

# ALEXANDRIA

At first glance, Alexandria is a healthy place to live. It ranks among the healthiest counties in the nation, but closer examination reveals wide variation in health across neighborhoods and census tracts. For example, life expectancy—how long a newborn is expected to live—varies by nine years, depending on where in Alexandria a child is born. Other health measures also vary greatly.

Health itself, and the inequities in health we see across Alexandria, are about more than health care. Health is shaped by education, economic and other household resources, housing, transportation, and our environment—both physical (e.g., parks) and social (e.g., racial discrimination).

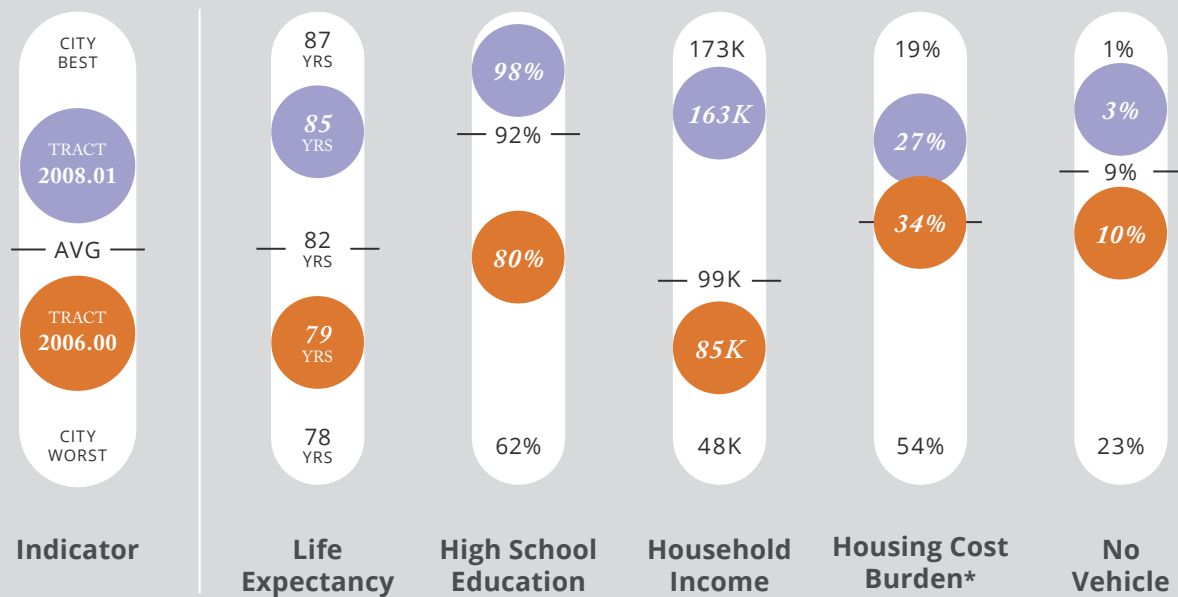
At the request of the Northern Virginia Health Foundation and the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, the Center on Society and Health at Virginia Commonwealth University developed a new tool, called the Healthy Places Index (HPI), to provide the public a convenient way to measure the health of neighborhoods in Northern Virginia. The HPI uses data on dozens of indicators, taken from each of the census tracts, to predict the health of communities. The advanced statistical computations used to produce the HPI yielded a stunning finding—education and economic resources accounted for 60% of the variation in life expectancy we see across the region. Housing and transportation explained 26%, and health care accounted for only 6%.

The HPI measures the health of every census tract on a scale of 0–100; high numbers represent the best conditions. As with life expectancy, HPI scores vary greatly across Alexandria, from a low of 42 in census tract 2016.00 in Old Town West to a high of 86 in tract 2004.04 in the Bren Mar Park area of Landmark.



## Gaps in Opportunity in Alexandria

Indicators depict how greatly living conditions vary across Alexandria. Residents of tract 2008.01 (HPI 75) enjoy more favorable conditions for health than those living in tract 2006.00 (HPI 51).



**Above:** Outcomes in tracts 2008.01 (near TC Williams) and 2006.00 (near Cameron Run Park) compared to top, bottom, and average results for Alexandria

\*Housing cost burden: 30% or more of income spent on housing costs

The differences in living conditions in places with high versus low HPI scores can be stark and often exist only a few miles apart. For example, in census tract 2008.01 near TC Williams High School, where the HPI is 75, residents have more education, income, and other resources for good health than do residents just one mile away in tract 2006.00 near Cameron Run Regional Park, where the HPI is 51. In that Cameron Run tract, only 64% of adults have attended some college and 19% of children live in poverty.

People of color are often disproportionately exposed to poor living conditions that affect their health. For example, in census tract 2004.06 in Landmark, where the HPI is only 47, 34% of residents are African American, 24% are Hispanic, and 56% are recent immigrants (2000 or later).

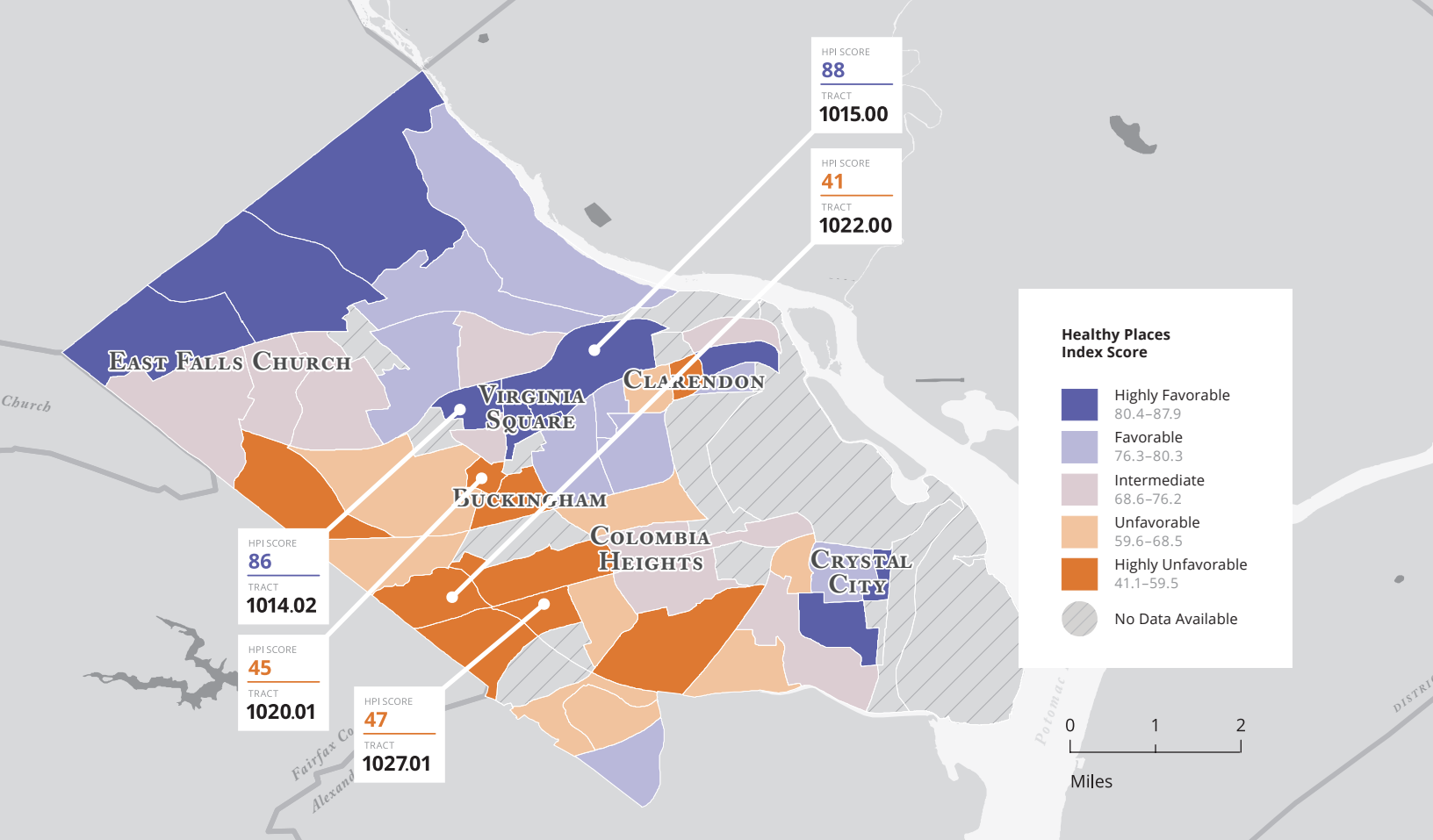
Closing the gaps in Alexandria—in health and opportunity—requires policies and investments to improve education, income, and the economic vitality of communities. It will also require a recognition of the institutional inequities that created many of these conditions—and that persist today. These investments will improve health while also strengthening the local economy, civic wellbeing, and regional growth. Access to health care is also important, but meaningful improvements in health require attention to living conditions.

Policymakers in local government, the business community, real estate developers, and community leaders are among the stakeholders who can change these conditions. The benefits extend beyond those most in need. Everyone in Alexandria gains from improvements in health and economic wellbeing.



To see data for all census tracts in Alexandria, please visit our interactive map at

<https://novahealthfdn.org/interactive-map-opportunity>



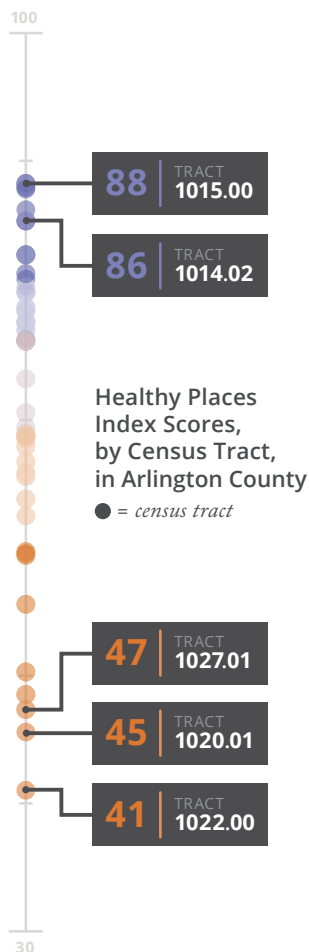
# ARLINGTON COUNTY

At first glance, Arlington County is a healthy place to live. It ranks among the healthiest counties in the nation, but closer examination reveals wide variation in health across neighborhoods and census tracts. For example, life expectancy—how long a newborn is expected to live—varies by 10 years, depending on where in Arlington County a child is born. Other health measures also vary greatly.

Health itself, and the inequities in health we see across Arlington County, are about more than health care. Health is shaped by education, economic and other household resources, housing, transportation, and our environment—both physical (e.g., parks) and social (e.g., racial discrimination).

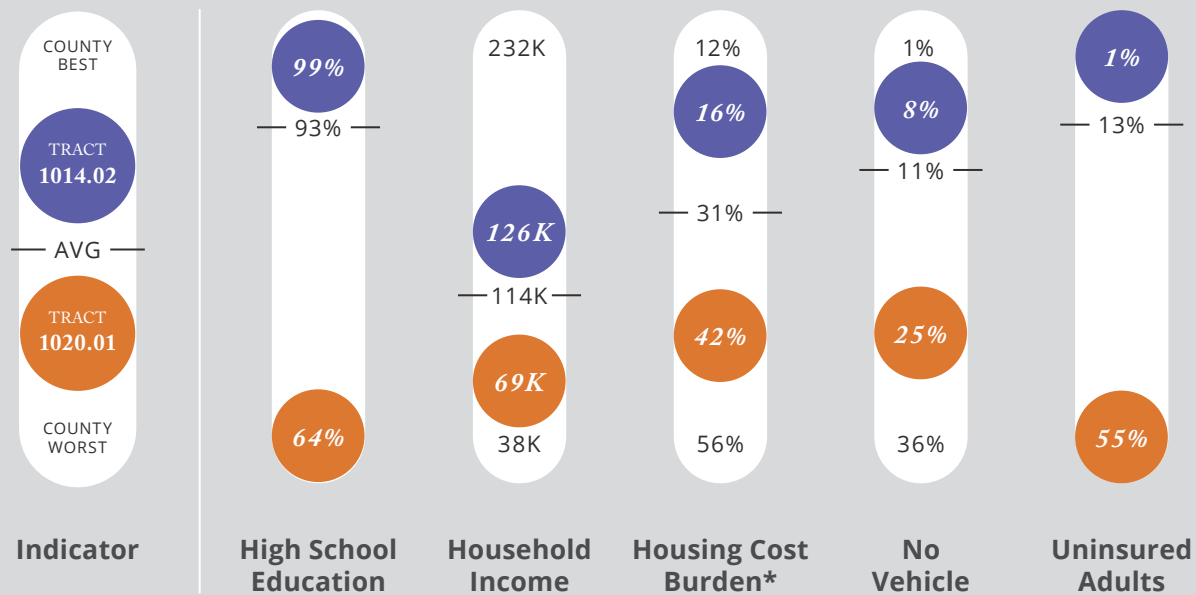
At the request of the Northern Virginia Health Foundation and the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, the Center on Society and Health at Virginia Commonwealth University developed a new tool, called the Healthy Places Index (HPI), to provide the public a convenient way to measure the health of neighborhoods in Northern Virginia. The HPI uses data on dozens of indicators, taken from each of the census tracts, to predict the health of communities. The advanced statistical computations used to produce the HPI yielded a stunning finding—education and economic resources accounted for 60% of the variation in life expectancy we see across the region. Housing and transportation explained 26%, and health care accounted for only 6%.

The HPI measures the health of every census tract on a scale of 0–100; high numbers represent the best conditions. As with life expectancy, HPI scores



# Gaps in Opportunity in Arlington County

Indicators depict how greatly living conditions vary across Arlington County. Residents of tract 1014.02 (HPI 86) enjoy more favorable conditions for health than those living in tract 1020.01 (HPI 45).



**Above:** Outcomes in tracts 1014.02 (in Virginia Square) and 1020.01 (in Buckingham) compared to the top, bottom, and average results for Arlington County

\*Housing cost burden: 30% or more of income spent on housing costs

vary greatly across Arlington County, from a low of 41 in census tract 1022.00 in Columbia Heights to a high of 88 in tract 1015.00 near Clarendon.

The differences in living conditions in places with high versus low HPI scores can be stark and often exist only a few miles apart. For example, in census tract 1014.02 in Virginia Square, where the HPI is 86, residents have more education, income, and other resources for good health than do residents just one mile away in tract 1020.01 in Buckingham, where the HPI is 45. In that Buckingham tract, only 64% of adults have completed high school, and 43% of households have incomes below 200% of the poverty level.

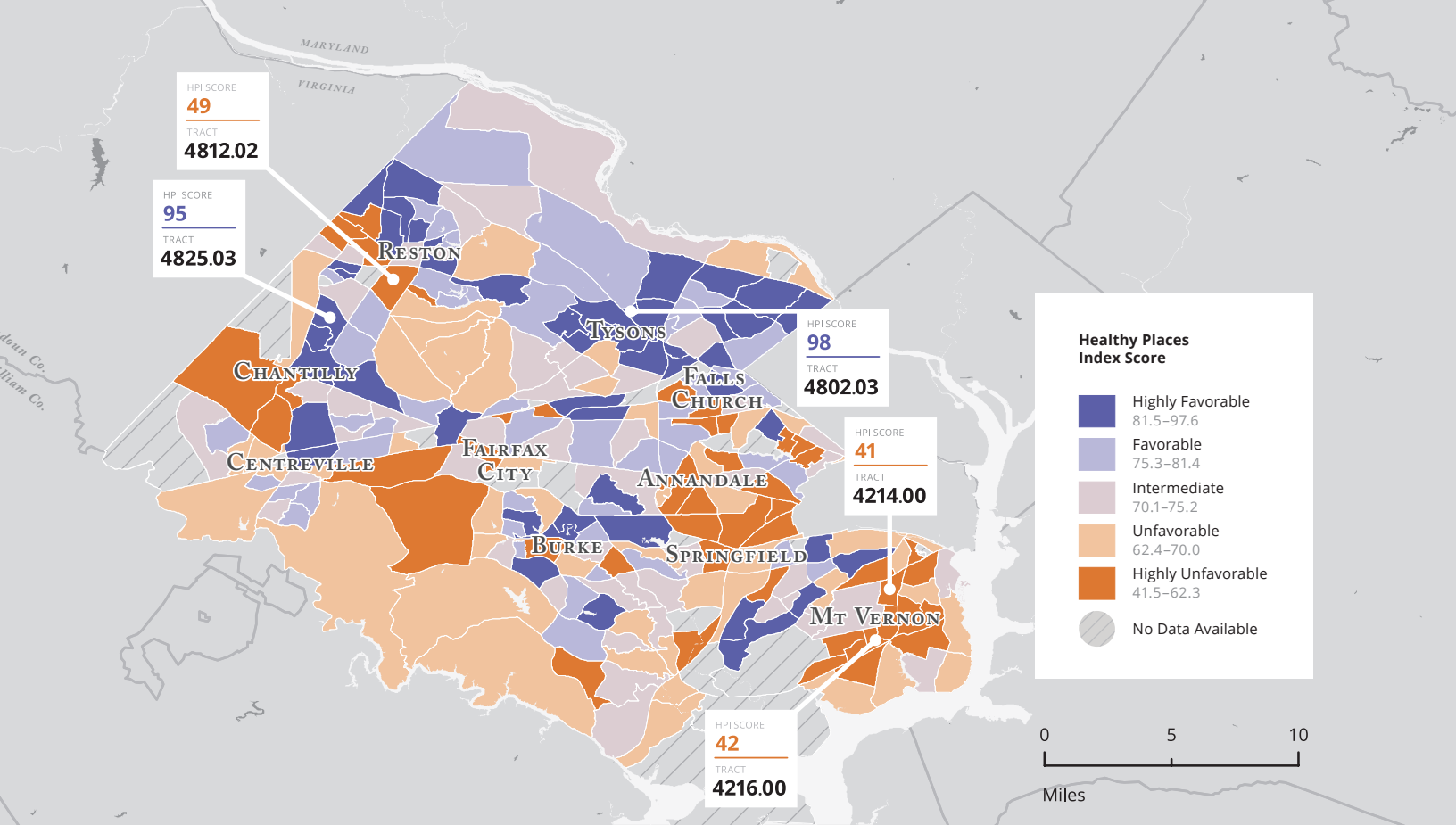
People of color are often disproportionately exposed to poor living conditions that affect their health. For example, in census tract 1027.01 near Barcroft Park, where the HPI is only 47, 22% of residents are African American, 39% are Hispanic, and 69% are recent immigrants (2000 or later).

Closing the gaps in Arlington County—in health and opportunity—requires policies and investments to improve education, income, and the economic vitality of communities. It will also require a recognition of the institutional inequities that created many of these conditions—and that persist today. These investments will improve health while also strengthening the local economy, civic wellbeing, and regional growth. Access to health care is also important, but meaningful improvements in health require attention to living conditions.

Policymakers in local government, the business community, real estate developers, and community leaders are among the stakeholders who can change these conditions. The benefits extend beyond those most in need. Everyone in Arlington County gains from improvements in health and economic wellbeing.



To see data for all census tracts in Arlington County, please visit our interactive map at <https://novahealthfdn.org/interactive-map-opportunity>



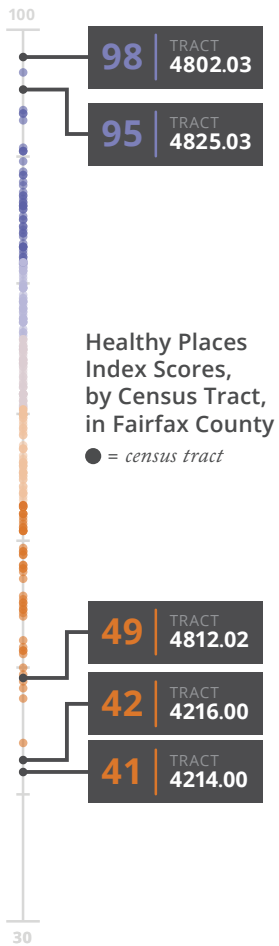
# FAIRFAX COUNTY

At first glance, Fairfax County is a healthy place to live. It ranks among the healthiest counties in the nation, but closer examination reveals wide variation in health across neighborhoods and census tracts. For example, life expectancy—how long a newborn is expected to live—varies by 12 years, depending on where in Fairfax County a child is born. Other health measures also vary greatly.

Health itself, and the inequities in health we see across Fairfax County, are about more than health care. Health is shaped by education, economic and other household resources, housing, transportation, and our environment—both physical (e.g., parks) and social (e.g., racial discrimination).

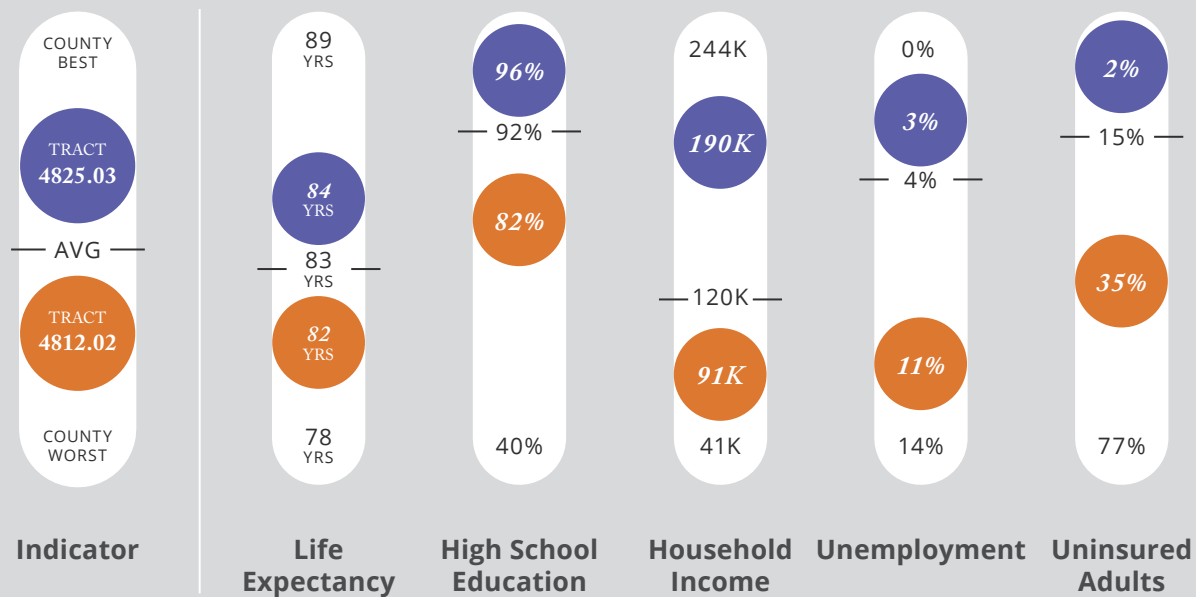
At the request of the Northern Virginia Health Foundation and the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, the Center on Society and Health at Virginia Commonwealth University developed a new tool, called the Healthy Places Index (HPI), to provide the public a convenient way to measure the health of neighborhoods in Northern Virginia. The HPI uses data on dozens of indicators, taken from each of the census tracts, to predict the health of communities. The advanced statistical computations used to produce the HPI yielded a stunning finding—education and economic resources accounted for 60% of the variation in life expectancy we see across the region. Housing and transportation explained 26%, and health care accounted for only 6%.

The HPI measures the health of every census tract on a scale of 0–100; high numbers represent the best conditions. As with life expectancy, HPI scores vary greatly across Fairfax County, from a low of 41 in census tract 4214.00 near Route 1 to a high of 98 in tract 4802.03 in Tysons’s Corner.



## Gaps in Opportunity in Fairfax County

Indicators depict how greatly living conditions vary across Fairfax County. Residents of tract 4825.03 (HPI 95) enjoy more favorable conditions for health than those living in tract 4812.02 (HPI 49).



**Above:** Outcomes in tracts 4825.03 (near Frying Pan Park) and 4812.02 (in Stratton Woods) compared to the top, bottom, and average results for Fairfax County

The differences in living conditions in places with high versus low HPI scores can be stark and often exist only a few miles apart. For example, in census tract 4825.03 near Frying Pan Park, where the HPI is 95, residents have more education, income, and other resources for good health than do residents just two miles away in tract 4812.02 in the Stratton Woods neighborhood along Fairfax County Parkway, where the HPI is 49. In that Stratton Woods tract, 12% of households rely on public assistance and 85% of children ages 3–4 years have not been enrolled in preschool.

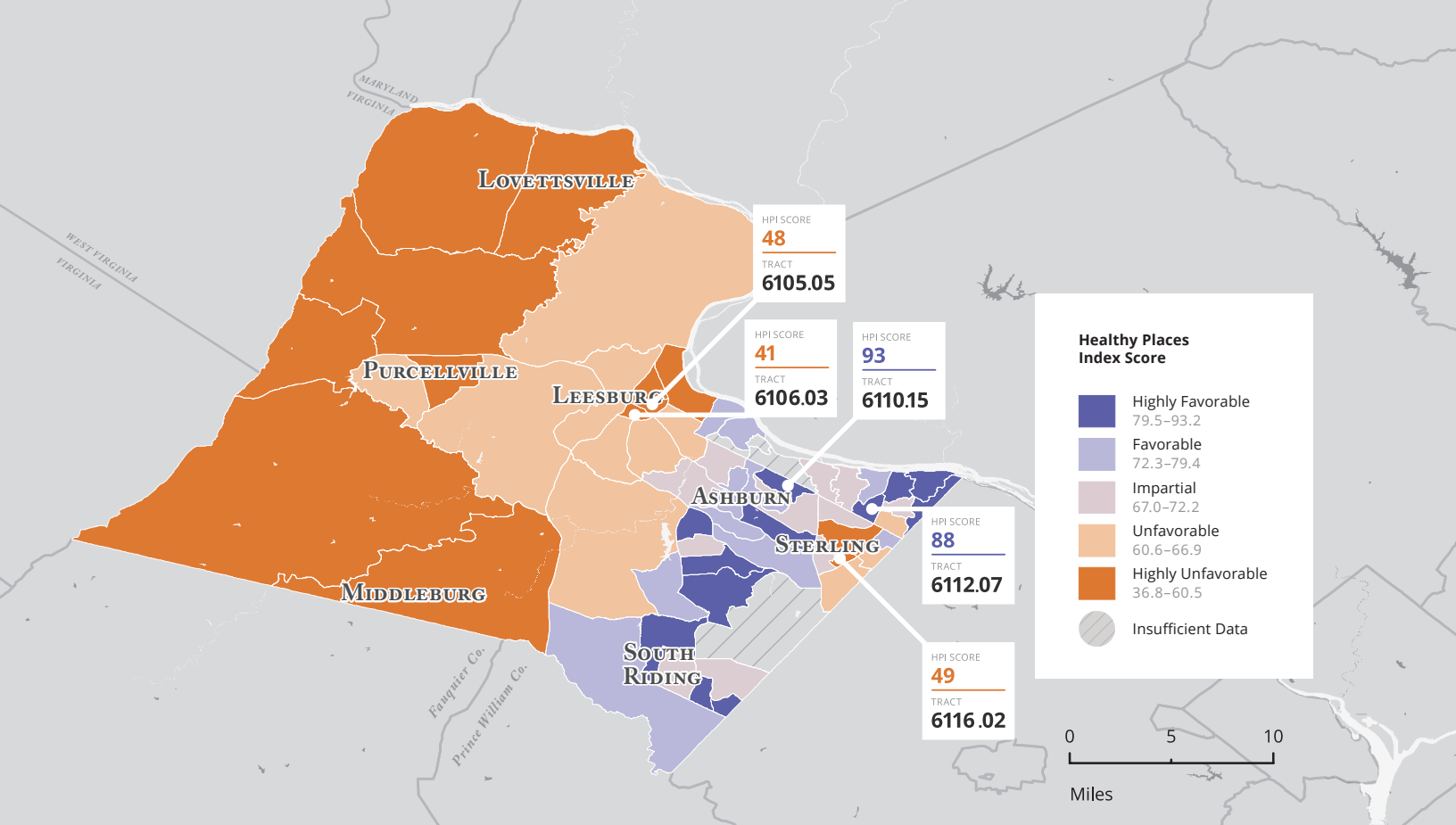
People of color are often disproportionately exposed to poor living conditions that affect their health. For example, in census tract 4216.00 in Mount Vernon, where the HPI is only 42, 40% of residents are African American, 39% are Hispanic, and 60% are recent immigrants (2000 or later).

Closing the gaps in Fairfax County—in health and opportunity—requires policies and investments to improve education, income, and the economic vitality of communities. It will also require a recognition of the institutional inequities that created many of these conditions—and that persist today. These investments will improve health while also strengthening the local economy, civic wellbeing, and regional growth. Access to health care is also important, but meaningful improvements in health require attention to living conditions.

Policymakers in local government, the business community, real estate developers, and community leaders are among the stakeholders who can change these conditions. The benefits extend beyond those most in need. Everyone in Fairfax County gains from improvements in health and economic wellbeing.



To see data for all census tracts in Fairfax County, please visit our interactive map at <https://novahealthfdn.org/interactive-map-opportunity>



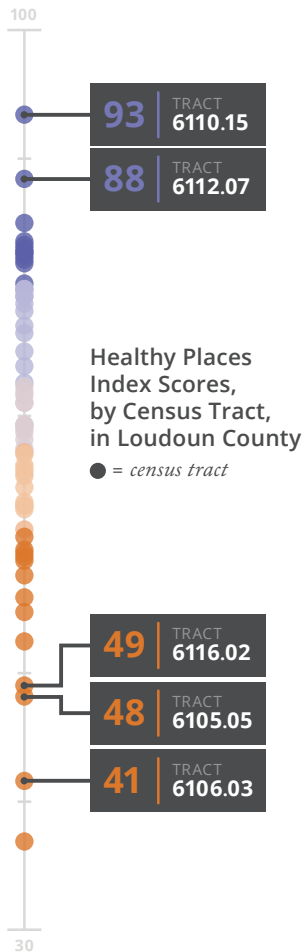
# LOUDOUN COUNTY

At first glance, Loudoun County is a healthy place to live. It ranks among the healthiest counties in the nation, but closer examination reveals wide variation in health across neighborhoods and census tracts. For example, life expectancy—how long a newborn is expected to live—varies by 11 years, depending on where in Loudoun County a child is born. Other health measures also vary greatly.

Health itself, and the inequities in health we see across Loudoun County, are about more than health care. Health is shaped by education, economic and other household resources, housing, transportation, and our environment—both physical (e.g., parks) and social (e.g., racial discrimination).

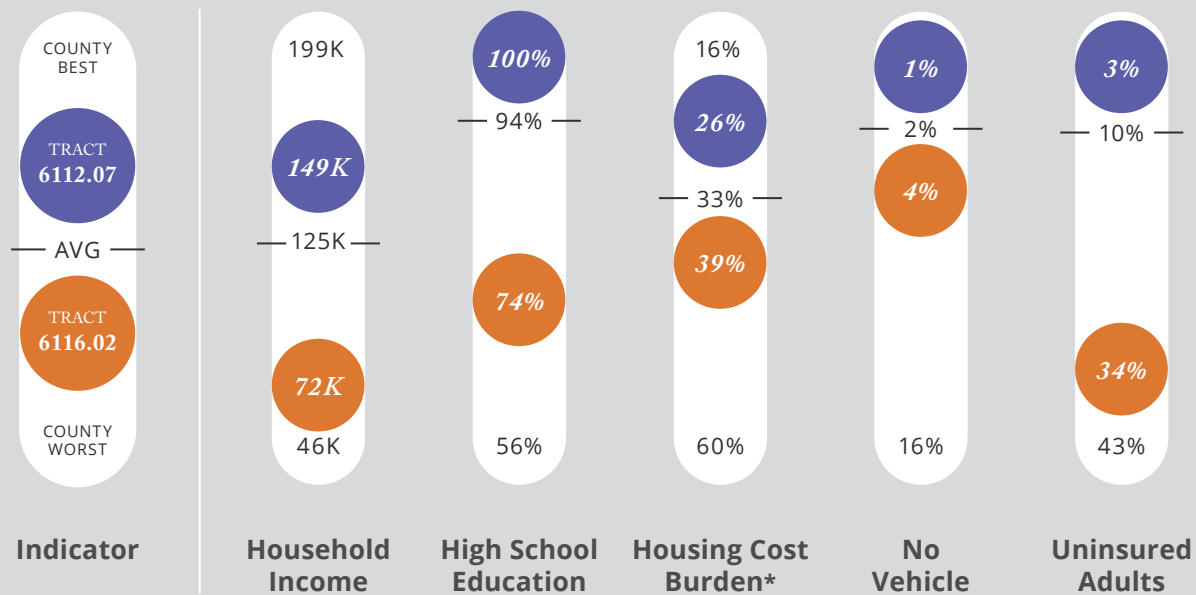
At the request of the Northern Virginia Health Foundation and the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, the Center on Society and Health at Virginia Commonwealth University developed a new tool, called the Healthy Places Index (HPI), to provide the public a convenient way to measure the health of neighborhoods in Northern Virginia. The HPI uses data on dozens of indicators, taken from each of the census tracts, to predict the health of communities. The advanced statistical computations used to produce the HPI yielded a stunning finding—education and economic resources accounted for 60% of the variation in life expectancy we see across the region. Housing and transportation explained 26%, and health care accounted for only 6%.

The HPI measures the health of every census tract on a scale of 0–100; high numbers represent the best conditions. As with life expectancy, HPI



## Gaps in Opportunity in Loudoun County

Indicators depict how greatly living conditions vary across Loudoun County. Residents of tract 6112.07 (HPI 88) enjoy more favorable conditions for health than those living in tract 6116.02 (HPI 49).



**Above:** Outcomes in tracts 6112.07 (in Cascades) and 6116.02 (in Sterling Park) compared to the top, bottom, and average results for Loudoun County

\*Housing cost burden: 30% or more of income spent on housing costs

scores vary greatly across Loudoun County, from an HPI as low as 41 in census tract 6106.03 in Leesburg to a high of 93 in tract 6110.15 in Ashburn Village.

The differences in living conditions in places with high versus low HPI scores can be stark and often exist only a few miles apart. For example, in census tract 6112.07 in the Cascades area of Sterling, where the HPI is 88, residents have more education, income, and other resources for good health than do residents just two miles away in tract 6116.02 in Sterling Park, where the HPI is 49. In that Sterling Park tract, only 51% of adults have attended some college and 30% of households have income below 200% of the poverty level.

People of color are often disproportionately exposed to poor living conditions that affect their health. For example, in census tract 6105.05 in Leesburg, where the HPI is only 48, 57% of residents are Hispanic and 78% are recent immigrants (2000 or later).

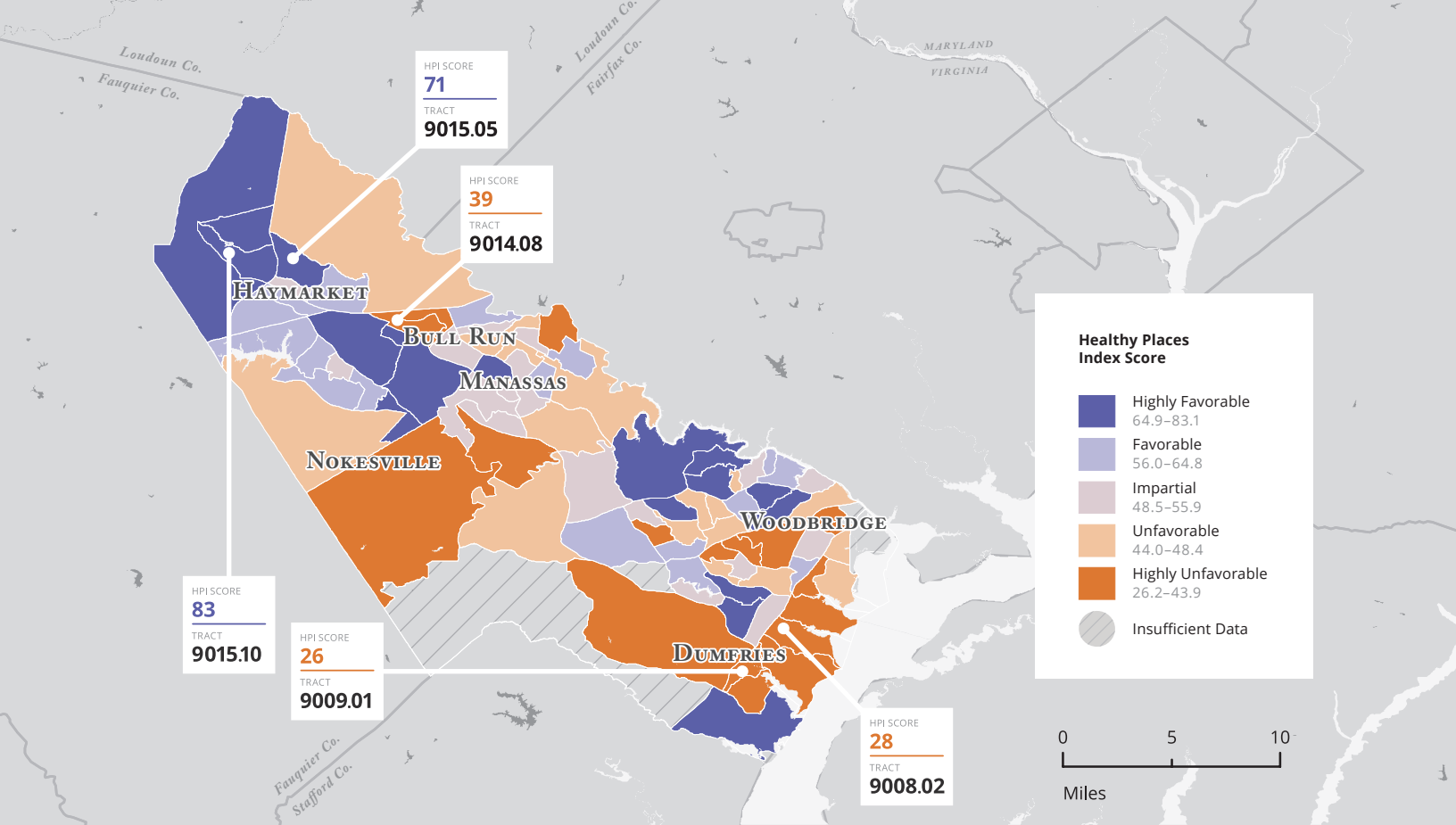
Closing the gaps in Loudoun County—in health and opportunity—requires policies and investments to improve education, income, and the economic vitality of communities. It will also require a recognition of the institutional inequities that created many of these conditions—and that persist today. These investments will improve health while also strengthening the local economy, civic wellbeing, and regional growth. Access to health care is also important, but meaningful improvements in health require attention to living conditions.

Policymakers in local government, the business community, real estate developers, and community leaders are among the stakeholders who can change these conditions. The benefits extend beyond those most in need. Everyone in Loudoun County gains from improvements in health and economic wellbeing.



To see data for all census tracts in Loudoun County, please visit our interactive map at <https://novahealthfdn.org/interactive-map-opportunity>





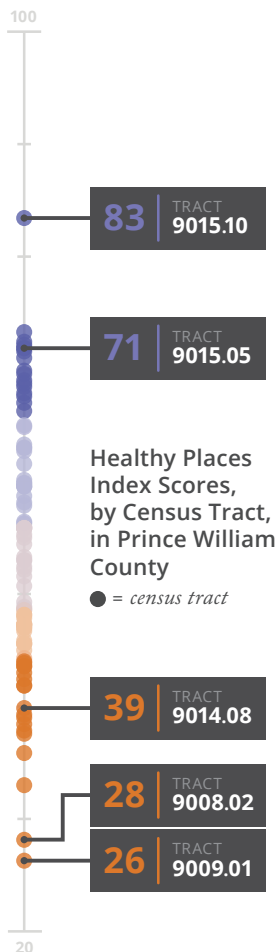
# PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY

At first glance, Prince William County is a healthy place to live. It ranks among the healthiest counties in the nation, but closer examination reveals wide variation in health across neighborhoods and census tracts. For example, life expectancy—how long a newborn is expected to live—varies by 17 years, depending on where in Prince William County a child is born. Other health measures also vary greatly.

Health itself, and the inequities in health we see across Prince William County, are about more than health care. Health is shaped by education, economic and other household resources, housing, transportation, and our environment—both physical (e.g., parks) and social (e.g., racial discrimination).

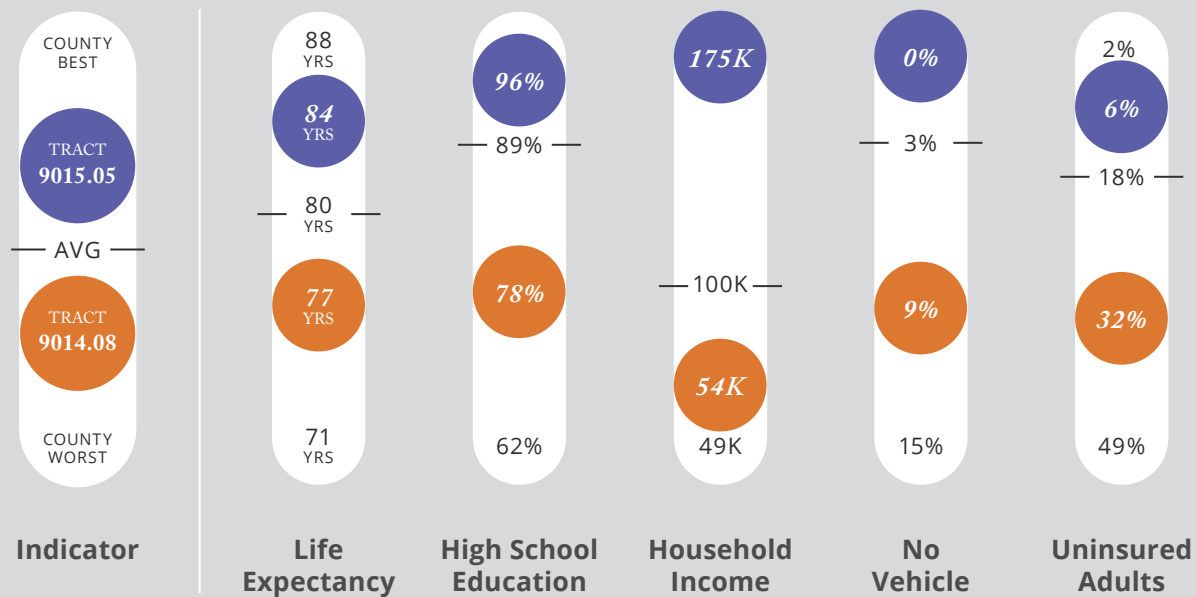
At the request of the Northern Virginia Health Foundation and the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, the Center on Society and Health at Virginia Commonwealth University developed a new tool, called the Healthy Places Index (HPI), to provide the public a convenient way to measure the health of neighborhoods in Northern Virginia. The HPI uses data on dozens of indicators, taken from each of the census tracts, to predict the health of communities. The advanced statistical computations used to produce the HPI yielded a stunning finding—education and economic resources accounted for 60% of the variation in life expectancy we see across the region. Housing and transportation explained 26%, and health care accounted for only 6%.

The HPI measures the health of every census tract on a scale of 0–100; high numbers represent the best conditions. As with life expectancy,



# Gaps in Opportunity in Prince William County

Indicators depict how greatly living conditions vary across Prince William County. Residents of tract 9015.05 (HPI 72) enjoy more favorable conditions for health than those living in tract 9014.08 (HPI 40).



**Above:** Outcomes in tracts 9015.05 (in Haymarket) and 9014.08 (in Bull Run) compared to the top, bottom, and average results for Prince William County

HPI scores vary greatly across Prince William County, from a low of 26 in census tract 9009.01 in Dumfries to a high of 83 in tract 9015.10 in Haymarket.

The differences in living conditions in places with high versus low HPI scores can be stark and often exist only a few miles apart. For example, in census tract 9015.05 in Haymarket, where the HPI is 71, residents have more education, income, and other resources for good health than do residents just six miles away in tract 9014.08 in Bull Run, where the HPI is 39. In that Bull Run tract, only 54% of adults have attended college and 25% of children live in poverty.

People of color are often disproportionately exposed to poor living conditions that affect their health. For example, in census tract 9008.02 near Dumfries, where the HPI is only 28, 49% of residents are African American, 21% are Hispanic, and 34% are recent immigrants (2000 or later).

Closing the gaps in Prince William County—in health and opportunity—requires policies and investments to improve education, income, and the economic vitality of communities. It will also require a recognition of the institutional inequities that created many of these conditions—and that persist today. These investments will improve health while also strengthening the local economy, civic wellbeing, and regional growth. Access to health care is also important, but meaningful improvements in health require attention to living conditions.

Policymakers in local government, the business community, real estate developers, and community leaders are among the stakeholders who can change these conditions. The benefits extend beyond those most in need. Everyone in Prince William County gains from improvements in health and economic wellbeing.



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