



**HAL**  
open science

## How early childhood services address health inequalities and child wellbeing in France

Marie-Renée Guével, Philippe Cury, François Bissège, Julie Pironom, Agnès Dollet, Frédérique Quidu, Marion Porcherie, Clelia Gasquet, Carine Simar

### ► To cite this version:

Marie-Renée Guével, Philippe Cury, François Bissège, Julie Pironom, Agnès Dollet, et al.. How early childhood services address health inequalities and child wellbeing in France. 12th European Public Health Conference, Building bridges for solidarity and public health, Nov 2019, Marseille, France. hal-02402947

**HAL Id: hal-02402947**

**<https://hal.science/hal-02402947>**

Submitted on 29 Jan 2020

**HAL** is a multi-disciplinary open access archive for the deposit and dissemination of scientific research documents, whether they are published or not. The documents may come from teaching and research institutions in France or abroad, or from public or private research centers.

L'archive ouverte pluridisciplinaire **HAL**, est destinée au dépôt et à la diffusion de documents scientifiques de niveau recherche, publiés ou non, émanant des établissements d'enseignement et de recherche français ou étrangers, des laboratoires publics ou privés.

## INTRODUCTION

- Social health inequalities (SHI) are increasing and settle in from an early age (Poulton *et al*, 2002, Chen *et al*, 2007; Lang *et al*, 2017)
- Strategies identified to tackle these SHI refer to:
  - **Early action:** return on investment in human capital decreases with age (Heckman, 2006; Irwin *et al*, 2007; Bambra *et al*, 2010 )
  - **Intersectoral action:** different public policies from different sectors - health, social, education, early childhood care, leisure, etc. (Moleux *et al*, 2011)
  - **Focus on child development and their basic needs (CBN)** (Morisson *et al*, 2014; Poissant, 2014; Martin-Blachais, 2017)

## HYPOTHESIS

- **Consideration of SHI and CBN** by early childhood services (ECS): **variations according to the sector of affiliation** which potentially **affect interactions between professionals** as well as the **relationships with families**.
- **CBN as a common purpose for families and professionals;** however, **variations of their representations** of these CBN; moreover **relationships** between families and early childhood services are **marked by social inequalities and misunderstandings** about each other's strategies and positions.

## METHODS

The research is based on Bronfenbrenner ecological approach. Two French *départements* are studied: Allier (03) and Ille-et-Vilaine (35); both are characterised by social and spatial health inequalities. Within these departments, two local authorities (LA) were selected as case studies for in depth analysis.

## PRELIMINARY RESULTS

Confirmation of the **complexity of public actions** addressed to early childhood:

- Ambivalence associated with the **definition of early childhood;**
- Similar approach to **the needs of the child and of his or her family;**
- Reference to the **concepts of "diversity" and "vulnerability" to designate inequalities.**

## MAIN MESSAGES

- Thanks to its **ecological and intersectoral approach**, this project will **highlight how early childhood services may contribute to tackle SHI and improve child WB**
- Addressing the **complexity of the interactions between public policies, professionals and families** will lead to a better understanding of the current challenges crossing early childhood

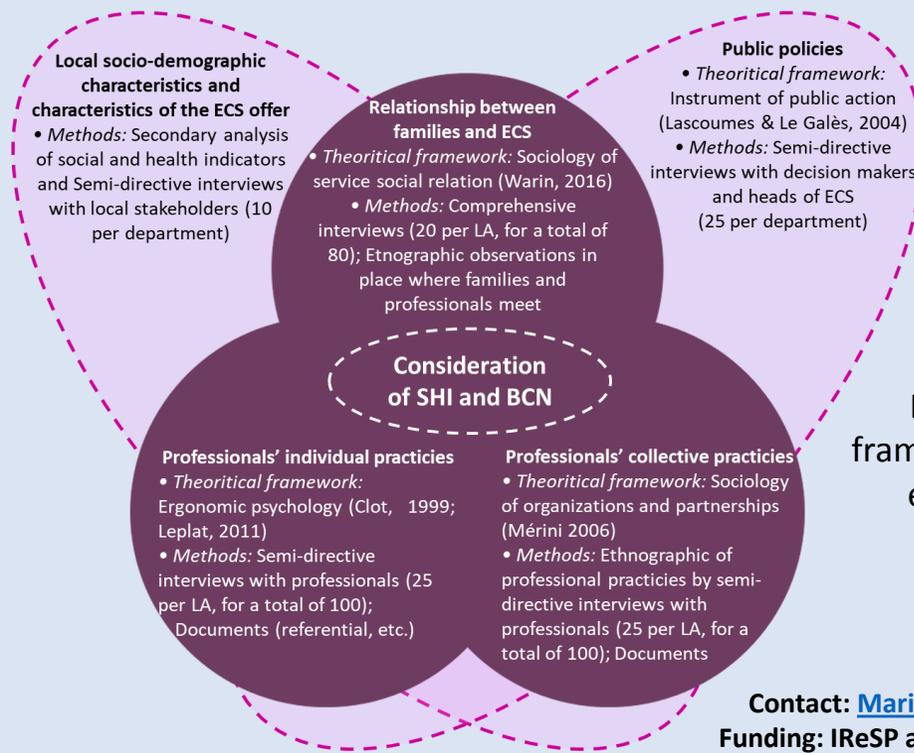


Figure 1: Theoretical framework and methods for each research object