

# ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ANALYSIS REPORT

2019

## INTRODUCTION

The Michiana Area Council of Governments uses the Indicators of Potential Disadvantage to help staff, member governments, planning partners, and the general public consider Civil Rights (Title VI) and Environmental Justice (EJ) concerns when carrying out planning activities, project development, and programming. The IPD analysis identifies populations of interest under Title VI and EJ using U.S. Census American Community Survey (ACS) data.

## INDICATORS OF POTENTIAL DISADVANTAGE

### METHODOLOGY

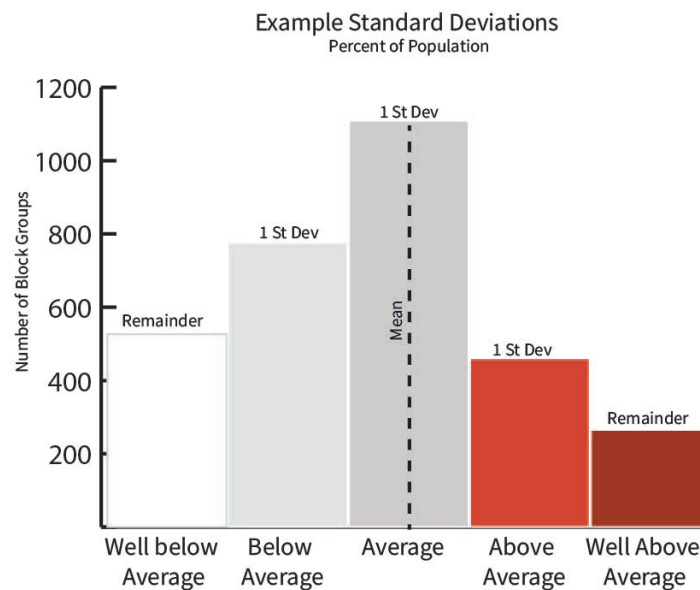
MACOG supports and models their Environmental Justice (EJ) process based upon guidelines from the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC) in Pennsylvania. DVRPC developed the Indicators of Potential Disadvantage (IPD) method, which locates selected population groups in the region to better inform how the regional transportation system and MPO programs, policies, and investments might impact these groups. These population groups include minorities, low-income, carless households, persons with physical disabilities, elderly over age 65, Hispanic, and Limited English Proficiency (LEP).

Neither Title VI or the Civil Rights Act nor Executive Order #12898 provides specific guidance to evaluate EJ within a region's transportation planning process. Therefore, MPOs must devise their own methods for ensuring that EJ population groups and issues are represented in transportation decision-making. This is a challenging assignment, and serious consideration must be given to the available types of quantifiable data, as well as how the data is to be used and interpreted. It should be noted that while the IPD method helps ascertain population data, it is only one tool in a larger strategy involving public participation, stakeholder outreach, data sources, and other research.

IPD information is derived from the American Community Survey (ACS) five-year estimates data set from the U.S. Census. The ACS is conducted every year to provide up-to-date information about the social and economic needs of the country. ACS data is in one-year, three-year, and five-year estimates. The five-year estimates set was chosen as it provides the largest sample size, includes data for all areas, and information can be found at the census tract and block group level.

Using this data, population groups are identified and located at the block group level. Data is gathered at the regional level, combining populations from each of the four counties, for either individuals or households, depending on the indicator. From there, the total number of persons in

each demographic group is divided by the appropriate universe (either population or households) for the four-county region, providing a regional average for that population group. Each block group is given a calculation determined by the standard deviations relative to each indicator's regional average. This calculation is used to determine the concentration of IPD population from “well below average” to “well above average.” The IPD is identified when sensitive populations fall above average in each block group.



## REGIONAL DEMOGRAPHICS

EJ is concerned with the impacts of disparate funding and disparate services on defined minority and low-income groups. Some programs employ the EJ IPD method as the first step of a demographic analysis, identifying the potentially disadvantaged population groups first, and then using this knowledge as a planning tool for further recommendations and outreach.

The demographic groups that comprise the IPD are defined below, and include a definition of the population group plus the regional threshold that places IPD populations above average. Maps of each demographic group can be found on the following pages.

## **RACIAL MINORITY**

### **Above Average Threshold: 26.3%**

This population group includes the following ACS racial categories: Black or African American alone, American Indian and Alaska Native alone, Asian alone, Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander alone, some other race alone, and two or more races.

## **HISPANIC**

### **Above Average Threshold: 17.0%**

Though often included in many minority definitions, Hispanic is an ethnicity, not a racial category. Hispanics are defined by the U.S. Census as “persons of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central or South American, or other Spanish culture or origin, regardless of race.”

## **HOUSEHOLDS IN POVERTY**

### **Above Average Threshold: 21.5%**

Since poverty is defined at the family level and not the household level, the poverty status of the household is determined by the poverty status of the householder. Households are classified as poor when the total income of the householder’s family is below the appropriate poverty threshold, which was established in the Office of Management and Budget’s Statistical Policy Directive No. 14 and is adjusted for inflation.

## **CARLESS HOUSEHOLDS**

### **Above Average Threshold: 14.0%**

This population is often referred to as “transit dependent,” i.e., those who must rely on public transit for their daily travel needs and who have limited mobility. Not owning a personal automobile may be a lifestyle choice for some, but for others automobile ownership is unattainable due to various constraints, including income or disability.

## **HOUSEHOLDS WITH PERSON(S) WITH DISABILITIES**

### **Above Average Threshold: 34.4%**

This population is identifying by households that have at least one (1) person with a disability. That disability may be hearing, cognitive, ambulatory, self-care, or independent living difficulty.

## **ELDERLY**

### **Above Average Threshold: 19.1%**

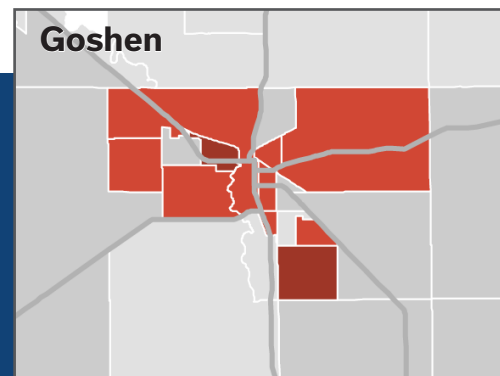
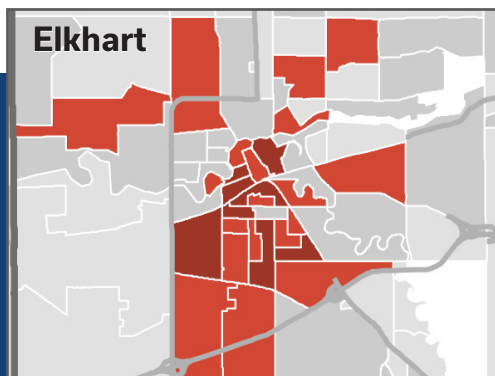
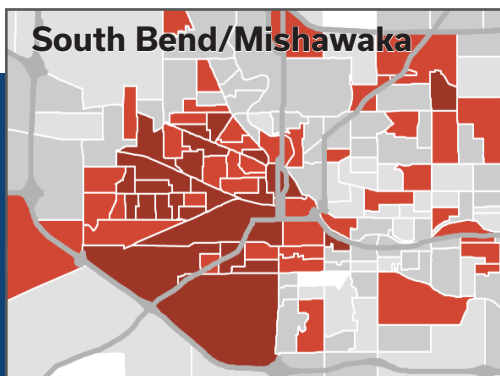
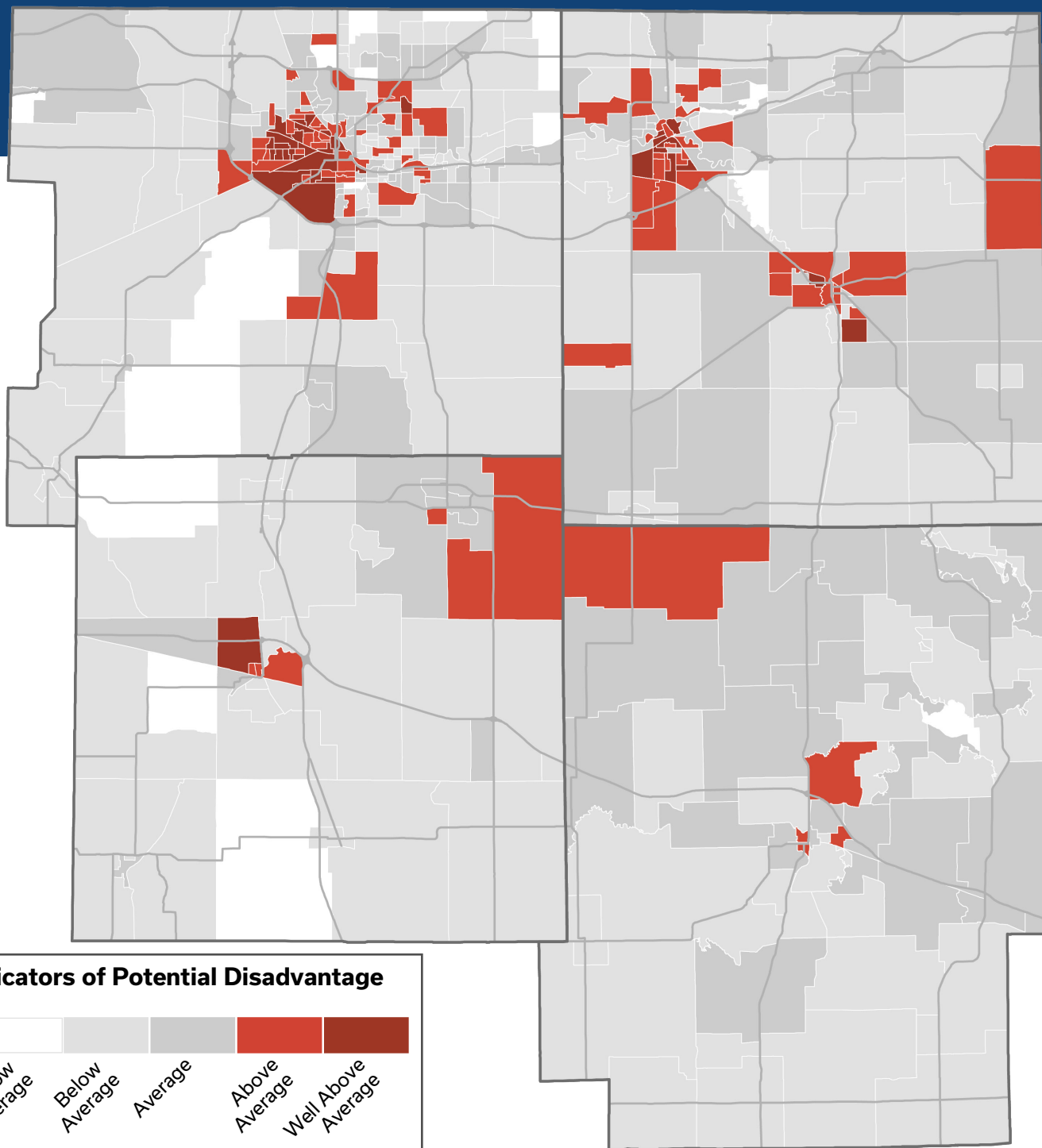
Elderly populations are identified as those age 65 and over.

## **LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY (LEP) HOUSEHOLDS**

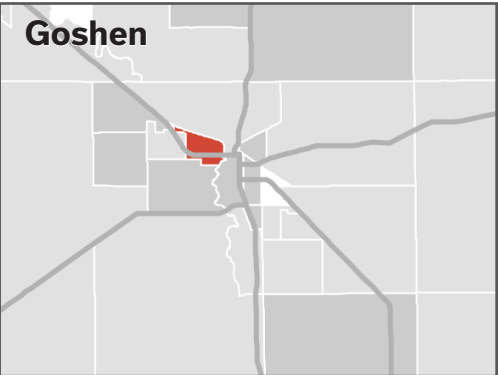
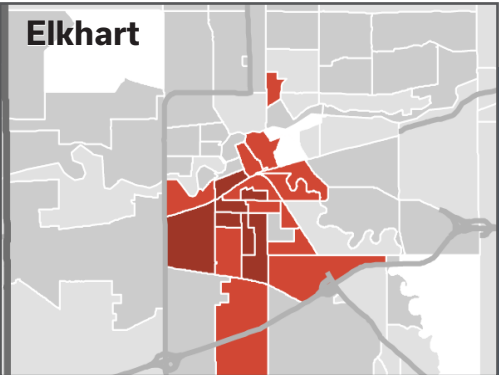
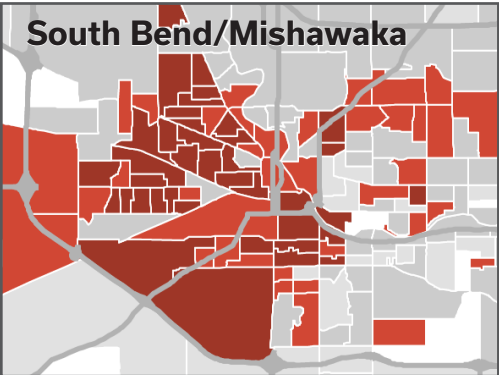
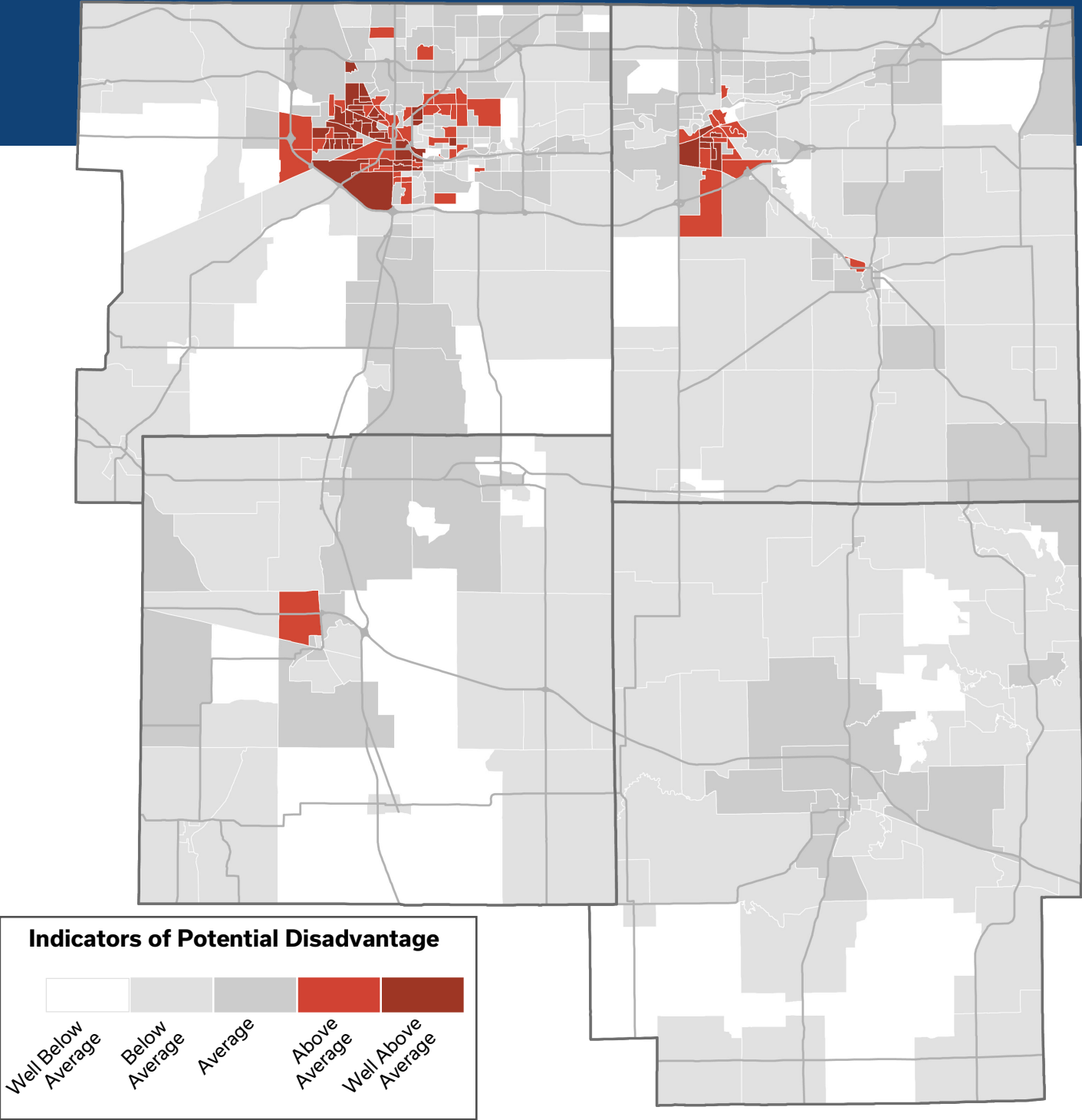
### **Above Average Threshold: 4.4%**

This population is identified by households that speak a language other than English at home and speak English “less than very well.” More analysis of this population group is done in the Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Language Assistance Plan.

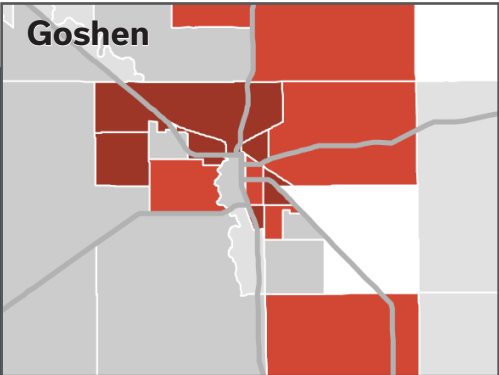
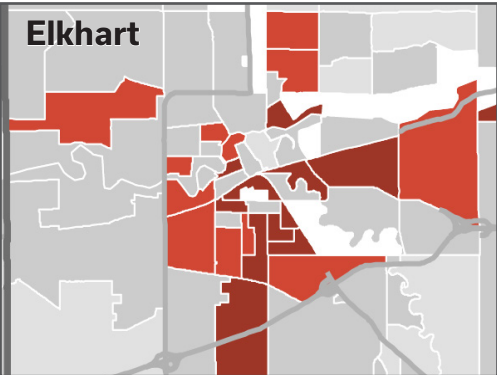
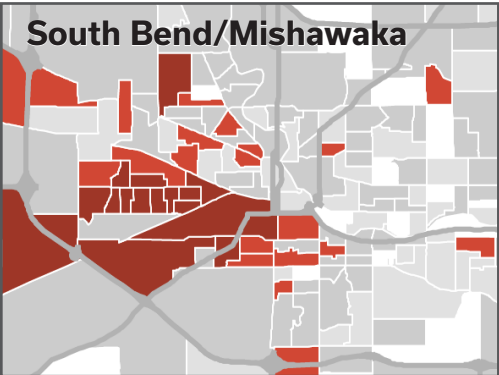
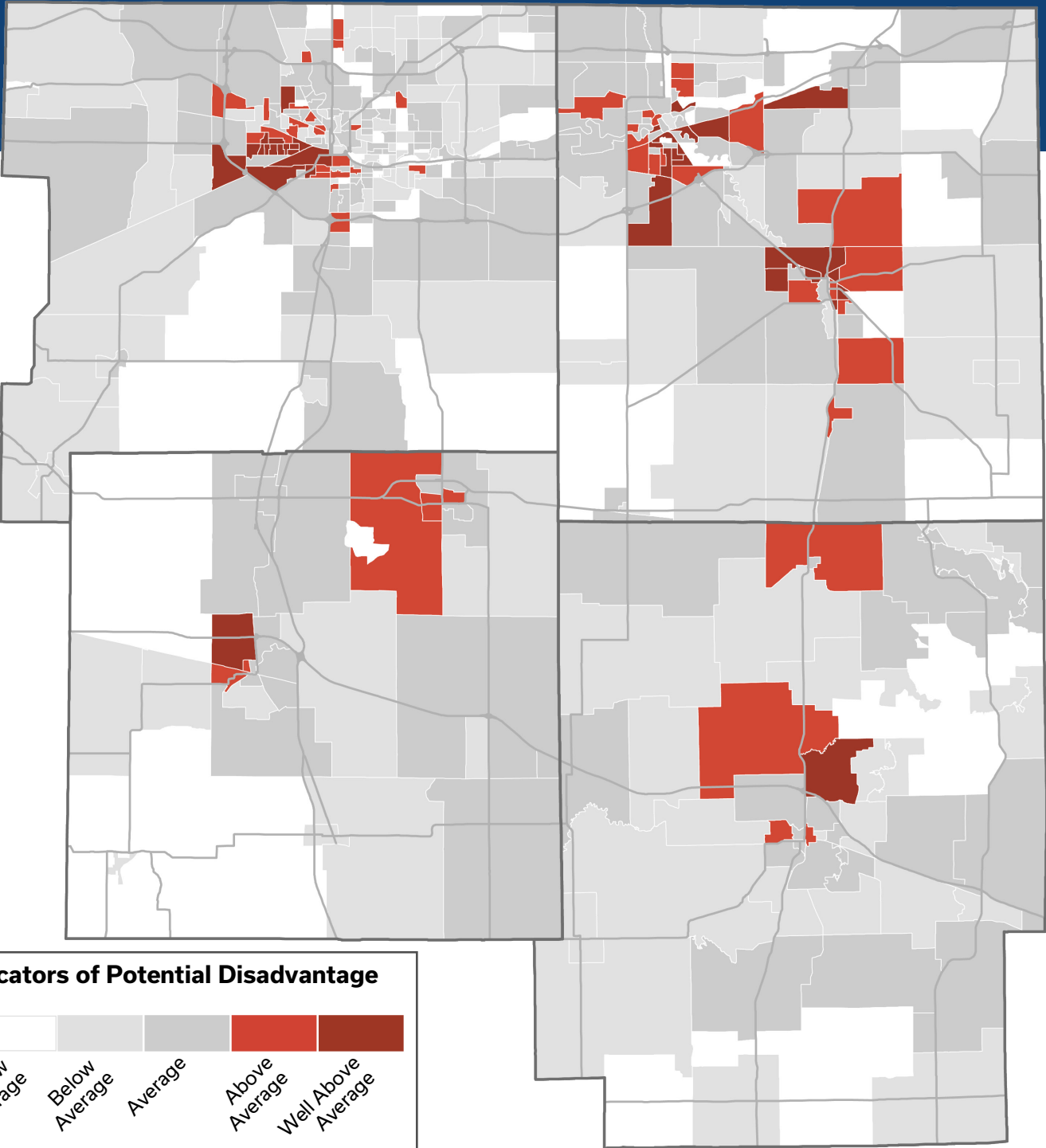
# Overall Indicators of Potential Disadvantage (IPD)



# Racial Minority Population

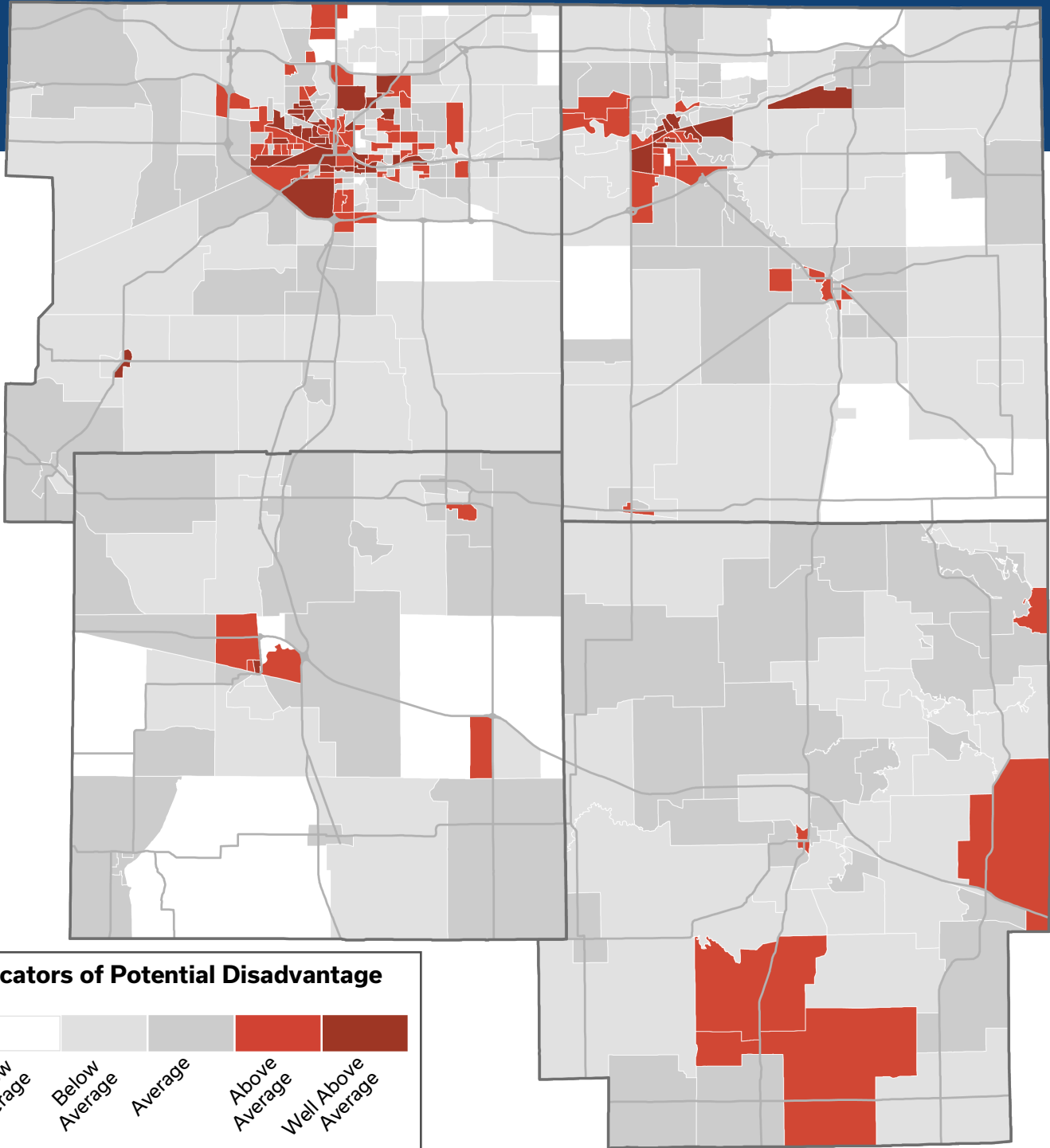


# Hispanic Population

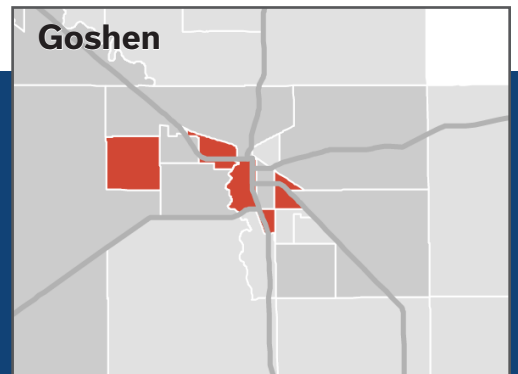
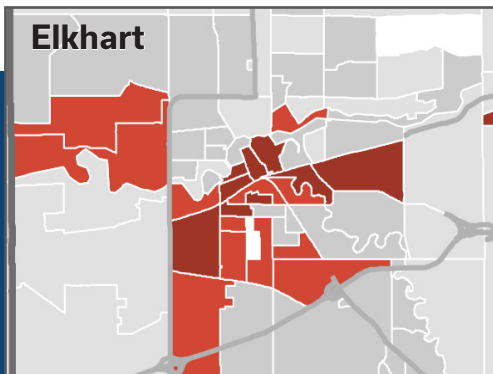
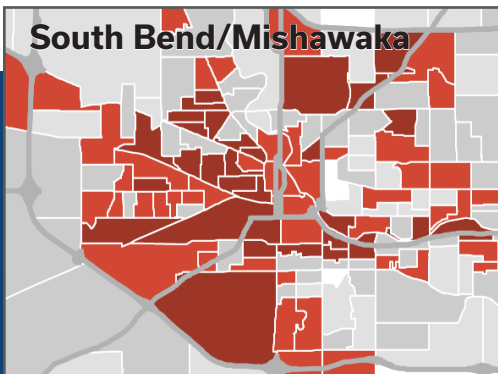




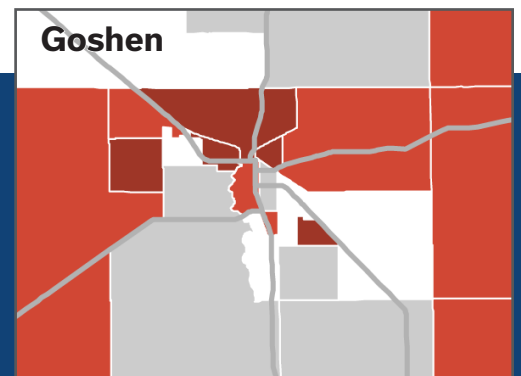
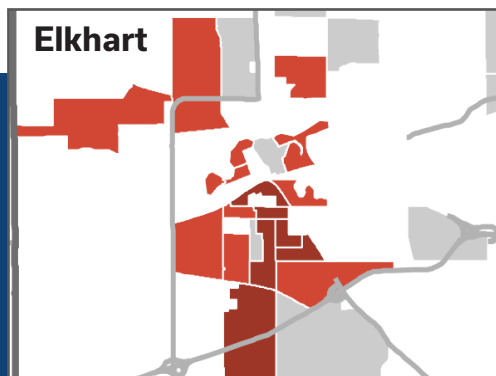
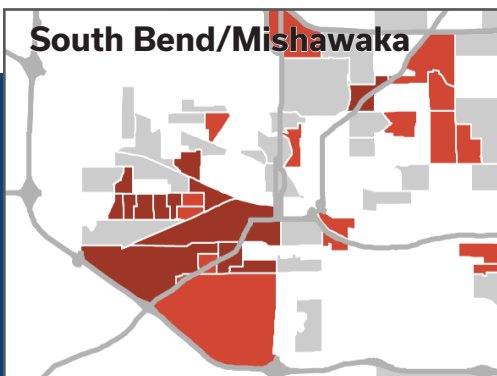
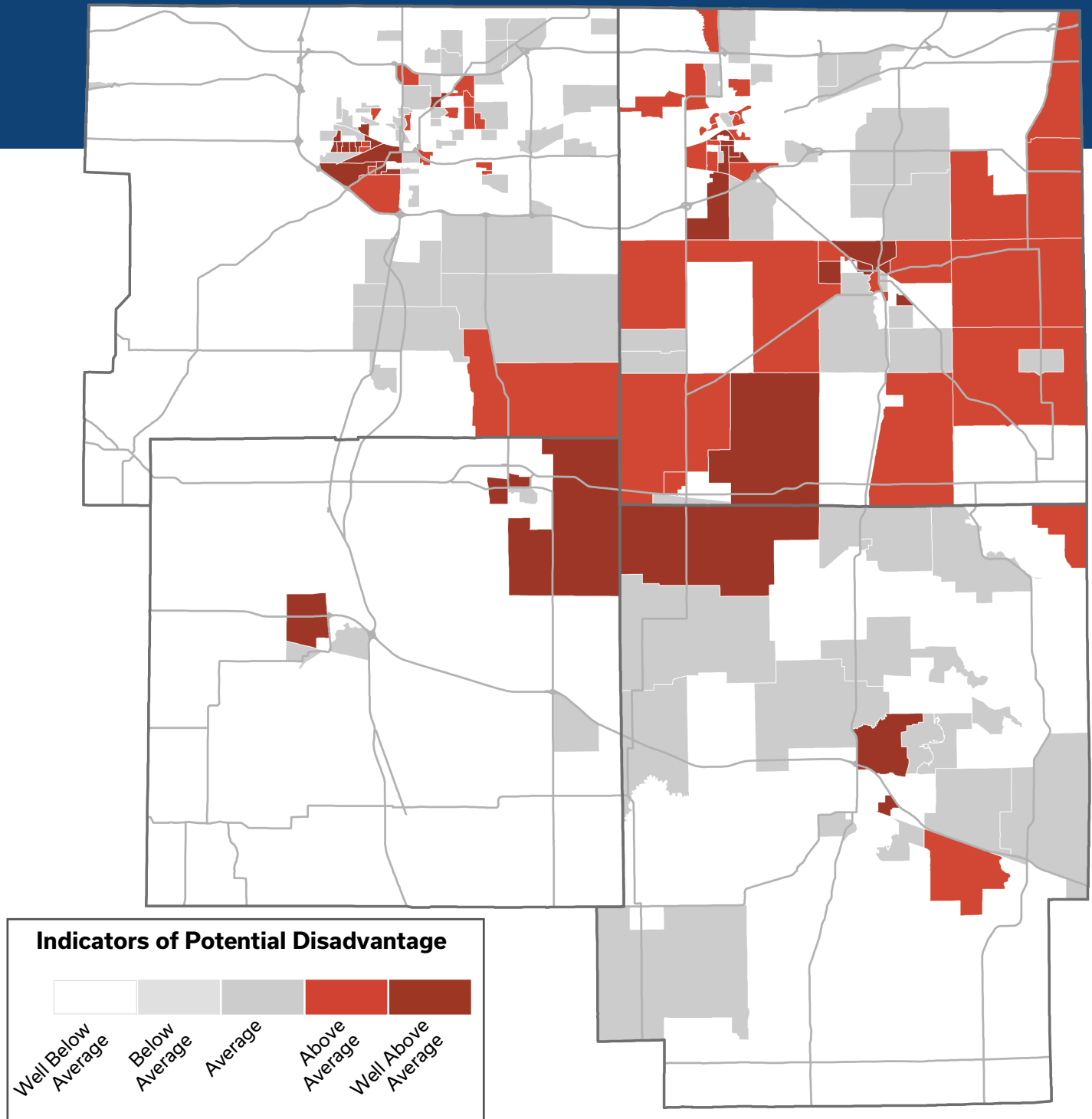
# Households in Poverty



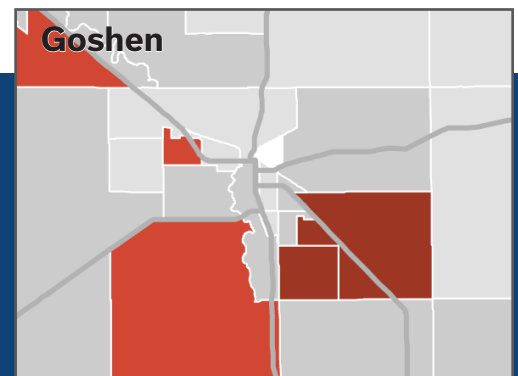
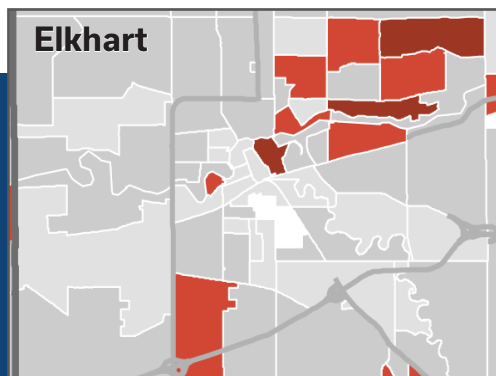
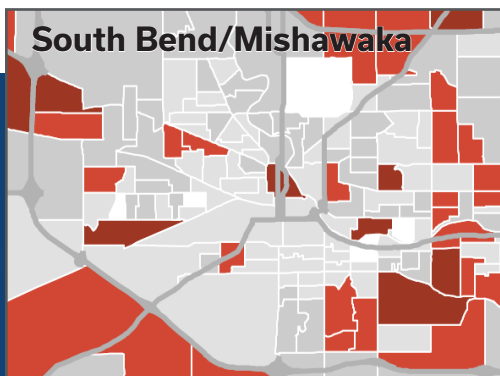
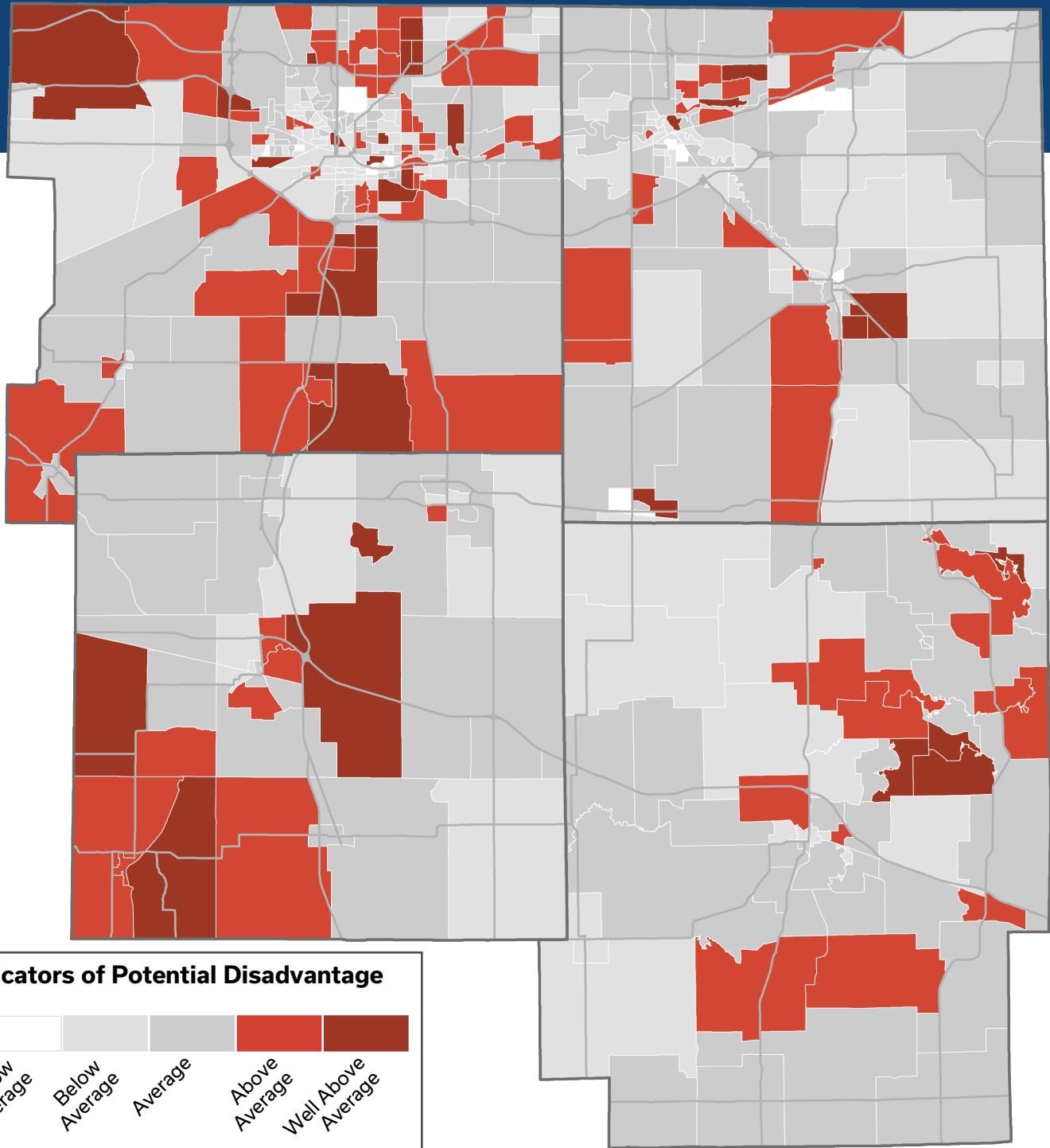
**Indicators of Potential Disadvantage**



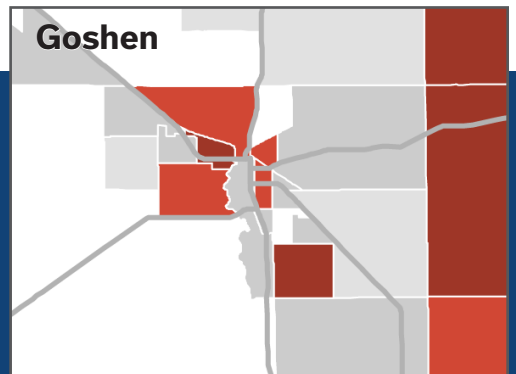
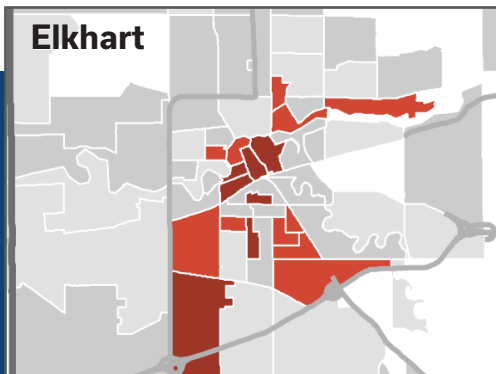
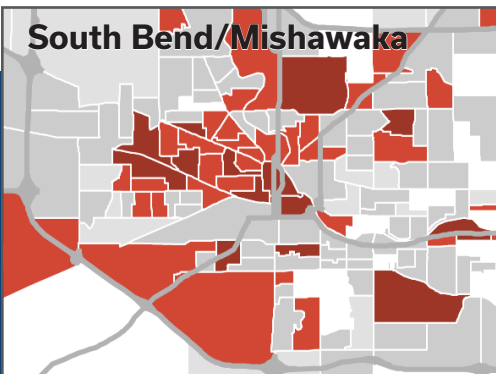
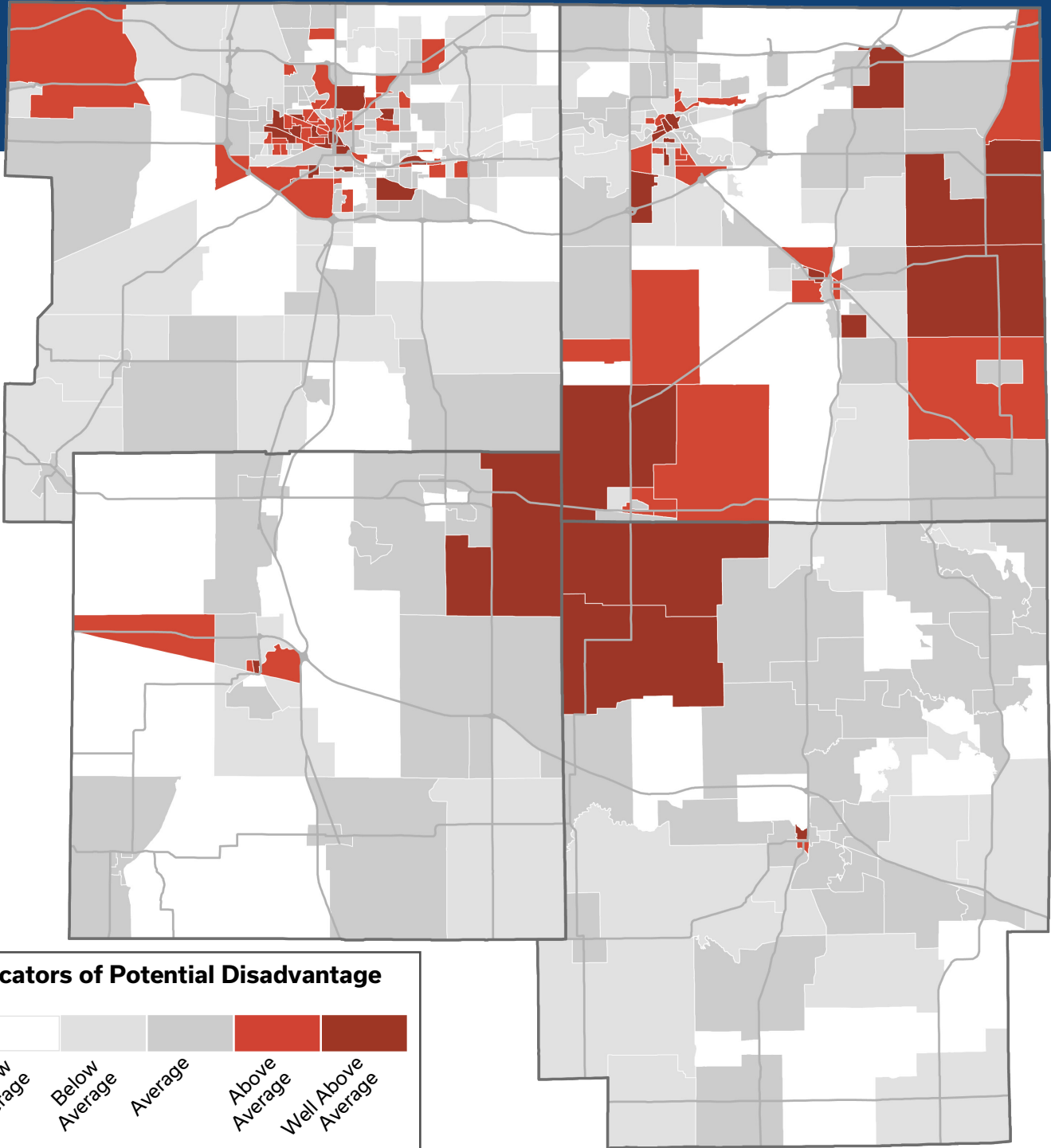
# Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Households



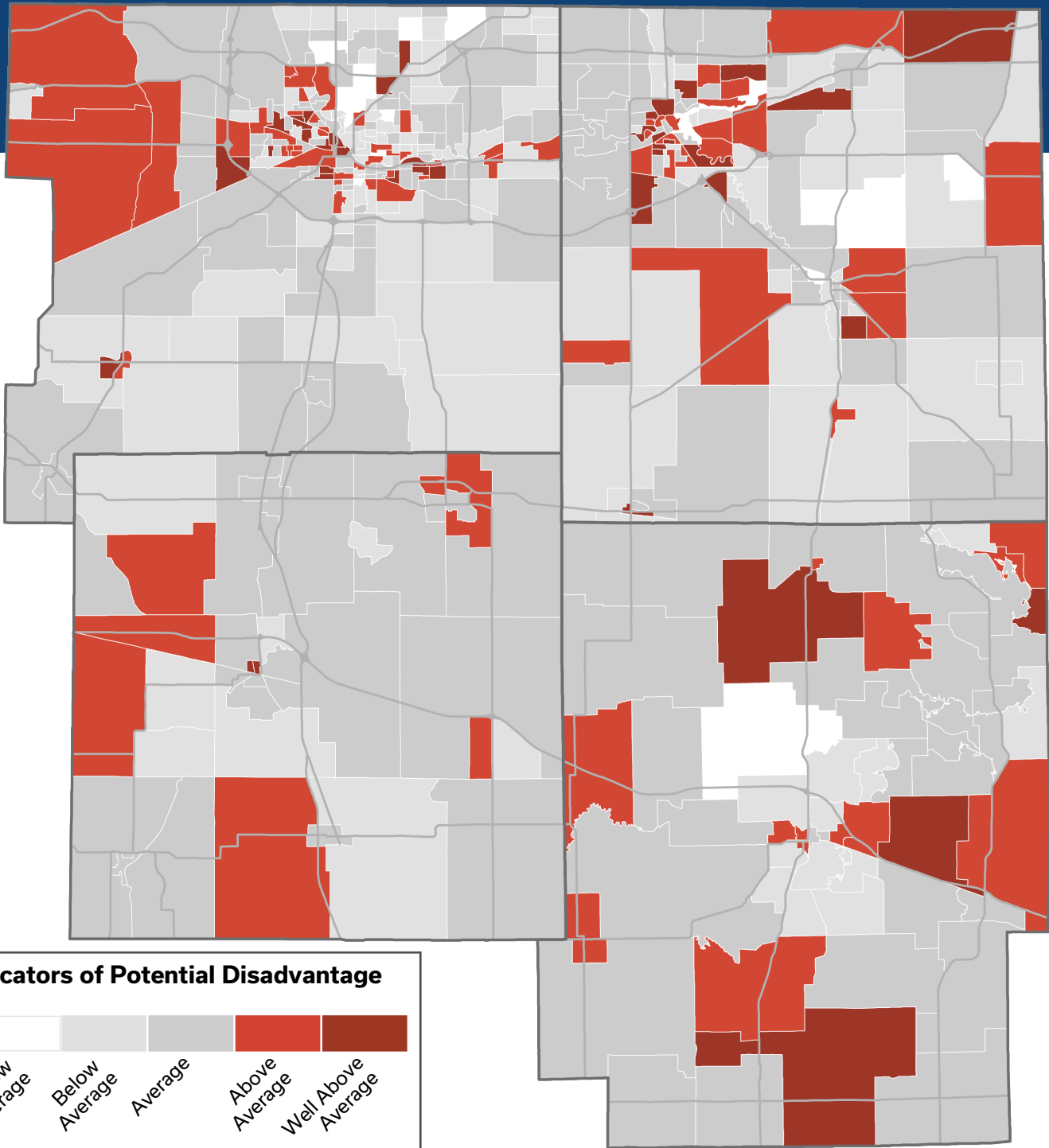
# Elderly (65 years and Over) Population



# Carless Households



# Households with Disabilities



## Indicators of Potential Disadvantage

