

# NEED A FAMILY PRACTICE REGISTRY

Data Overview: December 1, 2017

## INTRODUCTION

Nova Scotia Health Authority’s Need a Family Practice registry was launched on Nov. 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 physician or nurse practitioner). People can register themselves and their family members online at [needafamilypractice@nshealth.ca](mailto:needafamilypractice@nshealth.ca) or by phone through 811.

The data below report on all registrants since Nov. 1, 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 no longer in the total number of registrants not yet placed.

	
<p><b>NOT YET PLACED</b></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><b>FOUND A PRIMARY CARE PROVIDER</b></p> <p>Registrants who have found a primary care provider either through</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) providers/practices confirm people as accepted via a list provided through the NFP registry</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(b) registrants indicate they have found a primary care provider when contacted or when updating their information in the registry</li> </ul>

## 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, it is not a strategy that, in and of itself, 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 doctors and nurse practitioners who are accepting new patients with a list of people in need in their areas, according to their date of registration. However, primary care providers are not required to accept patients from this list.

## OVERALL HIGHLIGHTS – AS OF DECEMBER 1, 2017



### TOTAL NUMBER OF REGISTRANTS WITHOUT A FAMILY PRACTICE

- 42,198 registrants not yet placed with a family practice
- This is 4.6% of the total population in Nova Scotia, based on 2011 census data.



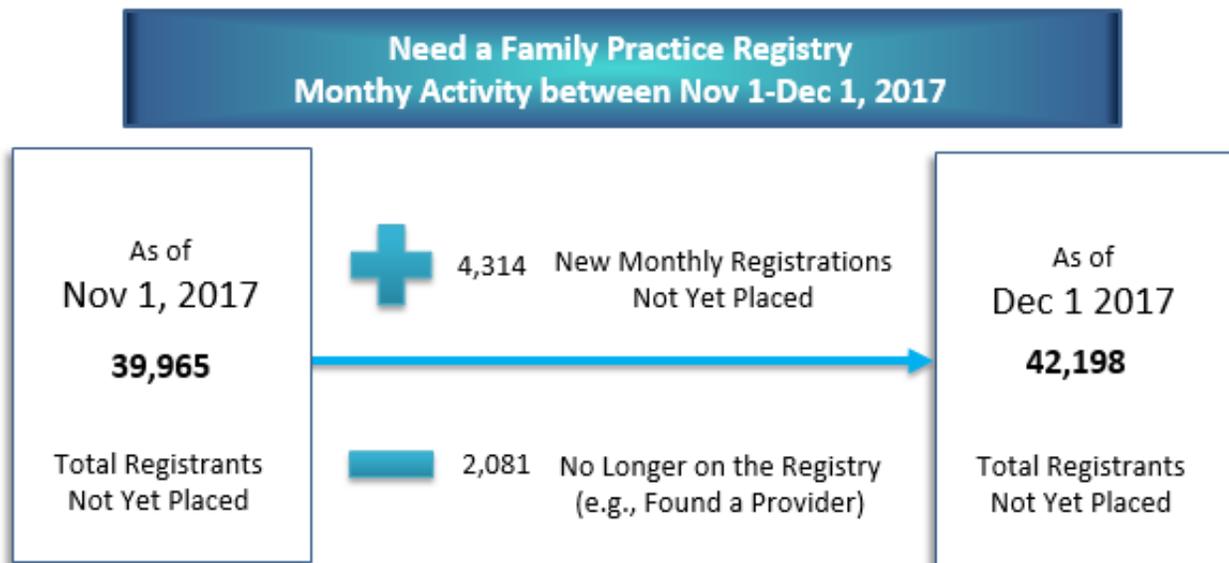
### TOTAL NUMBER OF REGISTRANTS WHO HAVE FOUND A PRIMARY CARE PROVIDER

- 6,428 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 42,198 volumes.
- Of these, 1,411 people found a primary care provider over the past month

### TOTAL VOLUMES - MONTHLY REGISTRY ACTIVITY BETWEEN NOVEMBER 1- DECEMBER 1, 2017

During the month of November, 4,314 new registrations occurred. 2,081 registrants were removed from the registry. Figure 1 highlights the overall activity in the registry during the month of November 2017.

Figure 1: Need a Family Practice Registry - Monthly Activity



## PROVINCIAL OVERVIEW – TOTAL VOLUMES OF REGISTRANTS NOT YET PLACED

There were 42,198 registrants not yet placed with a family practice as of December 1, 2017.

**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

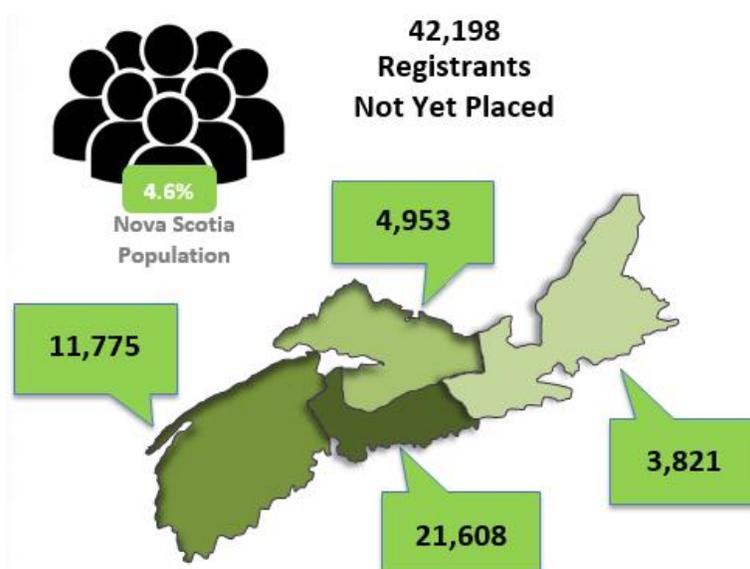
The Nova Scotia Health Authority (NSHA) is divided into four management zones, which includes:

- 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 are 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: 41 registrations have an unknown zone

**Table 1: Volumes Not Yet Placed by Zone and Community Health Network and as 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)
<b>Central</b>	<b>21,608</b>	<b>409,706</b>	<b>5.3%</b>
Bedford / Sackville	3,602	87,838	4.1%
Dartmouth / Southeastern	6,563	115,427	5.7%
Eastern Shore Musquodoboit	468	18,165	2.6%
Halifax Peninsula / Chebucto	10,641	167,379	6.4%
West Hants	299	20,897	1.4%
Unknown	35	-	0.0%
<b>Eastern</b>	<b>3,821</b>	<b>163,450</b>	<b>2.3%</b>
Antigonish and Guysborough	394	27,548	1.4%
Cape Breton County	2,486	102,397	2.4%
Inverness / Victoria / Richmond	934	33,505	2.8%
Unknown	7	-	0.0%
<b>Northern</b>	<b>4,953</b>	<b>150,409</b>	<b>3.3%</b>
Colchester East Hants	1,864	69,991	2.7%
Cumberland	882	34,750	2.5%
Pictou County	1,953	45,668	4.3%
Unknown	254	-	0.0%
<b>Western</b>	<b>11,775</b>	<b>196,284</b>	<b>6.0%</b>
Annapolis and Kings	6,205	78,507	7.9%
Queens and Lunenburg	2,642	59,384	4.4%
Unknown	1	-	0.0%
Yarmouth / Shelburne /Digby	2,927	58,393	5.0%
<b>Unknown</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>0.0%</b>
<b>Total # Not Yet Placed</b>	<b>42,198</b>	<b>919,849</b>	<b>4.6%</b>

## PROVINCIAL OVERVIEW: FOUND A PRIMARY CARE PROVIDER

### OVERALL PROVINCIAL VOLUMES

Since the launch of the registry, there were 6,428 registrants who found a provider as tracked via the registry. Of these registrants:

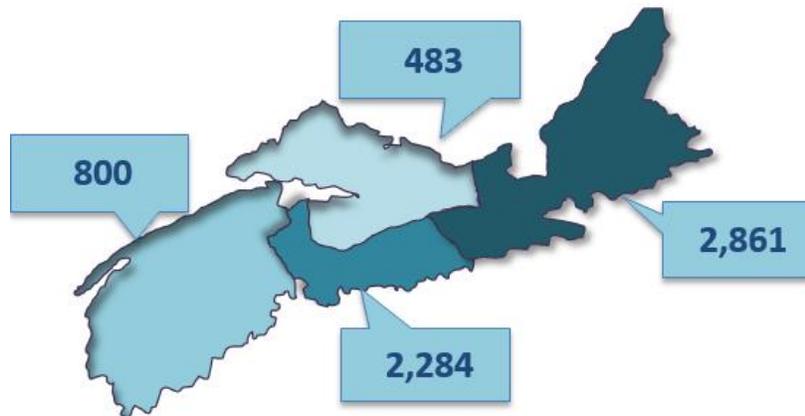
- 3,497 were accepted as new patients by primary care providers who requested and received a list of patient names through the NFP registry.
- 2,931 indicated they had found a primary care provider when contacted or when updating their information in the registry.

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**) were:

- Central Zone: 2,284
- Eastern Zone: 2,861
- Northern Zone: 483
- Western Zone: 800

**Figure 3:** Total Volumes – Found a Primary Care Provider



Note: Data are reported at a zone and network level. Data become identifiable if reported at a smaller level (e.g., community health network)