

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 #7: 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
Alexandria Twp.	0	110	84	0	0	0%	0	0
Allamuchy Twp.	0	118	83	0	0	0%	0	0
Alpha Boro	1	80	56	10	12	21%	0	0
Andover Boro and Twp.	1	148	96	32	19	20%	0	0
Bedminster Twp.	1	226	153	52	38	25%	0	0
Belvidere Twp.	0	78	55	0	0	0%	0	0
Berkeley Heights Twp.	1	309	226	78	65	29%	0	0
Bernards Twp/Basking Ridge/Liberty Corner	13	481	325	605	437	134%	1	1
Bernardsville Boro	1	229	155	26	10	6%	0	0
Bethlehem Twp.	0	97	74	0	0	0%	0	0
Blairstown Twp.	2	131	92	45	34	37%	1	0
Bloomsbury Boro	0	25	19	0	0	0%	0	0
Branchburg Twp/No Branch	5	349	236	190	181	77%	1	1
Bridgewater Twp.	7	1,124	759	346	296	39%	1	1
Byram Twp.	0	207	134	0	0	0%	0	0
Califon Boro	0	27	21	0	0	0%	0	0
Chester Boro and Twp.	1	217	156	34	34	22%	0	0
Clark Twp.	3	424	310	160	142	46%	0	0
Clinton Town and Twp. (including Annandale)	3	384	294	124	116	39%	1	1
Delaware Twp.	0	59	45	0	0	0%	0	0
East Amwell Twp.	0	90	69	0	0	0%	0	0
Fanwood Boro	3	249	182	158	132	73%	1	0
Far Hills Boro	0	16	11	0	0	0%	0	0
Flemington Boro	7	203	155	323	238	153%	1	0
Franklin Twp.	0	77	59	0	0	0%	0	0
Franklin Twp.	0	62	44	0	0	0%	0	0
Fredon Twp.	0	79	51	0	0	0%	0	0
Frelinghuysen Twp.	0	55	39	0	0	0%	0	0
Frenchtown Boro	1	25	19	17	14	74%	0	0
Glen Gardner Boro	1	34	26	47	38	146%	0	0
Green Brook Twp.	2	176	119	50	42	35%	0	0
Green Twp/Greendell	1	112	73	16	15	21%	0	0
Greenwich Twp/Stewartsville	1	121	85	54	40	47%	1	0
Hackettstown Town	6	324	228	208	154	68%	2	0
Hampton Boro	0	48	37	0	0	0%	0	0
Hardwick Twp.	0	36	25	0	0	0%	0	0
Harmony Twp.	0	40	28	0	0	0%	0	0
High Bridge Boro	0	105	80	0	0	0%	0	0
Hillsborough Twp.	14	977	659	760	517	78%	2	2
Holland Twp.	0	121	93	0	0	0%	0	0
Hopatcong Boro	1	375	243	20	20	8%	1	1
Hope Twp.	0	46	32	0	0	0%	0	0
Independence Twp.	0	122	86	0	0	0%	0	0
Kingwood Twp.	0	93	71	0	0	0%	0	0
Knowlton Twp/Columbia	0	80	56	0	0	0%	0	0
Lambertville City	2	97	74	77	52	70%	0	0
Lebanon Boro and Twp.	4	158	121	91	89	74%	1	0
Liberty Twp.	0	80	56	0	0	0%	0	0
Linden City	1	1,344	984	16	13	1%	0	0

Congressional District #7: 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
Long Hill Twp. (including Stirling)	3	256	184	138	118	64%	2	1
Lopatcong Twp.	3	208	146	52	24	16%	1	1
Mansfield Twp/Port Murray	1	153	108	14	14	13%	0	0
Mendham Boro and Twp.	0	214	153	0	0	0%	0	0
Milford Boro	0	38	29	0	0	0%	0	0
Mine Hill Twp.	1	119	85	53	30	35%	0	0
Mount Arlington Boro	0	161	115	0	0	0%	0	0
Mount Olive Twp/Budd Lake/Flanders)	7	789	566	358	245	43%	3	2
Mountainside Boro	1	171	125	76	76	61%	0	0
Netcong Boro	1	109	78	2	4	5%	0	0
New Providence Boro	2	345	253	80	67	26%	0	0
Ogdensburg Boro	1	76	49	30	9	18%	0	0
Oxford Twp.	0	65	46	0	0	0%	0	0
Peapack Gladstone Boro	1	62	42	24	20	48%	0	0
Phillipsburg Town	3	547	385	136	107	28%	3	0
Pohatcong Twp.	0	54	38	0	0	0%	0	0
Rahway City	6	971	711	248	195	27%	1	1
Raritan Boro	3	252	170	147	115	68%	1	1
Raritan Twp.	0	558	427	0	0	0%	0	0
Readington Twp/Whitehouse Station	2	356	272	72	48	18%	0	0
Roxbury Twp/Kenvil/Landing/Ledgewood/Succasunna	6	619	444	184	165	37%	4	2
Scotch Plains Twp.	3	752	550	236	187	34%	0	0
Somerville Boro	2	424	286	38	30	10%	1	0
Sparta Twp.	5	489	317	203	153	48%	1	1
Springfield Twp.	3	549	402	141	121	30%	0	0
Stanhope Boro	3	90	58	70	63	108%	1	1
Stillwater Twp.	0	80	52	0	0	0%	0	0
Stockton Boro	0	6	5	0	0	0%	0	0
Summit City	5	708	518	337	265	51%	1	0
Tewksbury Twp.	0	84	64	0	0	0%	0	0
Union Twp.	0	87	67	0	0	0%	0	0
Walpack Twp.	0	1	1	0	0	0%	0	0
Warren Twp.	7	318	215	259	214	100%	0	0
Washington Boro and Twp.	4	349	246	112	86	35%	0	0
Washington Twp.	0	381	273	0	0	0%	0	0
Watchung Boro	0	129	87	0	0	0%	0	0
West Amwell Twp.	0	73	56	0	0	0%	0	0
Westfield Twp.	12	782	572	517	446	78%	1	0
Wharton Boro	1	212	152	35	23	15%	1	1
White Twp.	0	76	54	0	0	0%	0	0
Winfield Twp.	1	38	28	20	12	42%	0	0
All Municipalities	170	21,919	15,608	7,121	5,585	35%	35	18

Number of municipalities in the district that are infant-toddler child care deserts: 50/55%

*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.