

NSHA Nursing Service

NSHA is both a long-term care provider and home care nursing service provider, in addition to our role in intake, care coordination and long-term care placement.

We have 100 home care nurses working in Guysborough, Richmond, Inverness, and Victoria counties, as well the Eastern Shore of Halifax county. Last year we delivered almost 50,000 nursing visits.

Our nursing services cover 7% of the province's population and 27% of the province's geography. Ours is a rural and remote nursing service. Our average kilometres/visit in the first half of this year is 18.61km/visit.

Like other home support and nursing agencies, our service volumes have increased. We have experienced significant growth over the last few years.

We have experienced a 35% growth rate in nursing visits between 2012/13 and 2014/15. If estimates hold true for 2015/16, it will be closer to 50% growth over the last four years. We are seeing more growth in LPN visits than in RN visits. Approximately 55% of our visits are completed by LPNs.

Recruitment and retention, budget pressures and increasing demands are issues we continue to work on to ensure we can offer timely and quality service.

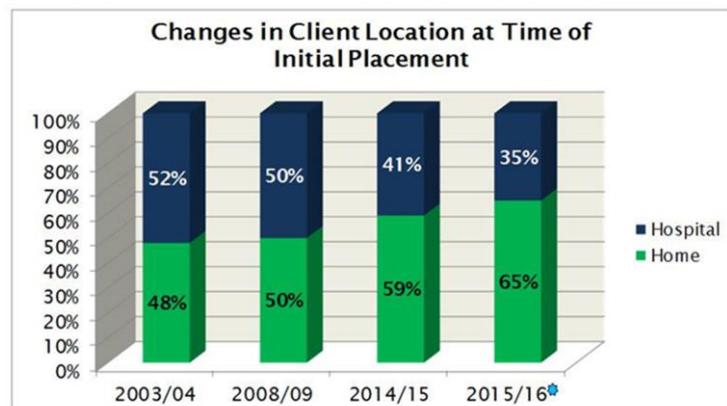


Salmon River, Sheet Harbour



Home First

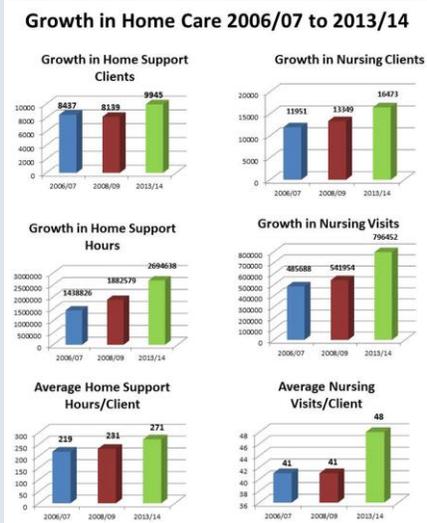
When the long-term care placement policies changed in March, the goal was to ensure that only those individuals who can no longer be supported at home and who were ready to accept placement were placed on the waitlist. DHW also introduced a 6 day response time standard for filling vacant beds. So what, if anything, has changed since then? We've been analyzing system indicators and examining trends to determine the answer. Here's some of what we have found.



More people are being placed into LTC from home and fewer from hospital. This trend started a few years ago but has dramatically changed in some areas in the first two quarters of this year. For example, in Colchester, 90% of placements to nursing homes so far this year have been from home and only 10% from hospital. We believe a combination of the Home First approach and the changes to the long-term care policies have helped enable these changes.

Home Care Growth

New investment a few years ago, a focus on home first, changes in long-term care policy and a growing population of seniors have all contributed to tremendous growth in home care. Interestingly, in the last few years, growth in nursing services has outpaced home support. This may be an indicator of complexity of care and/or it could be that we are seeing more nursing interventions being provided outside of hospital.



We'll be presenting our analysis of home care trends at the DHW Fall Forums including growth in funding, visits, hours, clients and types of services.

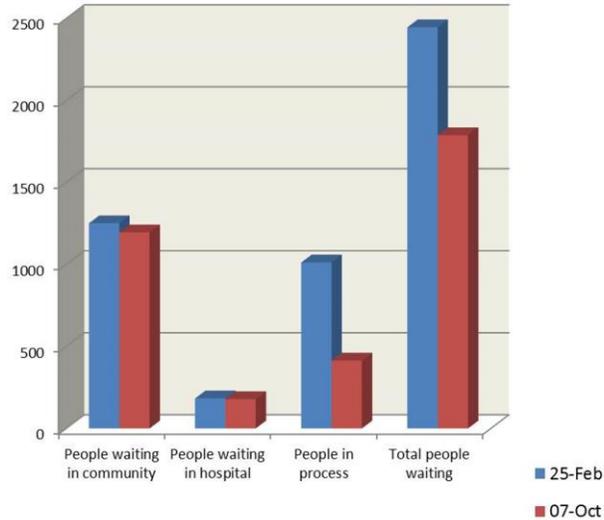
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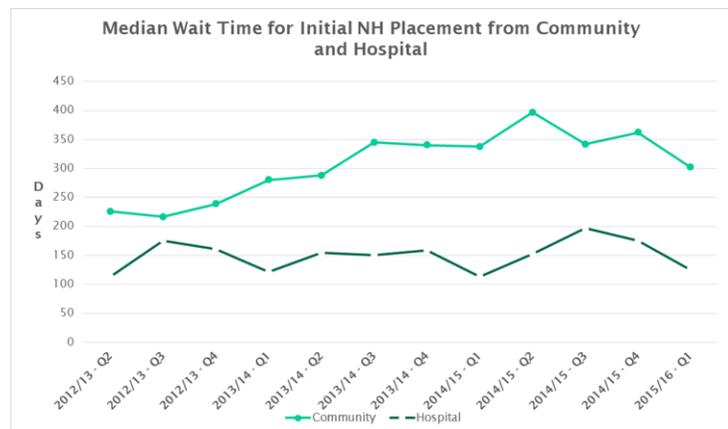
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The waitlist has decreased 27% between February 25th and October 7th (down by 658 people). While the numbers of people waiting in community and in hospital have remained relatively stable, the number of people in process has decreased. We are supporting more people at home, longer.

People Waiting for Long Term Care February 25 – October 7, 2015



Wait times for nursing homes are the lowest they have been in two years. Since January 1, 2015 we've experienced a 17% decrease in community wait times (302 days) and a 29% decrease in hospital wait times (125 days).



We'll be sharing more of our analysis at the upcoming DHW Fall Forums. We've been looking at trends related to turnover rates, average length of stay, waitlist registrations, placements, variances, refusals, respite bed utilization and location at time of placement. We will use this to inform the next round of policy changes DHW is contemplating.

