

# ***Using interRAI data to understand the prevalence of sensory impairments & risk factors for long-term care admission***

Presented by: Dawn Guthrie, PhD  
Professor, Wilfrid Laurier University and interRAI Fellow

brainXchange webinar  
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Team 17	
Jennifer Campos	University of Toronto
Alison Chasteen	University of Toronto
Dawn Guthrie Nicole Williams	Wilfrid Laurier University
Natalie Phillips (Co-lead)	Concordia University
Paul Mick	University of Saskatchewan
Kathy Pichora-Fuller	University of Toronto
JB Orange	Western University
Hannah O'Rourke	University of Alberta
Marie Savundranayagam	Western University
Walter Wittch (Co-lead)	University of Montreal

# Who is CCNA Team 17?



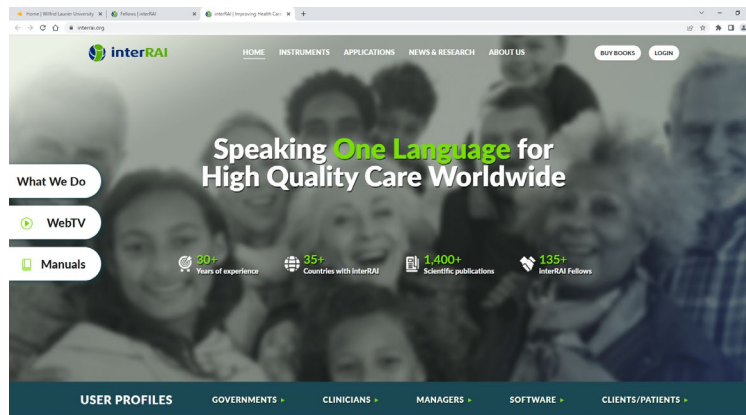
# What is interRAI?

## ➤ What is it?

- International, not-for-profit network of roughly 140 researchers, clinicians and policy makers from just over 35 countries

## ➤ What does it do?

- Conducts multinational collaborative research to develop, implement and evaluate clinical assessment tool and their related applications



[www.interrai.org](http://www.interrai.org)  
[interRAI Web TV](#)

# interRAI Members

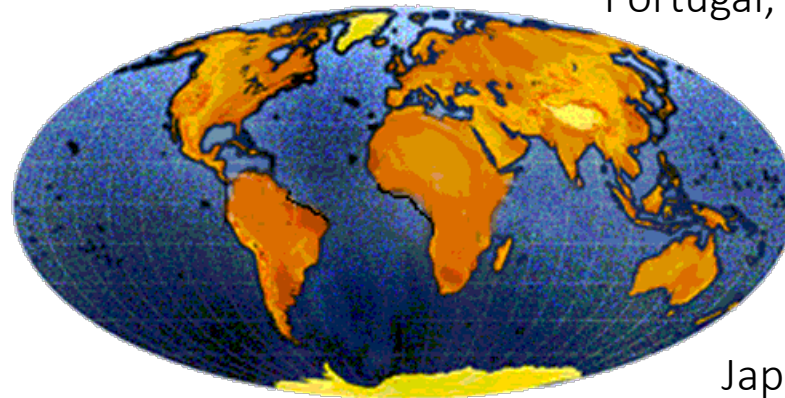
## North America

Canada  
USA

## Europe

Iceland, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Finland,  
Netherlands, France, Germany, Switzerland, UK,  
Italy, Spain, Czech Republic, Poland,  
Estonia, Belgium, Lithuania, Russia  
Portugal, Austria, Ireland

Central/  
South America  
Brazil, Chile



## South Asia, Middle East & Africa

India, Israel, Lebanon, Qatar  
South Africa, Ghana, Egypt

## Pacific Rim

Japan, China, Taiwan,  
Hong Kong, South Korea,  
Australia, New Zealand,  
Singapore

# The interRAI “Family” of Instruments

Wellness, Checkup

Community Health

***Home Care***

Assisted Living

***Nursing Home/Long-term  
Care Facility***

Post-acute Care

Acute Care

Palliative Care

Inpatient Mental Health

Community Mental Health

Correctional Facilities

Intellectual Disability

Pediatric, Pediatric Mental Health,  
Pediatric DD, 0-3

Self-report Quality of Life

Caregiver

...and many more

# Completing the interRAI Assessment

- These are clinical assessment tools...**NOT** “surveys”
  - Assessor has a conversation with the person and caregivers
  - Uses interview skills
  - Uses all sources of information
  - Assessor make notes as necessary



# Summary of interRAI Data in Canada



Yukon (3,354)

Newfoundland & Labrador (60,732)

Nova Scotia (109,637)

Manitoba (120,619)

Alberta (336,413)

British Columbia (526,847)

Ontario (3,571,768)

***Total of 4.9 million records***



# How are the interRAI data collected and shared?



Assessment completed  
with individual &  
caregiver



Data stored for many  
people on assessor's  
laptop

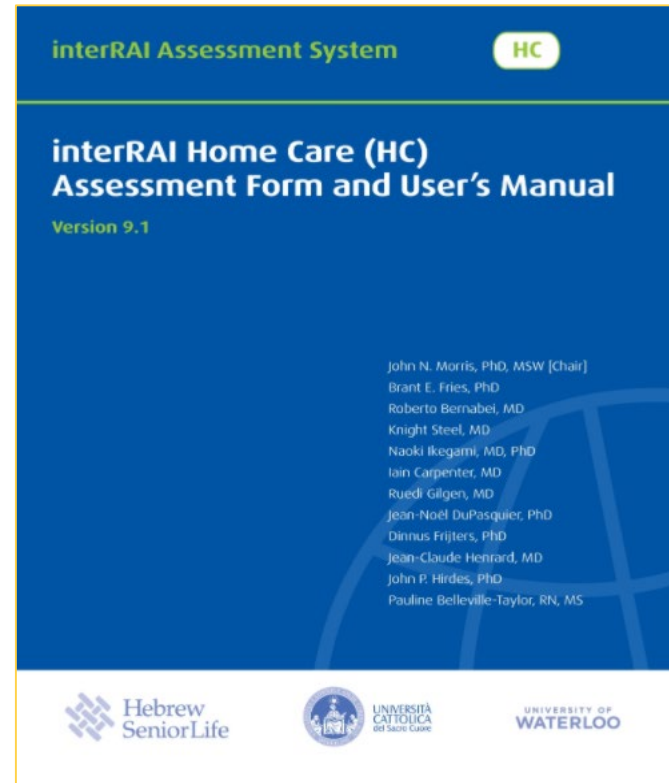


Data from across Canada  
stored University of  
Waterloo

*Researchers who are part of interRAI in Canada can access the data at the University of Waterloo*

# The interRAI Home Care Assessment

- Standardized assessment with roughly 300 items
- Key domain areas:
  - Cognitive status
  - Mood/psychosocial well-being
  - Physical functioning
  - Health conditions
  - Social functioning
  - Pain
  - Social supports



# Scoring of Vision Item

SECTION D. VISION PATTERNS		
1	VISION	<p><i>(Ability to see in adequate light and with glasses if used)</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>0. <i>ADEQUATE</i>—Sees fine detail, including regular print in newspapers/books</li><li>1. <i>IMPAIRED</i>—Sees large print, but no regular print in newspapers/books</li><li>2. <i>MODERATELY IMPAIRED</i>—Limited vision; not able to see newspaper headlines, but can identify objects</li><li>3. <i>HIGHLY IMPAIRED</i>—Object identification in question, but eyes appear to follow objects</li><li>4. <i>SEVERELY IMPAIRED</i>—No vision or sees only light, colours, or shapes; eyes do not appear to follow objects</li></ol>

Vision loss (VL) = score of 1+ on this item

# Scoring of Hearing Item

SECTION C. COMMUNICATION/HEARING PATTERNS		
1	HEARING	<p><i>(With hearing appliance if used)</i></p> <p>0. <i>HEARS <u>ADEQUATELY</u></i>—Normal talk, TV, phone, doorbell</p> <p>1. <i>MINIMAL DIFFICULTY</i>—When not in quiet setting</p> <p>2. <i>HEARS IN SPECIAL SITUATIONS ONLY</i>—Speaker <u>has to</u> adjust tonal quality and speak distinctly</p> <p>3. <i>HIGHLY IMPAIRED</i>—Absence of useful hearing</p>

Hearing loss (HL)=score of 1+ on this item

Dual Sensory Loss (DSL)=score of 1+ on **both** items

Hoegen et al. BMC Medical Informatics and Decision Making (2017) 17:150  
DOI 10.1186/s12918-017-0547-9

BMC Medical Informatics and Decision Making

RESEARCH ARTICLE Open Access

Evaluation of data quality of interRAI assessments in home and community care

Sophie E. Hoegen<sup>1</sup>, Jonathan Chen and John P. Hirdes

**Abstract**

**Background:** The aim of this project is to describe the quality of assessment data regularly collected in home and community care, with techniques adapted from an evaluation of the quality of long-term care data in Canada.

**Methods:** Data collected using the Resident Assessment Instrument – Home Care (RAI-HC) in Ontario and British Columbia (BC) as well as the interRAI Community Health Assessment (CHA) in Ontario were analyzed using descriptive statistics. Pearson's correlation and Cronbach's alpha in order to assess trends in population characteristics, convergent validity, and scale reliability.

**Results:** Results indicate that RAI-HC data from Ontario and BC behave in a consistent manner, with stable trends in internal consistency providing evidence of good reliability (alpha values range from 0.72-0.94, depending on the scale and province). The associations between various scales, such as those reflecting functional status and cognition, were found to be as expected and stable over time within each setting (alpha values range from 0.62-0.65 in Ontario and 0.41-0.43 in BC). These trends in convergent validity demonstrate that constructs in the data behave as they should, providing evidence of good data quality. In most cases, CHA data quality matches that of RAI-HC data quality and shows evidence of good validity and reliability. The findings are comparable to the findings observed in the evaluation of data from the long-term care sector.

**Conclusions:** Despite an increasingly complex client population in the home and community care sectors, the results from this work indicate that data collected using the RAI-HC and the CHA are of an overall quality that may be trusted when used to inform decision-making at the organizational or policy-level. High quality data and information are vital when used to inform steps taken to improve quality of care and enhance quality of life. This work also provides evidence that a method used to evaluate the quality of data obtained in the long-term care setting may be used to evaluate the quality of data obtained through community-based measures.

**Keywords:** interRAI, RAI-HC, Resident Assessment Instrument – Home Care, interRAI CHA, Community Health Assessment, Assessment, Quality

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## Predictors of a new depression diagnosis among older adults admitted to complex continuing care: implications for the depression rating scale (DRS)

Lynn Martin, Jeff W. Posi, John P. Hirdes, Richard N. Jones, Michael J. Stokes, Brent E. Fries, Terry Rosenkowitz

Health Studies and Gerontology, University of Waterloo, Homewood Health Centre, Homewood Research Institute, Waterloo, Ontario, Canada

Address correspondence to: John P. Hirdes, Email: hirdes@hri@uwaterloo.ca

**Abstract**

Background depression is a major disabling condition among older adults, where it may be under-diagnosed for a number of reasons, including a different presentation for younger people with depression. The Minimum Data Set 2.0 (MDS-2.0) assessment system provides a measurement scale for depression, the Depression Rating Scale (DRS), in addition to other items that may represent depressive phenomenology.

**Methods:** The study sample consists of all patients aged 65 years or more admitted between 1996 and 2003 to a complex continuing care (CCC) bed in Ontario without a recorded depression diagnosis. The sample was restricted to those who remained in hospital for at least 6 months ( $n = 248$ ) in order to obtain follow-up assessment information. Logistic regression was used to explore the relationship between admission characteristics (i.e. DRS scale items, other MDS-2.0 items related to DSM-IV criteria for depression) and receipt of a depression diagnosis on the follow-up assessment.

**Results:** A new depression diagnosis at follow-up was present in 7.5% of the individuals. The multivariate model predicting depression diagnosis included only the DRS scale, sadness over past roles, and withdrawal from activities.

**Conclusions:** The DRS score at admission was predictive of receiving a depression diagnosis on a follow-up assessment among older adults admitted to the CCC. Further, the predictive ability of the DRS is not markedly improved by the addition of other items related to DSM-IV criteria.

**Keywords:** depression, geriatric assessment, interRAI, DSM-IV, validity

Hoegen et al. BMC Medical Informatics and Decision Making (2017) 17:150

## Pain in U.S. Nursing Homes: Validating a Pain Scale for the Minimum Data Set

Brent E. Fries, PhD,<sup>1</sup> Samuel E. Simon, MA,<sup>2</sup> John N. Morris, PhD,<sup>2</sup> Caroli Floodstrom, RN,<sup>2</sup> and Fred L. Bookstein, PhD<sup>2</sup>

**Purpose:** The aim of this study was to validate a pain scale for the Minimum Data Set (MDS) assessment instrument and compare it to a comprehensive and validated assessment instrument for the measurement of pain in nursing homes. The Resident Assessment Instrument (RAI) system, with its Minimum Data Set (MDS) assessment, was implemented in 1991 (Morris et al., 1990). The purpose of the RAI was mandated in the original law to improve care. It was assessed that improved, individualized assessment of the resident's condition would lead to better care planning that would, in turn, lead to better care and improved outcomes. This logic of achieving improved care requires at least that the assessment is accurate and valid.

In this context, pain is a domain acknowledged to be critical to the assessment of older people. Previous literature estimates of pain among nursing home residents range from 26% to 64% (Simpkins & King, 1993; Witt et al., 1999). Physicians reported to identify symptoms of pain among nursing home residents and when symptoms are observed, they are often not treated (Morris et al., 1999). Furthermore, pain among nursing home residents is often undetected (Berlow et al., 1992), and is a critical issue for health care providers who are a part of the most

## The Validity of the Minimum Data Set in Measuring the Cognitive Impairment of Persons Admitted to Nursing Homes

Ann L. Gruber-Baldini, PhD,<sup>1</sup> Sheryl Link Zimmerman, PhD,<sup>2</sup> Edward Mortimer, AM,<sup>3</sup> and Jay Magaziner, PhD, MS 19g

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

## A review of evidence on the reliability and validity of Minimum Data Set

Jay W. Posi, N.M., John P. Hirdes, B.E. Fries, J.N. Morris, G.F. Teare, and K. Redel

**Abstract**

This paper reviews the reliability and validity of the Minimum Data Set (MDS) assessment, which is being used increasingly in Canadian nursing homes and continuing care facilities. The central issues that surround the development and implementation of a standardized assessment such as the MDS are presented, including implications for health care managers in how to approach data quality concerns. With other sectors such as home care and inpatient psychiatry using MDS for national reporting, these issues have importance in and beyond residential care management.

**Résumé**

Les enjeux actuels analyser la fiabilité et la validité de l'évaluation sur l'ensemble minimal de données (EMDS), utilisée de plus en plus dans les centres de hébergement et de soins de longue durée canadiens. Les principales questions qui entourent la création et l'adoption d'une évaluation normalisée comme l'EMDS sont présentées, y compris les implications pour les gestionnaires de la santé quant à la qualité des données. Dans d'autres secteurs comme les soins à domicile et les services psychiatriques aux patients hospitalisés, qui font appel à l'évaluation sur l'EMDS pour les déclarations nationales, ces questions ont une importance qui dépasse celle de la gestion des soins résidentiels.

**Introduction**

The need for a uniform system of resident assessment in nursing facilities led to the development of a MDS in the United States starting in the late 1980s. The MDS is accepted as a standardized assessment instrument that would describe the important domains of health and care at an individual resident level, using the fewest data items possible. The MDS collects information on cognition, communication, vision, hearing, mood, behaviour, psychosocial, physical function, diseases, continence, health conditions, nutrition, dental, skin, activities, medications, and treatments and procedures, using about 400 data items. Frontline clinical staff use the MDS to assess virtually all residents in U.S. nursing homes, with over 15 million assessments completed every day. As such, the MDS broke new ground in instrument design, deployment, day-to-day use and monitoring. Throughout the 1990s, as the MDS was rolled out and refined, a variety of research reports and related discussion appeared in the literature raising concerns about the quality of these data, fueling a debate that continues today. What evidence is there that this widespread implementation is likely to yield data in which clinicians and health executives can be confident? This paper reviews the published literature dealing with the central issues around data quality of the MDS.

The term 'self care' can be confusing. While MDS represents a generic label for any measurement system designed with a minimum number of items, in the U.S. the widespread use of the nursing facility MDS instrument has led to its synonymous association. The developers suggested that the system of assessment and care planning guidelines be termed the Resident Assessment Instrument (RAI) and reserved the name 'MDS' for the assessment instrument itself; others used these terms synonymously. Further, the international group interRAI, a research collaborative from about 30 countries,

## The MDS-CHES Scale: A New Measure to Predict Mortality in Institutionalized Older People

John P. Hirdes, PhD,<sup>1</sup> Dinmus H. Frijters, PhD,<sup>1</sup> and Gary F. Teare, PhD<sup>2</sup>

**OBJECTIVES:** To develop a scale predicting mortality and adverse outcomes associated with frailty.

**DESIGN:** Observational study based on Minimum Data Set (MDS) 2.0 and mortality data.

**SETTING:** Ontario chronic hospitals.

**PARTICIPANTS:** All chronic hospital patients (N = 28,495) assessed with the MDS 2.0 after mandatory implementation in July 1996 followed until May 1999.

**MEASUREMENTS:** MDS 2.0 assessments done as part of normal practice mainly by registered nurses or multidisciplinary teams in a chronic hospital. Mortality data are available from the accompanying discharge tracking form.

**RESULTS:** The MDS-Changes in Health, End-stage disease and Symptoms and Signs (CHES) score is a composite measure addressing changes in health, end-stage disease, and symptoms and signs of medical problems. It is a strong predictor of mortality (P < .0001) independent of the effects of age, sex, activities of daily living impairment, cognition, and do-not-resuscitate orders. It is also strongly associated with physical activity, complex medical procedures, and pain (P < .001 for each dependent variable).

**CONCLUSIONS:** The CHES score provides a useful new MDS-based test to predict mortality and to measure instability in health as a clinical outcome. J Am Geriatr Soc 51:96–100, 2003.

**Key words:** Minimum Data Set; mortality; frailty

**Introduction**

Among the primary applications of comprehensive assessment is the prediction of adverse events (e.g., mortality, hospitalization), targeted interventions to reduce the risk of those events.<sup>1,2</sup> In particular, efforts to identify and respond to the needs of frail older persons have been the subject of an exploding literature.<sup>3–6</sup>

A review by Rockwood et al.<sup>7</sup> demonstrated enormous diversity in what is believed to underlie the concept of frailty. Frailty has been equated with comorbidity, disability, severity of illness, and institutional versus community-based status. Although there is probably some utility in each of these definitions, none of these provide an adequate conceptualization in its own right. For example, to be cognitively impaired or physically disabled does not necessarily equal a state of frailty, just as a broken vase is not a frail vase. Instead, frailty more reasonably refers to a state in which an object can be "easily broken" when subjected to a perturbation. Therefore, a catastrophic decline in functional ability, up to and including death, that results from physical perturbation (e.g., falls, infection) or psychosocial stresses (e.g., relocation) is an outcome of frailty.

Rockwood et al.<sup>7</sup> defined frailty in terms of the balance between challenges to physical health and the presence of personal resources (e.g., social support) to cope with those challenges. There is considerable appeal in examining the dynamic between factors that increase vulnerability and those that lend support to the individual. Nonetheless, it is worthwhile to maintain a distinction between the abstract concept of frailty and the

**OBJECTIVES:** This study examined the construct validity of two cognitive scales from the Infraredly managed Minimum Data Set (MDS) of the nursing home Resident Assessment Instrument.

**DESIGN:** A cross-sectional comparison of the MDS measures, with scales provided by the resident, a proxy person, and nursing staff.

**SETTING:** Subjects residing in 59 nursing homes (NAs) in Maryland from 1992 to 1995.

**PARTICIPANTS:** Subjects were 65 non-admissions to NAs, aged 63 and older, with complete MDS information at admission.

**MEASUREMENTS:** Two MDS scales, the Cognitive Performance Scale (CPS) and the MDS Cognition Scale (MDS-COGS), were compared with the Mini-Mental State Examination (MMSE) and the staff rating on the Psychogeriatric Dependency Rating Scale (PDGRS Orientation scale, as well as measures of functioning and functional decline on the MDS).

**RESULTS:** The CPS and the MDS-COGS were highly correlated (r = 0.92). Both correlated moderately well with the MMSE (r = 0.64 and -0.64) and with staff ratings on the PDGRS Orientation scale (r = 0.63 and r = 0.60). Correlations with the MDS (r < 0.70) were less than previously reported (r = 0.80). The proportion of cognitively impaired residents in this NA admission cohort was higher using the MDS-COGS than the CPS (63% vs 73%), but both MDS scales produced lower proportions than the MMSE (79%) and higher proportions than the PDGRS Orientation scale.

**CONCLUSIONS:** The MDS-COGS had higher internal consistency (alpha = 0.85) and was simpler to complete.

**CONCLUSIONS:** This is the first study to examine the validity of the MDS as a large sample of residents and NAs in situations where the MDS was not completed by trained staff. Compared with other assessments, the MDS-COGS and the CPS had moderate and similar validity for examining the reliability and validity of components of this instrument. Using trained raters, reliability of some of the MDS cognitive items has been quite good.<sup>8–10</sup> Two of six validity studies<sup>11–12</sup> have proposed cognitive scales from the MDS: the Cognitive Performance Scale (CPS)<sup>11</sup> and the MDS Cognition Scale (MDS-COGS).<sup>12</sup> Both scales draw from a set of 10 cognitive items and add one functional item, but they utilize different functional items, use only three common cognitive items (memory, calculation and recall) in a different way (the CPS is hierarchical whereas the MDS-COGS is additive). Both studies have assessed construct validity between these scales and other measures,<sup>11–12</sup> with good concordance found between the MDS and these other items (alpha = 0.80–0.70). The MDS-COGS had higher internal consistency (alpha = 0.85) and was simpler to complete.

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**BMC Health Services Research**

Research article

Reliability of the interRAI suite of assessment instruments: a 12-country study of an integrated health information system

John P Hirdes<sup>1,2</sup>, Gunnar Ljungqvist<sup>3</sup>, John N Morris<sup>4</sup>, Dinmus H Frijters<sup>5</sup>, Harriet Fieve Soveri<sup>6</sup>, Len Gray<sup>7</sup>, Magnus Björkner<sup>8</sup>, Rudi Gilgen<sup>9</sup>

Address: <sup>1</sup>University of Waterloo, 200 University Ave W, Waterloo, ON N2L 3G1, Canada; <sup>2</sup>Homewood Health Institute, Guelph, Canada; <sup>3</sup>Health Services Research Group, University of Gothenburg, 413 45, Gothenburg, Sweden; <sup>4</sup>Johns Hopkins University, 725 North Wolfe Street, Baltimore, MD 21205, USA; <sup>5</sup>University of Jyväskylä, 40014 Jyväskylä, Finland; <sup>6</sup>University of Gävle, 801 88 Gävle, Sweden; <sup>7</sup>University of Queensland, 4072 St. Lucia, Queensland, Australia; <sup>8</sup>University of Jyväskylä, 40014 Jyväskylä, Finland; <sup>9</sup>University of Jyväskylä, 40014 Jyväskylä, Finland; <sup>10</sup>University of Jyväskylä, 40014 Jyväskylä, Finland; <sup>11</sup>University of Jyväskylä, 40014 Jyväskylä, Finland; <sup>12</sup>University of Jyväskylä, 40014 Jyväskylä, Finland

Email: John Hirdes - hirdes@uwaterloo.ca; Gunnar Ljungqvist - g.ljungqvist@gu.se; John N Morris - jnm@jhri.uwaterloo.ca; Dinmus H Frijters - Dinmus.H.Frijters@uwaterloo.ca; Harriet Fieve Soveri - h.f.soveri@ug.se; Len Gray - len.gray@uq.edu.au; Magnus Björkner - magnus.bjorkner@uwaterloo.ca; Rudi Gilgen - rudi.gilgen@uni-jyväskylä.fi

© Corresponding author

RESEARCH ARTICLE

## Detection of vision and /or hearing loss using the interRAI Community Health Assessment aligns well with common behavioral vision/hearing measurements

Andrea Urqueta Alfaro<sup>1,2\*</sup>, Dawn M. Guthrie<sup>3,4</sup>, Natalie A. Phillips<sup>5</sup>, M. Kathleen Pichora-Fuller<sup>6</sup>, Paul Mick<sup>7</sup>, Cathy McGraw<sup>8</sup>, Walter Wittich<sup>1,8,9</sup>

**1** School of Optometry, University of Montréal, Montréal, Quebec, Canada, **2** Centre de Recherche Interdisciplinaire en Réadaptation du Montréal Métropolitain, Montréal, Quebec, Canada, **3** Department of Kinesiology & Physical Education, Wilfrid Laurier University, Waterloo, Ontario, Canada, **4** Department of Health Sciences, Wilfrid Laurier University, Waterloo, Ontario, Canada, **5** Department of Psychology, Concordia University, Montréal, Quebec, Canada, **6** Department of Psychology, University of Toronto, Mississauga, Ontario, Canada, **7** Department of Surgery, College of Medicine, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada, **8** CRIR/Lethbridge-Layton-Mackay Rehabilitation Centre of West-Central Montreal, Montréal, Quebec, Canada, **9** CRIR/Institut Nazareth et Louis-Braille du CISSS de la Montérégie-Centre, Montréal, Quebec, Canada

\* [andrea.urqueta.alfaro@umontreal.ca](mailto:andrea.urqueta.alfaro@umontreal.ca)



**OPEN ACCESS**

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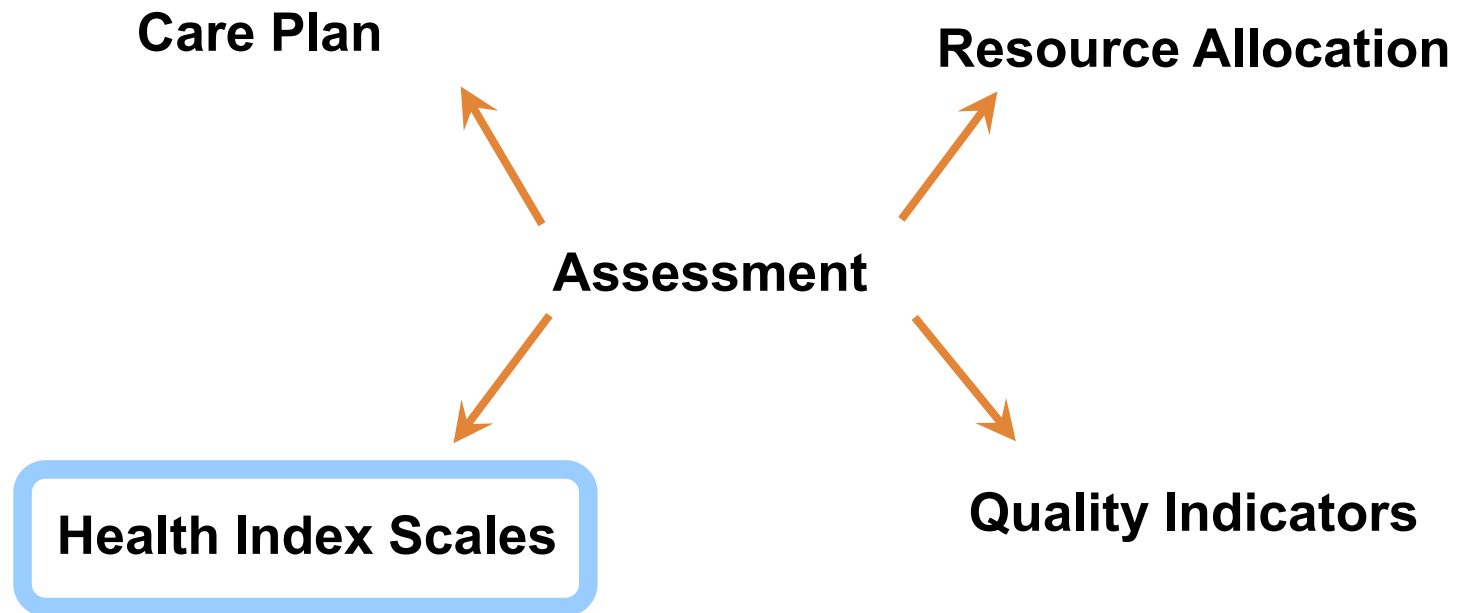
### Abstract

This study's main objective was to assess the sensitivity and specificity of the interRAI Community Health Assessment (CHA) for detecting the presence of vision loss (VL), hearing loss (HL) or both (Dual Sensory Loss, DSL) when compared against performance-based measures of vision and hearing. The interRAI CHA and the Montreal Cognitive Assessment (MoCA) were administered to 200 adults (61+ years of age) who had VL, HL or DSL. We calculated the sensitivity and specificity of the interRAI CHA for detecting sensory impairments using as the gold standard performance based measurements of hearing (pure-tone audiogram) and vision (distance acuity) as determined from the rehabilitation centre record. Results were divided according to participants' cognitive status, as measured by the MoCA and the Cognitive Performance Scale (CPS, embedded within the interRAI CHA). Overall, sensitivity was 100% for VL, 97.1% for HL, and 96.9% for DSL. Specificity was at least 93% in all three groups. In participants who failed the MoCA (i.e., at risk of mild cognitive impairment), the sensitivity was 100% for VL

[Link to the paper](#)

# Validity of Vision and Hearing Items

# Applications of interRAI Instruments



# What are the Health Index Scales?

- Numeric scores for an individual based on items in the assessments  
**\*\*Generated by the software\*\***
- Helps the home care assessor understand the person's level of functioning and their needs
- Used together with all of the other information about the person to ***inform decisions***
- Can help them to track changes over time



# Examples of Health Index Scales

Cognitive  
Performance Scale  
(CPS)

Depression Rating  
Scale (DRS)

Pain Scale

IADL Involvement  
Scale

ADL Self-  
performance  
Hierarchy Scale

CHES (Changes in  
Health, End-stage  
Disease, Signs and  
Symptoms) Scale

Caregiver Risk  
Evaluation (CaRE)

# Cognitive Performance Scale (CPS)

## ☐ List of items included:

1. Cognitive skills for daily decision-making
2. Making self understood
3. Short-term memory
4. Ability to eat independently

## ☐ Scoring of the CPS

- |    |                            |
|----|----------------------------|
| 0= | no issues/intact           |
| 1= | borderline intact          |
| 2= | mild impairment            |
| 3= | moderate impairment        |
| 4= | moderate/severe impairment |
| 5= | severe impairment          |
| 6= | very severe impairment     |



***Cognitive  
impairment=CPS  
score of 1 or higher***

## interRAI tools:

- Standardized, detailed, clinical assessment tools
- Used across Canada and globally

## interRAI data can be used to:

- Guide care planning and service delivery for an individual
- Guide overall planning and quality improvement for a program or region



# *Prevalence of sensory impairments across Canada*

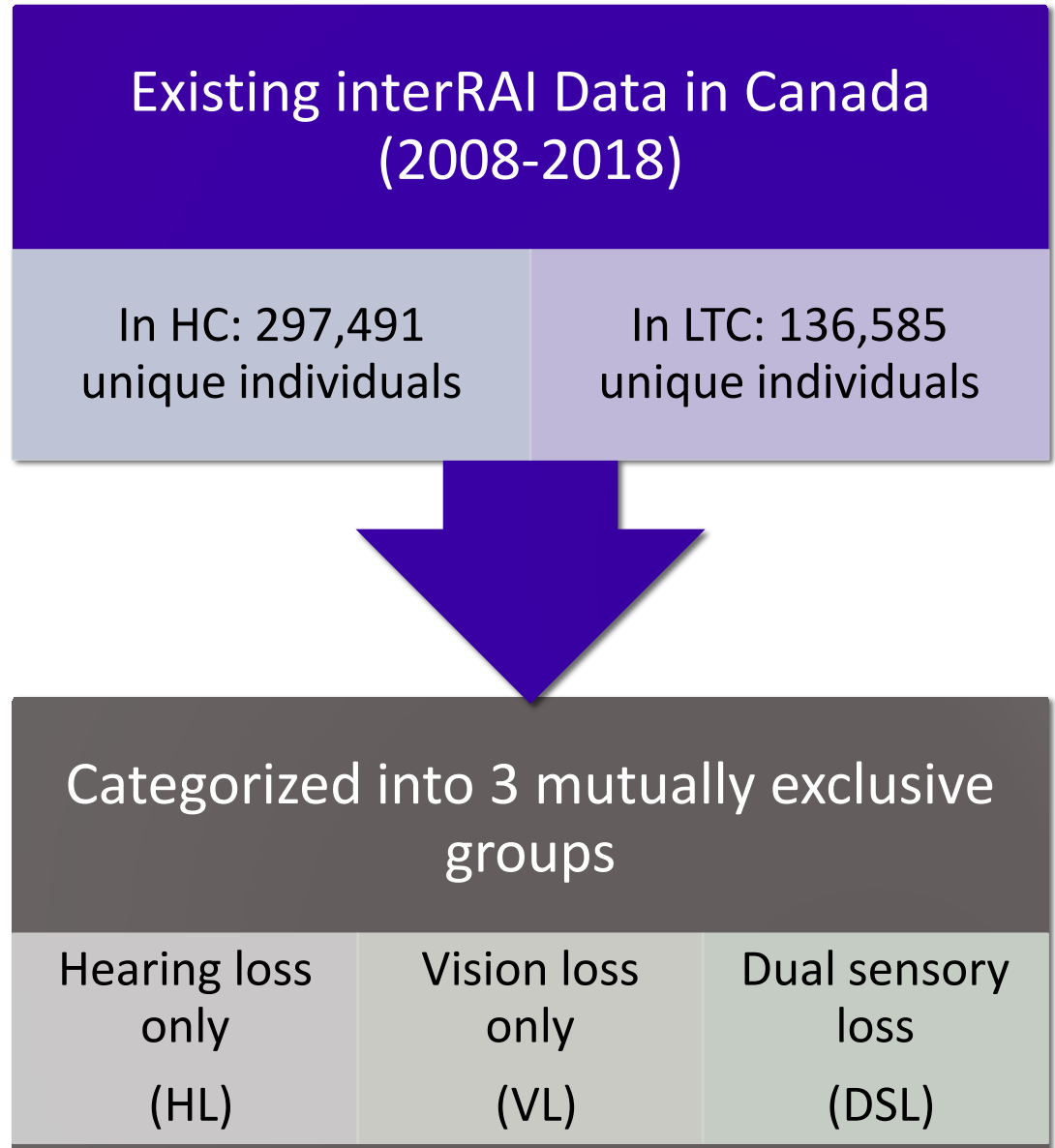
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[LINK TO THE PAPER](#)

# Methods

- Analysis of existing interRAI data in home care (HC) and long-term care (LTC) from across Canada for adults (aged 18+)
  - In HC: 297,491 unique individuals
  - In LTC: 136,585 unique individuals
- Data collected between 2008-2018 from these regions:
  - Ontario, Newfoundland and Labrador, Yukon Territory, Manitoba, BC, Alberta (and in Saskatchewan but only in LTC)

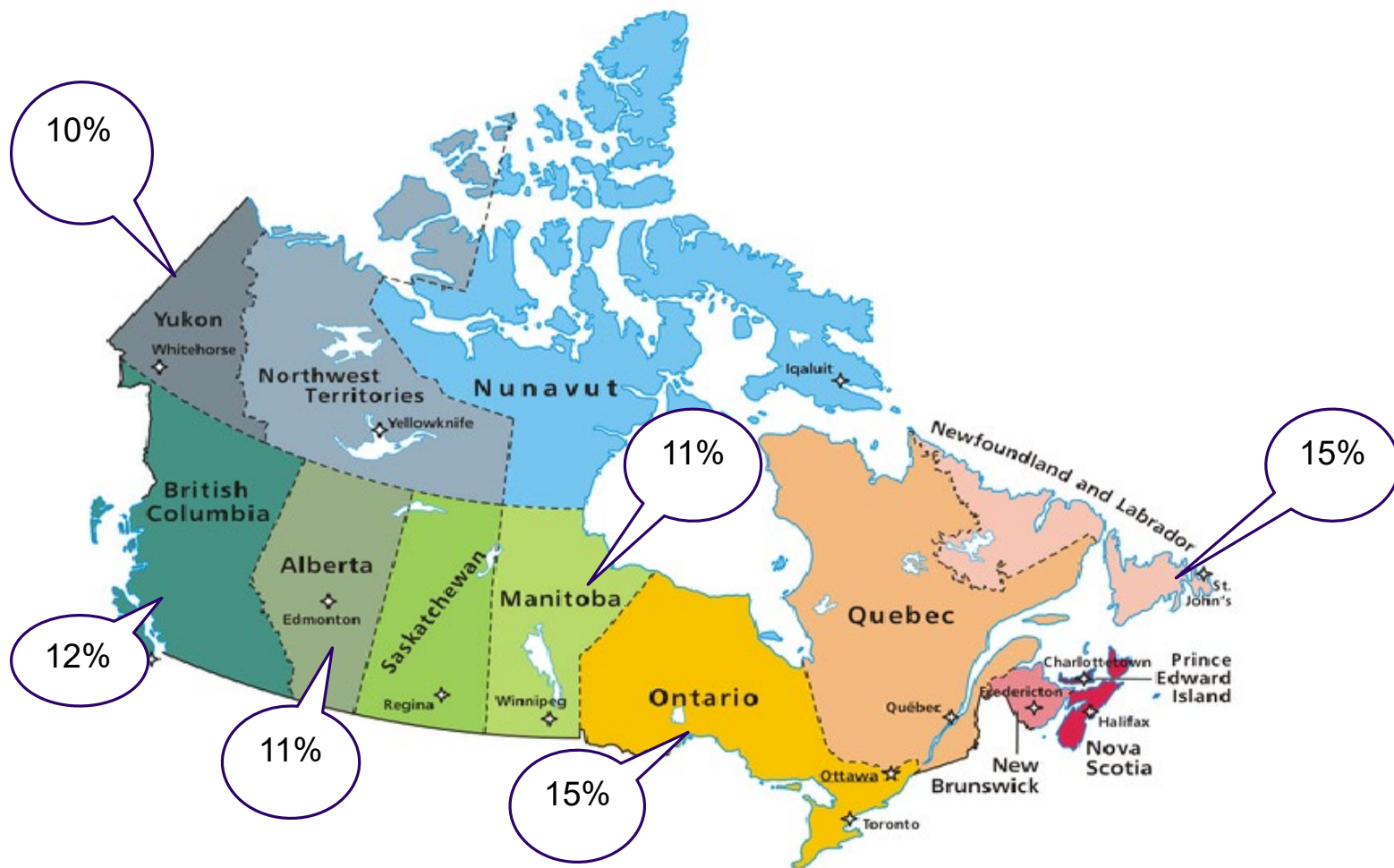
# Methods



*Let's start with VL...*

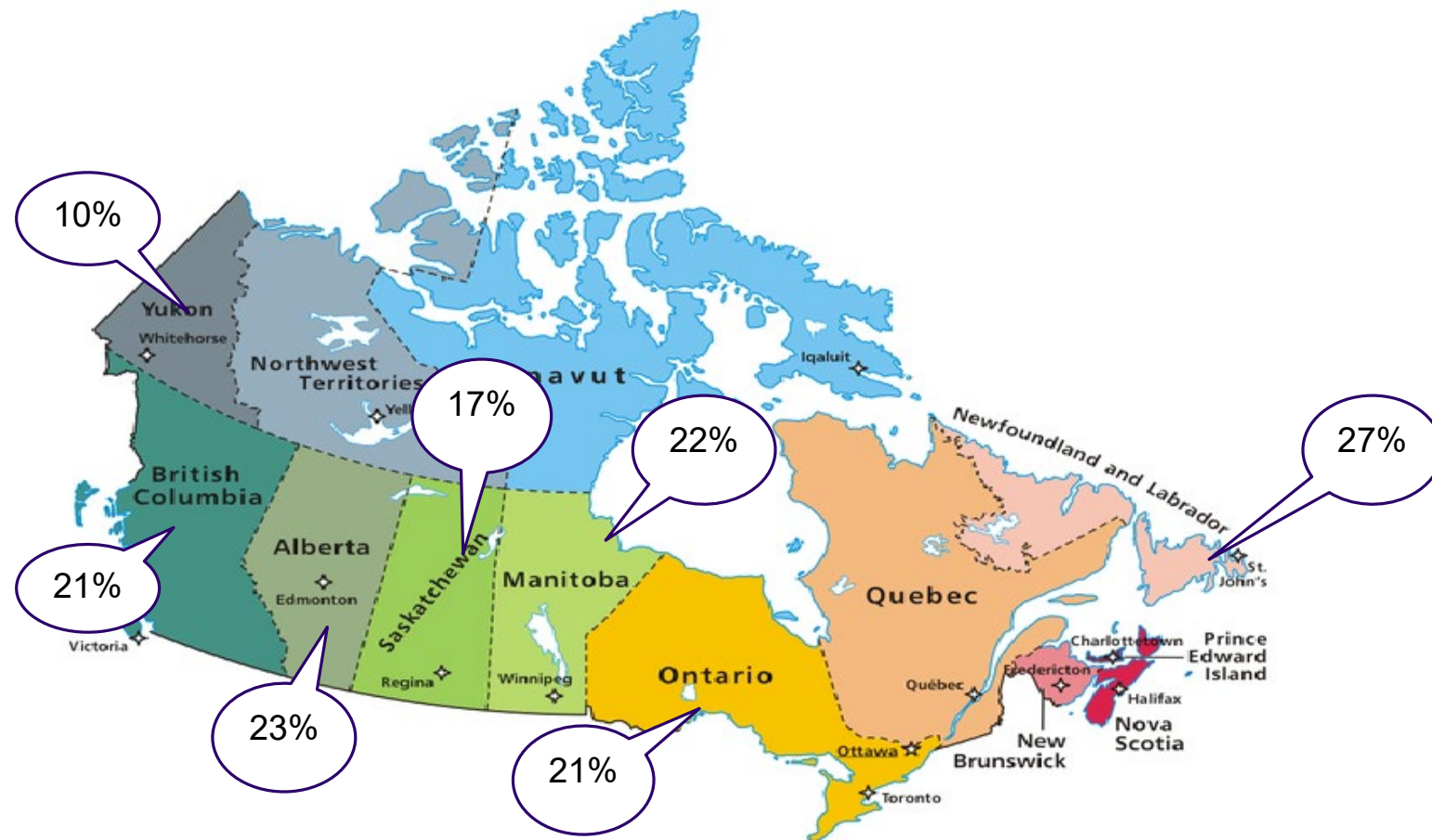
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# Prevalence of vision loss in home care clients





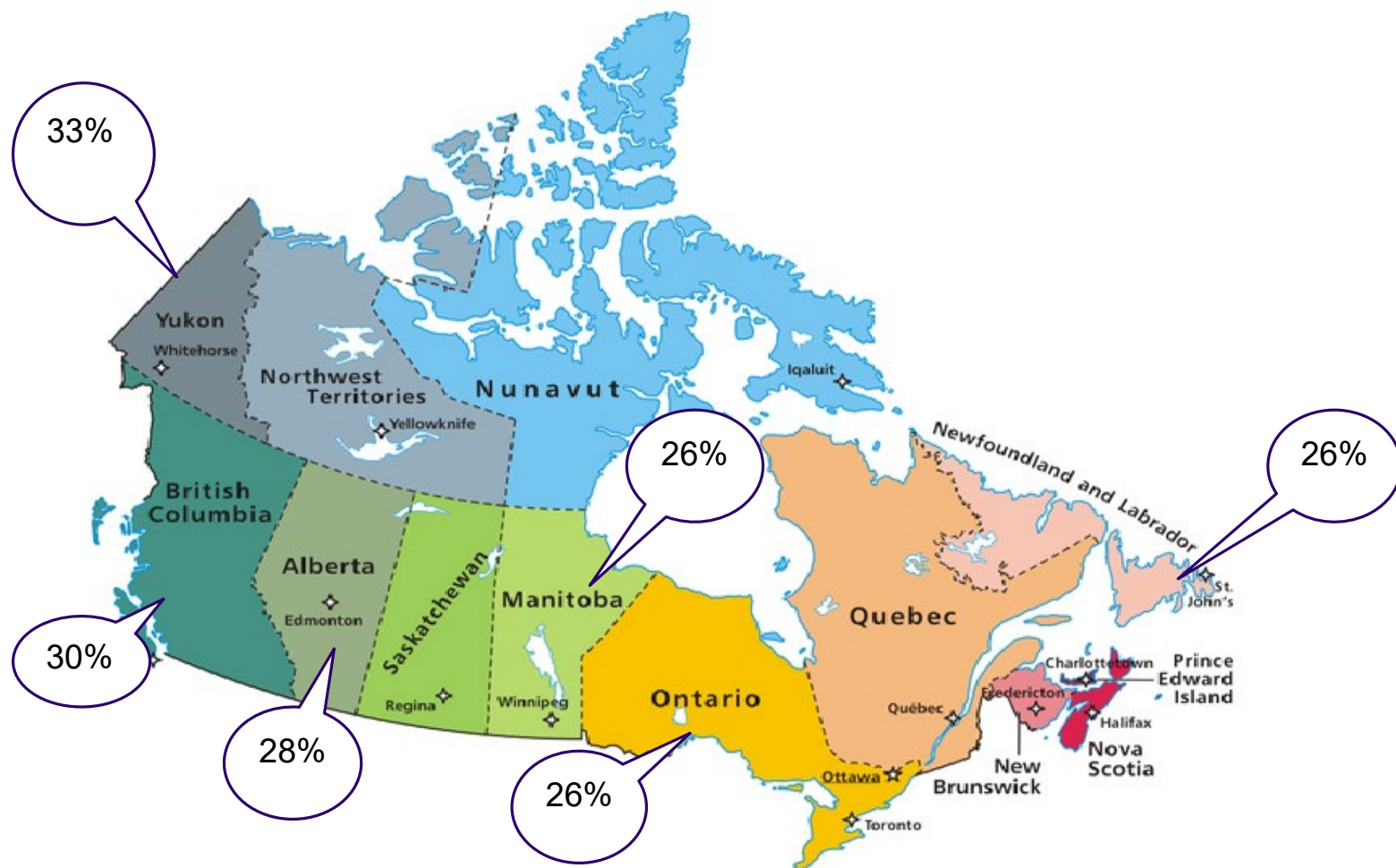
# Prevalence of vision loss in long-term care residents



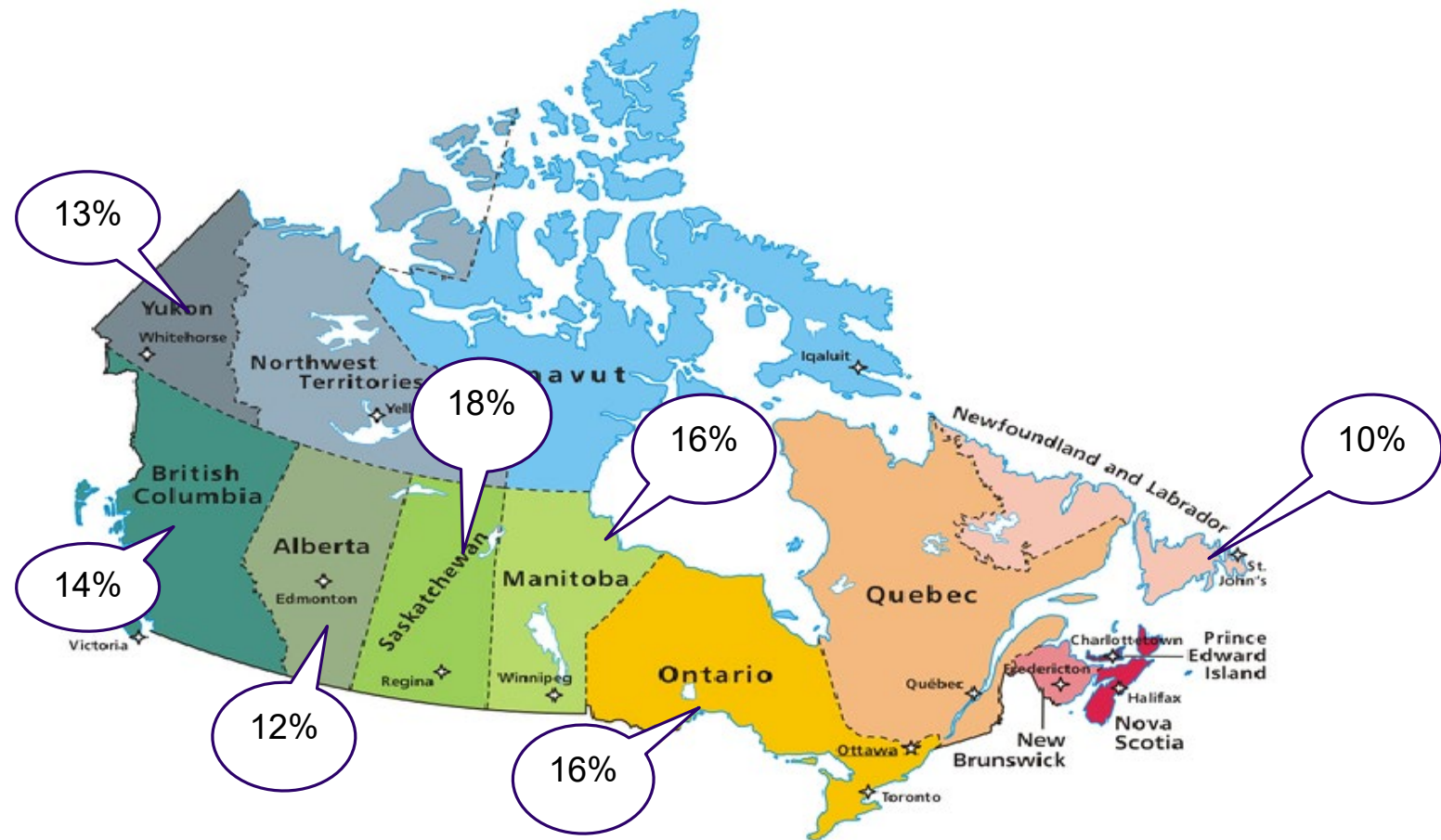
*Let's move on to HL...*

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# Prevalence of hearing loss in home care clients



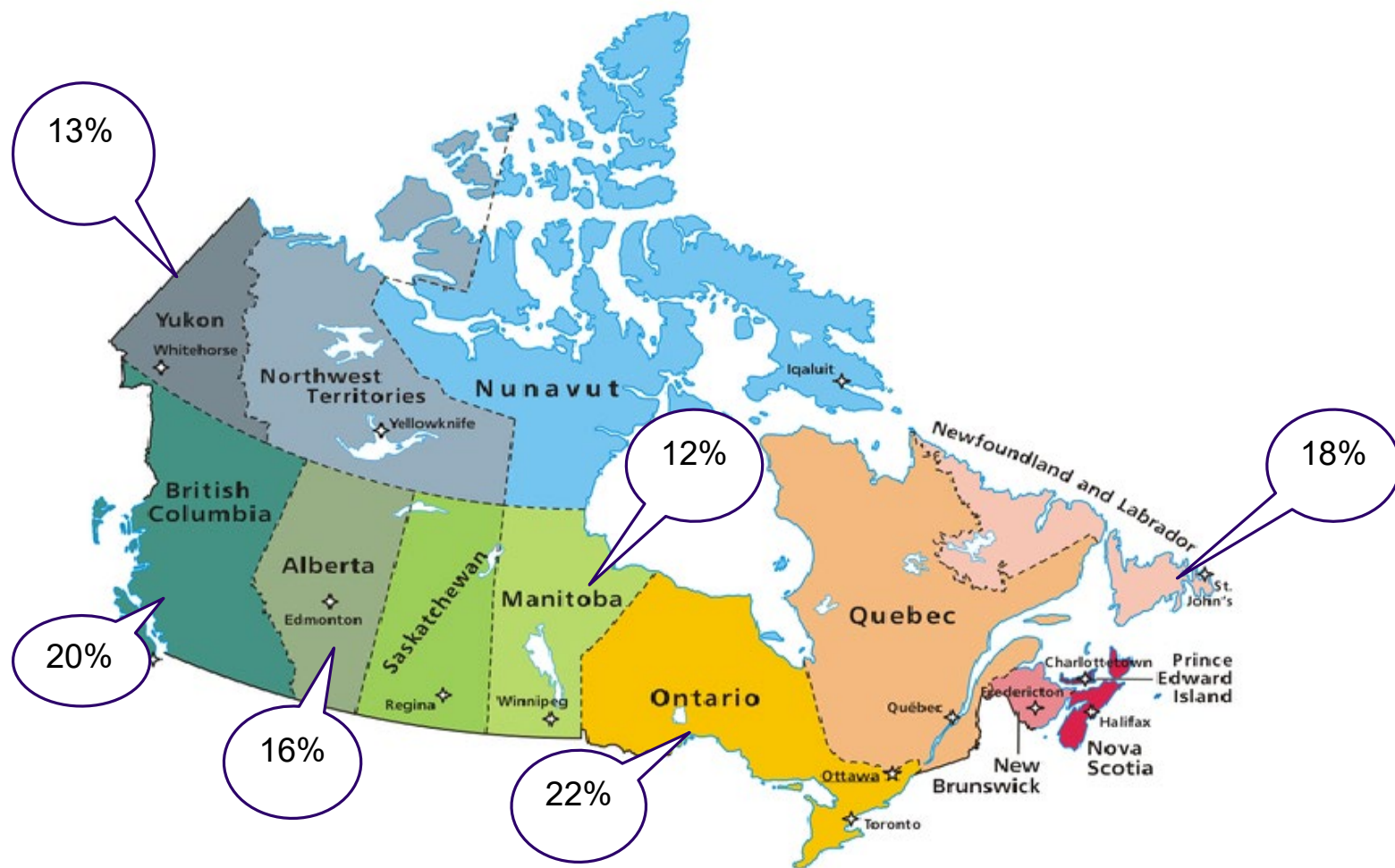
# Prevalence of hearing loss in long-term care residents



*Finally, let's look at  
prevalence of DSL...*

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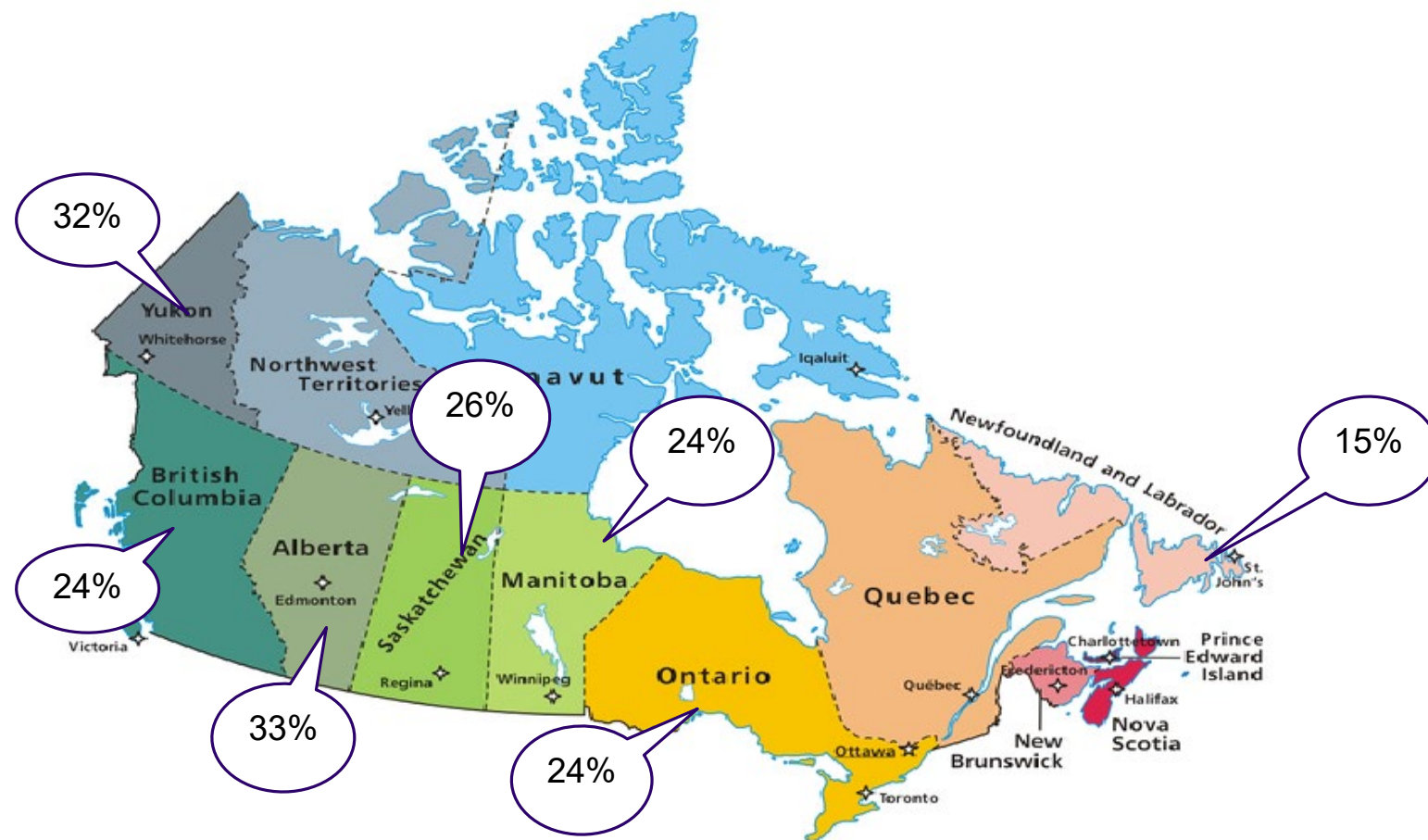
# Prevalence of DSL loss in home care clients



[Link to the paper](#)



# Prevalence of DSL in long-term care residents



# Implications & Take Home Message

- In both home care and LTC, sensory losses are **highly** prevalent
- Roughly **60%** of individuals had one of VL, HL or DSL
- These two interRAI instruments can serve as useful “screening” tools in these two populations
- They can assist health care professionals in flagging individuals who may require additional assessments and/or interventions





*Risk of LTC admission*

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# Background

- The majority of older adults prefer to “age in place”
- In many cases, when older adults move into a long-term care (LTC) home, they may experience:
  - ▶ A loss of independence and autonomy
  - ▶ Reduction in social interactions with friends/family
- Risk factors for LTC home admissions are well known
  - ▶ ***BUT...influence of HL, VL and DSL have generally not been considered***

[Link to the article](#)

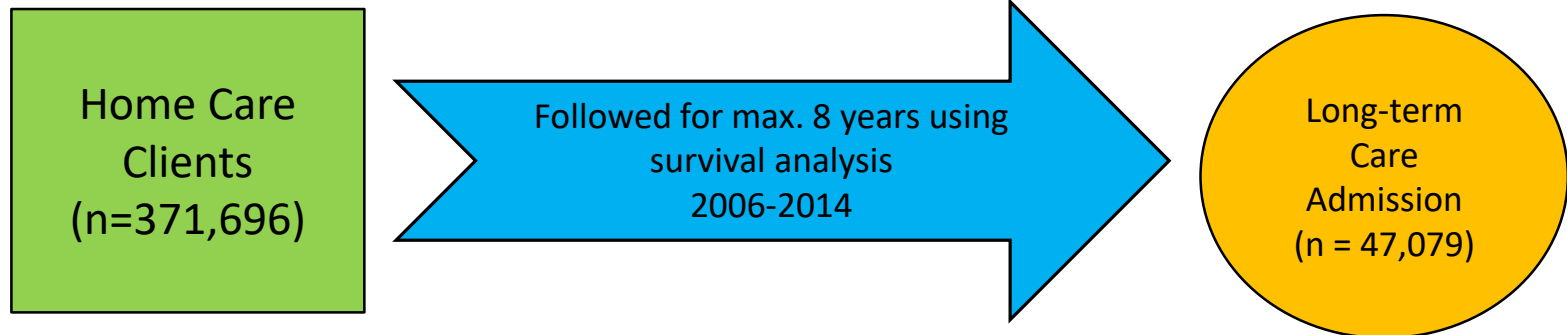
# Methods

- Retrospective cohort study using interRAI data for all home care clients (65+ years) in Ontario
- interRAI HC data was linked with person's interRAI LTC assessment
- Definition of HL, VL and DSL the same as in our previous work
- Score on the Cognitive Performance Scale (CPS) to determine cognitive impairment

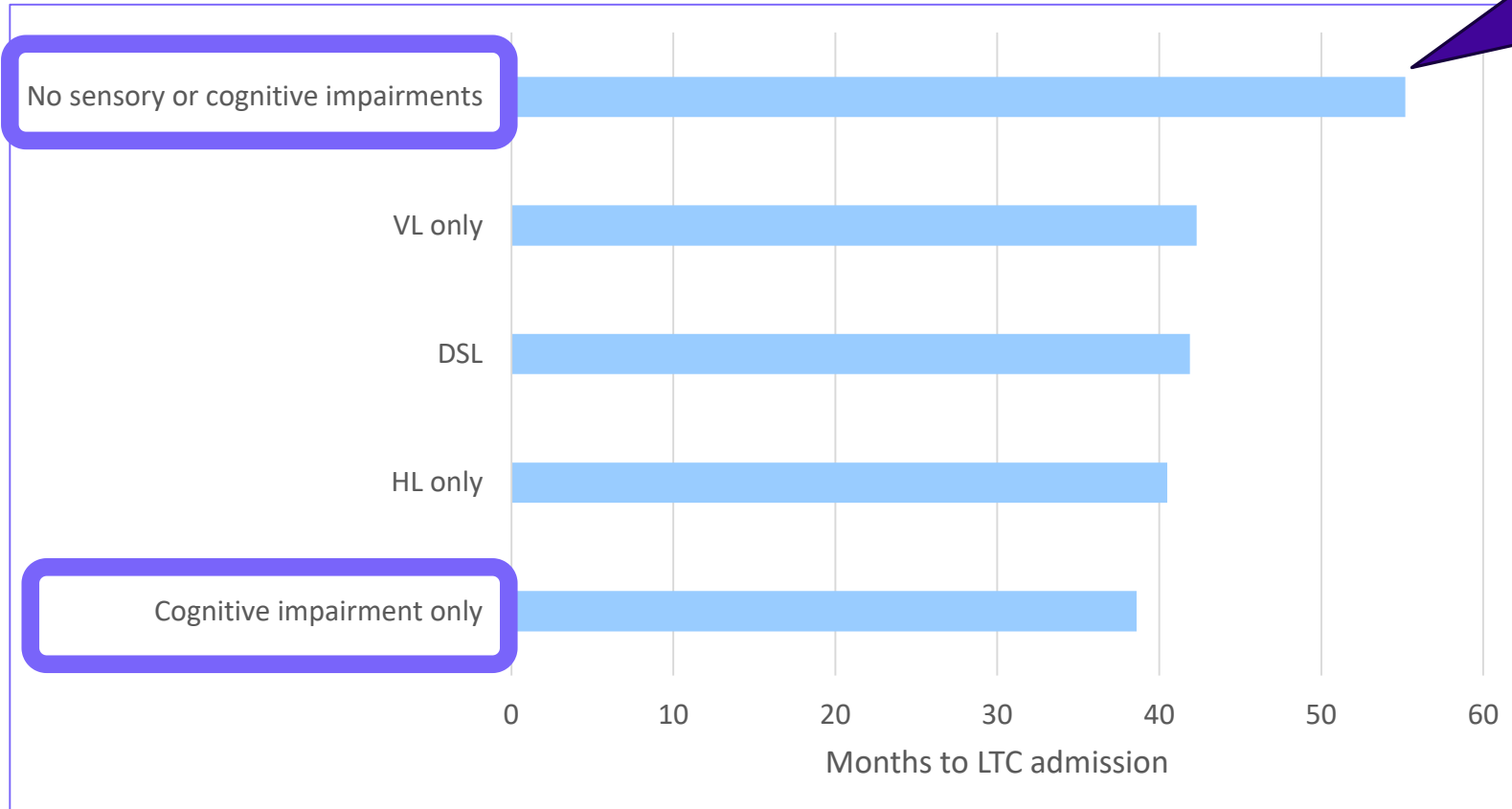
*Population of Interest*

*Time Frame*

*Main Outcome*



# Time to LTC admission based on the presence of sensory and/or cognitive impairments



“Slowest”  
group is  
at the top

BUT...there are many risk factors for LTC...how to sort out the influence of HL for example?

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*Among individuals without cognitive impairment, but who had HL, they had a 14% increased risk for going to LTC*

*(after controlling for other factors)*

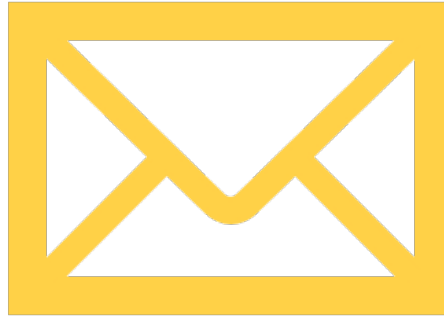
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## Take Home Messages

The interRAI data are widely used across Canada and in multiple countries

These data in Canada can be extremely useful to help in understanding the needs of home care clients and residents in LTC

Sensory impairments are highly prevalent and HL in particular appears to be an important risk factor for LTC admission



*Thank you for your attention  
Please email me with any questions  
([dguthrie@wlu.ca](mailto:dguthrie@wlu.ca))*

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