

# 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.<sup>1</sup>

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.<sup>2</sup>

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](http://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 #5: 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
Allendale Boro	0	121	80	0	0	0%	0	0
Alpine Boro	0	36	24	0	0	0%	0	0
Bergenfield Boro	7	784	518	282	226	44%	2	0
Bloomingtondale Boro	2	203	127	56	47	37%	1	0
Bogota Boro	0	230	152	0	0	0%	0	0
Branchville Boro	0	19	12	0	0	0%	0	0
Closter Boro	1	125	83	38	32	39%	0	0
Cresskill Boro	1	137	91	163	60	66%	0	0
Demarest Boro	0	85	56	0	0	0%	0	0
Dumont Boro	2	469	310	48	41	13%	0	0
Emerson Boro	2	204	135	79	67	50%	0	0
Englewood City	6	1,034	683	123	106	16%	1	1
Englewood Cliffs Boro	2	83	55	121	141	256%	0	0
Fair Lawn Boro	10	939	621	437	337	54%	0	0
Fort Lee Boro	5	1,024	677	115	82	12%	0	0
Frankford Twp. (including Augusta)	2	101	66	71	42	64%	0	0
Franklin Boro	0	125	81	0	0	0%	0	0
Glen Rock Boro	0	290	192	0	0	0%	0	0
Hackensack City	8	1,616	1,068	357	326	31%	1	0
Hamburg Boro	1	83	54	19	19	35%	0	0
Hampton Twp.	0	136	88	0	0	0%	0	0
Hardyston Twp. (including Stockholm)	2	166	108	118	65	60%	1	0
Harrington Park Boro	1	83	55	52	43	78%	1	1
Haworth Boro	1	69	46	22	19	41%	0	0
Hillsdale Boro	1	264	175	50	50	29%	0	0
Hohokus Boro	0	99	65	0	0	0%	0	0
Lafayette Twp.	0	69	45	0	0	0%	0	0
Leonia Boro	2	198	131	74	42	32%	0	0
Mahwah Twp.	4	482	319	221	191	60%	0	0
Maywood Boro	0	329	217	0	0	0%	0	0
Midland Park Boro	3	226	149	73	60	40%	0	0
Montague Twp.	0	103	67	0	0	0%	0	0
Montvale Boro	2	202	134	150	40	30%	0	0
New Milford Boro	0	532	352	0	0	0%	0	0
Newton Town	3	243	158	113	88	56%	2	1
Northvale Boro	1	103	68	63	53	78%	0	0
Norwood Boro	4	108	71	181	152	214%	1	0
Old Tappan Boro	1	106	70	44	37	53%	0	0
Oradell Boro	0	203	134	0	0	0%	0	0
Palisades Park Boro	5	687	454	111	85	19%	0	0
Paramus Boro	13	520	344	688	533	152%	1	0
Park Ridge Boro	2	198	131	58	49	37%	0	0
Ramsey Boro	3	320	212	195	142	67%	0	0
Ridgefield Park Village	4	393	260	72	44	17%	0	0

## Congressional District #5: 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
Ridgewood Village	2	531	351	75	69	20%	1	0
Ringwood Boro	6	306	192	173	144	75%	2	2
River Edge Boro	1	294	194	32	27	14%	0	0
River Vale Twp.	2	207	137	138	117	85%	0	0
Rockleigh Boro	0	4	3	0	0	0%	0	0
Saddle River Boro	0	418	276	0	0	0%	0	0
Sandyston Twp.	0	48	31	0	0	0%	0	0
Sussex Boro	0	53	34	0	0	0%	0	0
Teaneck Twp.	6	1,259	832	183	157	19%	0	0
Tenafly Boro	3	194	128	195	175	137%	0	0
Upper Saddle River Boro	0	137	91	0	0	0%	0	0
Vernon Twp. (including Highland Lake and McAfee)	4	556	361	83	72	20%	0	0
Waldwick Boro	5	334	221	228	178	81%	1	0
Wanaque Boro	1	301	189	44	37	20%	0	0
Wantage Twp.	1	270	175	30	23	13%	1	0
Washington Twp.	0	268	177	0	0	0%	0	0
West Milford Twp. (including Hewitt, Newfoundland and Oak Ridge)	7	566	355	212	165	47%	2	1
Westwood Boro	4	343	227	200	162	71%	0	0
Woodcliff Lake Boro	2	116	77	94	79	103%	0	0
Wyckoff Twp.	4	378	250	308	250	100%	0	0
<b>All Municipalities</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>20,130</b>	<b>13,235</b>	<b>6,189</b>	<b>4,874</b>	<b>36%</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>6</b>

### Number of municipalities in the district that are infant-toddler child care deserts: 32 /49%

\*An infant-toddler desert is any municipality with more than 50 children under age 3 that contains either no child care providers or so few options that there is less than 20% of available slots for infants-toddlers that are likely to need child care because all parents in the home are employed.

*"Staffing and pay rate of industry is the biggest issue. You can go to work in the mall that is less stressful and you can make more money.— Westwood Center Director*

*"We need quality teachers for infants who don't think that child care for infants is babysitting."—Hardyston Center Director*

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