

DISTRIBUTION

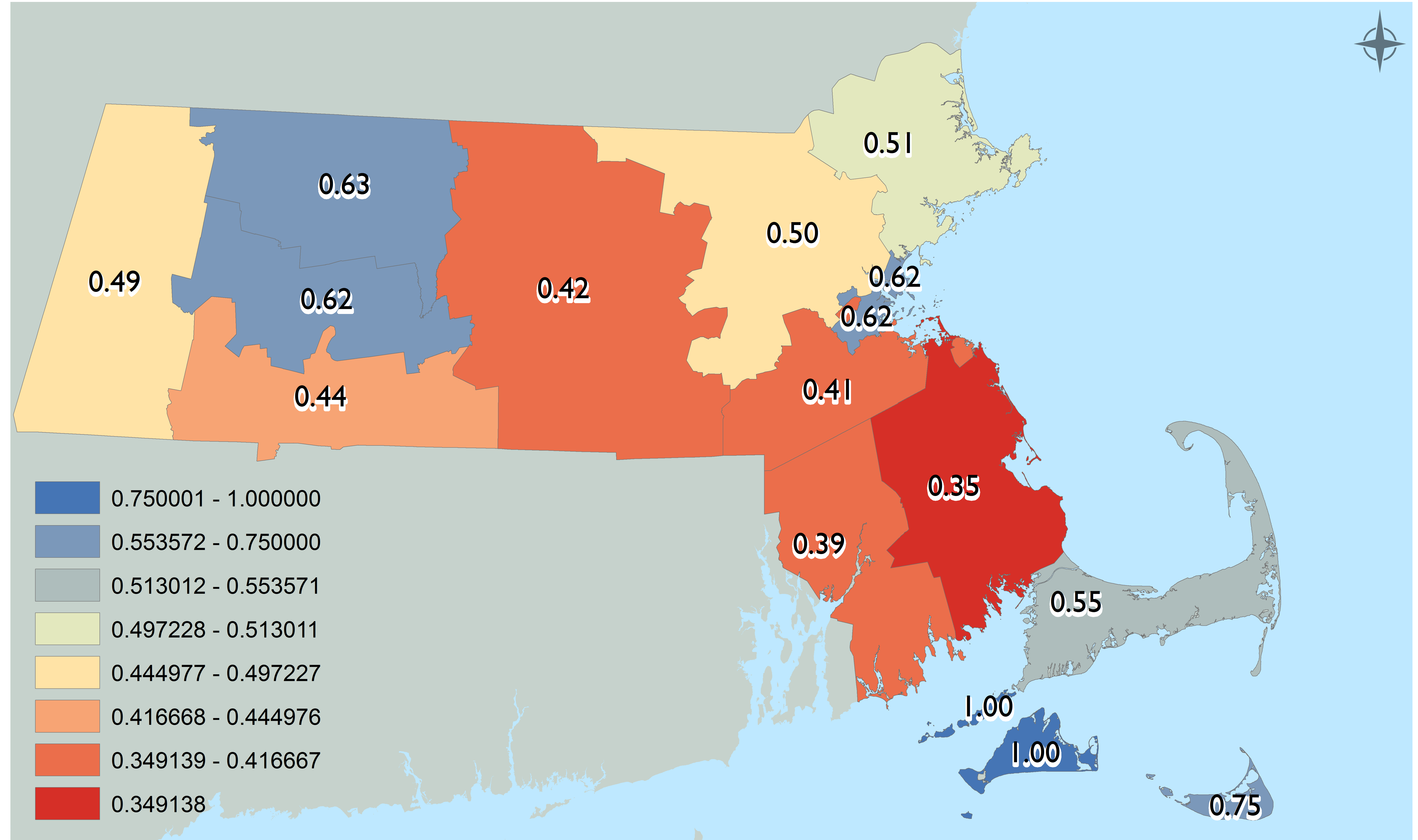
RETAIL FOOD ESTABLISHMENTS



Of the total universe of *establishments* that compose Massachusetts' food system, **retail establishments make up about 68 percent**¹. As the general public interface for the rest of the state's food system, the spatial distribution of these establishments has a critical impact on equitable access to food.

It's important to note that these counts naturally do not reflect square footage. Thus, while grocery stores make up the lowest proportion of retail food establishments, they're equipped to serve a much larger number of customers each day.

RATIO OF GROCERY STORES TO CONVENIENCE STORES



HEALTHY FOOD ECOSYSTEMS

Although the state has made some efforts to incentivize greater supply of healthy food in convenience stores, grocery stores generally act as a proxy for better access to healthy food.

The map at the top right shows the ratio of grocery stores to convenience stores, illustrating the geographic variation of healthy food access within Massachusetts.

Sources:
1. U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Census Bureau, USDA Census of Agriculture

Sources:
USDA (2011)