InstantAtlas™ Tutorial

Overview

InstantAtlas™, developed by GeoWise Ltd, is an online system for the display of geographically indexed quantitative data in a dynamic format to inform key temporal and geographical trends.

In order to use "InstantAtlas" you will need to download and install a scaleable vector graphics (SVG) viewer. You can download both PC and Mac versions of the SVG viewer for free direct from the Adobe website. If your computer is on a network you may need to be logged on as an administrator to succesfully install the viewer. Please contact your network administrator for more information.

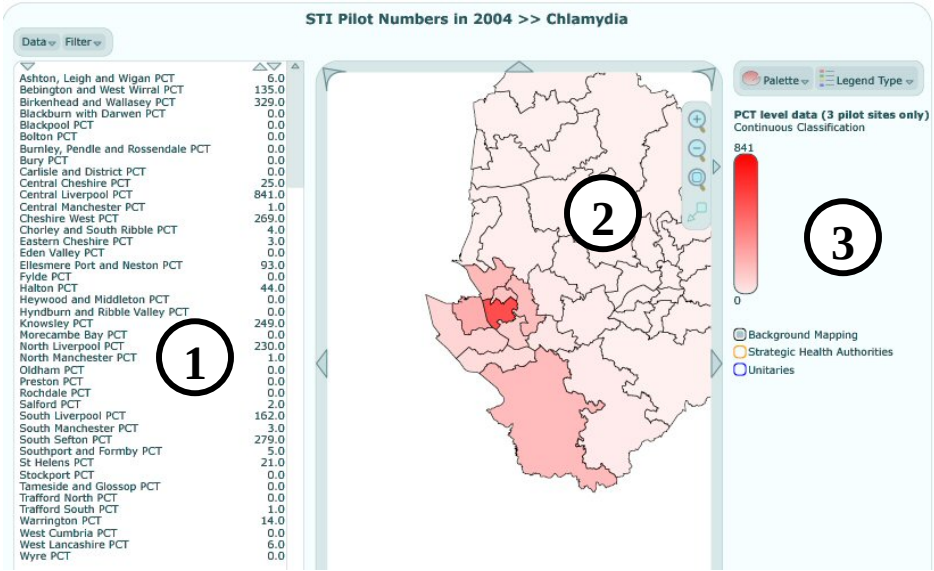
http://www.adobe.com/svg/viewer/install

Basics

The InstantAtlas template displays the same data simultaneously in a number of different ways. The template consists of (see Fig 1 below):

(1) A list of data by relevant geographical areas (ie PCTs)
(2) A thematic map of the North West Region (showing PCT boundaries) with optional background mapping and higher level boundaries (SHA or county)
(3) An interactive map legend allowing manipulation of how the data appears on the map

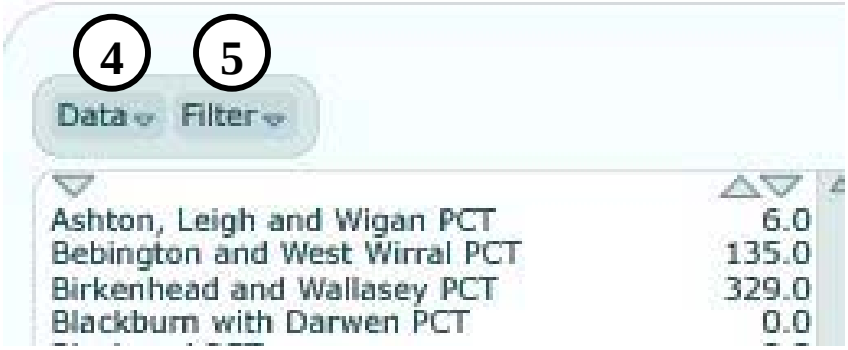
Fig 1 Overview of template showing with the various components numbered



Selecting the data to be displayed

InstantAtlas can be used to display a variety of data from core spreadsheets. The data to be viewed is selected using the buttons in the top left corner of the atlas (Fig 2). Data can be sorted either alphabetically by geography, or numerically by data, using the filter buttons at the top of the geographical area list.

Fig 2 Data selection buttons

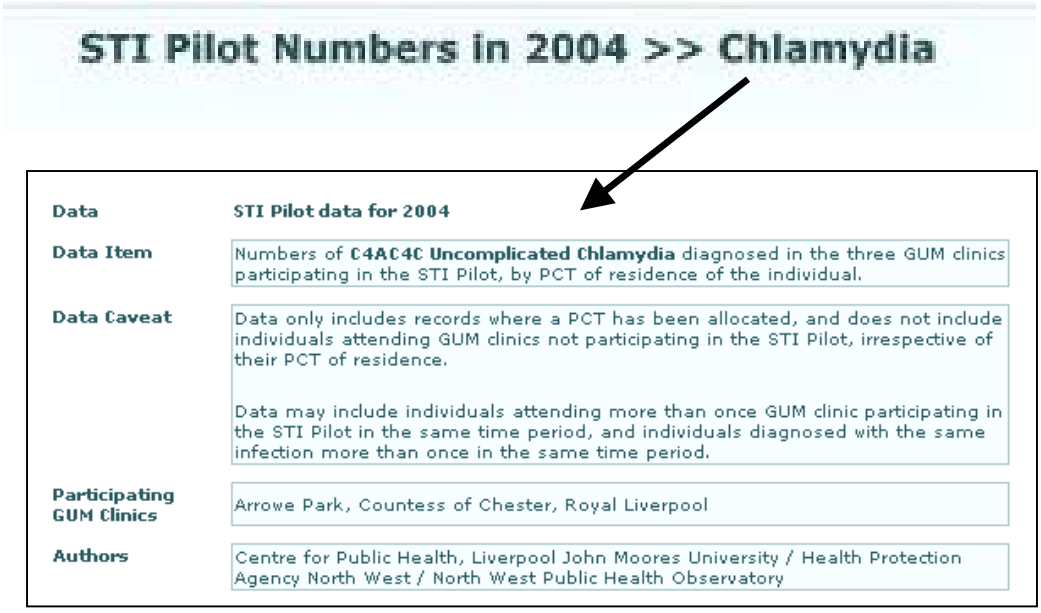


(4) Data – lists the datasets available for display with InstantAtlas (NB submenus available)
(5) Filter – geographically filters the data by higher geography

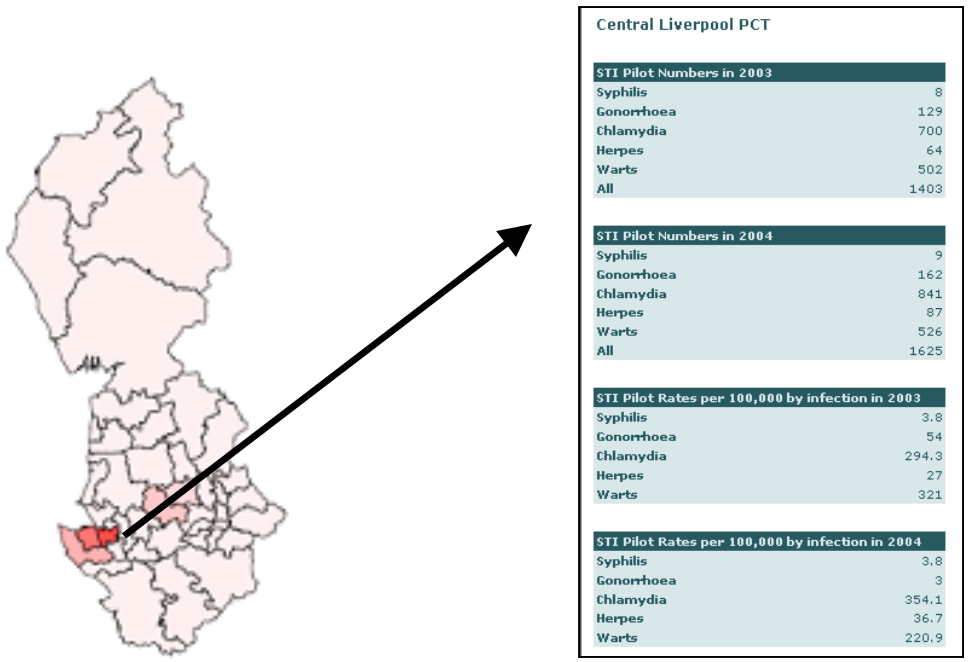
Data chosen in this way is displayed in the template as a 'snapshot' of data. Snapshots of data are defined by the year and area selected and exhibited in the geographical area list (1 above), and the thematic map (2 above).

The details of the data selected are always shown in the atlas title (Fig 3). Clicking on the title will give more detailed information about the data.

Fig 3 Data details



Clicking on any of the geography areas in the thematic map (2 above) will result in a data table being produced, summarising all data relating to that geographical area.



Central Liverpool PCT

STI Pilot Numbers in 2003	
Syphilis	8
Gonorrhoea	129
Chlamydia	700
Herpes	64
Warts	502
All	1403

STI Pilot Numbers in 2004	
Syphilis	9
Gonorrhoea	162
Chlamydia	841
Herpes	87
Warts	526
All	1625

STI Pilot Rates per 100,000 by infection in 2003	
Syphilis	3.8
Gonorrhoea	54
Chlamydia	294.3
Herpes	27
Warts	321

STI Pilot Rates per 100,000 by infection in 2004	
Syphilis	3.8
Gonorrhoea	3
Chlamydia	354.1
Herpes	36.7
Warts	220.9

Fig 4 Data tables

Changing the view of the map

The map window can be viewed at a number of different scales and the appearance of the data also adjusted. First, you can navigate around the map using the arrows at its border and the zoom in (+) and zoom out (–) magnifying glass buttons to the right of the map. As with all other buttons in the Atlas, hovering the mouse cursor over a button will display its function in the subtitle of the Atlas. The reset button (below the zoom out button) returns the map to the whole region scale and the resize enlarges the map to cover over other components of the Atlas.

It is also possible to zoom in on a particlar part of the map by clicking and holding your mouse button on the edge of the map, and dragging the yellow box that will appear over the area you want to see in more detail.

The other main ways to change the view of the map are using the 'Palette' and 'Legend' buttons. Palette gives a selection of different colours for the map shading and Legend lets you choose the range by which to present the data; continuous, quantile, equal interval or outliers.

Finally, the Atlas can be copied and pasted into another document (eg a presentation or report) by right clicking anywhere on the Atlas and selecting 'Copy SVG'. It can then be pasted into another document as a normal picture would be. Alternatively, a screen dump (PrtSc) will also allow you to capture the image, albeit in slightly less quality.