

NOVA SCOTIA HEALTH ATLAS

Report on 2011 to 2016 Atlas Geography Change

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BACKGROUND

The three levels of Nova Scotia Health Atlas geographic boundaries (community cluster, community health network and management zone) were updated using the 2016 Canadian Census Dissemination Area (DA) geography. Geographic changes between the 2011 and 2016 data include minor DA boundary line changes, subdivision or partial amalgamation of DAs, and changes in DA naming.

These changes to the DAs largely did not affect the Atlas geographic boundaries because the changes occurred *within* the existing community clusters; very limited changes were made to the community cluster boundary lines, as a result. Any population changes throughout community clusters, community health networks and management zones are therefore largely reflective of population increase or decrease, not the DA boundary change. The following sections summarize the impact of DA geography changes and population trends at the community health network and management zone levels. For more details on the population change at the community cluster level, please see [Population by Cluster-CHN-MZ geography-Census2011 and Census2016](#).

SUMMARY OF CHANGES

The 2016 census geography contained a total of 1,658 DAs—13 more than the 2011 census. Some of the DAs that existed in the 2011 census were split into smaller areas and new DA codes were assigned to each area. Some DAs were amalgamated into adjacent areas. For those cases, the old DA codes were retired. We did not need to split any DAs in the Atlas geography, other than the DAs that were previously split to produce the 2011 community cluster boundaries. We also did not change any community health network or management zone boundaries because these geographies align with the community cluster boundaries. For the list of DAs by community cluster, community health network, and management zone, please see [Population by Cluster-CHN-MZ geography-Census2011 and Census2016](#). For a detailed explanation of how the Atlas geography units were initially created, please see [Technical Primer: Coding and Population Estimates for the NS Health Atlas Geographies](#).

The Nova Scotia Health Atlas has been developed in partnership with the Nova Scotia Department of Health and Wellness, the Nova Scotia Health Authority, Dalhousie University, and the Maritime SPOR SUPPORT Unit (MSSU).

Please contact Beau Ahrens, GIS analyst for the MSSU, at BeauAhrens@dal.ca with any questions about the

Community clusters with changed memberships of DAs

The DA membership changed in the following six community clusters:

1. Bridgewater

The Bridgewater community cluster experienced the most changes between census years. The cluster had a total of 51 DAs in the 2011 census data, compared to a total of 57 DAs in the 2016 census data. Four DAs from the 2011 data were split into two or more new DAs in the 2016 data. Two DAs from the earlier data were divided and integrated into existing DAs in the more recent data, resulting in a net increase of six new DAs for the Bridgewater cluster. Furthermore, five DAs were renamed without splitting in this cluster.

2. Lunenburg / Mahone Bay

The Lunenburg / Mahone Bay community cluster, based on 2011 census data, had a total of 18 DAs; based on new 2016 census data, this cluster now has 21 DAs. Three DAs were split to account for this increase.

3. South Colchester

The 2011-based South Colchester cluster was comprised of 23 DAs. Two DAs were split for the 2016 census data, bringing the new total in this cluster to 25 DAs.

4. Sydney and Area

The Sydney and Area cluster had two DAs that were renamed between the 2011 and 2016 census data; these DAs were not split between census years.

5. Cole Harbour / Eastern Passage

The 2011 census data-based Cole Harbour / Eastern Passage cluster contained 56 DAs; one DA was split for the 2016 census data, resulting in 57 DAs.

6. Bedford / Hammonds Plains

The 2011 census data contained 43 DAs for the Bedford / Hammonds Plains community cluster. One DA was subdivided for the 2016 census data, raising the total DAs for the cluster to 44 in the updated geography.

Population changes between 2011 and 2016 census years

Changes in population between census years within each community cluster, community health network and management zone are a result of population increase or decrease within each geographic unit, and not a result of changes in boundary lines. The following tables (Tables 1 and 2) summarize the changes in population for community health networks and management zones between the 2011 and 2016 data. For details on population changes for each community cluster, please see the spreadsheet available at [Population by Cluster-CHN-MZ geography-Census2011 and Census2016](#).

TABLES

Table 1 summarizes population changes in community health networks between 2011 and 2016. Population growth was only experienced in the Dartmouth / Southeastern, Bedford and Sackville, and Halifax Peninsula / Chebucto networks. The total net population change between the two census years for Nova Scotia was 3,209 (increase).

Table 1. 2011 to 2016 census population change by community health network geography

GEOGRAPHY	2011 POPULATION	2016 POPULATION	POPULATION CHANGE
Annapolis and Kings	78,904	78,793	-111
Antigonish and Guysborough	27,732	26,926	-806
Cape Breton	102,436	100,615	-1,821
Colchester and East Hants	70,697	70,658	-39
Cumberland	34,400	33,587	-813
Dartmouth / Southeastern	115,846	116,491	645
Eastern Shore / Musquodoboit	18,516	18,024	-492
Inverness, Victoria, Richmond	33,536	32,420	-1,116
Lunenburg & Queens	58,763	57,933	-830
Pictou	45,643	43,748	-1,895
Yarmouth, Shelburne, Digby	59,088	56,938	-2,150
West Hants	20,269	20,184	-85
Bedford and Sackville	92,012	99,581	7,569
Halifax Peninsula / Chebucto	164,397	169,549	5,152
TOTAL	922,239	925,447	3,209

Table 2 summarizes population changes in management zones between 2011 and 2016. The table shows that population growth was only experienced in Zone 4 – Central, with overall population decline in the other three zones.

Table 2. 2011 to 2016 census population change by management zone geography

GEOGRAPHY	2011 POPULATION	2016 POPULATION	POPULATION CHANGE
Zone 1 Western	196,755	193,664	-3,091
Zone 2 Northern	150,740	147,993	-2,746
Zone 3 Eastern	163,704	159,961	-3,743
Zone 4 Central	411,040	423,829	12,789
TOTAL	919,812	924,854	3,209

Note: The population weights associated with the 'split' DAs in the weighting table are unchanged. For information on the weighting and DA-to-cluster data conversion, please see [\[DA-CC_Conversion_Script_Readme.\]](#)