



**Fort Wayne
Urban League**

STATE OF BLACK FORT WAYNE 2026

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Prepared for the Fort Wayne Urban League

Information about Allen County for race, ethnicity, household structure, household income, labor force participation, housing tenure, educational attainment, diabetes mortality, birth outcomes, infant mortality, and voter participation

PURDUE UNIVERSITY
FORT WAYNE

**Community
Research Institute**

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Introduction

Since 1976, the National Urban League issues an annual State of Black America report. The Fort Wayne Urban League (FWUL) last prepared a State of Black Fort Wayne report more than 10 years ago. In 2025, FWUL contracted with Purdue University Fort Wayne's Community Research Institute to issue an updated report focusing on demographic and socioeconomic data in the following areas:

- Population by race and ethnicity
- Household structures
- Median household income
- Labor force participation rates
- Homeownership and rental rates
- Educational attainment for high school diplomas and bachelor's degrees
- Diabetes mortality
- Infant mortality rates
- Birth outcomes

This report also includes information about voter participation in Allen County. Since demographic information is not reported, this is the total voter pool and not separated by race or ethnicity.

While many State of Black reports include criminal justice information, FWUL decided to do a separate project on justice data to provide a broader perspective, especially to reflect the organization's broader social justice efforts like Mothers for the Movement: Every Child Home Alive. FWUL anticipates hiring a consultant to do this work in 2027.

For the demographic and socioeconomic information, CRI pulled data from the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS), using 1-year 2024 data.¹ FWUL and CRI decided to use Allen County as the local geography to best capture the full population of the greater Fort Wayne area. To provide geographic context, the United States and Indiana were used as comparisons.

The population charts in the first section (charts 1-4) reflect the full breadth of answers available. For the rest of the ACS charts and tables, CRI, in consultation with the FWUL, opted to use all, Black, non-Hispanic white, Asian, and Hispanic and Latino as they reflected the majority of Allen County residents. The remaining categories were so small that the margins of error made the data insufficiently reliable for this project.

ACS data includes margins of error (MOE) in the Census Bureau's published tables but CRI did not include that information here as a matter of simplicity. For some of the measures presented here, especially at the local level, the differences may be within the MOE but that is not included in these charts. The smaller the sample, the larger the MOE is likely to be because of the variability of data collected compared to the full group.

For the diabetes mortality data, CRI used Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation's data as released for 2019. Newer information had not been posted as of April 2026.

¹ 2025 data is scheduled to be released in September 2026.

The infant mortality data and birth outcomes came from the National Center for Health Statistics for national data and the Indiana Department of Health for state and local data. Based on data availability and reliability, these measures reflect the total population, non-Hispanic Black, Hispanic, and non-Hispanic white.

The voter information came from the Indiana Secretary of State's Election Division.

Executive summary

The demographic and socioeconomic data revealed the following:

- The share of the Allen County population identifying as Black is 9.2%, which is just slightly above the state's 9.1% but below the 12.1% for the United States
 - It is Allen County's third-largest racial group, behind the 70.2% who identify as white and 9.7% who identify as two or more races
 - Hispanic or Latino is tallied separately as ethnicity, representing 9.5% of Allen County's population
- Allen County's Black population is disproportionately represented by single-parent households or people living alone at 76.8% compared to 50.4% for the county's total population
- Allen County's median household income for Blacks is \$35,811, which is 50.7 cents on the dollar of the total population's \$70,568
- Allen County's median household income disparity for Black households is larger than the United States or Indiana where they have about 70 cents on the dollar, give or take, compared to Allen County's 50.7 cents
- Allen County's Black labor force participation rate (LFPR) exceeds the overall, non-Hispanic white, and Hispanic LFPR locally and the Black LFPR in the United States and Indiana
- Less than half of Black households are homeowners in the three geographies studied while the overall homeownership rate ranges between 72.5% to 75.7%
 - Black households are the only group studied to have more than half of households in all three geographies to be renting their housing unit
- Almost 92% of Black adults in Allen County have a high school diploma or equivalent, which is higher than the state or nation's Black population and higher than the total population's share in all three geographies
- The 15.8% of Black adults in Allen County with a bachelor's degree or higher is less than half of the 32.3% of the total population with this credential in Allen County. Allen County's Black adults are more than 10% below Blacks nationally with a bachelor's degree and more than 8% below Indiana's Black population.

For the health information, CRI identified the following:

- The diabetes mortality rate for Allen County was higher than the state and nation for all groups studied although it was nearly equivalent for Black and non-Hispanic whites when compared to Indiana.
- Allen County's Black infant mortality rate (IMR) was more than double the overall rate – at 18.4 vs 7.2 per 1,000 live births – and more than three times the non-Hispanic white rate of 5.2. Allen County's Black IMR was the highest of the geographies and groups evaluated.

- Allen County's preterm birth rate for Black infants was lower than the state at 14.1% vs. 14.6% but the share of babies born at low birthweight locally was higher than Indiana at 17.6% vs. 14.4%. The Black preterm and low birthweight rates in both Indiana and Allen County were higher than the overall rate of 10.9% and 10.3% for preterm births statewide and locally and 8.5% and 9.5% for the state and local rates of low birthweight babies.
- More than four in 10 Black mothers did not receive prenatal care in the first trimester compared to less than one in three for the total population.
- Almost three quarters of Black mothers in Allen County gave birth using Medicaid insurance compared to less than 25% for non-Hispanic white mothers locally. This was also above the Medicaid use rate statewide for Black mothers. Medicaid covered 42.4% of all mothers in Allen County and 40.4% in Indiana.

For election data, Allen County had a 57.9% voter turnout of registered voters in 2024, putting it the ninth lowest rate in the state. The statewide turnout in that presidential election was 61.5%.

Population

As of 2024, the federal government tallies race and ethnicity, specifically Hispanic heritage, separately. Chart 1 looks at the race of the three respective geographies.

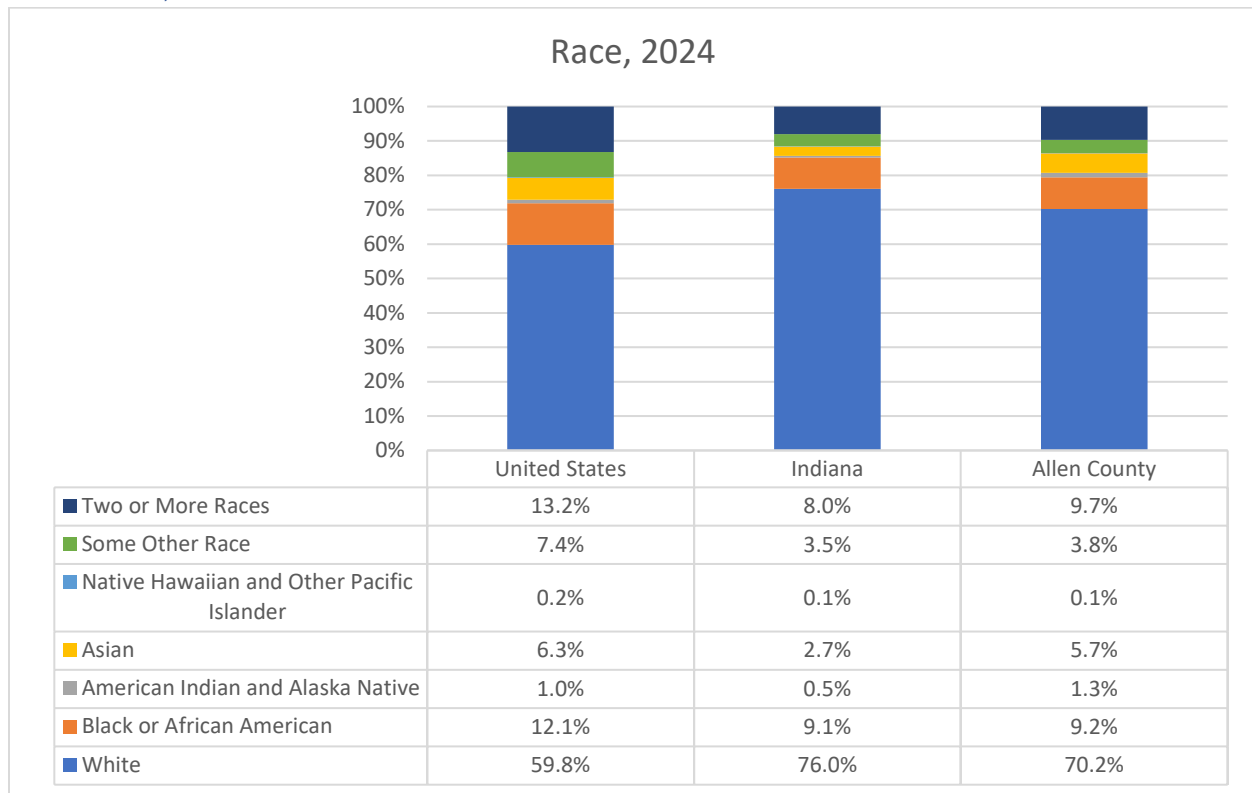
White is the largest category in all three geographies at 59.8%, 76.0% and 70.2% for the nation, state, and Allen County respectively, followed by two or more races for 9.7% in Allen County, 8.0% in Indiana, and 13.2% nationally. Black or African-American is 12.1% nationally, 9.1% in the state, and 9.2% in Allen County. Asians comprise 5.7% of Allen County, 2.7% of Indiana, and 6.3% for the nation. Some other race is 3.8% of Allen County, 3.5% in Indiana, and 7.4% in the United States. American Indian and Alaska Native are 1.0% nationally, 0.5% for Indiana, and 1.3% for Allen County. Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander is 0.2% nationally and 0.1% for both Indiana and Allen County.

There is some evidence to indicate some other race is often selected by Hispanics or people with ties to the Middle East or North Africa (MENA).² MENA and Hispanic are slated to be added to the race category in the future.³

² <https://www.npr.org/2021/09/30/1037352177/2020-census-results-by-race-some-other-latino-ethnicity-hispanic>

³ <https://www.urban.org/urban-wire/new-federal-race-and-ethnicity-category-can-lead-more-equitable-future-middle-eastern>

Chart 1: Race, 2024

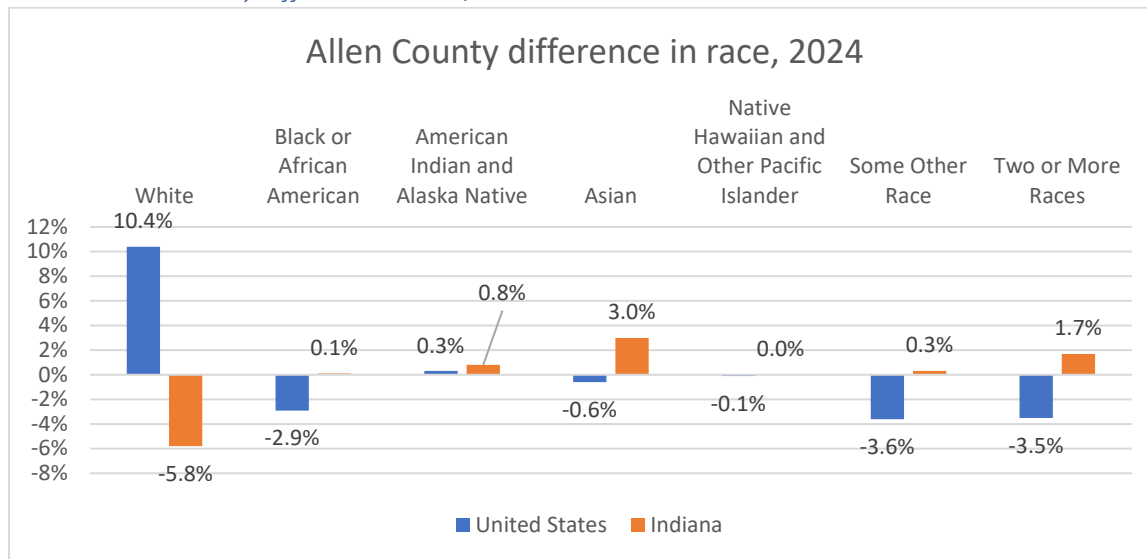


Source: U.S. Census Bureau ACS Table DP05

Chart 2 compares Allen County numbers to the state and nation for race. A positive number indicates Allen County is larger than the comparison geography, and a negative number has Allen County smaller. For example, there is 0.1% more Blacks in Allen County compared to Indiana but 2.9% less than the nation. Allen County is less white than the state but more white than nation. For Asians, Allen County has a higher share than Indiana but 0.6% less than the United States. There is no difference for Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders between the local and state numbers, and 0.1 less in Allen County. For some other race, the local and state difference is fractional at 0.3% more in Allen County and 3.6% lower locally than the United State. For two or more races, it's 1.7% higher in Allen County compared to Indiana, but the local share is 3.5% below the

In broad terms, Allen County is more racially diverse than Indiana but less so compared to the national data. With that said, since the data here doesn't include the margin of error, some of these differences are probably moot.

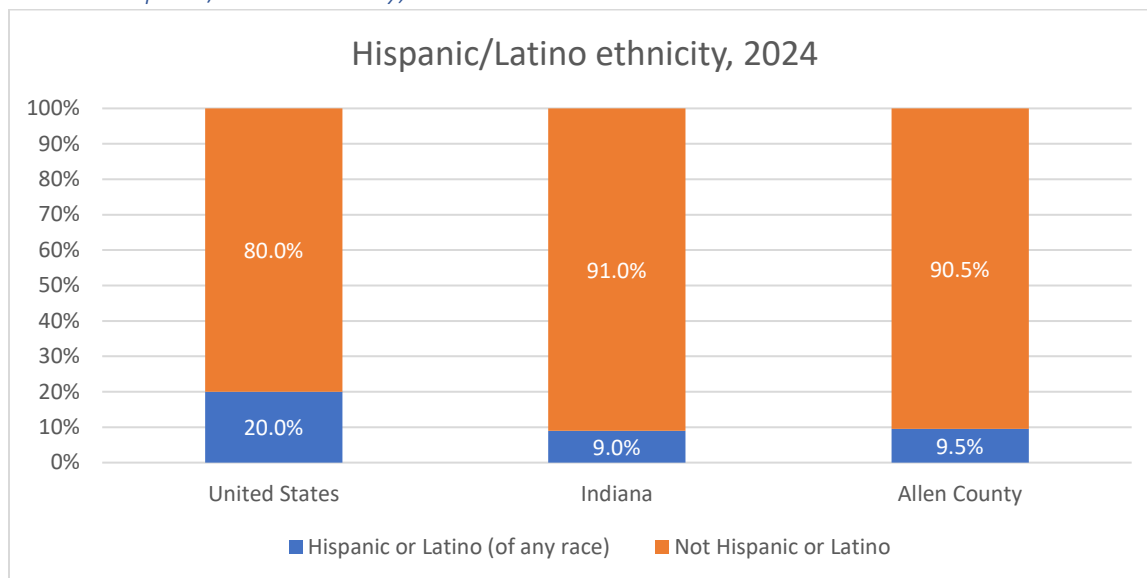
Chart 2: Allen County difference in race, 2024



Source: Difference calculated by CRI using U.S. Census Bureau ACS Table DP05

Chart 3 looks at the two categories of ethnicity: Hispanic or Latino of any race and not Hispanic or Latino. Allen County and Indiana have less than half the share of Hispanic or Latino population compared to the nation at 9.5% locally and 9.0% statewide compared to 20.0% nationally.

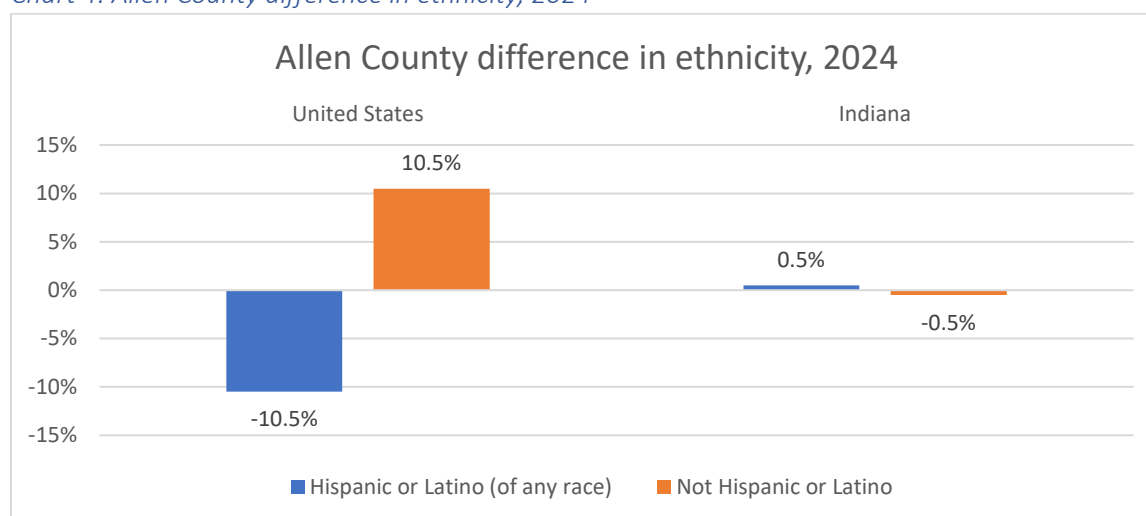
Chart 3: Hispanic/Latino ethnicity, 2024



Source: U.S. Census Bureau ACS Table DP05

Chart 4 uses the same structure as Chart 2, with a positive number indicating a larger share locally and a negative number being smaller than the comparison. Accordingly, there's a 10.5% difference between Allen County's Hispanic or Latino population compared to the United States and 0.5% difference between the county and the state.

Chart 4: Allen County difference in ethnicity, 2024



Source: Difference calculated by CRI using U.S. Census Bureau ACS Table DP05

Household structure

This section looks at what is called household structure for family and non-family households consisting of all the people who occupy a housing unit. The Census Bureau defines families as people related through marriage, birth, or adoption. This category does not include individuals living in group quarters, which includes nursing homes, shelters, jails, and college dormitories.

The Census Bureau uses the following structures:

- Family households: This reflects all family households
- Married-couple families: These households may or may not include children living at home, including adult children
- Other family: This is single-parent households living with children but also includes a single-parent household living with a non-married partner
 - This number is included in the family households listed above
- Nonfamily households: This is comprised of people living alone listed as “householder living alone” and non-family members living together, potentially as roommates or as a non-married couple or some other living arrangement of people who are not related by birth, marriage, or adoption including foster children

The Census Bureau attributes the household’s race or ethnicity based on what is listed for the first person listed on the survey form for these collective measures. Race and ethnicity are assigned separately for individual measures like educational attainment or labor force participation.

Table 1 splits the household structure by race and ethnicity for the following: all, Black, non-Hispanic white, Asian, and Hispanic/Latino and then the three geographies with the United States numbers in blue cells, Indiana in yellow cells, and Allen County in white cells.

The majority of all three geographies in total are made of families – ranging from 61.7% in Allen County to 64.0% nationally – but all three also have less than half who are married couples. Between 36.0% up to 38.3% of all households are non-families with almost a third of Allen County households reflecting

people who live alone compared to 28.9% nationally and 29.8% statewide. Single-mother households comprise between 11.7% in Indiana to 13.7% of households in Allen County, compared to 4.7% in Allen County to 5.3% in Indiana for single-father households.

Switching over to Black households, the majority of Allen County's Black households are nonfamily households at 52.7% with 46.9% living alone. The nation has 42.2% as Black nonfamily households and 42.3% in Indiana with both at 37% for living alone. For Black family households, the United States and Indiana are essentially even at 57.8% and 57.7% compared to 47.3% for Allen County. Black single-mother families were 21.9% in Allen County up to 26.7% for Indiana. Single-father households ranged from 6.2% for the nation up to 8.0% for Allen County. Nonfamily households not living alone ranged from 5.2% nationally up to 5.9% for Allen County.

For non-Hispanic white households, more than 61% for all three geographies consisted of families at 61.8% for Allen County up to 63.6% for Indiana. Married-couple families were just over half at 50.2% for the nation compared to 49.2% in Indiana and 46.3% for Allen County. Allen County had the largest share of non-Hispanic white single-mother households at 12.3% compared to 8.3% nationally and 9.6% in Indiana. Single-father households ranged between 3.1% in Allen County to 4.8% in Indiana. Nonfamily households made up between 36.4% for Indiana to 38.2% for Allen County. Those living alone were between 29.9% for Indiana up to 32.2% for Allen County. Nonfamily households not living alone were between 6.0% for Allen County and 7.4% for the United States.

The majority of Asian households are both families and married-couple families in all three geographies. Family households range from 66.9% in Indiana up to 73.4% for Allen County. Married-couple families range from 54.4% for Indiana up to 58.3% locally. Single-mother households for Asians were 7.1% in Indiana up to 9.0% for Allen County. Asian single-father households were between 4.6% in the United States and 6.2% in Allen County. Nonfamily households were 28.8% nationally, 33.1% in Indiana, and 26.6% in Allen County with 21.6%, 24.5%, and 20.9% living alone respectively. Nonfamily householders not living alone were between 5.7% and 8.5%.

For Hispanic and Latino households, more than 70% are in family households at 73.3% in the United States, 73.0% in Indiana, and 71.2% in Allen County but below 50% for married-couple families with 45.2%, 47.9%, and 48.4% respectively. Single-mother households ranged between 13.6% in Allen County up to 18.6% nationally compared to 9.2% in Allen County up to 9.5% in the United States for single-father households. Nonfamily households ranged between 26.7% nationally up to 28.8% for Allen County. The spread for Hispanic or Latino individuals living alone was 18.1% in Allen County and 20.4% statewide, while nonfamilies not living alone were between 6.5% in Indiana up to 10.7% in Allen County.

Table 1: Household structure by race and ethnicity, 2024

	All		
	United States	Indiana	Allen County
Family households	64.0%	63.7%	61.7%
Married-couple family	46.7%	46.6%	43.3%
Other family	17.3%	17.0%	18.4%
Male householder, no spouse present	5.2%	5.3%	4.7%
Female householder, no spouse present	12.1%	11.7%	13.7%
Nonfamily households	36.0%	36.3%	38.3%

Householder living alone	28.9%	29.8%	32.0%
Householder not living alone	7.1%	6.5%	6.2%
	Black		
	United States	Indiana	Allen County
Family households	57.8%	57.7%	47.3%
Married-couple family	26.8%	24.0%	17.4%
Other family	31.1%	33.7%	29.9%
Male householder, no spouse present	6.2%	7.0%	8.0%
Female householder, no spouse present	24.9%	26.7%	21.9%
Nonfamily households	42.2%	42.3%	52.7%
Householder living alone	37.0%	37.0%	46.9%
Householder not living alone	5.2%	5.3%	5.9%
	Non-Hispanic White		
	United States	Indiana	Allen County
Family households	62.5%	63.6%	61.8%
Married-couple family	50.2%	49.2%	46.3%
Other family	12.3%	14.4%	15.4%
Male householder, no spouse present	4.0%	4.8%	3.1%
Female householder, no spouse present	8.3%	9.6%	12.3%
Nonfamily households	37.5%	36.4%	38.2%
Householder living alone	30.1%	29.9%	32.2%
Householder not living alone	7.4%	6.5%	6.0%
	Asian		
	United States	Indiana	Allen County
Family households	71.2%	66.9%	73.4%
Married-couple family	58.1%	54.4%	58.3%
Other family	13.1%	12.5%	15.1%
Male householder, no spouse present	4.6%	5.5%	6.2%
Female householder, no spouse present	8.4%	7.1%	9.0%
Nonfamily households	28.8%	33.1%	26.6%
Householder living alone	21.6%	24.5%	20.9%
Householder not living alone	7.3%	8.5%	5.7%
	Hispanic/Latino		
	United States	Indiana	Allen County
Family households	73.3%	73.0%	71.2%
Married-couple family	45.2%	47.9%	48.4%
Other family	28.1%	25.2%	22.8%
Male householder, no spouse present	9.5%	9.3%	9.2%
Female householder, no spouse present	18.6%	15.9%	13.6%
Nonfamily households	26.7%	27.0%	28.8%
Householder living alone	19.7%	20.4%	18.1%
Householder not living alone	7.1%	6.5%	10.7%

Source: Percentages calculated by CRI using data from U.S. Census Bureau ACS Tables B1101, B1101B, B1101H, B1101I, B1101D

Table 2 compares the Black population to the comparable demographic in the respective geography, using the same color pattern as Table 1 with blue for the United States, yellow for Indiana, and white for Allen County. A negative number reflects a smaller share for Blacks when compared to the same grouping and the converse for a positive number. For example, Black family households in the United States are 6.2% less than all family households in that geography while Black single-mother households are 16.4% greater than Asian single-mother households nationally.

Black households are less likely to be family households and married-couple families across geographies and more likely to be single-parent households, save single-father households when compared to Hispanic/Latino households. They are also more likely to be non-family households and those living alone but less likely to be a nonfamily household living with other people.

Table 2: Household structure difference by race, 2024

United States				
	All	Non-Hispanic White	Asian	Hispanic/Latino
Family households:	-6.2%	-4.6%	-13.3%	-15.4%
Married-couple family	-19.9%	-23.4%	-31.3%	-18.4%
Other family:	13.8%	18.8%	18.0%	3.0%
Male householder, no spouse present	1.0%	2.2%	1.6%	-3.3%
Female householder, no spouse present	12.8%	16.6%	16.4%	6.3%
Nonfamily households:	6.2%	4.6%	13.3%	15.4%
Householder living alone	8.1%	6.8%	15.4%	17.3%
Householder not living alone	-1.9%	-2.2%	-2.1%	-1.9%

Indiana				
	All	Non-Hispanic White	Asian	Hispanic/Latino
Family households:	-6.0%	-5.9%	-9.2%	-15.3%
Married-couple family	-22.6%	-25.2%	-30.4%	-23.9%
Other family:	16.7%	19.3%	21.2%	8.5%
Male householder, no spouse present	1.7%	2.2%	1.5%	-2.3%
Female householder, no spouse present	15.0%	17.1%	19.7%	10.9%
Nonfamily households:	6.0%	5.9%	9.2%	15.3%
Householder living alone	7.1%	7.1%	12.4%	16.6%
Householder not living alone	-1.2%	-1.2%	-3.2%	-1.2%

Allen County				
	All	Non-Hispanic White	Asian	Hispanic/Latino
Family households:	-14.4%	-14.5%	-26.2%	-23.9%
Married-couple family	-25.9%	-28.9%	-40.9%	-31.0%
Other family:	11.5%	14.5%	14.7%	7.1%
Male householder, no spouse present	3.3%	4.9%	1.8%	-1.2%

Female householder, no spouse present	8.2%	9.5%	12.9%	8.3%
Nonfamily households:	14.4%	14.5%	26.2%	23.9%
Householder living alone	14.8%	14.7%	26.0%	28.8%
Householder not living alone	-0.4%	-0.2%	0.2%	-4.8%

Source: Differences calculated by CRI using data from U.S. Census Bureau ACS Tables B1101, B1101B, B1101H, B1101I, B1101D

Table 3 compares equivalent demographics in Allen County to the United States and Indiana. Negative numbers mean Allen County's population is smaller and positive numbers mean local numbers are larger. For example, Allen County's Hispanic and Latino family households are 2.1% smaller than the national share while Allen County has 1.9% more non-family households in total compared to Indiana.

In broad terms, Allen County is more likely to have nonfamily households as compared to the state and nation; the exception is Asian households. The total, Black, and non-Hispanic white populations were less likely to have married-couple families in Allen County while Asian and Hispanic and Latino populations in Allen County were more likely to be married families compared to the national and state counterparts but this pattern is not universal. Single-parent households were split, with some Allen County groups being larger and some being smaller. Single-person households were more likely for all, Black, and non-Hispanic white populations in Allen County while they were smaller for Asian and Hispanic and Latino populations when compared to the state and nation.

Table 3: Household structure difference by geography, 2024

United States					
	All	Black	Non-Hispanic White	Asian	Hispanic/Latino
Family households:	-2.3%	-10.6%	-0.7%	2.3%	-2.1%
Married-couple family	-3.4%	-9.4%	-3.8%	0.2%	3.2%
Other family:	1.1%	-1.2%	3.1%	2.1%	-5.3%
Male householder, no spouse present	-0.5%	1.8%	-0.9%	1.5%	-0.3%
Female householder, no spouse present	1.6%	-3.0%	4.0%	0.5%	-5.0%
Nonfamily households:	2.3%	10.6%	0.7%	-2.3%	2.1%
Householder living alone	3.2%	9.9%	2.1%	-0.7%	-1.6%
Householder not living alone	-0.9%	0.7%	-1.4%	-1.6%	3.6%

Indiana					
	All	Black	Non-Hispanic White	Asian	Hispanic/Latino
Family households:	-1.9%	-10.4%	-1.8%	6.5%	-1.8%
Married-couple family	-3.3%	-6.6%	-2.9%	3.9%	0.5%
Other family:	1.4%	-3.8%	1.0%	2.6%	-2.4%
Male householder, no spouse present	-0.6%	1.0%	-1.7%	0.7%	-0.1%
Female householder, no spouse present	2.0%	-4.8%	2.7%	1.9%	-2.3%
Nonfamily households:	1.9%	10.4%	1.8%	-6.5%	1.8%

Householder living alone	2.2%	9.9%	2.3%	-3.7%	-2.3%
Householder not living alone	-0.3%	0.5%	-0.5%	-2.8%	4.2%

Source: Differences calculated by CRI using data from U.S. Census Bureau ACS Tables B1101, B1101B, B1101H, B1101I, B1101D

Household income

The ACS captures multiple forms of income: wages or salary, self-employment income, interest and dividends, rental income, royalties, income from estates or trusts, retirement accounts, pensions, Social Security benefits, cash welfare/public assistance, unemployment, worker's compensation, disability, child support or alimony, and Department of Veterans Affairs payments. It does not include non-cash benefits like the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).⁴

Household income reflects the income of all people 15 years old and over in the household, whether they are related to the householder or not. As a median, this reflects the mid-point between the top and bottom halves of the household income distribution and is not skewed by the top or bottom numbers, which can happen with an average.

Chart 5 shows the median household income for the three geographies for the total population, Black, non-Hispanic white, Asian, and Hispanic/Latino.

Allen County's median household income was below the state and nation except for Hispanic or Latino households, which was above Indiana's but below the nation.

The median household income for all Allen County residents was \$70,568, compared to \$71,959 in Indiana, and \$81,604 nationally. For Black households, it was \$35,811 in Allen County, \$51,176 in Indiana, and \$56,706 in the United States. Non-Hispanic white household's median in Allen County was \$75,383 compared to \$75,585 for the state and \$87,572 for the United States. Nationally the median for Asian households was \$117,289 compared to \$80,041 in Indiana and Allen County's \$60,514. Allen County's median for Hispanic and Latino households was \$71,084 while Indiana was at \$67,210 and the national median was \$72,574.

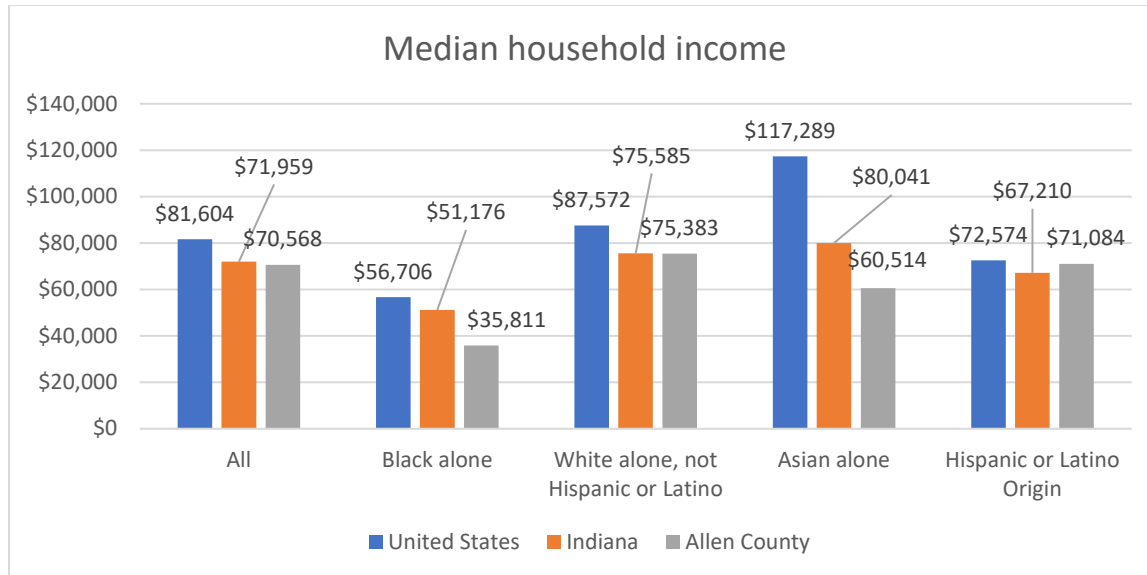
Two key distinctions about populations worth noting that might explain some disparities, which are shown in Charts 6 and 7, are the large share of single-income households for the Black population in Allen County and the smaller share Asians in Allen County with a high school diploma or bachelor's degree.

The data show 46.9% of Allen County's Black population is listed as living alone, which forecloses upon a second income-earner. This group may also be older, so less likely to work full time or may be relying on Social Security, a pension, or other retirement income, which is usually lower than wages from full-time employment. Another 21.9% of Black households in Allen County is single mothers, who may or may not have a second income earner.

⁴ https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/tech_docs/subject_definitions/2024_ACSSubjectDefinitions.pdf
pp. 94-96

As shown in the educational attainment section, specifically Charts 17 and 18, Allen County's Asian population has a lower education level, which would be consistent with the lower income shown in Chart 5.

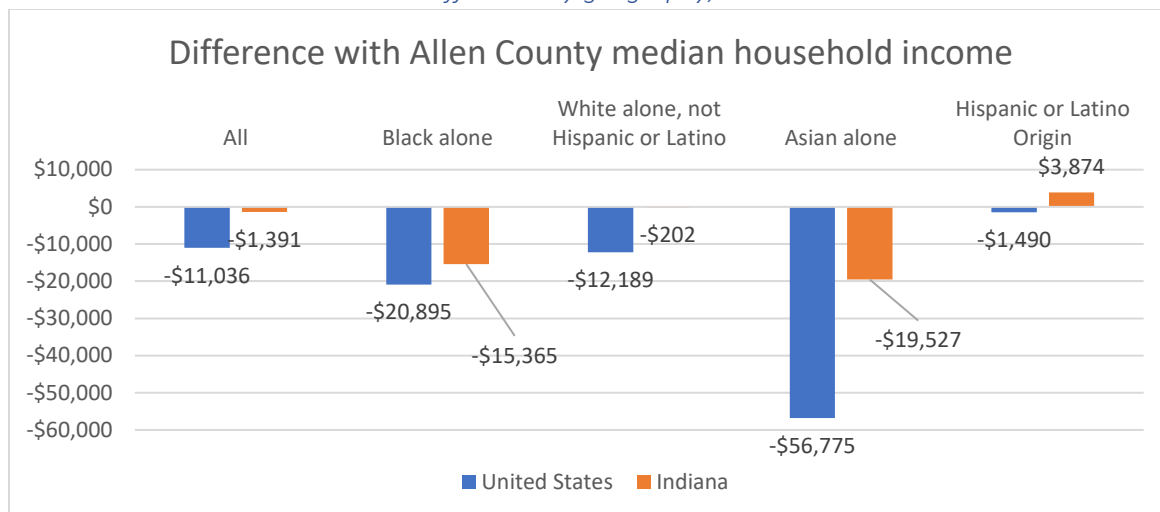
Chart 5: Median household income by race and ethnicity, 2024



Source: U.S. Census Bureau ACS Tables B19013, B19013H, B19013B, B19013D, B19013I

Chart 6 compares Allen County's median income to the state and nation for the respective population. The local median was lower than the state and nation for all groups except Hispanic and Latinos compared to Indiana. Allen County's median for all is \$11,036 less than the nation and \$1,391 below the state. The local Black median was \$15,365 below Indiana and \$20,895 less than the national Black median. The non-Hispanic white household median for Allen County was \$202 less than Indiana and \$12,189 below the United States. The Asian disparity was \$19,527 below the state's median and \$56,775 less than the national benchmark. The Allen County median for Hispanic and Latino households was \$3,874 above Indiana's and \$1,490 less than the nation.

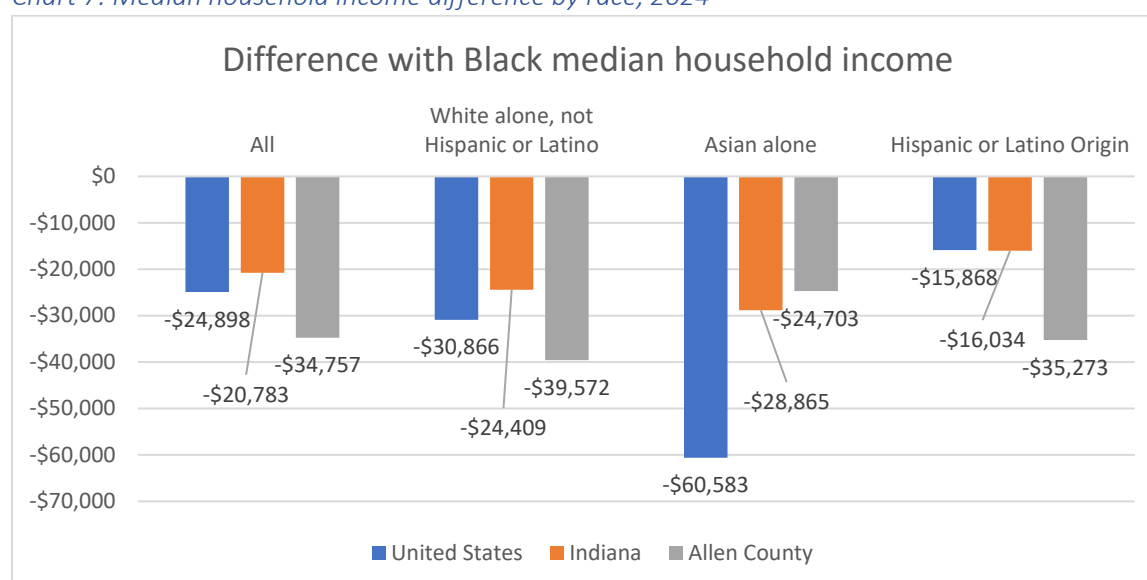
Chart 6: Median household income difference by geography, 2024



Source: Differences calculated by CRI using U.S. Census Bureau ACS Tables B19013, B19013H, B19013B, B19013D, B19013I

Chart 7 compares the Black median household income of the listed population for the same geography so that the United States total population median is subtracted from the national Black median and so on. In short, the Black median is below the comparison groups for all geographies and groups. For the Black-all or total comparison, Allen County's Black median was \$34,757 less than the median for the total population at the local level. Indiana's Black median was \$20,783 below the state's total, while the national Black median was \$24,898 below the national for all populations. Comparing the Black median to non-Hispanic whites, it was \$39,572 less in Allen County, \$24,409 less than Indiana, and \$30,866 less nationally. The largest spread was for the national Black-Asian population at -\$60,583. The state comparison in this grouping was -\$28,865 and -\$24,703 for Allen County. The smallest disparity was the national Black-Hispanic and Latino comparison at -\$15,868, followed by -\$16,034 for the state. Locally, the Black-Hispanic and Latino difference was -\$35,273, making it the second largest in Allen County, only behind that of the non-Hispanic white comparison.

Chart 7: Median household income difference by race, 2024



Source: Differences calculated by CRI using U.S. Census Bureau ACS Tables B19013, B19013H, B19013B, B19013D, B19013I

Labor force participation

Labor force participation reflects if someone is either working full- or part-time or actively looking for work by submitting applications and going to interviews. It does not include those who may be casually looking for work by reviewing online job postings from time to time or someone who would take a job if it were offered but are taking no actions to pursue paid employment.

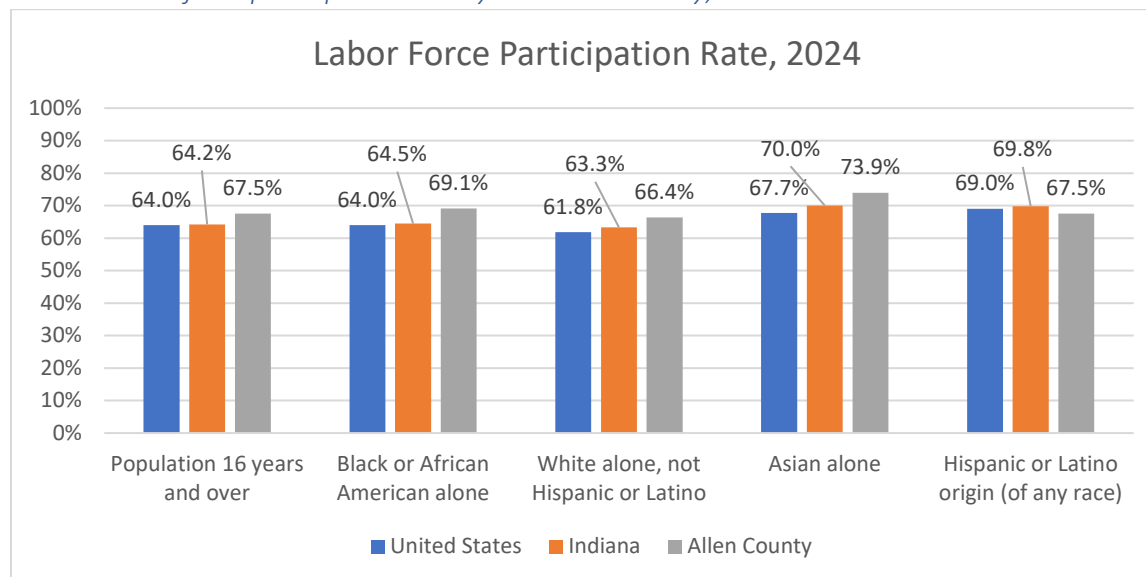
The labor force participation rates (LFPR) in Chart 8 reflect people ages 16 and older, so this includes teenagers and young adults who may still be in school and adults 65 and older who are more likely to be retired and thus not working or seeking employment.

Allen County outperforms Indiana and the United States for all groups evaluated, except Hispanics and Latinos. The Black population in Allen County is nearly 7 in 10 people working or looking for work at 69.1%, compared to 64% nationally and 64.5% in Indiana for Blacks. Allen County's Black LFPR was the second-highest of the sub-groups evaluated, only behind the 73.9% for Allen County Asians. The non-Hispanic white LFPR was the lowest of the sub-groups at 66.4% for Allen County, 63.3% in Indiana, and

61.8% nationally. The national Asian LFPR was 67.7% and 70.0% for Indiana. The Hispanic and Latino LFPR was 69.0% for the United States, 69.8% in Indiana, and 67.5% in Allen County.

The total LFPR is 67.5% in Allen County, 64.2% in Indiana, and 64.0% in the United States.

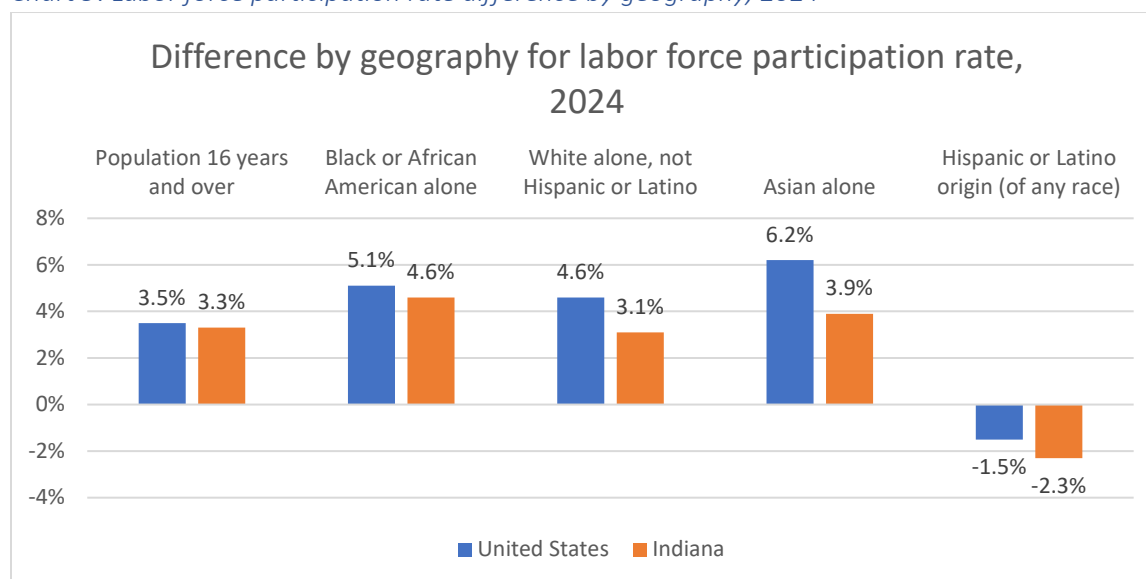
Chart 8: Labor force participation rate by race and ethnicity, 2024



Source: U.S. Census Bureau ACS Table S2301

Chart 9 compares Allen County to the state and nation so that a larger number reflects a higher number in Allen County compared to the other geography. The total LFPR in Allen County is 3.3% above the state and 3.5% above the nation. Allen County's Black LFPR is 4.6% higher than Indiana's and 5.1% above the national rate. Non-Hispanic white locally is 3.1% above the state and 4.6% above the nation. For Asians in Allen County, it's 3.9% above Indiana and 6.2% above the United States. Allen County's Hispanic population LFPR is 2.3% below the state and 1.5% below the nation.

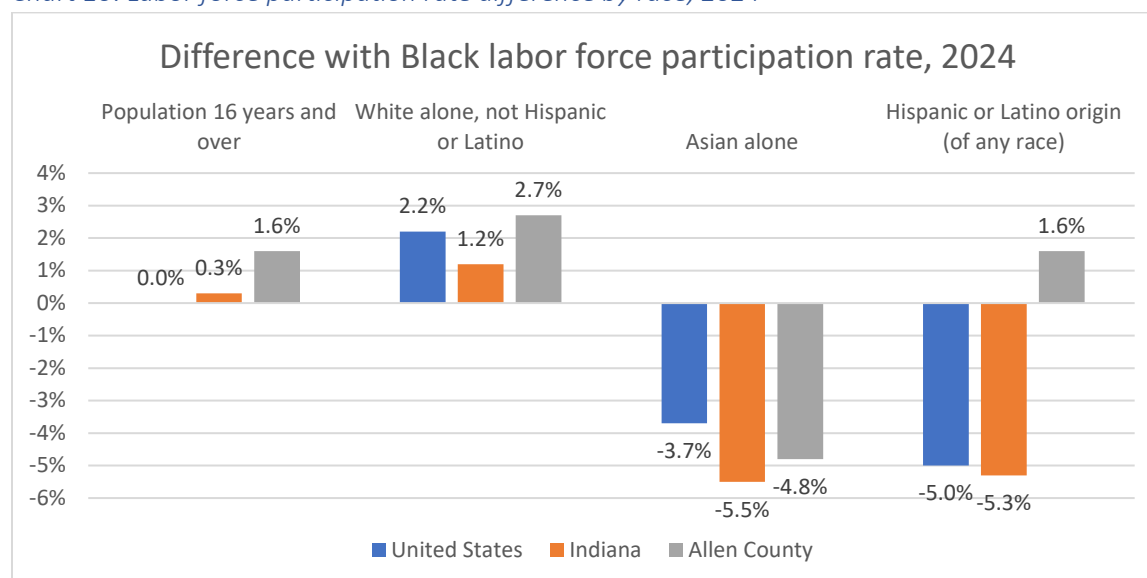
Chart 9: Labor force participation rate difference by geography, 2024



Source: Difference calculated by CRI using U.S. Census Bureau ACS Table S2301

Chart 10 compares the Black LFPR to the listed group in the same geography so that the national Black LFPR is compared to the national numbers in each of the four groups and the same for the state and local numbers. Positive numbers mean the Black LFPR is greater for that geography and racial or ethnic grouping and a negative number is smaller. On a national level, the Black LFPR matches the total, exceeds the non-Hispanic white by 2.2% and is below Asian and Hispanic or Latino LFPR for 3.7% and 5.0% less respectively. On the state level, Black Hoosiers have an LFPR 0.3% above the total population and 1.2% above non-Hispanic whites. The statewide comparison for Asian and Hispanic or Latino is also lower at -5.5% and -5.3% respectively. At the local level, the Black LFPR is 1.6% above both the total and Hispanic and Latino and 2.7% above the non-Hispanic white. It was 4.8% below the Asian LFPR in Allen County.

Chart 10: Labor force participation rate difference by race, 2024



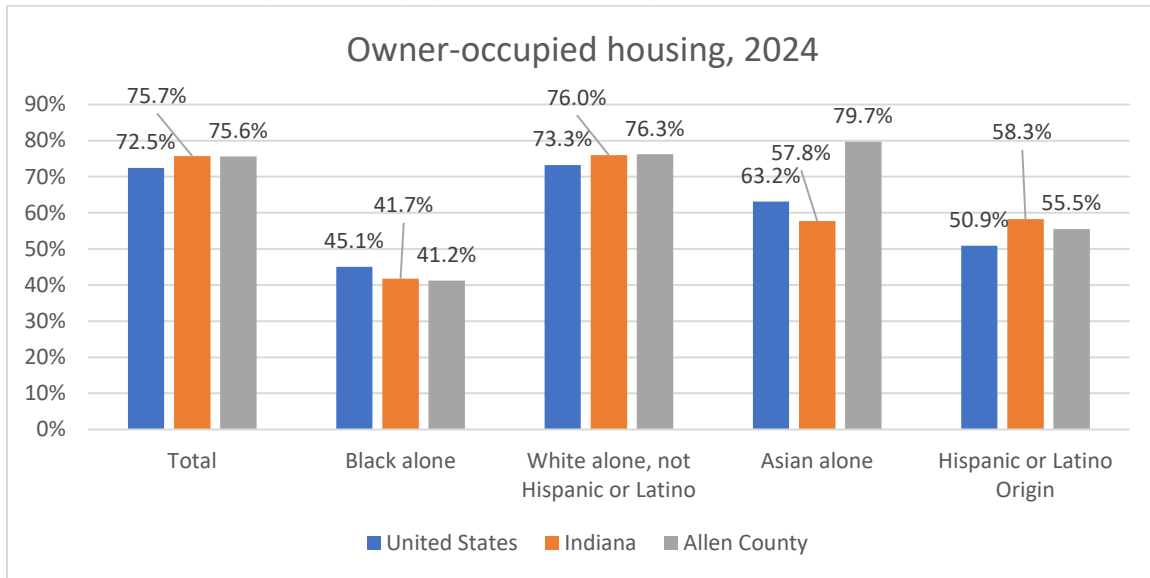
Source: Difference calculated by CRI using U.S. Census Bureau ACS Table S2301

Housing tenure

The Census Bureau measures homeownership in the housing tenure category, using a household measure, so that if one or more people in the household owns the home, regardless of mortgage or other loan, it is considered to be owner occupied. Renter-occupied units do not have anyone living there with an ownership stake in the unit and may or may not have the tenant or occupant paying rent.

Charts 11 and 14 show the share of households with owner- and renter-occupied units respectively. As shown in Chart 11, nearly or slightly more than 3/4 of all households are homeowners in the three geographies at 72.5% nationally, 75.7% in Indiana, and 75.6% in Allen County. For the four sub-groups, at least half of non-Hispanic white, Asian, and Hispanic or Latino households in all three geographies lived in owner-occupied units, ranging from 50.9% of Hispanic households nationwide to 79.7% of Asian households in Allen County. For Black households, homeownership ranged between 41.2% in Allen County to 45.1% nationally.

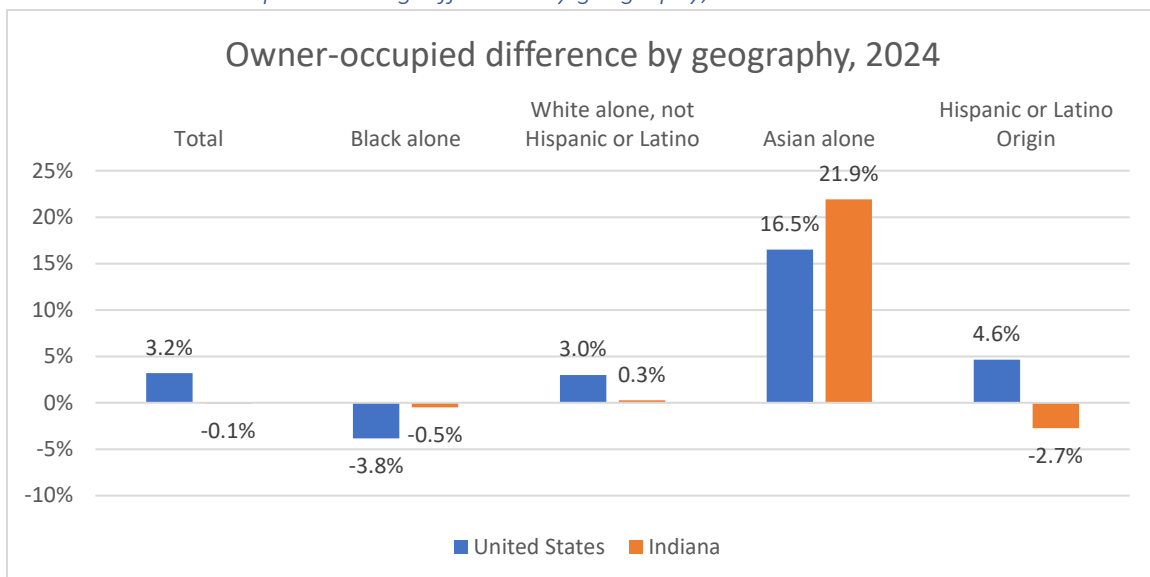
Chart 11: Owner-occupied housing by race and ethnicity, 2024



Source: Percentages calculated by CRI using U.S. Census Bureau ACS Tables B25003, B25003H, B25003B, B25003D, B25003I

Chart 12 compares Allen County's homeownership rate to the comparable group in Indiana and the United States. A positive number indicates the local homeownership rate is higher than the comparison geography and a negative number reflects a smaller share of homeowners in Allen County. In total, Allen County is nearly equivalent to Indiana with a -0.1% difference and ahead of the nation by 3.2%. The local-state difference is also relatively small for Black and non-Hispanic white households at -0.5% and 0.3% respectively. Asian households in Allen County far outperform their state counterparts at a homeownership rate at 21.9% higher than Indiana, while local Hispanic households are 2.7% below the state. At a national scale, non-Hispanic white, Asian, and Hispanic households in Allen County all outpace the United States at 3.0%, 16.5%, and 4.6% respectively. In contrast, Allen County's Black households are 3.8% below the national homeownership rate.

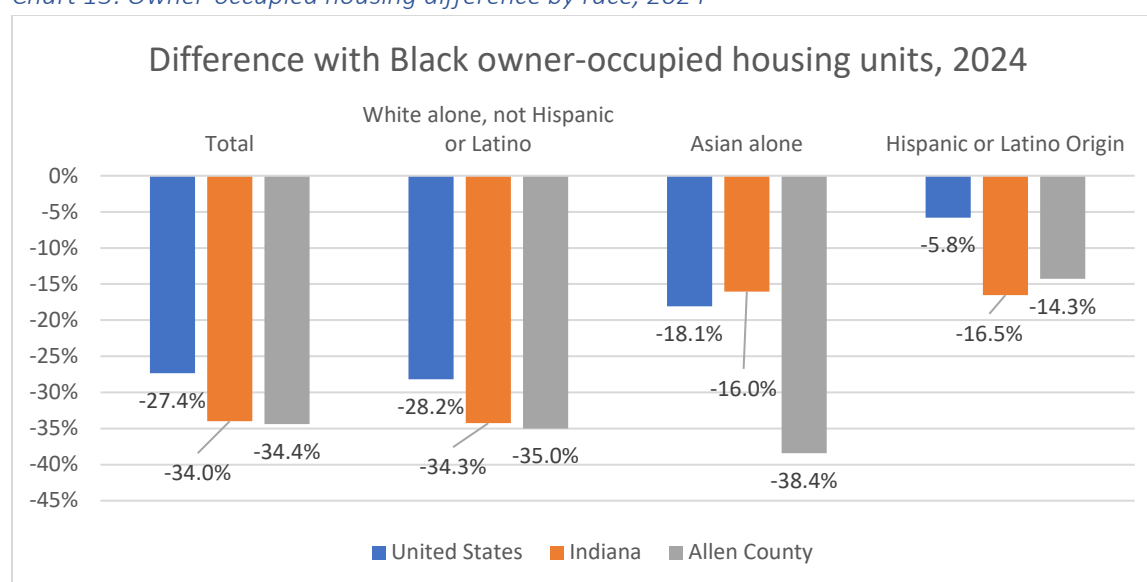
Chart 12: Owner-occupied housing difference by geography, 2024



Source: Difference calculated by CRI using U.S. Census Bureau ACS Tables B25003, B25003H, B25003B, B25003D, B25003I

Chart 13 compares the Black population to the other groups in the same geographies. For example, the first set of graphs on the left compare Black households in each of the three geographies to the total population in the United States, Indiana, and Allen County. As seen above in Chart 11, the Black household homeownership rate is below all groups and geographies studied. The smallest gap is the national Black homeownership rate compared to Hispanic or Latino households at -5.8%. The largest gap is in Allen County between Black and Asian households at -38.4%. The Black homeownership rate compared to the total population is between 27.4% and 34.4% lower. That difference stays pretty consistent for the Black and non-Hispanic white comparison at -28.2% at the national level going up to -35.0% for Allen County. For the Black-Asian comparison it ranged between -16.0% at the state up to -38.4% for Allen County. The Black-Hispanic or Latino spread was between -5.8% nationally to -16.5% in Indiana.

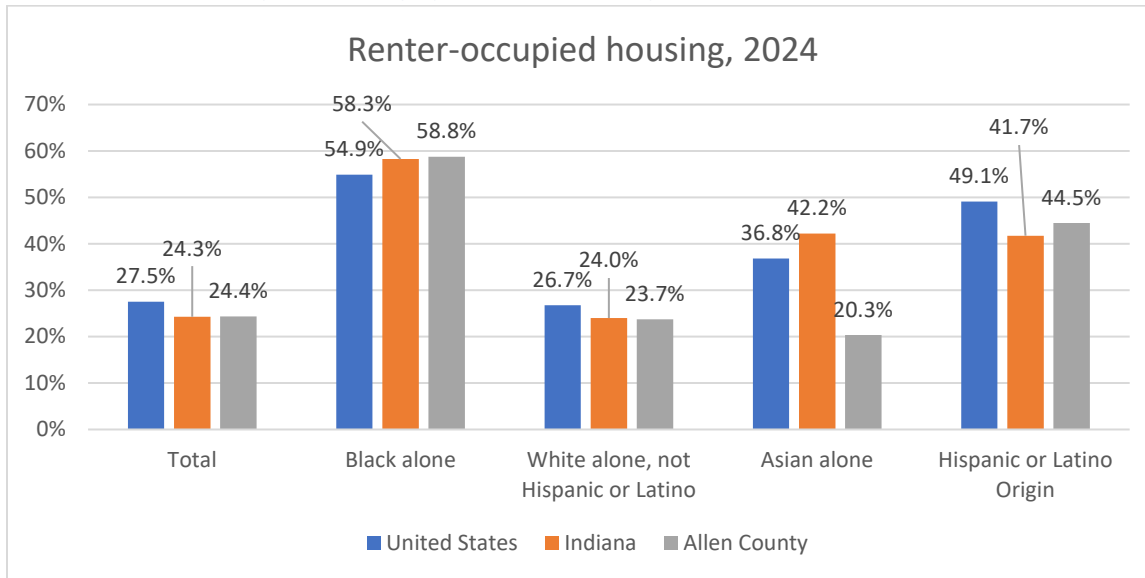
Chart 13: Owner-occupied housing difference by race, 2024



Source: Difference calculated by CRI using U.S. Census Bureau ACS Tables B25003, B25003H, B25003B, B25003D, B25003I

Chart 14 is the opposite of Chart 11 to show the share of households who are renting. The total population has 27.5% of households as renters nationally, compared to 24.3% and 24.4% at the state and local levels. For Black households, rentals constitute 54.9% nationally, 58.3% statewide, and 58.8% in Allen County, making it the highest for all groups studied. Non-Hispanic white households had the smallest share of renters for the national and state levels at 26.7% and 24.0% respectively. In Allen County, the non-Hispanic white household renter rate was 23.7%, which was below the total, Black, and Hispanic or Latino rates but above the Asian alone. Asian households had the smallest share of households as renters in Allen County at 20.3%, compared to 36.8% nationally and 42.2% in Indiana. Hispanic and Latino households were nearly half renters nationally at 49.1%, but that dipped to 41.7% in Indiana and 44.5% in Allen County.

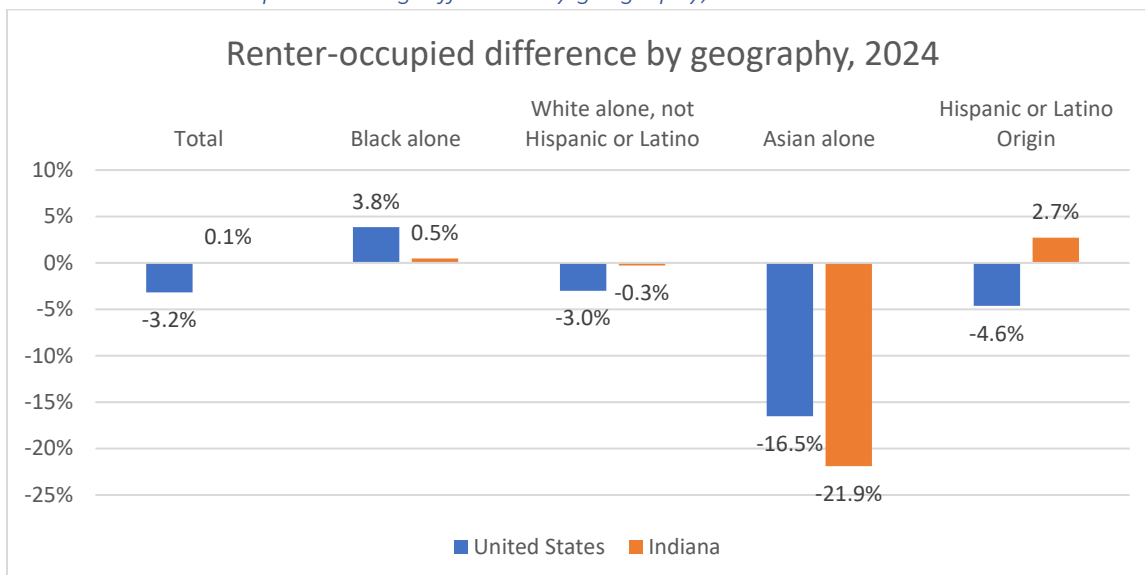
Chart 14: Renter-occupied housing by race and ethnicity, 2024



Source: Percentages calculated by CRI using U.S. Census Bureau ACS Tables B25003, B25003H, B25003B, B25003D, B25003I

Chart 15 compares Allen County to Indiana and the United States for the same demographic group of renters, with a negative number indicating Allen County has a smaller share of renters and a positive number has Allen County with a larger percentage of renters. This is the opposite data set as compared to Chart 12's homeownership information. Allen County's renter share is below a 1% difference – plus or minus – with Indiana for the total, Black, and non-Hispanic white households as renters. For the same three populations the spread was less than 4% up or down when compared to the nation. The share of Asian households in Allen County who are renters was far below their state and national counterparts at -21.9% for Indiana and -16.5% for the United States. The local Hispanic or Latino renter rate is split with 2.7% above the state and 4.6% below the nation.

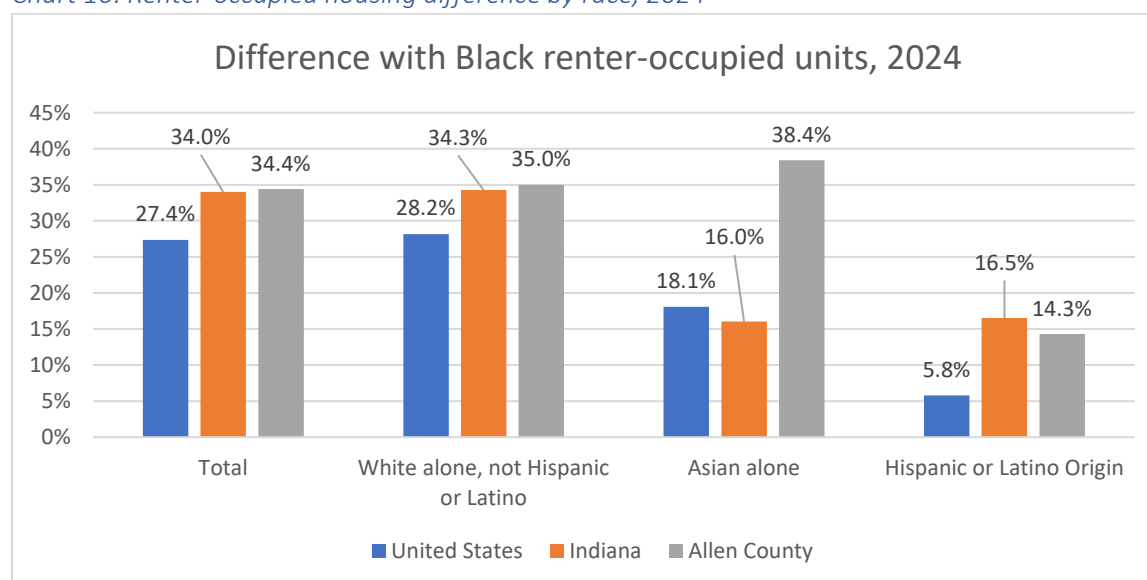
Chart 15: Renter-occupied housing difference by geography, 2024



Source: Difference calculated by CRI using U.S. Census Bureau ACS Tables B25003, B25003H, B25003B, B25003D, B25003I

Using the same structure as the other Black-comparison charts, Chart 16 compares the Black population's share of renter-occupied housing units to the total and other three sub-groups. As would be expected from the data in Chart 14, Black households far outpace the nation, state, and local levels for all groups evaluated for the share of renters. When comparing the totals, Black renters are between 27.4% greater at the national level up to 34.4% for Allen County. A similar spread appears for the non-Hispanic white comparison, going between 28.2% nationally up to 35.0% for Allen County. The spread is largest in the Asian comparison, going from 16.0% for the state level up to 38.4% for Allen County. The spread is smallest for the Black-Hispanic/Latino comparison going from 5.8% nationally up to 16.5% for Indiana.

Chart 16: Renter-occupied housing difference by race, 2024



Source: Difference calculated by CRI using U.S. Census Bureau ACS Tables B25003, B25003H, B25003B, B25003D, B25003I

Educational attainment

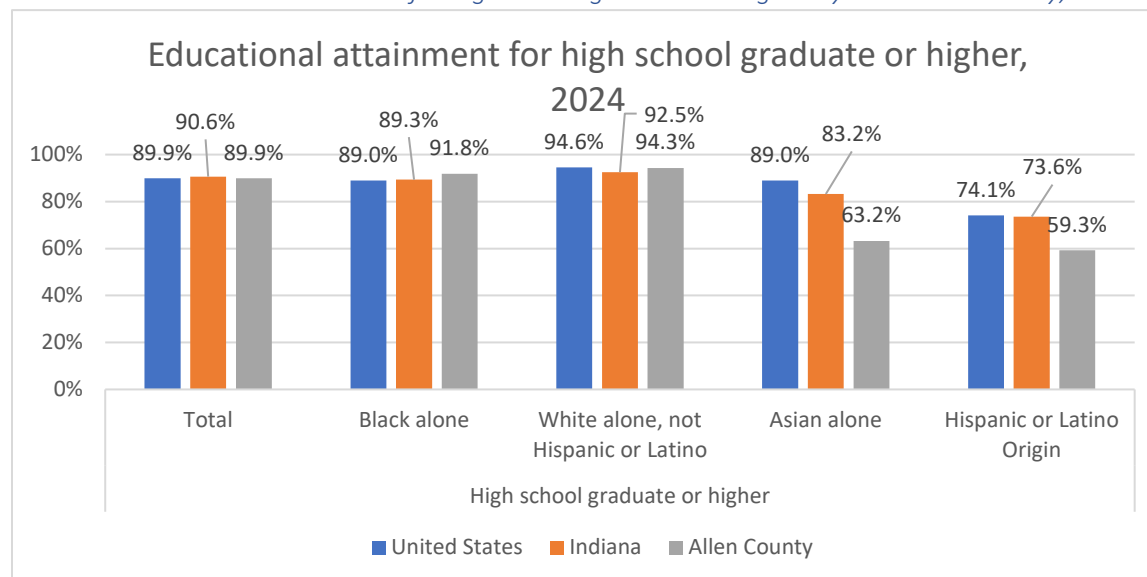
As listed in charts 17-22, educational attainment reflects the level of education for adults ages 25 and older, which is when many people have completed their formal schooling. Educational attainment is an important socioeconomic metric as increased education levels can command higher wages. Also, although not detailed in this report, higher education levels tend to be reflected in greater LFPRs so that people with more education are more likely to be employed or looking for work.

For the State of Black Fort Wayne, CRI reported educational attainment at two levels: high school graduate or higher and bachelor's degree or higher. The Census Bureau does not track or report certificates or certifications.

Chart 17 looks at adults ages 25 and older who at minimum graduated from high school or earned the equivalency of a high school diploma. This chart includes those listed on Chart 18's bachelor's degree or higher. High school diplomas can be considered an entry point to stable employment, whether that is through a career path on that credential alone or a high school diploma provides access to additional educational opportunities in higher education or other training programs.

For the total population, the United States and Allen County were tied at 89.9% of adults with a high school diploma or higher and Indiana was slightly above that at 90.6%. Allen County's Black population was higher than the state or nation's Black adults with 91.8%, compared to 89.3% in Indiana and 89.0% nationally. At 94.6%, the national non-Hispanic white high school diploma rate is higher than Indiana's 92.5% and 94.3%. Allen County's Asian and Hispanic and Latino populations are significantly lower with high school diplomas or higher at 63.2% and 59.3% respectively. For comparison, the national rate for Asian adults is 89.0% and 83.2% for Indiana and 74.1% for Hispanics and Latinos nationally and 73.6% in Indiana.

Chart 17: Educational attainment for high school graduate or higher by race and ethnicity, 2024

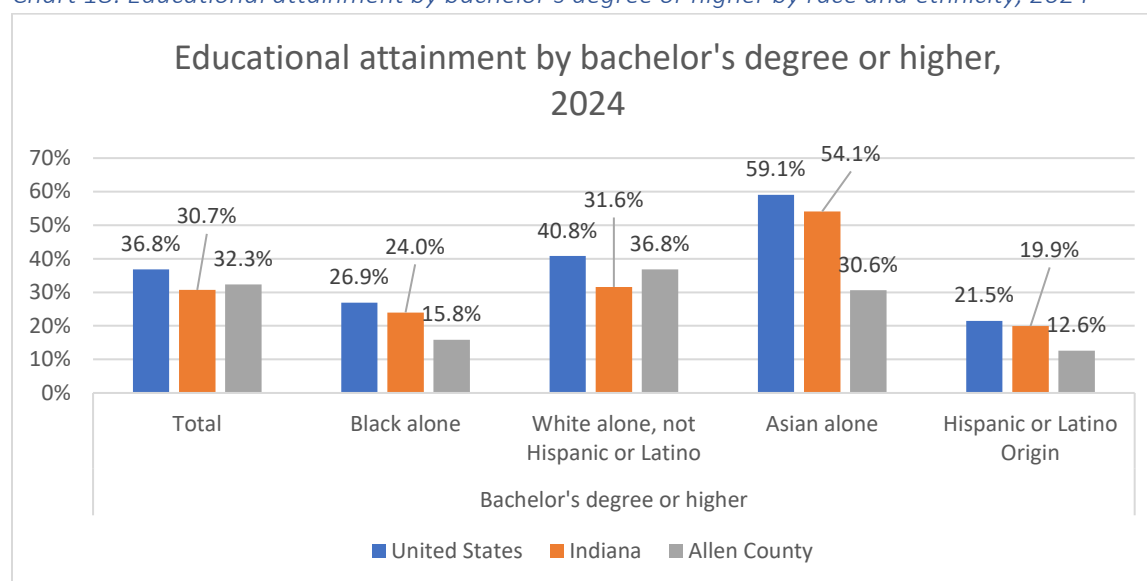


Source: U.S. Census Bureau ACS Table S1501

Chart 18 tracks adults with a bachelor's degree or higher, including master's, professional, and doctorate degrees. In all groups evaluated for this project, Indiana and Allen County's share of adults with bachelor's degrees or higher were below the national share. Less than half of all groups studied in Allen County had this educational credential, ranging between 12.6% for Hispanics and Latinos up to 36.8% for non-Hispanic whites.

In the total population, 36.8% of the United States, 30.7% of Hoosiers, and 32.3% of Allen County adults had a bachelor's degree. At the local level, 15.8% of the Black population possessed a bachelor's degree compared to 24.0% of the state and 26.9% nationally. 36.8% of non-Hispanic white Allen County adults had a bachelor's degree, which was ahead of Indiana's 31.6% but below the national share of 40.8%. The Asian and Hispanic and Latino populations created a descending staircase configuration of national, state, and local percentages. For Asian adults, it was 59.1% nationally, 54.1% in Indiana, and 30.6% for Allen County. For Hispanic and Latino adults, it was 21.5% in the United States, 19.9% in the state, and 12.6% at the local level.

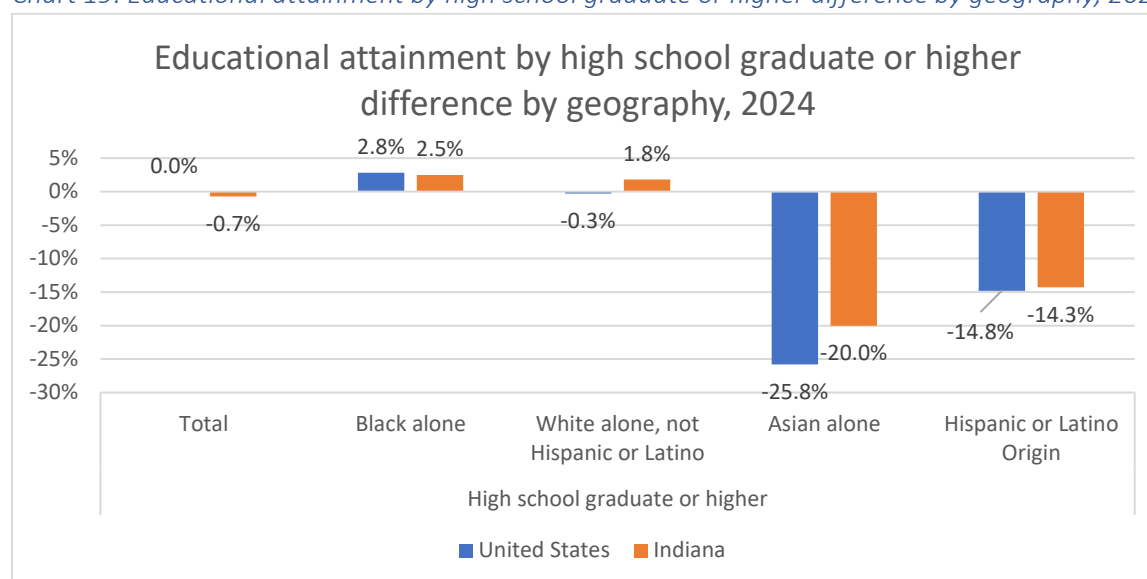
Chart 18: Educational attainment by bachelor's degree or higher by race and ethnicity, 2024



Source: U.S. Census Bureau ACS Table S1501

Chart 19 takes the data from Chart 17 to make comparisons between Allen County and the United States and Indiana respectively for the share of adults with a high school diploma or higher. A positive number reflects a greater share of Allen County residents with that credential in comparison to that geography and a negative number has fewer Allen County residents with a high school diploma when measured by percent. Allen County residents in total match the national rate of high school graduates precisely and are 0.7% below Indiana's share. Black Allen County residents outpace the state and nation at 2.5% and 2.8% respectively for high school diplomas. Non-Hispanic white Allen County residents are slightly below the nation with high school diplomas at -0.3% but 1.8% above the statewide rate. For Asian adults, Allen County is 20.0% below the statewide rate and 25.8% below the national rate, which is probably reflective of the local refugee population in comparison to the Asian populations elsewhere. The Allen County Hispanic and Latino population with high school diplomas is also below the state and national numbers at 14.3% lower than Indiana and 14.8% less than the United States.

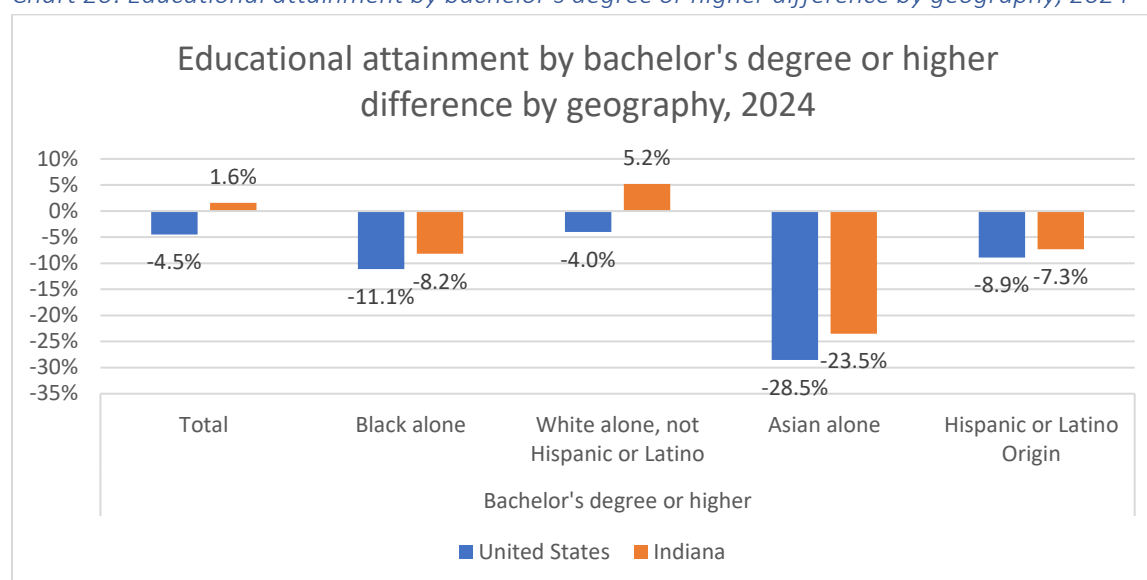
Chart 19: Educational attainment by high school graduate or higher difference by geography, 2024



Source: Difference calculated by CRI using U.S. Census Bureau ACS Table S1501

Chart 20 continues by comparing Allen County to the other two geographies, same as chart 19, but this time using adults with a bachelor's degree or higher. The total and the four subgroups were below the national share: -4.5% for the total population, -11.1% for Blacks, -4.0% for non-Hispanic whites, -28.5% for Asians, and -8.9% for Hispanics and Latinos. The total population and non-Hispanic whites were above the state at 1.6% and 5.2% respectively. The statewide-local comparison for bachelor's degrees was -8.2% for Blacks, -23.5% for Asians, and -7.3% for Hispanics and Latinos.

Chart 20: Educational attainment by bachelor's degree or higher difference by geography, 2024



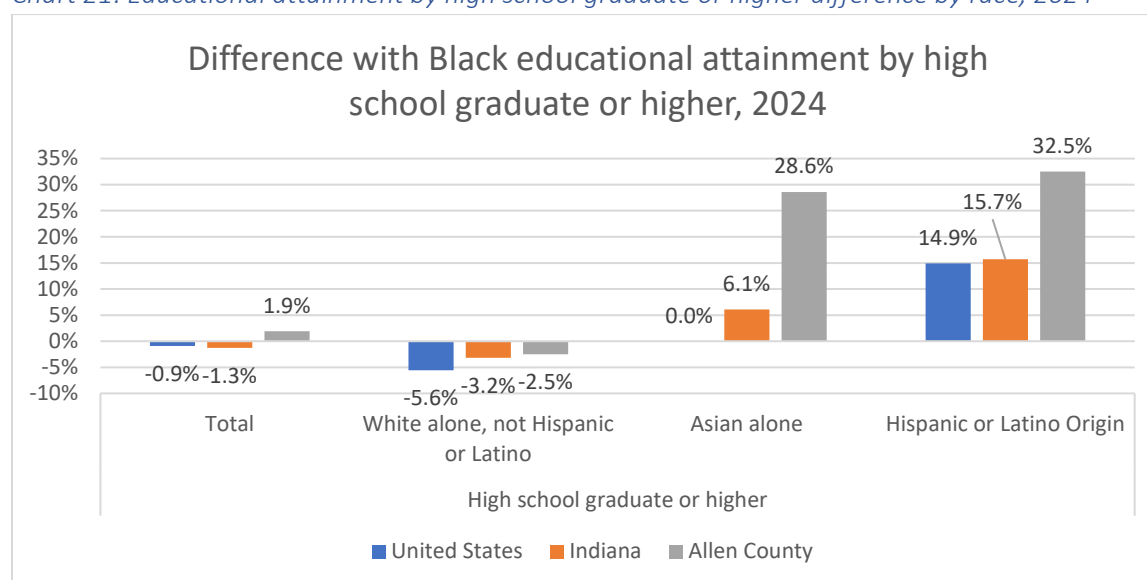
Source: Difference calculated by CRI using U.S. Census Bureau ACS Table S1501

Charts 21 and 22 compare the Black population to the other groups in the respective geography for high school diplomas or higher and bachelor's degrees or higher. As has been in other similarly structured

charts, a positive number reflects Allen County's Black population having a larger share and a negative number reflects a smaller share.

As shown in Chart 21, Black adults in the United States and Indiana is 0.9% and 1.3% lower the total but Allen County's is 1.9% above for high school diplomas or the equivalent. When compared to the non-Hispanic white population, it's below in all three geographies: 5.6% below the nation, 3.2% down in Indiana, and 2.5% less in Allen County. It matches the Asian population on the national level, but is 6.1% above in Indiana and 28.6% higher in Allen County. When compared to the Hispanic and Latino population, it is 14.9% higher than the United States, 15.7% above the state's share, and 32.5% above Hispanic or Latino origin.

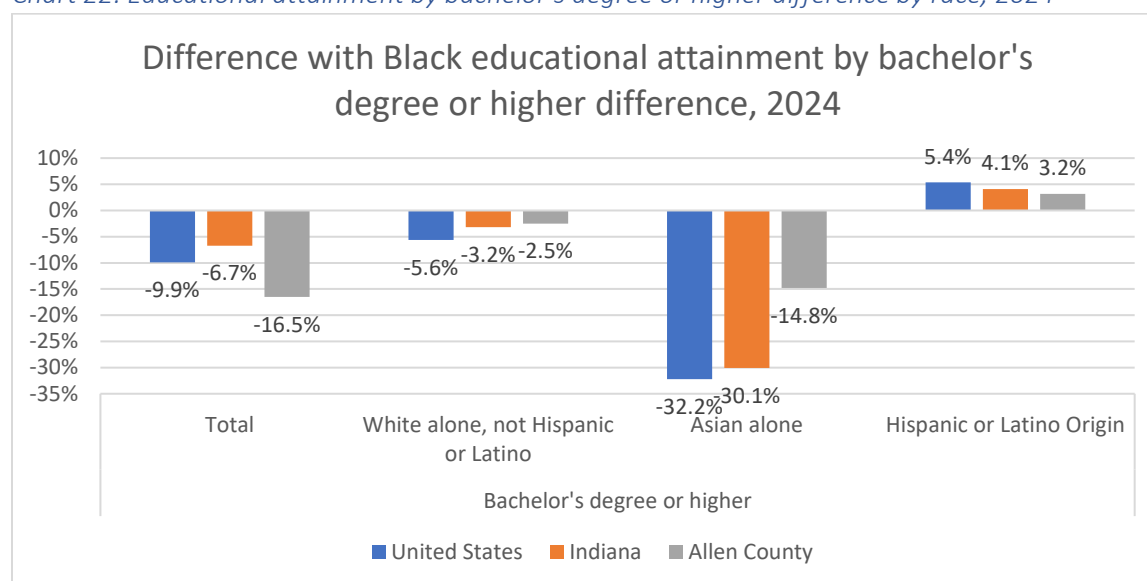
Chart 21: Educational attainment by high school graduate or higher difference by race, 2024



Source: Difference calculated by CRI using U.S. Census Bureau ACS Table S1501

Chart 22 is the same comparison as Chart 21 but for bachelor's degrees. The Black population is below the total, non-Hispanic white, and Asian populations in all three geographies but is above the Hispanic and Latino populations in the geographies studied. For the total population, it was between 6.7% and 16.5% below the three geographies with the largest disparity at the local level. That shrank to -2.5% in Allen County to -5.6% nationally for the non-Hispanic white comparison but jumped to between -14.8% locally and -32.2% for Asian comparison at the national level. The Hispanic or Latino comparison has the Black population 5.4% above the national share, 4.1% in Indiana, and 3.2% in Allen County.

Chart 22: Educational attainment by bachelor's degree or higher difference by race, 2024



Source: Difference calculated by CRI using U.S. Census Bureau ACS Table S1501

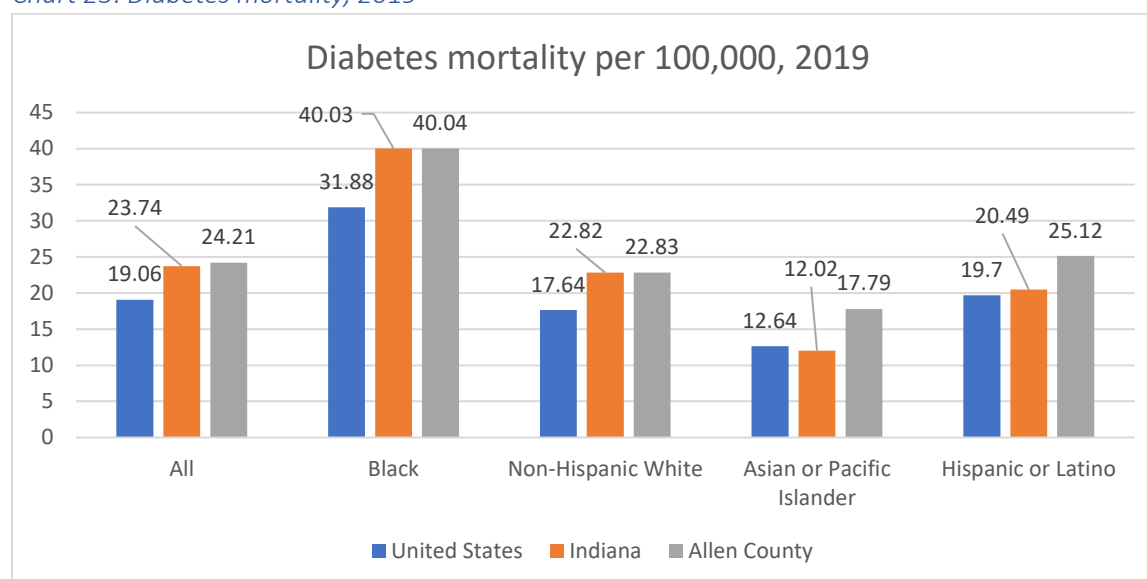
Diabetes mortality

The Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME) has published diabetes mortality data by county and race and ethnicity for 2019. While data exists for total diabetes diagnosis rates at the county level, CRI was not able to identify a source that provided incidence rate by race or ethnicity at the local level. Nationally, 13.5% of adults had diabetes (diagnosed and undiagnosed) between 2021 and 2023, with 20.7% of Black adults, 11.2% of non-Hispanic white adults, 14.5% of Asian adults, and 17.1% of Hispanic adults with the condition. CRI would expect similar if not higher trends at a local level.

The diabetes mortality rate is calculated based per 100,000 residents. Chart 23 follows the pattern from the demographic and socioeconomic charts with total, Black, non-Hispanic white, Asian, and Hispanic or Latino for the national, state, and local geographies using 2019 IHME data.

Allen County diabetes mortality rates exceeded that of the United States and Indiana in all the groups studied. Allen County's Black population had the highest diabetes mortality rate of any group or geography studied at 40.04, although it was 0.01 above the state's rate at 40.03. The lowest was the 12.02 for Asians and Pacific Islanders in Indiana. The Black diabetes mortality rate ranged between 31.88 nationally to 40.04 locally. The non-Hispanic white mortality rates ranged between 17.64 nationally and 22.83 in Allen County. For Asians and Pacific Islanders, the low was Indiana at 12.02 up to 17.79 for Allen County. The Hispanic and Latino mortality rate was between 19.7 nationally up to 25.12 for Allen County.

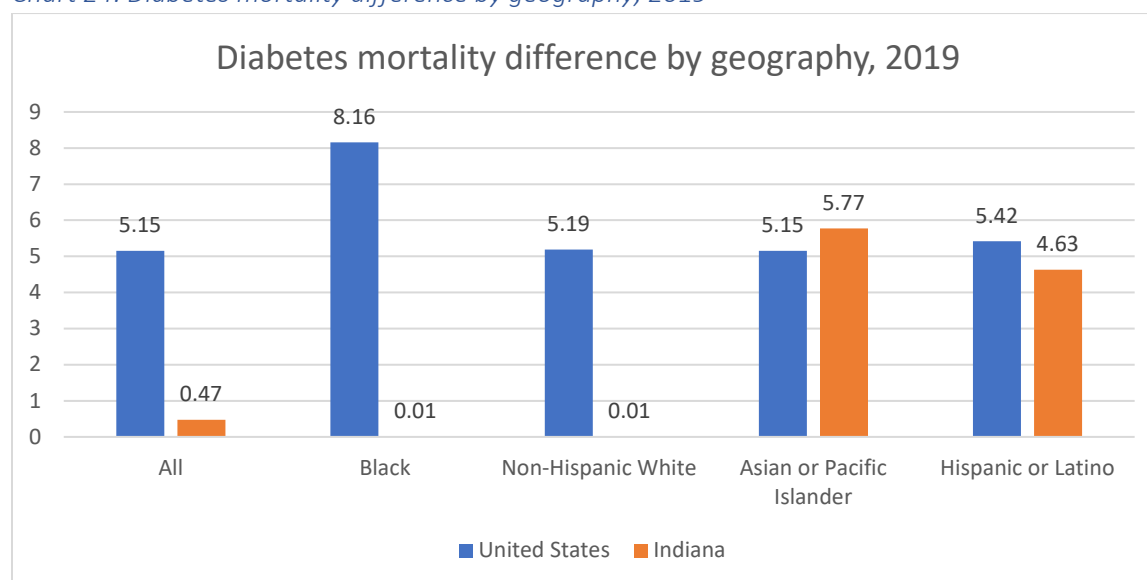
Chart 23: Diabetes mortality, 2019



Source: Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation

Chart 24 compares Allen County to the state and nation for each group. Locally all were higher than the state and nation, however the mortality rate for Blacks and non-Hispanic whites are essentially even between Allen County and Indiana. The largest disparity is the Black local-national comparison at 8.16. The total, non-Hispanic white, and Asian and Pacific Islander national comparisons essentially matched at 5.15 and 5.19. The local mortality rates for Asians and Pacific Islanders and Hispanics or Latinos were markedly higher than the state at 5.77 and 4.63 respectively. The disparity for all was 0.47 higher compared to the state and 5.15 higher than the nation.

Chart 24: Diabetes mortality difference by geography, 2019

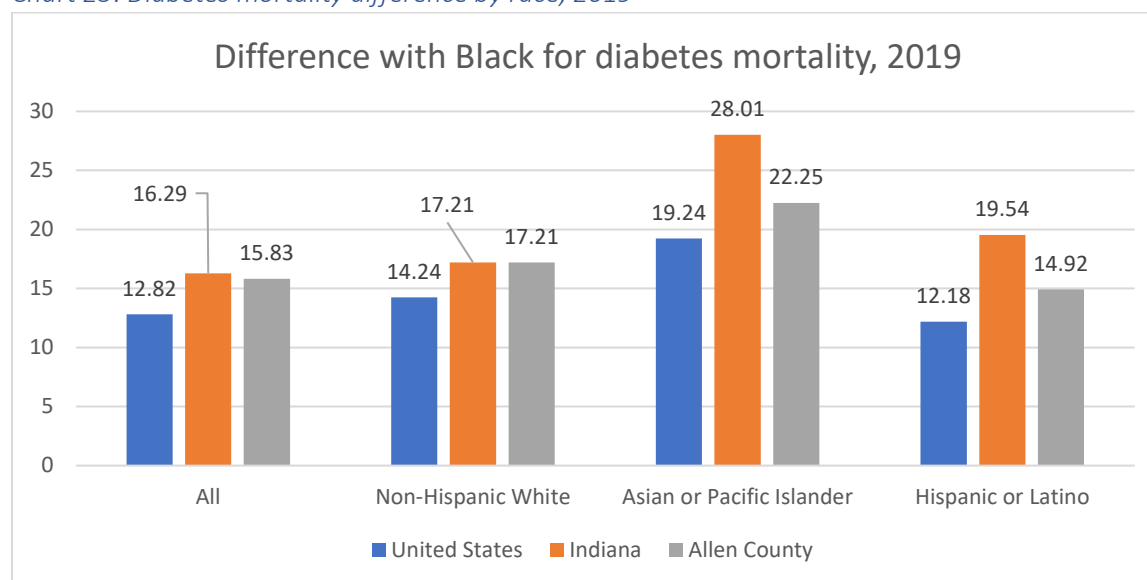


Source: Differences calculated by CRI using IHME data

Chart 25 compares the Black diabetes mortality rates to the other four groups in all three geographies. The Black mortality rates were higher in all comparisons. The largest was at the state level for Asians and

Pacific Islanders at 28.01, followed by 22.25 at the local level and then 19.24 at the national level. The smallest was at the national level for Hispanics and Latinos at 12.18. The Black and non-Hispanic white difference was the same at the state and local levels for 17.21, but lower at the national level at 14.24. The third highest disparity was Black and Hispanic or Latino for Indiana at 19.54. The Hispanic difference at the local level was 14.92. The national difference for that pairing was 12.18. Comparing to the total population, the highest was at the state level for 16.29 with the local disparity second at 15.83 followed by the national mortality difference at 12.82, which was the second lowest of all comparisons.

Chart 25: Diabetes mortality difference by race, 2019



Source: Differences calculated by CRI using IHME data

Birth outcomes and infant mortality

Infant mortality and specifically Black infant mortality has been a public health concern for many years. Infant mortality is defined as the death of a child for any cause before the first birthday.

Infant mortality rates (IMR) are per 1,000 live births, so an IMR of 6.5 is equivalent to 65 deaths in a population of 10,000 infants. Public health experts have identified infant mortality as a key measure of pediatric and overall community-level health.

While some infant deaths are unpreventable, like those from severe congenital anomalies, many of the risk factors can be reduced or managed. Babies born at less than 37 weeks gestation – pre-term births – or weighing less than 5 pounds 8 ounces – low birthweights – are at particular risk. Local health departments collect many birth outcomes and other measures at the time of birth, which are then compiled and published by the Indiana Department of Health (IDOH).

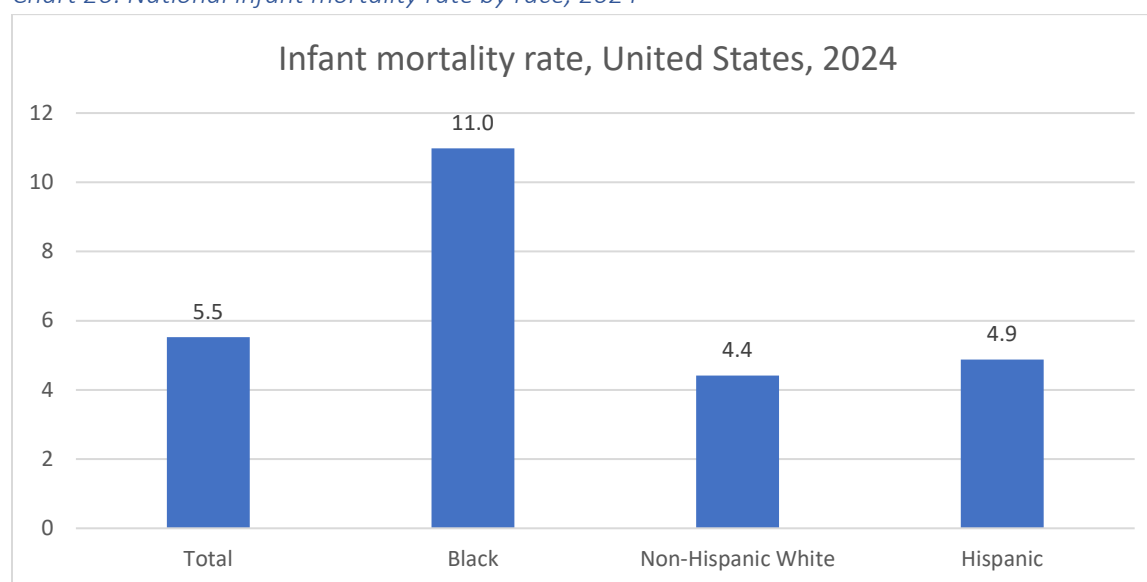
For this project, CRI looked at IDOH birth outcomes from 2024 for the total population, Black, non-Hispanic white, and Hispanic. IDOH also publishes an “all other races” categories, but that is not included here. IDOH publishes national data for birth outcomes but 2024 data had not been released as of April 2026 so no national comparison was made in this section.

For infant mortality, IDOH uses a five-year infant mortality rate so the data here reflect 2020-2024 for the state and local data. CRI also included the 2024 national infant mortality rate but did not make a

comparison between the national and state and local data because of the inconsistencies in the timeframe. The state and local rates need the extended period of five years for data reliability.

Starting with national information, the overall IMR in 2024 was 5.5 deaths per 1,000 live births, as shown in Chart 26. The Black IMR was nearly twice that at 11.0, compared to 4.4 for non-Hispanic whites and 4.9 for Hispanics. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Healthy People 2030 IMR target is 5.0.⁵

Chart 26: National infant mortality rate by race, 2024

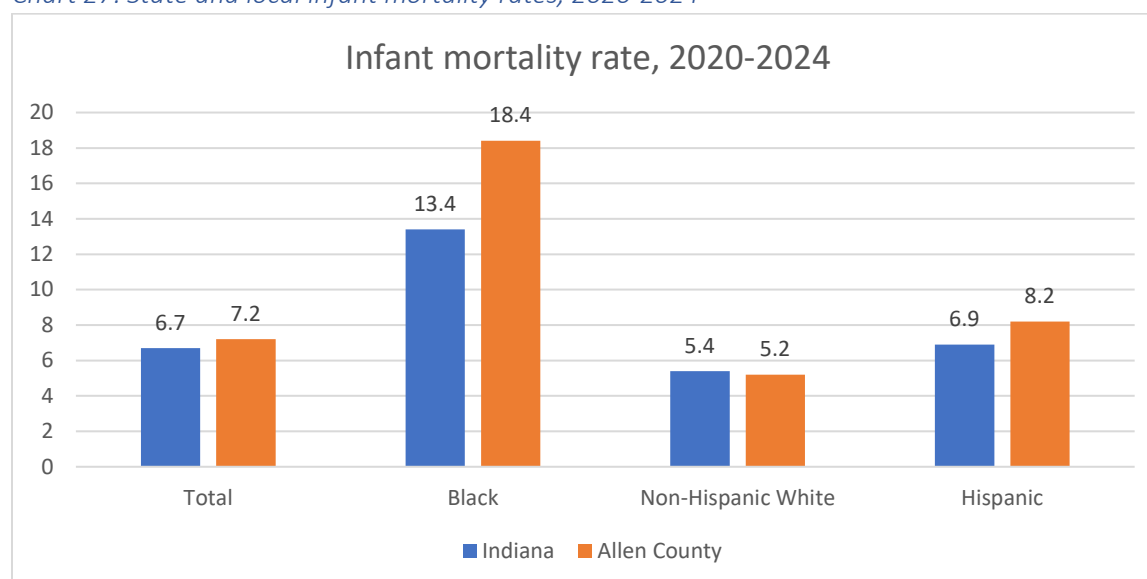


Source: National Center for Health Statistics

Chart 27 switches over to state and local IMR for 2020 to 2024, again measured per 1,000 live births. The Black IMR for Indiana and Allen County were more than twice that of the total: 18.4 in Allen County and 13.4 in Indiana. They were also the highest of the three subgroups reported. Non-Hispanic white infant mortality in Allen County was just below the state rate at 5.2 compared to 5.4. The total and Hispanic rates in Allen County were above Indiana: 7.2 total in Allen County compared to 6.7 for totals in Indiana and 8.2 locally compared to 6.9 statewide for Hispanic births. Note that all of these measures are above the Healthy People 2030 IMR goal of 5.0.

⁵ <https://odphp.health.gov/healthypeople/objectives-and-data/browse-objectives/infants/reduce-rate-infant-deaths-mich-02>

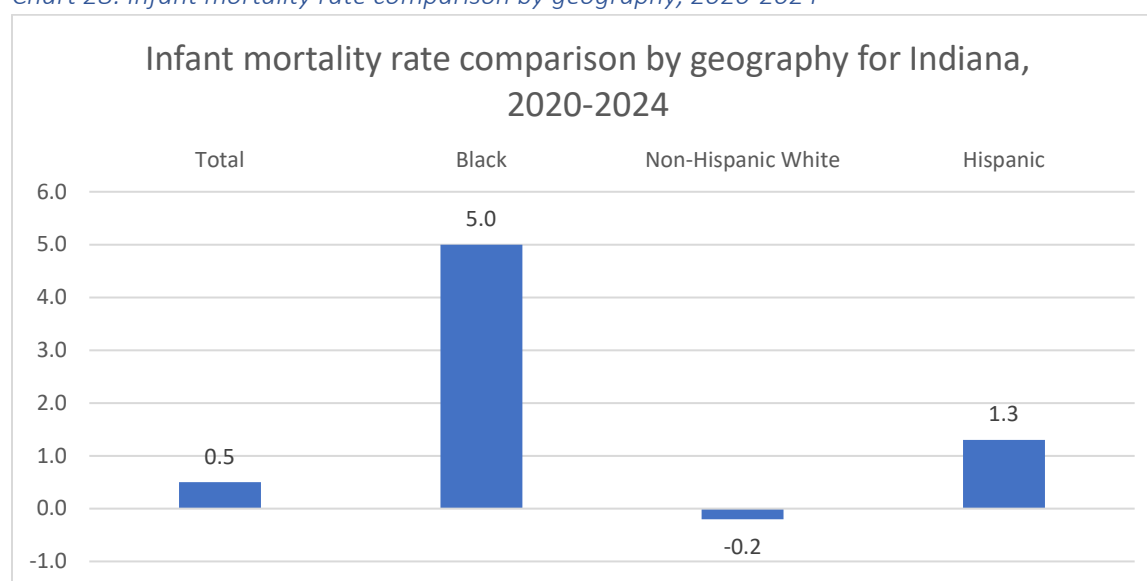
Chart 27: State and local infant mortality rates, 2020-2024



Source: IDOH

Chart 28 compares Allen County's IMR to the state for the comparable group. A positive number indicates the local rate is above the state's. The largest difference was for Black infants, at 5.0 more deaths per 1,000 births locally compared to Indiana. Overall the difference was 0.5 more deaths and 1.3 for Hispanic births in Allen County. Allen County's non-Hispanic white infant mortality rate was slightly lower than Indiana at -0.2.

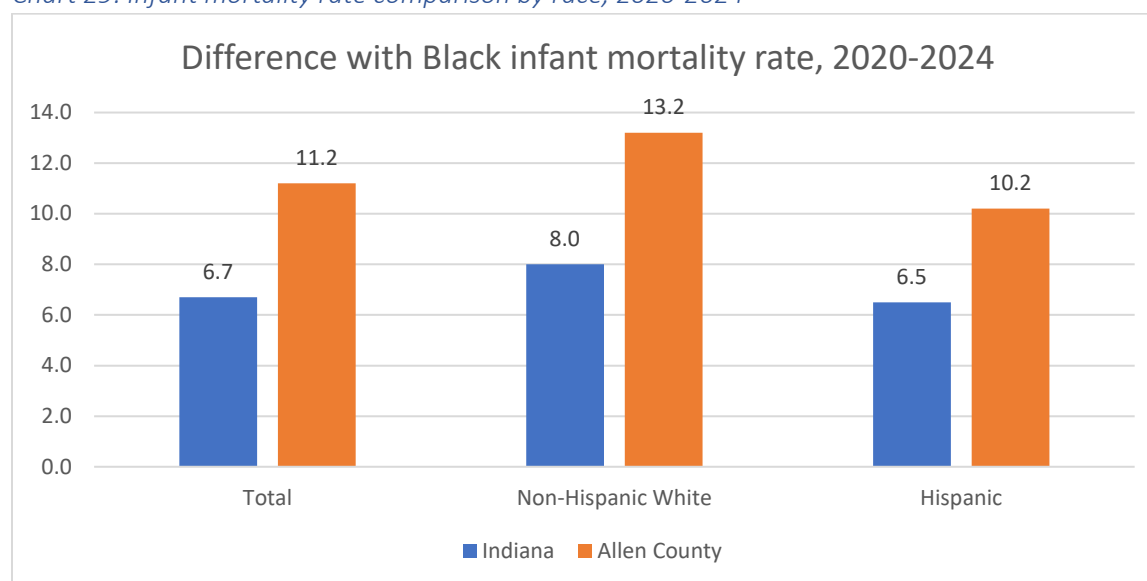
Chart 28: Infant mortality rate comparison by geography, 2020-2024



Source: Difference calculated by CRI using IDOH data

Chart 29 looks at the Black IMR compared to the other groups in the same geography. The Black IMR was higher for all groups evaluated, but Allen County's comparisons were also higher than the state comparisons. The lowest disparity was at the state between Black and Hispanic infants at 6.5 while the largest with non-Hispanic whites for 13.2.

Chart 29: Infant mortality rate comparison by race, 2020-2024



Source: Difference calculated by CRI using IDOH data

Switching over to birth outcomes, this next series of charts looks at these four measures:

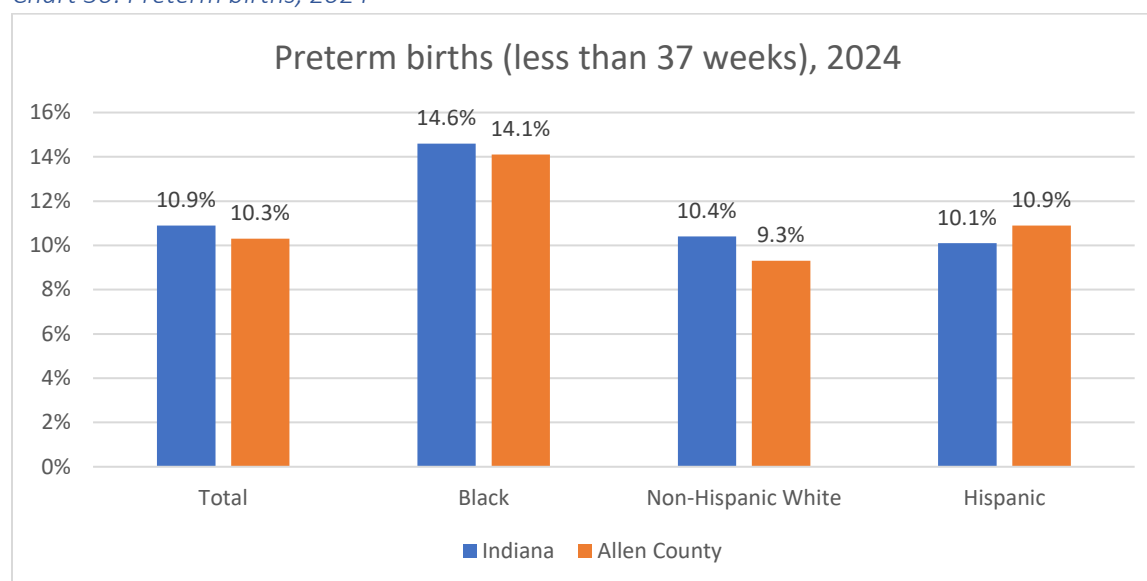
1. Preterm births
2. Low birthweight births
3. No prenatal care in first trimester
4. Mothers on Medicaid

The first set of charts from 30 to 33 reflect the 2024 births for Indiana and Allen County, starting with preterm births.

Preterm births are defined as a birth before 37 weeks gestation. The final weeks of pregnancy are critical for the baby's development. While preterm birth may be necessary for mother or baby's health, this can also increase risk for cerebral palsy, developmental delays, vision or hearing problems, difficulty breathing, and feeding problems.⁶ In 2024, 10.9% of Indiana's births and 10.3% of Allen County's births were preterm, as shown in Chart 30. When looking at the subgroups, Black preterm rates exceeded 14% for both the state and Allen County at 14.6% and 14.1% respectively. The non-Hispanic white preterm rate was 10.4% for the state and 9.3% for Allen County. The Hispanic preterm rate was 10.9% for Allen County and 10.1% in Indiana.

⁶ <https://www.cdc.gov/maternal-infant-health/preterm-birth/index.html>

Chart 30: Preterm births, 2024



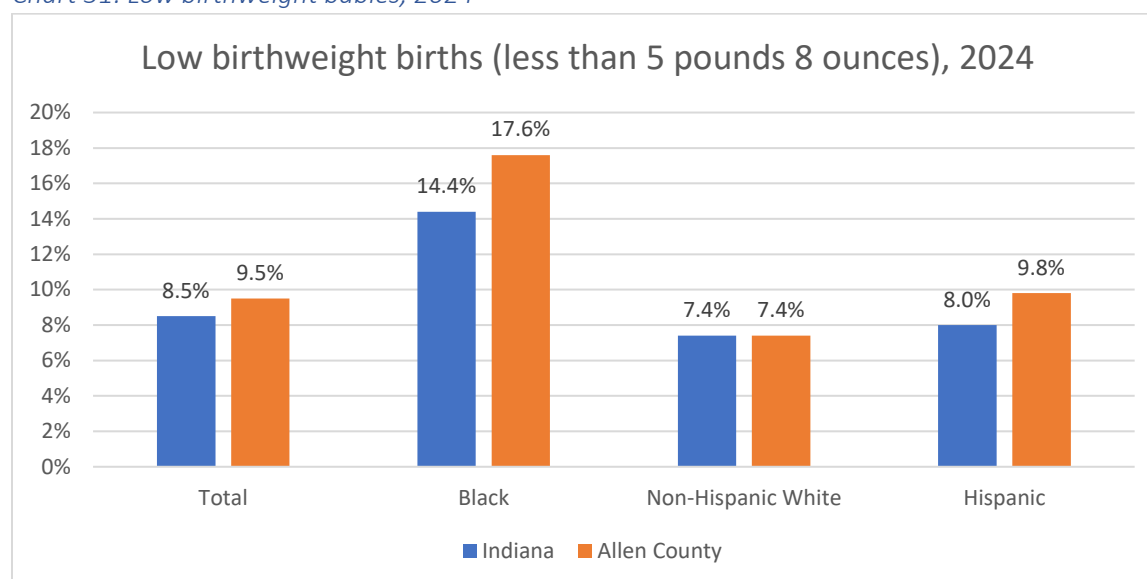
Source: IDOH

A baby is considered to be low birthweight when born weighing less than 2,500 grams or 5 pounds 8 ounces. Very low birthweight, which is included in this measure, is less than 1,500 grams or 3 pounds 5 ounces. Low birthweight can be a result of prematurity but can also be caused by other health problems or conditions in the pregnancy including pre-eclampsia or multiple births.⁷

Looking at the low birthweight data in Chart 31, 8.5% of Hoosier babies were classified as low birthweight compared to 9.5% of Allen County births. For Black babies, it was 14.4% statewide and 17.6% locally. Non-Hispanic white babies were 7.4% for both geographies. For Hispanic infants, it was 8.0% statewide and 9.8% for Allen County.

⁷ <https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/health-data/population-health-and-well-being/quality-of-life/physical-health/low-birth-weight?year=2025>

Chart 31: Low birthweight babies, 2024

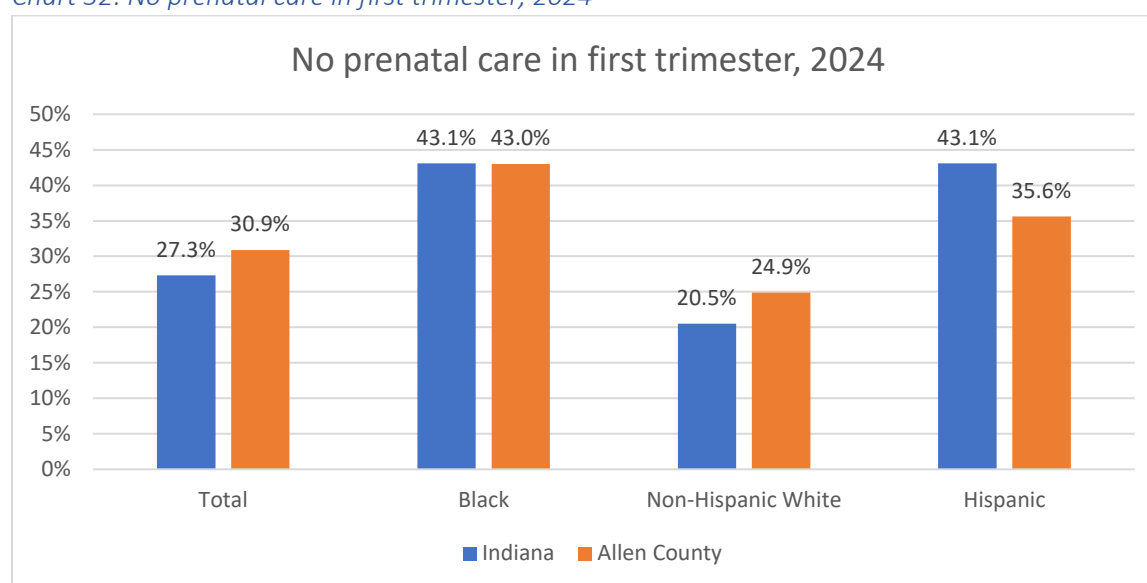


Source: IDOH

Chart 32 measures the share of mothers who received no prenatal care in the first trimester. Receiving timely prenatal care can improve the mother's likelihood of a healthy pregnancy and improve birth outcomes.⁸ National data reflect a decline in mothers' access to first trimester care in 2024.⁹

In Indiana, more than a quarter did not access care during this period at 27.3% and that goes up to 30.9% for Allen County. For Black mothers, it was 43.1% for Indiana and 43.0% in Allen County, while non-Hispanic white mothers was 20.5% in the state and 24.9% for Allen County and 43.1% for Hispanic mothers in Indiana followed by 35.6% for Hispanic mothers locally.

Chart 32: No prenatal care in first trimester, 2024



⁸ <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/databriefs/db550.pdf>

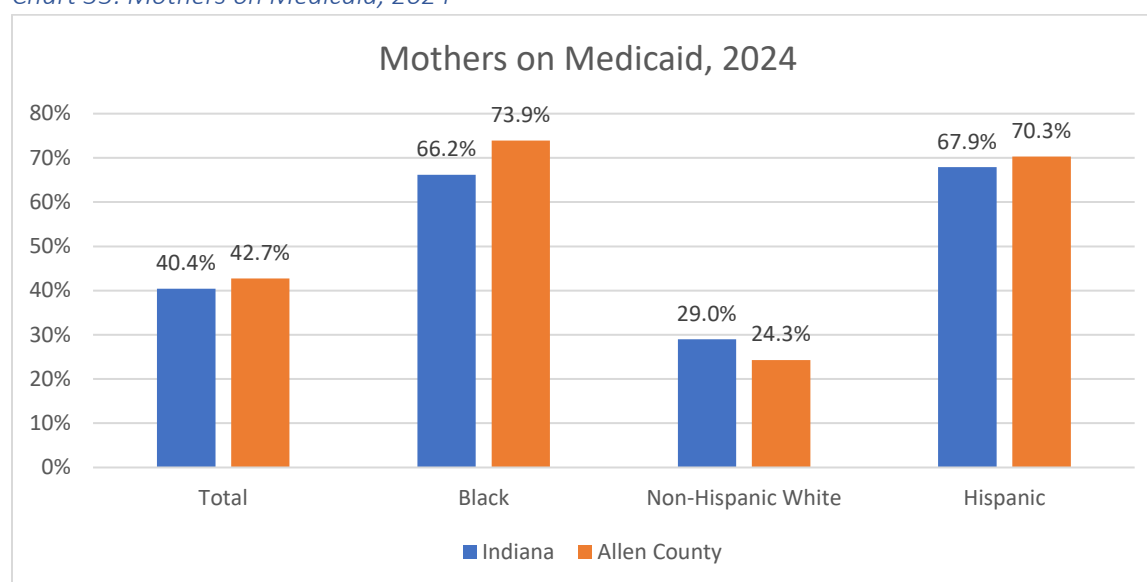
⁹ Ibid.

Source: IDOH

Chart 33 measures the number of mothers who used Medicaid insurance when they gave birth. A 2023 study published in the Journal of American Medical Association Network Open found a higher IMR for babies born to mothers using Medicaid as compared to private insurance.¹⁰

In Indiana, it was 40.4% compared to 42.7% locally for all mothers. That goes up to 66.2% for Black mothers in Indiana and 73.9% for Allen County's Black mothers. Allen County's non-Hispanic white mothers used Medicaid at 24.3% while their statewide counterparts were at 29.0%. For Hispanic mothers, 67.9% were covered statewide and 70.3% were in Allen County

Chart 33: Mothers on Medicaid, 2024

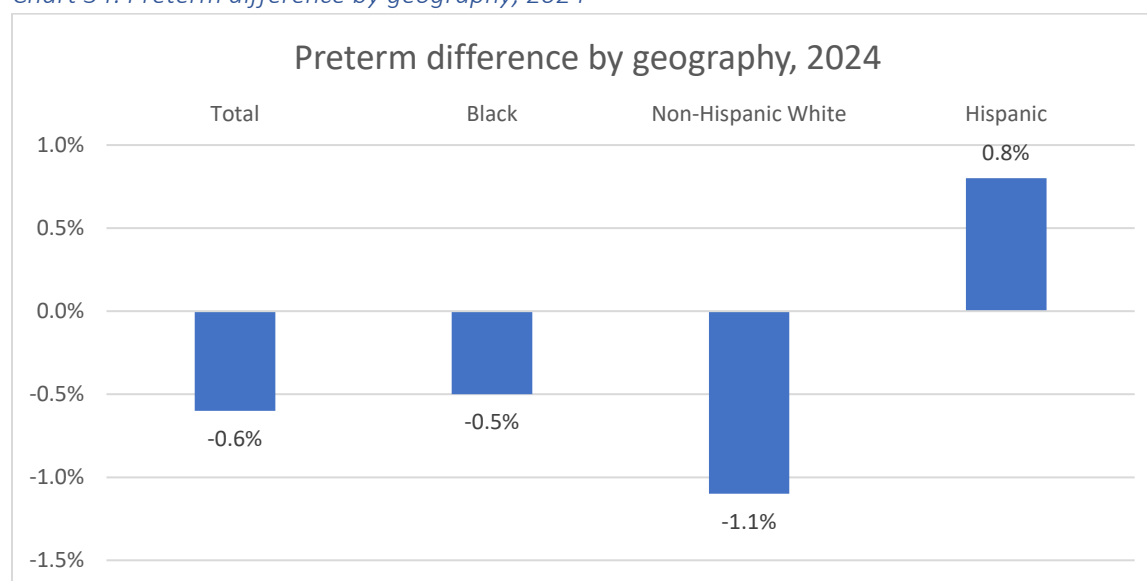


Source: IDOH

Charts 34 to 37 take the data from the previous four charts to compare Allen County to Indiana. A negative number means Allen County's measure was below the state rate. For preterm births, as shown in Chart 34, Allen County's preterm rate was below the state's for all group except Hispanic births, which was 0.8% higher. The difference was less than 1% for all groups except non-Hispanic white births, which was -1.1%.

¹⁰ <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamanetworkopen/fullarticle/2810646>

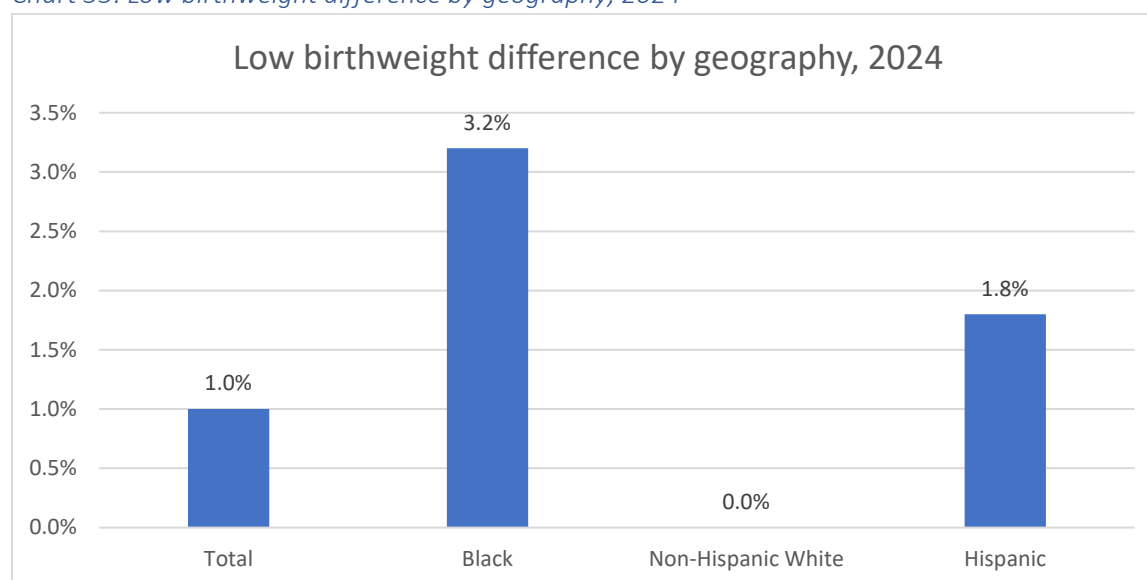
Chart 34: Preterm difference by geography, 2024



Source: Calculated by CRI using IDOH data

For the low birthweight comparison in Chart 35, Allen County was above the state for the total, Black, Hispanic populations, ranging between 1.0% and 3.2% higher, while non-Hispanic white was tied.

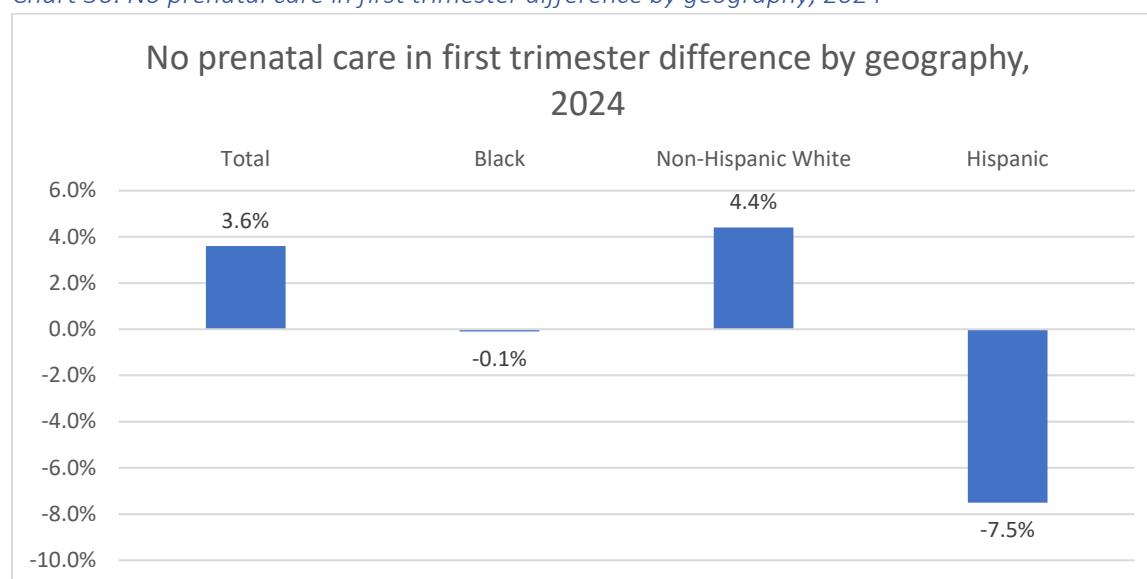
Chart 35: Low birthweight difference by geography, 2024



Source: Calculated by CRI using IDOH data

No prenatal care in the first trimester was split, according to the data in Chart 36. This was higher for the total population and non-Hispanic white at 3.6% and 4.4% respectively and 7.5% below for Hispanic mothers, while Black mothers were essentially tied at -0.1%. Unlike the other charts, a negative number here should be interpreted favorably.

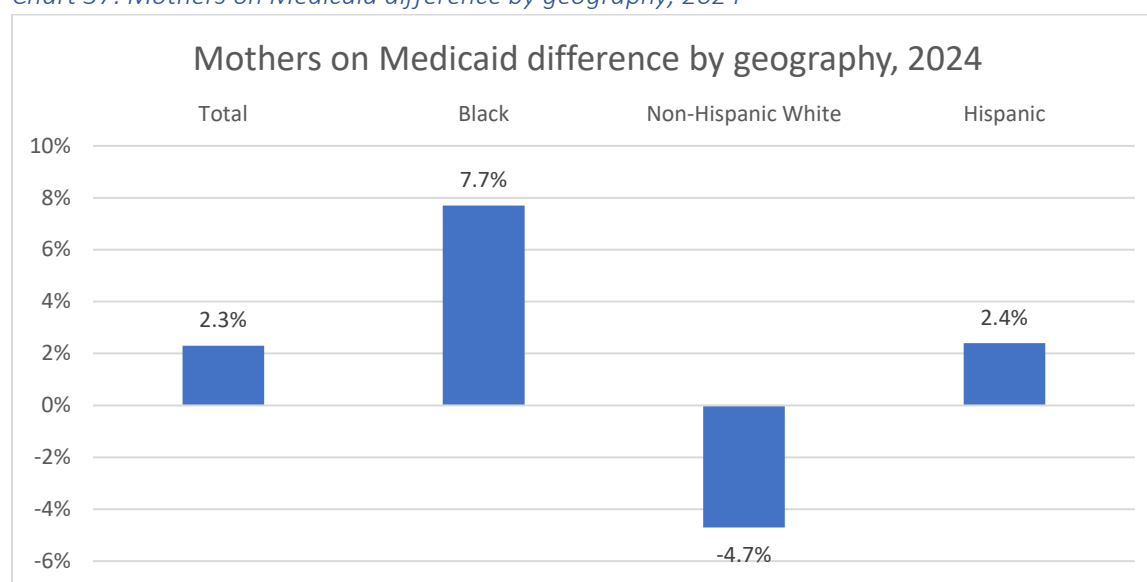
Chart 36: No prenatal care in first trimester difference by geography, 2024



Source: Calculated by CRI using IDOH data

For mothers on Medicaid, Allen County was above the state rate for total population, Black and Hispanics at 2.3%, 7.7%, and 2.4% as shown in Chart 37. Non-Hispanic whites in Allen County were 4.7% below Indiana. Like Chart 36, a negative number here is a favorable measure.

Chart 37: Mothers on Medicaid difference by geography, 2024

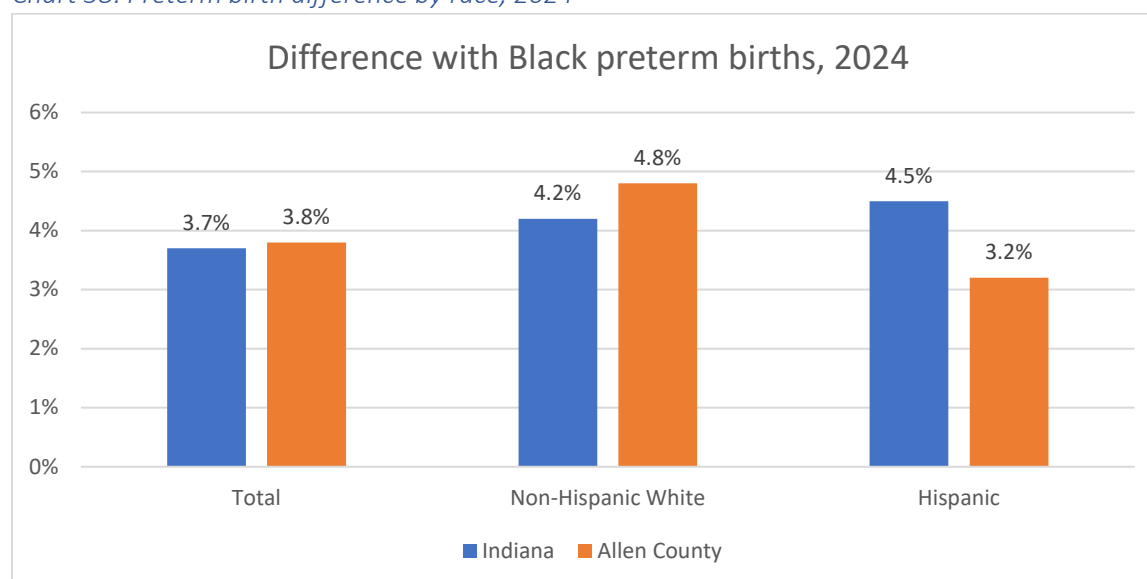


Source: Calculated by CRI using IDOH data

Charts 38 to 41 takes the four measures and compares the Black population to the other groups in the same geography. A negative number means the Black population's number was lower than the comparison group and a higher number is the converse.

Chart 38's preterm births show the Black rate was higher than all other groups studied in both geographies, ranging from 3.2% for Allen County's Hispanic births up to 4.8% for non-Hispanic white births, also in Allen County. The difference at the state level ranged between 3.7% and 4.5% higher.

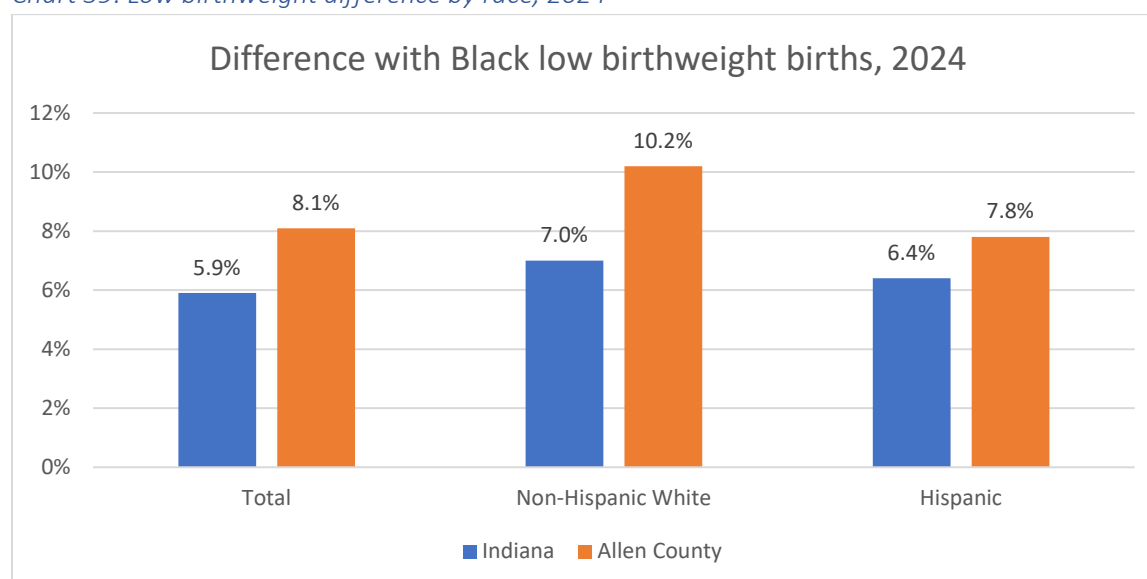
Chart 38: Preterm birth difference by race, 2024



Source: Calculated by CRI using IDOH data

Looking at Chart 39, Allen County's share of Black infants with a low birthweight was higher in all three groups, ranging from 7.8% for Hispanic infants up to 10.2% above non-Hispanic white infants. Comparing Indiana's range, it was 5.9% higher for the total up to 7.0% more when compared to non-Hispanic white.

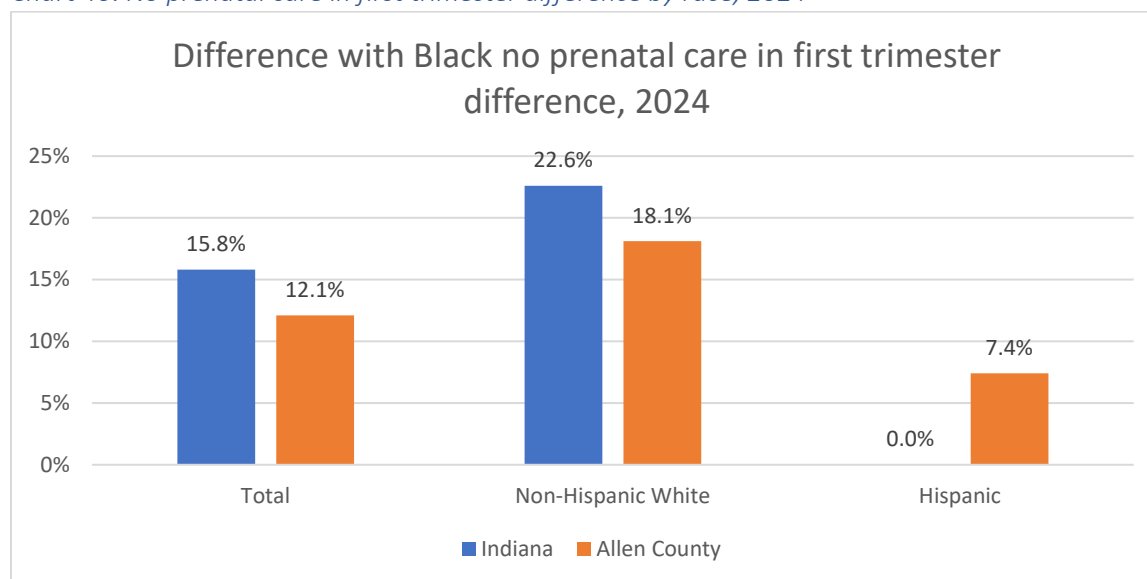
Chart 39: Low birthweight difference by race, 2024



Source: Calculated by CRI using IDOH data

For Black mothers who did not receive prenatal care in the first trimester, as shown in Chart 40, it was higher in all group except the statewide rate for Hispanic mothers. The state rate was above the local for total and non-Hispanic white while it was tied for Hispanic. Locally it ranged between 7.4% more compared to Hispanics and 18.1% against non-Hispanic whites.

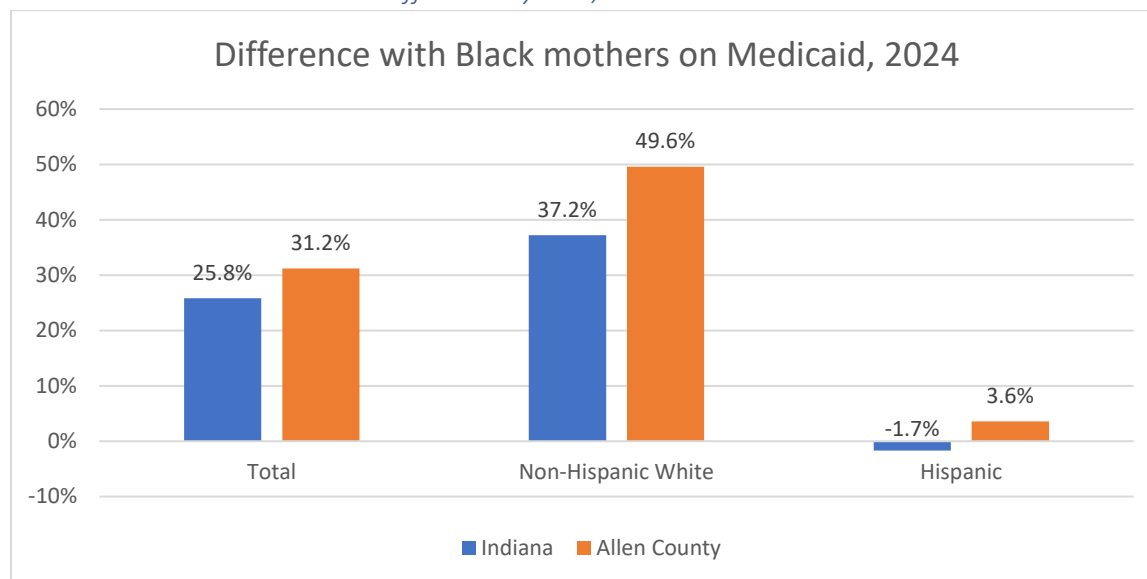
Chart 40: No prenatal care in first trimester difference by race, 2024



Source: Calculated by CRI using IDOH data

Black mothers in Allen County were more likely to give birth using Medicaid in all three groups, as shown in Chart 41, ranging between 3.6% more compared to Hispanic mothers up to 49.6% more than non-Hispanic white. Statewide, the share of Black mothers was 1.7% below their Hispanic counterparts but 37.2% higher than non-Hispanic white mothers.

Chart 41: Mothers on Medicaid difference by race, 2024



Source: Calculated by CRI using IDOH data

Voter participation

In a representative democracy, voting is a key act of civic engagement. Indiana does not publish demographic data about voters. The Indiana Secretary of State's Election Division does post reports with annual primary and general election registration and turnout data by county. It lists the number of

registered voters, voters who voted, voters who vote on Election Day, and voters who voted absentee by voting early or voting by mail.

In the 2024 general election, Allen County had 285,127 registered voters with 165,189 voters who actually voted, resulting in a 57.9% voter turnout during this presidential election year. There were 88,074 voters who voted on Election Day compared to the 46.7% of voters who voted absentee at 77,115. Indiana's absentee ballot count includes those who vote early but in person. Allen County's turnout was ninth lowest in the state. For comparison, Indiana's overall turnout rate was 61.5% with 33.2% of votes cast as absentee ballots. St. Joseph County had the lowest at 54.5%. The two other counties in the Fort Wayne metro had the highest rates in the state at 73.0% for Wells and 72.8% in Whitley. In 2020, the previous presidential election year, Allen County's voter turnout rate was 63.8%.

Next steps

The data from the State of Black Fort Wayne 2026 is stark, providing a set of objective measures for Allen County's Black population compared to their local counterparts and the state and nation. While there are some favorable metrics like the share of adults with a high school diploma or labor force participation rates, many datapoints represent significant disparities on a population level when compared to the total population and the subgroups. CRI recommends that the FWUL consider the following to advance the organization's mission to enable African Americans and others to secure economic self-reliance, parity, power, and civil rights.

Education

Education, training, and its associated credentialing can transform the lives of adults and families alike. Allen County's Black adults perform well with achieving their high school diploma or equivalent with 91.8% holding that education level, which is above their national and state counterparts and higher than the Allen County total at 89.9%. In contrast, 15.8% of Black Allen County adults have a bachelor's degree or higher, which is less than half of the 32.3% of the total population with this degree at the local level. This is also below the state and national share of Black adults.

Additional credentialing, whether it is from a bachelor's degree or higher, associate's degree, certification or industry-recognized certificate, can command higher wages for the people who hold them. The evidence is clear: bachelor's degree holders collectively earn more money than those who ended their educational pursuits with their high school diploma. In 2024, the median earnings for an Allen County resident 16 and older with earnings who ended his or her education with a high school diploma or equivalent earned \$37,247 compared to \$62,185 for the same population but with a bachelor's degree. That reflects a 67% increase between the high school diploma and bachelor's degree.

Some of that earnings disparity can be explained by part-time workers who are still students compared to full-time employment of those who graduated from college but that doesn't fully explain the difference since some bachelor's degree holders may also be working part time for any number of reasons. While other credentials beyond a high school diploma can command a wage premium like certain certificates, bachelor's degrees provide a reliable increase. Furthermore, additional education can create opportunities for personal and professional advancement.

For students who need to borrow money to attend postsecondary opportunities, whether that be for a bachelor's degree, associate's degree, or certificate or certification, it is important they understand what

is required: the time commitment to complete the program, financial obligations from student loans, and the job opportunities created by this training and education. Evidence shows not all credentials are worth the cost for both degrees and certificates,¹¹ so FWUL may want to be intentional in the strategies they use to increase educational attainment so that this results in higher incomes and earnings.

Opportunities for FWUL in education include continuing the After School with FWUL tutoring program to support students in 3rd grade through high school to help students succeed in school prior to high school graduation and the STEAM Camp in the summer with its focus on science, technology, engineering, art and math for teenagers to build knowledge, innovation, and creativity. For college completion, FWUL can work with community partners on their initiatives like the United Way of Allen County's Persistence Pays Off program or Latinos Count, which works to increase the number of Latino youths pursuing college. FWUL may also want to look at working directly with local higher education institutions, especially those that offer programs that serve returning adults, to provide new schooling or training opportunities or pathways with FWUL constituencies.

Employment

Employment is central to most adults' lives, especially during the prime working ages of 25 to 54. The LFPR for Allen County's Black population at 69.1% demonstrates that this group wants to work, however that is in contrast to the low median household income, which is just above 50 cents on the dollar compared to the Allen County total. Part of that discrepancy may rest with the low share of Black adults holding a bachelor's degree or higher in Allen County.

Recognizing that a college degree may not be the preferred path to improved employment opportunities due to cost, time, or interest, FWUL may want to enhance job training pathways by working with workforce development partners like Blue Jacket or WorkOne. FWUL can also encourage individuals to apply for job training programs like the Workforce Ready grants¹² from the Indiana Department of Workforce Development that covers more than 150 eligible programs in different industries including manufacturing, logistics, information technology, and healthcare.

FWUL already hosts a job fair with WorkOne in the spring and fall. Perhaps the State of Black Fort Wayne data can inform how FWUL promotes this event and may encourage the development of other services in preparation for the event to equip job seekers to be more effective in securing interviews and employment as a result of the job fair.

Homeownership

Homeownership is a key tool to build household wealth. Housing affordability has become a challenge locally in recent years. For example, median rent in Allen County was \$722 in 2015 but was up to \$1,071 in 2024, reflecting a 48.3% increase, according to ACS data. On the ownership side, that increase is even greater with the median sales price for 2016 in Allen County at \$133,500 and going up to \$259,900 for 2025, according to sales data reported by the Upstate Alliance of REALTORS,¹³ reflecting a 94.7% jump. Since those are both the median price, half of the rental units and houses sold are below that price but

¹¹ <https://www.washingtonpost.com/education/2026/05/14/here-are-undergraduate-programs-that-pay-off-some-that-dont/>

¹² <https://www.in.gov/dwd/nextleveljobs/workforce-ready-grant/index>

¹³ <https://upstarindiana.com/market-insights-archive/>

significantly cheaper units may not be available or do not provide the features or housing quality needed, as in they may be substandard units or require significant renovation with the associated costs.

Compounding the ownership affordability challenge is mortgage rates above 6.5%.¹⁴ The median sales price in March 2026 was \$278,000, again according to the Realtors' data, which would make a 20% down payment at \$55,600. For a Federal Housing Administration (FHA) loan with a 3.5% down payment, that would be \$9,730. Working from the assumption that first-time homebuyers would purchase a house below the median, a \$200,000 house would require \$40,000 for the 20% down payment or \$7,000 for the FHA threshold. Assuming a 6.5% interest rate on a 3.5%-down FHA 30-year mortgage, the principal and interest would be about \$1,220 plus \$167 for property taxes and \$85 for homeowner's insurance for a total of \$1,472 per month plus utilities and homeowner association fees if applicable, plus other routine maintenance costs.

If FWUL is interested in directly working to increase homeownership, leadership may want to work with existing first-time homebuyer programs either through organizations like the Fort Wayne Housing Authority or banks and other lending institutions to build trust and relationships. From there, FWUL may want to consider building its own homeownership programs with trusted local partners.

FWUL may also want to consider advocacy in the homeownership and housing space. The specific issues can be part of the strategic planning process but it could involve improving affordability, availability, and quality.

Health

The health measures for the State of Black Fort Wayne offer a limited picture for Allen County. This is due in part to limited data availability at the local level separated by race. For example the City Health Dashboard¹⁵ has dozens of health and socioeconomic measures at the local level including high blood pressure, breast cancer deaths, food insecurity, physical inactivity, air pollution, and clinical care. The data are reported in the collective without separation by subgroup. Some of these would be difficult to calculate by race or the data simply may not be reported with this granularity due to small sample sizes or limited data collection practices.

The birth outcomes and diabetes mortality rates reflect two stages of life: birth and death. Both show significant disparities for Black populations. IMRs also show a challenging picture for far too many Black families here in Allen County.

Some of this may reflect structural challenges in accessing care. Healthcare providers may not be accessible due to lack of transportation or scheduling. Black residents may have less trust in the healthcare system based on personal experience or experiences they have seen and heard from family and friends. They may also be frustrated by the lack of culturally sensitive services available or the inability to see a provider of their own race or ethnicity. They may also lack health insurance coverage, especially now that Medicaid may be more difficult to sustain based on changes from 2025's One Big Beautiful Bill Act, which in turn would delay care for conditions that might be more effectively managed earlier on.

¹⁴ <https://fred.stlouisfed.org/series/MORTGAGE30US>

¹⁵ <https://www.cityhealthdashboard.com/IN/Fort%20Wayne/city-overview>

FWUL has opportunities to partner with local health-focused organizations that provide a variety of services of benefit to Fort Wayne's Black populations. This can be clinical services, health education and promotion, and supportive services like intensive case management.

Alliance Health Centers (AHC), a Federally Qualified Health Center, opened a health clinic on the lower level of the FWUL building in August 2026. Families and children will be a focus of the clinic with screenings for autism and other developmental disorders plus integrated medical, behavioral, and rehabilitation and therapeutic services including prenatal care. The groundbreaking occurred April 15, 2026, and the ribbon cutting was August 5, 2026.

For health education, Healthways Alliance, formerly HealthVisions Midwest, has a number of programs and services for underserved populations. Healthways Alliance focuses on chronic health conditions like heart disease and health coaching with a focus on healthy eating behaviors. Although they both have Alliance in the name, Healthways and AHC are separate, independent organizations.

For perinatal populations, FWUL may want to work in alignment with organizations providing services to mothers and infants like Healthier Moms and Babies, Associated Churches' Journey Beside Mothers and A Baby's Closet, Catholic Charities and Lutheran Social Services of Indiana's ECHO programs for teenage parents, and A Mother's Hope for pregnant women experiencing homelessness.

Civic Engagement

Indiana was in the bottom 10 states for voter turnout in 2024, while Michigan was in the top 10, according to data from the University of Florida's Election Lab.¹⁶ As noted in the Voter Participation section, Allen County's voter turnout was below the state's rate.

FWUL participates in the National Urban League's Reclaim Your Vote initiative by hosting a polling location at the Hanna Street campus. Now that Allen County has moved to a "vote center" model, registered voters can vote at any polling location on Election Day from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. instead of being limited to their precinct polling location near their residence. FWUL also hosts a meet the candidates night to help voters make informed choices on their ballot by connecting directly with candidates, asking questions, and getting insights into candidates' ideas for their office.

Low voter participation rates are but one challenge for civic engagement. Another is those who would be otherwise eligible to vote but are not currently registered or have an outdated registration. Encouraging Allen County residents who are eligible to register to vote, either by registering online or using voter registration forms, allows more adults to participate in this key democratic activity.

While presidential election years get the attention, local general and primary races can be determined by less than 100 votes. These are often "low information" races, like county recorder, county auditor, or clerk of courts where voters have little knowledge about these offices' responsibilities or the candidates running for them.

2026 is a mid-term election with some statewide offices like secretary of state plus select county government positions and statehouse races. 2027 is the next city government election for all offices:

¹⁶ <https://election.lab.ufl.edu/2024-general-election-turnout/>

mayor, the nine seats on city council, and the city clerk. That will be followed by the presidential election in 2028 that also includes the governor's office along with statehouse and county races.

FWUL is well positioned in the civic engagement space. It has a long history as a trusted nonpartisan community partner for Fort Wayne's Black community. It serves as a polling location now available to all. It provides opportunities to connect with and learn from local candidates. Indiana's low voter turnout is not FWUL's problem to solve alone but strengthening existing systems can improve civic engagement. FWUL can work with organizations such as the League of Women Voters to host voter registration tables at FWUL events, engage with both political parties to encourage Black candidates to seek office, work with candidate training programs to support those seeking office, and further develop existing civic engagement programs.

Justice system

As noted in the Introduction, an evaluation of the criminal justice system was not included in this project. CRI encourages FWUL to follow up the State of Black Fort Wayne in 2027 to look at the Allen County criminal justice system using quantitative and qualitative measures.