



University of Pittsburgh

The New World of Community Information in Our Region

Bob Gradeck

University of Pittsburgh

Center for Social and Urban Research

twitter: @WPRDC, @BobGradeck

email: wprdc@pitt.edu

ucsur.pitt.edu

University Center for Social and Urban Research



UCSUR's Long History as an Information Intermediary



NATIONAL NEIGHBORHOOD
INDICATORS PARTNERSHIP

Over the years, we produced many neighborhood and community indicators reports.



University of Pittsburgh

University Center for Social & Urban Research (UCSUR)

City of Pittsburgh Neighborhood Profiles – Census 2010 Summary File 1 (SF1) Data

Allegheny West

Population by Race		
Total population	462	
White alone	354	76.6%
Black or African American alone	84	18.2%
American Indian and Alaska Native alone	1	0.2%
Asian alone	7	1.5%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone	0	0.0%
Some other race alone	2	0.4%
Two or more races	14	3.0%
Population by Hispanic or Latino Origin		
Total population	462	
Not Hispanic or Latino	449	97.2%
Hispanic or Latino	13	2.8%
Household Type		
Total households	266	
Family households:	81	30.5%

Area (Square Miles)	0.14	
Density (Persons per Square Mile)	3,196	
Population by Age		
Total population	462	
Under 5 years	11	2.4%
5 to 9 years	6	1.3%
10 to 14 years	14	3.0%
15 to 17 years	5	1.1%
18 and 19 years	3	0.6%
20 years	1	0.2%
21 years	8	1.7%
22 to 24 years	25	5.4%
25 to 29 years	48	10.4%
30 to 34 years	56	12.1%
35 to 39 years	35	7.6%
40 to 44 years	44	9.5%
45 to 49 years	37	8.0%
50 to 54 years	39	8.4%
55 to 59 years	44	9.5%
60 and 61 years	21	4.5%



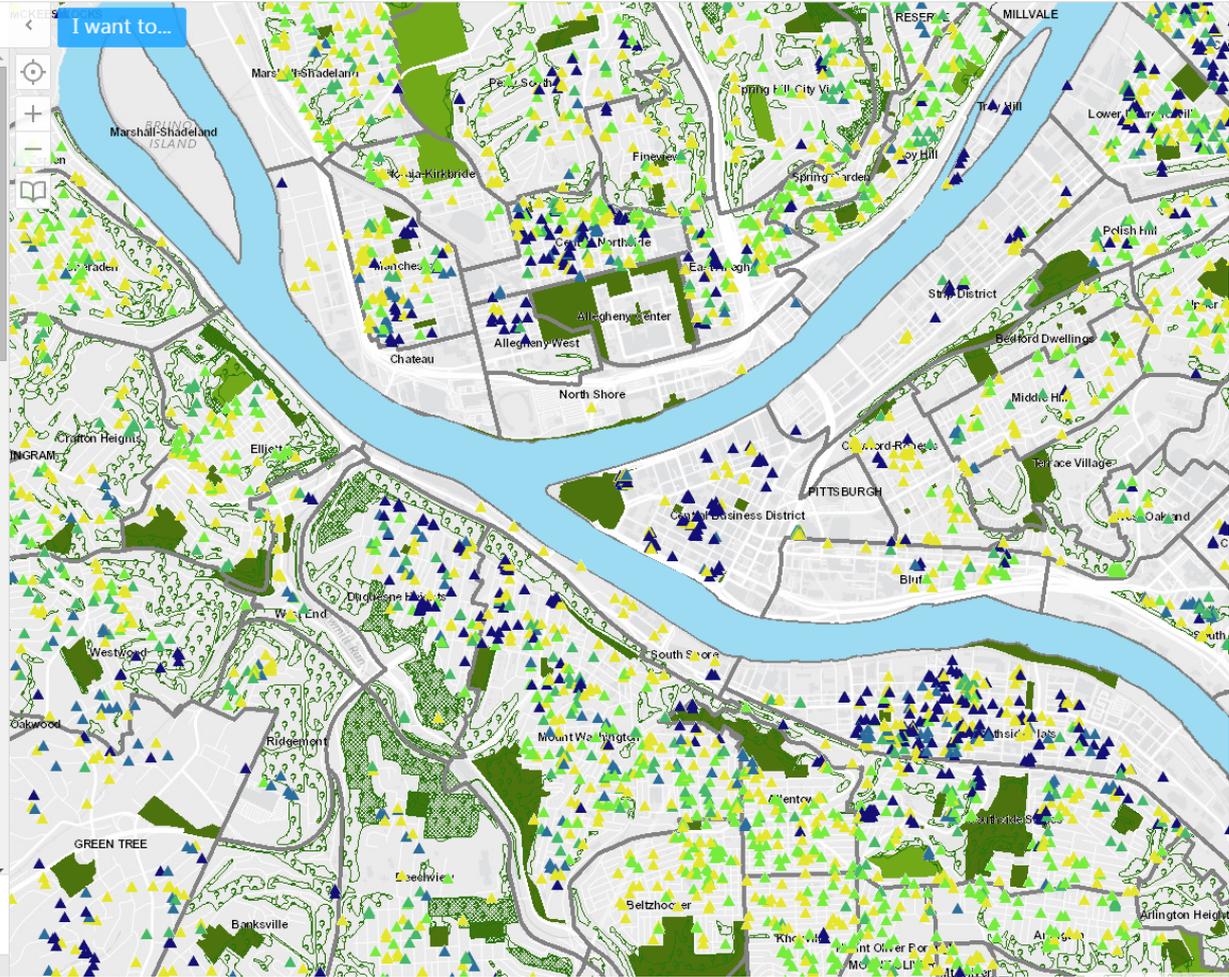
We operated a **GIS server**
where organizations could
make maps and view data



Map Layers

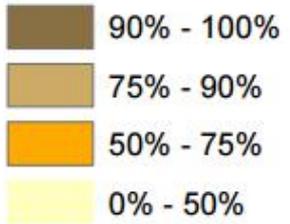
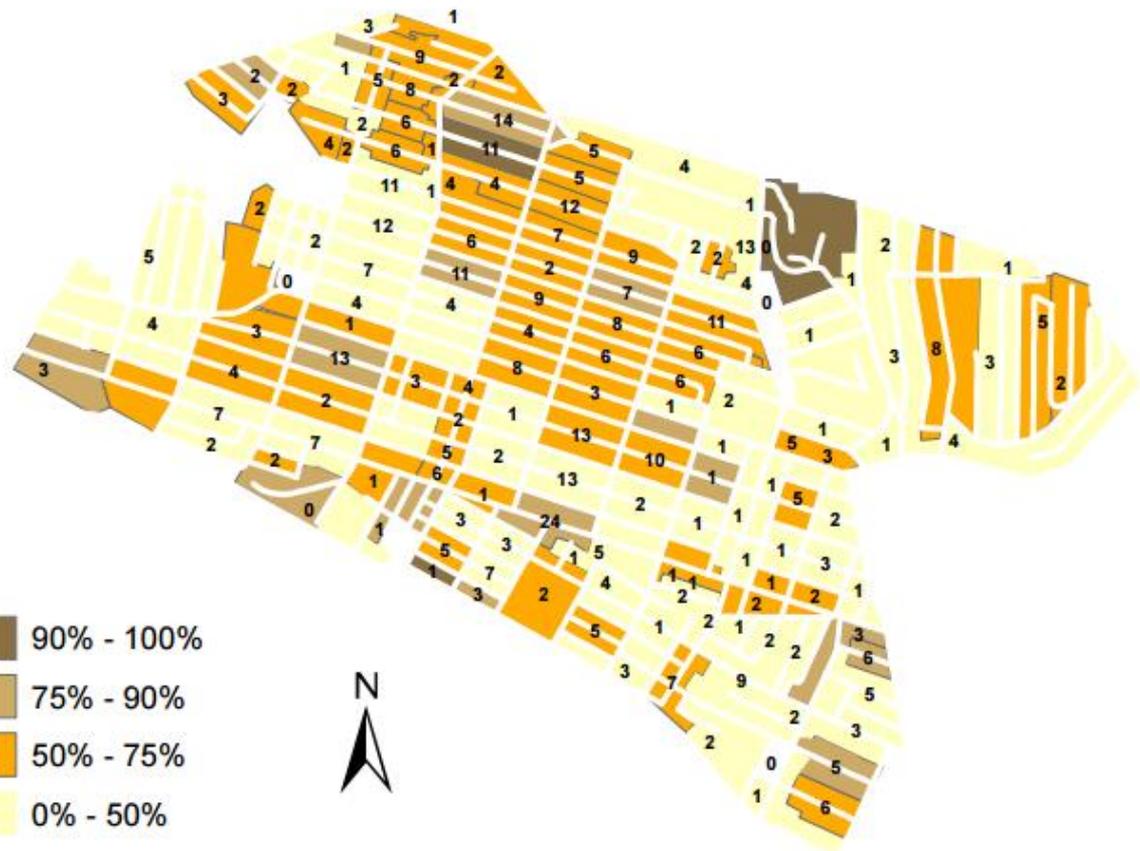
- Point
 - Sales 2014_04
 - Sales 2013
 - Sales 2012
 - Sales 2011
 - Sales 2010
 - Sales 2009
 - Sales 2008
 - ForeclosureDetailed2014_05
 - Foreclosure Detailed 2013
 - Foreclosure Detailed 2012
 - Foreclosure Detailed 2011
 - Foreclosure Detailed 2010
 - Foreclosure Detailed 2009
 - Building Permits 2012
 - Building Permits 2011
 - Code Violation 2012 Dangerous Cond
 - Code Violation 2011 Dangerous Cond
 - Code Violation 2012 Prop Maintenance
 - Code Violation 2011 Prop Maintenance
 - Demolition Permit City 2012
 - Demolition Permit City 2011
 - Razed 2012
 - Razed 2011

Show Legend



We also conduct **research**
and provide **technical**
assistance to government
and community organizations





Numbers on map reflect count of parcels with vacant structures by block.

Source: Operation Better Block Parcel Survey [University of Pittsburgh](https://www.pitt.edu/)

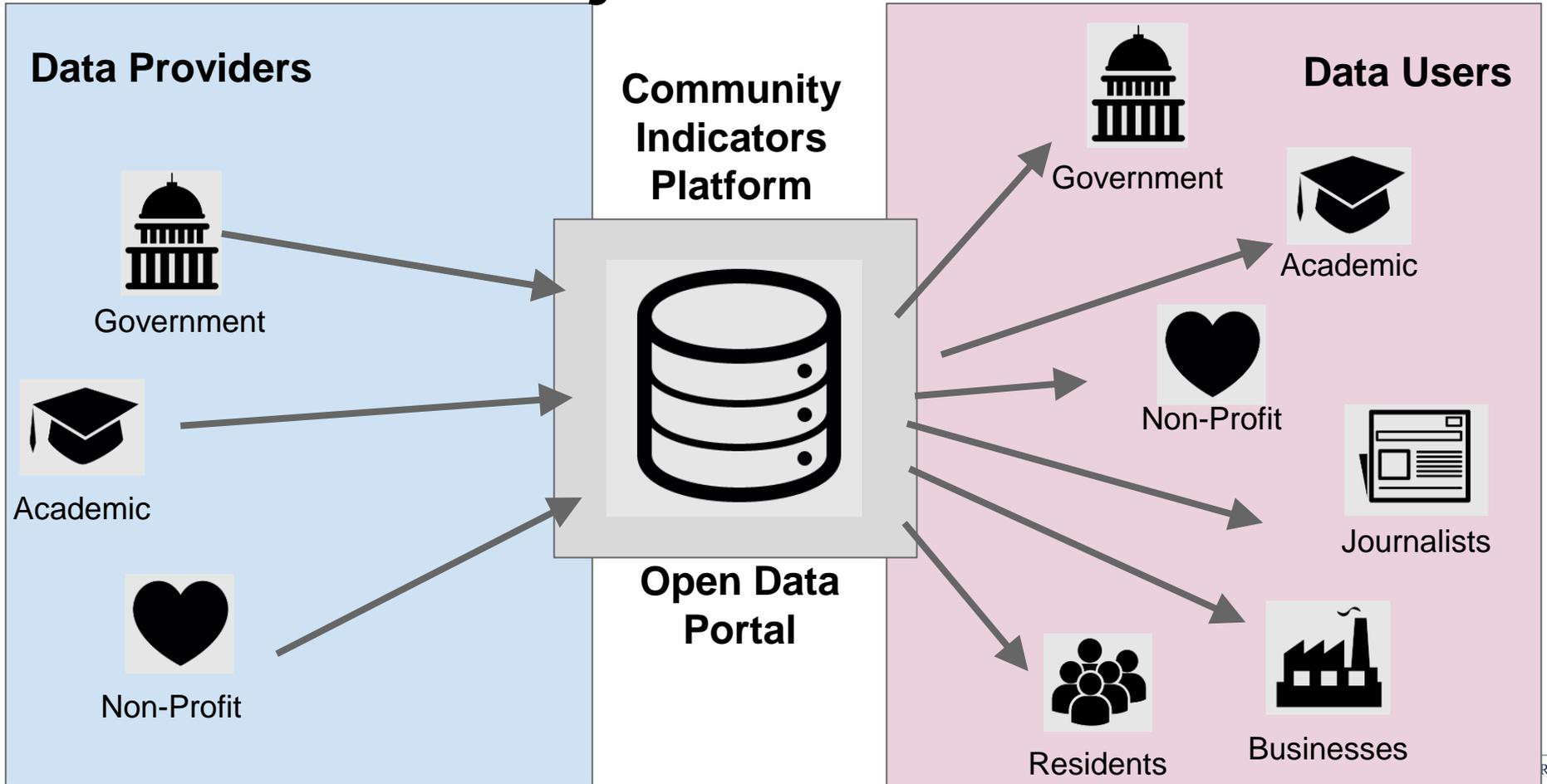


University Center for Social & Urban Research (UCSUR)

We're now moving into the
world of **open data** and
neighborhood indicators.



Project Structure



**Nine reflections and
observations informed our
project structure.**





1. Demand for data is growing. Most people either want raw data or aggregate data that describes a place

Raw Data: Western Pennsylvania Regional Data Center

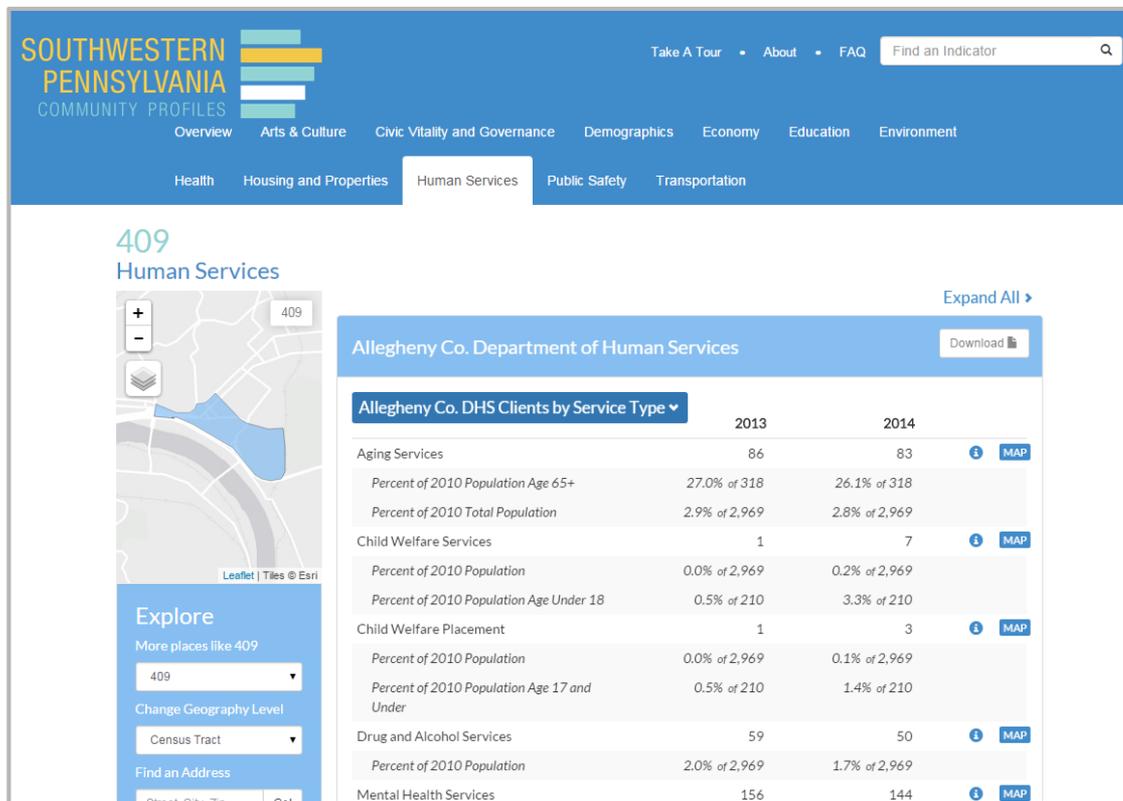
The screenshot displays the WPRDC website interface. At the top, a navigation bar includes 'Home', 'About', 'Data', 'News', 'Get Involved', 'Resources', and 'Contact'. The main content area is titled 'Organizations / City of Pittsburgh'. On the left, the City of Pittsburgh logo is shown, along with the text 'City of Pittsburgh' and 'There is no description for this organization'. Below this, it indicates '2 Followers' and '44 Datasets', with a 'Follow' button. A sidebar lists 'Organizations' (City of Pittsburgh (44)) and 'Groups' (Public Safety & Jus... (1)). The main content area features tabs for 'Datasets', 'Activity Stream', 'Data Requests', and 'About', with a 'Manage' button. A search bar is present, and the results show '44 datasets found' ordered by 'Relevance'. Three dataset entries are visible: '311 Data' (A long description, CSV), 'Pittsburgh Police Incident Blotter' (The Pittsburgh Police Incident Blotter represents the previous incidents within the City of Pittsburgh, CSV), and 'Pittsburgh Bridges' (There is no description available, HTML, Eari REST, GeoJSON, CSV, KML, ZIP). The final entry is 'Pittsburgh City Historic Districts' (City Historic Districts, HTML, Eari REST, GeoJSON, CSV, KML, ZIP).



University of Pittsburgh

University Center for Social & Urban Research (UCSUR)

Local Indicators: Southwestern Pennsylvania Community Profiles



University of Pittsburgh

University Center for Social & Urban Research (UCSUR)

Regional Indicators: Pittsburgh Today



PITTSBURGH
TODAY

Key Indicators for Understanding Our Region

[Home](#) • [About Us](#) • [Explore by Indicator](#) • [Special Reports](#) • [Contact Us](#)

Get Smart! Sign up to receive regional updates. →

Know your region

- Arts
- Demographics
- Economy
- Education
- Environment
- Government
- Health
- Housing
- Public Safety
- Transportation
- Sustainability
- Positivity

What's New

[Economy](#)



In a Pennant Race, the Local Economy is the Winner

The Pirates are embroiled in their third consecutive pennant race, and down the homestretch nobody is watching more intently than local businesses.

[Read More](#)



A Different Lens on Diversity

In March, Pittsburgh Today reported that the region's seven-county metropolitan statistical area has the lowest minority workforce... [More](#)



Tale of Three Cities

Pittsburgh, St. Louis and Chicago rewrote baseball history Sunday. The National League Central Division rivals ended the season... [More](#)



In a Pennant Race, the Local Economy is the Winner

The Pirates are embroiled in their third consecutive pennant race, and down the homestretch nobody...

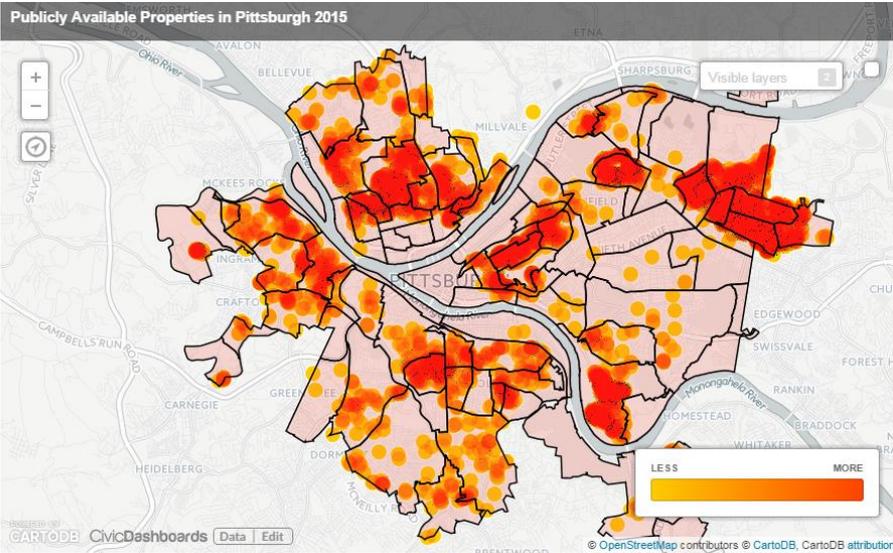


University of Pittsburgh

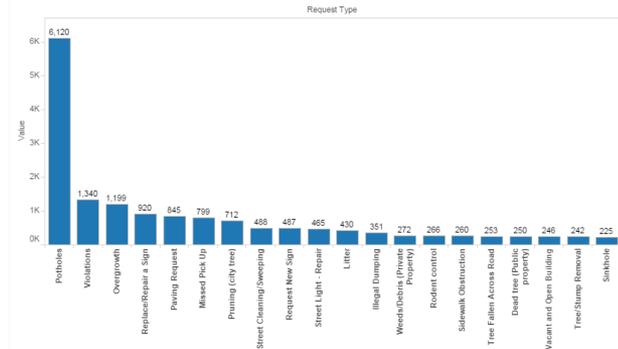
University Center for Social & Urban Research (UCSUR)

2. People want to use their own tools to explore raw data.

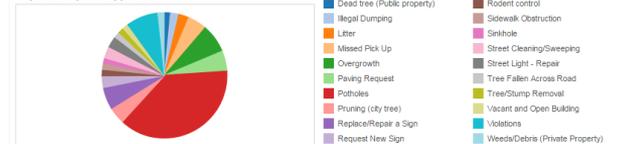




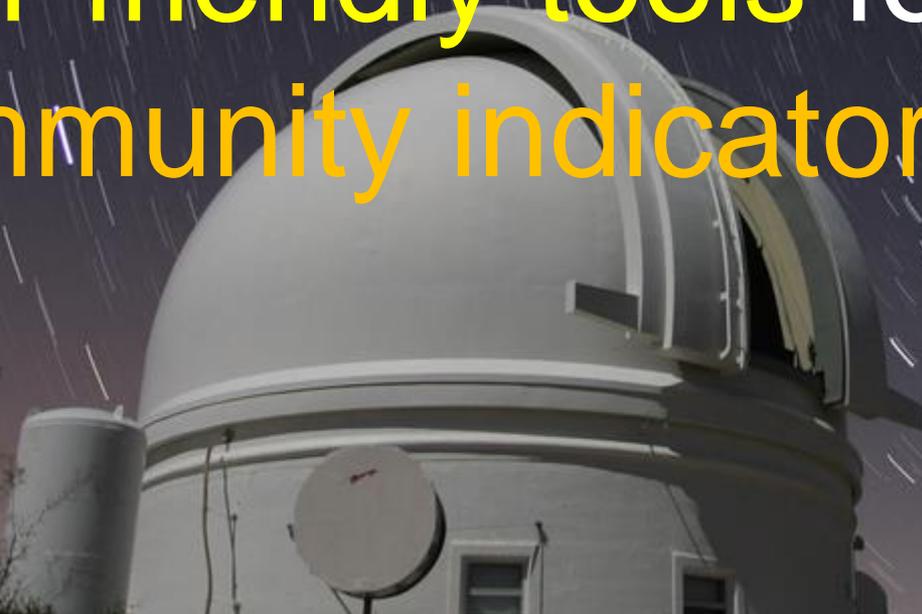
311 Top 20 Request Type



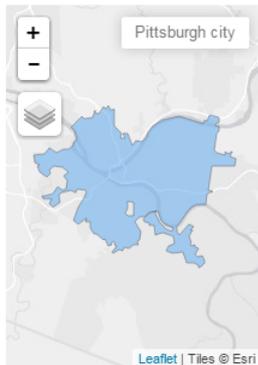
Top 20 Request Type Pie



3. There's still a need for
user-friendly tools for
community indicators.



Pittsburgh city Economy



Explore

More places like Pittsburgh city

Pittsburgh city

Change Geography Level

County Subdivision

Find an Address

Expand All >

Employment

Download

Place of Employment >

Employment by Gender ▾

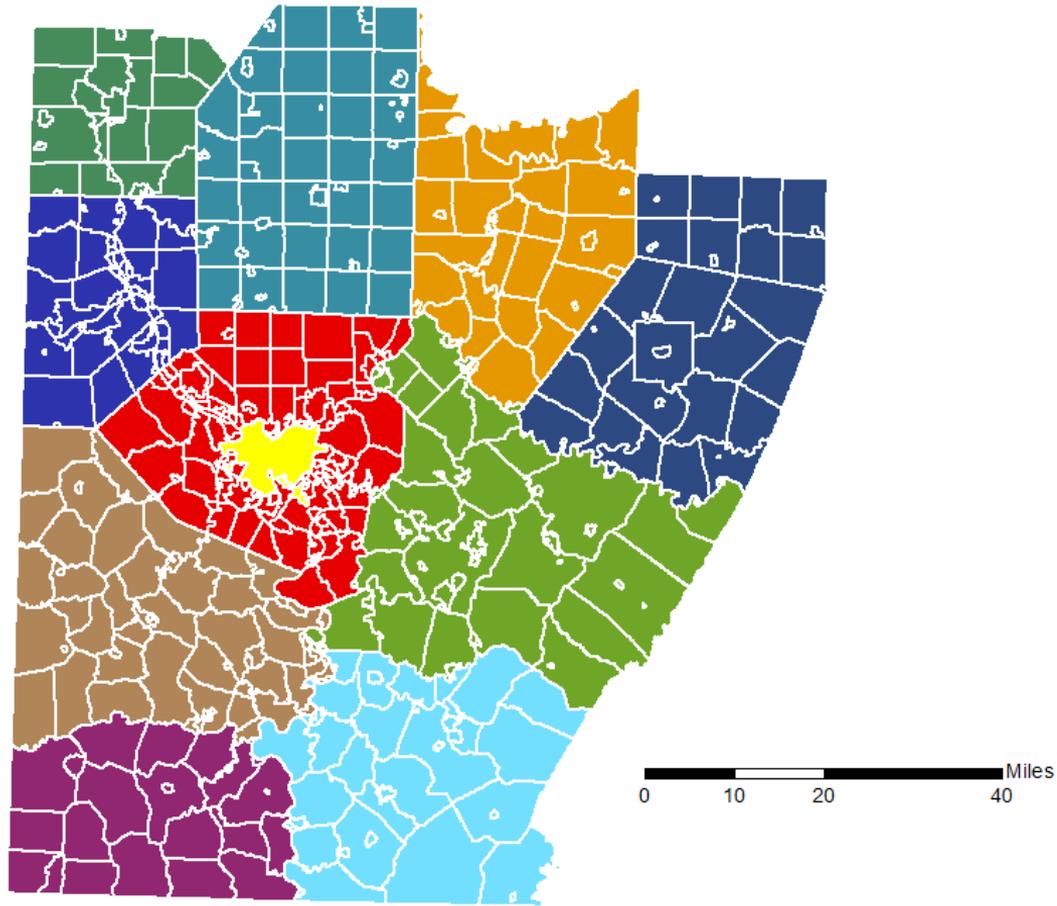
	2000	2009-2013		
Employed Males	72,913	73,077 +/-		MAP
% of Males 16+	56.6% of 128,759	58.4% +/- of 125,187		
% of Males 16+ in Labor Force	89.7% of 81,276	90.4% +/- of 80,807		
Employed Females	72,041	72,102 +/-		MAP
% of Females 16+	49.1% of 146,637	52.6% +/- of 136,934		
% of Females 16+ in Labor Force	90.2% of 79,906	88.4% +/- of 81,554		
Males In Labor Force	81,276	80,807 +/-		MAP
Females In Labor Force	79,906	81,554 +/-		MAP
Median Earnings, Male	\$22,119	\$29,123 +/-		MAP
Median Earnings, Female	\$16,657	\$22,048 +/-		MAP

Employment >



4. Problems cross borders.
Data often does not.





Two-Page Data Deposit Agreement for New Data Center Publishers

- Government
- Non-Profit
- Academic

**WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA REGIONAL DATA CENTER
DATA DEPOSIT AGREEMENT**

The Western Pennsylvania Regional Data Center (WPRDC) is a project led by the University Center of Social and Urban Research (UCSUR) at the University of Pittsburgh in collaboration with City of Pittsburgh and The County of Allegheny in Pennsylvania. The WPRDC and the WPRDC Project is supported by a grant from the Richard King Mellon Foundation.

This Data Deposit Agreement grants permission for WPRDC to accept and provide public access to data you choose to deposit under the terms set forth below. Your signature on the form below is your agreement and assurances with respect to the Data you choose to deposit with the WPRDC.

"Data" shall mean all information of varying formats which may be disclosed to the public and which is not Non Public Information, as defined below. Data may cover but is not limited to topics including property ownership, budgets, transportation, education, public safety, public services, and geographic information. Data may consist of, but is not limited to administrative records created by government or other organizations, statistical information designed to improve the function of government and organizations, and information created about government and organizations.

"Non-Public Information" for the purposes of this Agreement shall mean information that may not be disclosed to the public for the following reasons:

- The information is exempt from disclosure or the information is prohibited from being disclosed under State and Federal Laws and regulations including the Pennsylvania Right to Know Act/67 P.S. §67.101 et seq., the Criminal History Record Information Act, 18 Pa. C.S. §§ 9101-9183, the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), and other applicable privacy laws.
- The information is covered by a contractual non-disclosure obligation.
- The information is covered by Pursuant to confidentiality and fiduciary obligations, or
- The information is private, proprietary or privileged.

By signing this Agreement, you agree to and represent the following:

- I grant a license to UCSUR to accept my Data and make my Data publicly available through the WPRDC with print or in any format deemed appropriate by UCSUR on behalf of the WPRDC. This license includes but is not limited to the following:
 - To describe, catalog, validate and document the Data
 - To enhance, transform and/or rearrange the Data, including the data, metadata, and all associated documentation
 - To create derivative Data sets from original Data provided
 - To store, translate, copy or re-format the Data in any way to ensure its future preservation and accessibility.
 - To incorporate metadata (cataloging information) or documentation in the Data into any public access website or other public medium
- I understand that the Data provided to UCSUR or the WPRDC shall be used and made available to the public consistent with the terms and conditions of the WPRDC Data Use Agreement (Attachment 1) and the one of the following licenses I choose below, through my initials:
 Creative Commons Attribution
 Creative Commons Attribution Share-Alike

Creative Commons CCZero: <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/0.0/>
 Creative Commons Non-Commercial (Any)

GNU Free Documentation License
 Open Data Commons Attribution License
 Open Data Commons Open Database License (ODbL)
 Open Data Commons Public Domain Dedication and License (PDDL)
 Public Domain (choose only if the Data is free from known copyright protections worldwide). See: <http://creativecommons.org/about/pdm>

Other, please specify here: _____

If no license is selected with your initials above, then UCSUR and WPRDC shall apply the default license of Creative Commons Attribution: <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>

- Understand that UCSUR may refuse to accept Data, in its discretion, for a variety of reasons to include relevance to the WPRDC mission, outside the scope of the WPRDC Project, format, security, or for any other reason it deems appropriate.
- Understand the UCSUR may, on its own and without notice to me, remove Data from the WPRDC.
- I represent that:
 - I own all of the Data I provide to the WPRDC.
 - I have all rights and authority to license the Data to the WPRDC and UCSUR set forth above;
 - I have all rights and authority to share the Data I am providing to the WPRDC with the public; and
 - I have used due diligence in screening the Data to ensure no Non-Public Information is contained in the Data provided to the WPRDC.
- I further agree to indemnify, release, and hold harmless the University of Pittsburgh, UCSUR, The City of Pittsburgh, and The County of Allegheny, to include its elected officials, officers, appointees, employees and agents, from any and all liability from claims arising out of any legal action relating to the Data I provide under this Agreement and any breaches of the representations made above, to include claims of infringement, invasions of privacy, and breaches of confidentiality.
- If you have any feedback, comments, questions, or concerns regarding your deposit of Data with the WPRDC, please contact: The WPRDC Project Manager, Robert Gradeck, at 412-624-9177 or rmg44@pitt.edu

Printed name and title: _____
Institutional affiliation: _____
Name of Data: _____
Signature: _____
Date: _____



5. Most data owners are not good at publishing.



Publisher Training and Technical Assistance



6. Data is like bread. It gets stale over time.





This ball of Play-Doh represents messy data



University of Pittsburgh

University Center for Social & Urban Research (UCSUR)

1. **EXTRACT**
messy data out
of an external
system

This ball of Play-
Doh represents
messy data



1. **Extract** messy data out of an external system

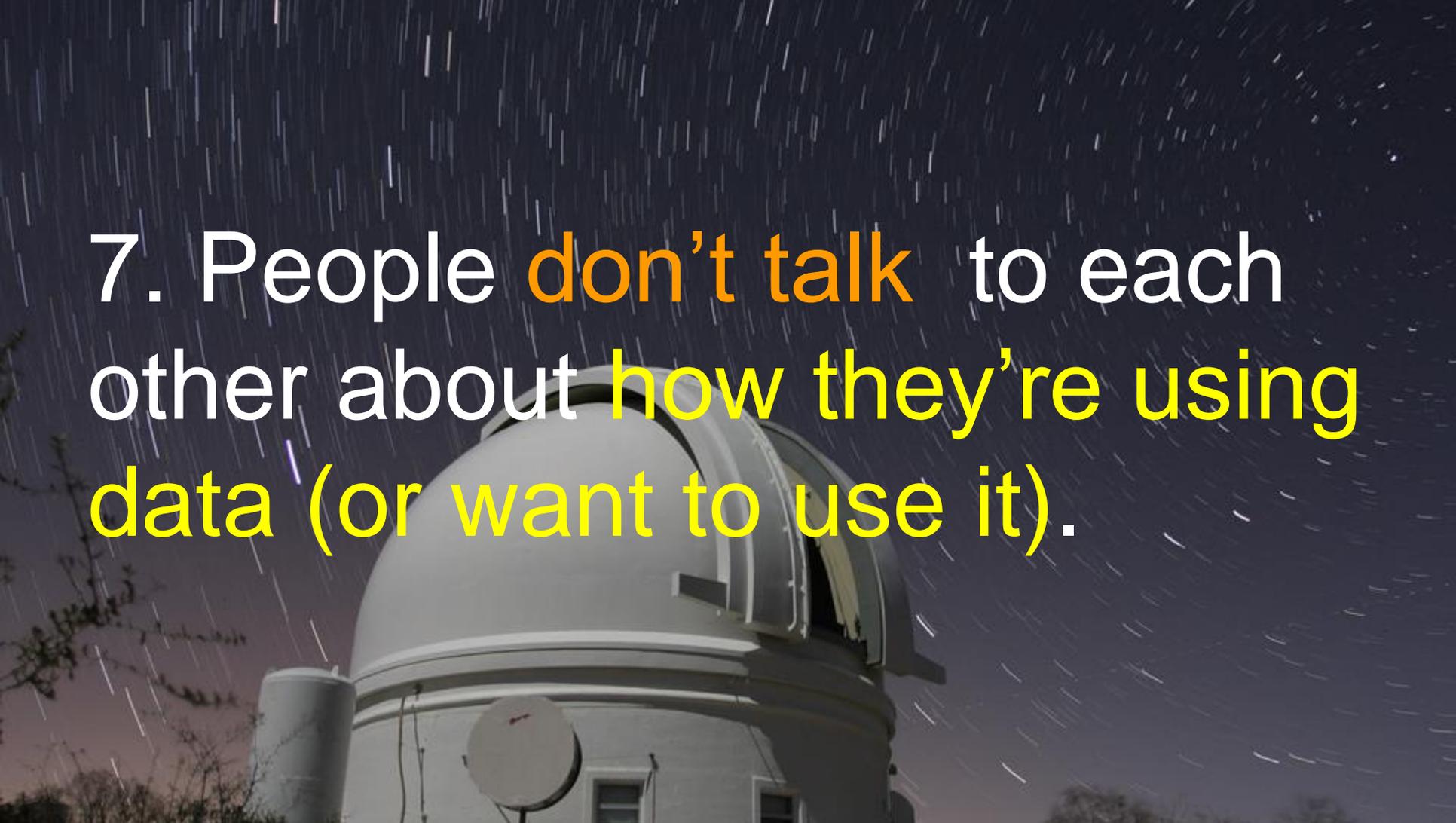
This ball of Play-Doh represents messy data

2. Build and use tools to **TRANSFORM** data into something more-useful...



A green snake-shaped cake is the central focus, resting on a purple, ruffled-edged base. The snake is coiled into a large spiral on the right side and has its head raised on the left, with its mouth open as if swallowing. The entire scene is set against a dark brown, textured background, possibly a tablecloth. In the top left and top right corners, the edges of white plates are visible. The text '3. We LOAD it to our systems so you can build something with the data!' is overlaid in yellow at the bottom of the image.

3. We **LOAD** it to our systems so you can build something with the data!



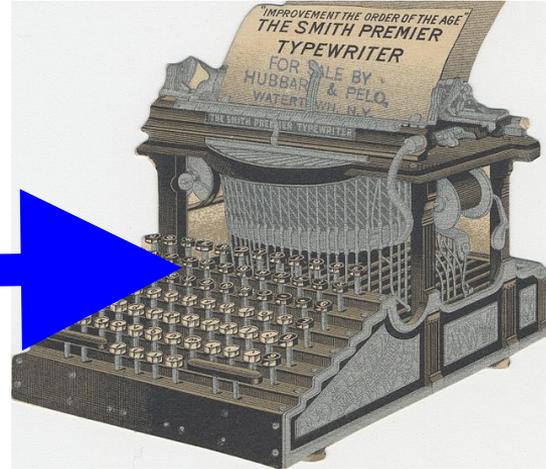
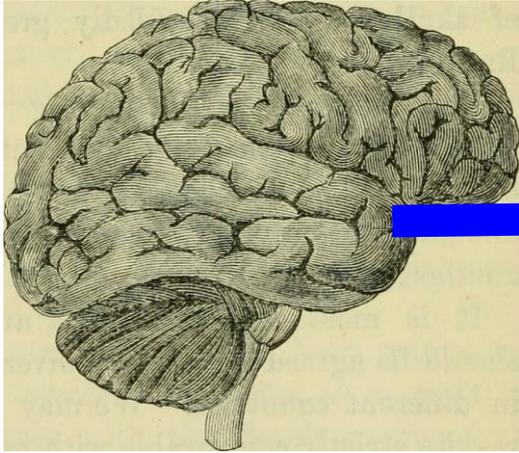
7. People **don't talk** to each other about **how they're using data** (or want to use it).

Data User Groups

A black and white photograph of a massive crowd of people filling a city street. The crowd is dense, extending far into the distance. In the background, there are multi-story buildings with various signs. One sign reads "TRAVEL & BOOK SOCIETY", another "36 PERROT", and another "NS 36". The overall scene suggests a large public gathering or event.

- **Using data as a basis for shared conversation**
- **Rotating topics**
- **Open to everyone**

Data User Guides



Feedback Mechanisms

0 Comments

WPRDC

 bob gradeck ▾

 Recommend

 Share

Sort by Best ▾



This is hands-down my favorite dataset.



Post as bob gradeck

Be the first to comment



University of Pittsburgh

University Center for Social & Urban Research (UCSUR)

Make it Easier to Request Data

[Home](#) / [Data Requests](#) / Create Data Request

Data Request

Data Requests allow users to ask for data that is not published in the platform yet. If you want some specific data and you are not able to find it among all the published datasets, you can create a new data request specifying the data that you want to get.

To create a data request, fill the form and specify a title and a description for your request. Please, be as clear as you can in order to ease the task of accomplishing your request. You can also specify an organization if your data request is closely related with it.

Create Data Request

*** Title:**

Description:

You can use Markdown formatting here

Organization:

[Create Data Request](#)



8. Information infrastructure
is often an **afterthought**.



Technology Infrastructure

- Open Data Portal
- Community Profiles



Allegheny County Property Assessments

Followers

1

[Follow](#)[Organization](#)

Allegheny County

Allegheny County, in the heart of southwestern Pennsylvania, encompasses 130 municipalities; its county seat is the City of Pittsburgh. With a land area of 745 square miles,...

[read more](#)

Dataset

[Groups](#)[Activity Stream](#)[Related](#)[Manage](#)

PRIVATE

Allegheny County Property Assessments

Real Property parcel characteristics for Allegheny County, PA. Includes information pertaining to land, values, sales, abatements, and building characteristics (if residential) by parcel. Excludes name and contact information for owners, buyers and sellers.

Data and Resources

- | | | |
|---|--|-------------------------|
|  | 2015-10 Property Assessments Parcel Data
Property Assessment Parcel Data as of 10/13/2015 (production data from... | Explore |
|  | 2015-09 Property Assessments
Property Assessment Parcel Data | Explore |
|  | Property Assessment Data Dictionary
Description of the data in the property assessment file. | Explore |
|  | Property Assessment Data Dictionary
Description of the data in the property assessment file. | Explore |
|  | County Real Estate Portal Search Page
Allegheny County's online real estate search application. | Explore |

[assessment](#)[parcel](#)[property](#)[property value](#)[real estate](#)[real property](#)[taxes](#)

Metadata Information

2015-09 Property Assessments

[Manage](#)
[Go to resource](#)
[Data API](#)

URL: <https://data.wprdc.org/dataset/2b3df818-601e-4f06-b150-643557229491/resource/a4aea5da-ea39-4a74-81b0-a782a..>

Property Assessment Parcel Data

[Data Explorer](#)
[Embed](#)

Add Filter

Grid Graph Map

1000 records

« 1 – 100 »

Search data ...

Go »

Filters

_id	PARID	PROPE...	PROPE...	PROPE...	PROPE...	PROPE...	PROPE...	PROPE...	MUNIC...	MUNIDE...
1	0001H0...	300		4TH AVE	PITTSB...	PA	UNIT 903	15222	101	1st War...
2	0001H0...	300		4TH AVE	PITTSB...	PA	UNIT 904	15222	101	1st War...
3	0001H0...	300		4TH AVE	PITTSB...	PA	UNIT 1002	15222	101	1st War...
4	0001H0...	300		4TH AVE	PITTSB...	PA	UNIT 1003	15222	101	1st War...
5	0001H0...	300		4TH AVE	PITTSB...	PA	UNIT 1101	15222	101	1st War...
6	0001H0...	300		4TH AVE	PITTSB...	PA	UNIT 1103	15222	101	1st War...
7	0001H0...	300		4TH AVE	PITTSB...	PA	UNIT 1104	15222	101	1st War...
8	0001H0...	300		4TH AVE	PITTSB...	PA	UNIT 1201	15222	101	1st War...
9	0001H0...	300		4TH AVE	PITTSB...	PA	UNIT 1203	15222	101	1st War...
10	0001H0...	300		4TH AVE	PITTSB...	PA	UNIT 1401	15222	101	1st War...
11	0001H0...	300		4TH AVE	PITTSB...	PA	UNIT 1402	15222	101	1st War...
12	0001H0...	300		4TH AVE	PITTSB...	PA	UNIT 1403	15222	101	1st War...

Legal Infrastructure



University of Pittsburgh

University Center for Social & Urban Research (UCSUR)

People Infrastructure

Carnegie Mellon
Friends

UCSUR Staff

Regional Data Center
Staff

City of Pittsburgh
Government Solutions
Engineering Team

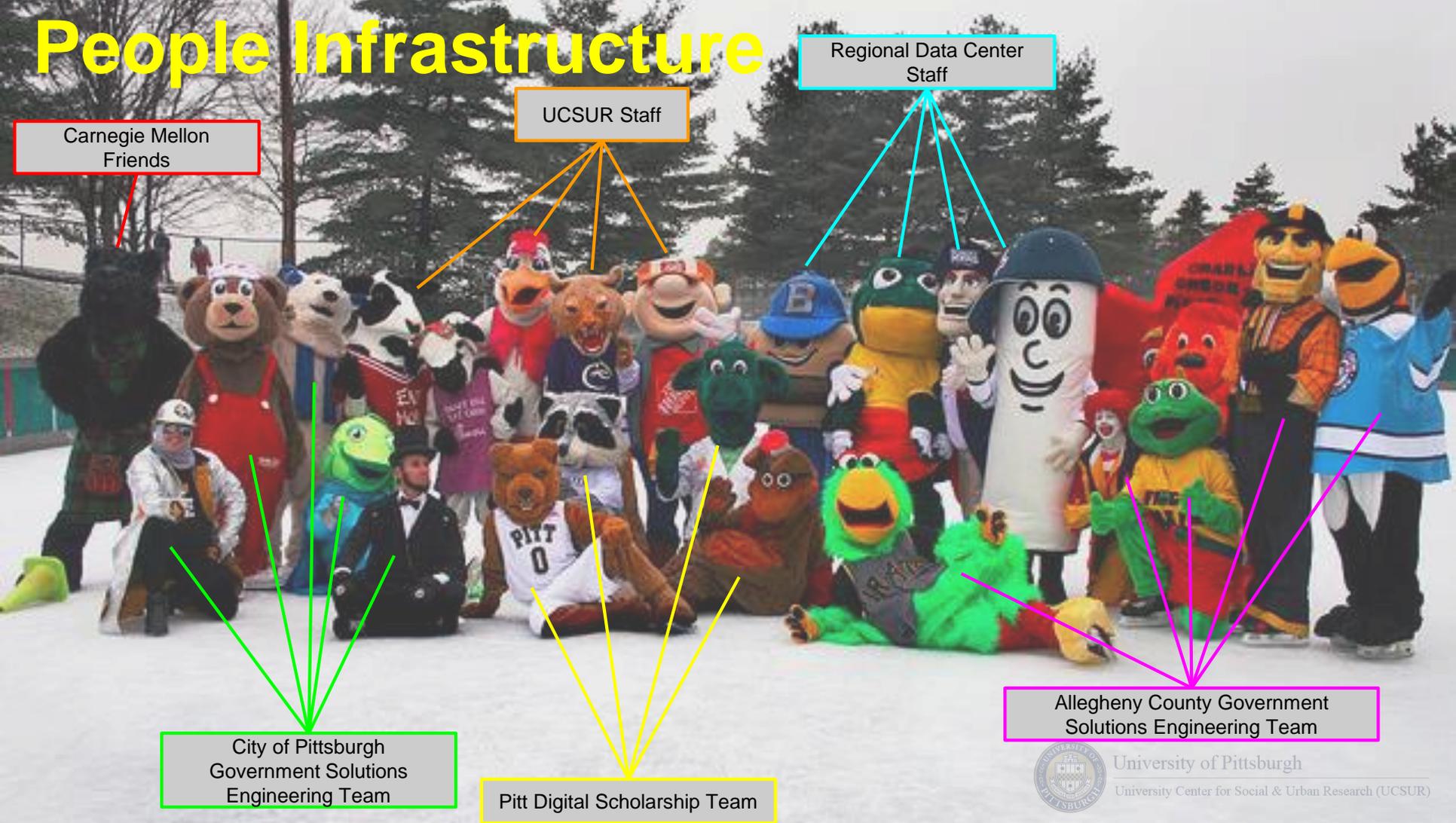
Pitt Digital Scholarship Team

Allegheny County Government
Solutions Engineering Team



University of Pittsburgh

University Center for Social & Urban Research (UCSUR)





9. The role of an **information intermediary** is more important than ever.



We're Live!

www.wprdc.org

@WPRDC

profiles.ucsur.pitt.edu

@SWPAprofiles



University of Pittsburgh

University Center for Social & Urban Research (UCSUR)