# Contact with Health Professionals by Health Region 2003
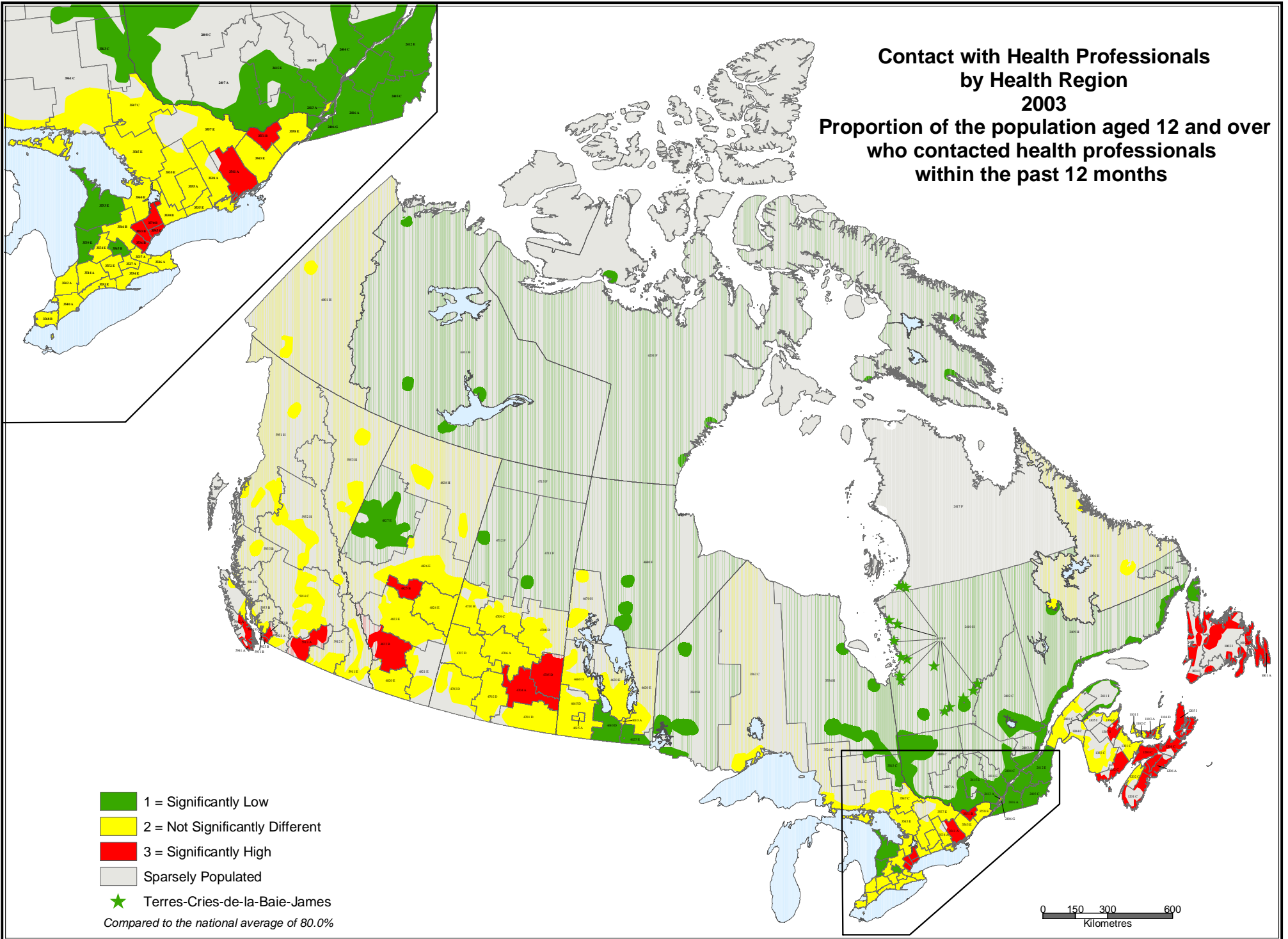## Proportion of the population aged 12 and over who contacted health professionals within the past 12 months

**Legend:**

- ■ 1 = Significantly Low
- ■ 2 = Not Significantly Different
- ■ 3 = Significantly High
- ■ Sparsely Populated
- ★ Terres-Cries-de-la-Baie-James

*Compared to the national average of 80.0%*

Kilometres
0  150  300  600

Statistics Canada / Statistique Canada

Canada

Statistics  Statistique
Canada  Canada

Canadian Institute
for Health Information
Institut canadien
d' information sur la santé

# About the Maps

## Ecumene

Ecumene is a term used by geographers to mean inhabited land. It generally refers to land where people have made their permanent home, and to all work areas that are considered occupied and used for agricultural or any other economic purposes. Thus, there can be various types of ecumenes, each having their own unique characteristics (population ecumene, agricultural ecumene, industrial ecumene, etc.). In this case, the 2001 Census national population ecumene was used. The national population ecumene includes blocks with a minimum population density of 0.4 persons per square kilometre (about one person per square mile). To ensure visibility for small-scale thematic mapping, the detailed ecumene limits are manually generalized and small, discontiguous ecumene pockets are aggregated.

The ecumene was used to present health-related data in order to emphasize those areas in Canada where most people live.

Although the national ecumene was designed to present census division level data, it has been used here to map health region data. To show data for *Région des Terres-Cries de la Baie-James* in Quebec, a star symbol is used because the ecumene does not differentiate the communities comprising this health region from the surrounding health regions of *Région du Nord-du-Québec* and *Région du Nunavik.*

## Health Regions

The health regions boundaries 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, objective method. The final result is a set of nine peer groups ranging in size from 3 to 25 health regions with membership crossing provincial boundaries.

Health regions are identified by a four-digit code. Peer groups are classified by letters A-I which have been added to the health region codes in this map series. For more information about health regions and peer groups, refer to the 'Health Regions' section of the publication.

## Level of Statistical Significance

The statistical significance was calculated at a 95% level of confidence to determine whether the data were significantly higher or lower than the Canadian average