



## Nursing Homes

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### Why Is This Important?

- Seniors with chronic diseases will need assistance and care as they age, and some may be unable to live independently in their own home.
- The number of seniors in New Brunswick is expected to double over the next 20 years.
- We wanted to determine the current situation in the province concerning nursing homes and the capacity within the system to meet the growing demand for services.

## What We Found

### Overall Conclusions

- Multi-faceted solution is needed to provide sustainable care and services in the future, not as simple as adding more nursing home beds to the existing system.
- Limited public performance reporting by the Department

### Growing Costs are Not Sustainable

- Between 2000-01 and 2015-16, the budget for nursing home services almost tripled (285% increase) to \$313 million.
- Nursing home infrastructure is aging, requiring an estimated \$285 million for maintenance, repair and renewal.

### Nursing Homes Operating at Capacity

- Nursing homes operating on average at 98% capacity while demand continues to grow.
- Over 10,000 nursing home beds could be needed in 2036. There are currently over 4,000 nursing home beds in the province.

### Long Waitlist for Nursing Home Beds

- Majority of people are waiting in a hospital bed and waited an average of almost four months for placement in 2014-15.
- These individuals occupy approximately 20% of the acute care beds in NB hospitals.

#### Impacts:

- Estimated \$40 million in additional costs in last 5 years for waiting in hospital;
- Contributing to longer wait times in hospitals and inefficient use of hospital resources, and;
- Individuals could be receiving different care more appropriate for their circumstances.

### Limited Public Performance Reporting by the Department

- Regarding the outcomes and overall implementation status of its *Home First* strategy and the *2011-2016 Nursing Home Renovation and Replacement Plan*.
- Impact of these activities on the waitlist for nursing home beds is not reported to the public.