

Still No Room for Babies:

Child Care Staffing Crisis Impacts Supply of Infant-Toddler Child Care

March 2023

Having access to a robust supply of high-quality licensed child care near their home or workplace is an essential support for working parents. Licensed child care programs not only offer parents a safe and reliable child care option while they work, but they can also be a valuable source of early education during the critically important first three years, laying the foundation for healthy development and success in school and life. Statewide, more than 207,000 children under age three live in families where both parents work, meaning they will be in need of some form of child care.¹

However, according to a recent survey conducted by Advocates for Children of New Jersey regarding the availability of infant-toddler care in New Jersey, licensed child care for babies is in short supply with only enough space to serve roughly a third of the children that need care because all parents in the household work. Furthermore, although centers report that they have the capacity to serve approximately 68,000 infants and toddlers, they typically serve closer to 55,000, leaving more than 150,000 very young children without the option of center-based care. The primary reason centers reported serving fewer children than they have the capacity to serve is that they cannot find enough staff to work in the infant-toddler room.²

1. 2015-2019 American Community Survey, Public Use Microdata Sample
2. Help Wanted! Child Care Staffing Crisis Means Still No Room for Babies, ACNJ August 2022



Infant-Toddler Child Care in New Jersey As of March 2022

Number of Licensed Centers that Provide Infant Toddler Child Care	1,720
Number of Children Under Age 3	304,277
Children Under Age 3 Likely to Need Child Care Because All Parents Work	206,908
Estimated Number of Slots Licensed Centers are Willing To Provide	68,348
Estimated Number of Slots Licensed Centers Typically Provide	54,860
Number of Centers Providing Infant-Toddler Child Care Participating in Grow NJ Kids	443
Number of Centers Providing Infant-Toddler Child Care Rated by Grow NJ Kids	143

Recommendations to address the shortage of high-quality infant-toddler child care

- Support an increase of CCDBG by \$4.3 billion in FY24—for a total discretionary funding level of \$12.4 billion.
- Support an increase of \$17.47 billion for Head Start in FY 2024.
- Support the Child Care and Working Families Act and funding that will provide basic grants, similar to Stabilization grants to support child care programs that have fewer children whose families are eligible for child care assistance but are struggling to meet the true cost of care without unduly burdening parents with higher tuition rates.

For more information, visit acnj.org to download a copy of Still No Room for Babies (March 2023) and County Profiles.

Giving Every Child A Chance To Grow Up Safe, Healthy and Educated

Advocates for Children of New Jersey | 35 Halsey Street | Newark, NJ 07102 | 973.643.3876 | advocates@acnj.org



Congressional District #1: Infant-Toddler Child Care Availability As of March 2022

Municipality	Total Number of Centers Serving Infants and Toddlers	Total Number of Infants and Toddlers	Estimated Number of Infants and Toddlers with All Parents in Workforce	Number of Infants and Toddlers Centers are Willing To Serve	Number of Infants and Toddlers Centers Typically Serve	Percent of Slots Typically Available for Infants and Toddlers	# Centers Participating in GNJK (NJ's Quality Rating Improvement System)	Number of Centers Rated by GNJK
Audubon Boro	1	282	212	24	26	12%	0	0
Audubon Park Boro	0	21	16	0	0	0%	0	0
Barrington Boro	2	238	179	51	43	24%	0	0
Bellmawr Boro	2	370	278	87	69	25%	1	1
Berlin Boro	3	200	150	73	46	31%	0	0
Berlin Twp/West Berlin	2	185	139	61	55	40%	0	0
Brooklawn Boro	0	80	60	0	0	0%	0	0
Camden City	26	3,679	2,763	996	824	30%	10	2
Cherry Hill Twp.	16	2,196	1,649	925	760	46%	3	2
Chesilhurst Boro	0	281	211	0	0	0%	0	0
Clementon Boro	3	508	382	114	95	25%	1	1
Collingswood Boro	0	2,156	1,619	0	0	0%	0	0
Deptford Twp.	1	925	705	16	13	2%	0	0
E Greenwich/Clarksboro	2	327	249	115	94	38%	0	0
Gibbsboro Boro	1	65	49	22	19	39%	0	0
Glassboro Boro	4	507	386	100	81	21%	3	1
Gloucester City	1	393	295	7	7	2%	0	0
Gloucester Twp/Erial/Blackwood/Glendora	5	2,023	1,519	235	193	13%	0	0
Haddon Heights Boro	1	243	182	31	38	21%	0	0
Haddon Twp/Westmont	1	488	366	43	38	10%	0	0
Haddonfield Boro	2	332	249	90	81	33%	0	0
Hi-Nella Boro	0	47	35	0	0	0%	0	0
Laurel Springs Boro	1	63	47	44	37	79%	0	0
Lawnside Boro	0	91	68	0	0	0%	0	0
Lindenwold Boro	1	831	624	72	25	4%	0	0
Magnolia Boro	1	159	119	25	21	18%	0	0
Mantua Twp/Sewell	14	450	343	557	431	126%	2	1
Maple Shade Twp.	2	750	538	43	35	7%	2	0
Merchantville Boro	0	129	97	0	0	0%	0	0
Monroe Twp/ Williamstown	9	1,087	828	284	211	25%	4	1
Mount Ephraim Boro	0	140	105	0	0	0%	0	0
National Park Boro	0	89	68	0	0	0%	0	0
Oaklyn Boro	2	134	101	89	53	52%	0	0
Palmyra Boro	0	202	145	0	0	0%	0	0
Paulsboro Boro	2	253	193	27	25	13%	1	0
Pennsauken Twp.	5	1,117	839	105	86	10%	2	0
Pine Hill Boro	0	447	336	0	0	0%	0	0
Pine Valley Boro	0	0	0	0	0	0%	0	0
Pitman Boro	1	220	168	37	31	18%	0	0
Runnemede Boro	1	244	183	54	46	25%	1	1
Somerdale Boro	0	168	126	0	0	0%	0	0
Stratford Boro	2	219	164	84	51	31%	1	0
Tavistock Boro	0	0	0	0	0	0%	0	0
Voorhees Twp.	11	794	596	565	483	81%	5	1
Washington Twp/Turnersville	2	1,210	922	81	68	7%	0	0
Waterford Twp/Atco	1	294	221	32	27	12%	0	0
Wenonah Boro	1	58	44	40	30	68%	1	0
West Deptford Twp.	1	628	479	64	30	6%	1	0
Westville Boro	2	144	110	116	98	89%	1	0
Winslow Twp/ Sicklerville	9	1,284	964	407	335	35%	3	0
Woodbury City	3	391	298	111	82	26%	1	0
Woodbury Heights	0	87	66	0	0	0%	0	0
Woodlynne Boro	0	136	102	0	0	0%	0	0
All Municipalities	144	27,365	20,589	5,827	4,687	23%	43	11