

Area Based Analysis on HealthSTATS

This resource is intended to provide some additional context about area-based analysis and geographies available on SMDHU HealthSTATS dashboards.

General considerations

- Data included on HealthSTATS may be presented at the following levels of geography:
 - Simcoe Muskoka
 - Ontario
 - Simcoe County and Muskoka District (Census division)
 - Municipality
 - Public Health Planning Area ("Planning Area")
- Geography for data presented on HealthSTATS is primarily based on the residential address of the individual unless otherwise specified. Death data provided from the Office of the Chief Coroner of Ontario uses the location of the incident (or death) instead of the residential address of the deceased.
- Summary data for the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit (SMDHU) typically include information for all individuals living inside the borders of Simcoe County and Muskoka District, including those living on [Canadian Forces Base \(CFB\) Borden](#) and those living on First Nation communities (i.e., [Moose Deer Point](#), [Wahta Mohawk First Nation](#), [Beausoleil First Nation](#), and [Chippewas of Rama First Nation](#)). Data from the Better Outcomes Registry and Network ([BORN](#)) does not include births from local First Nation communities. Diseases of Public Health Significance ([DoPHS](#)) may not include clients that live on CFB Borden or First Nations communities.
- Local First Nation communities are included in the overall totals and in the totals for Census divisions (Simcoe County and the Muskoka District) for several data sources such as emergency department visits or hospitalizations. However, we are not currently providing data related to specific First Nation communities, other than some information from the Census. SMDHU is in the process of initiating conversations with these communities to determine what additional data will be displayed on our HealthSTATS website. As these conversations take place and decisions are made, updates may be provided on HealthSTATS.

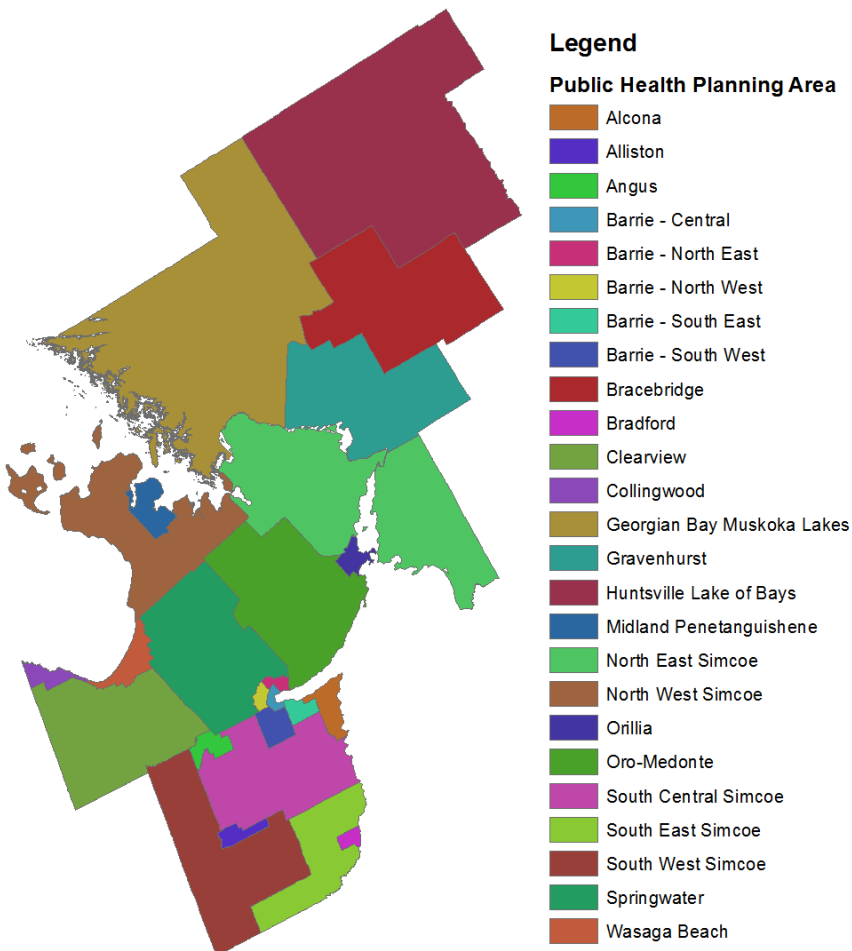
Municipality Analysis

- Municipality-level data reported on HealthSTATS is based on the [Census Subdivision \(CSD\)](#) as defined by Statistics Canada. For most municipalities inside SMDHU, the borders of the lower-tier municipalities and CSDs are the same. One notable difference is for Essa Township, where the CSD includes those living on CFB Borden as well as those living in the municipality of Essa Township.
- Denominator data for municipality-level analysis is taken from the population estimates as reported by Statistics Canada unless otherwise specified.

- Assignment of specific municipalities for numerator data (e.g., outcomes like births, deaths, and hospitalizations) can vary depending on the data source. Usually this is done by linking an individual’s six-digit postal code to a municipality through a postal code conversion file ([PCCF](#)) licensed by Canada Post. Programs that randomly assign geographic areas that share six-digit postal codes based on population share are usually referred to as [PCCF+](#) programs.
- Data sets that are available from IntelliHEALTH Ontario have public health unit and municipality assigned centrally by the Ministry of Health. Data reported from BORN are available at the Census Dissemination Area ([DA](#)) level. In SMDHU, all DAs are unique to a specific municipality. Other data sources may rely on the city or town included on the client record to assign the municipality.

Public Health Planning Area Analysis

2022 SMDHU Public Health Planning Areas



- Public Health Planning Areas (PHPAs) are custom geographies created by SMDHU for statistical reporting purposes. There are currently 25 individual PHPAs inside Simcoe Muskoka. PHPAs are made up of one or more Aggregate Dissemination Areas ([ADAs](#)) as defined by Statistics Canada. The goal of the PHPAs is to report health status data at the smallest geographic level possible while respecting municipal boundaries and maintaining a sufficient population base to report reliable statistics.
- Denominator data for PHPA-level analysis is taken from the Census ADA counts provided by Statistics Canada for the years 2001, 2006, 2011, 2016, and 2021. Please note that denominators will not match exactly between equivalent geographies at the municipal and PHPA levels because of the difference in data sources.
- Most PHPA-level data reported on HealthSTATS are based on the six-digit postal code included on the client record and run through a version of the PCCF+ program internally at SMDHU to link the client record to a specific PHPA.

Ontario Marginalization (ON-Marg) Area-Based Analysis

- The [ON-Marg](#) dimension of [material deprivation](#) provides a way to compare health status indicators among those with various levels of access to material resources based solely on their six-digit postal code.
- Health status data presented on HealthSTATS by material deprivation [quintile](#) (from least to most marginalized) are based on provincial quintiles as provided in the ON-Marg data downloads. Material deprivation marginalization quintiles are assigned based on the DA assigned to the client record (after running the postal codes through the PCCF+ internally at SMDHU).
- Denominator data for ON-Marg analysis is taken from the Census DA counts provided by Statistics Canada for the years 2016 and 2021, unless otherwise specified.
- Client records for years spanning 2014-2018 are assigned quintiles from the 2016 version of ON-Marg and records for years spanning 2019-2023 are assigned quintiles from the 2021 version of ON-Marg. ON-Marg analysis has not been conducted for any data prior to 2014.