

Shaping a Vision for Health Statistics

- = Recent Canadian Health Info Initiatives
- = Creation and Analysis of Linked Data Sets
- = Reporting on Health
- = International Comparability
- = Early lessons



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Brief History of Canadian Health Info Initiatives

- **National Task Force on Health Information (1991) → “Health Info Coordinating Council”, common concepts and definitions, person-oriented info, “GDP of Health”**
- **Formation of Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI) (1994)**
- **National Population Health Survey**

Brief History of Canadian Health Info Initiatives (cont'd)

- **x-country consultations (1998) → Health Info Roadmap → Feb 99 Federal Budget (\$\$\$)**
 - How healthy are Canadians?
 - How healthy is the health care system?
- **Health Info-Structure Report (1997) → Advisory Ctte on Health Info (1999) → 10 year Blueprint + 2 year Tactical Plan (2000)**
 - Federal / Provincial cooperation
 - electronic patient record
 - harmonized privacy legislation

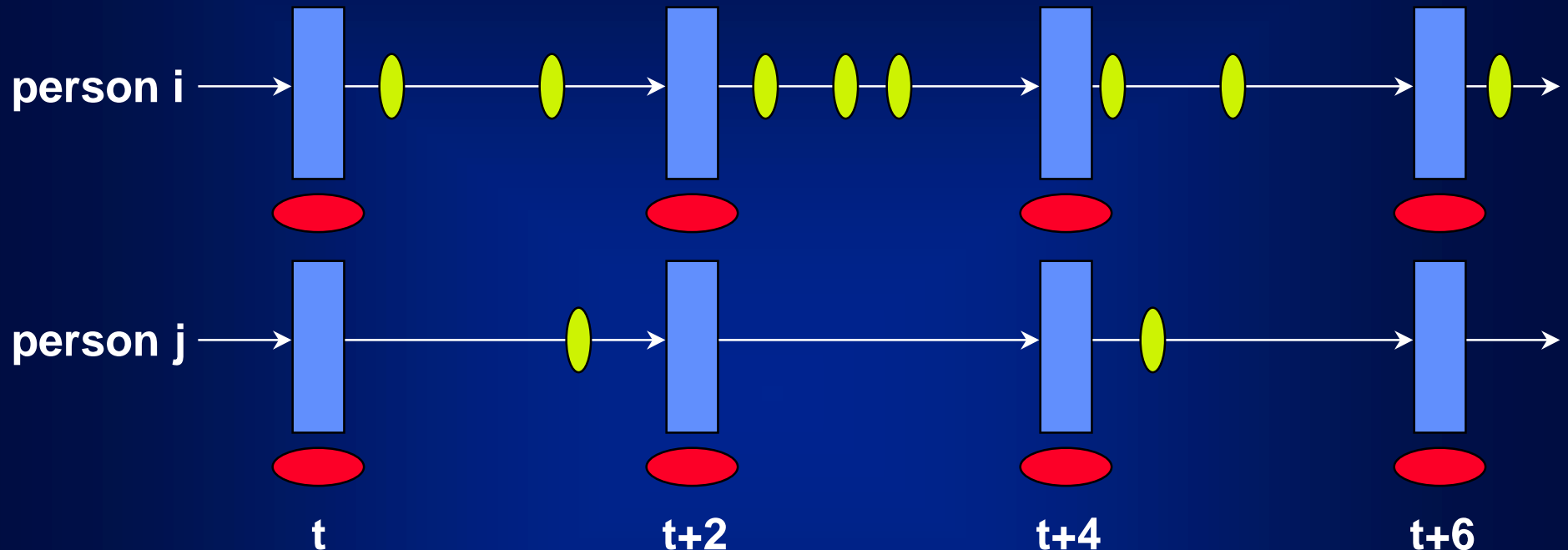
Broadly Agreed Priorities / Objectives

- **Common concepts and definitions**
- **Spanning the “continuum of care”**
- **Costs -connected to- interventions**
 - **-connected to- outcomes**
- **Inter-operable systems / integrable data**
- **Person-oriented information**
- **Collect once, use many**
- **Front line data providers should find the data directly useful**
- **Info for the general public as well as for system managers (demand for local data)**

A Few Comments on Privacy of Health Information

- **No central mega-databases**
- **Consent requested whenever possible**
 - **94% of NPHS respondents agree to give Statistics Canada access to their health care administrative records**
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- **Research Data Centres**
- **Research / analytical ↔ administrative uses**

NPHS Linked Sample Data Structure



 personal interview content (socio-demographic, disability, etc. + info for other family members)

 health care service encounter (e.g. hospital in-patient stay; date, diagnosis, procedures, etc.)

 attributes of person's geographic neighbourhood

Statistics Canada's Community Health Survey

- Complement to NPHS
- Provide sub-provincial, health region level data
- Cross-sectional, large sample every other year
- n = 130,000; minimum 500 per region
- Focus on health status and risk factors
- Some regional variation in questionnaires
- Permission to link to health care records
- Sub-samples focusing on physical measures

Person-Oriented Information (POI) / Longitudinal Health Histories

- Pilot projects already begun
- Hospital morbidity + mortality linkage
- “five provinces” pilot project in Canadian Population Health Initiative (CPHI) and plans to fund / link research “nodes”
- Morbidity + mortality + cancer registry
- Partnership being developed with disease surveillance
 - disease registries ultimately only subsets of proper POI system
 - POI much more powerful, e.g. co-morbidities

Reporting on Health

- **First joint annual reports from Statistics Canada and CIHI**
 - How Healthy are Canadians? March 31,
 - Health Services: First Annual Report, April 26
- **Indicators focus at health region**
- **Measurement of health status**
 - currently no international standard
 - conference planned for Fall 2000

International Comparability

- Accepted in economic statistics
- In health, widely adopted standards only for “disease” (ICD)
- Why not also for health status
- (e.g. disability) ?
- U.S. leadership - ICE

Lessons

- **Definition and agreement to “Standards” does not necessarily lead to standard collection**
- **Cooperation from a vast number of interests**
- **Consult, consult, consult**
- **Public is amazed by what we do not know**
- **Long term investment is needed**