Leveraging data for impact analysis: Module 3

Craig Joyce and Lauren Pineault
Centre for Social Data Insights and Innovation

March 21, 2024

Delivering insight through data for a better Canada

Statistics Canada | Statistique Canada

Canada

The Quality of Life Data Value Chain

- The Quality of Life Statistics Program is about creating a 'value chain', starting with data on what matters most to Canadians, that can drive change at the system level and ultimately create public value in the form of better results for Canadians.

Data → Information → Analysis → Decision-making → Public Value

Measuring What Matters

QUALITY OF LIFE
Looking at non-economic factors that matter to Canadians like health, housing, environment, and safety.

1

EQUALITY
Looking at the distribution of outcomes and opportunities across places and people.

2

SUSTAINABILITY
Looking at whether today's prosperity undermines future living standards.

3

Released in Budget 2021, the Quality of Life Initiative is Canada's response to a growing global consensus that public policy must be:

1. **Multi-dimensional and holistic** – by considering the full spectrum of economic, social and environmental considerations that matter to a good quality of life;

2. **Inclusive** – by considering not just national averages in these trends, but also the differential experiences of groups that make up our diverse society;

3. **Sustainable** – by considering the long-term implications of our decisions across these domains and indicators, and actively considering risk and resilience in decision-making processes.

Statistics Canada / Statistique Canada

Canada

Canada's Quality of Life Framework

Domains and headline indicators

Prosperity
- Household incomes
- Employment
- Youth not in education, employment or training (NEETs)
- Housing needs
- Poverty

Health
- Health-adjusted life expectancy
- Self-rated mental health

Society
- Sense of belonging to community
- Someone to count on
- Time use

Good Governance
- Personal safety
- Confidence in institutions
- Discrimination and unfair treatment

Environment
- Air quality
- Drinking water
- Climate change adaptation
- Greenhouse gas emissions
- Conserved areas

Life satisfaction

Sense of meaning and purpose

Fairness and Inclusion

Prosperity

Health

Quality of Life

Good Governance

Society

Environment

Sustainability and Resilience

Cross-cutting lenses

Fairness and Inclusion

Cross-cutting lens that disaggregates all indicators in the framework:
- Gap between best and worst outcomes
- Summary measures of inequality
- Performance of socio-economic groups (e.g. gender, age, ethnicity, socio-economic status)
- Performance by region (e.g. provinces, cities, urban vs. rural)
- Prevalence of poor outcomes

Sustainability and Resilience

Cross-cutting lens that offers a long-term view for all domains in the Framework and encourages decision-makers to consider risk, resilience and sustainability

4

Statistics Canada · Statistique Canada

Canada

Quality of Life Framework Infosheet

Prosperity

Income and growth
- ★ Household income
- GDP per capita
- Productivity
- Access to high-speed Internet
- Household wealth
- Investment in in-house research and development
- Public debt-to-GDP ratio
- Firm growth

Employment and job quality
- ★ Employment
- Labour underutilization
- Wages
- Precarious or gig work
- Job satisfaction

Skills and opportunity
- ★ Youth not in employment, education or training (NEET)
- Access to early learning and child care
- Child, student and adult skills
- Postsecondary attainment
- Future outlook

Economic security and deprivation
- ★ Acceptable housing
- ★ Poverty
- Protection from income shocks
- Financial well-being
- Homelessness
- Food security

Health

Healthy people
- ★ Health-adjusted life expectancy
- ★ Self-rated mental health
- Self-rated health
- Physical activity
- Functional health status
- Children vulnerable in early development
- Fruit and vegetable consumption/healthy eating environments

Healthy care systems
- Timely access to primary care provider
- Unmet health care needs
- Unmet needs for mental health care
- Long-term care (access and quality)
- Access to supplementary health insurance
- Unmet needs for home care
- Cost-related non-adherence to prescription medication

Society

Culture and identity
- Sense of pride/belonging to Canada
- Positive perceptions of diversity
- Indigenous languages
- Knowledge of official languages
- Participation in cultural or religious practices, recreation or sport

Social cohesion and connections
- ★ Sense of belonging to local community
- ★ Someone to count on
- Trust in others
- Volunteering
- Satisfaction with personal relationships (family and friends)
- Loneliness
- Accessible environments

Time use
- ★ Time use
- Satisfaction with time use

Environment

Environment and people
- ★ Air quality
- ★ Drinking water
- ★ Climate change adaptation
- Natural disasters and emergencies
- Satisfaction with local environment
- Walkable communities
- Access to public transit

Ecological integrity and environmental stewardship
- ★ Greenhouse gas emissions
- ★ Conserved areas
- Canadian species index
- Water quality in Canadian rivers
- Natural capital
- Waste management
- Marine and coastal ecosystems

Good Governance

Safety and security
- ★ Personal safety
- Crime Severity Index
- Perceptions of neighbourhood safety after dark
- Childhood maltreatment
- Household emergency preparedness

Democracy and institutions
- ★ Confidence in institutions
- Voter turnout
- Representation in senior leadership positions
- Canada's place in the world
- Misinformation/trust in media
- Indigenous self-determination

Justice and human rights
- ★ Discrimination and unfair treatment
- Cyberbullying
- Access to fair and equal justice (civil and criminal)
- Resolution of serious legal problems
- Incarceration rate

★ Life satisfaction

★ Sense of meaning and purpose

★ Headline indicators: intended to provide a high-level assessment of overall quality of life in Canada.

The Fairness and Inclusion lens is intended to inform policy and program development, leading to greater equity and equality, by assessing the distribution of outcomes for different populations in Canada.

The Sustainability and Resilience lens promotes long-term thinking by considering the trajectory of indicators in order to identify risks, build resilience and ensure that policy choices are contributing to a higher quality of life not only now but in the years ahead.

Accessing the data for the QoL Statistics Program

The Hub

- Statistics Canada's Quality of Life Hub was released in March 2021.

- The Hub brings together key economic, social, and environmental datasets and develop a user interface to better support decision-making and budgeting

- Quality of Life Hub (statcan.gc.ca)

Filling Data Gaps
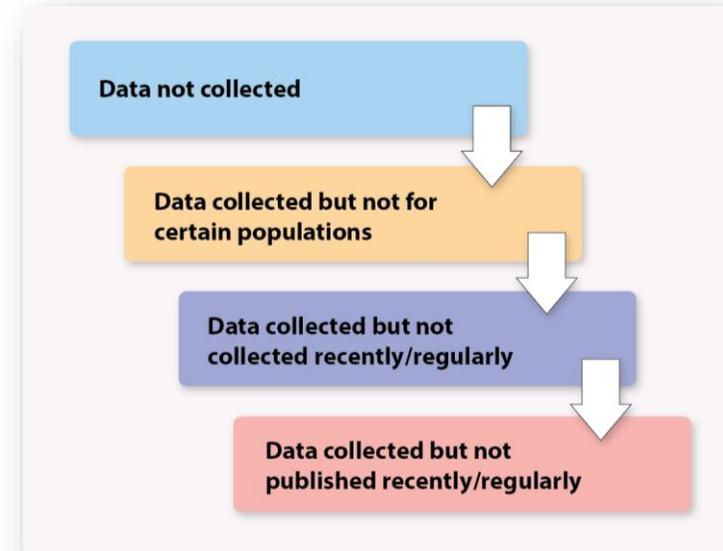
- The Quality of Life Statistics Program is also collecting new, and/or more timely data on quality of life indicators, including through the Canada Social Survey (CSS)

- Concurrent investments through the Dissaggregated Data Action Plan to extend surveys to better document differential experiences by population group

- Gaps in dissemination are being closed by data and analytical products on the Hub

Canadian Social Survey

Sense of meaning and purpose, life satisfaction, loneliness, etc.

Tax data

Mailing address every year, income

Census data

Demographic/household characteristics, marital status, language, tenancy

Geographic characteristics

Environmental data, neighbourhoods, walkability, etc.

**Other administrative data**

Health data, justice data, etc.

**Facilitated through linkage in the Social Data Linkage Environment (SDLE)**

e.g., Currently linking *Canadian Social Survey* to *tax* and *Census* data to examine how *Quality of life* influenced by *housing affordability*

Statistics Canada / Statistique Canada

Canada

PEOPLE:
Distributional differences, composition, etc.

Immigration status and ethnocultural diversity

Indigenous peoples

etc.

Sex, gender and sexual orientation

Age, skills
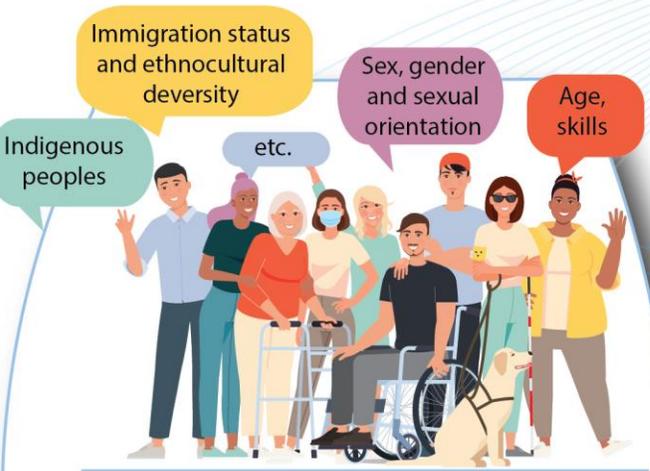
FAIRNESS AND INCLUSION
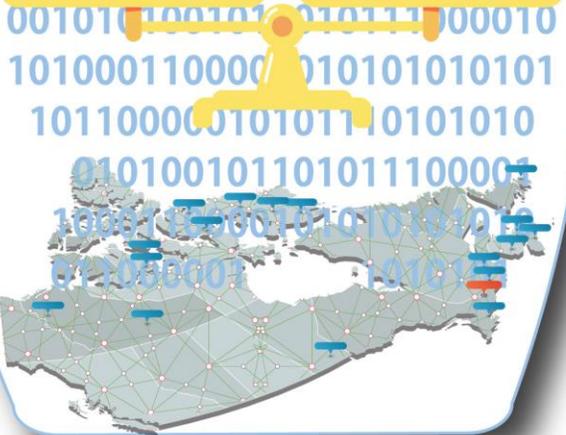
PLACES:
Regions, communities and geo-spatial data

OUTCOMES:
Thematic areas

Society

Prosperity

Health

Good governance

Environment

INTEGRATED SYSTEM

TIME:
Historical trends, current status, expected future trajectories

SUSTAINABILITY AND RESILIENCE

Statistics Canada Statistique Canada

Canada

What's different?

- Quality of Life framework offers **an umbrella for conceptual integration**, **embedded into the policy development process** which often drives data demands

- **Collecting new data** – e.g., *Sense of meaning and purpose*, inspired by UK definition

- **Harmonized set of indicators** enables more targeted approach to prioritizing data collection gaps (e.g., hard-to-reach populations)

- Concurrent investments in **more granular data** (Disaggregated Data Action Plan)

- **Collecting data for key indicators more frequently**, including a quarterly time series for some indicators through new omnibus Canadian Social Survey

- **Frequency yields insights**; e.g., subjective experience of rising inflation – *Difficulty meeting financial needs* particularly acute in Q4 2022

- **Integrated data ecosystem also yields insights** – e.g., movements in other quality of life measures such as *Sense of belonging to local community, Future outlook* alongside *Difficulty meeting financial needs*

Statistics Canada / Statistique Canada

Canada

Where to from here?

- **Bring the Quality of Life framework to life** as a monitoring system linked to interdepartmental collaboration – evidence to action to impact measurement
- **Build towards a cohesive social data ecosystem** based on:
    - **Outcomes:** A well-developed set of 'beyond GDP' indicators through the QoL framework
    - **People:** Standard breakdowns to enable group-level comparisons across QoL outcomes, intersectional analysis
    - **Places:** Standard geographical breakdowns across QoL outcome measures
    - **Time:** Strengthen the feedback loop between interventions and impact measurement by building consistent time series' for key social indicators
- **Familiarize stakeholders with new data landscape**, demonstrate value and insights that are policy-relevant
- **Consideration of more complex dynamics** and conceptual underpinnings– e.g., life course, individuals/families/ communities, determinants vs outcomes

Contact us

Quality of Life Statistics Program:

statcan.stc.wellbeing-bienetre.stc.statcan@statcan.gc.ca

If you have any feedback for the Quality of Life Hub please let us know:

Quality of Life Hub - Share your feedback (statcan.gc.ca)