





About the maps

Health regions

Health regions are defined by provincial governments as the areas of responsibility for regional health boards (i.e., legislated) or as regions of interest to health care authorities.

To effectively compare areas with similar socio-economic characteristics, health regions have been aggregated into "peer groups" using a statistical method. The final result is a set of ten peer groups ranging in size from five to 34 health regions with membership crossing provincial boundaries.

Health regions are identified by a four-digit code, which can be seen using the Zoom function of Adobe Acrobat®. Peer groups are classified by letters A through J which have been added to the health region code in this map series. For more information about health regions and peer groups, refer to 'About Health Indicators' in this product.

Level of Statistical Significance

The level of statistical significance was calculated at a 95% level of confidence to determine whether the data were significantly higher than, lower than or not significantly different from the Canadian average. In some health regions, the data values are numerically higher or lower than the national average, but have high variability so are not statistically different from the national average. This category is *First* (or *Tenth*) *Decile*, *Not Significant*. This means that the indicator values themselves in these health regions were low enough (or high enough, in the case of the 10th decile) to be considered among the bottom (or top) ten percent of all health regions.

For more information about data sources and limitations see the *Data Quality, Concepts and Methodology* section as well as the table footnotes.