SAVI ONLINE Magazine

what's trending in your community

SPRING 2015

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HOW SAVI CAN HELP

SAVI'S LOCATION-BASED INFORMATION AND SERVICES HELP THE HEALTH SECTOR, INCLUDING:

Health Departments

Hospitals & Medical Centers

Teachers & Students

Health Policy & Research Organizations

Nonprofit Health Organizations

HEALTH DEPARTMENTS

- Conduct community health needs assessments
- Identify vulnerable and at-risk populations
- Identify and address health disparities
- Identity areas to target prevention and intervention programs
- Allocate public health resources
- Inform conversations with community stakeholders

HOSPITALS & MEDICAL CENTERS

- Conduct community health needs assessments
- Identify health care markets
- Identify and track the population and service area for an Accountable Care Organization
- Analyze and select new health care sites (or Locate health services)
- Identify more cost-effective delivery modes
- Plan place-based programs and services

RESEARCHERS & POLICY ANALYSTS

- Investigate social determinants of health
- Analyze access to health care
- Evaluate program effectiveness
- Explore the causes of health disparities

SAVI'S LOCATION-BASED INFORMATION AND SERVICES CAN HELP NONPROFIT HEALTH ORGANIZATIONS TO:

1 Identify neighborhoods for target interventions

2 Identify underserved populations

3 Plan place-based programs and services

4 Conduct community assessments

5 Map client locations to assess service area

6 Identify social factors of population served

SAVI IS A VALUABLE INFORMATION SOURCE FOR TEACHERS AND STUDENTS, INCLUDING THOSE IN THE HEALTH-RELATED FIELDS OF:

• Public Health	• Medicine	• Rehabilitative Science
• Nursing	• Dentistry	• Social Work
• Health Economics	• Health Informatics	• Sociology

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For SAVI Health Initiatives, contact Karen Comer, kfrederi@iupui.edu

HELPING CENTRAL INDIANA'S MOST VULNERABLE INFANTS

Setting a child up for success begins before birth and continues into the critical postnatal period. But many of Marion County's most at-risk mothers and infants do not have access to the support services that are important to a child's successful development.

This is where the Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP) comes in. Developed after 30 years of research, this national program reduces rates of low-weight births, increases the number of full-term births, increases both breastfeeding rates and the length of time infants breastfeed, and reduces child abuse and neglect. This evidence-based, nurse-led community health program has only been in Indiana for three years, but in that time it has made a difference, making sure potentially at-risk mothers have access to the proper pre- and postnatal care.

The program currently serves 600 mothers. In the next three years, NFP would like to double the number of mothers it engages and expand beyond Marion County. NFP is partnering with SAVI to identify geographic areas of unmet need. By mapping the NFP client population and comparing it to the target population (first time mothers eligible for Medicaid), SAVI is helping NFP identify geographic areas to focus future recruitment efforts. NFP finds mothers through community organizations, doctor referrals, schools and faith-based communities.

"NFP's goals and outcomes are data-driven, so the need for reliable, timely data is crucial," says Lisa Crane, Director of Operations at NFP. In addition to helping NFP reach eligible mothers, SAVI is helping NFP to be even more strategic in achieving its desired outcomes for families and tailoring its support to each mother's specific needs and location. SAVI provides a wealth of useful information about the communities in which enrolled mothers live, including environmental risks, such as high crime or lack of affordable housing, as well as availability of complementary community-based services, such as housing assistance.

The program enrolls mothers by their 28th week of pregnancy and engages
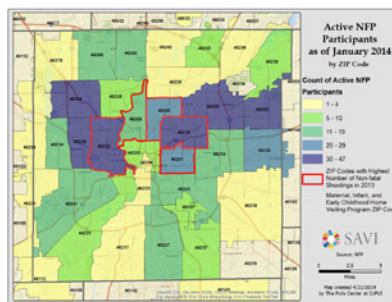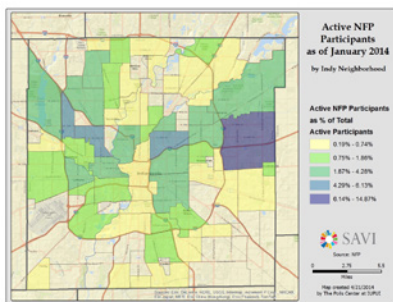
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them with nurse home visits up until their child's second birthday. In the time they've been working with mothers in Marion County, 87 percent of the babies in the program were born full term, 88 percent were born at a healthy weight and 92 percent were fully immunized. While NFP nurse visits continue until a child's second birthday, the program works with Goodwill Industries to provide other resources for families until the child enters kindergarten.

"We're dedicated to continuous quality improvement to make sure we're always meeting our outcomes and improving any of the measures that need to be improved," Crane says. "We're really confident that with the direction we're headed and knowing the tools that SAVI offers, …we're going to be able to say look, we're making a difference."

NFP is partnering with SAVI to identify strategies for increasing program participation and improving its support services. The new SAVI Advanced tool allows NFP to map its current participants in relation to eligible mothers to identify underserved areas. By combing this with data about affordable housing, crime, and birth outcomes, NFP can further explore potential neighborhoods to focus its efforts.

LEARN MORE →
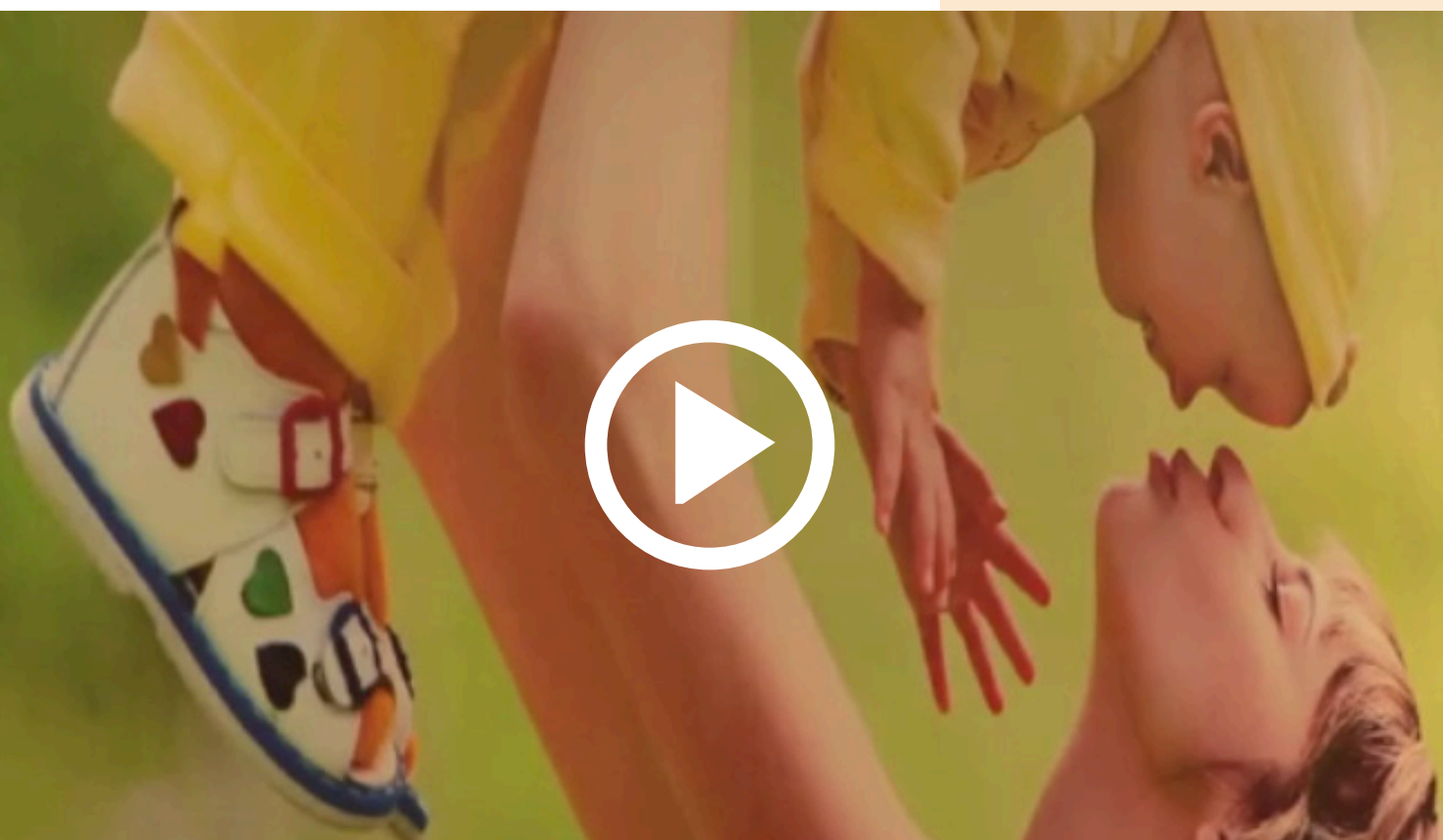
CHANGING HOW WE THINK ABOUT LIFE EXPECTANCY

Life expectancy is a broad measure of population health that is tightly linked to upstream social determinants. Great variability has been observed in life expectancy between countries of the world, between states or regions of the U.S., and even between areas of large cities or metropolitan areas separated by little physical distance. Mapping and highlighting these differences in life expectancy across the Indianapolis MSA and within Marion County will invite discussion of contributing social conditions and consideration of policy changes that may reduce disparities in life expectancy. As well, these data may inform priorities for policy makers, for non-profit private or public community service organizations, or for comprehensive community development

A report to be released this spring will describe 1) geographic variation in life expectancy across the counties of the Indianapolis MSA and across smaller geographies within Marion County and 2) the meaning of these variations within the context of social determinants of health.

See how SAVI helps Lisa Staten, *Chair of the Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences at the Fairbanks School of Public Health*

NEW SAVI TOOLS

▶

▲ Introducing SAVI's latest tools, which allow you to tell compelling stories with your data, explore disparities across Central Indiana, and analyze patterns and trends in your data.

Register now for FREE training opportunities ranging from basic introduction to SAVI to exploring SAVI's new advanced tools.

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PUTTING THE "COMMUNITY" IN COMMUNITY HEALTH

Using tools like SAVI to analyze community data improves local health assessment quality, leading to better-targeted improvement plans that address the most pressing issues.

Indiana hospitals have many opportunities to increase the value and improve the quality of their community health assessment reporting, according to an examination by the Indiana Partnership for Healthy Communities, a collaboration of the Richard M. Fairbanks School of Public Health, The Polis Center, and the Indiana Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute.

The Partnership recently completed its review of 2012-2013 community health assessment reports required by the federal government. Among its findings, the Partnership uncovered the crucial role that data systems, like SAVI and its analytics tools, can play as hub of local information that can help to create higher value community health assessments.

"Hospitals can use data to directly inform the community conversations they hold to identify health priorities," says Karen Comer, Director of Health Geoinformatics at The Polis Center. For example, health indicator data can be used to verify a perceived community health disparity, such as a higher

incidence of lung cancer. In turn, hospitals can use data-informed discussions with community stakeholders to increase their awareness of and engagement with existing resources, such as smoking cessation programs.

"Data also helps better target the use of financial and human resources for community health improvement efforts by using more geographically specific indicators, such as neighborhood-level versus county-level data on prenatal smoking rates," Comer says. For example, a proposed educational campaign can be targeted to those neighborhoods where a higher percent of mothers report smoking during pregnancy.

The review also indicated that hospitals have the opportunity to more actively engage local health departments throughout the assessment process.

"The knowledge of the local health department is invaluable for community health needs assessments," says Dr. Cynthia Stone of the Richard M. Fairbanks School of Public Health.

As an example, the Partnership recently helped the Rush County Health Department complete a detailed community health needs assessment. The information developed for this assessment is now available to hospitals and others interested in health improvement planning in Rush County.

The four major hospitals systems in Indiana recently joined forces and invited the Indiana Partnership for Healthy Communities to the table to discuss the learnings from the Partnership's examination of the 2012-2013 assessment reports produced by hospitals across the state. The consortium is now leading the way to advance collaborative assessment work in Indiana.

"We are actively collaborating on primary data collection, including an online community survey and focus groups, and inviting local health departments to the table," says Kate Hill-Johnson, Community Benefits and Engagement, Franciscan St. Francis Health.

Such data sharing promises to reduce duplication of effort and cost for each hospital system.
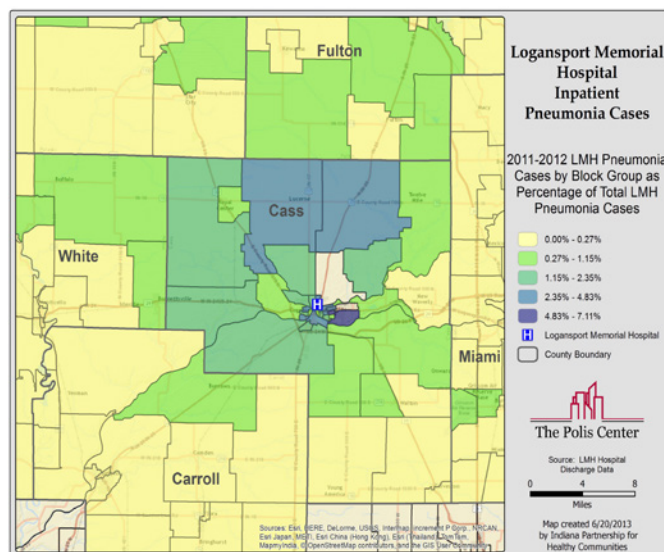
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"Measuring the impact of the community benefits programs that result from their assessment work will be key to informing hospitals' future investments," says Dr. Stone.

By taking community health needs assessment beyond simple compliance with federal regulations, hospitals have the opportunity to excel in a changing health care environment.

See how SAVI helps Joe Gibson, *Director of Epidemiology at the Marion County Public Health Department*

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LOCAL HEALTH MAPS: WHEN FUNDING FOLLOWS ILLNESS

Where should public health departments allocate their limited resources to address the most pressing health issues?

The Polis Center, the Regenstrief Institute, the Indiana University (IU) Richard M. Fairbanks School of Public Health, and the Marion County Public Health Department have embarked on a project to help answer this question. Funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, this innovative method for using health data could change the way decisions are made by public health professionals.

The partners are working with electronic health records (EHRs) from health care systems to get a more accurate picture of the distribution of chronic health problems across Marion County. They are using socio-economic data from the SAVI Community Information System—a signature project of The Polis Center—to identify associated disparities and social risk factors.

In the past, health departments have relied on surveys for this information, which can be subjective and based on individual perception.

"Health records capture observed disease symptoms and, in aggregate, can reveal potential social and environmental issues we need to address," says Brian E. Dixon, lead investigator, of the Regenstrief Institute.

The goal is to help officials use new data to identify risk factors for individual communities and focus on the issues that will have the greatest impact on public health. Because Indiana's county health departments have a finite level of funding and resources, more accurate data may allow public health professionals to see which neighborhood and communities are most affected by specific diseases so they can allocate their resources more effectively.

"Timely local information can help public health decision-makers identify disparities and high-risk groups, target interventions to appropriate populations, and evaluate programs," says Karen Comer, Director of Health Geoinformatics at The Polis Center.

Dixon adds, "Before, health department staff could make a good guess, but this project explores the local data and makes it possible for them to take an evidence-based approach to their work."
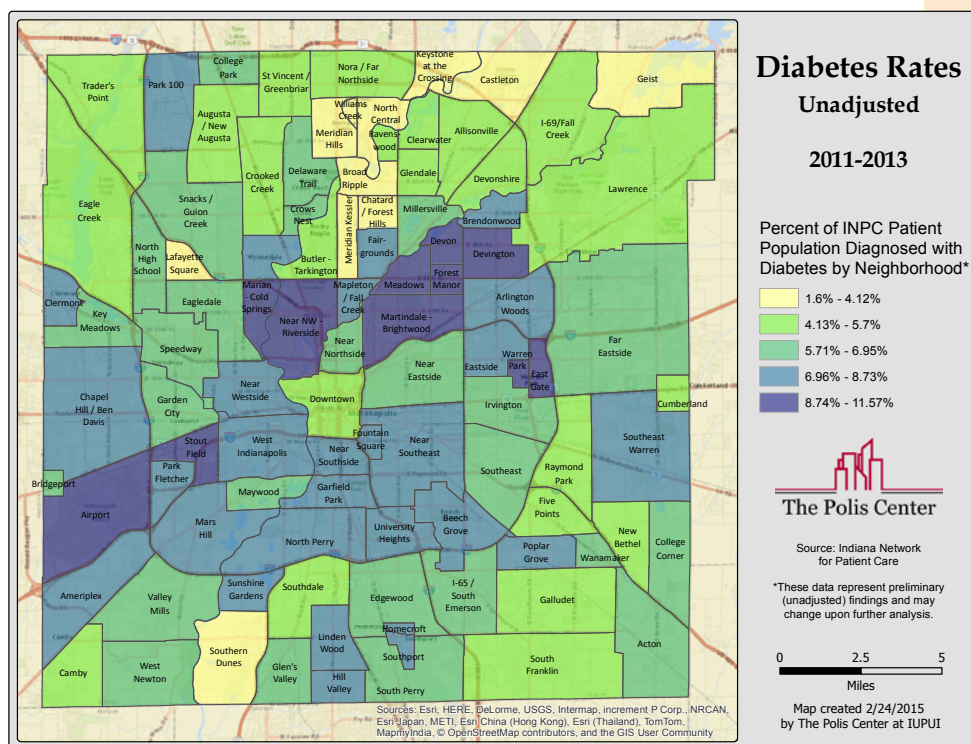
Electronic health records were not developed to measure community health, so Polis and Regenstrief used SAVI to geo-locate the records and link them to community data. The project partners narrowed the set of potential community health indicators to align with the interests of public health stakeholders.

Once they determine what information in the health records will be used to indicate a specific health condition of interest, they can map the data by neighborhood to allow public health departments to learn what diseases affect each community and determine population risk more precisely. Additionally, SAVI's robust data can help reveal what social conditions are present in areas where certain diseases are more prevalent.
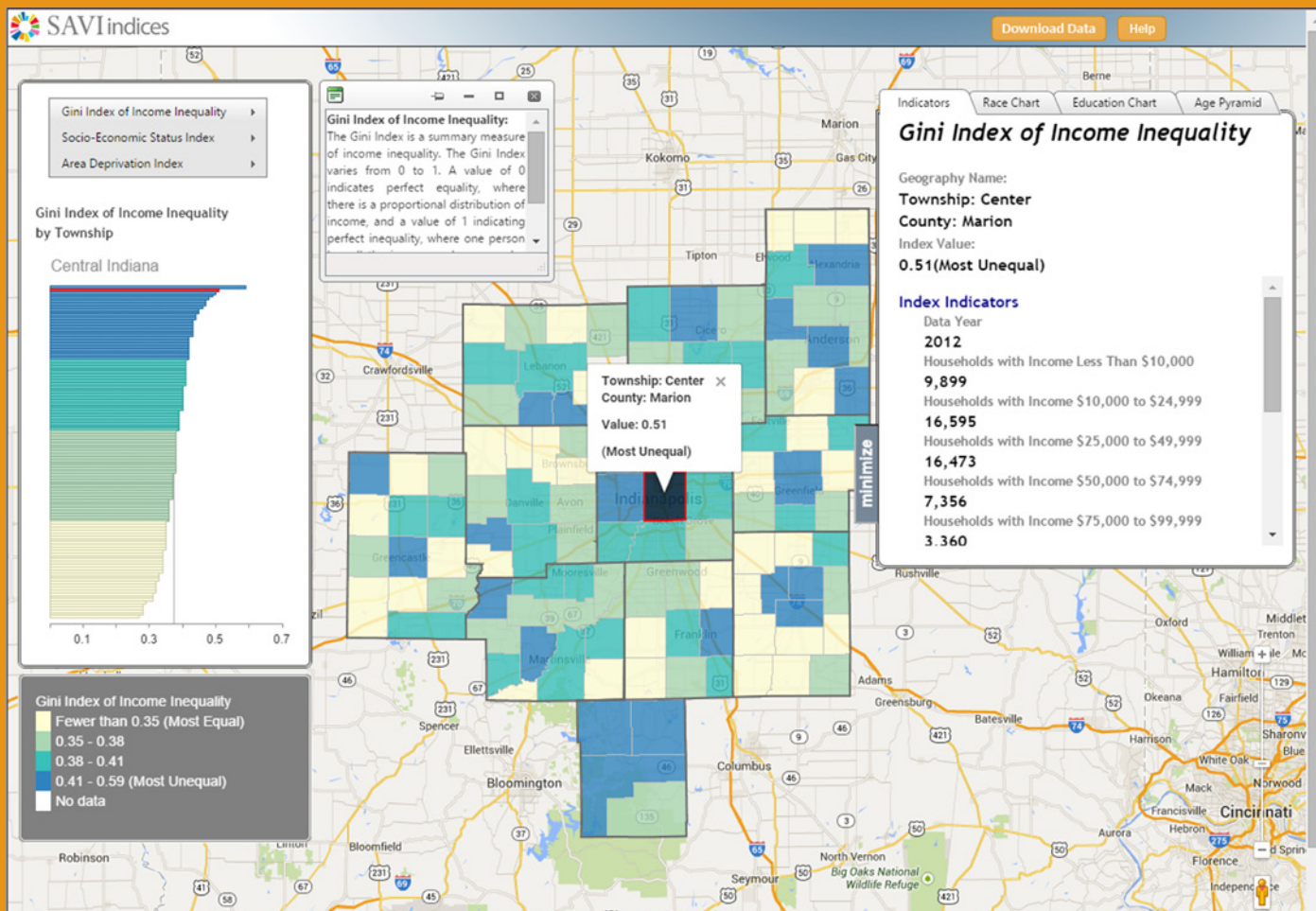
Thanks to SAVI and the collaboration among The Polis Center, the Regenstrief Institute, the IU Richard M. Fairbanks School of Public Health, and the Marion County Public Health Department, Central Indiana is at the forefront of the practice of mapping data for improving public health.

New SAVI tools are helping researchers and public health professionals in Central Indiana explore geographic, socio-economic, and time trends to develop a clearer picture of chronic disease and its social determinants. Check out SAVI Advanced to explore your own data.

LEARN MORE →

Diabetes Rates
Unadjusted

2011-2013

Percent of INPC Patient
Population Diagnosed with
Diabetes by Neighborhood*

- 1.6% - 4.12%
- 4.13% - 5.7%
- 5.71% - 6.95%
- 6.96% - 8.73%
- 8.74% - 11.57%

The Polis Center

Source: Indiana Network
for Patient Care

*These data represent preliminary
(unadjusted) findings and may
change upon further analysis.

0   2.5   5
Miles

Map created 2/24/2015
by The Polis Center at IUPUI
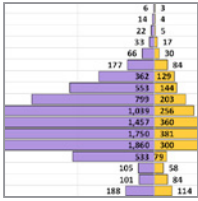
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INTRODUCING SAVI INDICES!

A tool that allows you to explore socio-economic conditions and disparities across the region. Users can choose from several indices and either download them or explore them online to identify target areas and comparison geographies.
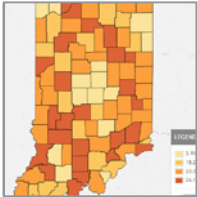
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IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

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DECLINING IN MARION COUNTY

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POPULATION GROWTH
IN CENTRAL INDIANA

READ NOW ▶

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SAVI is created and managed by The Polis Center,
a center in the IU School of Liberal Arts at
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in partnership with the United Way of Central Indiana,
as community trustee.

SAVI provides access to its analytics tools free
of charge thanks to generous support provided by:

Lilly Endowment, Inc.
Richard M. Fairbanks Foundation, Inc.
Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis
United Way of Central Indiana
Marion County Public Health Department
Department of Metropolitan Development, City of Indianapolis (HUD CDBG Grant)

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