

## Nova Scotia Community Counts

*Community Counts is a website for and about communities in Nova Scotia supported by the Province of Nova Scotia. It brings you the data that counts for your community.*

All too often, policy, program and operational decisions are made in government, organizations, and 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 This is simply because the data is not available, cannot be accessed in time, is out of date or cannot be properly related to the situation at hand.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 supports evidence-based decisions in general. In particular, it provides information to help with planning to improve the health, quality of life 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 can benefit many key government policy and community planning initiatives.

## Learn more

If your department or organization is interested in a Community Counts demonstration or workshop, or if you have any questions, 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.

## Training

Community Counts offers free training all around the province. Visit the website to find a session near you.

### Contact us:

Nova Scotia Community Counts

N.S. Department of Finance

P.O. Box 187

1723 Hollis Street, Halifax, NS

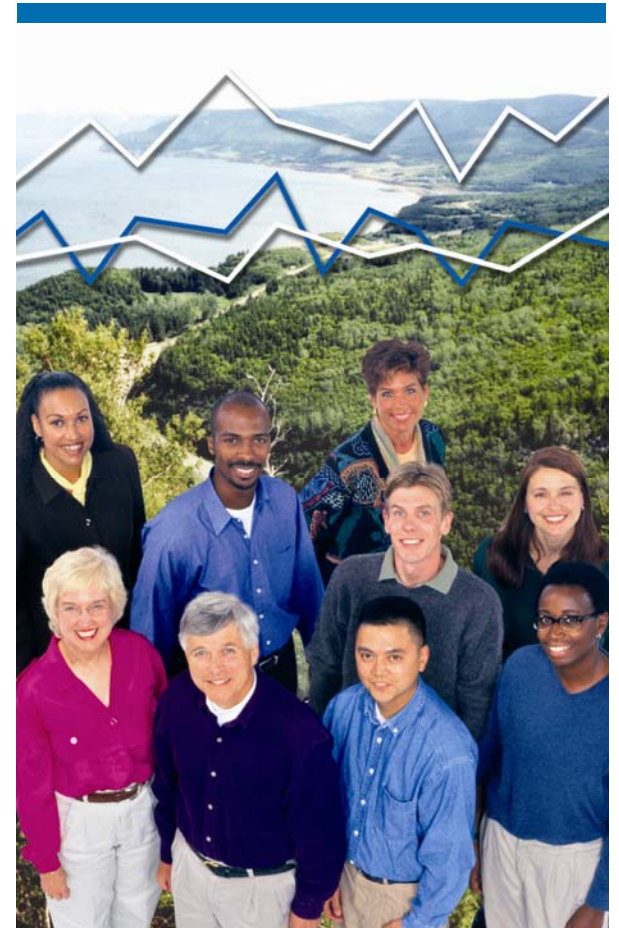
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[www.gov.ns.ca/communitycounts](http://www.gov.ns.ca/communitycounts)



Hundreds of communities.  
Thousands of facts.  
One Website!

*Just a click away...*

## From Data to Information to Action

It's as easy as clicking a mouse. Nova Scotia Community Counts provides single-point access to comprehensive information for and about communities in Nova Scotia. It supports planning, development and decision-making in government and in communities.

There are several ways to browse for data:

- by geography
- by topic
- by community profile
- by economic profile

Data is organized into ten subjects for easy reference:

- Demographics
- Education
- Labour
- Health
- Environment
- Income
- Households
- Social
- Resources
- Production

## Mapping Communities

Community Counts Map Centre is the latest innovation in mapping data about your community. It includes mapping tools that will give you thousands of options for mapping data of interest to your community—*thematic mapping* (i.e. population characteristics) and *asset mapping* (i.e. services and resources).

Asset mapping is a new feature of Community Counts that supports asset-based community development. What is a community asset? It could be a service or resource that benefits your community.



Put these two features together and you create a map that shows both population characteristics and community assets. Do you want to know about the availability of childcare? Or resource centres for families with children? Or services for seniors? All of these are possible and more!

## How it will help you in your work

Community Counts turns data into information that is easy to understand, using a variety of formats - tables, charts, graphs, maps, profiles and policy views. They inform action such as:

- Policy Development
- Program Design
- Program Planning
- Community Planning
- Community Development
- Decision-Making
- Evaluation

## Who can use Community Counts

- Governments at all levels
- Regional Boards
- Community Health Boards
- Community groups of all kinds
- Economic development groups
- Businesses
- Researchers
- Students
- General public

## How it started

Nova Scotia Community Counts was conceived as an innovative way to provide public access to statistics for and about communities, inspired by Community Accounts of Newfoundland and Labrador. Released to the public in January 2005, Community Counts is now a public information service about communities.



## Where we are now

Community Counts continues to grow and evolve in response to feedback from users and requests from our development partners. Data is updated regularly to keep it current. New features are added, such as the Map Centre, Crime Prevention Policy View and Profiles, Economic Region Profiles, and Health Profiles.