Linking Social and Education Data to Health Data

Big Data for Health Policy Workshop
Fields Institute, Toronto
November 5-6, 2014

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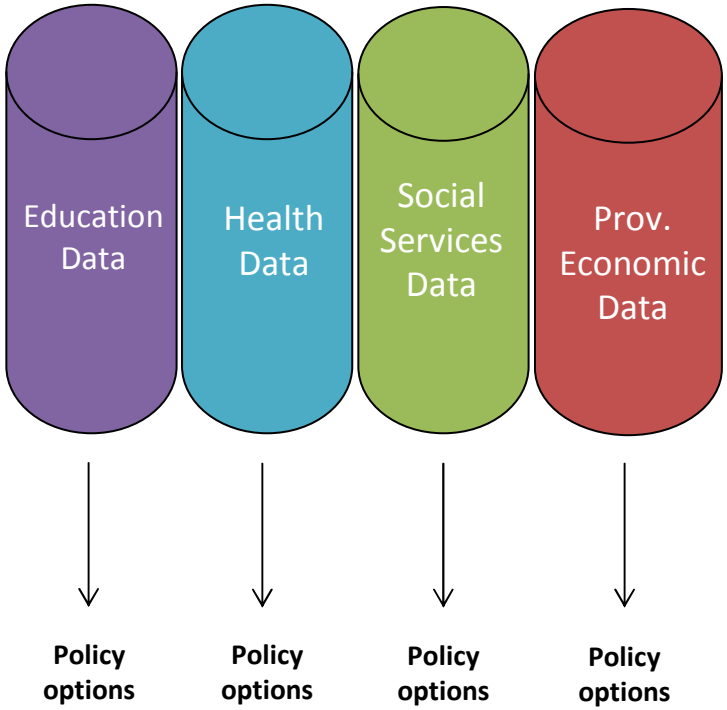
Current State (for the most part): Siloed data



- Identifies the issues but not necessarily why
- Policy responses don't consider the impact on other sectors

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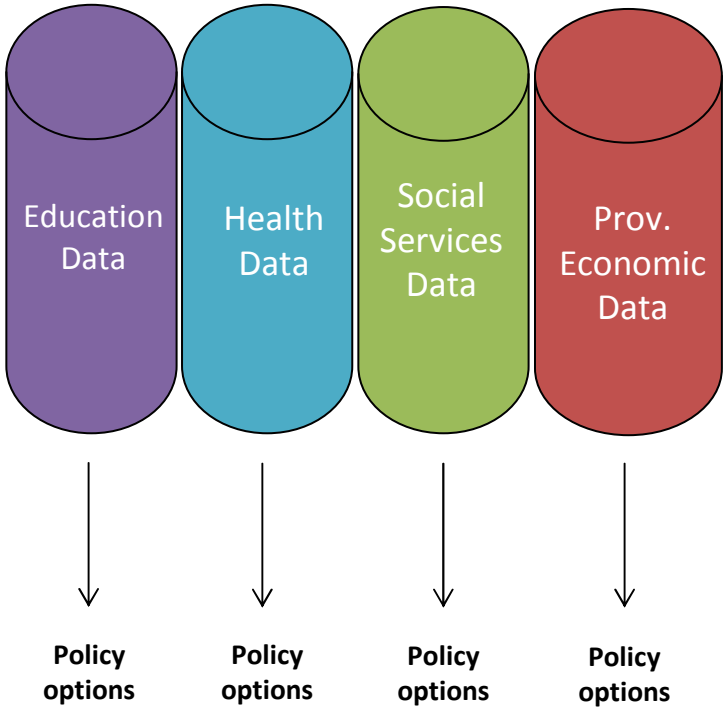
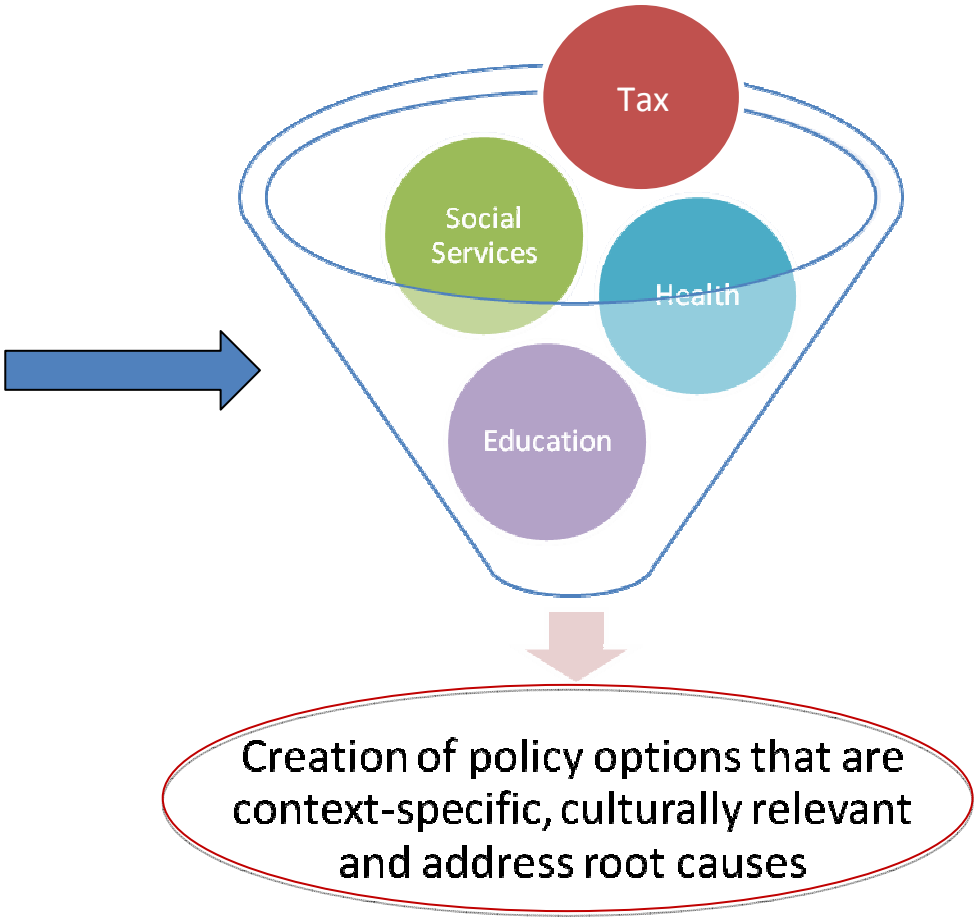
Desired state:
An "integrated story" to identify the right policy options





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Examples of linking social, education and health data in Ontario

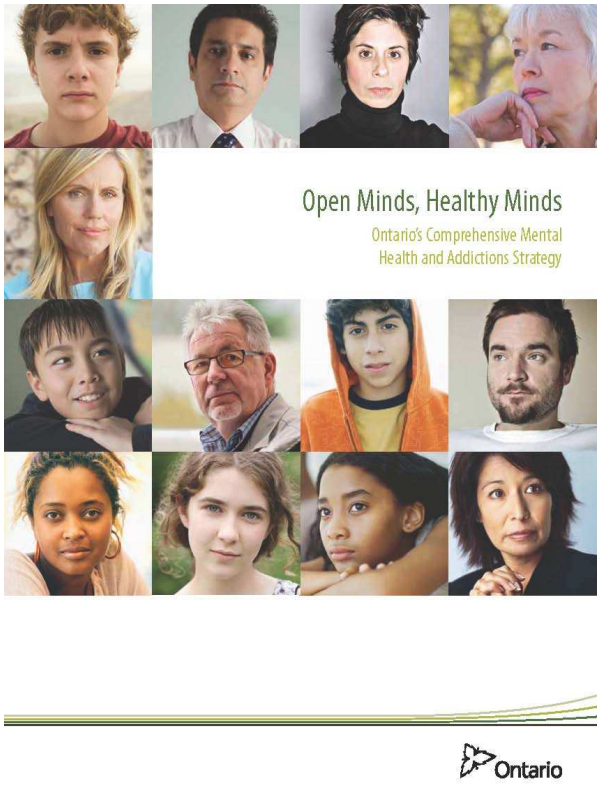
Linking Ontario Works and Ontario Disability Support Program claims to health data in Ontario

(Lunsky ed 2013)

Linking Citizenship and Immigration Canada data to health data at ICES

Linked data for policy:

Ontario government 10-year commitment to Mental Health



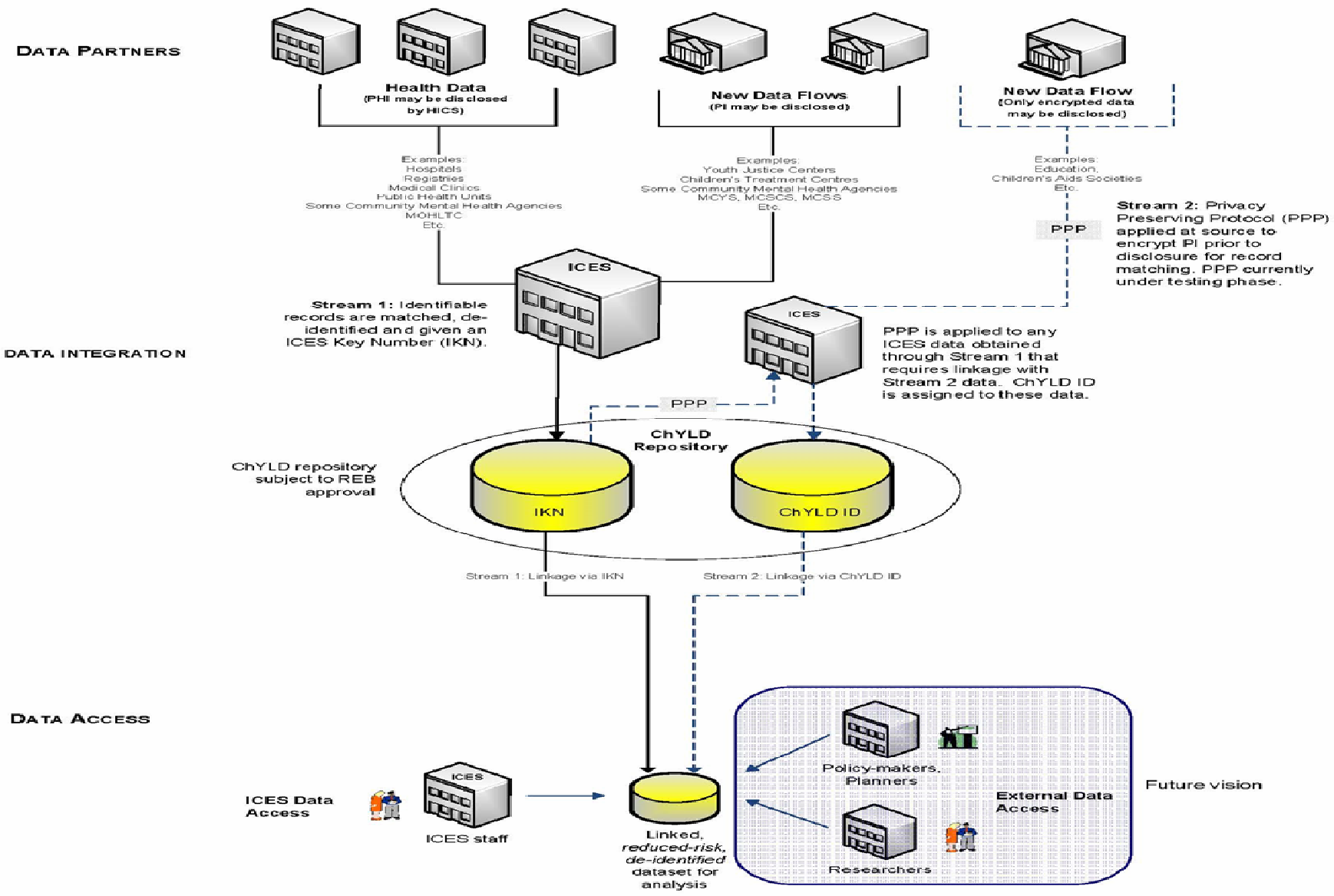
2011 Ontario announced funding to support a Comprehensive Mental Health and Addictions Strategy to create a more responsive and integrated system in Ontario

Phase 1: Children and Youth Strategy Partners

- Ministry of Children and Youth Services
- Ministry of Education
- Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities
- Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care

ICES' role to create a baseline scorecard and supporting data collection

Proposed : Child and Youth Linkable Data Repository



Draft Version 6 Feb 2013

Challenges of linking multi-sector data in Ontario

- Data flows have different origins and purposes for collection – managing clients, managing agencies - funding, managing systems
- Data records from different sources governed under different statutes need to be linkable with one unique identifier
- Some cases, linkable data doesn't exist – not at person-level
- ICES' prescribed entity status does not apply to statutes outside health
    - Legislative challenges identified
- Data partners are wary of sharing data, despite their understanding that data integration would be useful

What to do next?

New Partners:

- Integrating multi-sector data is now a commitment of the Ontario government
- Inter Ministerial working group to understand issues – ICES key SME
- Partnership with MCSS for individual-level data underway
- MOU signed with MEDU for school-level data; Kinark mental health agency

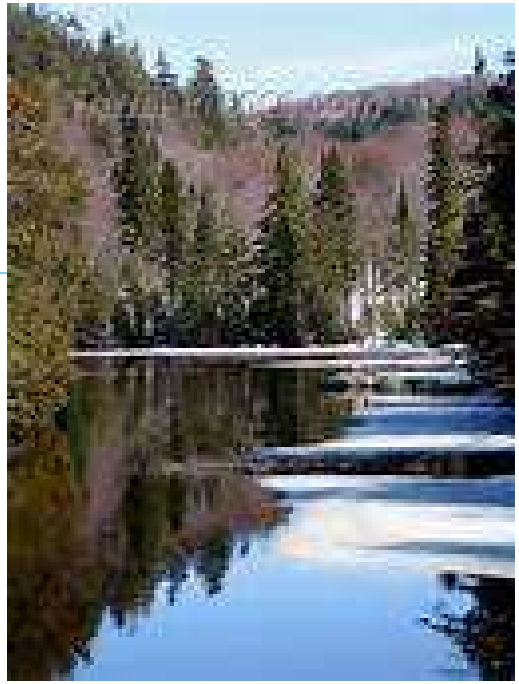
Data integration/technology:

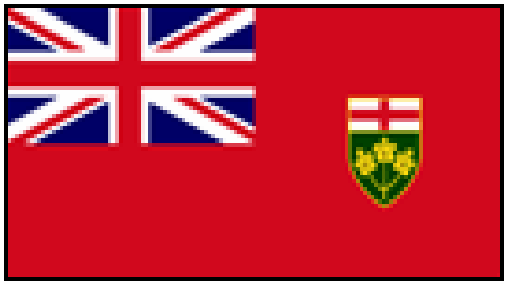
- New models of data matching/linkage of individual-level data records - encryption
- Maybe other alternative models for data storage, integration, access

Data governance:

- Leverage existing legislative options
- New legislative options
- New data access and permission frameworks

Thank you





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