



A Question of Evidence: Evidence-Informed Decision Making in the Home Care Sector

A Federal Policy Analysts Perspective

Evidence Forum – CHCA & HCO
June 11, 2015



Commonly heard and written statement:

“There is very little evidence but this is a significant problem across Canada that will have a large-scale impact on Canadians”



Health Canada's Role and Mandate

Jurisdiction:

- Delivery is mainly a provincial/territorial government responsibility
- Funding and accountability but non-insured service under the Canada Health Act
- Federal responsibility for Veterans, First Nations and Inuit, federal inmates, persons in the armed forces

Health Canada's Role:

- Policy and research analysis of pan-Canadian issues
- Knowledge development and translation
- Federal/Provincial/Territorial collaboration
- International research and reporting



National Evidence on Home Care

National/Pan-Canadian = includes all Canadians living in all provinces and territories

Nationally, do we know:

- How much is spent on public home care in Canada? on private services?
- How many people will need services in the future?
- Are services (public and/or private) affordable to Canadians today and will they be tomorrow?

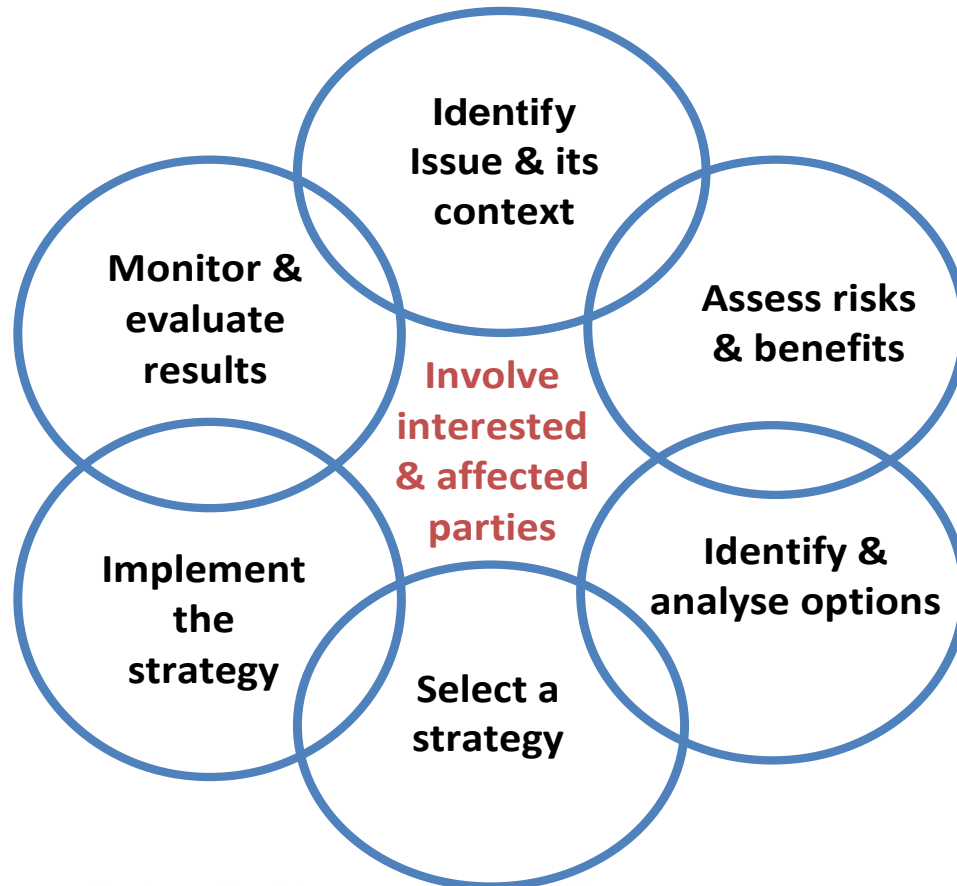


National Evidence on Publicly Funded Home Care Programs

- Federal department data:
 - Statistics Canada (Canadian Community Health Care Survey & its focussed surveys; General Social Surveys)
 - Services and programs (e.g., Canada Revenue Agency tax information; Employment and Social Development Canada compassionate care benefit employment insurance)
- Parliamentary reports (e.g., testimony at committees)
- Provincial & territorial government websites (e.g., programming, Auditor General reports, expert panels)
- Research contracts and contribution agreements
- National associations (*CHCA's Portraits of Home Care in Canada*)
- CIHI Home Care Reporting Database



Role of Evidence in Policy and Decision Making



Policy and Decision Making Influences: More Than Just Evidence

- Political drivers
- Electoral demands
- Economic situation (Canada and international)
- International commitments and pressures
- Crisis management and response

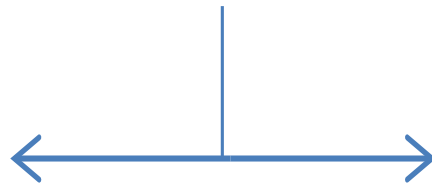


Not All Evidence is Equal!

- Identify what exists (nationally and/or provincially) and Identify data/evidence gaps
- Analyse existing data and evidence:

Is the evidence substantiated by different qualitative and quantitative sources?

NO, find evidence and quickly!



YES, continue to analyse data for option development



Identifying Evidence Where It Does Not Exist

Qualitative Evidence:

- Roundtables / Expert Panels (Departmental, Ministerial)
- Polls / Surveys
- Media and news reports
- Anecdotal – what is everyone saying?

Quantitative Evidence:

- Contracted research
- Stakeholder views and position
- Departmental research and analysis

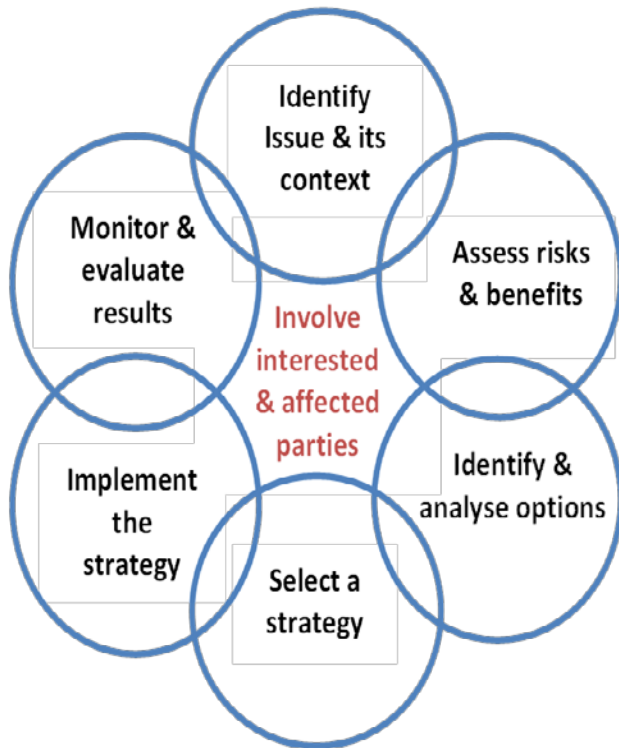


Federal Efforts to Strengthen Home Care Data & Evidence

- Expanding federal data
 - Federal Health Data Strategy
 - Partnerships with the Canadian Institute for Health Information, Statistics Canada
 - Polling data
- Departmental roundtables
- Research partnerships with national groups and service providers
- Research and dissemination (e.g., Canadian Institutes for Health Research)
- International reporting through collaboration with provinces



Your Evidence in Policy and Decision-Making



- Publish your data and research
- Concrete advice versus statements
- Presenting your advice:
 - Letter to the Minister(s) and departmental officials
 - Participate at information-seeking activities such as roundtables, expert meetings
 - Present to finance committees (e.g., budget submissions, special committees)
 - Electoral activities: party research bureau's
 - Position statements on website

