

CRÈCHES IN 2019

The number of detached crèches and groups in kindergartens functioning in the country as of 31.12.2019 was 835 with 33 764 places in them (Table 1). The number of places in the country has increased with 538, or with 1.6% compared to the previous year.

There were 718 crèches in urban areas with 31 409 places and 117 crèches with 2 355 places in rural areas respectively.

The total number of places in crèches as of 31.12.2019 was 17.9 per 100 children aged up to 3 years. The highest values were registered in districts Gabrovo (26.3 per 100 children), Blagoevgrad (23.4 per 100 children) and Vratsa (22.6 per 100 children).

1. Crèches and places in crèches

(Number)

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Establishments	770	794	812	829	837	840	835
Places - total	30120	30524	32040	32611	32970	33226	33764
In detached crèches	14021	13707	13511	13919	13837	14120	14846
In groups in kindergartens	16099	16817	18529	18692	19133	19106	18918
Number of places per 100 children aged up to 3 years	15.0	15.3	16.2	16.5	16.9	17.3	17.9
Coverage of children per 100 children aged up to 3 years	15.6	15.8	16.2	16.4	16.6	16.6	17.1

The number of children new entrants in detached crèches and groups in kindergartens in 2019 was 30 241. 32 185 children were accommodated there at the end of the year (Table 2). 16 677 of them were boys, and - 15 508 girls.

2. Children in crèches as of 31.12.

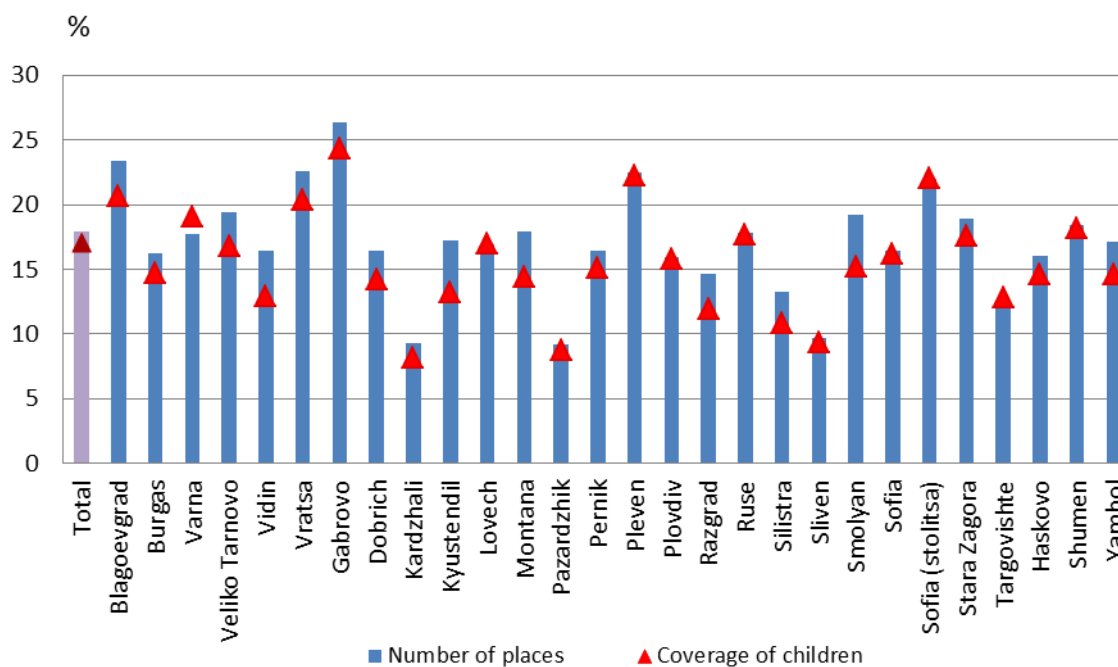
(Number)

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Total	31199	31489	32124	32476	32429	31939	32185
Boys	16122	16167	16497	16851	16738	16449	16677
Girls	15077	15322	15627	15625	15691	15490	15508

The distribution of children raised in crèches by age remains without changes in 2019. The highest was the share of children aged 2 years - 80.9%, the smallest was the share of children aged up to 1 year - 0.02%.

The coverage¹ of children brought up in crèches at the end of 2019 was 17.1%. The highest is the indicator for districts Gabrovo (24.3%), Pleven (22.2%) and Sofia (stolitsa) (22.0%) (Figure 1).

Figure 1. Number of places and coverage of children brought up in detached crèches and groups in kindergartens per 100 children aged up to 3 years as of 31.12.2019 by district



7 722 medical and non-medical specialists were working on a basic labour contract in crèches at the end of 2019 in order to raise, educate and train the children. The number of medical specialists on Health care was 3 658, as 93.2% of them were nurses (Table 3).

¹ The indicator was expressed by ratio of the number of children aged up to 3 years brought up in detached crèches and groups in kindergartens per 100 of children of the same age group of the total population.

3. Medical specialists on Health care and non-medical personnel in crèches as of 31.12.

(Number)

Year	Medical specialists on Health care			Other non-medical personnel
	Total	Of which:		
		Nurses	Midwives	
2013	3811	3643	138	3311
2014	3863	3691	129	3398
2015	3850	3615	132	3718
2016	3802	3564	156	3788
2017	3761	3558	142	3916
2018	3787	3557	140	4002
2019	3658	3408	160	4060

Methodological notes

The survey 'Crèches' is an exhaustive survey carried out by the National Statistical Institute annually. Detached crèches as well as groups in kindergartens are covered.

Sources of data are detached crèches and groups in kindergartens. Data on personnel, places in crèches and number of children as well as their distribution by age are collected.

Crèches are set up to support families in raising children up to the age of three years and to ensure their normal physical and mental development in accordance with the Law on Health and Ordinance No. 26/18.11.2008 of the Minister of Health. Crèches are organizationally distinct structures, where medical and other specialists raise, educate and train children aged from three months to three years.

Groups for children aged between 3 months and 3 years could be opened at daily and weekly kindergartens as the organization of work there do not differ from the work of detached crèches.

Additional statistical information and data from the Survey on crèches are available in IS Infostat (https://infostat.nsi.bg/infostat/pages/module.jsf?x_2=60) as well as on the NSI's website (www.nsi.bg), section 'Health'.