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Empowering cities and communities to manage harmful gambling environments

Elisabeth Papineau^{1,2}, Éric Robitaille^{1,2}, Charles Prisca Samba¹, Fanny Lemétayer¹, Isabelle Paradis¹, Yan Kestens² & Marie-France Raynault

1-Institut national de santé publique du Québec

2-École de santé publique, Université de Montréal - Département de médecine sociale et préventive

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Disclosure of Potential Conflict of Interest



Presenter Disclosure

- I have no potential conflicts of interest for my presentation.
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Why this research?



Amongst other commercial determinants of health, the nature of the built environment and the layout of neighbourhoods may be conducive or harmful to health, community development and individual development.

- In Québec, density or access to VLT's is related to the socioeconomic deprivation of geographic sectors and gambling vulnerability

(Gilliland, 2005; Houle et Robitaille, 2013; Robitaille et Herjean, 2008; Biron, Bazargani, Robitaille, 2016; 2017).

- Other research has demonstrated the various links between density/proximity of the gambling offer, deprivation and spending or gambling problems

(Adams & al., 2007; Astbury & Thurstain-Goodwin, 2015; Astbury & Wardle, 2016; Barratt & al., 2014; Delfabbro, 2003; Lund, 2009; Marshall & Baker, 2002; Marshall & al., 2004; Pearce & al., 2008; Rintoul & al., 2013; Room & al., 1999; Rush & al., 2007; Scholnick & Byun, 2016; Slutske & al., 2015; Slutske & al., 2019; Storer & al., 2009; Sulkunen & al., 2018); Wardle & al. 2012; Wardle & al., 2017; Welte & al., 2004; Welte & al., 2007; Welte & al., 2016; Wheeler & al., 2006; Xouridas & al., 2016; Young & al., 2012).

Why this research (2)?

Despite the rapid growth of online gambling and sports betting, there are still 10,292 gambling establishments in Quebec (2018-Update in progress)

- The Québec National Institute of Public Health has developed a Gambling Exposure Index (GEI), a Vulnerability to Gambling Index (VGI), and a cartographic tool

The aim:

- Address social inequality with respect to gambling exposure
- Support decision making with an adapted mapping tool

The indexes: recapitulation



1- GEI : composed of three dimensions:

- Spatial accessibility to gambling sites
- Density of gambling places
- Relative risk associated with each types of game

2- VGI : based on 6 socio-economic proxies of problem gambling:

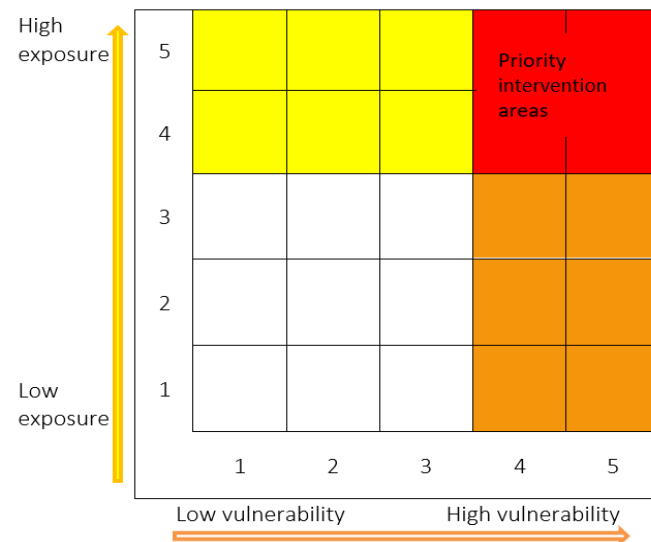
- % Men
- % 20-44 years
- % Lower income
- % High school diploma or lower
- % Unemployed
- % Widowed, single, divorced

The six indicators were weighted according to odds ratios before being summed to produce the VGI

Associations and convergence

3- Spatial and statistical analyses were conducted to explore the relationship between VGI and GEI

- To identify the dissemination areas (DA) most at risk on the territory, i.e. those displaying a high convergence of GEI and VGI, we firstly measured the relationships between the vulnerability index components across Quebec through a bivariate correlation analysis using Spearman's rank test.
- They were then divided into exposure and vulnerability quintiles
- The results are available on a online interactive cartographic platform that highlight results for whatever city your interested in and highlights priority intervention areas.



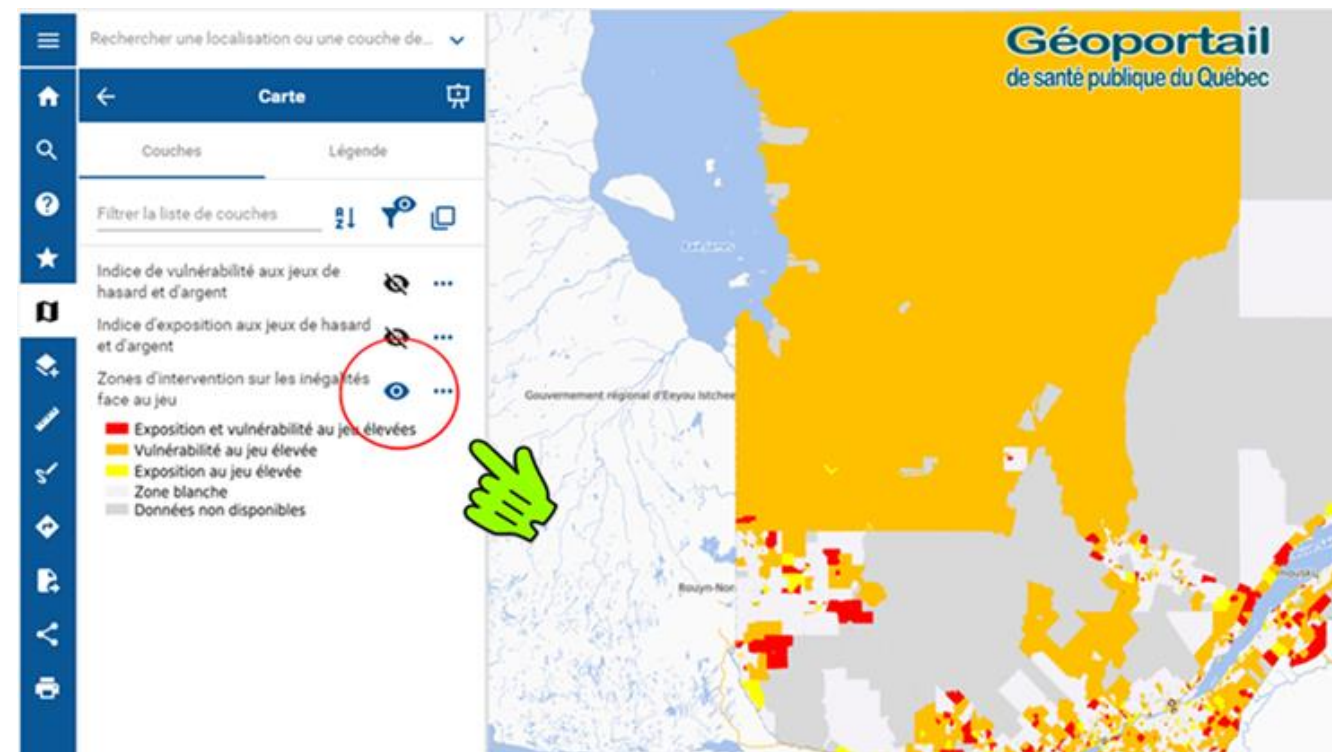
Results

- There was a significant positive relationship between the GEI and the VGI
- 2,599 of Quebec's 13,420 dissemination areas show high values of vulnerability and exposure to gambling (17% of the population of Quebec lives in these areas).
- The analysis and mapping of the two indexes reveals disparities in exposure and vulnerability to gambling in Quebec.



Applications

- The online cartographic platform is a user-friendly tool for monitoring and decision-making for policy makers and communities:
 - To reduce the presence of gambling in the most vulnerable and exposed sectors
 - To adapt prevention and intervention strategies to each environment
 - To reduce health inequalities



Practical application

Montreal

Loto-Québec's plan to open mini casino near Bell Centre panned by gambling addiction experts

[f](#) [t](#) [e](#) [r](#) [i](#)

Provincial government, Montreal mayor want public health's approval before greenlighting project

CBC News · Posted: Feb 22, 2023 7:21 PM EST | Last Updated: February 23



TV NOUVELLES NEWS MY REGION MONEY SPORTS BUZZ

Municipal regulations would not allow a gaming room at the Bell Center (Translation)

Audrey Sanikopoulos | QMI Agency | Published on March 21, 2023 at 7:01 PM





CTV NEWS MONTREAL NEWS VIDEO SHOWS ABOUT LOCAL

BREAKING NEWS: RCMP failures dominate inquiry's final report into 2020 mass shooting

MONTREAL News

Loto-Quebec in talks to install video gaming machines at Bell Centre



 Caroline Van Vlaardingen
CTV News Montreal
Anchor/Reporter
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Loto-Quebec and the Montreal Canadiens are in talks to install hundreds of video gambling machines at the Bell Centre, according to a radio interview.

The gaming machines, sport betting terminals and poker tables would be housed inside the restaurant 1909 Taverne Moderne. The large three-storey building adjoins the Bell Centre in downtown Montreal and has been closed since the beginning of the pandemic.

Updated Feb. 22, 2023 6:28

Légende

A ↓

 RSS

 No Smoking



 No Smoking



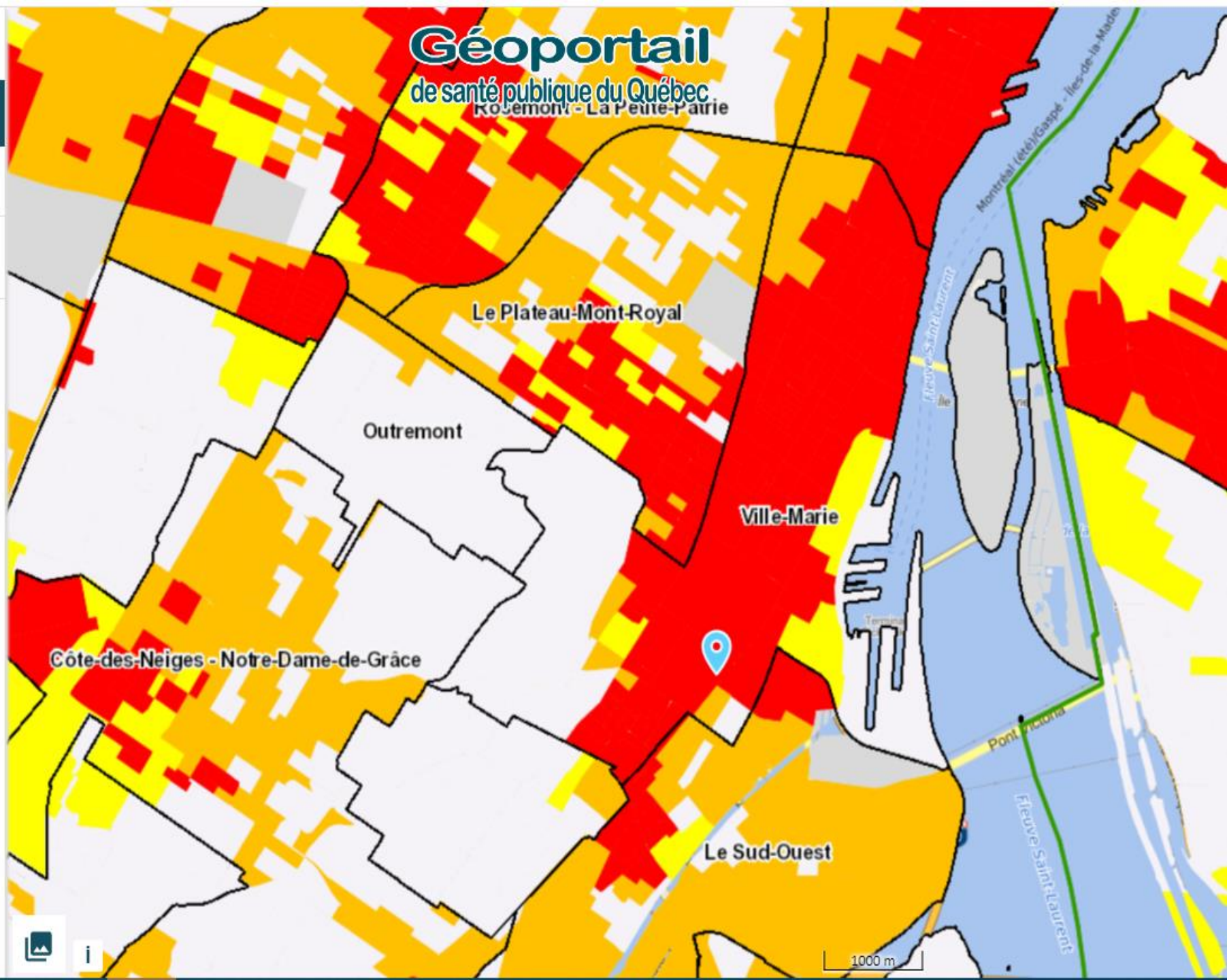
■ Exposition et vulnérabilité au jeu élevées

■ Vulnérabilité au jeu élevée

■ Exposition au jeu élevée

Zone blanche

Données non disponibles



Many stakeholders are concerned by the « gambling offer » and potential users

- Health and social services network, Ministry of health and social services (addiction and health monitoring services)
- Community organizations
- Health Ministry – health monitoring dept.
- Regional public health departments
- Municipal environment: members of municipal council, urban planners, planners
- Gambling state corporation Loto-Québec
- Liquor, racing and gaming authority (RACJ)
- Any citizen, company or association

Virtual consultation with stakeholders, Sept. 30, 2022

Objectives:

- interweaving the perspectives of different stakeholders
- improve the mapping tool
- optimize the benefits of the project for decision-making
- improve the knowledge and capacities of regions, cities and local community organizations to mobilize and advocate to create environments that are more conducive to health.



Virtual consultation with stakeholders

The participants

The consultative videoconference brought together stakeholders or decision-makers from the following sectors:

- Municipal (n=3) & urban planning (2)
- Community organizations(3)
- Public health departments (4)
- Ministry of Health and Social Services (3)
- Addiction services (3)
- Gambling industry (2)
- Six members of the research team (INSPQ).



About the municipal powers...

(members of municipal council, urban planners, planners, mayors)

Every local municipality has jurisdiction in the following areas¹ (amongst others):

- Safety, Health and well-being of citizens; Activities and public spaces; Nuisances; Shops/Businesses;
- Levers: urban planning regulations: zoning, subdivision and construction rules, adoption of regulations and resolutions, granting of permits and contracts.

Application:

- A Montreal borough has, by zoning by-law, limited fast food establishments on its territory by keeping them away from schools. According to the judgment of the Supreme Court, it is clear: "a municipality can act to promote healthy lifestyles"²
- An application for a VLT operator license must be published in a local newspaper. Any person, company or association may oppose the issuance of this license by the gaming authority if it is considered contrary to the *public interest, security or peace* (l-6, r. 3 - Rules on video lottery-Art. 36).

Reactions/suggestions from the **municipal sector participants**

The cartographic tool:

- Add precise instructions for what's allowed or not in our red zones (cap, remove games?)
- Include the proximity of public transport in the GEI calculations
- Add a function that displays the proportion of the population that lives in an area of interest.

Public policies:

- Integrate the two indexes into the indicators already used by cities
- Seize the unique opportunity of the *National Action Plan for Architecture and Land Use Planning* to be developed in the spring of 2023
- Introduce specific gambling outlets location criteria into municipal development plans
- Adopt a fixed game-to-population ratios in a national planning regulation
- Establish an exclusion zone for gambling near schools (as in the Cannabis Law C-5.3 art 33)

Mot de la fin and questions

- **Municipal stakeholders contributions :**
 - **A constructive and neutral perspective on research**
 - **A better assessment of possible improvements**
 - **A better knowledge of their effective levers**
 - **A greater latitude to make ambitious or bold proposals**
- Researchers could involve or consider more systematically partners, especially at the municipal level
- Very strategic to consult all the stakeholders and knowledge users, to produce research rooted in community needs, to support more realistic public policies and to reduce 'gamblogenic' environments

Thank you!

Contact: Elisabeth.papineau@inspq.qc.ca

Map: <https://cartes.inspq.qc.ca/geoportail/>

Info page: <https://www.inspq.qc.ca/cartographie-jeu>

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GIruHWYLyOc> |