



Ambulatory Care—Sensitive Conditions

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RENCONTRE D'ÉCHANGE

**INITIATIVES POUR LA SANTÉ
DES PERSONNES ET COMMUNAUTÉS
D'EXPRESSION ANGLAISE DU QUÉBEC**

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Definition

Ambulatory Care–Sensitive Conditions (ACSCs) are conditions for which appropriate care will avoid or reduce the need for hospitalization.



Hospitalizations related to ACSCs are not all avoidable, but it is assumed that adequate and timely ambulatory care could prevent these conditions from appearing, could control acute episodes, or stabilize chronic conditions. The optimal level of use is not known, but a disproportionately high level could indicate a problem with access to primary care. (Statistics Canada and CIHI, 2005).

Summary

Concept

ACSCs are defined as avoidable hospitalizations accompanied by appropriate care.

Usefulness

Like avoidable mortality, this indicator also enables the health system's performance to be measured.

Chronic Illnesses Considered to Present ACSCs

Asthma;

Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) ;

Diabetes;

Epilepsy;

Congestive Heart Failure;

Hypertension.

A few methodological considerations

hospitalization database:
no information on the patient's
language



The DAs were grouped according to the
majority language:
13 000 DA grouped:
11 774 French DA + 941 English DA +
405 other DA.



Dissemination areas (DA): Small area
composed of one or more neighbouring
dissemination blocks, with a population
of 400 to 700 persons (Statistics
Canada).

Each hospitalization in each dissemination
area was considered to be of an English- or
French-speaker according to the language
spoken by the majority of people living in the
dissemination area.

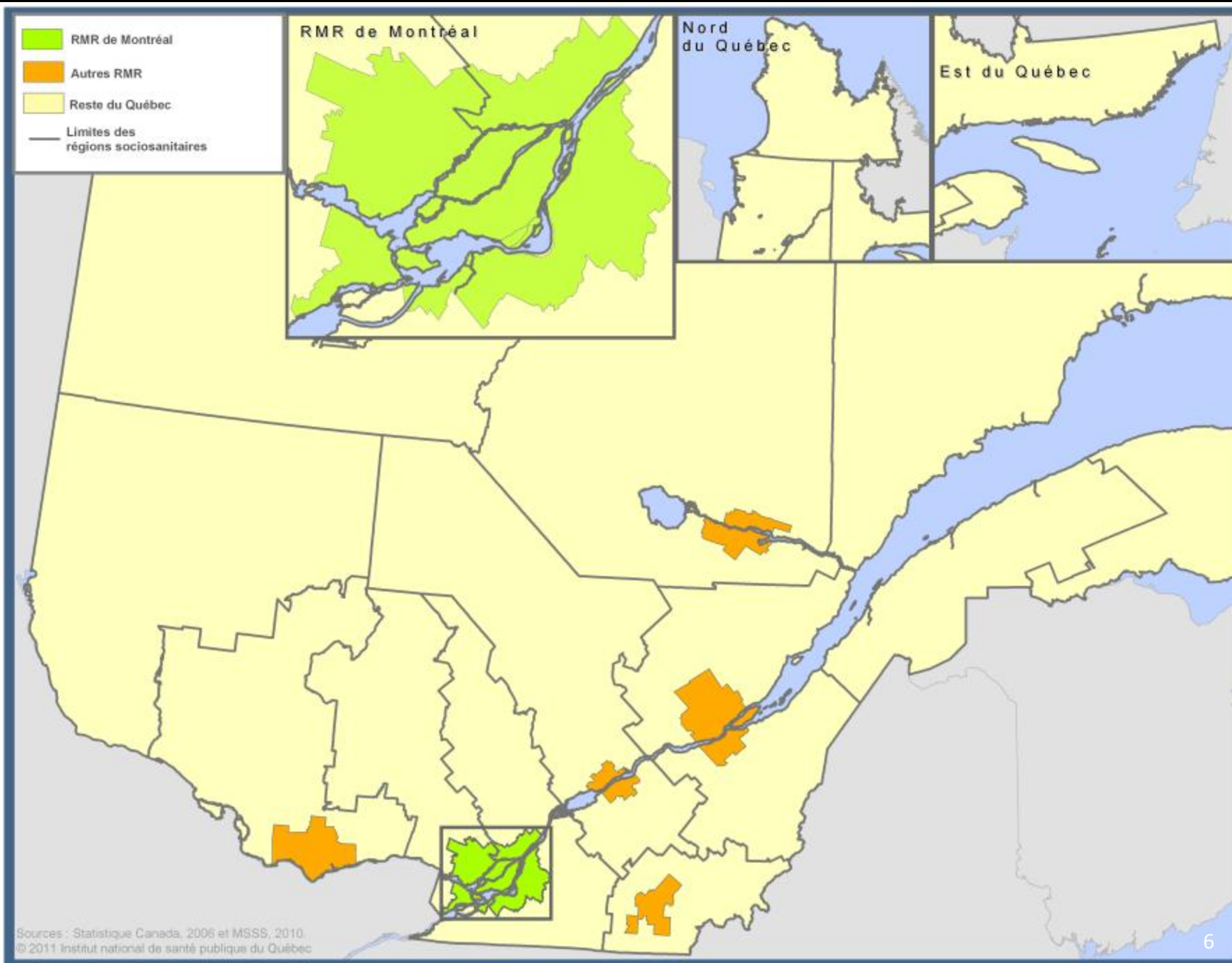


DA distribution according to their
geographic localization: Montreal CMA,
other CMAs, outside CMAs.



We calculated the adjusted ACSC rates
per 100,000 inhabitants under the age
of 75 for the seven illnesses mentioned
earlier.

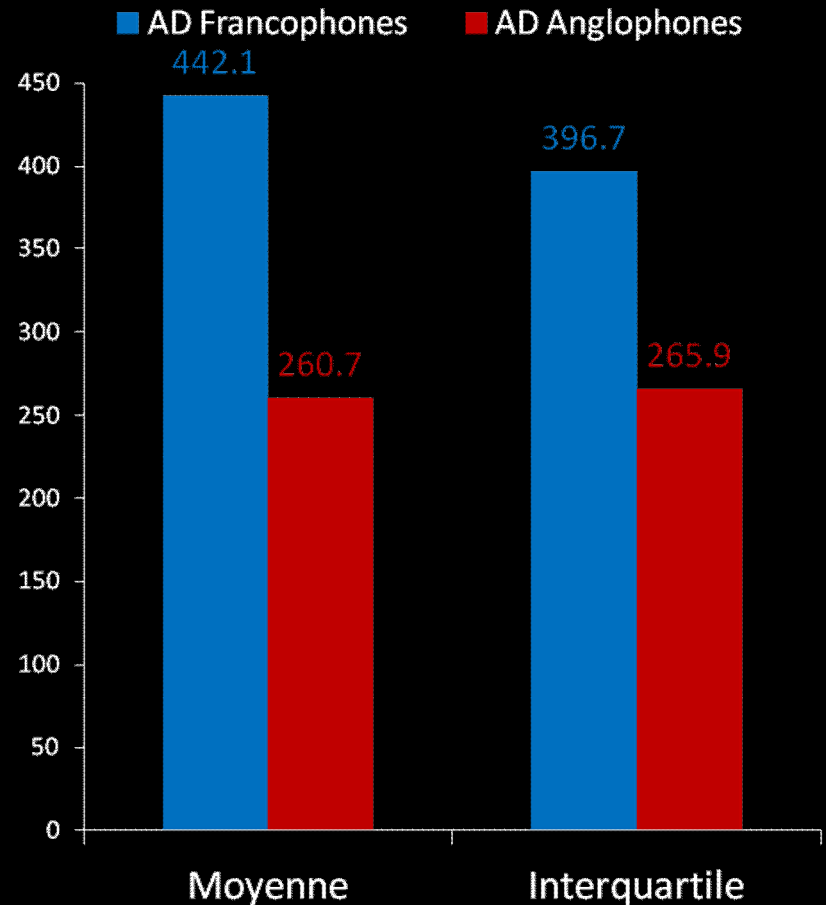
Measures of central tendency and
dispersion.



Average ACSC Rates and Dispersion of “English” and “French” Dissemination Areas

Finding 1

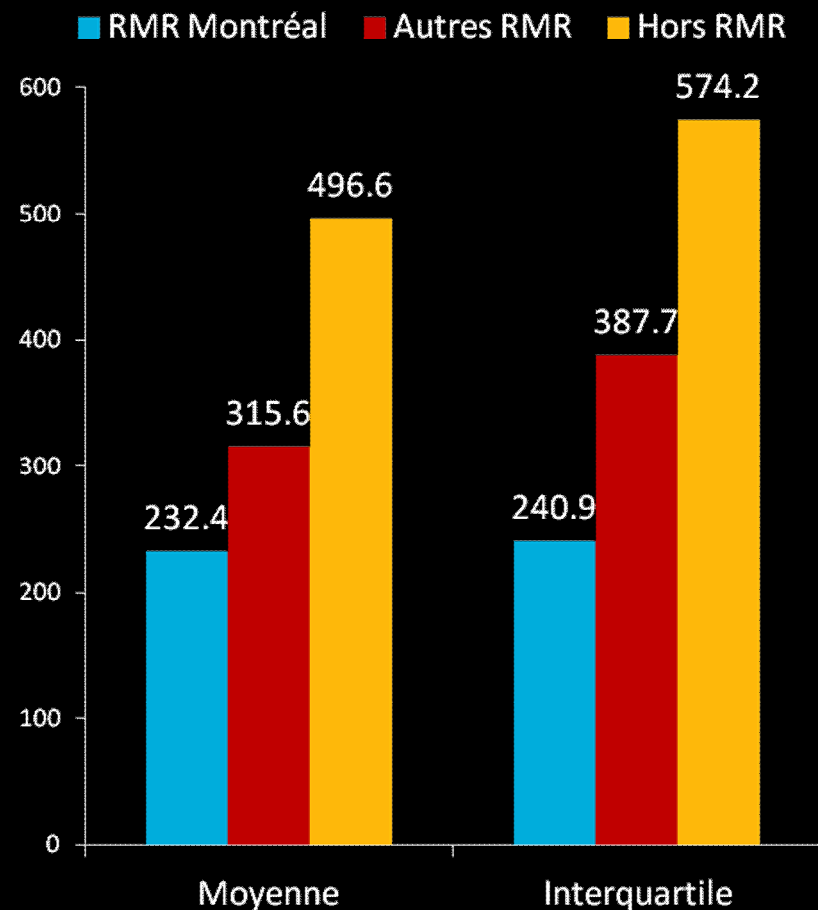
- ✓ Average ACSC rates are higher in French dissemination areas than in English ones.
- ✓ Rate dispersion is also higher in French dissemination areas.



Average ACSC Rates and Dispersion of “English” Dissemination Areas by Region

Finding 2

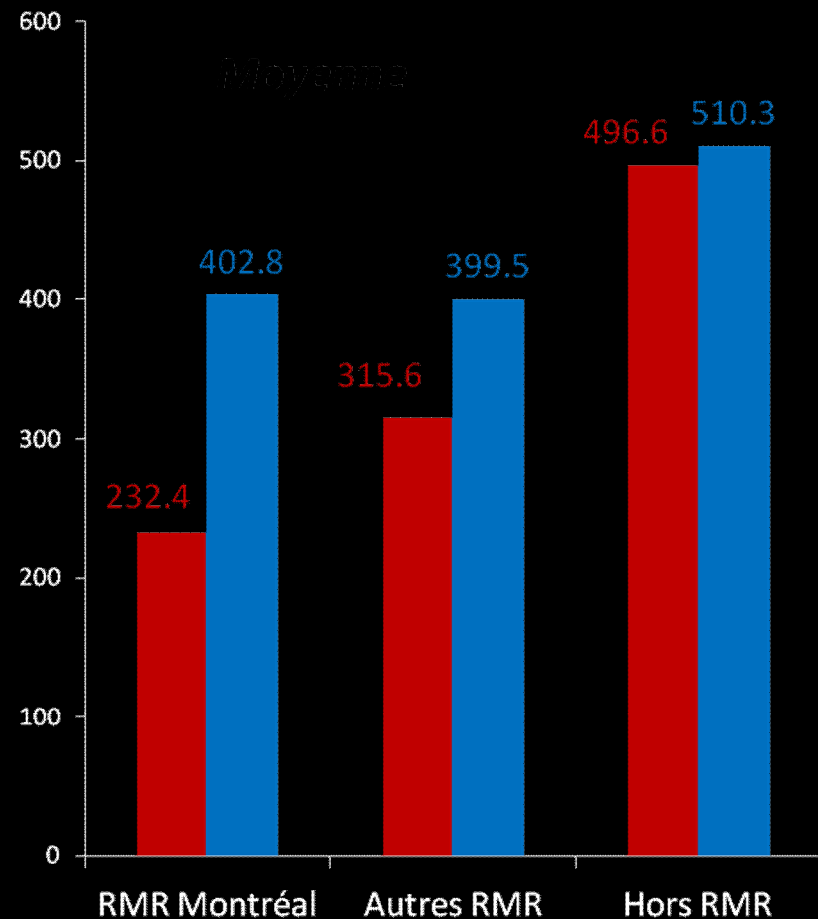
- ✓ The average ACSC rate in English dissemination areas is higher in areas outside CMAs than in CMAs.
- ✓ Rate dispersion is also higher outside than within CMAs.



Average ACSC Rates of “French” and “English” Dissemination Areas by Region

Finding 3

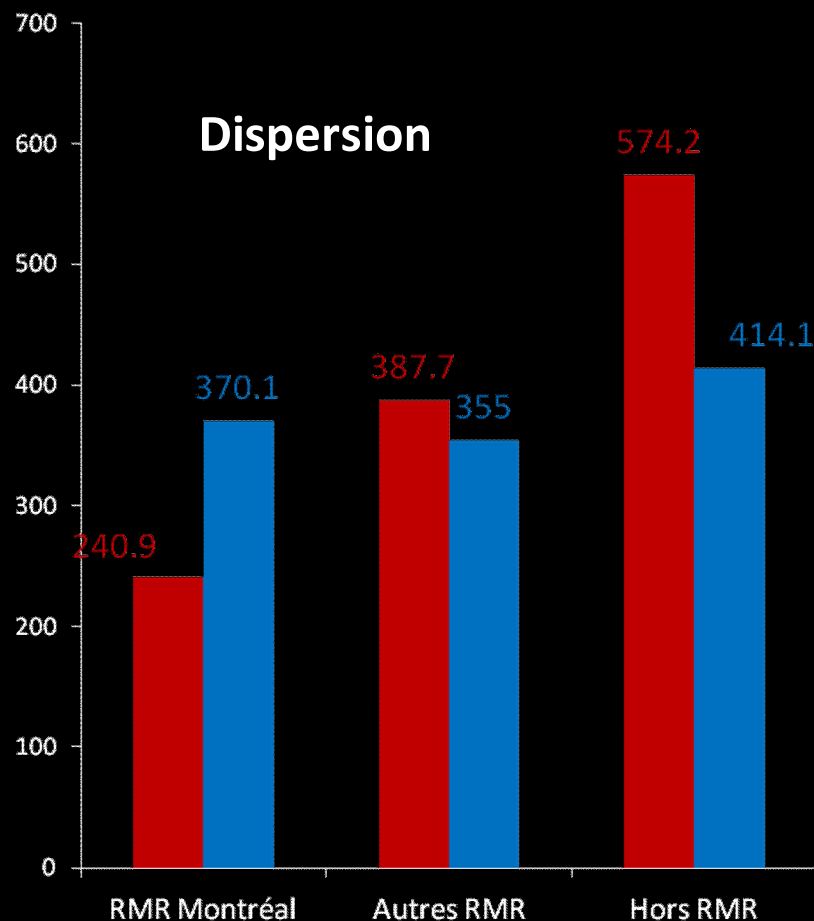
- ✓ On average, the ACSC rate in French dissemination areas is higher than in English dissemination areas, both within and outside CMAs.
- ✓ The difference between linguistic groups is relatively less outside CMAs and higher in the Montréal CMA.



Dispersion of ACSC Rates in “French” and “English” Dissemination Areas by Region

Finding 4

- ✓ The ACSC rates for English and French dissemination areas are more dispersed outside CMAs.
- ✓ Rate dispersion in English dissemination areas is broader than in French ones, both outside CMAs and in other CMAs.



Conclusions

- “ There is no known threshold beyond which ambulatory care is considered adequate or inadequate.
- “ Comparing French- and English-speaking areas does not show differences in the quality or quantity of ambulatory care given to English-speaking patients. If a conclusion can be drawn, it would appear that there is no difference.
- “ The better “relative” performance of English-speaking geographical units disappears outside CMAs, where English and French speakers have higher ACSC rates than elsewhere in Québec.

Conclusions

- “ The measure of dispersion appears to show greater disparity among English speakers than among French speakers, especially outside CMAs.
- “ There is less dispersion among English speakers in Montréal than among French speakers.