

# NEW BRUNSWICK

## Jurisdictional Profile

2023 Report

*A profile of governance, programs, and services for the aging population in New Brunswick*

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#### FOR MORE INFORMATION

The AGE-WELL National Innovation Hub, Advancing Policy and Practice in Technology and Aging (APPTA) welcomes comments about this report and would like to know how we can better meet your information needs. If you have any questions about the work APPTA conducts, please contact us.

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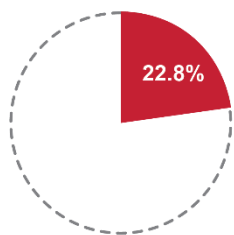
#### DISCLAIMER

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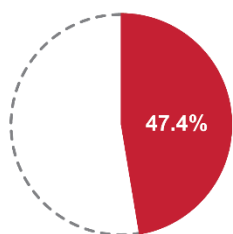
**Preamble:** New Brunswick's (NB) seniors' policy lies with both the Department of Health and the Department of Social Development. The Minister of Social Development is also responsible for the Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation whose mandate is to develop, oversee, coordinate and implement strategic initiatives and plans to reduce poverty and assist thousands of New Brunswickers to become more self-sufficient.<sup>1</sup>

## New Brunswick Seniors Demographics

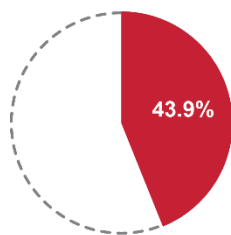
Residents 65 and older<sup>2</sup>



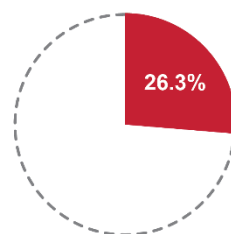
Seniors who live in rural communities<sup>3</sup>



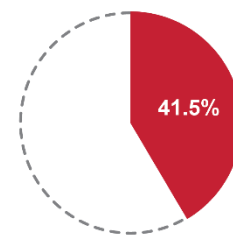
Seniors living with high blood pressure<sup>4</sup>



Seniors who live alone<sup>5</sup>



Percentage of seniors aged 75 or older<sup>6</sup>



<sup>1</sup> [https://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/contacts/dept\\_renderer.201148.html#mandates](https://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/contacts/dept_renderer.201148.html#mandates)

<sup>2</sup> Statistics Canada - <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/daily-quotidien/220427/mc-a004-eng.htm>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www2.gnb.ca/content/dam/gnb/Departments/sd-ds/pdf/Seniors/AnAgingStrategyForNB.pdf>

<sup>4</sup>

<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tb1/en/tv.action?pid=1310078801&pickMembers%5B0%5D=1.5&pickMembers%5B1%5D=2.1&cubeTimeFrame.startYear=2020&cubeTimeFrame.endYear=2020&referencePeriods=20200101%2C20200101>

<sup>5</sup>

<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tb1/en/tv.action?pid=9810025001&pickMembers%5B0%5D=1.16&pickMembers%5B1%5D=2.1&pickMembers%5B2%5D=3.1&pickMembers%5B3%5D=4.1&pickMembers%5B4%5D=5.1&pickMembers%5B5%5D=6.1&pickMembers%5B6%5D=7.1>

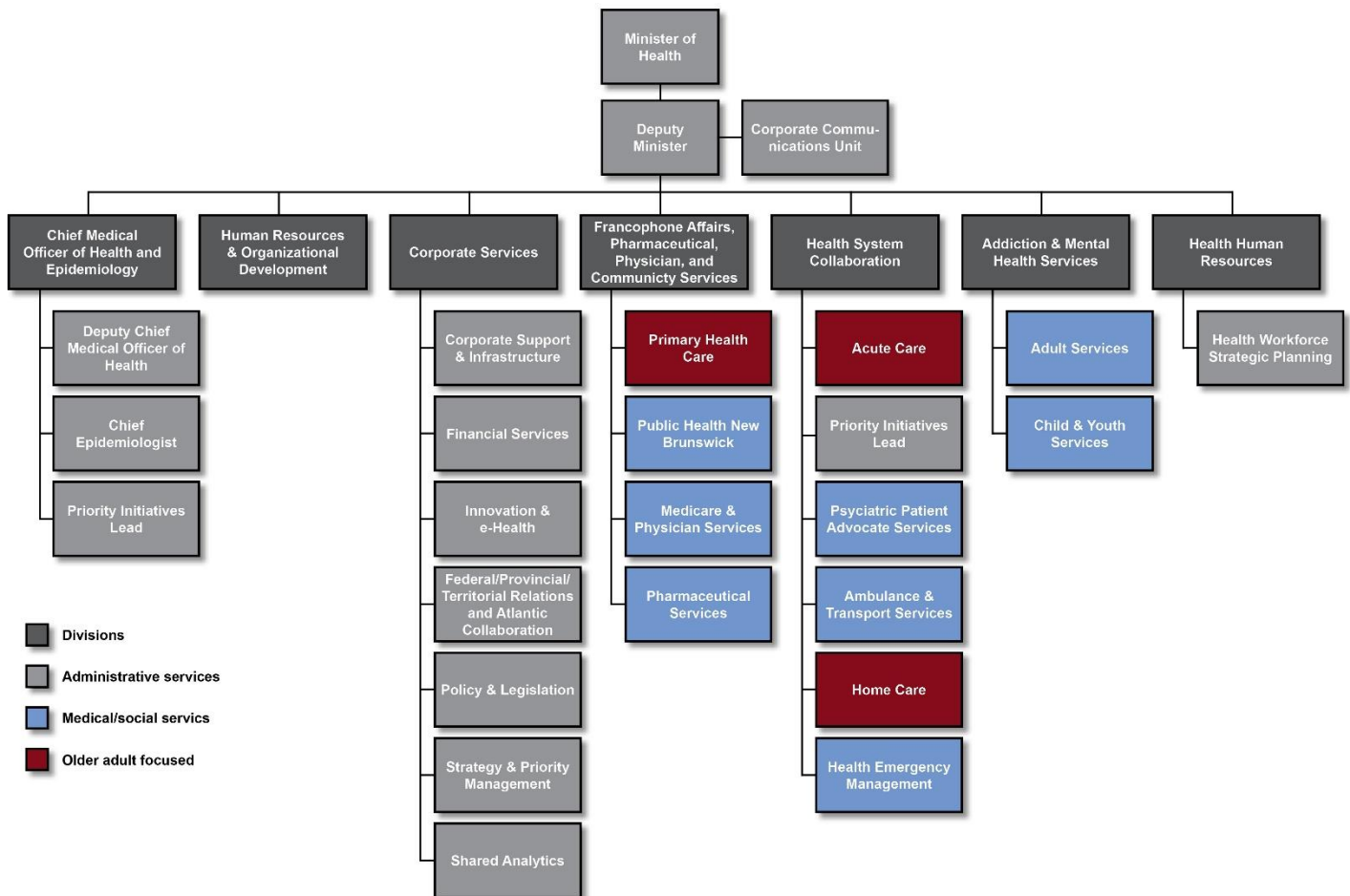
<sup>6</sup>

<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tb1/en/tv.action?pid=1710000501&pickMembers%5B0%5D=1.5&pickMembers%5B1%5D=2.1&cubeTimeFrame.startYear=2018&cubeTimeFrame.endYear=2022&referencePeriods=20180101%2C20220101>

## Department of Health

The Department of Health offers a range of essential services aimed at promoting and safeguarding the well-being of NB residents. These services encompass various aspects of healthcare, public health, and community support. The department oversees the delivery of medical care, including primary healthcare, specialized treatments, and emergency services. It plays a crucial role in managing public health initiatives, such as disease prevention, health promotion campaigns, and immunization programs. The department also works towards ensuring the safety and quality of healthcare services through licensing and regulation of healthcare professionals and facilities.

### Governance Overview<sup>7</sup>



<sup>7</sup> [https://www2.qnb.ca/content/qnb/en/departments/health/contacts/dept\\_renderer.141.html#mandates](https://www2.qnb.ca/content/qnb/en/departments/health/contacts/dept_renderer.141.html#mandates)

## Strategies / Action Plans

This section includes strategies, action plans, and other relevant reports from government that outline commitments and progress toward serving seniors.

- Striving for Dependable Public Health Care: A discussion paper on the future of health care in New Brunswick<sup>8</sup>
- [Stabilizing Health Care: An Urgent Call to Action](#)

## Legal Framework<sup>9</sup>

The legal framework consists of legislation passed in New Brunswick that direct the Department of Health and/or any agencies or non-governmental entities under its purview. This list is not exhaustive, and contains only legislation related to seniors care in the province.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ambulance Services Act</li> <li>• Anatomy Act</li> <li>• Automated Defibrillator Act</li> <li>• Cannabis Control Act</li> <li>• Cannabis Retailers Licensing Act</li> <li>• Health Quality and Patient Safety Act</li> <li>• Hospital Act</li> <li>• Hospital Services Act</li> <li>• Human Tissue Gift</li> <li>• Medical Services Payment Act</li> <li>• Mental Health Act</li> <li>• New Brunswick Health Council Act</li> <li>• Opticians Act</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pharmacy Act</li> <li>• Personal Health Information Privacy and Access Act</li> <li>• Prescription and Catastrophic Drug Insurance Act</li> <li>• Prescription Drug Payment Act</li> <li>• Prescription Monitoring Act</li> <li>• Public Health Act</li> <li>• Regional Health Authorities Act</li> <li>• Smoke-free Places Act</li> <li>• Tobacco Damages and Health Care Costs Recovery Act</li> <li>• Volunteer Emergency Aid Act</li> </ul> |
|---|--|

<sup>8</sup> <https://www2.gnb.ca/content/dam/gnb/Departments/h- s/pdf/en/Publications/HealthCare/DependablePublicHealthCare-DiscussionPaper.pdf>

<sup>9</sup> <https://laws.gnb.ca/en/bycategory/cs?categoryId=departmentId&itemId=health>

## Programs and Services

The following list provides an overview of some of the relevant and available programs and services for older adults.

- [New Brunswick Drug Plans for Seniors](#)
- [Fall Prevention](#)
- [New Brunswick Extra-Mural Program \(EMP\)](#)
- NB Health<sup>10</sup>
- Cancer Prevention and Screening<sup>11</sup>
- Influenza Immunization<sup>12</sup>
- [eVisitNB](#)
- [Mental Health & Well-Being](#)
- [Vision Loss Rehabilitation](#)
- Pneumococcal Disease Immunization<sup>13</sup>
- Tele-Care 811<sup>14</sup>

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<sup>10</sup> <https://nbhealthlink.ca/>

<sup>11</sup> <https://www2.qnb.ca/content/qnb/en/departments/health/NewBrunswickCancerNetwork/content/CancerPreventionandScreening.html>

<sup>12</sup> [https://www2.qnb.ca/content/qnb/en/departments/health/services/services\\_renderer.10775.Influenza\\_Immunization.html](https://www2.qnb.ca/content/qnb/en/departments/health/services/services_renderer.10775.Influenza_Immunization.html)

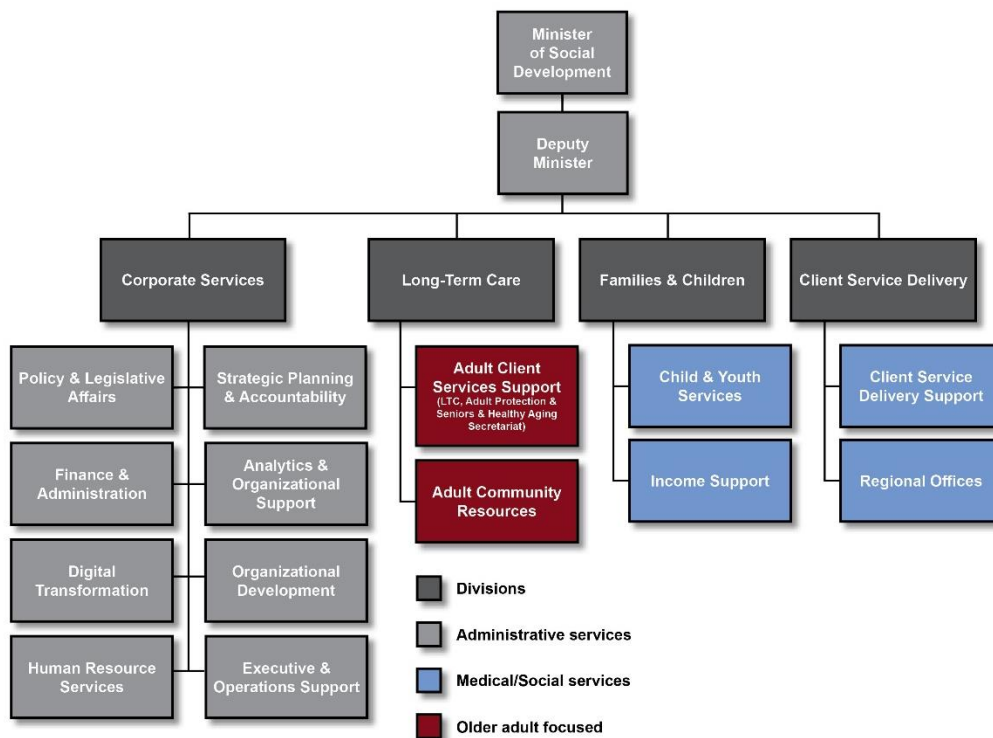
<sup>13</sup> [https://www2.qnb.ca/content/qnb/en/departments/ocmoh/cdc/content/Pneumococcal\\_disease.html](https://www2.qnb.ca/content/qnb/en/departments/ocmoh/cdc/content/Pneumococcal_disease.html)

<sup>14</sup> [https://www2.qnb.ca/content/qnb/en/departments/health/services/services\\_renderer.8995.Tele-Care.html](https://www2.qnb.ca/content/qnb/en/departments/health/services/services_renderer.8995.Tele-Care.html)

## Department of Social Development

The Department of Social Development is dedicated to enhancing the well-being and quality of life for individuals and families across the province. Committed to fostering a caring and inclusive society, the department provides a wide range of programs and services that address social issues, promote community engagement, and empower individuals to reach their full potential. Through initiatives such as income support, affordable housing, child and family services, and support for seniors and persons with disabilities, the Department of Social Development plays a vital role in the wellbeing of the residents of New Brunswick.

### Governance Overview<sup>15</sup>



<sup>15</sup> [https://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/departments/social\\_development/contacts/dept\\_renderer.140.html#structure](https://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/departments/social_development/contacts/dept_renderer.140.html#structure)

## Strategies / Action Plans

This section includes strategies, action plans, and other relevant reports from government that outline commitments and progress toward serving seniors.

- [2018-2023 Nursing Home Plan](#)
- New Brunswick Action Plan (2022-2025 – highlighting the home first strategy)<sup>16</sup>
- [We Are all in This Together: An Aging Strategy for New Brunswick](#)

## Legal Framework<sup>17</sup>

The legal framework consists of legislation passed in New Brunswick that direct the Department of Social Development and/or any agencies or non-governmental entities under its purview. This list is not exhaustive, and contains only legislation related to seniors care in the province.

- Essential Services in Nursing Homes Act
- Family Services Act (except Part 7)
- Health Services Act
- Healthy Aging and Long-Term Care Act
- New Brunswick Housing Act
- Nursing Homes Act

## Programs and Services

The following list provides an overview of some of the relevant and available programs and services for older adults.

- [Health Services Orthopedic Program](#)
- [Personal Services Program](#)
- [Social Development Equipment Recycle Program](#)
- [Adult Day Centres](#)
- [Home Support Services](#)
- [Long-Term Care Program](#)
- [Rapid Rehabilitation and Reablement](#)
- [Health Services](#)
- Mobility and Adaptive Equipment Loan Program<sup>18</sup>
- Nursing Home Services
- Dental Program
- Medical Supplies/Services Program
- Therapeutic Nutrients Program
- Orthopedic Program
- Respiratory Program
- Ostomy/Incontinence Program
- Prosthetic Program
- [Home First](#)
- [Footcare Services in New Brunswick](#)
- [Self Managed Support](#)
- [Memory Care Homes](#)
- [Adult Protection](#)

<sup>16</sup> <https://www2.qnb.ca/content/dam/qnb/Departments/sd-ds/pdf/Housing/2022-2025-new-brunswick-action-plan.pdf>

<sup>17</sup> [https://www2.qnb.ca/content/qnb/en/corporate/abc/list\\_nb\\_abc.html](https://www2.qnb.ca/content/qnb/en/corporate/abc/list_nb_abc.html)

<sup>18</sup> Health Services [https://socialsupportsnb.ca/en/complex\\_page/health-services](https://socialsupportsnb.ca/en/complex_page/health-services)



## Provincial Priorities/New Initiatives/Announcements<sup>19</sup>

The following section comprises a review of recent government announcements and budgets that have dedicated resources and action to improving programs, policy, and services offered to older adults in New Brunswick. These priorities span both government departments highlighted above.

### Self-Management

- Seniors' Health, Wellbeing, and Home Safety Reviews (home consultations for seniors that provide information on wellness, health, and social services; eligible seniors may also apply for \$1500 funding for small home repairs)
- Rehabilitation and Reablement Services for Seniors (intensive rehabilitation after hospital stays to return home faster)<sup>20</sup>

### Dependable public health care<sup>21</sup>

- The budget allocates nearly \$3.6 billion to the health-care system, a 10.6 per cent increase over last year's budget, and includes the increased health-care funding from the federal government.
- Additional funding of \$39.2 million will support improved access to primary health care in New Brunswick, and includes initiatives such as:
  - \$10.4 million for primary health-care transformation, including increasing the number of doctors that are working in teams.
  - \$8.5 million to address the increase in volume of services for fee-for-service physicians.
  - \$6.4 million to expand pharmacist assessment and prescribing services, and to continue to leverage eVisitNB. In this regard the province recently launched the Pharmacy Chronic Disease Pilot<sup>22</sup> with Pharmacists at six locations across the province so to have expanded authority to assess and prescribe for some chronic conditions as well as for Group A strep (strep throat) as part of a 12-month pilot project.
  - \$3.3 million to New Brunswick Cancer Network programs.
  - \$3.2 million in operational funding for the new intensive care unit at the Dr. Everett Chalmers Regional Hospital.
  - \$2.9 million to ensure the necessary coverage for physicians working in critical services.
  - \$2.3 million to support medical residency training positions.
  - \$2.2 million to improve patient care and reduce pressures on emergency rooms and primary care providers.
- Additional health investments include:
  - \$2.1 million in funding to expand the insulin pump program and support improved diabetes management, resulting in better health for New Brunswickers<sup>23</sup>
  - \$29.7 million to help address recruitment and retention challenges.

<sup>19</sup> This summary represents the initiatives stated under the New Brunswick Aging Strategy: <https://www2.gnb.ca/content/dam/gnb/Departments/sd-ds/pdf/Seniors/AnAgingStrategyForNB.pdf>

<sup>20</sup> [https://socialsupportsnb.ca/en/simple\\_page/rapid-rehabilitation-and-reablement](https://socialsupportsnb.ca/en/simple_page/rapid-rehabilitation-and-reablement)

<sup>21</sup> [https://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/news/news\\_release.2023.03.0140.html](https://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/news/news_release.2023.03.0140.html)

<sup>22</sup> [https://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/departments/health/news/news\\_release.2023.07.0374.html](https://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/departments/health/news/news_release.2023.07.0374.html)

<sup>23</sup> [https://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/departments/health/news/news\\_release.2023.07.0384.html](https://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/departments/health/news/news_release.2023.07.0384.html)

- \$3.1 million to consolidate hospital and laboratory information systems and improve access to diagnostic imaging data.
- \$2.4 million to expand residential treatment service in Campbellton for individuals suffering from mental health issues.
- The recently launched New Brunswick Addiction and Mental Health Helpline, a free, confidential, bilingual, 24-hour service for those looking to speak to someone about concerns related to mental health and addictions<sup>24</sup>
- \$1 million to enhance addiction medicine management services.
- \$1.7 million to deliver culturally appropriate addiction and mental services for Indigenous communities.
- The Department of Health's mobile X-ray service which is being extended to long-term care residents across New Brunswick thanks to a \$1.1 million investment by the provincial government<sup>25</sup>
- Expanding scope of pharmacists as they are now publicly funded to assess and prescribe for seven more illnesses and conditions<sup>26</sup>

### Stabilizing Health Care: An Urgent Call to Action<sup>27</sup>

- In November 2022, the government released Stabilizing Health Care: An Urgent Call to Action, a plan intended to stabilize and rebuild New Brunswick's health-care system to be more citizen-focused, accessible, accountable, inclusive and service-oriented. In the 2022-2023 budget the government allocates \$38 million to move forward on the five action areas outlined in the plan:
  - Access to primary health care,
  - Access to surgery,
  - Create a connected system,
  - Access to addiction and mental health service, and
  - Support seniors to age in place.

## Key Stakeholders in New Brunswick<sup>28</sup>

This section lists bodies that may have influence over policy or practice that impacts the delivery of services and supports to seniors.

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| ● Ability NB                                 | ● NB Home Support Association               |
| ● Alzheimer Society of NB                    | ● NB Hospice Palliative Care Association    |
| ● Association francophone des aînés du N.-B. | ● NB Human Services Counsellors Association |
| ● NB Association of Nursing Homes            | ● NB Medical Society                        |
| ● NB Association of Social Workers           | ● NB Coalition for Pay Equity               |

<sup>24</sup> [https://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/departments/health/news/news\\_release.2023.07.0347.html](https://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/departments/health/news/news_release.2023.07.0347.html)

<sup>25</sup> [https://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/departments/health/news/news\\_release.2023.05.0269.html](https://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/departments/health/news/news_release.2023.05.0269.html)

<sup>26</sup> [https://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/departments/health/news/news\\_release.2023.05.0246.html](https://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/departments/health/news/news_release.2023.05.0246.html)

<sup>27</sup> <https://www2.gnb.ca/content/dam/gnb/Departments/h-s/pdf/Stabilizing-health-care.pdf>

<sup>28</sup> [https://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/corporate/abc/list\\_nb\\_abc.html](https://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/corporate/abc/list_nb_abc.html)

- NB Health Council
- Canadian Institute for Health Information
- College of Physicians and Surgeons of New Brunswick
- Association of New Brunswick Licensed Practical Nurses
- NB Pharmacists' Association
- NB Senior Citizens' Federation
- Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technologies in Health
- NB Special Care Home Association
- Nurse Practitioners of NB
- Nurses Association of NB
- Paramedic Association of NB
- Research Chair in Community Health & Aging - St. Thomas University
- Research Chair in Population Aging – Université de Moncton