



The Institute for Health Policy School of Public Health, University of Texas

*'Making data available to the community
through easy-to-use data presentation tools'*

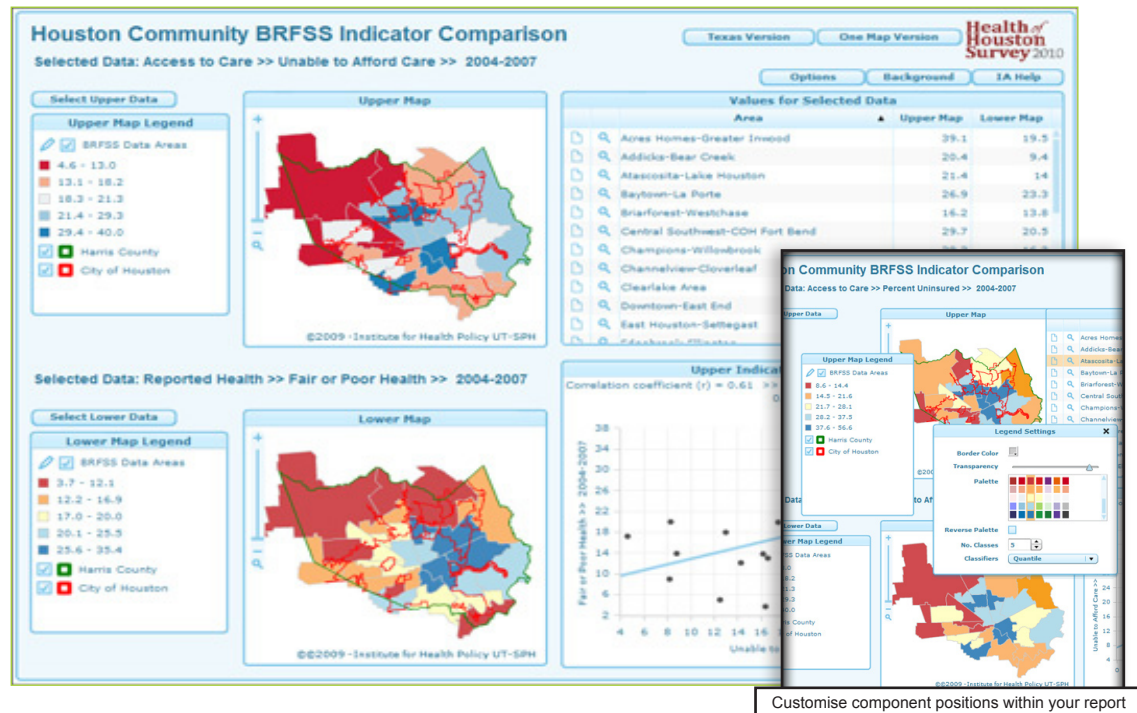
instantatlas.com/texas





Institute for Health Policy

"One thing I like about it is that once I have set up a template new data can be imported easily allowing me to quickly generate many reports. Others in the team like the interactivity and have found InstantAtlas easy to use."



InstantAtlas Double Map dynamic report - Houston Community BRFSS Indicator Comparison
 Map 1 "Access to care > Unable to care" Date period 2004-2007
 | Map 2 "Reported health > Fair to poor health" Date period 2004-2007

The Institute for Health Policy (IHP), based in the School of Public Health at The University of Texas, contributes to improving public health by developing creative ways to bridge the gap between scientific research, practical programmes and policy solutions. The IHP brings its technical expertise and non-partisan analysis to health policy issues, with special focus on the Texas and the Texas-Mexico border areas.

Background

The Institute aims to disseminate health data in a user-friendly way and will be involved in ensuring the results of the recent 2010 Health of Houston survey are available throughout the state. This is the first year of the survey which is based on the California Health Interview Survey – the largest state health survey in the United States. The survey is used by state policy makers to improve the public health in California.

We interviewed Thomas Reynolds, research associate at IHP. He represents the team at the IHP who are all involved in using data presentation software. Thomas' experience includes the application of geographical information systems technologies and he has

been involved in developing several web-based local and regional health data query and dissemination systems.

Thomas explains that the Health of Houston survey will run biennially and will be able to provide longitudinal analysis of health data across the Houston Metropolitan Area. Although the main data set is not currently available, the IHP has been using interactive data presentation software with existing vital statistics data. The Behavioural Risk Factor Survey (BRFS) is one example where InstantAtlas is being used to present data in an interactive online format. The images below [bottom left] highlight these reports which are currently being used for the University's Applications of GIS in Epidemiology course.





Students are the biggest audience for the IHP analysis but Thomas says that the IHP is also working with community organizations and this includes those applying for grants. The benefit for these organizations is that they don't have to hire in the expertise to show that they have a grasp of local community needs. *"Understanding patterns of deprivation is important for these organisations because it inevitably helps with their funding,"* says Thomas. He adds that the organizations use InstantAtlas interactive maps, charts and tables and export them to PDF documents which are then included in applications for state funding.

Making the project work

Thomas says that InstantAtlas data presentation area profiling is a useful tool. *"One thing I like about it is that once I have set up a template new data can be imported easily allowing me to quickly generate many reports. Others in the team like the interactivity and have found InstantAtlas easy to use."*

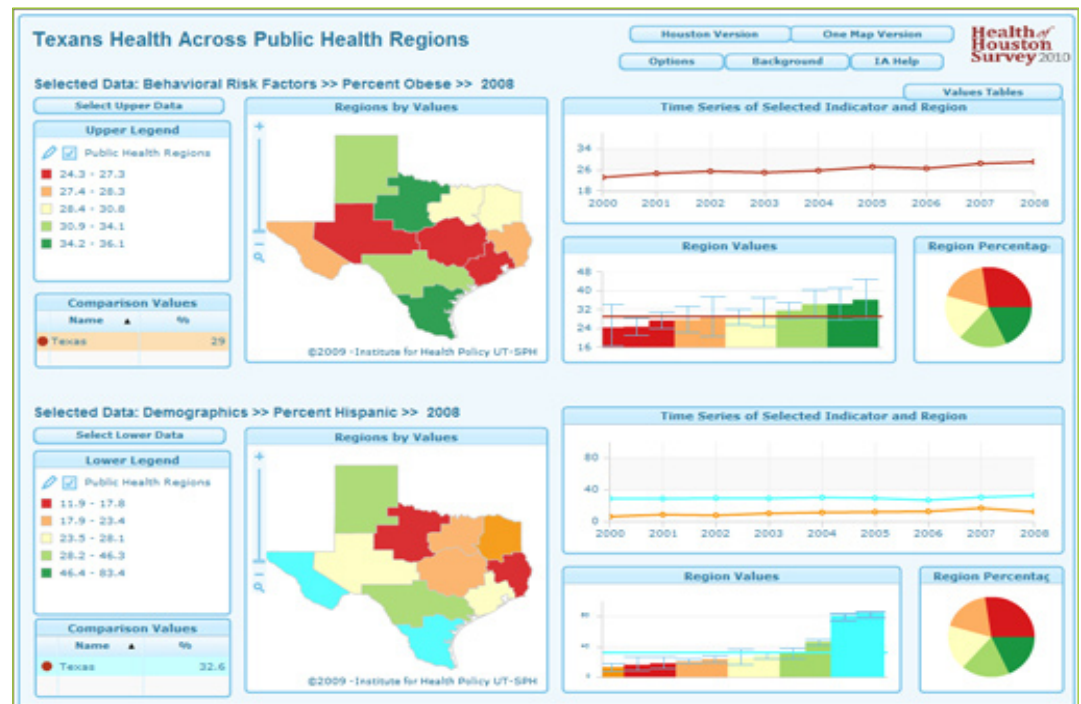
The council's GIS & Research Team produced interactive neighbourhood profiles using data provided from key partners including fire & rescue, NHS and the police as well as demographic and economic data from national statistics.

Thomas believes that data visualization software will become an important part of IHP's future work and that once the results of the survey

are available, it will play an important part in ensuring the data reaches a wide audience.

Key Benefits

- IHP is making data available in a visually stimulating way to students
- Community organizations do not have to buy in expertise to help with funding applications
- Data presentation tools are integral to explaining the results of the 2010 Health of Houston survey
- Users find the data presentation and analysis software easy to use and understand



InstantAtlas Double Map dynamic report | Texans health across public health regions
 Map 1 "Behavioral Risk Factors > Percent Obese" Date period 2008
 Map 2 "Demographics > Percent Hispanic" Date period 2008

For information on InstantAtlas Desktop please visit www.instantatlas.com/desktop



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