



Backgrounder: Long Term Care Projections

- The 2015 Long Term Care Program Review projected the need for an additional 258 LTC beds across the NWT by 2026.
- Due to the limited data to determine trends, a bed-ratio approach was used to project future LTC beds at that time.
- The approach used a bed ratio of 115 beds/1000 seniors 70 years of age and over and projected a need for 258 additional LTC beds by 2026 and 435 by 2034.
- The Department worked with the NWT Bureau of Statistics to update the long term care bed projections.
- In August 2020, NWT Bureau of Statistics presented the Department with its LTC bed projections report.
- NWT Bureau of Statistics used 10 years of the Department's LTC data and regional and territorial population projections to provide LTC bed projections up to 2035.
- They used a projection model that is aligned with best practices used by other jurisdictions.
- The report provided an analysis of three possible scenarios to project demand for NWT LTC beds over the next 15 years:
 - Scenario 1 – for those 70 years old and older with Level 3, 4 and 5 care
 - Scenario 2 – for those 75 years old and older with Level 3, 4 and 5 care
 - Scenario 3 – Level 4 and 5 care for all ages
- Key findings from the report showed:
 - the average age of LTC admission is 77 years (the 2015 Review utilized 70 years and older for the LTC bed projections);
 - the length of stay in LTC is variable across regions and facilities;
 - the current utilization of LTC beds is 72 per 1000 population, aged 70 years and older (the 2015 Review utilized a ratio of 115/1000).;
 - 30% of LTC beds are occupied by those 70 years and younger; and
 - Approximately 67% of LTC residents had Levels 4 and 5 care needs at the time of admission.



- The Department chose Scenario 3, which focuses on caring for individuals with level 4 and 5 care needs in LTC – individuals with complex health conditions who require continuous medical support and monitoring, and help with all aspects of daily living.
- Most residents admitted to LTC beds already have level 4 and 5 care needs; their care needs exceed what can be provided in community.
- The NWT will not require as many new Long Term Care beds as was projected in 2015. Scenario 3 projects the demand for 169 additional LTC beds by 2034.
- The current LTC bed utilization of 72/1000 population age 70 and older, as compared to the 115/1000 population age 70 and older used for the bed projections in 2015, is a strong contributor to the adjustment in the 2020 bed projections.
- Since the 2015 projections were completed, the Department has built additional long term care beds through the completion of the Sahtú Dene Nechá Kó Long Term Care facility in Norman Wells, and the expansion of Jimmy Erasmus Seniors Home in Behchokó.
- The Department will focus on increasing Home and Community Care services to better support individuals with level 3 care needs to remain living in community.
- The Department will engage with stakeholders on how the projections will influence how we will build facilities.