

Hamilton’s Emergency Shelter Data

As of May 2023, the City of Hamilton funds 9 shelters including 365[^] emergency shelter beds.

Table 1: Hamilton Emergency Shelter Beds Per System – May 2023

Target Population / System	Number of Beds per System	Average Occupancy (%)	Shelter Name	Number of Beds per Shelter – May 2023
Men’s Shelter System	198	99%	Good Shepherd Men’s Centre & West Ave	54
			Mission Services Men Centre	58
			Salvation Army Booth Centre	86
Women’s* Shelter System	46	93%	Good Shepherd Mary’s Place	25
			St Joseph’s Womankind	6
			Mission Services Emma’s Place	15
	20	West Avenue S Overflow	20	
Family Shelter* System	80	100%	Good Shepherd Family Centre	80 (20 rooms)
	208 (52 rooms)		Hotel Overflow	208 (52 rooms)
Youth Shelter System	21	57%	Good Shepherd Notre Dame House	21

* Temporary shelter overflow in the women’s system and family system are factored into occupancy. This means that the women’s system is operating at 93% occupancy with 20 additional temporary beds in the system. The family system is at 100% occupancy with an additional 52 rooms (approximately 208 beds) beyond the 20 permanent units (80 beds) within the system.

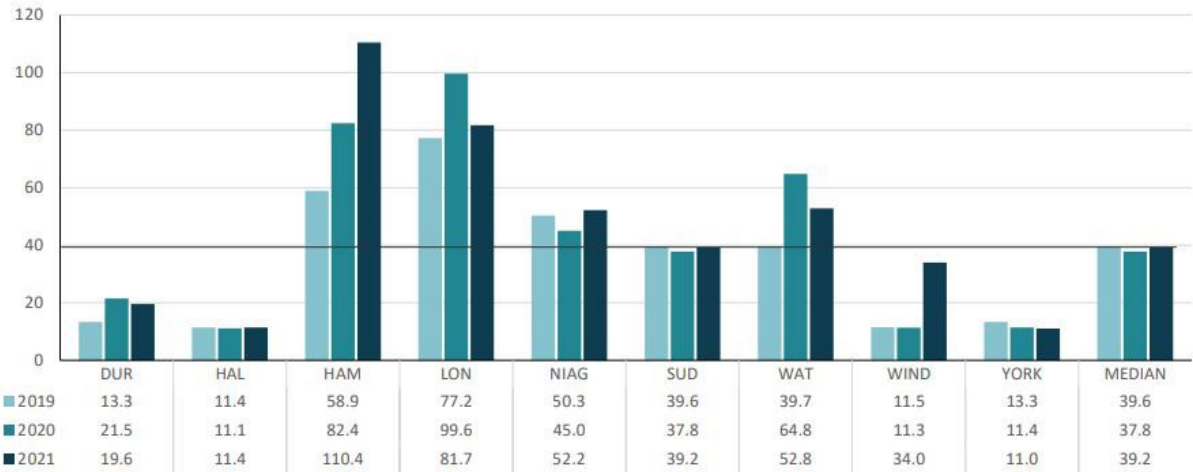
[^]There are also 112 beds available through Violence Against Women Shelters, that are not City-funded.

Table 2: Comparative Trends - Emergency Shelter Beds Per 100,000 Population

Emergency Shelters

HSTL205 - Average Nightly Number of Emergency Shelter Beds Available per 100,000 Population

Where motel rooms are a permanent part of the shelter model, motel rooms are included in the total. However, where motel rooms are not a permanent part to the model but are used as needed, the total number of shelter beds does not include motel rooms.



Hamilton: 2021 includes emergency hotel spaces made available and used.

Windsor: The large increase in 2021 was due to the addition of an 84-bed shelter being funded by the Service Manager for the first time.

Source: Municipal Benchmarking Network of Canada (MBNC) 2022

Note: In 2021, Hamilton had the highest number of beds per 100,000 at 110.4 compared to a median of 39.2 due to expansion of use of hotel overflow for all population groups during the pandemic.

According to data compiled by Municipal Benchmarking Network Canada, pre-pandemic. Hamilton had 58.9 shelter beds per 100,000 people. This was higher than the median of 38.9 among eight¹ other comparator communities and less than only one community, London.

Although Hamilton does have more or a comparable number of shelter beds to comparator communities, there is also a high level of need as well as an imbalance in the number of beds available between population groups. Table 1 in Appendix “C” illustrates that Hamilton’s shelter system is consistently at or over-capacity, with unique pressures in the family and women’s systems.

¹ Comparator communities in MBNC data include: Durham, Halton, Hamilton, London, Niagara, Sudbury, Waterloo, Windsor, York