



ARMS [v.3.0]

Alabama Resource Management System

ANNOTATED HOME PAGES

<http://www.arms.alabama.gov/>

Administrative Navigation Buttons:

Home - main page
About ARMS - Mission and Purpose
Administration - sponsoring agencies & Advisory Board, ARMS history
What Is Available - What is available
Help

ARMS Quick Links:

One click links to most popular reports and pages. Left Click selection and report or page will open.

ARMS Video:

Introduction to ARMS and demonstration of site functionality.

ARMS Statistics:

Graphs the number of visitors to ARMS over the past few months.

News & Events:

Links to recent press releases or other notes.
Left Click selection to open

Demographic Reports:

Dashboards - monthly dynamic reports
Grant Reports - Demographic Reports designed for applicants to use as part of their grant proposals. Funders will define the report design and applicants can select the appropriate report, input their program address, and receive a demographic report for use in their proposal.
Demographic - Standardized demographic reports for each county in Alabama. Select the report and then county to view the reports.
Top Ten: Quick access to most popular reports.
Left Click selection to open

Map Server:

ARMS primary mapping application. Allows users to create custom maps with access to all information available. Users can select multiple data elements and multiple geographies, view statistical and resource information at the same time, and adjust color schemes. Left Click on map to open.

ARMS Help:

Site instructions and Frequently asked Questions.
Left Click topic to open.

Pre-Made Maps:

Top 50 Maps - most popular maps available for download as PDF
AOC Query Tool - allows users to query juvenile court database and view results in map and table format at county or zip code level
Search Maps - Search available pre-made maps
Left Click selection to open

The Alabama Resource Management System (ARMS) is working to provide information to programs that serve children and families in Alabama so they can make better decisions and ultimately serve their communities better. ARMS began in 2005 as a collaboration of state agencies and nonprofits under the leadership of the Department of Children's Affairs. Through these partnerships the ARMS website is a common reporting location for demographic, statistical, and resource information. The ARMS website utilizes reports, graphs, and maps to share current information and allow users to conduct advanced queries and analysis.

ARMS Map Server

Control Panel:

Primary controls for the map. There are five tabs with different tools available. Each is detailed on additional pages. This is where you select what is on the map and what it looks like.

Move The Map:

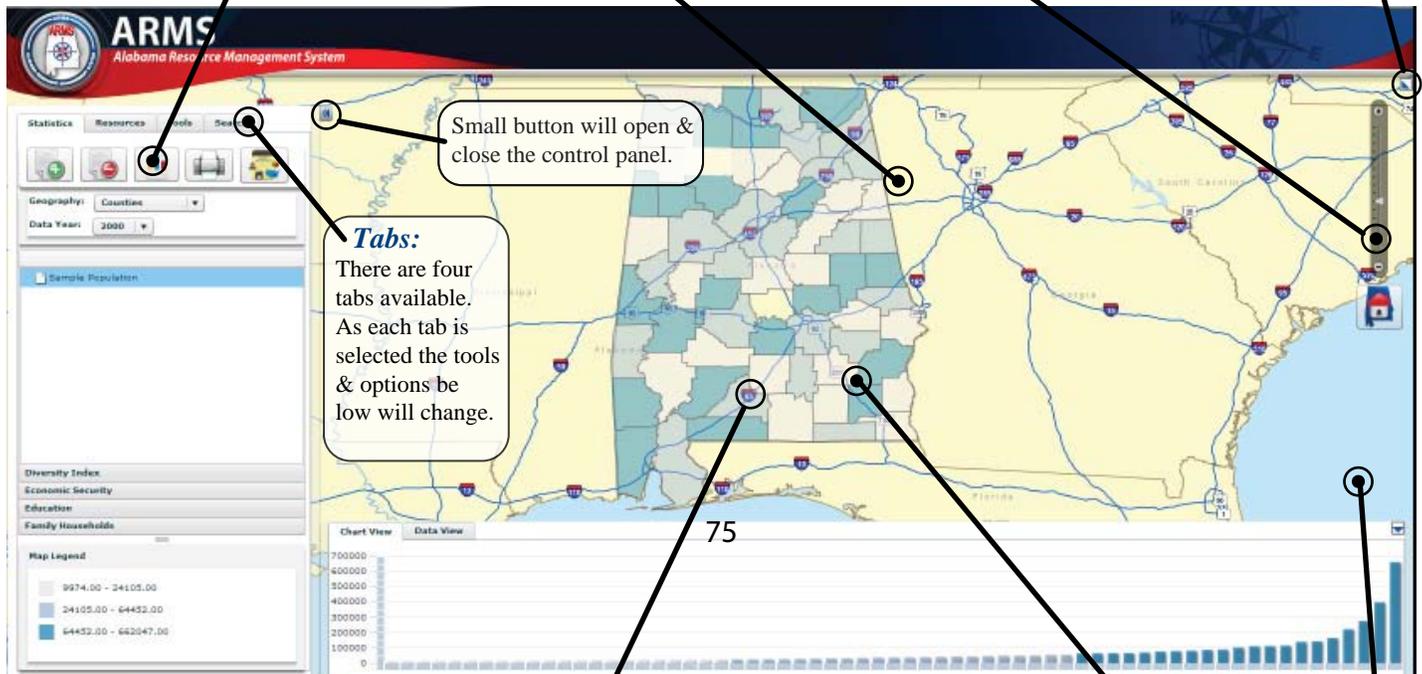
By placing the mouse on the map and holding the left button down you will be able to move the map left, right, up or down.

Zoom In / Zoom Out

Controls the map view. Click the + sign or move the triangle up to zoom in on the map. To zoom out click the - sign or move the triangle down. Some mouses have a scroll bar that will also do this.

Overview Map:

Clicking this button will open a small overview map that shows a larger area with a red shaded box indicating the area shown on the main map. This is useful when zoomed into a local area to help understand where you are.



Tabs:

There are four tabs available. As each tab is selected the tools & options below will change.

Thematic Mapping:

Information under the statistics tab are mapped thematically. The thematic map displays spatial pattern of a theme or series of attributes. In contrast to reference maps which show many geographic features (forests, roads, political boundaries), thematic maps emphasize spatial variation of one or a small number of geographic distributions. These distributions may be physical phenomena such as climate or human characteristics such as population density and health issues. These distributions may be physical phenomena such as climate or human characteristics such as population density and health issues. These types of maps are sometimes referred to as graphic essays that portray spatial variations and interrelationships of geographical distributions. Location, of course, is also important to provide a reference base of where selected phenomena are occurring. When the indicator for that area. Under the tools tabs the user can adjust the colors used, the number of classes (how many different colors used), and how the classes are statistically determined.

Resource Mapping:

Information under the resources tab are mapped with dots. Instead of indicating the value of an indicator for an area, they represent a specific service location or grant recipient. The address for this resource is indicated by a dot on the map. Users can see multiple resources on the map at one time and can adjust the color of the dot used to indicate the resources. In addition to resources the user can also see selected grant recipients.

Base Map:

The Map that covers the entire background "below" the thematic map or resources selected is the basemap. The standard shows a pale background with Alabama counties outlined, Interstates, and Major Highways. Users can change the basemap under tools tab if needed.



Resource Tab:

Click Next to resource to make it appear on the map. It will appear as dots.

Add Data Group:

Access ARMS databases to add data to list below.

Remove Data Group:

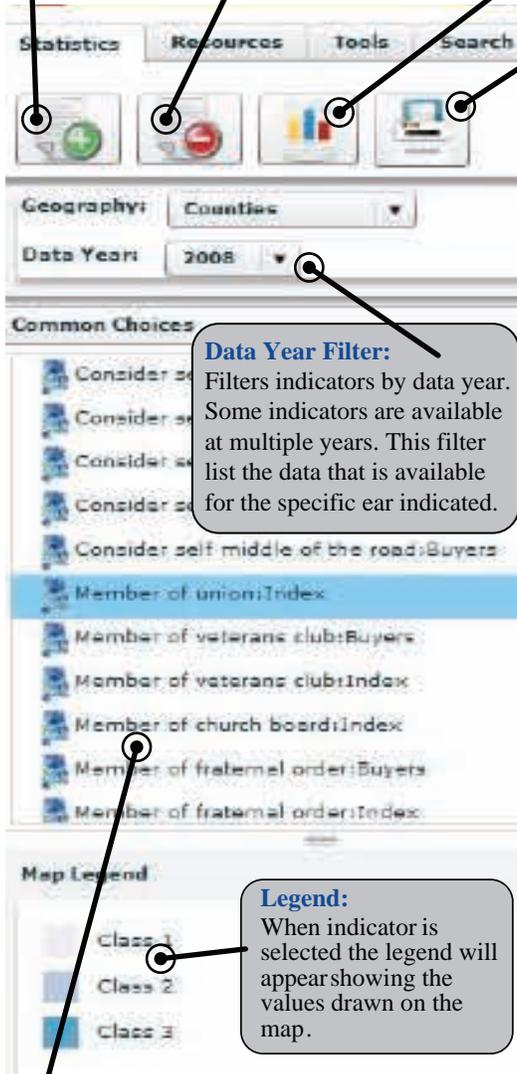
Remove data groups from list below.

Show Charts:

Opens chart at bottom of screen that displays current data element in chart form.

Print Map:

Creates PDF document from current map for printing.



Data Year Filter:

Filters indicators by data year. Some indicators are available at multiple years. This filter lists the data that is available for the specific year indicated.

Legend:

When indicator is selected the legend will appear showing the values drawn on the map.

Available Layers:

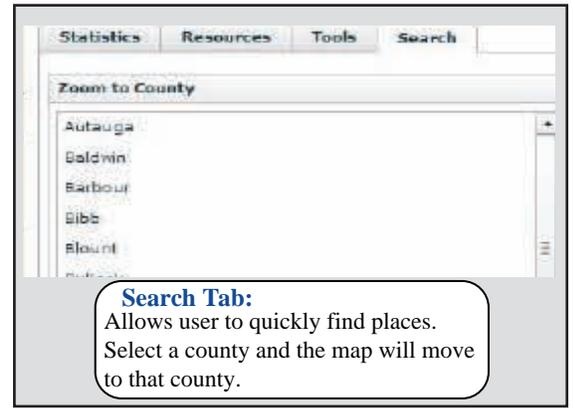
List available indicators from groups chosen. There is a generic list that is available when the application is opened. Additional groups can be added with the "Add Data Group" button above. Indicators are grouped by common themes. As headings are selected the indicators in that area are revealed. When an indicator is selected the map will change to reflect that indicator. The available list is filtered by the Geography and Year Filters above. Also, only one indicator can be selected at a time. Once an indicator is selected there are additional options available under the tools tab. Left Click selection to open

Geography Filter:

ARMS makes the data available at many different geographies. Indicators can be seen county by county, zip code by zip code, or at many of other areas. Which geographies are available for each indicator depends on the data source. ARMS utilizes the following geographies; County zip, census tract, block group, and school district. Education data is often available at the school district level and some times at the county level, but is not available at the zip code. This selection box filters the available indicators to those available at the selected geography. When viewing the entire state, only county, school, and zip code levels are available. As you zoom into an area additional geographies may become available.

Palette, Border, and Transparency:

This set of tools allows the user to adjust the coloring of the map. The palette drop down provides several color bars that the user can select. There are three sets of color bars that the buttons above the drop down bar controls. Selecting a different group will change the options in the drop down. Clicking the upside down triangle on the drop down opens the color list. The Border Control allows the user to adjust the thickness (number) and color of the geographic area borders. These are the lines around the county or zip code boundaries. Transparency makes the colors on the map fade in and out so you can see the base map beneath. At 0 the colors are not visible and at 1 the basemap is not visible through the colors.

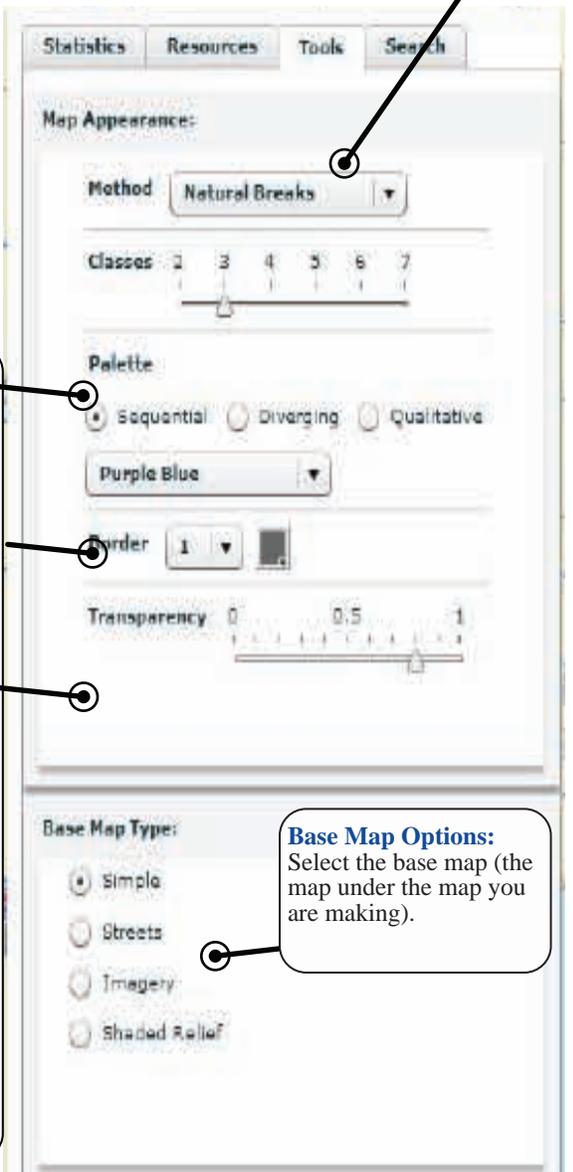


Search Tab:

Allows user to quickly find places. Select a county and the map will move to that county.

Thematic Mapping Breaks

Method selects the statistical process used to determine breaks in indicators. Options are Standard Deviation, Natural Breaks, Quantile, and Equal Interval. Each method applies different rules for breaking the indicator into different classes. Different classes are shown as different colors on the map. Using the Classes slide bar you can select how many classes are drawn. The slide bar allows you to select two to seven classes. Two classes would divide the indicator into two groups represented by two colors. Seven classes would divide the indicator into seven groups represented by seven colors.



Base Map Options:

Select the base map (the map under the map you are making).