



Religion &  
American Culture

# SAVI Talks: Understanding Urban, Suburban, and Rural Contexts for Ministries



# Presenters

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- The Changing Nature of Community
- Polarization's Effect on Congregations
- Three Key Assumptions

OUR PROGRAMS

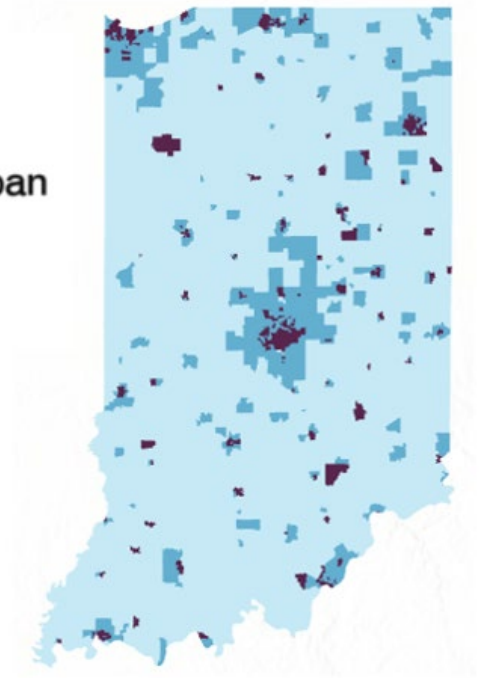
## Congregations and Polarization Project



# Defining Urban/Suburban/Rural

# UPSAI

HUD's **Urbanization Perceptions**  
**Small Area Index (UPSAI)**. Based on  
self-reported neighborhood  
perceptions and machine learning.

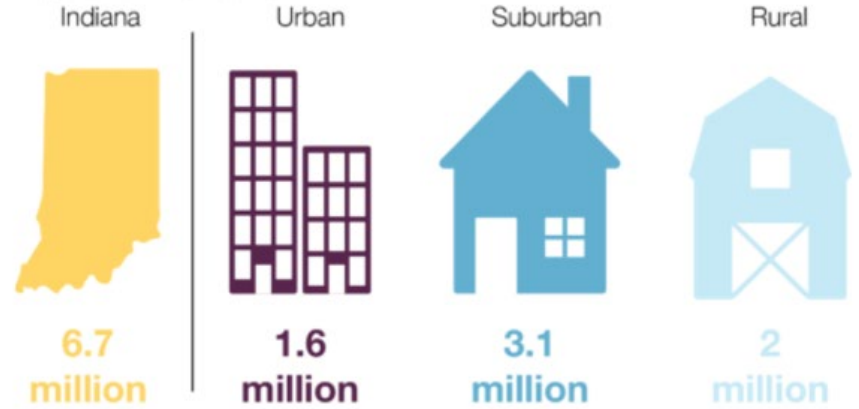


Defined at census tract level

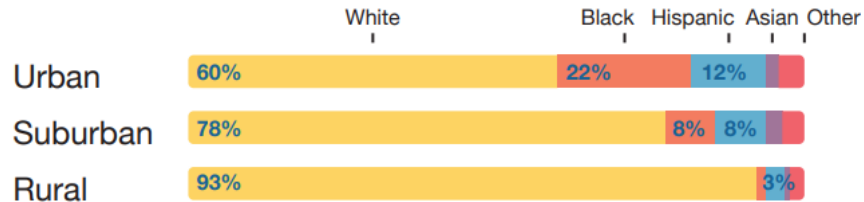
Source: <https://www.huduser.gov/portal/AHS-neighborhood-description-study-2017.html#small-area-tab>

# Demographics

## Population Distribution



## Percent of population by race



## Unemployment Rate



# Ownership, and educational attainment

## More Demographics

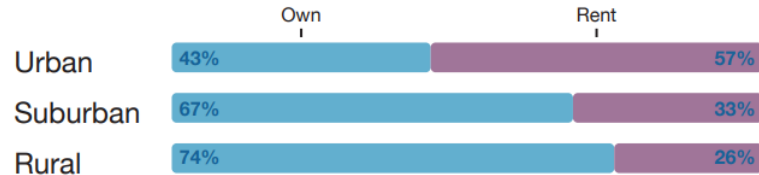
Median household income



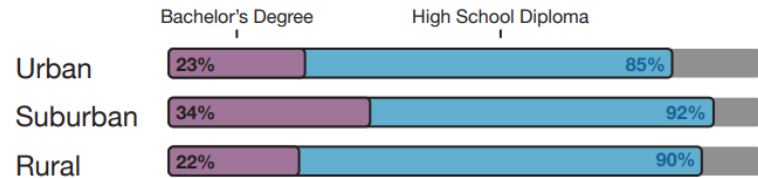
Percent of population in poverty



Percent of households that own or rent their home

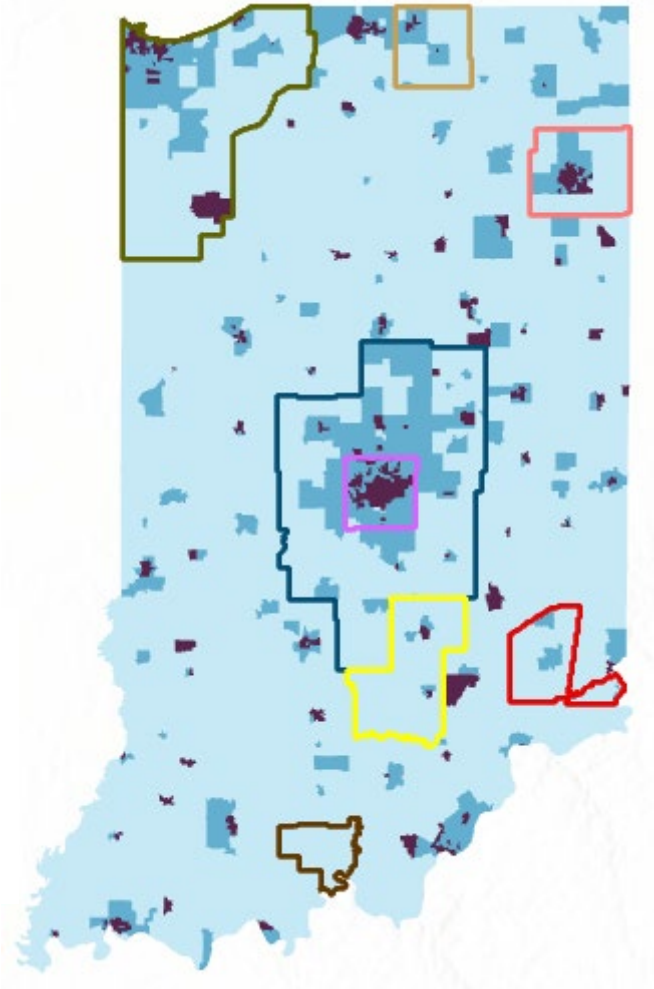


Percent of adults 25 or older who have attained a \_\_\_\_\_











# CAP Regions

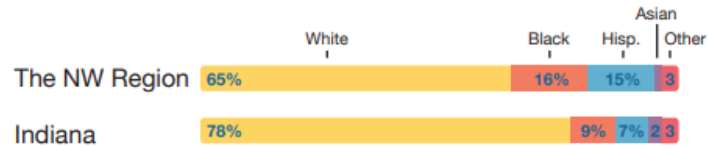
Multiple demographic  
Dimensions for each  
of 8 regions.



## Profile Regions

-  Allen County
-  Bartholomew County/Jackson County
-  Crawford County
-  Elkhart County
-  Indy MSA minus Marion (Boone, Brown, Hamilton, Hancock, Hendricks, Jackson, Madison, Shelby and Tipton)
-  Marion County
-  Ohio County/Ripley County
-  The Region (Jasper, Lake County, LaPorte County, Newton County and Porter County)

The NW Region is more diverse than the state overall.  
Percent of population by race





# What We Have Learned So Far

1. Community remains a local experience
2. Types of congregations also vary by region
3. Suburbs balancing urban and rural interests

# Q&A from Audience

# Panelists and Moderators

Lizzy McGrevy,  
Moderator



Community Engagement Health  
Specialist,  
WFYI Public Media

Pastor Brian  
Shobe



Senior Pastor,  
Shiloh  
Missionary  
Baptist Church

Pastor Janae Pits-  
Murdock



Senior Pastor,  
Light of the World  
Christian Church

Pastor Martin  
Wright



Director of Field Education,  
Christian Theological  
Seminary



# Acknowledgements

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- **Matt Dietrich** – Data collection and analysis
- **Marc McAleavey** – Project Management



# Project Partner

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# Program Partners





# Congregations and Polarization

Additional Information:

**Congregations and Polarization Project:**

<https://raac.indianapolis.iu.edu/programs/congregations-and-polarization/>

**SAVI Report. Understanding Context for Ministry: Urban, Suburban, Rural:**

<https://www.savi.org/reports/understanding-context-for-ministry-urban-suburban-rural/>