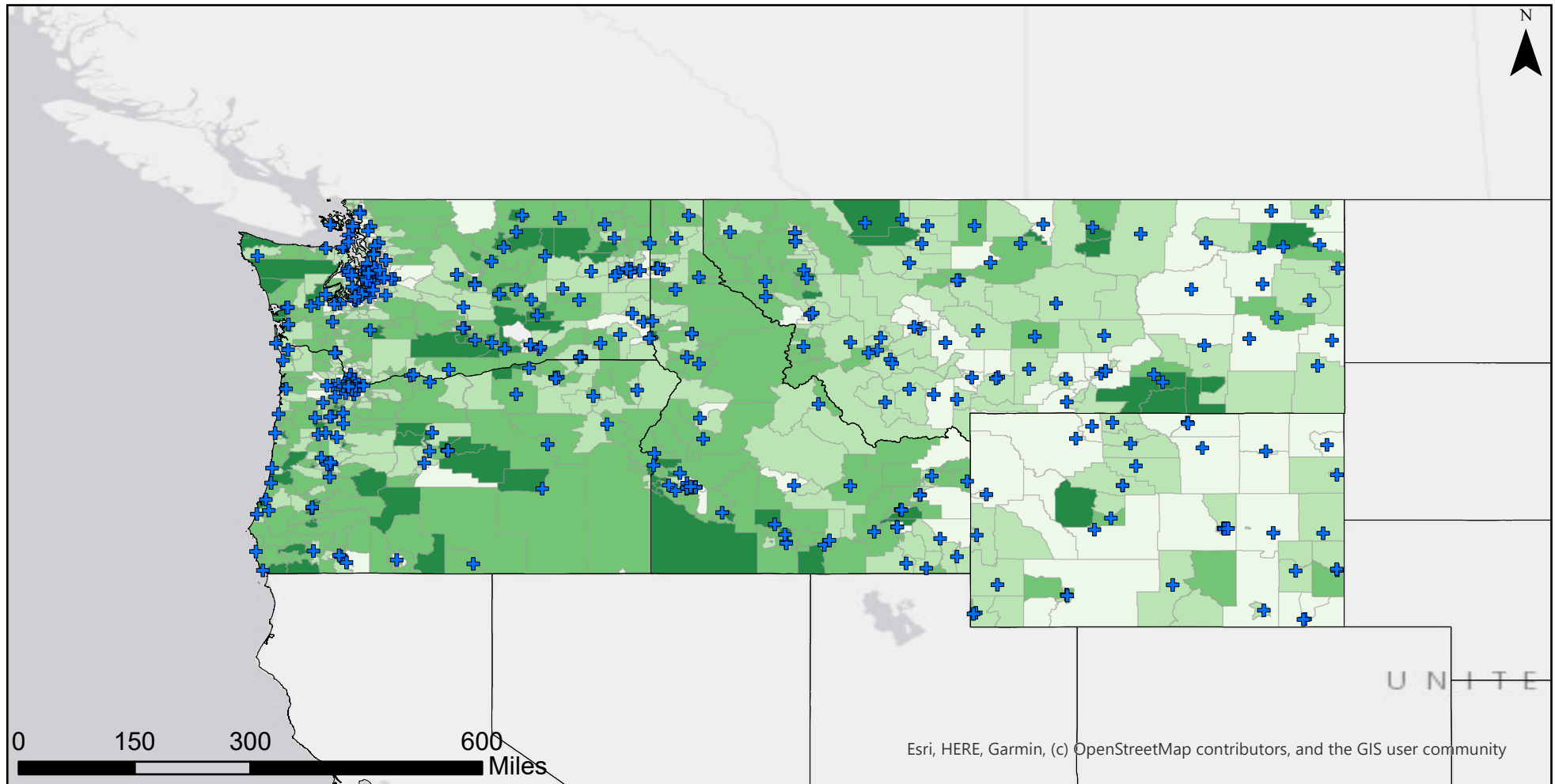


Health Vulnerability due to Socioeconomic Status in the Pacific Northwest, 2014

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Socioeconomic status plays a large role in health care in the United States. It affects who can afford insurance, medications, and overall have access to quality healthcare. Because this factor plays so heavily into health care, The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has released the counties that they believe are most at risk of not being able to receive quality care. Along with socioeconomic status, hospital placement can greatly affect residents' access to care. Typically, there should be a greater number of hospitals available in more densely populated regions. However, it is still important that hospitals are close enough to all residents in the case of an emergency. As shown in the map above, it could easily be seen where the large cities such as Seattle, Washington and Portland, Oregon are located due to the density of hospitals. However, the residents of the more rural regions of the states shown have the additional risk of higher commute times to a hospital that could potentially cost lives. A five minute commute allows for potentially lower hospitals bills (lower transportation costs if in an ambulance) and a quicker start to treatment. Along with not being able to afford healthcare, many rural regions are unable to access the care they need.

