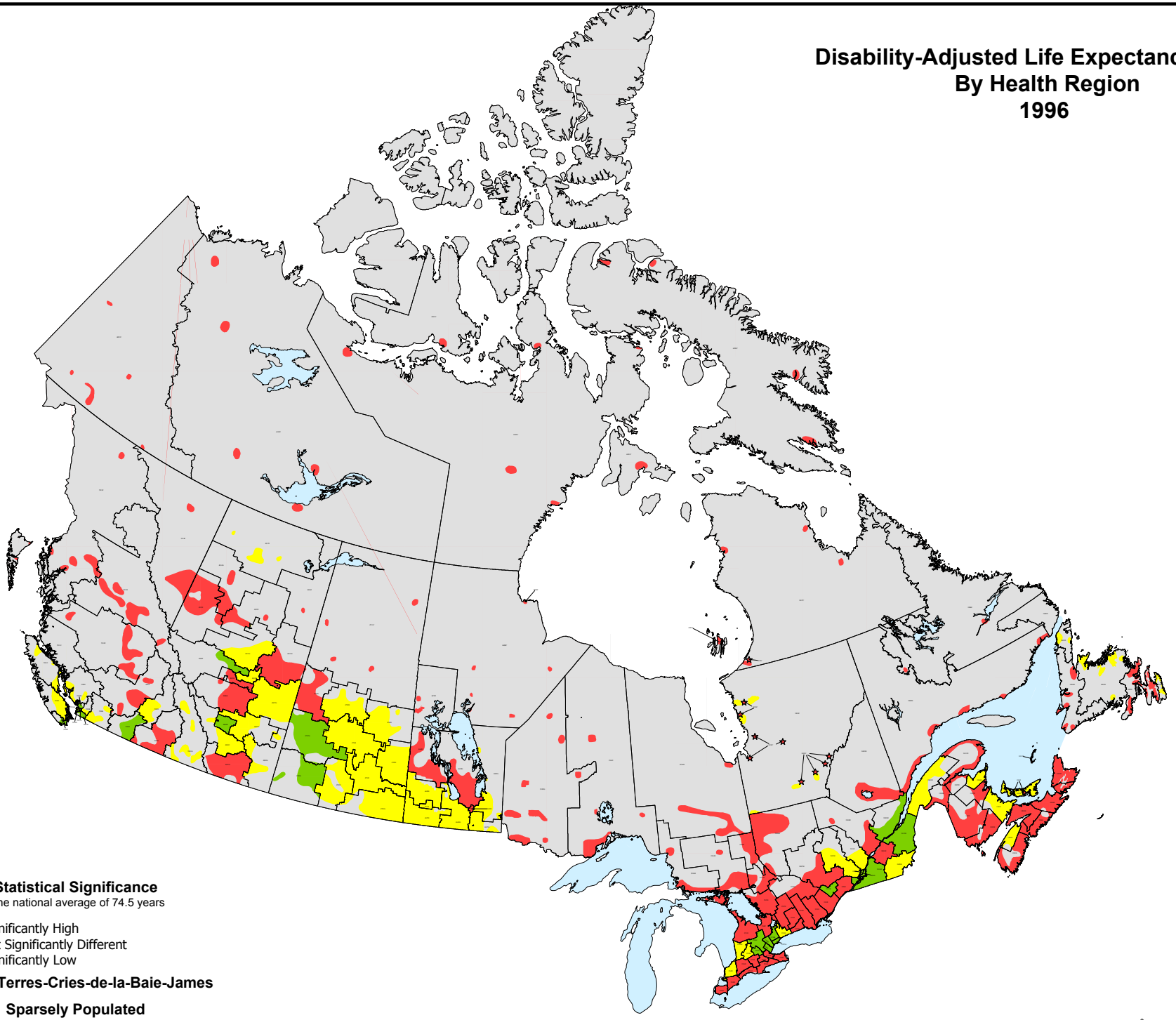
Disability-Adjusted Life Expectancy at Birth
By Health Region
1996



Statistics Canada Statistique Canada

Source: Health Indicators Volume 2002, No. 2. Produced by Geography Division for the Health Statistics Division, Statistics Canada, 2002.

Canada

About the maps

What is an 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 (such as population ecumene, agricultural ecumene, industrial ecumene, etc.). In this case, the 1996 Census national population ecumene was used. It is defined as all enumeration areas with a minimum population density of 0.4 persons per square kilometre. To ensure visibility for small scale thematic mapping, the detailed ecumene limits are manually generalized and small non-contiguous 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. Within each health region boundary on the map, there may be two colours present: grey and one other colour. The other colour signifies both the ecumene itself and the level of statistical significance of the data (see below for further details). However, the grey portion (if any), while representing the non-ecumene area, is still assumed to have the same data/rates and level of statistical significance as the ecumene area.

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 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.

For more information about data sources and limitations see the Data quality, concepts and methodology section as well as the table footnotes.