With funding from the Community Foundation of Southern Indiana, the IU Southeast Applied Research and Education Center held community listening sessions and surveyed Clark and Floyd county residents, nonprofit, business, and local government leaders, and the Foundation's fund holders to identify priorities, assets, aspirations, and opportunities for growth and improvement to support thriving communities. Findings will be used to guide the Foundation's grant making to support the community's *Priorities for Progress*.
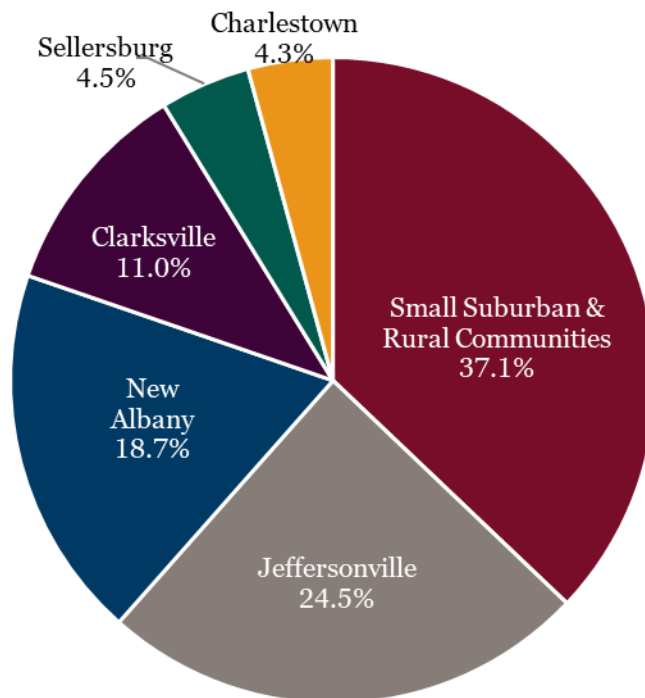
Urban, Suburban, and Rural

Clark County

Clark County is nearly three times as large as Floyd County, the large amount of available land in the area has led to a steady population increase. The county also houses 50 percent more people than Floyd County, with a more racially and ethnically diverse population.

Floyd County

Floyd County is notably smaller than Clark County, with a smaller population and less undeveloped agricultural land. The county is more affluent than Clark County, with a median household income higher than the national average.
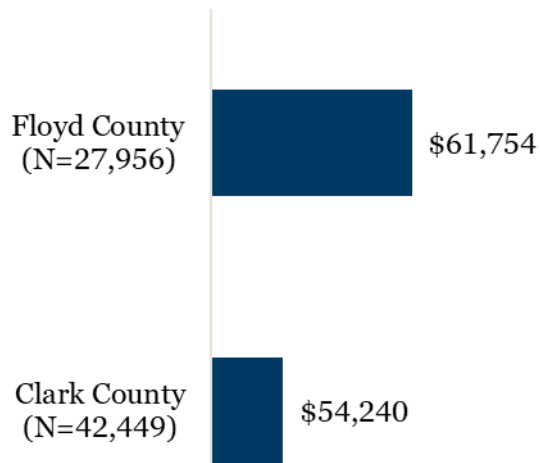
Race, Ethnicity, and Income

The region is becoming increasingly diverse as young families of color come to the area to settle. This diversification is mostly concentrated in the population centers of the two counties. The percent of the student population comprised of youth who identify as something other than white alone has grown by 4.5 points since 2015. Despite this, elementary schools continue to reflect significant racial residential segregation. Both counties are racially segregated but Floyd county has a higher level of segregation than Clark county.

Residents of this region are also segregated by income levels, Floyd county has a higher median income than Clark county. This data doesn't include the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Figure 1: Population Distribution, Clark and Floyd Counties, 2019

Charlestown 4.3%
Sellersburg 4.5%
Clarksville 11.0%
New Albany 18.7%
Jeffersonville 24.5%
Small Suburban & Rural Communities 37.1%

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Source: U.S. Census Bureau. 2020. *Quickfacts*. https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/US/PST045219.

Figure 2: Median Household Income

Floyd County (N=27,956) $61,754
Clark County (N=42,449) $54,240
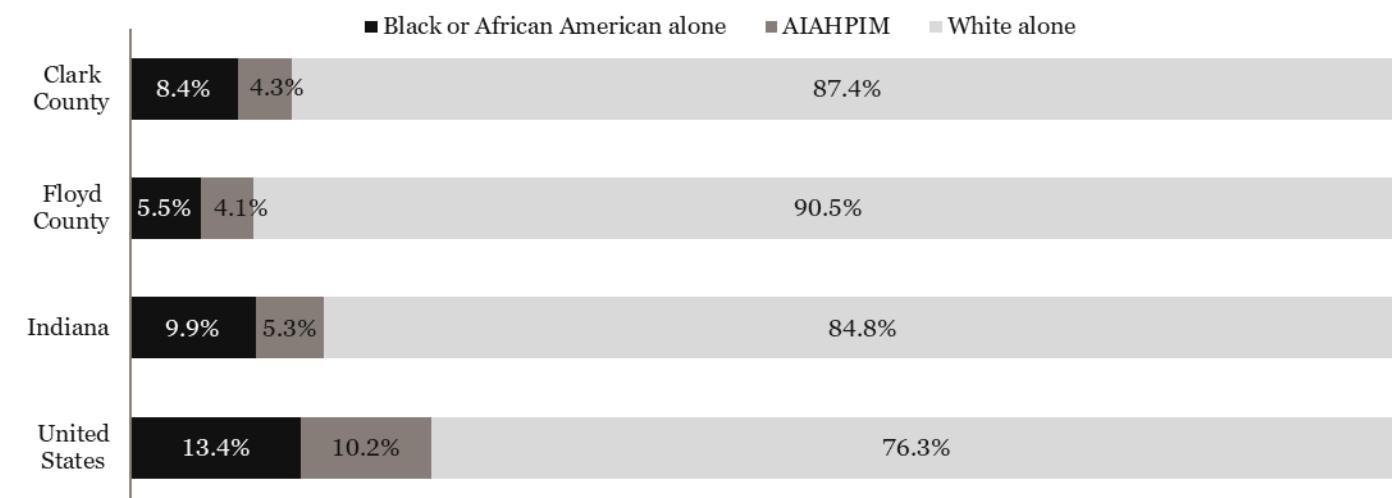
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Source: U.S. Census Bureau. 2020. "Quickfacts." *American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, 2014-2018.*

Figure 3: Racial Composition, 2019

Legend: ■ Black or African American alone ■ AIAHPIM ▢ White alone

	Black or African American alone	AIAHPIM	White alone
Clark County	8.4%	4.3%	87.4%
Floyd County	5.5%	4.1%	90.5%
Indiana	9.9%	5.3%	84.8%
United States	13.4%	10.2%	76.3%

AIAHPIM = American Indian, Alaskan, Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander, and Multiracial.

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Age

The local population over the age of 65 has grown to 16.2 percent in Clark County and 16.5 percent in Floyd county, both higher than the state's 16.1 percent. Floyd county has a higher median age and higher percentage of the population over the age of 65. While Clark County is seeing more growth among young families than Floyd county. The region needs to cultivate a strong and engaged working age population as the baby boomer generation progresses to retirement and exits the workforce.

Median Age

United States
37.9
Indiana
37.6
Clark County, Indiana
38.9
Floyd County, Indiana
39.9

Community & Economic Development

River Ridge Commerce Center engages with local institutions to cultivate, train, and educate a workforce to fill the jobs it will provide. With the completion of major Ohio River Bridge projects, the migration of people to this area has resulted in new high-end housing in Utica and Charlestown.

The completion of the Ohio River Greenway led to significant outdoor activity among local cyclists and runners. The Clarksville shopping district has recently been connected to the Greenway, making the trail and connected parks more accessible to a larger portion of the local population. Discussion of using rails to trails resources to expand and connect both pedestrians and bike paths continues to attract attention and public and private investment.

COVID-19, Racial Justice, & Priorities for Progress

The onset of the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in shutdowns and slowed business operations for many in the region, thousands of local residents became out of work or underemployed. In order to have a strong recovery from the global pandemic, it is important to recognize the strengths, priorities, and opportunities for improvement and growth. These factors will help leaders in Southern Indiana develop and discuss the strategies and possibilities for post-pandemic development.

Amidst the global pandemic, heightened local and national awareness of the continued struggle to achieve racial justice and equity brought attention to local inequities. The deaths of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, and Breonna Taylor reenergized activism around the responsibility and need to build communities that promote justice, inclusion, and equality.

Fact Sheet ⊕ Applied Research and Education Center