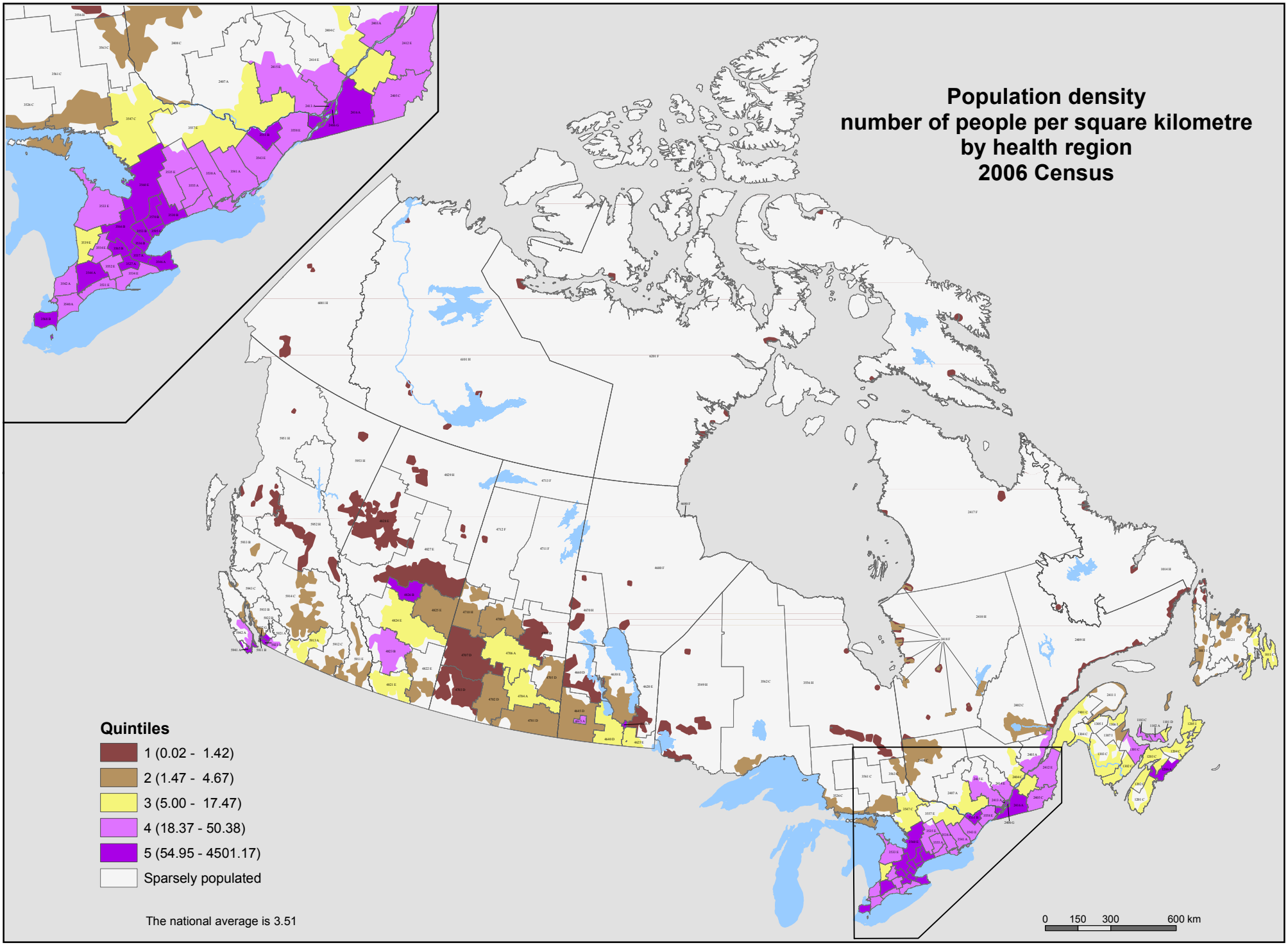


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Source: Health Indicator Maps, catalogue no. 82-583-XIE, Vol. 2011, No. 1. Produced by the Geography Division for the Health Statistics Division, Statistics Canada, 2008.

Canada

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About the maps

Population density

Number of people per square kilometre. Calculated by dividing the total population by land area.

Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census, and Geography Division (special tabulations).

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 2006 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.

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. Boundaries shown on map are those in effect as of December 2007.

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 24 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 code in this map series. For more information about health regions and peer groups, refer to ‘Health regions and peer groups’.

Quintile

The indicators for all of the health regions were ranked from low to high and divided into quintiles based on equal numbers of health regions (i.e., roughly one-fifth of all health regions are represented within each quintile). Each quintile was coloured differently and the range of values within each health region quintile are presented.