

HOW TO READ THIS REPORT

“A Picture of Health: A Comprehensive Report on Health in Peel 2008” provides an overview of the important causes of ill health in our region, presenting basic information on births, deaths, sickness, risk factors and determinants of health. It also examines differences in the health of identifiable population groups and discusses opportunities for prevention. Whenever possible, we have endeavoured to explore not only the “what” but also the “why” in order to provide the clearest picture possible of the health of our citizens. In addition, the report includes special sections on issues of particular importance to Peel today and in the future: healthy cities, and obesity and diabetes.

We have tried to illustrate our points throughout the report with Region of Peel data. Sometimes, however, data for Peel were unavailable or the numbers were too small to be reliable. In these instances, we might instead show data for Ontario or Canada. Additionally, for the purpose of comparison, we occasionally make use of provincial, national and international data.

Much of the data used in creating this report were provided to us by external organizations, and we extend our thanks to the following:

- Statistics Canada
- Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care
- Ontario Ministry of Health Promotion
- Canadian Institute of Health Information
- Institute for Clinical Evaluative Studies
- Cancer Care Ontario
- Workplace Safety and Insurance Board
- Other providers of data noted in the web version of the report

Report Content

This report has been produced in two versions: a printed version and a web version. The web version reproduces the content of the printed edition and also contains the following supplementary pieces of information:

- Acknowledgements
- Data sources and limitations
- Data methods
- Text references
- Data references

Both the web version and the printed version of the report can be found at www.peelregion.ca/health/resources.

Peel Public Health’s website has more information on most of the health issues described in this report as well as on our public health programs.

Finally, there are two types of references used in this report: text references and data references. Both are found in the web version:

- Text references are defined by a superscript number (for example, higher risk of heart disease¹)
- Data references are defined by a superscript letter (for example, 25% of the population reported having heart disease^A)