

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 #9: 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	Number of Centers Participating in GNJK (NJ's Quality Rating Improvement System)	Number of Centers Rated by GNJK
Carlstadt Boro	1	156	103	33	17	17%	0	0
Cliffside Park Boro	1	906	599	22	19	3%	0	0
Clifton City	23	3,029	1,899	878	733	39%	10	1
East Rutherford Boro	6	369	244	295	215	88%	1	0
Edgewater Boro	3	644	426	124	75	18%	0	0
Elmwood Park Boro	2	638	422	136	127	30%	1	0
Fairview Boro	1	647	428	24	20	5%	1	0
Franklin Lakes Boro	4	233	154	238	210	136%	0	0
Garfield City	4	1,194	789	118	83	11%	1	1
Haledon Boro	1	300	188	33	28	15%	1	0
Hasbrouck Heights	1	321	212	34	17	8%	0	0
Hawthorne Boro	3	598	375	109	91	24%	1	0
Kearny Town	7	1,249	831	178	142	17%	1	0
Little Ferry Boro	2	340	225	83	61	27%	0	0
Lodi Boro	2	883	584	79	66	11%	0	0
Lyndhurst Twp.	5	722	477	148	109	23%	1	0
Maywood Boro	0	329	217	0	0	0%	0	0
Moonachie Boro	0	94	62	0	0	0%	0	0
North Arlington Boro	3	504	333	80	72	22%	0	0
North Haledon Boro	4	216	135	197	137	102%	0	0
Oakland Boro	5	341	225	190	158	70%	1	1
Passaic City	8	3,303	2,071	216	173	8%	0	0
Paterson City	27	7,405	4,643	905	733	16%	9	1
Pompton Lakes Boro	2	318	199	41	23	12%	0	0
Prospect Park Boro	0	265	166	0	0	0%	0	0
Ridgefield Boro	2	312	206	97	81	39%	1	1
Rochelle Park Twp.	1	137	91	21	17	19%	0	0
Rutherford Boro	6	527	348	242	202	58%	0	0
Saddle Brook Twp.	3	47	31	181	160	516%	0	0
Secaucus Town	3	874	581	156	131	23%	0	0
South Hackensack Twp.	0	81	54	0	0	0%	0	0
Teterboro Boro	0	4	3	0	0	0%	0	0
Wallington Boro	1	390	258	38	24	9%	0	0
Wayne Twp.	12	1,326	831	613	490	59%	4	1
Wood-Ridge Boro	2	448	296	43	32	11%	0	0
All Municipalities	145	29,150	18,707	5,552	4,446	22%	33	6

Number of municipalities in the district that are infant-toddler child care deserts: 19

*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.