Changes in Diet, Neighborhood Satisfaction, and Food Access after Introduction of a Full Service Supermarket in a Former Food Desert

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UPMC Shadyside, Hillman Cancer Center
Cooper Classroom C

Light lunch provided. Please contact Stacy Fitzsimmons (fitzsimmonss3@upmc.edu) if you plan to attend, need directions, or need more information. The Cooper Classrooms are located on the ground level of the Hillman Cancer Center, 5115 Centre Avenue, in Shadyside. After entering the building, walk to the left past the elevators. Facing the gift shop, turn right down the hallway. Room C is the 3rd door in the lobby area on the left.

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Abstract: Improving access to healthful foods such as fruits, vegetables and whole grains has been an important policy strategy, intending to improve diet and reduce obesity among vulnerable populations. Our team capitalized on a natural experiment where a federally subsidized full service supermarket was opened in the Hill District in Pittsburgh. We enrolled a cohort (n=1372) of randomly selected households from the Hill District (the intervention community that received the new supermarket) and Homewood (the comparison neighborhood) and followed the cohort from prior to the supermarket’s opening through one year post-opening. Adjusting for changes related to time trends, we found improved neighborhood satisfaction and selected dietary improvements—lower added sugars, calories, and saturated fats, alcohols and added sugars (SoFAAS)—among intervention neighborhood residents compared with comparison neighborhood residents. Yet, use of the new supermarket, the hypothesized mediator, was not associated with the improvements. This talk will discuss the study design, results and future questions that remain around neighborhood revitalization and impact on resident health.

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