



Health Data and Collaboration: Challenges and Opportunities

Population Change and Lifecourse Strategic Knowledge
Cluster

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OTTAWA



Health Data Challenges

- The health sector is complex because it is fragmented and has multiple players:
 - Statistics Canada
 - Canadian Institute for Health Information
 - Public Health Agency of Canada
 - Health Canada
 - Provincial / Territorial Jurisdictions
 - First Nations & Inuit Communities
 - Canadian Institutes for Health Research and the Social Sciences and Humanity Research Council are funding multiple independent researchers



Health Data Challenges

- The health sector covers a wide array of information:
 - Health Status;
 - Health Promotion and Disease Prevention;
 - Primary Care;
 - Ambulatory Care;
 - Acute care;
 - Long-term and continuing care;
 - Population health;
 - Population structures; and
 - Other types of information



Opportunities

- There are very significant investments in information collection; for instance, the Federal Government invests annually over \$150M, which is easily matched by provincial / territorial investments;
- We see more and more investment in data dissemination: Federal Government Open Data strategy, Support for Data Research Centres, data merging between survey and administrative data, etc;
- Models and research questions are becoming more sophisticated;



Opportunities

- Internally, the Federal Government is developing a health data strategy, which is geared at identifying:
 - Where we are data rich, poor, deficient?
 - What are the highest data priorities for each agencies?
 - What opportunities are likely to emerge in the near future?
 - How will we get ready for the transition to electronic health records?
- We were interested to get the view of the Cluster, in order to support academic research.



Opportunities

- We would be interested in eventual collaborations with researchers affiliated to the Cluster on topics that are linked to some of our broad research areas:
 - Key trends in the population and its impact on the health care system;
 - How to improve the efficiency of the health care system;
 - Innovative ways to finance the health care system to be better able to respond to the changing health care needs.
- These collaborations could be through the hiring of students that would work at ARAD with the supervision of one of our researchers in collaboration with an academic researcher.

