

# FRONT PORCH FLORIDA

*Offering more than you know*



## GIFFORD



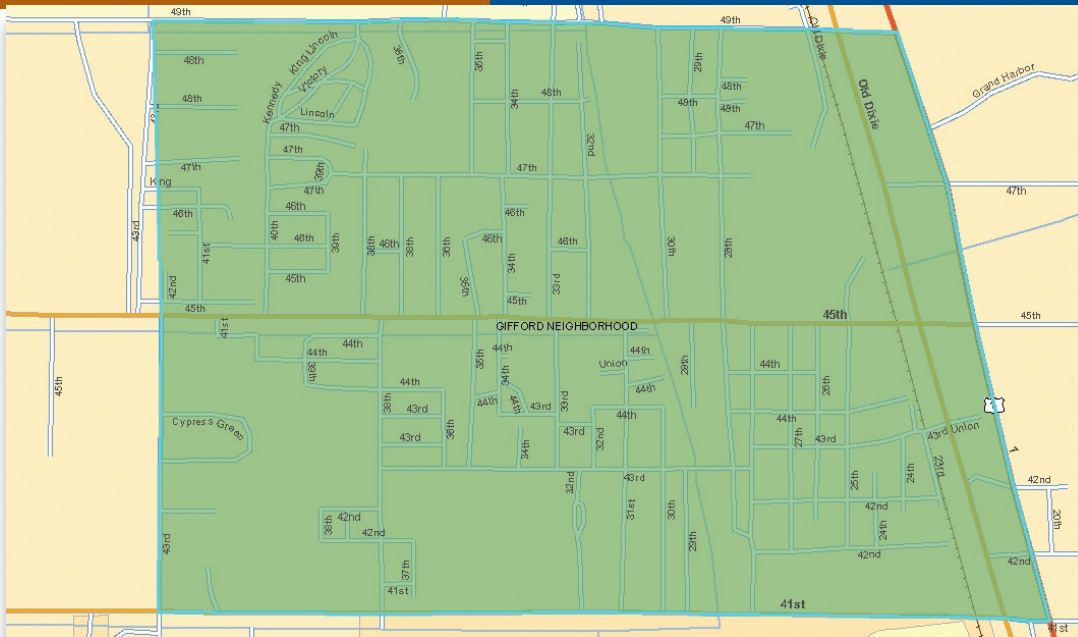


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SOURCES  
 Geographic Boundary Map-Florida Department of Community Affairs-Division of Emergency Management  
 Arc-GIS® 9 by ArcView®- Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI) Data, Maps & StreetMap  
 PCensus Database for ArcView®, version 8.50 (U.S.)  
 2000 Census Florida Summary File 1 & 3, U.S. Census Bureau

HISTORY OF THE FRONT PORCH INITIATIVE

The Front Porch Florida Initiative (FPF) was established in 1999 to promote community revitalization by empowering local community members through technical assistance, training and by developing skills necessary to identify and acquire resources for revitalization purposes.<sup>1</sup> The Office of Urban Opportunity (OUO) was formed to simplify administration; to create strategic alliances and networks of community collaboration; to develop and forge better relationships between Front Porch communities and other public and private sector entities.

Since inception, twenty Front Porch community designations have been established across the State of Florida. The communities are located in Bartow, Bradenton, Daytona Beach, Ft.Lauderdale, Gainesville, Gifford (Indian River County), Immokalee, Jacksonville, Miami, Ocala, Opa-Locka, Orlando, Pensacola, Sanford, Sarasota, St. Petersburg, Sylvania Heights (Okaloosa County), Tallahassee, Tampa, and West Palm Beach. These communities comprise some of the state’s most economically distressed urban and rural areas consisting of mostly African American residents. Front Porch Florida takes up this challenge to revitalize underserved communities that are dedicated to positive cooperation and communication to make their community a better place to live, work, and raise a family.

## PERSONS

Gifford is an overwhelmingly **Black** neighborhood (**89%**), followed by **Whites** (**7%**) and **Hispanics** (**6%**). The city of Vero Beach however, is vastly **White** (**93%**), **Hispanic** (**5%**) and **Black** (**3%**); Indian River County is made up of **Whites** (**87%**), **Blacks** (**8%**) and **Hispanics** (**6%**). Additionally, the **average age** for the Gifford community is substantially younger (**33 years**) than the city (**46 years**) and county (**45 years**). Finally, the **unemployment rate** for Gifford is much higher at **15.6%** compared to the city and county level of **3.5%** and **4.5%** respectively.

## HOUSEHOLDS

Both the **average household** (**\$29,751**) and **family income** (**\$32,150**) in Gifford are considerably less in comparison to the city (**\$63,756** and **\$82,483** respectively); there is a similar disparity at the county level (**\$62,018** and **\$73,662** respectively). Gifford household owners **receive public assistance** (**8.8%**) at a much higher rate than the city (**3.4%**) and county (**2.2%**).

The community has a considerably higher (**93%**) level than does city (**83%**) and county (**85%**) of **occupied housing units** and conversely, has a lower **vacancy rate** (**7%**), compared to the city (**17%**) and county (**15%**). Of the Gifford occupied units, **55%** are **rented** and **38%** **owned**; the same ratio for the city is **29%** **rented** and **54%** **owned**; the county, **19%** **rented** and **66%** **owned**. Furthermore, the **median owned home value** for the community is drastically lower at **\$42,031** when compared to city and county figures of **\$144,752** and **\$103,967** respectively.

A higher percentage (**38%**) of Gifford homeowners are **paying more than 30% of income on home costs**; the same figure for the city is **22%**, and **21%** for the

county. There is a higher percentage of those **paying more than 30% of their income on rent** in Gifford (**43%**) when compared to Vero Beach City (**37%**) and Indian River County (**40%**).

## POPULATION

The Gifford community is generally a much younger population than the city and county. The community has a significantly greater percentage of the population in every age category including and **under 24 years of age** when compared to the city and county. Conversely, Vero Beach and Indian River County have higher or equal percentages of the population in every category **older than 25 years of age**. The differences are particularly evident in the elderly population **above 65 years of age** in which both the city and county have an even greater percentage of the population.

## LABOR

Gifford community members use vehicles as mode of **transportation to work** exactly the same as the city's population (**90%**), but less than the county's (**93%**) population. Of those in the community who do use a vehicle, **21%** **carpooled**, compared to **11%** in the city and **12%** in the county. **Public transportation** is used by **2%** of the Gifford population, while **0%** (statistically insignificant) of the Vero Beach and Indian River County population does the same. Finally, **24%** of the community has **no access to a vehicle**; the same figure for the city is **9%**, and **7%** for the county.

## INCOME

The Gifford population has a considerably higher percentage (**72%**) of households **earning less than \$35,000**, when compared to the city (**45%**) and county (**44%**). Conversely, the community's "middle class" (**\$35,000 – \$74,999**) is substantially less (**23%**) than the city (**32%**) and county (**35%**). The community's **median household income** is significantly lower (**\$18,968**) than city (**\$38,550**) and county (**\$39,671**) income levels.

Gifford's **White median household income (\$22,007)** is substantially less than the city (**\$39,358**) and county (**\$41,072**) White household levels. Community **Black household income (\$18,001)** comparisons reveal a higher figure than the city (**\$15,735**), but a much lower level of income in comparison to the county (**\$24,446**). **Hispanic** households in the community (**\$45,532**) earn more than both city (**\$30,459**) and county (**\$32,059**) Hispanic households.

**Per capita income** for Gifford's **White (\$15,350)** population is considerably lower than both the city (**\$32,070**) and county (**\$29,287**). The **Black** community population (**\$10,717**) is nearly equal to city (**\$10,614**) and county (**\$11,089**) income level; Finally, **Hispanics** in the community (**\$6,626**) earn less than both city (**\$11,503**) and county (**\$11,566**) Hispanics.

## POVERTY

The Gifford community has a substantially higher **percent of population below the poverty level (31%)** than the city and county (both **9%**). There is a significantly higher percentage of community **Whites (30%)** below the poverty level in comparison to the city (**8%**) and county (**7%**). Statistics for Black poverty

figures are unreported at all three levels. Further, there is a higher percentage of **Hispanics (28%)** below the poverty level in comparison to city (**16%**) and county (**23%**) levels. Finally, community **families with children under 18 below the poverty line** are higher (**5%**) than city and county (both **1%**) levels.

## EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

In general, residents of Gifford are not attaining the same higher levels of education as in the city and county. Gifford has a higher percentage of every category including, and **under 9th to 12th grade/ no diploma**, making up **60%** of the population (compared to **15%** for the city and **18%** in the county). Conversely, Vero Beach and Indian River County have a much higher percentage of the population including, and above the level **High School Graduate (85%** and **81%** respectively), Gifford's figure for these categories is **39%**. Finally, the community does have a nearly equal percentage of **high school graduates (21%)** when compared to the city (**23%**), but not the county (**29%**).

## INDUSTRY

A breakdown of **industry employment** reveals Gifford is generally in sync with the city's and county's industry make-up. Gifford does employ a significantly larger amount of **Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting**, as well as a slightly higher level of **Accommodation and Food Services** (particularly when compared to county figures), **Educational Services**, and **Health Care and Social Services**.

Persons	Gifford Community		Vero Beach City		Indian River County	
		%		%		%
<b>Total Population</b>	4,000	% base	17,848	% base	112,947	% base
Male	1,871	47%	8,585	48%	54,594	48%
Female	2,129	53%	9,263	52%	58,353	52%
<b>Race and Ethnicity</b>						
White	289	7%	16,681	93%	98,775	87%
Black or African American	3,580	89%	477	3%	8,945	8%
Hispanic or Latino (any race)	241	6%	869	5%	7,300	6%
<b>Average Age</b>	33.4		46.9		45.9	
<b>Population 16 yrs and over By Employment Status</b>	2,776	% base	15,443	% base	93,974	% base
Employed	1,375	50%	7,884	51%	45,494	48%
Unemployed	254	9%	282	2%	2,133	2%
Civilian participation rate	58.70%		52.90%		50.70%	
Unemployment rate	15.60%		3.50%		4.50%	

Households	Gifford Community		Vero Beach City		Indian River County	
		%		%		%
<b>Average Income</b>						
Household	\$29,751		\$63,756		\$62,018	
Family	\$32,150		\$82,483		\$73,662	
<b>Total Households</b>	1,491		8,538		49,196	
With public assistance income	131	8.80%	290	3.40%	1,090	2.20%
<b>Total Housing Units</b>	1,601	% base	10,232	% base	57,902	% base
Vacant	116	7%	1,707	17%	8,765	15%
Occupied	1,485	93%	8,525	83%	49,137	85%
Owner occupied	608	38%	5,575	54%	38,119	66%
Renter occupied	877	55%	2,950	29%	11,018	19%
<b>Owner occupied units</b>	608	% base	5,575	% base	38,119	% base
Average owned home value	\$54,964		\$218,660		\$177,983	

Median value of owned homes	\$42,031		\$144,752		\$103,967	
Percentage of owners paying more than 30% of income on home costs	38.80%		22.70%		21.60%	
<b>Renter occupied units</b>	877		2,950		11,018	
Average monthly gross rent	\$418		\$629		\$683	
Percentage of renters paying more than 30% of income on rent	43.00%		37.60%		40.40%	

Population	Gifford Community		Vero Beach City		Indian River County	
		%		%		%
<b>Population by Age</b>	4,000	% base	17,848	% base	112,947	% base
Under 5 years	371	9%	778	4%	5,202	5%
5 to 9 years	373	9%	809	5%	5,958	5%
10 to 14 years	378	9%	714	4%	6,592	6%
15 to 19 years	384	10%	922	5%	6,153	5%
20 to 24 years	279	7%	853	5%	4,511	4%
25 to 34 years	399	10%	1,805	10%	10,339	9%
35 to 44 years	568	14%	2,433	14%	14,998	13%
45 to 54 years	431	11%	2,225	12%	13,519	12%
55 to 59 years	175	4%	1,058	6%	6,331	6%
60 to 64 years	184	5%	1,014	6%	6,320	6%
65 to 74 years	266	7%	2,380	13%	16,579	15%
75 to 84 years	155	4%	2,150	12%	13,191	12%
85 years and over	38	1%	707	4%	3,254	3%

Labor	Gifford Community		Vero Beach City		Indian River County	
		%		%		%
<b>Workers 16 years or older by Transportation to Work</b>	1,348	% base	7,741	% base	44,876	% base
Car, truck, or van	1,216	90%	6,974	90%	41,594	93%
Drove alone	928	69%	6,123	79%	36,099	80%
Carpooled	287	21%	851	11%	5,495	12%
Public transportation	24	2%	35	0%	166	0%
Bicycle, walked, other means	70	5%	385	5%	1,298	3%
<b>Household with no Access to a Vehicle</b>	328	24%	712	9%	2,963	7%

<b>Average travel time to work</b>	17.2		17.7		20.3	
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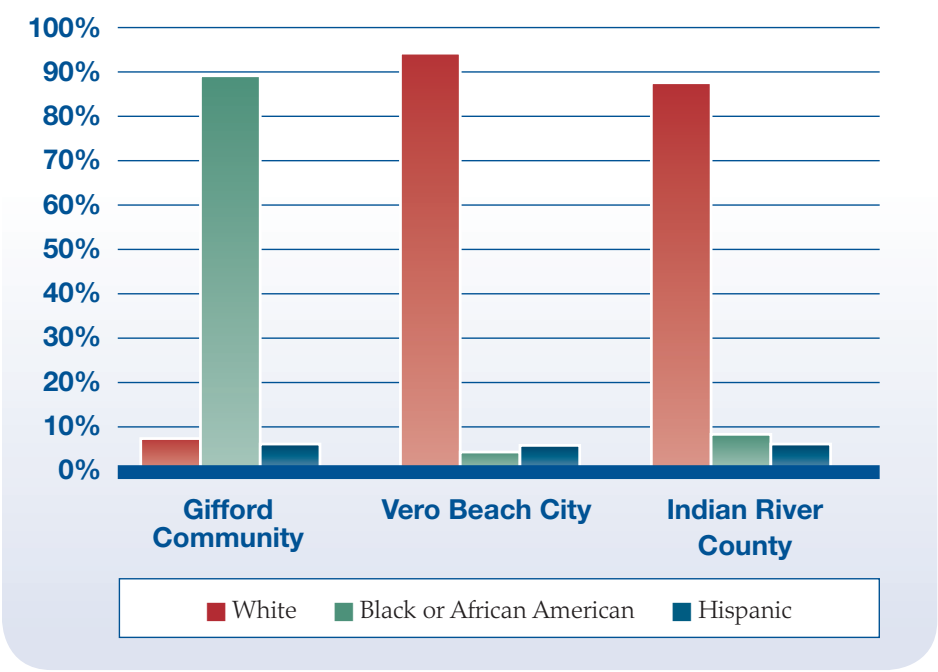
1999 Income	Gifford Community		Vero Beach City		Indian River County	
		%		%		%
<b>Households by 1999 Income Level</b>	1,491	% base	8,538	% base	49,196	% base
Less than \$20,000	782	52%	1,917	22%	10,807	22%
\$20,000 to \$34,999	295	20%	1,953	23%	10,949	22%
\$35,000 to \$49,999	183	12%	1,428	17%	8,571	17%
\$50,000 to \$74,999	171	11%	1,285	15%	8,965	18%
\$75,000 to \$99,999	32	2%	622	7%	3,815	8%
\$100,000 to \$149,999	4	0%	675	8%	3,038	6%
\$150,000 or more	24	2%	658	8%	3,051	6%
<b>Average household income</b>	\$29,751		\$63,756		\$62,018	
<b>Median household income</b>	\$18,968		\$38,550		\$39,671	
<b>Median Household Income by Race of Householder</b>						
White	\$22,007		\$39,358		\$41,072	
Black or African American	\$18,001		\$15,735		\$24,446	
Hispanic or Latino (any race)	\$45,532		\$30,459		\$32,059	
<b>Per Capita Income by Race</b>						
White	\$15,350		\$32,070		\$29,287	
Black or African American	\$10,717		\$10,614		\$11,089	
Hispanic or Latino (any race)	\$6,626		\$11,503		\$11,566	
<b>Average family income</b>	\$32,150		\$82,483		\$73,662	

Poverty	Gifford Community		Vero Beach City		Indian River County	
		%		%		%
<b>Percent of group below the poverty level</b>						
Total persons	31%		9%		9%	
<b>By Age</b>						
Under 5 years	14%		9%		9%	
5 years	2%		1%		1%	
6 to 11 years	11%		5%		9%	
12 to 17 years	15%		7%		10%	
18 to 64 years	47%		64%		53%	
65 to 74 years	6%		4%		7%	
75 years and over	6%		11%		11%	
<b>By Race</b>						
White	30%		8%		7%	
Hispanic or Latino (any race)	28%		16%		23%	
Black (unreported)	–		–		–	
<b>Total Families</b>	986	% base	4,776	% base	32,901	% base
Below the poverty level:						
With related children under 18 years	45	5%	57	1%	491	1%

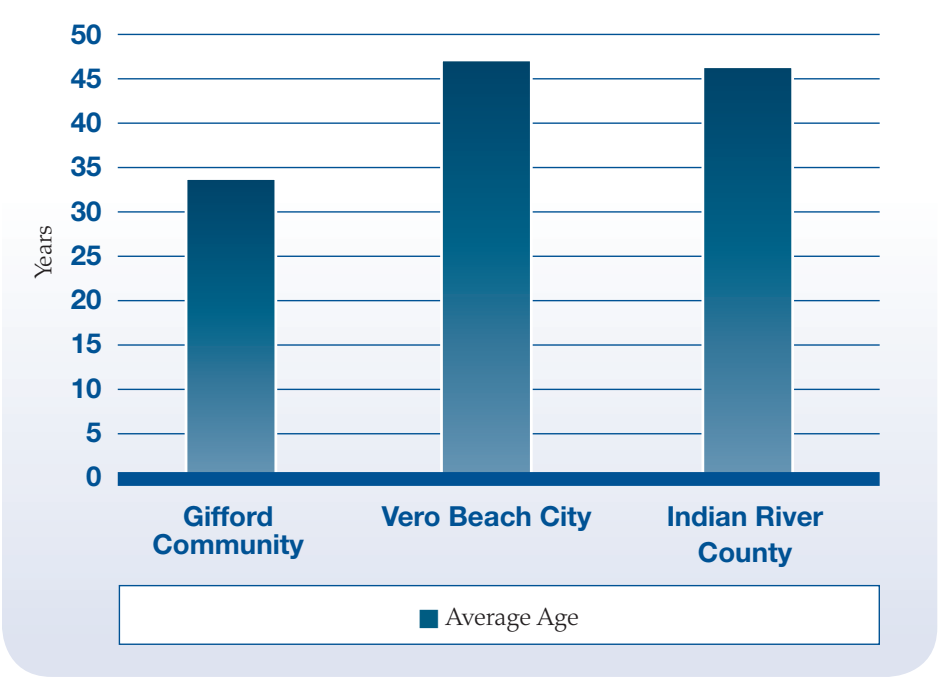
Educational Attainment	Gifford Community		Vero Beach City		Indian River County	
		%		%		%
<b>Population 25 years or older</b>	2,215	% base	13,772	% base	84,531	% base
Less than 9th grade	493	22%	845	6%	5,292	6%
9th to 12th grade/no diploma	852	38%	1,218	9%	10,299	12%
High school graduate	474	21%	3,229	23%	24,572	29%
Some college, no degree	159	7%	3,104	23%	19,620	23%
Associate degree	132	6%	967	7%	5,215	6%
Bachelor's degree	66	3%	2,933	21%	12,833	15%
Graduate/professional degree	39	2%	1,476	11%	6,700	8%

Industry	Gifford Community		Vero Beach City		Indian River County	
		%		%		%
<b>Employed Population 16 years or older by Industry</b>	1,375	% base	7,884	% base	45,494	% base
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	91	7%	118	1%	1,430	3%
Mining	0	0%	13	0%	30	0%
Construction	94	7%	716	9%	3,878	9%
Manufacturing	69	5%	443	6%	2,991	7%
Wholesale trade	97	7%	218	3%	2,064	5%
Retail trade	113	8%	1,027	13%	6,342	14%
Transportation and warehousing	24	2%	165	2%	1,122	2%
Utilities	4	0%	78	1%	384	1%
Information	39	3%	181	2%	947	2%
Finance, insurance, real estate and rental and leasing	12	1%	649	8%	3,371	7%
Professional and related services	150	11%	693	9%	4,352	10%
Educational services	103	7%	492	6%	2,975	7%
Health care and social assistance	209	15%	1,026	13%	5,747	13%
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	33	2%	316	4%	1,673	4%
Accommodation and food services	167	12%	820	10%	3,358	7%
Other services	70	5%	561	7%	2,769	6%
Public administration	101	7%	368	5%	2,061	5%
<b>Top 3 Employers by Industry</b>	Health care and social assistance Accommodation and food services Professional and related services		Retail trade Health care and social assistance Accommodation and food services		Retail trade Health care and social assistance Professional and related services	

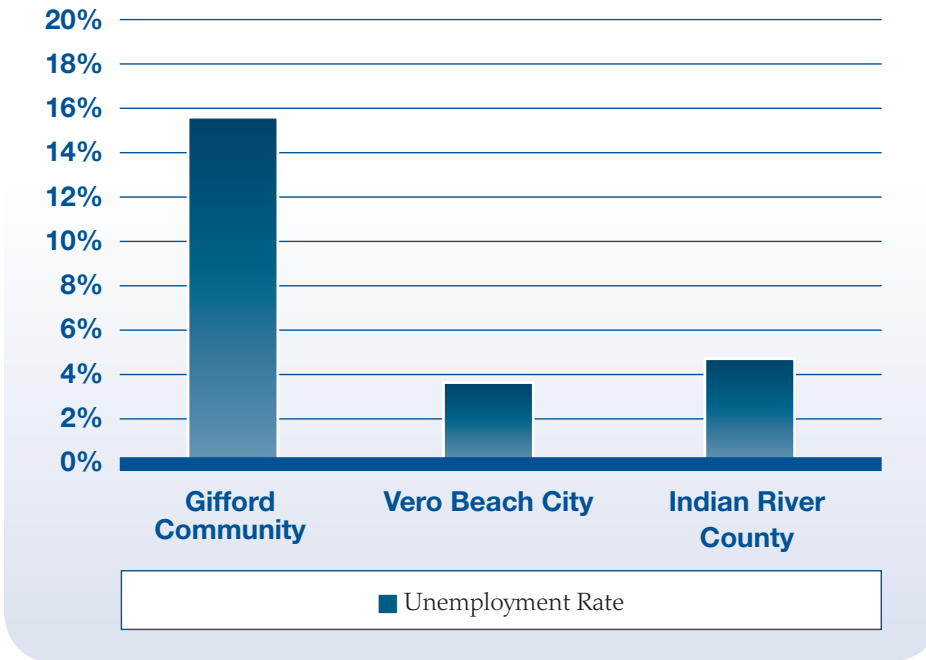
[ RACIAL & ETHNIC BREAKDOWN ]



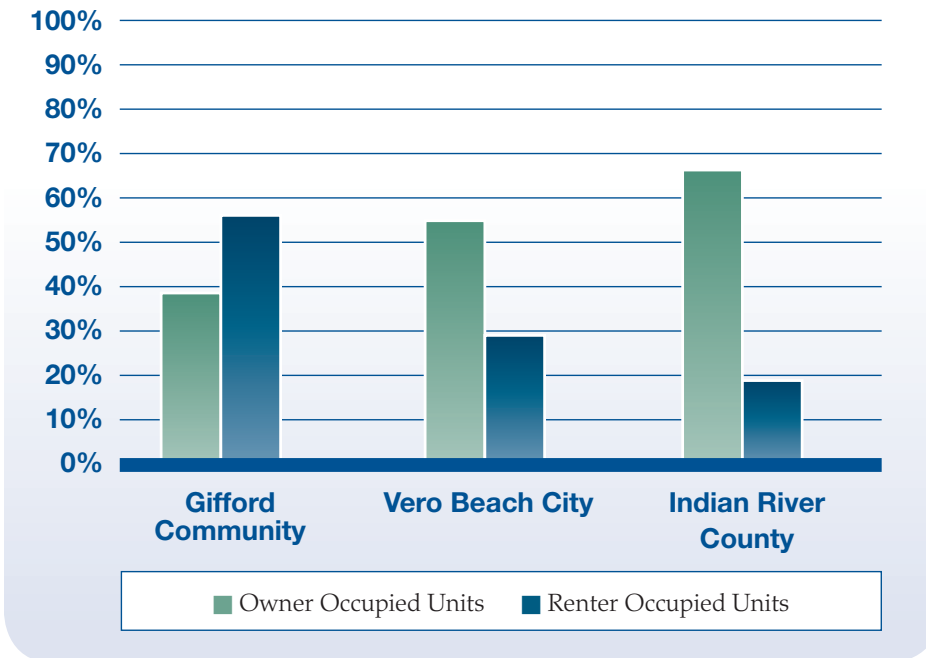
[ AVERAGE AGE ]



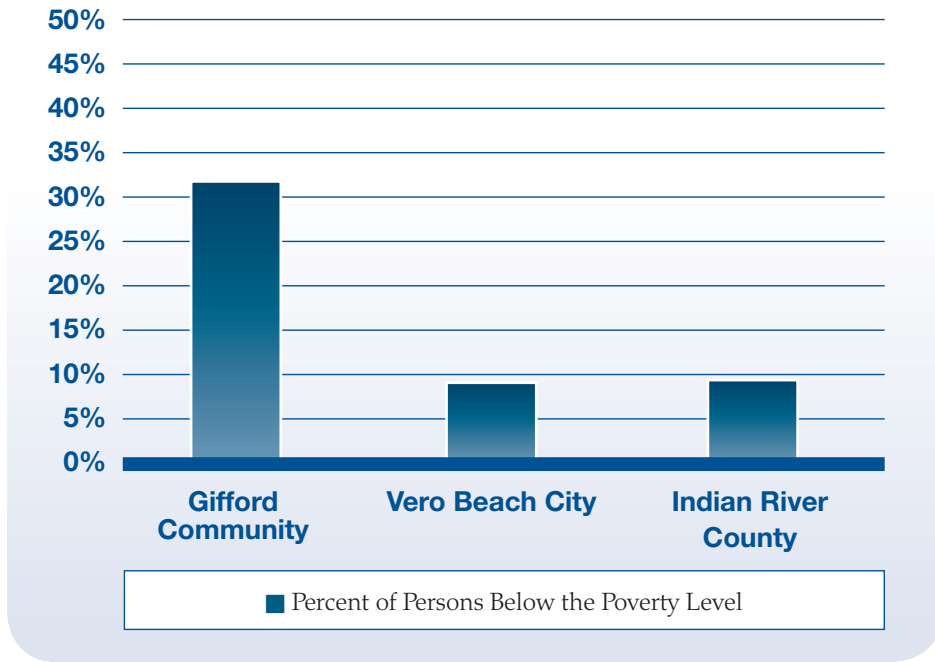
[ UNEMPLOYMENT RATE ]



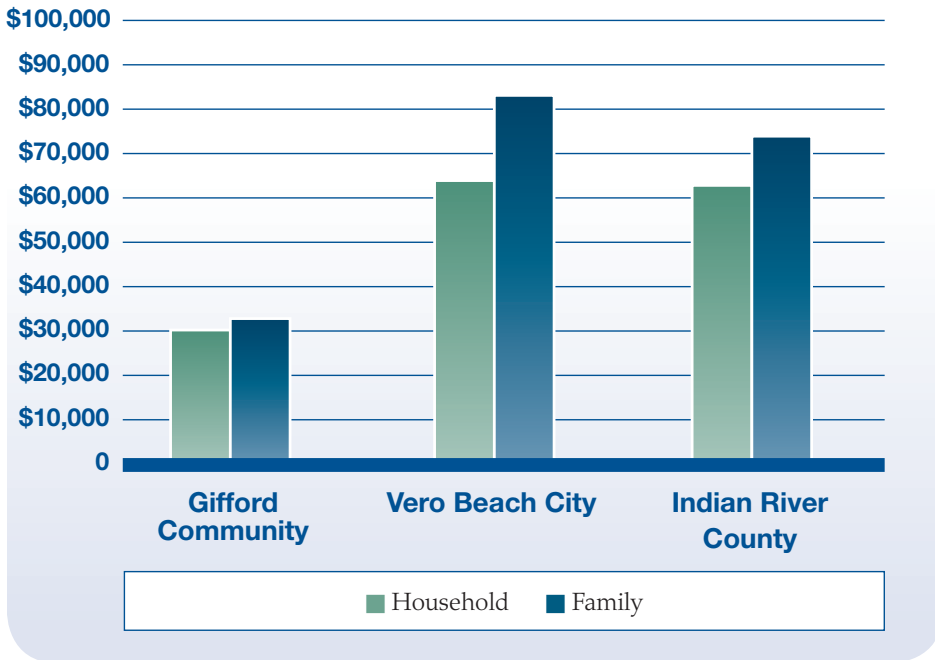
[ OWNER & RENTER OCCUPIED UNITS ]



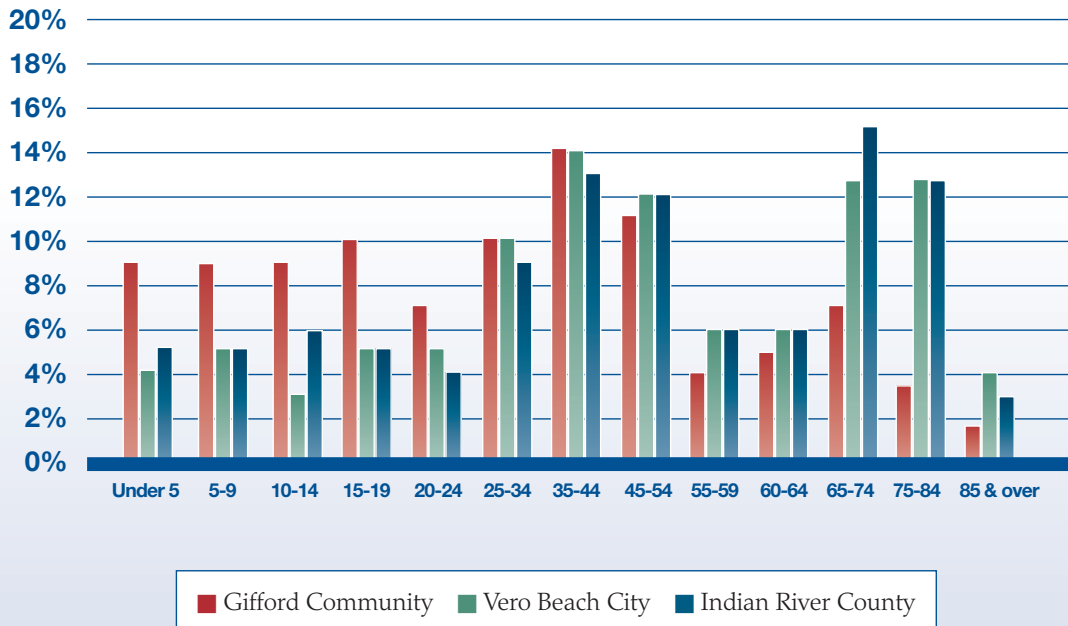
[ POVERTY LEVEL ]



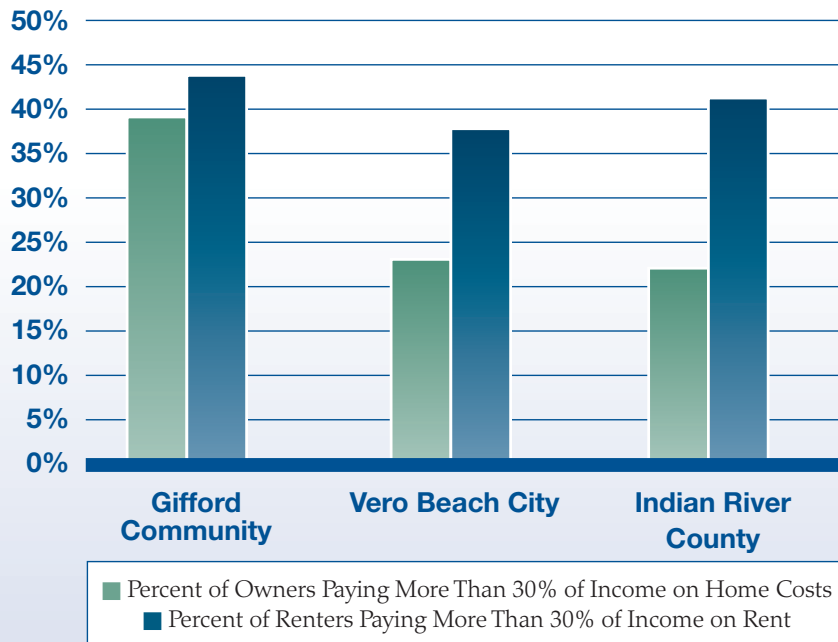
[ AVERAGE INCOME LEVELS ]



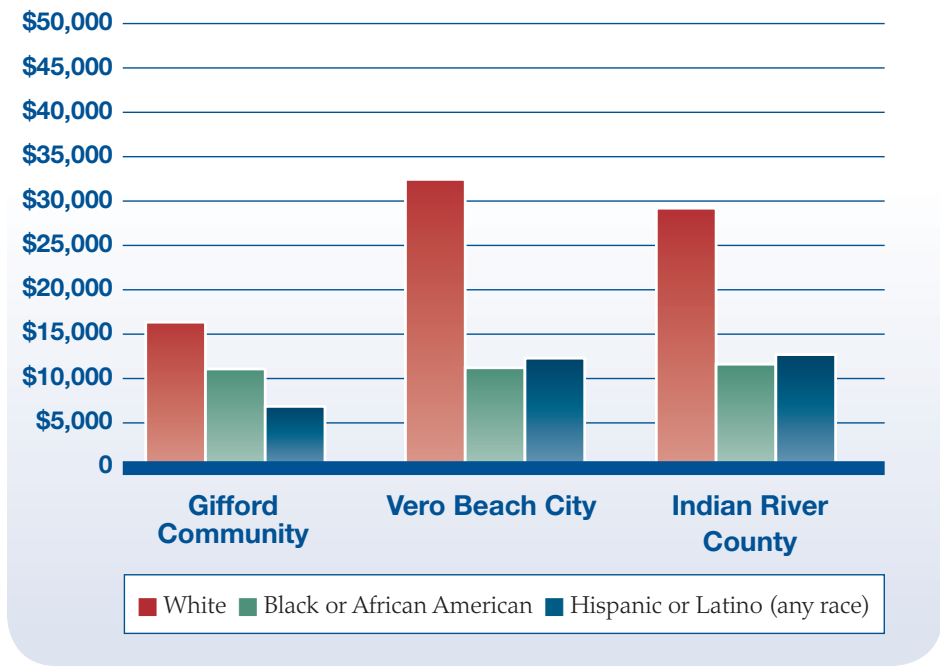
[ POPULATION BREAKDOWN BY AGE ]



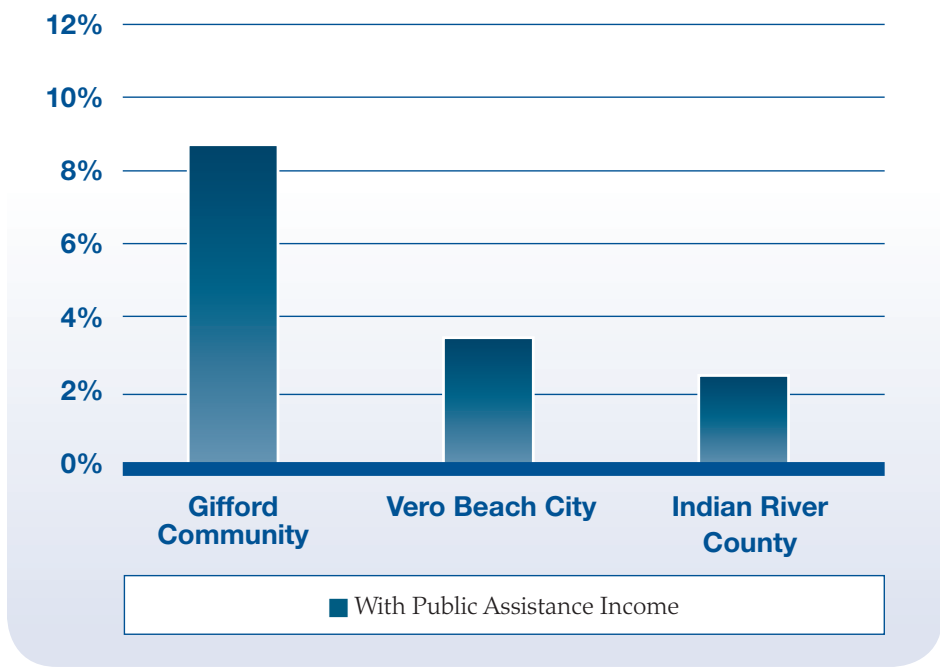
[ INCOME RATIO TO HOMEOWNER & RENTER COSTS ]



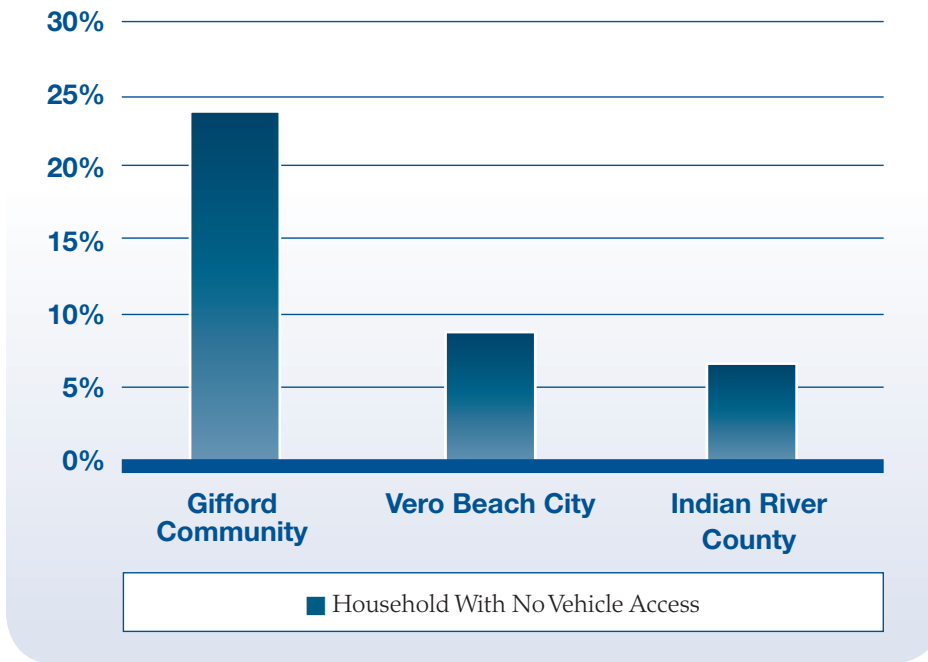
[ PER CAPITA INCOME BY RACE ]



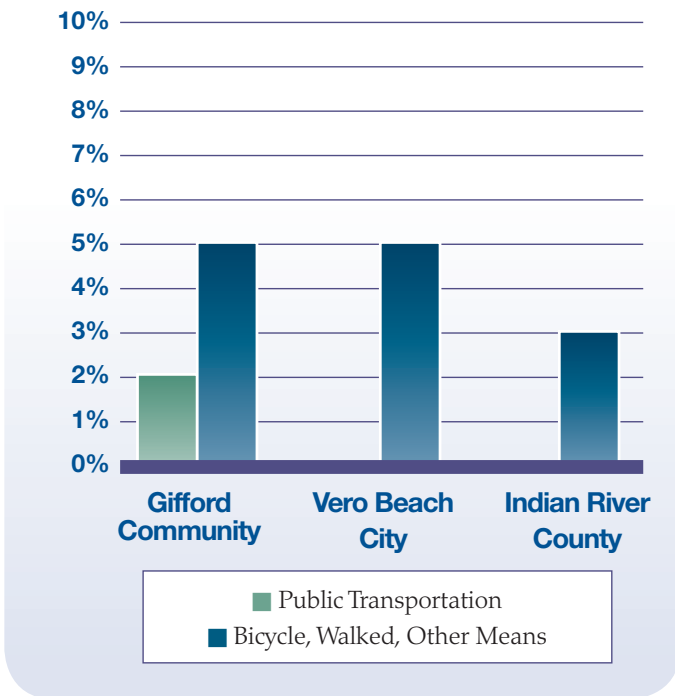
[ HOUSEHOLDS WITH PUBLIC ASSISTANCE ]



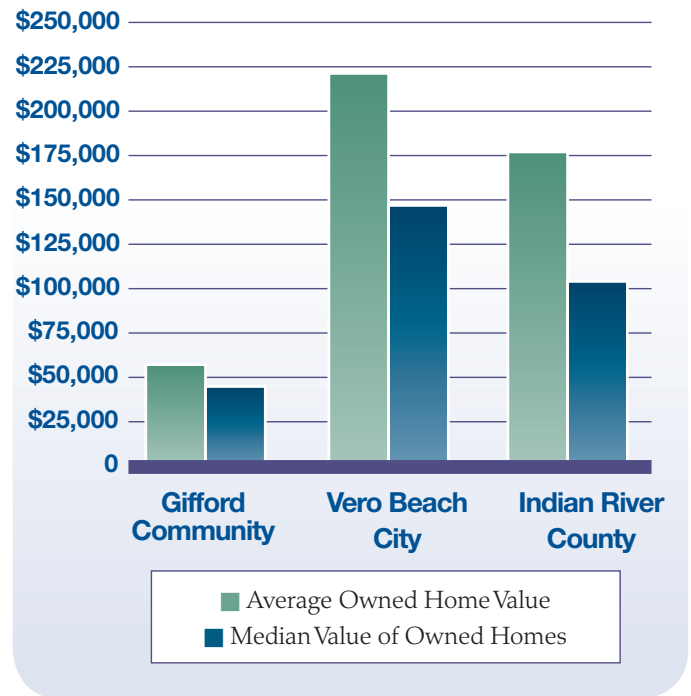
[ VEHICLE ACCESS ]



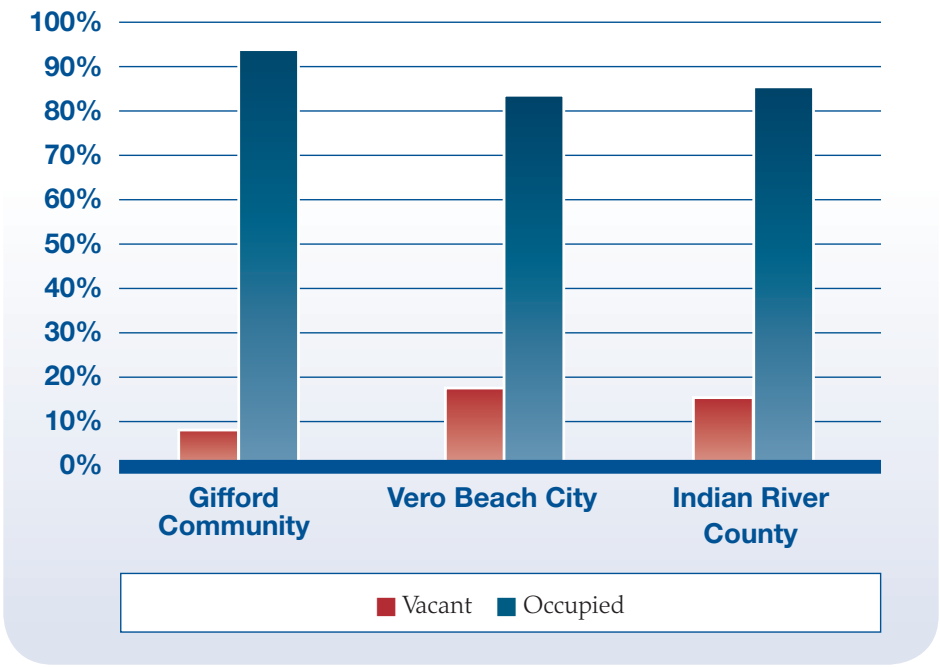
[ TRANSPORTATION TO WORK ]



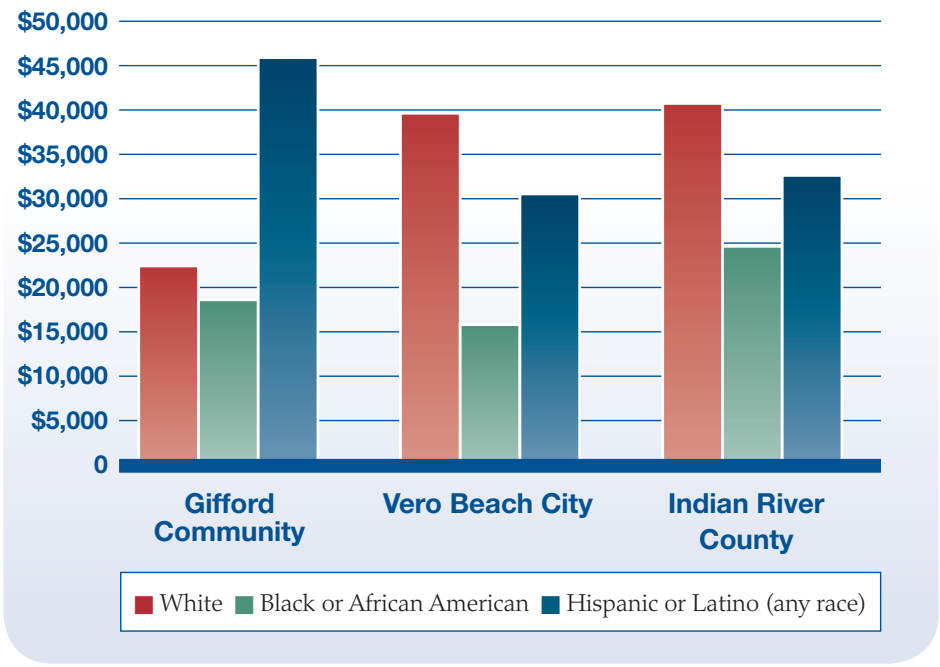
[ HOME VALUES ]



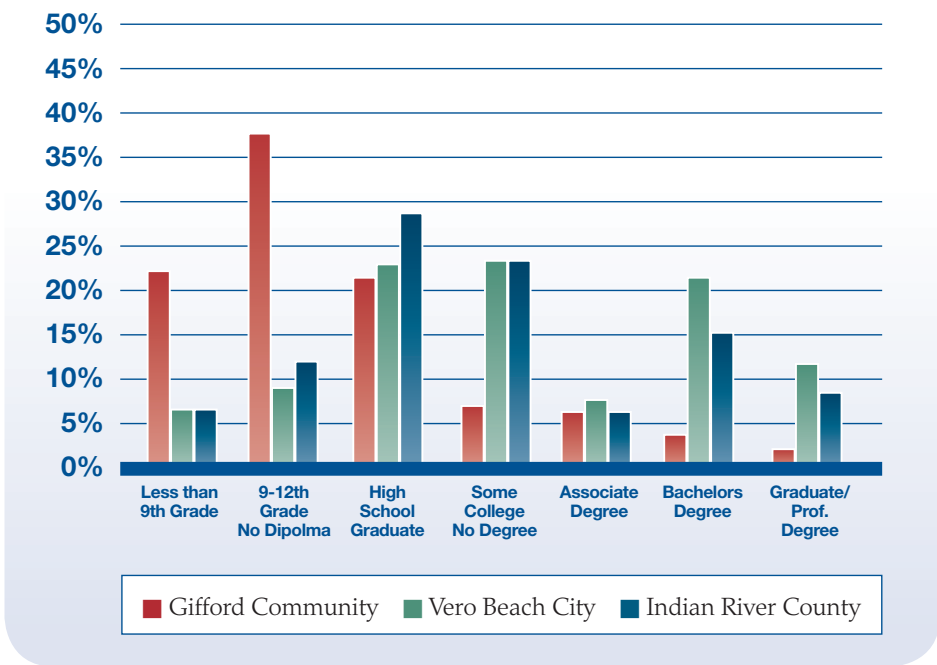
[ VACANT & OCCUPIED HOUSING UNITS ]



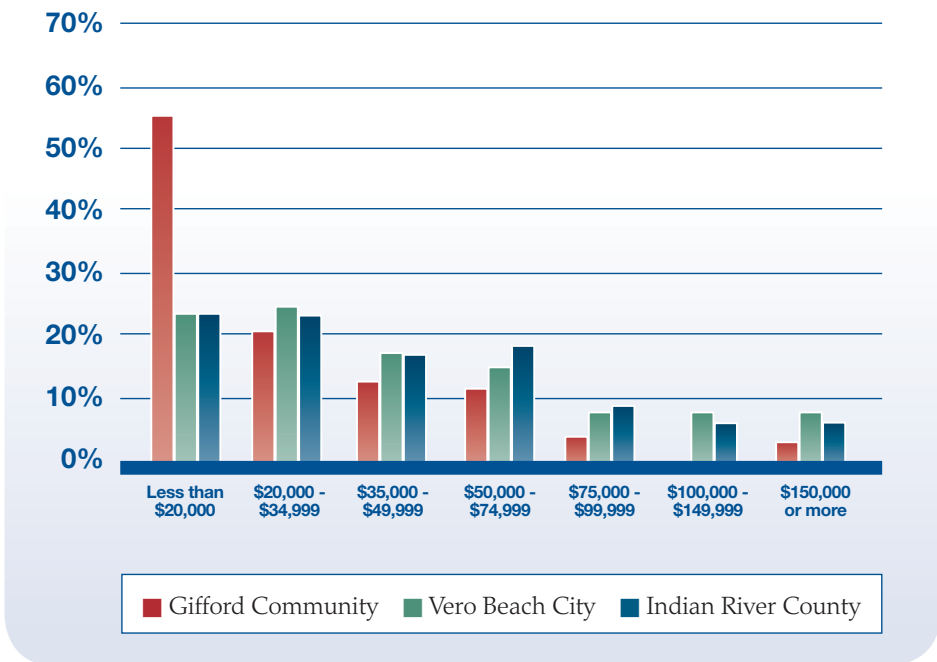
[ MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME BY RACE ]



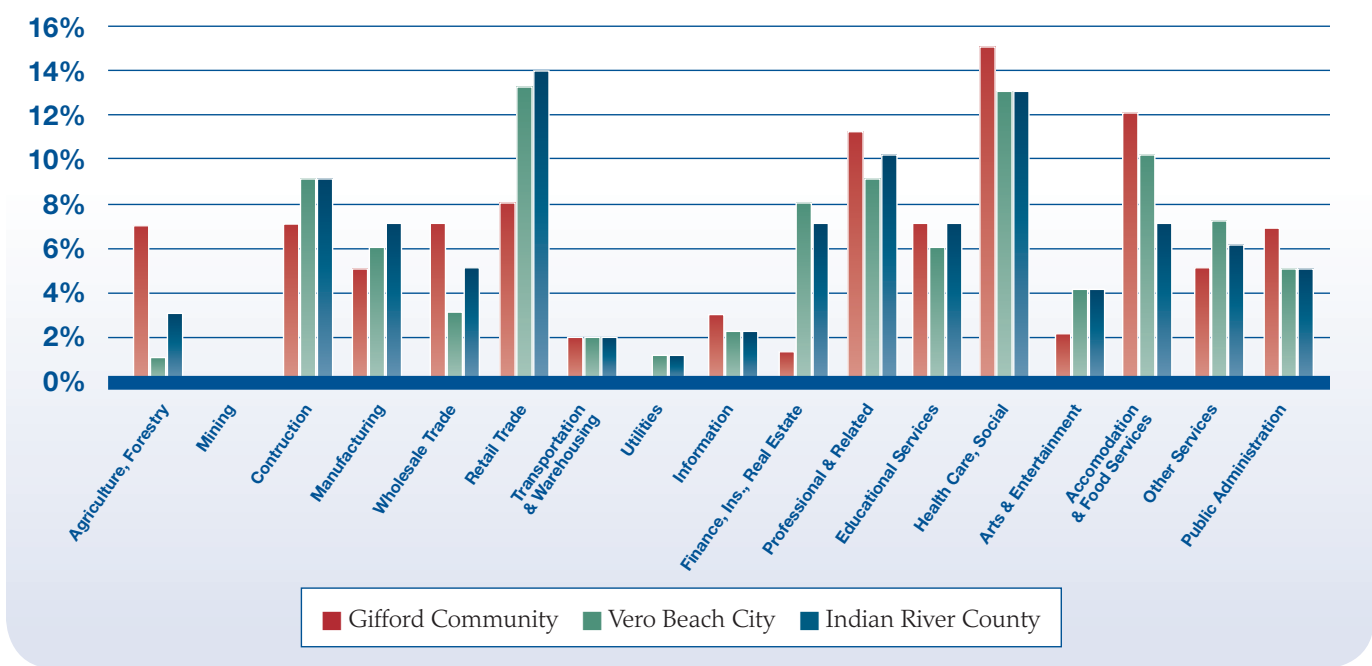
## [ EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT ]



## [ HOUSEHOLD INCOME RANGES ]



[ INDUSTRY BREAKDOWN ]



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# FRONT PORCH FLORIDA COMMUNITIES GIFFORD

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