



## DATA VISUALIZATION

Selected portions of the datasets have been visualized through the interactive thematic mapping and graphing functionality offered by *StatPlanet*, a free FLASH-based web application created by UNESCO and affiliated organizations. The aim of StatPlanet is to promote evidence-based decision making by improving and facilitating the communication and interpretation of information. It enables users to explore demographic, education, environment, health and socio-economic indicators from various sources including the datasets compiled by the Circumpolar Health Observatory.

StatPlanet was conceptualized and is being developed by Frank van Cappelle since 2005. Since 2008, the development of a tailored version of StatPlanet is being undertaken as part of the SACMEQ research programme at the UNESCO International Institute for Educational Planning (IIEP).

— [www.sacmeq.org/statplanet/](http://www.sacmeq.org/statplanet/) —



## CONTACT

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## CIRCUMPOLAR HEALTH



## OBSERVATORY

— [circhob.circumpolarhealth.org](http://circhob.circumpolarhealth.org) —



Institute for  
Circumpolar  
Health Research



UNIVERSITY OF  
TORONTO

## ABOUT CIRCHOB

The Circumpolar Health Observatory (CircHOB) is an international collaborative health information system, involved in systematic, standardized, and consistent data collection and analysis. In addition to aggregating online and print resources, CircHOB is population-based and produces data for all northern regions in all circumpolar countries.

CircHOB's purpose is to monitor trends and patterns in health status, health determinants, and health care, provides qualitative and quantitative evidence for planning and evaluation of health programs and services. It is ongoing and sustainable with periodic updates.

The Observatory is located at the Institute for Circumpolar Health Research Data Centre in Yellowknife, NT. The data centre includes a physical library, a Statistics Canada Research Data Centre, and a searchable and interactive databank of both print and electronic resources drawn from across the circumpolar world.

CircHOB produces periodic Data Briefs highlighting specific aspects of the data collection which are published by the *International Journal of Circumpolar Health*.

## ORIGINS

CircHOB is a project proposed by the Arctic Human Health Expert Group and authorized by the Arctic Council at its Senior Arctic Officials meeting in May 2010. Initial funding for CircHOB was provided by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research and Health Canada.

CircHOB has its origins in the 2008 *Circumpolar Health Supplement* entitled, "Circumpolar Health Indicators: Sources, Data and Maps." The original monograph is available from the *International Journal of Circumpolar Health* website @ [www.ijch.fi](http://www.ijch.fi).



Regions of the Circumpolar North

## ABOUT THE COLLECTION

CircHOB extracts relevant data from existing data sources managed by different groups and agencies in different countries, including:

- » National population registries, censuses and intercensal estimates
- » Vital statistics
- » Mortality/morbidity/health care utilization databases
- » National/regional health surveys
- » Statistical reports

CircHOB does NOT provide access to individual-level health records nor do any such records cross national borders. It involves the preparation of tables of aggregate data only.

Most data are available from websites of national statistical agencies, health ministries, etc. Many but not all sites are available in English and language proficiency in all circumpolar languages [e.g., Russian, Finnish, Icelandic] is essential. Some data require special tabulations produced by host agencies.

The following list contains the type of information currently collected. This list is under revision and will be expanded in the future.

- » **POPULATION**  
size, age-sex distribution, density, urban areas, indigenous peoples
- » **FERTILITY**  
crude birth rate, total fertility rate, distribution of livebirths by mothers' age
- » **MORTALITY**  
crude death rate, age-sex-specific mortality rates, life expectancy at birth, infant mortality rate, age-standardized mortality rates by cause
- » **REPRODUCTIVE OUTCOMES**  
perinatal mortality rate, distribution of livebirths by birthweight and gestational age
- » **DISEASE INCIDENCE**  
incidence of cancer by site, incidence of tuberculosis, hepatitis A and B, sexually transmitted diseases (HIV/AIDS, chlamydia, gonorrhea, syphilis)
- » **SOCIOECONOMIC CONDITIONS**  
Gross Domestic Product, education, employment, income
- » **HEALTH-RELATED BEHAVIOURS**  
smoking, physical activity, diet

Data on health-related behaviours, attitudes, and practices currently available from health surveys done in various circumpolar countries and regions are not directly comparable, due to differences in the construction of variables, sampling techniques, and contextual meanings of underlying concepts. Substantial international comparative research is needed before such data can be presented.

