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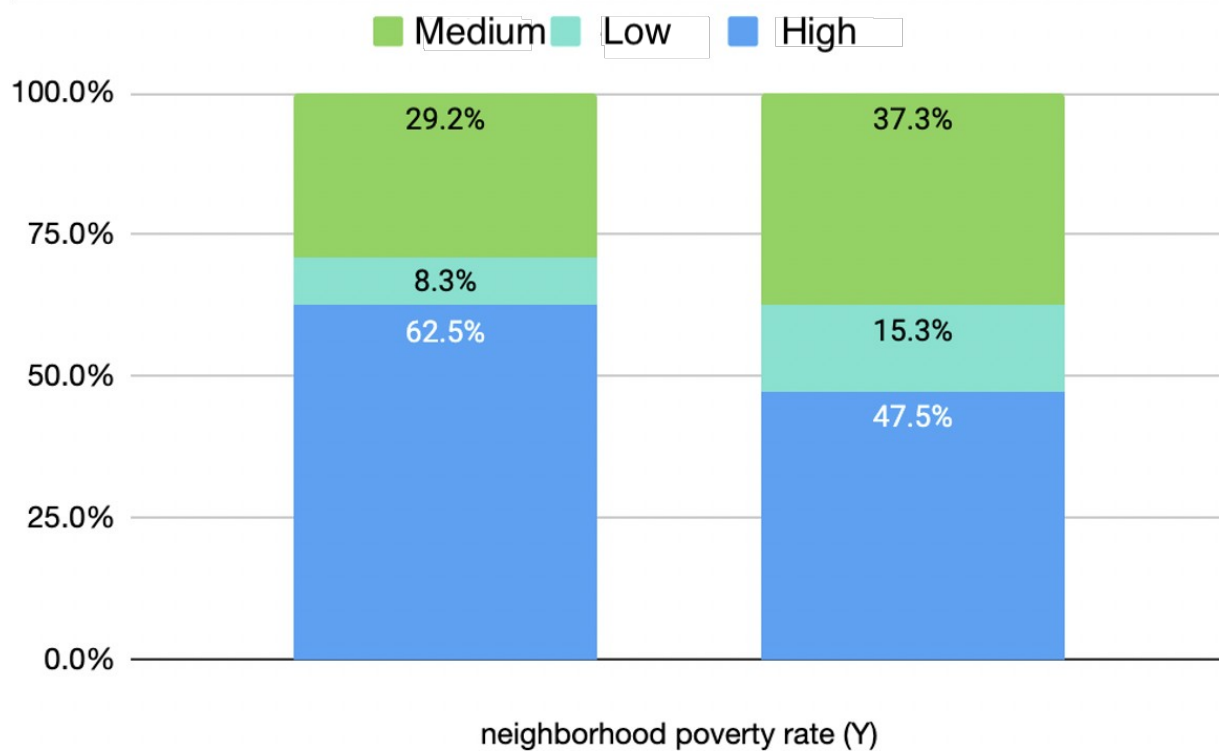
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**Topic: What is the relationship between unhealthy food access (ratio of bodegas to supermarkets) and neighborhood poverty rates?**

I found the relationship between unhealthy food access and neighborhood poverty rates an interesting topic for many reasons, especially living in New York City where one neighborhood can consist of luxury stores and high-end restaurants while down the street there are bodegas and thrift stores. It made me curious to see if there are any relations between unhealthy food access and neighborhood poverty rates. I first dove into the ratio of bodegas to supermarkets in New York City neighborhoods. Then I took a close look at the poverty rates in these neighborhoods. I used several databases to conduct thorough research on these two topics and found that they in fact do share a relationship.

COUNTA of rate of healthy food access (X) neighborhood poverty rate (Y)	rate of healthy food access (X)			
	High	Low	Medium	Grand Total
high	72.2%		62.5%	47.5%
low		41.2%	8.3%	15.3%
medium	27.8%	58.8%	29.2%	37.3%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Ratios of Bodegas to Supermarkets by Neighborhood Poverty Rates



The data on the ratio of bodegas to supermarkets and the neighborhood poverty rates indicate the two in relation to one another. As for my research, I learned that in neighborhoods with a low percent of poverty rates, there are more healthier food access and lower rates of bodegas. While in neighborhoods with higher poverty rates they also share higher rates of food insecurity, which you can see in my chart. In neighborhoods with more bodegas than supermarkets, there is a 72% poverty rate. Whereas in Neighborhoods with more food access there is a 41% poverty rate. In one of the articles I read, I learned that East Harlem has a higher poverty rate. In correlation to that “East Harlem ranked 14th among the city’s 59 community districts for the highest levels of food insecurity.” (*Eating in East Harlem*, Freudenberg N.). In short, Food security and neighborhood poverty rates are in close relation with one another.

One important question is what the relationship is between food insecurity and what that had to neighborhood poverty rates. The first source I chose was from “Eating in East Harlem”. In this article, Freudenburg N really dived into the New York City neighborhood of East Harlem. The author states that “the number of households living in poverty in East Harlem remains persistently high.”(pg. 32) Due to this, the government released the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, Also called SNAP. It was essentially a food stamp program to help citizens get their hands on food. That was working out nicely until a couple years later when congress approved federal cuts in this program resulting in families losing money to eat. When this happened a lot of families started “relying on inexpensive, calorie-dense, nutrient-poor foods to satisfy hunger.”(pg. 32) In this case we see that neighborhood poverty rates go hand in hand with food insecurity.

Digging deeper into the world of bodegas, An article written by Treadway, Craig, and Allen Levine tell explain more insight about why there are less food options in low income

neighborhoods. The New York Times gave an estimate from 2009 saying “the number of New Yorkers living in food deserts were about 750,000”. What this means is that there are many New York City neighborhoods that are without access to supermarkets with good healthy food. The reason I found this interesting is because these areas with no access to healthy food options are the low-income neighborhoods. A reason stated by Lempert, was the fact that there are simply too many costs to provide supermarket and healthy food access in these areas. More specifically, “those costs include maintenance, security and crime.”

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