

# 7 Emergency Hostels



## What is the Service?

The services provided through emergency hostels/shelters is seen (by some municipalities) as a key point of access to a broad range of social services. However, emergency hostels are not intended to serve as permanent housing.

The provision of emergency hostel services by a municipality is not mandatory. Municipalities may choose to offer emergency shelter services directly or through third-party contracts with community-based agencies.

*Specific objectives include:*

- Ensure individuals and families experiencing homelessness have access to temporary emergency shelter services that will help them stabilize their situations and move into appropriate accommodation in the community
- Provide safe and secure basic accommodations and meals for individuals and/or families experiencing homelessness

## Influencing Factors

**Immigration:** Federal immigration policies and processing times for Refugee claims.

**Information Systems:** Database systems used could impact reporting capabilities.

**Other Housing Services:** Availability of transitional and/or supported living housing in the community and supplementary support services.

**Political Climate:** Current and former local and provincial policies and support for homelessness impact service level provided i.e. is the climate conducive to support, fund and build/procure spaces.

**Supply vs. Demand:** Individuals in need may decide not to take up offers of shelter.

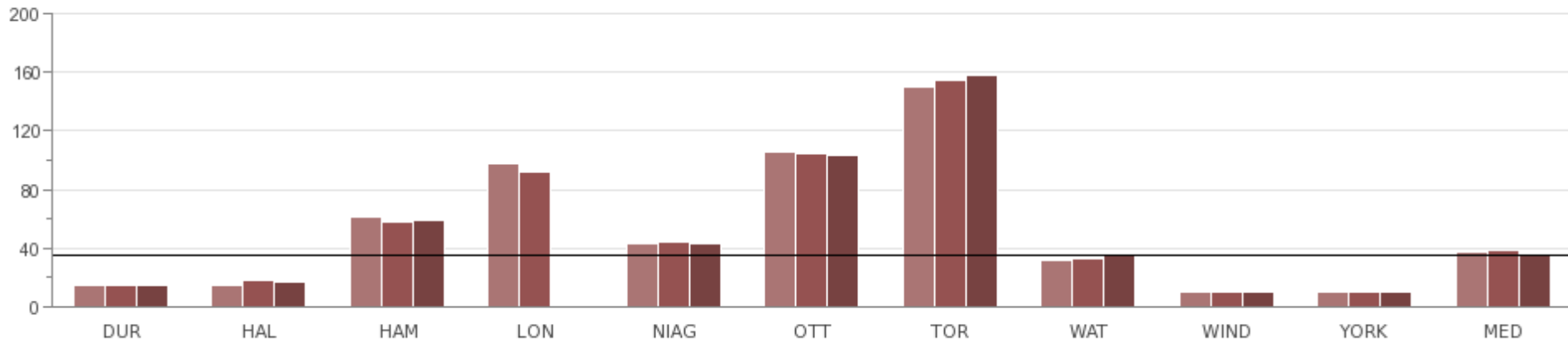
**Vacancy Rates in Rental Markets:** Housing availability and affordability.

**Weather Conditions:** Number of beds can vary by season. Natural disasters and weather related events increase occupancy and length of stay.

# Emergency Hostels

## What is the nightly supply of available beds?

Fig 7.1 Average Nightly Number of Emergency Shelter Beds Available per 100,000 Population



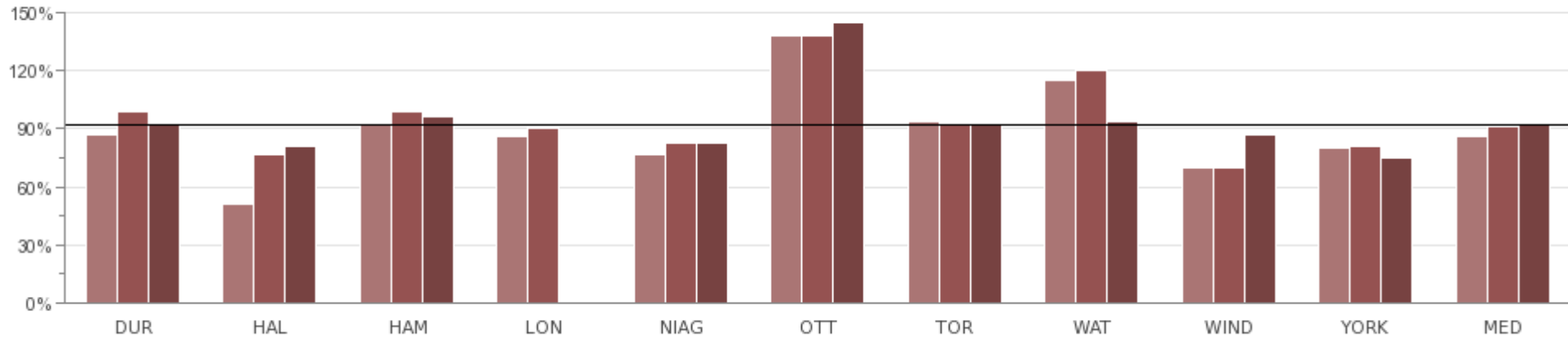
<b>2012</b>	<b>14.4</b>	<b>14.0</b>	<b>61.5</b>	<b>97.3</b>	<b>43.0</b>	<b>105.6</b>	<b>150.1</b>	<b>31.8</b>	<b>9.5</b>	<b>10.4</b>	<b>37.4</b>
<b>2013</b>	<b>14.3</b>	<b>17.4</b>	<b>58.1</b>	<b>91.5</b>	<b>44.2</b>	<b>104.6</b>	<b>154.3</b>	<b>33.2</b>	<b>9.5</b>	<b>10.2</b>	<b>38.7</b>
<b>2014</b>	<b>14.2</b>	<b>17.0</b>	<b>59.4</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>43.0</b>	<b>103.7</b>	<b>158.6</b>	<b>35.2</b>	<b>9.5</b>	<b>10.0</b>	<b>35.2</b>

Source: HSTL205 (Service Level)

Note: Results reflect various approaches to counting motel rooms in inventory.

## What is the nightly demand for available beds?

Fig 7.2 Average Nightly Bed Occupancy Rate of Emergency Shelters



<b>2012</b>	<b>87%</b>	<b>51%</b>	<b>93%</b>	<b>86%</b>	<b>77%</b>	<b>138%</b>	<b>94%</b>	<b>115%</b>	<b>70%</b>	<b>80%</b>	<b>87%</b>
<b>2013</b>	<b>99%</b>	<b>77%</b>	<b>99%</b>	<b>90%</b>	<b>83%</b>	<b>138%</b>	<b>93%</b>	<b>120%</b>	<b>70%</b>	<b>81%</b>	<b>92%</b>
<b>2014</b>	<b>93%</b>	<b>81%</b>	<b>96%</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>83%</b>	<b>145%</b>	<b>92%</b>	<b>94%</b>	<b>87%</b>	<b>75%</b>	<b>92%</b>

Source: HSTL410 (Customer Service)

Note: Rooms can be occupied but at less than 100% capacity depending on the family size.

Comment: Ottawa and Waterloo's results reflect their use of overflow spaces, e.g. shelter mats and motel rooms above the contract supply.

## What is the average length of stay in days per admission type?

Fig 7.3 Average Length of Stay per Admission to Emergency Shelters

<b>Adult and Child Count</b>											
	DUR	HAL	HAM	LON	NIAG	OTT	TOR	WAT	WIND	YORK	MED
2012	12.4	16.9	8.8	12.7	9.8	10.5	18.2	14.2	5.2	11.6	12.0
2013	14.5	25.6	9.3	11.5	12.3	11.2	19.5	12.7	6.5	11.0	11.9
2014	12.7	18.8	8.9	N/A	11.7	12.2	19.4	10.0	7.5	12.3	12.2

Source: HSTL105

<b>Singles Count</b>											
	DUR	HAL	HAM	LON	NIAG	OTT	TOR	WAT	WIND	YORK	MED
2012	8.6	13.3	6.5	12.4	9.7	6.0	14.6	10.0	6.0	10.5	9.9
2013	10.6	16.5	7.1	11.2	12.1	6.7	15.6	9.6	7.4	9.8	10.2
2014	10.3	14.4	6.9	N/A	10.2	7.3	15.2	8.9	8.3	11.3	10.2

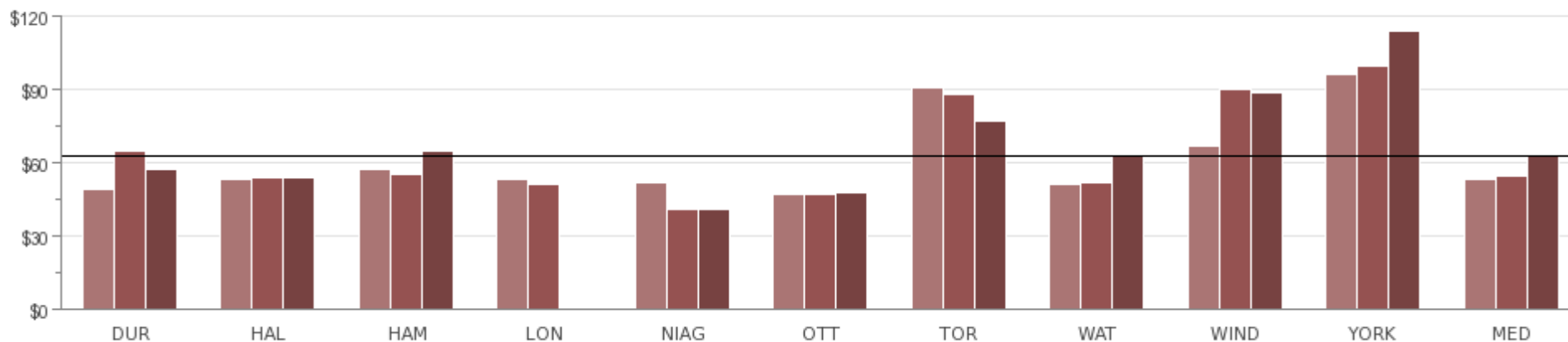
Source: HSTL110

<b>Families – Head of Household Count</b>											
	DUR	HAL	HAM	LON	NIAG	OTT	TOR	WAT	WIND	YORK	MED
2012	20.4	31.7	61.4	14.7	10.5	55.3	72.3	40.9	5.3	19.2	26.1
2013	34.8	40.2	55.9	13.9	13.1	57.5	86.4	41.3	5.2	22.7	37.5
2014	24.5	31.1	54.3	N/A	17.8	66.5	104.1	27.6	6.2	22.4	27.6

Source: HSTL115

## What is the combined provincial/municipal cost to provide an emergency shelter bed?

Fig 7.4 Hostels (Provincial/Municipal) Total Cost per Emergency Shelter Bed Night (includes amortization)



2012	\$49	\$53	\$57	\$53	\$52	\$47	\$91	\$51	\$67	\$96	\$53
2013	\$65	\$54	\$55	\$51	\$41	\$47	\$88	\$52	\$90	\$100	\$55
2014	\$57	\$54	\$65	N/A	\$41	\$48	\$77	\$63	\$89	\$114	\$63

Source: HSTL305T (Efficiency)

Note: In 2013, the Province of Ontario introduced changes to the funding model for Housing and Homelessness (including emergency hostels) programs, which allows for greater flexibility at the local (municipal) level to determine how funds are allocated to Emergency Hostels services, i.e. block, per diem, other types of programming. The comparability of pre-2013 results may vary as each municipality transitions to different funding models.

Comment: As of 2013, the City of Windsor receives enhancement funding for the single-male shelter.