Anne Arundel County Community Wellbeing Index
Case Example Guide

Updated: June 18, 2025

Contents

Background

This guide contains a list of possible scenarios in which the Anne Arundel County Community Wellbeing Index ("the Index") could be a useful tool for decision making. The goal of this guide is to show different ways the Index could be useful, to that end, this list is not exhaustive and these examples are simplified.

Increase Event/Resource Access

You are hosting a series of community events and you need to budget for childcare, language access, and remote access. You want to know which events should be prioritized for which form of improved access. You can use the Index to enhance your decision:
1. Navigate to the measure you are interested in (e.g., child care, language access, or vehicle access)
2. Type in the addresses of the locations where you are hosting your events
3. Review the Index values - select the area with the lowest child care access score to provide child care, the area with the lowest language access score to provide translation services, and the area with the lowest vehicle access score to provide a remote attendance option.

Triangulate Factors Impacting Outcomes

This example comes from Tacoma County, Washington where Solid Waste Management noticed that a few routes consistently experienced recycling contamination (recyclables were placed in bags rather than loose). By mapping the routes over measures included in their Index, they noticed that the routes aligned with lower language access. They prioritized translating their recycling informational materials and developed an Ambassador Program to ensure that all communities were informed about recycling procedures. See Tacoma's Equity Index Case Studies for more examples of how they used their Index!

If you have a layer, data, or other information you'd like to add to the map to perform this type of analysis, or to collaborate in any way, reach out to us at ArundelStat@aacounty.org!

Determine Resource Allocation

The County wants to incentivize development of affordable housing, but they want to prioritize areas that are facing higher housing cost burdens than the rest of the County. To do so:
1. Navigate to the Prosperity tab on the left
2. Click the Cost Burdened tab on the bottom
3. Select census tracts that are the lightest shade of green (you can also use the distribution histogram on the left to select the census tracts with the lowest index scores for housing cost burdens).
4. Provide developers with a tax incentive if they build affordable housing in selected census tracts.

Similarly, a foundation is offering grant funding but is stuck between two organizations. They know they want to reach persons of all racial backgrounds African American residents with low grocery store access. To do so, they:

1. Navigate to the Access tab on the left
2. Click on the Healthy Food tab on the bottom
3. Click on the layers icon and add each race layer, in turn
4. Compare the locations of the two organizations and decide to fund the organization that works in the areas with lighter green census tracts (indicating lower grocery store access) with larger orange/red/green bubbles overlaid (indicating larger African American, Hispanic/Latino, and Multi-Racial populations).