

# 4 Child Care



## What is the Service?

Municipal Children's Services divisions plan and manage their local child care system, focusing on the integration of government initiatives, inter-agency coordination and the development of quality programs and services for children and their families. Municipalities are mandated by provincial legislation under the Day Nursery Act (DNA) as Service System Managers to plan, direct and deliver child care services.

*Specific objectives 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 child care 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:

**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.

**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.

**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 DNA requires three staff for 10 infants vs. 3 staff for 15 toddlers.

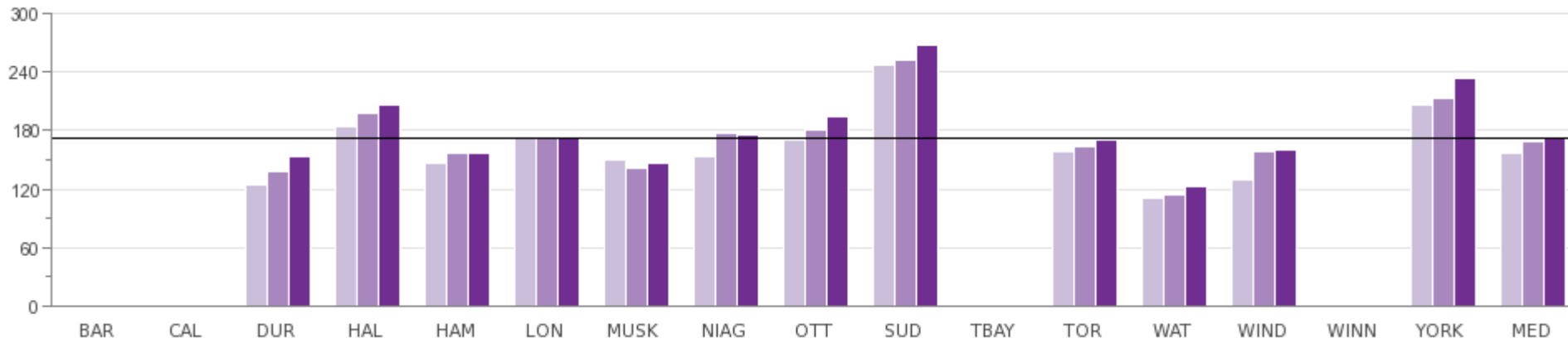
**Funding:** Provincial funding is the main determinant of the level of service. Recent changes to the Provincial funding formula will impact service levels. Municipal funding beyond the DNA cost-sharing requirements also has an impact on service levels.

**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) and Child Population measures are impacted. LICO (Low Income Cut-off) information provided by the Ministry is outdated and difficult to use. Census data is not updated annually which can cause challenges.

# Child Care

## How many regulated child care spaces are available?

Fig 4.1 Regulated Child Care Spaces in Municipality per 1,000 Children (12 and under)

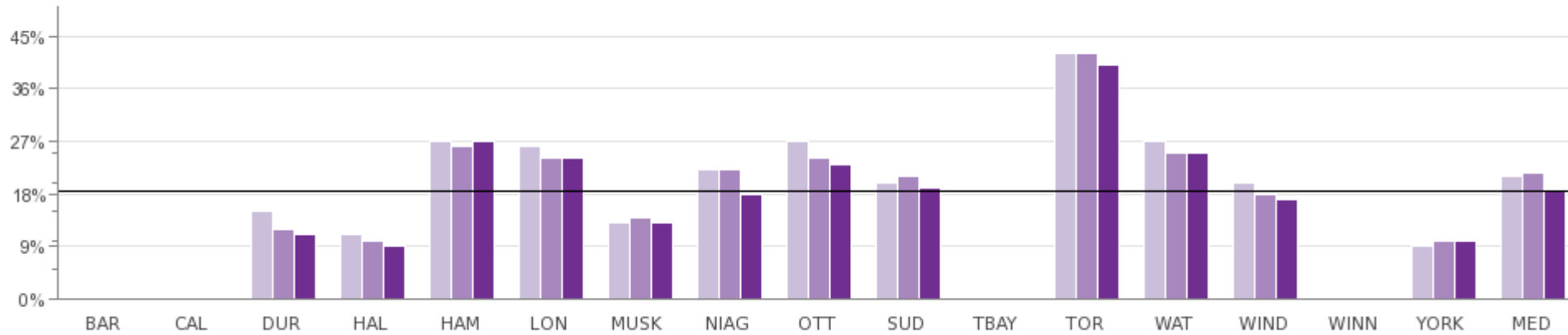


2010	N/A	N/A	124	184	146	172	150	154	171	248	N/A	158	111	129	N/A	206	156
2011	N/A	N/A	138	198	156	173	141	177	180	252	N/A	164	114	158	N/A	214	169
2012	N/A	N/A	154	207	157	174	147	176	194	268	N/A	170	123	160	N/A	233	172

Source: CHDC105 (Community Impact)

## What percent of available spaces is subsidized?

Fig 4.2 Percent of Spaces that are Subsidized.



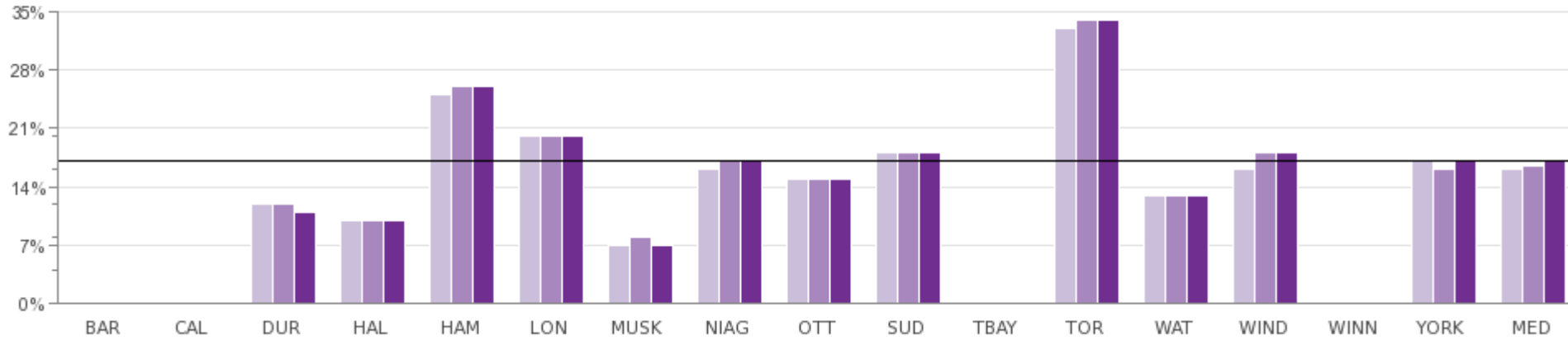
2010	N/A	N/A	15%	11%	27%	26%	13%	22%	27%	20%	N/A	42%	27%	20%	N/A	9%	21%
2011	N/A	N/A	12%	10%	26%	24%	14%	22%	24%	21%	N/A	42%	25%	18%	N/A	10%	22%
2012	N/A	N/A	11%	9%	27%	24%	13%	18%	23%	19%	N/A	40%	25%	17%	N/A	10%	19%

Source: CHDC112 (Community Impact)

Comment: The results illustrate that high demand can be indicative of the number of lower-income families requiring child care, e.g. Toronto. See CHDC115 for more information.

## What percent of children come from low-income families?

Fig 4.3 Percent of Children in the Municipality (12 and under) that are LICO Children



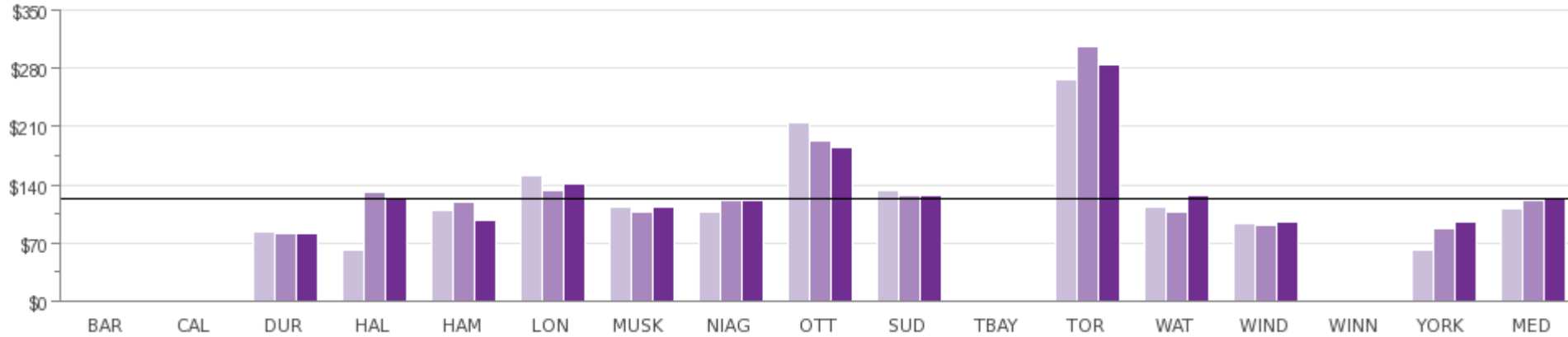
2010	N/A	N/A	12%	10%	25%	20%	7%	16%	15%	18%	N/A	33%	13%	16%	N/A	17%	16%
2011	N/A	N/A	12%	10%	26%	20%	8%	17%	15%	18%	N/A	34%	13%	18%	N/A	16%	17%
2012	N/A	N/A	11%	10%	26%	20%	7%	17%	15%	18%	N/A	34%	13%	18%	N/A	17%	17%

Source: CHDC115 (Community Impact)

Comment: Lower-income families tend to drive the demand for subsidized spaces for children 12 and under. LICO population is extrapolated from 2006 census data.

## What is the total investment per child in the municipality?

Fig 4.4 OMBI Total Net Cost per Child (12 and Under) in the Municipality (includes amortization)



2010	N/A	N/A	\$84	\$61	\$109	\$151	\$114	\$108	\$214	\$133	N/A	\$267	\$114	\$94	N/A	\$61	\$112
2011	N/A	N/A	\$81	\$131	\$119	\$134	\$107	\$122	\$193	\$128	N/A	\$306	\$107	\$92	N/A	\$87	\$121
2012	N/A	N/A	\$81	\$126	\$98	\$142	\$113	\$121	\$185	\$128	N/A	\$284	\$128	\$96	N/A	\$96	\$124

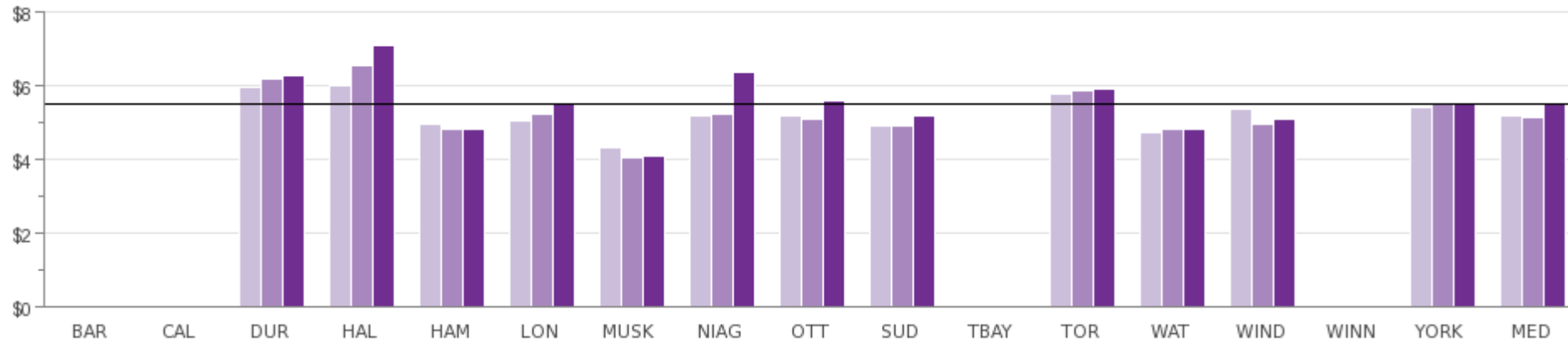
Source: CHDC225T (Service Level)

Comment: The majority of funding is from the province; however should a municipality choose to increase their spending, those additional dollars are reflected in these outcomes.

## How much does a subsidized child care space cost?

Fig 4.5 Annual Gross Fee Subsidy Cost per Normalized Subsidized Child Care Space

(In Thousands)



2010	N/A	N/A	\$5,953	\$6,006	\$4,975	\$5,049	\$4,327	\$5,201	\$5,168	\$4,896	N/A	\$5,770	\$4,741	\$5,362	N/A	\$5,424	\$5,185
2011	N/A	N/A	\$6,195	\$6,557	\$4,816	\$5,252	\$4,058	\$5,209	\$5,080	\$4,920	N/A	\$5,867	\$4,803	\$4,968	N/A	\$5,484	\$5,145
2012	N/A	N/A	\$6,276	\$7,106	\$4,805	\$5,503	\$4,078	\$6,382	\$5,594	\$5,194	N/A	\$5,895	\$4,840	\$5,076	N/A	\$5,509	\$5,506

Source: CHDC305 (Efficiency)

Comment: 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.