



# Equity and Criminal Justice

## Cradle to Prison Pipeline

**Rebecca Nannery, Erik Steiner, Sarah B Smith,  
Unai Miguel Andres, Jay Colbert, Matt Nowlin**



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Founder and CEO of  
Good to the SOUL



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Community Organizer  
Faith in Indiana

# Panelists







# Equity and Criminal Justice

## Cradle to Prison Pipeline

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# Equity and Criminal Justice

Today's SAVI Talk will demonstrate disparities among different people groups and tell the story of how these can influence children's lives as they grow.



# The Cradle to Prison Pipeline

- A child's social and economic environment influences them through adulthood. Among some children, this can result in a developmental path that moves from **cradle to prison**.
- Equity-related risk factors result in greater likelihood of disciplinary action, including in schools and the juvenile justice system, ultimately playing a role in a child's interactions with the criminal justice system.





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## Childhood



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## School Disciplinary Action



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## Juvenile Crime



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## Jail and Prison



# The Cradle: Childhood



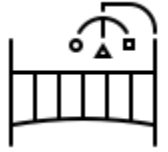
# Opportunity Atlas (Raj Chetty)



- Linked adults in 2015 back to their parents' income tax and census records in the 1980s and 1990s.
- Permits longitudinal analysis connecting adult outcomes to family conditions and neighborhood characteristics of childhood
- Based on idea that *place matters*. The root conditions of where you grow up play an influential role on your opportunity in adulthood
- Chetty has focused on interpreting economic outcomes, but using his data, we did an independent analysis of incarceration rates



# Birth conditions



- The data show that before one's first breath, your likelihood of being incarcerated in adulthood can be largely determined by your race and gender

Male

3.3%

Female

0.3%

Source: Opportunity Atlas • Created with Datawrapper

Black

6.3%

White

1.1%

Source: Opportunity Atlas • Created with Datawrapper





# Birth conditions: Race and Gender



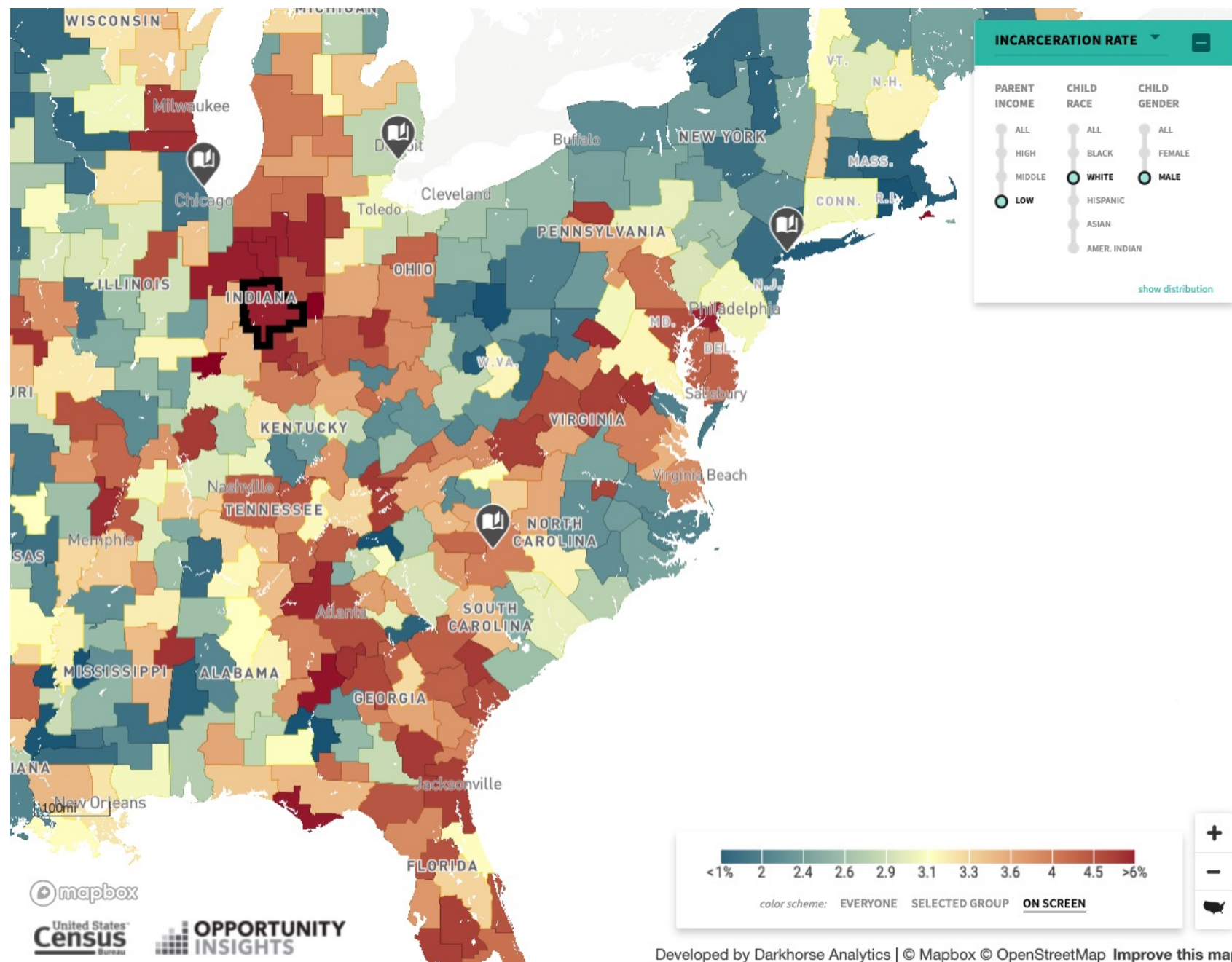
- Acknowledging these persistent inequities is essential to reframe conversation away from “implicit criminality” to address systemic differences across childhood and in the criminal justice system
- While these general patterns are persistent across the U.S., there is significant variation across neighborhoods depending on local characteristics



# Incarceration Rates for Low-Income White Men

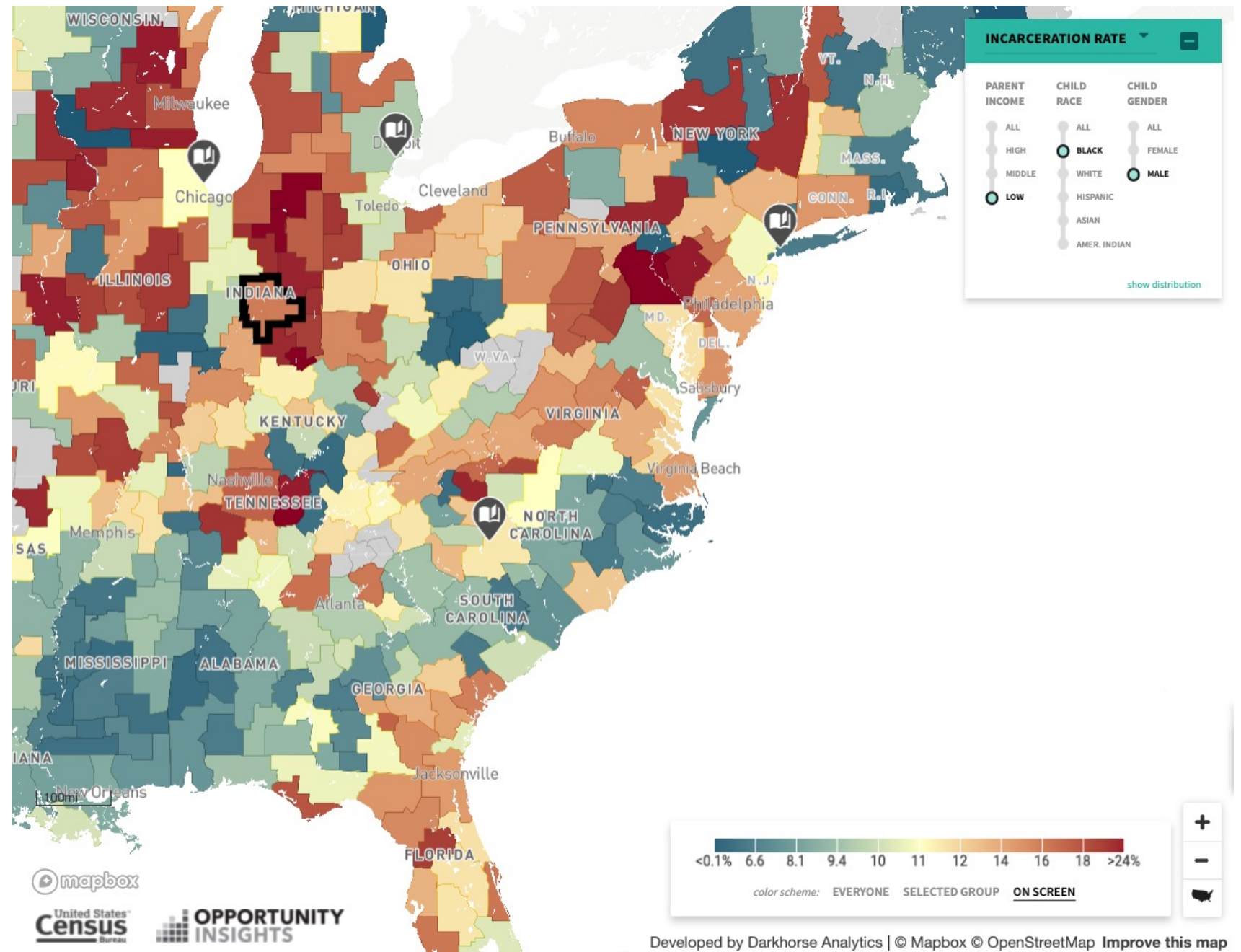
Children growing up in Indiana and Georgia tended to have elevated white male incarcerated rates for this period

Rates were relatively low in the Northeast and Ohio River Valley



# Incarceration Rates for Low-Income Black Men

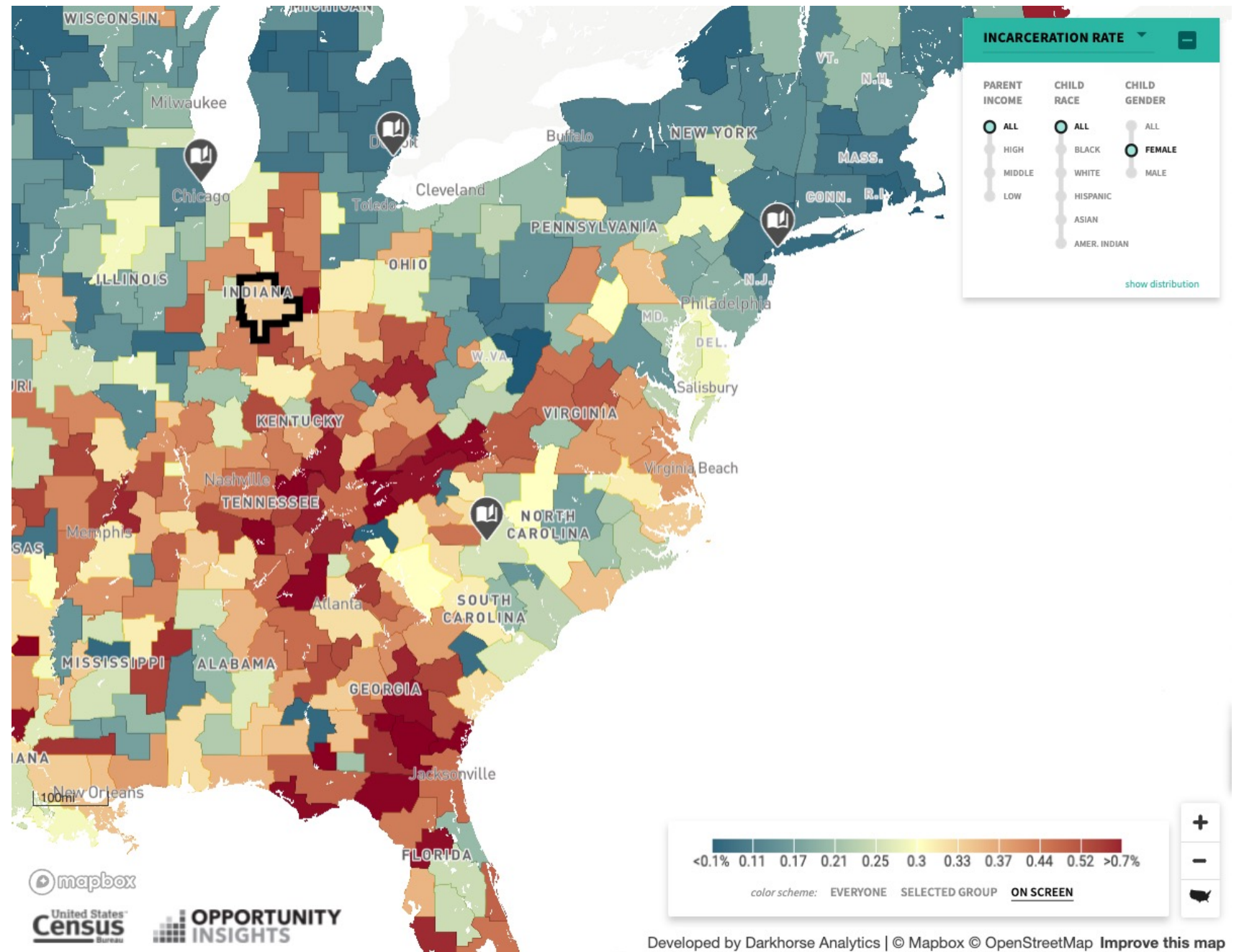
Black men growing up in the northern US tended to have worse outcomes, particularly in mid-sized “white” cities





# Incarceration Rates for Women

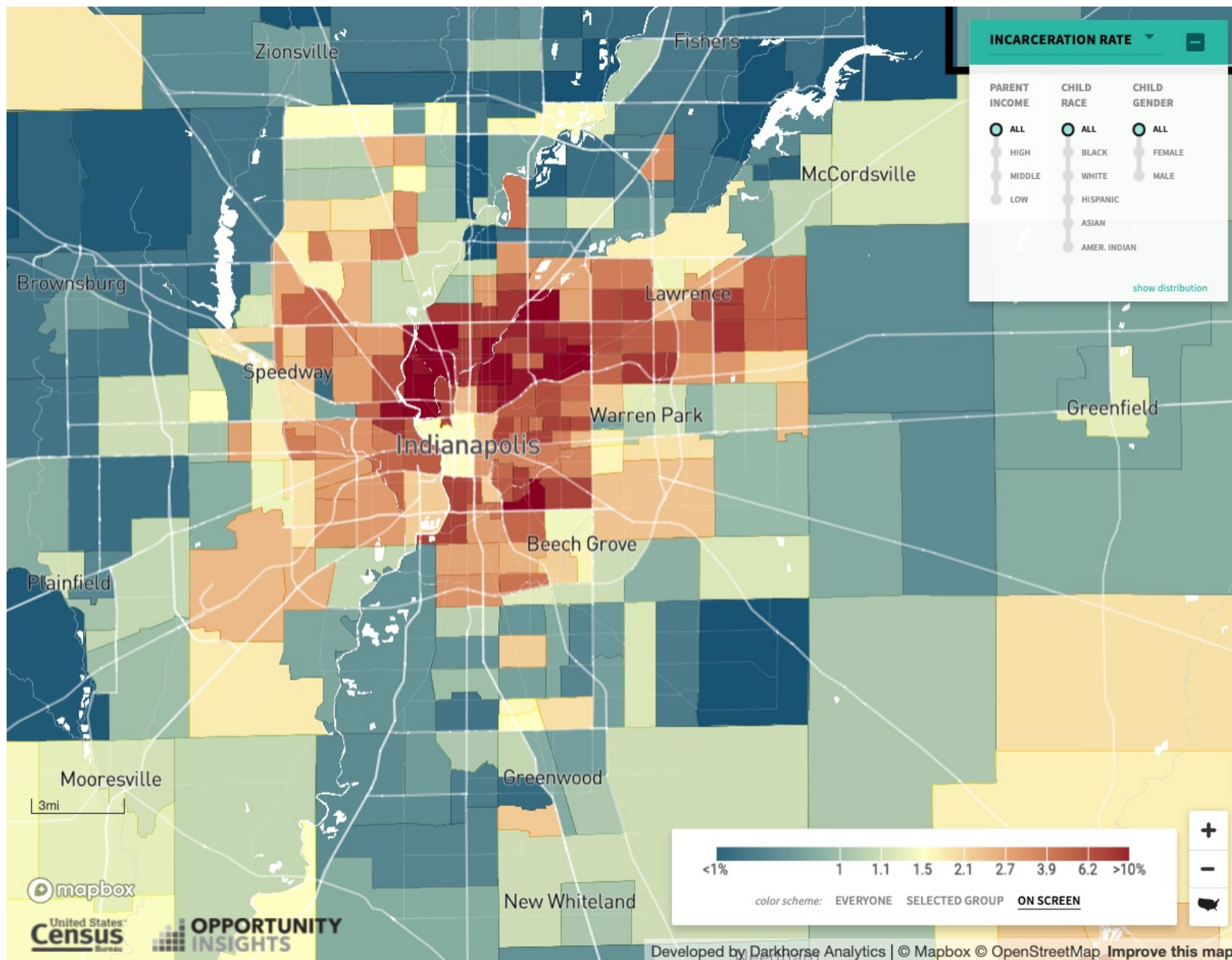
Women had dramatically lower incarceration rates overall, but were relatively higher in low-income rural areas such as Appalachia and Southern Georgia



# Indianapolis: Neighborhood Incarceration Rates

The variation in rates between neighborhoods is as great as the variation across the whole U.S.

Incarceration rates vary due to neighborhood conditions, not just because of the kinds of people that live there



# Neighborhood influences



- Education

- Growing up in a neighborhood with a high percentage of college-educated residents tended to decrease one's chances of being incarcerated in adulthood

- Incarceration

- Growing up in a neighborhood with a high percentage of incarcerated residents tended to decrease one's chances of being incarcerated in adulthood

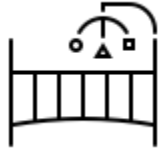
- Employment

- Growing up in a neighborhood with a high unemployment rates tended to decrease one's chances of being incarcerated in adulthood



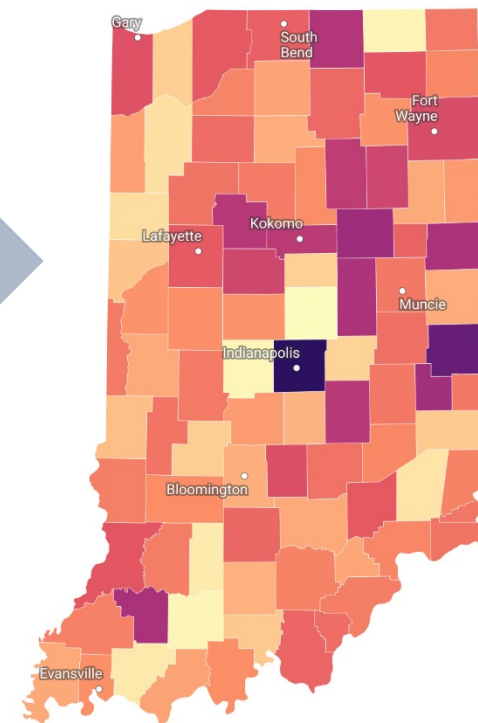
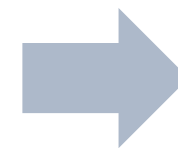
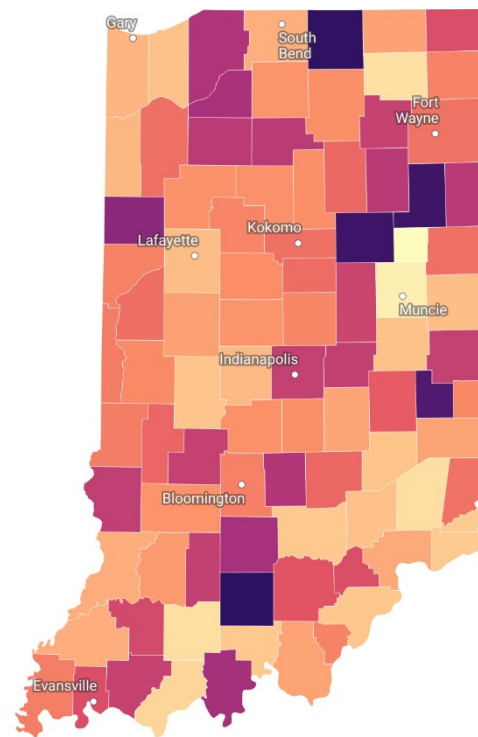
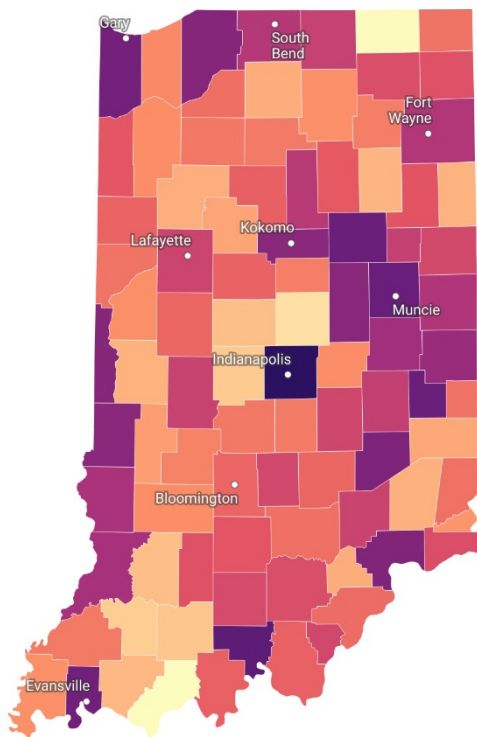
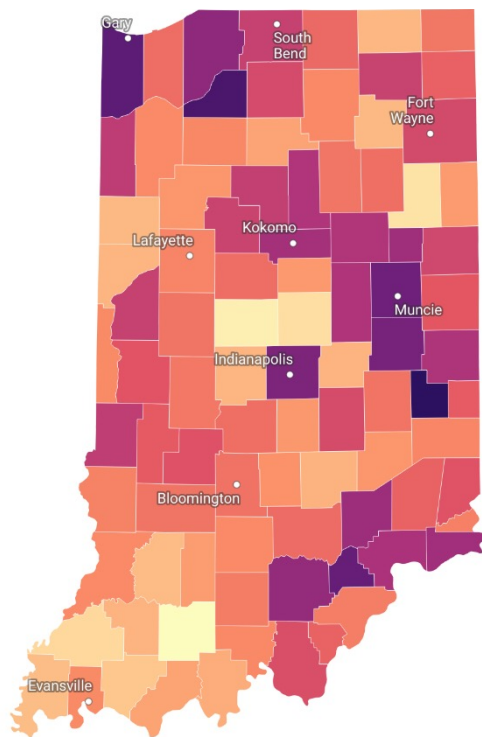


# Family environment

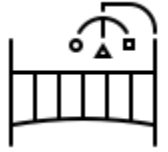


- Opportunity Atlas data allows researchers to track individual family circumstances from childhood
- Parent income
  - Children growing up in low-income households were 6x as likely to be incarcerated as adults vs high-income households
- Family structure
  - Children growing up in single parent households were xx more likely to be incarcerated as adults vs. two-parent households
  - We also found this factor was present as a neighborhood influence





# Minority effect



- Incarceration rates for racial subgroups tend to be higher in areas where that group is a minority
- In Central Indiana, black males tended to be incarcerated at higher rates in mostly white neighborhoods and vice versa.
- The incarceration rates for black males were lowest in mostly black middle-class neighborhoods, where white males were equally likely to be incarcerated



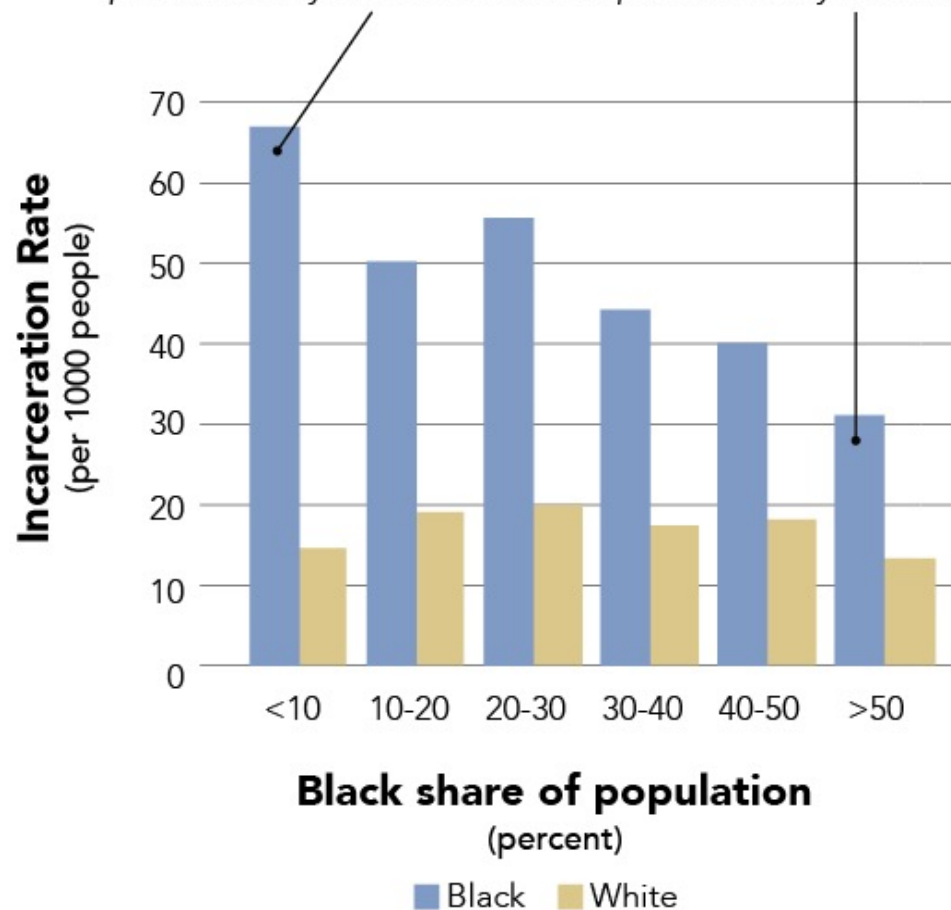


## Incarceration Rates by City

For children growing up in low income households

*The disparity between black and white incarceration rates is the highest in predominantly white cities.*

*Black children growing up in low income households are more than twice as likely to be incarcerated in predominantly white cities than in predominantly black cities.*

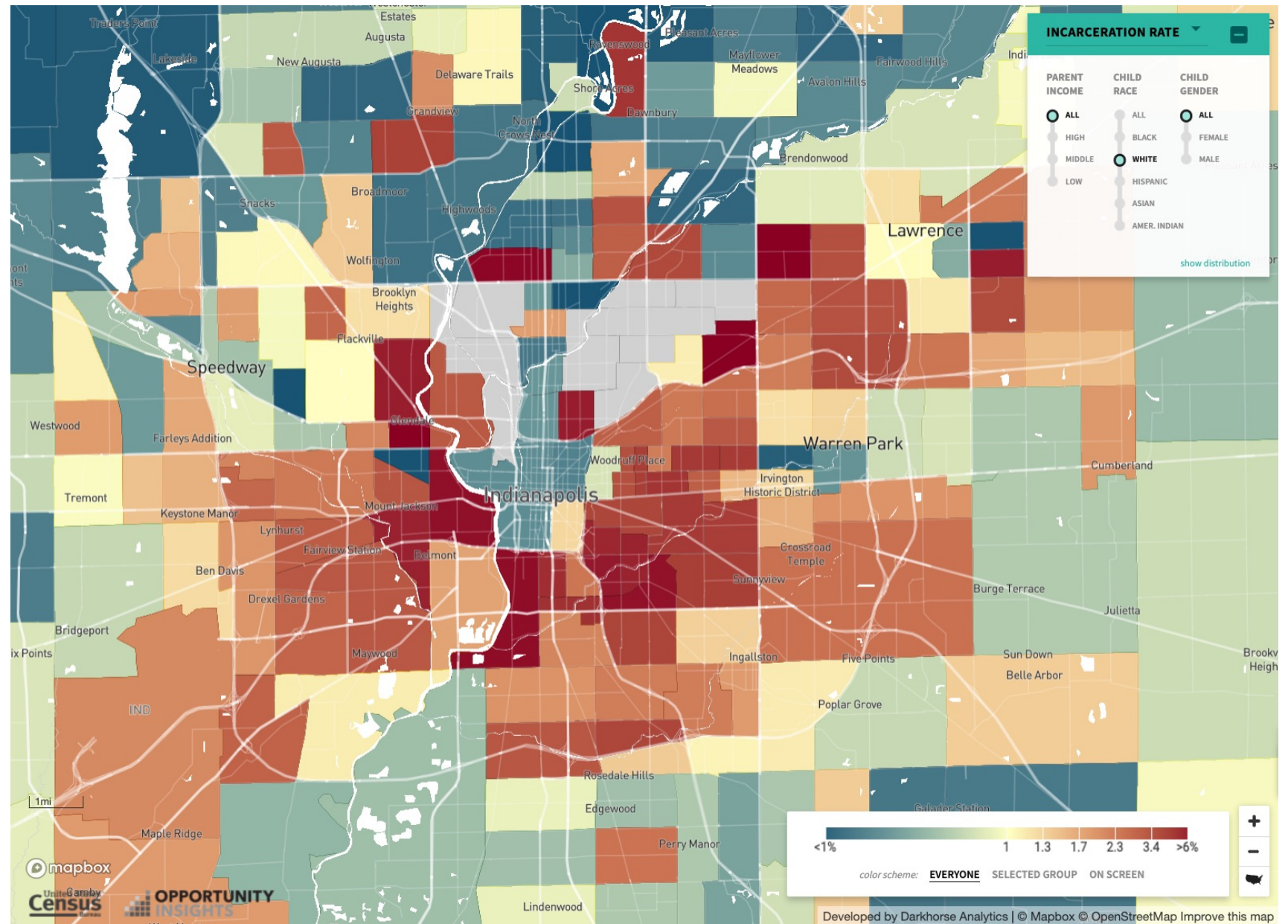


# Incarceration Rates for White Men

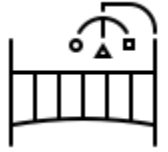
Incarceration rates for white children were lower than for black children, but significantly higher than the national average.

The highest rates were in predominantly black neighborhoods in the north (e.g. Devington).

High rates in the west (West Indianapolis) and southeast (Fountain Square) seem to correlate with low-income neighborhoods



# Adverse Childhood Experiences



Childhood trauma can impact children's ability to respond appropriately to future challenges in life.

- Neighborhood influences: violence, lack of social capital
- Family influences: abuse, neglect, lack of an emotional support system, parental imprisonment



# School Discipline





# School Discipline



School discipline policies can result in direct or indirect contact with justice system

- Can also impact learning outcomes of children
- Students of color, those experiencing poverty, and those with disabilities are disproportionately impacted by school discipline



# Zero-tolerance Policies



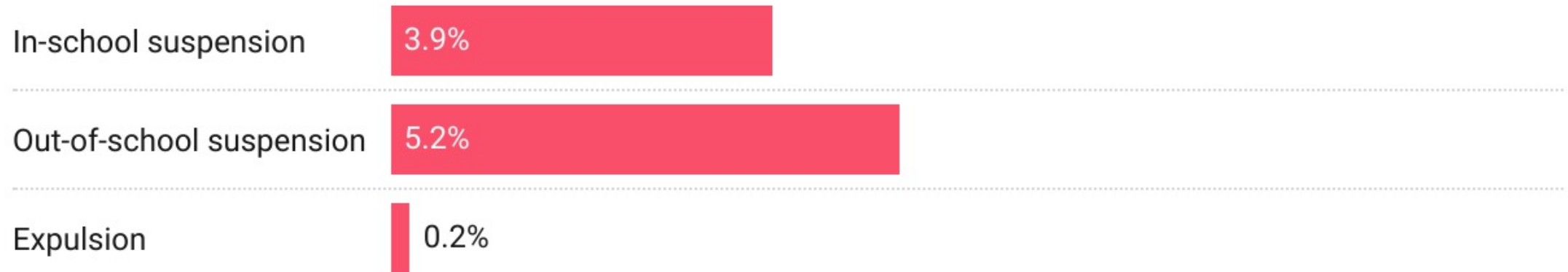
- Zero-tolerance policies of the 1990s = escalation of consequences for minor infractions
- Gun Free Schools Act of 1994 = mandatory expulsions and law enforcement referrals
- GFSA expanded to include other behavioral issues
- School discipline policies can impact student learning and other outcomes



# School Discipline



Percent of Hoosier students of **all races** receiving suspension or expulsion:



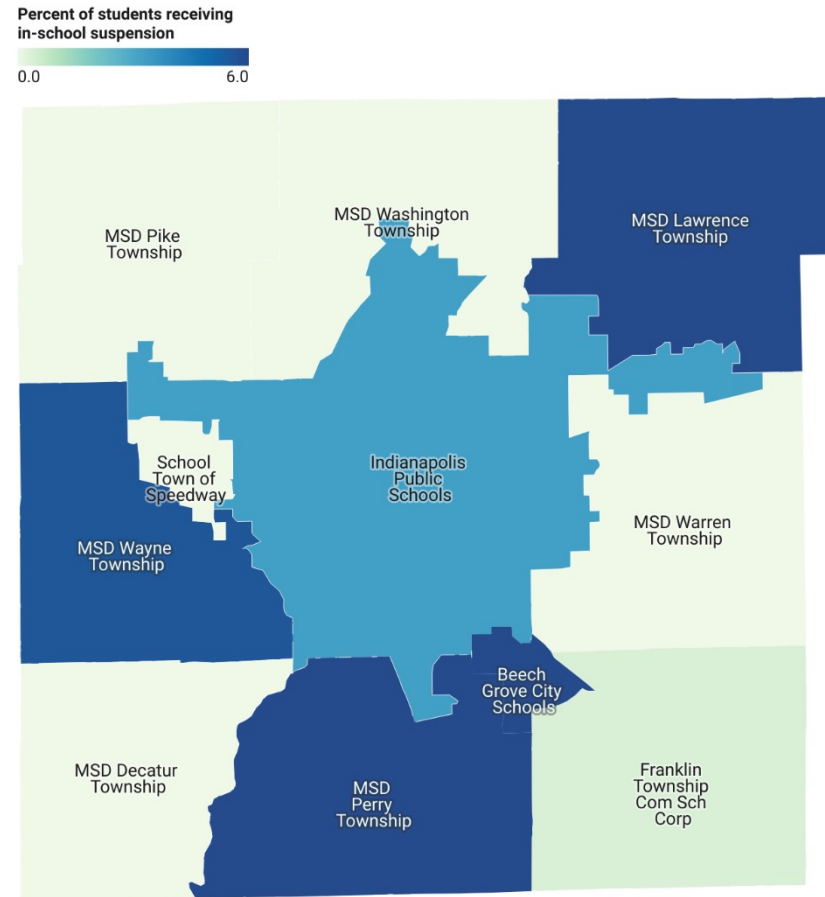
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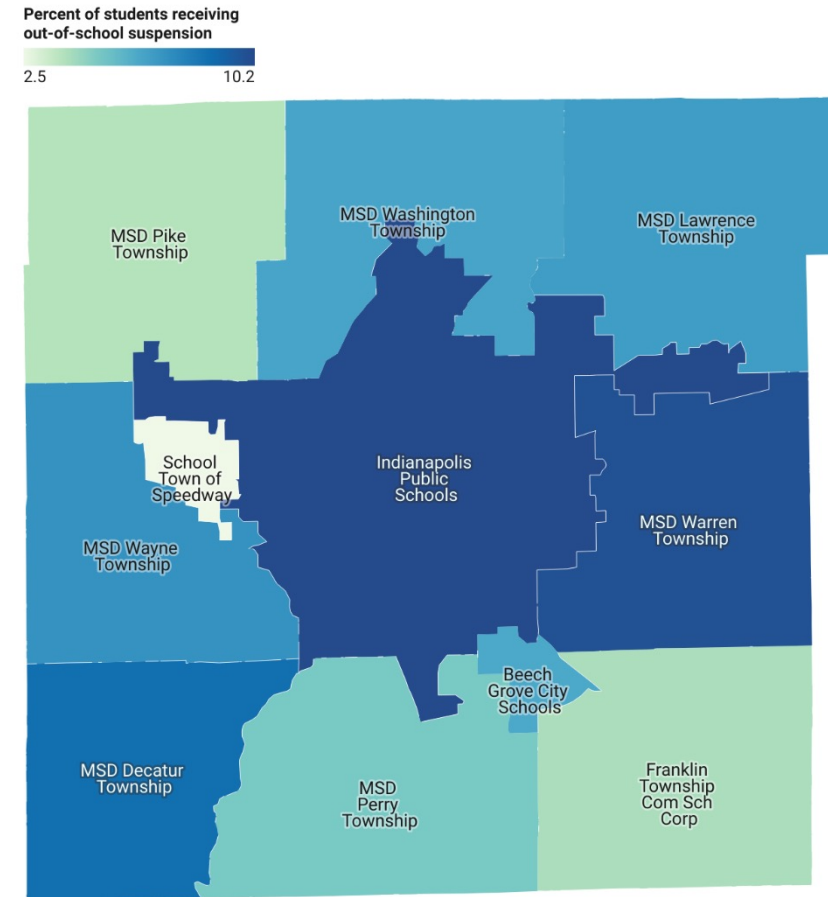
# Marion County School Districts



## In-school suspensions



## Out-of-school suspensions



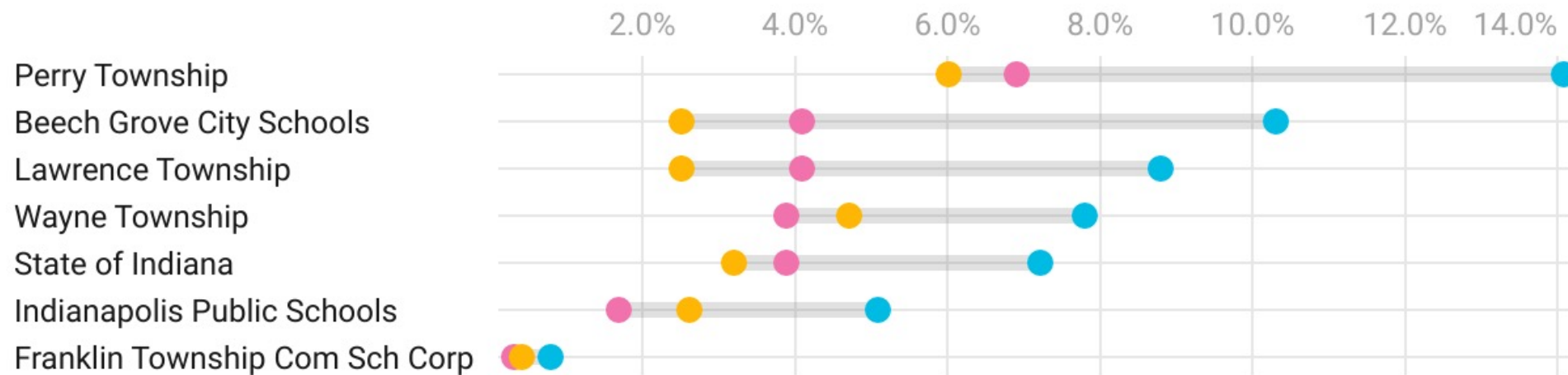


# In-School Suspensions



## Disparities

In-school suspension rates for white, Black and Hispanic/Latino students



Source: Indiana Department of Education • Created with Datawrapper

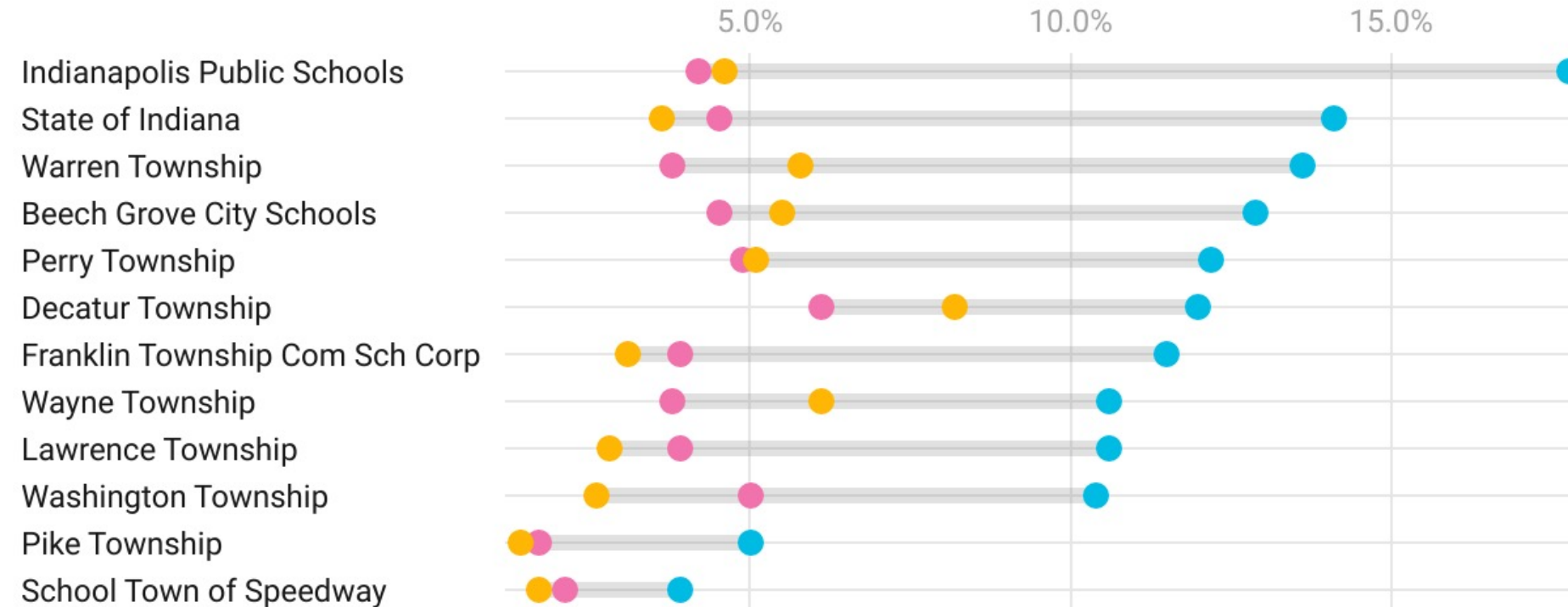


# Out-of-School Suspensions



## Disparities

Out-of-school suspension rates for white, Black and Hispanic/Latino students

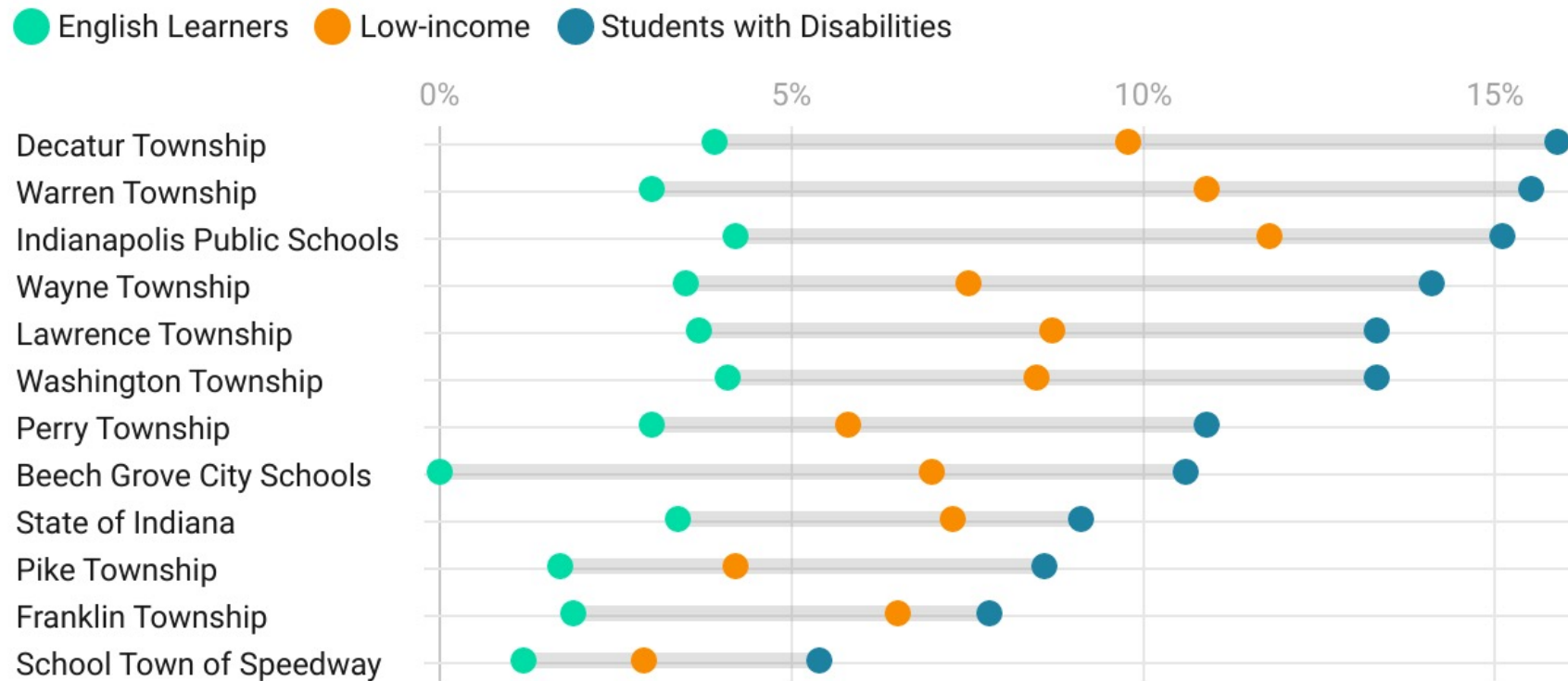


Source: Indiana Department of Education • Created with Datawrapper

# Other Disparities



Out-of-school suspension rates for low-income students, English learners, and students with disabilities



Source: Indiana Department of Education • Created with Datawrapper



# Juvenile Crime





# Juvenile Crime



Children and youth move closer to the end of the pipeline when they are charged with crimes and have their first interactions with the criminal justice system.

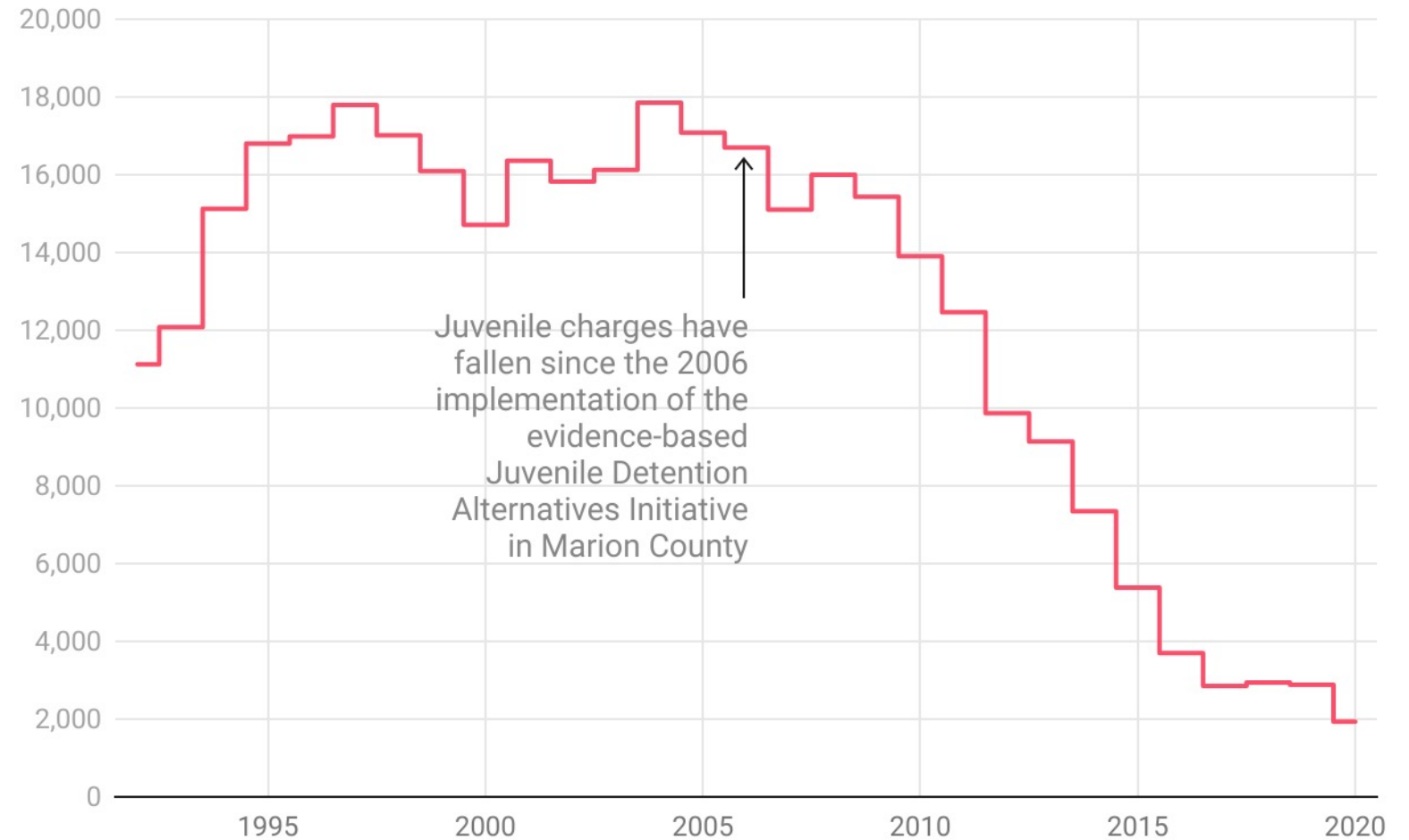


# Juvenile Charges



## Overall Trend

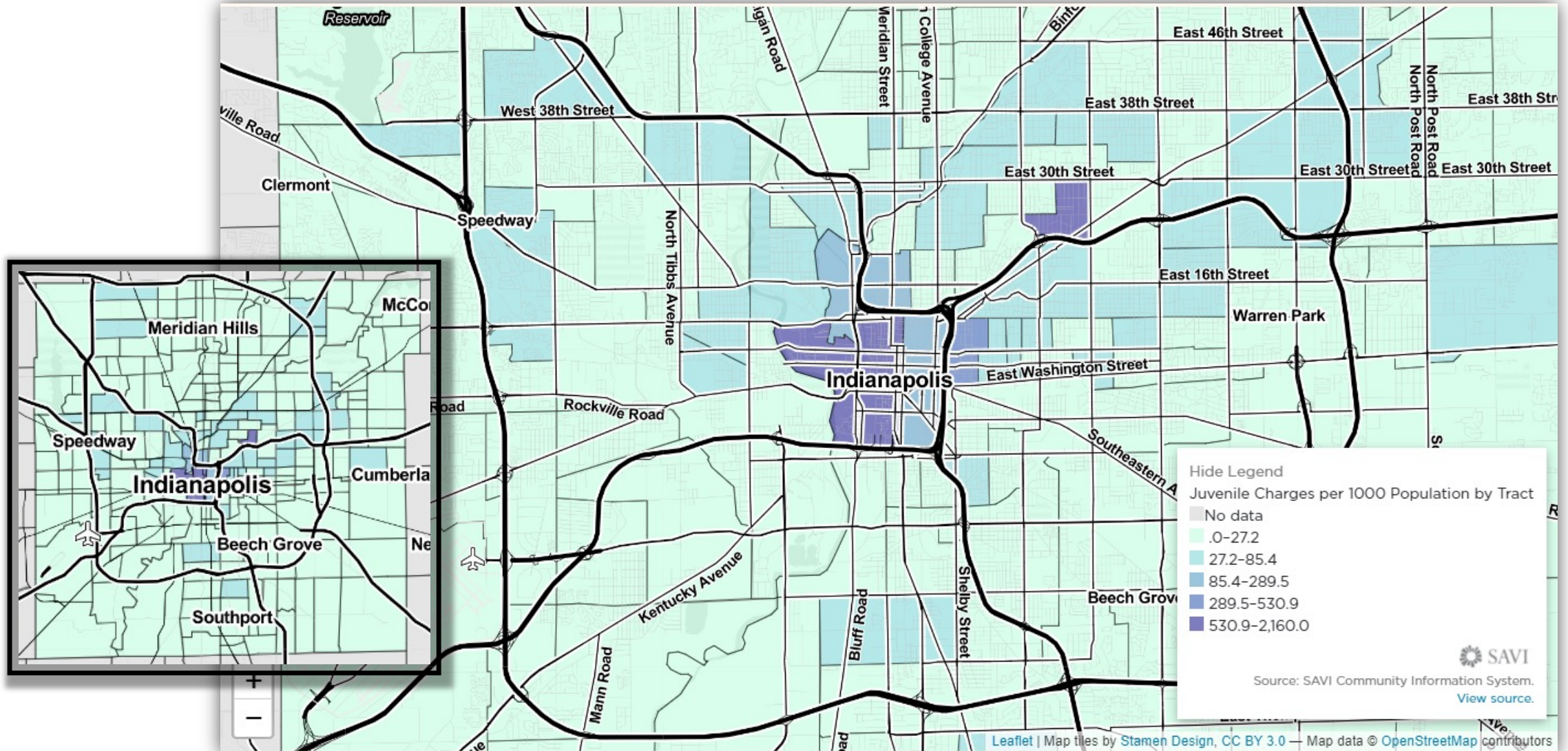
Juvenile charges of **all races** in Marion County



Source: SAVI Community Information System • Created with Datawrapper



# Juvenile Charges

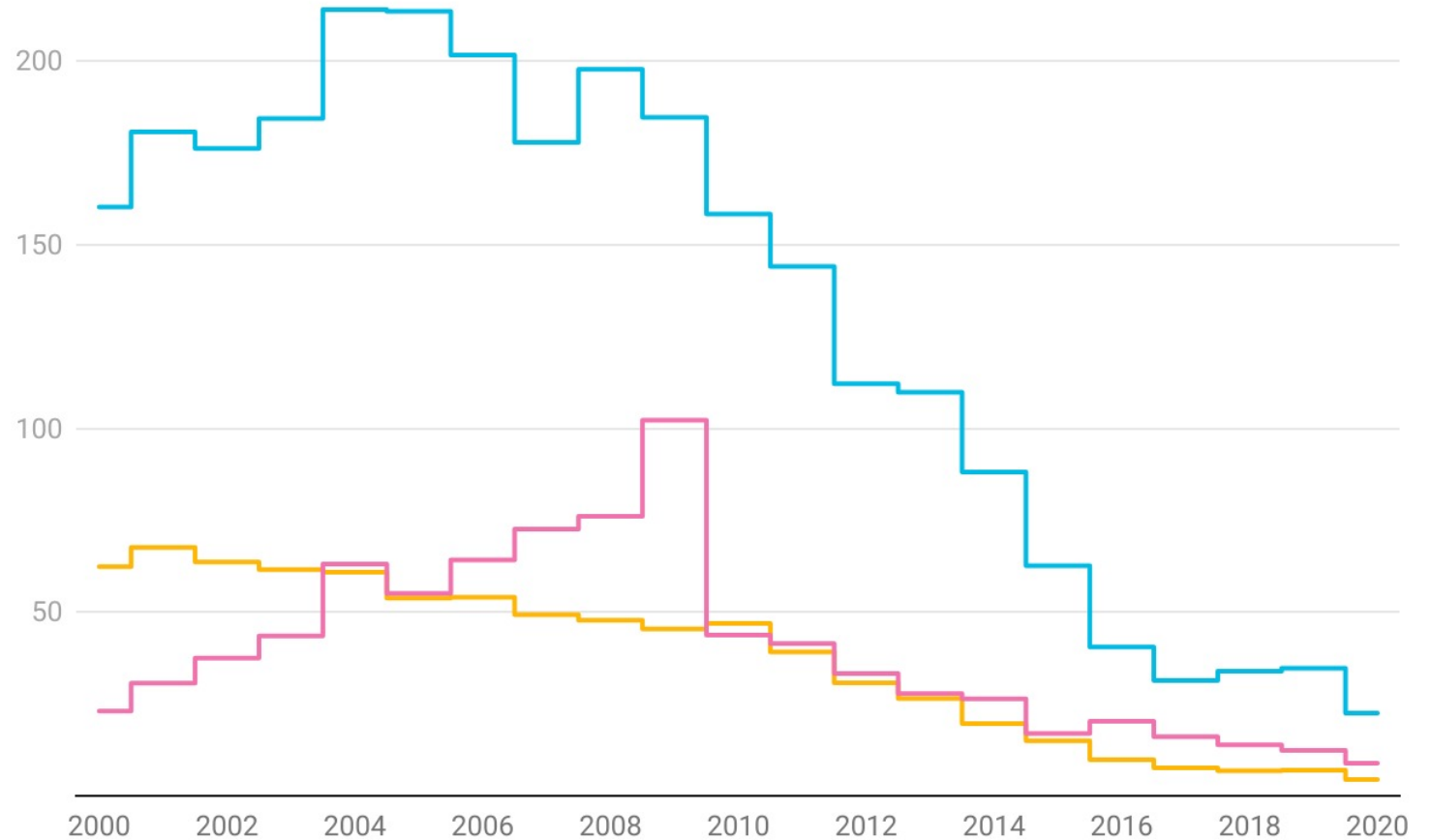


# Juvenile Charges



## Disparities

Black, Latino, and white juvenile charges per 1,000 people aged 5-17 in Marion County



Source: SAVI Community Information System • Created with Datawrapper



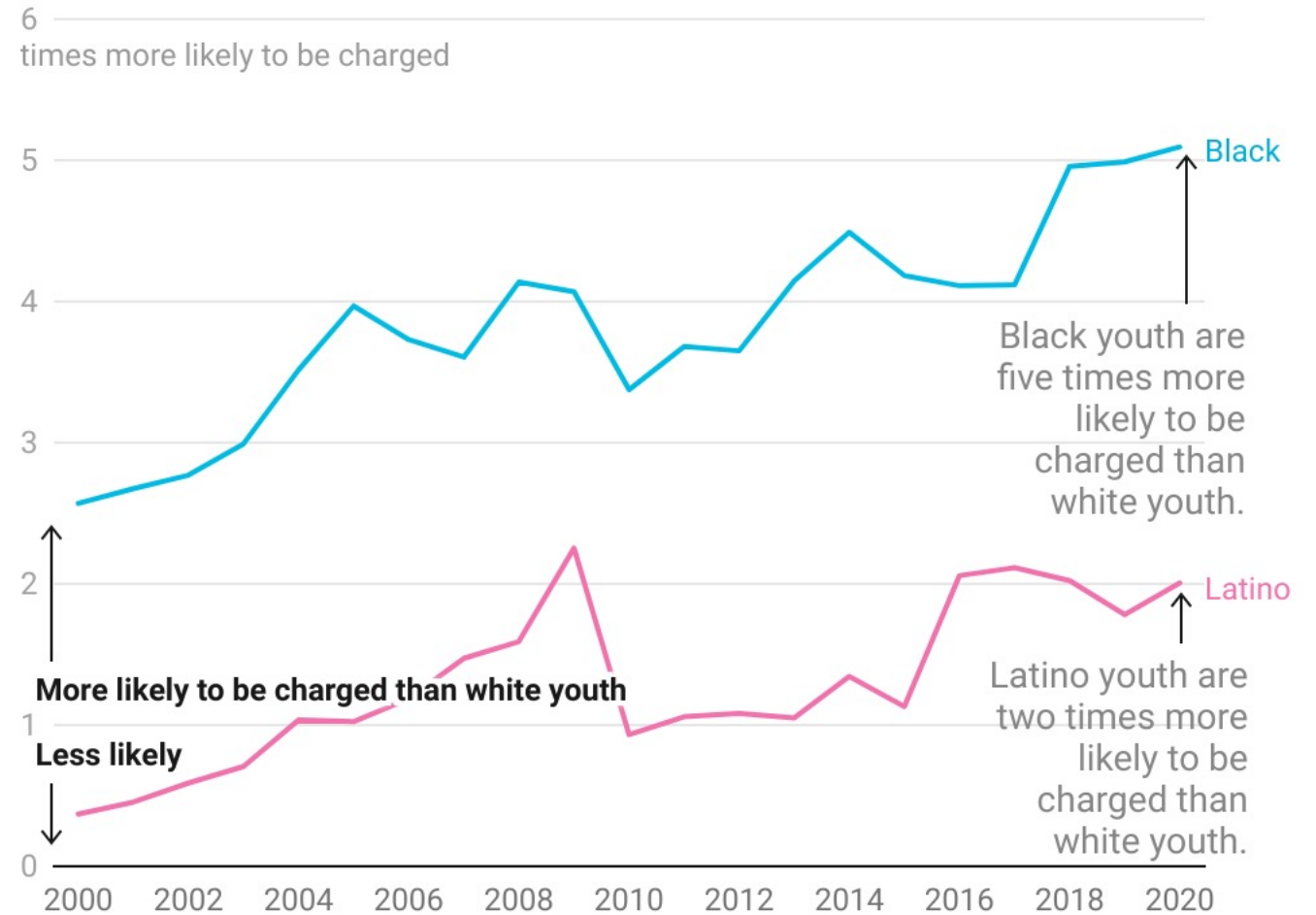


# Juvenile Charges



## Disparities

Relative likelihood of charges for **Black youth** and **Latino youth** compared to **white youth**

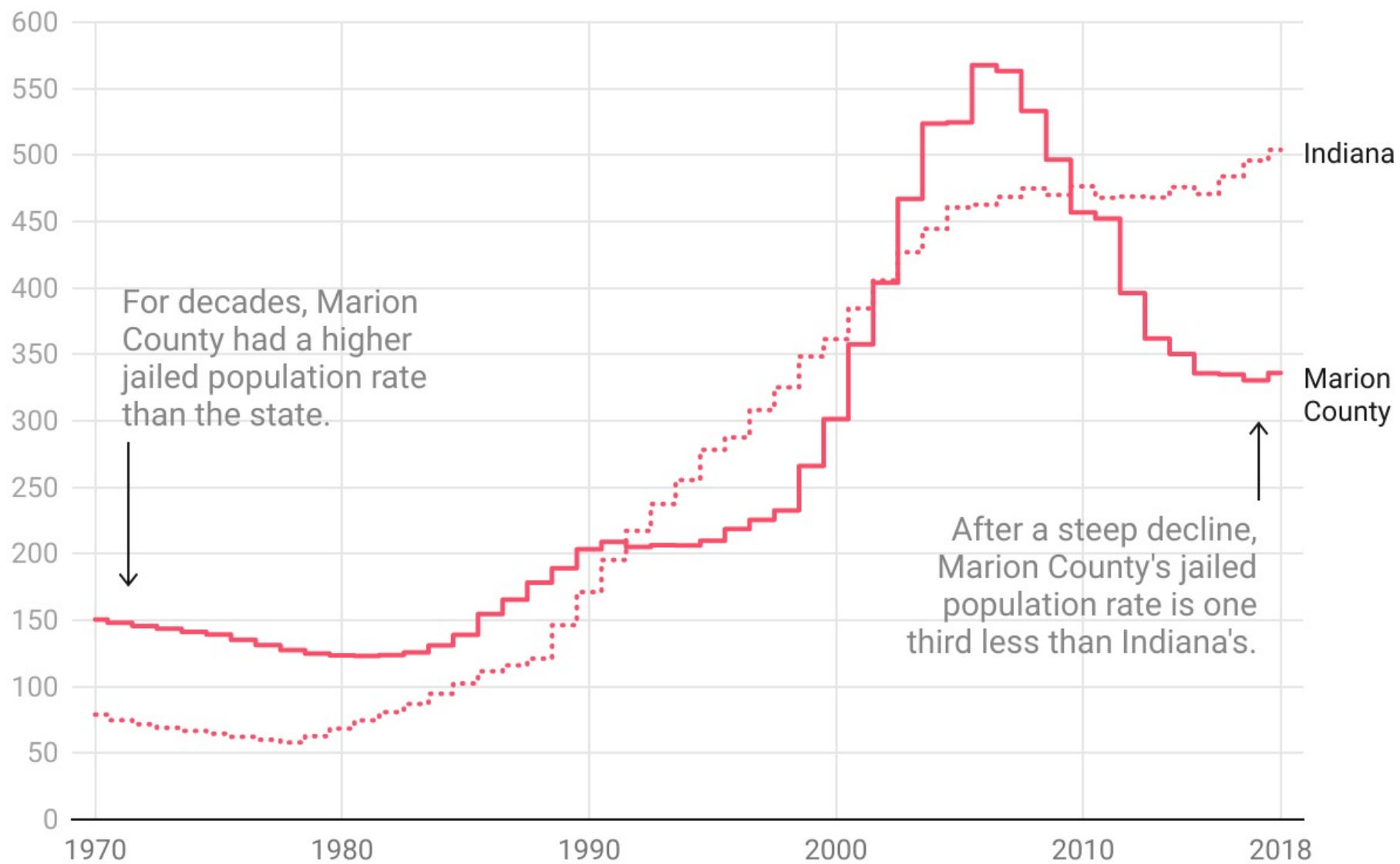


Source: Polis Center analysis of data from Marion County Superior Court via SAVI • Created with Datawrapper



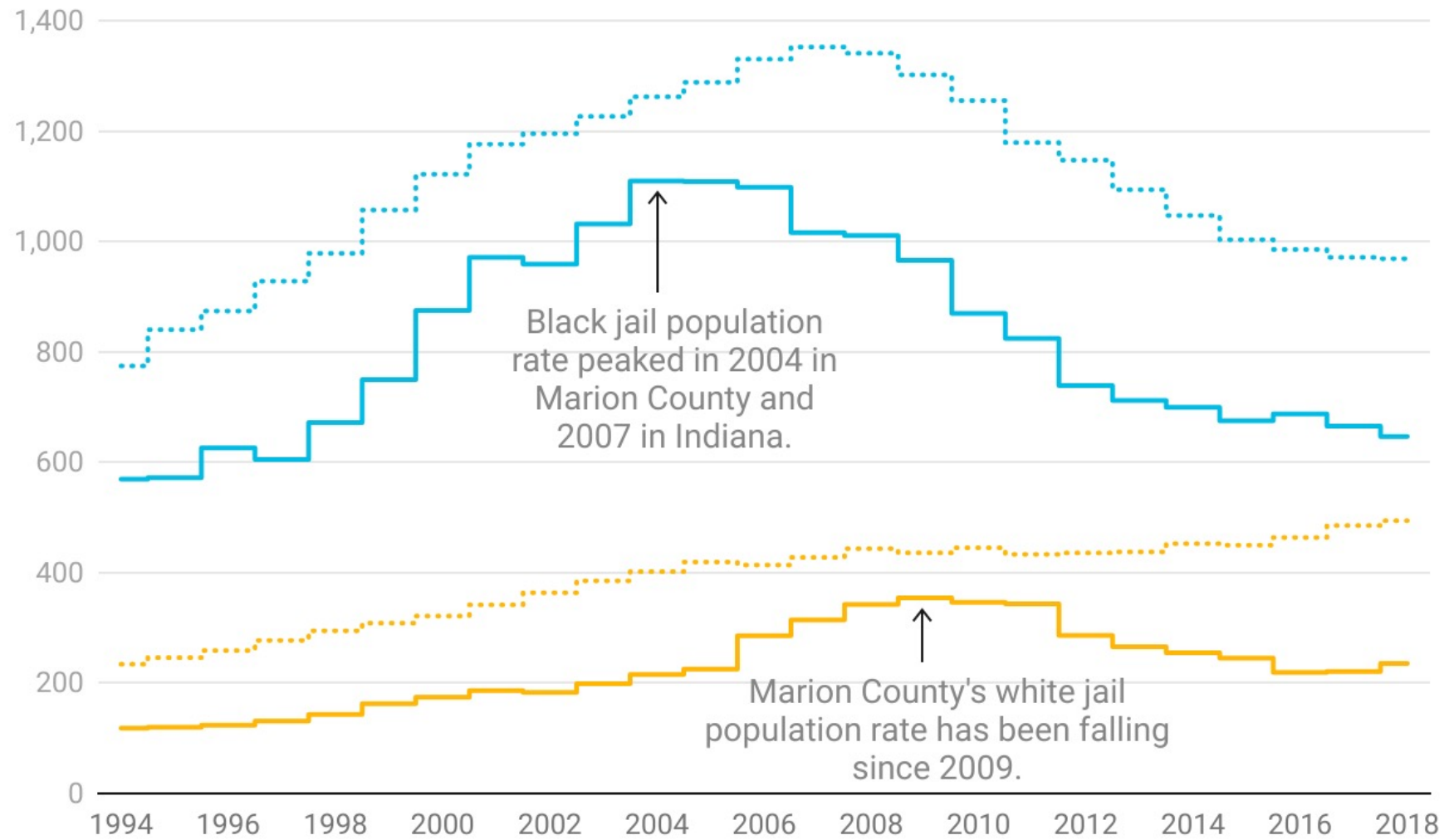
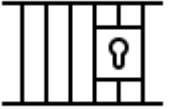
# The End of the Pipeline: Jail and Prison





Source: Vera Institute • Created with Datawrapper



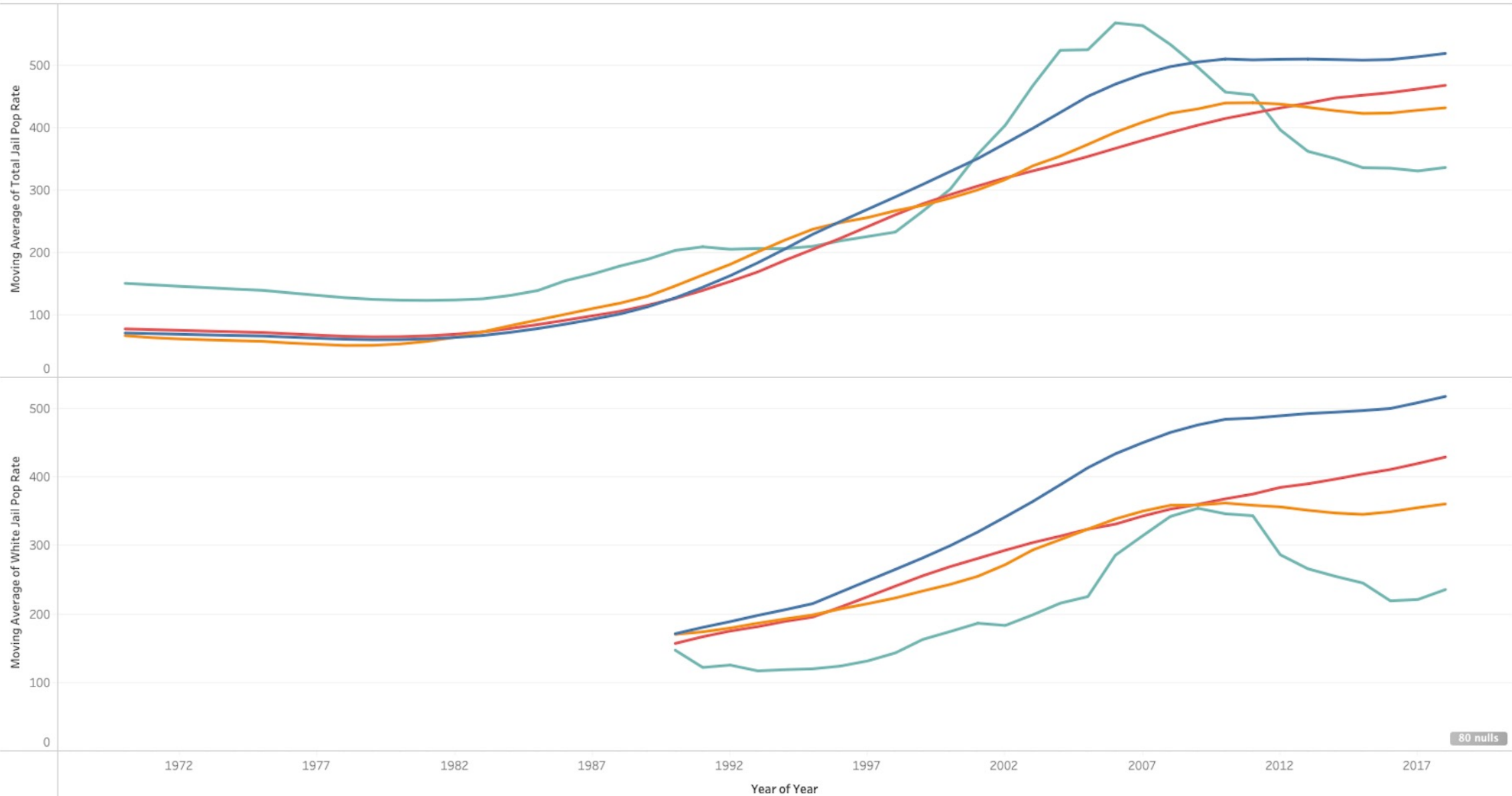


Source: Vera Institute • Created with Datawrapper





Indiana Jail Rates



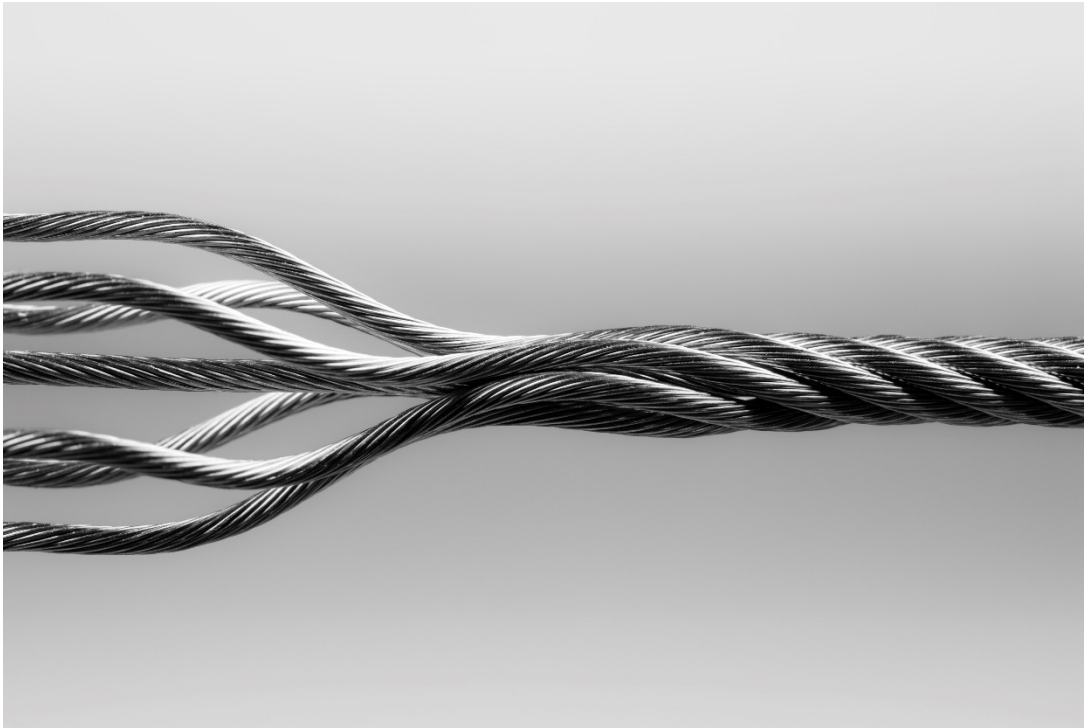
Urbanicity

- rural
- small/mid
- suburban
- urban

80 nulls



# Solutions



How can we interrupt  
the Cradle to Prison  
Pipeline cycle?



# Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS)



A school-based approach that teaches children behavior expectations and strategies to achieve these.

- Identification of causes of behaviors and reinforcement of positive behaviors
- Students are empowered to manage their emotions
- Outcomes include improved social-emotional competence and academic performance



# Restorative Justice



Relationship-based response to conflict or wrongdoing that focuses on the accused and the affected amicably making amends.

- Prevention and intervention, not punishment
- Understand and address causes of behaviors
- Proven to reduce school suspensions



# Implicit Bias Training



Implicit bias refers to the attitudes or stereotypes that affect understanding, actions, and decisions in an unconscious manner.

- Students of color make up over half of public school students, yet four out of five teachers are white and non-Hispanic/Latino.
- Understanding implicit bias will help educators and administrators to combat institutional racism in our school systems





# Moving Toward a Promising Future

## Severing the Pipeline



# Thank you for attending today!

Visit [www.savi.org/savi-talks/equity-and-criminal-justice/](http://www.savi.org/savi-talks/equity-and-criminal-justice/) to access the Cradle to Prison report and presentation

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