

# Indiana Housing Dashboard 2.0

**Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority**  
Management Innovation: Technology

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## Indiana Housing Dashboard 2.0

### Background

Late in 2021, the Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority (IHCDA) launched the original Indiana Housing Dashboard, a collection of demographic, economic, and housing data that had been developed with input from several individuals and organizations involved in the housing industry. It is a centralized platform to enable Indiana residents, local planners, elected officials, businesses and housing and real estate professionals to access data and information about housing challenges and opportunities across the state, as well as resources to begin planning for housing in their communities.

Almost immediately after launching the first iteration of the dashboard, IHCDA went to work on identifying improvements that could be made to the website. In October 2023, the new and improved IndianaHousingDashboard.com, also known as the Indiana Housing Dashboard 2.0, was completed and released for public use. The site is sponsored by IHCDA, developed by HR&A Advisors, Inc. and guided by a Housing Working Group comprised of a broad range of housing stakeholders from across the state.

### Components, Metrics and Data

The Indiana Housing Dashboard 2.0 has many of the same components that were included in the first version. There are charts that provide ready access to ten years of census data on population, income, poverty, employment, homeownership, housing affordability and more for any geography, including all Indiana cities and towns, counties, and the state as a whole, with each metric being compared to the next larger geography. Many other metrics are included in the form of a current snapshot, such as racial makeup, vacancy of properties, and cost burden of owners and renters.

What sets the new Dashboard apart from its predecessor? One major improvement is the sheer number of metrics that are now curated on the site. With sources including the US Census, the American Community Survey, PUMS, US Bureau of Labor Statistics, Indiana Office of the Courts, IRS, Zillow, et al, there are over 90 metrics and statistics included in various screens and reports on the dashboard.

### Comparison Tool

The comparison tool has been enhanced to provide the user with greater ease of navigation, increased detail, and a visually pleasing display for viewing comparisons between several geographies at once within approximately 25 charts. These charts provide value whether the goal of usage is the comparison is related to friendly competition with a neighboring town, or emulating the actions, policies, and development of a model city.



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## Needs Assessment

At the click of a button and within seconds, a full housing needs assessment can be generated for the geography of one's choosing. The full report includes data split into the sections:

- Population and Demographics
- Economic Trends
- Housing Supply
- Renter Housing Needs
- Homeowner Housing Needs

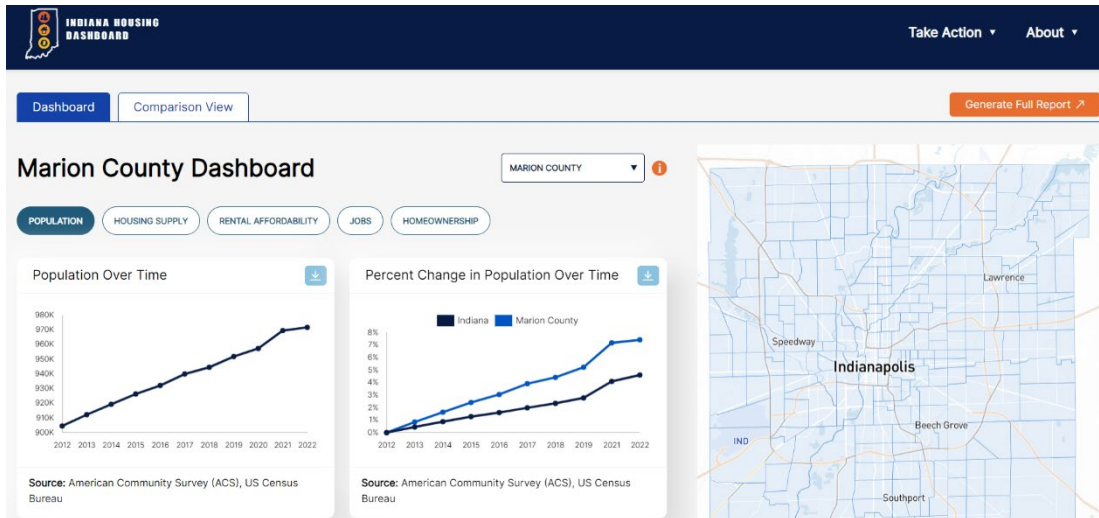
The report can be downloaded in PDF format for sharing with committees, government representatives, or other local stakeholders, or it can be downloaded as a set of Excel spreadsheets so that the data can be used in calculations.

## Take Action

Perhaps the most valuable improvement of all is a whole section of the dashboard called "Take Action." Municipalities, non-profits, the development community, state government, advocates and community members all have a role to play in creating housing markets that provide quality, affordable homes, and the Take Action pages provide invaluable guidance to the user about planning and development processes, about policies and programs that may be available from state or local government, and about creating a collaborative network of groups and organizations to gather the necessary data and input for well-informed decision making. There are notes on community engagement that include creating an advisory committee, using focus groups, mailers, and public meetings. Suggestions for plans include preparing for growth, preventing displacement, increasing economic opportunity, reducing disparities, and expanding access to homeownership. The section on the roles of local government addresses zoning and permitting authority, policies regarding tenants' rights, potential for public subsidies, and other regulatory and policy matters. This section is tailored for use by local officials and policymakers, and no background in housing is needed to fully utilize the tool.

## Visual Aids and Supporting Materials

The Indiana Housing Dashboard can be visited by clicking [here](#).



## Take Action

Municipalities, non-profits, the development community, state government, advocates and community members all have a role to play in creating housing markets that provide quality, affordable homes.

Follow the links below to learn more about setting data-informed housing priorities that reflect your community's needs, selecting effective housing policies and programs, and developing a local housing plan to implement those policies and programs.



### Learn About the Planning Process

New to the housing planning process? Explore this section to learn more about the typical stages of developing a local housing plan.



### Set Data-Informed Priorities

Explore this section to learn more about common community priorities, and metrics that can help you track your progress.



### Explore Housing Policies & Programs

Explore this section to learn more about selecting and evaluating housing policies and programs, and access our library of land use, subsidy, and tenants' rights tools.



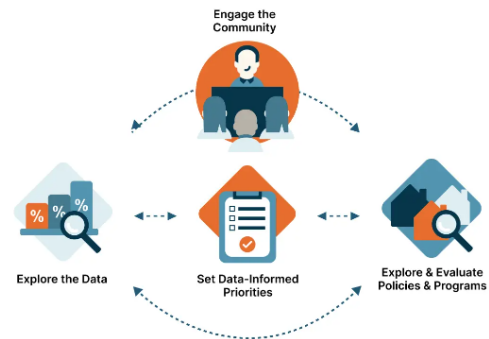
### Access Additional Resources

Explore external housing plan-related resources here.

## Planning for Housing

Planning for housing affordability in your community is a process that involves the coordination and input of numerous stakeholder groups including local housing and economic development local government employees, elected officials, real estate professionals, service providers, housing advocates and the broader community. The process starts with an assessment of your community's current and future housing needs, using both data analysis and public engagement. As clear housing needs emerge, your community can prioritize goals and explore policies and programs to achieve them.

Planning for housing will look a little different in every community based on the issues that emerge and the priorities in the community. In most cases, the process proves to be iterative with the need to revisit the data and engage the community and key stakeholders at multiple points throughout the process.



← [Take Action](#)

### Set Housing Priorities

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Housing priorities should be informed by a community's values and the conditions in its housing market. An analysis of the conditions in a housing market identifies where a housing market is failing to meet the needs of community members, while a community's values determine which failures in the housing market the community dedicates resources to addressing first.

The analysis should include both a thorough assessment of the data, provided here within the Indiana Housing Dashboard, and community engagement to compare community members' experiences with the data. How to engage the community and compare the data from the dashboard with experience of the community is described in more detail in the Housing Planning section.

It is important to set clear priorities to allow municipalities and their community partners to coordinate with each other and focus their limited resources. These priorities provide points to organize around to marshal resources, align multiple partners and sustain a collaborative effort.

## Explore Housing Policies & Programs

MARION COUNTY ▼ i

- Introduction
- Explore Policies & Programs

### The Role of Local Government

There are many factors that impact housing affordability at the local level, from macroeconomic trends affecting wages, interest rates and construction costs to regional job growth and housing supply to local land use policies that affect what can be built and the cost to build it. Local governments have a limited, but important set of tools to help create a healthy housing market.

### Housing Policies and Programs Overview

Local governments primarily impact housing markets by **setting the regulatory environment** (land use) in which developers make investment decisions, by **deploying public funds** (subsidy) for infrastructure, amenities and development and by **setting local policies** (tenants' rights) to balance the interests of tenants and property owners.

A healthy housing market requires policy makers to adopt a comprehensive approach that incorporates land use, subsidy and tenants' rights. Each of these tools can help address different aspects of failures in a local housing market and are more effective and less costly when used together. However, very few communities in America have been able to adopt and implement a comprehensive approach to housing due to local political constraints.



## Access External Resources

Explore further housing planning-related resources below.

#### IHCDA Website

Visit the Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority

OPEN LINK

#### 2022 Indiana Housing Resource Guide

Learn more about Indiana housing resources and a glossary of housing terms

DOWNLOAD

#### Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago Peer City Identification Tool

Identify a peer city

OPEN LINK

#### Local Housing Solutions Case Studies

Explore case studies

OPEN LINK