



# **Local Epidemiological Report On Underage and Binge Drinking Executive Summary**

**March 2008**

## **Vision Statement**

*The Local Advisory Council promotes healthier lifestyles by supporting prevention efforts and educating the community about the consequences associated with underage alcohol consumption and binge drinking among young adults.*

## **Our Mission**

**Drug Free Marion County, a not-for-profit organization, plans, promotes, implements and coordinates efforts to prevent and reduce the abuse of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs among youth and adults.**

**Local Epidemiological Outcomes Workgroup (LEOW)  
Marion County 2008**

|                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                            |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
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## 1) *Introduction*

### **1a) Project Information**

In July of 2007, Drug Free Marion County was awarded a grant from the State of Indiana to work on the issue of underage and binge drinking in Marion County. This grant initiated by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP) is part of CSAP's Strategic Prevention Framework State Incentive Grant Program (SPF SIG). The grant is designed to encourage states to improve community level prevention infrastructure, approaches, and ultimately outcomes. The State of Indiana began working on this project in July of 2005, first conducting a statewide epidemiological assessment. That state epi report resulted in the identification of abused drugs and counties most impacted by that use. Based on the information, a request for proposals was sent out to all counties encouraging participation in this SPF SIG project.

The 2007 report "The Consumption and Consequences of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Drugs in Indiana: A State Epidemiological Profile" showed that Marion County was at high risk for underage and binge drinking issues. In particular, Marion County posted the following statistics.

|                                   | Number                   | Percentile Group | Rate/ thousand residents | Percentile Group by rate |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Alcohol-related fatal car crashes | 23 (2 <sup>nd</sup> )    | 90 <sup>th</sup> | .02                      | 25 <sup>th</sup>         |
| Alcohol Related Collisions        | 2,583 (1 <sup>st</sup> ) | 90 <sup>th</sup> | 2.98                     | 90 <sup>th</sup>         |
| Public Intoxication Arrests       | 5,194 (1 <sup>st</sup> ) | 90 <sup>th</sup> | 5.98                     | 90 <sup>th</sup>         |
| DUI Arrests                       | 3,701 (1 <sup>st</sup> ) | 90 <sup>th</sup> | 4.26                     | < 25 <sup>th</sup>       |
| Liquor Law Violations             | 450 (1 <sup>st</sup> )   | 90 <sup>th</sup> | 0.52                     | < 25 <sup>th</sup>       |

**Table 1-1a Source: 2007 The Consumption and Consequences of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Drugs in Indiana: A State Epidemiological Profile, Page 3**

Locally, Marion County residents have three major concerns: high crime rates (in 2006, the city experienced 138 murders), the number of students reporting regular alcohol, tobacco and drug use, and the low high school graduation rate. All of these issues have a connection to alcohol and drug use. In our 2007 Comprehensive Community Plan, Drug Free Marion County identified two prevention goals: the reduction of youth substance use and the increase of parental knowledge about the problem and the acquisition of skills in helping their child(ren) avoid substance use. That very focus leads us to participate in the SPF SIG project.

Drug Free Marion County serves as the Local Coordinating Coalition as designated by the Governor's Commission for a Drug Free Indiana. Our mission is to plan, promote,

implement and coordinate community efforts to prevent and reduce the abuse of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs among youth and adults.

The public health model of substance abuse prevention encourages communities to address individuals, families and peers with alcohol and other drug information and skill building. It also addresses the environment--the social and physical context of substance use. In expanding our focus to include the environment, we increase the reach and impact of prevention efforts to the whole community.

### **1b) Background Information**

Marion County is home of the state capital, Indianapolis, and is the most populous county in the state of Indiana. The population of Indianapolis-Marion County is 865,504 according to the U.S. Census Bureau, 2006 American Community Survey. Of the total census, 73% are 18 and over and 69.6% are 21 and over. There are nine townships (Center, Decatur, Franklin, Lawrence, Perry, Pike, Warren, Washington, and Wayne), three additional incorporated cities (Beech Grove, Lawrence, and Southport) and the Town of Speedway, home of the Indianapolis Motor Speedway. Many community factors affect the availability, social acceptance of alcohol, and the enforcement of alcohol laws, including diversity of cultures, the number of professional and amateur sporting events, conventions, and institutions of higher education. Additional community information:

- Demographic estimates
  - 67% Caucasian
  - 26% African American
  - 7% Hispanic or Latino
- Over 4,000 criminal offenders are released in Marion County from the State Dept. of Corrections each year
- Indianapolis has been designated the “Amateur Sports Capital of the World”. It hosts numerous sporting events including the Indianapolis 500, NCAA Final Four Basketball Championships and other collegiate and amateur sport activities.
- Indianapolis is home to many professional sports teams:
  - [Indianapolis Colts](#) (NFL football)
  - [Indiana Pacers](#) (NBA men’s basketball)
  - [Indiana Fever](#) (WNBA women’s basketball)
  - [Indianapolis Indians](#) (Triple-A affiliate of MLB Pittsburgh Pirates)
  - [Indiana Ice](#) (ice hockey)
- Indianapolis is home to five institutions of higher education: Butler University, Indiana University Purdue University in Indianapolis, University of Indianapolis, Marian College and Martin University. All are four-year degree granting institutions.
- Indianapolis has 11 school districts serving roughly 132,827 children.

Substance abuse disorder is a disease which begins in adolescence. In recognition of that fact, much of our time has been spent gathering data from our local educational

institutions, both elementary and secondary. Some of the school information is provided here in the introduction. Additional system details are covered in section six and specifics related to alcohol and drug consumption patterns and attitudes towards alcohol and drugs are listed in later sections of this profile.

### **Elementary and Secondary Education**

Enrollment figures for Marion County school systems show a total school population of 132,827 students. Indianapolis Public School has the largest enrollment with just over 35,000 students. This enrollment figure has been in decline in recent years as charter and township schools have increased in size.

| <b>School Corp. Name</b>        | <b>Enrollment</b> |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|
| Beech Grove City Schools        | 2,293             |
| Franklin Township Com Sch. Corp | 8,607             |
| Indianapolis Public Schools     | 35,257            |
| M S D Decatur Township          | 6,131             |
| M S D Lawrence Township         | 16,153            |
| M S D Perry Township            | 14,272            |
| M S D Pike Township             | 10,620            |
| M S D Warren Township           | 12,503            |
| M S D Washington Township       | 10,421            |
| M S D Wayne Township            | 14,917            |
| Town of Speedway Schools        | 1,653             |
| Total enrollment                | 132,827           |

**Table 1-1b) Indiana State Department of Education Website,  
February 20, 2008**

### **Higher Education**

Marion County is the home to many colleges, universities, business and technical schools, including five four-year college and university campuses. Among those five, the following four schools are the most traditional in nature and have the highest enrollment; Butler University, Indiana University Purdue University at Indianapolis (IUPUI), Marian College, and the University of Indianapolis (U of I). For the purposes of this report, Martin University, with 396 commuting students, is not discussed. Combined enrollment at the four identified schools is 40,479. Seventy four percent of the students are undergraduates. Many of the colleges indicate a growth trend. Marian College's enrollment is up by 11% and they have added new residence halls to their campus.

## *Executive Summary*

This report reviews a great deal of local data on alcohol consumption, consequence and risk factors. This section attempts to identify major problem areas by location, population, or approach. The Local Advisory Council and Drug Free Marion County's Board have made recommendations on possible next steps.

To begin analysis the Local Epidemiological Outcomes Workgroup created a matrix of zip code related crime and consequence data. This matrix shows which communities have a layering of alcohol related consequences. Five data sets related to alcohol related consequences were tabulated by zip code area. Those data sets include: arrests for DWI, public intoxication, hospital emergency room blood draws to check for blood alcohol level, Clery campus alcohol and drug incidents, and juvenile alcohol related crimes. A sixth data set is one of alcohol availability; it marks the zip codes that have the highest concentration of liquor-licensed establishments. These information points were used to identify community hot spots. Priority was given to zip code areas that experience four of the first five data sets. The numbers indicate if a community is in the top five in terms of number of incidents.

| <b>Zip Code/Community(ies)</b>                                                                      | <b>Top Thirteen DWI</b> | <b>Top Ten PI Arrests</b> | <b>Emer. Dept. BAL Level</b> | <b>Clery Campus Crime</b> | <b>Juvenile Crime-Alcohol</b> | <b>Top Ten Liquor Outlets</b> |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 46201- Near Eastside                                                                                | X-1                     | X                         | X-2                          |                           | X                             |                               |
| 46222- Eagledale, Speedway, Lafayette Square, Near Westside<br><b>Marian College</b>                | X-2                     | X                         | X-3                          | X-2                       |                               | X                             |
| 46224- North High School, Speedway, Garden City                                                     | X-3                     | X                         |                              |                           | X                             | X                             |
| 46227- Perry, Southport, Homecroft, Edgewood, University Heights, <b>University of Indianapolis</b> | X                       | X                         | X                            | X-3                       |                               | X                             |
| 46203- South East, Near Southeast, Fountain Square                                                  | X                       | X                         | X-1                          |                           | X                             |                               |
| 46219- Irvington, East Gate, Raymond Park, Far Eastside, Arlington Woods                            | X                       | X                         |                              |                           | X                             | X                             |
| 46218- Near Eastside, Irvington, Martindale- Brightwood, Arlington Woods, Warren Park,              | X                       |                           | X-5                          |                           |                               |                               |
| 46226-Devonington, Forest Manor, Devonshire                                                         | X                       |                           | X                            |                           |                               | X                             |
| 46220-Broad Ripple, Glendale                                                                        | X                       |                           |                              |                           |                               | X                             |
| 46254- Lafayette Sq., North High School, Eagle Creek                                                | X                       |                           |                              |                           |                               |                               |
| 46202- Downtown, <b>IUPUI</b>                                                                       | X                       | X                         | X-4                          | X-4                       |                               |                               |
| 46204- Downtown                                                                                     | X                       | X                         |                              |                           |                               | X                             |
| 46241- Mars Hill, Valley Mills, Airport                                                             | X                       |                           | X                            |                           | X                             |                               |
| 46225- Near Southside, Garfield Park, North Perry                                                   |                         | X                         |                              |                           |                               |                               |
| 46208- Butler Tarkington, Meridian Kessler, Fairgrounds, <b>Butler University</b>                   |                         | X                         | X                            | X-1                       |                               |                               |

|                                                             |  |  |   |  |  |   |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|--|--|---|--|--|---|
| 46268-New Augusta, Crooked Creek, Snacks, Guion Creek       |  |  |   |  |  | X |
| 46250- Allisonville, Castleton                              |  |  |   |  |  | X |
| 46240-Keystone at the Crossing, Castleton, Nora, Clearwater |  |  |   |  |  | X |
| 46205-South of Broad Ripple                                 |  |  | X |  |  |   |

**Table EX-1 Zip code comparison chart**

Based on the above analysis, the following five zip codes are recognized as having the most alcohol related consequence activity and should be strongly considered as locations to begin interventions: 46201, 46202, 46203, 46222, 46227

**Population Analysis:**

**Adults:** In Marion County, adults figure heavily in both crime and medical alcohol consequence data.

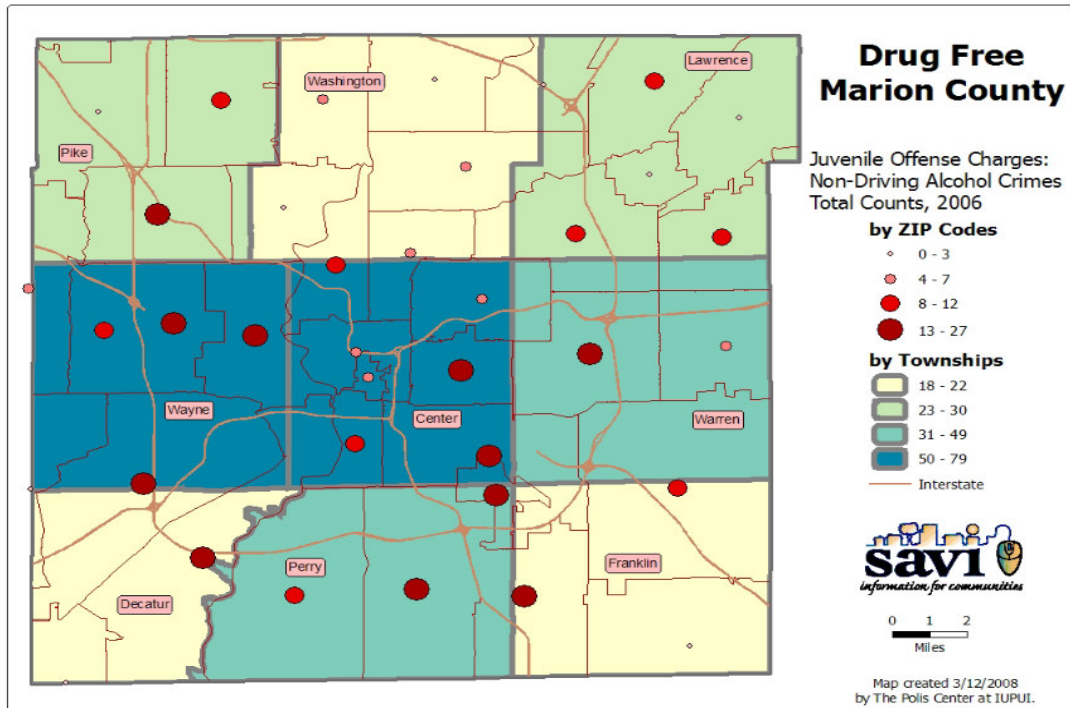
- The majority of DWI arrests occurred among 21-30 year olds (41%), with age group 31-40 coming in 2<sup>nd</sup> (24%) and age group 41-50 yr olds in 3<sup>rd</sup> (18%).
- The medical data points to 40-49 year olds as most likely to be tested for BAL, and most likely to have a BAL of .2 or above.
- 30-39 year olds have the second highest rate having a .2 or greater BAL level, followed closely by both the 20-29 and 50-59 year olds.
- Also of interest, males make up 60-70% of the Emergency Department Blood Alcohol Level data. We do not have a gender breakdown on any of the DWI or Public Intox arrest information.

**College:** Time was spent reviewing collegiate alcohol use rates and consequence data. Student Core survey responses indicate a high prevalence towards binge drinking on our local campuses. Each of Marion County’s institutions of higher education are different in campus dynamics and personality. Many college students commute to school. Butler University is the most typical campus, with the majority of students living on campus, and being under 25years old. They also registered the highest number of student alcohol violations.

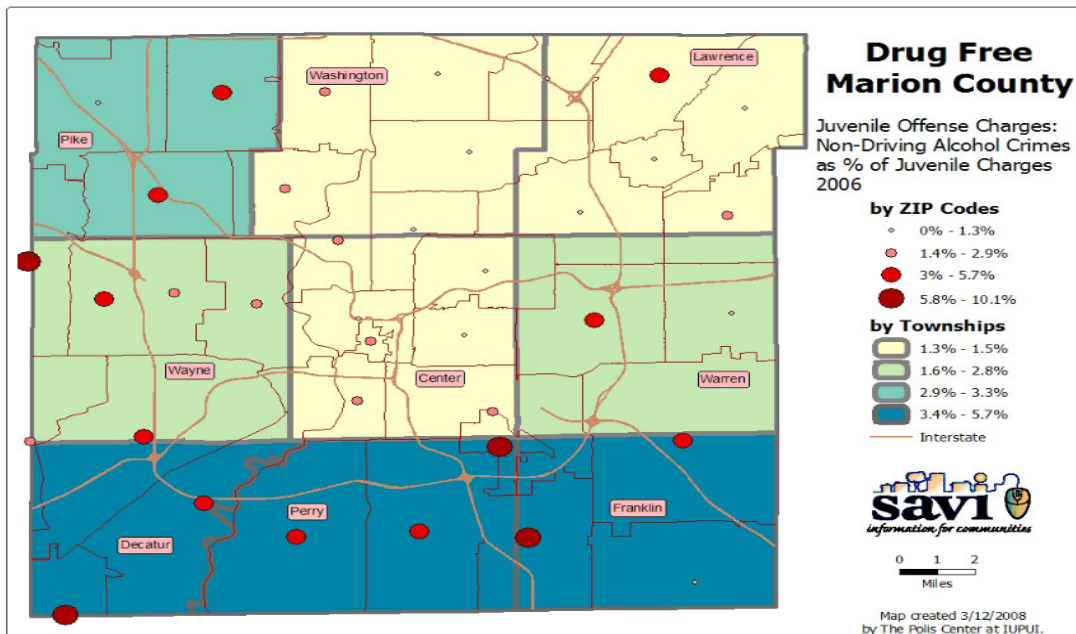
**Other Youth:** Juvenile crime data and student use surveys provide the following insights:

- Most alcohol related crimes occur in Center and Wayne Township, with Warren and Perry Townships coming in the second tier.
- Looking at the townships where alcohol related offenses make up the highest percent of juveniles crimes, the southern trio of townships has the heaviest concentration (Franklin, Perry, and Decatur).
- Student ATOD Surveys showed a high rate of alcohol use in these same school systems.
- Beech Grove shows a high incidence of alcohol related crimes based on zip code reporting.
- Alcohol related school suspensions are limited to Wayne and Perry Township school systems.

- Current use of alcohol (30-day use) doubles between 6<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades.
- The following maps show concentration of alcohol related juvenile offenses:



**Map EX-2a Total Count Alcohol Crimes**



**Map EX-3a Percent of total Alcohol Related Crimes**

Drug possession and dealing constitute the major offenses for which juveniles are arrested. Drug possession was high in 1999 -2001 then dropped considerably in 2002. A

slow rise has occurred in the last three years. Alcohol use is widely considered a stepping stone to other substance use. The lack of underage drinking consequences suggests an area of improvement. Our student survey data comes from five of Marion County's eleven school corporations: IPS, Perry, Decatur, Franklin, and Pike. It would be helpful to have more school systems participate in the Student ATOD Survey.

**Recommendations:**

Begin project by focusing on the southeast quadrant of the city. This section includes three of the top five zip code areas (43201, 43203, and 43227) and they are contiguous to one another suggesting an opportunity for collaborative effort. Franklin Township has also been included; they have recently created a substance use prevention action plan with some assistance from DFMC and are in a good position to affect change in their community. Beech Grove is included as well; they were also a hot spot from juvenile alcohol and drug offenses.

Based on the data the following intervening variables should be addressed in the strategic plan:

- Community norms about youth drinking
- Social, and retail availability of alcohol to youth
- Visible enforcement

**Questions for future study:**

- There are significantly more juvenile arrests for drug related charges than alcohol. Why is that? Are local youth beginning substance use with drugs rather than alcohol?
- Why are there so few alcohol related arrests?
- Review Student ATOD Survey results by gender.
- Why do young people seem to be underrepresented in the hospital BAC data?
- What impacts do local events such as the Indianapolis 500, Colts or Pacer games, etc. have on underage or binge drinking incidents?
- How many of the alcohol arrests involve visitors versus residents?