

2023

**REGIONAL IMPACT  
REPORT**

***INDIANA SOUTH REGION***

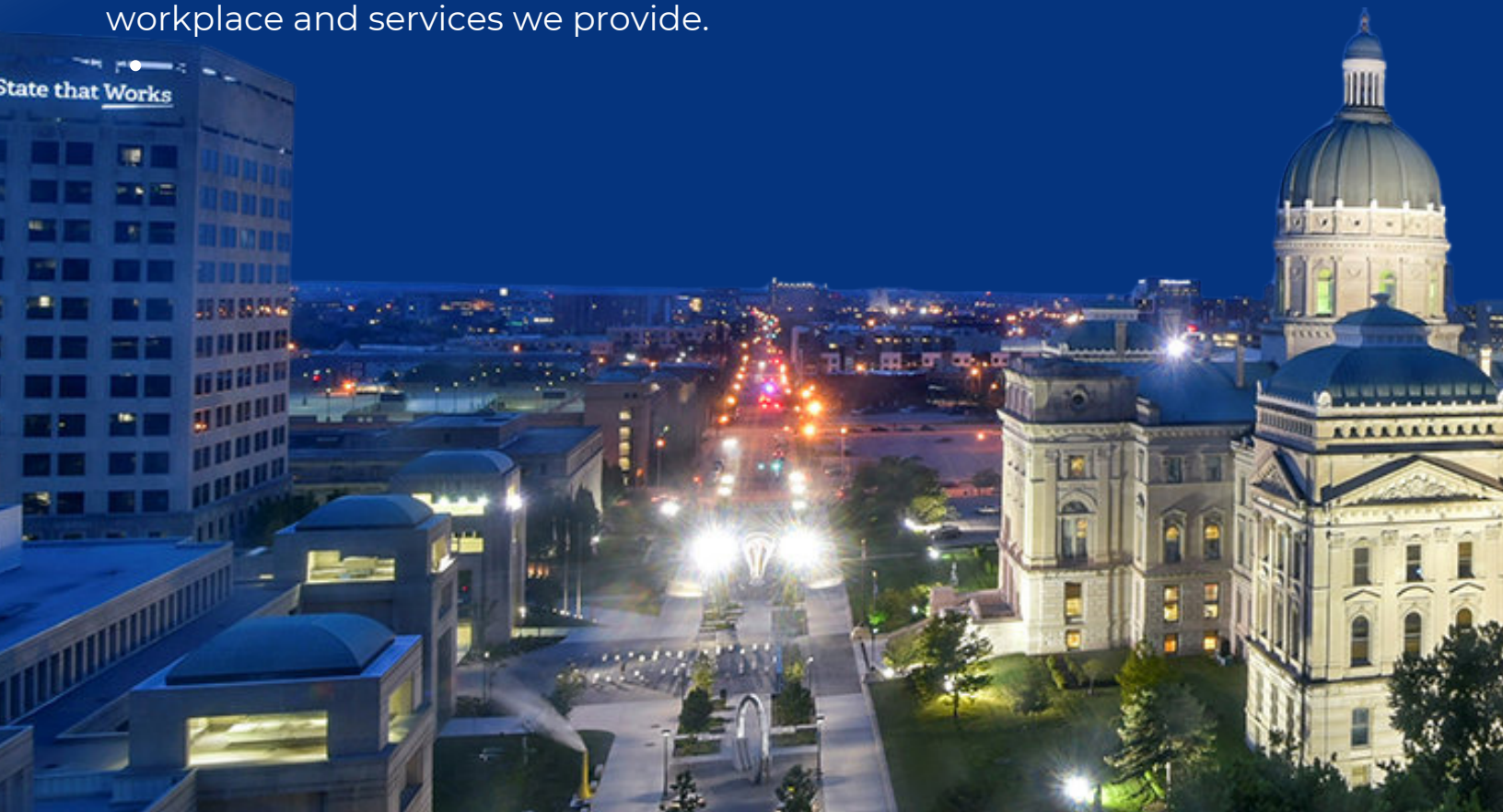
**Office of the Chief Equity,  
Inclusion, and Opportunity Officer**



# Message from Chief Officer Karrah Herring

During the summer of 2020, Governor Holcomb and his team began work to address disparities and inequities in Indiana state government. The Governor called his entire cabinet together and shared his commitment to acknowledge past shortcomings and, in his words, “do something about it no matter how hard, raw or uncomfortable it might be.” He formed an Executive Branch Task Force and charged them with identifying gaps in state government and providing recommendations to address them.

In August of 2020, Governor Holcomb announced via press conference that for his first action, he created a new position: Indiana’s first-ever Chief Equity, Inclusion and Opportunity Officer. The Governor was intentional with making sure the role would be a member of his cabinet, report directly to him and would immediately begin focusing on improving equity, inclusion, and opportunity across all state government operations as well as drive systemic change to remove hurdles in the government workplace and services we provide.





# Message from Chief Officer Karrah Herring

In short, the Governor wanted this new Cabinet member to help every state agency raise their game. I was blessed to step into the role in November of 2020, and I believe my team and I have been working to do just that. We have laid the foundation and set the strategic priorities as to how Indiana State Government can address equity, inclusion, and opportunity in Indiana for years to come. This report is one tangible tool we hope our partners across Indiana will utilize to come along side us in challenging ourselves to improve current and or enact new policy and process to remove barriers, so ALL Hoosiers have access to the tools necessary to live their best quality of life. I implore you to read the report, reflect on the report and then utilize our team and all of our state government partners to enact solutions to close equity gaps and increase access for ALL. Now is the time to act. Now is the time to move full steam ahead to an even brighter, stronger, more united Indiana.





# Impetus for the Office of the CEI00

**In August of 2020, Governor Eric J. Holcomb shared his thoughts on how true equality and equity lead to opportunities for all. During his address he committed that the state of Indiana would lead by example and take concrete steps to shape the change necessary to remove barriers to access and opportunity for all Hoosiers.**





# The Office of the Chief Equity, Inclusion, and Opportunity Officer

## Mission

To provide guidance and support to State of Indiana agencies in order to normalize and operationalize equity, inclusion, and opportunity across all aspects of state workforce engagement and state services.

## Vision

To make Indiana a lasting leader in equity, inclusion, and opportunity through targeted strategic initiatives and partnerships, policy development, good stewardship, innovation, and next level service so all Hoosiers have access to the tools necessary to experience their best quality of life.



## Chief Officer Herring

“

I feel a great responsibility to ensure that we are addressing equity not just across race and ethnicity, but also being mindful of the multiplicity of differences amongst Hoosiers including gender, socioeconomic status, geographic location, physical and mental ability, religion and more.

✉ [govceioo@gov.in.gov](mailto:govceioo@gov.in.gov)

# 2023 Regional Impact Report Indiana South Region

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The South Region is the least populated region in the state, with about 1/3 the population of each of the other two regions. The population in the full region is less than that in Marion County alone. The South Region is by a wide margin the least racially/ethnically diverse region in the state, with a mere 14% minority population. Every county in the South Region has an Estimated Minority Population that is well below the state average.

Black and Hispanic residents are seeing the worst outcomes in early literacy, educational attainment, median household income, with Black residents also seeing poorer outcomes in wage and sustained employment data.

Philanthropic investments that seek to make the most efficient regional impact should be focused specifically on:

- **Reducing socioeconomic vulnerability in Switzerland County**
- **Improving per capita income in Crawford County**
- **Ensuring Orange County has the infrastructure needed to fully support its population with a disability**
- **Improving access to vehicles in Daviess County, or ensuring the necessary transportation infrastructure is in place**
- **Reducing overcrowded households in Switzerland County**
- **Improving IREAD-3 passing rates for:**
  - **Black students in Vanderburgh County and Floyd County**
  - **Hispanic students in Jennings County and Clark County**
- **Increasing high school diploma attainment for Hispanic residents**
- **Increasing 4-year degree matriculation for non-Asian high school graduates**
- **Improving household income for Black and Hispanic residents**

*This list is not exhaustive; action can be taken in any of the vulnerable areas found both within and outside of this report. The items listed above, however, note where the vulnerabilities are most critical and thus might provide a bigger impact when compared to equivalent investment in other areas.*



# How to Use This Report

## Evaluate

Use this report as a "vulnerability landscape analysis" of your Region. Understand where the region as a whole could use more support, and where individual counties are struggling with specific vulnerabilities.

Think about how you can best support the areas of greatest need. In some cases, a broad investment into programs that affect the entire region may be the solution. In other cases, targeting a specific vulnerability in a specific county may have a bigger impact.

This report should help you to narrow down where limited philanthropic resources can be deployed most efficiently.

## Act

Once you have an understanding of the vulnerabilities, please share the information with your staff, partners, and colleagues in the region. We have a collective responsibility to affect change, and regional impact can best be achieved through strategic partnerships.

Make a plan to create change through People, Policy, and/or Procurement (more on this on the following pages). Ensure the plan is public-facing, so that your network can participate in creating accountability.

And, of course, there has to be a deliberate deployment of resources. After digesting this report, evaluate your philanthropic investments and verify that they are affecting the most critical vulnerabilities. If you have the capacity to increase that investment, please use this report as a guide to where the most impact can be made.

# Calls to Action



## Procurement

"An inclusive procurement strategy widens the pool of potential suppliers and promotes competition in the supply base, which can improve product quality and drive down costs. And by providing more sourcing options, inclusiveness can make supply chains more resilient and agile — an increasingly important advantage in these uncertain times."

- Harvard Business Review



## Policy

"Recognizing that imbalances are deeply ingrained in the way that governments around the world have historically operated, inclusive, equity-centered government seeks to address the underlying causes of systemic inequities by not only questioning the fundamentals of how policies are made, implemented, and assessed, but by initiating a much-needed systemic change in how governments function moving forward."

- Deloitte



## People

"Embracing a culture of inclusion will not only improve your ability to recruit from a broader talent pool, thus increasing your company's diversity, but it will also create a virtuous loop with tangible ROI across all aspects of your company... inclusion can reduce your recruiting costs and increase the average quality of your talent by expanding the pool of qualified candidates, giving you a strategic advantage in your competition for talent."

-Forbes



# Calls to Action



## Procurement

- Evaluate your organizations current spending to ensure minority-, women-, and veteran-owned businesses are equitably being considered for and awarded contracts.
- Set bold, but achievable, public-facing goals for engaging with diverse suppliers.



## Policy

- Stay informed about both existing and pending legislative items that have the possibility of harming Equity, Inclusion, and/or Opportunity. Vocalize your concerns to your legislators.
- Advocate for inclusive legislation, either through direct interaction with the legislative body, or through public support (i.e. lobbying, messaging, engagement, etc.)



## People

- Ensure that the people you are recruiting, hiring, promoting, and even firing proportionately reflects the population of the region.
- Create an inclusive work environment where every employee feels Welcomed, Heard, Respected, and Valued.
- Evaluate salaries to confirm that people are being paid equitably for similar positions, unaffected by race/ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, or any other demographical category.

# Key Definitions



## **Anchor Institution**

Anchor institutions are nonprofit or public place-based entities such as universities and hospitals that are rooted in their local community by mission, invested capital, or relationships to customers, employees, residents, and vendors. Anchor institutions have an ability to engage in long-term planning in a manner that aligns their institutional interests with those of their local communities. They also have both ability and motivation to improve the long-term well-being of their communities by leveraging their institutional resources.



## **Corporate Social Responsibility**

Corporate social responsibility (CSR) is a self-regulating business model that helps a company be socially accountable—to itself, its stakeholders, and the public. By practicing corporate social responsibility, also called corporate citizenship, companies can be conscious of the kind of impact they are having on all aspects of society, including economic, social, and environmental.



# Key Definitions



## Social Determinants of Health

Social determinants of health (SDOH) are the conditions in the environments where people are born, live, learn, work, play, worship, and age that affect a wide range of health, functioning, and quality-of-life outcomes and risks. The SDOH can be examined via five categories.

1

### Healthcare Access & Quality

The connection between people's access to and understanding of health services and their own health. This domain includes key issues such as access to healthcare, access to primary care, health insurance coverage, and health literacy.

2

### Social & Community Context

The connection between characteristics of the contexts within which people live, learn, work, and play, and their health and wellbeing. This includes cohesion within community, civic participation, and discrimination.

3

### Neighborhood & Built Environment

The connection between where a person lives – housing, neighborhood, and environment – and their health and wellbeing. This includes topics like quality of housing, access to transportation, availability of healthy foods, air and water quality, and neighborhood crime and violence.

4

### Education Access & Quality

The connection of education to health and well-being. This domain includes key issues such as graduating from high school, enrollment in higher education, educational attainment in general, language and literacy, and early childhood education and development.

5

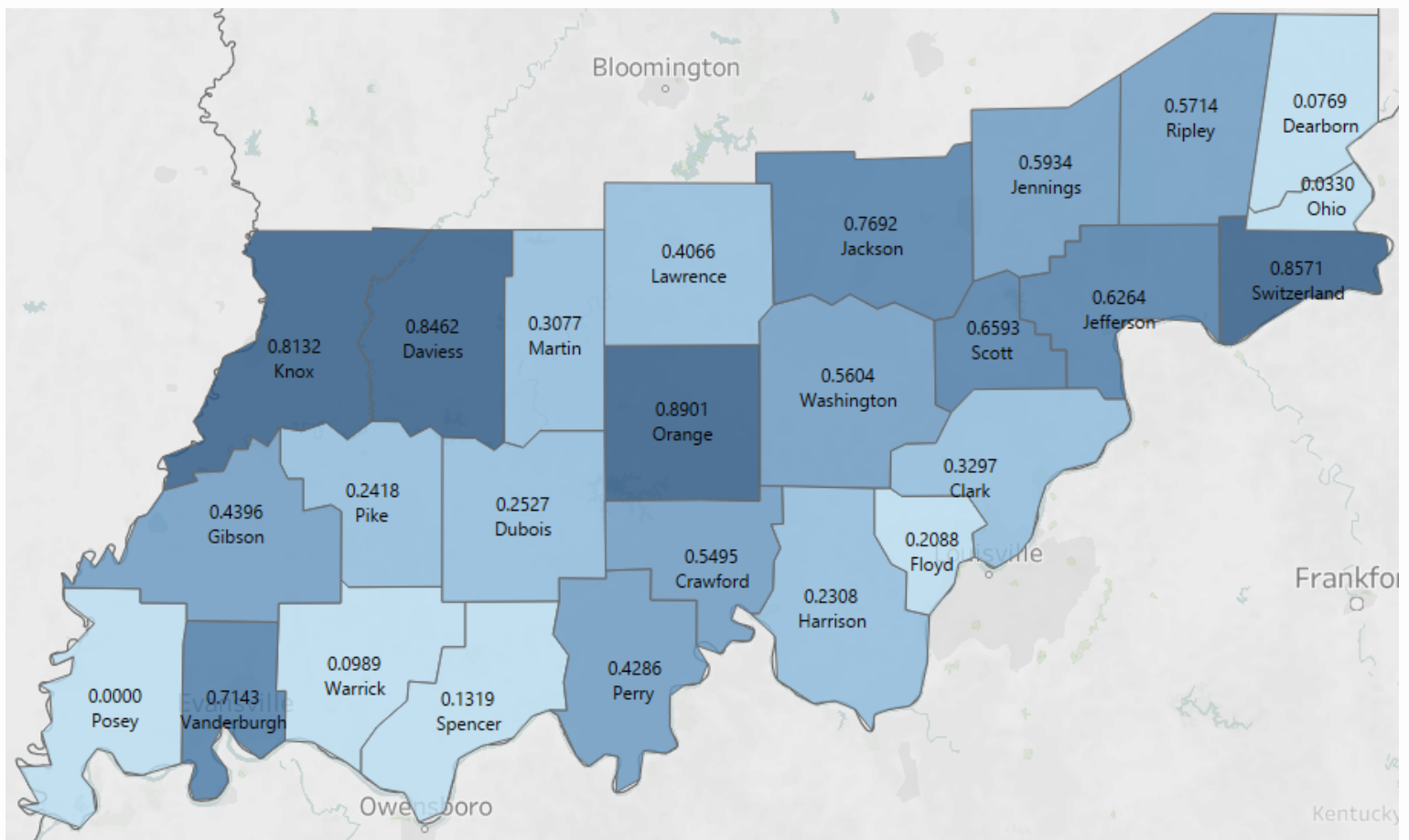
### Economic Stability

The connection between the financial resources people have – cost of living, income and socioeconomic status – and their health. This area includes key issues such as poverty, employment, food security and housing stability.

# About the South Region

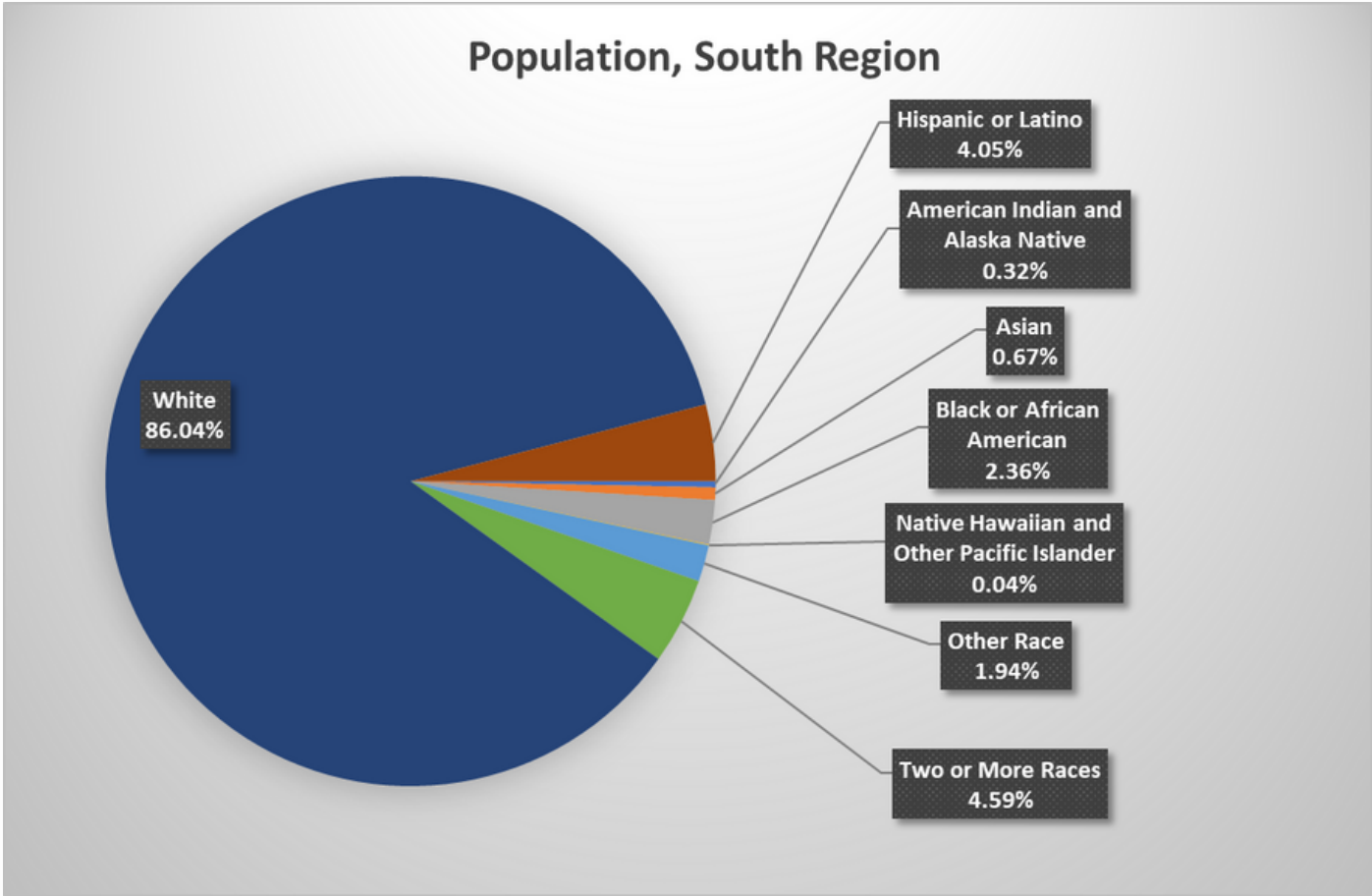
The Central Region is made up of 26 counties, the largest of which are Vanderburgh, Clark, and Floyd.

It boasts a host of invested community leaders, universities, corporations, and philanthropic organizations.



# About the South Region

Demographic breakdown by race and ethnicity







**Opportunity to Impact  
Education,  
Employment and  
Income**



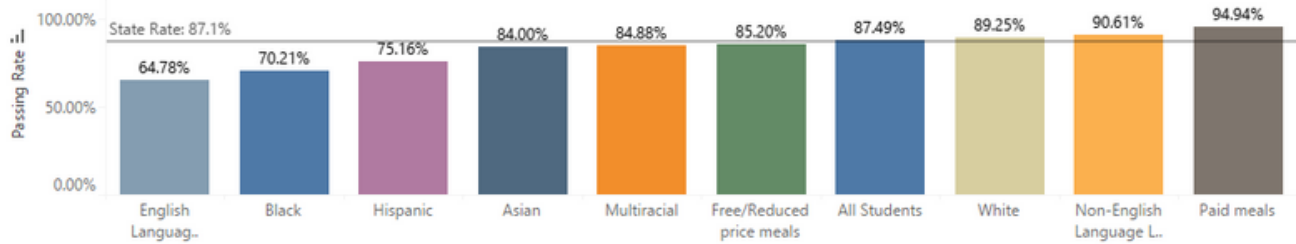
# Early Literacy

A growing body of evidence shows that early learning experiences are linked with later school achievement, emotional and social well-being, fewer grade retentions, and reduced incidences of juvenile delinquency and that these outcomes are all factors associated with later adult productivity. The Indiana Reading Evaluation and Determination (IREAD-3) is a grade three reading assessment developed in accordance with state legislation. IREAD-3 is designed to measure foundational reading skills based on Indiana Academic Standards through grade three.

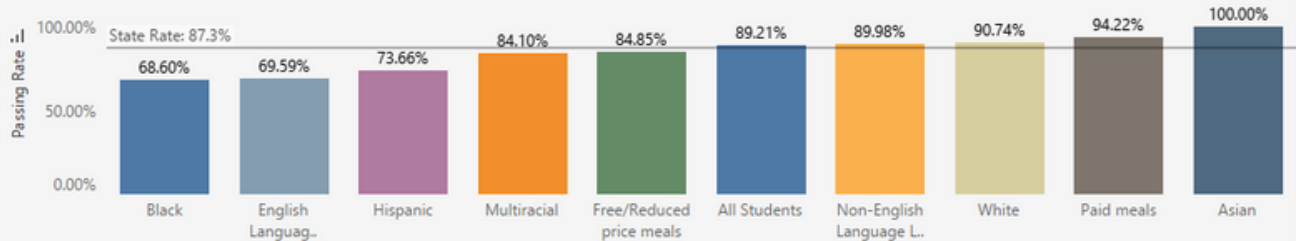
## IREAD-3 South Region and Statewide Passing Rates by Demographic & Year

Data source: IDOE; showing passing rates for students across all demographics and Indiana schools where at least 10 students within a particular demographic/school were tested. If there were less than 10 students, the passing rate is suppressed.

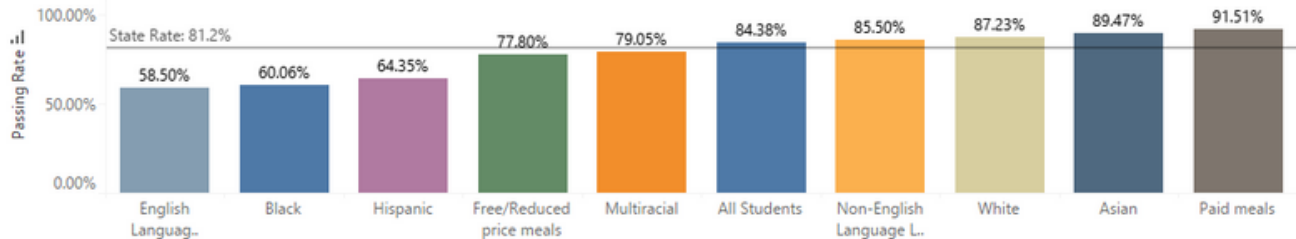
### 2018



### 2019



### 2021



In 2021, the only student groups to exceed the state average passing rate for IREAD-3 were students who pay for their own school meals, White students, and Asian students.

Black students, Hispanic students, and Emerging Bilingual students have historically performed worse than students in other demographical groups.



# Early Literacy



- Lowest Performing Counties for Emerging Bilingual Student Proficiency in 2021 (Region Average: 58.50%)
  - [Unavailable; data suppression]
- Lowest Performing Counties for Black Student Proficiency in 2021 (Region Average: 60.06%)
  - Vanderburgh (55.12%)
  - Floyd (57.14%)
- Lowest Performing Counties for Hispanic Student Proficiency in 2021 (Region Average (64.35%))
  - Jennings (61.54%)
  - Clark (63.91%)

# Early Literacy

**In 2021, Emerging Bilingual students, Black students, and Hispanic students performed worse than all other demographical groups in the region, passing the IREAD-3 at a rate of 59%, 60%, and 64% respectively.**

**Emerging Bilingual students saw an 11% drop from the 2019 assessment: the largest drop of any demographic when comparing pre-pandemic and post-pandemic scores in the Region). Black students and Hispanic students both dropped 10%.**



**This stat speaks to the purpose of a Social Vulnerability Index and its ability to show how easy or difficult it is to respond and recover from a disaster. The pandemic was a disaster, and while all demographical groups took a hit, our most vulnerable took the biggest hit.**



# Early Literacy



**More than one-third** of the South Region's Black and Hispanic third graders have not achieved critically important reading proficiency.



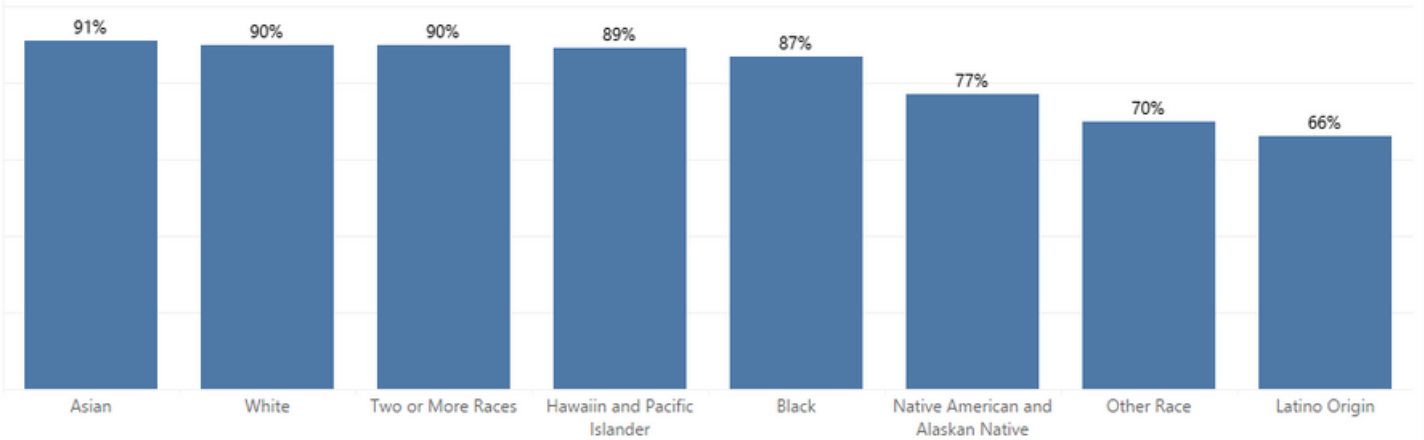
For every **THREE** Black or Hispanic 3rd graders you meet in the South Region, **ONE** is likely to read at **LESS THAN PROFICIENCY**



# Educational Attainment

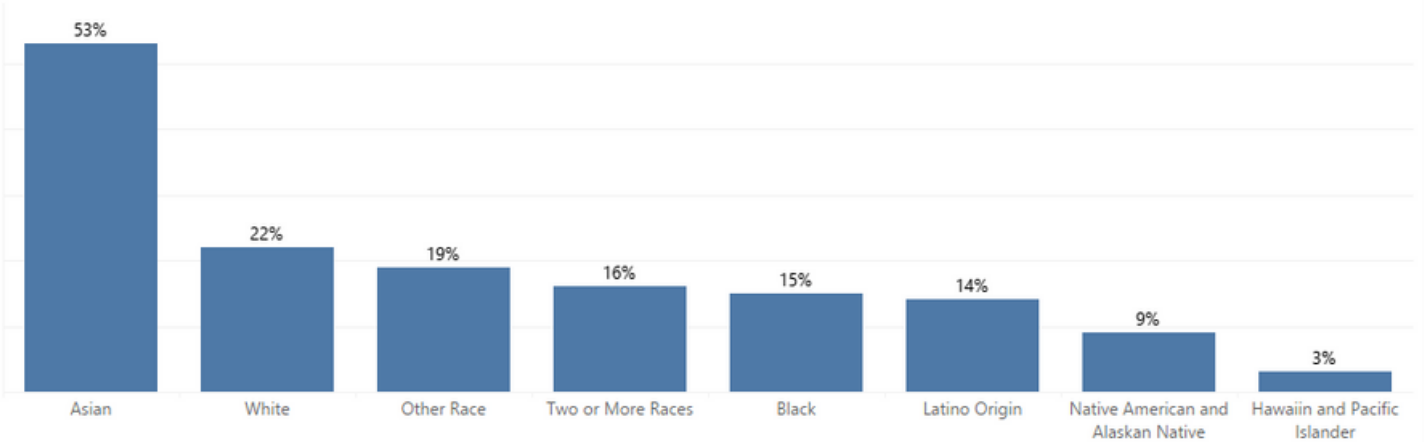
## High School Diploma or Higher

Definition: Estimate of the percentage of residents over 25-years-old that have a high school diploma or higher.



## Bachelors Degree or Higher

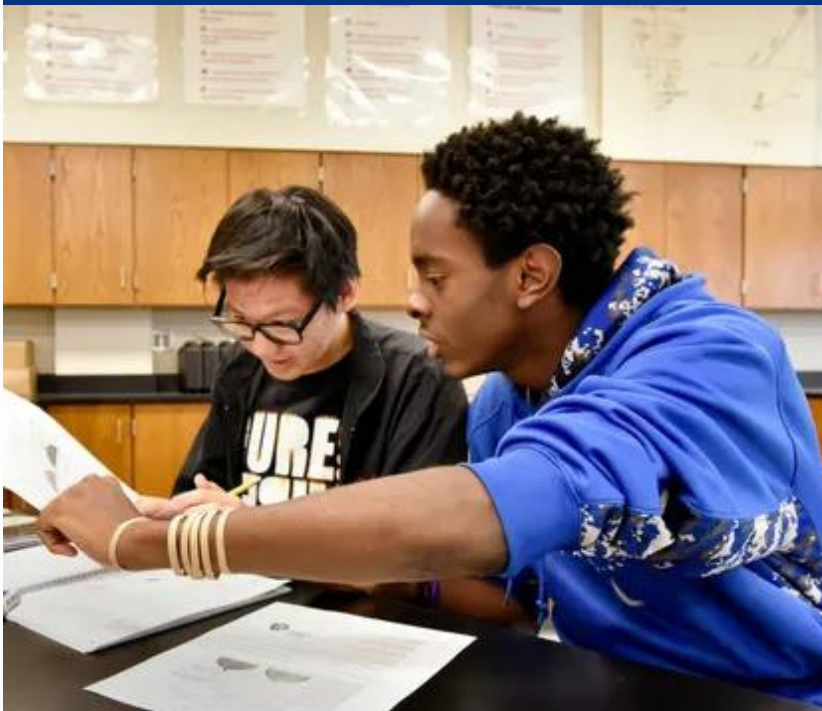
Definition: Estimate of the percentage of residents over 25-years-old that have a bachelors degree or higher.



# Educational Attainment

Asian residents in the South Region have the **highest high school diploma attainment in the state at 91%** as well as the **highest attainment of a bachelors degree (or higher) at 53%**

Of the Asian population that has attained a high school diploma, **74% went on to attain a bachelor's degree (or higher)**



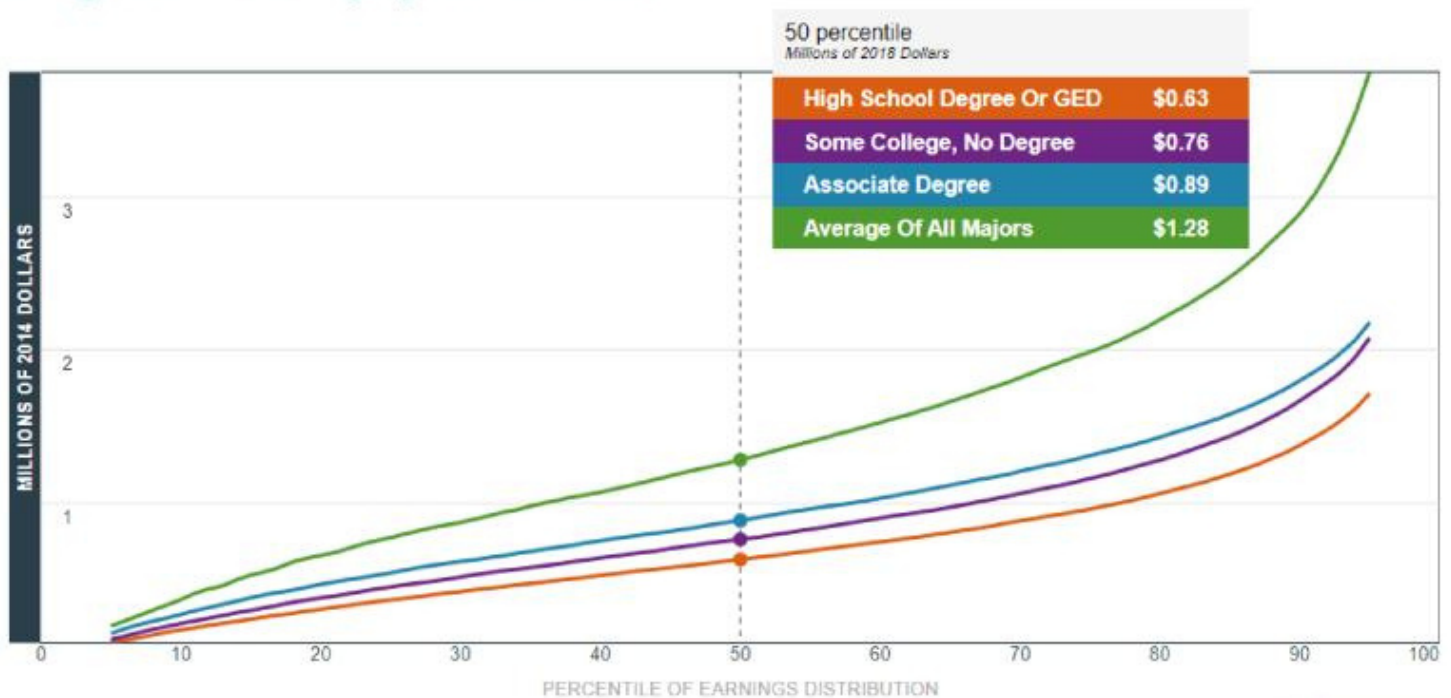
Conversely, while Black students have a High School Diploma attainment of 87%, **only 17% of those with a high school credential move on to attain a Bachelors degree or higher.**

# Educational Attainment

Data pulled from Brookings. "Figure 2 below shows the distribution of cumulative earnings over the entire career, with the green line marking the distribution for bachelor's degree graduates (averaged for all majors), and the blue, purple, and orange lines showing the respective distributions for workers with an associate's degree, some college without a degree, and only a high school diploma (or GED)."

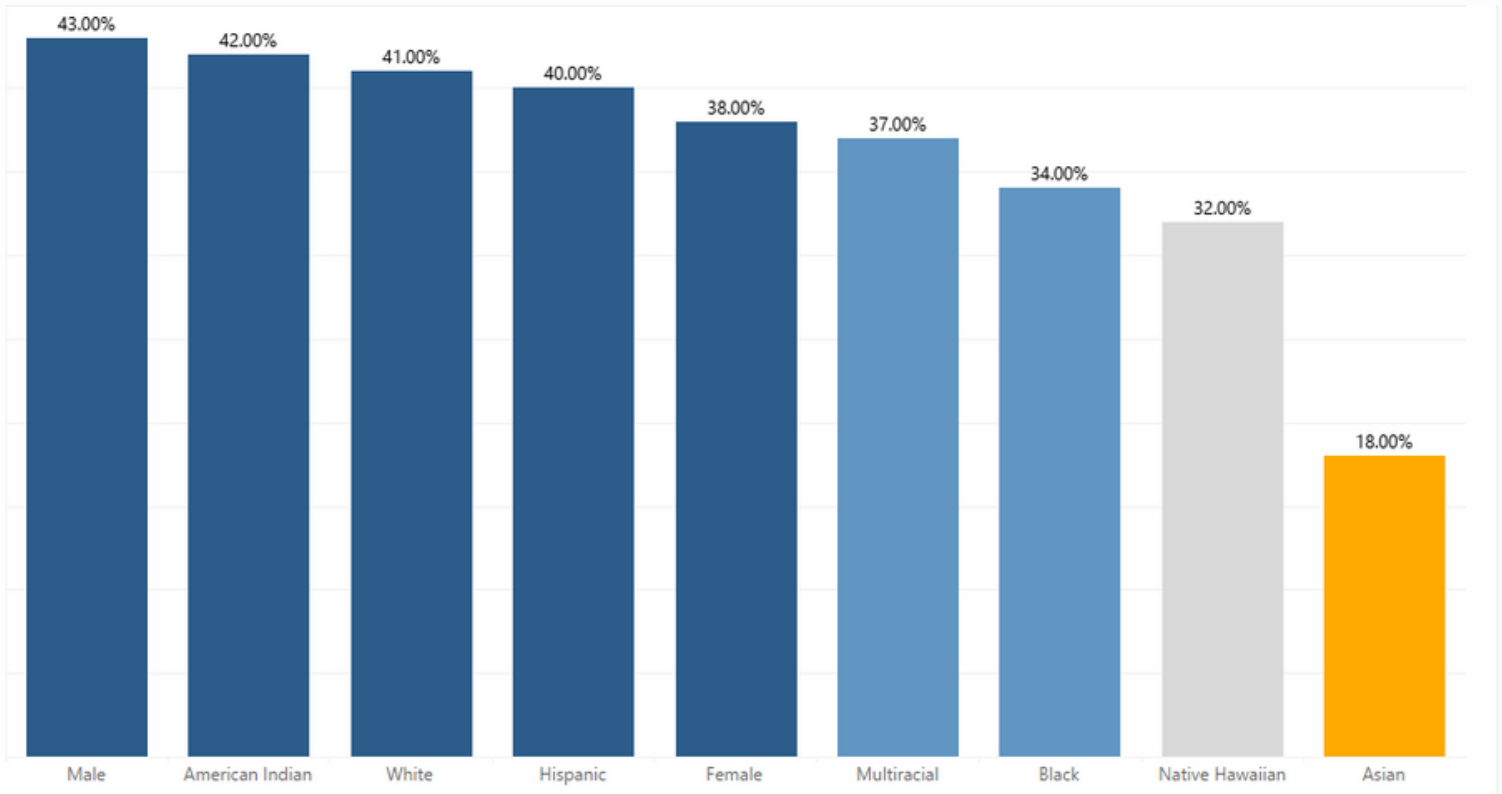
FIGURE 2:

Average Lifetime Earnings by Education Level





# Sustained Employment



## Definition

The percentage of students who appear in Indiana unemployment covered wage records 5 years after their expected year of graduation and meet the "sustained employment" criteria. Sustained employment is defined as students who are (1) not enrolled in Indiana public college during the wage reporting year; (2) are employed during at least 2 or 4 quarters during the wage reporting year; and (3) earned an annualized wage at or above the federal minimum wage ( $\$7.25/\text{hour} \times 35 \text{ hours/week} \times 52 \text{ weeks/year}$ , or  $\$13,195$ ).

## Note

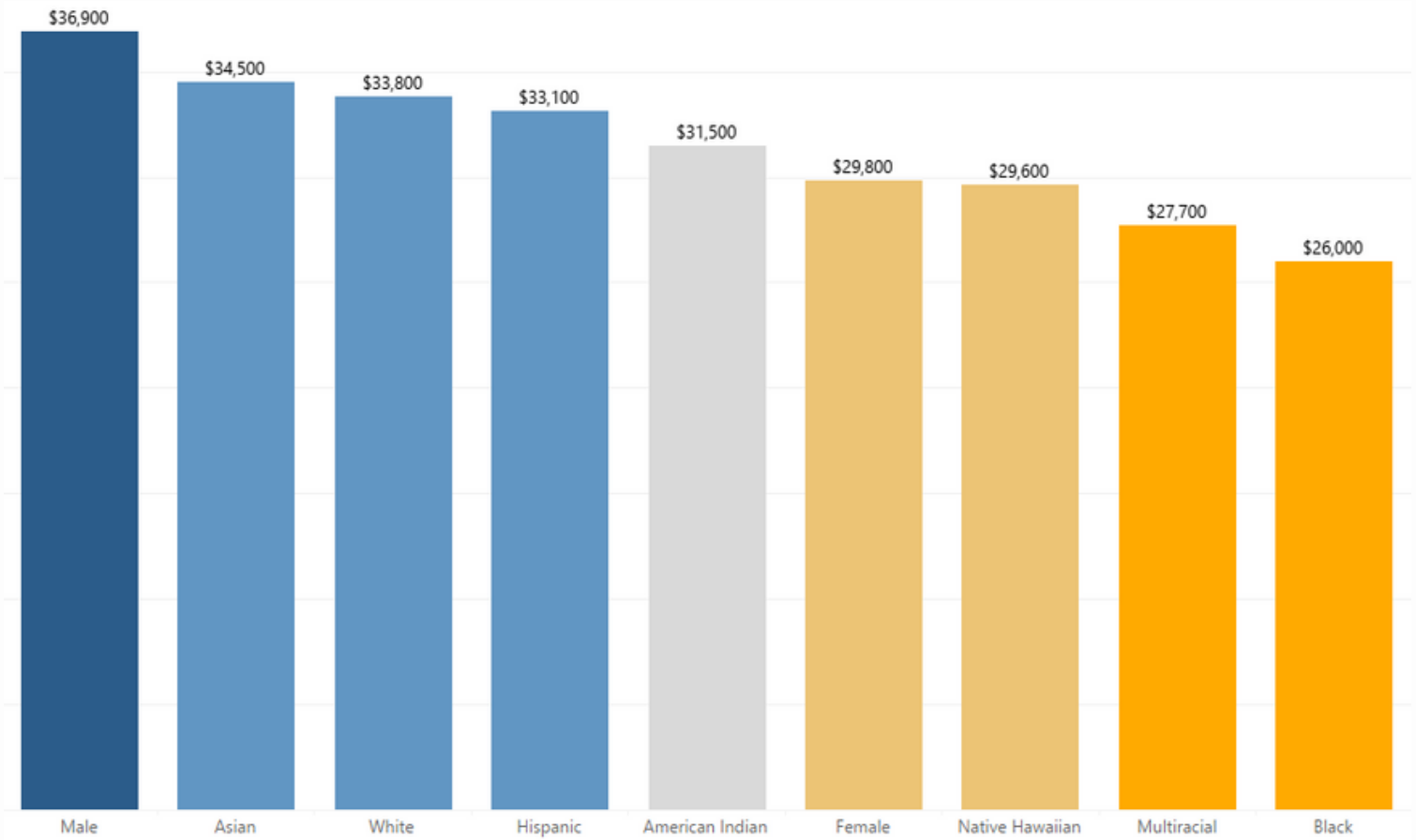
Asian students, regardless of their socioeconomic status as measured by their high school paid lunch status, are the most likely racial/ethnic group to be enrolled in post-secondary education 5 years after their expected graduation year and the least likely to be working in Indiana. Both of these patterns cause them to have low sustained employment percentages.

This group of students highlights the limitations of the sustained employment metric definition, and as a result, have been removed from the visual.

# Median Wage

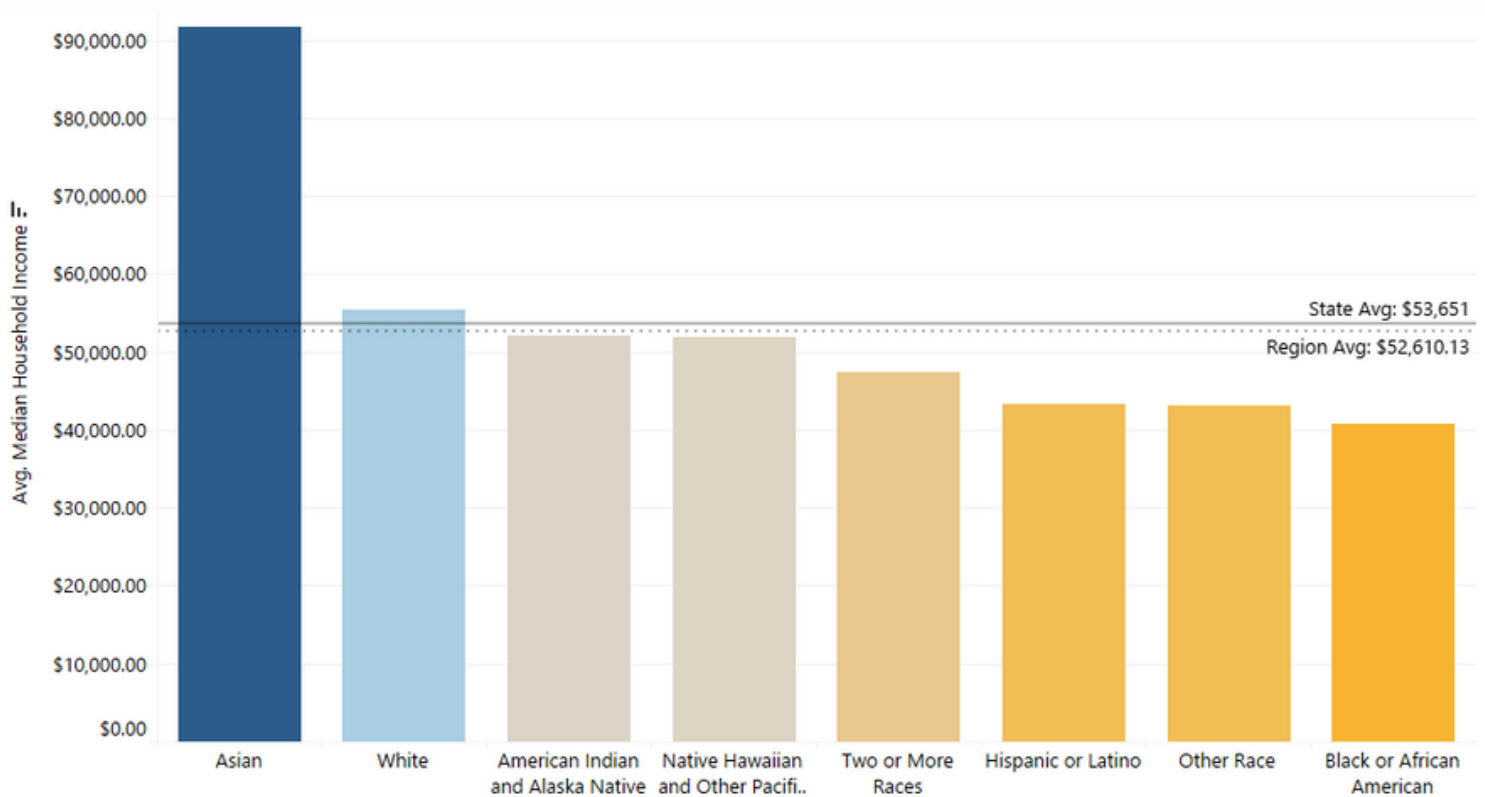
## Definition

Median wage for students who meet the criteria for sustained employment.



# Median Household Income

The Racial/Ethnic groups to meet or exceed both the Regional Average Median Household Income and the Statewide Average Median Household Income are those that identify as Asian or White.



The racial/ethnic group with the lowest Average Median Wage and lowest Average Median Household Income in the Region is Black/African American.

The background is a solid dark blue color. On the left side, there are two overlapping circles of a lighter blue shade. The top circle is partially cut off by the edge of the frame. The bottom circle is larger and overlaps the top one.

# Data Snapshots of the North Region





# Opportunity to impact social vulnerability

All communities in the United States exhibit vulnerabilities to potential disaster (both natural and human causes). But it's a community's social vulnerability that may determine how well it responds to and recovers from a disaster. The socially vulnerable are more likely to be less prepared for a disaster, and less likely to recover. Addressing social vulnerability at a regional level with key anchor institutions will decrease human suffering and reduce post-disaster costs. In the North Central Region, there are opportunities for further partnerships between public and private sectors to further positively impact the social vulnerabilities of its communities.

About the Social Vulnerability Index (SVI):

**The Social Vulnerability Index (SVI) is a database from the CDC that ranks social vulnerability of US Census Tracts. There are 15 Census variables that funnel into four main themes. The SVI rankings use a percentile ranking method, where "0" means least vulnerable, and "1.0" means most vulnerable. Below are the variables and themes for the SVI as well as the overall rankings for the North Central Region of Indiana.**

**1**

## **Socioeconomic status**

- **Below Poverty**
- Unemployed
- Income
- No High School Diploma\*

**2**

## **Minority Status & Language**

- **Minority**
- Speak English "Less than Well"

**3**

## **Household Composition & Disability**

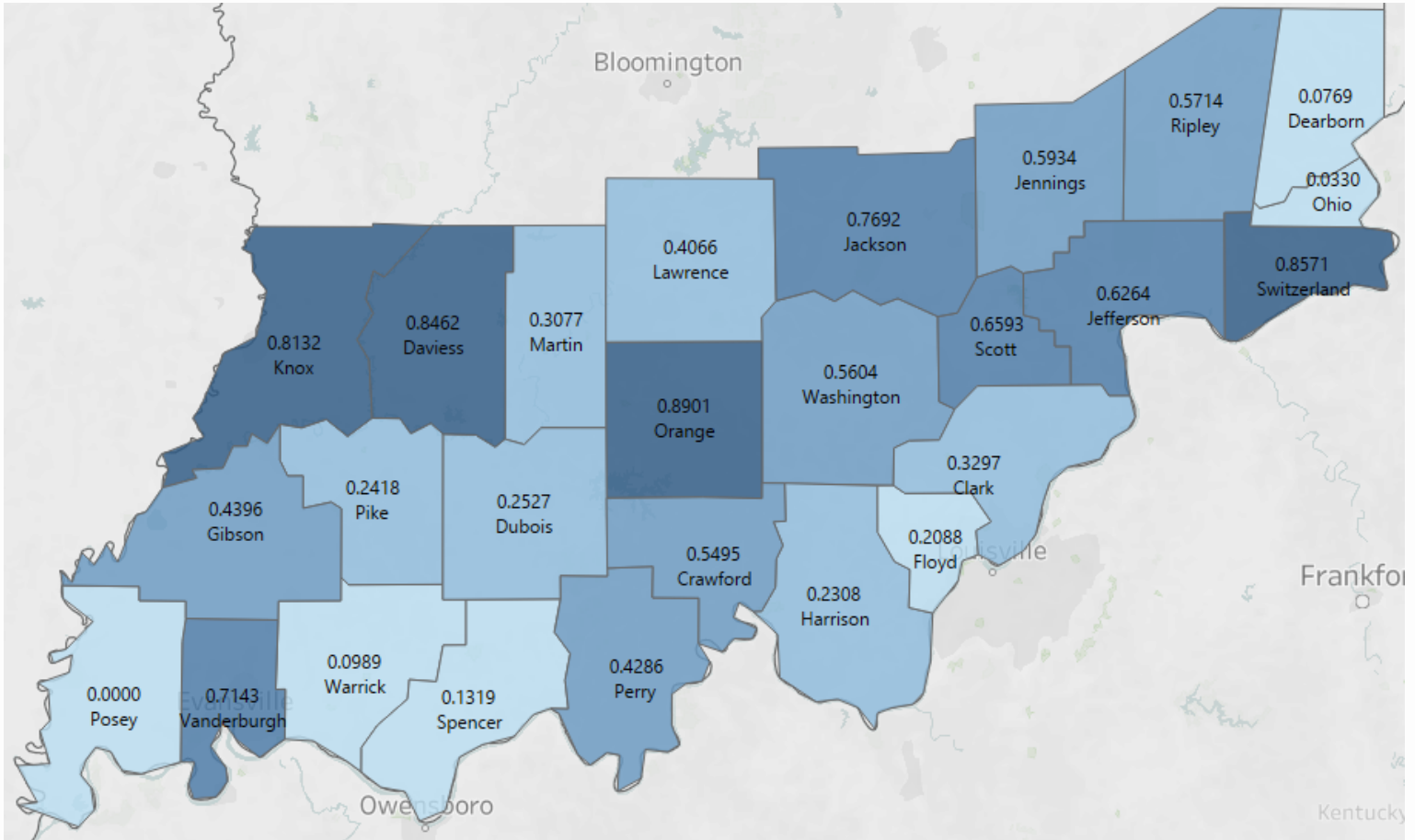
- **Aged 65 and Older**
- Aged 17 and Younger
- Civilian with a Disability
- Single-Parent Households

**4**

## **Housing & Transportation**

- **Multi-Unit Structures**
- Mobile Homes
- Crowding
- No Vehicle
- Group Quarters

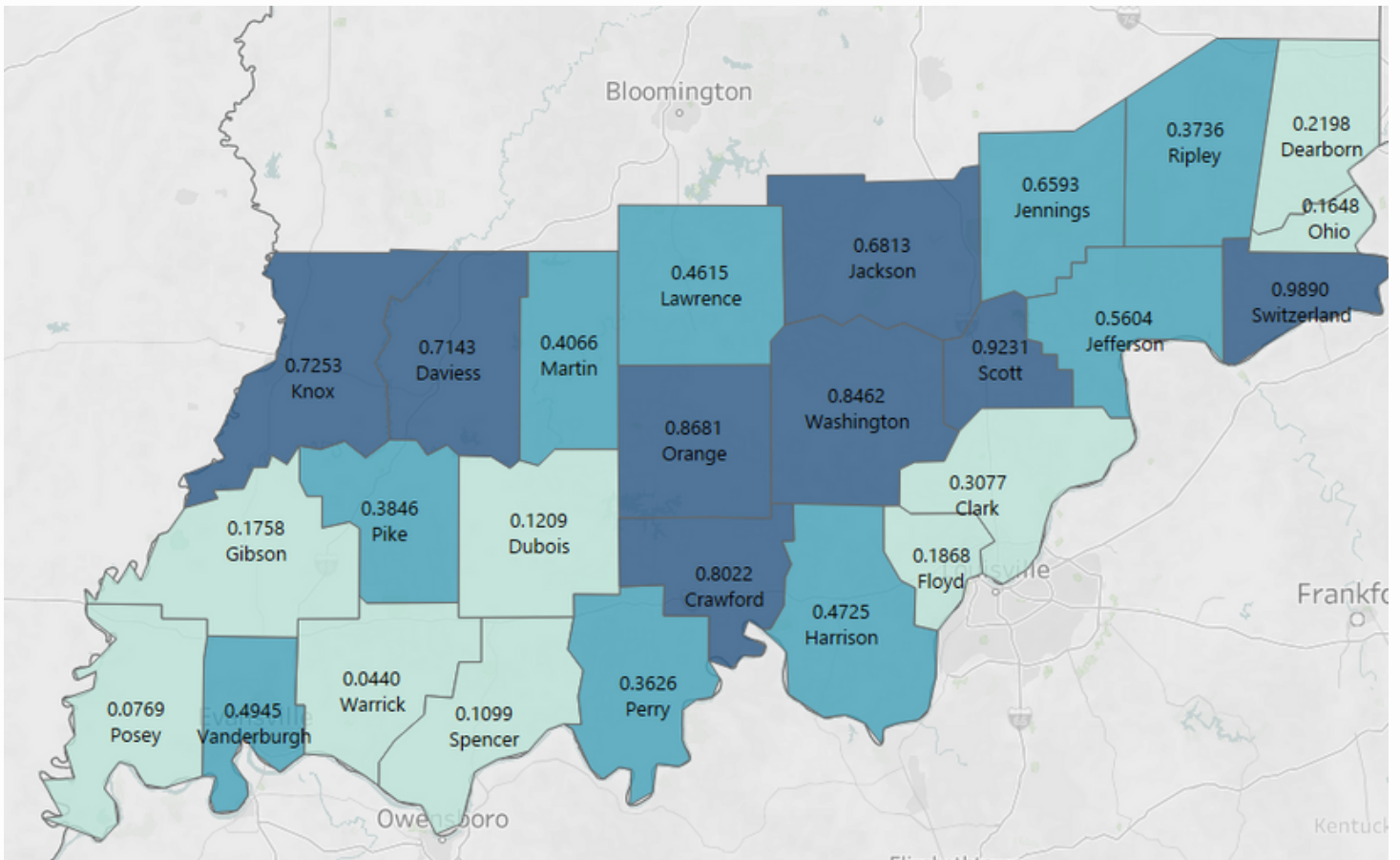
# Overall SVI



Counties with the highest Overall Vulnerability (minimum 0.7500 SVI):

- Orange (0.890)
- Switzerland (0.857)
- Daviess (0.846)
- Knox (0.813)
- Jackson (0.769)

# SVI - Socioeconomic Status



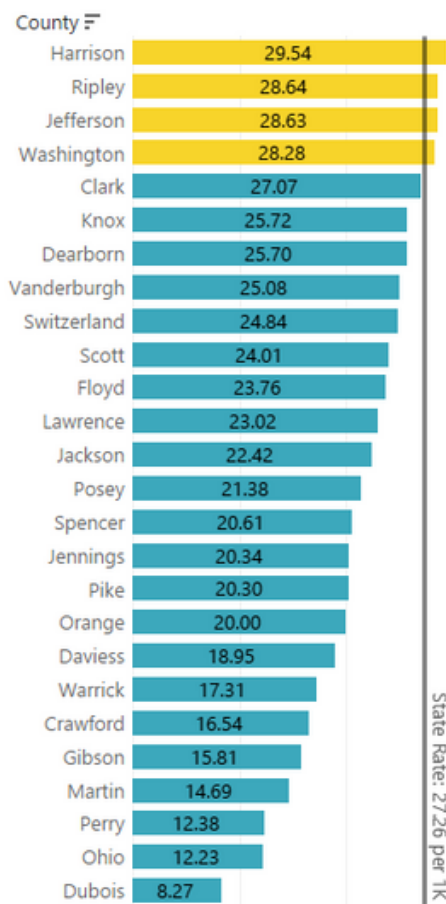
Counties with the highest vulnerability (minimum 0.7500 SVI):

- Switzerland (0.989)
  - Highest Estimated Persons Below Poverty in Region
  - 2nd Highest Socioeconomic Vulnerability in the State
- Scott (0.923)
- Orange (0.868)
- Washington (0.846)
- Crawford (0.802)
  - Lowest Estimated Per Capita Income in State

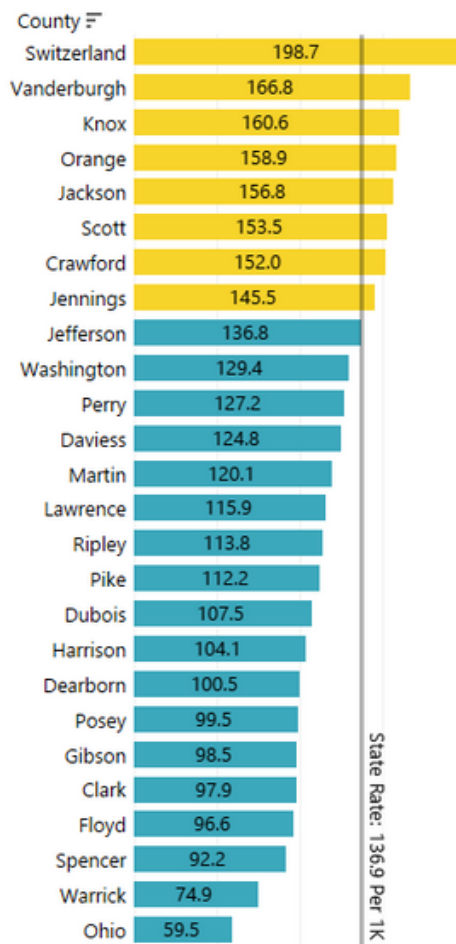


# SVI - Socioeconomic Status

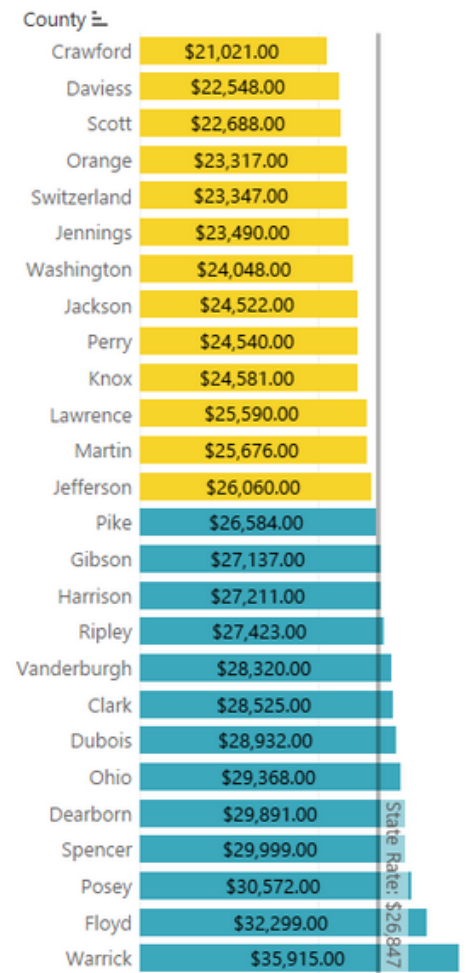
Civilian (age 16+) Unemployed Estimate  
2014-2018 ACS



Persons Below Poverty Estimate  
2014-2018 ACS

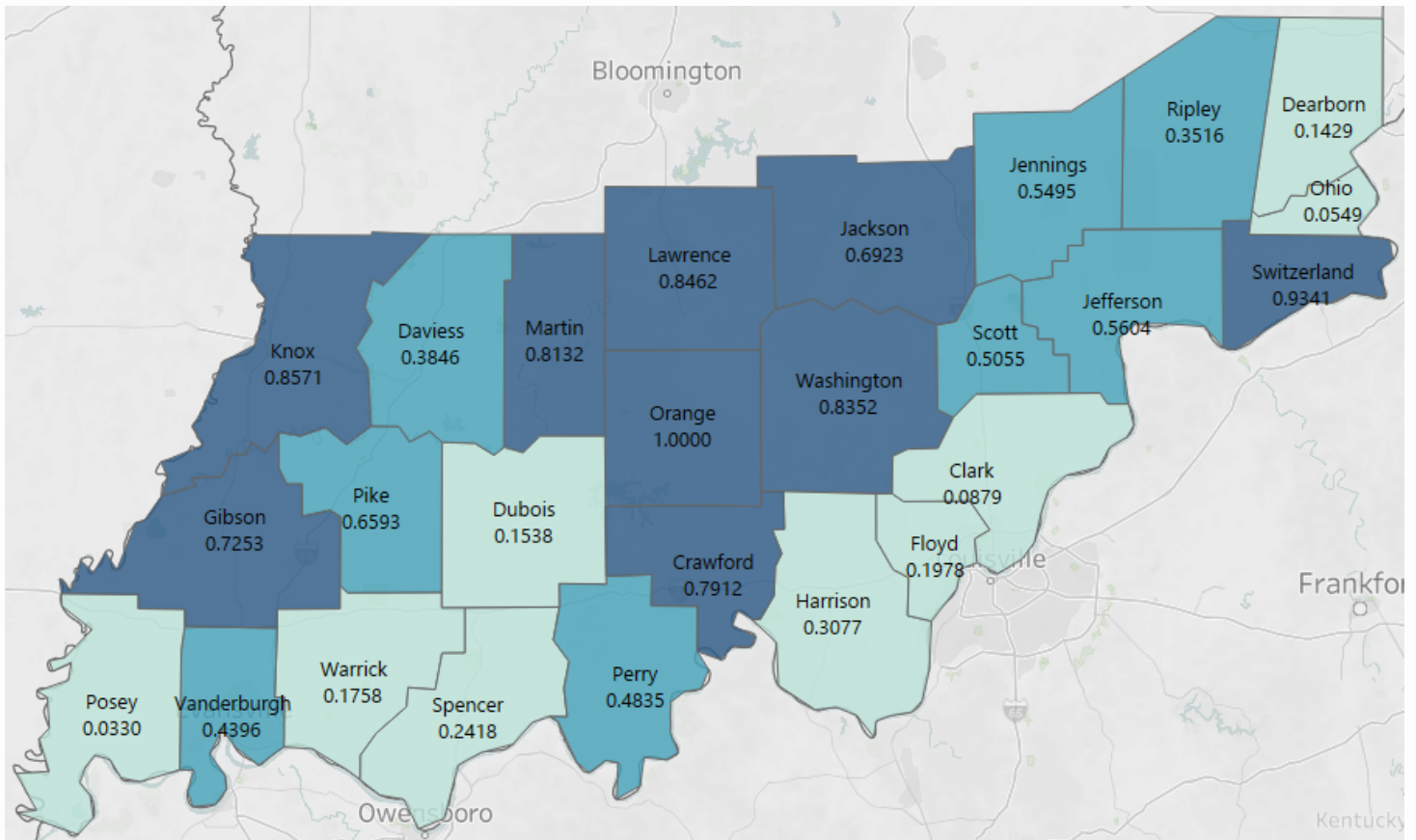


Estimated Per Capita Income



- Except for Washington County, all the most vulnerable counties have a Persons Below Poverty Estimate that is higher than the state average.
- All the most vulnerable counties struggle with an Estimated Per Capita Income that is lower than the state average.

# SVI - Household Composition and Disability

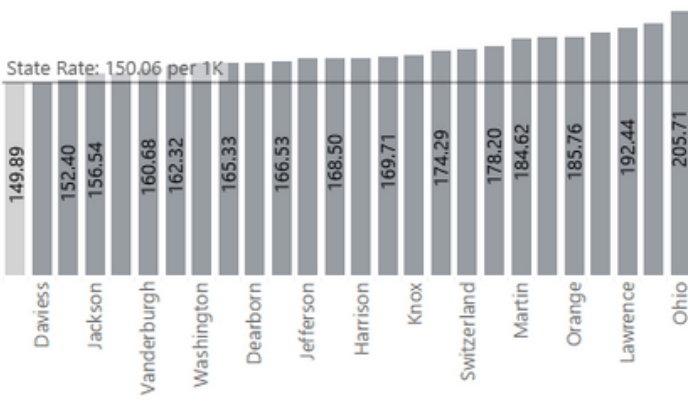


Counties with the highest vulnerability (minimum 0.7500 SVI):

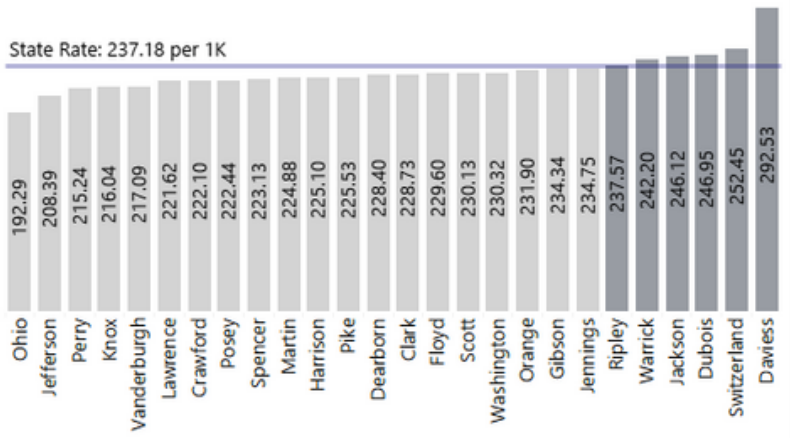
- Orange (1.000)
  - Highest Household Composition and Disability Vulnerability in the State
  - Highest Estimated Population with a Disability in the State
- Switzerland (0.934)
- Knox (0.857)
  - 2nd Highest Estimated Single Parent Households in Region
- Lawrence (0.846)
- Washington (0.835)
- Martin (0.813)
- Crawford (0.791)

# SVI - Household Composition and Disability

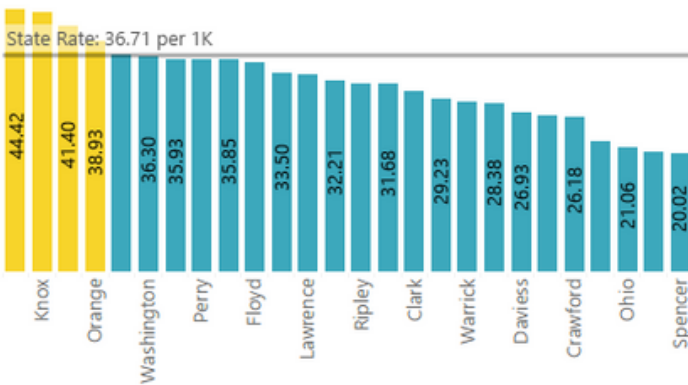
Persons Aged 65 and Older Estimate (2014-2018 ACS)



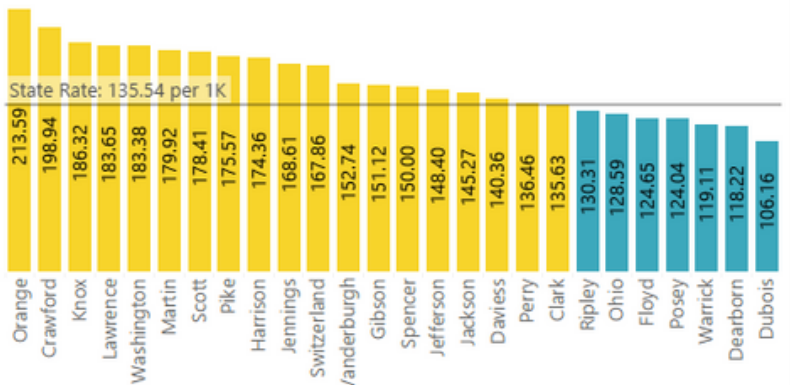
Persons Aged 17 and Younger Estimate (2014-2018 ACS)



Single Parent Household with Children Under 18 Estimate (2014-2018 ACS)



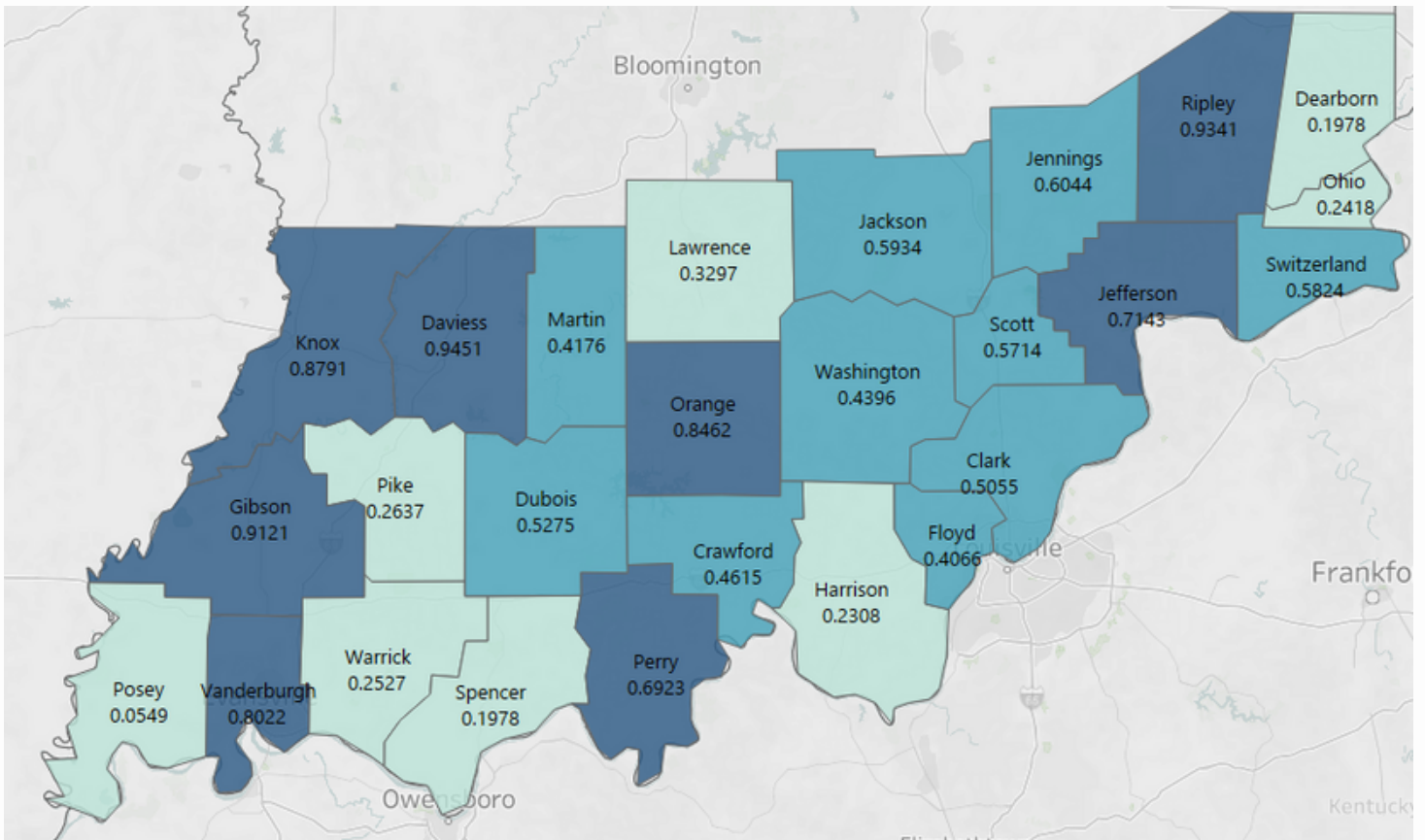
Civilian Non-institutionalized Pop with a Disability Estimate (2014-2018 ACS)



- Orange County and Knox County both have Estimated Single Parent Household rates that are higher than the state average.
- All the most vulnerable counties have a Population with a Disability that is higher than the state average.



# SVI - Housing and Transportation



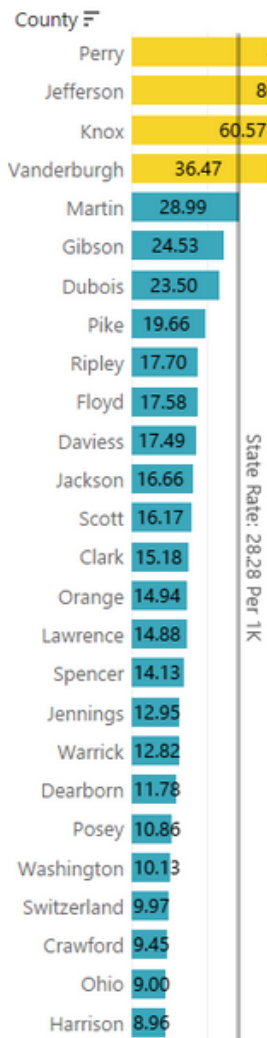
## Counties with the highest vulnerability (minimum 0.7500 SVI):

- Daviess (0.945)
  - Highest Estimated No Access to Vehicle in Region
- Ripley (0.934)
  - 2nd Highest Estimated Overcrowded Households in Region
- Gibson (0.912)
- Knox (0.879)
  - 3rd Highest Estimated Persons in Institutional Group Quarters in Region
- Orange (0.846)
- Vanderburgh (0.802)

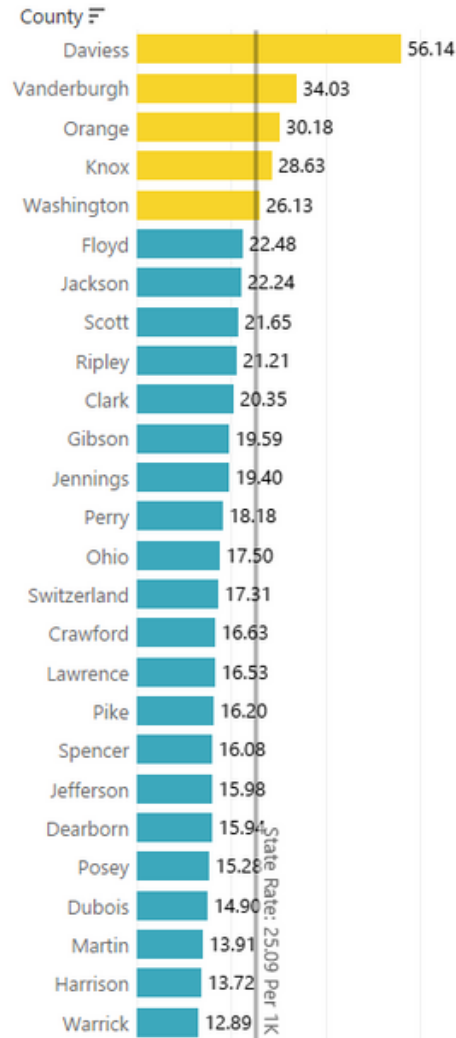


# SVI - Housing and Transportation

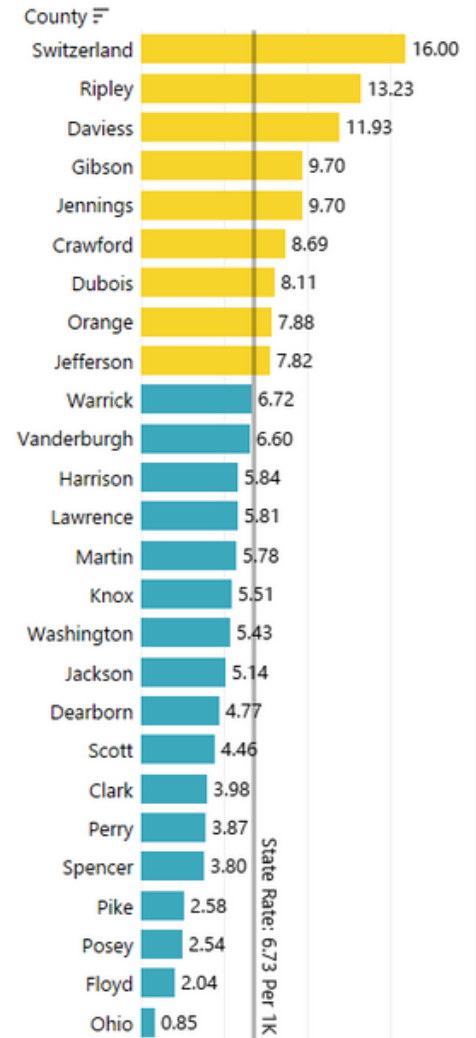
Estimated Persons in Institutional Group Quarters 2014-2018 ACS



Estimated No Access to Vehicle 2014-2018 ACS



Estimated Overcrowded Households 2014-2018 ACS

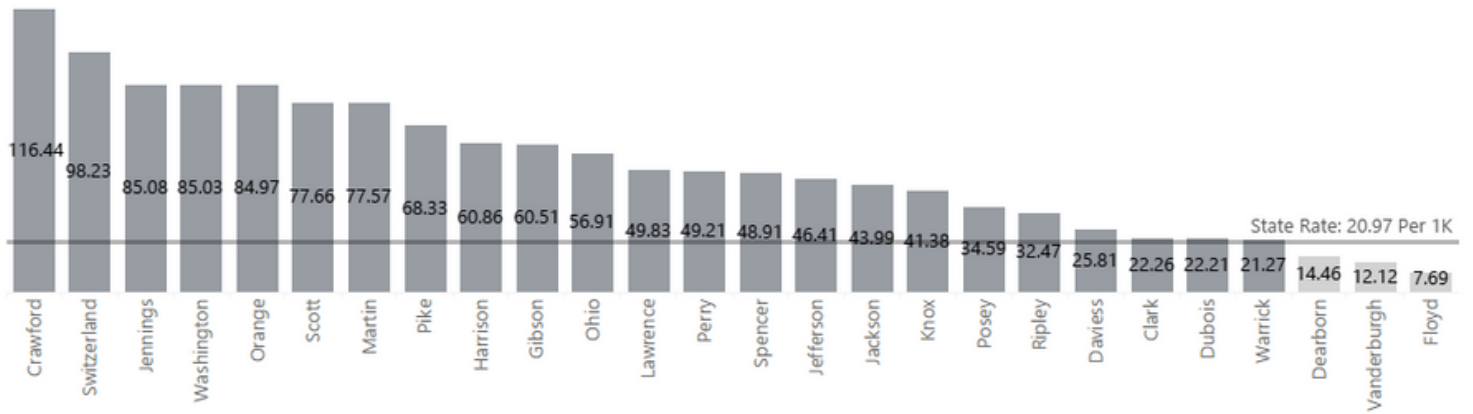


- Knox County and Vanderburgh County have Estimated Persons in Institutional Group Quarters that are higher than the state average.
  - Group Quarters differ from typical household living arrangements because the people living in them are usually not related to one another. Group quarters include such places as college residence halls, residential treatment centers, skilled nursing facilities, group homes, military barracks, prisons, and worker dormitories.
- Daviess County, Knox County, Orange County, and Vanderburgh County all have Estimated No Access to Vehicle that is higher than the state average.
- All the most vulnerable counties except Knox County and Vanderburgh County have Estimate Overcrowded Households that are higher than the state average.

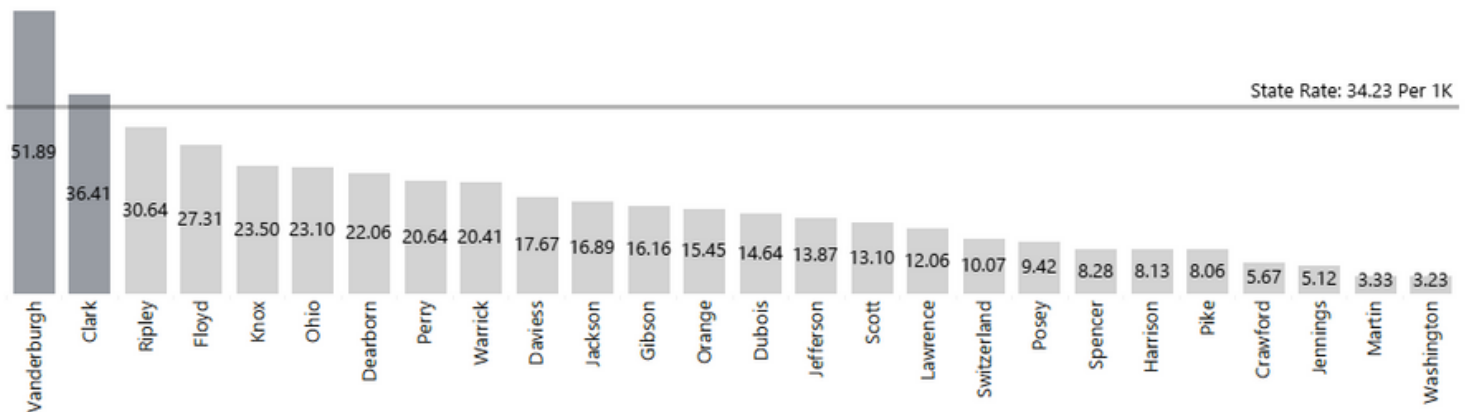
# SVI - Housing and Transportation



Estimated Mobile Homes 2014-2018 ACS



Estimated Housing with 10 or More Units 2014-2018 ACS

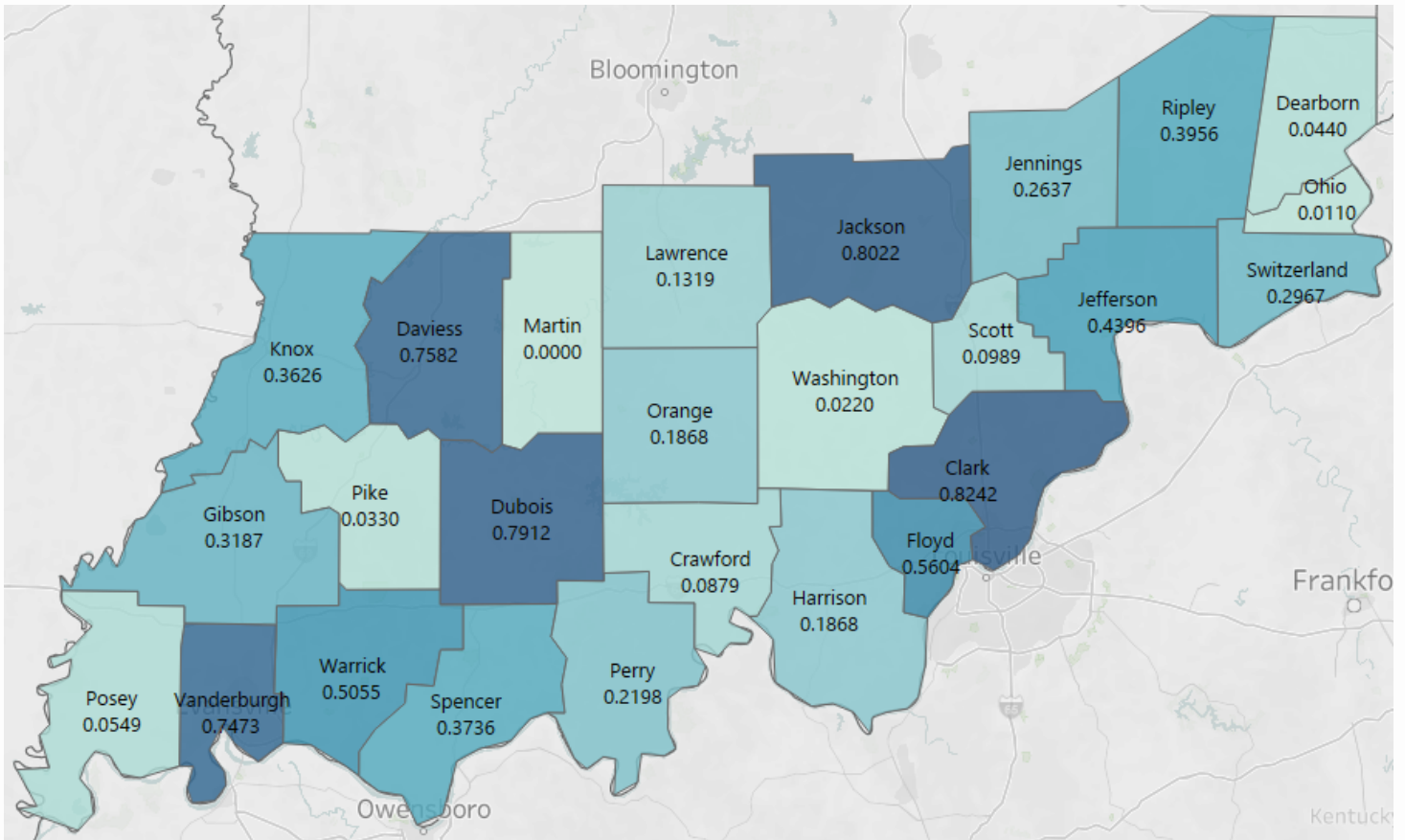








# SVI - Minority Status and Language



Counties with the highest vulnerability (minimum 0.7500 SVI):

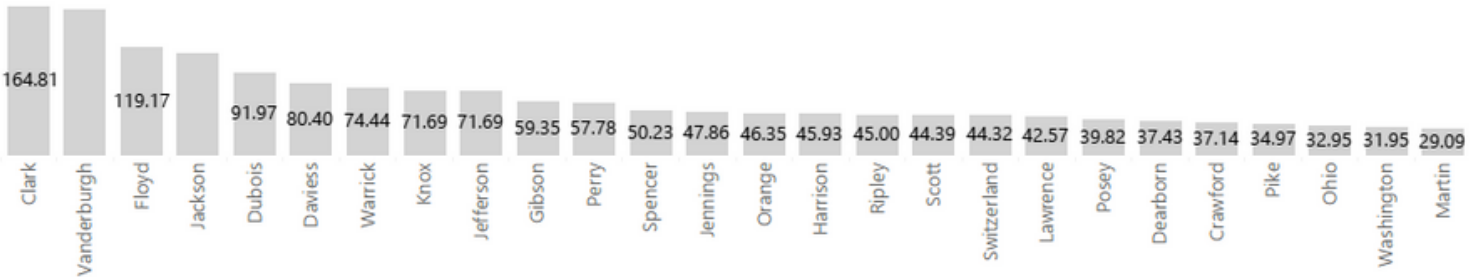
- Clark (0.824)
  - Highest Estimated Minority Population in Region
- Jackson (0.802)
  - Highest Estimated Population who Speak English “Less Than Well” in Region
- Dubois (0.791)
- Daviess (0.758)



# SVI - Minority Status and Language

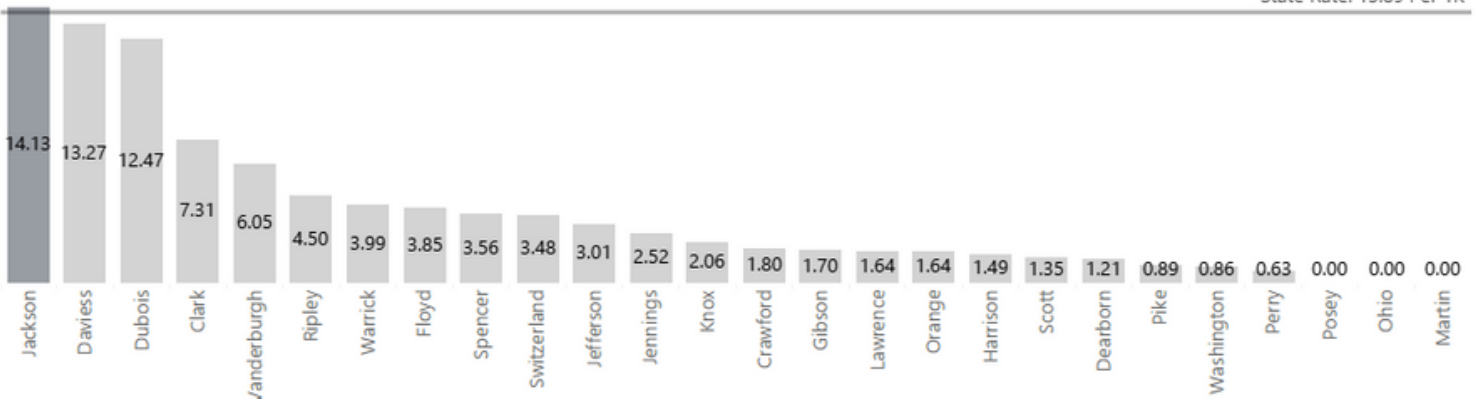
Estimated Minority Population  
2014-2018 ACS

State Rate: 205.2 Per 1K



Estimated Emerging Bilingual  
2014-2018 ACS

State Rate: 13.89 Per 1K



- No county in the South Region has an Estimated Minority Population at/above the state average.
- Jackson County has an Estimated Population who Speak English “Less Than Well” that is slightly above the state average.



# Thank You

Special thanks to our partners across the public and private sectors for your continued investment in the lives of our Hoosier neighbors. As we collaborate across agencies and with Hoosier leaders, neighbors and friends throughout the state, we will continue to evaluate, adjust, expand and develop these reports to meet the needs of our community and business leaders. While our work in these areas is informed by many resources in addition to the data presented here, we hope you will use this report as a gateway to open up conversations regarding Indiana's opportunities to provide the tools necessary for all Hoosiers to experience their best quality of life. In order to get there, let's hold one another accountable. This is a great start.



# Data Sources

## **Center for Disease Control - Social Vulnerability Index (SVI)**

Date(s): 2018 (update occurred in March of 2020)

Granularity: aggregate at the county level

## **Indiana Department of Education - IREAD-3**

Date(s): 2018-2021

Granularity: aggregate at the county level

## **Indiana Management Performance Hub - Employment, Sustained Employed, Median Wage**

Date(s): 2009-1010 Indiana graduation cohort

Granularity: aggregate at the county level

Note: This dataset includes linked records between the Indiana Department of Workforce Development and Indiana Department of Education. For any n less than 10 the data was removed and marked "suppressed" in the dataset.

Secondary suppression was also applied where an n less than 10 could be calculated (removed and marked "disclosure").

## **Indiana Management Performance Hub - Education Attainment**

Date(s): 2012-2016

Granularity: aggregate at the county level

Note: This U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey (ACS) five-year estimates data set includes information about education attainment in a number of geographic areas ranging from statewide to census tract.

For any questions please contact [govceioo@gov.in.gov](mailto:govceioo@gov.in.gov).

A nighttime aerial photograph of the Indiana State Capitol building in Indianapolis, illuminated against a dark sky. The building's dome is a prominent feature. Surrounding the capitol are various modern skyscrapers and city buildings, some with glowing windows. The foreground shows a well-lit walkway and greenery. In the top right corner, there are two overlapping circular graphic elements: a light blue one and a larger yellow one.

# **OFFICE OF THE CHIEF EQUITY, INCLUSION, AND OPPORTUNITY OFFICER**

**Report Concept: Karrah Herring**

**Report Creation & Execution: Anthony Phillips II & Josie Fasoldt**