

*Alf Nachemson Memorial Lecture*

# research informing policy: how to make an impact

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Partnership for Work,  
Health and Safety



a place of mind



## the point of the lecture

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- anatomy of a partnership
- physiology of data access
- art and science of policy impact
- applauding the architects of policy partnerships and data access models

## in a nutshell....key messages

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- research-policy partnership is like a common-law union
- big (local) data matters for policy impact and innovation in research
- interactive models of research-policy relationship and research-use models for policy impact (*Weiss C, Bowen S, Lomas J, Lavis J et al*)

backdrop

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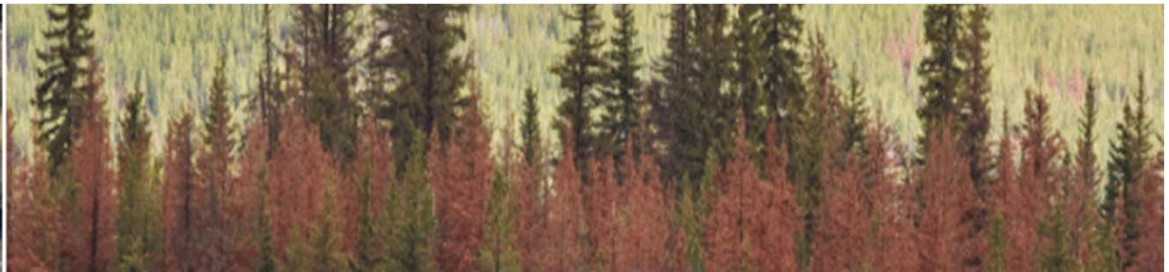
# Partnership for Work, Health and Safety

[www.pwhs.ubc.ca](http://www.pwhs.ubc.ca)

 @PWHS\_UBC



WORKING TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE



backdrop

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populationdata<sup>BC</sup>

A PLATFORM SUPPORTING RESEARCH ON  
HUMAN HEALTH, WELL-BEING AND DEVELOPMENT.

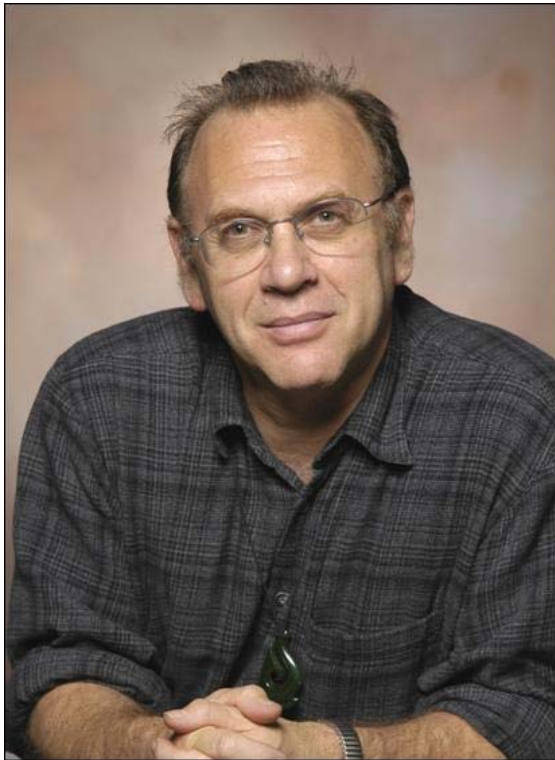
<https://www.popdata.bc.ca>

**2014** International  
**Health Data Linkage**  
Conference  
28-30 April 2014  
Vancouver, Canada

<http://www.ihdlconference2014.org>

# clyde hertzman....applauding the architect

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in the beginning....

proof of concept for research-policy partnership and  
public-utility data access model

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## FOR THE COMMON GOOD



FINAL REPORT OF THE ROYAL COMMISSION  
ON WORKERS' COMPENSATION IN  
BRITISH COLUMBIA



*International Journal of Law and Psychiatry*  
Volume 22, Issues 5-6, September-  
December 1999, Pages 581-601

Overall Pattern of Health Care and Social Welfare  
Use by Injured Workers in the British Columbia  
Cohort *Clyde Hertzman, Kimberlyn McGrail, Bob Hirtle*

#1

Do not underestimate the importance of the proof of concept phase and the  
need to invest resources to build and maintain a productive policy partnership

## credit to research team

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A word cloud of researcher names, including: Jones, Nath Quirke, KMcLeod, Fan Kling, McGrail, Koehoorn, Demers, Mooney, Wong, Kirkham, Arrandale, CBMcLeod, Edeer, Chhokar, Tamburic, Hertzman, Xu, Sarkany, Marino, Barer, and Gan.

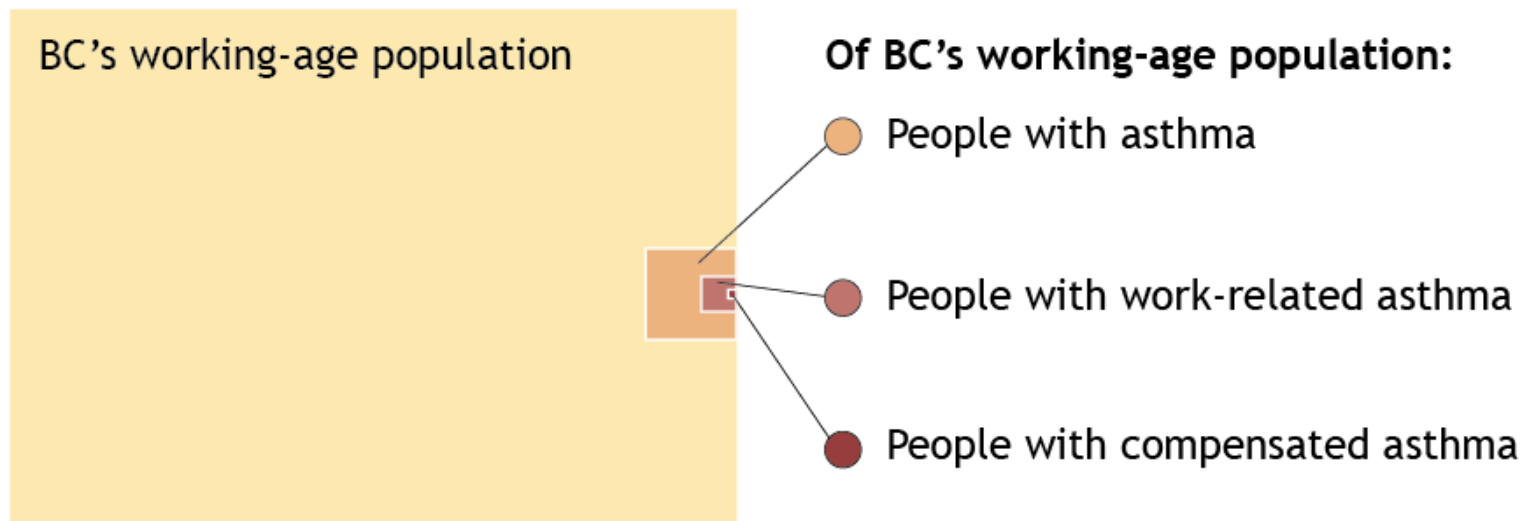


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examples of research having an impact....

# work-related asthma

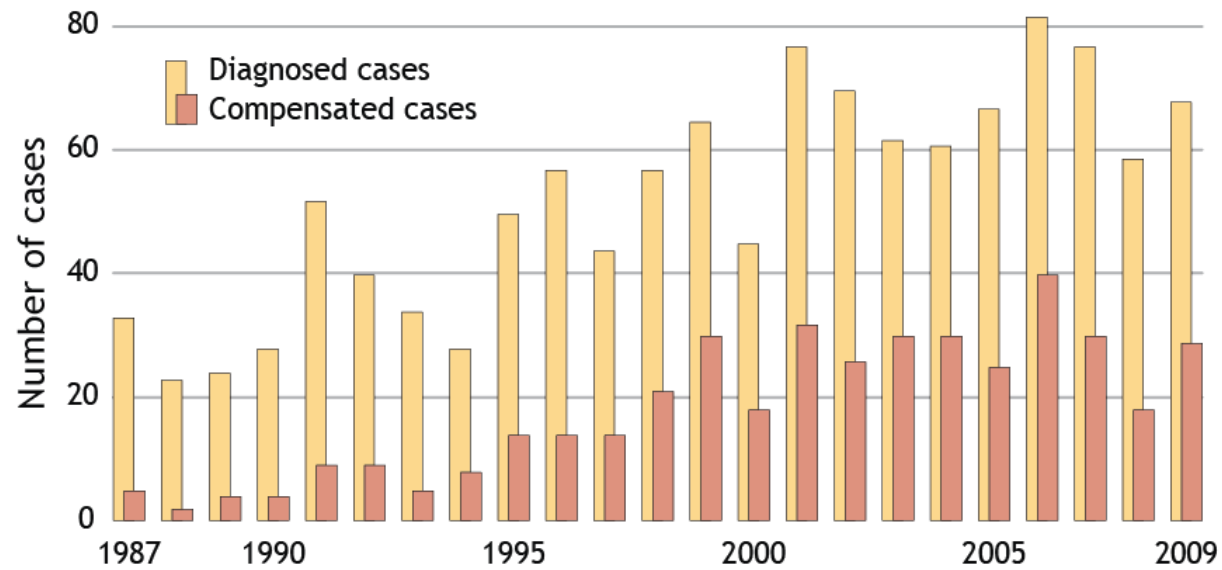
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<http://pwhs.ubc.ca/research/injury-and-disease-surveillance/asthma/>

# mesothelioma

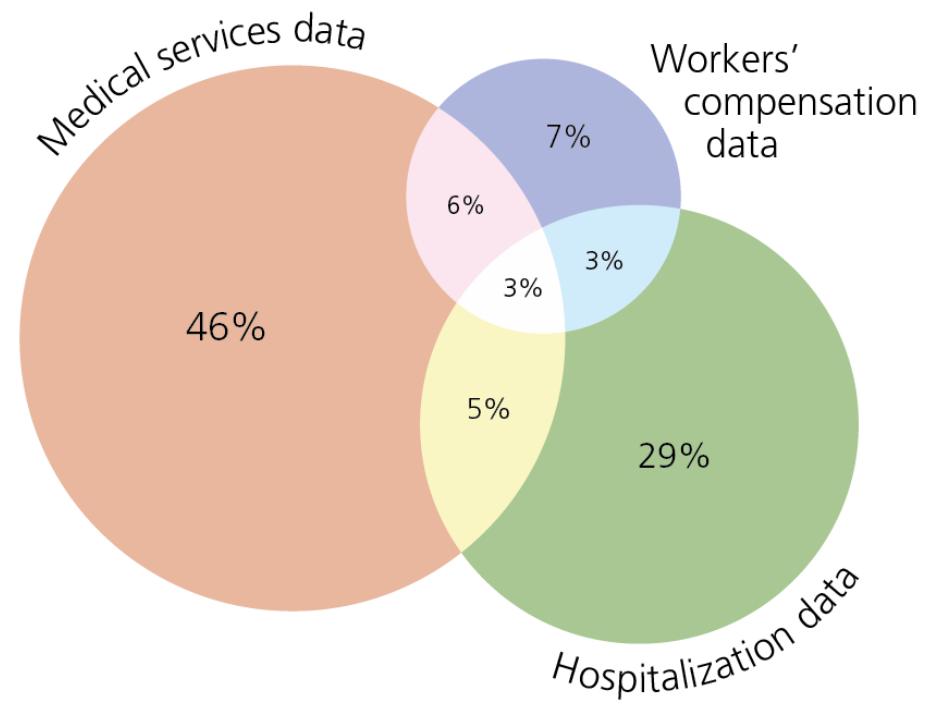
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<http://pwhs.ubc.ca/research/policy-and-program-evaluation/mesothelioma-awareness-and-compensation/>

# asbestosis

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<http://oem.bmj.com/content/66/11/766.full.pdf+html>

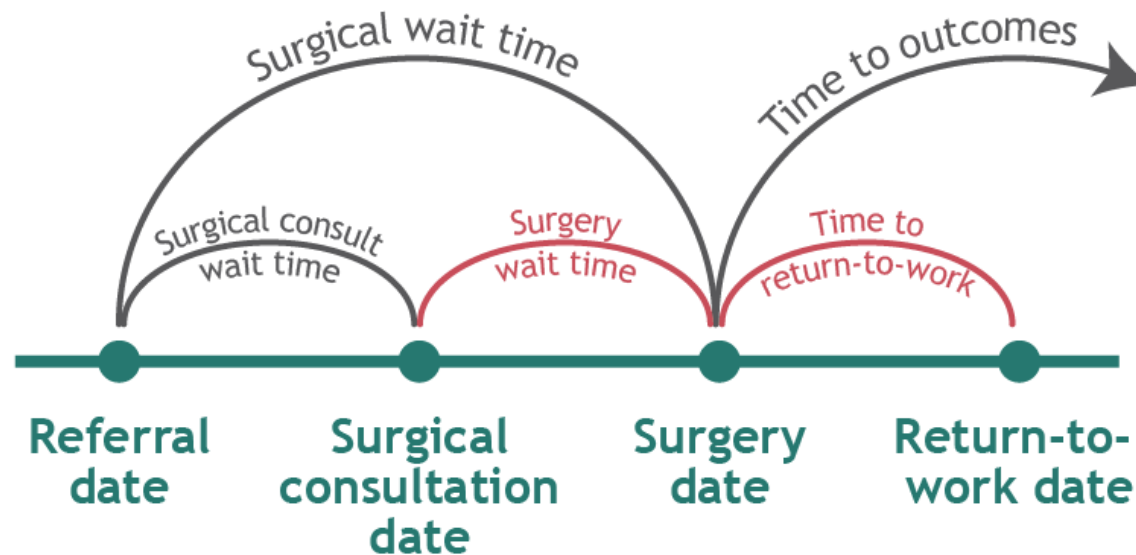
## what we learned at this stage....

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- early adopters critical to success of innovative partnership
- evidence within local context persuasive
- a picture paints a thousand (policy) words
- overcome unease with inherent uncertainty in research to provide timely evidence

## wait times and surgical settings

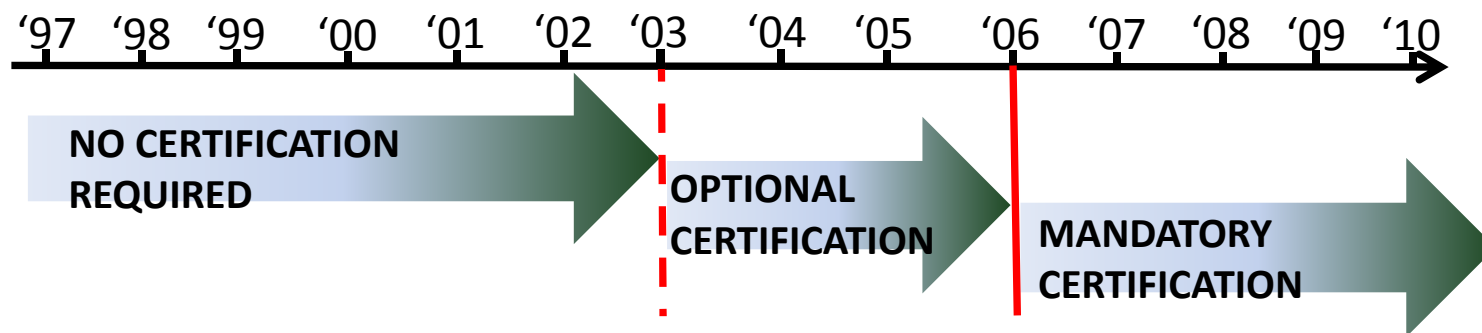
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<http://pwhs.ubc.ca/research/policy-and-program-evaluation/surgical-setting/>

# tree-faller certification

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<http://pwhs.ubc.ca/research/policy-and-program-evaluation/tree-fallers/>

## what we learned at this stage....

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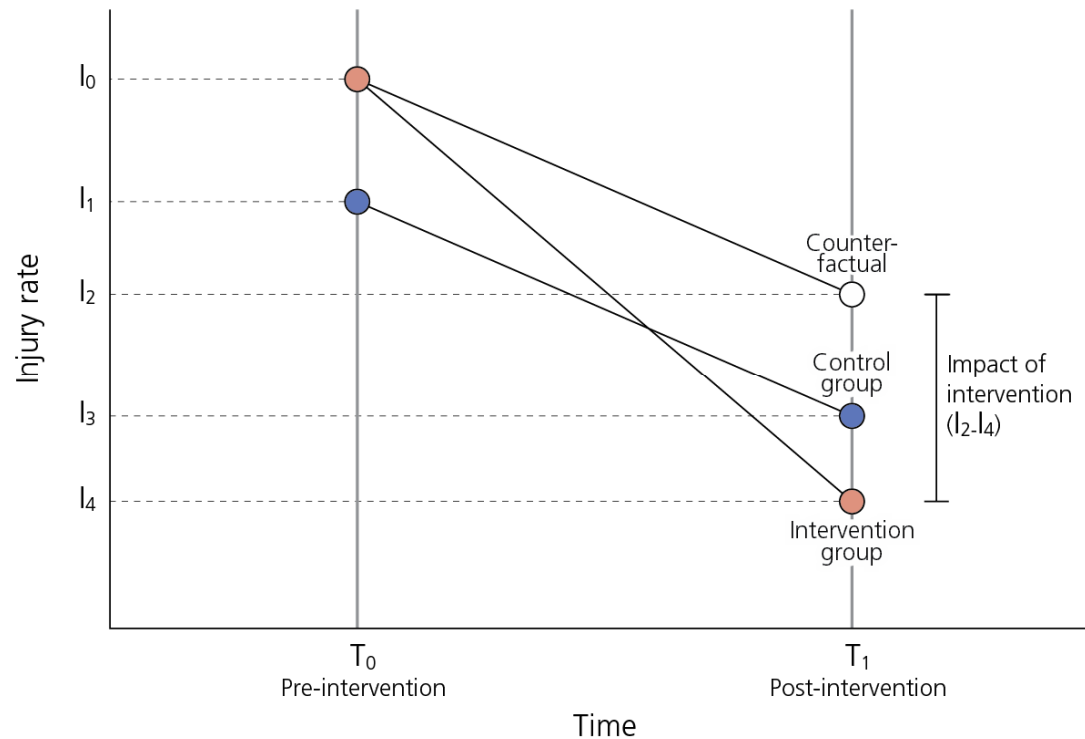
- responding to key knowledge and policy needs
- accessing sensitive data in secure, confidential and privacy-protected manner
- recognizing challenges of releasing findings...only after internal review
- different uses of research in policy-making with different definitions of impact



# certificate of recognition *(McLeod CB et al)*

## workplace inspections *(McLeod K, McLeod CB et al)*

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<http://pwhr.sites.olt.ubc.ca/files/2013/10/Inspections-presentation-WorkSafeBC-Sept-2013.pdf>  
<http://pwhs.ubc.ca/research/policy-and-program-evaluation/health-and-safety-programs-and-regulations/>

# national and international comparative research (*McLeod CB, Collie A et al*)

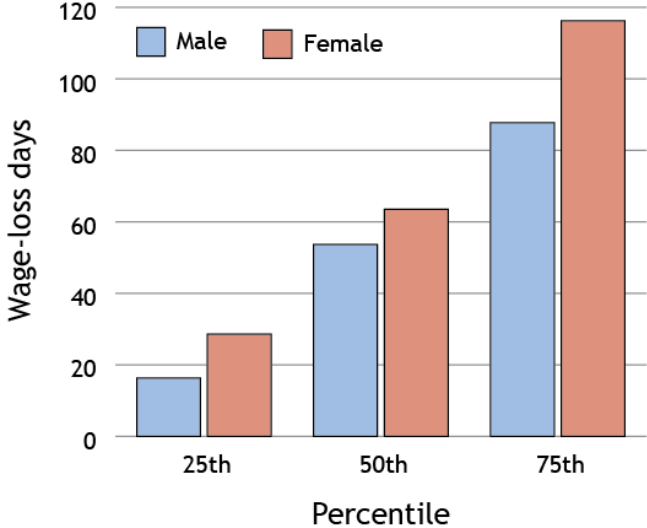
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<http://pwhs.ubc.ca/research/policy-and-program-evaluation/national-and-international-comparative-research/>

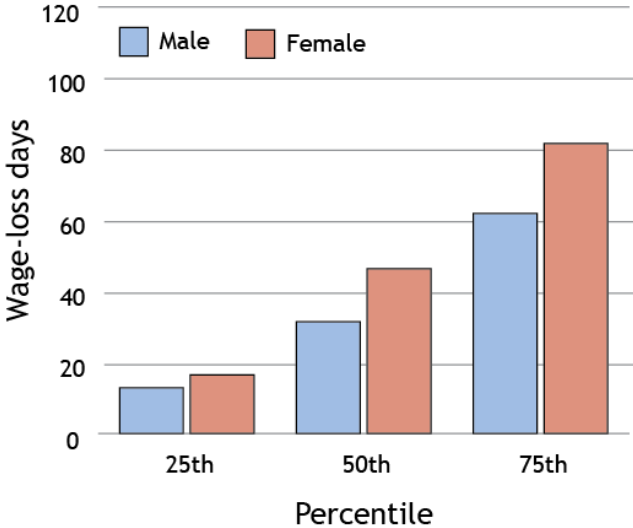
# the difference gender makes

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Fractures in nursing



Fractures in processing, manufacturing and utilities



<http://pwhs.ubc.ca/research/determinants-of-work-injury-and-illness/gender-sex-worker-injury-and-successful-return-to-work/>





## what we learned at this stage....

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- capacity to act on evidence is about networks...*different people at the table at different points in time*
- innovation in research at trusted phase of partnership

# data access models for the public good...

[www.popdata.bc.ca](http://www.popdata.bc.ca)

 <b>Health care &amp; health services</b>	 <b>Population &amp; demographic</b>	 <b>Occupational &amp; environmental</b>	 <b>Early childhood &amp; education</b>
<p>Medical Services Plan (BC Ministry of Health)</p> <p>PharmaCare (BC Ministry of Health)</p> <p>Hospital Separations (BC Ministry of Health)</p> <p>Home &amp; Community Care (BC Ministry of Health)</p> <p>Mental Health (BC Ministry of Health)</p> <p>Registry Data (BC Cancer Agency)</p>	<p>Consolidation File (MSP Registration &amp; Premium Billing) (BC Ministry of Health)</p> <p>Births (BC Vital Statistics Agency)</p> <p>Stillbirths (BC Vital Statistics Agency)</p> <p>Marriages (BC Vital Statistics Agency)</p> <p>Deaths (BC Vital Statistics Agency)</p> <p>Cadastral Data (Integrated Cadastral Information Society)</p>	<p>WorkSafeBC Claim Files (WorkSafeBC)</p> <p>WorkSafeBC Firm Level Data (WorkSafeBC)</p>	<p>Early Development Instrument (HELP)</p> <p>Middle Years Development Instrument (HELP)</p>
<p><i>Perinatal Services</i></p> <p><i>Canadian Community Health Survey</i></p> <p><i>Cardiac Services BC</i></p> <p><i>BC Ambulance</i></p> <p><i>College of Physicians &amp; Surgeons BC</i></p>	<p><i>Citizenship &amp; Immigration Canada</i></p>	<p><i>WorkSafeBC Exposure Data BC Assessment</i></p>	<p><i>Children in Care</i></p> <p><i>Child Protection</i></p> <p><i>Childcare Licensing</i></p> <p><i>BC K-12 Student Standard Testing</i></p> <p><i>School &amp; District</i></p>

# partnerships based on interactive model

(Lavis J, Lomas J, Weiss C et al)

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Health Safety Evaluation  
Surveillance **Work** Data Policy  
Occupational **Administrative**  
Databases Knowledge **Injury**  
Privacy

- *ongoing and prolonged interaction between researchers and the policy-makers to generate evidence to impact decisions*
- *recognize the different types of impact that research evidence can have on policy and decision making*

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