

Still No Room for Babies: Child Care Staffing Crisis Impacts Supply of Infant-Toddler Child Care

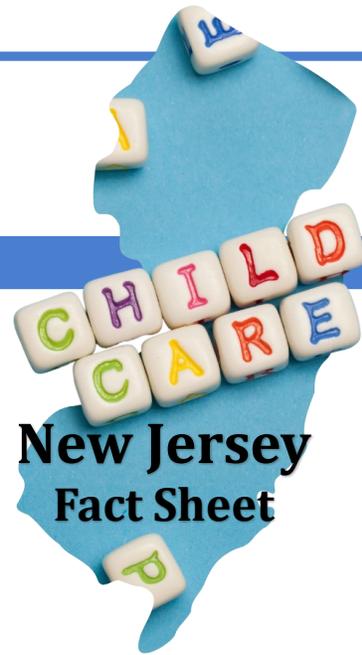
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Having access to a robust supply of high-quality licensed child care near their home or workplace is an essential support for working parents. Licensed child care programs not only offer parents a safe and reliable child care option while they work, 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 #3: 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
Allentown Boro	2	59	39	101	76	195%	1	0
Bass River Twp.	0	41	29	0	0	0%	0	0
Beverly City	0	103	74	0	0	0%	0	0
Bordentown City and Twp.	4	410	294	164	139	47%	1	0
Burlington City and Twp.	3	1,052	754	67	55	7%	3	0
Chesterfield Twp.	1	188	135	42	28	21%	0	0
Cinnaminson Twp.	2	463	332	100	60	18%	0	0
Delanco Twp.	0	237	170	0	0	0%	0	0
Delran Twp.	5	443	318	280	256	81%	3	2
East Windsor Twp.	4	909	629	197	161	26%	1	0
Eastampton Twp.	0	192	138	0	0	0%	0	0
Edgewater Park Twp.	1	314	225	51	51	23%	0	0
Englishtown Boro	0	53	35	0	0	0%	0	0
Evesham Twp/Marlton	7	1,274	913	300	247	27%	1	0
Fieldsboro Boro	0	25	18	0	0	0%	0	0
Florence Twp.	1	367	263	16	13	5%	0	0
Freehold Boro and Twp.	9	1,299	863	422	270	31%	1	0
Hainesport Twp	3	155	111	114	90	63%	2	1
Hamilton Twp.	15	2,834	1,961	568	431	22%	2	1
Hightstown Boro	1	188	130	17	15	12%	0	0
Holmdel Twp.	4	307	204	236	183	90%	1	1
Lawrence /Lawrenceville	10	868	601	430	334	56%	2	1
Lumberton Twp.	4	325	233	147	119	51%	0	0
Manalapan Twp.	6	834	554	299	251	45%	1	0
Mansfield Twp/Columbus	1	156	112	37	31	28%	0	0
Marlboro Twp/ Morganville/Wickatunk	8	641	426	414	379	89%	0	0
Medford Lakes Boro	0	68	49	0	0	0%	0	0
Medford Twp.	5	537	385	344	300	78%	1	0
Millstone Twp.	0	198	131	0	0	0%	0	0
Moorestown Twp.	3	422	303	160	140	46%	0	0
Mount Holly Twp.	2	323	232	22	19	8%	1	0
Mount Laurel Twp.	12	1,138	816	624	522	64%	4	3
New Hanover Twp.	0	111	80	0	0	0%	0	0
North Hanover Twp.	0	312	224	0	0	0%	0	0
Pemberton Boro, Twp. & Browns Mills	2	1,031	739	47	44	6%	1	0
Riverside Twp.	0	325	233	0	0	0%	0	0
Riverton Boro	1	69	49	57	53	108%	0	0
Robbinsville Twp.	6	339	235	260	221	94%	2	1
Roosevelt Boro	0	18	12	0	0	0%	0	0
Shamong Twp.	1	126	90	24	24	27%	0	0
Southampton Twp.	1	170	122	32	32	26%	1	1
Springfield Twp.	0	97	70	0	0	0%	0	0
Tabernacle Twp.	0	173	124	0	0	0%	0	0
Upper Freehold Twp/ Cream Ridge	0	142	94	0	0	0%	0	0
Washington Twp.	0	19	14	0	0	0%	0	0
Westampton Twp.	4	269	193	218	160	83%	0	0
Willingboro Twp.	3	1,011	725	72	64	9%	2	0
Woodland Twp.	0	32	23	0	0	0%	0	0
Wrightstown Boro	0	33	24	0	0	0%	0	0
All Municipalities	131	20,797	14,595	5,862	4,768	33%	31	11