

NEED A FAMILY PRACTICE REGISTRY

Report Released: September 1, 2018

Prepared for: NSHA Reports, Statistics and Accountability

INTRODUCTION

Nova Scotia Health Authority’s Need a Family Practice registry was launched on November 1, 2016. The registry provides a coordinated and consistent provincial approach for tracking Nova Scotians who self-identify as not having access to a primary care provider (family doctor or nurse practitioner). People can register themselves and their family members online at needafamilypractice@nshealth.ca or by phone through 811.

The data below report on all registrants since November 2016. They fall into two categories: those not yet placed, and those who have found a primary care provider. Once a registrant is identified to have found a primary care provider, their information is removed from the total number of registrants not yet placed.

	
<p>NOT YET PLACED</p> <p>Registrants who have submitted a request to have their name placed on the provincial NFP registry and have not yet been placed with a practice.</p>	<p>FOUND A PRIMARY CARE PROVIDER</p> <p>Registrants who have found a primary care provider either through</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Providers/practices confirm people as accepted via a list provided through the NFP registry <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (b) Registrants indicate they have found a primary care provider when contacted or when updating their information in the registry

WHAT THE NEED A FAMILY PRACTICE REGISTRY DOES AND DOES NOT DO

The registry allows us, for the first time, to establish provincial data on how many Nova Scotians do not have regular access to primary care and where they are located. That enables us to plan and prioritize work to expand and enhance collaborative family practice teams around the province. The registry acts as a mechanism to track individuals who self-identify they cannot find a family practice and, therefore, is not a strategy that improves access to primary care.

We recognize that the Need a Family Practice registry does not capture every Nova Scotian without access to a primary care provider: not everyone is aware of the registry, and others are not actively seeking a primary care provider.

The registry is also a resource that allows us to provide family doctors and nurse practitioners who are accepting new patients with a list of people in need in their area, according to their date of registration. The College of Physicians and Surgeons of Nova Scotia *Professional Guidelines and Standards Regarding Accepting New Patients* identifies a first come, first serve approach. Primary care providers are not required to accept patients from this list.

OVERALL HIGHLIGHTS – AS OF THE SEPTEMBER 1, 2018 REPORT



TOTAL NUMBER OF REGISTRANTS WITHOUT A FAMILY PRACTICE

- 56,630 registrants not yet placed with a family practice
- This is 6.2% of the total population in Nova Scotia, based on 2011 census data.



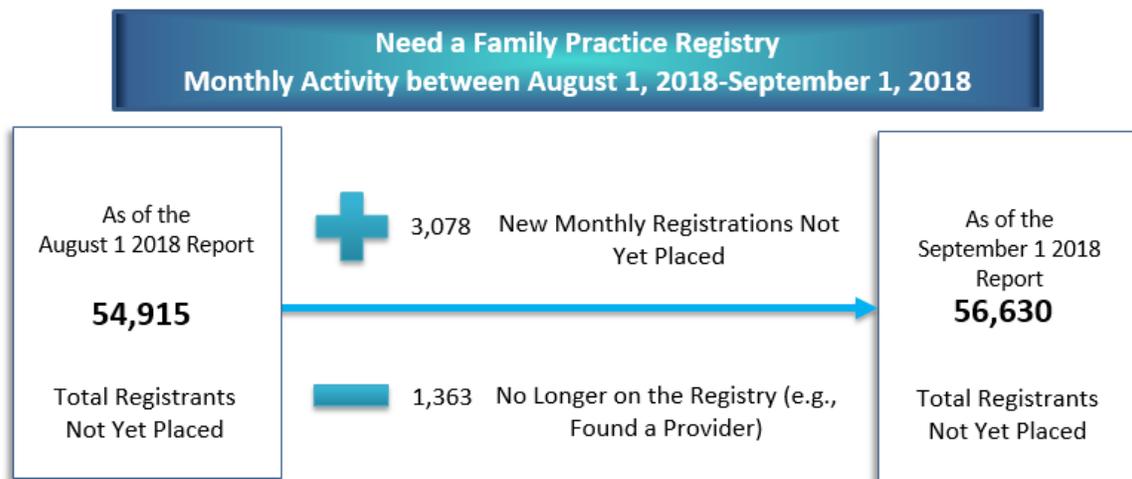
TOTAL NUMBER OF REGISTRANTS WHO HAVE FOUND A PRIMARY CARE PROVIDER

- 19,072 people have found a primary care provider as tracked through the registry since its launch in November 2016.
- This data is *not* included in the 56,630 volumes.
- Of these, 1,185 people found a primary care provider over the past month.

TOTAL VOLUMES - MONTHLY REGISTRY ACTIVITY

During the month of August, 3,078 new registrations occurred. 1,363 registrants were removed from the registry.¹ Figure 1 highlights the overall activity in the registry during the month of August 2018.

Figure 1: Need a Family Practice Registry - Monthly Activity



¹ It is important to note that the number of people who are 'removed from the registry' includes those who have found a primary care provider over the past month as tracked through the registry (1,185 people) **and** those who are removed for other reasons, such as moving, withdrawing consent to have their names forwarded to a practice, being duplicate registrations, etc.

PROVINCIAL OVERVIEW – TOTAL VOLUMES OF REGISTRANTS NOT YET PLACED

There were 56,630 registrants not yet placed with a family practice as of the September 1 report.

Figure 2 depicts the total number of registrants not yet placed by zone as a percent of the total Nova Scotia population, based on 2011 Census data

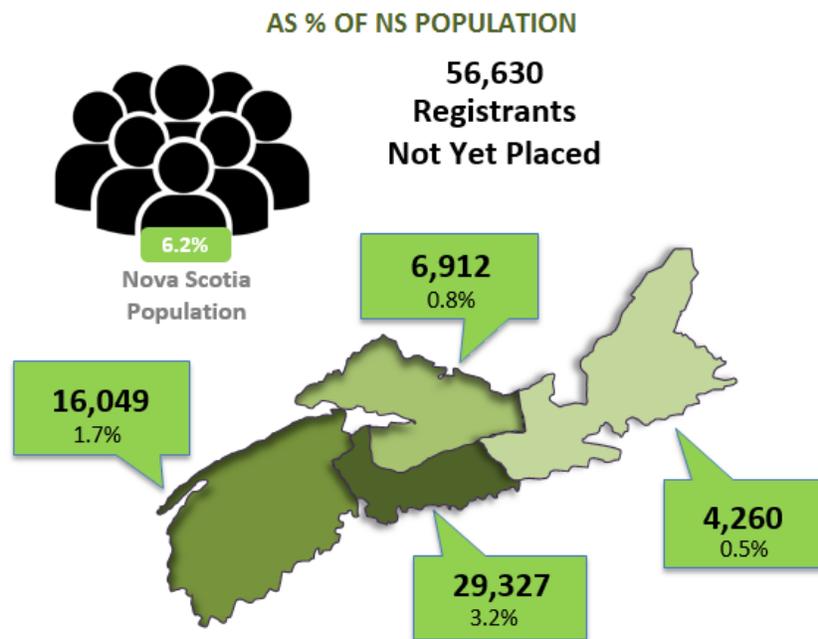
The Nova Scotia Health Authority (NSHA) is divided into four management zones, which includes:

- Central Zone - Halifax Regional Municipality, Eastern Shore and West Hants Areas
- Eastern Zone - Cape Breton, Antigonish and Guysborough Areas
- Northern Zone - Colchester, Cumberland, and Pictou County Areas
- Western Zone - Annapolis Valley, South West, and South Shore Areas

Each of the zones includes a number of smaller geographic areas, called community health networks, which are used to support health care planning by the NSHA, the Department of Health and Wellness, and the health research community. The networks closely align with county boundaries. Together these cover all areas of Nova Scotia.

The table below gives a detailed geographical breakdown of the volume of registrants not yet placed by zone and community health network and as a percent of the corresponding Nova Scotia population (Table 1). A small number of people may be listed as “unknown.” These may be registrants, for example, whose complete address information was not available. These are updated as new information is received.

Figure 2: Total Registrants Not Yet Placed by Zone



*Note: 82 registrations have an unknown zone

Table 1: Volumes Not Yet Placed by Zone and Community Health Network and as a Percent of the Population by Zone and Community Health Network

Zone/Community Health Network	Total # Not Yet Placed	Population by Zone, Network (2011)	% of Population by Zone, Network (2011)
Central	29,327	409,706	7.2%
Bedford / Sackville	5,035	87,838	5.7%
Dartmouth / Southeastern	10,209	115,427	8.8%
Eastern Shore Musquodoboit	842	18,165	4.6%
Halifax Peninsula / Chebucto	12,832	167,379	7.7%
West Hants	409	20,897	2.0%
Eastern	4,260	163,450	2.6%
Antigonish and Guysborough	320	27,548	1.2%
Cape Breton County	3,310	102,397	3.2%
Inverness / Victoria / Richmond	630	33,505	1.9%
Northern	6,912	150,409	4.6%
Colchester East Hants	3,625	69,991	5.2%
Cumberland	967	34,750	2.8%
Pictou County	2,318	45,668	5.1%
Unknown	2	-	0.0%
Western	16,049	196,284	8.2%
Annapolis and Kings	7,551	78,507	9.6%
Queens and Lunenburg	4,901	59,384	8.3%
Yarmouth / Shelburne /Digby	3,597	58,393	6.2%
Unknown	82	-	0.0%
Total # Not Yet Placed	56,630	919,849	6.2%

PROVINCIAL OVERVIEW: FOUND A PRIMARY CARE PROVIDER

OVERALL PROVINCIAL VOLUMES

Since the launch of the registry, there were 19,072 registrants who found a provider as tracked via the registry. Of these registrants:

- 9,823 were accepted as new patients by primary care providers who requested and received a list of patient names through the NFP registry.
- 9,249 indicated they had found a primary care provider when contacted or when updating their information in the registry.

These individuals have been accepted into a family practice and are no longer on the registry.

The total volumes of those who found a primary care provider in each zone (Figure 3) are:

- Central Zone: 7,678
- Eastern Zone: 6,171
- Northern Zone: 2,378
- Western Zone: 2,845

Figure 3: Total Volumes – Found a Primary Care Provider

