

# Socioeconomic inequality in life expectancy of Anglophones in Montréal

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**Introduction:** Anglophone and Francophone life expectancy has converged over time in Montréal, but the contribution of socioeconomic status to linguistic differences in life expectancy is not understood. We sought to determine how life expectancy of Anglophones in the metropolitan area of Montréal varied by socioeconomic status, and how these trends compared with Francophones over time.

**Methods:** We calculated life expectancy at birth for Quebecers reporting English or French language spoken at home for two periods, 1989-1993 and 2002-2006. We used a local area measure of socioeconomic status, based on a composite score of census socioeconomic data, to identify wealthy and poor residential areas of decedents. Time trends in life expectancy of wealthy and poor Anglophones and Francophones was examined. We partitioned the causes of death that contributed to the difference in life expectancy between wealthy and poor Anglophones in 2002-2006.

**Results:** Life expectancy at birth increased over time for wealthy and poor Anglophone men and women in Montréal. Life expectancy in 2002-2006 was greater for wealthy and poor Anglophone men than Francophone men. However, life expectancy of wealthy Francophone women increased much faster than wealthy Anglophone women, such that inequalities reversed in this group by 2002-2006. The life expectancy gap between wealthy and poor Anglophones in 2002-2006 (men 5.0 years, women 1.6 years) was mainly caused by differences in cardiovascular and cancer mortality rates.

**Discussion:** Life expectancy of wealthy Francophone women has surpassed wealthy Anglophone women, but this reversal did not occur for men or for poor Anglophones. Cardiovascular disease and cancer were responsible for a large part of the socioeconomic gap in Anglophones. These results imply that language status may be an important factor in the measurement of life expectancy in Québec, and that Anglophone women in Montréal may be an emerging vulnerable minority language group.

More detailed information on this study is available in: Auger N., Park A. L., Daniel M. (2013). Diverging socioeconomic inequality in life expectancy of Francophones and Anglophones in Canada: Tobacco to blame? *J Public Health*, 21(4), 317-324. doi : 10.1007/s10389-013-0559-6

*ACKNOWLEDGEMENT: This research was funded by Health Canada and administered by the McGill Training and Retention of Health Professionals Project.*