Inventory of Community Data Sources
Community Data Strategy Consortium
CCSD

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Introduction

The Community Social Data Strategy (CSDS) is a national consortium comprising 16 regional social data user networks, led and supported by the Canadian Council on Social Development (CCSD), that provides a gateway for municipalities and community-based organizations to access social data from Statistics Canada and other sources. CSDS members include municipal planners, social researchers and service providers. Since its inception in 2001, the CSDS has facilitated access to over $1 million worth of data to communities across Canada. Moreover, it has provided a much-needed structure through which communities gain new knowledge and tools, and a greater capacity to respond to local needs.

In January, 2007, CCSD received one year of funding from HRSDC to build and strengthen the CSDS network, negotiate a new data package with Statistics Canada (based on the 2006 Census) and scope out potential new areas of data demand and supply.

To assist the network in determining how their data needs could be met, the consortium needed to know what data were available at the neighbourhood/community level, who collects these data and how the data could be accessed or obtained. Thus one component of the second phase of the project was the preparation of an inventory or description of the principle sources of social data. Such an inventory can be used to identify what data are readily available, what data are collected, but are not routinely disseminated at a community or neighbourhood level, and what data gaps exist.

This paper distinguishes between primary data sources, i.e., individual databases that are routinely collected, and dissemination models in which data have been assembled from a number of sources. The focus is upon databases that could yield information at the community or neighbourhood level.

The consortium is also interested in looking at what other countries have done to make community/neighbourhood data available and to determine if their models could be applied in Canada. As there is interest in social data more generally, a non-exhaustive list of international and academic organizations or networks involved in the collect and analysis of social data, has been included.

The paper is divided into eight sections:

- The first explains different geographic concepts of community used in Canada.

- The second outlines what criteria were used to include a specific Canadian database.

- The third section describes national databases for which at least large city (CMA) data are available. This section is divided into two parts: Statistics Canada databases and others.

- The fourth section describes different models for disseminating community level data. It includes models at the national level and at the provincial level. As well, most provincial election agencies provide data on voting by poll for each electoral district. Links to these are also provided.

- The fifth section examines how other countries have made neighbourhood/ community level data available.

- The sixth section gives links to key social indicators websites of international organizations.

- The seventh section describes briefly some other organizations/networks whose work may be of general interest.

- The last section describes some considerations and limitations of using different data sources and models as well as suggesting an approach for developing neighbourhood/ community data.

Note: In most cases, descriptions of the databases have been taken directly from the website(s) listed as a "Link" and thus are shown in quotation marks.

1. Definitions

Census

A Census is an official count of the entire population, at one point in time. It is designed to provide information about people and housing units by their demographic, social and economic characteristics. Canada conducts a census every five years."

Section 91 of the *The Constitution Act, 1867,* the federal government is responsible for the 'Census and Statistics', a responsibility discharged by Statistics Canada, formerly the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, according to the provisions of the *Statistics Act*.

(source : Statistics Canada http://www.statcan.ca/cgi-bin/imdb/p2SV.pl?Function=getSurvey&SDDS=3901&lang=en&db=IMDB&dbg=f&adm=8&dis=2
http://www12.statcan.ca/english/census06/reference/info/history.cfm)

Geography

Municipalities are interested both in how they compare with other cities and in how the well being of their citizens varies between the neighbourhoods within their boundaries. Thus the geographic delineation of municipalities and their neighbourhoods is important.

The Census provides data for neighbourhoods, either in the form of Census Tracts (see below), or through user-defined areas, but other national household surveys do not, having insufficient sample size to do so. The 2006 Census provides profiles of Census Tracts.

The Census is the most complete national source of information on municipalities. Some of its geographic concepts are also used in surveys. Common geographic concepts include:

Census Metropolitan Area (CMA)

A CMA has a population of at least 100,000, with an urban core of at least 50,000. The urban core, and the adjacent urban and rural areas that have a high degree of social and economic integration with that urban core, as measured by commuting flows derived from Census of Population data on place of work.

Many Statistics Canada household surveys produce data at the CMA level, or for selected CMAs.

Census Agglomeration (CA)

A CA is an urban area with a population of at least 10,000. Usually Statistics Canada household surveys (other than the Census) do not have sufficient sample size to provide data for CAs.

Census Division (CD)

A CD is a provincially legislated area (such as county, *municipalité régionale de comté* and regional district) or their equivalents. Census divisions are intermediate geographic areas between the province/territory level and the municipality (census subdivision).

Census Sub-Division (CSD)

A Census subdivision is a general term for municipalities as determined by provincial or territorial legislation, or areas treated as municipal equivalents for statistical purposes (e.g., Indian reserves, Indian settlements and unorganized territories). Municipalities are units of local government. Census Community Profiles are at the CSD level.

Census Tract (CT)

Census tracts (CTs) are small, relatively stable geographic areas that usually have a population of 2,500 to 8,000. They are located in census metropolitan areas and in census agglomerations with an urban core population of 50,000 or more in the previous census.

Dissemination Area (DA)

A dissemination area (DA) is a small area composed of one or more neighbouring dissemination blocks (DB), with a population of 400 to 700 persons. All of Canada is divided into dissemination areas. Several DAs can be grouped together to define a neighbourhood.

Economic regions

Economic regions were created in response to the requirement for a geographical unit suitable for the presentation and analysis of regional economic activity. Statistics Canada's monthly Labour Force Survey (LFS) produces data for economic regions. In Québec the "régions administratives" , equivalent to economic regions, are defined by law.

Health regions

Health regions are defined by provincial/ territorial departments of health. The Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS) produces data for health regions. Health regions reflect how departments of health have organized delivery and funding of health care services.

Postal code

Postal code is collected by most administrative databases, i.e. data that are gathered as part of the administration of a specific government program, e.g., income tax. While there are limitations to administrative data, one strength is that data for small areas such as neighbourhoods can be extracted through the use of postal codes. For example,
postal codes on vital statistics birth records have been used to identify neighbourhoods with higher rates of low birth weight babies.

For more information on geographic concepts see Statistics Canada's 2006 Census Illustrated Glossary:

http://geodepot.statcan.ca/Diss2006/Reference/COGG/Index_e.jsp

Indicator

An indicator is a statistical measure that provides information about some aspect of social or economic well being. Used over time, indicators can be used to demonstrate progress toward a specific goal. For example, life expectancy is an indicator of the health of the population.

Socio-demographic

Demography is the statistical study of human populations and, when narrowly defined, examines births, deaths, marriages, and migration. Social demography is broader and reflects the characteristics of an individual or groups such as language, education, ethnic background and religion. Thus socio-demographic data describe characteristics of the population such as age, gender, marital status, education, and language.

Table/Cross tabulation

A table is a way of organizing and presenting information in a grid pattern. A cross-tabulation is a form of table that shows the relationship between one set of characteristics—or variables—and another. On the grid, columns contain one set of variables, while the rows contain the related set. Each intersection of a row and column—known as a cell—displays a relationship between the row variable and the column variable.

For example, the cross tabulation below shows "Population by Age and Sex, Canada, 2006". The cell entries are the number of people in the age-sex group defined by the row and column heading. Thus there are 2,448,155 females aged 65 and over.

	Male	Female	Both sexes
0-14	2,857,320	2,722,515	5,579,835
15-64	10,731,550	10,966,260	21,697,805
65 and over	1,887,100	2,448,155	4,335,255
Total	15,475,970	16,136,925	31,612,895

The most familiar example of a cross tabulation is the grid included on most road maps showing distances between cities.

Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census
http://www12.statcan.ca/english/census06/data/highlights/agesex/pages/Page.cfm?Lang=E&Geo=PR&Code=01&Table=1&Data=Count&Sex=2&StartRec=1&Sort=2&Display=Page

2. Criteria for inclusion

To be included Canadian databases must meet the following five criteria.

1. The database must contain social data. The definition of social data which has been used for this paper is the list of 10 indicator areas, (plus demographic and background information) developed by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities for their Quality of Life Reporting System. This framework has been evolving since 1999 and represents outcome measures for ongoing and emerging issues at the municipal level. The ten indicator areas are:
   - Affordable, Appropriate Housing
   - Civic Engagement/Social Capital
   - Community and Social Infrastructure
   - Education
   - Employment
   - Local Economy
   - Natural Environment
   - Personal and Community Health
   - Personal Financial Security
   - Personal Safety
2. Data must be available at sub-provincial level (e.g., CMA/CA/health region/community)
3. The database must cover either all of Canada, or the ten provinces or a complete province.
4. The database must be updated regularly. If it is a survey it should be repeated at regular intervals
5. Mechanisms are in place to provide data, either through regular publication or through a service to respond to custom requests for information.

Dissemination models for regional/community/neighbourhood data have been developed in several other countries. The US, UK, Australia and New Zealand have databases which can be searched for information from a variety of sources for a specific (small) geographic area.   These are worth examining to see what features would be desirable in developing a model for Canada.

3. Canadian Data Sources

3. (a) Statistics Canada databases/ data products

Database/Data product: Census of Population and Housing

Data provider: Census and Demographic Statistics Branch, Statistics Canada

Description: The Census of Population and Housing, conducted every 5 years, is the most comprehensive and detailed database of social data. It includes individual, family, household and housing data on broad range of socio-demographic characteristics. Data from the 2006 Census are being released by topic starting March 13, 2007 until May 1, 2008. A list of release dates and topics is given in Appendix A.

Geographic units available: CMAs/CAs/CDs/CSDs/Census Tracts/custom geography

Links:
Census Dictionary
- The Dictionary is the reference product that explains concepts and definitions as well as giving an overview of the census process.

Link:
http://www12.statcan.ca/english/census06/reference/dictionary/index.cfm

Community Profiles

- These "provide 2006 Census data for 5,418 communities, 288 counties (or their equivalents), 33 large and 111 smaller metropolitan areas. Communities roughly correspond to municipalities (cities, towns, villages, etc.), Indian reserves or Indian settlements, or geographic areas created by Statistics Canada in cooperation with the provinces and territories as equivalents for municipalities. Users can search for an area by typing its 'place name' in the box or by clicking on a province or territory from the list below and selecting the area from a list."

Link:

http://www12.statcan.ca/english/census06/data/profiles/community/Index.cfm?Lang=E

Census Tract (neighbourhood) Profiles
- "Census tracts are small, relatively stable geographic areas that usually have a population of 2,500 to 8,000. They are identified using seven-character numeric 'names' (e.g., 0005.00) and are located in census metropolitan areas (CMAs) and larger census agglomerations (CAs)[1]". These are available for the first time from the 2006 Census. The profiles can be accessed by entering a postal code, using an interactive map, or by entering the CMA/CA code and census tract name.

Link:
http://www12.statcan.ca/english/census06/data/profiles/ct/Index.cfm?Lang=E

Highlight tables
- These tables "present information by topic via key indicators for various levels of geography. For example, these could include percent distributions and percentage change in the indicator from 2001. The tables allow users to perform simple rank and sort functions."

Link:
http://www12.statcan.ca/english/census06/data/highlights/index.cfm

Topic-based Tabulations
- "This series of cross-tabulations presents a portrait of Canada based on the various census topics. They will range in complexity and will be available for various levels of geography. A number of the tabulations will be available on day of release for each topic, while others will follow several months later. Content varies from:

  - A simple overview of the country

  - Simple to more complex cross-tabulations

  - Current and previous census data."

Link:
http://www12.statcan.ca/english/census06/data/topics/Index.cfm

Links: 2006 Census Data Products
http://www12.statcan.ca/english/census06/data/index.cfm

How to access: go to www.statcan.ca and click on the Census icon on the right hand side or click on either the "Census" or "Community profiles" on the left hand side.

Updates: every 5 years

Contact information: for special tabulations contact
Email: infostats@statcan.ca
Toll-free telephone 8:30am to 4:30pm Monday to Friday
1-800-263-1136 - Enquiries line
1-877-287-4369 - Fax number
Telephone: 613-951-8116 Fax: 613-951-0581

Cost: Most of the products above are free, but there is a charge for custom tabulations.

Database/Data product: Income Tax Records: Estimates for Families and Individuals (T1 Family File)

Data provider: Small Area Data Division, Statistics Canada

Description: This activity is conducted for the development and dissemination of annual small area socio-economic data for Canadians and their families. These data, collected primarily from income tax returns submitted to the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA), provide income and demographic information for sub-provincial geographic areas (postal areas and selected Census areas). Content includes income by source, charitable donations.

Users may select a specific area of interest that is not a standard area for which data can be made available in standard format. To obtain data, a list of the postal codes for which data are required must be provided. The area must satisfy confidentiality requirements, or no data can be produced.

Geographic units available: The latest data (2006) can be requested for postal walks, forward sortation areas, rural postal codes, cities and selected census areas (Economic Regions, Census Divisions, Census Metropolitan Areas/ Census Agglomerations, Census Tracts, Federal Electoral Districts)

Link: http://www.statcan.ca/cgi-bin/imdb/p2SV.pl?Function=getSurvey&SDDS=4105&lang=en&db=IMDB&dbg=f&adm=8&dis=2

Updates: annual

Contact: Client Services (toll-free 1-866-652-8443; 613-951-9720; fax: 1-866-652-8444 or 613-951-4745), Small Area and Administrative Data Division

Cost: There is a charge for all tabulations.

Database/Data product: Longitudinal tax records (Longitudinal Administrative Database - LAD)

Data provider: Small Area Data Division, Statistics Canada

Description: The Longitudinal Administrative Data (LAD) base is a longitudinal file designed as a research tool on income and demographics. It comprises a 20% sample of the annual T1 Family File and the Longitudinal Immigration Data Base. Variables have been harmonized where possible and individuals can be linked year to year starting with 1982 data. The file is augmented annually with new data. The longitudinal file contains many annual demographic variables about the individuals represented and annual income information for both the individual and their census family in that year. For immigrants landed between 1980 and 2003, the file also contains certain key characteristics observed at landing.

The population of interest is all members of Canadian families (families that include at least one person living in Canada). For cross-sectional purposes, in any specific reference year, the data cover all persons who completed a T1 tax return for that year or who received Canada Child Tax Benefits (CCTB) in that year, their non-filing spouses (including wage and salary information from the T4 file), their non-filing children identified from three sources (the CCTB file, the births files, and an historical file) and filing children who reported the same address as their parent.

Geographic units available: postal code can be used to create user defined areas, subject to confidentiality constraints

Link: http://www.statcan.ca/cgi-bin/imdb/p2SV.pl?Function=getSurvey&SDDS=4107&lang=en&db=IMDB&dbg=f&adm=8&dis=2

Updates: annual

Contact: Client Services (toll-free 1-866-652-8443; 613-951-9720; fax: 1-866-652-8444 or 613-951-4745), Small Area and Administrative Data Division

Cost: There is a charge for all tabulations.

Database/Data product: Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR)

Data provider: Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada

Description: The UCR Survey was designed to measure the incidence of crime in Canadian society and its characteristics. UCR data reflect crime that has been reported by police. This survey captures incident-level information on the characteristics of the criminal incident and the accused persons and victims involved. Crime Statistics in Canada (part of the Juristat series, cat. no. 85-002-X) is an annual publication based on the UCR system and provides tables showing crime rates for selected offenses by CMA.

With the financial assistance of the National Crime Prevention Centre at Public Security Canada, CCJS is working with selected police services to provide neighbourhood statistics. Studies have been done for three jurisdictions:
    Winnipeg (cat. no. 85-561-MIE2004004);
    Regina (cat. no. 85-561-MIE2006008); and
    Montréal (cat. no. 85-561-MIE2006007)
Work is under way to produce neighbourhood reports for four more cities (Edmonton, Thunder Bay, Halifax and Saskatoon).

Geographic units available: provinces, territories, CMAs (CMA boundaries adjusted to follow policing boundaries).

The provision of geocoded information (postal code, address or coordinates of criminal incidents) is not mandatory and therefore the data quality is variable. While there is a possibility of creating user defined areas, subject to confidentiality constraints, a feasibility study would likely be required.

Link: http://www.statcan.ca/cgi-bin/imdb/p2SV.pl?Function=getSurvey&SDDS=3302&lang=en&db=IMDB&dbg=f&adm=8&dis=2

Updates: annual

Contact: Client Services (toll-free 1-800-387-2231; 613-951-9023), Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

Cost: Publications are free on the website. There is a charge for user defined tabulations.

Database/Data product: Police Administration Survey

Data provider: Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada

Description: "This survey collects baseline information on police personnel and expenditures to enable detection of historical trends as well as permit comparisons at the provincial/territorial and municipal levels. All municipal, provincial and federal police services in Canada are surveyed."

Police Resources in Canada (Cat. no. 85-225-XIE) is an annual publication based on this survey that shows "police trends in police personnel and expenditures at the national, provincial and census metropolitan area (CMA) levels, and includes tables that that summarizes crime, personnel and expenditure statistics for all municipal police departments in Canada. Key rates such as population per officer, per capita costs, overall crime rates and clearance rates are included for each police service."

Geographic units available: provinces, territories, CMAs, municipalities (CMA and municipal boundaries adjusted to follow policing boundaries)

Link: http://www.statcan.ca/cgi-bin/imdb/p2SV.pl?Function=getSurvey&SDDS=3301&lang=en&db=IMDB&dbg=f&adm=8&dis=2

Updates: annual

Contact: Client Services (toll-free 1-800-387-2231; 613-951-9023), Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

Cost: Publication is free on the web.

Database/Data product: Vital Statistics Birth Database

Data provider: Health Statistics Division, Statistics Canada

Description: "This is an administrative survey that collects demographic information annually from all provincial and territorial vital statistics registries on all live births in Canada. Some data are also collected on live births to Canadian residents in selected American states."

Geographic units available: Provinces, territories, CMAs, CDs, health regions (postal code information is available to create user defined geography)

Link: http://www.statcan.ca/cgi-bin/imdb/p2SV.pl?Function=getSurvey&SDDS=3231&lang=en&db=IMDB&dbg=f&adm=8&dis=2

Updates: annual

Contact: Client Services (613-951-1746; fax: 613-951-4198; *hd-ds@statcan.ca*), Health Statistics Division.

Cost: There is a charge for user defined tabulations.

Database/Data product: Vital Statistics Death Database

Data provider: Health Statistics Division, Statistics Canada

Description: This is "an administrative survey that collects demographic and medical (cause of death) information annually from all provincial and territorial vital statistics registries on all deaths in Canada. Some data are also collected on Canadian residents who die in selected American states."

Geographic units available: Provinces, territories, CMAs, CDs, (postal code information is available to create user defined geography)

Link: http://www.statcan.ca/cgi-bin/imdb/p2SV.pl?Function=getSurvey&SDDS=3233&lang=en&db=IMDB&dbg=f&adm=8&dis=2

Updates: annual

Contact: Client Services (613-951-1746; fax: 613-951-4198; *hd-ds@statcan.ca*), Health Statistics Division.

Cost: There is a charge for user defined tabulations.

Database/Data product: Labour Force Survey

Data provider: Labour Statistics Division, Statistics Canada

Description: "LFS data are used to produce the unemployment rate as well as other standard labour market indicators such as the employment rate and the participation rate. The LFS also provides employment estimates by industry, occupation, public and private sector, hours worked and much more, all cross-classifiable by a variety of demographic characteristics, including immigrant status and Aboriginal identity. Estimates are produced for Canada, the provinces, the territories and a large number of sub-provincial regions. For employees, wage rates, union status, job permanency and workplace size are also produced. For a full listing and description of LFS variables, see the Guide to the Labour Force Survey, Catalogue No. 71-543-GIE. "

Some tables are available for free - under "Find Statistics" on the left hand bar of the main page of the www.statcan.ca, click on "Summary tables", Tables by metropolitan area.

Geographic units available: Provinces, territories, economic regions, CMAs

Links:
Description of LFS: http://www.statcan.ca/cgi-bin/imdb/p2SV.pl?Function=getSurvey&SDDS=3701&lang=en&db=IMDB&dbg=f&adm=8&dis=2
free tables for CMAs
http://www40.statcan.ca/z01/cs0007_e.htm

Updates: monthly

Contact: Client Services (613-951-4090; *labour@statcan.ca*), Labour Statistics Division, Statistics Canada

Cost: There is a charge for tables available on CANSIM.

Database/Data product: Canadian Community Health Survey

Data provider: Health Statistics Division, Statistics Canada

Description: "The CCHS is a cross-sectional survey that collects information related to health status, health care utilization and health determinants for the Canadian population." See Appendix B for a list of topics covered in 2005.

Geographic units available: provinces, territories, health regions

Link: http://www.statcan.ca/cgi-bin/imdb/p2SV.pl?Function=getSurvey&SDDS=3226&lang=en&db=IMDB&dbg=f&adm=8&dis=2

Updates: "The CCHS operates on a two-year collection cycle. The first year of the survey cycle ".1" is a large sample, general population health survey, designed to provide reliable estimates at the health region level. The second year of the survey cycle ".2" has a smaller sample and is designed to provide provincial level results on specific focused health topics."

Contact: Client Services (613-951-1746; *hd-ds@statcan.ca*), Health Statistics Division, Statistics Canada.

Cost: Many tables based on CCHS data are available for free in "Health Indicators" (link to p. 46 in this document)

Database/Data product: General Social Survey

Data provider: Social and Aboriginal Statistics Division, Statistics Canada

Description: "The two primary objectives of the General Social Survey (GSS) are: to gather data on social trends in order to monitor changes in the living conditions and well being of Canadians over time; and to provide information on specific social policy issues of current or emerging interest. GSS is conducted annually with topics repeated on a roughly five year cycle. The history of GSS data collection is outlined below."

Topic	1st series	Cycle No.	2nd series	Cycle No.	3rd series	Cycle No.	4th series	Cycle No.
Health	1985	1	1991	6	...[1]	...[1]	...[1]	...[1]
Time Use	1986	2	1992	7	1998	12	2005	19
Victimization	1988	3	1993	13	2004	18		
Education, work and retirement	1989	4	1994	9	2000	14	...[2]	...[2]
Family	1990	5	1995	10	2001	15	2006	20
Social Support	1985	1	1990	5	1996	11	2002	16
Access to and use of information technology	2000	14	...[2]	...[2]	...[2]	...[2]	...[2]	...[2]
Social support and aging	2002	16	...[2]	...[2]	...[2]	...[2]	...[2]	...[2]
Social engagement	2003	17	...[2]	...[2]	...[2]	...[2]	...[2]	...[2]

1. This survey topic has been discontinued for the GSS series.
2. This survey series is not yet available.
.. not available for a specific reference period
… not applicable

Geographic units available: provinces, territories, selected CMAs

Link: http://www.statcan.ca/english/freepub/89F0115XIE/89F0115XIE2006001.pdf

Updates: Annual for core questions, broad topics repeated on a five year cycle.

Contact: Social and Aboriginal Statistics Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0T6 (telephone: (613) 951-5979, by fax at (613) 951-0387 or by e-mail at sasd-dssea@statcan.ca).

Cost: Publications are free on the website. There is a charge for user defined tabulations.

Database/Data product: Survey of Household Spending

Data provider: Income Statistics Division, Statistics Canada

Description: "The Survey of Household Spending collects information about the spending habits of households in the previous year. The survey looks at the amount of money households spend on food, clothing, shelter, transportation, health care and other items. Information is also collected about dwelling characteristics as well as household equipment and appliances."

Geographic units available: provinces, territories, selected CMAs

Link: http://www.statcan.ca/cgi-bin/imdb/p2SV.pl?Function=getSurvey&SDDS=3508&lang=en&db=IMDB&dbg=f&adm=8&dis=2

Updates: annual for the provinces, bi-annual for the territories

Contact: Client Services (toll-free 1-888-297-7355; 613-951-7355; *income@statcan.ca*)

Cost: Publications are free on the website. There is a charge for user defined tabulations.

Database/Data product: Building Permits Survey

Data provider: Investment and Capital Stock Division, Statistics Canada

Description: "The monthly Building Permits Survey of Canadian municipalities collects data on the value of construction intentions for buildings in the non-residential sector and the number of dwellings authorized and value of construction projects in the residential sector. The survey also measures the number of dwelling units demolished."

Geographic units available: province, territories, CMAs

Link: http://www.statcan.ca/cgi-bin/imdb/p2SV.pl?Function=getSurvey&SDDS=2802&lang=en&db=IMDB&dbg=f&adm=8&dis=2

Updates: monthly

Contact: Jasmine Gaudreault
Tel: toll-free 1-800-579-8533; 613-951-6321;
Email: *bdp_information@statcan.ca*

Cost: Some tables are available for free - see Summary Tables section under "Find Statistics" on the left hand bar of the main page of the www.statcan.ca. There is a charge for tables available on CANSIM.

Database/Data product: Households and the Environment Survey

Data provider: Environment Accounts and Statistics Division, Statistics Canada

Description: "The Household Environment Survey (HES) measures the environmental practices and behaviours of Canadian households that relate to the condition of our air, water and soils. The survey was also design to collect data to develop and improve three key environmental indicators: air quality, water quality and greenhouse gas emissions. Components covered in the 2006 HES are: a) Consumption and conservation of water b)Energy use and Home Heating c)Gasoline powered equipment use d)Pesticide and fertilizer use e)Recycling, composting and waste disposal practices f)Air and water quality g)Transportation decisions."

A Vehicle Energy Use Survey is planned for 2009 and will have data for CMAs.

Geographic units available: provinces/ CMAs

Link: http://www.statcan.ca/cgi-bin/imdb/p2SV.pl?Function=getSurvey&SDDS=3881&lang=en&db=IMDB&dbg=f&adm=8&dis=2

Updates: Biennial

Contact: Information officer, Environment Accounts and Statistics Division
Tel. 613-951-0297; fax: 613-951-0634; *environ@statcan.ca*

Cost: Publication free on website.

Database/Data product: Canada Survey of Giving, Volunteering and Participating

Data provider: Special Surveys Division, Statistics Canada

Description: "This survey collects data regarding unpaid volunteer activities, charitable giving and participation."

Geographic units available: Provinces/Territories/selected CMAs

Link: http://www.statcan.ca/cgi-bin/imdb/p2SV.pl?Function=getSurvey&SDDS=4430&lang=en&db=IMDB&dbg=f&adm=8&dis=2

Updates: Every 3 years. Most recently data available are for 2004, data collection taking place in fall 2007 with data expected to be available in fall 2008.

Contact: Client Services, Special Surveys Division
Tel. toll-free 1-800-461-9050 or 613-951-3321; fax: 613-951-4527;
Email: *ssd@statcan.ca*

3. (b) Other primary national sources

Database/Data product: Rental Market Statistics

Data provider: Canada Mortgage and Housing

Description: CMHC publishes Rental Market Statistics in April and October each year.   It contains tables for CMAs and large CAs showing the number of available and vacant rental units in apartment and rental row houses, as well as vacancy and availability rates and average rent by number of bedrooms. The data are collected only for structures with at least three units.

Geographic units available: provinces, CMAs, large CAs

Links:
http://www.cmhc-schl.gc.ca/en/inpr/homain/stda/index.cfm

https://www03.cmhc-schl.gc.ca/b2c/b2c/init.do?language=en&z_category=0/0000000079

Updates: semi-annual

Contact: 1 800 668-2642   or market_analysis_centre@cmhc.ca

Cost: free

Database/Data product: Housing Information Monthly (Starts and Completions)

Data provider: Canada Mortgage and Housing

Description: Housing Information Monthly contains tables for provinces, CMAs and large CAs on housing starts and completions by dwelling type and by intended market (homeowner, rental, condo or coop). Apartment starts and completions are shown separately. Starts, completions and under construction are shown monthly for census subdivisions within CMAs and large CAs, and quarterly for other CSDs. Market absorption statistics, i.e., whether the unit has been sold or rented, are also available.

Geographic units available: provinces, CMAs, large CAs

Links:
http://www.cmhc-schl.gc.ca/en/inpr/homain/stda/index.cfm

https://www03.cmhc-schl.gc.ca/b2c/b2c/init.do?language=en&z_category=0/0000000079

Updates: monthly

Contact: Tel.: 1-800-668-2642   or market_analysis_centre@cmhc.ca

Cost: free

Database/Data product: Federal Election Results

Data provider: Elections Canada

Description: Number of votes for each candidate, rejected ballots, total votes, total number of electors

Geographic units available: Province, Territories, FEDs, Polls

Links:
http://www.elections.ca/intro.asp?section=pas&document=index&lang=e

Updates: each federal election. Most recent election was January 2006.

Contact: Elections Canada   257 Slater Street, Ottawa, Ontario   K1A 0M6

Tel.: 1-800-463-6868, Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (Eastern Time)

Fax: 613-954-8584   or 1-888-524-1444

Email: form is on website

Cost: free

Database/Data product: Facts and Figures: Immigration Overview– Permanent and Temporary Residents

Data provider: Research and Evaluation Branch, Citizenship and Immigration Canada

Description: "*Facts and Figures 2006: Immigration Overview – Permanent and Temporary Residents"* outlines the most recent annual statistics on intake of permanent residents by immigration category, and intake of temporary residents by primary status for the period 1980 to 2006. It also indicates the number of temporary residents in Canada on December 1 of each year during the same period. The main body of the publication consists of a series of statistical tables and charts depicting selected characteristics for these groups and covering the 10-year period 1997 to 2006. A glossary of terms and concepts used in the publication is also included." The pdf version can be downloaded from the CIC website (see link).

Facts and Figures: Digital Library is a searchable CD that presents the annual intake of permanent residents and temporary residents. Information on category of immigration, age, gender, source country, labour market intention, occupational skill level, language ability is available for permanent residents. The CD can be ordered from CIC. Geographic units available: Provinces/Territories/CMAs/CAs

Links: http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/resources/statistics/menu-fact.asp

Updates: annual

Contact: CIC does not have the capacity to respond to individual custom requests for data. The searchable CD can be ordered from the CIC website (use 'contact us' link).

Cost: free

Database/Data product: Bankruptcy Rates Report

Data provider: Office of the Superintendent of Bankruptcy, Industry Canada

Description: Bankruptcy Rates Report shows the number of commercial bankruptcies per thousand businesses and the number of personal bankruptcies per thousand people. Prior to 2007 data were available for CMAs/CAs with the remaining CSDs in a province grouped together. Starting with the 2007 report (to be released in Feb. 2008) data will be available for CMAs and Economic Regions. Although postal code is collected there is no formal dissemination mechanism for responding to requests for custom geography.

Geographic units available: Major Urban Centres(CMAs)/Economic Regions

Links: http://strategis.ic.gc.ca/epic/site/bsf-osb.nsf/en/br01362e.html

Updates: annual

Contact: *Industry Canada*
Office of the Superintendent of Bankruptcy
Heritage Place
155 Queen Street, 4th Floor
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0H5
Tel: 613-941-1000
Fax: 613-941-2862

Cost: free

Database/Data product: Hospital Discharges (Discharge Abstract Database – DAD)

Data provider: Canadian Institute for Health Information

Description: Contains demographic, administrative and clinical data for hospital discharges (inpatient acute, chronic, rehabilitation) and day surgeries in Canada. Finer levels of geography may be possible, but will require review for confidentiality reasons. This database can be used to look at discharges for specific health conditions such as diabetes, mental illness or injuries.

Geographic units available: health regions

Links: CIHI home page: http://secure.cihi.ca/cihiweb/splash.html

DAD: http://secure.cihi.ca/cihiweb/dispPage.jsp?cw_page=services_dad_e

Updates: annual

Contact: CIHI Toronto   90 Eglinton Avenue East, Suite 300   Toronto, ON M4P 2Y3
   Phone: 416-481-2002   Fax: 416-481-2950

Email: dad@cihi.ca

Cost: The tables on the web are free.

For user defined tables there is an administration fee of $1000 and an hourly production charge of $130 for Canadian health care facilities, governments, not-for-profit health agencies, universities, health professionals and researchers from the public sector.

For private commercial operations (including, but not limited to, software vendors and consultants), foreign clients and others not qualifying for the lower rate there is an administration fee of $1500 and an hourly production charge of $195.

Database/Data product: Nursing Databases

Data provider: Canadian Institute for Health Information

Description: The distribution of licensed practical nurses, registered nurses, and registered psychiatric nurses is presented by provincial and territorial health region.

Geographic units available: provinces/ territories/ health region

Links: CIHI home page: http://secure.cihi.ca/cihiweb/splash.html

Nursing Databases by Health Region:
http://secure.cihi.ca/cihiweb/dispPage.jsp?cw_page=nursing_profiles_regions_2006_e

Updates: annual

Contact: CIHI Ottawa   495 Richmond Road, Suite 600   Ottawa, ON K2A 4H6   Phone: 613-241-7860   Fax: 613-241-8120

Email: nursing@cihi.ca

Cost: The tables on the web are free.

For user defined tables there is an administration fee of $225 and an hourly production charge of $130 for Canadian health care facilities, governments, not-for-profit health agencies, universities, health professionals and researchers from the public sector.

For private commercial operations (including, but not limited to, software vendors and consultants), foreign clients and others not qualifying for the lower rate there is an administration fee of $340 and an hourly production charge of $195.

Database/Data product: Physician Database

Data provider: Canadian Institute for Health Information

Description: Scott's Medical Database (formerly Southam Medical Database) provides information on the supply, distribution and migration (between Canadian jurisdictions and international) patterns of Canadian physicians. Tables can be created at the CSD and CT levels with cells with counts of less than five asterisked out.

Geographic units available: provinces/ territories/

Links: CIHI home page: http://secure.cihi.ca/cihiweb/splash.html

Scott's Medical Database:
http://secure.cihi.ca/cihiweb/dispPage.jsp?cw_page=hhrdata_smdb_e

Updates: annual

Contact: CIHI Ottawa   495 Richmond Road, Suite 600   Ottawa, ON K2A 4H6

Phone: 613-241-7860   Fax: 613-241-8120

Email: smdb@cihi.ca

Cost: For user defined tables there is an administration fee of $225 and an hourly production charge of $130 for Canadian health care facilities, governments, not-for-profit health agencies, universities, health professionals and researchers from the public sector.

For private commercial operations (including, but not limited to, software vendors and consultants), foreign clients and others not qualifying for the lower rate there is an administration fee of $340 and an hourly production charge of $195.

Database/Data product: Hunger Count

Data provider: Canadian Association of Food Banks

Description: In addition to reporting food bank usage statistics, CAFB reports on the scope of charitable meal program provisioning activities, taking account of the meal programs run regularly by some food banks but also those run by agencies who receive food supplies from food banks.

Geographic units available: Data are available for 595 municipalities across Canada, 49 of these had populations over 100,000.

Links: www.cafb-acba.ca

Updates: annual

Contact: Canadian Association of Food Banks
             2968 Dundas Street West, Suite 303
             Toronto, Ontario   M6P 1Y8
             Tel: 416-203-9241 Fax: 416-203-9244   Tel: Toll free 1-877-535-0958
             E-mail: info@cafb-acba.ca

Cost: free

Database/Data product: Resale Housing Market Activity (CREA I)

Data provider: Conference Board of Canada

Description: Data based on the Canadian Real Estate Association's MLS® database includes number of sales and average prices as well as other indicators of resale housing market activity for 25 major market areas across Canada .

Geographic units available: major housing markets, as defined by real estate boards

Links: CREA
http://www.conferenceboard.ca/weblinx/crea/Default.htm

Updates: monthly

Contact: The Conference Board of Canada, 255 Smyth Road, Ottawa, Ontario   K1H 8M7

Phone: 1-866-711-2262   613-526-3280 Fax: 613-526-4857

Email: e-Data@conferenceboard.ca

Cost: CREA MLS® Regular Service	Annual Fee
Single User	$350
2 to 5 Users	$725
6 to 9 Users	$1,075
10+ Users	$3,525

Database/Data product: Neighbourhood resale housing market activity (CREA II)

Data provider: Conference Board of Canada

Description: Data from the Canadian Real Estate Association's MLS® database contains 450,000 residential housing market time series at the neighbourhood level for 16 key regional markets across Canada.

Geographic units available: neighbourhoods in 16 key markets (Victoria, Vancouver, Fraser Valley, Calgary, Edmonton, Regina, Saskatoon, Winnipeg, Toronto, Hamilton, London & St. Thomas, Ottawa, Montreal, Saint John, Halifax and St. Johns).

Links: CREA
http://www.conferenceboard.ca/weblinx/crea/Default.htm

Updates: monthly

Contact: The Conference Board of Canada   255 Smyth Road, Ottawa, Ontario K1H 8M7

Phone: 1-866-711-2262   613-526-3280 Fax: 613-526-4857

Email: e-Data@conferenceboard.ca

Cost: CREA MLS® II Detailed Service $5,600 annual fee

Database/Data product: Average resale housing prices

Data provider: Canadian Real Estate Association

Description: Average resale housing price for a real estate board. Note that CREA provides aggregate data only - there is no detail by type of housing. More detailed information is available from local real estate boards.

Geographic units available: major city real estate boards

Links: http://www.crea.ca/public/news_stats/statistics.htm

Updates: monthly

Contact: Canadian Real Estate Association, 200 Catherine Street , Ottawa , ON K2P 2K9

Tel: 613-237-7111

info@crea.ca

Cost: free on website

4. Indicator Databases and Community Profiles

This section includes databases that have assembled indicators from a number of different sources. Most are at the community level. This section is divided into national (Canadian) databases and provincial databases.

4. (a) National

Database/Data product: Summary Tables

Data provider: Statistics Canada

Description: This selection of summary tables, formerly called Canadian Statistics, provides an overview of statistical information on Canada's people, economy and governments. Tables can be selected by subject, province or territory or by metropolitan area.

Geographic units available: While most data are at the national level, there are at least some tables available for the following CMAs: Abbotsford, Calgary, Edmonton, Greater Sudbury, Halifax, Hamilton, Kingston, Kitchener, London, Montréal, Oshawa, Ottawa-Gatineau, Québec, Regina, Saguenay, Saint John, Saskatoon, Sherbrooke, St.Catherines-Niagara, St. John's, Thunder Bay, Toronto, Trois-Rivières, Vancouver, Windsor, Winnipeg

Links: http://www40.statcan.ca/z01/cs0007_e.htm

Updates: various depending on original data source

Contact: Email: infostats@statcan.ca
Toll-free telephone 8:30am to 4:30pm Monday to Friday
1-800-263-1136 - Enquiries line
1-877-287-4369 - Fax number
Telephone: 613-951-8116 Fax: 613-951-0581

Cost: free

Database/Data product: The Atlas of Canada, Natural Resources of Canada

Data provider: Natural Resources Canada

Description: A comprehensive collection of thematic maps and related information about Canada, with effective and intuitive tools for users to access them. Includes information on the economic, social and environmental conditions.

Geographic units available: Provinces/territories/CMAs/CAs(depending on indicator)

Links: http://atlas.nrcan.gc.ca/site/english/index.html

Updates: Thematic maps are updated every five years, based on the Census cycle.

Contact: The Atlas of Canada,   615 Booth Street, Room 650   Ottawa, Ontario   K1A 0E9
Fax: 613-947-2410

Cost: free

Database/Data product: Urban Poverty Project

Data provider: Canadian Council for Social Development

Description: The Urban Poverty Project has constructed two online databases – one of community profiles which contains 2001 Census data on 13 social indicators in a concise fact sheet format for 111 places in Canada, including cities, regions and provinces.

The second consists of condensed poverty profiles of 106 Canadian cities, regions and provinces. Each single-page data table is a statistical snapshot of a community's poverty rates, numbers, vulnerable populations, employment, education and family status.

Geographic units available: provinces/CMAs/CDs/CSDs

Links:
Community profiles:
http://www.ccsd.ca/pubs/2007/upp/community_profiles/index.htm

Poverty profiles:
http://www.ccsd.ca/pubs/2007/upp/poverty_data_tables/index.htm

Updates: every 5 years based on the Census cycle

Contact: To be determined

Cost: free?

Database/Data product: Vital Signs

Data provider: Community Foundations of Canada

Description: Vital Signs is an annual check-up conducted by community foundations across Canada that measures the vitality of communities, identifies significant trends, and assigns grades in at least ten areas critical to quality of life. The Vital Signs project was originally developed by the Toronto Community Foundation and is coordinated nationally by Community Foundations of Canada.

Vital Signs Canada provides the national data on each 2007 indicator and a context for the local, more detailed reports in Vital Signs communities. There are 11 communities for which there are local reports in 2007.

Geographic units available: selected CMAs /CAs

Links: National report:
http://www.vitalsignscanada.ca/nr-index-e.html

Community reports:
http://www.vitalsignscanada.ca/local-reports-e.html

Updates: annual

Contact: Community Foundations of Canada, 75 Albert Street, Suite 301, Ottawa, Ontario K1P 5E7 Canada

Tel: 613-236-2664 Fax: 613-236-1621

Email: info@cfc-fcc.ca

Cost: free

Database/Data product: Quality of Life Reporting System

Data provider: Federation of Canadian Municipalities

Description: The Quality of Life Reporting System (QOLRS) measures, monitors and reports on the quality of life in Canadian urban municipalities using data from a variety of national and municipal sources. Starting with 16 municipalities in 1999, the QOLRS has grown to include 23 municipalities, comprising some of Canada's largest urban centres and many of the suburban municipalities surrounding them.

FCM conducts a survey of its members as part of the QOLRS to collect data that are not otherwise available.

Geographic units available: Municipal districts (similar to CDs)

Links: http://www.fcm.ca/english/qol/qol.html

Updates: every one to two years

Contact: 24 Clarence Street, Ottawa, Ontario K1N 5P3
Tel: 613-241-5221   Fax: 613-241-7440
Email: jbates@fcm.ca

Cost: free

Database/Data product: Metropolitan Economic Trends

Data provider: Conference Board of Canada

Description: Five-year forecasts for 27 Canadian CMAs with more than 100 indicators for each CMA in the areas of employment, housing, population, migration and income.

Geographic units available: selected CMAs (see list below)

Links: Economic Indicators and Forecasts:
http://www.conferenceboard.ca/economics/

Indicator Databases:
http://www.conferenceboard.ca/economics/economic-data.htm

Updates: three times a year for 13 largest CMAs, twice a year for 14 CMAs

Contact: The Conference Board of Canada   255 Smyth Road, Ottawa, Ontario   K1H 8M7

Phone: 1-866-711-2262   613-526-3280 Fax: 613-526-4857

Email: e-Data@conferenceboard.ca

Cost:

Metropolitan Outlook Database—per individual CMA	$1,625
Metropolitan Outlook Database—13 largest CMAs	$5,325
Metropolitan Outlook Database—All 27 CMAs	$10,175

CMA's available: Abbotsford, Victoria, Vancouver, Calgary, Edmonton, Saskatoon, Regina, Winnipeg, Thunder Bay, Windsor, London, Kitchener, St. Catharines–Niagara, Hamilton, Oshawa, Toronto, Sudbury, Kingston, Ottawa–Gatineau, Montreal, Sherbrooke, Saguenay, Trois-Rivières, Quebec, Halifax, Saint John and St. John's.

Database/Data product: Composite Learning Index

Data provider: Canadian Council on Learning

Description: The Composite Learning Index (CLI) provides an annual measure of Canada's performance in the area of lifelong learning. The 2007 index is composed of 17 different indicators based on 24 different measures that provide information about the many different ways Canadians learn—in school, in the home, at work and in the community. The statistics are combined to produce a single score that reflects lifelong learning in Canada. Underlying data for the 24 measures are available from the CCL website. The model is shown in Appendix E.

Geographic units available: Provinces, Territories, Economic Regions, CMAs, CSDs

Links: CLI home page:

http://www.ccl-cca.ca/CCL/Reports/CLI2007?Language=EN

CCL data warehouse:

http://www.ccl-cca.ca/CCL/Reports/DataWarehouse?Language=EN

Updates: annual

Contact: Canadian Council on Learning, 215 - 50 O'Connor Street, Ottawa, ON K1P 6L2

Email: info@ccl-cca.ca
Tel. : 613-782-2959

Fax : 613-782-2956

Cost: free

Database/Data product: Health Indicators (Statistics Canada Cat. No. 82-221-XIE)

Data provider: Health Statistics Division, Statistics Canada and Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI)

Description: This publication, produced jointly by Statistics Canada and the Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI), is a compilation of over 80 indicators measuring health status, non-medical determinants of health, health-system performance and community and health-system characteristics.

These indicators are produced at the health region level, as well as at provincial, territorial and Canada levels. Data used to calculate the indicators are the most recently available and represent a wide range of Database/Data products including the Census, surveys and administrative records

Geographic units available: Province, territories, health regions

Links: Statistics Canada

http://www.statcan.ca/english/freepub/82-221-XIE/82-221-XIE2007001.htm

Canadian Institute for Health Information:

http://secure.cihi.ca/cihiweb/dispPage.jsp?cw_page=AR_152_E

Updates: semi-annual

Contact: Client Services (613-951-1746; hd-ds@statcan.ca), Health Statistics Division, Statistics Canada,

or

Contact: indicators@cihi.ca Canadian Institute for Health Information

Cost: electronic version is free

Database/Data product: Canadian Environmental Sustainability Indicators

Data provider: National Information Strategies, Environment Canada

Description: The current report presents environmental indicators for water quality, air quality, and greenhouse gas emissions. The freshwater quality indicator reports the status of surface water quality at selected monitoring sites across Canada. The air indicator reports national and regional trends in ground-level ozone, a key component of smog. The greenhouse gas indicator describes the trend in emissions and the contribution to the trend by energy production, energy consumption and other factors.

Geographic units available: dependent on location of monitoring stations

Links: Report:
http://environmentandresources.ca/default.asp?lang=En&n=6F66F932-1

Data (in the form of maps and charts):
http://pubmap.on.ec.gc.ca/cesi/templates/cesiChoice.php?lang=En&useJSAPI=0&year=2007

Updates: Annual

Contact: indicators@ec.gc.ca

Cost: free

Database/Data product: Community Information Database (CID)

Data provider: Rural Secretariat, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

Description: "The CID is a free on-line web-based resource intended to help users quickly capture demographic/socio-economic data for specific or multiple geographic regions from an interactive map.

 Users may click their mouse on a region on the interactive map to generate a popup table containing the data they have selected. Data in the popup table can be printed, or saved to file

Alternatively users can query a database of demographic/socio-economic indicators by region and download tables or graphics to spreadsheets or files."

This site provides users with a consistent, reliable, and accessible source of statistical indicators at the community level in Canada. The data is sourced mainly from Statistics Canada's Censuses of Population in 1996 and 2001."

Work is under way to update the CID using 2006 Census data as well as to revise the home page. A Training Module will also be added. The CID is exploring the possibility of adding other non-Census data holdings. Users can download data from the CID and combine it with their own local data.

Geographic units available: province/territory, economic region, CDs, CSDs

Links: http://www.cid-bdc.ca/homepage.htm

Updates: every 5 years based on the Census cycle

Contact: info@cid-bdc.ca

Cost: free

4. (b) Provincial Dissemination Models

Database/Data product: Newfoundland and Labrador Community Accounts

Data provider: Newfoundland and Labrador Statistics Agency

Description: "The Community Accounts is a public-wide, online data retrieval system for locating, sharing and exchanging information related to the province and its people. It provides users with a single comprehensive source of community, regional, and provincial data which come from a number national and provincial databases.

Users can custom generate a limitless number of tables and illustrative graphics on key social and economic indicators organized by geography and data topic within ten distinct accounts: Household Spending, Income, Social, Health, Labour Market, Production, Demographics, Education, Resource/Wealth and Environment. An additional account, termed Well-Being, allows users to compile indicators from each of the above domains to develop a better understanding of the factors that determine the status and progress of their communities and regions."

Geographic units available: province/ communities/ local areas/ economic zones/ rural secretariat regions/ health authorities/ community health regions/ institutional health boards/ school districts/ HRDC districts/ HRDC regions/ municipalities

Links: http://www.communityaccounts.ca/CommunityAccounts/OnlineData/getdata.asp

Updates: ongoing as data become available

Contact: Community Accounts Administrator, Economics and Statistics
Department of Finance
Government of Newfoundland and Labrador
St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador
Canada A1B 4J6

Tel: 709-729-2913

Email: form on website
http://www.communityaccounts.ca/CommunityAccounts/OnlineData/contact_us.asp

Cost: free

Database/Data product: Newfoundland and Labrador Provincial Election Results

Data provider: Elections Newfoundland and Labrador

Description: Number of valid votes for each candidate, percentage of popular vote, distribution of voters by age group

Geographic units available: Province, Electoral Districts

Links: General website:
http://www.elections.gov.nl.ca/elections/Default.asp

Election results
http://www.elections.gov.nl.ca/elections/Election_2007/officialcount.pdf

Updates: each provincial election. Most recent election was October 9, 2007

Contact: 39 Hallett Crescent, St. John's, NL, A1B 4C4

Telephone: 709-729-0712 toll free: 1-877-729-7987

Fax: 709-729-0679

Email: oceo@gov.nl.ca

Cost: free

Database/Data product: Nova Scotia Community Accounts

Data provider: Community Counts Division, Nova Scotia Department of Finance

Description: Nova Scotia Community Counts presents socio-economic and other data primarily from census and tax records that illustrate the unique nature of each community. Community Counts also allows comparisons of community resources among regional, provincial, and national levels to present a more complete picture of Nova Scotian communities.

Geographic units available: Provinces/Counties/Communities/District Health Authorities/ Community Health Boards/ Federal Electoral Districts/ Provincial Electoral Districts/ Regional Development Authorities/ Municipalities

Links: http://www.gov.ns.ca/finance/communitycounts/default.asp#top

Updates: ongoing as data become available

Contact: Community Counts Division, Nova Scotia Department of Finance
PO Box 187, 1723 Hollis Street, Halifax, NS B3J 2N3

Phone: 902-424-2556 Fax: 902-424-0635

Email: communitycounts@gov.ns.ca

Cost: free

Database/Data product: Nova Scotia Provincial Election Results

Data provider: Elections Nova Scotia

Description: Number of valid votes for each candidate, percentage of popular vote, eligible voters, votes counted, votes rejected, total number cast

Geographic units available: Province, Electoral Districts

Links: General website:
http://electionsnovascotia.ns.ca/

Election results:
http://electionsnovascotia.ns.ca/election_stats_2006.asp

Updates: each provincial election. Most recent election was June 13, 2006

Contact: Mailing address: PO Box 2246, Halifax, NS, B3J 3C8

Telephone: 902-424-8584 Toll free in Nova Scotia 1-800-565-1504
TTY: 902-424-7475 Toll Free TTY 1-866-774-7074

Fax: 902-424-6622

Email: elections@gov.ns.ca

Cost: free

Database/Data product: PEI Provincial Election Results

Data provider: Elections PEI

Description: Number of voters, no. of ballots cast, ballots rejected, votes received for each candidate, percentage of votes, eligible voters,

Geographic units available: Province, Electoral Districts

Links: General website:
http://www.electionspei.ca/

Election results:
http://www.electionspei.ca/provincial/historical/ceoreports/general/general-2007-05-28.pdf

Updates: each provincial election. Most recent election was may 28, 2007.

Contact: J. Angus MacLean Building, 94 Great George Street, P.O. Box 774
Charlottetown, P.E.I. C1A 7L3

Telephone: 902-368-5895 Toll free: 1-888- 234-VOTE

Fax: 902-368-6500

Cost: free

Database/Data product: New Brunswick Provincial Election Results

Data provider: Elections New Brunswick

Description: Number of valid votes for each candidate, percentage of popular vote, eligible voters, votes counted, votes rejected, total number cast

Geographic units available: Province, Electoral Districts, polls

Links: General website:
http://www.gnb.ca/elections/index-e.asp

2006 Election results:
http://www.gnb.ca/elections/06prov/06provresults-e.asp

Updates: each provincial election. Most recent election was September 18, 2006.

Contact:
Mailing address: Elections New Brunswick, P.O. Box 6000 Fredericton, NB, E3B 5H1

Telephone: 506-453-2218   Toll free (New Brunswick)   1-800-308-2922
Fax: 506-457-4926

Email: form on website

Cost: free

Database/Data product: Québec bulletin statistique régional

Data provider: Institute de la statistique du Québec

Description: "The "Bulletin statistique régional" draws a socioeconomic portrait of the 17 administrative regions and the three regional conferences of elected officers (CRÉs) of the Montérégie. It contains analyses, tables, graphs and maps that document the evolution and dynamics of the territories and provide local and regional stakeholders with support with regard to various matters (territory, demography, economic activity, labour market, income, education, health, science and technology as well as culture and communications)."

Geographic units available: Régions administratives (corresponds to economic regions)

Links: publication:
http://www.stat.gouv.qc.ca/regions/profils/bulletins/bull_regions_an.htm

Updates: annual

Contact: Information and Documentation Centre, Institut de la statistique du Québec, 200, chemin Sainte-Foy, Québec City (Québec) G1R 5T4;
Tel: 691-2401 for local calls or 1-800-463-4090 outside the Québec City area;
Fax: 418-643-4129
Email: cid@stat.gouv.qc.ca

Cost: free

Database/Data product: Québec Statistical Profiles of Administrative Regions and RCMs

Data provider: Institute de la statistique du Québec

Description:
"The online profiles of the Administrative Regions contain information on <u>Biofood Industry</u>
<u>Construction and Housing</u>, <u>Culture and Communications</u>, <u>Demography</u>, <u>Economic Accounts</u>, <u>Education</u>, <u>Foreign Trade</u>, <u>Health</u>, <u>Investment</u>, <u>Labour and Compensation</u>, <u>Living Conditions and Well-being</u>, <u>Manufacturing Sector</u>, <u>Public Administration</u>.
<u>Science, Technology and Innovation</u>

Online profiles for the RCMs have information on Construction and Housing, Demography, Economy, Labour, Living Conditions and Well-being."

Geographic units available: Régions administratives and Regional County Municipalities (RCM)

Links:
http://www.stat.gouv.qc.ca/regions/profils/region_00/region_00_an.htm

Updates: annual

Contact: Information and Documentation Centre, Institut de la statistique du Québec, 200, chemin Sainte-Foy, Québec City (Québec) G1R 5T4;
Tel: 691-2401 for local calls or 1-800-463-4090 outside the Québec City area;
Fax: 418-643-4129
Email: cid@stat.gouv.qc.ca

Cost: free

Database/Data product: Québec Provincial Election Results

Data provider: Élections Québec

Description: Number of valid votes for each candidate, votes counted, votes rejected, total number cast

Geographic units available: Province, Electoral Divisions, polls

Links: General website:
http://www.electionsquebec.qc.ca/en/index.asp

Election results:
http://www.electionsquebec.qc.ca/en/resultats_gen.asp?even=2007&mode=n4&section=resultats_gen#resul

Updates: each provincial election. Most recent election was March 26, 2007.

Contact:
Mailing address: Édifice René-Lévesque, 3460, rue de La Pérade, Québec (Québec) G1X 3Y5

Telephone: 418-528-0422 or 1-888-ÉLECTION (1-888-353-2846) (toll free in Canada or US)

TTD: 418-646-0644 or 1-800-537-0644 (toll free in Québec)

Fax: 418-643-7291 or 1-866-225-4095 (toll free in Québec)

Email: info@electionsquebec.qc.ca

Cost: free

Database/Data product: Ontario Provincial Election Results

Data provider: Elections Ontario

Description: Number of eligible voters, valid votes for each candidate, rejected, unmarked, declined ballots, total voter turnout

Geographic units available: Province, Electoral Districts polls

Links: General website:
http://www.elections.on.ca/en-ca

Election results:
http://www.elections.on.ca/en-CA/Tools/PastResults.htm

Updates: each provincial election. Most recent election was October 10, 2007. Final official report of the Chief Electoral Officer is not on the website yet.

Contact:
Mailing address: Elections Ontario   51 Rolark Drive   Toronto, ON M1R 3B1

Telephone: 416-326-6300 or 1-888-668-8683
TTY 1-866-273-4612

Fax: 416-326-6200

Email: info@elections.on.ca

Cost: free

Database/Data product: Manitoba Provincial Election Results

Data provider: Elections Manitoba

Description: number of valid votes for each candidate, rejected ballots, declined ballots, number of registered voters

Geographic units available: Province, Electoral Districts, polls

Links: General website:
http://www.electionsmanitoba.ca/

Election results:
http://www.electionsmanitoba.ca/main/election/39gen/results/

Updates: each provincial election. Most recent election was May 22, 2007.

Contact:
Address: Elections Manitoba, 120-200 Vaughan Street, Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3C 1T5

Telephone: 204-945-3225 Toll-free (Canada and the US): 1-866-628-6837

Fax: (204) 945-6011

Email: election@elections.mb.ca

Cost: free

Database/Data product: Saskatchewan Provincial Election Results

Data provider: Elections Saskatchewan

Description: Number of eligible voters, valid votes for each candidate, votes counted, votes rejected.

Geographic units available: Province, Electoral Districts, polls

Links: General website:
http://www.elections.sk.ca/

Election results:
http://www.elections.sk.ca/writ/results.php

Updates: each provincial election. Most recent election was November 7, 2007.

Contact:
Mailing address: 1702 Park Street, Regina, Saskatchewan, S4N 6B2

Telephone: 306-787-4000 Toll Free (Canada and USA) 1-877-958-VOTE

Fax: 1-877-958-VOTE Toll Free (Canada and USA)1-866-678-4052

Email: info@elections.sk.ca

Cost: free

Database/Data product: Alberta Provincial Election Results

Data provider: Elections Alberta

Description: Number of valid votes for each candidate, eligible voters, votes counted, votes declined, votes rejected, total number cast, per cent voter turnout.

Geographic units available: Province, Electoral Districts, polls

Links: General website:
http://www.elections.ab.ca/Public%20Website/index.htm

Election results:
http://www.elections.ab.ca/elect2008/wtResults.cfm

Updates: each provincial election. Most recent election is March 3, 2008.

Contact:
Mailing address: Suite 100, 11510 Kingsway NW, Edmonton, Alberta T5G 2Y5

Telephone: 780-427-7191 toll free in Alberta: 310-0000 then dial 780-427-7191

Fax: 780-422-2900

Email: info@elections.ab.ca

Cost: free

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Database/Data product: B.C. Regional and Community Facts

Data provider: B.C. Stats

Description: The *Community Facts* offer a comparison to provincial figures of various socio-economic indicators. Some of these indicators are: population, residential assessments, new business incorporations, bankruptcies, income assistance and unemployment insurance beneficiaries, construction activity and income.

Geographic units available: Regional Districts, Municipalities

Links: http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/data/dd/facsheet/facsheet.asp

Updates: 3 or 4 times a year as data become available

Contact: BC Stats, Box 9410 Stn Prov Govt, Victoria, BC   V8W 9V1

General Enquiries: 250-387-0327

Email: BC Stats (contact email form on website)

Cost: free

Database/Data product: B.C. Socio-economic Profiles and Socio-economic Indices

Data provider: BC Stats

Description: These profiles present data in tables and charts on population, economic hardship, labour market, education, crime, health and risk factors for children and youth. The data are presented in a format that allows comparison to other regions in the province and to B.C. overall.

The socio-economic indices compare regions of the province to determine those most under stress under categories of economic hardship, crime, health, education and risk indicators for children and youth expressed as rates and indices. Data are presented in tables, charts and maps. There is also a single composite index for each region within the province.

Geographic units available:
Socio-economic Profiles: Regional Districts, Local Health Areas, College Regions, School Districts, Health Service Delivery Areas, Health Authorities
Socio-economic indices: Regional districts, Local Health Areas

Links: Profiles:
http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/data/sep/choose.asp

Indices:
http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/data/sep/choose_i.asp

Updates: varies, depending on data source

Contact: BC Stats, Box 9410 Stn Prov Govt, Victoria, BC   V8W 9V1

General Enquiries: (250) 387-0327

Email: BC Stats (contact email form on website)

Cost: free

Database/Data product: B.C. 2006 Census Profiles

Data provider: BC Stats

Description: Tables, charts and maps of Census data

Geographic units available: Census Division (Regional District), Municipality, Regional District Electoral Area, Indian Reserve, Unincorporated Place, Neighbourhood (Census Tract)

Links: 2006 Census
http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/census.asp#2006

2001 Census:
http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/data/cen01/profiles/csd_txt.asp

Updates: as Census data are released

Contact: BC Stats, Box 9410 Stn Prov Govt, Victoria, BC   V8W 9V1

General Enquiries: 250-387-0327

Email: BC Stats (contact email form on website)

Cost: free

Database/Data product: B.C. Provincial Election Results

Data provider: Elections British Columbia

Description: Number of valid votes for each candidate, percentage of popular vote, distribution of voters by age group

Geographic units available: Province, Electoral Districts

Links: General website:
www.elections.bc.ca

Election results
http://www.elections.bc.ca/elections/ge2005/finalvresults.htm#ed

Updates: each provincial election. Most recent election was May 2005. Next provincial election is May 12, 2009.

Contact: Mailing Address: PO Box 9275, Stn Prov Govt,   Victoria, BC V8W 9J6

Phone: (250) 387-5305   Toll-free: 1-800-661-8683 / TTY 1-888-456-5448

Facsimile: (250) 387-3578   Toll-free Facsimile: 1-866-466-0665

Email: electionsbc@elections.bc.ca

Cost: free

5. Models for disseminating neighbourhood and municipal data in other countries

Other countries have developed various approaches to providing neighbourhood data. Examples from the US, UK, Australia and New Zealand are described.

Database/Data Product: American Fact Finder

Data provider: US Bureau of the Census

Description: American Fact Finder provides fact sheets for communities for various levels of geography. You can enter a street address and obtain information about a number of geographies for that address. There is also the capacity to retrieve certain data for a number of areas simultaneously.

Content includes basic demographic information, social and economic characteristics. Sources include the Decennial Census, the American Community Survey, Annual Population Estimates, the Economic Census, and annual Economic Surveys. Not all data are available at all levels of geography.

The data are retrieved based on the area specified from very detailed pre-existing tables.

Geographic units available: census tract, block group, block, congressional district, state legislative district, school district, 3 and 5 digit zip code tabulation areas

Link: http://factfinder.census.gov/home/saff/main.html?_lang=en

Updates: as data become available

Contact: "Feedback" link on website

Cost: free

Database/Data product: UK Neighbourhood Statistics

Data provider: UK Office of National Statistics

Description: In the U.K. "the National Strategy for Neighbourhood Renewal is an Action Plan that sets out a new approach to renewing poor neighbourhoods. The focus is not just on housing and the physical fabric of neighbourhoods, but the fundamental problems of worklessness, crime and poor public services poor schools, too few GPs and policing. As well the Strategy harnesses the hundreds of billions of pounds spent by the key Government departments, rather than relying on one-off regeneration spending. The Strategy puts in place new ideas including Neighbourhood Management and Local Strategic Partnerships for empowering residents and getting public, private and voluntary organisations to work in partnership. A range of different programmes have been established to determine local needs and to pilot new ways to fight deprivation in the poorest, most deprived communities."

The Neighbourhood Statistics program at the UK Office for National Statistics (ONS) was the result of recommendations made by a Policy Action Team. It is a key foundation of the National Strategy for Neighbourhood Renewal. Topics covered include: Access to Services, Community Well being, Crime and Safety, Economic Deprivation, Education, Health, Housing, Income, Lifestyles, Migration, Physical Environment, Work as well as summary indicators. Over 250 datasets are available as are maps for the selected area. The website is easy to use – you enter a postal code for the area for which you want information and the level of geography."

Geographic units available: Data are available for a number of different levels of geography including local authorities, wards, health authorities, education authorities, parishes, and various census output areas. For more information there is a Beginner's Guide to UK Geography on the website.

Links: Neighbourhood Statistics:
http://www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/dissemination/

Better Information: Policy Action Team report 18:
http://www.neighbourhood.gov.uk/publications.asp?did=303

Beginner's Guide to UK Geography:
http://www.statistics.gov.uk/geography/beginners_guide.asp

Updates: as data become available

Cost: free

Database/ Data product: Australian Census of Population and Housing

Data provider: Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS)

Description: The Australian census is similar to Canada's and is conducted every 5 years. There are several products designed for small area data users based on the Census.

The Census Products include QuickStats, a summary of key Census data for a chosen area, benchmarked against Australia; MapStats - a series of thematic maps showing the distribution of Census data for a chosen location; Census Tables - individual tables of Census data, available on a range of topics, for a chosen location; and Community Profiles - a collection of various tables showing Census data in detail, for a chosen location.

Geographic units available: Twenty-one different levels of geography are available including census collection areas and postal code. These products are searchable by any of the following: address, postal code, place name, state or capital city, map, or geographic level.

Link to access Australian Census data online:
http://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/d3310114.nsf/home/Census%20data

Update: every 5 years

Contact: "contact us" form on website

Cost: free

Database/ Data Product: National Regional Profile

Data provider: Australian Bureau of Statistics

Description: "The National Regional Profile (NRP) presents a brief statistical summary of key economic and social information for various levels of the Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC). It includes data from a variety of ABS and non-ABS sources. Broad indicators include Estimated Resident Population, some Census data, Births and Deaths, Unemployment, Income Support Customers, Taxable Income, Building Approvals, Motor Vehicle Sales and Agriculture. Five year trends are shown.

The NRP has been designed to assist users of regional statistics to understand the broad composition and structure of a region and to enable comparison across regions of Australia."

Geographic units available: most Statistical Local Areas, most Local Government Areas, Statistical Subdivisions, Statistical Divisions, states and territories, and Australia.

Link:
http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/nrpbygeogtype?openview&restricttoc ategory=Main%20Areas&Expand=1&

Updates: annual?

Contact: "contact us" form on website

Cost: free

Database/ Data product: New Zealand Census of Population and Dwellings

Data Provider: Statistics New Zealand

Description: The New Zealand census is similar to Canada's and is conducted every 5 years. Statistics New Zealand has created various Census products to meet the needs of small area data users specifically Quickstats and the Meshblock dataset.

Quickstats provides overviews of New Zealand's communities and includes text, tables, charts and boundary maps.

"The Meshblock data set contains counts starting at the meshblock level for selected variables from the 2006, 2001 and 1996 Census of Population and Dwellings, rebased to 2006 Census boundaries. (A meshblock is the smallest geographic unit for which statistical data is collected by Statistics New Zealand. Meshblocks vary in size from part of a city block to large areas of rural land. The dataset also contains counts for area units, wards, territorial authorities, and regional council areas.)" This product allows users to download the files of interest in Excel or Access format from which they can construct tables to meet their own specifications.

Geographic units available:
Quickstats: and local government areas – regions, cities and districts (territorial authorities).
Meshblock dataset: meshblock, area units, wards, territorial authorities, and regional council areas

Link to Quickstats:
http://www.stats.govt.nz/census/census-outputs/quickstats/aboutAPlace.htm

Link to Meshblock dataset:
http://www.stats.govt.nz/census/census-outputs/meshblock/default.htm?tab=Download

Updates: every 5 years

Contact: Info request form on website:
http://www.stats.govt.nz/inforequest.htm

Cost: free

Database/ Data product: New Zealand Quarterly Regional Reviews

Data Provider: Statistics New Zealand

Description: "The Quarterly Regional Reviews, produced for all regional councils and territorial authorities (excluding Chatham Islands Territory), bring together in one package a range of data from both Statistics New Zealand and external sources such as the New Zealand Police, the Real Estate Institute of New Zealand (REINZ) and the Ministry of Health.   Containing a selection of variables, the quarterly regional reviews are designed to show social, demographic and economic trends, specifically relating to a particular region, city or district.   Presented as summary tables, graphs and commentary, a quarterly review enables comparisons to be made with neighbours and New Zealand as a whole. Content includes a wide range of demographic, social and economic information."

Geographic areas available:

Link: http://www.stats.govt.nz/statistics-by-area/regional-statistics/quarterly-reg-review/default.htm

Updates: quarterly

Contact: Info request form on website:
http://www.stats.govt.nz/inforequest.htm

Cost: free

Database/ Data product: New Zealand Social Report

Data Provider: New Zealand Ministry of Social Development

Description: The Ministry of Social Development publishes annually a social report to "provide a picture of wellbeing and the quality of life in New Zealand . The regional indicators report is published in conjunction with the social report, and uses similar data at a regional and local level to show how outcomes vary across the country. It is intended to support regional and local councils with decision making."

Data comes from a variety of sources and "is provided for the 10 social report domains: Health, Knowledge and Skills, Paid Work, Economic Standard of Living, Civil and Political Rights, Cultural Identity, Physical Environment, Leisure and Recreation, Safety and Social Connectedness. The regional indicators website monitors outcomes across 23 indicators at a regional council level and 19 indicators at a territorial (TA) level."

Geographic units available: regional councils and territorial areas

Link: http://www.socialreport.msd.govt.nz/regional/

Updates: annual

Contact: Email: socialreport@msd.govt.nz

Cost: free

6. International Organizations

Database/ Data product: Millennium Goals, Social Indicators, UN common database

Data provider: United Nations Statistical Office

Description: The UN Statistical Office provides a wide range of social, economic and environmental indicators for countries. Although these statistics are not available at the city level, some of the indicators used may be of interest. Among these are the indicators for the Millennium Goals, and the Social Indicators, part of the Demographic and Social Statistics Program. As well there are a number of statistical databases including the UN common database (UNCDB) that contains nearly 1000 data series on 31 topics for individual countries.

Geographic units available: countries

Links: Millennium Goals:
http://mdgs.un.org/unsd/mdg/

Demographic and Social Statistics:
http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/default.htm

Link: UN Common Database (UNCDB)
http://unstats.un.org/unsd/databases.htm

Updates: various

Contact: E-mail: statistics@un.org

Cost: Use is free of charge for personal, individual, and private use. The material contained in the United Nations Common Database is copyrighted and proper credits are required.

Database/ Data product: Human Development Index

Data provider: United Nations Development Program (UNDP)

Description: "The HDI – human development index – is a summary composite index that measures a country's average achievements in three basic aspects of human development: health, knowledge, and a decent standard of living. Health is measured by life expectancy at birth; knowledge is measured by a combination of the adult literacy rate and the combined primary, secondary, and tertiary gross enrolment ratio; and standard of living by GDP per capita (PPP US)."

Geographic units available: countries

Link: UNDP Human Development Report:
http://hdr.undp.org/en/statistics/

Updates: annual

Contact: "Feedback and Suggestions" link on website:
http://hdr.undp.org/en/contacts/feedback/

Cost: free

Database/ Data product: Regio (harmonized regional statistical database for Europe)

Data provider: Eurostat

Description: Eurostat is the Statistical Office of the European Communities. Its data cover the European Union, its Member States and its partners, and are published under a variety of themes and collections. Eurostat does not collect data (this is done by the statistical offices of member states). Its main role is to process and publish comparable statistical information at European level.

Regio, Eurostat's harmonized regional statistical database "covers the main aspects of economic and social life in the European Union, and contains data for local areas classified to the first three levels of the Nomenclature of Statistical Territorial Units. This database is available free of charge online."

The Urban Audit component of Regio "provides reliable and comparative information on selected urban areas in Member States (MS) of the European Union (EU) and the Candidate Countries. The 336 variables used are structured in nine statistical fields (demography, social aspects, economic aspects, civic involvement, training and education, environment, travel and transport, information society, culture and recreation) and twenty-five domains."

Geographic units available: Information is available for 284 cities and 6,752 Local Area Units.

Link:
http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page?_pageid=1996,45323734&_dad=portal&_schema=PORTAL&screen=welcomeref&open=/general/urb&language=en&product=EU_general_statistics&root=EU_general_statistics&scrollto=0

Updates: various

Contact: use "help and user support" link under services on Eurostat home page

Cost: free

Database/ Data product: OECD.stat, OECD *Regions at a Glance*

Data provider: Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)

Description: "The OECD is one of the world's largest and most reliable sources of comparable statistics, and economic and social data. As well as collecting data, the OECD monitors trends, analyses and forecasts economic developments and researches social changes or evolving patterns in trade, environment, agriculture, technology, taxation and more."

OECD.stat is the portal to the statistical databases held by the OECD. It contains a wide range of social and economic data in various forms, including "complete databases and is freely available as a beta release via OECD's iLibrary, SourceOECD for the first half of 2008."

There is a "Regional Statistics" component to OECD.stat that contains sub-national data. "As well, the publication *OECD Regions at a Glance* presents a series of indicators for OECD countries. The book is organised around three major themes: regions' contributions to national growth in population, employment, and the economy: regional disparities in terms of incomes, activity rates and unemployment and regional assets: and a series of regional indicators for variables likely to be key to a regions competitiveness including accessibility, education, health resources, safety, and environment."

Geographic units available: country, some data available by region within country

Links: OECD.stat
http://www.oecd.org/statsportal/0,3352,en_2825_293564_1_1_1_1_1,00.html

Regional Statistics
http://www.oecd.org/topicstatsportal/0,3398,en_2825_497132_1_1_1_1_1,00.html

OECD *Regions at a Glance*
http://www.oecdbookshop.org/oecd/display.asp?sf1=identifiers&lang=EN&st1=042005011p1

7. Other Websites of Interest

The following websites provide information related to social data, although they do not contain indicators at the local level.

National Neighborhood Indicators Partnership (USA)

The National Neighborhood Indicators Partnership (NNIP) is a collaborative effort by the Urban Institute and local partners to further the development and use of neighborhood information systems in local policymaking and community building. There are now 24 city partners, institutions that have built advanced information systems with integrated and recurrently updated information on neighborhood conditions in their cities.
Their indicators cover topics such as births, deaths, crime, health status, educational performance, public assistance, and property conditions.

A review of the NNIP concept and the approaches of its partners can be found in "Neighborhood Indicators: Taking Advantage of the New Potential," by Tom Kingsley.
http://www2.urban.org/nnip/pdf/kingsle1.pdf

Institute for Social Research, York University
Toronto, Ontario

"The Institute's purpose is to promote, undertake and critically evaluate applied social research…. The Institute conducts research projects, provides consultation on research design, and undertakes data collection, data processing and statistical analysis on a fee-for-service basis… Survey data collected at the Institute and selected data sets from other major Canadian surveys are kept in the data archive at ISR for the purpose of secondary analysis and teaching."

The Canadian Election Surveys (CES) as well as the Ethno-Racial Reports may be of particular interest.

Link: http://www.yorku.ca/isr/home.html

A description of previous projects is available:
http://www.yorku.ca/isr/home.html

Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research,
Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan
Ann Arbor, Michigan

"Established in 1962, The Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR) is an active partner in social science research and instruction

throughout the world. ICPSR's unique combination of <u>data resources</u>, user support, and <u>training in quantitative methods</u> make it a vital resource for fostering inquiry and furthering the social sciences.

ICPSR maintains and provides access to a vast archive of social science data for research and instruction. To ensure that data resources are available to future generations of scholars, ICPSR preserves data, migrating them to new storage media as changes in technology warrant.

A unit within the <u>Institute for Social Research</u> at the <u>University of Michigan</u>, ICPSR is a membership-based organization, with over <u>550 member colleges and universities</u> around the world. A <u>Council</u> of leading scholars and data professionals guides and oversees the activities of ICPSR."

The ICPSR holds extensive data archives from government, academic and other sources. Topics include: Aging and Health, Census, Child Care and Education, Criminology and Justice, Demography, General Social Science and Substance Abuse and Mental Health.

Links: home page:

http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/ICPSR/index.html

To search archives:

http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/ICPSR/access/index.html

Metropolis Project

"Metropolis is an international network for comparative research and public policy development on migration, diversity, and immigrant integration in cities in Canada and around the world. The international arm of the Project involves partnerships with policy makers and researchers from over 20 countries, including the United States, most of Western Europe, Israel and Argentina and from the Asia-Pacific region." The project is coordinated by Citizenship and Immigration Canada.

Link: http://canada.metropolis.net/index_e.html

In addition to the many federal government partners, there are five Metropolis Centres across Canada:

Metropolis Atlantic Centre of Excellence

http://atlantic.metropolis.net/index_e.html

Montréal Centre for Inter-university Research on Immigration, Integration and

Urban Dynamics (IM),

http://im.metropolis.net/

CERIS - the Ontario Metropolis Centre,

http://ceris.metropolis.net/

Prairie Metropolis Centre (PMC)

http://pcerii.metropolis.net/

Metropolis British Columbia, Centre of Excellence for Research on Immigration and Diversity (MBC)

http://riim.metropolis.net/

World Values Survey

"The World Values Survey is a world wide investigation of sociocultural and political change. It is conducted by a network of social scientists at leading universities all around the world.

Interviews have been carried out with nationally representative samples of the publics of more than 80 societies on all six inhabited continents. A total of four waves have been carried out since 1981 making it possible to carry out reliable global cross-cultural analyses and analysis of changes over time. The World Values Survey has produced evidence of gradual but pervasive changes in what people want out of life. Moreover, the survey shows that the basic direction of these changes is, to some extent, predictable."

The Principal Investigator for the Canadian component is:
Neil Nevitte
Dept of Political Science, University of Toronto
100 St. George St.
Toronto, Ontario M5S 1A1   Canada
Phone: 416-978-7170

Link: http://www.worldvaluessurvey.org/

8. Summary and Next Steps

This inventory has been compiled to provide municipalities and their communities with more information about what social data are available and how they may be accessed. There are two main issues to consider in making data more accessible at the local level: first, the organization and dissemination of available data and secondly, the development of new data sources.

Dissemination of Existing Data
The national census remains the most comprehensive source of municipal level social data in Canada. Data are available for geographies as localized as a single city block and these may be aggregated to provide the data for user defined neighbourhoods and other small areas. The main limitations of census data are that they cover only a limited number of issues—there is nothing about population health, for example—and the fact that they are collected only once every five years. Moreover, there is a considerable lag between the time the data are collected and the time they are published. That delay is even longer for data released at the lower and custom levels of geography—i.e. Census Tract and below, neighbourhood planning districts, municipal wards, etc..

The census has made important advancements towards increasing the accessibility of its products by making data available free on the Statistics Canada website down to the CSD level. Publication of the 2006 Census Tract Profiles and the ability to locate specific CTs using postal codes, as well as the new *Census Trends*, a product that tracks key indicators over time for CMAs, CDs, and CSDs, are also major improvements. However, the user can access data for only one area at a time. More importantly, few people know about these new products, so much more could be done to raise their visibility. For example, given the proven success of the basic community profile, Statistics Canada might combine CT profiles and time series into a single, comprehensive 'Community Profile' product.

Survey data are available more frequently than the census, and the addition of questions on immigrant and Aboriginal status to the monthly *Labour Force Survey* will provide a new and more frequent source of data for these target groups. Still, sample size remains limited. This means that data are available for only the larger geographic areas, such as CMAs, and even here the sample may still be too small to provide useful information about any single municipality. Unlike the census, which can provide data down to the block face, surveys provide no information at the sub-metropolitan level.

Statistics Canada should be asked to routinely tabulate national survey results for CMAs, where sample size warrants, as it does for provincial, territorial, and national results. The General Social Survey (GSS), for example, could provide data for many CMAs. In addition to designing survey samples that are large enough to capture data for all CMAs over a certain minimum size, Statistics Canada should ensure that, for each of those CMAs, the same information is collected and disseminated.

The *Summary Tables*—formerly called *Canadian Statistics*—provide an overview of statistical information on Canada's people, economy and governments. Individual tables can be selected by subject, province or territory, or metropolitan area. The *Tables* constitute a first step in consolidating and aggregating existing CMA level data from non-Census sources. However, it is not clear from the Statistics Canada website that the *Summary Tables* include data at the CMA level. Moreover, the *Tables* do not have the same information for all CMAs and only appear to include consistently (social) data from the *Labour Force Survey*, *Building Permits* and the Census. Why some CMAs are included and others aren't, is not clear. Although Barrie and Kelowna had larger populations than Abbotsford, Thunder Bay and Trois Rivières in 2001 and 2006, they are not included in the list.

Wherever surveys produce data for CMAs—e.g. the *General Social Survey* cycle on victimization—those data should be included in the *Summary Tables*. As survey samples are redesigned to provide CMA data for all CMAs of approximately the same size, as suggested above, these data should also be included in the *Summary Tables*.

New Data Sources
Administrative data hold the most potential for further data development. Example include the Longitudinal Administrative Databank (LAD) and the much of the education data collected by Statistics Canada's Centre for Education Statistics (CES). LAD is an annual subset of data on families collected from information provided to Revenue Canada in personal income tax returns. The CES, in collaboration with the Council of Ministers of Education, publishes *Education Indicators in Canada*, a comprehensive, pan-Canadian collection of national, provincial and territorial statistics on enrolment, awarding of diplomas and degrees, tuition fees, and costs for elementary, secondary and post-secondary education, among others.

The LAD and *Education Indicators in Canada* are good examples of how administrative data can provide a wealth of information, at a relatively low cost and with minimal response burden. They are also available more frequently than the census and most national surveys. However, they do have their own disadvantages. The issues on which data are collected may not correspond to research or policy needs, they may cover only a limited population and there can be problems with data quality. The level of geography reported may vary from one data supplier to another, as is the case for crime and some health statistics, for example. Even where data can be mapped by postal code, those postal code data may not aggregate to the expected geography. Still, where the postal code is reported reliably, there is the potential to create user-defined areas such as neighbourhoods.

There is clearly a need for a separate initiative to explore how administrative data could be exploited more fully to provide annual information at the community /neighbourhood level. The non-government, not-for-profit Canadian Institute for Health Information and the joint CIHI/Statistics Canada product *Health Indicators* (link to p. 46 in this document) demonstrates that it is possible to provide community

data on a regular basis. The Canadian Council on Learning has extended existing survey data to the community level in developing their *Composite Learning Index* (link to p.45 in this document). A similar organizational model should be considered for developing and housing administrative data for use by municipalities. Both CIHI and CCL are potential partners in improving the quality and availability of community level data.

In terms of the key content areas of social data, data on housing and homelessness remain important data gaps. The number of shelters contributing to HIFIS (HRSDCs Homeless Individuals and Families Information System) has increased, but coverage in western Canada remains incomplete.[1] Implementation of HIFIS should be monitored, so data sharing protocols can be established as coverage improves. For more information on HIFIS go to http://www.hifis.ca/index_e.asp.

At a practical level, a good and immediate starting point for making more neighbourhood social data available would be Income Tax records. The collection and dissemination infrastructure is in place and the links between postal code and census geographies have been created. A number of indicators could be created such as median income, proportion of families in low income, proportion of population receiving employment insurance, social assistance, CPP, and Child Tax Credit, and proportion making charitable donations. While such data are currently available on a cost recovery basis, Statistics Canada should be urged to make them available free, at least down to the level of CSD, as is now the case for the Census.

Other countries have succeeded in creating dissemination models for small geographic areas by combining data from various sources. In particular, the UK neighbourhood statistics website is especially impressive, with over 250 data sets. In the US, UK, and Australia, users can type in postal code and obtain a wide range of information for the area. Within Canada, Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, Québec, and B.C. have created successful models. These all demonstrate that it is possible to make community level data readily accessible. The challenge is now to do so for all Canadian communities.

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[1] See p. 8 HIFIS Annual Report 2006-2007
http://www.hifis.ca/about/HIFISInitiativeAnnualReport2006-2007_EN.pdf
accessed January 29, 2008

Appendices

A. 2006 Census Release Dates by Topic

Data from the 2006 Census are being released as follows
2007
Population and dwelling counts   Tuesday, March 13, 2007

Age and sex   Tuesday, July 17, 2007

Families and households   Wednesday, September 12, 2007
Marital status (including common-law status)
Housing and shelter costs
(including dwelling characteristics)

Language   Tuesday, December 4, 2007
Immigration and citizenship
Mobility and migration

2008
Aboriginal peoples   Tuesday, January 15, 2008

Labour (including labour market activity, Tuesday, March 4, 2008
   industry and occupation)
Place of work and commuting to work
   (including mode of transportation)
Education (including school attendance and
       educational attainment)
Language (including language of work)

Ethnic origin and visible minorities   Wednesday, April 2, 2008

Income and earnings   Thursday, May 1, 2008
Housing and shelter costs

B. Canadian Community Health Survey content modules

C. Vital Signs common indicators

Area   Indicator

Learning: Prop. Of population with completed post-secondary education
Work: Unemployment rate
Belonging and Leadership: Volunteer rate
Getting Started in Our Community: Unemployment rate of immigrants
Housing: Average housing prices as a proportion of median income
Safety: Property crime rate
Arts and Culture: Employment in cultural industries
Health and Wellness: Physicians per capita
Gap between Rich and Poor: Overall poverty rate
Environment: Greenhouse gas emissions

D. FCM QOL indicators

DEMOGRAPHIC & BACKGROUND INFORMATION - (DBI)
:: DBI1Population Growth
:: DBI2 Household & Family Composition
:: DBI3 Average Income
:: DBI4 Renters & Owners
:: DBI5 Population Mobility
:: DBI6 Foreign Born
:: DBI7 New Immigrant Groups
:: DBI8 Language Spoken at Home   :: DBI9 Visible Minorities
:: DBI10 Aboriginal Population
AFFORDABLE, APPROPRIATE HOUSING (AAH)
:: AAH1 30+ Income on Shelter
:: AAH2 50%+ Income on Shelter
:: AAH3 Core Housing Need
:: AAH4 Substandard Units
:: AAH5 Changing Face of Homelessness
:: AAH6 Vacancy Rates
:: AAH7 Rental Housing Starts
:: AAH8 Monthly Rent
CIVIC ENGAGEMENT (CE)
:: CE1 Voter Turnout
:: CE2 Women in Municipal Government
:: CE3 Newspaper Circulation
:: CE4 Volunteering
:: CE5 Charitable Donations
COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE (CSI)
:: CSI1 Social Housing Waiting Lists
:: CSI2 Rent-Geared-to-Income Housing
:: CSI3 Social Assistance Allowances
:: CSI4 Subsidized Child Care Spaces
:: CSI5 Public Transit Costs
:: CSI6 Social Service Professionals
:: CSI7 Private Health Care Expenditures
EDUCATION (ED)
:: ED1 Education Levels
:: ED2 Literacy Levels
:: ED3 Adult Learning
:: ED4 Education Expenditures
:: ED5 Classroom Size
:: ED6 Student/Teacher Ratio
:: ED7 Post-Secondary Tuition

:: ED8 Spending on Private Education
EMPLOYMENT (EM)
:: EM1 Unemployment/Employment Rates
:: EM2 Quality of Employment
:: EM3 Long Term Unemployment
:: EM4 Labour Force Replacement
LOCAL ECONOMY (LE)
:: LE1 Business Bankruptcies
:: LE2 Consumer Bankruptcies
:: LE3 Hourly Wages
:: LE4 Change in Family Income
:: LE5 Building Permits
NATURAL ENVIRONMENT (NE)
:: NE1 Air Quality
:: NE2 Urban Transportation
:: NE3 Population Density
:: NE4 Water Consumption
:: NE5 Wastewater Treatment
:: NE6 Solid Waste
:: NE7 Ecological Footprint
:: NE8 Recreational Water Quality
PERSONAL & COMMUNITY HEALTH (PCH)
:: PCH1 Low Birth Weight Babies
:: PCH2 Teen Births
:: PCH3 Premature Mortality
:: PCH4 Work Hours Lost
:: PCH5 Suicides
:: PCH6 Infant Mortality
PERSONAL FINANCIAL SECURITY (PFS)
:: PFS1 Community Affordability
:: PFS2 Families Receiving EI/Social Assistance
:: PFS3 Economic Dependency Ratio
:: PFS4 Lone Parent Families
:: PFS5 Incidence of Low Income Families
:: PSF6 Children Living in Poverty
:: PFS7 Income Gap
PERSONAL SAFETY (PS)
:: PS1 Young Offenders
:: PS2 Violent Crimes
:: PS3 Property Crimes
:: PS4 Injuries and Poisonings

E. Composite Learning Index (CLI) indicators

F. Summary of data sources by indicator area

National Data Sources	Demographic Information	Housing	Civic Engagement & Social Capital	Community & Social Infrastructure	Education	Local Economy	Employment	Natural Environment	Health	Income
Summary Tables, Statistics Canada	X	X	X		X	X	X			X
Atlas of Canada, Natural Resources Canada	X	X			X		X			X
Urban Poverty Project, CCSD	X	X			X		X			X
Vital Signs, Community Foundations of Canada	X	X	X	X	X		X	X		
Quality of Life Reporting System, Federation of Canadian Municipalities	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Metropolitan Economic Trends, Conference Board of Canada	X	X				X	X			X
Composite Learning Index, CCL			X	X	X					
Health Indicators, Statistics Canada & CIHI	X	X	X	X	X		X		X	X
Environmental Sustain-ability Indicators, Environment Canada								X		
CommunityInformation Database, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada	X	X			X		X			X