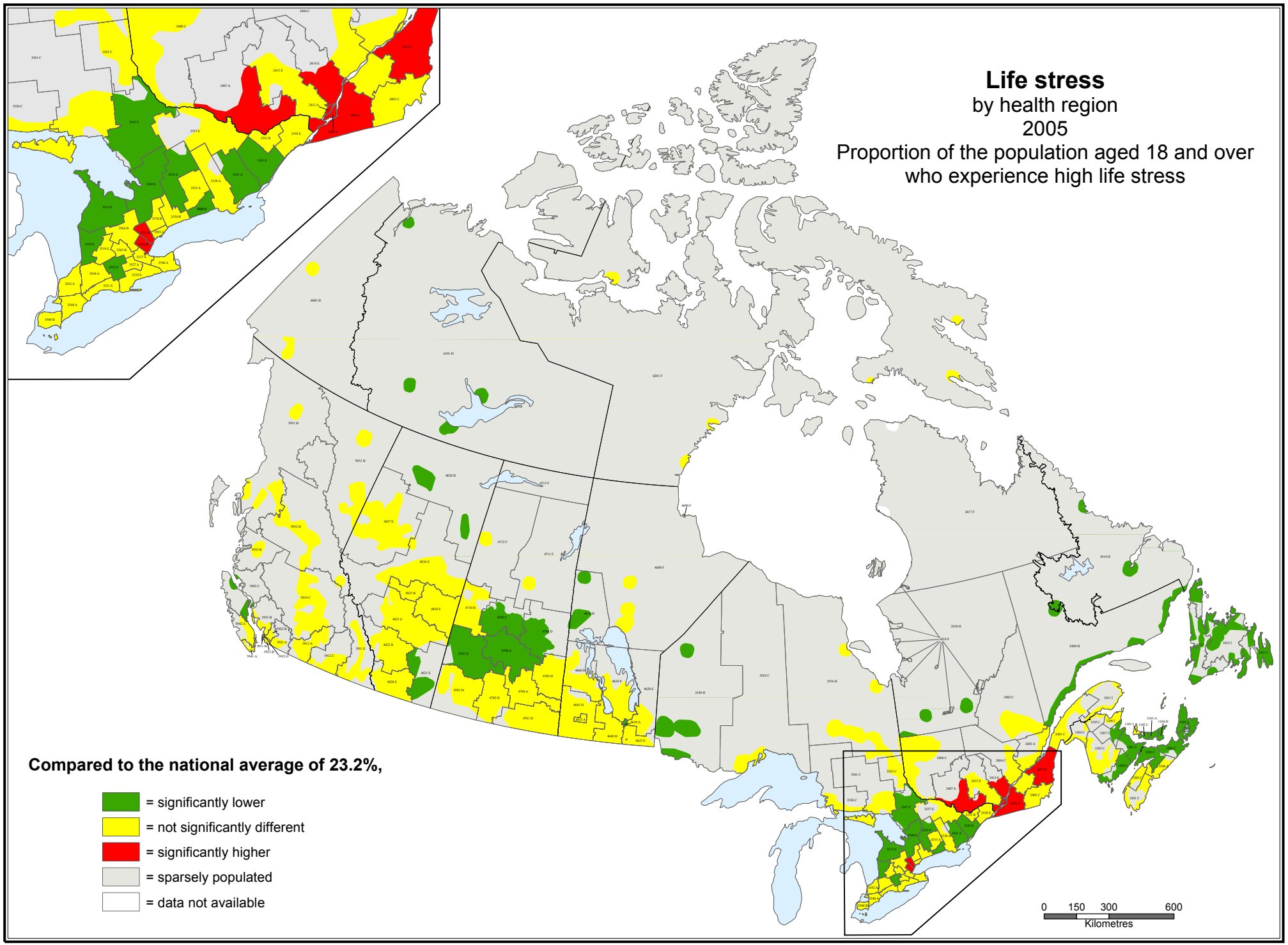

Statistics Canada Statistique Canada

Source: Health Indicators, catalogue no. 82-221- XIE, Vol. 2006, No.1. Produced by the Geography Division for the Health Statistics Division, Statistics Canada, 2006.

Canada

About the Maps

Health Regions

The health region 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. In this map series, the health region boundaries reflect limits in effect as of June 2005.

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 'About 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.

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.

For more information about data sources and limitations see the Definitions and Data Quality sections as well as the specific data table footnotes.