

Sheps Center

Mission

Program Areas

Pressure Points

Sample Project

Moving Forward



Data@Carolina

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The Cecil G. Sheps Center for Health Services Research seeks to improve the health of individuals, families, and populations by understanding the problems, issues and alternatives in the design and delivery of health care services. This is accomplished through an interdisciplinary program of research, consultation, technical assistance and training that focuses on timely and policy-relevant questions concerning the accessibility, adequacy, organization, cost and effectiveness of health care services and the dissemination of this information to policy makers and the general public.

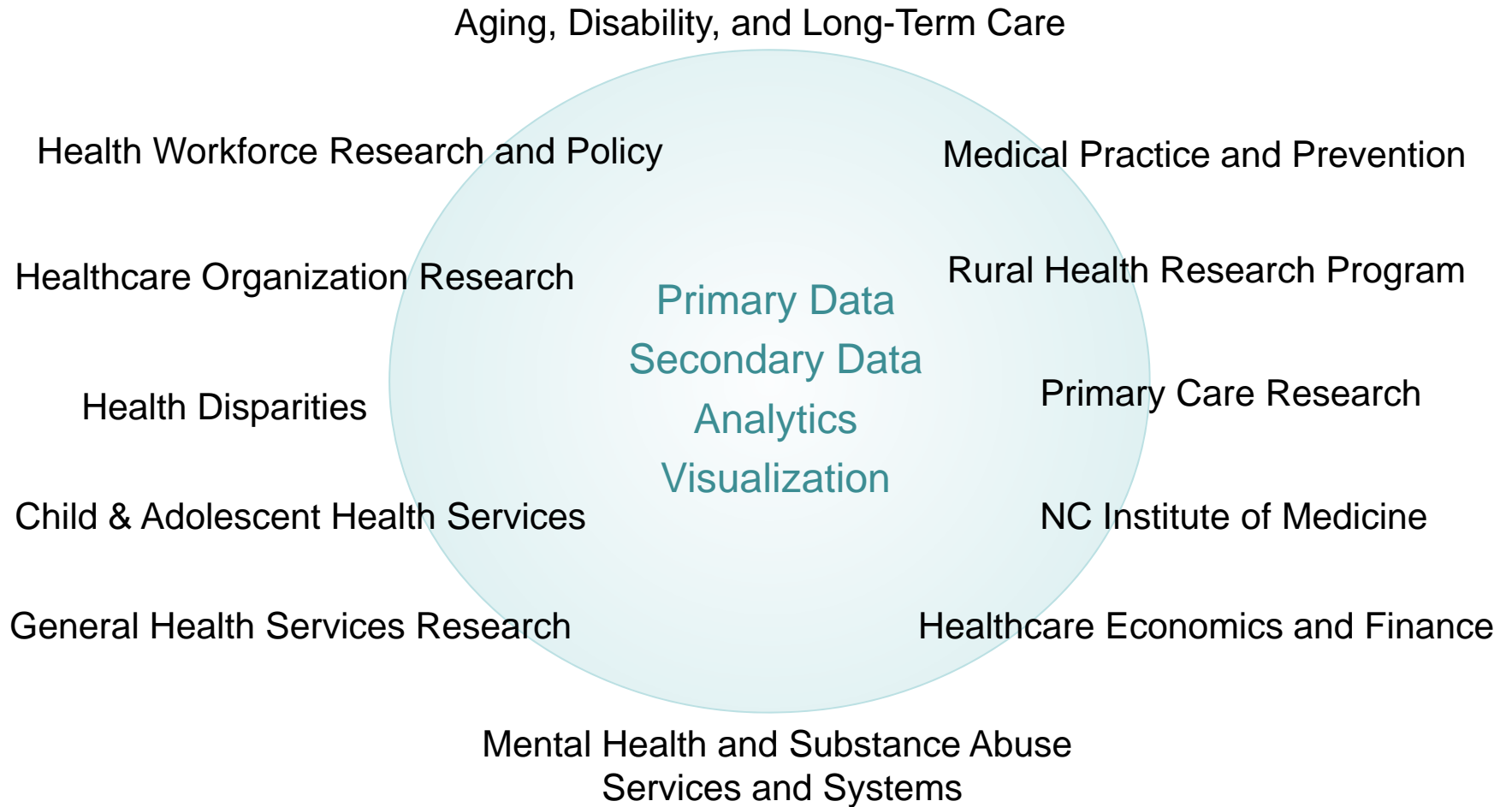
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Pressure points

Elaborate, customized participant tracking and data collection systems

- * at lower costs and in the field more quickly

Computing environment for large secondary data

- * security controls: proprietary and/or sensitive
- * life cycling hardware

Security at FISMA Moderate levels

- * some contracts have requirement; will grants begin to require it?

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Sample Project – Secondary Data Service

Partnership: CTSA Comparative Effectiveness Research initiative and Sheps Center

* Promote the use and understanding of healthcare data toward external funding opps

Data Sources: Medicaid/Medicare, Truven MarketScan, BCBSNC, SEHP, HCUP, etc.

Terabyte range data – will continue to grow

Issues: Computing Environment – where will researchers do their work?

Governance, Guidance/Training, Data Exploration, Programming Resources, Funding

Somewhat related: upcoming data linkage work involving Claims data and EHR data

* security will be a critical issue from data partners' perspectives

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What can UNC do to help?

- 1) More efficient and effective ways to provide secure computing and large file space
 - Currently, depts face 5-yr life cycles on hardware
 - No easy way to extend either for short-term use or longer term
 - Can we better leverage larger-scale, shared resources?

- 2) Help provide FISMA Moderate level environment
 - Internal solution? -OR- External solution?
 - Partnering with external provider will still require some internal work
 - Currently talking with Amazon and Google

- 3) Promote partnerships and leveraged buying power