

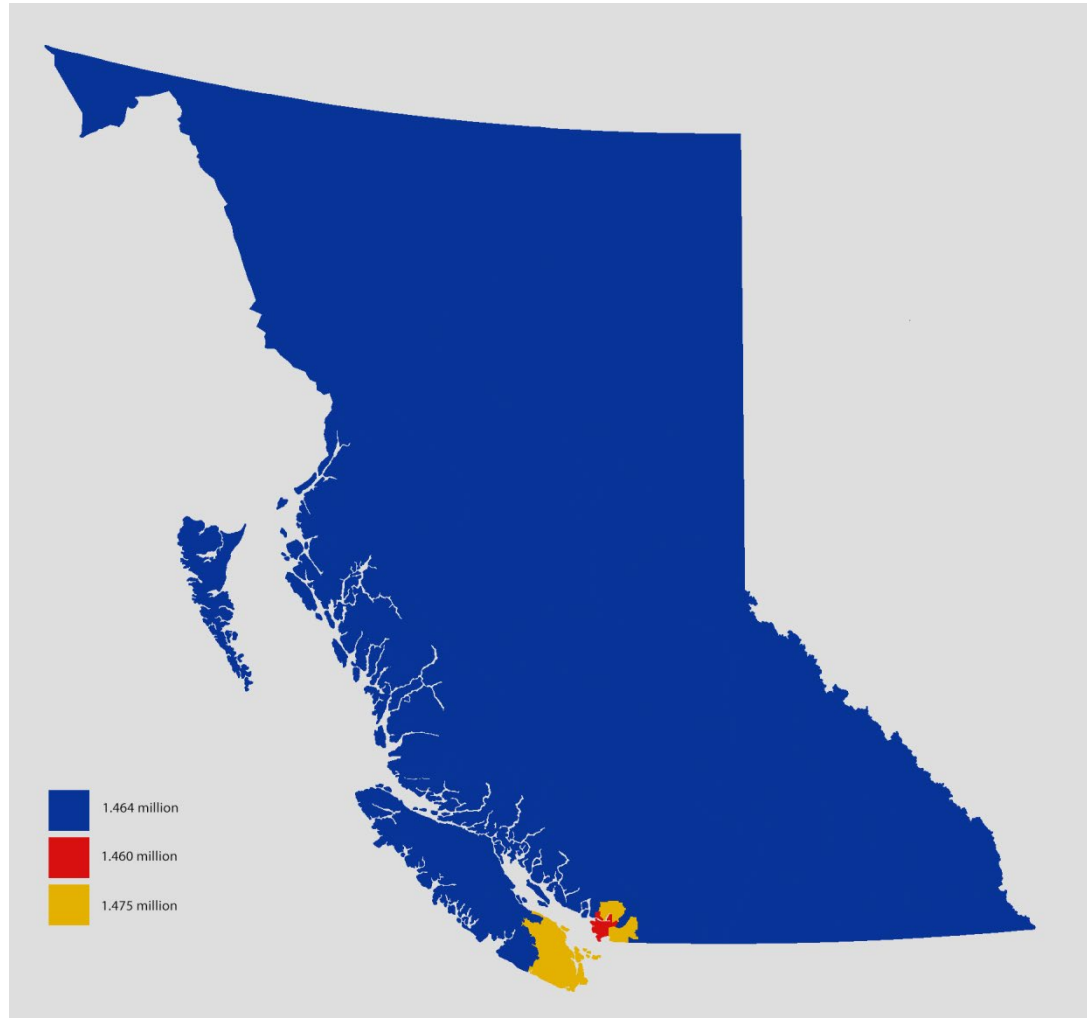


The Evolution and Revolution of Telemedicine: 15 years of pursuing equitable access to thoracic surgical care in BC's Interior and the North

Centre for Health Services and Policy Research Conference,
March 7, 2019, Vancouver BC

Marisa Berg BSc, Rasika Rajapakshe PhD, & Michael Humer MD FRCSC

Our Challenge is an Opportunity

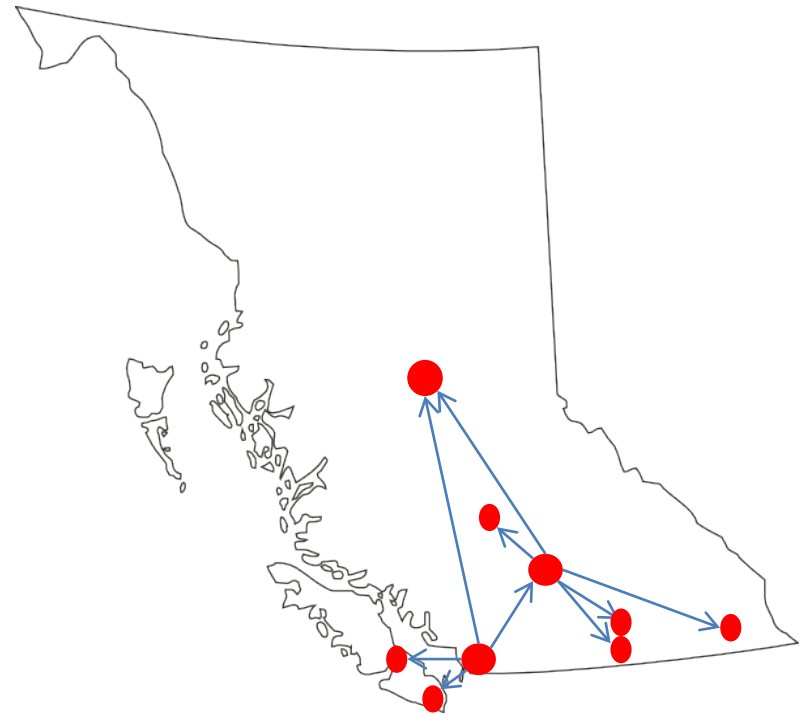


Before Telehealth

Patient Travels



Surgeon Travels In-Person

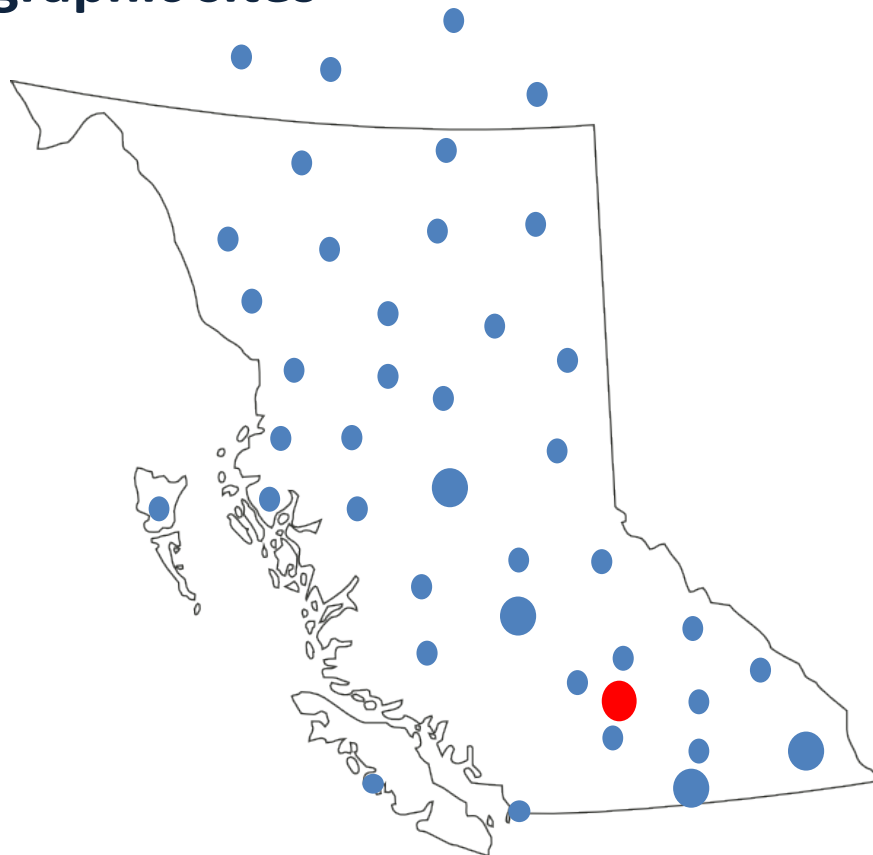


The Interior Health Thoracic Surgical Group

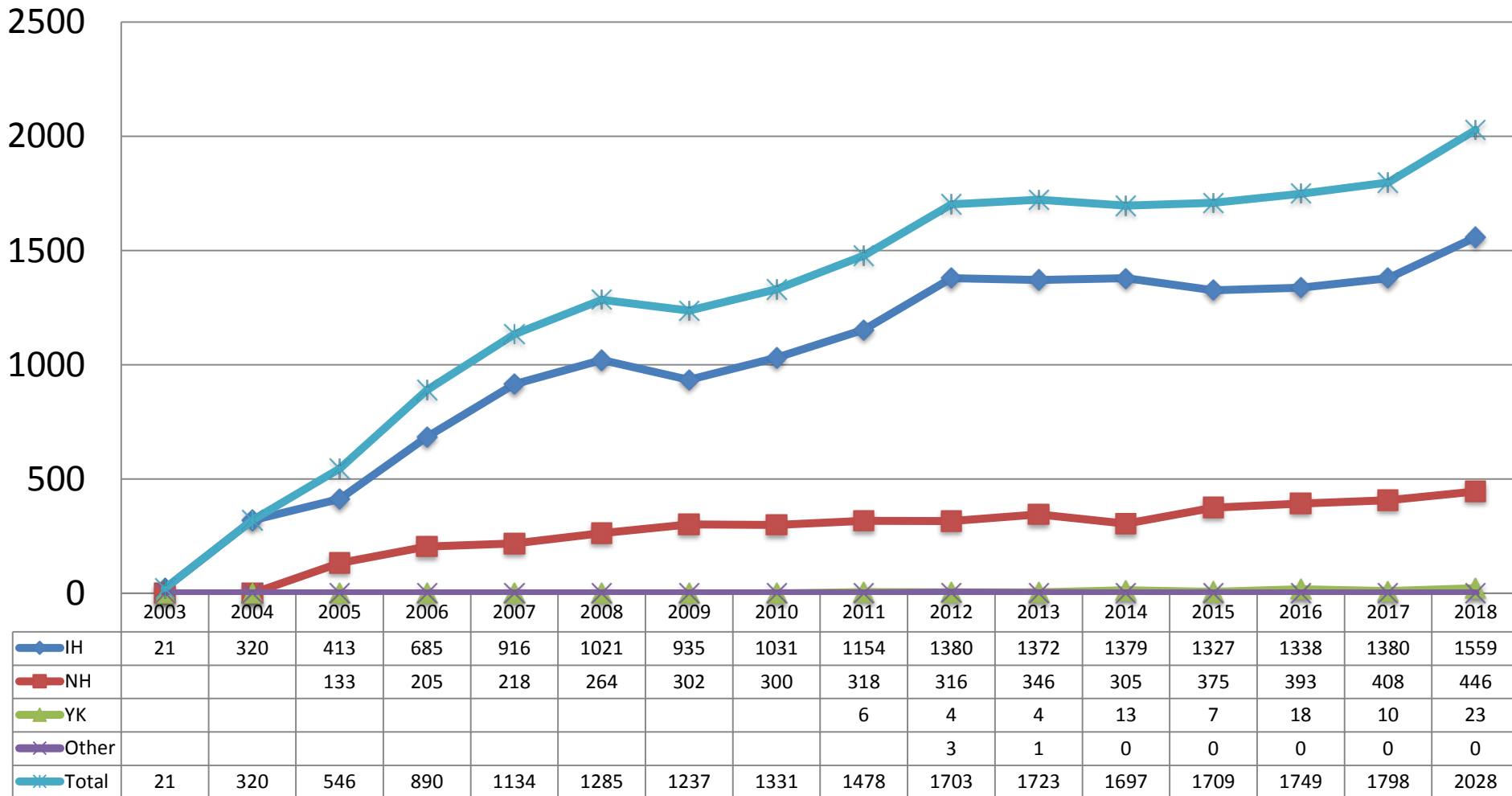


Introduction of Telehealth in BC

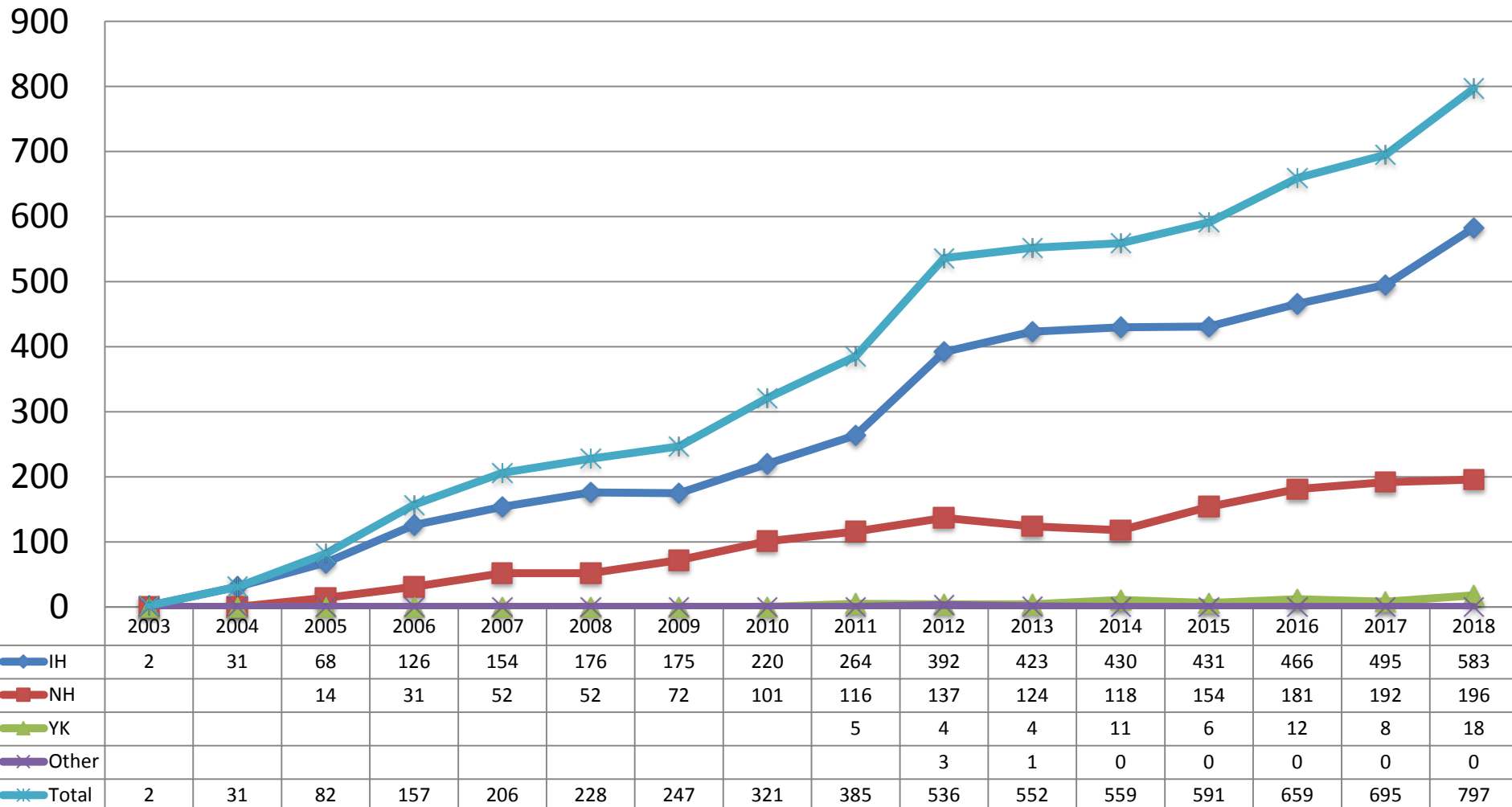
- *December 2003* – 2 telehealth sites open in **Cranbrook** and **Trail**
- **Now: 75 geographic sites**



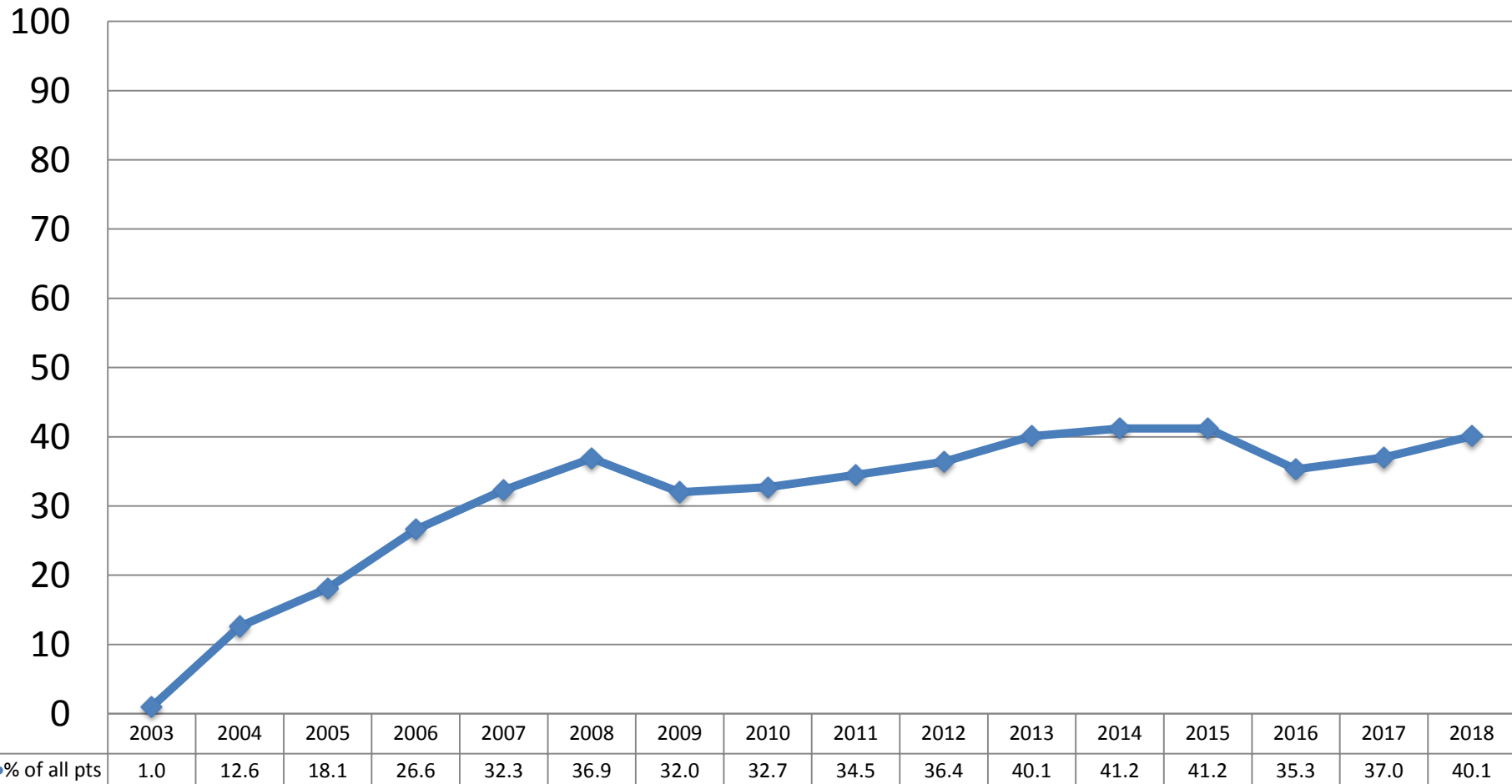
Telemedicine Patient Encounters



Telemedicine Community Visits



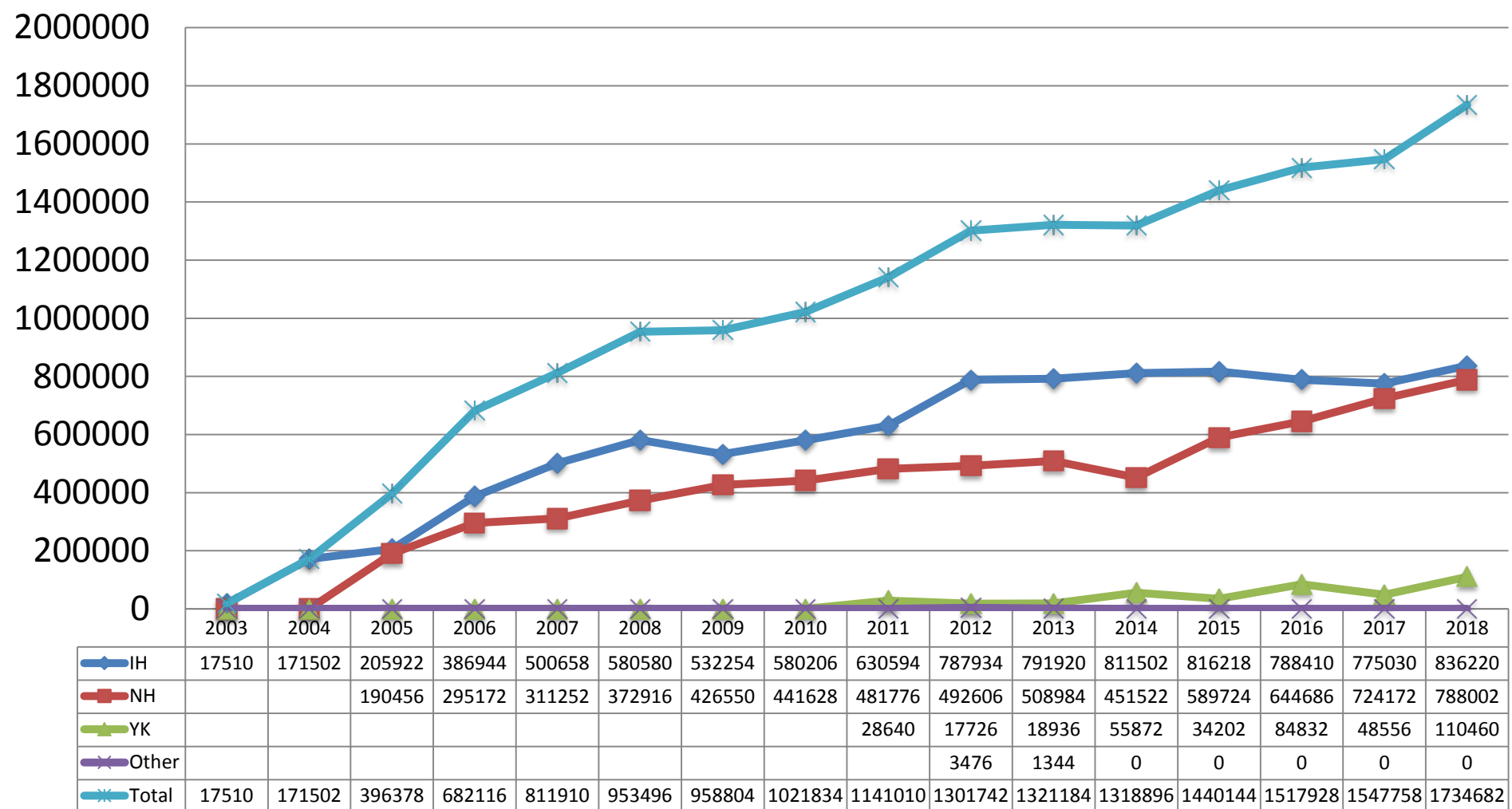
Percentage of Patients seen via Telemedicine



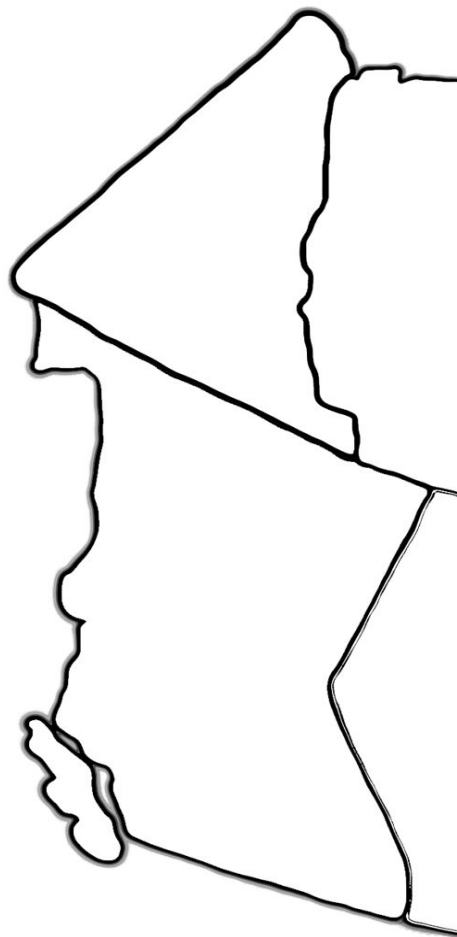
Growth of Telehealth

- From December 2003 to December 2018
 - **20,649** patient encounters
 - **6,048** community visits
 - **16,336,894** kms of patient travel saved
 - Average of **791** km saved per encounter

Telemedicine Patient Travel Saved (km)



Telemedicine Patient Travel Saved



Yukon: av. **4697** km/patient

Northern Health: av. **1552** km/patient

Interior Health: av. **568** km/patient

Equitable Access to Quality Care

- The Canada Health Act (1984) lists **accessibility and universality** as two of its five tenets/conditions (public administration, comprehensiveness, portability)
- **Accessibility:** all insured persons have reasonable access to healthcare facilities
- **Universality:** all insured residents are entitled to the same level of healthcare



Telemedicine is change: gradual evolution / sudden revolution

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Telemedicine is:
“just as good” / “better than”
seeing the patient in-person

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