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Phríomh-Oifig
Staidrimh

Central
Statistics
Office

Health Research Data Centre

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March, 2025

CSO Health RDC – brief history

- 2020 - emergency access to COVID-19 data
- Collaboration under S11, Stats Act between CSO, DoH, HSE, MU, OSi, UCD, ESRI, UL, NUI Galway on statistical reporting
- 2021 - Establishment of RMF access to C19 data in collaboration with the HRB, DoH and the HSE: Covid-19 Data Research Hub
- 2024 – Launch of CSO Health RDC



What is the CSO Health RDC?

- Launched - Q4, 2024
- Safe space for access to safe data collected by the CSO for Health Research purposes
- Operation underpinned by GDPR, Statistics Act, 1993, Data Protection Act, 2018 (Health Research Regulations)
- Further detail in CSO Transparency notice



What makes it safe?

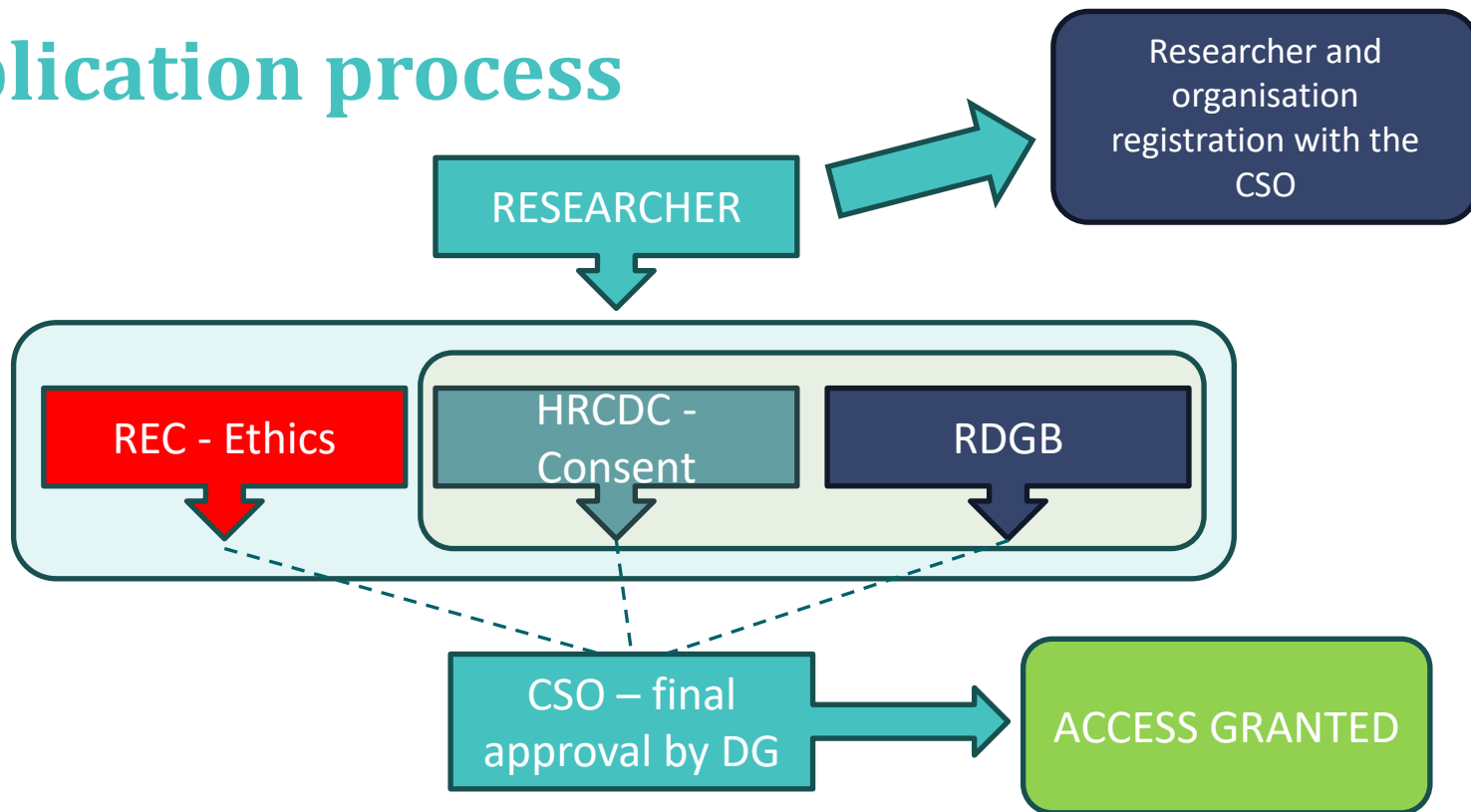
The Health RDC is underpinned by the 5 safes



Health RDC – what data can be accessed?



Application process



Research Data Governance Board (RDGB)

- Additional governance measure
- Main role is to assess the feasibility of the project with available data
- Members - experts in health research
- Monthly meetings



Health Research Consent Declaration Committee



- Explicit consent is a mandatory safeguard under the Health Research Regulations
- HRCDC consent declaration granted when it is satisfied that:
 - all data protection safeguards and technical and organisational measures have been met
 - the public interest in carrying out the health research significantly outweighs the public interest in requiring explicit consent



Health RDC data security - systems



- To access Health RDC microdata, a username, 2FA token and password are required
- CSO Research Data Portal (RDP) is locked down – not possible to export data
- Administration of permissions to access projects is automated via the Researcher Online System for Applications (ROSA)
- Expiry of projects is automated via ROSA.
- All outputs are checked prior to being exported to the researcher



Access to the data

- Secure remote access through CSO's Research Data Portal (RDP)
- Data remains on a CSO server at all times
- Statistical software:



R/R Studio

SPSS



STATA

QGIS



HealthRDC@csso.ie

www.csso.ie

Analysis Outputs

- Statistical Disclosure Control (SDC) must be applied
- Researcher has a legal obligation to protect the data confidentiality
- Only aggregated and safe outputs can be released

<< GP Postal Code ⓘ Σ C		3181				
Patient Gender ⓘ Σ C		Female				
Patient Age ⓘ Σ C		<u>31-40</u>				
Number of Children ⓘ Σ C		0	1	2	3	4+
Conditions ⬆ ⓘ Σ C		⬆	⬆	⬆	⬆	⬆
Angina		0	0	0	0	0
High Blood Pressure		0	1	2	0	0
Stroke		1	0	0	0	0
Diabetes		0	2	0	1	0
Heart Attack		3	0	0	0	0



To get started...

- Contact Anthony at healthrdc@cs0.ie
- Discuss research project requirements
- Full guidance provided on application process
- Further information on available data and linkage potential
- Where access is approved, guidance available from CSO on using the Researcher Data Portal

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Thank you for your attention

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