

FINDING A PRIMARY CARE PROVIDER IN NOVA SCOTIA

January 2020 Report

Prepared for: Public



Reporting Cycle: Monthly

INTRODUCTION

Background

Nova Scotia Health Authority’s Need a Family Practice (NAFP) registry was launched on December 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 on the NAFP registry online or by telephone to be contacted by a participating practice/provider that is accepting new patients. There are two main ways that contribute to how we report the number of people who have found a primary care provider in Nova Scotia: (1) Through names that are on the NAFP Registry and; (2) names that are not on the NAFP Registry and are sent to NSHA through other routes.

 1. NSHA’s Need a Family Practice Registry	 2. Other Routes
People can register themselves and their family members on the Need a Family Practice (NAFP) Registry online or by telephone to be contacted by a participating practice/provider that is accepting new patients.	People can find a primary care provider in other ways, such as with local family practices, through a family member who is an existing patient of a practice, or through a referral by another provider. Information on the number of patients accepted by family doctors who received the patient attachment incentive since April 2018 is also included in the ‘Other Routes’ category.

The term ‘**Found a Provider**’ is used throughout the report to depict the approximate number of people in Nova Scotia who have found a primary care provider and were registered on the NAFP registry and through other routes as tracked by NSHA since December 2016. The term ‘**Not Yet Placed**’ is used to depict the number of NAFP registrants who are seeking a primary care provider and have added their names to the NAFP registry.

The report highlights the overall volume of people who have found a provider and who are not yet placed by geography (zone, network, and cluster), as well as by month, with data as of **December 25, 2019**.

Report Format

This report is divided into the following sections:

1. Total Provincial Volumes
2. Monthly Activity
3. Total Zonal Volumes – Found a Provider
4. Total Zonal Volumes – Not Yet Placed

1 | TOTAL PROVINCIAL VOLUMES



Total Provincial Volumes – Found a Primary Care Provider

- As reported in the month of December, 5,148 people found a primary care provider.
- The overall number of people in Nova Scotia who have found a primary care provider (NAFP registry and other routes) as tracked by NSHA since December 2016 is 134,209.



Total Provincial Volumes – Not Yet Placed

- As of the January 1, 2020 report, there were 46,991 registrants not yet placed with a family practice, which accounts for 5.1% of the total population in Nova Scotia (based on 2016 census data).
- This represents a 3.7% decrease from the December 1, 2019 report where 48,790 registrants were not yet placed.

Figure 1 identifies the number of people in Nova Scotia who have found a primary care provider who were on the NAFP registry or identified through other routes as tracked by NSHA since December 2016.

Figure 1: Total Provincial Volumes - Found a Primary Care Provider by Month

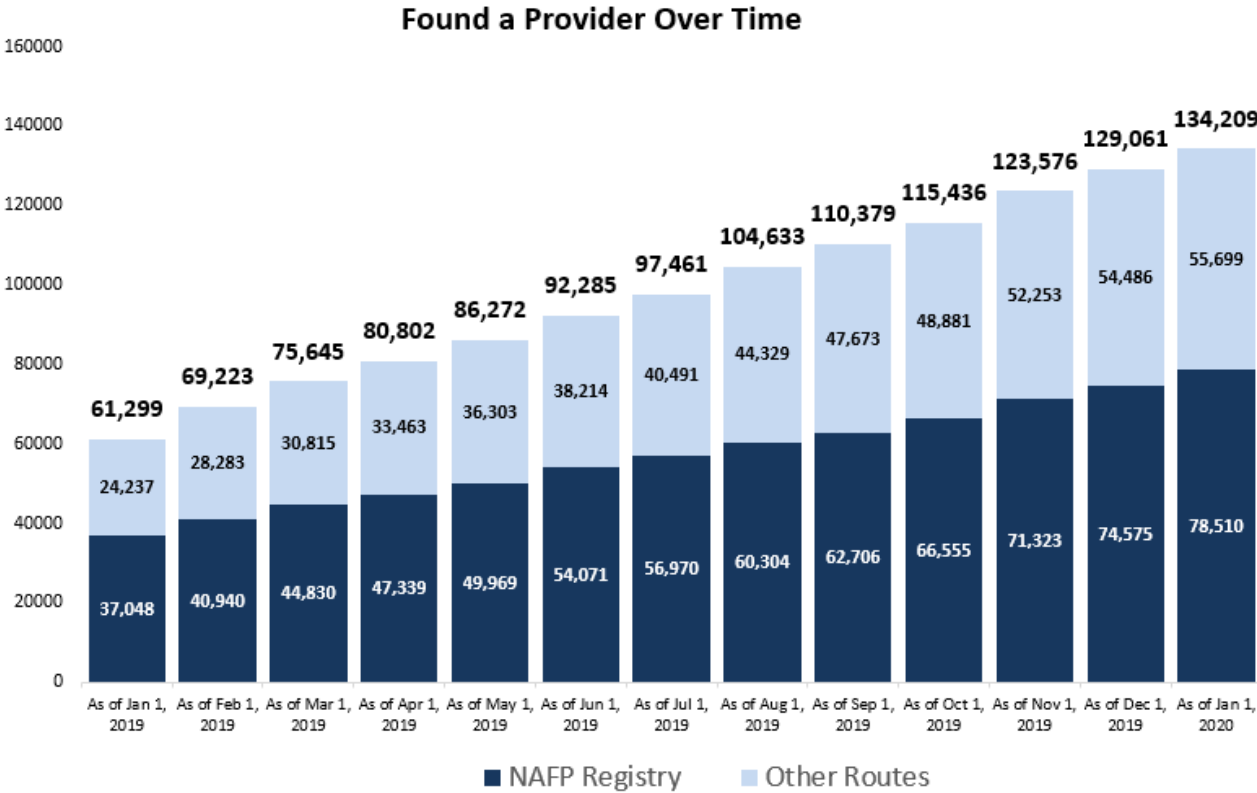


Figure 2 depicts the total number of registrants, by month, on the Need a Family Practice registry that are not yet placed with a family practice.

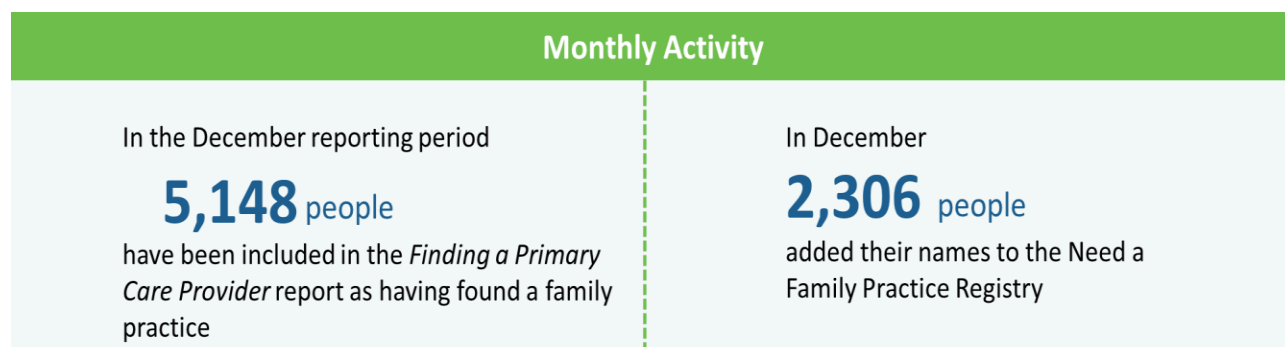
Figure 2: Total Provincial Volumes - Not Yet Placed by Month



2 | MONTHLY ACTIVITY

During the month of December, 5,148 people found a family doctor or nurse practitioner, and 2,306 people added their names to the Need a Family Practice registry as of January 1. Figure 3 highlights the overall monthly activity during the month of December 2019.


Figure 3: Provincial Volumes - Monthly Activity



Monthly Activity by Zone

Figure 4 provides a summary of the monthly activity that occurred between the December 1 report and the January 1 report.

Figure 4: Total Zonal Monthly Activity



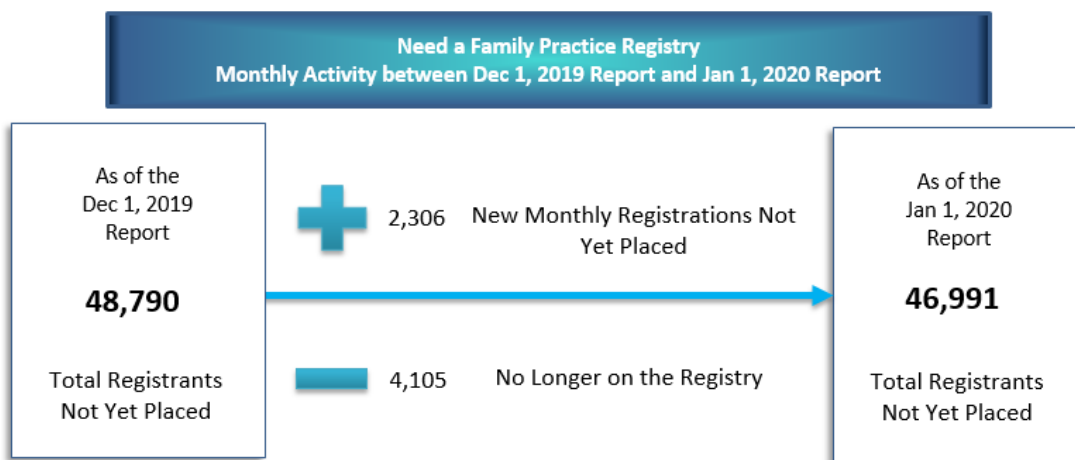
		Dec 1, 2019	Jan 1, 2020	% Change	Jan 1, 2020	Jan 1, 2020
Central Zone	Bedford /Sackville, Dartmouth / Southeastern, Eastern Shore Musquodoboit, Halifax Peninsula / Chebucto, and West Hants	9,920	7,955	-19.8%	1.9%	70,204
Eastern Zone	Antigonish and Guysborough, Cape Breton County, and Inverness / Victoria / Richmond	4,700	4,596	-2.2%	2.9%	21,887
Northern Zone	Colchester, Cumberland, and Pictou County	12,975	13,319	2.7%	9.0%	17,413
Western Zone	Annapolis and Kings, Queens and Lunenburg and Yarmouth / Shelburne / Digby	21,159	21,044	-0.5%	10.9%	24,416
Unknown Geography	Unknown Geography	36	77	-	-	289
NOVA SCOTIA	TOTAL ACROSS NOVA SCOTIA	48,790	46,991	-3.7%	5.1%	134,209

*Not yet placed percent of the population relative to the geography's population (i.e., zone)

Monthly Registry Activity

Specific to the NAFP registry during the month of December, 2,306 new registrations occurred (people who need a family practice) and 4,105 registrants were removed from the registry. People are removed from the registry because they were assisted with finding a family practice or for other reasons, such as already having found a provider when contacted by NSHA or having a duplicate registration. Figure 5 highlights the overall activity in the NAFP registry during the month of December 2019.

Figure 5: Monthly NAFP Registry Activity

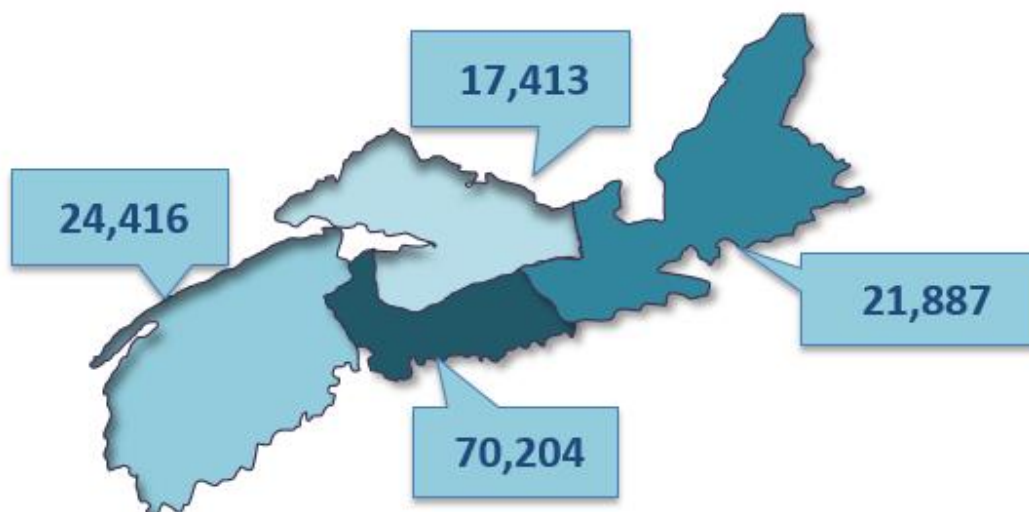


The registry is dynamic, with registrants being added and removed each day. Figure 5 is a simplified graphic that compares two snapshots, one month apart. It depicts the change in the registry total, showing the number of those who have newly registered in the past month, minus the number of people who were no longer on the registry, which is a total of the number of registrants who found a provider and those who have been removed from the registry for other reasons.

3 | TOTAL ZONAL VOLUMES: FOUND A PRIMARY CARE PROVIDER

As of the January 1 report, 134,209 Nova Scotians have found a primary care provider who were registered on the NAFP registry or identified through other routes as tracked by NSHA, since December 2016. Figure 6 depicts the breakdown of individuals, by zone, that have found a provider.

Figure 6: Total Zonal Volumes - Found a Primary Care Provider



*Note: 289 have an unknown zone

Table 1 provides the geographic breakdown of the number of people by zone, network, and cluster that found a primary care provider as reported through the NAFP registry or other routes tracked by NSHA, since December 2016.

Table 1: Total Zone, Network, and Cluster Volumes - Found a Primary Care Provider – January 1, 2020 Report

Total Zone, Network, and Cluster Volumes - Found a Primary Care Provider – January 1, 2020 Report	
Zone/Network/Cluster	Total # Found a Provider
Central	70,204
Bedford / Sackville	11,948
Bedford / Hammonds Plains	5,567
Fall River / Waverley	1,484
Sackville North and Area	2,655
Sackville South	2,242
Dartmouth / Southeastern	20,406
Cole Harbour / Eastern Passage	5,238
Dartmouth East	5,524
Dartmouth North	3,612
Dartmouth South	4,670
Preston / Lawrencetown / Lake Echo	1,362

Total Zone, Network, and Cluster Volumes - Found a Primary Care Provider – January 1, 2020 Report	
Zone/Network/Cluster	Total # Found a Provider
Eastern Shore Musquodoboit	2,674
Eastern Shore Musquodoboit	2,674
Halifax Peninsula / Chebucto	27,904
Armdale / Spryfield / Herring Cove	4,136
Clayton Park	6,336
Fairview	3,046
Halifax Chebucto	3,072
Halifax Citadel	3,207
Halifax Needham	3,681
Sambro Loop Area	1,271
Tantallon / Timberlea / St.Margaret's Bay	3,155
West Hants	7,272
West Hants	7,272
Eastern	21,887
Antigonish and Guysborough	953
Antigonish	798
Guysborough / Canso	109
Sherbrooke	46
Cape Breton County	15,553
Dominion / Glace Bay	2,623
Florence / Sydney Mines / North Sydney	2,642
New Waterford	1,922
Sydney and Area	8,366
Inverness / Victoria / Richmond	5,381
Baddeck / Whycomomagh	2,558
Cheticamp	587
Dingwall	42
Inverness	334
Port Hawkesbury / L'Ardoise / Isle Madame	1,860
Northern	17,413
Colchester East Hants	9,053
East Hants Corridor	591
Economy / Glenholme	189
Hants North	612
South Colchester	469
Truro and Area	7,192
Cumberland	3,738
Amherst	1,538
Cumberland North / North Shore	804
South Cumberland	360
Springhill	1,036
Pictou County	4,622
New Glasgow / Westville / Stellarton	2,850

Total Zone, Network, and Cluster Volumes - Found a Primary Care Provider – January 1, 2020 Report	
Zone/Network/Cluster	Total # Found a Provider
Pictou West	1,772
Western	24,416
Annapolis and Kings	10,364
Annapolis Royal	535
Berwick	1,390
Kentville	3,898
Middleton	2,912
Wolfville	1,629
Queens and Lunenburg	7,527
Bridgewater	2,939
Chester and Area	1,950
Liverpool	1,746
Lunenburg / Mahone Bay	892
Yarmouth / Shelburne / Digby	6,525
Digby / Clare / Weymouth	2,080
Shelburne / Lockeport	1,816
Yarmouth	2,629
Unknown	289
Total Found a Provider	134,209

4 | TOTAL ZONAL VOLUMES – NOT YET PLACED

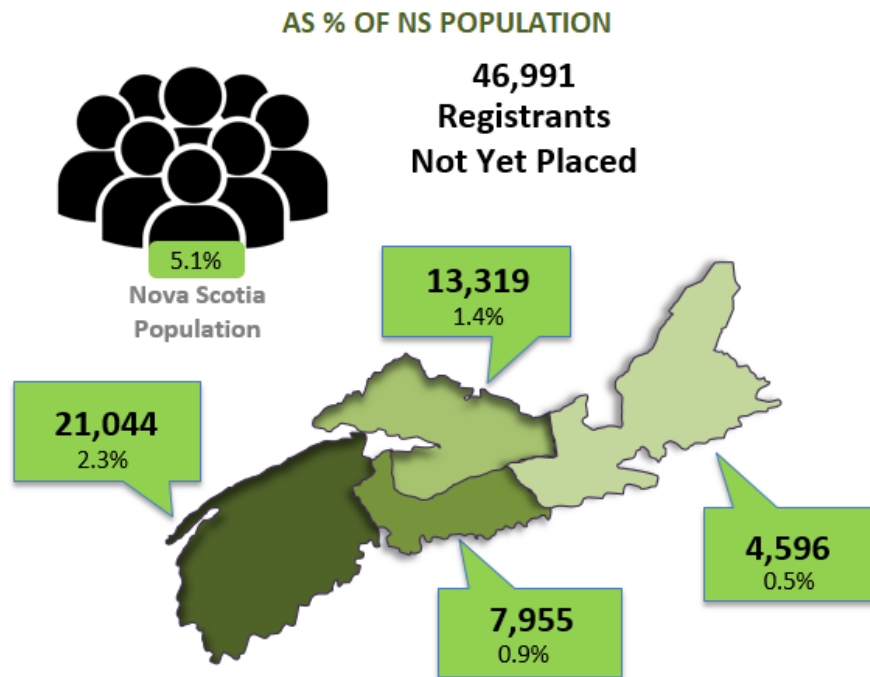
There are 46,991 registrants not yet placed with a family practice as of the January 1 report. The total volumes by zone* are:

- Central Zone: 7,955 registrations
- Eastern Zone: 4,596 registrations
- Northern Zone: 13,319 registrations
- Western Zone: 21,044 registrations

*Note: 77 have an unknown zone

Figure 7 gives a high-level overview of the volume of NAFP registrants who are not yet placed, by zone, as a percent of the total Nova Scotia population based on 2016 census counts.

Figure 7: Total Zone Not Yet Placed Volumes, as a Percent of the Total Nova Scotia Population



*Note: 77 have an unknown zone

Table 2 gives a detailed geographical breakdown of the volume of registrants not yet placed by zone, network, and cluster and as a percent of the corresponding zone, network, and cluster population.

Table 2: Total Volumes Not Yet Placed by Zone, Network, and Cluster and as Percent of Population by Zone, Network, and Cluster

Total Zone, Network, and Cluster Volumes – Not Yet Placed – January 1, 2020 Report			
Zone/Network/Cluster	Total # Not Yet Placed	Population by Zone, Network, Cluster (2016)	% of Population by Zone, Network, Cluster (2016)
Central	7,955	423,498	1.9%
Bedford / Sackville	1,212	99,581	1.2%
Bedford / Hammonds Plains	668	40,679	1.6%
Fall River and Area	104	15,424	0.7%

Total Zone, Network, and Cluster Volumes – Not Yet Placed – January 1, 2020 Report			
Zone/Network/Cluster	Total # Not Yet Placed	Population by Zone, Network, Cluster (2016)	% of Population by Zone, Network, Cluster (2016)
Sackville North and Area	174	22,325	0.8%
Sackville South	266	21,153	1.3%
Dartmouth / Southeastern	2,024	116,491	1.7%
Cole Harbour / Eastern Passage	375	35,355	1.1%
Dartmouth East	421	23,264	1.8%
Dartmouth North	502	19,833	2.5%
Dartmouth South	569	27,284	2.1%
Preston / Lawrencetown / Lake Echo	157	10,755	1.5%
Eastern Shore Musquodoboit	440	17,474	2.5%
Eastern Shore Musquodoboit	440	17,474	2.5%
Halifax Peninsula / Chebucto	3,747	169,768	2.2%
Armdale / Spryfield / Herring Cove	414	25,640	1.6%
Clayton Park	887	34,194	2.6%
Fairview	296	17,104	1.7%
Halifax Chebucto	429	18,939	2.3%
Halifax Citadel	849	22,106	3.8%
Halifax Needham	384	19,426	2.0%
Sambro Loop Area	310	12,660	2.4%
Tantallon / Timberlea / St. Margaret's Bay	178	19,699	0.9%
West Hants	532	20,184	2.6%
West Hants	532	20,184	2.6%
Eastern	4,596	158,936	2.9%
Antigonish and Guysborough	497	26,926	1.8%
Antigonish	436	19,301	2.3%
Guysborough / Canso	51	5,039	1.0%
Sherbrooke	10	2,586	0.4%
Cape Breton County	3,581	99,590	3.6%
Dominion / Glace Bay	835	20,713	4.0%
Florence / Sydney Mines / North Sydney	630	19,679	3.2%
New Waterford	512	9,454	5.4%
Sydney and Area	1,604	49,744	3.2%
Inverness / Victoria / Richmond	518	32,420	1.6%
Baddeck / Whycocomagh	33	3,654	0.9%
Cheticamp	5	3,903	0.1%
Dingwall	3	2,567	0.1%
Inverness	59	6,932	0.9%
Port Hawkesbury / L'Ardoise / Isle Madame	418	15,364	2.7%

Northern	13,319	147,500	9.0%
Colchester East Hants	6,884	70,658	9.7%
East Hants Corridor	968	12,674	7.6%
Economy / Glenholme	450	5,277	8.5%
Hants North	552	6,945	7.9%
South Colchester	431	10,792	4.0%
Truro and Area	4,483	34,971	12.8%
Cumberland	1,787	33,094	5.4%
Amherst	750	13,143	5.7%
Cumberland North / North Shore	631	8,665	7.3%
South Cumberland	219	3,864	5.7%
Springhill	187	7,422	2.5%
Pictou County	4,648	43,748	10.6%
New Glasgow / Westville / Stellarton	3,818	33,561	11.4%
Pictou West	830	10,187	8.1%
Western	21,044	193,664	10.9%
Annapolis and Kings	9,487	78,793	12.0%
Annapolis Royal	873	6,056	14.4%
Berwick	1,929	13,764	14.0%
Kentville	1,685	23,893	7.1%
Middleton	4,399	20,910	21.0%
Wolfville	601	14,170	4.2%
Queens and Lunenburg	5,356	57,933	9.2%
Bridgewater	2,487	26,711	9.3%
Chester and Area	949	11,778	8.1%
Liverpool	897	10,351	8.7%
Lunenburg / Mahone Bay	1,023	9,093	11.3%
Yarmouth / Shelburne / Digby	6,201	56,938	10.9%
Digby / Clare / Weymouth	2,388	18,553	12.9%
Shelburne / Lockeport	1,175	13,966	8.4%
Yarmouth	2,638	24,419	10.8%
Unknown	77	-	0.0%
Total # Not Yet Placed	46,991	923,598	5.1%