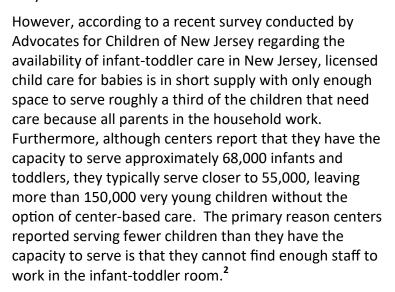
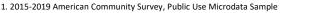
## Still No Room for Babies:

# 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>





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

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<b>New Jersey</b>
<b>Fact Sheet</b>
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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

- Develop creative policy and legislative options aimed at increasing compensation and benefits for child care staff.
- 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** 

# NJ Legislative District 10 Infant-Toddler Child Care

### NJ Legislative District 10 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 and Improvement System)	Number of Centers Rated by GNJK
Bay Head Boro	0	4	2	0	0	0%	0	0
Brick Twp.	11	1,942	1,105	453	368	33%	2	0
Brielle Boro	0	115	76	0	0	0%	0	0
Island Heights Boro	0	41	23	0	0	0%	0	0
Lavallette Boro	0	14	8	0	0	0%	0	0
Manasquan Boro	3	115	76	193	163	214%	1	0
Mantaloking Boro	0	0	0	0	0	0%	0	0
Point Pleasant Beach	0	73	42	0	0	0%	0	0
Point Pleasant Boro	5	485	276	162	134	49%	1	0
Sea Girt Boro	0	13	9	0	0	0%	0	0
Seaside Heights Boro	0	84	48	0	0	0%	0	0
Seaside Park Boro	0	17	10	0	0	0%	0	0
South Toms River	0	131	75	0	0	0%	0	0
Spring Lake	1	22	15	34	34	227%	0	0
Spring Lake Heights	1	85	56	56	46	82%	0	0
Toms River	18	2,921	1,662	716	602	36%	7	5
All Municipalities	39	6,062	3,483	1,614	1,347	39%	11	5

#### **Infant-Toddler Child Care Deserts \***

Number of municipalities in the district that are infant-toddler child care deserts: 10 Percent of district that is a child care desert: 63%

"It's difficult to hire staff to meet demands of profession. It is difficult to raise rates as to not put too much financial stress on parents." Toms River Center Director

"The biggest struggle we face is having qualified staff to fill positions for our program. To maintain affordable tuition rates and be able to pay my staff and charge tuition rates that are competitive." - Brick Center Director



<sup>\*</sup>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.