

THE CAPACITY CRISIS: TIME TO INVEST IN HIGH-QUALITY INFANT AND TODDLER CARE

Research shows that investing in high-quality early childhood programs leads to students being more likely to graduate from high school and college, makes communities safer, improves economic security and therefore child well-being, and stops the school-to-prison pipeline that keeps too many children and young adults from reaching their full potential. Access to affordable, high-quality, safe, and culturally responsive child care supported by a universal, transparent quality rating and improvement system is a critical component.



Listening to center and family child care providers

- There is a major capacity problem for infant care across New York State. Eighty-three percent of family child care providers and 64% of child care centers report that they enroll infants. Seven out of 10 child care centers and half of family child care providers are at maximum capacity for infants.
- Most child care centers and nearly half of all providers have a wait list.
- Many providers are running on a deficit, and wages and benefits are a problem for a majority of child care centers. Child care providers who enroll at least one child with a subsidy are more likely to have a deficit (30%) than those who do not (14%).
- Providers feel low wages limit their ability to provide quality care and believe more assistance from the state is needed to be financially stable.

Read the results of our survey of child care providers at <https://raisingnewyork.org/capacity-crisis/>



Statewide and regional data

- In 2017, there were only an estimated 15 infant/toddler child care slots per 100 children ages 0-5 across New York State.
- From 2011 to 2017, only the top 20% wealthiest communities saw an increase in infant/toddler capacity per 100 children ages 0-5. All other communities lost capacity, including low-income communities, middle-income communities, and even mid-high income communities—reinforcing that access to child care is a statewide problem.
- The estimated number of infant/toddler child care slots decreased in every region of the state except Long Island, New York City, and the Mid-Hudson from 2009 to 2018.

See statewide and regional fact sheets at <https://raisingnewyork.org/regional-capacity-fact-sheets/>



The real cost of quality care

- Current child care subsidy rates are insufficient to cover the cost of quality child care in centers and in family-based child care.
- The size of the gap between subsidy rates and the true cost of quality varies by region, but exists across the state for infants and toddlers.
- Insufficient revenues keep workforce wages low and limit provider quality. Current annual lead teacher salaries average around \$30,000 outside of NYC and \$43,000 in NYC, the equivalent of \$14.50/hour and \$20/hour respectively.

Read the Center for American Progress's cost of child care study at <https://raisingnewyork.org/capacity-crisis/>