

HEALTHY OPTIONS

THE AVAILABILITY AND PRICE OF FRUITS AND VEGETABLES IN SALT LAKE CITY NEIGHBORHOODS

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Research shows that people living in low-income neighborhoods have a harder time accessing healthy foods - and pay more for them when they do. In the fall of 2017, ten Environmental and Sustainability Studies students at the University of Utah set out to see if the finding holds true for residents of Salt Lake City, Utah.

RESEARCH APPROACH

Students canvassed six neighborhoods to:



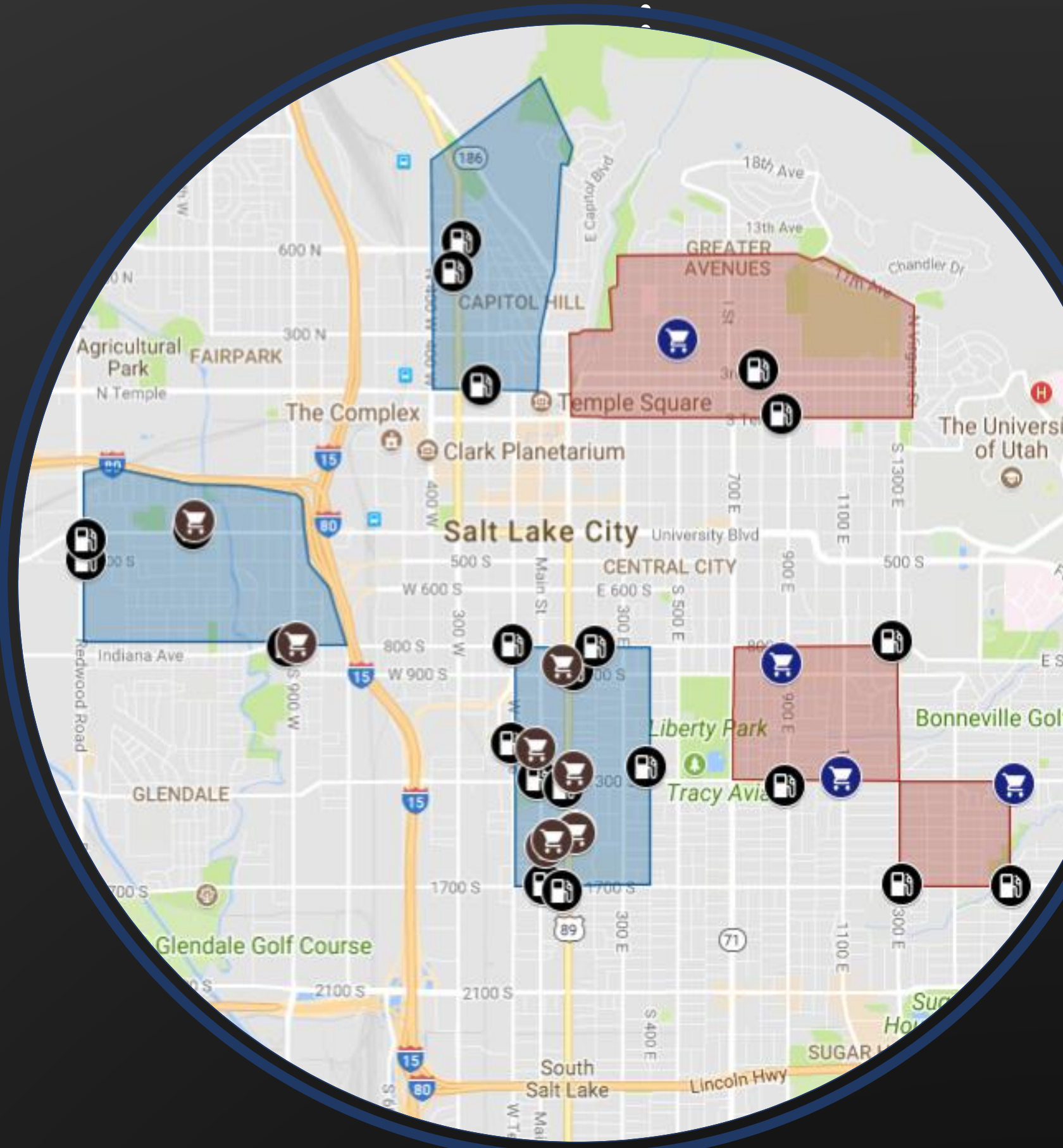
Identify each neighborhood's retail food outlets



Document the availability of select fruits and vegetables at the identified food outlets



Record fruit and vegetable prices at the identified food outlets



PROJECT FINDINGS

1

Higher-income neighborhoods featured chain grocery stores, while lower-income neighborhoods had smaller ethnic food markets.

2

Select fruits and vegetables were found with greater frequency on the shelves of stores in higher-income neighborhoods.

3

On average, fruits and vegetables cost more in lower-income neighborhoods, when compared with those of higher-income neighborhoods.



Department of
POLITICAL SCIENCE
THE UNIVERSITY OF UTAH

Environmental and Sustainability Studies Program

COLLEGE OF SOCIAL AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE | THE UNIVERSITY OF UTAH

HEALTHY OPTIONS

RETAIL FOOD
OUTLETS IDENTIFIED
ACROSS SIX SALT
LAKE CITY
NEIGHBORHOODS

HIGHER-INCOME
NEIGHBORHOODS

LOWER-INCOME
NEIGHBORHOODS

SUPERMARKETS
AND CHAIN
GROCERY STORES

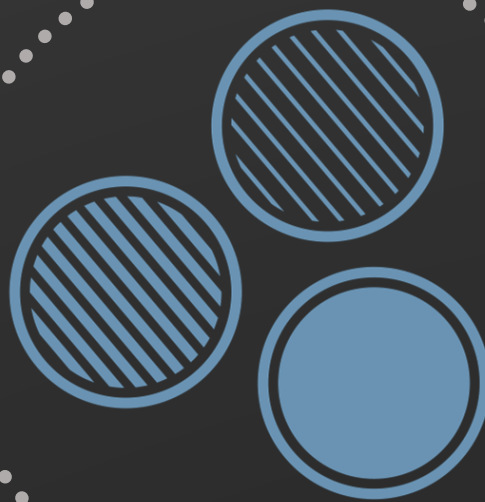
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ETHNIC
FOOD MARKETS

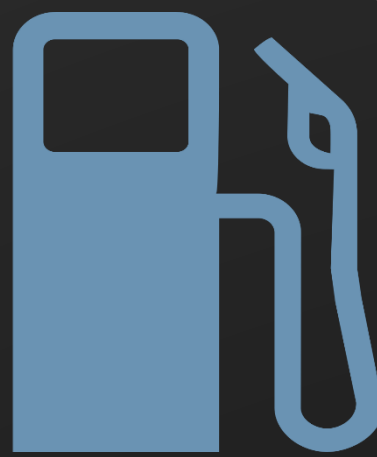
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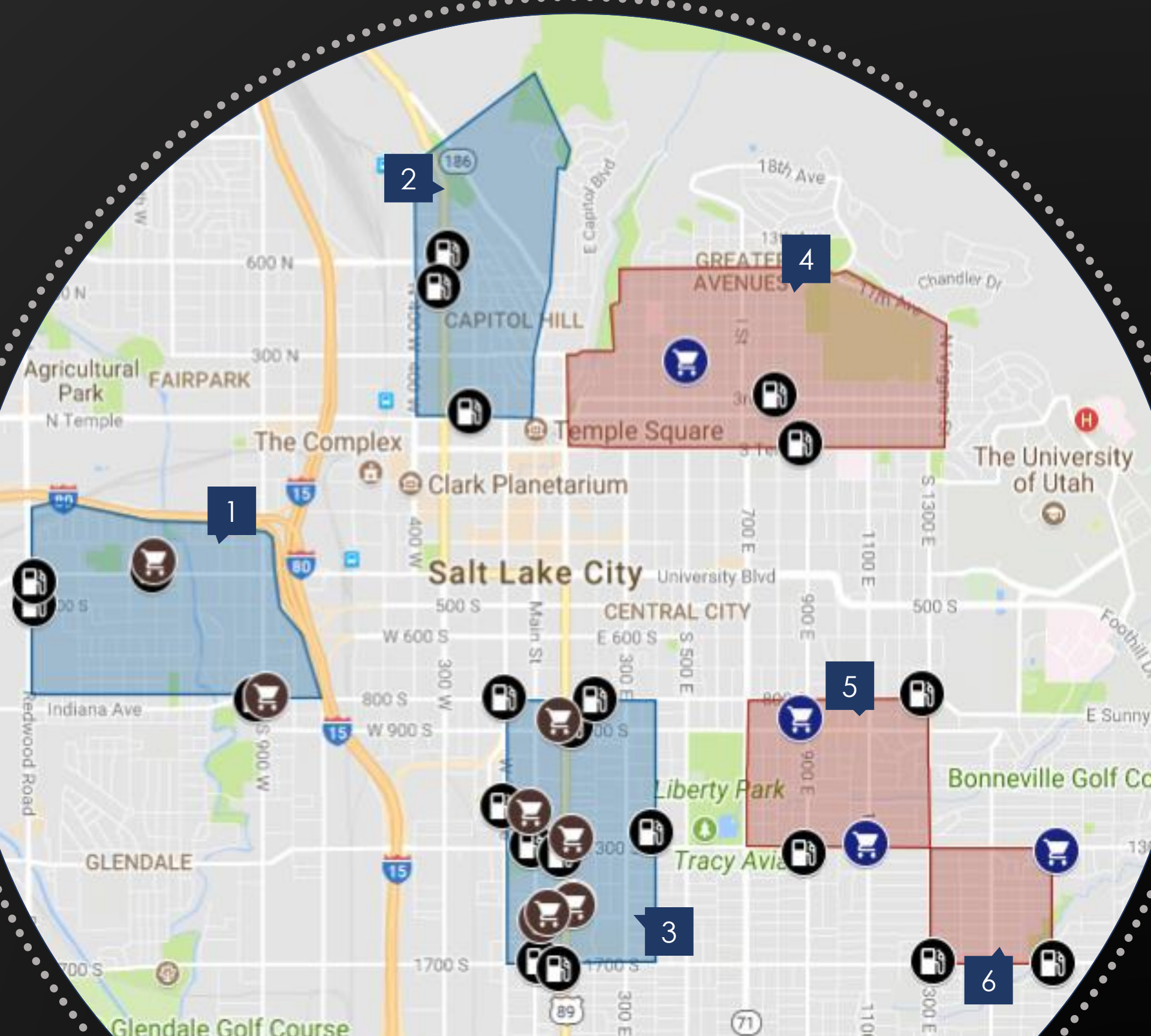
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CONVENIENCE
STORES AND
GAS STATIONS

60%



64%



THE NEIGHBORHOODS

LOWER-INCOME NEIGHBORHOODS

HIGHER-INCOME NEIGHBORHOODS

1. Glendale/Poplar Grove
2. West Capitol Hill
3. The Ball Park area

4. The Avenues
5. 9th and 9th
6. 15th and 15th

HEALTHY OPTIONS

THE AVAILABILITY
OF FRUITS AND
VEGETABLES
IN SALT LAKE CITY
LOW AND HIGH-INCOME
NEIGHBORHOODS

HIGHER-INCOME NEIGHBORHOODS



8 in 10 STORES



8 in 10 STORES



6 in 10 STORES



4 in 10 STORES



4 in 10 STORES



4 in 10 STORES



4 in 10 STORES



4 in 10 STORES

LOWER-INCOME NEIGHBORHOODS



6 in 10 STORES



5 in 10 STORES



1 in 10 STORES



1 in 10 STORES



1 in 10 STORES



1 in 10 STORES



1 in 10 STORES

0 in 10 STORES

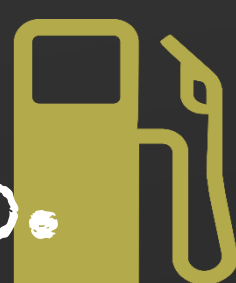
HEALTHY OPTIONS

PRICING DIFFERENCES OF FRUITS AND VEGETABLES IN SIX SALT LAKE CITY NEIGHBORHOODS

Fruits and vegetables sold in gas stations and convenience stores are significantly **MORE EXPENSIVE** than fruits and vegetables sold in supermarkets and grocery stores.

For example...

\$4.98/lb.



VS



\$2.59/lb.

The produce examined in this study also tended to **COST MORE** in ethnic food markets, when compared to supermarket and chain grocery store produce.

as a result

ON AVERAGE, FRUITS AND VEGETABLES SOLD IN

**LOWER-INCOME
NEIGHBORHOODS
COST OVER TWICE
THE PRICE OF THE SAME
FRUITS AND VEGETABLES IN
HIGHER-INCOME NEIGHBORHOODS**

HEALTHY OPTIONS

THE AVAILABILITY AND PRICE OF FRUITS AND VEGETABLES IN SALT LAKE CITY NEIGHBORHOODS

About this project

This project was a collaboration between Adrienne Cachelin, from the Environmental and Sustainability Program, and David Carter, from the Department of Political Science. The research was conducted as the community engaged learning component of an undergraduate Environmental Justice course.

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Student Researchers

Jordan Bartholomew
Katie Chistensen
Scott Gassaway
Deja Gaston
Gage Hoogveldt
Duncan McNeil
Hanah Morin
John Schwarz
Samantha Thomas
Hunter Tuesday-Heathfield

Contact

For questions, comments, or more information regarding this project, contact:

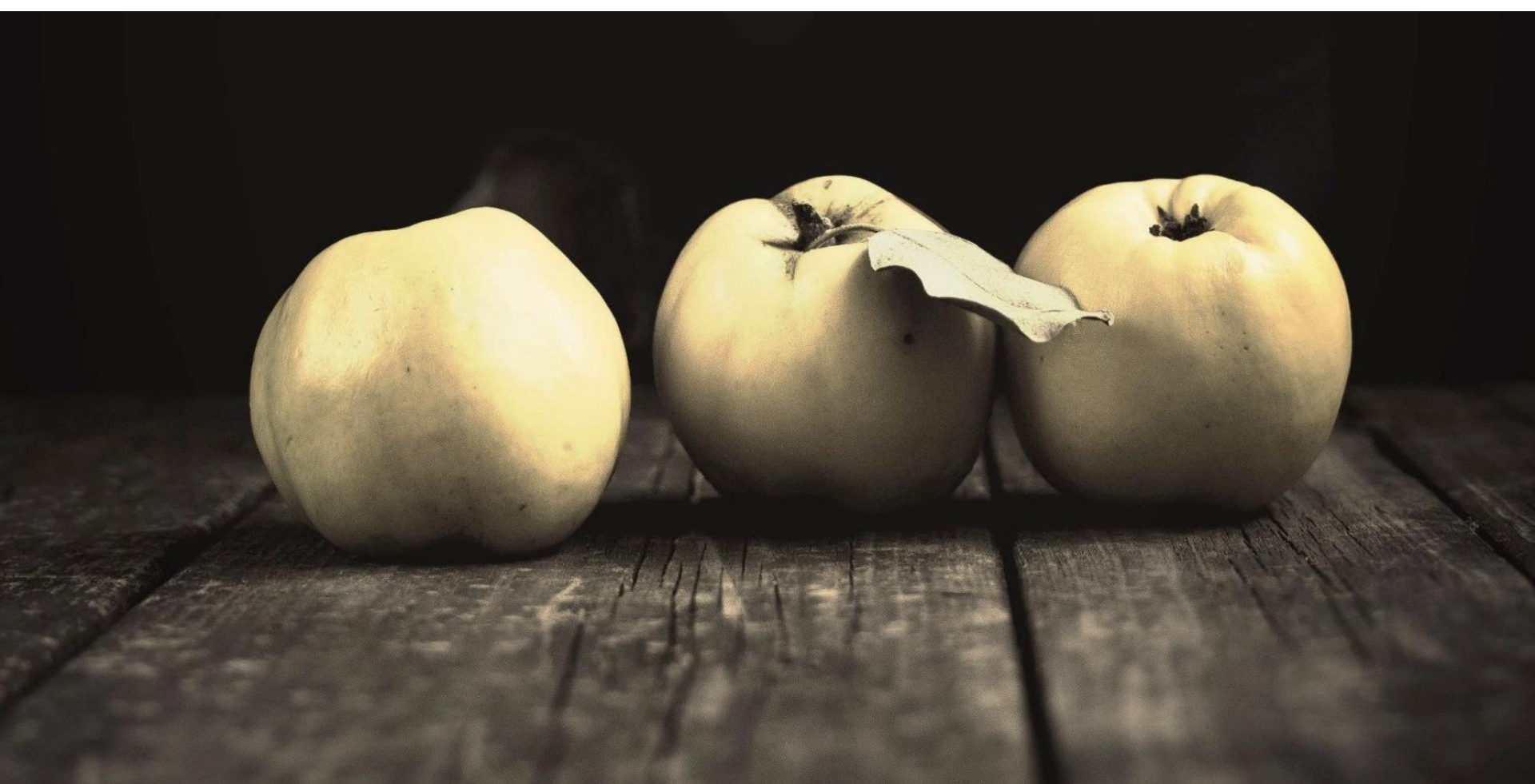
David P. Carter
Department of Political Science
University of Utah
332 South 1400 East, Rm 223
Salt Lake City, UT 84112



www.policyandadmin.org



david.carter@mpa.utah.edu



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POLITICAL SCIENCE
THE UNIVERSITY OF UTAH

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