

CHILD CARE

VALUE STATEMENT

I expect that high quality licensed child care is accessible, affordable and responsive to my child's needs in a safe and secure environment.

Child Care

What is this Service?

Municipal Children's Services divisions plan and manage their local child care system, focusing on the integration of government initiatives, interagency coordination and the development of quality programs and services for children and their families.

Municipalities are mandated by provincial legislation under the Child Care & Early Years Act (CCEYA) as Service System Managers to plan, direct and deliver child care services.

Objectives May Include:

- Providing a continuum of quality community-based services accessible to children, their families and caregivers.
- Fostering partnerships with the community in planning and service delivery integration to ensure equitable access to high quality childcare for children and support for families.
- Providing financial support to eligible families to enable them to participate fully in employment, training and developmental opportunities.
- Innovating and building on leading practices.

Influencing Factors:

1. **Demographics:** Population density and dispersion will vary by municipality. The cost of providing services, in certain areas, to certain populations, will be impacted by unique local and regional factors, such as population and population growth, and low income.
2. **Licensed Spaces:** The number of licensed spaces is driven primarily by demand, demographics and population and secondarily by the availability/alacrity of operators to open or expand their current spaces and the Ministry of Education in licensing the spaces. Municipalities can influence growth in spaces; however, given the current Provincial system, Municipalities do not control the licensing framework and therefore, do not independently direct or drive strategic growth in the supply of licensed spaces.
3. **Mix of Child Care Spaces:** This can be driven by the cost of care; for example, some operators will not provide infant care as the staffing costs can make this less financially viable/lucrative than providing care for older children. The cost is primarily driven by staffing costs. The Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014 (CCEYA) requires three staff for 10 infants vs. 3 staff for 45 school aged children.
4. **Funding:** Provincial funding is the main determinant of the level of service. Recent changes to the Provincial funding formula will impact service levels. Municipal funding beyond Provincial cost-sharing requirements also has an impact on service levels.
5. **Data Availability:** The census data used to develop these outcomes is not always current and projections are not always accurate. LICO (Low Income Cut off)/LIM (Low Income Measure) and Child Population measures are impacted. LICO/LIM information provided by the Ministry is outdated and difficult to use. Census data is not updated annually which can cause challenges.

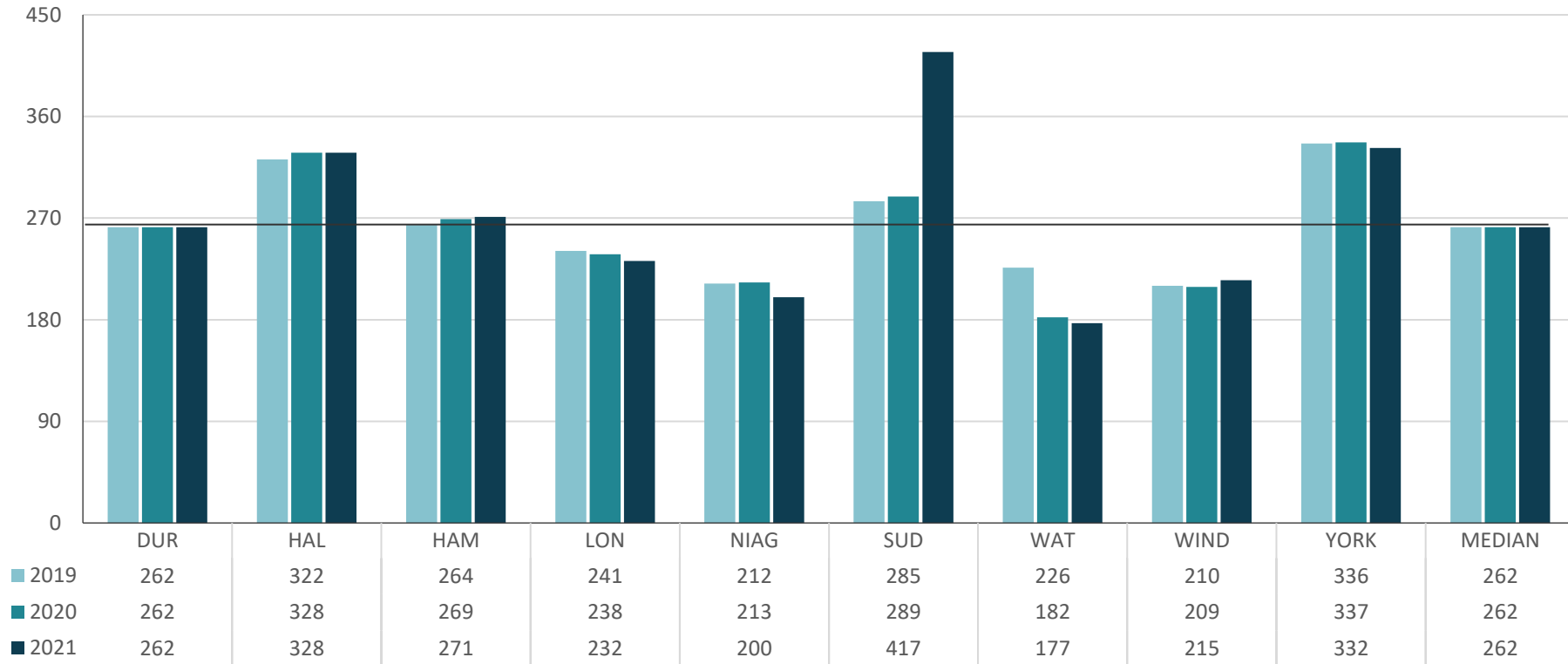
Extenuating Circumstances:

- **COVID-19 Pandemic:** Child Care Services continued to be impacted across all municipalities in 2021. Child Care programs closed for 3 months in 2020 and reopened with lower capacity limits to reduce the risk of virus transmission. In 2021, most programs were not full due to workforce constraints. Reduced availability of spaces and changing demand had significant impacts on the use of child care fee subsidy and other child care related expenditures. There were increased costs for infection prevention and PPE supplies, increased staffing needs to maintain cohorts and increased cleaning regimens. Centres were using ECE's as screeners and for infection, prevention and control measures which also had an impact on staffing and registration levels.

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CHDC105 - Regulated Child Care Spaces in Municipality per 1,000 Children (12 and Under)

The measure reflects the capacity of licensed spaces to be available to access, per 1,000 infant to school-aged children, across centre and homebased spaces.



Sudbury: Fewer children (12 and under) for the current reporting year.

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CHDC112 - Percent of Spaces that are Subsidized

The results illustrate that high demand can be indicative of the number of lower-income families requiring child care. Other factors contributing to the results include total funding and the growth in total number of spaces created. This measure reflects the number of full day equivalents (FDE) as opposed to the actual number of children served. NOTE: Subsidy fee spaces increased from 2020 to 2021 as operations moved towards pre-pandemic operating capacity for all members except York Region.

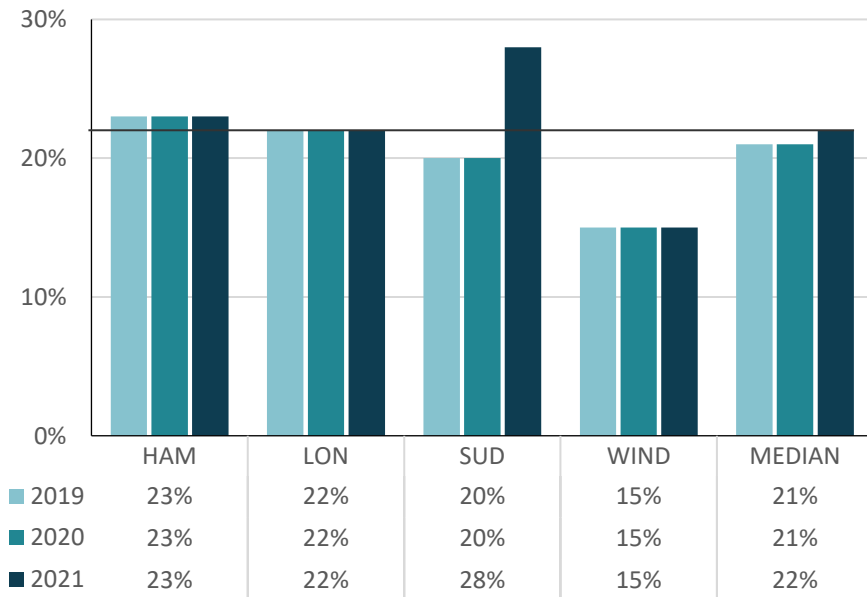


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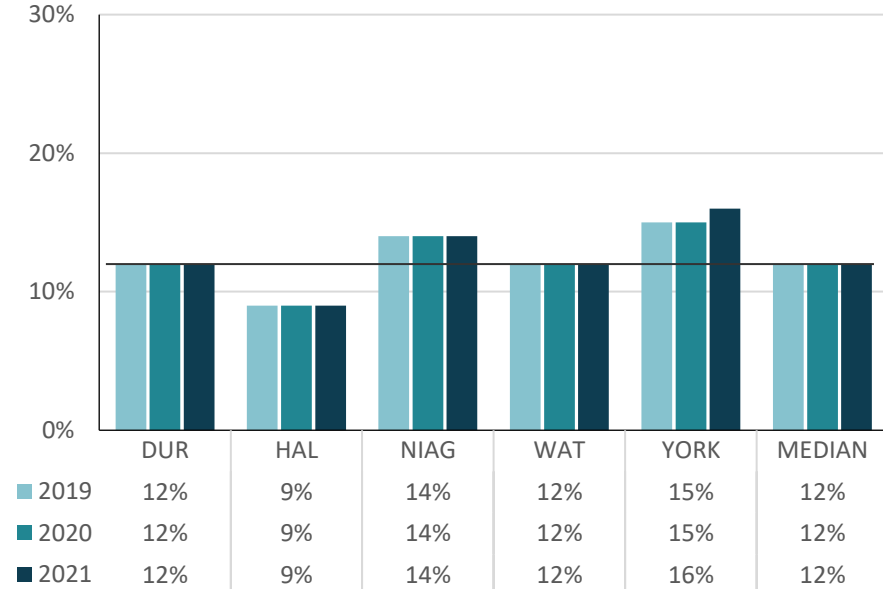
CHDC115 - Percent of Children in the Municipality (12 and Under) from Lower Income Families - LICO

This measure provides the percent of children in the municipality (12 and under) that are from lower income families, as measured by LICO (Low Income Cut-Offs – Statistics Canada) guideline.

Single Tier

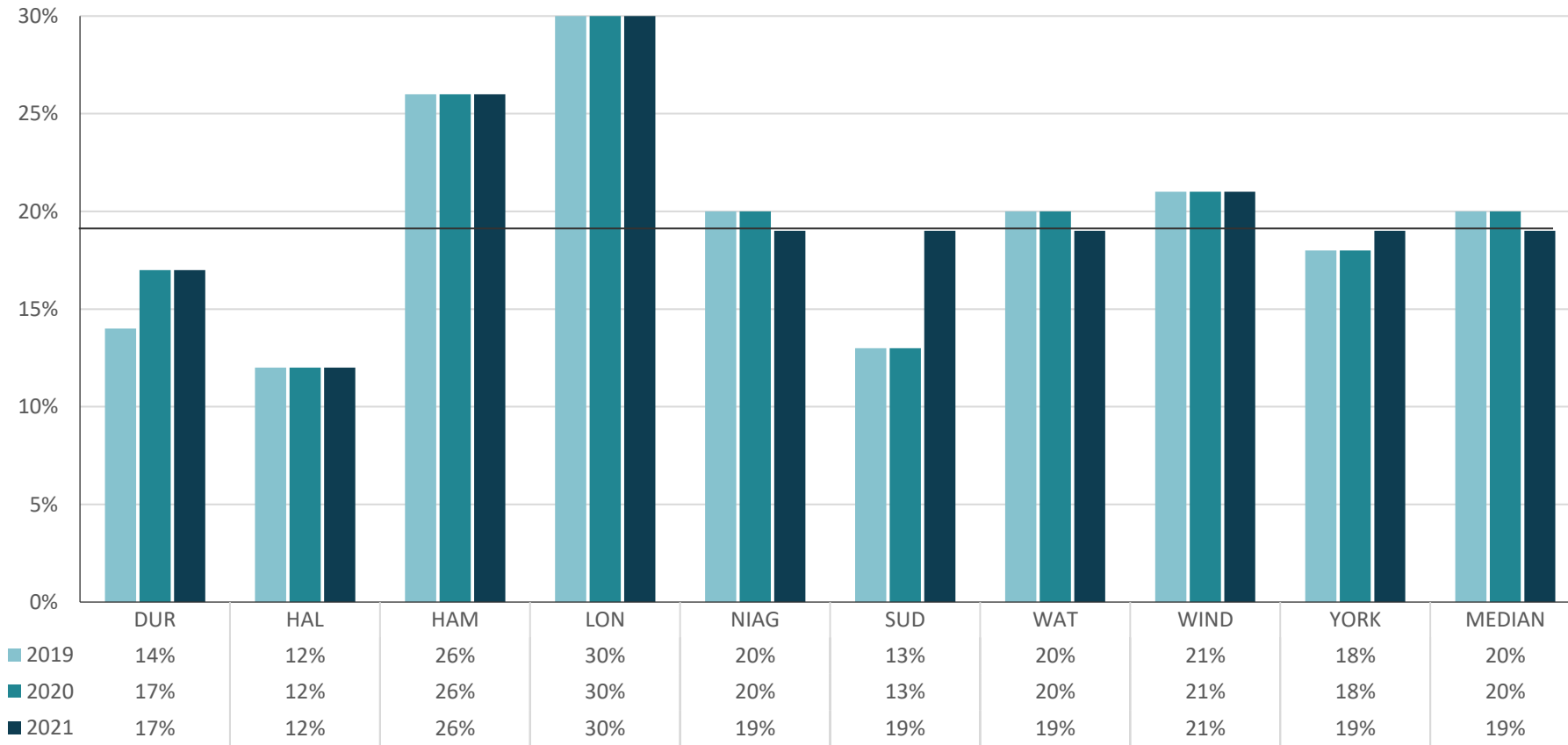


Upper Tier



Child Care

CHDC116 - Percent of Children in the Municipality (12 and Under) from Lower Income Families - LIM

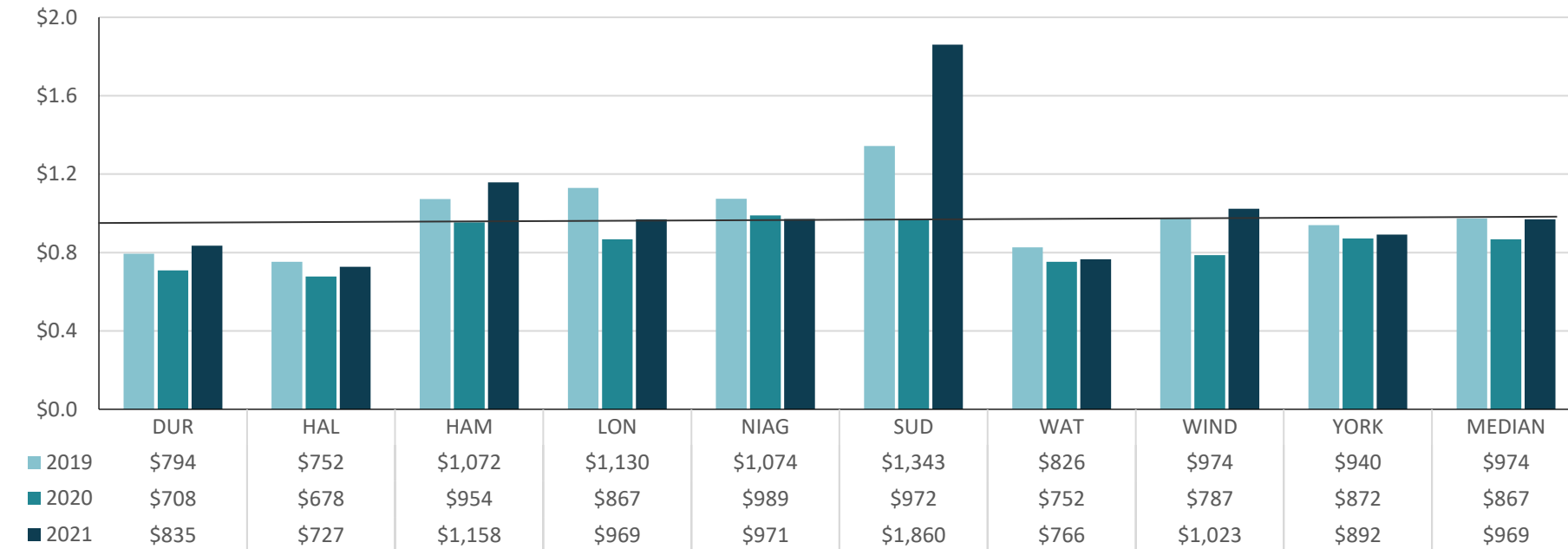


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CHDC220T - Total Cost per Child (12 and Under) in the Municipality

This measure reports the total cost to provide child care services for children 12 years and under and includes all funding sources. Increases to the 2018 'cost per child' reflect increased 2018 Provincial funding, a portion of which was one-time funding. NOTE: The Ministry of Education reduced funding in 2020 due to pandemic closures. Funding was restored to pre-pandemic amounts in 2021, resulting in increases to total cost per child for all municipalities.

(In Thousands)



Sudbury: Significant decline in contracted services in 2020.

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CHDC305 - Annual Child Care Cost per Normalized Subsidized Child Care Space

The annual gross fee subsidy cost has been normalized to reflect the mix of age groups and required staff ratios. A high cost result could reflect spaces that are being directly operated by a municipality as well as a higher cost of care in urban cities. There are opportunities to help support the cost of fee subsidy through other funding grants which may not be reflected in this measure.



Durham: 2021 data excludes full fee and emergency child care resulting in a decrease.

Niagara: 2021 decrease due to operations moving towards 2019 operating capacity.