

What are the differences in health service use between persons with dementia living in rural and urban areas in Quebec?



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Introduction

Patients with dementia (PwD) have inappropriate use of health services.

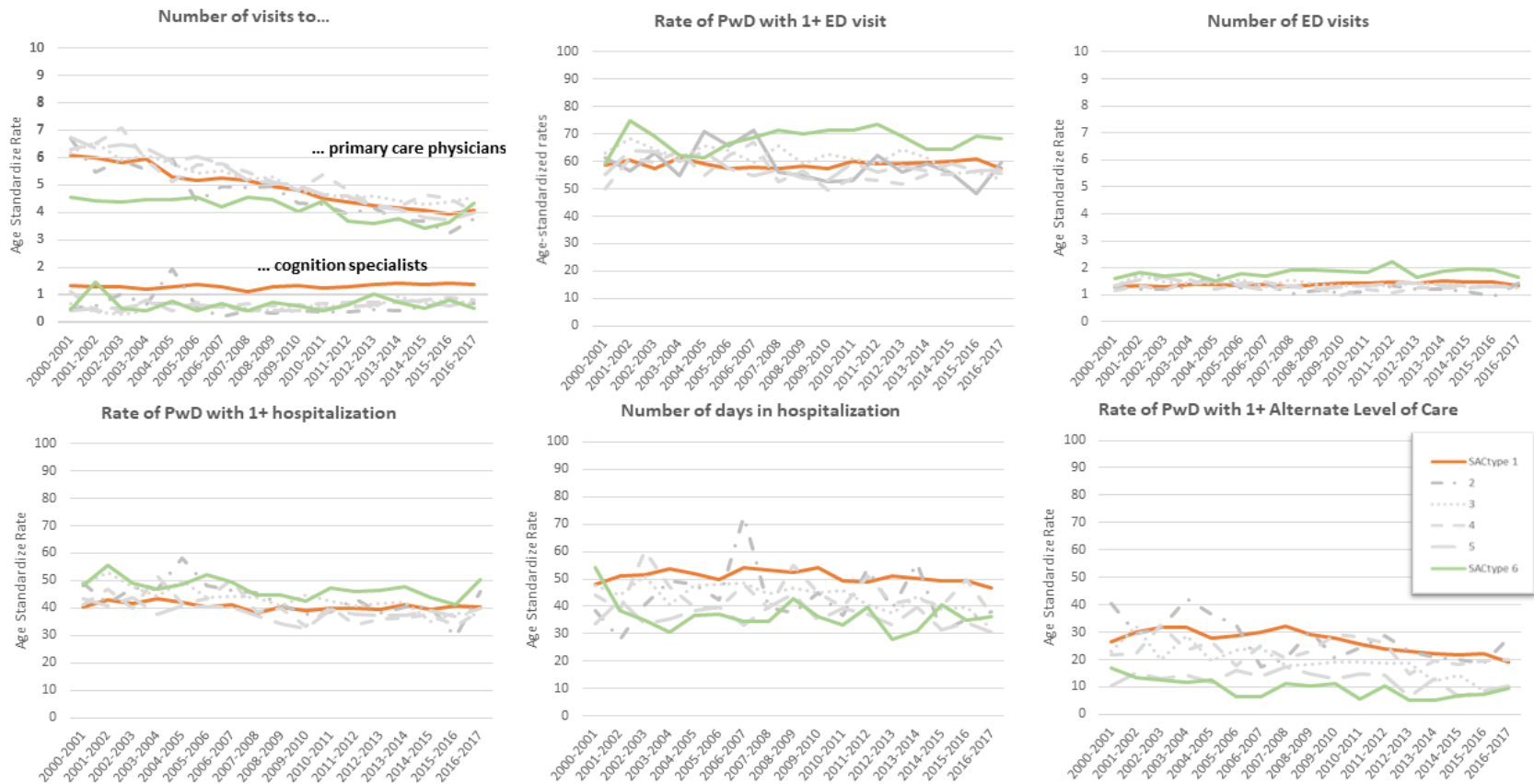
There are uneven resource distribution between rural and urban settings, with population having different needs, resulting in different service use.

However, how rurality and health service use interplay has not been studied in Quebec.

Therefore, the **objective** is to describe health service use in rural and urban PwD in Quebec.

Methods

- Repeated annual cross-sectional cohort design using administrative databases between 2000 and 2017
- Community-dwelling incident cases of dementia
- Descriptive analyses on age-standardized rates adjusted for person-time
- Rurality defined by Statistical Area Classification (SACtype) from Statistic Canada



Descriptive statistics of PwD by level of rurality

	Total, n (%)	Women %	Age, mean (SE)
Most urban	SACtype 1 146361 (65,5%)	64.0%	81.4 (0,02)
	SACtype 2 7014 (3,1%)	63.3%	81.1 (0,08)
	SACtype 3 24935 (11,2%)	63.3%	81.2 (0,04)
	SACtype 4 11327 (5,1%)	56.1%	80.5 (0,07)
	SACtype 5 24545 (11,0%)	59.7%	81.0 (0,04)
Most rural	SACtype 6 8730 (3,9%)	60.4%	80.9 (0,07)

Discussion/Conclusion

There are differences in health service use between rural and urban PwD in Quebec!

- Biased against most remote communities (no billing, no data)

Next steps

- Other healthcare service use indicators
- Uneven group distribution



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