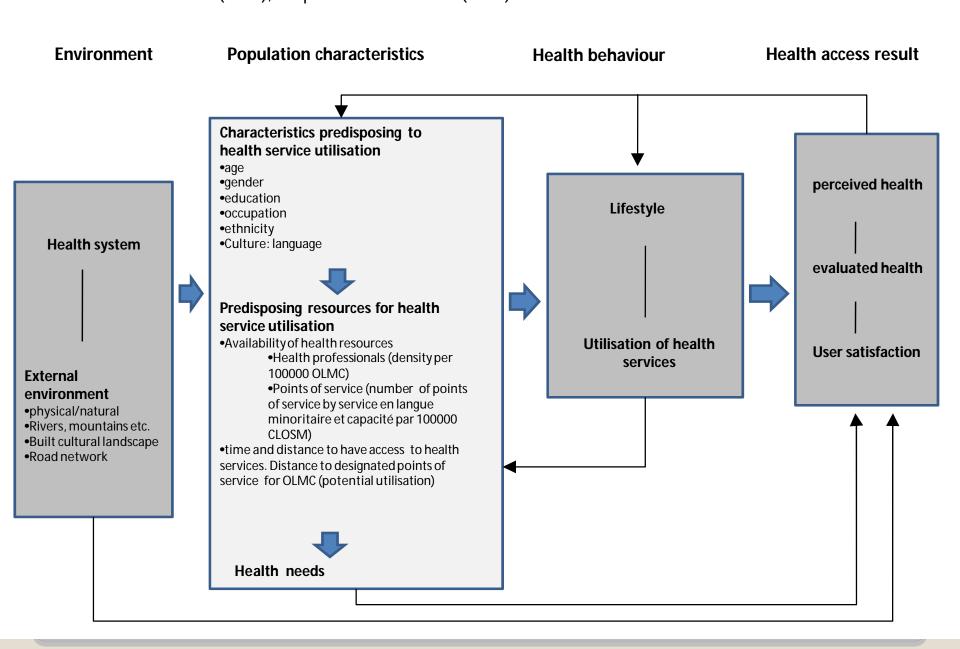
Health Professionals and Minority Official Language Capacity: Contextual Dimensions of Access to Health

Jan Warnke, Consultant Ottawa, Nov. 6-7, 2009

- What do we know?
 - ? Conceptual model
 - ? Resources predisposing utilization of health services
 - ? National patterns but local processes of health access
- What do we want to know?
 - ? Compositional characteristics (Who?)
 - ? Contextual characteristics (How many? Where? Surplus deficit? Variation in concentration and density?)
- Where do we go from here?
 - ? How are the health professionals services utilized?
 - ? How can we estimate the potential stock of health professionals with OLMC linguistic capacity? Mobility? Ageing and regional retention?

Health Professionals as Social Determinants of Health

Conceptual model of physical access to health services of OLMC Bouchard & Warnke (2009), adapted from Andersen (1995)



- Access is a result of adequation of supply and demand (Pechansky & Thomas, 1981)
- Access is a process (Khan, 1994)
 - Typology of access to health (geographic/non-geographic; realised/potential)
- Access is a continuum (Gulliford, 2002)
- Realisation of health access
 - ? Pathways to the realisation of health access (Starfield, 2007)
 - ? Scale: The neighbourhod local scale, place where health is realised (Philibert et al, 2007; Pampalon, 2007)
- Access equity measures
 - ? "Assessing health equity requires comparing health and its social determinants between more and less advantaged social groups" (Braveman & Gruskin, 2003)

Equality of access to health

- ?Health professional supply characteristics
 - Number and types of professionals
 - Age structure, gender, official language minority (OLM) capacity
 - Geographic location and Scale
 - ?Satisfy local demand
 - ?Location determines availability (Pong, 2001)
 - Scale multilevel considerations
 - ?Link to social process
 - National (Province)
 - Regional (Health Regions)
 - Sub-Regional (health service centre territories, counties)
 - Neighbourhood (census tracts, natural areas)

The supply of and demand for health professionals with OLM capacity

- Traditional measures : #health professionals/ # potential clients in a geographic area
- Serious limits for OLMC measurement
 - Areas are artificial units, not "natural" human areas of activity
 - People can travel outside the area
 - Chinese in Toronto (Wang, 2007)
 - English in Montérégie Health Region (Warnke & Pocock, 2009)
- Comparative index
 - ? Attempts to diminish impact of some of the issues with traditional measures
 - ? Integrates an equity component into the measure: minority language/majority language
- Resources
 - ? RISF Research mandate
 - ? Health Professionals data sets (PCH)
 - ? Geographic boundary files (Statistics Canada)

Equity Measure

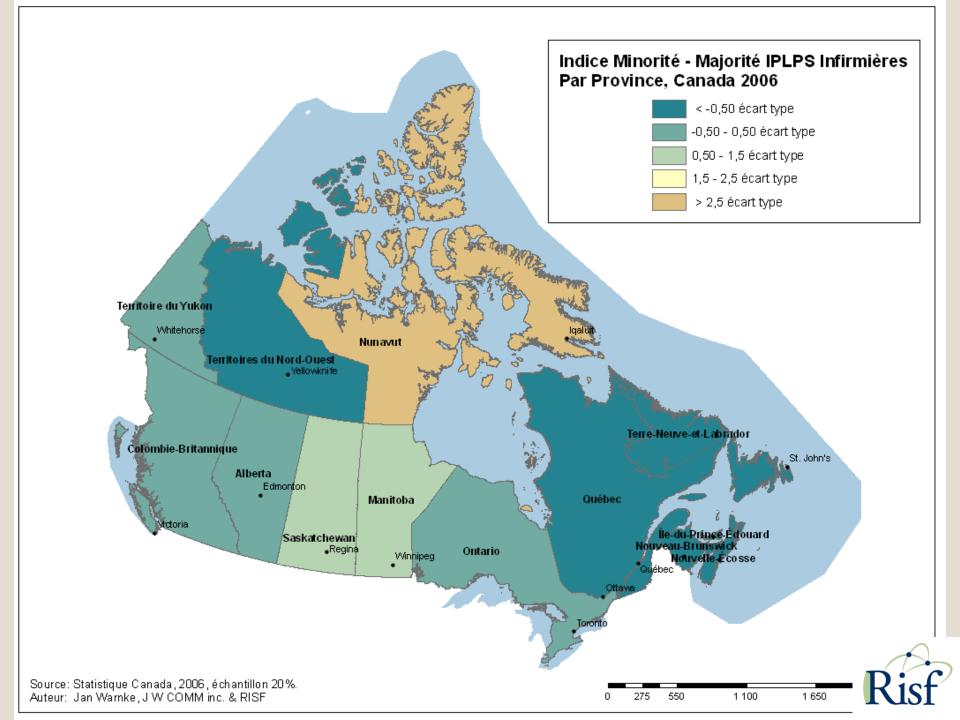
Health Professionals Linguistic Presence Index (LPI)

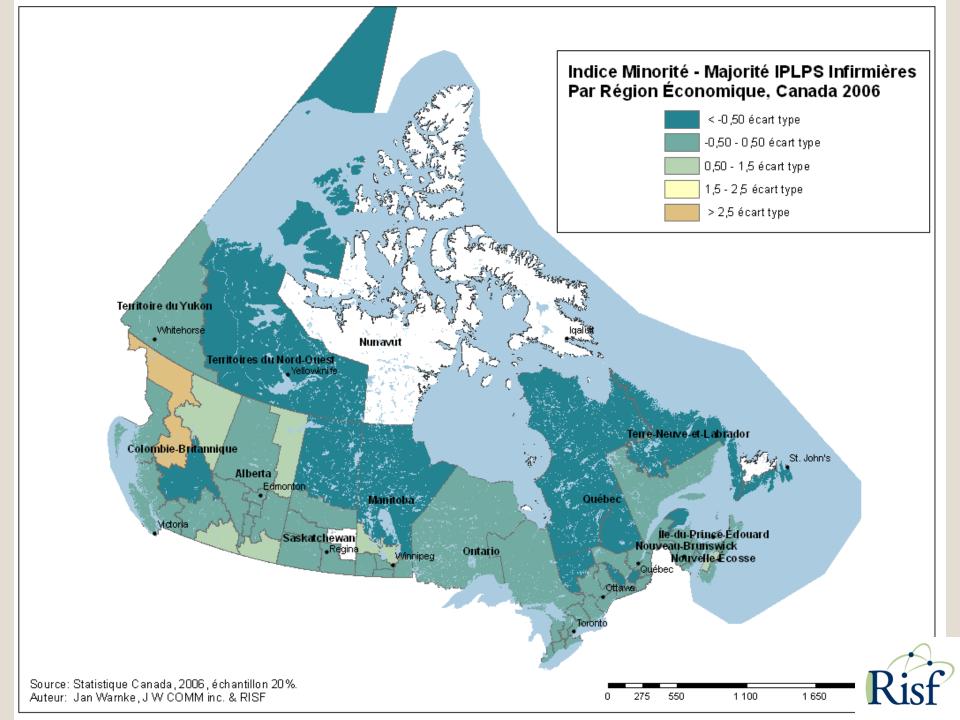
Total health professionals FOLS* minority language

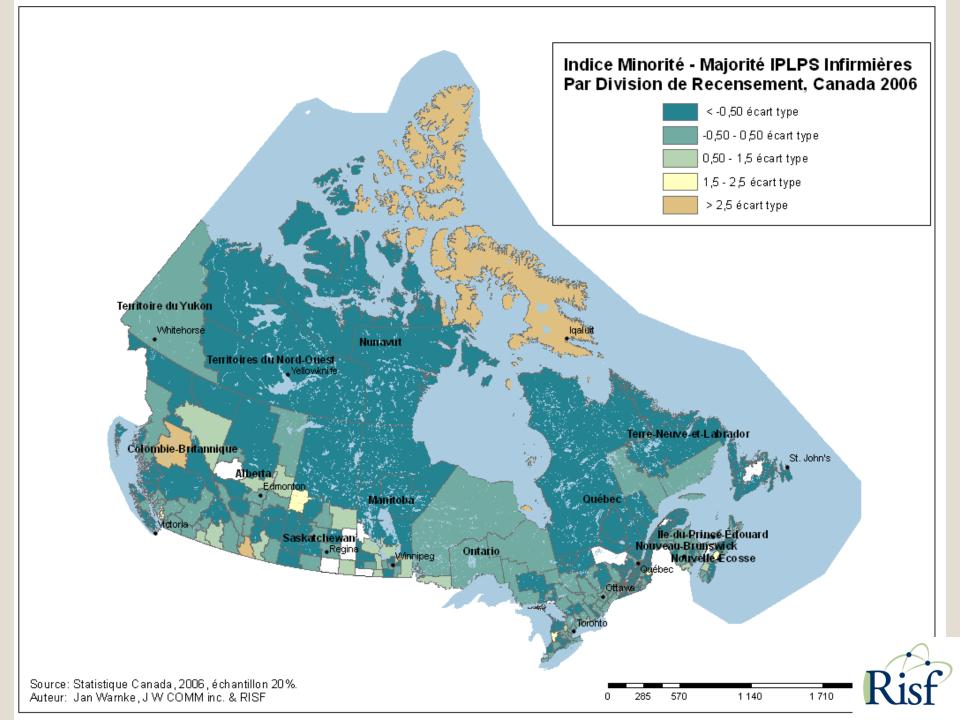
Total official language minority population (FOLS*) / 100000

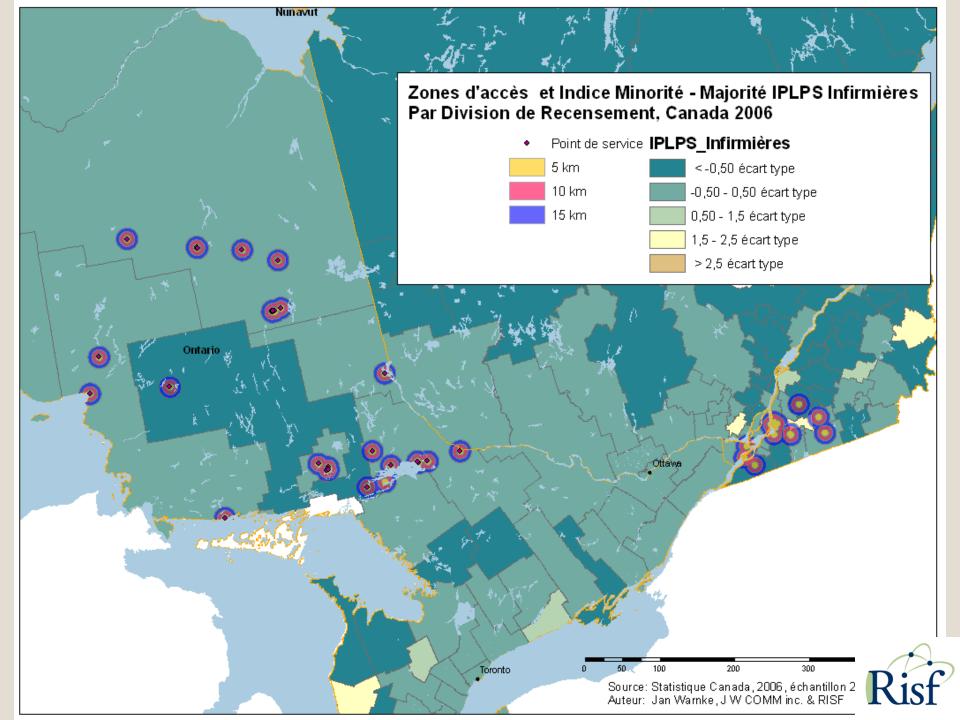
Total health professionals FOLS majority language

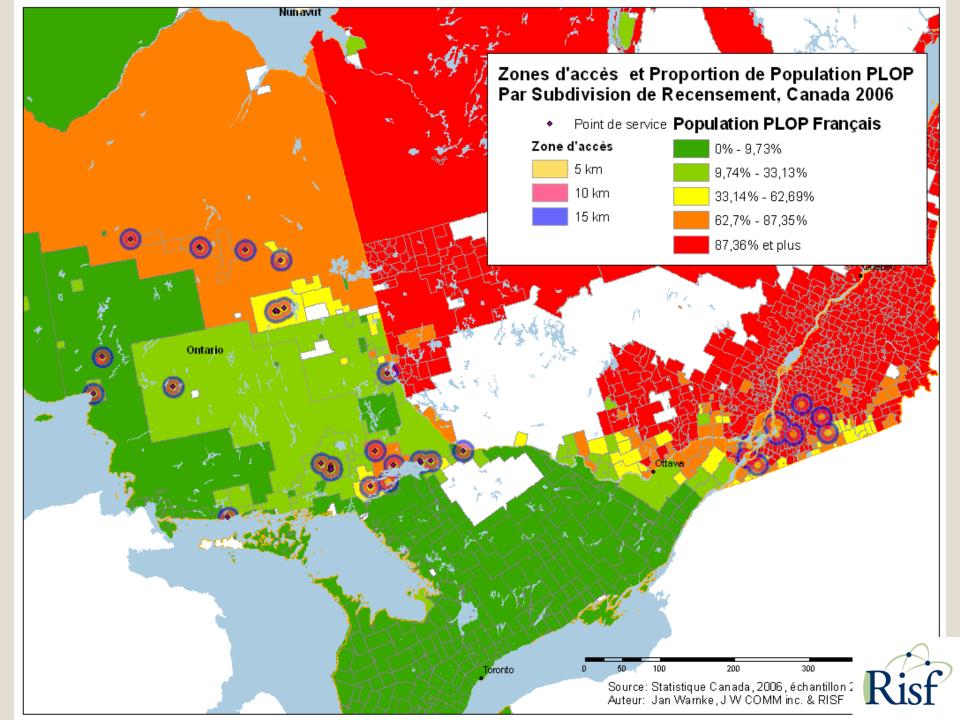
Total official language majority poulation (FOLS) / 100000







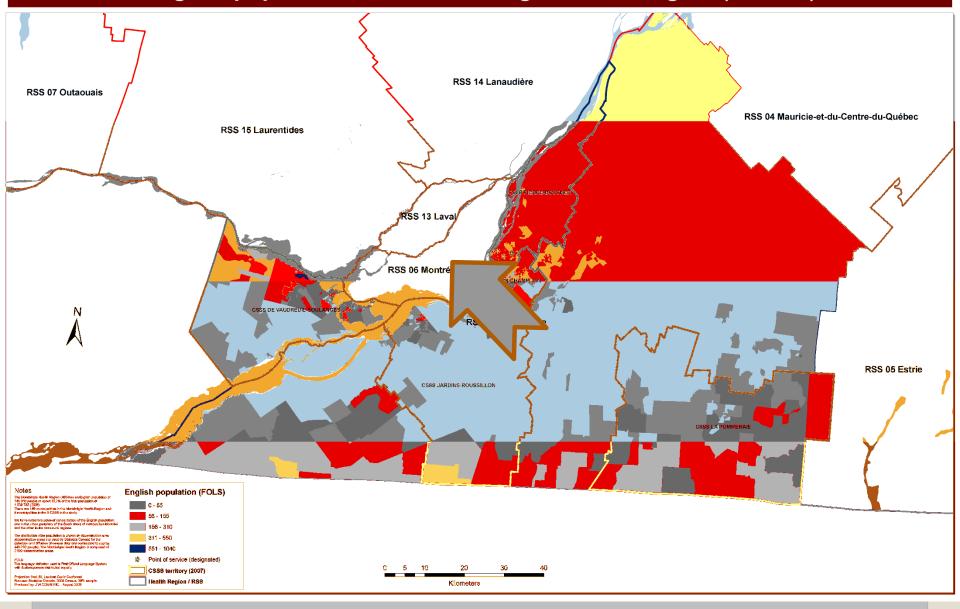




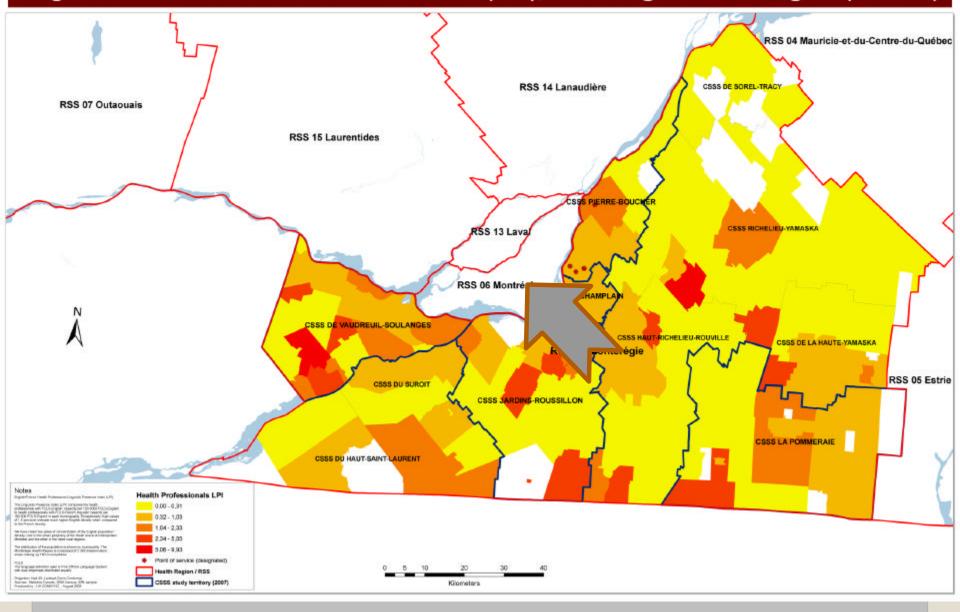
- Case Study of OLMC health professional supply and demand
- English minority in Québec
- CHSSN mandate to document the health service access (potential and actual)
- Montérégie Health Region
 - ? CHSSN Data Model of social determinants
 - ?CHSSN-CROP Community Vitality Survey (2005, n=3129)
 - Satisfaction with health service utilisation and behaviour information
 - OLMC population tends to use Montréal services
 - Wish to have services in English locally

Health Professional Supply and OLMC Use of Health Services: Case Study

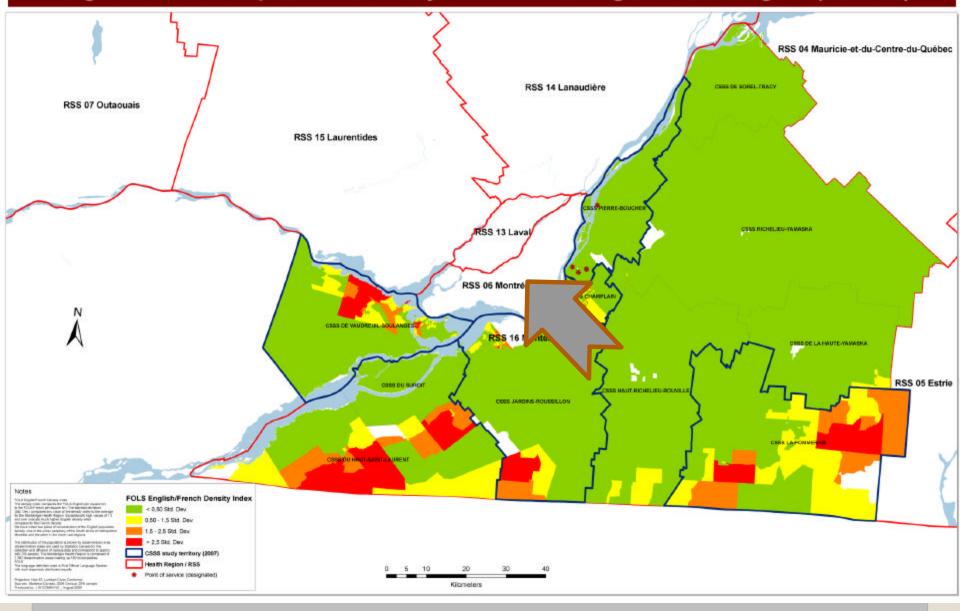
English population in the Montérégie Health Region (RSS 16)



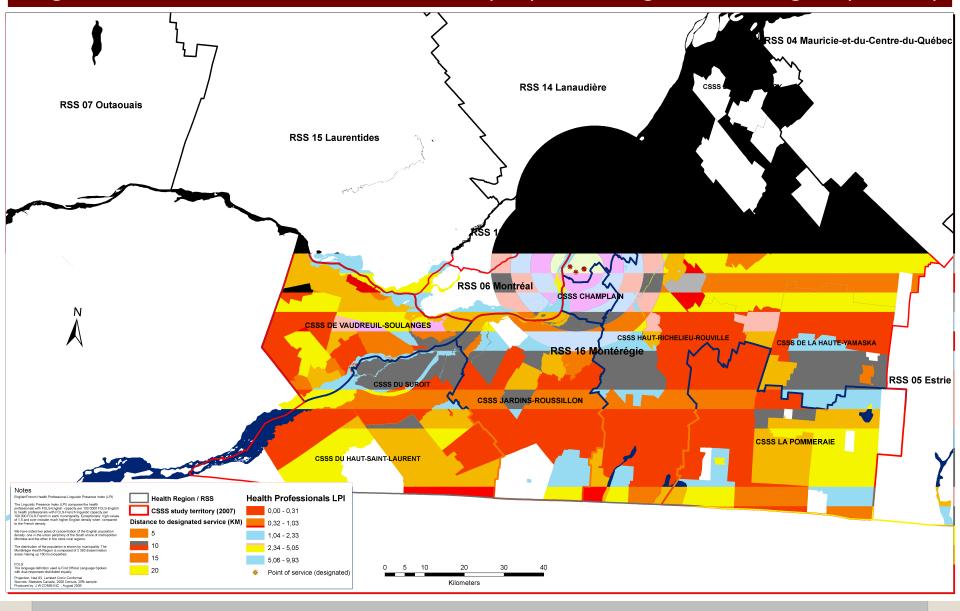
English/French Health Professional Index (LPI), Montérégie Health Region (RSS 16)



English/French Population Density Index, Montérégie Health Region (RSS 16)

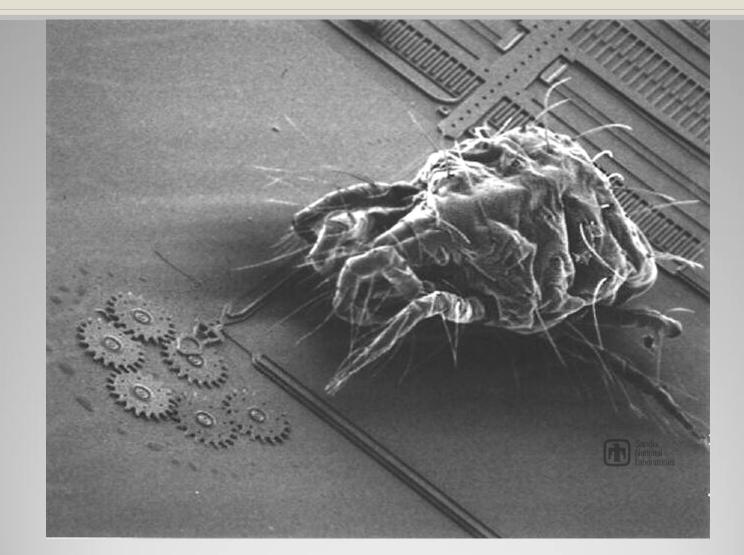


English/French Health Professional Index (LPI), Montérégie Health Region (RSS 16)



- Health professional supply and health access
 - ?Health professional supply issues are multilevel
 - ?Measures of health professional supply have to be adapted to needs
 - ?Neighbourhood/subregional level healthprofessional and service user information is required
 - ?Physical access provides insight on the dynamics of regional health service use

Conclusion



Thank you!