

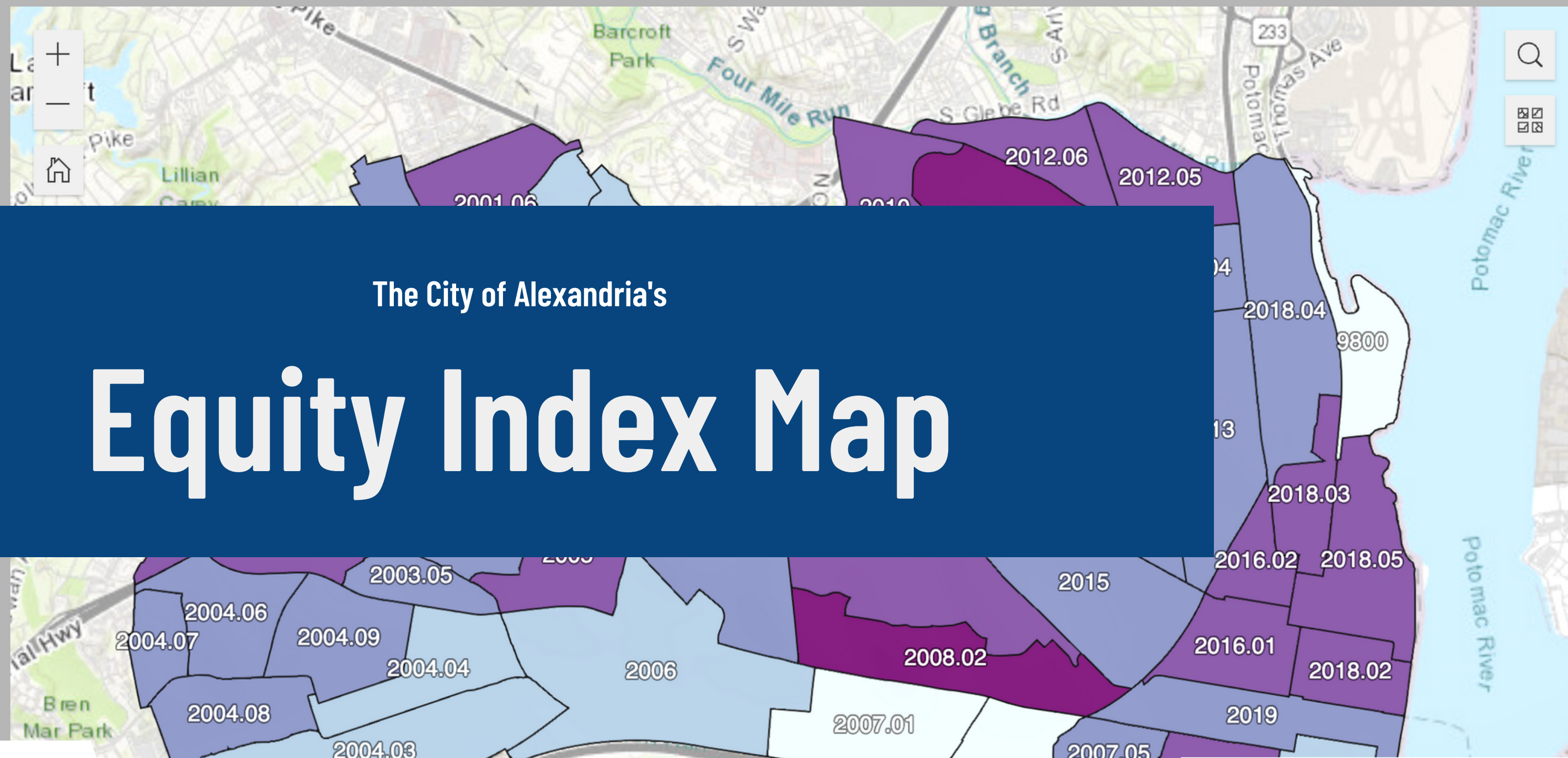


Racial Equity Index

Social Opportunity Indicators

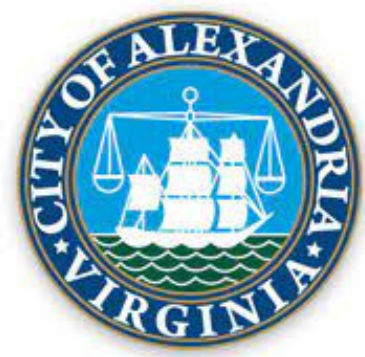
Small Area Plans

Racial Equity Map



The City of Alexandria's Equity Index Map

Racial Equity Map



June 2023

Access the Equity Index Map at:

<https://tinyurl.com/equityindexmap>

ALL Alexandria Vision

“

The goal of our work is to reduce and eliminate disparities and inequities experienced by all residents, especially those in communities of color and other groups who have been historically and systemically marginalized.

”

Racial Equity Resources

Equity Index
Map

Research & Data
Equity Guide

Racial Equity Toolkit

Racial Equity Action
Plans

Equity Index Map

City of Alexandria, VA

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Social Opportunity Indicators

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Equity Map

Equity Index

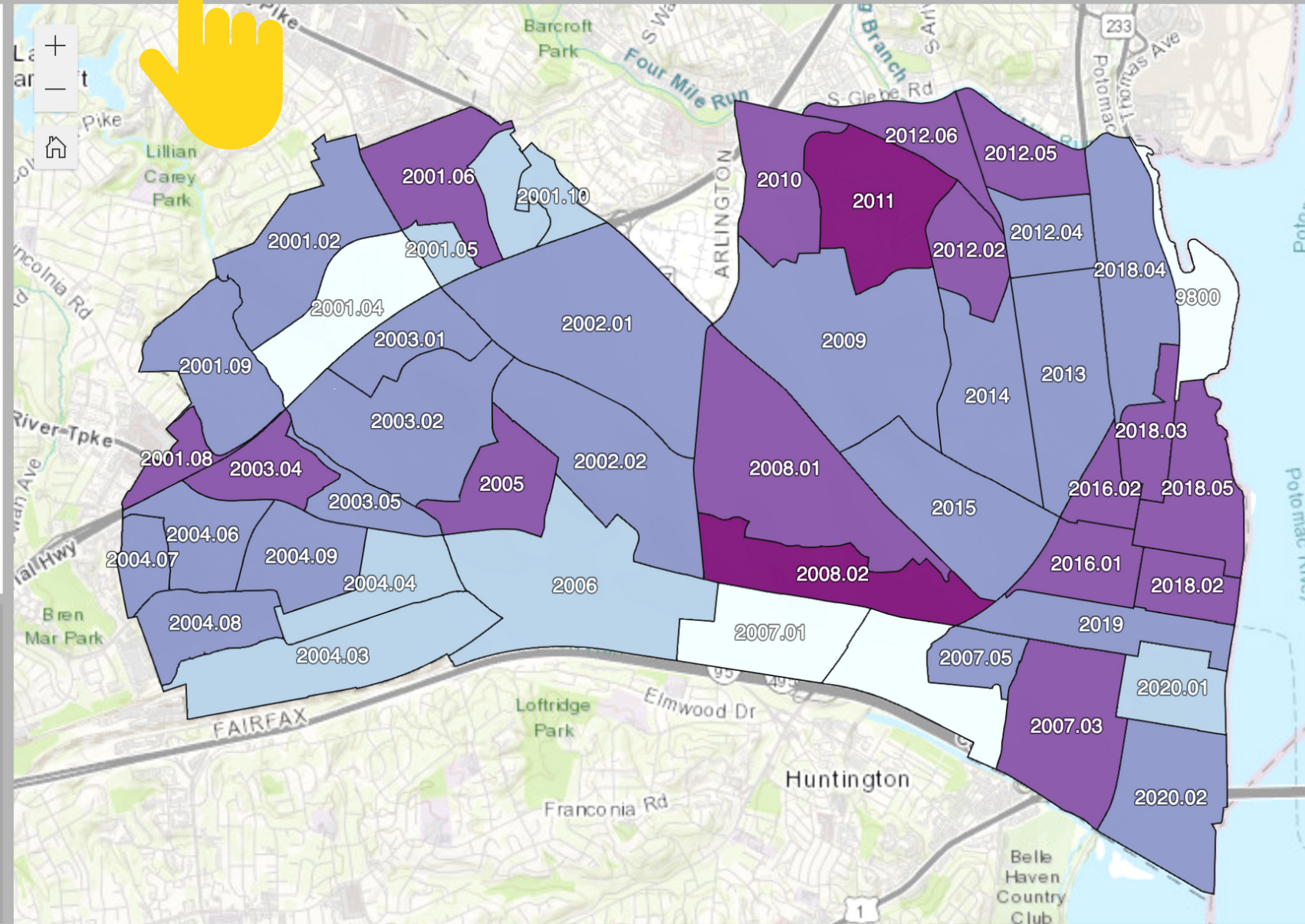
Very High

High

Moderate

Low

Very low

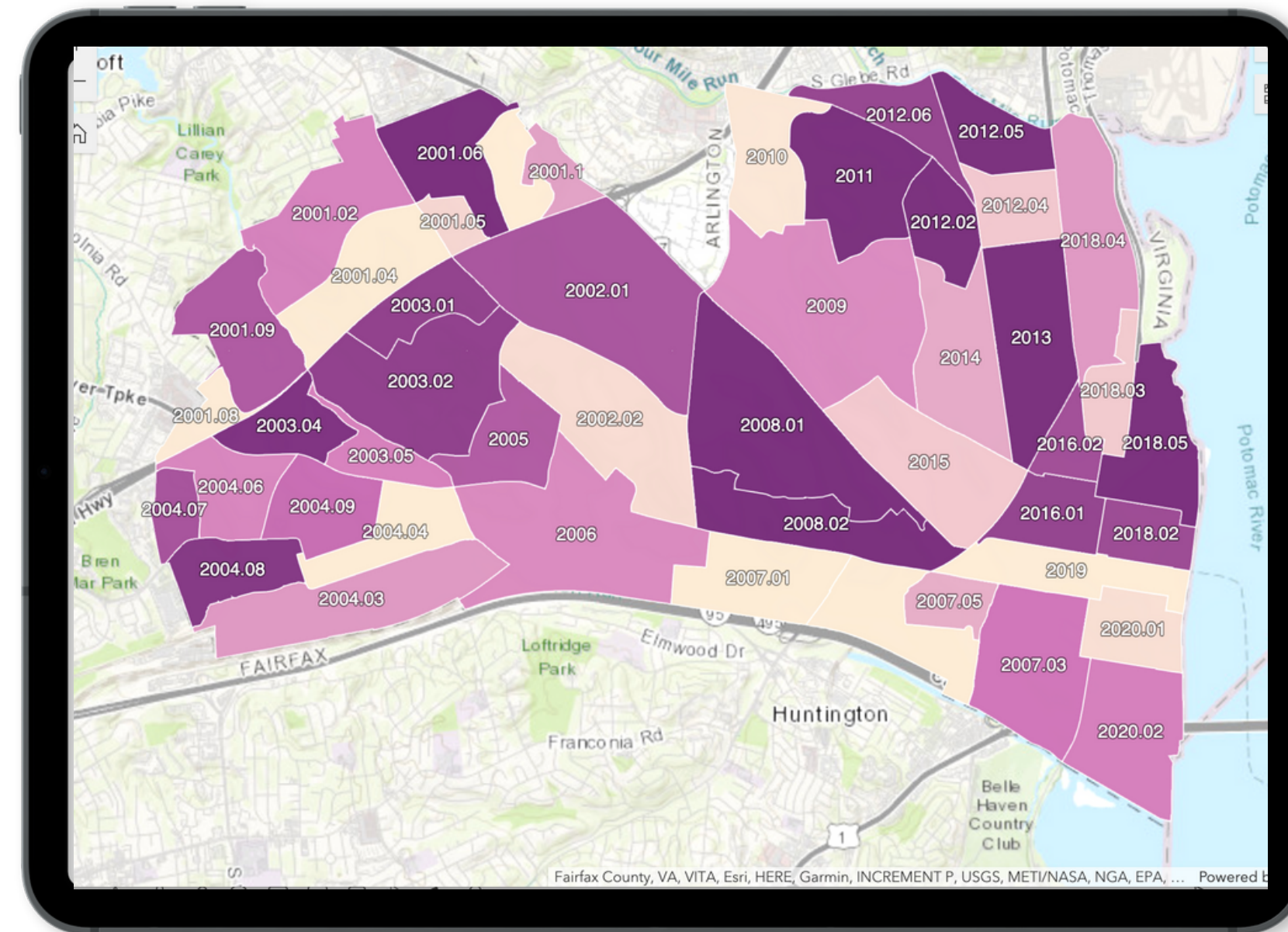


- 01 Quantify disparities in outcomes critical to individual well-being, stability, and inclusion.
- 02 Compare outcomes within and between neighborhoods over time.
- 03 Support data-driven, equity-driven decision-making for policies, programs, and initiatives.

MacBook Pro

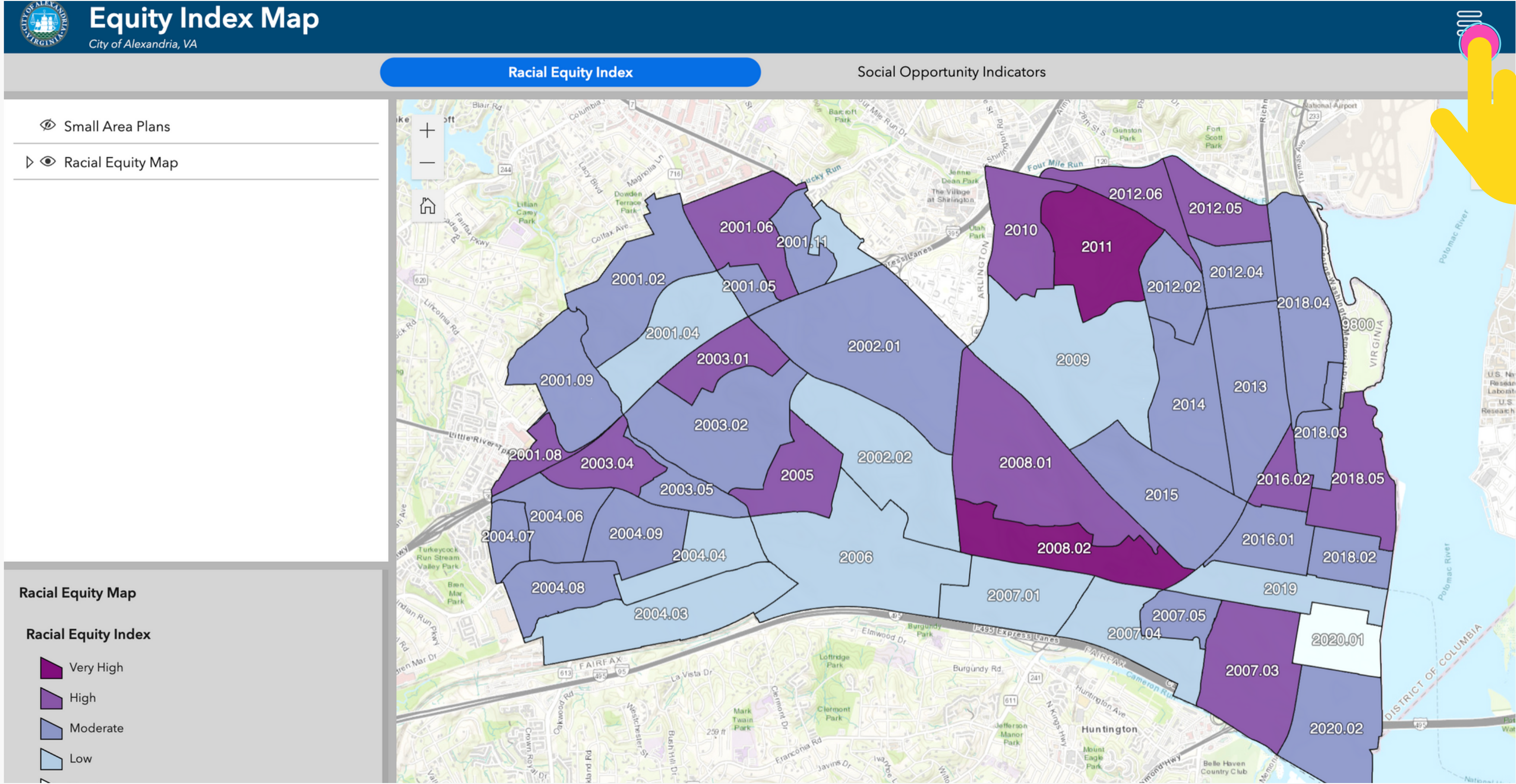
What is the value of a mapping approach?

Historical policies and practices (e.g., zoning ordinance, FHA policies) gave rise to geographic clustering of key economic, social, and health outcomes.



Identifying policy issues and where those issues are more pronounced can inform more targeted policies, programs, and initiatives (which has implications for both equity and efficiency).

Getting Started





Equity Index Map

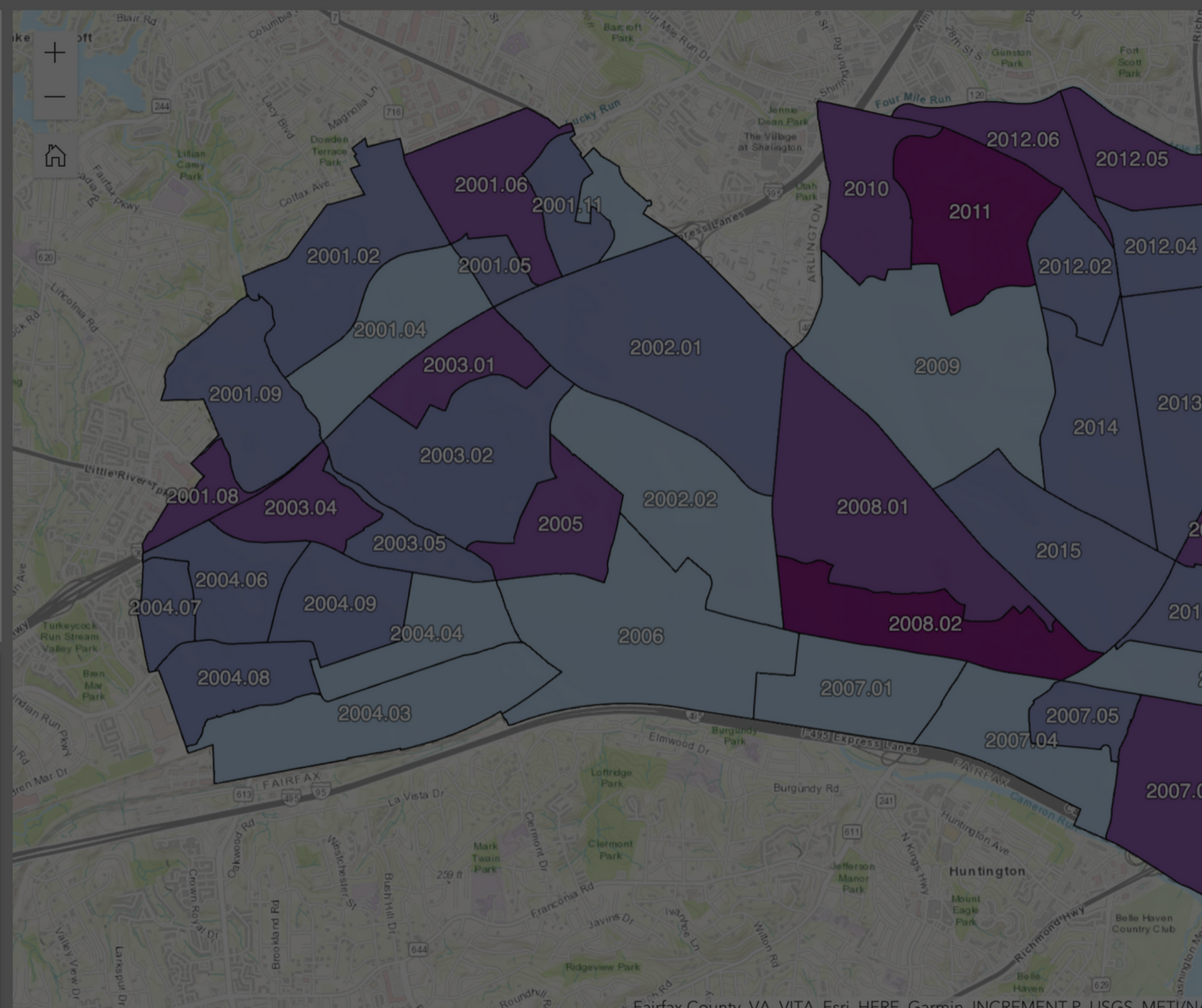
City of Alexandria, VA

Racial Equity Index

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Racial Equity Map



Racial Equity Map

Racial Equity Index

- Very High
- High
- Moderate
- Low
- Very low

Equity Index Map - Home

About the Equity Index Map

Using the Equity Index Map

Data and Methodology



Welcome to the City of Alexandria's Equity Index Map!

This tool seeks to:

1. Systematically quantify racial disparities in outcomes that are critical to individual well-being, economic stability, and socioeconomic inclusion.
2. Compare outcomes between and within neighborhoods over time.
3. Support data-driven decision-making with an equity lens.

A mapping approach is a critically important approach to analyzing outcome data because historical policies (e.g., FHA mortgage policies) and private practices (e.g., racially-restrictive covenants) gave rise to geographic clustering of key social, economic, and health outcomes. Identifying where that clustering is most pronounced can inform more targeted policies, programs, and initiatives, which can increase both equity and efficiency.

The Equity Index Map has two key components:

- *The Racial Equity Index* is a summary of disparities in conditions of well-being that we want to see in our residents. By better understanding the disparities in key population-level outcomes, leaders, departments, and community-based organizations can more intentionally design and align performance-based metrics to their work.
- *Social Opportunity Indicators* help provide context, showing the distribution of outcomes, amenities, and access across Census tracts. Social opportunity indicators are grouped thematically according to Neighborhood Composition, Education, Economic Opportunity, Accessibility & Mobility, Neighborhood Quality & Liveability, and Household Resources.





Using the Equity Index Map

The [Equity Index Map](#) can be used to explore **disparities**, to address specific policy research questions, and/or to better understand where interventions may be needed.

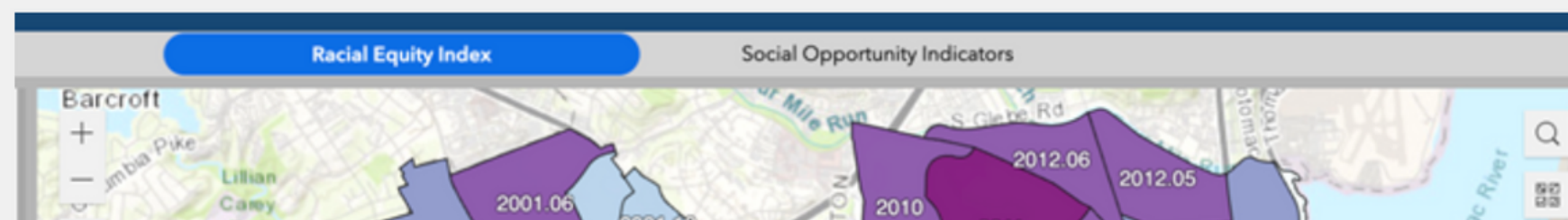
What are Disparities?

Disparities are inequalities in group outcomes relative to each group's population share. For example, the poverty rate in Alexandria was about 9.4% overall according to American Community Survey 5-year Estimates from 2020. In the same year, the poverty rate for white, non-Hispanic Alexandrians (about 52% of the overall population) is **4.1%**, where the poverty rate for Black or African American Alexandrians (about 22% of the overall population) was **16.7%**. The poverty rate is significantly higher for Black Alexandrians than for white, non-Hispanic Alexandrians. By exploring these disparities and where in the City they are most pronounced, we can begin to explore why these disparities exist and how to address them so that ALL Alexandrians are able to thrive.

Getting Started

1. Start by exploring the **Racial Equity Index (REI)** tab. Census tracts with higher levels of disparity appear darker, while tracts with lower levels of disparity appear lighter. The legend at the bottom left of the screen helps you associated the color of a tract to its relative level of disparity.

As you click on each Census tract, you will see the value of the REI for that tract along with the values of each of the component indicators - this will give you an idea of what is *driving* this level of disparity. For example, the values in the pop-up box below suggest that disparities in *poverty* are most impactful for this Census tract.



Data and Methodology

The *Racial Equity Index* is a summary of the following indicators by race/ethnicity:

Indicator	Source
Homeownership Rate (measured as % of owner-occupied homes by race/ethnicity divided by the population share of each racial/ethnic group)	ACS 5-Year Estimates 2020 (Table: S2502)
Median Household Income Employment-Population Ratio Poverty Rate	ACS 5-Year Estimates 2020 (Tables: S2301, S1903, S1701)
Percent of residents with a Bachelor's degree	ACS 5-Year Estimates 2020 (Table: S1501)

Each of these indicators is strongly correlated with individuals' ability to self-determine, to weather unstable times, and to generate wealth in the long-term. Many of these indicators are also social determinants of health.

To calculate the Racial Equity Index, we compute a separate *Index of Disparity (ID)* for each of the indicators in the table above. A single ID is calculated for each Census tract as follows:

$$Index\ of\ Disparity = \frac{\sum |r_i - R|}{n} \cdot \frac{100}{R}$$

Where r_i is the value of the indicator for a given racial/ethnic group, R is the value of the indicator for the population and n is the number of racial/ethnic groups within a Census tract. Groups with fewer than 20 residents in a Census tract were excluded from the calculation. But how does this calculation actually look in practice?

Data & Methodology



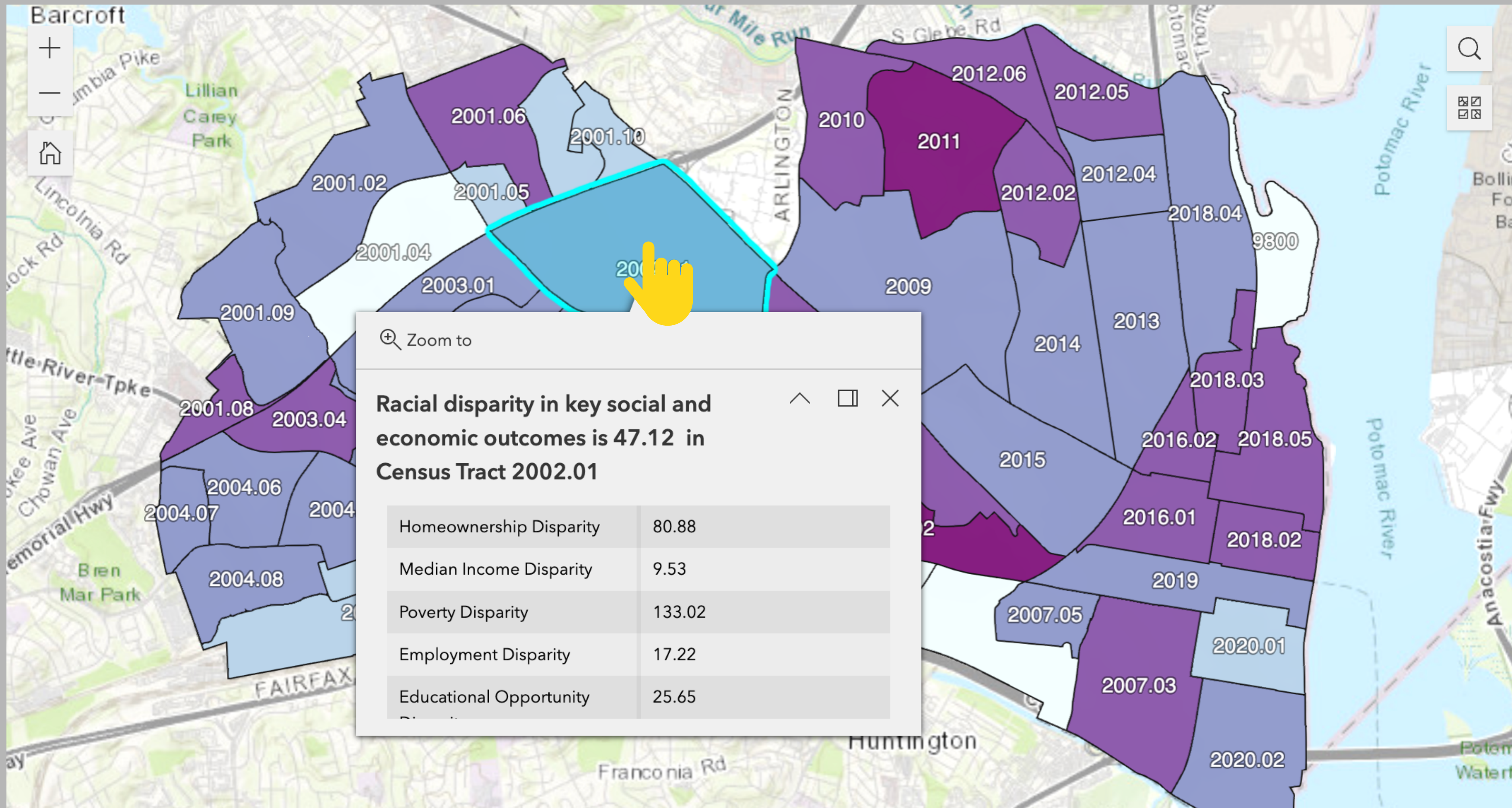
Data sourced from American Community Survey (U.S. Census Bureau), City of Alexandria cadastral data



Racial Equity Index is a composite of five **Indices of Disparity**. It gives us a sense of the magnitude of racial disparity along key socioeconomic outcomes by Census tract.



Social Opportunity Indicators capture a variety of conditions and opportunities available to residents in each Census tract.



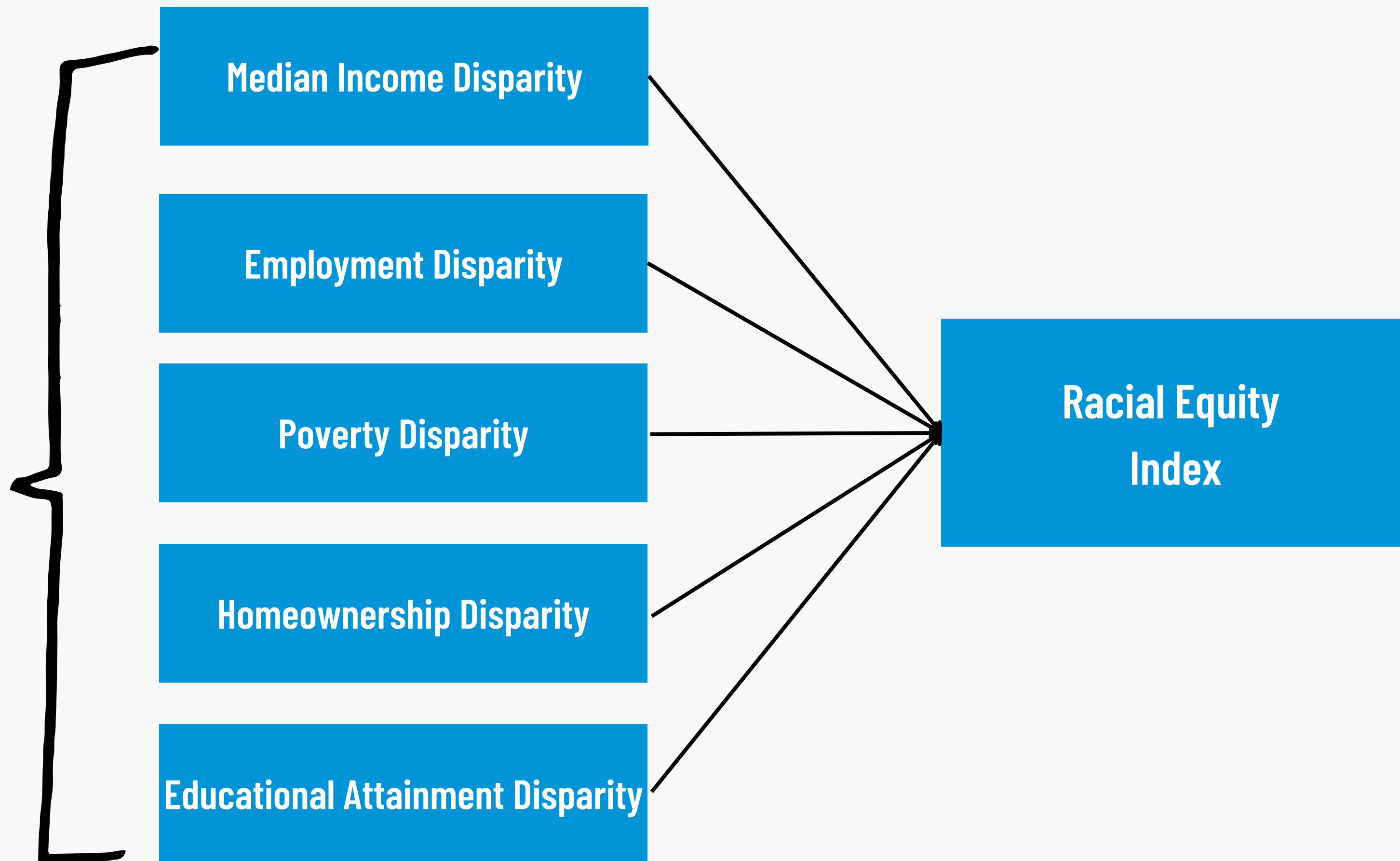
Zoom to

Racial disparity in key social and economic outcomes is 47.12 in Census Tract 2002.01

Homeownership Disparity	80.88
Median Income Disparity	9.53
Poverty Disparity	133.02
Employment Disparity	17.22
Educational Opportunity	25.65

Indices of Disparity

Capture differences in outcomes by race/ethnicity

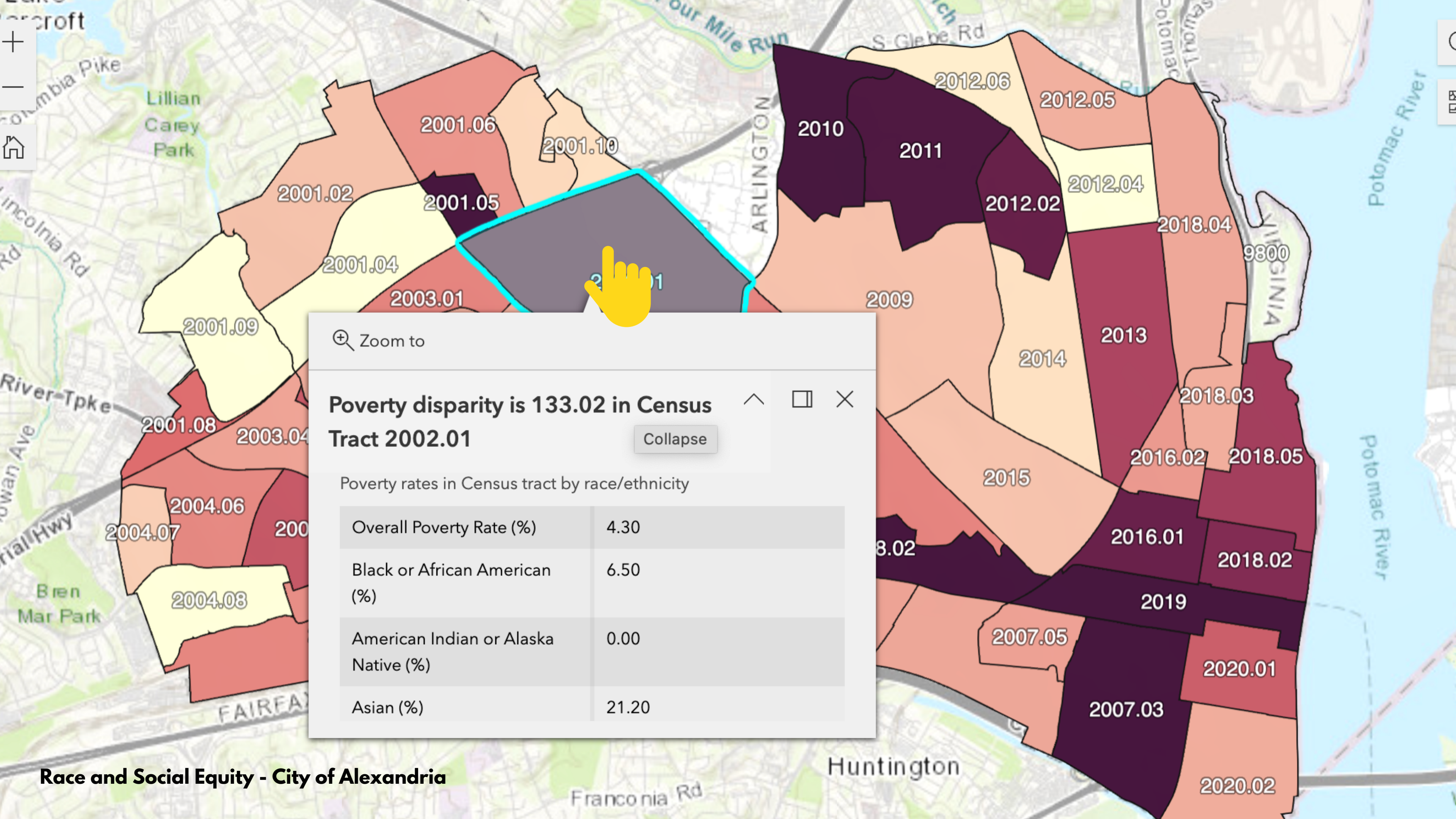


Calculating an Index of Disparity

Race/Ethnicity	Homeownership Rate
Black or African American	22.5%
White, non-Hispanic	45.3%
Hispanic or Latino/a	37.8%
American Indian/Alaska Native	N/A
Asian	26.9%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	N/A
Some other race	0%
Two or more races	0%
Overall	37.7%

Difference between each group and the overall rate (absolute value)
15.2
7.61
0.09
N/A
10.8
N/A
37.7%
37.7%

A	Total difference (sum of above columns)	109.1
B	Number of racial/ethnic groups with more than 20 households in the Census tract	6
C	Average deviation (A/B)	18.2
D	Index of Disparity ((C/Overall homeownership rate)*100)	48.2



Zoom to

Poverty disparity is 133.02 in Census Tract 2002.01 Collapse

Poverty rates in Census tract by race/ethnicity

Overall Poverty Rate (%)	4.30
Black or African American (%)	6.50
American Indian or Alaska Native (%)	0.00
Asian (%)	21.20

Social Opportunity Indicator Themes



Neighborhood
Quality &
Livability



Economic
Opportunity



Neighborhood
Composition



Education

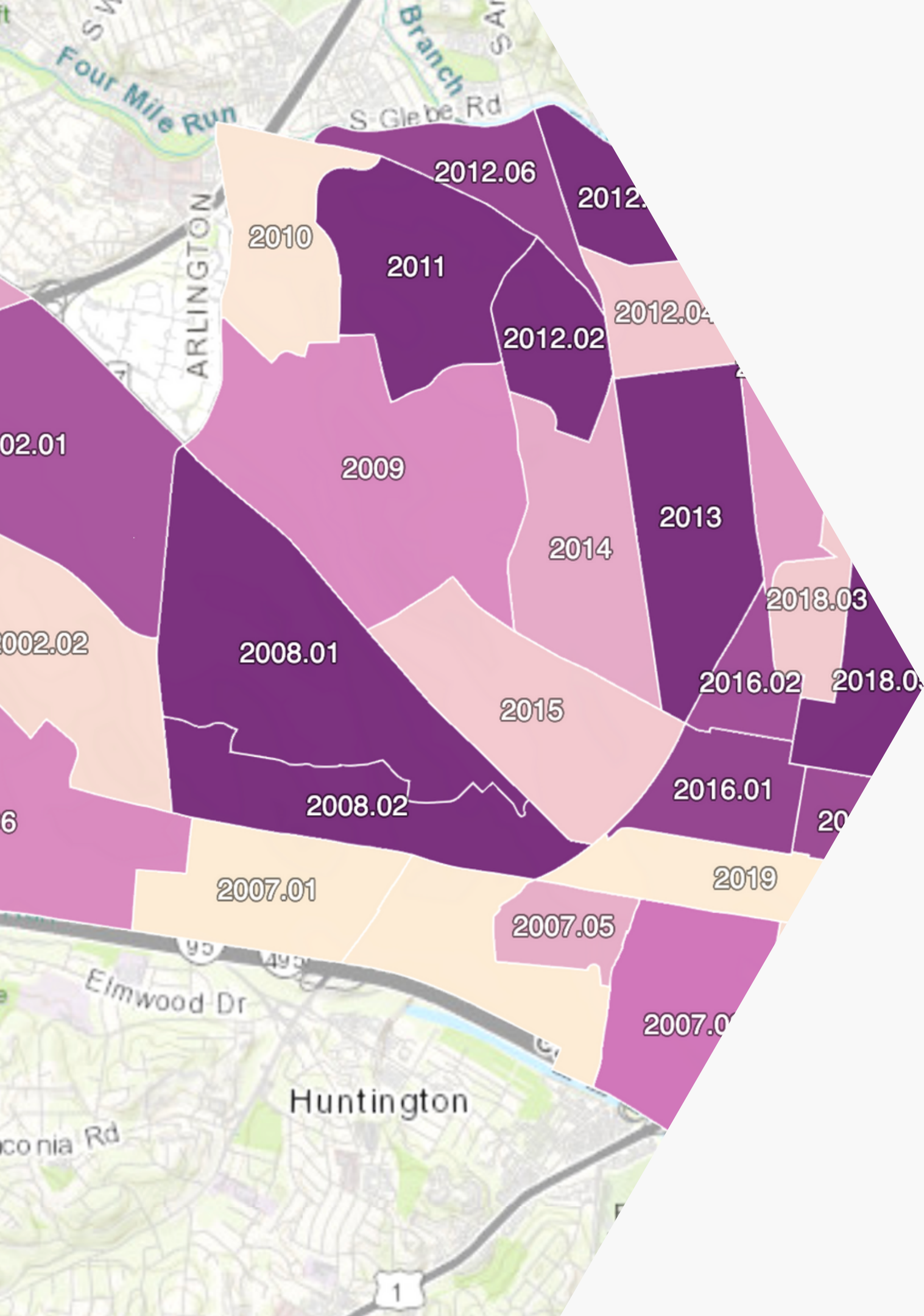


Accessibility &
Mobility



Household
Resources

An additional "Health Outcomes" theme will be available at the end of June 2023



Crowdsourcing & Collaboration

- Tool to stimulate community conversations around City priorities and challenges
- Platform for community story-telling
- Looking to examples in other jurisdictions and nonprofit organizations

Planned Improvements for the Equity Index Map

- New data layers
- More guidance/navigation
- Alexandria-wide indices
- GitHub repository link
- Update log page

What questions do you have?

Modeling an analytic process



What information can we glean from the map regarding this issue? What measures can we use to better inform/understand the issue? Who is affected? What locations are most affected?



If disparities exist, what might be driving them?
(Think: root causes)



What else would we want/need to know about? What other data/information should we bring in? What questions does this raise? Who else should we be talking to?

Thank you!

Please feel free to contact me at emily.finchummason@alexandriava.gov
with questions or comments.