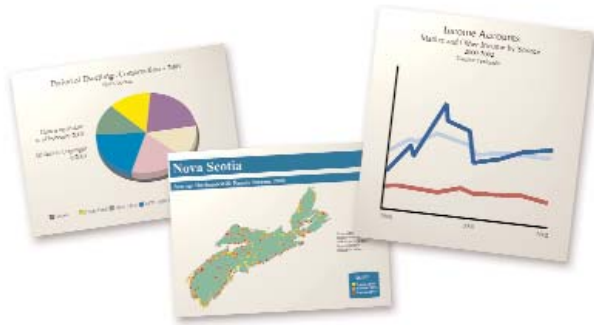


Nova Scotia Community Counts

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 This is simply because the data is not available, cannot be accessed in time, is out of date or cannot be properly related to the situation at hand.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 provides information to help with planning to 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 can 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

Nova Scotia Community Counts
N.S. Department of Finance
P.O. Box 187
1723 Hollis St, Halifax, N.S.
B3J 2N3

communitycounts@gov.ns.ca
Phone: (902) 424-2556
Fax: (902) 424-0635

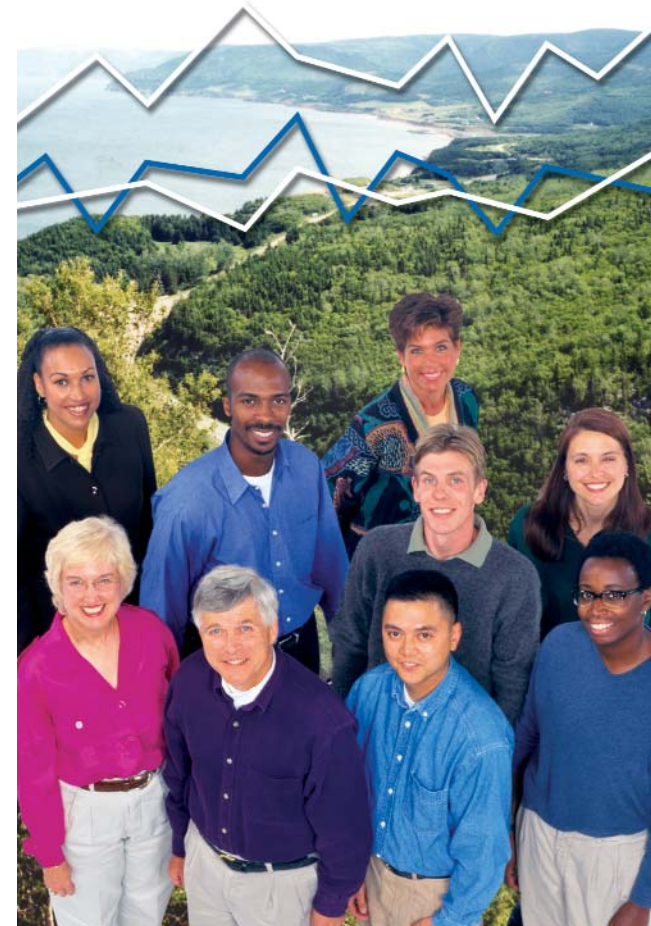
www.gov.ns.ca/communitycounts



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 provides 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 selecting a community.



How will it help me in my work?

Nova Scotia Community Counts provides 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 has links with other components of the health care system and with related sectors and aspects of provincial and community development. It also contains 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 explore 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?

Nova Scotia Community Counts was publicly released in January 2005. The project was inspired by Community Accounts, a similar program that was launched by the Newfoundland and Labrador government in 2002 to support their Strategic Social Plan.

Where are we now?

With constant support and feedback from users and our development partners, the Community Counts system continues to grow and evolve in response to demonstrated needs. The web site contains information on work in progress and new features added to the system.