



## CRÈCHES IN 2017

The number of detached crèches and groups in kindergartens functioning in the country as of 31.12.2017 was 837 with 32 970 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.

There were 715 crèches in urban areas with 30 653 places and 122 crèches with 2 317 places in rural areas respectively.

The total number of places in crèches as of 31.12.2017 was 16.9 per 100 children aged up to 3 years. The highest values were registered in districts Gabrovo (24.8 per 100 children), Blagoevgrad (23.1 per 100 children) and Sofia (stolitsa) (21.3 per 100 children).

### 1. Crèches and places in crèches

	(Number)						
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
<b>Establishments</b>	<b>753</b>	<b>754</b>	<b>770</b>	<b>794</b>	<b>812</b>	<b>829</b>	<b>837</b>
<b>Places - total</b>	<b>29612</b>	<b>29601</b>	<b>30120</b>	<b>30524</b>	<b>32040</b>	<b>32611</b>	<b>32970</b>
In detached crèches	13972	13687	14021	13707	13511	13919	13837
In groups in kindergartens	15640	15914	16099	16817	18529	18692	19133
<b>Number of places per 100 children aged up to 3 years</b>	<b>14.2</b>	<b>14.5</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>15.3</b>	<b>16.2</b>	<b>16.5</b>	<b>16.9</b>
<b>Coverage of children per 100 children aged up to 3 years</b>	<b>15.2</b>	<b>15.5</b>	<b>15.6</b>	<b>15.8</b>	<b>16.2</b>	<b>16.4</b>	<b>16.6</b>

The number of children new entrants in detached crèches and groups in kindergartens in 2017 was 30 490. 32 429 children were accommodated there at the end of the year (Table 2). 16 738 of them were boys, and - 15 691 girls.

### 2. Children in crèches as of 31.12.

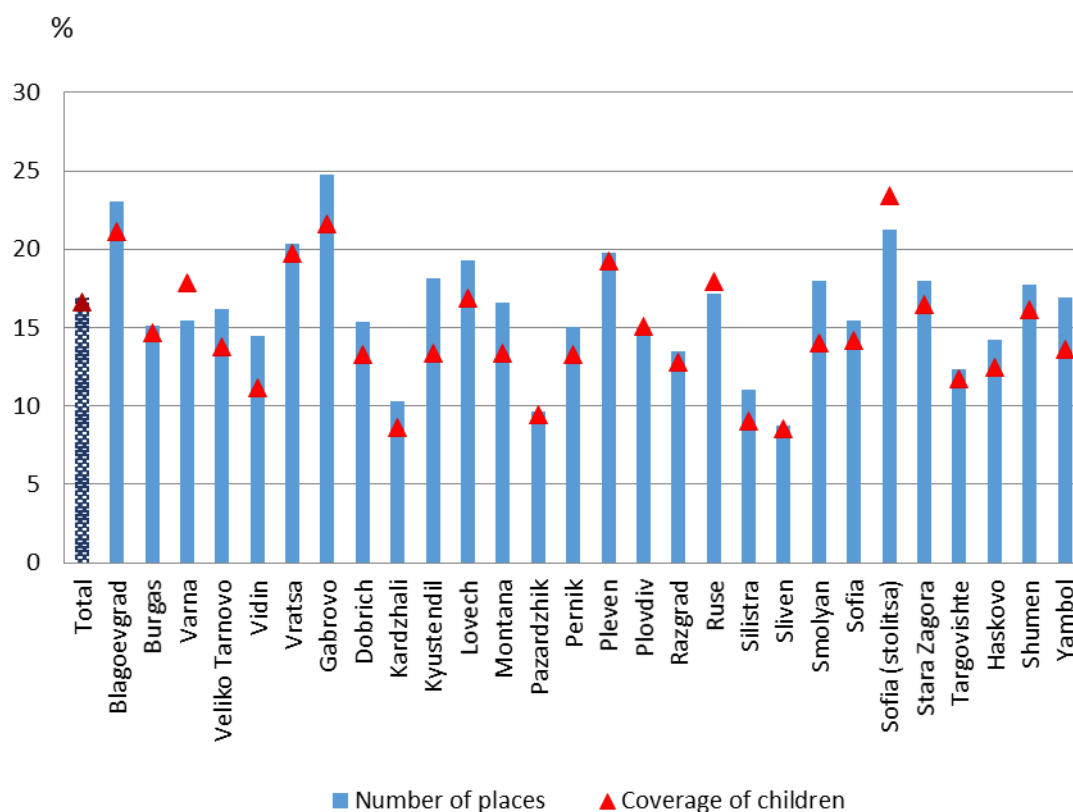
	(Number)						
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
<b>Total</b>	<b>31611</b>	<b>31474</b>	<b>31199</b>	<b>31489</b>	<b>32124</b>	<b>32476</b>	<b>32429</b>
Boys	16293	16273	16122	16167	16497	16851	16738
Girls	15318	15201	15077	15322	15627	15625	15691



The distribution of children raised in crèches by age remains without changes in 2017. The highest was the share of children aged 2 years - 81.3%, the smallest was the share of children aged up to 1 year - 0.1%.

The coverage<sup>1</sup> of children brought up in crèches at the end of 2017 was 16.6%, as it has increased by 0.2 percentage points compared to previous year. The highest is the indicator for districts Sofia (stolitsa) (23.4%), Gabrovo (21.7%) and Blagoevgrad (21.2%) (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 31.12.2017 by district**



<sup>1</sup> 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.



7 687 medical and non-medical specialists were working on a basic labour contract in crèches at the end of 2017 in order to raise, educate and train the children. The number of medical specialists on Health care was 3 761, as 94.6% of them were nurses (Table 3).

### 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	
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
2017	3761	3558	142	3916



## 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](https://infostat.nsi.bg/infostat/pages/module.jsf?x_2=60)) as well as on the NSI's website ([www.nsi.bg](http://www.nsi.bg)), section 'Health'.