Statistics Canada's Geography in Health
About Geography

• Compare similar levels of geography for counts, but you can get away with percentages to compare different levels of geography.

• Statistic Canada's geographical hierarchy is used by a LOT of Canadian sources.

• A same city might be available at many different geographical levels.
A city available at many geographical levels.

▲ Census subdivisions
  • Halifax (Regional municipality), Nova Scotia [map]

▲ Census metropolitan areas / Census agglomerations
  • Halifax (CMA), Nova Scotia [map]

▲ Census divisions
  • Halifax (County), Nova Scotia [map]

▲ Economic regions
  • Halifax, Nova Scotia [map]

▲ Federal electoral districts (2003 representation order)
  • Halifax, Nova Scotia [map]
  • Halifax West, Nova Scotia [map]

▲ Federal electoral districts (2013 representation order)
  • Halifax, Nova Scotia [map]
  • Halifax West, Nova Scotia [map]

▲ Population centres
  • Halifax, Nova Scotia [map]
Hierarchy of standard geographic units for dissemination, 2016 Census
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Population Minimum</th>
<th>Covers all of Canada?</th>
<th>How many in Canada (2016)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Census agglomeration</td>
<td>CA</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>117</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Census division</td>
<td>CD</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>293</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Census metropolitan area</td>
<td>CMA</td>
<td>100,000 with 50,000 in core</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Census subdivision</td>
<td>CSD</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>5,162</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Census tract</td>
<td>CT</td>
<td>2,500 (usually)</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>5,721</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Census consolidated subdivision</td>
<td>CCS</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>1,768</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Designated place</td>
<td>DPL</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>1,629</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dissemination area</td>
<td>DA</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>56,590</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dissemination block</td>
<td>DB</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>489,905</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic region</td>
<td>ER</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal electoral district</td>
<td>FED</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>338</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Province or territory</td>
<td>PR</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Regions</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>126?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forward Sortation Areas</td>
<td>FSA</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>1,638</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postal Codes</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>855,056</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Small Geographies for Which Data is Often Available
Census tract (CT)

Definition

Census tracts (CTs) are small, relatively stable geographic areas that usually have a population of less than 10,000 persons, based on data from the previous Census of Population Program. They are located in census metropolitan areas and in census agglomerations that had a core population of 50,000 or more in the previous census.

A committee of local specialists (for example, planners, health and social workers, and educators) initially delineates census tracts in conjunction with Statistics Canada. Once a census metropolitan area (CMA) or census agglomeration (CA) has been subdivided into census tracts, the census tracts are maintained even if the core population subsequently declines below 50,000.

Reported in

Census tracts are available for Census Metropolitan Areas (big cities) only.

Here is a map of Halifax census tracts.
Dissemination area (DA)

Definition

A dissemination area (DA) is a small, relatively stable geographic unit composed of one or more adjacent dissemination blocks with an average population of 400 to 700 persons based on data from the previous Census of Population Program. It is the smallest standard geographic area for which all census data are disseminated. DAs cover all the territory of Canada.

Reported in

Census metropolitan area (CMA) and census agglomeration (CA)

Part A - Short definition:
Area consisting of one or more neighbouring municipalities situated around a core. A census metropolitan area must have a total population of at least 100,000 of which 50,000 or more live in the core. A census agglomeration must have a core population of at least 10,000.
Finding Maps of Stats Can Geographies

- Choose your source based on your need and the time period to cover.
- Just need to see the geography for a specific location? Try GeoSearch or Scholar’s GeoPortal or the Census Profiles.
- Want a beautiful PDF map? Try the online reference maps or internet archives.
- Need to play around with maps in GIS software? Try Scholar’s GeoPortal or the Online Boundary Files.
Finding Lists of Geographies

- Choose your source based on your need and the time period to cover.
- Just want to **see a simple list online?** Try browsing the [Census Profiles](https://example.com), or clicking on numbers in the **standard geographical classification**.
- Want to **create a list?** You'll want to explore [GeoSuite](https://example.com) or [GeoSuite online](https://example.com) (2016 only) or download the [Census Profiles](https://example.com), or extract a list from [Boundary Files](https://example.com) …
GeoSearch

GeoSearch is an interactive mapping application that makes it easy to find geographic areas in Canada for which census data are available. To find a specific place of interest, users can click and zoom in on a map of Canada or they can search by place name or postal code. Links to data products, analytical products and maps that are available for the selected area are listed below the map.
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HEALTH REGIONS
AND PEER GROUPS
Some health geography resources

- Searching by **postal code** or **place name** in the [2011 census profile](#).

- **Finding a Hospital** by the Nova Scotia Health Authority.

- Looking around [Health Regions: Boundaries and Correspondence with Census Geography](#) page (important: click on “table of contents”).
Reference maps

Health regions and peer groups

This series of reference maps show the boundaries, names and codes of health regions and peer groups in Canada, by province.

About the maps

- Map 1 Newfoundland and Labrador Health Regions, 2014
- Map 2 Prince Edward Island Health Regions, 2014
- Map 3 Nova Scotia Health Regions, 2014
- Map 4 New Brunswick Health Regions, 2014
- Map 5 Quebec Health Regions, Health Regions, 2014
- Map 6 Ontario, Health Units – Northern Ontario Health Regions, 2014
- Map 7 Ontario, Health Units – Southern Ontario Health Regions, 2014
- Map 8 Ontario, Local Health Integration Networks (LHIN), 2014
- Map 9 Manitoba Health Regions, 2014
- Map 10 Saskatchewan Health Regions, 2014
- Map 11 Alberta Health Regions, 2014
- Map 12 British Columbia Health Regions, 2014
- Map 13 The Northern Territories Health Regions, 2014
- Map 14 Health Regions and Peer Groups in Canada, 2014

2013 reference maps
Nova Scotia Health Authority

On April 1, 2015, Nova Scotia launched a new health system structure to create a foundation for better health and health care.

The nine previous district health authorities have come together as the Nova Scotia Health Authority, partnering with the IWK Health Centre to plan and deliver care for Nova Scotians.

This new provincial approach will better co-ordinate health resources and expertise in a way that helps us turn the tide toward better health.

The Nova Scotia Health Authority is now the largest employer in the province. More than 23,000 employees, 2,500 physicians and 7,000 volunteers combine to provide care at more than 45 facilities throughout the province. Health services are organized across four areas:

- Annapolis Valley, South Shore and South West Nova Scotia
- Cape Breton, Guysborough and Antigonish areas
- Colchester-East Hants, Cumberland and Pictou areas
- Halifax, Eastern Shore and West Hants
Boundary Files are compatible with geospatial software.
The **Correspondence Files** allow you to link health geography with standard geography.
Health region peer groups

In order to effectively compare health regions with similar socio-economic characteristics, health regions have been grouped into 'peer groups'. Statistics Canada used a statistical method to achieve maximum statistical differentiation between health regions. Twenty-four variables were chosen to cover as many of the social and economic determinants of health as possible, using data collected at the health region level mostly from the Census of Canada. Concepts covered include:

- basic demographics (for example, population change and demographic structure),
- living conditions (for example, socio-economic characteristics, housing, and income inequality), and
- working conditions (for example, labour market conditions).

Peer groups based on 2017 health region boundaries and 2011 Census of Population and 2011 National Household Survey data are available. There are currently nine peer groups identified by letters A through I. There have been no changes made to peer group assignments since 2014.

Table 8 Health regions 2013 by peer group

- Peer group A
- Peer group B
- Peer group C
- Peer group D
- Peer group E
- Peer group F
- Peer group G
- Peer group H
- Peer group I
- Peer group J

Table 8 Health regions 2017 by peer group