

# Interventions to Address Joint Replacement Demand in Newfoundland and Labrador

## Objectives

1. To evaluate joint replacements (JRs) completed and size of waitlists by region in Newfoundland and Labrador (NL).
2. To determine the annualized rate of JR as new interventions are introduced to improve capacity in 2023.

## Data

Data were collected and provided by NL Health Services.

## Results

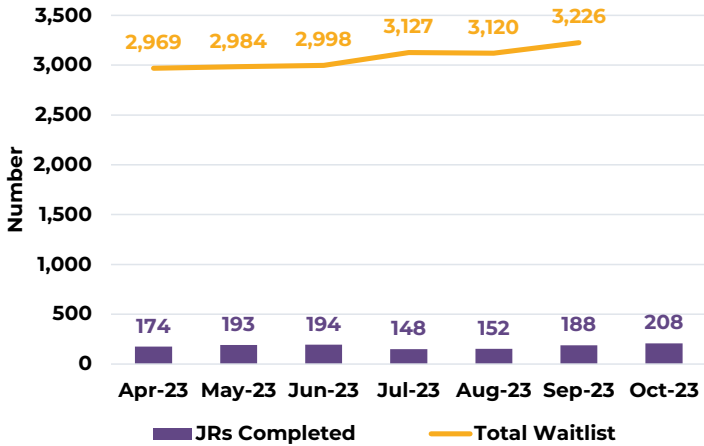


Figure 1. Combined Knee and Hip JRs Completed versus Total Waitlist in the Province, April–October 2023

- The number of JRs completed increased by 20% from 174 in Apr 2023 to 208 in Oct 2023.
- The waitlist increased by 8.5% from 2,969 to 3,226 in that time period.
- Despite the increase in number of JRs performed, the capacity has not kept up with demand.

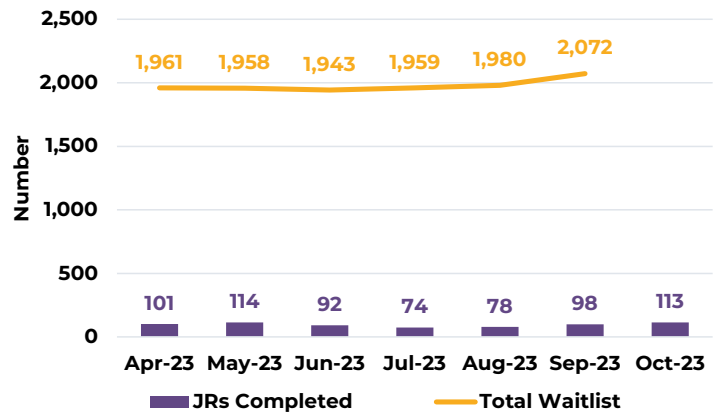
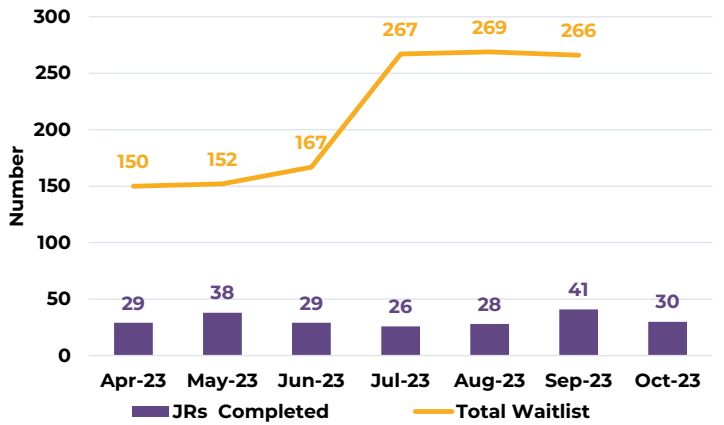


Figure 2. Combined JRs Completed versus Total Waitlist – Eastern Rural and Urban Zones, Apr–Oct, 2023



\*Inactive totals not available April–June.

Figure 3. Combined JRs Completed at Western Memorial Hospital versus Total Waitlist – Western, Apr–Oct, 2023

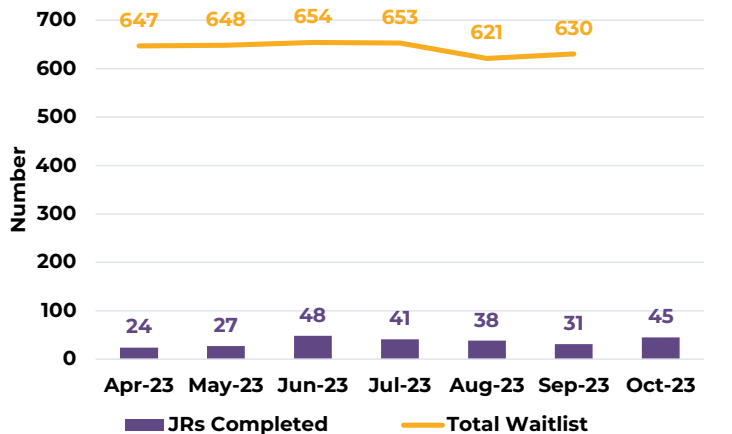


Figure 4. Combined JRs Completed at James Paton Memorial versus Total Waitlist – Central, Apr–Oct 2023

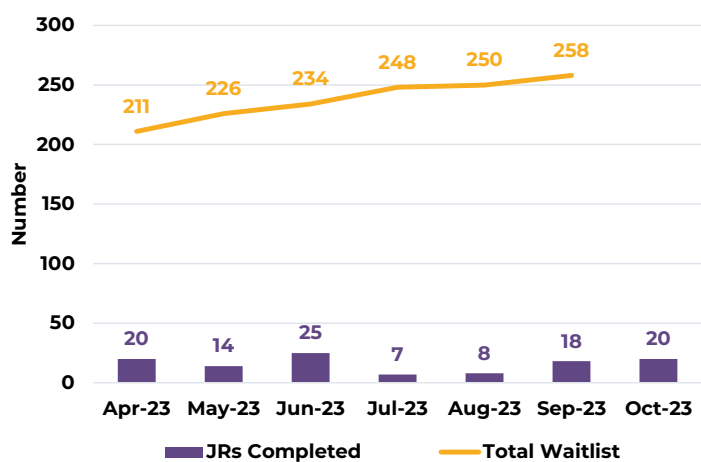


Figure 5. Combined JRs Completed at Charles S. Curtis Memorial Hospital versus Total Waitlist – Labrador-Grenfell, Apr–Oct, 2023

- The majority of JRs are completed in the Eastern zone, which also has the largest waitlist.
- The waitlist in the Eastern zone has increased by 7.5% over six months.
- Central zone’s waitlist has not decreased despite an increase in JRs from 24 in April to 45 in Oct 2023.
- The waitlist in the Western zone has increased from 150 to 262 (75%) in six months.

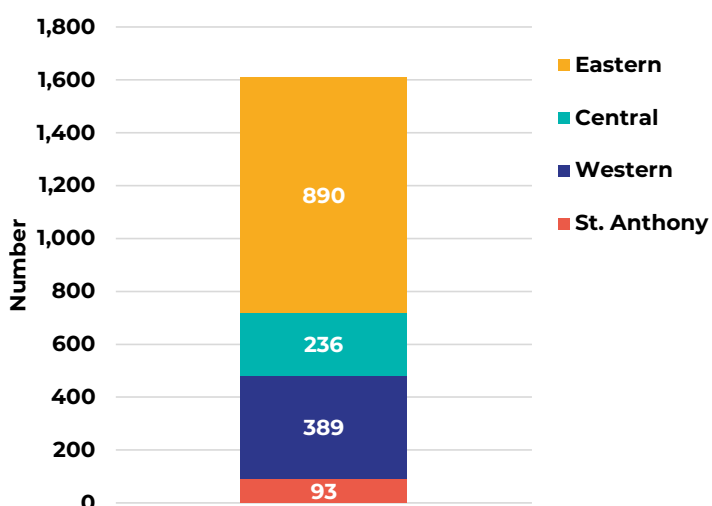


Figure 6A. Total JRs Completed, 2022

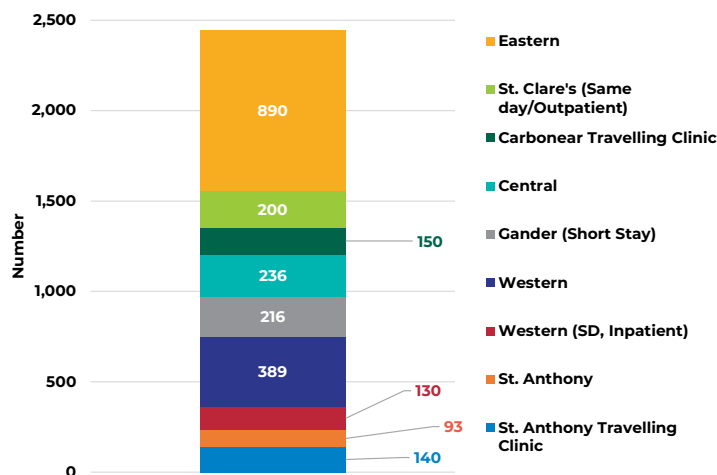


Figure 6B. Total JRs Predicted for 2023 Based on Annualized Rates for the Impact of Each Intervention

- A travelling orthopaedics team going to Carbonear and St. Anthony from St. John’s should provide an additional 290 JRs annually.
- Same-day surgery in low-risk patients at St. Clare’s Hospital was predicted to undertake 200 additional cases a year. A similar approach in Gander was predicted to include 216 additional cases, and in Western, an additional 130.
- This increase in JRs predicted for 2023 will not decrease the waitlist. Consequently, further increase in capacity to do JRs is necessary.

## Conclusions

1. NL has increased the number of JRs completed since 2022 but the waitlists continue to increase.
2. The waitlists in all regions will continue to grow without completing more JRs per year.
3. Solutions for additional capacity for JRs are being explored and could include: additional travelling orthopaedics to Carbonear and St. Anthony; increasing the availability of operating rooms for JRs; designating beds exclusively for backlog reduction; and increasing same-day JRs.