Building a Data Portal for enhanced Community Collaboration and Knowledge Mobilization

Esri International User Conference
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Jené Grandmont, on behalf of Elisabeth Wells, PhD, Mark Carrozza, and Shelley Lothian, PhD
Our Kids Network

A Halton-wide partnership of agencies and organizations that serve children and youth

**OKN Partners**

- Halton Children’s Aid Society
- Halton District School Board
- Halton Catholic District School Board
- Halton Community Health and Children’s Services
- ROCK Reach Out Centre for Kids
- Halton Police Services
- ErinoakKids
- Halton Multicultural Council

**Over 90 unique participating agencies**

Three community Hubs: Acton, Aldershot and Milton
Knowledge Mobilization: the need for a Data Portal

OKN’s Community Data Reports

Neighbourhood level information about children, youth and families.

Service providers say: reports are easy to understand, full of excellent information.

But, how do they apply the information to make their own programs better?
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Neighbourhood Name</th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2012</th>
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<td>East Milton</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Description**

Percent of 12-yr olds overweight or obese is based on the standards applied by the World Health Organization (WHO) using Body Mass Index (BMI) for age.

**Source**

Halton Youth Survey (HYS)

[http://www.ourkidsnetwork.ca/Public/Home.aspx](http://www.ourkidsnetwork.ca/Public/Home.aspx)
Healthy Body Weight: Percent of 12-year olds overweight or obese: 2012

- Acton: 19%
- Aldershot: 19%
- Burlington: 19%
- East Milton: 20%
- Glen Abbey: 20%
- HALTON: 20%
- Halton Hills: 22%
- Milton: 20%
- N Georgetown: 23%
- NC Burlington: 22%
- NC Oakville: 22%
- NE Burlington: 16%
- NE Oakville: 17%
- NW Burlington: 23%
- NW Oakville: 21%
- Oakville: 20%
- River Oaks: 22%
- Rural N. Halton: 19%
- S Georgetown: 19%
- SC Burlington: 15%

About the data:
Description:
Percent of 12-yr olds overweight or obese is based on the standards applied by the World Health Organization (WHO) using Body Mass Index (BMI) for age.

Source:
Halton Youth Survey (HY'S)
http://www.haltonkidsnetwork.ca/Public/Stats.aspx
Healthy Body Weight: Percent of 12-year olds overweight or obese

About the data

Description
Percent of 12-yr olds overweight or obese is based on the standards applied by the World Health Organization (WHO) using Body Mass Index (BMI) for age

Source
Halton Youth Survey (HYS)
http://www.ourkidsnetwork.ca/Public/Home.aspx
Building the OKN Data Portal

- Environmental scan
- Community consultation
- Pilot test
- Engage Core Users
Development

Step 1: Environmental Scan
Reviewed over 200 digital Community Information Systems worldwide
Created a “wish list”

Step 2: Community Consultations
Described project and objectives
Functional demonstrations and polling
Confirmed features, and importance of data literacy
Pilot test

Randomly selected members of OKN committees

Experimental Group: In-depth demonstration (n = 11)
Control Group: No demonstration (n = 17)

Introduced data portal, asked participants to explore and then complete a System Test

System Evaluation Survey

Focus Group
Knowledge Mobilization plan

Stage 1: Engage core users.
Data Portal Resource (DPR) Group

Stage 2: Engage new users.
All community partners
Evaluation of initial capacity-building phase

Recruited 34 community partners to act as Data Portal Resources (DPR) within their organizations

Participated in 3-hour training, and 3 monthly meetings

DPRs completed a self-assessment after initial training and after each monthly meeting

Assessed their: beliefs, confidence and behaviours
Beliefs: Summary of findings

Beliefs about the importance of using data to make decisions is very strong

Beliefs supporting free and accessible data are very strong

The majority believed that the Data Portal introduced them to new ideas or ways of thinking about their programs
Evaluation: Summary of findings

Confidence using the data portal is high immediately following training, but decreases one month later.

Follow-up meetings were important for restoring confidence and maintaining the community of practice.

Knowledge mobilization activities remained low in the short term.
Tools to support knowledge mobilization

Monthly meetings support collaboration and knowledge exchange

Building data literacy, in a non-data person way

Frameworks to support meaningful discussions about data

Sharing real examples
How our community partners are using the OKN Data Portal

Identify locations for future service delivery

Map program users

Visualize caseloads

Evaluate if programs are meeting intended audience
Lessons learned

Importance of testing and staged implementation

Can’t work in isolation

Service providers respect data and are cautious with interpretations, but don’t want to get bogged down in stats
Thank you!

Questions?

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