

### Health status of population in regions

Life expectancy at birth is the most frequently used measure of the health of the population. The difference in life expectancy among OECD regions is of almost 20 years, ranging from 68 years in Chihuahua (Mexico) to 84 years in Navarra (Spain). The regions enjoying the highest life expectancy at birth are concentrated in Spain, Italy, France, Switzerland and Japan. The regions with the lowest life expectancy are found in Mexico, Hungary and Poland (Figure 4.36).

Most OECD countries have achieved significant progress in reducing infant mortality rates over the past few decades although these rates still remain high in certain countries and regions. Across OECD regions, infant mortality rates seem to be higher in North America, partially due to differences in reporting practices (Figure 4.37). In 2010, Puebla (Mexico), Northwest Territories (Canada), and District of Columbia (United States) were the regions with the highest infant mortality rate across the OECD countries for which subnational data are available, having respectively 18.2, 15.5, and 11.2 infant deaths for every 1 000 live births. In contrast, countries like Japan, Slovenia and Belgium had some of the lowest regional infant mortality rates in the OECD. No region in these countries exceeded 3 infant deaths per 1 000 live births in 2010 (Figure 4.37).

Risk factors for health are complex and numerous. Among them, transport-related accidents have received particular attention in OECD countries during the last decades. Difference in traffic laws and rules, geographic characteristics,

and even risk-taking behaviour may contribute to regional difference in the number of fatal accidents. North American countries seem also to have the biggest disparities in terms of fatal transport accidents due to remote rural regions with high distance travel (Figure 4.38).

#### Source

OECD (2013), *OECD Regional Statistics* (database), <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/region-data-en>.

See Annex B for data sources and country-related metadata. United States: Life Expectancy, *Measure of America* 2010-11, [www.measureofamerica.org](http://www.measureofamerica.org).

#### Reference years and territorial level

2010; TL2.

Canada and New Zealand 2006, Israel and United States, 2009.

Life expectancy: no regional data are available for Chile, Iceland, Korea and Turkey.

Infant mortality: no regional data are available for Belgium, Chile, Finland, Iceland, Korea, New Zealand and Turkey.

#### Further information

BMJ (2012), "Influence of definition based versus pragmatic birth registration on international comparisons of perinatal and infant mortality: population based retrospective study", <http://dx.doi.org/10.1136/bmj.e746>.

Interactive graphs and maps: <http://rag.oecd.org>.

#### Figure notes

4.37: Higher rates in United States and Canada may be partly due to differences in reporting practices concerning newborns weighing less than 500g compare to other OECD countries, see BMJ (2012).

4.38: Each observation (point) represents a TL2 region of the countries shown in the vertical axis. Regional values are expressed as a multiple of the country value.

#### Definition

Life expectancy at birth measures the number of years a new born can expect to live, if death rates in each age group would stay the same during her or his lifetime.

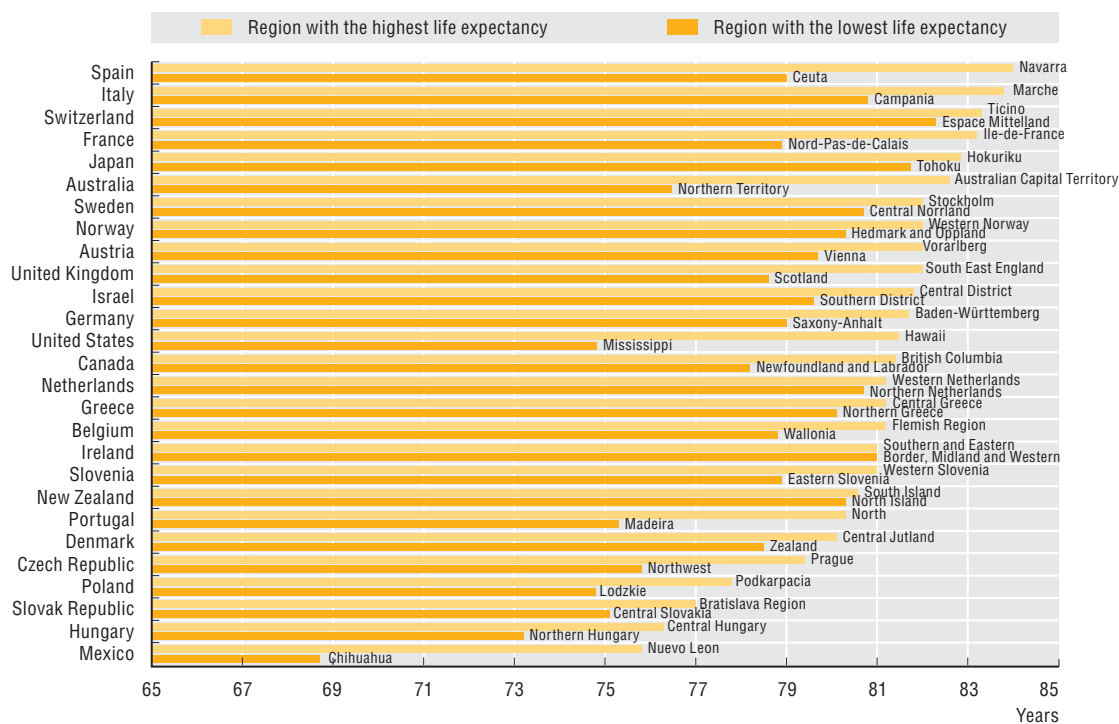
Infant mortality rate is the number of deaths of children less than one year of age per 1 000 live births.

Transport-related mortality rate is the number of deaths attributed to transport accidents (in the groups V01-V99 of the International Classification of Diseases – ICD) per 100 000 inhabitants.

## 4. INCLUSION AND EQUAL ACCESS TO QUALITY SERVICES IN REGIONS

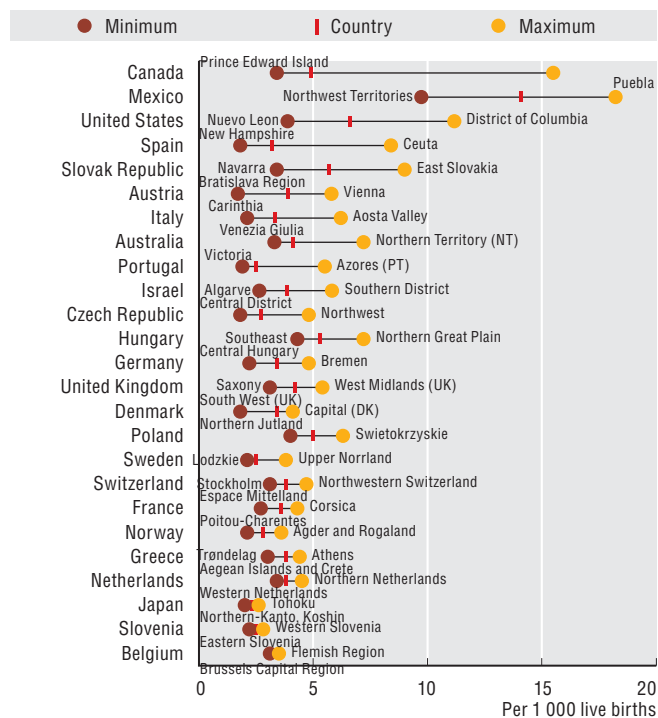
### Health status of population in regions

4.36. Maximum and minimum regional life expectancy at birth, 2010 (TL2)



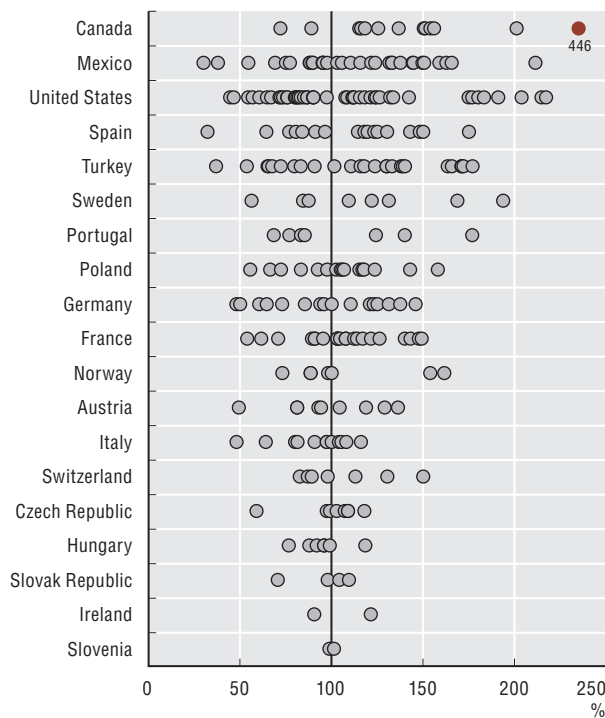
StatLink <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888932914767>

4.37. Maximum and minimum regional values of infant mortality rates by country, 2010 (TL2)



StatLink <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888932914786>

4.38. Range in regional mortality rates due to transport accidents, 2010 (TL2); Country value = 100



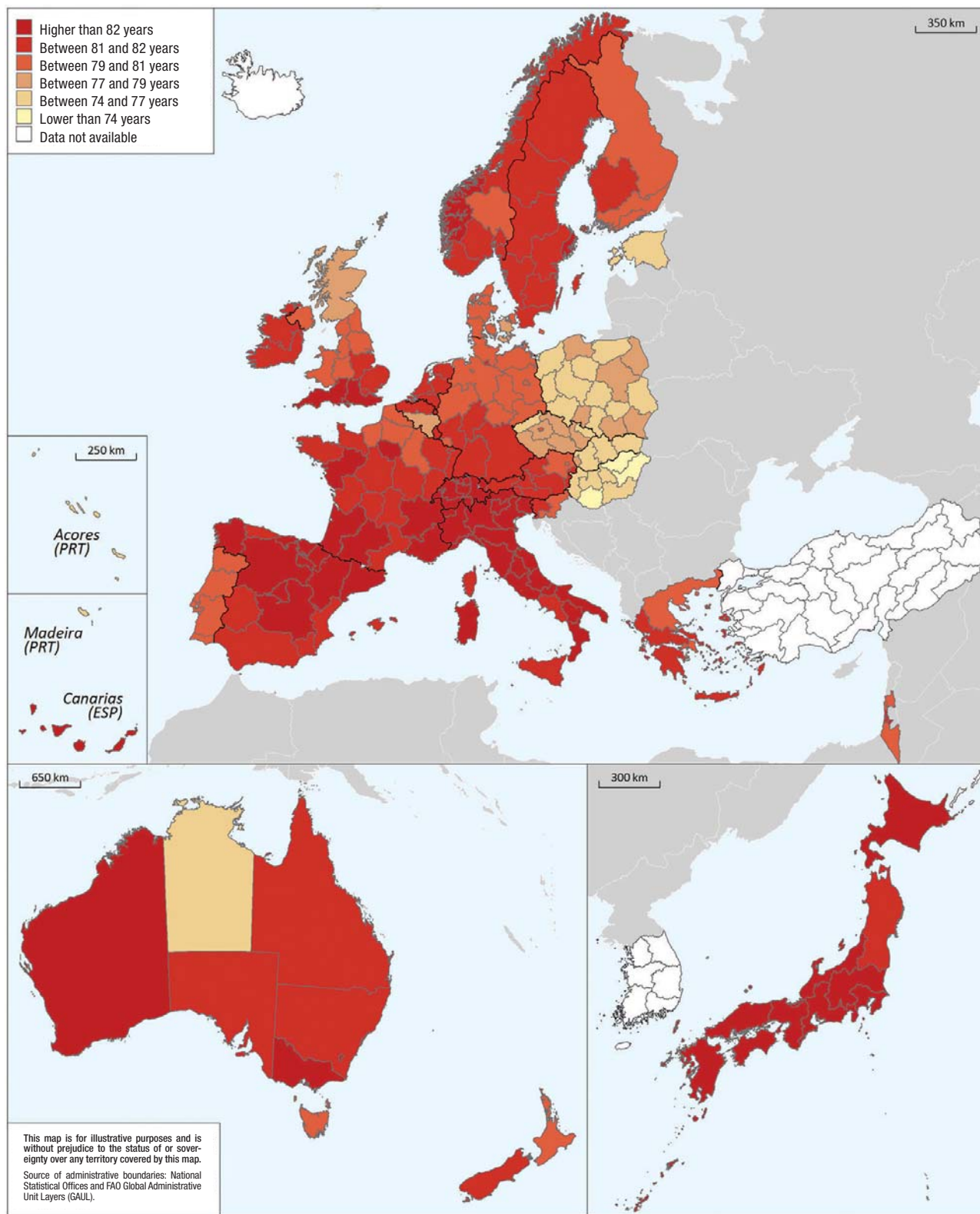
StatLink <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888932914805>


## 4. INCLUSION AND EQUAL ACCESS TO QUALITY SERVICES IN REGIONS

### Health status of population in regions

#### 4.39. Life expectancy: Asia, Europe and Oceania, 2010

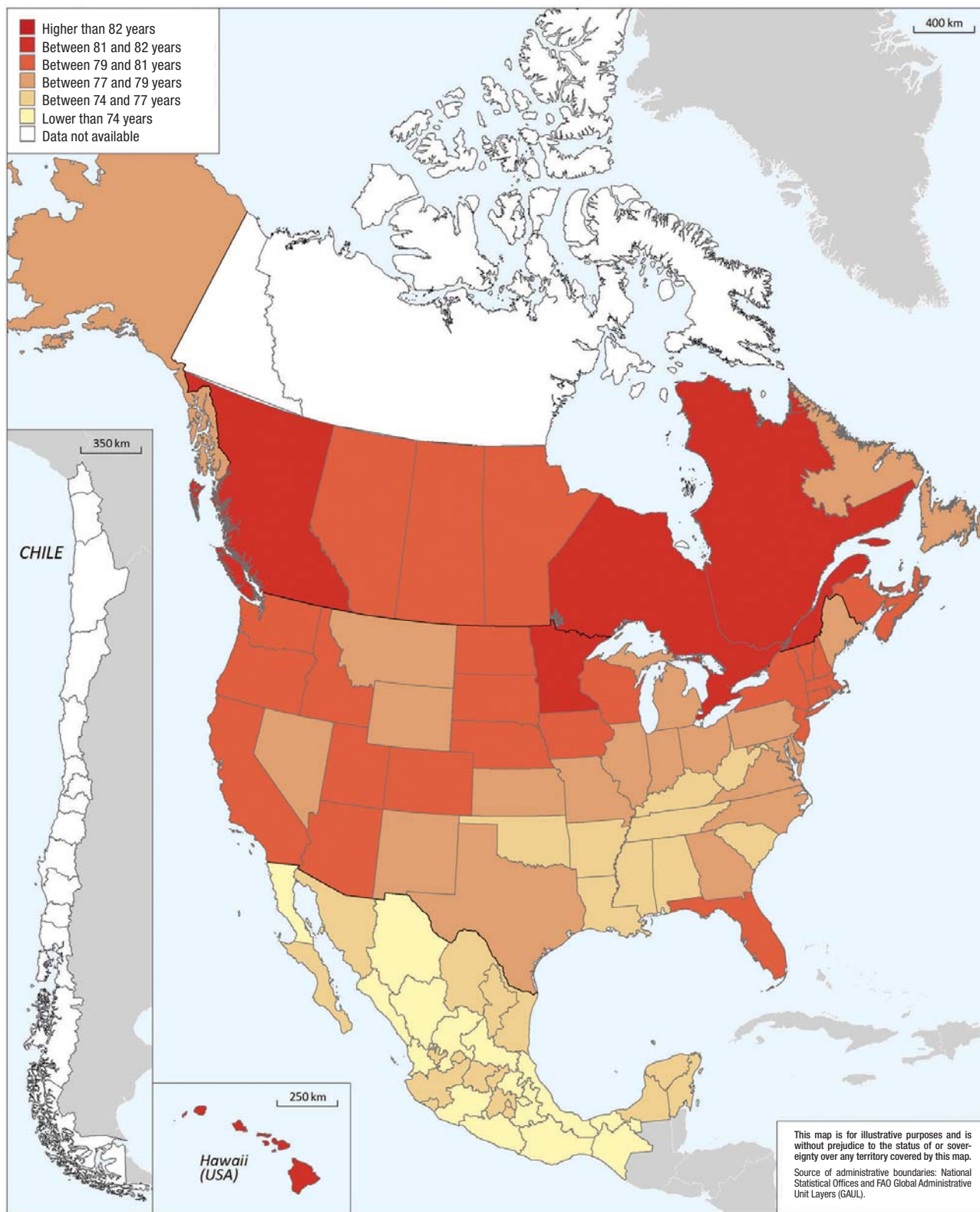
TL2 regions



StatLink  <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888932915698>

4.40. Life expectancy: Americas, 2010

TL2 regions



StatLink <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888932915717>



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