



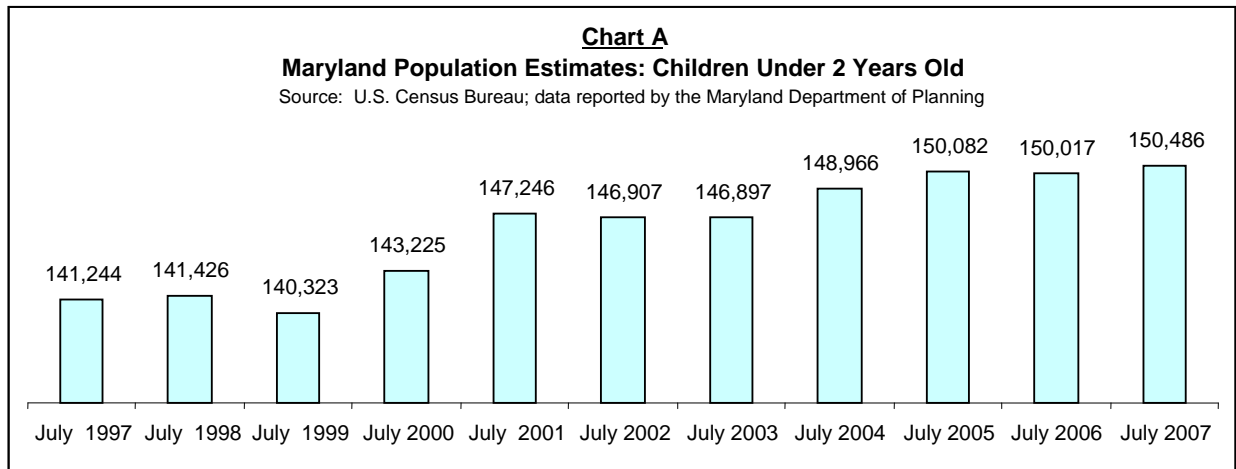
Maryland State Department of Education
Division of Early Childhood Development

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION IN MARYLAND

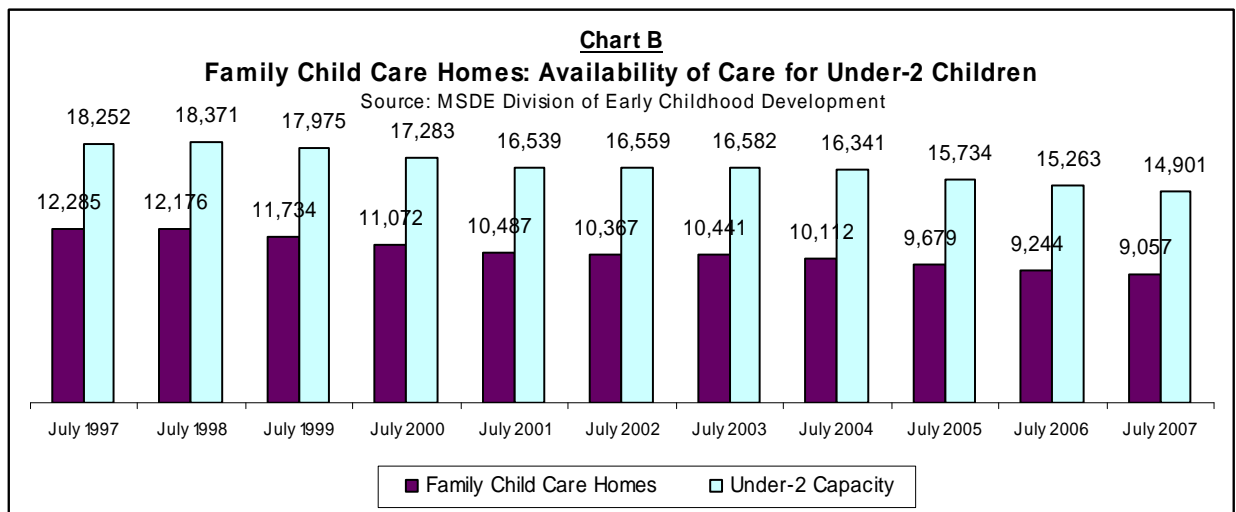
Fact Sheet 07-02 (September 2007)

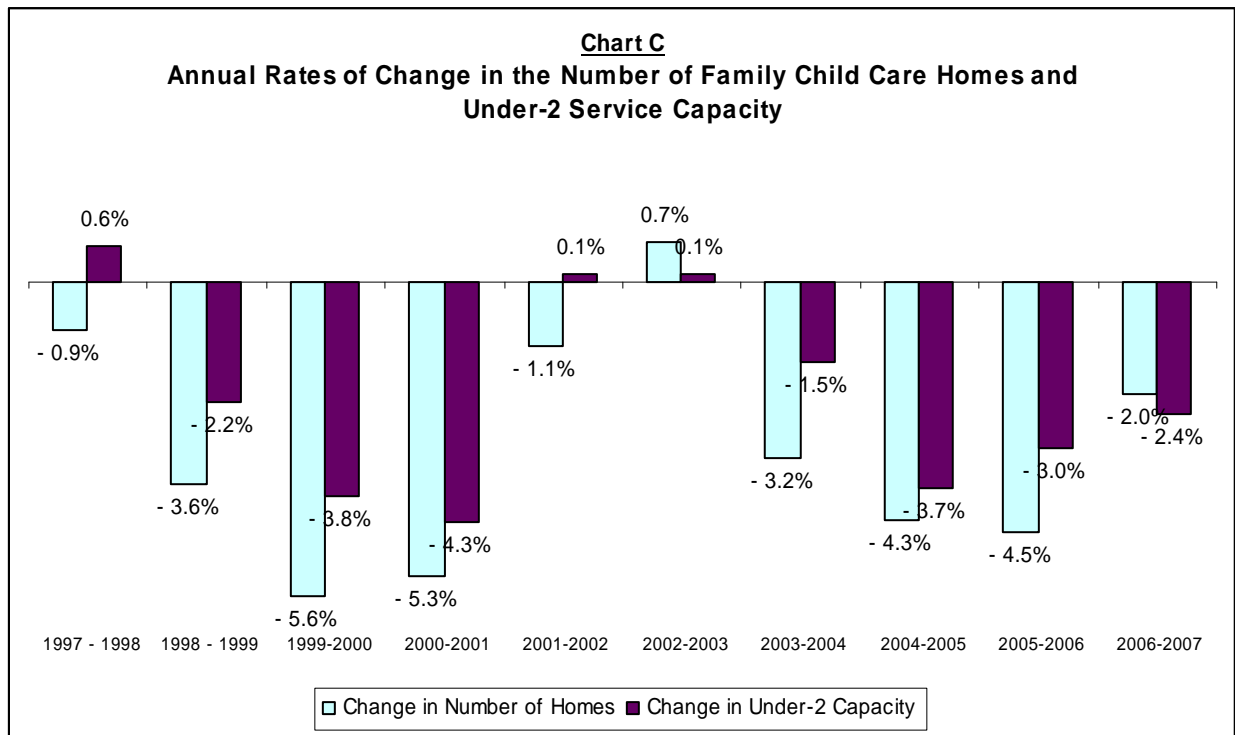
Availability of Care for Children Under 2 Years Old: Family Child Care Homes

- Under Maryland’s family child care licensing regulations, infants and toddlers are not defined as separate age groups as they are under child care center regulations. Instead, they are classified together as “children under 2 years old.” Typically, a home may provide care for no more than two children under 2 years old.
- During the period July 1997 – July 2007, the estimated annual number of children under 2 years old in Maryland grew from 141,244 to 150,486, which is an increase of 6.5% (see Chart A below).

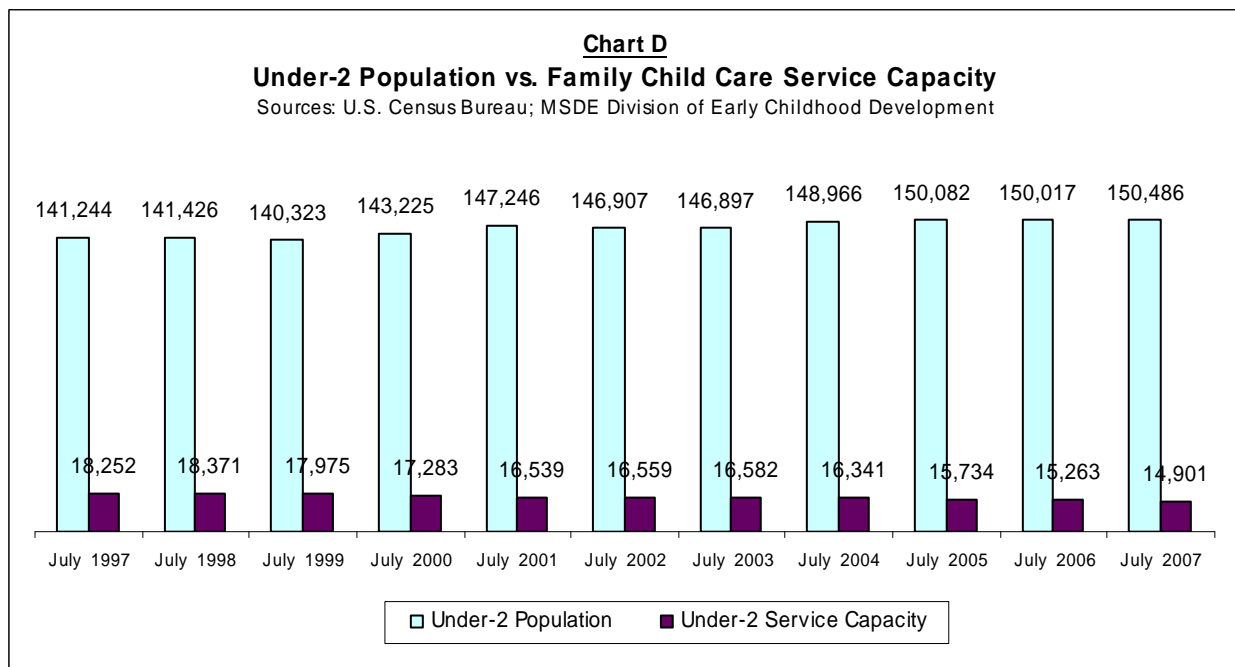


- During the 10-year period, the number of licensed family child care homes in Maryland fell from 12,285 to 9,057, a decrease of 26.3%. As a result, the estimated capacity of homes to provide care to children under 2 years old went from 18,252 slots to 14,901 slots (a decrease of 18.3%). Chart B below shows the decline in the number of homes and service capacity for under-2 children. Chart C expresses the same decline in terms of year-over-year rates of change.





- In July 1997, the under-2 capacity of family child care homes (18,252) represented 12.9% of Maryland's estimated under-2 population (141,244). In July 2007, the under-2 capacity of homes (14,901) represented 10.5% of Maryland's estimated under-2 population (150,486). Chart D below compares the estimated number of under-2 children in Maryland during the 10-year period with the estimated number of slots available in family child care homes for the care of under-2 children.



Many other states have reported a similar decline in the number of licensed family child care homes during the past decade. According to a 2006 survey conducted by the Maryland Committee for Children, Inc., the top 5 reasons for the decline in Maryland are: change of residence (15%); retirement or "burnout" (13%); different employment interests; lack of profitability (10%); and regulatory demands (5%).