MSSU PRESENTS

Learning Health Systems in Action

WEBINAR RECAP

Using data to inform real-time decision making and health system improvement: DataNB

Focus: Data

Speakers:

Dr. Ted McDonald — Director, DataNB

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THE PROBLEM

- Fragmented health and social data make understanding patient health outcomes over time difficult.
- Decision-makers lacked linked, population-level data to understand service impacts of across sectors.

THE LHS APPROACH

- Established a provincial research data centre that securely links health, education and social data.
- Worked closely with government, health system partners and people with lived experience to generate policy-relevant evidence.

WHAT CHANGED

- Produced evidence that informed policy decisions and quality improvement across multiple areas of health care, such as expanded scope of practice for pharmacists, early interventions for mothers and children at risk and real-world evidence of drug effectiveness.
- Expanded cross-provincial research capacity through partnerships with Health Data Research Network Canada.

EVIDENCE IN ACTION

- Linked more than 120 administrative datasets from health, education, social development and other sectors.
- Datasets are updated at least annually and some date back more than 20 years.
- Applied linked data to evaluate health policies, workforce planning, clinical practice variation, pharmacy services and patient outcomes.

KEY LESSONS

1. Establish secure data-sharing agreements for routine linkage of administrative data.
2. Co-design research with decision-makers to ensure findings address policy needs.
3. Use linked administrative data to evaluate long-term outcomes and guide system improvement.

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