



# Community Needs in Indian River County

# 2023 UPDATE

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# Introduction to 2023 Community Needs Update

In 2019, major funding organizations, donor groups, the county government, and community leaders came together to assess the needs of Indian River County residents on a comprehensive basis. This assessment reported progress as well as problems in the health and prosperity of our community. Progress in the areas of reducing infant mortality, improving grade-level reading for children, and increasing access to mental health and substance use recovery were found.

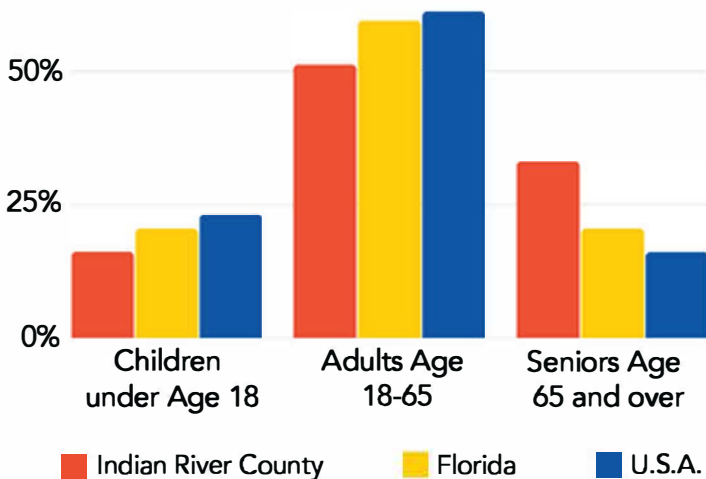
Problems in maintaining a living wage, low kindergarten readiness, lack of affordable mental and physical healthcare, and social isolation were found for vulnerable families, children, and seniors in our community.

In the interest of maintaining and publishing the most current data, Indian River Community Foundation created Indian River Indicators. This dashboard is online at [www.irindicators.org](http://www.irindicators.org) and provides key data and information about our community that is updated annually and can be used to support and sustain proven programs. It can also be used by community leaders to develop policy, promote promising practices, or inspire innovation that can lead to solutions for persistent community challenges.

This report illustrates the most recent data for 2023. It includes an update on the progress and problems identified in the 2019 Community Needs Assessment and reflects the impact of the recent COVID-19 pandemic.

Indian River County covers 503 square miles and has a population of about 158,000. The county is centrally located on the east coast of Florida in an area known as the Treasure Coast.

Population by Age Group



## Demographic Overview

- Total Population: 158,002
- 48.5% Male, 51.5% Female
- 74% White, 26% People of Color
- 33% Age 65 and Over
- 11% Veterans

## Access to Healthcare

Ratio of Population to Mental Health Providers in Indian River County, FL\*



810 : 1 (2019)  
640 : 1 (2023)

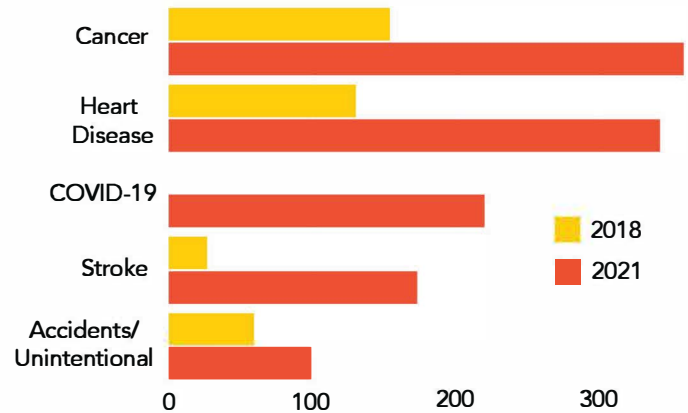
Ratio of Population to Primary Care Physician in Indian River County, FL\*



1,490 : 1 (2019)  
1,680 : 1 (2023)

\*Ideally there would be fewer patients to one provider.

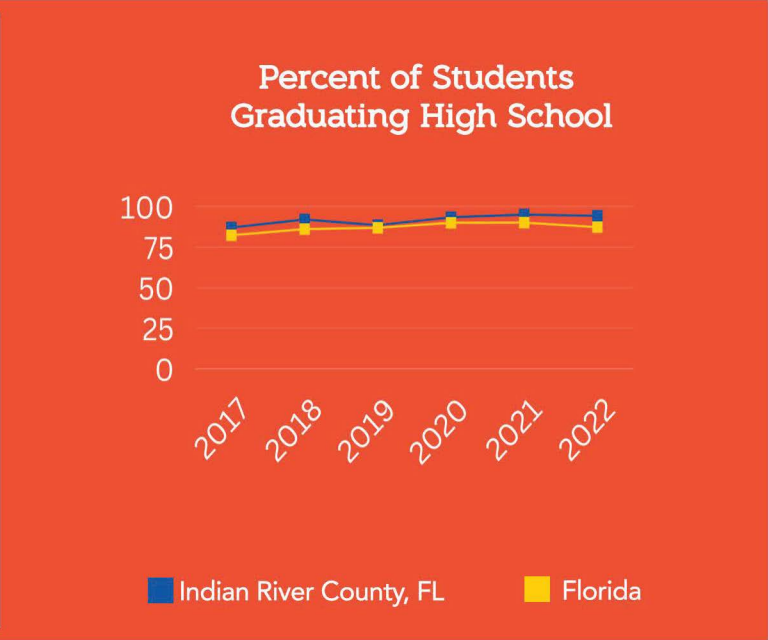
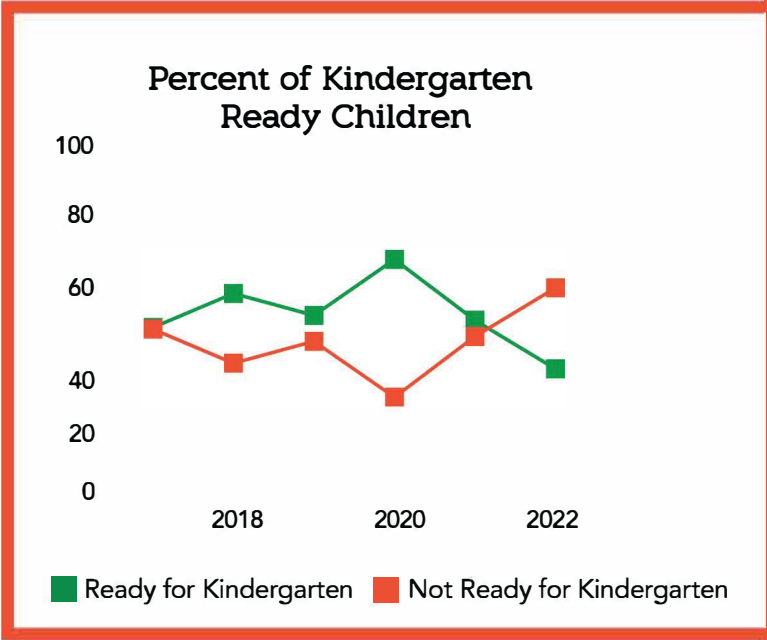
## Leading Causes of Death in Indian River County, FL (per 100,000 deaths)



## Health Highlights

- The county is in the top ten healthiest counties in Florida out of 67.
- There has been a decline in life expectancy due to an increase in deaths from cancer, heart disease, and COVID-19.
- The death rate from COVID-19 was higher than the state average, the most significant death rates were among seniors age 85 and over and among Black or African American residents.
- There are still disparities in life expectancy by race and ethnicity.
- More people have health insurance.
- The percentage of adults who didn't see a doctor due to cost has decreased.
- Provider to patient ratios have improved for dental and mental health care providers, though they are still not at optimal levels.
- Provider to patient ratios have worsened for primary care.
- There are increased diagnoses of depressive disorder in both men and women.
- Non-fatal drug overdose hospitalizations have decreased, but drug overdose deaths have increased.
- There is an increase in death from suicide for both adults and children and a significant increase for adult men.



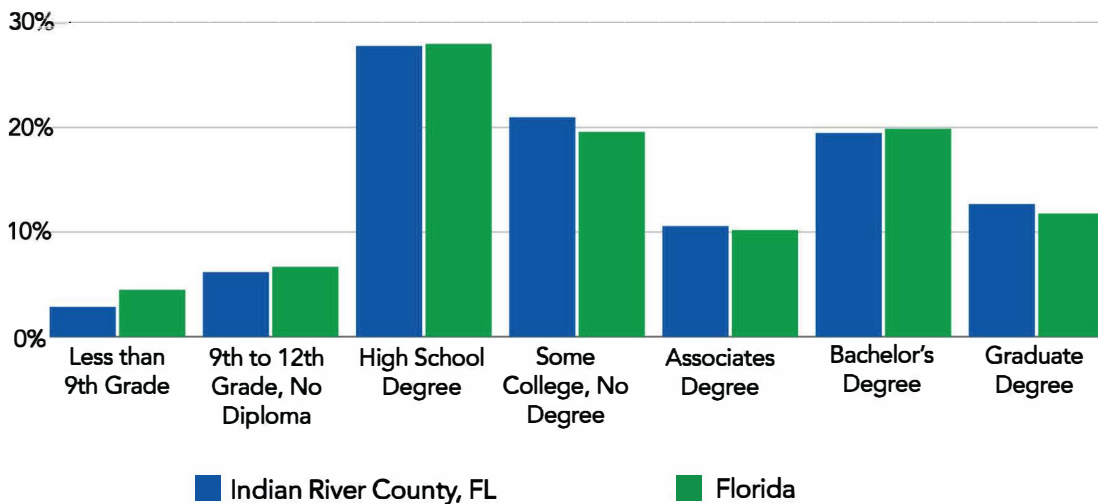


## Education Highlights

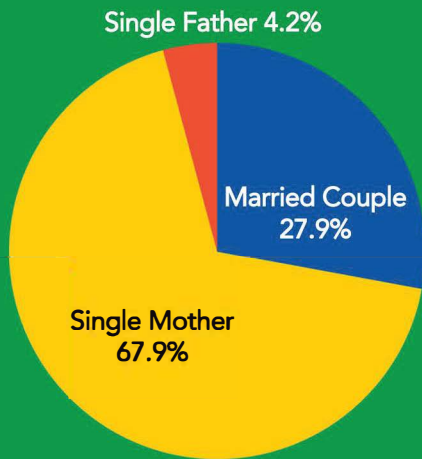
- The number of children enrolled in nursery school or preschool has increased.
- The percentage of kindergarten ready children has decreased to 45% due to COVID-19.
- The percentage of third graders proficient in reading has slightly decreased to 58% due to COVID-19, but it is still higher than the state.
- Fewer eighth graders are proficient in math; the same racial disparity exists.
- There is an excellent high school graduation rate and a low dropout rate.



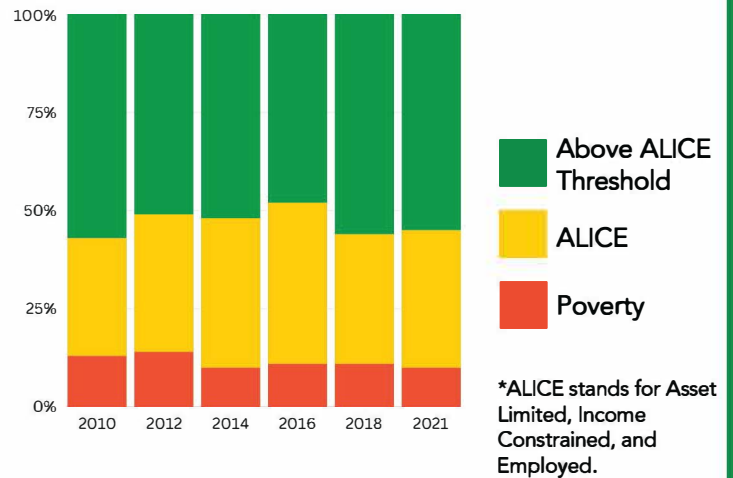
## Highest Level of Education Completed by People Age 25 and Over



### Percent of Poverty Among Families with Children



### Percentage of Poverty and ALICE\* Households



## Economic Opportunity and Employment Highlights



- The unemployment rate has remained about the same at 3%.
- The average annual wage for all industries has increased, though it is still lower than the state.
- The gender pay gap still exists.
- Of the top four employment sectors, the second and third, retail and food services respectively, have the lowest average annual wages.
- The poverty rate has decreased to 10%.
- The Asset Limited, Income Constrained, and Employed (ALICE) population has increased to 35% of households.

### Average Annual Employees by Sector



\*Sectors are categorized according to the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS).

### Percent of Cost Burdened Households\*



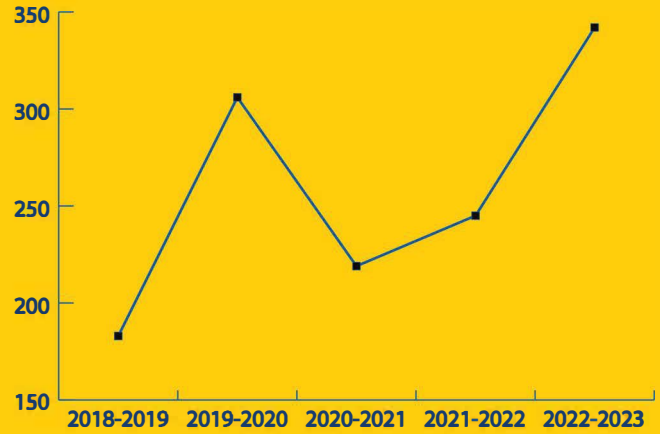
54% cost burdened rental households.



20% cost burdened homeowner households.

\*Households that spend over 30% of their household income on housing are "cost burdened."

### Number of Homeless Students in Indian River County, FL







### Housing Highlights

- Over half of renter households are cost burdened, meaning the cost of rent and utilities are over 30% of their household income.
- Less homeowners are cost-burdened than the state.
- The number of homeless students has increased.
- The number of homeless people counted per year has increased.
- The number of homeless veterans counted per year has increased.

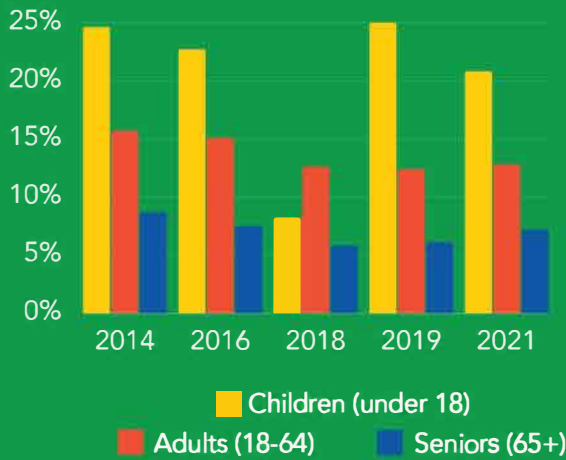


### 2023 Fair Market Rent for Indian River County, FL

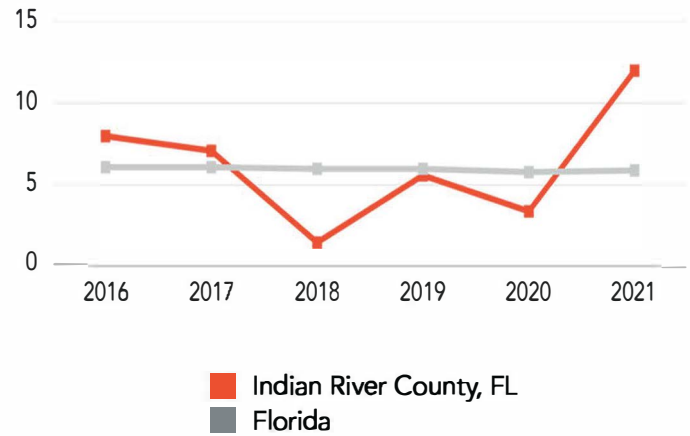
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Fair Market Rent (FMR)	\$845	\$1,048	\$1,264	\$1,629	\$2,104
Hourly wage necessary to afford FMR	\$16.25	\$20.15	\$24.31	\$31.33	\$40.46
Full-time jobs at minimum wage (\$11/hr) to afford FMR	1.48	1.83	2.21	2.85	3.68

\*Table is based on rent not exceeding 30% of household income.

**Percent of People Living in Poverty by Age Group**



**Rate of Infant Deaths (per 1,000 Live Births)**



**Highlights for Children**

- There have been fewer births to teen mothers.
- More mothers are starting prenatal care in the first trimester than in the state of Florida.
- There has been an increase in infant mortality in all races in the short term; however, long term trend continues to decline.
- The percentage of children living in poverty has increased.
- The rate of reported child abuse has increased.

**Highlights for Seniors**

- Most seniors have health insurance.
- The percentage of seniors in poverty has increased.
- Over half of the senior population has low access to healthy food.
- 7% of seniors are living in medically underserved areas.

85% of seniors have low access to healthy food, meaning they live 1/2 mile or more away from a store selling fresh produce.



More data and information is available  
and updated annually on  
[www.irindicators.org](http://www.irindicators.org).

