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# Plans and Possibilities

## The Canadian Household Panel Survey

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# Outline

- Origins
- Objectives
- Features
- Benefits
- CHPS-Pilot, Wave 1
- Deliverables



# The Canadian Household Panel Survey (CHPS)

- New household panel survey initiated by Statistics Canada, HRSDC and the academic community
- A new survey is needed because the linkages between subjects, like health and work, are important, but are not covered *together* in other Statistics Canada surveys.

# Origins

- January 2006: 2-day conference reviewing longitudinal surveys in Canada and elsewhere
- Need for a longitudinal survey like the German Socio-Economic Panel (GSOEP), British Household Panel Survey (BHPS) or Household Labour and Income Dynamics in Australia Survey (HILDA)

# Origins

- Characteristics of these surveys:
  - General Household Panel Studies
  - Collect information on multiple topics
  - Emphasis placed on well-being
  - Indefinite panel length
  - All population groups



## Objective of CHPS

- Create a multi-topic longitudinal dataset that supports an increasingly interdisciplinary orientation of policy and academic research on individual and family well-being and other related topics in areas of interest to the Canadian public.



# Objective of CHPS

- Emphasizes:
  - Linkages between domains
  - Relationships between events that happen at one point in life, and outcomes much later
  - Family as the location where well-being is generated and measured



# Features

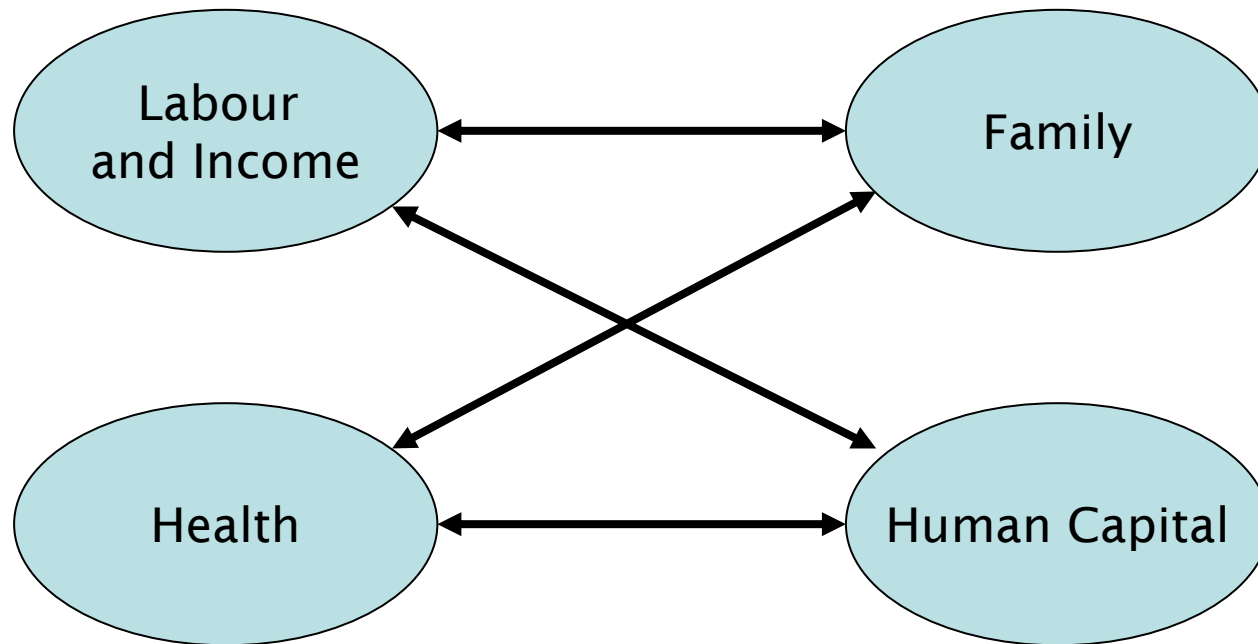
- Objective and subjective measures
- Balance of economic and social topics
- Survey and administrative data
- Annual, one time only, and rotating content



## Features: Methodology

- A longitudinal survey with indefinite panel length
- Annual personal interview
- Interview all household members age 15+
- All respondents followed to next wave
- No proxy

# Features: Four main content areas that interact





# Features: Wave 1 Content

- *Household level:*
  - Housing; Childcare; Expenditures; Material deprivation
  
- *Individual level:*
  - *History:* Family; fertility; education; employment and income;
  - *Today:* Work skills; Income; Pensions; Retirement; Health and health behaviours; Social participation; Satisfaction

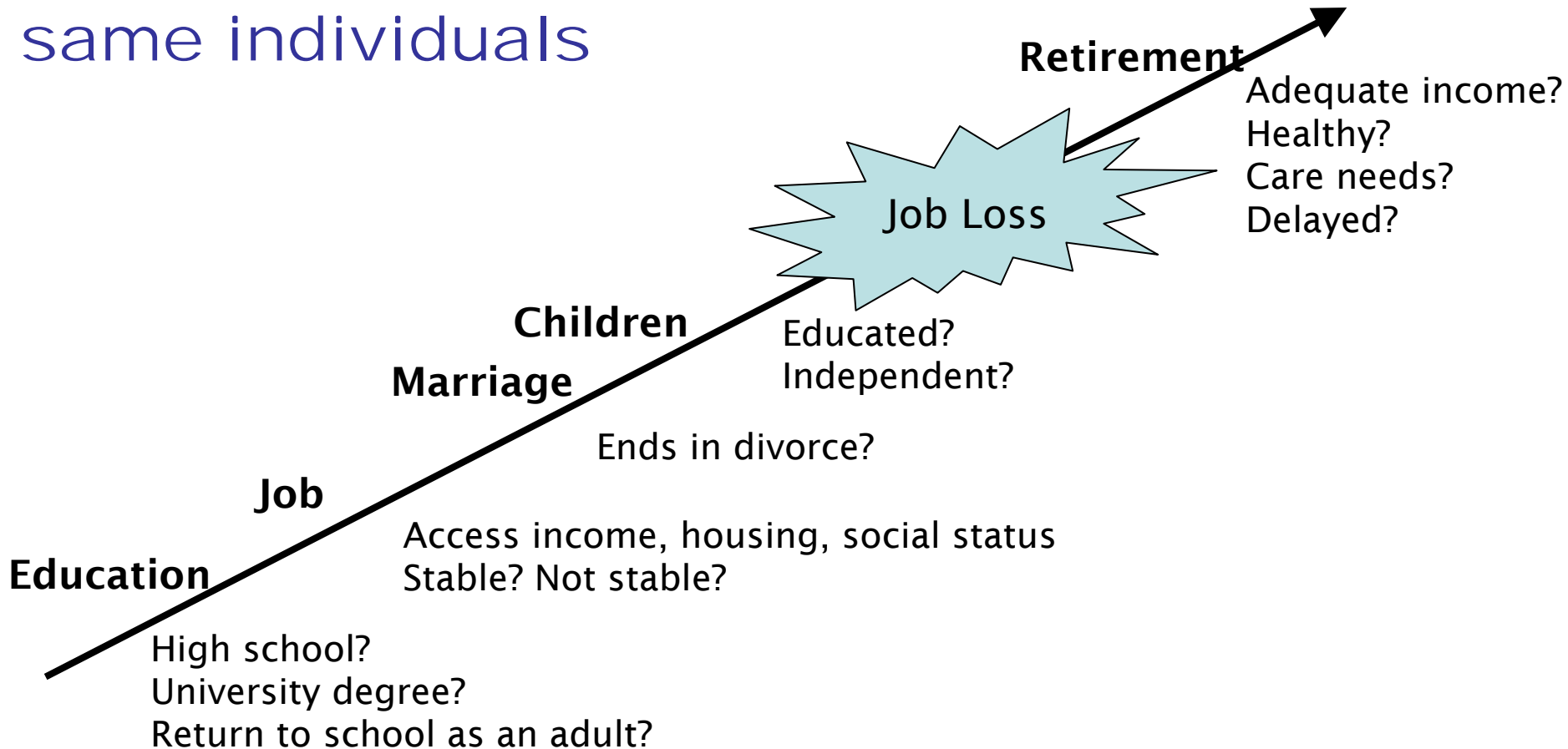


## Features: Waves 2-6 Content

- Updates on Wave 1 content
  
- Rotating content could include:
  - Work life balance
  - Assets and debts
  - Inter and intra household transfers
  - Care giving and receiving
  - Time Use
  - Parenting
  - Other rotating health content

NOT AN EXHAUSTIVE LIST

# Benefits: Repeated observations on the same individuals





## Benefits: Repeated observations on the same individuals

- Repeated interviews allow us to see:
  - What led up to the change
  - What else changed at the same time
  - How people coped after the change



## Benefits: Other surveys

- **USA** – Panel Study of Income Dynamics (PSID)
- **UK** – British Household Panel Survey (BHPS)  
(since 1991)
- **Germany** – German Socio-Economic Panel  
(GSOEP) (since 1984)
- **Australia** – Household Labour and Income  
Dynamics in Australia (HILDA) (Since 2001)



# Benefits: Rotating content example

- HILDA (Household Labour and Income Dynamics in Australia)
  - Added 31 question on Assets and Debts in wave 2 and 6, yielding the first longitudinal wealth data in Australia
    - Accumulation and deterioration of wealth over the life course



## Benefits: Longitudinal and multi-topic is efficient

- Multi-topic, rotating content gives a rich description of individuals;
- Rotating content means survey can respond to emerging issues;
- Multi-purpose surveys open the door to a broad cross section of researchers and more potential uses;
- Information set grows and increases in value over time.



# Benefits: Fills gaps in the longitudinal portfolio

Some examples:

- Ageing
- Long run labour and income
- Importance of new family structures on long-term well being
- Effect of health on socio-economic outcomes



## Benefits: Fills data gaps

- Powerful tool for labour market policy analysis
- Traditional topics (dynamics of poverty, unemployment, income, labour adjustment) with added covariates that are now deemed to be important for understanding the determinant processes
- Longer panel allows for research on long-term impacts of shocks
- Flexible in terms of content

# CHPS Pilot

- Development and pilot funded by PRDG through 2008-09
- Field period started Oct. 15th, 2008
- Longitudinal (Wave 2 presently unfunded)
  - Follows individuals as well as their descendents over time
- Sample: 2,400 households in 4 provinces
  - Saskatchewan, Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick

# CHPS Pilot: Methodology

- Interview consists of:
  - Household component
  - Individual components (15+)
- Person most knowledgeable asked to complete household component
- Personal interviews
  - Telephone interviews possible under some circumstances
- Non-proxy interviews



# Household Component - Questions

- Dwelling
- Types of Childcare Used (last month/last week)
- Total Childcare Expenditures (last year)
- Child Health
- Expenses (last month)
- Two measures of household deprivation
  - Food, Housing and Financial Security
  - Material deprivation index
- Savings
- Household income (last month)



# Individual Component - Retrospective Questions

- Extend the panel of data into the past, allow for better research outcomes earlier.
- Important to capture as much information as possible.
- **Education**
  - All completed degrees, certificates or diplomas.
- **Marriage and Cohabitation**
  - All legal and common law relationships.
- **Parenting**
  - Use of maternity benefits.
  - Information on all children of respondent
- **Jobless Spells**
  - All spells six months or longer where they did not work.



# Individual Component Current Period Questions

- Education
- Labour force status
- Job characteristics (not asked of 15-17 year olds)
- Income
- Retirement / Social Participation (age 45+ only)
- Health / Health Behaviours / Health Indices
- Demographics
- Satisfaction



## CHPS Pilot - Collects information on:

- Shelter cost variables
- Rent, mortgage payments, condo fees, property taxes, utilities
- Income variables (similar to SLID)
  - Personal income;
  - Tax permission; permission to link historically and to PPIC (Pension Plans in Canada)



# Deliverables

- Pilot survey and results
  - Test new questions
  - Test methodology, i.e. multiple interviews; interview time; response rate; record linkage
- Preparation for Wave-2 Pilot



# Questions?

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