



Subject

Assessing the Health Care
Safety Net Landscape of
Fairfax County

	Fairfax City	Annandale/ Alexandria	Herndon	Springfield/ Lorton
Uninsured Population with a Household Income up to 400% FPL	1,737	5,443	5,970	2,740
Number of Safety Net Clinics within Census Tract Grouping	0	2	3	0
Number of Safety Net Clinics Within 5 Mile Radius	0	5	5	0
Average Estimated Travel Time by Car (minutes)	22	10	9	22
Average Miles Traveled by Car (miles)	7.6	3.6	2.3	9.2
Estimated Travel Time by Public Transit (minutes)	72	38	24	74

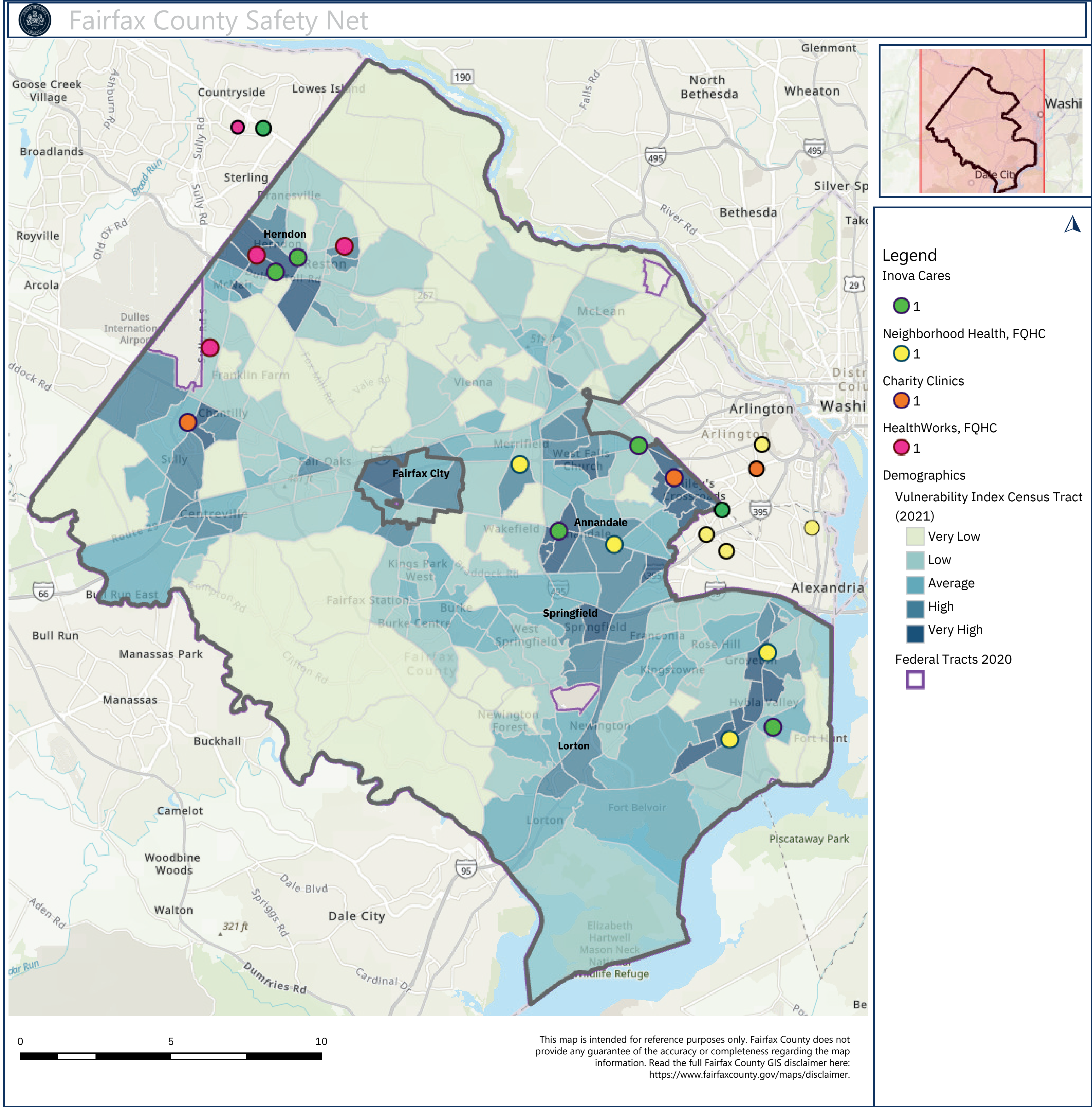
Issues/Gaps

- Lack of health insurance coverage and the rising cost of care
- Chronic disease burden and access to specialty care
- Challenges with system navigation
- An expressed desire for culturally competent care
- Transportation access
- An estimated 55,000 people may lose existing health coverage in Fairfax County due to changes in Federal Law (H.R. 1).

This project examined where a new safety net clinic may be best positioned to provide primary care services for at-risk adults in Fairfax County based on insurance status, household income and geographical proximity to existing safety net clinics.

Methods

- Used GIS software to map existing clinics.
- Analyzed ACS Census data to identify population estimates of residents who are uninsured and have a household income of up to 400% of the FPL.
- Estimated time and travel distance between selected census tracts and existing clinics.
- Received stakeholder input on current demands for care from Culmore Free Clinic, NOVA FQHC’s, and Inova Cares.



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Discussion & Results

While the neighborhoods of Annandale and Herndon have a greater uninsured population and higher levels of poverty, the City of Fairfax and the Lorton/Springfield neighborhoods lack established safety net clinics within their communities. Further, the Lorton/Springfield neighborhoods are experiencing a growth in population with multiple redevelopment projects, including a planned Inova Hospital expansion. Thus, the results from this analysis indicate that if a new safety net clinic were to be established in Fairfax County, it could be strategically placed to serve the residents of the Lorton and Springfield communities.

Key References

A) US Census Bureau: American Community Survey 5-Year Summary Estimates, 2024. B) Fairfax County Vulnerability Index, accessed via GIS software

Further Considerations

- Evaluate impacts of H.R. 1 on county coverage trends and healthcare utilization post-implementation.
- Determine funding source (county budget, grants, private donors).
- Evaluate disease burden in selected communities (CDC, BRFS).
- Consider service expansion (dental, pediatrics, behavioral health).
- Determine the availability of physical clinic space.
- Hold community conversations for feedback on service needs.

