

# Advancing Health Equity in Health Care

## The Deprivation Index

### What is a Deprivation Index?

A deprivation index is a tool used to monitor socio-economic inequalities in health. The most widely used deprivation index for Canada is that developed by the Institut national de santé publique du Québec<sup>1</sup>. There are material and social components to the index. Data for the deprivation index comes from the 2006 Census. National deprivation indices have been created since 1991 and all data is available online through the [Institut national de santé publique du Québec](http://www.institutnationaldesantepublique.org).

In order to examine relative deprivation at the Saskatoon level (i.e. where quintile 5 represents the most deprived 20% of Saskatoon, rather than the most deprived 20% of Canada), the Public Health Observatory developed quintiles using only factor scores for Census Dissemination Areas (DA) within the city of Saskatoon. The 2006 Census population for the city of Saskatoon was divided into fifths. The DAs were ranked on material deprivation scores and categorized into quintiles, and the process was repeated on the social deprivation scores. A total **local** deprivation index was then created by combining material and social scores.

Deprivation in Saskatoon is identified using a deprivation index of six socioeconomic variables that include the following material and social components.

#### Material Components

- Income
- Education
- Employment

#### Social Components

- Marital Status
- Single Parent Families
- Living Alone

### What Do Areas of Deprivation Look Like in the City of Saskatoon?

The index divides the City of Saskatoon into five categories ranging from highest to lowest areas of deprivation and each area contains approximately one fifth of the population.

The index is calculated at the DA level. A DA has a population of 400 to 700 persons<sup>3</sup> and does not directly map to neighbourhood. DAs with no or sparse population, with a high proportion of collective households or institutionalized persons, or location on First Nations reserves are not classified and therefore not reported.

Using available postal code data, clients are assigned to different areas of deprivation based on where they live.

For more information on the deprivation index, please see the [Technical Appendix](#).

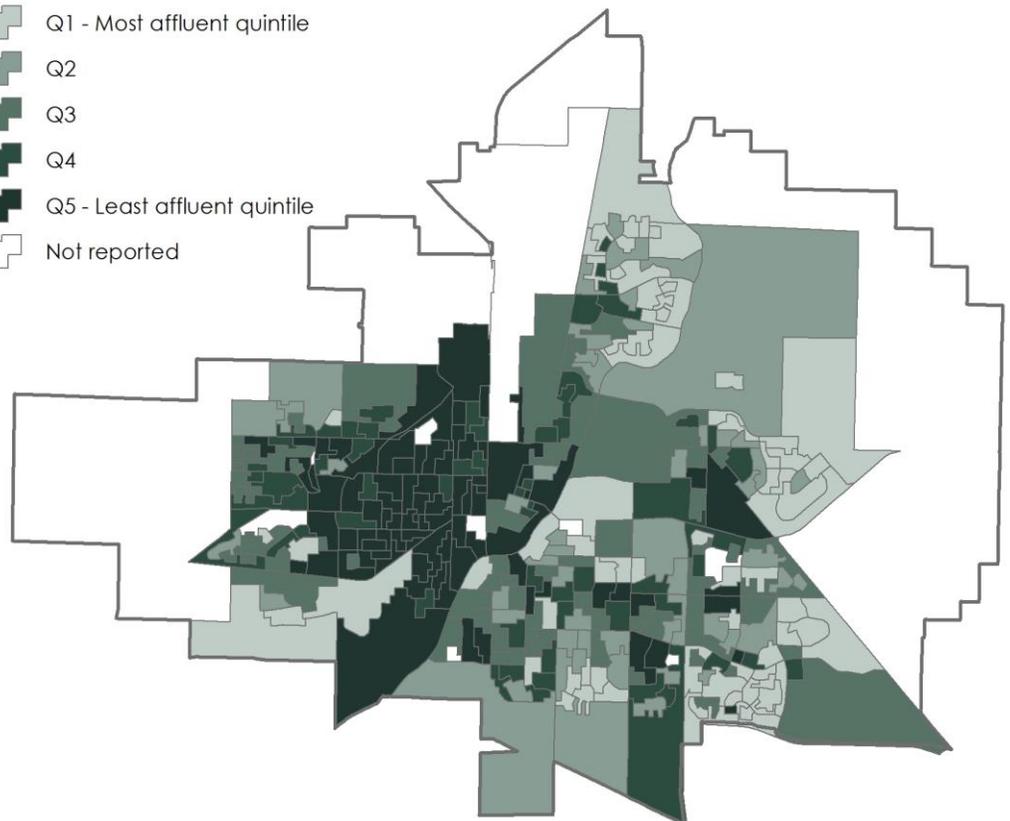
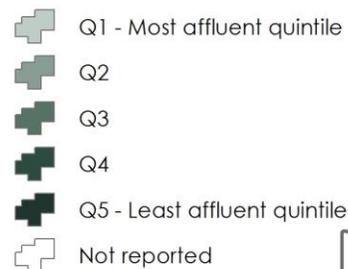


Figure 1. Local total deprivation, Saskatoon, 2006.