



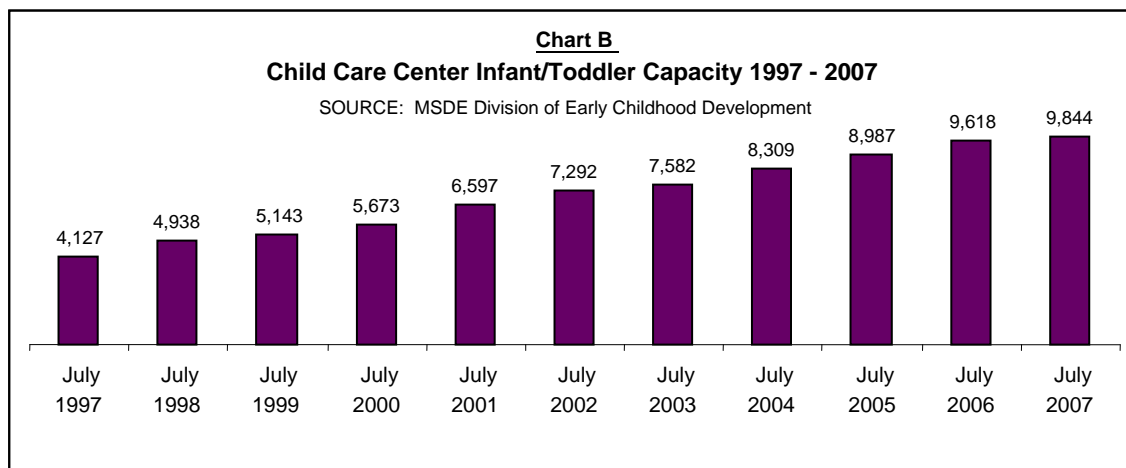
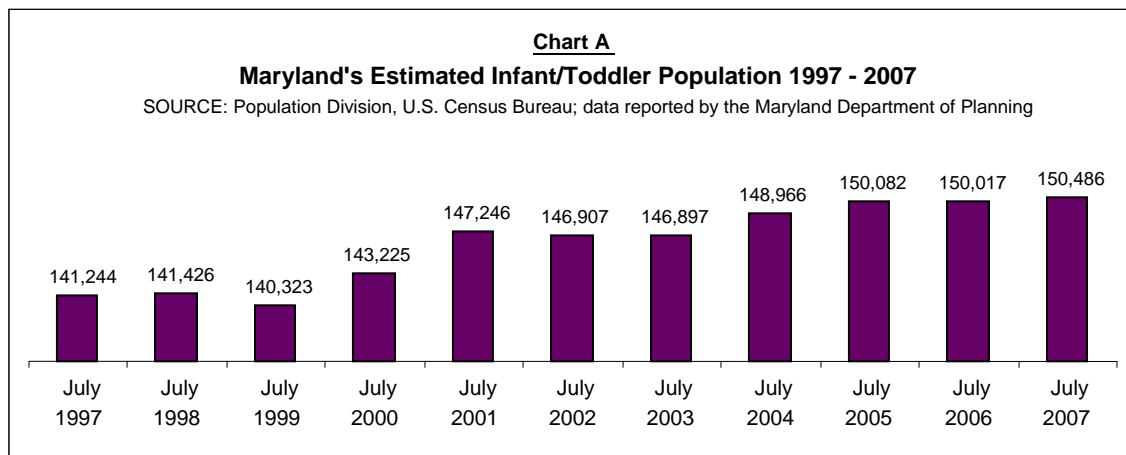
Maryland State Department of Education
Division of Early Childhood Development

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION IN MARYLAND

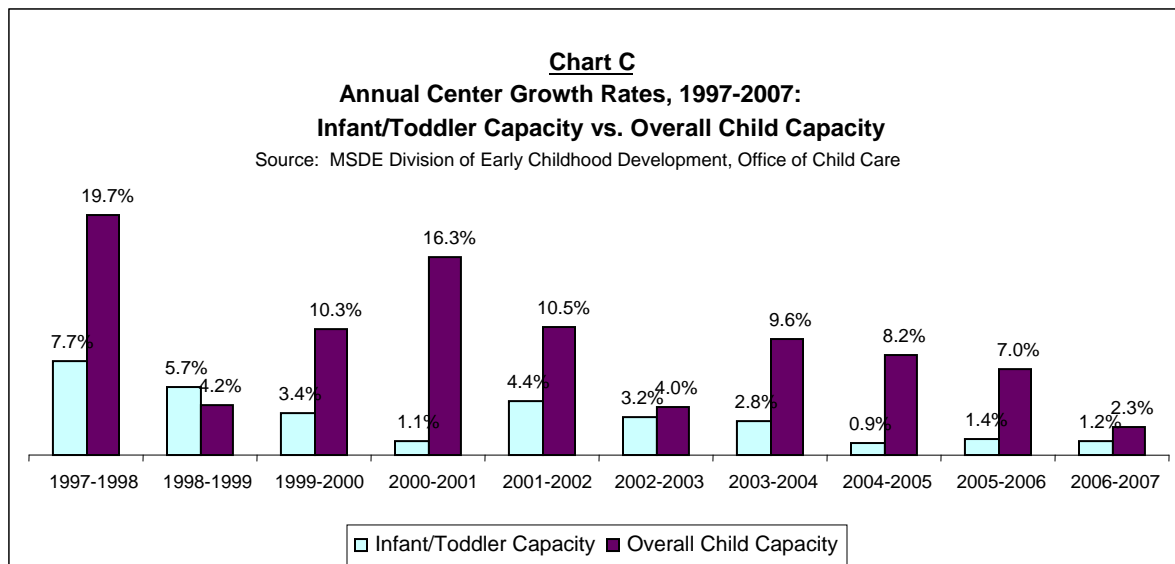
Fact Sheet 07-01 (September 2007)

Availability of Infant/Toddler Care in Maryland: Child Care Centers

- Under Maryland’s licensing regulations for child care centers, infants are defined as children aged 6 weeks through 17 months old, and toddlers are defined as children aged 18 through 23 months old.
- During the period July 1997 – July 2007, the estimated annual number of infants and toddlers in Maryland grew from 141,244 to 150,486, which is an increase of 6.5% (see [Chart A](#) below). At the same time, the capacity of child care to provide service to infants and toddlers grew from 4,127 to 9,844, which is an increase of 141.9% (see [Chart B](#) below).



- During the same 10-year period, the number of licensed child care centers in Maryland grew from 2,117 to 2,705, an increase of 27.7%. As a result of this increase, the overall child capacity in licensed centers grew from 109,998 to 149,946 (an increase of 36.3%). As noted above, the specific capacity for infants and toddlers more than doubled, rising from 4,127 to 9,844. [Chart C](#) below compares the annual rate of growth of infant/toddler capacity with the annual rate of growth in overall child capacity.



- In July 1997, the infant/toddler capacity of centers (4,127) represented 2.9% of Maryland's estimated infant/toddler population (141,244). In July 2007, the infant/toddler capacity of centers (9,844) represented 6.5% of Maryland's estimated infant/toddler population (150,486). [Chart D](#) below compares the rate of change in infant/toddler capacity in centers with the rate of change in Maryland's infant/toddler population during the 10-year period.

