

The 9th United Nations Global Forum on Gender Statistics

Session I: Gender equality and the care economy

Canada's Care Economy

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Delivering insight through data for a better Canada



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Presentation Outline

1. Background
2. Steps taken by Statistics Canada
3. What is the Care Economy
4. Conceptual model of the care economy
5. Intersection of Health and Social Care
6. Current data and data gaps



1) Background

Policy interest towards caregiving work



Public policy perspectives

“Caregiving is the next frontier of public policy in Canada” Cdn Centre for Caregiving Excellence

PM acknowledged “the importance of taking early action to address inequalities in the **care economy**”

Report of the Standing Committee on the Status of Women: Women’s Unpaid Work in Canada → recommendation to Statistics Canada to:

“properly and more frequently collect data on and track **unpaid and caregiving work** in all regions across Canada and expand data collection”

2021 Federal Budget: discussed “care economy” and mentioned “care” nearly 400 times

Canadian Labour Congress and Oxfam Canada request that the federal government value care workers by investing in public care services.



Synergy with other initiatives

- Modernization of the General Social Survey
- Disaggregated Data Action Plan
- Centre for Gender, Diversity & Inclusion Statistics
- Quality of Life Framework
- Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
- Social Inclusion



2) Steps taken so far by Statistics Canada

Overview of the Statistics Canada project on the care economy



Steps taken so far by Statistics Canada

- **Environmental scan** → Scoping the research
 - What do we mean by “care” & the “care economy”?
- **Conceptual framework** → Defining the domains and boundaries
 - The “what” we need to measure
- **Data mapping and data strategy** → Identifying existing data and data gaps
 - The “how” we measure



3) What is the care economy?

Defining the care economy and its importance



What is the Care Economy?

Based on ILO 2018 report Care work and care jobs for the future of decent work:

The care economy is the sum of all forms of care work. It therefore comprises both unpaid carers and care workers.

Care work and care jobs for the future of decent work / International Labour Office – Geneva: ILO, 2018. p.10

In Canada, the Care Economy proposed definition is being refined

The care economy is that sector of the broader economy comprising the provision of paid and unpaid care work that supports the physical, psychological and emotional needs of care-dependent persons*.

*Care-dependent persons are comprised of children under 15 and adults over 15 with long term conditions or disabilities



Facts on paid and unpaid care in Canada

15 million
Canadians 15+
provided care
(paid/unpaid) to
either children or
care-dependent

1 in 2 women
Provided care to
either children or
care-dependent
adults

31%
Of Canadians
provided some
form of care to
children

23%
Of Canadians
provided some
form of care to
care-dependent

Source: 2022 Canadian Social Survey, Statistics Canada



Unpaid care work is valuable

**\$517-\$860 billion
(25-37% of GDP)**

Valuation of unpaid household work* in Canada (2019)

* Includes, but broader than, care work

**\$97.1 billion
(4.2% of GDP)**

Valuation of unpaid care from family caregivers*

* Only includes care for Canadians with long-term conditions or disabilities

??

Valuation of unpaid care for children

Valuation of total care economy (paid + unpaid)



4) Conceptual model

Scoping the domains of the care economy and identifying data indicator topics



CARE ECONOMY

That sector of the broader economy comprising paid and unpaid care work for care-dependent groups.



CARE WORK

The activities, responsibilities, and relationships involved in meeting the physical, psychological, and emotional needs of care-dependent groups.

Care-dependent groups include:

- Adults: Over 15 years old with long-term conditions or disabilities
- Children: Under 15 years old



PAID

Care with remuneration, performed in the social care (e.g., for older adults, for persons with disabilities) and child care sectors of the labour market.



UNPAID

Care without remuneration, performed because of a personal relationship or through a voluntary organization.

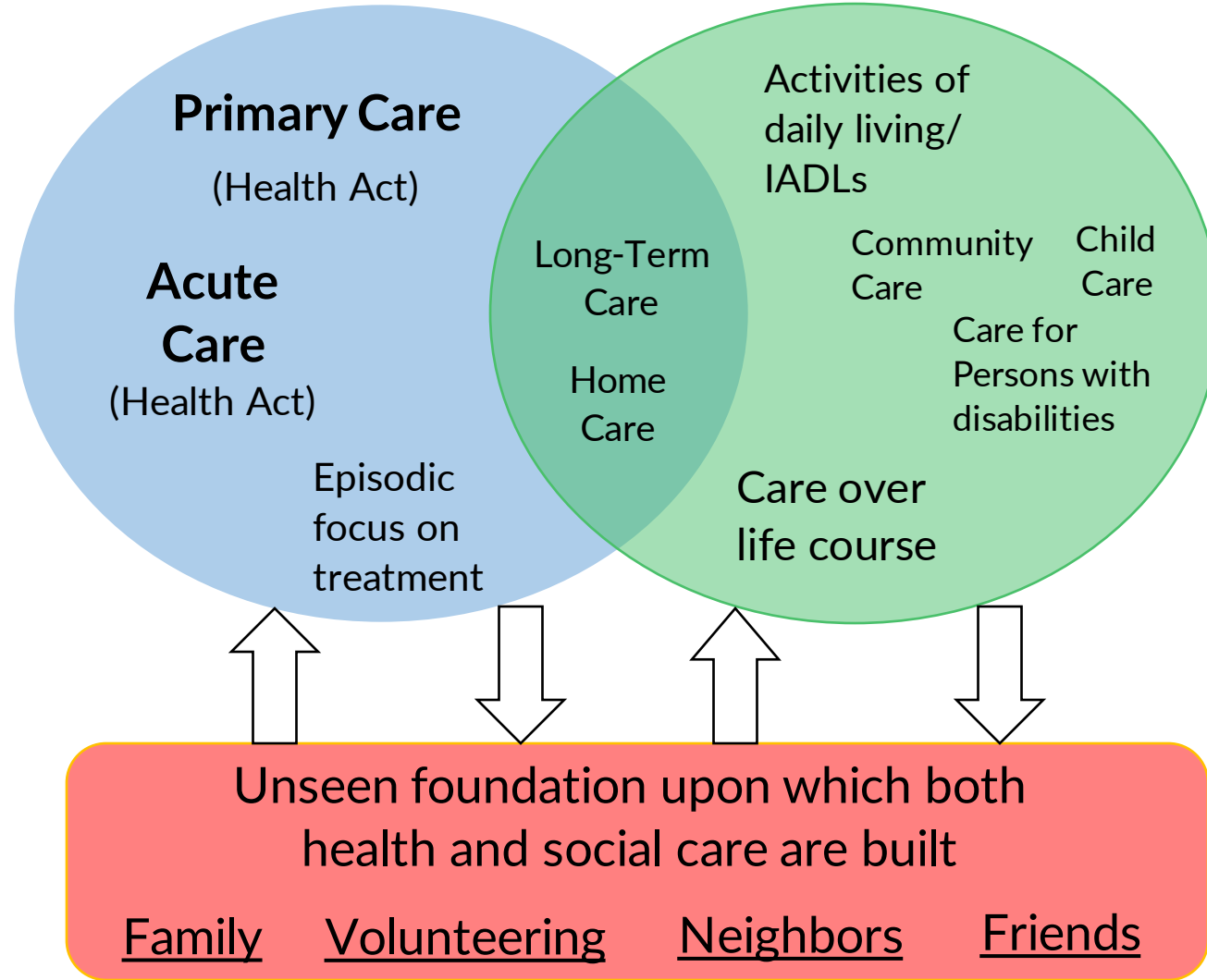


5) Intersection of Health and Social Care

Similarities differences and relationship with unpaid care



Health Care Social Care



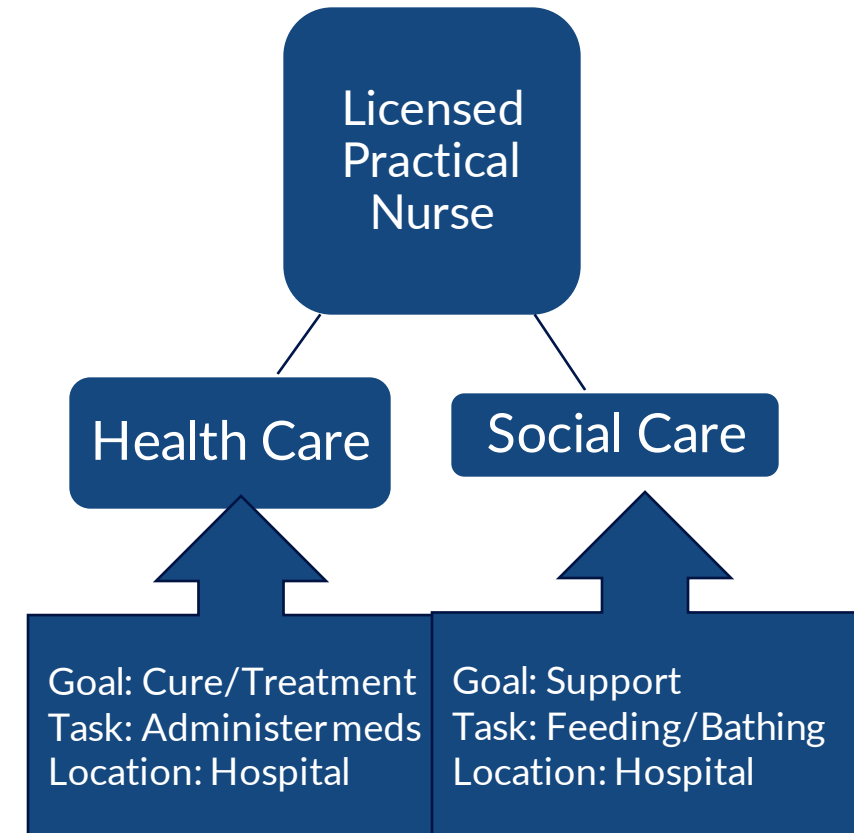
Unpaid Care



Social Care and Intersections with Health Care

- **Social Care:** care services provided to those with a range of long-term conditions and disabilities that enable people to “*live more independently and participate more fully in their communities*”
 - **Focus on Activities of Daily Living** (ADLs – e.g., feeding, bathing) and **Instrumental Activities of Daily Living** (IADLs – e.g., transportation, cleaning up for, cooking for)
 - **Location of care:** household or congregate settings – rather than hospitals, medical centres
- Looking only at health care is a *narrower* picture of care
 - Globally, women’s unpaid contributions to health care = \$1.5 trillion → but contributions to *all* care = \$11 trillion (UN 2020)
 - What are we **missing** if we don’t look outside of health care?

The difficulty of measuring social care and health care: Example of LPNs



6) Data on the care economy

Existing data, data gaps, and new directions



Data on unpaid care work

Available data

Providing care

- General Social Survey Program (GSSP)
 - Caregiving and Care Receiving
 - Time Use
 - Giving, Volunteering, and Participating

Receiving care

- Canadian Survey on Disability (CSD)
- Canadian Health Survey on Seniors (CHSS)
 - Supplement to Canadian Community Health Survey

Data gaps

- No unified data sources across groups
 - Lack of data on multigenerational or “sandwich” caregiving
- Time use surveys have limitations:
 - Underestimate non-residential or irregular care
 - Cannot identify care dependence for adults
- Caregiving and care receiving does not provide information on children
 - Data on children with disabilities or long-term conditions is limited
- Survey burden high for care receivers; hard-to-reach population
- No data for the North, Indigenous peoples
- Disaggregated data needed to understand impacts on diverse groups
- Need to monetize the value of unpaid care work for the Canadian economy

Data on paid care work

Available data

Providing care

- Census and Labour Force Survey
- Administrative data
 - Longitudinal Worker File
 - Canadian Employer Employee Database
- Business-level data
 - Nursing and Residential Care Facility Survey
 - Canadian Survey on the Provision of Child Care Services
- Any survey that collects occupation (but limited samples)
 - E.g., GSS on Canadians at Work and Home; Longitudinal International Study of Adults (LISA)

Using care

- GSS: Caregiving and Care Receiving
- Survey on Early Learning and Child Care Arrangements (SELCCA)

Data gaps

- ***Lack of data and knowledge on paid care workers:***
 - No consensus on boundaries of paid care work
 - Occupation codes before 2021 are too broad
 - Administrative data linkages needed, but complex
 - Difficult to identify location of care
 - No data on amount or types of care provided
 - Need for disaggregated data for paid care workers (e.g. immigrant status, racialized groups)

Summary of data

1

Difficult to paint a **comprehensive picture** of the care economy: data gaps; inconsistency in concepts, measures & target populations.

2

Data on **unpaid** care work collected every 5 years, but there are limitations (e.g. “sandwich generation”; multi-generational care).

3

Data on **paid** care work are the main data gap: specificity needed in standards (NOC) and other labour data; need data on who does what & for whom.

4

Challenges in collecting and analyzing data on **ethnocultural communities, Indigenous communities** and **Canada’s North**.

Recommendation: A feasibility study to explore all potential sources of data on paid care workers, including administrative data and potential data linkages.



Inform Canadians, policy-makers and researchers on the care economy

1. Bring together in one spot (a hub) on the STC website current data and research on the care economy
2. Identify key indicators on the care economy (and supporting data) to measure the status of Canada's care economy
3. Produce a conceptual framework on how to scope and measure the care economy



Thank you!

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