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DBHDS
Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services

Centralizing Data to Advance Prevention Goals

The Virginia Social Indicator Dashboards

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Introductions

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02 | History of VASIS

03 | Dashboard Utility

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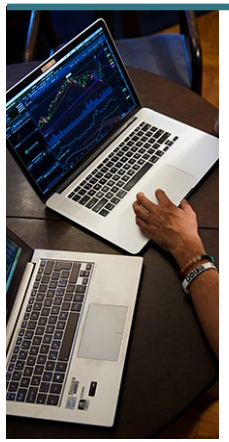
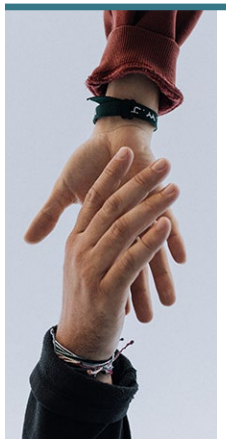
About OMNI

OMNI Institute is a nonprofit social science consultancy that provides integrated research, evaluation, and capacity-building services to foster understanding, guide collaboration, and inform action to accelerate positive social change.



We believe in the power of data to inspire and support individuals and organizations in changing their world.



Our clients are change-makers working in government, nonprofits, foundations, and social enterprises to make a positive difference in their communities.

Our Areas of Expertise

Economic Security
Economic mobility, food security, homelessness

Children & Families
Education, early childhood, family support, 2nd generation approaches

Behavioral Health
Substance use disorder prevention, treatment, and recovery

Community Health
Awareness & promotion, assessment & strategic planning, equity, leadership development

Justice
Community policing & reform, juvenile justice, racial & ethnic disparities, justice responses to behavioral health needs

OMNI's Core Values

Inquiry
to uncover the best possible solutions to challenges

Agility
in our approach and our willingness to pivot to do what is right

Accountability
for our work – to ourselves, each other, our clients, and their communities

Connection
to our clients and the communities they serve

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History of VASIS

We know data can change lives.

The Virginia Social Indicator Summary (VASIS) Dashboard centralizes behavioral health data from agencies and organizations across the Virginia. Join our movement to build a healthier, more vibrant future for all through data-driven solutions.

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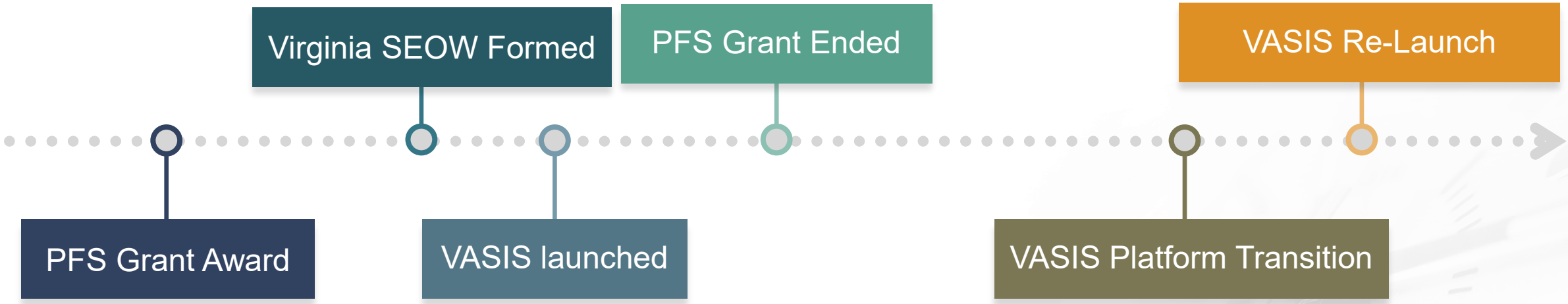
Timeline


Virginia SEOW Formed
PFS Grant Ended
VASIS Re-Launch
PFS Grant Award
VASIS launched
VASIS Platform Transition

The Problem

Prevention spans a large range of issues.

With a range of issues come a range of partners involved in the work.

When each of those partners collects and published their own data, it requires prevention staff to navigate each partner's data sharing platform (if available) to access the full suite of indicator data that is need to inform their efforts.

When catchment or service areas differ across agencies, data at the geographic level needed is not always available.

The Solution

Develop partnerships with key data sharing partners who are collecting data that helps inform prevention efforts.

Gather data from partners.

Clean, analyze, organize, and visualize the data in a way that is meaningful to our audience.

Centralize access to these data on a singular platform.

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How we do it

Developing Partnerships

SEOW members served as the first cohort of data sharing partners

Active recruitment of partners has supported further growth

Current Partners

DBHDS
Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services

Department of Criminal Justice Services
Virginia
DCJS

Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice
DJJ

Department of Forensic Science
Virginia

Office of the Chief Medical Examiner
Commonwealth of Virginia

U.S. Department of Commerce
Bureau of the Census

VDH

Prep Data

Standardization

Rates

When data are available as counts, we are able to calculate rates per 100,000 people for all measures by pulling in Census data.

Rates are standardized to a common denominator and can be compared across geographic or demographic groups and are not influenced by the size of the underlying population.

Geographies

When data are available at a small geographic scale, such as zipcode of county, we are able to roll data up into custom geographic boundaries.

If prevention work is planned and implemented at county, provider catchment, region, and state levels, one dashboard can meet the data needs of all groups at once.

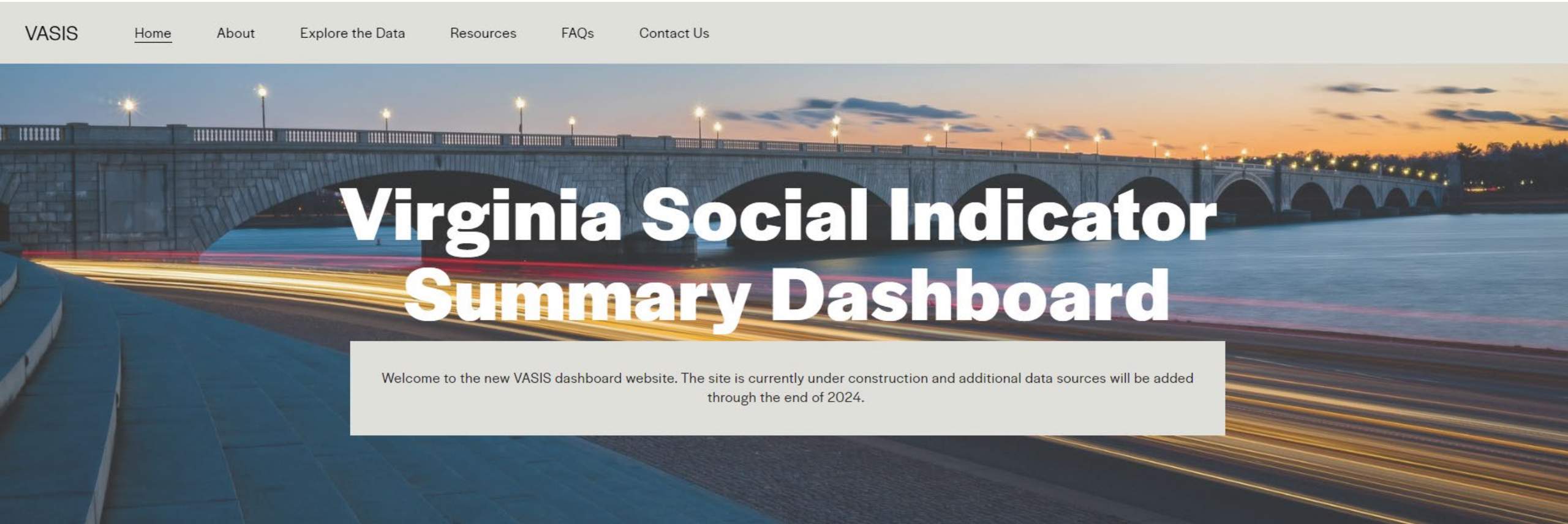
Usability

Varied data structures and platforms can lead to fatigue among users, especially those less comfortable working with data.

By standardizing the look and feel of dashboards, we can create an environment where all users can confidently navigate a wide range of indicator data without constantly having to re-orient themselves.

A New Era

In 2023, OMNI launched the new VASIS website with updated interactive dashboards utilizing Tableau



Disease, Injuries, and Fatalities

This dashboard contains data on:

- Hospitalizations
- Overdoses
- Suicides

Justice

This dashboard contains data on:

- Drug Cases
- Juvenile Justice
- Uniform Crime Reports

Health Risk Factors & Behaviors

This dashboard contains data from:

- The Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey
- The Virginia Youth Survey for Middle and High Schoolers

Living Conditions

This dashboard contains data on:

- Population Estimates
- Poverty
- Unemployment

Health & Social Services

This dashboard contains data on:

- Behavioral Health Services
- Mental Health
- Benefits

Virginia Young Adult Survey (YAS)

This dashboard contains data from:

- 18—25-year-olds on a variety of subjects including substance, use, mental health, and gambling

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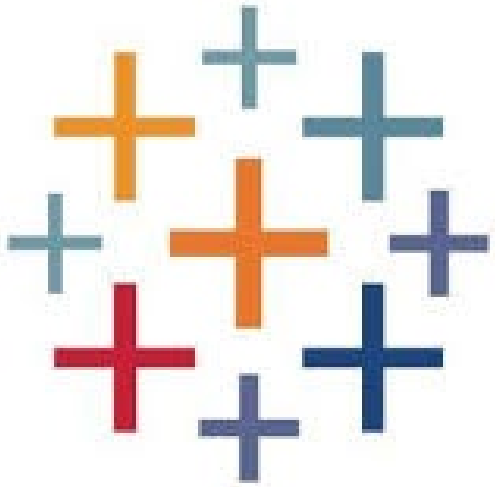
Dashboard utility

Why Tableau?

- ✓ Cost
- ✓ User-friendly interface
- ✓ Reasonable learning curve
- ✓ Great community of Tableau users
- ✓ Easy to update
- ✓ Viz options
- ✓ File type compatibility
- ✓ Suite of integrations (R, Qualtrics, SurveyMonkey, etc.)
- ✓ Visually appealing
- ✓ Ability to add a lot of filter options



What Tableau is Good For

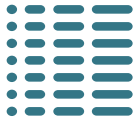
Simple data processing & calculations

Rolling up raw data

Filtering

Mapping

Handling multiple years of data at once



Visualizing a LOT of data quickly

Shareability & useability

What Tableau is Not Good For

Complex data analysis and cleaning	You will still need R for some of the data processing work
Static reporting	Not worth the time investment/formatting limitations
Making meaning on its own	We have to build the structure to make meaning
Extensive amounts of text	Doesn’t take advantage of Tableau’s main features

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Case studies

Case Study 1: The VA Young Adult Survey

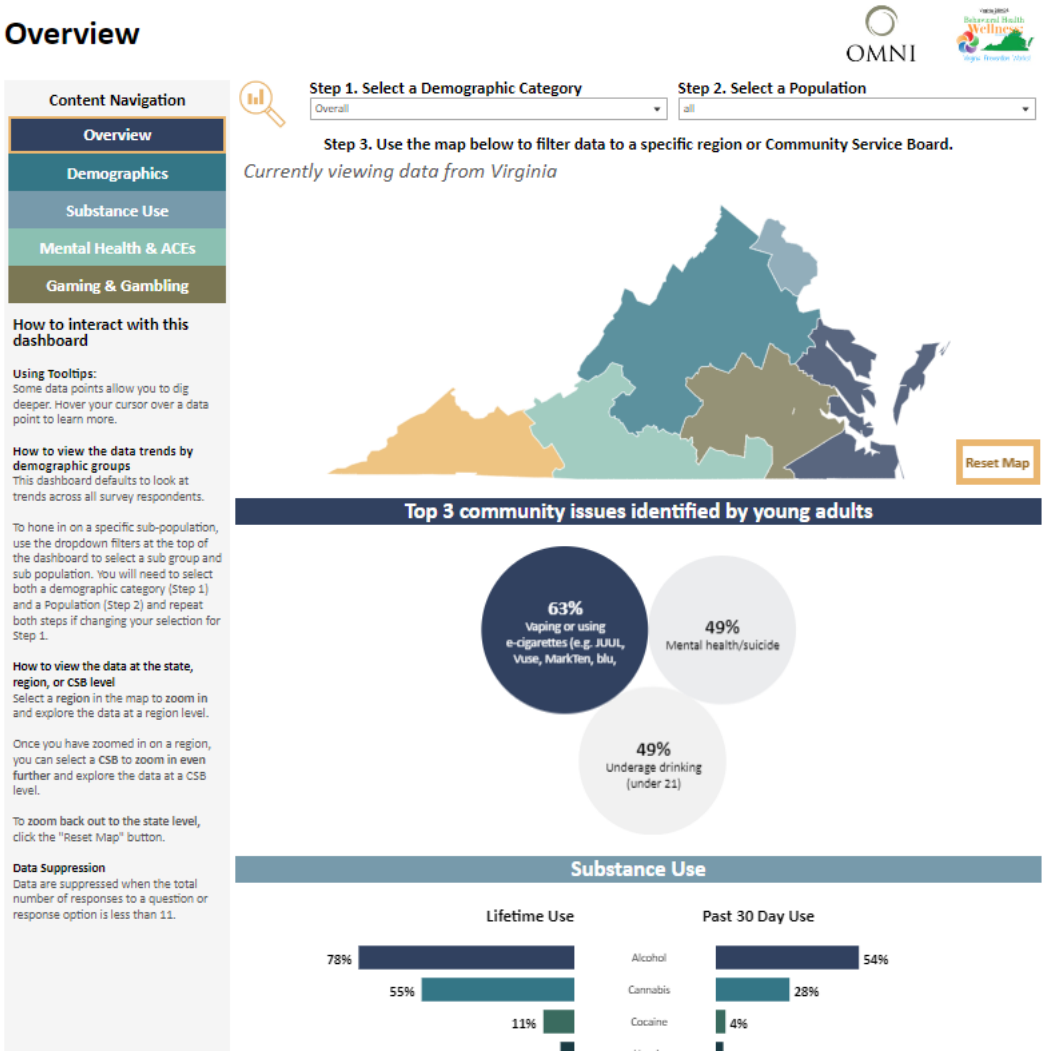
A Biennial survey of young adults ages 18-25, developed by DHBDS and OMNI, that is administered by 40 CSBs across VA.

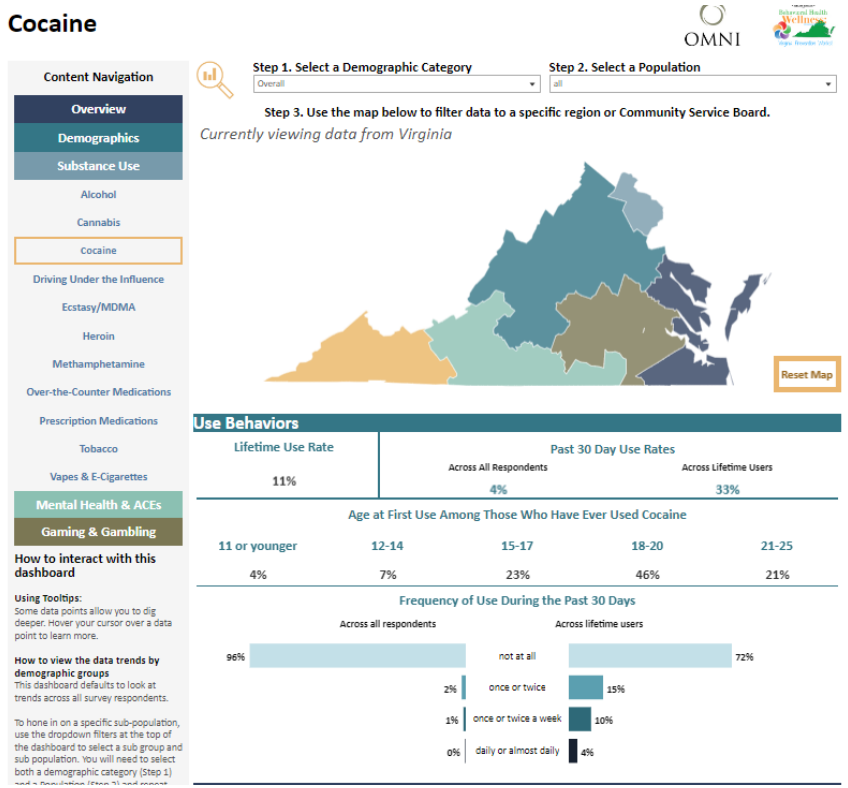
How to share that data back to CSBs, their partners, and the public?

Virginia Young Adult Survey Dashboard

Virginia Young Adult Survey

This dashboard visualizes data from the Virginia Young Adult Survey. The data is broken down by content and can be filtered by demographic category and population.





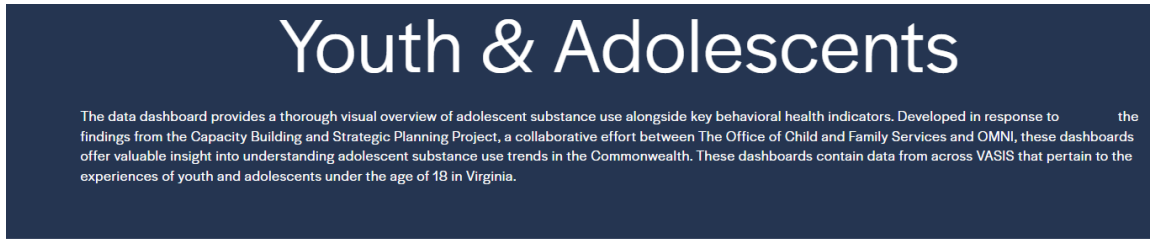
Case Study 2: Youth & Adolescent Data

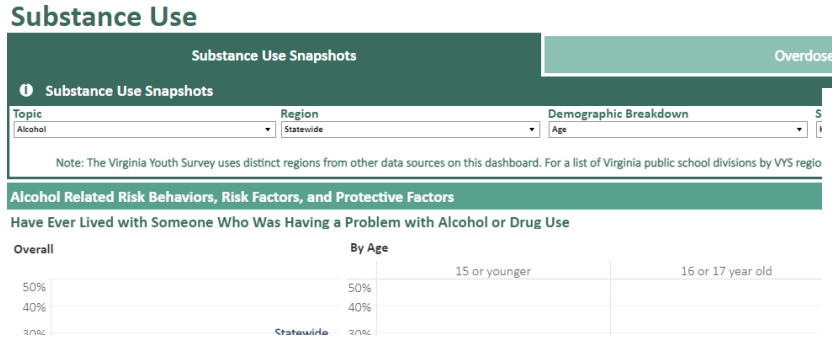
DBHDS's Office of Child and Family Services identified a need for streamlined access about data pertaining to youth and adolescent behavioral health outcomes.

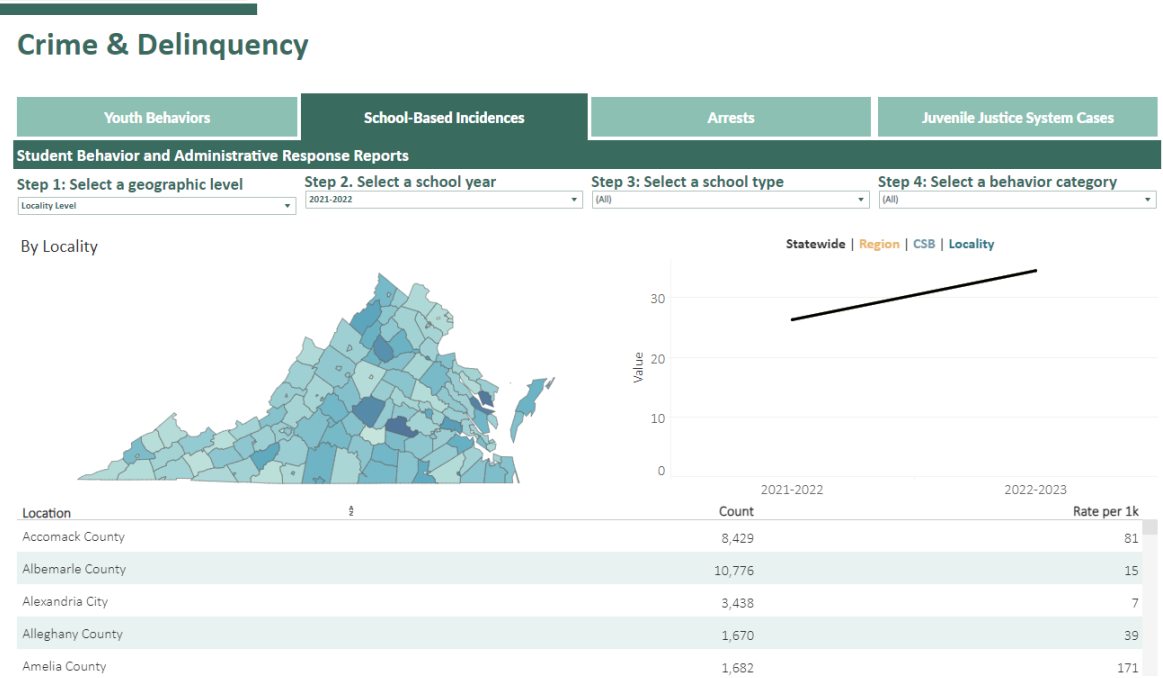
How could we leverage our existing infrastructure to better meet the needs of a user basis focused on a specific population?

Youth & Adolescent Dashboards

The youth and adolescent dashboards mine VASIS dashboards for data pertaining to individuals under 18 and centralize them within a set of dashboards organized by topic area.







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Case Study 3: Internal Planning

OMNI Institute and OBHW are working together to undertake a strategic planning process for the 2025-30 SUBG cycle and need to develop data snapshots which capture how substance use and mental health outcomes have changed over the past five years.

A CSB is writing a grant to apply for additional funding and needs to include data about their community to illustrate need.

Any user can quickly hop on to VASIS and find recent indicator data without the need to do any analysis or scroll through a 70 page report.

Plan with ease

Quickly find what you're looking for when multiple datasets are organized by topic area.

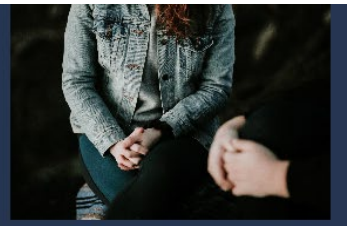
Community snapshots compile all indicator data by geographic location, creating customized and interactive reports that help drive local planning and epidemiological outcomes monitoring efforts.

Disease, Injuries, and Fatalities

- Hospitalizations
- Overdoses
- Suicides

Health Risk Factors and Behaviors

- Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System
- Virginia Youth Survey



Health and Social Services

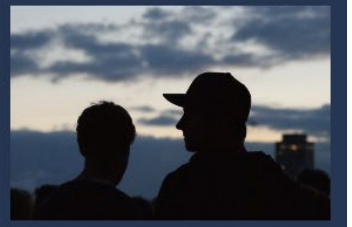
- Benefits
- Mental Health Services
- Behavioral Health Services

Justice System

- Uniform Crime Reports
- Drug Cases
- Juvenile Justice

Living Conditions

- Population
- Poverty
- Unemployment



The Virginia Young Adult Survey

- Virginia Young Adult Survey

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So you want a dashboard?

Key Considerations

- Why is a dashboard needed? What purpose is it serving?
- Why is a Tableau dashboard preferable over other types of deliverables?
- Who is the target audience (e.g. local or state level prevention staff, coalitions, grantees, the public, legislators, etc.)?
- What data is important to our target audience and how are they currently accessing these data? Do they have specific data needs that aren’t currently being met?

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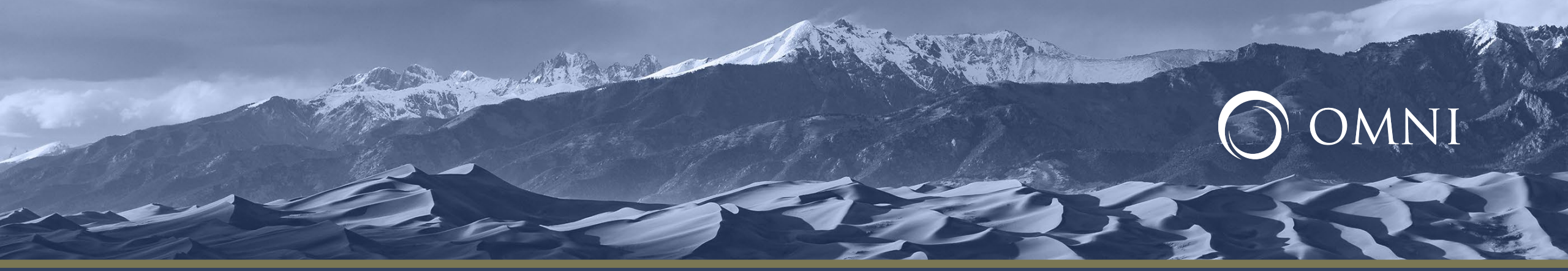
Future of VASIS

What's ahead?

- Re-branding to align with updated DBHDS branding guidelines
- Expanding access to data about priority populations and issues
  - Service members, veterans, and their families
  - Data related to problem gaming and gambling (problem gambling hotline and treatment data)
- Re-launching Community Snapshots
    - Allow users to pull data from across VASIS that relates to their county, CSB, or region on one dashboard

- Launching the Youth & Adolescents dashboards
  - Pulls data from across VASIS pertaining to Virginians under the age of 18
  - Adds new School-Based Incident Reports data from the Department of Education
  - Adds ySBIRT screening data
- Adding 2024 Young Adult Survey data



Thank you!

Any questions?

Want to learn more about VASIS or get on our mailing list?
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Check out VASIS!