The difference between Percent and Percentage Points:

The Education Alliance Implementation Teams used data to assess needs and gaps in order to establish measurable goals. There are multiple ways to measure change over time and we utilize two of them in the Education Alliance Community Online Report Card.

The first way is by measuring a percent difference. For example, if the poverty rate rose from 10% to 20% then it increased by 100% which is the same as saying that it doubled.

The second way is by measuring a percentage point difference. We could also say that the poverty rate increased by 10 percentage points.

This becomes important when we relate to you how values are changing over time.

- Green indicates good when comparing to a target, Indiana, or the past.
- Yellow indicates not much difference when comparing to a target, Indiana, or the past.
- Red indicates bad when comparing to a target, Indiana, or the past.

We decide what is green, yellow, and red based on the percent difference between two values. In another example, if the unemployment rate dropped from 10% to 8% then that is a 20% difference. This change is then represented as green since it exceeds the 15% threshold for improvement from baseline year to the current year.

But when we show you the value we show it as a percentage point difference as they are generally more intuitive to understand.

- We show “-2” percentage points change, but what drives the green color is that unemployment improved by more than 15% when measured as a percent difference.

For more information on the Symbols colors, please see http://edalliance.iupui.edu/downloads/Ed_Alliance_Color_Explanation.pdf

For any other help contact us at savi@iupui.edu.