Statistic Canada's Geography
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]
STAT CAN GEOGRAPHY

- Learn standard geographical classifications.
- Learn about the Health Regions.
- Learn about Peer Groups.
STANDARD GEOGRAPHICAL CLASSIFICATION
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 (2011)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Census agglomeration</td>
<td>CA</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>114</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>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Census subdivision</td>
<td>CSD</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>5,253</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Census tract</td>
<td>CT</td>
<td>2,500 (usually)</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>5,452</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Census consolidated subdivision</td>
<td>CCS</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>2,338</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Designated place</td>
<td>DPL</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>No!</td>
<td>1,507</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dissemination area</td>
<td>DA</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>56,204</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dissemination block</td>
<td>DB</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>493,345</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>308</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Province or territory</td>
<td>PR</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

https://library.carleton.ca/help/census-canada-choosing-census-geography
Census tract (CT)

Part A - Short definition:
Area that is small and relatively stable. Census tracts usually have a population between 2,500 and 8,000 persons. They are located in census metropolitan areas and in census agglomerations that have a core population of 50,000 or more.

Part B - Detailed definition:
Census tracts (CTs) are small, relatively stable geographic areas that usually have a population between 2,500 and 8,000 persons. 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.
Census tracts are available for Census Metropolitan Areas (big cities) only.

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

Part A - Short definition:
Small area composed of one or more neighbouring dissemination blocks, with a population of 400 to 700 persons. All of Canada is divided into dissemination areas.

Part B - Detailed definition:
A dissemination area (DA) is a small, relatively stable geographic unit composed of one or more adjacent dissemination blocks. It is the smallest standard geographic area for which all census data are disseminated. DAs cover all the territory of Canada.

Census years:
2011, 2006, 2001
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.
Choosing 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, or clicking on numbers in the standard geographical classification.
- **Want to create a list?** You'll want to explore GeoSuite, or download the Census Profiles, or extract a list from Boundary Files...
MAKE SURE TO BECOME FRIENDS WITH GEOSEARCH!
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.

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Health Regions: Boundaries and Correspondence with Census Geography

This issue describes in detail the health region limits as of December 2014 and their correspondence with the 2011 and 2006 Census geography. Health regions are defined by the provinces and represent administrative areas or regions of interest to health authorities. This product contains correspondence files (linking health regions to census geographic codes) and digital boundary files. User documentation provides an overview of health regions, sources, methods, limitations and product description (file format and layout).

**Notes**

- Note that changes for Nova Scotia come into effect as of April 1, 2015.

Date modified: 2015-03-17
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
- Map 14 Health Regions and Peer Groups in Canada

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 2013 health region boundaries and 2006 Census data are now available. There are currently ten peer groups identified by letters A through J.

Table 8 Health regions 2013 by peer group

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Peer Group A</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1204 Zone 4 - Central</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1302 Zone 2 (Saint John area)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2403 Région de la Capitale-Nationale</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2413 Région de Laval</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3527 Brant County Health Unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3537 City of Hamilton Health Unit</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>