

Nova Scotia Action for Health - Public Reporting

Overview

These interactive data dashboards provide information on the health services Nova Scotians use. Many different sources of data from across the health system have gone into the creation of these dashboards.

The data helps to tell the story of healthcare across the province and provides a way to better understand the health system. 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 Hospital Inpatient, Emergency, and Surgical Databases, Continuing Care Home Support and Long Term Care Reports and Emergency Health Services (EHS).

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
- Use the drop down filters to select the NSH operational zone, IWK, or EHS Region as a level of detail, or a specific hospital

About the Results

The service volumes represent the number of events of that type which happened on the reported date (12:01-00:00) or week (Sunday to Saturday). This is displayed as either the value for the most recent period, or the trend over the past 30 days, six months or a year. For the most recent day or week, the size of the bar represents the value compared to other hospitals or zones/regions.

Hospital inpatient occupancy represents the number of beds of different types occupied by patients at a specific point in time on the reported date. Occupancy may exceed 100% as the number of beds varies based on demand, as overcapacity space is used to accommodate patients, or admitted patients wait in Emergency Departments for a bed.

Frequently Asked Questions

How do I interpret this dashboard?

This dashboard compares the health system utilization of key services between organizations, operational zones, EHS regions and hospitals. For example, a regional hospital may have 40 emergency visits and complete 25 surgeries in a single day, compared to 10 visits and no surgeries at a community hospital.

Why are the volumes to a specific service at a particular hospital high or low?

Volumes may be higher or lower at a particular hospital due to availability of or demand for service at that location. It is common to see community hospitals with a lower visit volume for a service, compared to a regional. For example, a community hospital may not have an emergency department or it may be closed on a given day, and not all hospitals provide surgical services.

Should the volumes be the same for all hospitals?

No. We would never expect all the volumes to be the same across the province. We would expect environmental factors and clinical standards to influence how and where services are delivered. How services are delivered in each area is constantly being monitored and re-evaluated in order to meet the needs of Nova Scotians.

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