Policy lessons learned from COVID-19, and the potential role of research infrastructures in future crises

OECD ICRI Workshop

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## Canadian Research Data Centre Network

A premier research and training platform for researchers in the quantitative social and health sciences in Canada

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<tr>
<td>1 of 17</td>
<td>Of Canada's Major Science Initiatives</td>
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<td>2,071 Researchers</td>
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<td>33 Secure data facilities</td>
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<td>33% Of our research is conducted by students</td>
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<td>+5,000 Publications, articles, policy reports, etc.</td>
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THE BRIDGE

Between Statistics Canada and our university partners to provide access to hundreds of microdata files
SUPPORTING RESEARCH ADDRESSING THE CRISIS

Four strategic areas of focus
• Income and employment
• Immigration and settlement
• Education and social development
• Population health and health services

Cross-cutting research
• Gender and family issues
• Economic, health, social inequalities
• Poverty, homelessness, housing
• Indigenous issues
COVID-19 PROJECT

1. Impacts on labour

2. Effect on Gender
Comparing gender participation in the labour market during COVID-19.

3. Social patterning
Analysing social patterns in the uptake of preventive behaviours such as social distancing.

4. Economic impacts
Informing policy decisions on COVID response by understanding the economic impacts of public health measures.

5. Vaccination rates & vaccine hesitancy
Supporting the quality and timeliness of the COVID-19 Vaccination Coverage Survey results.

6. Economic expertise
Providing economic expertise to advise on the trade-offs inherent in COVID-19 policy decisions.
Develop
Emergency policies and procedures where none previously existed

Provide
Real-time remote access at no charge to all researchers across the country

Enable
High priority collaborations between research experts and federal and provincial government partners

Can emergency operation processes be used to broaden the usefulness of RIs?

In partnership with Statistics Canada, CRDCN was able to:
In Canada, the RIs, universities and the research community

Have become an extension of various levels of governments' physical, HR and financial response mechanisms to the crisis

Logical next step

Officially recognizing the role of RIs as national assets for disaster or emergency response planning and having agreements in place between RIs and various levels of government

Critical

To maintain the state of readiness of RIs to contribute to national or international emergencies supported by CFI and allied RI funding bodies

Can new RI networks and collaboration be maintained and optimised for global challenges?
Going forward

Emergency preparedness policies should include support to ensure multiple points of access to mobilize RI facilities and research expertise in advance of the next crisis.

Case in point

CRDCN and StatCan have expedited their efforts to provide dual modes of access and system redundancy via virtual data access platforms to avoid partial or widespread limits on research productivity during future crises.

The pandemic has accentuated the need to have multiple points of entry to access RI facilities and their assets during a time of crisis.
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