



LUDDY
SCHOOL OF INFORMATICS,
COMPUTING, AND ENGINEERING
Indianapolis

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Indianapolis Use of Force Report and Equity Report Card

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Project Partners



Provided funding for analysis of data
and construction of the report

Program Partners



Acknowledgements

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- **Ally Scott**—data analysis, writing and design
- **Alli Kraus** – Design
- **Asger Ali and Jay Colbert**—data processing, analysis, visualization and data support
- **Marc McAleavy and Kayla Duncan** – Project support and writing
- **Stakeholders** at Faith in Indiana who attended feedback sessions and gave written feedback



Project Goals

1. **Examine racial disparities in use of force:** Investigate and highlight racial disparities within these policing practices.
2. **Increase awareness of racial disparities in Indianapolis policing:** Raise awareness to identify opportunities for change.
3. **Offer historical and contextual background on Indianapolis policing:** to provide a comprehensive overview of the historical factors influencing today's trends in Indianapolis.
4. **Develop an accessible online PDF report:** Create a online report to help individuals and organizations easily understand and engage with the data.



History of the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department (IMPD)

2007

The Indianapolis Police Department consolidates with the law enforcement division of the Marion County Sheriff's Department to create the IMPD

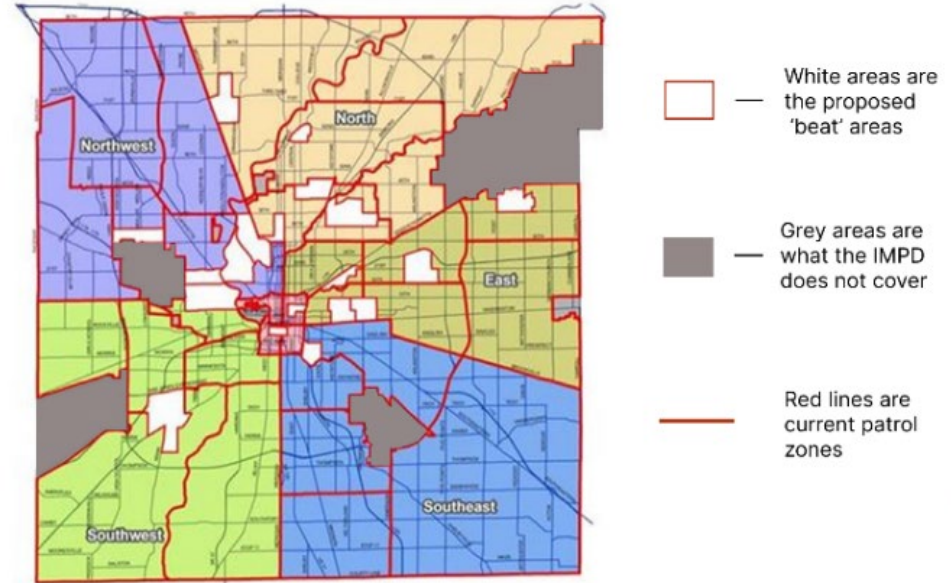
2012

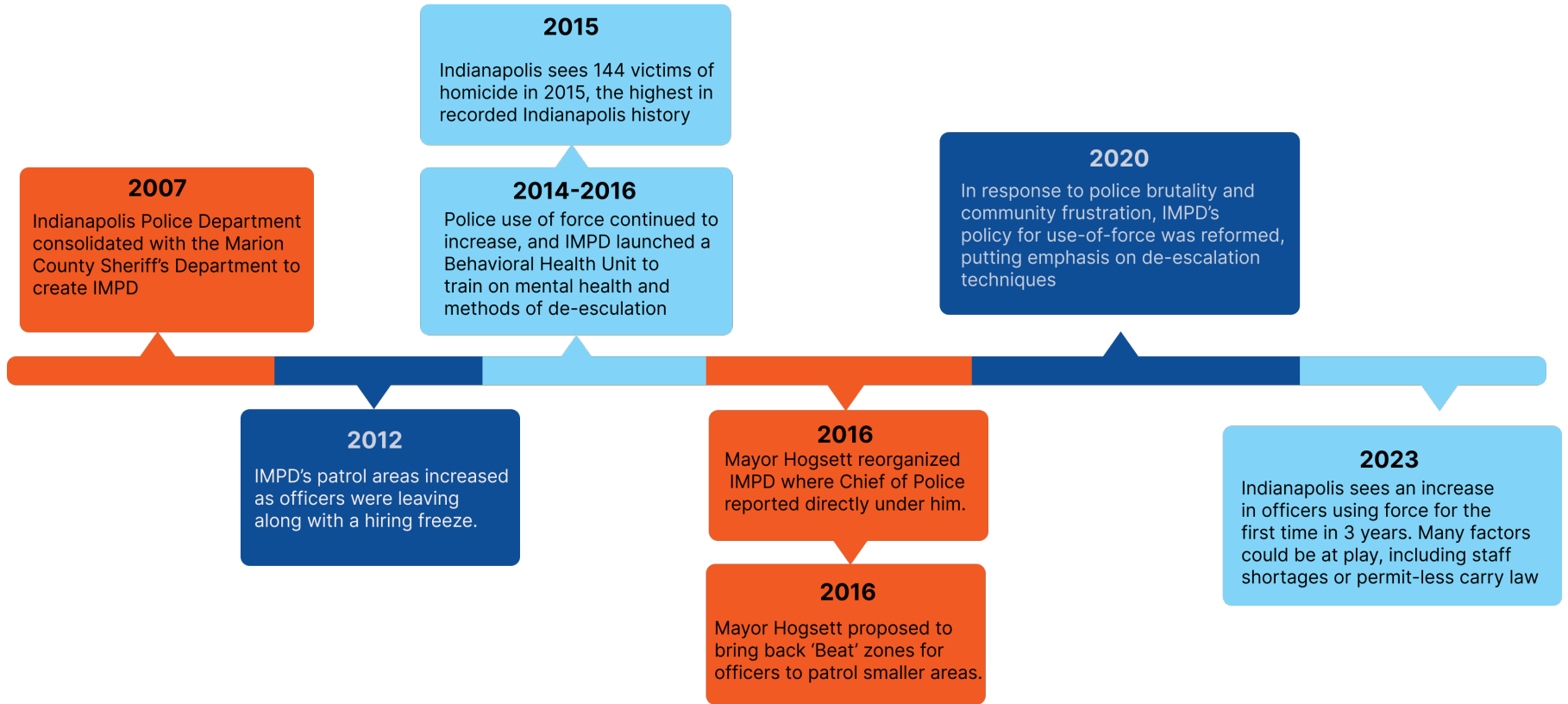
IMPD faced struggles to cover all patrol areas due to officers leaving and not filling their spots because of a hiring freeze. This forced IMPD to increase their patrol areas into larger zoning areas.

2016

IMPD began moving away from the current model after the newly appointed Chief Hogsett encouraged smaller 'beats' to reduce the record number of homicides in 2016.

"Every citizen of Indianapolis should know their IMPD officer by name" - Chief Hogsett





What Does IMPD Determine as Use of Force?

What Is Use of Force?



A vague term that is interpreted differently between agencies and is up to interpretation. For IMPD, their new 2020 policy includes the statement "**the minimum amount of force that is required, based on the circumstances known to the officer, to achieve the officer's legitimate law enforcement objectives**".

There are 7 procedures that IMPD officers will follow when determining how and when to use force.


Use of Force

1. When feasible, officers will attempt to de-escalate situations to resolve encounters without force
2. Officers will only use force that is objectively reasonable and proportionate to the circumstances
3. Officers will only use force for legitimate law enforcement objectives
4. Deadly force is prohibited except for certain circumstances
5. As soon as reasonably possible following use of force, officers will evaluate the subject for injuries and request medical help if needed
6. Officers will stop and report any use of force performed by themselves or another officer that violates applicable laws or department policies
7. Officers will receive training, at least annually, on IMPD's use of force policy and related legal updates

Data and Method

Open Indy Data Portal: <https://data.indy.gov/datasets/impd-use-of-force/explore>

IMPd Use Of Force

 **Indy GIS**
City of Indianapolis and Marion County - IndyGIS

Summary
Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department (IMPd) Use of Force.

[View Full Details](#)

[Download](#)

Details

- Dataset**
Table
- December 19, 2023**
Info Updated
- December 19, 2023**
Data Updated
- November 14, 2016**
Published Date
- Records: 161,808**
[View data table](#)
- Public**
Anyone can see this content
- Custom License**
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[I want to use this](#)

Showing 25 of 161,808 rows

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Data and Methodology

Year: 2015-2023

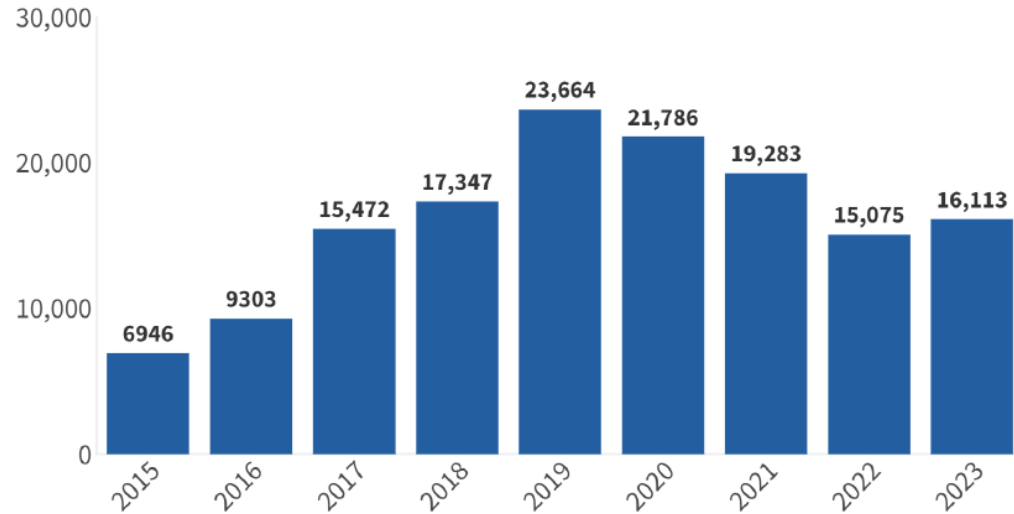
Geocoding: Using the street address, we use ArcGIS Geocoding tool to get the location of incidents across Marion County.

Descriptive Analysis and Visualization: ArcGIS and Flourish



Findings

Distribution of Annual Number of IMPD Incidents

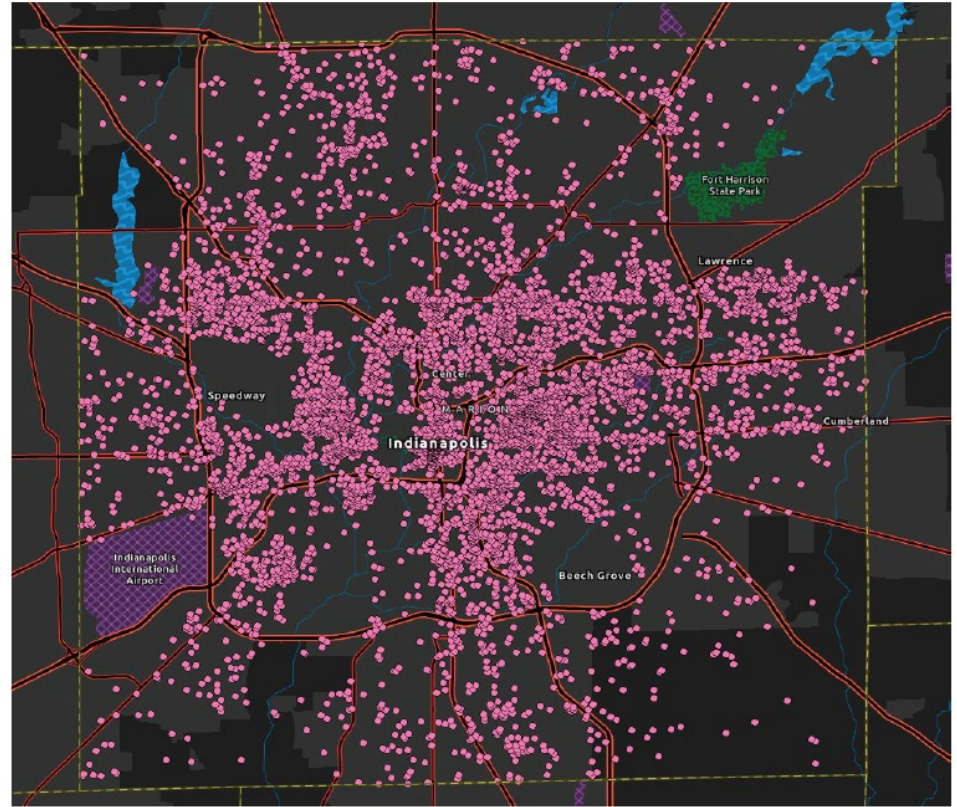


The number of reported incidents where IMPD used force were highest in 2019 and 2020, and saw an increase for the first time in 3 years in 2023.

Source: Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department (IMPD) Use of Force, 2015-2023



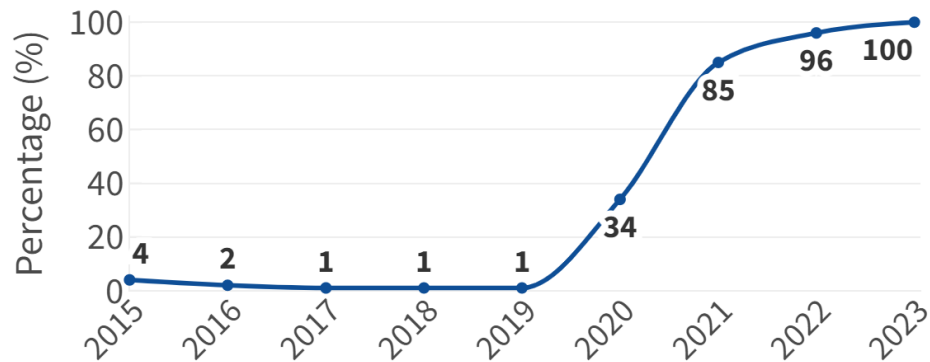
Distribution of IMPD Use of Force Incidents at Marion County.



*In 2020, IMPD updated their reporting policy in which officers do not need to report the location of the incident. Because of this, many incidents from 2021 to 2023 are not on this map.

There has been an increase in missing location of using force in recent years, especially after the year 2019.

Percentage (%) IMPD reports that resulted in use of force, but do not provide the location of incident.

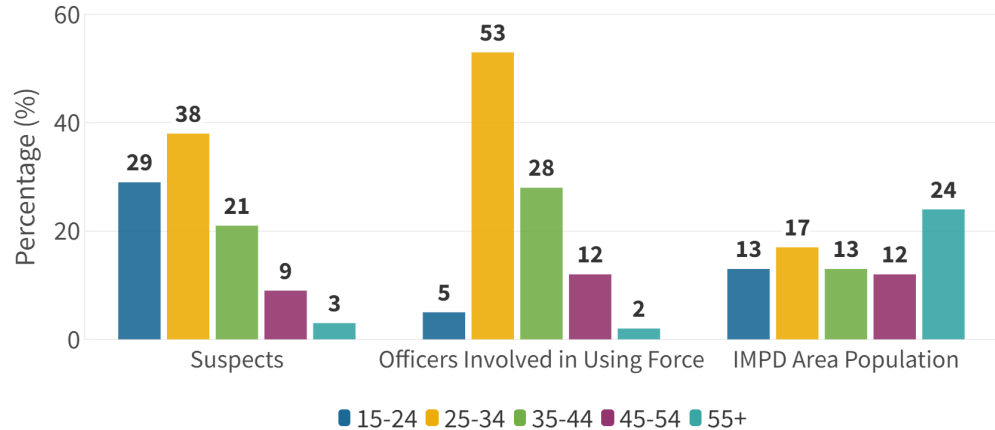


Source: Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department (IMPD)
Use of Force, 2015-2023



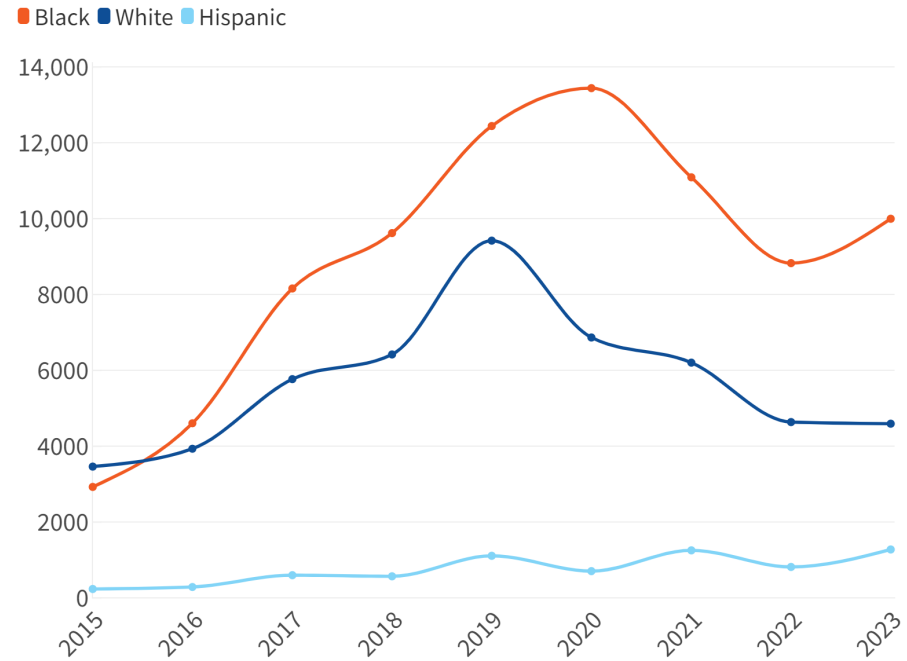
Most suspects and the officers involved with the use of force incident are less than age 45.

Age breakdown of suspects, officers involved in using force and IMPD area population



Source: Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department (IMPD) Use of Force, 2015-2023 and ACS 2021

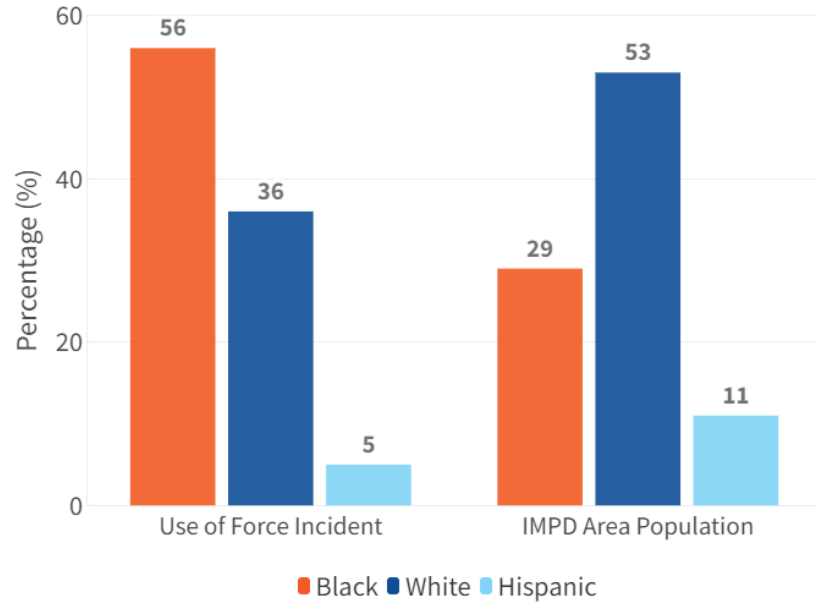
Police have used force on Black residents at a higher rate than White and Hispanic residents.



Source: Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department (IMPD) Use of Force, 2015-2023



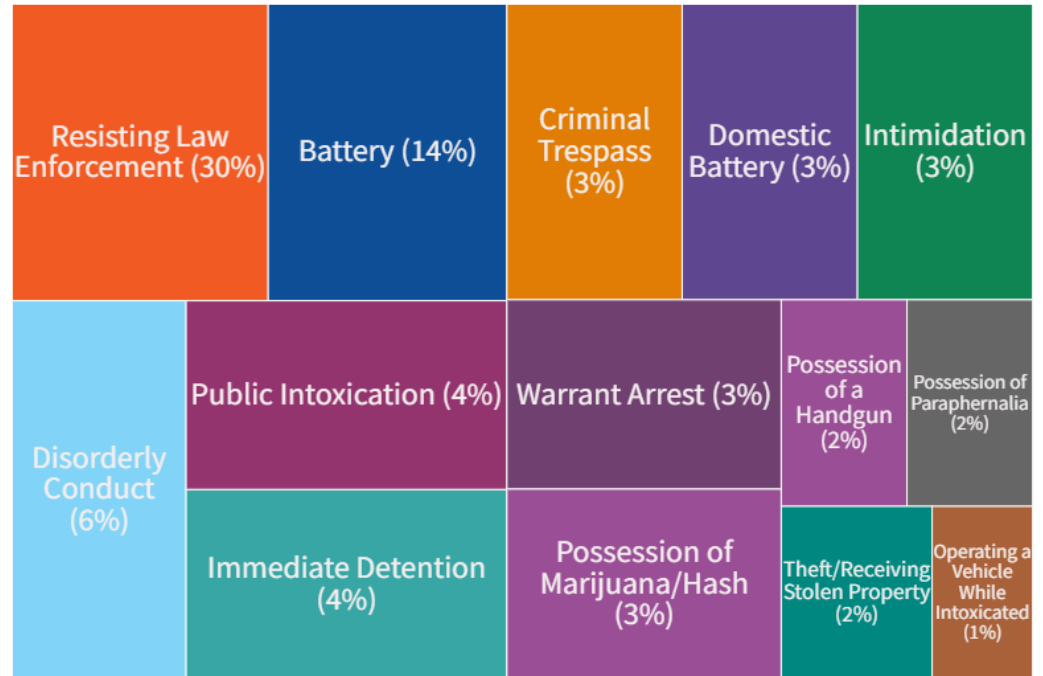
Police mostly used force on Black residents, although most residents that reside within the IMPD patrol area are White.



Source: Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department (IMPD) Use of Force, 2015-2023 and SAVI 2021



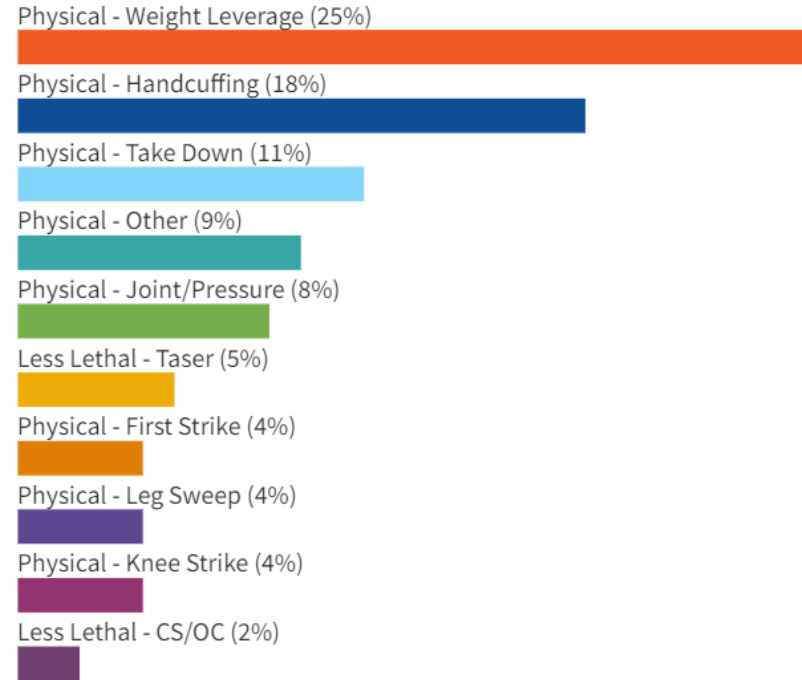
Nearly one-third of the charge types for suspects are related to resisting law enforcement, followed by battery, then disorderly conduct.



Source: Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department (IMPD) Use of Force, 2015-2023
• These 14 offenses account for 80% of all bookings since 2015. Many bookings have multiple charges for different offenses



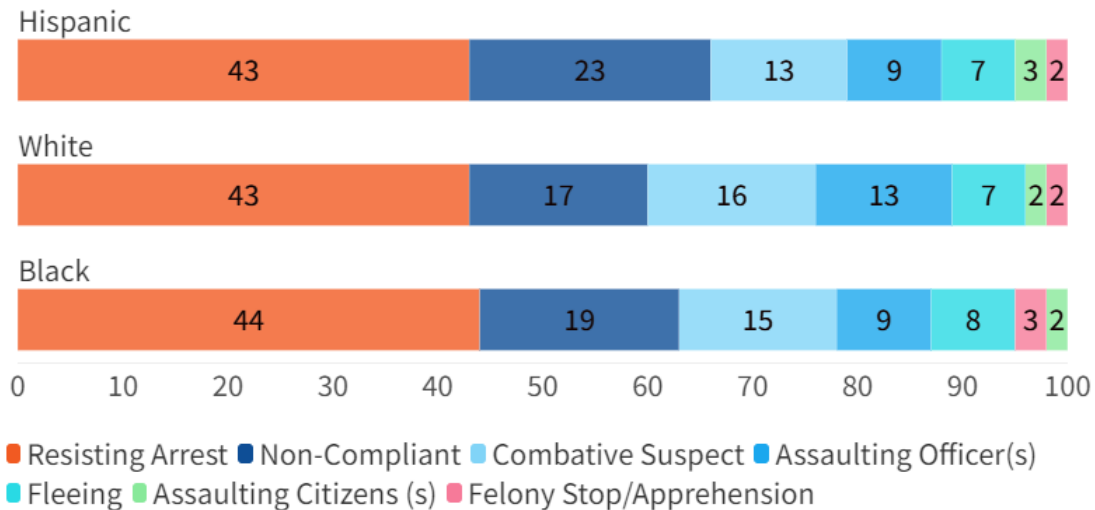
IMPD officers most often use physical weight leverage, handcuffing, and takedowns as the top three main force types used on suspects.



Source: Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department (IMPD) Use of Force, 2015-2023 • These 10 use-of-force types account for 90% of all incidents since 2015.



Nearly the same percentage of Black, White, and Hispanic suspects resisted arrest, were combative, or attempted to flee the scene.



Source: Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department (IMPD) Use of Force, 2015-2023



The evolution of IMPD's approach to policing, from zone-based patrol areas to smaller beat areas, reflects an effort to foster stronger connections with the communities where they serve.

However, despite these efforts, challenges persist, and the use of force used on citizens, particularly among Black residents continues to rise.

The data exposes underlying factors driving such disparities, such as officer shortages, legislature changes, and systemic inequalities.



Use of Force Report Q&A

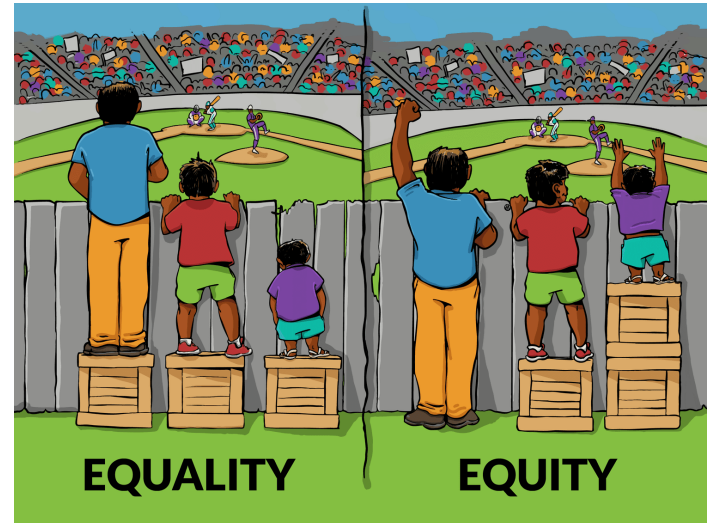
Racial Equity Report Card

- A data tool
- Community input started in 2023
- SAVI Talks in June 2024 to introduce the Racial Equity Report Card
- Launched in late July 2024
- Updates and future additions to come



Equity vs. Equality

1. Equality refers to the idea of **treating everyone the same**, regardless of their individual circumstances or needs.
2. Equity focuses on **leveling the playing field**, recognizing that not all individuals start from the same place and may require various levels of support or resources to achieve the same outcome.
3. While equality emphasizes sameness and uniform treatment, **equity focuses on fairness** and providing individuals with what they need to succeed, considering their unique circumstances and challenges.



How to Read the Racial Equity Report Card

★ Key indicator

Jail Population Rate

Jail is typically used to incarcerate a person who has been arrested for an alleged crime while they await their trial. Despite there being fewer Marion County residents in jail than in prison, the jail population is a significant portion of the incarcerated population. [Most people in Marion County jails](#) (67%) are there on low-level felonies, which are more severe than a misdemeanor and include such things as theft, unlawful possession of a syringe, and possession of a narcotic drug. Addressing these low-level crimes represents the best opportunity to reduce the jail population significantly.

Jail population per 100,000 people age 15-64 (Marion County)



Chart: The Polis Center • Source: Vera Institute, 2021 • [Get the data](#) • Created with [Datawrapper](#)

Closing the Gap and Key Takeaways

- Black residents make up over half of the jail population per 100,000 people aged 15 to 64.
- If Black individuals were jailed at the same rate as white individuals, that would result in 1,454 more people free from jail at any given time.
- The disparities by race have remained consistent over time.

Trend Over Time



SAVI Reports Related to Jail Population Rate

- [Equity and Criminal Justice: The Cradle to Prison Pipeline in Indianapolis](#)
- [Equity in Criminal Prosecutions: Analyzing Case Filings from the Marion County Prosecutor's Office](#)
- [Who is in the Marion County Jail? Exploring Length of Stay through an Equity Lens](#)



How is Indy doing?

Ranking Indianapolis' Jail Population Rate among 50 comparable cities

Race/Ethnic Group Ranking ⓘ

42nd White

23rd Black

24th Hispanic

10th Asian

Racial Equity Ranking ⓘ

8th
Very Good

Note: Estimated ranking due to incomplete data

Despite Indianapolis' large disparity by race in who is jailed, this disparity is the 8th smallest equity gap out of 50 cities, which means that there are only 7 other cities in the comparison that are more equitable than Indianapolis. This is driven in part by the fact that Indianapolis' white residents have one of the highest rates of jailing among these cities.

Positively Trending City ⓘ

South Bend, IN ↑ 25 ranks in the last 4 years

Top Cities ⓘ

Jacksonville, FL
Springfield, MO
Lafayette, IN
Evansville, IN
South Bend, IN

Incarceration Rate

The total incarceration rate, including both people in jail and prison, is much higher for Black residents of Marion County than for white residents. The latest data available by race at the county level for jail and prison rates is 2016. At that time, Marion County's incarceration rate was lower than the national rate. Our incarceration gap was slightly lower than the national rate: the Black incarceration is 4.0 times higher than White in Marion County and 4.2 times higher in the nation overall.

Incarceration rate per 100,000 people age 15-64 (Marion County)



Source: Vera Institute, 2016 • [Get the data](#) • Created with [Datawrapper](#)

Closing the Gap and Key Takeaways

- This is one of the largest equity gaps among all the indicators examined in the report card.
- The incarceration rate for Black residents is 4.0 times higher than for white residents in Marion County and 4.2 times higher in the nation overall.
- If Black residents were incarcerated at the same rate as white residents, there would be 5,000 more people living in their communities rather than incarcerated.

SAVI Reports Related to Incarceration Rate

- [Equity and Criminal Justice: The Cradle to Prison Pipeline in Indianapolis](#)

Juvenile Charges

The [Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative](#) began in Marion County in 2006 and has dramatically reduced the number of juvenile charges in our city. However, substantial racial inequity exists for Indianapolis' young people. For every white youth charged, there are two Hispanic youths and over five Black youths charged with crimes.

Juvenile Charges (Age 5-17) per 1,000 Population (Marion County)



Chart: The Polis Center • Source: SAVI, 2023 • [Get the data](#) • Created with [Datavrapper](#)

Closing the Gap and Key Takeaways

- If Black youth were charged at the same rate as white youth, the result would be nearly 664 fewer juvenile charges each year.
- For every white young person facing criminal charges, there are 4 Black young people being charged.
- There has been little change in the rate of charges for white youth but a growing rate for Black youth. The gap between races has grown wider over the last five years.

Trend Over Time



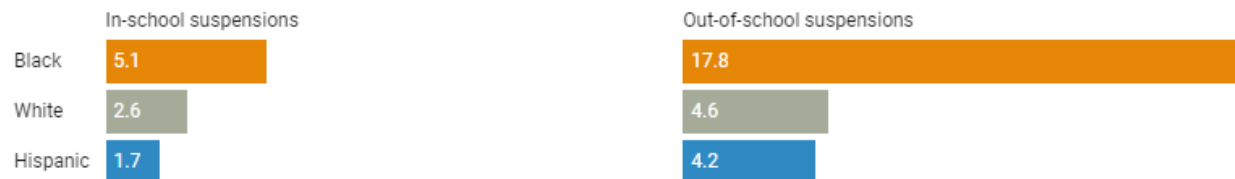
SAVI Reports Related to Juvenile Charges

- [Equity and Criminal Justice: The Cradle to Prison Pipeline in Indianapolis](#)

School Suspensions

Removing children from school for even a few days disrupts their education and can increase their chances of entering the criminal justice system. [Studies have shown](#) a child who has been suspended is more likely to be retained in grade, drop out, commit a crime, and interface with the juvenile justice system.

Suspensions per 100 students, Indianapolis Public Schools (Marion County)



Source: Indiana Department of Education • [Get the data](#) • Created with [Datavrapper](#)

Closing the Gap and Key Takeaways

- Black students are twice as likely as white students to have in-school suspensions and four times more likely to have out-of-school suspensions. Black students are serving suspensions out-of-school over three times as much as they are serving suspensions in-school.
- If Black children were suspended at the same rate as white children, the result would be 3,000 fewer suspensions each year.

SAVI Reports Related to School Suspensions

- [Equity and Criminal Justice: The Cradle to Prison Pipeline in Indianapolis](#)

Criminal Justice Indicators

Jail
Population
Rate

Incarceration
Rate

Juvenile
Charges

School
Suspensions

Discussion

1. What "a-ha" moments did you have learning about the Use of Force Report?



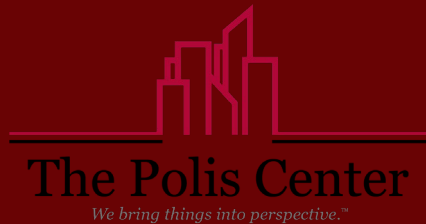
Discussion Question 2

2. What interesting findings can you gather from the Criminal Justice Indicators?



Discussion Question 3

3. How might the data in the Criminal Justice indicators in the RERC connect to the Use of Force report?





Thank you!

