



Think Babies™ NC Alliance

Infant-Toddler Child Care Landscape Study Webinar

May 25, 2022

Goals for today

- Overview of Think Babies™ NC
- In-depth look at the Infant-Toddler Child Care Landscape Study
 - Mary Martin, VP of System Research and Development at Child Care Services Association
- Ways to take action for babies



Overview of Think Babies™ NC



It's time to #ThinkBabiesNC!



Make their potential our priority.



National Collaborative for Infants & Toddlers™



A photograph of a baby in a blue patterned onesie being held by two adults (a man and a woman) in a park-like setting. The image is framed by a dark blue diagonal overlay. In the top left corner of the overlay is the Think Babies logo and the text "Think Babies™ NC Alliance". In the bottom right corner, there is a list of three bullet points with checkmarks: "healthy beginnings", "supported families", and "quality early care and learning". Below the list is the text "Learn more: www.ThinkBabiesNC.org".

- ✓ healthy beginnings
- ✓ supported families
- ✓ quality early care and learning

Learn more: www.ThinkBabiesNC.org

Think Babies™ NC Alliance Leadership Team



Think Babies™ NC Alliance



MomsRising.org | MamásConPoder.org



NCDHHS
Division of Child Development
And Early Education



NC DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES



NC Child
The Voice for North Carolina's Children



BCDI
Black Child Development Institute
CHARLOTTE



Think Babies™ NC 2021-25 Policy Priorities

At-a-Glance



Healthy Beginnings

Medicaid Expansion

Workplace Pregnancy Accommodations

Medicaid Improvements

Early Intervention Eligibility - Developmental Delays

Early Childhood Service Providers Mental Health Competencies

Supported Families

Paid Family Leave

Home Visiting/Parenting Education

Earned Income Tax Credit

Paid Sick Leave

Early Care and Learning

Child Care Subsidy Expansion

New Child Care Subsidy Rates

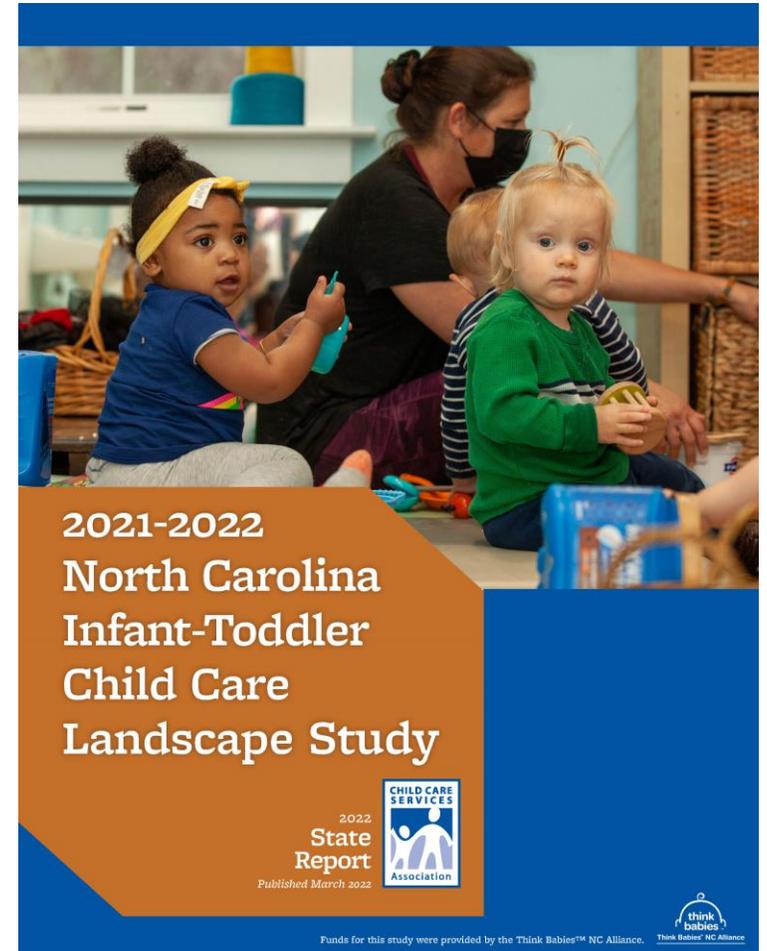
Build Supply Infant Toddler Child Care

Infant Toddler Workforce Compensation

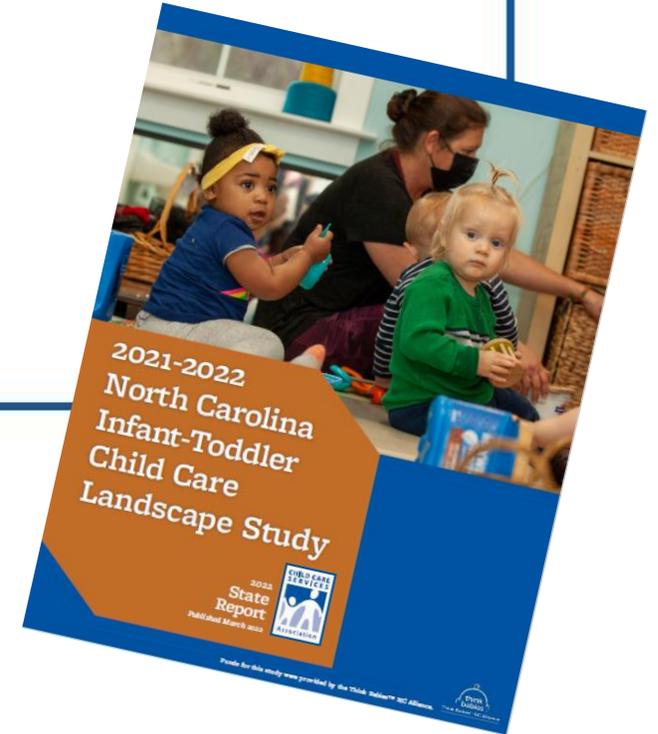
Infant-Toddler Child Care Landscape Study



- Commissioned by the Think Babies™ NC Alliance and completed by Child Care Services Association
- Examines the supply of infant-toddler child care at the county level and statewide, as well as the impact of COVID-19
- Offers data and important context to help us understand and address the early learning policy priorities identified by the Think Babies™ NC Alliance.
- Available on our website:
 - [Click here to read the Landscape Study](#)
 - [Click here to find your county's report](#)



2021-2022 North Carolina Infant-Toddler Child Care Landscape Study



Leading efforts to strengthen accessible and affordable quality early care and education by providing supports for families, communities and the workforce.

OUTLINE

Background

Methods

Findings

Conclusion



Leading efforts to strengthen accessible and affordable quality early care and education by providing supports for families, communities and the workforce.

BACKGROUND

Positive **effects** of **high-quality child care experience** on **school readiness** and **life-long success**



Nationwide, **63% of children under three** live in a household where all parents **work**

Ravaging effect of pandemic on child care infrastructure in North Carolina

Better understand to better rebuild



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Study Overview



- NC infants & toddlers and their parents
- NC infants & toddlers in licensed early care and education programs
- NC infants & toddlers receiving child care subsidy

- Characteristics of programs serving infants & toddlers in NC
- Program support from DCDEE

- Barriers and support for infant & toddler care
- Promising practices across the state



METHODS

Research questions

Under 3 & Families

e.g., how many spaces are available in licensed care?

Under 3 & Programs

e.g., are they enrolled in high quality programs?

Under 3 & Subsidy

e.g., What % of subsidy vouchers given to infants & toddlers?

Program characteristics

e.g., How much does infant-toddler care cost in centers and in homes?

DCDEE Program support

e.g., Were these programs helpful?

Barriers and support

e.g., Are providers interested in expanding their programs?

Promising practices

e.g., What promising practices are being developed?

Data sources

Providers data

- Census
- NC Resource and Referral System WorkLife System database

Licensing data

- Division of Child Development and Early Education

Subsidy data

- Division of Child Development and Early Education

Survey data from the field

Focus groups

Limitations

Findings– Infants and Toddlers



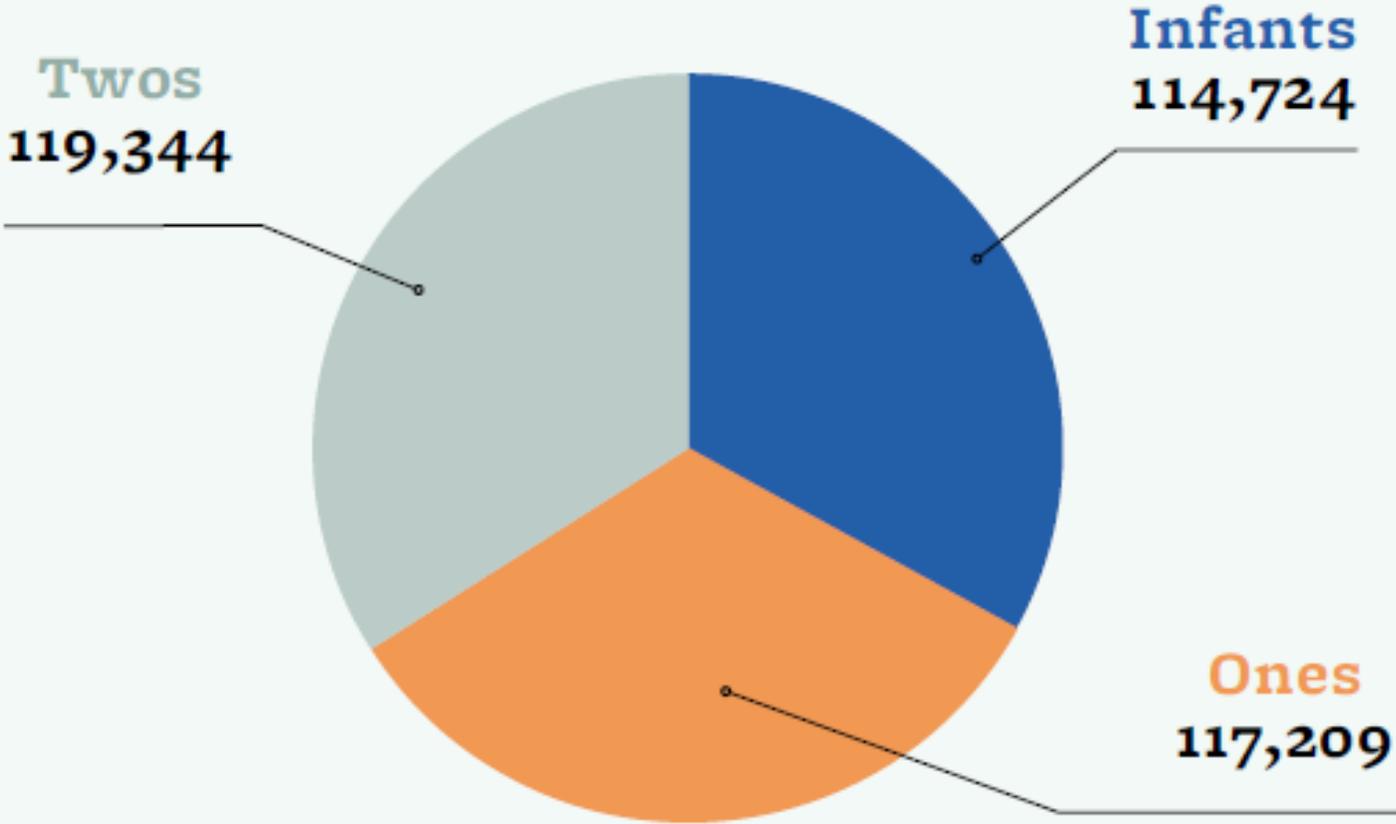
- NC infants & toddlers and their parents
- NC infants & toddlers in licensed early care and education programs
- NC infants & toddlers receiving child care subsidy



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Infants and Toddlers in North Carolina

FIGURE 1 North Carolina's Birth to Three Year Olds



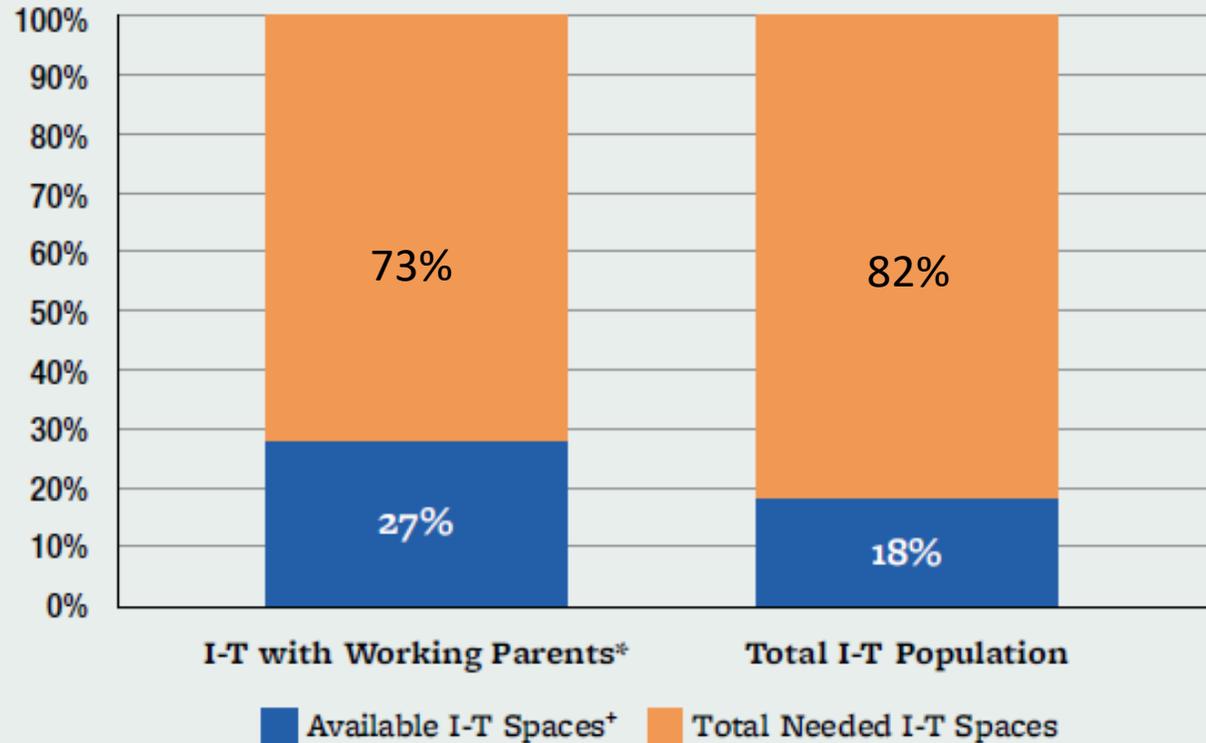
Source: North Carolina Office of State Budget Management, Population Projections 9/21



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Infant & Toddler Availability in Licensed ECE Programs

FIGURE 2 Available and Needed Infant-Toddler Spaces



“My waiting list is so long ... I mean, I have 5 to 6 [parents] calling me all day long.”

—Urban child care center director

*Working parent data based on parents of children under 6. Information on the percentage of infants and toddlers with working parents is unavailable.

*Available spaces include both current enrollment numbers and full/part time open spaces.

Source: WorkLife Systems, October 2021; NC Office of State Budget & Management, 9/30/21; 2015-2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates.



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Infant & Toddler Availability by County-Lowest

TABLE 2 Counties With the Highest and Lowest Percentage of Spaces Available for Infants and Toddlers Compared to Need

County	All Infants-Toddlers	County	Infants-Toddlers w/ Working Parents
Polk	0%	Polk	0%
Alleghany	3%	Alleghany	5%
Yancey	4%	Yancey	6%
Currituck	5%	Currituck	9%
Cherokee	6%	Cherokee	10%
Madison	7%	Madison	11%
Caswell	8%	Warren	11%
Macon	8%	Caswell	11%
Warren	8%	Macon	11%
Onslow	8%	Transylvania	12%

**Working parent data based on parents of children under 6. Information on the percentage of infants and toddlers with working parents is unavailable.*

**Available spaces include both current enrollment numbers and full/part time open spaces.*

Source: WorkLife Systems, October 2021; NC Office of State Budget & Management, 9/30/21; 2015-2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates.

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Infant & Toddler Availability by County-Highest

TABLE 2

Counties With the Highest and Lowest Percentage of Spaces Available for Infants and Toddlers Compared to Need

County	All Infants-Toddlers	County	Infants-Toddlers w/ Working Parents
Robeson	23%	Guilford	35%
Beaufort	23%	Pasquotank	36%
Guilford	24%	Hoke	37%
Wilson	24%	Greene	37%
Wake	25%	Wake	38%
Edgecombe	26%	Edgecombe	38%
Clay	26%	Pitt	39%
Greene	27%	Robeson	41%
Pitt	28%	Washington	47%
Washington	30%	Chowan	62%

**Working parent data based on parents of children under 6. Information on the percentage of infants and toddlers with working parents is unavailable.*

**Available spaces include both current enrollment numbers and full/part time open spaces.*

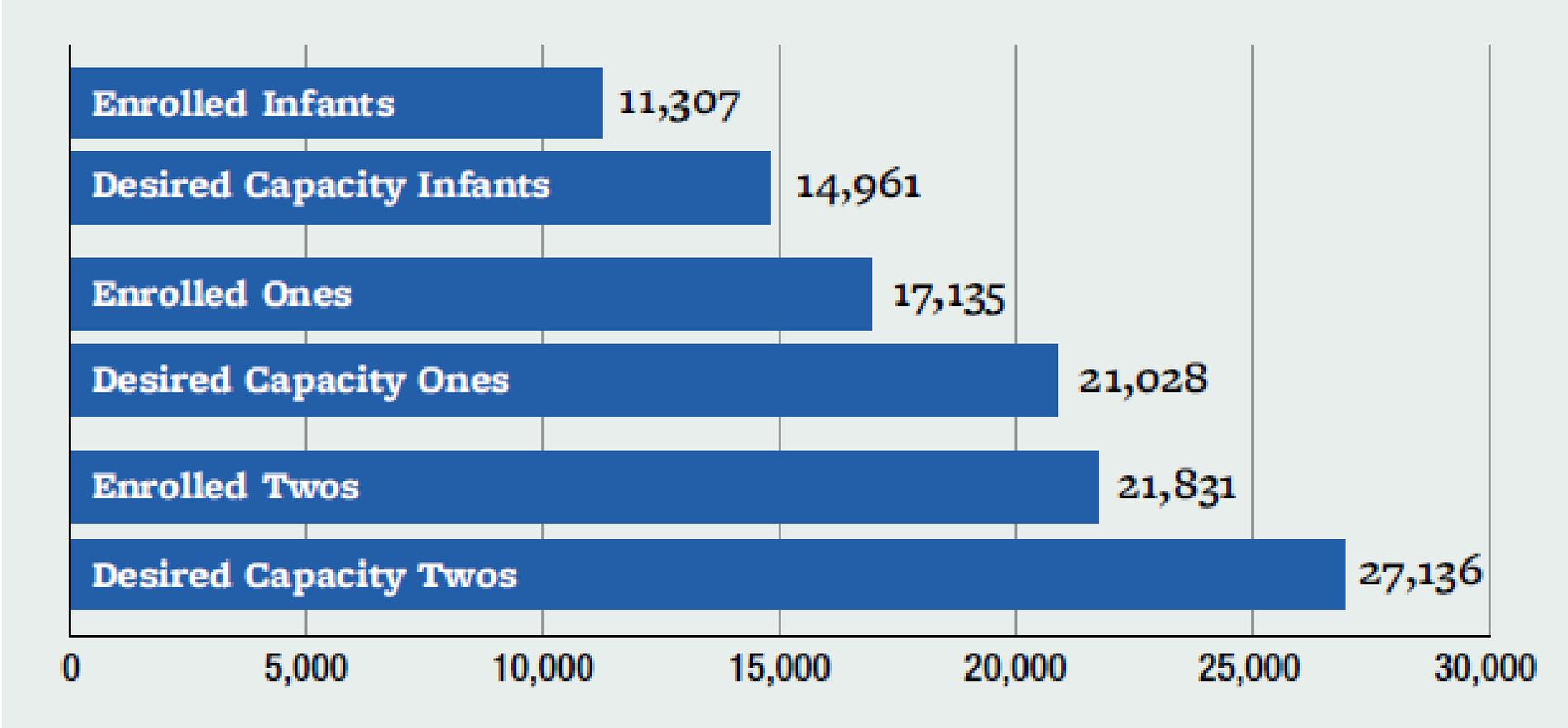
Source: WorkLife Systems, October 2021; NC Office of State Budget & Management, 9/30/21; 2015-2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates.

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Infant & Toddler Enrollment and Capacity by Age

FIGURE 4 Desired Capacity vs. Enrollment By Age



Source: WorkLife Systems, CCR&R data October 2021.



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Infant & Toddler Enrollment by Program Type

TABLE 6 Infant-Toddler Enrollment by Program Type

	Statewide		Rural		Suburban		Urban	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Centers	47,925	95%	13,980	94%	13,432	96%	20,513	96%
Homes	2,348	5%	870	6%	543	4%	935	4%
Total	50,273	100%	14,850	100%	13,975	100%	21,448	100%

Source: WorkLife Systems, October 2021.

“I just wish we as [family] child care providers would have received...something saying ‘thank you all for standing in the gap.’ When the centers shut down and still received compensation for every child that they served, while we continued to work sunup to sundown to serve emergency children and our regular children, that was a bit much...Still to this day, I feel like family child care providers [are not] appreciated as much as they say we are.”

—Urban family child care provider



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Infant & Toddler Enrollment by Program Type Over Time

TABLE 5 Infant-Toddler Enrollment by Program Type Over Time

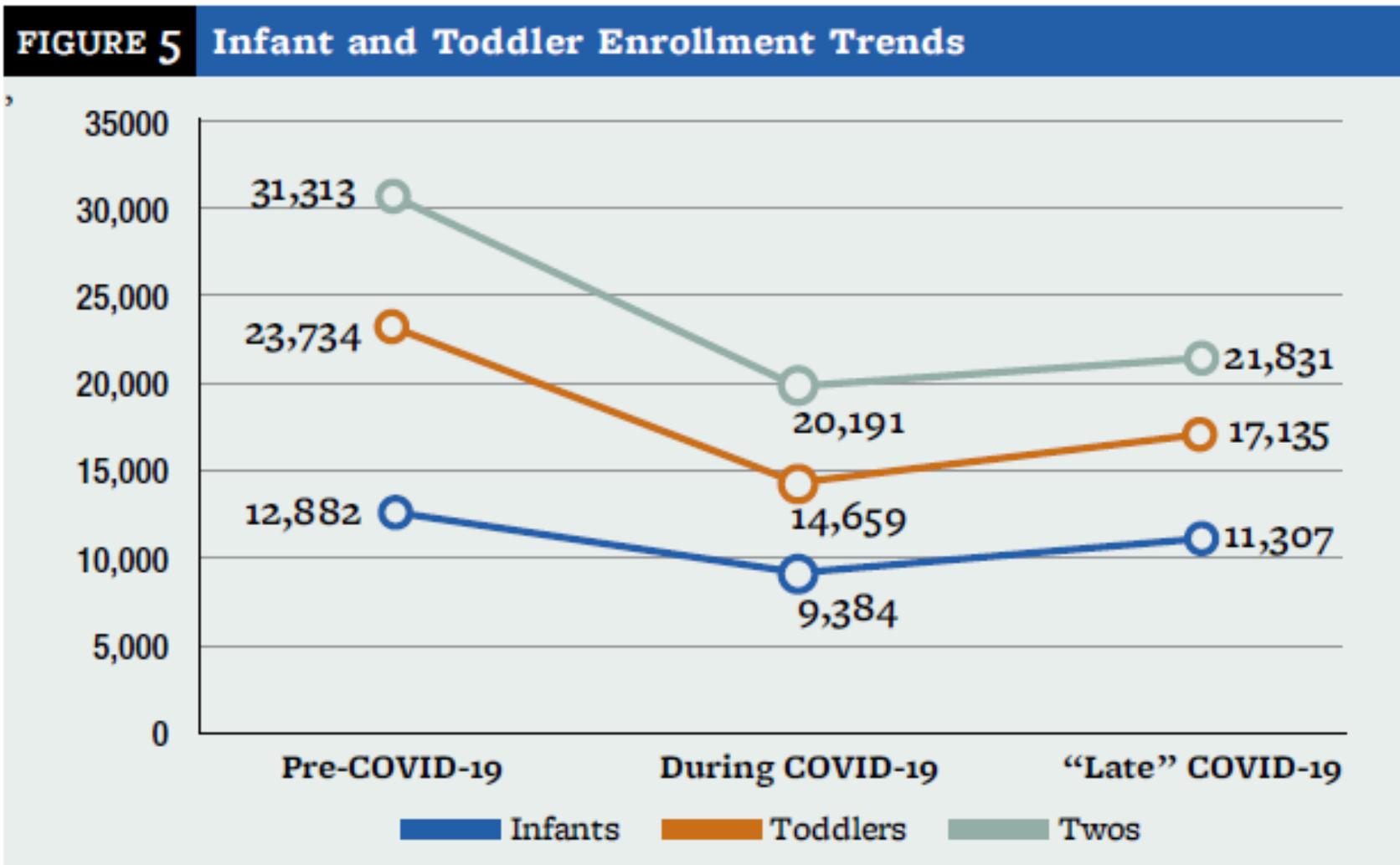
	2016 Statewide		2021 Statewide	
	#	%	#	%
Centers	61,804	93%	47,925	95%
Homes	4,549	7%	2,348	5%
Total	66,353	100%	50,273	100%

Source: Division of Child Development and Early Education Licensing Data, October 2016; WorkLife Systems, October 2021.



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Infant & Toddler Enrollment-Pandemic



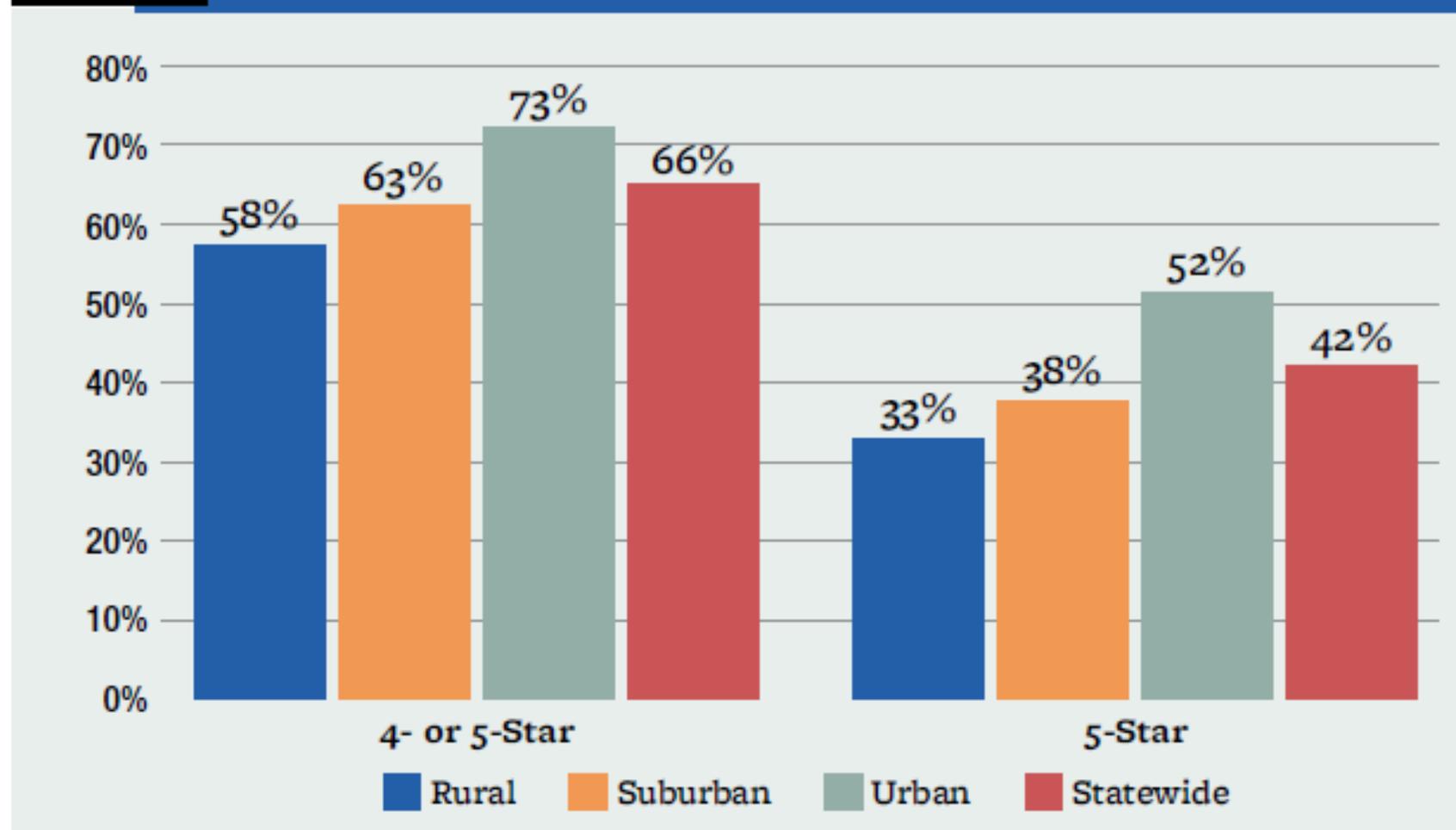
Source: DCDEE licensing data, 3/20; WorkLife Systems data, 2/21; WorkLife Systems data, 10/21.



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Infants & Toddlers in High Quality Licensed ECE Programs

FIGURE 6 Percentage of Infants and Toddlers in Higher Quality Care



Source: WorkLife Systems, CCR&R data October 2021.



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Infant & Toddler Center Enrollment by Star Level

TABLE 7 Infant-Toddler Enrollment Numbers and Percentages by Star Level

LICENSE LEVEL	Statewide Infant-Toddler Enrollment		Rural Infant-Toddler Enrollment		Suburban Infant-Toddler Enrollment		Urban Infant-Toddler Enrollment	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
5-Star Centers	21,050	44%	4,855	35%	5,232	39%	10,963	53%
4-Star Centers	10,752	22%	3,308	24%	3,313	25%	4,131	20%
3-Star Centers	7,654	16%	3,382	24%	2,081	15%	2,191	11%
2-Star Centers	85	0%	41	0%	44	0%	0	0%
1-Star Centers	1,946	4%	263	2%	409	3%	1,274	6%
GS-110 Centers	4,663	10%	1,561	11%	1,772	13%	1,330	6%
Other* Centers	1,775	4%	570	4%	581	4%	624	3%
Total Centers	47,925	100%	779	100%	13,432	100%	21,513	100%



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Infant & Toddler Home Enrollment by Star Level

TABLE 7 Infant-Toddler Enrollment Numbers and Percentages by Star Level

LICENSE LEVEL	Statewide Infant-Toddler Enrollment		Rural Infant-Toddler Enrollment		Suburban Infant-Toddler Enrollment		Urban Infant-Toddler Enrollment	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
5-Star Homes	274	12%	71	8%	78	14%	125	13%
4-Star Homes	932	40%	400	46%	192	35%	340	36%
3-Star Homes	687	29%	237	27%	171	31%	279	30%
2-Star Homes	190	8%	84	10%	32	6%	74	8%
1-Star Homes	233	10%	72	8%	55	10%	106	11%
Other* Homes	32	1%	6	1%	15	3%	11	1%
Total Homes	2,348	100%	870	100%	543	100%	935	100%



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Infant & Toddler Center Enrollment Over Time

TABLE 9 Infant-Toddler Enrollment Numbers and Percentages by Star Level

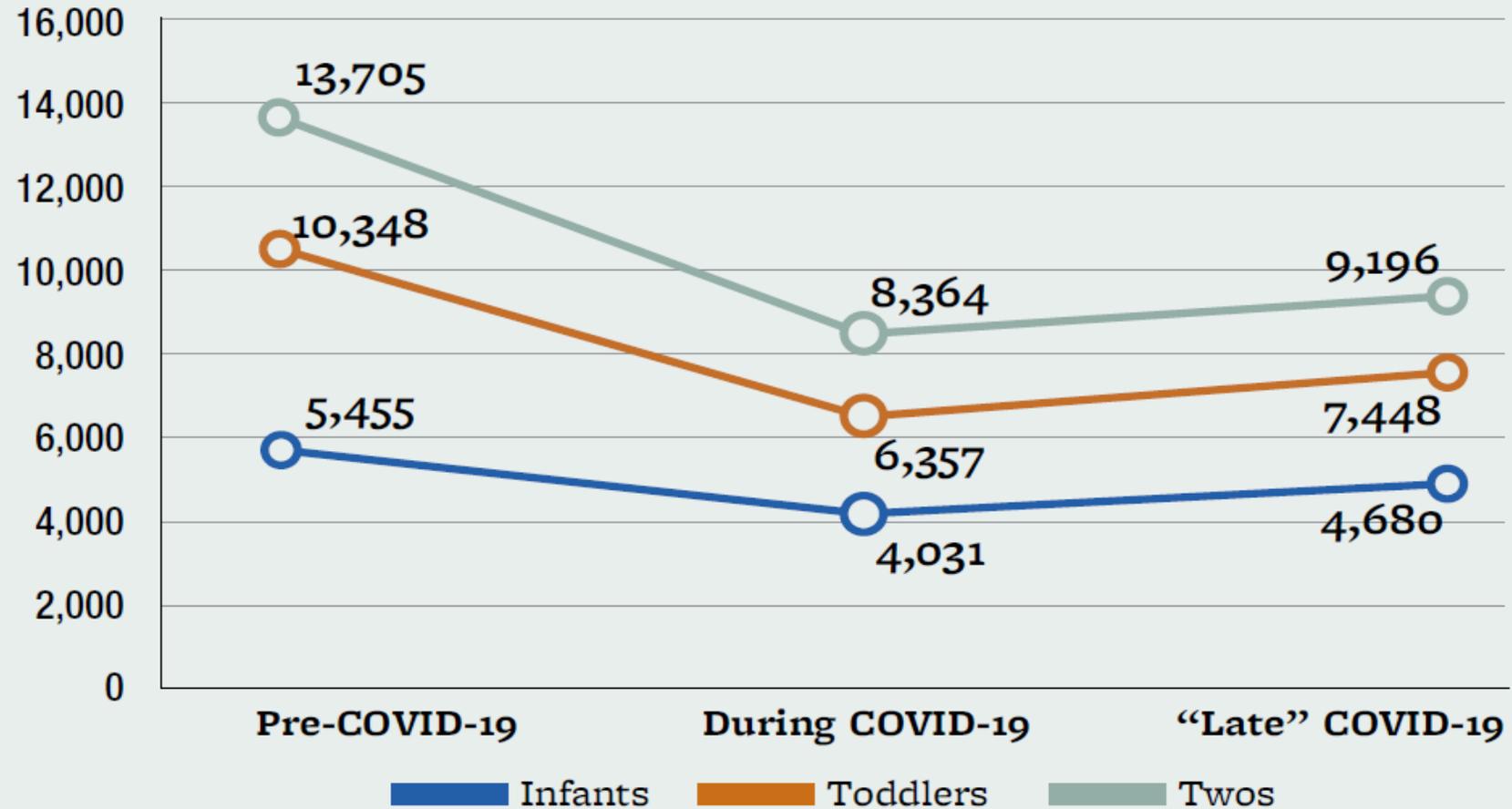
LICENSE LEVEL	2016 Statewide Infant-Toddler Enrollment		2021 Statewide Infant-Toddler Enrollment	
	#	%	#	%
5-Star Centers	27,545	45%	21,050	44%
4-Star Centers	15,550	25%	10,752	22%
3-Star Centers	9,220	15%	7,654	16%
2-Star Centers	272	0%	85	0%
1-Star Centers	1,376	2%	1,946	4%
GS-110 Centers	6,257	10%	4,663	10%
Other* Centers	1,584	3%	1,775	4%
Total Centers	61,804	100%	47,925	100%



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Infants & Toddlers in High Quality Programs-Pandemic

FIGURE 7 Infant and Toddler 5-Star Enrollment Trends



Source: DCDEE licensing data, 3/20; WorkLife Systems data, 2/21; WorkLife Systems data, 10/21.



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Infants & Toddlers Receiving Subsidized Care

TABLE 10 Number and Percentage of Infants and Toddlers Receiving Subsidy Over Time

	Infants-Toddlers Receiving Subsidy	Percentage of Total Receiving Subsidy
2008	30,932	40%
2016	22,859	34%
2021	11,716	23%

Source: DCDEE subsidy data April, 2008; October, 2016 and October 2021 (through NCFAST).

“When you accept subsidy payments for families, you lose a good chunk of the tuition that you normally charge for other families. Being that [infant and toddler] classrooms hold lower ratios, it does take an effect on your revenue ... **depending on how many [subsidy families] you support, by the end of the year, you’re losing money ...** we haven’t had an increase in [the reimbursement rate], in years.”

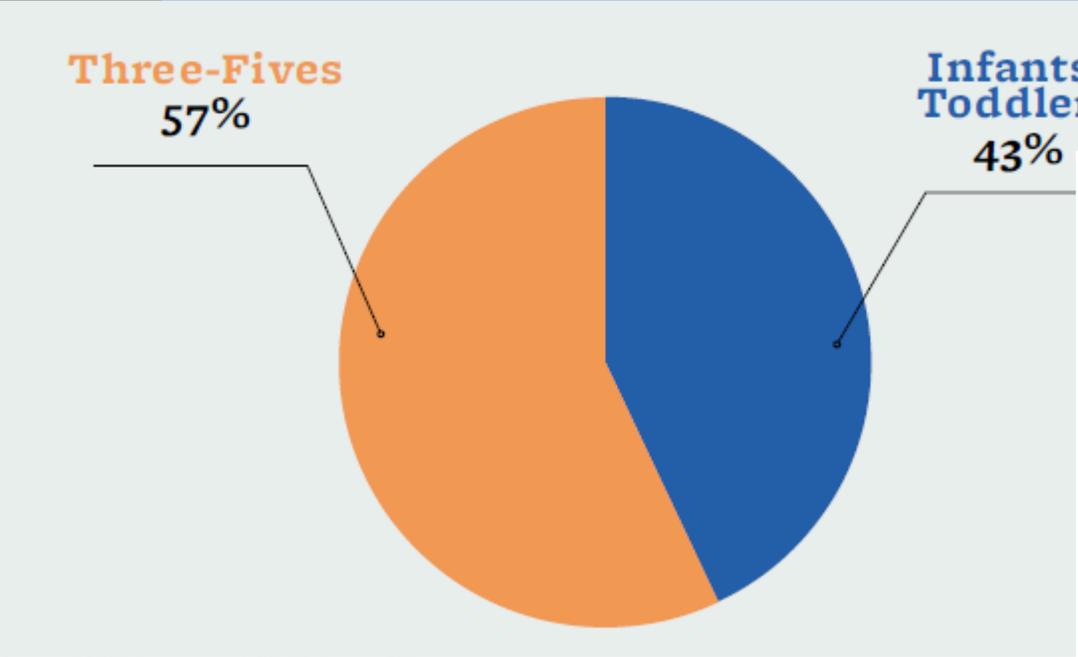
—Urban child care center director



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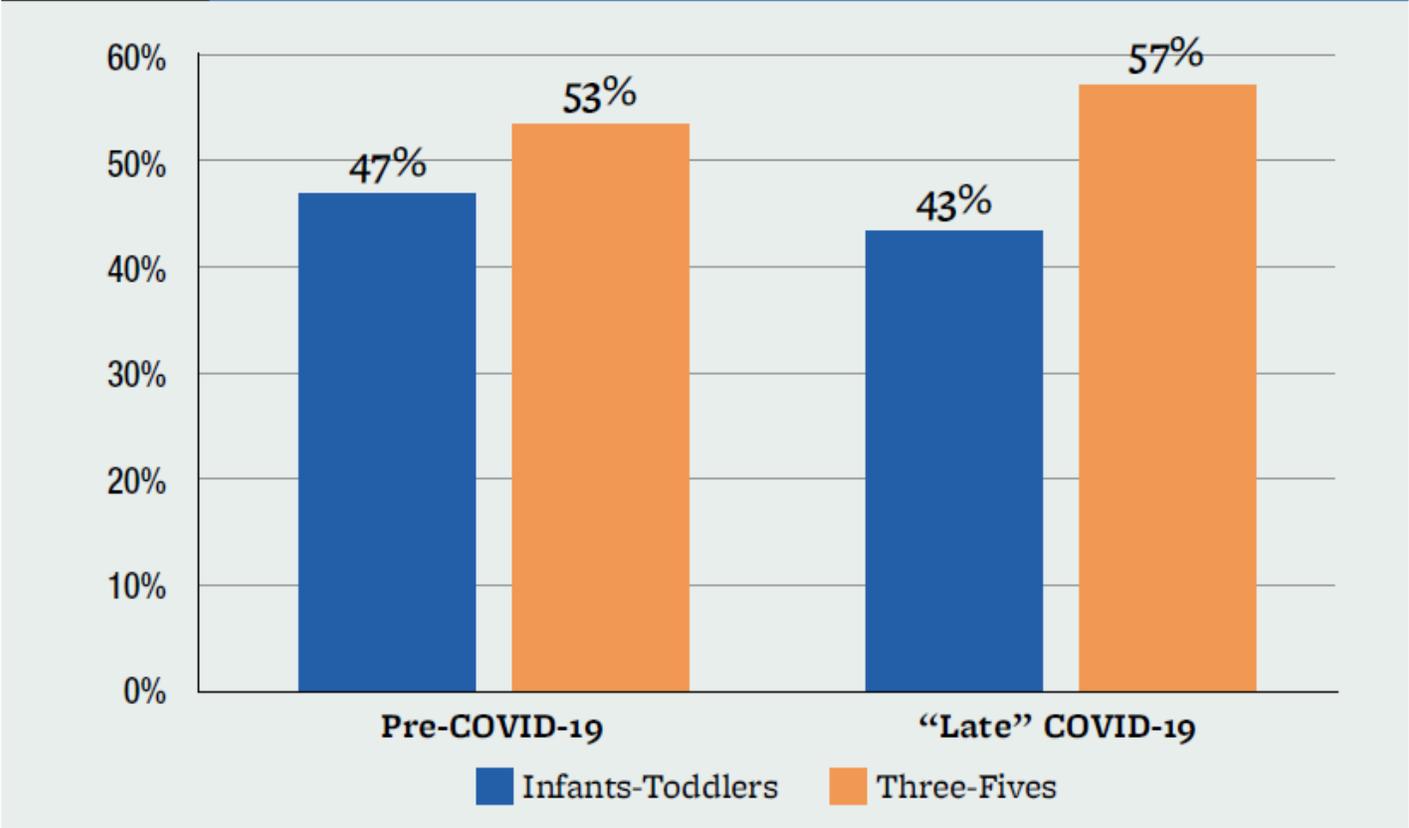
Infants & Toddlers Receiving Subsidized Care

FIGURE 9 Birth to Five Subsidy by Age



Source: DCDEE Subsidy data-NCFAS, October 2021.

FIGURE 10 Birth To Five Subsidy by Age Group Pre and "Late" COVID



Source: DCDEE Subsidy data-NCFAS, October 2021; February 2020.



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Infants & Toddlers Receiving Subsidized Care by County

TABLE 13

Select Counties' Percentage of Birth-Five Subsidy Received by Infants and Toddlers

Lowest Percentage of Infants-Toddlers	
Counties	Percentage
Tyrrell	29%
Transylvania	32%
Harnett	33%
Madison	33%
Lincoln	34%
Yancey	34%
Richmond	35%
Randolph	36%
Stokes	36%
Yadkin	36%

Highest Percentage of Infants-Toddlers	
Counties	Percentage
Ashe	56%
Currituck	56%
Perquimans	57%
Rutherford	57%
Wilkes	57%
Graham	59%
Clay	62%
Jones	63%
Alleghany	65%
Swain	66%
Camden	78%

Source: DCDEE Subsidy data-NCFASST, October 2021.

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Findings– ECE Programs



- Characteristics of programs serving infants & toddlers in NC
- Program support from DCDEE



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Centers Serving Infants & Toddlers by Star Level

TABLE 3 Number and Percent of Each Program Type Serving Infants and/or Toddlers by Star Rating

LICENSE LEVEL	Statewide Programs Serving Infants and/or Toddlers		Rural Programs Serving Infants and/or Toddlers		Suburban Programs Serving Infants and/or Toddlers		Urban Programs Serving Infants and/or Toddlers	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
5-Star Centers	756	36%	232	30%	179	32%	345	44%
4-Star Centers	567	27%	213	27%	157	28%	197	25%
3-Star Centers	466	22%	209	27%	115	21%	142	18%
2-Star Centers	4	0%	2	0%	2	0%	0	0%
1-Star Centers	51	2%	13	2%	12	2%	26	3%
GS-110 Centers	168	8%	69	9%	55	10%	44	6%
Other* Centers	111	5%	41	5%	33	6%	37	5%
Total Centers	2,123	100%	779	100%	553	100%	791	100%



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Homes Serving Infants & Toddlers by Star Level

TABLE 3 Number and Percent of Each Program Type Serving Infants and/or Toddlers by Star Rating

	Statewide Programs Serving Infants and/or Toddlers		Rural Programs Serving Infants and/or Toddlers		Suburban Programs Serving Infants and/or Toddlers		Urban Programs Serving Infants and/or Toddlers	
5-Star Homes	120	12%	35	9%	31	13%	54	13%
4-Star Homes	401	40%	170	45%	83	36%	148	36%
3-Star Homes	312	31%	112	30%	72	31%	128	32%
2-Star Homes	71	7%	29	8%	15	6%	27	7%
1-Star Homes	87	9%	26	7%	21	9%	40	10%
Other* Homes	24	2%	6	2%	9	4%	9	2%
Total Homes	1,015	100%	378	100%	231	100%	406	100%



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Program Cost for Families by Age

TABLE 15 Cost of Infant-Toddler Care in Child Care Centers

	Statewide	Rural	Suburban	Urban
Infant				
Median	\$883.00	\$721.00	\$866.00	\$1,234.00
Minimum	\$368.00	\$368.00	\$476.00	\$541.00
Maximum	\$2,433.00	\$1,595.00	\$1,858.00	\$2,433.00
One Year Old				
Median	\$866.00	\$714.00	\$844.00	\$1,199.00
Minimum	\$368.00	\$368.00	\$390.00	\$541.00
Maximum	\$2,433.00	\$1,577.00	\$1,838.00	\$2,433.00
Two Year Old				
Median	\$808.00	\$669.00	\$801.00	\$1,121.00
Minimum	\$346.00	\$346.00	\$346.00	\$475.00
Maximum	\$2,087.00	\$1,395.00	\$1,551.00	\$2,087.00

Source: 2021-22 Provider Survey.

TABLE 16 Cost of Infant-Toddler Care in Family Child Care Homes

	Statewide	Rural	Suburban	Urban
Infant				
Median	\$775.00	\$611.00	\$758.00	\$866.00
Minimum	\$238.00	\$238.00	\$281.00	\$346.00
Maximum	\$1,619.00	\$1,450.00	\$1,619.00	\$1,516.00
One Year Old				
Median	\$758.00	\$606.00	\$736.00	\$866.00
Minimum	\$238.00	\$238.00	\$281.00	\$346.00
Maximum	\$1,619.00	\$1,450.00	\$1,619.00	\$1,299.00
Two Year Old				
Median	\$693.00	\$563.00	\$693.00	\$823.00
Minimum	\$238.00	\$238.00	\$281.00	\$346.00
Maximum	\$1,516.00	\$1,450.00	\$1,516.00	\$1,299.00

Source: 2021-22 Provider Survey.



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Program Minimum Education Levels Required

TABLE 18 Minimum Education Levels

	Teachers	Assistant Teachers	Home Providers (actual)	Home Providers' Assistance
Minimum Education Needed				
Bachelor's Degree or More in ECE/CD	3%	<1%	15%	0%
Bachelor's Degree or More in Other Field	1%	0%	12%	7%
Associate Degree in ECE/CD	21%	5%	27%	9%
Associate Degree in Other Field	6%	1%	5%	5%
Some College	8%	4%	22%	16%
Child Development Associate (CDA)	4%	3%	3%	4%
NC Credential	45%	44%	10%	23%
High School/GED	12%	40%	6%	33%
Some High School	<1%	3%	<1%	3%

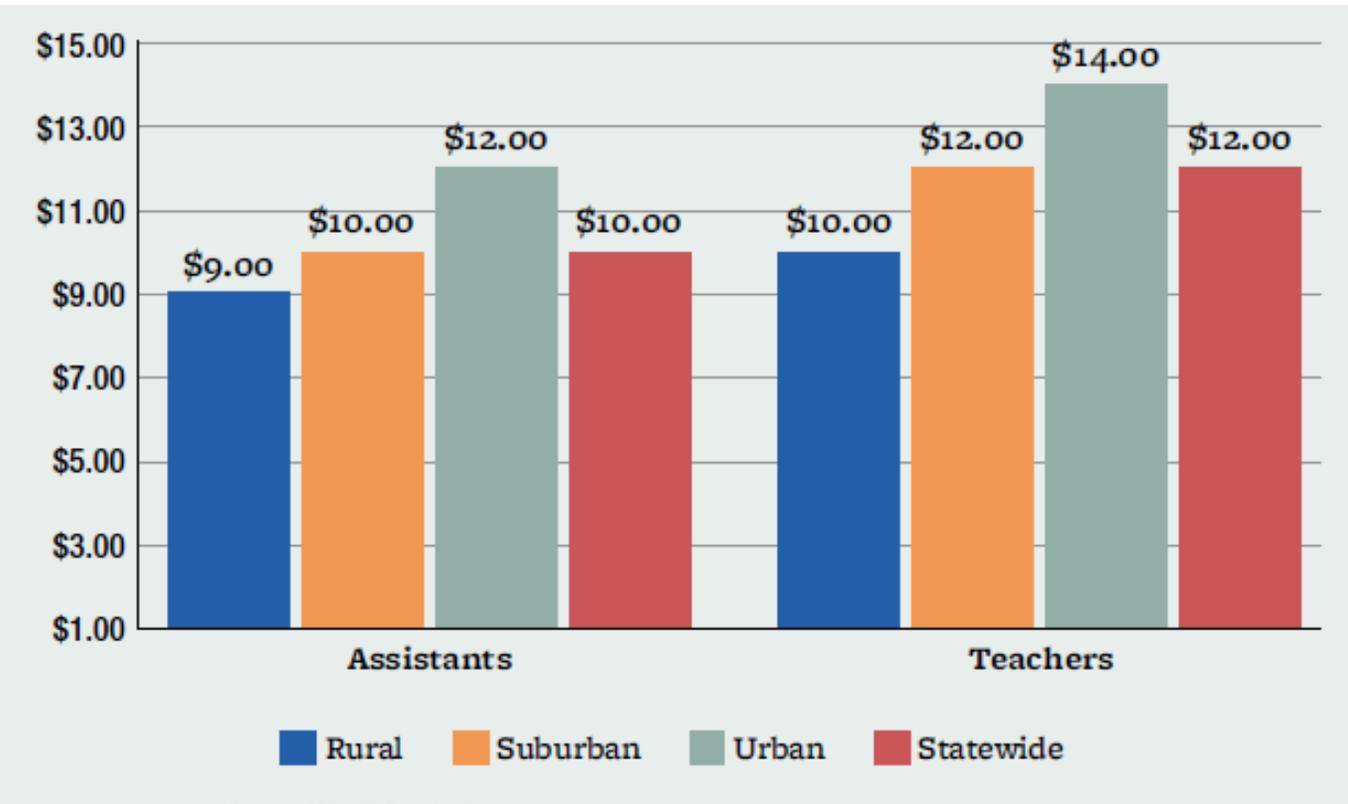
Source: 2021-22 Provider Survey.



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Program Starting Wages

FIGURE 11 Median Starting Wages For Infant-Toddler Teaching Staff



Source: 2021-22 Provider Survey.

“ [Teachers] still can get more money to go to Walmart or Target and where there’s not so much responsibility on the individual in the classroom. **We’re burning these people out just by giving them what they have to do in their eight hour day, and making sure that children are also safe at the same time.** It’s a full time job to do the regulations and a full time job to watch the children so why work in early childhood...when you can go to Hobby Lobby and make \$17 an hour ...”

—Urban child care center director



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Program Available Services

TABLE 17 Percentage of Programs That Have Training and/or Experience in Each Area

	Statewide	Rural	Suburban	Urban
ADD/ADHD	36%	33%	39%	38%
Autism	31%	27%	32%	33%
Developmental Delay	33%	29%	37%	33%
Emotional/Behavioral	22%	20%	26%	22%
Cerebral Palsy	10%	10%	10%	10%
Down Syndrome	17%	14%	20%	18%
Hearing Impairment	19%	17%	21%	19%
Visual Impairment	15%	15%	16%	15%
Wheelchair/Mobility Impaired	20%	23%	26%	14%
Allergies	31%	31%	35%	28%
Seizure/Epilepsy	10%	9%	13%	8%
Administer Medications	17%	13%	16%	22%
Care for Sick Children	4%	4%	2%	5%
On-Site Nurse	2%	1%	2%	2%

Source: WorkLife Systems, October 2021.

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Program Available Services



26% of programs have bilingual staff available to work with infants and toddlers

9% of programs offer transportation services to infants and toddlers

8% of programs are open on Saturdays & 6% are open on Sundays

38% of programs offer part time care for infants and toddlers



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Program Supports from DCDEE (Covid-19 Related)

TABLE 19 DCDEE Program Supports

	Aware of Program Support	Indicated Support was "Helpful"	Indicated Support was "Most Helpful"
ChildCareStrongNC Public Health Toolkit	92%	87%	6%
Training on the Health Toolkit	82%	72%	<1%
Flexibility in Policy and Regulatory Requirements	87%	82%	3%
Flexibility in Training Requirements	85%	81%	2%
Information about COVID Vaccines	84%	70%	<1%
Distribution of PPE (Personal Protective Equipment)	92%	90%	8%
Infant-Toddler Quality Enhancement Project Virtual TA	58%	36%	<1%
Payment of Subsidy During Program Closure	90%	69%	7%



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Program Supports from DCDEE (Covid-19 Related)

TABLE 19 DCDEE Program Supports

	Aware of Program Support	Indicated Support was “Helpful”	Indicated Support was “Most Helpful”
Payment of Parent Subsidy Co-Pays	94%	80%	8%
Payment for NC Pre-K Based on Allocations	53%	29%	3%
Bonus Payments to Teachers and Staff	95%	92%	17%
Operational Grants	96%	91%	44%
Stabilization Grants	98%	92%	58%
Subsidy Payments for Essential Workers	89%	71%	2%
Emergency School-Age Family Support	71%	44%	2%
Hope 4 Healers Helpline	65%	18%	<1%
All Programs Were “Most Helpful”	na	na	13%

Source: 2021-22 Provider Survey.

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Findings– Barriers and Support



- **Barriers** and **support** for infant & toddler care
- **Promising practices** across the state



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Barriers & Support

TABLE 21 Additional Comments About Expansion

Inability to Find Staff	43%
Licensing Issues	19%
Need More Funding	19%
Need Additional Space	7%
Building requirements/Zoning	5%
No Need for Additional Spaces	3%
Not Financially Worth It	3%
Need to Increase Subsidy Rates	2%

Source: 2021-22 Provider Survey.

**Interest In Expanding:
36% Probably/Definitely
20% Possibly**

TABLE 20 Interest in Expanding Infant-Toddler Care By Age

	Not At All Interested (1)	Probably Not Interested (2)	Possibly Interested (3)	Probably Interested (4)	Definitely Interested (5)
Adding Infants	19%	5%	30%	9%	37%
Adding One Year Olds	13%	3%	28%	14%	43%
Adding Two Year Olds	8%	4%	30%	11%	47%

Source: 2021-22 Provider Survey.



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Barriers & Support

TABLE 22 COVID-Related Barriers to Infant and Toddler Care

<p>Mentioned Most Often</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff shortage/can't find reliable staff • Loss of connection/trust with parents due to social distancing • Difficult to understand and follow quarantine requirements
<p>Mentioned More Often</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infants and toddlers are incapable of social distancing • Loss of revenue during closures due to COVID cases • Health guidelines, sanitation requirements, and keeping up with the toolkit • Children born during COVID can have developmental delays and greater emotional needs
<p>Mentioned Often</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff burnout • Parent frustration and/or noncompliance with health guidelines and quarantine • Parent concerns about the spread of COVID • Parents changing their minds about enrolling their children • Supply chain issues • Reduced capacity due to COVID

Source: 2022 Provider Focus Groups.



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Promising Practices

- ▶ **Infant-Toddler Trauma-Informed Care (ITTI Care) Project**
 - ◆ Led by Duke Center for Child & Family Policy
 - ◆ Offers training, consultation and coaching at all levels of the early childhood education system including teachers and administrators
 - ◆ Seeks to expand and strengthen trauma-informed knowledge and practice, and promote culturally responsive, relationship-based practices in early childhood education settings
 - ◆ Visit <https://childandfamilypolicy.duke.edu/research-item/itti-care/> for more information



- ▶ **Parent Leadership Team**
 - ◆ Led by North Carolina Early Education Coalition
 - ◆ Comprised of parents from across the state who have accessed or are accessing Early Head Start or Head Start services, as well as parents who wanted to access Early Head Start or Head Start services, but could not
 - ◆ Utilizing families' lived experiences to develop short and long term policy recommendations to support the expansion of Early Head Start services statewide
 - ◆ Visit <https://nearlyeducationcoalition.org/about/> for more information



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Promising Practices

▶ **Early Head Start Expansion to Rockingham County**

- ◆ Led by Guilford Child Development
- ◆ Includes center-based preschool and home visiting that will serve children age birth to three
- ◆ Aims to provide access to early childhood services to underserved households and generate jobs for early education professionals
- ◆ Visit <https://www.guilfordchilddev.org/> for more information



▶ **Infant-Toddler Educator AWARDS®**

- ◆ Administered by Child Care Services Association
- ◆ Provides education-based salary supplements to eligible early educators working full-time with children age birth through two in any North Carolina county
- ◆ Seeks to increase the compensation and retention of well-educated infant-toddler teachers thus leading to higher quality care
- ◆ Visit <https://www.childcareservices.org/programs/awards/> for more information



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Conclusion



ACCESSIBILITY
Supply of infant and toddler care and parental choice of type of care is not keeping pace with the need.

QUALITY OF CARE
Despite the pandemic, the percentage of high quality programs serving infants & toddlers has remained fairly consistent, though the numbers have declined

AFFORDABILITY
Infant exceeds \$1,000/month in 28% of centers/homes
Subsidy wait list (29,000 pre/15,000 "late" pandemic)

EXPANSION AND PROMISING PRACTICES
DCDEE supports instrumental in maintaining programs
Expansion difficult w/out more help-staffing & funding

DISPARITY ACROSS NORTH CAROLINA
Large disparities across the state in availability, accessibility and quality of care for young children as well as rebounding from the pandemic.

Recommendations

1. Raise the **Federal Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit** to better reflect the high cost of high quality care and reinstate the **NC Earned Income Tax Credit**

2. Raise **subsidy reimbursement rates** for infants and toddlers

3. Create separate **waiting list** for subsidy care and serve children proportionately in each age group

4. Assure **curricula in higher education** focus on the unique needs of infants and toddlers

5. Increase **wages** for those teaching infants and toddlers

Support families

(e.g., cost of care, subsidy care)

Support programs

(e.g. education, wages, family child care providers)



Recommendations (continued)

6. Funds to **expand high quality care**
7. Continue to fund and look to expand **promising practices**
8. Continue and expand **Babies First NC** coaching initiatives
9. Support **family child care providers** and the important service they provide to families
10. **“Post” pandemic** study to examine how our state continues to rebuild the child care infrastructure

Support families

(e.g., cost of care, subsidy care)

Support programs

(e.g. education, wages, family child care providers)



Check out the statewide and county specific reports at:

<https://www.childcareservices.org/research/ece-studies/infant-toddler-child-care-landscape-study-2022/>



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Questions?



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Be a Big Voice for Babies!

The Power of Advocacy

- Elected officials want to represent the best interests of their constituents who live in their counties and districts.
- Help your own state legislator understand the issues and what is happening in your own community.
- Don't assume they know – they don't unless you tell them.
- Educate and activate!
- Visit www.ThinkBabies.org to sign up for our Action Center and find Think Babies™ NC advocacy resources



Strolling Thunder Advocacy Day – June 9th!



**No more baby talk.
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**Thursday, June 9th
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Register now:
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Thank you!



www.ThinkBabiesNC.org

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