

Regional Highlights

British Columbians' health status varies from region to region. The following is a summary of regional performance, based on the provincial health goals. Regions are grouped from highest (best)-ranked to lowest on overall rating, with both strengths and weaknesses noted.

Highest-ranked four

North Shore

Strengths: Highest levels of education; lowest levels of poverty and unemployment

Weaknesses: Higher than average rates of hepatitis B and intestinal illnesses

Richmond

Strengths: Highest life expectancy; best ranking in terms of disease and injury prevention

Weaknesses: Higher than average rates of hepatitis B and tuberculosis

Capital

Strengths: High levels of education, employment, and income

Weaknesses: Higher than average teen pregnancy rates; relatively high rates of hospitalization

Okanagan-Similkameen

Strengths: High life expectancy; relatively low rates of communicable diseases

Weaknesses: Higher than average rates of youth smoking and confirmed cases of child abuse

Second-highest four

Simon Fraser

Strengths: High employment and economic levels; strong performance in child health indicators

Weaknesses: Higher than average rates of tuberculosis, HIV and cancer and heart disease deaths

South Fraser Valley

Strengths: Low youth smoking rates; low rates of suicide, respiratory illness, and accidental injury

Weaknesses: Higher than average rates of low birthweight babies

East Kootenay

Strengths: Low rates of crime, illicit drug deaths, and sexually transmitted diseases

Weaknesses: Higher than average rates of waterborne illnesses, child abuse, and infant mortality

North Okanagan

Strengths: Lowest violent crime rate; low rates of teen smoking and communicable diseases

Weaknesses: Relatively high rates of accidental deaths, especially for children and youth

Middle four

Coast Garibaldi

Strengths: High levels of employment and income; strong performance on health services indicators

Weaknesses: Higher than average death rates from suicide, heart disease, and accidental injuries

Burnaby

Strengths: High life expectancy; high levels of education

Weaknesses: High crime rates; high rates of illicit drug deaths and sexually transmitted diseases

West Kootenay-Boundary

Strengths: Low rates for spousal assault and serious property crimes

Weaknesses: Lower than average life expectancy; higher than average infant mortality rates

Peace Liard

Strengths: Low rates of poverty for non-seniors; highest rate of affordable housing

Weaknesses: High rates of smoking and deaths from lung cancer; high teen pregnancy rates

Second-lowest four

Fraser Valley

Strengths: Low infant mortality rates; good community follow-up for mental health patients

Weaknesses: Higher than average rates of low-income among single-parent families

Upper Island/Central Coast

Strengths: High immunization rates for communicable diseases; low rate of poverty for seniors

Weaknesses: High rates of youth unemployment, youth smoking, and illicit drug deaths

Vancouver

Strengths: High levels of post-secondary education; low rates of exposure to second-hand smoke

Weaknesses: High rates of crime, income inequity, and sexually transmitted diseases

Central Vancouver Island

Strengths: Highest level of community follow-up of patients admitted to hospital for mental illness

Weaknesses: High rates of income assistance, child poverty, and teen pregnancy

Lowest-ranked four

North West

Strengths: Relatively low rates of crime and communicable diseases; tied with Central Vancouver Island for highest level of influenza immunization for seniors

Weaknesses: High rates of unemployment, spousal assault, and child abuse

Thompson

Strengths: Highest participation rates for screening mammography; high levels of immunization

Weaknesses: High rates of suicide and deaths from accidental injuries

Northern Interior

Strengths: Lower rates of communicable disease; high rates of immunization

Weaknesses: Lowest life expectancy; high death rates from most causes

Cariboo

Strengths: Lower crime and communicable disease rates; relatively affordable housing

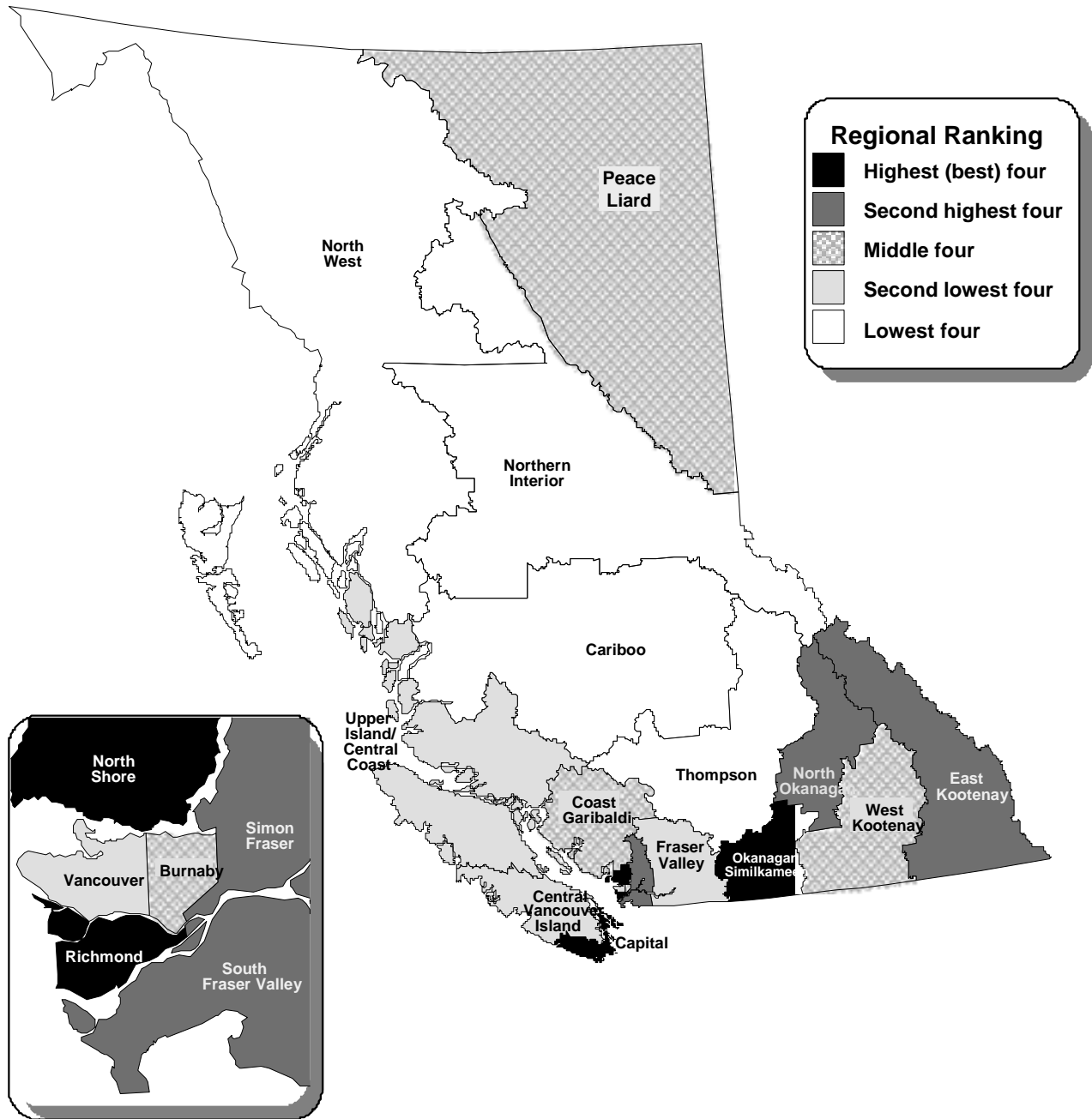
Weaknesses: High smoking rates; high death rates; low rates of post-secondary education

More information on regional health status is available in *Health Goals Regional Index 1999*, a companion report to the *Provincial Health Officer's Annual Report 1999*. Copies are available from the Office of the Provincial Health Officer, (250) 952-0876 or on the Internet at www.hlth.gov.bc.ca/pho.

1999

Provincial Health Officer's Annual Report

Health Goals Regional Index



Source: Ministry of Health and Ministry Responsible for Seniors
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