

The Status of **Girls** in **Indiana** 2013



Prepared by



SAINT
MARY'S
COLLEGE
NOTRE DAME, IN

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Saint Mary's College

Saint Mary's College, Notre Dame, Ind., is a four-year, Catholic, residential, women's liberal arts college offering five bachelor's degrees and more than 30 major areas of study, such as business, nursing, art, chemistry, and social work. The College's single-gender environment has been proven, in study after study, to foster confidence, ethical leadership, and strong academic success. Saint Mary's College ranks 76 among the "Best National Liberal Arts Colleges" for 2014 published by *U.S. News*. Founded in 1844 by the Sisters of the Holy Cross, Saint Mary's College's mission is to educate women and prepare them for postgraduate success whether it's a first job, graduate school, or postgraduate service.



A Message from the President

As the President of Saint Mary's College I am pleased to present this research report on *The Status of Girls in Indiana*. As a women's college, we have been educating women since 1844. Because of this mission, we are also deeply concerned about the status of girls. The data contained in this report can and should impact decisions made at both the state and local levels about this vital constituency in Indiana.

It is my hope that the information contained herein will inform educators, policy makers, legislators, health professionals, and many others as they look for ways to promote the health and well being of Indiana girls. We know that early intervention is the key to successfully changing behaviors and attitudes. Awareness of both the achievements made in Indiana, and the opportunities that still exist to create a better environment for girls, will help us move forward in an informed way. Our girls deserve every chance to improve their lives and achieve their dreams. We will all benefit from their success.

I want to acknowledge the fine work of a team of faculty and students at Saint Mary's, led by Kristin E. Jehring Kuter, assistant professor of mathematics, and Gina Deom '13. Thanks also goes to Catherine Pellegrino, reference librarian/instructional coordinator, for her invaluable assistance, and to the integrated marketing communications department at Saint Mary's for their assistance with the design of this report.

Carol A. Mooney

Introduction

The goal of this report is to highlight the status of girls between the ages of 10 and 19 years old in the state of Indiana with respect to issues such as education and health. Many reports regarding the condition of children and adolescents exist for both the state and the nation; however, these reports do not focus solely on girls. In preparing this report, data specific to girls has been pulled from many sources, including various state and federal government agencies and nonprofit organizations, with the intent of centralizing and summarizing available information regarding girls in Indiana. This report is a first step towards creating a data warehouse for the state of Indiana.

The following is a summary of the most notable information contained in this report.

Demographics

According to the 2010 U.S. Census, approximately seven percent (or about 450,000 people) of Indiana's population is made up of girls between the ages of 10 and 19 years old. The number of girls between the ages of 10 and 17 years old in Indiana grew by over three percent from 2000 to 2010. Over a quarter of these girls lived in the metro area of Indianapolis-Carmel. Indiana's girls are not as diverse as U.S. girls overall. More specifically, 80 percent of Indiana's girls are white, 11 percent are black or African American, two percent are Asian, three percent are multiracial, four percent are some other race (including American Indian, Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian, and other Pacific Islander), and eight percent are Hispanic or Latina. Despite the relatively small populations within minority groups in Indiana, these populations were the main force behind the increase in the state's child population. Indiana has the third largest population of Old Order Amish in the nation. Indiana's children, similar to children nationwide, are more likely to grow up in a single-parent family today than they were a decade ago. In fact, 33 percent of families with children under 18 years old are headed by a single parent, with 24 percent of these families having a female householder. Poverty is a larger concern for single-mother families in Indiana than single-father families, with 45 percent of single-mother families living below the poverty level in 2011, compared to 27 percent of single-father families. Furthermore, nearly 112,000 Indiana girls and almost half of black or African American girls between the ages of six and 17 were living in poverty in Indiana in 2011. Finally, eight percent (or 42,000 people) of Indiana's girls between the ages of six and 17 did not have health insurance in 2011.

Education

In all grades girls more often received pass and pass+ ratings on the English/language arts section of the ISTEP+ exam than their male peers. Indiana's girls are more likely to have taken an Advanced Placement (AP) exam compared to their male peers. In fact, 55 percent of the exams taken in Indiana in 2012 were by girls. However, even though more girls sat for AP exams, boys tended to receive higher scores than their female peers. Specifically, 52 percent of boys who sat for an AP exam in Indiana in 2012 received a passing score, compared to only 42 percent of girls. It is not all bad news though, with girls being more likely than boys in Indiana to pass foreign language and art AP exams. Indiana's girls performed 39 points less, on average, than Indiana's boys on the math section of the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT). In addition, Indiana's girls were at least 11 percent less likely to meet college benchmark scores on the ACT for mathematics and science compared to boys in Indiana. Indiana's girls were more likely to graduate from high school than their male peers: 91 percent of girls graduated compared to 86 percent of male students.

Physical Health

The percentage of high school girls in Indiana that were overweight in 2011 was 18.5 percent and the percentage of girls that were obese was 11.5 percent. Indiana's high school girls were more likely to be overweight than U.S. high school girls in 2011. Additionally, Indiana's high school girls were more likely to be overweight in 2011 than they were in 2003. Finally, a significantly larger percentage of Indiana's high school girls were overweight than high school boys in 2011. At 24 percent of the population, black or African American high school girls in Indiana were more likely to be obese than white high school girls (10 percent) in 2011. Indiana's high school girls are not as physically active as boys; 20 percent of high school girls in Indiana in 2011 did not participate in at least 60 minutes of physical activity on any day of a given week. Furthermore, the diets of Indiana's high school girls do not meet federal recommendations and are worse than the diets of Indiana's high school boys and high school girls across the nation.

Media Usage

In 2011, 27 percent of Indiana's high school girls reported watching television for three or more hours per day on an average school day, significantly less than girls nationwide. Additionally in 2011, 20 percent of Indiana's high school girls reported using computers for three or more hours per day for nonschool purposes on an average school day, including playing video or computer games. This was less than their male counterparts by 17 percent. Girls are more likely than boys to use the Internet for socializing purposes. Girls in Indiana have less access to computers and the Internet than girls nationwide.

Reproductive Health

In Indiana's high schools, roughly 51 percent of girls in grades nine-12 in 2011 admitted to having sexual intercourse at some point in their life. However, only 40 percent of Indiana's high school girls were sexually active in 2011. Of Indiana's sexually active high school girls in 2011, 13 percent admitted to not using any method to prevent pregnancy during her last sexual encounter; more specifically, 42 percent did not use a condom. Teen pregnancy is on the decline for both the U.S. overall and Indiana, but it is not improving as quickly in the state of Indiana. In 2010, there were 8,756 births to Indiana's girls under 20 years of age. Seventy-one percent of these births were to girls aged 18 or 19 years old, and 68 percent of these mothers were non-Hispanic white girls. Furthermore, 16 percent of these births were repeat births and 90 percent were outside of marriage. In 2008, Indiana's abortion rate among girls ages 15-19 years was eight per 1,000 girls, ranking 42nd out of the 50 states. Teen abortion rates in Indiana vary across racial and ethnic groups, the highest occurring among black or African American girls at 21 per 1,000 girls.

Substance and Alcohol Abuse

The majority of users for most drugs within each grade level are male, with a few exceptions, indicating that substance abuse is a more significant issue among Indiana's boys than girls. In the month prior to being surveyed in 2011, 16 percent of Indiana's female high school students had smoked at least one cigarette, 34 percent had consumed at least one drink of alcohol, and 16 percent had used marijuana at least once; whereas, 20 percent of Indiana's male high school students had smoked at least one cigarette, 33 percent had consumed at least one drink of alcohol, and 23 percent had used marijuana at least once in the past month. Monthly usage of cigarettes was

significantly higher among Indiana's girls than boys in the seventh and eighth grades in 2012. Monthly usage of alcohol was significantly higher for Indiana's girls in grades eight and nine than boys in 2012. Significantly more female students in Indiana in 2012 used prescription drugs to get high than male students in grades seven and eight and significantly more female students used over-the-counter drugs to get high in grades eight and nine. Almost two percent of Indiana's female 12th graders in 2012 reported purchasing prescription drugs from a friend in the past month to get high. Indiana's female students in 2012 were more likely to use inhalants in the eighth grade than male students.

Mental Health

Indiana's girls were more likely than boys to report feeling sad or hopeless almost every day that they stopped doing some usual activities. In a 2012 survey, about a third of Indiana's female students in grades eight through 10 reported feeling sad or hopeless. Indiana's girls were also more likely than boys to consider, plan, and attempt suicide. The percentages increased from grade six to grade eight or nine and then decreased. In fact, in each category (consider, plan, and attempt suicide) the largest percentage occurred in eighth grade, with 20.4 percent of Indiana's female eighth grade students having considered suicide, 14.1 percent having planned suicide and 11.5 percent having attempted suicide at least once. Data suggests that having numerous Indiana high school girls have weight concerns and thus are at risk for developing unhealthy dieting behaviors. In 2011, 37 percent of Indiana's high school students described themselves as slightly or very overweight, compared to only 30 percent that were actually overweight or obese. High school girls in Indiana struggle with their body image more than high school boys. In 2011, Indiana's high school girls were more likely than all U.S. high school girls to take diet pills, powders, or liquids, as well as vomit or take laxatives in order to lose weight or to keep from gaining weight. Data suggest that eating disorders may affect Hispanic or Latina girls more than black or African American or white girls in Indiana.

Violence and Abuse

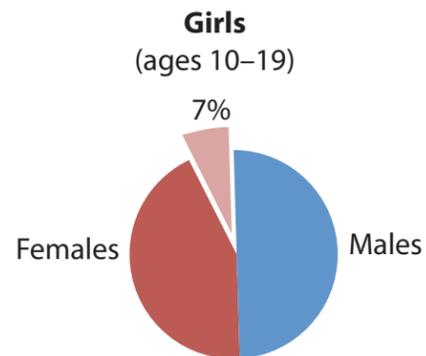
Girls are more likely to be sexually abused than boys. In Indiana in 2009, over 2,700 girls between ages seven and 18 years old were sexually abused. There were 27 total child fatalities from abuse reported in 2011, with 12 of them being female. There were 13 total child fatalities from neglect reported in 2011, with eight of them being female. In 2011, 14.5 percent of Indiana's female high school students reported being raped. Furthermore, the percentage of Indiana's high school girls who reported that they had been physically forced to have sexual intercourse was significantly greater than the national rate in 2009 and 2011. In 2011, 28 percent of Indiana's female high school students reported being bullied on school property. Among Indiana's high school students, electronic bullying is more common among girls than boys. Indiana's female high school students in 2011 were far less likely than male students to be involved in a physical fight. Far fewer girls reported handling weapons in 2011 than boys. ■

Demographics

Male and Female Population

According to the 2010 U.S. Census, women and girls made up just over half of Indiana's 2010 population at 50.8 percent (or 3,294,065 people). Approximately seven percent of Indiana's 2010 population (or 453,236 people) were girls ages 10–19. This amount was about 20,000 less than the number of boys ages 10–19 in 2010. Indiana's girls were slightly outnumbered by boys. The distribution for each age was almost even for both girls and boys (see **Figure 1**). Ages 18 and 19 had the largest population of girls in Indiana, making up 21.5 percent of the female population ages 10–19 in 2010.¹

Figure 1:
Indiana's population by sex, 2010



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census

According to the article “Census 2010: Children = Diversity” in *InContext*, “Indiana bucked the broader regional trend by having an increase in the number of children (ages zero to 17) in the state compared to Census 2000.”² The number of girls ages 10–17 in Indiana grew by over three percent from 2000 to 2010.³ Indiana was one of only four states in the 23 Northeast and Midwest states that saw an increase in the child population. This growth did not occur evenly across the state, but was sustained in only a few large metropolitan areas, college communities, and counties with large Amish populations, areas we will explore further in the following sections.

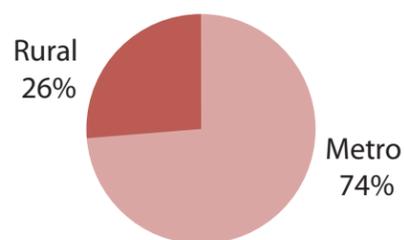
Metro and Rural Population

There are 92 counties in the state of Indiana. Nearly 60 percent of these counties are designated rural, while the other 40 percent are included in metropolitan areas. Within the state, the U.S. Census Bureau classifies 14 metropolitan areas. Metropolitan areas have a population of at least 50,000 and consist of the central county or counties containing the majority as well as any surrounding counties socially and economically dependent on the central county.⁴ These metro areas are labeled by the most populous city or pair of cities in the central county. Note that Gary and surrounding communities are part of the much larger metropolitan area of Chicago, Ill., but the data for the Gary component can be isolated and reported separately.

Overall, nearly 74 percent (or 333,342 people) of Indiana's girls ages 10–19 lived in the 14 metropolitan areas in 2010. The Indianapolis-Carmel metro area had the highest population of girls ages 10–19 at 122,392. The smallest population of this age group

was in the metro area of Columbus with 5,156 girls ages 10–19.⁵

Figure 2:
Indiana's girls ages 10–19, metro vs. rural, 2010

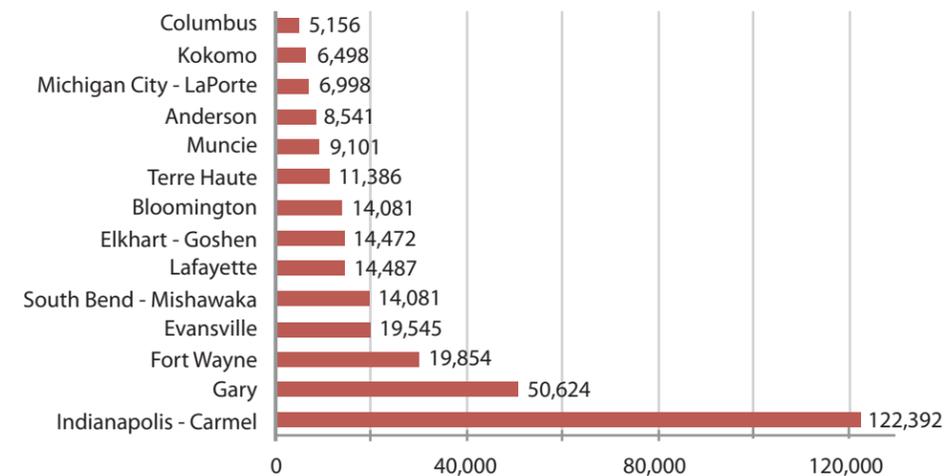


Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census

The Indianapolis-Carmel metro area accounted for most of the growth in Indiana's child population between 2000 and 2010. This metro area consists of 10 counties: Boone, Brown, Hamilton, Hancock, Hendricks, Johnson, Marion, Morgan, Putnam, and Shelby. In six of these counties⁶ the child population increased from 2000 to 2010. With the exception of Marion County, the increase in these counties exceeded 10 percent. Further, there were only three other counties in

Indiana with an increase in the child population exceeding 10 percent.⁷ Overall, the population of girls ages 10–19 in the Indianapolis-Carmel metro area grew by 16 percent from 2000 to 2010.⁸

Figure 3: Indiana's girls ages 10–19 by metropolitan area, 2010



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census

Diversity

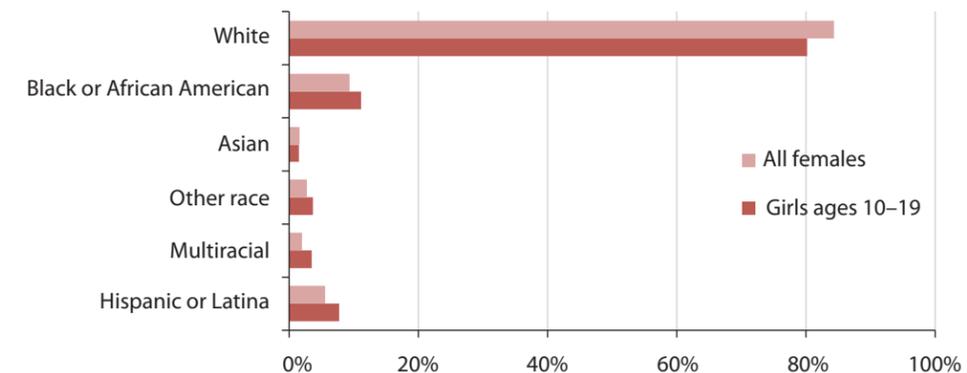
The state of Indiana is not as diverse as the country as a whole: 80 percent of Indiana's girls ages 10–19 in 2010 were white, compared to 66 percent for the corresponding nationwide demographic. Additionally, 11 percent of Indiana's girls ages 10–19 were black or African American, compared to 15 percent nationally. Further, only eight percent of Indiana's girls identified themselves as Hispanic or Latina compared to 21 percent for all U.S. girls in 2010.⁹ **However, while Indiana's girls are not as diverse as U.S. girls overall, girls ages 10–19 were slightly more diverse than women of all ages in Indiana.** (see **Table 1** and **Figure 4**).

Table 1: Female population by age group, race, and ethnicity, 2010

Race/Ethnicity	IN girls ages 10-19	%	US girls ages 10-19	%	IN females	%
All	453,236		20,834,009		3,294,065	
White	363,274	80%	13,792,016	66%	2,778,195	84%
Black or African American	50,487	11%	3,186,612	15%	307,845	9%
Asian	6,837	2%	903,136	4%	53,002	2%
Other Race	16,874	4%	1,987,109	10%	90,102	3%
Multiracial	15,764	3%	965,136	5%	64,921	2%
Hispanic or Latina	34,911	8%	4,398,980	21%	184,770	6%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census

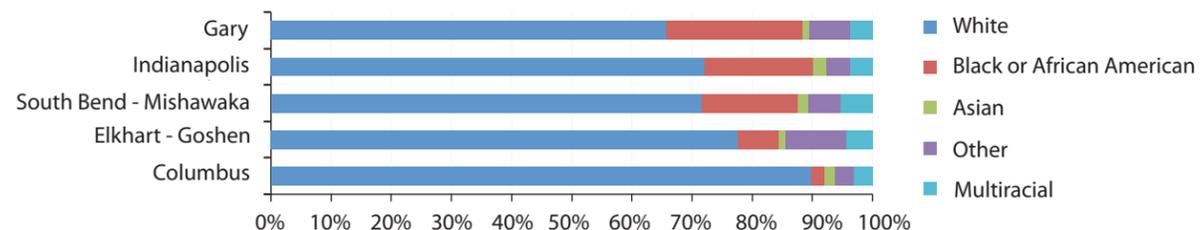
Figure 4: Share of Indiana's female population and girls ages 10–19 by race/ethnicity, 2010



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census

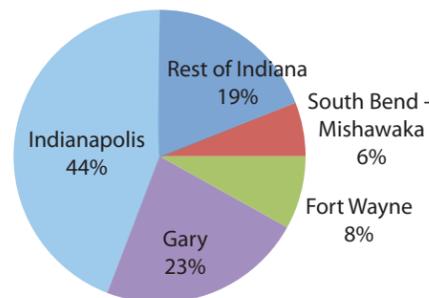
In 2010, over two-thirds of the black or African American population of girls ages 10–19 in the state of Indiana lived in the two metropolitan areas of Gary and Indianapolis-Carmel. The least diverse metro area was Columbus where 90 percent of girls ages 10–19 were white and only two percent black or African American. Columbus was also the metro area with the fewest girls ages 10–19.¹⁰

Figure 5: Indiana's girls ages 10–19 by select metro areas and race, 2010



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census

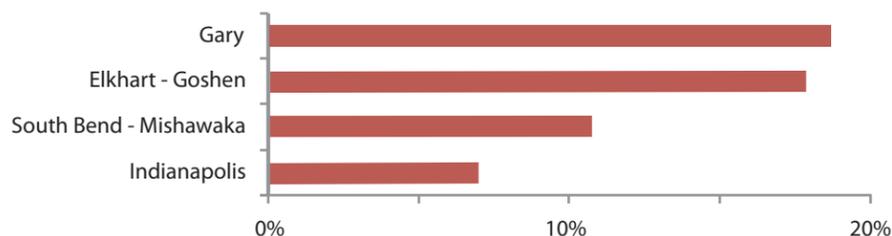
Figure 6: Indiana's population of black or African American girls ages 10–19 by metro area, 2010



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census

Over half of Hispanic or Latina girls ages 10–19 in Indiana also lived in the two metropolitan areas of Gary and Indianapolis-Carmel in 2010. However, only seven percent of girls ages 10–19 were Hispanic or Latina in the Indianapolis-Carmel metro area. The three northern metropolitan areas of Gary, Elkhart-Goshen, and South Bend-Mishawaka had the highest proportion of Hispanic or Latina girls ages 10–19 relative to the total number of girls, at about 19 percent, 18 percent, and 11 percent, respectively. The metro area of Terre Haute had the least number of Hispanic or Latina girls ages 10–19 with fewer than two percent.¹¹

Figure 7: Percentage of girls ages 10–19 identified as Hispanic or Latina in select metro areas, 2010



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census

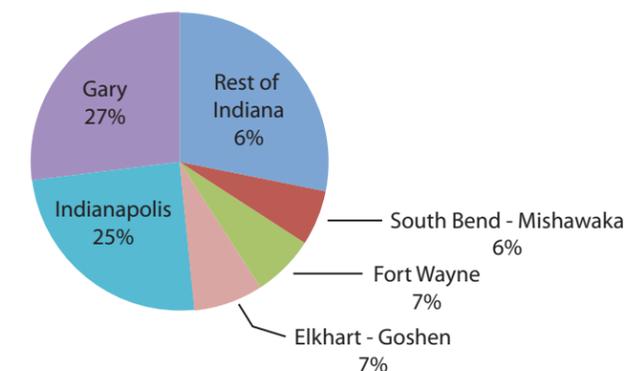
Given these figures, while the population of girls ages 10–19 in the state is not as diverse as girls nationwide, the northern half of the state is more diverse than the southern half and, in fact, the metro area of Gary is more diverse than the nation overall.

Minority groups in Indiana, although small in numbers, were the main force behind the increase in the state's child population.¹² While the number of non-Hispanic white girls ages 10–19 in Indiana decreased by almost five percent between 2000 and 2010, the number of black or African American girls increased by 15 percent, the number of Asian girls increased by 80 percent, and the number of multiracial girls more than doubled. Also, the number of Hispanic or Latina girls ages 10–19 in Indiana nearly doubled from 2000 to 2010.¹³

Immigration

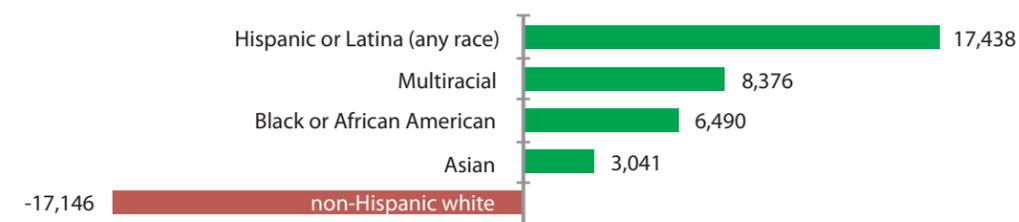
It is estimated that 307,194 immigrants (i.e., foreign-born) lived in Indiana in 2011 (or 4.7 percent of the population), of which 49.2 percent were women and girls.¹⁴ This was an increase of 1.6 percent from 2000, and is consistent with the growth in the U.S. immigrant population from 2000 to 2011.¹⁵ Of Indiana's immigrants in 2011, 35.1 percent (or 107,751 people) were naturalized U.S. citizens, with women and girls comprising 53.9 percent of these citizens.¹⁶ For immigrants under 18 years of age, 55.3 percent (or 17,857 people) were women and girls, and 30.8 percent (or 5,507 people) of these girls were citizens.¹⁷ (The number of foreign-born girls between the ages of 10 and 19 years was not available.)¹⁸

Figure 8: Indiana's Hispanic or Latina girls ages 10–19 by metro area, 2010



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census

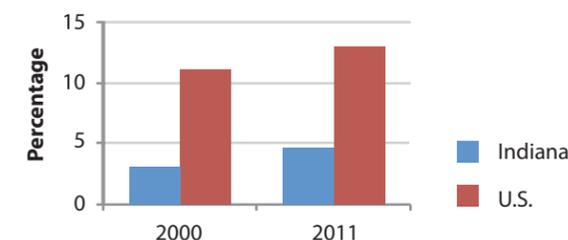
Figure 9: Change in Indiana's population of girls ages 10–19 by race/ethnicity, 2000–2010



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census

Latin America is the largest source of the immigrant population in Indiana, comprising 48.1 percent of the immigrants in the state; Asia is the second largest source at 29.4 percent.¹⁹ The third largest contribution to the immigrant population in Indiana came from Europe (14.4 percent).²⁰ According to the Immigration Policy Center's report on "new Americans" in Indiana, "roughly one in 15 Hoosiers are Latino or Asian."²¹ Specifically, 6.1 percent (or 399,486 people) of Indiana's population in 2011 was Latino and 1.6 percent (or 102,695 people) was Asian.²²

Figure 10: Percentage of foreign-born residents in U.S. and Indiana

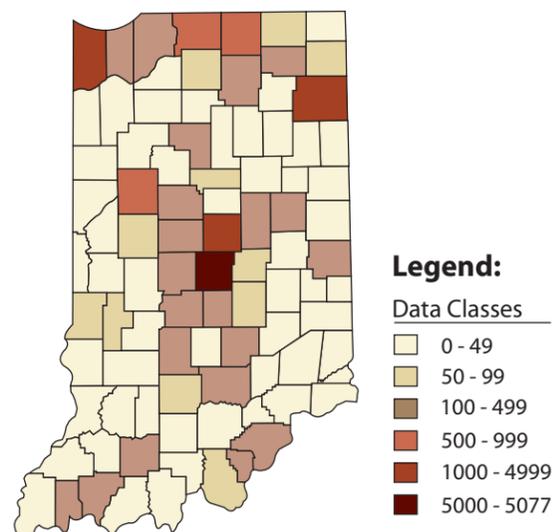


Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census & 2011 American Community Survey

The immigrant population in Indiana is mostly concentrated in metro areas, comprising 5.9 percent of Indiana's urban population in 2011, but only 2.2 percent of Indiana's rural population. The counties with the highest density of immigrants in 2011 were Tippecanoe (10.6 percent), Elkhart (8.9 percent), Monroe (8.3 percent), Marion (7.9 percent), Hamilton (7.7 percent), and Lake (7.5 percent).²³

As noted above, **there were 17,857 foreign-born girls under 18 years old in Indiana in 2011**, almost 2.3 percent of the total population of girls under 18 years old in the state. Of the foreign-born girls, 5,507 were naturalized U.S. citizens. This represents only about one percent of girls under age 18 in Indiana, whereas the number of noncitizens in this group represents 1.6 percent (or 12,350 people) of girls under age 18 in Indiana.²⁴ The counties with the largest proportion of foreign-born girls in 2011 were Marion (4.6 percent), Clinton (4.1 percent), Tippecanoe (3.8 percent), Cass (3.6 percent), and Monroe (3.5 percent) counties.²⁵ Two of the three counties (Clinton and

Figure 11: Indiana's foreign-born girls under 18 years old by county, 2011



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2007-2011 American Community Survey

Cass) are in rural areas. Both counties are intersected by U.S. Interstate 65, which most likely contributed to the higher immigrant density than is usual in rural counties.

In 2011, there were 64,455 foreign-born students ages three and over enrolled in Indiana schools, with 31,725 of these being girls. More specifically, 52.5 percent of foreign-born female students in Indiana were enrolled in kindergarten to 12th grade classes, and 45.2 percent were enrolled at the college or graduate level.²⁶ According to data from the Urban Institute, 81.4 percent of children with immigrant parents were

considered “English proficient” as of 2009. The English proficiency rate among Asian children in Indiana was 86.4 percent, while for Latino children it was 83.8 percent as of 2009.²⁷

Again according to the Immigration Policy Center’s report, “immigrants are integral to Indiana’s economy as students” in higher education.²⁸ According to NAFSA: Association of International Educators, it is estimated that Indiana’s 22,194 foreign students at institutions of higher education in the 2011–2012 academic year and their families contributed \$688.2 million to the state’s economy in tuition, fees, and living expenses.²⁹

In summary, while the immigrant population in Indiana is not large, it is growing and it is important to the economy of and politics within the state. There does not seem to be much detailed information on immigrant girls ages 10–19 readily available, indicating an area for possible further research, especially as the population increases.

Amish Population

According to the 2010 U.S. Religious Census, **Indiana had the third largest population of Old Order Amish in the nation**, with 19 settlements comprising a population of over 45,000 (or 19 percent of the nation’s Amish population). Even though Indiana’s Amish population was behind the Amish populations of Ohio (59,000) and Pennsylvania (58,000), Indiana had the highest proportion of Amish relative to the overall state population at 0.7 percent (compared to 0.5 percent in Ohio and Pennsylvania).³⁰

Within Indiana, LaGrange County had the highest number of Amish adherents at 14,011, followed by Adams (6,343) and Elkhart (6,244) counties. If proportion of Amish relative to the overall county population is considered, then the top counties were LaGrange (37.7 percent), Adams (18.5 percent), and Daviess (11.7 percent). Finally, note that LaGrange County had the third largest Amish population among all U.S. counties.³¹

While the U.S. Religious Census does not collect specific information about the sex and age of a congregation’s membership, it is estimated that in most Amish communities over half of the population is less than 18 years of age.³² This suggests that about one percent of Indiana girls less than 18 years of age are Amish and that population is growing.³³ The 2012 estimate for Indiana’s Amish population is 47,235, an increase of 4.4 percent from the 2010 population.³⁴ Given this fairly swift growth rate and the lack of detailed information about Amish girls, this may become an important area for future research.



Households and Family Structures

In 2010, there were 2,502,154 households in Indiana. Of that total, 1,674,126 were family households, meaning that at least one member of the household is related to the householder by birth, marriage, or adoption. Of the family households, 1,241,267 were husband-wife families. For the remaining family households, 122,677 had male heads of house with no wife present and 310,182 had female heads of house with no husband present. Note that the categories “male householder, no wife present” and “female householder, no husband present” do not always imply “single father” and “single mother” households, respectively. These categories include households that may have other adults present that are simply unrelated to the householder, and so they include cohabiting couples. Furthermore, note that in the 2010 Census, same-sex couple households having no relatives of the householder present are counted as nonfamily households, where a nonfamily household is a household consisting of a single person or a group of unrelated people.³⁵



As mentioned earlier, the number of children in Indiana increased between 2000 and 2010. Those children are living in fewer households today than a decade ago, as pointed out in the *InContext* article “Where Are the Kids? Indiana Households with Children.” This conclusion can be drawn from the fact that the number of family households in Indiana has decreased by almost three percent (or 21,119 fewer households with children).³⁶ Further, the composition of families in Indiana is shifting. Of the family households in 2010 with children of their own under 18 years old, roughly 67 percent (or 497,470 families) were headed by a husband and wife, nine percent (or 66,289 families) had a male head of household with no wife present, and 24 percent (or 182,958 families) had a female head of household with no husband present.³⁷ These figures correspond with national statistics (see **Table 2**). These figures also reflect a decrease in the number of married couple families with children, but an increase in the number of single-parent families. In fact, according to the same *InContext* article mentioned above, “Since Census 2000. . .Indiana now has 58,643 fewer married-couple households with kids, while the number of single-mother households in the state grew by 22,647 and single-father households increased by 14,877.”³⁸ A similar trend is occurring nationwide. **Children today, in Indiana and the United States, are more likely to grow up in a single-parent family than they were a decade ago.**

Table 2: Family type by presence of own children under 18 years old, 2010

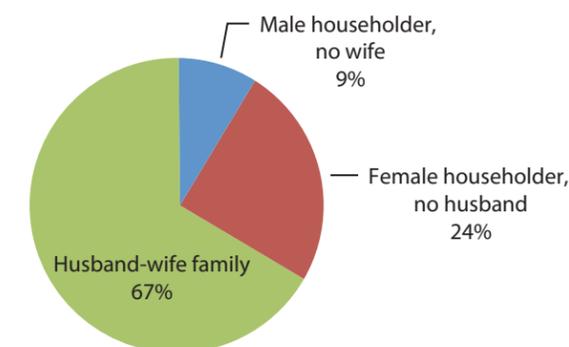
	IN families	%	U.S. families	%
Male householder, no wife	66,289	9%	2,789,268	8%
Female householder, no husband	182,958	25%	8,365,912	24%
Husband - wife family	497,470	67%	23,588,268	68%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census

Recall that single-parent households also include households with unmarried partners.

In 2010, nearly half of single-father families in Indiana had an unmarried partner present (either opposite or same sex), whereas only 20 percent of single-mother families had an unmarried partner present (see **Table 3**). **Over four times more families with children under 18 years old present are headed by a truly single-mother (i.e., no partner present) than by a single father.**

Figure 12: Indiana’s families by type, 2010



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census

The figures for the population of children under 18 years old in Indiana by family type agree with those for households. While the

Table 3: Single-Parent households in Indiana, 2010

	All Families	Opposite Sex Unmarried Partner	Same Sex Unmarried Partner	Single Father/Mother
Male Householder	66,289	30,505	1,310	34,474
Female Householder	182,958	34,385	2,542	146,031

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census

majority of this population lived in a married-couple family (987,945 people or 69 percent) in 2010, this number has decreased since 2000, at which time 75 percent of Indiana's children under 18 years old lived in married-couple families.³⁹ Again, this trend matches a similar nationwide trend (see Table 4). This reiterates the fact that children in 2010 are more likely to be raised in a single-parent family than they were in 2000, both in Indiana and nationwide.

Table 4: Percentage of children under 18 years old by family type

Family Type	IN children		U.S. children	
	2000	2010	2000	2010
Married Couple	75%	69%	74%	70%
Single Father	6%	8%	5%	7%
Single Mother	19%	23%	21%	23%

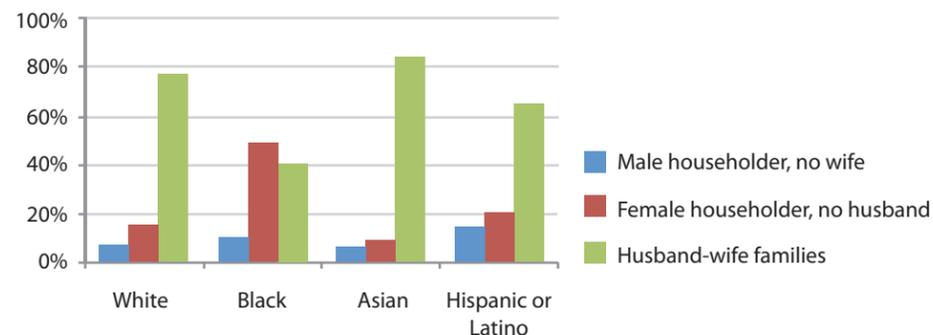
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 & 2010 Census

For same-sex couples in Indiana in 2010, there were 7,019 households headed by same-sex, unmarried

partners, both male, and 9,409 households headed by same-sex, unmarried partners, both female.⁴⁰ In these households, 19 percent (or 1,310 households) of same-sex, male unmarried-partner households and 27 percent (or 2,542 households) of same-sex, female unmarried-partner households had children of their own under 18 years old (see Table 3). This represents 8,473 children under the age of 18.⁴¹

When looking at family types for different races/ethnicities, families for which the householder is white or Asian have similar proportions across the different types, with Asian families primarily being husband-wife families. Families with a black or African American householder are virtually split between husband-wife families and families with a female householder, no husband present. The number of families with a female householder and no husband present actually outnumber the husband-wife families when the householder is black or African American.⁴²

Figure 13: Family type in Indiana by race/ethnicity of householder, 2010



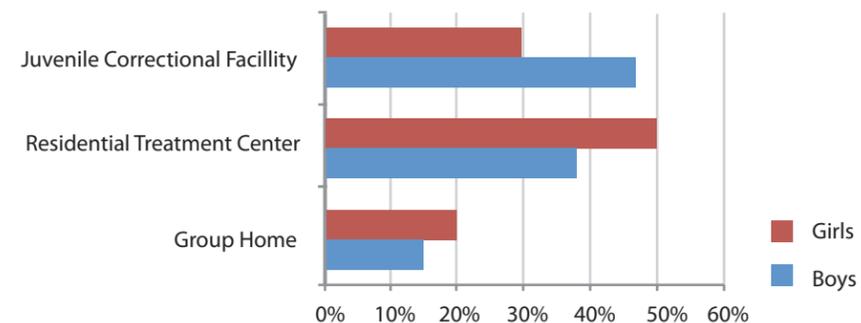
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census

There were 85,951 nonfamily households with children under 18 years old. Again, nonfamily households consist of members that are not related by birth, marriage, or adoption. So these nonfamily households with children under 18 years old would include households hosting foster children. According to the Indiana Department of Child Services, there are approximately 10,000 children in foster care in Indiana, and 51 percent of those children are girls.⁴³

Group Quarters

According to the 2010 Census, the number of boys ages 10–19 in institutional facilities in Indiana was over four times that of girls ages 10–19. More specifically, there were 1,614 boys in correctional facilities for adults (e.g., federal detention centers, federal prisons, and state prisons) and only 223 girls. There were 2,418 boys in juvenile facilities (group homes, residential treatment centers, and correctional facilities for juveniles) and only 943 girls. Of those girls in juvenile facilities, roughly 20 percent were in group homes for juveniles (non-correctional), 50 percent were in residential treatment centers for juveniles (non-correctional), and 30 percent were in correctional facilities intended for juveniles. The corresponding percentages for boys were 15 percent, 38 percent, and 47 percent (see Figure 14).⁴⁴ These figures indicate that **boys have more issues regarding criminal behavior than girls.**

Figure 14: Percentage of Indiana's children ages 10–19 in juvenile facilities by type and sex, 2010



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census

There were more female college/university students under 20 years old living in student housing in Indiana than male students. Specifically, there were 19,598 female students under 20 years old living in college/university student housing in 2010, compared to 17,438 male students under 20.⁴⁵ This most likely follows from the fact that more female students were enrolled in college in Indiana in 2010 than male students.

Poverty

While there are many ways to measure poverty, this report utilizes an absolute measure of poverty from U.S. Census Bureau data sets.⁴⁶ Namely, if an individual or family has income⁴⁷ below a specific line or threshold, they are considered to be living in poverty. These poverty thresholds depend on the family size and the ages of family members, and are adjusted annually for inflation.⁴⁸ For example, the 2011 poverty threshold for a family of four with two children under 18 years old is \$22,811, whereas, for a family with one adult and two children, it is \$18,123 (see Figure 15).

Figure 15: Selected poverty thresholds, 2011



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

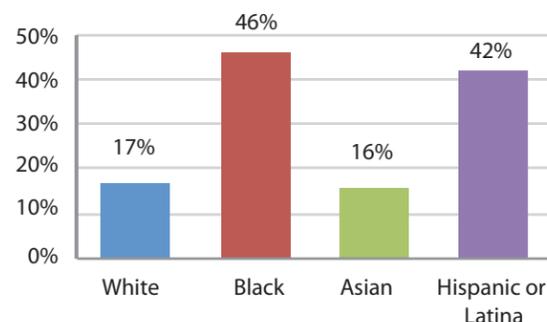
Indiana's poverty rates in 2011 were on par with the poverty rates for the U.S. overall. The poverty rate for all persons in Indiana was 16 percent (or approximately one million people) in 2011. The poverty rate for Indiana's 2011 population of children under 18 years old was 23 percent (or 361,000 people).⁴⁹ Both of these rates coincide with the rates for the U.S. overall. Indiana's child poverty rate for 2011 was ranked 18th highest out of all 50 states, tied with California, New York, and Oklahoma.⁵⁰

In 2011, over 150,000 families with children under 18 years old (or 19 percent of all such families) in Indiana were below the poverty level. For the different family types in Indiana, with children under 18 years old present, 7.5 percent of married-couple families (or 38,000 families), 27 percent of male-headed families with no wife present (or 17,500 families), and 45 percent of female-headed families with no husband present (or 99,000 families) were below the poverty level.⁵¹ **Poverty is a larger concern for single-mother families in Indiana than single-father families.**

Focusing on girls in Indiana, **there were nearly 112,000 girls ages six to 17 years old living below the poverty line in 2011**, representing 22 percent of Indiana's 2011 population of girls ages six–17.⁵² This accounts for almost a third (31 percent) of the total number of children under age 18 living in poverty in 2011.⁵³

Poverty is not as serious an issue for girls ages six–17 in Indiana that are white or Asian. It is a much more serious problem among the black or African American and Hispanic or Latino populations (see **Figure 16**). **In 2011, almost half of black or African American girls age six–17 were living in poverty in Indiana.**

Figure 16: Percentage of Indiana's girls ages 6–17 living in poverty, by race/ethnicity, 2011



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2011 American Community Survey

rate in Indiana is higher. **About 12 percent (or 181,000 people) of Indiana's 2011 population of children under 18 years old lived in extreme poverty.** This rate was an increase of two percent from the 2010 rate and was the seventh highest rate nationally.⁵⁴ Furthermore, 33 percent (or 527,000 people) of children lived in families where no parent had full-time, year-round employment in Indiana in 2011.

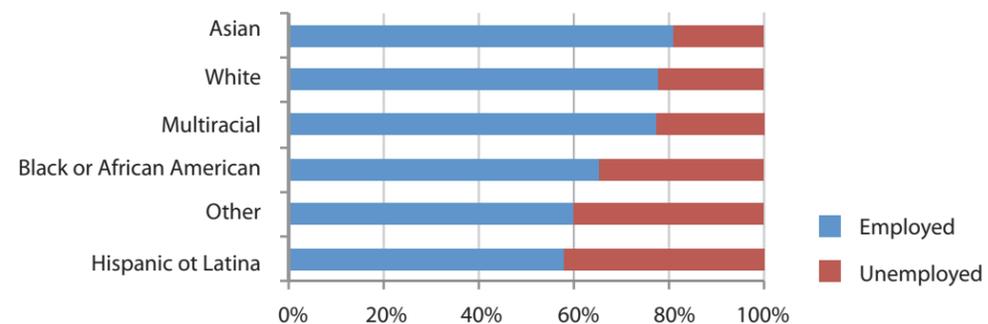
Employment

Indiana's girls seem to have a slight advantage over boys in finding employment. Girls ages 16–19 made up two percent (or 71,204 people) of the civilian labor force in Indiana in 2011 and only 24 percent of that group (or 17,018 people) were unemployed.⁵⁵ Thirty percent (or 20,816 people) of Indiana's boys ages 16–19 years were unemployed in 2011. Note that the civilian labor force consists of people who are classified as being either employed or unemployed. In order to be considered unemployed an individual must be actively looking for a job. So, for instance, full-time students not looking for work are not considered to be employed or unemployed.⁵⁶

Notice that ease of finding employment also varies according to race and ethnicity (see **Figure 17**). While white and Asian girls ages 16–19 in Indiana had unemployment rates of 22 percent and 19 percent in 2011, respectively, 35 percent of black or African American girls ages 16–19 in the labor force of Indiana were

unemployed. Worse yet, 42 percent of Hispanic or Latina girls ages 16–19 in the labor force of Indiana in 2011 were unemployed.⁵⁷

Figure 17: Unemployment rates for Indiana's girls ages 16–19, by race/ethnicity, 2011

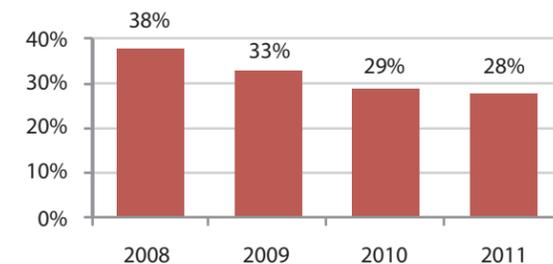


Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2011 American Community Survey

In 2011, 43,778 Indiana girls ages 16–19 years were both enrolled in school and employed, representing 28 percent of girls in this age group enrolled in school in Indiana. This indicates that 72 percent of enrolled female students in Indiana ages 16–19 were either unemployed (10,984 people) or not in the labor force (103,585 people) in 2011. Of recent female high school graduates between the ages of 16 and 19 years not enrolled in college in 2011, 53 percent (or 8,067 people) were employed and 22 percent (or 3,375 people) were unemployed. These results agree with what is expected, i.e., that recent high school graduates not enrolled in college are more likely than enrolled graduates to be working or looking for work. Finally, of Indiana's girls ages 16–19 years that did not graduate from high school and were not enrolled in school in 2011, 24 percent (or 2,341 people) were employed, whereas 76 percent were either unemployed (2,659 people) or not in the labor force (4,951 people).⁵⁸ This final statistic seems to reinforce the idea that finding a job without having a high school diploma is difficult.

Note that the number of Indiana's girls ages 16–19 years that were both enrolled in school and employed has decreased every year since 2008, with the most significant drop occurring from 2008 to 2009 (see **Figure 18**).⁵⁹ This can be explained by the recent recession that took place in the U.S. during 2007–2009, at which time more individuals chose to focus solely on school given the few job opportunities available.

Figure 18: Percentage of Indiana's girls ages 16–19 both enrolled in school and employed



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008–2011 American Community Survey

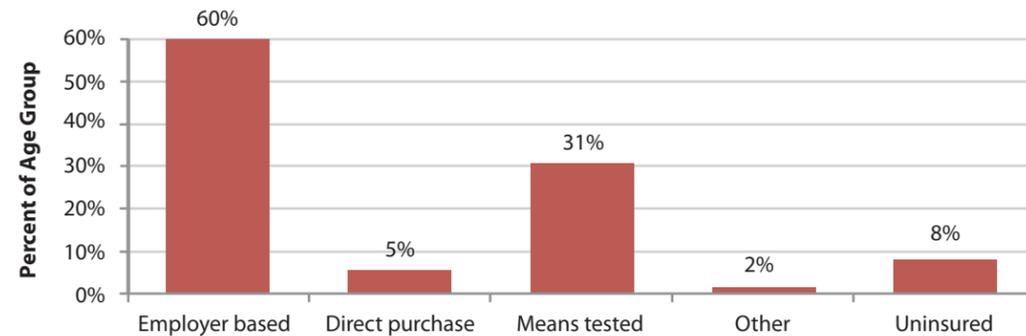
Health Insurance

Having adequate access to health insurance is a more serious issue for girls in Indiana than in neighboring states. **In 2011, there were 42,268 girls between the ages of six and 17 years in Indiana that did not have health insurance, representing eight percent of all girls ages six–17 years old in Indiana**, compared to only four percent of girls ages six–17 in Illinois and Michigan having no health insurance in 2011, and six percent of girls in Ohio and Kentucky. However, Indiana's uninsured rate for girls is the

same as the national statistic. Also, the 2011 rate is a decrease of one percent from the rate of uninsured girls in 2009 and 2010.⁶⁰

The most common type of health insurance Indiana's girls have is employer sponsored, with 60 percent (or 314,315 people) of girls ages six–17 years covered by this type in 2011. Another 31 percent of girls in this age group were covered by means tested health care in 2011. Means tested health care includes government assistance plans such as Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Plan (CHIP).⁶¹

Figure 19: Types of health insurance for Indiana's girls ages 6–17, 2011



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2011 American Community Survey

Education

Public and Non-Public School Enrollment

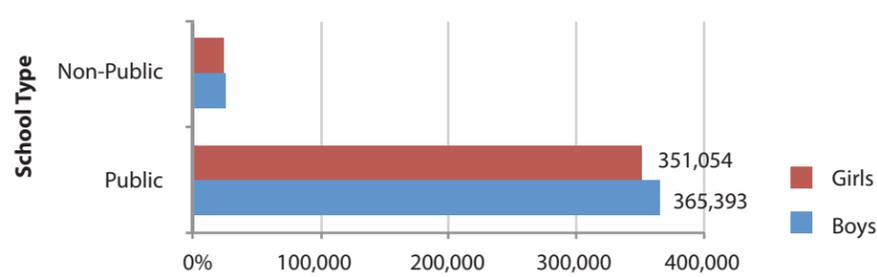
In the 2011–2012 school year, 1,186,871 students were enrolled in Indiana schools. Girls were outnumbered by boys in Indiana schools, representing 579,339 students or 48 percent of total enrollment. Ninety-four percent of students (1,114,274 students) were enrolled in public schools with girls comprising 48.8 percent of public school enrollment compared to 51.2 percent of boys. In Indiana's non-public schools, girls were a slightly larger percentage of enrollment compared to girls attending public school: 49.3 percent of students enrolled in non-public schools were girls.⁶²

Table 5: Indiana's public and non-public school enrollment, 2011–2012 school year

School Type	N Total	% Total	N Female	% Female	N Male	% Male
Public	1,114,274	93.9%	543,517	48.8%	570,757	51.2%
Non-Public	72,597	6.1%	35,822	49.3%	36,775	50.7%
Total	1,186,871	-	579,339	48.8%	607,532	51.2%

Source: Indiana Department of Education, Public Non-Public School Enrollment for Grades 4–12

Figure 20: Indiana's enrollment in grades 4–12 by gender and school type, 2011–2012 school year



Number of Students Enrolled in Grades 4–12

Source: Indiana Department of Education, Public Non-Public School Enrollment for Grades 4–12

Regarding Indiana's students ages 10–18, 716,542 public school students and 46,985 non-public school students (763,527 total students) were enrolled in grades four–12. Girls in both public and non-public schools comprised around 49 percent of their respective enrollments for grades four–12.⁶³

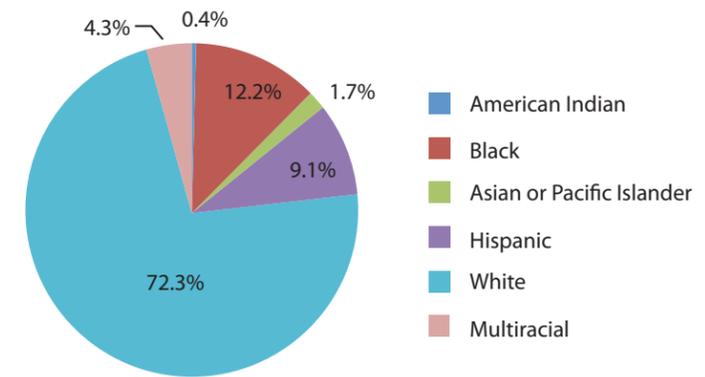
Public School Enrollment: Demographics

Even though most students enrolled in Indiana's public schools are white, their share in total enrollment has decreased by five percent since the 2005–2006 school year with Hispanic and multiracial students becoming more highly represented (see **Figure 22**).⁶⁴ Indiana public schools still remain less diverse than public schools throughout the United States. It was estimated that non-white students accounted for 48 percent of enrollment in U.S. public schools in the 2010–2011 school year.⁶⁵

The racial distribution of Indiana's students ages 10–18 (grades four through 12) confirm the above demographic changes in enrollment (see **Figure 23**). White students made up a smaller share of enrollment in lower grade levels (70.8 percent in grade four compared to 77 percent in grade 12). Hispanic students in grades four and five made up nearly ten percent of total enrollment compared to only 6.6 percent for students in grade 12. In addition, there was nearly a two percent gap in the enrollment of multiracial students between grades four and 12.⁶⁶ Indiana public school enrollment by race/ethnicity and gender is not yet publicly available.

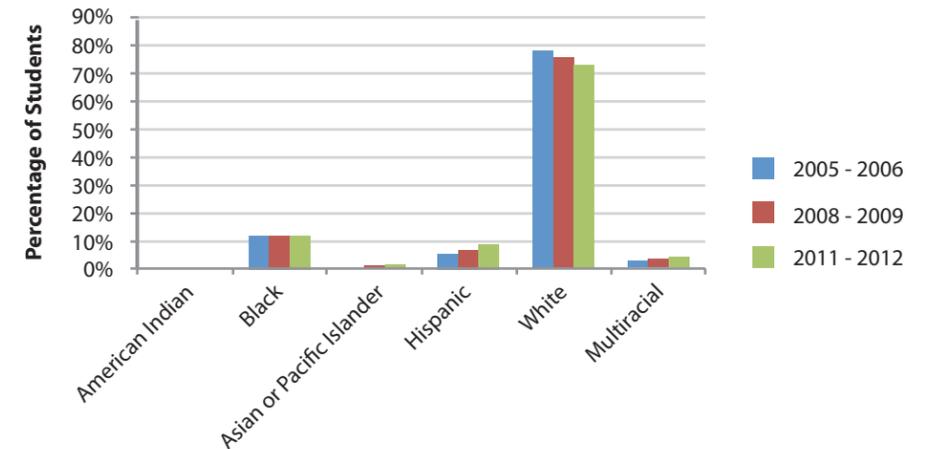
Just under half of Indiana's students qualified for free or reduced lunch in the

Figure 21: Indiana's public school enrollment by race/ethnicity, 2011–2012 school year



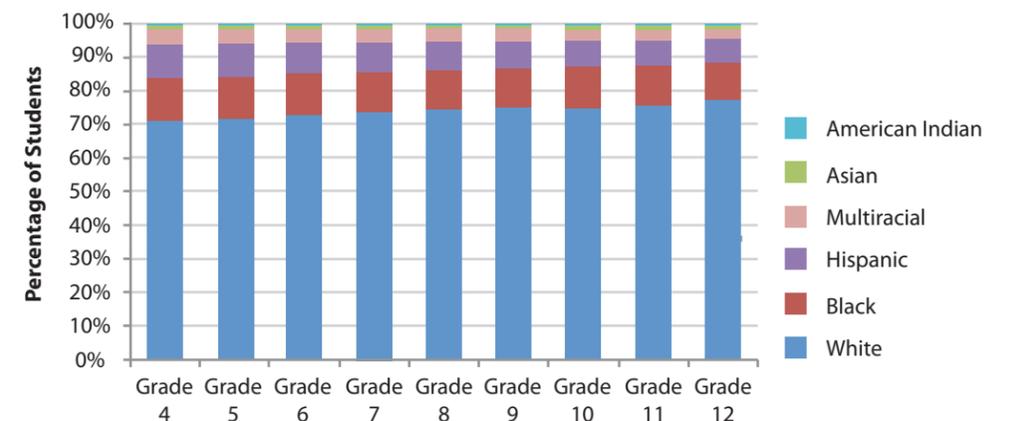
Source: Indiana Department of Education, Compass: Enrollment: Public School Enrollment by Race/Ethnicity All Grades

Figure 22: Indiana's public school enrollment by race/ethnicity, Fall 2005–Spring 2012



Source: Indiana Department of Education, Compass: Enrollment: Public School Enrollment by Race/Ethnicity All Grades

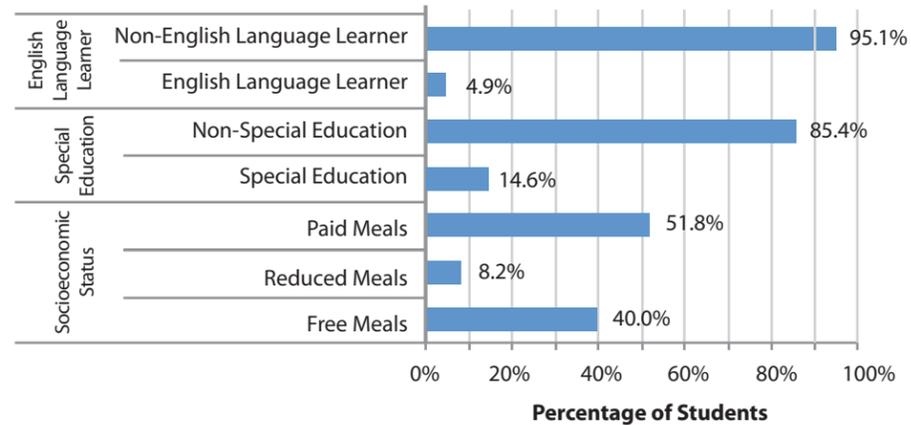
Figure 23: Indiana's public school enrollment by race/ethnicity and grade level, 2011–2012 school year



Source: Indiana Department of Education, Compass: Enrollment: Public School Enrollment by Race/Ethnicity All Grades

2011–2012 school year. English language learners⁶⁷ made up five percent of total enrollment while 14.6 percent of students were enrolled in special education classes across Indiana.⁶⁸ Enrollment by these variables and sex is not yet publicly available.

Figure 24: Indiana’s public school enrollment by other variables, 2011–2012 school year

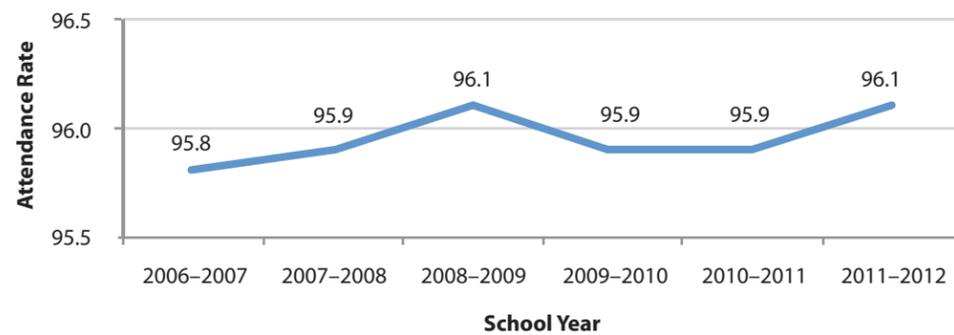


Source: Indiana Department of Education, *Compass: Public School Enrollment by Free/Reduced Price Meals, Special Education, and English Language Learners All Grades*

Attendance Rates

The attendance rate for Indiana schools has been around 96 percent since the 2006–2007 school year (see **Figure 25**). In the 2011–2012 school year, the attendance rate was tied with the 2008–2009 school year as the highest rate in the previous five school years: 96.1 percent of students enrolled in Indiana schools were in attendance daily. Students in higher grade levels were less likely to be at school daily; the attendance rate for Indiana students in grades four–eight was above 96 percent compared to only 94.8 percent for students in grade 12.⁶⁹ At this time, attendance rates for Indiana’s schools by sex are not yet publicly available.

Figure 25: Indiana’s school attendance rates, Fall 2006–Spring 2012



Source: Indiana Department of Education, *Compass: Attendance All Grades (Both Public and Non-Public)*

ISTEP+ Testing: Overall Performance

Since 1988, Indiana Statewide Testing for Educational Progress-Plus (ISTEP+) has been administered to students across Indiana. For the 2011–2012 school year, the ISTEP+ exam was administered in the spring, with students in grades three–eight being tested in English/language arts and mathematics, students in grades four and six being tested additionally in science, and students in grades five and seven being tested additionally in social studies.

Over 482,000 students in grades three–eight in both public and non-public schools took the English/language arts and mathematics sections: 482,494 students in English/language arts and 485,246 students in mathematics. Students in non-public

schools were more likely to pass both sections compared to their peers in public schools. However, within each school type, non-public school students performed better on the English/language arts section, and public school students performed better on the math section. Approximately 79 percent of all Indiana’s students taking the ISTEP+ received passing scores in English/language arts compared to 81 percent in math (see **Table 6**).⁷⁰

Table 6: Indiana’s English/language arts and mathematics ISTEP+ results by school type, Spring 2012

School Type	N ELA	N Pass ELA	% Pass ELA	N Math	N Pass Math	% Pass Math
Public	448,223	351,662	78.5%	450,906	363,400	80.6%
Non-Public	34,271	31,255	91.2%	34,340	30,610	89.1%
Total	482,494	382,917	79.4%	485,246	394,010	81.2%

Source: Indiana Department of Education, *Compass: Student Performance: ISTEP+*

Over 161,000 fourth and sixth graders took the science portion of the ISTEP+ and 162,916 fifth and seventh graders took the social studies portion. Similar to the English/language arts and math portions, students in non-public schools outperformed students attending public schools on both the science and social studies portions. However, within each school type, public school students performed better in science, whereas non-public school students received higher pass ratings in social studies. Overall, 72 percent of Indiana’s students received passing scores in science compared to 70 percent in social studies (see **Table 7**).⁷¹

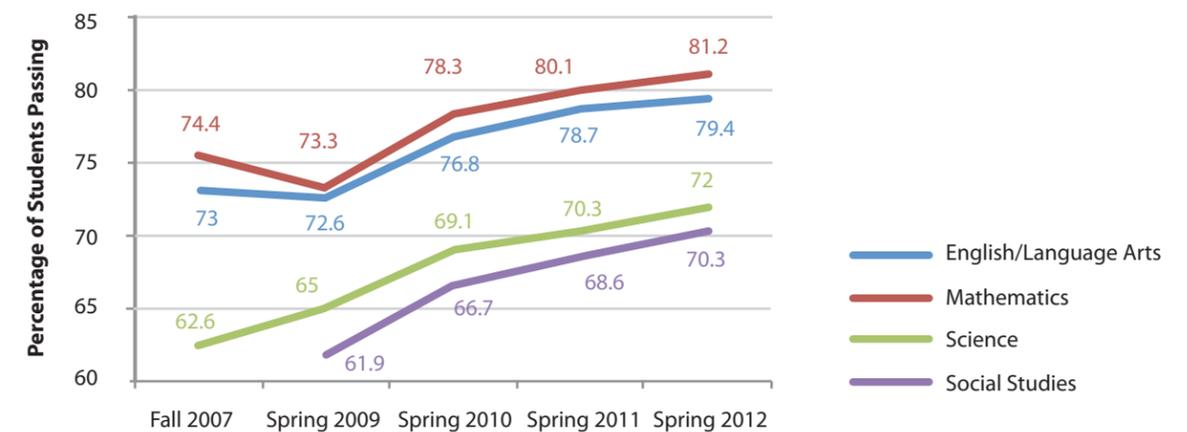
Table 7: Indiana’s science and social studies ISTEP+ results by school type, Spring 2012

School Type	N Science	N Pass Science	% Pass Science	N Social Studies	N Pass Social Studies	% Pass Social Studies
Public	149,695	106,269	71.0%	151,635	104,763	69.1%
Non-Public	11,772	10,030	85.2%	11,281	9,714	86.1%
Total	161,467	116,299	72.0%	162,916	114,477	70.3%

Source: Indiana Department of Education, *Compass: Student Performance: ISTEP+*

Other than slight decreases in performance for English/language arts and math portions in 2009, ISTEP+ scores have been trending upwards for Indiana schools since 2007 (see **Figure 26**). The largest improvements in the five-year period occurred for the science and social studies portions; there was at least an eight percent increase in the percentage of students passing those sections.⁷²

Figure 26: Indiana’s public and non-public ISTEP+ results (all grades), Fall 2007–Spring 2012⁷³

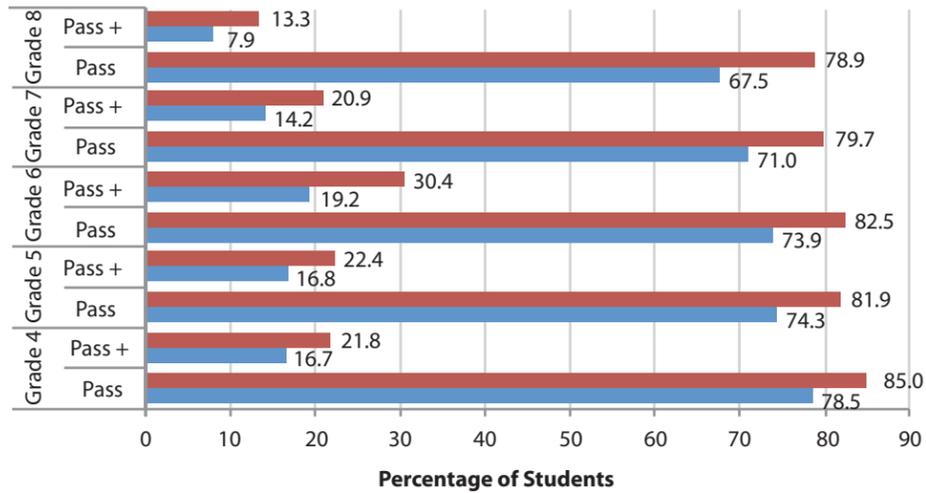


Source: Indiana Department of Education, *Compass: Student Performance: ISTEP+*

Public School ISTEP+ Performance: Girls and Boys Ages 10–14 (Grades four–eight)

While it is difficult to examine non-public school ISTEP+ performance by gender and grade level because of federal privacy laws related to public data reporting and small enrollment levels, examining it for public schools yielded interesting findings.

Figure 27: Indiana’s public school English/language arts ISTEP+ results by grade level and sex, Spring 2012⁷⁵



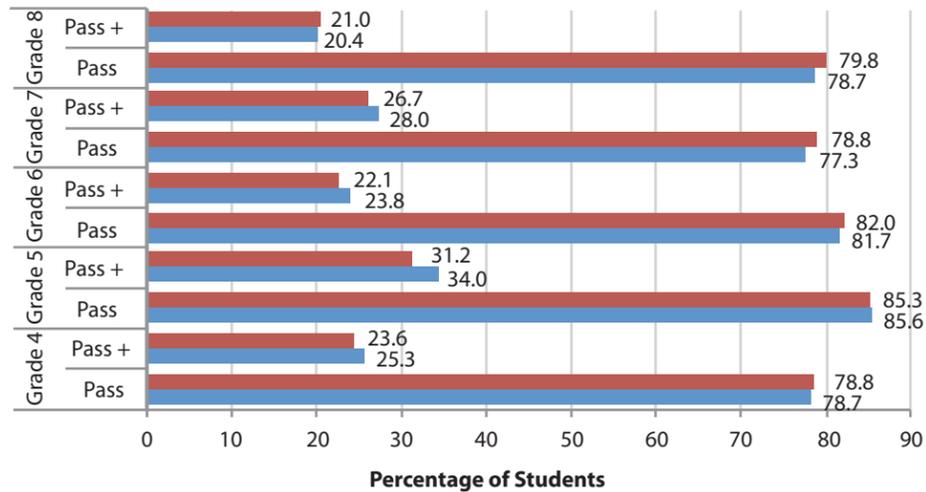
Source: Indiana Department of Education, 2011–2012 ISTEP Results by Grades (4–8)

to over 11 percent more likely in grade eight. The largest gap between male and female performance at the pass+ level occurred in grade six: just over 30.4 percent of girls in sixth grade received pass+ ratings compared to only 19.2 percent of boys (11.2 percent gap).⁷⁴

In all grades, girls more often received pass and pass+ ratings on the English/language arts section of the ISTEP+ than their male peers (see Figure 27).

There seemed to be larger discrepancies between female and male performance on the English/language arts portion as grade level increased. For instance, female students were six percent more likely to pass the section than boys in grade four compared

Figure 28: Indiana’s public school English/language arts ISTEP+ results by grade level and sex, Spring 2012⁷⁷



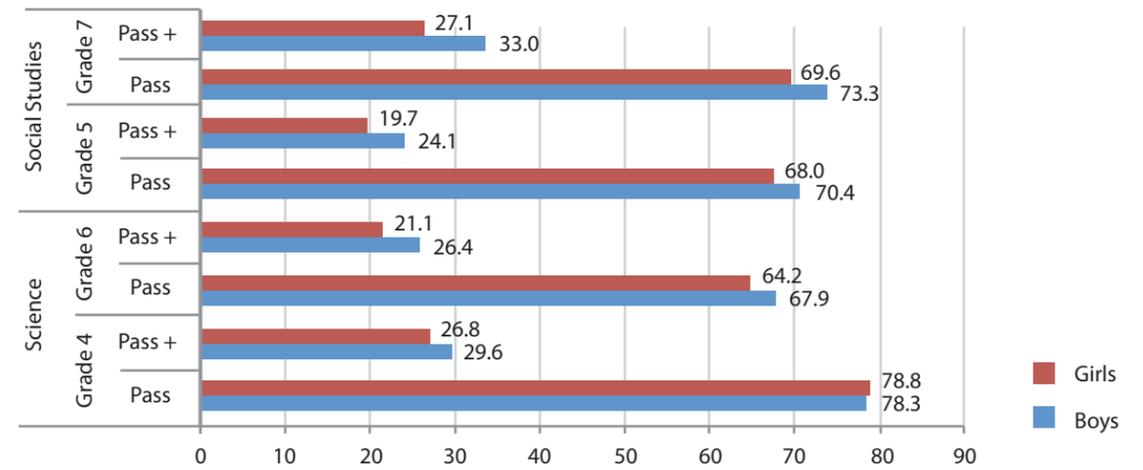
Source: Indiana Department of Education, 2011–2012 ISTEP Results by Grades (4–8)

grade, a larger percentage of boys received pass+ scores than girls in each grade.⁷⁶

With the exception of fourth grade girls slightly edging out their male classmates in passing the science portion of the ISTEP+, boys performed better on both the science and social studies sections. Larger discrepancies seemed to occur at the pass+ level in each grade (see Figure 29).⁷⁸

While girls overwhelmingly outperformed boys on the English/language arts section, both seemed to perform at relatively similar levels on the mathematics portion (see Figure 28). Slightly more girls passed the math section of the ISTEP+ than boys in grades four, six, seven, and eight. However, boys were more likely to perform at higher levels than girls. Excluding eighth

Figure 29: Indiana’s public school English/language arts ISTEP+ results by grade level and sex, Spring 2012⁷⁹



End of Course Assessment Testing

The state of Indiana provides End of Course Assessments (ECAs) for Algebra I, Biology I, and English 10 for Indiana middle and high schools. ECAs are assessments developed to measure performance in these subjects according to the *Indiana Academic Standards*. Students are required to pass the Algebra I and English 10 ECAs and meet state and local graduation requirements to graduate or complete a list of requirements provided in the Indiana Assessment Program Manual.⁸⁰

ECA results differed across exam and grade level (see Table 8). Over 90,000 students took the Algebra I exam in the 2011–2012 school year with the majority of students taking the exam in grade nine. Roughly 70 percent of all students that took the Algebra I ECA exam passed. Excluding the 12th grade, the percentage of students receiving passing scores on the Algebra I ECA exam decreased as grade level increased. Regarding the English 10 ECA, 84,774 students took the exam with 78 percent of all students receiving passing scores. Tenth grade students had the largest number of students taking the English 10 ECA as well as the largest percentage of students passing. Indiana’s students struggled the most with the Biology I exam; only 45.5 percent of all students passed. Seventh and eighth grade students were the only groups to have over half of the students receiving passing scores.⁸¹

Table 8: Indiana’s ECA results by exam and grade level, 2011–2012 school year⁸²

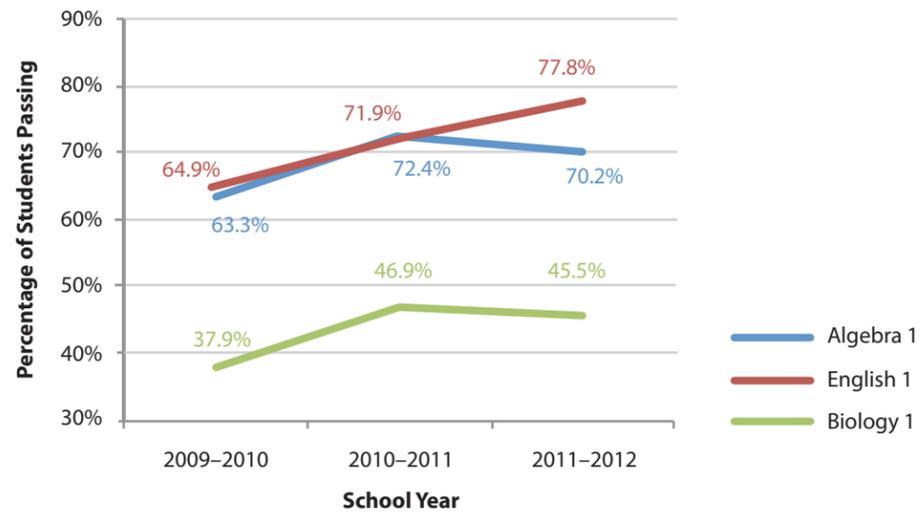
Grade	N Alg I	N Pass Alg I	% Pass Alg I	N Eng 10	N Pass Eng 10	% Pass Eng 10	N Bio I	N Pass Bio I	% Pass Bio I
6 th	137	136	99.3%	-	-	-	-	-	-
7 th	2,970	2,833	95.4%	-	-	-	28	22	78.6%
8 th	24,225	21,112	87.1%	-	-	-	1,691	1,209	71.5%
9 th	43,183	30,663	71.0%	828	548	66.2%	61,070	29,946	49.0%
10 th	14,633	6,410	43.8%	78,414	62,184	79.3%	13,039	3,803	29.2%
11 th	3,271	1,326	40.5%	3,478	2,093	60.2%	1,830	459	25.1%
12 th	1,554	716	46.1%	1,794	1,062	59.2%	450	100	22.2%
All	90,182	63,263	70.2%	84,774	65,991	77.8%	78,216	35,582	45.5%

Source: Indiana Department of Education, *Compass: Student Performance: ECA (Both Public and Non-Public)*

Student performance on the English 10 ECA has increased consistently since the 2009–2010 school year. Performance on the Algebra I and Biology I ECAs increased in the 2010–2011 school year but dipped in the following school year. Again, Indiana students struggled most with the Biology I exam: fewer than 50 percent of students

passed it each school year (see **Figure 30**).⁸³ Note that public access to data concerning ECA scores and sex is not available at this time, so we cannot say precisely how girls are performing, or how their performance compares to boys.

Figure 30: Indiana's ECA results by exam, Fall 2009–Spring 2012

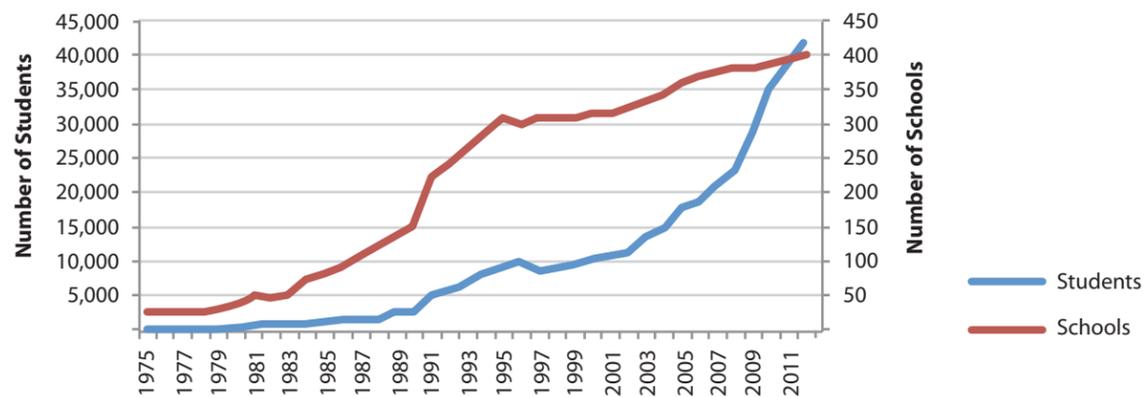


Source: Indiana Department of Education, *Compass: Student Performance: ECA All Grades (Both Public and Non-Public)*

Advanced Placement Examinations

The Advanced Placement Program (AP) provides opportunities for students to experience college-level courses while in high school. Since 1975, Indiana has seen annual increases in AP exam participation (see **Figure 31**). In 1991, 5,164 Indiana students sat for AP exams, representing only 224 Indiana schools.⁸⁴ More than 20 years later, the number of students taking AP exams increased by nearly eight times: 41,302 students in 2012 took an AP exam,⁸⁵ accounting for two percent of U.S. students taking exams (or 2,099,948 U.S. students⁸⁶). In addition, the number of schools represented almost doubled: students from 400 schools across Indiana sat for AP exams in 2012. AP exam participation has increased more extensively in Indiana compared to the United States.⁸⁷ Since 2008, participation among students in Indiana increased by roughly 78 percent compared to 33 percent for the U.S. overall.⁸⁸

Figure 31: Indiana's annual AP Program participation, 1975–2012



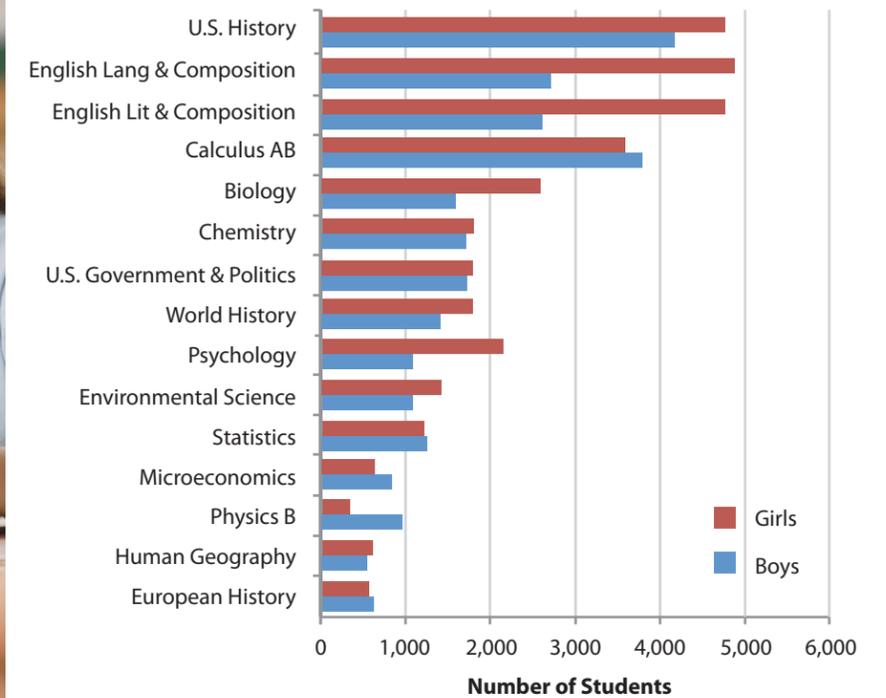
Source: College Board, *AP Program Participation and Performance Data: Indiana State Summary Report*

Considering more young women than men are enrolling in college each year, it is not surprising that Indiana girls are more likely to have taken an AP exam compared to their male peers. Female AP exam participation in Indiana increased by 11 percent

in 2011 compared to boys at eight percent.⁸⁹ In 2012, 65,970 AP examinations were taken by Indiana students. Of these examinations, 36,004 were taken by girls, accounting for 55 percent of exams taken. U.S. history, English language, and English literature were the most popular exams taken in Indiana with more girls than boys taking each subject. Girls also outnumbered their male peers in other subjects such as biology, chemistry, world history, psychology, and environmental science. However, more boys sat for calculus AB, statistics, microeconomics, physics B, and European history exams (see **Figure 32**).⁹⁰



Figure 32: Indiana's AP exam participation by top 15 most popular subject areas and sex, 2012



Source: College Board, *AP Program Participation and Performance Data: 2012 Indiana State Summary Report*

In 2012, Indiana's female AP exam participation was less diverse in comparison to the U.S. female cohort (see **Table 9**). Of the 36,004 exams taken by Indiana's females, 79 percent of them were taken by white students. Indiana's black, Asian, and Hispanic girls each made up at least five percent.⁹¹ Roughly 41 percent of exams taken by girls across the U.S. were taken by a minority or "other" race. Thirteen percent of exams

Table 9: Female AP exam participation by race/ethnicity, 2012

Race/Ethnicity	IN girls	%	U.S. girls	%
Not Stated	938	2.6%	73,850	3.8%
American Indian	88	0.2%	8,960	0.5%
Asian	1,960	5.4%	262,721	13.4%
Black	2,061	5.7%	150,471	7.7%
Hispanic ⁹³	1,788	5.0%	314,781	16.0%
Other	922	2.6%	65,620	3.3%
White	28,247	78.5%	1,087,502	55.4%
All	36,004		1,963,905	

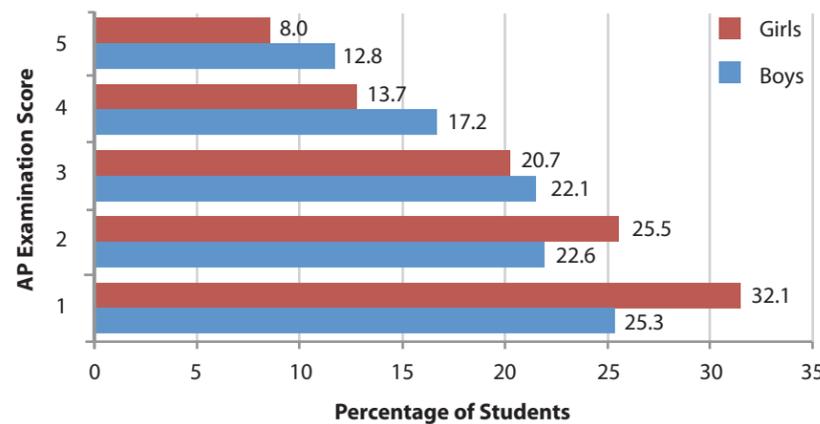
Source: College Board, *AP Program Participation and Performance Data: 2012 Indiana State and National Summary Reports*

were taken by U.S. Asian girls, and Hispanic girls made up 16 percent. Black students made up over seven percent of exams taken by U.S. girls.⁹² A similar comparison can be made with Indiana boys and the U.S. male cohort.

While a larger percentage of white students are taking AP exams in Indiana compared to the U.S. average, their participation has decreased since 2001 with more minorities participating since that time. In 2001, 87 percent of Indiana students that left high school having taken an AP exam were white, dropping to 82 percent in 2011.⁹⁴ In 2011, the number of black students taking an AP exam increased by 14 percent, and by 21 percent for Hispanic students (only nine percent and 12 percent, respectively, for these minorities took an AP exam nationally). Asian exam participation increased by nine percent in Indiana, falling below the 10 percent national average increase for Asian students in 2011.⁹⁵

Even though more girls sat for AP exams in Indiana in 2012, boys tended to receive higher scores more often than their female peers. Approximately 13 percent of boys who sat for AP exams received a score of five compared to eight percent of girls. Roughly 14 percent of girls received a score of four in comparison to 17 percent of boys. In addition, 52 percent of boys who sat for AP exams received a passing score (score of three or higher) compared to 42 percent of girls taking an AP exam (see **Figure 33**).⁹⁶

Figure 33: Indiana's AP exam score distribution by sex, 2012

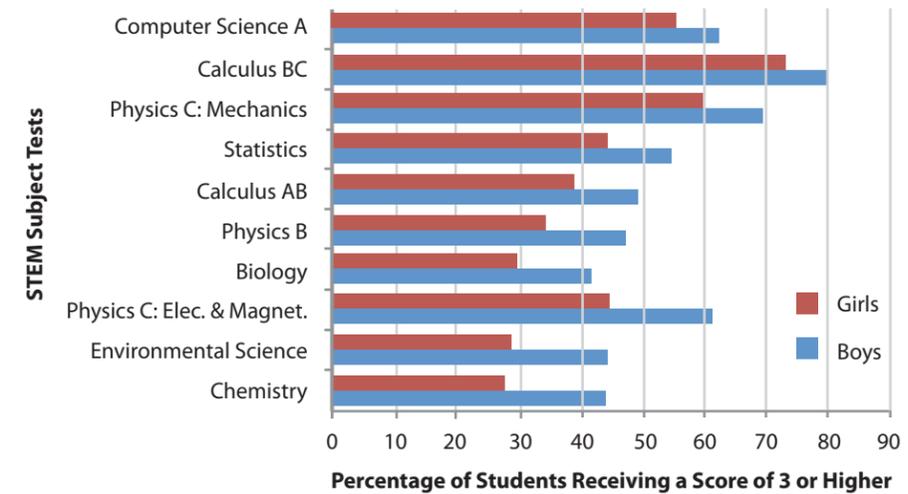


Source: College Board, AP Program Participation and Performance Data: Indiana State Summary Report

In 2012, Indiana's boys outperformed girls on AP exams on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) subject tests (see **Figure 34**). The largest gap in male and female performance on STEM related AP exams occurred on the AP chemistry exam: roughly 17 percent more boys received a score of three or higher on the exam compared to their female peers. While boys were more likely to pass science and math AP exams, girls were more likely to pass foreign language and art exams. Girls received a score of three or higher more often in the following subject areas: Spanish language, Spanish literature, German language, Chinese language and culture, Japanese language and culture, and studio-art: drawing, 2D design, and 3D design.⁹⁷

Female participation and performance on AP exams in Indiana and the United States differed across subject areas (see **Table 10**).⁹⁸ Indiana's girls were more likely to have taken an English, math, or science AP exam compared to their peers nationally. However, a larger percentage of U.S. girls sat for exams related to the social sciences, art, and world languages compared to Indiana's girls. Girls nationally outperformed Indiana's girls on AP exams overall (56 percent of U.S. girls received a score of three or higher on an exam compared to only 42 percent of girls in Indiana) as well as in each subject area. The largest gap between female AP performance in Indiana and the U.S. occurred for world language exams: Indiana's girls were 20 percent less likely to have passed an AP exam related to foreign language.⁹⁹

Figure 34: Indiana's AP exam performance in STEM subjects by sex, 2012



Source: College Board, AP Program Participation and Performance Data: Indiana State Summary Report

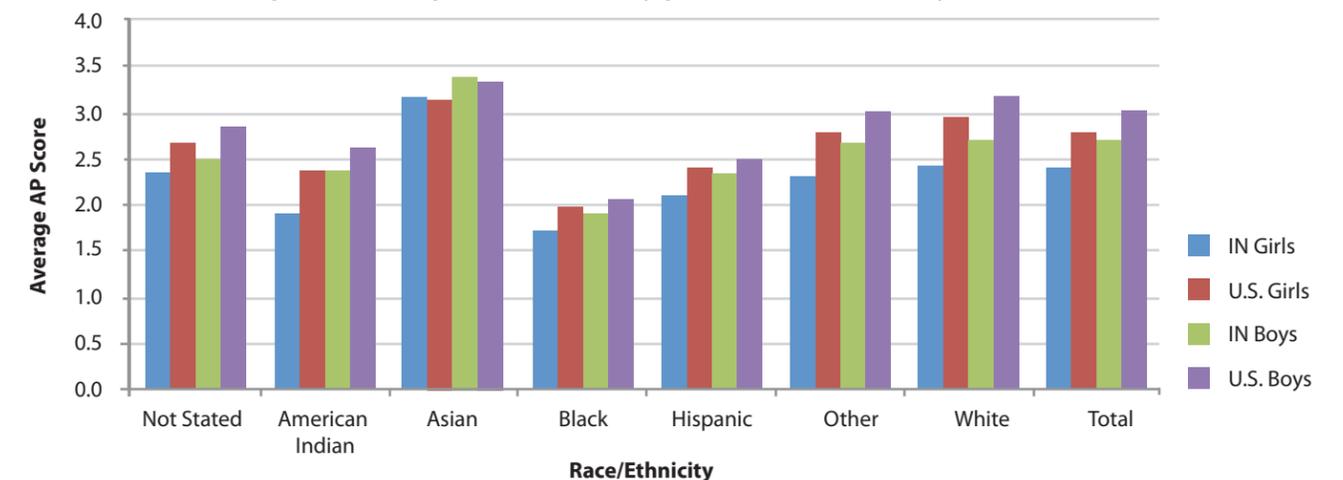
Table 10: Female AP exam participation and performance by subject area, 2012

Subject Area ¹⁰⁰	IN girls	%	U.S. girls	%	IN girls: pass (score of 3+)	%	U.S. girls: pass (score of 3+)	%
Art	879	2.4%	53,541	2.7%	542	61.7%	36,837	68.8%
English	9,646	26.8%	506,452	25.8%	4,803	49.8%	290,366	57.3%
Math	5,172	14.4%	239,505	12.2%	2,192	42.4%	141,078	58.9%
Science	6,350	17.6%	265,867	13.5%	1,867	29.4%	127,032	47.8%
Social Science	12,931	35.9%	783,855	39.9%	5,309	41.1%	412,867	52.7%
World Languages	1,026	2.8%	114,685	5.8%	549	53.5%	84,378	73.6%
Any Discipline	36,004		1,963,905		15,262	42.4%	1,092,558	55.6%

Sources: College Board, AP Program Participation and Performance Data: 2012 Indiana State and National Summary Reports

In 2012, Indiana's boys received higher average scores than Indiana's girls across all races (see **Figure 35**). Asian girls and boys in Indiana were more likely to receive a higher average score than their peers nationally. Black students struggled the most with AP testing both in Indiana and at the national level.¹⁰¹

Figure 35: Average AP exam score by gender and race/ethnicity, 2012



Sources: College Board, AP Program Participation and Performance Data: 2012 Indiana State and National Summary Reports

While Indiana tended to perform more poorly on AP testing in comparison to national averages, improvements have been evident. In 2011, Indiana ranked 26th nationally in AP performance with 14 percent of Indiana's 2011 high school graduates having passed an AP exam. According to the Indiana Department of Education's *2011 Annual Indiana Advanced Placement Report*, Indiana had the fifth highest one-year gain nationally from 2010 to 2011 and the second largest two-year gain from 2009 to 2011. In 2011, there was a 17 percent increase in the number of total exams that were passed in Indiana compared to only eight percent nationally.¹⁰³

Regardless of Indiana's performance in comparison to the United States, investigation should take place into why girls are performing more poorly on AP exams compared to boys. There is evidence that more girls than boys are taking AP exams in Indiana. A frequency analysis may be interesting to investigate to see if more girls are taking multiple AP exams in a single year compared to boys. Girls may be receiving lower scores because they are studying for many exams instead of focusing on one or two exams, as might be the case for boys. Gender bias on the AP exams should be investigated as well.

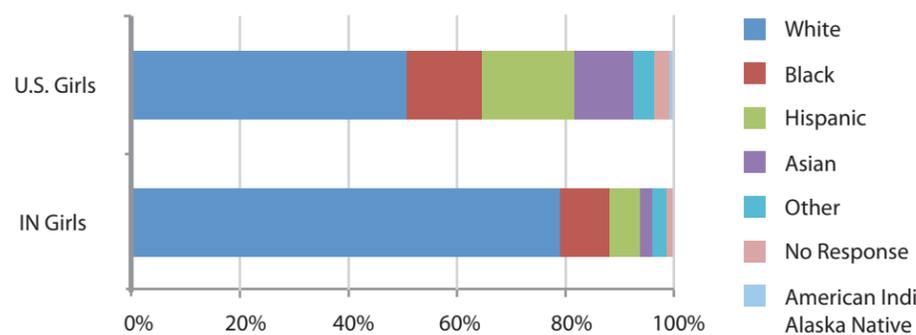
College Entrance Examinations: SAT

The Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT) is a standardized test designed to assess readiness for college. Most colleges and universities throughout the United States use SAT scores for college admission assessment. While middle and high school students across Indiana take the SAT in any given year, most data is only reported for graduating classes. Since this is the case, we will predominately examine SAT participation and performance for Indiana's graduating class of 2012.¹⁰⁴

Just over 48,000 of Indiana's high school graduates in 2012 took the SAT (48,127 graduating seniors) during high school.¹⁰⁵ Data regarding total SAT participation as a graduating class is not publicly available for private schools, nor is 2012 data available for public high schools. However, roughly 61 percent of Indiana's graduates from public high schools in 2011 took the SAT. This percentage has increased each year since 2009: 54 percent of graduates in 2009 and 56 percent in 2010.¹⁰⁶

Of the 48,127 Indiana graduates that took the SAT, approximately 55 percent or 26,337 were girls. Roughly 79 percent of Indiana female graduates who sat for the exam were white, with black girls making up nine percent, and Hispanic girls five percent.¹⁰⁷ SAT participation by Indiana's girls in the class of 2012 was less diverse than the U.S. female cohort. Nearly half of the exams taken by U.S. female graduates were taken by a female graduate of a race other than white. Hispanic girls made up over 17 percent of U.S. female graduates that took the SAT (see **Figure 36**).¹⁰⁸

Figure 36: Class of 2012 female SAT participation by race/ethnicity, 2012¹⁰⁹



Sources: College Board, AP Program Participation and Performance Data: 2012 Indiana State and National Summary Reports

Male and female participation differed greatly among high school type in Indiana. Nearly 87 percent of all exams were taken by public high school students with girls outnumbering boys by 10 percent in participation. The gap in SAT participation between boys and girls who attended public schools should not be surprising as the majority of Indiana students are enrolled in public schools and more girls than boys are enrolling in college. However, boys of the 2012 graduating class that were enrolled in independent high schools were more likely to take the SAT (ratio of male to female enrollment in independent high schools should be investigated to see if this is exactly the case). There was no difference in SAT participation by sex in religiously affiliated high schools (see **Table 11**).¹¹⁰

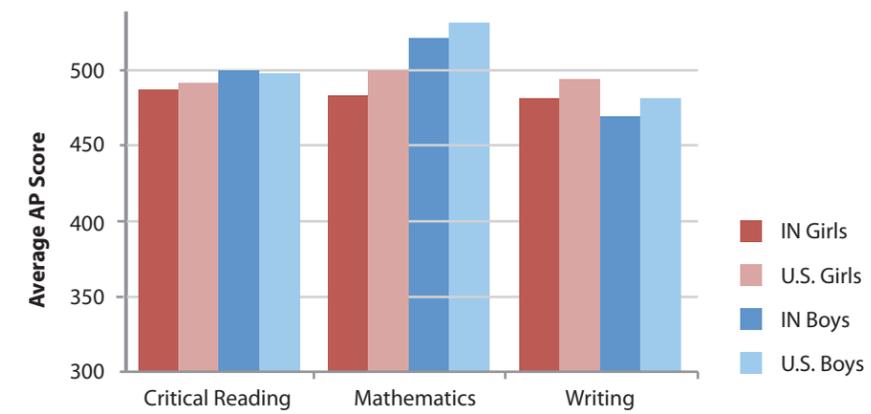
For the class of 2012, Indiana's boys performed just above the national average on the critical reading section of the SAT. In addition, Indiana's girls received equal scores to U.S. boys on the writing section on average. Otherwise, Indiana's students performed below the national averages. Indiana's student performance in mathematics is the most alarming: boys and girls each performed at least ten points below their U.S. peers. Indiana's girls outperformed Indiana's boys on the writing section; however, Indiana's boys performed better on both the math and critical reading sections (see **Figure 37**).¹¹¹

Table 11: Indiana's class of 2012 SAT participation by sex and high school type, 2012

High School Type	Students	%	% Female	% Male
Public	41,843	86.9%	55%	45%
Religiously Affiliated	3,739	7.8%	50%	50%
Independent	762	1.6%	48%	52%
Other	1,783	3.7%	52%	48%

Source: College Board, 2012 College Bound Seniors: Indiana State Profile Report, 2012

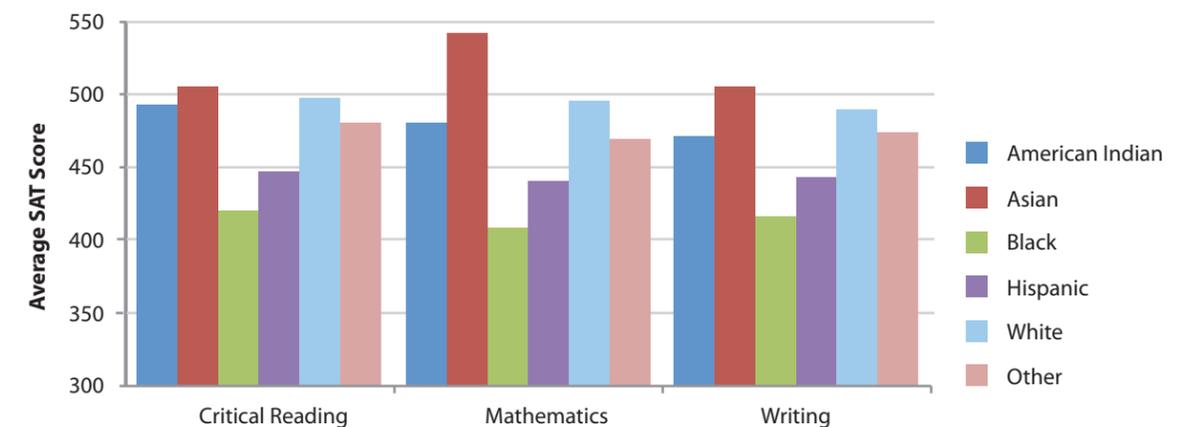
Figure 37: Class of 2012 SAT performance by sex, 2012¹¹²



Source: College Board, 2012 College Bound Seniors: Indiana State and Total Group Profile Reports, 2012

Female performance on the SAT differed across racial boundaries in Indiana. Asian girls performed the best on the SAT with average scores above 500 on each section. Black and Hispanic girls received the lowest average scores among all race/ethnicities (see **Figure 38**).¹¹³

Figure 38: Indiana's class of 2012 female SAT performance by race/ethnicity, 2012¹¹⁴



Source: College Board, 2012 College Bound Seniors: Indiana State Profile Report, 2012

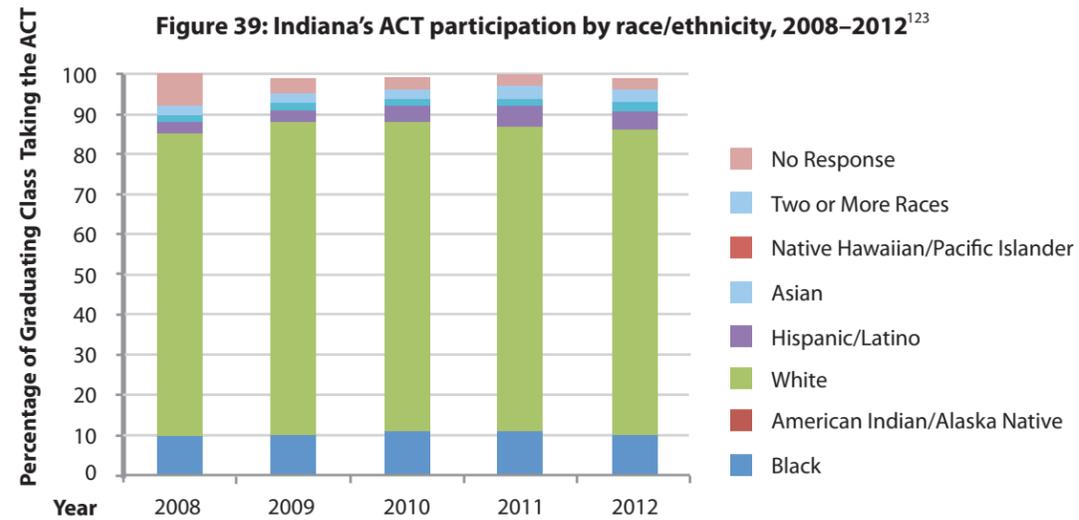
College Entrance Examinations: ACT

The ACT is another standardized exam that assesses readiness for college. The exam has four sections: English, math, reading, and science. Each section is scored on a one

to 36 scale. As for the SAT, most data regarding the ACT is reported for graduating classes. Thus, we primarily examine Indiana's graduating class of 2012.

There were 22,372 Indiana graduating seniors that took the ACT, accounting for roughly 32 percent of all 2012 graduates in Indiana.¹¹⁵ That ranks Indiana 22nd nationally for the largest percentage of graduates taking the ACT.¹¹⁶ Since 2008, the number of Indiana graduates taking the exam has increased by 41 percent compared to only 17 percent nationally.¹¹⁷ In 2011, roughly a quarter of public high school seniors in Indiana graduated having taken the ACT.¹¹⁸

Of the 22,372 Indiana graduating seniors that took the ACT, 12,526 (or 56 percent) of the graduates were girls. Participation by girls has grown by 44 percent since 2008 compared to 46 percent for boys.¹²¹ ACT participation by race/ethnicity in proportion to the total has been relatively consistent over the last five years (see **Figure 39**). The percentage of white students as a proportion of the total has slightly increased since 2008. From 2008–2012, ACT participation by Hispanic students increased by two percent, and multiracial students increased their participation by one percent in respect to total participation.¹²² Data concerning ACT participation by sex and race/ethnicity is not publicly available.

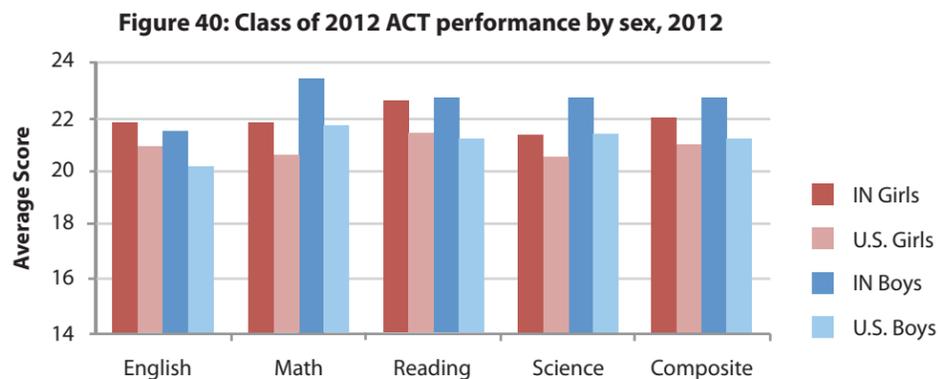


Source: ACT, 2012 ACT Profile Report: Indiana, 2012

Indiana's students performed above the national average on every section of the ACT. The average composite score for the state of Indiana was 22.3 compared to the national average of 21.1. Indiana's girls who took the ACT outperformed their male peers on the English section of the exam; however, boys performed better on the math, reading, and science portions. In addition, Indiana's boys received a higher

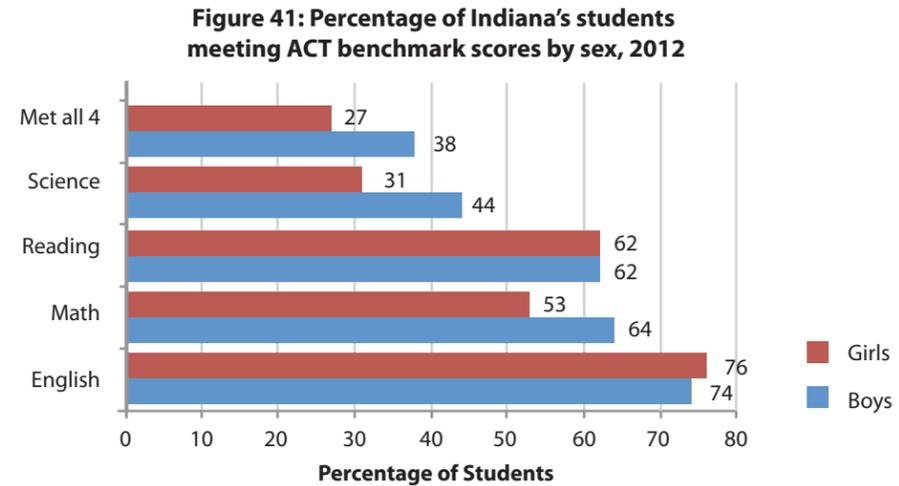
average composite score of 22.7 compared to 22 for Indiana's girls (see **Figure 40**).¹²⁴

ACT reports College Readiness Benchmark Scores for all states. These scores represent the minimum scores needed on the ACT to indicate a 50 percent chance of obtaining a grade of B or higher or a 75 percent chance of obtaining a grade of C or higher in corresponding college courses. These benchmark scores are the following: English score



Source: ACT, 2012 ACT Profile Report: Indiana, 2012

of 18, math score of 22, reading score of 21, and science score of 24. Indiana's girls represent a larger percentage of students meeting benchmark scores for the English section of the ACT than boys. This contrasts to Indiana's boys who represent a larger percentage of students meeting benchmark scores for the math and science portions. An equal percentage of male and female students in Indiana met the benchmark score for the reading portion. In addition, 38 percent of Indiana's boys who took the ACT met all four ACT benchmark scores compared to only 27 percent of girls (see **Figure 41**).¹²⁵ Indiana's students ranked 11th out of U.S. states for the percentage of students meeting all four benchmarks, with 32 percent of Indiana's students meeting all benchmarks.¹²⁶



Source: ACT, 2012 ACT Profile Report: Indiana, 2012

College Entrance Examinations Highlights

Indiana's class of 2012 performed much better on the ACT compared to the SAT. One possible explanation is that the ACT might be more similar in format and content to exams that Indiana's students are required to take, such as the ISTEP+ and ECA exams. Another reason could be that a number of states, such as Colorado, Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, North Dakota, Tennessee, and Wyoming, require all students to take the ACT before they graduate.¹²⁷ Those states that have 100 percent of students sitting for ACT exams will have lower average scores in comparison to Indiana because not all of the students in those states taking the test are planning to go to college. In Indiana, because the ACT is not required, students who are taking the exam are most likely those who are planning on attending college and have an incentive to do well on it. Regardless, higher performance on the ACT than SAT suggests that Indiana is one of the highest performing states in the Midwest. West and East Coast states dominate in SAT participation compared to Midwest and Rocky Mountain states that generally have more students taking the ACT than SAT. Second only to Minnesota, Indiana had the highest composite ACT score out of all 12 Midwestern states in 2012.¹²⁸

The SAT and ACT results raise awareness to the gap between male and female performance in mathematics and science. Indiana's girls performed 39 points less, on average, than Indiana's boys on the math section of the SAT. In addition, Indiana's girls were at least 11 percent less likely to meet college benchmark scores for mathematics and science compared to boys in Indiana. In Fall 2007, the time that the class of 2012 last took the ISTEP+ (eighth grade), male and female performance on the math section of the ISTEP was relatively close: 74 percent of girls passed the math section compared to 73 percent of boys, with 20 percent of boys receiving pass+ ratings compared to 16 percent of girls.¹²⁹ Historically, girls have been known to lose interest in math and science just as they are entering high school, which might explain the poor performance in math and science on the SAT and ACT. Teachers and administrators at Indiana's schools should encourage girls to participate in the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) subject areas and encourage careers in mathematics and science.

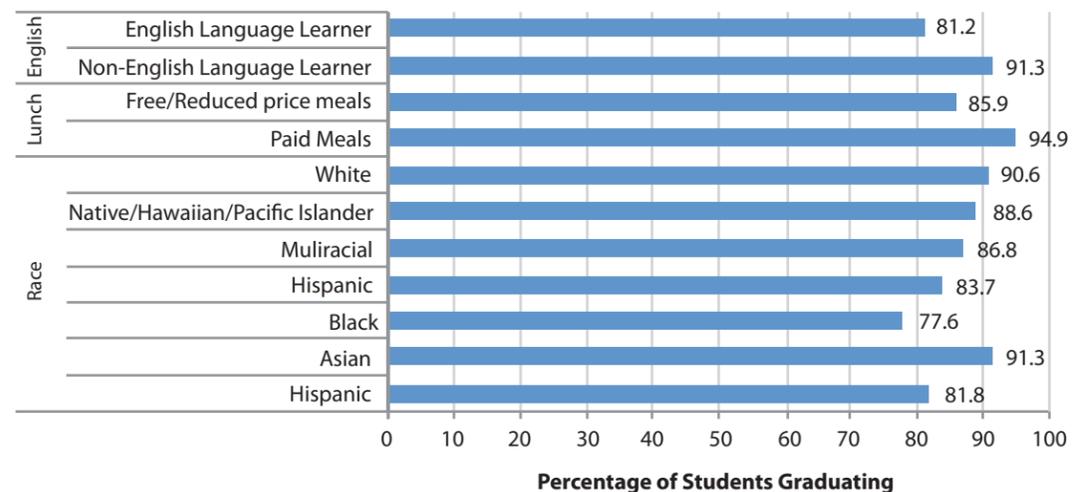
Graduation Rates

In the 2011–2012 school year, there were 77,001 students in the class of 2012 cohort in Indiana. Of these students, 89 percent (or 68,221 students) received a diploma. Indiana's girls were more likely to graduate than their male peers: 91 percent of girls graduated compared to 86 percent of male students (see **Table 12**).¹²⁸

Indiana's graduation rates greatly differed across racial boundaries in 2012. Asian students were most likely to graduate at 91.3 percent compared to African American students, who were

least likely to graduate at roughly 77.6 percent. Indiana's students who qualified for free or reduced lunch were less likely to graduate than their peers. Those students who paid for their lunches graduated 95 percent of the time compared to 86 percent of those who qualified for free or reduced lunch. In addition, English language learners were less likely to graduate: only 81 percent received a diploma in 2012 (see **Figure 42**).¹²⁹ Graduation rates by these variables are not yet available by sex.

Figure 42: Indiana's graduation rates by group, 2012



Source: Indiana Department of Education, 2012 State Disaggregated Graduation Rates, 2012

Physical Health

Body Weight

The number of overweight¹³⁰ or obese¹³¹ individuals in the United States has dramatically increased over the past few decades, launching this issue to epidemic status. The largest changes have occurred in the numbers of obese Americans in virtually every sub-population. Most notably, the number of obese adolescents in the U.S. has tripled over the past 30 years. In the early 1970s, only six percent of adolescents ages 12 to 19 years old were obese. That number had increased to 18 percent by 2008.¹³² This dramatic increase in overweight and obese numbers is concerning given the corresponding increases in risk for many health problems. Incidences of risk factors such as high blood cholesterol, hypertension, and type two diabetes are increasing in U.S. children and adolescents.¹³³

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the percentage of high school girls in Indiana that were overweight in 2011 was 18.5 percent and the percentage of girls that were obese was 11.5 percent. These figures, when compared

with the corresponding national statistics, indicate that Indiana's girls have more trouble maintaining a healthy weight than U.S. girls overall (see **Table 13**). High school girls in Indiana were more likely to be overweight than U.S. high school girls in 2011. This is a problem that has been worsening over the years. High school girls in Indiana were more likely to be overweight in 2011 than they were in 2003. **Figure 43** shows the trend in the percentage of Indiana girls in high school that were overweight or obese since 2003. This figure shows that while obesity is an area for concern, Indiana girls struggle more with being simply overweight than obese.¹³⁴

Table 13: Percentage of high school students overweight/obese, 2011

	IN girls	U.S. girls	IN boys
Overweight	18.5%	15.4%	12.5%
Obese	11.5%	9.8%	17.8%

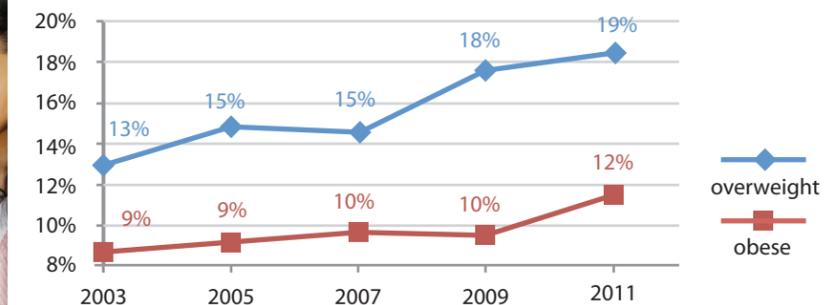
Source: CDC, Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2011

Within the state even though high school girls had a significantly lower obesity rate than

high school boys in 2011, a significantly larger percentage of Indiana's high school girls were overweight than high school boys in 2011 (see **Table 13**). There are also differences in overweight/obesity rates for girls in Indiana across different racial and ethnic groups (see **Table 14**). Most significantly, **black or African American high school girls in Indiana were more likely to be obese than white girls in high school in 2011.**¹³⁵



Figure 43: Percentage of Indiana's high school girls who are overweight/obese, 2003–2011



Source: CDC, Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2003–2011

Table 14: Percentage of Indiana high school girls who are overweight/obese by race and ethnicity, 2011

	Overweight	Obese
Black or African American	23%	24%
Hispanic or Latina	19%	14%
White	18%	10%

Source: CDC, Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2011

Physical Activity and Diet

Being physically active and maintaining a healthy diet are naturally associated with many positive outcomes, such as increased life expectancy and quality of life, and decreased risk for chronic diseases. On the other hand, physical inactivity and poor diet contribute to increased risk factors for many afflictions that impair health and quality of life, including obesity and eating disorders. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services recommends that children and adolescents engage in at least 60 minutes of physical activity daily.¹³⁶ The *Dietary Guidelines for Americans*, published every five years since 1980, advise a diet rich in fruits and vegetables, whole grains, and fat-free and low-fat dairy products for individuals at least two years old. It is further recommended that individuals consume fewer foods with sodium (salt), saturated fats, trans fats, cholesterol, added sugars, and refined grains.¹³⁷

Given the overweight and obesity rates for Indiana's high school girls, it is not surprising that most are not meeting the recommendations for physical activity. In 2011, 84 percent of Indiana's high school girls were physically active for at least 60 minutes per day on less than seven days in a given week and 66 percent on less than five days (see **Table 15**). Additionally, **20 percent of high school girls in Indiana in 2011 did not participate in at least 60 minutes of physical activity on any day.** Each of these rates is significantly higher for Indiana's high school girls than boys, indicating that **high school girls in Indiana are not as physically active as boys.** However, when we compare high school girls in Indiana to the rest of the nation, even though the percentages of inactive girls were higher in Indiana, the differences are not significant.¹³⁸

Table 15: Physical activity for high school students, 2011

	Physically active at least 60 minutes per day on:		
	less than 7 days	less than 5 days	0 days
IN Girls	84.2%	65.9%	20.0%
IN Boys	67.7%	47.3%	11.8%
U.S. Girls	81.5%	61.5%	17.7%

Source: CDC, Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2011

Indiana's high school girls do not seem to be following recommended dietary guidelines either. An individual's dietary needs depend on age, sex, and activity level. For example, the Dietary Guidelines for Americans recommends that a moderately active, 16-year-old girl intake 2,000 calories per day, including four to five servings of fruits and four to five servings of vegetables.¹³⁹ In 2011, 88 percent of Indiana's high school girls ate fruit or drank 100 percent fruit juice less than three times per day, and 92.2 percent ate vegetables less than three times per day.¹⁴⁰ These percentages are higher than the percentages for both Indiana's high school boys and U.S. high school girls in 2011 (see **Table 16**). **Not only are the diets of Indiana's high school girls not following federal guidelines, they are also worse than the diets of high school boys in Indiana and high school girls across the nation.**

Table 16: Dietary behavior of high school students, 2011

	Ate fruit or drank 100% fruit juice less than 3 times per day	Ate vegetables less than 3 times per day
IN Girls	88.4%	92.2%
IN Boys	82.5%	89.8%
U.S. Girls	80.2%	86.1%

Source: CDC, Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2011

Media Usage and its Impact

The way young girls in Indiana perceive themselves is influenced by their use of media sources, such as television and the Internet. These sources can either be an agent for social change or reinforce gender stereotypes that emphasize women's sexuality and emotionality.

Television

Television is one major area that affects young girls on a regular basis. Different ideas about the appearance and activities of women are displayed for viewers to watch and possibly internalize. These gendered messages affect public opinion about young girls, as well as influence gendered behavior. The media can work in one of two ways. Television can be an agent for social change or it can continue gender stereotypes, placing importance on women's sexuality and emotionality. Either option affects the way girls choose to perceive themselves.¹⁴¹

According to the CDC's *Youth Risk Behavior Survey* from 2011, female high school

students in Indiana were just as likely as male students to watch television for three or more hours on an average school day; however, the rates for Indiana were lower than the national average, where 31.6 percent of female students and 33.3 percent of male students reported watching television three or more hours daily (see **Table 17**).¹⁴² Assuming that watching more television means being more influenced, girls in Indiana are less likely than girls in other parts of the county to be affected by television's messages.

Table 17: High school students reported television usage on an average school day by sex, 2011

	Watched television 3 or more hours per day (on an average school day)	
	Girls	Boys
Indiana	27.1%	26.9%
United States	31.6%	33.3%

Source: CDC, Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2011

Computer and Internet Users

Computers have become a valuable commodity, useful for a variety of different tasks, including usage for education and entertainment purposes. Knowing how to operate a computer would create opportunities in this age of technology. Thus, it is important for girls to learn skills necessary to use this device, and to apply these skills in a way to gain the best benefit.



The Internet can be a powerful tool where girls can gain previously unknown knowledge or an enjoyable place where they can relax and have fun. When girls are not doing schoolwork on the computer, they are using it as a source of entertainment. **In 2011, 20.3 percent of Indiana's high school girls reported using the computer for three or more hours a day for nonschool purpose.**¹⁴³ This is less than their male counterparts by 17 percent. One reason girls use the Internet is to visit social media sites. In a study done by the Pew Research Center, 83 percent of girls ages 12 to 19 used a social networking site, such as

Facebook. Boys were less likely to use a social networking site at 78 percent.¹⁴⁴ Girls also use the Internet to participate in video chats with other people. In a different study done by the Pew Research Center, 37 percent of Internet users ages 12–17 participated in such chats using applications such as Skype or iChat. Girls were more likely than boys to use these applications for video chats.¹⁴⁵ This shows that girls are more likely than boys to use the Internet for socializing purposes.

In order for girls to learn how to use the computer, as well as the Internet, they must have access to both. Economic factors play a role in who has access and where. In 2010, 74.7 percent of households in Indiana had a computer. This is lower than the 2010 average for the United States, where 81.4 percent of households had a computer. Also, in 2010, 66.8 percent of households in Indiana had access to the Internet. Again, this is lower than the 2010 average of the United States, where 75.9 percent of households had Internet access. In the Midwest alone, in 2010, there were 75.1 percent of households that had Internet access.¹⁴⁶ These figures imply that **girls in Indiana have less access to computers and the Internet than girls in the U.S. overall.**

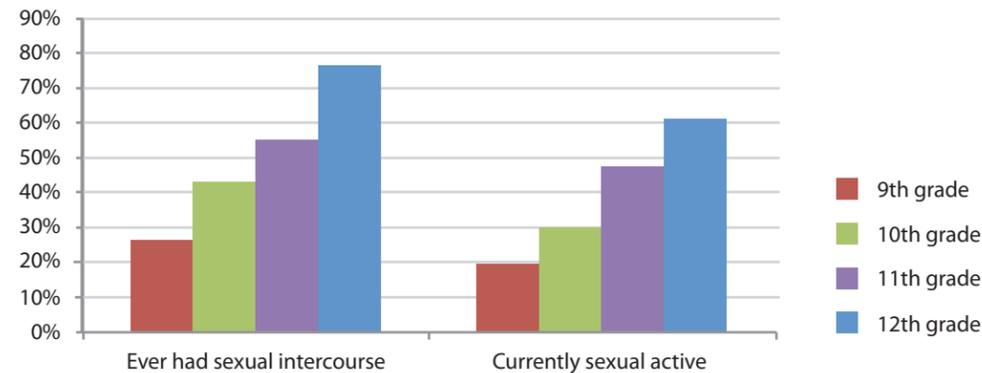
Schools are places other than the household where girls can gain access to a computer and the Internet. However, it seems that Indiana is lacking in the technology department within schools as well. In the year 2007, there were 3.3 students for every Internet-connected computer in Indiana's public schools. In high-poverty area schools, there were 3.6 students per connected computer. This is compared to the 2007 national average of 3.7 and 3.8 respectively. In 15 percent of schools in Indiana, the majority of teachers (at least half) were "beginners" when it came to using technology. This was the same as the 2007 national average. Also, Indiana was among the 34 states that had education technology standards by grade level in the year 2007.

Reproductive Health

Sexual Activity

Based on the CDC's *Youth Risk Behavior Survey* from 2011, many high school girls admit to engaging in sexual behavior, which may increase the risk of teen pregnancy among high school students. In Indiana's high schools, roughly 51 percent of girls in grades nine–12 admitted to having had sexual intercourse at some point, which is higher than the U.S. average of 46 percent among high school girls, though not significantly. However, only 40 percent of Indiana's high school girls were sexually active in 2011, meaning that when surveyed the student had engaged in sexual intercourse with one or more people in the previous three months.¹⁴⁸ These rates consistently increase with grade level. In fact, Indiana's 12th grade girls were twice as likely to be sexually active as tenth grade girls in 2011 (see **Figure 44**).

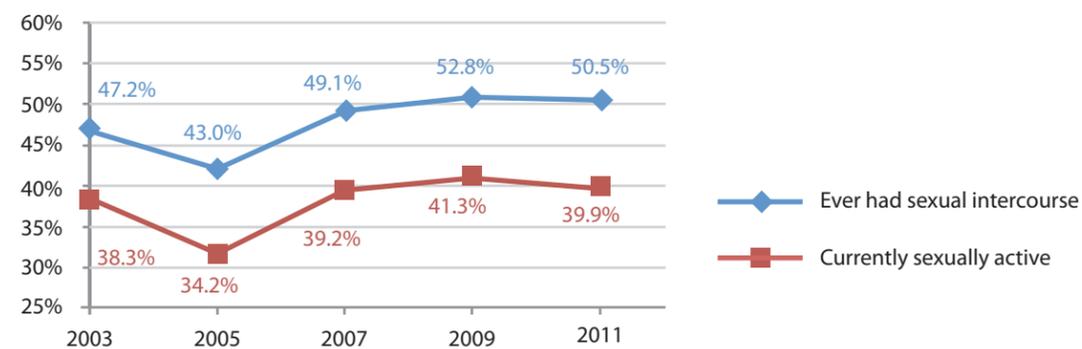
Figure 44: Indiana's high school girls' sexual activity by grade, 2011



Source: CDC, *Youth Risk Behavior Survey*, 2011

Looking at sexual behavior among Indiana's high school girls over the past decade, there do not seem to be any apparent trends. The percentages of girls engaging in sexual intercourse at least once, and of girls who are currently sexually active, has fluctuated over prior years, with the peak occurring in 2009 for both categories (see **Figure 45**).¹⁴⁹

Figure 45: Indiana's high school girls' sexual activity, 2003–2011



Source: CDC, *Youth Risk Behavior Survey*, 2003–2011

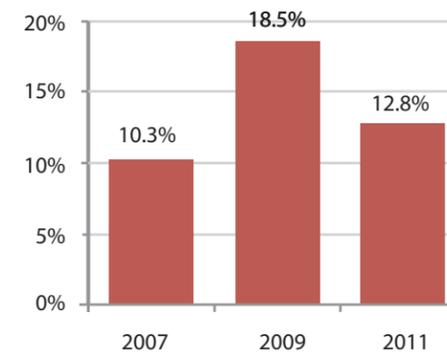
Contraceptive Use

An area of interest for risk behavior is whether or not high school girls are having protected sex in order to prevent unplanned, teenage pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections. Birth control methods that have been studied include the use of condoms, birth control pills, injectable birth control such as Depo-Provera, a birth control ring such as NuvaRing, implant birth control, or any (IUD). According to the CDC's *Youth Risk Behavior Survey* from 2011, 45 percent of Indiana's high school girls who were currently sexually active did not use a condom the last time they had sexual

intercourse, 72 percent did not take birth control pills, and 90 percent did not use one of the other aforementioned birth control methods before her last occurrence of sexual intercourse. Further, 13 percent of Indiana's sexually active high school girls admitted to not using any method to prevent pregnancy during her last sexual interaction. We note that the corresponding figures for Indiana's high school boys are not significantly different from those for the girls, but the percentage of sexually active high school boys in Indiana that did not use a condom was less than the girls at 39 percent.¹⁵⁰

Figure 46 shows the percentage of sexually active high school girls that did not use any method of birth control in their last sexual interaction. We see a dramatic increase of more than eight percent from 2007 to 2009 of students who did not use pregnancy prevention techniques. However, from 2009 to 2011 there was almost a six

Figure 46: Indiana's sexually active high school girls not using any method to prevent pregnancy during last sexual intercourse, 2011



Source: CDC, *Youth Risk Behavior Survey*, 2011

percent decrease in those having unprotected sexual intercourse. Overall, it was reported that 42 percent of sexually active high school students in Indiana did not use a condom during their last sexual interaction in 2011.¹⁵¹ Note that Indiana's percentage is higher than the nation's, though the difference is not significant (see **Table 18**). The high number of sexually active students not using a condom during sex could be

Table 18: Condom usage among sexually active high school students, 2011

	Did not use a condom during last sexual intercourse (among students who were currently sexually active)		
	Total	Girls	Boys
Indiana	42.2%	44.9%	39.2%
United States	39.8%	46.4%	33.0%

Source: CDC, *Youth Risk Behavior Survey*, 2011

is debate about what the sexual education policy should be in schools. Findings from the CDC's *Youth Risk Behavior Survey* from 2011 indicate that 9.7 percent of Indiana's female high school students were never taught about AIDS or HIV infection in school.¹⁵³ Analyzing the statistics shows that high school girls are engaging in sexual behavior and may be doing so without education on contraception and protection options available, which could lead to unplanned pregnancies.

Birth Rates

In 2010, there were 8,756 births to Indiana's girls under 20 years of age. The majority of these births were to girls ages 18 or 19 years old (see **Table 19**). Additionally, the majority of these mothers were non-Hispanic white girls. Further, 16 percent of these births were repeat births and 90 percent were outside of marriage.¹⁵⁴

According to a report by the Office of Adolescent Health, "Indiana was ranked 20 out of 51 states and the District of Columbia on 2010 final teen birth rates among girls ages 15–19 (with one representing the highest rate and 51 representing the lowest

Table 19: Indiana's births to girls under 20 years of age by age and race/ethnicity, 2010

Girls ages	% of births	Mother's race/ethnicity	% of births
Under 15	1%	Non-Hispanic white	68%
15-17	28%	Non-Hispanic black	19%
18 & 19	71%	Hispanic	12%

Source: CDC, National Center for Health Statistics, VitalStats

rate).¹⁵⁵ More specifically, Indiana's teen birth rate in 2010 was 37.3 per 1,000 girls ages 15-19. Indiana's teen birth rate in 2010 was higher than the national average of 34.2. According to the CDC, the national birth rate in 2010 for girls ages 15-19 is a record low for U.S. teens in this age group, representing a drop of 45 percent from the 1991 rate.¹⁵⁶ More recently, the percent change in the teen birth rate in the U.S. from 2009 to 2010 was a 10 percent decrease. Comparing these numbers to those for Indiana, we find that Indiana's teen birth rates are also decreasing, just not as quickly. The percent change in Indiana's teen birth rate was a decrease of 38 percent from 1991 to 2010 and a decrease of nine percent from 2009 to 2010. Based on this data we conclude that the issue of **teen pregnancy is on the decline for both the U.S. overall and Indiana, but it is not improving as quickly in the state of Indiana.** It is not entirely clear why such declines are occurring, but it does seem that teens are less sexually active today, and that contraceptive use has increased among those teens that are sexually active than in previous years.¹⁵⁷

Other Issues: Abortion

Other factors to consider in parallel with teenage pregnancy are infant mortality rate, abortion rate, cost considerations, and laws regarding aspects of teen pregnancy.

Table 20: Teen abortion rates (abortions per 1,000 females in age group) by age, 2008

	15-19	15-17	18 & 19
United States	18	10	29
Indiana	8	5	13

Source: Guttmacher Institute, U.S. Teenage Pregnancies, Births and Abortions, 2008: State Trends by Age, Race and Ethnicity

Note that abortion was legalized in 1973, but states still mandate laws regarding the technicalities of obtaining an abortion. According to the Guttmacher Institute, Indiana's abortion rate among girls ages 15-19 years ranked 42 out of 50 states in 2008, with one indicating the highest rate.¹⁵⁸ Even though the data seems to imply that the number of Indiana's girls obtaining abortions is rather low compared to the rest of the nation (see **Table 20**, **Table 21**, and **Figure 47**), note that Indiana law

Table 21: Number of abortions and miscarriages for Indiana's girls by age, 2008

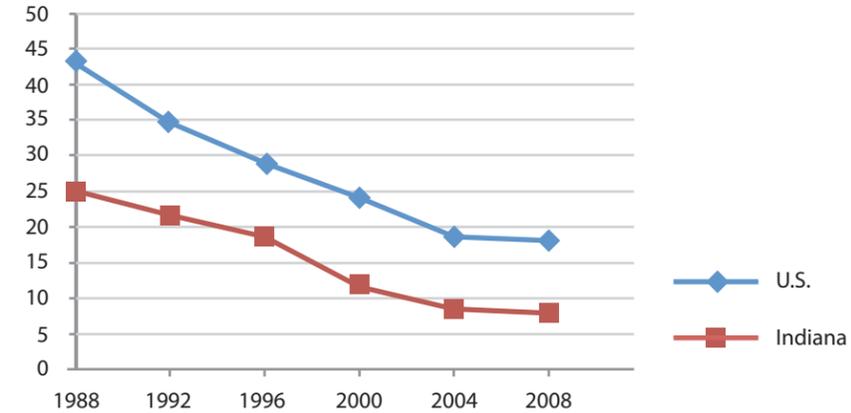
	< 15	15-17	18 & 19
Number of abortions	70	630	1,300
Number of miscarriages	30	610	1,500

Source: Guttmacher Institute, U.S. Teenage Pregnancies, Births and Abortions, 2008: State Trends by Age, Race and Ethnicity

requires parental consent for girls under 18 years of age and thus the numbers may be underestimates as Indiana minors go out of state for the procedure. Finally, note that teen abortion rates in Indiana vary across racial and ethnic groups, the highest occurring among black girls (see **Table 22**).

Even though most statistics show a steady decline in rates of teenage pregnancy across the board, teenage pregnancy remains a hot topic. Teens may not realize the implications and financial concerns of their actions such as those depicted in

Figure 47: Teen abortion rates (abortions per 1,000 females aged 15-19), 1988-2008



Source: Guttmacher Institute, U.S. Teenage Pregnancies, Births and Abortions, 2008: State Trends by Age, Race and Ethnicity

Table 22: Indiana's teen abortion rates (abortions per 1,000 females aged 15-19) by race/ethnicity, 2008

	Abortion rate
Non-Hispanic White	6
Black	21
Hispanic	11

Source: Guttmacher Institute, U.S. Teenage Pregnancies, Births and Abortions, 2008: State Trends by Age, Race and Ethnicity

the charts above and the results of those decisions. Being aware of this data could potentially impact laws and codes mandating sex education and policies pertinent to teenagers.

Substance and Alcohol Abuse

A 2009 report by the Office of Applied Studies states that approximately 10 percent of Indiana's adolescents had used an illicit drug in the past month.¹⁵⁹ According to a recent study conducted by the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University, high school girls who have ever consumed alcohol or smoked are twice as likely to report feeling depressed as those who have never consumed alcohol or smoked. Similarly, drinkers and smokers are more likely to have suicidal thoughts or to have attempted suicide. High school students who use marijuana are more likely to report feelings of hopelessness or sadness than their peers who have never used marijuana. Additionally, those who use marijuana are more likely to have considered or attempted suicide than those who have never used marijuana.¹⁶⁰

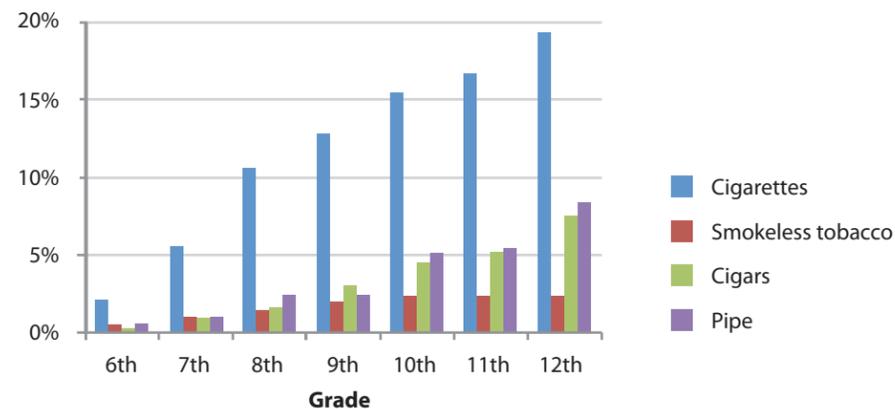
The following data represents how Indiana girls are involved with alcohol and substance abuse by pulling data from two different surveys administered to samples of Indiana's youth. The first of these sources is the CDC's *Youth Risk Behavior Survey*, which provides information on high school students and has already been cited on numerous occasions in this report. This survey is administered every two years, with the most recent data available coming from the 2011 survey. The second source is the *Annual Survey of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drug Use by Indiana Children and Adolescents*, simply referred to as the *Indiana Survey*, which is conducted by the Indiana Prevention Resource Center (IPRC) every year. The IPRC's *Indiana Survey* provides data for students in grades six through 12, and as such it provides more coverage for our age group of interest, namely girls ages 10-19.

Both the CDC's *Youth Risk Behavior Survey* and the IPRC's *Indiana Survey* provide statistics on both lifetime usage (student reports using a particular drug at least once in his/her lifetime) and monthly usage (student reports using a particular drug at least once in the 30 days prior to taking the survey); however, this report focuses primarily on monthly usage figures.

Gateway Drugs

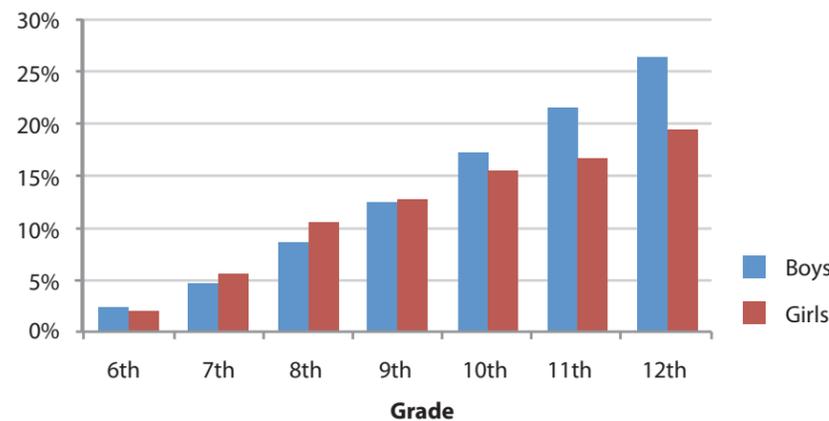
Many studies have shown that, for the most part, the use of illicit drugs occurs only after an individual uses cigarettes, alcohol, or marijuana. Therefore, these three substances (cigarettes, alcohol, and marijuana) have been termed "gateway drugs." Overall, gateway drug use among Indiana's children and adolescents is dominated by boys. According to the CDC's *Youth Risk Behavior Survey* from 2011, in the month prior to the survey, 16 percent of Indiana's female high school students had smoked at least one cigarette, 34 percent had consumed at least one drink of alcohol, and 16 percent had used marijuana at least once; whereas, 20 percent of Indiana's male high school students had smoked at least one cigarette, 33 percent had consumed at least one drink of alcohol, and 23 percent had used marijuana at least once in the past month.¹⁶¹ The 2011 figures for current usage of cigarettes and marijuana are significantly higher for Indiana's high school boys than girls. As we will see by analyzing the IPRC's *Indiana Survey* from 2012, the majority of users for most drugs within each grade level surveyed were male, with a few exceptions, indicating that substance abuse is a more significant issue among Indiana's boys than girls.

Figure 48: Monthly tobacco use among Indiana's girls by grade, 2012



Source: IPRC, Indiana Survey, 2012

Figure 49: Monthly cigarette use among Indiana's children and adolescents by sex and grade, 2012



Source: IPRC, Indiana Survey, 2012

Tobacco Use

Tobacco use includes the use of cigarettes, smokeless tobacco (chew, snuff, etc.), cigars, and pipes. Cigarette use among girls is the highest form of tobacco use across all grades and the percentage of monthly users of cigarettes increases in each successive grade, with 19 percent of Indiana's 12th grade girls in 2012 having reported monthly use of cigarettes (see **Figure 48**).¹⁶²

For all forms of tobacco use, except cigarettes, and across all grades surveyed in 2012, the majority of monthly users were male. **Monthly usage of cigarettes was significantly higher among Indiana's girls**

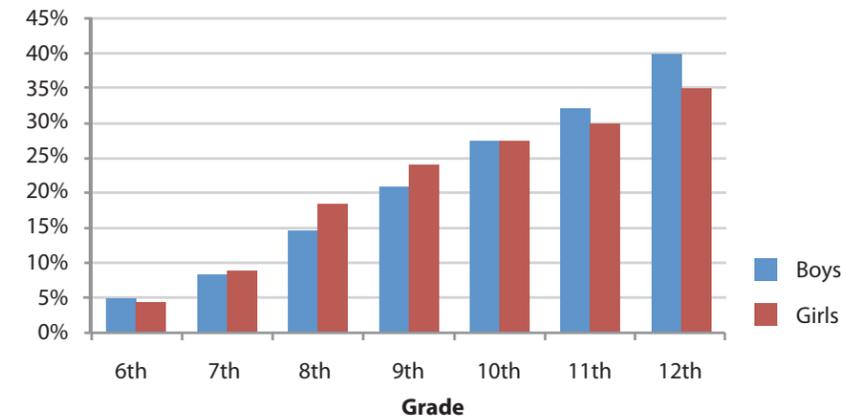
than boys in the seventh and eighth grades in 2012 (see **Figure 49**). Even though cigarette use was higher among seventh and eighth grade girls, the discrepancies between male and female usage at the lower grade levels is not as great as the discrepancies at the higher grade levels.

Tobacco use has decreased dramatically over the past decade among Indiana's high school girls. In 2003, 27 percent of Indiana's female high school students reported using a tobacco product at least once in the month prior to taking the survey, compared to only 19 percent in 2011.¹⁶³

Alcohol Use

Figure 50 shows monthly usage of alcohol for Indiana's children and adolescents by sex and grade in 2012. Notice that usage among both girls and boys increased with each successive grade. Regarding prevalence rates between male and female students, no clear pattern is evident. In grades seven and 10, monthly usage was about the same for both boys and girls; in grades six, 11, and 12, alcohol prevalence was significantly

Figure 50: Alcohol consumption among Indiana's children and adolescents by sex and grade, 2012



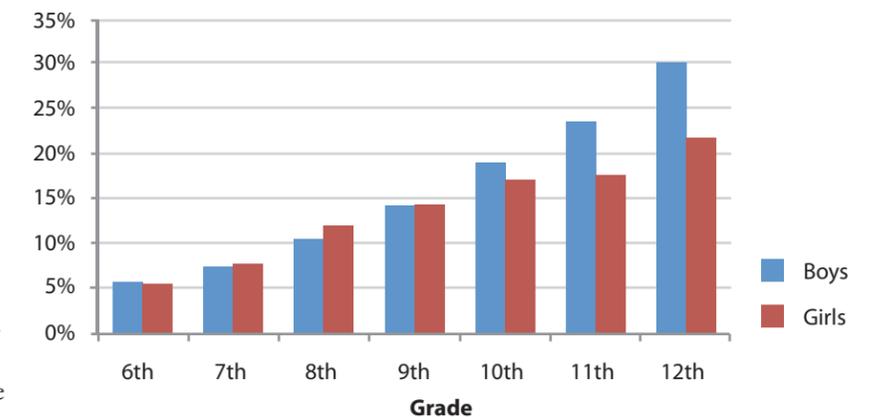
Source: IPRC, Indiana Survey, 2012

higher among Indiana's male students than female students; and **monthly usage of alcohol was significantly higher for Indiana's girls in grades eight and nine than boys**.¹⁶⁴

Also of interest in the area of alcohol consumption are the rates of binge drinking among Indiana's children and adolescents. As measured in the IPRC's *Indiana Survey*,

binge drinking occurs when an individual reports having at least five drinks of alcohol at a sitting within the two weeks prior to taking the survey. Binge drinking prevalence among Indiana's sixth through 12th grade students in 2012 are given in **Figure 51**. As with monthly alcohol use, notice that binge drinking prevalence increased with each successive grade. Prevalence among Indiana's female students was only significantly higher than male students in eighth grade, while the male prevalence rate was significantly higher in grades 10, 11, and 12. The discrepancy between male and female binge drinking prevalence was only 1.6 percent among eighth grade

Figure 51: Binge drinking among Indiana's children and adolescents by sex and grade, 2012



Source: IPRC, Indiana Survey, 2012

students, but grew to 8.5 percent in the 12th grade. This further highlights the fact that substance abuse, while an issue affecting Indiana's girls, is a much more serious concern for Indiana's boys.

Alcohol use among Indiana's female high school students has significantly decreased through the years. According to the CDC's *Youth Risk Behavior Survey* from 2003, over 45 percent of Indiana's female high school students in 2003 reported having had at least one drink of alcohol at least once in the 30 days before the survey, compared to only 34 percent of female students in 2011. Additionally, almost 28 percent of Indiana's female high school students in 2003 admitted to binge drinking, compared to only 18 percent in 2011.¹⁶⁵

Given that Indiana's children and adolescents are underage, where are they getting the alcohol from? According to the IPRC's *Indiana Survey* from 2012, Indiana's female students in grades six through nine primarily obtained alcohol from family members, excluding the "other ways" category. For the higher grades, students were more likely to obtain alcohol either by having someone else buy it for them or by receiving it from a person 21 years old or older (see **Table 23**). The authors of the *Indiana Survey* from 2012 conclude that, based on the results of their survey, "youth drinking could be reduced if parents and family members better understood the risk of harm to youth

Table 23: Usual sources of alcohol in the past month for Indiana's girls, percentages by grade, 2012

	Grade						
	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th	11th	12th
Did not drink alcohol	82.8	81.5	74.3	70.7	67.4	65.6	60.1
Had someone else buy it	0.2	0.5	1.5	3.4	5.7	8.3	10.5
Received from person 21 or older	0.4	0.8	1.9	3.3	4.1	5.7	7.8
Family Members	1.3	3.0	4.9	5.3	4.8	4.0	3.7
Other Ways	1.3	3.3	5.8	7.1	6.8	6.1	5.5

Source: IPRC, *Indiana Survey*, 2012

that alcohol presents, as well as ways to prevent youth from accessing alcohol kept in the home."¹⁶⁶ The authors advise that adults at least 21 years of age should be educated regarding the legal consequences associated with purchasing alcohol for minors, or supplying it to them via other means.

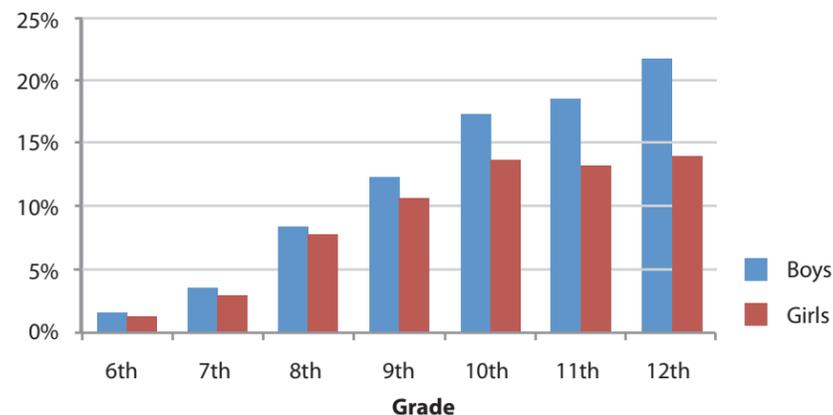
Using combined data from the National Survey on Drug Use and Health from 2003–2006, two percent of girls ages 12–17 in Indiana admitted to alcohol dependence, and four percent admitted to alcohol dependence or abuse. Furthermore, four percent of Indiana's girls ages 12–17 needed but did not receive treatment for alcohol problems

experienced in the past year from the time of survey, and 11 percent were admitted for treatment of alcohol abuse.¹⁶⁷ More recent data in this area does not seem available, and neither the CDC's *Youth Risk Behavior Survey* nor the IPRC's *Indiana Survey* collects data on alcohol dependence or treatment.

Marijuana

According to the IPRC's *Indiana Survey* from 2012, monthly marijuana usage was higher among Indiana's boys at each grade level; however, the differences between male and female usage of marijuana was only significant for grades seven and nine through 12.¹⁶⁸

Figure 52: Marijuana use among Indiana's children and adolescents by sex and grade, 2012

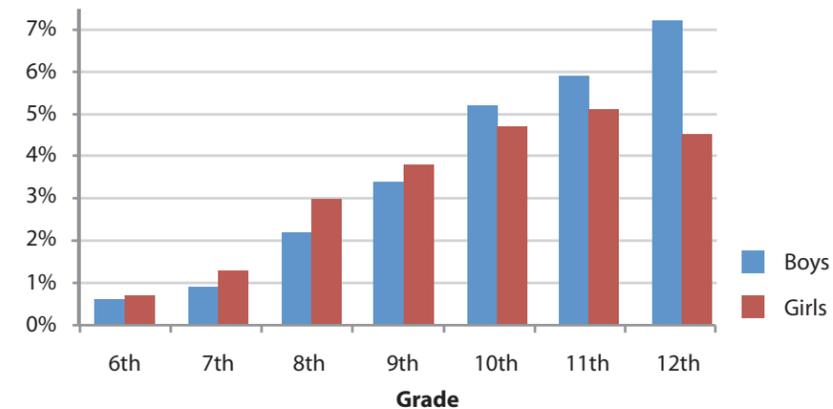


Source: IPRC, *Indiana Survey*, 2012

Prescription and Over-the-Counter Drug Use

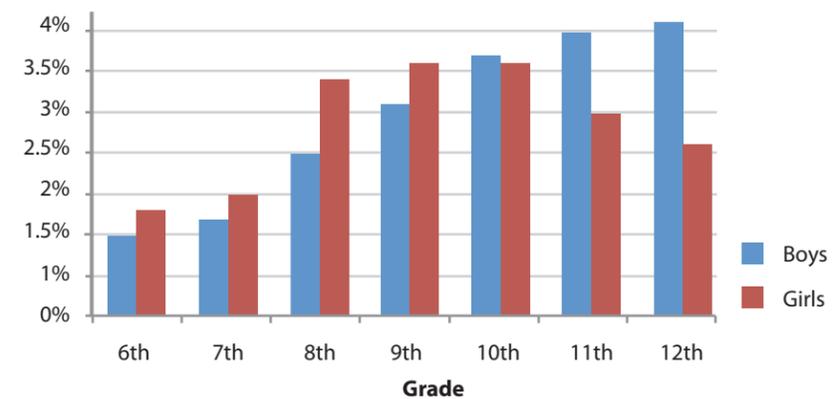
According to the CDC's 2011 *Youth Risk Behavior Survey*, Indiana had the second highest prevalence rate of female high school students that took prescription drugs without a doctor's prescription at least once in their life, at 21.5 percent.¹⁶⁹ The corresponding nationwide prevalence rate was 19.8 percent. For more detailed information, we look to the IPRC's *Indiana Survey* from 2012. This survey asks the following questions regarding prescription and over-the-counter drug use: "How many times in the last month (30 days) have you used prescription drugs (such as Ritalin, Oxycontin, or Xanax) to get high?" and "How many times in the last month (30 days) have you used over-the-counter drugs (such as cough syrup) to get high?"¹⁷⁰ The results are provided in **Figure 53** and **Figure 54**. Notice that, similar to the gateway drugs, the monthly usage statistics are **significantly higher for Indiana's male students in the higher grades (specifically, 11th and 12th), whereas significantly more female students used prescription drugs to get high than male students in grades seventh and eighth, and significantly more female students used over-the-counter drugs to get high in grades eight and nine**. Another pattern, not present in the

Figure 53: Monthly prescription drug use among Indiana's children and adolescents by sex and grade, 2012



Source: IPRC, *Indiana Survey*, 2012

Figure 54: OTC drug monthly use among Indiana's children and adolescents by sex and grade, 2012



Source: IPRC, *Indiana Survey*, 2012

usage of other drugs, was that the prevalence rates for both prescription and over-the-counter drugs among female students in Indiana decreased in the higher grades. However, this may be explained by the increased use of other drugs.

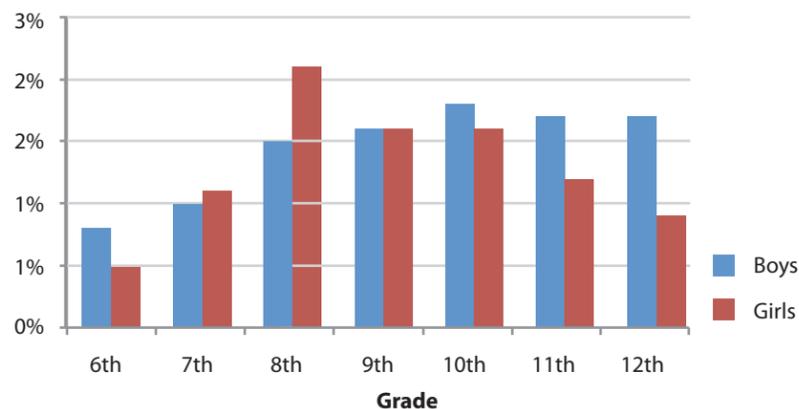
Table 24: Usual sources of prescription drugs in the past month for Indiana's girls, percentages by grade, 2012

	Grade						
	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th	11th	12th
No prescription drug abuse	82.9	85.8	84.3	85.5	84.6	86.6	87.0
Prescribed to me	1.1	1.0	1.5	1.2	1.4	1.1	1.0
Bought from a friend	0.1	0.2	0.7	1.2	1.3	1.6	1.7
Someone gave it to me	0.2	0.5	0.9	1.4	1.8	1.5	1.3
Other ways	0.3	0.5	0.8	1.0	0.9	1.0	0.7

Source: IPRC, Indiana Survey, 2012

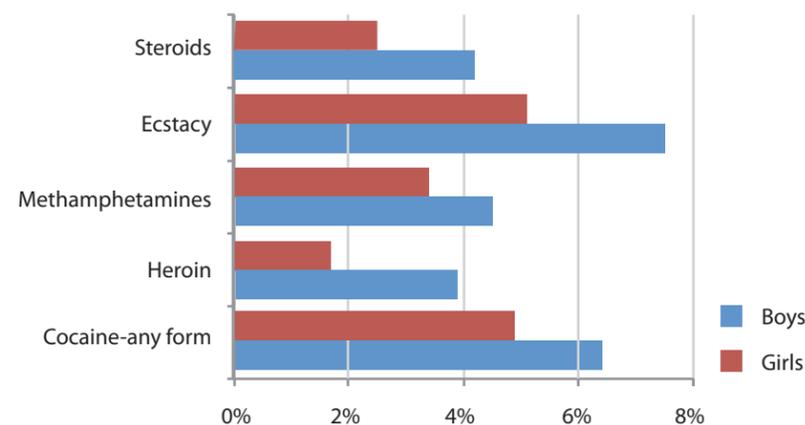
Table 24 shows the top sources for prescription drugs among girls in Indiana using these substances to get high in 2012. The rate at which female students in Indiana used a prescription drug prescribed to them to get high varied little between grades. However, the rates at which these students obtained prescription drugs by purchasing it from a friend or by someone giving it to them was significantly higher in later grades than for students in the youngest grades. Specifically, **almost two percent of Indiana's female 12th graders in 2012 reported purchasing prescription drugs from a friend in the past month to get high.**

Figure 55: Inhalants monthly usage among Indiana's children and adolescents by sex and grade, 2012



Source: IPRC, Indiana Survey, 2012

Figure 56: Illicit drug lifetime usage among Indiana's high school students by sex, 2011



Source: CDC, Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2011

ages 10 or 19 years old. An additional difficulty was finding data about girls across different racial and ethnic groups. While the IPRC's *Indiana Survey* from 2012 did

include an analysis of prevalence rates across these groups, it did not separate the information within the groups by sex. The CDC's *Youth Risk Behavior Survey* does have information regarding girls across different racial and ethnic groups; however, the samples are too small in most cases to draw any conclusions.

Other Illicit Drug Use

For usage of other illicit drugs, the majority of users within each grade were male, and the prevalence rate for male users usually increased with each successive grade. Again, this only reiterates the fact that substance abuse is a more serious problem among Indiana's boys. There was one exception, however, in that **Indiana's female students in 2012 were more likely to use inhalants in the eighth grade than male students.** See Figure 55 for the figures on inhalant usage for students surveyed in 2012. Regarding usage of other drugs, we have included the CDC's figures from the 2011 *Youth Risk Behavior Survey* for high school students (see Figure 56), given that usage among students in the lower grades was so low.

Difficulty in Obtaining Data

One of the difficulties in collecting data on substance and alcohol use for girls ages 10–19 in Indiana was that there was not much data for girls who are not of middle school or high school age. Specifically, the two surveys cited target students primarily between the ages of 11 and 18, thus we do not have much information on girls

include an analysis of prevalence rates across these groups, it did not separate the information within the groups by sex. The CDC's *Youth Risk Behavior Survey* does have information regarding girls across different racial and ethnic groups; however, the samples are too small in most cases to draw any conclusions.

Mental Health

Depression and Suicide

Depression and suicide are a real problem for Indiana's children and adolescents. According to the CDC's *Youth Risk Behavior Survey* from 2011, high school students in Indiana were more likely than students nationwide to have attempted suicide at least once and also more likely to have sustained an injury from a suicide attempt. Indiana's female high school students struggle with depression and suicide at about

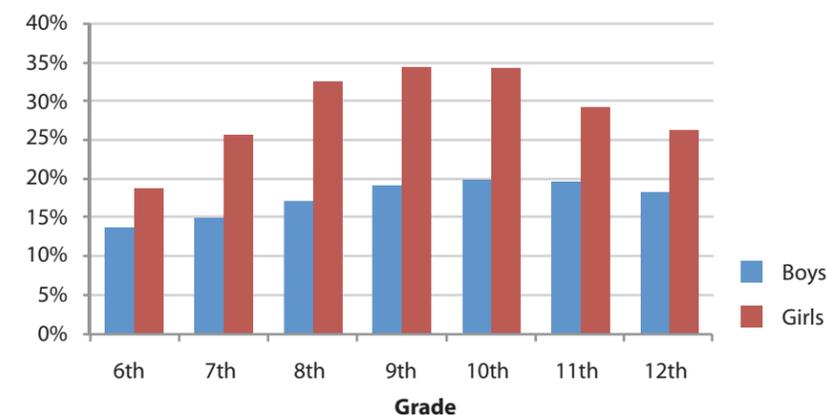
Table 25: Depression and suicide prevalence rates (by percentage) among female high school students, 2011

	IN Girls	U.S. Girls
Felt sad or hopeless	34.5	35.9
Considered attempting suicide	21.5	19.3
Planned to attempt suicide	14.2	15.0
Attempted suicide at least once	11.4	9.8
Suicide attempt resulted in injury	3.9	2.9

Source: CDC, Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2011

the same rate as female high school students nationwide (see Table 25); however, Indiana's male high school students seem to struggle significantly more than male high school students nationwide. Most notably, Indiana's male high school students were significantly more likely than male high school students nationwide to have seriously considered suicide (16.3 percent of Indiana's boys compared to 12.5 percent for the U.S.), to have attempted suicide at least once (10.5 percent compared to 5.8 percent), and to have had a suicide attempt result in injury (4.0 percent compared to 1.9 percent).¹⁷¹ While these results are extremely alarming for boys within the state, in

Figure 57: Percentage of Indiana's children and adolescents that felt hopeless or sad by sex and grade, 2012



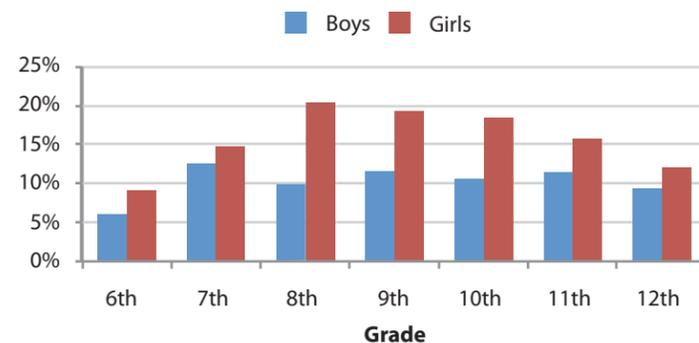
Source: IPRC, Indiana Survey, 2012

comparing them to girls within the state, we see that depression and suicide is more prevalent among girls in Indiana than boys.

We turn now to the IPRC's *Indiana Survey* from 2012 for more detailed information. Figure 57 compares by sex and grade the percentages of Indiana's children and adolescents that reported feeling sad or hopeless almost every day that they stopped

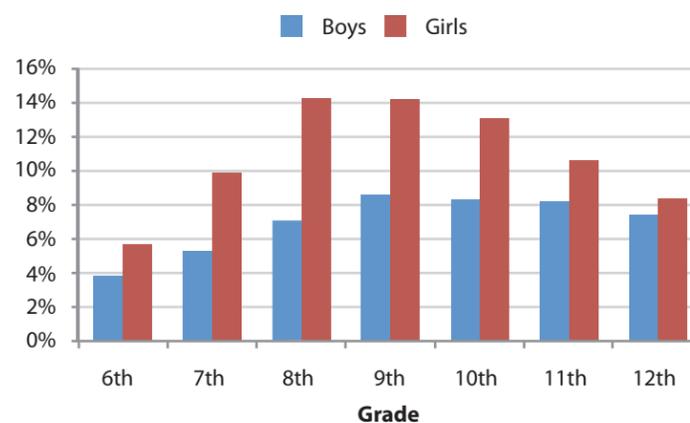
doing some usual activities. Notice that at each grade level, Indiana's girls were more likely to report having these feelings than boys. Furthermore, the number of girls having these feelings was greatest for grades eight through 10. **About a third of Indiana's female students in grades eight through 10 reported feeling sad or hopeless.**¹⁷²

Figure 58: Percentage of Indiana's children and adolescents that considered suicide by sex and grade, 2012



Source: IPRC, Indiana Survey, 2012

Figure 59: Percentage of Indiana's children and adolescents that planned suicide by sex and grade, 2012



Source: IPRC, Indiana Survey, 2012

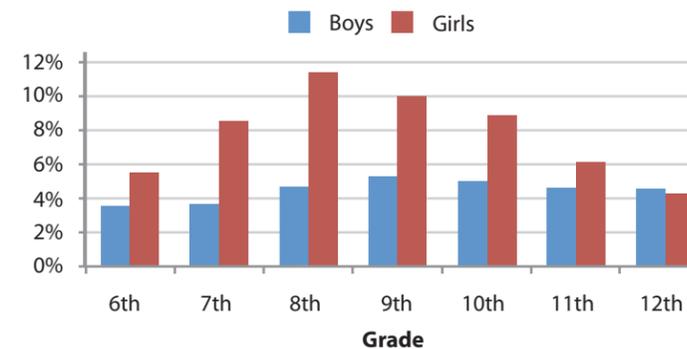
Turning now to suicide, we see that Indiana's girls were more likely than boys to consider, plan, and attempt suicide according to the IPRC's *Indiana Survey* in 2012 (see **Figures 58, 59, and 60**). We notice a consistent pattern in the data, in which the percentages increased from grade six to grade eight or nine and then decreased. In fact, in each category (consider, plan, and attempt suicide) the largest percentage occurred in eighth grade, with **20.4 percent of Indiana's female eighth grade students having considered suicide, 14.1 percent planned suicide, and 11.5 percent attempted suicide at least once** (see **Figure 61**).¹⁷³

Eating Disorders and Body Image

Eating disorders and body image are two controversial issues present in the lives of many high school students. While information regarding the prevalence of eating disorders in girls between the ages of 10 and 19 in Indiana appears to be severely lacking, the CDC's Youth Risk Behavior Survey from 2011 offers valuable information concerning this topic for high school girls. By examining the results of this survey related to body image in the girls surveyed, and comparing the presence of indicators of eating disorders in girls in Indiana with boys in Indiana as well as with girls in the

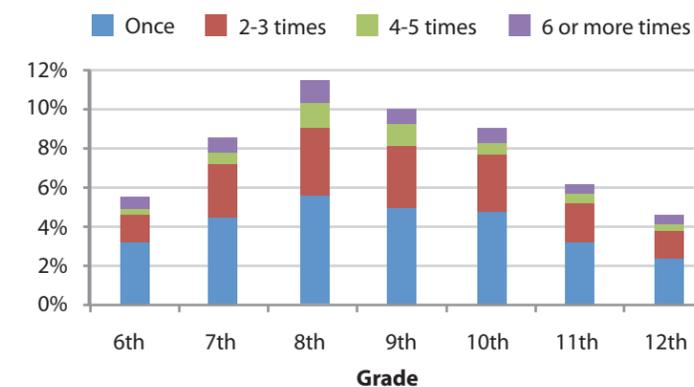
United States, we can begin to illustrate the status of girls in Indiana in relation to eating disorders.

Figure 60: Percentage of Indiana's children and adolescents that attempted suicide by sex and grade, 2012



Source: IPRC, Indiana Survey, 2012

Figure 61: Number of suicide attempts for Indiana's girls by grade (percentages given), 2012

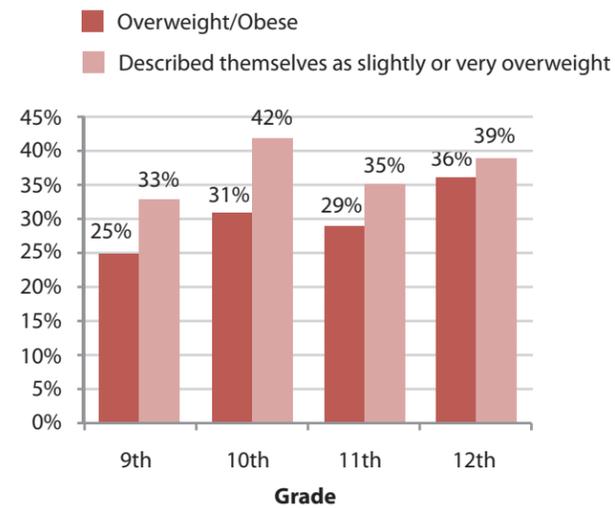


Source: IPRC, Indiana Survey, 2012

Figure 62 demonstrates that there was a significant discrepancy between high school girls in Indiana who were actually classified as overweight or obese and those who described themselves as being slightly or very overweight. In each grade, girls' perceptions of their weight tended to be worse than it actually was. Given these discrepancies, it seems that many high school girls in Indiana have a distorted body image. While there is not a consistent trend from grade to grade, the gap between the number of girls who described themselves as overweight and the number who actually were overweight did tend to decrease from the lower grades to the higher grades. However, with the exception of 10th grade, the percentage of girls with a negative self-perception increased with the grade level and, with the exception of 11th grade, the percentage of girls who were overweight or obese also increased. This indicates that the problem with body image worsens as girls get older as does the struggle to maintain a healthy weight. According to a Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report of the CDC, "Students with weight concerns are at increased risk for unhealthy dieting behaviors."¹⁷⁴ Thus, since the data suggests that numerous Indiana high school girls have weight concerns, they are at risk for developing unhealthy dieting behaviors.¹⁷⁵

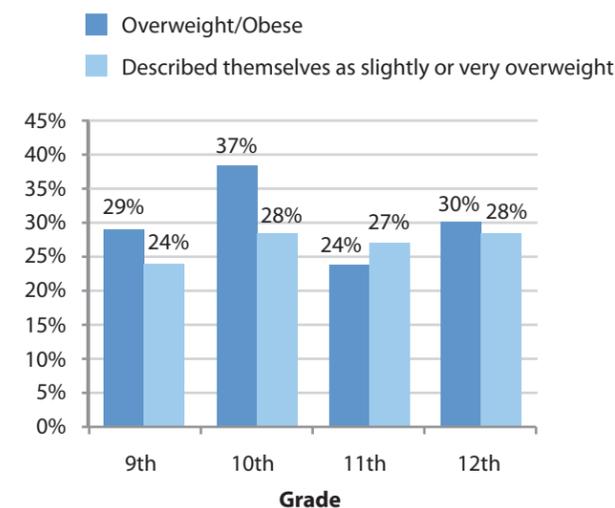
In comparing **Figure 62** and **Figure 63**, notice that discrepancies between actual weight and self-perception of weight were larger in each grade for high school girls in Indiana than for high school boys in 2011. In fact, with the exception of 11th grade, the percentage of high school boys in Indiana that were overweight or obese

Figure 62: Indiana's high school girls and body image, 2011



Source: CDC, Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2011

Figure 63: Indiana's high school boys and body image, 2011



Source: CDC, Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2011

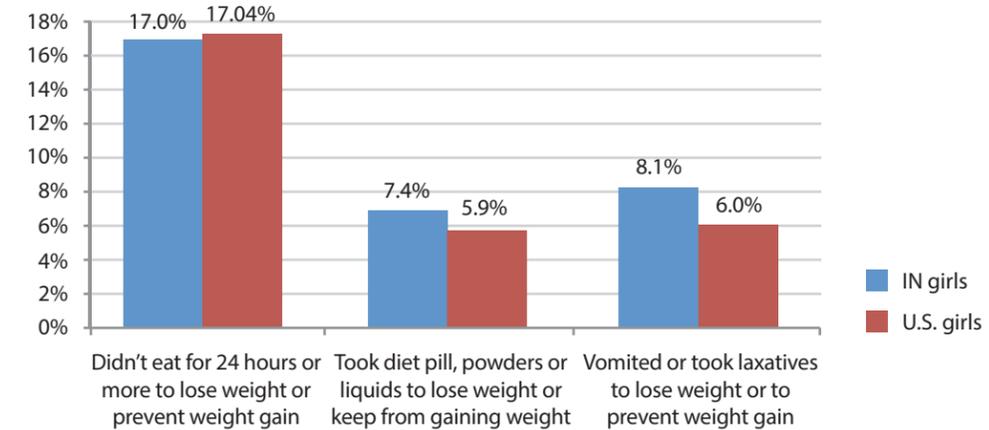
and Indiana, high school girls in Indiana were more likely to take diet pills, powders, or liquids, as well as vomit or take laxatives in order to lose weight or to keep from gaining weight. Fasting does not seem to be any more prevalent in Indiana than in the nation overall among high school girls, even though the 2011 figures do indicate that this is the preferred method, see (Figure 64). Across racial and ethnic groups, there was a higher percentage of Hispanic or Latino girls displaying indicators of eating disorders than black or African American girls or white girls in high school in Indiana in 2011, see (Figure 65). **This data suggests that eating disorders may affect Hispanic or Latino girls more than black or African American girls or white girls in Indiana.**¹⁷⁷

While information from the CDC's Youth Risk Behavior Survey is very useful, it only includes responses from high school students, which only includes children between the ages of 14 and 18 years old. Also, the questions on the CDC's Youth Risk Behavior Survey are not specific enough to conclude that an individual has an eating disorder. They merely suggest that an individual who exhibits these behaviors may be at risk

in 2011 was higher than the percentage of high school boys that perceived themselves that way. This suggests that **high school girls in Indiana struggle with their body image more than high school boys, and thus are more at risk for developing unhealthy dieting behaviors.**¹⁷⁶

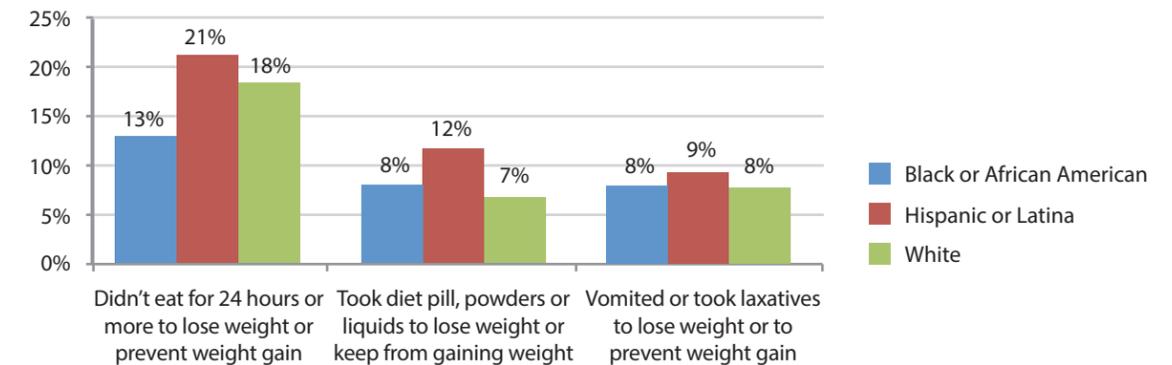
A question on the CDC's Youth Risk Behavior Survey in 2011 asks high school students if they have done any of the following to lose weight or to prevent weight gain: not eat for 24 hours or more (also called fasting); take diet pills, powders, or liquids without a doctor's advice; vomit or take laxatives. Between the United States

Figure 64: Indicators of eating disorders in high school girls, 2011



Source: CDC, Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2011

Figure 65: Indicators of eating disorders in Indiana's high school girls by race/ethnicity, 2011



Source: CDC, Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2011

for an eating disorder. We need a more comprehensive survey that is specific to the behaviors and symptoms associated with eating disorders.

Overall, there is a general lack of information regarding the prevalence of eating disorders in girls between the ages of 10 through 19 in the state of Indiana. For example, throughout our research we were often referred to the Indiana Department of Health's website, which only contains outdated statistics from before 2000 that are not specific to Indiana. Also, besides the CDC's Youth Risk Behavior Survey, there was not any available information about eating disorders that was disaggregated by state. Thus, it is difficult to fully provide a comprehensive view of how eating disorders affect girls in Indiana.

Violence and Abuse

Child Abuse and Neglect

In the U.S., reports have shown that *at least* 2,000 children die from abuse and/or neglect each year.¹⁷⁸ The abuse of a child is something that should be taken very seriously, especially considering these numbers. However, it can be hard to really focus on the subject and think proactively about it unless one knows the facts. Although there are few reports that divvy up these numbers by the desirable categories, such as age and sex, there are some reports which should be analyzed.

The first important thing to understand when it comes to child abuse is that “abuse” is an all-encompassing word that must be defined carefully when one references statistics. Abuse can be sexual, physical, or neglectful. Sexual abuse is forcing sexual behavior upon another person. Physical abuse is physical contact that is meant to cause pain, injury, or suffering upon another person. Lastly, neglectful abuse is when a child’s or a dependent’s essential needs are not met on a daily basis. Now that the definitions are clear, it is easy to draw conclusions about the child abuse that occurs in Indiana.

In 2009, the Indiana Department of Child Services released the *Demographics and Trending Report*. This report is the most current report which presents statistics about the numbers and characteristics of abused children in Indiana in the 2009 state fiscal year (July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009). Out of the three “types” of abuse defined above, neglect is the type that most often occurs in Indiana. In the *Demographics* report, there were 4,113 cases of neglect in boys ages seven-18 and 4,751 cases of neglect in girls in the same age group (see **Table 26**).¹⁷⁹ These were reports that were substantiated, or in which credible evidence was available. The unsubstantiated numbers were much higher, but those are cases in which there is insufficient or no evidence that said abuse has happened.

Though neglect was reported as the type of abuse most often occurring in Indiana, there are two other types to be accounted for: sexual and physical. In these two categories the discrepancy is in the statistics based on sex (see **Table 26**). More girls than boys were reported as sexually abused, and more boys than girls were reported as physically abused. These numbers comply with the conclusion in the *Demographics* report that **girls are more likely to be sexually abused than boys**.¹⁸⁰

Table 26: Child abuse and neglect in Indiana by age and sex, 2009

	Neglect		Sexual Abuse		Physical Abuse	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
7–12 years	2,758	2,683	368	1,030	592	382
13–18 years	1,355	2,068	267	1,757	318	498

Source: IDCS, *Demographics and Trending Report*, 2009

The statistics provided in the *Demographics* report are also consistent with a 2011 report from Sunny Start on the well-being of children in Indiana. This report from Sunny Start also divides child maltreatment into the two main categories of abuse and neglect, where abuse is further divided into sexual abuse and physical abuse. In **Table 27**, we can see the percentages of substantiated child abuse and neglect reports in Indiana, in 2009, that were for children seven-12 years old and 13 years old or older who have experienced either sexual abuse, physical abuse, or neglect. These statistics suggest that young children are more likely to experience abuse and neglect than older children, but it is not uncommon for older children to have the same experiences. Although the statistics were not presented separated by sex, the report specifies which is most likely to suffer from sexual abuse, physical abuse, and neglect. This report suggests, similarly to the *Demographics* report, that girls of all age groups are more likely to experience sexual abuse compared to the male population. When compared to older boys, young boys are more likely to experience physical abuse and neglect, whereas girls over the age of 13 are more likely to experience physical abuse and neglect than younger girls. However, children between the ages of zero and three are more likely to be neglected than any other age group.

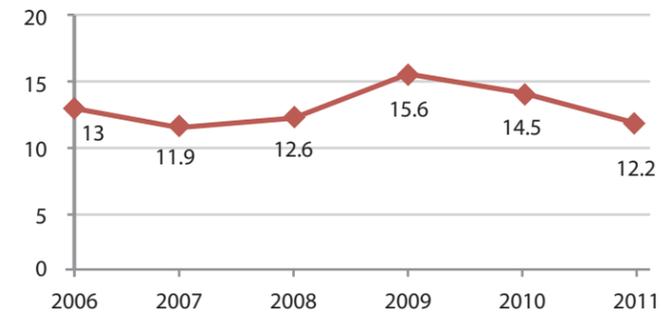
Table 27: Percentages of substantiated child abuse and neglect in Indiana by age, 2009

	Neglect	Sexual Abuse	Physical Abuse
7–12 years old	26.8%	33.0%	33.8%
13 years old or older	16.9%	47.8%	28.3%

Source: Sunny Start, *The State of the Young Hoosier Child*, 2011

We can also look at the rates of child abuse and neglect in Indiana over the years. Encouragingly, there has been a decrease in the child abuse and neglect rate among Indiana’s children under the age of 18 years old since it peaked in 2009 at 15.6 percent (see **Figure 66**).¹⁸²

Figure 66: Indiana’s child abuse and neglect rate per 1,000 children under age 18, 2006–2011



Source: *The Annie E. Casey Foundation, KIDS COUNT Data Center, datacenter.kidscount.org.*

In a national report from the Children’s Bureau of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, we are given statistics for child maltreatment in the year 2010 by state. This report provides various information including, but not limited to, the victims’ age, gender, race, ethnicity, and the form of maltreatment he or she experienced. Considering our focus on girls between the ages of 10 and 19 years old, we can see from **Table 28** that children between the ages of eight and 11 and children between the ages of 12 and 15 were more likely to experience some form of child maltreatment than children older than 15 years. **Table 29** gives the number of maltreatment victims among Indiana’s children by sex, from which we see that girls were slightly more likely to experience some form of child maltreatment than boys. While this information is helpful for our study, we are not provided with data that separates both age and sex together.¹⁸³

Table 28: Victims of maltreatment in Indiana by age, 2010

	Population	# of victims	% of victims
8–11 years old	349,445	3,930	18.4
12–15 years old	350,011	3,974	18.6
16–17 years old	181,635	1,309	6.1

Source: Children’s Bureau, *Child Maltreatment 2010*

Table 29: Child victims of maltreatment in Indiana by sex, 2010

	Population	# of victims	% of victims
Boys	812,766	10,019	46.9
Girls	776,599	11,307	52.9

Source: Children’s Bureau, *Child Maltreatment 2010*

When comparing Indiana to the United States overall, child maltreatment statistics show several different results depending on the age group and gender of the child. For the age group of eight through 11 years old, the national average percentage of victims was 18.7 percent in 2010, with Indiana falling just below average for this age group at 18.4 percent. For children between the ages of 12 and 15 years old, the national average percentage of victims was 17.3 percent, with Indiana above average for this age group at 18.6 percent. For 16 and 17 year olds, the national average percentage was 6.2 percent, and Indiana’s percentage was nearly equivalent at 6.1 percent. Considering sex, the national average percentage of female victims was 51.2 percent, with Indiana slightly above average at 52.9 percent.

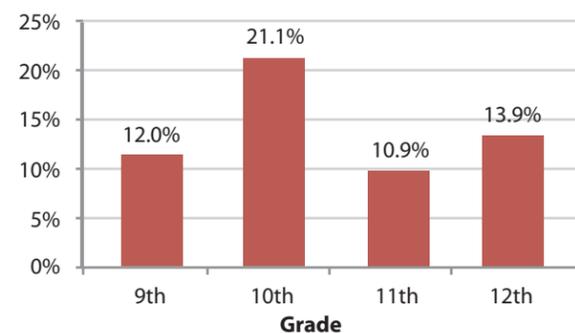
Girls ages 10 to 19 were not commonly victims of fatalities as a result of abuse or neglect in the year 2010. Girls that fall within this age range may have been perpetrators, however. The Indiana Department of Child Services' *Child Abuse and Neglect Annual Report of Child Fatalities State Fiscal Year 2011*, which is the most recent report on child fatalities as a result of child abuse and neglect in Indiana, states that there were 40 child fatalities resulting from abuse or neglect, an increase from the 25 fatalities in 2010. More specifically, **there were 27 total child fatalities from abuse reported in 2011, with 12 of them being girls** and three of them between the ages of 10 and 17 years old. However, the report does not specify whether the child fatalities between the ages of 10 and 17 years old were boys or girls. Additionally, **there were 13 child fatalities from neglect reported in 2011, with eight of them being girls** and one fatality to a child between the ages of 10 and 12 years old. Again, the gender of the child fatality in the 10-12 age group is not provided. There were 32 perpetrators of the child fatalities resulting from abuse, two of which were between the ages of 16 and 19 years old. Fourteen of the total perpetrators were reported to be women. However, again, the report does not specify the sex of the perpetrators between the ages of 16 and 19.¹⁸⁵ It is important to note that the Department of Child Services only reviews cases of child fatalities if the deaths were sudden, unexplained, unexpected, or if allegations were made regarding abuse or neglect of that child.

Sexual Violence

In surveys studying high school girls in the state of Indiana, alarming numbers stand out on the page when it comes to the percentage of girls involved in acts of sexual violence. The CDC defines sexual violence as "any sexual act perpetrated against someone's will."¹⁸⁶ The term "sexual violence" encompasses several different offenses, including a completed nonconsensual sex act (i.e., rape), attempted rape, abusive sexual contact or unwanted touching, and non-contact sexual abuse such as threatened sexual violence, exhibitionism, or verbal sexual harassment.

According to the CDC's *Youth Risk Behavior Survey* from 2011, Indiana's female high school students were more likely than male high school students to have been physically forced to have sex when they did not want to. The prevalence rate of rape among Indiana's female high schools was second highest out of the 46 states reporting data to the CDC. Specifically, **14.5 percent of Indiana's female high school students in 2011 reported ever being raped** compared to only 5.2 percent of male students. This is just the number of reported incidences. There are many incidences that go unreported. Additionally, Indiana's female students in 10th grade were more likely than any other grade in high school to have reported ever being raped (see **Figure 67**).

Figure 67: Percentage of Indiana's high school girls forced to have sex, by grade, 2011

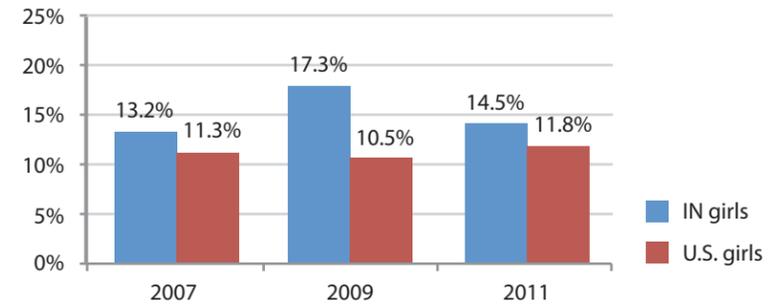


Source: CDC, *Youth Risk Behavior Survey*, 2011

Throughout the past five years, the national percentage of high school girls that were forced to have sexual intercourse has remained almost constant. Percentages in Indiana, on the other hand, have fluctuated, though always staying consistently larger than those for the U.S. (see Figure 68). The percentage of high school girls who reported that they had been forced to have sexual intercourse in the state of Indiana was significantly greater than the national rate in 2009 and 2011.¹⁸⁷

The CDC's *Youth Risk Behavior Survey* also asks high school students about dating violence. Specifically, the survey asks if a student was hit, slapped, or physically hurt on purpose by a boyfriend or girlfriend in the past year. The percentage of Indiana's

Figure 68: Percentage of high school girls forced to have sex, 2007–2011



Source: CDC, *Youth Risk Behavior Survey*, 2011

male high school students that reported being a victim was higher (12 percent) than the percentage of female students (10.6 percent), though the difference was not significant.

It is important to note that all of the data in this report was for high-school-aged girls. The information available is extremely limited, and data for ages 10–14 years old is extremely difficult to find. There is national data on sexual violence among women but finding data specific to Indiana about the age group of interest was difficult to come by.

Bullying and Fighting

The CDC's *Youth Risk Behavior Survey* from 2011 looked at bullying in several different aspects—electronic bullying, being threatened while at school, not feeling safe going to school or being at school, and being threatened or injured while at school. According to the survey, **28.2 percent of Indiana's female high school students reported being bullied on school property**. This was higher than the national average of 22 percent. Overall, the proportion of girls who have been bullied is greater in the state of Indiana than the proportion of all girls in the United States who have been bullied. Of the male high school students in Indiana, 21.8 percent indicated that they had been bullied on school property, compared to 18.2 percent of boys nationally. This indicates that the proportion of students who reported having been bullied on school property is much higher for female high school students in Indiana than for boys.¹⁸⁸

Electronic bullying, which is bullying taking place through email, chat rooms, instant messaging, web sites, or texting, has gained popularity. In 2011, 25.5 percent of Indiana's female high school students reported being electronically bullied. This is higher than the national average of 22.1 percent for female high school students, and significantly higher than the 12.1 percent of Indiana's male high school students.

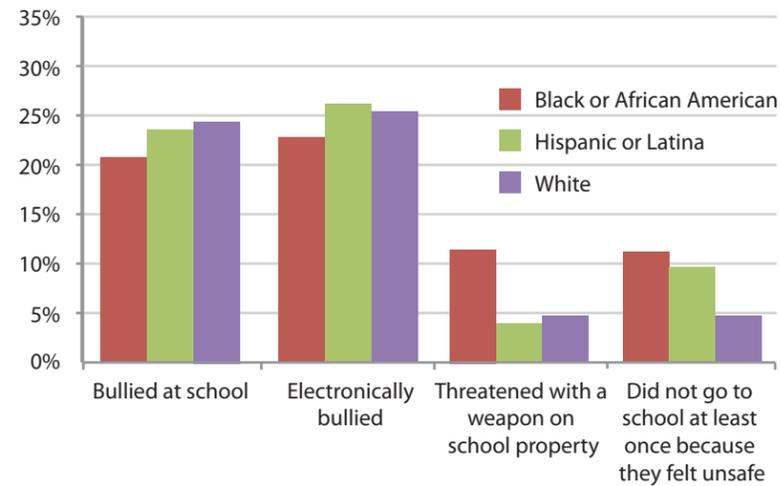
Among Indiana's high school students, electronic bullying is more common among girls than boys.¹⁸⁹

When asked if they had been threatened or injured with a weapon (e.g., a gun, knife, or club) on school property, 5.7 percent of Indiana's female high school students in 2011 responded "yes" compared to 7.8 percent of male students. Additionally in 2011, 6.2 percent of Indiana's female high school students did not go to school on at least one occasion because they felt unsafe. This was higher than the national average of six percent. It was also higher than the percentage of Indiana's male high school students, of which only 3.7 percent reported not going to school because they felt unsafe.¹⁹⁰

The prevalence of different forms of bullying varied across different racial and ethnic groups among Indiana's female high school students in 2011 (see **Figure 69**). Most notably, the percentage of Indiana's black or African American female high school students that were threatened with a weapon on school property was significantly higher than the percentages among Hispanic or Latina students and white students.

Turning now to fighting and physical violence, while the percentage of Indiana's female high school students involved in physical fights in 2011 was lower than the national average, the percentage of girls in Indiana injured in physical fights was higher.

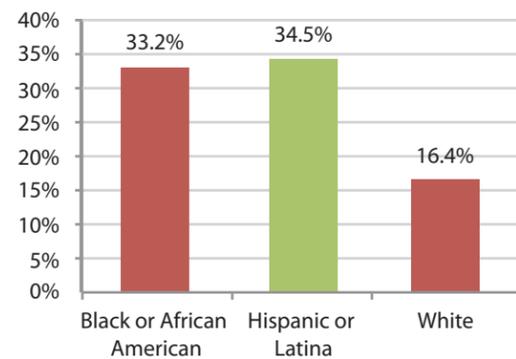
Figure 69: Percentages of Indiana's high school girls experiencing bullying by race, 2011



Source: CDC, Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2011

Specifically, 20 percent of Indiana's female high school students reported having been in a physical fight at least once, and three percent were injured seriously enough to require medical attention from a doctor or nurse. This compares to a national average of 2.6 percent of female high school students injured out of the 24.4 percent involved in physical fights. **Indiana's female high school students in 2011 were far less likely than male students to be involved in a physical fight.** When looking at the prevalence of physical fighting among Indiana's female high school students across racial and ethnic groups, note that black or African American and Hispanic or Latina students were more likely than white students to be involved in a physical fight (see Figure 70).

Figure 70: Percentages of Indiana's high school girls involved in at least one physical fight by race/ethnicity, 2011



Source: CDC, Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2011

Far fewer girls reported handling weapons in 2011 than boys. Where 28 percent of Indiana's male high school students admitted to carrying a weapon at least once, only 5.4 percent of Indiana's female students carried a weapon. Furthermore, only 1.6 percent of Indiana's female students admitted to carrying a weapon on school property, significantly less than the 5.8 percent of male students that did so.¹⁹¹

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- ⁹⁹ AP Subject Area Groupings, Art: Art History, Music Theory, Studio Art: Drawing Portfolio, Studio Art: 2-D Design Portfolio, and 3-D Design Portfolio; English: English Language and Composition and English Literature and Composition; Math: Calculus AB, Calculus BC, Computer Science A, and Statistics; Science: Biology, Chemistry, Environmental Science, Physics B, Physics C: Electricity and Magnetism, and Physics C: Mechanics; Social Science: Macroeconomics, Microeconomics, European History, Comparative Government and Politics, U.S. Government and Politics, Human Geography, Psychology, U.S. History, World History; World Languages: Chinese Language and Culture, French Language, German Language, Italian Language and Culture, Japanese Language and Culture, Latin Vergil, Spanish Language, Spanish Culture.
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