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A Newsletter for Indiana Data Users



One key component of the Indiana State Data Center Program is its involvement with Geography and the Geo-community. We partner with the State of Indiana [Geographic Information Office](#) (GIO) and the membership organization [Indiana Geographic Information Council](#) (IGIC), as well as the [Geography Educators Network of Indiana](#) (GENI). The Geography Division of our primary federal partner, the U.S. Census Bureau, manages aspects of several surveys including the decennial census. You can read more about their work [here](#). The [Indiana State Library](#) provides access to U.S. Census maps and USGS Topographic maps for Indiana in print and online. The [IN SDC](#) can also help locate geographic data and maps. For Indiana-specific geographic data layers, visit [IndianaMap](#), which was recently redesigned for easier access and use. Enjoy the geographic resources in this issue of [DataPoint](#).



Federal and State Geography, GIS, and Map Resources

The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) is the main federal resource for geographic data and [maps](#) in the United States. With the closure of their nationwide system of libraries over the last decade, knowing your local [Federal Depository Library](#) or [State Data Center](#) is even more important. As the world transitions to digital maps and places more emphasis on computerized data layers, libraries and archives hold much history in print maps that have not yet been digitized. The Indiana State Library has an extensive [map collection](#) that can be viewed in person or on the website. The Indiana Business Research Center's [StatsIndiana](#) houses authoritative [boundary maps](#) as well as [geography tools](#) for mapping you can find under their Maps tab. If you use [IndianaMap](#), you can access its official geo-data layers in the [Data Gallery](#). Several state agencies produce their own maps, including the [DNR](#), [INDOT](#), [DWD](#), and more. Keep exploring maps!

IndianaMap



Emergency Data and Maps

The Covid-19 pandemic taught us all to be on guard for our health. It pushed people to develop new coping skills and tools to combat infectious disease. Emergencies highlight how imperative it is to have good geographic information for public use. The U.S. Census Bureau has two map services which show real-time data during emergencies: [OnTheMap](#) for Emergency Management and [My Community Explorer](#). Anticipate the nationwide impact of the latest stormfront or assess economic damage due to current wildfires. The Indiana Department of Homeland Security and Indiana Criminal Justice Institute offer data on current community risks on their dashboards, here: [Community Risk Reduction](#) and [ICJI Research](#).

OnTheMap for EM



Mapmaking Resources

[ArcGIS](#) is the most common mapmaking software in the industry, however, the cost of the software is high. There are a number of resources for mapmaking that are free of cost and well known in the geo-community. There is a short list below.

[QGIS](#)

[Grass GIS](#)

[OpenStreetMap](#)

[ArcGIS Online](#)

For more information, see the Urban and Regional Information Systems Association (URISA) [Geospatial Fact Sheet: Open Source GIS](#).

Open Source GIS





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