



CRISP Newsletter

Center for Research on Inclusion & Social Policy

AUGUST 2019

EQUALITY



EQUITY



Equity: what does it mean and how does it differ from equality?

Equality is broadly defined as an equal allocation to everyone regardless of need, while equity aims to create equivalent outcomes for individuals by addressing their needs.

The goal in the example above is for everyone to have access to fair and affordable housing. An equality scenario would provide every family with the same two-bedroom home. While that standard house is large enough for the couple and the single person in a wheelchair,

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is too small for the family of five. Likewise, while both the family of five and the couple could easily enter their homes, the stairs present a physical access barrier that prevents the person in the wheelchair to access their home.

In the equity scenario, the family of five has a larger home; the person in a wheelchair has a ramp granting access to the home; and the couple remains in the standard house. Housing is considered equitable only when it meets the needs of each family.

While federal housing laws have historically sought to address discrimination and expand protections for marginalized individuals, a changing population and related challenges complicate access to fair and affordable housing. For example, [research from Harvard University](#) found that more than half of the nation's households are headed by someone who is at least 50 years old. That study shows that—as of 2011—only 3.5 percent of the nation's housing had appropriate amenities for older residents including single-floor living, no-step entries, and extra-wide hallways and doors.

Despite Indiana's own fair housing ordinances, inequities remain a concern in Marion County and Indianapolis. A housing audit conducted by [Fair Housing Center for Central Indiana in 2017](#) found that African Americans experienced housing discrimination 76 percent of the time they tried to purchase a home, even though they were financially qualified. They were also treated differently than their white counterparts and were given less information on available housing and financial assistance. Individuals with disabilities experienced barriers to finding housing 15 percent of the time.

For policymakers and change-makers, pursuing equitable outcomes requires a thorough understanding of the factors contributing to these issues. CRISP's research includes providing information about housing-related inequities across Marion County. Our recent publications listed below offer context for trends in Indianapolis. In the upcoming months, CRISP will release additional research related to trends in housing instability for renters as well as homeownership by black residents in Marion County. We will continue developing related recommendations for local stakeholders. **Ψ**

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Eviction Trends in Marion County (2010-2016): go.iu.edu/2bhU

Bias Crime Charges in the U.S. (1990-2016): go.iu.edu/2amc

HIGHLIGHTS

DATA DAY 2019

Are you at #MPHDataDay19 at the #INLegis? Stop by to see #CRISP's booth and learn more about evictions in Indianapolis. @breancamerritt and her team are there to share data and what research has shown about evictions in Marion County. #CRISPresearch



Interested in #DataDriven research on #evictions in Marion Co? Stop by the Center for Research on Inclusion and Social Policy's booth at #MPHDataDay19 to learn more about the trends and impact on renters, landlords, and our community. They'll be there until 2 p.m.! #CRISPresearch



March 20, 2019

This year, CRISP had the opportunity to participate in MPHData Day 2019, an annual data-driven showcase hosted by the Indiana Management Performance Hub (MPH). A team from CRISP presented an interactive map with eviction data from Marion County as well as findings from the center's Bias Crimes issue brief published in January.

To view our interactive map visit: go.iu.edu/2btz

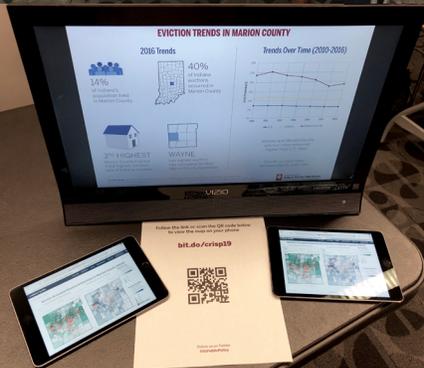
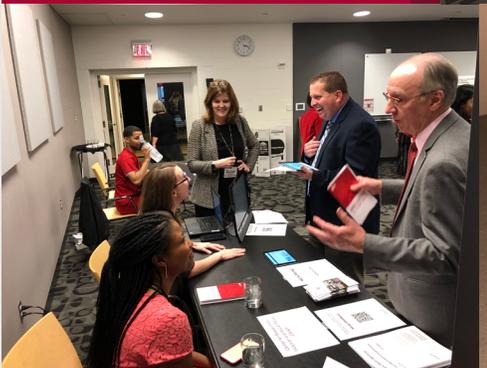
CIVIC ENGAGEMENT SHOWCASE 2019

Our team from the Ctr for Research on Inclusion & Social Policy discussed their findings about #evictions in Marion Co at the @IUPUI Civic Engagement Showcase. Keep an eye out for the full report in a few weeks! #CRISPresearch @breancamerritt



April 9, 2019

CRISP had the opportunity to share our evictions research with a new audience at the 15th annual IUPUI Bringle and Hatcher Civic Engagement Showcase. This celebratory event gathered IUPUI faculty, staff, and students to share information, offer networking opportunities, and recognize the diverse community engagement activities taking place across Central Indiana.



LETTER *from* the DIRECTOR



2019 has been an important year for CRISP and its work on housing, especially as it relates to equity. CRISP partners with numerous local organizations that focus on housing, allowing our team to understand how their programs operate while also informing our own work around equity-related issues. Through these opportunities, we have identified trends in Marion County related to equity in renting, homeownership, and evictions, and examine these topics by race, ethnicity, and geography.

Our work with colleagues at the Center for Health and Justice Research helped identify the difficulty formerly incarcerated individuals face when seeking housing in Marion County. This group includes a disproportionately high number of people of color. We are currently in the process of disseminating our work on homelessness prevention and housing issues, conducted in conjunction with the Coalition for Homelessness Intervention and Prevention (CHIP), through a series of

briefs and community forums. We found that geographic location, which is also shaped by racial composition, should be a major consideration in local housing and eviction-related analyses.

As a result of this ongoing work, we have developed relationships with multiple organizations in Marion County and other locations to discuss the implications of these troubling trends. These relationships have led to opportunities for CRISP. Our work was featured at the Fair Housing Center of Central Indiana's annual Fair Housing Conference. We participated in a local news conference during National Housing Week of Action, discussing eviction-related trends alongside CHIP and Prosperity Indiana. Our team will present eviction-related research at the Association of Public Policy and Management's annual research conference. We are also developing a partnership with Indiana Legal Services to better understand how their medical-legal partnerships may help individuals facing acute medical crises coupled with housing and eviction-related issues. Lastly, we are developing and sharing two briefs related to housing affordability and implications for trends in black homeownership in Marion County, respectively.

We hope this work will continue to highlight opportunities for growth in housing equity—specifically related to race, socioeconomic status, and a variety of other factors—across Central Indiana.

Breanca Merritt

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MISSION STATEMENT

We analyze and disseminate community-relevant research about social disparities and complex policy issues.

WE'RE
EXCITED
ABOUT

THE CRISP CLINIC

Nonprofit organizations often need to demonstrate that their programs are making an impact. Yet, these groups may lack the capacity to conduct evaluation activities. To address this need, we are launching the CRISP Clinic. A team of research staff, including student trainees, will seek to guide nonprofits' evaluation process by conducting low-to-no-cost research. CRISP will help organizations evaluate their internal and external decision-making in order to help them develop and execute a plan based on those needs.

MEET *the* TEAM

In this issue, we are featuring our student employees who have graduated: Madi Alton, Wyatt Beckman, Krystal Gibson, and Abe Roll. CRISP leadership is excited to see what is in store for these talented individuals and the impact they can make on our communities. Congratulations on all your hard work and dedication!



Madi Alton

M.P.A. Nonprofit Management

O'Neill School Public and Environmental Affairs

"During my time at CRISP, I have gained incredibly valuable experience in community-based research. Working on projects for the Center for Working Families and the Great Families 2020 programs, I was able to see the impact they had on Indianapolis residents. I expanded my qualitative research skills by helping with focus groups and interviews, transcriptions, and coding for themes with this information. I will most definitely apply these skills as I pursue a career in research and evaluation."

"After graduation, I am excited to continue working with IU Bloomington's School of Psychology and the IU Grand Challenge to help improve screening for mental health and substance use in multiple settings by using computer adaptive testing. The project offers me the opportunity to delve deeper into my interests in mental health, substance abuse, criminal justice, as well as the intersection of these topics."

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Wyatt Beckman

M.P.H. in Public Health Administration and Behavioral, Social, and Community Health

IU School of Health

“My experience at CRISP and the IU Public Policy Institute has been a transformative part of my academic and educational career. I would not be in the academic nor career position I am today without my time at PPI and CRISP. I have worked on a wide variety of projects and topics ranging from food security among college students to homelessness and evictions in Indianapolis. I have also collaborated with brilliant colleagues and supervisors.

I am truly grateful for all of the wonderful opportunities and skills I learned while working at CRISP. I couldn't have asked for a better place—or a better group of people—to help shape my future work and career.”

“In June, I will begin working as an analyst at the Kansas Health Institute, a nonprofit, nonpartisan educational organization that supports effective policymaking through research, education, and engagement. Long-term, I hope to return to school and complete a Ph.D. in the areas of health behavior and population health sciences. I plan to use my knowledge and skills to inform interventions and policies that have a positive impact on the health and well-being of populations.”



Krystal Gibson

M.S.W. in Leadership

IU School of Social Work

“While working at CRISP, I have been able to deepen my connection with the community and acknowledge that we all have a part in improving the quality of life in Indiana. I enjoyed working on CRISP projects that allowed me to utilize and hone my skills working and communicating with vulnerable populations. I have gained better insight into the systems that impact those vulnerable populations. I have also enjoyed being a part of the CRISP team, learning and collaborating with one another.”

“After graduation, I will work with an Indianapolis consulting firm to perform program evaluation. In this new role, I will utilize the skills I gained at CRISP to investigate the ways in which programs in the community are working as intended. I will get to talk with community members and understand their perspectives. I also have plans to spend some time cooking new recipes and reading a lot of books!”



Abe Roll

M.P.A. in Policy Analysis & Nonprofit Management

O'Neill School Public and Environmental Affairs

“While at CRISP, I have assisted with projects relating to homelessness, homelessness prevention, and nonprofit program evaluation. Through these projects, I have gained experience with survey and focus group design and data analysis, as well as gaining a deeper appreciation for the variety of organizations working to better communities in Marion County. Working with CRISP has highlighted the complex and interrelated social issues facing our communities, as well as the number of approaches that individuals, organizations, and policymakers can take to address these issues.”

“Following graduation, I will be a program analyst for the Richard M. Fairbanks Foundation. The Foundation works to advance the city of Indianapolis by addressing challenges and opportunities in education, health, and the vitality of Indianapolis. In my position, I will analyze data to understand the impact of the Foundation’s grants and to guide future grantmaking, as well as assisting with research to identify effective interventions related to the Foundation’s focus areas. I am excited to continue learning and growing with this new opportunity!”



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