Research opportunities with linked health administrative files

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Linked Databases:

Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS)

National Ambulatory Care Reporting System (NACRS)

Discharge Abstract Database (DAD)

Ontario Mental Health Reporting System (OMHRS)

Canadian Vital Statistics Database (CVSD)

Historical Postal Codes (HPC)

Census & T1FF

Objective

Collaboration between Statistics Canada and the Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI)

Allow researchers to analyze the behavioural, socio-economic, and environmental factors alongside health outcomes and healthcare utilization at the population level

About the data

Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS)

- Annual, cross-sectional survey
- From 2001 to 2017 with ~65,000 participants/year

Discharge Abstract Database (DAD)

- Information on all hospital discharges
- From 1999/00 to 2017/18

National Ambulatory Care Reporting System (NACRS)

- Information on hospital- and community-based ambulatory care
- From 2002/03 to 2017/18

Ontario Mental Health Reporting System (OMHRS)

- Information on adult mental health services in Ontario
- From 2006/07 to 2017/18

About the data

Canadian Vital Statistics Death Database (CVSD)

- Information on deaths in Canada
- From 2000 to 2017

Historical Postal Codes (HPC)

- Information of postal codes history based on annual submission of the T1 Personal Master File to the CRA
- From 2000 to 2016

T1 Family File (T1FF)

- Information on sources of income and some demographic indicators (e.g., spouse & dependents)
- From 1993 to 2017

Census of Population

- Information used to identify individuals who transitioned to living in a nursing home/senior's residence
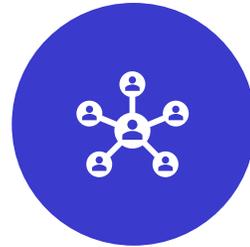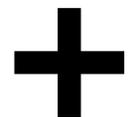- 2011 and 2016 short-form Census

Opportunities

EXPANDS THE RANGE OF POTENTIAL RESEARCH PROJECTS

PROVIDE MORE EVIDENCE-BASED RESEARCH

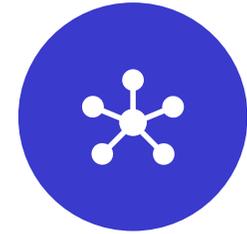PROMOTES COLLABORATIVE, INTERDISCIPLINARY EXCHANGE OF IDEAS

Challenges

ABILITY OF EXISTING COMPUTERS TO ANALYZE LARGE COHORT DATA

NEED FOR MORE IN-HOUSE DATA DICTIONARIES AND/OR USER GUIDES

IMPROVED SUPPORT ON UTILIZING DATA LINKAGES