

Not a Good Neighbor

**Albertson's neglects need for affordable
nutritious food in lower income
Billings neighborhoods**

By Bryan Hall

Montana People's Action (MPA)

July 2001

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Northwest Federation of Community Organizations (NWFCO)**

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Overview

The Boise, Idaho-based Albertson's grocery store chain plays an important role in the Billings community. Albertson's Company is the largest of the more than 17 retail grocery stores in Billings. The corporation operates six stores in Billings, twice the number of its closest competitors: IGA and County Market.¹ The 90,000 residents in Billings rely on Albertson's to provide them with the safe, affordable and nutritious food they need to feed their families.

"Joe Albertson gave us words to live by: 'You've got to give the customers the merchandise they want, at a price they can afford to pay, complete with lots of tender loving care.'"

The Albertson's Corporation has long prided itself on its "good neighbor" policies. The corporation says in its 2000 Company Profile, "Albertson's believes in being a good neighbor by contributing to the quality of life in the diverse communities we serve. Listening to our neighbors allows us to respond to their various needs."² The report goes on to quote Albertson's founder, "Joe Albertson gave us words to live by: 'You've got to give the customers the merchandise they want, at a price they can afford to pay, complete with lots of tender loving care.'"³

However, for many residents who live in Billings lower income neighborhoods served by Albertson's stores, Albertson's "good neighbor" motto seemed far from the truth. Several of these residents came to Montana People's Action (MPA), a community organization in Billings, to complain of high prices at the Albertson's Downtown and Underpass stores. The Downtown and Underpass neighborhoods in Billings have some of the highest poverty rates and lowest incomes in the city and many families in these neighborhoods struggle to make ends meet.

For Billings' residents living in these lower income neighborhoods, providing food that is both affordable and nutritious is an uphill battle. Typically, they have less money than those who live in the higher income neighborhoods, like the Grand and Heights neighborhoods, and therefore have a greater need for affordable food. Affordable food is even more important for recipients receiving federal food stamp benefits. Food stamp benefits are quite small (they average about \$70 per person per month) and access to grocery stores that provide affordable food and fully accept food stamp benefits is critical for recipients to survive. Lower income residents without the means to shop at other grocery stores put trust in their neighborhood grocery stores to provide food that is nutritious and affordable.

After receiving multiple complaints from Billings residents who shop at the Downtown and Underpass Albertson's stores, Montana People's Action (MPA) decided to test grocery prices to see if Albertson's was living up to its founder's promise to "...give the customers the merchandise they want, at a price they can afford..."

MPA members went into four Albertson's stores located in Billings and tested 85 products (see appendix 2) over a three-month period. Two of the Albertson's stores – the Downtown and Underpass stores – are located in neighborhoods with a significantly higher number of low-income residents. The two other Albertson's stores – the Grand and Heights stores – are located in neighborhoods with a much higher income population.

The findings from these tests show a disturbing pattern: **higher overall prices at Albertson's stores located in lower income neighborhoods** compared to Albertson's stores in higher income neighborhoods. In addition, MPA found a troublesome pattern of high or rising food prices during the first few weeks of the month – the same time period that the Yellowstone County Office of Public Assistance distributes federal food stamp benefits. These findings reflect a pattern of neglect and mismanagement of stores in economically disadvantaged neighborhoods.

Albertson's is keenly aware of the needs in the neighborhoods its stores serves. The corporation uses a sophisticated "neighborhood marketing" system that helps the company tailor the inside of its stores to the social and economic realities of the surrounding communities. Albertson's uses information on income, ethnicity, and family size to help determine what products and services to provide for surrounding communities.⁴

Montana People's Action is concerned with the economic security of low-income residents in Billings and works to ensure they have access to food that is both affordable and nutritious. MPA wants Albertson's to offer the same prices in its stores serving lower income neighborhoods that it offers in its stores serving higher income neighborhoods. MPA also wants Albertson's to re-commit to its principle of providing food at an affordable price and avoid raising prices when food stamp benefits are issued.

The findings from these tests show a disturbing pattern: higher overall prices at Albertson's stores located in lower income neighborhoods compared to Albertson's stores in higher income neighborhoods.

Section II

Billings neighborhoods served by Albertson's stores

Understanding the needs of specific neighborhoods requires an understanding of their social and economic make up. The following two pages describe the key economic and social data of the four Billings neighborhoods served by Albertson's stores. Finishing up this section is a two-page comparison of the data between the lower and higher income neighborhoods. The following data came from 1990 and 2000 US Census Bureau reports. Household size, income, and poverty data for 2000 was not yet available at the time this report was written.

Downtown neighborhood served by Albertson's store



Downtown Albertson's store, 611 N. 27th Street, Billings, MT 59101

Population: ⁵ In 1990, the Downtown Albertson's store served a local neighborhood of 1,829 households.⁶

Race: In 2000, 18% of the neighborhood population was non-white.⁷

Income: In 1990, 77% of the households in this neighborhood made below \$25,000 a year. The median household income for this neighborhood in 1990 was \$13,711.⁸

Poverty: In 1990, 31% of the total population in this neighborhood lived below the poverty level.⁹

Underpass neighborhood served by Albertson's store



Underpass Albertson's store, 511 Central Ave., Billings, MT 59102

Population: ⁵ In 1990, the Underpass Albertson's store served a local neighborhood of 2,154 households.⁶

Race: In 2000, 14% of the neighborhood population was non-white.⁷

Income: In 1990, 63% of the households in this neighborhood made below \$25,000 a year. The median household income for this neighborhood in 1990 was \$19,130.⁸

Poverty: In 1990, 18% of the total population in this neighborhood lived below the poverty level.⁹

Heights neighborhood served by Albertson's store



Heights Albertson's store, 670 Main St., Billings, MT 59105

Population: ⁵ In 1990, the Heights Albertson's stores served a local neighborhood of 2,812 households.⁶

Race: In 2000, 11% of the neighborhood population was non-white.⁷

Income: In 1990, 47% of the households in this neighborhood made below \$25,000 a year. The median household income for this neighborhood in 1990 was \$26,199.⁸

Poverty: In 1990, 13% of the total population in this neighborhood lived below the poverty level.⁹

Grand neighborhood served by Albertson's store



Grand Albertson's store, 3137 Grand Ave., Billings, MT 59102

Population: ⁵ In 1990, the Grand Albertson's store served a local neighborhood of 1,050 households.⁶

Race: In 2000, 5% of the neighborhood population was non-white.⁷

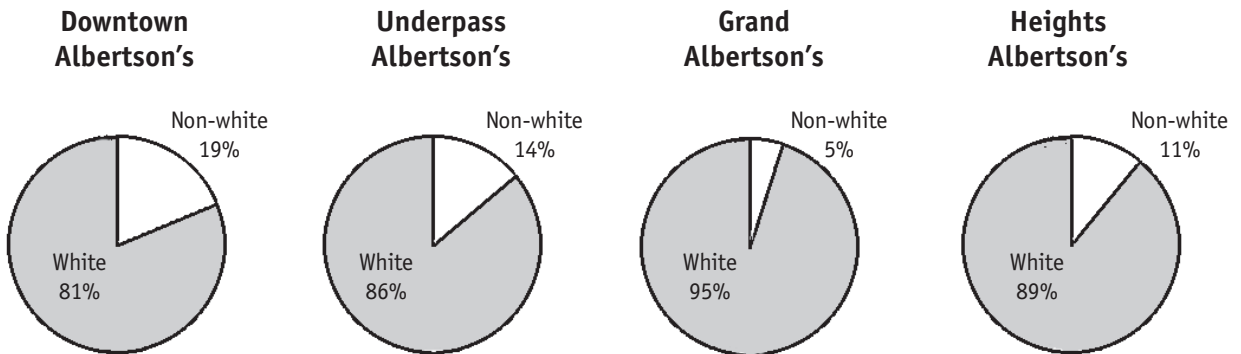
Income: In 1990, 32% of the households in this neighborhood made below \$25,000 a year. The median household income for this neighborhood in 1990 was \$33,721.⁸

Poverty: In 1990, 9% of the total population in this neighborhood lived below the poverty level.⁹

Albertson's uses a sophisticated "neighborhood marketing" system that helps the company tailor the inside of its stores to the social and economic realities of the surrounding communities.

Non-white population in neighborhoods served by Albertson's stores

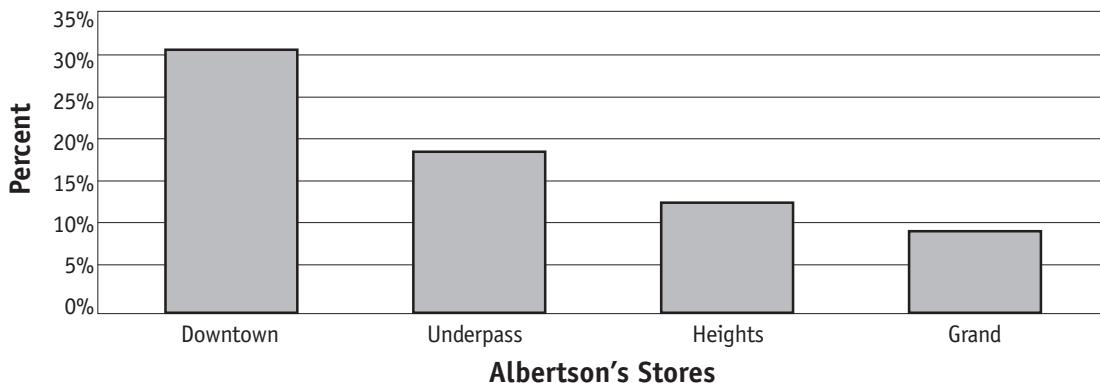
Both neighborhoods surrounding the Downtown and Underpass Albertson's stores have a significantly higher percentage of non-white minorities compared to the neighborhoods served by the Grand and Heights Albertson's stores.



Percent of population served by Albertson's stores living in poverty

Each year the federal government publishes poverty guidelines that specify the amount of annual income that is *insufficient* to meet a family's basic needs. Both neighborhoods surrounding the Downtown and Underpass Albertson's stores have a significantly higher percentage of the population living below the poverty line compared to the neighborhoods served by the Grand and Heights Albertson's stores.

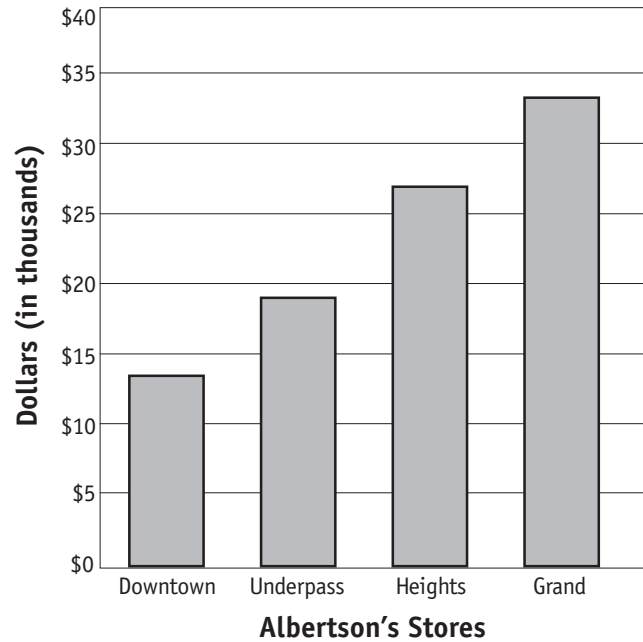
Percentage of people in poverty living in neighborhoods served by Billings Albertson's Stores.



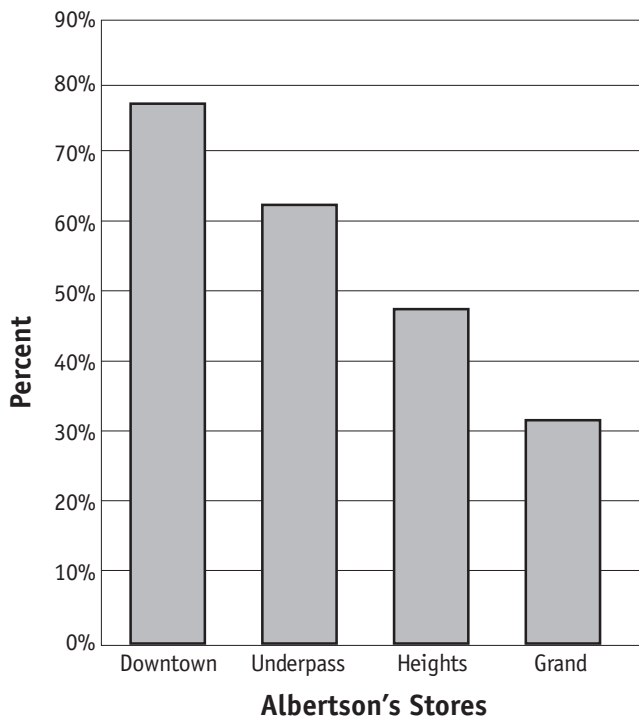
Yearly median income of households in neighborhoods served by Albertson's stores

Both neighborhoods surrounding the Downtown and Underpass Albertson's stores have significantly lower median incomes compared to the neighborhoods served by the Grand and Heights Albertson's stores. Both lower income neighborhoods also have a higher percentage of people making less than \$25,000 a year, the approximate median income for all of Billings.¹⁰

Median Income in neighborhoods served by Albertson's Stores.



Percentage of people earning less than \$25,000 a year in neighborhoods served by Albertson's Stores.



Albertson's uses information on income, ethnicity, and family size to help determine what products and services to provide for surrounding communities.

Customer services offered in Albertson's stores

The Downtown and Underpass Albertson's stores offer fewer services to their customers than the Grand and Heights Albertson's stores offer.

	Pharmacy	Banking	ATM Machines	Grocery Carry Out	Accessible Customer Bathroom	Video Rental	Open 24 hours a day
Downtown	✓		✓	✓			
Underpass	✓		✓	✓			
Heights	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Grand	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Other options for grocery shopping in neighborhoods served by Albertson's

Both lower income neighborhoods surrounding the Downtown and Underpass Albertson's stores differ in the number of other options available for residents to grocery shop. The Downtown Albertson's is the only large retail grocery store in the neighborhood. The only other stores selling food in the neighborhood are gas stations and convenience stores. The Underpass Albertson's store is one of only two options in its surrounding neighborhood.

In contrast, the higher income neighborhood surrounding the Grand and Height's Albertson's offer a variety of other grocery shopping options for residents, including two Smiths stores, two County Market stores, a Wal-Mart, a KMart, and other smaller, specialty stores.

Section III

Findings from Montana People's Action survey of food prices

After collecting the data on prices from the four Albertson's stores and then comparing them to the social and economic data from the individual neighborhoods, Montana People's Action found:

- Higher overall prices at Albertson's stores located in lower income neighborhoods compared to the prices charged at Albertson's stores in higher income neighborhoods.
- A troublesome pattern of higher or rising prices during the weeks that food stamp benefits are issued and typically used by recipients.

On average, residents in lower income neighborhoods who rely on the Downtown Albertson's store pay 6% more on the 85 products tested than higher income customers served by the Grand Albertson's store.

"Although I live just a few blocks from the Downtown Albertson's I avoid the store except for convenience items. I would rather travel to Costco, Wal-Mart, or other stores on the west end. Albertson's prices are outrageous, their selection and quality are poor, and I always notice that prices for groceries are lower elsewhere. People who live in my area – who don't drive – are stuck with this store because it is the only one in walking distance."

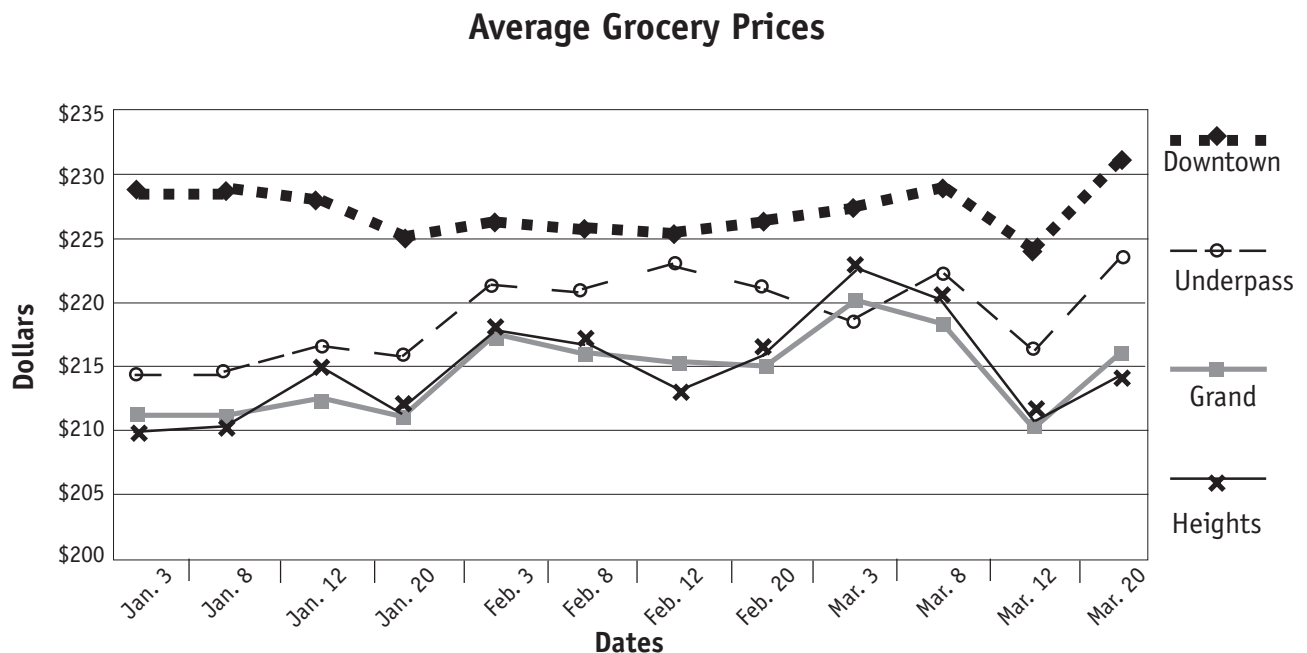
— David L. Henry

Overall price difference between the four neighborhood Albertson's stores

There is a significant difference in total price for the 85 items tested at four Albertson's stores in Billings. The most expensive groceries were found at the Downtown Albertson's store; the total costs for the 85 products tested averaged \$227. The second most expensive groceries were found at the Underpass Albertson's store; the total cost for the 85 products tested averaged over \$219. The Downtown and Underpass Albertson's stores serve lower income neighborhoods. Average price totals in the Grand and Heights Albertson's stores – the stores in higher income neighborhoods– were cheapest with total costs under \$215.

On average, residents in lower income neighborhoods who rely on the Downtown Albertson's store pay 6% more on the 85 products tested than higher income customers served by the Grand Albertson's store.

See Appendix 3 for a full list of daily food totals for the complete list of 85 items at each Albertson's store.



Top Ten items with the most extreme price differences for Albertson's stores

One comparison used in this price test was how individual items stacked up against each other at the Albertson's stores over the three months. The data collected finds that lower income residents shopping at the Downtown and Underpass Albertson's pay more for one out of every three items they purchase. Of the 85 items tested in this study, 24 are more expensive at the Downtown and/or Underpass Albertson's at least 50% of the time.

The following list ranks 10 of the most extreme cases of price differences between the lower and higher income neighborhood Albertson's stores. See Appendix 4 for full list of average prices for each item at each store.

1. **Albertson's Orange Juice:** Downtown Albertson's customers pay over 41% more than Heights Albertson's customers.
2. **Albertson's Apple Juice:** Downtown Albertson's customers pay 40% more than both Heights and Grand Albertson's customers.
3. **Kraft Sliced Cheese:** Downtown Albertson's customers pay over 28% more than Grand Albertson's customers.
4. **Ivory Hand Soap:** Downtown Albertson's customers pay nearly 21% more than both Heights and Grand Albertson's customers.
5. **Cascade Pure Rinse Dishwasher Soap:** Downtown Albertson's customers pay nearly 46% more than Grand and Heights customers.
6. **Red Delicious Apples:** Downtown and Underpass Albertson's customers pay nearly 20% more than Grand Albertson's customers.
7. **Bananas:** Downtown Albertson's customers pay nearly 15% more than Grand Albertson's customers.
8. **Green Giant Canned Cut Green Beans:** Downtown Albertson's customers pay nearly 13% more than Heights customers.
9. **Albertson's Long Grain White Rice:** Downtown and Underpass Albertson's customers pay nearly 7% more than Heights customers.
10. **Pampers Disposable Diapers:** Downtown Albertson's customers pay nearly 5% more than Grand and Heights customers.

"I live on \$101 a month for groceries. I run real low toward the end of the month. [I] have to shop at Albertson's Downtown because of transportation issues. The food there is priced too high. I could buy more groceries at another store. Food prices should be fair and equitable for everyone."

— Judith Shelby

Breakdown of 85 products into meals for the four neighborhood Albertson's stores

We further analyzed price differences between the four neighborhood Albertson's stores by taking food items from the list of 85 products and creating two example menus that could feed a family of three for a week. The two menus created serve enough food to produce more than one meal during the week

Based on the grand totals for the meals at each store, the lower income Billings residents served by the Downtown and Underpass Albertson's stores pay 7% and 3% more to provide these meals, respectively, than Grand or Heights customers. See Appendix 5 for full list of average meal prices at each Albertson's store.

To provide these sample menus each week for a year, a three-person family shopping at the Downtown Albertson's store would pay \$407 more per year than Grand and Height's Albertson's customers. A three person family shopping at the Underpass Albertson's store would pay over \$180 more a year to provide this example menu each week than would Grand and Heights Albertson's customers.

Grand totals for products used in sample menus for the four neighborhood Albertson's Stores.



Sample meal #1

Breakfast

Scrambled eggs with cheese, bacon, home fries, toast (with margarine), and orange juice

Lunch

Beef bologna and sliced cheese on sandwich bread with mayonnaise and mustard, with potato chips, an apple, and soda pop

Dinner

Beef chili (with bacon, canned tomatoes, canned chili beans, yellow onions, green peppers, and medium chunk cheddar cheese) with milk

Salad

Lettuce, carrots, tomatoes, cucumbers, ranch dressing

Dessert — Ice Cream

Sample meal #2

Breakfast

Corn flakes, milk, banana, toast with butter, and orange juice

Lunch

Hot dogs on hot dog buns, with ketchup, a side of chili beans, an apple, and milk

Dinner

Chicken and vegetables (margarine, yellow onions, canned green beans, ground pepper), with milk

Salad

Lettuce, carrots, roma tomatoes, cucumbers, ranch dressing

Dessert

Cookies

Section 4

Food Stamp Affordability

For many lower income Billings residents, providing food for their families each day is a challenge. Many residents rely on the federally-funded food stamp program – America’s number one defense against hunger - to supplement their income, allowing them to purchase affordable and nutritious foods for them and their families.

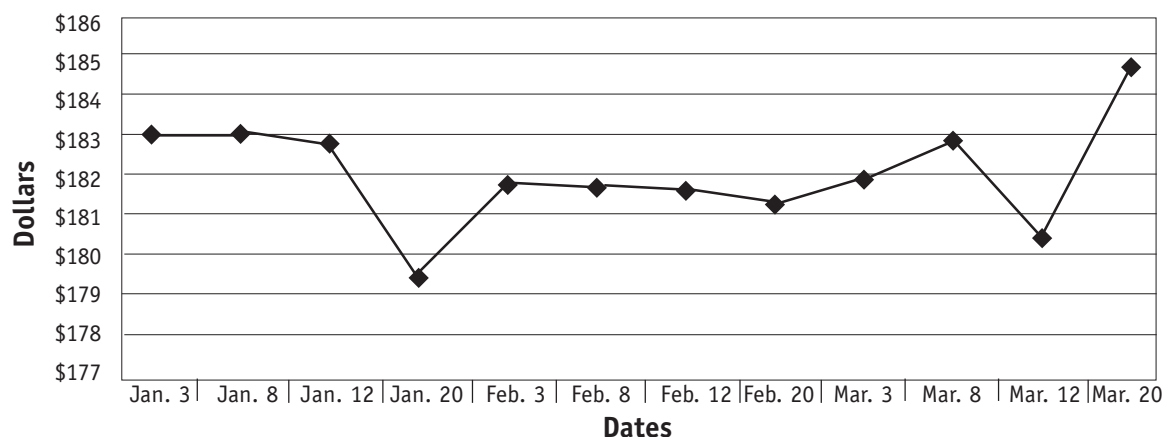
Grocery stores like Albertson’s are very important in the food stamp program because they provide the vast majority of the food purchased with food stamps. Besides the families who are helped by the food stamp program, grocery stores receive the bulk of the \$1.5 billion of food stamps each year.¹¹ As a provider of food for the food stamp program, Albertson’s responsibilities are two-fold: 1) provide affordable food items for food stamp recipients, and 2) not exploit the food stamp program by raising food prices when food stamps are issued and used. Food stamp benefits in Billings are usually distributed during the first week of the month.

Judging by the data on overall food prices already presented in this report (excluding non-food items), Albertson’s has already failed responsibility number one: to provide affordable food items. Higher food prices for lower income residents, who are more likely than higher income residents to receive food stamp benefits, greatly reduces their purchasing power. Reduced purchasing power in turn greatly reduces the effectiveness of the food stamp program because residents can not buy the sufficient food needed to prevent hunger in their families.

Judging by the price data for eligible food stamp items at lower income neighborhood Albertson’s stores, it looks as though Albertson’s has also performed poorly on responsibility two as well.

One look at the food prices at the Downtown Albertson’s store shows a disturbing trend for at least two out of the three months: prices start high at the beginning of the month – when food stamps are issued and most often used – and then decline. A pattern of high food prices for food stamp customers at the beginning of the month greatly reduces their ability to purchase sufficient nutritious food. If a food stamp customer’s purchasing power is reduced, then the goal of the food stamp program of alleviating hunger in Billings fails. See Appendix 6 for full list of overall price totals for eligible food items at each Albertson’s store.

Average price for 73 food items (excluding non-food items) in Downtown Albertson’s store.



Conclusion

If we were to grade Albertson's commitment to community issues based on their written policy and what gets told to shareholders, they'd definitely pass with flying colors. Who can argue with Albertson's contributions to areas such as hunger relief, food distribution to food banks, and assisting homeless shelters. Such charitable acts as well as the commitment to their good neighbor policy deserves wide praise and recognition.

But when we look closer at Albertson's *actions*, beneath the bright colors and gloss of their annual reports, we find a company that has failed to put into action their commitment to contributing to the neighborhoods that they serve. The data gathered from MPA's price tests send a clear and disturbing message: Albertson's is neglecting stores in lower income neighborhoods and these are the neighborhoods most in need of affordable and nutritious food.

Albertson's is also failing as a participant in the food stamp program. Without low and fair food prices, the food stamp program cannot achieve its immediate goal of relieving the financial burden for low income families. If the immediate goal of relieving the financial burden for low income families through food stamp assistance fails, then the *ultimate* goal of the food stamp program of preventing hunger in America fails as well. If Albertson's continues to keep food prices unfairly high for food stamp recipients, then they are directly responsible for the increasing food insecurity for those recipients.

Whether intentionally keeping prices high or through neglect and mismanagement at its lower income stores, higher food prices at Albertson's stores in lower income neighborhoods means that those Billings residents most in need of affordable and nutritious food will continue to have a hard time financially getting that food. If Albertson's fails to provide the nutritious food that communities need and at prices they can afford, then Albertson's is not living up to their promise to be a "good neighbor."

Montana People's Action (MPA) is concerned with Albertson's actions within lower income communities in Billings, and proposes the following solutions:

- Albertson's should make *immediate* changes in food prices at the Downtown and Underpass stores and make these prices similar to those prices found in the Heights and Grand Albertson's stores (which serve higher income neighborhoods).
- Albertson's needs to examine its own practices by conducting an internal investigation at both the local and national level. A local investigation should examine the problem of distorted prices in the lower-income neighborhood Downtown and Underpass Albertson's stores. A national internal investigation should examine the question of whether or not this local example is indicative of a larger, national problem of neglect at Albertson's stores in lower income communities.
- Albertson's should strengthen their corporate policy of commitment to community issues by, 1) ensuring affordable food prices in lower income communities, and 2) stop exploiting the food stamp program with artificially high food prices during times when food stamp benefits are issued.
- Albertson's should meet with Montana People's Action and other community organizations to rebuild trust in local neighborhoods, to change company practices in lower income communities, and to develop a partnership to fight hunger by strengthening the federal food stamp program.

Appendix 1

Research Methodology

MPA members recorded the prices of 85 products at the Downtown, Underpass, Grand, and Heights Albertson's stores. The same 85 items were tested at all four stores for all 12 days. Appendix 2 is the full list of items and product names. Testers also noted information about services offered in the store such as in-store banking and customer accessible bathrooms. Information on the addresses and hours of operation of the stores was taken from the Albertson's corporate web site.

For the section comparing items eligible for the Food Stamp program, the same grocery list but excluding non-food products (which are not allowed to be purchased with food stamps) is used. Seventy-three total items were used in the food stamp comparison in this report.

The testing dates were: January 3, 8, 12, 20 February, 3, 8, 12, 20 March 3, 8, 12, 20

Appendix 2

Grocery Items Tested

Beverages

Folger's classic roast coffee
A + soda pop
KoolAid canned tropical punch
Albertson's apple juice
Albertson's orange juice

Canned Products

Good Day whole kernel canned corn
Green Giant canned cut green beans
Old El Paso refried beans
Albertson's premium canned tomato sauce
Good Day whole canned tomatoes
Kuners regular canned chili beans

Bread, Cereals, Grains

Sweetheart white sandwich bread
Albertson's hamburger buns
Albertson's hot dog buns
Diane's flour burrito tortillas
Kellogs corn flakes
Albertson's quick oatmeal
Kellogs fruit loops
Albertson's long grain white rice
Golden Grain spaghetti noodles
Golden Grain elbow macaroni
Albertson's navy dry beans

Dairy Products

Land o' Lakes Butter
Country Crock margarine
Albertson's large eggs
Albertson's 2% milk
Kraft sliced cheese
Albertson's medium chunk cheddar

Condiments

Albertson's extra crunchy peanut butter
Good day grape jelly
Albertson's whole dill pickles
GH sugar cane
Equal sugar packets
Albertson's all purpose flour
Albertson's iodized salt
Good day ground pepper
Frenches classic yellow mustard

Heinz regular ketchup
Miracle Whip
Hidden Valley ranch salad dressing
Crisco

Baby Food & Items

Gerber squash
Gerber vegetables and turkey
Gerber bananas & strawberries
Pampers disposable diapers
Enfamil formula with iron

Vegetables

Russett potatoes
Yellow onions
Green cabbage
Green peppers
Iceburg lettuce
Red delicious apples
Fancy oranges
Bananas
Carrots
Roma tomatoes
Cucumbers

Snack & Dessert foods

Lay's classic potato chips
Meadow Gold neapolitan ice cream
Nabisco oreo cookies

Meat and Poultry Products

Stones chub ground beef
Albertson's boneless round steak
Albertson's boneless chuck roast
Sanderson Farms whole chicken
Bar's jumbo hot dogs
Albertson beef bologna
Value Pack sliced bacon
Jimmy Dean Hot Sausage

Prepared meals

Campbells tomato soup
Campbells chicken noodle soup
Nissan top ramen noodles
Betty Crocker stroganof ham-burger helper
Kraft macaroni and cheese

Non-food items

(not included in food stamp item list)
Albertson's tall kitchen trash bags
Crest cavity protection gel tooth paste
Suave daily clarifying shampoo
ERA active stain fighter w/ bleach laundry detergent
Ivory hand soap
Joy dish soap
Cascade pure rinse dishwasher soap
Soft 'n Gentle toilet paper
Sparkle paper towels
Alpo dog food
Purina cat chow cat food
Albertson's unscented kitty litter

Appendix 3

Price totals for all 85 grocery items

	Jan. 3	Jan. 8	Jan. 12	Jan. 20	Feb. 3	Feb. 8	Feb. 12	Feb. 20	Mar. 3	Mar. 8	Mar. 12	Mar. 20	Average
Downtown	228.97	228.97	228.71	225.18	225.85	225.52	225.34	225.87	227.13	228.76	224.43	231.21	227.16
Underpass	214.49	214.49	216.66	215.37	221.86	221.13	223.05	220.97	217.95	222.76	216.35	223.51	219.05
Grand	211.07	211.07	212.81	210.67	217.06	215.38	215.21	214.91	220.36	218.22	210.42	216.12	214.44
Heights	210.77	210.77	214.91	210.77	217.16	215.84	213.18	215.22	222.63	220.32	210.42	214.11	214.68
Difference	18.20	18.20	15.90	14.51	8.79	10.14	12.16	10.96	6.77	10.54	14.01	17.10	12.72

Appendix 4

List of top ten items with most significant price difference between each Albertson's store

Rank	Product Name	Downtown	Underpass	Grand	Heights	Difference	Percent Difference
1	Albertson's orange juice	1.91	1.55	1.44	1.35	0.56	41.5%
2	Albertson's apple juice	1.82	1.64	1.30	1.30	0.52	40.0%
3	Kraft sliced cheese	4.98	3.80	3.88	4.20	1.10	28.4%
4	Ivory hand soap	2.17	1.81	1.80	1.80	0.37	20.6%
5	Cascade pure rinse dishwasher soap	5.82	4.32	3.99	3.99	1.83	45.9%
6	Albertson's red delicious apples	0.98	0.98	0.82	0.85	0.16	19.5%
7	Albertson's bananas	0.56	0.51	0.49	0.50	0.07	14.3%
8	Green Giant canned cut green beans	0.99	0.90	0.90	0.88	0.11	12.5%
9	Albertson's long grain white rice	1.47	1.47	1.43	1.38	0.09	6.5%
10	Pampers disposable diapers	14.99	14.32	14.32	14.32	0.67	4.7%

Appendix 5

Average prices for individual meals at each Albertson's store

	Breakfast 1	Breakfast 2	Lunch 1	Lunch 2	Dinner 1	Dinner 2	Salad	Dessert 1	Dessert 2	Total
Downtown	17.23	14.91	20.74	10.20	20.73	11.82	8.25	2.80	8.42	115.10
Underpass	16.83	13.78	19.52	10.04	20.86	11.84	8.08	2.59	7.31	110.85
Grand	16.45	13.54	19.16	9.72	20.35	11.73	7.62	2.54	6.16	107.27
Heights	16.15	13.46	19.51	9.80	20.21	11.66	7.84	2.54	6.16	107.33
Difference	1.08	1.45	1.58	0.48	0.52	0.16	0.63	0.26	2.26	7.83

Appendix 6

Overall price totals for eligible food stamp items (excluding non-food items)

	Jan. 3	Jan. 8	Jan. 12	Jan. 20	Feb. 3	Feb. 8	Feb. 12	Feb. 20	Mar. 3	Mar. 8	Mar. 12	Mar. 20	Average
Downtown	182.99	182.99	182.73	179.20	181.77	181.73	181.55	181.19	181.85	182.68	180.19	184.83	181.98
Underpass	172.00	172.00	173.68	173.89	179.48	178.94	178.87	177.79	174.97	178.78	174.21	179.23	176.15
Grand	168.58	168.58	169.83	168.79	174.78	173.19	173.02	171.73	177.09	175.74	169.78	174.14	172.10
Heights	168.58	168.58	172.23	169.19	174.88	171.46	170.79	171.94	180.16	177.84	169.78	172.13	172.30
Difference	14.41	14.41	12.90	10.01	6.99	10.27	10.76	9.46	4.76	6.94	10.41	12.70	

End Notes

¹ Good Jobs First. (2001, March). Corporate Research Project: Albertson's Inc., p.1

² Albertson's Inc. 2000 Company Profile, p. 9, <http://www1.albertsons.com/>

³ *Ibid.*

⁴ *Id.* p.17

⁵ "Neighborhood" is defined by using the census tract maps of the US Census Bureau.

⁶ U.S. Census Bureau; 1990 Census of Population and Housing, Summary Tape File 3A;" generated by Bryan Hall and Carson Strege-Flora; using 1990 Census Lookup; http://venus.census.gov/doc/lookup_doc.html; (5, May 2001).

⁷ U.S. Census Bureau; Race, Hispanic or Latino, and Age: 2000; generated by Bryan Hall; using American Factfinder; <http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/BasicFactsServlet>; (5, May 2001).

⁸ U.S. Census Bureau; 1990 Census of Population and Housing, Summary Tape File 3A;" generated by Bryan Hall and Carson Strege-Flora; using 1990 Census Lookup; http://venus.census.gov/doc/lookup_doc.html; (5, May 2001).

⁹ *Ibid.*

¹⁰ U.S. Census Bureau; Income and Poverty Status in 1989: 1990; generated by Bryan Hall; using American Factfinder; <http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/BasicFactsServlet>; (5, May 2001).

¹¹ U.S. Department of Agriculture. "Food Stamp Participation and Cost," May 25, 2001. <http://www.fns.usda.gov/pd/fssummar.htm>

About the Organizations Releasing This Report

Founded in 1982, Montana People's Action (MPA) is a statewide economic justice organization with over 6,000 member families in Billings, Bozeman, and Missoula. For almost two decades MPA has been the primary voice for low- and working-income Montanans around the issues of housing, access to credit and banking services, access to health care, economic development policy, and income security.

The Northwest Federation of Community Organizations (NWFCO) is a regional federation of five statewide, community-based social and economic justice organizations located in the states of Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Washington: Idaho Community Action Network (ICAN), Montana People's Action (MPA), Oregon Action (OA), Washington Citizen Action (WCA) and Coalition of Montanans Concerned with Disabilities (CMCD). Collectively, these organizations engage in community organizing and coalition building in fourteen rural and major metropolitan areas, including the Northwest's largest cities (Seattle and Portland) and the largest cities in Montana and Idaho.

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