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# Aging and retirement future direction for STC

Sylvie Michaud  
SEDAP – McMaster  
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# Overview

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1. 2 questions

1. Qualitative vs quantitative research
2. Income statistics and other measures that will give us a more accurate, but also a broader understanding of older Canadians as the aging of the Canadian population peaks sometime around 2031?

# My presentation

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1. How qualitative research is done in STC
2. What is done by STC to prepare for questions related to an aging population
  - What are the issues
  - Current surveys that could help to measure the impact of aging
3. New aspects of qualitative research in surveys related to aging

# 1. Qualitative research

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- Pre-collection
  - Focus groups :
    - Test question wording and respondent interpretation
    - Get views of Canadians on specific issues
- Post-collection
  - Debriefing process; with interviewers and respondents
- During collection ?
  - Measuring attitudes
  - Recording interviews
  - Case studies ?

## 2. What are the issues related to aging population ?

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Impact on a lot of aspects of life

- Seniors
  - Income, health, needs for services
- Working age population
  - Taking care of aging parents / their own family / jobs
- Employers
  - Aging workforce in certain fields / alck of resources
- government
  - services required, income from tax
- next generations of canadians
  - Children, immigrants

## 2. Current initiatives related to aging

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- General social survey: 2007 on aging
- Canadian Community Health Survey: cycle 4.2 on aging (2008?)
- Survey of Household Spending redesign:
  - Wealth supplement ?
- Census : income in May 2008
- LFS : immigrant questions, aboriginals
- Health Longitudinal Administrative Data

# 3. Qualitative research and aging

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- Canadian Household Panel Survey
  - Questions on attitudes, calendar, qualitative research ?
  
- Canadian Community Health Survey : 4.2
  - Recoding of interviews
  
- Pension programs :
  - Case studies ?

## 3.1 Canadian Household Panel Survey

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- Meant to address some of the shortcomings of SLID
  - Longer panels
  - Breadth of content
  - Governance
  - Comparability
    - to other international instruments
    - Cross-walks to other longitudinal surveys in STC
  
- Content : module on attitudes and behaviour, use of calendar, ?



## 3.2 CCHS 4.2 on aging and retirement

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Currently cross-sectional survey

- Probably mostly people 55 and over
- Four tests of cognition : will start to use recording (with respondents permission)
  
- One could think that recording will eventually facilitate the collection of qualitative information

## 3.3 Pensions program

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- Pensions Plan in Canada
  - Annual update of plans (membership, contributions, characteristics)
  - New plans, terminations, amendments
  - Triennial return for DB plans
- Trusteed Funds
  - Income, assets, debts
  
- Case studies to see if amendments are properly covered

# Qualitative research : the future

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- Had a review of our port-folio of longitudinal surveys :
  - They'll continue
  - Looking at them in a port-folio environment
- Can't ask everything of everybody; quantitative trends need to be supported with an understanding of the underlying phenomenon
- I think we might see more combination of quantitative and qualitative collection being done

# Qualitative research : the future

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## ■ But ....

- Have to be smart about what is being collected; push for our longitudinal surveys to be policy relevant
- So far, recent evidence suggest that collecting information through calendar and retrospective information increases the interview length ...
- It's OK to record information but one has to be able to analyse it ...
- How will it work in a multi-mode collection environment