



Office of Engagement

# A Macro Indicator Analysis of the Evolving Metro-Rural Divide

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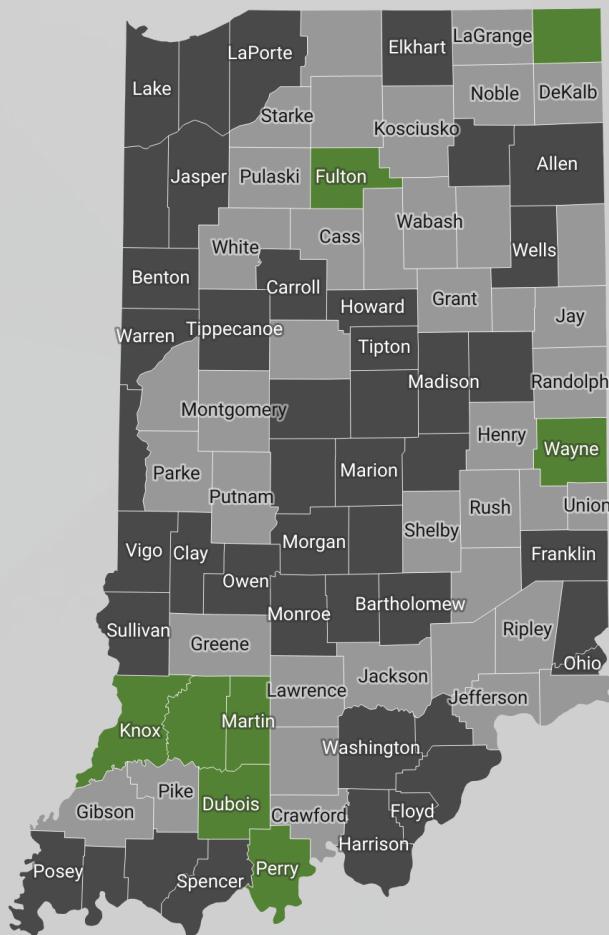
Farm Policy Study Group  
Beck Agricultural Center  
December 2025



# What is Rural?

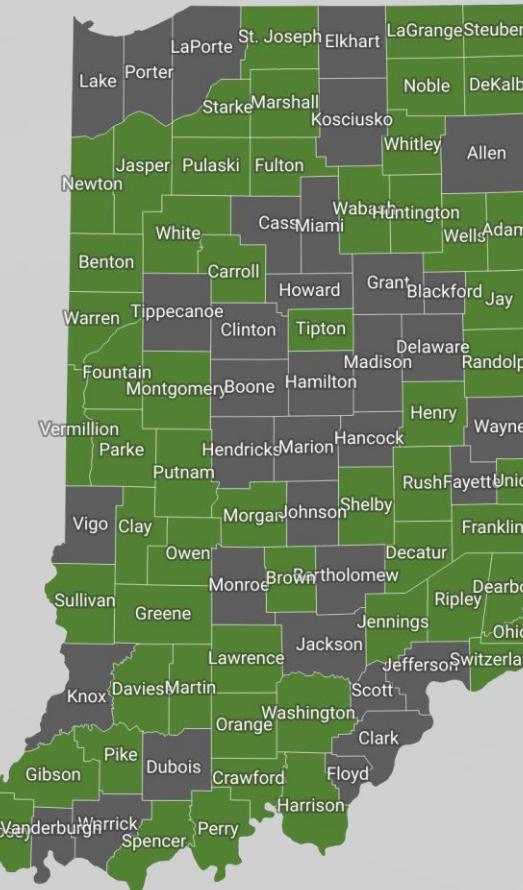
## 2023 USDA Urban-Rural Types

Metro    Rural Adjacent    Rural Non-Adjacent



## Decennial Census - Rural Population

Metro    Rural



## RUCC

2024

Metro

5,429,667

Rural

1,494,608

Rural Adjacent

1,230,550

Rural Non-Adjacent

264,058

## Decennial Census

2024

Urban

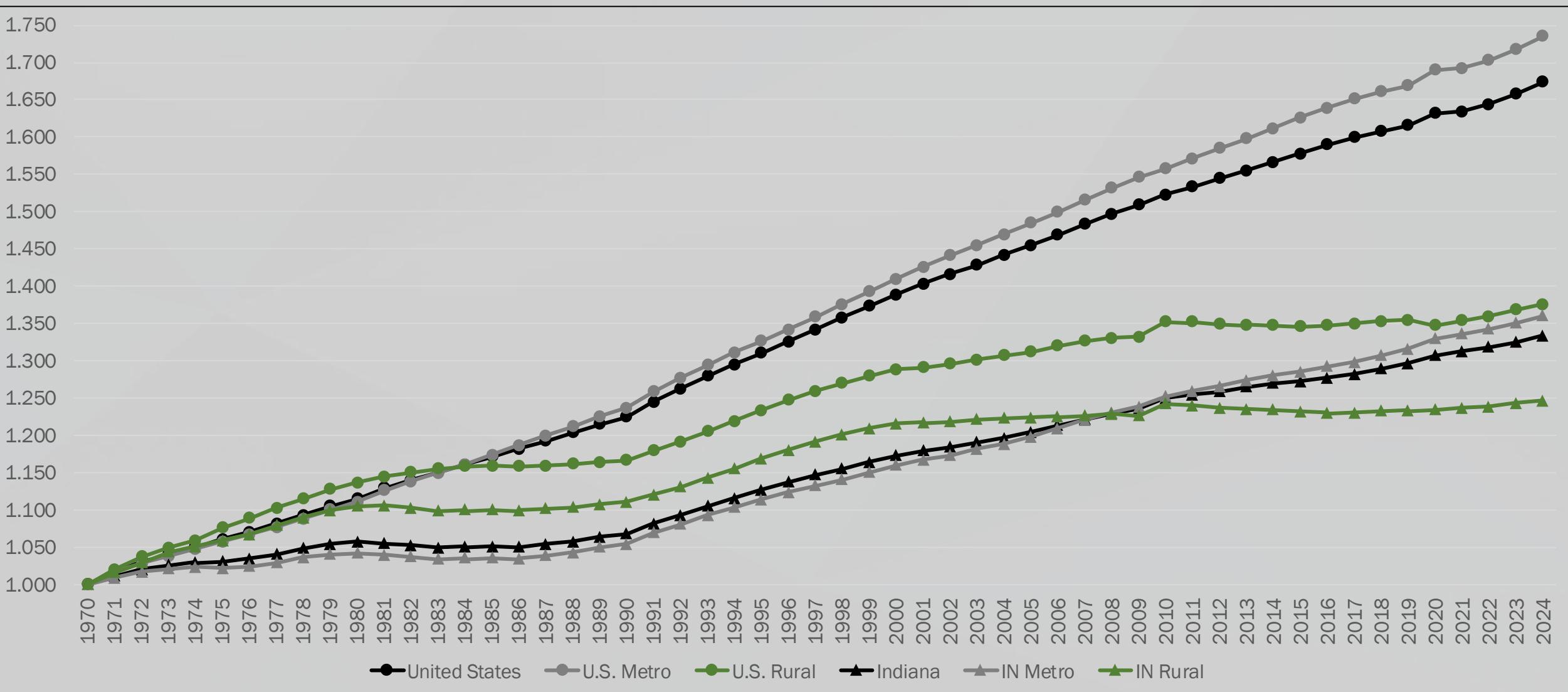
5,386,043

Rural

1,538,232

# Total Population: 1970 - 2024

Indexed to 1970



Source: Census Population Estimates

Lake			Porter		LaPorte		St. Joseph		Elkhart		LaGrange		Steuben							
494.2	499	4.7	165.2	174.2	9	111.3	112.1	0.8	266.7	272.6	5.9	198.7	206.9	8.2	37.5	40.6	3.1	34.2	34.6	0.5
Newton			Jasper			Starke			Marshall			Kosciusko			Noble			DeKalb		
14.2	13.9	-0.3	33.4	33.2	-0.2	23.3	23.3	0	47.1	46.2	-0.8	77.5	80.4	2.8	47.5	47.4	-0.1	42.3	43.6	1.3
Benton			White			Pulaski			Fulton			Wabash			Whitley			Allen		
8.8	8.7	-0.1	24.5	24.7	0.2	13.3	12.4	-0.8	20.7	20.4	-0.3	32.6	30.9	-1.7	33.3	34.4	1.1	358.3	388.8	30.5
Warren			Tippecanoe			Carroll			Miami			Huntington			Wells			Adams		
8.5	8.5	0	175.6	187.4	11.8	20.1	20.4	0.3	36.6	35.8	-0.9	37	36.8	-0.3	27.7	28.3	0.6	34.4	36	1.6
Fountain			Montgomery			Cass			Howard			Grant			Blackford			Jay		
17.1	16.5	-0.6	38.2	38.2	-0.1	38.8	37.7	-1.1	82.8	83.6	0.8	69.7	66.4	-3.3	12.7	12	-0.7	21.3	20.3	-1.1
Vermillion			Parke			Clinton			Tipton			Madison			Delaware			Randolph		
16.1	15.5	-0.6	17.2	16.3	-0.9	33.1	33	-0.1	15.8	15.3	-0.5	131	130.9	-0.1	117.6	112.1	-5.5	26	24.4	-1.6
Vigo			Putnam			Boone			Hamilton			Hancock			Henry			Wayne		
108.1	106.2	-1.9	37.8	37.1	-0.7	58	72.8	14.8	283	357.2	74.2	70.5	82	11.5	49.3	48.9	-0.4	68.6	66.4	-2.2
Sullivan			Owen			Hendricks			Marion			Shelby			Rush			Union		
21.3	20.8	-0.6	21.5	21.4	0	148.6	179.4	30.8	912.2	971.8	59.6	44.5	45.1	0.6	17.3	16.7	-0.5	7.4	7	-0.4
Daviess			Greene			Morgan			Johnson			Bartholomew			Fayette			Franklin		
31.9	33.4	1.5	33	31	-2	69.2	72.2	3	141.8	164	22.2	77.9	82.9	5	24.1	23.4	-0.7	23	22.9	-0.1
Pike			Martin			Clay			Brown			Knox			Decatur			Dearborn		
12.8	12.2	-0.6	10.3	9.9	-0.4	26.9	26.4	-0.4	15.1	15.5	0.4	38.3	36.1	-2.2	25.9	26.4	0.5	50	50.8	0.9
Warrick			Dubois			Monroe			Lawrence			Jennings			Ripley			Ohio		
60.2	64.7	4.5	42.1	43.6	1.5	139.6	139.8	0.2	46.1	45.1	-1	28.3	27.6	-0.7	28.6	29	0.4	6.1	6	-0.1
Gibson			Spencer			Orange			Jackson			Clark			Jefferson			Switzerland		
33.5	33	-0.5	21	19.9	-1.1	19.8	19.7	-0.1	42.8	46.3	3.6	111.2	122.8	11.6	32.4	33.1	0.6	10.5	9.9	-0.6
Vanderburgh			Crawford			Washington			Scott			2013	2023	Diff.	2013	2023	Diff.	2013	2023	Diff.
180.2	179.9	-0.3	10.7	10.5	-0.2	28.1	28.2	0.1	24	24.5	0.4									
Posey			Perry			Harrison			Floyd											
25.7	25.2	-0.6	19.4	19.2	-0.2	39.2	39.8	0.6	75.1	80.5	5.4									
2013	2023	Diff.	2013	2023	Diff.	2013	2023	Diff.	2013	2023	Diff.									

Source: 5-Year American Community Survey

# Indiana Population: 2013 & 2023

## Data Insights

Indiana population increased by ~296,800 residents between 2013 & 2023

Hamilton County gained the most with more than 740,000; Delaware County lost the most with 5,400

Six counties had more than 200,000 residents (Allen, Elkhart, Hamilton, Lake, Marion, and St. Joseph)

Six counties had less than 10,000 residents (Benton, Martin, Ohio, Switzerland, Union, and Warren)

## Cumulative Component of Population Change (Thousands)

Period: 2013-2023

Lake			Porter			LaPorte			St. Joseph			Elkhart			LaGrange			Steuben		
-13.6	2.5	5.4	5.2	0.9	1	-2.3	0.3	0	-0.3	0	-0.1	-8	2.1	12.5	-2.1	0	4.6	0.6	0.2	0.3
Newton			Jasper			Starke			Marshall			Kosciusko			Noble			DeKalb		
0.2	0.2	-0.3	0.4	0	0.2	0.1	0	-0.5	-1.5	0.3	0.7	-1.3	0.9	2.3	-1.1	0.3	1.5	1.2	0	0.9
Benton			White			Pulaski			Fulton			Wabash			Whitley			Allen		
-0.2	0	0.1	-0.4	0.4	0	-0.5	0.1	-0.4	-0.7	0.1	-0.1	-0.4	0.1	-1.4	0.5	0.1	0.6	2.7	6.2	18.3
Warren			Tippecanoe			Carroll			Miami			Huntington			Wells			Adams		
0	0	-0.1	-6.8	15.5	9.4	0	0.1	0.2	-1.3	0.2	-0.6	-0.3	0.2	-0.2	0.5	0.2	0.1	-1.7	0	3.4
Fountain			Montgomery			Cass			Howard			Grant			Blackford			Jay		
-0.3	0.1	-0.3	0.4	0.2	0.2	-2.6	0.9	0.3	0.8	0.5	-1.3	-2.6	0.4	-1.6	-0.5	0	-0.5	-1.8	0	0.4
Vermillion			Parke			Clinton			Tipton			Madison			Delaware			Randolph		
-0.1	0.1	-0.5	-0.2	0	0.4	-1.5	0	0.4	-0.3	0.1	-0.4	3.1	0.4	-1.9	-2.2	1.2	-2	-1.3	0.1	-0.5
Vigo			Putnam			Boone			Hamilton			Hancock			Henry			Wayne		
-3.1	1.4	0.1	0.6	0.4	-0.2	11.1	0.7	2.4	43.7	8.2	20.6	12.7	0.2	1	0.6	0	-1.7	-1.8	0.7	-1.6
Sullivan			Owen			Hendricks			Marion			Shelby			Rush			Union		
-0.3	0	-0.3	0.3	0	-0.6	23.4	2.3	5.3	38.2	55.5	-58.2	0.9	0.1	-0.7	-0.3	0	-0.2	-0.2	0	-0.1
Daviess			Greene			Morgan			Johnson			Bartholomew			Fayette			Franklin		
-0.7	0.3	2	0.1	0.2	-0.7	2.2	0.4	0.2	14.4	2.2	4.4	-1	5.1	2.8	-0.1	0.1	-0.9	-0.3	0.1	0.2
Pike			Martin			Clay			Brown			Knox			Decatur			Dearborn		
-0.2	0	-0.2	-0.2	0	0.1	-0.4	0	-0.1	0.8	0	-0.6	-1.6	0.3	-0.3	-0.2	0.2	0.4	0.6	0	-0.2
Warrick			Dubois			Monroe			Lawrence			Jennings			Ripley			Ohio		
3.9	0.5	0.1	-1	0.5	0.9	-4.9	8.7	2.4	0.4	0.1	-1.1	-0.6	0	0.1	0.2	0.1	0	0.1	0	-0.2
Gibson			Spencer			Orange			Jackson			Clark			Jefferson			Switzerland		
-0.4	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.4	0.1	-0.2	0.1	-0.2	-1.2	1.3	1.1	8.7	0.7	1.3	-0.1	0.2	-0.4	0.4	0.1	0.2
Vanderburgh			Crawford			Washington			Scott			Dom.	Int.	Nat.	Dom.	Int.	Nat.	Dom.	Int.	Nat.
-2.4	1.5	1	0	0	-0.2	0.3	0	-0.1	-7.2	5.7	6.5									
Posey			Perry			Harrison			Floyd			-0.5	0	0.1	0	0.1	-0.3	1.9	0.2	-0.1
Dom.	Int.	Nat.	Dom.	Int.	Nat.	Dom.	Int.	Nat.	Dom.	Int.	Nat.	Dom.	Int.	Nat.	Dom.	Int.	Nat.	Dom.	Int.	Nat.
Period																				

# Indiana Cumulative Components of Population Change: 2013 - 2023

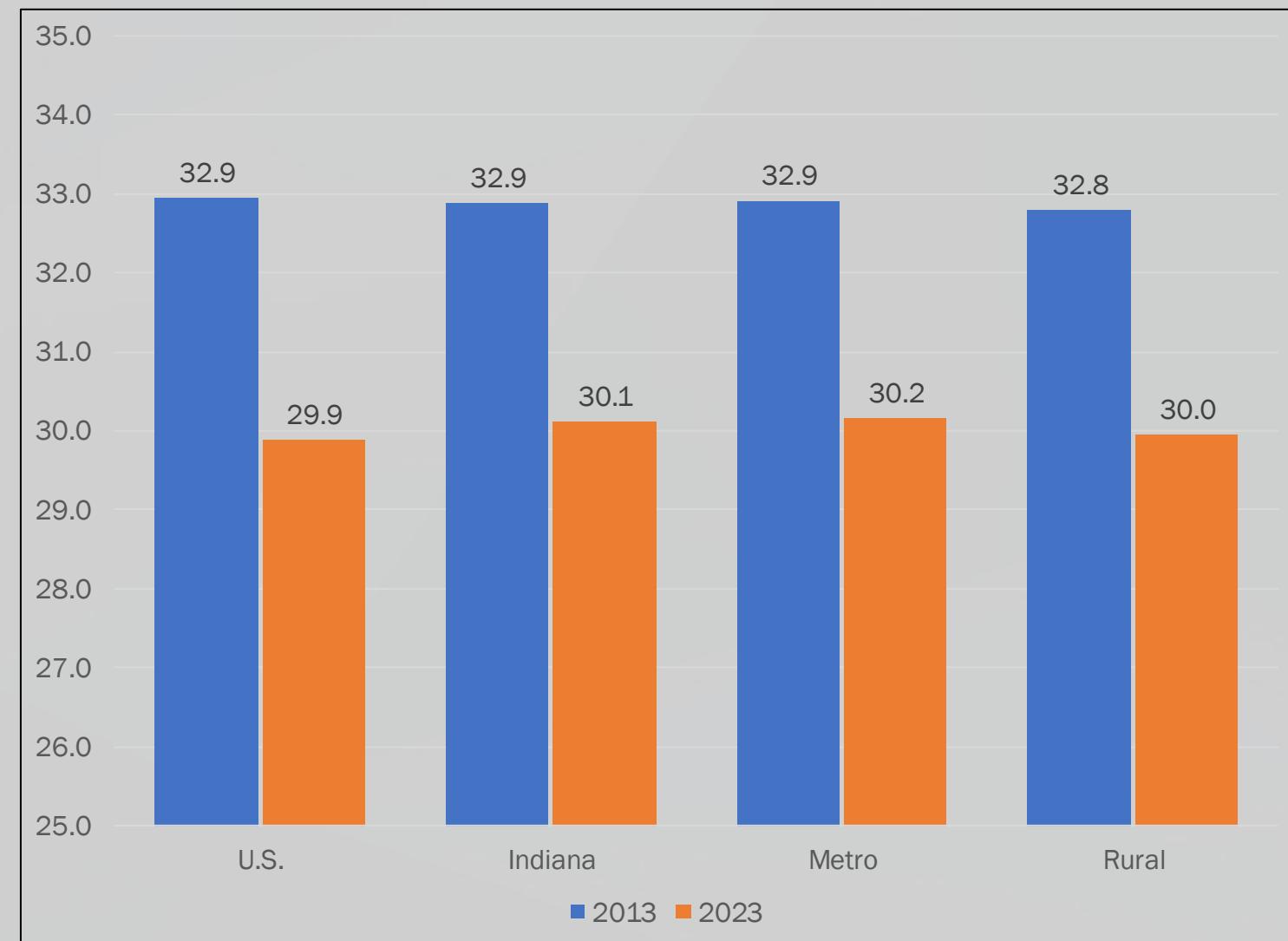
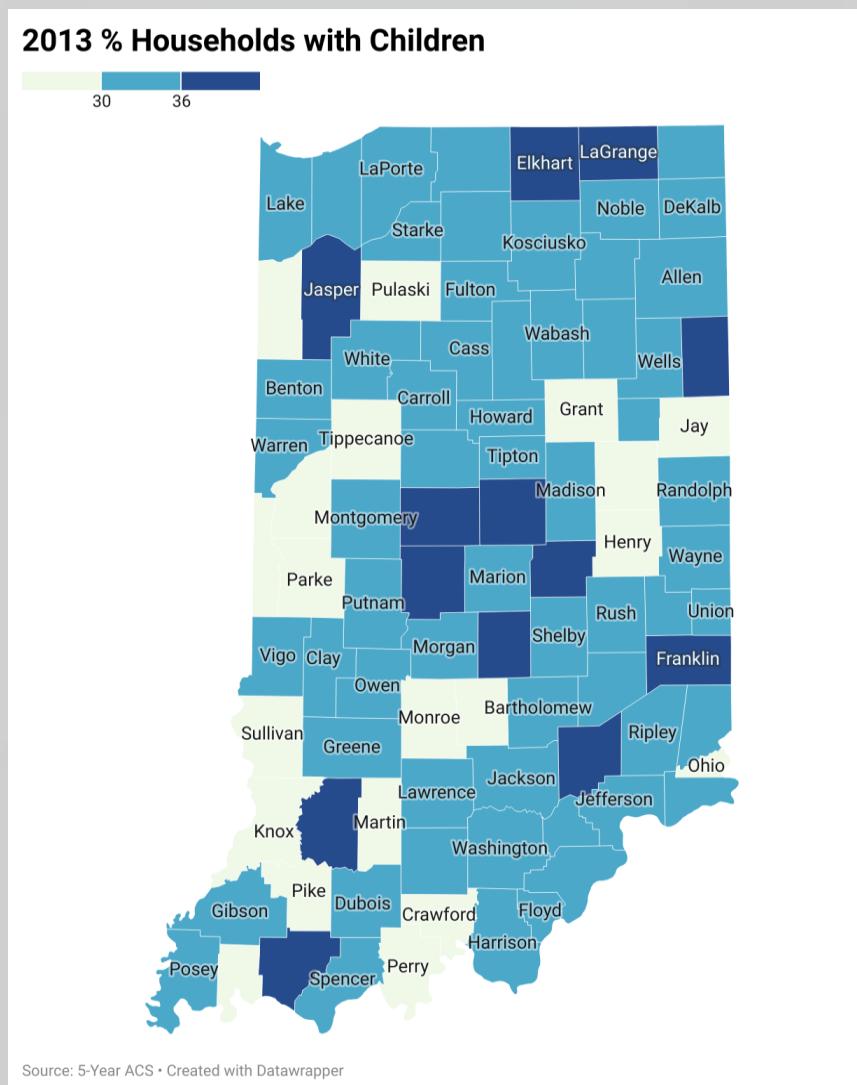
## Data Insights

50 out of the 92 counties gained population due to an increase in the natural component (births minus deaths)

39 out of the 92 counties gained population due to an increase in the domestic component (in migration)

89 out of the 92 counties gained population due to an increase in the international component

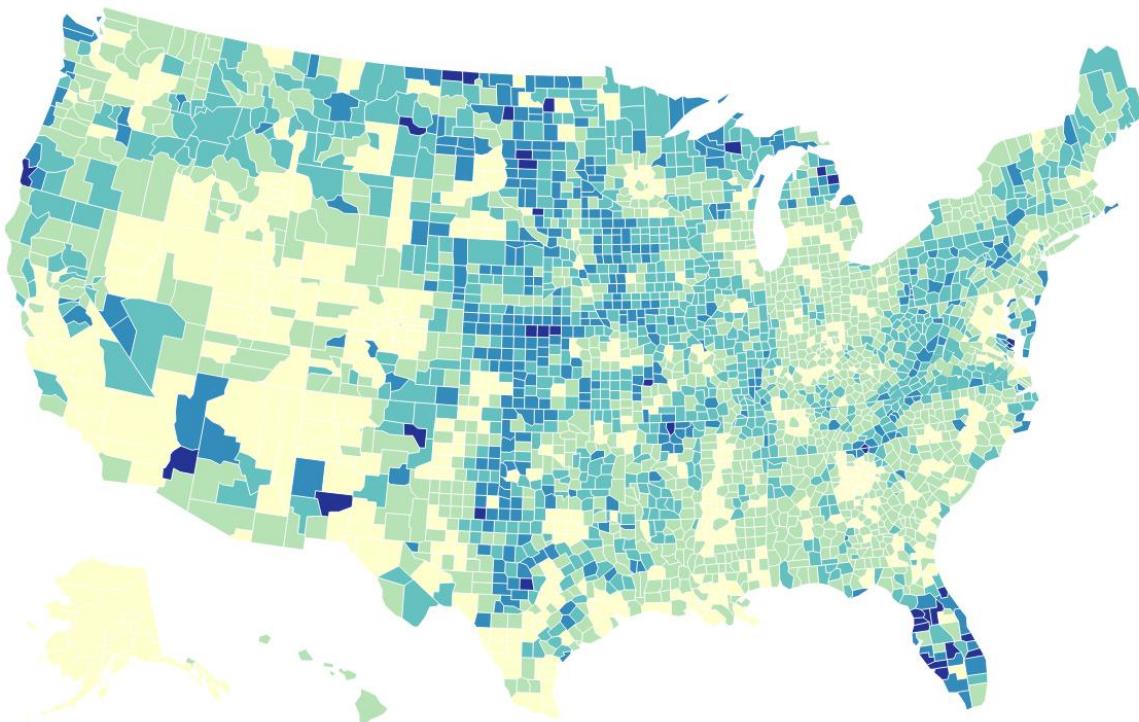
# Percentage Households with Children



# Older-Younger (OY) Ratio: 2000 & 2024

## 2000 Older-Younger (OY) Ratio

Number of residents aged 65 or older divided by residents ages 0 to 14.



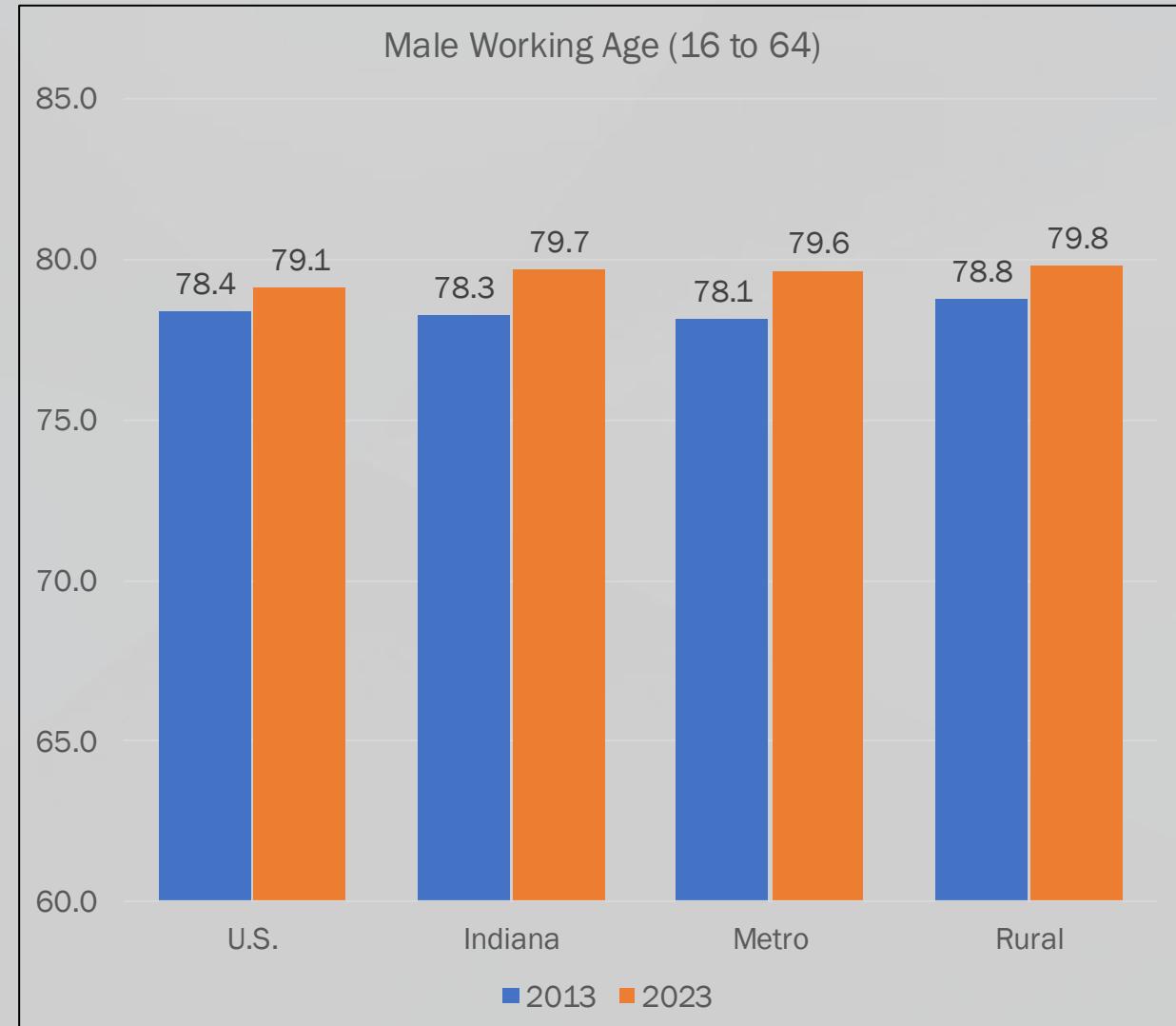
A number higher than 100 means that there are more residents aged 65 or older compared to residents ages 0 to 14. For example, a number of 120 means there are 20% more aged 65 or older than they are ages 0 to 14.

Source: Census Population Estimates • Created with Datawrapper

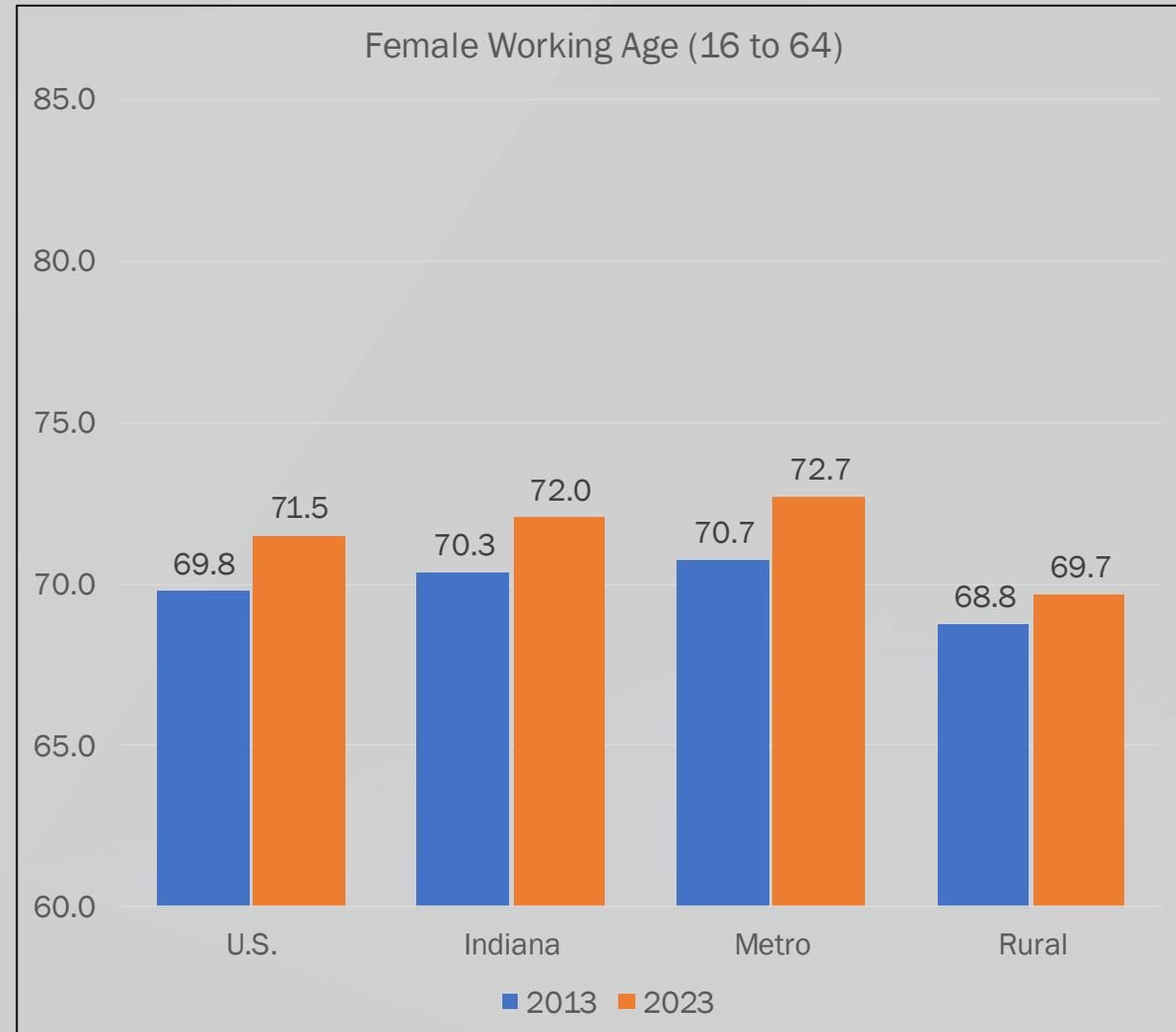
Indiana Population	2000	2024	Diff.
Age 0-14	1,309,904	1,296,342	-13,562
Metro	982,356	1,014,241	31,885
Rural	327,548	282,101	-45,447
Age 65 or Older	752,831	1,213,910	461,079
Metro	553,028	904,838	351,810
Rural	199,803	309,072	109,269

# Labor Force Participation Rates

Male Working Age (16 to 64)

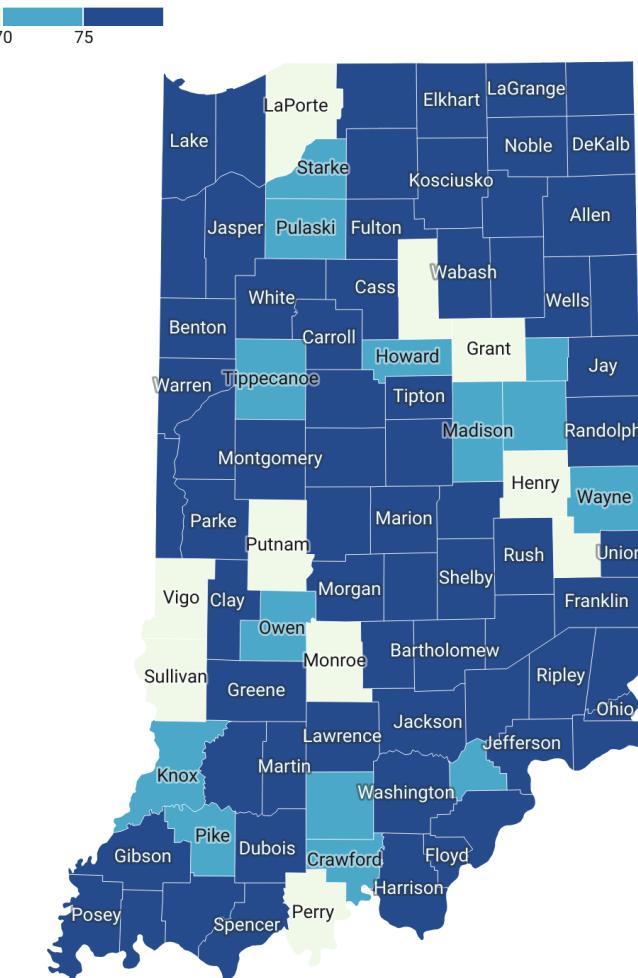


Female Working Age (16 to 64)



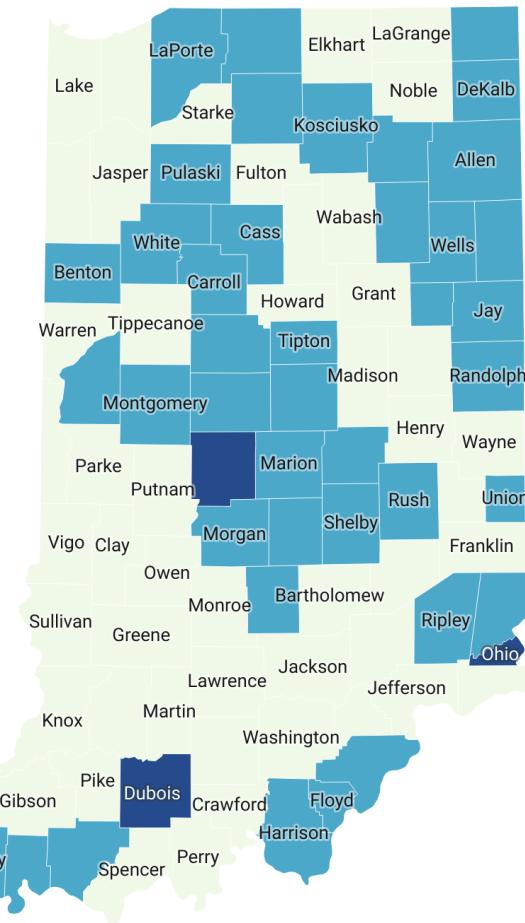
# Labor Force Participation Rates (Cont'd)

2013 Male Working Age Labor Force Participation Rate



Source: 5-Year ACS • Created with Datawrapper

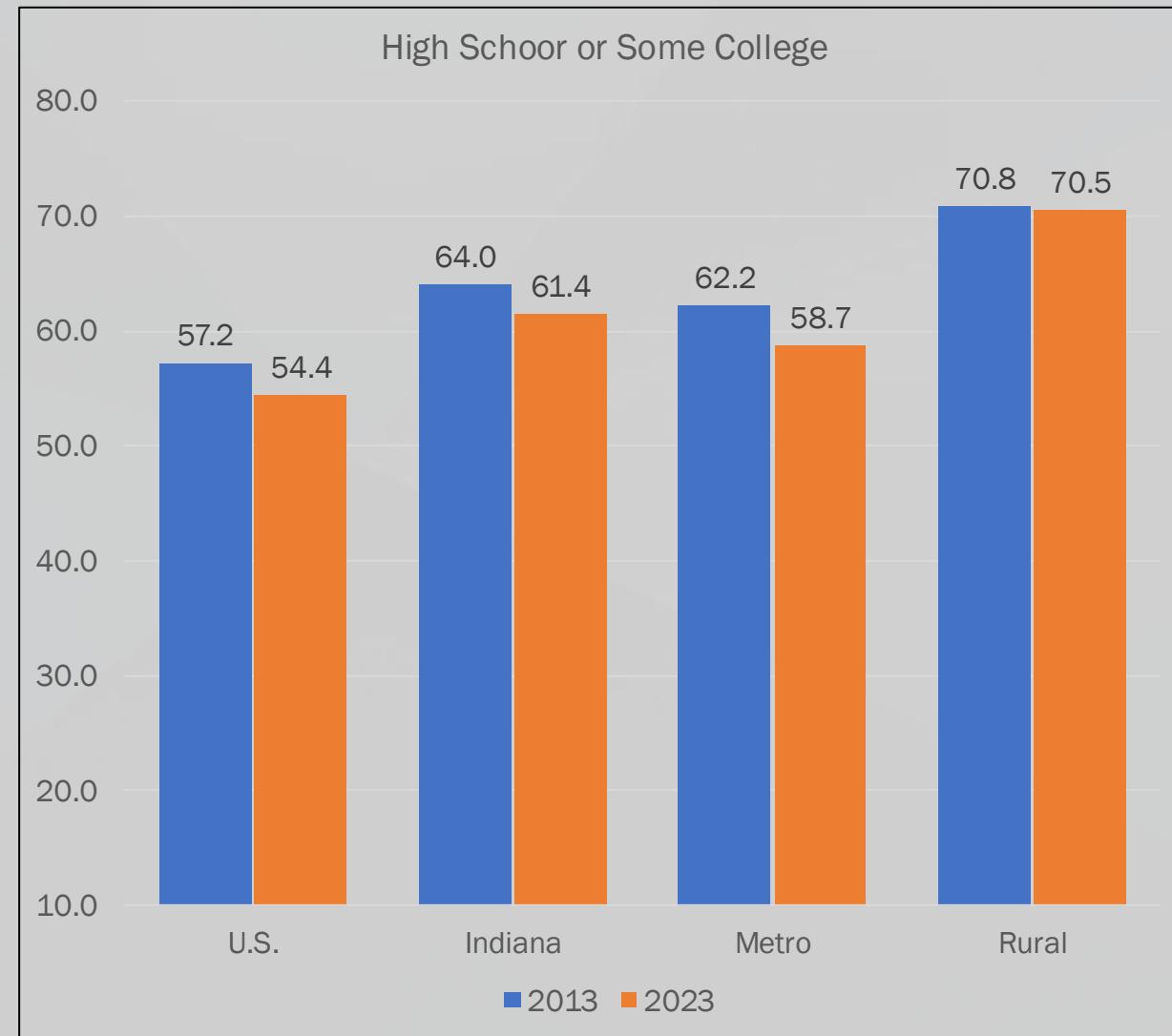
2013 Female Working Age Labor Force Participation Rate



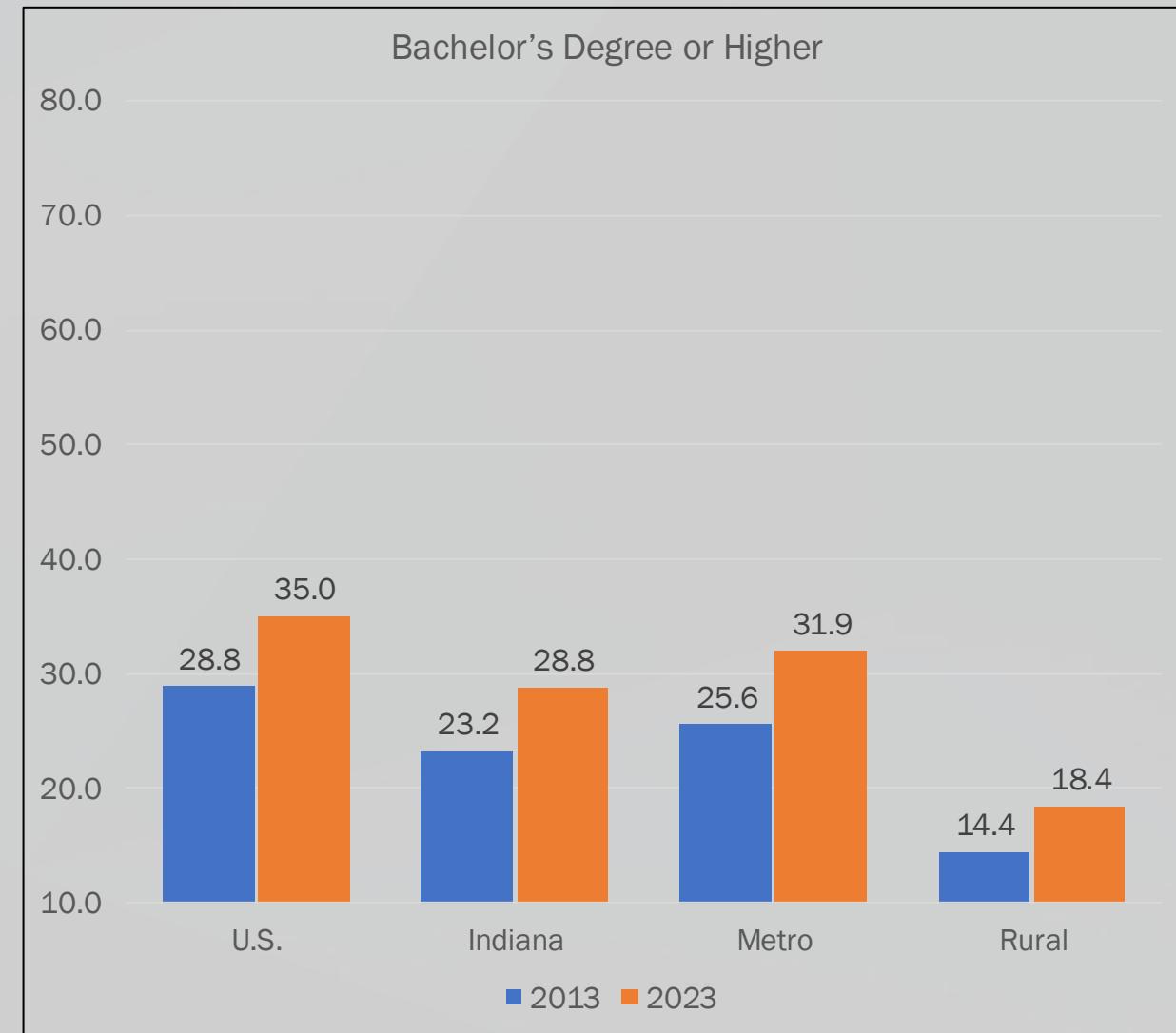
Source: 5-Year ACS • Created with Datawrapper

# Percentage Age 25 or Older: Educational Attainment

High Schoor or Some College

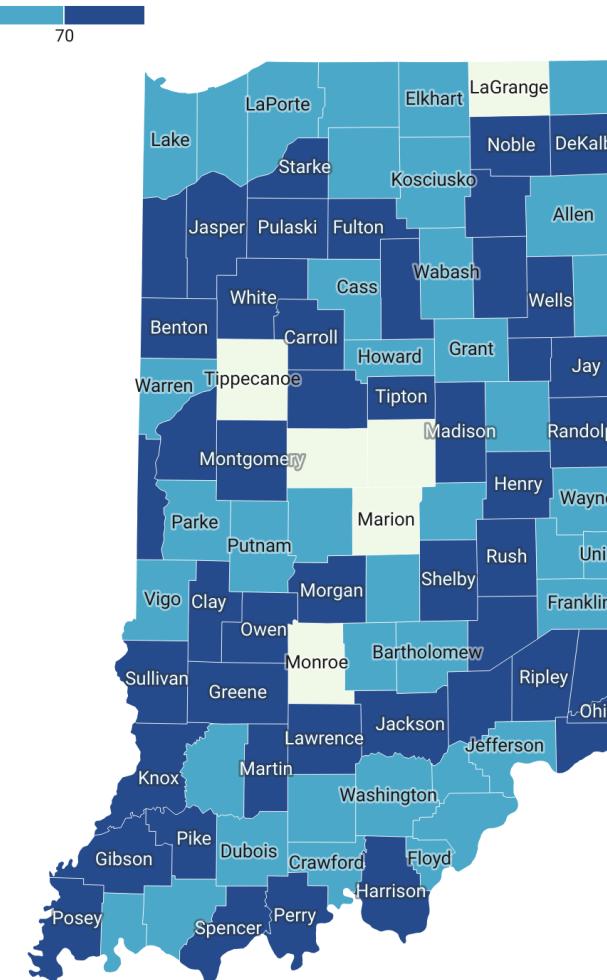


Bachelor's Degree or Higher



# Percentage Age 25 or Older: Educational Attainment (Cont'd)

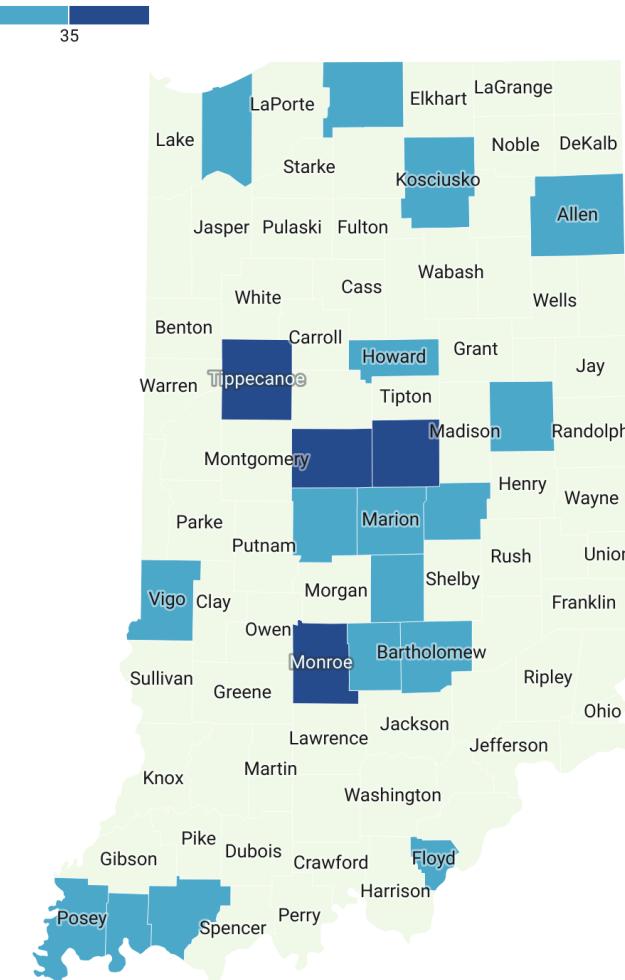
2013 % Pop. 25 or Older with High School or Some College



Source: 5-Year ACS • Created with Datawrapper

Source: 5-Year American Community Survey

2013 % Pop. 25 or Older with a Bachelor's Degree or Higher

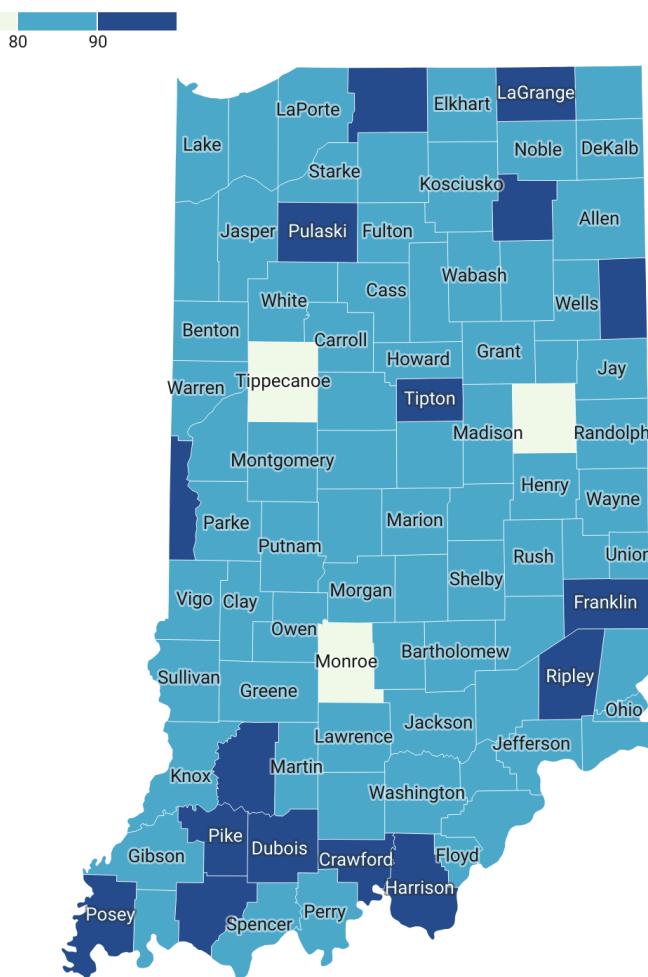


Source: 5-Year ACS • Created with Datawrapper

# Geographic Mobility: Compared to 1 Year Ago, Moved from ...

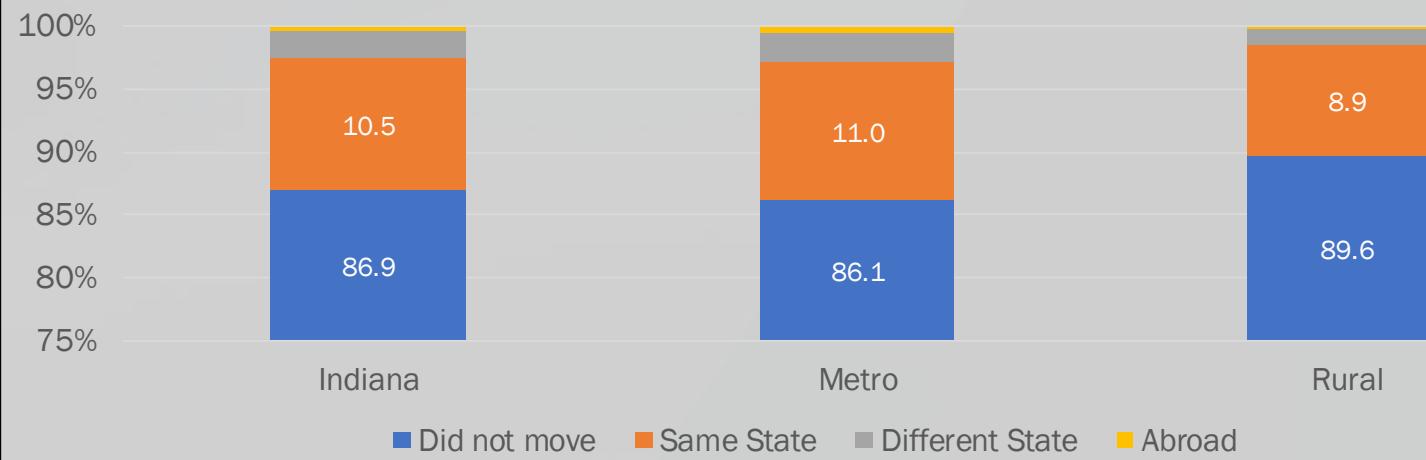
## 2013 Did not Move

Percentage of residents that did not move compared to 1 year ago

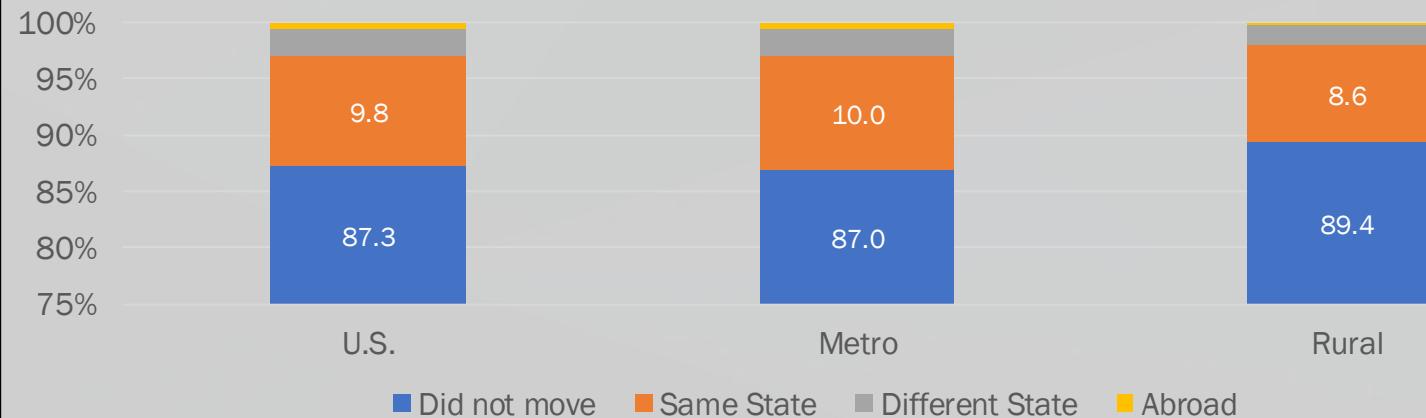


Source: 5-Year ACS • Created with Datawrapper

## 2023 Percentage Residents by Geographic Mobility: Indiana



## 2023 Percentage Residents by Geographic Mobility: United States

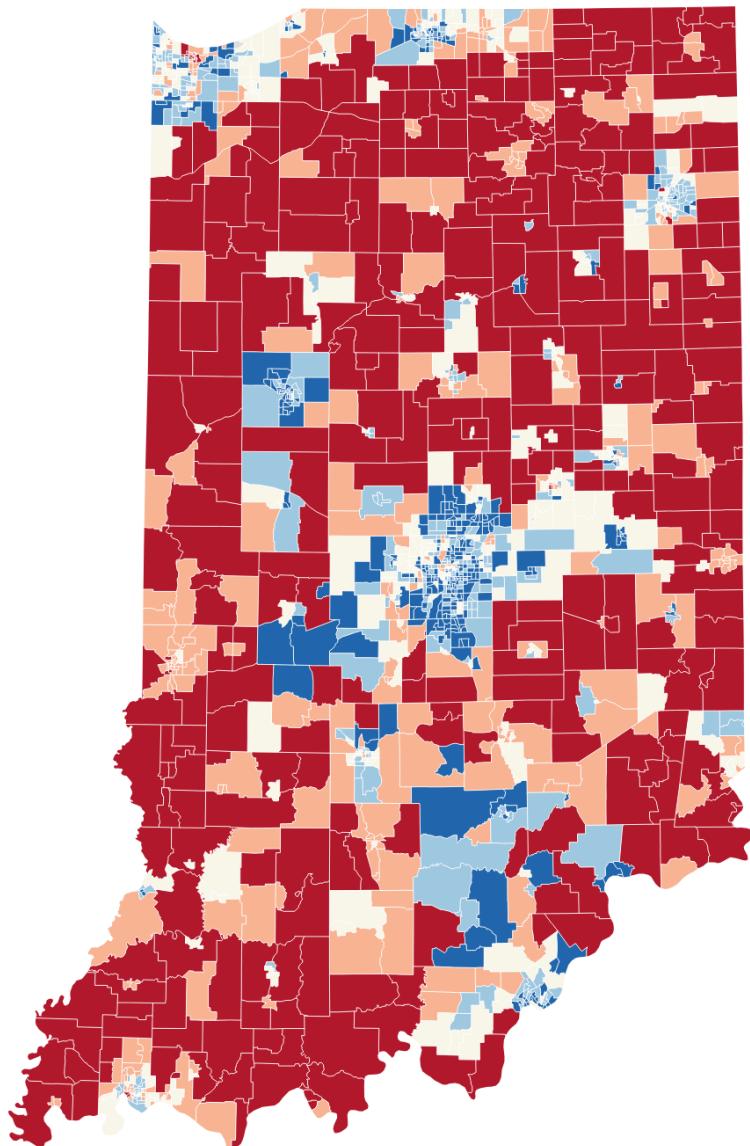
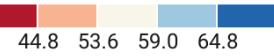


# Number of Farms by Farm Sales



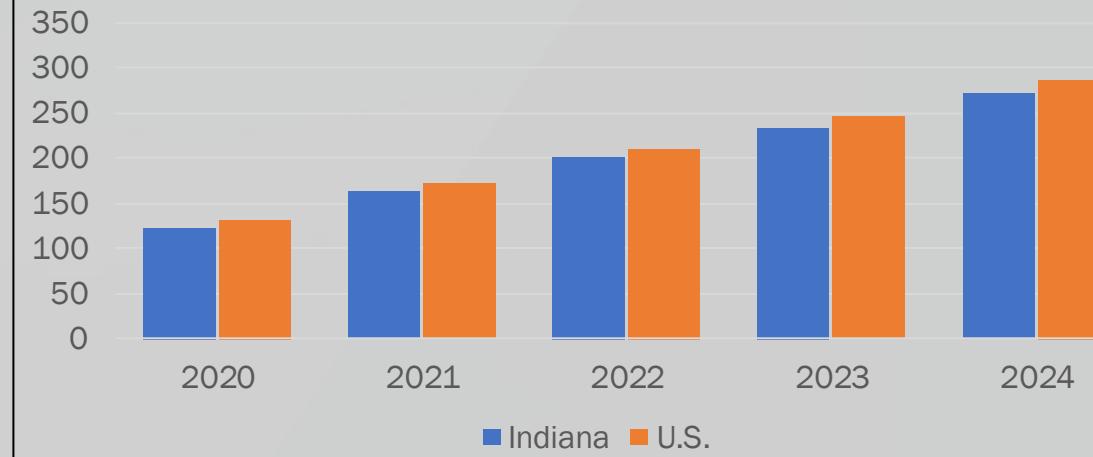
## 2020 Broadband Quality Score (BQS)

The BQS ranges from 0 to 100, where a higher number denotes a better broadband quality. BQS factors in download and upload speeds as well as latency.

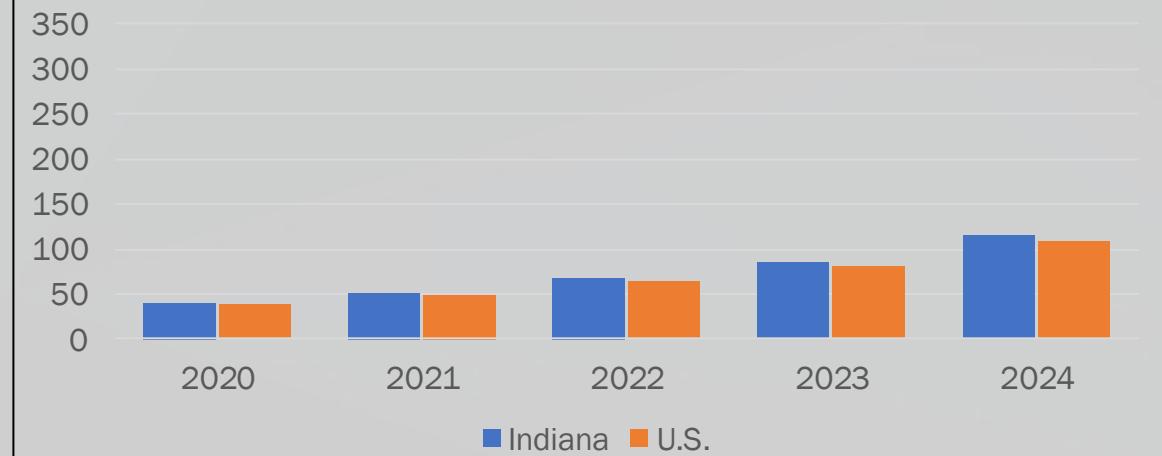


## 2020-2024 Broadband Quality

Average Download Speeds



Average Upload Speeds



# Key Takeaways

- Population increasingly concentrating in urban areas; however, geographic mobility is stalling (may create other issues e.g., left-behind places)
- Between 2013 & 2023 population growth was mostly due to the international component
- Indiana is aging, not unlike the U.S., though at a lower pace. OY ratio for the US in 2024 was 102.5 (124 in rural areas); Indiana's was 93.6 (rural Indiana's was 109.6)
- Labor force participation rates increased; though, 45 counties (out of 92) saw their participation decline and gaps between male and female rates persist
- Indiana lags the nation regarding those with a Bachelor's degree or higher; however, almost three-quarters of residents aged 25 or older had high school or some college, conducive for reskilling/upskilling
- Number of farms decreased; share of higher sales increased
- Persistent low-quality broadband areas