


 TA
Newsletter

VASIS Dashboard 101

The [Virginia Social Indicator Dashboard \(VASIS\)](#) is a great resource to find relevant substance use and behavioral health data that is Virginia-specific - and free for CSBs, coalitions, and other community stakeholders to use! Data is collected and reported out at multiple levels - statewide, regional, CSB-level, or at the locality level. Although, not every data source is available at all levels.

Available Data

The types of information and indicator data that is available is varied. Data displayed on the dashboard come from various state agencies and include indicators related to behavioral health and substance use such as use rates, overdose rates, and results of youth surveys. Data is updated on an ongoing basis, so the most recent data will be easy to see.

Newly added on VASIS is a **data directory**. This document was designed to be a resource for communities and researchers alike, and contains a diverse list of sources with data that is publicly available - and how to find it. From these listed sources, you can either download the data directly from the agency's website, or request the data. The data directory also includes data related to risk and protective factors, which may be useful in strategic planning or logic model work.

How is this relevant to my work?

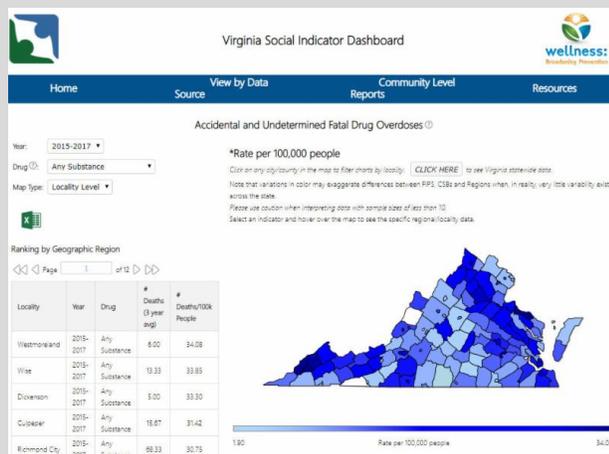
- **Track larger trends.** Are your strategies impacting the targeted problem?
- **Comparison.** How does your locality or CSB compare with others? Compare across Virginia
- **Identify problems or emerging issues.** Are new substances seeing an uptick in use?
- **Quick snapshot.** Community Level Reports provide an overview of multiple data points to see how things relate to each other.

Quick Tip: Data from VASIS can be exported into Excel or PDF (depending on the source/report). Once data is in Excel, further analysis and manipulation can be completed.

Check out the VASIS Dashboard here: <https://vasisdashboard.omni.org/rdPage.aspx?rdReport=Home>

What's next for VASIS?

OMNI will continue to work with agencies across the Commonwealth to provide the most recent years of data and explore adding new data sources to the dashboard. OMNI is also currently working on revamping the look of the dashboard, so stay tuned for more details in an upcoming newsletter!



News you can use...

Recap of Data Viz Webinar: Best Practice Tips

OMNI recently hosted a webinar on **Data Visualization Tools, Techniques, and Best Practices**. For those who were unable to attend or would like to see the webinar again, we are now able to share a link to the [webinar recording](#), along with [handouts](#) of the



slides, a list of resources, and examples. Below is a recap of the best practices we highlighted in the training. We hope it encourages you to try to visualize or improve the visualization of your own data!



Highlight data to meet your audience's needs.

- Analyze your Audience!
- Choose an appropriate chart type
- Text, colors, scaling, components, and arrangement work together



Remove unnecessary components.

- Gridlines, border lines, tick marks
- Use data instead of axis labels
- Place legend at top if needed
- Maximize white space for appeal and clarity



Use the chart title to deliver your takeaway message.

- Use a 6-12 word descriptive sentence.



Use scale appropriately in charts.

- Proportions of chart elements are accurate
- Set chart bars reference point at 0.



Use color intentionally and wisely.

- Branded colors vs. defaults
- Highlight patterns or key points
- Consider legibility in black & white printing and for people with color vision deficiencies

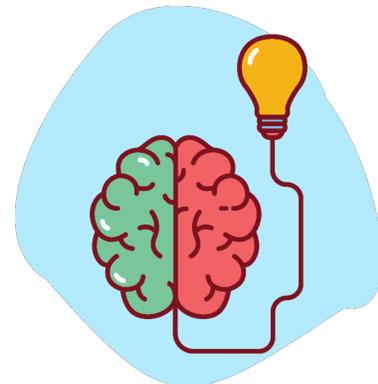


Arrange data meaningfully.

- Sort data to make logical sense to your audience
- Stay away from 3-D

Bright ideas to make your job easier...

- CSBs have the option to enter Counter Tool activities across both fiscal years 2018-19 and 2019-20. If your CSB is not implementing Counter Tools this FY, please delete the cohort in PBPS. It is still expected for CSBs to record on activity for *EACH* retailer visited in the Implement Channel.
- Review your Data Entry Plan and/or Plan Channel to make sure you are entering activity data in the Implement Channel for each cohort or campaign listed in the Plan Channel. There should be at least one activity for each strategy that you are implementing this year.
- Simplify your Plan Channel by deleting the cohorts or campaigns that will not be implemented this year. This will help ensure the activities are aligned with the strategies entered in the Plan Channel.



Quick Links

- [OMNI Support email](#)
- [Virginia Prevention Works Portal](#)
- [Virginia Social Indicator Dashboard](#)
- [CPG's PBPS](#)
- [BG/OPT-R Master Data Entry Plan](#)
- [Data Entry Guidelines](#)
- [Demographics Calculator](#)

Important Dates

- [May 15th](#): FY18-19 OPT-R data in PBPS
- [May 15th](#): Schedule SOR Logic Model TA Call
- [June 14th](#): Complete SOR Logic Models