

Academic / Government Collaboration: **A centre for public sector administrative data access and policy research**

James Ayles, New Brunswick Department of Health

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Context

- Proposal in 2012 to establish an academic centre of public sector administrative data was presented to the Government of New Brunswick (GNB).
- The Vision: a resource for the use of administrative data to support the development and evaluation of policy and programs.
- Led to the establishment of the New Brunswick Institute for Research, Data and Training (NB-IRD) at the University of New Brunswick (UNB) in 2015.

Keys Factors of Success

1. Legislative approach to support research;
2. Governance overseeing the partnership;
3. Scope of administrative data made available;
4. Value placed on anonymized linked data;
5. Measures taken to ensure the protection of citizen's data.

Legislation

- *An Act Respecting Research*
- Introduced March 2017, proclaimed May 2017
- An omnibus Bill to modify PHIPAA, RTIPPA and 20+ other pieces of legislation to define a clear legal authority for government and public bodies to share data with NB-IRDT
- Allow public bodies to disclose prepared personal and personal health information to NB-IRDT as a research data centre
- Allow public bodies to **disclose** personal information and/or personal health information to the **Department of Health** for purposes of making each dataset linkable at the individual level

Governance

- The NB-IRDT & the partnership established by way of:
 - Originating Agreement
 - Operating Agreement
- Oversight & Research Priorities
 - Deputy Ministers & Clerk of the Executive Council Office
- Privacy Committee
 - Chief Privacy Officers
- Data Research Committee

Data Scope

- Plan is to house all administrative data from all Government Departments – Health, Education, Social Development, Public Safety, Transportation, Justice, etc.
- Other public bodies & agencies - hospitals, schools, alcohol sales
- Must show a reason to not send data to the Institute
- Currently housing 14 data sets (mainly from health system)
- A data sharing agreement and refresh schedule required for each data set
- All data shared is anonymized

Linked Data

- Citizen specific data is to be linked
- Authority to do so by the *Act Respecting Research*
- Must be anonymized
- “The Crosswalk Process”
- Department of Health conducts the crosswalk
- The NB-IRDT never sees the name or identifiers of a citizen
- The Department of Health must enter into a DSA with the data provider (i.e. other Departments)

Privacy

- In addition to Legislation, the Crosswalk safeguards, and the Data Sharing Agreements;
- NB-IRDT was required to complete a
 - Threat Risk Assessment (TRA)
 - Privacy Impact Assessment (PIA)
- Complies with GNB security standards
- Annual review per the Operating Agreement
- Secure “air-gapped” facility

Key Challenges

- Legislation
- Privacy
- Resource requirements for Departments providing data
- Expansion

Contacts

James Ayles

Director, Health Analytics
New Brunswick Department of Health
PO Box 5100
Fredericton, NB, Canada
E3B 5G8

Phone: (506) 457-3591

Email: james.ayles.@gnb.ca

Ted McDonald

Director, NB Institute for Research, Data
and Training
University of New Brunswick
PO Box 4400, 304 Keirstead Hall
Fredericton, NB, Canada
E3B 5A3

Phone: (506) 447-3363

Email: nb-irdt@unb.ca