

Snapshot of Tippecanoe County – 2008

The following is information that provides the backdrop – the context – for what is happening with youth in Tippecanoe County. Some of the information provided will support your intuition about our community, while other information will be surprising. Use of this data will assist us in the development of a community response for the benefit of our youth.

Tippecanoe County is approximately 500 square miles in size and is located in West Central Indiana, 60 miles northwest of Indianapolis and 120 miles southeast of Chicago. The estimated population in 2007 was 163,364 (United States Census Bureau), which included approximately 49,000 persons under the age of 19. From 2000 to 2007 Tippecanoe County is estimated to have experienced a 9.7% increase in population compared to a statewide change of 4.3%.

Lafayette and West Lafayette are the only incorporated cities within Tippecanoe County and there are 16 incorporated towns. Thirty-nine percent of the county’s population lives in Lafayette while 19% live in West Lafayette. West Lafayette is the home of Purdue University, a state supported university and the country’s 16th largest university with an enrollment in the fall of 2008 of 40,090 students (Purdue University Alumni Association, 2008). Purdue University is also the county’s largest employer, employing approximately 12,000 people. The next largest collection of residents resides in Shadeland – 1.1% of the county’s population. (STATSIndiana).

Lafayette is the county seat and has a current estimated population of 61,229 residents; 23.3% of which is below the age of 19 years (Census Bureau).

About our residents

Tippecanoe County is in the top 15 of Indiana counties in terms of its diversity.

	County	Lafayette	LSC	TSC	WLSC	CCHS*
White	89.6%	88.2%	64.0%	83.0%	70.0%	91.0%
Black	3.5%	5.7%	11.0%	3.0%	4.0%	0%
Asian	5.5%	1.5%	0%	2.0%	19.0%	2.0%
Native American	.4%	.4%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Multiracial	1.0%	1.0%	6.0%	4.0%	4.0%	3.0%
Hispanic/ Latino descent	7.1%	11.6%	19.0%	8.0%	4.0%	4.0%

* = Data for Central Catholic High School because the district data includes schools from other counties.

Tippecanoe County population estimates by age in 2007 were (STATSIIndiana):

- Preschool (0 to 4) 10,393
- School age (5 to 17) 24,131
- College age (18 to 24) 38,475 (ranked 3rd in the state)
- Young adult (25 to 44) 44,140
- Older adult (45 to 64) 30,959
- Older (65 plus) 15,266
- Median age 28.1 (compared to 36.5 in state)

Of the adults in Tippecanoe County age 25 plus (STATSIIndiana):

- 87.8% reported they were high school graduates (ranked 6th in the state)
- 33.2% reported having obtained a BA or higher degree (ranked 3rd in the state)

What we earn

The per capita annual income in Tippecanoe County in 2006 was \$27,568 – during this year the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) had established \$9,800 as the poverty rate for an individual. The median household income in 2005 was \$40,721 compared to the HHS poverty income of \$19,350 for a family of four. Interestingly, in 2005 the county's poverty rate was 17.9% compared to 12.2% for the state giving Tippecanoe County a ranking of 3rd in the state (STATSIIndiana).

Our homes

A snapshot of Tippecanoe County Households (US Census Bureau information) tells us:

- 55,226 households total in 2000 including:
 - 11,781 married couples with children (ranked 11th in state)
 - 14,137 married without children (ranked 10th in state)
 - 3,961 single parents (ranked 11th in state)
 - 15,489 living alone (ranked 6th in state)
- 58,343 total housing units in 2000
 - 30,892 units were owner occupied (ranked 13th in state)
 - These homes had a median value of \$112,200 (ranked 11th in state)
 - 24,334 units were rentals (ranked 5th in state)
 - Average monthly rent was \$565/month (ranked 9th in state)

Our schools

	LSC	TSC	WLSC	CCHS*	State Avg.
Free, reduced lunch	58.0%	30.0%	9.0%	5.0%	N/A
Inter district mobility	9.8%	5.7%	3.6%	N/A	4.0%
Intra district mobility	2.3%	1.1%	0.0%	N/A	2.4%
Special Education	23.0%	15.6%	12.5%	N/A	17.5%
Vocational Education	4.9%	4.1%	0.5%	N/A	4.4%
% Passing ISTEP	61.2%	74.6%	91.5%	92.0%	73.7%
Graduation Rate	70.0%	84.9%	90.5%	96.4%	77.4%

Data is from the Indiana Department of Education website

** = Data for Central Catholic High School because the district data includes schools from other counties.*