

# Baseline Data Report 2003–2004

## *Regional Profile of Gaspésie – Îles-de-la-Madeleine*



*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**

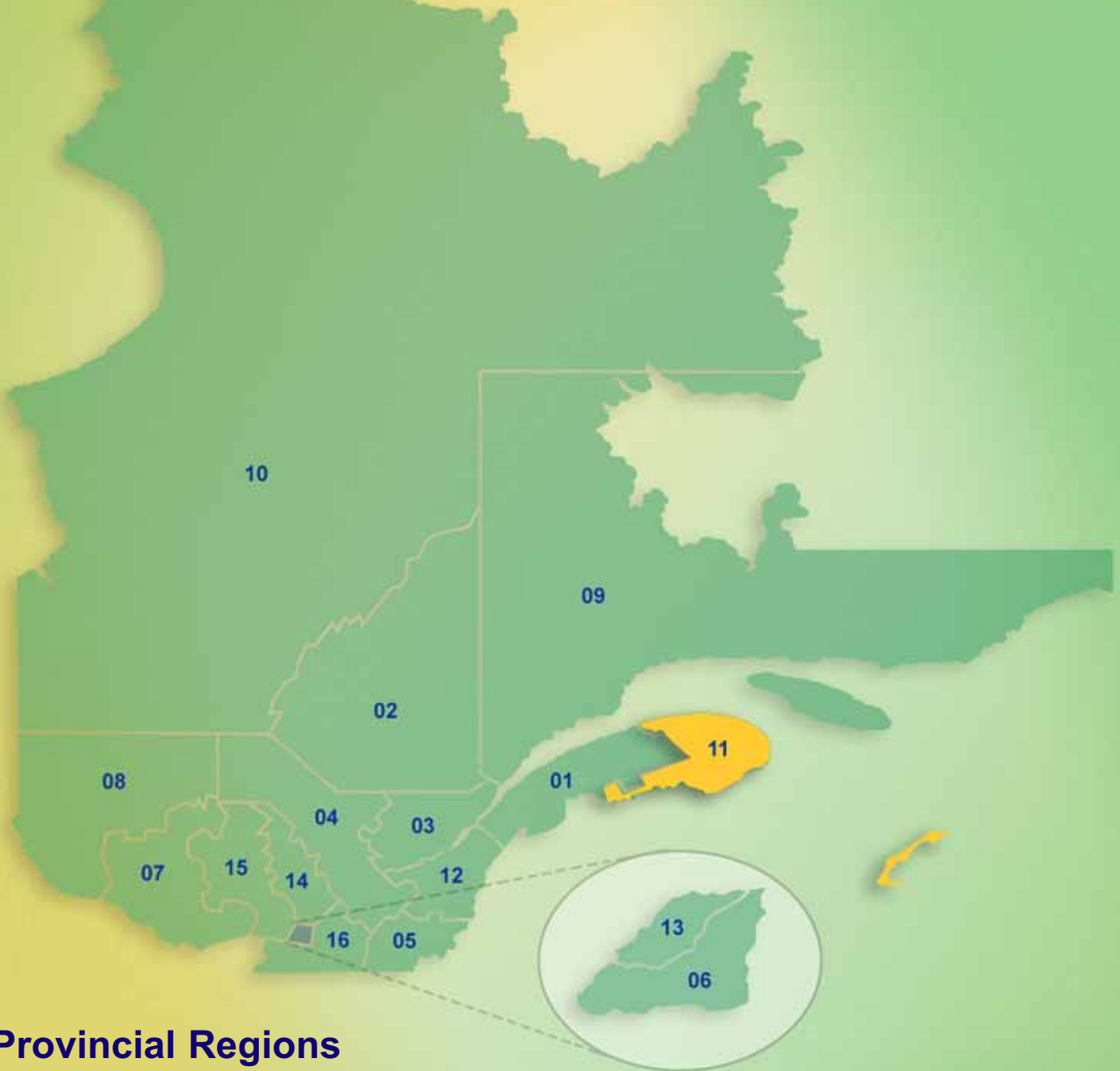
indicates that the characteristic is more present in the specific regional Anglophone population than in the provincial Anglophone population as a whole. An **rgi less than 1.00** indicates that the characteristic is less present in the regional population than in the provincial population.

**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



# Gaspésie – Îles-de-la-Madeleine



## 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 11 – Gaspésie - îles-de-la-Madeleine

[Link](#) to full description

Key Determinant	Key Facts
<a href="#">Income &amp; Social Status</a>	Anglophones in this region exhibit a high proportion of individuals with low income, and a low proportion with high income, relative to the Francophone majority and the larger Anglophone population. The average income of the minority is similar to that of the majority. The rate of dependence on government transfer for Anglophones is 2.5 times greater than their Anglophone peers across the province.
<a href="#">Social Support Networks</a>	The Anglophone community is experiencing a very high rate of aging (17.5%) relative to the Francophone. Its aging mmi ranks 7th among 16 regions.
<a href="#">Education</a>	The Anglophone community is more than twice as likely to have no high school leaving relative to the larger provincial Anglophone population. The 15 – 24 Anglophone youth are 25% more likely than Francophones to have no high school leaving. Gaspésie Anglophones are less likely to have postsecondary qualifications relative to their host majority as well as their Anglophone peers.
<a href="#">Employment &amp; Working Conditions</a>	Gaspésie-Îles-de-la-Madeleine Anglophones are one of the two regions with the highest rate of unemployment relative to their majorities. Their rate of employment is more than three times higher than the Anglophone provincial average. Anglophones are more likely to be out of the workforce than Francophones.
<a href="#">Social Environments</a>	This Anglophone population experienced a population decline of 7.9% between 1996 and 2001. The rate of bilingualism for Gaspésie Anglophones is 43.5%.
<a href="#">Health Services</a>	This population has no designated English language institutions for health and social services. The use of English in health situations relative to the provincial average is low ranking 6th out of 16 regions. Entitled services are very limited ranking 13th out of 16.
<a href="#">Gender</a>	There are nearly four times as many Anglophone widowed women as widowed Anglophone men. Anglophone women are less likely to be unemployed, more likely to earn under \$20k, and government transfers constitute a greater proportion of their income relative to Anglophone men.
<a href="#">Culture</a>	A higher proportion of the Anglophone population claim aboriginal identity as well as multiple ethnic origins compared to Francophones.
<b>Defining Characteristics of the Region</b>	
The accelerated rate of aging, geographic isolation, and low levels of bilingualism suggests a possible strain upon social support networks in this English-speaking population. This is compounded by a high proportion of low income earners, a high rate of unemployment, and low access to English services all of which can contribute to increased health risks. The high rate of unpaid care by Anglophone women who are also less likely to be unemployed suggests a gender specific health risk.	

## Region 11 – Gaspésie - îles-de-la-Madeleine

Gaspésie - îles-de-la-Madeleine is a primarily coastal community on the Gulf of St. Lawrence in Eastern Québec. In 2001 this region had 9,748 Anglophones who comprised 10.2% of the region's total population of 95,460. The largest municipality in the region is the town of Gaspé with a population of 14,670, which also contains the largest Anglophone population (1,855). For the 1996-2001 period, the Anglophone population of the region dropped by 833 individuals which represents a decline of 7.9%. The Gaspésie - îles-de-la-Madeleine is one of the two regions where the Anglophone population experiences the highest rate of unemployment. This rate is more than three times higher than that of the Anglophone provincial average. Fishing/agriculture/forestry, health care and social assistance, public administration, and manufacturing are the largest employers of English-speakers living in this region.

Regional rankings for 16 Regions / Potential for services in English	
Feature (1=highest, 16=lowest)	Rank
Demographic Characteristics	14
Access to entitled services	6
Services delivered in English	13
Summary rank	12
Source: (CCSEC, 2002: 12-15)	

### Income and Social Status

Characteristics	<a href="#">mmi</a>	<a href="#">rgi</a>
Average income <sup>9</sup>	0.93	0.67
Population 15+ without income	1.15	1.26
Dependence on government transfer	1.27	2.66
Incidence of low income (under \$20k)	1.08	1.30
Incidence of high income (over \$50k)	0.92	0.46

- Anglophones living in the Gaspésie - îles-de-la-Madeleine region have a high proportion of individuals with low income. The portion of the population earning low income is somewhat higher than the Francophone majority living in the region and 30% higher than the rest of Anglophone Québec
- The average income for Gaspésie - îles-de-la-Madeleine Anglophones is similar to that of the Francophone majority of the same region (mmi.93) and lower than that enjoyed by the rest of Anglophone Québec (rgi.67)
- The rate of dependence on government transfer is greater than that of the majority population and more than two and a half times greater than the rest of Anglophone Québec
- Anglophones living in Gaspésie - îles-de-la-Madeleine are less likely than Francophones to earn over \$50k and have less than half as many individuals earning this amount than found in the rest of Québec's Anglophone communities (46%)

<sup>9</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	18.0%	16.5%
15-24	12.1%	11.6%
25-44	24.3%	28.1%
45-64	28.0%	29.5%
65+	17.5%	14.4%
Care-giver to Senior Ratio	1.75	2.44

- The Gaspésie - îles-de-la-Madeleine Anglophone population are experiencing a somewhat higher rate of aging than the Francophone population (17.5% are 65 and over compared to 14.4% for Francophones) In other words, Anglophones have 22% more individuals in their senior years than found in the Francophone majority.
- A combination of geographic isolation and relatively low levels of bilingualism in the minority Anglophone community suggests possible strain upon social support networks.
- This strain in social support poses a health risk which becomes even greater when combined with the recent reduction in public health services and the fact that the income level of most Anglophone families places the option of purchasing private care beyond reach.
- As a proportion, there are nearly four times more widowed women than men in the Anglophone Gaspésie - îles-de-la-Madeleine population.

## Education

Characteristics	<a href="#">mmi</a>	<a href="#">rqi</a>
Without high school leaving	1.14	2.05
With post-secondary qualifications	0.72	0.39
High school drop-out	1.14	1.27
College drop-out	1.31	1.16
University drop-out	1.33	1.51

- Anglophones in this region are more than twice as likely to have no high school leaving than Anglophones in general across the province. Compared to Francophones in the region, they are 14% more likely to possess no high school leaving. The figures are highest for the 15-24 age group, where 25% are more likely than Francophones to have no high school leaving.
- Regional Anglophones are 28% less likely than regional Francophones to possess post-secondary qualifications of some form. Compared to Anglophones across the province, they are 61% less likely to have them. It is interesting to note that only the over 65 age group of Anglophones in this region is more likely than Francophones to possess post-secondary qualifications (67%).
- Among those in the region without high school leaving or additional training Gaspésie - îles-de-la-Madeleine Anglophones are somewhat more likely than Francophones to be in this situation

- Gaspésie - îles-de-la-Madeleine Anglophones are more than twice as likely as their Anglophone peers across the province to have no high school leaving or additional training
- Anglophones in this region are much more likely than other Anglophones across the province to drop out at various levels of schooling including high school (rgi=1.27) college (rgi=1.16) and university (rgi=1.51)
- 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), college (mmi=1.31) and university levels (mmi=1.33)
- Within the Anglophone Gaspésie - îles-de-la-Madeleine community women are as likely as men not to complete their degree.

### **Employment and Working Conditions**

<b>Characteristics</b>	<b>mmi</b>	<b>rgi</b>
Unemployed	1.36	3.15
Not in workforce	1.16	1.43
Self-employed	0.84	0.57
15+ hrs/week, unpaid housework	1.14	1.57
15+ hrs/week, unpaid childcare	1.13	1.16
10+ hrs/week, unpaid care to seniors	1.29	1.72

- The main industrial sectors for Gaspésie - îles-de-la-Madeleine Anglophones are in fishing/forestry/agriculture (16.5%), health care and social assistance (11.8%), public administration (10.4%) and manufacturing (9.7%)
- Anglophone women are almost four and a half times more likely than men to be working in health care and social assistance than in any other industrial sector
- Gaspésie - îles-de-la-Madeleine Anglophones are 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 Gaspésie - îles-de-la-Madeleine community is 36% higher than that of the French-speaking Gaspésie - îles-de-la-Madeleine community. When compared to other Anglophone communities in Québec the rate is more than three times higher.
- Government transfers represent substantially more of the income of Gaspésie - îles-de-la-Madeleine Anglophones than of the Francophone majority. (rgi=1.27) When compared to other Anglophones across the province the rate of dependency on government transfer is two and a half times as high. (rgi=2.66)
- Anglophone women living in the Gaspésie - îles-de-la-Madeleine region are more than two and a half times as likely as Anglophone men to perform 10+ hours of unpaid care for seniors
- Gaspésie - îles-de-la-Madeleine 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 Gaspésie - îles-de-la-Madeleine Anglophones (Saber-Freedman, 2001:73-76)
- English-speaking individuals living in Gaspésie - îles-de-la-Madeleine 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 Gaspésie - îles-de-la-Madeleine Anglophone population decreased by 833 individuals which represents a decline of 7.9% from 1996 to 2001
- Roughly 75% of Anglophone population were living in the same municipality five years previously
- Gaspésie - îles-de-la-Madeleine region has a 2.2% rate of international immigration. The rate of inter-provincial migration is 26% (eight times higher than in the Francophone community).
- The presence of visible minorities is stronger in the Gaspésie - îles-de-la-Madeleine Anglophone minority when compared to the Francophone majority sharing the same territory.
- Gaspésie - îles-de-la-Madeleine Anglophones are highly likely (98.9%) to claim Canadian citizenship and eight times more likely than the Francophone majority to have been born outside the province
- 43.5% of the English-speaking population in Gaspésie - îles-de-la-Madeleine are bilingual (CCESC, 2002: 8)
- Gaspésie - îles-de-la-Madeleine has no designated English-language institutions for health and social services; (Carter, 2001: 21).



## Health Services

- The use of English in health and social service situations in Gaspésie - îles-de-la-Madeleine relative to the provincial average is low.(CCESC, 2002: 12)
- The percentage of English-speakers receiving service in English are highest from doctors, private nursing services, CLSC's, and community based groups and lowest from emergency rooms, Info-santé, private residence, public long-term care and hospitals.(CCESC, 2002: 12)

Use of English in Health Situations		
	Province	Gaspésie - îles-de-la-Madeleine
Doctor	86%	83
Hospital	80%	60
Community organization	78%	74
Emergency room	73%	58
Private facility	72%	65
CHSLD	70%	66
CLSC	66%	70
Info-santé	61%	60
Private nurse	75%	82
Overall	75%	69.5
Rank among regions	n/a	6

Source: CCESC, 2002: 12

- With regard to entitled services as defined in regional access programs approved by the Québec government for health and social services in English Gaspésie - îles-de-la-Madeleine Anglophones are weakest with respect to inter-regional agreements, rehabilitation, and designated institutions (all extremely limited access) followed by general and specialized medical services and long term care (both limited), and finally youth protection and primary care (moderate access).(CCESC, 2002: 15)

Service category	Entitled rights
Primary care (CLSCs)	2
General and specialized medical services	3
Long-term care	3
Youth protection	2
Rehabilitation	4
Inter-regional agreements	4
Designated institutions	4
Sum of indicators of level of access	22
Regional ranking	13 of 16
Definition of the level of access to a service : 1 = substantial; 2 = moderate; 3 = limited; 4 = extremely limited	
Source: (CCESC, 2002: 15)	

- Gaspésie - îles-de-la-Madeleine region has no inter-regional agreement in their access programs approved by the Québec government in 1999
- The Anglophone community is underrepresented as employees in the area of health and social service

### **Gender**

- Compared to their male counterparts, Anglophone Gaspésie - îles-de-la-Madeleine women are 30% less likely to be unemployed, 25% more likely to be out of the labour force, and are 27% more likely to be in the under \$20k income bracket.
- If we consider unpaid work, Anglophone women in this region are more than 2.5 times as likely as their male counterparts to devote more than 10 hours weekly of unpaid care to seniors specifically
- In the region, English-speaking men are slightly more likely than Francophone men to perform 10+ hours per week of unpaid care to seniors (mmi=1.07)
- Anglophone women draw more proportionally more of their income from government transfers (+41%) than do Anglophone men
- When we consider women over 65 we find much a substantially higher proportion of English-speaking senior women than Francophone (mmi=1.24)
- On a proportional basis, there are nearly four times as many Anglophone widowed women as widowed men in the region
- The proportion of widowed Anglophone women is much greater than that of the Francophone female population (mmi=1.46)
- Anglophone women are more than four times more likely than Anglophone men to be employed in the area of health care and social assistance and they are more than twice as likely to have postsecondary education in the health professions
- 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**

- 49% of Gaspésie - îles-de-la-Madeleine Anglophones are Catholic; 47.3% non-Catholics; Anglophones in Gaspésie - îles-de-la-Madeleine are twice as likely as Francophones to have no religious affiliation
- The region has a high proportion of English-speaking Aboriginal individuals (19.3%) which, relative to the French-speaking Aboriginal population is 47 times greater
- If we consider Anglophone Gaspésie - îles-de-la-Madeleine 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
- In terms of family patterns, the Anglophone community is about equally likely than its Francophone counterpart to be legally married; equally likely to be divorced; less likely to be in common-law relationship; and finally, about 50% 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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