

4 Child Care

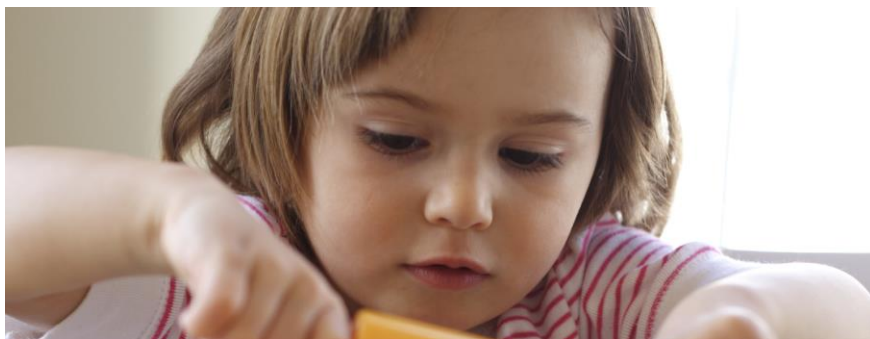
What is the Service?

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: 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: Can be driven by the cost of care, e.g. 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 (3) staff for 10 infants vs. three (3) staff for 15 toddlers.

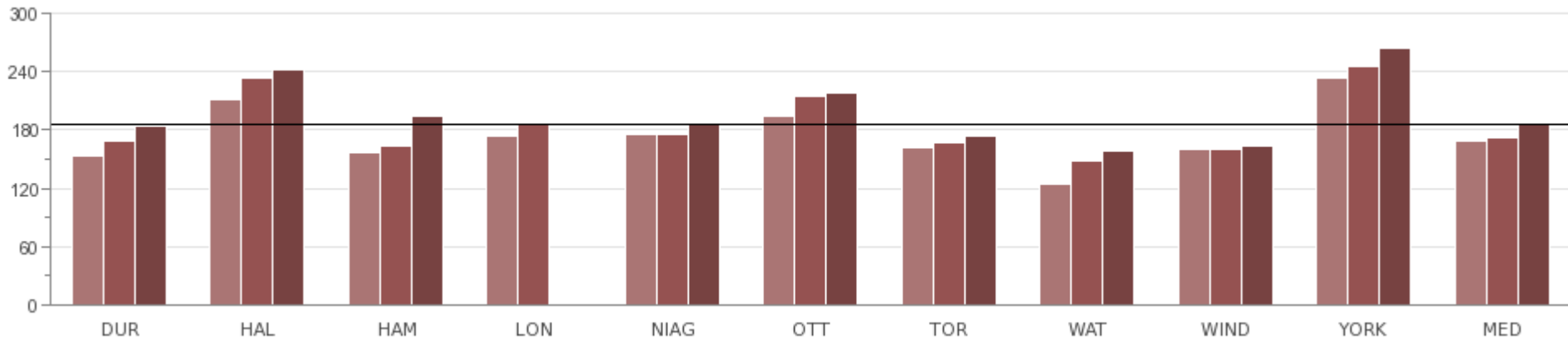
Funding: Provincial funding is the main determinant of the level of service. Recent changes to the provincial funding formula will impact service levels. Municipal funding beyond the DNA cost-sharing requirements also has an impact on service levels.

Data Availability: 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 information provided by the Ministry is outdated and difficult to use.

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)



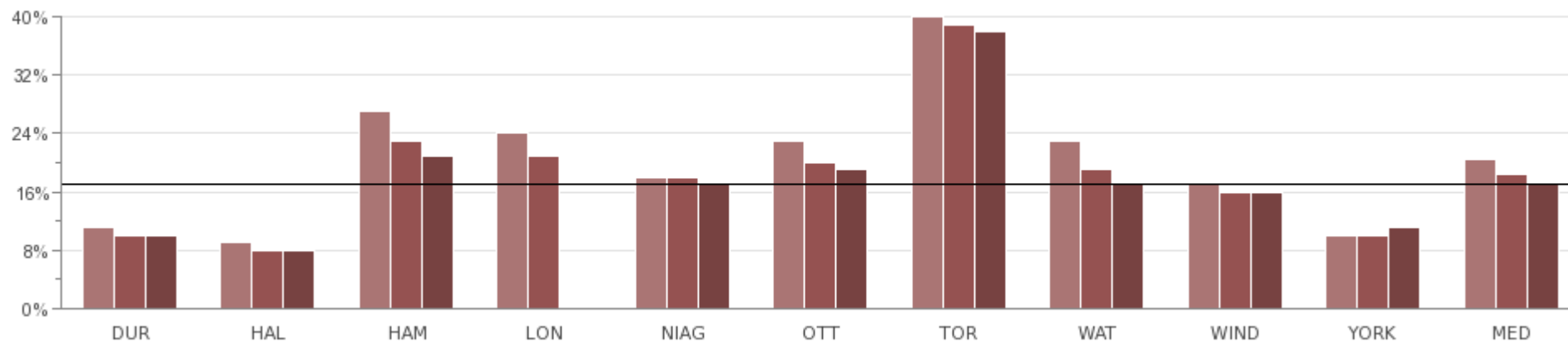
2012	154	211	157	174	176	194	162	124	160	233	168
2013	168	234	164	186	175	215	167	148	160	245	172
2014	185	242	195	N/A	186	219	174	159	163	264	186

Source: CHDC105 (Community Impact)

Note: Total Regulated Spaces is the number of licensed spaces in child care centres, preschools and home child care agencies.

What percent of available spaces are subsidized?

Fig 4.2 Percent of Spaces that are Subsidized



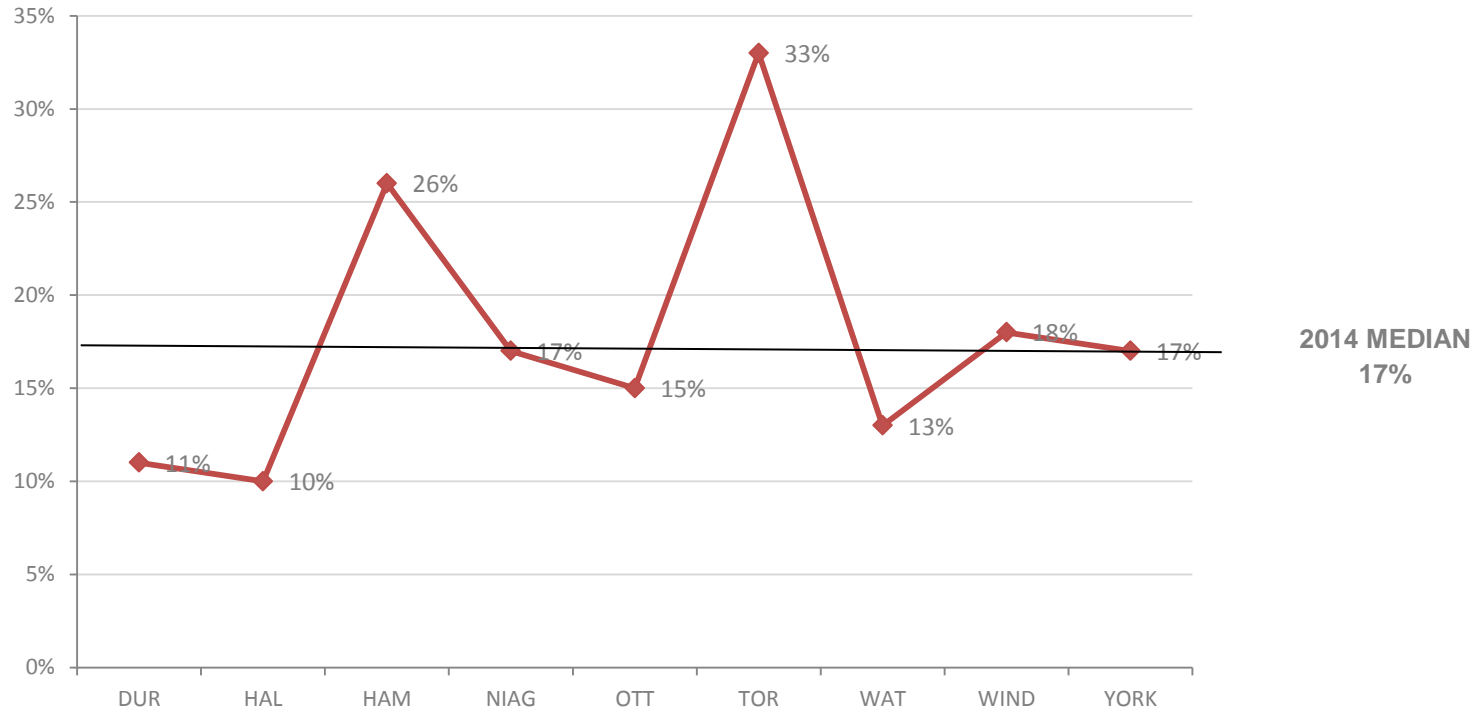
2012	11%	9%	27%	24%	18%	23%	40%	23%	17%	10%	21%
2013	10%	8%	23%	21%	18%	20%	39%	19%	16%	10%	19%
2014	10%	8%	21%	N/A	17%	19%	38%	17%	16%	11%	17%

Source: CHDC112 (Community Impact)

Note: 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, the growth in total number of spaces created and the waitlist.

What percent of children are from low-income families?

Fig 4.3 Percent of Children in the Municipality (12 and under) that are from Low Income Families (2014)



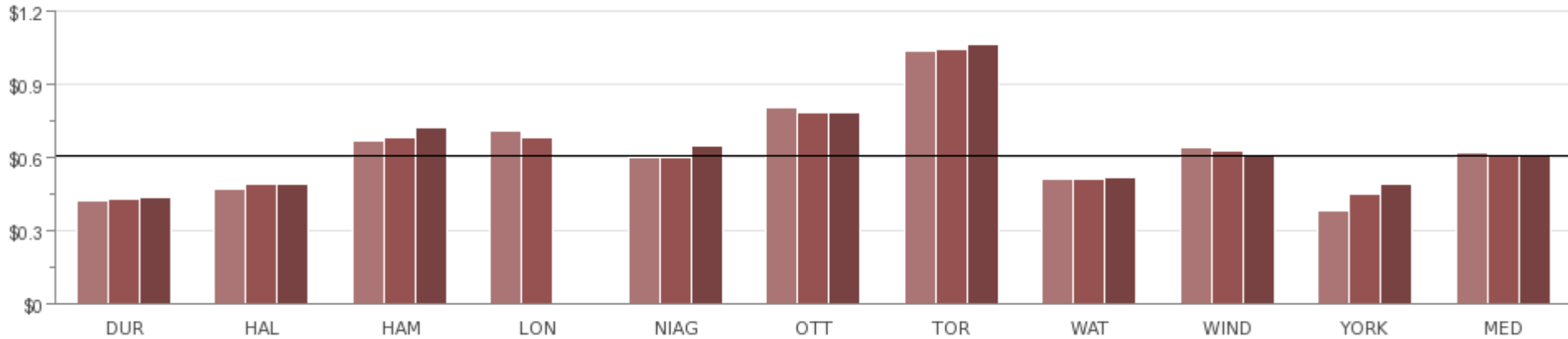
Source: CHDC115 (Community Impact)

Note: LICO (Low-Income Cut-off) population is extrapolated from 2006 census data. Lower-income families tend to drive the demand for subsidized spaces for children 12 and under.

What is the total investment per child in the municipality?

Fig 4.4 Total Operating Cost per Child (12 and under) in the Municipality (includes amortization)

(In Thousands)



2012	\$419	\$472	\$670	\$707	\$598	\$806	\$1,040	\$509	\$639	\$379	\$619
2013	\$429	\$487	\$681	\$685	\$601	\$786	\$1,043	\$511	\$625	\$448	\$613
2014	\$438	\$492	\$722	N/A	\$646	\$782	\$1,068	\$515	\$609	\$488	\$609

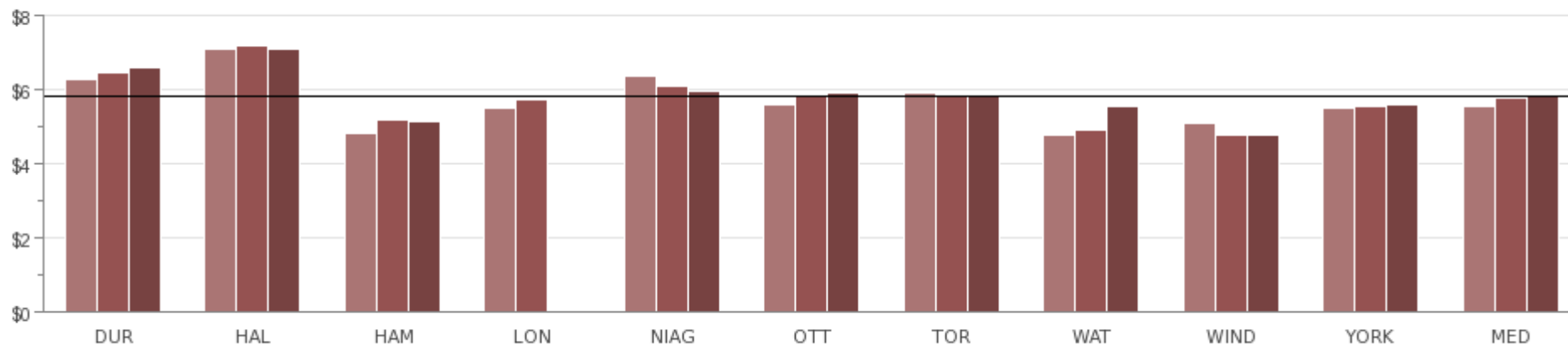
Source: CHDC220T (Service Level)

Note: The result includes Provincial funding and any additional Municipal contributions.

How much does a subsidized child care space cost?

Fig 4.5 Annual Child Care Cost per Normalized Subsidized Child Care Space

(In Thousands)



2012	\$6,276	\$7,106	\$4,805	\$5,503	\$6,382	\$5,594	\$5,895	\$4,779	\$5,076	\$5,509	\$5,552
2013	\$6,477	\$7,212	\$5,199	\$5,738	\$6,116	\$5,845	\$5,876	\$4,914	\$4,791	\$5,567	\$5,792
2014	\$6,586	\$7,109	\$5,130	N/A	\$5,983	\$5,919	\$5,806	\$5,539	\$4,795	\$5,600	\$5,806

Source: CHDC305 (Efficiency)

Note: 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. Annual child care costs exclude any general operating grants distributed.