

# Baseline Data Report 2003–2004

## *Regional Profile of Abitibi-Témiscamingue*



*prepared by the*

**CHSSN**

Community Health  
and Social Services Network

*for the Networking and Partnership Initiative*

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# Health Determinants of English-speaking Regional Communities

## Acknowledgement

For the purpose of describing regional highlights, this section draws primarily on the demographic data developed by William Floch for the Department of Canadian Heritage based on the 1996 and 2001 Canadian Census, 2004. Any other sources are indicated throughout.

## Regional Health Determinants

While the factors influencing health in a given region will be presented as much as possible as discreet entities it is important to keep in mind they are interdependent. Often the configuration of a number of factors underlies the difference between a weak and an optimal health situation.

## Explanation of Table Indices:

Information in this report is supported by a series of reference tables for each administrative region. One of these tables compares the Income/Social Status of each region's Anglophone population relative to either the Francophone regional majority, or to the entire Anglophone population of the province. Two important methods of measurement (**mmi** and **rgi**) are used and their meanings are explained here:

## Minority-Majority Index (mmi)

The Minority-Majority Index in this report compares the characteristic of the regional *minority* Anglophone population relative to the *majority* Francophone population which shares the same region. An **mmi greater than 1.00** indicates that the characteristic is more commonly found in the minority population. An **mmi less than 1.00** indicates that it is less present in the minority population.

**Example:** This Minority-Majority Index table for the Outaouais region indicates that the average income **mmi of 0.99** for the Anglophone population is just slightly lower than that of the Francophone population, while the proportion of population over the age of 15 without income is an **mmi of 1.09**, significantly higher.

Income/Social Status Characteristics	<a href="#">mmi</a>
Average income	0.99
Population 15+ without income	1.09
Dependence on government transfer	1.06
Incidence of low income (under \$20k)	1.07
Incidence of high income (over \$50k)	0.99

## Relative Geographic Index (rgi)

The Relative Geographic Index in this document refers to the relative value of a characteristic for the Anglophone population of a given region compared to the Anglophone population of the entire province of Québec. Thus, an **rgi greater than 1.00**

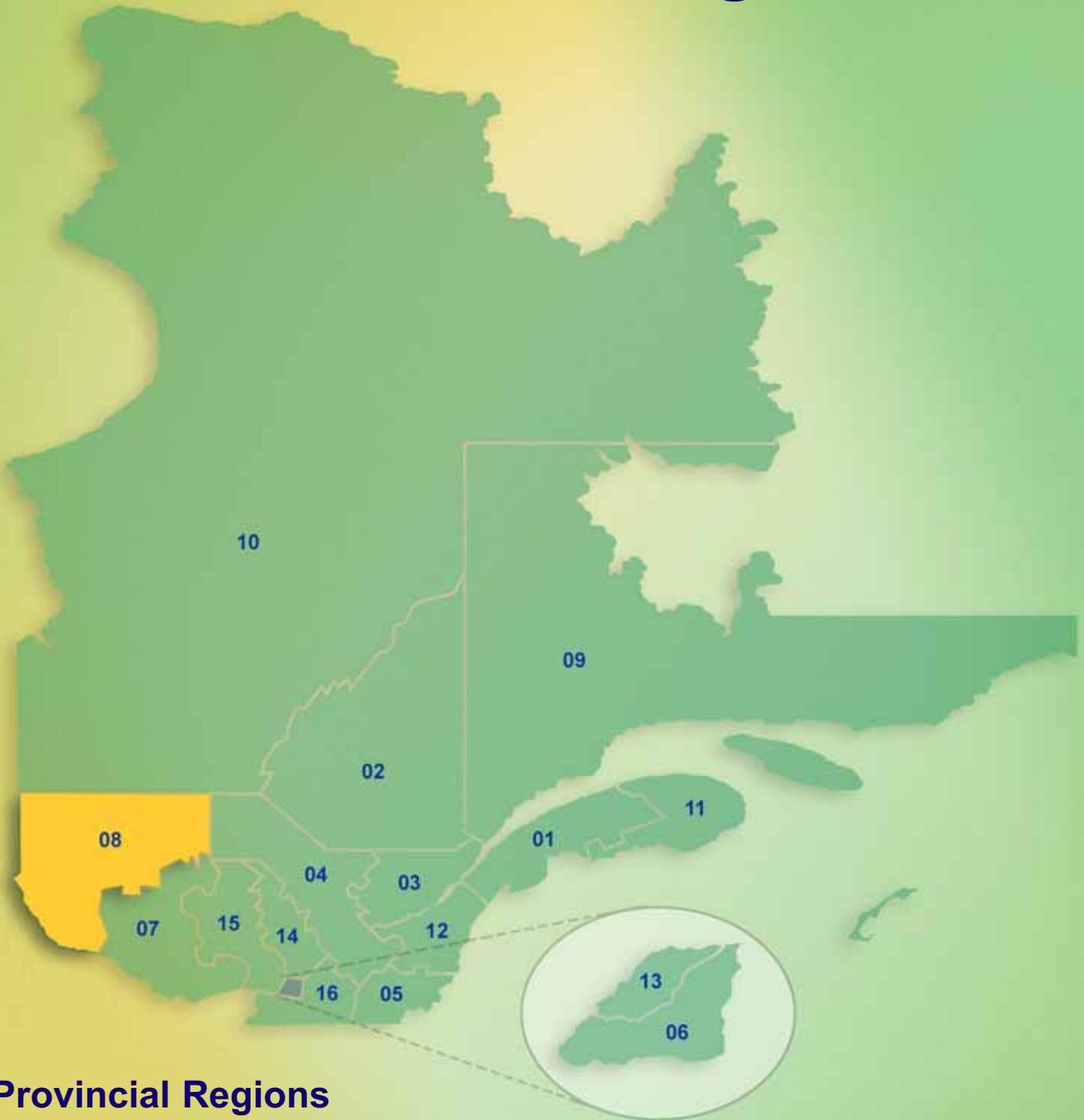
indicates that the characteristic is more present in the specific regional Anglophone population than in the provincial Anglophone population as a whole. An **rgi less than 1.00** indicates that the characteristic is less present in the regional population than in the provincial population.

**Example:** Adding the **rgi** index to the same table indicates that the proportion of Anglophone population of the Outaouais over the age of 15 without income has an **rgi of 0.91** (or lower than the proportion of the Anglophone population of the whole province), while the **rgi of 1.13** indicates that the relative incidence of high income earning is substantially higher.

<b>Income/Social Status Characteristics</b>	<b>mmi</b>	<b>rgi</b>
Average income	0.99	0.99
Population 15+ without income	1.09	0.91
Dependence on government transfer	1.06	0.97
Incidence of low income (under \$20k)	1.07	0.93
Incidence of high income (over \$50k)	0.99	1.13



# Abitibi-Témiscamingue



## Provincial Regions

- |                                   |                                    |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 01 Bas-Saint-Laurent              | 09 Côte-Nord                       |
| 02 Saguenay – Lac-Saint-Jean      | 10 Nord-du-Québec                  |
| 03 Québec – La Capitale Nationale | 11 Gaspésie – Îles-de-la-Madeleine |
| 04 Mauricie – Centre-du-Québec    | 12 Chaudière-Appalaches            |
| 05 Estrie                         | 13 Laval                           |
| 06 Montréal                       | 14 Lanaudière                      |
| 07 Outaouais                      | 15 Laurentides                     |
| 08 Abitibi-Témiscamingue          | 16 Montérégie                      |

## Overview - Region 08 – Abitibi-Témiscamingue

[Link](#) to full description

Key Determinant	Key Facts
<a href="#">Income &amp; Social Status</a>	Anglophones in this region have a substantially higher average income than Francophones and are similar to Anglophones across the province in this respect. Anglophones are similar to the majority and to provincial Anglophones in incidence of low income (under \$20k)
<a href="#">Social Support Networks</a>	The Anglophone population is experiencing a moderate rate of aging (13.8%). Their mmi ranks 11th among 16 regions. The Anglophone caregiver-to-senior ratio is lower than that of the Francophone population
<a href="#">Education</a>	Anglophones are slightly more likely than the majority to have no high school leaving. They are 72% more likely to have no high school leaving than their provincial Anglophone peers. Anglophones in this region are less likely than the Francophone majority as well as provincial Anglophones to have postsecondary qualifications. Comparison of age groups within the Anglophone community suggests a decline in levels of scolarity over time
<a href="#">Employment &amp; Working Conditions</a>	The Anglophone population has a high rate of high school drop-out, higher proportions out of the workforce, and high levels of unemployment relative to the majority as well as provincial Anglophones
<a href="#">Social Environments</a>	Between 1996 and 2001 the Anglophone population experienced a substantial decline of 16.5%. The rate of bilingualism for Anglophones is 63.1%. Substantial proportions of the Anglophone community claim an aboriginal identity
<a href="#">Health Services</a>	The use of English in health situations compared to the provincial average is very low ranking 10th out of 16 regions. In the regional ranking for entitled services this group is 11th of 16. There are no designated English institutions for this region and the Anglophone community is underrepresented as employees in the health care and social assistance industrial sector
<a href="#">Gender</a>	Anglophone women are less likely to be unemployed than Anglophone men, a greater proportion of women depend upon government transfers, and there are more widowed senior women than men. Anglophone women are only slightly more involved in unpaid care than their male counterpart
<a href="#">Culture</a>	The Anglophone population of this region includes a much greater proportion of individuals claiming aboriginal identity (22 times more) than the Francophone and the provincial Anglophone group
<b>Defining Characteristics of the Region</b>	
This Anglophone population experienced a substantial decline between 1996 and 2001 suggesting a lowering of demographic vitality. The high levels of unemployment, low levels of scolarity, and low levels of English health and social services are factors, which contribute to a vulnerable health situation. The rate of aging is moderate, the rate of bilingualism is substantial, and average income is high all of which contribute to an optimal health context.	

## Region 08 – Abitibi-Témiscamingue

Abitibi-Témiscamingue is an administrative region located in the northwestern region of Québec. In 2001 Abitibi-Témiscamingue had 5,313 Anglophones who comprised 3.7% of the region's total population of 144,350. The largest municipality in the region is Rouyn-Noranda with a population of 27,935. The largest Anglophone population is found in Val d'Or

(953). For the 1996-2001 period, the Anglophone population of the region dropped by 1050 individuals which represents a decline of 16.5%. Anglophones in this community are much more likely to claim mining as an occupation than in any other region in the province. Manufacturing, health care and social assistance, public administration, educational services, and retail are the largest employers of Anglophones in Abitibi-Témiscamingue.

Regional rankings for 16 Regions / Potential for services in English	
Feature (1=highest, 16=lowest)	Rank
Demographic Characteristics	12
Access to entitled services	10
Services delivered in English	11
Summary rank	13
Source: (CCSEC, 2002: 12-15)	

### Income and Social Status

Characteristics	<a href="#">mmi</a>	<a href="#">rgi</a>
Average income <sup>7</sup>	1.17	1.02
Population 15+ without income	0.94	1.10
Dependence on government transfer	1.07	1.47
Incidence of low income (under \$20k)	1.04	1.08
Incidence of high income (over \$50k)	1.27	1.02

- While displaying an average proportion of individuals with low income, Abitibi-Témiscamingue Anglophones exhibit slightly higher numbers of people earning over \$50k.
- The average income for Abitibi-Témiscamingue Anglophones is substantially higher than that of the Francophone majority of the same region (mmi=1.17) and similar to that enjoyed by the rest of Anglophone Québec (rgi=1.02)
- The rate of dependence on government transfer is similar to that of the majority population and 47% higher than the rest of Anglophone Québec
- Anglophones living in Abitibi-Témiscamingue are as likely as Francophones to earn under \$20k and do not differ substantially from larger Anglophone Québec in this respect

<sup>7</sup> Given the small size of this Anglophone population, average income data is not available due to confidentiality rules regarding Census data.

## Social Support Networks

Age Structure	Anglo	Franco
0-14	19.8%	20.2%
15-24	11.5%	13.8%
25-44	29.1%	30.1%
45-64	27.2%	25.3%
65+	13.8%	10.6%
Care-giver to Senior Ratio	2.40	3.19

- The Abitibi-Témiscamingue Anglophone population are experiencing a moderate rate of aging (13.8% are 65 and over compared to 10.6% for Francophones) In other words, Anglophones have 8% more individuals in their senior years per capita than found in the Francophone majority.
- The number of individuals from the Care-giver generation relative to individuals in the senior cohort is lower than in the Francophone population
- There are more than five times more widowed women than men in the Anglophone Abitibi-Témiscamingue population.

## Education

Characteristics	<a href="#">mmi</a>	<a href="#">rgi</a>
Without high school leaving	1.07	1.72
With post-secondary qualifications	0.91	0.52
High school drop-out	1.14	1.26
College drop-out	1.05	1.07
University drop-out	0.87	1.00

- Anglophones in this region are 7% more likely than regional Francophones to possess no high school leaving; the figures are +28% in the 15-24 age group, +23% in the 25-44 age group and +3% in the 45-64 age group. Anglophones over 65 in the region are 22% less likely to have no high school leaving than regional Francophones. When compared to the province averages, Anglophones in this region are 72% more likely to have no high school leaving.
- Overall, regional Anglophones are 9% less likely to possess post-secondary qualifications than are Francophones; compared to Anglophones across the province, they are 48% less likely to possess such qualifications.
- In the 15-24 age group, regional Anglophones are 36% less likely to possess post-secondary qualifications than Francophones; this percentage drops as the group ages until for the over 65 age group, Anglophones are 33% more likely than Francophones to possess post-secondary qualifications.

- Among those in the region without high school leaving or additional training Abitibi-Témiscamingue Anglophones are slightly more likely than Francophones to be in this situation
- The rate of youth dropping out of high school is 26% higher for Abitibi-Témiscamingue Anglophones than that of their peers across the province. The drop-out rate for University is significantly lower but those with post-secondary recognition are nonetheless fewer.
- Abitibi-Témiscamingue Anglophones are 72% more likely than their Anglophone peers across the province to have no high school leaving or additional training
- Once they have entered the various levels of schooling, and relative to their Francophone counterparts, English-speakers in the region are much more likely to desist from their studies at the high school (mmi=1.14), slightly more likely to do so at the college level (mmi=1.05) and but much less like to do so at the university level (mmi=0.87)
- Within the Anglophone Abitibi-Témiscamingue community women are equally as likely as men to complete their bachelor's degree or higher.

### ***Employment and Working Conditions***

<b>Characteristics</b>	<b><u>mmi</u></b>	<b><u>rgi</u></b>
Unemployed	1.11	1.65
Not in workforce	1.13	1.18
Self-employed	0.95	0.72
15+ hrs/week, unpaid housework	1.11	1.26
15+ hrs/week, unpaid childcare	1.23	1.31
10+ hrs/week, unpaid care to seniors	2.41	1.77

- The main industrial sectors for Abitibi-Témiscamingue Anglophones are manufacturing (17.3%) health care and social assistance (8.9%), public administration (8.6%), educational services (8.3%)and retail trade (8.3%)
- Anglophone women are almost seven times more likely than Anglophone men to be working in health care and social assistance and educational services than in any other industrial sector. More than five times as many Anglophone women than men are employed in finance and transportation in this region
- Abitibi-Témiscamingue Anglophones are 13% more likely than Francophones in the region and 18% more likely than Anglophones across the province to be out of the labour force (have not worked for 1 year and not actively looking for work)
- The unemployment rate of the English-speaking Abitibi-Témiscamingue community is 11% higher than that of the French-speaking Abitibi-Témiscamingue community. When compared to other Anglophone communities in Québec the rate is 65% higher.



- The overall contribution to unpaid work is high among Anglophones in this region when compared to their Francophone neighbors and to other Anglophone communities across the province. With respect to care for seniors the contribution of Anglophones at the upper end of the scale (10+ hours weekly) is almost two and half times more frequent than that of Francophones and 77% greater than that of Anglophones in other Québec communities. Interestingly, Anglophone women and men in this region contribute about equally when it comes 10+ hours of care to seniors. When it comes to 15+hours of childcare or housework Anglophone women are contributing 2 to 3 times the rate of Anglophone men and at a similar rate to Francophone women.
- Abitibi-Témiscamingue Anglophones are slightly less likely than Francophones in the region to be self-employed
- The knowledge of local resources for career services, employment resources, or public resources to help start a business is low for Abitibi-Témiscamingue Anglophones (Saber-Freedman, 2001:73-76)
- English-speaking individuals living in Abitibi-Témiscamingue are among the least likely among all the regions to believe Anglophones have equal access to federal or provincial jobs although interest in such opportunities is fairly substantial (Saber-Freedman, 2001:79-82)

### **Social Environments**

- Overall the Abitibi-Témiscamingue Anglophone population dropped by 1050 individuals which represents a decline of 16.5% from 1996 to 2001)
- Roughly 64.2% of Anglophone population were living in the same municipality five years previously
- Abitibi-Témiscamingue region has an 8.8% rate of international immigration. The rate of inter-provincial migration is 33.4% (11 times higher than in the Francophone community).
- The presence of visible minorities is three times stronger in the Abitibi-Témiscamingue Anglophone population than in the Francophone
- 31.7% of Abitibi-Témiscamingue Anglophones claim aboriginal identity compared to 1.5% of the Francophone population. This is a significant difference of almost 22%.
- 98.6% of Abitibi-Témiscamingue Anglophones claim Canadian citizenship and 33.4% were born outside the province compared to 3.1% of the Francophone majority
- 63.1% of the English-speaking population in Abitibi-Témiscamingue are bilingual (CCESC, 2002: 8)
- Abitibi-Témiscamingue has no designated English-language institutions for health and social services; (Carter, 2001: 15).

## Health Services

Use of English in Health Situations		
	Province	Abitibi-Témiscamingue
Doctor	86%	54
Hospital	80%	63
Community organization	78%	100
Emergency room	73%	59
Private facility	72%	82
CHSLD	70%	50
CLSC	66%	43
Info-santé	61%	27
Private nurse	75%	100
Overall	75%	55.6
Rank among regions	n/a	10

Source: CCESC, 2002: 12

- The use of English in health and social service situations in Abitibi-Témiscamingue relative to the provincial average is very low. (CCESC, 2002: 12)
- The percentage of English-speakers receiving service in English are highest from community organizations, private nursing services, and private facilities Access to English in other health situations is low and notably so in CLSC's and from Info-santé.(CCESC, 2002: 12)
- Entitled services as defined in regional access programs approved by the Québec government for health and social services in English Abitibi-Témiscamingue Anglophones are weakest with respect to inter-regional agreements, designated institutions, and long-term care (extremely limited access) and rehabilitation (limited access). They are strongest in primary care, generalized and specialized services as well as youth protection services. (CCESC, 2002: 15)

Service category	Entitled rights
Primary care (CLSCs)	2
General and specialized medical services	1
Long-term care	4
Youth protection	1
Rehabilitation	3
Inter-regional agreements	4
Designated institutions	4
Sum of indicators of level of access	19
Regional ranking	11
Definition of the level of access to a service : 1 = substantial; 2 = moderate; 3 = limited; 4 = extremely limited	
Source: (CCESC, 2002: 15)	

- 18 of 25 services were dropped from CLSC Partage des Eaux as well as reduction in long-term care and rehabilitation services in 1999. (Carter, 2001: 15)
- Abitibi-Témiscamingue region has no inter-regional agreement in their access programs approved by the Québec government in 1999. The Government decree omits inter-regional arrangements for Foster Pavillion (drug and alcohol addiction program)(Carter, 2001: 15)
- The Anglophone community is underrepresented as employees in the area of health and social service

### **Gender**

- Anglophone Abitibi-Témiscamingue women are less likely to be unemployed (37% less), more likely to be out of the labour force (34% more likely), and slightly more likely to be employed (8% more) than Anglophone men of the same region
- If we consider unpaid work, (more than 10 hours weekly of unpaid care to seniors specifically) Anglophone women are slightly more represented than Anglophone men (7%)
- In the region, English-speaking men are three and a half times more likely than Francophone men to perform 10+ hours per week of unpaid care to seniors
- Government transfers account for a greater share of the income of Anglophone women when compared to Anglophone men (more than twice the share)
- When we consider women over 65 we find higher proportions of English-speaking senior women than Francophone (mmi=1.25)
- There are also relatively more widowed Anglophone women than Francophone women (mmi=1.19)
- Anglophone women are almost four times more likely than Anglophone men to be employed in the area of health care and social assistance. They are almost three times more likely to have postsecondary education in the health professions

## **Culture**

- 73.4% of Abitibi-Témiscamingue Anglophones are Catholic; 16.8% non-Catholics; Anglophones in Abitibi-Témiscamingue are almost three times more likely than Francophones to have no religious affiliation
- If we consider Anglophone Abitibi-Témiscamingue from the point of view of the ethnic origins of the individuals who comprise this population we find a greater diversity of backgrounds than we find in the majority population. Anglophones are 22 times more likely to claim aboriginal identity than the Francophone majority of this region and 17 times more likely than those living in other Anglophone communities in Québec
- In terms of family patterns, the Anglophone community is as equally likely as its Francophone counterpart to be legally married; slightly more likely to be divorced; slightly less likely to be in common-law relationship; and finally, more likely to be widowed



# Acronyms and Glossary

## Acronyms

CCESC	Consultative Committee for English-speaking Communities (Health Canada)
NPI	Networking and Partnership Initiative
QCGN	Quebec Community Groups Network
CHSSN	Community Health and Social Services Network
C-MI survey	CROP-Missisquoi Survey conducted in the spring of 2000
PCH	Patrimoine Canadian Heritage

## Glossary

**Administrative Region** – The concept of administrative region is important to an understanding of the way that the Government of Quebec organizes its territory for the delivery of services. There are currently 17 administrative regions. For the purposes of health, there are 16 health regions. In the former, more general example, we find Centre-du-Québec added as a new, seventeenth region. For the analysis of entitled services and for the coverage of the CROP-Missisquoi survey, the 16 health regions were utilized. To remain consistent to these data sources, the demographic analysis used in this document retains the 16 health regions as the geographic basis.

**Aging** - At a societal level aging refers to the proportion of age groups in a given population: young, mature, and aged. According to the United Nations a population is considered “aged” if 10% or more of its population is 60 years or over. For Census Canada, the term “elderly” or “senior”, refers to 65 years or over. Some of Quebec’s official language communities are presently living the rate of aging the general Canadian population is predicted to experience in about 20 years.

**Agreements on inter-regional services** – are agreements between regional health councils that facilitate the provision of services in English to residents of other regions which may not be in a position to offer such services in English in their region.

**Care-giver-to-Senior Ratio** – refers to the number of individuals in a given population between the ages of 35-54 relative to the number of individuals aged 65 and over. Implicit in the use of this ratio is the expectation that the care-giver generation provide informal support and, in some instances, care to seniors in the community.

**Demographic Vitality** - The concept of demographic vitality used in the Report to the Federal Minister of Health was a blend of demographic characteristics considered important to health. These characteristics included population size and proportion, percentage of bilingual persons in the minority community, unemployment rate, and age structure. Each region was ranked for each of the characteristics and an overall ranking was calculated based on the sum of the rankings.

**Designated Institutions** – are those health and social service institutions which are specifically mandated to provide health and social services to members of the English-speaking community. Many of these institutions were originally established by the Anglophone community but are now publicly funded and depending on this designation, able to operate bilingually under certain conditions.

**Entitled Services** – are those health and social services which are described in regional access plans and for which access in English is guaranteed by law under certain conditions.

**First Official Language Spoken** - The first official language spoken (FOLS) is a derived language variable based on the answers to three Census of Canada questions: knowledge of English and French, mother tongue and home language. The algorithm used by Statistics Canada results in the assigning of 98% of Canadians as Anglophone or Francophone with the remaining 2% split between dual Anglophone/Francophone (0.5%) or neither Anglophone or Francophone (1.5%). The dual Anglophone/Francophone individuals have been divided equally between the two language groups.

**Health Determinants** – These are a broad range of individual and collective factors that have been shown to exert a determining influence upon health status.

**Minority-Majority Index** - The Minority-Majority Index in this report compares the characteristic of the regional *minority* Anglophone population relative to the *majority* Francophone population which shares the same region. An **mmi** greater than 1.00 indicates that the characteristic is more commonly found in the minority population. An **mmi** less than 1.00 indicates that it is less present in the minority population.

**Population Health** – Population health is an approach that aims to improve the health of an entire population by taking into account a broad range of factors that have a strong influence on health.

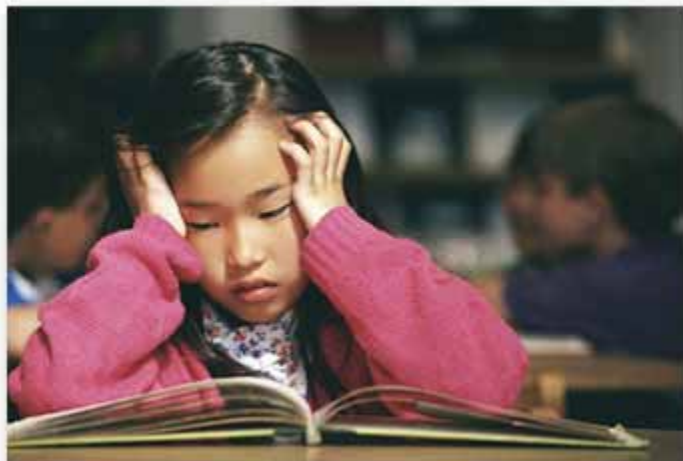
**Relative Geographic Index** - The Relative Geographic Index in this document refers to the relative value of a characteristic for the Anglophone population of a given region compared to the Anglophone population of the entire province of Québec. Thus, an **rgi** greater than 1.00 indicates that the characteristic is more present in the specific regional Anglophone population than in the provincial Anglophone population as a whole. An **rgi** less than 1.00 indicates that the characteristic is less present in the regional population than in the provincial population.

**Without High School Leaving** – refers to the population 15 years and over who have not attained a high school graduation certificate.



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