

DCA / ARMS Awards:



DCA Awarded:

2007 Innovative Alabama Governments Award "Honorable Mention"

ADCA demonstrated foresight in the implementation of GIS to enhance communication, collaboration, and data sharing through development of its Alabama Resource Management System. The system uses GIS to track, map, and identify, social determinants of health and provides the integrated data to more than 20 health and human service agencies and makes it available over the internet.



DCA Awarded:

2008 ESRI Health GIS "Vision Award"

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What People Are Saying About ARMS:

"This program is the best example of how a State department of health and human services can really understand the complexities of issues facing health and human service agencies that must deliver comprehensive services for families and children across an entire State, every day. In my travels across the US, I have not seen a better use of GIS technology to guide a States leadership in such a dynamic environment. As a former Governor, seeing such a progressive approach to improving the lives of families and children is inspiring".

Jim Geringer, Director of Public Policy, ESRI.

"In every State there are large numbers of health and human service programs that are overwhelmed by the sheer scope of the data they need to make decisions that impact the children and families they serve. Using GIS smartly, as the Alabama ARMS folks have done, is one of the best ways to leverage information assets and improve agency decision-making".

Bill Davenhall, Global Manager, health and Human Services, ESRI.



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ARMS

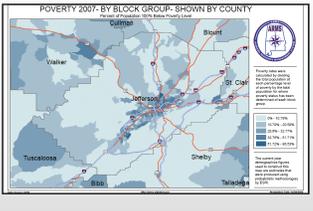
Alabama Resource Management System

www.arms.alabama.gov

- A Joint Project of -
Alabama Criminal Justice Information Center
& Alabama Department of Children's Affairs



Alabama Resource Management System



The Alabama Resource Management System **ARMS** is working to provide information to programs that serve children and families in Alabama so they can improve decision making which ultimately helps to better their community. ARMS began in 2005 as a collaboration of state agencies and non profits under the leadership of the Department of Children’s Affairs. Through these partnerships, the ARMS website is a shared reporting nucleus for demographic, statistical, and resource information. The ARMS website uses reports, graphs, and maps to share current information and allow users to conduct advanced queries and analyses.

The ARMS target audience often lacks skills using computers or GIS systems. They include Juvenile Judges, teachers, child-care workers, social workers, and nonprofit directors who have a hunger for information but often have difficulty finding it. ARMS is answering this challenge by providing a tiered structure of tools that allow users to enter the system with simple reports and move at their pace to complex GIS server tools providing access to over 100,000 individual layers of information.

THE “6” LEVELS OF ARMS DEFINED:

Level 1 grants users access to reports which supply statistics for their area. Many of these reports are common demographic details that are available at the county level. Supplemental monthly reports are produced for specific areas, such as juvenile delinquency, where dashboards offer a breakdown of juvenile court demographics. Funders will make writing grant applications to be easier with custom geographic reports which should soon be available

Level 2 provides users with simple access to maps. Over 1000 of the most common items are posted for download in PDF format including statewide and local maps. A simple query tool allows users to search the records and find the desired map to download and print. Level 2 users also can query selected databases and dynamically produce maps of the results.

Level 3 offers access to an advanced GIS server which makes available multiple layers of information from the ARMS data banks and dynamically created maps. ARMS custom designed a user interface that allows users to navigate through the current 100,000 data elements and display the information at the county, Zip, Census Tract, Block Group, or street level. We have plans to implement the capability to add custom layers from database queries as well as tools such as hot spot and network analysis.

Level 4 is being developed as a map program that users download to give them even greater access to data and tools. We anticipate using Arc Explorer to provide the connection to ARMS data and additional data sets that may include confidential information. Users may also add data to these maps. For example, a user may run a task to geocode the addresses of participants who attend a parenting class then view that info on top of ARMS poverty data and public transportation routes.

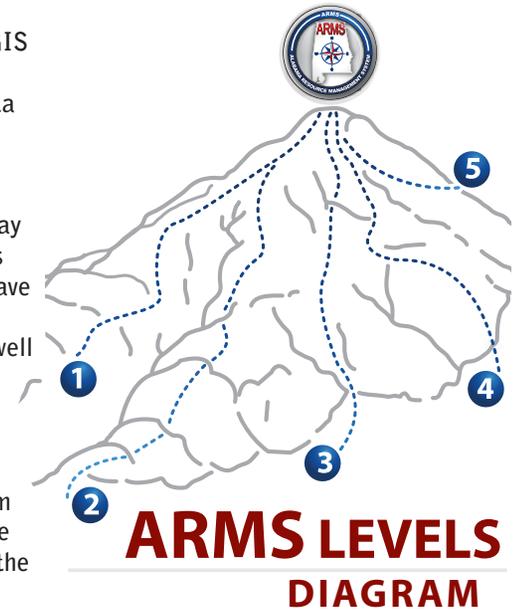
Level 5 will allow users with desktop GIS software access to the ARMS databases for use in their analysis.

Level 6 is providing consultation to agencies and departments to analyze clients and results in ARMS.

ARMS provides access to information from the Department of Education, Mental Health and Retardation, Administrative Office of Courts, Youth Services, Public Health, Human Resources, Kids Count, Secretary of State, Industrial Relations, United Way, Criminal Justice Information System, and several private data providers.



What would it be like if we made the data easy to find, easy to understand, and more specialized and timely so they could spend their time analyzing the data and making better decisions? The power is in using the data, not finding it.



ARMS LEVELS DIAGRAM