

# House Bill 1470: Creating the path for data-driven decisions in Indiana



TECHPOINT STAFF JULY 10, 2017 COMMUNITY, OPEN DATA

In today's world, data is knowledge. That's why it was one big leap for Indiana when the House and Senate voted to pass **House Bill 1470** — also known as the Open Data Bill — to formally codify the open sharing of information between agencies.

Although the bill was passed just this year, Indiana has a history of inter-agency data sharing to support state initiatives. From the Indiana Fair Information Practices Act facilitating information sharing across agency silos in 1978, to establishing Government Efficiency & Financial Planning within the Office of Management and Budget in 2006, information sharing has been supported for quite some time.

## How House Bill 1470 Came to Be

“Data-driven decision making allows us to make better-informed policy decisions and improve services and programs,” says Darshan Shah, Chief Data Officer of the **Management Performance Hub**. “But, more importantly, we have to continue to make sure we are efficient with our resources while driving better policy decisions and improved services and programs. With that in mind, I think that's really the origin from which the vision of HB 1470 was founded.”



**Darshan Shah**  
Chief Data Officer

According to Darshan, there was tremendous support for HB 1470. “I would say the beauty of data is that it’s politically agnostic,” says Darshan. “For that reason, we’re lucky to have strong support across the board and across both aisles.”

While there were many supporters of the bill, Darshan credits three individuals with truly moving the legislation forward: Indiana Governor Eric Holcomb, the author Representative David Ober, and Senator Brandt Hershman, a key sponsor for the bill.

“It’s really the result of those three individuals understanding the power and importance of data-driven decisions and policymaking across the state,” says Darshan. “Governor Holcomb has five pillars to move the state forward, and pillar number five is a focus on providing great government service at great value to taxpayers. We’d like to think that HB 1470 is central to that theme.”

Overall, the community has been extremely supportive of the legislation as well. “We’re lucky in the fact that driving decision making with data is really an interest of all state agencies and the broader public,” says Darshan. “That being a priority, and the fact that it’s been embraced by the broader community, has been extremely encouraging and exciting for us.”

### **The Benefits of House Bill 1470**

HB 1470 brings a variety of benefits to Indiana. “First, it codifies the program to collect, analyze, and exchange government information from, but more importantly to, state agencies,” says Darshan. “Secondly, it codifies the program to make government information available externally to agencies, researchers, non-profits, community organizations, universities, NGOs, the general public — the list goes on and on.”

While the ultimate goal is sharing and using information efficiently to make better decisions, HB 1470 creates new opportunities for programs and services in the state. “The idea is to unlock that information in order to take advantage of the strengths we have in our communities to further improve our collective programs and services using data as our guide,” says Darshan.

As a result of the Open Data Bill being passed, Darshan’s position, the state’s chief data officer (CDO) with the Management Performance Hub (MPH), was created to help facilitate the goals of HB 1470. As the CDO, he will be responsible for helping state agencies establish KPIs to measure and improve performance; leverage data and analytics to drive programs and efficiencies; and share data with community partners in order to improve transparency and drive innovative solutions.

**What’s on the Horizon for HB 1470**

Now that HB 1470 has passed, data is already being used to further Indiana’s initiatives.

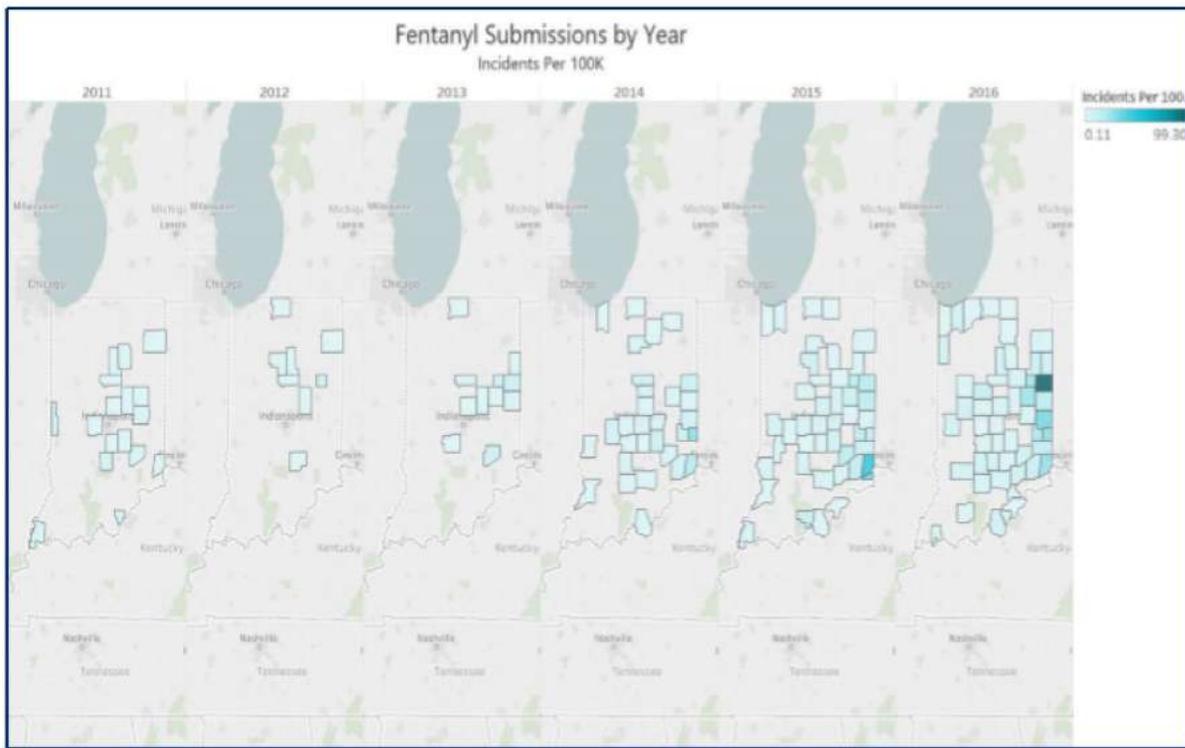
4-Prong Vision			
Performance Management	Data Informed Initiatives	Technology Services	Data Hub
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Key Performance Indicators developed in partnership with state agencies to evaluate outcome-based performance</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Custom analytics solutions that address complex mgmt and policy questions and create better outcomes for Hoosiers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Leverage data in innovative ways to create new insights and promote technical discovery</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Promote transparency through access to downloadable data sets from across Indiana government</li> </ul>

“We have a number of key projects that are currently in progress,” says Darshan. “The beauty of getting the data unlocked from the state government is it allows us to be able to share information between agencies, on behalf of agencies, in order to be able to continue to improve services and programs.”

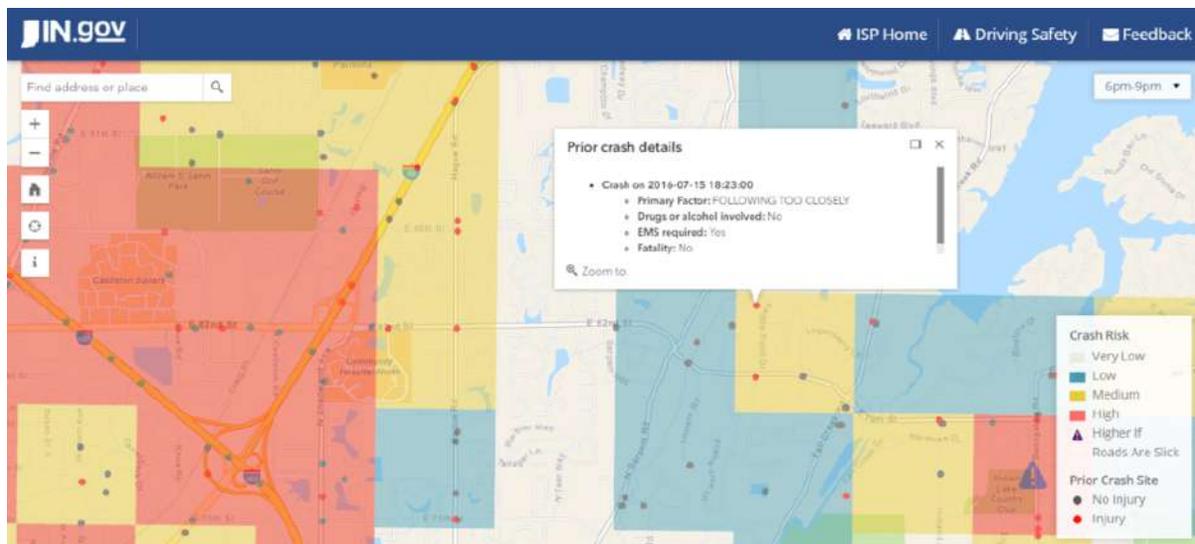
Specifically, Governor Holcomb and MPH are focused on five different projects to support the state:

**Key Performance Indicators:** establishing KPIs to measure and improve government performance across executive state agencies. Allows MPH to be able to see where they’re doing well, where there are areas for improvement and continue to move the dial.

**Drug Prevention:** gathering data to better guide the efforts of the Governor and Director for Drug Prevention, Treatment, and Enforcement, Jim McClelland, to tackle the opioid drug epidemic. MPH is working with 16 agencies to collect and share information to unlock new insights into this fight.



**Indiana State Police Partnership:** using a mapping tool created by MPH that allows citizens, law enforcement, and first responders to visualize when and where crashes are likely to occur throughout the State. The goal is to reduce the number of accidents and fatalities. According to Darshan, early returns have already shown a reduction in the number of accidents in 2017 compared to 2016.



**Education & Workforce Development:** working to build a system and community of researchers to unlock insights to be able to determine what educational programs are impacting wages across the state. MPH has partnered with four different agencies across state government to create what they call a longitudinal record for education, workforce, and social services.