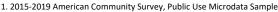
### Still No Room for Babies:

# 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>



<sup>2.</sup> Help Wanted! Child Care Staffing Crisis Means Still No Room for Babies, ACNJ August 2022

# Atlantic County Fact Sheet

Infant-Toddler Child Care Atlantic County As of March 2022					
Number of Licensed Centers that Provide Infant Toddler Child Care	45				
Number of Children Under Age 3	8,396				
Children Under Age 3 Likely to Need Child Care Because All Parents Work	6,112				
Estimated Number of Slots Licensed Centers are Willing To Provide	1,395				
Estimated Number of Slots Licensed Centers Typically Provide	1,182				
Number of Centers Providing Infant-Toddler Child Care Participating in Grow NJ Kids	16				
Number of Centers Providing Infant-Toddler Child Care Rated by Grow NJ Kids	6				

### Recommendations to address the shortage of high-quality infant-toddler child care

- Develop creative policy and legislative options aimed at increasing compensation and benefits for child care staff.
- O Ensure the successful implementation of Thriving by Three, a grant program signed into law in 2022 to incentivize the development of child care programs for infants and toddlers.
- O Raise the infant-toddler child care subsidy reimbursement rate to enable child care programs to increase salaries that will help to attract and retain staff to work in the infant-toddler classroom.
- Consider new options to strengthen and expand New Jersey's family child care system.

For more information, visit acnj.org to download a copy of Still No Room for Babies (March 2023) and County Profiles.



### Still No Room for Babies:

**Child Care Staffing Crisis Impacts Supply of Infant-Toddler Child Care** 

## Atlantic County Infant-Toddler Child Care

We are all struggling to survive the pandemic. We are battling increased payroll, increased cost due to inflation and limited resources.

-Atlantic County Child Care Provider

### Infant-Toddler Child Care by Municipality, As of March 2022

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D. G. vani alian alian	Number of Children Under Age 3	Estimated Number of Infants-Toddlers in Need of Care	Number of Centers Serving Infants and Toddlers	Number of Infants-Toddlers Centers are	Number of Infants-Toddlers Centers Typically	Percent of Slots Typically Available for Infants and Toddlers
Municipality	247	180	3	Willing to Serve 69	Serve 65	36%
Absecon City Atlantic City			5	163	117	9%
•	1,741	1,267				
Brigantine City	127	92	0	0	0	0%
Buena Boro	122	89	0	0	0	0%
Buena Vista Twp.	190	138	2	40	33	24%
Corbin City	9	7	0	0	0	0%
Egg Harbor City and Twp.	1,483	1,080	11	421	364	33%
Estell Manor City	43	31	0	0	0	0%
Folsom Boro	33	24	0	0	0	0%
Galloway Twp.	950	692	6	272	222	32%
Hamilton Twp. (Mays Landing)	886	645	5	81	69	11%
Hammonton Town	490	357	3	75	73	20%
Linwood City	151	110	2	67	58	53%
Longport Boro	6	4	0	0	0	0%
Margate City	71	52	1	59	50	104%
Mullica Twp.	146	106	0	0	0	0%
Northfield City	203	148	1	26	21	14%
Pleasantville City	892	649	3	55	52	8%
Port Republic City	23	17	0	0	0	0%
Somers Point City	304	221	1	36	30	14%
Ventnor City	221	161	1	8	8	5%
Weymouth Twp.	58	42	1	23	20	48%
County Total	8,396	6,112	45	1,395	1,182	19%

