



**NOVA SCOTIA BREAST
SCREENING PROGRAM**
Annual Report 2017-18





Did you know...

In the last 10 years,
687,069 screening
mammograms
were performed and
3,427 breast cancers
were detected.



VISION

TO ENHANCE THE
QUALITY OF LIFE
THROUGH THE EARLY
DETECTION OF
BREAST CANCER.

**MISSION
STATEMENT**

TO IMPROVE
BREAST HEALTH
AMONG THE PEOPLE
OF NOVA SCOTIA
THROUGH HIGH
QUALITY, ACCOUNTABLE
AND SEAMLESS BREAST
IMAGING AND DIAGNOSIS
ENSURING CONTINUITY
OF PATIENT CARE.

LEADERSHIP MESSAGE



Welcome!

We are very excited to release our refreshed Annual Report in October – Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

The Nova Scotia Breast Screening Program (NSBSP) provides oversight and sets standards for the delivery of screening mammography services under the umbrellas of the IWK Health Centre and the Nova Scotia Health Authority. It supports the two health authorities by centralized appointment booking, results notification, and evaluation.

This report highlights the screening pathway in Nova Scotia, and how women and health care providers can find answers to questions through resources such as our patient navigator. We have also highlighted some of our program initiatives in the area of clinical practice guidelines (high risk, transgender) as well as some of our collaborations with African Nova Scotian and several First Nations communities.

We hope this report will reflect how the program is working to improve care for the women of Nova Scotia. Please share this report and do not hesitate to contact the program should you have any questions or concerns.

Warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Trena Metcalfe".



Trena Metcalfe
Program Manager,
Nova Scotia Breast Screening Program

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Plan Ahead. Get Screened.

WHY

Regular breast cancer screening can find cancer when it is small, easier to treat, and there are more treatment options. Screening has been shown to reduce deaths from breast cancer in most age groups, but screening is not perfect – a woman could experience a false positive or a false negative. Women are encouraged to speak to their health care provider about whether screening is right for them.

WHO

Women aged 40 and older may call the NSBSP to book an appointment. Women with breast implants or a personal history of breast cancer should contact their health care provider to arrange appropriate care.

WHERE

Women can book an appointment at any NSBSP location.

WHAT

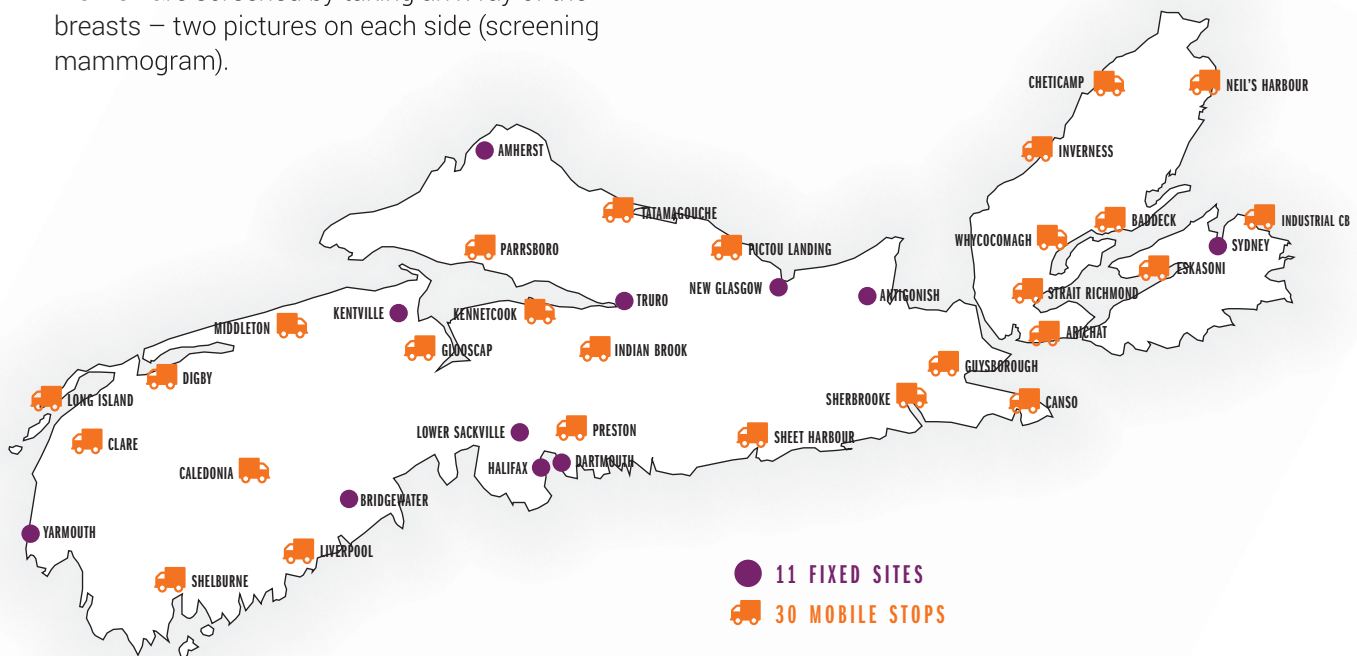
Women are screened by taking an x-ray of the breasts – two pictures on each side (screening mammogram).

HOW

Screening mammograms are performed and read at Canadian Association of Radiology (CAR) accredited sites as part of an organized screening program. Prior mammograms are used as a reference to help the radiologist look for change in the breast tissue.

WHEN

Screening is used to find breast cancer before a woman or her health care provider notices anything out of the ordinary. Women need to be screened regularly to allow the radiologist to look for change – early detection is key. Women who are concerned about a change in their breasts should contact their health care provider.



BREAST SCREENING IN NOVA SCOTIA

54%
PARTICIPATION RATE
(Ages 50-69)

2017

79%
RETENTION RATE
*for subsequent screens
(Ages 50-69)*



138,665

138,665
CALLS TO CENTRAL
BOOKING



61,102

61,102
SCREENING
MAMMOGRAMS



4,290

4,290
FURTHER
IMAGING



1,178

1,178
NEEDLE CORE
BIOPSIES



263

263
CANCERS



Engagement of Women in Priority Populations

DEDICATED MOBILE APPOINTMENTS FOR FIRST NATION AND AFRICAN NOVA SCOTIAN COMMUNITIES

Since its inception, the NSBSP has partnered with communities to help make screening accessible to all women across the province. The program works with local health centres and community leaders to create dedicated appointments for community members on the mobile van. African Nova Scotian and First Nations leaders and health care providers have worked with the program to help improve screening participation in their communities.

REACHING WOMEN IN CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES: NOVA INSTITUTE, TRURO

In the fall of 2015, the NSBSP Patient Navigator was invited to attend an annual health fair at the Nova Institute for Women in Truro. This fair, which provides women with information about different types of health services available to them, was an opportunity for the NSBSP to provide information about screening and the NSBSP. The Patient Navigator continues to attend this annual fair, ensuring that women learn about screening and how they can access services.

Did you know...

If a woman has an abnormal screening mammogram the NSBSP will automatically book any necessary tests and provide the information on the appointment time and place in a letter to her health care provider.

Breast Screening Guidelines in the Works

HIGH RISK CLINICAL PRACTICE GUIDELINE

Canadian breast cancer screening programs were implemented for women at average risk of breast cancer. However, a small percentage of women are at high risk of breast cancer, usually because of a genetic susceptibility (e.g., BRCA 1 gene) or because of chest radiation for cancer as a child.

These guidelines have been developed in consultation with provincial radiologists, surgeons, oncologists, and the Maritime Medical Genetics Service based at the IWK Health Centre. The guidelines will address eligibility and the appropriate approach to screening these women.

As with average risk women, the NSBSP aims to implement the guidelines to ensure that all women receive the same high-level of care, no matter where they live in the province.

TRANSGENDER CLINICAL PRACTICE GUIDELINE

Canadian breast cancer screening programs were implemented for women at average risk of breast cancer. However, these programs have not historically considered how to screen the transgender population.

The NSBSP consulted with radiologists, radiological technologist and managers of diagnostic imaging to develop a provincial guideline for screening the transgender population.

Once implemented, eligible transgender people will be able to contact the NSBSP to book a screening appointment at any NSBSP location.

Did you know...

Health care providers are welcome to call the Patient Navigator with general questions about screening, or to answer questions about a specific patient.



Nova Scotia Breast Screening Program Team

Program Manager
Administrative Assistant
Patient Navigation and Data Management
Data Analyst / Project Coordinator
Epidemiologist
Medical Advisor
PACS Specialist

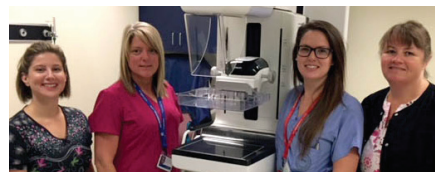
Trena Metcalfe
Monahanna McDonald
Sarah McCarthy
Olivia Tong
Dr. Jennifer Payne
Dr. Sian Iles
Robert MacDonald

OPERATIONAL BREAST IMAGING SITES, IWK HEALTH CENTRE

Halifax	Halifax Screening Clinic, Halifax Shopping Centre Breast Imaging, 6th Floor, IWK Health Centre
Cobequid	Cobequid Community Health Centre
Dartmouth	Dartmouth General Hospital

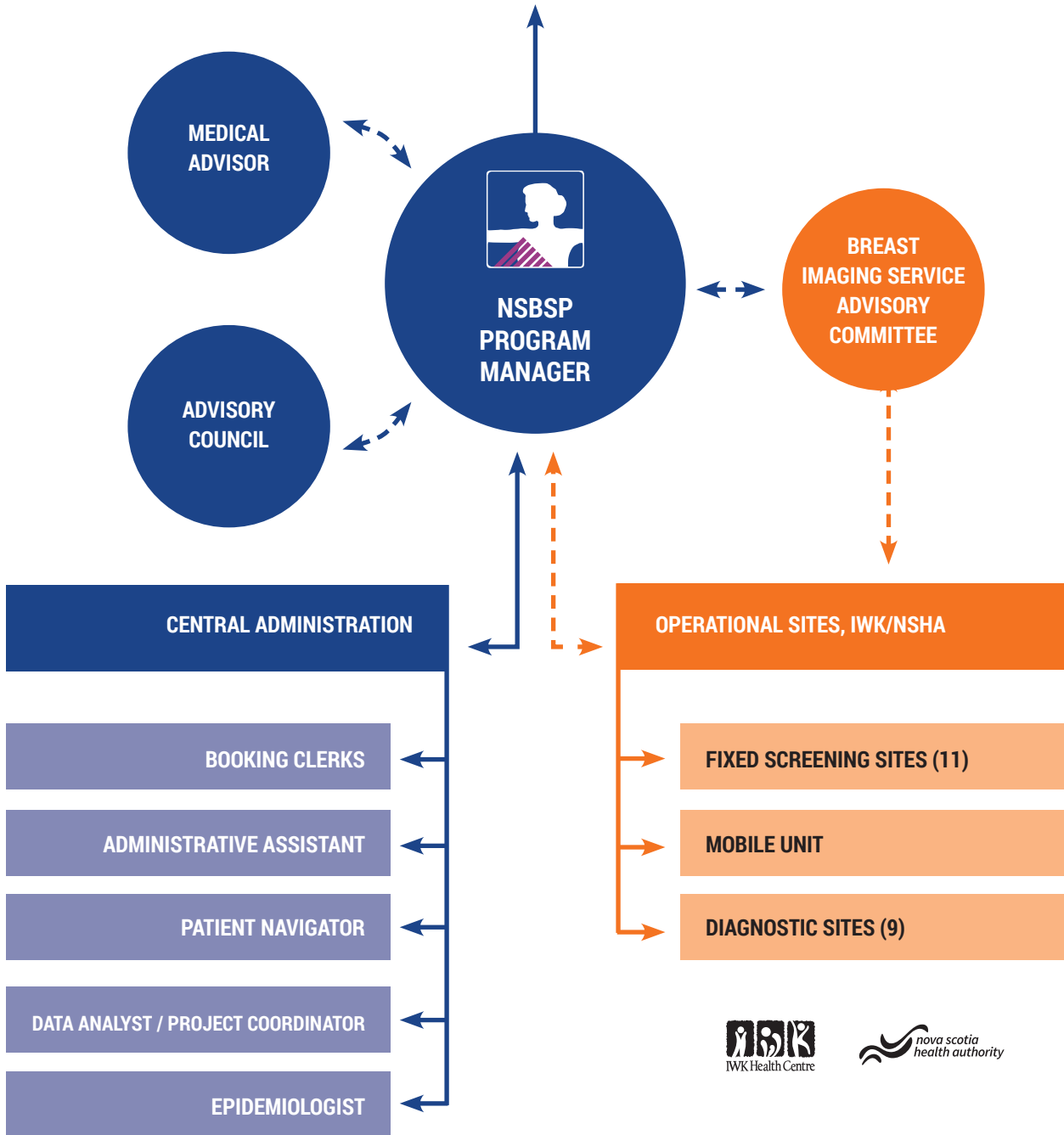
OPERATIONAL BREAST IMAGING SITES, NSHA HEALTH AUTHORITY

Amherst	Cumberland Regional Health Care Centre
Antigonish	St. Martha's Regional Hospital
Bridgewater	South Shore Regional Hospital
Kentville	Valley Regional Hospital
New Glasgow	Aberdeen Hospital
Sydney	Cape Breton Regional Hospital
Truro	Colchester East Hants Health Centre
Yarmouth	Yarmouth Regional Hospital





**IWK DIRECTOR: HEALTHY POPULATIONS
& PROVINCIAL INITIATIVES**





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