

Baseline Data Report 2003–2004

Regional Profile of Nord-du-Québec



prepared by the

CHSSN

Community Health
and Social Services Network

for the Networking and Partnership Initiative

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March 31, 2004

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**

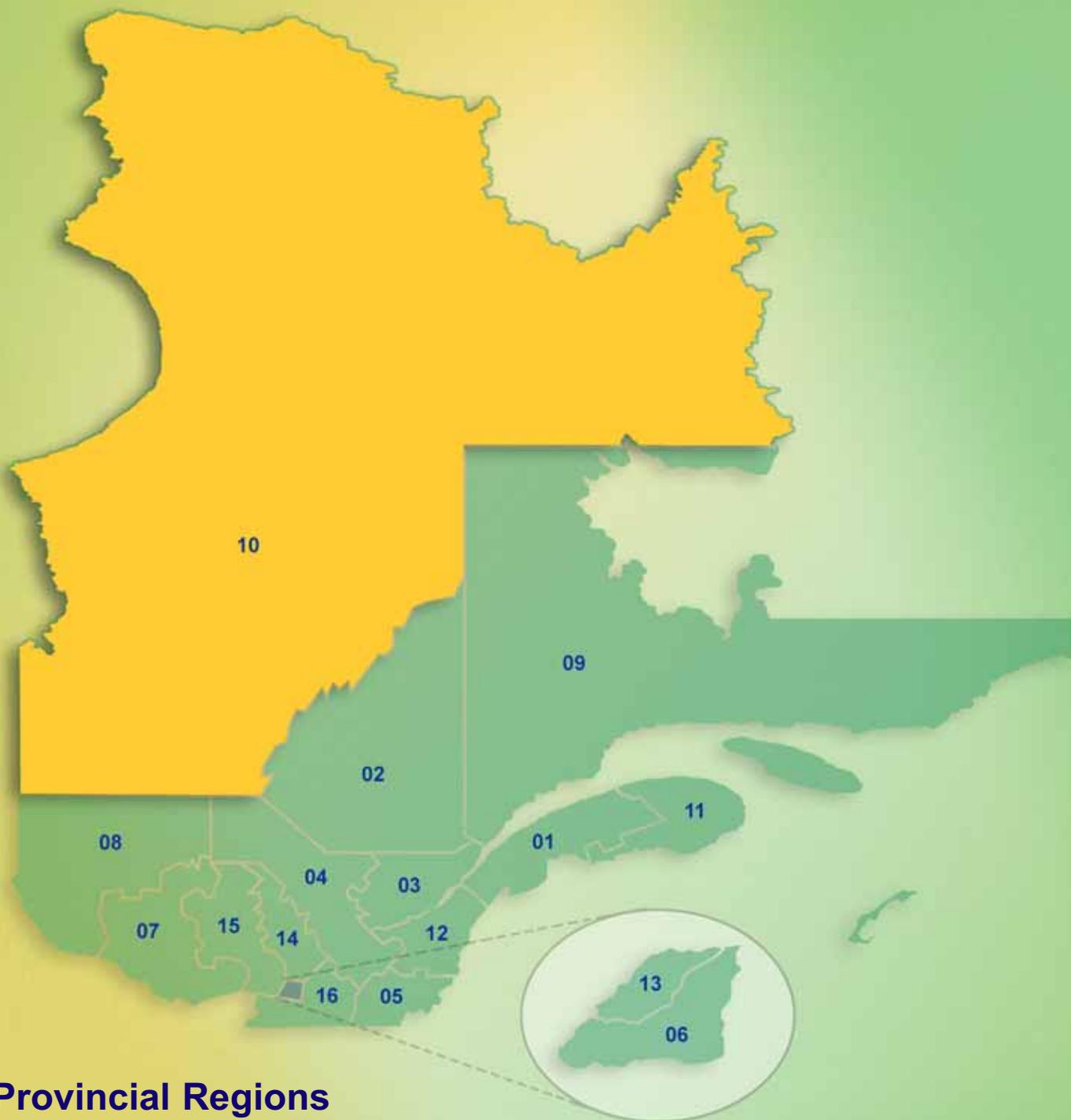
indicates that the characteristic is more present in the specific regional Anglophone population than in the provincial Anglophone population as a whole. An **rgi less than 1.00** indicates that the characteristic is less present in the regional population than in the provincial population.

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 |



Nord-du-Québec



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 10 – Nord-du-Québec

[Link](#) to full description

| Key Determinant | Key Facts |
|--|---|
| Income & Social Status | The average income of the Anglophone population is lower than the Francophone as well as the larger provincial Anglophone group. The rate of dependence on government transfer by the minority is twice that of the majority. There is a higher proportion of the Anglophone population earning under \$20k and much smaller proportion earning over \$50k relative to the majority population. |
| Social Support Networks | Given that the proportion of the Nord-du-Québec Anglophones over 65 years of age is very small (1.7%) this is not an aging community Their mmi ranks 16th of 16 regions and the age structure of this Anglophone population is unique among the regions. |
| Education | The Anglophone population in this region is more likely to have no high school leaving and no postsecondary qualifications than its host majority. |
| Employment & Working Conditions | The Anglophone community is slightly more likely to be out of the workforce, has a higher unemployment rate than the Francophone majority and Anglophones across the province, and is more reliant on government transfers than Francophones sharing the same territory. |
| Social Environments | The Anglophone Nord-du-Québec population experienced substantial growth (19%) between 1996 and 2001. The rate of bilingualism of the Anglophone community is 19.8%. |
| Health Services | Nord-du-Québec ranks number one among the regions for the use of English in health situations due to the particular organization of services in the Cree and Inuit communities. With respect to entitled services the Anglophone community ranks 12th out of 16. |
| Gender | Anglophone women have lower unemployment rates, are more likely to be out of the workforce, and earn a lower average income than Anglophone men. Anglophone women are more likely to attain a university degree despite a higher university drop-out rate than Anglophone men. There are only 1/3 as many Anglophone women as Francophone women. |
| Culture | The proportion of the Anglophone population that claims aboriginal identity is eight times greater than that of the Francophone group. |
| Defining Characteristics of the Region | |
| When considering social support networks in this region it is more appropriate to use a caregiver to child ratio and social support as it relates to youth. The missing 65+ generation represents a health risk for this group given the key role seniors play in a family based model of care and in communities as leaders and volunteers among many other roles. The strain this represents is likely to be compounded by low income levels, low educational achievement, and geographical isolation which can affect access to public health services. | |

Region 10 – Nord-du-Québec

Nord-du-Québec is an administrative region situated in the north of the province. The region's population is largely Aboriginal, many of whom are English-speaking. In 2001 Nord-du-Québec had 14,380 Anglophones who comprised 37.4% of the region's total population of 38,475. The largest municipality in the region is Chibougamou with a population of 7,895. The largest Anglophone population is found in Chisasibi (2,480). For the 1996-2001 period, the Anglophone population of the region increased by 2,300 individuals which represents an increase of 19% which was by far the most significant increase among English-speaking communities in Québec. This region is characterized by a very low level of bilingualism and a very high proportion of youth. Nord-du-Québec ranks number one among the regions for use of English in various health situations due to the particular organization of services in the Cree and Inuit communities of northern Québec. Public administration, educational services, health care and social assistance, and retail trade 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 | 5 |
| Access to entitled services | 1 |
| Services delivered in English | 12 |
| Summary rank | 5 |
| Source: (CCSEC, 2002: 12-15) | |

Income and Social Status

| Characteristics | mmi | rgi |
|---------------------------------------|------------|------------|
| Average income | 0.70 | 0.68 |
| Population 15+ without income | 0.79 | 1.08 |
| Dependence on government transfer | 1.96 | 1.57 |
| Incidence of low income (under \$20k) | 1.25 | 1.12 |
| Incidence of high income (over \$50k) | 0.38 | 0.49 |

- Besides displaying a higher proportion of individuals with low income than the Nord-du-Québec Francophone majority, Anglophones also exhibit remarkably fewer numbers of people at the higher end of the economic spectrum. The proportion of the population earning over \$50k is also much lower than that of Anglophone populations in other Québec regions. This could be linked to the particular age structure of the region where the proportion of the population over 50 years is relatively small.
- The average income for Nord-du-Québec Anglophones is lower than that of the Francophone majority of the same region (mmi.70) and lower than that enjoyed by the rest of Anglophone Québec (rgi.68)
- The rate of dependence on government transfer is almost twice that of the majority population and over 50% higher than the rest of Anglophone Québec

Social Support Networks

| Age Structure | Anglo | Franco |
|----------------------------|-------|--------|
| 0-14 | 27.8% | 23.4% |
| 15-24 | 19.9% | 17.0% |
| 25-44 | 37.1% | 33.4% |
| 45-64 | 13.6% | 21.7% |
| 65+ | 1.7% | 4.5% |
| Care-giver to Senior Ratio | 15.16 | 7.18 |

- The Nord-du-Québec Anglophone population is not what is considered an aging population as the number of seniors is extremely low, (1.7%) While the majority population has a greater number of seniors the numbers remain below those which would enable us to refer to it as “aging”. This particular age structure is unique to this region of Québec.
- There are unique strengths and weaknesses which stem from this more youthful Anglophone population
- When considering social support networks in this region it is perhaps more appropriate to consider a Care-giver to child ratio and social support as it relates specifically to youth. The missing 65+ generation are known for the important supportive role they play in families, especially in a family based model of care, and in communities as leaders and volunteers at all levels. Research has demonstrated the important role played by senior women in the lives of young mothers in a family based model of care and especially among lower income groups. The lack of geographical proximity among family members may place social support networks under strain which in turn could pose a health risk.
- The possibility of strain in social support poses a health risk which becomes even greater when combined with the role geographical isolation can play in access to public health services and the generally low level of educational achievement in this Anglophone population
- On a per capita basis, there are three times more widowed women than men in the Anglophone Nord-du-Québec population.

Education

| Characteristics | mmi | rqi |
|------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Without high school leaving | 1.48 | 2.26 |
| With post-secondary qualifications | 0.51 | 0.30 |
| High school drop-out | 1.30 | 1.53 |
| College drop-out | 1.57 | 1.64 |
| University drop-out | 1.50 | 1.40 |

- 48% of Anglophones are more likely to have no high school leaving when compared to Francophones; they are more than twice as likely to have no high school leaving when compared with Anglophones province-wide. 89% of Anglophones aged 25-44 in the region are more likely than Francophones to have no high school leaving; the figure is 41% for the 15-24 age group.
- Regional Anglophones are 49% less likely to have some form of post-secondary qualifications; they are 70% less likely to possess them when compared with Anglophones across the province. Fully 84% of regional Anglophones in the 15-24 age group are less likely than Francophones to possess post-secondary qualifications. Anglophones over 65 are 86% more likely than Francophones to have some form of post-secondary qualifications.
- Among those in the region without high school leaving or additional training Nord-du-Québec Anglophones are almost 50% more likely than Francophones to be in this situation
- Anglophones in the Nord-du-Québec region are much less likely to achieve post-secondary recognition when compared to Francophones in the region and to Anglophones in other regions across the province despite a consistently lower drop-out rate.
- Anglophone women are twice as likely as Anglophone men to have a university certificate or diploma and 50% more likely to have a bachelor's degree or higher. These women are most frequently qualified in the area education/recreation/counseling services and health professions and related technologies.
- 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=1.30), college (mmi=1.57) and university levels (mmi=1.50)
- Within the Anglophone Nord-du-Québec community, women are 74% more likely than men to not complete their degree.

Employment and Working Conditions

| Characteristics | mmi | rgi |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Unemployed | 1.23 | 1.76 |
| Not in workforce | 1.14 | 0.98 |
| Self-employed | 0.74 | 0.39 |
| 15+ hrs/week, unpaid housework | 1.51 | 1.57 |
| 15+ hrs/week, unpaid childcare | 2.44 | 3.11 |
| 10+ hrs/week, unpaid care to seniors | 5.38 | 3.36 |

- The main industrial sectors for Nord-du-Québec Anglophones are public administration (19.4%), educational services (16.1%), health care and social assistance (15.6%), and retail trade (8.6%). Anglophones in this region are thirteen times more likely than those in other regions to be employed mining/oil and gas extraction as an industrial sector.
- Anglophone women are almost four times more likely than men to be working in health care and social assistance than in any other industrial sector and six times more likely when this is combined with educational services. Women are more than three and half times more likely to be employed accommodation and food services than Anglophone men.
- Nord-du-Québec Anglophones are slightly more likely than Francophones in the region and equally as likely as 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 Nord-du-Québec community is 23% higher than that of the French-speaking Nord-du-Québec community. When compared to other Anglophone communities in Québec the rate is 76% higher.
- Government transfers represent 96% more of the income of Nord-du-Québec Anglophones than of the Francophone majority
- Anglophone women living in the Nord-du-Québec region are 40% more likely than Anglophone men to perform 10+ hours of unpaid care for seniors
- Nord-du-Québec Anglophones are 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 Nord-du-Québec Anglophones (Saber-Freedman, 2001:73-76)
- English-speaking individuals living in Nord-du-Québec are among the regions most likely to believe Anglophones have equal access to federal or provincial jobs and interest in such opportunities is substantial (Saber-Freedman, 2001:79-82)

Social Environments

- Overall the Nord-du-Québec Anglophone population grew by 2,300 individuals which represents an increase of 19% from 1996 to 2001
- Roughly 65% of Anglophone population were living in the same municipality five years previously
- Nord-du-Québec region has a 1% rate of international immigration. The rate of inter-provincial migration is 14.2% (more than 3.5 times higher than in the Francophone community).
- The presence of visible minorities is slightly stronger in the Nord-du-Québec Anglophone minority when compared to the Francophone majority sharing the same territory.
- 99.5% Nord-du-Québec Anglophones claim Canadian citizenship and are more than three and half times more likely than the Francophone majority to have been born outside the province
- 19.8% of the English-speaking population in Nord-du-Québec are bilingual (CCESC, 2002: 8)
- Nord-du-Québec has no designated English-language institutions for health and social services (Carter,2001: 19)

Health Services

| Use of English in Health Situations | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------|----------------|
| | Province | Nord-du-Québec |
| Doctor | 86% | 86 |
| Hospital | 80% | 87 |
| Community organization | 78% | 71 |
| Emergency room | 73% | 73 |
| Private facility | 72% | 100 |
| CHSLD | 70% | 89 |
| CLSC | 66% | 84 |
| Info-santé | 61% | 100 |
| Private nurse | 75% | 89 |
| Overall | 75% | 83.5 |
| Rank among regions | n/a | 1 |

Source: CCESC, 2002: 12

- The use of English in health and social service situations in Nord-du-Québec relative to the provincial average is high.(CCESC, 2002: 12)
- The percentage of English-speakers receiving service in English is high overall and this region ranks the highest among all the provincial regions. This rank is a reflection of the particular organization of services in Cree and Inuit communities of northern Québec.

| Service category | Entitled rights |
|---|-----------------|
| Primary care (CLSCs) | 2 |
| General and specialized medical services | 3 |
| Long-term care | 4 |
| Youth protection | 3 |
| Rehabilitation | 3 |
| Inter-regional agreements | 2 |
| Designated institutions | 4 |
| Sum of indicators of level of access | 21 |
| Regional ranking | 12 |
| Definition of the level of access to a service : 1 = substantial; 2 = moderate; 3 = limited; 4 = extremely limited | |
| Source: (CCESC, 2002: 15) | |

- With respect to inter-regional agreements and the Nord-du-Québec region the Government decree sanctions access to 25 institutions in several regions. However, geographical isolation is a major factor affecting access for this community (Carter, 2001: 19)
- The Anglophone community is under-represented as employees in the area of health and social service

Gender

- Relative to their male counterparts, Anglophone Nord-du-Québec women have lower unemployment rates (approximately half), are more likely to be out of the work force (+13%), earn 84% on average
- If we consider unpaid work, Anglophone women are 40% more likely than Anglophone men to be devoting more than 10 hours weekly of unpaid care to seniors specifically
- In the region, English-speaking men are five and a half times more likely than Francophone men to perform 10+ hours per week of unpaid care to seniors
- Anglophone women are more reliant than Anglophone men on government transfers (+50%)
- When we consider women over 65 we find there are only one-third as many Anglophone women in this age group relative to Francophone women
- Unlike other regions, there are relatively many fewer widowed women in the Anglophone population as compared to the Francophone group (mmi=0.52)
- Anglophone women are almost four times more likely than Anglophone men to be employed in the area of health care and social assistance and they are three times more likely to have postsecondary education in the health professions

Culture

- 4.1% of Nord-du-Québec Anglophones are Catholic; 89.1% non-Catholics; Anglophones in Nord-du-Québec are more likely than Francophones to have no religious affiliation
- If we consider Anglophone Nord-du-Québec from the point of view of the ethnic origins of the individuals who comprise this population we find they are much less likely to claim multiple ethnic origins than Francophones and almost eight times more likely to claim aboriginal identity.
- In terms of family patterns, the Anglophone community is equally as likely as its Francophone counterpart to be legally married; much less likely to be divorced; less likely to be in common-law relationship; and finally, less 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.

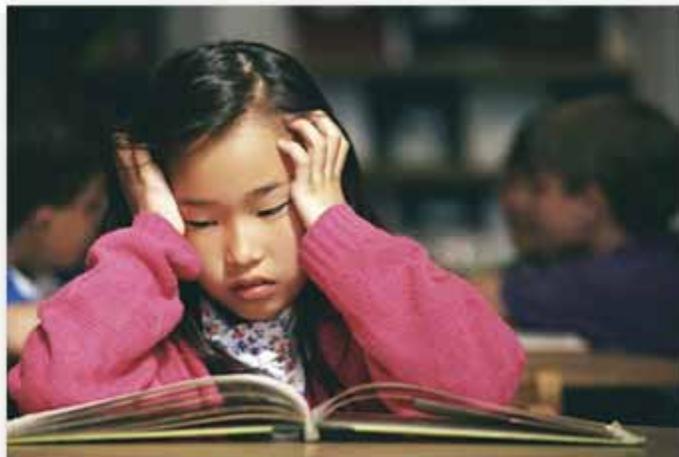
Relative Geographic Index - The Relative Geographic Index in this document refers to the relative value of a characteristic for the Anglophone population of a given region compared to the Anglophone population of the entire province of Québec. Thus, an **rgi** greater than 1.00 indicates that the characteristic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

This report was prepared by the Community Health and Social Services Network



and its research consultant, Joanne Pocock, for the Networking and Partnership Initiative, a program funded by Health Canada



Health Canada Santé
Canada Canada

and administered by the Quebec Community Groups Network



Graphic design and layout of the report was provided by

