



Community Profile Dashboard Case Study

> Goal

Provide visibility for Virginia's substance abuse statistics.

> Challenge

Existing data was stored in multiple locations in formats that were not user-friendly.

> Solution

The dashboard provides public access to comprehensive, interactive reports on substance abuse and links to state-wide resources.

> Results

A one-stop shop for Virginia's multiple anti-substance abuse initiatives, providing objective information for improving quality of life for Virginia's youth.

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Case Study > Community Profile Dashboard

The Commonwealth of Virginia Governor's Office for Substance Abuse (GOSAP) needed to **improve visibility** of Virginia's substance abuse statistics, elevate awareness of social issues, and support analysis of information on substance abuse collected from over 13 different agencies.

IndigeTech developed a web-based Community Profile Dashboard for GOSAP, http://www.data.gosap.governor.virginia.gov/GOSAP_App/Home.aspx. The dashboard provides **easy-to-use, interactive reporting** of information consolidated from across the state. Users create reports in chart, graph, and map form and can filter data by age group, race, gender, city or county, and zip code. They can export or download information to multiple formats to support community planning, grant writing, and programs that reduce risk factors. Users of the dashboard include:

- *State agencies and foundations* – who compare data to target resources to issues and areas that have the greatest need
- *Students and researchers* – who analyze data for research and evaluation
- *Virginia and its citizens* – to increase citizen involvement, set benchmarks, and monitor progress

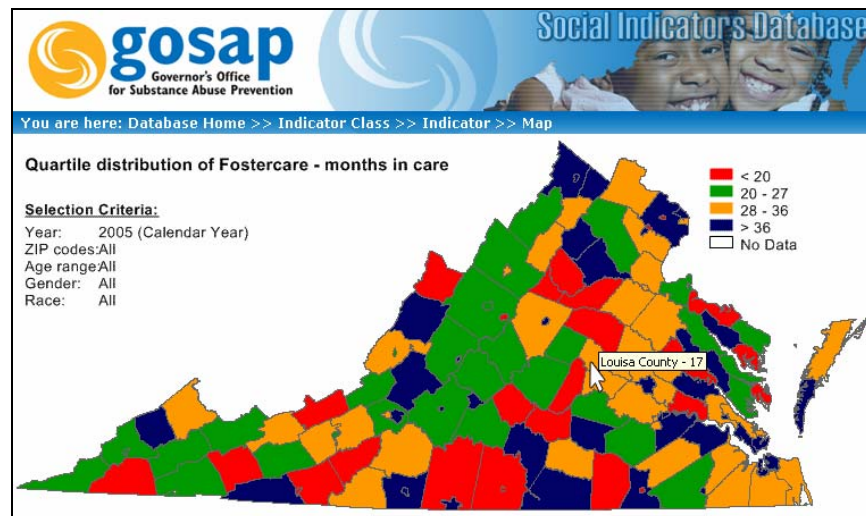
Additionally, the dashboard links users to research-based strategies that focus on proven practices to achieve the best possible results.

GOSAP is a collaborative of 13 Virginia agencies that work together to coordinate programs to reduce violence, tobacco, alcohol, and drug use among children and adolescents state-wide. GOSAP monitors program expenditures and determines future strategies. They identified data as its most pressing need to address risk factors.

Before the Community Profile Dashboard, there was no comprehensive, unified way to view and analyze state-wide information on substance abuse and social issues. Some agencies provided data on their websites, but it was often difficult to download and compare across time, localities, and agencies. Getting information into a usable format was time consuming and complex. Issues that users ran into included:

- the need to visit and learn numerous websites,
- each year's data was stored in separate files with inconsistent formatting,
- and detail information was not available.

Sometimes the only way to get the necessary information was by special request to a state agency that took time, state staff resources, and sometimes, payment.



This screen shows a map view of state-wide foster care showing average number of months a child is in care for 2005.

The Community Profile Dashboard displays social indicators, which are measures of change in conditions or behaviors. They can tell us about the outcome of a policy or project, about people’s subjective feelings of well-being, or document conditions or behaviors over time.

The dashboard has **reduced the time required to collect information** by combining data from multiple agencies and providing integrated functionality to filter, analyze, display, and export information. The solution has lessened the time required to identify areas of deficiency, and implement and **measure improvements**. Foundations and communities can determine the most critical needs to properly allocate funding.

GOSAP’s dashboard has proven a valuable resource across the Commonwealth. The solution:

- supports the use of science and statistics to improve the well-being of the Commonwealth’s youth,
- provides objective data for the allocation and disbursement of Virginia’s limited prevention resources,
- reduces the time state staff spends on special data requests and improves the speed and flexibility with which requesters receive information,
- improves the quality of local needs assessments and planning,
- demonstrates a collaboration of state agencies, and
- uses technology to improve efficiency of Virginia’s prevention programs.

Focus > Technical Details

The Community Profile Dashboard is an ASP.NET web application written in VB.NET. It runs on IIS with a SQL Server database. The system utilizes Microsoft SQL Server Reporting Services for the graphs and reports. The maps are programmatically filled in using the graphical device interface (GDI) .NET library.

The Community Profile Dashboard serves as a one-stop shop for Virginia’s multiple anti-substance abuse initiatives, providing objective information for improving quality of life for Virginia’s youth. In addition, it is a flagship example of technology supporting the wise use of state resources to improve the well-being of Virginia’s families.

Is your information in a usable format? Or is data collected and stored in a black hole? Having web-based access to a cumulative view of information with advanced filtering capabilities and reporting functionality improves decision making and allows better monitoring of progress towards performance objectives.

The GOSAP dashboard provides a **unified view of performance** by summarizing information from different source systems and presenting it in a custom, web-based display for quick comprehension. Such a dashboard can show where your organization or business is excelling and also, where it may need some help.



gosap Governor's Office for Substance Abuse Prevention
Social Indicators Database

You are here: Database Home >> Indicator Class >> Indicator >> Report

Total Youth Detained Two or More Times by Year

	FY2002	FY2003	FY2004
10-14	83	73	49
15-17	169	121	143
18-24	1	0	0
Unknown/Missing	1	0	0
Total	254	194	192

Export as: PDF Comma Separated Values (CSV) Excel

Select criteria to map and dimension to compare in graph and report [Help](#)

City/County	ZIP code	Age range	Gender	Race
All cities & counties	(comma delimited)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> All ages	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> All genders	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> All races
Accomack County		<input type="checkbox"/> 10-14	<input type="checkbox"/> Male	<input type="checkbox"/> Unknown/Other
Albemarle County		<input type="checkbox"/> 15-17	<input type="checkbox"/> Female	<input type="checkbox"/> White
Alexandria City		<input type="checkbox"/> 18-24	<input type="checkbox"/> Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/> Black
Alleghany County		<input type="checkbox"/> Unknown/Missing		<input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic
Amelia County				<input type="checkbox"/> Native American
				<input type="checkbox"/> Asian
				<input type="checkbox"/> Other

Report by: Number Percentage

Year from: 2002 City/County ZIP Age range Gender Race

Year to: 2004 City/County ZIP Age range Gender Race

Year to map: 2004

This report displays state-wide juvenile crime statistics for 2002-2004 by age range. Users can filter information by locality, zip code, age range, gender, and race. They can view statistics by number or percentage and export the report to PDF, Excel or CSV file.