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Canadian Vital Statistics System

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Telling Canada's
story in numbers

**Valérie Gaston,
Vital Statistics Section
Health Statistics Division**

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Canada 



Vital Statistics in Canada

- Civil registration of birth, death, stillbirth and marriage events in 10 provinces and 3 territories
 - P/T Vital Statistics Act
 - Health Department to Service Departments
- Vital statistics on births, deaths, stillbirths released by Statistics Canada since 1921
 - Collected under Statistics Act



Vital Statistics Council for Canada

- Inter-jurisdictional advisory group composed of the heads of the vital statistics agencies from each provincial and territorial government and the Health Statistics Division of Statistics Canada.
- Created in 1945, council meets annually in person and via monthly teleconferences.
- Provides a forum for developing common approaches to:
 - Create a uniform approach to governing legislation
 - Collect vital statistics data
 - Share of information with external parties
 - Liaise with external stakeholders
 - Facilitate problem solving by sharing experiences

National Routing System (NRS)

- NRS is a set of technical and messaging standards that define what and how information will be transferred to the receiving party. It is point to point and based on bilateral agreements.
- NRS messages for
 - Birth, death, and stillbirth notifications
 - Birth certificate validation
 - Future messages: change of name, change of sex
- NRS partners:
 - Provincial and territorial vital statistics agencies
 - Three federal partners: Statistics Canada, Canada Revenue Agency, and Service Canada
 - Future partners : Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (Passport Canada), Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada, Nunavut

Governance of the NRS

- Steering committee composed of a subset of federal, provincial and territorial partners. Sub-committees are formed to address specific technical and message standard issues
 - Gender identity (Introduction of “X”)
 - Identity management
 - Change of name, change of sex notifications
 - Inclusion of aboriginal characters

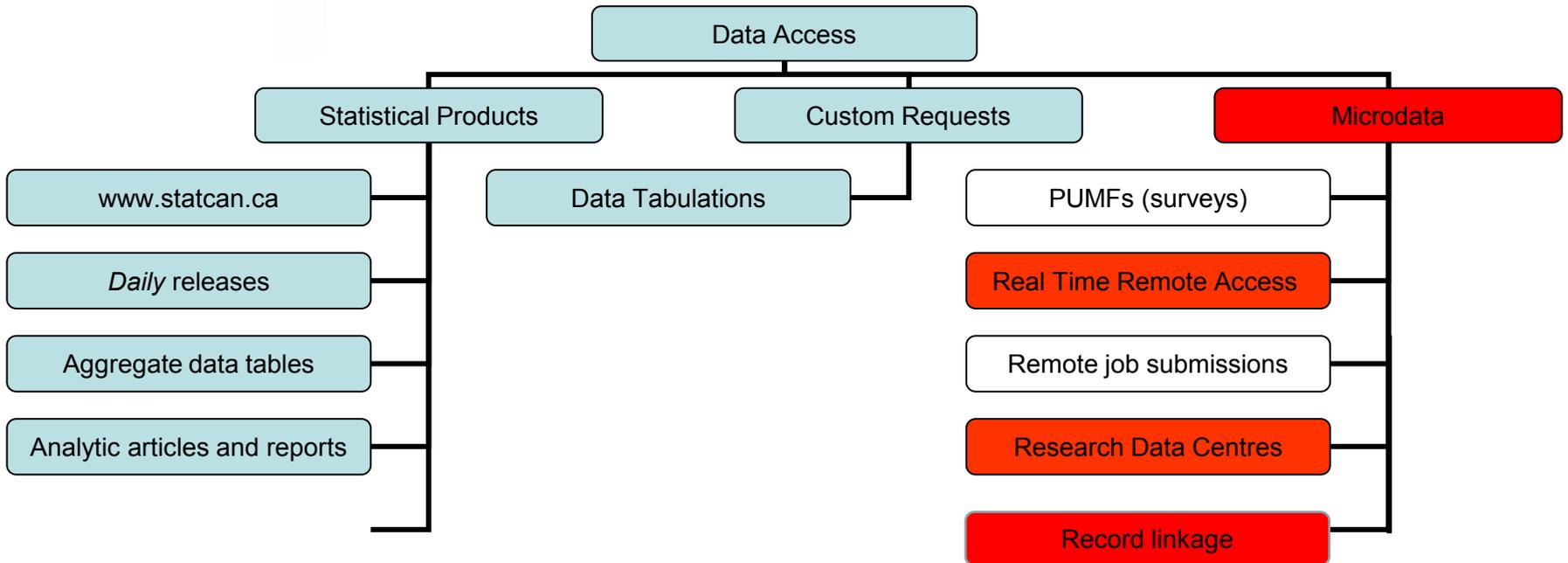


Canadian Coroner and Medical Examiner Database (CCMED)

- Standardized subset of death data investigated by coroners and medical examiners (approximately 16% of deaths)
- Provides additional detail on circumstances surrounding the death (activity, place of event, place of death, external factors, safety devices)
- Minimum dataset containing basic information available on all deaths



Continuum of data access



Aggregated data



Microdata

Open statistics



Restricted data



Privacy and confidentiality

- Data provider authorizes disclosures.
 - Suppression and rounding
- Data sharing agreements between Statistics Canada and data users

Challenges in civil registrations which affect vital statistics

- Provincial and territorial vital statistics agencies faced with Human Rights complaints or Charter Challenges
 - Collection of sex at birth information on the registration of birth and display of sex/gender on the birth certificate
 - Amending parentage rules and birth registration laws to reflect family structures where children are conceived through assisted reproduction (e.g. surrogate), and where a child may have more than two parents
 - Truth and Reconciliation Commission – Reclaiming aboriginal names



Thank you

Valérie Gaston

Chief Vital Statistics, Health Statistics

Statistics Canada / Government of Canada

+1 (613) 852-5302

valerie.gaston@canada.ca