

CRÈCHES IN 2020

The number of detached crèches and groups in kindergartens functioning in the country as of 31.12.2020 was 838 with 32 575 places in them (Table 1). The number of places in the country has decreased by 1 189, or by 3.5% compared to the previous year.

There were 722 crèches in urban areas with 30 281 places and 116 crèches with 2 294 places in rural areas respectively. Compared to the previous year, the places in crèches in the urban areas decreased by 3.6%, and those in the rural ones - by 2.6%.

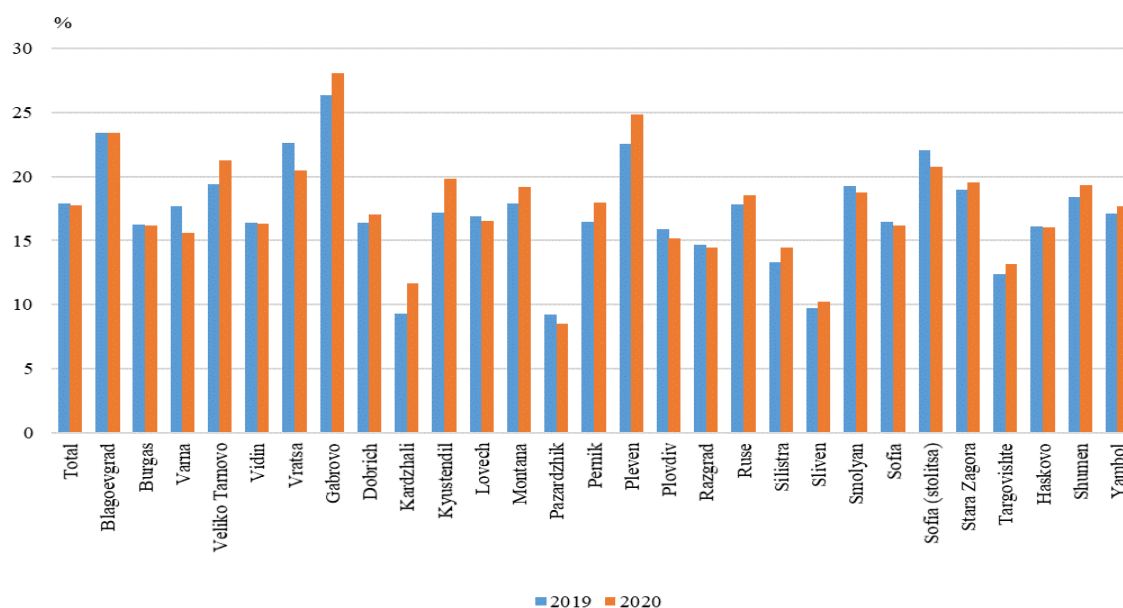
1. Crèches and places in crèches

(Number)

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Establishments	812	829	837	840	835	838
Places - total	32040	32611	32970	33226	33764	32575
In detached crèches	13511	13919	13837	14120	14846	14196
In groups in kindergartens	18529	18692	19133	19106	18918	18379
Number of places per 100 children aged up to 3 years	16.2	16.5	16.9	17.3	17.9	17.7

Despite the decrease of the number of places in crèches, the indicator number of places per 100 children aged up to 3 years was changed insignificantly. As of 31.12.2020 its value was 17.7%, as compared to 2019 it decreased by 0.2 percentage points (Figure 1).

Figure 1. Number of places in crèches per 100 children aged up to 3 years



The regional data showed that the indicator remained unchanged or increased due to the smaller number of children aged up to three years in 17 of the districts in the country. The highest values were registered in districts Gabrovo (28.0 per 100 children), Pleven (24.8 per 100 children) and Blagoevgrad (23.4 per 100 children) and the lowest values were registered in districts Pazardzhik (8.5 per 100 children) and Sliven (10.2 per 100 children).

In 2020, 25 715 children were admitted to crèches, which is 4 526, or 15.0% less than in the previous year (Table 2).

29 238 children were accommodated there at the end of the year. 15 169 of them were boys, and 14 069 - girls. Compared to 2019, at the end of the year the number of children in crèches decreased by 2 947, or by 9.2%. The main reason for this was the complicated epidemic situation in the country, as a result of which parents postponed the admission of children to crèches.

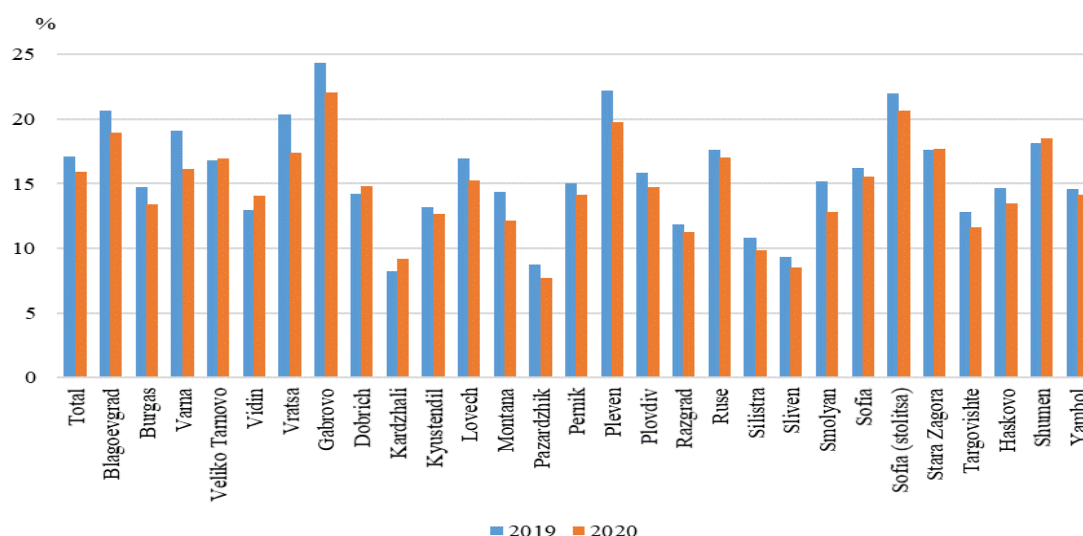
2. Children in crèches

(Number)

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Entrants during the years	29576	30 486	30 490	29 449	30 241	25715
Children as of 31.12	32124	32476	32429	31939	32185	29238
Boys	16497	16851	16738	16449	16677	15169
Girls	15627	15625	15691	15490	15508	14069

The coverage¹ of children brought up in crèches at the end of 2020 was 15.9%. In comparison with 2019 the indicator decreased by 1.2 percentage points. The highest was the indicator for districts Gabrovo (22.1%), Sofia (stolitsa) (20.6%) and Pleven (19.8%) (Figure 2).

Figure 2. Coverage of children brought up in crèches per 100 children aged up to 3 years



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.

The distribution of children raised in crèches by age remains without changes in 2020. The highest was the share of children aged 2 years - 81.6%, the smallest was the share of children aged up to 1 year - 0.1%.

7 681 medical and non-medical specialists were working on a basic labour contract in crèches at the end of 2020 in order to raise, educate and train the children. The number of medical specialists on Health care was 3 668, as 93.6% 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	
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
2020	3668	3433	158	4008

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'.