



SAVI  
Training Curriculum

MODULE 2E

# AVOID DATA PITFALLS

# Our Agenda

Introductions, Curriculum Overview

5  
min

Pitfall #1 – Treating Estimates Like Exact Numbers

20  
min

Pitfall #2 – Using Avgs. Without Considering Disaggregation

20  
min

Take a break!

5  
min

Pitfall #3 – Looking at Trends in Isolation

20  
min

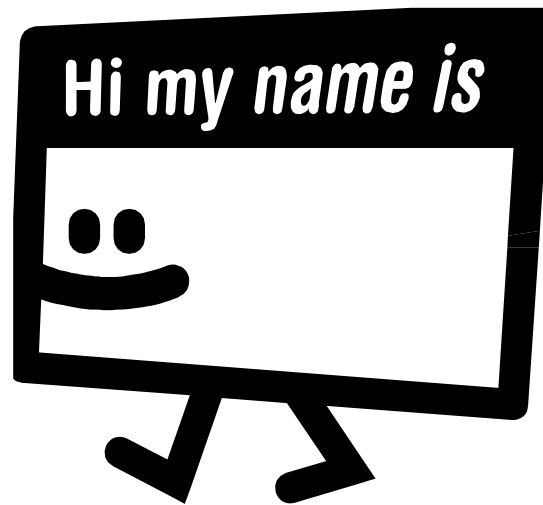
Pitfall #4 – Seeing a Trend and Assuming Causation

20  
min

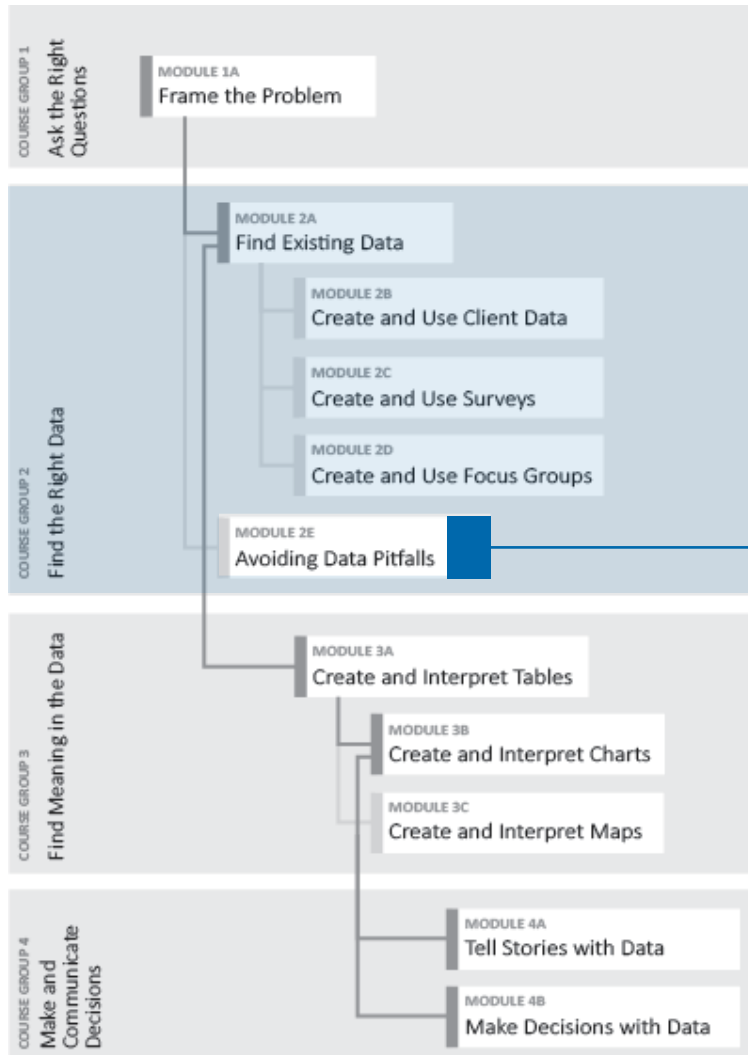


# Introductions

Let's share our name, organization, and experience with SAVI.



# Where We Are in the Training Curriculum



We are here, learning how to avoid common errors in interpreting data.

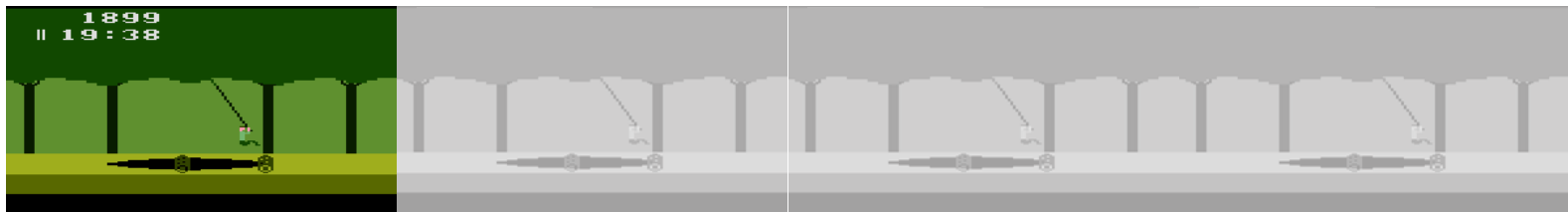
# What We Will Learn

- How policy changes can affect the numbers
- How outside factors can skew analysis
- To judge the accuracy and reliability of data
- To look beyond an isolated indicator



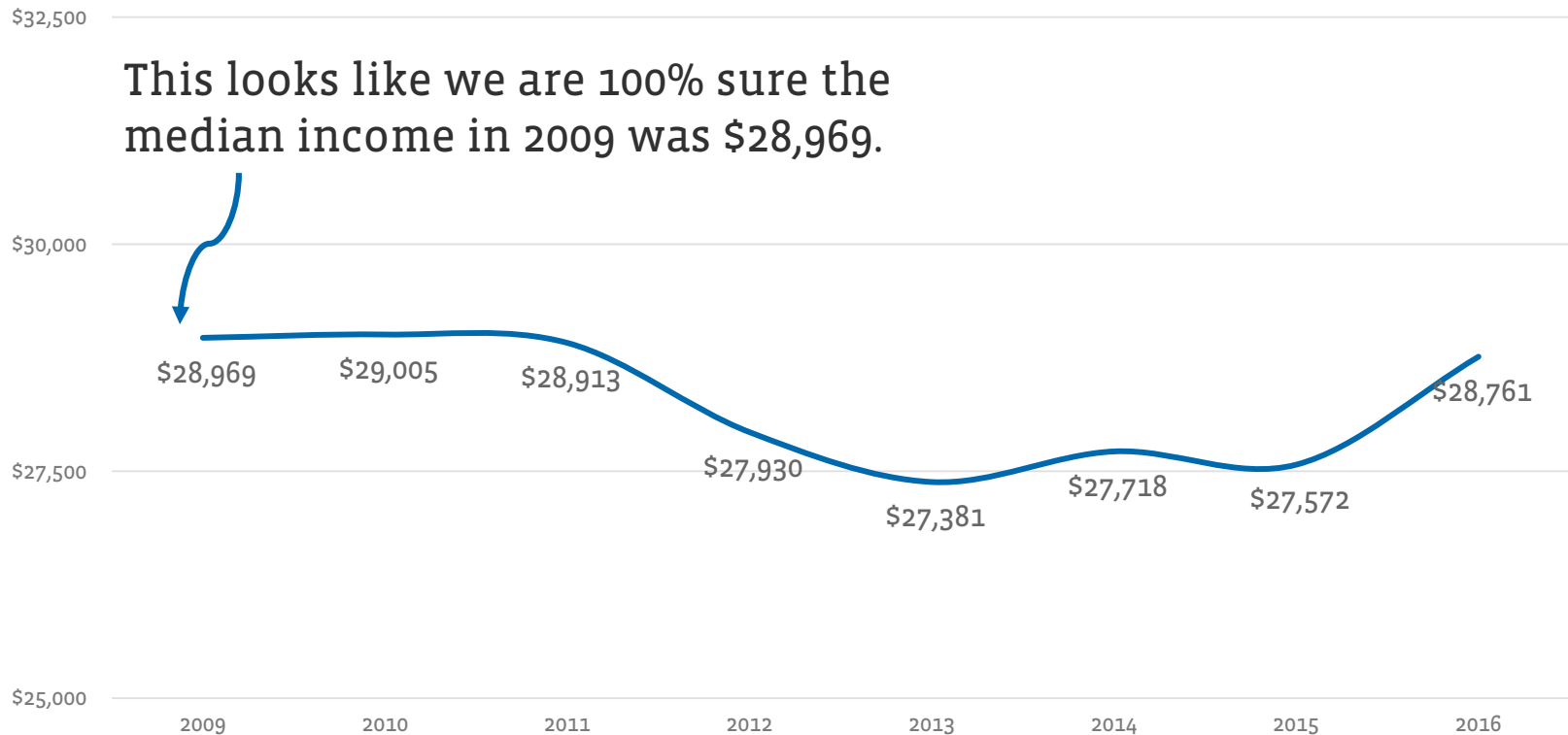


# Treating Estimates Like Exact Numbers



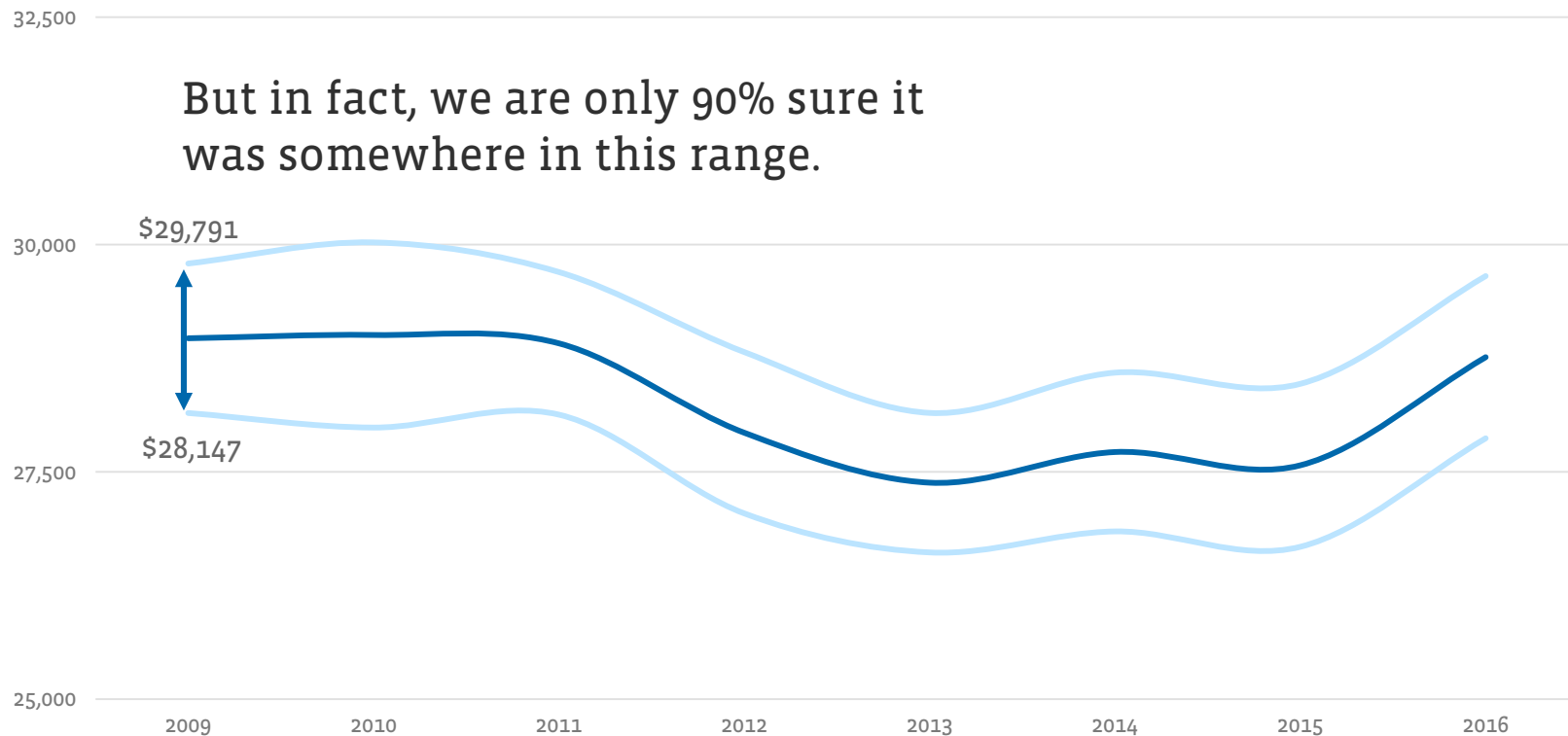
Pitfall #1

# Med. Income in Center Township



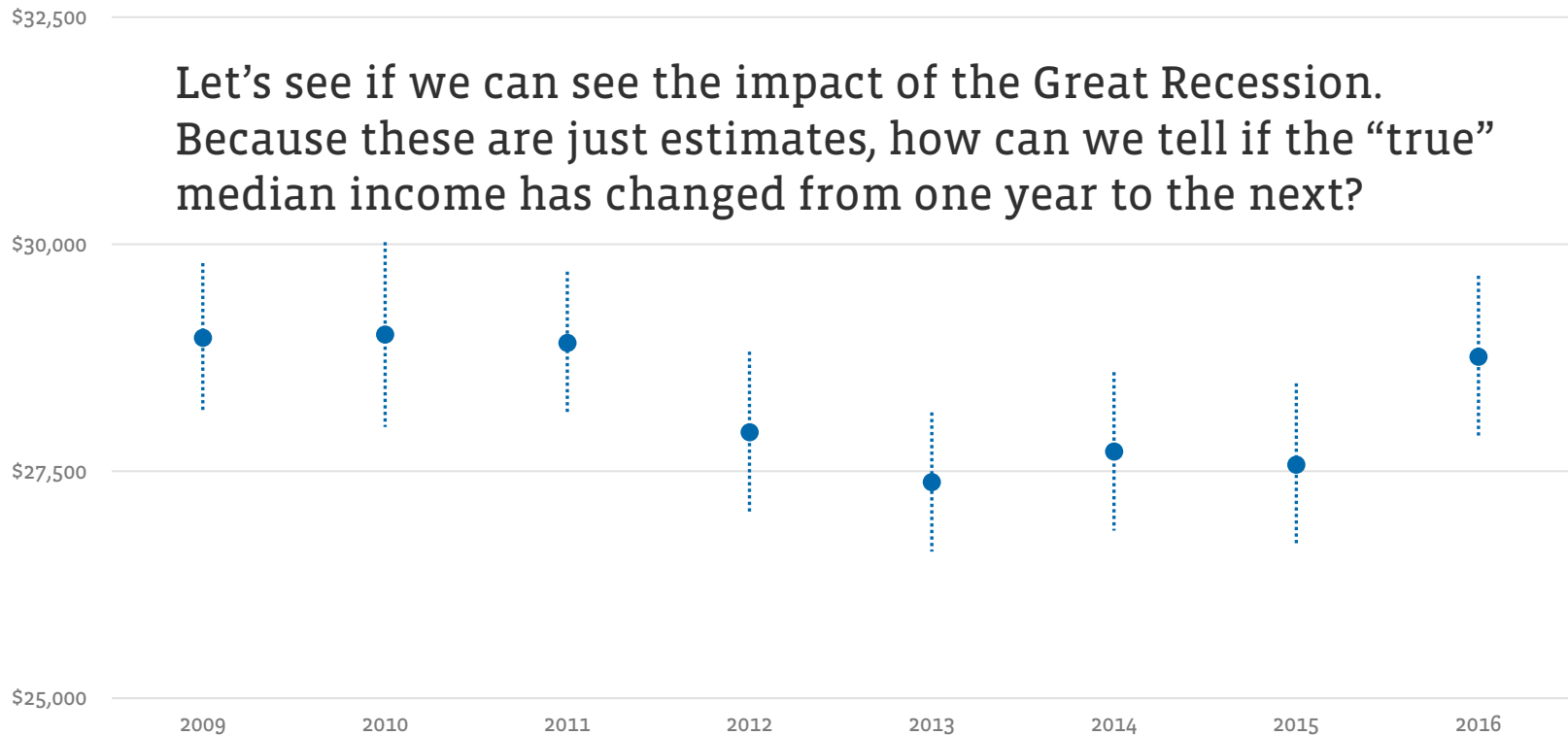


# Margin of Error





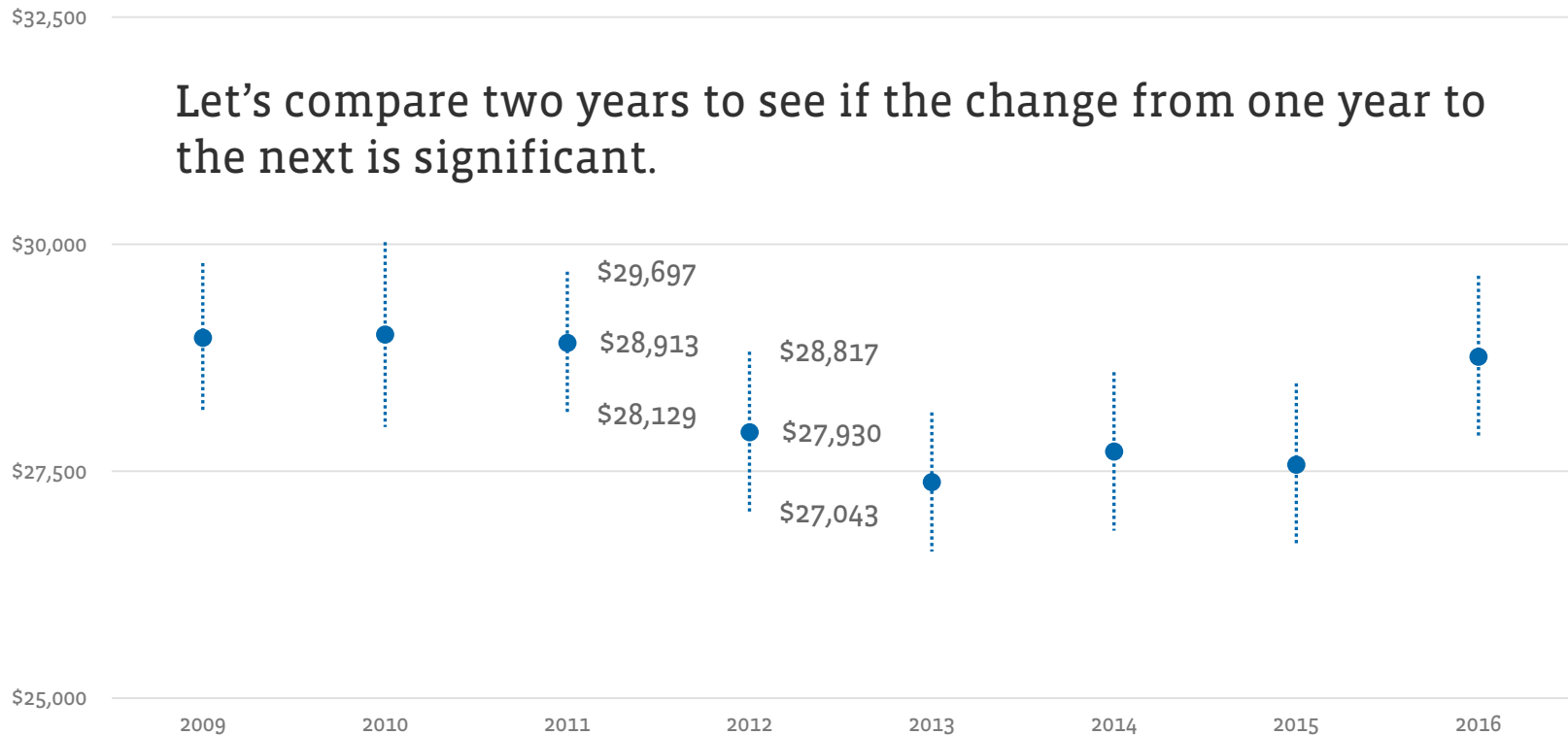
# Significant vs. Insignificant





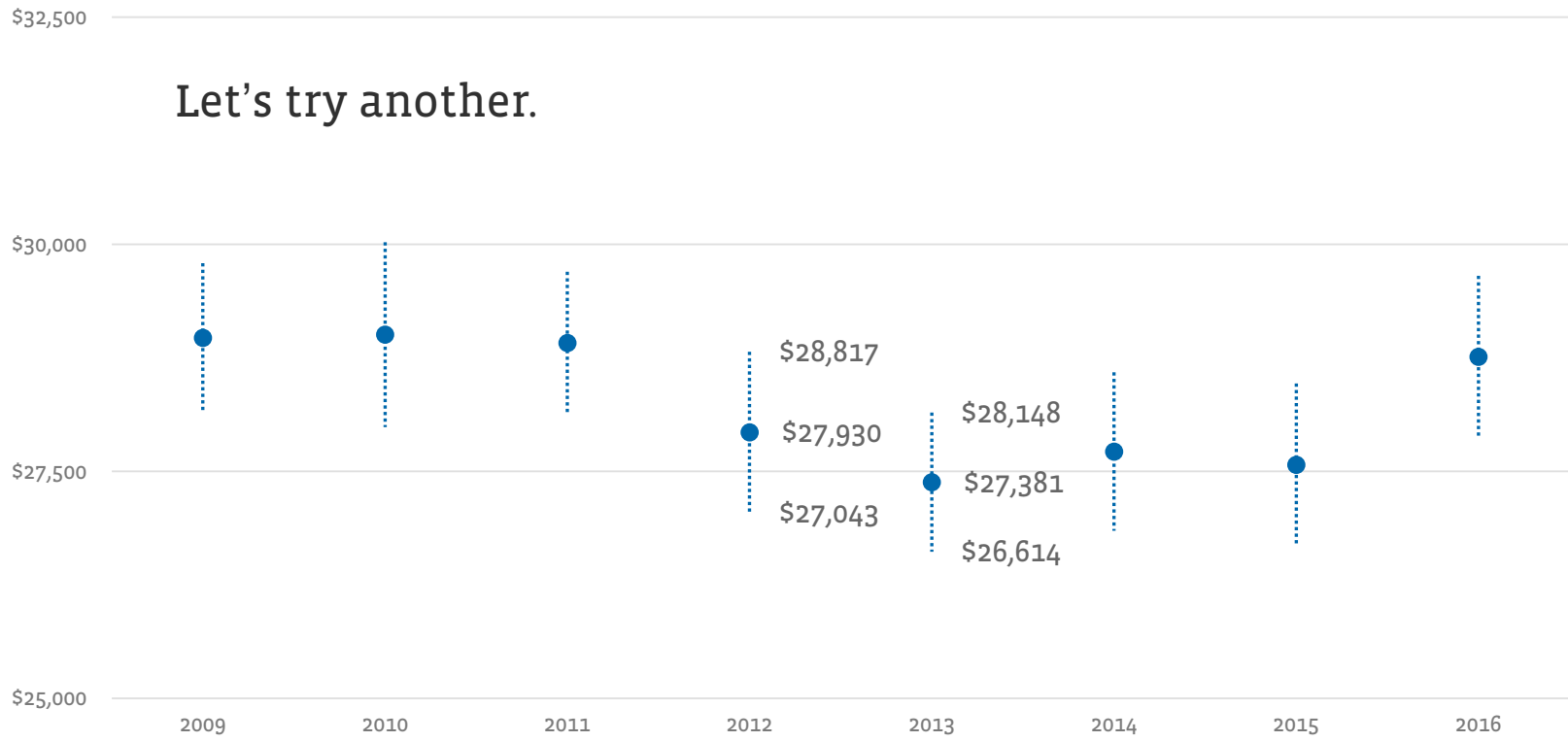
# Significant vs. Insignificant

Let's compare two years to see if the change from one year to the next is significant.



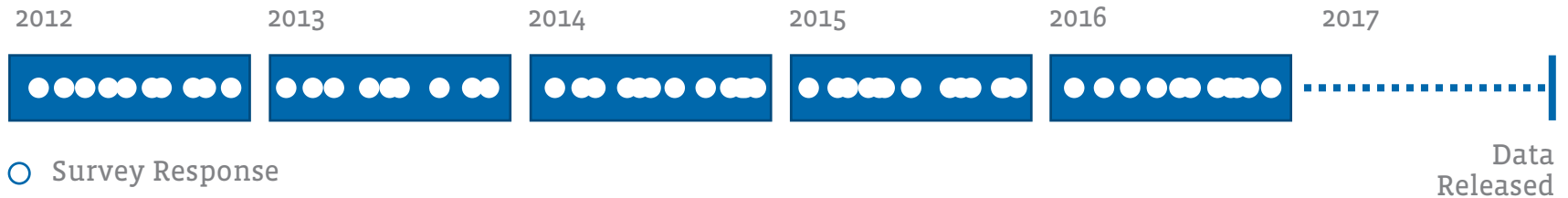


# Significant vs. Insignificant



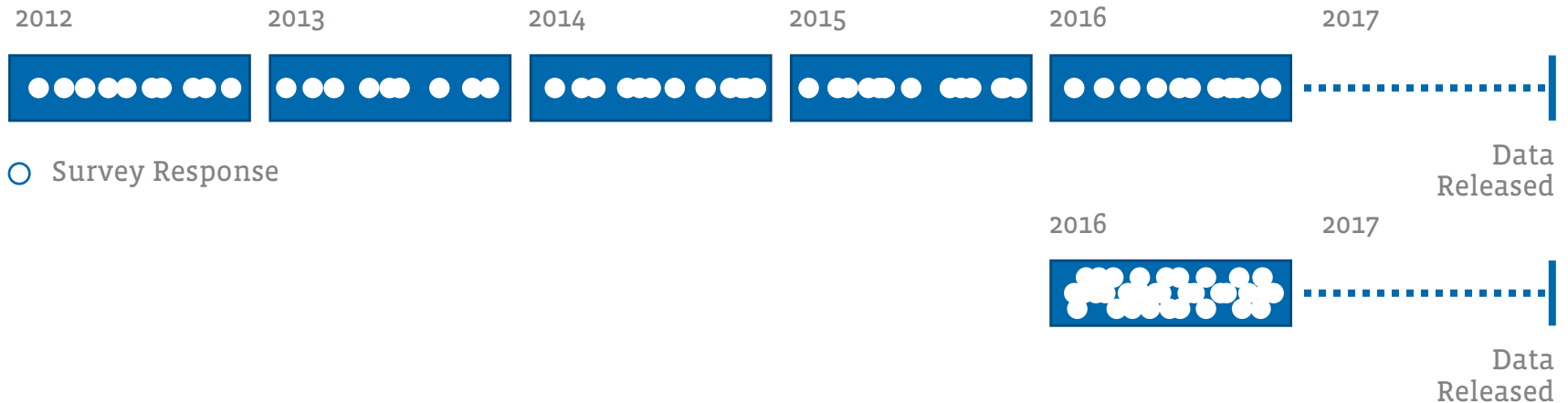
# 5-Year and 1-Year Estimates

ACS surveys constantly each year. To get reliable estimates for small areas, they combine and average surveys over five years.

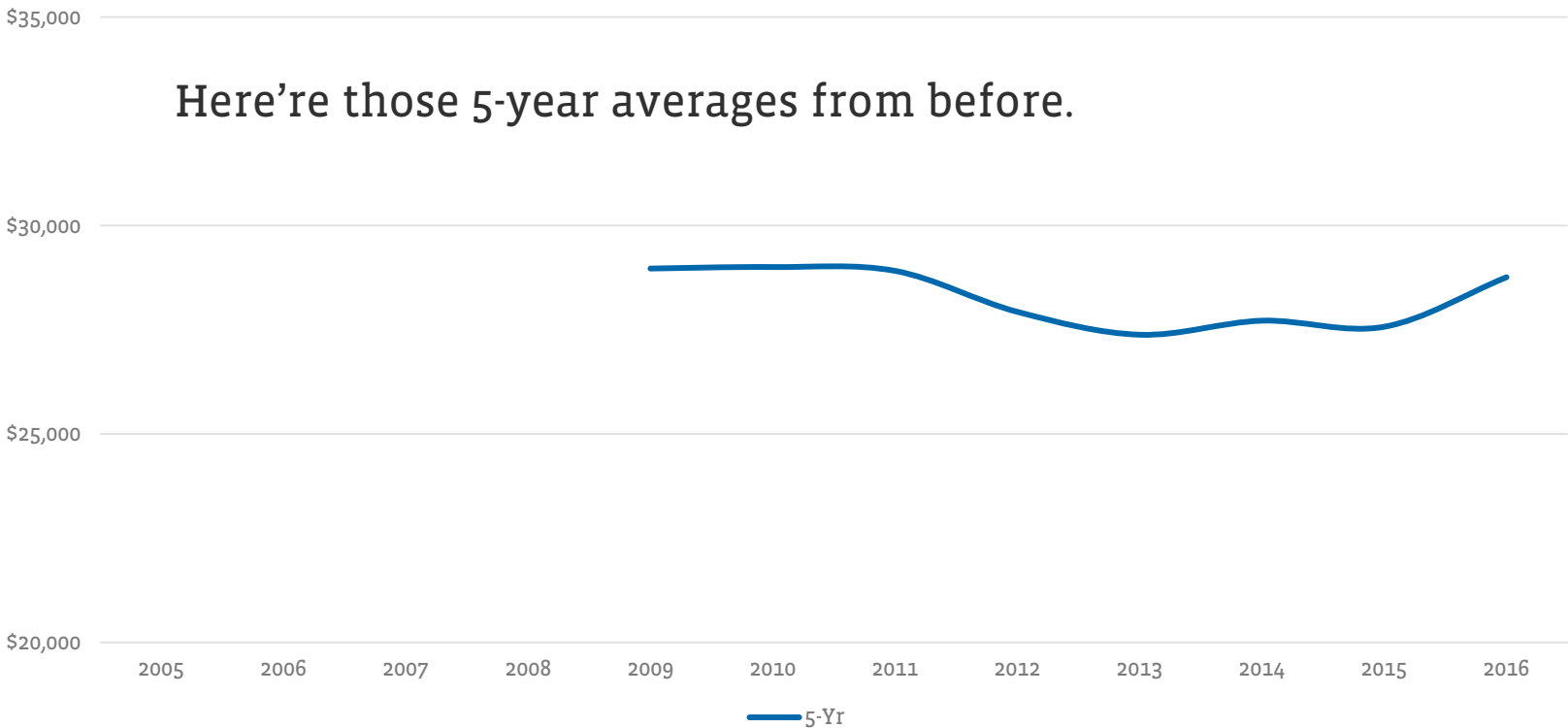


# 5-Year and 1-Year Estimates

But for areas with larger populations (over 65,000), the ACS releases 1-year estimates.

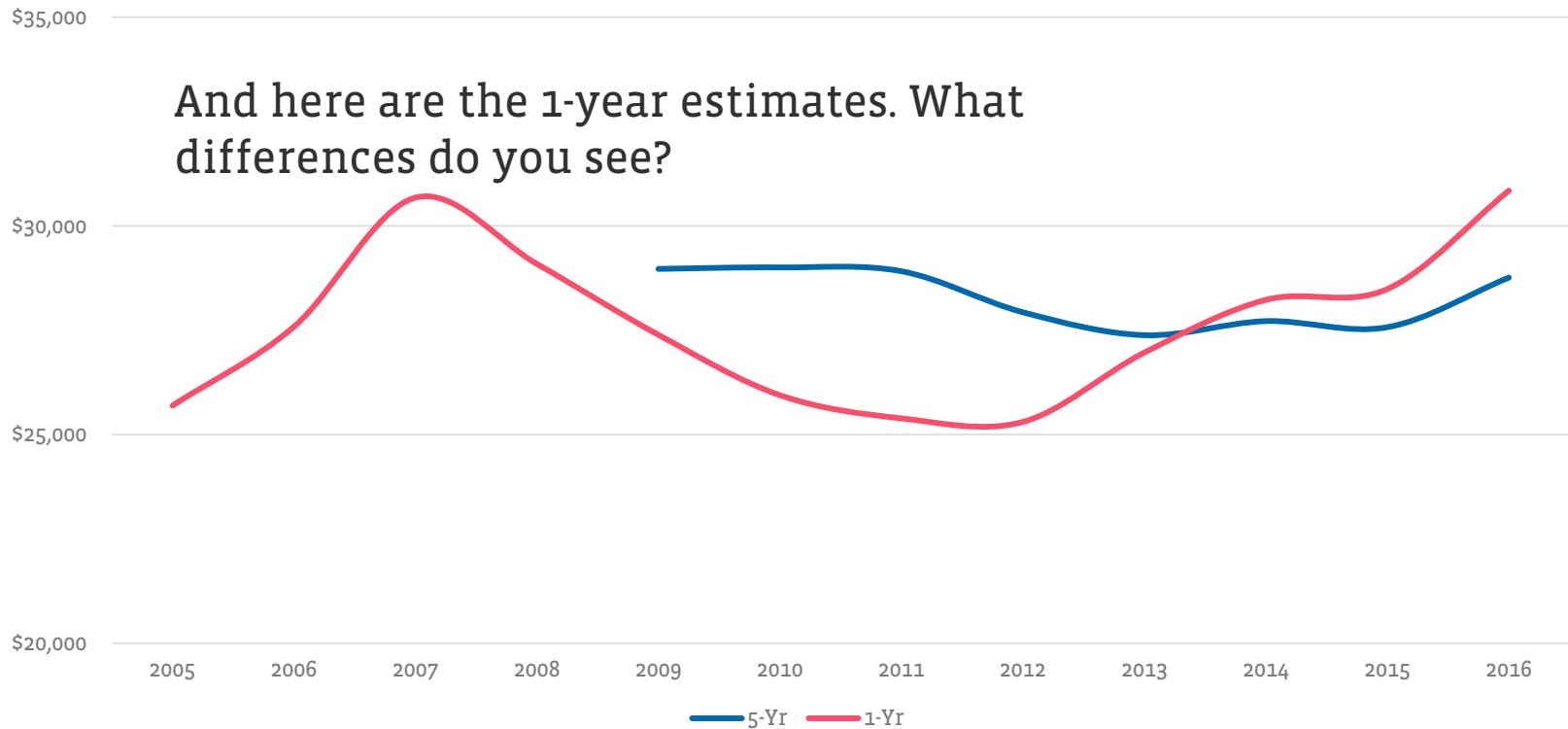


# Comparing 1- and 5-Year

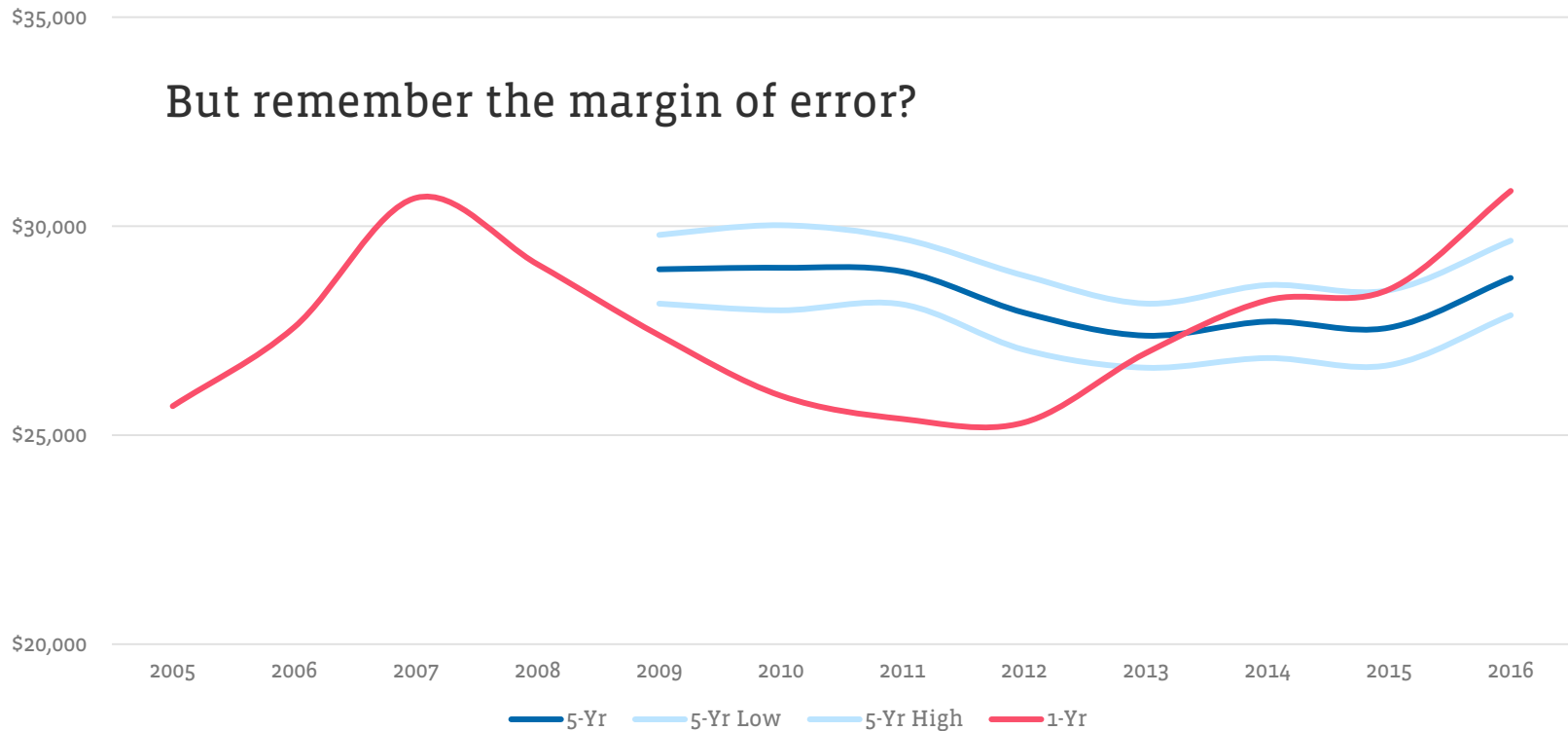




# Comparing 1- and 5-Year



# Comparing 1- and 5-Year

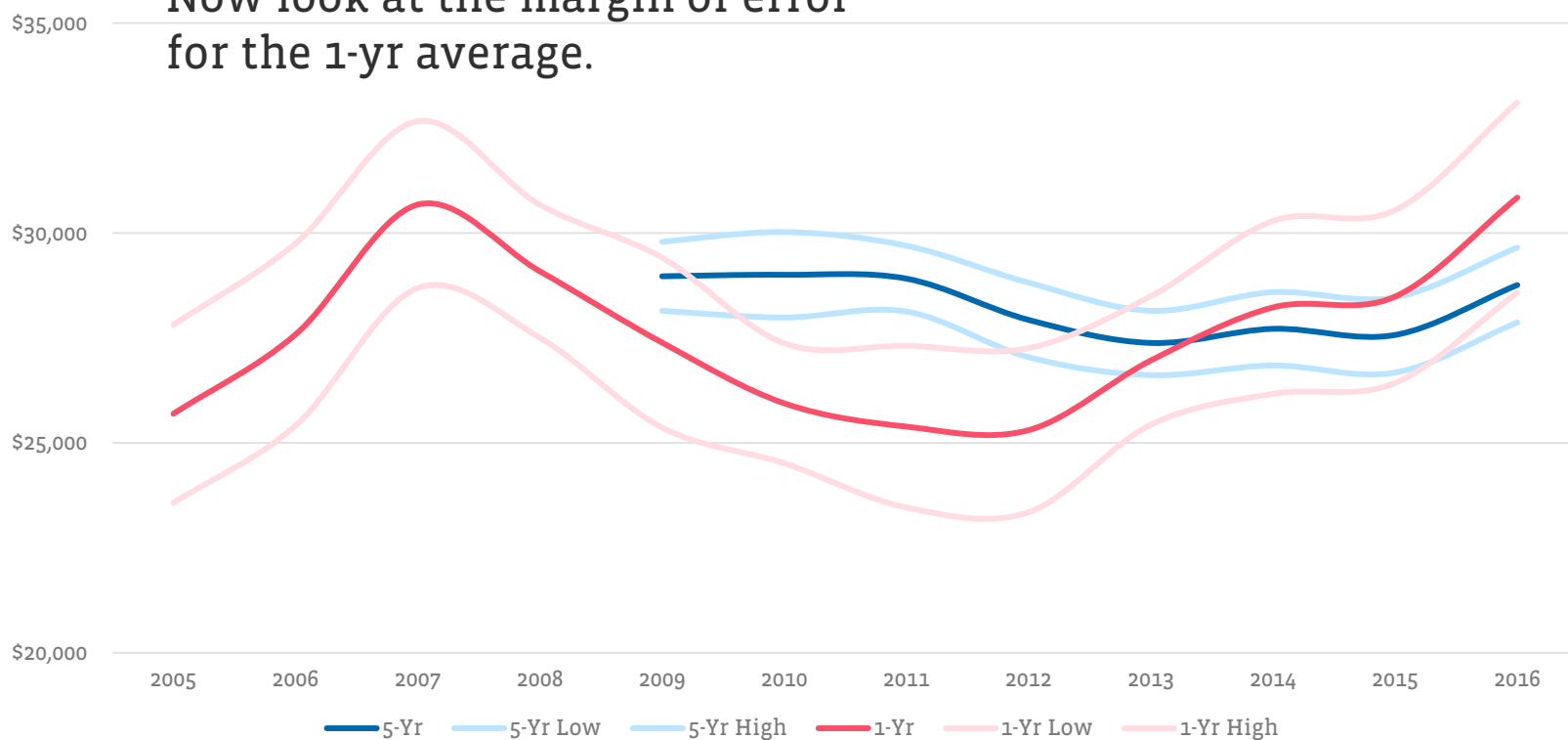






# Comparing 1- and 5-Year

Now look at the margin of error for the 1-yr average.





# Comparing 1- and 5-Year

	1-Yr	1-Yr MOE	5-Yr	5-Yr MOE	
2009	27,389	+/-2,024	28,969	+/-822	2.5X
2010	25,943	+/-1,428	29,005	+/-1,018	1.4X
2011	25,388	+/-1,927	28,913	+/-784	2.5X





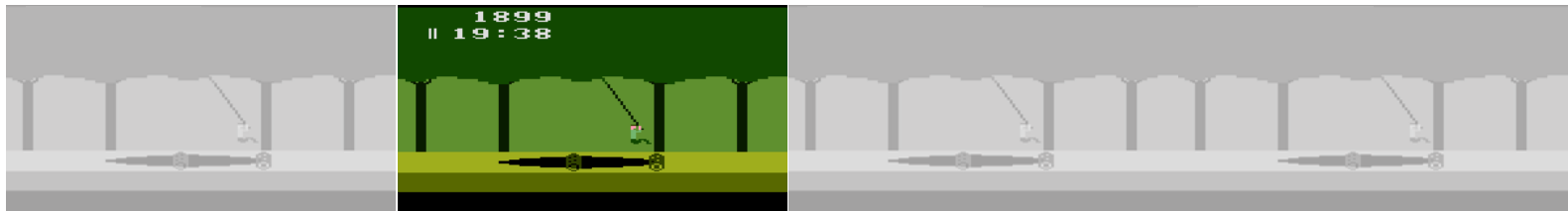
# Comparing Geographies

	Estimate	Margin of Error
Marion County, Indiana	43,369	+/-540
Center township, Marion County, Indiana	28,761	+/-892
Census Tract 3501, Marion County, Indiana	26,328	+/-5,685
Block Group 3501.01	25,547	+/-3,873
Block Group 3501.02	32,083	+/-14,686

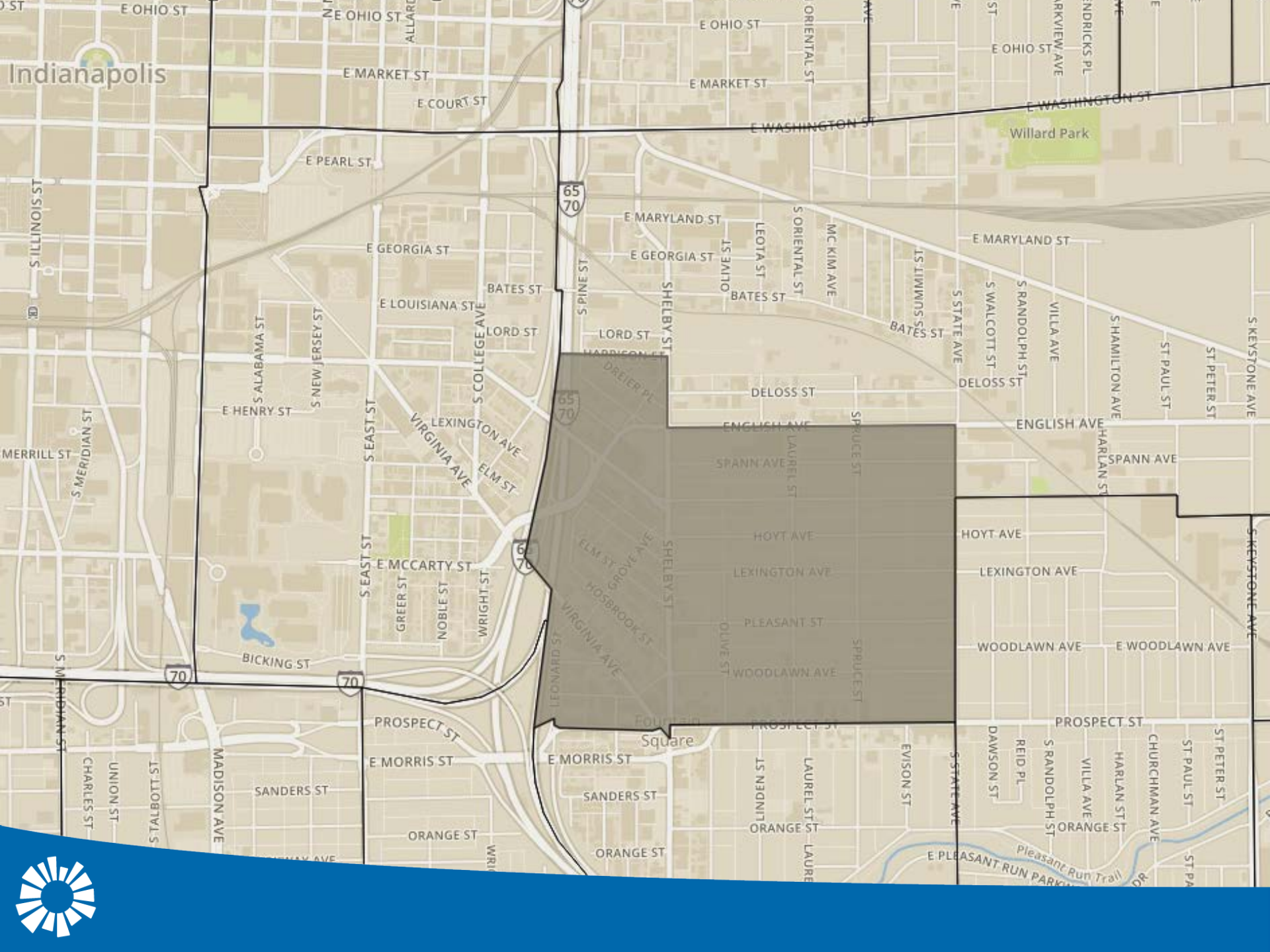




# Using Averages Without Considering Disaggregation



Pitfall #2





**Can we measure the changes  
in this neighborhood?**



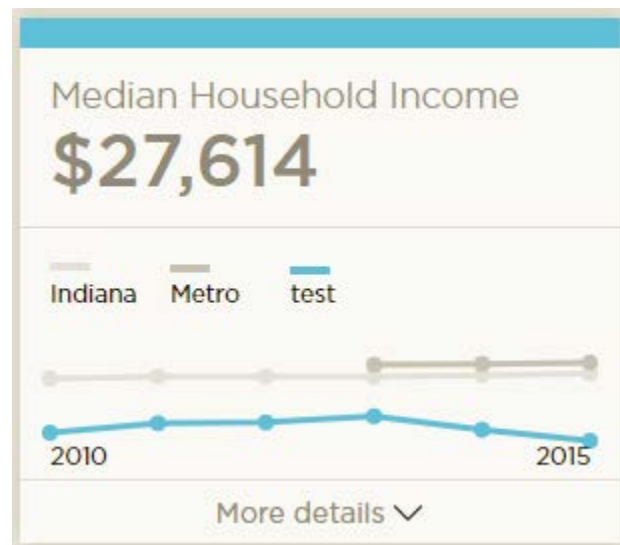
# Income Since 2010

- Let's go to Community Profiles to find this trend.



# Income Since 2010

- Median income is much lower than the metro area and has declined since 2010. Not what we expected.
- So is the anecdotal narrative of gentrification false?

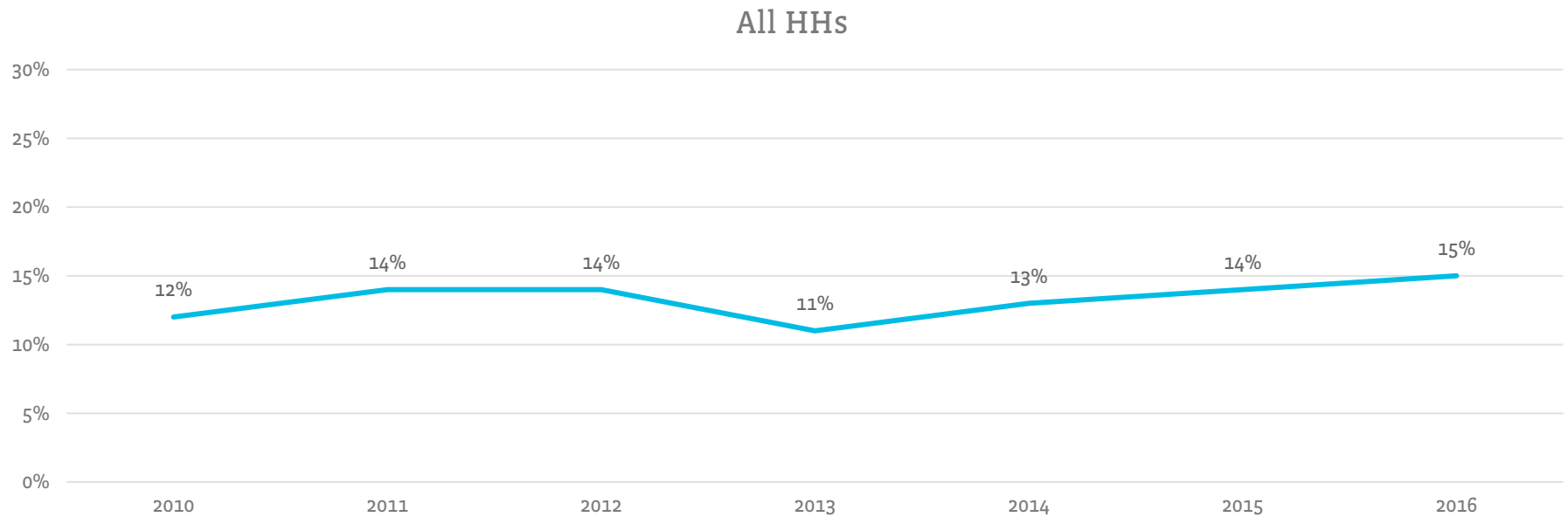






# A Closer Look at Income

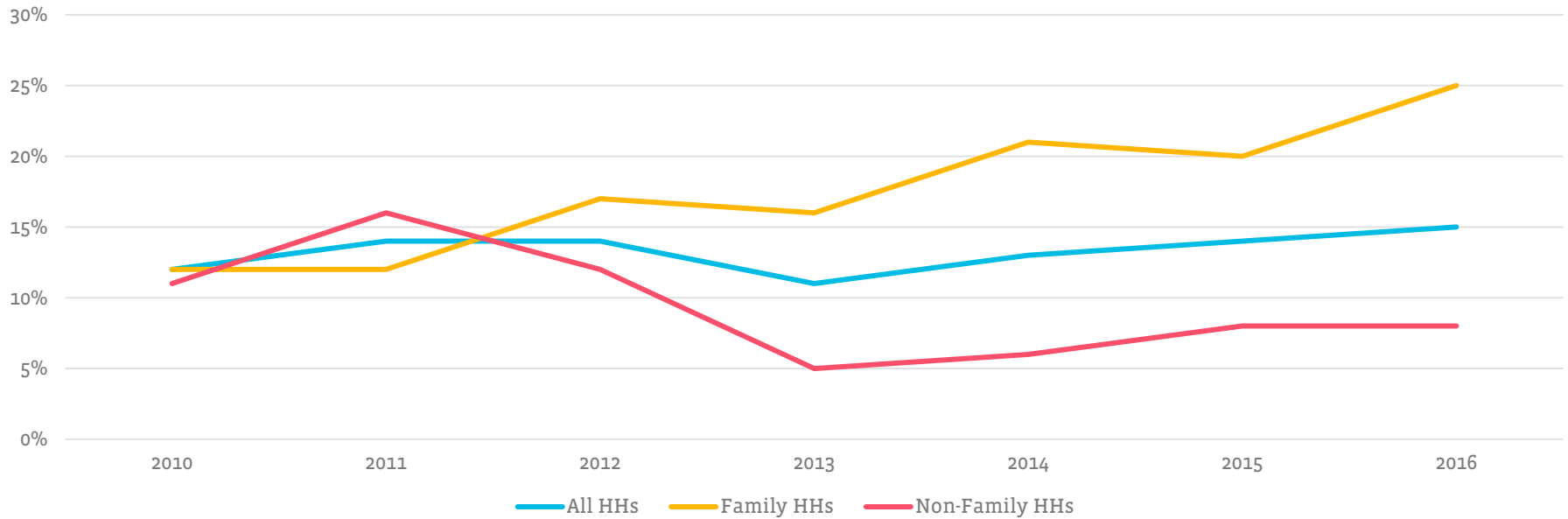
- Instead of median for all households, let's look at the percent of households earning at least \$75K.





# A Closer Look at Income

- We can disaggregate further. Let's break it up by household type.



# Population Since 2010

- Let's go to Community Profiles to find this trend.



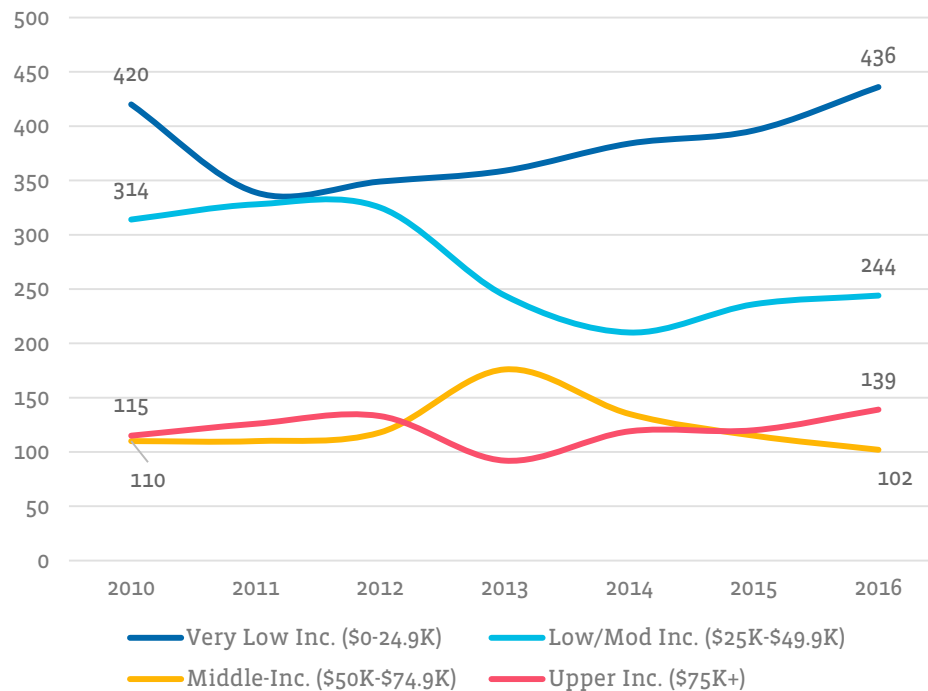
# Population Since 2010

- Population has fallen since 2010, from an estimated 2,533 to 2,311.
- So is Fountain Square not really experiencing increased pressure in the housing market? It doesn't look like a “desirable” neighborhood according to this stat.



# A Closer Look at Population

Households Over Time by Income



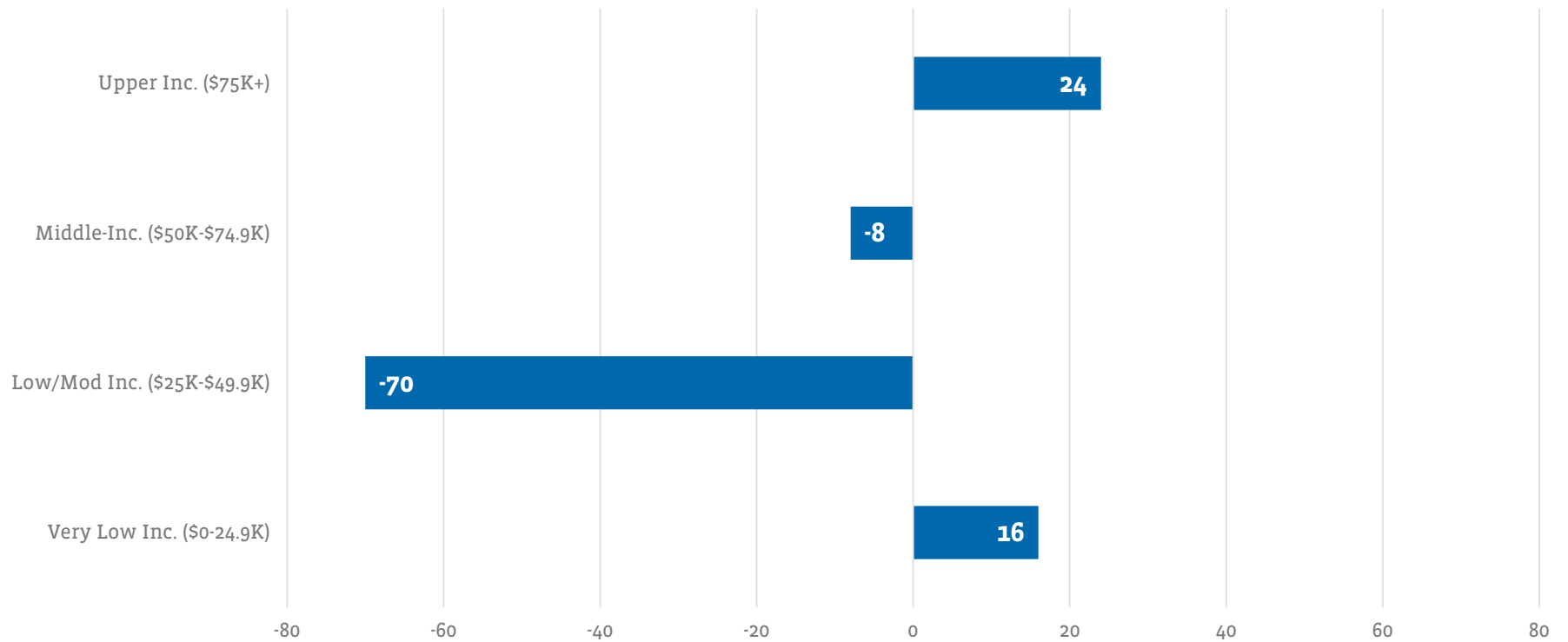
- ▲ Very low income
- ▼ Low/mod income
- ▼ Middle income
- ▲ Upper income





# A Closer Look at Population

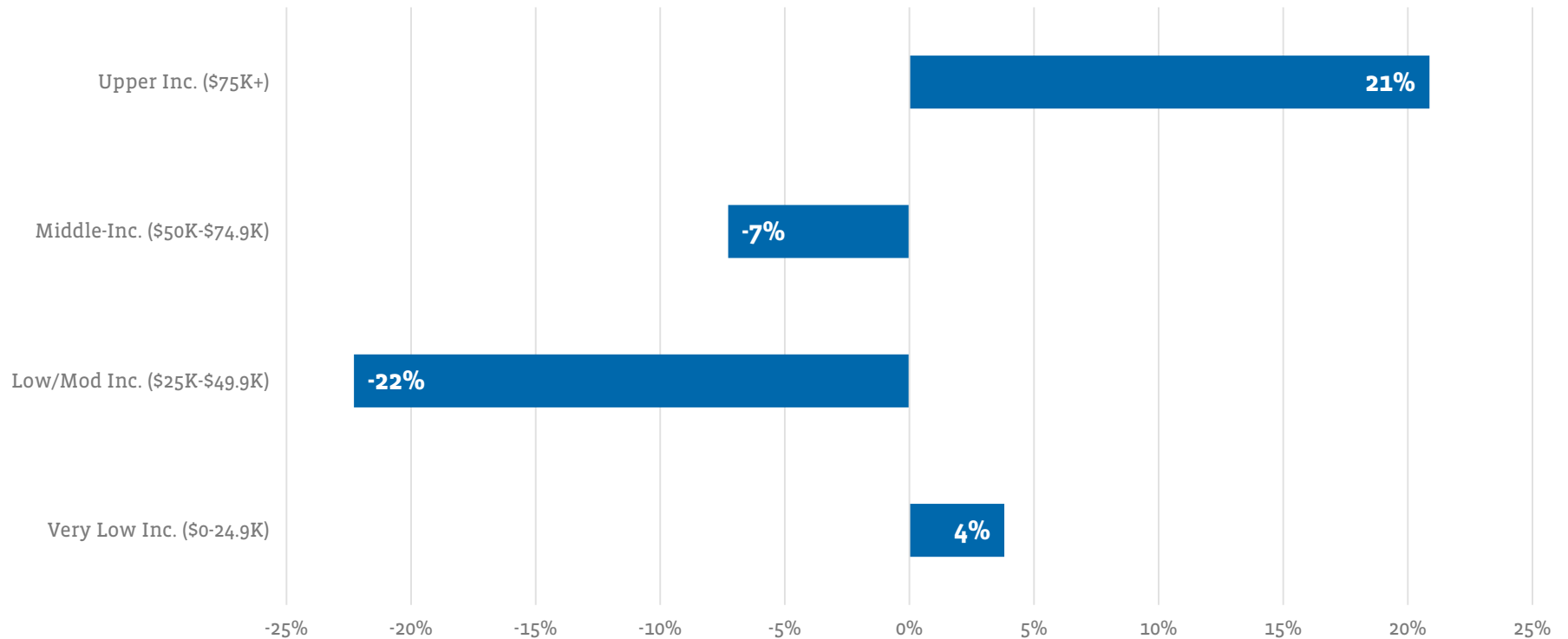
Total Change in Households Since 2010





# A Closer Look at Population

Percent Change in Households Since 2010





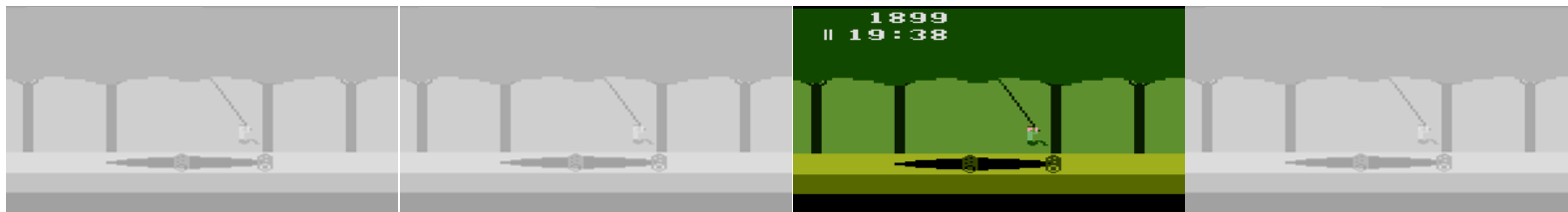
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**Take a break!**





# Looking at Trends in Isolation



Pitfall #3

# An Exercise

- Let's imagine half of us are residents of the Near Eastside and half of us are residents of the Near Westside.
- We are all wondering how our respective neighborhoods are performing in terms of vacancy rate.



# An Exercise

- Let's look at IndyVitals to see how these two neighborhoods' vacancy rates have changed since 2010.





# The Isolated Trend

## Near Westside



## Near Eastside



# Deeper Context: Time

## Near Westside

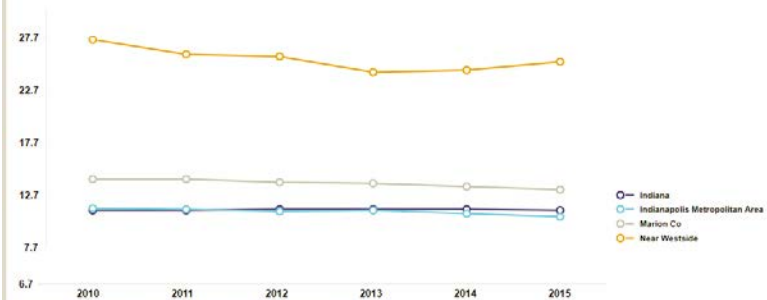
Vacancy Rate



26%

-2pt

Percent of Housing Units that are Vacant  
2010-2015  
For Near Westside



Data source: American Community Survey 5-year Averages, via SAVI Community Information System  
% of Housing Units that are Vacant

## Near Eastside

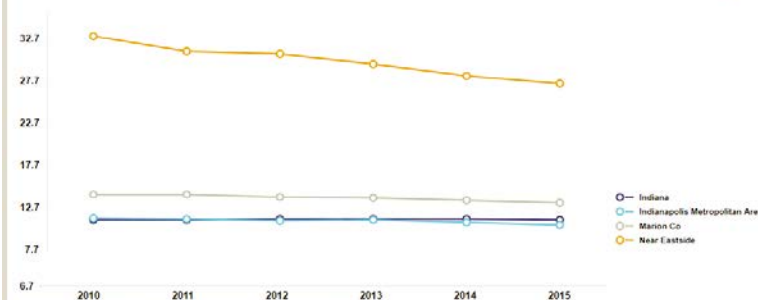
Vacancy Rate



27%

-6pt

Percent of Housing Units that are Vacant  
2010-2015  
For Near Eastside



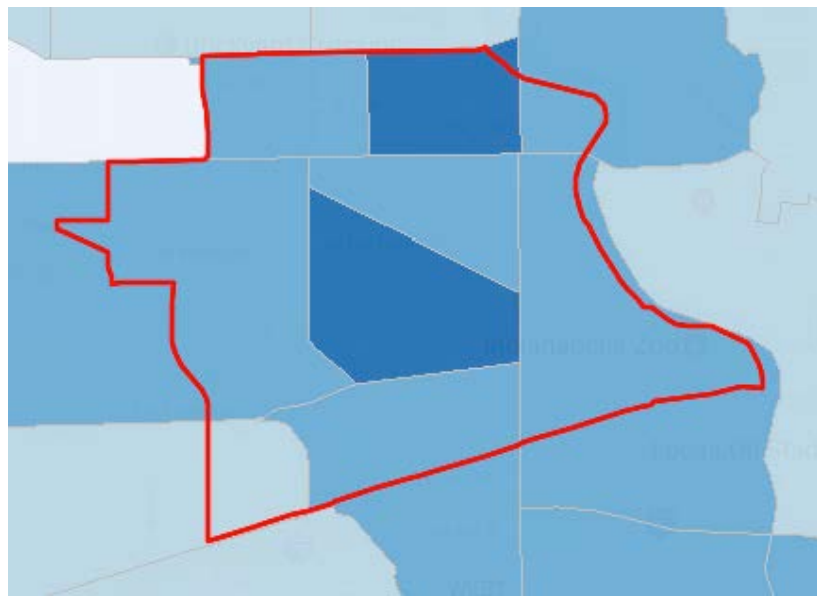
Data source: American Community Survey 5-year Averages, via SAVI Community Information System  
% of Housing Units that are Vacant



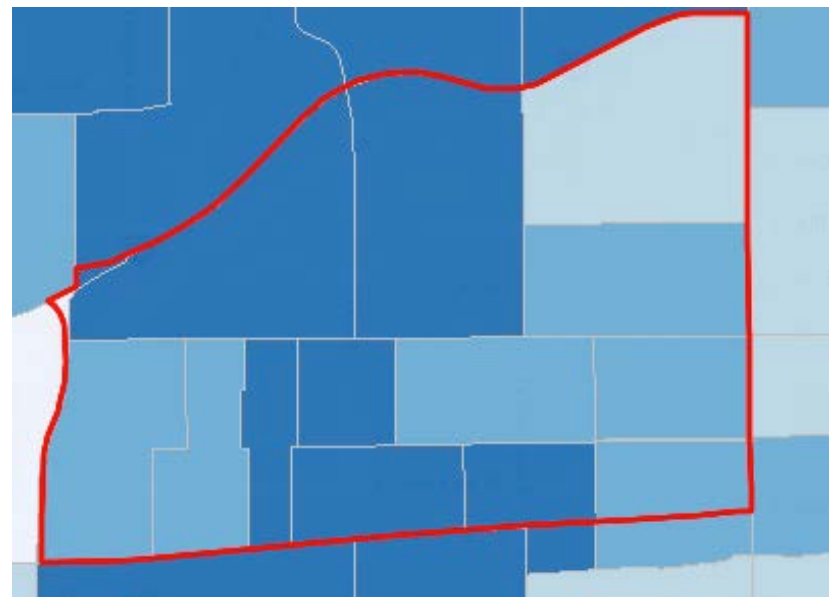


# Deeper Context: Geography

Near Westside



Near Eastside



# Broader Context: County

## Near Westside

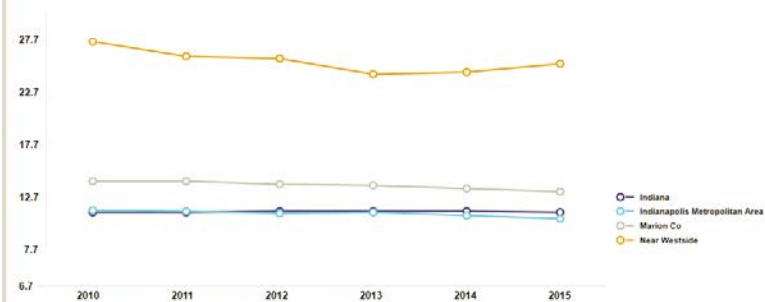
Vacancy Rate



26%

-2pt

Percent of Housing Units that are Vacant  
2010-2015  
For Near Westside



Data source: American Community Survey 5-year Averages, via SAVI Community Information System  
% of Housing Units that are Vacant

## Near Eastside

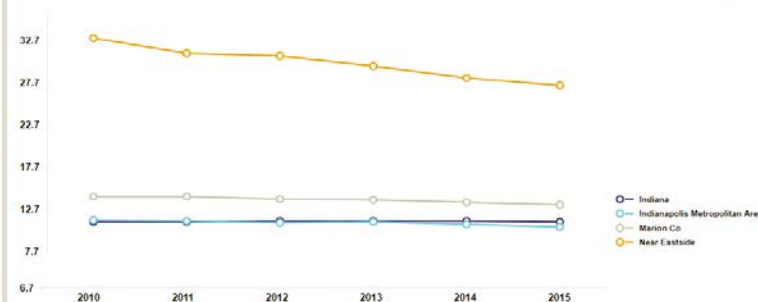
Vacancy Rate



27%

-6pt

Percent of Housing Units that are Vacant  
2010-2015  
For Near Eastside



Data source: American Community Survey 5-year Averages, via SAVI Community Information System  
% of Housing Units that are Vacant





# Broader Context: Similar Neighborhoods

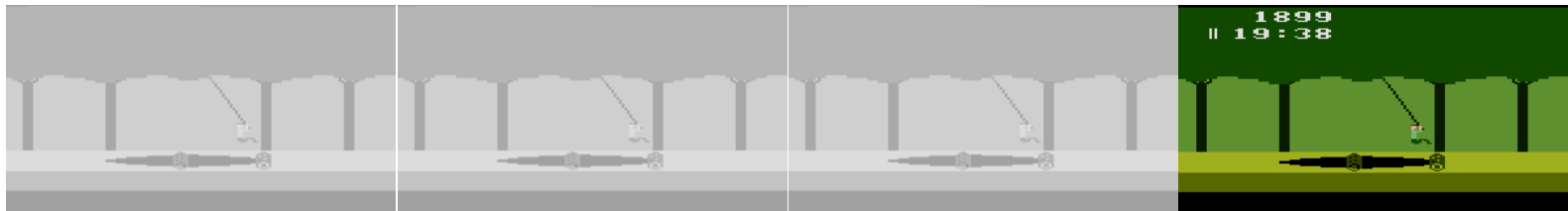
Neighborhood	Vacancy 2010	Vacancy 2015	Change
Arlington Woods	23.20%	20.27%	-2.9%
Crown Hill	36.92%	32.70%	-4.2%
Fountain Square	33.76%	32.18%	-1.6%
Mapleton / Fall Creek	35.87%	29.90%	-6.0%
Martindale - Brightwood	26.53%	25.23%	-1.3%
Meadows	41.09%	17.99%	-23.1%
Near Eastside	33%	27.38%	-5.6%
Near Northside	27.40%	22.59%	-4.8%
Near NW - Riverside	32.69%	30.03%	-2.7%
Near Westside	27.57%	25.50%	-2.1%
Median Change	-3.6%		
Mean Change	-5.4%		







# Seeing a Trend and Assuming Causation



Pitfall #4



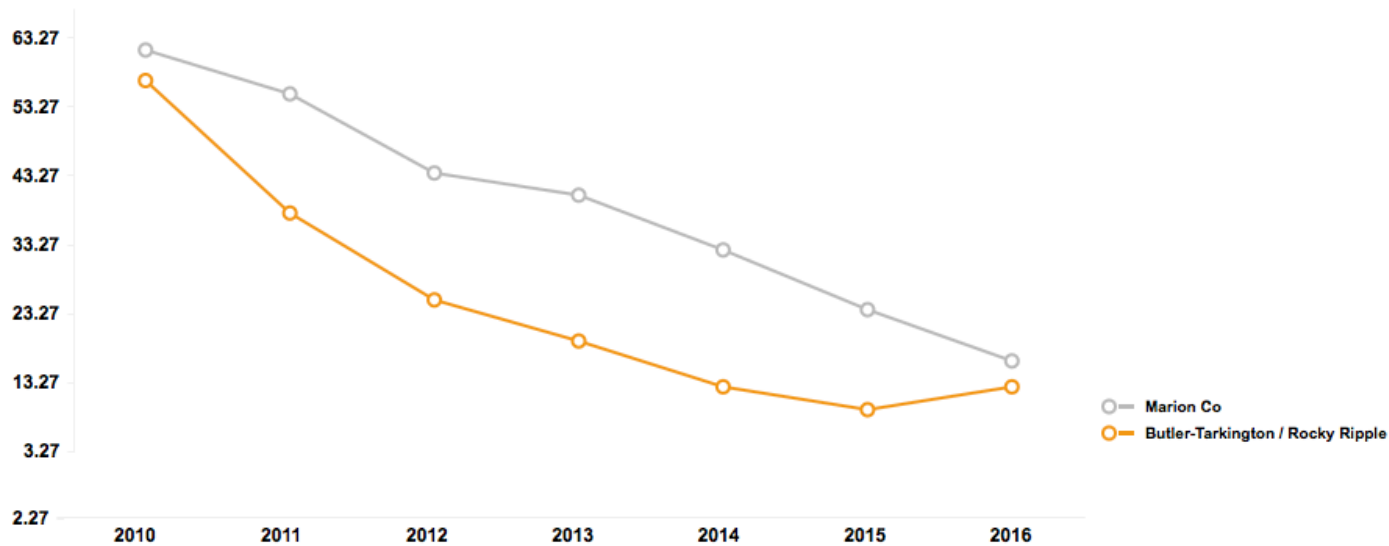
# Changes in Juvenile Charges

Let's go to IndyVitals to look at the trends in juvenile charges in Butler-Tarkington / Rocky Ripple.



# Changes in Juvenile Charges

**Juvenile Charges**  
2010-2016  
For Butler-Tarkington / Rocky Ripple



Data source: Marion County Superior Court via SAVI Community Information System  
Charges per 1000 juvenile population. Population data from the 2010 Decennial Census, via SAVI Community Information System.





# Changes in Juvenile Charges

Charges come from:

Alleged  
Criminal X Enforcement  
Activity





# Indiana Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative

Indiana has adopted JDAI in partnership with the Annie E. Casey Foundation.

**Mission:** The juvenile justice system will improve public safety in Indiana through the use of evidence-based interventions for youth and families that eliminate the unnecessary detention of youth, reduce disproportionate minority contact, improve outcomes and welfare of youth, save tax payer money and stimulate overall juvenile justice system improvement.





**In light of these policy changes, how do we interpret the falling juvenile crime rate?**

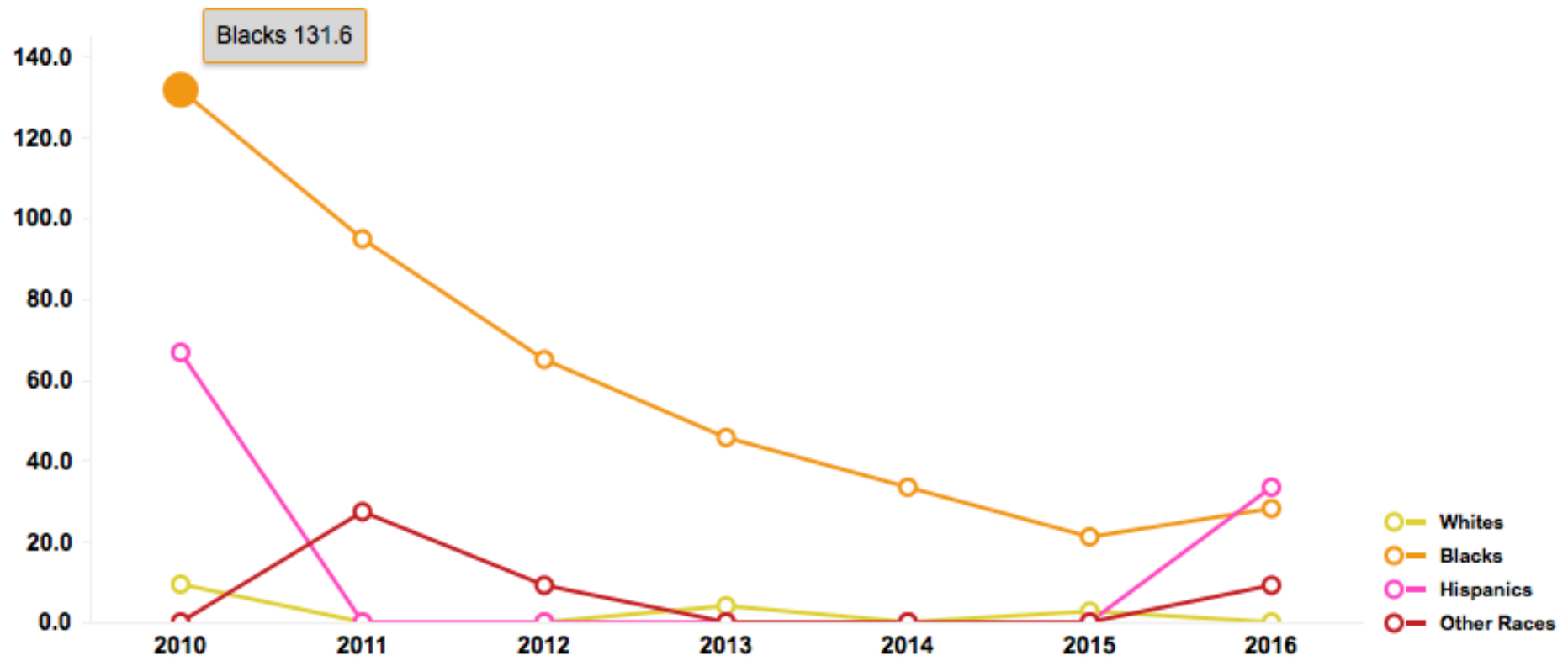




# Juvenile Charges By Race

## 2010-2016

### For Butler-Tarkington / Rocky Ripple



Data source: Marion County Superior Court via SAVI Community Information System  
Charges per 1000 juvenile population of each race; Population data from the 2010 Decennial Census, via SAVI Community Information System.





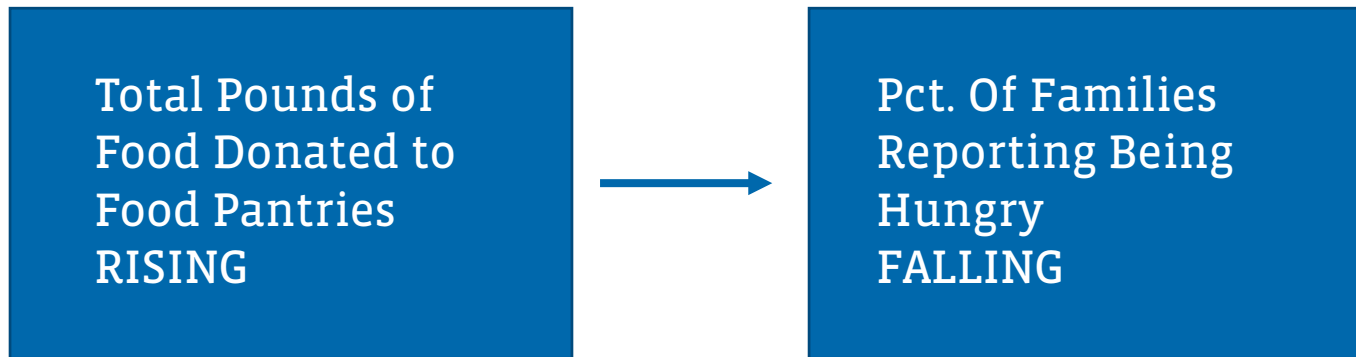
**What is the true crime rate?**







# Confounding Variables

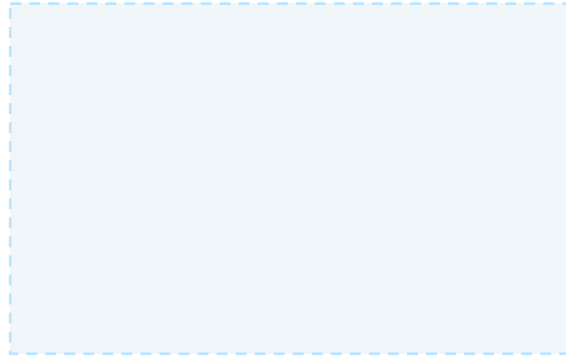


This looks good. Let's keep the donations coming!



# Confounding Variables

But wait,  
something  
lurks unseen.



Total Pounds of  
Food Donated to  
Food Pantries  
RISING

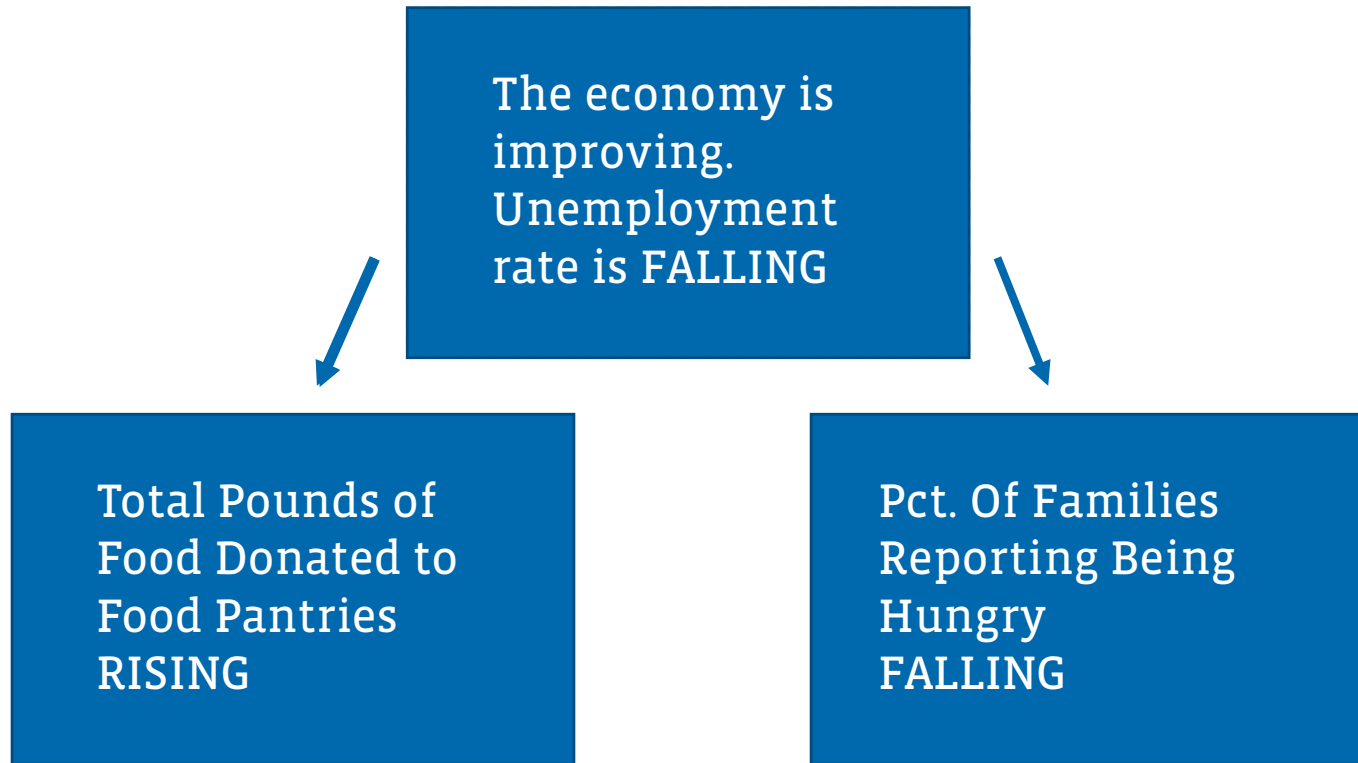


Pct. Of Families  
Reporting Being  
Hungry  
FALLING





# Confounding Variables



Aha! The economy is improving generally, leading to more philanthropic donations and more food stability in families.

