

Maryland Council on Open Data

Annual Report
January 10, 2024

The Honorable Wes Moore
Governor
State House
Annapolis, MD 21401-1925

The Honorable William C. Ferguson IV
President of the Senate
State House, H-107
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

The Honorable Adrienne A. Jones
Speaker of the House
State House, H-101
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991



Open Data

INTRODUCTION

The members of the Maryland Council on Open Data recognize data as a valuable asset and are dedicated to stimulating opportunities and initiatives that maximize progress. This is in large part achieved through regulated access to authoritative, trustworthy, and current government open data. Open data has the potential to drive transformative change and the State of Maryland is leading efforts to apply data and technology, including artificial intelligence, to prudently and conscientiously deliver results that improve the lives of the residents and the growth of businesses that call Maryland home.

This annual report serves to reflect on successes and achievements from throughout the past year, provide details on the results delivered throughout Maryland and introduce next year's initiatives.

“Over the next few years, our focus will be on creating an environment where more data driven decisions can be achieved through Maryland's vast data footprint. Our vision is an Open Data Council where member's challenges with data identification, curation, and management can be discussed with a focus on better data management tools and capabilities.” – Katie Savage, Maryland Department of Information Technology Secretary and Council on Open Data Chair

Vision

Curate and make readily available all useful, relevant, and releasable data created by the State of Maryland and select Local Governments to businesses, residents, visitors, and civil servants of the State.

Mission

To promote easy and direct access to data created by governments within the State of Maryland to empower Marylanders to effect change, make better and more informed decisions, and enable State Agencies and coordinating offices to better deliver services to constituents, businesses, and visitors to the State of Maryland.

Legislation

The Maryland Open Data Act (state government, chapter 69, section 10-1501 through 10-1504)¹ was established and became effective on June 1, 2014. The intent of the act is “that open data be machine readable and released to the public in ways that make the data easy to find, accessible, and usable [...]”. In addition, the act ensures that open data does not include data that would compromise the security, privacy, or integrity of systems, programs, or persons.

¹ <https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgaweb/Laws/StatuteText?article=qsg§ion=10-1501&enactments=false>

MARYLAND'S OPEN DATA PROGRAM

Since the Open Data program's launch in 2012 and the enactment of the Open Data Act in 2014, the State of Maryland has focused on citizen engagement, government reliability, user experience, technology consolidation, and to fully prepare, train, and support all Executive Branch State Agencies employees in the successful provision and maintenance of open data. By aligning state government data with these principles, the program has established a solid foundation that continues to galvanize the State's position as a leader in open data.

- 2015 Released monthly updates of statewide real property assessment records.
- 2015 Launched Dataset Freshness Dashboard² to deliver transparency on completeness and timeliness of datasets on the State's Open Data Portals.
- 2016 Conducted proactive outreach to the private, non-profit, and academic sectors to inform them of the State's Open Data Portals assets and resources.
- 2017 Researched and refined search engine optimization to improve discovery of Maryland government open data on internet browsers.
- 2017 Published State of Maryland's Operating Budget³ as open data and launched an interactive dashboard to help citizens explore the State's budget data.
- 2018 Redesigned the Open Data Portals to improve data accessibility to all users.
- 2018 Delivered the Open Data Policy and Standards⁴ to improve data consistency, standardize data submission requirements, and ensure broad consumer access.
- 2019 Established Council on Open Data Working Groups to address specific initiatives and activities to carry out the vision and the mission of the Council.
- 2019 Launched a new X, formerly known as Twitter account, @ datamaryland, to support communication and enhance public engagement regarding data.
- 2020 Established State Data Coordinators to promote data accessibility and reusability throughout Executive Branch State Agencies.
- 2020 Launched the first of more than 60 COVID vital statistics as open datasets.
- 2021 Created the State Chief Data Officer position by Governor's Executive Order.
- 2021 Expanded the available training materials for introductory and advanced users from within State Agencies, as well as for community users of the State's Portals.
- 2022 Maryland scores an A- in the GovTech Digital States Survey with enhancements to data initiatives contributing to the upgrade of the score from a B+ in 2020.
- 2022 Designated Agency Data Officers within twenty-one (21) Executive Branch State Agencies to align the governance, use, access, management, and analysis of government-generated data by units of State government.
- 2023 Established interoperability between the State's Internal Data Portal and the Statewide Financial Management System (FMIS) to streamline reporting.
- 2023 Modernized the user experience for requesting privileged State employee account access to the State's Open Data and Internal Data portals.

² <https://opendata.maryland.gov/stories/s/Dataset-Freshness/xdqw-5b5w/>

³ <https://mtp.maryland.gov>

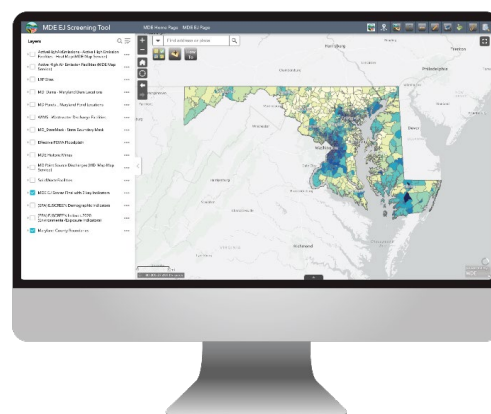
⁴ https://opendata.maryland.gov/Administrative/Open-Data-Portal-Policy-and-Standards/axj6-iyhf/about_data

FEATURED ACCOMPLISHMENTS

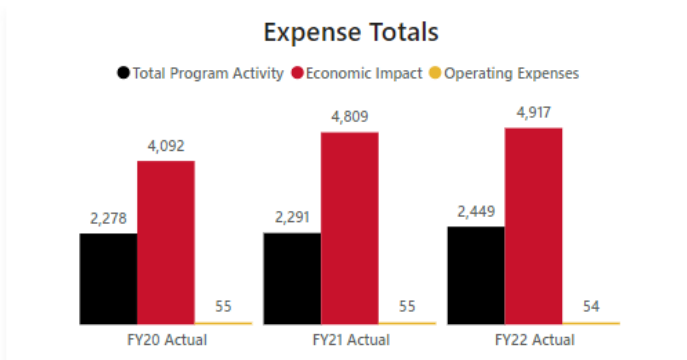
This year, there were numerous and wide-ranging accomplishments in open data, from the various types of data being uploaded to the portals to the live events attended. These projects demonstrate just a few of the responsibilities that come with handling and managing open data, and some excellent examples of use cases the program has promoted.

Maryland Environmental Trust: Improving Conservation Easement Monitoring Workflows

The Maryland Environmental Trust works to conserve over 140,000 acres of land in the State of Maryland. Through a partnership with the Maryland Department of Information Technology (DoIT), the team has worked to modernize the digital tools used by field staff to collect and document changes during monitoring visits to conservation easements throughout the State. The DoIT Team worked with the MET team to establish collection, analysis, and reporting requirements to fulfill monitoring needs, and implemented a workflow that involves the use of several components of the Esri ArcGIS Online suite of applications. The volunteers will now be able to use a modernized version of the system to collect and document changes during their field visits.



DHCD Maryland and County Profiles



The Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) has brought a featured dashboard to our attention as a key accomplishment under our Key Initiative #2 - Improving Access to Data. The County Profiles were developed by DHCD's Office of Research and Compliance, under the leadership of Bernice Mensah.

Through a public dashboard, Maryland and County Profiles⁵ are displayed with

demographics for Tenure, and Income by age (over time), housing indicators (sales and building permits), delinquency indicators, investment, and economic impact.

MDE Environmental Justice

To protect and ensure the health and welfare of all Marylanders, the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) manages regulation and infrastructure programs for protecting and restoring the environment. MDE is trying to reduce existing inequalities in the environmental situation of communities that are overburdened or undeserved. MDE has designed an Environmental Justice (EJ) tool⁶ to allow users to identify potential overburdened or underserved communities. MDE's EJ Screening Tool is intended to enhance agency compliance oversight, monitoring, investment, and to enhance meaningful engagement in areas with permitting activities. This tool uses open data such as Maryland census data and allows users to be better informed about the nature and number of environmental stressors, sensitive populations, and potential disparities in communities. For more information about environmental justice, see MDE's website.

Upgrade of MD iMAP (Maryland's ArcGIS Enterprise Infrastructure)

The State of Maryland Geographic Information Systems (GIS) enterprise platform was launched in 2009⁷. Since then, the platform's scope, scale, and reach have greatly increased. The platform is a data intelligence platform that provides advanced geospatial and location analytics to support strategic business objectives. GIS helps State Agencies improve collaboration across government and private sector entities, enhance multi-agency service delivery, and enable the implementation of new platform business models. This upgrade will enable State Agencies to improve efficiencies, gain access to new tools and features, continue to reduce costs by reusing common components, and serve users with faster response times all in compliance with the latest State security and privacy standards. The modernization effort is currently underway with a targeted completion date in the summer of 2024.



Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration wins State Government Experience Award

The Government Technology Website announced the Government Experience Awards for 2023⁸ and Maryland's MVA won for their Mobile ID Digital Wallet⁹ phone app. The application gives Maryland citizens a method for having a secure, digital version of their Maryland credentials in their mobile wallet (e.g. Apple Wallet), so that drivers licenses

⁶ https://mde.maryland.gov/Environmental_Justice/Pages/Landing_Page.aspx

⁷ <https://imap.maryland.gov>

⁸ <https://www.govtech.com/cdg/government-experience/government-experience-awards-2023-winners-announced>

⁹ <https://mva.maryland.gov/Pages/mdMobileID.aspx>

(DL) and/or identification cards (ID) can be accessed for providing identification wherever they are. Having this available in your phone is a secure and convenient way to provide everything needed for personal identification.

Beginning of the American Rescue Plan State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds Dashboard

The Department of Budget and Management (DBM) utilizes the Maryland Open Data Program for transparency on key performance indicators. For example, all 12 of state's key outcome goals for American Rescue Plan, State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) are open data¹⁰. In FY23, DBM collaborated with the Department of Health (MDH) to facilitate updates to the State Health Improvement Process (SHIP) measures¹¹. SHIP highlights the health characteristics of Marylanders. They are used in SLFRF reporting to measure outcomes for improving public health and health equity.

There are also economic indicators and demographic datasets on the Maryland Open Data Portal. In FY24, DBM will collaborate with the Maryland State Data Center and Department of Information Technology on updates to these data for use in pandemic recovery reporting.

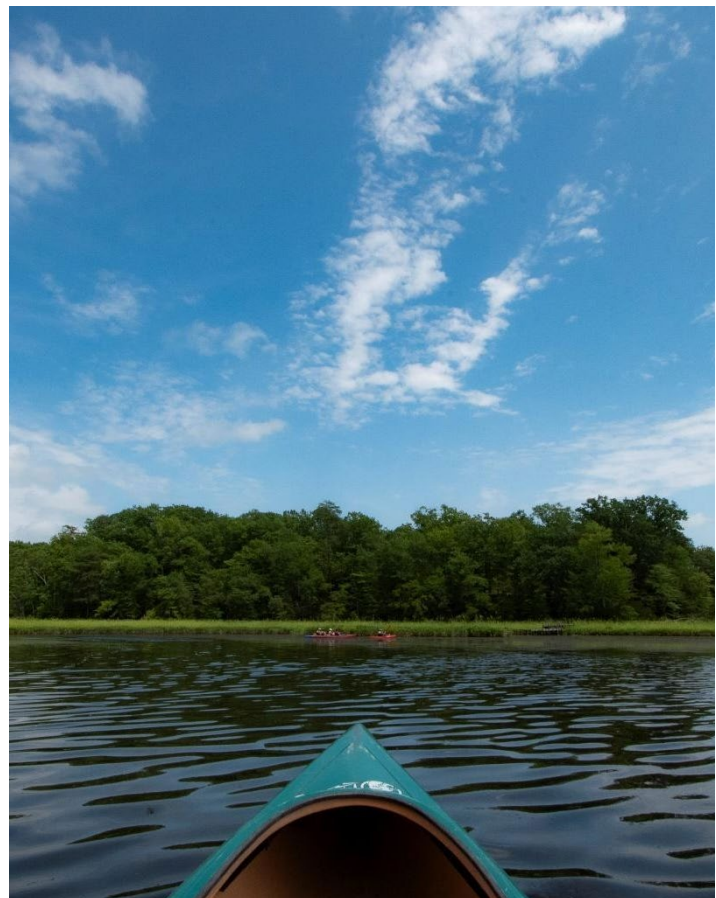


Photo Credit: Anthony Burrows, Maryland Department of Natural Resources

DBM has also established an innovative use of the Maryland Open Data Portal as a knowledge base / help desk, called the Municipal Technical Assistance Program. Local government 'non-entitlement units' use this knowledge base for pandemic relief grant information on SLFRF and Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) funds. The solution allows for collaboration between compliance personnel at federal, state, and local government to support the monitoring and oversight of SLFRF and IIJA.

¹⁰ <https://dbm.maryland.gov/budget/Documents/operbudget/ARP-2023-SLFRF-Annual-Report.pdf#page=10>

¹¹ <https://opendata.maryland.gov/browse?q=ship&sortBy=relevance>

MEET THE COUNCIL ON OPEN DATA

With the new Administration there have been several new members added to the Council starting in 2023. There is a new host of Cabinet Secretaries including a new Chair (Secretary, Katie Savage) and Vice-Chair (State Chief Performance Office, Asma Mirza). In addition, several new regional representatives and representatives for the Private, Private Utility, Academic or Non-Profit Sectors who with knowledge of and interest in open data have been appointed by the Governor.

As a part of the Open Data Act, the Council on Open Data consists of thirty-seven (37) members who represent the Executive Branch State government (25), the Legislature (2), local entities (5), and private, private utility, academic or nonprofit sectors (5). The Secretary of Information Technology serves as the Chair and the Chief Performance Officer serves as the Vice Chair of the Council.

The Council consists of the following members:

Executive Branch Agency Secretaries and Coordinating Office Directors (25)	
Secretary of Agriculture	Kevin Atticks
Secretary of the Environment	Serena McIlwain
Secretary of Natural Resources	Josh Kurtz
Secretary of Planning	Rebecca Flora
Secretary of Transportation	Paul Wiedefeld
Secretary of Housing and Community Development	Jake Day
Secretary of Commerce	Kevin Anderson
Secretary of General Services	Atif Chaudhry
State Superintendent of Schools	Mohammed Choudhury
Secretary of Health	Dr. Laura Herrera Scott
Secretary of Information Technology (Council Chair)	Katie Savage
Secretary of Public Safety and Correctional Services	Carolyn Scruggs

Secretary of State Police	Lt. Colonel Roland Butler
Director of Assessments and Taxation	Michael L. Higgs, Jr.
Secretary of Budget and Management	Helene Grady
Adjutant General of the Military Department	Brigadier General Janeen L. Birkhead
Director of the Maryland Emergency Management Agency	Russell J. Strickland
Chief Performance Officer (Council Vice Chair)	Asma Mirza
Secretary of the Department of Labor	Portia Wu
Secretary of Human Services	Rafael Lopez
Governor's Homeland Security Advisor	Adam Flasch
Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth & Victim Services	Dorothy J. Lennig
Executive Director of the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems	Theodore R. Delbridge, M.D.
Executive Director of the Department of Legislative Services	Victoria L. Gruber, Esq.
State Archivist	Elaine R. Bachmann

Appointee from Senate and Appointee from House of Delegates (2)	
Senate of Maryland	Senator Cheryl Kagan
House of Delegates of Maryland	Representative Bonnie L. Cullison

Appointees of elected officials or employees from local entities to represent each of the following groups of counties (5):	
Allegany County, Frederick County, Garrett County, and Washington County	Jennifer Kinzer (Washington County)
Caroline County, Cecil County, Dorchester County, Kent County, Queen Anne's County,	The Honorable Travis Marion (Mayor of Rising Sun, Maryland)

Somerset County, Talbot County, Wicomico County, and Worcester County	
Anne Arundel County, Calvert County, Charles County, and St. Mary's County;	Shawn Wampler (City of Annapolis)
Montgomery County and Prince George's County	Ryan Middleton (Prince George's County)
Baltimore City, Baltimore County, Carroll County, Harford County, and Howard County	Brandee Ganz (Howard County)

Appointees from the private, private utility, academic, or nonprofit sectors (5):	
Academic	Linda M. Loubert, Ph.D.
Non-Profit	Ross Cutts
Private	Cheryl Knott
Private	Steve Palmer
Private	Scott Shaffer



Photo Credit: Maryland Department of Transportation

Administration of the Council

The Data Services Office ("DSO"), located within DoIT, is responsible for the oversight and advancement of the State's open data practice. The DSO is dedicated to advancing transparency, participation and collaboration, to promote communication and appropriate synthesis of siloed data, teams and systems. This includes administration and maintenance of the State's two (2) open data portals, the Maryland Open Data Portal¹² and the Maryland GIS Data Catalog¹³. For over a decade, the DSO has seen to the curation and distribution of thousands of spatial and non-spatial datasets that can

¹² <https://opendata.maryland.gov>

¹³ <https://data.imap.maryland.gov>

be searched, explored, accessed and downloaded. The DSO is dedicated to ensuring accuracy, currentness, and completeness of the State's open data assets.

In addition, the DSO provides staffing support to the Council on Open Data. The DSO shares these staffing responsibilities with the Governor's Office of Performance Improvement ("GOPI") and as needed; other staff designated by the Governor.

The Council on Open Data is also actively engaged with the State Chief Data Officer ("SCDO") to coordinate on matters that impact open data. The SCDO role, within the Governor's Office, provides direction on the use and management of data by State entities. In this role, Patrick McLoughlin contributes his expertise to communicating and advancing the value of data sharing and data governance.

Presentations at the Council on Open Data Quarterly Meetings

Council Members and State Employees working on behalf of a State Agency are encouraged to suggest topics for the Open Data Council's presentations and to showcase their outcomes that apply the use of open data. Meetings often include presentations from data leaders outside of State Government as an on-going practice of learning from partners throughout the industry.

The Council meetings support a forum for discussion around how data is used by organizations, sectors of the industry or in broader collaborative endeavors that can reach beyond the geography of Maryland into the region and onto the national level. Participants include data experts and advocates of all varieties who provide insight into areas of expertise in data management, automation, artificial intelligence, data visualization, and data analysis.

Presenters in 2023 included:

Angelina Guarino (DPSCS)---Improving Public Data with Interactive Visualizations (March 17, 2023)

JB Churchill (DoIT) ---HB251 Data Processing (June 16, 2023)

Molly B. Abend (MSDE)--- Maryland Longitudinal Data System (September 15, 2023)

Shawn Wampler (City of Annapolis) ---GIS Open Data City of Annapolis (September 15, 2023)



Photo Credit: Highlandtown Gallery

KEY INITIATIVES

The Council on Open Data continues to build upon three (3) key initiatives that serve as guiding principles that focus and direct the actions of the open data program. These key initiatives aim to help us better understand the needs of Marylanders, improve how we provide data to Marylanders, and educate Marylanders on how they can use our data to their fullest advantage. Below are some of this past year's efforts at approaching these three Key Initiatives:

Key Initiative #1: Better Understanding Our Citizens

Ensure awareness of available data and provide data that reflects popular topics.

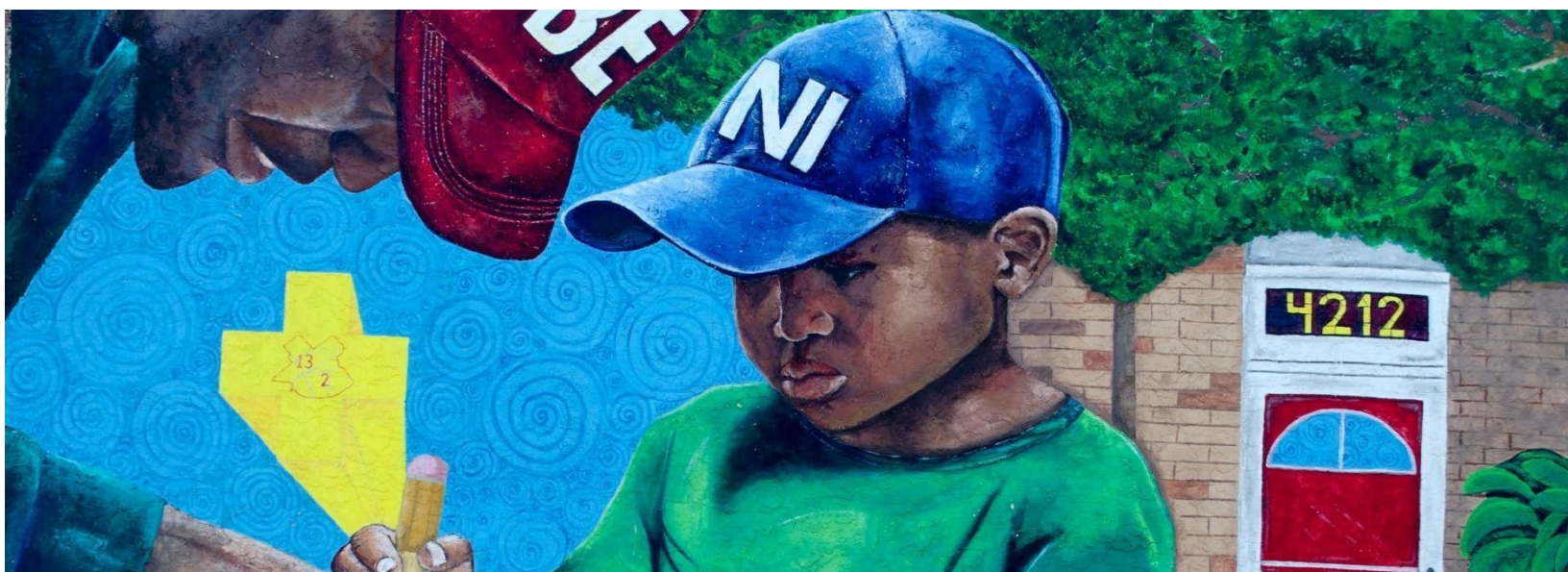
Improving Data Quality

Per direction of the Council, an audit of social and environmental justice related data on the Open Data Portals is underway. This effort will include research and comparison of these datasets with similar offerings from other states. We are seeking opportunities to improve the availability of these datasets, bringing up the topic during "data freshness" conversations with State Agencies. There is a plan to report the findings to the Council in 2024. The results will serve as a benchmark for measuring future success. We will add a survey for public users and another for employees to ask how we can improve, what they need from us, and what is working as expected on the Open Data Portals.



**395 Active
Contributors**

We will continue to tweet dataset announcements from "X", formerly known as Twitter account, @datamaryland, to improve public awareness of additions, and other changes to our data offerings and platforms.



Continued COVID-19 Data Support

Data support for the COVID-19 Dashboard continued into 2023. As the pandemic has ebbed, the visual representations have been focused and a number of datasets, available at the height of the pandemic, are no longer being updated. All COVID-19 datasets will continue to remain available on the State's Open Data Portals per data retention policies. The data and visualization support efforts from the Maryland Department of Health, CRISP, and the Maryland Department of Information Technology have been monumental and continue to this day. State government continues to keep citizens informed of vital statistics through the use of dashboards. This certainly helped people make better choices when considering outings and gatherings and the result has limited the need for continuation of support at such a high level. The MD iMAP web application that allowed searching for a nearby immunization site was retired, but citizens can still use the CDC Vaccines.gov search tool to find available services.

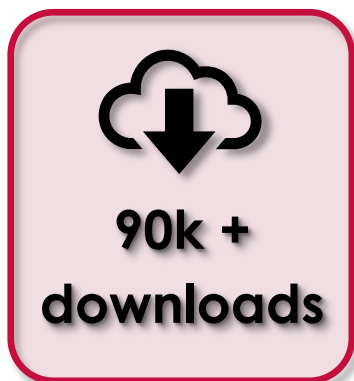
Key Initiative #2: Improving Access to Data

Deliver access to open data that best serves the interests of our portal visitors.

More Data in our Data Freshness Discussions

Regular meetings with State Agencies are conducted to perpetuate proactive refresh of data provided and to encourage improvements to the Agencies' open data assets. In the past, the conversation centered mostly around data freshness, getting the datasets that are traditionally offered updated. In more recent discussions, with Agency

Data Officers, the conversation has centered around an interest to dig deeper and publish new data most relevant to the Governor's Top Initiatives. These initiatives will continue to be a beacon, and deliberate actions will be taken to maximize the ways data can support progress and how to include this in the conversations of all data freshness meetings.



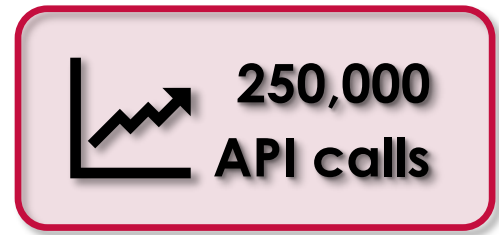
Effort has continued throughout 2023 to bring in new Agency Data Officers, at each of the Executive Branch State Agencies, and to grow their teams, and identify a new State Chief Data Officer. We expect 2024 to start with fresh efforts to meet and inform additional data owners about the upkeep needed to keep their datasets updated on the State's Open Data Portals, as well as help them with the new features and functionalities of these portals. Communication has started to inform employee account holders, on both portals, using the email delivery platform, GovDelivery. Informational emails were sent on May 2 and August 22, 2023, and a recorded demo of the State's Internal Portal was made available on August 28, 2023. This demonstration, for State employees, focused on guiding those wanting to learn better ways to use the internal portal with collaborative teams and to discuss workflows for streamlining the publishing of data from the Internal Portal to the Open Data Portal.

This year we have discussed dataset enhancements, such as schema enhancements and evaluating new datasets for inclusion on the State's Open Data Portals with a number of Agency Data Officers, including those at the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) (Katayani Bhide and her team), the Maryland Department of Human Services (DHS) (Christa Linton), and the Maryland Department of Planning (MDP) (Dial Keju and Alfred Sundara. We conducted a demonstration of features of the State's Internal Data Portal on August 28, 2023.

Improving security and policy for improved platform experience

For better security and stricter adherence to the State of Maryland Information Technology Security policy, efforts are underway to develop and enhance standard operating procedures for managing portal users, removing accounts that have fallen into disuse and transitioning public users to newly launched community accounts. The

State's Open Data Policy has been updated and now includes a section that specifies enforcing account removal for employees that are not using their portal user accounts.



Key Initiative #3: Strengthening Use of Open Data

Improve the ability to understand data context, constructs, and value.

Investing in additional BI, GIS, or Data & Insights Services

Part of having access to data is knowing what to do with it, and that is why it is crucial that the State invest in accompanying business intelligence (BI) software, geospatial information systems (GIS), and data management software. State employees have access to powerful BI and GIS software through the Maryland Department of Information Technology, and all members of the public can use a base level of open data and BI tools and functions as community users on the State's Open Data Portals. Many State Agencies have taken it upon themselves and are making good use of proprietary software such as Tableau, and Microsoft PowerBI and the Maryland Department of Information Technology's managed service offering, QlikSense.

Learning Materials

With the responsibility of providing open data, comes the need to help users understand the data. Last year, we provided video resources and links for learning and training materials that are crucial to the use of the open data portals. As a result, this last year, the portals saw an increase in site traffic with more API calls, more downloads, and more primer page views. This year, those training materials were made much more prominently available, with a retooled landing page to guide new users to beginner-level materials and intermediate and advanced users to more rigorous learning materials. The focus going forward is going to work towards organizing the resources for relevancy and getting them updated for changes in the platform.

DATASETS ADDED IN 2023

Category: Health

COVID-19 Total Testing Volume by County and Cases by Zip Code Archives (and ongoing data) In addition to schema changes made and several data deprecations, we added Archives of previous years datasets for some of the COVID-19 Datasets.



MD COVID-19 - Total Testing Volume by County

<https://opendata.maryland.gov/Health-and-Human-Services/MD-COVID-19-Total-Testing-Volume-by-County/e4u7-e5yz>

MD COVID-19 - Cases by Zip Code <https://opendata.maryland.gov/Health-and-Human-Services/MD-COVID-19-Cases-by-ZIP-Code/3vih-ktgv>

MDCOVID-19 Total Currently Hospitalized Adult and Pediatric Acute and ICU
<https://opendata.maryland.gov/Health-and-Human-Services/MDCOVID-19-Total-Currently-Hospitalized-Adult-and-/hd2f-3amb>

Category: Community Development

District Court of Maryland Eviction Case Data

<https://opendata.maryland.gov/Housing/District-Court-of-Maryland-Eviction-Case-Data/mvqb-b4hf>



Category: Environment

Priority Area 1: Leverage Science and Planning

<https://opendata.maryland.gov/dataset/Priority-Area-1-Leverage-Science-and-Planning/vvh5-chg7>

Ozone SIP 2008-2015 Status Rev

<https://opendata.maryland.gov/Energy-and-Environment/Ozone-SIP-2008-2015-Status-Rev/rhxn-wnme>

Maryland State Implementation Plans

<https://opendata.maryland.gov/Energy-and-Environment/Maryland-State-Implementation-Plans/tac3-g86d>

Ozone SIP 2008-2015 Status Rev

<https://opendata.maryland.gov/Energy-and-Environment/Ozone-SIP-2008-2015-Status-Rev/rhxn-wnme>



Category: Transportation

MVA Customers Served & Wait Time by Branch

<https://opendata.maryland.gov/Transportation/MVA-Customers-Served-Wait-Time-by-Branch/i36t-fxcp>



Valid MVA Products with Organ Donor

Designation <https://opendata.maryland.gov/Transportation/Valid-MVA-Products-with-Organ-Donor-Designation/ds4f-3f7z>

MDOT/MVA Electric Vehicle Registrations by Classification as of Each Month End

<https://opendata.maryland.gov/Transportation/MDOT-MVA-Electric-Vehicle-Registrations-by-Classif/7td4-dcjs>

MVA Vehicle Registrations by County as of Each Month End from Jan 2023 to Aug 2023

<https://opendata.maryland.gov/Transportation/MVA-Vehicle-Registrations-by-County-as-of-Each-Mon/db8v-9ewn>

Top Five (5) Most Popular Datasets

- 1 Power Outages (Emergency Management)
- 2 General Cargo (Port Administration)
- 3 COVID-19 Master Tracker (Health Department)
- 4 Business Express Notices (Economic Development)
- 5 Hunting Season (Natural Resources)

2023 INDUSTRY CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

Maryland Data Summit

The event on January 11, 2023, was the inaugural event hosted by the State chief Data Office and the State chief Privacy Office. Held on the campus of the University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC), more than 150 data practitioners, from throughout the State, came together to demonstrate and discuss the crossroads of work being done in data, privacy, analytics, and cybersecurity. More than a dozen presenters inspired with informative demonstrations on topics including: "Privacy: Trends and Implications", "Data Governance Council and Forging the Partnership between Business and IT", "Transparency and Data in Government" and "Advancing Data Driven Government". We look forward to making this an annual event in Maryland.

DAX 2023

<https://daxconf.org/>

The DAX (Data Analytics Exploration) Conference held at UMBC, Maryland on June 10, 2023, was focused on data science, analytics, and general data exploration. Attendees included engineers, thought leaders, business leaders, and government professionals from local government, governmental defense and intelligence agencies, start-up companies, large data analytic and data science companies, and local universities.

Baltimore Neighborhood Indicators Alliance's Data Week

https://bniajfi.org/data_day/

The event was held in Baltimore from July 17-21, 2023. The Baltimore Neighborhood Indicators Alliance-Jacob France Institute (BNIA-JFI) is dedicated to strengthening Baltimore neighborhoods by providing meaningful, accurate, and open data to stakeholders. They monitor a wide range of indicators of Baltimore City's health and wellbeing, including economic growth, community development, safety, and a plethora of other metrics. An extension of this work is BNIA-JFI's Baltimore Data Week, which was held July 17-21, 2023. This free annual conference is an opportunity to learn about different data tools, resources, and opportunities for collaboration. Baltimore Data Week engages participants from diversified backgrounds, with community members, activists, non-profit and community-based organizations, funders and foundations, researchers, and students coming together to feel empowered using data resources to support neighborhoods. The 2023 conference featured an in-person event at the University of Baltimore geared towards networking and presentation panels. Virtual Lunch and Learn workshops were also held, enabling participants to learn more about using online resources. More information on the efforts of BNIA-JFI can be found

here: <https://bniajfi.org/> and recordings of Data Week can be found at: <https://www.youtube.com/bniajfi>.

TUGIS: Maryland's Geospatial Conference

<https://tugisconference.com>

Towson University held its annual conference on August 2-3, 2023. Leaders in the geospatial information systems (GIS) field are urged to present and to attend these annual GIS Conferences. The Department of Information Technology's Geographic Information Office (GIO) is a key contributor. At this year's conference, Data Services and the GIO Office presented 4 main presentations.

The team presented about ["Improving Conservation Easement Monitoring Workflows"](#). This presentation focused on modernizing the digital tools used by volunteer field staff of Maryland Environmental Trust during monitoring visits to conservation easements throughout the State. The presentation gave an overview of the design of the workflow, technical considerations, challenges faced, and walked through the entire monitoring process from the volunteer sign up to the final report. The presentation, ["Data Process Automation"](#), outlined the reasons and usefulness of process automation. The presentation also outlined the best practices to be followed for automation.

The ["Maryland GIS- Migration to the cloud and beyond"](#) presentation described the process being followed to develop a modernized and optimized version of the State's enterprise GIS, MD iMAP. This project will advance the technological capabilities and product offerings of the enterprise GIS environment ensuring continued security, reliability, and quality. The enterprise GIS platform provides advanced geospatial and location analytics in support of strategic business objectives.

Finally ["GIS support for Maryland PSAP's"](#) was an overview of the Next Generation 911 Initiative mentioned above.

NCES STATS-DC Data Conference 2023, Managing the Data Highway

<https://ies.ed.gov/whatsnew/conferences/?id=15683>

The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) STATS-DC was held in Bethesda, Maryland from August 9-11, 2023. This was a no-fee (free) opportunity for professional networking, and for updates on federal and national data collection and reporting activities covering the best new approaches and statistical methods. The conference included training and informational sessions such as state Common Core of Data (CCD), data collection, various education-related topics, data management, data privacy, data quality, data standards, data use (analytical and instructional) as well as Statewide Longitudinal Data Systems (SLDS).

Data and Analytics Summit 2023 held at College Park, Maryland from Sep 18-22, 2023.
<https://achievingthedream.org/event/datasummit2023/>

The conference was a networking opportunity for professional data teams and staff from higher education institutions wanting to use data more effectively and for more informed decision making, improve student outcomes, and build institutional capacity for sustainable transformational change. It brought together higher education professionals and national experts. Topics included Measuring Community Impact and the data required, Assessing the impact of giving back to the community, ensuring equitable access to data, measuring belonging, and expanding postsecondary access to historically disconnected populations.

GIS Day Events

<https://www.gisday.com/en-us/overview>

November 15th is GIS Day and this year there were several events in Maryland represented by a number of venues from Montgomery County, City of Annapolis, City of Havre De Grace, Baltimore City and County (Public Schools), Talbot County Emergency Services, University of MD, Johns Hopkins University, and Washington College etc. See the ESRI Story Map linked above for more event information. And save the link for next year's events.

OPEN DATA IN THE NEWS

[Baltimore launches Public Safety Accountability Dashboard to publicly track crime data](#) (published February 28, 2023).

[Baltimore launches public safety accountability dashboard with crime, arrest, conviction metrics](#) (published Feb 28th, 2023).

[Maryland DOT unveils new data dashboard to help prevent deadly highway crashes](#) (published April 12th, 2023).

[Maryland Health Department launches new webpage for Covid-19 data.](#) (published April 28th, 2023).

[State Highway Administration Unveils New Pedestrian Safety Action Plan to Promote Mobility, Access across Maryland](#) (published May 11, 2023).

[Time Use Data for Health and Well Being 2023](#) (Maryland Population Research Center, Conference June 8-9, 2023).



Photo Credit: Anthony Burrows, Maryland Department of Natural Resources

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