

Baseline Data Report 2003–2004

Regional Profile of Côte-Nord



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	mmi
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**

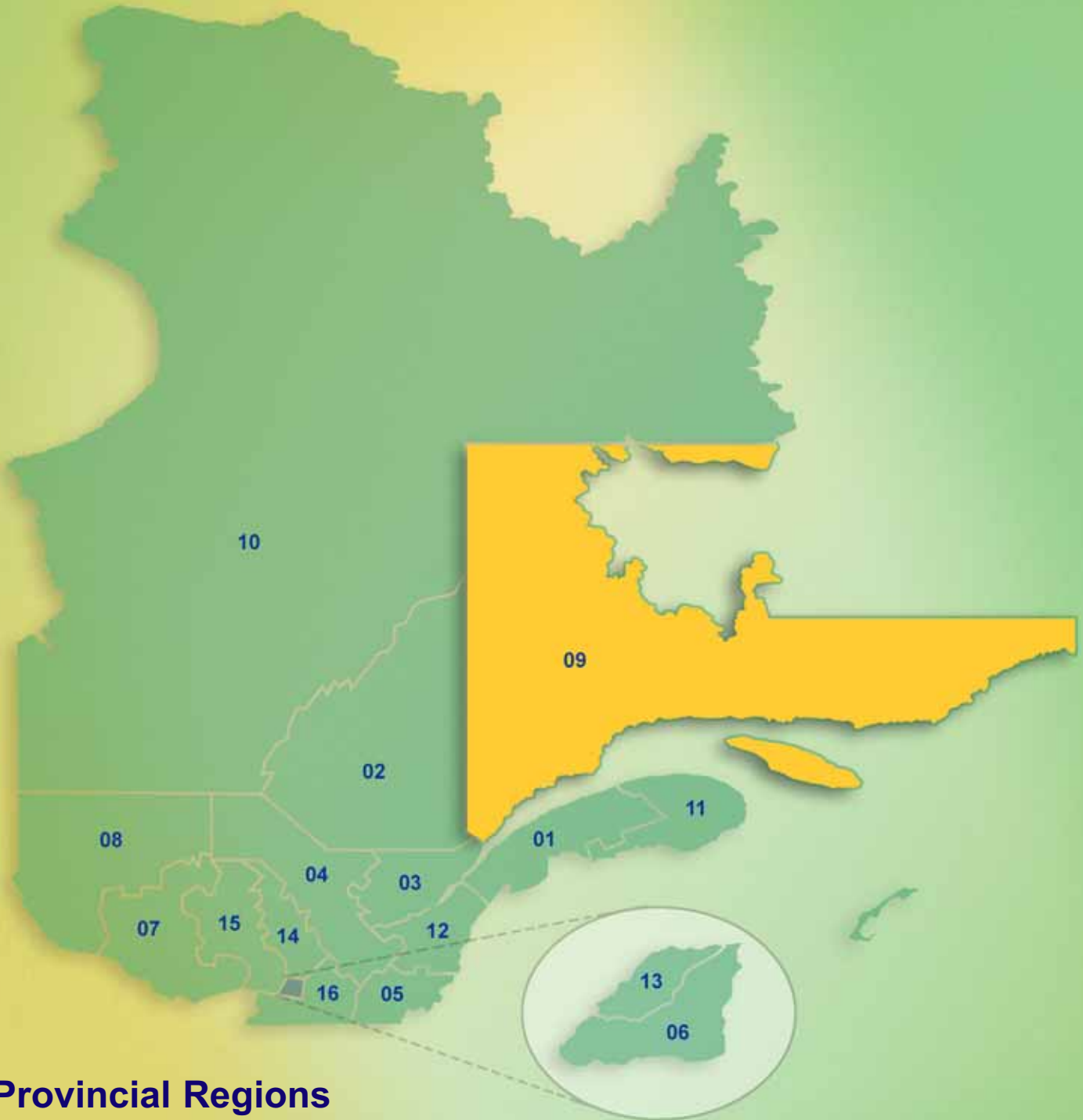
indicates that the characteristic is more present in the specific regional Anglophone population than in the provincial Anglophone population as a whole. An **rgi less than 1.00** indicates that the characteristic is less present in the regional population than in the provincial population.

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.

Income/Social Status Characteristics	mmi	rgi
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



Côte-Nord



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 09 – Côte Nord

[Link](#) to full description

Key Determinant	Key Facts
Income & Social Status	Anglophones exhibit a higher proportion of low income earners and lower numbers of high income earners than Francophones. The average income of the minority is lower than the majority and much lower than the provincial Anglophone population. The rate of dependence on government transfer is higher than the majority and double the rate of Anglophones across Québec
Social Support Networks	The Côte-Nord Anglophone population has a low rate of aging (11%) Their mmi for aging ranks 9th out of 16 regions. The age structure of the English-speaking community is similar to that of the Francophone
Education	Anglophones are more likely to have no high school leaving than regional Francophones and twice as likely as provincial Anglophones. Côte-Nord Anglophones are less likely to have postsecondary qualifications relative to Francophones of the same region and Anglophones across Québec.
Employment & Working Conditions	The unemployment rate of Anglophones is twice that of Francophones and three times that of the Québec Anglophone group. Government transfers represent substantially more of Anglophone income than Francophone and double that of their Anglophone peers
Social Environments	This population experienced a decline of 5.8% between 1996 and 2001. 35.9% of the Anglophone population is bilingual which is very low compared to the provincial average
Health Services	The use of English in health situations relative to the provincial average is high ranking 3rd of 16 regions. With respect to entitled services this population ranks 10 out of 16. Côte-Nord has 1 designated institution for health and social services
Gender	There are four times more widowed Anglophone women than men Proportionally fewer Anglophone women than men are implicated in unpaid care to seniors. Anglophone men are three and a half times as likely as Francophone men to do 10+ hours of unpaid care.
Culture	The Côte-Nord Anglophone population are among those regions least likely to believe Anglophones have equal access to federal and provincial jobs. The proportion of individuals who claim multiple ethnic origins is greater in the Anglophone population relative to the Francophone.
Defining Characteristics of the Region	
Geographic isolation presents a challenge for this region yet also creates a context where Anglophones form a sub-regional majority and hence their strength in English services. The pattern of decline in this Anglophone population places its demographic vitality at risk. The low rate of aging, the similar age structure of the minority and majority, and substantial English services are strengths which foster population health. The high rate of low income, high rate of dependence on government transfer, low levels of education and low bilingualism are health determinants which if improved could contribute to the quality of life of the Anglophone group.	

Region 09 – Côte Nord

Côte Nord is an administrative region situated in the northeastern region of the province. Apart from a few inland mining communities, most of Côte-Nord's population has settled along the coast of the Gulf of St. Lawrence. In 2001, Côte Nord had 5,745 Anglophones who comprised 5.9% of the region's total population of 96,915.

The largest municipality in the region is Sept-Îles

with a population of 23,625 which also contains the largest Anglophone population (870). For the 1996-2001 period, the Anglophone population of the region dropped by 350 individuals which represents a decline of 5.8%. This region is characterized by a high rate of unemployment, low rate of bilingualism, and substantial access to services delivered in English in the Lower North Shore section of the region. Manufacturing, educational services, agriculture/forestry/fishing and hunting, health care and social assistance are the largest employers of the English-speaking population in this region.

Regional rankings for 16 Regions / Potential for services in English	
Feature (1=highest, 16=lowest)	Rank
Demographic Characteristics	11
Access to entitled services	3
Services delivered in English	10
Summary rank	8
Source: (CCSEC, 2002: 12-15)	

Income and Social Status

Characteristics	mmi	rgi
Average income ^s	0.75	0.72
Population 15+ without income	1.04	1.33
Dependence on government transfer	1.84	2.06
Incidence of low income (under \$20k)	1.16	1.14
Incidence of high income (over \$50k)	0.48	0.56

- While displaying a higher proportion of individuals with low income than the Francophone population, Côte Nord Anglophones also exhibit significantly lower numbers of people at the higher end of the economic spectrum.
- The average income for Côte Nord Anglophones is significantly lower than that of the Francophone majority of the same region (mmi=0.75) and also much lower than that enjoyed by the rest of Anglophone Québec (rgi=0.72)
- The rate of dependence on government transfer is 84% higher than that of the majority population and more than double the rate of the rest of Anglophone Québec
- Anglophones living in Côte Nord are more likely to earn under \$20k and are 44% less likely to earn over \$50k than the larger Anglophone Québec population

^s 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	19.0%	19.3%
15-24	13.3%	13.4%
25-44	34.0%	31.1%
45-64	22.5%	27.0%
65+	11.0%	9.2%
Care-giver to Senior Ratio	2.93	3.81

- The Côte Nord Anglophone population are experiencing a similar rate of aging when compared to the Francophone community (11% are 65 and over compared to 9.2% for Francophones). In other words, Anglophones have 20% more individuals in their senior years than found in the Francophone majority.
- The age structure of the Anglophone and Francophone populations in this region are very similar.
- There are more senior Anglophone women than Francophone women.
- There are four times more widowed women than men in the Anglophone Côte Nord population.

Education

Characteristics	mmi	rqi
Without high school leaving	1.39	2.10
With post-secondary qualifications	0.64	0.37
High school drop-out	1.22	1.26
College drop-out	1.36	1.26
University drop-out	1.01	1.03

- In the Côte Nord region, Anglophones are 39% more likely to possess no high school leaving than are Francophones. They are more than twice as likely to possess no high school leaving when compared with Anglophones across the province. In the 15-24 age group, the figure is 40%; in the 25-44 age group, it is 51%, while in the 45-64 age group, it is 52%. For the over 65, just 6% more Anglophones than Francophones are likely to possess no high school leaving.
- With regard to post-secondary qualifications, 36% of Anglophones are less likely than Francophones to possess such qualifications; when compared to Anglophones across the province, they are 63% less likely to possess post-secondary qualifications. In general, between the ages of 15 and 64, regional Anglophones are approximately 63% less likely than Francophones to possess post-secondary qualifications.
- Côte Nord Anglophones are 14% less likely than Francophones to have a university degree

- 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=1.22) and college levels (mmi=1.36.) but show similar rates at the university level (mmi=1.01)
- At the university level, when Anglophone and Francophone women of the Côte Nord region are compared they are both twice as likely as their male counterparts to have no university degree.

Employment and Working Conditions

Characteristics	mmi	rgi
Unemployed	2.13	3.34
Not in workforce	1.06	1.08
Self-employed	1.11	0.51
15+ hrs/week, unpaid housework	1.23	1.45
15+ hrs/week, unpaid childcare	1.21	1.36
10+ hrs/week, unpaid care to seniors	2.09	1.81

- The main industrial sectors for Côte Nord Anglophones are manufacturing (11.6%), educational services (10.8%), and agriculture/forestry/fishing and hunting (10.3%) and health care and social assistance (9.3%)
- Anglophone women are more than seven times more likely than men to be working in health care and social assistance and seven times more likely to be employed in information and cultural industries as an industrial sector. Almost five times as many Anglophone women as men are employed by educational services.
- Côte Nord Anglophones are slightly more likely than Francophones in the region and 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 Côte Nord community is more than twice that of the French-speaking Côte Nord community. When compared to other Anglophone communities in Québec the rate is more than three times higher.
- Government transfers represent substantially more (84%) of the income of Côte Nord Anglophones than of the Francophone majority. Their dependency rate on government transfer is more than double that of their peers across the province
- In the Côte Nord region, English-speaking men are three and a half times as likely as Francophone men to perform 10+ hours per week of unpaid care to seniors; Anglophone women are less likely to do this than Francophone women sharing same territory. Anglophone women living in the Côte Nord region are 30% less likely than Anglophone men to perform 10+ hours of unpaid care for seniors
- Côte Nord Anglophones are 11% more likely than Francophones in the region to be self-employed

- The knowledge of local resources for career services, employment resources, is substantial but knowledge of public resources to help start a business is low for Côte Nord Anglophones (Saber-Freedman, 2001:73-76)
- English-speaking individuals living in Côte Nord are among those regions least likely to believe Anglophones have equal access to federal or provincial jobs although interest in such opportunities is fairly substantial. For example, at 62% it is the region which shows the highest interest in provincial jobs but only 26% believe Anglophones have equal access to such opportunities (Saber-Freedman, 2001:79-82)

Social Environments

- Overall the Côte Nord Anglophone population dropped by 355 individuals which represents a decline of 5.8% from 1996 to 2001
- Roughly 74% of Anglophone population were living in the same municipality five years previously
- Côte Nord region has a 2.9% rate of international immigration. The rate of inter-provincial migration is 16.9% (almost nine times higher than in the Francophone community).
- The presence of visible minorities is stronger in the Côte Nord Anglophone minority when compared to the Francophone majority sharing the same territory.
- 98.1% of Côte Nord Anglophones claim Canadian citizenship and 17% were born outside the province compared to 1.9% of the Francophone population in the region.
- 35.9% of the English-speaking population in Côte Nord are bilingual (CCESC, 2002: 8)
- Côte Nord has 1 designated English-language institutions for health and social services; (Carter, 2001: 17)

Health Services

Use of English in Health Situations		
	Province	Côte Nord
Doctor	86%	76
Hospital	80%	92
Community organization	78%	95
Emergency room	73%	65
Private facility	72%	86
CHSLD	70%	100
CLSC	66%	71
Info-santé	61%	83
Private nurse	75%	95
Overall	75%	78.8
Rank among regions	n/a	15

Source: CCESC, 2002: 12

- The use of English in health and social service situations in Côte Nord relative to the provincial average is high (CCESC, 2002: 12) Among all the regions Côte Nord ranks the third highest.
- The percentage of English-speakers receiving service in English are highest from CHSLD, community organizations, privates nurses, and hospitals.(CCESC, 2002: 12) The only area which falls slightly below provincial average is emergency room service.
- With regard to entitled services as defined in regional access programs approved by the Québec government for health and social services in English Côte Nord Anglophones are weakest with respect to inter-regional agreements (extremely limited access) and long-term care (moderate access) and have substantial service access to primary care (CLSCs), general and specialized medical services, youth protection, rehabilitation, and designated institutions.(CCESC, 2002: 15)

Service category	Entitled rights
Primary care (CLSCs)	2
General and specialized medical services	3
Long-term care	3
Youth protection	1
Rehabilitation	3
Inter-regional agreements	4
Designated institutions	1
Sum of indicators of level of access	17
Regional ranking	10
Definition of the level of access to a service :	
1 = substantial; 2 = moderate; 3 = limited; 4 = extremely limited	
Source: (CCESC, 2002: 15)	

- Côte Nord region has no inter-regional agreement concluded for access to Québec City and Montréal English-language hospital, rehabilitation programs, or long-term care for handicapped elderly persons. (Carter, 2001: 17)
- In a number of service areas there are regional disparities in access
- The Anglophone community is slightly underrepresented as employees in the area of health and social service

Gender

- Anglophone Côte Nord women are 60% more likely than Anglophone men to be without income
- There four times as many widowed Anglophone women as Anglophone men in this region and the number of men and women over 65 years of age in the English-speaking population is the same

- If we consider unpaid work, (more than 10+ hours weekly of unpaid care to seniors specifically) Anglophone women show lower tendencies than Anglophone men and Francophone women
- In the region, English-speaking men are more than three and a half times more likely than Francophone men to perform 10+ hours per week of unpaid care to seniors
- Anglophone women draw 21% more of their income from government transfers than Anglophone men
- When we consider women over 65 we find a similar proportion of English-speaking senior women as Francophone (mmi=1.04)
- The proportion of widowed Anglophone women is slightly greater than that of the Francophone female population (mmi=1.06)
- Anglophone women are more than seven times more likely than Anglophone men to be employed in the area of health care and social assistance
- There are negligible numbers of male Anglophones living in Côte Nord who have post secondary qualifications in health professions and related technologies
- Women are highly implicated in a family based model of care and yet with declining access to resources like family and community support, education, and income.

Culture

- 51.3% of Côte Nord Anglophones are Catholic; 45.8% non-Catholics
- If we consider Anglophone Côte Nord from the point of view of the ethnic origins of the individuals who comprise this population we find a greater diversity of backgrounds (mmi=1.43) than we find in the majority population
- In terms of family patterns, the Anglophone community is slightly more likely than its Francophone counterpart to be legally married; less likely to be divorced; less likely to be in common-law relationship; and finally, equally 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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