Defining the Medicaid Primary Care Landscape in Northern Virginia

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RPCC
Regional Primary Care Coalition

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- Medicaid expansion goes into effect on January 1, 2019.
- An estimated 225,000 people in Northern Virginia are expected to become eligible.
- Is the number of primary care providers who accept Medicaid sufficient to meet the needs of the large influx of new enrollees?

Number of Primary Care Providers in Northern Virginia	
Family Practice Physicians	269
General Practice Physicians	280
Internists	1417
OB-GYN	35
Total Number of Providers*	**1670**

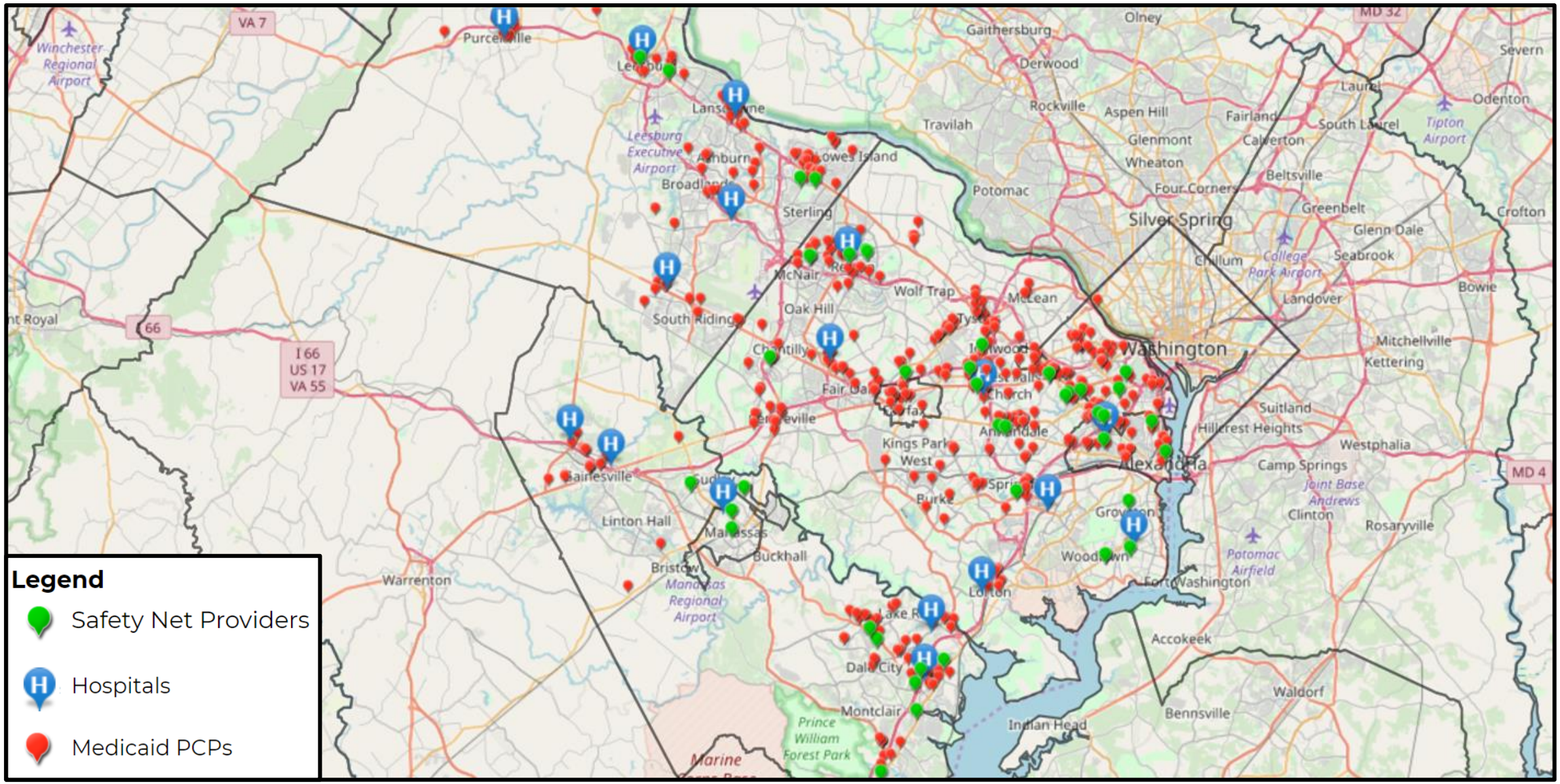
*Some physicians may fall into multiple categories; this is the total count for all unique PCPs regardless of specialty type.
Data Source: https://www.virginiamedicaid.dmas.virginia.gov/wps/portal/SearchForProviders

Number of Medicaid PCPs that Speak A Second Language By City/County

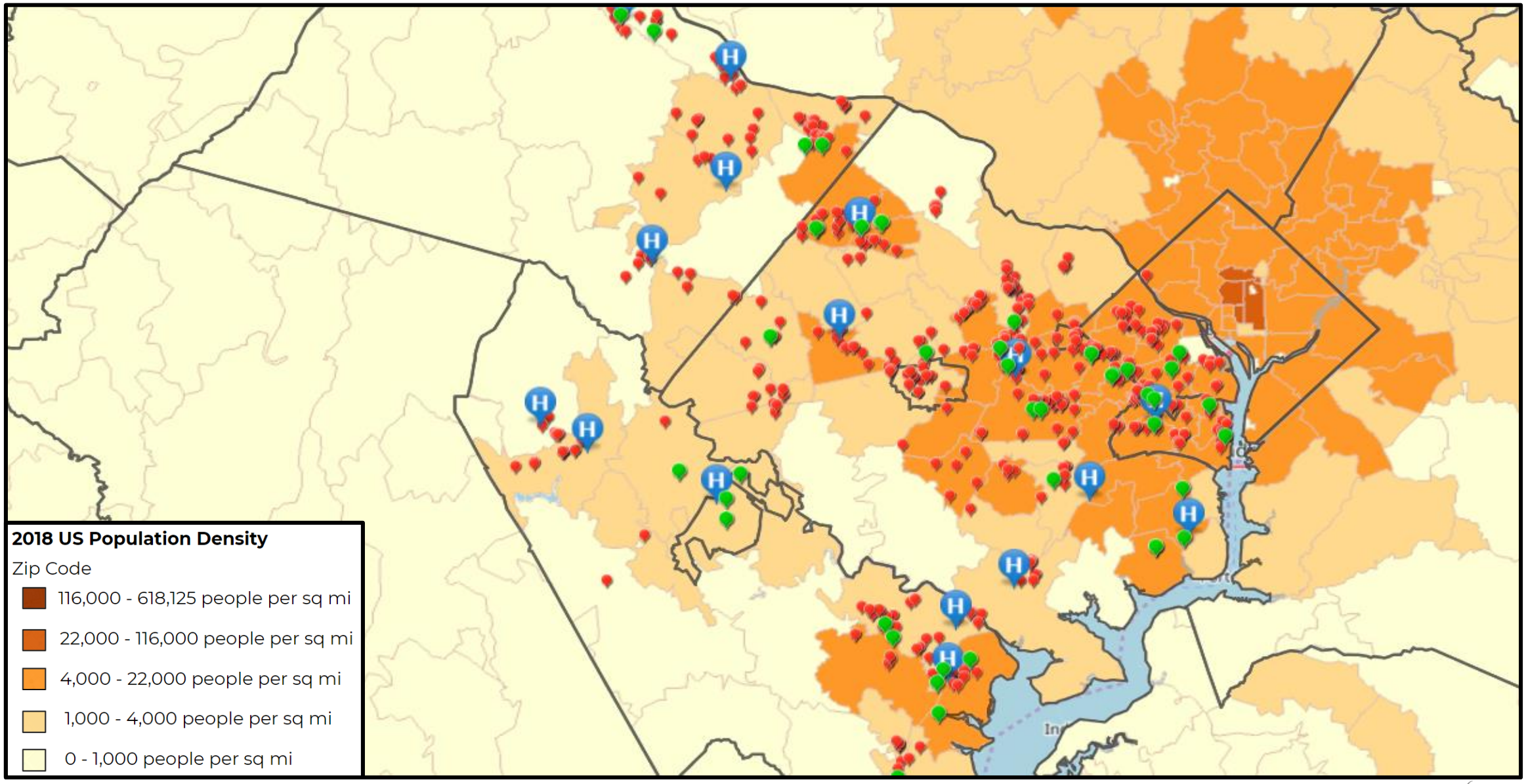
	Farsi	Hindi	Korean	Spanish	Vietnamese	Other
Fairfax	4	15	11	19	2	5
Arlington	1	4	0	10	2	1
Alexandria	1	7	0	5	1	2
Loudoun	4	16	7	10	2	1
Prince William	6	11	4	19	2	3
Total	16	53	22	63	9	12
Percent out of all PCPs	**0.98%**	**3.24%**	**1.35%**	**3.85%**	**0.55%**	**0.73%**

Some physicians may fall into multiple categories; this is the total count for all PCPs regardless of speciality type.
Data Source: https://www.virginiamedicaid.dmas.virginia.gov/wps/portal/SearchForProviders

Regional View of Northern Virginia



Regional View of Population Density



Regional View of Population Density

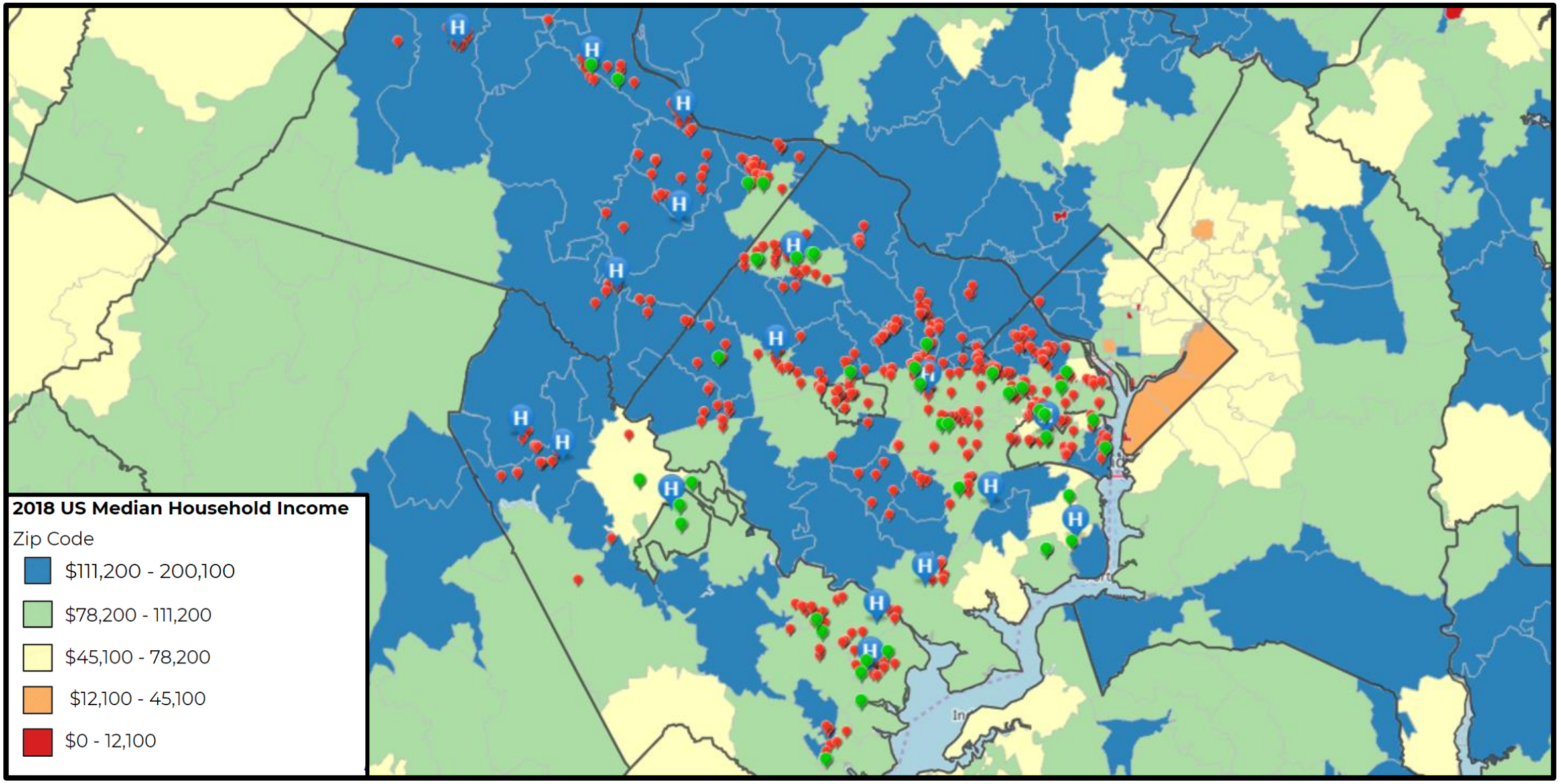
- Overall, Northern Virginia is moderately populated region with most areas having between 4,000-22,000 people per square mile.
- However, upon close inspection, there are several areas that have a much higher population density.

High Density Population Census Tracts in Northern Virginia

City/County	Population	Census Tracts
Alexandria	22,000-116,000	201203, 201202, 201204, 201600, 200703, 200107, 200301, 200104, 200102, 200105, 200106, 200103, 200407, 200406, 200405, 200303, 200600
Arlington	116,000-618,125 22,000-116,000	101701, 101403 101603, 101701, 101802, 101801, 101803, 101404, 02001, 101402, 101403, 102003, 102200, 102801, 102701, 103300, 103200, 103602, 103402, 103503,103502, 103501
Fairfax	22,000-116,000	440202, 452802, 452801, 452700, 461901, 452502, 451900, 451601, 451501, 471201, 421400, 421600, 421500, 422102, 481104, 482203, 420503, 420501, 420502
Manassas	22,000-116,000	910401
Loudoun	22,000-116,000	610505

There were no high density areas in Prince William, Falls Church, or Fairfax City.
Data Source: ArcGIS.com, Esri 2018 USA Median Household Income map layer

Regional View of Median Household Income



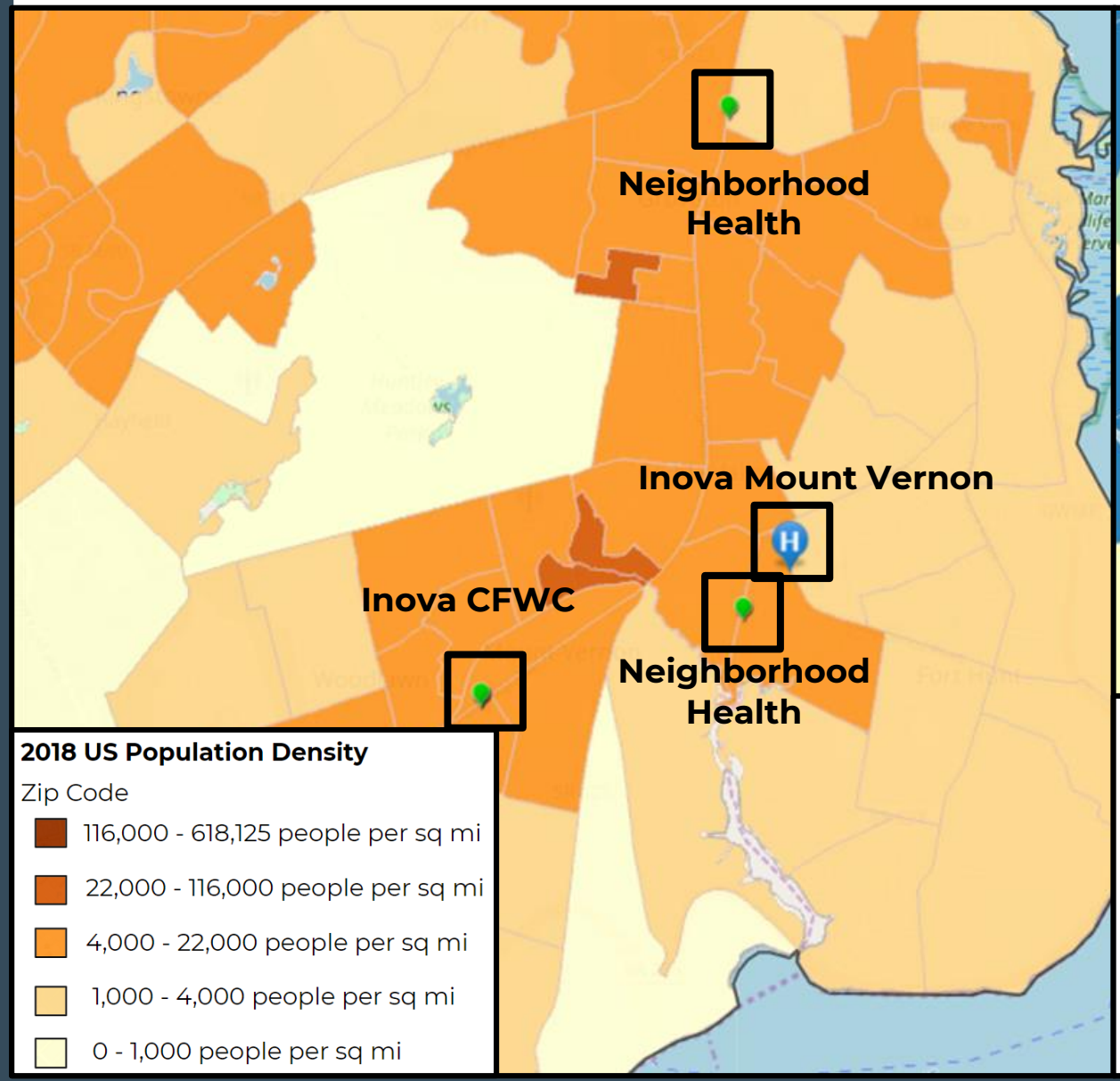
Regional View of Median Household Income

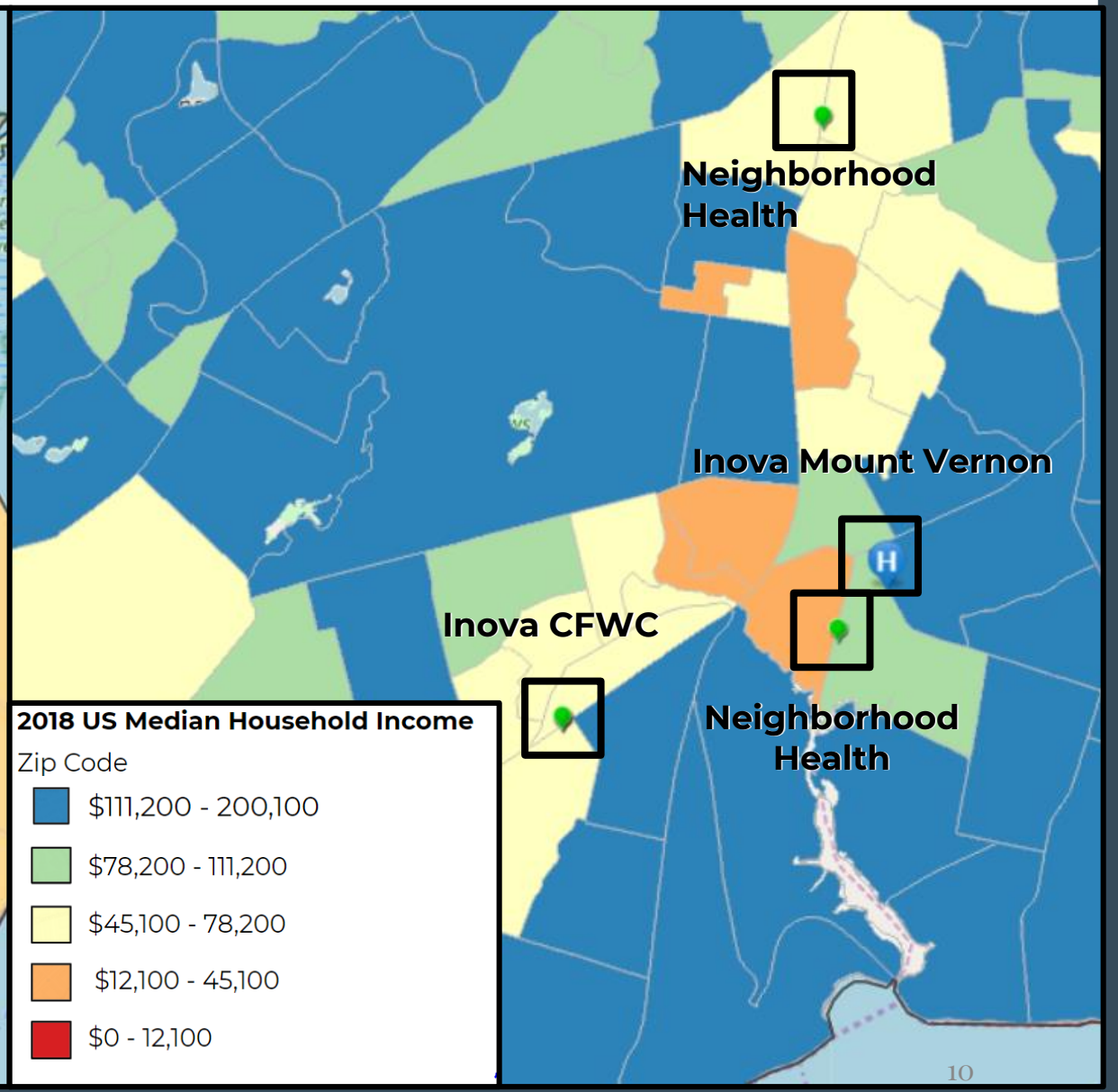
- Northern Virginia is a wealthy region with significant portions of the area having a median household income between $78,000-200,100.
- There are also significant disparities in income and census tracks where the median household income is much lower.

Lower Income Census Tracts in Northern Virginia		
City/County	**Median Household Income**	**Census Tracts**
Alexandria	$12,100-$45,100	200103, 200303, 20030, 200106, 201203
Arlington	$0-$12,100 $12,100-$45,100	102100 103502, 102003
Fairfax	$12,100-$45,100	452200, 450702, 451900, 451400, 451601, 452802, 461902, 421900
Loudoun	$12,100-$45,100	610505, 611018
Manassas	$12,100-$45,100	910401, 910301, 910302
Prince William	$12,100-$45,100	901701,901602, 901408, 901001, 900901, 900203

There were no low income areas in Falls Church and Fairfax City.
Data Source: ArcGIS.com, Esri 2018 USA Population Density map layer

Areas Lacking Medicaid PCP's in Fairfax

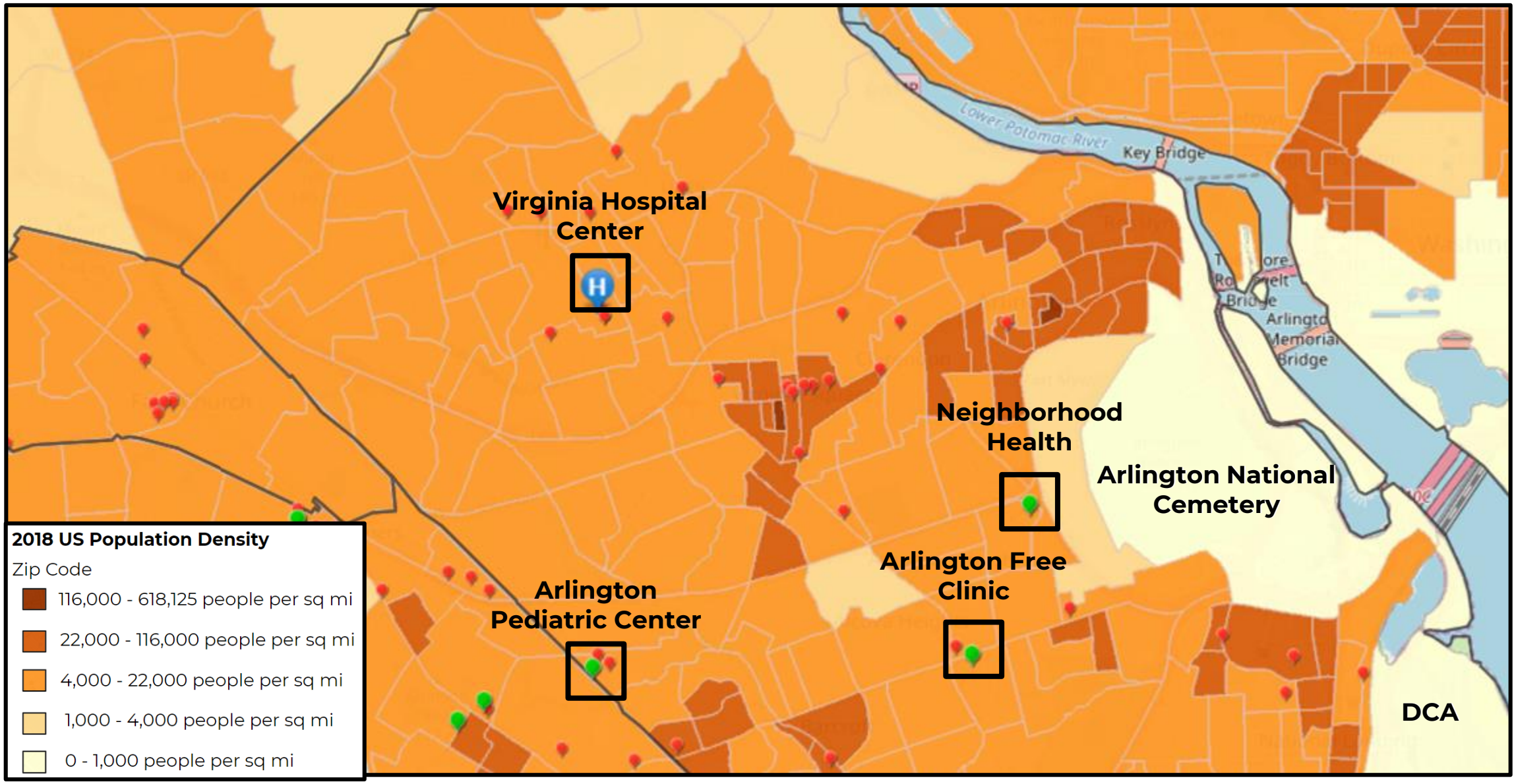




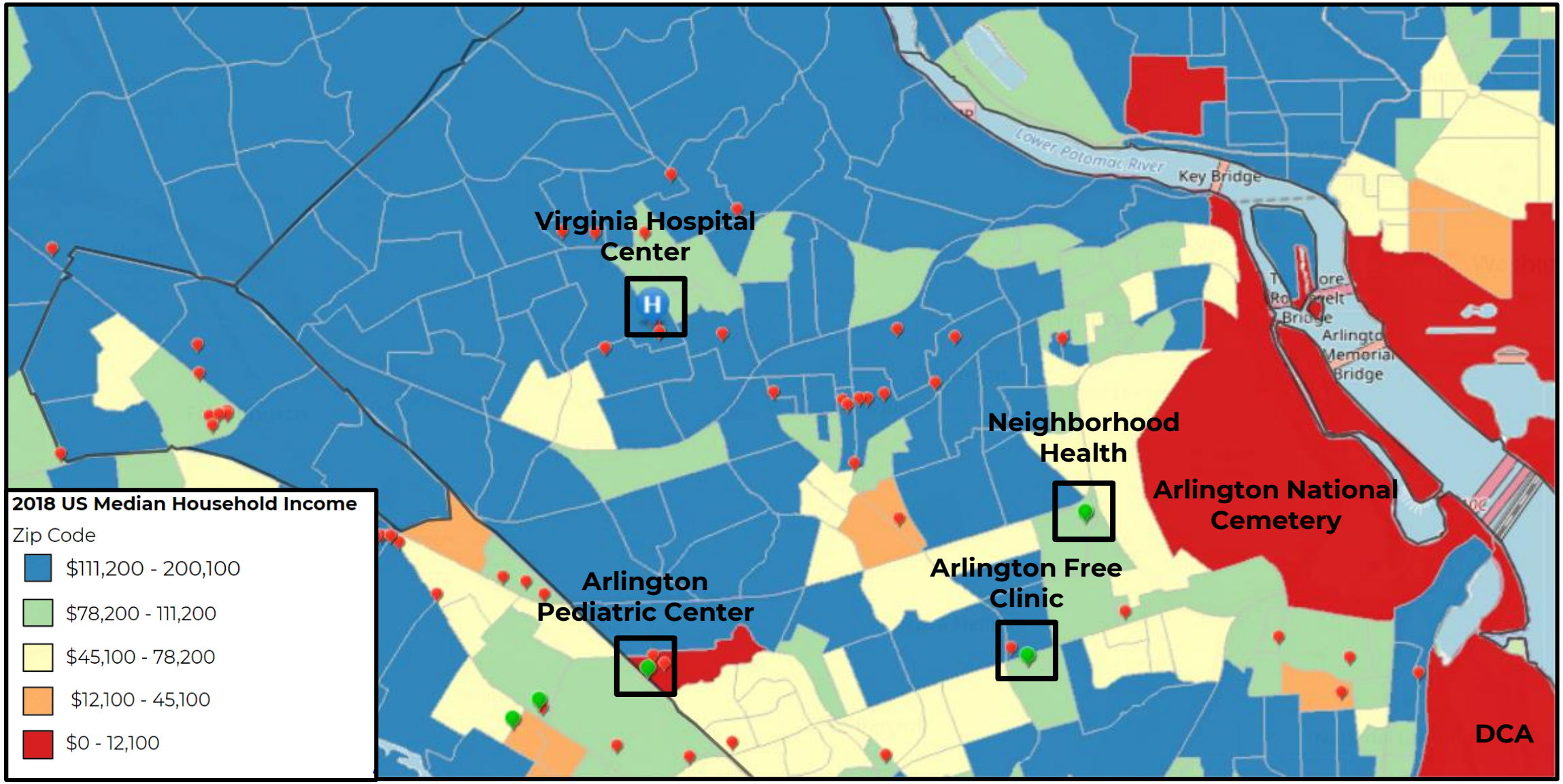
Lack of Medicaid Providers in Fairfax

- There are no PCPs who accept Medicaid within 5+ miles surrounding Inova Mount Vernon Hospital.
- However, there are three safety net providers in the area, two of which accept Medicaid.
- The area has several lower income census areas as well as being densely populated.

High Density Areas in Arlington



Low Income Areas in Arlington



Lack of Medicaid Providers in Arlington

- Arlington has the most population dense census tracts in the region and the only county that has a census tract with 22,000-116,00 people per square mile.
- It is also the only county that has a census tract with a median household income of $0-12,100.
    - There are two additional census tracts that appear to be in this range within Arlington, however, they are Reagan National Airport and Arlington National Cemetery.
- There is an increased need for PCPs that accept Medicaid due to the county's population density and low income of its residents.

Conclusion

- Are there enough primary care providers that accept Medicaid to serve the current and expanded Medicaid patient population?
  - Unclear due to limitations of the available data sources.
  - Without surveying the providers, there is no way to know who has capacity to serve new Medicaid patients.
- There is a need for additional primary care providers that accept Medicaid in more rural areas.
- There is a need for more providers who are linguistically and culturally competent throughout all of Northern Virginia.

Recommendations

- Survey/interview MCOs to determine provider network size & how they plan to expand to meet the need.
- Increase Medicaid reimbursement rates for PCPs.
- Provide business or financial incentives to providers who accept Medicaid.
- Streamline the administrative and billing processes for providers participating in Medicaid.
- Encourage free and charitable clinics located in underserved areas to participate in Medicaid.
- Assess health-related transportation needs in outlying suburbs and more rural areas and develop cost-effective alternatives to taxicabs.