

Baseline Data Report 2003–2004

Regional Profile of Bas-Saint-Laurent



prepared by the

CHSSN

Community Health
and Social Services Network

for the Networking and Partnership Initiative

Joanne Pocock, Research Consultant
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**

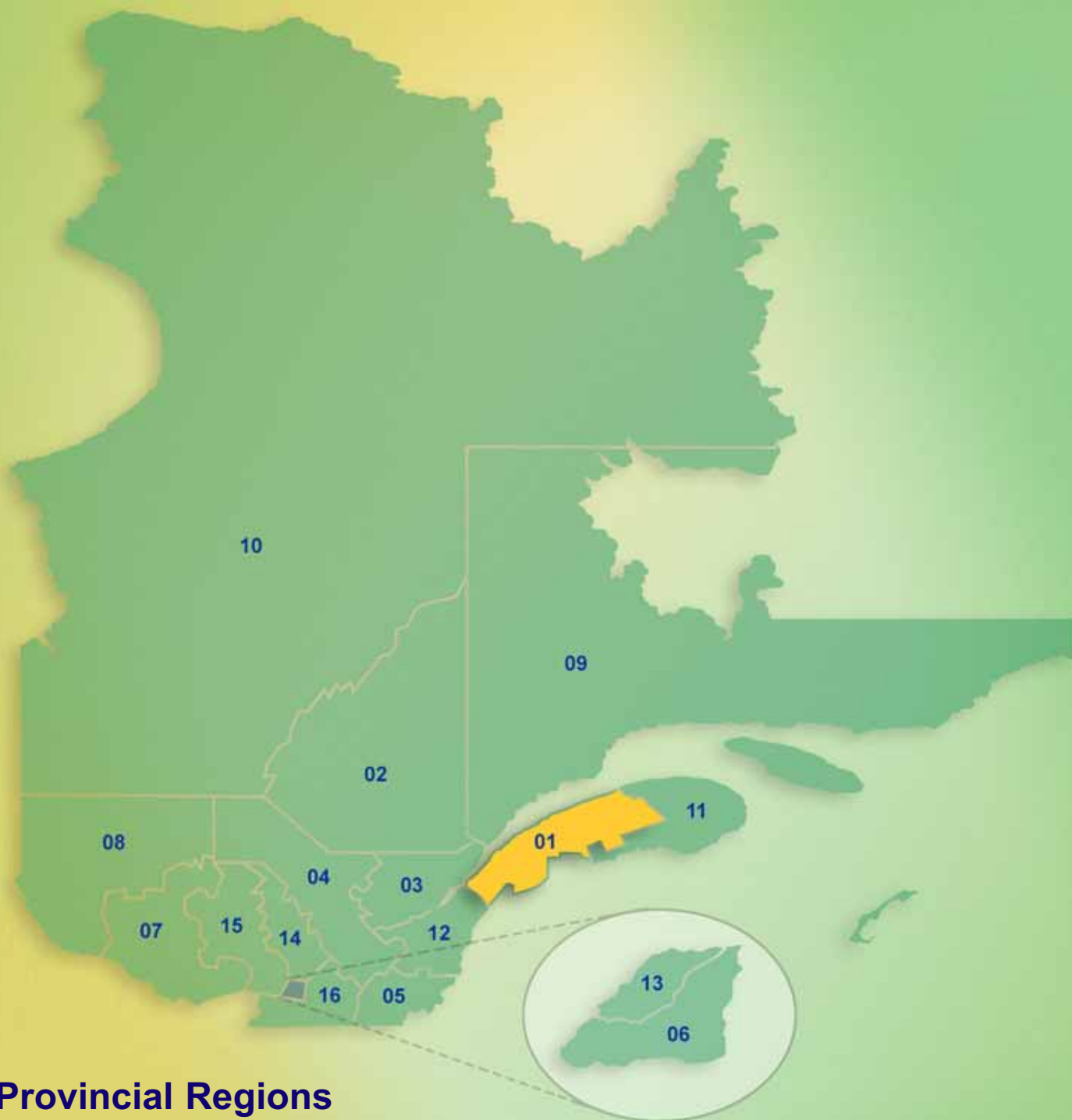
indicates that the characteristic is more present in the specific regional Anglophone population than in the provincial Anglophone population as a whole. An **rgi less than 1.00** indicates that the characteristic is less present in the regional population than in the provincial population.

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



Bas-Saint-Laurent



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 01 – Bas-Saint-Laurent

[Link](#) to full description

Key Determinant	Key Facts
Income & Social Status	Bas-Saint-Laurent Anglophones have a somewhat higher proportion of individuals with low income and more earning over \$50k compared to Francophones. The proportion of income drawn from government transfer is higher for Anglophones in this region than both Francophones and the larger Anglophone population across the province.
Social Support Networks	Anglophones have a high rate of aging (17.1%) relative to Francophones and their mmi ranks 7 out of 16 regions. While the caregiver-to-senior ratio of the minority and majority are nearly identical Anglophones have notably lower numbers of youth (under 25 yrs of age).
Education	Relative to the Francophone majority Anglophones have a lower tendency to have no high school leaving and a higher tendency to have postsecondary qualifications. Men are twice as likely as women to have a university degree.
Employment & Working Conditions	Anglophones are more likely than the Francophone majority as well as larger provincial Anglophones to be out of the workforce. Anglophones have a higher unemployment rate than Francophones. and this rate is almost double that of their Anglophone peers across the province. Anglophones exhibit a lower incidence of unpaid care (10+ to seniors) than Francophones.
Social Environments	The English-speaking population in this region experienced a decline of 12.1% between 1996 and 2001. The rate of bilingualism for Anglophones is 89.6%.
Health Services	The use of English in health situations for the Anglophone community is very low compared to the provincial average ranking 16th of 16. The region ranks 15th of 16 regions in the area of entitled services for English-speakers. This region has no designated English language institutions for health and social services.
Gender	There four times more widowed Anglophone women than men Anglophone women experience a lower rate of unemployment and are more likely not to be in the labour force. There is a greater proportion of senior Anglophone women than Francophone.
Culture	A greater proportion of the Anglophone population claim multiple ethnic origins when compared to Francophones.
Defining Characteristics of the Region	
The small size of the Bas-Saint-Laurent Anglophone population is a defining characteristic which makes its description in this report more limited than in other regions. In a population this size the decline of 12.1% is very significant and, when combined with notably low numbers of youth, its demographic vitality is put at risk. While the minority experiences a high rate of aging, there is a sufficiently large cohort of middle-years individuals to sustain a caregiver-to-senior ratio similar to the majority. High levels of education and high levels of bilingualism are health strengths. Access to English services is very low and is increasingly a key factor in the health of this population.	

Region 01 – Bas-Saint-Laurent

Bas-Saint-Laurent is an administrative region situated on the South Shore of the St. Lawrence River at the entrance to the Gulf of St. Lawrence. In 2001 Bas-Saint-Laurent had 820 Anglophones who comprised 0.4% of the region's total population of 195,540. The largest municipality in the region is Rimouski with a population of 30,175 which also contains the largest

Anglophone population (218). For the 1996-2001 period, the Anglophone population of the region dropped by 113 individuals which represents a decline of 12.1%. This is the numerically smallest Anglophone community and one of the smallest regional proportions of all the English-speaking communities in the province.² Demographic vitality³ is very low.

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

Income and Social Status

Characteristics	mmi	rqi
Average income ⁴	n.a.	n.a.
Population 15+ without income	0.55	0.58
Dependence on government transfer	1.07	1.74
Incidence of low income (under \$20k)	1.07	1.22
Incidence of high income (over \$50k)	1.14	0.61

- While displaying a somewhat higher proportion of individuals with low income, Bas-Saint-Laurent Anglophones also exhibit substantially more people at the upper end of the economic spectrum.
- The rate of dependence on government transfer is higher than that of the majority population and 74% higher than the rest of Anglophone Québec
- Anglophones living in Bas-Saint-Laurent are 7% more likely than Francophones in their region and 22% more likely than Anglophones across Québec to earn under \$20k.

² Given the small size of the Anglophone community in Bas-Saint-Laurent, the tables and analyses presented in this document should be used with caution particularly the income and education data.

³ 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.

⁴ 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	6.7%	16.9%
15-24	4.9%	13.8%
25-44	31.1%	27.2%
45-64	38.1%	28.2%
65+	17.1%	14.0%
Care-giver to Senior Ratio	2.45	2.42

- The Bas-Saint-Laurent Anglophone population are experiencing a rate of aging of 17.1% to 14% for Francophones of the same territory. While this results in a nearly identical Care-giver to senior ratio for the minority and majority there are clearly fewer youths in the Anglophone population. In 1996 the rate of aging for the Anglophones in Bas-Saint-Laurent was 7.7% which indicates a substantial increase in the proportion of those over 65 in five years.
- The very low numbers of youth (under 25 years of age) suggests that patterns of care will be under pressure in the future.
- There are more than four times more widowed women than men in the Anglophone Bas-Saint-Laurent population.

Education

Characteristics	mmi	rqi
Without high school leaving	0.61	0.88
With post-secondary qualifications	1.28	0.82
High school drop-out	0.85	0.80
College drop-out	1.23	1.19
University drop-out	1.12	1.15

- According to the 2001 Census, all age groups of Anglophones in the Bas St. Laurent region have a lower tendency to have no high school leaving than Francophones (46% in the 15-24 age group, 62% in the 25-44 age group, 33% in the 45-64 age group, and 39% overall).
- Anglophones in Bas St. Laurent have a 28% higher tendency than Francophones in the region to have post-secondary qualifications. However, they are 18% less likely to have such qualifications when compared to Anglophones across the province.
- In Bas St. Laurent, Anglophones in the 15-24 age group are 48% more likely to have post-secondary qualifications than regional Francophones in the same age cohort. Anglophones over 65 in the region are more than three times as likely to have post-secondary certification than regional Francophones.

- Once they have entered the various levels of schooling, and relative to their Francophone counterparts, English-speakers in the region are less likely to desist from their studies at the high school (mmi=0.85) but are much more likely to do so at the college level (mmi=1.23) and more likely to do so at the university level (mmi=1.12)
- Within the Anglophone Bas-Saint-Laurent community men are twice as likely as women to hold a university degree.

Employment and Working Conditions

Characteristics	<u>mmi</u>	<u>rgi</u>
Unemployed	1.40	1.97
Not in workforce	1.04	1.16
Self-employed	1.05	0.93
15+ hrs/week, unpaid housework	0.92	1.17
15+ hrs/week, unpaid childcare	0.89	0.80
10+ hrs/week, unpaid care to seniors	0.57	0.48

- The main industrial sectors for Bas-Saint-Laurent Anglophones are manufacturing (10.7%) public administration (10.7%), health care and social assistance (10.1%) educational services (9.5%), and transportation and warehousing (9.5%)
- Anglophone women are nearly twice as likely as men to be working in health care and social assistance than in any other industrial sector
- Bas-Saint-Laurent Anglophones are 4% more likely than Francophones in the region and 16% 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 Bas-Saint-Laurent community is 40% higher than that of the French-speaking Bas-Saint-Laurent community. When compared to other Anglophone communities in Québec the rate is almost double.
- Government transfers represent 21.9% of the income of Bas-Saint-Laurent Anglophones which is similar to that of the Francophone majority
- In the Bas-Saint-Laurent region, Anglophones are less likely than their Francophone counterparts to perform 10+ hours per week of unpaid care to seniors;
- Bas-Saint-Laurent Anglophones are as likely as 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 fairly low for Bas-Saint-Laurent Anglophones compared to their provincial peers. (Saber-Freedman, 2001: 73-76)
- English-speaking individuals living in Bas-Saint-Laurent are among those regions likely to believe Anglophones have equal access to federal and provincial government jobs. Their interest in federal government employment is substantial (Saber-Freedman, 2001: 79-82)

Social Environments

- Overall the Bas-Saint-Laurent Anglophone population declined by 113 individuals which represents a decline of 12.1% from 1996 to 2001. Roughly 82% of the Anglophone population were living in the same municipality five years previously which is somewhat lower than that of the Francophone population, suggesting greater rate of mobility
- Bas-Saint-Laurent region has a 15% rate of international immigration. The rate of inter-provincial migration is 33.1% (18 times higher than in the Francophone community).
- The presence of visible minorities is stronger in the Bas-Saint-Laurent Anglophone minority when compared to the Francophone majority sharing the same territory.
- Bas-Saint-Laurent Anglophones are more likely to claim citizenship other than Canadian (8.5% in the Anglophone population compared to 0.2% in the Francophone) and much more likely than the Francophone majority to have been born outside the province (33.1% compared to 1.8%)
- 89.6% of the English-speaking population in Bas-Saint-Laurent are bilingual (CCESC, 2002: 8)
- Bas-Saint-Laurent has no designated English-language institutions for health and social services. (Carter, 2001: 5).

Health Services

Use of English in Health Situations		
	Province	Bas-Saint-Laurent
Doctor	86%	26%
Hospital	80%	n/a
Community organization	78%	n/a
Emergency room	73%	28%
Private facility	72%	n/a
CHSLD	70%	n/a
CLSC	66%	6%
Info-santé	61%	31%
Private nurse	75%	n/a
Overall	75%	17.9%
Rank among regions	n/a	15

Source: (CCSEC, 2002: 12)

- The use of English in health and social service situations in Bas-Saint-Laurent relative to the provincial average is very low. (CCESC, 2002: 12)
- The percentage of English-speakers living in Bas-Saint-Laurent receiving service in English is extremely low. Unfortunately data is not available for many services. (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, Bas-Saint-Laurent Anglophones are extremely weak in all areas except general and specialized medical services which are moderate. (CCESC, 2002: 15)
- Bas-Saint-Laurent 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

Service category	Entitled rights
Primary care (CLSCs)	4
General and specialized medical services	2
Long-term care	4
Youth protection	4
Rehabilitation	4
Inter-regional agreements	4
Designated institutions	4
Sum of indicators of level of access	26
Regional ranking	15
Definition of the level of access to a service :	
1 = substantial; 2 = moderate; 3 = limited; 4 = extremely limited	
Source: (CCESC, 2002 :15)	

Gender

- Anglophone Bas-Saint-Laurent women have a lower rate of unemployment (44%) and are somewhat more likely (16%) not to be in the labour force than Anglophone men.
- When we consider women over 65, we find a much higher proportion in the Anglophone population than in the Francophone (mmi=1.51)
- There are more than four times more widowed Anglophone women as Anglophone men in this region
- There are also relatively more widowed Anglophone women than Francophone women (mmi=1.16)
- Anglophone women are 73% likely than Anglophone men to be employed in the area of health care and social assistance

Culture

- 71.6% of Bas-Saint-Laurent Anglophones are Catholic; 17.1% non-Catholics; Anglophones in Bas-Saint-Laurent are more than three times more likely than Francophones to have no religious affiliation
- If we consider Anglophone Bas-Saint-Laurent 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 and Francophone communities are similar. Anglophones are slightly more likely than its Francophone counterpart to be legally married; 77% more likely to be divorced; more likely to be in common-law relationship; and finally, 21% 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.

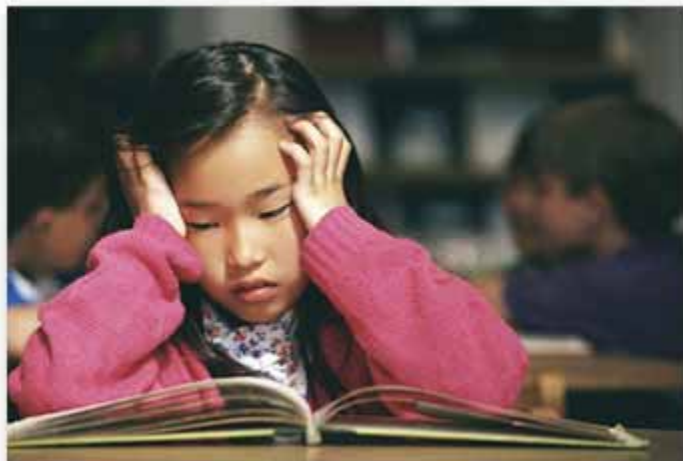
Relative Geographic Index - The Relative Geographic Index in this document refers to the relative value of a characteristic for the Anglophone population of a given region compared to the Anglophone population of the entire province of Québec. Thus, an **rgi** greater than 1.00 indicates that the characteristic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



Sources

- Carter, James. October 2001. [*Evaluation of Levels of Access to Entitled Services Identified in Access programs of Health and Social Services in the English Language*](#). (unpublished)
- Carter, James. March 2003. [*A Community Guide to the Population Health Approach*](#) (unpublished)
- CROP and Missisquoi Institute. 2000. *Attitudes, Experiences, and Issues for Québec's Anglophone Communities*. ([link to CHSSN website - online PowerPoint presentation](#))
- Floch, William. 2004 "Quebec's Administrative Regions" in *Demographic Profiles of Official Language Communities in Canada, 1996-2001* Official Languages Support Programs Branch, Department of Canadian Heritage.
- Floch, William. 2004. Demographic Data from the Department of Canadian Heritage based on the 1996 and 2001 Canadian Census. Patrimoine Canadian Heritage. (unpublished)
- Health Canada Consultative Committee for English-Speaking Minority Communities (CCESC) 2002. [*Report to the Federal Minister of Health*](#), Health Canada
- Institut de la statistique du Québec. 1998. [*Québec Social and Health Survey / Enquête social et de santé*](#)
- Saber-Freedman, Sara. 2001. [*Building On Our Strengths: An action plan for improving access to health and social services in English in Quebec and enhancing the vitality of its English-speaking minority communities*](#). Prepared on behalf of Health Canada's Consultative Committee for English-Speaking Minority Communities.
- Statistics Canada 2002. [*2001 Census Dictionary*](#). Ottawa, Statistics Canada.



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

