

Communes and health: forms and methods of local policies

Health Policies, Territorial Challenges, and Primary Care
in Brazil and France

CDHS/COC-Fiocruz

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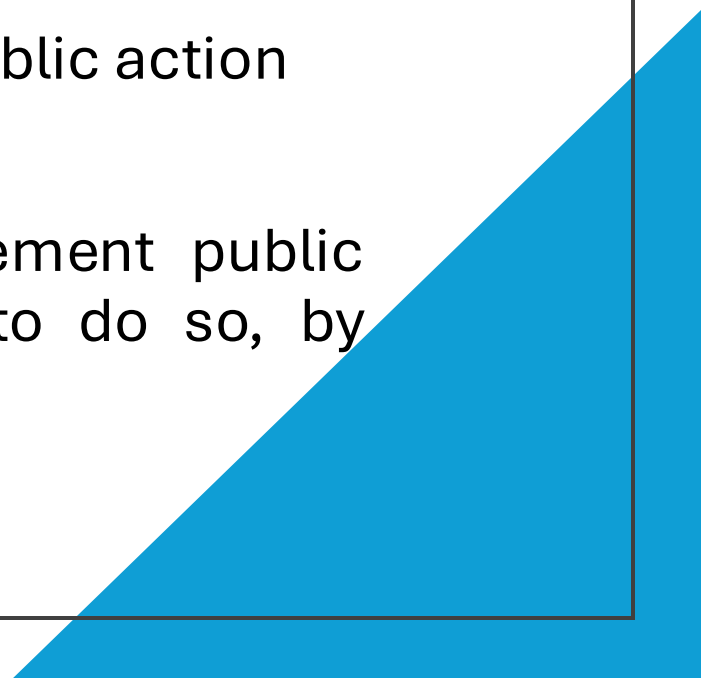
Presentation outline

1. Background to the subject
 2. Problematization
 3. Method and materials
 4. Partisan and non-partisan politicization
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1. Background to the subject

- Hygienic measures and epidemic management are almost inseparable from the history of cities.
- Today, the mandatory institutional competencies of municipalities in the area of health are limited to responsibility for public health and social action.
- Public Health Code: "health policy is the responsibility of the State".
- In this ambiguous context of shared competencies and responsibilities, the State encourages, promotes and supports the involvement of local authorities in health initiatives.

2. Problematization

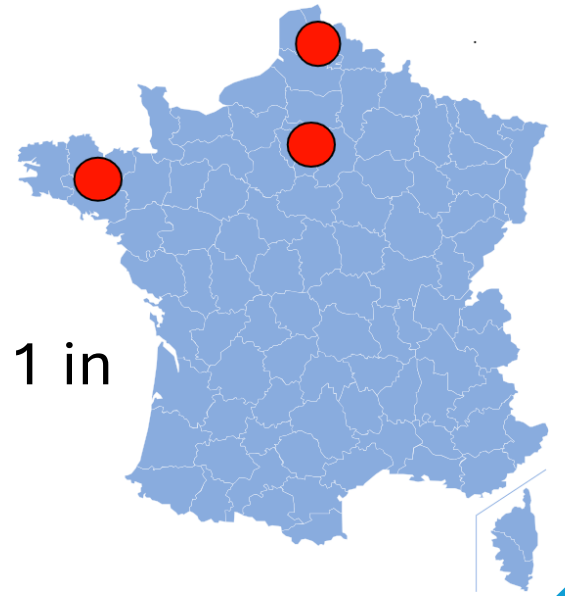
- How can a municipality run a health policy without having the institutional competence to do so?
 - Theoretical framework of the political sociology of public action
 - Central notion: politicization
 - Thesis argument: municipalities manage to implement public health policies, without having the competence to do so, by politicizing health.
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2. Problematization

- Politisation understood as "the forms of ratification or opposition aroused by [the] allocation of resources, particularly economic, symbolic or legal" and including both "processes of conforming to and contesting the political order." (Déloye and Haegel, 2019)
- Analysing different forms of local health politicization

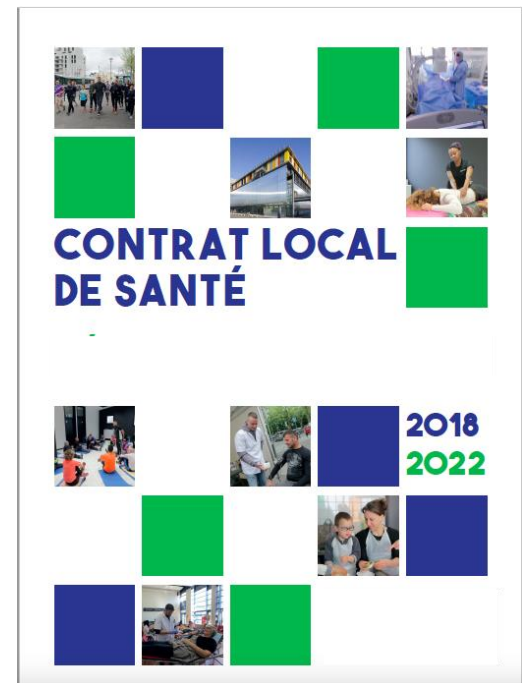
3. Method and materials

- Qualitative, comparative, multi-site method
- 4 main towns (2 in Paris area, 1 in Northern France and 1 in Western France)
- 12 associations
- 11 secondary communes
- Semi-structured interviews with various players involved in healthcare policy
- Observations, participants and non-participants
- Written sources



In each commune, an instrument as a gateway...(1/4)

- Renewal of the local health contract
 - Analyze interactions, negotiations, conflicts and conditions of cooperation around a given territory
 - Analyze the configuration of players involved



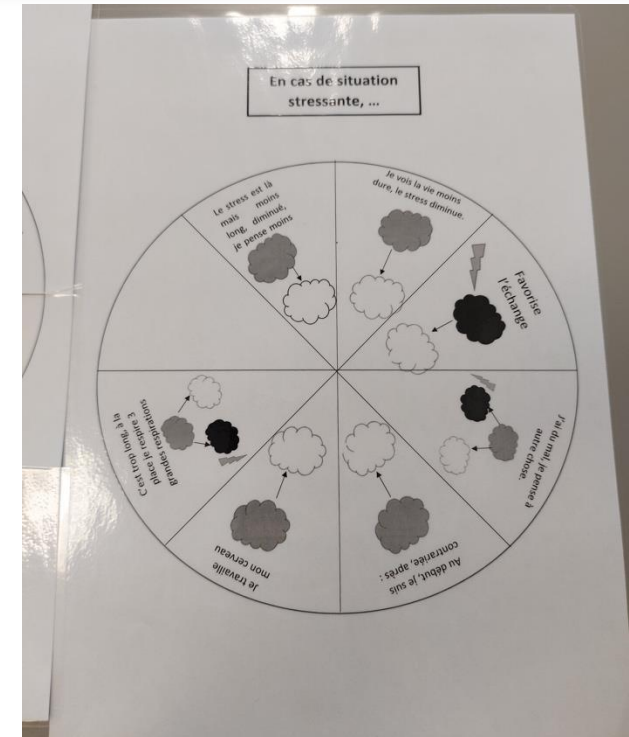
In each commune, an instrument as a gateway...(2/4)

- « Health relay » residents
 - Identify the place given to citizen participation, lay knowledge and associations
 - Identify processes by which the municipality takes over associative initiatives



In each commune, an instrument as a gateway...(3/4)

- Therapeutic patient education workshops
 - Analyze the municipality's involvement in healthcare provision
 - Analyze the presence of methodologies that differ from the traditional practices of liberal medicine



In each commune, an instrument as a gateway...(4/4)

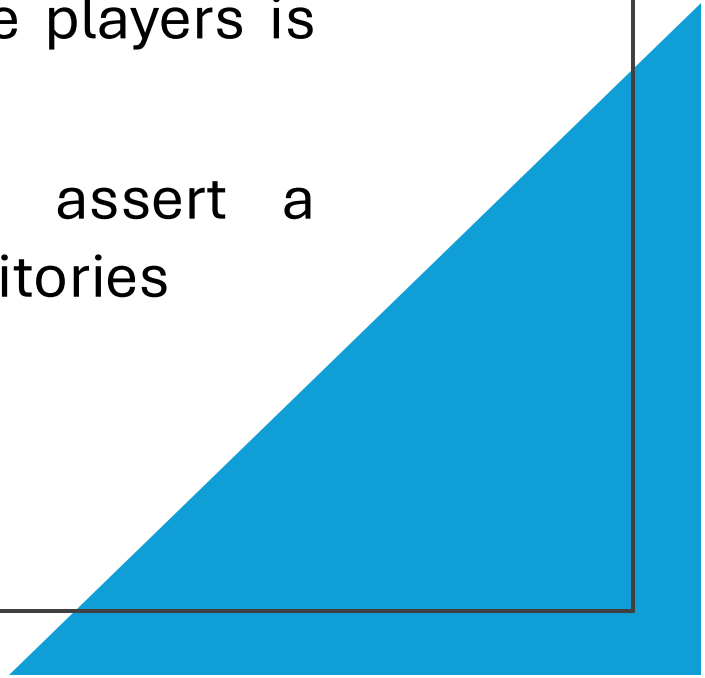
- "Accueil Santé", an organization on the boundary between health and social services
→ Identify the dynamics of redefining sector boundaries and public action issues



4. Partisan and non-partisan politicization

→ An unclear left/right dichotomy in local healthcare policies

- a. Partisan affiliation of communes and local healthcare players is discreet
- b. Partisan affiliations are mentioned in order to assert a transpartisan alliance between players and between territories



4. Partisan and non-partisan politicization

c. The political color of a city may be correlated with the likelihood of its involvement in the health sector...

...but, among the municipalities that are strongly committed to local public health initiatives, the content of the policies does not vary according to political color

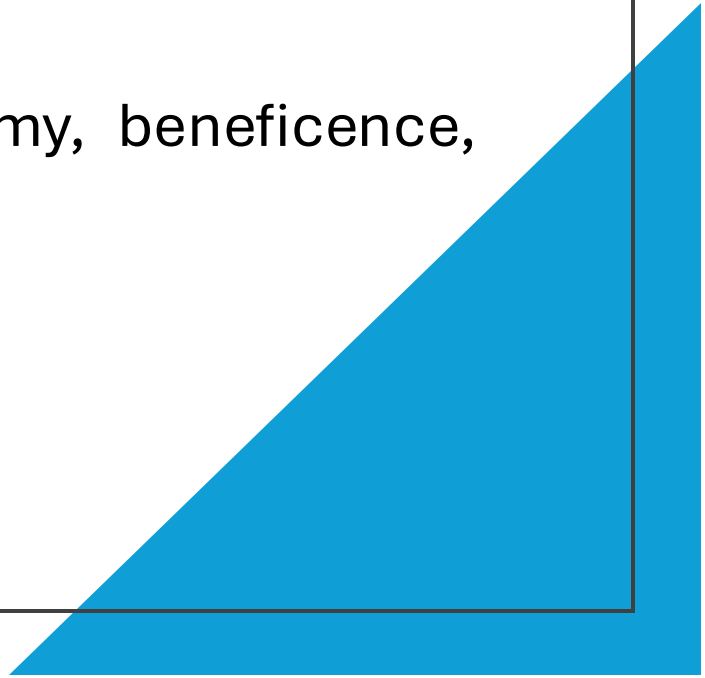
...apart from the specific issue of healthcare provision



4. Partisan and non-partisan politicization

d. Frequent mobilization of apartisan values

- Pragmatism and common sense
- Responsibility and a sense of public service
- Four founding principles of medical ethics (autonomy, beneficence, non-maleficence and justice)



Conclusion

- Local players politicize healthcare, constructing discourses to legitimize their investment, which they recognize as being in opposition to the political order
- They dissociate their commitment from partisan affiliations and values, preferring moral values and medical ethics
- Repoliticization of health care in the form of depoliticization

Thank you for your attention!

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