

A county that looks fine on paper and *isn't, in fifteen places.*

By the numbers, Anne Arundel is one of the better-churched counties in America. It also has fifteen neighborhoods where no congregation meets, eleven where the households are comfortable and the nearest church is a mile off, and one where the county's worst conditions sit behind a blank space on the map. This is a study of where the county's good reputation stops being true, written for the people who would have to do something about it.

Built from GospelGraph · Every number traceable · Data release of 2026-08-28

READ IT THIS WAY

1

The county is five places, and they do not behave alike.

Almost every finding in this report is true of one part of Anne Arundel and false of another. Where a finding belongs to one part, a small map beside the section title shows which.

2

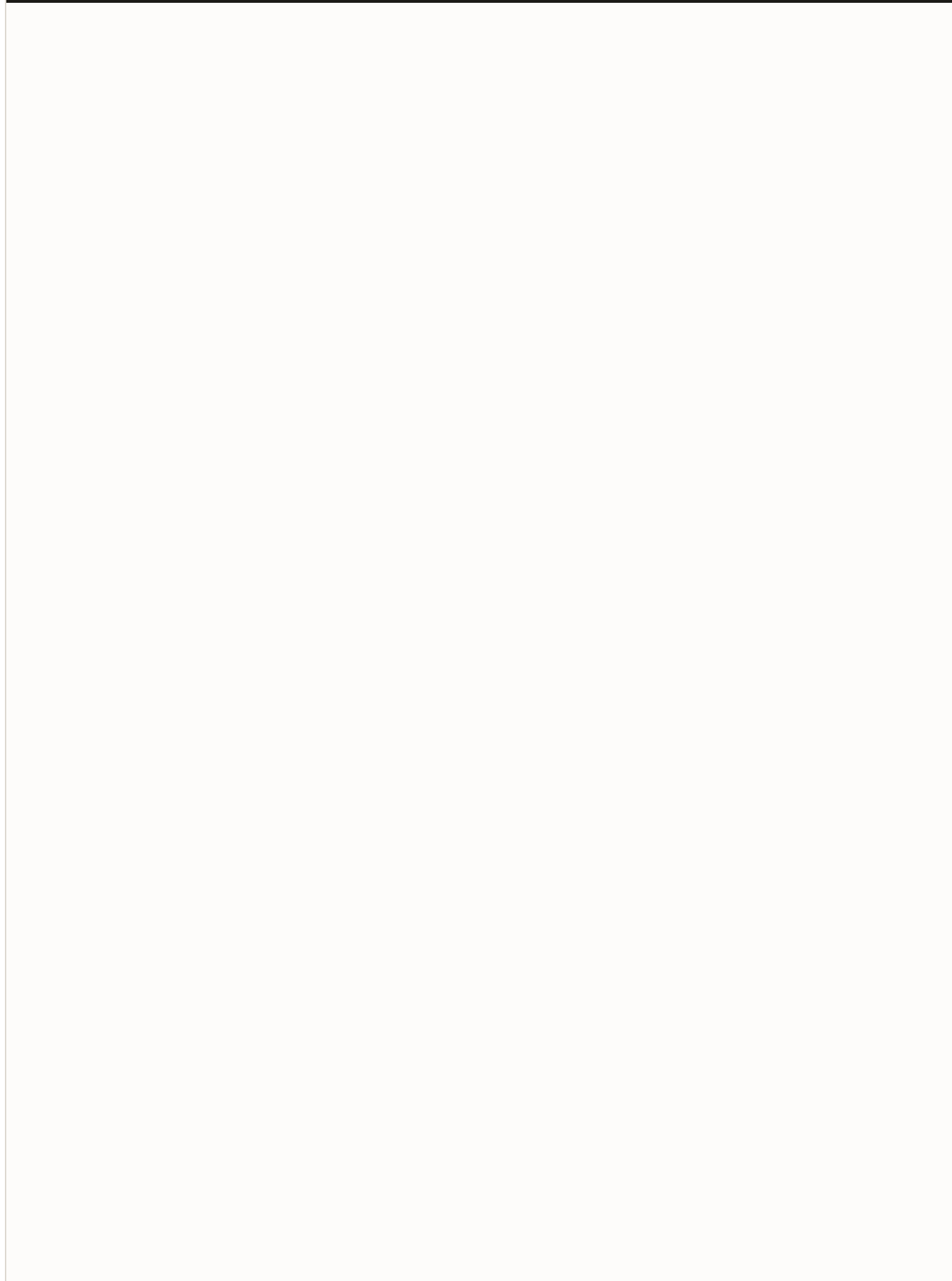
Two devices repeat, and you can navigate by them.

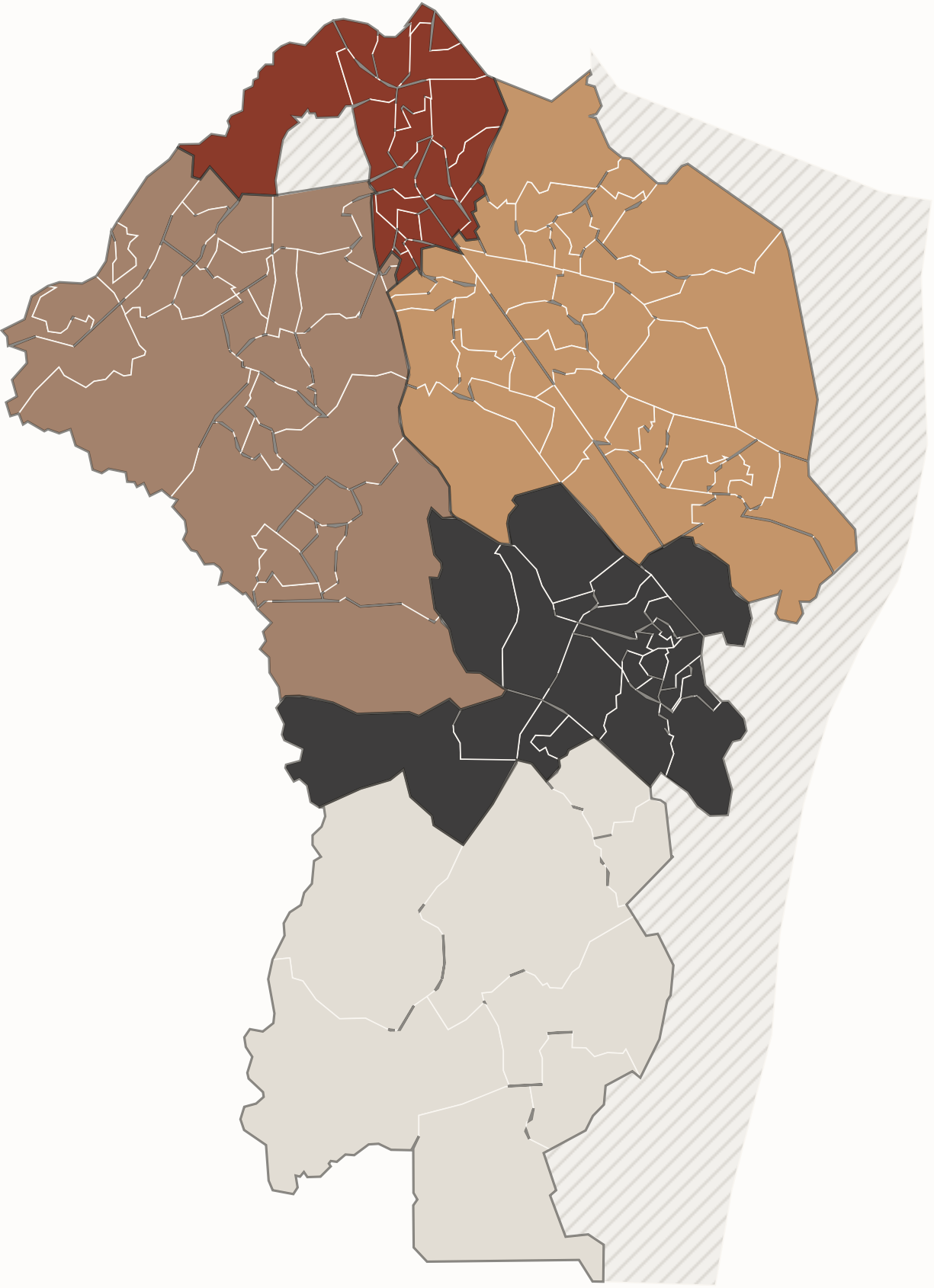
A band marked *what you would already recognize* starts from your prayer list and your rolls. A dark band marked *what changes on Monday* ends with one action and who is best placed to carry it.

3

Nothing is hidden to make the story cleaner.

Neighborhoods the data cannot score stay on the map, hatched. The widest tables are folded rather than cut, and every fold opens to the complete table.





130

NEIGHBORHOODS

5

PARTS OF THE
COUNTY

15

WITH NO CHURCH
INSIDE

Health

THE ONE AREA IT
LOSES ON

WHAT IS IN HERE

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WHERE TO START

What this data can see, and what it cannot

This report is built from public records: church locations, road networks, and census figures about the households in each neighborhood. That means it can see some things well and other things not at all, and the difference matters before you trust a single number in it.

It can see where church buildings are, how far people live from them, how many people live in each part of the county, and what census conditions those households are carrying. It measures structures.

It cannot see faith. It does not know who prays, who has been converted, who is disciplined, or whether any particular congregation is healthy or faithful. A neighborhood this data calls thin may be full of Christians who drive fifteen minutes to church. A neighborhood it calls well-served may be spiritually cold. Nothing in this report is a judgment on anyone's soul or on any church's ministry.

Hold both of those together and the data becomes useful. It answers one narrow question: *where in this county would it be structurally hardest for a person to encounter a gospel-preaching church?* That is worth knowing. It is not the same question as where God is working.

Five words you will need, and one warning

NEIGHBORHOOD

The census cuts Anne Arundel into **130 pieces** averaging about 4,500 people. Officially they are census tracts. This report gives each one its place name where a name is honest, and prints the tract number beside it, so **Ferndale, tract 7508.03**. Twenty of the county's place names cover more than one tract, so the number is what tells them apart when you look one up or hand it to someone.

THIN-PRESENCE SCORE

A **0 to 100** score for how hard it would be to reach a gospel-preaching church from that neighborhood, weighed against what the households there are carrying. Higher is worse. It counts buildings and distances. Its formal name is the Gospel Desert Index.

WATERED, SPARSE, DRY, ARID, DESERT

The five bands the score falls into, from best to worst. **Watered** is under 25, **Sparse** 25 to 45, **Dry** 45 to 60, **Arid** 60 to 75, **Desert** above 75. The bands come from the model, not from us. Anne Arundel has no Desert neighborhood.

WELLBEING SCORE

A **0 to 100** reading of the conditions households in a neighborhood are living under, built from five areas: work and provision, safety and justice, health, family and household, and community life. Higher is better. Its formal name is Shalom.

THE TWO CHANGE MEASURES

Two ways of asking whether conditions are improving. The **short measure** compares 2024 against 2020. The **long measure** fits a line across twelve overlapping windows from 2009 to 2024. They often disagree, and one whole section below is about why that disagreement is useful rather than a mistake.

A WARNING ABOUT ONE WORD

When the long measure reports **holding**, that does not mean conditions held steady. It means the measurement could not establish a direction either way. Anywhere this report says a direction is not established, read it as *we do not know*, never as *things are stable*.

Three things here that should change a decision

If you read nothing else, read these. Each one is a place where the county's reputation and the county's data point in different directions.

FIRST

The average is good. The spread is the problem.

Anne Arundel is better churched than 85% of comparable American counties. But its neighborhoods are further apart from each other than two thirds of those counties, and a higher share of them are severely underserved than in Maryland as a whole. The county average is true and it is hiding the sixteen places that need attention.

Better than 85% of peer counties · 16 neighborhoods in the worst bands

SECOND

Health is the one thing this county is bad at

Of the five areas that make up the wellbeing score, Anne Arundel beats the Maryland average on four. On health it falls ten points below. That is the county's single largest structural weakness, and the overall score hides it because the other four cover for it. In north county the health reading is 36.9 out of 100.

County 52.5 · Maryland 62.5 · north county 36.9

THIRD

Fifteen neighborhoods have no church in them

Fifteen of 130 have no congregation inside the boundary at all. Twelve of those have people living in them. They are not remote: every one has a church within 1.4 miles. They are subdivisions and corridors where nobody built, and most of them are comfortable places.

15 with none · 12 with residents ·
all within 1.4 miles of one

The most useful thing to do with this data is to stop describing the county by its average.

02 THE SHAPE OF THE COUNTY

Good on average, and that is the problem

Anne Arundel's reputation is affluent and coastal, and the overall numbers agree with it. Averaged across its 127 scored neighborhoods, the county's thin-presence score comes in a shade better than Maryland's and well better than the country's. Compared against the 338 American counties of similar size, Anne Arundel is better resourced than roughly 85% of them.

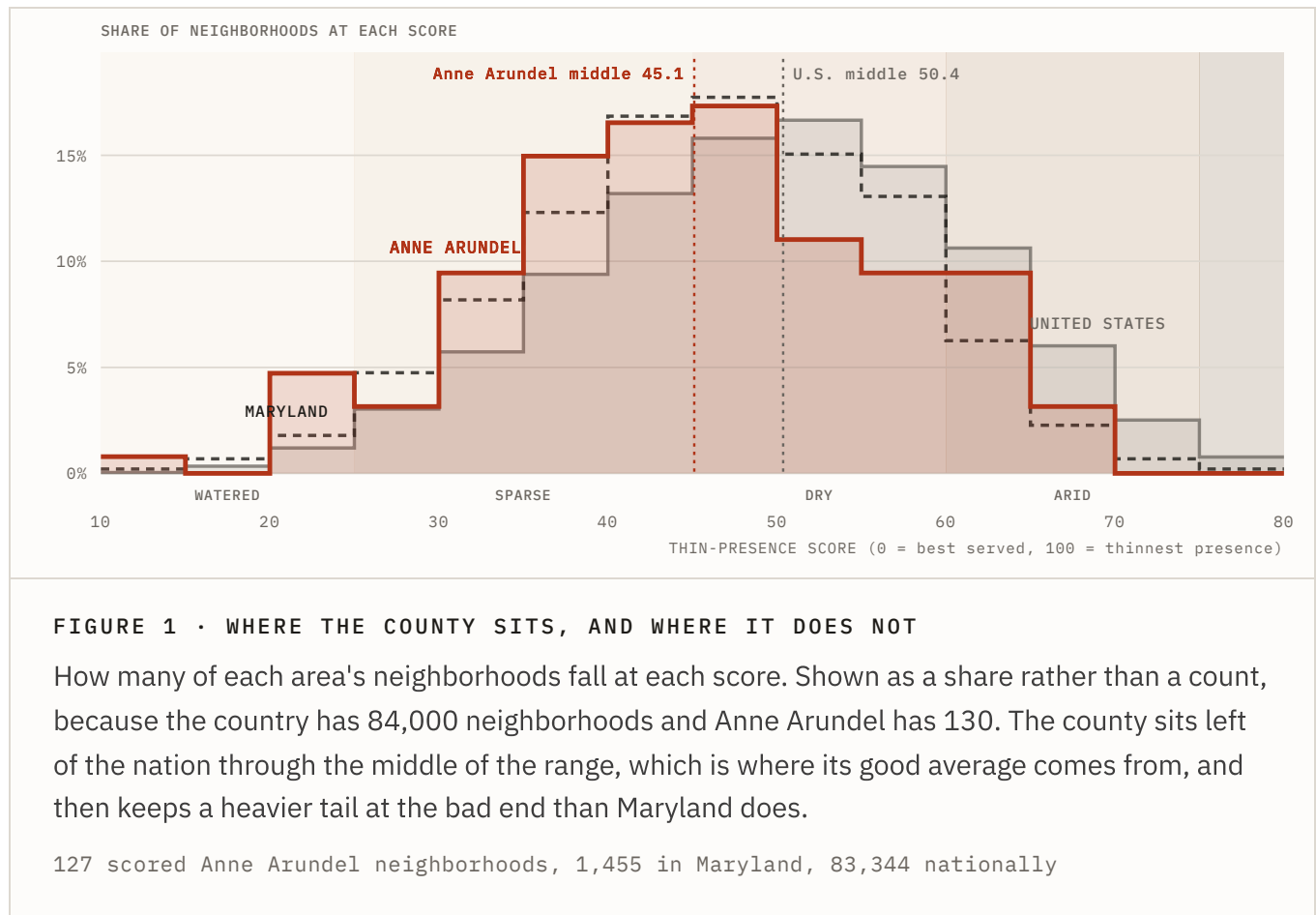
mean thin presence · Anne Arundel 45.2 · Maryland 46.2 · national 50.0

Now look at the spread instead of the middle. The distance between Anne Arundel's best and worst neighborhoods is wider than in two thirds of those same counties. And the severe end runs ahead of the state: a larger share of Anne Arundel neighborhoods sit at 60

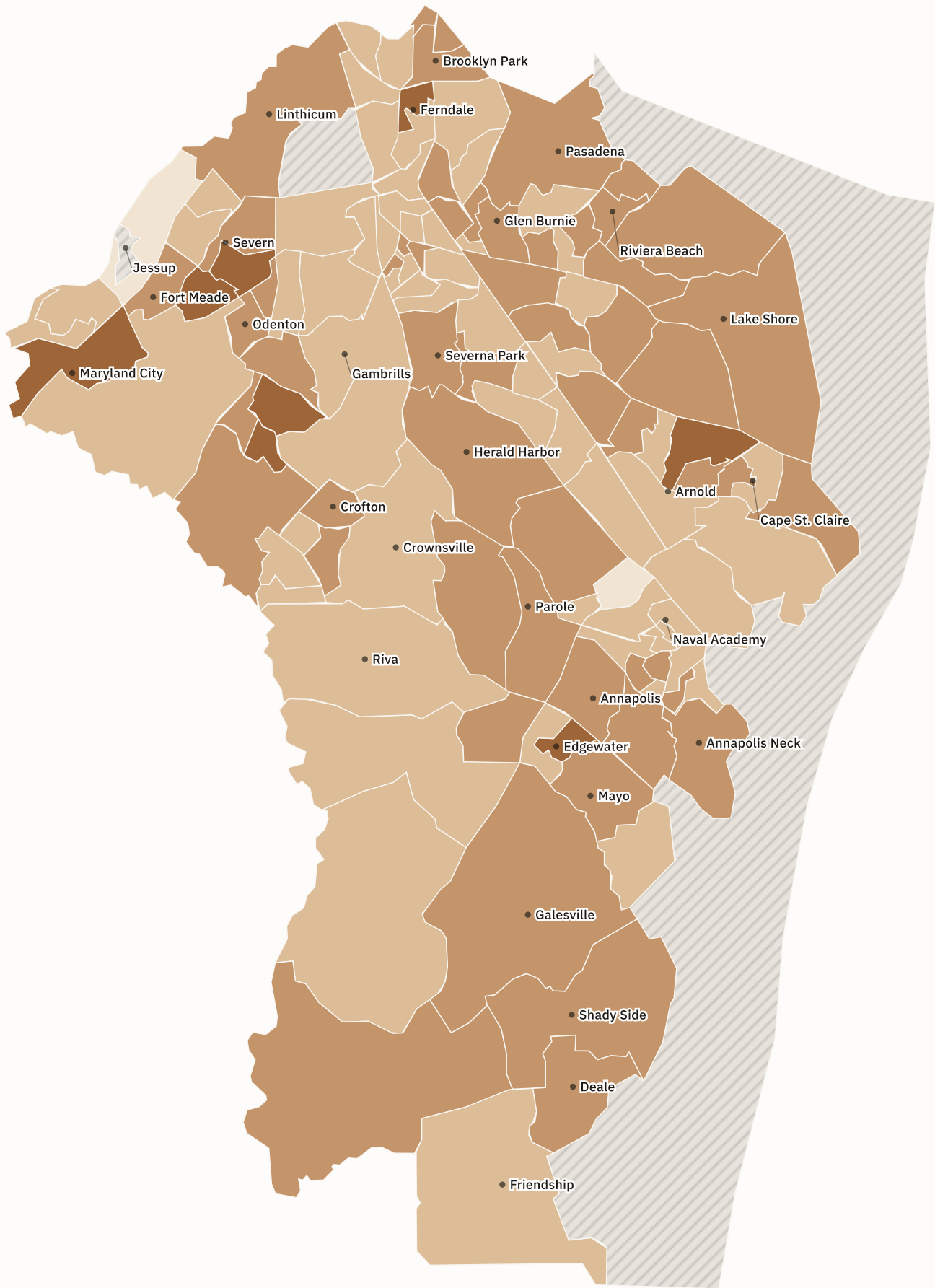
or worse than across Maryland as a whole. The county has proportionally more badly underserved neighborhoods than the state it sits in, while posting a better average than that state.

share of neighborhoods at 60+ · Anne Arundel 12.3% · Maryland 9.3%

Both facts are true at once, and only one of them ever gets said out loud.



One thing worth saying plainly, because it cuts against the alarm: Anne Arundel has no Desert-tier neighborhood. The worst score in the county is **69.8**. Nothing here reaches 75. A church planter choosing between this county and Baltimore City on severity alone should go to Baltimore City. The case for Anne Arundel is different, and it is about scattering and invisibility rather than depth.



THIN-PRESENCE BAND

Watered Sparse Dry Arid Desert No score (3)

130 neighborhoods. The bands come from the model, not from us: Watered 0-25, Sparse 25-45, Dry 45-60, Arid 60-75, Desert 75-100. Anne Arundel has no Desert-band neighborhood. Its worst score is 69.8.

FIGURE 2 • THE COUNTY, NEIGHBORHOOD BY NEIGHBORHOOD

All 130 neighborhoods, drawn from real boundaries rather than sketched. The three with no score are hatched and kept on the map instead of dropped, because their absence is part of the story. Labeled points are the neighborhoods the data service named. Hover any one of them for its numbers.

Boundaries from the published GospelGraph geography; bands from the model configuration

The map is where this becomes a pastoral problem rather than a statistical one. The dark neighborhoods do not sit together in one poor quarter of the county where a benevolence committee would already be looking. They are scattered: on the Broadneck and Pasadena peninsulas, out along the Odenton corridor, on Annapolis Neck, and down in south county. No single church's natural field of vision covers more than two of them.



WHAT YOU WOULD ALREADY RECOGNIZE

Think about where your members drive in from on a Sunday. For most Anne Arundel congregations the answer is a wide, scattered catchment rather than a walkable parish, and that is exactly what this map is measuring from the other direction. A neighborhood scores badly here not because it is poor but because its people have to get in a car to reach anyone.

If your congregation draws from six or seven of these neighborhoods and meets in one of them, the other five or six have no gospel-preaching presence of their own. They have yours, at a distance, on one morning a week.

WHAT WAS MEASURED

The county's average thin-presence score is 45.2, and 16 of its 127 scored neighborhoods sit at 60 or worse.

WHAT WOULD BE AN INTERPRETATION

That those 16 neighborhoods are unreachable. This data counts buildings and distances. It has no way of knowing

who in those neighborhoods believes,
and a thin-presence score is not a verdict
on anyone's soul.

Twenty-five kinds of neighborhood in one county

GospelGraph sorts American neighborhoods into thirty household types, built from how people in each block group live: what they do for work, who they live with, whether they own or rent, how old they are. Anne Arundel contains **25** of the thirty, which is a wide spread for a single county.

One type dominates. **Affluent Owner Family Suburbs** holds **25.8%** of the county's households and is the largest single share in **33** of its 130 neighborhoods. Add the next two and you have half the county. The peninsulas and south county are made of it; north county is not.

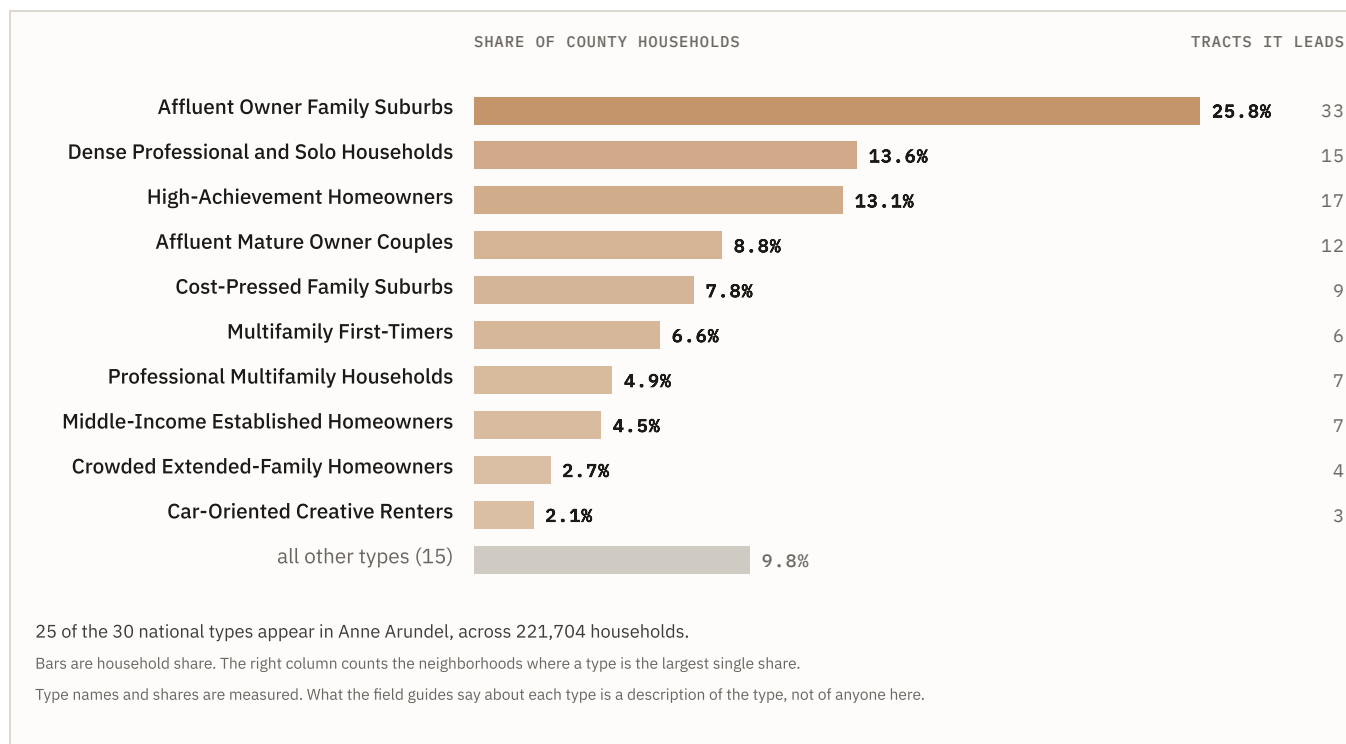


FIGURE 3 • WHAT THE COUNTY IS MADE OF

Household share of each neighborhood personality type. One hue, because this is magnitude rather than identity. The right column counts the neighborhoods where a type is the largest single share, which is why a type can be modest countywide and still define whole stretches of it.

Field Guide v4 release us-v4.5-2022-94d365db636cbaad, household-weighted block-group composition

The parts of the county are made of different things. Nearly half of the peninsulas and of south county is **Affluent Owner Family Suburbs**. North county’s largest share is **Cost-Pressed Family Suburbs**, a type whose defining fact is that suburbs built for two adults and two cars are being run by households with one of each. West county leads with **Dense Professional and Solo Households**, and Annapolis with **Professional Multifamily Households**.

largest type share by part • peninsulas 42% and south county 46% Affluent Owner Family Suburbs • north county 22% Cost-Pressed • west county 25% Dense Professional • Annapolis 19% Professional Multifamily

That is four different pastoral situations inside one county, and it is the strongest argument in this report against a single county-wide strategy.

60.7%

of Anne Arundel households sit within five miles of a military installation. It is by far the county's largest context modifier, ahead of long commutes and displacement pressure, the next two largest, by at least four to one. The modifier's own guardrail is worth quoting before anyone acts on it: *"This tag means an installation is within five miles. That is a fact about the map. It does not say who serves, who has served, or whose family is connected to the base, and a five-mile circle catches many households with no link at all."*

context modifiers · military-adjacent 60.7% · long commutes 14.3% · displacement pressure 7.9%

WHAT WAS MEASURED

The mix of household types in each neighborhood, from block-group data. Anne Arundel is 25.8% Affluent Owner Family Suburbs and 60.7% military-adjacent.

WHAT WOULD BE AN INTERPRETATION

Everything the field guides say about those types. Those descriptions were written about the type nationally, not observed in Anne Arundel, and they describe a tendency rather than a household. Treat them as a hypothesis to test on your own street.

The five types that make up two thirds of the county

Each panel gives the type's own one-line summary, one thing people in it commonly say that means something other than it appears, one approach the guide warns tends to backfire, and one move it recommends instead. All of it is quoted from the field guide for that type.

25.8% · LEADS 33 NEIGHBORHOODS

Affluent Owner Family Suburbs

Peninsulas, south county, much of Severna Park

13.6% · LEADS 15 NEIGHBORHOODS

Dense Professional and Solo Households

West county corridor, Odenton, parts of Annapolis

“One worker in six here manages something for a living, and they manage everything else the same way.”

WHAT YOU WILL HEAR

“We are on top of it, thanks.” Usually true, and always the end of the talk. Being capable is the identity as well as the skill.

WHAT TENDS TO BACKFIRE

Outreach built on need. With poverty at about one person in nineteen there is nothing practical to offer. A program built on meeting needs will find none and decide the neighborhood is fine.

WHAT THE GUIDE SUGGESTS INSTEAD

Let them help you. Ask a favor you need and let them do it for you personally. These houses give constantly and are almost never on the other side of it.

Professionals and people living alone, in the denser housing along the corridors.

WHAT YOU WILL HEAR

The polite version of an answer. The guide’s note is that anyone can visit and be sized up, and that the customer habit runs deep.

WHAT TENDS TO BACKFIRE

Treating attendance as arrival. A visitor can be greeted well and remain a customer indefinitely.

WHAT THE GUIDE SUGGESTS INSTEAD

Notice the second week. Being greeted by name on a return visit, by somebody who saw the first one, breaks the customer habit.

13.1% • LEADS 17 NEIGHBORHOODS

High-Achievement Homeowners

Broadneck, Severna Park, Annapolis Neck

“The highest incomes of the thirty, and a life so padded that almost nothing anybody does here has a consequence.”

WHAT YOU WILL HEAR

“Whatever the shortfall is, let me take care of it.” Meant, and given at once. It also settles the terms of the friendship before anything else can start.

WHAT TENDS TO BACKFIRE

Preaching against wealth in general. It is the expected sermon, it costs the preacher nothing, and it lets a room full of particular people decide it was about somebody else.

WHAT THE GUIDE SUGGESTS INSTEAD

8.8% • LEADS 12 NEIGHBORHOODS

Affluent Mature Owner Couples

Severna Park, Arnold, south county

“Married, settled, well paid, and closer to the end of something than anybody here says out loud.”

WHAT YOU WILL HEAR

“No, we are doing well. Really well.” Usually true. It is also the only answer this neighborhood has practiced, and it arrives before anybody asks a second question.

WHAT TENDS TO BACKFIRE

Offering to be called. Two people already carrying a college fund and a hospital are not going to add a phone call. Name a day and a task.

WHAT THE GUIDE SUGGESTS INSTEAD

Ask for something money cannot buy.

Their hours, their presence at something unglamorous, a year of Tuesdays.

Ask about the marriage by name.

Ask a settled couple how the two of them are, not how the family is. In a neighborhood where nothing looks wrong, nobody has asked them in years.

7.8% • LEADS 9 NEIGHBORHOODS • NORTH
COUNTY

Cost-Pressed Family Suburbs

Brooklyn Park, Glen Burnie, Ferndale

“Suburbs built for two adults and two cars, where nearly half the families with children run on one of each.”

WHAT YOU WILL HEAR

“Oh, we are not really a typical family.”

Said first, before anybody else can. Around half the families with children here have one parent. She is not the exception.

WHAT TENDS TO BACKFIRE

Counting absences. Weekend hospital and care-home shifts do not move. Noticing who missed Sunday selects against the people whose work is caring for others.

WHAT THE GUIDE SUGGESTS INSTEAD

Tell her she is not unusual. Two in five families with children here have one parent. Saying plainly that her household is ordinary undoes years of quiet messaging.

How to read one of these neighborhoods

The layers are meant to be read in an order, and the order matters more than any single number in them.

1

Start with the type, not the score

The thin-presence score tells you how hard the place is to reach. The household type tells you who you would be reaching and what they will do when you try. A score of 63 in Lake Shore and a score of 63 in Glen Burnie are the same number about two different problems.

2

Add the modifiers, then distrust them

Military-adjacent, long commute, displacement pressure, public housing. Each one is a fact about an area, never about a household. Every modifier ships with a guardrail saying so, and the guardrails are the most useful sentences in the whole system.

3

Read what tends to backfire before what to do

The guides are unusual in leading with failure modes. In a county where most churches are competent and well resourced, the wrong move is more likely than the absent one, and it is harder to see.

4

Then walk it

Every layer above is a hypothesis generated from a desk. The neighborhood-fabric layer ends each of its readings with checks you do on foot, because that is where the model is either confirmed or corrected.

The method run on one neighborhood

Take Ferndale, tract 7508.03, the county's top-priority neighborhood. The score puts it in the Arid band, the county's second-worst. The type says Cost-Pressed Family Suburbs. And of the community patterns the fabric layer can read there, most come back broken or missing and only a handful intact.

Ferndale 7508.03 · thin presence 65.9, Arid · 22 of 41 patterns read: 4 present, 4 thin, 10 broken, 4 absent

Two of the broken ones sit at the top of its priority order. **Neighborhood Tissue** is marked absent: "Families here are civil, scheduled, and unknown to each other." **Activity Nodes** is marked broken: "Parents in the pickup line know each other's cars and not each other's names."

Both come with first moves that are ordinary church work. Open the building one weekday for something with no religious ask attached, and hold it for a year before evaluating it. Map who in your congregation lives in the neighborhood and ask them to do one weekly errand

inside it. Pick one day and one hour a week and keep it without exception for twelve months, because a node that is sometimes open is not a node.

And both come with checks you can run this week, which is the point of the whole sequence:



FOUR CHECKS YOU CAN RUN ON FOOT IN FERNDALE

Stand at the busiest ordinary corner for thirty minutes on a weekday afternoon and count how many people greet each other by name against how many pass without acknowledgment.

Ask three people who *work* in the neighborhood rather than live in it to name a household on the block. A cashier or a mail carrier who cannot name anyone is a stronger signal than a resident who cannot.

Ask three residents who do not attend your church where they go when they want to run into someone they know. If the answer is nowhere, or requires a car, the gathering place is absent whatever the density score says.

Walk it at 8am and again at 8pm. If it empties on weekdays, the neighborhood fabric is not damaged so much as absent by design, and the work changes from repair to construction.

What you are probably good at, and why that is the danger

This data cannot see whether a church is healthy, so nothing here is a report on any congregation. What it can do is name what a county made of these household types tends to be good at, and what the field guides warn happens when a church is good at exactly that.

Anne Arundel churches are, on the evidence of the county's composition, likely to be strong at the things capable and well-resourced congregations are strong at: welcoming visitors properly, running programs that work, recruiting volunteers, and funding what needs funding. Half the county is made of households that are good at those things and expect them.

Every one of those strengths appears in the field guides as a failure mode.

STRENGTH 01

You welcome people well

And the guide for the county's largest type calls it "efficient welcome."

THE WARNING, QUOTED

"Greeting newcomers well and slotting them into activities fast feels like belonging. It produces people who are involved everywhere and known nowhere."

THE TEST

Find a family who arrived this year and ask them who they would call at 2am. Eight months of being welcomed is compatible with knowing nobody.

STRENGTH 02

People here give generously

Which the guides treat as the most comfortable place for them to stay.

THE WARNING, QUOTED

"Turning them into donors is the fastest way to fund a project. It also fixes these households in the giving role for good, which is where they were already hiding."

THE TEST

Count how many of your most generous households anyone in leadership has asked for something other than money, time or skill in the last year.

STRENGTH 03

Your programs are well run

In neighborhoods where competence is the shared identity.

THE WARNING, QUOTED

"Volunteering instead of belonging" is listed as a mask: "Real generosity that keeps a person at the giving end for good. Being useful is much safer than being known."

THE TEST

STRENGTH 04

You serve the needy well

And in most of this county there is no material need to find.

THE WARNING, QUOTED

"With poverty at about one person in nineteen there is nothing practical to offer. A program built on meeting needs will find none and decide the neighborhood is fine."

THE TEST

Name three people who serve every week and one true thing about each of their homes that they told you rather than you inferred.

This is the affluent-desert finding arriving by a second road. Eleven neighborhoods here score badly on gospel access with poverty under 5%. If your outreach screens on need, all eleven are invisible to it.

Six assumptions worth challenging this quarter

Each of these is either something the field guides name directly or something this study's own numbers contradict. None of them is an accusation. They are the assumptions most likely to be quietly true in an Anne Arundel church, and each has a check attached.

1

“The needy parts of the county are the parts that need us”

Eleven neighborhoods score 55 or worse on gospel access while poverty there stays rare, and the county's single worst-scoring neighborhood, Lake Shore 7313.06, is one of them.

Check: take your last three outreach decisions and ask what screened those eleven out.

11 tracts at 55+ access with poverty at or under 5% · Lake Shore 7313.06 poverty 3.2%

2

“Fine means fine”

Three of the county's five largest household types list a version of “we are doing well, busy but good” as their standard opening, and all three guides say the same thing about it: it is the first answer, it is usually accurate, and it is not the whole answer. *Check:* for one month, take one conversation a week past the point where fine would have ended it.

3

“Our calendar fits our families”

In north county the leading type is Cost-Pressed Family Suburbs, where around two in five families with children have one parent, and where weekend hospital and care shifts do not move. The guide warns specifically against marriage series, father-son breakfasts, and noticing who missed Sunday. *Check:* read your next quarter's calendar as a single-parent nurse working weekends would read it.

4

“We know who the military families are”

Six in ten county households sit inside a five-mile military radius, and the modifier's guardrail says flatly that the circle catches many households with no connection at all. The guide lists guessing who serves, thanking someone on autopilot, and writing a family

off as temporary among the things that backfire. *Check:* ask about the move rather than the service, and see how different the conversation is.

5

“Our health needs are the elderly and the military families”

Both are the natural guesses in this county and the data points the other way.

Neighborhoods with more residents over 65 score better on health, not worse, and so do neighborhoods near a base. What tracks the health floor is the working-age share.

Opened up further, the county’s health deficit is not illness at all: it is alcohol and overdose, and on both mental health and chronic disease Anne Arundel does better than the country. It is also worst in the wealthiest part of the county rather than the poorest.

Check: take the last ten health situations your church walked with, note the ages, and note how many involved substance use. Then ask how many of those got named as such.

6

“Things are stable here”

For 49 of the county’s 129 measurable neighborhoods, the long change measure could not establish any direction at all. That is not stability. It is the absence of a finding, and it covers 38% of the county. *Check:* whenever someone says a neighborhood is holding steady, ask whether that is a measurement or the absence of one.



WHAT CHANGES ON MONDAY

Pick the one assumption above that stung, and run only its check. These are designed to be falsifiable in a week by one person, and five of the six cost nothing but attention.

If a check comes back the other way, that is a real result and worth more than agreeing with this report. The guides describe a national type; your neighborhood is a specific place, and you are the instrument that can tell the difference.

Best placed: whoever plans the calendar, plus one elder or deacon willing to be told the calendar is wrong.

Fifteen neighborhoods where nobody meets

Fifteen of the county’s 130 neighborhoods contain no church at all in the records this study uses. Three of those are the blank spots discussed later, mostly water and industrial land. The other twelve are ordinary places where people live, sleep, raise children, and have no congregation inside the boundary.

The distances are the part worth sitting with. In **Annapolis Neck, tract 7026.01**, six thousand people live **1.2 miles** from the nearest church. In **Arnold, tract 7311.07**, out on the Broadneck peninsula, nearly four thousand people are **1.3 miles** from one. Nobody would call these remote. They are places where the subdivisions went up and nothing was planted alongside them.

Annapolis Neck and Annapolis

Annapolis · tract 7026.01

6,000 people, no congregation inside the boundary, and the nearest one 1.2 miles away.

63.9 ACCESS SCORE ARID

wellbeing 66.5

Arnold

Peninsulas · tract 7311.07

3,846 people, no congregation inside the boundary, and the nearest one 1.3 miles away.

60.6 ACCESS SCORE ARID

wellbeing 70.7

Fort Meade

West county · tract 7406.02

3,441 people, no congregation inside the boundary, and the nearest one 0.9 miles away.

60.6 ACCESS SCORE ARID

wellbeing 44.8

Annapolis

Annapolis · tract 7064.03

4,267 people, no congregation inside the boundary, and the nearest one 0.4 miles away.

60.1 ACCESS SCORE ARID

wellbeing 56.5

THE FIFTEEN NEIGHBORHOODS WITH NO CHURCH INSIDE THEM

NEIGHBORHOOD	PART OF COUNTY	SCORE	BAND	NEAREST CHURCH	PEOPLE

NEIGHBORHOOD	PART OF COUNTY	SCORE	BAND	NEAREST CHURCH	PEOPLE
Annapolis Neck and Annapolis tract 7026.01	Annapolis	63.9	ARID	1.19 mi	6,000
Arnold tract 7311.07	Peninsulas	60.6	ARID	1.32 mi	3,846
Fort Meade tract 7406.02	West county	60.6	ARID	0.87 mi	3,441
Annapolis tract 7064.03	Annapolis	60.1	ARID	0.43 mi	4,267
Pasadena tract 7313.13	Peninsulas	58.9	DRY	0.66 mi	3,574
Arnold tract 7311.06	Peninsulas	57.9	DRY	0.73 mi	4,523
Arnold tract 7311.05	Peninsulas	55.6	DRY	0.63 mi	3,354
Annapolis tract 7063.04	Annapolis	55.0	DRY	0.96 mi	2,055
Glen Burnie tract 7305.11	North county	47.5	DRY	0.28 mi	1,221
Annapolis tract 7063.03	Annapolis	45.1	DRY	0.45 mi	2,588
Glen Burnie tract 7305.08	North county	44.3	SPARSE	0.38 mi	2,552
Glen Burnie tract 7305.13	West county	37.2	SPARSE	0.40 mi	1,596
Tract 9800	West county	—	UNSCORED	0.94 mi	7
Jessup tract 7404	West county	—	UNSCORED	0.33 mi	5,535
Tract 9900	Annapolis	—	UNSCORED	2.12 mi	0

Four shown, worst-served first. The full fifteen include the three the data cannot score, which are kept in the table rather than dropped.

Ten of the twelve populated ones are led by Affluent Owner Family Suburbs or High-Achievement Homeowners. The guide for the first warns that these suburbs are “friendly, organized and easy to join” and that newcomers are “greeted, invited and slotted into things fast,” which looks like belonging and is not. A neighborhood with no congregation in it and households who join things easily can look perfectly healthy from a distance.



WHAT YOU WOULD ALREADY RECOGNIZE

Every pastor knows the difference between the people who come to the building and the people who live around it. In these twelve neighborhoods there is no building to be around. Whatever gospel presence exists there arrives by car, belongs to somebody else’s congregation, and leaves at noon.

In practice, it means there is no one in that neighborhood who can be at a hospital bedside in ten minutes, no address to send someone in crisis, and no congregation that will notice when a family stops showing up anywhere.



WHAT CHANGES ON MONDAY

These twelve are a short, finite list, and none of them is far from a congregation. Every one has a church within 1.4 miles and ten of the twelve are within a mile. So the answer is not a plant in each. It is a decision by the nearest congregation about which single neighborhood next door it will treat as its parish rather than its catchment: learning the schools, showing up at the community association, holding something inside the neighborhood instead of inviting people out of it.

Start with **Annapolis Neck, tract 7026.01** and the Annapolis tract beside it, **7063.04**. Both are on the Neck, both have no church inside them, and they sit 2.2 miles apart. One congregation could carry both. The list below removes the last excuse for treating this as somebody else's finding: it names the nearest congregations to every one of the twelve.

Best placed: an established Annapolis congregation with capacity for a second gathering, rather than a new plant. These neighborhoods have no meeting space to plant into, which is the whole problem.

THE NEAREST CONGREGATIONS, NAMED

Each of the twelve, farthest first, with the three nearest congregations on record. These are records rather than assignments: the index behind them can carry the same building twice and can outlive a congregation, so treat every name as a lead to confirm, and call before you drive.

Arnold

tract 7311.07 · Peninsulas · 3,846 people

Antioch The Apostolic Church

no denomination on record · 1.32 mi

Broadneck Evangelical Presbyterian Church

Presbyterian · 1.33 mi · 235 Bay Dale Dr, Arnold

New Hope Chapel

Baptist · 1.59 mi · 804 Windsor Rd, Arnold

Annapolis Neck and Annapolis

tract 7026.01 · Annapolis · 6,000 people

Mount Moriah African Methodist Episcopal Church

Methodist · 1.19 mi

John Wesley United Methodist Church

Methodist · 1.24 mi

Iglesia Emanuel Asambleas De Dios

no denomination on record · 1.31 mi · 11 Ellington Dr, Annapolis

Annapolis

tract 7063.04 · Annapolis · 2,055 people

Annapolis Latino Church of the Nazarene

no denomination on record · 0.96 mi

Saint Lukes Chapel

Episcopal · 0.98 mi · 1101 Bay Ridge Ave, Annapolis

Bay Ridge Christian Church

no denomination on record · 1.03 mi

Fort Meade

tract 7406.02 · West county · 3,441 people

Redeemed Christian Church Of God Victory Temple Odenton

no denomination on record · 0.87 mi

Son Rise Fellowship Ministries Church

no denomination on record · 1.19 mi

Prepare The Nations Embassy

no denomination on record · 1.19 mi

Arnold

tract 7311.06 · Peninsulas · 4,523 people

Broadneck Evangelical Presbyterian Church

Presbyterian · 0.73 mi

Antioch The Apostolic Church

no denomination on record · 1.06 mi

Christ Our Anchor Presbyterian Church

Presbyterian · 1.09 mi · 1281 Green Holly Dr, Annapolis

Pasadena

tract 7313.13 · Peninsulas · 3,574 people

Green Haven Church

no denomination on record · 0.66 mi

Calvary Chapel Of Anne Arundel County

no denomination on record · 0.78 mi

Church Of The Solid Rock

Pentecostal · 0.86 mi · 189 Mountain Rd, Pasadena

Arnold

tract 7311.05 · Peninsulas · 3,354 people

New Hope Chapel

Baptist · 0.63 mi · 804 Windsor Rd, Arnold

College Parkway Baptist Church

Baptist · 0.88 mi

New Covenant Church

Non-Denominational · 1.06 mi · 365 Jones Station Rd, Arnold

Annapolis

tract 7063.03 · Annapolis · 2,588 people

Annapolis Latino Church of the Nazarene

no denomination on record · 0.45 mi

John Wesley United Methodist Church

Methodist · 0.52 mi

Mount Moriah African Methodist Episcopal Church

Methodist · 0.53 mi

Annapolis

tract 7064.03 · Annapolis · 4,267 people

Saint Martins Evangelical Lutheran Church

Lutheran · 0.43 mi

True Church Of Christ For Sinners Only

no denomination on record · 0.50 mi

Mision Cristiana Elim Internacional Annapolis Maryland

no denomination on record · 0.50 mi

Glen Burnie

tract 7305.13 · West county · 1,596 people

Berean Reformed Fellowship

Reformed · 0.40 mi · 8017 Crain Hwy S, Glen Burnie

Living Hope Church Of Severn

no denomination on record · 0.50 mi

Fortified City Church

no denomination on record · 0.58 mi

Glen Burnie

tract 7305.08 · North county · 2,552 people

A Better Way Ministries

no denomination on record · 0.38 mi

Granite Baptist Church

no denomination on record · 0.46 mi

Oakwood Wesleyan Church

no denomination on record · 0.50 mi

Glen Burnie

tract 7305.11 · North county · 1,221 people

Temple Baptist Church

no denomination on record · 0.28 mi

Saint Paul Lutheran Church

Lutheran · 0.31 mi · 308 Oak Manor Dr, Glen Burnie

Gloria Korean Presbyterian Church

Presbyterian · 0.33 mi · 320 Oak Manor Dr, Glen Burnie

The neighborhoods you would never put on a benevolence list

Churches usually find need by looking for poverty. In Anne Arundel that method walks straight past the worst neighborhoods in the county.

Eleven neighborhoods score 55 or worse on thin presence while fewer than one household in twenty is below the poverty line. Four are under one in twenty-five. The worst-scoring neighborhood in the whole county, **Lake Shore, tract 7313.06**, out on the Pasadena peninsula, pairs one of the county’s lowest poverty rates with a wellbeing reading that is comfortable by any standard.

Lake Shore 7313.06 · poverty 3.2% · wellbeing 63.9

Two are stranger still. **Shady Side, tract 7070.01**, in south county, reports almost no poverty at all and has eleven churches, and still lands in the worst band, because the nearest of those eleven is three quarters of a mile from where its people live and the neighborhood is large. And **Odenton, tract 7407.03**, reports the same near-zero poverty and one church.

Shady Side 7070.01 · poverty 0.37%, thin presence 62.8 · Odenton 7407.03 · poverty 0.28%

Lake Shore

Peninsulas · tract 7313.06

Poverty of 3.16% and 5 churches on the books, with the nearest 1.8 miles from where its people live.

69.8 ACCESS SCORE ARID

6,072 people

Annapolis Neck and Annapolis

Annapolis · tract 7026.01

Poverty of 3.72% and 0 churches on the books, with the nearest 1.2 miles from where its people live.

63.9 ACCESS SCORE ARID

6,000 people

Lake Shore

Peninsulas · tract 7313.03

Poverty of 3.28% and 11 churches on the books, with the nearest 1.1 miles from where its people live.

63.4 ACCESS SCORE ARID

6,709 people

Shady Side

South county · tract 7070.01

Poverty of 0.37% and 11 churches on the books, with the nearest 0.8 miles from where its people live.

62.8 ACCESS SCORE ARID 5,463 people

ELEVEN NEIGHBORHOODS SCORING 55 OR WORSE ON A POVERTY RATE OF 5% OR LESS

NEIGHBORHOOD	PART OF COUNTY	SCORE	BAND	POVERTY	PEOPLE	CHURCHE
Lake Shore tract 7313.06	Peninsulas	69.8	ARID	3.16%	6,072	
Annapolis Neck and Annapolis tract 7026.01	Annapolis	63.9	ARID	3.72%	6,000	
Lake Shore tract 7313.03	Peninsulas	63.4	ARID	3.28%	6,709	1
Shady Side tract 7070.01	South county	62.8	ARID	0.37%	5,463	1
Crofton tract 7022.06	West county	61.1	ARID	1.29%	7,338	
Lake Shore tract 7312.06	Peninsulas	59.0	DRY	3.51%	3,559	
Arnold tract 7311.06	Peninsulas	57.9	DRY	3.65%	4,523	
Odenton tract 7407.03	West county	56.6	DRY	0.28%	6,455	
Glen Burnie tract 7302.04	Peninsulas	56.0	DRY	4.93%	6,529	
Mayo tract 7012.02	South county	55.8	DRY	4.67%	4,435	
Arnold tract 7311.05	Peninsulas	55.6	DRY	3.67%	3,354	

Four shown, worst-served first.

Nine of the eleven are led by one of two types, Affluent Owner Family Suburbs or High-Achievement Homeowners, and the guides for both say the same thing about outreach here: there is no material need to find, so a ministry that screens for need will screen these neighborhoods out. That is this finding arriving from the pastoral side rather than the statistical one.

CHECK THIS ONE AGAINST WHAT YOU SEE

If you live in Anne Arundel, this table is the part of the report most likely to contradict your own eyes. Severna Park and Broadneck do not feel underserved, and six of these eleven are on those peninsulas.

The claim is narrower than it looks. The score weighs church presence and reach against what the neighborhood carries, and on the peninsulas the churches are spread thin across a lot of ground even though the households are comfortable.

Test it yourself rather than taking our word. Pick **Lake Shore, tract 7313.03**: eleven churches on the books, and the nearest one **1.1 miles** from where most of its people live. Ask whether a family there without a working car could get to any of them on a Sunday morning. If the answer is an easy yes, the score is overstating something and this section is wrong.



WHAT YOU WOULD ALREADY RECOGNIZE

The hardest households to reach in a comfortable suburb are not hard because they are hostile. They are hard because everyone is busy, everyone is in a car, and there is nowhere to run into anyone. Ask your own leaders how many families they know within a mile of the building whose names they learned somewhere other than church. In these eleven neighborhoods the honest answer is usually none.

The neighborhood-shape data backs that up, though not perfectly: ten of the eleven have fewer of the ordinary gathering places, the cafes, parks, and rec centers, than the county's middle neighborhood, and seven are classed as thin or broken-up ground for meeting people. Three are not. One of them, a **Glen Burnie** tract (**7302.04**), has quite good bones, so a congregation working there has more to build on than the category suggests.



WHAT CHANGES ON MONDAY

These neighborhoods will not respond to a food pantry, so the usual diaconal instrument misses. What they lack is proximity and unhurried time, which are the two things comfortable commuter households have least of. The concrete move is a weekday evening presence inside the neighborhood rather than a Sunday invitation out of it.

Name the eleven to your leadership as one category, not eleven separate problems. The category is: stable households, good income, no church within walking distance, and thin ground to meet on. That is a hard mission field, and it is not the mission field most Anne Arundel churches think they are in.

Best placed: a campus or young-adult ministry with evening capacity, or a congregation willing to start a midweek gathering in a clubhouse or school. A benevolence fund is the wrong tool here.

Health is where this county loses

The wellbeing score is built from five separate areas, weighted and combined into one number. Anne Arundel's combined score is healthy, which is exactly why a county-level reading of this county tells you almost nothing. Split it into its five parts and something specific appears.

Against Maryland, Anne Arundel is *ahead* on work and provision, on safety and justice, on family and household, and on community life, with the widest lead on safety. On health it is *behind* by ten points.

vs Maryland · work +6.4 · safety +12.4 · family +6.8 · community +9.0 · health -10.0

Health carries the second-largest weight of the five, so this is not a rounding detail. It is the largest single structural weakness this data attributes to Anne Arundel, and it is invisible in the combined score because four other areas are carrying it.

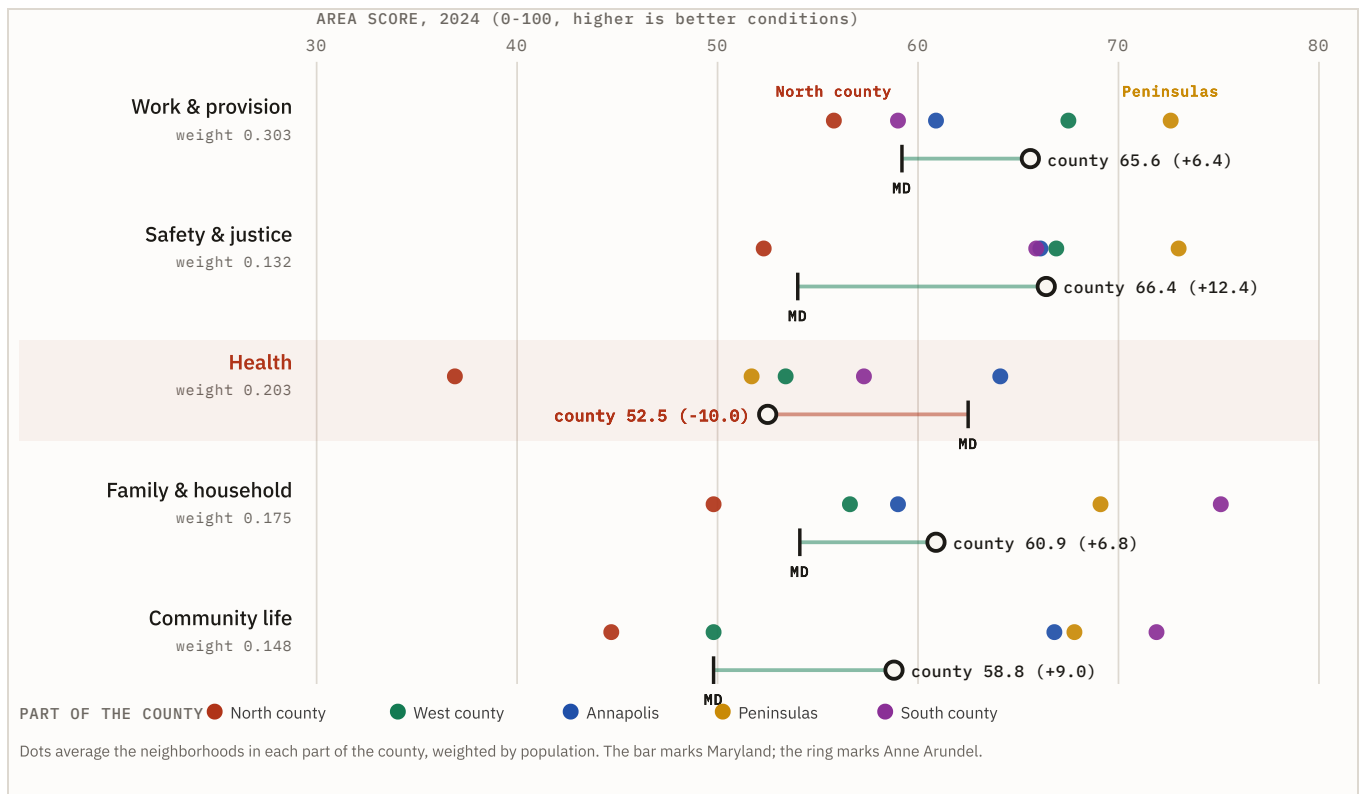


FIGURE 4 • FOUR AREAS CARRY THIS COUNTY, ONE DOES NOT

The five areas that make up the wellbeing score, for 2024. The upright bar is Maryland, averaged across all 1,475 of its neighborhoods; the open ring is Anne Arundel; the colored dots are the five parts of the county. Health is the only area where the county falls below the state, and it carries the second-largest weight of the five.

Per-neighborhood wellbeing files, hash-matched to the current data release

Health is also the weakest of the five in 50 of the county’s 130 neighborhoods, more than any other area. The floor is in north county, which reads well below the peninsulas and further still below Annapolis, and which carries nearly ninety thousand people at an overall wellbeing score roughly twenty points below the peninsulas’.

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health by part · north county 36.9 · peninsulas 51.7 · Annapolis 64.1 · north county wellbeing 46.5 across 87,835 people
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The area covers access to health care and health outcomes together. This data does not publish which specific indicator moves for a given neighborhood, so the honest statement stops at the name of the area. What a pastor can do with it is still concrete, because health access has an address.

North county’s leading household type sharpens this. Cost-Pressed Family Suburbs is defined by families running a two-car suburb on one car and one adult, and its field guide names weekend hospital and care-home shifts as a fixed feature of the week. A part of the county whose largest type works weekend care shifts, and which also scores worst in the county on health, is not a coincidence worth ignoring.

It is not chronic illness, and it is not mental health

The published surface gives one health score per neighborhood, so the obvious question, whether this is mental health or physical illness, looks unanswerable. It is not. The model underneath splits Life & Health into four constructs, and the build artifacts carry a score for each. Reading them changes what this finding means.

Three of the four are Anne Arundel strengths. The county beats the national mean by double digits on longevity and child survival and on disease burden, and sits at exactly the national average on environmental health. **The entire deficit is in one construct: sobriety and freedom from dissipation, where Anne Arundel scores eleven points below the national mark.**

vs national · longevity +12.7 · disease burden +14.0 · land 0.0 · sobriety 40.0 vs 51.0

LIFE & HEALTH, BY THE FOUR CONSTRUCTS UNDERNEATH IT					
CONSTRUCT	WHAT IT MEASURES	WEIGHT	ANNE ARUNDEL	UNITED STATES	GAP
Longevity and child survival	Life expectancy, from USALEEP and NCHS mortality files	2.25	62.5	49.9	+12.7
Lifting of disease burden	Chronic conditions and mental distress, from CDC PLACES	2.0	56.1	42.2	+14.0
Sobriety and freedom from dissipation	Binge drinking from CDC PLACES, overdose mortality from CDC WONDER	2.25	40.0	51.0	-10.9

CONSTRUCT	WHAT IT MEASURES	WEIGHT	ANNE ARUNDEL	UNITED STATES	GAP
Health of the land	Fine particulate air quality	1.125	50.2	50.2	0.0

And the disease-burden construct can be opened further, because it is built from two weighted halves, a physical burden index carrying the larger share and a mental distress index the rest. Reading the underlying CDC PLACES prevalences for Anne Arundel's 340 block groups against the national set answers the mental-versus-physical question directly.

disease burden weights · physical 60% · mental distress 40%

Anne Arundel is better than the national average on both mental-health measures, on depression by a little and on self-reported poor mental health by enough to land it better than roughly seven American block groups in ten. On the eight physical measures it beats the national figure on seven. The single exception is obesity, where it runs a point and a half above.

depression 20.6% vs 21.4% national · poor mental health 15.0% vs 16.9% (28th percentile) · obesity 34.6% vs 33.0%

So the answer to both halves of the question is no. Anne Arundel's health weakness is not chronic disease and it is not mental distress. It is alcohol and overdose.

Two health problems, and they are not in the same neighborhoods

Averaging the drinking score across a county this varied hides the thing a pastor needs. Split it by part of the county and the health finding comes apart into two problems that sit in different places and want different responses.

North county has the illness problem. Its health score is the county floor, its longevity reading sits more than twenty points below the peninsula's, and it is the only part of Anne Arundel where chronic illness runs above the national rate. Its drinking score, though, is the best in the county outside Annapolis, whose higher figure is an average of two halves that disagree and is taken apart below.

north county · health 37.4 · longevity 41.9 · sobriety 44.9

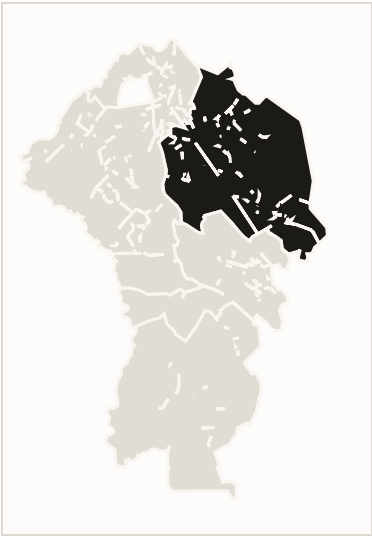
The peninsulas have the drinking problem. Broadneck and Severna Park sit on the county’s sobriety floor while running some of its longest lives, with chronic illness a full point below the national rate. People there live longer and get sick less than the country does, and drink more.

peninsulas · sobriety 33.5 · longevity 65.1

The two move against each other across the whole county, not in those two corners alone. Sobriety and disease burden correlate at $r = -0.34$, which in plain words means **the neighborhoods that drink are not the neighborhoods that are sick**. A single county-wide health ministry aimed at the average would miss both.



WHERE THE ILLNESS IS
Chronic illness above the national rate, the shortest lives, and a health score of 37.4.



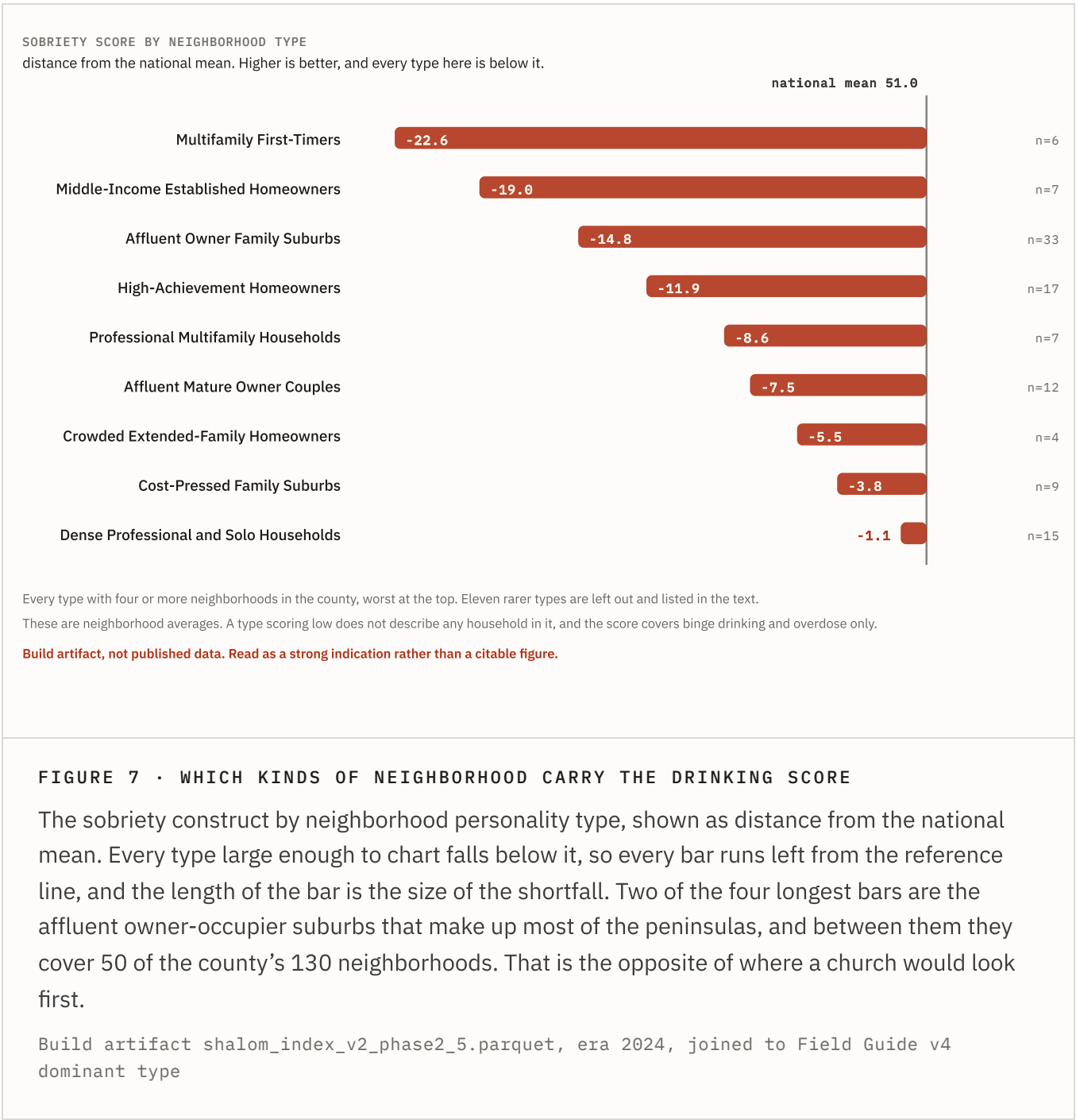
WHERE THE DRINKING IS
The longest lives and least illness in the county, and its worst sobriety score, 33.5.

TWO DIFFERENT HEALTH PROBLEMS, BY PART OF THE COUNTY						
PART OF COUNTY	NEIGHBORHOODS	HEALTH SCORE	LONGEVITY	DISEASE BURDEN	SOBRIETY	CHP
North county	23	37.4	41.9	38.9	44.9	
Peninsulas	39	52.4	65.1	57.5	33.5	
Annapolis	25	63.7	71.3	60.8	48.7	

PART OF COUNTY	NEIGHBORHOODS	HEALTH SCORE	LONGEVITY	DISEASE BURDEN	SOBRIETY	CHFR
West county	35	51.5	67.2	64.2	37.7	
South county	8	58.4	64.5	51.0	41.7	

Which kinds of neighborhood carry it

The same split shows up in the personality types, and it points where nobody looks first.



Four types in this county are affluent owner-occupier suburbs: Affluent Owner Family Suburbs, High-Achievement Homeowners, Affluent Mature Owner Couples, and Affluent New-Build Families. Together they cover 64 of the county’s residential neighborhoods, they score seven points worse on sobriety than every other classified neighborhood, and their poverty rate runs at less than half of everyone else’s.

affluent owner types · sobriety 38.2 vs others 45.2 · poverty 3.5% vs 8.4%

That is not an artifact of age or of income measured badly. Holding age composition fixed, the poverty rate and the sobriety score still move together, and both run so that higher is better. **In plain words: across Anne Arundel, the poorer a neighborhood is, the better it scores on drinking and overdose.** Holding poverty fixed, older neighborhoods score better than younger ones.

partial correlations · poverty and sobriety $r = +0.52$ with age held · age and sobriety $r = +0.59$ with poverty held

This lands on the peninsulas hardest because that is what the peninsulas are made of. Thirty-one of their 39 neighborhoods are led by one of the three affluent owner types. The part of the county with the best houses, the longest lives and the least illness is the part carrying the county's worst drinking score.

The lowest-scoring type with enough neighborhoods to table is a different story: Multifamily First-Timers, the new-build townhouse stock in west county and Pasadena where people buy early and often alone, scores in the twenties. Below the tabling threshold, three renter types score lower still and are named here rather than hidden: Garden Apartment Young Adults, Car-Oriented Creative Renters, and Young Urban Working Renters, the first two in single digits. At the other end, Young Multifamily Workers and Established Blue-Collar Homeowners score far above everything else in the county, both across two neighborhoods.

sobriety by type · Multifamily First-Timers 28.4 in 6 tracts · Garden Apartment Young Adults 5.6 in 1 · Car-Oriented Creative Renters 9.8 in 3 · Young Urban Working Renters 16.6 in 1 · Young Multifamily Workers 79.8 in 2 · Established Blue-Collar Homeowners 73.5 in 2

THE TWELVE NEIGHBORHOODS SCORING LOWEST ON SOBRIETY							
NEIGHBORHOOD	PART OF COUNTY	SOBRIETY	HEALTH	ACCESS	SCORE	PEOPLE	NEIGHBORHOOD
Fort Meade	West county	1.8	44.2		35.6	3,316	Car-Oriented Creative Rental
Fort Meade	West county	5.6	30.2		60.6	3,441	Dense Professional and Solo Households

NEIGHBORHOOD	PART OF COUNTY	SOBRIETY	HEALTH	ACCESS SCORE	PEOPLE	NEIGHBORHOOD
Naval Academy	Annapolis	5.6	56.8	39.3	4,878	Garden Apartments Young Adults
Parole	Annapolis	7.9	54.7	20.9	2,608	Car-Oriented Creative Rentals
Jessup	West county	11.2	37.6	–	5,535	unclassified
Annapolis	Annapolis	11.7	58.3	22.0	1,498	Professional Multifamily Households
Fort Meade	West county	12.2	36.2	44.8	5,752	Multifamily Family Timers
Pasadena	Peninsulas	13.3	39.8	46.9	11,304	Multifamily Family Timers
Crofton	West county	16.6	52.1	40.8	4,006	High-Achiever Homeowners
Pasadena	Peninsulas	16.6	41.3	58.9	3,574	Young Urban Working Rentals
Pasadena	Peninsulas	17.3	43.0	41.6	5,024	Multifamily Family Timers
Arnold	Peninsulas	18.0	56.6	57.9	4,523	Affluent Owner Family Suburbs

FOUR THINGS TO CHECK BEFORE ANYBODY USES THIS

The bottom of that table is barracks and a prison. Three Fort Meade neighborhoods, the Naval Academy and Jessup account for the six lowest scores, averaging **9.2** across **25,987** people. The health survey behind the drinking measure does not sample group quarters, so those figures are modeled from demographics rather than measured from anybody's behavior. Read them as a flag on the tract, not as a report on the people housed there. They are identified here by name because the taxonomy's institutional marker is dropped when block groups are rolled up to neighborhoods, which is the gap this report flags twice now.

Taking them out barely moves it. The other 122 neighborhoods still average well below the national mark, **95** of the county's 128 scored neighborhoods sit below the national mean, and three quarters of the county's people live in one. This is a county-wide pattern with an institutional floor sitting under it, not an institutional artifact.

without the six institutional tracts · mean 41.5 vs national 51.0 · 95 of 128 below the mean · 439,051 people

The military numbers do not contradict the earlier ones. Earlier this report said neighborhoods near a base score better on health, and they do. The five-mile ring is suburb, and the ring against everything outside it differs on drinking by only **1.7** points. The base neighborhoods themselves are a separate thing and they are at the floor. Both statements are about different geographies with the same word attached.

Annapolis is two places, not one. Its mean is the best in the county and describes nothing. Its neighborhoods run from nearly the bottom of the scale at the Naval Academy to nearly the top in Parole. Do not read the Annapolis figure as a character.

Annapolis sobriety · mean 48.7 · Naval Academy 5.6 · Parole 97.3

What the field guides say to do about each

The neighborhood personality types are not decoration on this finding. The two parts of the county with the two problems are led by different types, and the guides for those types describe exactly the conversational move each problem requires.

On the peninsulas, the leading type is Affluent Owner Family Suburbs, and its first protective mask is *"We are on top of it, thanks,"* which the guide reads as *"Usually true, and always the end of the talk."* Another is *"This season is just insane for us,"* which it calls *"the*

only trouble it is acceptable to admit here. Nobody in this neighborhood says anything is going badly." A household managing somebody's drinking in that neighborhood has a ready-made and socially perfect way to never say so, and it is the same sentence everyone uses about work.

The guide's own first action is **ask twice**: *"Everybody here answers the first question with a version of fine. That is manners, not evasion. The second question, asked slowly, is where this neighborhood opens."* Its fourth is **make the struggling child sayable**: *"Talk openly about your own children's hard patches. Where progress is the public account, somebody has to make the other kind of report survivable."* Both were written about a neighborhood type, before anybody looked at its drinking score, and both are the correct move for it.

In north county, where the problem is illness rather than drinking, the two leading types are Cost-Pressed Family Suburbs and Middle-Income Established Homeowners. The guide for the second names *"We are very fortunate, really"* as a mask that *"heads off any suggestion that comfort is worth a look,"* and *"It is just the three of us now"* as the divorce nobody mentions, in a place where *"the street has no words for it."* Its practical action is **bring skill to old houses**: *"Four in five of these homes predate 1980 and their systems are failing together. Honest help with a furnace or a roof is welcome and is a real way in."* A furnace and a chronic condition are managed by the same household on the same budget.

Multifamily First-Timers, the lowest-scoring type with enough neighborhoods to name, carries the mask the guide calls busy with no witnesses: *"Real work, done alone, in a room. Nobody saw it happen."* Its action list includes *"Somebody here can disappear entirely with nothing appearing to be wrong. Keeping track of who you have not seen is a real pastoral act."* Written about isolation, and it is the single most useful sentence in this report for a drinking problem, because drinking alone in a townhouse looks like nothing from the street.

TWO TIERS OF EVIDENCE, AND THIS WHOLE RUN IS THE WEAKER ONE

Almost everything else in this report comes from published data. The construct scores, the raw prevalences, the type table and the figure above do not. They come from build artifacts in the model's own working repository, so they carry no release id and no guarantee of matching what the app would show.

They are reported because the question is a good one and the answer is clear enough to act on. Treat these numbers as a strong indication rather than a citable figure, and expect them to move if the build is rerun.

One more limit, and it is the one most likely to be broken by a well-meaning reader. Every figure here is a neighborhood average. "Affluent Owner Family Suburbs average 36 on sobriety" is a fact about 33 neighborhoods. It is not a fact about your members, and it will not tell you which household to visit. What it can do is change which question gets asked, and of whom.

One domain only this county has

The wellbeing model carries a sixth domain, Peace, which measures reduction of violence. It is excluded from the composite everyone is scored on, and the published glossary describes it as an inactive pilot covering a small fraction of the country.

That pilot is Anne Arundel. Every tract in the United States carrying a Peace score is in this county, and no other county has one. Its scores here run nearly the full range with a median just above the middle, so it is discriminating between neighborhoods rather than returning a flat value.

Peace pilot · 129 tracts, all in Anne Arundel · range 1.6 to 98.8 · median 60.3

Nothing in this report uses it, because it is excluded from the composite by design and because one county is no basis for calibration. It is recorded because Anne Arundel churches should know that their county is the place where a sixth measure of neighborhood peace is being tested, and that they are the only people in the country who could tell anyone whether it reads true.

Is it the elderly, or the military?

Both are reasonable guesses in a county with a large retired population and three major installations. Both are wrong, and both are wrong in the same direction.

Across the 127 neighborhoods where both can be measured, **military adjacency and the health score move together, not apart**. The quarter of the county scoring worst on health is mostly non-military; the quarter scoring best is overwhelmingly military-adjacent. Elderly share behaves the same way: more residents over 65 goes with a *better* health score, not a worse one. Neither association is explained by income; controlling for poverty moves both by less than one hundredth.

```
military and health r = +0.51 · worst-health quartile 12% adjacent, best 80% · elderly and health  
r = +0.41
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What does track the health floor is the working-age share ($r = -0.41$). The neighborhoods scoring worst on health are the ones with proportionally the most people between 18 and 64.

That fits the construct finding above rather than contradicting it. Binge drinking and overdose mortality are concentrated in working-age adults, not in the retired and not in children. A county whose health deficit is entirely a sobriety deficit should show exactly this pattern: worse where working-age adults are concentrated, better where the population skews older.

WHAT WAS MEASURED

Neighborhoods with more elderly residents, and neighborhoods closer to a base, score better on health.
Neighborhoods with more working-age residents score worse.

WHAT WOULD BE AN INTERPRETATION

That near-universal coverage explains it: Medicare at 65, TRICARE around a base, and a gap in between. That is a coherent reading of a domain built partly on health access, and this study did not test it. It is the obvious next question, not a finding.

THREE LIMITS ON THOSE TWO NUMBERS

These are neighborhood averages, not people. A correlation across 127 neighborhoods says nothing about any household in them. An older neighborhood scoring well on health does not mean older residents are well; it means the neighborhood is.

The military figure is proximity, not service. There is no measure of who serves in any of this data. The modifier marks a five-mile radius, and its own guardrail says the circle catches many households with no link to a base at all. Nothing here can be read as a finding about veterans or serving families.

Part of the military result is geography restating itself. West county and Annapolis are almost entirely military-adjacent, so inside those two there is almost no variation left to correlate, and the association there is flat. It is strong inside the peninsulas and north county, where adjacency varies. The elderly association is the more robust of the two: it holds inside four of the five parts of the county.

adjacency share · west county 98%, Annapolis 91% · within the peninsulas and north county
 $r = +0.65$ in both



WHAT YOU WOULD ALREADY RECOGNIZE

Look at your prayer list. In most congregations a standing majority of it is medical: a diagnosis, a surgery, a parent declining, someone between insurance plans. That list is the single best local instrument you have for testing this finding, and it costs nothing to read it that way for a month.

If you serve in Brooklyn Park, Glen Burnie, or Linthicum, the data predicts your medical prayer requests are heavier and more chronic than a church of the same size on the peninsulas. Not sadder. Structurally worse supported.

Now read the same list from Severna Park or Arnold, and notice what is not on it. The peninsulas have fewer chronic conditions and longer lives than the country, and the county's worst drinking score. Nobody puts that on a prayer chain.



WHAT CHANGES ON MONDAY

Which question you ask depends on where your building is, and the two questions are not interchangeable.

North county, Brooklyn Park through Glen Burnie and Linthicum. Ask how many households are managing an ongoing condition without a regular doctor. This is the part of the county where chronic illness runs above the national rate and lives are shortest, and it is the one place where the traditional mercy-ministry instrument is the right one. If it confirms, the response has a shape you can staff: rides to appointments, help with the enrollment paperwork nobody can read, and a standing relationship with one clinic instead of referrals to twelve. Then take the guide's advice literally and bring somebody who can look at a furnace.

The peninsulas, Severna Park through Arnold and Broadneck. Ask a different question, and ask your leadership before you ask anybody else: how many households here are managing someone's drinking. Nobody in these neighborhoods will volunteer it, and the guide explains why in a sentence written before anyone saw the score. Ask twice. Answer the second question yourself first, out loud, about your own household, because that is what makes the honest answer available to anybody else.

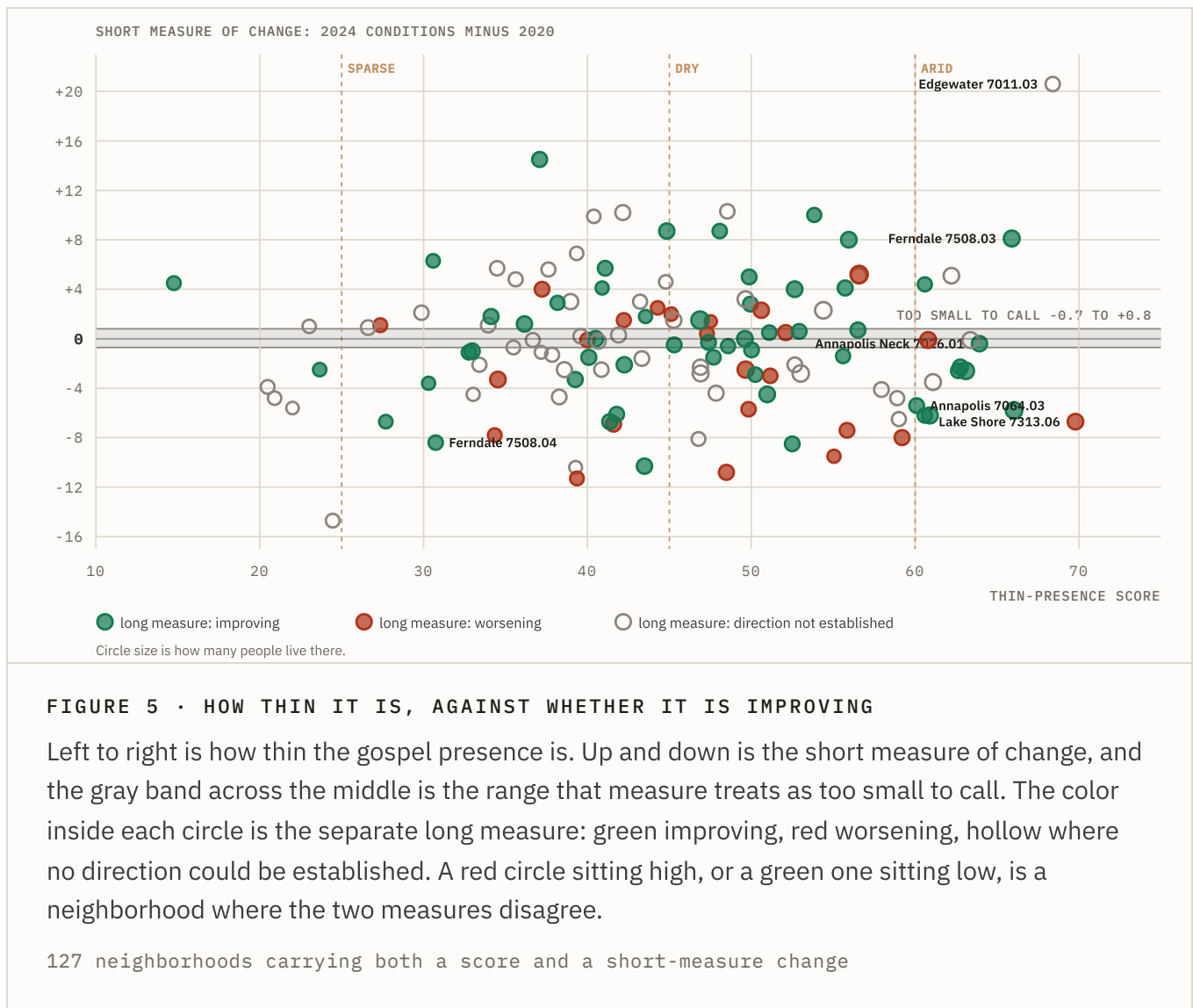
Both questions are cheap and both are falsifiable inside a month. If your rolls say otherwise, this section is wrong about your neighborhood, and that is worth knowing too.

Best placed: a diaconate in north county, which is the one finding here that the traditional instrument fits. On the peninsulas, whoever in your network already runs recovery ministry, and if nobody does, that is itself the finding. Neither of these is a preaching series.

Two ways of measuring change, and they disagree

There are two ways to ask whether a neighborhood's conditions are improving. The short measure compares 2024 against 2020. The long measure fits a line across twelve overlapping windows running from 2009 to 2024. Same question, different amounts of history.

In Anne Arundel they disagree about **33** of the **128** neighborhoods where both can be calculated. And the disagreement leans hard one way: **25** neighborhoods look like they are getting worse on the short measure and better on the long one. Only **8** run the other direction.



That lopsidedness is the useful part, and it is a fact about the instrument rather than about Anne Arundel. The short measure subtracts a 2016-2020 census reading that sits about two points high for every neighborhood in the country, because of collection problems during the pandemic. Twelve windows average that out. Two points cannot.

Anne Arundel shows the predicted pattern exactly. Its average short-measure change is **-0.44** and its average long-measure change is **+1.09** per four years. Sixty-one neighborhoods look like they are hardening on the short measure; on the long measure only 26 do.

Glen Burnie

North county · tract 7304.01

The short measure reads -10.3 and calls it hardening; the long one reads +2.11 per four years and calls it opening. Both are correct about different spans of time.

43.5 ACCESS SCORE SPARSE gold

Pasadena

Peninsulas · tract 7313.12

The short measure reads -8.5 and calls it hardening; the long one reads +2.20 per four years and calls it opening. Both are correct about different spans of time.

52.5 ACCESS SCORE DRY silver

Ferndale

North county · tract 7508.04

The short measure reads -8.4 and calls it hardening; the long one reads +11.96 per four years and calls it opening fast. Both are correct about different spans of time.

30.7 ACCESS SCORE SPARSE bronze

Crofton

West county · tract 7022.05

The short measure reads -6.7 and calls it hardening; the long one reads +3.08 per four years and calls it opening. Both are correct about different spans of time.

41.4 ACCESS SCORE SPARSE gold

THE 33 NEIGHBORHOODS WHERE THE TWO CHANGE MEASURES POINT OPPOSITE WAYS

NEIGHBORHOOD	PART OF COUNTY	SCORE	BAND	SHORT MEASURE	LONG, PER 4 YRS	LONG
Ferndale tract 7508.04	North county	30.7	SPARSE	-8.4	+11.96	OPENING
Glen Burnie tract 7303	North county	50.2	DRY	-2.9	+8.70	OPENING
Annapolis tract 7064.03	Annapolis	60.1	ARID	-5.4	+8.08	OPENING
Brooklyn Park tract 7501.01	North county	50.0	DRY	-0.9	+7.78	OPENING

NEIGHBORHOOD	PART OF COUNTY	SCORE	BAND	SHORT MEASURE	LONG, PER 4 YRS	LONG TERM
Annapolis tract 7025	Annapolis	60.9	ARID	-6.2	+6.52	OFF
Severn tract 7401.08	West county	40.1	SPARSE	-1.5	+6.39	OFF
Parole tract 7027.03	Annapolis	23.7	WATERED	-2.5	+6.02	OFF
Severn tract 7401.05	West county	62.6	ARID	-2.6	+5.14	OFF
Arnold tract 7311.07	Peninsulas	60.6	ARID	-6.2	+5.14	OFF
Annapolis tract 7065	Annapolis	33.0	SPARSE	-1.0	+4.95	OFF
Glen Burnie tract 7304.03	North county	47.7	DRY	-1.5	+4.30	OFF
Severn tract 7401.04	West county	66.0	ARID	-5.8	+3.62	OFF
Tract 7309.02	Peninsulas	32.8	SPARSE	-1.1	+3.57	OFF
Annapolis Neck tract 7026.02	Annapolis	51.0	DRY	-4.5	+3.34	OFF
Naval Academy tract 7067	Annapolis	39.3	SPARSE	-3.3	+3.31	OFF
Glen Burnie tract 7305.07	Peninsulas	41.8	SPARSE	-6.1	+3.29	OFF
Arnold tract 7311.05	Peninsulas	55.6	DRY	-1.4	+3.09	OFF
Crofton tract 7022.05	West county	41.4	SPARSE	-6.7	+3.08	OFF
Arnold tract 7311.03	Peninsulas	42.2	SPARSE	-2.1	+2.96	OFF

NEIGHBORHOOD	PART OF COUNTY	SCORE	BAND	SHORT MEASURE	LONG, PER 4 YRS	LONG
Annapolis tract 7061.02	Annapolis	27.7	SPARSE	-6.7	+2.87	OFF
Odenton tract 7409	West county	63.1	ARID	-2.6	+2.67	OFF
Shady Side tract 7070.01	South county	62.8	ARID	-2.3	+2.49	OFF
Glen Burnie tract 7302.05	Peninsulas	30.3	SPARSE	-3.6	+2.31	OFF
Pasadena tract 7313.12	Peninsulas	52.5	DRY	-8.5	+2.20	OFF
Glen Burnie tract 7304.01	North county	43.5	SPARSE	-10.3	+2.11	OFF
Odenton tract 7403.05	West county	56.6	DRY	+5.2	-1.88	HIGH
Tract 7013.01	Annapolis	37.2	SPARSE	+4.0	-3.20	HIGH
Gambrills tract 7410	West county	27.4	SPARSE	+1.1	-3.44	HIGH
Glen Burnie tract 7305.08	North county	44.3	SPARSE	+2.5	-3.83	HIGH
Lake Shore tract 7313.07	Peninsulas	50.6	DRY	+2.3	-3.94	HIGH
Tract 7013.02	South county	42.2	SPARSE	+1.5	-5.13	HIGH
Glen Burnie tract 7305.11	North county	47.5	DRY	+1.4	-8.47	HIGH
Annapolis tract 7063.03	Annapolis	45.1	DRY	+2.0	-12.44	HIGH

Four shown, largest short-measure movement first.

TWO THINGS THIS DOES NOT LICENSE

Neither number cancels the other. A neighborhood that declined for six years and recovered for three has a falling long-term line and a rising recent one, and both readings are correct about different stretches of time. Where they disagree here, the disagreement is itself the finding and should be carried forward as one.

And the rule worth repeating: **49 of the county's 129 neighborhoods with a long measure are marked holding, which means no direction could be established.** That is a larger share than the national one. It is a statement about what the measurement can resolve. It is never a finding that those neighborhoods are steady, and any chart that colors them as stable is misrepresenting them.

| holding: 49 of 129 = 38% · national 31%



WHAT YOU WOULD ALREADY RECOGNIZE

This is the same problem as judging a congregation by comparing this year's attendance to a single year four years ago, when that year happened to be unusual. You would not do it. You would look at the trend across a decade and you would say plainly which years you were unsure about.



WHAT CHANGES ON MONDAY

If your church, presbytery, or network has been using the recent-change map to decide where conditions are worsening, the ranking you built from it leans pessimistic. Rebuild it with both measures side by side and treat the 33 disagreeing neighborhoods as unranked until somebody visits.

Four of them, in **Ferndale** (7508.04), **Glen Burnie** (7303), **Annapolis** (7064.03) and **Brooklyn Park** (7501.01), differ by more than seven points between the two readings, which is larger than most of the differences that ranking was built to detect in the first place.

Best placed: whoever keeps the deployment or church-planting list. This is a planning correction, not a field task.

09 DISTANCE ON PAPER, DISTANCE ON FOOT

The road that turns 600 feet into a mile

Four neighborhoods combine heavy through-traffic with a poor thin-presence score. Thousands of people pass through them daily. Three of the four are up along the Baltimore line.

The through-road figure is what makes this pastoral rather than statistical. **Brooklyn Park, tract 7501.01**, has a church **600 feet** away, which sounds like a solved problem, and more than **3 miles** of major road running through it. The Brooklyn Park tract beside it, **7502.04**, carries **12 miles** of major road, and its nearest church is two thirds of a mile off.

A church 600 feet away on the far side of Ritchie Highway is not 600 feet away to a mother with a stroller. The road figure is the closest thing this data has to a measure of that.

HEAVY THROUGH-TRAFFIC NEIGHBORHOODS THAT ARE ALSO POORLY SERVED							
NEIGHBORHOOD	PART OF COUNTY	TRAFFIC	MAJOR ROAD	SCORE	BAND	NEAREST CHURCH	C
Brooklyn Park tract 7501.01	North county	80.9	3.17 mi	50.0	DRY	607 ft	
Brooklyn Park tract 7502.04	North county	79.9	12.49 mi	56.5	DRY	0.68 mi	
Glen Burnie tract 7303	North county	78.5	5.06 mi	50.2	DRY	0.33 mi	
Ferndale tract 7508.03	North county	76.2	7.85 mi	65.9	ARID	688 ft	



WHAT YOU WOULD ALREADY RECOGNIZE

Every church has an invisible boundary that does not appear on any map: the road nobody walks across, the interchange that splits a neighborhood in half, the block where your outreach stops without anyone deciding it should. You already know where yours is. This finding says the data can see it too, and names four places where it is doing the most damage.



WHAT CHANGES ON MONDAY

Walk it. In **Brooklyn Park, tract 7501.01**, start at the church 600 feet away and walk to the middle of the neighborhood without crossing anywhere there is no light. Time it. If it takes more than twelve minutes, or means crossing four lanes without a signal, then the closeness in the data is not closeness on the ground and that neighborhood should be treated as underserved despite its numbers.

This is the cheapest test in the whole report, and it either confirms or kills the finding in one afternoon.

Best placed: two people from the nearest congregation, on foot, on a weekday. Not a survey.

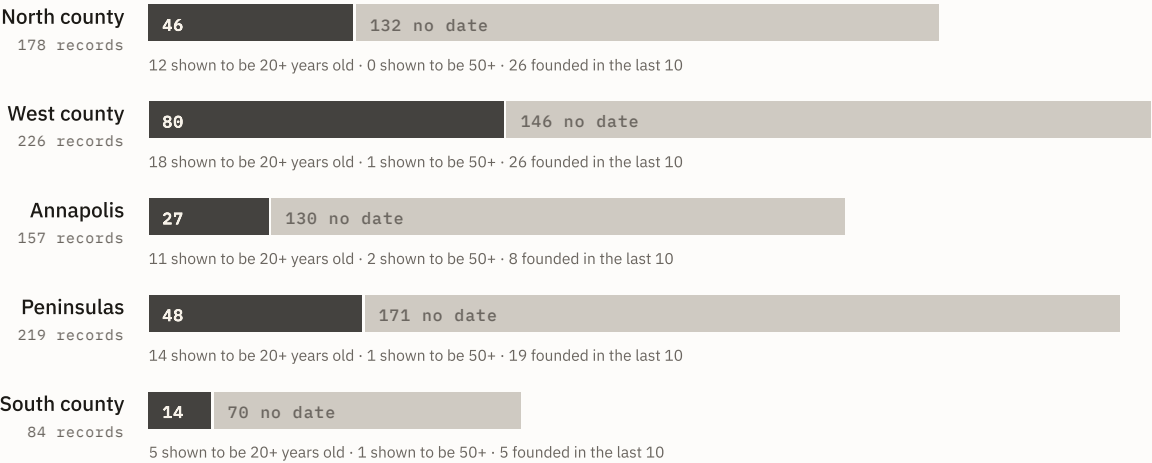
What we cannot tell you about the churches around you

This study set out to find a pattern that would matter a great deal if it were real: neighborhoods with plenty of congregations but few that have lasted. Churn rather than roots.

On the surface Anne Arundel appears to have it badly. Sixty-eight neighborhoods hold four or more churches while showing one or none that the records place there twenty years ago. County-wide, 864 church records yield only **60** that clear twenty years and **5** that clear fifty.

Then you look at how many of those records carry a founding date at all. **215** of **864**, which is **24.9%**.

CHURCH RECORDS IN THE DATA
dated vs no date on file, and most have none



COUNTY	215 dated	649 no date on file
--------	-----------	---------------------

Only 24.9% of the county's 864 church records carry a founding date at all, so the age counts in this figure are floors built from that quarter, not counts of what actually stands in the county. See the retraction below.

FIGURE 6 · MOST CHURCH RECORDS HAVE NO FOUNDING DATE

Church records in each part of the county, split by whether the record carries a founding date. The pale part of each bar is the point of the figure. It is why every count of how long congregations have stood here is a floor rather than a measurement, and why that finding is withdrawn.

Church counts and founding-date coverage from the national priority file

SO THIS FINDING IS WITHDRAWN

The apparent shortage of long-rooted congregations in Anne Arundel is an artifact of missing paperwork, not a fact about the county. Three quarters of the church records have no founding date, so the twenty-year and fifty-year counts are floors on a quarter of the data rather than measurements of what stands in the county. A neighborhood showing zero long-standing churches may hold four congregations that have been there a century.

Nothing in this data can currently tell a healthy church-planting culture from congregational churn in Anne Arundel, and no ministry decision should rest on those counts. We would rather withdraw the finding than dress it up.

One thing it does show. The record-keeping is itself uneven: twice the share of records carry a founding date in west county as in south county or Annapolis. So any comparison between parts of the county on these counts is comparing filing habits, not church history.

| records with a date · west county 35% · south county 17% · Annapolis 17%



WHAT CHANGES ON MONDAY

This is a paperwork job with a real ministry payoff, and it is the kind of thing an association can do that no single church can. Anne Arundel has **649** undated church records. A denominational office or a county historical society could date several hundred of them from yearbooks and incorporation records in a few weeks, and doing so would turn the single most broken measure in this report into a working one.

Best placed: a county-wide pastors' network or an association staffer, working from denominational yearbooks and state incorporation records.

Thirteen neighborhoods, and a name beside each

Out of 130, the priority scoring marks 13 as something other than ordinary. Most of them are flagged because they combine real need with enough existing structure that a congregation could work there. One is flagged as a crossroads, where movement through the neighborhood is heavy enough that presence there reaches well beyond the residents. Two are flagged as isolated: badly served and far from help.

Ferndale, tract 7508.03, up on the Baltimore line, leads the list. Nationally it ranks **205th** out of every scored neighborhood in America. It is the only Anne Arundel neighborhood in the top thousand of anything in this dataset, and it holds nearly seven thousand people at the highest poverty rate in this group.

Ferndale 7508.03 · national rank 205 of 84,410 · 6,782 people · poverty 14.2%

Ferndale

North county · tract 7508.03

Crossroads, heavy through-traffic. 6,782 people, 5 churches inside, nearest 688 feet.

#205 U.S. RANK ARID

access 65.9

Edgewater

Annapolis · tract 7011.03

High priority, workable. 4,102 people, 1 church inside, nearest 0.6 miles.

#2,322 U.S. RANK ARID

access 68.4

Annapolis

Annapolis · tract 7025

Need, plus structure to work with. 7,105 people, 6 churches inside, nearest 0.8 miles.

#4,706 U.S. RANK ARID

access 60.9

Severn

West county · tract 7401.04

Need, plus structure to work with. 8,702 people, 4 churches inside, nearest 0.3 miles.

#5,126 U.S. RANK ARID

access 66.0

Fort Meade

West county · tract 7406.02

Need, plus structure to work with. 3,441 people, no church inside, nearest 0.9 miles.

#5,465 U.S. RANK ARID

access 60.6

THE THIRTEEN NEIGHBORHOODS MARKED AS SOMETHING OTHER THAN ORDINARY

NEIGHBORHOOD	PART OF COUNTY	WHY FLAGGED	PRIORITY	U.S. RANK	SCORE
Ferndale tract 7508.03	North county	Crossroads, heavy through-traffic	87.81	205	65.9
Edgewater tract 7011.03	Annapolis	High priority, workable	73.08	2,322	68.4
Annapolis tract 7025	Annapolis	Need, plus structure to work with	62.69	4,706	60.9
Severn tract 7401.04	West county	Need, plus structure to work with	61.18	5,126	66.0
Fort Meade tract 7406.02	West county	Need, plus structure to work with	60.14	5,465	60.6
Annapolis tract 7064.03	Annapolis	Need, plus structure to work with	59.20	5,760	60.1
Annapolis Neck and Annapolis tract 7026.01	Annapolis	Need, plus structure to work with	58.06	6,166	63.9
Lake Shore tract 7313.03	Peninsulas	Need, plus structure to work with	54.27	7,439	63.4

NEIGHBORHOOD	PART OF COUNTY	WHY FLAGGED	PRIORITY	U.S. RANK	SCORE
Crofton tract 7022.06	West county	Need, plus structure to work with	52.73	7,880	61.1
Shady Side tract 7070.01	South county	Need, plus structure to work with	50.93	8,263	62.8
Severn tract 7401.05	West county	Need, plus structure to work with	50.82	8,288	62.6
Lake Shore tract 7313.06	Peninsulas	Badly served and isolated	34.93	17,068	69.8
Arnold tract 7311.07	Peninsulas	Badly served and isolated	33.17	18,788	60.6

Five shown, in national priority order. The rank is out of 84,400 neighborhoods. Four of the thirteen have no church inside them at all. Three are in Annapolis and the Neck, four in west county, five on the peninsulas, and one in south county. Once again they refuse to cluster.

Each of the thirteen carries a household type and a fabric reading of its own, which is where the packets stop being a ranking and start being usable. Ferndale 7508.03, worked through earlier, is the template: a score, a type, a set of broken patterns, four first moves and four checks you run on foot.



WHAT CHANGES ON MONDAY

Thirteen is small enough that a county network could put a name beside every one of them this month, and large enough that no single congregation should hold more than two. Begin with **Ferndale**, because it ranks 205th in the country and because at 14.2% poverty it is the one neighborhood in this group where the familiar instruments will work.

These thirteen already exist as prepared packets with per-neighborhood detail. They do not need to be rediscovered, only claimed.

Best placed: a county-wide network doing the assigning, individual congregations doing the work.

Three neighborhoods the data cannot score

Three Anne Arundel neighborhoods have no thin-presence score at all. Dropping them from the tables would make the county look better covered than it is, so they are listed here instead.

THE THREE NEIGHBORHOODS WITH NO SCORE AT ALL						
NEIGHBORHOOD	PART OF COUNTY	BAND	PEOPLE	REVIEW FLAGS	WELLBEING 2024	SHORT
Tract 9800	West county	UNSCORED	7	low population, non-residential, low housing, needs review	—	

NEIGHBORHOOD	PART OF COUNTY	BAND	PEOPLE	REVIEW FLAGS	WELLBEING 2024	SHORT
Jessup tract 7404	West county	UNSCORED	5,535	low housing, needs review	38.0	
Tract 9900	Annapolis	UNSCORED	0	low population, water, low housing, needs review	—	

Two are unremarkable. One is open water with nobody living in it, and one holds seven people on industrial land.

The third is a genuine gap and it matters. **Jessup, tract 7404, has 5,535 residents, no thin-presence score, and a reported poverty rate of exactly zero.** It also has no household type: the personality layer marks it **insufficient household base**. Three separate layers lose the same 5,535 people.

What it does have is the lowest wellbeing score in the entire county and one of the steepest long-measure declines anywhere in Anne Arundel. The one neighborhood with no access score is also the neighborhood with the worst conditions in the county. It drops off every ranked list precisely because it needs to be at the top of one.

Jessup 7404 · wellbeing 38.0 · long measure -7.3 per four years

One cause, and the data already found it

Jessup holds a state correctional complex. That is local knowledge rather than something this report derived, but the data agrees, and it agrees in a specific place. At block-group level, **240037404001** carries the modifier **Institutional facility**, whose own description reads: *“Most of the people counted here live inside an institution, not in houses along a street.”* It is the only block group in Anne Arundel that carries it.

That single fact explains all three anomalies at once. A poverty rate is calculated over the household population, so a tract whose residents are counted in institutional group quarters returns zero rather than a real figure. A household-weighted personality read has

almost no households to weight, so it returns insufficient base. And the access score, which measures churches against the people who live on the streets around them, has no such population to measure.

None of that is wrong. What is wrong is that the explanation is invisible at the level everything else is reported. The tract roll-up returns a bare **insufficient household base** and drops the modifier entirely, so the one tag that makes sense of Jessup never reaches the tract layer, the ranked lists, or the map.



WHAT CHANGES ON MONDAY

Do not wait for Jessup's score to be fixed. The wellbeing reading is solid and it is the worst in the county, and the reason it has no access score is that the people there live inside an institution rather than on the streets around a church. Both facts point the same way. If anyone in Anne Arundel is doing prison or reentry ministry, this is the neighborhood, and it will never appear on a map of underserved places because it has no number to sort by.

The modifier's own guardrail sets the terms better than we could: *"Treat the people inside as people, not as a project."* And it draws a second line worth keeping, that the tag says nothing about the households on the surrounding streets, who are ordinary neighbors.

For whoever maintains the pipeline, this is a narrower and more fixable problem than it looked. The institutional flag exists, it is correctly assigned, and it is being discarded by a household-weighted roll-up that has no households to weight. Carrying it through to the tract layer, or surfacing it beside the empty status, would stop the county's worst-conditioned neighborhood from silently disappearing.

Best placed: an existing prison or reentry ministry. And whoever owns the v4 tract roll-up, who has a one-line gap to close.

Nine moves, sorted by who can make them

Nine sections of this report end the same way, with one move and a name for who is best placed to make it. Here they are in one place, sorted by the size of the body each one takes. Nothing on this page is new; every move links back to the section that argues for it.

One person, this week

Walk the distance the data calls short. In Brooklyn Park, start at the church 600 feet from tract 7501.01 and walk into the neighborhood. If it takes more than twelve minutes, or means crossing four lanes without a signal, treat that neighborhood as underserved no matter what the map says ([section 09](#)).

Ask the health question that fits your part of the county. In north county, ask how many households are managing an ongoing condition without a regular doctor. On the peninsulas, ask how many are managing someone's drinking, and ask your leadership before you ask anybody else. The two questions are not interchangeable, and both are falsifiable inside a month against your own rolls ([section 07](#)).

Run the one assumption check that stung. Six assumptions about your own strengths sit above, written to be tested. Five cost nothing but attention, and one person can settle any of them in a week ([section 04](#)).

One congregation's leadership, this quarter

Choose a parish. Twelve neighborhoods with residents have no congregation in them, and every one is within 1.4 miles of a church. The move is not a plant. It is a decision by the nearest congregation about which single neighborhood next door it will treat as its parish rather than its catchment, and the nearest congregations are now named ([section 05](#)).

Put a weekday evening inside the comfortable eleven. The neighborhoods where need hides will not respond to a food pantry. They are short on proximity and unhurried time, so

the move is a presence inside the neighborhood on a weekday evening rather than an invitation out of it on Sunday ([section 06](#)).

A network or association, because nothing smaller can

Put a name beside all thirteen priority neighborhoods this month. Thirteen is small enough for a county network to cover and large enough that no single congregation should hold more than two. Begin with Ferndale ([section 11](#)).

Send somebody to Jessup without waiting for its score. The worst wellbeing reading in the county belongs to the one neighborhood that appears on no ranked list, because the people there live inside a correctional complex. If anyone in the county runs prison or reentry ministry, this is their neighborhood ([section 12](#)).

Rebuild any worsening list with both change measures. A ranking built from the recent-change map alone leans pessimistic. Set the two measures side by side and treat the 33 neighborhoods where they disagree as unranked until somebody visits ([section 08](#)).

Date the 649 undated church records. This is a paperwork job that a denominational office or a historical society could largely finish in a few weeks from yearbooks and incorporation records, and it would repair the most broken measure in the county's data ([section 10](#)).

None of this asks you to believe a spreadsheet over your own eyes. Every move ends in a walk, a visit, or a question asked out loud, and each of those can prove this report wrong about your neighborhood, which would be a result worth more than agreement. And none of it waits on anyone new arriving. Every move above already belongs to a congregation, a diaconate, or a network that exists in Anne Arundel today.

METHOD AND LIMITS

For whoever checks our work

This section is written for a different reader than the rest of the report: someone auditing the numbers rather than acting on them. Every figure above resolves to a named file or a

named data call. Nothing is estimated, and where a number could not be obtained it is marked absent rather than filled in.

Release. This study reads the `gim-shalom-2026-08-28-gdi-domain-b-corrected` release, which is the rebuild of the structural-absence component, not the surface that preceded it. Two independent checks confirm the version. The national tier counts in the source file match that release's published post-rebuild figures exactly (Watered 1,321, Sparse 26,121, Dry 39,109, Arid 15,956, Desert 837), against a pre-rebuild distribution of 315 / 25,112 / 44,905 / 12,462 / 550. And the local wellbeing cache hashes to `056a2c78`, the value the release manifest names. The county figures therefore sit on the corrected signal.

Corrections to the original brief

Neighborhood count. The brief specified 140 Anne Arundel rows in the priority file. It holds **130**, confirmed three ways: a prefix match on the identifier, a value count of county codes across Maryland, and the national total of 84,410. All analysis uses 130.

Packet count. The brief specified 11 Anne Arundel neighborhoods in the ministry-ready packet. It holds **10**. The three differing counts reconcile: the ministry-ready flag is set on 11 rows and is a superset including the crossroads and high-priority neighborhoods; the tier and category fields name 9 as exclusively ministry-ready; the packet carries those 9 plus the 1 high-priority. The field review county summary independently reports 9 ministry-ready, 1 high-priority, 1 crossroads and 13 candidates, which matches.

Domain source. `shalom-index.json` exposes a three-way rollup under the legacy Living/Health/Hope labels rather than the five current areas. The labels are old; the values are not. Across all 254 Anne Arundel neighborhood-era pairs the Health pillar equals the Life & Health area to within 0.05, which is the rounding, and Living and Hope are rollups of the remaining four computed below area level. The five areas were read from the per-neighborhood files in `data/cache/domains/`, which carry the same `source_sha256` as the current release and match the live service exactly.

Unscored count. The manifest reports 1,070 unscored nationally; the source file has 1,066, and 84,410 rows against the index's 84,414. Both gaps are 4, the tombstoned legacy Connecticut identifiers the migration retired.

The precise figures behind the plain-language ones

Level and spread. Mean thin-presence score **45.19** against Maryland **46.19** and the United States

50.04; medians 45.11 / 46.44 / 50.37. Standard deviation **11.35**. Among the 338 U.S. counties with 50 or more neighborhoods, the county mean sits at the **14.5th** percentile and the standard deviation at the **65.7th**. Reported above as “better than 85%” and “wider than two thirds” respectively. Highest score in the county **69.79**; **16** of 127 scored neighborhoods at 60 or above (**12.3%**, against Maryland’s 9.3% and the national 19.9%).

Wellbeing areas, 2024, population-weighted. Work and provision 65.6 (Maryland 59.2), safety and justice 66.4 (54.0), health 52.5 (62.5), family and household 60.9 (54.1), community life 58.8 (49.8). Model weights in the same order: 0.3032, 0.1316, **0.2028**, 0.1749, 0.1476.

Change. Mean short measure **-0.44**; mean long measure **+1.09** per four years. 61 neighborhoods hardening on the short measure against 26 on the long. **49 of 129** long-measure fits resolve to holding (38%, against 31.4% nationally). 33 of 128 disagree in direction, 25 one way and 8 the other.

Founding dates. **215** of **864** records dated, **24.9%**. By part of county: west 35.4%, north 25.8%, peninsulas 21.9%, Annapolis 17.2%, south 16.7%.

Two tiers of evidence in this report

Almost everything here comes from published surfaces: the app caches, the released intelligence files, and the live service, all of which carry release ids and hashes that were checked. The health decomposition and the Peace pilot do not. Those come from the model’s own build artifacts, **shalom_constructs_v2.json** and **shalom_index_v2_phase2_5.parquet**, plus the block-group feature table the CDC PLACES prevalences are drawn from.

That is a weaker tier and is marked as such where it appears. The build artifacts carry no release id, are not what the product serves, and could move on any rebuild. They are included because they answer a direct question cleanly and because the answer materially changes what a reader would do about the health finding.

The published surface could carry this. Wellbeing is exposed as five domain scores and nothing below. The four Life & Health constructs already exist as columns in the build. Publishing construct scores beside the domain composite would move this section from the weaker tier to the stronger one and would answer a family of questions like it.

One inconsistency worth flagging while it is in view: the glossary describes eighteen active scored constructs, and the build config carries nineteen scored of twenty-six defined.

Nothing in this report turns on which is right.

The institutional marker is a second, separate gap and it has now cost this study twice. The taxonomy defines an institutional-facility modifier, and the roll-up from block groups to neighborhoods discards it, so the Jessup correctional complex and the Fort Meade and Naval Academy barracks arrive unlabeled. Both times this report had to identify them by name and reason about them by hand. Carrying that one flag up to the neighborhood level would let any reader see at a glance which scores describe residents and which describe an institution.

Where the place names come from

Census tracts are numbered, not named. The names in this report come from the GospelGraph place-label index, which is built from the Census Block Assignment Files: every 2020 block is mapped to the place it sits in, and blocks nest inside tracts by identifier, so the crosswalk is exact rather than a nearest-point guess.

The naming rule is the product's own, not one chosen here. A place covering **65%** or more of a tract names it outright. Between **40%** and 65% the name is true of most of it, so a second place covering at least 20% is named alongside, which is where headings like “Annapolis Neck and Annapolis” come from. Below 40% no single name is honest and the tract number is used instead. In Anne Arundel that gives **118** tracts a single name, **4** a paired name, and **8** that keep their number: mostly the Davidsonville and Broadneck-edge tracts, where no one place covers enough ground to claim them.

Two cautions when you use the names. **Twenty** Anne Arundel place names cover more than one tract, so “Glen Burnie” alone is 20 different neighborhoods and the tract number is doing the identifying. And every tract number here belongs to this county, so prefixing it with **24003** gives the full census identifier: tract 7508.03 is **24003750803**.

The Census classifier is trimmed for reading, so the index's “Annapolis Neck CDP” prints as Annapolis Neck. Sub-tract names such as Hillsmere Shores or Woodcrest Gardens come from a separate locality layer and are not used to name a tract, because the product's own testing found that every ranking it tried picked a subdivision over the neighborhood a resident would name.

Plain names and platform names

The five wellbeing areas are named plainly throughout this report. If you go looking for them in GospelGraph itself, they appear under their formal labels: work and provision is **Provision & Work**, safety and justice is **Justice & Protection**, health is **Life & Health**, family and household is **Household & Generations**, and community life is **Social Fabric**. The wellbeing score itself is **Shalom**, the thin-presence score is the **Gospel Desert Index**, the short change measure is **GIM** and the long one is **GIM v3**.

The five parts of the county

The five groupings used above are not an official division. Each neighborhood was assigned to the nearest of 21 seed points, every one of which is a centroid the data service returned with a place name attached, after first separating south county at the South River line. The assignment was then checked against all 30 neighborhoods for which the service returned a specific place name, and matched on all 30.

West county is kept as a fifth grouping rather than folded into the four named in the brief. Odenton, Crofton, Gambrills, Severn and Jessup hold 183,440 people at a wellbeing score of 58.8, between north county's 46.5 and the peninsulas' 69.2. Merging it into either would erase a real boundary.

Definitions used exactly as published

The thin-presence score (Gospel Desert Index) measures structural absence of evangelical gospel presence, combining church access with neighborhood need. It is not a measure of spiritual condition, church health, or the number of Christians in a neighborhood. The current church denominator excludes LDS and Jehovah's Witness records from the evangelical and protestant presence layer.

The short change measure (GIM) is movement, not level: the 2024 wellbeing composite minus the 2020 one. Its holding band runs -0.7 to $+0.8$ and is drawn on the change chart.

The long change measure (GIM v3) is the per-year slope across twelve overlapping census windows, 2009-2013 through 2020-2024, expressed here as change per four years. Its holding state is decided by a confidence gate rather than a band around zero, and it means the direction is not established. It is never rendered here as stability. It covers 59.8% of the wellbeing model's weight, so movement inside the remaining 40.2% is invisible to it.

Need pressure is 100 minus the wellbeing score, a standing level. It is not the change measure and is not reported as one anywhere in this report.

One field to distrust. The source file's trajectory label reads "stable" for 86 Anne Arundel neighborhoods. That is the older vocabulary from a separate 2015-2021 series, not a wellbeing movement reading. It is not used as a finding anywhere here and should never be read as either change measure holding.

Universe sizes

The sources do not cover identical sets of neighborhoods, which matters when joining them. The priority file holds 84,410 rows; the neighborhood-form file 84,414; the census demographic and pattern files 84,400 each; the per-neighborhood area directory 85,299 files; the wellbeing cache 95,837 entries; the long-measure file 83,932. For Anne Arundel's 130, coverage is complete for the priority file, areas, form and demographics; 128 carry a short-measure change and 129 a long-measure fit.

Sources

`gospel-desert/data/derived/intelligence/ministry_priority_national.csv`

Thin-presence scores and tiers, ranks, priority categories and scores, Capernaum flags, through-road figures, church and long-standing-church counts, founding-date coverage, population, poverty, review flags. 130 Anne Arundel rows of 84,410.

`gospel-desert/data/derived/intelligence/field_review/`

`field_packet_ministry_ready.csv` (10 AA), `field_packet_strategic_crossroads.csv` (1 AA), `field_packet_data_review.csv` (0 AA), `field_packet_rising_gateway_deserts.csv` (0 AA), `field_packet_suppressed.csv` (0 rows nationally), `field_review_by_state_county.csv` (the Anne Arundel summary row).

`gospelgraph-app/data/cache/domains/<geoid>.json`

The five wellbeing areas with scores and weights per era, 2024 and 2020. All 130 Anne Arundel neighborhoods present, plus all 1,475 Maryland neighborhoods for the state benchmark.

`gospelgraph-app/data/cache/shalom-index.json`

Wellbeing composite per era and the short-measure change, with coverage and precision badges. Hash-verified against the release manifest. 128 of 130 carry a change value.

`gospelgraph-app/data/cache/gim-v3-trajectory.json`

Long-measure change per four years, standard error, movement tier, resolution flag, coverage badge, window count. 129 of 130.

`gospelgraph-app/data/cache/tract-mvi.json · tract-acsc-demographics.json`

Neighborhood form and gathering-place density; age, household and diversity shares. Both complete for Anne Arundel.

`gospelgraph-app/data/cache/gdi-geojson-repaired.geojson`

Neighborhood boundaries for the map. All 130 Anne Arundel shapes extracted and simplified to about 36 feet. The map is real geography, not a diagram.

`gospelgraph-app/data/cache/v4/`

Field Guide v4, release **us-v4.5-2022-94d365db636cbaad**. `tract-composition-v4.json` for the household-type mix of each neighborhood, `core-guides-v4.json` for the 30 type guides quoted above, `context-modifiers-v4.json` for the 14 modifiers and their guardrails, and `bg-modifiers-v4.json` for the block-group assignments, which is where the Jessup institutional flag was found. The local release id matches the one the live service returns, so the guide text quoted here is the text in production. 127 of 130 Anne Arundel neighborhoods carry a readable composition.

GospelGraph service: `get_tract_pattern_fabric`

The neighborhood-fabric reading for Ferndale 7508.03, used as the worked example: 22 of the catalogue's 41 patterns computed for that neighborhood, with their first moves and on-foot checks quoted verbatim.

GospelGraph service: `get_gospelgraph_glossary`

All definitions and thresholds quoted above, taken verbatim from the 2026-08-23 glossary version.

GospelGraph service: `get_public_tract_snapshot · get_tract_domain_profile`

Cross-verification against the live service. The snapshot for 24003702601 matched the local pipeline exactly, and the five areas for 24003701103 matched to the digit with the same source hash.

GospelGraph service: `search_tracts_by_place · get_field_signal_summary`

Place names for 30 neighborhoods, used to seed and validate the five groupings. 98 Anne Arundel signal rows: 12 hot, 81 watch, 5 positive.

Limits

The long-standing-church findings are withdrawn and should not be used. See the retraction above. Twenty-five percent founding-date coverage cannot support any claim about congregational durability or churn in this county.

Church counts are records, not congregations. A neighborhood with no church record has no record in this layer. It may hold a congregation meeting in a school, a home, or a storefront that was never captured, and the LDS and Jehovah's Witness exclusion removes real buildings from the count. No record is a measurement; unreached is an interpretation, and a contestable one.

The health finding stops at the area. Health is the county's weakest of the five and north county is its floor, but this data does not identify which specific indicator inside it is moving, so no claim is made about which.

The five groupings are analytical. They were validated on 30 named neighborhoods, but the other 100 are assigned by proximity and one near a boundary could reasonably sit either side.

Averages hide spread. The peninsulas hold both the county's worst-scoring neighborhood and several of its best.

The short change measure runs low nationally by roughly 2.8 points, per the published glossary. Every short-measure figure here carries that bias, which is the reason the third section exists.

Correlations here are ecological. The health associations reported above are between neighborhood averages across 127 neighborhoods. They cannot be read down to households, and none of them establishes cause. They are reported because the two most natural explanations of the health finding both fail, which is worth knowing before anyone targets a response.

Two upstream columns are empty. Pre-publication checks found the language diversity field null for all 130 Anne Arundel neighborhoods, and then for all 84,400 nationally. Testing the health correlations surfaced a second: `single_household_share` is zero for every one of the 84,400 tracts in the demographics cache, so it carries no information and was dropped from the analysis. Both are pipeline gaps rather than Anne Arundel ones, and nothing in this report depends on either, but they are recorded because the checks ran.

The type guides are priors, not observations. Everything quoted from a field guide describes a household type nationally. None of it was measured in Anne Arundel, and a type that leads a neighborhood rarely holds a majority of it. The composition is a measurement; the guide is a hypothesis about people who live like this, and it is meant to be tested on the street rather than believed.

Three neighborhoods have no household type, marked insufficient household base: the two blank tracts and Jessup, where the residents are counted in institutional group quarters rather than households. The county composition figures therefore rest on 127 of 130 neighborhoods and 221,704 households, and exclude a real population of 5,535.

The fabric layer is read for one neighborhood only. Ferndale 7508.03 is used as a worked example, not as a survey. Its 22 computed patterns are 22 of a 41-pattern catalogue, and 17 of the rest are not computed nationally at all.

Nothing here measures faith. The whole model reads structures: buildings, distances, census indicators. It cannot see conversion, discipleship, prayer, or the work of God in Anne Arundel County, and a neighborhood scoring 69.8 may be full of Christians.