Data Resource Profile: PharmaNet, the database for prescription drug dispensing in British Columbia, Canada

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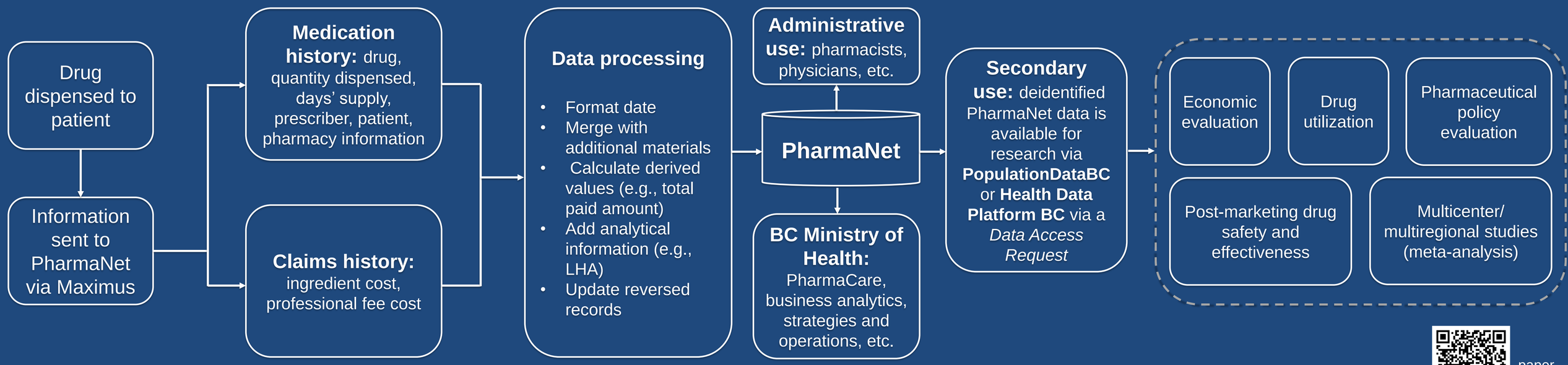
Since 1996, outpatient drug dispensations in BC are transmitted and stored in PharmaNet



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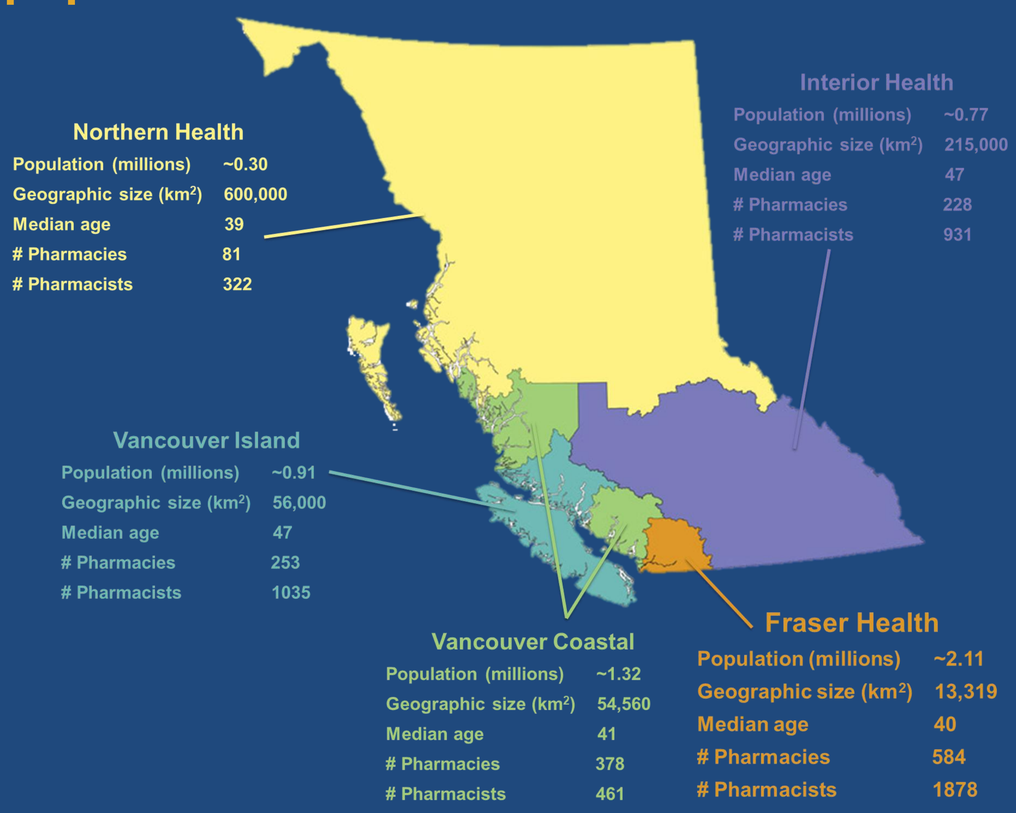
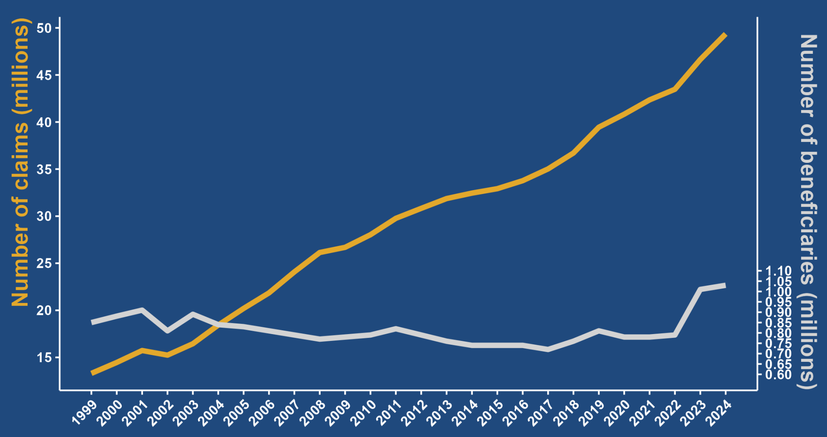
PharmaNet covers a large, diverse population of > 5.7 million residents





PharmaNet contains > 1.8 billion rows of unique dispensation data and > 75 million rows* are added annually

*Figure excludes out-of-pocket and third-party insurance data

Provincial and international comparison

Province/ Country	Data holder	Information system	Starting year	Population coverage (million)	Drug coverage*
BC	BC Ministry of Health	PharmaNet	1996	5.72	Dispensed drugs
Alberta	Alberta Health	Pharmaceutical Information Network	2008	4.96	Dispensed drugs, but no financial info
Saskatchewan	Saskatchewan Health	Prescription Drug Plan	1990	1.25	Dispensed drugs
Manitoba	Manitoba Health	Drug Program Information Network	1995	1.5	Dispensed drugs
Ontario	Ontario Ministry of Health	Ontario Drug Benefit (ODB)	1996	>4	Reimbursed dispensed drugs via the ODB program
Québec	Régie de l'assurance maladie du Québec (RAMQ)	RAMQ (Public Prescription Drug Insurance Plan)	1997	3.9	Reimbursed dispensed drugs via the RAMQ plan
New Brunswick	NB Department of Health	NB Drug Information System	2008	0.85	Dispensed drugs
Newfoundland and Labrador	NL Health Services	NL Pharmacy Network	2009	0.54	Dispensed drugs
Nova Scotia	NS Department of Health and Wellness	NS Drug Information System	2016	1.07	Dispensed drugs
Prince Edward Island	Health PEI	Drug Information System	2008	0.18	Dispensed drugs
Denmark	Statistics Denmark	Danish National Prescription Registry	1995	5.6	Dispensed drugs
Australia	Australian Institute of Health and Welfare	Australian Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme	2012	27.72	Dispensed drugs
Taiwan	National Health Research Institutes	National Health Insurance Research Database	1995	23.04	Dispensed drugs
United Kingdom	UK Department of Health	Clinical Practice Research Datalink	1987	13	Prescription written by GP

*Each province has various limitations and exclusions