

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.

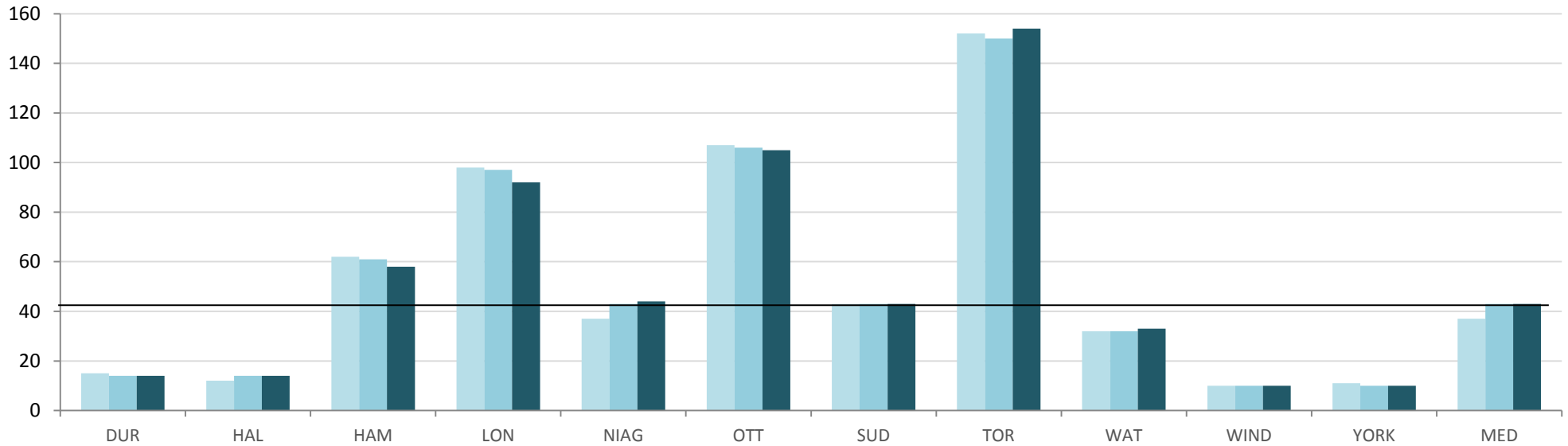
Vacancy Rates in Rental Markets: Housing availability and affordability.

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 supply of available beds?

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

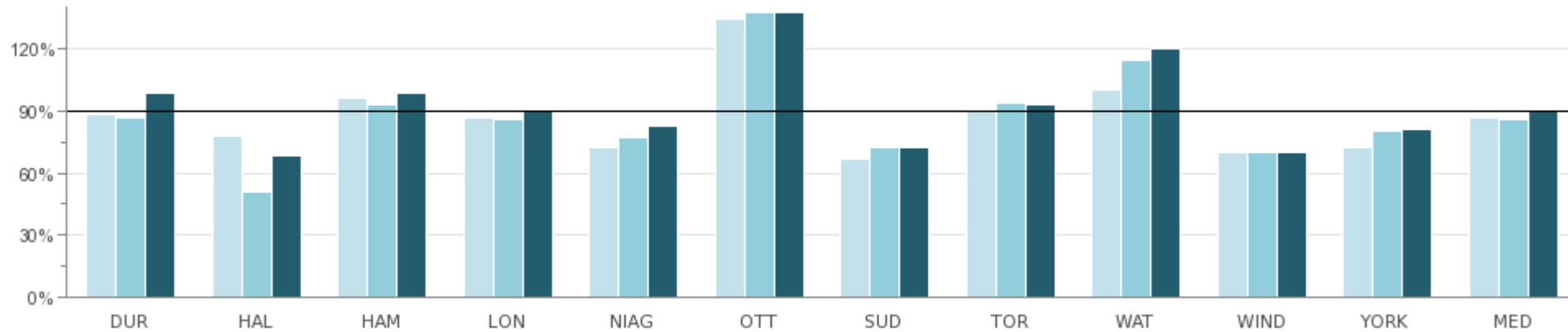


2011	15	12	62	98	37	107	43	152	32	10	11	37
2012	14	14	61	97	43	106	43	150	32	10	10	43
2013	14	14	58	92	44	105	43	154	33	10	10	43

Source: HSTL205 (Service Level)

What is the demand for available beds?

Average Nightly Bed Occupancy Rate of Emergency Shelters



2011	88%	78%	96%	87%	72%	135%	67%	91%	100%	70%	72%	87%
2012	87%	51%	93%	86%	77%	138%	72%	94%	115%	70%	80%	86%
2013	99%	68%	99%	90%	83%	138%	72%	93%	120%	70%	81%	90%

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 per admission type?

Fig. 7.3 Average Length of Stay per Admission to Emergency Shelters

Adult and Child Count												
	DUR	HAL	HAM	LON	NIAG	OTT	SUD	TOR	WAT	WIND	YORK	MED
2011	11.8	23.5	8.2	11.2	10.5	11.2	9.2	16.2	12.8	6.1	9.8	11.2
2012	12.4	16.9	8.8	12.7	9.8	10.5	10.4	18.2	14.2	5.2	11.6	11.6
2013	14.5	21.0	9.3	11.5	12.3	11.2	9.4	19.5	12.7	6.5	11.0	11.5

Source: HSTL105 (Community Impact)

Singles Count												
	DUR	HAL	HAM	LON	NIAG	OTT	SUD	TOR	WAT	WIND	YORK	MED
2011	9.7	16.2	6.3	11.5	10.4	6.9	8.1	13.2	10.5	7.1	9.9	9.9
2012	8.6	13.3	6.5	12.4	9.7	6.0	8.0	14.6	10.0	6.0	10.5	9.7
2013	10.6	16.5	7.1	11.2	12.1	6.7	8.1	15.6	9.6	7.4	9.8	9.8

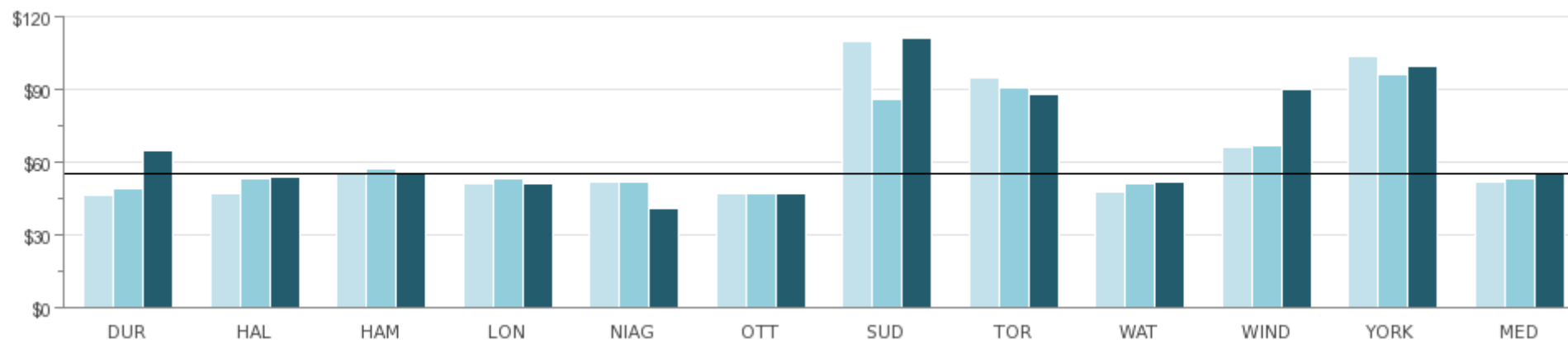
Source: HSTL110 (Community Impact)

Families – Head of Household Count												
	DUR	HAL	HAM	LON	NIAG	OTT	SUD	TOR	WAT	WIND	YORK	MED
2011	23.0	64.3	54.9	9.4	12.1	51.5	12.7	61.7	33.0	5.7	13.2	23.0
2012	20.4	31.7	61.4	14.7	10.5	55.3	28.5	72.3	40.9	5.3	19.2	28.5
2013	34.8	40.2	55.9	13.9	13.1	57.5	15.6	86.4	41.3	5.2	22.7	34.8

Source: HSTL115 (Community Impact)

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

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



Year	DUR	HAL	HAM	LON	NIAG	OTT	SUD	TOR	WAT	WIND	YORK	MED
2011	\$46	\$47	\$55	\$51	\$52	\$47	\$110	\$95	\$48	\$66	\$104	\$52
2012	\$49	\$53	\$57	\$53	\$52	\$47	\$86	\$91	\$51	\$67	\$96	\$53
2013	\$65	\$54	\$55	\$51	\$41	\$47	\$111	\$88	\$52	\$90	\$100	\$55

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: The City of Windsor was provided enhancement funding for the single-male shelter, which primarily resulted in the increase in 2013 operating costs.

