

# CHILD HEALTH AND THE USE OF HEALTH SERVICES BY FRANCOPHONE FAMILIES IN THE OTTAWA AREA

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# OUTLINE

- ▶ Context
- ▶ Objective and research questions
- ▶ Methodology
- ▶ Results
- ▶ Conclusion

# CONTEXT

- ▶ 5.6 million people under the age of 14 (Statistics Canada, 2011)
- ▶ Health problems: asthma, diabetes and cancer (PHAC, 2014)
- ▶ Injuries and poisonings
- ▶ Vaccination coverage: between 77% and 96% depending on the vaccine (PHAC, 2011)
- ▶ Little data on the use of health services for Canadian children
- ▶ In Ontario: more than a third of children aged 0 to 3 saw a pediatrician in a one-year period (Government of Canada, 2010)
- ▶ Use of services for francophone children?


# OBJECTIVE AND RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- ▶ Objective: Describe the health status of francophone children in the Ottawa area and the use of health services for them
- ▶ Research questions:
  - ▶ What is the child's health status, as perceived by the parents?
  - ▶ What is the child's immunization, as reported by the parents?
  - ▶ What is the child's level of development, as perceived by the parents?
  - ▶ What is the trend in the use of health services for the child over the past 12 months?

# METHODOLOGY

- ▶ Descriptive specifications, with a longitudinal focus
- ▶ Questionnaires on FluidSurvey
- ▶ Variables and instruments:
  - ▶ The child's health status: *Child health questionnaire*
  - ▶ The child's development: *Nipissing District Developmental Screen (FV)* (NDDSS, 2002)
  - ▶ Trend in use of services: *Health service usage questionnaire* (Tourigny et al., 2005)
  - ▶ Socio-demographic data

# RESULTS

- ▶ Final sample: 51 families
- ▶ Mostly traditional
- ▶ 8.3% of mothers at home
- ▶ More than half of households: income  \$100,000
- ▶ University education: more mothers (68.7%)
- ▶ French at home: 89.6% of families
- ▶ Age of children: between 15 and 30 months

# RESULTS

- ▶ Child's health status:
  - ▶ very good (50%)
  - ▶ excellent (46%)
- ▶ Immunization status:
  - ▶ no reservations (78%)
  - ▶ mandatory vaccinations only (2%)
  - ▶ no confidence in vaccinations (50%)
- ▶ Child development:
  - ▶ within norms (more than 90%)

# RESULTS

**Table 1**  
**Number of service uses by type of professional and language of service**

	1-4 times	5-9 times	10+ times	Services in French
General practitioner/family physician	33 (71.7%)	12 (26.1%)	0 (0.0%)	86%
Pediatrician	12 (44.4%)	1 (3.7%)	1 (3.7%)	53%
Other specialist, please specify:	11 (52.4%)	1 (4.8%)	0 (0.0%)	38%
Nurse practitioner	10 (43.5%)	2 (8.7%)	1 (4.3%)	69%
Chiropractor	1 (5.3%)	1 (5.3%)	3 (15.8%)	100%
Physiotherapist, occupational therapist, massage therapist or other professionals who use gentle methods	2 (13.3%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	100%
Other health professionals (speech-language pathologist, optometrist, osteopath)	5 (33.3%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	60%



# RESULTS

**Table 2**  
**Number of service used by type of care received by the child**

	1-4 times	5-9 times	10+ times
Preventive health care	27 (58.7%)	3 (6.5%)	3 (6.5%)
Curative health care	31 (64.6%)	2 (4.2%)	2 (4.2%)
Complementary health care or health care using gentle methods	5 (11.9%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (2.4%)

\* Preventive: Care that keeps people healthy or helps prevent disease. If your child has a disease, care that prevents complications or after-effects of the disease. Examples: Screening clinic, “growing healthy kids,” immunization clinic.

\* Curative: Care to help cure a disease or heal an injury. Examples: Medication, surgery, hospitalization.

\* Care that helps your child relax, feel better or recover, without medication or surgery; care with or without manipulation. Examples: massage, naturopathy, osteopathy or homeopathy.

# RESULTS

**Table 3**  
**Location of service used by number of times**  
**and language of service**

	Number of times	Services in French
Office of general practitioner/ family physician	63	86 %
Out-patient clinic/emergency	22	53 %
Office of specialist	19	38 %
Hospital	10	69 %
Private clinic or centre	7	45 %
Community health centre	3	95 %

# CONCLUSION

- ▶ The francophone children in the sample were healthy and developing normally, and their immunization status for mandatory vaccinations was up to date.
- ▶ The parents still have reservations about childhood vaccination.
- ▶ Families are still having difficulty obtaining health services in French for their children.

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