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OJJDP

IN FOCUS

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## What Is SMART?

OJJDP's SMART system is a geographic information and Web-based mapping application that pinpoints the following:

- Specific geographic areas of crime and delinquency.
- Nearby governmental and community resources available to prevent and control crime and delinquency.

SMART is available at <http://www.smartgis.info>.

## Get SMART—Mapping Resources for Crime and Delinquency Prevention

Suppose a county has high juvenile violent crime rates. State government officials want to know where the crimes are occurring and target them with local prevention services, increased security, active law enforcement presence, and intervention programs. What resources are available to meet this need?

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention's (OJJDP's) Socioeconomic Mapping and Resource Topography (SMART) system is a free, Web-accessible application that communities can use to position local resources to help stop crime and delinquency. Users can upload local maps of crime locations and use the system to connect them with maps of local intervention programs and community resources.

Users who access the SMART system can quickly locate a map of their community that contains crime data, census data, and

the locations of national resources like YMCAs, Boys & Girls Clubs of America, police stations, and Weed and Seed programs. They can then upload information from their own computer system into the resulting map.

## How Can SMART Help Me?

SMART helps federal, state, and local decisionmakers target areas of greatest need and allocate resources accordingly.

**Federal juvenile program managers** can use SMART maps to identify areas with the highest rates of delinquency and find census data on risk factors such as household earnings, the number of parents per household, or the number of school-age children not enrolled in school.



Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention



Managers can also use the mapping technology to pinpoint which federal programs (e.g., grants for afterschool activities) and community resources (e.g., Boys & Girls Clubs, YMCAs) are available to neighborhoods in need of services. With these facts, managers can make informed decisions about what other resources are needed and where.

**State-level juvenile justice program administrators** can use SMART to analyze county-level crime and delinquency data and then upload incident-specific data they get from their state's statistical analysis centers or from online mapping applications, effectively pinpointing areas of high juvenile crime and delinquency. State administrators can view existing resources in these high-risk areas and then award grants to the areas that lack program resources. Find links to state statistical analysis centers at: [www.rsa.org/sac/index.html](http://www.rsa.org/sac/index.html).

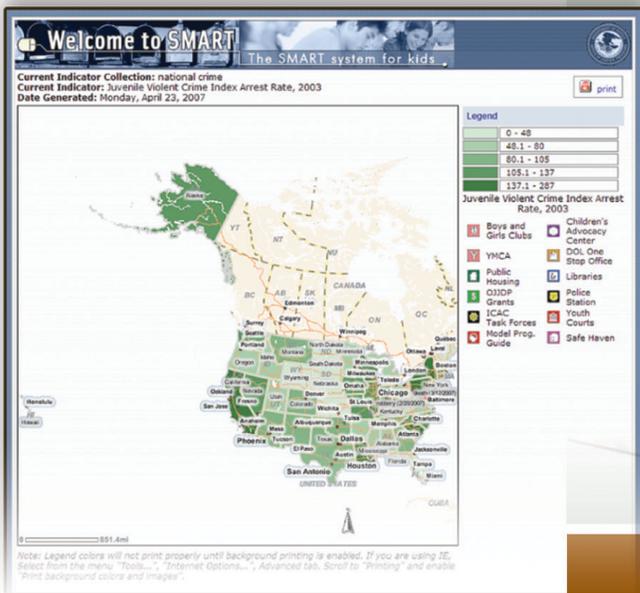
**Local law enforcement agencies** can upload data on local crime and delinquency incidents to SMART. They can use SMART to see how crime and delinquency relates to socioeconomic and resource data in the system. The resulting map can provide insight as to whether crime and delinquency is geographically related to factors such as poverty or low high school graduation rates.

**A multijurisdictional gang task force** can upload a list of names and addresses of known local gang members

## *SMART Mapping Helps the Buffalo, NY, Community*

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Buffalo, NY, used the SMART system to identify the best location for a new club in the Buffalo area—the Kenfield/Langfield Buffalo Municipal Housing authority complex. According to the SMART system, this housing complex had a community disadvantage index<sup>1</sup> score of 10, the worst possible score a community can receive, indicating the local population had a high percentage of people living below the poverty line and receiving public assistance, and a high percentage of female-headed

families with children. SMART's mapping capabilities helped the Boys & Girls Club develop the necessary data to get funding for the center. As a result, the club opened quickly. The club opened its doors to the general public on November 19, 2007, offering free programming to youth between 5 and 12 years old. Services offered include tutoring, homework help, sports and recreation activities, arts classes, drug and alcohol abuse prevention programs, gang prevention programs,



# DATA SOURCES

and produce a map of their locations. SMART can help the task force identify community resources available to gang members or youth in the community who may become gang involved. All information that a user adds to the system is confidential, and is username and password protected.

**Community coalitions** can use SMART to find sociodemographic information relevant to crime and delinquency trends and to identify existing federal resources and available youth-serving programs.

**Grant writers** can use SMART maps to convince funders that a community needs additional resources. Maps can highlight areas with high crime rates, show whether federal and local resources are available in those areas, and justify the need for grant funding.

Along with maps, SMART creates tables and graphs to illustrate a wide variety of data on socioeconomic factors such as housing, population, crime, health, and mortality. Data sources include:

- The U.S. Census Bureau.
- OJJDP's Statistical Briefing Book.
- Federal agencies such as the Departments of Health and Human Services, Labor, and Housing and Urban Development.
- KIDS COUNT, a national initiative tracking the status of children in the United States.
- The Federal Bureau of Investigation's Uniform Crime Reports (from 1994 to 2007).
- OJJDP's Model Programs Guide: [www2.dsgonline.com/mpg](http://www2.dsgonline.com/mpg).

and more. The center was filled to capacity within 2 weeks of opening, and after increasing its capacity, was filled again in another 2 weeks. Buffalo program managers have begun discussions about expanding the center to include programming for teens and would like to start a second center.

1. The community disadvantage index was developed by Dr. Janet L. Lauritsen, from the University of Missouri in St. Louis.



## Getting SMARTer

*SMART is regularly updated, giving the maps greater accuracy and enhanced technical capability. Recent updates provide users with a variety of valuable information. Users can:*

- Learn the location and contact information for public schools (from the National Center for Education Statistics).
- Obtain the location and contact information of public juvenile residential placement facilities (from the annual Juvenile Residential Facility Census).
- Upload multiple addresses from spreadsheets into the system (e.g., local crime and delinquency data, addresses of local resources, and addresses of known gang members). This capability allows the user to view local crime and delinquency data and decide where to place prevention, intervention, or suppression programs.
- View data from the FBI's Uniform Crime Reports between 1994 and 2007. This data allows users to examine trends over time.
- Access a quick report of crime and delinquency statistics relevant to a local address.
- Conduct analysis in neighborhoods that they themselves define.
- View data and information in relation to different geographic units of analysis, including congressional districts, law enforcement boundaries, school districts, and tribal lands.

## SMART in Action

"SMART helped us make sure we were serving kids in distressed areas of real need," said Angela Bussey Perez, the Senior Director of Federal Grants at the National Boys & Girls Clubs of America. Perez advised some 1,800 local clubs to use SMART information as a source to back up their proposals for funding.



The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention is a component of the Office of Justice Programs, which also includes the Bureau of Justice Assistance; the Bureau of Justice Statistics; the Community Capacity Development Office; the National Institute of Justice; the Office for Victims of Crime; and the Office of Sex Offender Sentencing, Monitoring, Apprehending, Registering, and Tracking.

**SMART** is free and available on the Web at  
<http://www.smartgis.info>

### For Further Information

For more information about this and other OJJDP programs, go to [www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ojjdp](http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ojjdp).

