MONROE COUNTY HEALTH ASSESSMENT ATLAS









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The *Monroe County Health Assessment Atlas (MoCHA)* was developed with the time and effort of many individuals. Members of the MoCHA Data team helped by defining indicators, acquiring data, and writing the assessment text. Project management and editing were provided by the MoCHA Research team composed of faculty and staff from Indiana University and the Monroe County Health Department.

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In Memoriam

Robert Schmidt, Former Administrator of Monroe County Health Department

Special Thanks

We would like to extend our appreciation to the staff at the Monroe County Health department and to the students in the public health graduate programs at Indiana University for their dedicated support and work on the Town Hall Meetings.

We would also like to thank the family of Robert Schmidt.

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Any opinions, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this publication are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the view of Indiana University, City of Bloomington, Monroe County Government, businesses or community-based organizations located in Monroe County.

Maps were created by: Bernadette de Leon, Fernando Ona and Doug Turnipseed Photos were provided by: Penny Caudill, Mary Lowery, Fernando Ona and Ashley Skooglund

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Foreword

The *Monroe County Health Assessment Atlas* came about through a community process led by the Monroe County Health Department with leaders and residents in Monroe County in collaboration with faculty, staff and students from the School of Health, Physical Education and Recreation at Indiana University. The idea of conducting a comprehensive, county wide health assessment—accounting for multiple sectors of the public health system—was first proposed during a meeting convened by past Monroe County Health Department Administrator, Robert Schmidt in Summer 2007. The goal of this assessment was to compile data from various sources in one place, providing a resource to help residents of the county to drive local health-related policy and decision-making in Monroe County, Indiana. In order to achieve this, a working group composed of members of the Monroe County Health Department, Indiana University, local area hospitals and community based organizations developed a list of health system indicators to track, drawing partially from the Monroe County Service Community Assessment of Needs (SCAN). The SCAN report has provided valid and reliable social service data about Monroe County and is an invaluable resource in the community (a copy of the SCAN report can be found at: http://www.bloomington.in.us/~scan/).

Based on the work of the SCAN and other assessment initiatives throughout Monroe County, the vision of the Monroe County Health Department has been to integrate resident perspectives in health planning and programming to better address the public health needs of our diverse communities. Therefore, the Monroe County Health Department held a series of "town hall meetings" in each of the townships of Monroe County to ground truth indicators in the assessment and prioritize residents' concerns and needs for more meaningful public health programming. The majority of the data in the assessment is secondary data collected from federal, state and local agencies as well as from community based organizations. Data sources and other resources are included in order to assist with the collection and tracking of this information in the future.

This assessment is organized into five main sections. Each section contains a series of maps visualizing demographic, health and county characteristics. This atlas also contains more detailed maps of each Township of Monroe County, illustrating various assets in each area. This atlas was created in a portable document format, or PDF to facilitate efficient use. The table of contents is linked directly to specific sections and maps in the atlas.

Assessment results may be used by a wide array of individuals, organizations and policy makers, including Monroe County residents, program managers, educators and law makers. The Monroe County Health Department hopes that this assessment will stimulate thought and action about the public health system, contribute to dialogue, and lead to creative collaboration. We recognize that readers will have differing concerns and viewpoints. Given the diverse audience and broad scope of the study, this assessment is written to provide an overview of issues relevant to Monroe County and initiatives in the public health system along with a brief discussion of assessment results in each section.

The Monroe County Health Department welcomes comments and suggestions regarding the atlas. We encourage community residents to actively become involved in the health and well being of all citizens of Monroe County, Indiana.

Executive Summary

Health plays a vital role in Monroe County's culture, environment, and economy. Numerous individuals, organizations and institutions in Monroe County are currently dedicating time and energy to solving health problems and attending to challenges related to public health needs in the county. The focus of their work ranges widely, touching all elements in society which involve the prevention, control, management and/or elimination of disease and illness in our diverse communities. While some efforts address issues directly related to health such as cardiovascular heart disease and obesity, others address seemingly more distant issues, such as environmental management or community and economic development related to health issues. In spite of all this activity, many residents in Monroe County do not think about nor understand the current state of the county's health system as a whole.

The *Monroe County Health Assessment Atlas* was developed to provide a holistic, visual overview of the local public health system with current data and statistics (i.e. "how we're doing") for a variety of measures and indicators. Examining and understanding this holistic picture provides a unique viewpoint which cannot be seen when looking at health outcomes such as heart attacks, strokes or cancers. This 'systems' picture helps a community bring greater efficiency to its local public health system, ensure that everyone has access to affordable, safe and culturally appropriate health services, and ensure that the system functions with the principles of public health, social justice, economic stability, and environmental sustainability in mind. This document compiles existing data and statistics, primarily from town hall meetings, focus groups and secondary or already existing public sources, to illustrate gaps, assets and opportunities in the local public health system. It is intended to stimulate thought and action and lead to recommendations for making Monroe County's local public health system more equitable and more sustainable.

The first section contained within this assessment atlas presents a general introduction to the Monroe County Health Assessment process which describes the broad range of activities involved in collecting information and data on the public health system. This 'systems' viewpoint also considers how culture, economics, politics, and the environment all affect these critical activities. Sections two through four provide relevant data and trends within public health system sector. This assessment specifically reflects three Monroe County Public Health Priorities:

- Essential Service #1- Monitor health statuses to identify health problems
- Essential Service #7- Link people to needed personal health services and assure the provisions of health care when otherwise unavailable
- Essential Service #9- Evaluate effectiveness, accessibility and quality of personal and population based health services

Methodological issues and information on areas of more specific technical interest are included at the MoCHA website located at: <u>www.indiana.edu/~sphgis</u>.

A series of participatory processes—Township Town Hall Meetings—were organized and held in Summer 2008 with the intent to "ground truth" or verify map information from aerial photographs and satellite images reflect reality and gathering additional information and feedback from the community, based on the information contained in this atlas. Section five summarizes the event design, activities and processes. Using the information generated at each of the Township Town Hall Meetings and from this assessment atlas, the Monroe County Health Department formed a working group to develop public health system recommendations and priorities. These recommendations (Section Six) have been given to Bloomington city officials, Monroe County and City of Bloomington agencies, and community based organizations located throughout the county.

Monroe County

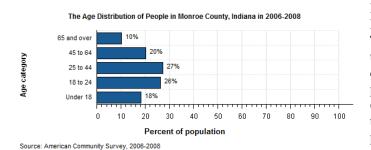


SECTION 1: COUNTY-LEVEL PROFILE

The maps in this section refer to population characteristics of Monroe County. Monroe County is located in South Central Indiana about one hour south of the state capitol. It is 394.30 square miles and is bounded to the north by Owen and Morgan counties, to the east by Brown and Jackson counties, to the south by Lawrence county and to the west by Greene and Owen counties. There are eleven (11) county townships and the county seat is Bloomington, Indiana.

The population of Monroe County in 2009 was 130,738 (U.S. Census Bureau, 2009). The majority of the population is comprised of whites (90.3%) with Asians (4.4%), blacks (3.4%), and persons of Latino or Hispanic origins (2.3%) composing much of the rest of the county population. American Indian and Alaska Native persons comprised of 0.3% of Monroe County.

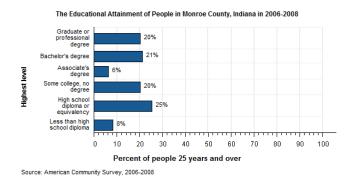
The population is primarily concentrated in the core townships of Monroe County (Bloomington and Perry). The most rural townships of Monroe County are: Indian Creek, Polk and Washington. Polk Township is the most isolated township given its physical location southeast of Lake Monroe. The population density of the county according to the U.S. Census was approximately 306 people per square mile. The areas of the county with the highest population density were located in the central part of the county, especially where Indiana University is located. Other areas of high density are found in subdivisions located in Bloomington and Perry Townships, western areas of Benton Township (South) as well as near the town of Ellettsville, located in Richland Township.



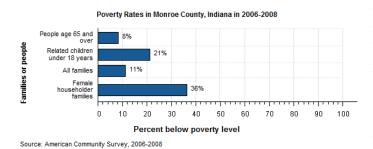
In 2006-2008 there were 49,000 households in Monroe County (U.S. Census Bureau, 2008). The average household size was 2.4 people and the median age of the county was 28.9 years old. In 2006-2008, Monroe County had a total population of 65,000 (51 percent) females and 63,000 (49 percent) males. Eighteen percent of the population was under 18 years and 10 percent was 65 years and older.

Salt Creek Township had the highest number of residents over 41 while Bloomington Township had the youngest number of residents who were 25 or younger. Bloomington Township's relatively low median age was primarily because of the presence of Indiana University and the student population.

According to the 2006-2008 American Community Survey, approximately 6% of Monroe County residents were foreign born and 61% born in the State of Indiana (U.S. Census Bureau, 2008). Recently, persons of Latino or Hispanic origin have moved to the county with 18% of the residents reporting that they spoke Spanish at home. Persons of Latino or Hispanic origin primarily resided in the townships of Bloomington and Perry. There are 2,954 residents of Latino or Hispanic origin and Monroe County ranked 20th in the State according to the U.S. Census Bureau (2008).

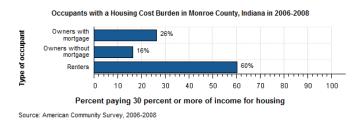


The Indiana Department of Education reported that Monroe County had one of the highest public high school graduation rates in the state and ranked 16th out of 92 counties (Indiana Department of Education, 2008). Ninety two percent of people 25 years or older had graduated from high school with five Townships with graduation rates over 88%: Bean Blossom, Bloomington, Perry, Polk and Salt Creek. Two school districts serve the population in the county: The Monroe County Community School Corporation (MCCSC), and the Richland Bean Blossom School Corporation (RBB). In addition to these two public school corporations, several private schools offer the community options for Kindergarten through high school education (Indiana Department of Education, 2008).



The Indiana Business Research Center (2008) reported that during 2006-2008, the median income of households in Monroe County was \$40,149. Outer Townships had higher median household incomes with Salt Creek ranking number one with a median income over \$55,000. The Township with the lowest median household income was Bloomington Township.

In 2006-2008, 24% of people were in poverty in Monroe County and 21% of children under 18 were below the poverty level compared with 8% of people 65 years old or older. Eleven percent of all families in Monroe County had incomes below the poverty level (Indiana Family Social Services Administration, 2008).

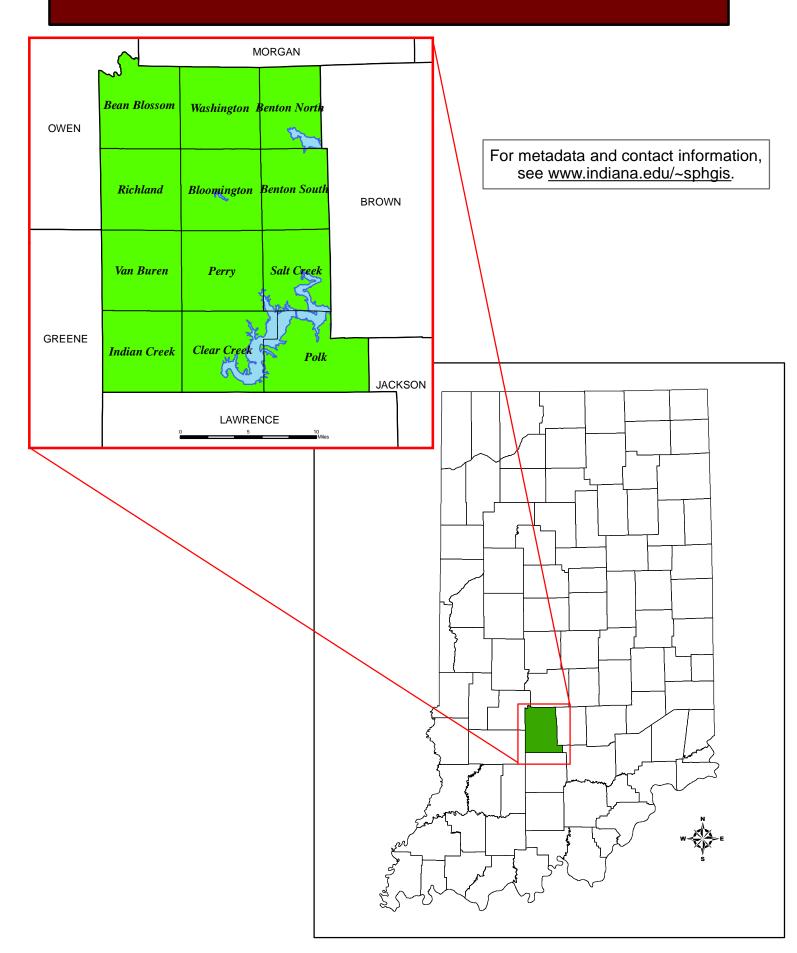


According to the U.S. Census Bureau (2008), the median monthly housing costs for mortgaged owners was \$1,148, non-mortgaged owners \$372, and renters \$712. Twenty-six percent of owners with mortgages, 16 percent of owners without mortgages, and 60 percent of renters in Monroe County spent 30 percent or more of household income on housing.

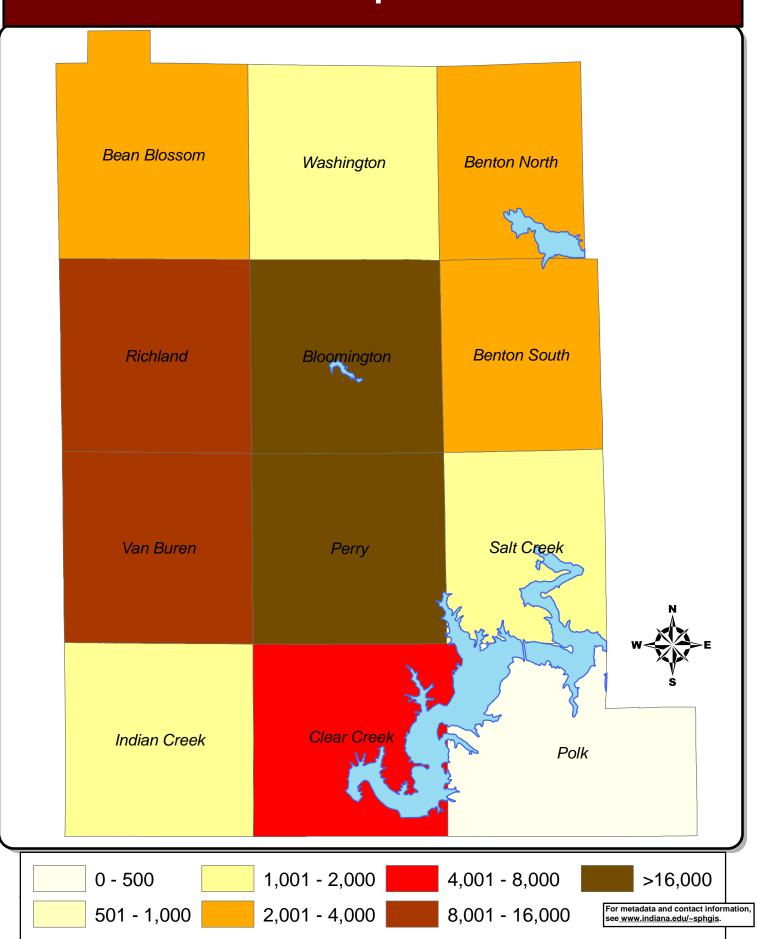
The highest median monthly mortgage costs were found in Polk Township (over \$1,100) while Bean Blossom and Van Buren Townships had the lowest median monthly mortgage costs in the county (under \$850).

According to the Indiana Department of Workforce Development, Monroe County was ranked 91 out of 92 counties in its annual unemployment rate at 6.3%. Among the total resident labor force, over 4,400 people were unemployed. Bloomington and Van Buren Townships had the highest percentages of unemployed residents (2.3% or above) while Washington Township had the lowest percentage of residents unemployed (under 1%).

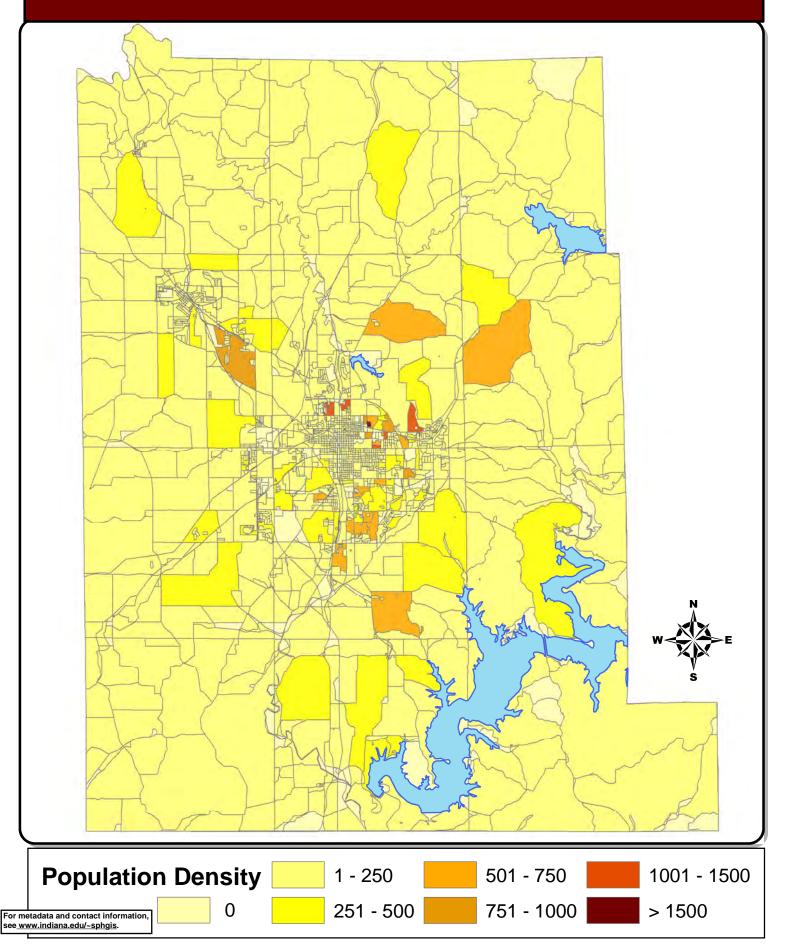
Location of Monroe County, Indiana USA



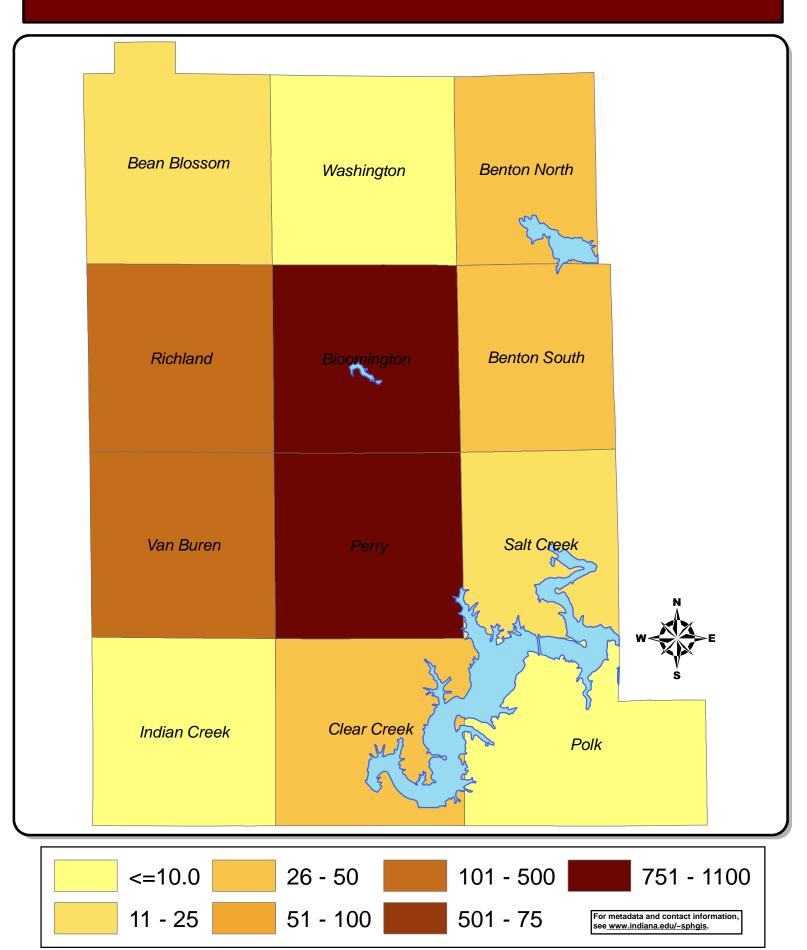
Monroe County Total Population



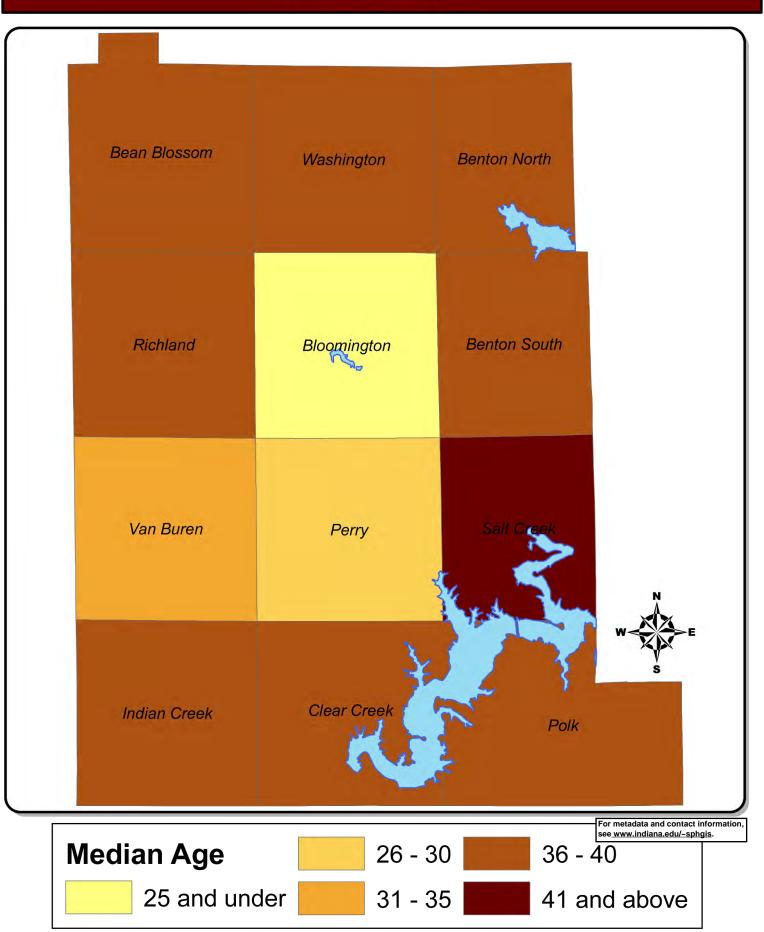
Monroe County Total Population



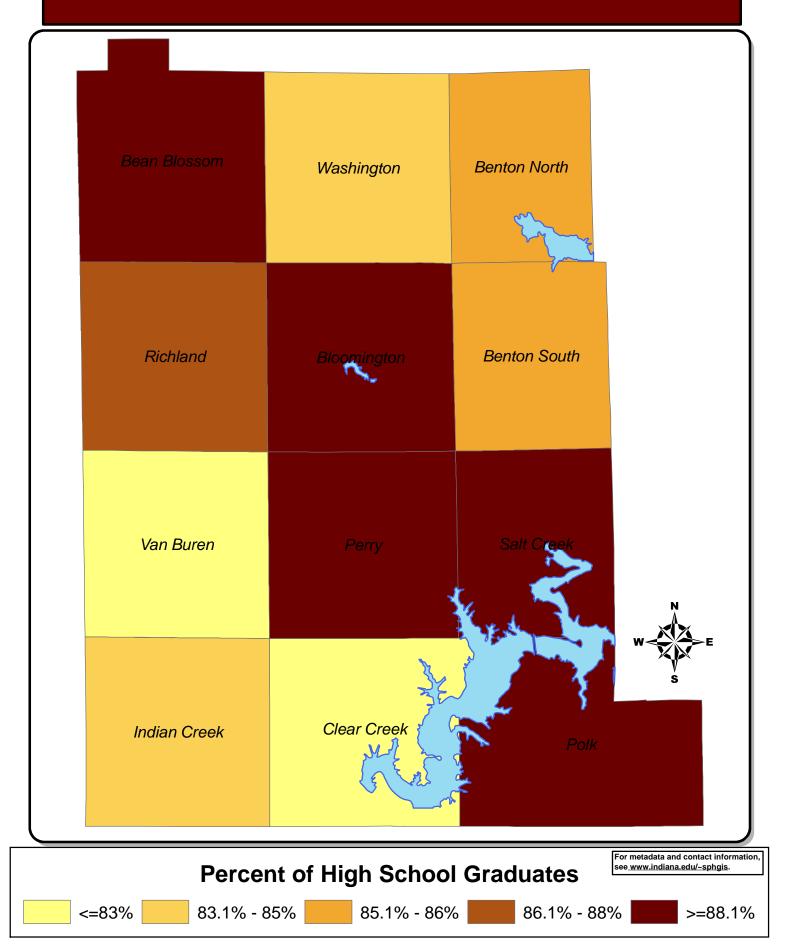
Monroe County Latino Population



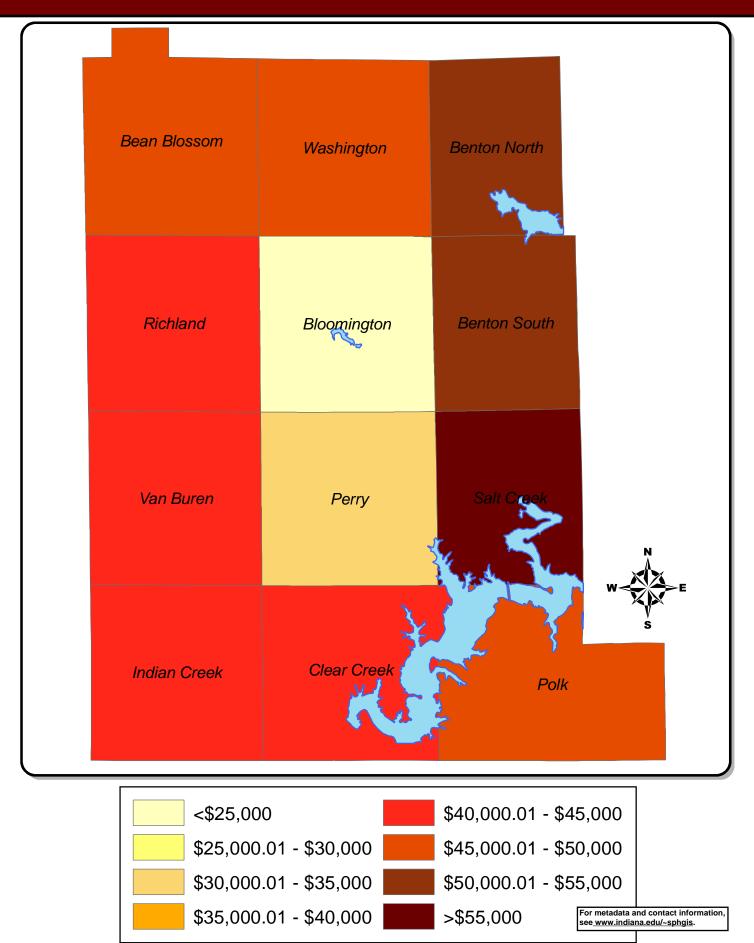
Monroe County Median Age



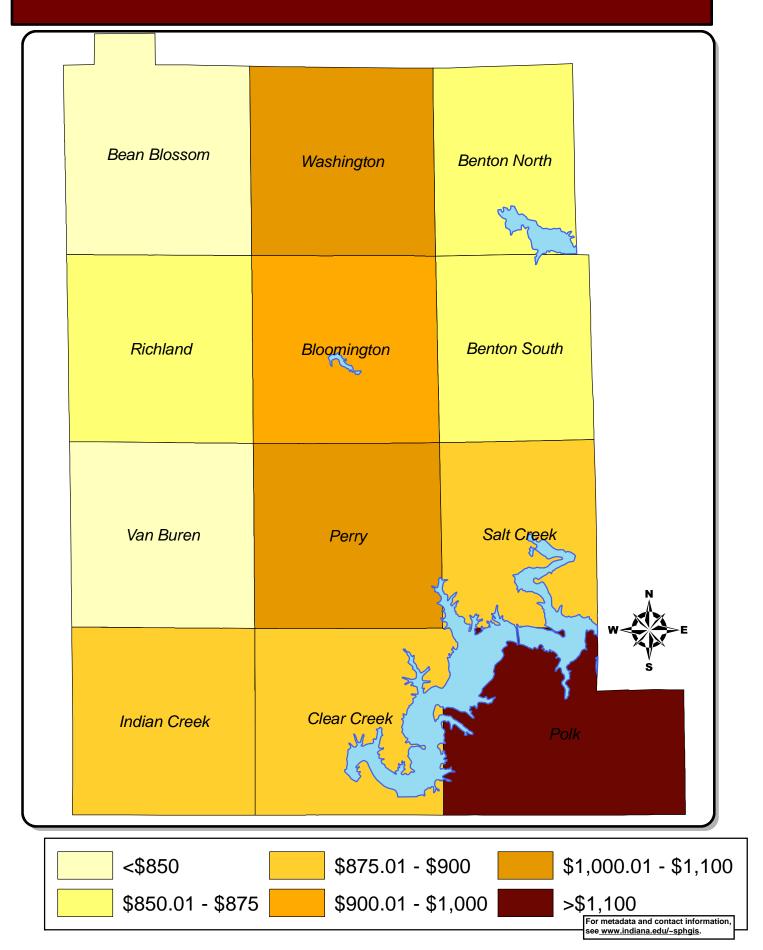
Monroe County Percent of High School Graduates



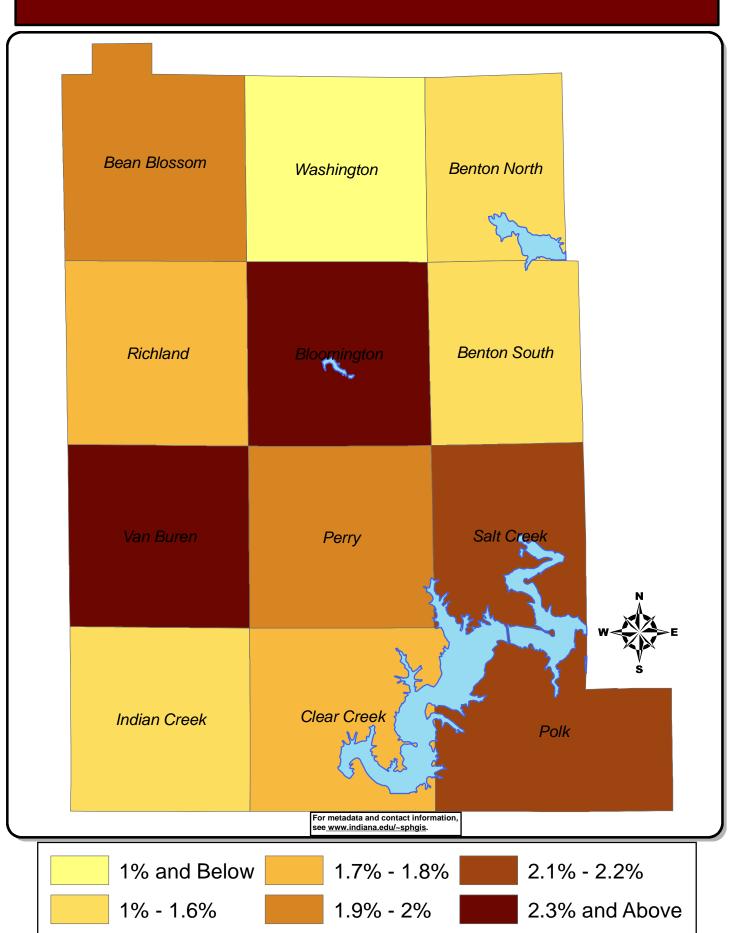
Monroe County Median Household Income



Monroe County Median Monthly Mortgage Cost



Monroe County Unemployment Rates



Monroe County



SECTION 2: HEALTH PROFILE

In 2008, there were a total number of 2,027 hospital and home births and in 2009 the number decreased to 1,962 (Monroe County Health Department, 2009). The most common reason for hospitalization in Monroe County was due to hospital births. The majority of hospital births in the population occurred in the area code 47401 which encompasses the majority of the southern part of the county.

Other morbidity data suggests increasing health concerns connected to chronic diseases in the county. The second most common cause of hospitalization was due to rehabilitation. These are residents who have already been treated for a disease or injury but who are receiving follow-up prophylactic care, convalescent care or care to consolidate the treatment, to deal with residual disability, to ensure that the condition has not re-occurred or to prevent recurrence of the disease or illness. In Monroe County, the majority of residents seeking rehabilitation were located in the southern area of the county.

After childbirth and rehabilitation, the third most common cause for hospitalization in Monroe County was due to pulmonary or respiratory issues primarily related to diseases of the respiratory system. As with the previous causes for hospitalization, the majority of these cases were located in the southern area of the county.

In 2009, the number of deaths in Monroe County totaled 990 (Monroe County Health Department, 2009). The most common cause of death in the county was due to cardiovascular diseases. The main cardiovascular diseases were from coronary disease and congestive heart failures. The majority of these cases were located in the south eastern areas of the county, predominantly in the 47401 zip code which includes parts of Clear Creek, Perry Polk and Salt Creek Townships. Indiana Creek and Van Buren Townships had the second highest number of deaths in the county due to cardiovascular diseases.

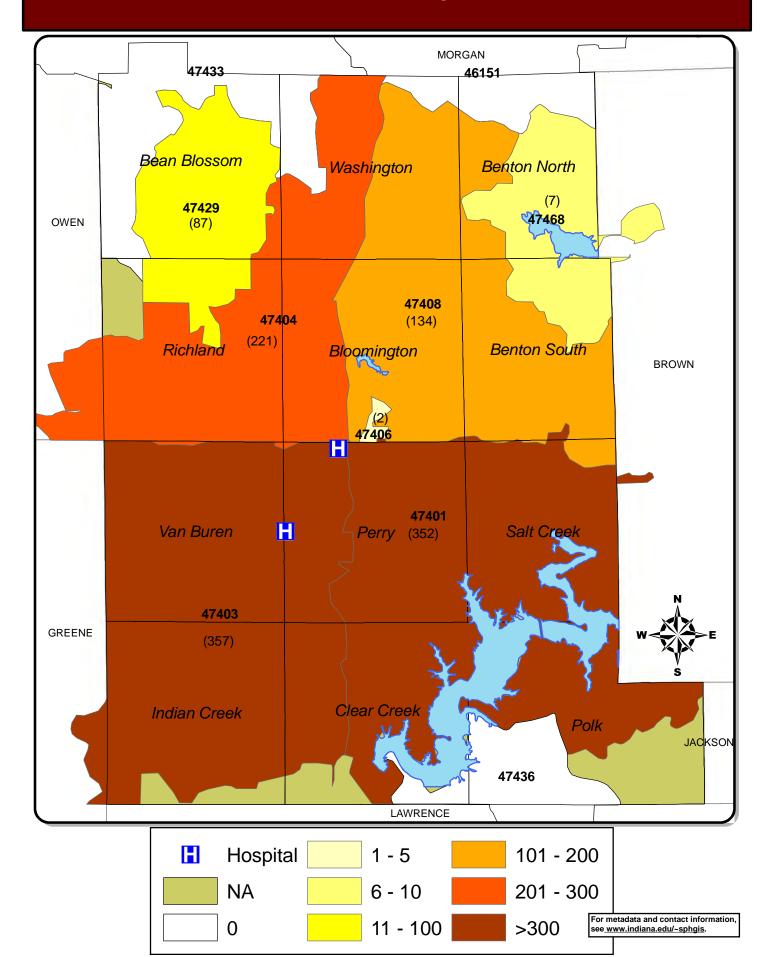
The second most common cause of death in Monroe County was due to cancers. The zip code where there were most cases of cancers was Indian Creek and Van Buren Townships with some coverage from Clear Creek and Perry Townships. The second highest number of mortality cases due to cancers was located in Polk and Salt Creek Townships. Overall, the number of mortality cases due to all cancer deaths was found in the southern part of the county.

The third most common cause of death in Monroe County was due to pulmonary diseases. The largest numbers of mortality cases were from pneumonia then chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and finally aspiration. The south eastern portions of the county were most affected, with the zip code (47401) which includes Clear Creek, Perry, Polk and Salt Creek Townships with the highest number of deaths.

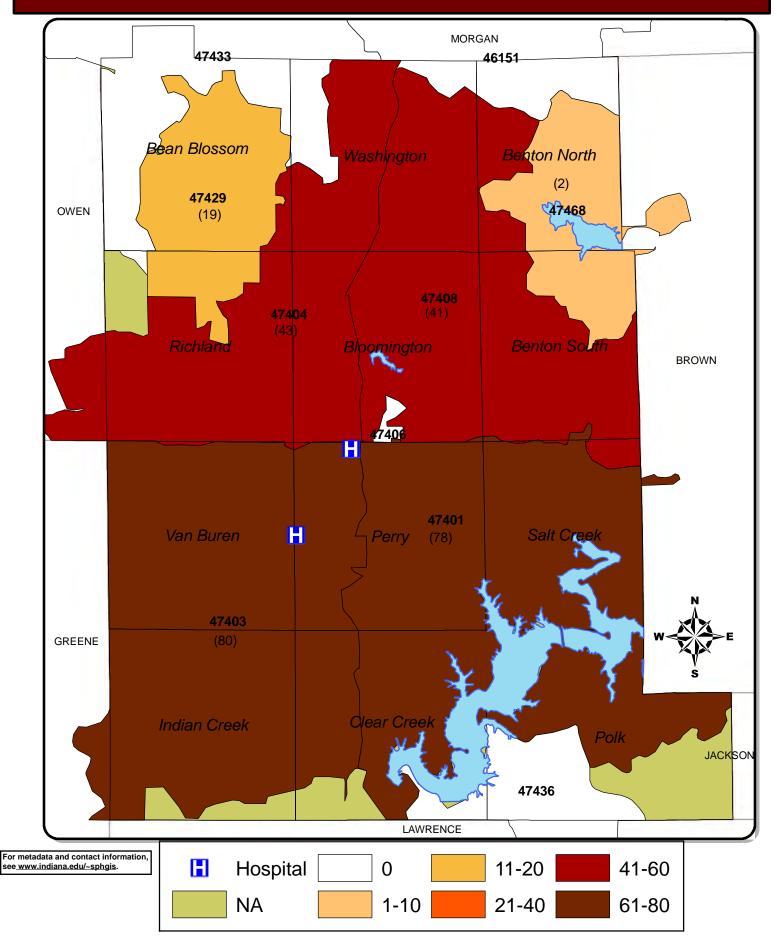
Deaths to cerebrovascular diseases were also significant in Monroe County but were found throughout the county. However, in relationship to the top three causes of death, mortality from cerebrovascular diseases was lower.

The most common behavioral health problem in Monroe County was chronic and acute alcoholism. The Monroe County Asset Building Coalition has published an extensive health report on the consumption and consequences of alcohol consumption in 2008 which outlines and profiles these characteristics in the county (http://www.monroecountyabc.com/downloads/Monroe_County_Epi_Profile.pdf). While much of the report focuses on younger populations, spatial data from Centerstone illustrates that chronic and acute alcoholism is persistent throughout all age group. The majority of chronic and acute alcoholism cases in Monroe County were located in the 47401 zip code which includes Clear Creek, Perry, Polk and Salt Creek Townships. The next two highest zip codes were located in the south and western portions of the county which include the Townships of: Indian Creek, Richland and Van Buren with portions of Bloomington and Washington Township. This data indicates that while there are challenges with alcohol consumption found among college age students, chronic and acute alcoholism cases are found elsewhere in the county.

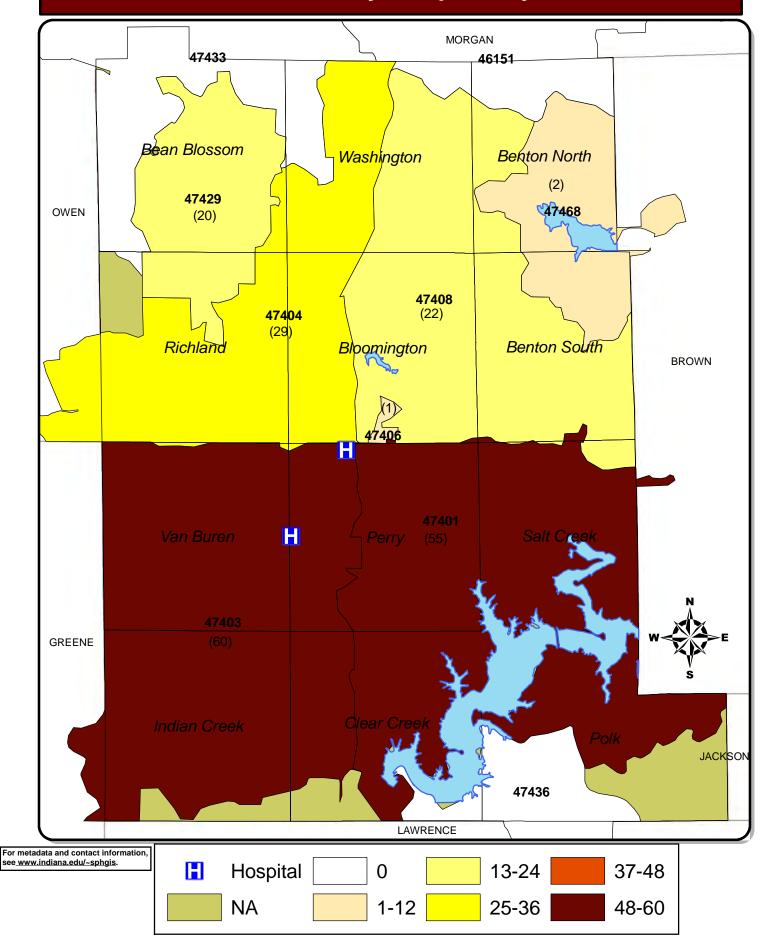
Monroe County Most Common Reason for Hospitalization: Childbirth



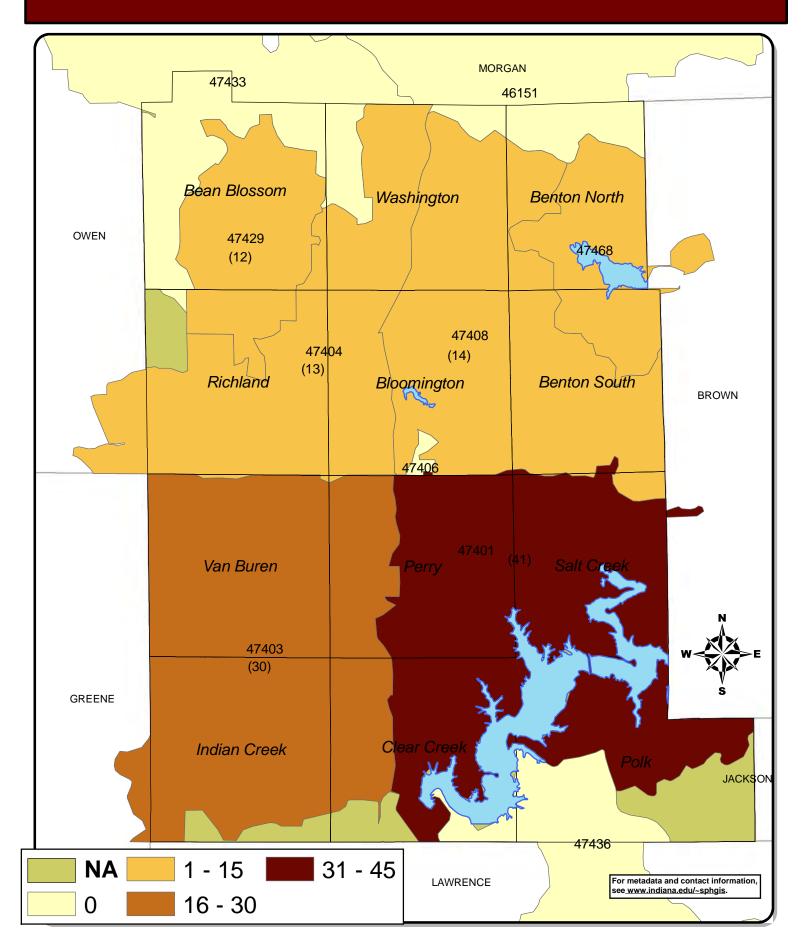
Monroe County Second Most Common Reason for Hospitalization: Rehabilitation



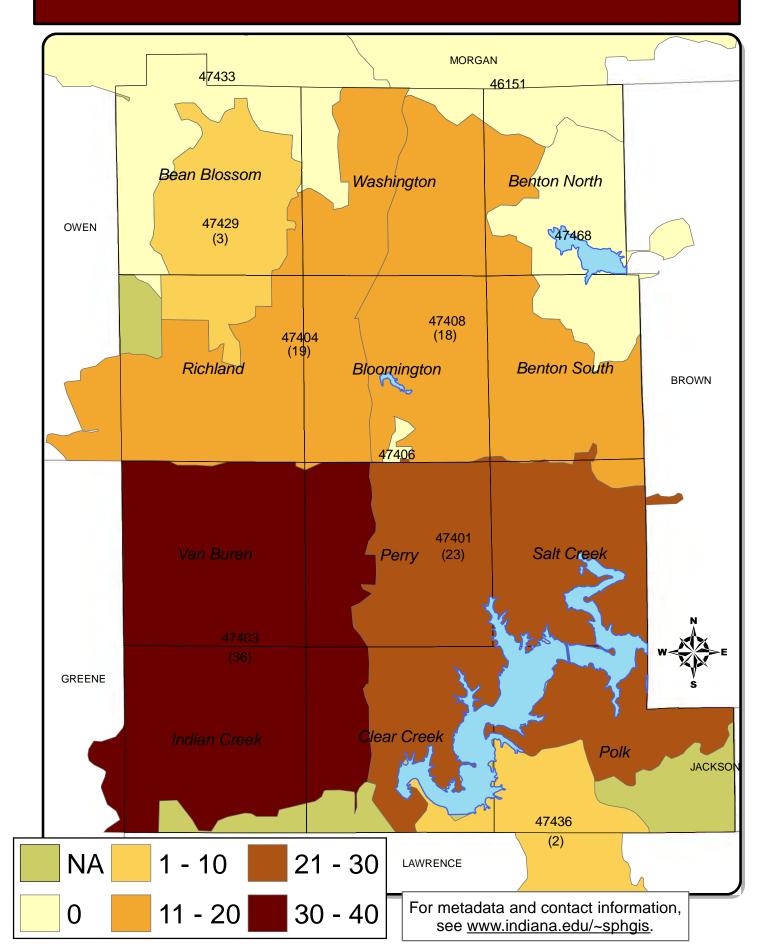
Monroe County Third Most Common Reason for Hospitalization: Pulmonary/Respiratory



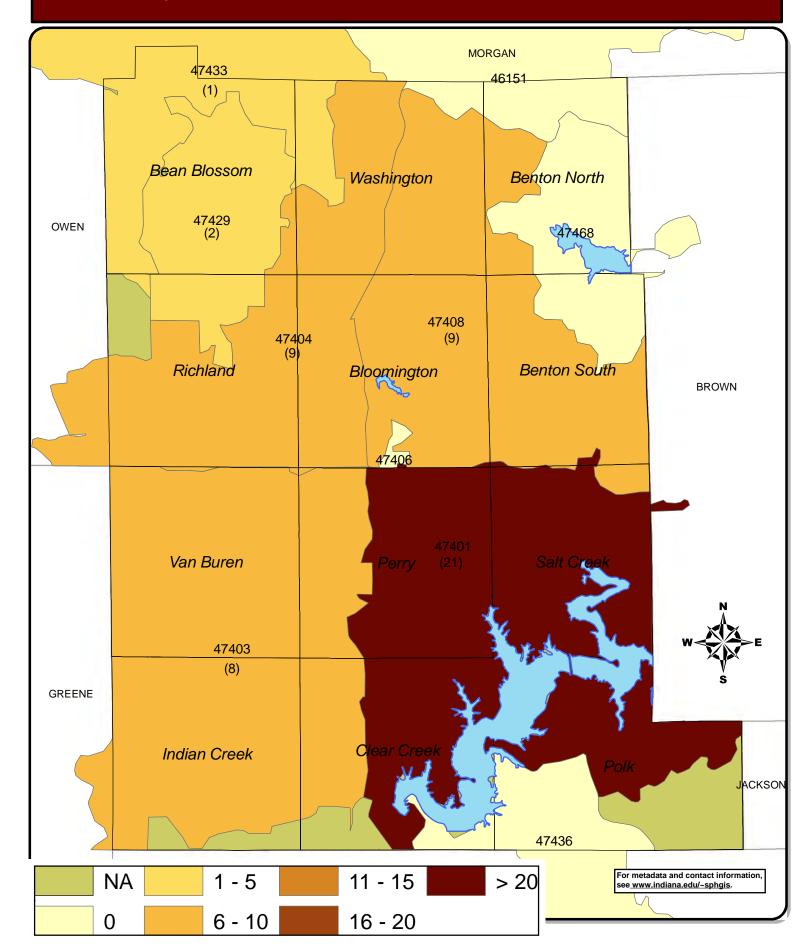
Monroe County Cardiovascular Disease: Most Common Cause of Death



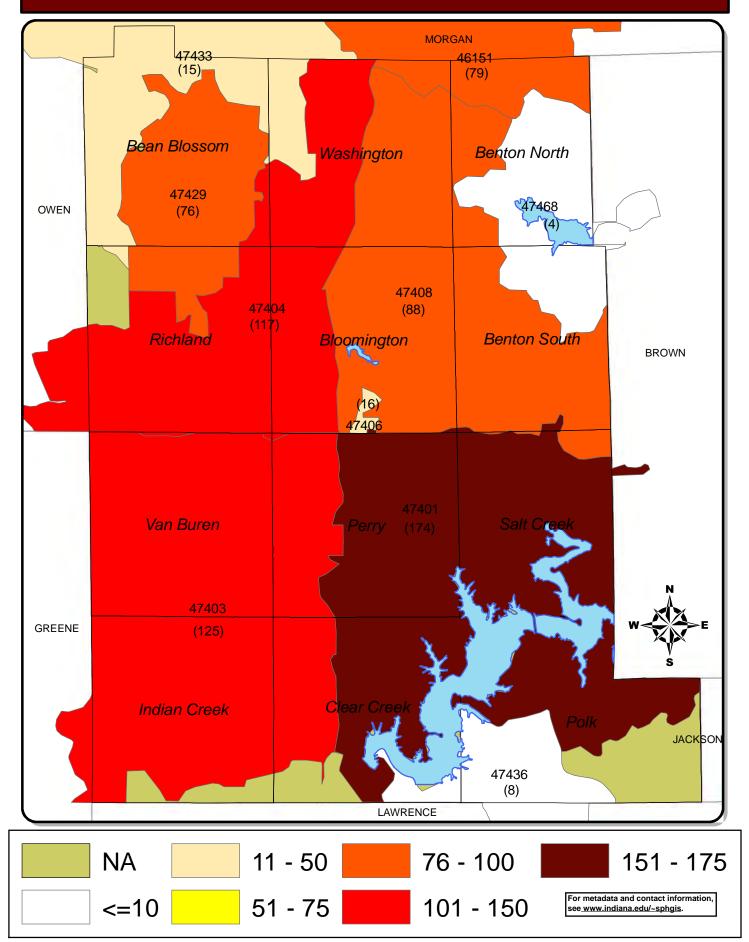
Monroe County Cancer: Second Most Common Cause of Death



Monroe County Pulmonary Diseases: Third Most Common Cause of Death



Monroe County Most Common Behavioral Health Diagnosis: Chronic and Acute Alcoholism



Monroe County



SECTION 3: ATLAS TOPICS BY TOWNSHIP PROFILES

Educational and Cultural Maps

There is evidence that shows there is a strong link between education and health and a substantial body of international evidence which clearly shows that those with lower levels of education are more likely to die at a younger age and are at an increased risk of poorer health throughout life than those with more education. Findings also indicate that low education level is associated with increased risk of death from cancers and cardiovascular diseases. Improving educational outcomes amongst the most disadvantaged groups has the potential to make a positive impact on health inequalities.

Monroe County has a diversity of assets that support the health and well being of its residents. Increasing educational opportunities and programming while maintaining access to public assets such as museums and public libraries can preserve cultural heritage, enhance cultural diversity and promote creativity and entrepreneurship that supports health and well being. This includes optimizing and maintaining these assets in Monroe County and finding opportunities to expand the scope and reach of these assets to areas of the county that may not have them.

Overall, the majority of educational and cultural assets in Monroe County are located in Bloomington and Perry Townships then Richland Township. Residents living in outer townships have to travel to central areas of the county utilize museum facilities and programming.

Emergency Response and Communication Facilities

A community's ability to respond to local emergencies helps to save lives and supports the well being of communities. Hospitals, warning sirens, fire stations and cell towers are important aspects of an efficient and effective emergency system.

Monroe County has two main hospitals centrally located one in the heart of Bloomington and the other in the southern part of the city. Cell towers are located in Bloomington, Clear Creek, Perry, Richland and Washington Townships. Warning sirens are located throughout the county and are meant to be heard from outside residents' homes while fire station coverage is even throughout the county with the exception of Polk Township. Salt Creek and Polk Townships have the fewest Emergency Response and Communication facilities while the core central areas where the majority of the population resides have the most (Bloomington and Perry Township).

Faith-based Facilities

Increasingly, studies have shown a relationship between faith and health. There are a number of spiritual practices such as prayer and/or meditation, worship and service to others that have been shown to potentially improve health and wellness among people.

Monroe County is blessed with a diverse spectrum of religious institutions that represent the world religions. Many of these facilities are located throughout the county as evidenced by this series of maps. The majority of the faith institutions are located in Bloomington and Perry Townships but all Townships have at least one institution within its borders.

Food and Gas Facilities

Access to adequate, safe, nutritious and affordable food is an important aspect to a person's health. However, a resident's lack of access to a food facility that has healthy food can increase a person's risk to cardiovascular heart disease, diabetes, stroke and other diseases.

These series of maps illustrate proximity to food and gas facilities for Monroe County residents. The majority of the food and gas facilities are located near more populous areas of the county, specifically in the townships of Bloomington, Perry and Richland.

Parks and Recreation Assets

The benefits of green spaces and recreational areas for physical activity and movement in a community have been shown to support health and well being. There is a growing body of literature that explains how using park and recreational programs and services have positive healthy benefits to residents. Each Township has some Park and Recreation facility or program. These maps illustrate their distribution throughout Monroe County.

Potential Environmental Exposure Sites

Environmental hazards are part of everyday modern life. Local, State and Federal institutions are responsible for protecting the environmental health of populations. These series of maps illustrate where there are potential environmental exposures to populations. Living close to potential environmental exposures does not mean that a person will get a disease or illness but it may indicate a higher probability to an environmental health risk.

It is important that communities find effective ways to track and observe exposure risk over time in partnership with government and community-based groups. Understanding your risk to environmental health exposures can reduce the burden of environmental health-related diseases and illness. These maps illustrate where the locations of: open dumps, brownfields, confined feeding operation, waste restricted sites, waste water treatment facilities, waste water discharge pipes, voluntary remediation sites and superfund sites.

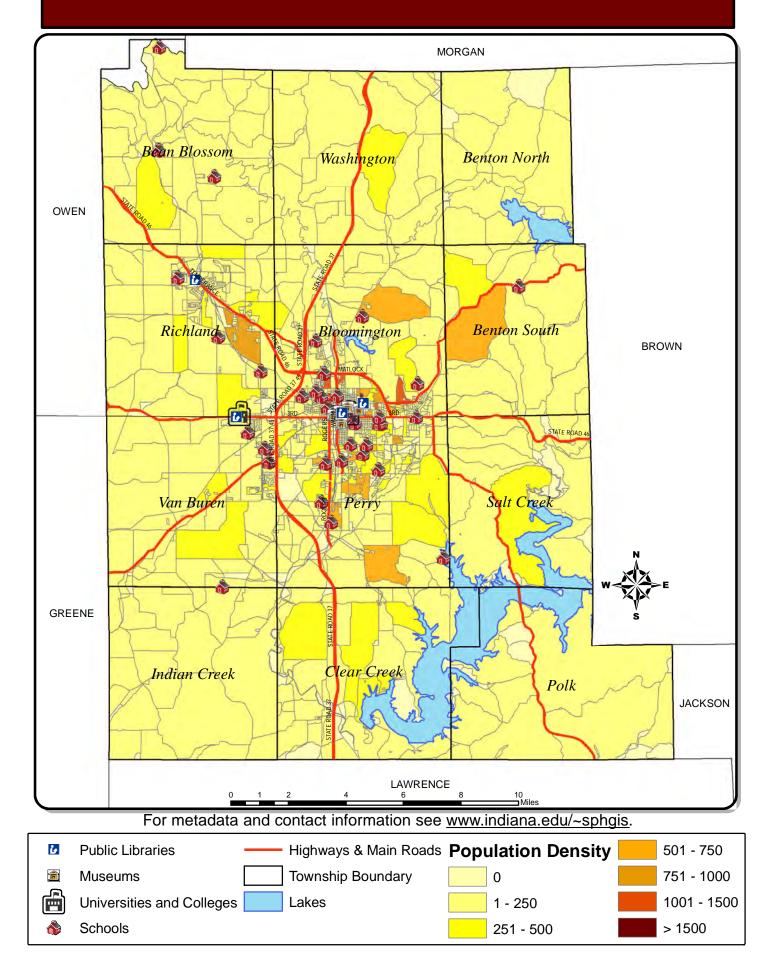
Transportation Assets

Transportation plays an important role in health. The ability for residents to move in their environment to obtain food or find employment is important to maintaining health. Additionally, access to safe and affordable transportation options supports the ability for all residents to seek employment, participate in cultural and educational programming, engage in parks and recreation activities, obtain adequate housing or food and other activities that support a resident's well being.

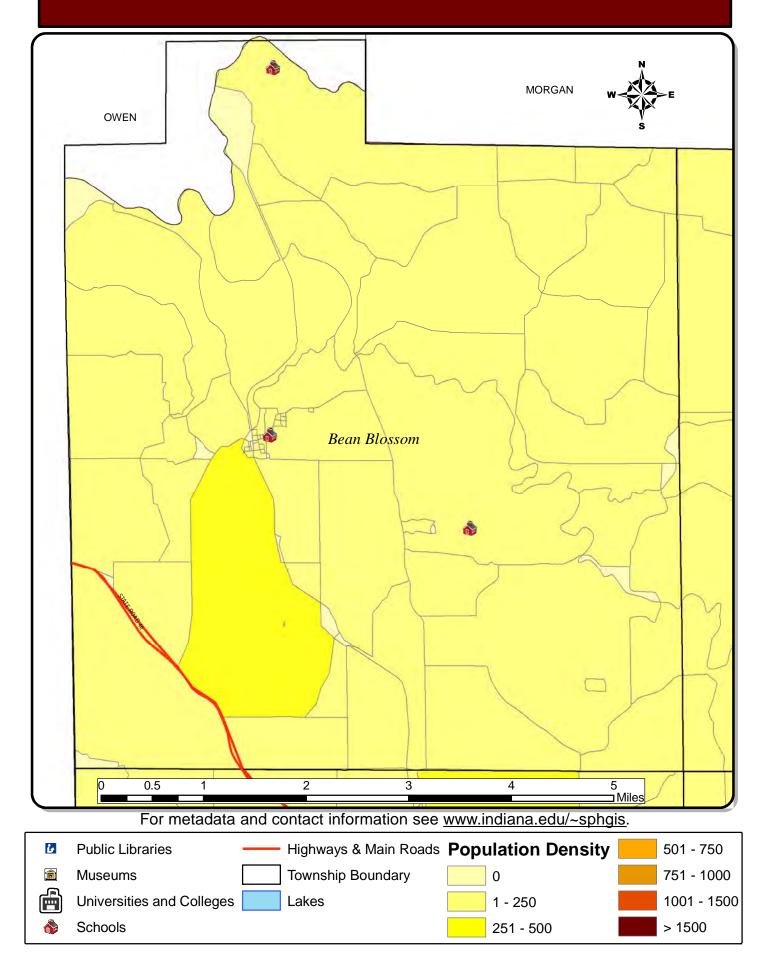
The maps organized under transportation assets illustrate the public transportation coverage in Monroe County. Both rural and city transit organizations connect residents to a number of opportunities throughout the county. Much of the coverage focuses on the city core and connectivity between the city and more populous rural areas on the western part of the county. In addition to rural and city transit, Indiana University maintains a public transit system that aligns with the City of Bloomington transit system to transport university members throughout the campus and downtown Bloomington. Monroe County is also serviced by a system of major roads that connect the county to the region and to the state capitol. The two main road systems run north and south (Highway 37) and east and west (Highway 46). There are a series of county and city roads that serve as major transportation routes throughout the county.

In addition to visualizing the transportation assets, these maps buffer the public transportation routes with a half a mile zone to illustrate walking distances to a bus stop or transit route for the county. These were set against areas of population density to visualize potentially how people might get to public transportation. Areas with the least public transportation coverage were located in the outer Townships where there are more rural populations that may need to rely more heavily on automobile transportation options. There is little to no connection especially on the eastern Townships of Monroe County.

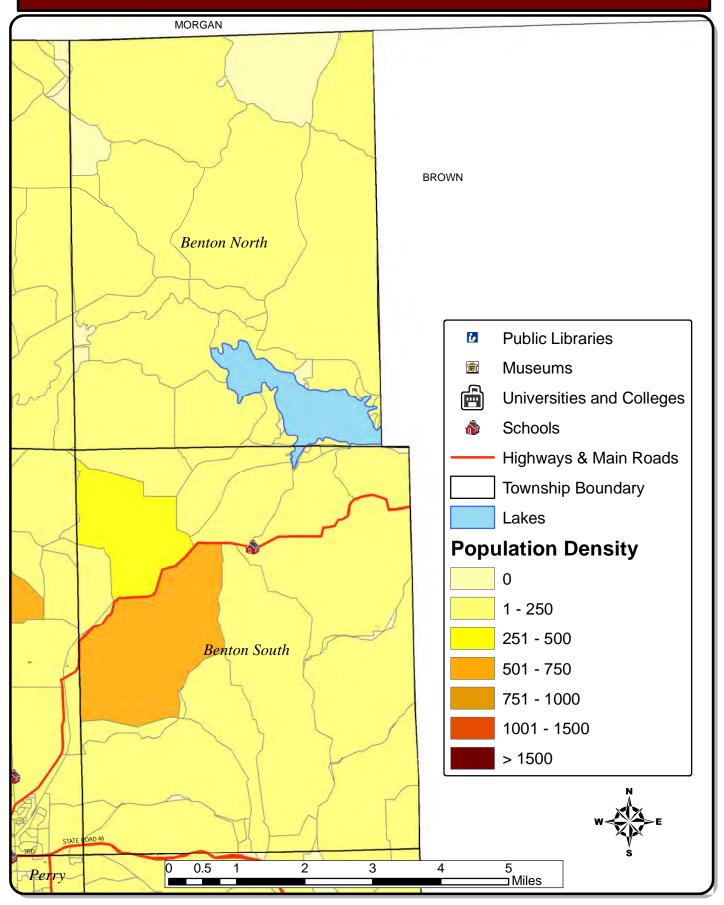
Monroe County Educational and Cultural Assets



Bean Blossom Township Educational and Cultural Assets

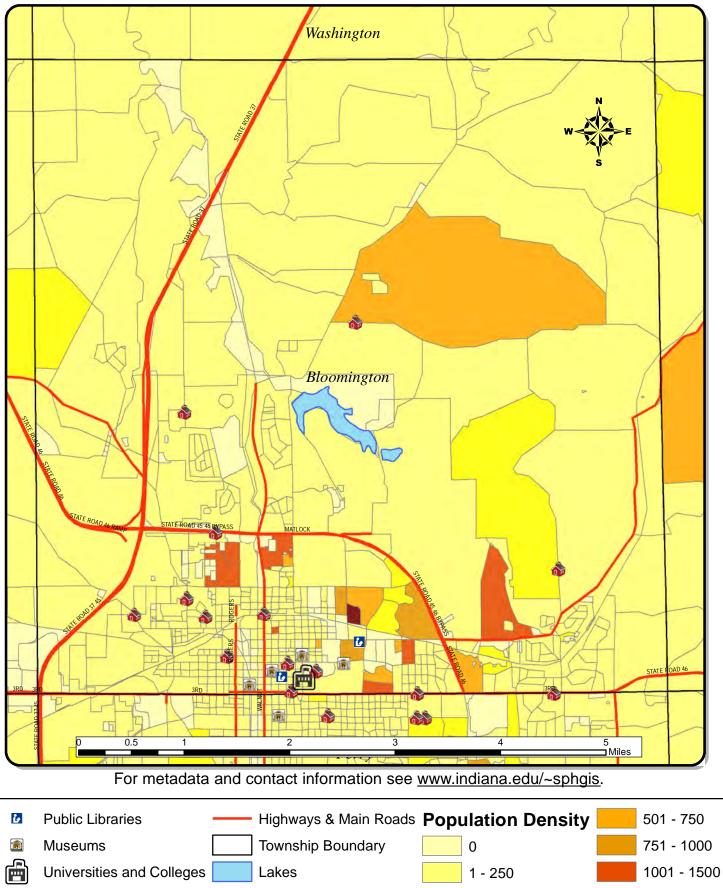


North and South Benton Townships Educational and Cultural Assets



For metadata and contact information see www.indiana.edu/~sphgis.

Bloomington Township Educational and Cultural Assets

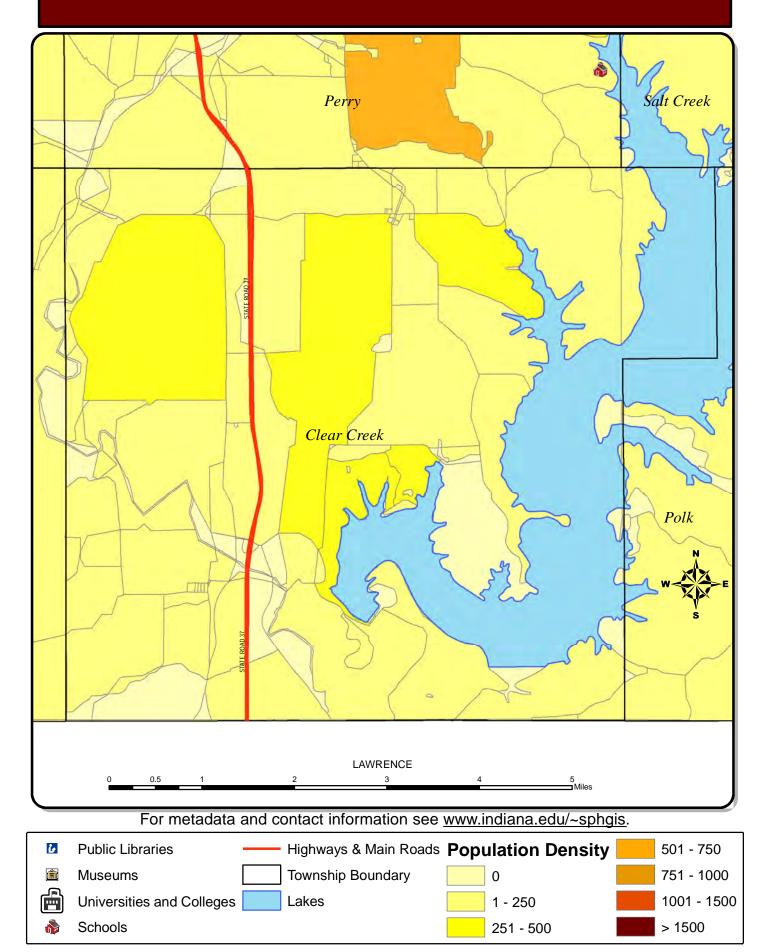


👌 Schools

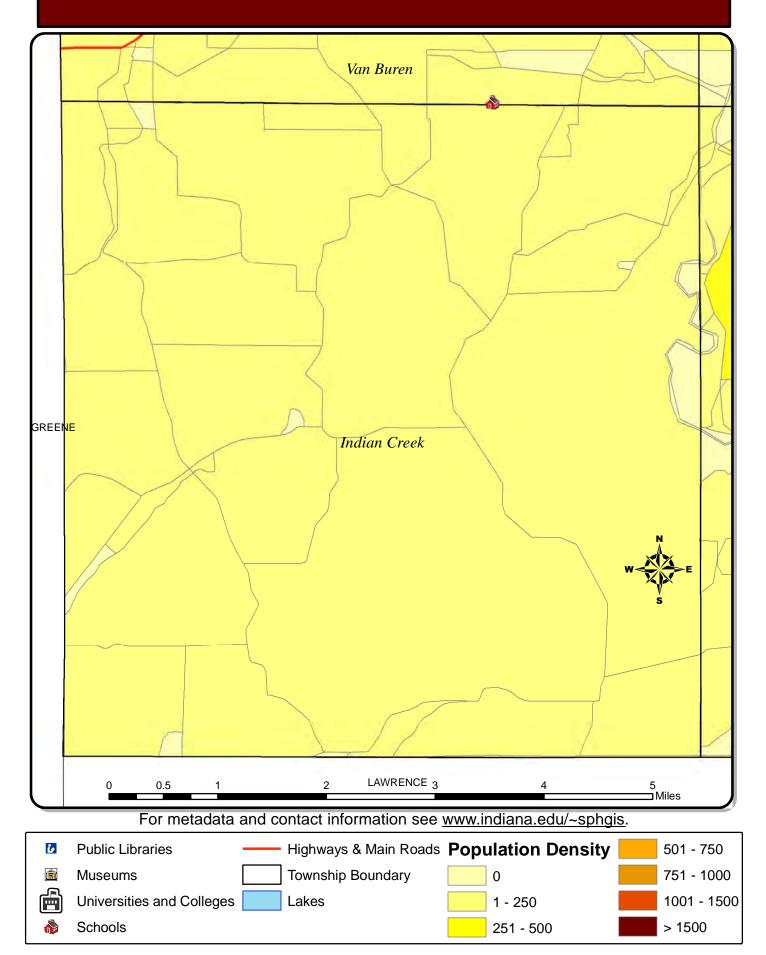
251 - 500

> 1500

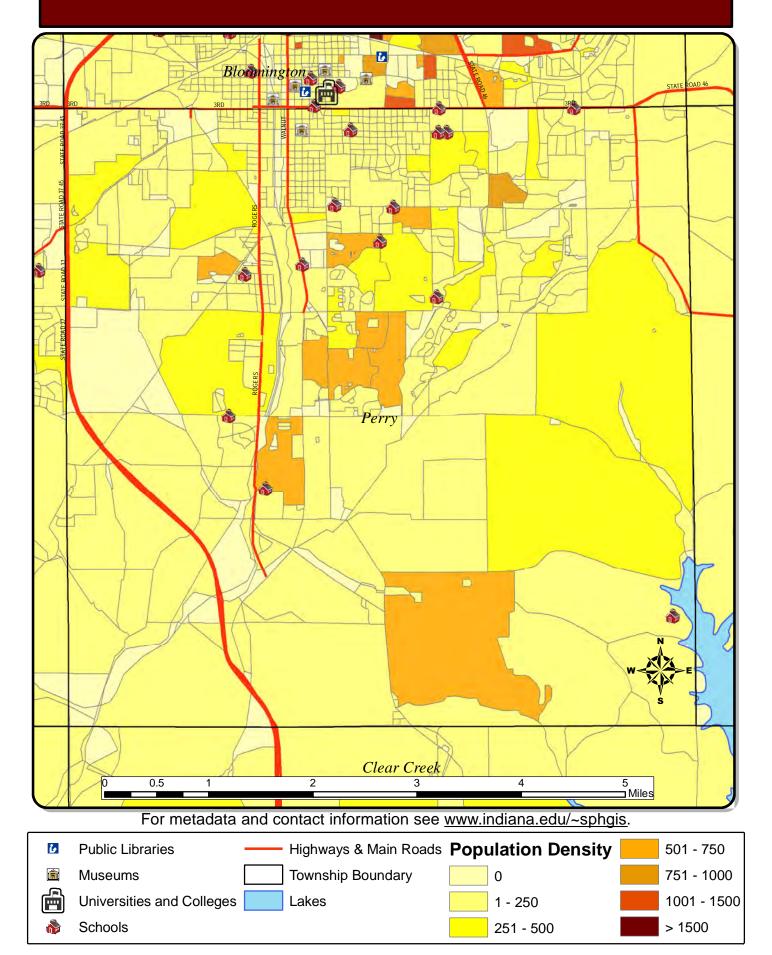
Clear Creek Township Educational and Cultural Assets



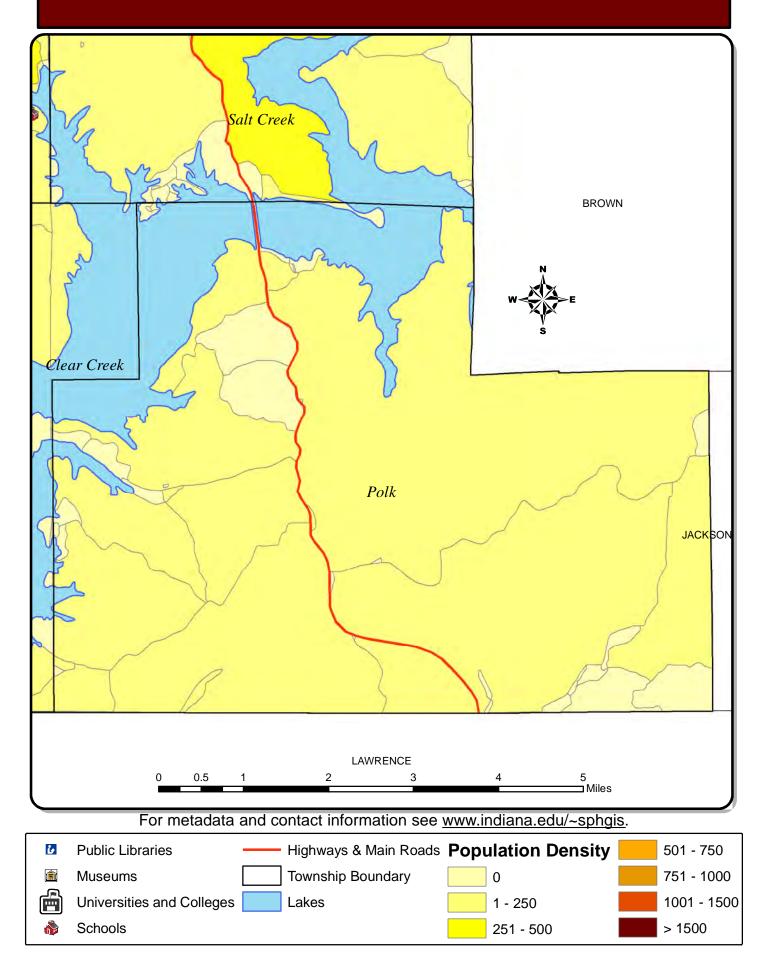
Indian Creek Township Educational and Cultural Assets



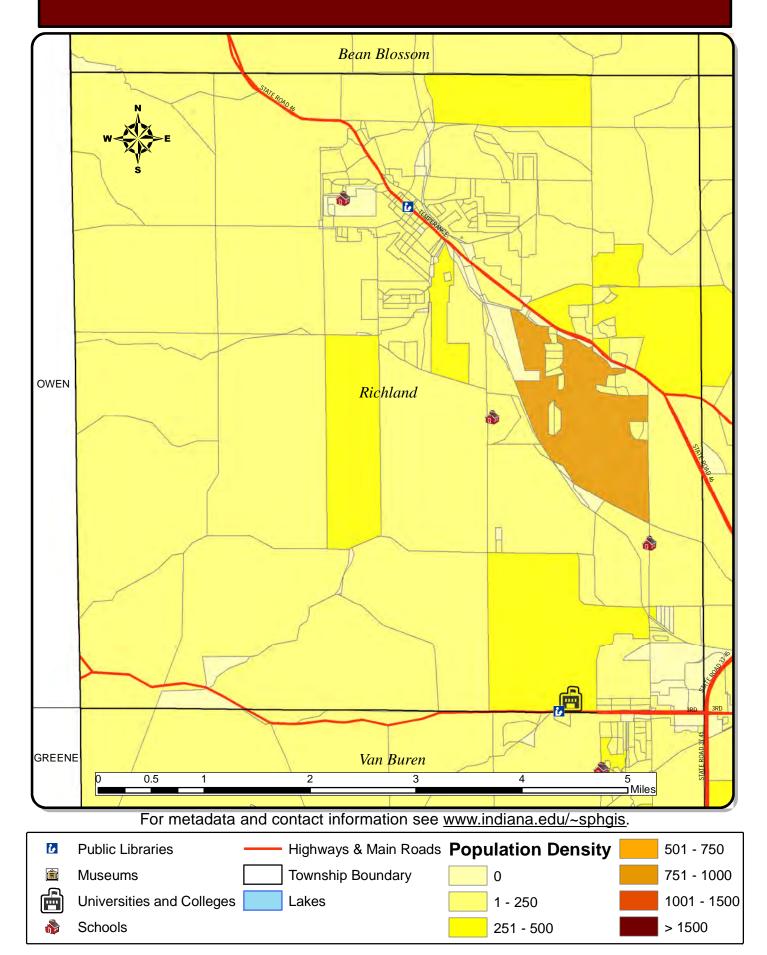
Perry Township Educational and Cultural Assets



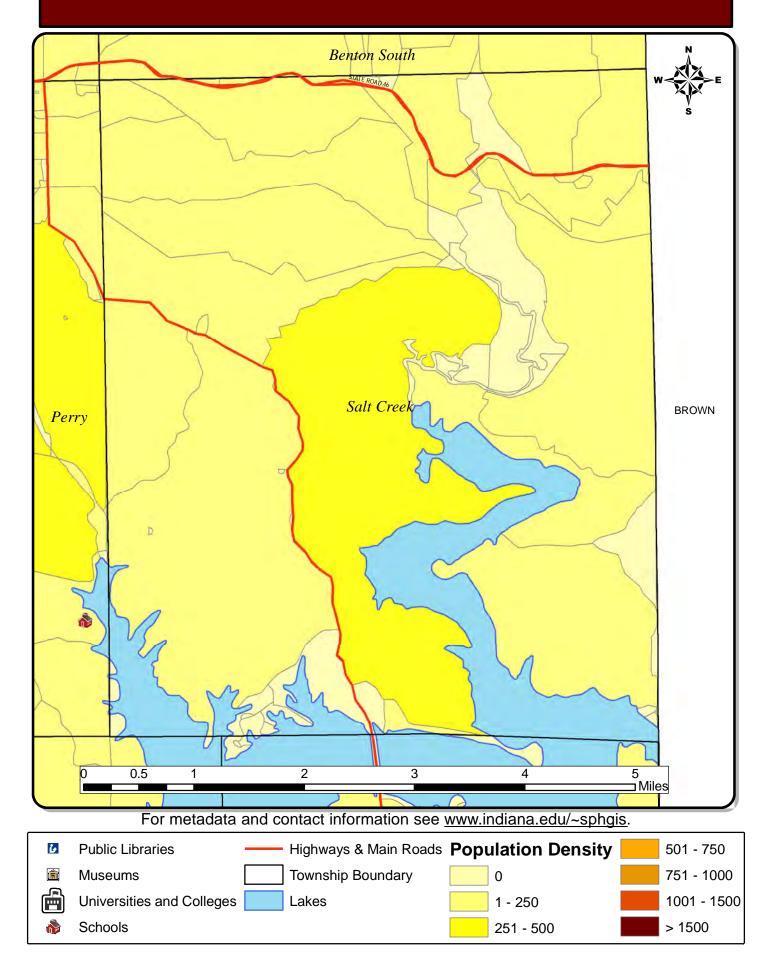
Polk Township Educational and Cultural Assets



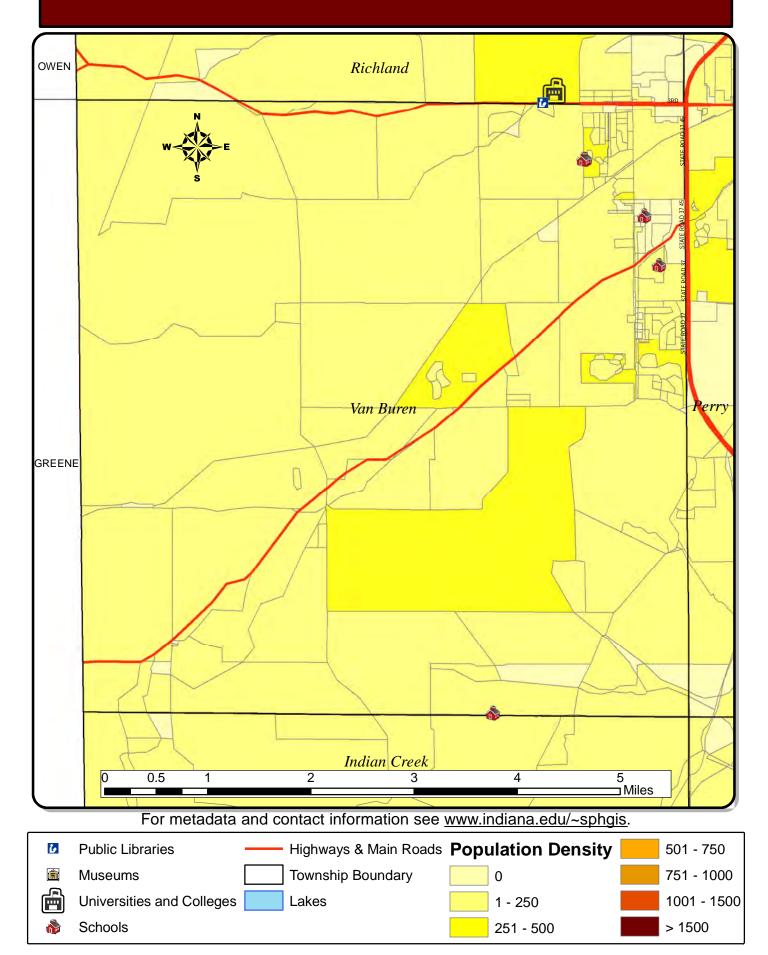
Richland Township Educational and Cultural Assets



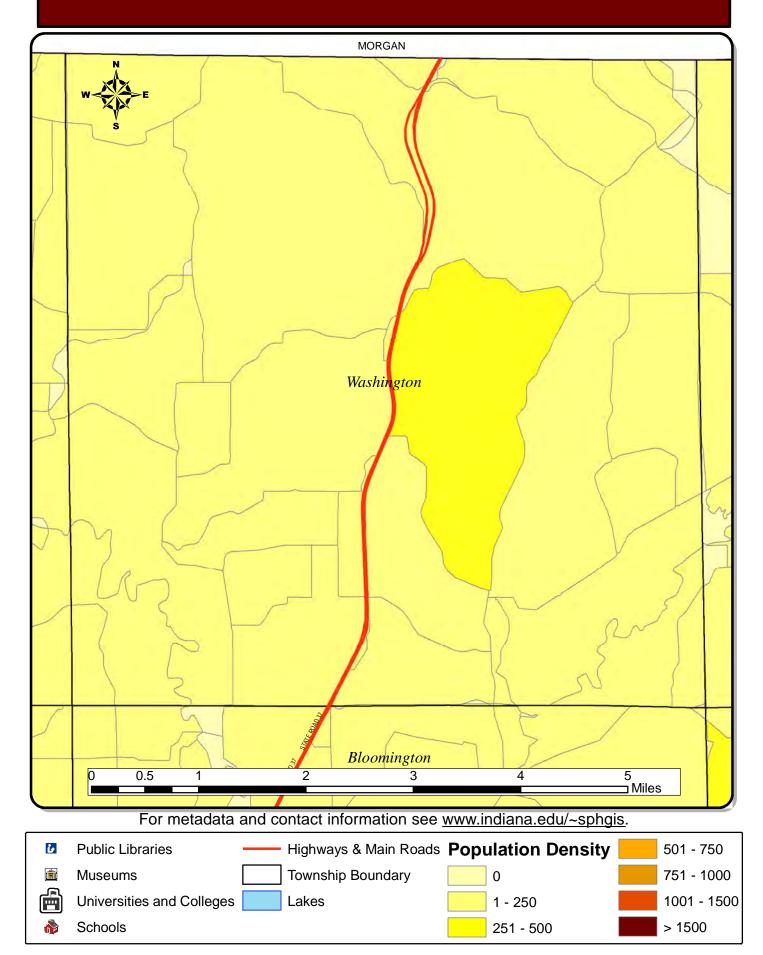
Salt Creek Township Educational and Cultural Assets



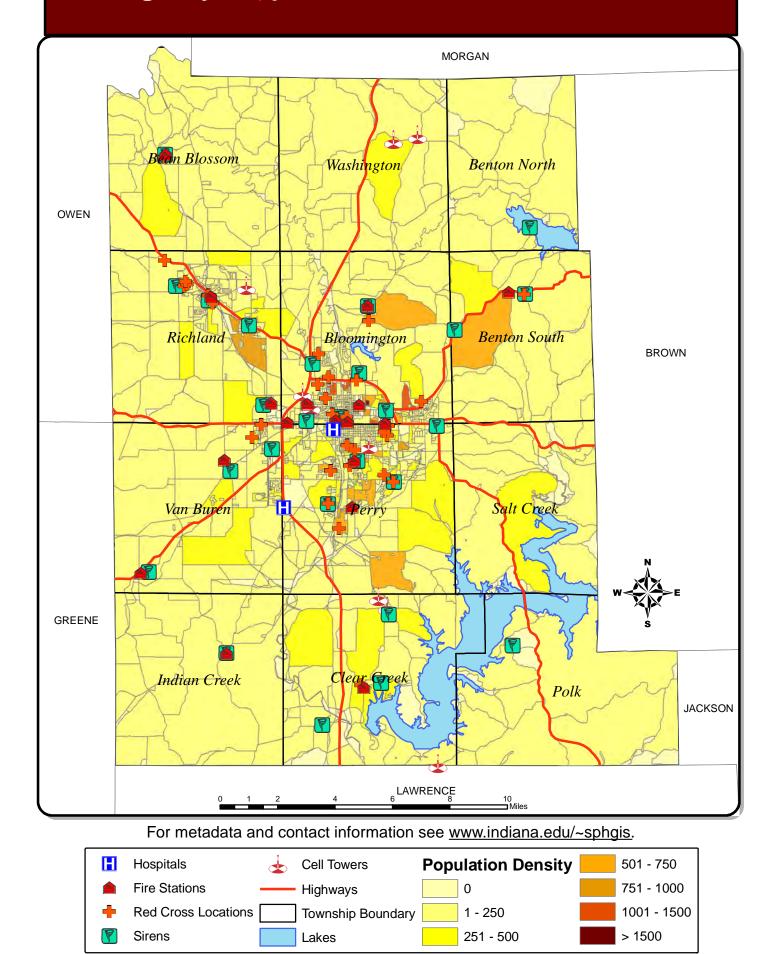
Van Buren Township Educational and Cultural Assets



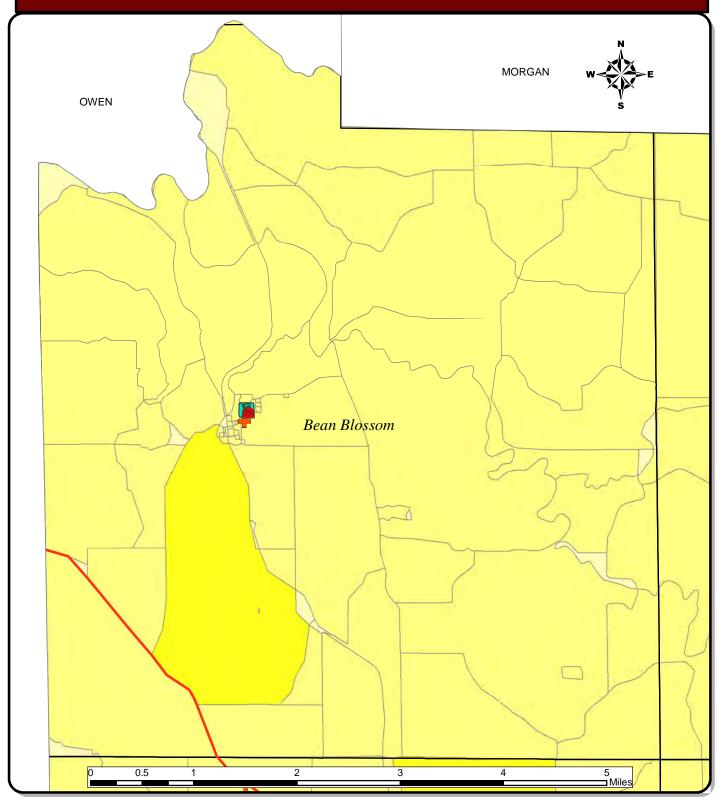
Washington Township Educational and Cultural Assets



Monroe County Emergency Response & Communication Facilities



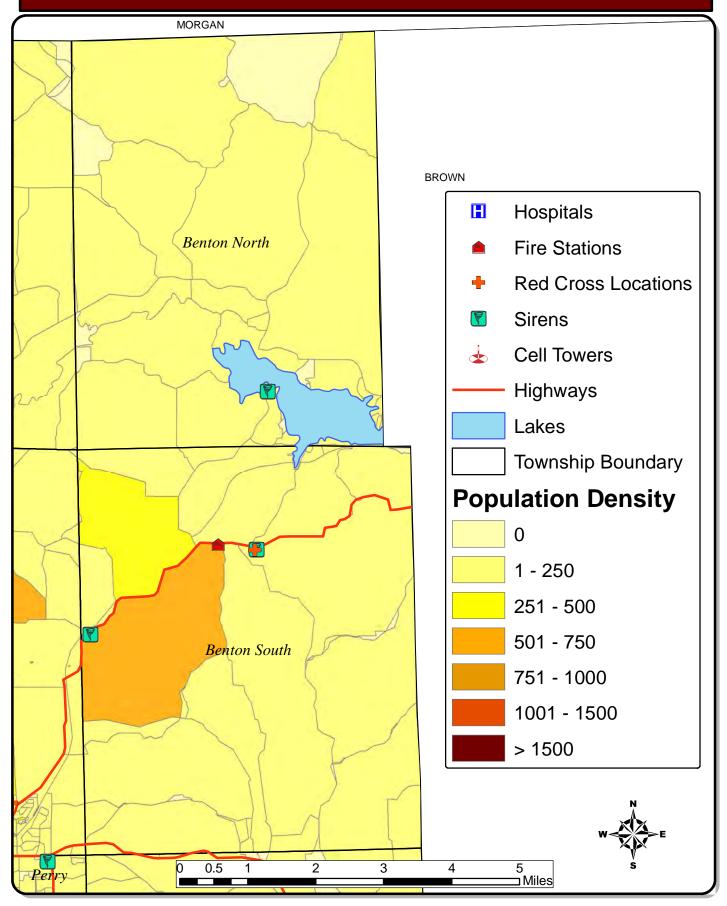
Bean Blossom Township Emergency Response & Communication Facilities



For metadata and contact information see www.indiana.edu/~sphgis.

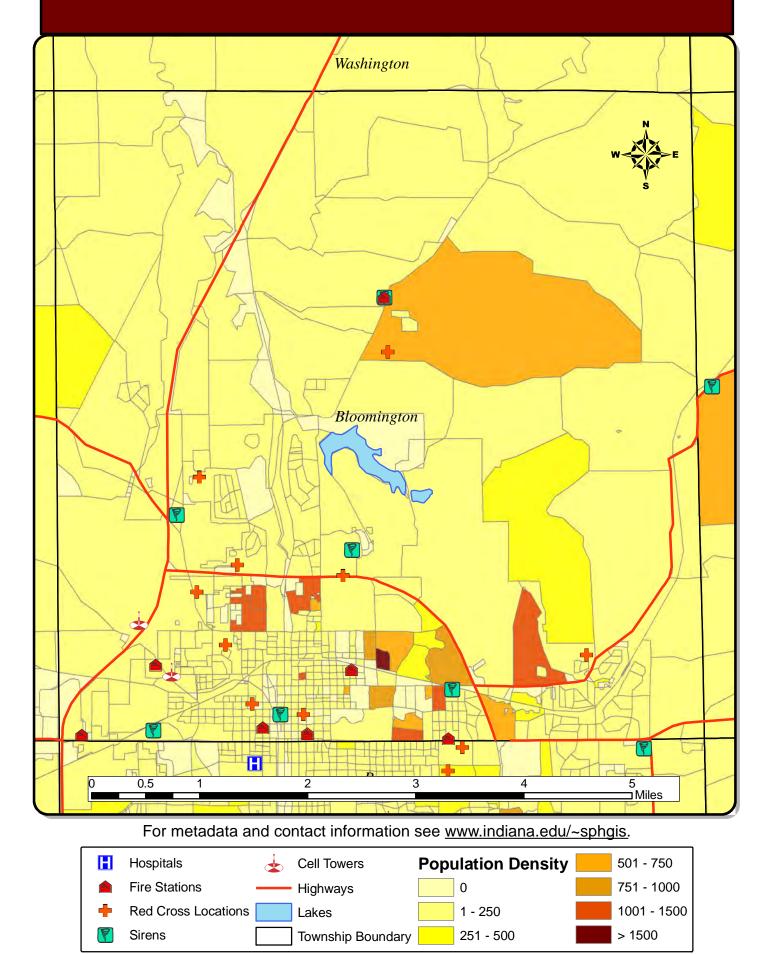
ſ	H	Hospitals	Cell Towers	Ρορι	ulation Density	501 - 750
		Fire Stations	 Highways		0	751 - 1000
	+	Red Cross Locations	Lakes		1 - 250	1001 - 1500
	Y	Sirens	Township Boundary		251 - 500	> 1500

North and South Benton Townships Emergency Response & Communication Facilities

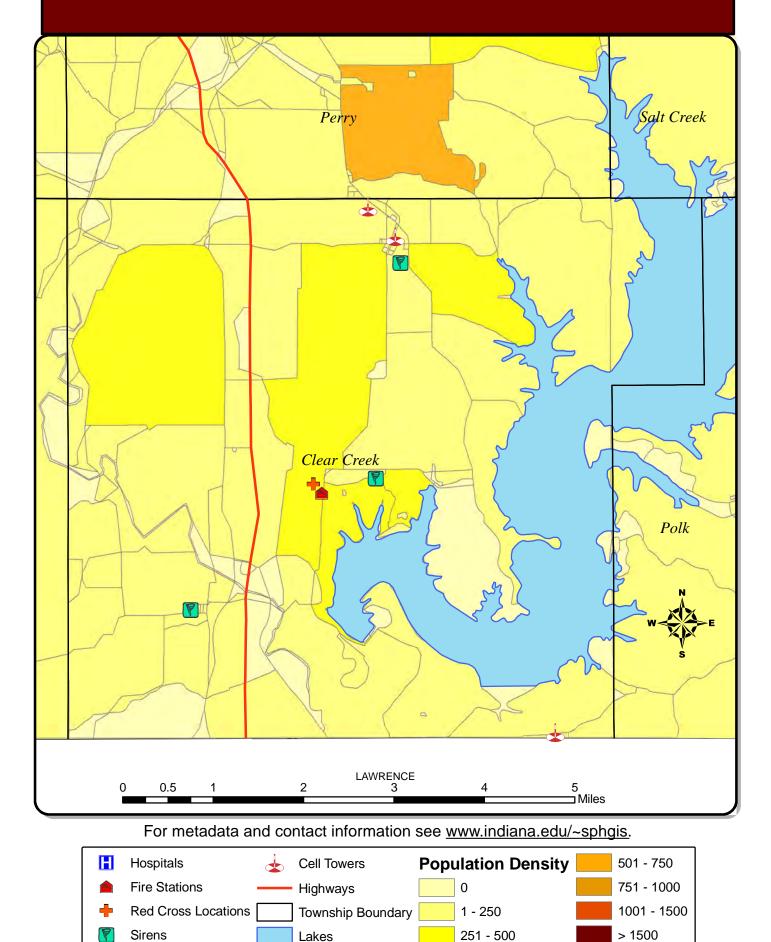


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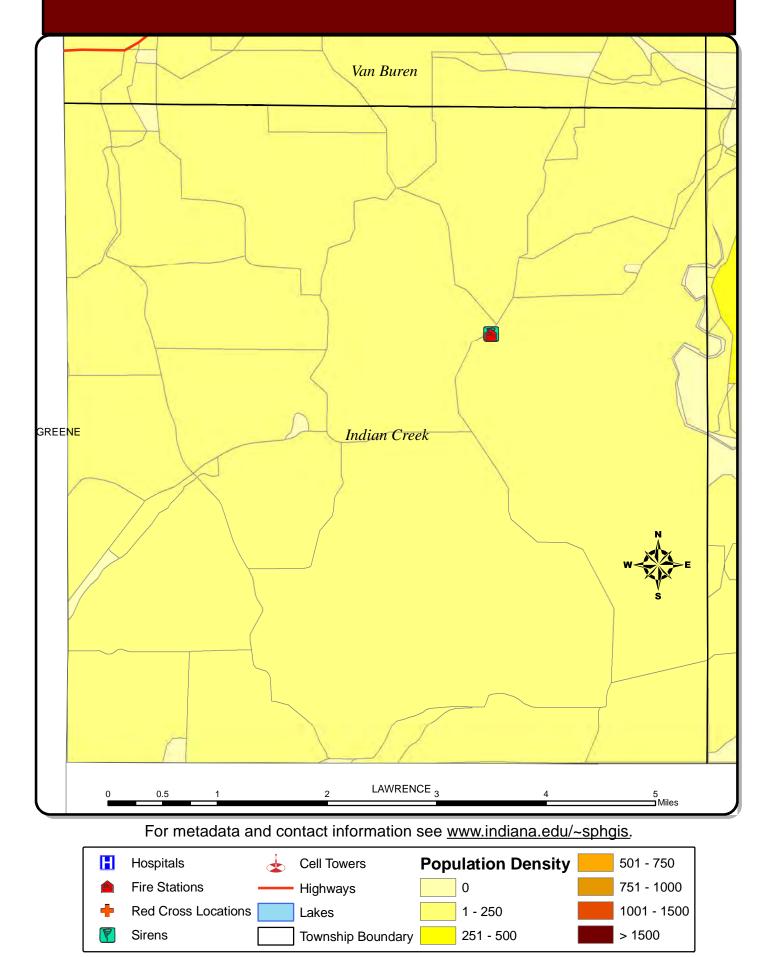
Bloomington Township Emergency Response & Communication Facilities



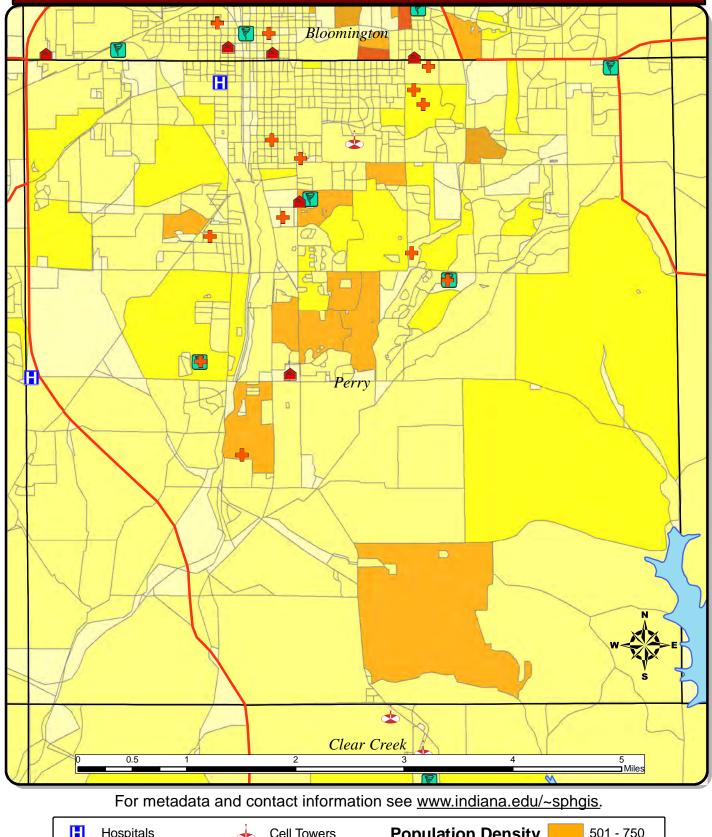
Clear Creek Township Emergency Response & Communication Facilities

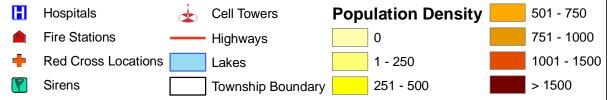


Indian Creek Township Emergency Response & Communication Facilities

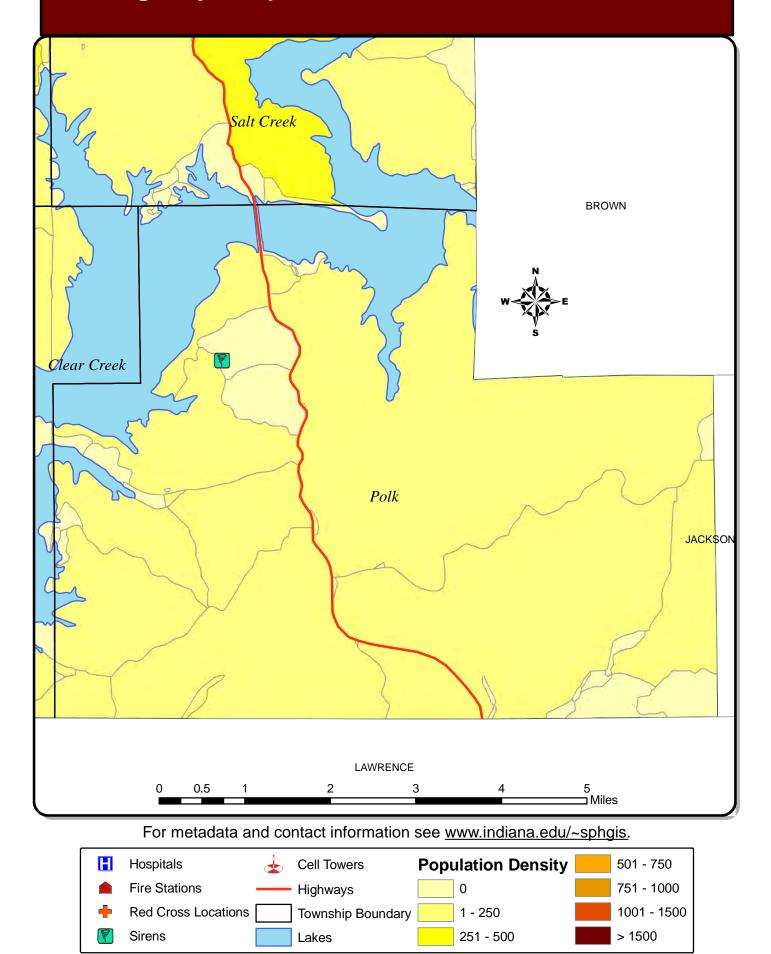


Perry Township Emergency Response & Communication Facilities

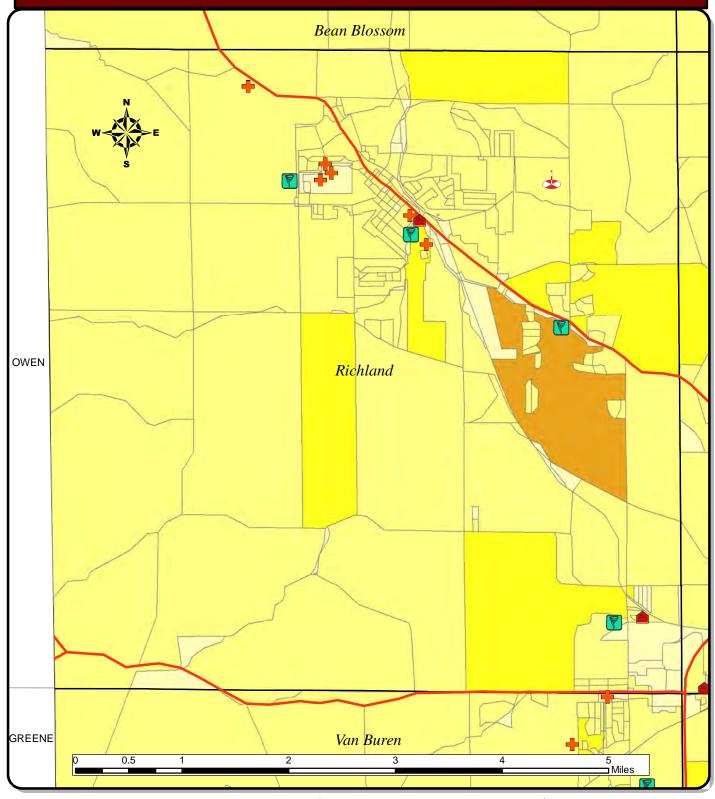




Polk Township Emergency Response & Communication Facilities



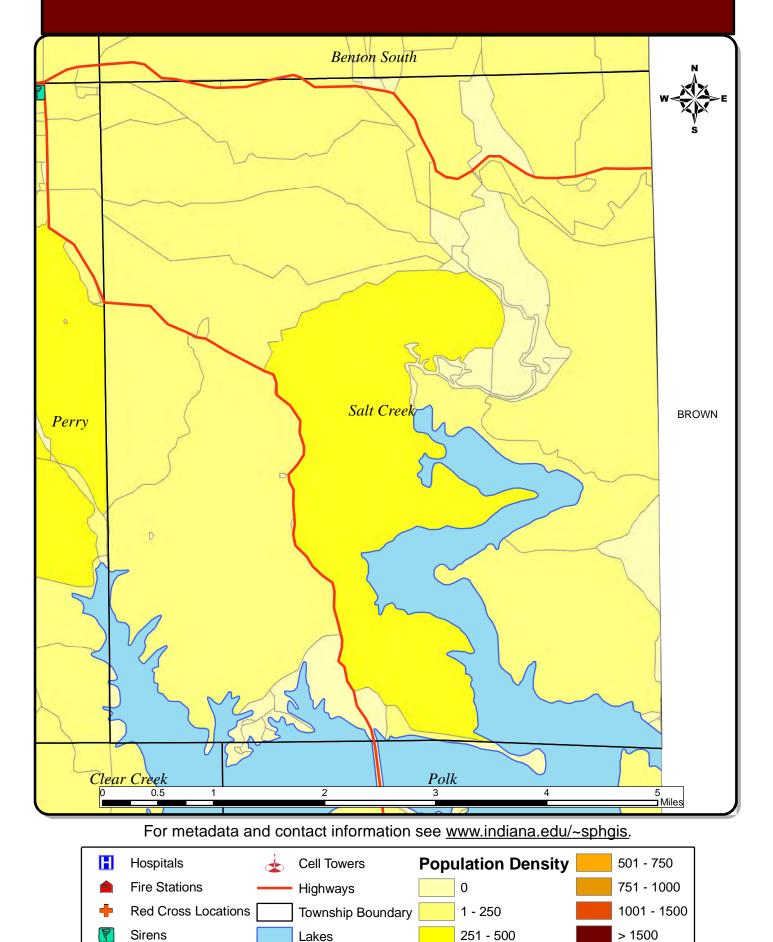
Richland Township Emergency Response & Communication Facilities



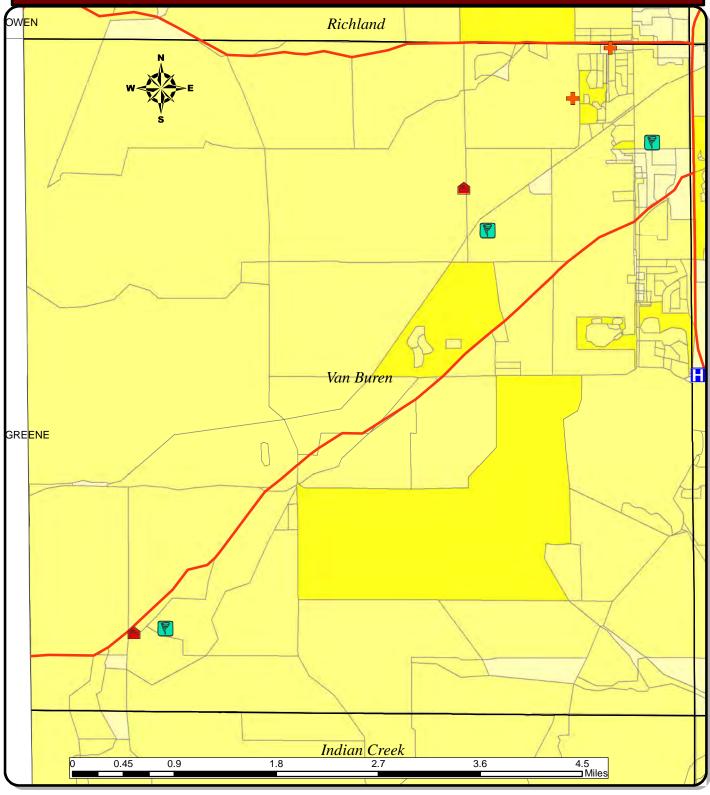
For metadata and contact information see www.indiana.edu/~sphgis.

	Hospitals	Cell Towers	Population Density	501 - 750
	Fire Stations	Highways	0	751 - 1000
+	Red Cross Locations	Township Boundary	1 - 250	1001 - 1500
P	Sirens	Lakes	251 - 500	> 1500

Salt Creek Township Emergency Response & Communication Facilities



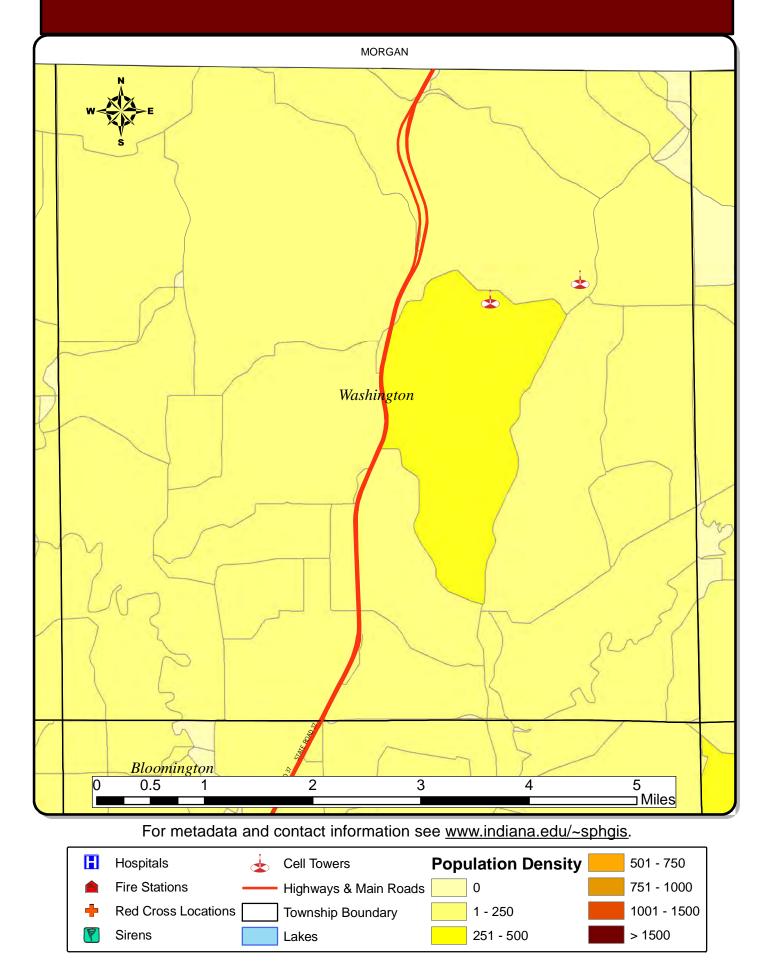
Van Buren Township Emergency Response & Communication Facilities



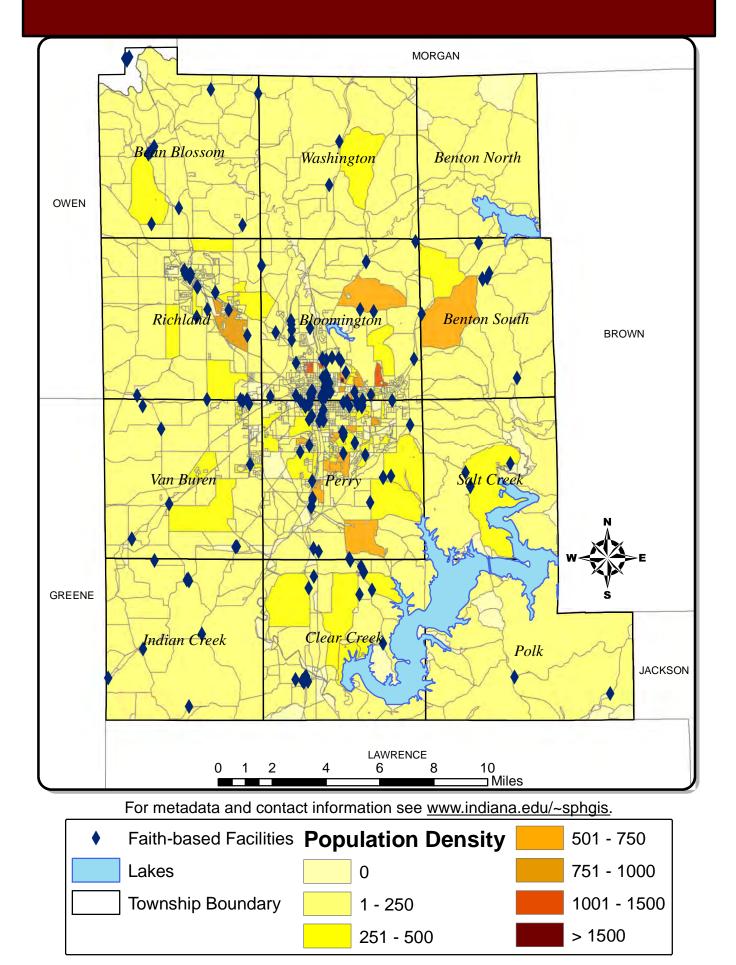
For metadata and contact information see www.indiana.edu/~sphgis.

	Hospitals	Cell Towers	Population Density	501 - 750
	Fire Stations	Highways	0	751 - 1000
•	Red Cross Locations	Township Boundary	1 - 250	1001 - 1500
P	Sirens	Lakes	251 - 500	> 1500

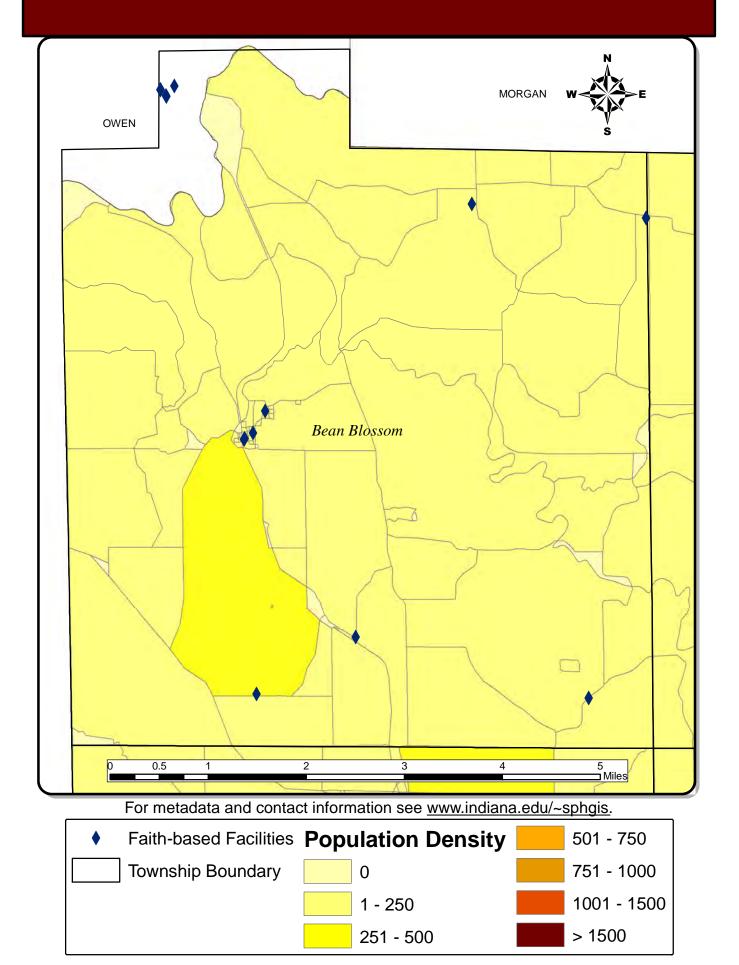
Washington Township Emergency Response & Communication Facilities



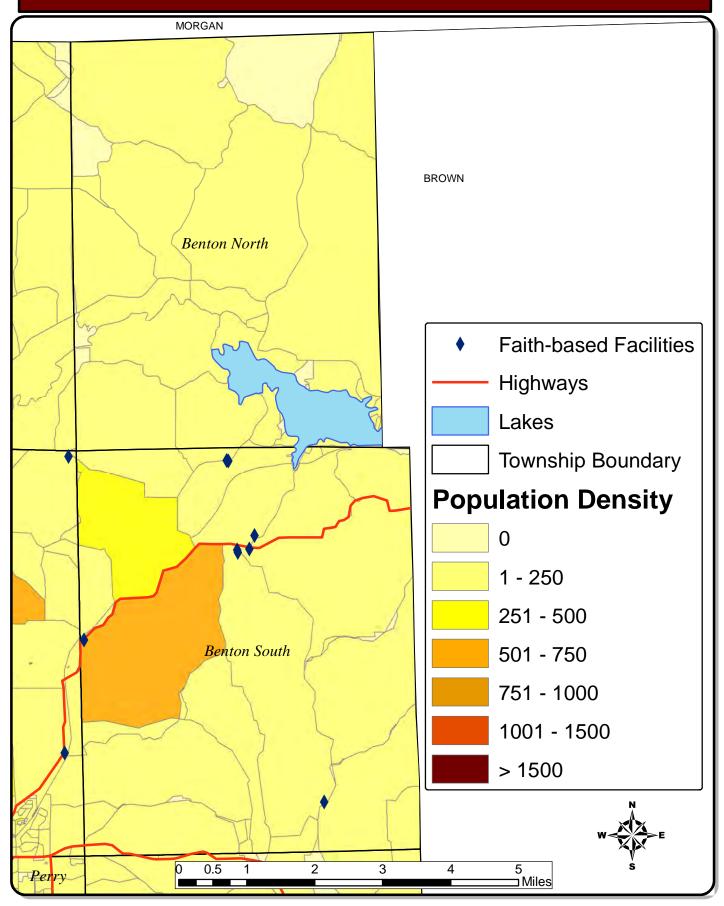
Monroe County Faith-based Facilities



Bean Blossom Township Faith-based Facilities

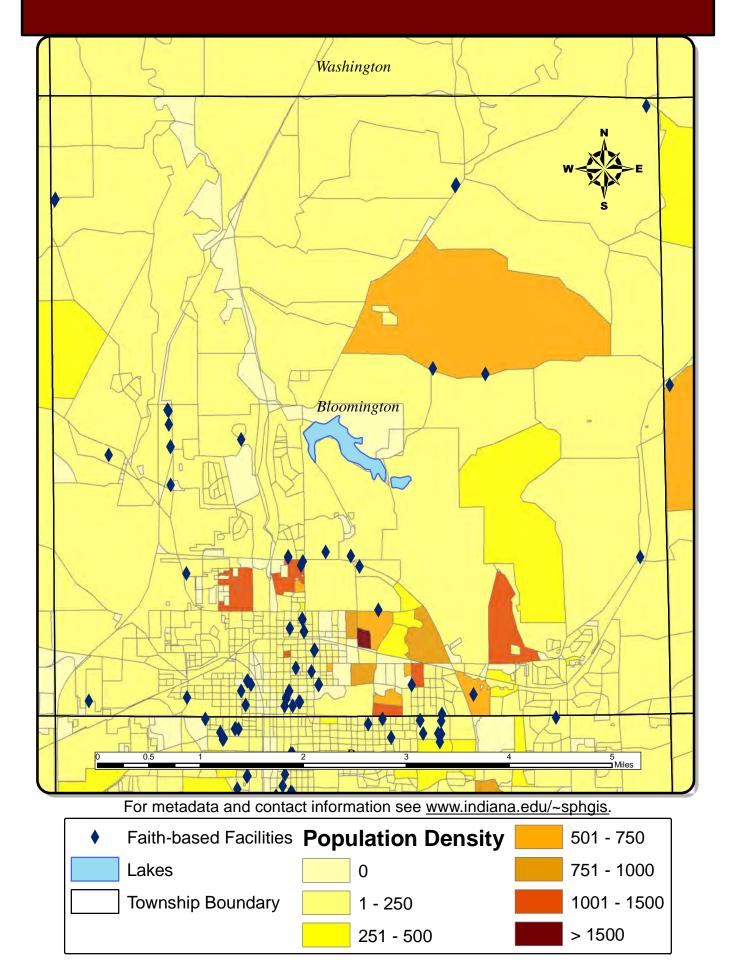


North and South Benton Townships Faith-based Facilities

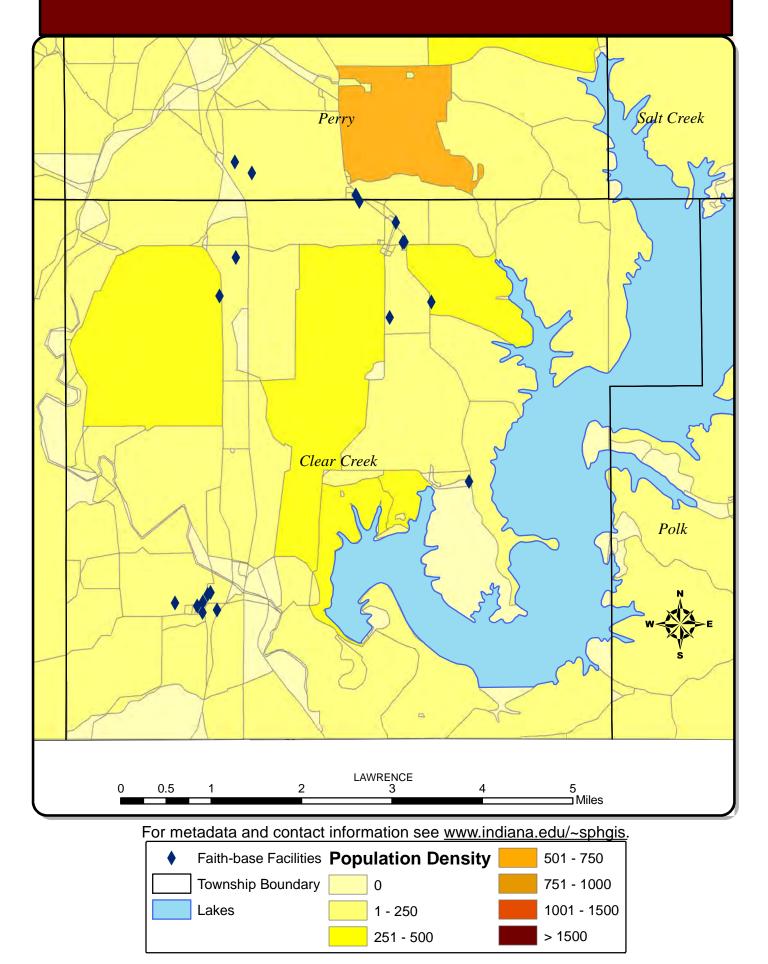


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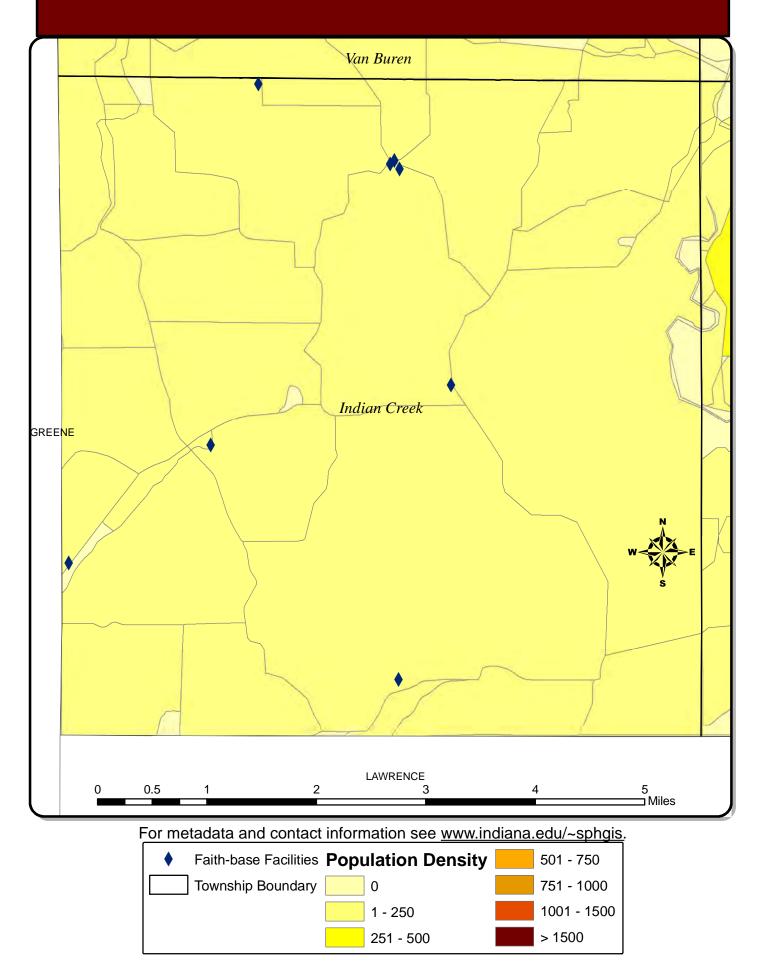
Bloomington Township Faith-based Facilities



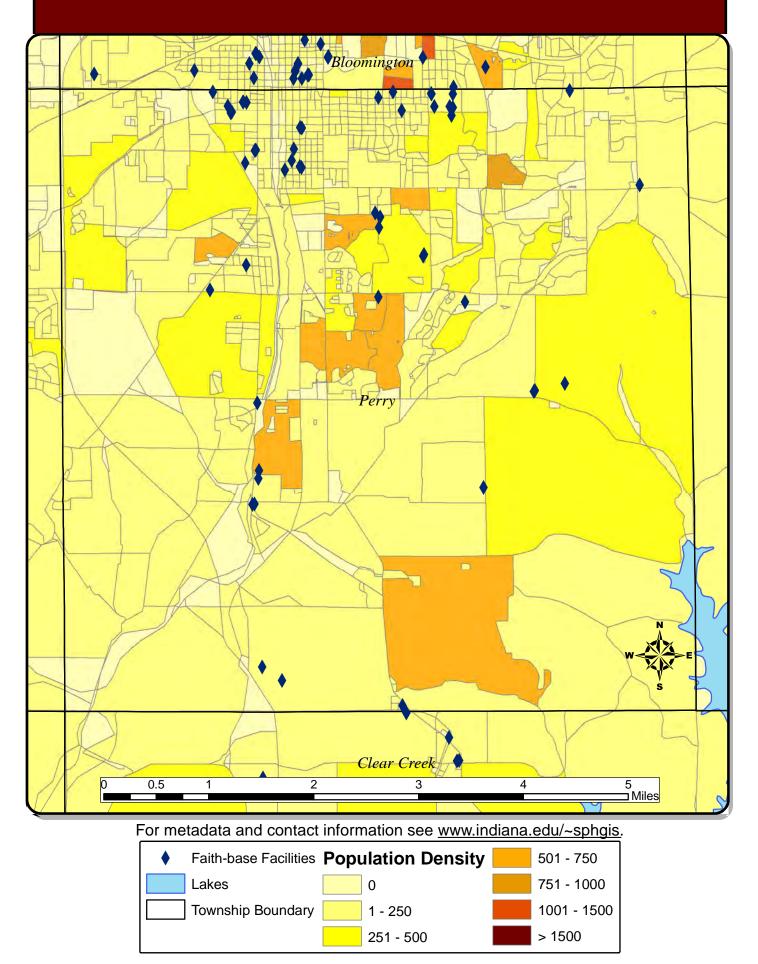
Clear Creek Township Faith-based Facilities



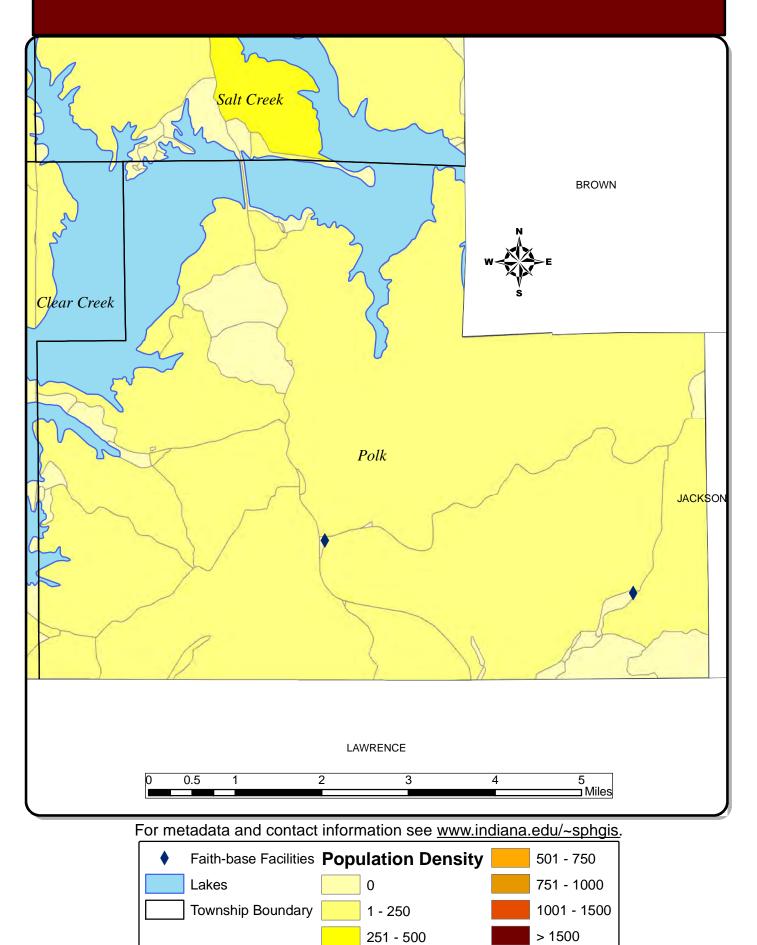
Indian Creek Township Faith-based Facilities



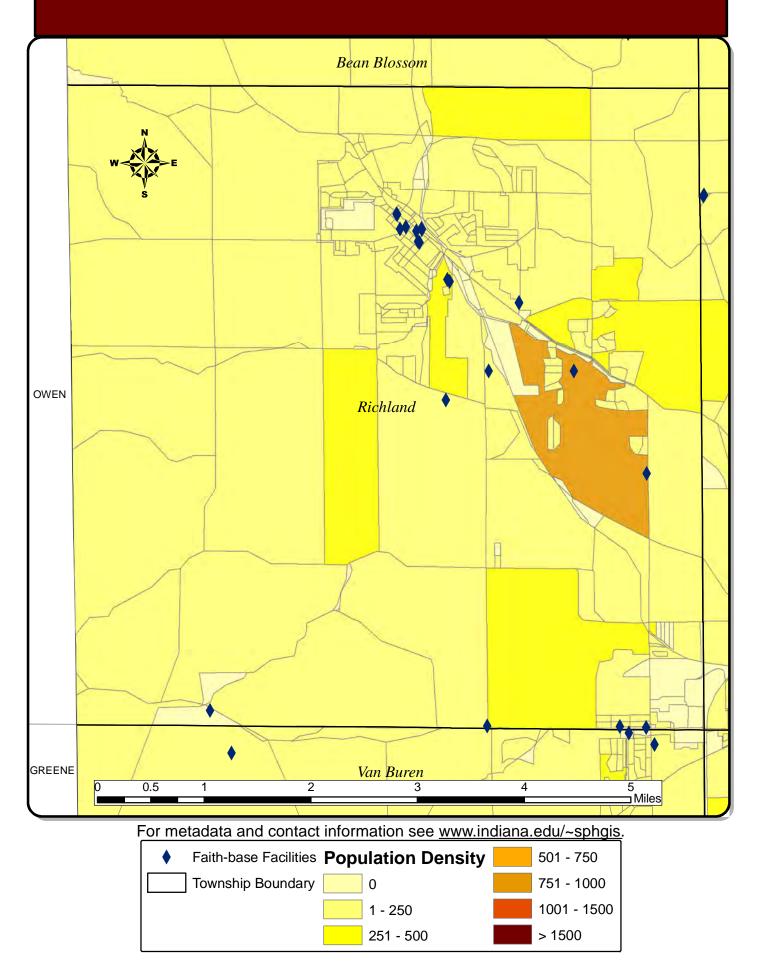
Perry Township Faith-based Facilities



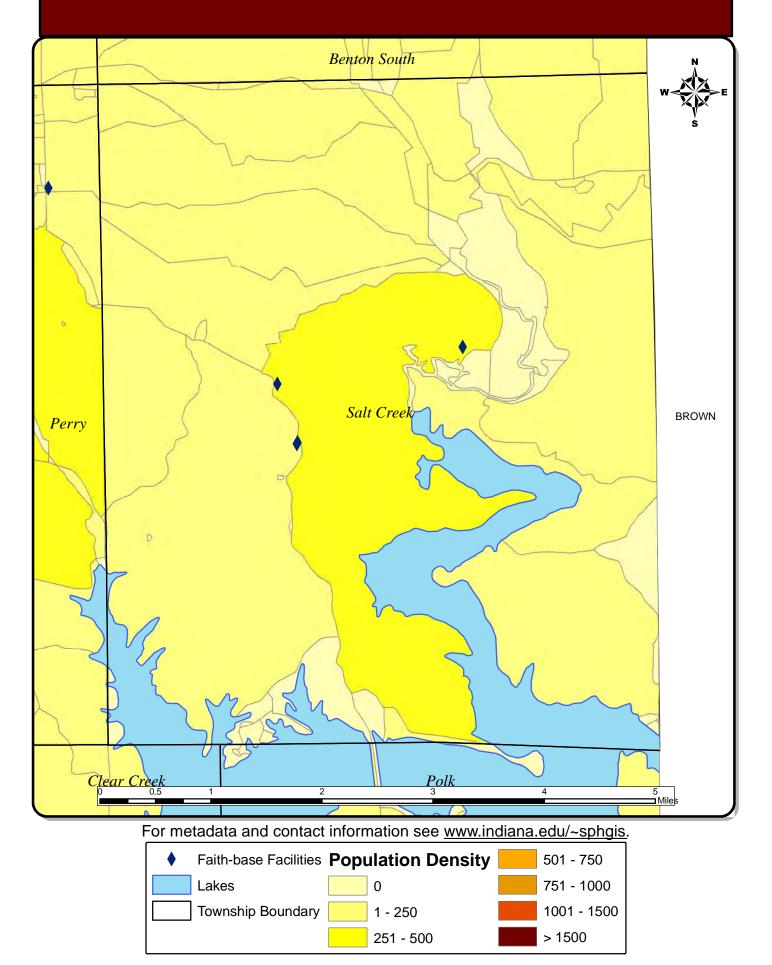
Polk Township Faith-based Facilities



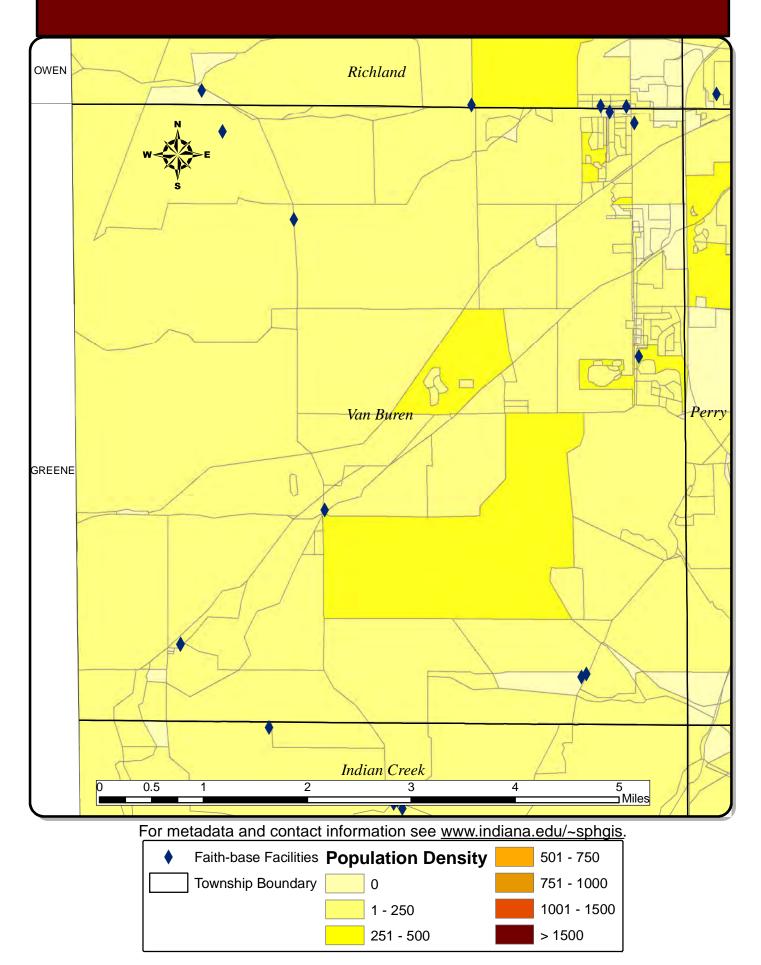
Richland Township Faith-based Facilities



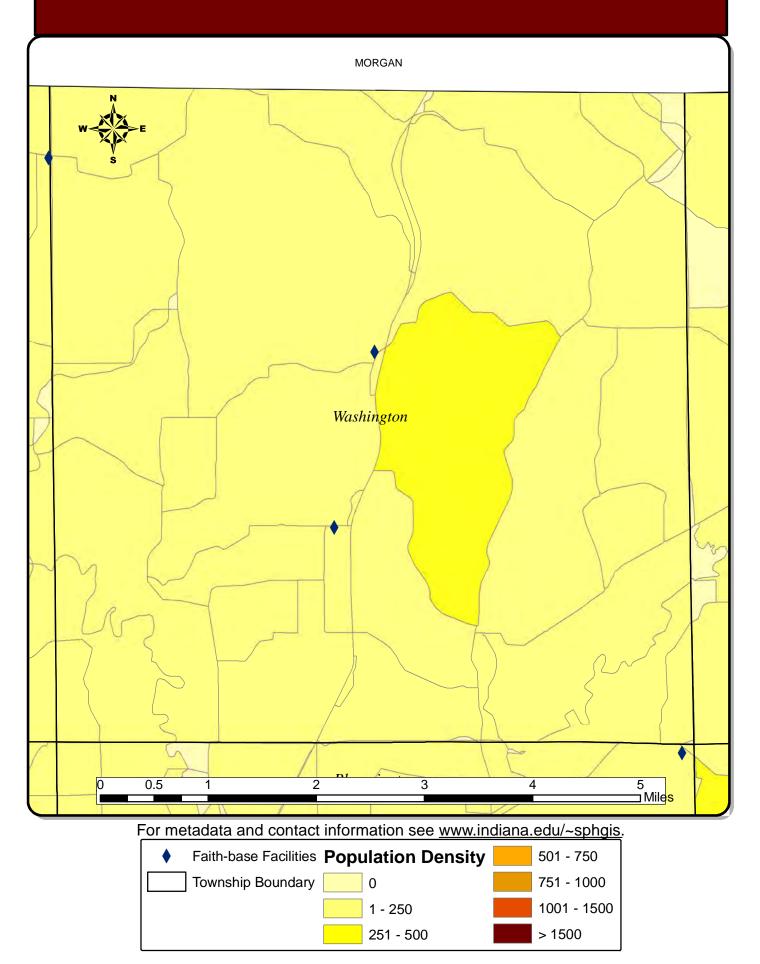
Salt CreekTownship Faith-based Facilities



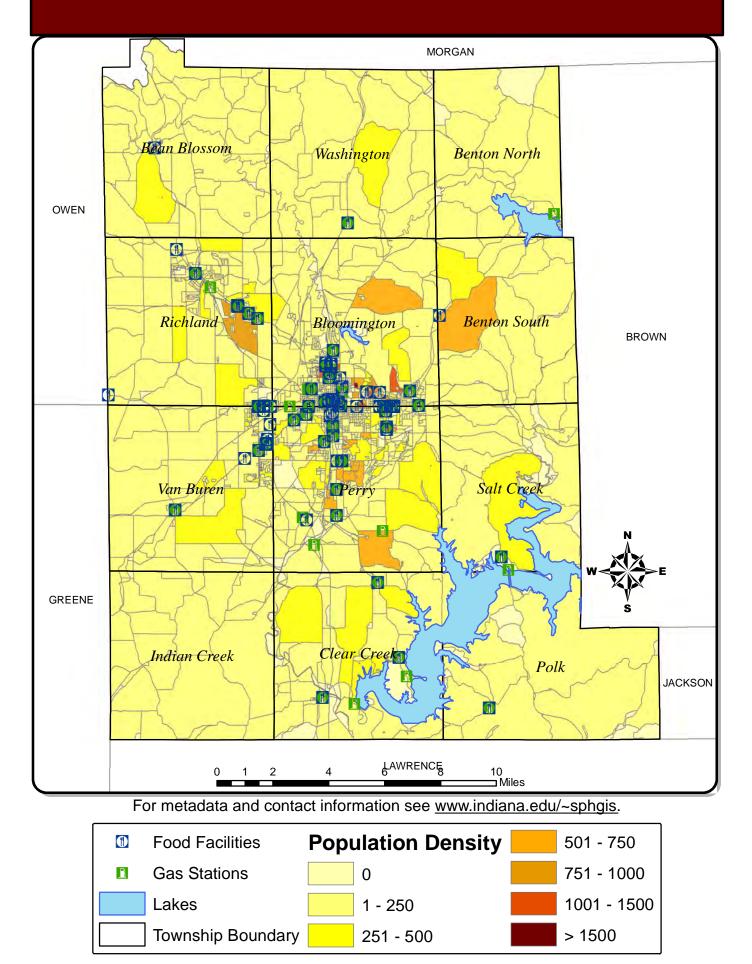
Van Buren Township Faith-based Facilities



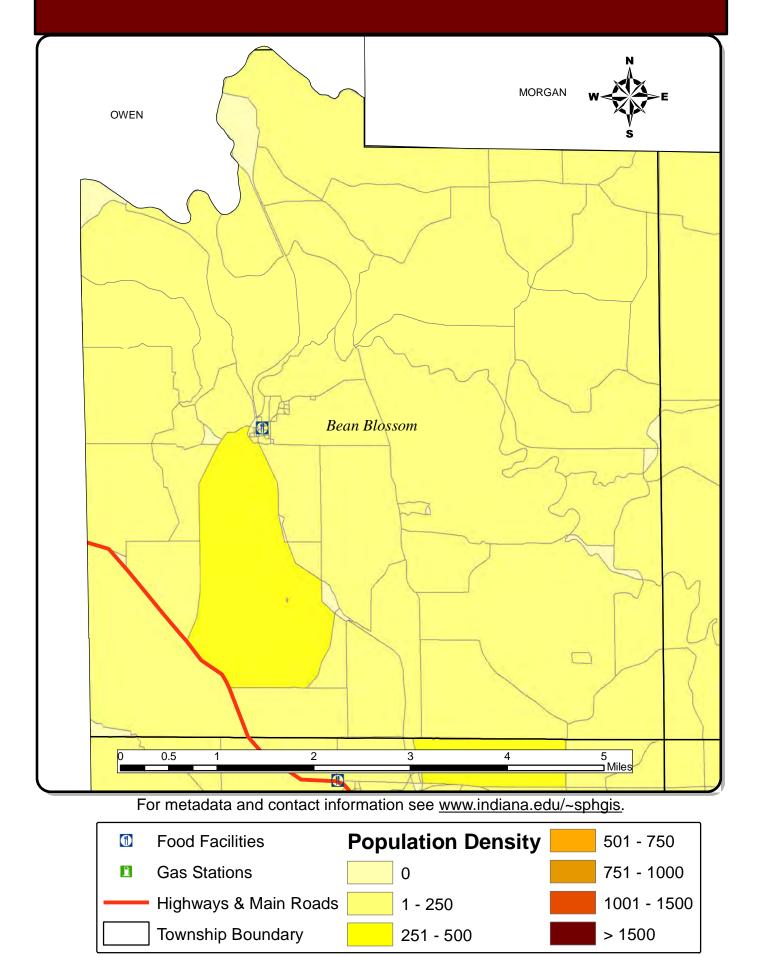
Washington Township Faith-based Facilities



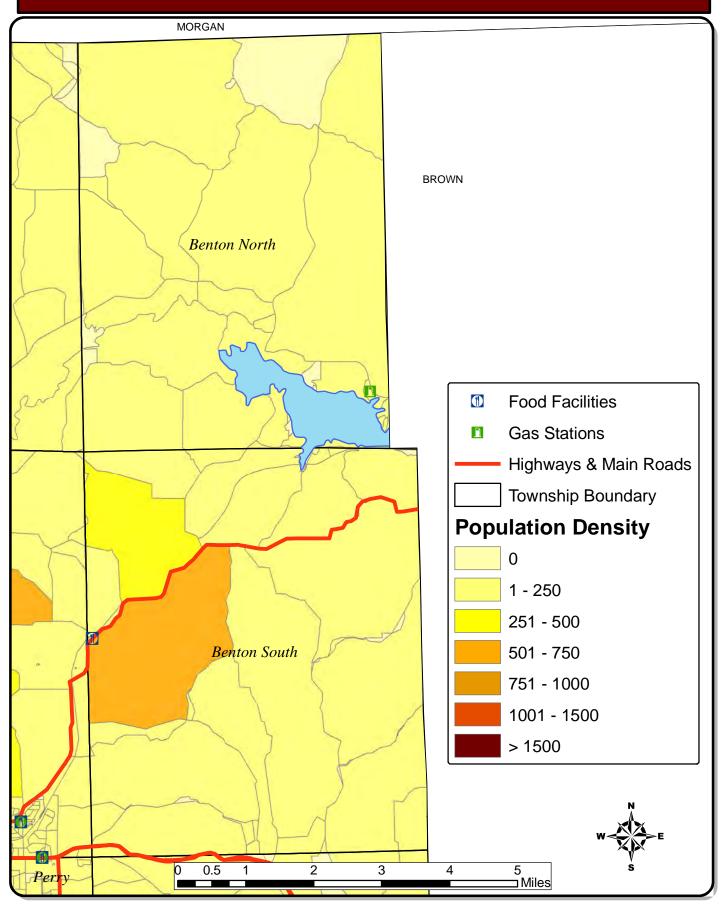
Monroe County Food and Gas Facilities



Bean Blossom Township Food and Gas Facilities

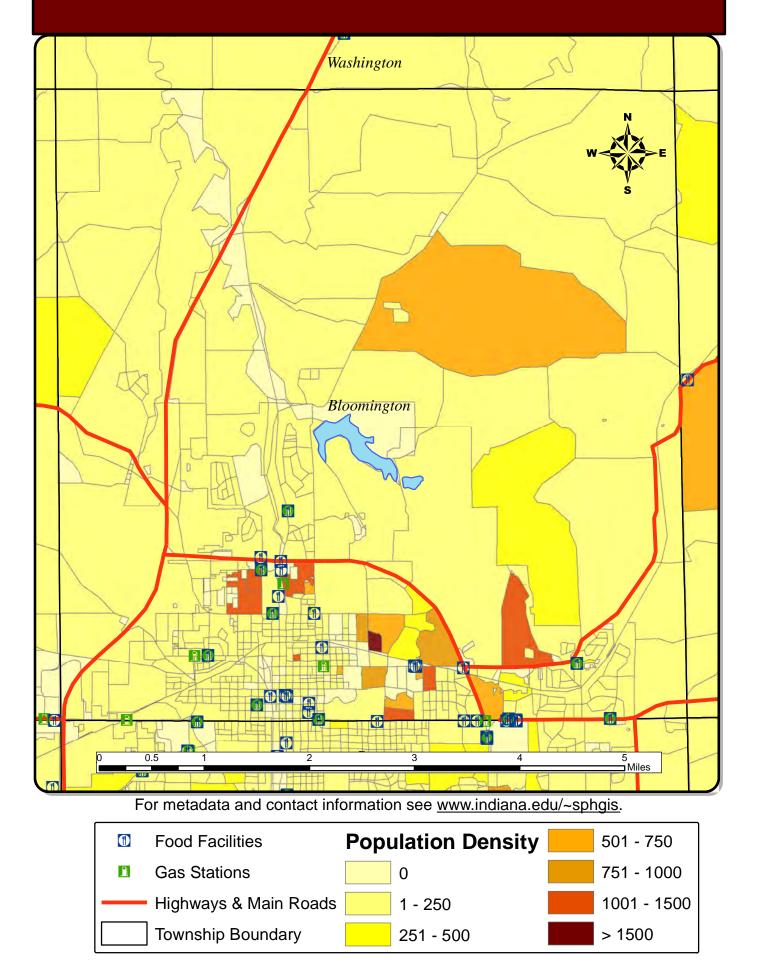


North and South Benton Townships Food and Gas Facilities

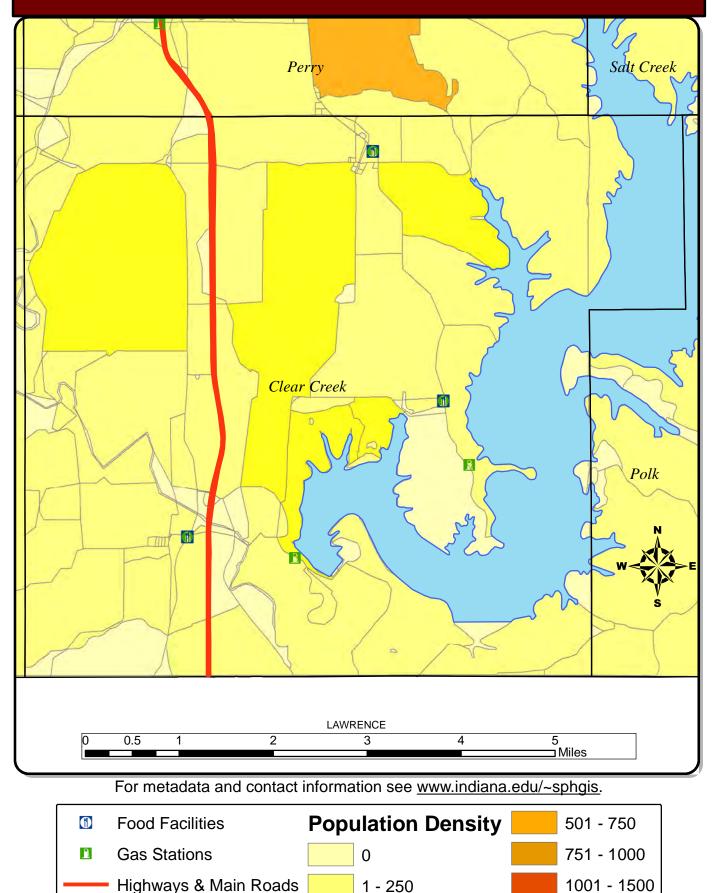


For metadata and contact information see www.indiana.edu/~sphgis.

Bloomington Township Food and Gas Facilities



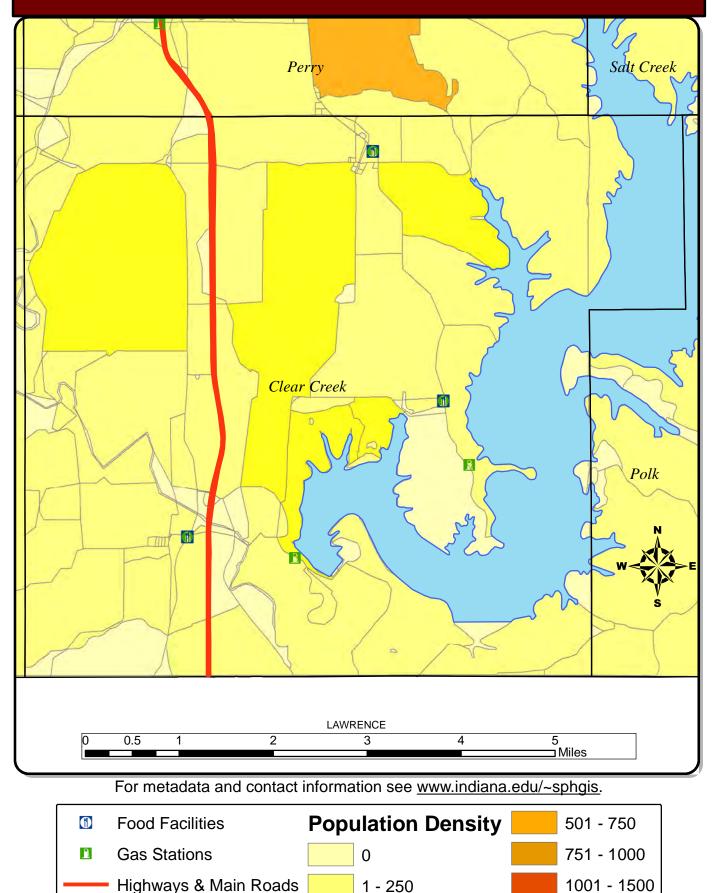
Clear Creek Township Food and Gas Facilities



 Highways & Main Roads
 1 - 250
 1001

 Township Boundary
 251 - 500
 > 1500

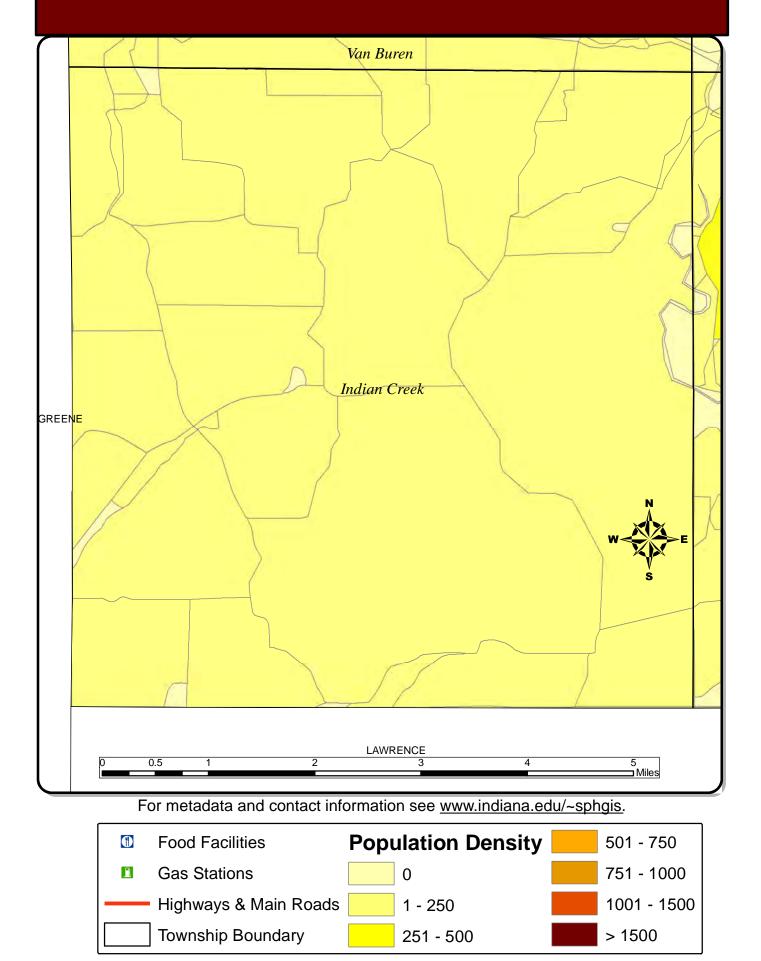
Clear Creek Township Food and Gas Facilities



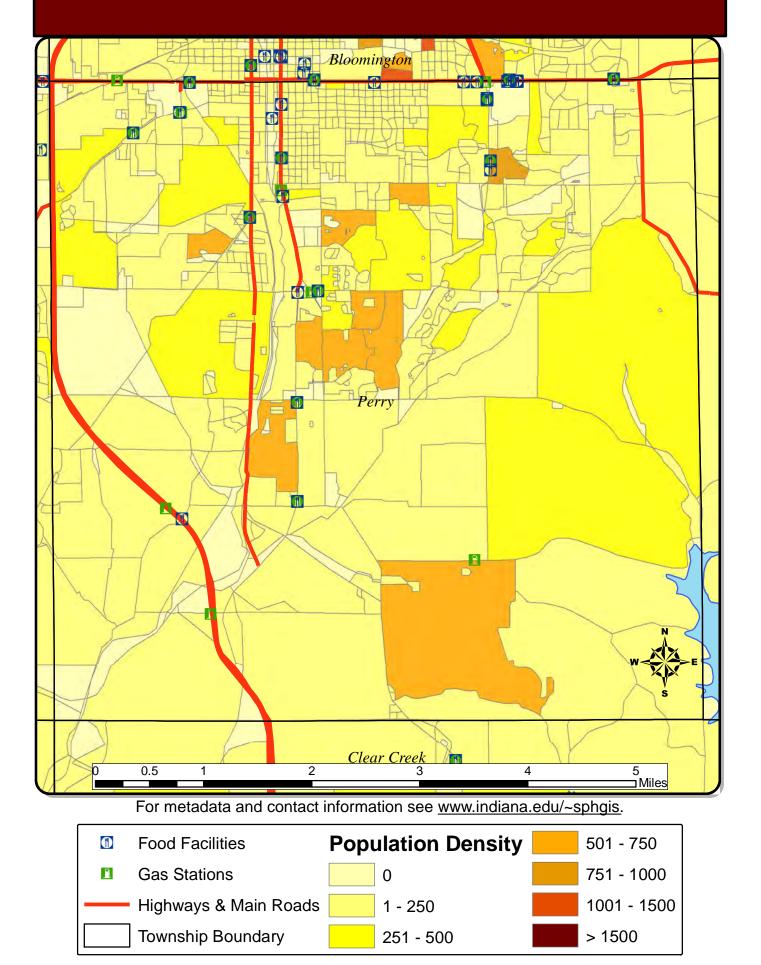
 Highways & Main Roads
 1 - 250
 1001

 Township Boundary
 251 - 500
 > 1500

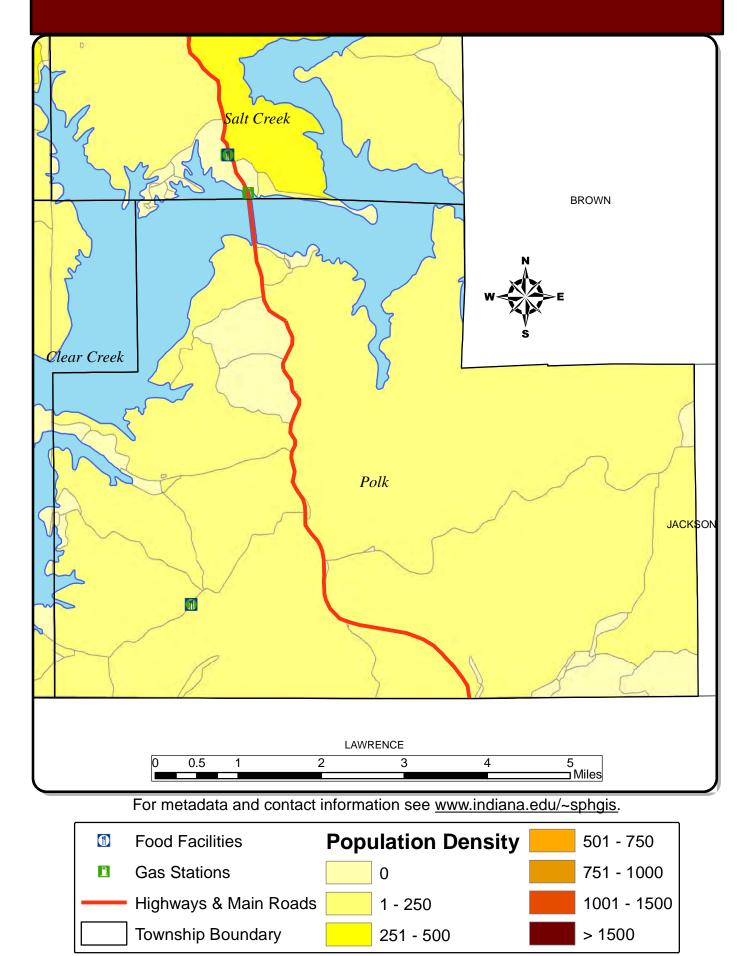
Indian Creek Township Food and Gas Facilities



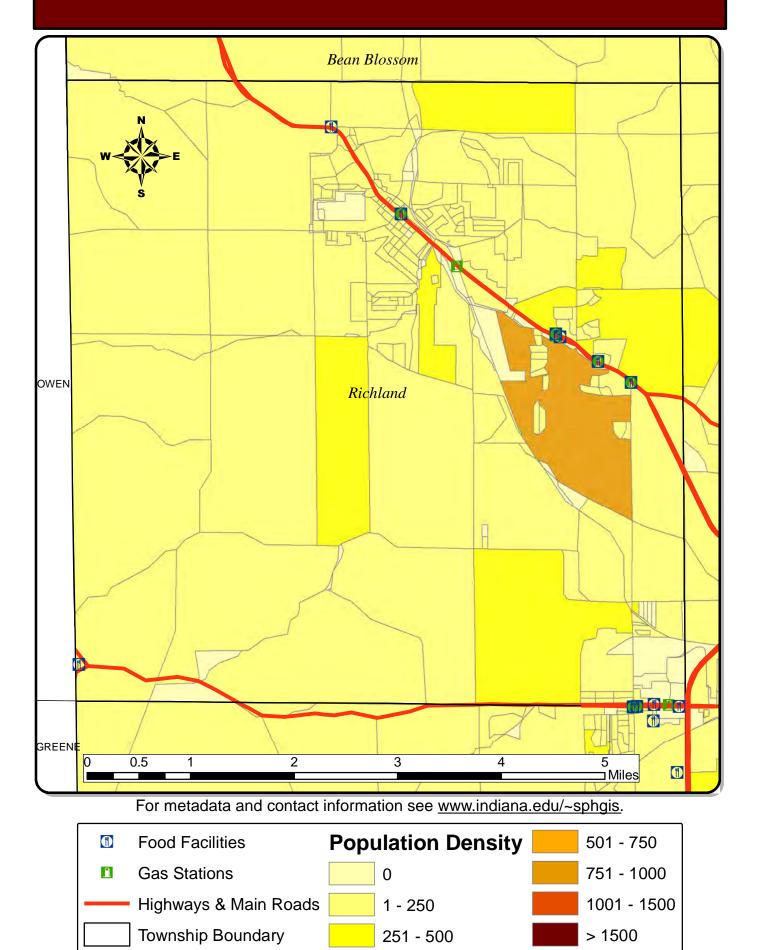
Perry Township Food and Gas Facilities



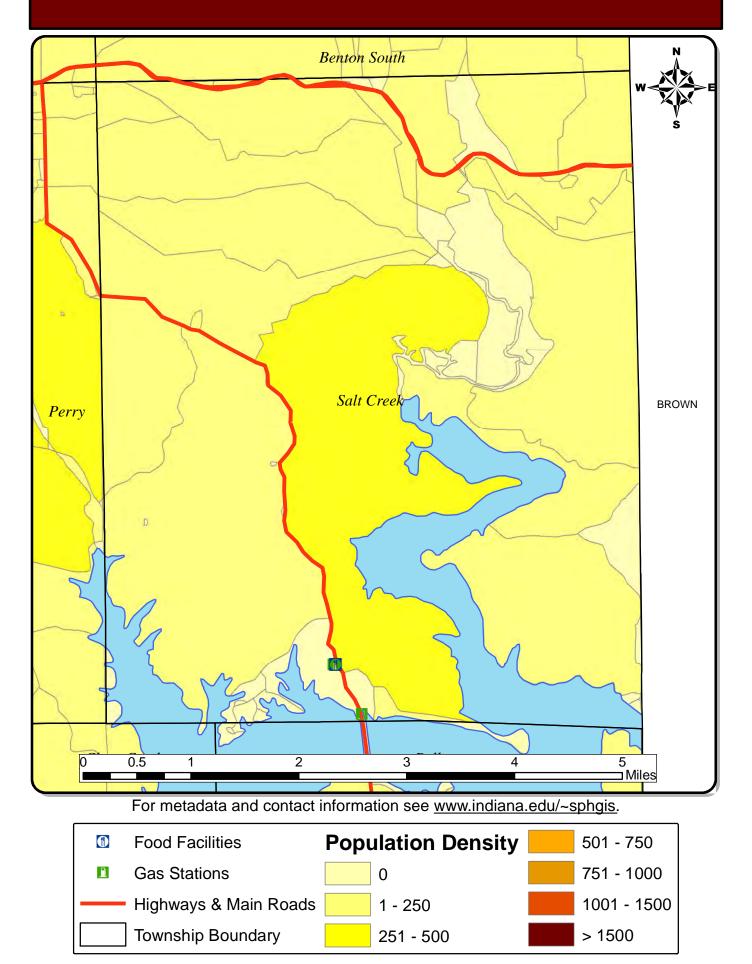
Polk Township Food and Gas Facilities



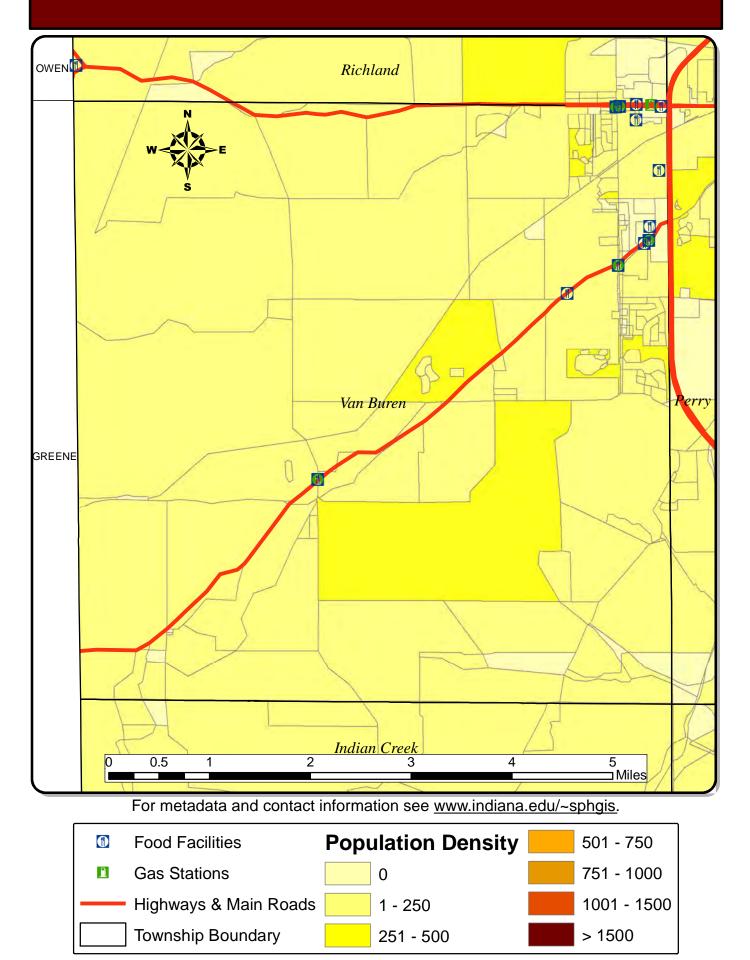
Richland Township Food and Gas Facilities



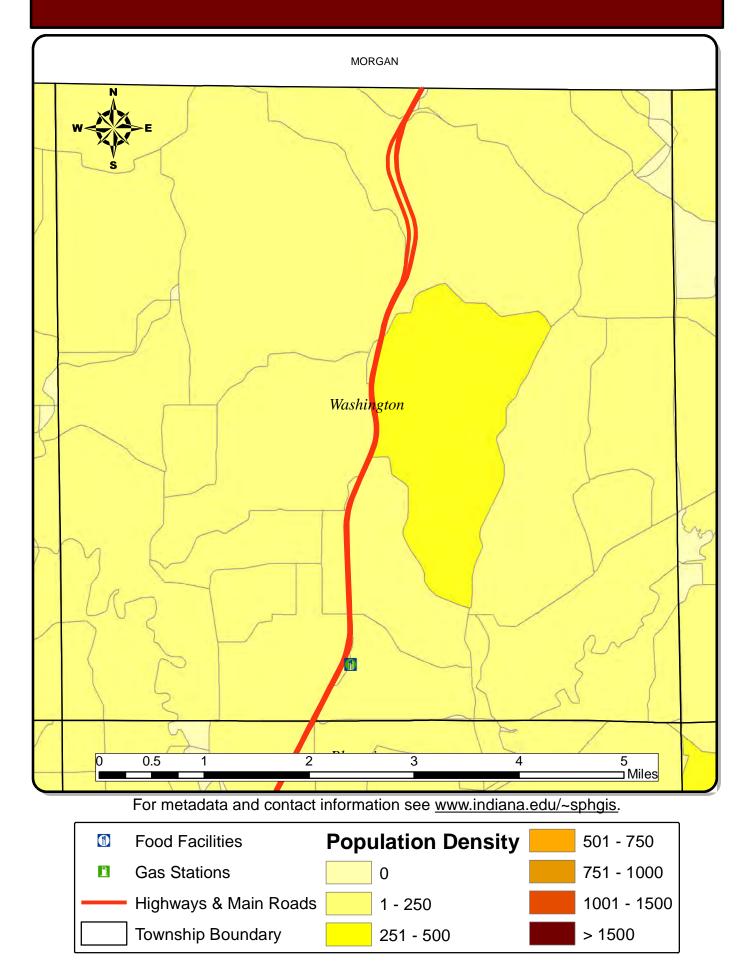
Salt Creek Township Food and Gas Facilities



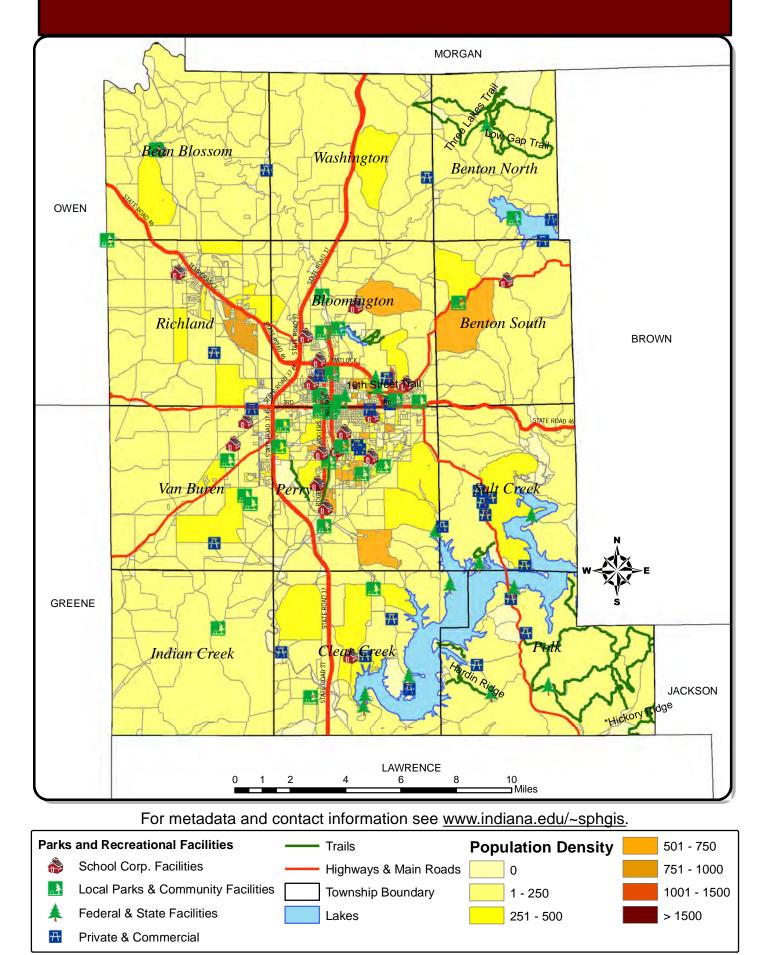
Van Buren Township Food and Gas Facilities



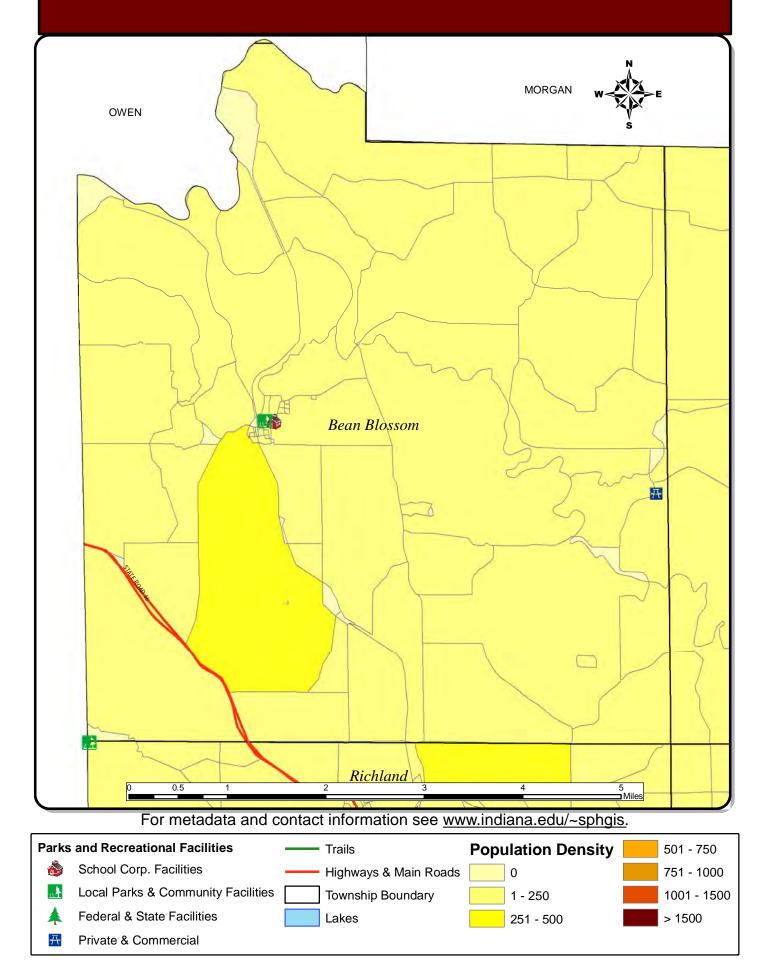
Washington Township Food and Gas Facilities



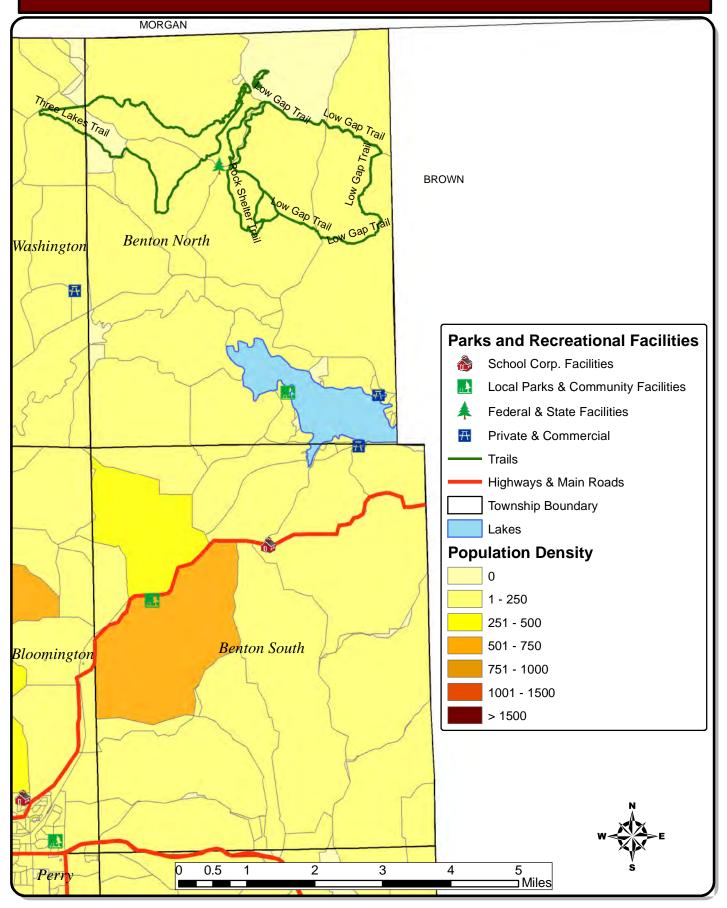
Monroe County Parks and Recreational Assets



Bean Blossom Township Parks and Recreational Assets

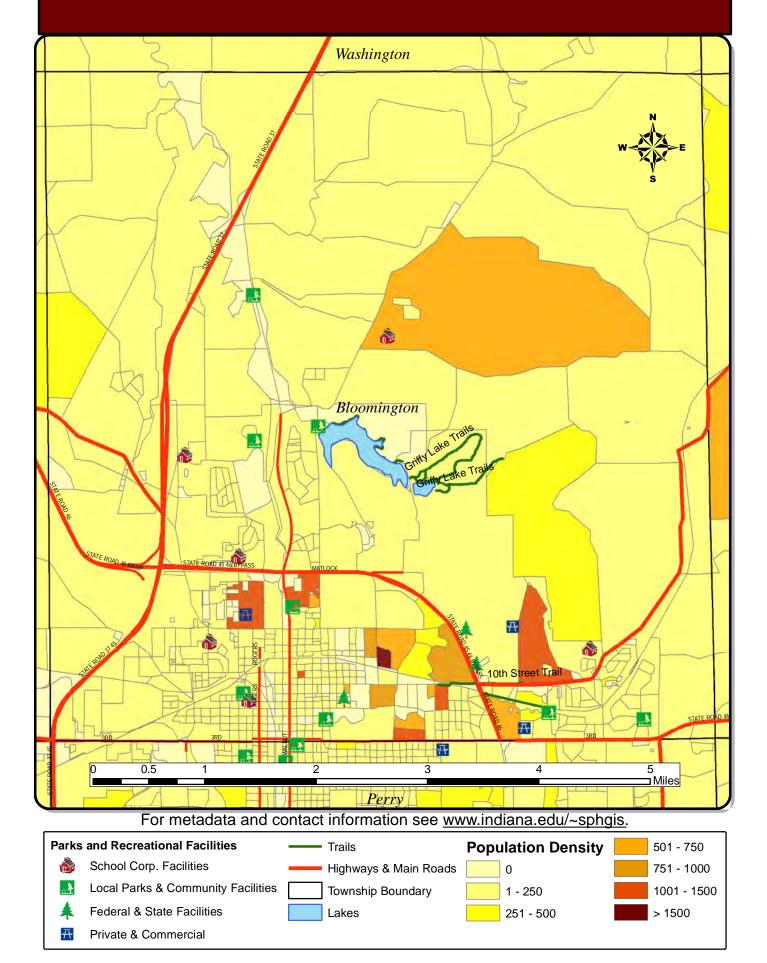


North and South Benton Townships Parks and Recreational Assets

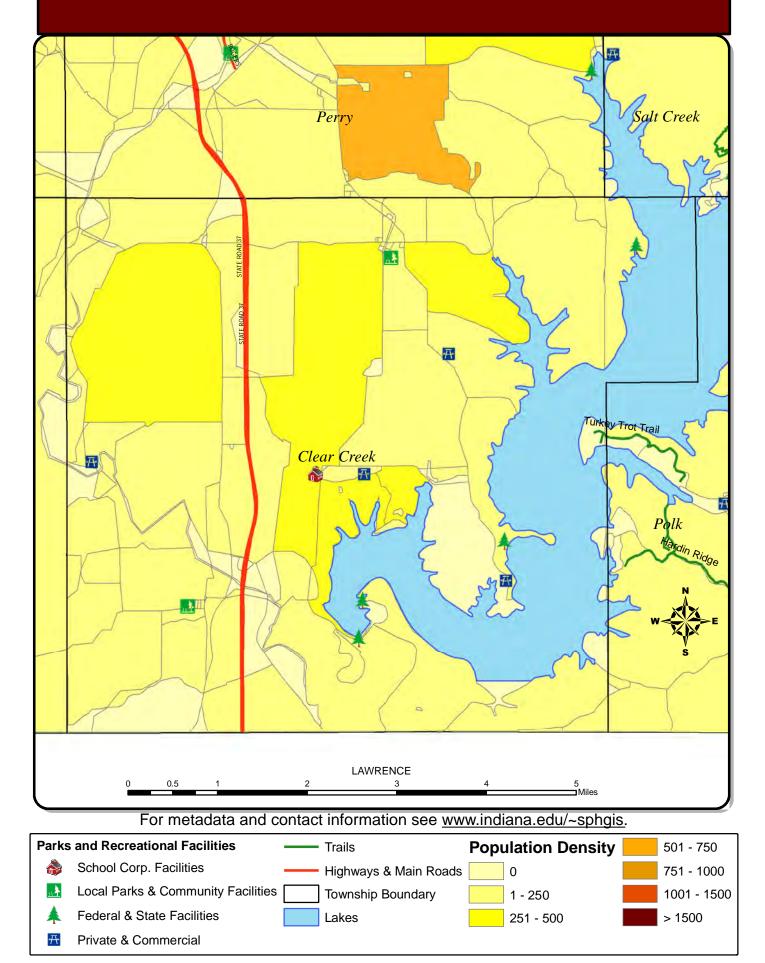


For metadata and contact information see www.indiana.edu/~sphgis.

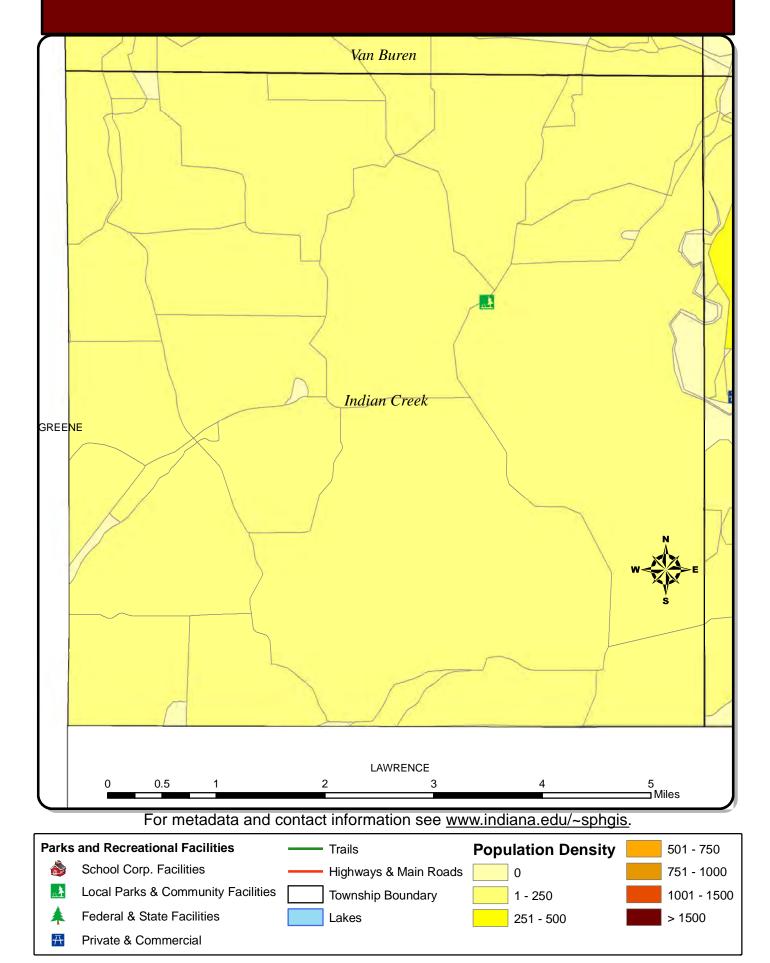
Bloomington Township Parks and Recreational Assets



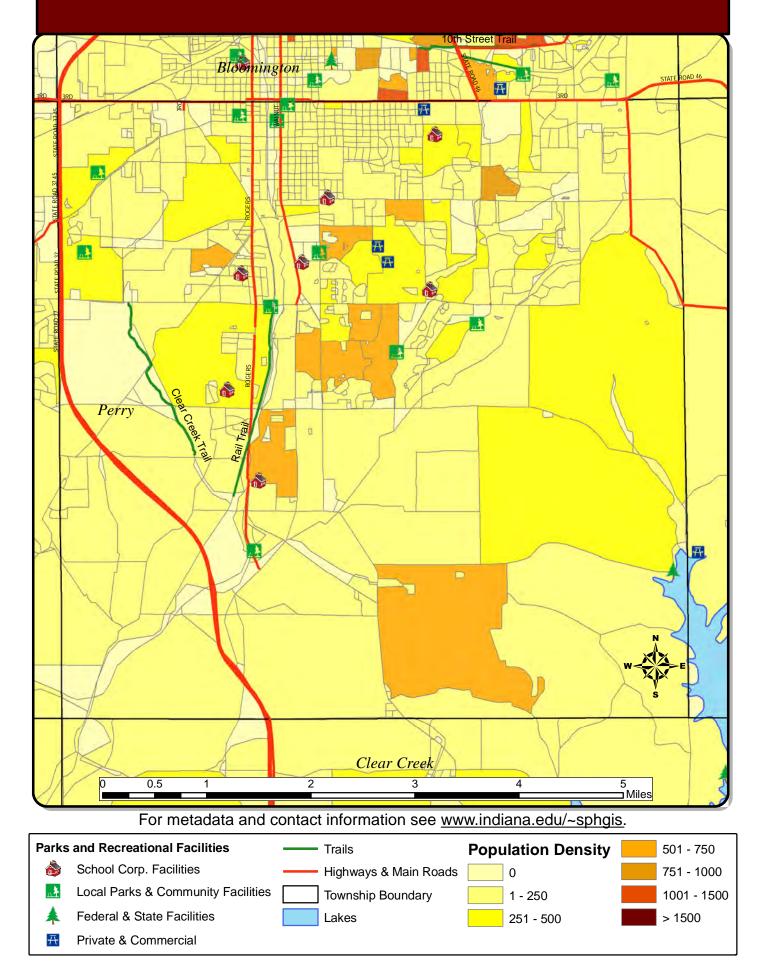
Clear Creek Township Parks and Recreational Assets



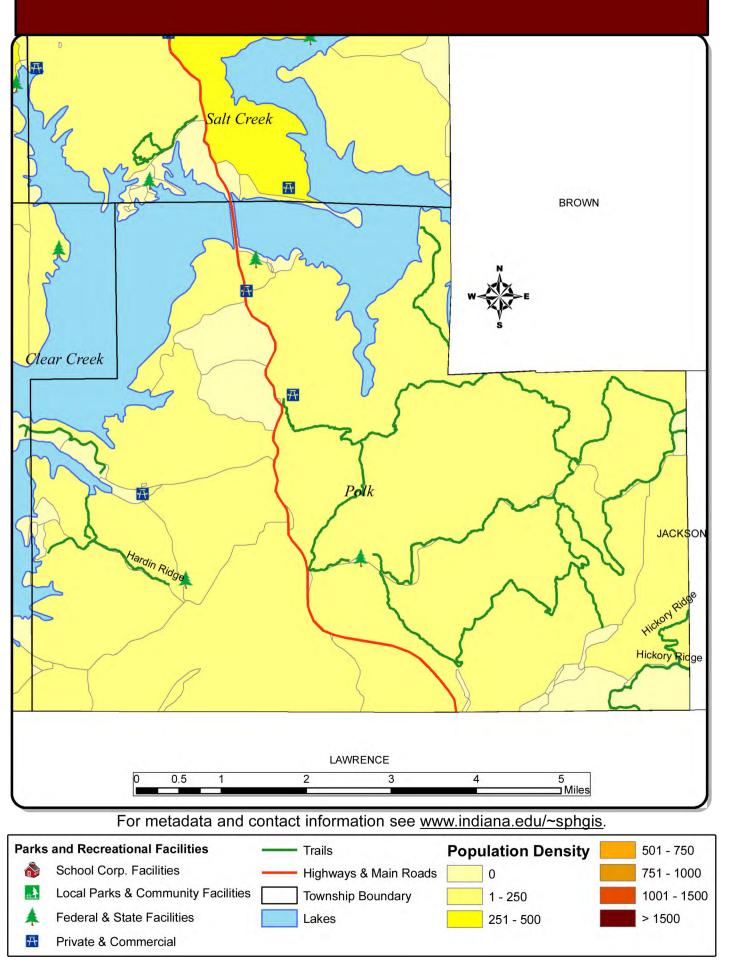
Indian Creek Township Parks and Recreational Assets



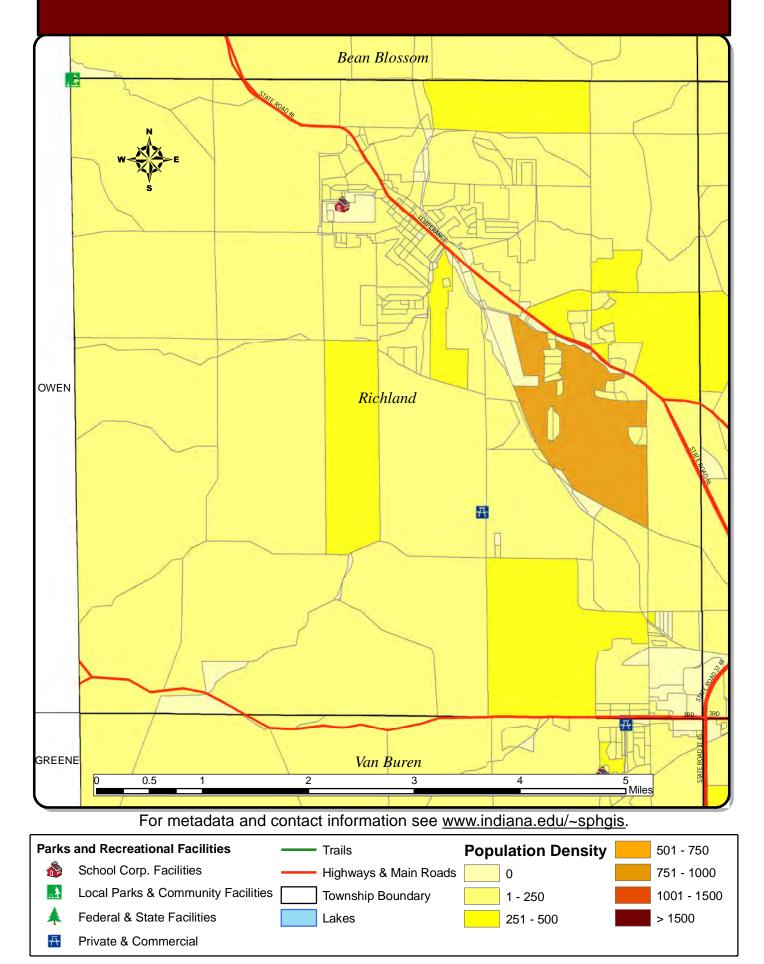
Perry Township Parks and Recreational Assets



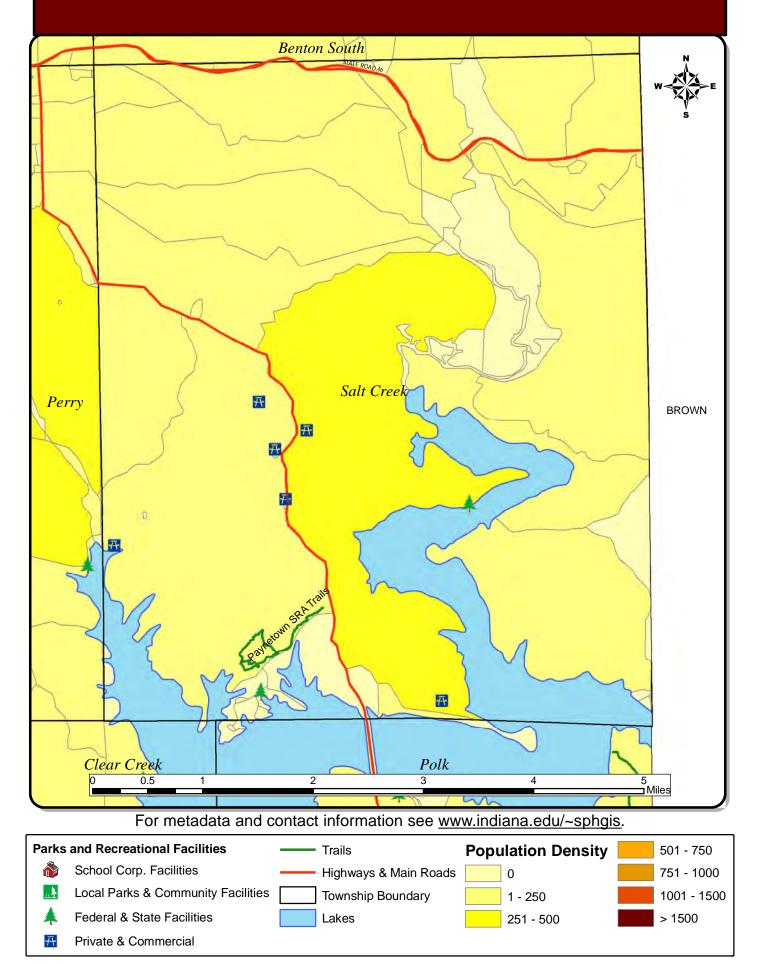
Polk Township Parks and Recreational Assets



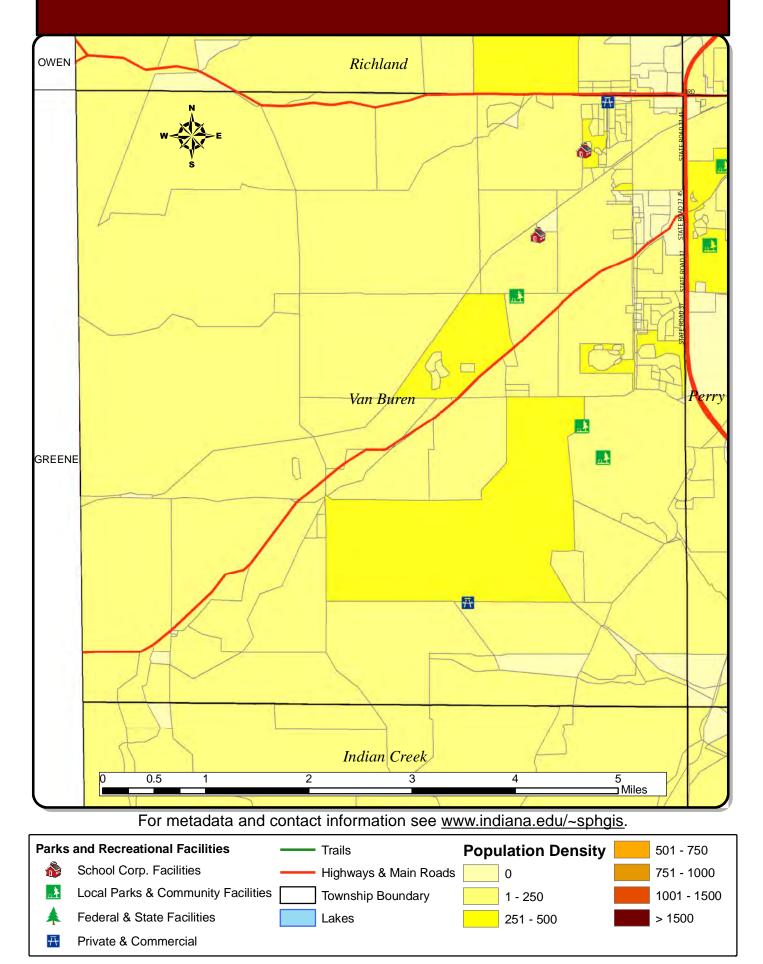
Richland Township Parks and Recreational Assets



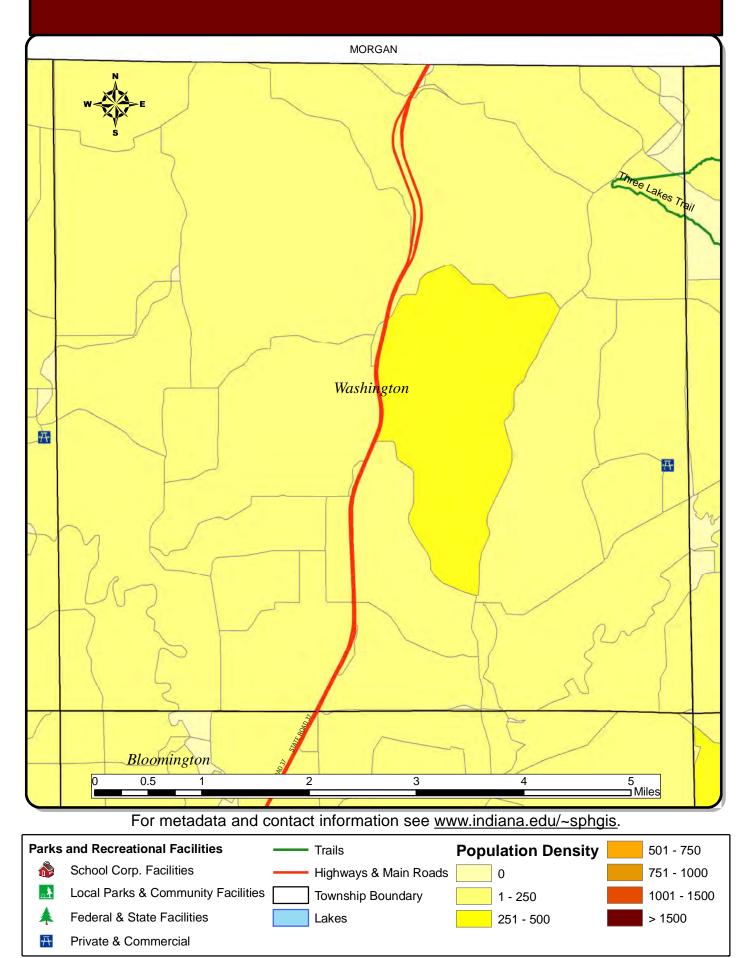
Salt Creek Township Parks and Recreational Assets



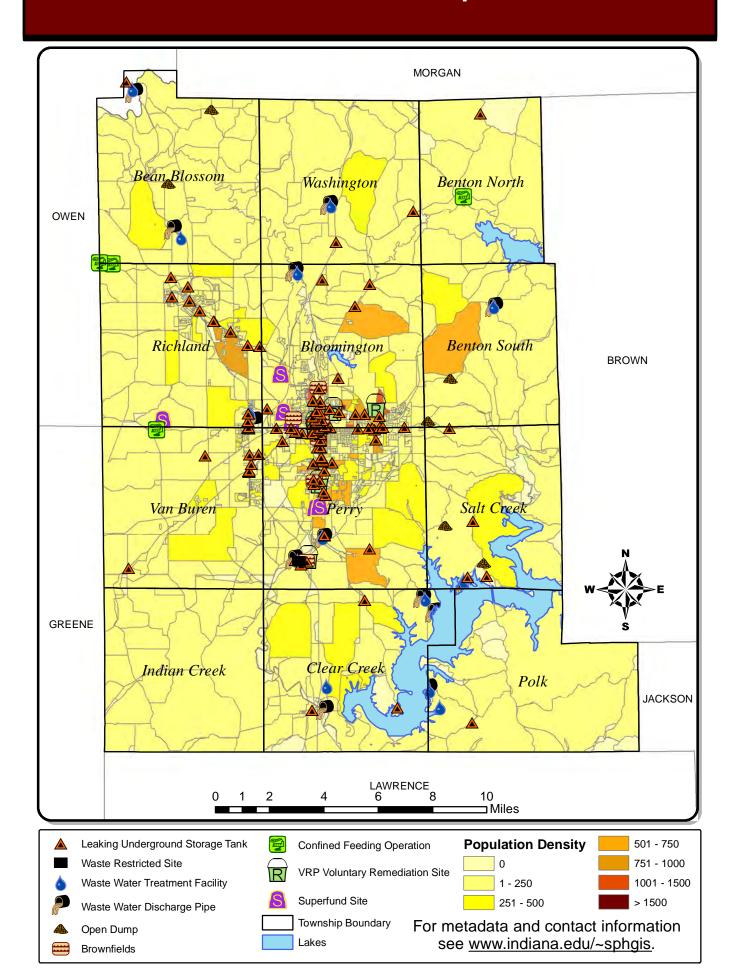
Van Buren Township Parks and Recreational Assets



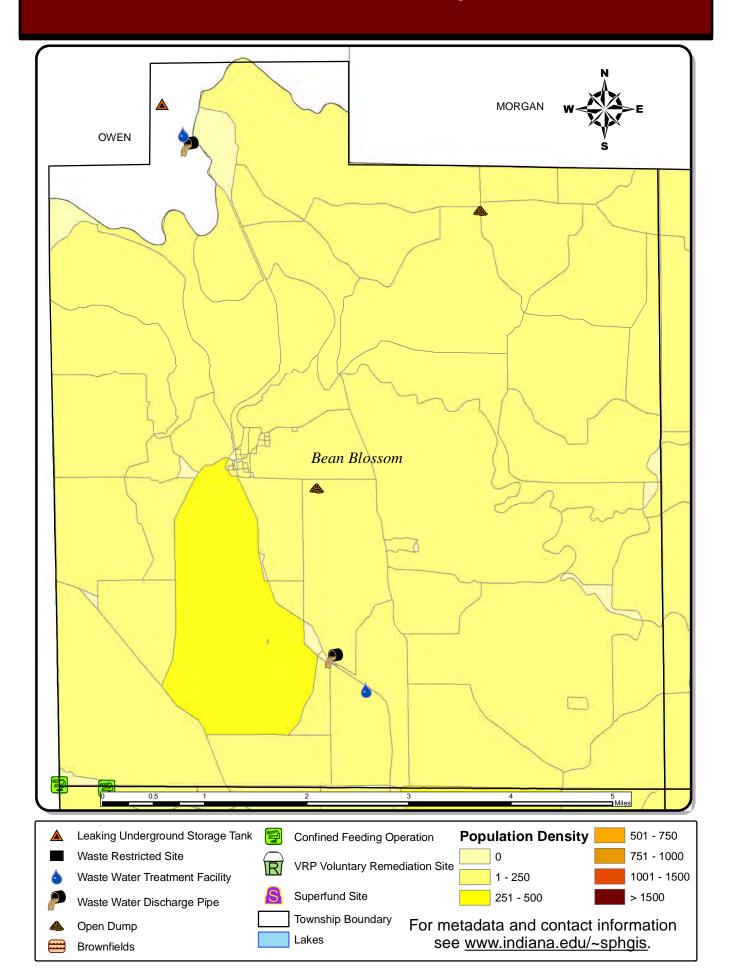
Washington Township Parks and Recreational Assets



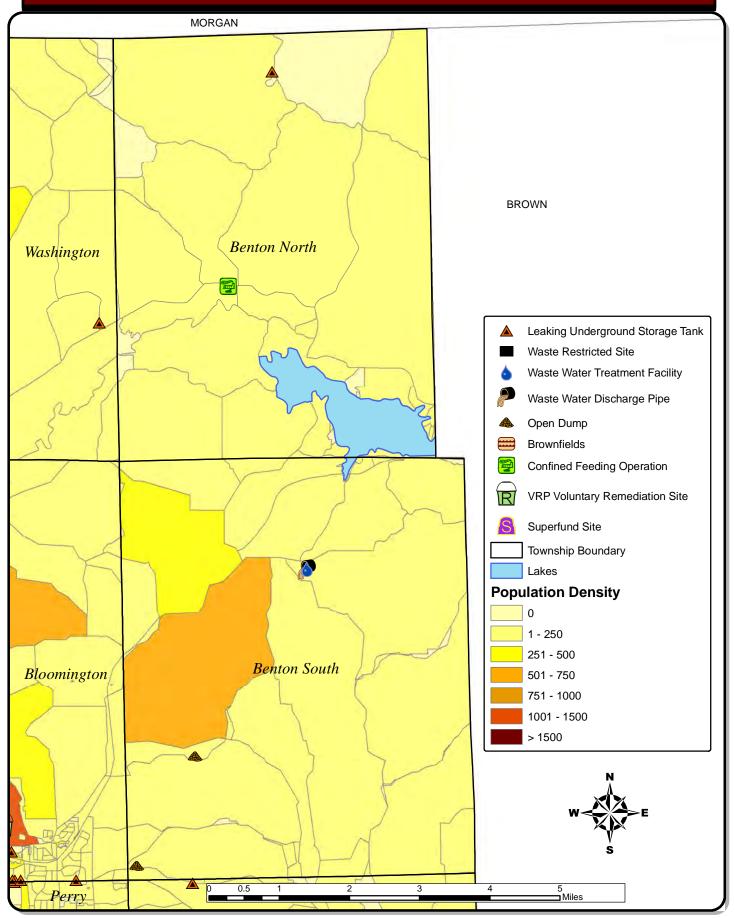
Monroe County Potential Environmental Exposure Sites



Bean Blossom Township Potential Environmental Exposure Sites

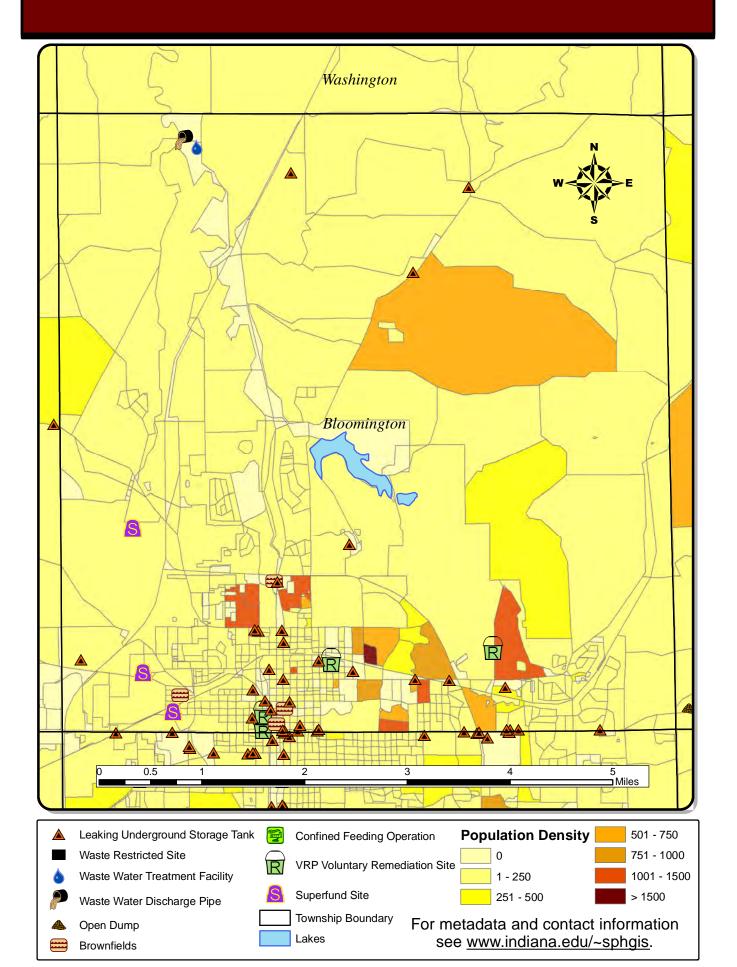


North and South Benton Townships Potential Environmental Exposure Sites

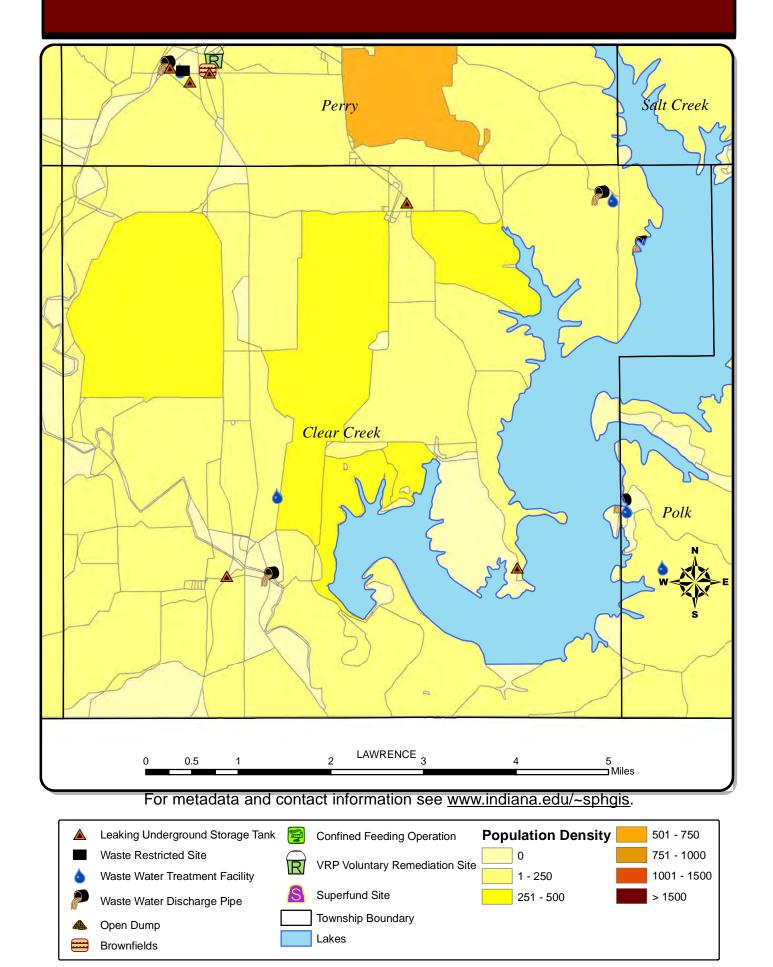


For metadata and contact information see www.indiana.edu/~sphgis.

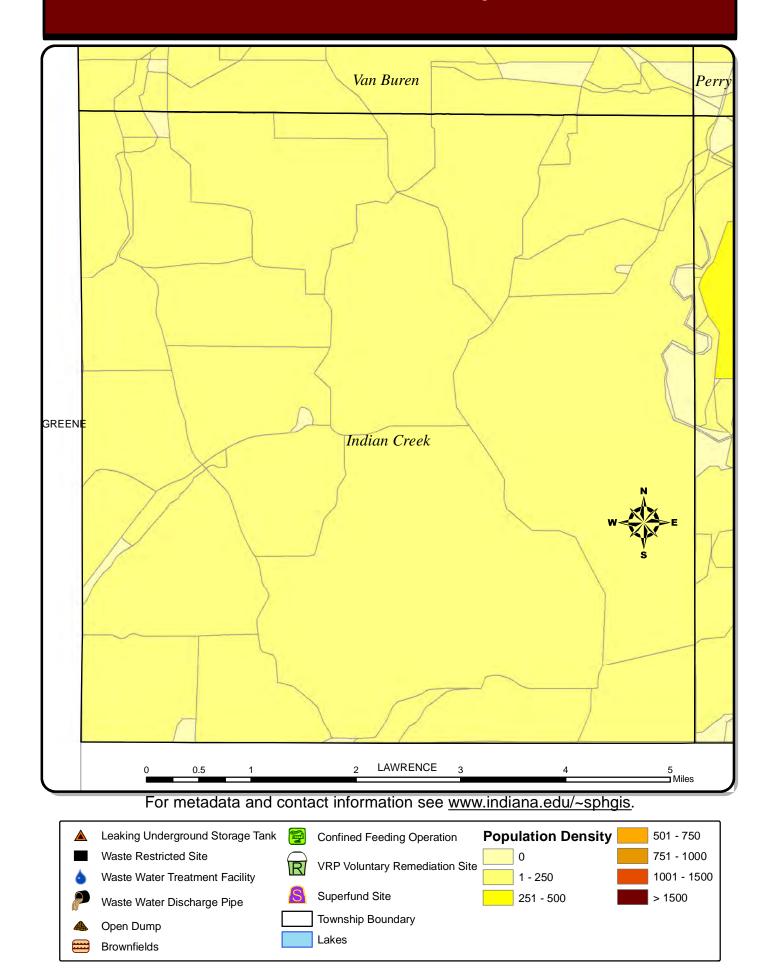
Bloomington Township Potential Environmental Exposure Sites



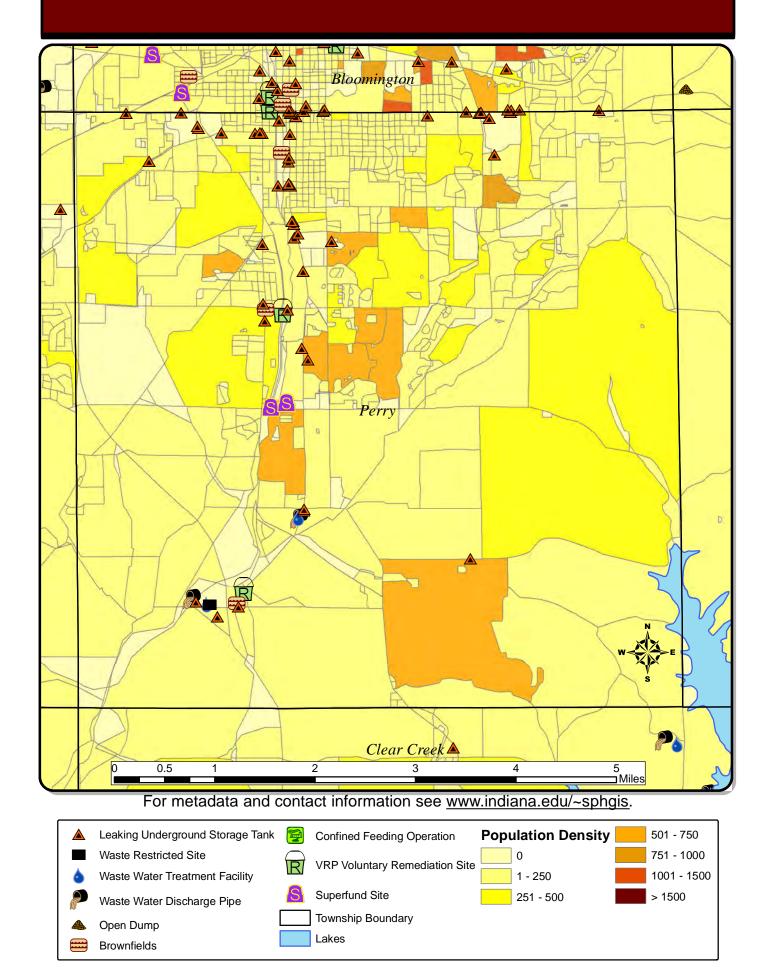
Clear Creek Township Potential Environmental Exposure Sites



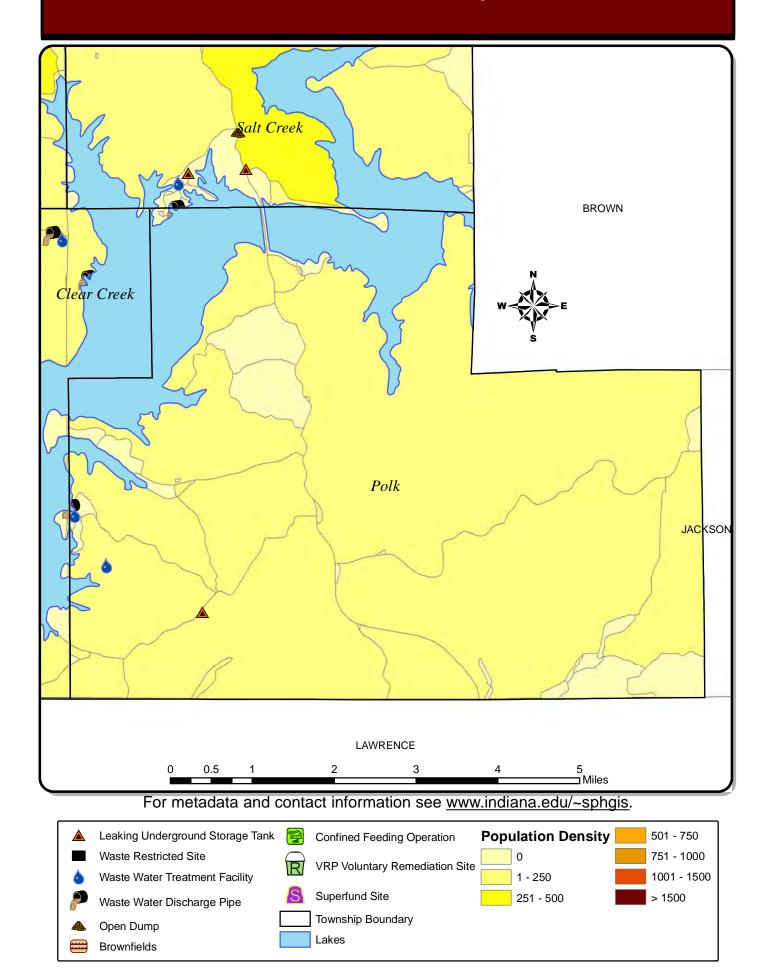
Indian Creek Township Potential Environmental Exposure Sites



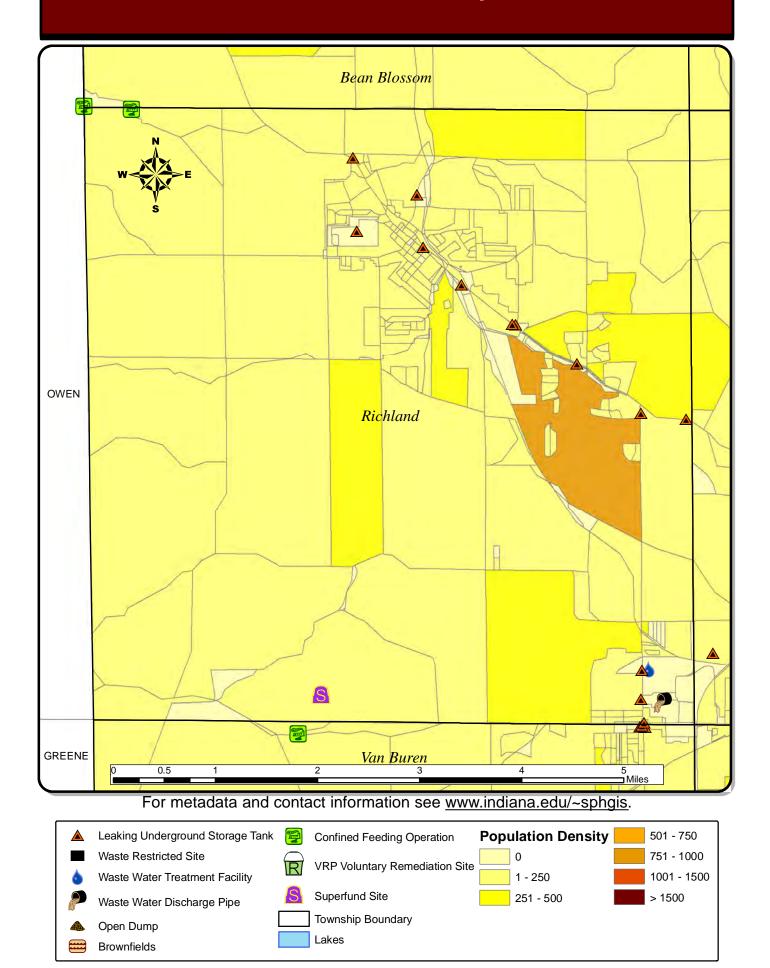
Perry Township Potential Environmental Exposure Sites



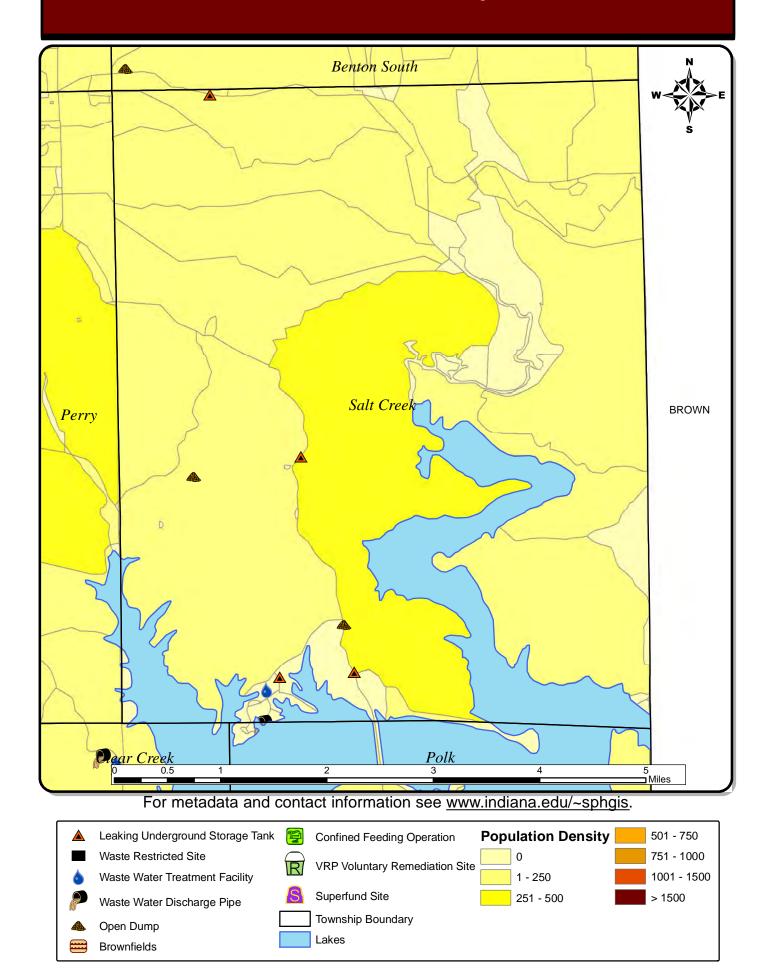
Polk Township Potential Environmental Exposure Sites



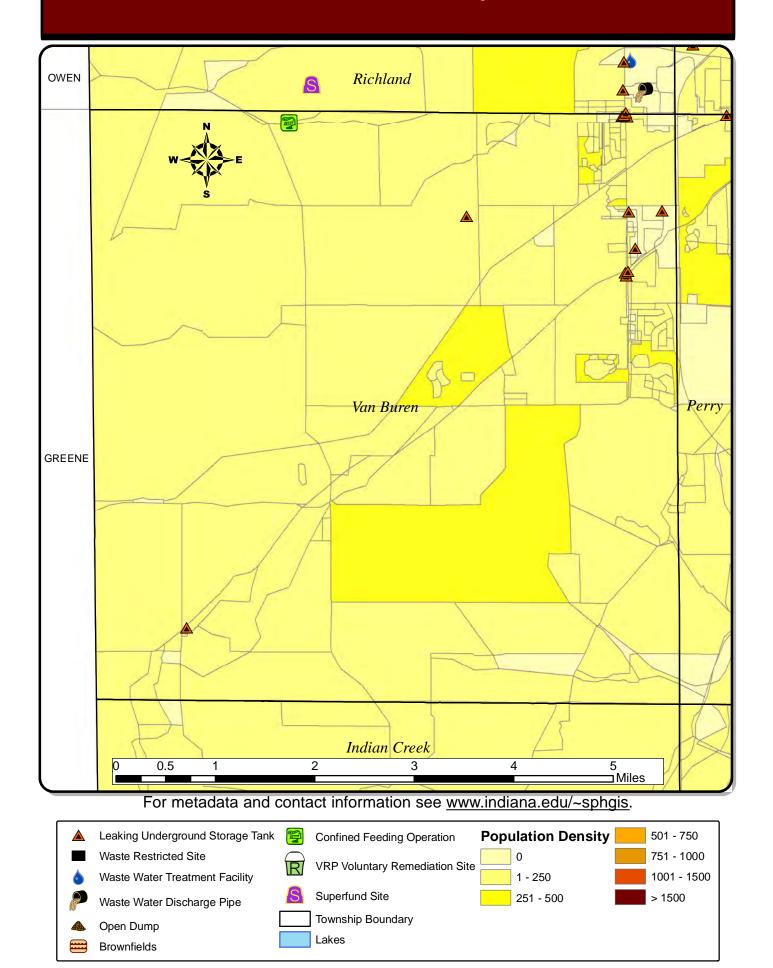
Richland Township Potential Environmental Exposure Sites



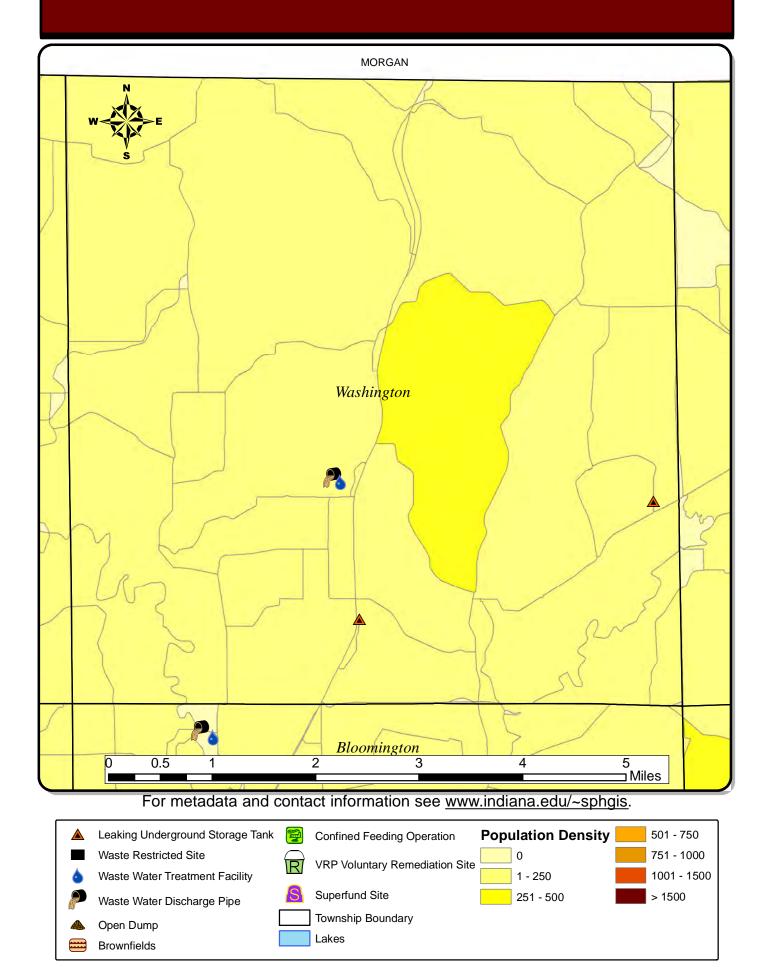
Salt Creek Township Potential Environmental Exposure Sites



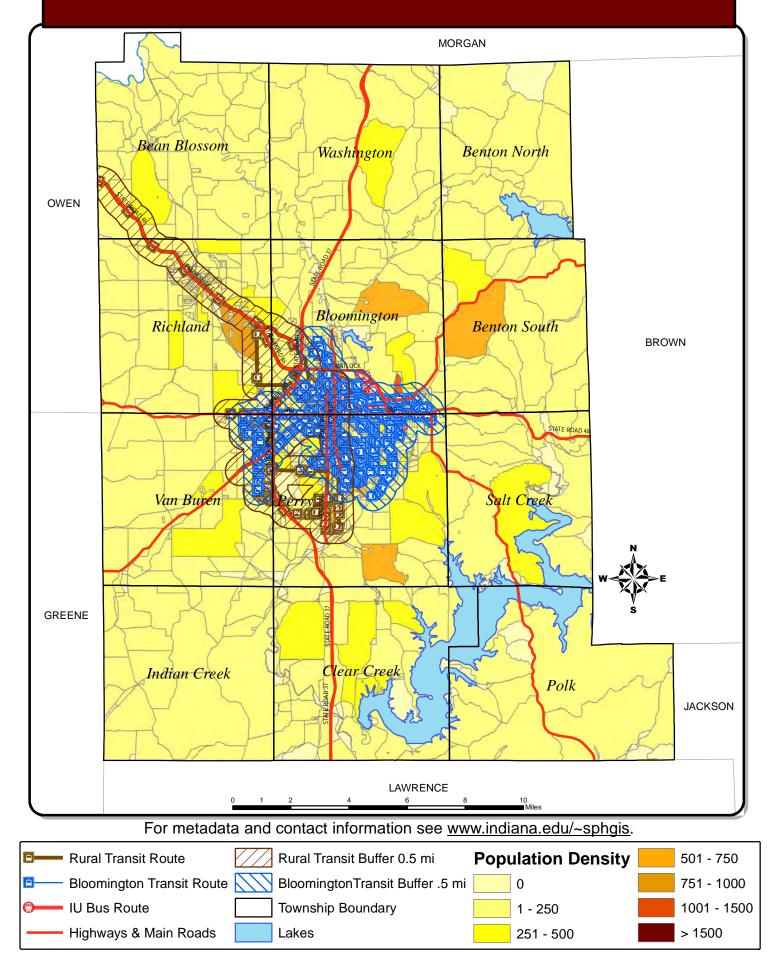
Van Buren Township Potential Environmental Exposure Sites



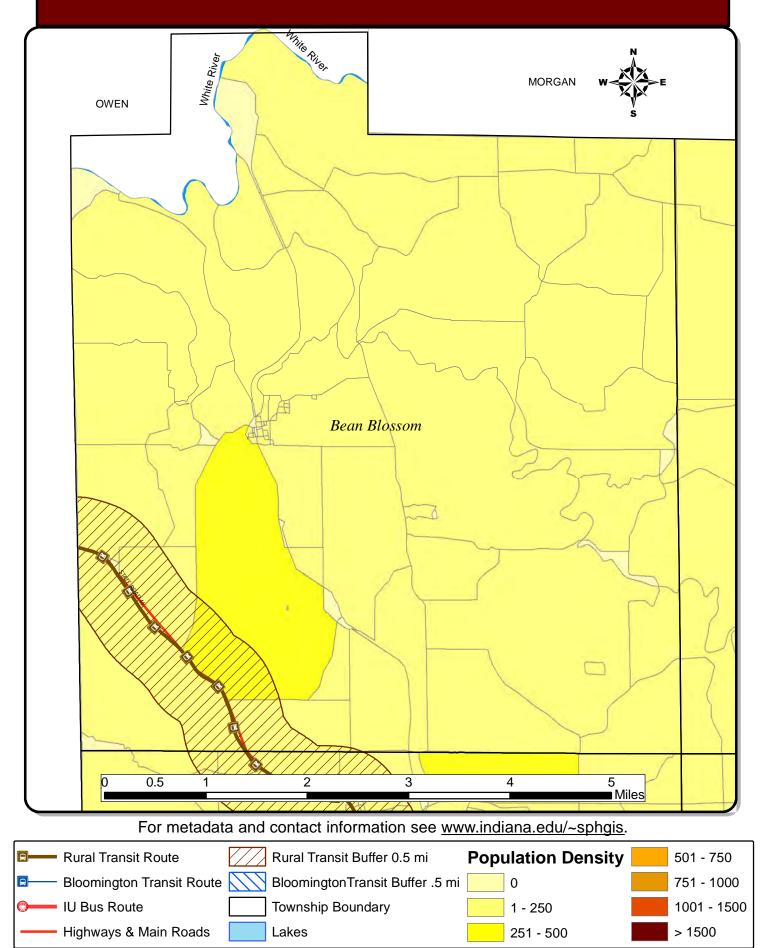
Washington Township Potential Environmental Exposure Sites



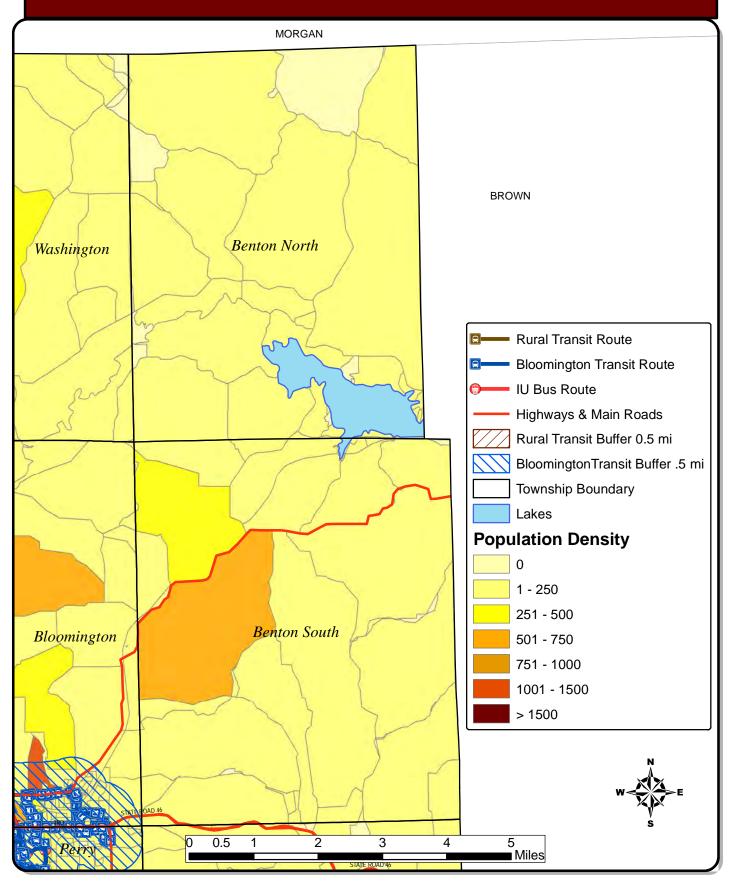
Monroe County Transportation Assets



Bean Blossom Township Transportation Assets

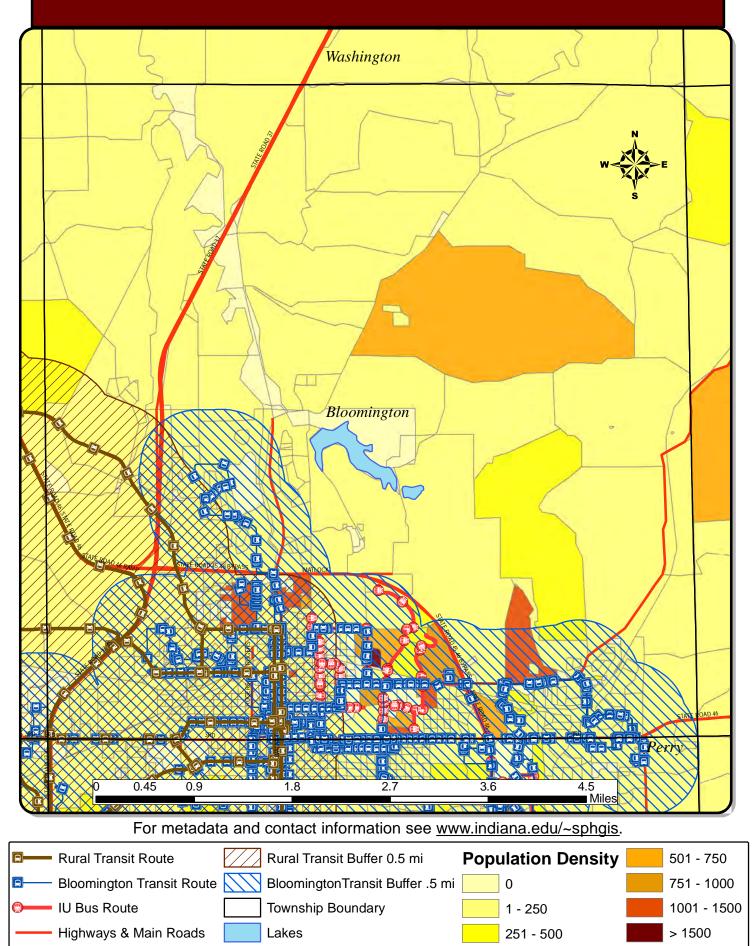


North and South Benton Townships Transportation Assets

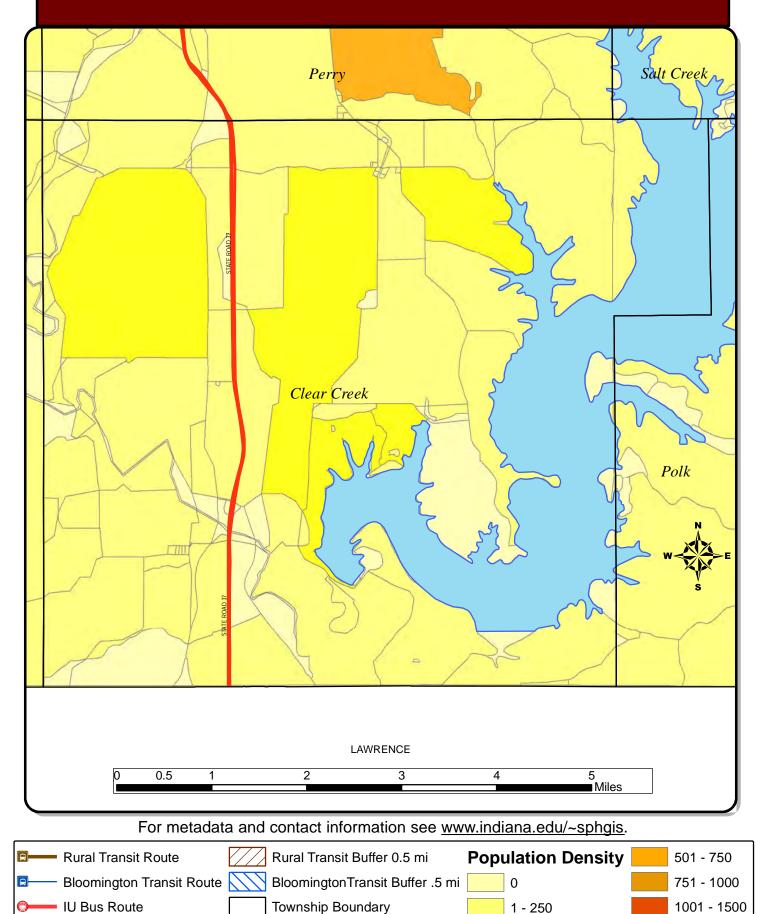


For metadata and contact information see www.indiana.edu/~sphgis.

Bloomington Township Transportation Assets



Clear Creek Township Transportation Assets



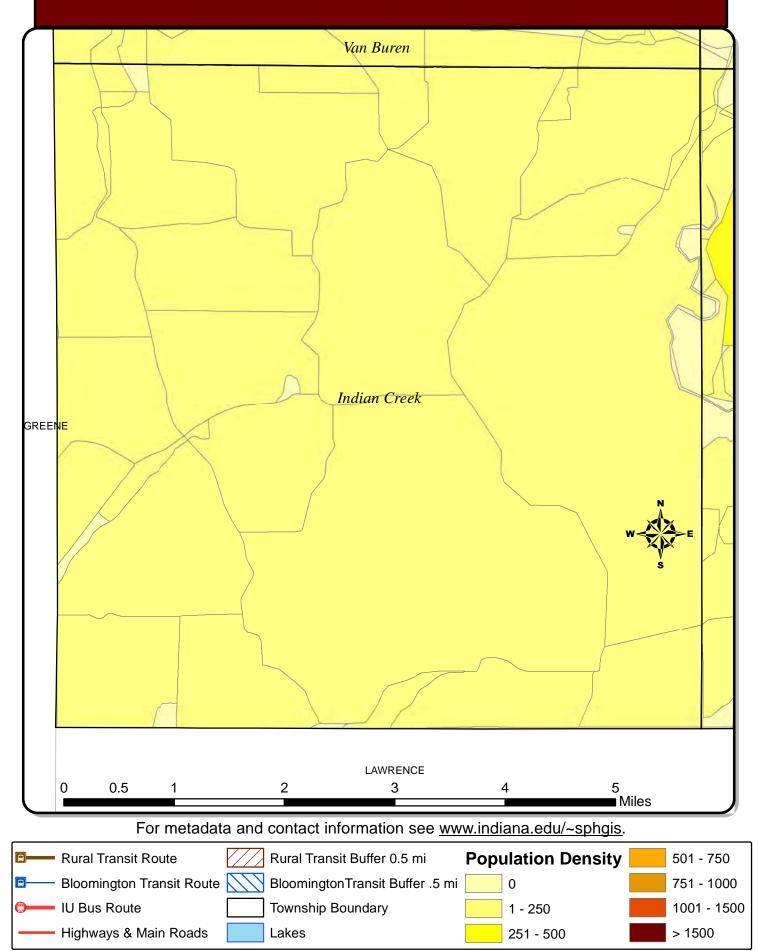
Highways & Main Roads

Lakes

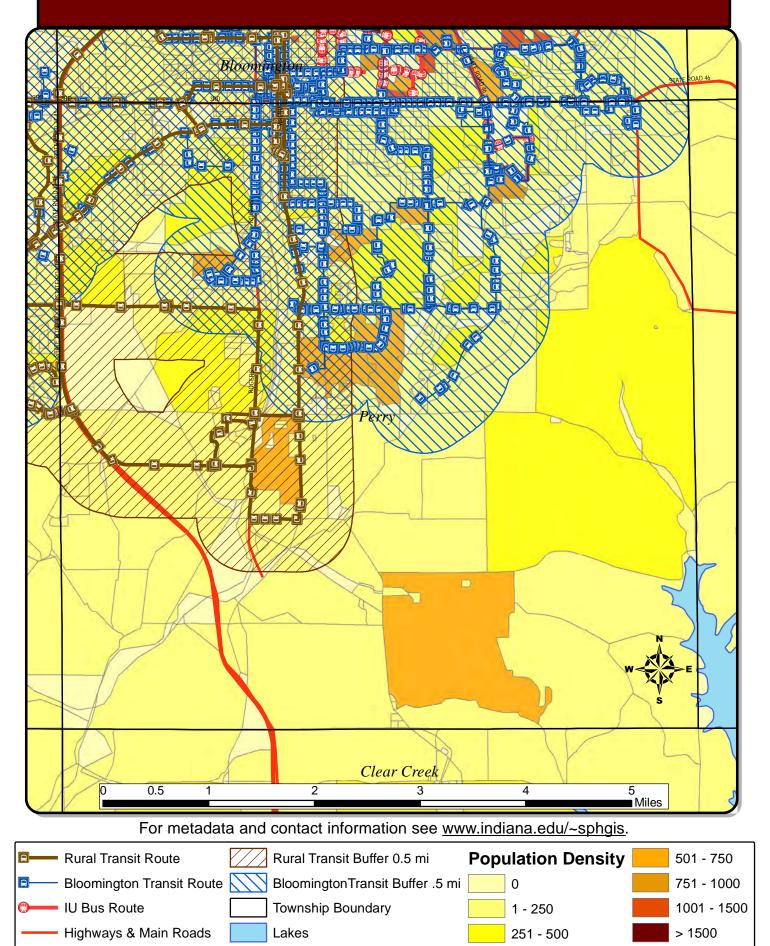
251 - 500

> 1500

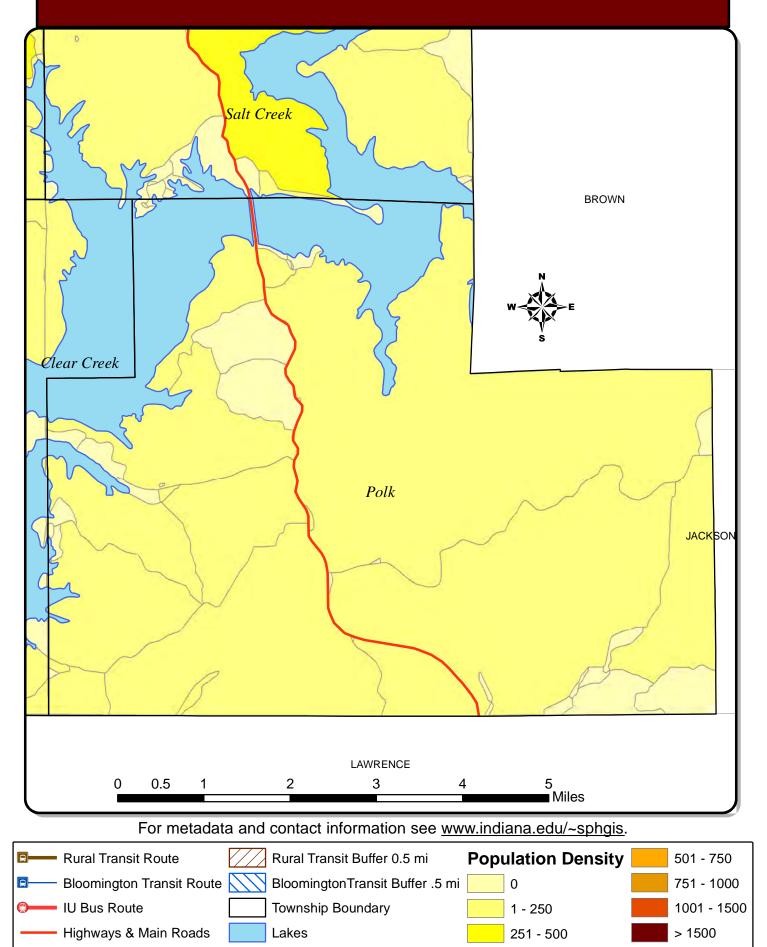
Indian Creek Township Transportation Assets



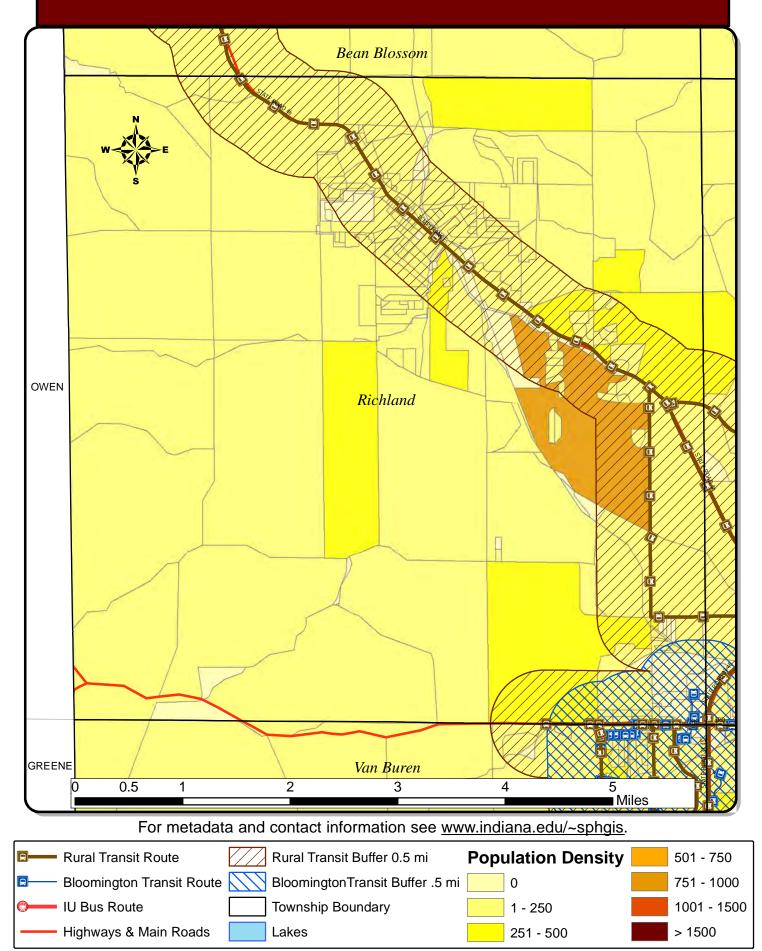
Perry Township Transportation Assets



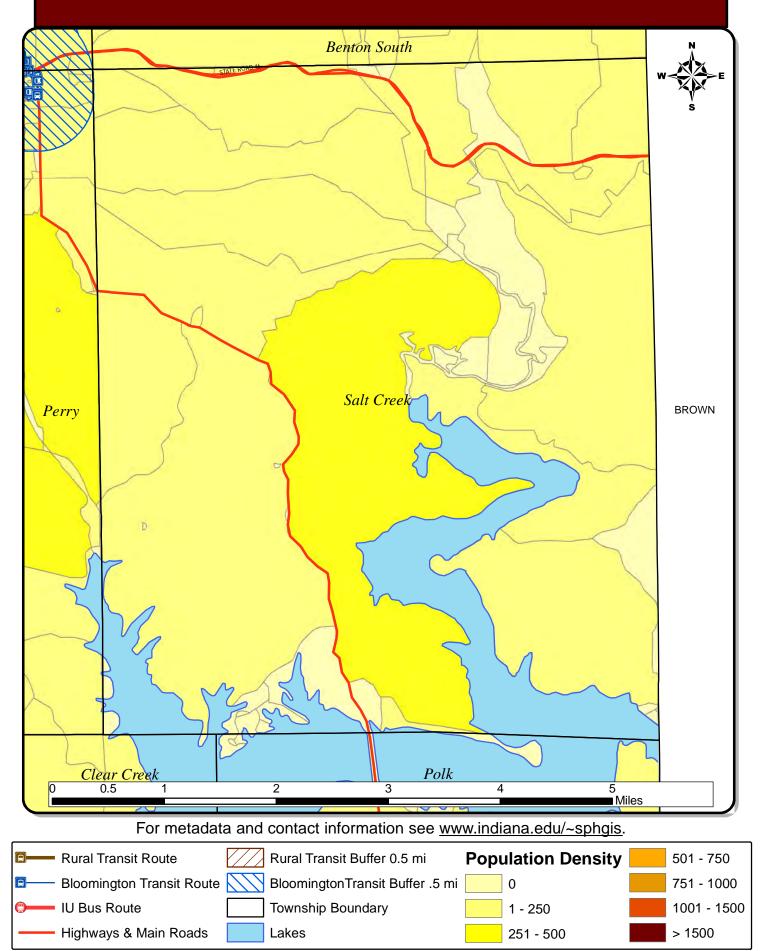
Polk Township Transportation Assets



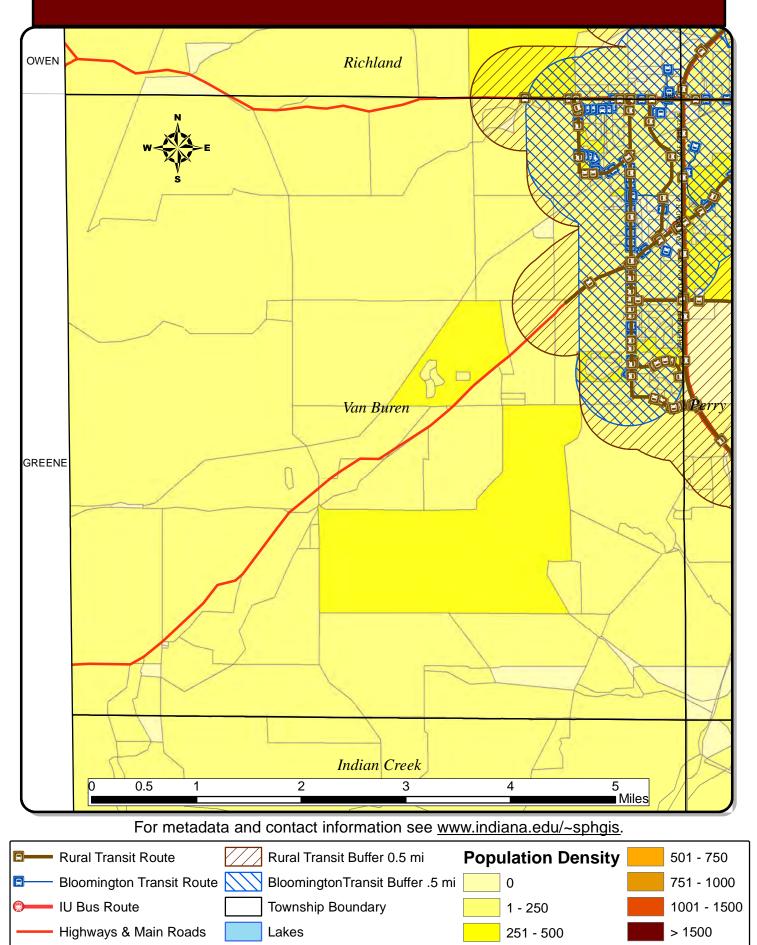
Richland Township Transportation Assets



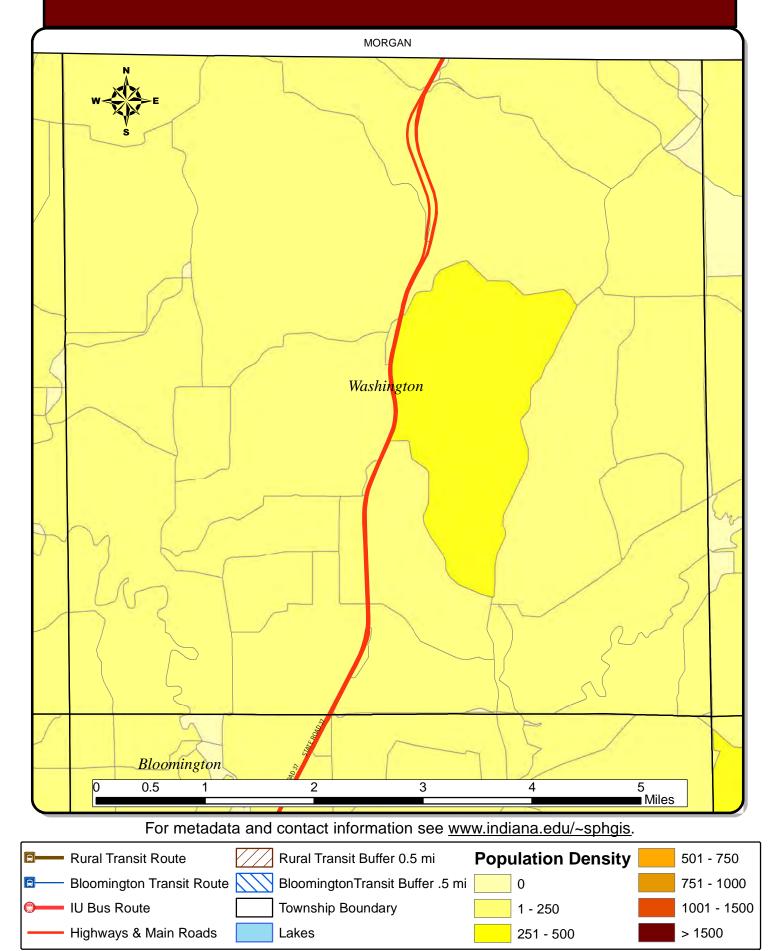
Salt Creek Township Transportation Assets



Van Buren Township Transportation Assets



Washington Township Transportation Assets



MONROE COUNTY



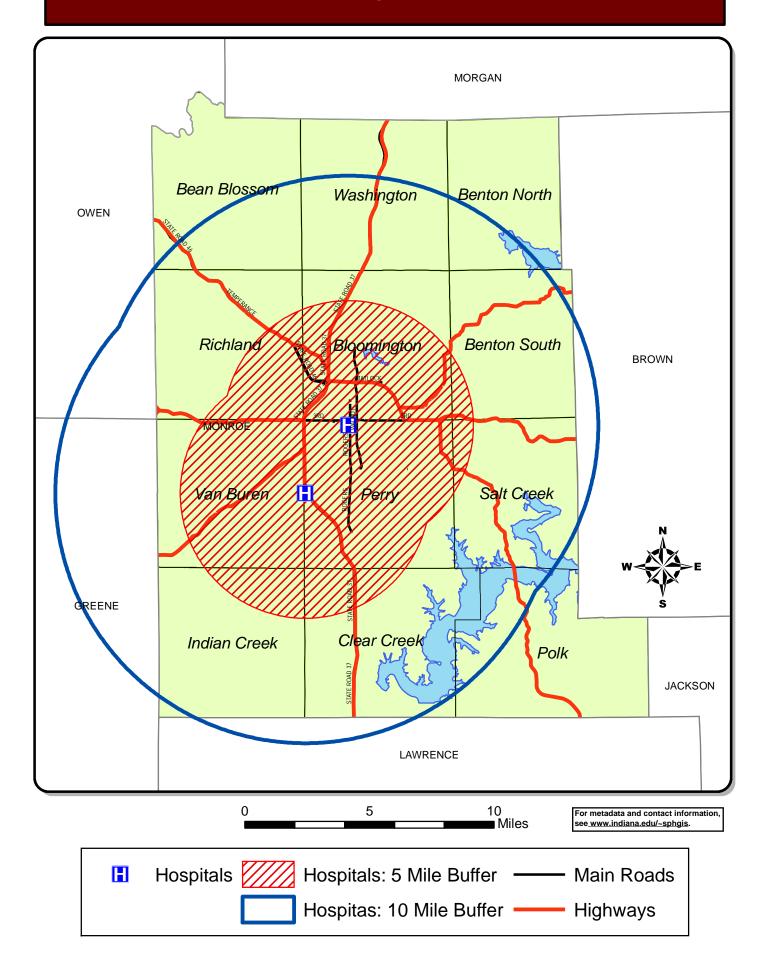
SECTION 4: SPATIAL ANALYSIS Section four of the atlas further analyzes four topic areas for Monroe County. The purpose of these maps is to illustrate coverage for specific health issues that residents in the county may need or desire. These maps examine how far a resident in the county may be to assets such as a hospital or police station. Additionally, these maps were used in the Township Town Hall Meetings to understand residents' concerns with emergency response and health services.

These series of maps illustrate that Monroe County is well served by hospitals, fire and police services. The hospital service areas cover most of the county with the exception of the farther reaches of the eastern and northern Townships. The hospital buffers cover a 5 mile radius around two area hospitals served by major state highways or county road systems. Ideally, these maps would also include the hospital service areas of surrounding counties in the region of South Central Indiana since many residents may travel for health care or seek health services in the state capitol.

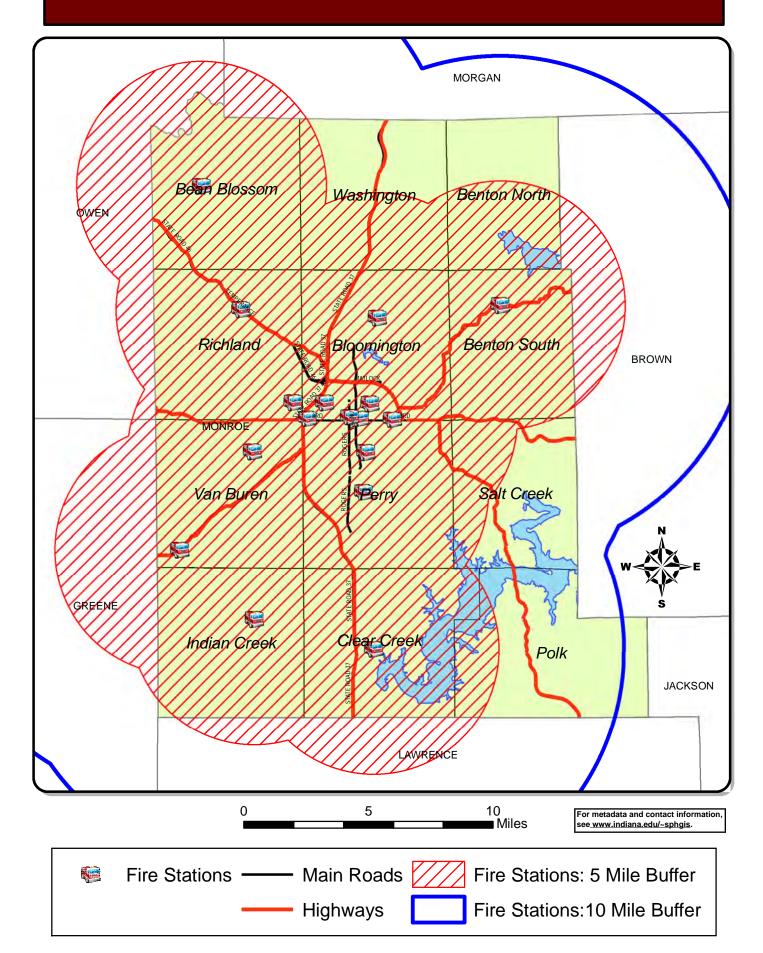
Fire stations were located predominantly in the county's areas which had higher population densities. However, coverage also includes a buffer of 5 and 10 miles to illustrate fire service coverage in the county. With the exception of parts of Polk Township located in the south eastern corner of the county, fire service coverage is extensive within the 10 mile buffer.

Police station coverage primarily focuses in more populous areas of Monroe County and illustrates a 5 mile buffer that extends north to south in the central parts of the county.

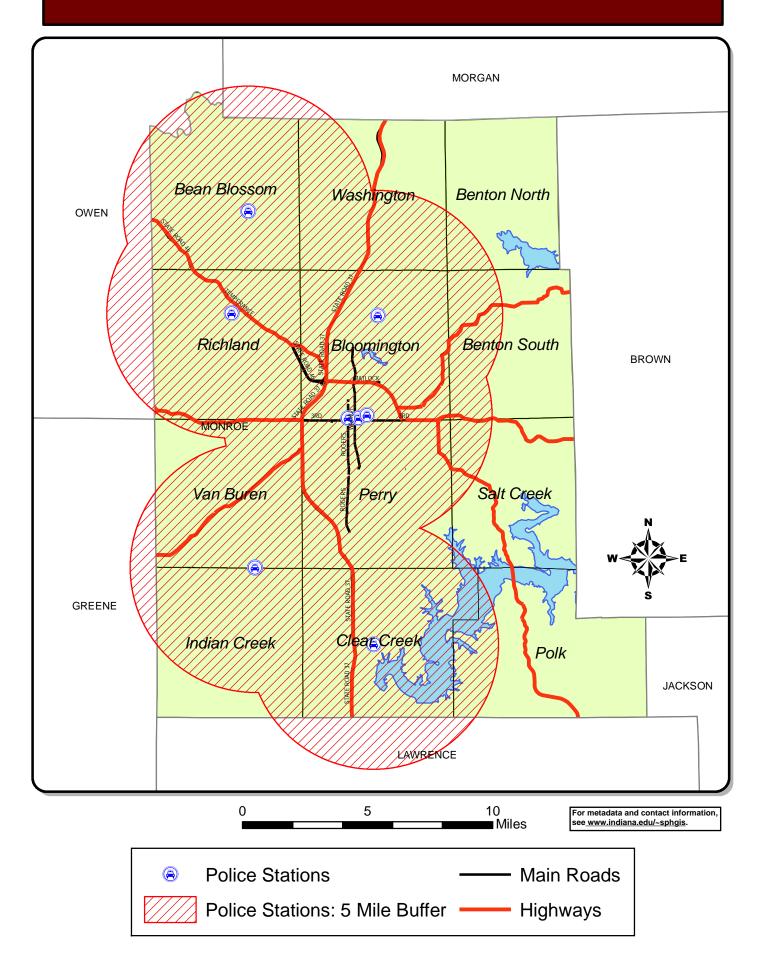
Monroe County Hospitals



Monroe County Fire Stations



Monroe County Police Stations



Monroe County



SECTION 5: TOWNSHIP TOWN HALL MEETINGS

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A unique aspect to the Monroe County Health Assessment was the use of public participatory processes to obtain relevant local information to "ground truth" data from the maps. In this context, the process to ground truth a map involved working with everyday residents of Monroe County in each Township to verify the contents of the map for their Township and determine the accuracy of each classification or information on the map. This process also incorporated methods for residents to make comments on each map and provide their experiences of living in their Township in relationship to each topic area.

In order to actualize this ground truth process, the Monroe County Health Assessment team implemented a Township Town Hall Meeting and invited residents to this process help verify, confirm and discuss each map of the atlas. During the Summer of 2008, eleven Township Town Hall meetings were held at various locations throughout Monroe County and in each of the eleven Townships. Working closely with Township Trustees, community based organizations and local residents, the Monroe County Health Department conducted an extensive outreach campaign to recruit participants to the Township Town Hall Meetings. Health educators and staff from the Monroe County Health Department produced a marketing campaign and participated in local events such as the Monroe County Fair to recruit residents to the Town Hall Meetings.

Township	Total Township Population	Number of Participants
Bean Blossom	2,740	4
Benton (North and South)	3,213	2
Bloomington	41,032	14
Clear Creek	4,164	19
Indian Creek	1,539	16
Perry	40,508	15
Polk	316	8
Richland	12,349	16
Salt Creek	1,443	12
Van Buren	11,434	11
Washington	1,825	3
Latino Meeting		45
Total		165

Furthermore, a series of incentives were generously donated from local businesses and community establishments to help recruit residents to participate in the meetings. For low income residents, a modest stipend was provided to support their participation. Health screenings ranging from high blood pressure screening to dental health were provided by local county health professionals as additional incentives for residents to participate. A list of local organizations and businesses that provided their support and donated their time and resources can be found in the Acknowledgements section.

There were a total of twelve Township Town Hall meetings which includes one meeting focused on the Latino population in Monroe County. A series of maps were displayed on tables for residents to examine and make comments onto each map. Additionally, residents were asked specific questions regarding each map and were encouraged to elaborate their thoughts about maps that were developed in the context of their everyday life in the township.

Participation rates for each Township Town Hall meeting varied. To augment low participation rates, a series of additional focus groups, in-depth interviews and participant observations were conducted throughout the county further verify, confirm and validate information gathered at each Township Town Hall Meeting.

Bean Blossom

Bean Blossom Township is located in the Northwestern corner of Monroe County with a total population of 2,740. This township is characterized by the third largest town in the county, Stinesville. The Bean Blossom Town Hall Meeting was held at the Stinesville Lion's Club on July 21, 2008. Follow-up focus groups and indepth interviews with local township residents were conducted throughout 2009.

The main concern for Bean Blossom residents after reviewing their township maps was regarding employment opportunities. Many residents were also increasingly concerned with the price of gas and the ability to travel to work or obtain goods and services. Residents mentioned challenges with getting to Bloomington or other areas of the region since adequate or maintained roads were of concern. Additionally, residents did not feel connected to health services or healthy food outlets.

In regards to health issues Bean Blossom residents felt improved behavioral and mental health support was needed in their area to decrease stigma to issues such as alcohol consumption or depression. Some residents cited information about general health conditions in the area was needed and would like to have more specific health data on seniors and those living on fixed incomes.

Another concern among residents in Bean Blossom was emergency services. Residents were not fully aware of the services that were available, nor did they understand the emergency warning systems that were in place in Monroe County. Residents felt that it would be helpful to have an outreach campaign specifically around these issues would support their ability to respond more effectively to a natural disaster or an outbreak in their area.

Access to affordable and nutritious food was less of a concern for residents that participated in the town meetings or through in-depth interviews. Many residents drove to food facilities or used their car to access other assets such as educational or cultural activities. There were many concerns with the rising costs to travel in their cars and gas prices were a big issue. Some residents also voiced a desire for more educational and vocational outreach to their community and felt more resources should be evenly distributed throughout the outer parts of the county rather than centrally focused on the City of Bloomington.

Benton (North and South)

Benton Township is divided into north and south and is located in the north eastern corner of Monroe County. It is a rural township with a population of 3,213. The Benton Township Town Meeting was held at the Unionville Church of Christ Community Building on July 14, 2008. It was the least attended town hall meeting and therefore a series of in-depth interviews and additional focus groups were held with residents throughout 2009.

Due to the relative rural nature of Benton Township, many residents felt disconnected to the rest of Monroe County. All residents participating in the meetings or interviews mentioned their major concern was access to social and health services. Additionally, educational and employment opportunities were important to many residents. Often residents felt left out of Monroe County services and did not feel that they were well informed of county services or activities. Residents were concerned with access to safe, affordable and nutritious food as well as opportunities to participate in physical activity. Concerns with the rising cost of gas and growing unemployment was mentioned often. Health concerns were connected to chronic diseases such as overweight and obesity but many residents mentioned they had challenges addressing these issues. Additionally, residents felt that alcohol consumption and drug use was rising in their area and felt more outreach was needed to attend to these issues.

Many residents mentioned that they were not aware of emergency response assets in the township. Residents did not hear sirens in their area but did not express major concerns regarding this issue. Most residents brought up transportation needs and felt better connections to Bloomington were needed to increase accessibility to food and gas facilities, public transportation and cultural and educational assets.

Bloomington

The Bloomington Township Town Hall Meeting was held at the City of Bloomington City Hall Council Chambers on July 29, 2008. An additional Town Hall Meeting was held for the Latino population with support from Volunteers in Medicine. Bloomington is the largest Township with a total population of 41,032 people and is the most urban of the eleven townships. Bloomington Township also is the home of Indiana University, the City of Bloomington and the majority of Monroe County's government agencies. Furthermore, the Township is the most diverse in demographics as well as in its cultural, educational and service offerings.

The central concern in Bloomington Township was effective access to social services. Many residents felt that they knew services existed but navigating through the vast array of services was often overwhelming. Residents felt that they would hear of programs and activities primarily through word of mouth rather than by formal outreach activities. Participants also noted that they relied heavily on public transportation to maneuver through the City of Bloomington and were concerned with the efficiency and ease of traveling from the western area of the Township to the eastern areas. Many noted that taking public transportation across town was challenging but staying in one area of town was fairly easy. Residents were overall happy with the plethora of City of Bloomington cultural and educational programming and activities but often noted that the abundance in offerings could be confusing or overwhelming.

Bloomington Town Hall Meeting participants were concerned with adequate employment. Many indicated that their networks were struggling to pay the bills on low-wage salaries or under-employment. Some mentioned information or access to vocational training and educational opportunities was important. In regards to health and access to health services, many residents were satisfied and confident with their ability to access care but were more concerned with culturally appropriate care, issues around stigma for certain health conditions and privacy issues. Participants were more aware of services that were available if you had an existing problem but not for prevention services. Therefore, comments reflected more prevention management concerns rather than for crisis management where many residents felt the City of Bloomington did a good job or performed well.

Latino residents reported concerns over immigration status or how other residents felt about their presence in Bloomington. They relayed their desire to contribute to the health and well being of the community. There were reports of social exclusion throughout the county and many participants mentioned their concerns when in other parts of the county. Many residents felt more outreach was needed to families with children and young adults.

Overall residents reported high satisfaction with recreational and park facilities. They reported that the transition of old rail beds to trails was a positive aspect to living in the township. However, many residents felt that Indiana University should be a better neighbor. Participants felt that the university did not do enough to support local venues and complained that the university did not do a good job in community relations.

Clear Creek

The Clear Creek Township Town Hall Meeting was held on July 10, 2008 at the Harrodsburg Community Building. This was the first Town Hall Meeting for the Monroe County Health Assessment. Clear Creek is a community of 4,164 people and is considered a mix of urban and rural township with many residents working in Bloomington or commuting to jobs elsewhere.

Clear Creek Township participants raised a series of challenges during their Town Hall Meeting. While many felt their community was healthy, some voiced concern over opportunities to engage in safe, affordable and adequate physical activities. Many pointed out that there was a lack of sidewalks throughout the township and residents were required to walk on streets without shoulders for exercise. Residents felt that the county needed to extend opportunities for cultural and educational offerings in their area and make it easier to travel to assets in Bloomington using public transportation.

Residents also felt that adequate information on emergency resources and response was needed to support local efforts to keep Clear Creek Township safe. Often residents noted that sirens could not be heard from where they lived and information about emergency warnings was limited.

Employment and educational opportunities were important to participants. Residents felt that they needed additional outreach and training to support those seeking employment. Additionally, access to food facilities was an important issue. Many had to drive to grocery stores and noted an increase in the use of area food pantries to address food shortages in the home.

Increasing concerns with health issues was another topic of discussion. Many felt that they needed better health education about various chronic diseases that they were experiencing while others voiced concerns over access to affordable and safe prevention services that could address specific health issues such as high blood pressure, diabetes, cancer and behavioral health issues. Many residents felt that the County should work with them more closely given how close knit residents were in this community. Often residents mentioned better connections and more integrated information would be useful in providing more efficient and effective services and care.

Indian Creek

On July 28, 2008, the Indian Creek Township Town Hall Meeting was held at the Mt. Zion Church. Indian Creek is a rural township located on the southwestern corner of Monroe County with a population of 1,539 people.

Many participants were concerned with transportation issues and affordability and accessibility to gas facilities. Residents also were increasingly concerned with the number of chronic diseases in their area and requested more health education and information about how to prevent these diseases from occurring in the township. Access to cultural and educational facilities was more challenging given the rural location of the township but many residents mentioned that they travelled by car to the City of Bloomington to take advantage of cultural and educational programming.

Residents noted that vocational training was needed especially for residents that had lost their jobs or remain underemployed. Opportunities for education among their young people were need and residents voiced a desire to connect their children to better opportunities.

Perry

Perry Township is the second largest Township in regards to population in Monroe County. There are 40,508 people living within the township that reflects the diversity of the City of Bloomington. It is characterized as an urban township that predominantly shares the boundaries of the City of Bloomington with Bloomington Township. The township is the home to both hospitals in Monroe County and serves as a residential core for the City of Bloomington. Additionally, the township is served by both rural and urban public transit systems and has numerous cultural and educational assets, emergency services and a vibrant business sector. The Perry Township Town Hall Meeting was held on July 23, 2008 at Bloomington South High School.

The major concern address at the Town Hall Meeting was adequate and affordable housing. Many residents noted that people who were underemployed or had low wage jobs had more challenges finding housing in the area. Additionally, residents were not fully aware of all the health and emergency service offerings in the township and wanted to see increased health education on these topics.

Given the residential nature of the township, many participants wanted more information about how to participate in existing social networks as well as take advantage of the system of parks and recreation offerings located in their area. Families noted that they would like to see more non-competitive physical activity offerings by the City of Bloomington and align these with more efficient public transportation options.

While food facilities were numerous in the area, many participants were concerned with the number of fast food restaurants. Also, the lack of adequate sidewalks or safe areas away from traffic corridors was a deterrent to participating in physical activity.

Many residents felt that they were not adequately prepared for emergency situations and would not be able to identify what to do during an emergency response. Participants suggested more health education was needed to address emergency response needs as well as the overall health prevention needs of the community, especially for low income residents. Furthermore, Perry Township participants identified a need for more coordination between social services, health services and other programs throughout the county.

Polk

Located in the south eastern corner of Monroe County and separated by the rest of the county by Lake Monroe, Polk Township is considered the most rural of Monroe County's eleven townships. The 318 residents of Polk Township are served by one main road that connects the township to the central core of Monroe County making this township the least populated and most isolated. The Township Town Hall Meeting was held on August 6, 2008 at the Hunter's Creek Pentecostal Church.

Many participants spoke of a need for senior services, especially access to safe and affordable services that address health, food and safety issues. Many residents spoke of the natural beauty of the township and felt the rural landscape needed to be preserved for future generations. Transportation needs were the most concern, especially transit to health care and social service facilities in the City of Bloomington. Some residents felt better integration with neighboring Jackson County would be helpful and more information about how to access social support and service activities would support their senior population. Residents conveyed that they could take care of themselves in an emergency but did mention that sirens and other emergency services were not known of or well utilized. While all residents used a car, rural transportation could benefit those who no longer drove. Residents did note that their township was the most isolated from the rest of the other townships in Monroe County and that services, assets and other programming was not as present on their maps as they saw in other areas of Monroe County. But many conveyed that they felt confident that if they desired to connect to the City of Bloomington, they could easily access what was offered there. However, other needs such as access to grocery stores and gas facilities were more challenging.

Richland

On July 22, 2008, the Richland Township Town Hall Meeting was held at the Eagle's Landing Gym. Richland Township is home to Monroe County's second largest town, Ellettsville and has a total population of 12,349 people. Participants in the Richland Township Town Hall meeting were most concerned about access to safe, affordable and nutrition food given the large number of fast food facilities in their area. In addition, access to physical activity opportunities was a consistent issue that was raised during the meeting. Residents felt that adequate sidewalks and more programming at local parks and recreation facilities was needed to address health issues they witnessed in their community.

Another issue that many felt needed address was around behavioral health issues. Some wanted more health education efforts focused on identifying and treating mental health diseases and how to support families that may be going through this challenge.

Some residents voiced a concern with growth and inquired how to have better informed conversations about the connections between health and residential planning. Also, more information about social and health services and outreach was requested during this meeting. Residents felt that increasing unemployment would make it necessary for families to find creative ways to make their money stretch and services and programs that supported these families was needed in the area.

Salt Creek

Salt Creek Township is a rural township of 1,443 people located on the eastern part of Monroe County. The Township Town Hall meeting was held at the Scenic Restaurant on August 14, 2008. Many residents voiced concerns about chronic disease and illness in their community and what ways to address these needs. In addition, public transportation options were discussed and how to improve or introduce transportation to this area of the county and to provide more access for county residents without cars to opportunities and resources

in the City of Bloomington. Many residents stated that they were not fully aware of the emergency response system or how it operated.

A big concern was in regards to employment and business development opportunities for residents. Many participants felt there needed to be better outreach mechanisms in place to incubate businesses, vocational training for residents to find more meaningful employment and information to establish sustainable entrepreneurial establishments.

Van Buren

The semi-rural township of Van Buren is located on the western side of Monroe County with a population of 11,434 people. The Township Town Hall Meeting was held at the Monroe County Fairgrounds on August 12, 2008. Residents at this Township Town Hall Meeting felt they were in a good location to connect with services, opportunities and resources offered in the City of Bloomington. However, many indicated that those without transportation or affordable means to get to the City would find it difficult to access these resources. Many noted that transportation between the township and Bloomington was dependent on car ownership and would like to see more extensive public transportation opportunities offered in their area.

Chronic diseases are of great concern to residents in this township. Many indicated that they would like more health education and information about how to prevent or manage chronic disease. Some residents also voiced a concern about how to access social and health services more effectively.

In regards to emergency response, many residents were not aware how the emergency system worked or operated in their area. They reported hearing sirens outdoors but not inside their houses and were not aware what to do if a siren would be activated.

Washington

Washington Township is located on the northern border of Monroe County and is characterized as a rural township of 1,825 people. The Township Town Hall meeting was held on July 17, 2008 at the Family Life Worship Center Gym. Participants felt that the maps represented their township well given the rural nature of the area.

Residents noted that local employment and educational needs were of concern since many of them commuted outside of Monroe County for work given their location closer to the state capitol. Residents also would like to see more extensive recreational trails and outdoor offerings in their part of the county. Given their location on a major state highway, residents felt they had easy access to both the City of Bloomington and services in the nearby city of Martinsville, Indiana located in Morgan County. One concern however was the construction of a larger extension to Highway 37 and how this would impact their township. Township residents felt more information was needed in regards to emergency services and health care needs. Participants noted that they would like to see a more extensive health assessment of their community to illustrate not only their health concerns but how to prevent disease and illness in their community.

Monroe County



SECTION 6: RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

RECOMMENDATIONS

Many suggestions and recommendations emerged from the Town Hall Meetings in each of the eleven townships and a Town Hall Meeting with the Latino population. Many residents and participants agreed more civic engagement and participation in local health planning and prevention efforts were necessary to create meaningful policy recommendations for future programming that reduces the burden of disease and illness in their communities.

The main trends discussed by participants about public health sector were the lack of access to health services, certain assets (such as a grocery store) in some areas and the existence of confusing and mixed messages around public health (such as emergency response). Participants would like to see more health education, social service coordination and outreach in the community to ensure access to programs, more consciousness and discussion around local health issues and conditions, more representation and participation from residents and insurance coverage for preventative treatment and care.

Participants were also concerned with increasing unemployment rates and costs for health care. Many were concerned with how their community or township would be able to respond to these growing trends. Residents recommended more aggressive job training programs, creating educational opportunities and supporting people through certification programs or other skills building activities, especially in townships that were located away from the City of Bloomington.

In order to work towards these changes, participants in identified the following needs: increased funding to support proactive rather than defensive action of these issues, county incentives and disincentives for healthy choices, and more effective communication of existing programs throughout the county.

Outcomes from the Town Hall Meetings, including ideal futures and suggested actions steps, have helped the Monroe County Health Department identify opportunities for policy and programmatic changes that would improve the local public health system. In each of the Town Hall Meetings, participants were given an opportunity to present an action or commitment to the group and to engage others in support and collaboration. Participants identified specific requests for volunteers and for public health outreach activities. Participants made commitments regarding specific actions, such as increasing outreach to support health access programs, forming new collaborations and following up with legislators. Each Town Hall Meeting closed with a roundrobin of brief statements that allowed participants to express personal reactions to the work and visions discussed throughout the day. Though not all statements were without reservations and concerns, the overall sentiment suggested an increased inspiration to improve the health and well being of all Monroe County residents, as well as a greater understanding of the interconnections within the health sector. The *Monroe County Health Assessment Atlas* was written to provide a general overview of issues relevant to Monroe County's public health system and recognizes the complex, adaptive nature of creating context specific recommendations through continued community engagement.

CLOSING

This executive summary illustrates only part of the story that is told in the *Monroe County Health Assessment*. For additional data, information, and spatial maps please review the various sections that follow. To read about trends and priorities identified by the community during each of the Township Town Hall Meetings. With the combined data and information in this report and the feedback from the community Town Hall Meetings, residents of Monroe County can formulate and set in motion the actions that will improve the overall health and sustainability of the community.