Nursing Homes
Volume I, Chapter 2

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

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.

www.agnb-vgnb.ca