

CDSS Measure to Estimate Program Access

**A Methodology for Measuring
CalFresh Access at County and
Sub-county Levels**

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Presenters

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Measuring CalFresh Access

CFPA/FNS Measure: Program Access Index (PAI)

- **PAI is calculated only at County level and under-estimates program access.**

CDSS Measure: Program Reach Index (PRI)

- **PRI can be calculated at Sub-county levels, including census tract-level and more accurately estimates program access.**

Program Access Index (PAI)

$$PAI = \frac{(CalFresh Participants) - (Disaster CalFresh Program Participants)}{(Individuals with Income < 125\% Poverty Threshold) - (FDPIR Participants) - (SSI Recipients)}$$

Where:

FDPRI: Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations

SSI: Recipients of supplemental security income below 125 % FPL

Measurement Issues with PAI

- **PAI method has significant denominator accuracy issues:**
 - **PAI uses 125% FPL as proxy for net 100% FPL**
 - **PAI does not take into account an estimated one million undocumented persons from the statewide or county CalFresh denominator**
 - **PAI does not provide an accurate estimate of county SSI recipients**

Measurement Advantages of PRI

- PRI more correctly estimates access by removing undocumented persons from the denominator – ones who are eligible by poverty threshold but are not by CalFresh eligibility criteria.
- PRI provides better county level SSI estimates.
- Allows a year-over-year comparison for 40 of the 58 largest counties
- Caveats...

Estimating Undocumented Adults Using the Child-only Method

A Summary of Child-only Method assumptions:

- 1. CDSS analysis indicates that 94% of child-only households are due to the citizenship status of parents**
- 2. Urban Institute studies show:**
 - That there are 1.77 undocumented adults in a child-only CalFresh household**
 - That there are 1.24 undocumented adults in a non-child-only CalFresh household**

Program Reach Index (PRI)

$$\text{PRI} = \frac{\text{CalFresh Recipients} - \text{Disaster CalFresh Program Participants}}{(\text{pop} < 130\% \text{ FPL}) - (\text{SSI} * p) - \left((0.94 \text{ childonly households}) * 1.77 * \left(1 + \left(\frac{1.24}{1.77} \right) \right) \right)}$$

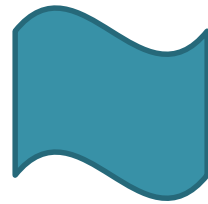
Where:

- p : County proportion of SSI recipients below 130% FPL
- 0.94 : The proportion of child-only households that are child-only due to the immigration status of their parents
- 1.77 : the number of undocumented adults in a child-only CalFresh household
- 1.24 : the number of undocumented adults in a non-child-only CalFresh household

Additional Uses of PRI

- ❖ **Measure CalFresh access at below county levels.**
- ❖ **Measure differences in access among population subgroups.**
- ❖ **PRI results enable to devise targeted CalFresh outreach activities.**

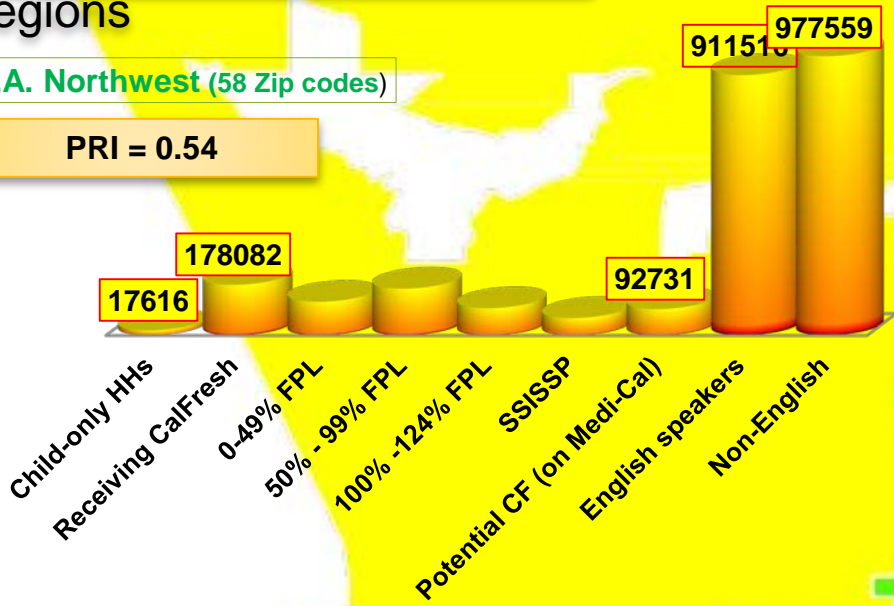
Applications of Geocoding Analytics and PRI



L.A. County CalFresh Regions

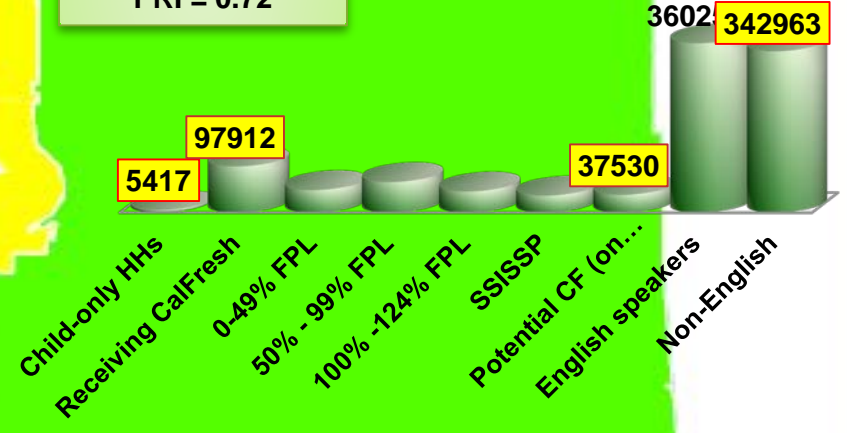
L.A. Northwest (58 Zip codes)

PRI = 0.54



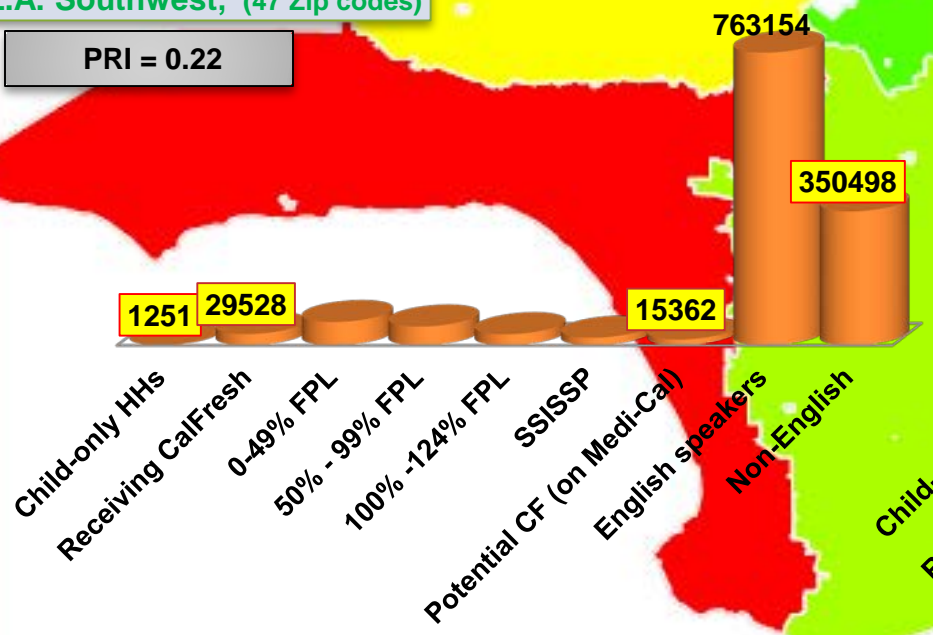
L.A. Northeast (30 Zip codes)

PRI = 0.72



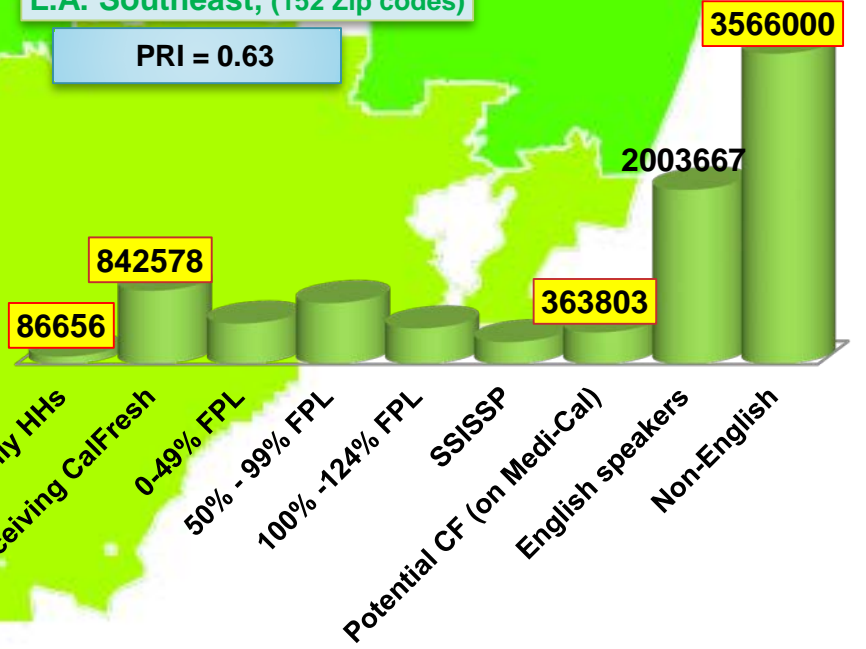
L.A. Southwest (47 Zip codes)

PRI = 0.22



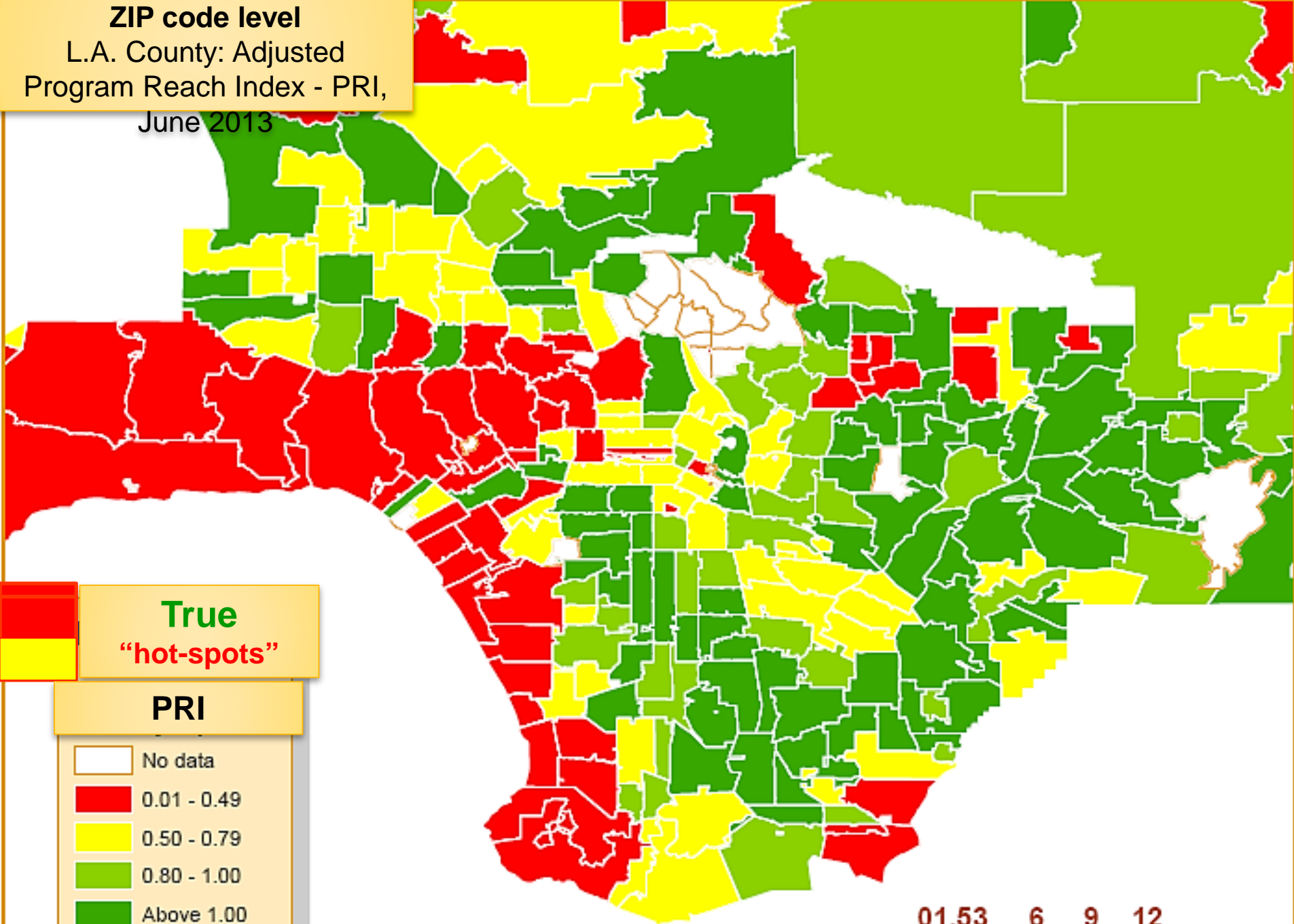
L.A. Southeast (152 Zip codes)

PRI = 0.63



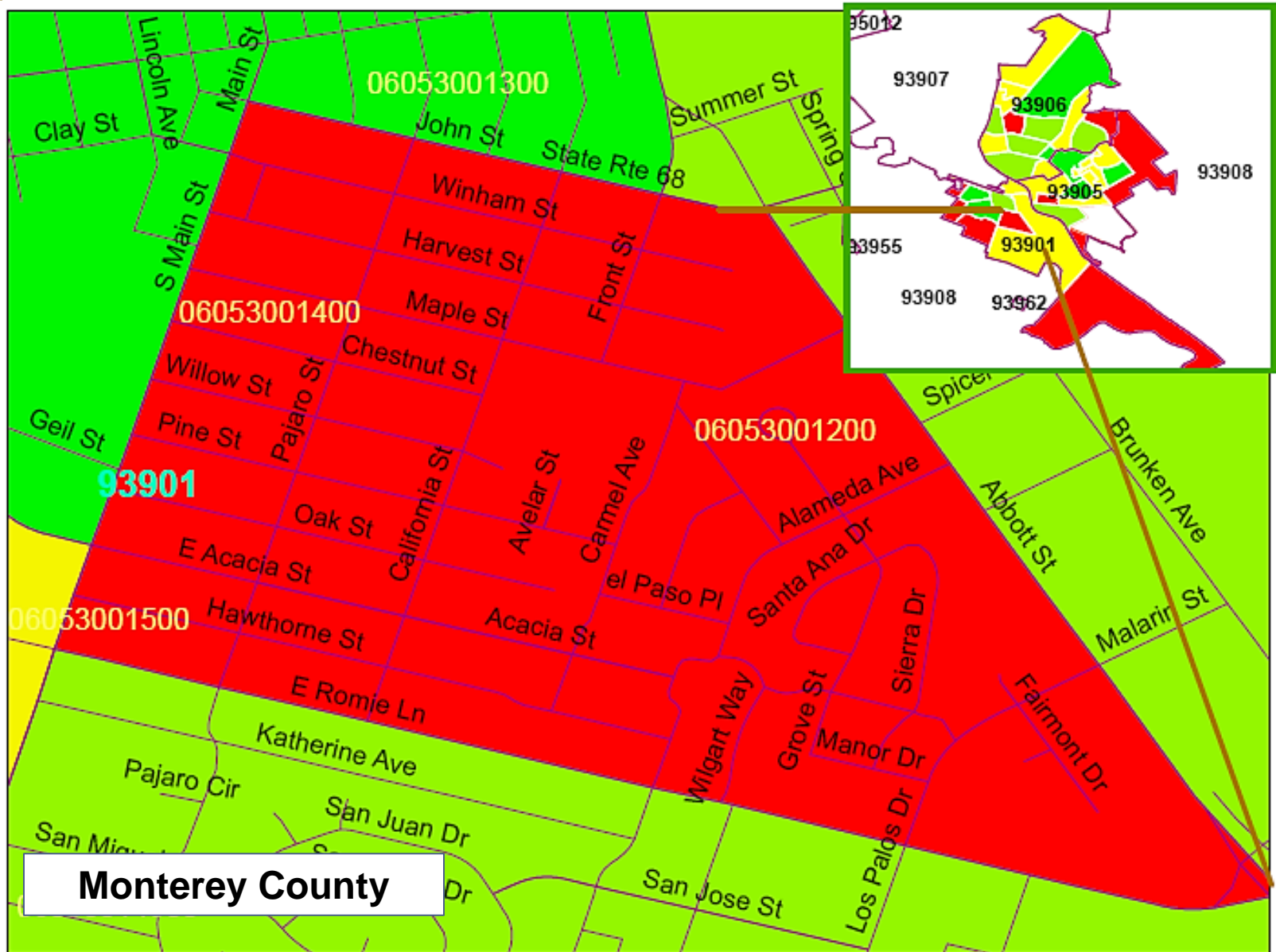
ZIP code level

L.A. County: Adjusted
Program Reach Index - PRI,
June 2013



0 1.53 6 9 12
Miles

Getting Down to Census Tract and Street Levels



Monterey County

Conclusions

PRI

- Provides a better reflection of the current situation for 40 out of 58 counties and allows a year-over-year comparison
- Provides an accurate estimate of county level SSI recipients
- Adjusts the denominator for unauthorized persons
- Is a more accurate and more useful tool than PAI

Other Updates and Discussion

THANK YOU