MILWAUKEE POVERTY DATABASE

The database will be free, comprehensive and publicly available. Data would include unemployment and poverty rates; incarceration rates; health statistics including morbidity and mortality, lead poisoning, substance abuse and asthma; and education statistics such as student achievement, dropout and truancy rates. The database could stimulate reporting and community action that would drive progress and improve lives in the central city. It also would inform student work and academic research.

ABOUT OUR TEAM

Milwaukee Neighborhood News Service recognized the need for easy access to local data related to poverty, and applied for and won a competitive grant from the Online News Association, a national organization. The original team comprised journalists, Diederich faculty, community representatives and data experts. Matt Richardson, CEO of SmartWave Consulting, brings expertise in open government technology and project management.

Dr. John Pauly: Diederich College of Communication, journalism department chair; lead project advisor
Sharon McGowan: Diederich faculty; editor, Milwaukee Neighborhood News Service (NNS)
Matt Richardson: Milwaukee Data Initiative; technology consultant
James Brust: Walker Media Lab director; technology consultant
Herbert Lowe: Diederich faculty; project advisor (not pictured)

BEYOND BOUNDARIES

Social Responsibility and Community Engagement

Community organizations, students, researchers and others will have access to information they need to counter the pervasive notion that poverty is permanent and that nothing can be done to alleviate it. Users will be able to demonstrate that public and private policies and decisions affect the extent and degree of poverty. The data will inform the work of community organizations and individuals pursuing social justice in the city’s poorest neighborhoods. NNS and other news outlets will produce stories based on the data, making the wider community more knowledgeable about these issues.