

Shelter Capacity Report 2025

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Acknowledgements

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Introduction

The Shelter Capacity Report is an annual descriptive account of capacity statistics for emergency homeless shelters in Canada. This report provides information on the number of emergency shelter facilities and permanent beds by province and territory, clientele served, and trends in shelter capacity from 2016 to 2025. This report also includes a comparison of bed count availability to population estimates and the distribution of shelters and beds by community size. Annual Statistics on transitional housing facilities and domestic violence shelters are in annexes A to D.

In addition to the Shelter Capacity Report, census subdivision-level capacity statistics for emergency shelters, transitional housing, and domestic violence shelters are available on the Statistics Canada website as a customizable table and as a dataset on the Open Government website. These provide detailed and accessible sources of information regarding the shelter landscape at various geographical levels (from 2016 to 2025).

Data source and use

Shelter capacity statistics are derived from the annual National Service Provider List, a comprehensive dataset of permanent homelessness shelter services in Canada. The list includes information on bed capacity, location, and the clientele served by these shelters. The 2025 list of emergency and transitional services¹, including program names and addresses, is available on the Open Government website.

Maintained and regularly updated by Housing, Infrastructure and Communities Canada (HICC), the National Service Provider List is a cornerstone in understanding and addressing homelessness. The annual updates are made possible through collaborative efforts, relying on data contributions from service providers, communities, and various partners. This multifaceted information is gathered through a combination of primary and secondary research methods, as well as through collaborative data-sharing initiatives with jurisdictions utilizing the Homeless Individuals and Families Information System (HIFIS) or comparable administrative systems for tracking homelessness data. The data from The National Service Provider List is not only used for reporting changes in national capacity but also for estimations of shelter use² and chronic homelessness³. Complete shelter capacity data from the National Service Provider List is available starting from 2016.

Scope of data

The 2025 emergency shelter capacity data reflects the capacity as of December 2025. It includes shelters that meet the following criteria:

¹[National Service Provider List / La List Nationale des fournisseurs de services - 2025 Open Government Portal \(canada.ca\)](#)

² [Homelessness Data Snapshot: The National Shelter Study 2024 Update](#). The National Shelter Study is a national analysis using emergency shelter data to estimate the number of individuals using homeless shelters each year, and describes their demographic characteristics.

³ [Homelessness data snapshot: Analysis of chronic homelessness among shelter users in Canada 2017 - 2024](#). The national chronic homelessness indicator is calculated using data from communities that have complete coverage of their permanent emergency shelter system for three consecutive years, and annual estimates of national shelter use from the National Shelter Study.

- Operational year-round, providing emergency beds at no cost to the client
- Open as of year end (December 31, 2025)

Transitional housing facilities and domestic violence shelters included in this report must also be operational year-round and open as of December 31, 2025. They are generally offered at no cost to the client, but are still included if the cost is not tied to a lease contract.

Some shelter services are not included in the analysis, as they may not be operational year-round, may have incomplete data, or may not directly target the homeless population. They include:

- Temporary emergency shelters, including emergency weather response shelters and hotel spaces/vouchers provided as shelter
- Supportive housing facilities
- Immigrant and refugee shelters
- Correctional services

Housing, Communities and Infrastructure Canada (HICC) classification of shelters

Shelters providing services under the same umbrella organization but to different target populations and/or genders, even if located at the same address, are listed as separate shelters. In addition, shelters that provide different services at the same location, such as offering both emergency services and transitional beds, are also counted separately.

Data limitations

New data come from newly operational services, and from existing services that are new to the National Service Provider List. When updating the capacity information of emergency, transitional, and domestic violence shelters, HICC considers services for inclusion only if they are part of the homelessness serving sector and fall under the scope outlined above. Changes in the number of shelters and beds are the results of a variety of changes in the shelter system within a year, including the opening and closure of shelters.

Key findings

Canada's homelessness response system continued to expand in 2025, reaching 23,483 emergency shelter beds across 608 shelters. Although capacity continued to grow, the pace of expansion has slowed compared with the rapid increases observed following the COVID-19 pandemic, suggesting that the sector is beginning to stabilize at levels well above those seen before 2020. Increases in capacity were also observed in transitional housing and domestic violence shelters, reflecting continued investment across the broader housing support continuum. These increases have built up Canada's capacity to support people experiencing homelessness through short-term emergency services, as well as longer-term supports to facilitate transitions to permanent housing.



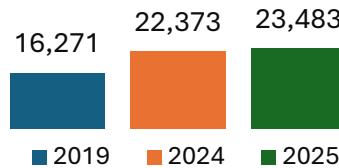
23,483

permanent emergency shelter beds across **608** shelters

▲ **4.9%** from 2024

The Bigger Picture: Growth is levelling off, not stalling

Shelter capacity expanded quickly through the pandemic. In 2025, it continued to grow, now at a steadier, more sustainable pace, adding roughly 1,100 beds over the year.



Beds per capita

Per 10,000, up from 2024.

5.4 → 5.6

A small gain in coverage per person nationally.

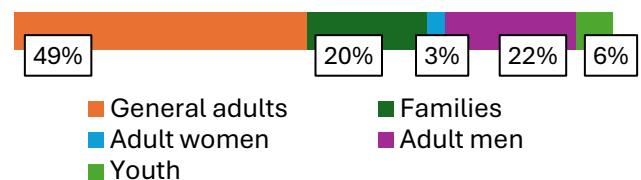
Regional capacity

Most provinces and territories added beds this year, but by different amounts — from no change at all, to gains over 50%.

- **Nova Scotia** and **Yukon** saw the largest jumps in capacity, growing more than half again from 2024.
- **Prince Edward Island** held steady, with no change in bed count.
- **Ontario** and the **Northwest Territories** saw small decreases, each within 2 percentage points.

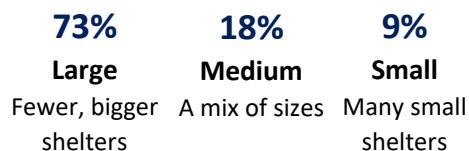
Populations served

Shelter beds are split across different clientele groups — from general adult shelters to spaces set aside for families and youth.



Where the beds are

Big cities hold most of the capacity — large communities have fewer, bigger shelters. Small and medium-sized communities rely on a larger number of small shelters instead.



Longer-term options are growing

Beyond emergency shelters, two related sectors continued to expand in 2025:

+7.4% Transitional housing beds: More medium-to-long-term beds, as the system leans toward longer-term solutions.

+6.3% Domestic violence shelter beds: Continuing a steady, ongoing trend of growth in this sector.

Alt Text: In 2025, there were 23,483 permanent emergency beds across 608 shelters across Canada, representing a 4.9% increase in capacity from 2024. This represents a stabilization in growth compared to pronounced changes throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, changing from 16,271 beds in 2019 to 22,372 in 2024. Beds per capita changed from 5.4 to 5.6 in 2025. Capacity changes by province and territory varied in scale, with some showing no change at all, to others increasing capacity by over 50%. Almost half of all beds in 2025 served the general adult population (49%), while 30% served families, 22% served adult men, 3% served adult women, and 6% served youth. Most beds were found in large communities (73%), followed by medium communities (18%), and small communities (9%). Large communities tend to have fewer and bigger shelters, while medium and small communities have more shelters but with less capacity. Transitional housing capacity increased by 7.4% percent, and domestic violence shelter capacity increased by 6.3%.

National Overview: Emergency shelter capacity in Canada from 2016 to 2025

In 2025, there were 23,483 beds across 608 permanent emergency shelters across Canada. This represents a 4.9% increase from 22,379 emergency beds in 2024, and a 3.6% increase in the number of shelters.

Shelter capacity in permanent emergency shelters remained at stabilized numbers from 2016 to February 2020 (Figure 1). More pronounced changes between 2020 to 2022 stemmed largely from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic – total capacity decreased to 11,214 by August 2020. From December 2021 to December 2022, shelter capacity saw a full recovery, where the rise in the number of emergency beds was 21.6% (+3,282), and from 2022 to December 2023 it was 13.0% (+2,397). The increase in the number of beds from 2023 to 2024 (+1,515) and then 2024 to 2025 (+1,104) represents a trend of year-to-year increases happening at a decreasing rate, suggesting stabilization. While there is levelling off in the number of beds added each year, this still shows a sector that has had considerable expansion to fulfill demand, beyond pre-pandemic levels.

Permanent emergency shelters may also have “overflow” beds to respond to immediate demand. Of those shelters that indicated having these spaces (275 of 608), they have, on average, 18 beds available for these purposes. These spaces can be beds, but also mats or cots depending on the space available.

Figure 1. Number of emergency beds and shelters in Canada, 2016 to 2025

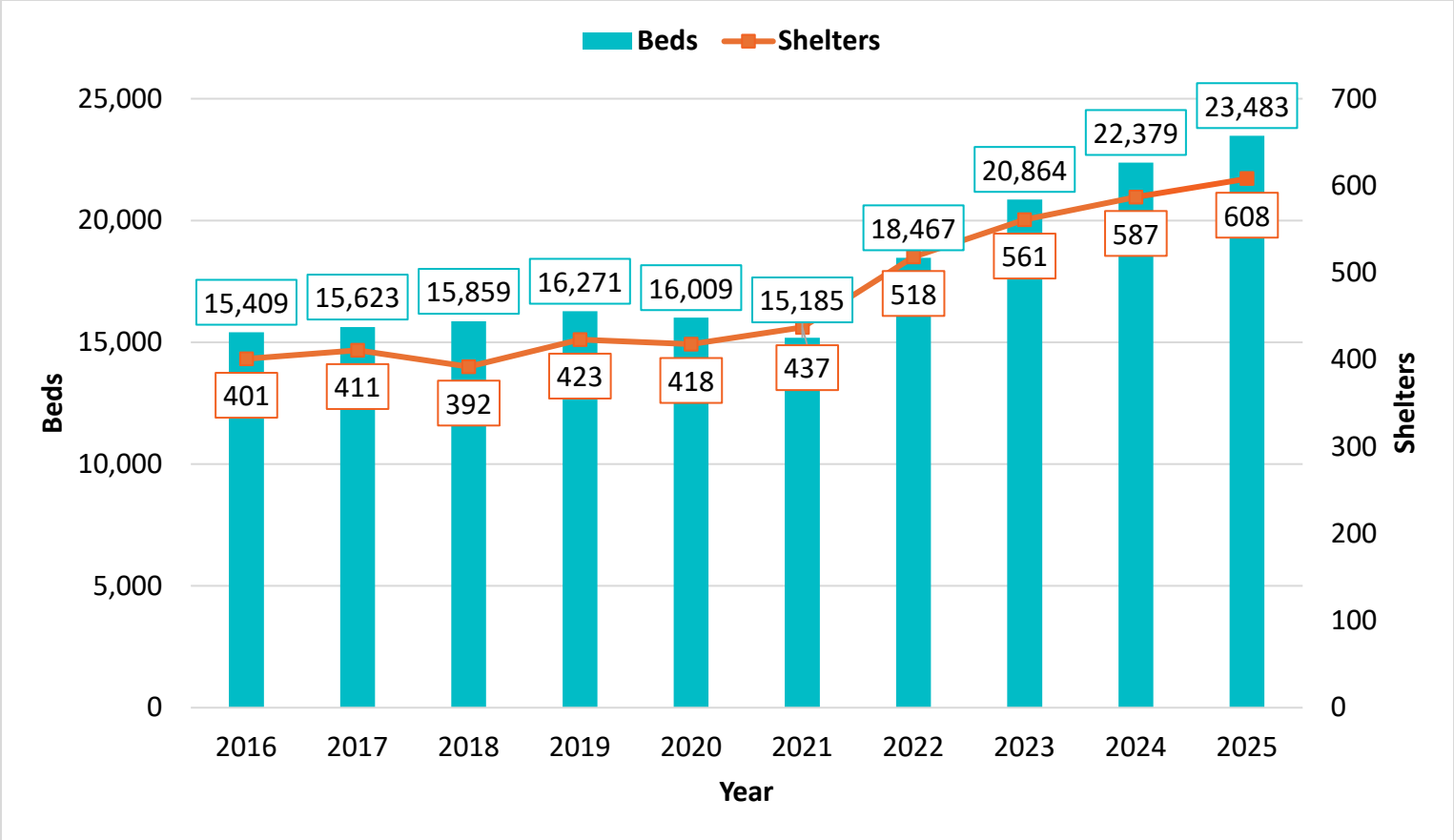


Figure 1 – Text version

Year	Beds	Shelters
2016	15,409	401
2017	15,623	411
2018	15,859	392
2019	16,271	423
2020	16,009	418
2021	15,185	437
2022	18,467	518
2023	20,864	561
2024	22,379	587
2025	23,483	608

Emergency shelter capacity in Canada, by province and territory

Notable increases in emergency beds were seen in various provinces and territories in 2025. Capacity has increased each year since 2022 for Alberta, Newfoundland and Labrador, and British Columbia, while other regions have seen fluctuations in the sector.

The shelter landscape in Atlantic Canada has expanded significantly in recent years. In Newfoundland and Labrador, capacity in St. John's increased by over 30 beds. The increase of capacity in Nova Scotia has been substantial, nearly tripling by end of 2025 from 2022. In 2025, Dartmouth added over 80 beds, Halifax over 100, and Sydney over 30. In New Brunswick, Fredericton and Moncton over saw increases of over 30 beds, while beds in Saint John decreased by over 50. No changes were seen in Prince Edward Island in 2025, representing a stabilization in the number of beds here as of 2023.

In Quebec, capacity increases were seen in Montreal (200 beds) and Gatineau (40 beds), while Quebec City saw a slight decrease of over 20 beds. Ontario saw a small overall change from 2024, but with notable fluctuations across various communities. Beds in Ottawa decreased by over 100, in Brantford by over 40, and in Windsor by over 80. There were increases of over 50 beds in London, Hamilton, and Newmarket, and of over 100 beds in both Kingston and Toronto. Both Ontario and Quebec saw their most prominent increases from 2021 to 2022 (in response to pandemic-related need), which has been followed by gradual growth in recent years.

Shelter capacity in Manitoba remained stable in 2025, with a slight increase of 29 beds in Brandon. Saskatchewan saw an overall recovery in capacity after notable decreases in 2024; Prince Albert saw over 70 beds added and Saskatoon over 30 added, while Regina saw a decrease of over 40 beds. In Alberta, shelter capacity recovered to pre-pandemic levels by 2024. For 2025, changes in Calgary and Edmonton were modest, while Lethbridge saw an increase of over 100 beds, and Red Deer saw a decrease of over 70 beds.

In British Columbia, both the number of beds and shelters have nearly doubled since 2019. In 2025, Kamloops added 103 beds, Victoria over 80, and Surrey over 40, while beds in Vancouver decreased by over 100. In Northern Canada, Yukon and Nunavut saw increases in capacity. Two new shelters opened in Nunavut, and beds in Yukon nearly doubled in capacity from 36 to 65, despite no new shelters being established in Yukon since 2018. Northwest Territories has seen decreasing capacity two years in a row, with no new shelters established since 2018.

Figure 2: Number of emergency shelter beds by province and territory in 2025 and percentage changes from 2024

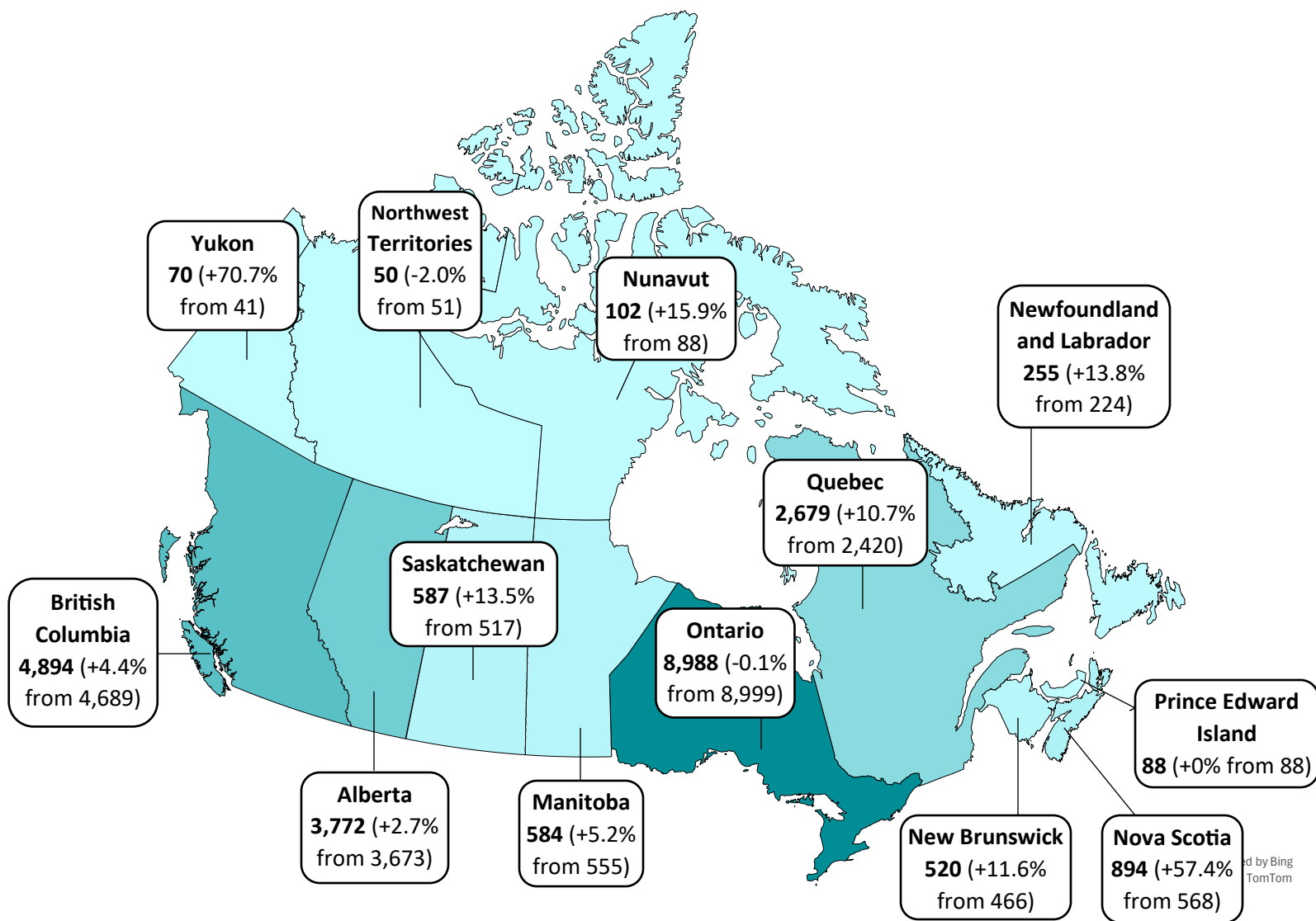


Figure 2 – Text version

Province and Territory	Beds in 2024	Beds in 2025	Percentage change
Newfoundland and Labrador	224	255	13.8%
Prince Edward Island	88	88	0%
Nova Scotia	568	894	57.4%
New Brunswick	466	520	11.6%
Quebec	2,420	2,679	10.7%
Ontario	8,999	8,988	-0.1%
Manitoba	555	584	5.2%
Saskatchewan	517	587	13.5%
Alberta	3,673	3,772	2.7%
British Columbia	4,689	4,894	4.4%

Yukon	41	70	70.7%
Northwest Territories	51	50	-2.0%
Nunavut	88	102	15.9%

Table 1: Number of emergency beds by province and territory, and percentage change from previous year, 2016 to 2025

Province and Territory	2016	2017 (% change from 2016)	2018 (% change from 2017)	2019 (% change from 2018)	2020 (% change from 2019)	2021 (% change from 2020)	2022 (% change from 2021)	2023 (% change from 2022)	2024 (% change from 2023)	2025 (% change from 2024)
Newfoundland and Labrador	53	61 (+15%)	67 (+10%)	146 (+118%)	125 (-14%)	118 (-6%)	158 (+34%)	215 (+36%)	224 (+4%)	255 (+13.8%)
Prince Edward Island	7	7 (0%)	7 (0%)	7 (0%)	18 (+157%)	26 (+44%)	24 (-8%)	85 (+254%)	88 (+4%)	88 (+0%)
Nova Scotia	208	217 (+4%)	220 (+1%)	225 (+2%)	243 (+8%)	230 (-5%)	295 (+28%)	698 (+137%)	568 (-19%)	894 (+57.4%)
New Brunswick	150	148 (-1%)	157 (+6%)	180 (+15%)	253 (+41%)	323 (+28%)	254 (-21%)	307 (+21%)	466 (+52%)	520 (+11.6%)
Quebec	1,948	1,934 (-1%)	1,757 (-9%)	1,901 (+8%)	1,658 (-13%)	2,009 (+21%)	2,608 (+30%)	2,735 (+5%)	2,420 (-12%)	2,679 (+10.7%)
Ontario	6,622	6,764 (+2%)	6,898 (+2%)	7,175 (+4%)	7,351 (+2%)	6,793 (-8%)	7,767 (+14%)	8,539 (+10%)	8,999 (+5%)	8,988 (-0.1%)
Manitoba	661	661 (0%)	650 (-2%)	403 (-38%)	436 (+8%)	484 (+11%)	608 (+26%)	608 (0%)	555 (-9%)	584 (+5.2%)
Saskatchewan	439	443 (+1%)	476 (+7%)	483 (+1%)	407 (-16%)	329 (-19%)	501 (+52%)	608 (+21%)	517 (-15%)	587 (+13.5)
Alberta	3,182	3,182 (0%)	3,304 (+4%)	3,258 (-1%)	2,784 (-15%)	2,254 (-19%)	2,758 (+22%)	2,878 (+4%)	3,673 (+28%)	3,772 (+2.7%)
British Columbia	2,019	2,069 (+2%)	2,170 (+5%)	2,336 (+8%)	2,534 (+8%)	2,456 (-3%)	3,296 (+34%)	3,991 (+21%)	4,689 (+17%)	4,894 (+4.4%)
Yukon	27	27 (0%)	27 (0%)	39 (+44%)	59 (+51%)	39 (-34%)	40 (+3%)	40 (0%)	41 (+3%)	70 (+70.7%)
Northwest Territories	100	76 (-24%)	82 (+8%)	82 (0%)	88 (+7%)	65 (-26%)	65 (0%)	67 (+3%)	51 (-24%)	50 (-2.0%)

Northwest Territories	4									
		3 (-25%)	3 (0%)	3 (0%)	3 (0%)	3 (0%)	3 (0%)	3 (0%)	3 (0%)	3 (0%)
Nunavut	2						6			8
		2 (0%)	2 (0%)	2 (0%)	3 (+50%)	3 (0%)	(+100%)	6 (0%)	6 (0%)	(+33.3%)
Canada	401	411 (+2%)	392 (-5%)	423 (+8%)	418 (-1%)	437 (+5%)	518 (+19%)	561 (8%)	587 (+5%)	608 (+3.6%)

Emergency shelter capacity per 10,000 population from 2023 to 2025

Per capita rates of bed capacity serve as an indicator of availability of shelter and of relative demand. This rate can change based on fluctuations in total population and in bed numbers. Figure 3 displays the number of emergency shelter beds per 10,000 population (measured using Q4 population estimates for a specific year) by province and territory.

The per capita rate of emergency shelter beds per 10,000 people in Canada in 2025 was 5.6 – an increase of 3.7% from 2024. Quarterly estimates (*Statistics Canada, 2026*) indicate a 0.2% increase in total population from Q4 2024 to Q4 2025 across Canada. Along with a 4.9% increase in the number of total beds, this signifies a trend of increased demand at the national level each year despite population growth.

While there was an overall increase in the national per capita rate, provincial and territorial rates highlight the differences of bed availability compared to their population. Five provinces and territories saw a recovery of their per capita rate from 2023 levels, after a slight reduction in 2024. Four provinces and territories saw a steady increase in their rate since 2024. The most prominent increases from 2024 were seen in Nova Scotia, Nunavut, and Yukon.

Figure 3: Number of emergency shelter beds per 10,000 population by province and territory from 2023 to 2025

Province and Territory

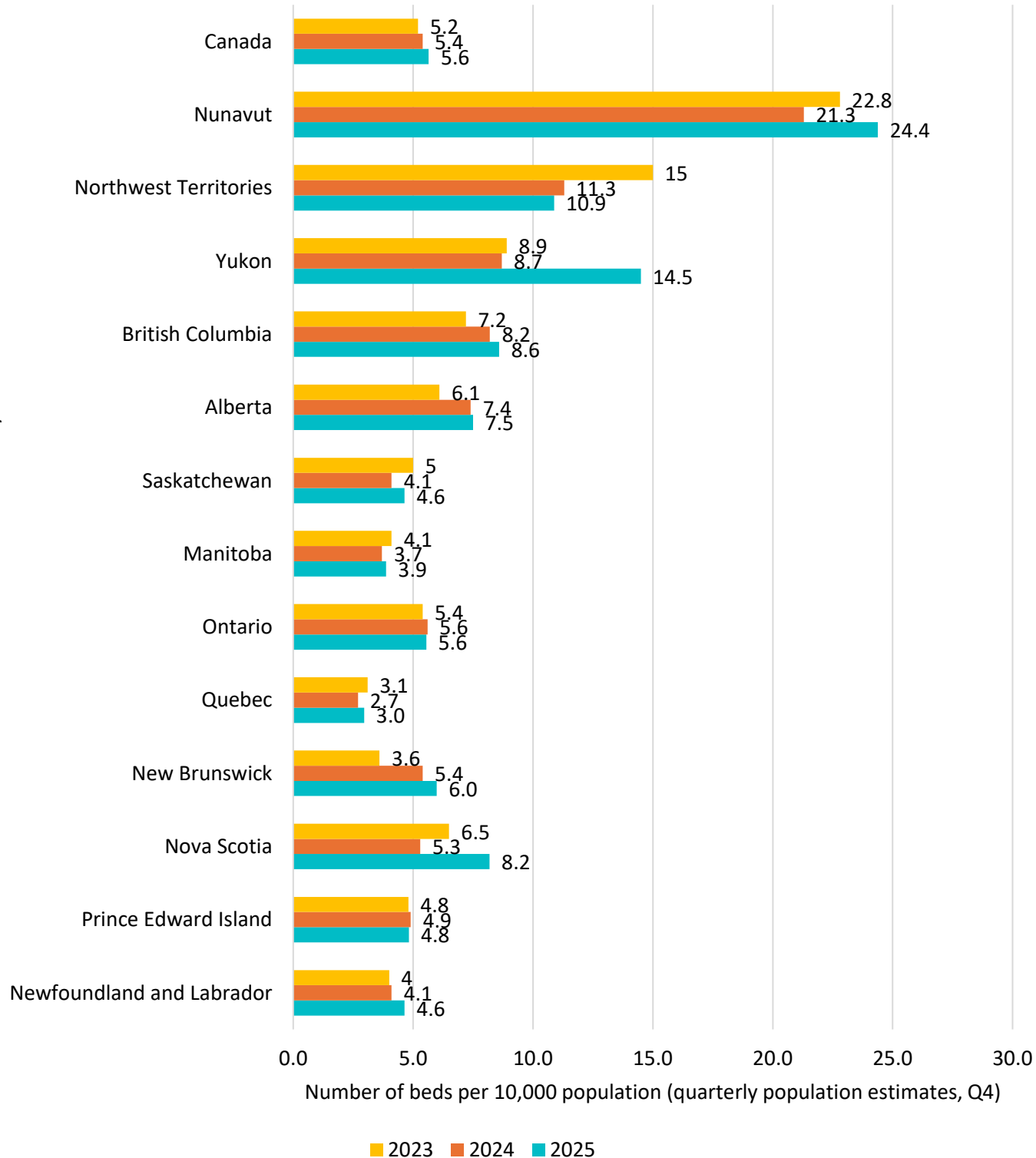


Figure 3: Text version

Province and territory	2023 (with population estimates Q4 2023)	2024 (with population estimates Q4 2024)	2025 (with population estimates Q4 2025)
Newfoundland and Labrador	4.0	4.1	4.6
Prince Edward Island	4.8	4.9	4.8
Nova Scotia	6.5	5.3	8.2
New Brunswick	3.6	5.4	6.0
Quebec	3.1	2.7	3.0
Ontario	5.4	5.6	5.6
Manitoba	4.1	3.7	3.9
Saskatchewan	5.0	4.1	4.6
Alberta	6.1	7.4	7.5
British Columbia	7.2	8.2	8.6
Yukon	8.9	8.7	14.5
Northwest Territories	15.0	11.3	10.9
Nunavut	22.8	21.3	24.4
Canada	5.2	5.4	5.6

Emergency shelter capacity by community size, 2025

Across Canada, there were 200 population centres ⁴ with at least one permanent emergency shelter. Out of these communities, 24% were large (100,000+ population), 30% were medium (30,000 – 99,000 population), and 46% were small (1,000 – 29,000 population). Out of all emergency shelter beds across Canada, 73.4% were held in large communities, 17.8% in medium communities, and 8.7% in small communities. A similar distribution was seen in 2024, with the proportion of beds in medium communities showing a gradual increase as in years prior. The proportion of shelters in each community type remained similar to that of 2024. The comparison between the distribution of beds between each community type and the distribution of shelters indicates that larger urban centres tend to have larger facilities and more of them.

Figure 4: Distribution of emergency shelters and permanent beds by community size in 2025

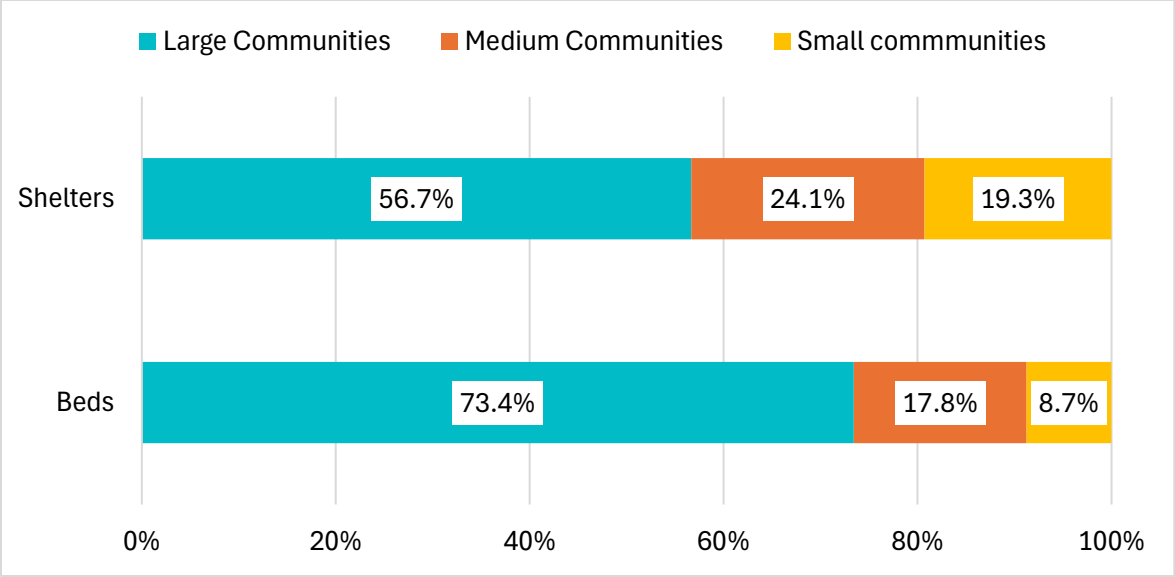


Figure 4 – Text version:

Distribution of emergency shelters and beds by community size, 2025	Percentage of all beds	Percentage of all shelters
Large communities	73.4%	56.7%
Medium communities	17.8%	24.1%
Small communities	8.7%	19.3%

In communities of all sizes, year-to-year growth has continued to stabilize – smaller changes are seen in the number of beds from 2024 to 2025, than in 2023 to 2024. This is consistent with the overall trend of growth in capacity levelling off after prominent increases during the pandemic.

Figure 5: Number of emergency beds by community size, and increases from 2023 to 2025

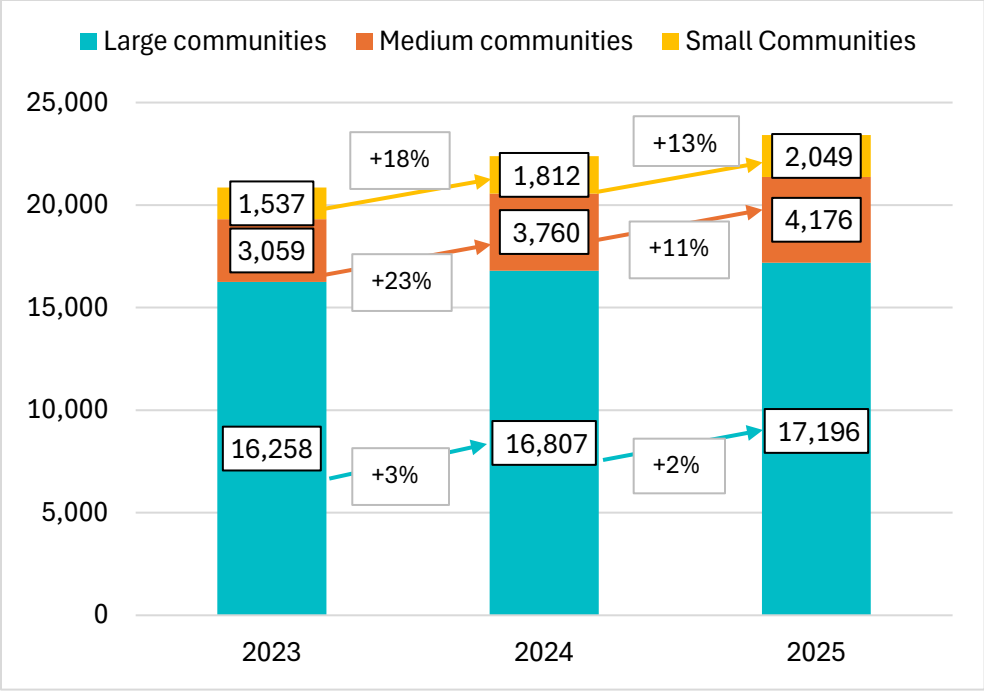


Figure 5 – Text version

Number of beds by community size	2023	Percentage change, 2023 to 2024	2024	percentage change, 2024 to 2025	2025
Large Communities	16,258	3%	16,807	2%	17,196
Medium Communities	3,059	23%	3,760	11%	4,176
Small Communities	1,537	18%	1,812	13%	2,049

⁴ Year-to year changes in the number of beds in this report are based on population centre population data from Census 2021. Communities are sorted as large, medium, or small based on their population in 2021, and therefore belong to the same category from 2022 and beyond until new population centre-level data is available. This results in the comparisons between the 2023, 2024, and 2025 distribution of beds to be based on the same pool of communities.

Emergency shelter capacity by clientele served in Canada from 2016 to 2025

Emergency beds across Canada are categorized into categories based on clientele they serve. These are: general adult (all genders), adult men only, adult women only, families, or youth. Year-to-year changes by province and territory reflect the addition or closure of services, but also recategorization of services based on how they identify their clientele.

- In 2025, beds serving the general adult population (all genders) accounted for 49% of all beds – up from 47% in 2024. General adult beds saw an increase of 924 beds, still remaining the largest clientele group

served. Across Canada, many service providers who have bed capacity for adults do not have a specific count of beds set aside for women or men, but fill them depending on demand.

- Beds serving only adult men accounted for 22%, and those serving only adult women corresponded to 3% of all emergency beds (from 9% in 2024). This difference stems from services noting if they also accept children at the facility – which would put them in the family category, and not adult-only. Over 2,000 of the family beds in 2025 were for women and their children, with the rest being families of all genders. In 2025, beds for families (20% of beds) increased by 1,406, with a corresponding drop in adult women beds of 1,307, reflecting updated descriptions of service providers on their clientele, and new family shelters added.
- Beds serving youth clients made up 6% of all beds in 2025 and 7% in 2024, continuing to display a trend of stable but low demand for beds for this clientele, attributed in part to the youth-serving sector's efforts in prevention and shelter diversion.
- In data collection, shelters were also asked to indicate if their facilities are trans-inclusive. Of all emergency shelters that provided a response (496), 431 indicated that their facility is trans-inclusive, 21 indicated that it is not, and 44 preferred not to disclose. Responses indicating trans-inclusivity were provided by all categories of service providers – those serving women only, men only, and all genders, as well as each type of clientele.

Figure 6: Number of emergency shelter beds in Canada per clientele served, 2016 to 2025

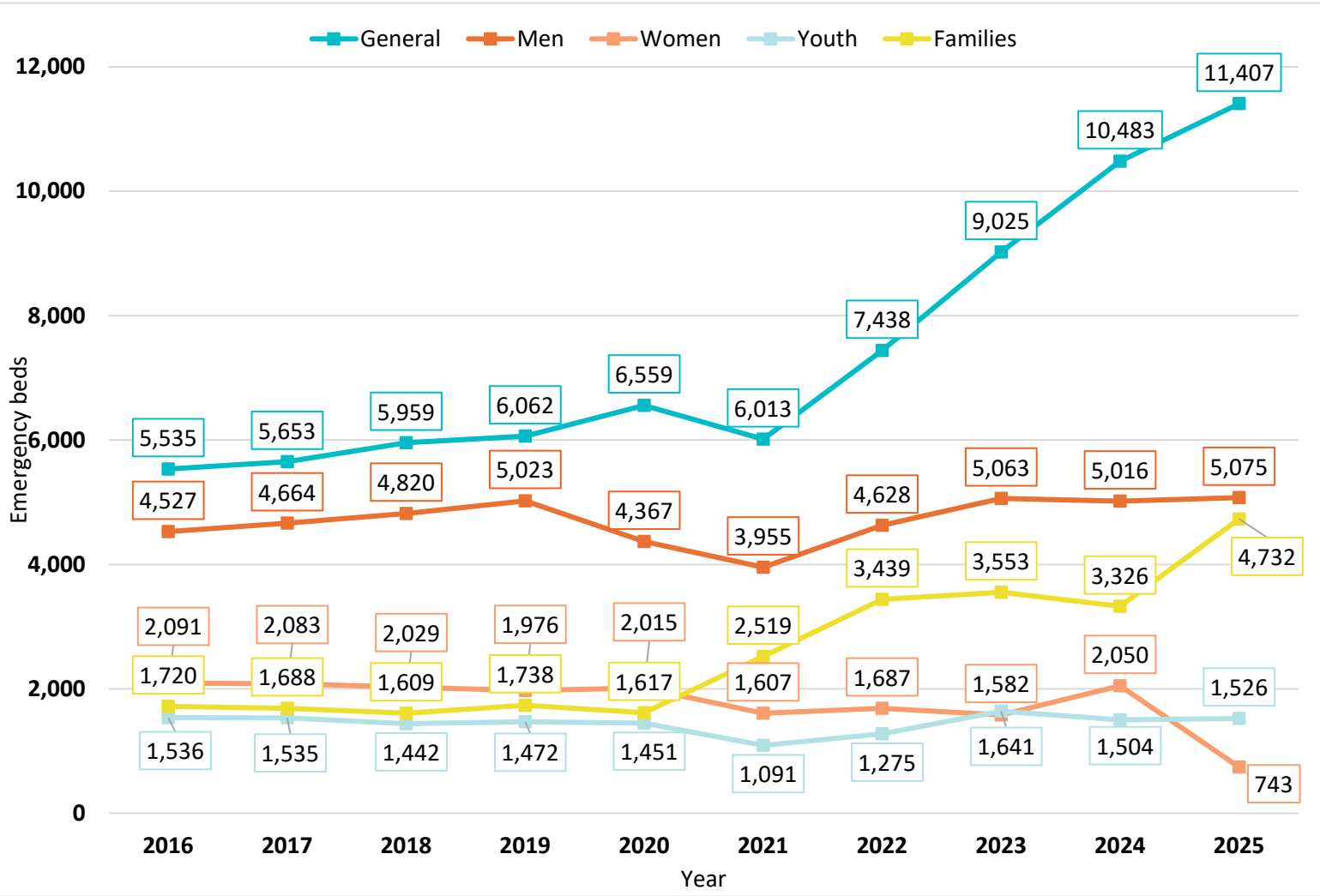


Figure 6 – Text version

Clientele served	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
General	5,535	5,653	5,959	6,062	6,559	6,013	7,438	9,025	10,483	11,407
Men	4,527	4,664	4,820	5,023	4,367	3,955	4,628	5,063	5,016	5,075
Women	2,091	2,083	2,029	1,976	2,015	1,607	1,687	1,582	2,050	743
Youth	1,536	1,535	1,442	1,472	1,451	1,091	1,275	1,641	1,504	1,526
Families	1,720	1,688	1,609	1,738	1,617	2,519	3,439	3,553	3,326	4,732

Emergency shelter capacity per clientele served, by province and territory in 2025

The total number of beds and shelters in Canada by clientele served are broken down by province and territory.

British Columbia added 5 shelters in 2025, with increases of over 400 general adult beds and 244 family beds, with a corresponding drop of over 200 beds for adult women only. Manitoba continued to have the most capacity for general adult beds, with an increase in family beds as well.

Notably, there was a reduction of over 100 family beds in New Brunswick, accompanied with an increase of over 200 in general adult beds. In Nova Scotia, an increase of over 200 beds in 5 general adult shelters contributed to its overall 57% increase in capacity. Newfoundland, despite a reduction of 3 adult shelters and 1 youth, still increased their capacity by 14%.

The proportion of youth and adult men beds in Ontario remained stable from 2024. A decrease of over 150 adult women beds and of over 400 general adult beds took place, accompanied by an increase of over 700 family beds took place. This suggests possible recategorization of beds to indicate that they serve primarily families, as well as addition of new family services. Quebec and Saskatchewan saw a similar situation, where many adult women beds were recategorized as family beds, or as general adult beds.

Table 3: Emergency beds by clientele served, per province and territory in 2025

Province and Territory	Family beds	General beds	Men’s beds	Women’s beds	Youth beds	Total beds
Newfoundland and Labrador	0	229	0	0	26	255
Prince Edward Island	14	60	14	0		88
Nova Scotia	34	718	107	0	35	894
New Brunswick	31	351	119	14	5	520
Quebec	488	1176	734	36	245	2,679
Ontario	2,364	2,553	2,612	608	851	8,988
Manitoba	87	469	0	0	28	584
Saskatchewan	128	271	145	0	43	587
Alberta	1,104	1,998	550	28	92	3,772
British Columbia	444	3,511	706	57	176	4,894
Yukon	0	54	5	0	11	70
Northwest Territories	11	0	31	0	8	50
Nunavut	27	17	52	0	6	102
Total	4,732 (20%)	11,407 (49%)	5,075 (22%)	743 (3%)	1,526 (6%)	23,483

Table 4: Emergency shelters by clientele served, per province and territory in 2025

Province and Territory	Family shelters	General shelters	Men's shelters	Women's shelters	Youth shelters	Total shelters
Newfoundland and Labrador	0	10	0	0	3	13
Prince Edward Island	2	2	2	0		6
Nova Scotia	2	15	3	0	3	23
New Brunswick	2	9	3	1	1	16
Quebec	29	48	13	4	23	117
Ontario	48	56	42	15	36	197
Manitoba	4	6	0	0	3	13
Saskatchewan	4	6	4		4	18
Alberta	9	18	4	2	7	40
British Columbia	18	98	15	1	19	151
Yukon	0	1	1	0	1	3
Northwest Territories	1		1	0	1	3
Nunavut	3	1	3	0	1	8
Total	122 (20%)	270 (44%)	91 (15%)	23 (4%)	102 (17%)	608

Annex A: Transitional housing capacity by province and territory from 2016 to 2025

Across Canada, transitional housing beds increased from 2024 to 2025 by 7.3% to 12,144 beds. System capacity in Quebec has remained stable in emergency shelters, but grew significantly for transitional housing – adding over 400 beds (and 345 in 2024). Ontario saw similar increases, with over 300 beds added in 2025. While some provinces and territories saw decreases the number of transitional beds (British Columbia and Northwest Territories), a national trend of slow but steady growth in this sector can be seen as of end of 2022.

Growth in the transitional housing landscape is attributed to increasing interest and efforts in establishing medium-to-long term housing solutions. In the transitional housing space, total number of beds change most significantly due to opening and closures of services, rather than small numbers of beds added to established facilities throughout a year; oftentimes, transitional housing is offered at established residences with a set number of rooms, rather than facilities with more flexible space to add beds based on demand. Totals in this report for transitional housing include those services where individuals experiencing homelessness are the primary clientele, although the service itself may offer wrap-around supports specific to other client circumstances (i.e. mental health or addiction-related support).

Table 5: Transitional housing beds, by province and territory, and percentage from previous year, 2016 to 2025

Province and Territory	2016	2017 (% change from 2016)	2018 (% change from 2017)	2019 (% change from 2018)	2020 (% change from 2019)	2021 (% change from 2020)	2022 (% change from 2021)	2023 (% change from 2022)	2024 (% change from 2023)	2025 (% change from 2024)
Newfoundland and Labrador	113	113 (0%)	102 (-10%)	102 (0%)	32 (-69%)	32 (0%)	72 (+125%)	58 (-19%)	43 (-26%)	80 (+86%)
Prince Edward Island	0	0	0	0	0	9	4 (-56%)	48 (+1100%)	51 (+6%)	74 (+45%)
Nova Scotia	76	66 (-13%)	119 (+80%)	128 (+8%)	125 (-2%)	148 (+18%)	286 (+93%)	212 (-26%)	197 (-7%)	229 (+16%)
New Brunswick	20	24 (+20%)	14 (-42%)	37 (+164%)	48 (+30%)	66 (+38%)	128 (+94%)	99 (-23%)	97 (-2%)	101 (+4%)
Quebec	1,783	1,783 (0%)	2,522 (+41%)	2,428 (-4%)	2,358 (-3%)	2,796 (+19%)	3,841 (+37%)	3,521 (-8%)	3,176 (-10%)	3,579 (+13%)
Ontario	2,098	2,189 (+4%)	2,188 (0%)	2,134 (-2%)	2,128 (0%)	2,764 (+30%)	3,642 (+32%)	3,216 (-12%)	3,581 (+11%)	3,921 (+10%)
Manitoba	286	286 (0%)	229 (-20%)	349 (+52%)	441 (+26%)	297 (-33%)	504 (+70%)	504 (0%)	700 (+39%)	648 (-7%)
Saskatchewan	396	392 (-1%)	328 (-16%)	309 (-6%)	235 (-24%)	244 (+4%)	789 (+223%)	544 (-31%)	430 (-21%)	467 (+9%)
Alberta	1,213	1,203 (-1%)	1,177 (-2%)	1,135 (-4%)	1,108 (-2%)	711 (-36%)	887 (+25%)	1,484 (-100%)	1,259 (-15%)	1,327 (+5)
British Columbia	804	854 (+6%)	901 (6%)	972 (+8%)	1,179 (+21%)	1,017 (-14%)	1,695 (+61%)	1,635 (-4%)	1,622 (-1%)	1,580 (-3%)
Yukon	0	0	2	2 (0%)	4 (+100%)	0	1	6 (+500%)	6 (0%)	17 (+183%)
Northwest Territories	37	76 (+105%)	63 (-17%)	98 (56%)	97 (-1%)	66 (-32%)	60 (-9%)	56 (-7%)	111 (+98%)	91 (-18%)
Nunavut	0	0	0	0	0	0	26	26 (0%)	30 (+15%)	30 (0%)
Canada	6,826	6,986 (+2%)	7,645 (+9%)	7,694 (+1%)	7,773 (+1%)	8,150 (+5%)	11,935 (+46%)	11,409 (-4%)	11,303 (-1%)	12,144 (+7%)

Table 6: Transitional housing facilities, by province and territory, and percentage change from previous years, 2016 to 2025

Province and Territory	2016	2017 (% change from 2016)	2018 (% change from 2017)	2019 (% change from 2018)	2020 (% change from 2019)	2021 (% change from 2020)	2022 (% change from 2021)	2023 (% change from 2022)	2024 (% change from 2023)	2025 (% change from 2024)
Newfoundland and Labrador	7	7 (0%)	4 (-43%)	4 (0%)	4 (0%)	4 (0%)	8 (+100%)	6 (-25%)	6 (0%)	7 (+17%)
Prince Edward Island	0	0	0	0	0	1	1 (0%)	4 (+300%)	4 (0%)	5 (+25%)
Nova Scotia	6	6 (0%)	8 (+33%)	10 (+25%)	10 (0%)	12 (+20%)	22 (+83%)	15 (-32%)	15 (0%)	13 (-13%)
New Brunswick	2	3 (+50%)	2 (-33%)	4 (+100%)	7 (+75%)	13 (+86%)	14 (+8%)	13 (-7%)	10 (-23%)	10 (0%)
Quebec	95	95 (0%)	114 (+20%)	114 (0%)	116 (+2%)	153 (+32%)	198 (+29%)	180 (-9%)	177 (-2%)	187 (+6%)
Ontario	79	75 (-5%)	104 (+39%)	106 (+2%)	116 (+9%)	149 (+28%)	171 (+15%)	144 (-16%)	141 (-2%)	163 (+16%)
Manitoba	14	14 (0%)	10 (-29%)	10 (0%)	11 (+10%)	16 (+45%)	24 (+50%)	24 (0%)	31 (+29%)	27 (-13%)
Saskatchewan	26	28 (+8%)	22 (-21%)	23 (+5%)	20 (-13%)	22 (+10%)	49 (+123%)	46 (-6%)	26 (-43%)	23 (-12%)
Alberta	31	31 (0%)	37 (+19%)	36 (-3%)	38 (+6%)	35 (-8%)	39 (+11%)	49 (+26%)	39 (-20%)	41 (+5%)
British Columbia	31	34 (+10%)	33 (-3%)	33 (0%)	41 (+24%)	43 (+5%)	71 (+65%)	70 (-1%)	71(+1%)	69 (-3%)
Yukon	0	0	1	1 (0%)	2 (+100%)	0 (-100%)	1	1 (0%)	1 (0%)	2 (+100%)
Northwest Territories	2	2 (0%)	3 (+50%)	5 (+67%)	5 (0%)	4 (-20%)	3 (-25%)	3 (0%)	5 (+67%)	5 (0%)
Nunavut	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1 (0%)	1 (0%)	1 (0%)
Canada	286	295 (+3%)	338 (+15%)	346 (+2%)	370 (+7%)	452 (+22%)	602 (+33%)	556 (-8%)	527 (-5%)	553 (+5%)

Annex B: Transitional housing capacity by clientele served, per province and territory in 2025

Of all transitional housing beds across Canada in 2025, 38% of beds served the general adult population – a slight increase from 34% in 2024. Beds serving adult men corresponded to 17%, while women’s beds made up 3%, youth beds 19%, and family beds 23%. The number of youth beds increased by 18%, and general beds by 23%, displaying the growing demand for transitional services for these populations in 2025, given the slight decrease from 2023 to 2024.

Table 7: Transitional housing beds by clientele served, per province and territory, 2025

Province and Territory	Fami ly beds	General beds	Men's beds	Women's beds	Youth beds	Total beds
Newfoundland and Labrador	9	43	12	0	16	80
Prince Edward Island	22	23	24	5		74
Nova Scotia	60	119	0	0	50	229
New Brunswick	12	50	11	00	28	101
Quebec	1,016	899	697	46	921	3,579
Ontario	758	1,574	713	139	731	3,921
Manitoba	82	491	12	9	54	648
Saskatchewan	143	126	58	72	68	467
Alberta	305	341	385	32	264	1,327
British Columbia	335	989	75	0	181	1,580
Yukon	0	0	17	0	0	17
Northwest Territories	50	0	32	0	9	91
Nunavut	0	0	30	0	0	30
Canada	2,792 (23%)	4,655 (38%)	2,066 (17%)	303 (3%)	2,322 (19%)	12,144

Table 8: Transitional housing facilities by clientele served, per province and territory, 2025

Province and Territory	Famil y shelte rs	General shelters	Men's shelters	Women's shelters	Youth shelters	Total shelters
Newfoundland and Labrador	1	3	1	0	2	7
Prince Edward Island	1	1	2	1		5
Nova Scotia	4	5	0	0	4	13

New Brunswick	1	3	2	0	4	10
Quebec	58	40	18	4	67	187
Ontario	30	51	20	6	55	163
Manitoba	6	16	1	1	3	27
Saskatchewan	6	4	4	1	8	23
Alberta	11	10	4	1	15	41
British Columbia	17	32	3	0	17	69
Yukon	0	0	2	0	0	2
Northwest Territories	3	0	1	0	1	5
Nunavut	0	0	1	0		1
Canada	138 (25%)	165 (29%)	59 (12%)	14 (2%)	176 (32%)	553

Annex C: Domestic violence shelter capacity by province and territory from 2016 to 2025

Domestic violence beds across Canada are updated annually for shelter capacity data. Totals include beds of shelters serving clients in emergency situations, as well as those providing second-stage housing for those fleeing domestic violence. From 2024 to 2025, there was an increase of 4% in the number of beds, and a 4% increase in the number of shelters. Similarly to transitional housing spaces, domestic violence shelters often serve clients in facilities with established units or rooms. Total number of beds has seen a steady increase since 2016, similar to total population growth, demonstrating continued the demand of these services. Notable increases in 2025 took place in Nova Scotia (57 beds), Ontario (158 beds), and Alberta (152 beds). New Brunswick also added 4 shelters, while Quebec added 6.

It is estimated that at least 60 of the 622 services across the country are second-stage shelters, providing longer-term stay (usually up to a year) for victims fleeing violence.

Table 9: Domestic violence beds by province and territory, and percentage change from previous year, 2016 to 2025

Province and Territory	2016	2017 (% change from 2016)	2018 (% change from 2017)	2019 (% change from 2018)	2020 (% change from 2019)	2021 (% change from 2020)	2022 (% change from 2021)	2023 (% change from 2022)	2024 (% change from 2023)	2025 (% change from 2024)
Newfoundland and Labrador	136	146 (+7%)	176 (+21%)	176 (0%)	191 (9%)	187 (-2%)	163 (-13%)	174 (+7%)	179 (+3%)	197 (+10%)
Prince Edward Island	45	45 (0%)	45 (0%)	45 (0%)	43 (-4%)	43 (0%)	30 (-30%)	18 (-40%)	45 (+150%)	46 (+2%)

Nova Scotia	239	224 (-6%)	192 (-14%)	211 (+10%)	242 (+15%)	309 (+28%)	285 (-8%)	230 (-19%)	232 (+1%)	289 (+26%)
New Brunswick	215	230 (+7%)	298 (+30%)	303 (+2%)	303 (0%)	283 (-7%)	287 (+1%)	285 (-1%)	268 (-6%)	320 (+19%)
Quebec	1,118	1,118 (0%)	1,360 (+22%)	1,370 (+1%)	1,466 (+7%)	1,776 (+21%)	1,757 (-1%)	1,820 (+4%)	1,841 (+1%)	1,887 (+3%)
Ontario	2,275	2,311 (+2%)	2,466 (+7%)	2,510 (+2%)	2,629 (+4%)	2,896 (+10%)	2,970 (+3%)	3,194 (+8%)	3,167 (-1%)	3,425 (+8%)
Manitoba	387	387 (0%)	364 (-6%)	385 (+6%)	414 (+8%)	353 (-15%)	366 (+4%)	366 (0%)	404 (+10%)	403 (-0.2%)
Saskatchewan	301	301 (0%)	283 (-6%)	238 (-16%)	277 (+16%)	322 (+16%)	338 (+5%)	415 (+23%)	548 (+32%)	576 (+5%)
Alberta	924	930 (+1%)	1,223 (+32%)	1,291 (+6%)	1,329 (+3%)	1,297 (-2%)	1,334 (+3%)	1,393 (+4%)	1,336 (-4%)	1,488 (+11%)
British Columbia	994	1,004 (+1%)	953 (-5%)	1,259 (+32%)	1,329 (+6%)	1,601 (+20%)	1,583 (-1%)	1,882 (+19%)	2,194 (+17%)	2,239 (+2%)
Yukon	37	37 (0%)	49 (+32%)	52 (+6%)	101 (+94%)	65 (-36%)	108 (+66%)	98 (-9%)	98 (0%)	73 (-26%)
Northwest Territories	44	44 (0%)	44 (0%)	44 (0%)	44 (0%)	34 (-23%)	38 (+12%)	64 (+68%)	62 (-3%)	80 (+29%)
Nunavut	34	34 (0%)	41 (+21%)	41 (0%)	41 (0%)	31 (-24%)	52 (+68%)	52 (0%)	57 (+10%)	61 (+7%)
Canada	6,749	6,811 (+1%)	7,494 (+10%)	7,925 (+6%)	8,409 (+6%)	9,197 (+9%)	9,311 (+1%)	9,991 (+7%)	10,431 (+4%)	11,084 (+6%)

Table 10: Domestic violence shelters by province and territory, and percentage change from previous year, 2016 to 2025

Province and Territory	2016	2017 (% change from 2016)	2018 (% change from 2017)	2019 (% change from 2018)	2020 (% change from 2019)	2021 (% change from 2020)	2022 (% change from 2021)	2023 (% change from 2022)	2024 (% change from 2023)	2025 (% change from 2024)
Newfoundland and Labrador	19	19 (0%)	15 (-21%)	21 (+40%)	14 (-33%)	20 (+43%)	18 (-10%)	19 (+6%)	19 (0%)	20 (+5%)
Prince Edward Island	3	3 (0%)	3 (0%)	3 (0%)	3 (0%)	3 (0%)	2 (-33%)	1 (-50%)	3 (+200%)	3 (0%)
Nova Scotia	17	16 (-6%)	15 (-6%)	17 (+13%)	16 (-6%)	23 (+44%)	20 (-13%)	15 (-25%)	15 (0%)	16 (+7%)
New Brunswick	15	16 (+7%)	18 (+13%)	18 (0%)	18 (0%)	20 (+11%)	19 (-5%)	20 (+5%)	21 (+5%)	25 (+19%)

Quebec	94	94 (0%)	95 (+1%)	109 (+15%)	104 (-5%)	138 (+33%)	129 (-7%)	129 (0%)	128 (-1%)	134 (+5%)
Ontario	117	120 (+3%)	119 (-1%)	136 (+14%)	134 (-1%)	159 (+19%)	150 (-6%)	161 (+7%)	162 (+1%)	167 (+3%)
Manitoba	20	20 (0%)	17 (-15%)	23 (+35%)	19 (-17%)	20 (+5%)	23 (+15%)	23 (0%)	25 (+9%)	27 (+8%)
Saskatchewan	18	18 (0%)	14 (-22%)	15 (+7%)	16 (+7%)	17 (+6%)	17 (0%)	23 (+35%)	28 (+22%)	27 (-4%)
Alberta	43	43 (0%)	46 (+7%)	54 (+17%)	52 (-4%)	57 (+10%)	57 (0%)	54 (-5%)	55 (+2%)	62 (+13%)
British Columbia	94	96 (+2%)	93 (-3%)	132 (+42%)	109 (-17%)	141 (+29%)	155 (+10%)	152 (-2%)	149 (-2%)	147 (-1%)
Yukon	5	5 (0%)	5 (0%)	6 (+20%)	8 (+33%)	6 (-25%)	6 (0%)	6 (0%)	6 (0%)	6 (0%)
Northwest Territories	5	5 (0%)	6 (+20%)	6 (0%)	6 (0%)	5 (-17%)	5 (0%)	6 (+20%)	6 (0%)	6 (0%)
Nunavut	5	5 (0%)	5 (0%)	5 (0%)	4 (-20%)	3 (-25%)	4 (+33%)	4 (0%)	5 (+25%)	5 (0%)
Canada	455	460 (+1%)	451 (-2%)	545 (+21%)	503 (-8%)	612 (+22%)	605 (-1%)	613 (+1%)	622 (+1%)	645 (+4%)

Annex D: Domestic violence shelter capacity by clientele served, per province and territory in 2025

Each year, most domestic violence shelter beds indicate serving families as their main clientele, largely due to many providing flexible accommodations that allow for cribs and spaces for children. Across Canada, the number of family beds increased by 1,307 beds mostly recategorized from adult women only, but also new services. In 2025, there were no domestic violence beds serving only adult men, however male children are accepted at most locations.

Table 11: Domestic violence beds by clientele served, per province and territory, 2025

Province and Territory	Family beds	General beds	Men's beds	Women's beds	Youth beds	Total beds
Newfoundland and Labrador	197	0	0	0	0	197
Prince Edward Island	46	0	0	0	0	46
Nova Scotia	269	0	0	20	0	289
New Brunswick	320	0	0	0	0	320
Quebec	1,868	3	0	14	2	1,887
Ontario	3,365	0	0	31	29	3,425
Manitoba	401	2	0	0	0	403
Saskatchewan	544	0	0	0	32	576
Alberta	1,395	84	0	9	0	1,488

British Columbia	2,225	3	0	0	11	2,239
Yukon	73	0	0	0	0	73
Northwest Territories	80	0	0	0	0	80
Nunavut	61	0	0	0	0	61
Canada	10,844 (98%)	92 (0.8%)	0	74 (0.7%)	74 (0.7%)	11,084

Table 12: Domestic violence shelters by clientele served, per province and territory, 2025

Province and Territory	Family shelters	General shelters	Men's shelters	Women's shelters	Youth shelters	Total shelters
Newfoundland and Labrador	20	0	0	0	0	20
Prince Edward Island	3	0	0	0	0	3
Nova Scotia	15	0	0	1	0	16
New Brunswick	25	0	0	0		25
Quebec	131	1	0	1	1	134
Ontario	159	0	0	3	5	167
Manitoba	26	1	0	0	0	27
Saskatchewan	24	0	0	0	3	27
Alberta	56	5	0	1	0	62
British Columbia	145	1	0	0	1	147
Yukon	6	0	0	0	0	6
Northwest Territories	6	0	0	0	0	6
Nunavut	5	0	0	0	0	5
Canada	621 (96.3%)	8 (1.2%)	0	6 (1%)	10 (1.5%)	645

Conclusion

Canada's homelessness response system has undergone significant expansion over the past several years and continues to grow in response to sustained demand for services. Since 2021, the number of emergency shelter beds has increased from 15,185 to 23,483, representing a 55% increase in national capacity.

However, the rate of annual growth has moderated, suggesting that the rapid post-pandemic expansion of the shelter system may be transitioning toward a period of greater stability.

- In 2025, 10 of the 13 provinces and territories saw an increase in the number of permanent emergency beds, with the largest proportional increases in the Yukon (70.7%) and Nova Scotia (57.4%), while the rest were split among those who saw moderate growth, between 10% and 16% (Nunavut, Saskatchewan, Quebec, New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador), and those that were relatively stable (Northwest Territories, British Columbia, Alberta, Manitoba, Ontario, and Prince Edward Island).
- Nearly three quarters of beds are in large communities (73% of beds), yet medium and small communities have seen notable increases in bed capacity over recent years with growth rates more than five times that of the large communities.
- Sustained long-term growth continued in among Transitional Housing and Domestic Violence services. The number of total transitional housing beds increased by 7.4% from 2024, demonstrating growing efforts in establishing medium-to-long-term facilities, displaying a gradual shift towards longer-term solutions. The number of domestic violence shelter beds increased by 6.3% from 2024, continuing a trend of steady growth in this sector.

For more information

To find out more about homelessness research, visit the [Data analysis, reports and publications page](#).

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Appendix A: Glossary

Homelessness: The situation of an individual or family who does not have a permanent address or residence, and does not have the immediate prospect, means, and ability of acquiring it.

Large communities: Communities with a population greater than 100,000.

Medium communities: Communities with a population between 30,000 and 99,999.

Small communities: Communities with a population between 1,000 and 29,999.

Youth shelters: Provide services to youth. Some serve all genders, others only serve girls/women or boys/men. Shelters have varying definitions of youth, often ranging from 12 to 29 years of age.

Women's shelters: Provide services to adults identifying as women. Some also accept girls.

Men's shelters: Provide services to adults identifying as men. Some also accept boys.

General shelters: Provide services to adults of all genders. Some also accept youth of all genders.

Family shelters: Provide services to families and adults with dependents. Some also accept single adult women without dependents.

Homelessness service providers: Service provider organizations that provide services to homeless individuals and families, and persons at risk of homelessness.

Emergency shelters: Permanent facilities that provide temporary, short-term accommodation (typically less than 3 months in duration) for homeless individuals and families. There is no cost to service users, and no referral or entry application is necessary to access the service. Counselling, treatment and other support services including food and clothing may be available to the people who access the service, but participation is not mandatory. Often, only a place to sleep is provided.

Transitional Housing: Permanent facilities that provide temporary, longer-term accommodation for individuals and/or families experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness. Transitional housing is typically an intermediate step between emergency shelter and permanent housing. They differ from emergency shelters by allowing a longer length of stay and greater intensity of support services. For example, programming could focus on developing the necessary skills to be able to live more independently. Stays typically last between 3 months and 3 years.

Domestic violence shelter: Permanent facilities that provide temporary accommodation that offer support for individuals and/or families fleeing domestic abuse or the threat of violence, either as a crisis capacity (typically less than three months) or as transitional/second stage housing. Second stage housing refers to facilities that offer longer stays and greater intensity of services, providing an intermediate step before permanent housing. Stays are typically between 3 months and 3 years.