subjective measures of the quality of fruits and vegetables and cleanliness of the shop; nearby bus stops; nearby shops; and opening hours.

The datasheet was piloted for 1 week in December 1997 in order to refine the quantities and descriptions of products. Actual data collection took place between late

Table 1 Foods included in the price survey

White UK/Irish	Caribbean	African	Gujarati Hindu
Wholemeal bread	Wholemeal bread	Wholemeal bread	Wholemeal bread
White bread	White bread	White bread	White bread
White pasta	White pasta	White pasta	White pasta
Potatoes (old)	Potatoes (old)	Potatoes (old)	Potatoes (old)
Potatoes (new)	Potatoes (new)	Potatoes (new)	Potatoes (new)
Cornflakes	Cornflakes	Cornflakes	Cornflakes
Weetabix	Weetabix	Weetabix	Weetabix
Long grain rice	Yam	Yam	Basmati rice
Frozen chips	Ripe plantain	Ripe plantain	Mid brown chapatti flour
	Green plantain	Green plantain	
	Long grain rice	Long grain rice	
Semiskimmed milk	Semiskimmed milk	Semiskimmed milk	Semiskimmed milk
Cheddar	Cheddar	Cheddar	Cheddar
Low-fat fruit yoghurt	Low-fat fruit yoghurt	Low-fat fruit yoghurt	Low-fat fruit yoghurt
Polyunsaturated spread	Polyunsaturated spread	Polyunsaturated spread	Polyunsaturated spread
Olive oil	Olive oil	Olive oil	Olive oil
Sunflower oil	Sunflower oil	Sunflower oil	Sunflower oil
Eggs	Eggs	Eggs	Eggs
Apples	Apples	Apples	Apples
Bananas	Bananas	Bananas	Bananas
Oranges	Oranges	Oranges	Oranges
Satsumas or similar	Satsumas or similar	Satsumas or similar	Satsumas or similar
Pears	Pears	Pears	Pears
Grapes	Mango	Mango	Coconut
Strawberries	Grapes	Pineapple	
Tinned tomatoes	Tinned tomatoes	Tinned tomatoes	Tinned tomatoes
Onions	Onions	Onions	Onions
Fresh tomatoes	Fresh tomatoes	Fresh tomatoes	Fresh tomatoes
Carrots	Carrots	Carrots	Carrots
Cabbage	Cabbage	Cabbage	Cabbage
Frozen peas	Frozen peas	Pepper	Frozen peas
Lettuce	Ackee	Lettuce	Karella
Cucumber	Okra	Okra	Okra
Pepper	Pepper	Cucumber	Lettuce
Broccoli	Chowchow	Chowchow	Cucumber
Mushroom	Aubergine	Mushroom	Aubergine
	Spinach		Spinach
Baked beans	Baked beans	Baked beans	Baked beans
Kidney beans (canned)	Kidney beans (dried)	Lentils	Lentils (masoor dhal)
Lean beef mince	Goat	Black eye beans	Lentils (moong dhal)
Pork fillet/escalope	Pork fillet/escalope	Pork fillet/escalope	Lentils (toor dhal)
Whole frozen chicken	Whole frozen chicken	Whole frozen chicken	Kidney beans (dried)
Frozen chicken portions	Frozen chicken portions	Frozen chicken portions	Chick peas
Fresh chicken portions	Fresh chicken portions	Fresh chicken portions	Black eye beans
Fish fingers	Fish fingers	Fish fingers	Almonds
Fresh/frozen cod/haddock fillets	Fresh/frozen snapper/malabar	Fresh/frozen cod/haddock fillets	
Fresh mackerel/herring	Salted fish	Fresh mackerel/herring	
Tinned sardines	Tinned sardines	Tinned sardines	

December 1997 and April 1998. Price variation over that period and the reliability of the data collection was checked on a subset of shops. While slight price variation did exist within the shops there was no consistent seasonal pattern.

Indices

In order to begin to measure economic access it is necessary to create indices of food prices for an outlet, given the food that is stocked. Constructing price indices for shops is relatively complex, firstly because not all shops will stock all items, and secondly, because not all items will be sold in the same quantities. Indeed foods may be available in multiple quantities. Price indices for each shop were constructed in steps, as follows.

1. For each individual weight/size of food the cost per kilogram was calculated; for example the cost per kilogram of baked beans if bought in a 205 g tin, and the cost per kilogram of baked beans if bought in a 410 g tin. The mean cost of buying each item in a particular quantity within the area was then calculated. For items with no weight (for instance iceberg lettuce or cucumber) the mean cost was calculated without conversion into kilograms.

2. The price for each weight/size of food in a particular shop was then expressed in relation to the mean price of that weight/size in all shops. This was achieved using z-scores – the number of standard deviations a product price is from the mean product price. This generates an index for the relative expense of a shop for one product in one size.

3. The cost of the food item, given all the quantities stocked in the shop can then be summarized. For instance it is possible to calculate the mean price of buying food item x in the shop given all the quantities available, and then to relate that mean price, in z-scores, to the mean cost of buying food item x in all shops, hence producing a mean price index for food x . Similarly, given all quantities, we can take the minimum cost per kilogram of buying food item x in the shop, and relate that, using z-scores, to the mean minimum cost of buying food item x in all shops, giving a least cost index for food x .

4. To calculate an index for a shop for a range of products, the mean of all z-scores for each shop was used. This enables us to say that, of all the shops, for what they stock, shop b is expensive for the area and shop c is cheap. Thus we can calculate the mean price index for all products, or the least cost index for all products.

We were particularly interested in access to fruits and vegetables because much research has linked adequate fruit and vegetable consumption with the prevention of chronic diseases, many of which have a higher incidence within poorer communities. Hence we developed a green availability index and a fresh green

availability index. The green availability index is based upon the number of different types of fruits and vegetables in each of the fresh, frozen, canned and juice categories recorded by the collector. If there were more than 10 varieties in any one category then '>10' was recorded by the data collector.

Sample

Using the datasheet, data on the availability of 123 food items and the price of 71 food items (the total number of foods that made up the four healthy lists for different ethnic groups), in different quantities, were collected from 199 outlets selling food. As previously mentioned availability information was collected on a wider range of foods in order to be able to place the availability of the foods representing the healthy lists into context.

Two hundred and ten outlets were approached but for 11 we only have information on the nature of the shop and its location, due to difficulties in data collection. Of these 199 outlets, only 166 of the remaining outlets actually stocked some of the 71 'healthy foods' costed.

Results

Figure 1 shows the geographic distribution of the mean price index for all products on the healthy food list; i.e. the relative expense of a shop, given what is stocked, if the mean price of buying a food item in a shop is chosen. Each circle represents the cost of buying food at a particular *postcode* (the mean price index of all the food shops in that postcode) in relation to the mean cost of buying food in the whole area. The circles represent quintiles of the z-score distribution. The white circles represent postcodes where the food shop(s) are relatively inexpensive and the black circles postcodes where the shops are relatively expensive. The data shown on the map suggest there are fewer postcodes where food shops are relatively expensive. Further analysis has shown that postcodes which contain relatively expensive food shops characteristically have only one food outlet, which tends to be a petrol station, newsagent or off-licence, particularly the former. Indeed one petrol station charged £1.89 for Weetabix, 69p for white bread, £1.09 for 500 g of pasta, 42p for milk and 49p for a 410 g tin of baked beans. If one was to buy these five items from that petrol station it would cost £1.77 more than the mean price for the area, and £3.21 more than the cheapest way of buying them in the area.

The range of actual prices for a subset of products with standard weights is shown in Table 2, for shops not including petrol stations, newsagents and off-licences and for just petrol stations, newsagents and off-licences. As the figures show, food prices vary tremendously. Taking the six products (Weetabix, semiskimmed milk, pasta, white bread, wholemeal bread and baked beans) it is possible to

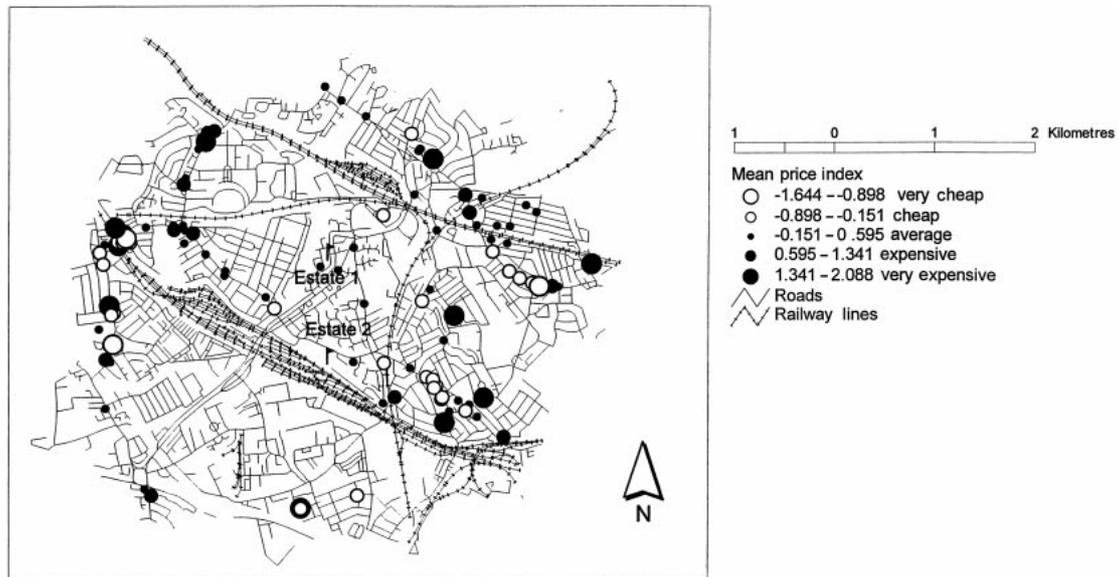


Fig. 1 Relative expense of food in postcodes in a deprived urban area given the mean cost of buying food items from shops. (Data for map: © Automobile Association, for railways, and © Bartholomew, for roads)

spend four and a half times as much on them than the cheapest price. These products were not selected because price variation was suspected but because they were of standardized weight and would be salient to the reader. Of these six, all were more expensive in petrol stations, newsagents and off-licences, and three items were significantly more expensive. If the researcher wished to present a picture of the price distribution of shops which are likely to be used more frequently then it would be feasible to exclude very expensive shops from the analysis.

Condensed price index

One of the aims of this project is to enable local authorities or health authorities to complete a quick surveillance of the physical and economic access problems in their area. Therefore the possibility of creating indices based on a subset of the above data was explored. The majority of the variability in the indices derived from all the 71 food items priced could be explained by indices derived for the ‘common’ group of products which were included in the shopping list for all the ethnic groups. These are shown in

the first 17 rows of Table 3. (Although strict Hindus would not eat eggs, it was clear from the previous qualitative work that a number in the area did in fact eat eggs occasionally.)

In a simple regression analysis, 83% of the variation in the least cost index calculated for the 71 foods could be explained by the variation in the least cost index calculated for the 17 ‘common’ foods ($\beta=0.823, R^2=0.826, P<0.001$). Similarly 77% of the variation in the mean price index calculated for the 71 foods could be explained by the variation in the mean price index for the 17 ‘common’ foods ($\beta=0.799, R^2=0.773, P<0.001$). However, reducing the number of foods which were costed to only 17 ‘common’ foods, meant that a number of shops, in this case 15, dropped out of the analysis. In our study there was therefore a loss of information on 15 shops. These shops were mainly specialist: 11 butchers, five fish-mongers and one newsagent. In order not to lose such specialist shops from the analysis, the cost of the cheapest fresh chicken portions (not wings) and the cost of the cheapest of fresh cod or haddock was added to the above

Table 2 Actual price variation for a subset of foods with standardized weights

Food item and number of shops stocking it	Minimum price within area	Maximum price within area	Mean (SE) of shops (not petrol stations, newsagents or off-licences)	Mean (SE) of petrol stations, newsagents and off-licences
12 weetabix (n=72)	57p	£1.89	82p (0.012)	86p (0.018)
Pint of semiskimmed milk (n=100)	27p	49p	38p (0.007)*	41p (0.005)*
500 g pasta (n=95)	19p	£1.29	64p (0.023)*	74p (0.035)*
800 g loaf of sliced white bread (n=89)	18p	89p	49p (0.022)	55p (0.030)
800 g loaf of wholemeal bread (n=48)	25p	£1.02	76p (0.034)	83p (0.037)
410 g baked beans (n=104)	9p	59p	30p (0.012)*	34p (0.016)*

*t-tests reveal that the difference between these prices is significant at the 95% confidence interval.

Table 3 Foods used for condensed indices acceptable to four ethnic groups in a deprived area in London, plus chicken and fish

Wholemeal sliced bread, white bread
White pasta
Potatoes
Cornflakes
Apples
Bananas
Pears
Onion
Carrots
Tinned tomatoes
Fresh tomatoes
Cabbage
Fresh skimmed/semiskimmed milk
Low-fat fruit yoghurt
Eggs
Polyunsaturated spread
Oil
Chicken portions (not wings)
Fresh cod/haddock

index. These inclusions do not greatly increase R^2 , but do ensure that all shops can be mapped; 84% of the variation in the least cost index calculated for the 71 foods could be explained by the variation in the condensed least cost index calculated for the 17 'common' foods, chicken and fish ($\beta=0.844$, $R^2=0.835$, $P<0.001$). Similarly, 79% of the variation in the mean price index calculated for the 71 foods could be explained by the variation in the condensed mean price index for the 17 'common' foods, chicken and fish ($\beta=0.815$, $R^2=0.789$, $P<0.001$).

Availability indices and availability distribution

Indices of availability can be easily calculated, given the binary nature of availability. In addition it is possible to

provide an index of the number of fruits and vegetables, breakfast cereals, meats or fish at any one location, because questions were included as to the range of foods available in these categories. Figure 2 illustrates the fresh green availability index for the area, showing the availability of fruits and vegetables. Discussion of the availability of brands or availability according to type of shop is beyond the scope of this paper but will be disseminated in further work.

The availability of 123 foods or drinks, in various quantities, was checked in all outlets. A frequency count shows that the only fresh (i.e. not frozen, bottled, canned or dried) product available in more than 50% of outlets was milk. The most commonly available items were carbonated drinks (81% of all outlets sold them), low calorie carbonated drinks (79%) and sweets and chocolates (72%). Meats such as pork (10%), goat (9%) and beef mince (9%) had low availability as did, unsurprisingly, fresh fish (6%).

On average, only 27% of the items on the UK food list would be found in any given food shop, 26% of items on the African and Caribbean food lists, and 28% of items on the Gujarati Hindu food list. Hence, within this area, there was no significant difference in the mean availability of different ethnic foods. No shop stocked all the 71 foods which would make up all of the lists, the maximum being 61% of all 71 foods. The UK white list was the only one to be fully stocked, and that only in one superstore, although some shops did stock nearly 100% of the other ethnic food lists.

Condensed availability index

The use of the 'common' food list to produce a condensed availability index was also explored. Simple linear

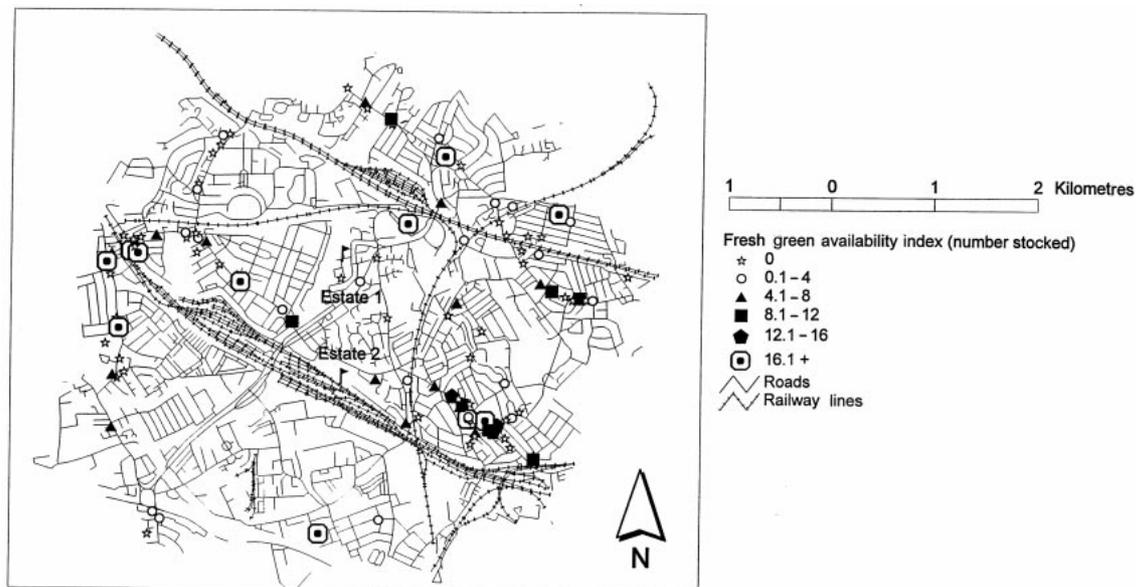


Fig. 2 Availability of fresh fruits and vegetables in a deprived area. (Data for map: © Automobile Association, for railways, and © Bartholomew, for roads)

regression was conducted. The number of foods available on the 'common' food list in shops explained 67% of the variation in the total number of all foods available ($\beta=2.4$, $R^2=0.669$, $P<0.001$), 80% of the variation in the African foods stocked in shops ($\beta=1.82$, $R^2=0.803$, $P<0.001$), 75% of the variation in Caribbean foods in shops ($\beta=1.74$, $R^2=0.752$, $P<0.001$), 68% of the variation in Gujarati Hindu foods available in shops, and 91% of the availability of UK foods in shops.

Discussion

This paper has presented a way to describe and map the cost and availability of food within an area. This contributes to the question of how one measures access by providing a means by which the cost and availability of foods within shops in an area can be compared against each other. The indices can then be linked to local geographical and economic information available from the census or sample surveys to provide a quick snapshot of subsections of an area which may be most at risk from a lack of access to an affordable, extensive range of food.

Thus the next stage of this research involves analysing these indices and the spatial spread of values with area measures such as distance to shops from population-weighted centroids within enumeration districts (approximately 140 households)²⁴. In conjunction with information on private car ownership, bus routes and timetables, this would provide data on area variations in physical access to reasonably priced shops. In addition data on enumeration district deprivation levels, available from local council data, can provide information on economic access. High deprivation levels are characterized by a high number of people on state benefits or low wages, who are more likely to need access to the cheapest shops. Cut-off points of reasonable access can also be developed given the cost of food in relation to income levels and the availability of food within a reasonable distance.

The indices could also be used to monitor changes in provision as a result of interventions to improve food access or a change in local retail provision.

Mapping this information using GIS software is seen to be of benefit. This paper presents a purely descriptive area map, yet, at a glance, one can see those areas where people would be nearer to reasonably priced foods which could contribute to a healthy diet.

A further stage is to test these methods in another area. This will investigate the reliability of the correlation between the 'condensed' indices and the 'all product' indices; the variation in terms of provision of ethnic foods; and whether there is substantial difference in mean prices between areas. We feel the methodology presented here could be applied to any area. The data assessed in this paper was collected within a 2-km radius of a central point, an area which contained the vast majority of shops

used by the local community, and which was sufficient to allow for comparisons within it. However, it may be appropriate to change the size of the area studied if there is low retail provision, or if the research is for a particular council or health board. An account of the sizes of areas which would need to be surveyed in order to encompass the majority of shops used by the residents of different urban and rural areas, would, in itself, provide useful information on variations in access throughout the country.

There are many ways in which these indices can be modified to present a picture of the price and/or availability of food in an area. Within this survey the data collector also rated quality of fresh fruit and vegetables subjectively on a five-point scale. It would, therefore, be possible to map indices reflecting just those fresh fruit and vegetables perceived as above average quality. A more rigorous approach to quality could be built into a similar data collection and analysis procedure if desired. In addition only those fruit and vegetables which are below average price could be mapped to provide an indication of the availability of reasonably priced fruit and vegetables. Another possibility may be to look at availability at different times of the day. Opening hours were collected for all shops; it could be possible to look at availability for example at 9 am, 2 pm or 2 am.

Within the area studied, preliminary results have shown that petrol stations in particular are expensive along with off-licences and newsagents. Prices were seen to vary tremendously for six products randomly chosen, with more than a four-fold difference between the cheapest price available in the area and the most expensive. Further work needs to identify if, and to what degree, any sectors of the community rely on such outlets for some or all of their food shopping.

Finally, we have reported on the fact that foods which are not traditionally seen as being integral to a healthy diet, such as carbonated drinks, sweets and chocolates, are more available than 'healthier' foods and drinks. Indeed, on average, fewer than a third of the foods which would contribute to make up a basic basket of foods for a healthy diet were stocked in most outlets.

Reasonable access is being able to obtain a variety of healthy foods at a reasonable price. This paper has developed indices which enable someone to define variations in variety and price and hence, with local indicators of economic and physical resources, monitor variations in access within an area. No such indices were available which could provide information on the relative cost of shops given what they stock. Researchers have costed healthy and unhealthy food baskets¹⁰⁻¹², or compared the cost of a basket in one type of shop to another¹³, but this has meant that only those shops selling all the foods could be compared. This methodology goes one stage further and as such we have achieved targets to develop indices as outlined by the Low Income Project Team of the Nutrition Task Force¹⁶.

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