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Healthfulness of Food Purchases and Food Access in France

by France Caillavet, Adelaide Fadhuile, Gayaneh Kyureghian, and
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Healthfulness of Food Purchases and Food Access in France

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Abstract

In the wake of rising obesity and growing public health concerns attributable to poor diets, the role of environmental factors cannot be underestimated. Although the territorial disparities in nutrition due to the retail system are very much present in France, there is scant research studying the effect of the retail system on diet quality directly. This study seeks to fill this gap. We employ nationally representative food purchase and retail industry databases to analyze the demand side of the market and understand the pathways the supply side caters and, possibly, regenerates patronage. Our results indicate a rather diverging effect away from middle-size stores to either smaller or larger size stores. Preliminary estimates indicate that food availability has little, if any, effect on the dietary quality or adherence to food recommended intake.

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