



CRÈCHES IN 2016

The number of detached crèches and groups in kindergartens functioning in the country as of 31.12.2016 was 829 with 32 611 places in them (Table 1). The emerging in recent years tendency of increasing both the number of establishments and the places in them was continuing. The number of places in the country has increased with 571, or with 1.8% compared to the previous year.

There were 703 crèches in urban areas with 30 264 places and 126 crèches with 2 347 places in rural areas respectively.

The total number of places in crèches as of 31.12.2016 was 16.5 per 100 children aged up to 3 years. The highest values were registered in districts Gabrovo (25.7 per 100 children), Blagoevgrad (23.8 per 100 children) and Lovech (21.1 per 100 children).

1. Crèches and places in crèches

(Number)

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Establishments	731	753	754	770	794	812	829
Places - total	28139	29612	29601	30120	30524	32040	32611
In detached crèches	13658	13972	13687	14021	13707	13511	13919
In groups in kindergartens	14481	15640	15914	16099	16817	18529	18692

The number of children new entrants in detached crèches and groups in kindergartens in 2016 was 30 486 or 910 children more than the children new entrants in 2015. 32 476 children were accommodated there at the end of the year (Table 2). 16 851 of them were boys, and - 15 625 girls. In comparison with 2015 the number of children accommodated in crèches has increased by 1.1%.

2. Children in crèches as of 31.12.

(Number)

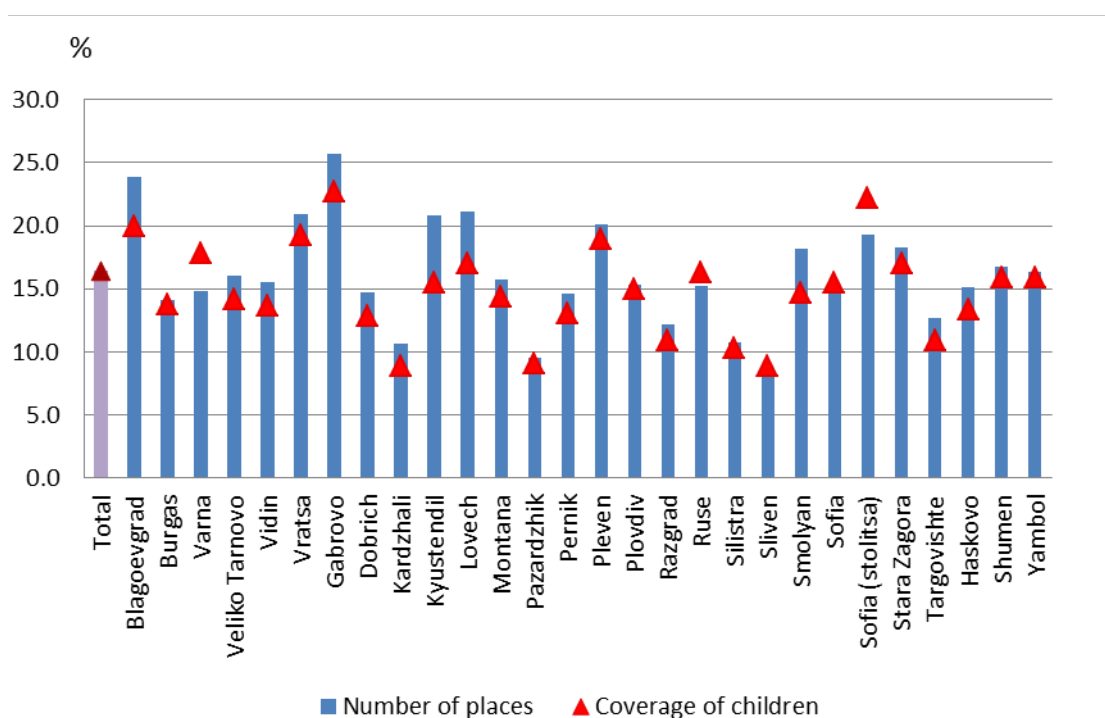
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Total	29507	31611	31474	31199	31489	32124	32476
Boys	15302	16293	16273	16122	16167	16497	16851
Girls	14205	15318	15201	15077	15322	15627	15625

The distribution of children raised in crèches by age remains without changes in 2016. The highest was the share of children aged 2 years - 80.3%, the smallest was the share of children aged up to 1 year - 0.1%.



The coverage¹ of children brought up in crèches at the end of 2016 was 16.4%, as it has increased by 0.2 percentage points compared to previous year. The highest is the indicator for districts Gabrovo (22.8%), Sofia (stolitsa) (22.2%) and Blagoevgrad (20.0%). (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 31.12.2016 by district



7 595 medical and non-medical specialists were working on a basic labour contract in crèches at the end of 2016 in order to raise, educate and train the children. The number of medical specialists on Health care was 3 802, as 93.7% of them were nurses (3 564) (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 cares			Other non-medical personnel
	Total	Of which:		
		Nurses	Midwives	
2010	3783	3654	100	3121
2011	3838	3692	114	3215
2012	3803	3652	123	3274
2013	3811	3643	138	3311
2014	3863	3691	129	3398
2015	3850	3615	132	3718
2016	3802	3564	156	3788



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'.