

Hospitals: Ontario's Urgent and Unmet Health Care Needs

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- Ontario has high emergency department wait times compared to other jurisdictions. Emergency department wait times are a primary indicator of hospital bed shortages.
 - More than ½ of patients admitted to hospital experience emergency department wait times above recommended time limits.
 - At any given point in time, Ontario has 592 patients waiting in emergency departments for a hospital bed.
- Approximately one in five ALC patients – equalling 733 Ontario patients waiting in an Alternate Level of Care (ALC) bed – is actually waiting for another type of hospital bed.
- Ontario has the highest level of hospital occupancy of any jurisdiction for which we could find data. In fact, hospital overcrowding in Ontario is at dangerous levels.
- Ontario has the fewest hospital beds per person of any province in Canada. In fact, Ontario is substantially below the average.
- Ontario is fourth last of industrialized countries in hospital beds per person, followed only by Turkey, Chile and Mexico. In fact, Ontario is substantially below the average.