



# CHILDREN'S SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE NEEDS ASSESSMENT

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## 2026 UPDATE

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## Role of the Needs Assessment Subcommittee:

Children’s Services Advisory Committee Needs Assessment and Planning – Identify and assess the needs of the children of Indian River County through a needs assessment and asset mapping; submit to the Board of County Commissioners through the Children Services Advisory Committee a written description of those needs. Provide and update short term and long-term plan to the Children Services Advisory Committee including, but not limited to:

- Programs, services, and activities that meet the objectives of the Children Services Advisory Committee.

## About the Subcommittee Members:

The Needs Assessment Subcommittee may be composed no fewer than five and no more than nine members; one Children Services Advisory Committee member and citizens who are Indian River County residents with an effort to broadly represent the county, geographically and socioeconomically. Only Children Services Advisory Committee members shall serve as committee chairs.

Potential applicants for subcommittees shall submit resumes to the Board of County Commissioners and the Children’s Services Advisory Committee will make the selections.

### Members

**Hope Woodhouse, Chair:** As the Subcommittee Chair for Children's Needs Assessment in 2014, 2017, and 2024, Hope has demonstrated a steadfast commitment. Her extensive involvement in the CSAC Main Committee since 2014, CSAC Grants Committee from 2011 to 2022, and presidency at John's Island Community Service League from 2018 to 2020 underscore her expertise and leadership in community initiatives.

**Carrie Lester:** Executive Director of Thrive IRC, has been working on behalf of children in this community since 2004 with a focus on adolescent health risk behaviors. In her role at the Substance Awareness Center, Carrie helps educate and implement evidence-based prevention programs, strategies, and policies aimed at increasing youth protective factors and reducing youth risk.

**Brian McMahon, Ph.D.:** Has over 20 years of experience in education and currently serves as the Director of Accountability & Research for the School District of Indian River County. In this role, he oversees the creation, implementation, and training for the data visualization infrastructure and problem-solving processes within the school district.

**Autumn Schneider:** Director of Internal Operations for Indian River County Healthy Start Coalition for the last two years, has spent over 20+ years in her career advocating for physical and mental health of children and their families. She is passionate about ensuring healthy mothers, babies and families can thrive in Indian River County.

**Jody L. Idlette:** A lifelong resident of Indian River County and a 28-year veteran in education. Her career spans roles as a teacher, librarian, school administrator, Executive Director of Curriculum K-12 and currently the director of the TRIO Upward Bound program at Indian River State College, providing a comprehensive understanding of the educational landscape and the challenges faced by children in our community.

# MISSION & VISION

## MISSION

The mission of CSAC is to promote the health and well-being of children in a healthy community. The term “healthy” encompasses socioeconomic, physical, mental, social, emotional, environmental, and educational health.

## VISION

The objective of the Children's Services Advisory Committee is to provide a unified system of planning and delivery within which children's needs can be identified, targeted, evaluated and addressed. The Children's Services Advisory Committee will actively endeavor to develop a shared vision for the health and human services delivery system in Indian River County, enabling all funding sources and providers to define and perform their roles in a collaborative, effective and dynamically changing environment.



# FUNDING PRIORITIES

# Summary

A comprehensive, community-wide needs assessment provides valuable information to help guide the Children Services Advisory Committee (CSAC) in identifying essential children's services and areas of focus to address both the unmet and under-met needs of children in Indian River County. The funding priorities are the result of the 2024-2029 Needs Assessment.

The assessment identified three primary priorities:

## *Health & Well-being, Nurturing Families & Communities, Success in School & Life*

Each priority is comprised of specific focus areas ranked in order of priority and associated data indicators, emphasizing prevention, early identification/intervention, and the pivotal role of building parent/guardian capacity in children's services. This proactive approach aims to address potential challenges before they escalate, recognizing the lifelong impact of early experiences on a child's development, and striving to positively shape their path. With a focus on cost-effectiveness, early interventions minimize societal and financial burdens linked with delayed support.

### Health and Well-being:

Promoting the health and well-being of children is foundational to their overall development. Access to quality prenatal care ensures a healthy start for both mothers and infants, reducing the risk of complications and ensuring optimal birth outcomes. Positive behavioral health interventions are crucial for addressing mental health challenges among youth, fostering resilience, and preventing substance abuse issues. Promotion of physical health, including maintaining a healthy body weight, is essential for long-term well-being. Identifying and expanding programs for students with special needs ensures that every child receives the support necessary for their unique educational journey.

**Why?** Early prevention and intervention strategies in health, combined with building parent/guardian capacity, contribute to long-term well-being, reducing the need for more extensive interventions later on. By prioritizing these aspects, we proactively support children's health, addressing potential challenges at their inception.

### Focus Areas and Data Indicators:

1. Enhanced Access to Prenatal Care: Monitoring the initiation of prenatal care, birth outcomes, breastfeeding initiation, fetal and infant mortality, and repeat teen births.
2. Advancements in Positive Behavioral Health: Tracking youth risk profiles, depression rates, substance abuse among youth, and adult alcohol consumption.
3. Promotion of Physical Health: Observing body mass index (BMI) summaries and youth obesity rates.
4. Identification and Expansion of Programs for Students with Special Needs: Assessing student demographics based on primary exceptionality.

**Nurturing Families and Communities:**

Creating an environment that nurtures families and communities is vital for children's overall stability and well-being. Decreasing childhood adversity, including experiences of abuse and neglect, is essential for fostering safe and supportive family environments. The reduction of juvenile delinquency incidents contributes to a safer community and better opportunities for positive youth development.

**Why?** Prioritizing prevention and early intervention in family and community dynamics, along with building parent/guardian capacity, we aim to create an environment where potential issues are identified and addressed promptly, fostering stability and resilience in children from the outset.

**Focus Areas and Data Indicators:**

1. Decrease in Childhood Adversity: Analyzing adverse childhood experiences, child abuse incidents, Baker Act utilization, and instances of children in foster care or homelessness.
2. Reduction of Juvenile Delinquency Incidents: Examining trends in juvenile delinquency through metrics such as juvenile arrests.

**Success in School and Life:**

Ensuring success in school and life is fundamental for a child's future prospects. Increasing kindergarten readiness sets the stage for a strong educational foundation, impacting a child's academic journey positively. Improvement in academics, attendance, and the expansion of pathways for college and career success are critical for preparing children to meet the challenges of an ever-evolving world.

**Why?** By focusing on prevention and early intervention in education, coupled with building parent/guardian capacity, provides children with the resources they need from the beginning, reducing barriers to success and fostering a foundation for lifelong learning and achievement.

**Focus Areas and Data Indicators:**

1. Increase of Kindergarten Readiness: Evaluating early learning indicators and kindergarten readiness.
2. Improvement in Academics: Analyzing student performance and proficiency on statewide assessments in reading, math, science, and social studies.
3. Boost in Attendance: Monitoring average daily attendance and chronic absenteeism.
4. Expansion of Pathways for College and Career Success: Reviewing high school graduation rates, workforce data, and school discipline measures.

Applicants seeking funding are encouraged to focus their programs on serving pockets of poverty, considering the geographical dispersion and transportation challenges in Indian River County. It is crucial that services are designed to be accessible, considering both the location and timing that align with the community's needs. To enhance program effectiveness, applicants should employ research/evidence-based strategies and best practices, ensuring that interventions are informed by proven approaches. Collaboration within the community is essential to optimize resources, eliminate redundancy, and initiate interventions as early as possible in a child's life, thereby maximizing the impact of support services.

# CHILDREN'S SERVICES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

## FUNDING PRIORITIES FRAMEWORK

Each **PRIORITY** has specific **FOCUS AREAS** and **DATA INDICATORS** listed below.

### HEALTH & WELL-BEING

#### 1. ENHANCED ACCESS TO PRENATAL CARE

- INITIATE PRENATAL CARE
- BIRTHWEIGHT & GESTATION
- INITIATING BREASTFEEDING
- FETAL DEATHS
- INFANT DEATHS
- REPEAT BIRTHS TO TEEN MOTHERS

#### 2. ADVANCEMENTS IN POSITIVE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

- YOUTH RISK PROFILE
- YOUTH DEPRESSION
- YOUTH SUBSTANCE ABUSE
- ADULT ALCOHOL USE

#### 3. PROMOTION OF PHYSICAL HEALTH

- BMI SUMMARY
- YOUTH OBESITY

#### 4. IDENTIFICATION & EXPANSION OF PROGRAMS FOR STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

- STUDENTS BY PRIMARY EXCEPTIONALITY

### NURTURING FAMILIES & COMMUNITIES

#### 1. DECREASE IN CHILDHOOD ADVERSITY

- ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES
- CHILD ABUSE
- BAKER ACT
- CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE
- HOMELESS CHILDREN

#### 2. REDUCTION OF JUVENILE DELINQUENCY INCIDENTS

- JUVENILE ARRESTS
- TRENDS IN JUVENILE DELINQUENT BEHAVIOR



### SUCCESS IN SCHOOL & LIFE

#### 1. INCREASE IN KINDERGARTEN READINESS

- EARLY LEARNING
- KINDERGARTEN READINESS

#### 2. IMPROVEMENT IN ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE

- READING PERFORMANCE ON STATEWIDE ASSESSMENT
- MATH PERFORMANCE ON STATEWIDE ASSESSMENT

#### 3. BOOST IN STUDENT ATTENDANCE

- AVERAGE DAILY ATTENDANCE
- CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM

#### 4. EXPANSION OF PATHWAYS FOR COLLEGE & CAREER SUCCESS

- HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION
- WORKFORCE DATA

# 2026-2027 EXECUTIVE

# Summary

## 2026/2027 NEEDS ASSESSMENT EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### Key Findings

The Children's Services Needs Assessment Subcommittee conducted a comprehensive review of local conditions impacting children and families in Indian River County. This 2025–2026 update incorporates both statistical trends, compared over the last three years, and parent/caregiver feedback from the Community Feedback Survey to identify critical priorities in health and well-being, nurturing families and communities, and promoting success in school and life.

The Community Feedback Survey had over 400 parents and caregivers share their perspectives on how well Indian River County is supporting children and families across key developmental areas. Their responses, both quantitative and open-ended, revealed important insights that are helping guide the 2025–2026 Needs Assessment Update

### 1. Health & Well-being

Our assessment emphasizes the essential need to address prenatal care disparities and youth behavioral health more intensively:

- **Prenatal Care Access:** While access to first-trimester prenatal care improved in 2024 for both Black and Hispanic mothers, persistent disparities remain. Significant progress was seen among Hispanic women, rising from 49% to 70%, surpassing the state average. However, fetal and infant deaths remain a concern.
- **Teen Births:** Teen birth rates rose in 2023, particularly among those aged 15–17 and with an alarming uptick in births among youth aged 0–14. Repeat teen births also increased, underscoring a need for targeted reproductive education and support.
- **Youth Behavioral Health:** In 2024, 30.3% of students reported depressive symptoms, with females experiencing higher rates of suicidal ideation. Although overall depression rates remain below the state average, mental health supports remain a top priority, echoed by parents who noted a “revolving door of providers” and the need for “case managers to help navigate care systems.”
- **Substance Use:** Youth lifetime and 30-day substance use rates continued to decline in Indian River County, outperforming state averages, especially in nicotine and alcohol use. However, vaping remains a threat, and ongoing prevention efforts must remain a priority.
- **Youth Obesity:** Obesity among youth increased dramatically across all racial and gender groups between 2022 and 2024. Hispanic youth showed the most significant rise, from 15.7% to 26.7%. These increases call for a county-wide, universal strategy that addresses environmental, behavioral, and cultural drivers of obesity.
- **Special Needs Services:** Exceptional Student Education (ESE) enrollment for the School District of Indian River County increased to 17%, surpassing the state average. However, parents reinforced the need for early identification of developmental concerns and specialized services and programs for children with special needs outside of the school day.

# 2026-2027 EXECUTIVE Summary

## 2026/2027 NEEDS ASSESSMENT EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### 2. Nurturing Families & Communities

Our findings in this area underscore the need to address increasing childhood adversity and rising juvenile misdemeanor offenses:

- **Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs):** The share of high school students reporting four or more ACEs dropped from 26.3% in 2022 to 14.3% in 2024, a promising decline. Household indicators like substance abuse and mental illness fell significantly, now below state averages. This positive trend should be monitored to ensure sustained progress. Parents expressed a desire for programs that build family resilience and reduce intergenerational stress.
- **Child Abuse:** While still above the state average, abuse rates for children aged 5–11 in Indian River County have declined steadily since 2022. This suggests that early interventions and child protection efforts may be having an effect, however, ongoing work to support families and prevent abuse is essential to keep these rates moving in the right direction and ensure the safety and well-being of children in the future
- **Baker Act Admissions:** Youth involuntary mental health examinations rose to 253 in 2024–2025 after declining the previous year. While Indian River's rate now aligns closely with the state average, the upward trend reinforces the need for expanded youth mental health supports.
- **Foster Care:** The foster care rate in Indian River dropped from a 2022 peak of 703.9 to 503.9 per 100,000 children in 2024. Although improving, the county's rate remains higher than the state and is subject to year-over-year volatility.
- **Student Homelessness:** There was a 14% increase in the number of students experiencing homelessness in the 2024–2025 school year, indicating growing housing insecurity among families with children.
- **Juvenile Delinquency:** Juvenile delinquency is trending down in Indian River County: arrests fell by 18 year-over-year, with 309 in 2023–2024, and felonies declined from 47.1% to 31.4%. However, misdemeanors rose to 48.9% of cases—above Florida's 42.9%—and Aggravated Assault/Battery remains the most frequent felony charge. Continued investment in prevention, diversion, and behavioral health supports is needed to address root causes and curb lower-level offenses.

### 3. Success in School & Life

Many incoming kindergarten students remain unprepared for school despite improvements in early literacy screening. Continued investment in early learning and community-based preschool programs is essential.

- **Kindergarten Readiness:** Kindergarten Readiness fell from 55% to 43%, mirroring the statewide drop from 51% to 43%, which may partly reflect the earlier testing window this year. This trend underscores the need to scale access to affordable, high-quality early learning and kindergarten transition supports so more children start school prepared.
- **Academic Achievement:** Overall reading scores increased districtwide, with Grade 3 ELA now ranked 2nd of 67 districts, while math rose two points and remains above the state average, indicating that School District Indian River County, alongside strong community support, is making measurable strides.
- **Attendance:** Average Daily Attendance (ADA) showed slight improvement in 2024–2025 (91.6%) but remains below pre-pandemic levels. Chronic absenteeism continues to be a pressing issue, with 35% of students chronically absent in 2023–2024, up from 24.4% in 2018–2019.
- **High School Graduation and Career Readiness:** While high school graduation rates (96%) exceed the state's rate, parents call for expanded access to financial literacy, budgeting, trade skills, and soft skills development, such as communication, critical thinking, and collaboration. Many emphasized the importance of early exposure to trades, internships, and entrepreneurial pathways.



# 2026-2027 EXECUTIVE Summary

## Additional Insights and Recommendations

The committee's expanded data collection and community engagement efforts have revealed additional insights that inform our recommendation

- **Demographic Shifts:** Youth population has slightly declined while financial pressures on families have increased. The number of children under 19 fell by nearly 400 from 2022 to 2023, while poverty among families with children rose to 14%.
- **Cost of Living:** Overall, financial strain is rising as poverty rates for residents and families with children increase, and the ALICE survival budget rose by almost \$4,000, meaning families need to earn an additional \$4,000 this year just to cover basic necessities. There was also a 14% increase in the number of students experiencing homelessness during the 24-25 school year.

## Conclusion

Indian River County is making measurable progress, driven by strong prevention and early-intervention efforts and close collaboration with community partners. Parents and caregivers consistently prioritize easier access to mental health care, affordable childcare, mentoring for teens and real-world skill building (career pathways, financial literacy, soft skills), as well as sustained tutoring and after-school academic support. In the year ahead, the community will build on what works, expanding targeted services and partnerships to close remaining gaps and keep momentum strong.

Category	Focus Area	Progress	Unmet Needs
Health & Well-being	Prenatal Care	Improved first-trimester prenatal care among Black and Hispanic women.	Ongoing disparities in prenatal care access and maternal health outcomes.
	Youth Behavioral Health	Reduced youth depression rates and lower substance use than state average.	Suicidal ideation remains high among female students; need for more supports.
	Physical Health	Youth obesity rates now above state average; vaping and alcohol use have declined.	Obesity increases across all groups; need for broad health and wellness strategies.
	Special Needs Programs	Increased ESE enrollment and improved service identification.	Demand for services outpacing availability, especially in early intervention.
Nurturing Families & Communities	Childhood Adversity	Significant drop in students reporting 4+ ACEs since 2022.	ACEs remain high in some households; need continued family support services.
	Child Abuse and Foster Care	Continued decline in foster care placements and child abuse rates.	Still higher abuse and foster care rates than state average.
	Juvenile Delinquency	Youth diversion and early intervention programs in place.	Misdemeanor arrests increasing; more mentoring and youth programs needed.
Success in School & Life	Kindergarten Readiness	Improved early literacy screening and support.	Many incoming kindergarteners still not school-ready.
	Academic Achievement	Higher ELA and Math scores; fewer students scoring at lowest levels.	Chronic absenteeism remains above pre-pandemic levels.
	High School Graduation and Career Pathways	Graduation rates exceed state average; some career programs established.	Need broader access to job training and non-college career options.

# DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

## INDIAN RIVER COUNTY

POPULATION DEMOGRAPHICS  
STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS



## OVERVIEW OF INDIAN RIVER COUNTY

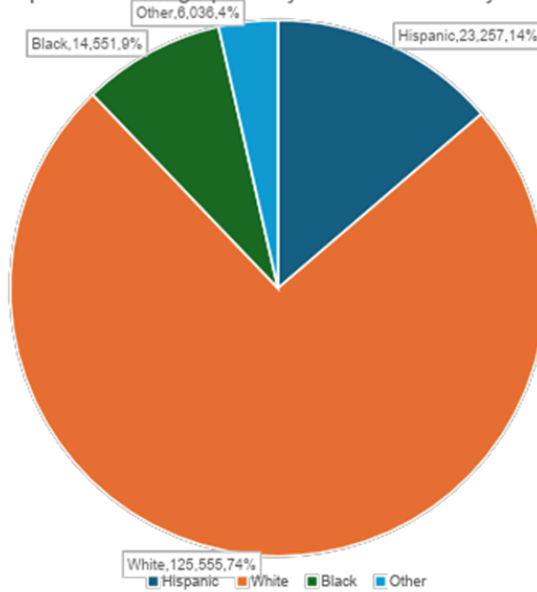
Indian River County, Florida has a rich diversity of communities. Each resident deserves the opportunity to live a healthy, prosperous life.

\*\*\*Indian River County, Created in 1925\*\*\*

- 68% of Residents Live in the Unincorporated County Areas
- Projected 2030 Population of 185,000
- 31st of 67 Counties in Population
- Median Age is 53.4
- 35.2% of Residents are Age 65 or Older – 6th in Florida in this Category
- 14,824 Veterans Living in the County (11.9%)
- 86,505 Housing Units
- Five Cities: Sebastian (27,700), Vero Beach (16,700), Fellsmere (4,900), Indian River Shores (4,400), and Orchid (522)
- 503 Square Miles – 22 Miles of Beaches
- 100,000 Acres of Conservation Land
- 20 Public, Private, and Charter Schools (20:1 student ratio)
- Graduation Rate of 95%
- Home to Indian River State College – FAU and Keiser in Neighboring St. Lucie County
- 91.1% have a High School Degree
- 32% have a Bachelor's Degree
- 91.7% of homes have a computer
- Economy: agriculture, tourism, healthcare, information, technology, light manufacturing, wholesale, retail, and service
- Largest Private Sector Employers: Cleveland Clinic Indian River Hospital (1,920), Publix (1,324), Piper Aircraft (886), Sebastian Medical Center (581), John's Island residential/resort (571), Indian River Estates retirement/life care (434), Visiting Nurse Association (376), The Home Depot (352).
- Two Airports: Vero Beach Regional Airport and Sebastian Municipal Airport
- Comparatively low property tax rate, available building sites, and access to major transportation arteries to attract new employers/expand existing businesses.

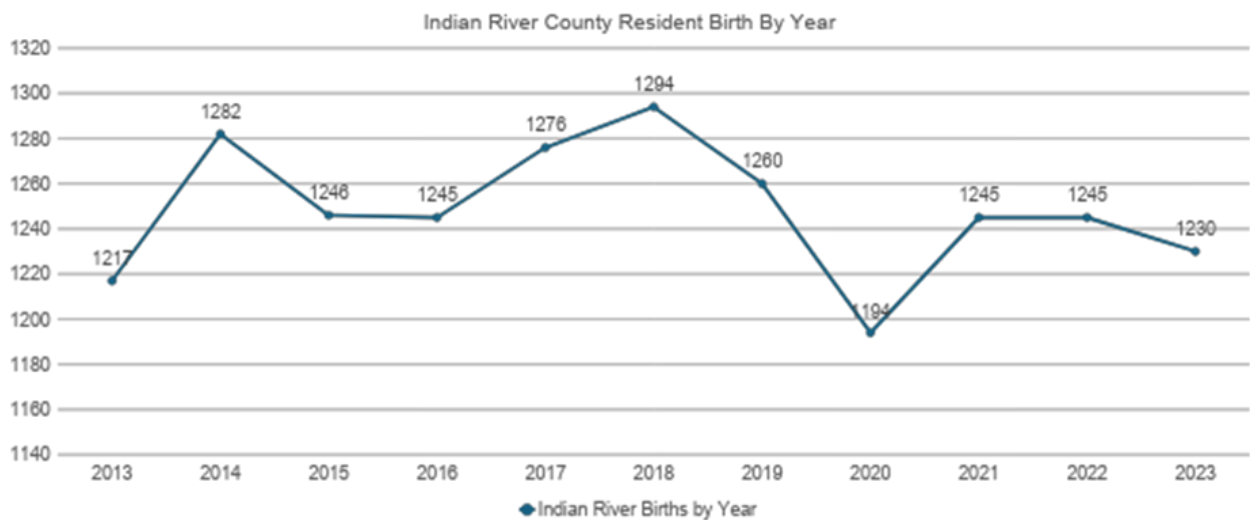
# Population Demographics

Population Demographics By Race and Ethnicity 2023



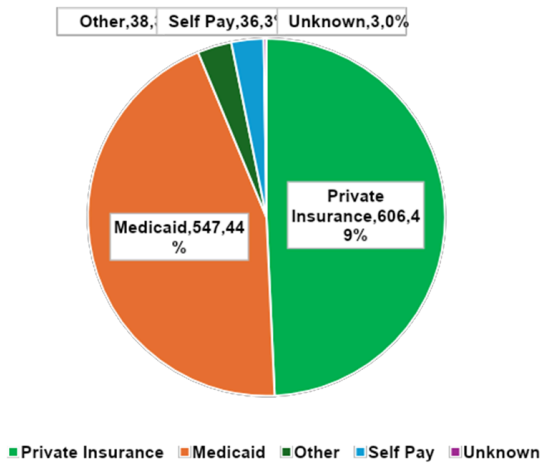
[Population Query System - FL Health CHARTS - Florida Department of Health](#)

Population Data 2023	Indian River County	State of Florida
Total Population	169,399	22,685,583
*Resident Live Births per 1,000 Population	7.3	9.8
19 and Under	27,629	4,894,051
Under 5	6,371	1,130,167

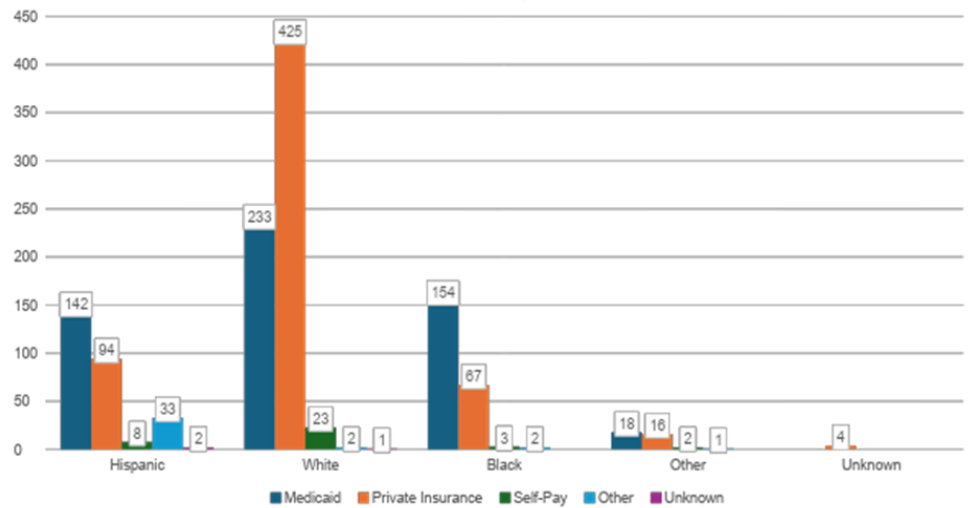


# Population Demographics (continued)

Birth Deliver Payment Source - Indian River County 2023

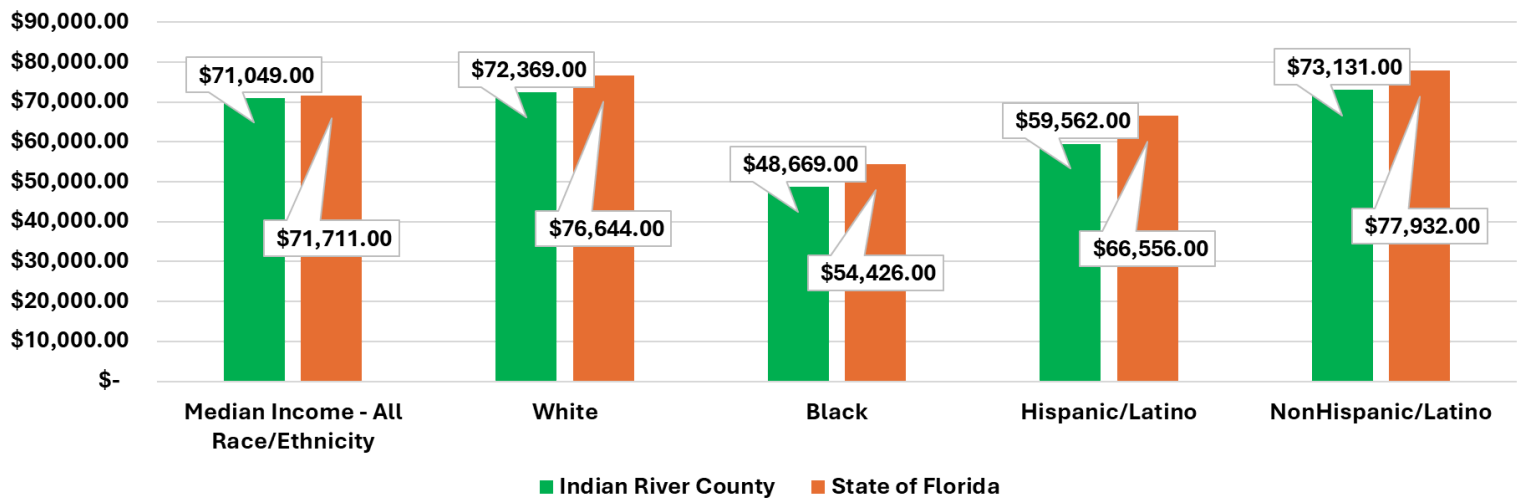


Birth Deliver Payment Source by Race & Ethnicity - Indian River County 2023



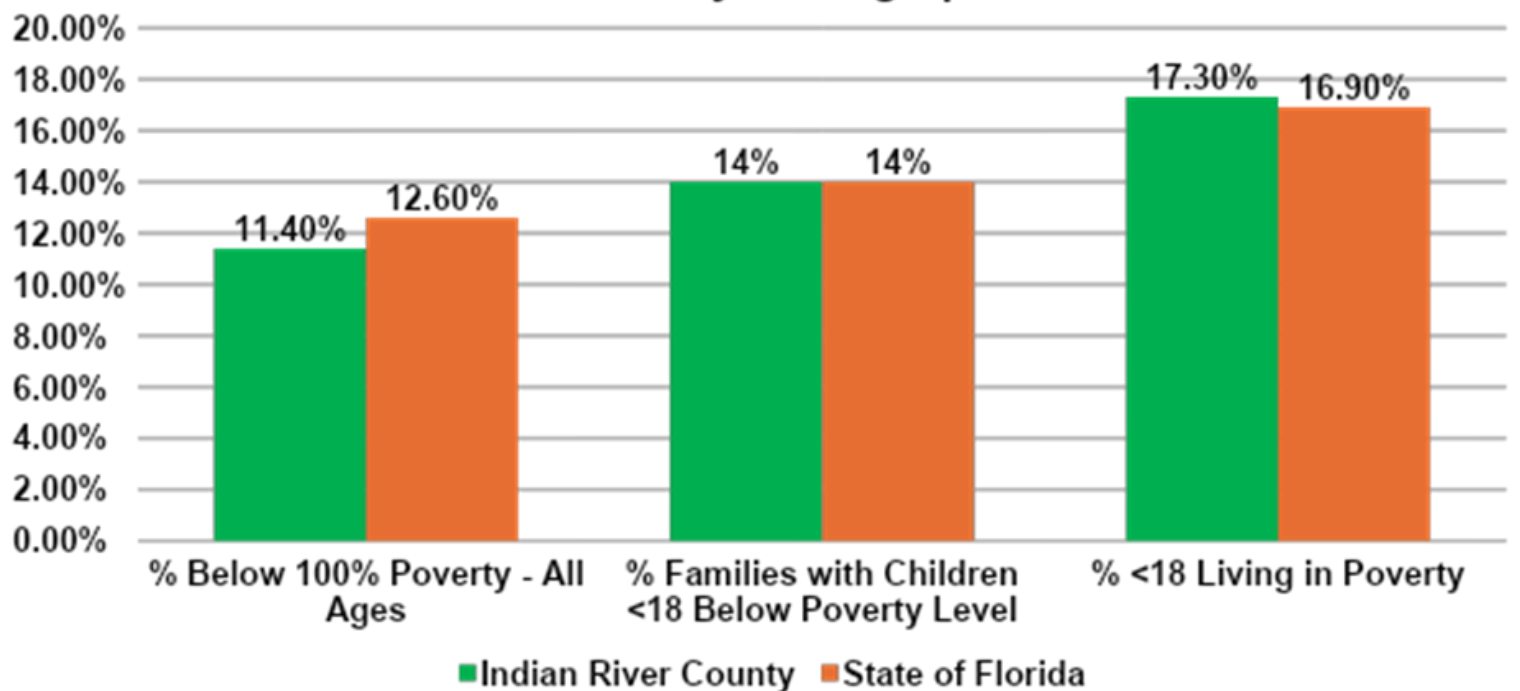
Indian River County 2022

Median Household Income, 2024



Indian River- County 232

2023 Poverty Demographics





# Population - Demographics (continued)

## Indian River County 2023

ALICE (Asset Limited Income Constrained, and Employed) 2023	Indian River County	Florida
<b>**Indian River County Population: 169,795, Number of Households: 72,833</b>		
Median Household Income	\$72,920	\$73,311
Labor Force Participation Rate	47%	60%
ALICE Households	30%	34%
Households in Poverty	12%	13%
ALICE + Poverty	42%	47%

ALICE Household Survival Budget for Indian River County 2023	
Single Adult	\$33,168
2 Adults with 2 school aged children	\$78,420
Single Senior	\$37,272

### Narrative:

There were no significant shifts in Indian River County's racial and ethnic demographics between 2022 and 2023. While the overall population experienced a modest increase, the number of children and youth has declined slightly. The population of residents aged 19 and under decreased from 28,016 in 2022 to 27,629 in 2023. The number of children under age five remained relatively stable, increasing slightly from 6,331 to 6,371. Births also saw a slight decline, from 1,245 in 2022 to 1,230 in 2023. The distribution of delivery payment sources remained largely unchanged.

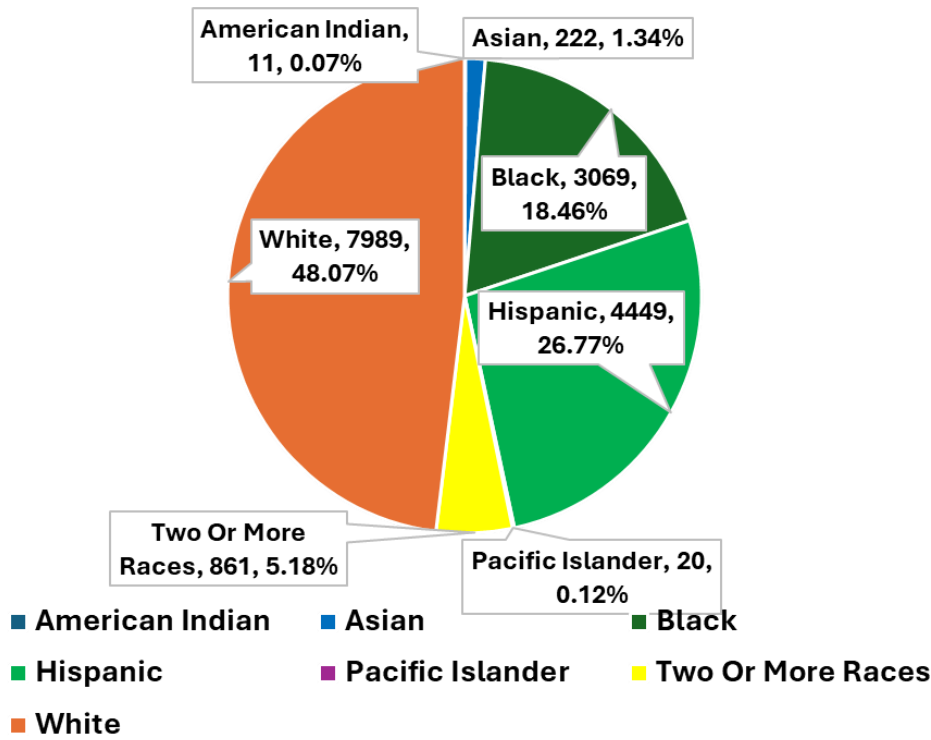
Economic indicators show a growing strain on certain segments of the population. The percentage of residents living below the federal poverty line increased from 10.7% to 11.4%. Families with children under 18 living in poverty rose from 12.7% to 14%. However, the percentage of children under 18 living in poverty slightly decreased from 18.2% to 17.3%.

The cost of living also increased, as reflected in the 2023 ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) Household Survival Budget. The annual survival budget for a single adult rose from \$29,436 in 2022 to \$33,168 in 2023. For a household with two adults and two school-aged children, the budget increased from \$74,460 to \$78,420. A single senior now requires \$37,272 annually to meet basic needs, up from \$33,540 the previous year.

These trends point to a community facing rising costs of living and increasing financial pressures, particularly among families with children, despite relatively stable population demographics.

# Student Demographics

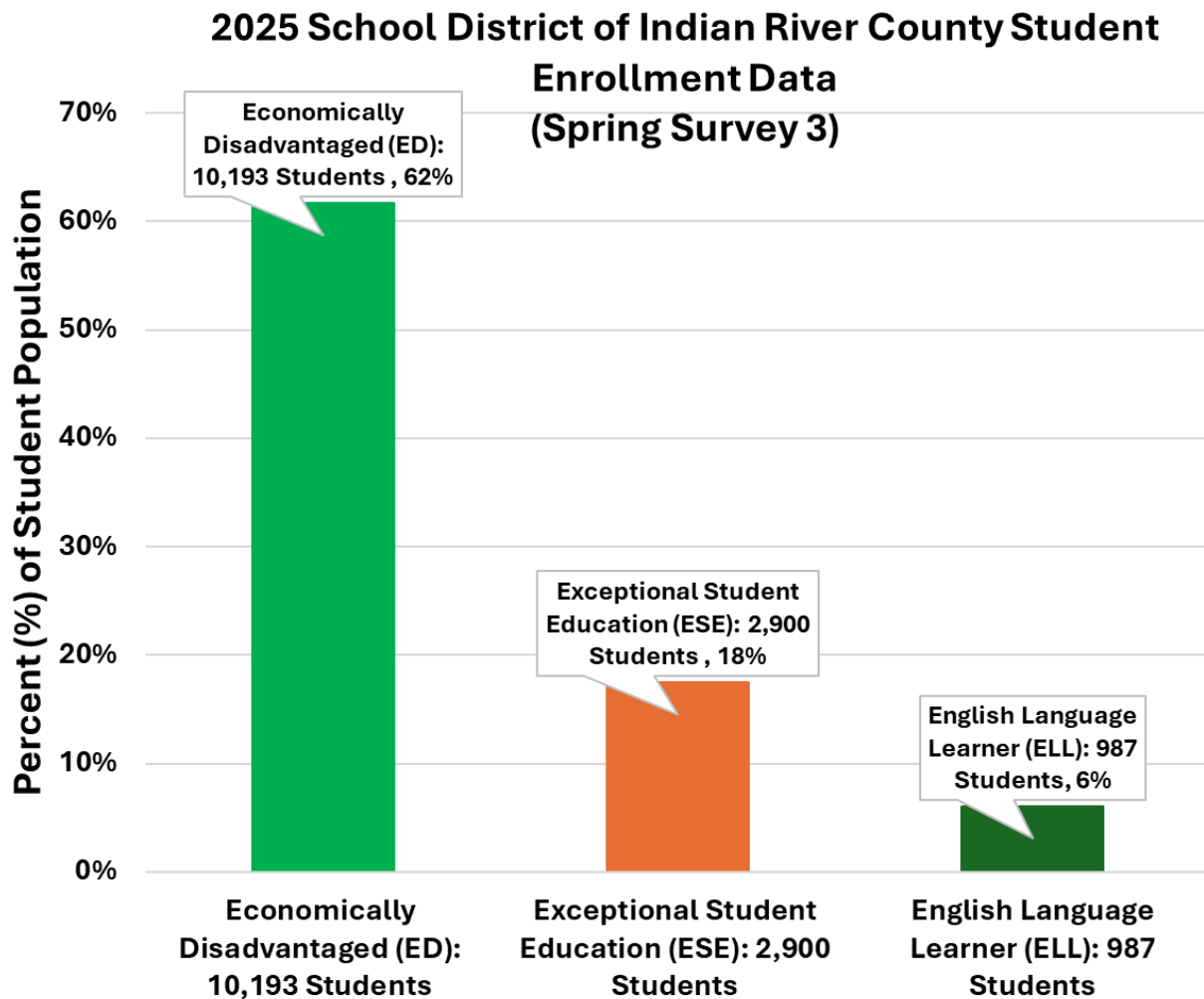
## Indian River County Student Demographics by Race and Ethnicity 2024-2025



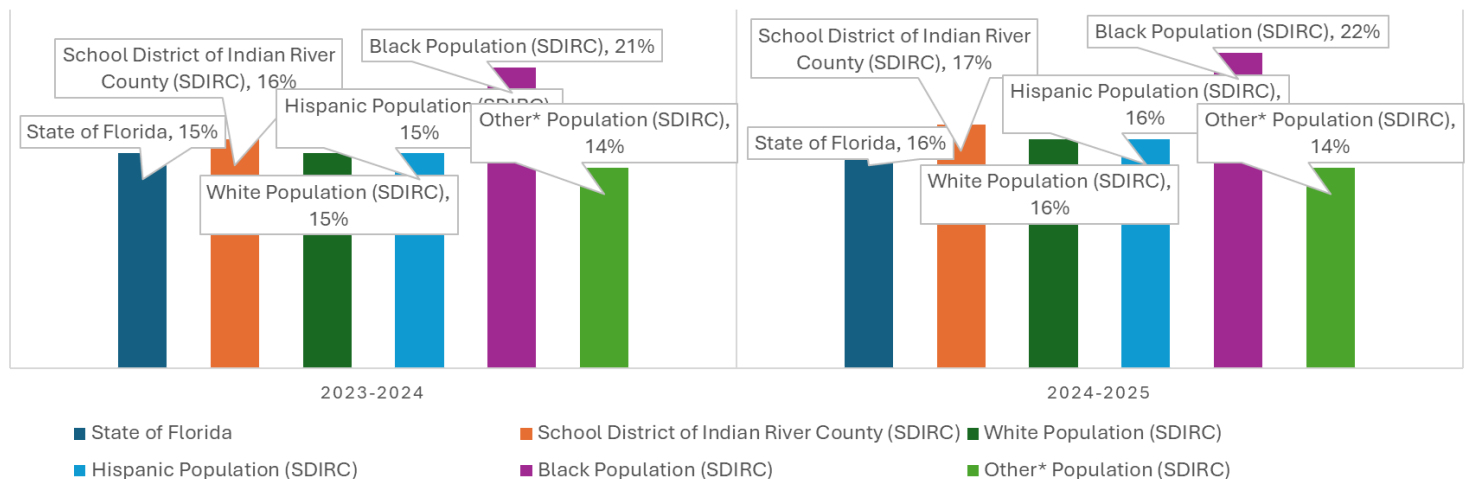
Demographic	K-5		6-8		9-12		K-12	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
American Indian	*		*		*		*	
Asian	93	1%	56	1%	80	2%	229	1%
Black	1,370	18%	739	19%	906	17%	3,015	18%
Hispanic	1,858	25%	958	25%	1,353	26%	4,169	25%
Pacific Islander	10	<1%	*		*		20	<1%
Two or More Races	441	6%	199	5%	231	4%	871	5%
White	3,634	49%	1,914	49%	2,606	50%	8,154	50%
Economically Disadvantaged (ED)	4,415	60%	2,195	57%	2,485	48%	9,095	55%
Exceptional Student Education (ESE)	1,269	17%	649	17%	722	14%	2,640	16%
English Language Learner (ELL)	641	9%	148	4%	165	3%	954	6%

\* The “Know Your Data” site suppresses data cells when the number is less than 10 and is noted by an asterisk (\*).  
[https://edudata.fl DOE.org/AdvancedReports\\_Tableau.html?StudentEnrollments=true](https://edudata.fl DOE.org/AdvancedReports_Tableau.html?StudentEnrollments=true)

## Student Demographics (continued)



### EXCEPTIONAL STUDENT EDUCATION (ESE) RATES BASED ON FALL ENROLLMENT



#### Narrative:

Over the past three school years, the School District of Indian River County (SDIRC) has consistently reported higher Exceptional Student Education (ESE) enrollment rates than the state average. While the statewide rate has remained steady at 15%, SDIRC's overall rate increased from 16% in 2022–2023 to 17% in 2024–2025.

ESE participation rates vary notably across racial and ethnic groups. Black students consistently have the highest ESE enrollment, increasing slightly from 22% in 2022–2023 to 21%–22% in subsequent years. White and Hispanic student rates remain similar to each other and close to the district's overall rate, with both increasing from 15% in 2022–2023 to 16% in 2024–2025. The "Other" racial/ethnic group maintains the lowest ESE rates, holding steady at 13–14% across all three years.

## PRIORITY ONE

# HEALTH & WELL-BEING

Each **PRIORITY** has specific **FOCUS AREAS** and **DATA INDICATORS** listed below.

### 1. ENHANCED ACCESS TO PRENATAL CARE

- INITIATE PRENATAL CARE
- BIRTHWEIGHT & GESTATION
- INITIATING BREAST FEEDING
- FETAL DEATHS
- INFANT DEATHS
- REPEAT BIRTHS TO TEEN MOTHERS

### 2. ADVANCEMENTS IN POSITIVE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

- YOUTH RISK PROFILE
- YOUTH DEPRESSION
- YOUTH SUBSTANCE ABUSE
- ADULT ALCOHOL USE

### 3. PROMOTION OF PHYSICAL HEALTH

- BMI SUMMARY
- YOUTH OBESITY

### 4. IDENTIFICATION & EXPANSION OF PROGRAMS FOR STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

- STUDENTS BY PRIMARY EXCEPTIONALITY



# **PRIORITY: HEALTH & WELL-BEING**

## **FOCUS AREA 1:**

### **ENHANCED ACCESS TO PRENATAL CARE**

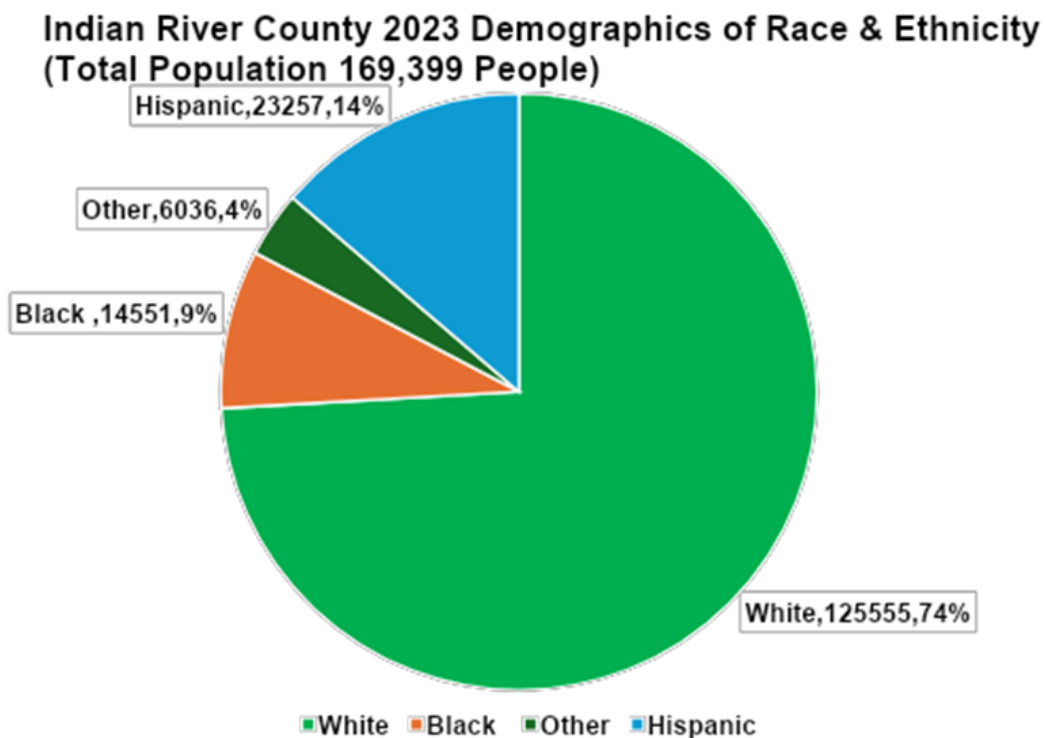
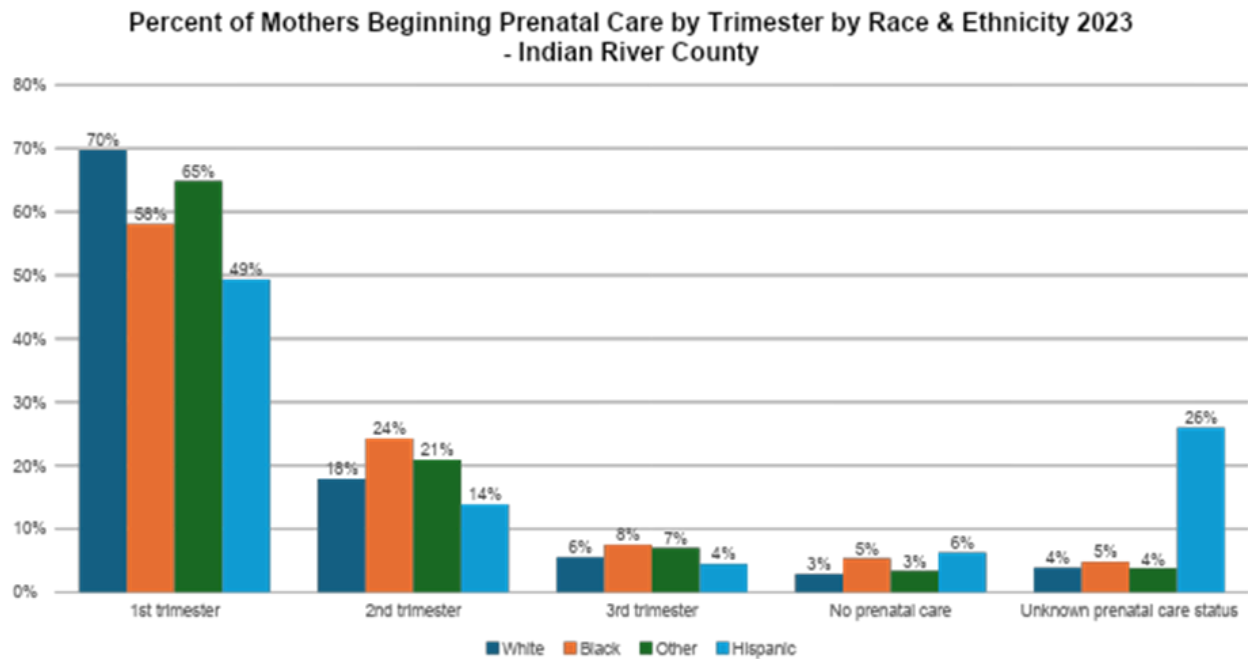
#### **DATA INDICATORS:**

INITIATE PRENATAL CARE  
BIRTHS BY BIRTHWEIGHT & GESTATION  
INITIATING BREASTFEEDING  
FETAL DEATHS  
INFANT DEATHS  
REPEAT BIRTHS TO TEEN MOTHERS





## Initiate Prenatal Care



### Narrative:

According to Florida Charts in 2022, 61% of black women and 66% of hispanic women in Indian River County sought prenatal care in the first trimester compared to the state at 59% of black women and 67% of hispanic women. According to Florida Charts in 2023, the number of black women accessing prenatal care in the first trimester was 58% and matched the state at 58% and for hispanic women in Indian River County, we saw some of the lowest prenatal care access rates at 49% compared to the state at 65%. In the 2024 provisional data from Florida Charts, 63% of black women accessed first trimester care compared to 56% in the state while 70% of hispanic women reported first trimester care. For hispanic women this is a significant rise in Indian River County jumping above the state average at 63%. Ongoing efforts to educate on the importance of early entry into prenatal care is vital to preventable maternal, fetal and infant losses.

# Birthweight & Gestation

Indian River County Births by Birthweight & Gestation 2023						
Birthweight (Grams)	Gestation (Weeks)	White	Black	Other	Unknown	TOTAL
<2,500 grams	<32 weeks	13	6	3		22
	32-36 weeks	31	18	1		50
	37+ weeks	18	7	3		28
	Unknown Weeks	1				1
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>7</b>		<b>101</b>
2,500+ grams	<32 weeks		1			1
	32-36 weeks	32	9	2		43
	37+ weeks	821	186	75	2	1084
	Unknown Weeks	1				1
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>854</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1129</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<32 weeks	13	7	3		23
	32-36 weeks	63	27	3		93
	37+ weeks	839	193	78	2	1112
	Unknown Weeks	2				2
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>917</b>	<b>227</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1230</b>

Mothers Who Initiate Breastfeeding										
Demographics	2019		2020		2021		2022		2023	
	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count
State: Florida	86%	189,255	85%	179,098	85%	183,595	87%	194,654	86%	189,443
County: Indian River	84%	1,062	87%	1,033	87%	1,079	92%	1,148	93%	1,140
White	86%	624	87%	613	89%	661	93%	639	89%	638
Hispanic	91%	248	91%	228	89%	244	96%	284	92%	265
Black	70%	149	76%	151	72%	122	86%	180	76%	197
Other	77%	41	93%	41	88%	51	91%	45	87%	40

## Narrative:

In 2021, the percentage of infants born at a healthy weight was 91% on level with the state average of 91%. In 2023, the percentage increased to 92% with continued focus on community programs that address health before, during and after pregnancy.

Breastfeeding Initiation continues to be a top priority in the county. Ongoing community support efforts have allowed Indian River County to become one of the highest counties for breastfeeding initiation in Florida. Since 2018, the county has increased breastfeeding initiation from 84% to 93% in 2023 while the state average remains between 85%-87%.

# Fetal Deaths

## Indian River County Fetal Deaths by Year & Race

Year	White	Black	Other	Unknown	TOTAL
2018	5				5
2019	2	1		1	4
2020	7	1			8
2021	2	3			5
2022	8	1	1	1	11
2023	2	6			8
TOTAL	26	12	1	2	41

### Narrative:

The fetal death rate in 2023 was 6.5 per 1000 per live births down from 8.8 per 1000 in 2022. The rate per 1000 per live births in 2023 for the state was 6.7, the same as the prior year. However, higher than Martin County which is comparable in size to Indian River County. Martin County's fetal death rate was 5.6 in 2023.

"Fetal death" means death prior to the complete expulsion or extraction of a product of human conception from its mother if the 20th week of gestation has been reached and the death is indicated by the fact that after such expulsion or extraction the fetus does not breathe or show any other evidence of life such as beating of the heart, pulsation of the umbilical cord, or definite movement of voluntary muscles.

In 2022, 0 out of 11 fetal deaths were linked to Severe Maternal Morbidity (SMM) conditions, ex gestational diabetes, blood pressure or other comorbidity condition. However, 3 of the 8 fetal deaths in 2023 have been categorized as due to maternal condition including: Fetus Affected by Maternal Hypertensive Disorders (P00.0), Fetus Affected by Other Medical Procedures and Maternal Conditions (P00.7-P00.8), and Syndrome of Infant of a Diabetic Mother and Neonatal Diabetes Mellitus (P70.0-P70.2). Additionally, Black mothers saw a significant increase in fetal losses documented in 2023.

These 3 deaths were deemed preventable by the Community Action Group (CAG) along with 2 additional cases. Preventable deaths are those that intervention prior to pregnancy, during pregnancy or the postpartum period could have resulted in a healthy birth outcome. Non-preventable deaths are defined as no intervention including medical, social service or other could have changed the outcome of the demise. This committee, made up of medical, social service, law enforcement and community members evaluates each case thoroughly to determine the factors that lead to the demise. The SMM conditions above are increasing in our county, state and nation which is leading to a rise in maternal, fetal and infant deaths. Florida Charts has begun tracking these conditions. Partners in the community are working to create education and pathways to successfully reduce and eliminate preventable deaths.

# Infant Deaths

## Indian River County Infant Deaths by Year & Race

Year	White	Black	Other	Unknown	TOTAL
2018	1	1			2
2019	2	5			7
2020	2	1	1		4
2021	8	5	2		15
2022	6	4		1	11
2023	2	4			6
TOTAL	23	20	3	1	45

### Narrative:

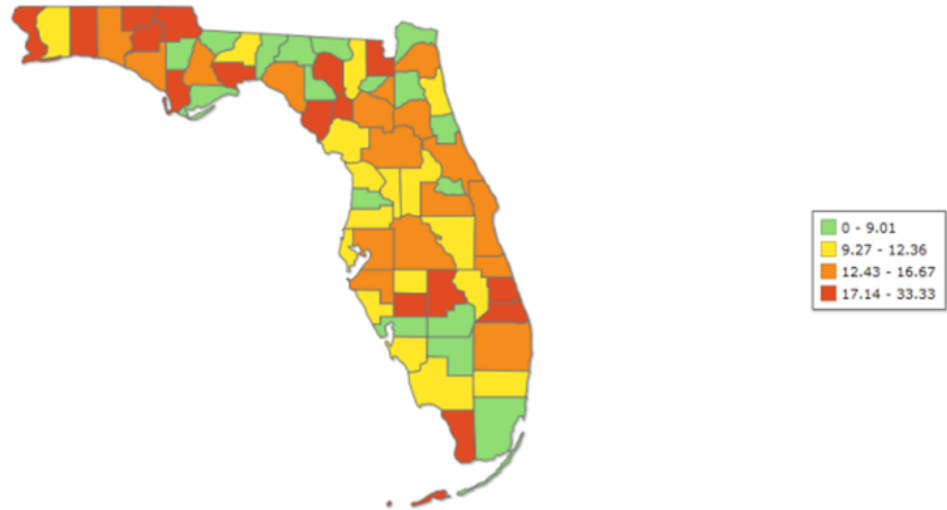
By Florida Statute definition, a "Live birth" occurs with the complete expulsion or extraction of a product of human conception from its mother, irrespective of the duration of pregnancy, which, after such expulsion, breathes or shows any other evidence of life such as beating of the heart, pulsation of the umbilical cord, and definite movement of the voluntary muscles, whether or not the umbilical cord has been cut or the placenta is attached. (see definitions).

The infant death rate in Indian River County per 1000 live births in 2023 was 4.9 down from 8.8 in 2022. The rate for the state in both 2022 and 2023 was 6.0.

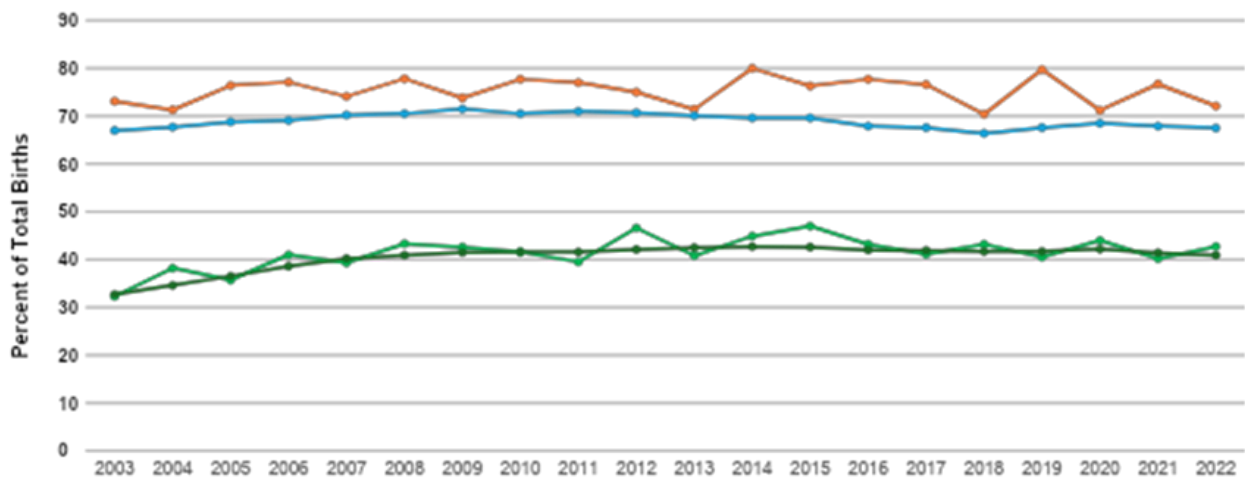
In 2022, the total number of infant deaths was 11 and in 2023 the number dropped to 6. In 2023, a reduction to the number of White infant deaths was noted, while the number of Black infants remained the same. In both 2022 and 2023, 1 case of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (R95) and 1 case of Unintentional Injuries (V01-X59) were reported both preventable deaths. In 2023, a reduction to 0 in the number of deaths classified as Bacterial Sepsis of Newborn (P36) after 3 reports in 2022.

# Repeat Births to Teen Mothers

Repeat Births to Mothers (Aged 15-19 Years), Age 15-19, Percent of Total Births 15-19, 2023



## 2024 Births to Unwed Mothers



## Indian River County Births by Mother's Age By Year of Birth

AGE	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
0-17	15	19	16	10	13	12
18+	1,279	1,241	1,178	1,235	1,232	1218
TOTALS	1,294	1,260	1,194	1,245	1,245	1230



## Repeat Births to Teen Mothers (continued)

### Narrative:

The repeat births to teen mothers increased from 12% in 2022 to 13.04% in 2023. While the number of teen mothers ages 0-17 decreased from 13 in 2022 to 12 in 2023, a significant data change is the increase of births to teen mothers ages 0-14. Indian River County's previous recorded birth in this age range was in 2017 with 1 birth recorded. In 2023, 2 births are reported for ages 0-14. While this number may seem small compared to the total number of births in the county, children in this age range risk a higher likelihood of Severe Maternal Morbidity, fetal mortality and long term negative health outcomes.

Comparing this data to a county of similar size by births per year, Martin County decreased their births to teen mothers ages 0-14 from 3 in 2019 and 2020 down to 0 in 2023 and 2024 (provisional data). Their teen births to mothers ages 15-17 remains higher than Indian River County with the exception of 2023, where they experienced a low of 8 births.

Indian River County's teen birth rate in 2023 for ages 15-17 was 10 compared to the state at 6.4. The rate for the county increased from 7.7 to 10 from 2022-2023.

# PRIORITY: HEALTH & WELL-BEING

## FOCUS AREA 2:

### ADVANCEMENTS IN POSITIVE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

#### DATA INDICATORS:

YOUTH RISK PROFILE

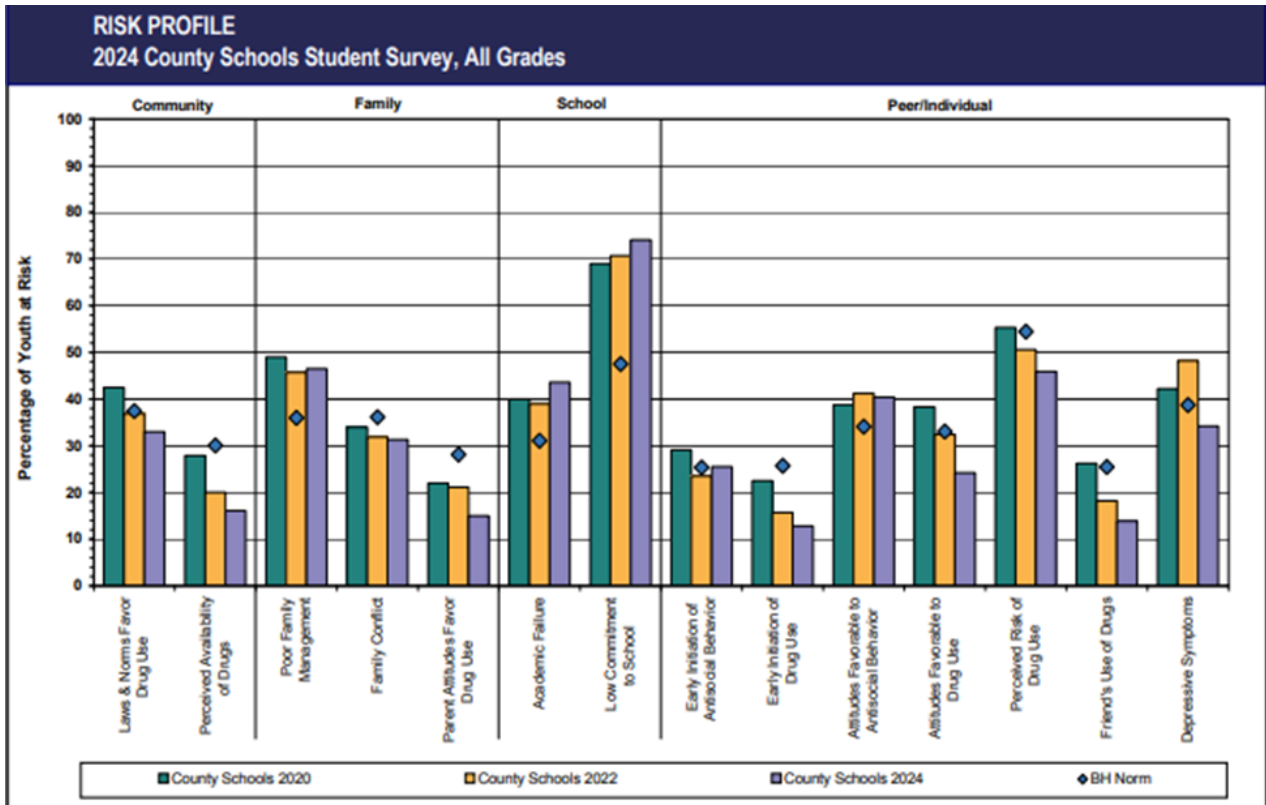
YOUTH DEPRESSION

YOUTH SUBSTANCE ABUSE

ADULT ALCOHOL USE



# Youth Risk Profile



**Table 4. (Continued) Percentage of Students Reporting Risk**

Risk Factors	Grade 10				Grade 11				Grade 12				Total			
	2020	2022	2024	BH Norm	2020	2022	2024	BH Norm	2020	2022	2024	BH Norm	2020	2022	2024	BH Norm
<b>Community Domain</b>																
Laws & Norms Favor Drug Use	39.1	41.1	29.1	36.0	54.7	32.3	28.4	46.7	32.3	27.9	25.1	44.2	42.5	36.9	33.0	37.4
Perceived Availability of Drugs	29.8	17.9	12.4	27.4	23.1	11.5	7.0	27.9	35.8	12.4	17.4	32.7	27.9	20.0	16.1	30.1
<b>Family Domain</b>																
Poor Family Management	37.0	42.0	37.5	32.0	44.8	45.6	35.2	38.9	47.8	31.4	38.8	35.2	49.0	45.7	46.5	36.0
Family Conflict	29.0	31.5	27.5	37.5	33.3	30.3	25.6	38.9	29.0	37.1	22.5	37.5	34.0	31.9	31.3	36.1
Parent Attitudes Favor Drug Use	24.7	28.1	25.9	35.6	35.8	20.9	14.8	34.8	29.6	27.1	17.8	36.8	22.0	21.1	15.0	28.1
<b>School Domain</b>																
Academic Failure	38.0	38.4	44.0	32.3	34.2	44.5	45.5	38.1	43.4	27.8	42.1	33.4	40.0	39.0	43.6	31.1
Low Commitment to School	60.1	62.9	61.2	45.9	57.9	63.0	64.4	47.6	58.3	55.7	65.5	47.8	69.0	70.7	74.1	47.5
<b>Peer-Individual Domain</b>																
Early Initiation of Antisocial Behavior	31.1	24.7	21.8	26.3	29.1	21.7	21.7	29.1	35.2	16.5	21.1	25.5	29.1	23.5	25.5	25.4
Early Initiation of Drug Use	15.2	10.9	7.6	24.8	22.6	10.7	11.1	28.1	27.4	8.6	10.9	32.3	22.5	15.7	12.8	25.7
Attitudes Favorable to Antisocial Behavior	33.5	36.1	27.0	34.7	32.9	34.8	32.8	36.8	35.1	34.1	29.5	35.3	38.8	41.2	40.4	34.1
Attitudes Favorable to Drug Use	43.7	40.5	28.5	39.6	42.4	35.2	20.5	38.9	47.8	28.1	22.7	41.4	38.3	32.4	24.2	33.1
Perceived Risk of Drug Use	65.2	69.8	46.6	60.2	58.2	42.6	39.7	51.6	66.2	43.9	46.9	58.6	55.3	50.6	45.9	54.4
Friend's Use of Drugs	25.6	14.5	9.9	27.7	28.8	12.7	14.9	29.1	37.8	9.4	8.8	28.2	26.2	18.2	13.9	25.4
Depressive Symptoms	44.9	55.1	32.6	43.2	44.9	45.2	33.5	44.9	43.0	51.5	38.6	41.8	42.2	48.2	34.2	38.7

## Narrative:

Risk factors are characteristics in the school, community, family, and individual/peer environments that are known to increase the likelihood of problem behaviors among youth. Addressing these risk factors within a community can reduce the chances of youth engaging in such behaviors.

In Indian River County, several risk factors are elevated compared to the national average, making them areas of concern. In 2024, 74% of 6th through 12th grade students reported a low commitment to school, marking a 5% increase from 2022. This figure is significantly higher than the national average of 48%.

Another notable concern is family management problems. In 2024, 47% of youth surveyed in Indian River County reported this risk factor, compared to the national average of 36%.

Additionally, academic failure is an elevated risk factor in Indian River County. In 2024, 44% of surveyed youth reported being at risk for academic failure, compared to the national average of 31%.

# Youth Depression

**Table 16. Percentages of Indian River County and Florida Statewide youth who reported symptoms of depression, or suicidal ideation and behavior in the past 12 months, 2024**

	Indian River County							Florida Statewide						
	Middle School	High School	Female	Male	Ages 10-14	Ages 15-17	Total	Middle School	High School	Female	Male	Ages 10-14	Ages 15-17	Total
<b>Symptoms of Depression</b>														
Sometimes I think that life is not worth it	21.1	19.8	26.8	13.7	19.9	20.3	20.4	28.8	25.5	35.1	18.9	28.5	26.0	26.9
At times I think I am no good at all	36.0	30.8	42.0	23.8	34.2	32.2	33.0	42.2	37.1	48.5	30.2	41.8	37.2	39.3
All in all, I am inclined to think that I am a failure	22.6	20.3	26.5	15.8	22.1	21.7	21.3	29.6	25.1	33.4	20.7	29.3	25.3	27.0
In the past year, have you felt depressed or sad MOST days, even if you felt OK sometimes?	29.3	31.1	39.7	20.7	29.1	31.5	30.3	42.6	39.3	50.7	30.9	42.0	39.6	40.7
<b>Suicide (past 12 months)</b>														
Seriously considered attempting suicide	8.3	7.3	10.0	5.3	6.9	9.2	7.7	14.8	12.4	17.8	8.9	14.7	12.8	13.4
Made a suicide plan	5.5	5.5	7.4	3.4	5.8	5.4	5.5	12.3	9.8	14.2	7.5	12.2	10.2	10.9
Attempted suicide one or more times	5.0	4.2	6.7	2.1	5.0	4.4	4.5	9.3	5.8	10.1	4.4	8.8	6.3	7.3
Suicide attempt that required medical care	1.4	0.5	0.6	1.1	1.0	0.8	0.9	2.1	1.4	2.3	1.1	1.9	1.7	1.7

## Narrative:

Several studies have shown a clear link between youth depression and engagement in problem behaviors. These studies indicate that depressed youth are overrepresented in the criminal justice system and are more likely to use substances.

In Indian River County in 2024, 30.3% of youth in 6th through 12th grade reported feeling depressed or sad most days. Rates of depression symptoms and suicidal ideation were higher among female students compared to male students. In 2024, 10% of female students in the county reported having thought about committing suicide in the past 12 months, compared to 5% of male students.

While rates of depression symptoms and suicidal thoughts or behaviors in Indian River County have decreased and remain lower than the Florida average, the current levels are still a major concern.

# Youth Substance Abuse

**Table 4. Lifetime trend in substance use for Indian River County, 2014 to 2024**

	2014			2016			2018			2020			2022			2024		
	Middle School	High School	Total	Middle School	High School	Total	Middle School	High School	Total	Middle School	High School	Total	Middle School	High School	Total	Middle School	High School	Total
Alcohol	22.0	59.0	43.0	24.3	54.0	41.7	17.6	46.9	34.7	21.0	41.6	32.7	20.4	36.2	29.7	16.2	26.9	22.3
Blacking Out	--	20.9	--	--	18.5	--	--	15.2	--	--	16.5	--	--	6.0	--	--	5.7	--
Cigarettes	10.0	24.6	18.4	7.1	25.0	17.4	3.8	14.5	10.0	4.6	10.5	8.0	5.9	7.5	6.8	3.8	4.9	4.4
Vaping Nicotine	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	12.8	32.5	24.3	13.2	23.3	19.1	9.1	14.5	12.1
Vaping Marijuana	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	7.3	26.6	18.6	7.6	18.5	14.0	4.6	13.1	9.3
Marijuana or Hashish	8.4	34.6	23.3	6.1	29.3	19.5	6.1	24.6	16.8	9.1	31.8	22.3	7.0	22.6	16.1	3.8	14.2	9.7
Synthetic Marijuana	--	9.1	--	--	4.2	--	--	3.2	--	--	2.6	--	--	0.9	--	--	1.6	--
Inhalants	7.1	3.8	5.2	6.4	2.9	4.4	8.1	3.5	5.4	7.0	3.8	5.1	6.7	4.1	5.2	5.7	1.6	3.4
Club Drugs	1.1	4.8	3.2	0.1	1.6	1.0	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.6	4.2	2.7	1.0	1.1	1.1	0.1	0.5	0.3
LSD, PCP or Mushrooms	1.5	6.3	4.2	0.4	6.2	3.7	0.3	3.4	2.1	0.3	5.1	3.2	2.4	2.1	2.2	0.3	1.8	1.2
Methamphetamine	1.1	0.2	0.6	0.5	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.0	0.1	0.0	1.5	0.9	0.9	0.4	0.6	0.3	0.0	0.1
Cocaine or Crack	0.8	2.6	1.9	0.0	3.3	1.9	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.2	1.2	0.8	1.1	0.8	0.9	0.6	0.2	0.4
Heroin	0.7	0.4	0.5	0.0	0.3	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.8	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.1	0.1
Prescription Depressants	2.3	6.2	4.5	3.2	4.0	3.6	1.2	3.8	2.7	2.8	4.5	3.8	2.3	3.0	2.7	0.8	0.2	0.5
Prescription Pain Relievers	1.9	8.7	5.8	3.8	7.0	5.7	2.2	4.8	3.7	2.0	3.7	3.0	3.9	1.2	2.3	1.1	0.5	0.8
Prescription Amphetamines	1.2	6.4	4.2	1.3	3.1	2.3	0.8	3.3	2.2	1.8	3.8	3.0	2.7	2.2	2.4	0.9	1.1	1.1
Over-the-Counter Drugs	1.7	6.6	4.5	1.2	4.7	3.2	3.0	1.7	2.2	1.7	3.1	2.6	2.1	2.4	2.2	0.6	2.7	1.8
Needle to Inject Drugs	--	--	--	--	0.4	--	--	0.4	--	--	0.7	--	--	0.0	--	--	0.2	--
Delta-8 or Delta-10 THC	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	5.7	--
Kratom	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	0.2	--
Any illicit drug	16.1	39.1	29.2	16.4	35.5	27.4	14.7	29.5	23.3	17.7	36.8	28.9	17.2	28.7	24.0	12.8	19.3	16.5
Any illicit drug other than marijuana	11.9	21.8	17.5	13.0	17.8	15.8	11.0	13.6	12.5	9.3	12.3	11.0	12.2	11.1	11.6	8.1	7.0	7.5
Alcohol only	12.5	25.2	19.7	13.3	22.1	18.5	10.4	20.7	16.4	7.9	13.1	11.0	12.2	13.5	13.0	9.2	12.6	11.1
Alcohol or any illicit drug	28.2	64.5	48.8	29.1	57.6	45.5	24.6	50.1	39.3	26.3	49.8	39.8	29.1	42.5	36.9	21.8	32.2	27.7
Any illicit drug, but no alcohol	6.5	6.0	6.2	5.1	3.7	4.3	7.6	3.1	5.0	5.5	8.0	7.0	8.6	6.7	7.5	6.0	5.3	5.6

Note: The first 20 data rows show results for alcohol, cigarettes, and other drugs. The last five data rows show results for various combinations of drugs. For "Blacking Out," respondents were asked on how many occasions in their lifetime they woke up after a night of drinking and did not remember the things they did or the places they went. Ecstasy, Rohypnol, GHB and ketamine are provided as examples in the question about club drugs. In 2024, the wording of the prescription pain reliever use items was changed to include drug names that are prescribed more frequently. The symbol "--" indicates that data are not available.

## 2024 Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey - Indian River County Report

**Table 5. Past-30-day trends in substance use for Indian River County, 2014 to 2024**

	2014			2016			2018			2020			2022			2024		
	Middle School	High School	Total	Middle School	High School	Total	Middle School	High School	Total	Middle School	High School	Total	Middle School	High School	Total	Middle School	High School	Total
Alcohol	7.9	31.8	21.4	10.9	26.6	20.1	6.9	23.4	16.5	9.6	20.7	15.9	7.2	14.5	11.5	2.4	9.5	6.5
Binge Drinking	3.3	14.9	9.9	2.8	11.3	7.8	2.6	13.3	8.8	3.0	12.2	8.2	3.3	4.2	3.8	1.9	2.8	2.4
Cigarettes	3.0	8.6	6.2	1.1	4.8	3.3	1.1	3.8	2.7	0.6	2.0	1.4	1.1	1.4	1.3	0.8	1.1	1.0
Vaping Nicotine	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	5.7	19.9	14.0	4.8	9.9	7.8	2.5	4.4	3.5
Vaping Marijuana	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	2.4	16.4	10.6	3.0	8.7	6.4	1.8	4.2	3.1
Marijuana or Hashish	5.4	19.8	13.7	1.7	17.7	11.1	3.2	13.4	9.0	4.2	16.7	11.5	2.7	9.6	6.7	1.8	5.0	3.6
Synthetic Marijuana	--	1.1	--	--	0.8	--	--	1.0	--	--	1.8	--	--	0.8	--	--	0.8	--
Inhalants	1.5	1.1	1.2	2.3	1.0	1.6	2.7	0.2	1.3	3.8	1.4	2.4	1.7	1.0	1.3	1.2	0.3	0.7
Club Drugs	0.4	1.1	0.8	0.0	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	1.8	1.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0
LSD, PCP or Mushrooms	0.8	1.8	1.3	0.1	2.5	1.5	0.0	0.8	0.4	0.3	2.2	1.4	1.1	0.4	0.7	0.1	0.5	0.3
Methamphetamine	0.3	0.0	0.1	0.4	0.2	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	1.1	0.7	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0
Cocaine or Crack	0.5	1.3	0.9	0.1	0.9	0.6	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.6	0.4	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.0	0.2	0.1
Heroin	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.2	0.3	0.0	0.1	0.3	0.0	0.1
Prescription Depressants	0.5	1.7	1.2	1.7	1.0	1.3	0.6	1.4	1.1	0.4	2.1	1.4	0.8	0.9	0.9	0.0	0.0	0.0
Prescription Pain Relievers	1.1	2.8	2.1	2.8	1.4	2.0	0.7	1.1	0.9	0.7	1.1	1.0	1.6	0.2	0.8	1.0	0.5	0.7
Prescription Amphetamines	0.5	2.6	1.7	1.1	1.1	1.1	0.1	0.8	0.5	0.5	2.2	1.5	0.3	0.6	0.4	0.3	0.1	0.2
Over-the-Counter Drugs	0.5	2.7	1.8	0.8	1.5	1.2	1.3	1.0	1.1	0.8	1.1	1.0	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.4	1.2	0.8
Any illicit drug	8.2	23.7	17.1	8.0	20.7	15.4	6.9	15.5	11.9	8.8	23.0	17.1	6.8	12.2	10.0	5.5	8.1	7.0
Any illicit drug other than marijuana	4.1	9.6	7.3	6.7	7.1	7.0	4.6	3.9	4.2	5.0	7.8	6.6	4.0	2.9	3.3	3.3	2.6	2.9
Alcohol only	4.8	16.2	11.3	6.5	13.7	10.7	4.7	13.8	10.0	5.1	9.1	7.4	5.3	7.3	6.5	1.4	6.5	4.3
Alcohol or any illicit drug	12.6	39.8	28.0	14.0	34.1	25.6	11.4	29.0	21.6	14.1	32.0	24.3	11.9	19.7	16.5	6.9	14.7	11.3
Any illicit drug, but no alcohol	5.0	8.5	7.0	2.9	7.6	5.7	4.8	6.0	5.5	4.7	11.1	8.4	4.0	5.4	4.8	4.6	5.1	4.9

Note: The first 18 data rows show results for alcohol, cigarettes, and other drugs. The last five data rows show results for various combinations of drugs. Binge drinking is defined as having had five or more alcoholic drinks in a row in the past two weeks. Ecstasy, Rohypnol, GHB and ketamine are provided as examples in the question about club drugs. In 2020, the vaping/e-cigarette item was replaced with separate questions about vaping nicotine and vaping marijuana. In 2024, the wording of the prescription pain reliever use items was changed to include drug names that are prescribed more frequently. The symbol "--" indicates that data are not available.

## 2024 Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey - Indian River County Report

# Youth Substance Abuse (continued)

## Narrative:

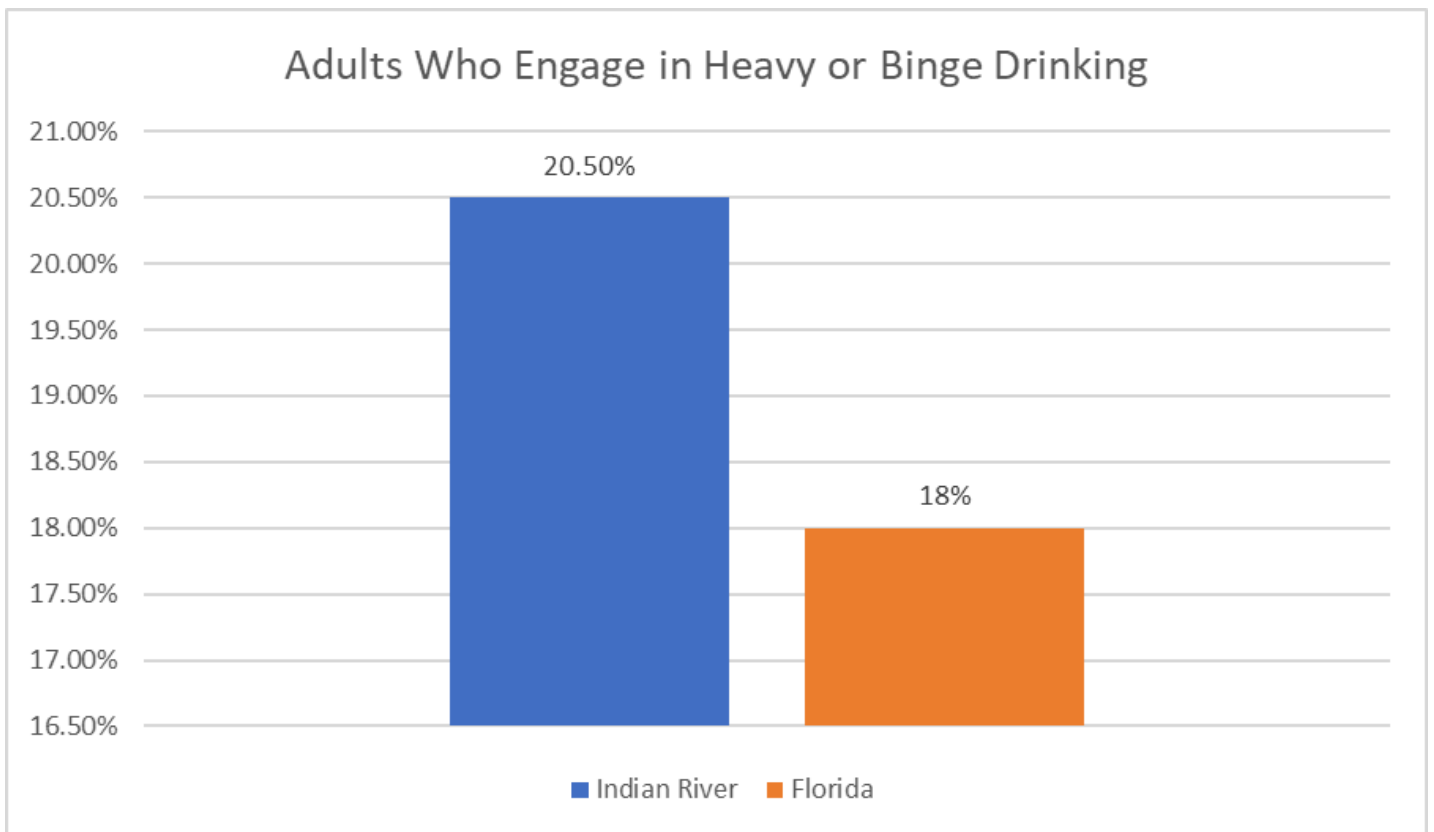
Indian River County has seen an overall decline in lifetime substance use rates over the past decade. Lifetime substance use rates help communities assess the onset of substance use, and early onset is associated with higher levels of use and negative outcomes for youth over their lifespan.

Since 2002, lifetime rates of alcohol, marijuana, and nicotine use have declined among middle and high school students in Indian River County. A significant community strength is that, in 2024, the county's rates of lifetime alcohol, recreational nicotine, and prescription pain medication use fell below the Florida average for high school students. However, while the initiation of substance use has decreased over time, progress has slowed with the introduction of vaping nicotine and marijuana.

Similar to lifetime usage trends, Indian River County has seen an overall decline in past 30-day substance use since 2012. Past 30-day use trends help communities assess current patterns of substance use among youth. A notable strength for Indian River County is the decline in vaping nicotine over the past 30 days for both middle and high school students. In 2024, the county's rate of past 30-day vaping nicotine use among high school students was 4.4%, falling below Florida average. A similar trend was seen in middle school students, where past 30-day vaping nicotine use decreased from 4.8% in 2022 to 2.5% in 2024, also below the Florida average.

The reduction in both lifetime and past -30 day use may be attributed to the evidence-based prevention programs provided in the schools, along with broader community prevention efforts. It is important to continue to provide comprehensive evidence based prevention to all of our youth in order to deter the onset of substance use and its negative outcomes.

# Adult Alcohol Use



## Narrative:

No updated data is currently available at the county level. Since 2019, the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) has only reported data at the state level. Statewide, Florida's adult alcohol use rate has declined from 18% in 2019 to 16.1% in 2023.

Adult Alcohol Use can negatively impact the attitudes and behaviors of children related to alcohol. It can also affect other youth related outcomes such as increasing likelihood that youth engage in the problem behavior. In 2019, 20.5% of Indian River County adults reported binge drinking, which is categorized as having 4 or more drinks for women or 5 or more drinks for men in one sitting. Indian River County rates were higher than Florida average of 18% and Indian River County has a higher rate of binge drinking among adults compared to other counties.



# PRIORITY: HEALTH & WELL-BEING

## FOCUS AREA 3: PROMOTION OF PHYSICAL HEALTH

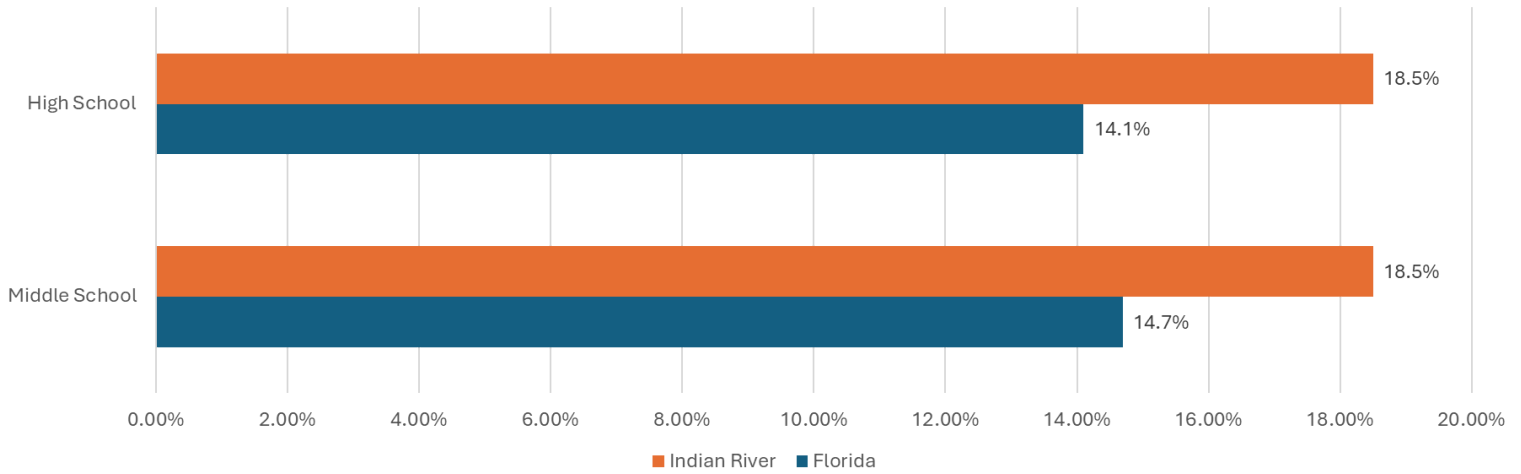
### DATA INDICATORS:

YOUTH OBESITY

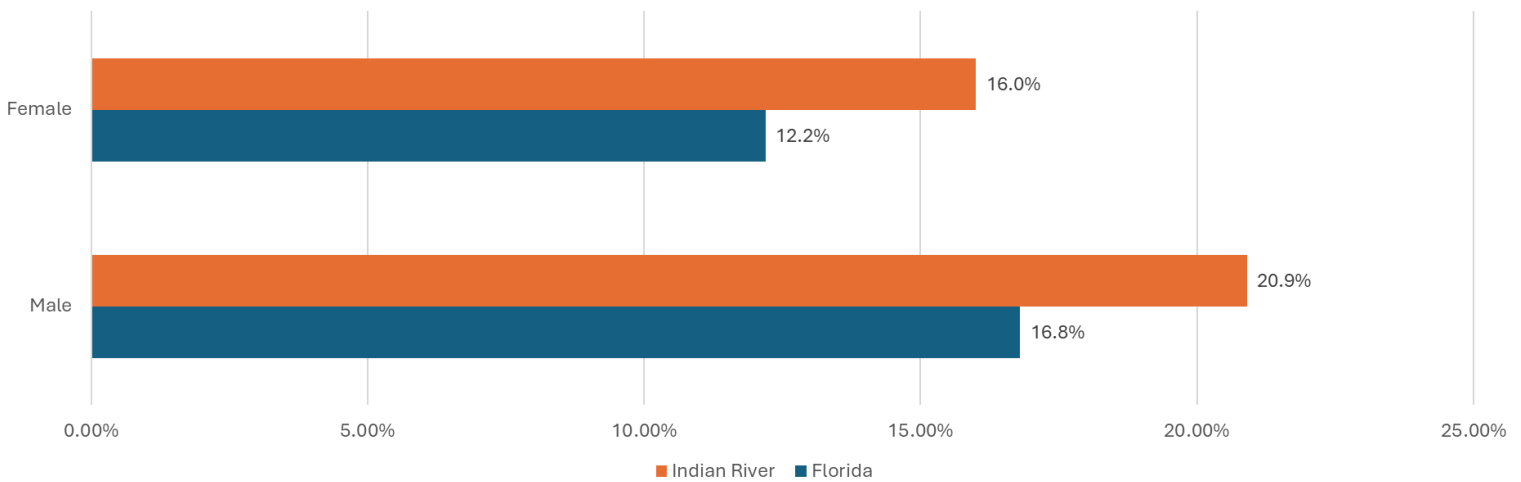


# Youth Obesity

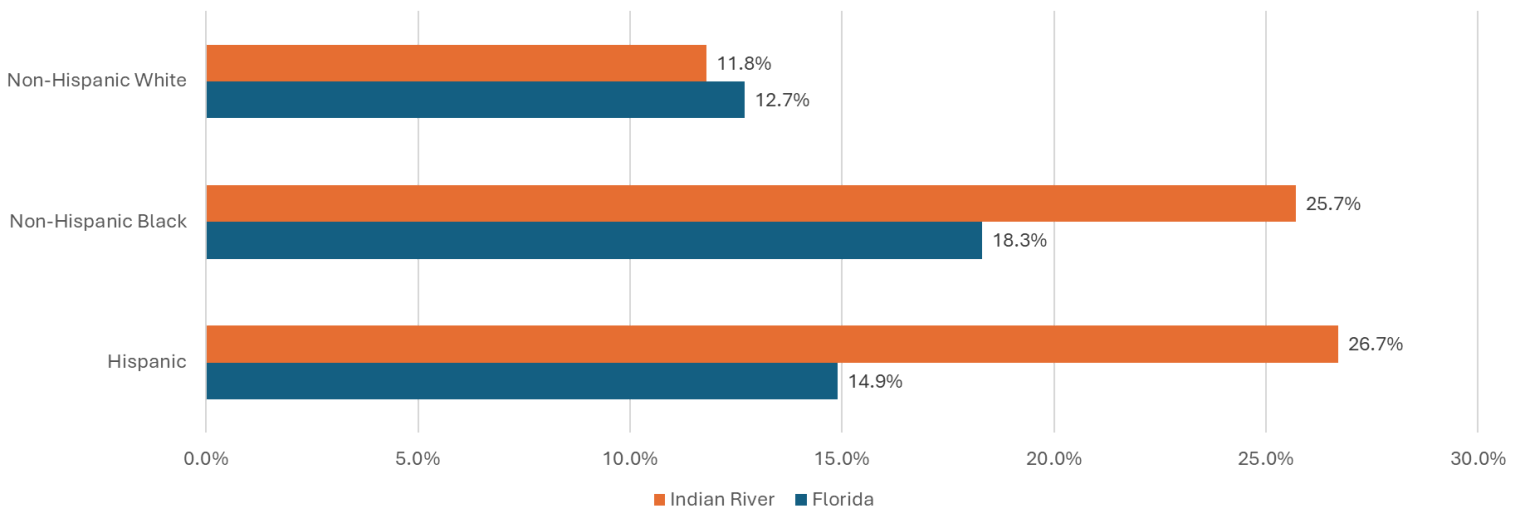
OBESITY BY SCHOOL LEVEL, 2024



OBESITY BY SEX, 2024

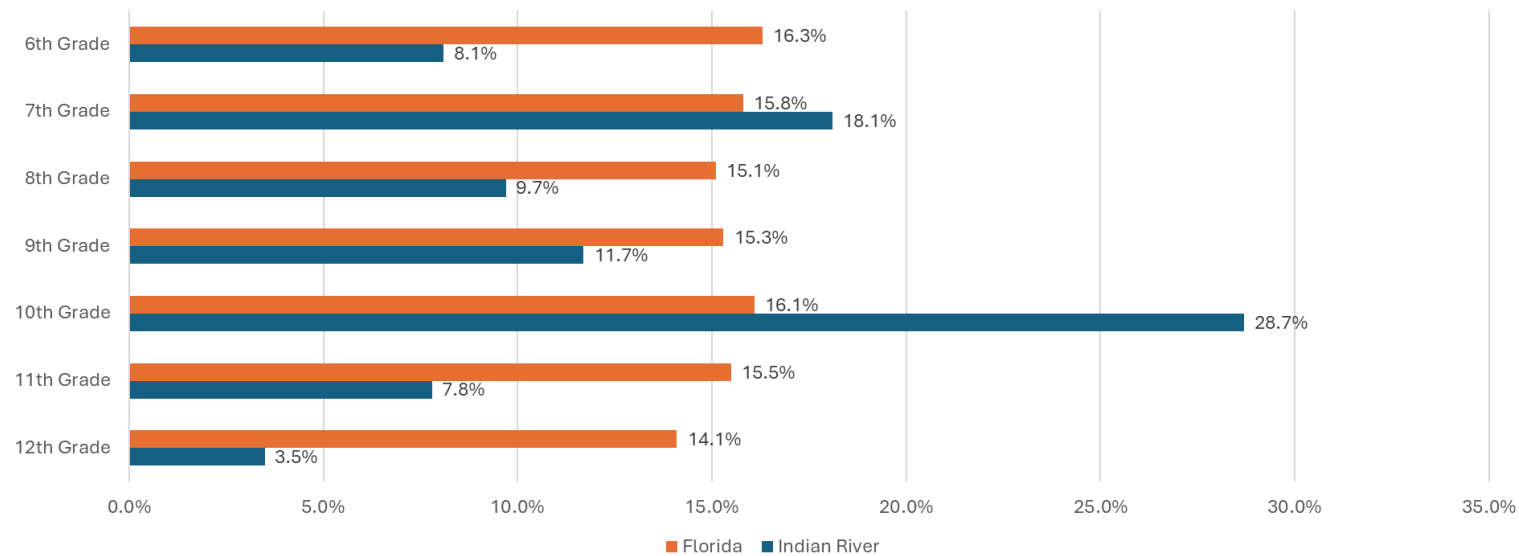


OBESITY BY RACE/ETHNICITY, 2024

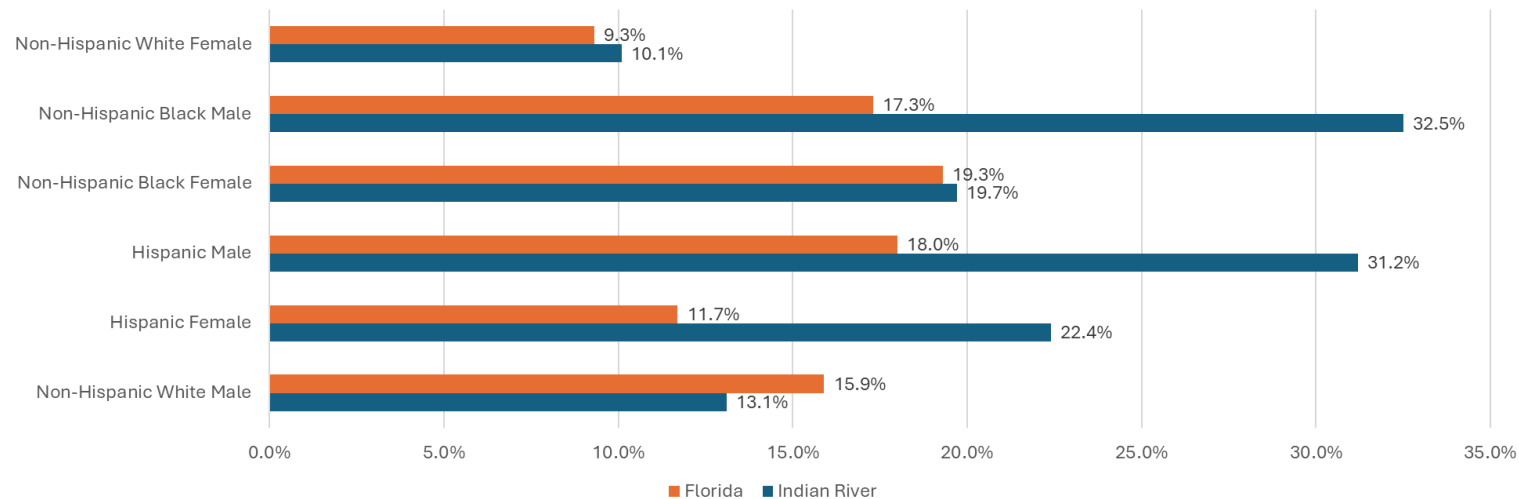


# Youth Obesity

OBESITY BY GRADE LEVEL, 2022



OBESITY BY RACE/ETHNICITY AND SEX, 2024



**Narrative:**

Between 2022 and 2024, youth obesity rates in Indian River County rose sharply, surpassing state averages across multiple demographic groups. Overall rates increased significantly while state rates declined slightly. Obesity among males climbed from 15.0% to 20.9% and among females from 10.8% to 16.0%, overtaking Florida’s more stable trends.

By race and ethnicity, Hispanic youth in Indian River experienced the largest increase, jumping from 15.7% to 26.7%. Non-Hispanic Black youth rose from 22.4% to 25.7%, while Non-Hispanic White youth increased from 9.2% to 11.8%, just below the state average. These increases have widened the gap with Florida’s overall trend of modest declines or stability.

Given the widespread nature of these increases across gender and racial/ethnic groups, this is not a challenge limited to a single population. Instead, it points to a community-wide concern requiring a universal, coordinated approach. Efforts must address shared environmental, behavioral, and systemic factors contributing to obesity, while ensuring culturally responsive strategies that benefit all youth in the county.

# PRIORITY: HEALTH & WELL-BEING

## FOCUS AREA 4:

**IDENTIFICATION & EXPANSION OF PROGRAMS  
FOR STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS**

## DATA INDICATOR:

STUDENTS BY PRIMARY EXCEPTIONALITY



## Students by Primary Exceptionality

Exceptionality	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025
Autism Spectrum Disorder	238	251	255	269	291	349	374
Deaf or Hard of Hearing	20	19	15	16	13	12	14
Developmentally Delayed	69	71	79	91	131	208	262
Emotional/Behavioral Disability	76	73	75	68	70	72	67
Established Conditions	*						
Gifted	730	732	703	696	744	734	724
Hospital/Homebound	36	25	16	24	21	26	22
Intellectual Disability	134	133	122	112	105	100	109
Language Impaired	325	314	300	263	214	150	124
Orthopedically Impaired	22	21	17	18	13	*	
Other Health Impaired	324	374	371	379	389	402	434
Specific Learning Disability	1,210	1,266	1,208	1,138	1,130	1108	1092
Speech Impaired	396	409	382	387	396	369	382
Traumatic Brain Injured	*			*	*	*	
Visually Impaired	*	*	*	*	12	*	

SOURCE: FLDOE [www.knowyourdata.org](http://www.knowyourdata.org) (Survey 3 – February Reporting)

\* The Know Your Data site suppresses data cells when the number of students is less than 10 and is noted by an asterisk (\*).

### Narrative:

The increases in Developmentally Delayed students in SDIRC over the past three years is largely due to the changes in ages for eligibility.

## PRIORITY TWO

# NURTURING FAMILIES & COMMUNITIES

Each **PRIORITY** has specific **FOCUS AREAS** and **DATA INDICATORS** listed below.

### 1. DECREASE IN CHILDHOOD ADVERSITY

- ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES
- CHILD ABUSE
- BAKER ACT
- CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE
- HOMELESS CHILDREN

### 2. REDUCTION OF JUVENILE DELINQUENCY INCIDENTS

- JUVENILE ARRESTS
- TRENDS IN JUVENILE DELINQUENT BEHAVIOR



# **PRIORITY: NURTURING FAMILIES & COMMUNITIES**

## **FOCUS AREA 1: DECREASE IN CHILDHOOD ADVERSITY**

### **DATA INDICATORS:**

ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES

CHILD ABUSE

BAKER ACT

CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE

HOMELESS CHILDREN





# Adverse Childhood Experiences

**Table 18. Percentages of Indian River County and Florida Statewide high school youth who reported adverse childhood experiences (ACEs), 2024**

	Indian River County							Florida Statewide						
	Middle School	High School	Female	Male	Ages 10-14	Ages 15-17	Total	Middle School	High School	Female	Male	Ages 10-14	Ages 15-17	Total
Emotional abuse	--	11.0	15.6	6.1	--	12.9	--	--	13.3	17.8	8.8	--	13.6	--
Physical abuse	--	9.8	6.7	13.0	--	10.1	--	--	8.9	10.6	7.2	--	9.1	--
Sexual abuse	--	2.9	5.4	0.3	--	3.4	--	--	4.9	7.5	2.3	--	5.2	--
Parents separated or divorced	--	37.0	37.8	36.1	--	39.3	--	--	38.7	41.5	36.0	--	39.2	--
Physical abuse in household	--	4.4	3.0	5.9	--	4.6	--	--	6.9	8.6	5.2	--	7.1	--
Substance abuse in household	--	21.4	24.5	18.2	--	22.0	--	--	22.8	26.3	19.3	--	23.5	--
Mental illness in household	--	22.9	28.1	17.3	--	23.4	--	--	27.7	35.0	20.4	--	28.2	--
Incarcerated household member	--	22.0	25.4	18.4	--	21.9	--	--	21.7	23.2	20.2	--	22.1	--
Emotional neglect	--	24.5	27.6	21.3	--	25.0	--	--	25.1	30.4	19.7	--	25.5	--
Physical neglect	--	4.3	6.0	2.5	--	4.9	--	--	6.2	7.2	5.3	--	6.4	--

Note: The symbol "--" indicates that data are not available.

**Table 19. Number of adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) reported by Indian River County and Florida Statewide high school youth, 2024**

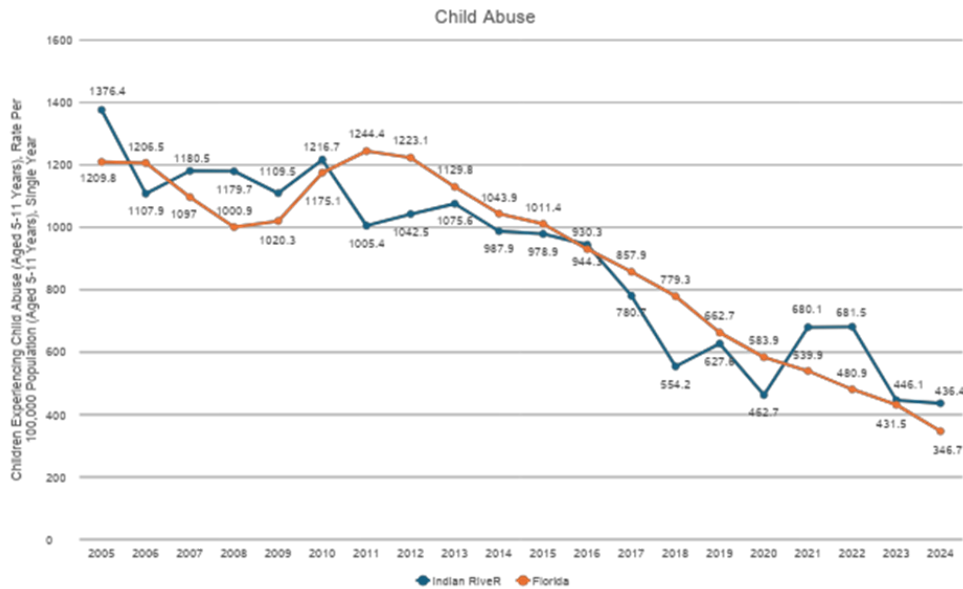
	Indian River County							Florida Statewide						
	Middle School	High School	Female	Male	Ages 10-14	Ages 15-17	Total	Middle School	High School	Female	Male	Ages 10-14	Ages 15-17	Total
No ACEs reported	--	37.8	33.3	42.7	--	37.8	--	--	37.9	31.9	43.9	--	37.9	--
1 ACE	--	24.4	24.3	24.6	--	24.4	--	--	20.6	20.2	21.1	--	20.6	--
2 ACEs	--	13.2	14.4	11.9	--	13.2	--	--	13.4	13.9	13.0	--	13.4	--
3 ACEs	--	10.2	9.9	10.6	--	10.2	--	--	10.0	11.2	8.9	--	10.0	--
4 ACEs	--	5.3	7.8	2.7	--	5.3	--	--	7.0	8.4	5.5	--	7.0	--
5 ACEs	--	4.5	5.4	3.5	--	4.5	--	--	4.4	5.4	3.4	--	4.4	--
6 ACEs	--	2.0	2.4	1.4	--	2.0	--	--	2.8	3.6	2.0	--	2.8	--
7 ACEs	--	1.1	0.9	1.3	--	1.1	--	--	1.9	2.7	1.1	--	1.9	--
8 ACEs	--	0.3	0.0	0.6	--	0.3	--	--	1.1	1.5	0.6	--	1.1	--
9 ACEs	--	1.0	1.2	0.7	--	1.0	--	--	0.5	0.8	0.3	--	0.5	--
10 ACEs	--	0.1	0.3	0.0	--	0.1	--	--	0.3	0.3	0.2	--	0.3	--

Note: Each respondent receives an ACEs score, which is the number of adverse childhood experiences he or she reported. This table shows the frequency distribution of the ACEs score across the sample. Percentages total to 100% down each column. Rounding can produce totals that do not equal 100%. The symbol "--" indicates that data are not available.

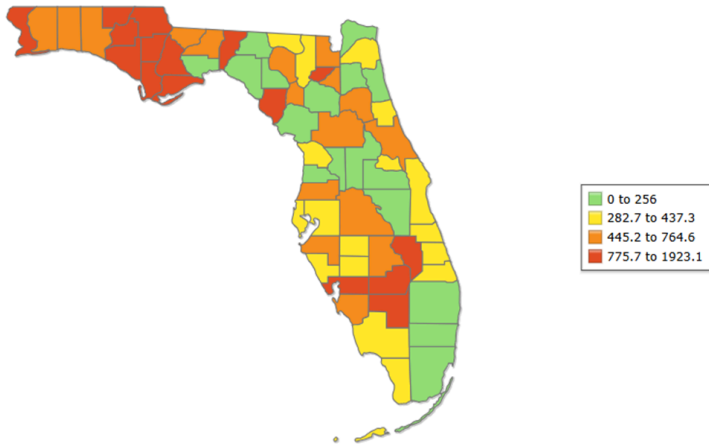
## Narrative:

Adverse childhood experiences are traumatic events that can impact the future of children. In Indian River County, 14.3% of high school youth surveyed report having 4 or more ACEs, which is lower than Florida average and a significant decrease from 26.3% reported in 2022. In 2024 the biggest shift in ACEs for Indian River occurred in household indicators, particularly Substance Abuse in the Household (21.4%) and Mental Illness in the Household (22.9%), which dropped 12.1 and 13.1 points respectively; both now lower than Florida statewide averages. This decline in ACEs should be monitored to assess if the trend downward continues or other variables may have impacted the results.

# Child Abuse



Children Experiencing Child Abuse (Aged 5-11 Years), Rate Per 100,000 Population (Aged 5-11 Years), 2024



Children Experiencing Child Abuse (Aged 5-11 Years), Rate Per 100,000 Population (Aged 5-11 Years), Single Year								
Data Year	Indian River				Florida			
	Count	Denom	Rate	MOV	Count	Denom	Rate	MOV
2024	43	9,853	436.4	130.2	6051	1,745,332	346.7	8.7
2023	43	9,639	446.1	133	7393	1,713,325	431.5	9.8
2022	66	9,685	681.5	163.8	8290	1,723,730	480.9	10.3
2021	65	9,557	680.1	164.8	9095	1,684,572	539.9	11.1
2020	44	9,509	462.7	136.4	9705	1,662,185	583.9	11.6
2019	60	9,560	627.6	158.3	10856	1,638,189	662.7	12.4
2018	53	9,563	554.2	148.8	12648	1,623,068	779.3	13.5
2017	76	9,735	780.7	174.8	13736	1,601,169	857.9	14.3
2016	92	9,743	944.3	192.1	14768	1,587,441	930.3	14.9
2015	96	9,807	978.9	194.9	15970	1,579,017	1011.4	15.6
2014	97	9,819	987.9	195.6	16357	1,566,848	1043.9	15.9
2013	106	9,855	1075.6	203.7	17509	1,549,765	1129.8	16.6
2012	104	9,976	1042.5	199.3	18817	1,538,427	1223.1	17.4
2011	101	10,046	1005.4	195.1	19154	1,539,272	1244.4	17.5
2010	121	9,945	1216.7	215.5	17942	1,526,882	1175.1	17.1
2009	108	9,734	1109.5	208.1	16356	1,603,079	1020.3	15.6
2008	116	9,833	1179.7	213.4	16094	1,607,894	1000.9	15.4
2007	116	9,826	1180.5	213.6	17652	1,609,110	1097	16.1
2006	107	9,658	1107.9	208.8	19228	1,593,752	1206.5	16.9
2005	130	9,445	1376.4	235	19013	1,571,572	1209.8	17.1

## Narrative:

Child maltreatment and abuse are serious issues that can cause lasting harm to a child's physical, mental and emotional health. Abuse is defined as any willful act or threatened act that results in physical, mental or sexual injury or harm that significantly impairs the child's health. This can include acts or omissions by a caregiver that lead to injury or endangerment.

In Indian River County the rate of children ages 5-11 experiencing child abuse has been declining since 2022 where the rate was 681.5 per 100,000, in 2023 it dropped sharply to 446.1 per 100,000 children and in 2024 it continued a decline to 436.4 per 100,000 children. While this is still higher than the FL state average of 346.7 per 100,000 in 2024 the decrease in IRC is a positive step toward protecting vulnerable children.

This decline suggests that efforts to address child abuse in the county may be starting to have an effect. However ongoing work to support families and prevent abuse is essential to keep these rates moving in the right direction and ensure the safety and well-being of children in the future.

# Baker Act

**Table A: Involuntary Examinations: Residents of Indian River County for Five Years\***

Fiscal Year	All Ages	Percent of Total				Percent of Total by Initiator Type			Percent Change for:			
		<18	18-24	25-64	65+	Law Enforcement	Health Professional	Ex-Parte	1 Year		5 Years	
									BA Exams FY22/23 to FY23/24	Pop* 2022 to 2023	BA Exams FY19/20 to FY23/24	Pop* 2019 to 2023
2023-2024	1,318	16.01%	10.55%	61.15%	11.38%	50.76%	46.36%	2.88%	3.37%	3.10%	-2.23%	9.07%
2022-2023	1,275	21.80%	8.71%	58.20%	10.82%	47.37%	49.80%	2.82%				
2021-2022	1,157	26.45%	11.50%	53.24%	8.04%	46.67%	51.17%	2.16%				
2020-2021	1,237	25.95%	10.75%	53.68%	8.08%	42.60%	55.62%	1.78%				
2019-2020	1,348	19.52%	10.17%	59.69%	9.73%	42.39%	56.05%	1.56%				

\*Population estimates are available by calendar year only. For example, 2023 population estimates were used for FY 2023-2024, and so on.

## Narrative:

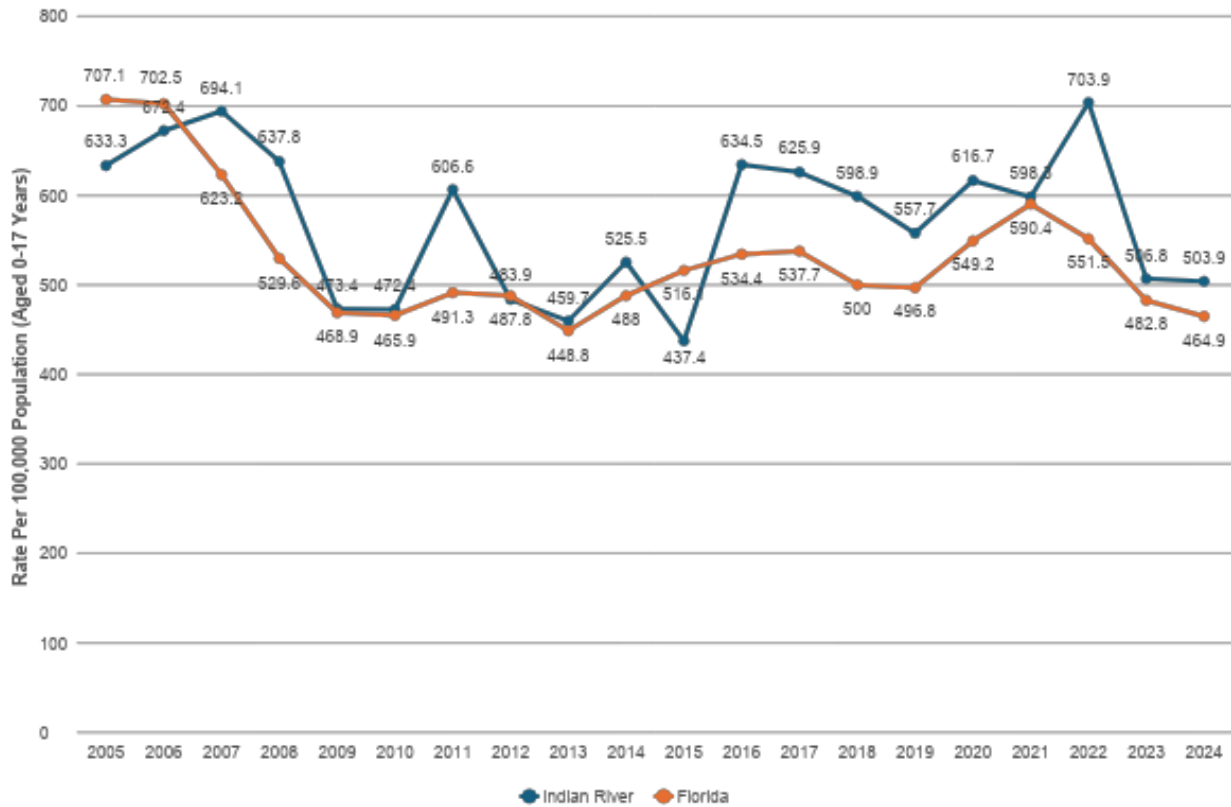
The Florida Baker Act focuses on individuals experiencing a mental health crisis. An individual may be taken into a receiving facility for involuntary examination under the Baker Act if specific criteria are met. The number of youth under age 18 held under the Baker Act in Indian River County has continued to show fluctuations according to provisional data. In 2023-2024 the number youth under 18 held for involuntary examination was 223 or 16.8% of all involuntary examinations, down from 289 or 21.8% in 2022-2023. However, in 2024-2025 involuntary examinations for youth increased up to 253 or 19.3% of all involuntary examinations for the county.

In 2022-2023 Indian River County rates per 1,000 residents for youth under age 18 held for involuntary examination (1.83) exceeded that of Florida averages (1.64). In 2023-2024 the Indian River County rate per 1,000 residents was slightly below Florida averages with a rate of 1.41 compared to 1.48.

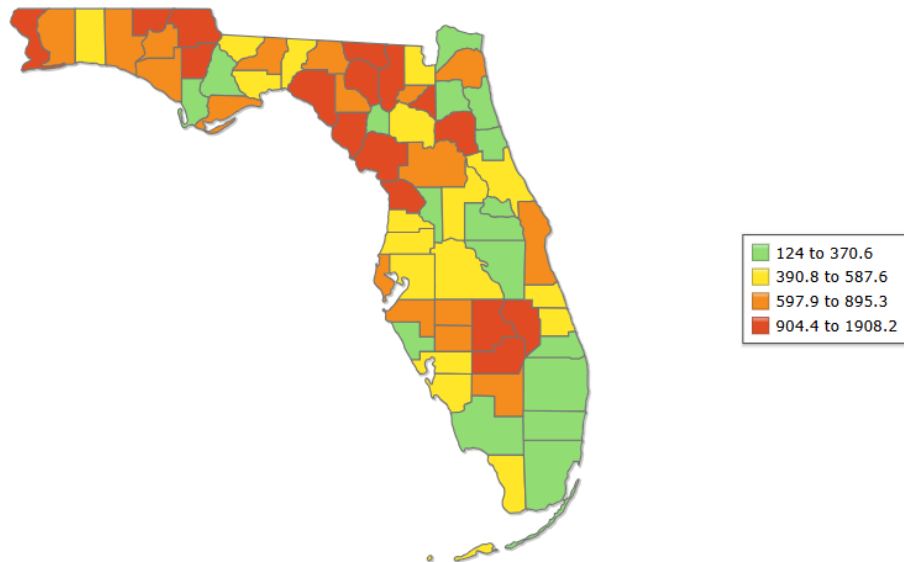
These rates demonstrate the need effective prevention and for on-going mental health support to youth under age 18 in Indian River County and to ensure that we see these rates move downward for the health and safety of our youth.

# Children in Foster Care

Children in Foster Care (Aged 0-17 ), Single Year



Children in Foster Care (Aged 0-17 Years), Rate Per 100,000 Population (Aged 0-17 Years) , 2024



## Narrative:

Over the past three years (2022–2024), Indian River County has experienced a notable decline in the rate of children in foster care. In 2022, the county saw a significant spike, reaching 703.9 per 100,000 children, the highest rate in nearly two decades. By 2023, that rate dropped sharply to 516.8, and continued to decline slightly to 503.9 in 2024.

Florida also saw a decline during the same period, though its trend was less dramatic. The statewide rate went from 551.5 in 2022 to 482.8 in 2023, and then to 464.9 in 2024. While both Indian River and Florida are seeing improvements, Indian River's foster care rate remains higher and shows greater year-to-year variability.

The data suggest that while progress is being made at both the local and state level, Indian River's child welfare system may be more sensitive to fluctuations and may benefit from more consistent support or policy interventions.

Count of Students Experiencing Homelessness Survey 5 (End of year reporting)						
	19-20	20-21	21-22	22-23	23-24	24-25
District	529	423	470	554	407	655
KG	59	30	51	54	41	66
1	54	35	39	56	44	55
2	33	48	38	40	35	63
3	46	32	48	59	38	57
4	48	41	32	52	26	55
5	45	38	41	32	33	61
6	51	35	47	44	33	52
7	52	42	45	48	39	47
8	36	38	36	52	38	53
9	26	30	35	44	29	42
10	25	20	20	23	17	37
11	15	17	13	21	19	25
12	29	15	17	23	15	29
Note: 2023-2024 & 2024-2025 data is PRELIMINARY Survey 5 homeless data (as of 7/24/2025)						

“Student experiencing homelessness” means an individual who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, as defined in 42 U.S.C. Section 11434(a)(2) and includes:

- Children and youths who are sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason; are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations; are living in emergency or transitional shelters; or are abandoned in hospitals;
- Children and youths who have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings;
- Children and youths who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; and
- Migratory children who are living in circumstances described in subparagraphs (2)(c)1.-3.

## Narrative:

There was a 14% increase in the number of students experiencing homelessness during the 24-25 school year.

# **PRIORITY: NURTURING FAMILIES & COMMUNITIES**

**FOCUS AREA 2:  
REDUCTION OF JUVENILE DELINQUENCY**

**DATA INDICATORS:**

JUVENILE ARRESTS

TRENDS IN JUVENILE DELINQUENT BEHAVIOR

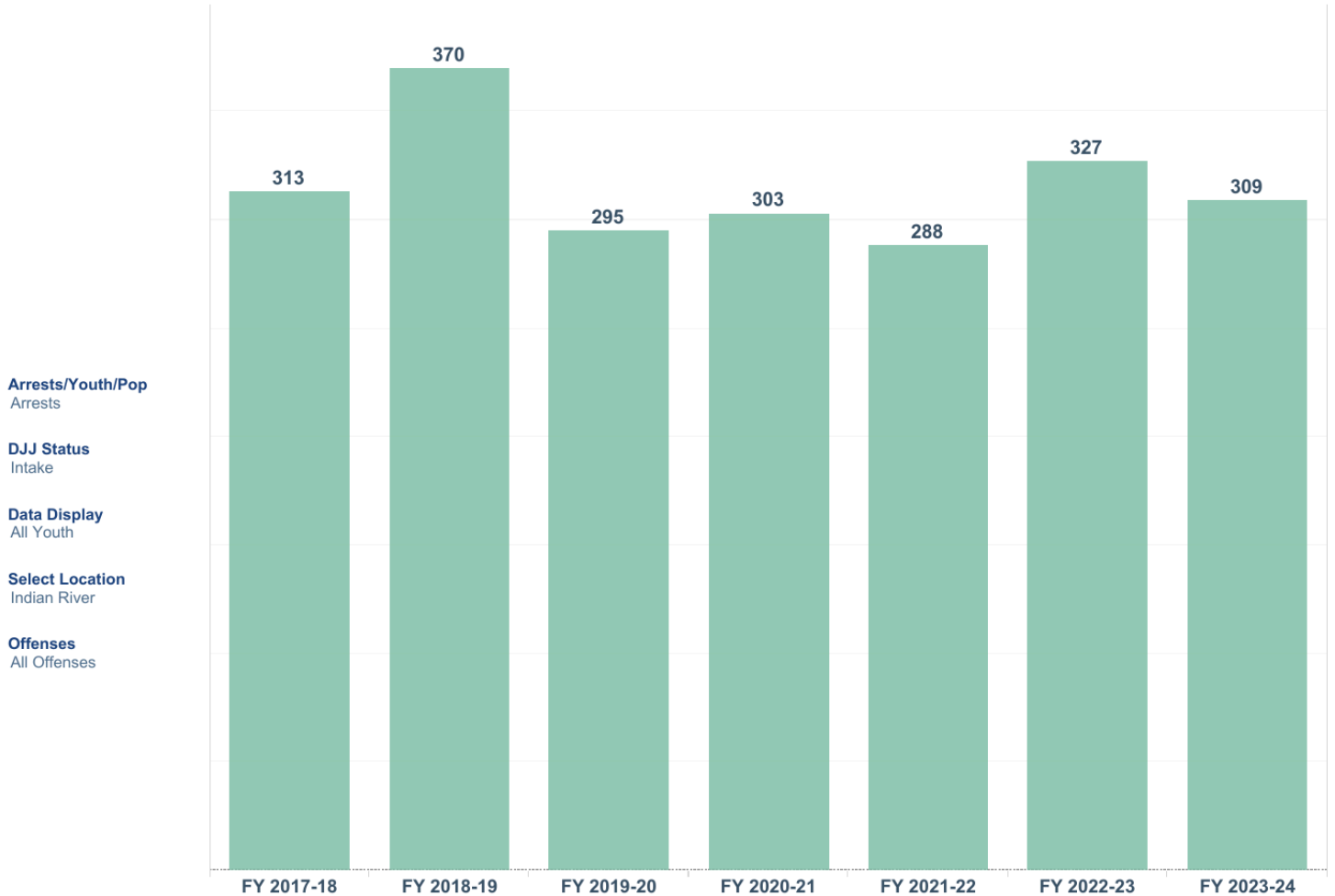


# Trends in Juvenile Delinquent Behavior

## Delinquency Profile 2022

Florida Department of  
**JUVENILE JUSTICE**  
*Our Children, Our Future*

### Indian River County Intake - Arrests

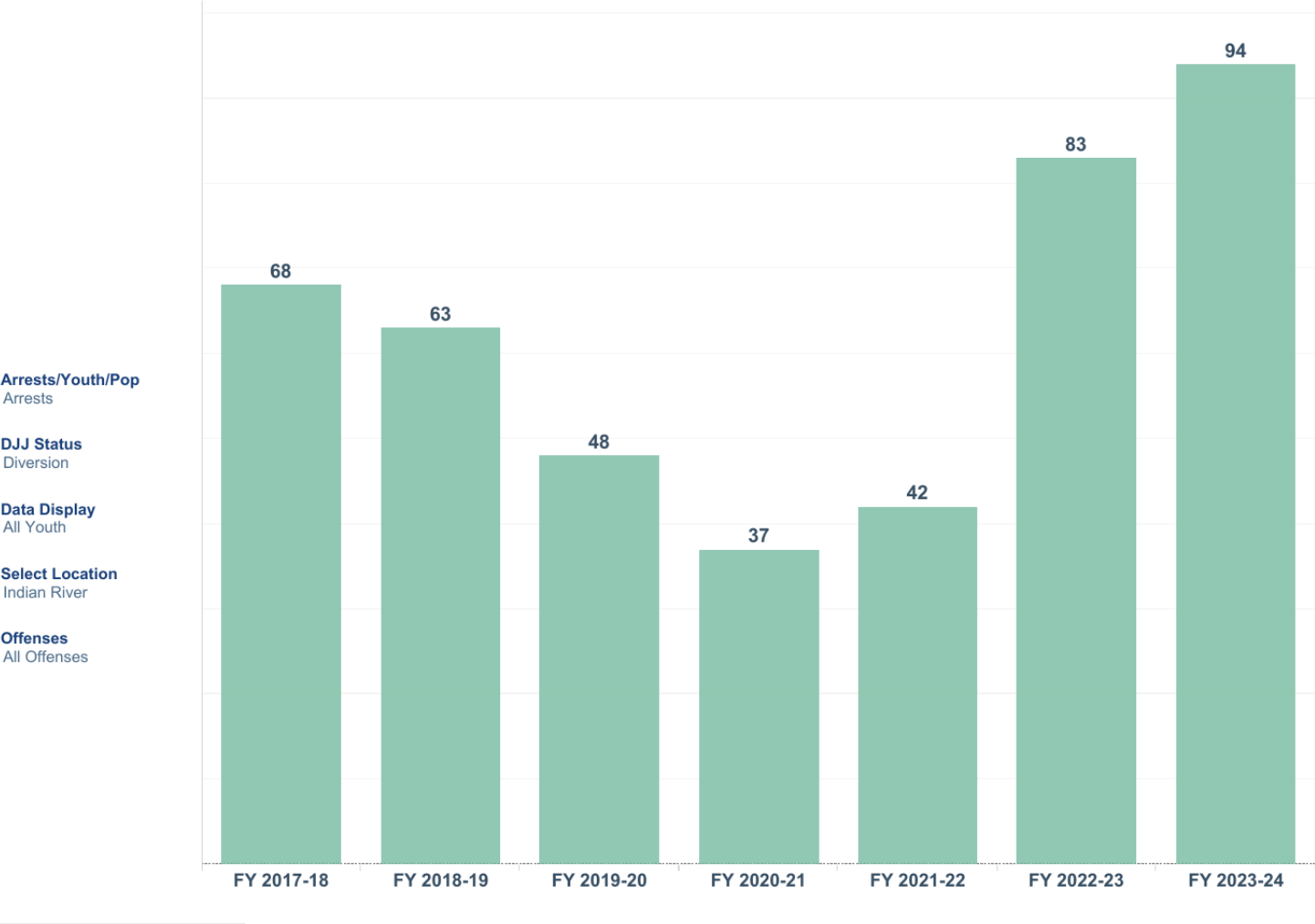


Arrests/Youth	313	370	295	303	288	327	309
% Difference From Previous		18%	-20%	3%	-5%	14%	-6%
% Difference from FY 2017-18	0%	18%	-6%	-3%	-8%	4%	-1%



# Juvenile Arrests

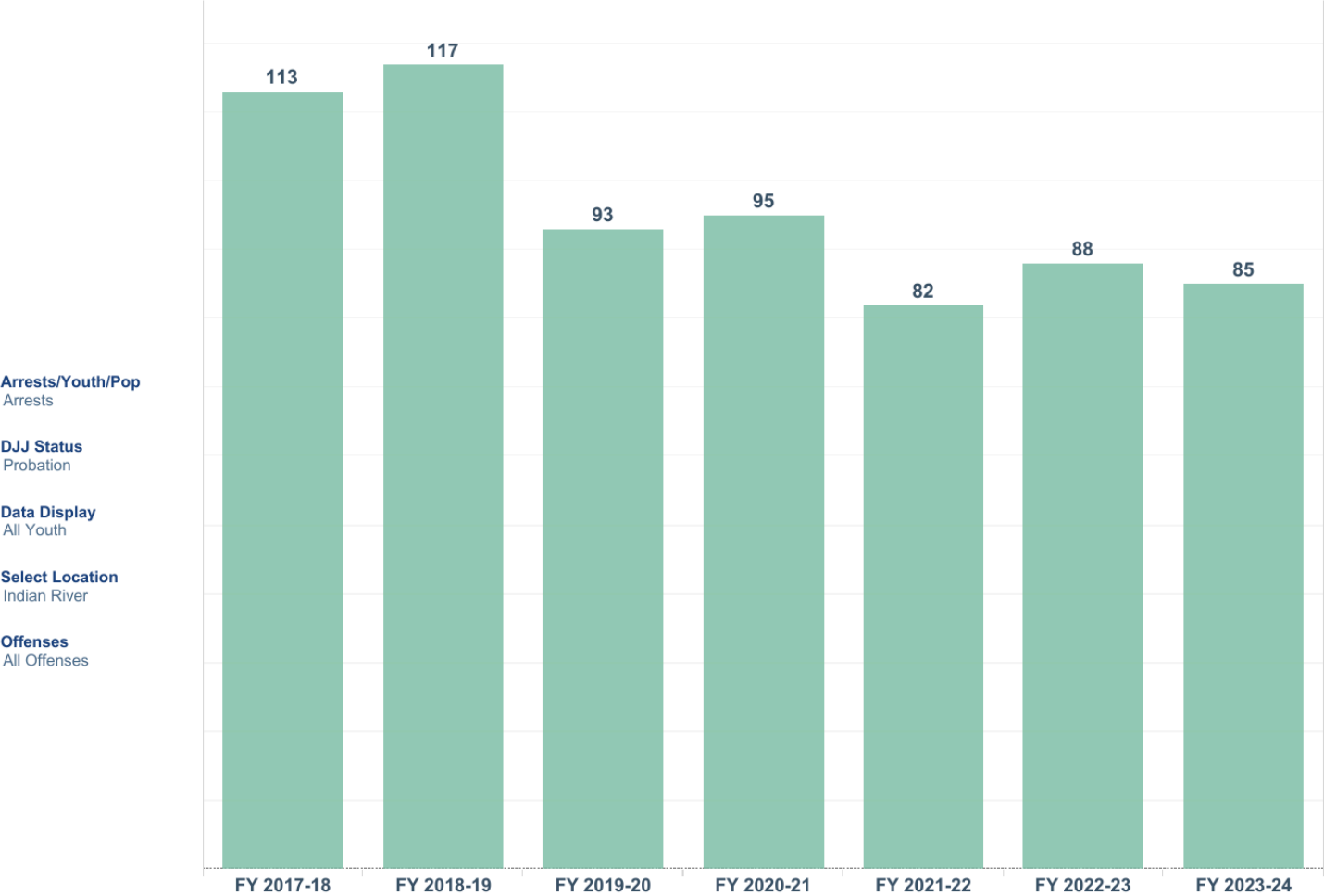
## Indian River County Diversion - Arrests



Arrests/Youth	68	63	48	37	42	83	94
% Difference From Previous		-7%	-24%	-23%	14%	98%	13%
% Difference from FY 2017-18	0%	-7%	-29%	-46%	-38%	22%	38%

# Juvenile Arrests

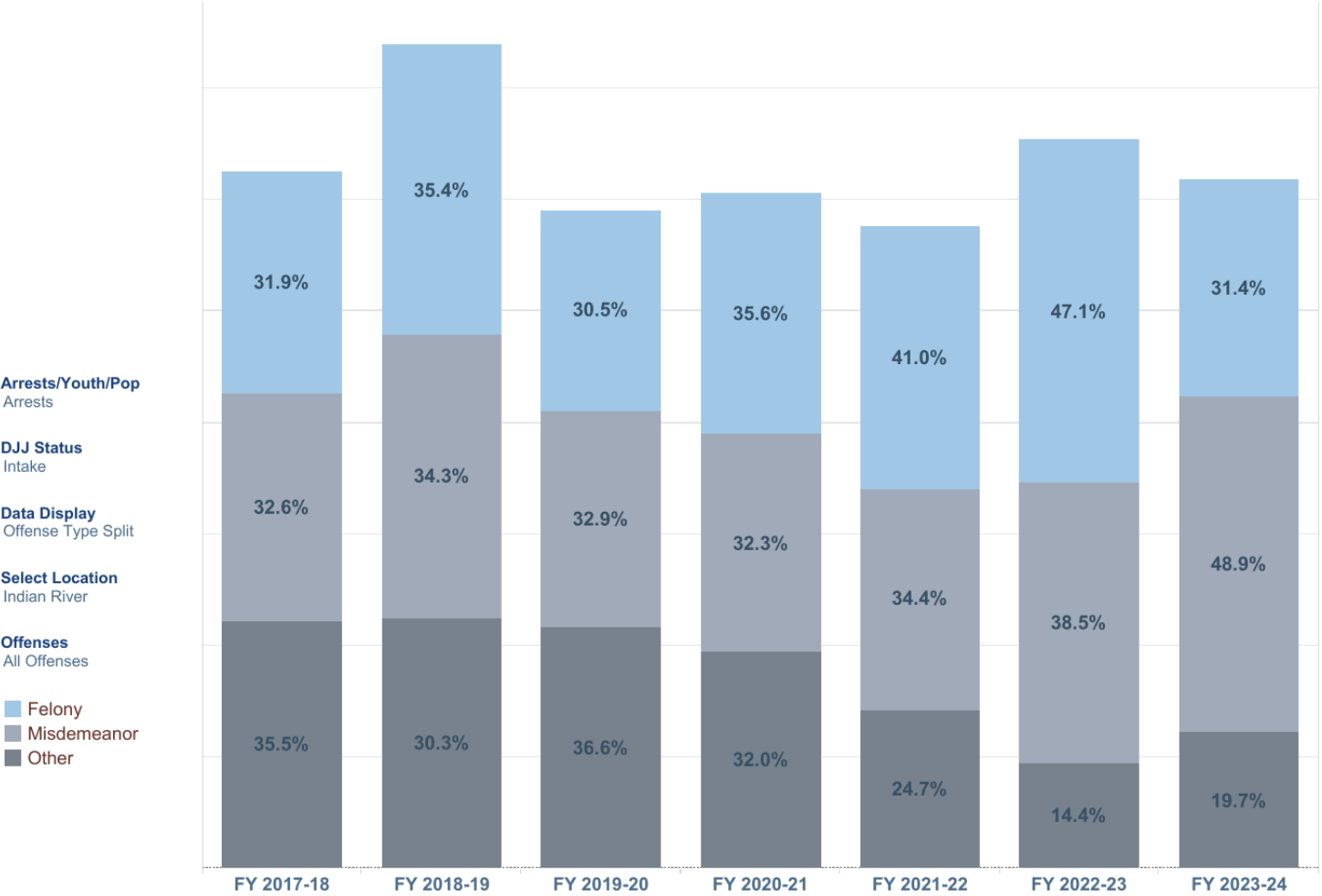
## Indian River County Probation - Arrests



Arrests/Youth	113	117	93	95	82	88	85
% Difference From Previous		4%	-21%	2%	-14%	7%	-3%
% Difference from FY 2017-18	0%	4%	-18%	-16%	-27%	-22%	-25%

Juvenile Arrests

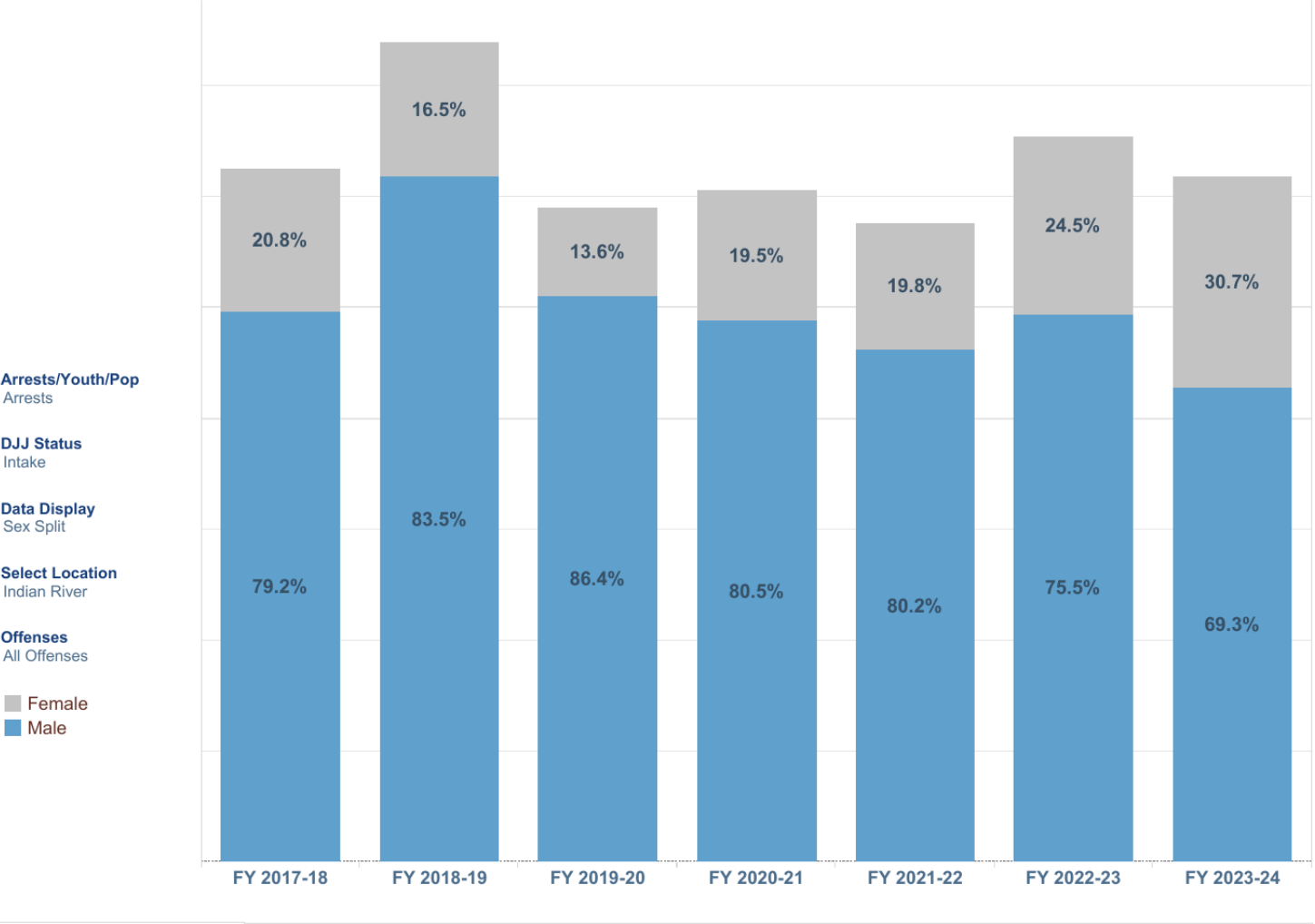
Indian River County - All Offenses  
Intake - Arrests - Offense Type Split



Felony	100	131	90	108	118	154	97
Misdemeanor	102	127	97	98	99	126	151
Other	111	112	108	97	71	47	61

# Juvenile Arrests

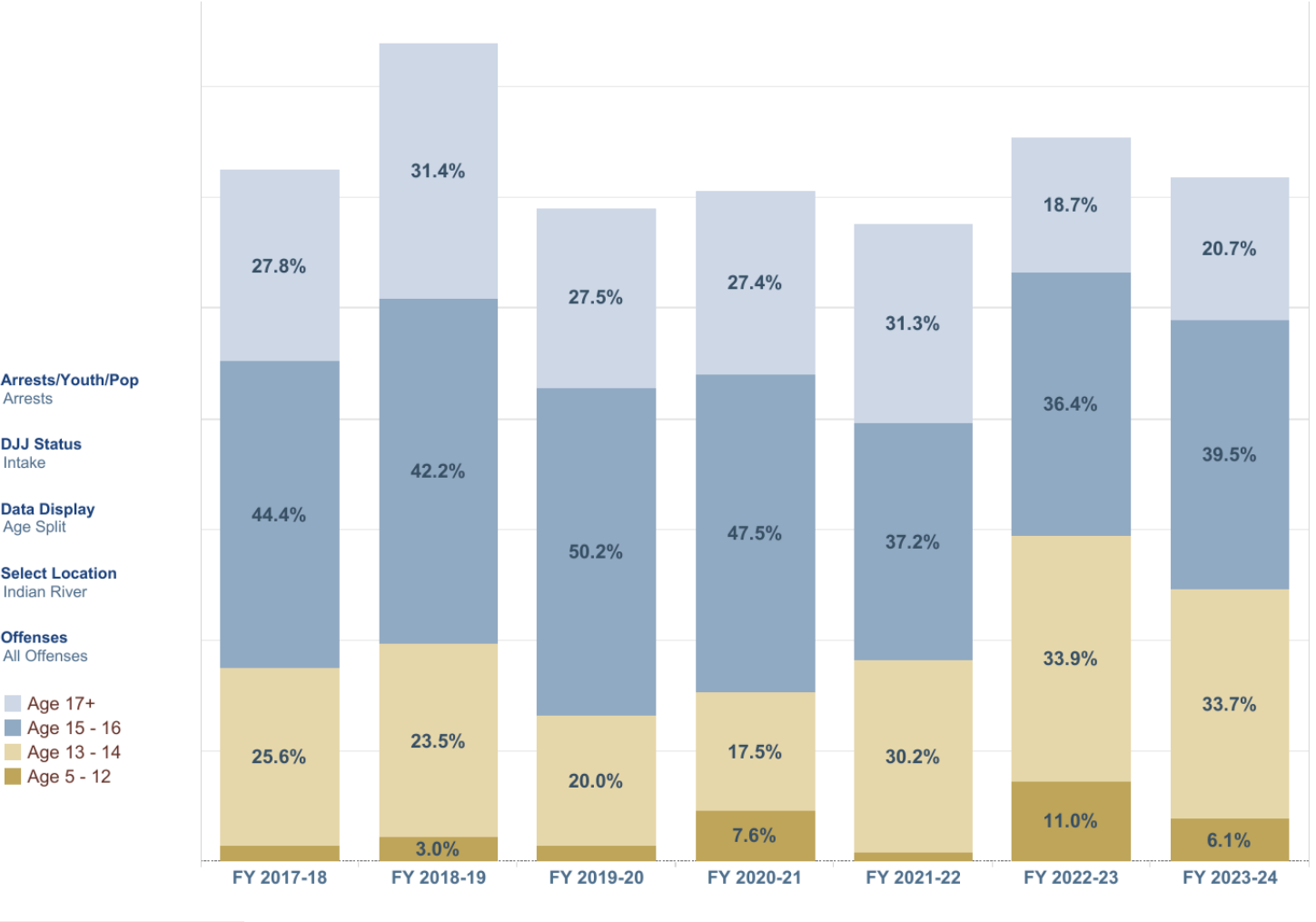
Indian River County - All Offenses  
Intake - Arrests - Sex Split



Female	65	61	40	59	57	80	95
Male	248	309	255	244	231	247	214

Juvenile Arrests

Indian River County - All Offenses  
Intake - Arrests - Age Split



Age 17+	87	116	81	83	90	61	64
Age 15 - 16	139	156	148	144	107	119	122
Age 13 - 14	80	87	59	53	87	111	104
Age 5 - 12	7	11	7	23	4	36	19

Narrative:

In 2024, juvenile delinquency trends in Indian River County have continued to shift, with noticeable changes in juvenile arrests. Between 2022 and 2023, juvenile arrests decreased by 18 cases, culminating in a total of 309 arrests for the 2023-2024 period. Similarly, juvenile felony offenses decreased significantly, from 47.1% of total crime in 2022-2023 to 31.4% in 2023-2024. The rate of juvenile misdemeanor offenses has continued to climb, now standing at 48.9% of total cases for youth in Indian River County, compared to the statewide average of 42.9% in Florida. The data highlights that juvenile delinquency is on the decline in Indian River County. The Felony Charge with the highest frequency being Aggravated Assault/Battery, this data underscores the importance of continued strengthening prevention and intervention efforts to address the root causes of youth involvement in the justice system to mitigate further increases.

## PRIORITY THREE

# SUCCESS IN SCHOOL & LIFE

Each **PRIORITY** has specific **FOCUS AREAS** and **DATA INDICATORS** listed below.

### 1. INCREASE OF KINDERGARTEN READINESS

- EARLY LEARNING
- KINDERGARTEN READINESS

### 2. IMPROVEMENT IN ACADEMICS

- READING PERFORMANCE ON STATEWIDE ASSESSMENT
- MATH PERFORMANCE ON STATEWIDE ASSESSMENT
- SCIENCE PROFICIENCY ON STATEWIDE ASSESSMENT
- SOCIAL STUDIES PROFICIENCY ON STATEWIDE ASSESSMENT

### 3. BOOST IN STUDENT ATTENDANCE

- AVERAGE DAILY ATTENDANCE
- CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM

### 4. EXPANSION OF PATHWAYS FOR COLLEGE & CAREER SUCCESS

- HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION
- WORKFORCE DATA



# **PRIORITY: SUCCESS IN SCHOOL & LIFE**

**FOCUS AREA 1:  
INCREASE OF KINDERGARTEN READINESS**

**DATA INDICATORS:**

EARLY LEARNING  
KINDERGARTEN READINESS

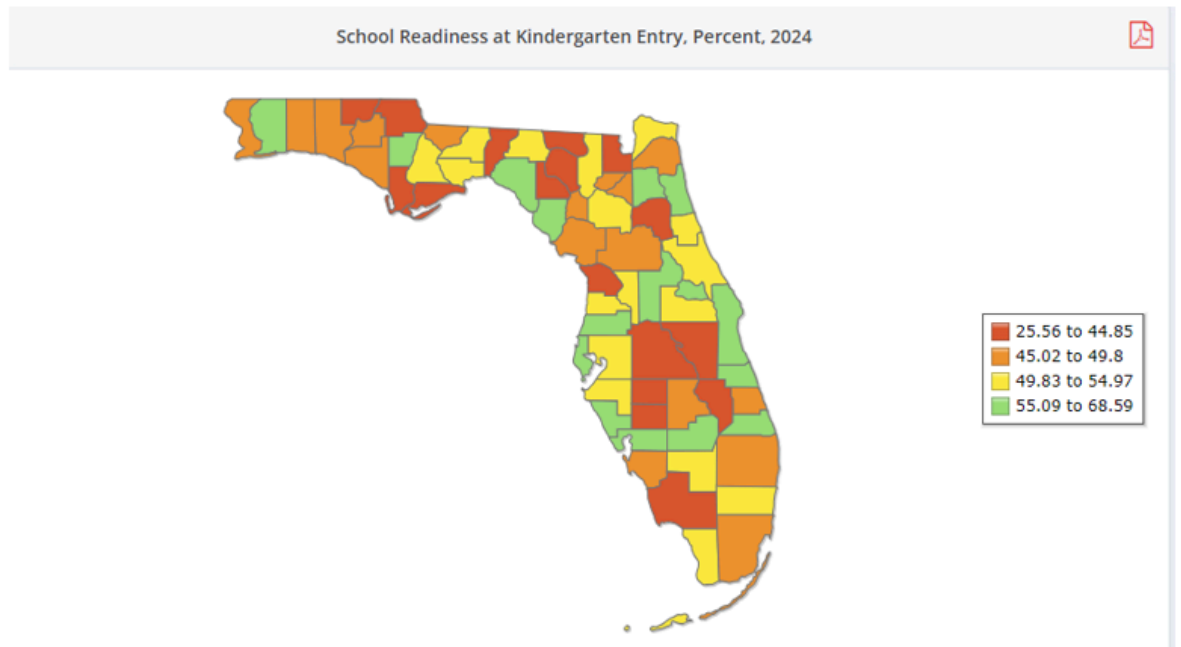




## Early Learning/Kindergarten Readiness

### Kindergarten Readiness Data – from the Kindergarten Readiness Screener

	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025
<b>State:</b> Florida	53%	57%	50%	49%	51%	43%
<b>District:</b> Indian River County	52%	58%	51%	45%	55%	43%
<b>White</b>	63%	63%	58%	56%	66%	—
<b>Hispanic</b>	43%	59%	45%	33%	48%	—
<b>Black</b>	39%	54%	40%	35%	43%	—
<b>Other</b>	62%	50%	56%	44%	53%	—
*Due to small number count, all other race/ethnicities were combined into "Other"						



### Narrative:

In 2022-2023, Florida adopted a statewide Coordinated Screening and Progress Monitoring System known as the Florida Assessment of Student Thinking (FAST) Star Early Literacy. FAST Star Early Literacy now serves as the kindergarten screener. Due to the nature of this progress monitoring system, students are tested as early as possible in the testing window.

# **PRIORITY: SUCCESS IN SCHOOL & LIFE**

## **FOCUS AREA 2: IMPROVEMENT IN ACADEMICS**

### **DATA INDICATORS:**

READING PERFORMANCE ON STATEWIDE  
ASSESSMENTS

MATH PERFORMANCE ON STATEWIDE  
ASSESSMENTS



# Reading Performance on Statewide Assessments

## Percent Grade 3 Students Level 3+ State Assessment ELA

	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025
<b><u>State:</u></b> <b>Florida</b>	58%	State Assessments were cancelled due to the COVID outbreak	54%	53%	51%	55%	57%
<b><u>District:</u></b> <b>Indian River County</b>	58%		60%	60%	63%	63%	69%
<b>White</b>	70%		71%	67%	71%	71%	77%
<b>Hispanic</b>	50%		47%	51%	56%	57%	59%
<b>Black</b>	39%		44%	43%	48%	54%	62%
<b>Other</b>	69%		54%	49%	64%	58%	66%
**Due to small number count, all other race/ethnicities were combined into “Other”							

## Percent Grade 3 Students Level 1 State Assessment ELA

	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025
<b><u>State:</u></b> <b>Florida</b>	20%	State Assessments were cancelled due to the COVID outbreak	23%	25%	25%	24%	22%
<b><u>District:</u></b> <b>Indian River County</b>	16%		17%	17%	14%	15%	11%
<b>White</b>	11%		11%	12%	10%	9%	7%
<b>Hispanic</b>	21%		23%	24%	16%	18%	14%
<b>Black</b>	27%		26%	26%	21%	23%	13%
<b>Other</b>	13%		17%	20%	15%	22%	16%
**Due to small number count, all other race/ethnicities were combined into “Other”							

### Narrative:

The percentage of SDIRC students earning a level 3+ in the statewide English Language Arts assessment increased 6 percentage points and continues to be above the state average. Additionally, there was a decrease across all demographics.

Currently, SDIRC is ranked second amongst all 67 districts in grade 3 ELA.

The percentage of SDIRC students earning a level 1 in the statewide English Language Arts assessment decreased 4 percentage points and continues to be below the state average. Additionally, there was a decrease across all demographics.

# Math Performance on Statewide Assessments

## Percent Grade 8 Students Level 3 State Assessment Combined Mathematics (FAST Math, Algebra EOC, Geometry EOC)

	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025
<b><u>State:</u> Florida</b>	64%	State Assessments were cancelled due to the COVID outbreak	55%	57%	63%	65%	67%
<b><u>District:</u> Indian River County</b>	62%		53%	56%	66%	66%	68%
<b>White</b>	72%		64%	64%	75%	74%	78%
<b>Hispanic</b>	58%		47%	51%	60%	62%	63%
<b>Black</b>	33%		30%	37%	46%	50%	53%
<b>Other</b>	58%		58%	56%	65%	61%	60%
<b>ESE (Exceptional Student Education)</b>	34%		26%	25%	40%	40%	44%
<b>ED (Economically Disadvantaged)</b>	53%		45%	48%	57%	60%	61%
**Due to small number count, all other race/ethnicities were combined into “Other”							

## Percent Grade 8 Students Level 1 State Assessment Combined Mathematics (FAST Math, Algebra EOC, Geometry EOC)

	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025
<b>State: Florida</b>	20%	State Assessments were cancelled due to the COVID outbreak	28%	25%	17%	15%	13%
<b>District: Indian River County</b>	19%		26%	23%	14%	11%	10%
<b>White</b>	13%		17%	16%	9%	7%	5%
<b>Hispanic</b>	22%		29%	27%	17%	12%	15%
<b>Black</b>	35%		49%	38%	26%	20%	18%
<b>Other</b>	27%		23%	28%	16%	13%	12%
<b>ESE (Exceptional)</b>	47%		56%	46%	32%	31%	22%
<b>ED (Economically Disadvantaged)</b>	24%		34%	29%	18%	14%	14%
**Due to small number count, all other race/ethnicities were combined into “Other”							

### Narrative:

The percentage of SDIRC students earning a level 3+ in the statewide mathematics assessment increased 2 percentage points and continues to be above the state average. Additionally, there was a increase across all demographics (except Other Race/Eth).

The percentage of SDIRC students earning a level 1 in the statewide mathematics assessment decreased 1 percentage point and continues to be below the state average. Additionally, there was a decrease across all demographics (except Hispanic).

# **PRIORITY: SUCCESS IN SCHOOL & LIFE**

**FOCUS AREA 3:  
BOOST IN STUDENT ATTENDANCE**

## **DATA INDICATORS:**

AVERAGE DAILY ATTENDANCE

CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM FOR STUDENTS



Average Daily Attendance (ADA) for Students KG-12							
	18-19	19-20	20-21	21-22	22-23	23-24	24-25
State	93.80%	94.40%	92.50%	91.20%	91.40%	NA	NA
District	92.70%	94.00%	92.10%	90.40%	90.80%	90.60%	91.60%
KG	94.00%	93.40%	93.70%	92.20%	92.40%	92.50%	93.20%
1	94.10%	93.90%	93.90%	92.60%	93.00%	92.80%	93.40%
2	94.80%	94.00%	94.10%	93.20%	93.50%	93.40%	92.70%
3	95.00%	94.30%	94.00%	93.30%	93.90%	93.30%	93.80%
4	95.00%	94.60%	94.10%	93.20%	93.90%	93.00%	93.70%
5	94.50%	94.00%	94.20%	92.90%	93.60%	93.10%	93.30%
6	93.80%	93.70%	92.70%	91.50%	91.80%	91.80%	92.00%
7	93.60%	92.70%	91.40%	90.60%	91.00%	90.60%	91.20%
8	93.30%	92.60%	91.10%	90.40%	90.60%	90.10%	90.30%
9	92.10%	90.80%	90.00%	88.90%	90.10%	89.00%	90.00%
10	91.50%	90.80%	91.40%	88.10%	89.50%	89.20%	89.30%
11	89.70%	90.30%	91.70%	88.80%	89.10%	88.90%	87.70%
12	88.40%	88.10%	90.70%	86.60%	88.90%	88.10%	87.60%
State and District ADA Source: FLDOE Survey 5 (end of year) <a href="https://www.fldoe.org/accountability/data-sys/edu-info-accountability-services/pk-12-public-school-data-pubs-reports/archive.stml">https://www.fldoe.org/accountability/data-sys/edu-info-accountability-services/pk-12-public-school-data-pubs-reports/archive.stml</a>							
Grade Level ADA Source: Focus Student Information System							
*Source: SDIRC FOCUS Student Information System; FLDOE has not released 24-25 data at the time of this report creation.							

## Narrative:

Over the past seven school years, Indian River County has experienced a gradual decline in Average Daily Attendance (ADA) across most grade levels, mirroring but slightly trailing statewide trends.

In 2018–19, the district's overall ADA was 92.7%, just below the state average of 93.8%. Attendance briefly improved in 2019–20, reaching 94.0%, but dropped sharply during and after the pandemic. By 2021–22, district ADA had fallen to 90.4%, and while there have been minor improvements, it remained relatively flat through 2023–24 at 90.6%, before rising slightly to 91.6% in 2024–25.

While the slight uptick in 2024–25 is a positive signal, sustained efforts will be needed to improve attendance, particularly among high school students, and bring overall ADA back to pre-pandemic levels.

# Chronic Absenteeism

Count and Percent of Students Chronically Absent (≥10% Absences) Survey 5 (End of year reporting)			
Year	Count	Percent	State Per
18-19	4,697	24.40%	20.00%
19-20**	3,251	17.10%	16.60%
20-21	5,071	26.90%	25.10%
21-22	6,536	34.30%	32.30%
22-23	6,162	33.10%	30.90%
23-24	6,233	35.00%	31.40%
24-25*	4,916	30.70%	—
Source: FLDOE <a href="http://www.fldoe.org/accountability/data-sys/edu-info-accountability-services/pk-12-public-school-data-pubs-reports/students.shtml">www.fldoe.org/accountability/data-sys/edu-info-accountability-services/pk-12-public-school-data-pubs-reports/students.shtml</a>			
*Source: SDIRC FOCUS Student Information System; FLDOE has not released 24-25 data at the time of this report creation.			
** Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, schools were closed March 20, 2020			

## Narrative:

Between the 2018–19 and 2023–24 school years, the percentage of students in Indian River County identified as chronically absent (missing 10% or more of school days) has steadily increased, often outpacing the statewide average. In 2018–19, 24.4% of students were chronically absent—already higher than the state average of 20.0%. This figure dropped temporarily to 17.1% in 2019–20, likely due to the shift to remote learning following school closures in March 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic.

However, absenteeism surged in the years that followed. In 2020–21, the rate rose to 26.9%, then climbed sharply to 34.3% in 2021–22, and reached 35.0% in 2023–24. These rates consistently remained several percentage points above the state averages each year.

Preliminary data for 2024–25, drawn from the local student information system, shows a slight decline to 30.7%. While this is an encouraging development, it remains above pre-pandemic levels and suggests that chronic absenteeism continues to be a significant concern in the district.



# **PRIORITY: SUCCESS IN SCHOOL & LIFE**

**FOCUS AREA 4:  
EXPANSION OF PATHWAYS FOR  
COLLEGE & CAREER SUCCESS**

## **DATA INDICATORS:**

- HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION
- WORKFORCE DATA



# High School Graduation

	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
<b>State: Florida</b>	86%	87%	90%	90%	87%	88%	90%
<b>District: Indian River County</b>	92%	89%	93%	95%	95%	96%	96%
<b>White</b>	96%	92%	95%	95%	97%	96%	97%
<b>Hispanic</b>	88%	83%	92%	97%	93%	98%	97%
<b>Black</b>	82%	81%	90%	93%	90%	90%	92%
<b>Other*</b>	95%	97%	93%	93%	93%	93%	97%
*Due to small number count, all other race/ethnicities were combined into “Other”							

## Narrative:

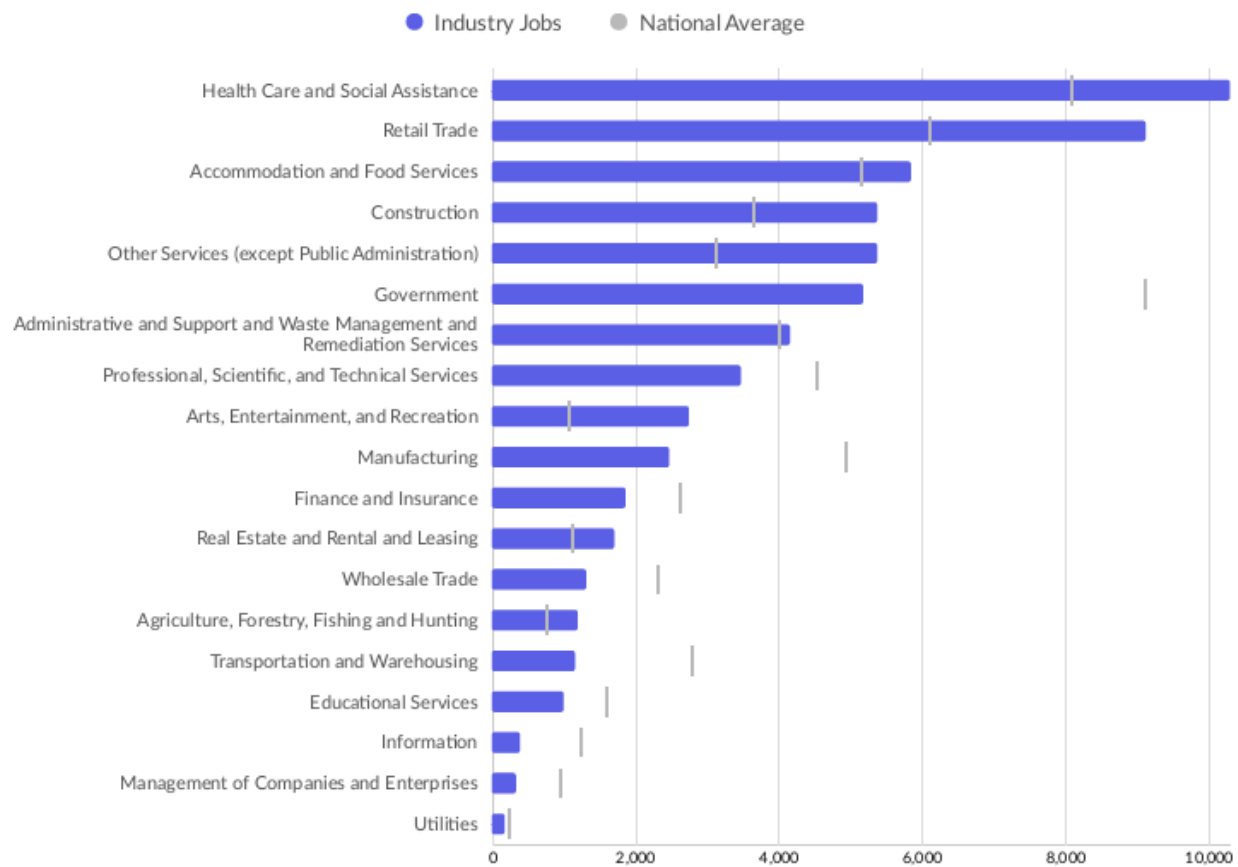
SDIRC continues to maintain high graduation rates (96%), exceeding the state by 6 percentage points (90%). 24-25 data will be finalized by the FLDOE in the winter of 2025.

It's important to note the value and contribution to the graduation rates of community partnerships providing wraparound services (mentoring, academic assistance, attendance initiatives, etc.).

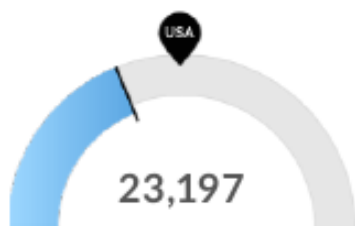
# Workforce Data

## Industry Characteristics

### Largest Industries



## Population Characteristics



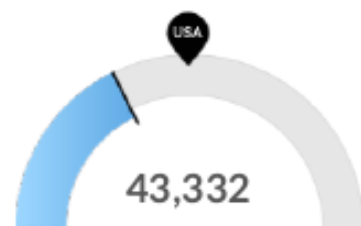
Millennials

Your area has 23,197 millennials (ages 25-39). The national average for an area this size is 34,029.



Retiring Soon

Retirement risk is high in your area. The national average for an area this size is 50,152 people 55 or older, while there are 84,907 here.



Racial Diversity

Racial diversity is low in your area. The national average for an area this size is 68,822 racially diverse people, while there are 43,332 here.

### Narrative:

No update.

# DATA SOURCE INDEX

## OVERVIEW OF INDIAN RIVER COUNTY:

- <https://dashboards.mysidewalk.com/indian-river-cna/our-community>
- <https://indianriver.gov/index.php>

## DEMOGRAPHICS SOURCES:

- [https://www.flhealthcharts.gov/FLQUERY\\_New/Population/Count](https://www.flhealthcharts.gov/FLQUERY_New/Population/Count)
- [https://www.flhealthcharts.gov/FLQUERY\\_New/Birth/Count](https://www.flhealthcharts.gov/FLQUERY_New/Birth/Count)
- <https://www.unitedforalice.org/county-reports/florida>
- <https://aspe.hhs.gov/2021-poverty-guidelines>
- <https://edudata.fldoe.org/AdvancedReports.html>
- [https://knowyourdatafl.org/views/PK12-Enrollment/ENROLLMENTMAP?%3AshowAppBanner=false&%3Adisplay\\_count=n&%3AshowVizHome=n&%3Aorigin=viz\\_share\\_link&%3AisGuestRedirectFromVizportal=y&%3Aembed=y](https://knowyourdatafl.org/views/PK12-Enrollment/ENROLLMENTMAP?%3AshowAppBanner=false&%3Adisplay_count=n&%3AshowVizHome=n&%3Aorigin=viz_share_link&%3AisGuestRedirectFromVizportal=y&%3Aembed=y)

## HEALTH & WELL-BEING SOURCES:

- [https://www.flhealthcharts.gov/FLQUERY\\_New/Birth/Count](https://www.flhealthcharts.gov/FLQUERY_New/Birth/Count)
- <https://www.flhealthcharts.gov/Charts/MaternalAndChildHealth/default.aspx>
- [https://www.flhealthcharts.gov/FLQUERY\\_New/Population/Count](https://www.flhealthcharts.gov/FLQUERY_New/Population/Count)
- <https://dashboards.mysidewalk.com/indian-river-cna>
- [https://www.flhealthcharts.gov/FLQUERY\\_New/FetalDeath/Count](https://www.flhealthcharts.gov/FLQUERY_New/FetalDeath/Count)
- [https://www.flhealthcharts.gov/FLQUERY\\_New/InfantDeath/Count](https://www.flhealthcharts.gov/FLQUERY_New/InfantDeath/Count)
- <https://www.flhealthcharts.gov/charts/default.aspx>
- <chrome-extension://efaidnbnmnibpcjpcglclefindmkaj/https://www.myflfamilies.com/sites/default/files/2022-12/Indian%20River.pdf>
- <https://www.djj.state.fl.us/research/reports-and-data/interactive-data-reports/civil-citation-and-other-alternatives-to-arrest>
- <https://indianriver.floridahealth.gov/>
- <https://www.flhealthcharts.gov/ChartsDashboards/rdPage.aspx?rdReport=SurveyData.YTS.Dataviewer>
- [https://knowyourdatafl.org/views/PK12-Enrollment/ENROLLMENTMAP?%3AshowAppBanner=false&%3Adisplay\\_count=n&%3AshowVizHome=n&%3Aorigin=viz\\_share\\_link&%3AisGuestRedirectFromVizportal=y&%3Aembed=y](https://knowyourdatafl.org/views/PK12-Enrollment/ENROLLMENTMAP?%3AshowAppBanner=false&%3Adisplay_count=n&%3AshowVizHome=n&%3Aorigin=viz_share_link&%3AisGuestRedirectFromVizportal=y&%3Aembed=y)

## NURTURING FAMILIES & COMMUNITIES:

- [https://knowyourdatafl.org/views/PK12-Enrollment/ENROLLMENTMAP?%3AshowAppBanner=false&%3Adisplay\\_count=n&%3AshowVizHome=n&%3Aorigin=viz\\_share\\_link&%3AisGuestRedirectFromVizportal=y&%3Aembed=y](https://knowyourdatafl.org/views/PK12-Enrollment/ENROLLMENTMAP?%3AshowAppBanner=false&%3Adisplay_count=n&%3AshowVizHome=n&%3Aorigin=viz_share_link&%3AisGuestRedirectFromVizportal=y&%3Aembed=y)
- <https://www.flhealthcharts.gov/ChartsDashboards/rdPage.aspx?rdReport=NonVitalIndNoGrp.Dataviewer>
- [https://www.usf.edu/cbcs/baker-act/documents/usf\\_barcode\\_ar\\_2021\\_2022.pdf](https://www.usf.edu/cbcs/baker-act/documents/usf_barcode_ar_2021_2022.pdf)
- <https://www.flhealthcharts.gov/ChartsDashboards/rdPage.aspx?rdReport=NonVitalIndNoGrp.Dataviewer&cid=8601>
- [https://knowyourdatafl.org/views/PK12-Enrollment/ENROLLMENTMAP?%3AshowAppBanner=false&%3Adisplay\\_count=n&%3AshowVizHome=n&%3Aorigin=viz\\_share\\_link&%3AisGuestRedirectFromVizportal=y&%3Aembed=y](https://knowyourdatafl.org/views/PK12-Enrollment/ENROLLMENTMAP?%3AshowAppBanner=false&%3Adisplay_count=n&%3AshowVizHome=n&%3Aorigin=viz_share_link&%3AisGuestRedirectFromVizportal=y&%3Aembed=y)
- <https://www.djj.state.fl.us/research/reports-and-data/interactive-data-reports/civil-citation-and-other-alternatives-to-arrest/civil-citation-other-alternatives-to-arrest-dashboard>
- <https://www.djj.state.fl.us/research/reports-and-data/interactive-data-reports/civil-citation-and-other-alternatives-to-arrest>

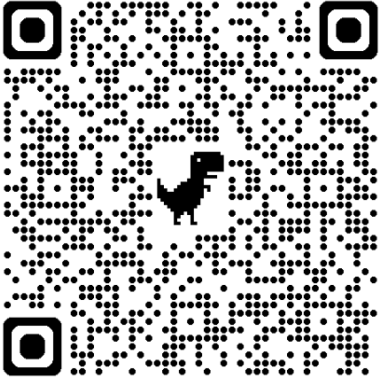
## SUCCESS IN SCHOOL & LIFE:

- <https://www.flhealthcharts.gov/ChartsDashboards/rdPage.aspx?rdReport=NonVitalIndRateOnly.Dataviewer&cid=0557>
- <https://www.fldoe.org/accountability/assessments/k-12-student-assessment/best/k-ready.shtml>
- <https://edudata.fldoe.org/AdvancedReports.html>
- <https://www.fldoe.org/accountability/data-sys/edu-info-accountability-services/pk-12-public-school-data-pubs-reports/archive.shtml>
- <https://www.fldoe.org/accountability/data-sys/edu-info-accountability-services/pk-12-public-school-data-pubs-reports/students.shtml>
- <https://careersourcerc.com/>

## DATA SOURCE INDEX

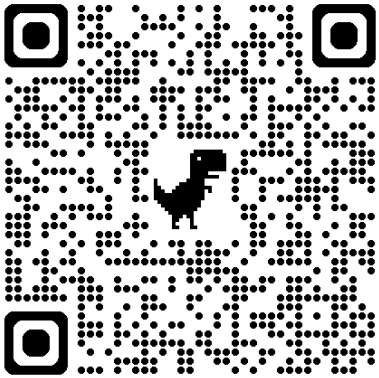
### Parent Feedback Survey Data:

[CLICK HERE](#) or Scan the QR Code Below:



### 2025 Needs Assessment Update:

[CLICK HERE](#) or Scan the QR Code Below:



### 2024-2029 Full Needs Assessment:

[CLICK HERE](#) or Scan the QR Code Below:





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## 2026 CSAC NEEDS ASSESSMENT UPDATE

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# THANK YOU

