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Commission on  
Improving the  
Status of Children

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# Commission on Improving the Status of Children

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FEBRUARY 19, 2020

# Agenda

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1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Consent Agenda
  - a. Minutes from 12/18
  - b. Task force and committee appointments
  - c. Equity, Inclusion, and Cultural Competence common language

# Agenda

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3. Strategic Priority: Juvenile Justice and Cross-System Youth
  - Rep. Wendy McNamara, Indiana General Assembly and Josh Weber, Council of State Governments



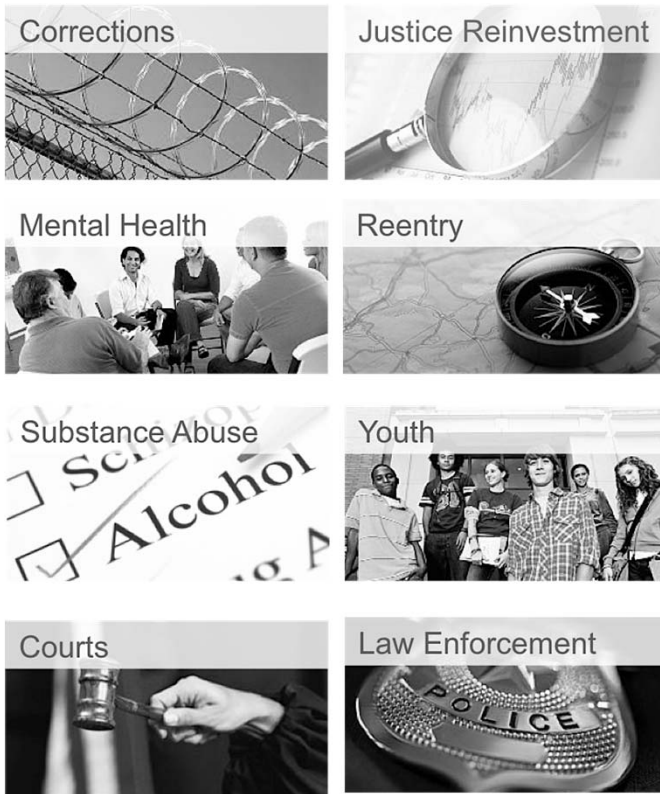
**Justice Center**

THE COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS

# IMPROVING PUBLIC SAFETY AND OUTCOMES FOR YOUTH IN INDIANA

Josh Weber, Director, Juvenile Justice

# About the CSG Justice Center



**Justice Center**

THE COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS

National nonprofit, nonpartisan, membership association of state government officials that engages members of all three branches of state government

Provides practical, nonpartisan research-driven strategies and tools to increase public safety and strengthen communities



**Justice Center**  
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# Our Juvenile Justice Program is Focused on Improving Public Safety and Outcomes for Youth in the Juvenile Justice System

July 2014

## Measuring and Using Juvenile Recidivism Data to Inform Policy, Practice, and Resource Allocation

### BACKGROUND

Juvenile arrest rates, including for violent crimes, fell by approximately 50 percent from 1997 to 2011, to their lowest level in more than 50 years.<sup>1</sup> In combination with this sharp drop in arrests, state and local reforms have had an extraordinary impact: from 1997 to 2011, youth confinement rates declined by almost half.<sup>2</sup> The juvenile justice field deservedly celebrates this success and continues to push for further reductions in confinement rates. Many states are also striving to ensure that youth who have been diverted from confinement, as well as those returning home after time spent in a facility, receive supervision and services that reduce recidivism and improve other youth outcomes. As such, policymakers are eager to know more about what happens to youth after they have been in contact with the juvenile justice system. What are their rearrest and reincarceration rates? How do they fare in terms of education, employment, and other important outcome measures while they are under juvenile justice supervision and afterward?

To understand to what extent states currently track recidivism data for youth involved in the juvenile justice system and use that information to inform policy and funding decisions, the Council of State Governments Justice Center, The Pew Charitable Trusts' Public Safety Performance Project,<sup>3</sup> and the Council of Juvenile Correctional Administrators surveyed juvenile correctional agencies in all 50 states.<sup>4</sup> This issue brief highlights the key findings of the survey and provides state and local policymakers with five recommendations for improving their approach to the measurement, analysis, collection, reporting, and use of recidivism data for youth involved with the juvenile justice system. In addition, examples are provided of how select states have translated these recommendations into policy and practice.

### The Importance of Measuring Outcomes beyond Recidivism for Youth Involved with the Juvenile Justice System

Juvenile justice systems can use a number of metrics to track outcomes for youth under system supervision, including educational attainment, behavioral health improvements, or skill development and employment, all of which are critical to ensuring a youth's long-term success. The survey focused primarily on the measurement of recidivism, and the recommendations presented here reflect that focus. The survey results did, however, indicate that only half of all state juvenile correctional agencies measure youth outcomes beyond whether youth commit future delinquent acts, and only 20 percent of states track these outcomes for youth after they are no longer on supervision. Policymakers and juvenile justice agency leaders should strongly consider including a priority set of positive youth outcomes in the evaluation of system success to determine not only whether the juvenile justice system is helping to prevent youth's subsequent involvement in the system, but also whether it is helping youth transition to a crime-free and productive adulthood.



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## CORE PRINCIPLES FOR REDUCING RECIDIVISM AND IMPROVING OTHER OUTCOMES FOR YOUTH IN THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM



Supported by  
MacArthur  
Foundation



Supported by a grant provided from  
OJJDP



## Transforming Juvenile Justice Systems to Improve Public Safety and Youth Outcomes

MAY 2018

Josh Weber, Deputy Director, Corrections & Reentry  
The Council of State Governments Justice Center

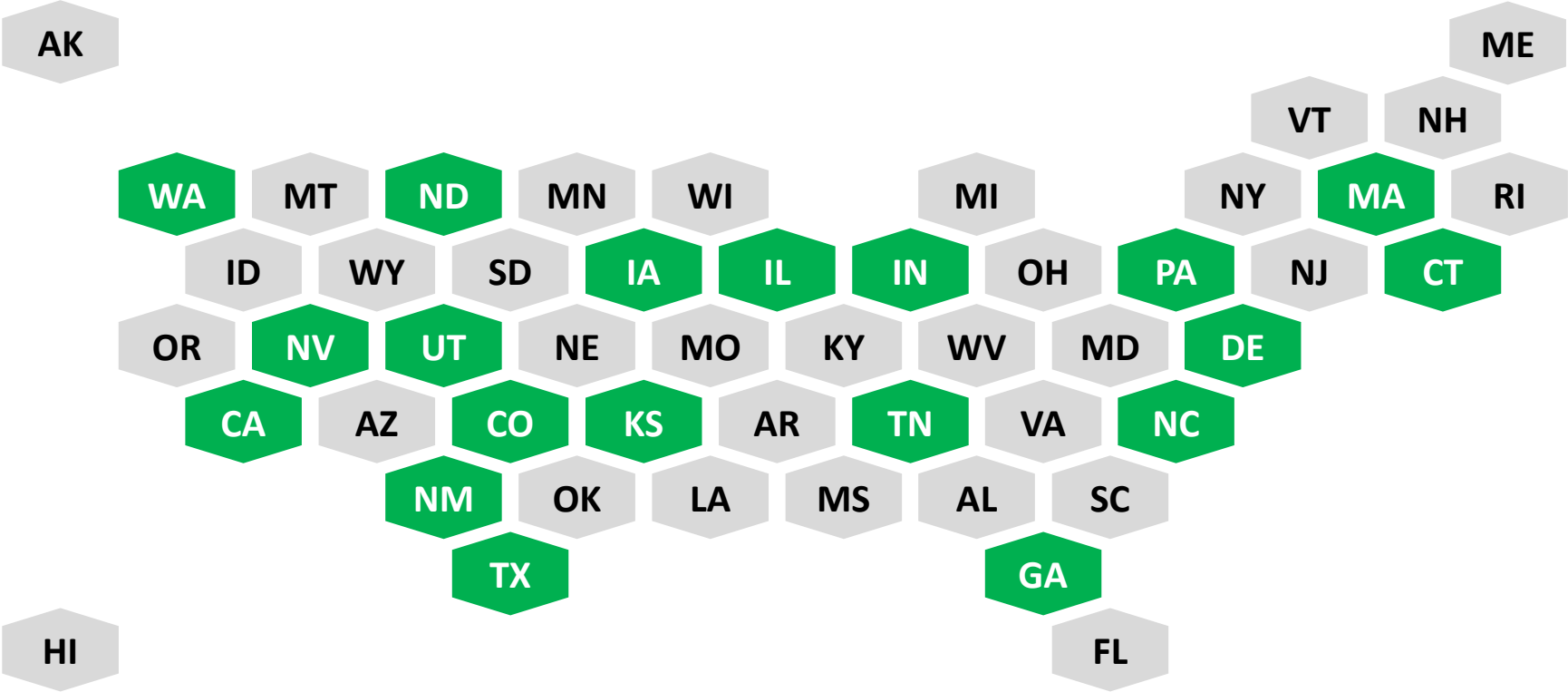
Michael Umpierre, Deputy Director  
Juvenile Justice System Improvement and Communications  
Center for Juvenile Justice Reform, Georgetown University

Shay Bilchik, Director  
Center for Juvenile Justice Reform, Georgetown University



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# We've Partnered with an Array of States and Counties to Facilitate Systemic Juvenile Justice System Improvement



# Our Only “Agenda” is to Support States to Align System Policies, Practices, and Funding with What Research Shows Works

1. Base supervision, service, and resource allocation decisions on the results of **validated risk and needs assessments**
2. Adopt and effectively implement **programs and services demonstrated to reduce recidivism and improve other youth outcomes**, and use data to evaluate the results and direct system improvements
3. Employ a **coordinated approach across service systems** to address youth’s needs and promote positive youth development
4. Tailor system policies, programs, and supervision to reflect the distinct **developmental needs of adolescents**





# Preliminary Assessment Process Goal and Objectives

**GOAL:** Support Indiana to more effectively protect public safety, reduces disparities, and ensure state and local agencies and providers are held accountable for improved youth outcomes.

- **Objective 1:** Evaluate state and local capacity to collect, analyze, report, and use data to guide system decisions, evaluate practice, direct resources, and promote accountability.
- **Objective 2:** Identify opportunities to leverage and build upon past and current juvenile justice reform efforts to improve outcomes for youth.
- **Objective 3:** Establish shared priorities for system improvement, and identify interest in and prerequisites for a consensus-based statewide system assessment and improvement process.



# Preliminary Assessment Methods and Activities

## Data Collection and Use Analysis

- Assess state and local capacity and practice related to collecting case-level juvenile justice data critical to evaluating system performance, youth outcomes, and disparities
- Partner with agency staff to identify data collection, analysis, reporting, and use strengths and gaps

## Statutory Review and Analysis

- Review current juvenile justice legislative code and other relevant provisions to identify requirements related to quality assurance, data, performance management, and accountability.
- Make initial recommendations on potential revisions that reflect best practices.

# Preliminary Assessment Methods and Activities

## Review Recent Reform Efforts

- Review analyses and reports related to past and current juvenile justice system improvement efforts, annual reports, strategic plans, and other available information
- Ensure further assessment/improvement activities build on system strengths and are not duplicative

## Stakeholder Interviews and Focus Groups

- Conduct focus groups with stakeholders across government branches, systems, providers, and communities to identify shared challenges and priorities for system improvement



# Preliminary Assessment Deliverables



**Memo to Commission** detailing key findings, recommendations, and proposed next steps, including data strengths, gap, and barriers; shared priorities for system improvement; and a potential roadmap for conducting a comprehensive system assessment.



**Presentations of key takeaways and recommendations** to the Commission and other stakeholders as desired.

# Agenda

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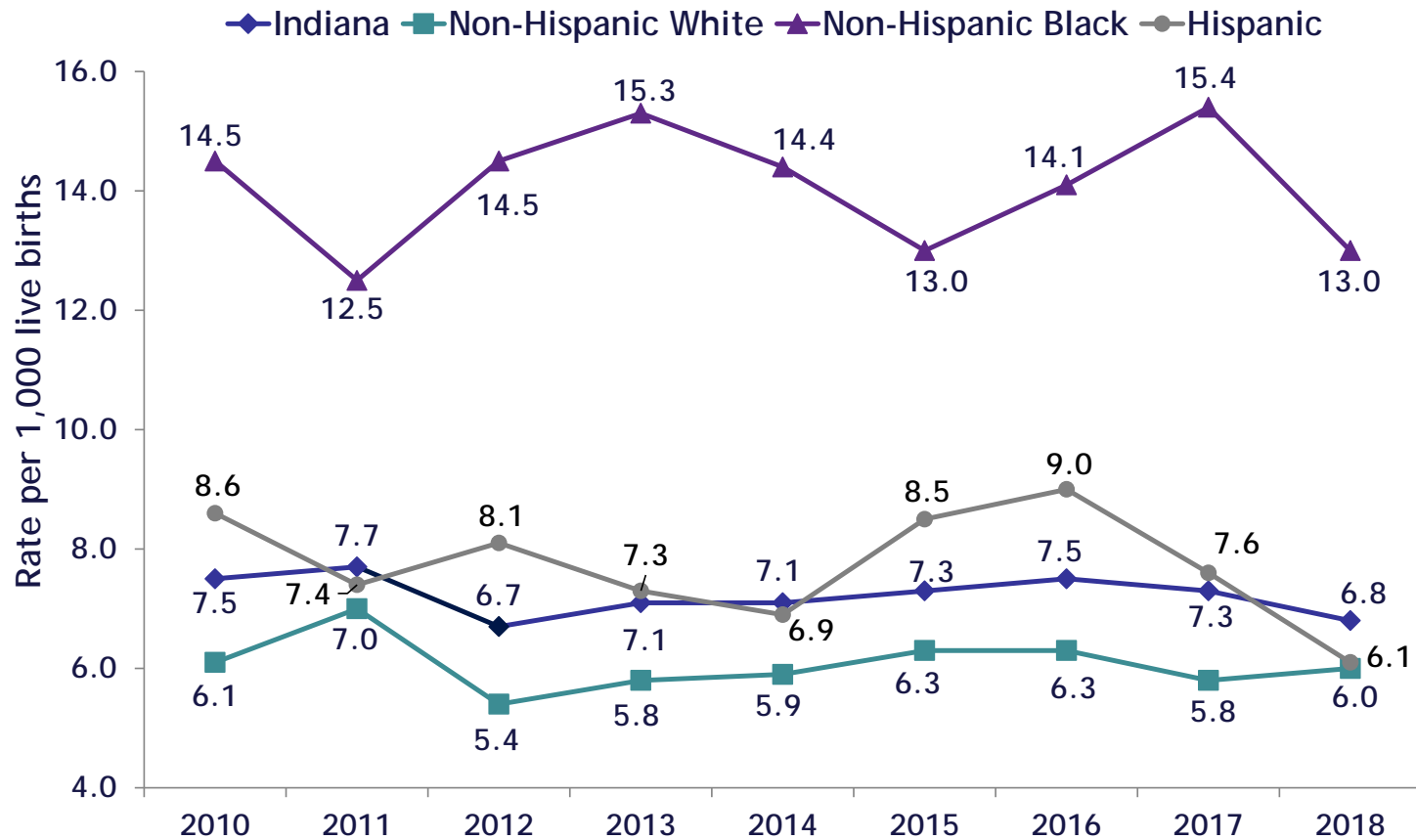
4. Strategic Priority: Mental Health and Substance Abuse
  - Dr. Carrie Cadwell, Four County Counseling
  - Integrated care recommendation

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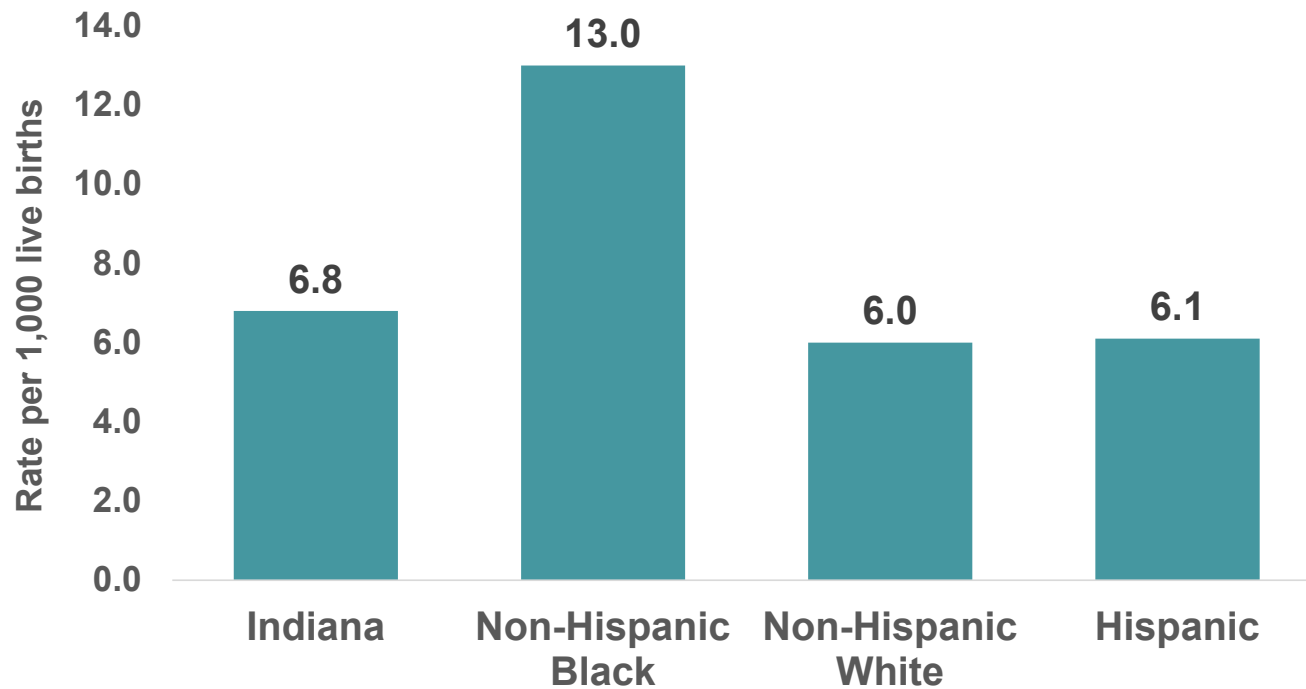
5. Strategic Priority: Child Health and Safety
  - Dr. Kris Box, Indiana State Department of Health
  - Infant mortality update

# Indiana IMRs by Race and Ethnicity 2010 - 2018



Source: Indiana State Department of Health, Maternal & Child Health Epidemiology Division [January 9, 2020]  
 Indiana Original Source: Indiana State Department of Health, Vital Records, ERC, Data Analysis Team

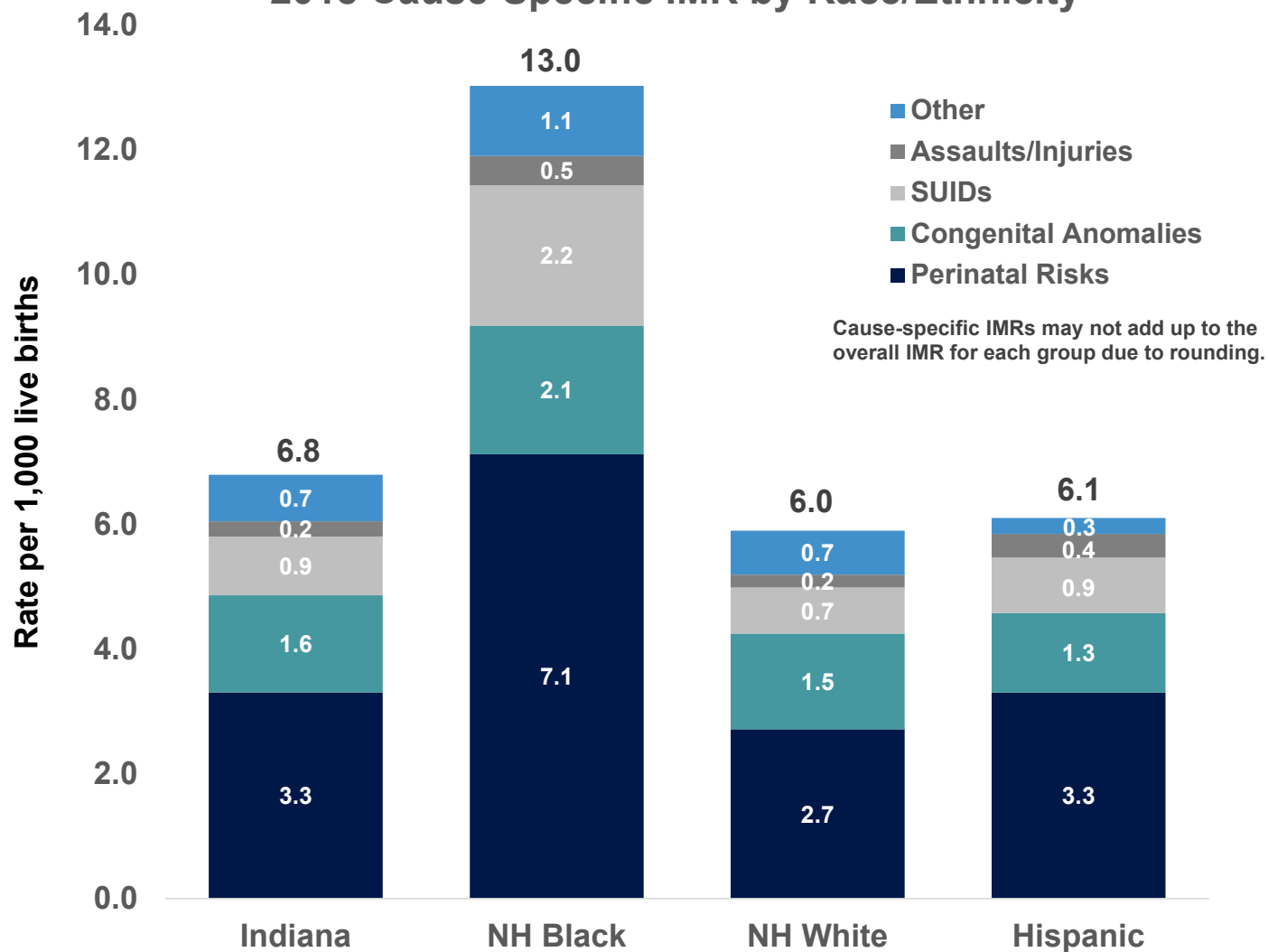
# 2018 Infant Mortality by Race and Ethnicity



Source: Indiana State Department of Health, Maternal & Child Health Epidemiology Division [January 9, 2020]  
Indiana Original Source: Indiana State Department of Health, Vital Records, ERC, Data Analysis Team



## 2018 Cause-Specific IMR by Race/Ethnicity



Source: Indiana State Department of Health, Maternal & Child Health Epidemiology Division [January 9, 2020]

Indiana Original Source: Indiana State Department of Health, Vital Records, ERC, Data Analysis Team

# Agenda

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## 6. Census 2020

- Jill Carnell, Indiana Department of Administration

# Agenda

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7. Committee Updates
  - Julie Whitman

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## 8. Legislative Updates

- Julie Whitman
- Commission Members

# Agenda

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9. Commission Topics for Discussion
10. Next meeting: April 22, 2020, IGCS Conference Room C