

2023 3rd Quarterly Issues Report

WBST, WBSB, WBSH and WBSW- Indiana Public Radio

For the period of July 1, 2023, through September 30, 2023.

Indiana Public Radio, consisting of FM radio stations WBST, WBSB, WBSW, and WBSH, has determined that the following issues were of importance to its audience community during the past three months and has aired the following news stories to address these issues:

Health

07-04-23 Youth Tobacco Survey Violet Comber-Wilen

Youth tobacco use among Hoosiers is the lowest since 2012, according to data collected last year.

Indiana Public Broadcasting's Violet Comber-Wilen reports despite declines in overall usage, state health officials are still concerned about youth tobacco use.

CUT 25043 :54 SOC

07/04/23

07/09/23 TRANSGENDER CARE ROADBLOCKS IN INDIANA AP

On an early morning in June, Flower Nichols and her mother set off on an expedition to Chicago from their home in Indianapolis.

The family was determined to make it feel like an adventure in the city, though that wasn't the primary purpose of the trip.

The following afternoon, Flower and Jennilyn Nichols would see a doctor at the University of Chicago to learn whether they could keep 11-year-old Flower on puberty blockers. They began to search for medical providers outside of Indiana after April 5, when Republican Gov. Eric Holcomb signed a law

banning transgender minors from accessing puberty blockers and other hormone therapies, even after the approval of parents and the advice of doctors.

On June 16, a federal judge blocked parts of Indiana's law from going into effect on July 1. But many patients still scrambled to continue receiving treatment.

At least 20 states have enacted laws restricting or banning gender-affirming care for trans minors, though several are embroiled in legal challenges. For more than a decade prior, such treatments were available to children and teens across the U.S. and have been endorsed by major medical associations.

Opponents of gender-affirming care say there's no solid proof of purported benefits, cite widely discredited research and say children shouldn't make life-altering decisions they might regret. Advocates and families impacted by the recent laws say such care is vital for trans kids.

07/10/23

07/17/2023

Alzheimer's Drug

Farah Yousry (SLW Short Edit)

An Alzheimer's drug produced by Indianapolis-based Eli Lilly is performing in studies better than a similar drug recently approved by the US Food and Drug Administration. Side Effects Public Media's Farah Yousry reports.

CUT 29003

0:45

SOC

07/18/23

08/03/23

Mental Health Needs of Kids

McCoy

Mental health needs are at a peak among U.S. children and teens.

About three out of every 10 Indiana high schoolers said they'd considered suicide in a 2021 national survey. Nearly HALF felt persistently sad or hopeless — the highest rate in two decades of surveys.

Those challenges show up in classrooms.

Krista Fay oversees wellness programs in Avon schools, just west of Indianapolis.

CUT 25042 :10 "...hear that instruction?"

If you're coming in and your anxiety is overwhelming you, if your chest is so tight that you can't breathe, if your thoughts are racing, how are you going to be available to hear that instruction?

Schools like Avon try to meet students' emotional needs with services including therapy, small group meetings with social workers, and social emotional learning for all students.

If you or someone you know is in crisis call the Suicide and Crisis Lifeline at 9-8-8.

08/04/23

8/4/23 Sex Assault Victims And Abortion Brandon Smith

Sexual assault victim advocates say they're worried victims will become hopeless as abortion access in Indiana is effectively cut off amid uncertainty over the state ban taking effect.

Beth White is the president and C-E-O of the Indiana Coalition to End Sexual Assault and Human Trafficking. The state's impending ban does allow abortions in cases of rape or incest, but only up to 10 weeks post-fertilization. White says that arbitrary time limit makes the exception "meaningless," especially for underage victims.

CUT 25071 :15 "...find that acceptable." "Those young people don't know what's happening to their bodies. They don't even understand what it means to be pregnant ... again, it is cruelty on top of trauma and I do not understand how, in the state of Indiana, we can find that acceptable."

While abortion clinics are no longer providing abortions, many are helping people travel to places where they can access such care. White says her organizations are funded through state and federal dollars — meaning, they can't provide that sort of direct help.

CUT 25072 :08 OUT: "...missing work." "We try to wrap around help for folks who need to get out of state — what about child care, what about missing work?"

White says she's most concerned about victims feeling like they have no options and trying to end pregnancies on their own, in unsafe ways.

08/07/23

08/14/23 Medical interpreter scholarship Abigail Ruhman

The Indiana Latino Institute wants to address language barriers in health care for Spanish-speaking patients. As Indiana Public Broadcasting's Abigail Ruhman (ROO-men) reports, the organization will provide financial aid for a medical interpretation training program through a new scholarship.

CUT 29001 TRT: 0:48 OUT: SOC

09/01/23 Info Breach Affects More Than 200K Hoosiers Capital Chronicle

The Indiana Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA) announced Friday the personal health information of more than 200,000 Hoosiers on Medicaid may have been exposed in a global software breach in late May.

The names, addresses, Social Security numbers, dates of birth, and other data of 212,193 Medicaid recipients utilizing Indiana's services was likely compromised.

Those affected are part of a managed care plan provided by Ohio-based CareSource.

The Capital Chronicle reports CareSource "immediately remediated the breach" and notified FSSA, according to the agency. And the company is contacting those affected with information and credit monitoring options.

09/05/23

09/01/23

Overdose Grant for Rural IN

Alex Li

Two Indiana programs are getting more than \$1.7 million in federal grants to reduce overdose risks from fentanyl and other opioids in rural counties.

One program is 4C Health Comprehensive Mental Health Center in Cass County. It's getting \$1 million to prevent and treat substance use in children and adolescents.

The other program is Indiana Rural Health Association in Washington County, which is getting more than \$700,000 to establish sites where people can access medications to treat opioid use disorder.

More Indiana residents now die from overdoses than car crashes. People in rural areas are also disproportionately affected.

Lisa Willis-Gidley [gih-d-lee] is chief revenue officer at 4C Health.

CUT 25053

:11

"... help in that area."

"For community mental health centers, we don't typically get funding that aims at prevention or education. So this will definitely help in that area."

The federal grants are awarded by the Health Resources and Services Administration.

09/05/23

09/19/23

988 adds ASL for Deaf Users FEATURE

SEPM (SLW EDIT)

The 9-8-8 Suicide Prevention and Crisis Lifeline has received more than five million calls, texts and chats in its first year. Still, surveys show that most people in the US do not even know that 9-8-8 exists.

Earlier this month, the Biden administration announced a way to get the service to more Americans - those who are deaf and hard of hearing who use American Sign Language to communicate. The new

video chat service connects a sign language speaker in crisis to a 9-8-8 operator that uses sign language, meaning there's no need for interpreters.

One of the providers of the new service is DeafLEAD in Columbia, Missouri. Side Effects Public Media's Rebecca Smith was in Columbia as the new service was announced and has this story.

CUT 30187 3:15 ... SOQ.

Economy

7/13/23 2023 State Fiscal Closeout Brandon Smith

Indiana's revenue situation is beginning to normalize after years of major fluctuations due to the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact. As Indiana Public Broadcasting's Brandon Smith reports, the state closed the books on its fiscal year Thursday with nearly three billion dollars in reserves.

CUT 30000 TRT: :53 OUT:SOC

07/19/2023 UPS Practice Picket Adam Yahya Rayes (SLW Short Edit)

The Teamsters union and UPS have come to tentative agreements on many parts of an extensive contract. But negotiations broke down last month over a part-time pay proposal the union says was "offensive." Now, workers at a practice picket line outside an Indianapolis UPS hub say they are ready to strike.

In statements, UPS says it offers part-timers an average of 20 dollars an hour after the first 30 days. Donna McCullar, a part-time UPS worker and union steward, says that's not the full picture.

CUT 29001 :08 OUT: "at only \$15.50"

A strike will likely result in significant losses for UPS and disrupt the US economy. A tentative agreement will have to be reached before the current contract expires on July 31 to avoid a strike.

07-26-2023 State food banks funding Violet Comber-Wilen

Indiana food banks have received two million dollars in funding from the Indiana legislature. As Indiana Public Broadcasting's Violet Comber-Wilen reports, this funding is double the amount food banks received last year.

CUT 30000

TRT: 0:45

OUT: SOC

August 3 2023

Taylor Swift in Indy

SD (SLW Short Edit)

Meanwhile in Indianapolis, the city can start planning for Taylor Swift's tour to stop through for three days next year.

Swift will perform at Lucas Oil Stadium on November 1st, 2nd, and 3rd, 2024. Lucas Oil can hold over 70-thousand people for major events.

The U.S. Federal Reserve recently reported that local economies get a huge boost when Swift comes to town. One analysis estimated it could generate almost 5 billion dollars in global revenue.

The singer hasn't performed in Indiana since 2018. Tickets for the new dates go on sale August 11th.

08/03/23

8/7/23

Chamber Economic Vision Plan-wrap Brandon Smith

Indiana Chamber of Commerce leaders say the state is "a lap or two behind" its competition when it comes to workforce development and educational attainment.

Indiana Public Broadcasting's Brandon Smith reports the chamber unveiled its new economic vision plan for the next dozen years — laying out the ways it thinks Indiana must move to succeed.

CUT 25081

:50

SOC

08/08/23

8/9/23

EV Fee Formula

Rebecca Thiele

How did the state of Indiana come up with the fee to register electric vehicles? Listeners in Kokomo and Indianapolis wanted to know. Indiana Public Broadcasting's Rebecca Thiele explains.

CUT 30000

TRT: 49

OUT: SOC

Anchor Out: Hoosiers actually drive about 45 hundred more miles than the national average. Had the state used that number, the E-V fee would have been more than 70 dollars higher.

08/09/23

09/15/23 UAW Non-Target Impacts Tony Sandleben/Adam Yahya Rayes

As the United Auto Workers begin a “targeted strike” over union contracts at General Motors, Ford, and Stellantis, Indiana workers aren’t striking ... for now.

The first three plants to strike are assembly plants, which combine parts made by other plants to produce vehicles. Before the strikes began, some expected the union to target parts plants first... causing shutdowns as supplies of key parts deplete. But the U-A-W did the opposite.

U-A-W Local 6-85 President Gary Quirk says that may affect the Kokomo parts plants he represents.

CUT 29002 :07 OUT: “affect us, absolutely”

If plants shut down due to the strike, workers get temporarily laid off. They cannot get unemployment if the company claims the strikes caused the layoff.

And the U-A-W may decide to call on workers in Indiana plants to join the strike ... to apply pressure on the companies as negotiations continue.

09/15/23

09/19/2023

Aug 23 UE Release

Adam Yahya Rayes

Indiana's unemployment rate reached its highest point in almost two years in August - landing at three-point-four percent. Though, the rate is a minor increase from the month prior. As Indiana Public Broadcasting's Adam Yahya Rayes reports, it is a small but more significant bump compared to August's rate from the year before.

CUT 30000 :50 OUT: SOC

09/19/23

09/22/2023 UAW 2nd Wave Adam Yahya Rayes

The United Auto Workers union have added 38 facilities to the targeted strikes at General Motors, Ford, and Stellantis that began last week. As Indiana Public Broadcasting's Adam Yahya Rayes reports, U-A-W workers in Indiana still aren't joining the picket lines yet.

CUT 31288 :49 OUT: SOC

09/22/23

Local Stories

07/11/23 332 Closure Sollars

The Indiana Department of Transportation's (INDOT) Traffic Management Center says State Road 332 west of Muncie will be closed starting today at 7:00 a.m. until Monday, August 14th at 7:00 a.m.

Detours include routes 35 and 28 north of 332, and State Road 32 south of 332.

07/12/23

Gov appoints new judge in Delaware Circuit Court 3

SLW 07/19/23

Governor Eric Holcomb has appointed a new judge to head Delaware Circuit Court 3.

Douglas Mawhorr has worked as a deputy prosecutor for the county prosecuting attorney's office since 2014. He also has experience in private practice and as a public defender. He has degrees from Wabash College and the Indiana University McKinney School of Law.

Mawhorr will replace Judge Linda Ralu Wolf. She's resigning August 31st after 36 years leading courts in Muncie and Delaware County.

Circuit court judges are elected, so Mawhorr will eventually be on a local ballot to keep his seat on the bench.

The governor's office says Mawhorr will be sworn in at some later date.

07/19/23

Delaware County jail short on staff again

SLW 07/25/23

Delaware County is once again seeing a staffing shortage at the county jail.

On Tuesday (today/yesterday), Delaware County Sheriff's Department financial officer Nancy Marvin told the county council that there are 10 openings at the jail.

CUT 31552 :11 ... EVERYBODY ELSE OVER.

"One more will make us an entire shift. Thus, next month you'll see me transferring all the excess salaries into overtime. [Being] short people makes us having to work everybody else over."

Though Marvin says employment numbers at the jail fluctuate, having staff shortages is a reoccurring trend. In 2021, the sheriff's department spent more than \$100,000 in overtime pay to cover short staffing. In the spring of 2022, the department told the county council it was short 12 correctional officers.

The sheriff's department is advertising corrections officer jobs with a salary of about 38-thousand dollars with benefits. According to data from the Indiana Department of Corrections, that's slightly higher than

the midpoint salary across the state. The maximum salary for a corrections officer that has completed training is about 47-thousand dollars.

07/26/23

07/31/23

Muncie Shooting Update

Wiechmann

Muncie officials say they believe a weekend shooting was not the act of one person targeting a specific group. As IPR's Stephanie Wiechmann, Muncie police are still investigating the large party that turned violent.

CUT 31554

1:22

... SOQ.

Optional Anchor Tag: Two community prayer vigils are being held this week. The first is today (MON) at 6 o'clock at the corner of Hackley and Willard. On Tuesday night at 7 o'clock, a vigil is being held at Berea Church at 1201 Wheeling Ave. At the Tuesday night vigil, the city says therapists from Meridian Health will be available to those who need the help.

07/31/23

08/03/23

Muncie noise exemptions reviewed

SLW

Muncie police are again asking the city Board of Works to grant fewer exemptions to Muncie's noise ordinance – this after a party last weekend with hundreds of people that saw an argument boil over. Nearly 20 people were shot. One died.

As IPR's Stephanie Wiechmann reports, that party had been granted an exemption.

CUT 31556

1:20

SOQ

08/04/23

09/12/23

Local Author Fair

Daniel Huber

Some authors have two distinct markets to tell about their books – the world at large and their hometown crowd.

Last week, Muncie-area authors came together for a local fair to connect with local readers. IPR's Daniel Huber reports.

CUT 31562

1:01

SOQ

09/13/23

Road construction to restrict lanes on State Road 32 in Muncie for more than a year

SLW 09/13/23

Sidewalk improvements and repairs along State Road 32 in Muncie will soon mean construction work and lane restrictions for more than a year, beginning in two weeks.

Today (WED), the Indiana Department of Transportation says it will restrict State Road 32 to one lane in both directions between South Perdieu Road and US 35. This includes the portions that run through downtown Muncie and to both the east and west.

INDOT says restrictions begin September 25 and will last through mid-November of 2024, depending on weather. The work includes ADA ramps, sidewalk reconstruction, and asphalt paving.

This summer, Muncie officials announced Muncie will take responsibility for State Road 32's run through the city. But INDOT is still responsible for all scheduled projects through 2027.

09/13/23

Muncie mayoral forum shows different strategies for city growth

SLW 09/13/23

07/04/23

7/10/23

Hill Launches Gov Run

Brandon Smith

Former Indiana Attorney General Curtis Hill is running for governor. The former top legal official in Indiana previously made headlines when his law license was temporarily suspended while in office ... when the state Supreme Court ruled he criminally battered four women. Now, as Indiana Public Broadcasting's Brandon Smith reports, Hill joins a crowded Republican primary for the open seat.

CUT 30000

TRT: :47

OUT:SOC

07/10/23

07-10-2023

Back-to-school vaccine clinics

Violet Comber-Wilen

The Indiana Department of Health is partnering with other statewide health organizations to host back-to-school vaccine clinics. As Indiana Public Broadcasting's Violet Comber-Wilen reports, this could help students receive required and recommended immunizations before the school year starts.

CUT 29001

TRT: 0:50

OUT: SOC

07/10/23

7/10/23

Anti-LGBTQ+ bill push - Feature 1

Lauren Chapman

Indiana lawmakers filed nearly two dozen anti-L-G-B-T-Q bills during the legislative session, up from a peak of seven over previous years. The increase is also national, with more than 500 bills proposed at statehouses. As Indiana Public Broadcasting's Lauren Chapman reports, out-of-state groups are taking a fight over a 2020 Supreme Court decision to the Indiana Statehouse.

CUT 30187

TRT: 3:56

OUT: SOC

07/11/23

7/12/23

Planned Parenthood Booked Up Before Ban Brandon Smith

One of Indiana's primary abortion care providers says they have no more open appointments ... three weeks ahead of the state's near-total abortion ban taking effect.

In a statement today (WED), Planned Parenthood says it's at full capacity for abortion care through the end of July ... though its clinics are still able to provide other reproductive services.

In a recent ruling, the Indiana Supreme Court allowed the state's ban to take effect August 1st. The law only allows abortions if the pregnant person's serious health or life is at risk ... if there's a lethal fetal anomaly up to 20 weeks post-fertilization ... and in cases of rape or incest, but only up to 10 weeks.

And even for legal abortions in Indiana, the law won't allow Planned Parenthood to perform them. It bans abortion clinics outright, only allowing care to be provided at hospitals or surgical centers owned by hospitals.

There's a separate lawsuit challenging the ban. A judge in that case halted the law from taking effect, but only for people whose religious beliefs compel abortion care.

07/13/23

07/12/23 ILEARN2023 McCOY

Indiana students missed out on weeks or months of in-person instruction during the pandemic. State test results released today (WED) shows the disruption is still taking a toll. And as Indiana Public Broadcasting's Dylan Peers McCoy reports, some students are fairing better than others.

CUT 30000 TRT 0:48 OUT: SOC

07/13/23

07/14/23 Floyd County Taxes Rickert

Floyd County officials are considering a new local income tax to help address a 1.8-million-dollar budget shortfall.

The proposed point zero seven percent tax would help fund staffing within the county's judicial system ... and free up money in the county's general fund.

It would cost around 50 dollars a year for people making just over 70 thousand dollars.

Elaine Jenkins was among the residents who spoke out against the new tax at a recent public hearing.

Indiana Public Broadcasting's Kirsten Adair reports the Indiana Department of Education recently clarified what the accounts can be used for and which organizations are eligible to receive the funds.

CUT 25151

:45

SOC

08/15/23

08162023 TikTok motion in Rokita lawsuit R. Green (SLW Short Edit)

TikTok wants the state of Indiana's lawsuit against the social media company dismissed.

Indiana Attorney General Todd Rokita is suing TikTok in an Allen County court on behalf of the state ... accusing the China-based company of violating Indiana's Deceptive Consumer Sales Act by not disclosing that user data may be subject to Chinese law.

In a 62-page motion, TikTok cites a number of reasons why the lawsuit should be tossed out ... or at least delayed. Among them, the company says Indiana does not have jurisdiction over TikTok ... and it doesn't violate the state's sales act because the app is free.

Rokita's office has until August 23rd to reply. A message seeking comment from the Attorney General has not yet been returned.

Earlier this year, TikTok and its parent company ByteDance asked for the case to be transferred to federal court. That request was denied. At the time, U.S. District Judge Holly Brady called the state's case "political posturing" and says the state was arguing a case beyond its legal claim.

08/16/23

09/06/23 Holcomb To Visit Japan On Trade Mission Capital Chronicle

Indiana Gov. Eric Holcomb will lead an economic development trip to Japan — the state's largest foreign investor.

Education

07/10/23

Indiana Black Expo Preview

Sydney Dauphinais

The annual Indiana Black Expo is underway, featuring 10 days of celebrations of Black culture and history.

Indiana Public Broadcasting's Sydney Dauphinais has more on this year's festival, which includes hundreds of local business vendors, live music, food, and more.

CUT 25104

:33

"I'm Sydney Dauphinais."

07/10/23

7/13/23

ILEARN redesign

Kirsten Adair

The statewide ILEARN test will look different over the next few years ... after a state redesign. As Indiana Public Broadcasting's Kirsten Adair reports, the Indiana Department of Education says it will improve the test's quality and usefulness to educators.

CUT 29001

TRT :45

OUT: SOC

07/14/23

07/14/23

Graduation Changes

Kirsten Adair

7/24/23

21st Century Scholars notification

Kirsten Adair

Too few Indiana students were applying for a scholarship that covers 100 percent of tuition at state public universities and colleges.

Now a new law automatically enrolls qualified students.

Indiana Public Broadcasting's Kirsten Adair reports state officials are making additional changes to help keep students from falling through the cracks.

CUT 25252

:54

SOC

07/25/23

The Indiana Department of Education says students are not currently graduating with the skills they need to be successful after high school.

Indiana Public Broadcasting's Kirsten Adair reports the I-D-O-E is reimagining real-world experience in schools so more students are ready to pursue higher learning or enter the workforce after graduating.

CUT 25173

:54

SOC

07/17/23

08/02/23

Mental Health in Schools

McCOY

About three out of every 10 Indiana high schoolers said they'd considered suicide in a 2021 national survey. It's the second highest rate in the country. But as Indiana Public Broadcasting's Dylan Peers McCoy reports, mental health support in schools has become a political lightning rod. And a note - this story mentions suicidal ideation.

CUT 30187

TRT 3:51

OUT: SOC

OUTRO (optional): If you or someone you know is in crisis call the Suicide and Crisis Lifeline at 9-8-8.

08/07/23

08/10/23

JCPS Bus Debacle

CLARK

Jefferson County Public Schools' return to the classroom Wednesday was a transportation disaster.

WFPL's Jess Clark spoke to parents who went hours without knowing where their children were.

CUT 25113

:40

SOQ

08/11/23

08/16/23 HEPL update McCOY

The President of the Hamilton East Public Library Board has been REPLACED amid controversy over what books should be in the children's and teen sections.

The library system, which serves Fishers and Noblesville, has moved more than 1,300 children's and teen books into the adult section.

Board President Laura Alerding (Al-er-DING) has overseen the charge to remove youth titles with violence and sexual content. She was appointed to her post by the Noblesville School Board, of which she is also a member.

On Tuesday, the school board voted to replace Alerding with a literature teacher from Noblesville High School.

08/17/23

8/24/23 Imagination Library Statewide Expansion Brandon Smith

Starting next month, Dolly Parton's Imagination Library will be available in all 92 Indiana counties, thanks to state government providing funding for the first time.

Indiana Public Broadcasting's Brandon Smith reports the program that provides free books every month to children from birth to age five was previously available in a little more than half the state.

CUT 25253 :40 SOC

08/25/23

8/29/23 Overdose preparedness in schools Kirsten Adair

Drug overdose prevention advocates want to combat misinformation and the negative stigma surrounding the use of naloxone, an overdose-reversal drug. As Indiana Public Broadcasting's Kirsten Adair reports, almost 90 school districts across the state have participated in a program that teaches school staff how to identify drug overdoses and administer naloxone.

CUT 29001 TRT :51 OUT: SOC

08/29/23

08/31/23 IU Nursing Class Abigail Ruhman

Indiana is missing an important part of the health care workforce. As Indiana Public Broadcasting's Abigail Ruhman reports, record admissions to one of the state's largest nursing programs may not solve the nursing shortage — but it's a start.

Cut 29003 TRT: 0:47 OUT: SOC

08/31/23