

The English-speaking population of Abitibi-Témiscamingue

November 2010



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Document

produced by

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ISBN : 978-2-89391-491-6 (printed version)
978-2-89391-492-3 (pdf)

Price : 7 \$ + handling

Legal deposit
Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec, 2010
National Library of Canada, 2010

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English translation by « Les Services de traduction du Nord Inc. », Maniwaki (Québec)

This fascicle aims at improving our knowledge of the English-speaking population living in Abitibi-Témiscamingue, in particular its geographic distribution and demographic features. It should be noted that this is an update of a document published in autumn 2006¹.

Defining the population group

The data used to describe the English-speaking population comes from the 2006 census carried out by Statistics Canada. In fact, several language variables are included in the census and can be used to define the English-speaking population, such as the mother tongue, the language used at work, the knowledge of the two official languages and the home language.

Given the data available to the Agence de la santé et des services sociaux de l'Abitibi-Témiscamingue and the work of several experts from Statistics Canada² and the Institut national de santé publique du Québec³, four variables were analysed in this portrait. They describe somewhat different realities and therefore the resulting portraits differ. Choosing one or the other of these variables depends on the intentions and objectives of the researcher who uses them. These variables are:

¹ Sylvie BELLOT. *La population d'expression anglaise en Abitibi-Témiscamingue et dans chacun des territoires des CSSS*. Agence de la santé et des services sociaux de l'Abitibi-Témiscamingue, October 2006, 38 p.

² In a document dated May, 2010, and titled *Portrait of Official Language Minorities in Canada: Francophones in Ontario*, the authors, Jean-Pierre Corbeil and Sylvie Lafrenière, of Statistics Canada, use two criteria to make the statistical portrait of Francophones: the mother tongue and the first official language. They argue that the first criteria can be used to make historical comparisons and that the use of the second is becoming widespread in defining linguistic groups in studies on official language minorities.

³ The Institut national de santé publique du Québec presented in the fall of 2009 a research project entitled *Projets pour la santé des communautés de langue officielle en situation minoritaire* in which two criteria are used to define the English population: the mother tongue and the home language. It seems that these two criteria are those that match the best the cultural and ethnic identity of persons and their ancestors.

Population whose mother tongue is English

These are persons whose first language learned at home in childhood is English and that still understood it at the time of the census. This group includes persons whose mother tongue is:

- English only,
- English and French,
- English and a non-official language,
- English, French and a non-official language.

This information is taken from the short census form addressed to the entire population⁴. This is the only variable for which we have access to cross-tabulated data according to gender and age.

Population whose home language is English

Included in this category are persons whose language spoken most often at home is English. If several languages are spoken at home and they are all spoken equally often, all of them are reported. Therefore, this category also includes persons who speak equally often :

- English and French at home;
- English and a non official language at home;
- English, French and a non official language at home.

The data was generated with the long census form sent to only 20% of households⁶.

Population whose first official language spoken is English

This is a variable created by Statistics Canada for the application of the *Official Languages Act*. It derives from three variables taken directly in the census:

- knowledge of the two official languages,
- mother tongue, and
- home language.

With this variable, it is possible to identify in this study the persons that can carry on a conversation in English only and whose first official language spoken is English. It also includes persons whose mother tongue is English only or English and at least one non-official language⁵. This variable includes sampled data since it is derived from two variables of the long census form filled out by only 20% of households.

Population who knows only one of the two official languages, English

Included in this category are persons who can carry on a conversation in English only. This data was generated with the long census form sent to only 20% of households⁷.

⁴ Statistique Canada. *Census Dictionary*. Minister of Industry. January 2010, p. 83

⁵ Ibid., p.78.

⁶ Ibid., p. 79.

⁷ Ibid., p.81.

Limitation of this picture

Given that the data presented in this fascicle comes from the census, certain points should be mentioned⁸.

Although Statistics Canada has taken considerable effort to ensure the quality of the census data, errors can occur at every stage of the process and the **quality of the estimates is not always be high. In particular**, this is the case when the data refers to **small groups**, as is the case of the English-speaking population of Abitibi-Témiscamingue. Users are therefore advised to be cautious when using these data.

Most of the data on languages comes from the long census form given to a sample of 20% of the population. But, as indicated by Statistics Canada, **the potential error introduced by sampling** will tend to be **greater when the population feature that is examined is scarce**. Since this is in fact the case with the data used here in this fascicle, caution is advised when using them.

Furthermore, Statistics Canada systematically applies **random rounding of the data to the** (nearest higher or lower) **multiple of “5” or, in some cases, “10”** in order to preserve

confidentiality. This measure is not in itself a problem in the case of large figures but when the figures are small, as is often the case here, it can produce **important distortions** (for example, the datum can go to 0 or 10) and this can entail a **loss of accuracy**. When a datum is the sum of several categories, it is obvious that the distortions will be amplified since each of the categories is a rounded value. Finally, because of the random rounding procedure, in general, **the total is not equal to the sum of the parts and the sum of the percentages is not always equal to 100%**.

In the **specific case of data on mother tongues**, cross tabulated according to gender and different age groups, the **observed distortions** are so **large** (the sum of the parts can be 50% higher than the total), that it was decided to not present the data as is. To overcome this problem, the **values** were instead **estimated** using the proportions noted according to age and gender to the original total number.

Altogether, what should be remembered from the various warnings above is that **the data presented here is not very accurate and should in fact be considered estimates**.

⁸ Statistics Canada. Appendix B. Data quality, sampling and weighting, confidentiality and random rounding. Web site accessed on October 4, 2010: <http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2006/ref/dict/app-ann002-eng.cfm>

The situation in Abitibi-Témiscamingue

Population whose mother tongue is English

In 2006, the region of Abitibi-Témiscamingue had approximately 5,100 inhabitants whose mother tongue is English, then representing 3.6% of the entire population. As an indication, for the province of Quebec, this percentage was 8.6%. Compared with 2001, the region's population whose mother tongue is English has decreased by about 3%, going from 5,265 to 5,100 persons.

These persons are not distributed equally in the different territories of the region's health and social service centers (CSSS) (Table 1 and Figure

1). It is in the territory of the CSSS de La Vallée-de-l'Or that has the largest number of persons whose mother tongue is English, with a little more than 1,300 persons. This CSSS is closely followed by the CSSS of Témiscaming-et-de-Kipawa with a little less than 1,300. Then follow the CSSSs of Rouyn-Noranda and Lac-Témiscamingue, with about 1,000 persons each. The CSSS Les Eskers de l'Abitibi ranks 5th, with 370 persons whose mother tongue is English. Finally, the CSSS des Aurores-Boréales is in last place with the smallest number of persons whose mother tongue is English, with about 165.

Distribution of the population whose mother tongue is English by CSSS territory, Abitibi-Témiscamingue Region, 2006

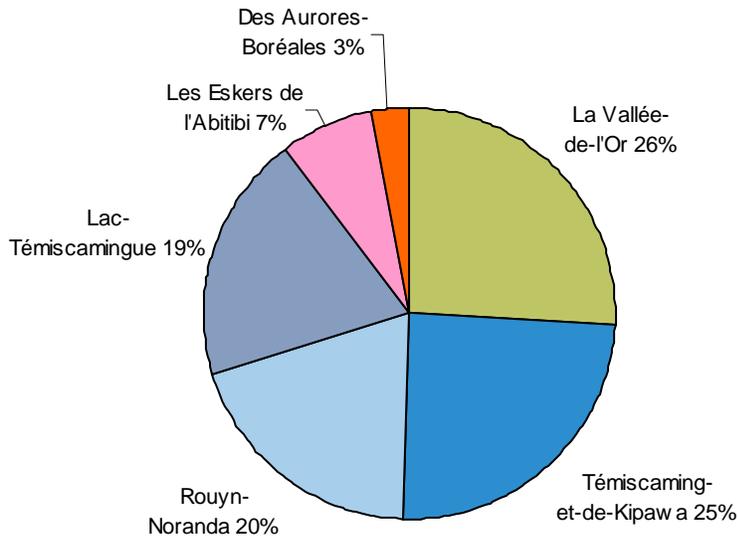
CSSS Territory	N	%
La Vallée-de-l'Or	1,325	26.0
Témiscaming-et-de-Kipawa	1,280	25.1
Rouyn-Noranda	995	19.5
Lac-Témiscamingue	990	19.4
Les Eskers de l'Abitibi	370	7.3
Des Aurores-Boréales	165	3.2
Abitibi-Témiscamingue Region	5,100	100.0

Table 1

Source : Statistics Canada, 2006 Census, Geocoded Data, Table 2006DATAB2020_CO-1121-PSP_P1.

Distribution of population whose mother tongue is English by CSSS territory, Abitibi-Témiscamingue Region, 2006

Figure 1



Source : Statistics Canada, 2006 Census, Geocoded Data, Table 2006DATAB2020_CO-1121-PSP_P1.

The distribution by age group of the Abitibi-Témiscamingue population whose mother tongue is English (Table 2) shows that persons under 15 represent 16% of the group, those between 15 and 24, 13%, adults between 25 and 44, a little over a fourth (27%), adults between 45 and 64, 29%, and the elderly 65 years and older, 14%. The results are relatively similar for the male and female populations whose mother tongue is English.

Distribution of the population whose mother tongue is English by gender and age group, Abitibi-Témiscamingue Region, 2006

Table 2

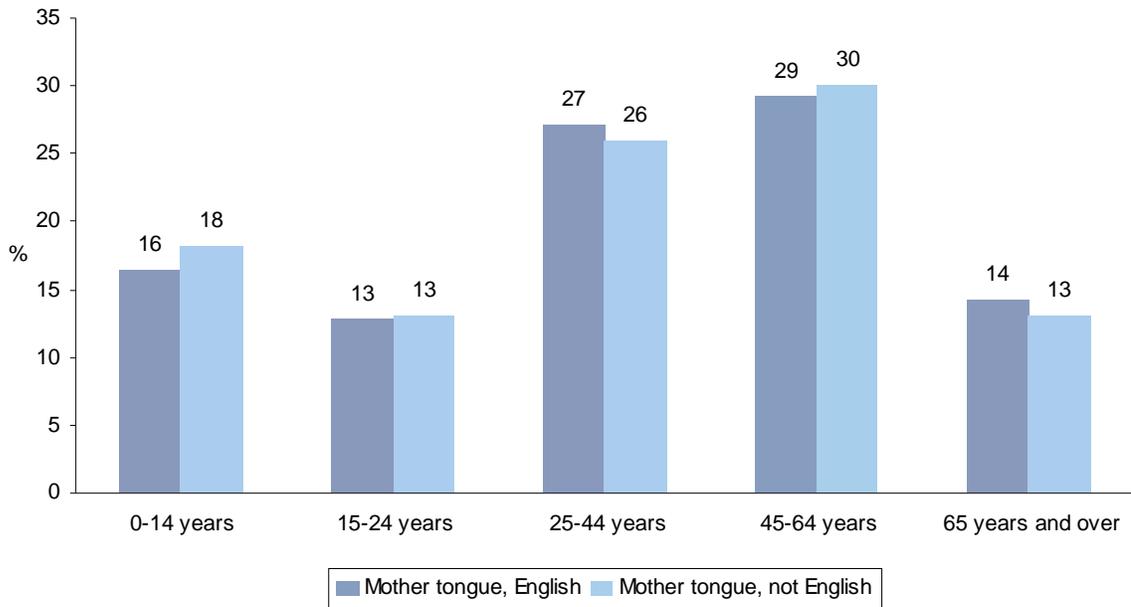
Age Group	Both Genders		Men		Women	
	%	Estimated N	%	Estimated N	%	Estimated N
0-14 years	16	840	17	450	16	390
15-24 years	13	647	12	317	12	297
25-44 years	27	1,378	26	687	28	703
45-64 years	29	1,487	30	780	28	707
65 years +	14	727	14	358	15	366
Total	100	5,100	100	2,604	100	2,508

Source : Statistics Canada, 2006 Census, Table 97-555-XCB2006017 and geocoded data, Table 2006DATAB2020_CO-1121-PSP_P1.

When these figures are compared to the distribution of the rest of the population (Figure 2), i.e. persons whose mother tongue is not English, few differences stand out. Indeed, the differences are minimal in each of the categories, fluctuating between 1% and 2%.

Distribution of the population whose mother tongue is English or not by age group, Abitibi-Témiscamingue Region, 2006

Figure 2



Source : Statistics Canada, 2006 Census, Table 97-555-XCB2006017.

Population whose 1st official language spoken is English

In 2006, Abitibi-Témiscamingue had a little less than 5,100 persons whose 1st official language spoken is English, representing 3.6% of the entire population of the region. For the reader's information, in Québec, this percentage is 11.9%. The situation in the region is comparable to what it was in 2001.

The distribution of this population in the different CSSS territories (Table 3) shows that the CSSS de Témiscaming-et-de-Kipawa has the largest number, a little over 1,300 persons, or one fourth of the region's total population whose 1st official language

is English. The territory of the CSSS La Vallée-de-l'Or is a close second with almost a fourth of the region's total English-speaking population, approximately 1,240 persons. The territory of the CSSS du Lac-Témiscamingue is 3rd with a little under 1,100 persons, followed by that of Rouyn-Noranda with about 900 persons. The territory of the CSSS Les Eskers de l'Abitibi is next to last with almost 400 persons and, finally, CSSS des Aurores-Boréales is last with a very small number of persons whose 1st official language spoken is English only, with 150 persons.

Distribution of the population whose 1st official language spoken is English by CSSS territory, Abitibi-Témiscamingue Region, 2006

Table 3

CSSS Territory	N	%
Témiscaming-et-de Kipawa	1,315	25.9
La Vallée-de-l'Or	1,240	24.4
Lac-Témiscamingue	1,070	21.1
Rouyn-Noranda	905	17.8
Les Eskers de l'Abitibi	395	7.8
Des Aurores-Boréales	150	3.0
Région Abitibi-Témiscamingue	5,075	100,0

Source : Statistics Canada, 2006 Census, Geocoded Data, Table 2006DATAB2020_CO-1121-PSP_P1.

Population whose home language is English

The Abitibi-Témiscamingue region has almost 5,000 persons whose language most often spoken at home is English; this group represents 3.5% of the region's total population compared with 11.2% for all of Quebec.

The largest number, almost 1,500, is located in the CSSS de Témiscaming-et-de-Kipawa; they represent 30% of the region's population whose language spoken most often at home is English. The

CSSSs de la Vallée-de-l'Or and du Lac-Témiscamingue are tied in second and third each with close to 1,100 persons. The territory of the CSSS de Rouyn-Noranda is in fourth position with close to 1,000 persons. Finally, trailing behind, follow the CSSSs Les Eskers de l'Abitibi and des Aurores-Boréales with less than 300 and around 150 persons respectively whose language most often spoken at home is English.

Distribution of the population whose home language is English, by CSSS territory, Abitibi-Témiscamingue Region, 2006

CSSS Territory	N	%
Témiscaming-et-de Kipawa	1,450	29.1
La Vallée-de-l'Or	1,085	21.8
Lac-Témiscamingue	1,085	21.8
Rouyn-Noranda	945	19.0
Les Eskers de l'Abitibi	270	5.4
Des Aurores-Boréales	140	2.8
Abitibi-Témiscamingue Region	4,980	100.0

Table 4

Source : Statistics Canada, 2006 Census, Geocoded Data, Table 2006DATAB2020_CO-1121-PSP_P1.

Population who knows only one of the two official languages, English

The criterion “knowledge of only one of the two official languages, English” is far more restrictive than the preceding criteria to define the English speaking population. Indeed, according to it, in 2006, the Abitibi-Témiscamingue region has a little less than 1,700 persons who know only one official language, English; this represents 1.2% of the region’s total population. In Quebec, this percentage is about 4.5%. The number of persons in the region who know only one of the two official languages, English, has dropped by 8% since 2001, when there were approximately 1,830 persons in this situation.

As shown in Table 5, this population is concentrated mainly in two of the region’s CSSS territories: that of Témiscaming-et-de-Kipawa (45%) and Lac-Témiscamingue (30%). About one person out of 10 in this category lives in the territories of the CSSS La Vallée-de-l’Or or CSSS de Rouyn-Noranda. Finally, a small percentage (3%) lives in the territory of the CSSS Les Eskers de l’Abitibi and less than 1% in that of the CSSS des Aurores-Boréales.

Distribution of the population that knows only one of the two official languages, English, by CSSS territory, Abitibi-Témiscamingue Region, 2006

CSSS Territory	N	%
Témiscaming-et-de Kipawa	755	44.9
Lac-Témiscamingue	495	29.5
La Vallée-de-l’Or	185	11.0
Rouyn-Noranda	175	10.4
Les Eskers de l’Abitibi	50	0.9
Des Aurores-Boréales	15	0.9
Abitibi-Témiscamingue Region	1,680	100.0

Table 5

Source : Statistics Canada, 2006 Census, Geocoded Data, Table 2006DATAB2020_CO-1121-PSP_P1.

The following table summarizes the situation of the English-speaking population of Abitibi-Témiscamingue according to the criteria used:

Number and percentage of the English-speaking population according to the definition criteria used, in the territory of the CSSS Les Eskers de l'Abitibi, 2006

Table 6

Definition criteria of the English population	Number of persons	% of total population
Mother tongue, English	5,100	3.6
English, 1st official language spoken	5,075	3.6
English, home language	4,980	3.5
Knowledge of only one of the two official languages, English	1,680	1.2

Source : Statistics Canada, 2006 Census, Geocoded Data, Table 2006DATAB2020_CO-1121-PSP_P1.

The Situation in each CSSS

CSSS de Témiscaming-et-de-Kipawa

As can be seen in Table 7, depending on the criteria, the English-speaking population in the territory of the CSSS de Témiscaming-et-de-Kipawa varies between 755 and 1,450 persons, a variation of almost 100%. The lower figure relates

to persons who know only one official language, English; this represents 22% of the population, or a little less than a fourth. The highest figure is that of persons who speak English the most often at home; it represents 41% of all of the territory's residents.

Number and percentage of the English-speaking population according to the definition criteria used, in the territory of the CSSS de Témiscaming-et-de-Kipawa, 2006

Definition criteria of the English population	Number of persons	% of total population
Mother tongue, English	1,280	36.5
English, 1 st official language spoken	1,315	37.5
English, home language	1,450	41.3
Knowledge of only one of the two official languages, English	755	21.5

Table 7

Source : Statistics Canada, 2006 Census, Geocoded Data, Table 2006DATAB2020_CO-1121-PSP_P1.

There are 1,300 persons whose mother tongue is English among which 21% are children under 15 years of age; 12%, youth 15 to 24 years old;

31%, adults 25 to 44 years old; one fourth, adults 45 to 64 years old; and a tenth, persons 65 years old and over (Table 8).

Distribution of the population whose mother tongue is English by gender and age group, Territory of the CSSS de Témiscaming-et-de-Kipawa, 2006

Age Group	Both Genders		Men		Women	
	%	Estimated N	%	Estimated N	%	Estimated N
0-14 years	21	270	25	163	19	121
15-24 years	12	154	13	84	13	79
25-44 years	31	391	28	182	31	191
45-64 years	25	326	24	158	26	163
65 years +	10	130	10	65	10	65
Total	100	1,280	100	652	100	624

Table 8

Source : Statistics Canada, 2006 Census, Table 97-555-XCB2006017 and geocoded data, Table 2006DATAB2020_CO-1121-PSP_P1.

The comparison of the distribution of the population whose mother tongue is English with that of the territory's other residents (Figure 3) shows slight differences in certain age groups. Thus, the percentage of youth 15 to 24 years old seems a little higher in the English mother-tongue group, 12%, compared with 10 % for the others. In the 65 and older age group, the percentage of persons

whose mother tongue is English is lower than that of persons whose mother tongue is not English, 10% compared with 13%. Finally, among adults 45 to 64 years old, there is a slightly smaller fraction of persons whose mother tongue is English compared with persons whose mother tongue is not English, 26% compared with 27 %.

Distribution of the population whose mother tongue is English or not by age group, Territory of the CSSS de Témiscaming-et-de-Kipawa, 2006

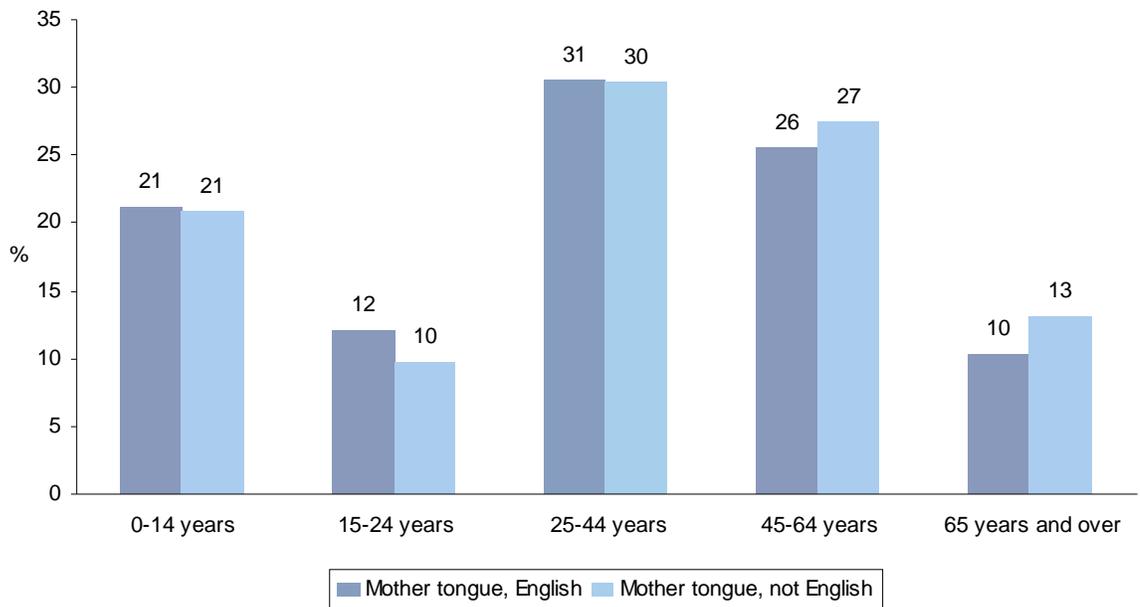


Figure 3

Source : Statistics Canada, 2006 Census, Table 97-555-XCB2006017.

CSSS du Lac-Témiscamingue

As can be seen in Table 9, depending on the criteria, the English-speaking population in the territory of the CSSS du Lac-Témiscamingue varies between 495 and 1,085 persons, a variation of over 100%. The lowest figure is that of persons

who know only one official language, English; this represents 4% of the population. The highest figure is that of persons that speak English the most often at home; it represents 8% of all of the territory's residents.

Number and percentage of the English-speaking population according to the definition criteria used, in the territory of the CSSS du Lac-Témiscamingue, 2006

Table 9

Definition criteria of the English population	Number of persons	% of total population
Mother tongue, English	990	7.5
English, 1 st official language spoken	1,070	8.1
English, home language	1,085	8.2
Knowledge of only one of the two official languages, English	495	3.7

Source : Statistics Canada, 2006 Census, Geocoded Data, Table 2006DATAB2020_CO-1121-PSP_P1.

There are about 1,000 persons whose mother tongue is English among which 23% are children under 15 years of age; 16%, youth 15 to 24

years old; a third, adults 25 to 44 years old; 19%, adults 45 to 64 years old; and finally 7 %, persons 65 years old and over (Table 10).

Distribution of the population whose mother tongue is English by gender and age group, Territory of the CSSS du Lac-Témiscamingue, 2006

Table 10

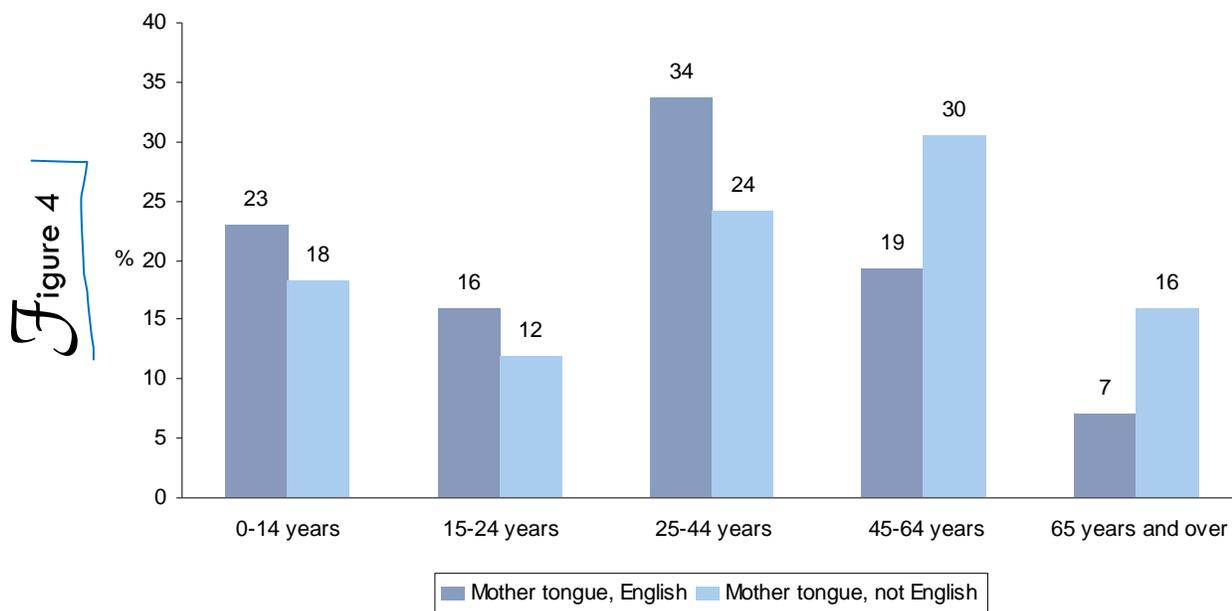
Age Group	Both Genders		Men		Women	
	%	Estimated N	%	Estimated N	%	Estimated N
0-14 years	23	227	30	143	20	102
15-24 years	16	157	13	65	19	97
25-44 years	34	333	29	139	34	171
45-64 years	19	190	23	111	21	106
65 years +	7	69	9	42	8	42
Total	100	1,280	100	486	100	509

Source : Statistics Canada, 2006 Census, Table 97-555-XCB2006017 and geocoded data, Table 2006DATAB2020_CO-1121-PSP_P1.

The comparison of the distribution of the population whose mother tongue is English with that of the territory's other residents (Figure 4) shows large differences in all age groups. Thus, the English mother-tongue group has a higher percentage of children under 15 (23% compared with 18%), youth 15 to 24 years old (16% compared with 12%) and adults 25 to 44 years old (34%

compared with 24%). In the older age groups, the percentages of persons whose mother tongue is English are lower than those of persons whose mother tongue is not English: 19% compared with 30% in the 45 to 64 age group and 7% compared with 16% in the 65 and older age group.

Distribution of the population whose mother tongue is English or not by age group, Territory of the CSSS du Lac-Témiscamingue, 2006



Source : Statistics Canada, 2006 Census, Table 97-555-XCB2006017.

CSSS de Rouyn-Noranda

As can be seen in Table 11, depending on the criteria, the English-speaking population in the territory of the CSSS de Rouyn-Noranda varies between 175 and 995 persons, a huge variation since the second figure is over five times larger than the first. The lower figure, 175, relates to

persons who know only one official language, English; this represents 0.4% of the population. The highest figure, 995, is that of persons whose mother tongue is English; it represents 2.5% of all of the territory's residents.

Number and percentage of the English-speaking population according to the definition criteria used, in the territory of the CSSS de Rouyn-Noranda, 2006

Table 11

Definition criteria of the English population	Number of persons	% of total population
Mother tongue, English	995	2.5
English, 1 st official language spoken	905	2.3
English, home language	945	2.4
Knowledge of only one of the two official languages, English	175	0.4

Source : Statistics Canada, 2006 Census, Geocoded Data, Table 2006DATAB2020_CO-1121-PSP_P1.

There are about 1,000 persons whose mother tongue is English among which 10% are children under 15 years of age; 11%, youth 15 to 24

years old; a fourth, adults 25 to 44 years old; a third, adults 45 to 64 years old; and finally a fifth, persons 65 years old and over (Table 12).

Distribution of the population whose mother tongue is English by gender and age group, Territory of the CSSS de Rouyn-Noranda, 2006

Table 12

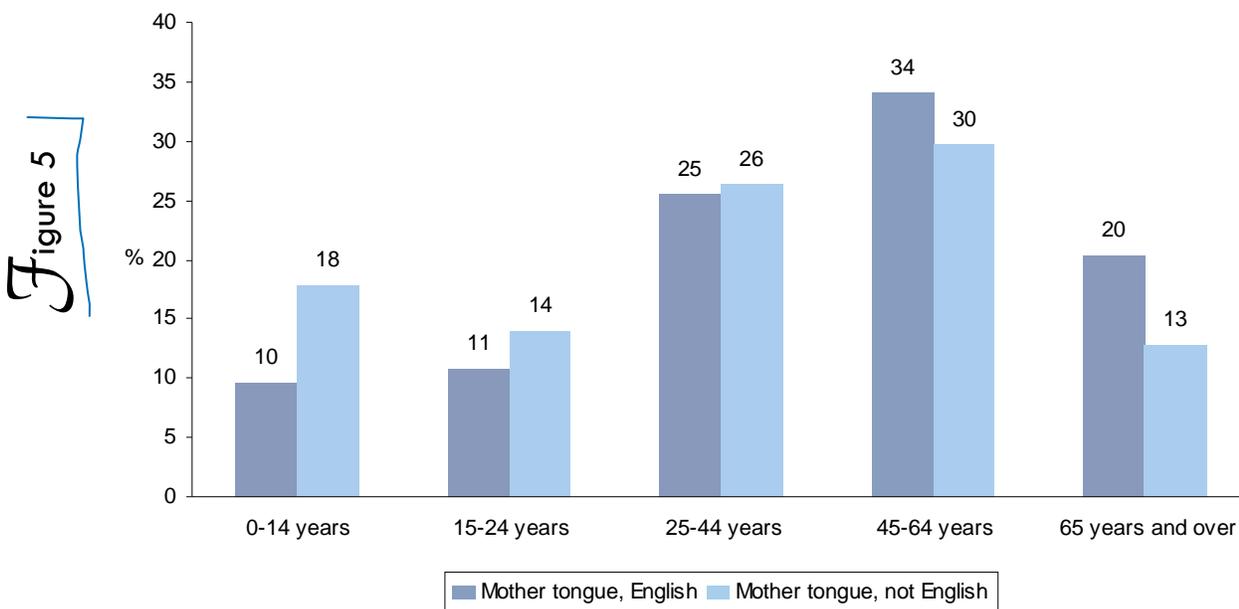
Age Group	Both Genders		Men		Women	
	%	Estimated N	%	Estimated N	%	Estimated N
0-14 years	10	95	9	48	11	51
15-24 years	11	106	11	55	9	44
25-44 years	25	253	23	117	30	143
45-64 years	34	338	37	191	31	147
65 years +	20	202	20	103	21	99
Total	100	995	100	518	100	481

Source : Statistics Canada, 2006 Census, Table 97-555-XCB2006017 and geocoded data, Table 2006DATAB2020_CO-1121-PSP_P1.

The comparison of the distribution of the population whose mother tongue is English with that of the territory's other residents (Figure 5) shows differences in several age groups. Thus, the English mother-tongue group has a lower percentage of children under 15 (10% compared with 18%), youth 15 to 24 years old (11% compared with 14%). The percentages are quite similar in the 25

to 44 year age group with about a fourth in each population group. In the older age groups, the percentages of persons whose mother tongue is English are higher. Thus, a third of the persons whose mother tongue is English are part of the 45 to 64 age group (compared with 30%) and a fifth of them are part of the 65 and over group (compared with 30% and 13%, respectively).

Distribution of the population whose mother tongue is English or not by age group, Territory of the CSSS de Rouyn-Noranda, 2006



Source : Statistics Canada, 2006 Census, Table 97-555-XCB2006017.

CSSS des Aurores-Boréales

As can be seen in Table 13, depending on the criteria, the English-speaking population in the territory of the CSSS des Aurores-Boréales varies between 15 and 165 persons, a huge variation since the second figure is eleven times larger than the first. The lower figure, 15, relates to persons

who know only one of the two official languages, English; this represents 0.1% of the population. The highest figure is that of persons whose mother tongue is English; it represents 0.8% of all of the territory's residents.

Number and percentage of the English-speaking population according to the definition criteria used, in the territory of the CSSS des Aurores-Boréales, 2006

Table 13

Definition criteria of the English population	Number of persons	% of total population
Mother tongue, English	165	0,8
English, 1 st official language spoken	150	0,7
English, home language	140	0,7
Knowledge of only one of the two official languages, English	15	0,1

Source : Statistics Canada, 2006 Census, Geocoded Data, Table 2006DATAB2020_CO-1121-PSP_P1

There are about 165 persons whose mother tongue is English among which about 5% are children under 15 years of age; 10%, youth 15 to 24

years old; 21%, adults 25 to 44 years old; a little over a third, adults 45 to 64 years old; and finally 17%, persons 65 years old and over (Table 14).

Distribution of the population whose mother tongue is English by gender and age group, Territory of the CSSS des Aurores-Boréales, 2006

Table 14

Age Group	Both Genders		Men		Women	
	%	Estimated	%	Estimated	%	Estimated
0-14 years	5	8	4	4	10	8
15-24 years	10	16	13	12	10	8
25-44 years	21	35	22	20	30	24
45-64 years	36	59	30	28	20	16
65 years +	17	28	13	12	15	12
Total	100	165	100	90	100	79

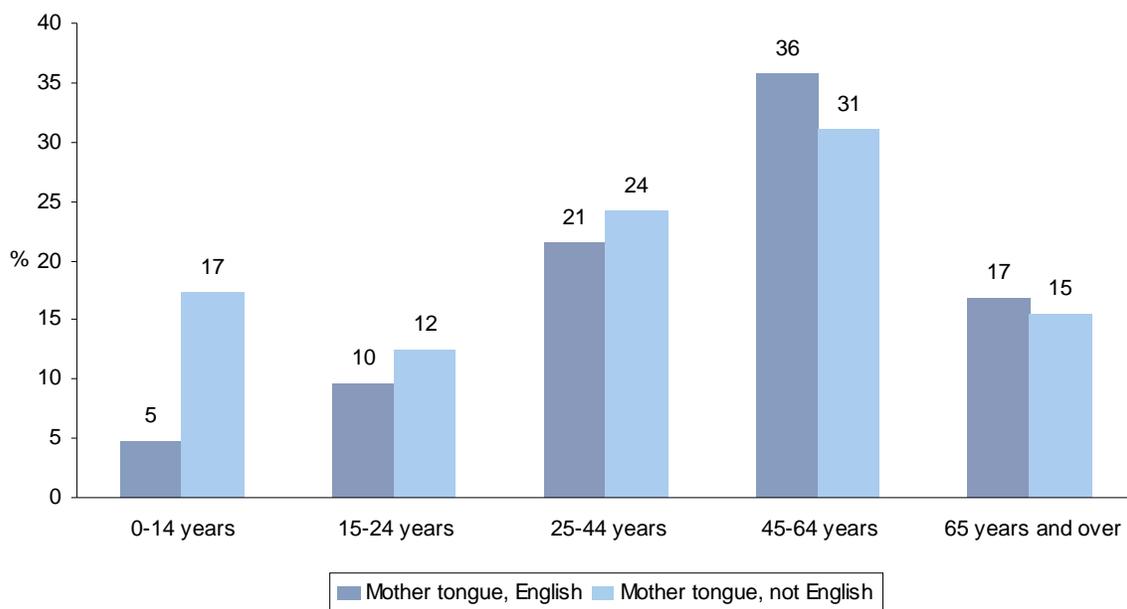
Source : Statistics Canada, 2006 Census, Table 97-555-XCB2006017 and geocoded data, Table 2006DATAB2020_CO-1121-PSP_P1.

The comparison of the distribution of the population whose mother tongue is English with that of the territory's other residents (Figure 6) shows differences in several age groups. Thus, the English mother-tongue group seems to have a clearly* lower percentage of children under 15 (5% compared with 17%). The English mother-tongue group also has lower percentages of 15 to 24 and 25 to 44 year-olds*, respectively 10% and 21%, than those of the group whose mother tongue is not English, 12% and 24%, respectively. In the case of

the 25 to 44 year age group, the percentage of people whose mother tongue is English is higher than that of the territory's residents whose mother tongue is not English, 36% compared with 31%. As for the 65 and over age group, the percentages are quite similar since the difference is 2% between the two population groups. Nevertheless, in this case, one should be cautious regarding these observations given that the small number of persons involved.

Distribution of the population whose mother tongue is English or not by age group, Territory of the CSSS de Rouyn-Noranda, 2006

Figure 6



Source : Statistics Canada, 2006 Census, Table 97-555-XCB2006017.

CSSS Les Eskers de l'Abitibi

As can be seen in Table 15, depending on the criteria, the English-speaking population in the territory of the CSSS Les Eskers de l'Abitibi varies from 50 to 395 persons, a huge variation since the second figure is almost eight times larger than the first. The lower figure, 50, relates to persons who

know only one of the two official languages, English; this represents 0.2% of the territory's population. The highest figure is that of persons whose 1st official language spoken is English; it represents 1.7% of all of the residents.

Number and percentage of the English-speaking population according to the definition criteria used, in the territory of the CSSS Les Eskers de l'Abitibi, 2006

Table 15

Definition criteria of the English population	Number of persons	% of total population
Mother tongue, English	370	1,5
English, 1 st official language spoken	395	1,7
English, home language	270	1,1
Knowledge of only one of the two official languages, English	50	0,2

Source : Statistics Canada, 2006 Census, Geocoded Data, Table 2006DATAB2020_CO-1121-PSP_P1.

There are about 370 persons whose mother tongue is English of which about 16% are children under 15 years of age; 16%, youth 15 to 24 years old;

29%, adults 25 to 44 years old; a little 28%, adults 45 to 64 years old; and finally 12%, persons 65 years old and over (Table 16).

Distribution of the population whose mother tongue is English by gender and age group, Territory of the CSSS Les Eskers de l'Abitibi, 2006

Table 16

Age Group	Both Genders		Men		Women	
	%	Estimated N	%	Estimated N	%	Estimated N
0-14 years	16	60	17	33	15	27
15-24 years	16	60	14	27	9	16
25-44 years	29	109	34	65	26	49
45-64 years	28	103	31	60	29	54
65 years +	12	44	14	27	9	16
Total	100	370	100	190	100	185

Source : Statistics Canada, 2006 Census, Table 97-555-XCB2006017 and geocoded data, Table 2006DATAB2020_CO-1121-PSP_P1.

The comparison of the distribution of the population whose mother tongue is English with that of the territory's other residents (Figure 7) shows slight differences in most age groups. Thus, the English mother-tongue group seems to have a slightly lower percentage of children under 15, 16% compared with 18%. However, it has somewhat higher percentages in the 15 to 24 and 25 to 44

age groups, respectively 16% and 29%, compared with those of the group whose mother tongue is not English, 13% and 26%, respectively. In the 45 to 64 age group, it is approximately 2% higher, 28% compared with 30%. Finally, the percentages of persons 65 and over are the same in the two groups: 12%.

Distribution of the population whose mother tongue is English or not by age group, Territory of the CSSS Les Eskers de l'Abitibi, 2006

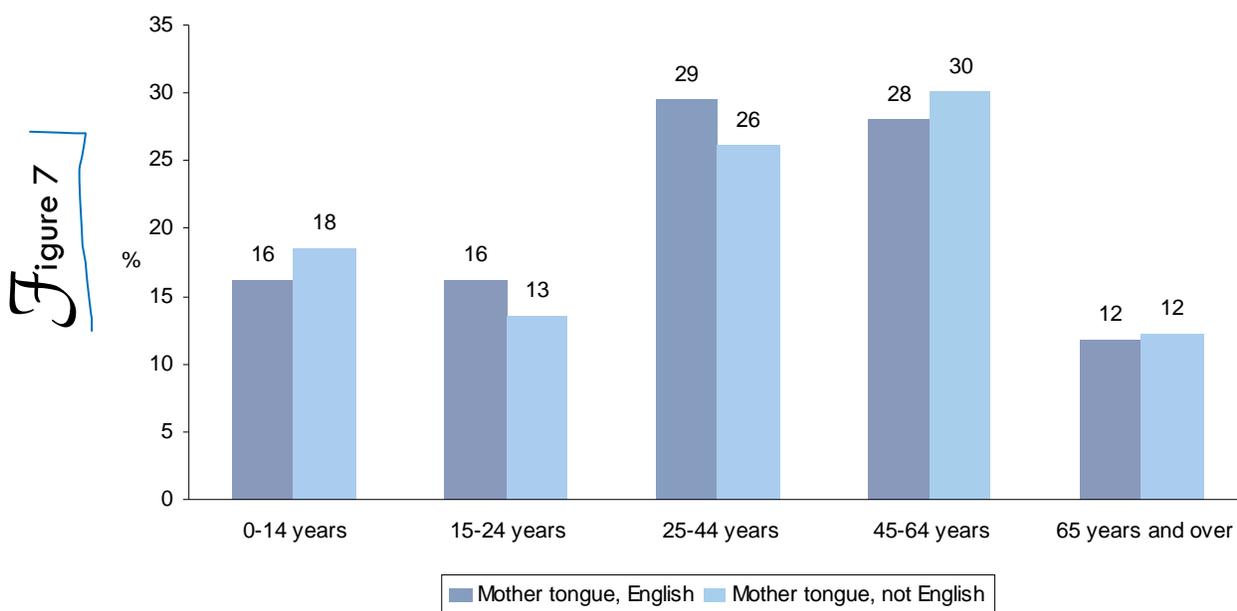


Figure 7

Source : Statistics Canada, 2006 Census, Table 97-555-XCB2006017.

CSSS de la Vallée-de-l'Or

As can be seen in Table 17, depending on the criteria used, the English-speaking population in the territory of the CSSS de la Vallée-de-l'Or varies from 185 to 1,325 persons. This is a huge variation since the second figure is seven times larger than the first. The lower figure, 185, relates to persons

who know only one of the two official languages, English; this represents 0.4% of the territory's population. The highest figure, 1,325, is that of persons whose mother tongue is English; it represents 3.2% of all of the residents.

Number and percentage of the English-speaking population according to the definition criteria used, in the territory of the CSSS de la Vallée-de-l'Or, 2006

Definition criteria of the English population	Number of persons	% of total population
Mother tongue, English	1,325	3.2
English, 1 st official language spoken	1,240	3.0
English, home language	1,085	2.6
Knowledge of only one of the two official languages, English	185	0.4

Source : Statistics Canada, 2006 Census, Geocoded Data, Table 2006DATAB2020_CO-1121-PSP_P1.

There are about 1,325 persons whose mother tongue is English of which 15% are children under 15 years of age; 12%, youth 15 to 24 years old;

a fourth, adults 25 to 44 years old; close to a third, adults 45 to 64 years old; and finally 15%, persons 65 years old and over (Table 18).

Distribution of the population whose mother tongue is English by gender and age group, Territory of the CSSS de la Vallée-de-l'Or, 2006

Age Group	Both Genders		Men		Women	
	%	Estimated N	%	Estimated N	%	Estimated N
0-14 years	15	200	15	103	14	89
15-24 years	12	162	12	79	12	79
25-44 years	25	334	27	182	24	155
45-64 years	33	434	33	224	34	217
65 years +	15	196	14	93	16	193
Total	100	1,325	100	685	100	640

Source : Statistics Canada, 2006 Census, Table 97-555-XCB2006017 and geocoded data, Table 2006DATAB2020_CO-1121-PSP_P1.

The comparison of the distribution of the population whose mother tongue is English with that of the territory's other residents (Figure 8) shows differences in some of the age groups. Thus, the English mother-tongue group seems to have a slightly lower percentage of children under 15, 15% compared with 19%. However, the English

mother-tongue group has higher percentages in the 45 to 64 age group (33% compared with 30%) and in the 65 and over age group (15% compared with 12). As for the 15 to 24 and 25 to 44 age groups, the percentages are quite similar: near 12% in the former group and around 26% in the latter.

Distribution of the population whose mother tongue is English or not by age group, Territory of the CSSS de la Vallée-de-l'Or, 2006

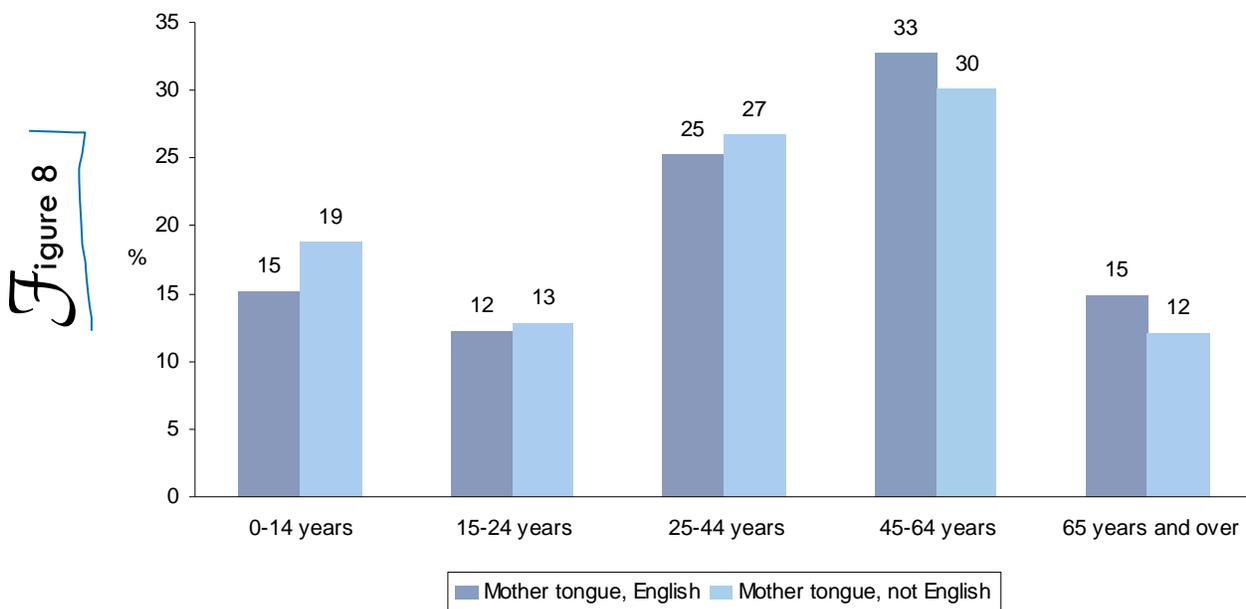


Figure 8

Source : Statistics Canada, 2006 Census, Table 97-555-XCB2006017.

Conclusion

Although at first glance, counting the number of English-speaking persons residing in Abitibi-Témiscamingue seems to be a straightforward exercise, the data presented in this fascicle show that it is more difficult than expected. Indeed, depending on the criteria used to define the English-speaking population, the results can vary considerably.

Four different criteria were used in the document:

- population whose mother tongue is English,
- population whose sole 1st official language spoken is English,
- population whose language most often spoken at home is English, and
- population that knows only one of the two official languages, English.

Overall, the first three criteria, that is the population whose mother tongue is English, the population whose sole 1st official language spoken is English, and the population whose language most often spoken at home is English, have generally produced the highest figures for the English-speaking population. Of course, the data vary according to the criteria used but the differences are generally between 3% and 10% except in the territories of the CSSS Les Eskers de l'Abitibi and La Vallée-de-l'Or, in which differences of 18% and 30% were obtained.

The last criterion - population that knows only one of the two official languages, English - is more restrictive than the others. In fact, when it is used to define the English-speaking population, this group's size is always far smaller than when any of the other criteria is used. The largest difference was obtained in the territory of the CSSS des Aurores-Boréales where the population size obtained with this criterion is eleven times smaller than that defined with the mother tongue criterion. The choice of criteria is therefore an important factor in determining the size of the English-speaking population.

The results show that, depending on the criteria used, the English-speaking population in Abitibi-Témiscamingue fluctuates between approximately 1,700 and 5,000 persons. The geographic distribution of this population varies somewhat according to the criteria used. Nevertheless, in general, it is clear that the majority of the English-speaking population is concentrated in the territories of the CSSS de Témiscaming-et-de-Kipawa and de La Vallée-de-l'Or. The territories of the CSSS de Rouyn-Noranda and du Lac-Témiscamingue follow with about 40% of the region's English-speaking population. Finally, the territories of the CSSS Les Eskers de l'Abitibi and des Aurores-Boréales have the smallest number of English-speaking persons in the region.

Regarding the distribution of the English-speaking population by gender and age group, the only data available was that pertaining to the population whose mother tongue is English. This data shows that at the regional level, the English-speaking population is similar to that of the rest of the region's population. However, some differences were observed within the CSSS territories:

- The population whose mother tongue is English has a somewhat lower proportion of children under 15 in the territories of the CSSS de Rouyn-Noranda, La Vallée-de-l'Or and Les Eskers de l'Abitibi and, on the other hand, a slightly higher proportion in the territory of the CSSS du Lac-Témiscamingue.
- As for the English-speaking youth aged 15 to 24, their relative proportion is slightly higher in the territories of the CSSS du Lac-Témiscamingue, de Témiscaming-et-de-Kipawa and Les Eskers de l'Abitibi. But their relative proportion is lower in the CSSS de Rouyn-Noranda.
- The English-speaking population has a slightly higher percentage of young adults aged 25 to 44 in the territories of the CSSS du Lac-Témiscamingue and Les Eskers de l'Abitibi.
- The percentage of English-speaking adults aged 45 to 64 is relatively lower in the CSSS du Lac-Témiscamingue, de Témiscaming-et-de-Kipawa and Les Eskers de l'Abitibi. It is the opposite in the CSSS de Rouyn-Noranda and de la Vallée-de-l'Or.
- In the 65 and over age group, the English-speaking population is proportionally smaller in the CSSS de Témiscaming-et-de-Kipawa and Lac-Témiscamingue but greater in the CSSS de Rouyn-Noranda and de La Vallée-de-l'Or.

Despite the methodological limitations involved, this data represents estimates that will be useful to the planners and decision-makers of the Abitibi-Témiscamingue health and social services network.

Agence de la santé
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