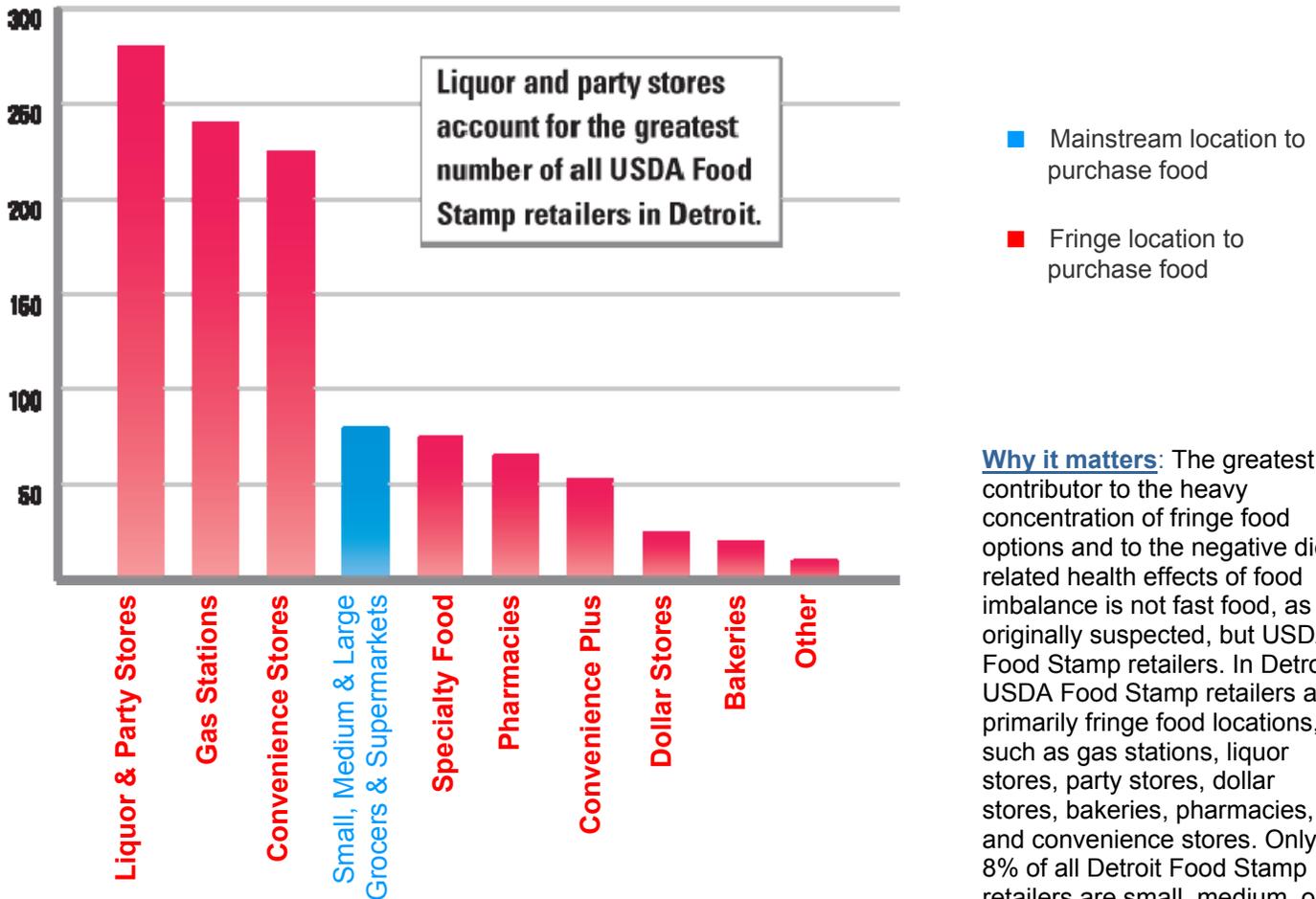




The reproduction of MG analysis into community storyboards was made possible by these kind sponsors. Thank you! We also acknowledge and thank the former LaSalle Bank for funding the original study: *Examining the Impact of Food Deserts on Public Health in Detroit*. Last but not least, thank you to the Detroit residents themselves, for their can-do spirit to improve their local food environment and community health.

Storyboard #3 of 10

Recoded Detroit USDA Food Stamp Liquor Stores



Why it matters: The greatest contributor to the heavy concentration of fringe food options and to the negative diet-related health effects of food imbalance is not fast food, as we originally suspected, but USDA Food Stamp retailers. In Detroit, USDA Food Stamp retailers are primarily fringe food locations, such as gas stations, liquor stores, party stores, dollar stores, bakeries, pharmacies, and convenience stores. Only 8% of all Detroit Food Stamp retailers are small, medium, or large grocery stores or supermarkets by our definition. These fringe locations appear not to specialize in healthy foods but, instead, in the sale of 1) alcohol, 2) tobacco, 3) lottery tickets, and/or 4) a comparatively small selection of prepackaged and canned food products high in salt, fat, and sugar.

What communities can do: Think through possible policy changes for the USDA to consider. In other words, how can a change in program requirements provide carrots and sticks for local Food Stamp retailers to make needed improvements? What if the only nearby “food” store is a liquor store or another type of fringe venue? Community residents might worry about the disappearance of that liquor store if it does not receive the Food Stamp status. Yet the liquor store offers few “good food” options. In those tough cases, what do you think should be done?