



**CHILDREN'S SERVICES  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
NEEDS ASSESSMENT  
2025 UPDATE**

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>03</b>	<b>Introduction, Mission, &amp; Vision</b> .....	
<b>04</b>	<b>Overview of Indian River County</b> .....	
<b>05</b>	<b>Funding Priorities &amp; Framework</b> .....	
<b>8</b>	<b>2024-2025 Executive Summary</b> .....	
<b>11</b>	<b>Demographic Data</b> .....	
<b>18</b>	<b>Health &amp; Well-Being</b> .....	
<b>36</b>	<b>Nurturing Families and Communities</b> .....	
<b>45</b>	<b>Success in School and Life</b> .....	
<b>60</b>	<b>Data Source Index</b> .....	

## 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 the Substance Awareness Center, 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.

**Michael Kint:** Worked at United Way of Indian River County for 25 years, 16 as the organization's CEO. He currently serves on the Board of Trustees for the IRC Hospital District.

# MISSION & VISION

## MISSION

PAGE  
04

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.

CSAC strongly supports cultural diversity and encourages its funded programs to demonstrate the inclusion of all children and families in program development and implementation.



# 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 2024-2027 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

# 2024-2025 EXECUTIVE Summary

## 2024/2025 NEEDS ASSESSMENT EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### Key Findings

The Children's Services Needs Assessment Sub-Committee has conducted a comprehensive review of the needs within Indian River County, expanding upon findings from the previous year. This 2024/2025 Needs Assessment identifies critical areas requiring intensified focus, strategic planning, and coordinated support. Our committee has prioritized three domains: Health & Well-being, Nurturing Families & Communities, and Success in School & Life and identified significant shifts in each area. These findings guide our recommendations for targeted interventions, prevention strategies, and enhanced community collaboration.

#### 1. Health & Well-being

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

- **Prenatal Care Access:** Disparities in early prenatal care access persist, particularly among Black and Hispanic mothers. Although 2024 data shows a slight improvement in first-trimester prenatal care initiation, substantial gaps remain. To reduce prenatal care disparities, we recommend specific outreach and increased access to prenatal services for underrepresented populations.
- **Youth Behavioral Health:** The prevalence of youth depression and suicidal ideation has reached concerning levels, especially among female students. Substance use, although decreasing over the past decade, remains a complex challenge with the rise in vaping among youth. We recommend reinforcing community behavioral health resources, particularly those that provide preventive and resilience-building supports.
- **Support for Students with Special Needs:** Data shows an increase in students identified with developmental delays and autism spectrum disorder. Recognizing these trends, we recommend expanding specialized community educational resources and providing training for community organizations to provide targeted support for these students.

#### 2. Nurturing Families & Communities

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

# 2024-2025 EXECUTIVE Summary

## 2024/2025 NEEDS ASSESSMENT EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs):** We observed that nearly 26.3% of high school students in Indian River County report experiencing four or more ACEs, a significant increase from prior years. Common ACEs include parental separation, household substance use, and mental illness. To counter these effects, we recommend expanding family-centered interventions that address ACEs and enhance stability within homes.
- **Child Abuse and Foster Care:** While the rate of child abuse among youth aged 5-11 has slightly decreased, it remains higher than the state average. Our findings also indicate an increase in foster care placements, particularly among teenagers. We recommend maintaining robust child protection services and fostering community-based support programs that prevent abuse and address trauma among youth in care.
- **Juvenile Delinquency:** The rate of juvenile arrests has increased by 13% with misdemeanor offenses on the rise among middle and high school students, exceeding the Florida statewide average rate. To reverse this trend, we urge increased support for youth mentoring programs, early intervention strategies, and community-based alternatives to traditional disciplinary measures.

### 3. Success in School & Life

The assessment highlights continued challenges in educational readiness and attendance, while pointing to opportunities for strengthening career pathways:

- **Kindergarten Readiness:** Despite some improvement, nearly half of incoming kindergarten students are not fully prepared for school. The data underscores a need for expanded early childhood education programs, particularly in areas with lower rates of school readiness. We recommend prioritizing funding for early learning initiatives that ensure children are equipped to succeed from the start.
- **Academic Achievement and Attendance:** Our analysis indicates that academic performance remains above state averages, yet chronic absenteeism has increased post-pandemic. We recommend targeted attendance interventions, particularly for at-risk student groups, to sustain and enhance these academic gains.
- **High School Graduation and Career Readiness:** Graduation rates continue to exceed state averages, marking five consecutive years of success. However, our findings indicate a need for additional vocational training and partnerships with local businesses to expand career readiness pathways. We recommend developing partnerships with regional employers and trade programs to prepare students for diverse post-graduation opportunities.



# 2024-2025 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:** Indian River County's aging population and increasing youth diversity necessitate culturally tailored and accessible services. We recommend targeted outreach and service expansion that reflects the demographic shifts within the county.
- Accessibility of Resources:** Transportation and scheduling barriers continue to limit access to essential services. We recommend that funded programs prioritize geographic convenience and adaptable scheduling to ensure resources reach those in need effectively.

## Conclusion

In summary, the 2024/2025 Needs Assessment findings by the Children's Services Advisory Committee highlight both the progress made and the emerging needs within Indian River County. Addressing these needs will require a continued commitment to collaborative partnerships, strategic investment in preventive and supportive services, and a focus on creating equitable access to resources across all sectors of the community. By prioritizing these actions, we aim to foster a healthier, more resilient, and prosperous future for all county residents.

## UNDERMET NEEDS

Category	Focus Area	Progress	Unmet Needs
Health & Well-being	Prenatal Care	Slight improvement in early access to prenatal care.	Significant racial/ethnic disparities remain, with Black and Hispanic mothers less likely to receive timely care.
	Youth Behavioral Health	Decline in substance use overall, some reduction in youth vaping.	High rates of depression and suicidal ideation, especially among female students; limited mental health resources.
	Physical Health	Youth obesity rates below state average; decrease in lifetime use of harmful substances.	Higher obesity risks for minority youth and those in apartment housing; access gaps for healthy lifestyle programs.
	Special Needs Programs	Increased support for students with developmental delays and autism.	Growing demand for services exceeds current capacity, especially for targeted interventions for autism.
Nurturing Families & Communities	Childhood Adversity	Community initiatives to reduce risk factors have begun.	High levels of ACEs persist, particularly in household mental health and substance abuse.
	Child Abuse and Foster Care	Slight decrease in abuse rates.	Higher than state average for abuse incidents; increased foster care placements, particularly for teens.
	Juvenile Delinquency	Community-based programs available for early intervention.	Increase in juvenile arrests and misdemeanor offenses; need for more diversion and youth support programs.
Success in School & Life	Kindergarten Readiness	Improvements in VPK program participation.	Nearly half of incoming kindergarten students are not prepared; limited access to early learning programs.
	Academic Achievement	Strong performance on state assessments in reading and math; post-pandemic recovery.	Chronic absenteeism rising post-pandemic; attendance programs need expansion and support for high-risk students.
	High School Graduation and Career Pathways	Graduation rates above state average; existing partnerships with local businesses.	Need for expanded vocational training and job readiness programs; limited career pathways for non-college-bound youth.

# 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.**

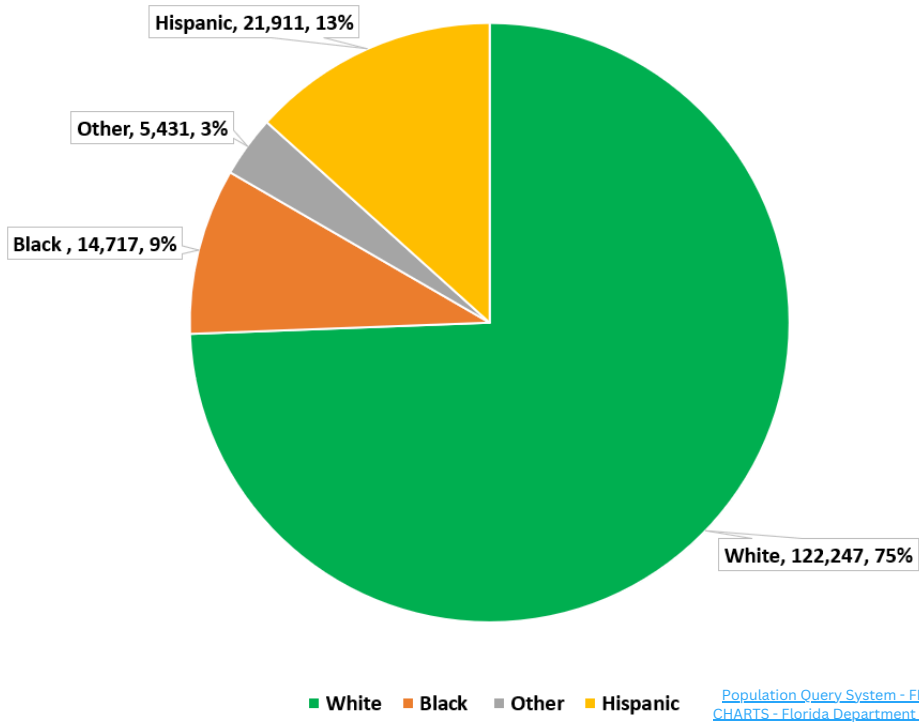
**\*\*\*Indian River County, Created in 1925\*\*\***

- 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.

**\*\*\*Data from the Indian River Board of County Commissioners Mission/Values/Goal Setting Workshop, December 2023\*\*\***

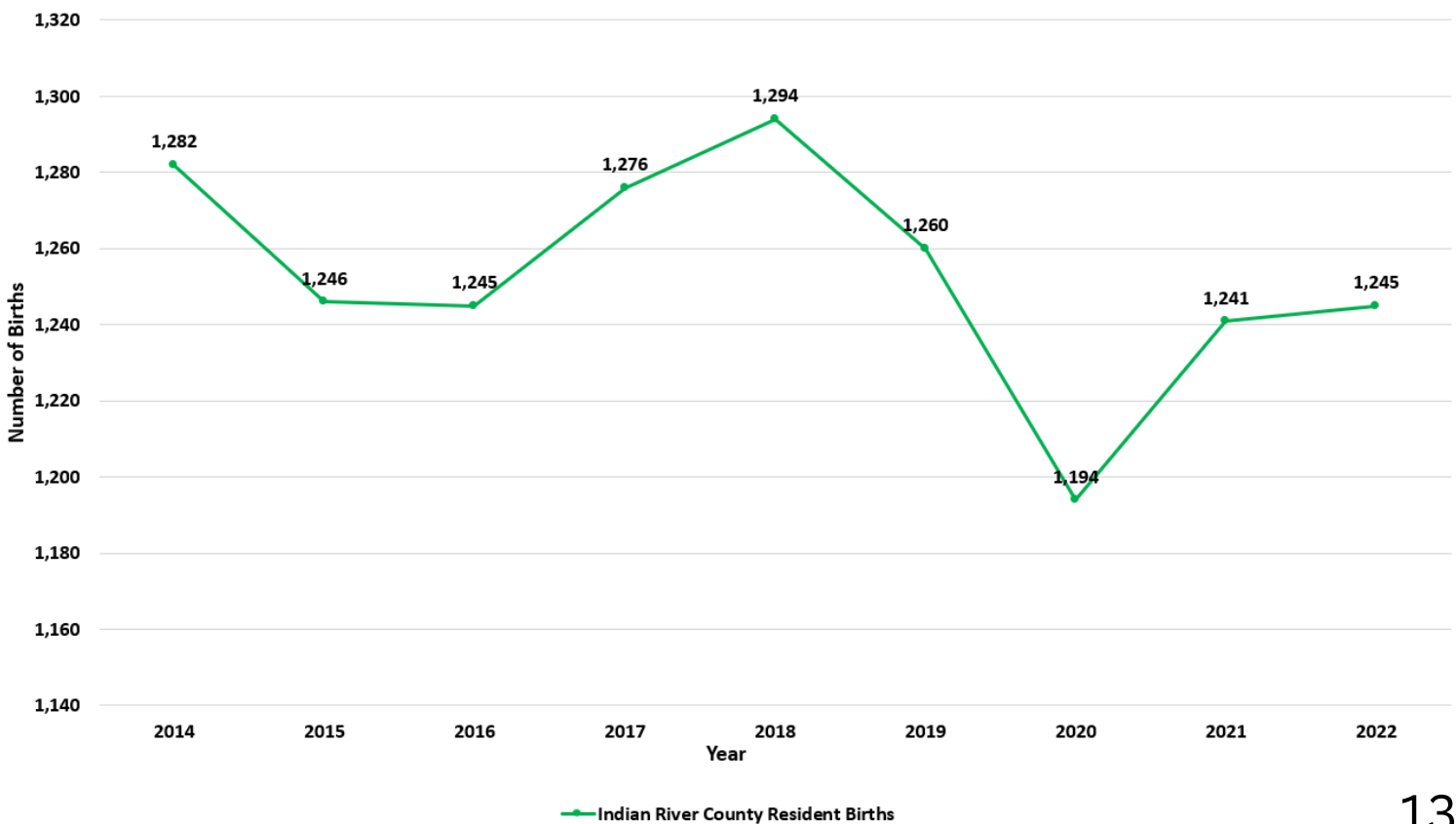
# Population Demographics

Indian River County 2022 Demographics of Race & Ethnicity (Total Population 164,306 People)



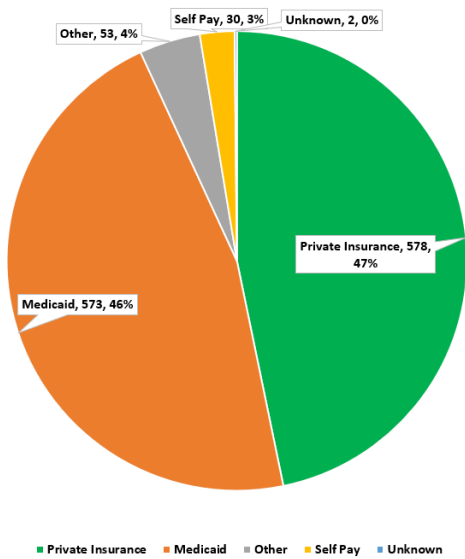
Population Data 2022	Indian River County	State of Florida
<b>Total Population</b>	164,306	22,329,178
<b>Resident Live Births per 1,000 Population</b>	7.6	10.0
<b>19 and Under</b>	28,016	4,889,259
<b>Under 5</b>	6,331	1,132,872

Indian River County Resident Births by Year

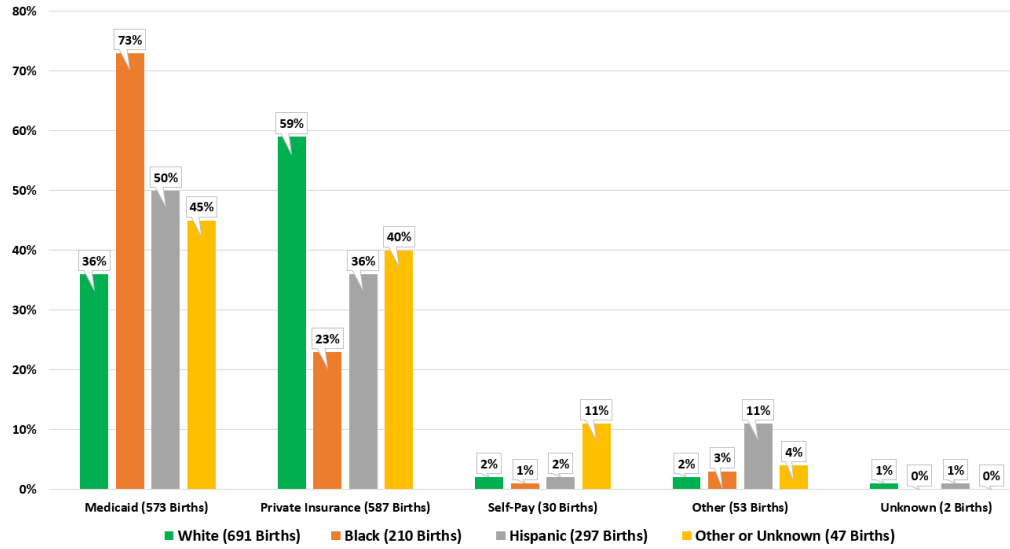


# Population Demographics (continued)

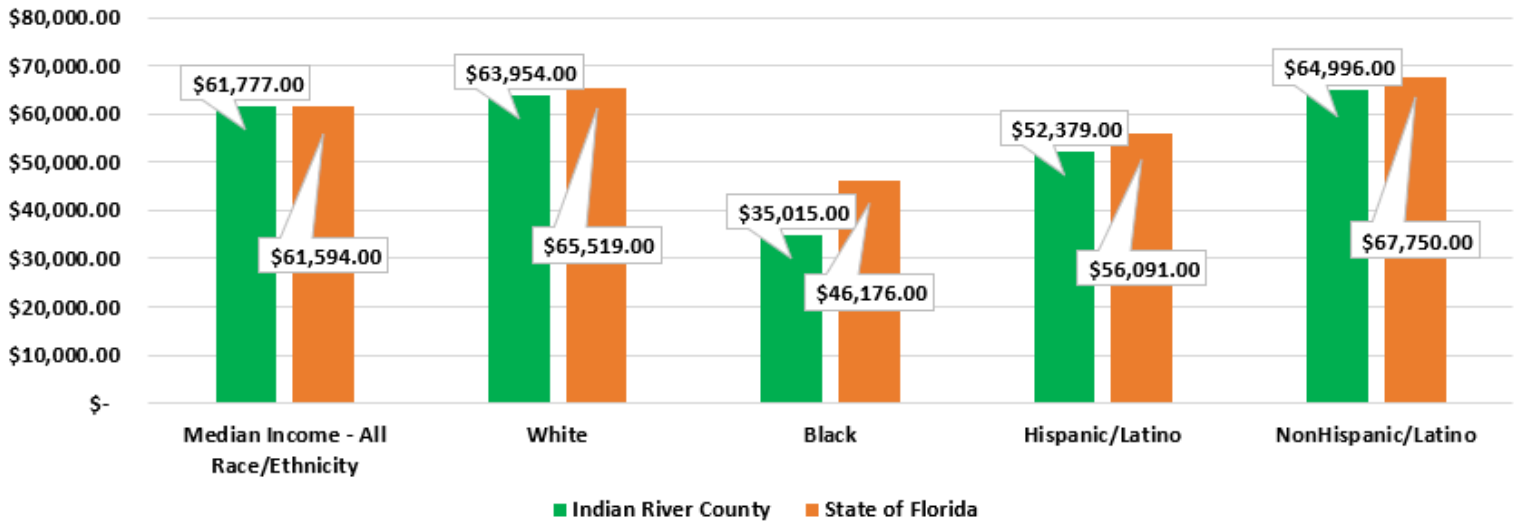
Birth Deliver Payment Source - Indian River County 2022



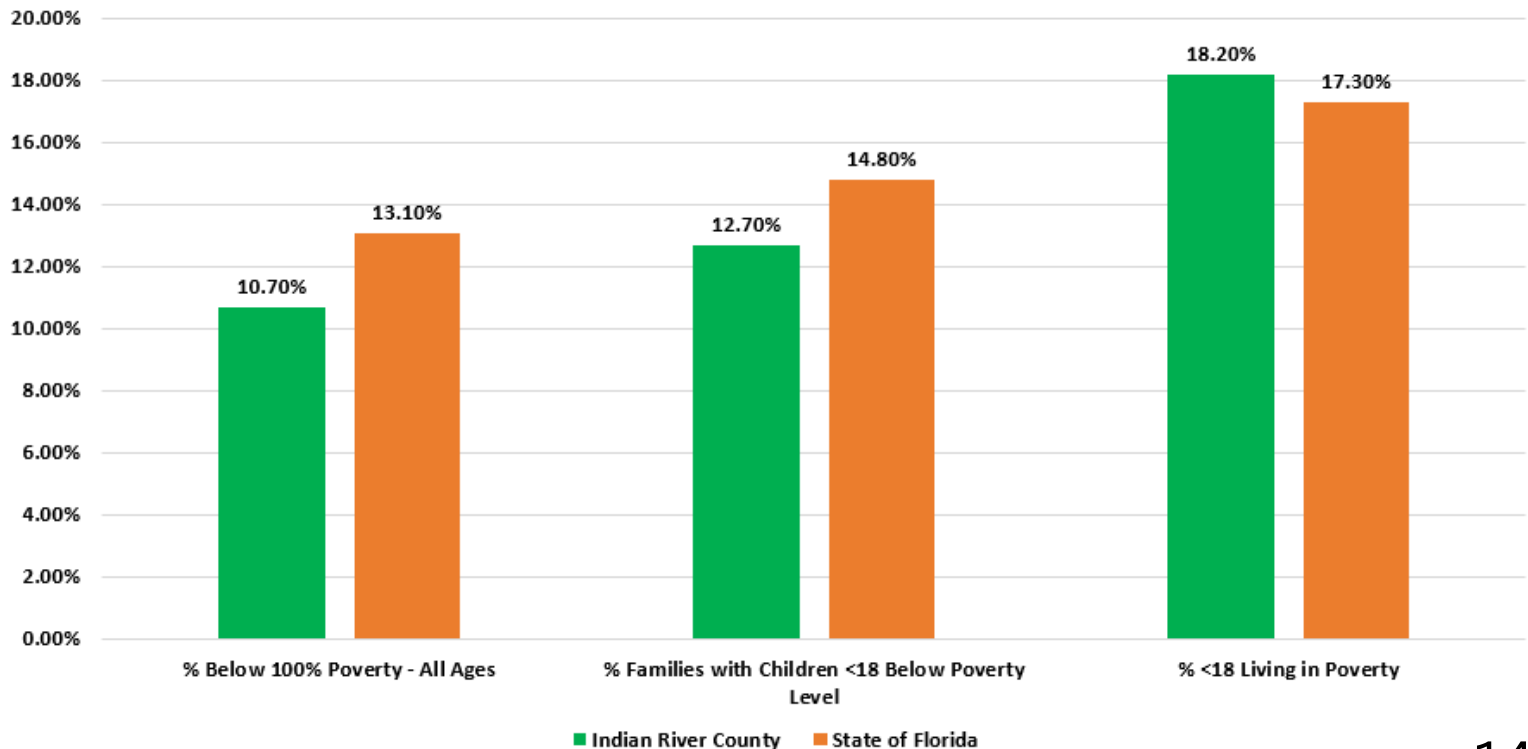
Birth Delivery Payment Source Percent by Race & Ethnicity - Indian River County 2022



Indian Rivier County 2022  
Median Household Income



Indian Rivier County 2022  
Poverty Demographics





# Population - Demographics (continued)

## Indian River County 2022

ALICE (Asset Limited Income Constrained, and Employed)	Indian River County	Florida
<i>**Indian River County Population: 167,352, Number of Households: 72,199</i>		
Median Household Income	\$67,407	\$69,303
Labor Force Participation Rate	49%	60%
ALICE Households	32%	33%
Households in Poverty	12%	13%
ALICE + Poverty	45%	46%

## Indian River County 2022

ALICE Household Survival Budget for Indian River County	
Single Adult	\$29,436
2 Adults with 2 school aged children	\$74,460
Single Senior	\$33,540

### **Narrative:**

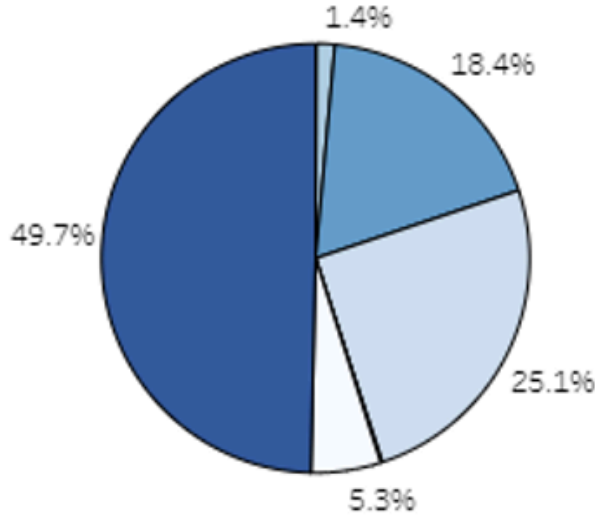
Though Indian River County is just below the Florida state average, the ALICE data shows that 31,767 households are struggling to pay for the basic necessities – food, housing, transportation, childcare and healthcare. Additionally, IRC’s poverty rate has risen from a decade ago. (10% in 2014, 12% in 2022)

\* ALICE Report released in May 2024

# Student Demographics

## Race/Ethnicity

2023-24, Survey 2 – Fall, District: 31-Indian River, School:  
All, Primary Service Type: All



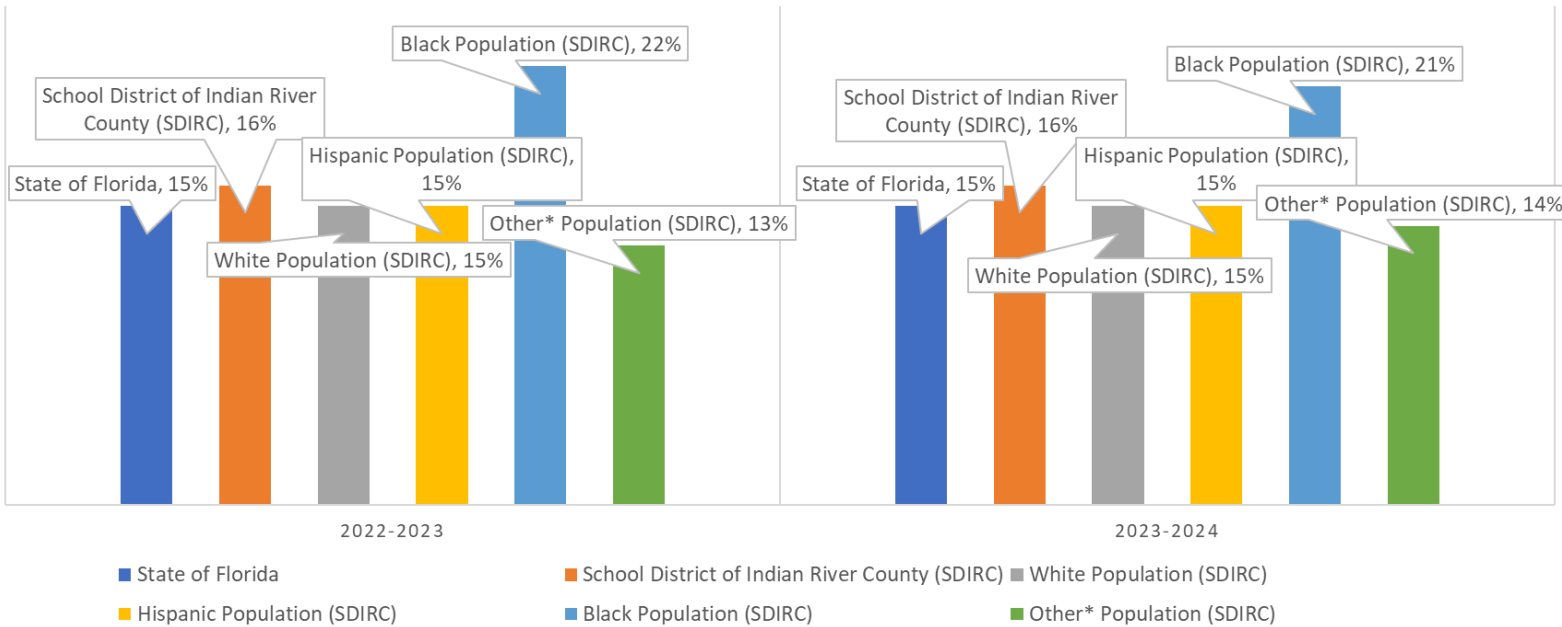
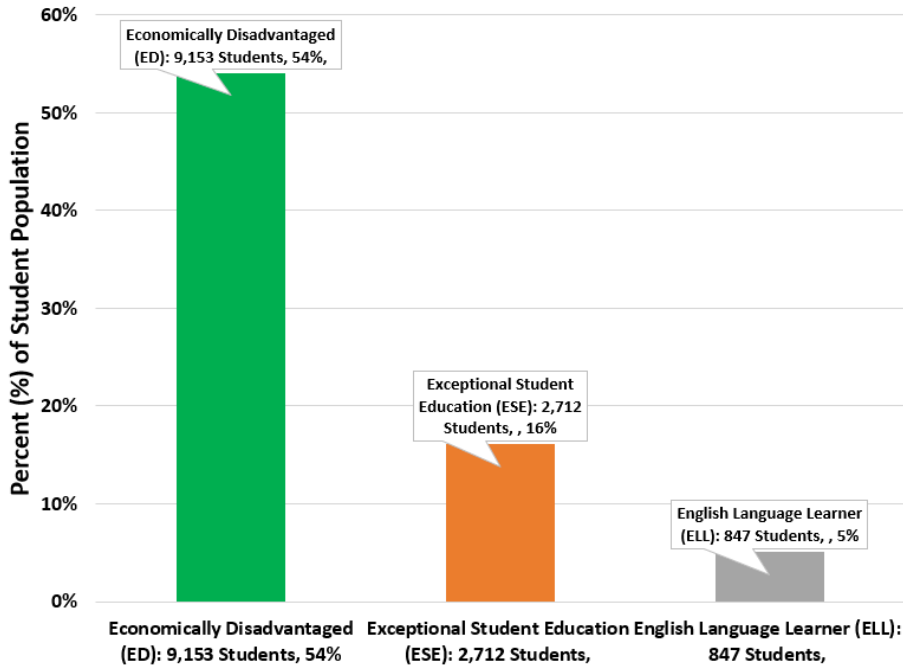
## Count and Percent of Students Enrolled in the School District of Indian River County 2023-2024 (February Reporting)

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 (\*).

# Student Demographics (continued)

School District of Indian River County Student Enrollment Data (2023-2024)



## Narrative:

No Major Shift is student demographics.

# CHILDREN'S SERVICES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

## 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



# CHILDREN'S SERVICES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

## PRIORITY: HEALTH & WELL-BEING

### FOCUS AREA 1:

### ENHANCED ACCESS TO PRENATAL CARE

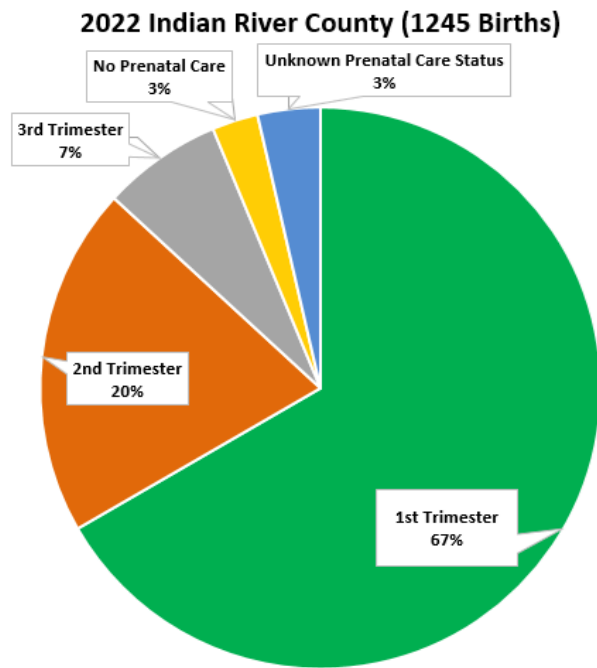
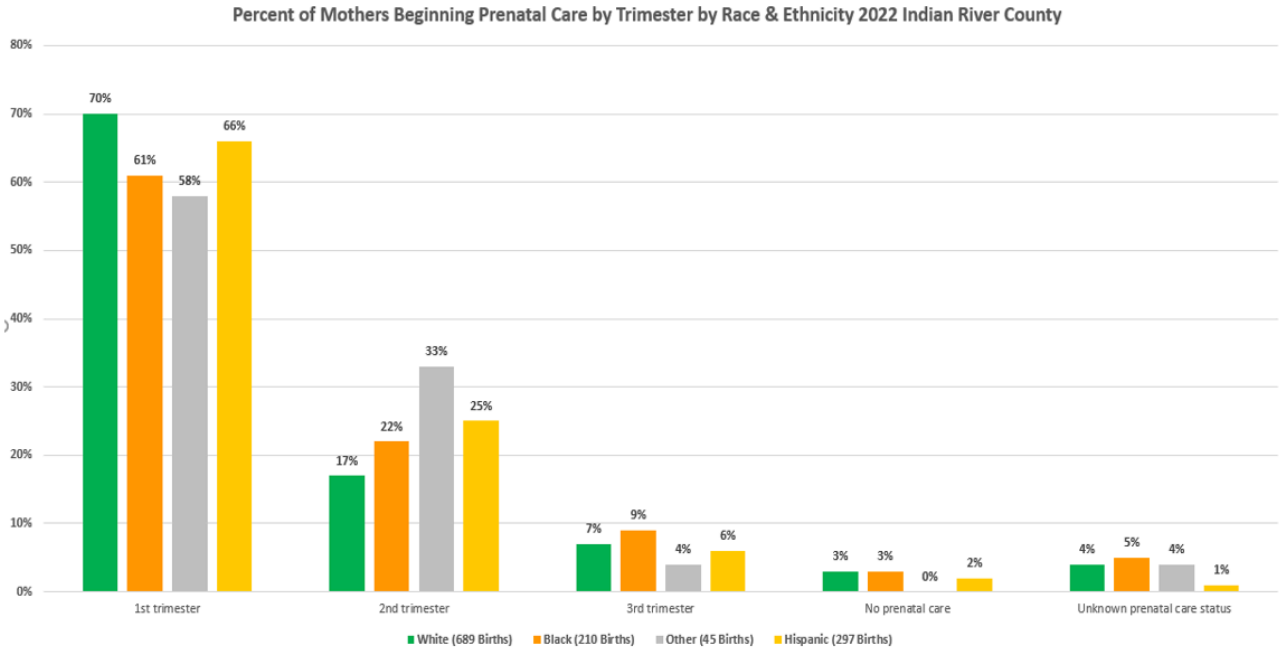
#### DATA INDICATORS:

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





# Initiate Prenatal Care



**Narrative:**

In 2022, the rate of women accessing prenatal care in the first trimester dropped to 67% and the 2023 Provisional data is showing an increase to 71%. There remains a disparity amongst women accessing early prenatal care however in 2022 there was a decrease amongst all pregnant women receiving care early. In 2022, 69% of white mothers, 66% of Hispanic or Latino mothers, and 61% of Black or African American mothers start this care in the first trimester. 2023 Provisional Data is showing 75% of white mothers, 69% of Hispanic or Latino mothers, and 67% of Black or African American mothers start this care in the first trimester

# Birthweight & Gestation

## Indian River County Births by Birthweight & Gestation 2022

Birthweight (Grams)	Gestation (Weeks)	White	Black	Other	Unknown	TOTAL
<2,500 grams	<32 weeks	13	8			21
	32-36 weeks	34	22			56
	37+ weeks	17	10	1		28
	Unknown Weeks					
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>1</b>		<b>105</b>
2,500+ grams	32-36 weeks	27	9	4		40
	37+ weeks	841	166	89	3	1099
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>869</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1140</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<32 weeks	13	8			21
	32-36 weeks	61	31	4		96
	37+ weeks	858	90	90	3	1127
	Unknown Weeks	1				
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>933</b>	<b>215</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1245</b>

## Mothers Who Initiate Breast Feeding

Demographics	2019		2020		2021		2022		2023(Provisional)	
	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count
<b>State: Florida</b>	86%	189,225	85%	179,098	85%	183,595	87%	194,645	86%	171,785
<b>County: Indian River County</b>	84%	1,062	87%	1,033	87%	1,079	92%	1,148	93%	1,140
<b>White</b>	86%	624	87%	613	89%	661	93%	639	93%	638
<b>Hispanic</b>	91%	248	91%	228	89%	244	96%	284	95%	265
<b>Black</b>	70%	149	76%	151	72%	122	86%	180	87%	198
<b>Other</b>	77%	41	93%	41	88%	52	91%	45	97%	36

<https://www.flhealthcharts.gov/Charts/MaternalAndChildHealth/default.aspx>

### Narrative:

- Since 2021, we have seen a surge in all communities breastfeeding their babies. It is important to note the significant increases in breastfeeding rates in marginalized communities. In 2022, a nationwide formula shortage, where Indian River County was affected seriously, prompted families to accept breastfeeding as the option for feeding their babies.
- 6 new Certified Lactation Counselors (CLC) have been added for both hospital bedside support and community support. 6 more candidates are enrolled and working on their CLC certification in 2024.

<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>

# 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
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>41</b>

### Narrative:

Monitoring fetal and infant deaths is crucial to our community because these deaths reflect the quality of healthcare access, social determinants such as poverty and nutrition, and environmental factors that impact pregnant women and newborns. They essentially reveal the well-being of the most vulnerable population within a community. A high rate of fetal and infant mortality indicates potential issues with prenatal care, access to healthcare, and broader social conditions affecting the community as a whole.

Under Florida Statute, fetal deaths are defined in several ways. A fetal death occurs before the 20th week of gestation and is indicated by the absence of breathing, heartbeat, umbilical cord pulsation, and voluntary muscle movement (Florida Statute XXIX Chapter 382 Section 008). A non-viable birth is defined as an unintentional, spontaneous fetal demise occurring after the completion of the 9th week of gestation but prior to the 20th week in a pregnancy that has been verified by a healthcare practitioner (Florida Statute XXIX Chapter 382 Section 014). A stillbirth is defined as an unintentional, intrauterine fetal death after a gestational age of not less than 20 completed weeks (Florida Statute XXIX Chapter 382 Section 017).

The Indian River County Fetal Infant Mortality Review (FIMR) Case Review Team (CRT) committee includes members from the medical, social service, and law enforcement communities. This team reviews each case of fetal and infant loss to determine the contributing factors and make recommendations for necessary changes in the community to prevent similar losses. Their findings show that 80% of cases reviewed involved pregnant women with one or more severe maternal morbidity issues that contributed to the death. Maternal morbidity issues include being over/underweight, hypertension, cardiovascular disease, diabetes, infection, and others. The Centers for Disease Control has identified 21 severe maternal morbidity issues.

The FIMR CRT committee determined that 86% of the deaths they reviewed were preventable. Furthermore, when reviewing fetal mortality data for Indian River County, the team noted that four of the fetal deaths occurred in pregnancies with no prenatal visits. County fetal mortality data, the FIMR team noted that four of the fetal deaths had 0 prenatal visits.

# 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
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>45</b>

### **Narrative:**

Defining Infant Deaths:

An infant death is defined as a death of a live born baby before their first birthday.

Severe maternal morbidity during pregnancy affects the health and well being of the newborn, increasing the likelihood of preterm birth, low birth weight and even mortality. Complications arising during pregnancy and delivery such as severe hemorrhage, preeclampsia, or infections: essentially, when a mother experiences serious health complications during pregnancy or childbirth, the baby is at high risk for complications as well.

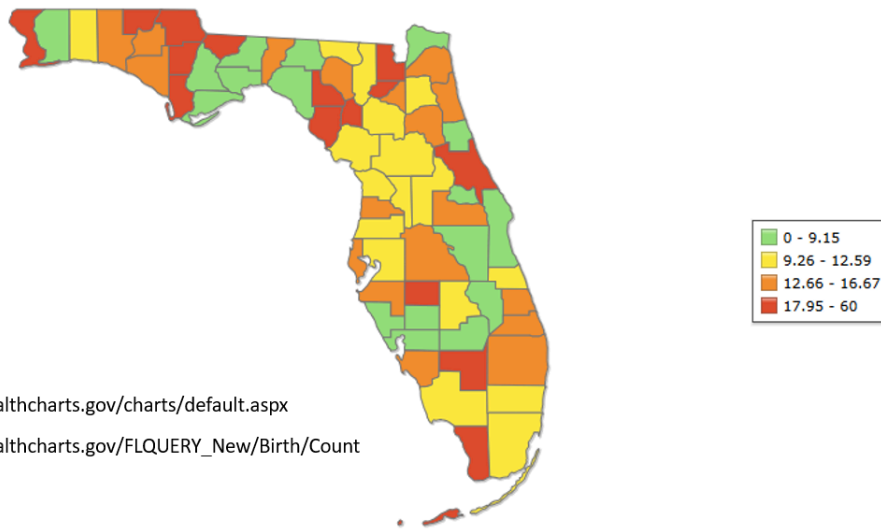
In 2022, Indian River County ranked 16th highest in the state for infant mortality rates at 8.8 per 1,000 live births according to Florida Health Charts.

Sleep Related deaths and unintentional injuries account for 24% of infant deaths in Indian River County.

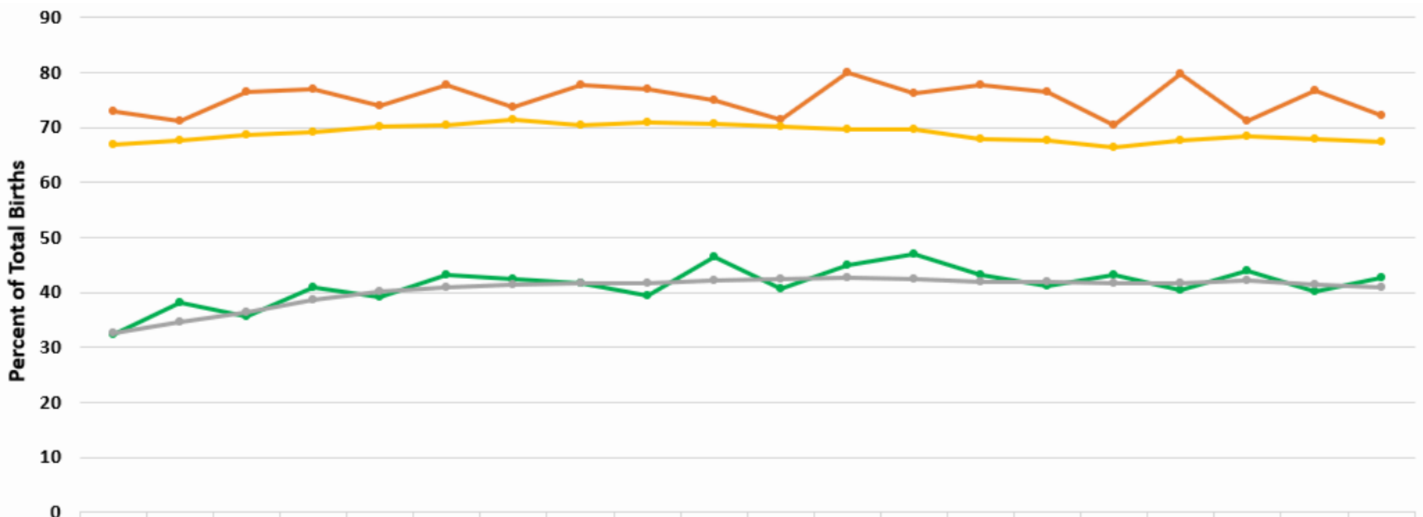
33% of infant deaths have been classified as occurring due to maternal complications.

# Repeat Births to Teen Mothers

Repeat Births to Mothers (Aged 15-19 Years), Age 15-19, Percent of Total Births 15-19, 2022



<https://www.flhealthcharts.gov/charts/default.aspx>  
[https://www.flhealthcharts.gov/FLQUERY\\_New/Birth/Count](https://www.flhealthcharts.gov/FLQUERY_New/Birth/Count)



	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Indian River White	32.3	38.2	35.7	41	39.3	43.3	42.6	41.6	39.5	46.6	40.8	44.9	47	43.2	41.1	43.2	40.5	44	40.2	42.7
Indian River Black	73.1	71.3	76.4	77.1	74.1	77.8	73.8	77.7	77	75	71.4	80	76.3	77.7	76.6	70.4	79.7	71.2	76.7	72.1
Florida White	32.7	34.6	36.5	38.6	40.2	40.9	41.5	41.6	41.6	42.1	42.5	42.7	42.6	42	41.9	41.7	41.7	42.2	41.4	40.9
Florida Black	67	67.7	68.8	69.1	70.2	70.5	71.5	70.5	71	70.7	70.1	69.6	69.6	67.9	67.6	66.4	67.6	68.5	67.9	67.5

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:

- While teen births overall decreased in the county from 2022 to 2023. In 2023, Indian River County experienced an increase in teen births to children aged 0-14. The last time the county experienced births to children under 15 was 2017.
- There was also a spike in the number of births to teens ages 15-17 in 2022 to 13 births and was reduced in 2023 to 12 births.
- The 2024 provisional data shows 1 birth to a child aged 0-14 and 7 to date for ages 15-17 which could indicate another increase in births to these age groups.
- Teen Births can significantly impact a community's health by contributing to lower educational attainment, increased reliance on social services, poorer health outcomes for both mother and baby, and potentially long-term economic disadvantages for the community as a whole. Teen pregnancy rates can indicate a broader issues with access to health education and reproductive healthcare services within the community.
- Teen parents are more likely to drop out of school and have increased risk of mental health and substance use related issues.

# CHILDREN'S SERVICES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

## 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

## RISK PROFILE 2022 County Schools Student Survey, All Grades

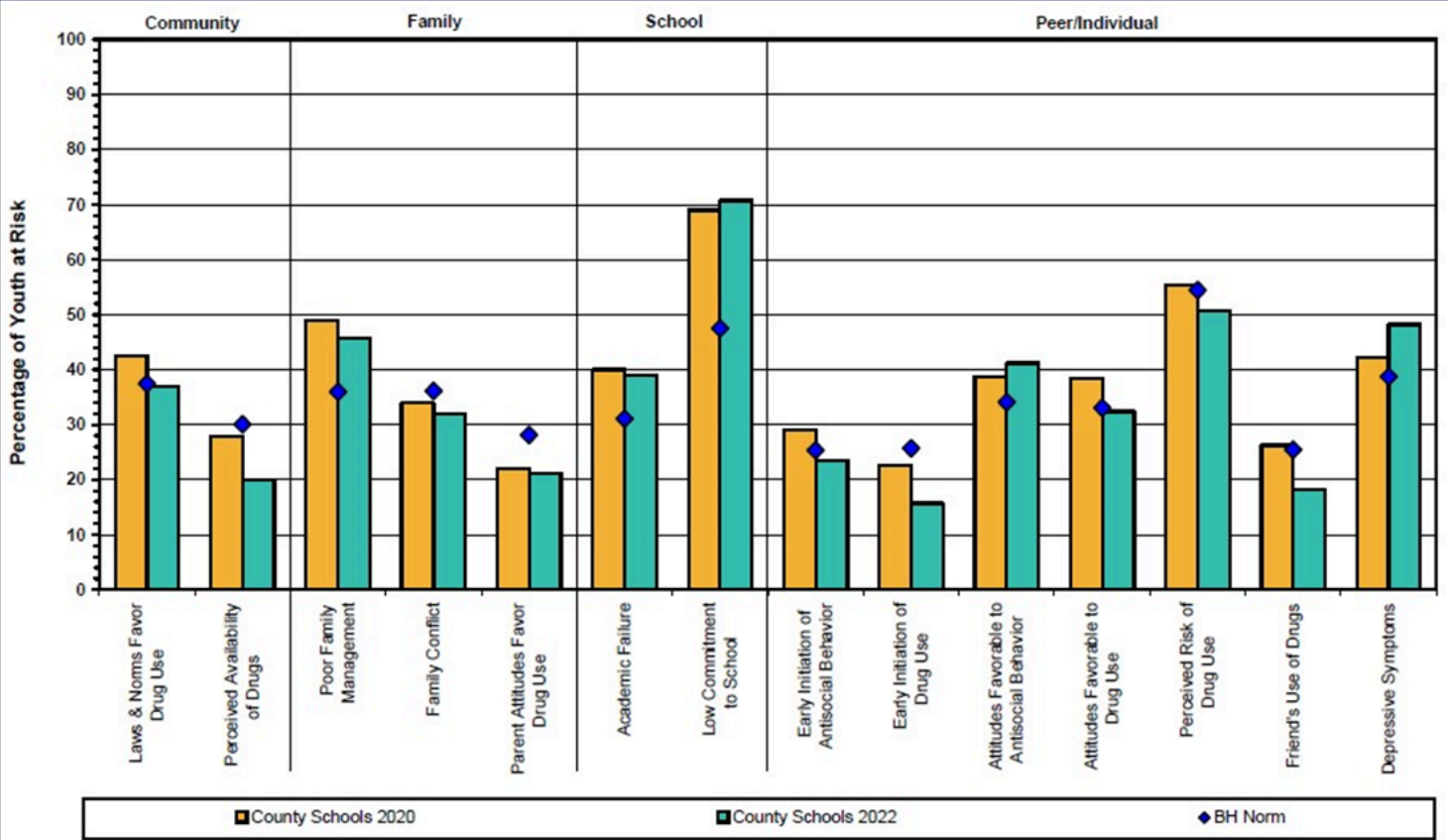


Table 4. (Continued) Percentage of Students Reporting Risk

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

# Youth Depression

	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	30.9	30.1	40.5	20.5	30.0	30.1	30.4	33.0	33.5	43.0	23.2	33.5	34.0	33.3
At times I think I am no good at all	42.6	43.3	52.3	33.6	42.5	41.7	43.0	47.3	45.2	57.5	34.5	47.5	45.5	46.1
All in all, I am inclined to think that I am a failure	29.1	25.3	35.8	17.6	30.0	22.4	26.9	31.7	30.0	38.6	22.4	31.7	30.4	30.7
In the past year, have you felt depressed or sad MOST days, even if you felt OK sometimes?	40.8	49.5	51.5	40.2	42.0	48.4	45.9	46.9	47.7	58.4	36.0	46.8	48.1	47.3
<b>Suicide</b>														
Thought about committing suicide in the past 12 months	32.2	34.5	41.0	25.7	32.2	34.8	33.5	35.5	34.2	44.2	24.9	35.9	34.7	34.8
Attempted suicide in the past 12 months	10.4	6.0	10.8	4.6	9.6	6.3	7.8	10.4	8.1	12.9	5.1	10.1	8.5	9.1

## Narrative:

Several studies have shown a link between youth depression and youth engaging in problem behaviors. These studies have found that youth who are depressed are overrepresented in the criminal justice system and are more likely to use substances. In Indian River County in 2022, 45.9% of youth in 6th through 12th grade reported feeling depressed or sad most days. Rates of depression symptoms and suicidal ideation and behavior were higher among female students compared to male students. In 2022, 41% of female students in Indian River County thought about committing suicide in the past 12 months, compared to 25.7% of male students. While rates of symptoms of depression and suicidal ideation and behavior remain lower than Florida average in Indian River County, the current rates are still of great concern.

Update  
No New Data Available

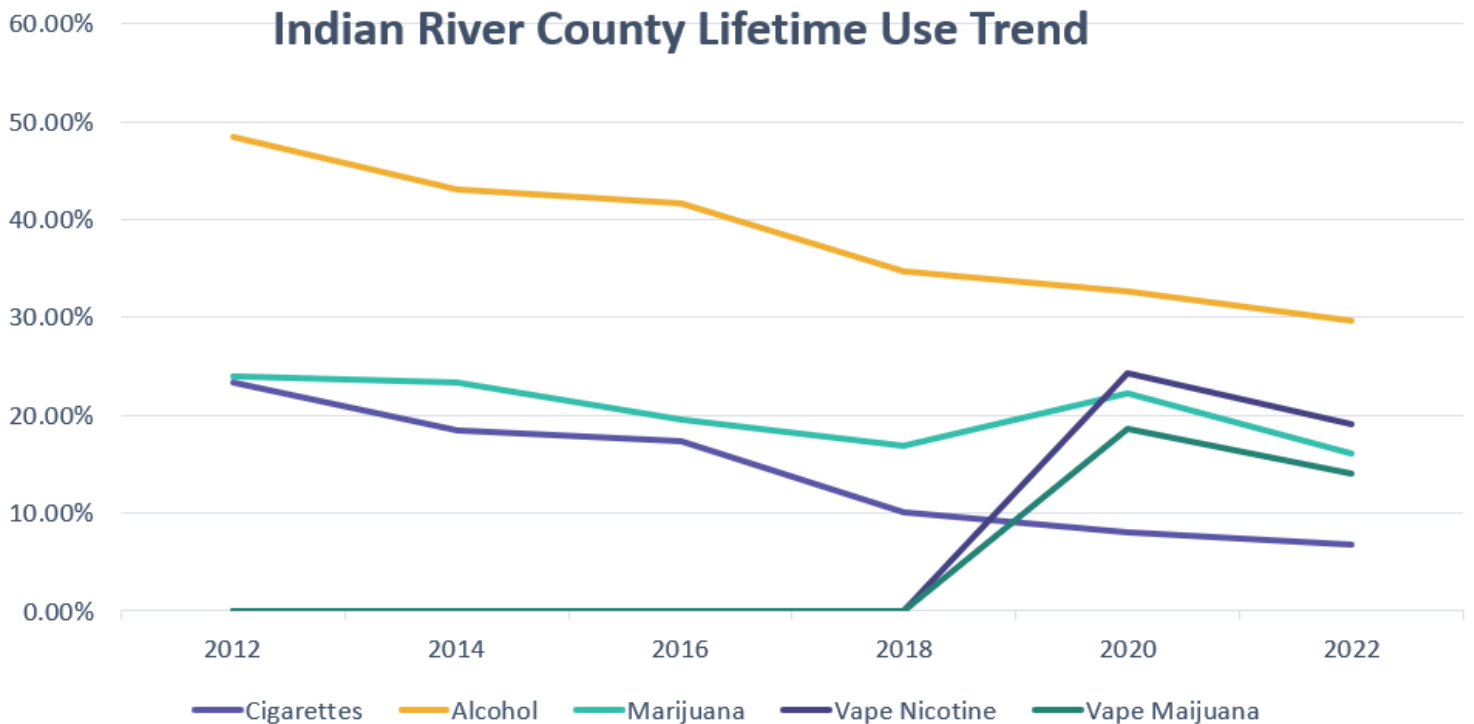
## Youth Risk Profile (continued)

### Narrative:

Risk factors are characteristics of school, community, family, and individual/peer environments that are known to predict an increased likelihood of problem health behaviors among youth. Addressing risk factors in a community can reduce the likelihood that youth will engage in problem behaviors. In Indian River County, there are several risk factors that are elevated, especially compared to national average, that are area of concern. In 2022, 71% of 6th through 12th grade students reported low commitment to school in Indian River County. This is a 3% increase from 2020 and is significantly higher than the national average of 48%. Another risk factor of concern is youth at risk due to family management problems. In 2022, 46% of youth surveyed had the risk factor of family management problems. The national average of youth having family management risk factor is 36%, 10% lower than Indian River County. Lastly, another elevated risk factor for Indian River County youth is academic failure. In 2022, 39% of surveyed youth reported at-risk for academic failure. The national average of youth at-risk for academic failure is 31.1%, 7.9% lower than Indian River County.

Update  
No New Data Available

# Youth Substance Abuse



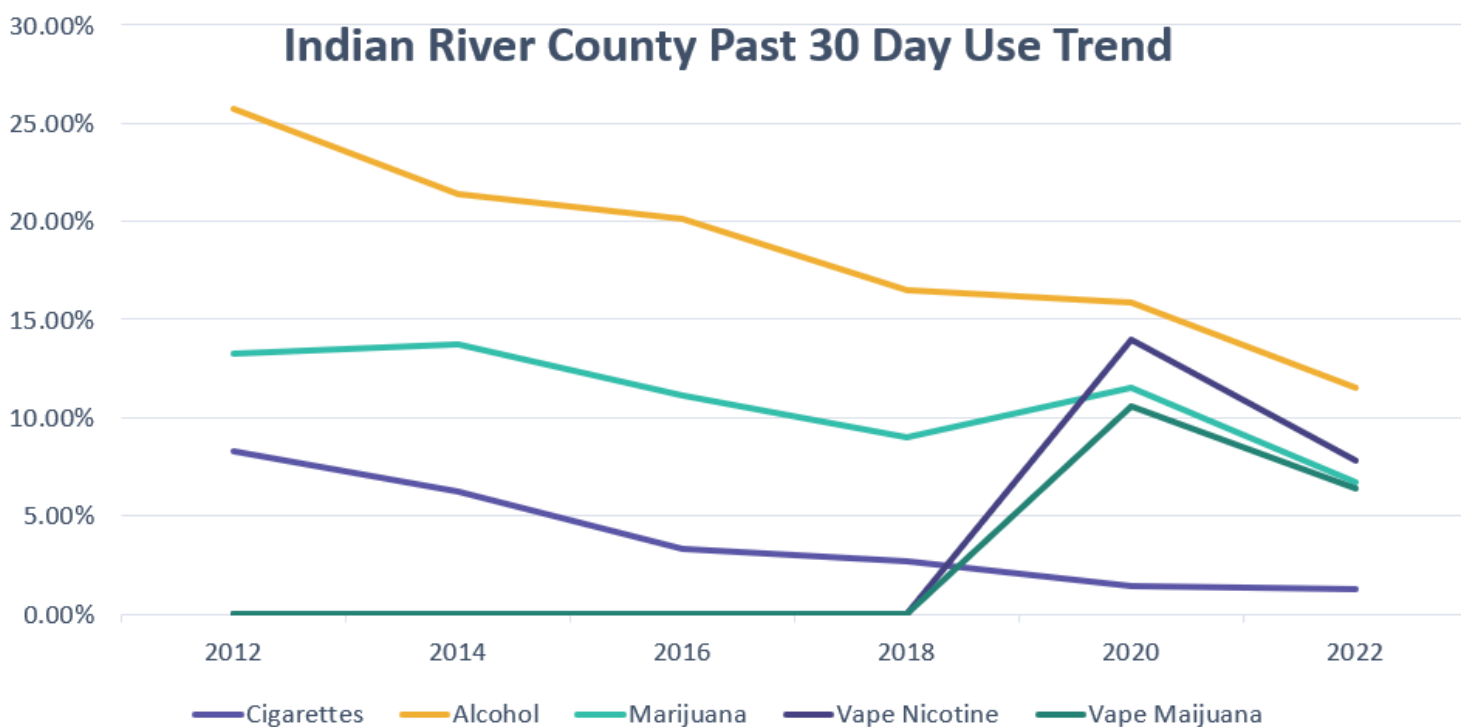
<https://www.myflfamilies.com/sites/default/files/2022-12/Indian%20River.pdf>

## Narrative:

Indian River County has seen an overall decline in lifetime substance use rates across the last two decades. Lifetime substance use rates allow communities to assess the onset of use for substances. Early onsets of use can contribute to higher levels of use and negative outcomes for youth across the lifespan. Since 2002, lifetime rates of alcohol, marijuana, and nicotine use have declined in Indian River County for Middle and High School students. A significant community strength is that in 2022, Indian River County's rate of lifetime alcohol, recreational nicotine, and prescription pain medication use fell below Florida average for High School students. However, while initiation of substance use has declined over time progress has slowed down with the introduction of vaping nicotine and marijuana.

Update  
No New Data Available

# Youth Substance Abuse (continued)



<https://www.myflfamilies.com/sites/default/files/2022-12/Indian%20River.pdf>

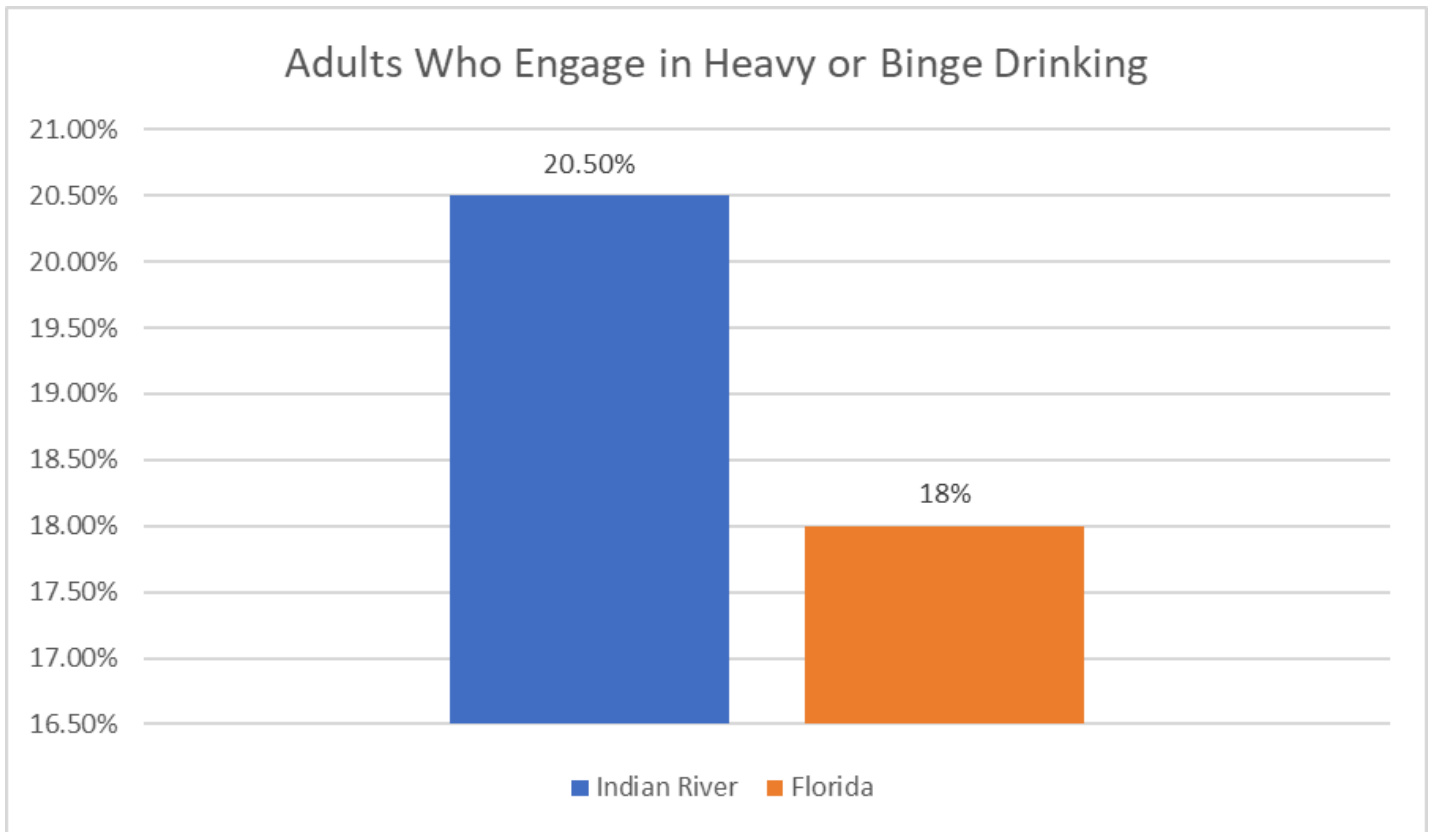
## Narrative:

Similar to lifetime usage trends in Indian River County, there has been an overall decline in Past 30-Day Substance Use since 2012. Past 30-Day Substance Use trends allow communities to assess the current patterns of use among youth. One strength of Indian River County is Vaping Nicotine in the Past 30 Days is declining for both Middle and High School students. In 2022, Indian River County fell below Florida average for High School students Past 30-Day Vaping Nicotine in 2022 (9.9% for Indian River County versus 12.7% for Florida). This trend is similar for Middle School, where Past 30-Day Vaping Nicotine decreased from 5.7% in 2020 to 4.8% in 2022, and decreased below Florida average (4.8% for Indian River County versus 5.5% for Florida). The reduction in Past 30-Day Vaping Nicotine may be attributed to the evidence-based universal vaping prevention 5th through 9th grade students in Indian River County receive, along with community prevention efforts.

Update  
No New Data Available



# Adult Alcohol Use



## Narrative:

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.

Update  
No New Data Available

**PRIORITY: HEALTH & WELL-BEING**

**FOCUS AREA 3:**  
**PROMOTION OF PHYSICAL HEALTH**

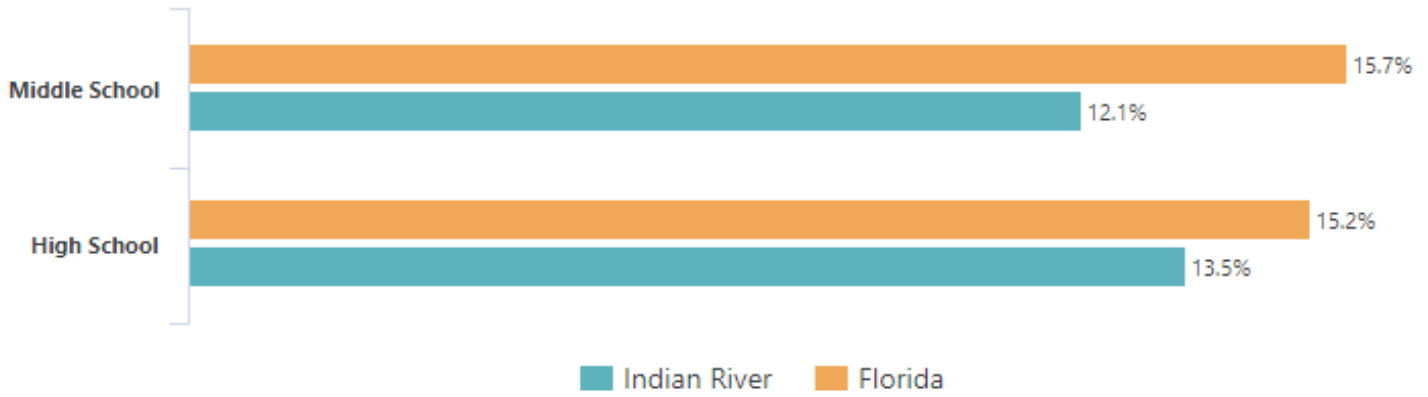
**DATA INDICATORS:**

YOUTH OBESITY

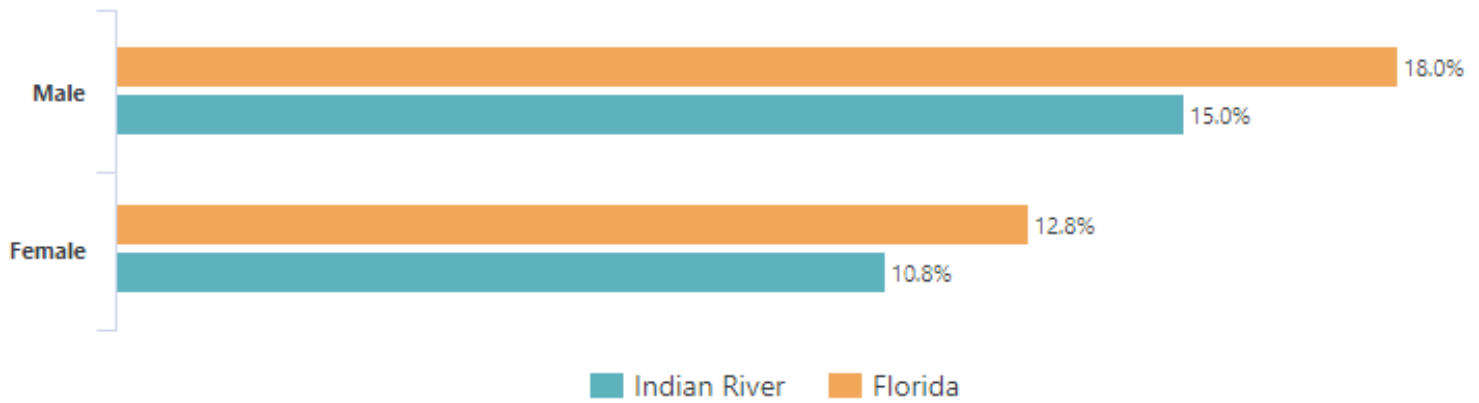


# Youth Obesity

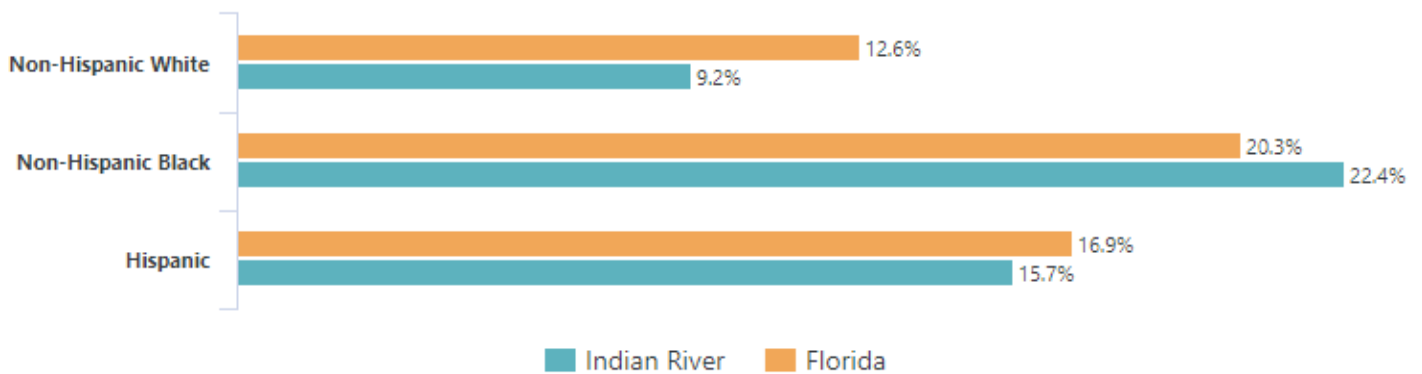
## SCHOOL LEVEL, 2022



## SEX, 2022

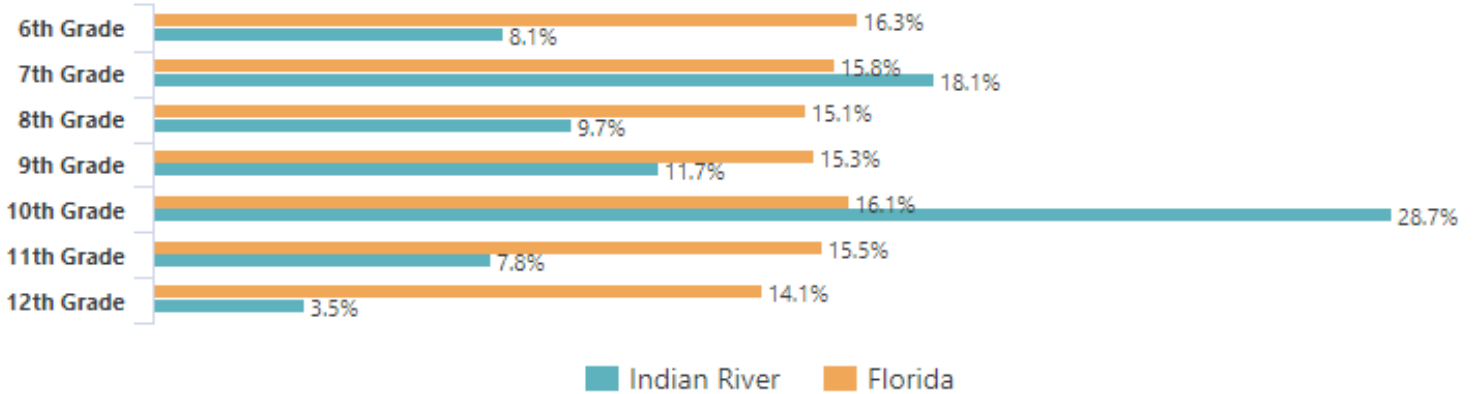


## RACE/ETHNICITY, 2022

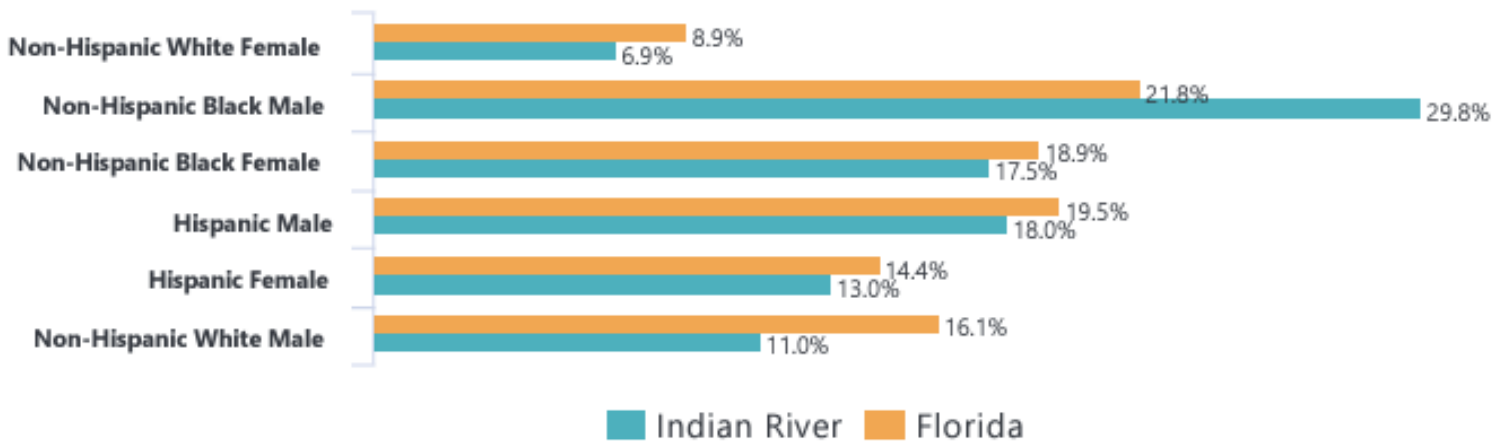


# Youth Obesity

GRADE LEVEL, 2022



Students Who Are Obese (FYTS), RACE/ETHNICITY AND SEX - 2022



## Narrative:

In 2022, only 13% of Indian River County middle and high school students were identified as obese which is below the state average of 15.4%, putting Indian River County in the bottom quartile for the state. Students who are black or Hispanic, or live in an apartment, condo, or other housing are at a significantly higher risk for obesity.

Update  
No Major Shifts

**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
Autism Spectrum Disorder	238	251	255	269	291	306
Deaf or Hard of Hearing	20	19	15	16	13	12
Developmentally Delayed	69	71	79	91	131	143
Emotional/Behavioral Disability	76	73	75	68	70	72
Established Conditions	*					
Gifted	730	732	703	696	744	734
Hospital/Homebound	36	25	16	24	21	26
Intellectual Disability	134	133	122	112	105	100
Language Impaired	325	314	300	263	214	135
Orthopedically Impaired	22	21	17	18	13	*
Other Health Impaired	324	374	371	379	389	398
Specific Learning Disability	1,210	1,266	1,208	1,138	1,130	1108
Speech Impaired	396	409	382	387	396	321
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:

In reviewing the Primary Exceptionality data for our students, several trends are apparent when comparing the 2022-23 to 2023-24 schoolyear data. The eligibility of autism spectrum disorder has been steadily increasing in our schools and in our country. The reason for the increase is not clear but most agree that it is due to improved diagnostic capabilities and increased understanding of the disability. An even larger increase has been exhibited in students identified as having a developmental delay. This increase is most likely due to the Department of Education criteria related to the age of eligibility increasing from the age of six to the age of nine in 2022. Other trends identified are a decrease in the eligibilities of language impaired and speech impaired. One reason for this could be that other eligibilities such as autism spectrum disorder, developmental delay, or other health impairment more accurately identify the child and are determined as the primary eligibility while language and speech are considered other exceptionalities. Also, the eligibility criteria for language impairment has been refined to ensure that we are identifying a true disability. A steady increase has been identified in the eligibility of other health impaired; this may be due to the broad range of disorders and conditions that may qualify for this eligibility including attention deficit hyperactivity disorder. Eligibility data is regularly monitored to ensure that we continue to meet the ever-changing needs of our students.

# 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 16. Percentages of Indian River County and Florida Statewide high school youth who reported adverse childhood experiences (ACEs), 2022**

	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	--	14.6	19.2	9.6	--	11.3	--	--	17.1	23.0	10.7	--	17.4	--
Physical abuse	--	8.5	9.7	6.7	--	7.3	--	--	10.7	12.6	8.3	--	10.8	--
Sexual abuse	--	5.0	8.9	1.0	--	4.5	--	--	6.6	10.2	2.7	--	7.0	--
Parents separated or divorced	--	37.0	37.3	36.7	--	37.2	--	--	39.4	42.9	35.9	--	39.8	--
Physical abuse in household	--	10.6	8.9	12.4	--	11.1	--	--	8.5	11.1	5.6	--	8.7	--
Substance abuse in household	--	33.5	33.9	33.5	--	32.9	--	--	24.9	27.9	21.6	--	25.5	--
Mental illness in household	--	36.0	42.6	28.8	--	32.6	--	--	32.9	41.0	24.0	--	33.6	--
Incarcerated household member	--	28.3	26.0	31.0	--	29.5	--	--	23.3	25.6	20.7	--	23.7	--
Emotional neglect	--	28.6	33.1	23.2	--	27.2	--	--	31.2	39.3	22.7	--	31.9	--
Physical neglect	--	5.0	5.4	4.6	--	4.5	--	--	6.7	8.1	5.2	--	6.7	--

**Table 17. Number of adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) reported by Indian River County and Florida Statewide high school youth, 2022**

	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	--	31.5	29.2	34.3	--	33.9	--	--	32.8	26.0	40.0	--	32.0	--
1 ACE	--	16.5	13.1	20.1	--	16.8	--	--	20.6	19.7	21.7	--	20.7	--
2 ACEs	--	16.0	19.1	12.4	--	14.6	--	--	14.6	14.8	14.4	--	14.7	--
3 ACEs	--	9.6	8.1	11.3	--	10.4	--	--	10.6	11.6	9.4	--	10.4	--
4 ACEs	--	15.6	18.8	12.0	--	12.7	--	--	7.4	9.0	5.9	--	7.7	--
5 ACEs	--	4.1	4.3	4.0	--	4.8	--	--	5.6	7.5	3.6	--	5.7	--
6 ACEs	--	4.3	3.7	4.9	--	4.8	--	--	3.6	4.6	2.4	--	3.7	--
7 ACEs	--	0.6	0.9	0.3	--	0.8	--	--	2.3	3.1	1.4	--	2.4	--
8 ACEs	--	1.3	2.0	0.7	--	0.7	--	--	1.5	2.3	0.5	--	1.5	--
9 ACEs	--	0.1	0.2	0.0	--	0.1	--	--	0.7	1.0	0.4	--	0.8	--
10 ACEs	--	0.3	0.6	0.0	--	0.4	--	--	0.3	0.4	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%.

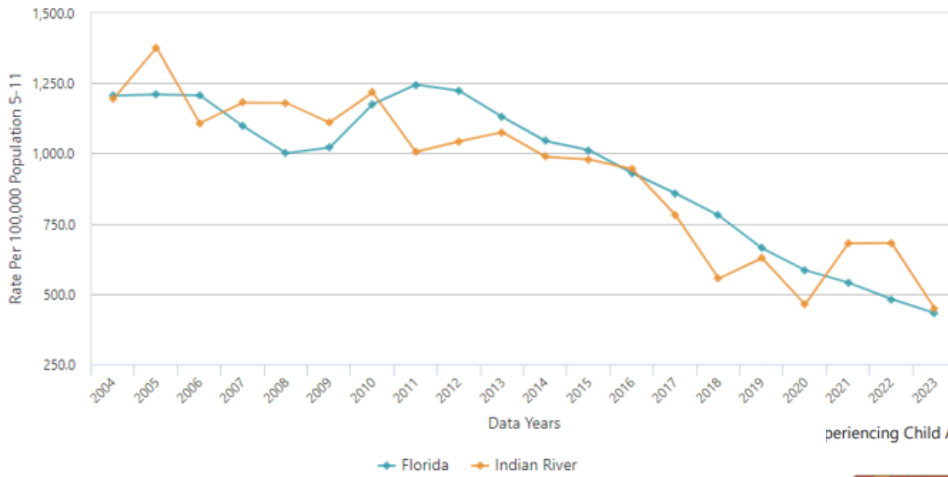
## Narrative:

Adverse Childhood Experiences are traumatic events that can impact the future of children. In Indian River County, 26.3% of high school youth surveyed report having 4 or more ACEs, higher than Florida average. The most common ACEs among Indian River County youth are parents being separated or divorced, substance use in household, mental illness in household, and incarcerated family member.

Update  
No New Data Available

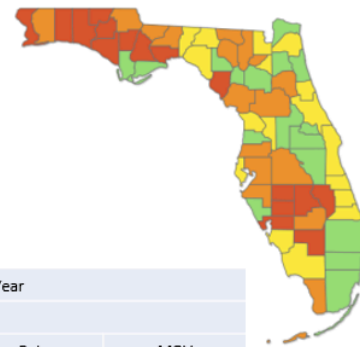
# Child Abuse

Children Experiencing Child Abuse (Aged 5-11 Years), Single Year



Children Experiencing Child Abuse (Aged 5-11 Years), Rate Per 100,000 Population 5-11, 2023

Click on county name or "Florida" in the legend to hide or show the county or state.



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

Data Year	Indian River				Florida			
	Count	Denom	Rate	MOV	Count	Denom	Rate	MOV
2023	43	9,639	446.1	133	7393	1,713,325	431.5	9.8
2022	66	9,685	681.5	163.9	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
2004	106	8,886	1192.9	225.7	18458	1,530,603	1205.9	17.3

## 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 aged 5-11 experiencing child abuse has declined. In 2022, the rate was 681.5 per 100,000 children, but in 2023, it dropped to 446.1 per 100,000 children. While this is still higher than the Florida state average of 431.5 per 100,000 in 2023, the decrease in Indian River County 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\***

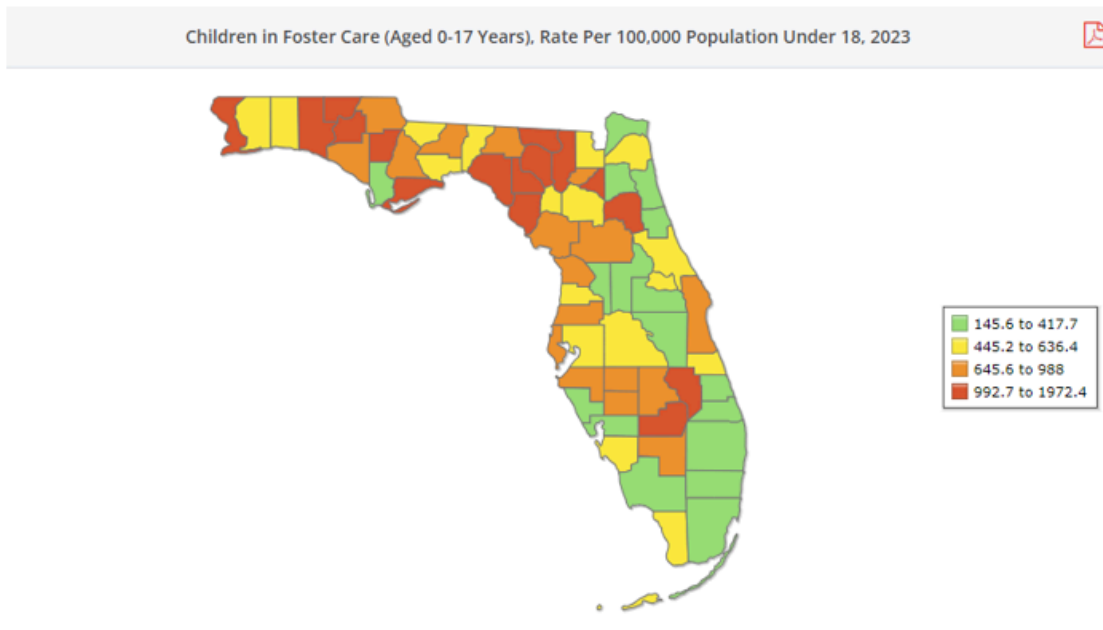
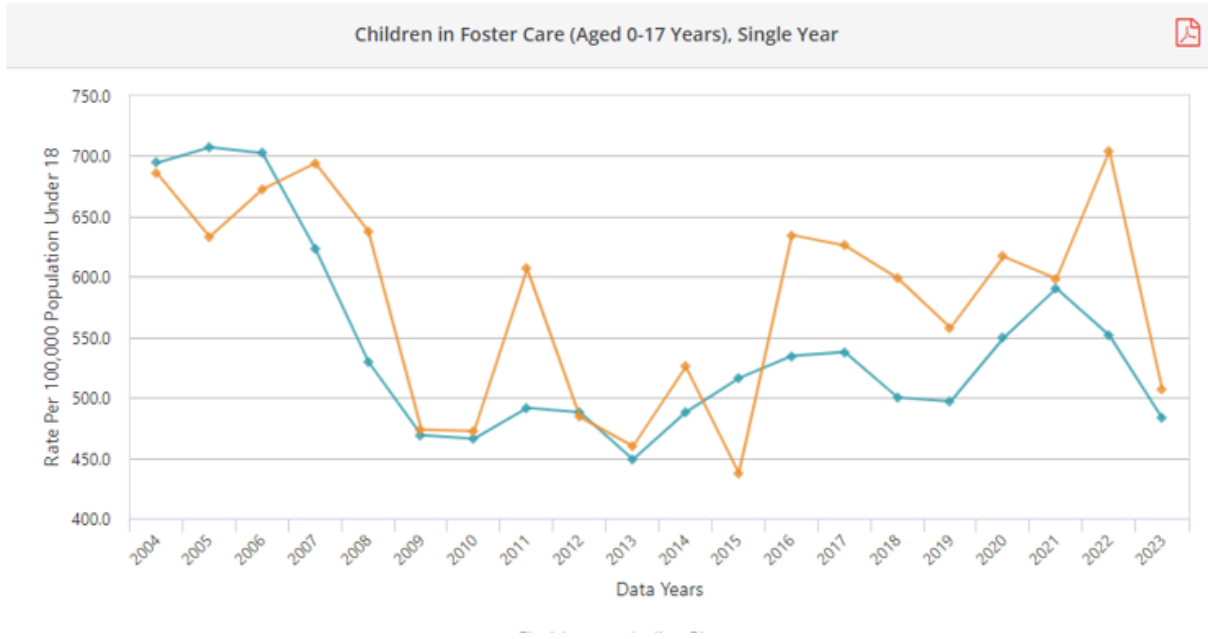
Fiscal Year	Involuntary Exams (All Ages)	Involuntary Examinations										
		% of Total				% of Total by Initiator Type			% Change from			
		<18	18-24	25-64	65+	Law Enforcement	Health Professional	Ex-Parte Court Order	1 Year		5 Years	
								BA Exams FY21/22 to FY22/23	Pop* 2021 to 2022	BA Exams FY18/19 to FY22/23	Pop* 2018 To 2022	
2022-2023	1,275	21.80%	8.71%	58.20%	10.82%	47.37%	49.80%	2.82%	10.20%	1.62%	-14.14%	9.00%
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%				
2018-2019	1,485	22.09%	10.71%	58.52%	8.15%	47.14%	50.30%	2.56%				

\*Population estimates are available by calendar year only. For example, calendar year 2022 population estimates were used for the row showing FY22/23 data, and so on.

**Narrative:**

Over the past five years, the number of youth under 18 held under the Baker Act in Indian River County has shown some fluctuations. In 2022-2023, youth under 18 accounted for 21.8% of all involuntary examinations, down from 26.45% in 2021-2022. While there had been a consistent increase in the number of involuntary exams for children prior to the pandemic, the data from 2022-2023 shows a reduction in the proportion of youth being held under the Baker Act. This decline suggests that fewer youth are undergoing involuntary exams, a shift from the previous trend of steady increases.

# Children in Foster Care



*\*Mouseover map to see county name and value. \*Click a legend category to hide or show that category.*

[Floridahealthcharts.gov](https://floridahealthcharts.gov)

## Narrative:

The rate of removals has declined since 2008 due to numerous services/interventions that have been created.

However Indian River County remains above the State average for removals hence the need for continued support of programs to reduce the number of children removed.

Also, the number of teenagers coming into care has risen and programs are needed to address the trauma they have experienced.

# Homeless Children

Count of Students Experiencing Homelessness  
Survey 5 (End of year reporting)

	19-20	20-21	21-22	22-23	23-24
District	529	423	470	554	407
KG	59	30	51	54	41
1	54	35	39	56	44
2	33	48	38	40	35
3	46	32	48	59	38
4	48	41	32	52	26
5	45	38	41	32	33
6	51	35	47	44	33
7	52	42	45	48	39
8	36	38	36	52	38
9	26	30	35	44	29
10	25	20	20	23	17
11	15	17	13	21	19
12	29	15	17	23	15

*Note: 23-24 data is PRELIMINARY Survey 3 homeless data (as of 10/21/2024)*

## Formal Definition of Homelessness:

“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:

Homelessness counts are calculated from Survey 5 of each year (end of year reporting) and includes the count of students who experienced homelessness at any point throughout the school year. SDIRC currently has more students experiencing homelessness than the past 3 years. 23-24 Survey 3 data is a snapshot at that exact point in time and does not represent the complete count of students who had experienced homelessness at any point in the school year.

# PRIORITY: NURTURING FAMILIES & COMMUNITIES

## FOCUS AREA 2:

### REDUCTION OF JUVENILE DELINQUENCY

#### DATA INDICATORS:

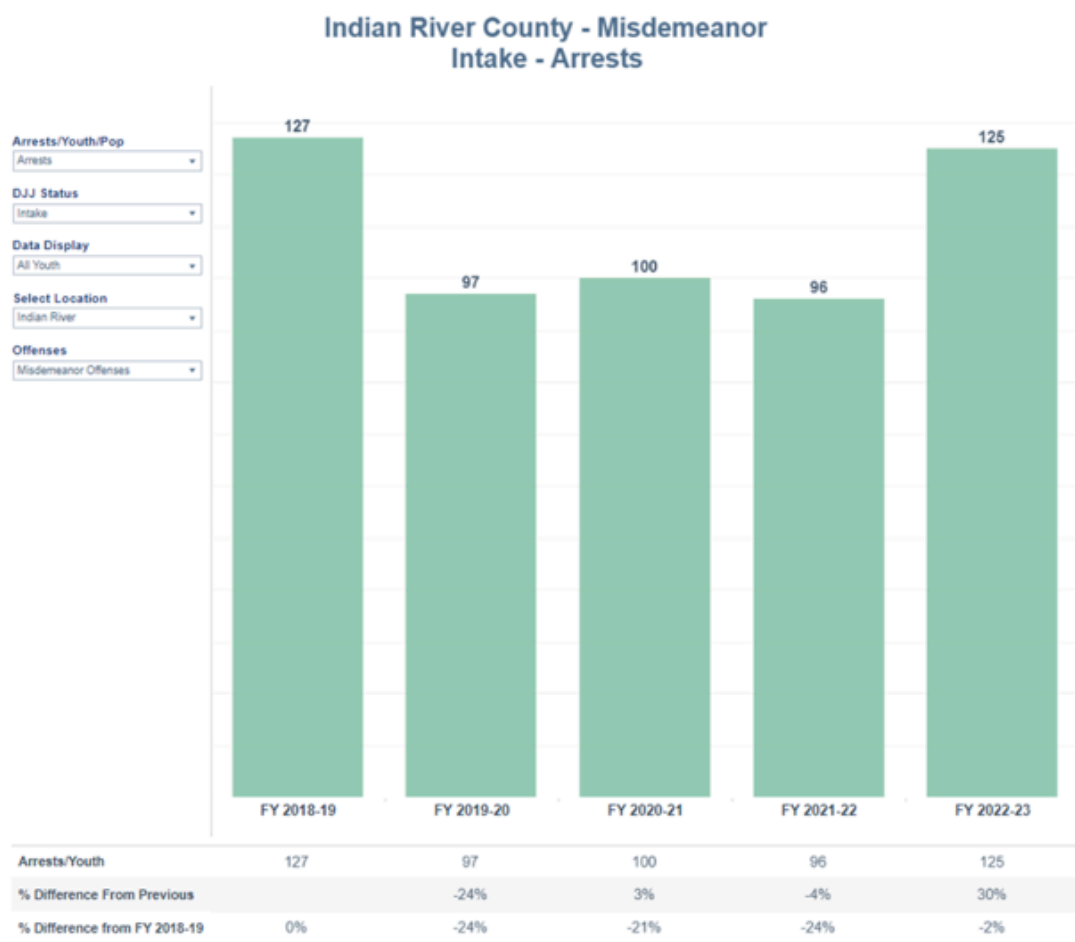
JUVENILE ARRESTS

TRENDS IN JUVENILE DELINQUENT BEHAVIOR

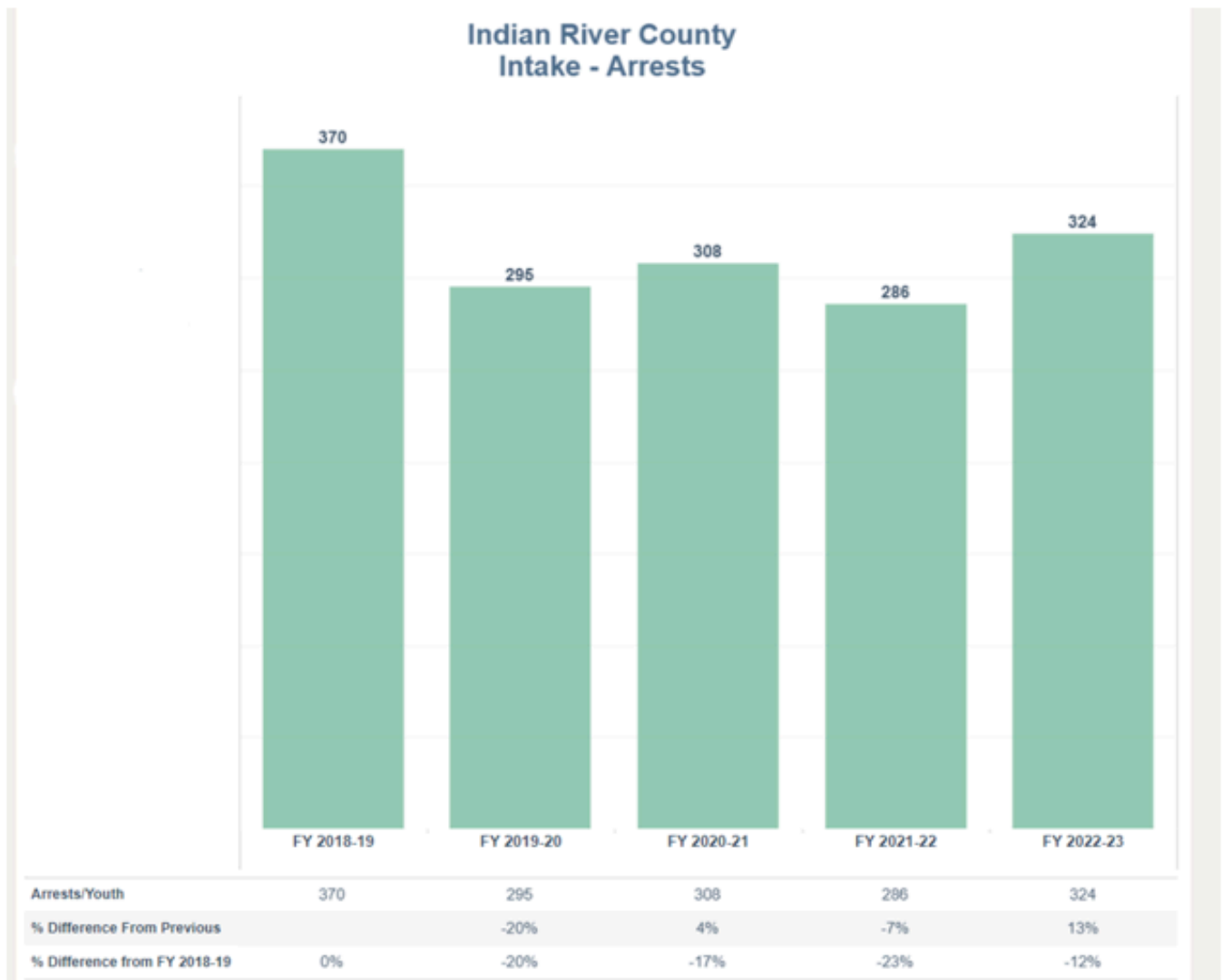




# Trends in Juvenile Delinquent Behavior



# Juvenile Arrests



## Narrative:

In 2023, juvenile delinquency trends in Indian River County have continued to shift, with noticeable changes in juvenile arrests. Between 2021 and 2022, juvenile arrests increased by 13%, culminating in a total of 324 arrests for the 2022-2023 period. Similarly, juvenile misdemeanor offenses rose significantly, from 96 in 2021-2022 to 125 in 2022-2023. The rate of juvenile misdemeanor offenses has continued to climb, now standing at 25.2 per 1,000 youth in Indian River County, compared to the statewide average of 21.6 per 1,000 youth in Florida. The data highlights that juvenile delinquency is on the rise in Indian River County. With rates surpassing the state average, this data underscores the importance of strengthening prevention and intervention efforts to address the root causes of youth involvement in the justice system to mitigate further increases.

# CHILDREN'S SERVICES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

# 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

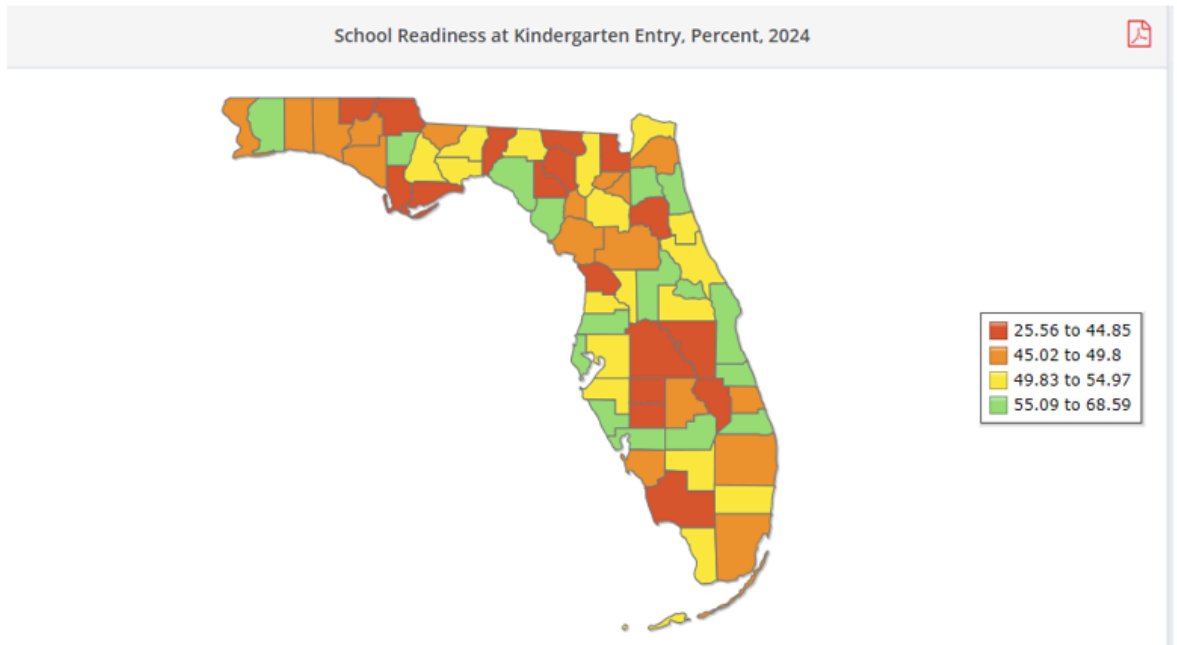


# Early Learning/Kindergarten Readiness

## 2024: Kindergarten Readiness Data – from the Kindergarten Readiness Screener

	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
<b>State:</b> <b>Florida</b>	53%	57%	50%	49%	51%
<b>District:</b> <b>Indian River County</b>	52%	58%	51%	45%	55%
<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%
*23-24 data is preliminary					
**Due to small number count, all other race/ethnicities were combined into "Other"					

<https://www.fl DOE.org/accountability/assessments/k-12-student-assessment/best/k-ready.stml>



### Narrative:

Indian River County continues to outperform the state in K-Readiness, however almost half of students entering K still are not prepared.

**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
<b>State:</b> Florida	58%	State Assessments were cancelled due to the COVID outbreak	54%	53%	51%	55%
<b>District:</b> Indian River County	58%		60%	60%	63%	63%
<b>White</b>	70%		71%	67%	71%	71%
<b>Hispanic</b>	50%		47%	51%	56%	57%
<b>Black</b>	39%		44%	43%	48%	54%
<b>Other</b>	69%		54%	49%	64%	58%
**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
<b>State:</b> Florida	20%	State Assessments were cancelled due to the COVID outbreak	23%	25%	25%	22%
<b>District:</b> Indian River County	16%		17%	17%	14%	15%
<b>White</b>	11%		11%	12%	10%	9%
<b>Hispanic</b>	21%		23%	24%	16%	18%
<b>Black</b>	27%		26%	26%	21%	23%
<b>Other</b>	13%		17%	20%	15%	22%
**Due to small number count, all other race/ethnicities were combined into "Other"						

### Narrative:

SDIRC maintained 63% of Grade 3 students earning a level 3 or higher and still exceeds the State Percentage of 55%.



# Math Performance on Statewide Assessments

Percent Grade 8 Students Level 3 State Assessment Combined Mathematics (FAST Math, Algebra EOC, Geometry EOC) <https://edudata.fldoe.org/AdvancedReports.html>

	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
<b>State:</b> Florida	64%	State Assessments were cancelled due to the COVID outbreak	55%	57%	63%	65%
<b>District:</b> Indian River County	62%		53%	56%	66%	66%
<b>White</b>	72%		64%	64%	75%	74%
<b>Hispanic</b>	58%		47%	51%	60%	62%
<b>Black</b>	33%		30%	37%	46%	50%
<b>Other</b>	58%		58%	56%	65%	61%
<b>ESE (Exceptional Student Education)</b>	34%		26%	25%	40%	40%
<b>ED (Economically Disadvantaged)</b>	53%		45%	48%	57%	59%

\*\*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
<b>State:</b> Florida	20%	State Assessments were cancelled due to the COVID outbreak	28%	25%	17%	15%
<b>District:</b> Indian River County	19%		26%	23%	14%	11%
<b>White</b>	13%		17%	16%	9%	7%
<b>Hispanic</b>	22%		29%	27%	17%	12%
<b>Black</b>	35%		49%	38%	26%	20%
<b>Other</b>	27%		23%	28%	16%	13%
<b>ESE (Exceptional Student Education)</b>	47%		56%	46%	32%	31%
<b>ED (Economically Disadvantaged)</b>	24%		34%	29%	18%	14%

\*\*Due to small number count, all other race/ethnicities were combined into "Other"

### Narrative:

SDIRC maintained the percentage of students in Grade 8 earning a level 3 or higher and still exceeds the State Percentage of 65%. Additionally, SDIRC decreased the percentage of students earning a level 1 from 14% to 11%.

# PRIORITY: SUCCESS IN SCHOOL & LIFE

FOCUS AREA 3:  
BOOST IN STUDENT ATTENDANCE

DATA INDICATORS:

AVERAGE DAILY ATTENDANCE

CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM FOR STUDENTS



<b>Average Daily Attendance (ADA) for Students KG-12</b>						
	18-19	19-20	20-21	21-22	22-23	23-24
State	93.8%	94.4%	92.5%	91.2%	91.4%	NA
District	92.7%	94.0%	92.1%	90.4%	90.8%	90.6%
KG	94.0%	93.4%	93.7%	92.2%	92.4%	92.5%
1	94.1%	93.9%	93.9%	92.6%	93.0%	92.8%
2	94.8%	94.0%	94.1%	93.2%	93.5%	93.4%
3	95.0%	94.3%	94.0%	93.3%	93.9%	93.3%
4	95.0%	94.6%	94.1%	93.2%	93.9%	93.0%
5	94.5%	94.0%	94.2%	92.9%	93.6%	93.1%
6	93.8%	93.7%	92.7%	91.5%	91.8%	91.8%
7	93.6%	92.7%	91.4%	90.6%	91.0%	90.6%
8	93.3%	92.6%	91.1%	90.4%	90.6%	90.1%
9	92.1%	90.8%	90.0%	88.9%	90.1%	89.0%
10	91.5%	90.8%	91.4%	88.1%	89.5%	89.2%
11	89.7%	90.3%	91.7%	88.8%	89.1%	88.9%
12	88.4%	88.1%	90.7%	86.6%	88.9%	88.1%

Note: 2023-24 data is PRELIMINARY Survey 5 (as of 9/4/24)  
State and District ADA Source: FLDOE Survey 5 (end of year)  
<https://www.fldoe.org/accountability/data-sys/edu-info-accountability-services/pk-12-public-school-data-pubs-reports/archive.shtml>  
Grade Level ADA Source: Focus Student Information System

**Narrative:**

There was a slight decrease in the average daily attendance from 22-23. No noticeable grade level trends.

# Chronic Absenteeism

## Count and Percent of Students Chronically Absent ( $\geq 10\%$ Absences)

### Survey 5 (End of year reporting)

Year	Count	Percent
18-19	4,697	24.4%
19-20**	3,251	17.1%
20-21	5,071	26.9%
21-22	6,536	34.3%
22-23	6,162	33.1%
23-24*	6,322	30.8%

Source: FLDOE [www.fldoe.org/accountability/data-sys/edu-info-accountability-services/pk-12-public-school-data-pubs-reports/students.stml](http://www.fldoe.org/accountability/data-sys/edu-info-accountability-services/pk-12-public-school-data-pubs-reports/students.stml)

\*Source: SDIRC FOCUS Student Information System; FLDOE has not released 23-24 data at the time of this report creation.

\*\* Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, schools were closed March 20, 2020

### Narrative:

While 2023-2024 data is still preliminary, the percentage of chronically absent students has decreased by 2.3 percentage points in Indian River County. In 2022-2023 the state average was 30.9%. If the state data remains relatively the same, Indian River County is moving closer to the state average in a positive direction.

# 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

## High School Graduation Rates

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

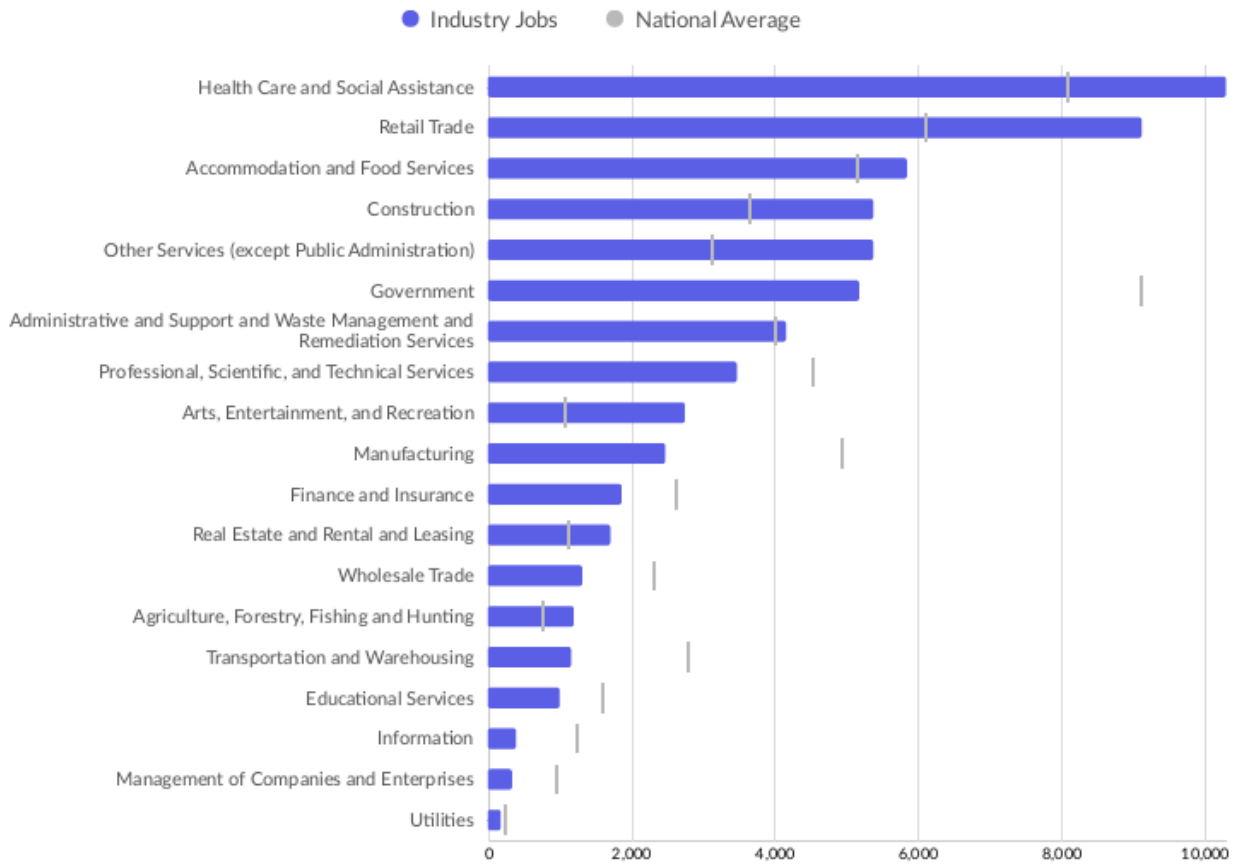
### Narrative:

Graduation data continues to be above state averages. 23-24 will not be official until January of 2025.

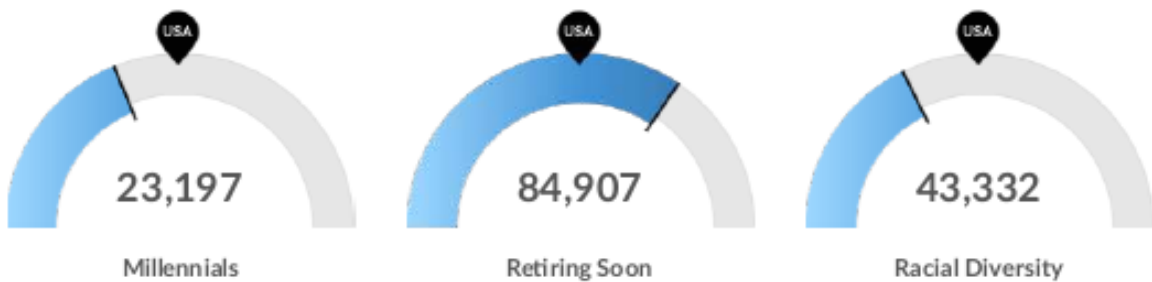
# Workforce Data

## Industry Characteristics

### Largest Industries



## Population Characteristics



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

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 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:

Graduation rates continue to exceed state averages, marking five consecutive years of success. Our findings highlight the need for additional vocational training and stronger partnerships with local businesses to expand career readiness pathways. We recommend developing partnerships with regional employers and trade programs to prepare students for diverse post-graduation opportunities.



# 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://efaidnbnmnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/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)
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# 2024-2027 CSAC NEEDS ASSESSMENT

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# THANK YOU

