James Benedict Star Tribune Portfolio

Click a headline to navigate to the project's website

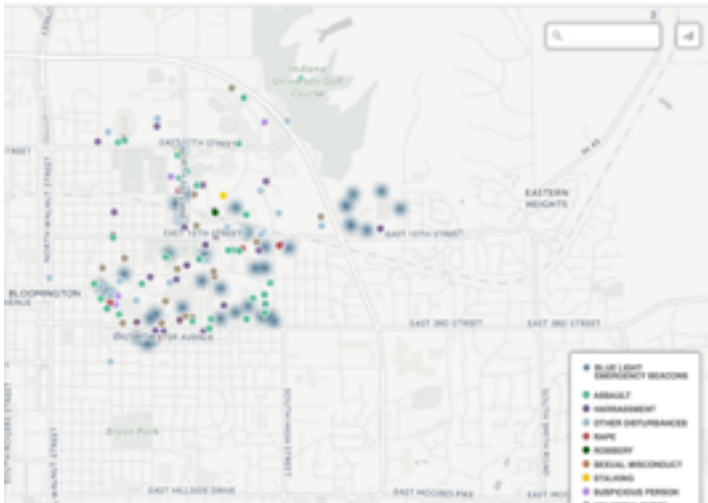## Lost in Transition

Author • Photographer • Developer

Clinics treating HIV in rural Uganda cannot keep track of migrant workers who travel between clinics frequently. This is enough to discourage fishermen from maintaining treatment in Kalangala, Uganda's smallest district.

I reported on HIV in Uganda for a month as part of an internship with the Daily Monitor, Uganda's largest independent paper.
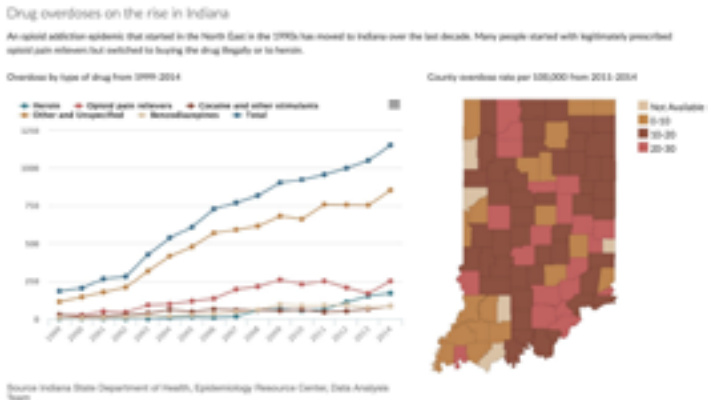

Bloomington Crime Map

Data editor • Graphics

Indiana University places blue light emergency beacons around campus for the safety of its students. The IDS found that this method was not very cost efficient and the lights' locations didn't correspond to areas with the most crime.

I wrote a script to scrape and parse pdfs from the Indiana University Police Department website. I then mapped the location of crimes against the blue lights. I'm currently working on a project to automate this.

Longform Template

Developer • Instructor

As digital editor for the IDS, I noticed much of the staff had great digital ideas but didn't know where to start in front of a computer. I developed a template that allowed a designer with little to no experience to copy-paste their way to a website. The project also served as the first official digital longform style guide for the paper.

I found making a tool for others tremendously rewarding. Watching the number of people with digital skills on our staff multiply made me feel as if I had given something back to a newsroom I love.

Untreated

Developer • Data editor • Graphics

Like the rest of the country, the opioid epidemic has hit Indiana hard. Despite advice from medical experts, the state overwhelmingly does not use medicine to treat addiction. Why does the state under use the most efficient treatment?

I created a series of graphics contextualizing the narrative and developed a custom website for the project. I also managed database reporting for the author.

The Unsettled

Project Manager • Template Developer • Editor

A family of Syrian refugees react to hearing Governor Mike Pence declare Indiana will no longer welcome people like them.

This was the first story made from a template I developed as digital editor. I oversaw the online presentation as I taught a print designer how to make a website.

First Rounds

Developer • Photographer

Indiana University isn't primarily policed by the local police, but instead by university students learning to become officers.

I followed a cadet class for a semester, reporting on how these students are expected to learn how to police their peers.

State of Mind

Developer • Data Editor

Depression and anxiety disorders are increasing on college campuses across the country and Indiana is no exception.

I worked to better visualize quantitative information that would have bogged down the story. I also designed a long form feature to better present the story online. After seeing the success of this project, I began developing a template to allow other designers to make long form features online.

Messes of Meth

Project Manager • Template Developer

Who cleans up a meth house? Many can't answer this, despite the epidemic of methamphetamine use in Indiana. This story profiles the man who makes former production houses livable again.

I managed the digital presentation of this story and developed the template the designer used to make the online presentation.