

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

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Congressional District #2: 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
Absecon	3	247	180	69	65	36%	0	0
Alloway Twp.	0	76	54	0	0	0%	0	0
Atlantic City	5	1,741	1,267	163	117	9%	2	1
Avalon Boro	0	12	9	0	0	0%	0	0
Barnegat Light Boro	0	4	2	0	0	0%	0	0
Barnegat Twp.	3	589	335	92	83	25%	1	1
Beach Haven Boro	0	22	13	0	0	0%	0	0
Berkeley Twp/Bayville	5	751	427	213	162	38%	2	0
Bridgeton City	5	1,237	875	115	100	11%	4	1
Brigantine	0	127	92	0	0	0%	0	0
Buena Boro	0	122	89	0	0	0%	0	0
Buena Vista Twp.	2	190	138	40	33	24%	0	0
Cape May City	1	80	58	11	9	16%	2	0
Cape May Point Boro	0	0	0	0	0	0%	0	0
Carneys Point Twp.	0	248	175	0	0	0%	0	0
Clayton Boro	1	258	197	32	29	15%	1	0
Commercial Twp.	0	171	121	0	0	0%	0	0
Corbin City	0	9	7	0	0	0%	0	0
Deerfield Twp.	0	87	62	0	0	0%	0	0
Dennis Twp/Ocean View	1	168	122	40	40	33%	1	0
Downe Twp.	0	39	28	0	0	0%	0	0
Eagleswood Twp.	0	68	39	0	0	0%	0	0
East Greenwich Twp/Clarksboro	2	327	249	115	94	38%	0	0
Egg Harbor City and Twp.	11	1,483	1,080	421	364	33%	3	2
Elk Twp.	0	116	88	0	0	0%	0	0
Elmer Boro	1	53	37	44	37	100%	0	0
Elsinboro Twp.	0	20	14	0	0	0%	0	0
Estell Manor	0	43	31	0	0	0%	0	0
Fairfield Twp/ Cumberland	0	143	101	0	0	0%	0	0
Folsom	0	33	24	0	0	0%	0	0
Franklin Twp/Franklinville	1	417	318	20	17	5%	0	0
Galloway Twp.	6	950	692	272	222	32%	1	0
Greenwich Twp.	0	19	13	0	0	0%	0	0
Greenwich Twp/Gibbstown	2	158	120	53	36	30%	2	0
Hamilton Twp/Mays Landing	5	886	645	81	69	11%	1	0
Hammonton Town	3	490	357	75	73	20%	2	1
Harrison Twp/Mullica Hill)	4	377	287	177	150	53%	1	1
Harvey Cedars Boro	0	3	2	0	0	0%	0	0
Hopewell Twp.	0	144	102	0	0	0%	0	0
Lacey Twp/Forked River/Lanoka Harbor	6	748	426	155	131	31%	1	0
Lawrence Twp.	0	102	72	0	0	0%	0	0
Linwood City	2	151	110	67	58	53%	1	0
Little Egg Harbor Twp.	1	480	273	32	27	10%	0	0
Logan Twp.	2	172	131	92	53	40%	0	0
Long Beach Twp/Brant Beach	1	27	15	47	40	266%	1	1

Congressional District #2: Infant-Toddler Child Care Availability As of March 2022 (continued)

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
Longport	0	6	4	0	0	0%	0	0
Lower Alloways Creek Twp/ Hancocks Bridge	0	37	26	0	0	0%	0	0
Lower Twp/ Villas	1	534	389	8	8	2%	1	0
Mannington Twp.	0	22	16	0	0	0%	0	0
Margate	1	71	52	59	50	104%	1	0
Maurice River Twp/Port Elizabeth	1	94	66	60	36	55%	0	0
Middle Twp/Cape May Cths	6	581	423	129	129	31%	2	1
Millville City	5	1,087	769	218	193	25%	2	0
Mullica	0	146	106	0	0	0%	0	0
Newfield Boro	0	63	48	0	0	0%	0	0
North Wildwood City	1	46	33	31	14	42%	1	0
Northfield	1	203	148	26	21	14%	1	0
Ocean City	1	169	123	30	30	24%	0	0
Ocean Twp/Waretown	1	197	112	28	24	21%	0	0
Oldmans Twp.	0	53	37	0	0	0%	0	0
Penns Grove Boro	2	245	173	53	53	30%	1	0
Pennsville Twp.	3	324	229	61	37	16%	0	0
Pilesgrove Twp.	2	115	81	31	26	32%	0	0
Pittsgrove Twp.	1	200	141	14	14	9%	0	0
Pleasantville	3	892	649	55	52	8%	2	0
Port Republic	0	23	17	0	0	0%	0	0
Quinton Twp.	0	76	54	0	0	0%	0	0
Salem City	1	281	199	21	18	9%	0	0
Sea Isle City	0	17	12	0	0	0%	0	0
Shiloh Boro	0	22	16	0	0	0%	0	0
Ship Bottom Boro	0	15	9	0	0	0%	0	0
Somers Point	1	304	221	36	30	14%	1	1
South Harrison Twp.	0	80	61	0	0	0%	0	0
Stafford Twp/Manahawkin	5	697	397	168	132	33%	1	0
Stone Harbor Boro	0	11	8	0	0	0%	0	0
Stow Creek Twp.	0	36	25	0	0	0%	0	0
Surf City Boro	0	6	3	0	0	0%	0	0
Swedesboro Boro	3	117	89	134	106	119%	2	0
Tuckerton Boro	2	85	48	22	18	38%	0	0
Upper Deerfield Twp.	1	266	188	16	16	3%	0	0
Upper Pittsgrove Twp.	0	89	63	0	0	0%	0	0
Upper Twp/Marmora/ Seaville	4	344	250	132	113	45%	1	1
Ventnor	1	221	161	8	8	5%	0	0
Vineland City	11	2,034	1,438	773	584	41%	5	1
West Cape May Boro	0	14	10	0	0	0%	0	0
West Wildwood Boro	0	13	9	0	0	0%	0	0
Weymouth Twp.	1	58	42	23	20	48%	1	1
Wildwood City	0	234	170	0	0	0%	0	0
Wildwood Crest Boro	0	53	39	0	0	0%	0	0
Woodbine Boro	1	79	58	16	16	28%	0	0
Woodstown Boro	1	92	65	18	15	23%	0	0
Woolwich Twp.	0	333	254	0	0	0%	0	0
All Municipalities	134	24,273	17,010	4,596	3,772	22%	48	13