



Health Surveillance of Community-Dwelling People with Dementia and their Caregivers

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BACKGROUND

Context:

The health and experiences of people living with dementia and their caregivers are often intertwined. However, few studies have explored the nature of this relationship while considering the well-being of both parties simultaneously^{1,2}

Objective:

To examine how the health of caregivers interacts with that of people living with dementia

METHODS

Study Design/Population:

A prospective cohort study of 177 dyads of community-dwelling people living with dementia and their caregivers

Persons-living-with-Dementia

- Identified based on the Canadian Primary Care Sentinel Surveillance Network (CPCSSN) case definition³ and validated by participating healthcare providers (figure 1)

Caregivers:

- Identified by participating healthcare providers (figure 1)

Data Sources:

Clinical Records from Electronic Medical Records (EMRs):

- CPCSSN routinely extracts, de-identifies and standardizes patient health data from electronic medical record (EMR) systems of participating primary care providers across Canada
- 8 out of 13 CPCSSN networks contributed data for this study (figure 2)

Data Analysis:

Linked CPCSSN dementia dyad data were assembled and analyzed descriptively using SAS 9.4

Outcomes:

- Demographics**
 - age, sex, location
- Health outcomes**
 - healthcare utilization, CPCSSN-defined comorbidities (osteoarthritis, depression, chronic kidney disease, hypertension, dyslipidemia)
- Risk factors**
 - use and misuse of alcohol, smoking, BMI
- Lived experiences of dyads**
 - narrative documentary

REFERENCES

- Lilly MB, Robinson CA, Holtzman S, Botorff JL. Can we move beyond burden and burnout to support the health and wellness of family caregivers to persons with dementia? Evidence from British Columbia, Canada. Health & Social Care in the Community. 2012;20(1):103
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- CPCSSN Team, Case Definitions: Canadian Primary Care Sentinel Surveillance Network (CPCSSN), Version 2022-Q4. February 6, 2023.

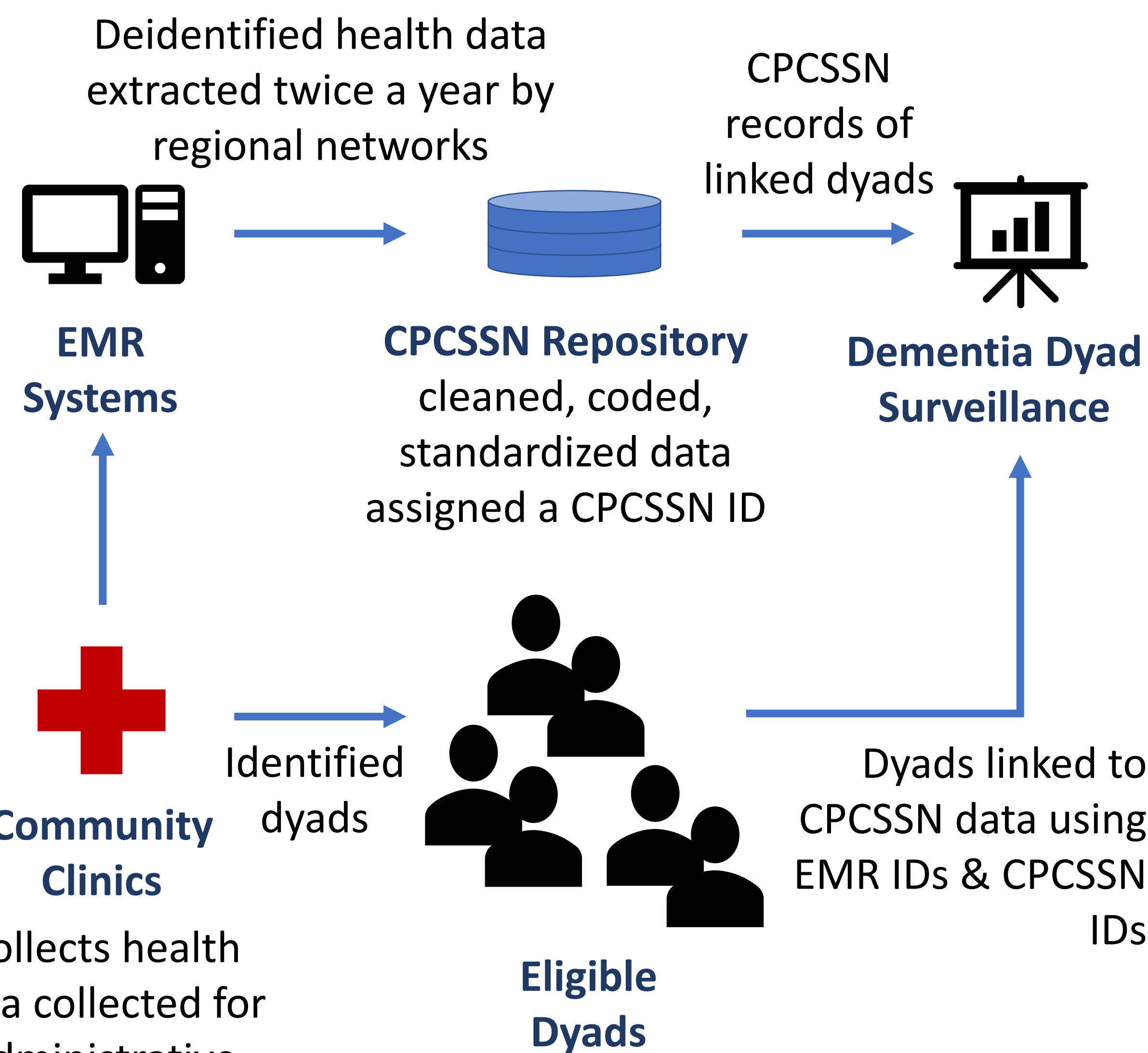


FIGURE 1: Process map for dyad identification and linking in CPCSSN data

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TABLE 2: HEALTH OUTCOMES BEFORE AND AFTER DEMENTIA DIAGNOSIS

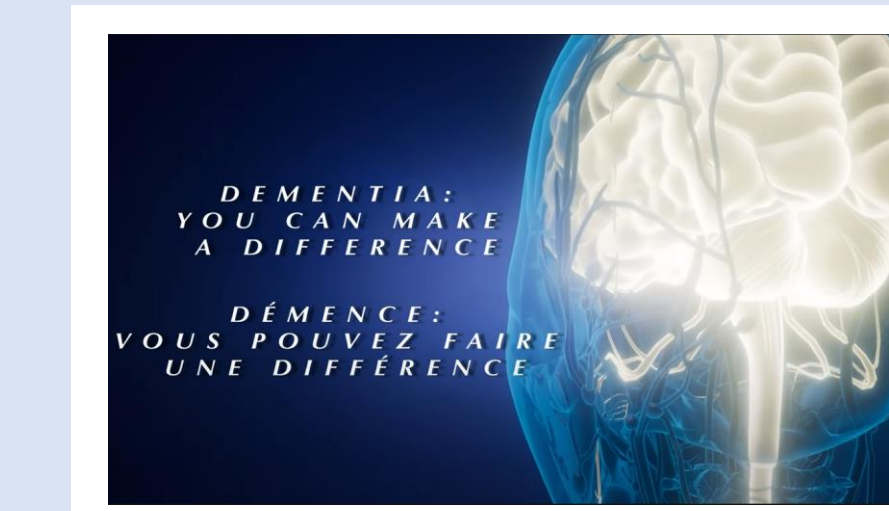
Dyad Characteristics (N=354)	Caregiver (n=177)		Care-recipient (n=177)		CPCSSN Controls (n=508)
	Before Dementia	After Dementia	Before Dementia	After Dementia	
Healthcare Utilization (mean (SD))	15.0 (15.2)	17.2 (16.1)	18.3 (14.4)	19.9 (16.7)	15.3 (13.3)
BMI (n, %)					
• Underweight	3 (1.7)	3 (1.7)	4 (2.3)	3 (1.7)	11 (2.2)
• Normal	38 (21.5)	42 (23.7)	45 (25.4)	67 (37.9)	83 (16.3)
• Overweight	48 (27.1)	56 (31.6)	56 (31.6)	44 (24.9)	109 (21.5)
• Obese	57 (32.2)	49 (27.7)	40 (22.6)	40 (22.6)	110 (21.7)
Comorbidities (n, %)					
• Dyslipidemia	92 (52.0)	111 (62.7)	115 (65.0)	129 (72.9)	298 (58.7)
• Osteoarthritis	32 (18.1)	51 (28.8)	45 (25.4)	69 (39.0)	105 (20.7)
• Hypertension	73 (41.2)	87 (49.2)	94 (53.1)	114 (64.4)	226 (44.5)
• Depression	48 (27.1)	67 (37.9)	62 (35.0)	85 (48.0)	153 (30.1)
• Chronic Kidney Disease	25 (14.1)	39 (22.0)	54 (30.5)	74 (41.8)	89 (17.5)
Current Risk Factors (n, %)					
• Alcohol Use & Abuse	75 (42.4)	100 (56.5)	70 (39.5)	100 (56.5)	--
• Smoking	15 (8.5)	15 (8.5)	16 (9.0)	18 (10.2)	--

CONCLUSION

Important outcomes such as increased healthcare use and an increased prevalence of comorbidities in dyads after a dementia diagnosis and compared to the control population were observed. Results provide a valuable opportunity to further investigate the needs of these dyads.

TABLE 1: DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF DYADS

Dyad Characteristics (N=354)	Caregiver (n=177)	Care-recipient (n=177)
Age in years (mean (SD))	68.3 (15.7)	82.1 (9.8)
Sex (n, %)		
• Female	110 (62.1)	107 (60.5)
• Male	67 (37.9)	70 (39.5)
Location (n,%)		
• Rural	17 (9.6)	15 (8.5)
• Urban	158 (89.3)	159 (89.8)



Dementia: You Can Make A Difference / Démence : vous pouvez faire une différence

A short narrative documentary featuring people living with dementia and their caregivers sharing their experiences

Follow the link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7pj9H2Ntb1U>

Scan the QR Code



FIGURE 2:

The eight CPCSSN networks that are contributing data to this project from left to right are BC-CPCSSN, SAPCReN, MaPCReN, EON, OPEN, RRSPUM, MaRNet & APBRN

