



# Hoosier Uplands

## Lawrence, Martin, Orange, Washington

This snapshot of conditions in Hoosier Uplands' service area was produced using data sources, including surveys of Hoosier Uplands clients and the U.S. Census Bureau.

The client survey covered seven different needs categories, and participating respondents ranked the needs in each category according to the most needed. The following are the top needs for each category for Hoosier Uplands.



NEEDS CATEGORIES	TOP CLIENT NEEDS	SPECIFYING NEED
Affordable Housing	Help for electric/gas/water bills	91%
Food	Food Assistance	81%
Home Maintenance & Repair	Insulation/weatherization	69%
Adult Skills Training	Financial Aid	67%
Financial Skills Training	Health Insurance Coverage	62%
Household Support (Services)	Legal Services	56%
Household Support (Family)	Teen Programs	55%

### Hoosier Uplands Client Survey Highlights

- 97% of clients stated that they were highly likely or likely to return to the CAA for additional services
- 94% of clients stated that the customer service received from the CAA staff was either excellent or good
- 81% of the clients surveyed have a checking account and 39% of the clients have a savings account
- 49% of clients surveyed have only needed services from the agency once in the last year
- 39% of clients state that a physical disability hinders employment
- 33% of the clients stated that cost of obtaining childcare is an issue
- 31% of clients have not been able to obtain rental housing because they do not have the money for a security deposit and/or the first or last month's rent
- 31% of the clients have a credit card
- 28% indicated that they use check cashing or cash advance services

# Hoosier Uplands Fast Facts

	HOOSIER UPLANDS	INDIANA
Population, 2013	103,557; 1.6% of Indiana's Total Population	6,570,902
% Hispanic, 2013	1.2%	6.2%
Most populated city, 2013	Bedford, Lawrence County; 13,380	Indianapolis, Marion County; 843,393
Poverty rate, 2013	15.5%	14.8%
Unemployment rate, 2013	7.8%	6.9%
Number of drug arrests (per 1,000 people), 2012	4.38	4.11

U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 5 Year Estimates; National Archive of Criminal Justice Data, FBI Uniform Crime Reporting; County level data, Arrests, All Ages

## OVERVIEW OF HOOSIER UPLANDS SERVICE AREA DEMOGRAPHICS

Table 1 displays the percent change of the population by age in Hoosier Uplands and Indiana from 2009 to 2013. The largest change in Hoosier Uplands was for residents who are 65 or older. The number of residents who are 65 or older increased almost 10% which is similar to the increase statewide.

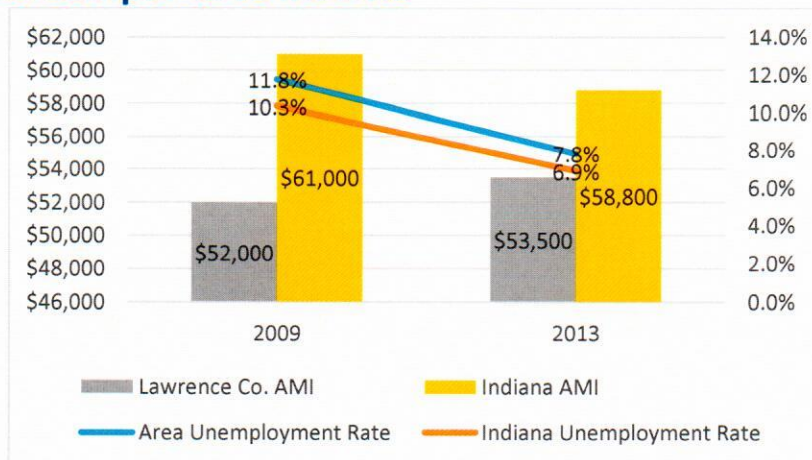
**Table 1: Age of Hoosier Uplands' Residents**

Hoosier Uplands	Under 5 Yrs	5-17 Yrs	18-24 Yrs	25-44 Yrs	45-64 Yrs	65 or Older
Indiana	-8.2%	1.0%	0.1%	-5.9%	2.9%	9.2%
Indiana	-5.6%	1.9%	3.5%	-1.2%	3.7%	10.4%

U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 5 Year Estimates

## ECONOMIC STATUS OF HOOSIER UPLANDS SERVICE AREA

**Figure 1: Changes in Area Median Income and Unemployment in Hoosier Uplands Compared to Indiana**



Indiana Business Research Center, STATS Indiana, Not Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Overview, 2009 & 2013; Housing and Urban Development Data Sets, FY 2009 and FY 2013 Income Limits

Figure 1 compares the changes in the Area Median Income (AMI) and the unemployment rate for Hoosier Uplands and the state. AMI is used by HUD to define the income limits for Housing Choice and other housing programs. The AMI used for Hoosier Uplands is the AMI for Lawrence County. Hoosier Uplands' AMI has remained lower than Indiana's in both years. In 2013, the unemployment rate in Hoosier Uplands' service area was 7.8% and Indiana's was 6.9%.

**Figure 2: Residents Paying Over Thirty Percent of their Income on Housing Expenses (Excessive Housing Burden)**



U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 5 Year Estimates

Figure 2 is a comparison of the housing cost burden for Hoosier Uplands between 2009 and 2013. Almost 50% of renters spend at least 30% of their income to pay rent and utilities. The number of homeowners who are experiencing the burden of excessive housing costs has decreased and remains below 25%

**Table 2: Hoosier Uplands Needs for Food Stamp and Free/Reduced Lunches**

	2009	2013	2009-2013 % Change
Hoosier Uplands 5 Food Stamps	11.6%	14.6%	18.4%
Indiana Food Stamps	11.4%	14.0%	17.2%
Hoosier Uplands Free/Reduced Lunch	38.3%	44.8%	26.1%
Indiana Free/Reduced Lunch	38.0%	43.7%	26.3%

Indiana Family and Social Services, 2009 and 2013

Hoosier Uplands' service area and the state of Indiana have experienced a similar increase in the percent of the population who qualify for food stamps. The percentage of the Hoosier Uplands' population receiving these services is similar to Indiana's.

**Table 3: Poverty Rate Compared to State, Hoosier Uplands by County, 2013**

	Total in Poverty	Poverty Rate	Children in Poverty	Child Poverty Rate	Seniors in Poverty	Senior Poverty Rate
Lawrence	6,884	15.0%	2,431	23.5%	751	9.2%
Martin	1,480	14.6%	604	25.7%	151	8.9%
Orange	3,477	17.6%	1,291	27.1%	310	9.3%
Washington	4,164	15.0%	1,496	22.6%	331	7.9%
Hoosier Uplands	16,005	15.5%	5,822	24.2%	1,543	8.9%
Indiana	969,881	14.8%	342,185	21.6%	60,818	6.6%

U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2013 5 Year Estimates

Table 3 displays the poverty rates of Hoosier Uplands' residents by county. Hoosier Uplands' service area has higher poverty rates than Indiana. Martin County has the lowest total poverty rate.

## DRUG RELATED ARRESTS

Table 4 shows the number of arrests for synthetic drugs (methamphetamine) and opiates (heroin). This data may be used to provide insight into the level of substance abuse in the CAA's service area. It also lists the totals for the state and provides an overall drug arrest rate for comparison.

**Table 4: Drug Related Arrests**

HUEDC Service Area	2012 Total Drug Arrests	2012 Drug Arrests per 1,000	2012 Synthetic Drug Arrests	2012 Opiate Drug Arrests	2009-12 Change in Total Drug Arrests
	457	4.38	109	12	56.51%
Indiana	26674	4.11	3018	3109	-11.82%

National Archive of Criminal Justice Data, FBI Uniform Crime Reporting; County level data, Arrests, All Ages, 2009-2012

## EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

The percentage of Hoosier Uplands' residents who have completed high school or obtained a GED is higher than Indiana. However, none of the Hoosier Uplands' counties match or exceed Indiana's percentage of residents with an Associate's degree or higher.

**Table 5: 2013 Educational Attainment of Hoosier Uplands Residents**

	Less Than High School Diploma	High School Diploma or GED	Associate's Degree or Higher	Bachelor's Degree or Higher
Lawrence	15.9%	61.3%	22.8%	13.7%
Martin	17.1%	60.2%	22.7%	10.8%
Orange	19.6%	61.2%	19.2%	12.6%
Washington	19.9%	60.3%	19.8%	11.9%
Hoosier Uplands	17.8%	60.9%	21.3%	12.7%
Indiana	12.8%	56.2%	31.1%	23.2%

U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 5 Year Estimates

## Qualitative Responses from Client Needs Surveys

BASIC NEEDS	SERVICES NEEDED
AARP as provider	Support group for disabled
Automobile needs work	Cheap Taxi Service
Blind and cannot drive	Cooking classes
Can't afford housing on one income	Drug problem needs addressed
Cannot take care of home due to health	Drug rehab centers or programs
Can't afford gas	Help anyone who owes mortgage
Car expenses	Help finding jobs
Client is "uninsurable"	Help getting to and from Dr. appointments
Couldn't afford upkeep of property	Help getting to store
Driver's License was taken away	Help with exterminator fees
Driving distance to get to food	Help with getting home ready for winter
Employment difficult due to disability	Help with home needs: windows and doors
Felony conviction, can't get housing	Lower rent to help people
Food	Mold removal
Fuel: Home/Car	Need a wheelchair ramp built to get into home
Gluten free foods	Places to get job attire
Hard to care for pets	Repairs on Heating Units
Health issues cause unemployment	Temp Service
Home needs insulation	Transportation
House in need of repair	Transportation to child care and GED classes
House just foreclosed	
House needs work, can barely get around due to age	
Housing: not good area for kids	
Moving to safer housing	
Need heater in the home, no heat	
No employment because of criminal history	
No money for child care	
No money for down payment	
Places won't hire older applicants	
Taxes too high	
Transportation	
Unable to board city bus safely	
Unable to shop	
Unaffordable insurance plans	
Upstairs apt, difficult to get to	
VA as provider	

# Focus Group Results

As part of the community needs assessment, a focus group was held in Paoli, Indiana and included stakeholders from surrounding counties. During this focus group, multiple needs were addressed and are listed below.

## Current Conditions

- High unemployment and drug use
- Lack of higher education – nearest education is Ivy Tech that is one hour away
- Difference between 21<sup>st</sup> Century Scholars eligibility and sign-up is because parents do not want to reveal financial details
- Undereducated workforce; ~25% of people in working age (18 – 64) have high school degree
- Infrastructure is old and in disrepair (roads, sidewalks, sewers)
- Internet access is a large problem – prohibits taking online classes
- No public transportation
- Educated children leave and do not return because of lack of jobs
- Public assistance has incentivized being unemployed
- There is a sense of hopelessness

## Needs

### Health Care

- Increased funding for health services
- Food insecurity

### Mental Health

- Access to services – abuse of drugs because of lack of access
- Increased funding for services

### Substance Abuse

- Prescription drug abuse programs

### Housing

- Affordable and safe housing
- Housing that can be properly heated
- Home loan options – minimum wage earners cannot get loans

### Employment

- More educated workforce
- Incentives to work instead of relying on public assistance
- Quality childcare
- Education on soft/interview skills and acceptable work behavior
- More jobs that are middle skills and less low skills manufacturing/tourism jobs
- The ability to pass drug tests has become an issue for many people

### Homelessness

- Larger population than has been reported
- Many 21<sup>st</sup> Century Scholars couch surf
- Shelters – very few options
- Food banks/pantries

## Education

- Career and Tech Education centers are fractured into four centers
- Higher education options
- Teachers to have more community involvement to stress importance of education
- Parental support of children's education
- Difficult to track students due to frequent moves
- Increased interviewing/resume skills while in high school
- Better access to internet
- Mentors/Coaches for children
- Increased salary for teachers
- Financial education, especially for students who are going to go to college
- Funding for middle class kids to go to college
- Incentives for adult population to pursue further education

## Public Transportation

- Walkability

## Community

- Volunteering projects for high school students

## Strategies

### Substance Abuse

- Increase access to mental health services to reduce number of people who self-medicate

### Employment

- Develop incentives to go back to work and reduce cliff effect

### Homelessness

- Paoli is feeding over 300 people two times a day
- Churches have helped with crisis sheltering

### Education

- Increase internship/job shadowing opportunities
- Develop school/work programs
- Provide information on vocational schools
- Develop programs that teach parenting skills and incentivize good parenting and encouragement of education
- Invest in the teachers early to increase teacher retention
- Discourage home schooling students

### Community

- Get more people involved
- Big Brothers/Big Sisters to help mentor students and help with before and after school programs
- Bedford Boys and Girls Club has over 400 kids every day
- Utilize more churches for help with community involvement



Indiana Housing & Community Development Authority

The Community Needs Assessments are funded in part by the Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority (IHCDA) with CSGD-D funds. For more information about IHCDA please visit: [www.in.gov/ihcda](http://www.in.gov/ihcda).



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