Building Data Capacity to Enhance Opportunity in Indianapolis

Our Agenda

Part 1: Overview of the landscape of poverty in Central Indiana	30 min
Part 2: Framing problems and forming research questions	55 min
Part 3: Overview of Poverty Data Sources	15 min
Take a Break	15 min
Part 4: SAVI Data & Tools	120 min

PART 1 – POVERTY AND FINANCIAL STABILITY IN CENTRAL INDIANA

What is Poverty?

A person in poverty lives in a family or household where the total income is less than the poverty guideline for their household size

The U.S. Census Bureau is responsible for measuring poverty. Developed in 1963-1964 to describe the minimum income to meet basic needs, based on the minimum cost of food for a family, multiplied by three.

U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, Institute for Research on Poverty

People in household	Poverty guideline
1	$ 12,490
2	$ 16,910
3	$ 21,330
4	$ 25,750
5	$ 30,170

Average Marion County household has 2.5 people

U.S. Departmentof Health and Human Services

Big Picture Poverty Trends

Poverty has not fallen in past half century, despite strong economic growth.

2x

Last 50 years

GDP per capita has doubled in last half century, even adjusted for inflation.

Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis

→

12%

1969   2018
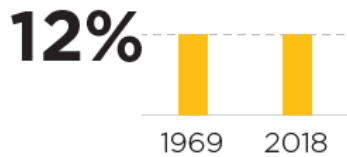
But the poverty rate has held steady.

U.S. Census Bureau

→

According to some researchers this is because...

More single parent households, which are more likely to be in poverty

Income inequality is increasing

Hoynes et al. (2005)

Big Picture Poverty Trends

Pct. of age 65+ in poverty

29% in 1966

Nationally, we have cut poverty for older adults by a third, largely through Social Security benefits.

U.S. Census Bureau, Engelhardt (2004)

10% in 2018

1966

2018

Poverty Trends in Indianapolis

There are a few ways to measure poverty, but they all point to the same trend: about one-sixth of Indy residents live in poverty.

1-in-6

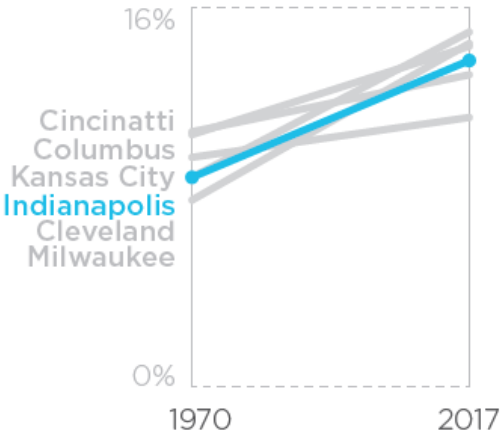Marion County residents live in poverty, a total of **150,000 to 200,000**

20% American Community Survey 2013-2017 5-Year Average

16% American Community Survey 2018 1-Year Average

17% U.S. Census Small Area Income and Poverty Estimate 2018

Poverty Trends in Indianapolis

Cincinatti
Columbus
Kansas City
Indianapolis
Cleveland
Milwaukee

16%
0%

1970   2017

Poverty in the Indy metro rose 5 points to 14% since 1970, similar to other Midwestern metros.

Pre-war, center-city neighborhoods have long had the highest poverty rates. The rate was 29% in 2017.

But poverty is growing fast in older suburban neighborhoods (the rate was 20% in 2017), where most people in poverty now live.

Many people above poverty line still struggle with financial insecurity

About 20% of individuals in Marion County live in poverty, but 40%-50% face financial insecurity. A family of three living in poverty is surviving on $21,330 or less, but to be self-sufficient, a three-person family with one school aged child in Marion County needs $43,300. Indiana Institute for Working Families

There are few ways to measure the problem.

Income levels
There are 100,000 households that earn $25K or less. There are another 100,000 households that earn $25K-$50K.

ALICE households
are asset limited, income constrained, and employed. In 2016, an estimated 29% of Marion County households fell into this group.

Housing cost burden
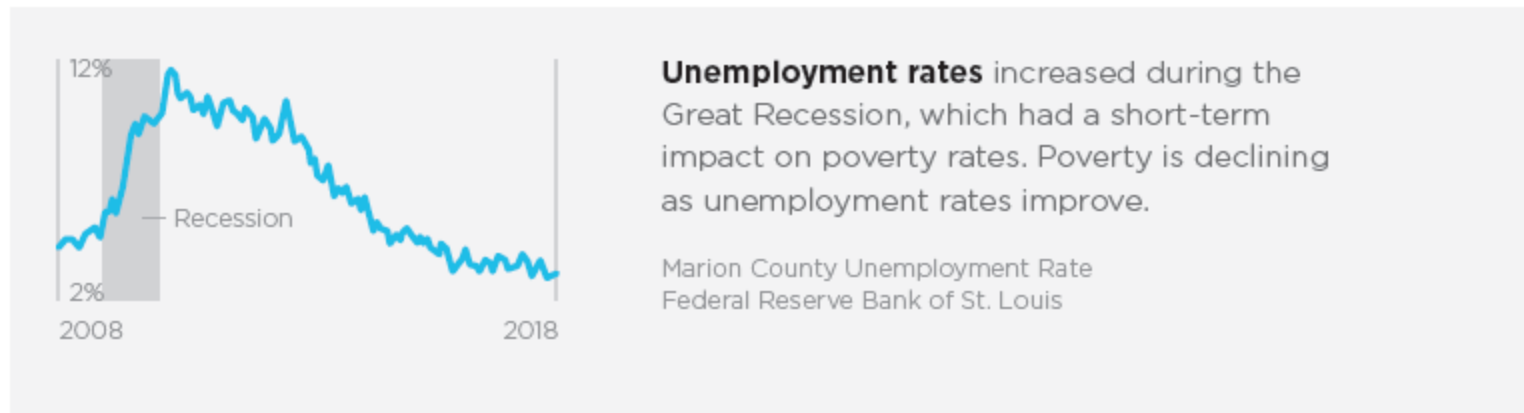One-third of Indy households spend over 30% of their income on housing costs, making them housing cost burdened.

Ratios of the poverty threshold
One-fifth of Indy (180,000 people) live above poverty but are still low-income, living below 185% of poverty. This income threshold qualifies them for many social services.

What contributes to poverty?

Poverty is complex, and there is no single cause. But we know sustained employment and sufficient earnings can pull people out of poverty, so anything that lowers employment rates or earnings contributes to increased poverty.

12%

— Recession

2%

2008   2018

Unemployment rates increased during the Great Recession, which had a short-term impact on poverty rates. Poverty is declining as unemployment rates improve.

Marion County Unemployment Rate
Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis

What contributes to poverty?

Unemployment is measured as a percentage of the labor force, **but half of people in poverty do not participate in the labor force.** This rate was driven down during the recession and has not recovered.

Labor force participation
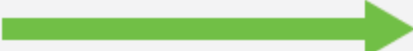
For people above poverty
72%

For people below poverty
48%

What contributes to poverty?

From 1970 to 2018,

179% →
GDP per capita, inflation adjusted

36% →
Avg. hourly pay, inflation adjusted

Wages for most workers have not kept pace with economic growth in the last 50 years.

Analysis by the Polis Center using data from U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics and U.S. Bureau of Economic Aanalysis.

What contributes to poverty?

155,000 < **880,000**

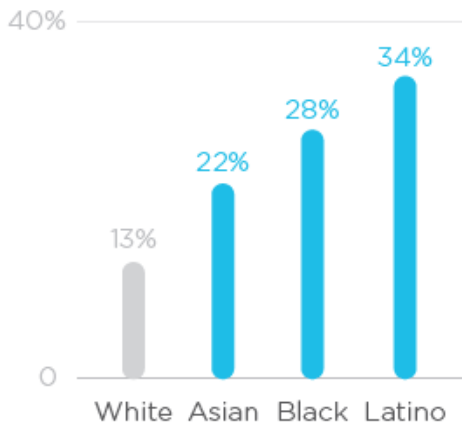'Good jobs' accessible to people without bachelor's degree in Central Indiana.

People age 25 or older without a bachelor's degree in Central Indiana

Brookings Institution. Good jobs are jobs that pay $37,440 per year and offer health insurance
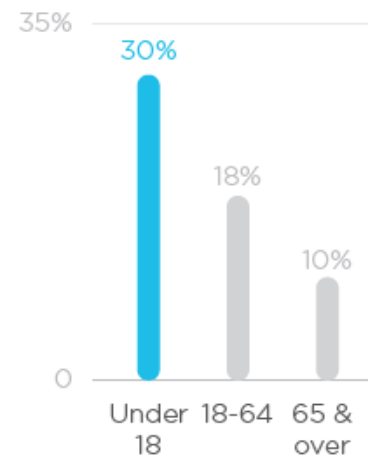
American Community Survey 2013-2017

Poverty rates for different groups

Poverty is much **more frequent among people of color** than among white people. Wealth inequality is an issue too: white households have 10 times the wealth of black households.

American Community Survey 2013-2017, Federal Reserve

Poverty is **most common among children** and least common among older adults.

American Community Survey 2013-2017

What causes these differences?

The average unemployment rate from 2013-2017 for black Marion County residents was 14%, compared to 6% for white residents.

American Community Survey 2013-2017

For Latino residents, unemployment tends to be low, but per capita income is lower for Latinos than for any other group ($13,900 compared to an average of $26,300)

American Community Survey 2013-2017

Social Security has significantly helped older adults avoid poverty, but there is no similar program that helps children at that scale.

97%
of U.S. seniors receive Social Security benefits

Social Security Administration

1.5%
of families with children in Marion County receive cash assistance through Temporary Assistance for Needy Families
FSSA

29%
of households with children in Marion County receive support from the Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program.
ACS 2013-2017

PART 2 - FRAMING PROBLEMS AND FORMING EFFECTIVE RESEARCH QUESTIONS

Forming Measurable Questions

What makes a question measurable?

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A measurable question should have each component clarified with enough detail that data sources can be located or created to answer it. The data can be both quantitative and qualitative.

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Each concept can have countless ways to measure it, and sometimes the most precise or insightful are not the most feasible.

Narrowing Measurable Questions

Broad

Narrow

How much do people make in Indianapolis?

What is the *median income* in Indianapolis?

What is the median *household* income in Indianapolis?

What is the median household income in *the Near Eastside*?

What was the median household income in the Near Eastside *in 2017*?

Types of Questions

Most important thinking requires one of the following categories of questions.

Who	Where	Why	How	Which
Who is affected the most by poverty?	Where do people on poverty live?	Why is poverty increasing in interstate neighborhoods? Why does it matter?	How can poverty in Central Indiana be solved?	Which factors are affecting poverty changes the most in central Indiana?

Let's Form Some Questions!

Imagine you are a neighborhood group in Irvington, and you want to apply for a grant. You want to start a program that will increase adult educational attainment.

What data can help you understand this issue and/or the scope of the program prior to designing and implementing a new program?

Role Reversal

Now imagine you are a funder hearing about this idea from the Irvington group.

What questions would you ask to ensure this is the right investment?

Group Work

Try to form a measureable question related to your organization's goals.

Groups of 4

10 minutes to work

Report back to the group

PART 3 – Overview of Poverty Data Sources

SAVI

- SAVI is a free, dynamic and scalable mapping and analytics environment, one of the nation's largest and most comprehensive community information systems.

- SAVI transforms raw government and nonprofit data into meaningful info about the communities.

- SAVI adds value by transforming 70 data sources into thousands of metrics about community demographics, strengths, needs, and opportunities.

- SAVI data processing and aggregations let you easily access data that is confidential or difficult to use in its original form.

- Examples of SAVI sources:
  - Census/ACS
  - IN211
  - Indiana State Department of Education
 - Marion County Public Health Department

American Community Survey (ACS)

- The American Community Survey is the US Census Bureau's replacement for long-form sample data. Long-form data is where we used to get information related to educational attainment, employment, income, and poverty.

- Differences from long-form data
    - Is conducted on a rolling basis, i.e., it is not tied to the decennial census (is released annually)
    - Data presented as an estimate with a margin-of-error
    - Availability of data is dependent on population of the census geography
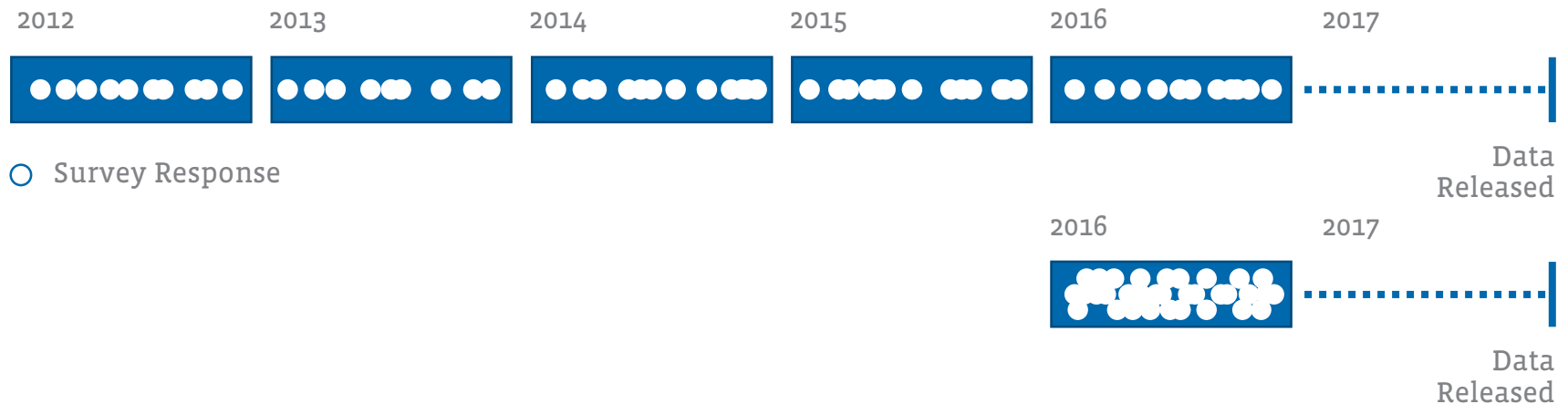
ACS 5-Year and 1-Year Estimates

ACS is conducted constantly each year. To get reliable estimates for small areas, it combines and averages surveys over five years.
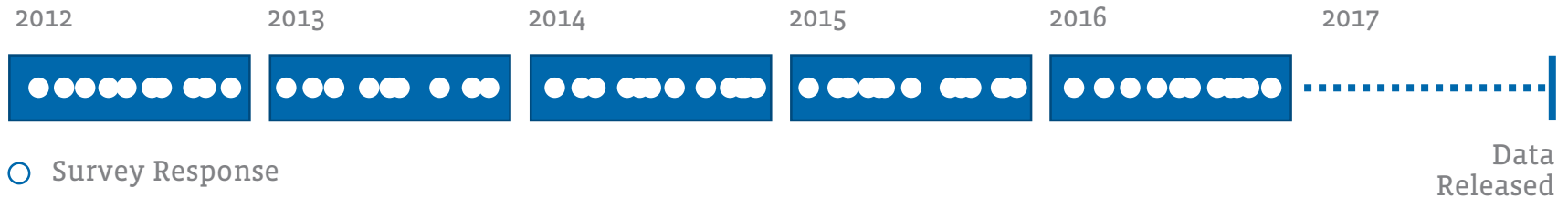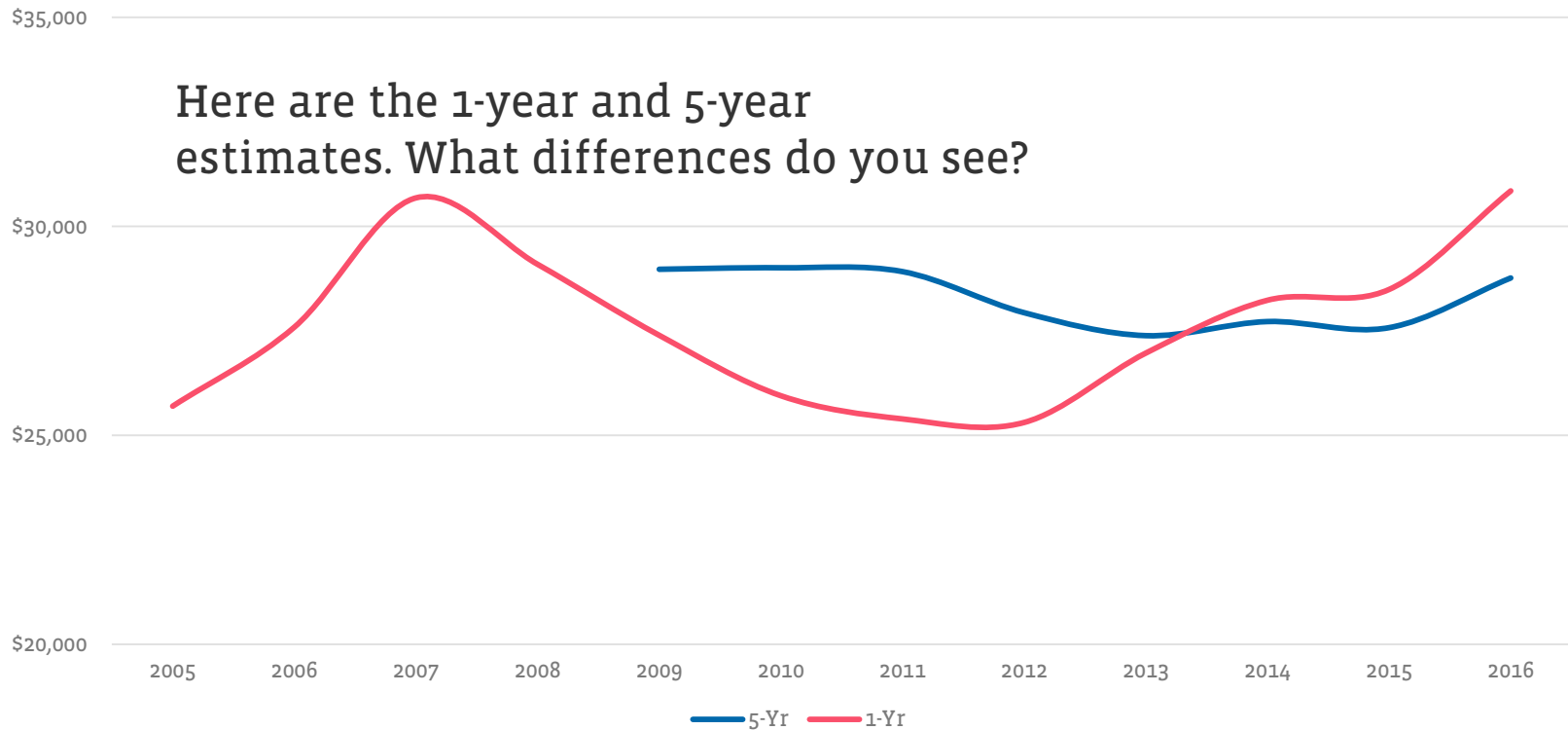
ACS 5-Year and 1-Year Estimates

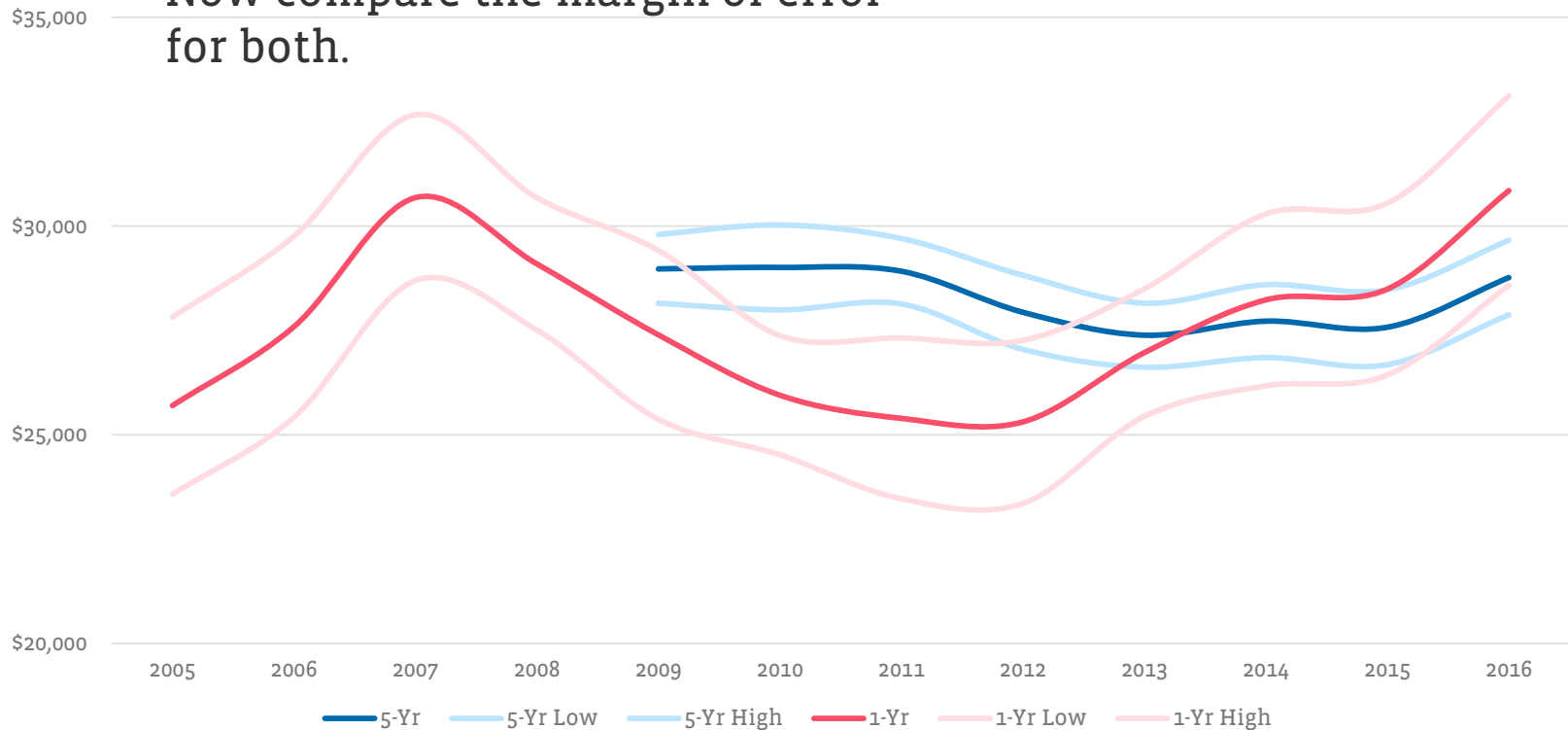But for areas with larger populations (over 65,000), the ACS releases 1-year estimates.

Comparing 1- and 5-Year

Here are the 1-year and 5-year estimates. What differences do you see?

Comparing 1- and 5-Year

Now compare the margin of error for both.

Hierarchy of Census Geographies

Smaller ⬇

- States
- Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs)
  - Counties
  - Cities
  - Townships
  - Census Tracts (~4,000 people or 1,500 housing units)
  - Block Groups (~1,500 people or 550 housing units)
  - Blocks (Very small)

For more information about census geographies:
(https://www2.census.gov/geo/pdfs/reference/geodiagram.pdf?#)

ACS Data in SAVI

- SAVI collects 5-year estimates and:
  - Processes it by:
    - Downloading it;
    - Examining for changes from prior years; and
    - Creating new normalizations (e.g. per square mile, as % of total pop).
  - Enhances it by:
    - Integrating it with other sources to get a fuller picture of a geography;
    - Aggregating/calculating it to custom boundaries;
    - Aggregating/calculating it to custom indicators (e.g. blue collar workers);
    - Making it easily accessible.

Census Poverty Briefs & Measures

- The Supplemental Poverty Measure:
  - Report and data that "extends the official poverty measure by taking account many of the government programs designed to assist low-income families and individuals that are not included in the official poverty measure."

- Poverty ACS Briefs:
  - Look at poverty changes between years, by different geographic levels and demographic characteristics.

Brookings Institution's *Advancing Opportunity in Central Indiana* report

- Looked at ways that Central Indiana can advance economic opportunity.

- The report identified four strategies to advance opportunity:
  - Growing good jobs
  - Improving job quality
  - Preparing people for good jobs
  - Supporting working families

Indiana ALICE Report

- **ALICE** is an acronym for **A**sset **L**imited, **I**ncome **C**onstrained, **E**mployed.

- The report looked at households that are above poverty but cannot afford a Household Survival Budget. This budget included things such as housing and food as well as child care and transportation.

Indiana ALICE Report

Household Survival Budget, Indiana Average, 2016		
	SINGLE ADULT	**2 ADULTS, 1 INFANT, 1 PRESCHOOLER**
Monthly Costs		
Housing	$487	$714
Child Care	$-	$832
Food	$158	$525
Transportation	$348	$695
Health Care	$214	$800
Technology	$55	$75
Miscellaneous	$149	$400
Taxes	$224	$362
Monthly Total	$1,635	$4,403
ANNUAL TOTAL	$19,620	$52,836
*Hourly Wage**	$9.81	$26.42

*Full-time wage required to support this budget

Indiana ALICE Report

- The report found that:
  - In Indiana there are almost twice as many ALICE households (25%) than households living in Poverty (14%).
  - Households with an income below the Household Survival budget had increase by 10% since 2016.
  - 65% of jobs in Indiana are low-wage jobs (less than $20 per hour).

Indiana Business Research Center

- STATS Indiana: https://www.stats.indiana.edu/
  - Demographic and economic data for states, regions, counties, and cities.

- Hoosiers by the Numbers: http://www.hoosierdata.in.gov/
  - Primary source for labor market information for Indiana.
 - Topics relating to commuting, industry jobs, and sector.

Take a break!

![SAVI — What's trending in your community?]

PART 4 – SAVI Tools

IndyVitals

www.indyvitals.org

- Data: 50-60 SAVI indicators

- Geo. Scope: Marion County

- Geo. Detail: Neighborhood areas

- Combine data into custom boundaries: No

- User interaction: Very quick to get data , compare, view trends, multiple visualization options, advanced levels allow more customization, detail
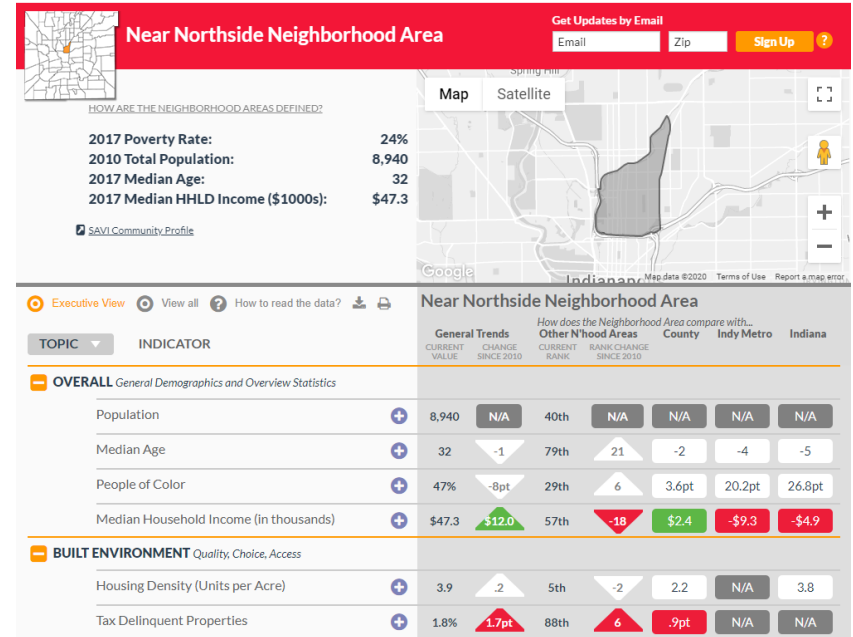
IndyVitals - Topics

- Overall
- Built Environment
- Economy and Jobs
- Education
- Equity and Empowerment
- Health & Safety

- Natural Systems
- Some Assets:
    - Libraries
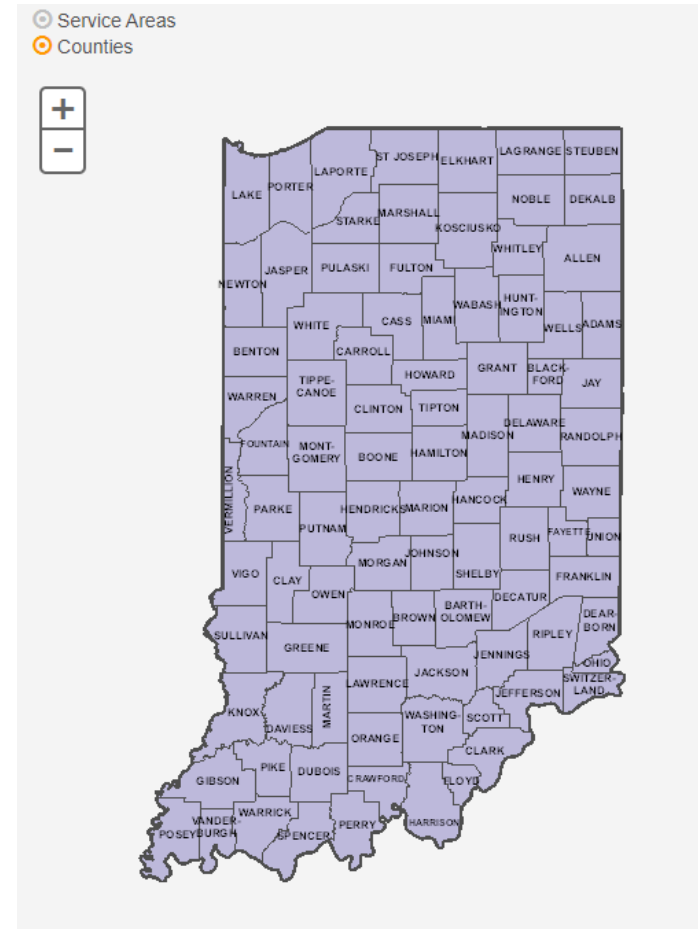   - Schools
    - Greenways
    - Parks

Indiana Impact

www.indianaimpact.org

- Data: 50-60 indicators tracking change related to UWCI's core mission: education, financial stability, and health

- Geographic scope: State of Indiana

- Geographic detail: Counties, UW Service Areas

- Combine data into custom boundaries: No

- User interaction: Very quick to find data, not as customizable

Indiana Impact - Topics

- Population

- Education

- Income

- Health

Community Assessment Tool

www.assessment.savi.org

- Data: Hundreds of SAVI Indicators

- Scope: Central Indiana

- Detail: Counties, townships, tracts, school corps

- Combine data into custom boundaries: Yes

- User interaction: Quick to get data; create customizable report (editable in MS Word); dashboard shows comparisons, relative progress, and disparities

UWCI SERVICE AREA

	Total Population	By Demographics							
		Age				Race/Ethnicity		
		0-5	0-18	18-64	65+	Hispanic	Black	White
Poverty ⊕ Poverty Rate	14%	23%	20%	13%	7%	30%	26%	9%

Community Assessment Tool – Geographies & Tools

Geographies:

- Counties

- Townships

- School Corporations

- 2010 Census Tracts

Topics:

- General Economics and Demographics

- Education

- Health

- Financial Stability

- Basic Needs

- Assets:
    - Basic Needs
    - Education
    - Foundational
    - Health
    - Financial Stability

Community Profiles

http://profiles.savi.org/

- Data: 100-200 indicators

- Geo. Scope: Central Indiana

- Geo. Detail: Most geographies SAVI processes

- Combine data into custom boundaries: Yes

- User interaction: Quick to get data, create customizable report

Community Profiles - Geographies & Tools

Geographies:

- 2010 Blockgroups
- 2010 Census Tracts
- Townships
- Counties
- Zip Code Tabulation Areas
- Indy Vitals Neighborhoods
- School Corporations
- GINI Neighborhoods
- Health Planning Areas

Topics:

- Community Assets
- Demographics
- Economy
- Education
- Environment
- Equity
- Financial Stability
- Health
- Housing & Neighborhood Development
- Infrastructure & Amenities
- Safety

Topic Profiles

http://profiles.savi.org/topics

- Data: 100-200 indicators

- Scope: Central Indiana

- Detail: 4-5 geographies

- Combine data into custom boundaries: No

- User interaction: Quick to get data, Indicators combined by topic

Population Profiles

http://profiles.savi.org/populations

- Data: 100-200 indicators

- Scope: Central Indiana

- Detail: 4-5 geographies

- Combine data into custom boundaries: No

- User interaction: Quick to get data, Indicators combined by population

Let's explore the tools!

Topic Profiles

http://profiles.savi.org/topics

Group Work

Use the Equity Topic Profile to answer the questions on the next slide.

Groups of 2

20 minutes to work

Report back to the group

Group Work

1. Which part of Marion County has the highest income inequality?

2. Which part of Marion County has the highest median household income among white households?

3. What is the median earnings gap between men and women in the metropolitan area? Is the gap bigger or smaller than in Marion County?

4. Which race is more likely to graduate from high school in the region? White students or black students? And in Marion County?

Population Profiles

http://profiles.savi.org/populations

Community Profiles

http://profiles.savi.org/

Group Work

Use Community Profiles to identify the items on the following slide.

Groups of 2

20 minutes to work

Report back to the group

Group Work

1. 10 different resources or organizations they could partner with in their project

2. 5 indicators that show the financial stability challenges

3. 2 indicators showing vulnerable populations

4. 3 other indicators of interest

Any Questions?