

GLOSSARY

Abdominal Obesity – The accumulation of fat within the abdominal region as indicated by a waist circumference > 102 cm (40 inches) in men and > 88 cm (35 inches) in women¹, although thresholds can vary depending on ethnoracial group. This pattern of obesity is associated with an increased risk of diabetes and cardiovascular disease.²

Access – In the context of this atlas, access reflects geographic access to a resource. Geographic access was measured in metres along the road network from a grid of “origin points” placed 150 metres apart across Peel region to various “destination” resources such as grocery stores, parks or doctor offices. The distance measured for these grid points was subsequently interpolated using Inverse Distance Weighting to create a raster image displaying access levels to a given resource for the entire study area.

Body Mass Index (BMI) – A method of measuring total body mass which factors in a person’s height and weight according to the equation: $BMI = \text{weight (kg)} / \text{height (m)}^2$. A BMI score between 18.5 and 24.9 is considered healthiest on average; 25 to 29.9 is considered overweight; 30 and over is considered obese. Lower cut-off points are recommended for Asian populations as markers of increased health risk.³

Brownfield – Undeveloped or previously developed sites located within the existing built-up area that may be suitable for redevelopment. These sites are usually, but not exclusively, former industrial or commercial properties that may be underutilized, derelict or vacant. Some brown-field sites are contaminated and may require extensive remediation prior to redevelopment.

Building setbacks – The horizontal setback distance from a curb or property lot line to the nearest part of a building on the lot. Minimum building setbacks are often specified in municipal zoning by-law.

Built environment – The term generally used to refer to the man-made or modified physical context in which people live, learn, work and play, and includes features like roads, sidewalks, buildings, parks, recreational and retail facilities.

Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS)
The Canadian Community Health Survey is a cross-sectional survey conducted by Statistics Canada to collect information related to health status, health care utilization and health determinants of Canadians. This survey uses a complex sample design that is intended to enable the generation of reliable estimates at sub-provincial levels (health region or combination of health regions). Prior to 2007, data collection occurred every two years; since 2007, the survey has been administered annually.

Cardiovascular Disease – Diseases affecting the heart or blood vessels. This group of diseases includes coronary artery disease, stroke, peripheral vascular disease, hypertension, heart failure, arteriosclerosis, arrhythmia and congenital heart disease.

Census Tract (CT) – Areas created by Statistics Canada to delineate neighborhood-like communities. CTs are small, relatively stable geographical areas located in metropolitan areas that are as homogeneous as possible in terms of socioeconomic characteristics, such as similar economic status and living conditions.⁴ There were 205 CTs in Peel region in 2006 and their total population ranged from 1,700 to 20,500 people, with an average of about 5,700 residents.

Choropleth (shaded) Map – A type of statistical or thematic map depicting a rate or ratio for a given attribute by representing ranges of values with different shades or colours.

Connectivity – Refers to how well-connected road, pathway and sidewalk transportation networks are, considering all network users including automobiles, public transit, bicycles and pedestrians. Barriers to connectivity include cul-de-sac street designs with few direct travel routes, and large arterial roadways and expressways with few intersections or crossings. A common measure of connectivity is ‘intersection density’ – the density of street intersections in a given area measured as the total number of 3-way or greater road intersections per area unit (e.g., 57 intersections per square km).

Density – A measure of a variable over an area unit, such as the number of persons per square kilometer. Density variables are often depicted on choropleth maps. In contrast, dot density maps are based on a different methodology which does not apply standardization by area.

Diabetes Mellitus – Diabetes is a chronic disorder characterized by elevations in blood glucose (sugar) levels that can lead to a number of long-term complications including blindness, kidney disease, nerve damage, and heart and circulatory problems. Diabetes includes type 1 and 2 diabetes, and gestational diabetes. Type 2 diabetes affects 90%–95% of all people with diabetes.

Diabetes Prevalence – The proportion of people in a population who have diabetes at a given point or period in time. In this atlas, diabetes prevalence is defined as the proportion of the Peel population aged 20 or older, in fiscal year 2007/2008 that had been diagnosed with diabetes, based on the Ontario Diabetes Database (see ODD definition below).

Dot Density Map – A type of statistical or thematic map depicting count or frequency attributes using dots, such as total population shown with one dot representing 500 people. In these maps, dots are usually placed randomly within an area (such as a census tract) and can represent one or multiple cases of a given variable.

Food Desert – An area where there is little or no access to healthy, affordable foods. Food deserts are of greatest concern in areas with a large proportion of socially or economically disadvantaged residents who may be more reliant on their residential areas for food shopping (e.g., because of limited access to private vehicles).

Food Environment – The food choices available to individuals in various settings of daily life, as well as the messages that encourage or discourage these choices from other individuals, institutions and media. The food environment is multidimensional and includes the following domains: the organizational food environment (e.g., school, work, home); the consumer environment (i.e., availability, quality and price of foods in stores and eating places); the community or local food environment (i.e., availability of and access to retail food stores and restaurants in communities); and the information environment (i.e., media and advertising).⁵

Geographic Information Systems (GIS) – A computer-enabled set of analytical methods, software and database tools that allow storage, manipulation, analysis and mapping of geographic attributes.

Glucose – The main sugar produced by the body or derived from food in the diet. Glucose is carried in the bloodstream to provide energy to cells in the body.

Greater Toronto Area (GTA) – The GTA consists of the regional municipalities of Durham, Halton, Peel, York, and the City of Toronto.

Hypertension – High blood pressure.

Infill – Development of new buildings or community facilities on vacant or underutilized land parcels within existing built-up areas.

Interpolated Grid Map – A type of statistical or thematic map depicting values of a numeric variable through shading of small grid cells covering the whole study area. There are usually only a number of points where true values of the attribute are known while values in the rest of the grid cells are interpolated from these known points.

Insulin Resistance – A state in which the body's tissues are unable to respond normally to circulating levels of the hormone insulin. This condition can occur many years before the onset of diabetes and may be associated with other abnormalities, such as high blood pressure, cholesterol problems, and cardiovascular disease. If the pancreas fails to make sufficient amounts of insulin to overcome its resistance, then blood glucose levels can rise, leading to elevated glucose levels and ultimately to type 2 diabetes.

Land-use Mix – Refers to the mixing of various land uses, including residential, retail, workplace and institutional, in relatively close proximity to each other within the same area or neighbourhood.

Manhattan Distance – A method of measuring a distance between two points in an area. This method is based on applying straight lines and right angles along horizontal and vertical path elements. It is a simplified method suitable for measuring distances along grid-based streets in urban areas.

Mean – The sum of the values in a sample divided by the number of values (also known as the average).

Network Analysis – A spatial method of calculating travel distance (or time) from one location to another along a pre-defined network, such as a road network. In this atlas, network analysis was used to calculate travel distances from a grid of origin points placed 150 metres apart across Peel to various resource destinations such as grocery stores or parks (see Access definition for more information).

Ontario Diabetes Database (ODD) – A population-based disease registry constructed using a validated algorithm based on hospitalizations and physician visits to identify individuals with physician-diagnosed diabetes mellitus in Ontario.⁶

Peel Health Data Zones (PHDZ) – Peel Health Data Zones are defined geographic areas within Peel which are smaller than the lower-tier municipalities of Mississauga, Brampton and Caledon. These data zones use census tracts as building blocks, and where possible, respect natural and man-made boundaries such as rivers, highways and municipal boundaries. In total, there are 15 data zones in Peel. Each of the 15 PHDZs was created to be relatively homogeneous with respect to health, socioeconomic and socio-demographic factors.⁷

Proportional Symbol Map – A type of statistical or thematic map depicting a numeric variable using shapes, most commonly circles, which are scaled in size according to the value of the depicted variable.

Rate Ratio – The ratio of two rates, i.e., the ratio of the probability of an event (e.g., developing a disease) occurring in one group of people compared with the probability of the same event in another group of people.

Recent Immigrant – People (excluding institutional residents) who obtained landed immigrant status between 1996 and 2006 (as defined by the 2006 Canada Census).

Region of Peel – Located directly west of Toronto and York regions, the Region of Peel includes the City of Mississauga, the City of Brampton and the Town of Caledon. The Region of Peel covers an area of 1,242 square kilometres and has a population of 1,159,405, based on the 2006 Canada Census.

Socioeconomic Status (SES) – This term describes a combination of social and economic factors experienced by a person or population, such as education and income. The term ‘status’ refers to the position an individual or group holds in a society’s socioeconomic hierarchy.

Statistically Significant (result) – In this atlas, a result was considered statistically significant if it had a p-value of less than 0.05. Statistically significant results could have happened purely by chance but the probability is very low: chance findings are expected to occur less than five times if the study or analysis was repeated 100 times. Results that are not statistically significant may still be important, but there is a higher probability that they happened by chance.

Visible Minority – In this atlas, data on self-reported visible minority status came from the 2006 Canada Census. The census refers to visible minorities using the Employment Equity Act definition as “persons, other than Aboriginal peoples, who are non-Caucasian in race or non-white in colour”.

References

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