

Still No Room for Babies: Child Care Staffing Crisis Impacts Supply of Infant-Toddler Child Care

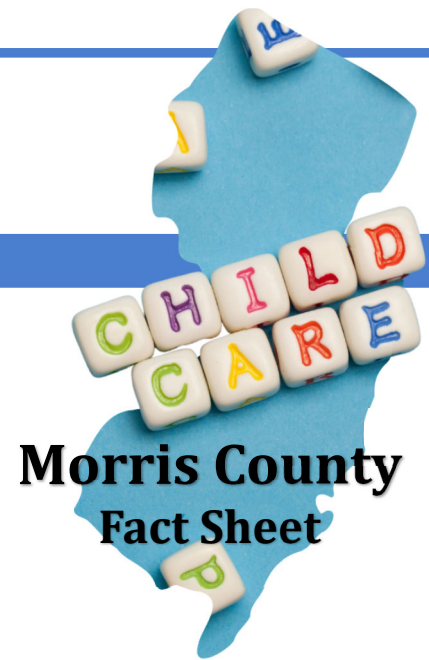
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Having access to a robust supply of high-quality licensed child care near their home or workplace is an essential support for working parents. Licensed child care programs not only offer parents a safe and reliable child care option while they work, 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 Morris County As of March 2022

Number of Licensed Centers that Provide Infant Toddler Child Care	106
Number of Children Under Age 3	13,689
Children Under Age 3 Likely to Need Child Care Because All Parents Work	9,815
Estimated Number of Slots Licensed Centers are Willing To Provide	4,566
Estimated Number of Slots Licensed Centers Typically Provide	3,607
Number of Centers Providing Infant-Toddler Child Care Participating in Grow NJ Kids	36
Number of Centers Providing Infant-Toddler Child Care Rated by Grow NJ Kids	21

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.
- 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.

Giving Every Child A Chance To Grow Up Safe, Healthy and Educated

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Morris County Infant-Toddler Child Care

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

Municipality	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 Willing to Serve	Number of Infants-Toddlers Centers Typically Serve	Percent of Slots Typically Available for Infants and Toddlers
Boonton Town and Twp.	422	303	0	0	0	0%
Butler Boro	230	165	1	36	22	13%
Chatham Boro	259	186	4	141	118	63%
Chatham Twp.	215	154	0	0	0	0%
Chester Boro and Twp.	217	156	1	34	34	22%
Denville Twp.	497	356	5	272	237	67%
Dover Town	591	424	2	92	45	11%
East Hanover Twp.	245	176	5	236	203	104%
Florham Park Boro	289	207	7	288	246	119%
Hanover Twp. (Cedar Knolls and Whippany)	326	234	9	475	377	161%
Harding Twp.	68	49	0	0	0	0%
Jefferson Twp. (Lake Hopatcong and Oak Ridge)	523	375	8	238	181	48%
Kinnelon Boro	224	161	0	0	0	0%
Lincoln Park Boro	277	199	2	63	52	26%
Long Hill Twp. (Stirling)	256	184	3	138	118	64%
Madison Boro	417	299	4	183	156	52%
Mendham Boro & Twp.	214	153	0	0	0	0%
Mine Hill Twp.	119	85	1	53	30	35%
Montville Twp. (Pine Brook, Towaco)	496	356	6	339	300	84%
Morris Plains Boro	203	146	0	0	0	0%
Morris Twp.	696	499	0	0	0	0%
Morristown Town	733	526	9	360	313	60%
Mount Arlington Boro	161	115	0	0	0	0%
Mount Olive Twp. (Budd Lake, Flanders)	789	566	7	358	245	43%
Mountain Lakes Boro	83	60	3	136	114	228%
Netcong Boro	109	78	1	2	4	5%
Parsippany-Troy Hills Twp.	1,600	1,147	8	342	208	18%
Pequannock Twp. (Pompton Plains)	332	238	3	80	69	29%
Randolph Twp.	780	559	4	232	182	33%
Riverdale Boro	100	72	0	0	0	0%
Rockaway Boro	213	153	6	249	165	108%
Rockaway Twp.	742	532	0	0	0	0%
Roxbury Twp. (Kenvil, Landing, Ledgewood, Succasunna)	619	444	6	184	165	37%
Victory Gardens Boro	51	37	0	0	0	0%
Washington Twp.	381	273	0	0	0	0%
Wharton Boro	212	152	1	35	23	15%
County Total	13,689	9,815	106	4,566	3,607	37%

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