

# Community Needs Assessment: Clark County, Indiana 2015 Report



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Clark County, Indiana  
2015 Report

The Center for Women & Families  
Southern Indiana Advocacy & Prevention Office

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## Executive Summary

Sexual violence (including rape, attempted rape, other nonconsensual sexual contact, and non-contact sexual assault) affects almost 44% of women and just over 25% of men in the state of Indiana ([NISVS, 2010](#)). Furthermore, 17.9% of high school girls in Indiana have been forced to have sexual intercourse with someone, the second highest rate of in the nation ([YRBS, 2009](#)). These high numbers indicate that there is a strong need, especially in Indiana, for sexual violence prevention planning and efforts. Additionally, a 2014 report from the Centers for Disease Control and Violence Prevention, indicates that many of the most pressing health and social concerns have overlapping risk and protective factors ([CDC, 2014](#)). Therefore, by addressing concerns about sexual violence in our communities, we may actually be affecting a wider range of health issues (and vice versa).

In order to address these concerns in an appropriate manner with the guidance of community members themselves, a team of individuals obtained funding through the Rape Prevention Education (RPE) grant and began the process of conducting a community needs assessment for Clark County, Indiana. This team consists of one prevention coordinator and one community advocate employed at The Center for Women & Families (CWF) and will be referred to as the RPE Team from this point forward. The RPE Team employed numerous strategies to gain a more complete understanding of the needs, available resources, and other concerns of Clark County and the city of Jeffersonville, specifically. These strategies included:

- (1) collecting secondary data (i.e., general demographics, rates of violence, poverty, unemployment, substance abuse, and social support) from national and state sources, local law enforcement, The Center for Women & Families service tracking system and staff surveys, and education outcomes and school demographic makeup from the Department of Education;
- (2) conducting windshield surveys in multiple Clark County towns. Windshield surveys consist of recorded observations by the RPE Team regarding a number of environmental factors and characteristics such as housing conditions, amount and variety of businesses, green space and other resources, transportation access, diversity of residents, and geographic arrangement of these characteristics;
- (3) conducting interviews with seven community stakeholders within a specific subset of the Clark County community. Ultimately, this process allowed the RPE Team to learn more about Clark County, identify risk factors of sexual violence, identify key stakeholders within the community and connect with them in order to engage communities in the development of a primary prevention plan for sexual violence in the beginning of 2016.

Through their employment of the various strategies previously mentioned, the RPE Team recognized a number of key themes regarding the needs and potential solutions in Jeffersonville, specifically:

- **Community Collaboration:** According to both windshield surveys and informant interviews, Jeffersonville has a host of community social service organizations as well as a large number of faith-based organizations and congregations. Unfortunately, all seven informants indicated the need for greater communication and collaboration between these agencies and organizations. Collaboration could be improved by the creation of a unifying entity where all can come together to share current offerings and services, problem solve, and seek joint funding, thereby maximizing impact. This effort would need to be led by a single person with a clear vision and the ability to navigate across sectors. Partners need to approach this new entity and prevention in a new way, with an open mind and focus on the betterment of the community as a whole, not just one issue out of many.
- **Poverty and Homelessness:** Informants repeatedly ranked poverty and homelessness their number one concern. Clark County community members are markedly experiencing poverty and homelessness even though the unemployment rate has been trending downward in Clark County since 2011 and the county generally has a lower rate of poverty than other counties across the state. Additionally, Clark County ranks in the bottom half of the state for poverty among children and they are in the top five counties for receiving food stamps and TANF assistance. During the windshield surveys, the RPE Team noticed many vacant business buildings and houses in varying degrees of upkeep. Informants identified poverty and homelessness as areas that a) are foundational and contribute to many of the other discussed issues; and b) have a number of resources in Jeffersonville to address them, but unfortunately the need far surpasses what these programs can accommodate. [Vision 2025: A Strategic Plan to End Homelessness in Clark and Floyd Counties](#) was released in 2015 by the Indiana University Southeast Applied Education and Research Center. The RPE Team will explore its efforts will complement this plan and community partners will be invited to the conversation.
- **Substance Abuse:** Another issue highlighted as a primary concern for the people of Jeffersonville is substance abuse. While rates of binge and heavy drinking in Clark County hover around average for the state, adjoining Scott County has been declared in a state of emergency due to a heroin epidemic, which was reflected in the interviews. Jeffersonville also experiences much higher drug abuse violations than neighboring Clark County communities. Informants speculated that most of the violence in Jeffersonville is actually rooted in substance abuse issues, thereby making the partnerships between violence-focused and substance abuse-focused agencies and organizations vital to addressing either of these issues completely.

- **Mental Healthcare:** According to [Indiana Community Health Rankings](#), Clark County residents experienced a significantly higher number of mentally unhealthy days (4.8) than the state average (3.7). Eighteen percent of adults also reported experiencing a lack of social and emotional support. Supporting these figures were the many interviews in which people indicated that mental health would be one of the top three concerns in Jeffersonville and that the mental health agencies should definitely be involved with any prevention efforts undertaken.
- **Issue Complexity and Interconnectedness:** Most informants indicated a complex and interconnected nature among the majority of issues discussed throughout the course of the interviews. There were clear areas of need, but no one seemed to have a comprehensive picture of needs of community members, the relevant programs, and how they could interact with each other to truly serve everyone adequately and efficiently. The formation of a larger prevention and/or intervention entity as well as specific trainings may serve as potential solutions to this reality.
- **Lack of Awareness of Sexual Violence:** Law enforcement data for Charlestown, Jeffersonville, and Sellersburg seems to indicate that the people of these communities are not really affected by sexual violence. However, low reporting (and even lower arrest) rates are widely believed to be the result of victims' unwillingness to identify sexually violent experiences and report them rather than an indicator of the actual number of assaults. CWF receives more clients seeking services for sexual violence than the number of reported sexual assaults and arrests in any of the studied communities. Furthermore, no informants were able to identify strongly whose responsibility the prevention of sexual violence was. Similarly insightful and alarming were the informants' speculations that most community members are not fully aware of the extent of sexual violence in the community. It's likely that most community members have not engaged in any discussion of the scope and prevalence of sexual violence. Beginning these conversations with community members in order to raise awareness as well as training professionals about the nature of violence prevention may be good initial steps.
- **Education and Positive Environments:** While Clark County has high school graduation rates comparable to those found at the state level, fewer people in Clark County go on to complete a Bachelor's level degree or higher. Multiple informants cited the lack of education as the reason people in Jeffersonville experience poverty, substance abuse, and violence to the extent they do. Multiple informants also cited education as well as positive environments where children can learn freely, thrive, and take advantage of leadership opportunities as the beginning of a solution to these issues. Contributing to positive environments where people could thrive would be the continued

maintenance and expansion of green spaces, parks, and community resources available to the people of Jeffersonville.

- **Funding:** While no figures were sought regarding the amount of funding that is allocated to Clark County and Jeffersonville for the prevention and/or intervention of violence, homelessness, poverty, substance abuse, or mental healthcare, multiple informants suggested that funding restrictions make it difficult to address all of these interconnected issues effectively. As such, many agencies indicated a willingness to collaborate not only related specifically to referrals and services but as financial partners as well.

Overall, many of the people with whom the RPE Team spoke while conducting the needs assessment were eager to not only speak about the issues important to them and to Jeffersonville, but they were also eager to get involved in continuing the conversation and taking action to make changes in the city. The RPE Team is prepared to begin the development of a sexual violence primary prevention plan by early 2016.

## Demographic Overview of Clark County

Clark County covers nearly 377 square miles in southeast Indiana and is home to a number of communities including: Borden, Charlestown, Clarksville, Henryville, Jeffersonville, New Washington, Sellersburg, and Utica Township, among others. Most of these towns and communities have fewer than 10,000 residents each. However, Jeffersonville and Clarksville have more than 20,000, as

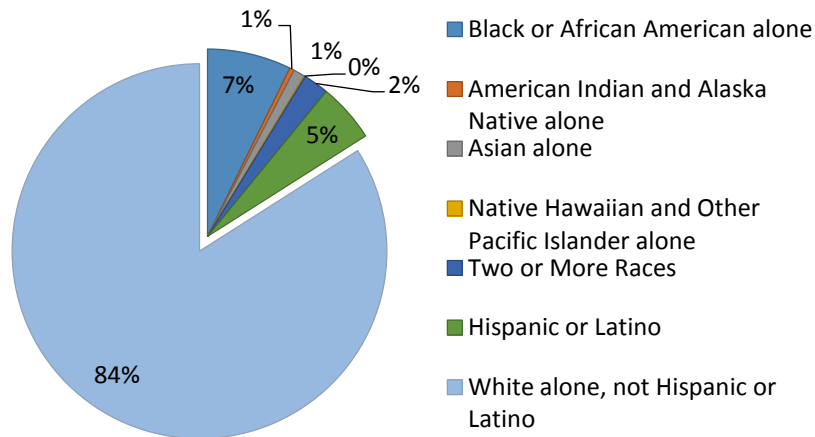
**Table 1. Population**

Town, County, State	Population
Charlestown	7585
Clarksville	21,724
Jeffersonville	44,953
Sellersburg	6128
Clark County	110,232

**Data Source:** [US Census, 2010](#)

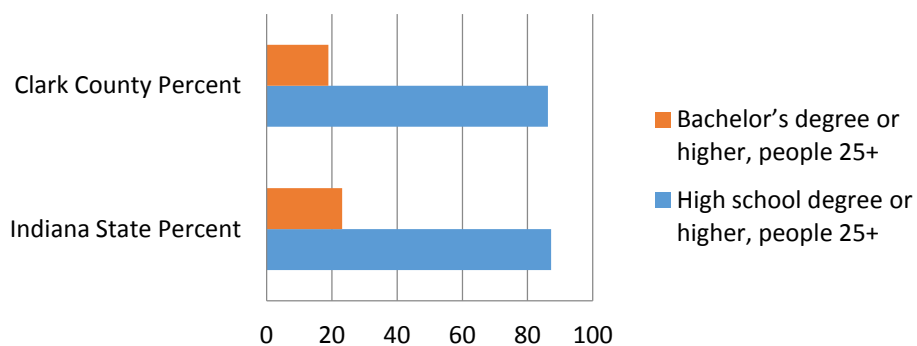
indicated in Table 1. For this reason certain towns and communities may exhibit urban characteristics when considered individually even though Clark County is considered to be rural.

Clark County's demographic makeup is fairly homogenous. The vast majority of residents identify as white and English-speaking, as illustrated in Graphs 1.

**Graph 1. Clark Co. Residents by Race**

Data Source: [US Census, 2013](#)

Additionally, about 86% of Clark County's residents over the age of 25 have graduated from high school and about 19% have a Bachelor's degree or higher, as indicated in Graph 2.

**Graph 2. Degree Acquisition, Clark County and Indiana State**

Data Source: [US Census, 2009-2013](#)

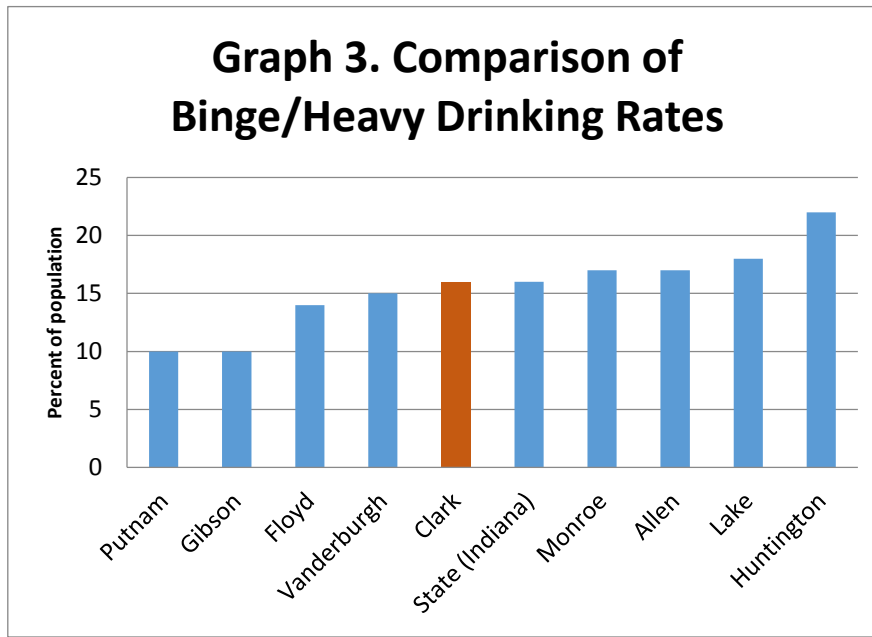
The unemployment rate as of January 2015 was 5.9% and, in general, has been trending downward since it peaked at 11.4% in February 2010 ([Public Data, Bureau of Labor Statistics](#)).

Table 2 illustrates how income levels, poverty rates, and the utilization of certain assistance programs among Clark County residents compare to those of the rest of the state. Although the poverty rate is lower in Clark County than in most of the state, residents utilize TANF, food stamps, and free and reduced lunch at a disproportionately higher rate.

<b>Table 2. Income and Poverty</b>		
	<b>Number</b>	<b>Rank in State (out of 92)</b>
<b>Per capita Personal Income (Annual)</b>	\$36,956	44
<b>Median Household Income</b>	\$50,296	29
<b>Poverty Rate</b>	11.7%	72
<b>Poverty Rate among Children under 18</b>	18.4%	59
<b>Welfare (TANF) Monthly Average</b>	229	8
<b>Food Stamp Recipients</b>	13,044	15
<b>Free and Reduced Lunch Recipients</b>	8749	13

Source: [STATS Indiana Profile 2013, Clark County](#)

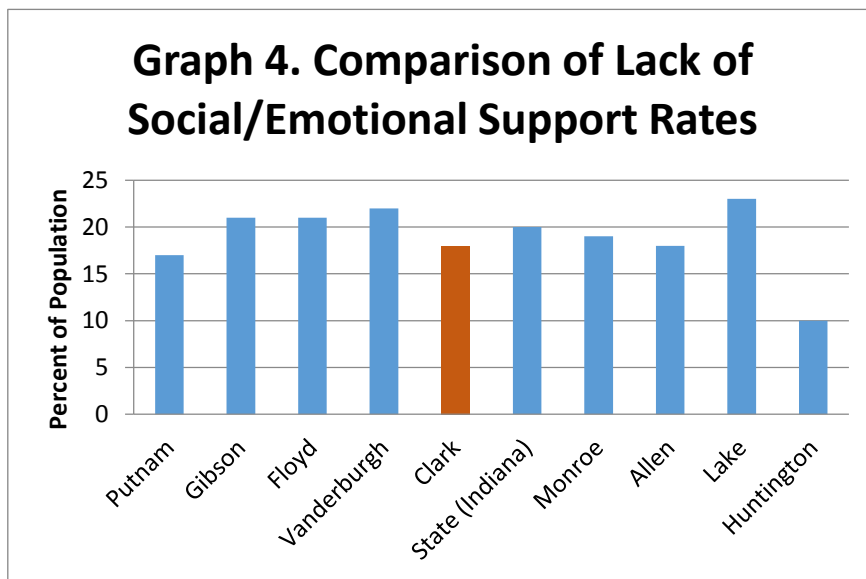
In order to identify community risk factors, the RPE Team gathered data for Clark County regarding the following: substance abuse (Graphs 3), adult emotional and social support (Graph 4), health and well-being of adults (Graph 5), and child abuse (Graphs 6 and 7) in Clark County, which will help guide the development of the sexual violence primary prevention plan. That data is presented below:



Clark County is nearly equivalent to the state average regarding binge and heavy drinking rates (Graph 3).

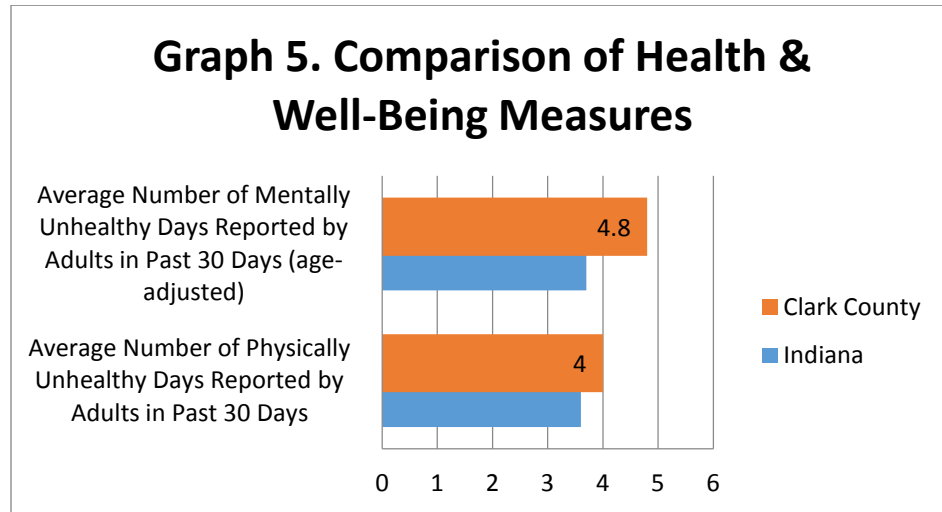
Source: [Community Health Status Indicators, 2015](#)

However, Clark County is slightly below the state average regarding the number of adults reporting a complete lack of social and emotional support (Graph 4). Over 16% of adults report experiencing this lack of support, which is important because a lack of social support is a risk factor for sexual violence.



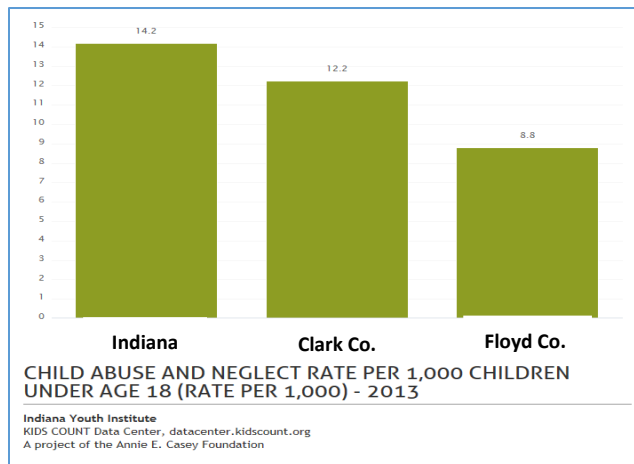
Source: [Community Health Status Indicators, 2015](#)

Adults in Clark County experienced higher numbers of both mentally and physically unhealthy days than in the state of Indiana on average. Ultimately, this was not a risk factor upon which the RPE Team chose to focus, though its importance was supported by themes emerging from informant interviews.



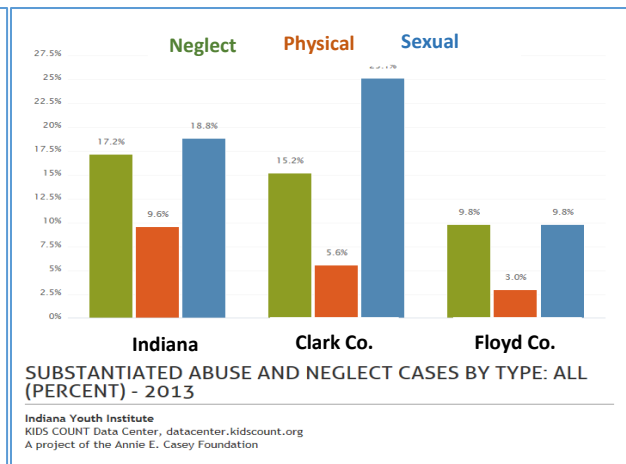
Source: [County Health Rankings/BRFS \(2012\)](#)

While the rates of child abuse in Clark County fall between the state average and that of neighboring Floyd County, the rates of sexual abuse in Clark County far exceed those of either. Graphs 6 and 7 speak to the rates of child abuse and neglect in Clark County as compared to Floyd County and Indiana as a whole.



**Graph 6.**

Source: [Kids Count 2013](#)



**Graph 7.**

Source: [Kids Count 2013](#)

## Methodology

### *Overarching Strategy*

This community needs assessment was completed with support of RPE funding. The goal was to develop a plan for the primary prevention of sexual violence before the end of the grant cycle in February of 2016. The RPE Team made the decision to focus funds in an area of the CWF service region largely unaddressed by prevention efforts at the commencement of the grant cycle, i.e. Clark County. Because of the number, diversity, and wide geographic area Clark County communities represent, secondary data was assessed in order to further narrow the focus area of RPE efforts to a single town or community within Clark County. Upon making this decision, key informants were identified and interviewed to obtain a more qualitative perspective of the chosen community. From there, recommendations for further engagement and plan building were explored and Jeffersonville, Indiana was ultimately selected.

The RPE Team chose to focus on four specific risk factors in order to narrow the scope of their work and more effectively engage community partners in prevention efforts. This decision was based largely on the demographic information and other data collected and discussed previously in this report. Additional consideration was given to the connections and relationships already established between CWF and various community partners. These four risk factors were as follows:

- **Weak sanctions and policies** were chosen as a focus due to discrepancies in data obtained from local law enforcement institutions that indicate a remarkably low rate of reporting and arrest. CWF currently employs a legal advocate who is working in Clark County directly with law enforcement and justice officials. Therefore, the RPE Team felt that these connections were strong enough upon which to build a greater partnership with regards to primary prevention.
- **Academic failure** was selected based on school data indicating greater need in Clark County. The CWF Prevention Education Team historically has operated well within school systems. Although partnerships with schools in Clark and Floyd Counties are not as strong as those established in Jefferson County, KY, the RPE Team felt that this would be an opportunity to build on the relationships that currently exist using the knowledge and experience from work in Jefferson County.
- **Social isolation, poor neighborhood support and connection** were selected as the third risk factor of focus based on higher reports of social and emotional support among adults in Clark County than in many Indiana counties. The CWF Prevention Education Team has recently begun prioritizing neighborhood and community level prevention efforts outside of schools. Focusing on this particular risk factor allows the opportunity to continue this shift as well as learn from a wider pool of people outside the RPE Team within CWF throughout the process.

- **Experiencing and witnessing violence** was chosen as a focus risk factor because Clark County children experience higher levels of abuse, sexual abuse in particular, than many of their counterparts across the state. Additionally, as the local intimate partner and sexual violence program, this is a risk factor of particular interest and expertise to the RPE Team.

## Secondary Data Collection & Initial Implications

The RPE Team chose to obtain data regarding towns in Clark County with over 1000 residents: Charlestown, Jeffersonville, and Sellersburg.<sup>1</sup> The intention of looking at these three particular communities was to maximize impact by reaching a larger population and build upon already existing relationships. The process of identifying which single community would be the focus of the community needs assessment, consisting of five different strategies, is outlined below. Implications will be discussed thereafter.

### A) *Analysis of Local Data from Law Enforcement Agencies*

Through relationships already built by a CWF legal advocate for Clark County, the RPE Team was able to obtain crime data from the Charlestown, Jeffersonville, and Sellersburg Police Departments as well as data from the Clark County Sheriff's Office. The RPE Team looked at case activity reports as well as arrests (for both adults and juveniles) for the following (or those related to) offenses: battery/assault, rape, sex crimes, child abuse and neglect, homicide, harassment, offenses against family and children, and drug possession and/or sale. Because the data came from three different jurisdictions, some categories were not consistent between departments.

**Table 3.**  
**Charlestown Law Enforcement Data,**  
**2013 - 2014**

<b>Case Activity Reports</b>	
Battery	132
Child Molestation	10
Domestic	320
Rape	2
Sex Crime	14
Child Abuse	8
Child Neglect	8
Harassment	392
<b>Adult Arrest</b>	<b>728</b>
Battery	64
Child Molestation	1
Rape	0
Strangulation	7
Murder	0
Child Neglect	0
<b>Juvenile Arrest</b>	<b>81</b>
Battery	16
Misdemeanor	
Battery – Felony	2
Battery to Police	0
Murder	0
Rape	0

<sup>1</sup> Excluding Clarksville because of prevention efforts that are already underway in that community.

Jeffersonville has a significantly larger population (45,929) than either Charlestown (7990) or Sellersburg (6161). Because of this, Jeffersonville's numbers (captured in tables 4, 5, and 6) naturally look a lot higher based on the number of reports and arrests alone. When dividing the number of incidents by the total population, however, the rates tend to become a lot closer than expected.

**Table 4. Jeffersonville Juvenile Arrests, 2013 - 2014**

	Under 18	Over 18	Combined
<b>Murder and Non-Negligent Manslaughter</b>	0	2	2
<b>Forcible Rape</b>	0	0	0
<b>Aggravated Assault</b>	78	249	327
<b>Other Assaults</b>	73	148	221
<b>Sex Offenses (except rape and prostitution)</b>	0	4	4
<b>Drug Abuse Violations - Total</b>	27	274	301
<b>DAV-Sale/Manufacture Total</b>	5	51	56
<b>DAV - Possession Total</b>	22	223	245
<b>Offenses Against Family and Children</b>	0	20	20
<b>Total Incidents</b>	514	2288	2802

Charlestown, for example, has *slightly* higher rates of sexual violence than Jeffersonville (as indicated by comparing the reports in Table 3 with those in Table 5). Sellersburg is also comparable in the number of sex crimes (as illustrated in Tables 7 and 8). Let it be noted that official reports and arrests are not likely an accurate representation of the sexual violence actually occurring in these communities. Data from the most recent National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey ([NISVS, 2011](#)) indicates that nearly 1 in 5 women and 1 in 59 men in the United States have experienced rape in their lifetime. Additional observations made from the data collected relates to the discrepancy between the number of reports and the number of arrests for Jeffersonville in particular. As shown in Tables 4-6 and Graph 8, there were numerous reports made in 2013

and 2014 (13 for forcible rape perpetrated by a juvenile), but there were zero arrests for forcible rape (and 4 for sex crimes) in those same years. Charlestown displays a similar problem as illustrated in Table 3 – no arrests were made despite 2 reports of rape and 14 reports of other sex offenses in the same two-year period. Graph 8 illustrates this relationship more specifically between rates of report and arrest for rape across the three communities. It is readily apparent that, though sexual violence is likely still underreported, there are even fewer arrests being made. This trend across communities in Clark County further supports the team's selection of weak informal and formal sanctions and policies as a targeted risk factor for sexual violence.

**Table 5. Jeffersonville Juvenile Reports Made and Founded, 2013-2014**

<b>Forcible Rape Total</b>	15
a. Rape by Force	13
b. Attempts to Commit Forcible Rape	2
<b>Assault Total</b>	1454

**Table 6. Jeffersonville Adult Incident Analysis Reports, 2013 - 2014**

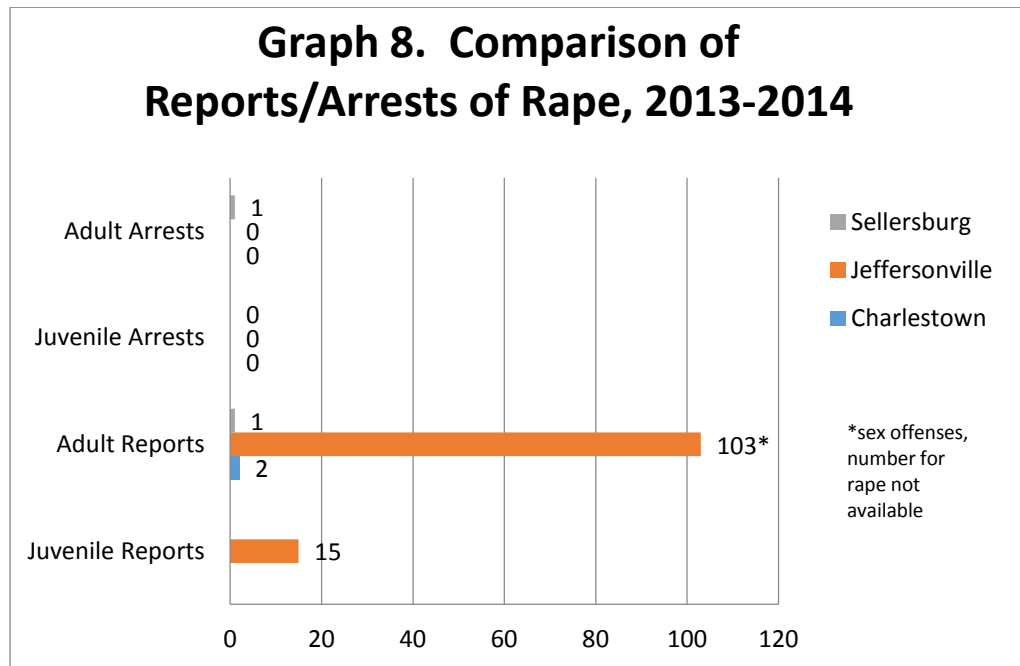
<b>Battery</b>	789
<b>Disturbance</b>	2837
<b>Domestic</b>	2501
<b>Escape</b>	6
<b>Escort</b>	264
<b>Fight</b>	394
<b>Harassment</b>	1026
<b>Sex Offense</b>	103
<b>Threat/Intimidation</b>	596
<b>Violent Trauma</b>	34
<b>Total Incidents</b>	60,960

**Table 7. Sellersburg Arrests, 2013**

	Under 18	Over 18
<b>Murder and Non-Negligent Manslaughter</b>	0	0
<b>Rape</b>	0	1
<b>Aggravated Assault</b>	2	26
<b>Other Assaults</b>	0	1
<b>Sex Offenses (except rape and prostitution)</b>	0	1
<b>Drug Abuse Violations – Total</b>	1	37
a. DAV – Sale/Manufacture Total	0	1
b. DAV – Possession Total	1	37
<b>Offenses Against Family and Children</b>	0	25
<b>Human Trafficking/Commercial Sex Acts</b>	0	0
<b>Human Trafficking/Involuntary Servitude</b>	0	0
<b>Total Incidents</b>	6	277

**Table 8. Sellersburg Reports Made, 2014**

<b>Murder and Non-Negligent Homicide</b>	0
<b>Forcible Rape Total</b>	1
a. Rape by Force	1
b. Attempts to Commit Forcible Rape	0
<b>Assault Total</b>	57
<b>Grand Total</b>	174



In addition to looking at rates of rape or sexual assault, data related to other kinds of assault might also be an indicator of the overall environment in the different Clark County communities. Again, Jeffersonville and Charlestown tend to be much closer together, slightly higher than Sellersburg. It looks as though Jeffersonville has higher rates (although it is more difficult to assess a direct comparison by the lack of consistency in reporting across communities).

#### *B) Windshield Surveys*

The Prevention Coordinator and Community Advocate spent two Thursdays completing windshield surveys of Charlestown, Jeffersonville, and Sellersburg. Although there did not seem to be a clear direction as to which community has the highest concentration of risk factors based on this method alone, the windshield surveys were able to convey information that data cannot. Observations from the surveys regarding common risk and protective factors for violence (e.g. poverty, education, built environment, community ownership and connection, availability and accessibility of community resources, etc.) follow.

All three communities had primarily well-maintained homes of varying degrees of value, with clear parts of the neighborhood that had a lower level of house maintenance. Jeffersonville appeared to be the most diverse community both racially and socioeconomically. There were more non-white individuals in Jeffersonville than in the other two communities.

Jeffersonville had some areas with much larger and well-maintained homes with a higher degree of exclusivity as well as some areas with much smaller and more dilapidated



Charlestown



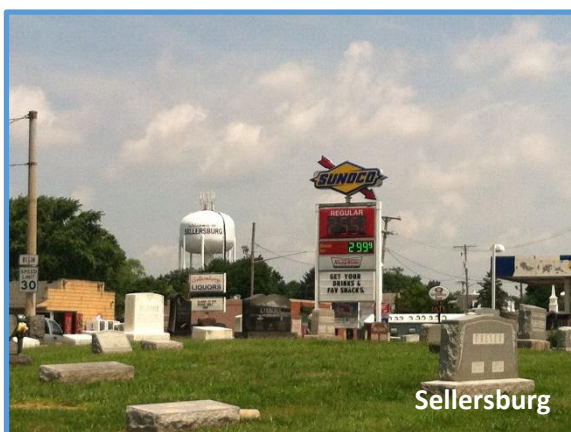
Jeffersonville



Sellersburg

homes. These homes did exist in Charlestown and Sellersburg; however, there appeared to be great extremes across Jeffersonville neighborhoods. In Jeffersonville, Bridgepointe Crossing and a few other housing and apartment complexes and parks were reported to have reputations for frequent violence.

In addition to the residents themselves and their living quarters of each town, the landscape of businesses was noted. Although Jeffersonville is home to the Big 4 Bridge and the fast-growing surrounding business area, it also had significantly more vacant buildings and retail spaces than Charlestown and Sellersburg. Many of these are located away from the Bridge but close to downtown or along the frequently-mentioned 10<sup>th</sup> Street area.



Sellersburg

10<sup>th</sup> Street in Jeffersonville



Charlestown Family Activities Park

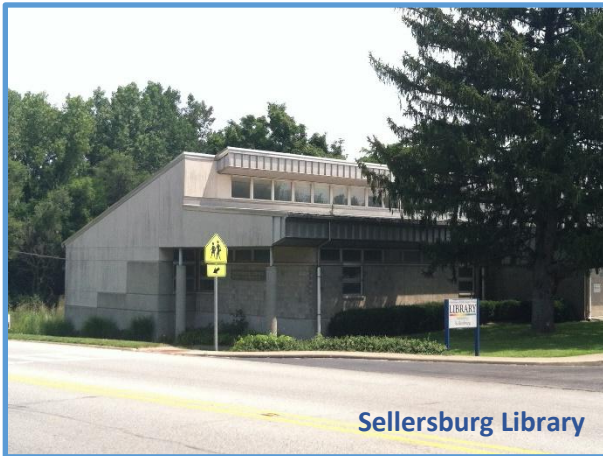
One factor associated with lower risk for violence is the presence of green space and well-maintained public parks, of which all three communities exhibit a good amount. Charlestown even has a beautiful Family Activities Park (pictured above) with mini golf and water park. On the other hand, Jeffersonville is home to Vissing Park, an area of town with a reputation for violence. Some community members report in online forums that a recent renovation of the park, however, makes it feel safer. From what the Prevention Coordinator was able to gather online, this renovation included clearing away wooded area and installing additional baseball and softball fields.

There were varying degrees of opportunities for recreation and entertainment across the communities. Sellersburg probably had the fewest opportunities for entertainment/recreation, compared to Charlestown, and Jeffersonville had the most. Many of the entertainment opportunities, if not related to the public parks and programs, appeared to be restaurants, community clubs, and many churches located in each community. The river front / Big 4 Bridge business

area affords Jeffersonville residents many more opportunities for recreation and socialization than the other two communities. The local movie theatres are located in Clarksville and New Albany.



Religious Communities in Charlestown



Sellersburg Library

Big 4 Bridge Area  
in Jeffersonville

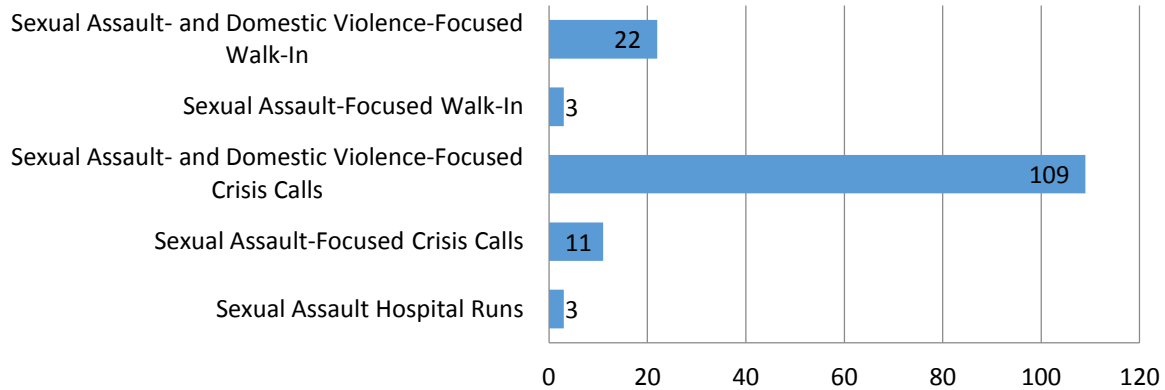
Awareness of and access to community services and employment are protective factors that, when present, reduce the likelihood of varying forms of violence. A bus line runs through more of Jeffersonville than either of the other communities, but it becomes limited as one moves away from the downtown area. For this reason, Jeffersonville has more access to transportation and also exhibited a fairly large number of community agencies and resources. Charlestown has some public transportation and a few community resources. Sellersburg residents have little access to public transportation and a few community resources as well (more than Charlestown, but less than Jeffersonville).

C) *Assessment of Internal Service Request Data (The Center for Women & Families)*

Since the official report and arrest rates for sexual violence suggested low rates of disclosure to law enforcement, the RPE Team decided to look at internal data regarding CWF services provided to community members of Clark County for some additional insight into the needs of Clark County and where prevention efforts should be focused. Unfortunately, there is not a lot of information from Efforts to Outcomes (ETO), the data collection system used by CWF services requested and obtained in southern Indiana at the community level. The available information is organized below into Graphs 9 and 10. Graph 9 shows sexual assault-focused services provided to residents of Clark County as a whole. These were not able to be organized into ZIP codes as this is an identified issue with data collection. It is apparent, though, that the number of services provided exceeds the

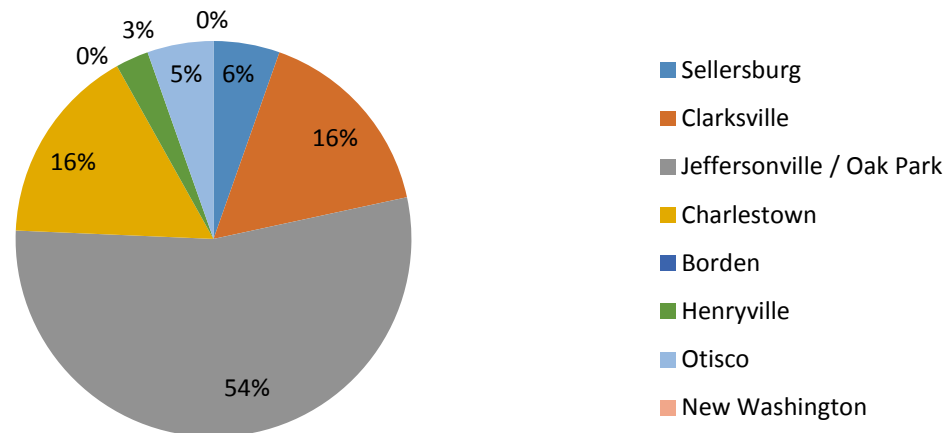
number of reported incidents of sexual violence in the previous years, according to the previously discusses data from law enforcement.

**Graph 9. Clark County Services Accessed  
(Jan 2014 - April 2015)**



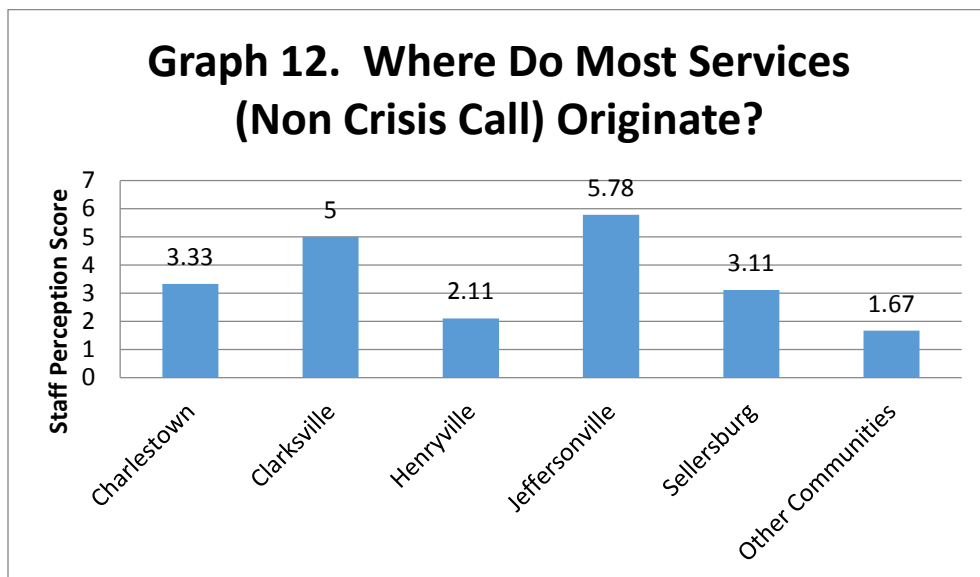
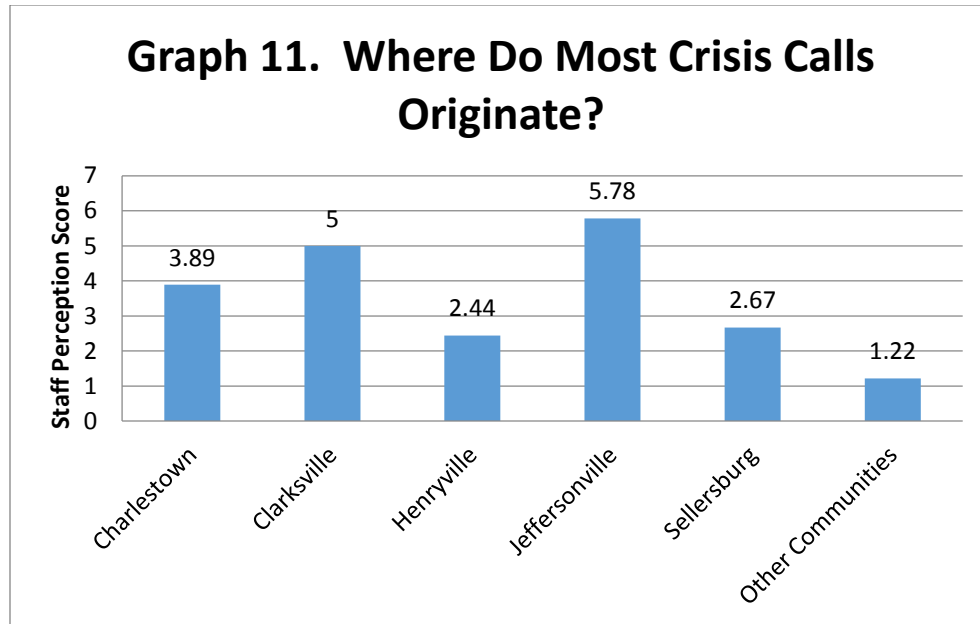
Graph 10 contains information from intake assessments where sexual assault was identified in tandem with domestic violence because there were so few intake assessments conducted in which sexual assault sole focus (6 total). Based on this information, the highest number of services is provided to Jeffersonville residents. This is to be expected as Jeffersonville has the largest population. It must be noted that the collection of data in ETO at CWF is still in its beginning phases and may not be of the most consistent quality.

**Graph 10. DV/SA Intake Assessment,  
Client County of Origin (Jan 2014 - April 2015)**



#### D) CWF Staff Survey

Because data from ETO was so limited, the RPE Team sought feedback and input from CWF staff members who serve southern Indiana the most: the CWF Southern Indiana Campus (SIC) staff, which includes those who work in shelter, the community, administration, and the crisis office. Eleven staff members completed the survey, nearly half of whom are also residents of southern Indiana. The general perception was that CWF receives more calls and clients from Jeffersonville and Clarksville than any other community in Clark County, as shown in Graphs 11 and 12.



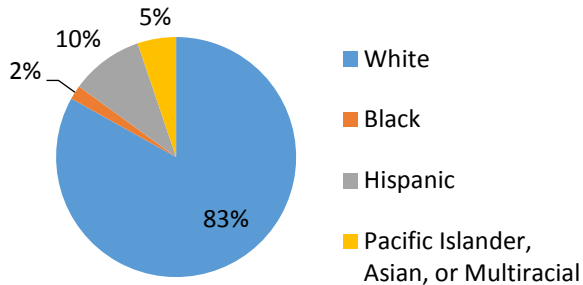
Additionally, staff members perceived both Jeffersonville and Clarksville to have the highest risk factors and lowest protective factors. It would appear that they used their experience at CWF, reports from various media outlets, and their own personal experience to inform their answers, but many of them indicated that they think it would be best to look at data. One staff member gave a beautiful recommendation: “I think that Jeffersonville is the best place to start because it’s a bigger area and will reach more people. I also think that folks in that area will be more receptive to being change agents with regard to policies in schools and legal sector.” Another staff member was also insightful stating, “I would say somewhere like Jeffersonville or Clarksville because they have the highest populations that could be impacted, and that is where the majority of our clients seem to come from...this seems to be what happens on my shift.”

One unanticipated yet interesting result of administering this survey was the discovery that many staff members felt that their feedback wasn’t important because they did not have the official data. The Prevention Coordinator views this as a great opportunity to include a wider range of staff members in prevention efforts even if they cannot actively participate in Green Dot or the facilitation of trainings. By making it clear to them that their feedback, steeped in the experiences of working in a program that serves southern Indiana, is very important (even without the presence of the quantitative data that they indicate needing). Further, by assuring them that their feedback will guide the community focus of the primary prevention work to be done in Clark County, the RPE Team believes CWF staff will feel more included in CWF’s prevention efforts in addition to learning about the nature and scope of prevention work in general.

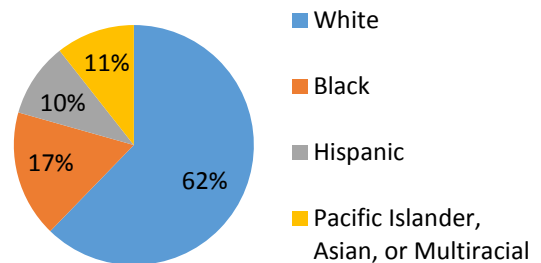
#### E) *High School Data*

Since graduation rates are one of the risk factors the RPE Team chose to focus on and CWF has had success working within the school system in the past, it was important to have school-based data on each of the high schools in the potential communities of focus. According to data from the Indiana Department of Education, illustrated in Graphs 13 - 17, Jeffersonville High School has the lowest graduation rates, the highest rates of free and reduced lunch, and the largest, most diverse student population. The first two of these are indicators of risk factors for the victimization and perpetration of sexual violence.

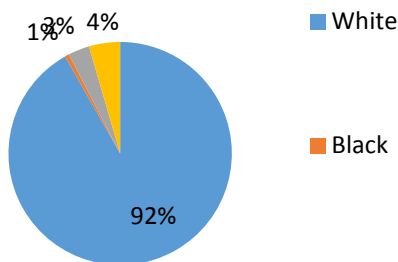
**Graph 13. Charlestown Enrollment By Ethnicity, 2014/15**



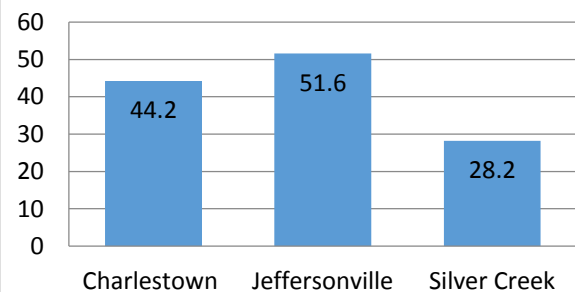
**Graph 14. Jeffersonville Enrollment by Ethnicity, 2014/15**



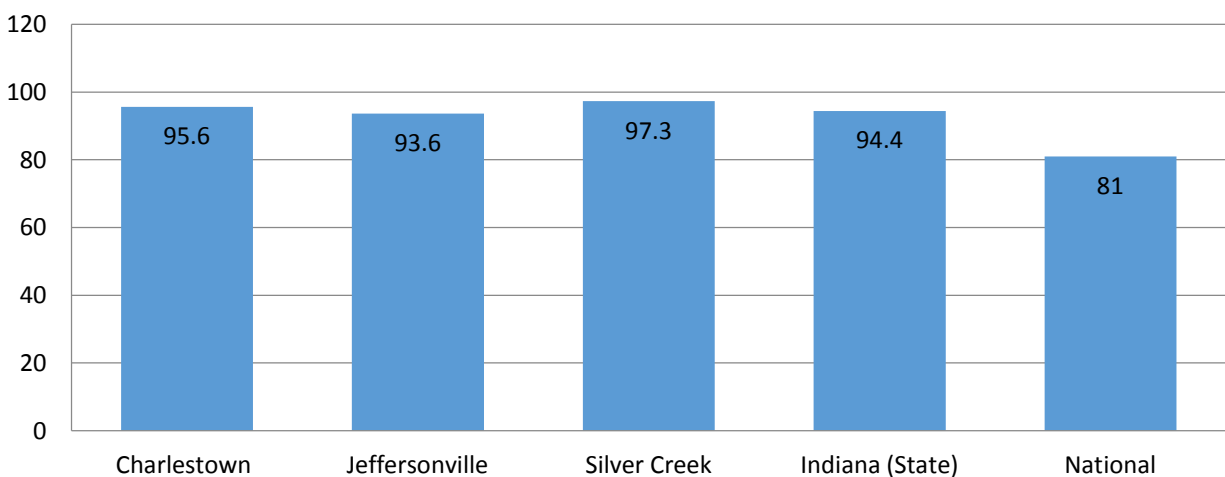
**Graph 15. Silver Creek Enrollment by Ethnicity, 2014/15**



**Graph 16. Comparison of Free & Reduced Lunch Rates**



**Graph 17. Comparison of Graduation Rates, 2013/2014**



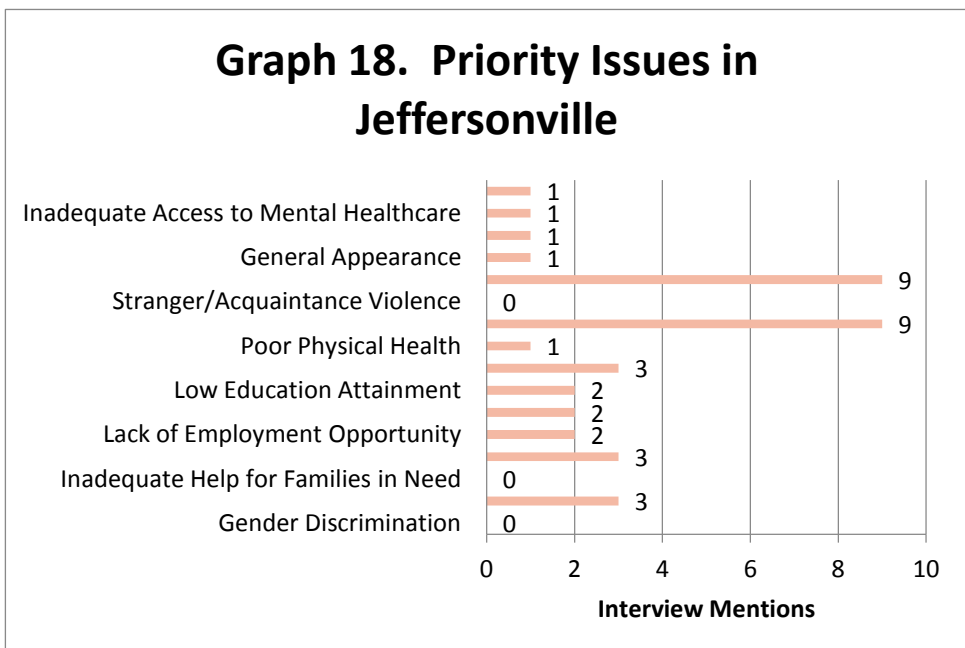
### Community Focus Recommendation: Jeffersonville

Based on the five strategies of secondary data collection above, the RPE team decided to focus initial efforts on the community of Jeffersonville because: 1) overall similar rates of reported violence across communities, 2) both qualitative and quantitative CWF data indicating higher need in Jeffersonville, and 3) more concerning educational attainment indicators and a greater population in Jeffersonville support this decision. There is an opportunity to make a greater impact in Jeffersonville with these efforts than with the other communities. Ideally, the efforts undertaken in Jeffersonville will ultimately lead to efforts and have benefits for all residents of Clark County.

### Key Informant Interviews & Key Themes

Once the RPE Team had a smaller geographic focus, they held interviews with community members in order to guide the development of the sexual violence primary prevention plan. Seven individuals from a variety of backgrounds and careers were interviewed over the course of June and early July 2015. These individuals represented multiple sectors including faith-based communities (1), mental health care systems (2), anti-trafficking task forces (1), small business owners and retired educators (1), high school staff (1), and CWF legal advocacy (1). With respect to time limits, all key informants were asked the same questions and given time to answer as briefly or lengthily as desired. The interview guide is attached to the end of this report as Appendix A. Interviews were transcribed and key themes identified for presentation in this report.

Many common themes arose, as well as insightful suggestions for potential future partners. One of the most anticipated responses relates to what the people of Jeffersonville would identify as priority issues. Graph 18 shows a complete look at how the informants ranked the issues. It tracks responses to one question which asked informants to choose the three most pressing issues faced by Jeffersonville residents, but also whether they talked about the issues elsewhere during the interview.



It is apparent that both poverty and substance abuse issues were identified as the most pressing, followed by poor mental health, lack of affordable housing, and inadequate access to affordable healthcare. Followed is a brief discussion of how many of these issues relate to each other and to sexual violence in the eyes of Jeffersonville residents, as voiced by the key informants.

Largely, each informant was knowledgeable about and confident in at least one particular service or group of services available. For example, one informant was able to easily identify and talk about mental health services. However, the degree of confidence and knowledge varied between informants and their area of focus. This person was not familiar with services in the areas of violence or economic resources. Furthermore, across all seven interviews, **the need for communication, coordination, and collaboration across sectors** was repeatedly identified. Many informants conveyed that Jeffersonville has a wide variety of resources, but a) they are not working in tandem or collaborating with one another and therefore are likely duplicating services without maximizing impact; and b) not many individuals

**"I feel like we have a lot of good programs here in Jeffersonville, but not everyone knows about them. Like I know about [The Center for Women and Families] because I know [a former CWF advocate]...but I still didn't know exactly what you did...I think being able to assimilate all of that information and all of us know what everybody else does. Who does food pantries and where those are? Who does clothing?...Who helps build a resume for somebody?...Who are the people who are willing to, if need be, throw \$30 at a cumulative effort to help somebody get back on their feet because they're just at the edge of needing that?" (Interview #4)**

(community members and other service agencies or providers) are aware of them. Other informants went on to state that this issue is the same across all different sectors, reinforcing that this is a community-wide issue and priority. Additionally, multiple informants expressed a desire not only for consolidated information but the creation of an actual physical space where residents can go to access services for multiple needs, a

"one-stop-shop" as Key Informant #4 phrased it.

**"If you don't get a good education, you're going to be in poverty. Then poverty goes to the physical health because you cannot go to the doctor, you cannot afford to get prescriptions, you cannot afford to do any of this because you're stuck in poverty. Then your physical health starts affecting your mental health, so it's just a vicious circle." (Interview #3)**

The aforementioned lack of communication and coordination is complicated even further in Jeffersonville, and across the country, by **the complexity and interconnectedness of the issues presented**, which was referenced by nearly every informant. One informant specifically asserted that most of the violence in Jeffersonville is related to drugs and alcohol (Interview #7). Another spoke more broadly to the domino effect that occurs when a person doesn't first have access to

quality education. When compounding issues of race, class, gender, and other cultural barriers with the intersections of numerous complex issues, it becomes easy to see why the default has been to work in silos: sometimes it is just easier to work on one piece of something because the bigger picture is just too big for one agency to tackle. That being said, those interviewed seemed to be open and eager for larger vision and collaboration, likely because of the frustrations they have faced personally or vicariously through someone within the fragmented system.

One small piece of the fragmented system related directly to sexual violence and, consequently, the services provided by CWF was that across all interviews, **no one was able to clearly identify what sexual violence prevention efforts look like in Jeffersonville**, if they exist at all. Some individuals mentioned The Center for

**"Community-wide...prevention?  
Nothing comes. Safety Town, that's  
all I can think of... I think we've had  
a huge increase in police presence...  
but prevention, I don't know that  
we have any. If we do, it's hidden."  
(Interview #2)**

Women and Families because this seemed like the logical place to start rather than familiarity with or knowledge of specific efforts. Others were able to connect what their specific agencies or institutions were doing (some specifically and others in broader terms). However, most interviewees indicated that there were not many or any prevention efforts in Jeffersonville. This confirms the RPE Team's suspicions that CWF prevention efforts are essentially absent in Jeffersonville and reinforces their decision to focus the Rape

Prevention Education funds in this particular area. Perhaps contributing to the general lack of awareness about prevention efforts is the idea that Jeffersonville tends to be more reactive than proactive by nature. One informant indicates that it is easy for life to return to normal after these catastrophic events happen, "You know, people come together, they talk about it, they get all the comfort they need for those situations, but nothing after that. No follow up after that. No educational programs." (Interview #7) Again, their words indicate a readiness for action and a readiness for changing how things are done while simultaneously recognizing that these are norms that are going to be difficult to address.

**"Usually things get taken care of if  
catastrophic events happen. We're  
not preventative by nature...we are  
reactive. It's the nature of the beast.  
For whatever reason, we don't see a  
problem until there is a problem and  
then it's too late. As opposed to  
looking and going, 'We see there's  
potential for this...what are we going  
to do?'" (Interview #4)**

As a lack of coordination was one of the most common themes, most informants were readily able to list potential partners and stakeholders that they thought should be involved in this process:

**Specific Agencies:**

- Hispanic Connection
- Clark Memorial
- Floyd Memorial
- Chief of Jeffersonville Police
- Clark County Sheriff, Jamie Knoll
- Conservation Officers
- School Resource Officers
- Mayor's Office (Mike Moore)
- Lifespring
- Wellstone
- Blue River Services
- CASI
- Child Advocacy Center
- Child Place
- Clark County Youth Shelter
- Exit Zero
- Family and Children's Place
- New Hope Services
- Rauch, Inc.
- Safe Place
- Urban League
- Haven House

**General Suggestions:**

- Businesses
- Colleges
- Court System
- Faith-Based Communities
- Hospitals
- Law Enforcement
- Mental Health Professionals
- Persons affected by sexual violence (survivors and family/friends)
- School System
- Service Agencies

**"It's coming together regardless of what your backgrounds are or what you care about. Whether you're pro-abortion or anti-abortion or whether you're Republican or Democrat, the problems are all the same, and we've got to get past it and create an environment where we care about the things that we have in common, as opposed to the things that divide us (Interview #4)."**

Naturally, discussing *who* should be involved led to discussions about *how* they should be involved. In general, interviewees believe that it is not easy to gather individuals from multiple fields together into a productive and sustainable coalition or task force for numerous reasons. Some stated that many entities do not come to the table in an honest manner or they have "hidden agendas" that may conflict and ultimately cost entire working relationships. "Everybody becomes very territorial, but if everyone sits down and decides this is for the greater good of everyone, there may be a way to do away with waste and doubling." (Interview #3) **Most informants also echoed the need for moving past this territoriality and into honest, unifying collaboration.**

Multiple informants expressed a feeling a sense of ownership for the city of Jeffersonville and **the need for community members, themselves included, to actively address the issues most important to them.** Although many of the key informants were able to identify some basic steps to actively addressing the issues (and spoke freely about the complexities and nuances of sexual violence, dating violence, and their connecting issues) most of them clearly stated that Jeffersonville residents were largely unaware or uneducated about the problem of sexual violence specifically. “We are reluctant to look at violence because it’s filtered through our own emotions and our own experience and the fact that we are reluctant to meddle in other people’s business as a society. I don’t know how you prevent it if you don’t know what it is. So education is the main thing (Interview #3).” In addition to awareness of the issues of sexual and dating/domestic violence, another informant suggested that Jeffersonville residents might simply need to be directly connected to the issue. In other words, if we do not see it or talk about it, it doesn’t appear to be there. This informant was also the only one, when asked about recent news coverage or sentinel events, who was able to reference the 3-4 domestic violence homicides that have gotten air time in the last 2 years (Interview #7), which may support the lack of permanency the issue of sexual violence presents with in Jeffersonville.

Most informants believe that **Jeffersonville residents care about the issues** of poverty, substance abuse, mental healthcare issues, inadequate access to housing and healthcare, and sexual violence, if they are aware of them. Unfortunately, this is not enough; Jeffersonville residents must also know *what* to do. While only one informant explicitly called out this barrier, this could be a very important bridge connecting the frequently-cited good, caring people of Jeffersonville and the reality of Jeffersonville as it is now.

**“What I run into a lot is that I don’t know what to say. I don’t know what to teach my kids, but I’m a smart enough person and have access to a lot of people who do know what to say. Like, I’ll go ask and say, ‘How do I handle this?’ But I think people don’t know what to do or what to say and so they don’t and that is a barrier. And that’s not just with regard to sexual violence. That’s with regard to suicidality. People don’t know how to handle that, so they don’t (Interview #6).”**

Parental engagement was identified as both a barrier to progress (e.g., contributing factors to poverty and homelessness like truancy) and a potential solution by multiple informants, (e.g., engaging parents in sexual and dating violence prevention). As parental engagement is a protective factor against different types of violence, parental support and engagement are topics receiving much attention at the state and national levels, too. It is always exciting when local sentiments and efforts align with those already under way at the state level, like this page from the Indiana Coalition against Domestic Violence Youth Council: [www.stand4respect.org](http://www.stand4respect.org). The presence of this theme in the interviews further supports the RPE Team’s initial inclusion of lack of emotional and social support as a focus risk factor.

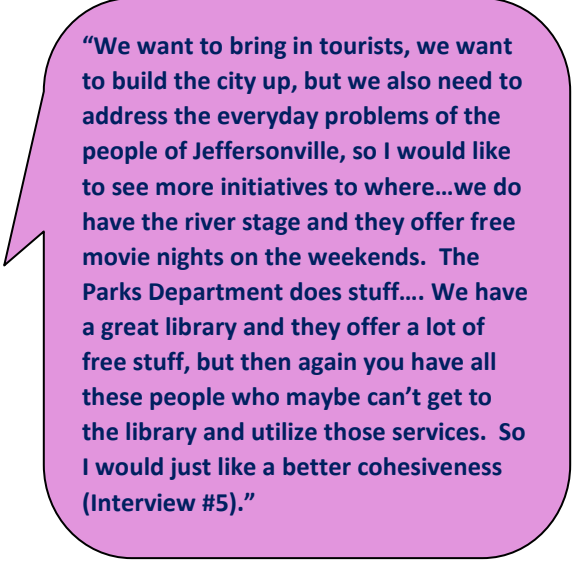
**Developing youth leadership through education and engaging youth in discussions of healthy relationships, boundaries, dating and sexual violence, and even trafficking** were mentioned multiple times. One person explicitly called for teens' active involvement in planning. "I don't think we've ever asked our young people, 'What would make you feel better about living in Clark County?' I don't think we've ever done that. I think there's a need to assess them and get their input." (Interview #7) The same informant, when asked about programs that could be implemented, suggested "opportunities for dialogue."

At the community and societal levels, many informants noted that **they wanted Jeffersonville to be a positive environment**. Ideally, informants would like to see the vision of the members of city government align with that of the common people of Jeffersonville.

One **barrier cited by nearly every informant was funding** and some interesting solutions were offered to this problem. However, many of the proffered solutions simply involved better coordination and cohesion between community resources as previously suggested. Collaboration could generate more funding as agencies

apply for grants collaboratively, but it may also serve as a potential solution to violence itself as interviewees indicate a high need for coordination of services. Another interesting suggestion was to involve state legislators firsthand by creating a simulation whereby they would experience what it would be like to live on the poverty line for a day. High schools across the United States participate in these poverty simulation activities – why couldn't legislators? There appears to be a large gap between the citizens of Jeffersonville and the government (Interview #3).

Additional barriers identified include inadequate transportation as well as difficulty in serving the following vulnerable populations: homeless and unemployed individuals, children who are "middle of the road" and possibly experiencing violence in the home, the LGBTQ+ community, the Hispanic community, males, and individuals with developmental disabilities.



"We want to bring in tourists, we want to build the city up, but we also need to address the everyday problems of the people of Jeffersonville, so I would like to see more initiatives to where...we do have the river stage and they offer free movie nights on the weekends. The Parks Department does stuff.... We have a great library and they offer a lot of free stuff, but then again you have all these people who maybe can't get to the library and utilize those services. So I would just like a better cohesiveness (Interview #5)."

Multiple informants cited the superficial involvement by government and city officials in issues like poverty, homelessness, and substance abuse. Officials seem to be preoccupied with making it appear that Jeffersonville does not suffer from these problems rather than truly address them. These officials focus on the recent upswing in business and development of the downtown Big 4 Bridge area without paying attention to certain challenges that this might also create, e.g. the increase in the complexity of how to deal with potential transient homelessness, substance abuse, runaways, and trafficking across state

lines (Interviews #3 and #5). One interviewee had unique insight into why increasing accessibility to Kentucky could further increase challenges to service provision, “Because you cross and if you have an individual that’s under 18 that’s been a victim of trafficking because they decided to run away from home and they weren’t under the jurisdiction of any agency, they were living with their parent and they decided, ‘Oh, let’s go to Louisville...’ They get picked up for a runaway. They’re actually a resident of Indiana, but they’re over there in the Kentucky system now. So there’s a lot more barriers to get those things taken care of.” (Interview #5)

Looking ahead to solutions and next steps, a few interviews yielded great ideas for components and pieces of what addressing these issues should look like moving forward. Multiple interviewees stressed the importance of a strong leader and clear vision and each agency taking action. Combined, these informants have voiced a clear direction for the CWF RPE Team in the coming months and beyond.

**“I’d like to see somebody take the leadership role on it and from the role, come up with a strategic plan and a council and a committee that could talk about the issue and then make programmatic changes and programmatic activities for young people as well as adults on that issue. Some social, some educational, some fun, and maybe incorporate The Center for Women and Families a little more into what is going on in Clark County (Interview #7).”**

**“I think there are people trying to address it, but it needs to be someone who has a thick skin, has a clear head, a clear vision, that can bring all those pieces together...I think basically being able to communicate better, realistic objectives and expectations. Because sometimes I think we have this big goal...then you don’t meet the goal and then you get discouraged and then you’ve got to regroup and everything (Interview #5).”**

**“Maybe the onus is on me to reach out to all the organizations that we’ve come into contact with and go, ‘We’re thinking about making a committee that is going to up the ante for us on what we can do and what we should do to help our population (Interview #4).’”**

Finally, various thoughts from informants with regards to what a healthy and happy Jeffersonville would look like have been incorporated into the discussion above. Although, only quotes could truly capture the spirit of hope, enthusiasm, and power conveyed across all seven interviews and, thus, are captured in the thought bubbles below.

"I would definitely love to see where there's holes and gaps in those services provided...definitely fixing up the appearance of Jeff would be extremely helpful because I do think that is such a big problem. I would like to see everybody come together and work together more in the community. I feel like people are very stuck in what they do and that's it and they don't try to reach outside of the box or day anything different and so, I would like to see that community come together and make the best out of that community because I think

"A drug free Jeffersonville! Wouldn't that be wonderful? A suicide free Jeffersonville. A nonviolent society in Jeffersonville...A society that values the decrease of sexual assault and rape and sexual violence. Yes, a society that values that and wants to do something about it. A healthy society in Jeffersonville – both mentally as well as physically. A community that values its young people and wants to do something to improve their lives and to keep them safe and free of violence."

Key Informant #7

"To me a healthy community, not just Jeffersonville, is one that is characterized by adequate access to affordable healthcare. Period."

Key Informant #6



"I feel like if you could see a Jeff that is not so...isolated in different ways. Like, all the areas are isolated from one another and people don't pay attention to what's happening down there or they run their nose up at the things that are happening down there...Just trying to move beyond that kind of stuff and create a place that is helpful for everybody. Where everybody is reaping the benefits of a community that cares about itself instead of looking at it and going, 'Well there's crazy Uncle Larry. We don't want anything to do with him.' And the homeless population is, you know, crazy Uncle Larry."

Key Informant #4

"Cohesiveness with all of the agencies, because you've got someone over here doing something and someone over here doing something."

Key Informant #5



"We have a good cohesive group of people who try to do the common good of all. I think that, and this is a good question for me because I'm not a native of Jeffersonville – I think what has happened as the community has moved outward and people are moving in, they have had to readjust their thinking as far as cliquish, clannish...I think there's a strength of common purpose, people trying to do good and what is right..People try to accept one another. I've been all over Clark County and I've never felt out of place, looked down upon."

Key Informant #3

"It is a strong school system, of course. Those connections with all of those other entities. With our healthcare services, our mental health care services, our police force, our business community. Those connections and communication to keep the vision of positive growth, maintaining a good place to live, to raise a family, to grow old in, where you have all of those things coming together."

Key Informant #2

## Recommendations and Implications

The data and information collected by the RPE Team from a variety of community members across sectors, shows that Jeffersonville citizens are ready to come together to address a plethora of issues including poverty, substance abuse, and mental healthcare, among others. Additionally, by focusing on these particular issues, sexual and intimate partner violence will also be addressed as community members begin to realize the interconnectedness all of these issues. Although this view of Jeffersonville is hopeful, the RPE Team remains realistic as they recognize very real barriers to action, including: fragmentation of services, a general lack of awareness, the complexities of the issues involved, division between the people of Jeffersonville and local and state government officials, funding limitations, and inadequate transportation. Many themes must be considered as the RPE Team moves forward with the development of the sexual violence primary prevention plan.

Before addressing themes individually, the RPE Team realized that there was a single approach that would span the concerns raised in the data and interviews. Most informants mentioned the need for community collaboration as well as the current fragmented state of prevention and intervention efforts in Jeffersonville. Rather than developing and focusing on an entirely new project immediately, the RPE Team plans to investigate whether there are already plans or coalitions in place designed to address any of the identified priority issues. While exploring the true prevention landscape of Jeffersonville, the RPE Team will simultaneously be building relationships with and inviting many of the individuals, organizations, or institutions cited in the interviews to this discussion and process. The intended result of this process is the development and implementation of a strategic plan designed to eliminate sexual violence. Multiple informants indicated that there needs to be a unifying, strong leader with a clear vision in order to initiate and steer this process. It is possible that this need will be filled by The Center for Women & Families or another option will present itself in the coming months through the RPE Team making connections and strengthening relationships. The interviewees stated that all of these individuals are ready to come together and ready to leave their territoriality behind in order to take action together to make Jeffersonville closer to the visions illustrated above.

The goals identified in the strategic plan are guided by community members themselves. The most commonly cited themes based on key informant interviews and secondary data collection are the following and next steps are further discussed below:

- Community Collaboration
- Poverty and Homelessness
- Substance Abuse
- Mental Healthcare
- Issue Complexity and Interconnectedness
- Lack of Awareness of Sexual Violence
- Education and Positive Environments
- Funding

**Community Collaboration** – Nearly every informant cited that most agencies and individuals in Jeffersonville do not have a comprehensive understanding as to what other services are available. Further, they recommended the creation of a coalition, which would allow for organizations and community members to come together regularly so that all are aware of what Jeffersonville has to offer. The RPE Team is aware of one “Prevention Coalition” operating in Jeffersonville at present, although its mission and scope of activities is unclear. After looking into the Jeffersonville prevention landscape, if the RPE Team and stakeholders determine that there is not an appropriate entity to address the combined and complex needs of the people of Jeffersonville, then they will lead the charge to create one. If one does exist, then the RPE Team will work to integrate the strategic plan into their efforts.

**Poverty and Homelessness** – Local homeless population-serving agencies will be included in prevention efforts and planning from the onset. Some entities to engage as suggested by informants are: Haven House, Exit Zero, Clark County Youth Shelter, Safe Place, CASI, Hope Southern Indiana, and faith-based communities. Additionally, one informant did mention a newly developed plan to address homelessness in Jeffersonville created through a collaboration between Indiana University Southeast and the Southern Indiana Housing Initiative. This plan, called [Vision 2025: A Strategic Plan to End Homelessness in Clark and Floyd Counties](#), will be explored and its authors included in initial conversations.

**Substance Abuse** – Both Lifespring and Wellstone, the local substance abuse and mental health providers, were identified by informants as strong partners. Additional partners may include Southern Indiana Rehabilitation Center and Bliss House. In light of the recent heroin epidemic, many individual community members have engaged in wellness walks. While not a comprehensive prevention strategy, wellness walks may be an activity useful for engaging a larger number of community members in Jeffersonville. Additionally, implementing Green Dot within specific populations including bartenders and servers was proposed as a way to directly connect the prevention of sexual violence with alcohol consumption.

**Mental Healthcare** – Again, Lifespring and Wellstone’s active participation will be crucial for the development of an inclusive strategic plan. Other identified partners might include: New Hope Services and Rauch, Inc. CWF has made a commitment to ensuring that all practices are trauma informed. The RPE Team would like to explore the extent to which this is true for mental health and substance abuse agencies in order to contribute to a more trauma-informed community as a whole. Additional foci may be on techniques for individual self care including mindfulness programs, yoga, meditation, and Tai Chi.

**Issue Complexity and Interconnectedness** – Most of the previously mentioned service providers are operating in silos and focused on intervention programs and possibly awareness-raising. The RPE Team would like to conduct some initial trainings with staff members from each in order to discuss a) the connections between these issues and sexual violence; b) intersections of these issues as supported by the Adverse Childhood Experiences Study; c) understanding prevention in general; and d) how each agency can contribute to a solution for all of our mission issues.

**Lack of Awareness of Sexual Violence** – Since community members and professionals identified this theme, the approaches taken may need to vary slightly. The aforementioned prevention trainings would make sense with professionals. Information specific to sexual violence will be incorporated into those trainings. While some community members may be open to attending trainings of this nature, it is unlikely that this approach would be engaging for the majority of Jeffersonville residents. Instead, the RPE Team may need to start with a more basic awareness campaign initially, through parental engagement, or Green Dot.

**Education and Positive Environments** – Multiple informants cited the lack of education as the reason Jeffersonville's people experience poverty, substance abuse, and violence to the extent they do. To that end, they also cited education itself as well as positive environments where children can learn freely, thrive, and take advantage of leadership opportunities as the beginning of a solution to these issues. The RPE Team will be reaching out to include all three school systems in this process.<sup>2</sup> Additionally, partnerships with Clark County Public Libraries, the Parks and Recreation Department, the Urban League and conservation officers may be explored in order to build environments supportive of learning and leadership development.

**Funding** – Multiple informants cited limited funding as a concern in Jeffersonville further supporting the expressed need for collaboration and communication across agencies in order to ensure that efforts are not duplicated and resources wasted. The RPE Team will pursue funding in collaboration with willing partners.

Based on the overwhelming response from interviews, the RPE Team has decided to expand its primary target risk factors to reflect the priority issues of poverty and substance abuse. At present, the RPE Team will not eliminate identified focus risk factors. Instead, as community members come together and develop the sexual violence primary prevention plan, target risk factors will be identified and selected based on

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<sup>2</sup> Three school systems operate in Clark County: [Greater Clark County Schools](#), [West Clark Community Schools](#), and [Clarksville Community School Corporation](#).

everyone's input. This leaves the expanded list of potential target risk factors to include: poverty; substance abuse; weak sanctions and policies; academic failure; social isolation, poor neighborhood support and connection; experiencing and witnessing violence.

## **Limitations**

### *a) Secondary Data Collection*

Unfortunately, CWF staff are limited in the amount of work that they are able to be taken on. This affects the needs assessment process in a number of ways. First, it forces staff members to think realistically about how they can contribute to and facilitate quality prevention work in a given way. Therefore, staff members felt it important to narrow the scope of the assessment from county to individual town or city. Data regarding rates of violence in particular are difficult to obtain at the county level, and even more so the city or community level. The data that was available for use from within CWF's own internal data processing system was considered, but because of the quality and very limited quantity of that data, the team largely relied on reports of identified indicators for insight and direction.

Additionally, as noted above, data is a great starting point for further exploration. However, it cannot be relied on heavily because interpretation can vary. Regardless of which one is more or less accurate, community prevention work depends on the participation of community members and, thus, their identified needs and priorities must be considered along with the data. For example, the data indicates that poverty in Clark County is not as much an issue as it is elsewhere in the state of Indiana. However, this was the topic most frequently talked about in the interviews. If addressing poverty is what the residents believe needs to be addressed, then the RPE Team must pursue it.

### *b) Key Informant Interviews*

An additional limitation was evident in the key informant interviews. Interviews, while yielding valuable information, are also time consuming and sometimes difficult to schedule in short periods of time if relationships have not already been established or if positions are in transition. The RPE Team attempted to interview as diverse and representative a population as possible, but they recognize that there are likely omissions. The RPE Team hopes to engage and interview a representative from local law enforcement as well as a councilman and service agency director in the near future. Additional interviews may be conducted as new information is uncovered through relationship building and the plan development process. At the very least, these individuals will be invited to participate in the development of the plan or simply to be a part of the conversation moving forward.

## References

### *National, State, and County Level Data*

[National Intimate Partner & Sexual Violence Survey, 2010](#)

[National Intimate Partner & Sexual Violence Survey, 2011](#)

[Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance Survey, 2009](#)

[Connecting the Dots, 2014](#)

[Public Data, Bureau of Labor Statistics](#)

[Greater Clark County Schools](#)

[West Clark Community Schools](#)

[Clarksville Community School Corporation](#)

[US Census, 2010](#)

[US Census, 2013](#)

[US Census, 2009-2013](#)

[STATS Indiana Profile, Clark County](#)

[Community Health Status Indicators, 2015](#)

National Archive of Criminal Justice Data – Uniform Crime Reports (2012)

[Community Health Status Indicators, 2015](#)

[County Health Rankings/BRFS \(2012\)](#)

[Kids Count 2013](#)

[Kids Count 2013](#)

### *Local Data (Not available online unless otherwise indicated)*

[Vision 2025: A Strategic Plan to End Homelessness in Clark and Floyd Counties](#)

Arrest and Activity Reports (Charlestown, Jeffersonville, and Sellersburg Law Enforcement Agencies)

Windshield Surveys (conducted by the RPE Team)

The Center for Women and Families Efforts to Outcomes data

The Center for Women and Families Staff Survey

[Indiana Department of Education](#): Charlestown, Jeffersonville, and Silver Creek High Schools

Key Informant Interviews (1-7 conducted by the RPE Team)

## Appendix A

## COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT

### Jeffersonville Key Stakeholder Interview Guide

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#### Introduction

Thank you for agreeing to this interview today! Do you mind if I record our interview? All of your responses are confidential. We will not connect any of the responses from people we talk with to their names. The purpose of this interview is to discover what community issues or needs are really important to target in order to improve overall quality of life for Jeffersonville residents. We'll also ask some questions that focus specifically on preventing violence in the community. Please take your time in answering the questions thoughtfully and if you're not sure of how to answer, that's OK. Do you have any questions before we begin?

#### Primary Community Needs/Issues Impacting Quality of Life and Associated Community Responses

1. To begin, in your opinion, what are some of the most pressing issues negatively impacting quality of life for residents in Jeffersonville? {e.g., health, education, healthcare access, poverty}
2. Is there anything currently being done to address these issues?
  - (If yes) How are these issues being addressed? How effectively are these issues being addressed?
  - (If no) In your opinion, why aren't these issues being addressed?

*Rephrasing: How well do existing programs and services meet the needs and demands of people in your community? Would you say they meet them exceptionally well, very well, somewhat well, not very well, or not at all well?*

3. What programs or services are lacking in the community?
  - 3a. Are there programs or services that are lacking for particular groups or sub-populations? (e.g., women, children, diverse racial and ethnic groups, LGBTQ individuals, etc. )
4. In your opinion, how could any of the existing services/programs in your community be implemented better?
  - 4a. What resources currently exist in your community beyond programs/services just discussed that can help to address community needs/issues? (e.g., volunteers, people, green space, public commitment to improving quality of life)
5. Are there other community assets you feel are important resources in addressing these community needs and issues?

### Violence/Sexual Violence Prevention Community Landscape

Thank you for those answers. Next, I'd like us to talk a little bit about levels of violence in Jeffersonville and get your opinion on both causes and solutions that might apply to your community.

6. Could you describe the current approach to violence prevention efforts in your community (e.g., functioning programs, police/CJS approach, prevention education)? In other words, what do violence prevention efforts look like in your community? What about specifically for sexual violence?

7. What are the key sentinel events that may have impacted the community's violence prevention landscape targeting sexual violence in the past one to two years? [e.g., significant local, state, and federal policy changes, significant economic events, news-related cases attracting public notice, public awareness campaigns]

8. What institutions, organizations, or agencies take primary responsibility for prevention and education programs for sexual violence prevention?

8a. How familiar/aware of this approach, these programs and organizations and activities, are the people of Jeffersonville?

9. Are there barriers or obstacles to people utilizing programs/services in your community that address sexual violence specifically (e.g., prevention education programs)?

- *Have any of these barriers been addressed?*
- *How effectively have these barriers been addressed?*
- *Are there any effective solutions to these issues?*
- *(If yes) What are they? Are they cost effective?*
- *Have any solutions been tried in the past?*
  - *If yes) How effective were these solutions?*

### Identifying and Addressing Needs

10. With regard to sexual violence prevention issues, are relevant stakeholders or community residents involved in planning and decision making?

- (If yes) Who is involved?
- (If no) Who should be the relevant stakeholders or community members to be involved?

11. What individuals or organizations should be involved in addressing identified sexual violence needs in the county?

12. What role (if any) do you think your agency/organization currently plays or could play in addressing sexual violence?

### Toward the Future

We're going to take a step back again and look at a broader spectrum of issues that could be affecting Jeffersonville. If we've already discussed some of these issues previously, let's just confirm your feelings on their existence in this interview section.

13. Of these issues, which top three would you like to see your community address through inclusion in a community prevention plan?

#### Top Issues for a Prevention Plan

Child Abuse/Neglect	<input type="radio"/>
Criminality Development (e.g., Juvenile Delinquency, Gangs)	<input type="radio"/>
Family Violence	<input type="radio"/>
Gender Discrimination	<input type="radio"/>
Inadequate Access to Healthcare	<input type="radio"/>
Inadequate Help for Families in Need	<input type="radio"/>
Lack of Affordable Housing	<input type="radio"/>
Lack of Employment Opportunity	<input type="radio"/>
Lack of Mental Health Services	<input type="radio"/>
Low Education Attainment	<input type="radio"/>
Poor Mental Health	<input type="radio"/>
Poor Physical Health	<input type="radio"/>
Poverty	<input type="radio"/>
Stranger/Acquaintance Violence	<input type="radio"/>
Substance Abuse	<input type="radio"/>
Other (Please identify):	<input type="radio"/>

14. What solutions would you like to see in your community that can address these issues?

15. What, if any barriers do you see in successfully implementing a prevention plan addressing these issues in your community?

16. What are the strengths of Jeffersonville – in addressing these issues and in general?

**We are almost finished. Three more questions!**

17. What is your vision for a healthy, happy Jeffersonville?

18. Is there anything else you would like us to know about the issues we discussed today?

19. Would you like to be involved with the development of the sexual violence primary prevention plan? Or can you recommend anyone who might be interested?