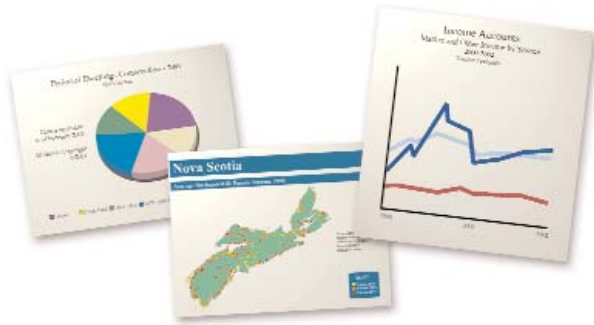


Nova Scotia Community Counts

A statistical infrastructure system being developed by the Province of Nova Scotia, Community Counts will bring you the data that counts.



All too often, policy, program and operational decisions are made in government, in organizations, and in business, without adequate information. This is simply because the data is not available, cannot be accessed in time, is out of date or cannot be properly related to the situation at hand.

Community Counts is designed to support evidence-based decisions in general. In particular, it will provide information to help improve the health and well-being of Nova Scotians and contribute to making our communities sustainable in the 21st century. Good public decision-making needs good data, and the data provided through Community Counts will benefit many key government program and community planning initiatives.

How can I learn more?

If your department or organization is interested in a Community Counts demonstration or workshop, or if you have any questions about the project, you may contact us as shown below. We welcome your input and feedback to help us build Community Counts in a way that truly counts for Nova Scotia – and our communities.

Contact

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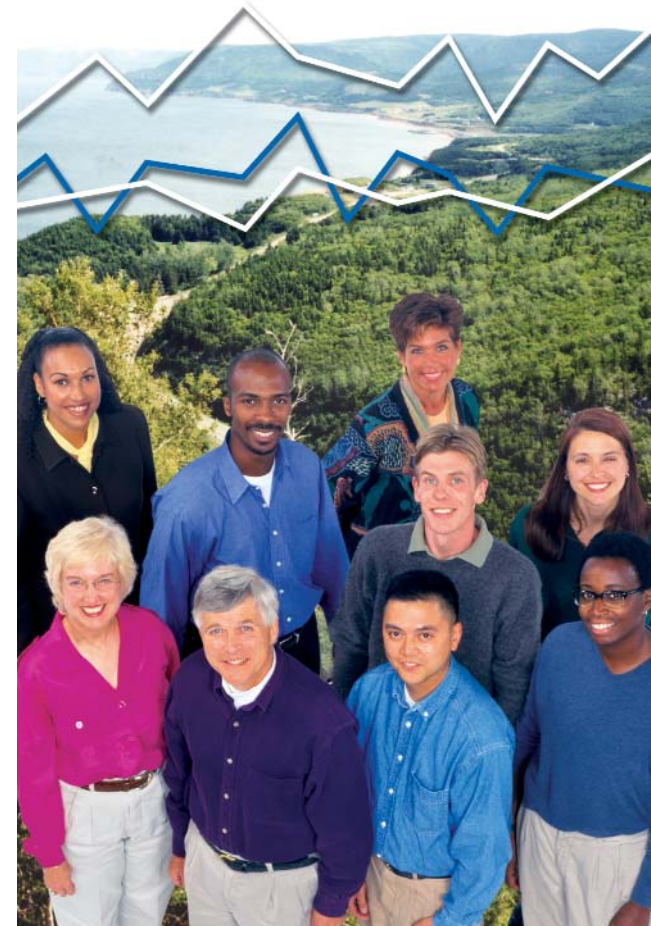
www.gov.ns.ca/communitycounts



Finance
Community Counts



Community Counts



**The data you need to make
well-informed decisions.**

Just a click away...

How does it work?

It's as easy as clicking a mouse. Nova Scotia Community Counts will provide single-point access to a comprehensive socio-economic data source. Project staff are working with government departments and agencies to capitalize on the wealth of information already on file with the Government of Nova Scotia—information from various sources about social, health, economic, and environmental conditions in the province—and turning it into data that can readily be used by policy experts and decision-makers.

The online menu gives you the choice of several search categories—health, education, or income, for example—or you can find a comprehensive profile of many Nova Scotia communities simply by clicking on a community.



How will it help me in my work?

Nova Scotia Community Counts will provide you with ready access to the data you require, giving you both the means and the time to focus on policy development, decision-making, or simply learning more about your community.

It provides relevant data through which communities can better know themselves by monitoring the

social and economic landscape, and can plan for the future more effectively by making use of comparative and contextual information.

For example, if you are doing health research, Community Counts will provide needed information on some of the factors that affect health—such as income, social support networks, working conditions, and physical environments. These and other factors are recognized and addressed within the Community Counts database, a system that will have links with other components of the health care system and with related sectors and aspects of provincial and community development. It will also contain links to other community level resources of local interest.

Who has access?

Nova Scotia Community Counts is a publicly accessible website that provides data about Nova Scotia communities free of charge. Through the site, communities can better know themselves by exploring the social and economic circumstances in which they live. Potential users include:

- government departments, agencies, and regional boards
- community groups
- economic development associations
- community health boards
- businesses
- investors
- social scientists and other university researchers
- students
- general public

The goal is to maximize data-sharing opportunities within Nova Scotia and to provide easy access to a wide range of data to anyone who needs it—in a simple and affordable way.



How did it start?

The Nova Scotia project is adapted from Community Accounts, a similar program that was launched to the public by the Newfoundland and Labrador government in 2002 in response to a growing interest in population health research.

How will it be developed?

Starting in April 2004, the province, through the Department of Finance, has committed funding and staff resources for two years for the development of a core system of Nova Scotia Community Counts. Nova Scotia Community Counts is a work in progress. Ongoing development will continue in response to feedback and support from users and other development partners.