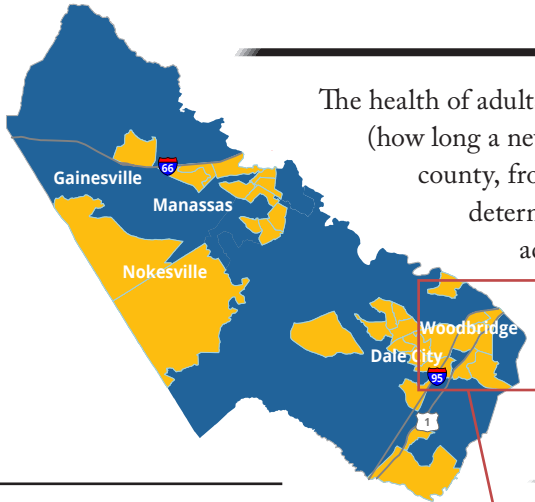


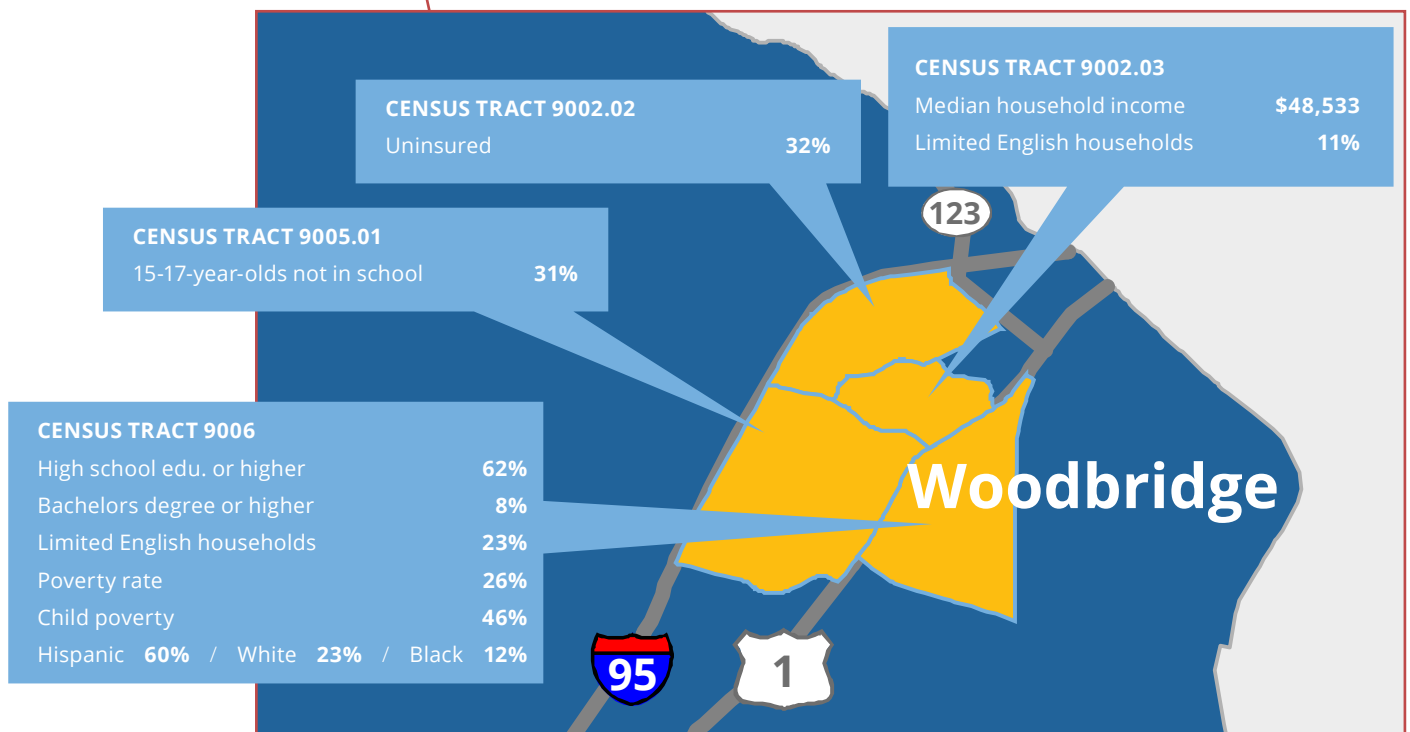
The Uneven Opportunity Landscape in Northern Virginia

Prince William County



The health of adults and children varies dramatically across Prince William County. Life expectancy (how long a newborn baby can be expected to live) varies by as much as 17 years across the county, from 71 years in parts of Woodbridge to 88 years in areas of Linton Hall. What determines our health also determines our ability to “get ahead.” Social and economic advancement—like health—depends on a good education, income, housing, transportation, safety, and other living conditions.

Although the quality of life on average is excellent in Prince William County, the opportunity landscape is uneven. We examined 2013 data from the American Community Survey for more details.



In four disadvantaged census tracts in Woodbridge, a population of more than 24,000 persons had limited education, insufficient economic resources, and inadequate living conditions to meet basic needs or help their children attain a better life.

The population exposed to these conditions was largely Hispanic.

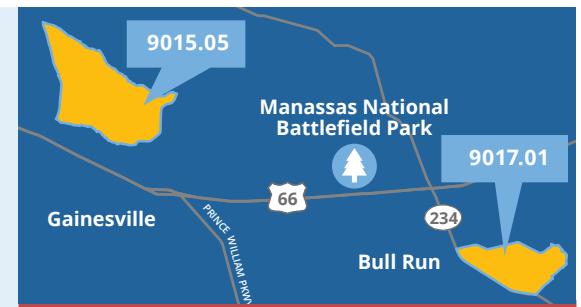
Prince William County statistics (county averages)

High school education or higher	89%
Bachelor's degree or higher	38%
Median household income	\$98,071
Poverty rate	6%
Child poverty	9%
Receiving public assistance	6%
Living in overcrowded housing	3%
Limited English households	6%

In Prince William County, and throughout Northern Virginia, areas of wealth and disadvantage existed in close proximity. For example, affluent tracts along Prince William Parkway were short distances from low-income tracts in Woodbridge, Dale City, and Dumfries, where the poverty rate in one tract was as high as 26% and almost half of children lived in poverty.

Throughout Prince William County, neighborhoods separated by short distances often had very different demographics, housing, and socioeconomic resources. For example, the residents in two census tracts on either side of Manassas National Battlefield Park—tracts 9015.05 and 9017.01—faced very different living conditions (Figure right). In census tract 9015.05, located off exit 43 of Interstate 66 near the Heritage Hunt Country Club, the median household income exceeded \$175,000 per year and home values averaged almost \$500,000.

In census tract 9017.01 in Bull Run, just four miles away off exit 47, 17% of teens ages 15-17 years were not enrolled in school and only 17% of adults had a Bachelor's degree. Low levels of education and income also existed in Manassas and Manassas Park, as well as in Yorkshire, where 18% of the residents in one tract lived on public assistance. Hispanics accounted for a disproportionate share of the population exposed to these adverse conditions.



Census tract	9015.05	9017.01
POPULATION		
Total residents	7,318	8,019
White	66%	29%
Black	12%	14%
Asian	0%	<1%
Hispanic	6%	45%
Foreign-born	15%	37%
Limited English households	2%	23%
EDUCATION		
Age 3-4 not enrolled in school	63%	93%
Teens (age 15-17) not in school	1%	17%
Some college or higher	87%	48%
Bachelor's degree or higher	63%	17%
ECONOMIC RESOURCES		
Median household income	\$175,446	\$53,636
Poverty	2%	18%
Child poverty	2%	22%
Public assistance	2%	15%
Single-parent households	15%	33%
HOUSING		
Renter occupied housing	14%	65%
Rental housing problems	41%	70%
Overcrowding	0%	13%
HEALTH & TRANSPORTATION		
Uninsured	6%	30%
Private insurance	82%	42%
No vehicle	<1%	10%

Closing The Opportunity Gap

Improving the conditions that shape health and wellbeing in Prince William County requires not only better access to health care but also to other basic needs, like education and affordable housing. In today's knowledge economy, advancement requires better access to education—from preschool through college—and economic development to bring jobs with livable wages to disadvantaged areas. And it requires an investment in the infrastructure of neglected neighborhoods, to make the living environment healthier and safer, to provide transportation, and to improve public safety.

What is good for our health is also good for the economy and will make Prince William County a stronger community for all of its residents.

To learn more about the conditions in Prince William County and other areas of Northern Virginia, visit novahealthfdn.org.