
Developing a Core Statistics Resource in the Ontario Public Service

Indicators of Healthy and Vibrant
Communities Roundtable

June 23rd, 2008



Objective

- To develop a core statistical resource to support policy, research, and communications activities in the Ontario Public Service
 - Support greater accuracy and consistency in use of statistics in the OPS – reduce use of “competing” statistics
 - Help ensure best and most relevant data and information is available for decision-makers
 - Eventually help in the development and refinement of statistical indicators to assist in measuring progress on key policy initiatives and government priorities

Project Overview

- **Phase 1:** Determine what data we have now, in what format, and who has it
 - Identify core statistics
- **Phase 2:** Address the issue of different geographies
- **Phase 3:** Bring together interim resource
- **Phase 4:** Develop a longer term strategy for organizing ourselves to use data effectively
 - Includes development and refinement of indicators

Current status

- Ministry of Finance lead for generating and disseminating economic and demographic data and indicators for Ontario
 - Extensive use of Statistics Canada data but also use a variety of other sources for indicators
- Ministries generate substantial amount of program data
 - Frequently used to develop indicators
 - Also used for modelling, evaluation and assessments, tracking performance, reporting and communications
 - Considerable resources put into generating data, indicators and community profiles to support Ministers
 - Several ministries have developed successful approaches to data collection, dissemination, and use

Gaps

- Gaps in provincial data are driven in part by gaps in national statistics
- Time lags in national data are mirrored in the provincial statistics
- Community and municipal level data not consistently available across sectors
- Limited data on Aboriginal communities
- Absence of one-window inter-ministry data sharing and collaboration
- No standardized benchmarks and measurements exist due to program and/or ministry bias

OPS Best Practices: Ontario Census Partnership, MOF

- **The Office of Economic Policy in the Ministry of Finance acts as the Ontario focal point with Statistics Canada to:**
 - Ensure Ontario's statistical needs are being met by StatsCan; and
 - Facilitate the effective dissemination of StatsCan information within the OPS.

- **Recent initiative: creation of the OCP in 2006 to facilitate accessing and sharing of detailed census data across the Ontario Government.**
 - The OCP currently includes more than 300 professionals from 28 Ministries, secretariats and directorates.

- **Key elements of the OCP:**
 - Unlimited access to all census products for Ontario Government analysts
 - Delivery of data through a limited access web data server
 - Coordination of purchases of custom census products

- **Key benefits from the OCP:**
 - reducing government-wide costs through the elimination of duplication and overlap
 - encouraging increased use of census data
 - encouraging greater cooperation and inter-action across the OPS

OPS Best Practices: Ontario Geospatial Data

Exchange, MNR

- **OGDE:** a standardized agreement signed by 310 organizations to share spatial data with each other using an optional online centralized source via:
 - **Ontario Land Information Directory** – online catalogue for Ontario’s land information; members compile standardized descriptions of their geospatial datasets
 - **Ontario Land Information Warehouse** – a central repository and distribution hub for Ontario's geospatial data for use in GIS systems, with over 2000 registered users

- **Key information:**
 - Any public organization is eligible for membership, including Ontario Ministries and municipalities, conservation authorities, Federal Government departments and agencies, post-secondary educational institutions, First Nations and Aboriginal communities
 - Members that borrow data through the OGDE may only use it for internal, non-commercial purposes such as land use planning, resource management, and decision making

OPS Best Practices: Financial Information Returns, MMAH

- **The program:**

- MMAH has been collecting and publishing FIRs for decades
- All 445 municipalities in Ontario file their FIRs annually with MMAH
- Objective: identify any gaps and offer assistance to the municipalities

- **The data:**

- Financial & statistical data in FIRs allow multi-year comparisons within and between municipalities
- Used to develop financial indicators at the municipal level
 - Examples: total debt burden and reserve funds per household, temporary loans for current purposes, net contributions, capital expenditures, surplus/deficit, etc.
 - Used in capacity building initiatives

- **The process:**

- MMAH staff use a standard set of financial indicators to analyze municipal FIRs and to evaluate which municipalities need advisory assistance or suggestions on financial management

OPS Best Practices: Managing Information for Student Achievement, MEDU

- **MISA: an Ontario strategy to enable evidence-informed education policy and practice**
 - ❑ Based on school board geographies
 - ❑ Major areas of focus for capacity building are technology, data management and data use
 - ❑ **7 Professional Network Centres (PNC)** established across Ontario function as linked professional learning communities with ties to education researchers
 - ❑ PNCs complement the efforts of individual boards and schools as they build capacity to work with data in support of evidence-informed decision-making

- **OnSIS: a part of MISA initiative, it is a web-enabled data collection system from elementary and secondary schools**
 - ❑ Significantly larger and improved data sets required for decision-making
 - ❑ Collects elemental data on courses, classes, students, and educators
 - ❑ Enables integrated analysis & reporting of student achievement over time

OPS Best Practices: The Provincial Health Planning Database, MOHLTC

■ The data

- A single source of quality assured, integrated, standardized population and clinical authoritative information on the Ontario patient experience across the continuum of care
- Purpose: planning, integration and management of the health resources at the provincial and community level
- Primary focus: describe the health status of the Ontario population and assess the use and efficiency of the health care services

■ The database

- Main data sources: clinical – care providers' files; administrative – e.g. OHIP
- Key features:
 - Multiple search capabilities (e.g. by patient geographical location and LHIN, admission and discharge dates, emergency room triage levels, etc.)
 - Extensive reference tables and Client Support Programs
 - Extraction and enrichment of data based on user-defined population and/or geography parameters
- Main clients: Ministries, Public Health Units, Local Health Integrated Networks, hospitals, researchers, and other health organizations

OPS Best Practices: Local Health Integration

Networks Health Atlas, MOHLTC

- **LHINs:** 14 Crown Agencies that work with local health providers and community members to determine the health service priorities of the predetermined regions
 - LHINs are governed by the Ministry-LHIN Accountability Agreement (MLAA)
 - As part of the MLAA, LHINs oversee 12 sectors and manage \$20.3B as of May 15, 2008 draft MLAA. As new funding from the ministry is provided to the LHINs, the MLAA will be updated to include the new funding
 - Mandate: to plan, integrate and fund health care services, including hospitals, long term care and others
 - LHINs oversee ~ 1/2 of Ontario's health care budget of \$39.6 billion (based on 2008/09 Printed Estimates)

- **Key capabilities of LHIN Atlas:**
 - Locate and identify specific LHINs and health service provider organizations across Ontario
 - Compare LHINs based on a variety of indicators (e.g., social and demographic, health outcomes, etc.); some available at the community level for certain areas (e.g. smoking, birth rates, hospitalizations, etc.)
 - Create and share maps, facilitating evidence-based decision-making and communications
 - Annotate maps with custom labels and points

OPS Best Practices: Integrated Local Labour Market Planning, MTCU

- **Pilot new ILLMP framework in 7 areas 2008/09 – test community approaches to enhancing local labour market planning processes.**
- **Objective: At mature state (3-5 years) ILLMP will result in local plans:**
 - Endorsed by community leaders, MTCU and other provincial, federal and municipal governments within culture of shared accountability;
 - Help inform program, service & budget priorities including new program development and design needs.
- **To support this work and help respond to stakeholder requests, investments in local LMI capacity building include:**
 - 2007/08 MTCU hired external expertise to develop core & common labour market indicator tool and interpretive guide;
 - Testing of this new tool/guide during 2008/09;
 - Designed to increase capacity to monitor & update local conditions annually - contributing to evidence-informed planning processes;
 - MTCU is also securing customized 2006 census data for all 25 local planning areas in Ontario;
 - The tool, guide and census purchase will be implemented via the 25 existing MTCU funded Local Board areas.

OPS Best Practices: Results-Based Planning, OPS

- **Main principle:** budgeting is centred on achieving results, where explicit performance targets are set and Ministries report regularly on progress
- **Key elements:**
 - Ministries' RbPs describe strategies for using resources to achieve government priorities and platform commitments over a four year horizon
 - Ministries accountable for managing resources & achieving value for money
 - Performance measurement (i.e. systematic collection of specific data)
 - Outputs: products and services delivered
 - Outcomes: achievement of strategic objectives
 - High-level changes: social, environmental, and economic conditions
- **Reporting performance:**
 - Annually on results achieved to date
 - Quarterly on output measures and any identified risks
- Allows for assessment on how well results are being achieved and where improvements are needed

Continuing Challenges

- Scope and complexity of data
- How ministries gather and organize their data varies substantially – depends on region definitions and policy objectives
- Geographical boundaries vary greatly among ministries – often for good reason (e.g., LHINs, school boards, PSE institutions, resource-based geographies at MNR, municipal boundaries, labour markets, and economic regions at OEP)
- Intellectual property & privacy/confidentiality concerns are a barrier in making the data easily accessible
- Defining and using “official numbers” consistently across ministries
- Filtering data for essential information only
- Keeping data current and accessible

Possible early wins

- **Statistical Inventory**

- A directory of statistical data that is available in different ministries
- User is directed to the source ministry after specifying information of interest in search criteria

- **Intranet portal – distributive model**

- Online, centralized resource for all ministries for external and internal core statistical data products
- Ministries would be responsible for uploading data to the site and keeping data current
- User-friendly, template-based databases that are easy to search
- Accessible to authorized registered users only, could be made available to researchers
- Could develop best practices related to technical standards and statistical processes for data collection & use – could also evolve “official Ontario statistics”

Appendices

Explanatory diagrams and web site screen shots

- Geospatial Data Exchange
- Financial Information Returns
- Managing Information for Student Achievement
- Provincial Health Planning Database
- LHIN Health Atlas

Geospatial Data Exchange

Geographic restriction by using a map

The screenshot displays a web-based GIS application interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with tabs for "About", "Layers", "Legend", "Find Location", "Refresh Map", and "Return to LIDS". Below the navigation bar is a toolbar with various icons for map navigation and interaction. The main map area shows a geographical view of Ontario, Canada, with a network of red lines representing roads and blue areas representing water bodies. To the right of the map is a "Map Layers" panel with a "Feedback" link. The "Map Layers" panel lists various data layers with checkboxes and expandable folders. The layers listed are: All Layers (expanded), Grids/Indices, Others, Counties, Municipalities, Townships, Townships, Improved, Provincial Parks, Settlements, Province (checked), MNR Areas, MNR Districts, Water (checked), Roads (checked), Railways, Utility Lines, and Transmission Lines. Below the list is a "Refresh Map" button and an "Automatically Refresh Map" checkbox. A "Notes" section at the bottom of the panel contains a folder icon and the text "Click folder to show or hide contents." At the bottom of the map area, the coordinates "Map Centre: 49° 15' 0.0\" N, 84° 45' 0.0\" W" are displayed. The bottom status bar shows the scale "Scale: 1: 9,811,605", a "go" button, and the "Map Tool: Zoom In" option.

Map Centre: 49° 15' 0.0" N, 84° 45' 0.0" W

Scale: 1: 9,811,605 go Map Tool: Zoom In

Financial Information Returns

Financial Information Return - Microsoft Internet Explorer

Tools Help

Search Favorites

on.ca/fir/welcome.htm

**Financial Information Return
Municipal Performance Measurement Program**

The Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Performance Measurement Program

This website consists of pages and links on the left to go to the appropriate page.

FIR 2009 BULLETIN
[FIR2009 DRAFT](#)

FIR Reporting
[FIR2007](#)
[FIR2006](#)
[FIR2005](#)

View FIR Data

By Schedule
[View Schedules](#)

By Municipality
[View FIR2007](#)
[View FIR2006](#)
[View FIR2005](#)
[View FIR2004](#)
[View FIR2003](#)
[View FIR2002](#)

Provincial Summaries
[View FIR 2006](#)
[View FIR 2005](#)
[View FIR 2004](#)
[View FIR 2003](#)
[View FIR 2002](#)
[View FIR 2001](#)

Financial Statements
[View FS 2005](#)
[View FS 2004](#)

About the FIR

Program (MPMP) Schedules are not available.

For additional information on the data and this webpage, please refer to the notes at the bottom of the [FIR Homepage](#).

Select Municipalities Alphabetically

Alphabetical List of Municipalities:

OR

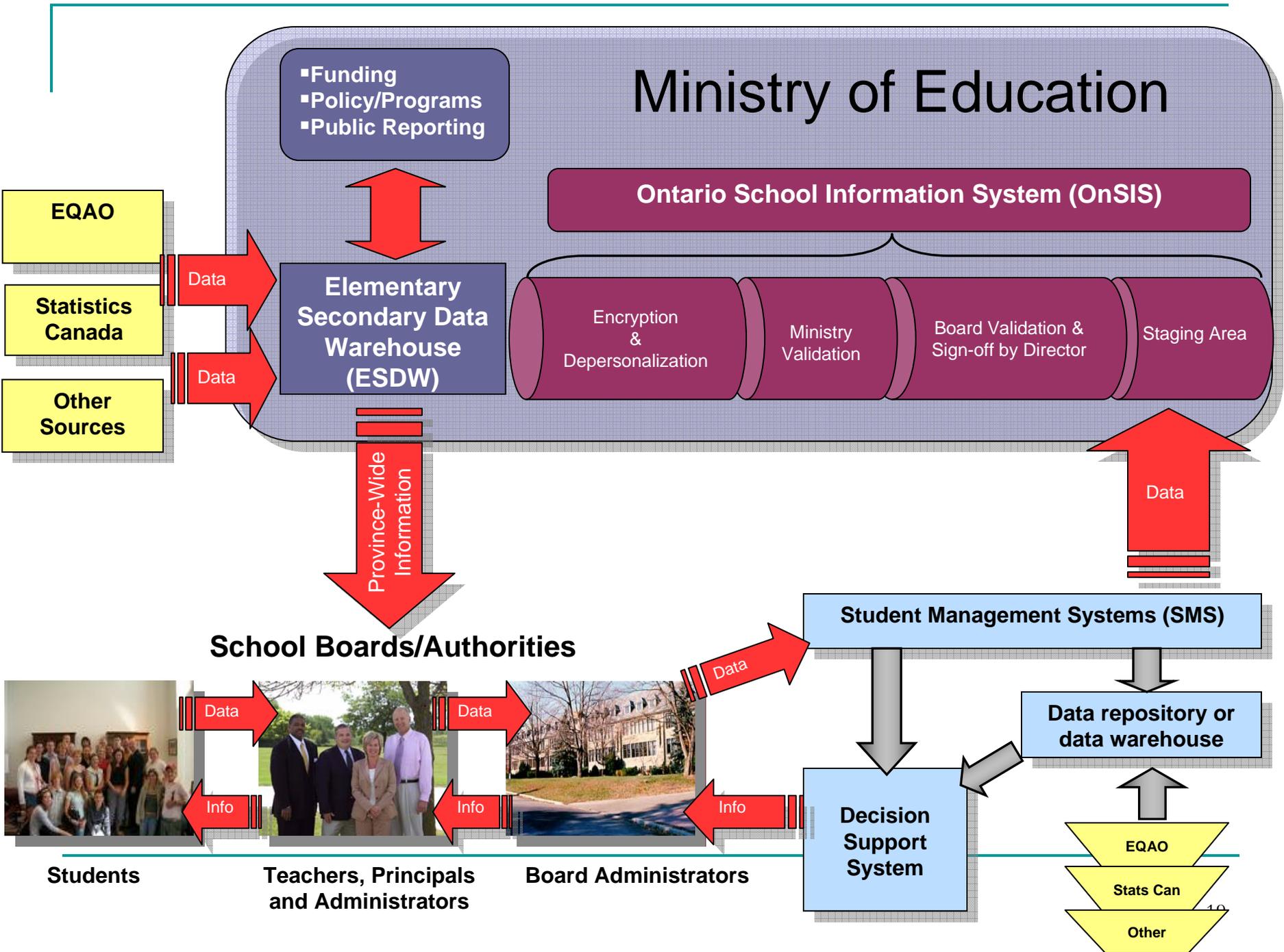
Select Municipalities by Area

A list of all 2007 Municipalities by Geographical Area is available below:

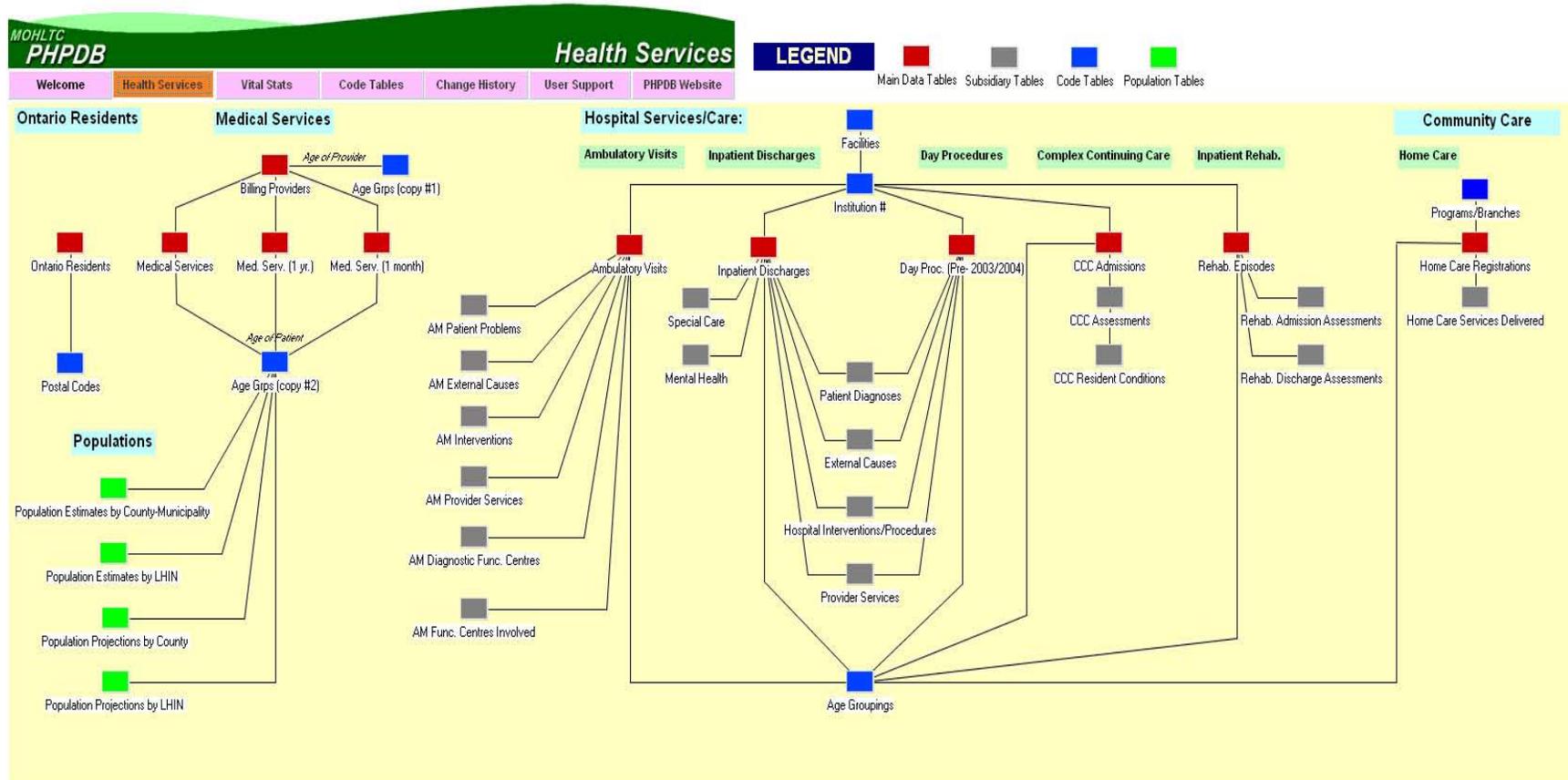
Area	Municipalities
Central Ontario	Dufferin Co. Durham R. Halton R. Hamilton C. Muskoka D. Niagara R. Peel R. Simcoe Co. Toronto C. York R.
Eastern Ontario	Frontenac Co. Haliburton Co. Hastings Co. Kawartha Lakes C. Lanark Co. Leeds and Grenville Uco. Lennox and Addington Co. Northumberland Co. Ottawa C. Peterborough Co. Prescott and Russell Uco. Prince Edward County C. Renfrew Co. Stormont Dundas and Glengarry Uco.
North-Eastern Ontario	Alcona D. Cochrane D. Greater Sudbury C. Manitoulin D. Nipissing D. Parry Sound D. Sudbury D. Timiskaming D.
North-Western Ontario	Kenora D. Rainy River D. Thunder Bay D.
South-Western Ontario	Brant County C. Brantford C. Bruce Co. Chatham-Kent M. Elgin Co. Essex Co. Grey Co. Haldimand County C. Huron Co. Lambton Co. Middlesex Co. Norfolk County C. Oxford Co. Perth Co. Waterloo R. Wellington Co.

Deer in Thunder Bay

Internet



Provincial Health Planning Database



LHIN Health Atlas

Compare LHINs based on an Indicator

The screenshot displays the LHIN Health Atlas web application. The top navigation bar includes 'Layers', 'Indicator Maps', and 'Locate'. The main content area shows a map of Ontario with a context menu open over a region. The menu options include 'Open', 'Open in New Window', 'Save Target As...', 'Print Target', 'Cut', 'Copy', 'Copy Shortcut', 'Paste', 'Add to Favorites...', 'Backward Link', 'Cached Snapshot of Page', 'Similar Pages', 'Translate Page into English', and 'Properties'. The legend on the left shows a tree view with 'Population Density' selected. A blue arrow points from the legend to the map, and another blue arrow points from the map to the legend.

Map Layers: Indicator Maps | Locate

Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care
LHIN Health Atlas

Create a PDF Map

Map created successfully.
[\[open rose\]](#)

To save the map document, right-click on the map, then click "Save Target As...".

The map is in Adobe Acrobat format. To view the map, you need to have the Adobe Acrobat Reader installed on your computer. If you do not have it, you can download it from [http://www.adobe.com/acrobat](#).

- Population
 - Socioeconomic and Demographic
 - Economic
 - Education
 - Ethnicity
 - Language
 - Population
 - Age Composition
 - Population Density
 - Population Growth
 - Total Population
 - Social

Scale: 1:11,646,565

Map Tool: Identify

Active Layer: Hospitals

Map center: 49°18' N, 84°21' W