# Predicting Diabetes Rate Using the Food Environment Atlas

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## Introduction

Diabetes is a major global health issue, affecting millions and incurring significant costs



## Dataset

- We utilize the Food Environment Atlas (FEA) dataset to predict diabetes rate given various food environment indicators such as poverty rate, access to SNAP benefits, access to food stores, and other community characteristics
- The FEA dataset is compiled by the USDA's Economic Research Service



## **KPIs**

- Develop a model to predict diabetes incidence in counties within the United States.
- Identify additional factors affecting diabetes rate aside poverty (the obvious).
- Use model predictions to educate counties to anticipate changes in diabetes prevalence and propose potential preventive measures.

#### **Model Design**



## **Results: Regression Models**

- Random Forest, Gradient boost, XGBoost, and Histogram Gradient Boosting Regression Tree significantly outperformed all the other models. The best regression model was the Gradient boost.
- Gradient boost model gave a mean squared error of 1.28.
- The most important predictive features are the percentage of SNAP participants, SNAP benefits per capita in a county and the region the county belongs to.

Model	MSE
Irg	1.48
KNR	7.33
SVRreg	5.82
RFR	1.43
ABR	1.69
GB	1.31
XGBR	1.46
HGBR	1.34

## **Results: Classification Models**

- Gradient boosting, random forest, and XGB classifiers outperformed other models
- Random Forest classifier performed the best with an accuracy score of 0.81 and a precision of 84%



Model	Accuracy
lda	0.79
log_reg	0.77
svc_linear	0.70
qda	0.70
lda_poly	0.47
log_reg_poly	0.74
gnb	0.56
knn	0.78
svc_rbf	0.79
xgb	0.82
rfc	0.83
gbc	0.80

### Future work

- Future work involves reducing the error and improving the accuracy associated with predicting a county's diabetes rate from food access data
- Collect and use more years of diabetes data and try integrating time-series
- Use latitude and longitude of the counties as one of the features for building the models to provide more localized predictions

## **THANK YOU**