

2.0 METHODS

This report summarizes the most current local, provincial, and comparison community information we have about the health of City of Hamilton residents. It focuses on the health of populations, and any direct inference to a specific individual or clinical situation should not be made.

All data were analyzed using SPSS 13.0 (SPSS Inc., Chicago, Illinois) and are presented according to source guidelines, including using weighted values where appropriate and collapsing response categories when required. Where comparisons were made between age groups, time periods or health regions, Pearson Chi-Squared tests of statistical significance were performed. Differences associated with a p-value of less than 0.05 were considered statistically significant. Any significant differences observed were noted as key messages.

In order to facilitate comparisons between regions or time periods where counts were low, rates per 100,000 population were computed. These rates were calculated using population estimates updated in 2004 by Statistics Canada.

Age-standardized rates were calculated in order to facilitate comparisons between health regions and time periods, where possible. These rates take into consideration the differences in age distribution between populations compared. In this report, these rates were standardized to the 1991 Census Canada Population. Where standardization was not possible or appropriate, crude rates or counts are presented.

