

CRÈCHES IN 2021

The number of detached crèches and groups in kindergartens functioning in the country as of 31.12.2021 was 833, with 32 856 places in them (Table 1). The number of places in the country has increased by 281, or by 0.9%, compared to the previous year.

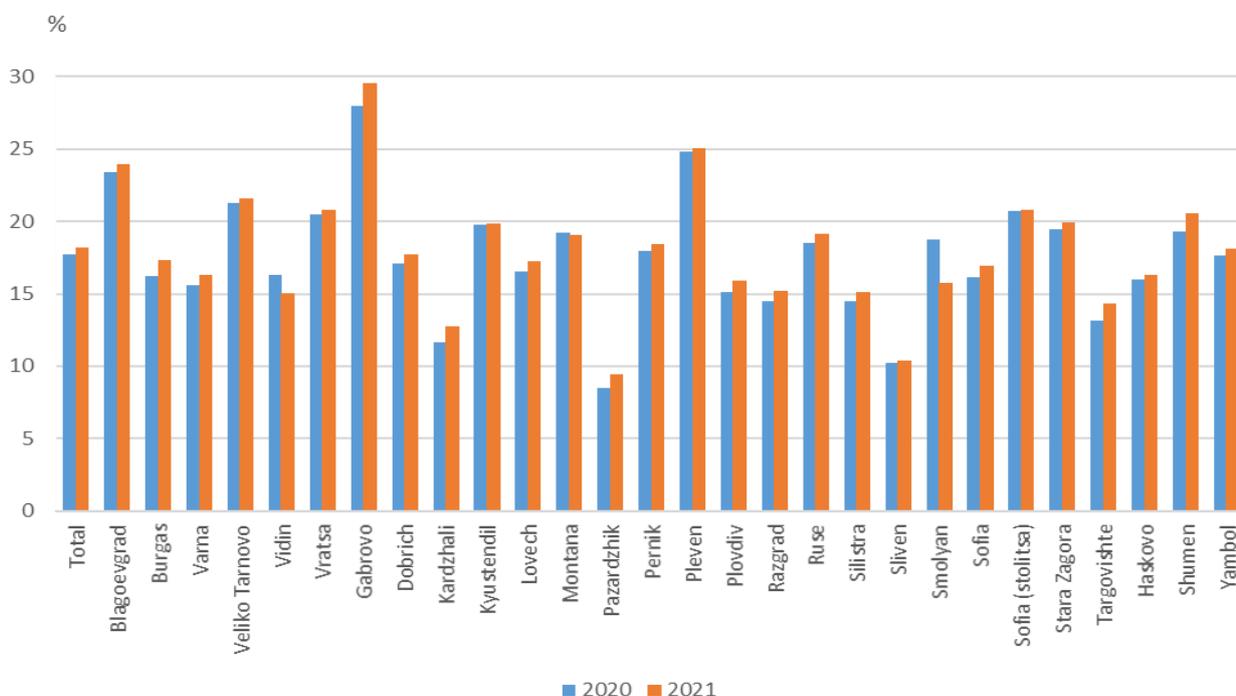
There were 724 crèches in urban areas with 30 667 places and 109 crèches with 2 189 places in rural areas, respectively. Compared to the previous year, the number of places in crèches in urban areas increased by 1.3%, and those in rural areas decreased by 4.6%.

1. Crèches and places in crèches

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Establishments	829	837	840	835	838	833
Places - total	32611	32970	33226	33764	32575	32856
In detached crèches	13919	13837	14120	14846	14196	14370
In groups in kindergartens	18692	19133	19106	18918	18379	18486
Number of places per 100 children aged up to 3 years	16.5	16.9	17.3	17.9	17.7	18.2

Despite the decrease in the number of places in crèches, the indicator number of places per 100 children aged up to 3 years has changed insignificantly. As of 31.12.2021, its value was 18.2%, and compared to 2020, it increased by 0.5 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 increased in almost all of the districts in the country, and only in 3 districts decreased (Vidin, Montana and Smolyan). The highest values were registered in the districts of Gabrovo (29.5 per 100 children), Pleven (25.1 per 100 children) and Blagoevgrad (23.9 per 100 children), and the lowest values were registered in the districts of Pazardzhik (9.5 per 100 children) and Sliven (10.4 per 100 children). In Sofia (stolitsa), the indicator remains almost unchanged. In comparison with 2020, the indicator increased by 0.1 percentage points.

In 2021, 27 953 children were admitted to crèches, which is 2 238 (8.7%) more than in the previous year (Table 2).

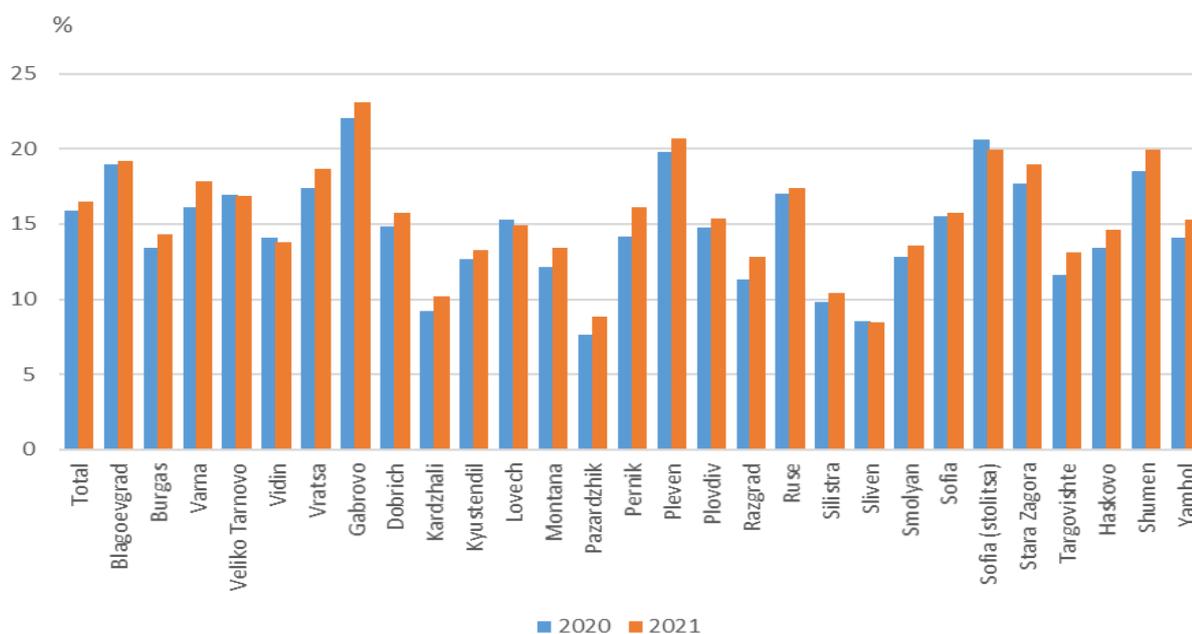
29 724 children were accommodated there at the end of the year. 15 347 of them were boys, and 14 377 - girls. Compared to 2020, at the end of the year, the number of children in crèches increased by 486, or by 1.7%.

2. Children in crèches

	(Number)					
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Entrants during the years	30486	30490	29449	30241	25715	27953
Children as of 31.12	32476	32429	31939	32185	29238	29724
Boys	16851	16738	16449	16677	15169	15347
Girls	15625	15691	15490	15508	14069	14377

The coverage¹ of children brought up in crèches at the end of 2021 was 16.5%. In comparison with 2020, the indicator increased by 0.6 percentage points. The highest was the indicator for the districts of Gabrovo (23.1%), Pleven (20.7%) and Shumen (20.0%) (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 the ratio of the number of children aged up to 3 years brought up in detached crèches and groups in kindergartens per 100 children of the same age group in the total population.



The distribution of children raised in crèches by age remains unchanged in 2021. The highest was the share of children aged 2 years - 81.7%, the smallest was the share of children aged up to 1 year - 0.1%.

7 769 medical and non-medical specialists were working on a basic labour contract in crèches at the end of 2021 in order to raise, educate and train the children. The number of medical specialists in health care was 3 651, as 93.2% of them were nurses (Table 3).

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

(Number)

Year	Medical specialists in 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
2021	3651	3403	181	4113



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.

The sources of data are detached crèches and groups in kindergartens. Data on personnel, places in crèches and the 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 does 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'.