

## The Ripple Effect of Discrepancies in Urban Farming Affecting Food Security

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# THE RIPPLE EFFECT OF DISCREPANCIES IN URBAN FARMING AFFECTING FOOD SECURITY

Rhiley K. Hodges



## INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this research is to call attention to the inequalities that exist in the agriculture field. According to research, the disconnection between people and food systems has caused discrepancies in who is or can be successful and who cannot. Variations in support and services offered can have a direct effect on food accessibility in urban communities.

## BACKGROUND INFO

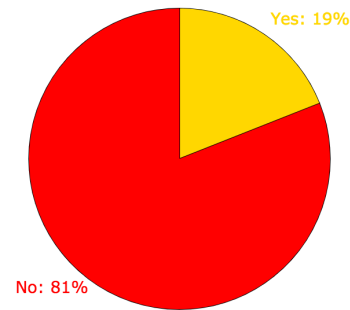
As urban farms become increasingly popular, they serve as hands-on farms for nearby urban communities to receive healthy food options. Many urban communities are located in food deserts, lacking easy access to resources urban farms can provide, such as fresh produce, this inaccessibility increases food insecurity. Urban farms are seen as a novelty because farming for so long has been an “out of sight, out of mind” market, this mindset has caused many to have a disconnect with healthy food options because they don’t know where their food comes from & who produces it. This disconnect leaves urban agriculture workers without social & economic support from their communities, creating an ongoing cycle of not knowing about agricultural workers and not being able to provide for those communities.

## METHODS

This research was originally conducted as a video analysis. The data collected ranged from qualitative being interviews of three agricultural stakeholders and quantitative being an online poll via Instagram (audience living predominately in urban communities). The interview questions were based on four variables : wealth gap, food insecurity, urban population increase, and public & private endorsements

## FINDINGS

Do You Know Where Your Food Comes From?



The numerical data collected was from an Instagram poll, asking my followers if they knew where their food comes from pertaining to region, farm, and agricultural workers



The interviewees were stakeholders of this topic: A mother who lives in an urban community who provides food to her family , a farm owner, and a social/agricultural activist. The QR code contains a file where each interview session is presented

## CONCLUSION

The research identified two main areas of concern that need to be addressed to assist with eliminating the discrepancies found in Urban Farming.

- 1 ) to bring greater awareness to Urban Farming; bridging society’s disconnect with food sources and systems.
- 2) provide opportunities for community involvement needed in the support of urban farming.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thank you to Ms.Sheila, Dr.Eli Wheat, and Hannah Wilson and my social media followers for partaking in this research as interviewees and poll participants

## REFERENCES

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This year I had the amazing opportunity to present my research at the Yale School for the Environment - New Horizons Conservation Conference 2021. My research presentation was entitled: "The Ripple Effect of Discrepancies in Urban Farming Affecting Food Security."

The purpose of this research is to call attention to the inequalities which exist in the agriculture industry. The disconnect between people and food systems has caused discrepancies in who is or can be successful within the agriculture industry and who cannot. Variations in support and services offered can have a direct impact on food accessibility in urban communities.

Many urban communities are located in food deserts, meaning there is no full-service grocery store within reasonable commuting distance; thus, they lack access to resources including healthy food options. This inaccessibility increases food insecurity that urban farming can start to address. Urban farms are seen as a novelty, however, because farming for so long has been an "out of sight, out of mind" market. This situation has caused many to become disconnected with healthy food options because they are unaware of where their food comes from and who produces it. This disconnection tends to leave urban agriculture workers without visibility thus lacking support from their communities and social and economic support structures. The result is an ongoing cycle of ignorance or food production and inequality regarding the agricultural workers and not being able to provide for those in communities most likely to benefit from their work.