Accessing Primary Care in Nova Scotia - Overview

Overview

These interactive data dashboards provide information on accessing Primary Care in Nova Scotia. Many different sources of data from across the primary care system have gone into the creation of these dashboards.

The data helps to tell the story of primary care across the province and provides insight into the broader picture of primary care access. This project reflects a broader movement within the province to make data more accessible to the general public, and to researchers, innovators, and analysts who are engaged in ways of improving healthcare.

One of the goals of this project is to harness the wealth of health data that's generated across the health system and use it to foster Nova Scotians' understanding of the health system.

The data that's been compiled into these dashboards is anonymous and aggregate. That means it contains no personally identifying health information that could be linked to individuals, and it was assembled from a variety of data sources into one cohesive whole. Those sources include data from the Need a Family Practice Registry, Primary Care Electronic Medical Records..

Dashboard Usage Tips

- Hover over the metrics to see more detail, such as data for specific dates and definitions

- Navigate between views using the tabs along the top of the dashboard, selecting drop down filters or buttons within the views which navigate between services or geographical zone.

Where to go for care

Your primary care provider (doctor or nurse practitioner) is where most of your health issues can and should be addressed. However, there are times when you may not be able to see your primary care provider and you require urgent treatment. You may also not have a primary care provider.

You can learn more about where you can go for health care at this link: https://www.nshealth.ca/wheretogoforhealthcare

Frequently Asked Questions

Why did you move from a static report on the NS Health website to an online dashboard?

We're improving how we report this data and how Nova Scotians view it. Nova Scotians want to see the whole picture when it comes to accessing primary care and the new dashboard allows them to see more data, including how their friends and neighbours are accessing healthcare – and how they can, too.

Are you changing the data being reported?

Everything included in the monthly report is included on the dashboard. We're not taking anything away. In fact, we're adding more data and will looking to add even more in the coming months ahead.

What additional data will be reported and when?

Nova Scotia Health's Data and Analytics teams are working through the data gathering systems and processes to include the number of patients serviced by 811, phamarcy based primary care services and clinics, and other services. Once that work is completed, that information will be added to the dashboard.