

# Child Care

## Licensed Child Care Centers and Registered Family Child Care Providers: How Do They Differ?

Licensed child care centers and registered family child care providers both offer child care to children under the age of 13. However, there are key differences in the number of children they are permitted to serve and the locations in which they operate. Licensed child care centers serve a minimum of six children and must adhere to state licensing requirements. Registered family child care providers care for a maximum of five children at a time in their own homes. Family child care providers who register voluntarily through New Jersey's Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies are required to meet state regulations primarily related to health and safety concerns. In 2017, an additional requirement was signed into law requiring these providers to undergo fingerprinting and a criminal history background check.

### Licensed Child Care Centers

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	% Change 13-17
Newark	183	173	156	144	139	-24
Essex	520	505	483	479	448	-14
New Jersey	4,037	3,987	3,949	3,936	3,803	-6

### Child Care Center Capacity

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	% Change 13-17
Newark	15,867	17,214	17,103	15,357	15,355	-3
Essex	44,431	44,829	44,253	45,089	41,395	-7
New Jersey	344,610	346,337	347,861	350,982	343,453	0

### Child Care Center Capacity Defined

“Child care center capacity” refers to the number of children a center is licensed to serve. This does not mean, however, that a center is necessarily providing services to that same number of children. Typically, the number of children served falls below the center’s licensed capacity.

### Registered Family Child Care Providers

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	% Change 13-17
Newark	160	138	163	146	137	-14
Essex	353	332	291	268	259	-27
New Jersey	2,120	2,054	2,020	1,922	1,794	-15

### Families Receiving State-Funded Home Visitation Programs

	2014	2015	2016	2017	% Change 14-17
Newark	299	291	356	347	16
Essex	615	659	796	711	16
New Jersey	6,489	6,857	7,096	7,041	9

## New Jersey's Home Visitation Programs

Home visitation is defined as families receiving regularly scheduled visits by either a trained home visitor or a nurse. The state's home visitation programs are designed to help mothers and fathers build healthy environments for their infants and young children by promoting infant and child health, nurturing positive parent-child relationships and linking parents to resources and supports. This service is typically

provided to families facing poverty and other risk factors, with visits starting before or immediately after birth. In 2017, Newark families participating in home visitation programs grew by 16 percent from 2014. A review of home visitation programs has found them to be effective in improving child health and development.<sup>1</sup>

#### References:

<sup>1</sup> Sama-Miller, E., Kaers, L., Mraz-Esposito, A., Zukiewicz, M., Avellar, S., Paulsell, D., Del Grosso, P. (2017). Home Visiting Evidence of Effectiveness Review: Executive Summary. Retrieved February 1, 2018 from [https://homvee.acf.hhs.gov/homvee\\_executive\\_summary\\_august\\_2017\\_final\\_508\\_compliant.pdf](https://homvee.acf.hhs.gov/homvee_executive_summary_august_2017_final_508_compliant.pdf).

#### Data Sources and Technical Notes:

**Licensed Child Care Centers, 2013-2017.** The number of state licensed child care centers. As reported by the N.J. Department of Children and Families. Data are as of June for each year, 2015 Newark figures are as of November.

**Child Care Center Capacity, 2013-2017.** The capacity of state licensed child care centers. As reported by the N.J. Department of Children and Families. Data are as of June for each year, 2015 Newark figures are as of November.

**Registered Family Child Care Providers, 2013-2017.** For 2013, Newark data are reported by Programs for Parents which is designated as the Child Care Resource and Referral Agency for Essex County by the N.J. Department of Human Services, Division of Family Development. All other data are from the N.J. Department of Children and Families and are as of June. Family child care providers comply with state requirements, but operate as independent small businesses.

**Families Receiving State-Funded Home Visitation Programs, 2014-2017.** As reported by the N.J. Department of Children and Families. Data are as of June for each year and include data for three home visitation programs: Nurse Family Partnership, Healthy Families-TIP Program and Parents and Teachers. This includes only evidence-based programs funded through the N.J. Department of Children and Families. Home visitation is defined as families receiving regularly scheduled visits by either a trained home visitor or a nurse with a bachelor's of science degree in nursing (BSN).