2024 Connecticut Open Data Year in Review



Introduction

This document highlights open data work done by Connecticut state agencies in 2024, including new and updated data made available as open data, analytics from the CT Open Data Portal, and examples where open data from state agencies were featured in the news.

We include highlights from the CT Open Data Portal (data.ct.gov) and the CT Geodata Portal (geodata.ct.gov), the two open data platforms administered by the Data and Policy Analytics Division in the Office of Policy and Management.

Ten years of CT Open Data

The CT Open Data Portal celebrated its ten-year anniversary in 2024. On March 7, 2024, we celebrated Open Data Day and ten years of the CT Open Data Portal with a convening of agency data users to celebrate and share open data resources.

Governor Lamont recognized the anniversary of CT Open Data on Open Data Day with a press release, available here: <u>Governor Lamont Commemorates International Open Data Day, Celebrates</u> <u>Ten-Year Anniversary of Connecticut's Open Data Portal.</u>

In the Open Data Day convening of open data users from state agencies, presentation topics included updates from the CT GIS Office, the Freedom of Information Commission, the OpenCT apps from the Office of the State Comptroller, and data storytelling. Slides from the day are available here: <u>Open Data Day 2024 Slides</u>.



GOVERNOR NED LAMONT

Governor Lamont Commemorates International Open Data Day, Celebrates Ten-Year Anniversary of Connecticut's Open Data Portal

3/01/2024

(HARTFORD, CT) – Governor Ned Lamont today is marking International Open Data Day – which this year is celebrated on Saturday, March 2, 2024 – by highlighting the availability of data for the public through the Connecticut Open Data Portal, data.ct.gov. This year marks the tenth anniversary of the creation of the portal, which makes data collected by state government more easily accessible to the public and promotes greater government transparency.

"The Connecticut Open Data Portal is helpful to our state's residents, businesses, and governments as we can make data instantly available and customizable to the user," Governor Lamont said. "By providing data online, we have been able to accurately report spending and share data about economic development, public health, sustainability, and address historical inequities. These efforts continue to receive national recognition, and I look forward to seeing the continuation of these open data efforts going forward."

The Connecticut Open Data Portal was launched in 2014. It currently hosts more than 550 datasets submitted by various s agencies and more than 30 data stories that highlight trends in data. Over the last year, the portal has served more than 175.



New open data resources

To build capacity around open data, we developed new resources including several screencasts on topics like navigating the CT Open Data Portal and using open data in R Studio. We also launched new guidance on data visualization and accessibility. Select open data resources developed in 2024 are highlighted below.

- Open data screencasts. For Open Data Day, we developed screencasts on topics including how to navigate the CT Open Data Portal and the CT Geodata Portal, how to make a chart on the Open Data Portal, and how to use open data in R Studio, as well as screencasts about different projects using open data.
- **Data Visualization and Accessibility Guidance**. These guidelines highlight best practices for creating clear and accessible data visualizations. They include guidance on the data visualization process, tools, and accessibility best practices.
- **R User Group**: A new R User Group for state employees was launched in the summer of 2024, and many open data users at state agencies have participated as participants and presenters in the monthly calls.
- <u>New data request form</u>. We launched a new form to solicit questions and feedback on what data our users want to see on the Open Data Portal and the Geodata Portal.



Figure 2 Screencast about how to make a chart on the CT Open Data Portal

New data

Connecticut state agencies continued to publish new data on the CT Open Data Portal in 2024. Eighty new datasets were published in 2024!

- **CT State Library**. CSL started publishing data on the Portal in 2024, including high-traffic datasets, such as <u>Index of Marriages, 1897-2001</u>; <u>Index of Deaths, 1897-2001</u>; and <u>Compiled</u> <u>Legislative Histories</u>.
- **Department of Administrative Services**. DAS published several new datasets including <u>supplier diversity data</u> and <u>HVAC indoor air quality grants for public schools</u>.
- Department of Consumer Protection. DCP published new datasets, including data on <u>cannabis prices</u>, medical marijuana program product registrations and program summary, <u>amusement park rides registered</u>, and <u>upcoming carnivals</u>.
- **Department of Motor Vehicles**. DMV began publishing data on <u>electric vehicle (EV)</u> <u>registrations</u> in the state.
- **Department of Public Health**. DPH published new data, including data on <u>local health</u> <u>departments</u>, which the CT GIS Office visualized in a <u>new map</u>.
- Department of Revenue Services. DRS published new data on <u>sales and use taxes</u>, <u>personal</u> income taxes, property tax credits, <u>Earned Income Tax Credit</u>, <u>highway use fees</u>, <u>business tax</u> <u>credits</u>, and <u>cannabis taxes</u>.
- **Department of Veterans Affairs**. DVA worked with the CT GIS Office to publish data on local veteran representatives and to develop a <u>lookup tool</u> to show the representative for each town.
- Office of Policy and Management. OPM published new datasets including, <u>Mashantucket</u>
 <u>Pequot/Mohegan Fund Grant History</u>, <u>Local Capital Improvement Program (LoCIP) Grant</u>
 <u>Annual Reporting</u>, and <u>Local Capital Improvement Program Municipal Grant Amounts</u>. The GIS
 Office acquired imagery and LiDAR data for the state, which are now available on the <u>CT ECO</u>
 <u>website</u>, and also launched the <u>CT Housing Data Hub</u>.



Figure 3 "Find your Local Veterans Representative" app created with open data published by the Department of Veterans Affairs

Updated data

Agencies continued to maintain the data they publish on the CT Open Data Portal. Some notable data updates in 2024 are listed below.

- Connecticut Siting Council. CSC updated data on <u>telecommunications towers and</u>
 <u>antennas</u>.
- **Department of Consumer Protection**. DCP publishes many regularly-updated datasets on the ODP, including the <u>Prescription Monitoring Program data</u>, which is updated quarterly.
- **Department of Economic and Community Development**. DECD updated several datasets including data on <u>construction</u>; film, tv, and digital media tax credits; housing permits; <u>business assistance</u>; and <u>DECD and SHPO grant recipients</u>.
- **Department of Housing**. DOH updated the <u>Governor's Report on Housing Development</u> and <u>Affordable Housing by Town</u> datasets.
- **Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services**. DMHAS updated <u>data on their clients</u>, including breakdowns by town, level of care, program type, etc.
- **Department of Public Health**. DPH maintained data on <u>reportable diseases</u> and updated <u>school immunization data</u> in 2024.

- **Department of Social Services**. DSS updated <u>data on people served</u> by the agency, including breakdowns by town, medical benefit plan, type of assistance, and various demographic categories.
- Office of Policy and Management. OPM published updated <u>municipal fiscal indicators data</u> at the end of 2024 and updated the data story for <u>Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act</u> (IIJA)/Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) Projects. OPM also updated the <u>Juvenile Justice</u> Equity Dashboard. The GIS Office worked with the Regional Councils of Governments and the municipalities to update parcel data for the state, which is available in the <u>CT Parcel Viewer</u>.

CT Department of Consumer Protection Prescription Monitoring Program



Naloxone Prescriptions

Naloxone is used to quickly reverse an opioid overdose. Naloxone is an opioid antagonist, and works by attaching to opioid receptors, to reverse and block the effects of other opioids. Effective January 1, 2021, dispensation information for specific nonschedule medications, including naloxone, are required to be uploaded into the CPMRS. Naloxone may also be distributed by entities other than a pharmacy, which may not be reported to the CPMRS. The data presented **only** includes **dispensations** to **CT residents** reported to the CT Prescription Monitoring & Reporting System (CPMRS).

Disclaimer: All data reported by the Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP) is compiled at specific points in time and only captures data entered at that time. The data values may subsequently be updated and may change over time as these updates occur. Accordingly, quarterly reported data may vary from annually reported data. The data does not contain information about the diagnoses and does not reflect the use intended by the prescriber.

Data Source: Connecticut Prescription Monitoring and Reporting System (CPMRS)



Figure 4 Prescription Monitoring Program data story on the CT Open Data Portal

Open data in the news

Data on the Open Data Portal was featured in the news a few times in 2024, including in the stories linked below.

- <u>Connecticut studying racial disparities in juvenile diversion programs</u>, Ashad Hajela, CT Mirror, May 16, 2024. Featuring the Juvenile Justice Equity Dashboard.
- <u>No. of small, minority-owned biz certified for state diversity program falls 32% since 2020</u>, David Krechevsky, Hartford Business Journal, August 23, 2024. Features Supplier Diversity Program dashboard.
- <u>Data shows racial inequities in CT youth justice programs, lawmaker says</u>, Ashad Hajela, CT Mirror, September 20, 2024. Featuring the Juvenile Justice Equity Dashboard.
- <u>Connecticut State Data Plan Survey</u>, For the People, November 26, 2024. Interview with Chief Data Officer and Open Data Coordinator.
- <u>State unveils dashboard to track Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funds</u>, Brandon Whiting, Inside Investigator, December 11, 2024. Features the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act Dashboard.

Open data analytics

Site analytics for the CT Open Data Portal are available in the <u>Open Data Portal Site Analytics</u> <u>dashboard</u>. Highlights from the 2024 analytics are summarized below.

• **Data downloads, views, and API calls**. Traffic on the Portal increased from 2023 to 2024, with API reads increasing by 6%, downloads increasing by 21%, grid views increasing by 72%, and landing page views increasing by 85%.

					Change	Annual	
Traffic type	2021	2022	2023	2024	since 2021	change	Trendline
APIreads	12,509,662	28,607,465	38,506,336	40,684,663	225%	6%	
Downloads	180,981	224,190	279,318	337,936	87%	21%	
Grid views	128,913	114,375	101,209	173,954	35%	72%	
Landing page views	537,572	381,234	235,066	434,353	-19%	85%	\langle

Dataset traffic, 2021-2024

Data story views. Traffic to data stories on the ODP decreased significantly, by -78% from 2023 to 2024. This decrease in traffic was due to reduced traffic to data stories about COVID-19.

Data story traffic, 2021-2024

					Change	Annual	
Traffic type	2021	2022	2023	2024	since 2021	change	Trendline
Data story views	3,121,886	2,228,022	714,815	154,504	-95%	-78%	/

- **Open data publishers and editors**. The number of editors on the Open Data Portal stayed about the same from 2023 to 2024, with 174 editors and publishers at the end of 2024.
- **Users**. According to Google Analytics, the Open Data Portal had 185,000+ users in 2023. In 2024, there were 328,000+ users. The 2024 data excludes three anomalies in late July and early August when the platform received a huge spike in traffic from spammers.