

Michele Ver Ploeg

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Education

Ph.D.: Policy Analysis and Management, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY, August 1998.

M.S.: Policy Analysis and Management, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY, May 1995.

B.A.: Economics, Central College, Pella, IA, May 1992.

Leadership Trainings:

USDA SES Candidate Development Program, December 2024 – February 2025 (program was cancelled).

Leadership for a Democratic Society, Federal Executive Institute, 2018

Professional Experience

April 2022 – May 2025; January 2018 – October 2019 Chief, Food Assistance Branch, Food Economics Division, Economic Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC

February – May 2025; October 2019 – July 2020 Acting Assistant Administrator, Economic Research Service (ERS), U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington DC

July 2021-April 2022 Senior Economist, Division of Research and Statistics, Federal Housing Finance Agency, Washington, DC

July 2020 – July 2021 Director, Food and Health Policy Institute, Milken Institute School of Public Health, George Washington University

October 2004 – January 2018 Research Economist, Food Assistance Branch, Food Economics Division, Economic Research Service, USDA

April 2016 – August 2016, Acting Deputy Director for Research and Product Coordinator, Food Economics Division, Economic Research Service, USDA

July 1998 – October 2004 Senior Program Officer, Committee on National Statistics, Division of Behavioral and Social Sciences and Education, National Research Council, Washington, DC

January – July 1994 Center for Women in Government Fellow & Legislative Research Analyst, New York State Senator Suzi Oppenheimer and Senate Minority Program Office, Albany, NY, January – July 1994

Honors and Awards

- 2016 Abraham Lincoln Honor Award for the National Household Food Acquisition and Purchase Survey (FoodAPS), Group award
- 2013 USDA Secretary's Award Honorable Mention for the Food Access Research Atlas
- University of Maryland, Department of Economics Teaching Award, Fall 2012.
- Helios Award Honorable Mention for Research, Staff Analysis and Outlook, 2009/2010 for "Access to Affordable and Nutritious Food", May 4, 2011.
- Amber Waves Best Finding—Diet and Health, 2009 for "WIC Not Linked to Overweight in Children," Awarded May 2010.
- Economic Research Service Helios Honorable Mention, Research, Staff Analysis, and Outlook, 2007-2008 for "Food Assistance and Obesity," Group Award
- National Research Council, Division on Behavioral and Social Sciences and Education Staff Award for Excellent Performance, 1999.
- Economics Award for senior economics major who demonstrated the highest academic achievement in the economics major. Central College, 1992.

Peer-reviewed Publications

Chen Zhen, Yu Chen, Biing-Hwan Lin, Shawn Karns, Lisa Mancino, Michele Ver Ploeg "Do obese and nonobese consumers respond differently to price changes? Implications of preference heterogeneity for obesity-oriented food taxes and subsidies" *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*, Issue 3, May 2024, pp. 1058-1088. <https://doi.org/10.1111/ajae.12418>.

Ver Ploeg, Michele., Benjamin Scharadin, Lauren Miller, Jeffrey Gonzalez, & Rodney Odom. 2024. Utilizing the USDA's National household food acquisition and purchase survey to calculate a household-level food environment measure ([Report No. TB-1964](#)). United States Department of Agriculture, Economic Research Service.

Ismail, Mehreen S., Michele Ver Ploeg, Virginia Chomitz, Parke Wilde. 2024. Examining the role of the excess shelter deduction in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefit formula. *Applied Economic Perspectives and Policy*: 46:300–317. <https://doi.org/10.1002/aepp.13369>.

Lora, Karina R., Leslie Hodges, Cayley Ryan, Michele Ver Ploeg, Joanne Guthrie. 2023. Factors That Influence Children's Exits from the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children: A Systematic Review. *Nutrients*, 15(3), 766; <https://doi.org/10.3390/nu15030766>

St. Pierre, C, M Ver Ploeg, WH Dietz, S Pryor, CS Jakazi, E Layman, D Noymer, T Coughtrey-Davenport, JM. Sacheck. 2022. Food Insecurity and Childhood Obesity: A Systematic Review, *Pediatrics*, 150 (1): e2021055571. <https://doi.org/10.1542/peds.2021-055571>.

Scharadin, Benjamin, Michele Ver Ploeg, Chris Dicken. 2021. "Geographic Boundary Definitions and the Robustness of Common Food Retail Environment Measures." *Annals of the American Association of Geographers*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/24694452.2021.1977109>

Ollinger, Michael, Michele Ver Ploeg, and Chris Dicken. 2021. Super Stores' Impact on the Availability of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program-Approved Stores, [ERR-291](#), U.S. Department of Agriculture, Economic Research Service. June 2021.

Chen, Yu, Biing-Hwan Lin, Lisa Mancino, Michele Ver Ploeg, and Chen Zhen. (2020). "Nutritional quality of retail food purchases is not associated with participation in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program for nutrition-oriented households" *PLoS ONE* 15(12): e0240263. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal>.

Validazeh, Pourya, Travis A. Smith, and Michele Ver Ploeg, (2020). "Do SNAP Households Pay Different Prices throughout the Benefit Month?" *Applied Economic Perspectives and Policy*, <https://doi.org/10.1002/aepp.13094>, Published October 13, 2020.

Ismail, Mehreen, Michele Ver Ploeg, Virginia R. Chomitz, and Parke Wilde, (2020) "Differences in food-at-home spending for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and non-SNAP households given geographic price variation." *Journal of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics* Jul;120(7):1142-1150.e12. DOI: [10.1016/j.jand.2019.12.017](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jand.2019.12.017).

Fitzpatrick, Katie, Nadia Greenhalgh-Stanley, Michele Ver Ploeg. (2019) "Food Deserts and Diet-Related Health Outcomes of the Elderly." *Food Policy*, Published Online August 6, 2019: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0306919219305640?via%3Dihub>.

Rhone, Alana, Michele Ver Ploeg, Vince Breneman, and Ryan Williams (2019). Understanding Low-Income and Low-Access Census Tracts Across the Nation: Subnational and Subpopulation Estimates of Access to Healthy Food. [EIB-209](#), U.S. Department of Agriculture, Economic Research Service, May.

Boehm, Rebecca, Michele Ver Ploeg, Parke Wilde, & Sean Cash. (2019). Greenhouse gas emissions, total food spending and diet quality by share of household food spending on red meat: Results from a nationally representative sample of US households. *Public Health Nutrition*, 1-13. [doi:10.1017/S136898001800407X](https://doi.org/10.1017/S136898001800407X).

Fan, Linlin, Kathy Baylis, Craig Gundersen and Michele Ver Ploeg (2018). Does a nutritious diet cost more in food deserts? *Agricultural Economics*. Published June 26, 2018. <https://doi.org/10.1111/agec.12444>.

Boehm, Rebecca, Parke E. Wilde, Michele Ver Ploeg, Christine Costello, Sean B. Cash (2018). "A Comprehensive Life Cycle Assessment of Greenhouse Gas Emissions from US Household Food Choices." *Food Policy*. Published June 6, 2018. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.foodpol.2018.05.004>

Ver Ploeg, Michele and Parke Wilde (2018). How do food retail choices vary within and between food retail environments? *Food Policy* <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.foodpol.2018.03.005>
Published online March 11, 2018.

Wilde, Parke, Abigail Steiner, and Michele Ver Ploeg (2017). For low-income Americans, living 1 mile (1.6 km) from the nearest supermarket is not associated with self-reported household food security. *Current Developments in Nutrition*, CDN/2017/001446 Version 2
[DOI: 10.3945/cdn.117.001446](https://doi.org/10.3945/cdn.117.001446).

Ver Ploeg, Michele, Elizabeth Larimore, and Parke Wilde (2017). *The Influence of Foodstore Access on Grocery Shopping and Food Spending*. [EIB-180](#), U.S. Department of Agriculture, Economic Research Service, November.

Rhone, Alana, Ver Ploeg, Michele, Dicken, Chris, Williams, Ryan, and Breneman, Vince. (2017) *Low-Income and Low-Supermarket-Access Census Tracts, 2010-2015*, [EIB-165](#), U.S. Department of Agriculture, Economic Research Service, January.

Clay, Dawn Marie, Michele Ver Ploeg, Alisha Coleman-Jensen, Howard Elitzak, Christian Gregory, David Levin, Constance Newman, and Matthew Rabbitt, (2016) Comparing National Food Acquisition and Purchase Survey (FoodAPS) Data with Other National Food Surveys' Data, [EIB-157](#), Economic Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, July, 33pp.

Fitzpatrick, K., N. Greenhalgh-Stanley and M. Ver Ploeg (2015). "The Impact of Food Deserts on Food Insufficiency and SNAP Participation among the Elderly." *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*, 98(1): 19-40. <https://doi.org/10.1093/ajae/aav044>.

Ver Ploeg, Michele, Lisa Mancino, Jessica E. Todd, Dawn Marie Clay, and Benjamin Scharadin (2015). Where Do Americans Usually Shop for Food and How Do They Travel To Get There? Initial Findings from the National Household Food Acquisition and Purchase Survey. Economic Information Bulletin. [EIB-138](#). March 23, 2015.

Ver Ploeg, Michele, Paula Dutko and Vince Breneman (2014). Measuring Food Access and Food Deserts for Policy Purposes. *Applied Economic Policy and Perspectives*, November. <https://doi.org/10.1093/aepp/ppu035>.

Todd, Jessica and Michele Ver Ploeg, (2014). Caloric Beverage Intake among Adult Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Participants. *American Journal of Public Health*, 104(9): e80-e85, September 2014. [DOI: 10.2105/AJPH.2014.301970](https://doi.org/10.2105/AJPH.2014.301970).

Lin, Biing-Hwan, Michele Ver Ploeg, Panigiotis Kasteridis, and Stephen T. Yen. (2014). The Roles of Food Prices and Food Access in Determining Food Purchases of Low-income Households. *Journal of Policy Modeling*, September 2014. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jpolmod.2014.07.002>

Wilde, Parke, Joseph Llobrera, and Michele Ver Ploeg, (2014). Population Density, Poverty, and Food Retail Access in the United States: An Empirical Approach. *International Food and Agribusiness Management Review*, 17(Special Issue A). DOI: [10.22004/ag.econ.164603](https://doi.org/10.22004/ag.econ.164603).

Andrews, Margaret, Rhea Bhatta, and Michele Ver Ploeg. (2013) An Alternative to Developing Stores in Food Deserts: Can Changes in SNAP Benefits Make a Difference? *Applied Economic Policy and Perspectives*, 35(1): 130-150. <https://doi.org/10.1093/aepp/pps042>.

Gregory, Christian, Michele Ver Ploeg, Margaret Andrews, and Alisha Coleman-Jensen, (2013), Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Participation Leads to Modest Changes in Diet Quality, [ERR-147](#), ERS, U.S. Department of Agriculture, April 2013.

Ver Ploeg, Michele, Vince Breneman, Paula Dutko, Ryan Williams, Samantha Snyder, Chris Dicken, Philip Kaufman (2012). Access to Affordable and Nutritious Food: Updated Estimates of Distance to Supermarkets Using 2010 Data. [ERR-143](#). Economic Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, November 2012.

Dutko, Paula, Michele Ver Ploeg, and Tracey Farrigan (2012). Characteristics and Influential Factors of Food Deserts. [ERR-140](#), Economic Research Service, August 2012.

Newman, Constance, Jessica Todd, and Michele Ver Ploeg, “Children’s Participation in Multiple Food Assistance Programs: Changes from 1990 to 2008”. *Social Service Review* 85(4): 535-564, December 2011. <https://doi.org/10.1086/663833>.

Chang, Hung-Hao, Michele Ver Ploeg, Biing-Hwan Lin, 2010. “Changes in the Propensity of Overweight U.S Women to Under-assess Their Body Weight Status”, *Food Policy*, Vol. 35(4), August 2010. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.foodpol.2010.04.003>

Todd, Jessica E., Constance Newman, and Michele Ver Ploeg, 2010. “Changing Participation in Food Assistance Programs among Low-Income Children after Welfare Reform”. [ERR- 92](#), Economic Research Service, February 2010.

Ver Ploeg, Michele 2009, “Do Benefits of U.S. Food Assistance Programs for Children Spillover to Older Children in the Same Household?” *Journal of Family and Economic Issues*, Vol. 30(4), December 2009. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10834-009-9164-9>

Access to Affordable and Nutritious Food: Measuring and Understanding Food Deserts and Their Consequences, [Report to Congress](#), U.S. Department of Agriculture, ERS, June 2009.

Ver Ploeg, Michele 2009, “WIC and the Battle Against Childhood Overweight”. [Economic Brief No. 13](#). Economic Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, April 2009. 4pp.

Ver Ploeg, Michele and Constance F. Citro, 2008, “Poverty Measurement: Orshansky’s Original Measures and the Development of Alternatives.” *Review of Agricultural Economics*, Vol. 30(3), pp.581-590. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1467-9353.2008.00432.x>

Ver Ploeg, Michele, Hung-Hao Chang, and Biing-Hwan Lin, 2008 “Over, Under, or About Right: Misperceptions of Body Weight among Food Stamp Participants,” *Obesity*, Vol. 16(9), pp. 2120-2125. [DOI: 10.1038/oby.2008.306](https://doi.org/10.1038/oby.2008.306).

Ver Ploeg, Michele, Lisa Mancino, Biing-Hwan Lin, and Joanne Guthrie, 2008, “U.S. Food Assistance Programs and Trends in Children’s Weight”, *International Journal of Pediatric Obesity*, Vol. 3(1), pp.22-30. [DOI: 10.1080/17477160701520231](https://doi.org/10.1080/17477160701520231)

Ver Ploeg, Michele & Katherine Ralston, 2008, *Food Stamps and Obesity: What Do We Know?* [EIB-34](#). Economic Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, March. 31 pp.

Ver Ploeg, Michele, Lisa Mancino, and Biing-Hwan Lin, 2007, *Food and Nutrition Assistance Programs and Obesity: 1976-2002*. [ERR-48](#). Economic Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 42 pp.

Guthrie, Joanne F., Biing-Hwan Lin, Michele Ver Ploeg, and Elizabeth Frazao, 2007, “Overview: Can Food Stamps Do More to Improve Food Choices? An Economic Perspective”, [EIB 29-1](#), Economic Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, September 2007, 8 pp.

Ver Ploeg, Michele, Lisa Mancino, Biing-Hwan Lin, and Chia-Yih Wang, 2007, “The Vanishing Weight Gap: Trends in Obesity among Adult Food Stamp Participants (US) (1976-2002)”, *Economics & Human Biology*, Vol. 5(1), pp. 20-36. [10.1016/j.ehb.2006.10.002](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ehb.2006.10.002)

Ver Ploeg, Michele, 2002. “Children from Disrupted Families as Adults: Family Structure and College Completion”, *Economics of Education Review*, 21(2), pp. 171-184. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S0272-7757\(00\)00050-9](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0272-7757(00)00050-9).

Edited Volumes, Book Chapters, and Non-Technical Publications

[An Updated Measure of Poverty: Redrawing the Line](#), Panel on Evaluation and Improvements to the Supplemental Poverty Measure, James Ziliak and Christopher Mackie, eds. National Academies Press, Washington, DC, 2023.

Michele Ver Ploeg and Chen Zhen. 2022. Changes in SNAP Benefit Levels and Food Spending and Diet Quality: Simulations from the National Household Food Acquisition and Purchase Survey, Center for Budget and Policy Priorities. May 12. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/resrep41228>

Hao, Yonping, Hope Landrine, Michele Ver Ploeg, Xingyou Zhang, 2020, “Bayesian Hierarchical Modeling for the Linkages between Air Pollution and Population Health”, pp.91-105. Chapter in [Spatiotemporal Analysis of Air Pollution and Its Application in Public Health](#). Elsevier. <https://doi.org/10.1016/B978-0-12-815822-7.00004-2>.

Michele Ver Ploeg and Christopher J. O’Leary, 2019. “[The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and Unemployment Insurance Cushioned the Great Recession](#)”. *Amber Waves (feature)*, November, 2019.

Michele Ver Ploeg and Ilya Rahkovsky, 2016, “[Recent Evidence on the Effects of Food Store Access on Food Choice and Diet Quality](#)” *Amber Waves (feature)*, Economic Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, May 2016.

Todd, Jessica and Michele Ver Ploeg, 2015, “[Restricting Sugar-Sweetened Beverages from SNAP Purchases Not Likely To Lower Consumption](#),” *Amber Waves (feature)*, Economic Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture March.

Oliveira, Victor, Laura Tiehen, and Michele Ver Ploeg, 2014, “[USDA’s Food Assistance Programs: Legacies of the War on Poverty](#),” *Amber Waves (feature)*, Economic Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, February.

Paula Dutko and Michele Ver Ploeg, 2013. “[Different Measures of Food Access Inform Different Solutions](#).” *Amber Waves (feature)*, Economic Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, March.

Dave D. Weatherspoon, Michele Ver Ploeg, Paula Dutko, An Evaluation of Food Deserts in America, Guest Editors for *Choices*, November 2012.

Tiehen, Laura and Michele Ver Ploeg, 2012. “[SNAP Benefits Alleviate the Intensity and Incidence of Poverty](#)”. *Amber Waves (feature)*. Vol 20(2): 1-6, Economic Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, June 2012.

Ver Ploeg, Michele, David Nulph, and Ryan Williams, 2011. “[Mapping Food Deserts in the U.S.](#)” *Amber Waves (Data feature)*. Economic Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, December 2011.

Ver Ploeg, Michele, 2011. Food Assistance and Obesity, in [The Oxford Handbook of the Social Science of Obesity](#). John Cawley, ed. New York: Oxford University Press, pp. 415-432.

Ver Ploeg, Michele, 2010. “[Access to Affordable, Nutritious Food Is Limited in “Food Deserts”](#)”. *Amber Waves (feature)*. Vol. 8, Issue 1, Economic Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, March.

Ver Ploeg, Michele and Katherine Ralston, 2008, “[Food Stamps and Obesity: What Do We Know?](#)” *Amber Waves (feature)*, Vol. 6, Issue 4, Economic Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, June 2008.

Ver Ploeg, Michele, Lisa Mancino, and Biing-Hwan Lin, 2006, “[Food Stamps and Obesity: Complex Puzzle or Ironic Twist?](#)” *Amber Waves (feature)*, Vol. 4 Issue 1, Economic Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, February, pp. 32-39.

Ver Ploeg, Michele and Edward Perrin, eds., 2004, *Eliminating Health Disparities: Measurement and Data Needs*, Report of the Panel on DHHS Collection of Race and Ethnicity Data. Washington, DC: National Academies Press, 2004, 310 pp. [DOI: 10.17226/10979](https://doi.org/10.17226/10979)

Ver Ploeg, Michele and David Betson, eds. 2003, *Estimating Eligibility and Participation for the WIC Program: Final Report*, Report of the Panel to Evaluate the USDA's Methodology for Estimating Eligibility for and Participation in the WIC Program. Washington, DC: National Academies Press, 2003, 218 pp. <https://doi.org/10.17226/10804>.

Ver Ploeg, Michele, 2002, "Pre-Exit Benefit Receipt and Employment Histories and Post-Exit Outcomes of Welfare Leavers," in *Data Collection and Research Issues for Studies of Welfare Populations*, (M. Ver Ploeg, R.A. Moffitt. and Constance F. Citro, eds.), Washington, DC: National Academy Press, pp. 415-465. <https://doi.org/10.17226/10206>

Ver Ploeg, Michele, Robert A. Moffitt and Constance F. Citro, eds., 2002, *Studies of Welfare Populations: Data Collection and Research Issues*. Washington, DC: National Academies Press, 2002, 526 pp. <https://doi.org/10.17226/10206>

Moffitt, Robert A. and Michele Ver Ploeg, eds., 2001, *Evaluating Welfare Reform in an Era of Transition*, Report of the Panel on Data and Methods for Measuring the Effects of Changes in Social Welfare Programs, National Academies Press, 2001, 253 pp. <https://doi.org/10.17226/10020>.

Ver Ploeg, Michele and David Betson, eds., 2001, *Estimating Eligibility and Participation for the WIC Program: Phase I Report*, Report of the Panel to Evaluate the USDA's Methodology for Estimating Eligibility for and Participation in the WIC Program, Washington, DC: National Academies Press, 2001, 98 pp. [DOI: 10.17226/10158](https://doi.org/10.17226/10158).

Ver Ploeg, Michele, Joseph Altonji, Norman Bradburn, Julie DaVanzo, William Nordhaus, and Francisco Samaniego, eds., 2000, *Time Use Measurement and Research: Summary of a Workshop*, Washington, DC: National Academies Press, 2000, 128 pp. <https://doi.org/10.17226/9866>.

Moffitt, Robert A. and Michele Ver Ploeg, 1999, *Evaluating Welfare Reform: A Framework and Review of Current Work*, Interim Report of the Panel on Data and Methods for Measuring the Effects of Changes in Social Welfare Programs, Washington, DC: National Academies Press, 1999, 151 pp. <https://doi.org/10.17226/9672>

Work in Progress or Under Review:

"SNAP Participation Dynamics in State X" Laura Tiehen, Kegan O'Connor, Mark Prell, Christian Gregory and Michele Ver Ploeg. Under peer review at the Economic Research Service, USDA.

“The Impact of a Household-level Food Retail Environment Health Quality Measure on Diet Quality” Benjamin Scharadin, Michele Ver Ploeg, Lauren Miller. Under review.

“Investigating Heterogeneity in Responses to SNAP Benefit Cycle”, with Jinlin Feng, Linlin Fan, Edward C. Jaenicke, Craig G. Gundersen, and Elina T. Page. Under Review

Briefings

Michele Ver Ploeg, “Research on Policies to Improve the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and Its Impact on Health.” Briefing for Representative Marie Gluesenkamp Perez, September 12, 2023

Michele Ver Ploeg, “The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and Diet Quality.” Briefing for Representatives James McGovern and Marie Gluesenkamp Perez, July 27, 2023.

Michele Ver Ploeg and Saty Patrabansh, “Borrowers in Forebearance at a Glance”. Briefing to Federal Housing Finance Director Sandra Thompson & FHFA Leadership. February 8, 2022.

Michele Ver Ploeg and Andi Carlson, “Access & Affordability of Healthful Food,” Office of the Secretary (OSEC) Brown Bag Series, November 30, 2017.

Michele Ver Ploeg, “Comparing National Food Acquisition and Purchase Survey (FoodAPS) Data with Other National Food Surveys’ Data, Briefing for Undersecretary Kevin Concannon, USDA Food Nutrition and Consumer Service (FNCS), June 14, 2016.

Michele Ver Ploeg, “Food Affordability for Low-income and SNAP Households”. Briefing for USDA Office of Budget and Policy Analysis. May 19, 2016.

Michele Ver Ploeg and Ilya Rahkovsky, “Recent Evidence on the Effects of Food Store Access on Food Choice and Diet Quality” Briefing for USDA Agriculture Marketing Service Administrator, Elanor Starmer, April 13, 2016.

Michele Ver Ploeg and Ilya Rahkovsky, “Recent Evidence on the Effects of Food Store Access on Food Choice and Diet Quality” Briefing for USDA FNCS Undersecretary Kevin Concannon, March 25, 2016.

Michele Ver Ploeg, “Food Affordability for Low-income and SNAP Households”. Briefing for Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and USDA Office of Budget and Policy Analysis. March 24, 2016.

Michele Ver Ploeg, Abigail Okrent, Pat Canning and Andrea Carlson. “ERS Research Related to Farm Policy Levers for Nutrition” Briefing for White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, June 25, 2014.

Michele Ver Ploeg and Vince Breneman, “The Food Access Research Atlas”. Briefing for USDA FNCS Undersecretary Kevin Concannon, February, 6, 2013

Michele Ver Ploeg, “Access to Affordable and Nutritious Food: Updated Estimates of Distance to Supermarkets Using 2010 Data”, Briefing for Undersecretary Kevin Concannon, November 21, 2012.

Michele Ver Ploeg, “Access to Affordable and Nutritious Food: Updated Estimates of Distance to Supermarkets Using 2010 Data”, Briefing for Interagency Working Group Implementing Food Access Provisions of Let’s Move! Initiative, U.S. Department of Agriculture, November 20, 2012.

Michele Ver Ploeg, and Vince Breneman, “ERS Plans for Updating Estimates of Food Access,” Briefing for Deputy Secretary Kathleen Merrigan, U.S. Department of Agriculture, May 9, 2012.

David Nulph and Michele Ver Ploeg, “The Food Deserts Locator,” Presentation and demonstration to Office of Communications, USDA. April 18, 2011.

David Nulph and Michele Ver Ploeg, “The Food Deserts Locator,” Presentation and Demonstration to the White House Domestic Policy Council and First Lady Michelle Obama’s Let’s Move! Staff, April 11, 2011.

Elise Golan and Michele Ver Ploeg, “The Food Environment Atlas and Measures of Food Deserts,” Briefing for USDA Secretary Vilsack’s Weekly Subcabinet Meeting, December 8, 2010.

Ver Ploeg, Michele, Access to Affordable and Nutritious Food: Measuring and Understanding Food Deserts and Their Consequences,” Testimony before the House Agriculture Committee, Subcommittee on Operations, Oversight, Nutrition and Forestry, April 14, 2010.

Ver Ploeg, Michele, 2009, “Access to Affordable and Nutritious Food: Measuring and Understanding Food Deserts”. Briefing for the U.S. House of Representatives Hunger Caucus, November 4.

Briefings on reports written while a study director at the Committee on National Statistics, National Academies:

Office of Senator Edward Kennedy
Office of Senator William Frist
Democratic Staff, Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor & Pensions
Office of Congressman David Obey
Office of Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, DHHS
Office of Minority Health, DHHS

Special Invitations

French National Institute of Agricultural Research, ALISS unit (Food and Social Sciences)
Keynote presentation on “Food Store Access and Food and Dietary Choices” for conference on
“Public policies in the context of global changes: climate change, biodiversity and food
sustainability”. May 31-June 1, 2018.

Brazilian Ministry on Food and Nutrition Security, Brasilia, Brazil. Keynote address at the
“Workshop on Brazilian Food Deserts”. November 16-17, 2017.

Department of Agricultural, Environmental, and Regional Economics, Pennsylvania State
University, “Using the National Household Food Acquisition and Purchase Survey (FoodAPS) to
Understand Food Store Access and Food Choices”. Seminar and Faculty and Graduate Student
Visit. April 26, 2017.

Minneapolis Federal Reserve Bank Connecting Communities Seminar on “Expanding Access to
Healthy Food: New Data, New Ideas, New Directions.” Presentation entitled: “New Research
and New Data to Understand How Food Store Access Affects Food Shopping and Diet”. March
26, 2015.

University of Missouri, Columbia, Interdisciplinary Center for Food Security, Invited
presentation for the Food Insecurity Research Symposium. Presentation entitled: “Nationals
Measures of Food Access: Which Measures and What Do They Tell Us”, October 17-19, 2012.

Teaching Experience

Adjunct Professorial Lecturer, School of Public Affairs, American University
Public Administration 685 -- Social Welfare Policy and Programs
Spring 2022 – 25 students

Milken Institute School of Public Health, The George Washington University
Exercise and Nutrition Science 4112 – Nutrition Senior Capstone Seminar
Spring, 2021 – 15 students

Public Health 6612 – Food Systems in Public Health, Section Leader
Summer, 2021 – 15 students

Lecturer, Department of Economics, University of Maryland, College Park:
Economics 375—The Economics of Poverty and Discrimination
Spring 2005 – 45 students

Spring 2006 – 44 students
Spring 2007 – 43 students
Spring 2008 – 40 students
Fall 2009 – 34 students
Spring 2011 – 39 students
Fall 2012 - 40 students
Economics 398P- Theory and Policy of Poverty Alleviation
Spring 2014 – 21 students

Service to Professional Organizations and Honorary Societies

Member, Panel on Evaluation and Improvements to the Supplemental Poverty Measure,
National Academies of Science, Engineering and Medicine
February 2021 – March 2023

Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management:

Co-Chair: Income and Poverty Section, Program Committee for Annual Fall Research
Conference, 2024 and 2025
Treasurer, 2013-2014
Policy Council Member, 2010-2013

Government Statistics Section of American Statistical Association:
Publications Chair, 2002- 2004.

Member: American Agricultural Economics Association (2006 – present), American
Statistical Association (1999 – present), Association for Public Policy Analysis and
Management (1998 – present), Population Association of America (1996 – 2014).

Visiting Honorary Fellow - Institute for Research on Poverty, University of Wisconsin,
Madison, 1999-2002.

Administrative Service to Food Economics Division (FED), Economic Research Service (ERS), and U.S. Department of Agriculture

- ◆ ERS Leadership Summit Planning Committee, January-May 2024.
- ◆ ERS COVID-19 Rapid Response Team, April 2020 – July 2020.
- ◆ ERS Realignment and Relocation Team, November 2018 – May 2019.
- ◆ ERS Performance Plan Revision Team, August 2018 – November 2018.
- ◆ FED Employee Advisory Committee, September 2016 – January 2018
- ◆ ERS Peer Review Coordinating Council, Editor, June 2012 – June 2014.
- ◆ Healthy Food Finance Initiative Interagency Working Group, a group of senior-level staff at Department of Treasury, Health and Human Services, and USDA, charged with developing census-tract level measures of food deserts to be used to guide and determine which neighborhoods are eligible for program funds. Winter 2010 – Spring, 2013.