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# DO WE HAVE THE DATA AND INSIGHTS WE NEED TO TACKLE FINANCIAL VULNERABILITY?

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Able Financial Empowerment Conference

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Statistics  
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[www.statcan.gc.ca](http://www.statcan.gc.ca)

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# Statistics Canada

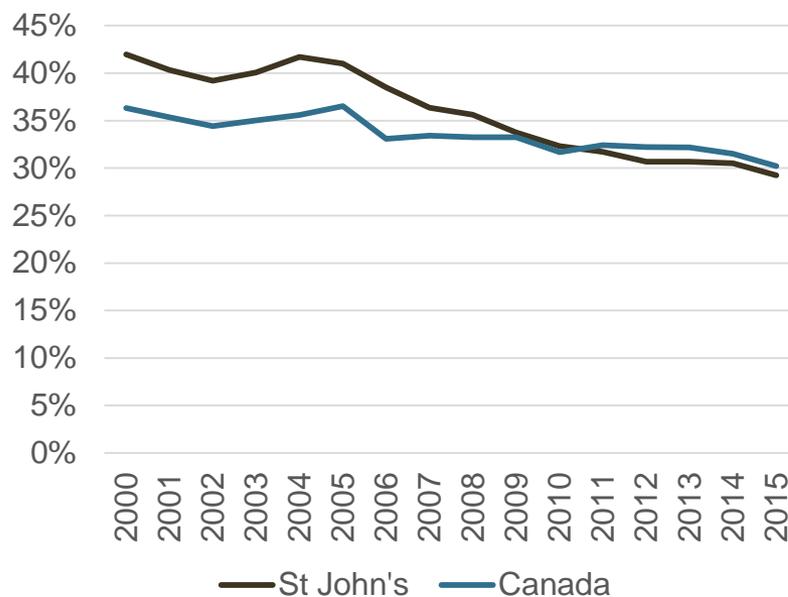
- Our mission: Serving Canada with high-quality statistical information that matters.
- Information can come from a variety of sources
  - Administrative data
  - Census
  - Surveys
  - Non-traditional data (e.g. TransUnion)
- These sources can be integrated to provide additional information
  - Data linkages
  - Microsimulation models
  - Integrated systems like the National Economic Accounts



# Example: Tax data which has been linked into families - the T1 Family File

- Statistics for small geographical areas
- Annual time series
- Doesn't include certain variables which might be of interest
  - E.g. aboriginal identity or economic family

% of Lone Parent Families who are in low income

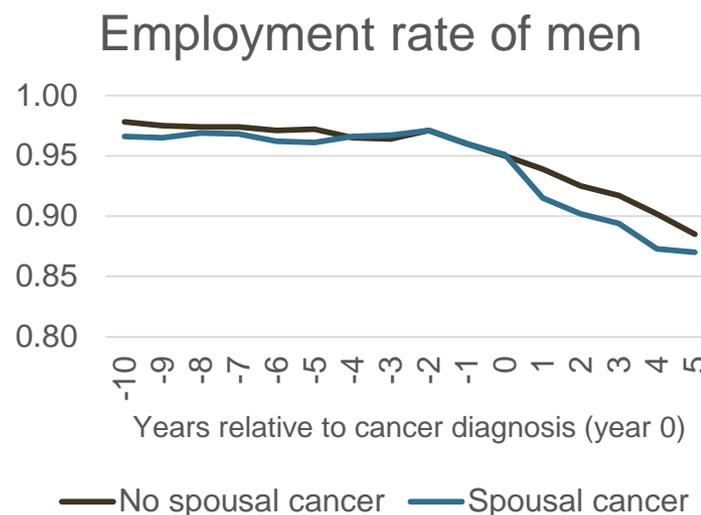


**Source:** Statistics Canada. *Table 111-0015 - Characteristics of families, before-tax and after-tax low income status (based on census family low income measures, LIMs) by family type and family composition, annual (number unless otherwise noted), CANSIM (database).* (accessed: April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2018)



## Linking tax data to other administrative data adds information which would be hard to get elsewhere

- Study examined what happens after a cancer diagnosis
- Five sources of data were linked, including tax data, census data, and a cancer registry
- Large number of records allows for the examination of rarer events
- Longitudinal information without respondent burden



Source: Jeon, S and Pohl, R (2016). Analytical Studies Branch Research Paper Series: Health and Work in the Family: Evidence from Spouses' Cancer Diagnoses

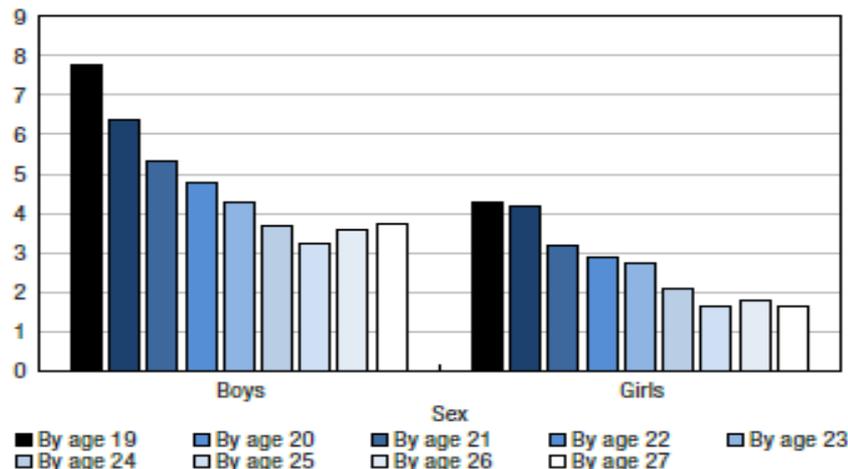
# Linking administrative data to survey data increases its relevance and timeliness



- Youth in Transition Survey was linked to tax data
- Able to follow outcomes years after the survey
- Surveys can ask questions to get information which does not exist in administrative data
- Smaller samples means that less disaggregation is possible

**Predicted gap in postsecondary enrolment rates between RESP holders and non-holders, by sex and age**

predicted gap in rates (percentage points)



**Notes:** RESP: registered education savings plan. The sample consists of youth born in 1984.  
**Sources:** Statistics Canada, Youth in Transition Survey, Cohort A, cycle 1, and T1 Family File, 2001 to 2011; Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, Programme for International Student Assessment.

Source: Frenette, M. (2017). Investments in Registered Education Savings Plans and Postsecondary Attendance. 11-626-X. No 071

# Microsimulation models integrate multiple data sources statistically to allow for what-if analyses



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- The Social Policy Simulation Database and Model (SPSD/M) allows users to model changes in taxes and transfers
- The Parliamentary Budget Office recently used it to estimate the cost of implementing Guaranteed Basic Income (GBI) across Canada

	2018-19	2022-23
Basic cost of GBI (\$ millions)	72,882	75,992
Number of potential recipients (000)	7,730	7,473
Basic cost per capita (\$)	9,421	10,169

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Source: Parliamentary Budget Office 2018. Costing a Guaranteed Basic Income Using the Ontario Basic Income Model.

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# Some of the main data sources to examine financial vulnerability: Currently able to produce data for small areas



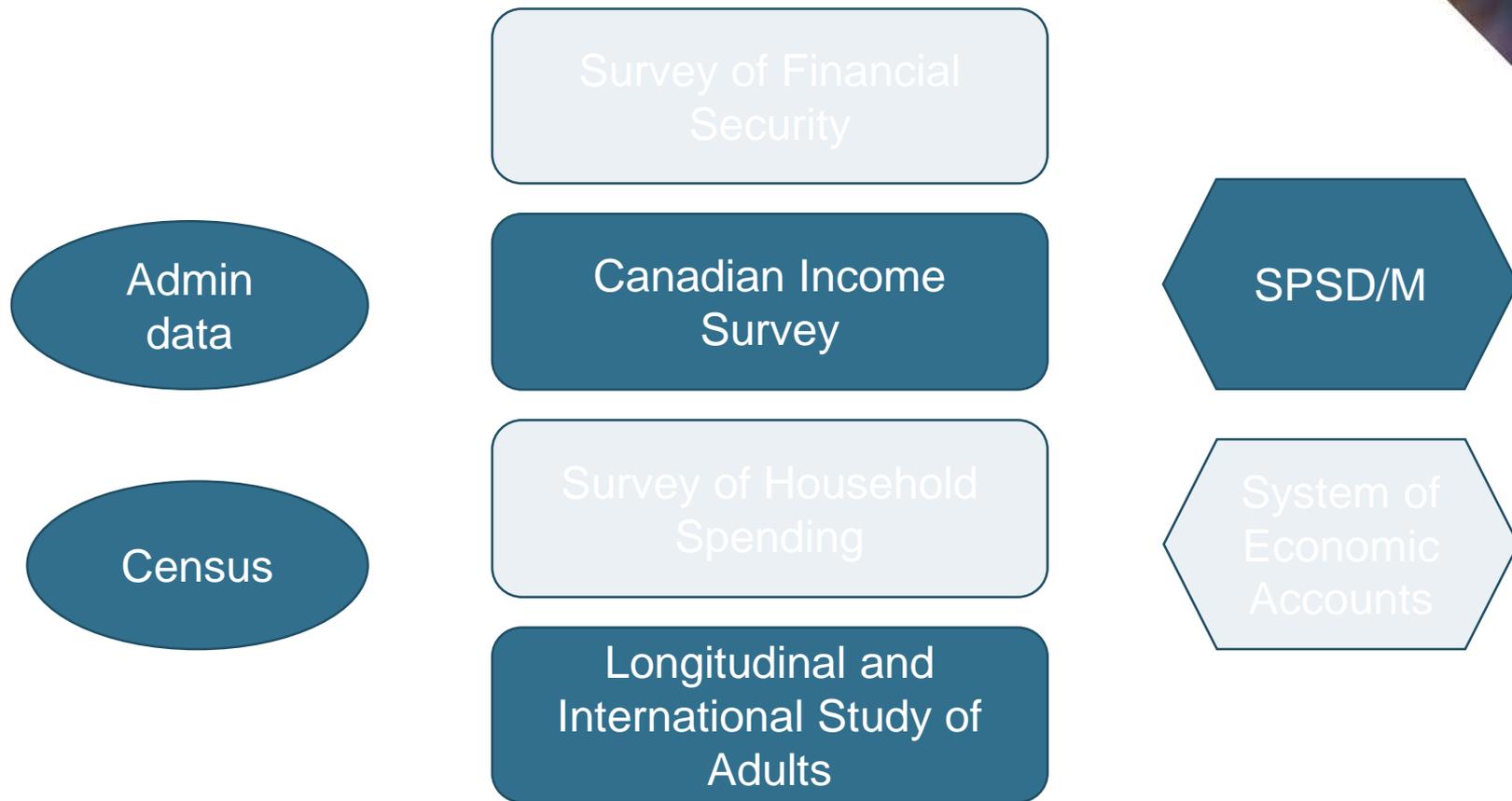
# Some of the main data sources to examine financial vulnerability: Currently able to produce data for households



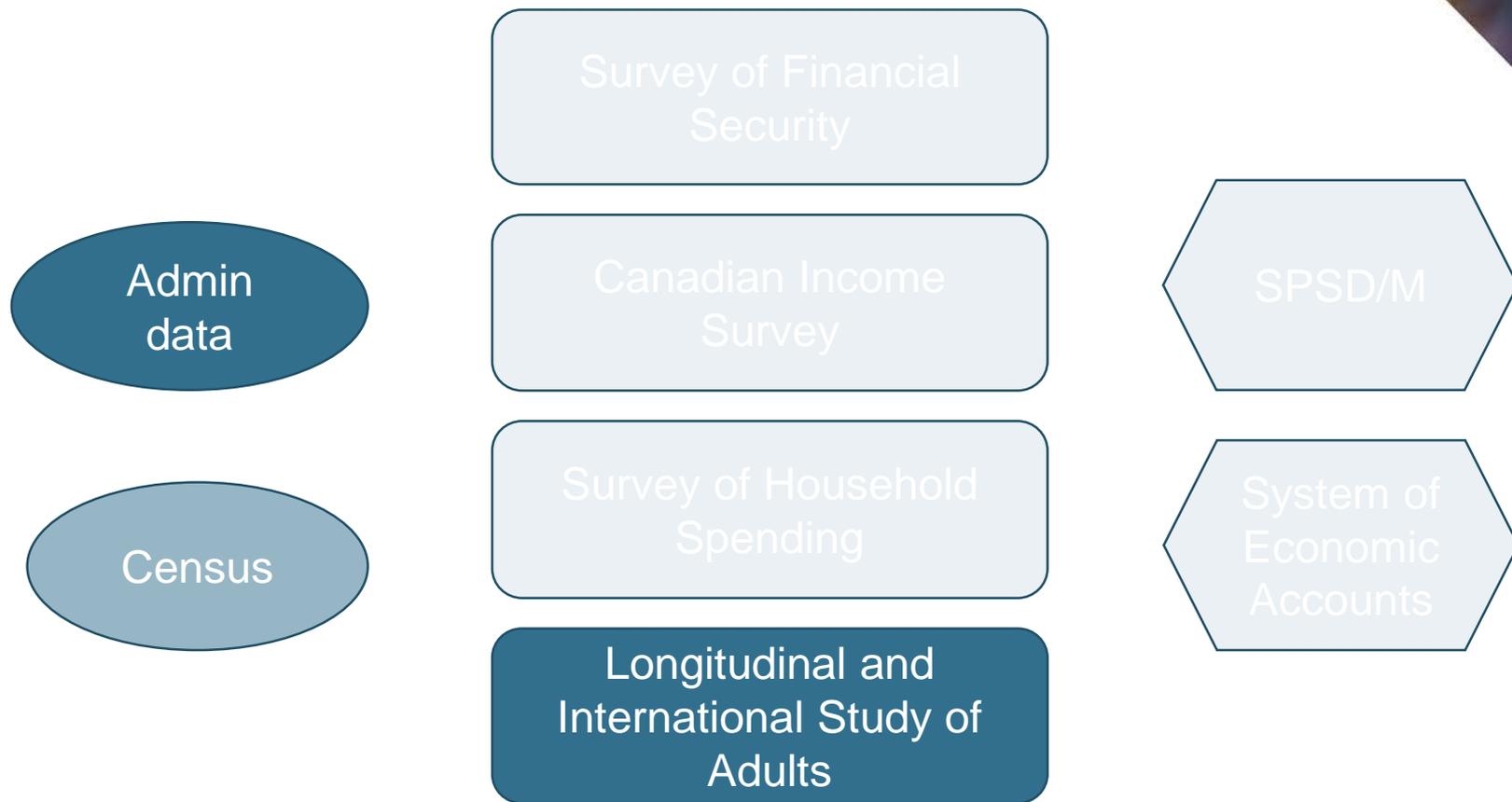
# Some of the main data sources to examine financial vulnerability: Currently able to produce data for economic families



# Some of the main data sources to examine financial vulnerability: Currently able to produce data for census families



# Some of the main data sources to examine financial vulnerability: Currently able to track longitudinally



## Some current data gaps

- Surveys typically do not include:
  - The territories
  - Reserves and other aboriginal settlements
  - People living in collective dwellings (e.g. nursing homes)
- Asset and debt information is available through the Survey of Financial Security every 3 years
  - No longitudinal information
- Non-registered savings are hard to measure
  - Residual measure
- Few sources of sub-annual income data

## What's next?

- Statistics Canada's modernization agenda
  - Leading edge methods and data integration
  - New data sources being pursued including non-traditional data
  - Increased emphasis on statistical capacity building
  - User-centric delivery
- Budget 2018 included funds for a Centre for Gender, Diversity and Inclusion Statistics

# Useful Links

- Statistics Canada website main page: Your entryway to Statistics Canada's data holdings
  - <http://statcan.gc.ca/>
- Census: Data tables, articles, methodological information
  - <http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/index-eng.cfm?HPA=1>
- Statistics by subject: Income, pensions, spending and wealth: Includes articles, data sources, and data tables
  - [http://www.statcan.gc.ca/eng/subjects/income\\_pensions\\_spending\\_and\\_wealth](http://www.statcan.gc.ca/eng/subjects/income_pensions_spending_and_wealth)

The examples in this presentation:

- Statistics Canada. *Table 111-0015 - Characteristics of families, before-tax and after-tax low income status (based on census family low income measures, LIMs) by family type and family composition, annual (number unless otherwise noted)*
  - <http://www5.statcan.gc.ca/cansim/a26?lang=eng&id=1110015&p2=33>
- Analytical Studies Branch Research Paper Series: Health and Work in the Family: Evidence from Spouses' Cancer Diagnoses.
  - <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/11f0019m/11f0019m2016381-eng.htm>
- Investments in Registered Education Savings Plans and Postsecondary Attendance.
  - <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/11-626-x/11-626-x2017071-eng.htm>
- The Social Policy Simulation Database and Model
  - <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/eng/microsimulation/spsdm/spsdm>
- Costing a National Guaranteed Income Using the Ontario Basic Income.
  - [http://www.pbo-dpb.gc.ca/en/blog/news/Guaranteed\\_Basic\\_Income](http://www.pbo-dpb.gc.ca/en/blog/news/Guaranteed_Basic_Income)



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# THANK YOU!

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