

# Older moms spur mini baby boom [CA]<sup>[1]</sup>

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## AVAILABILITY

See text below.

## EXCERPTS

Older moms delivered a slight baby boom in 2007, a statistical jump that will continue to fray the national patchwork of child-care services, advocates warn.

Statistics Canada reported Tuesday that 367,864 babies were born that year - 13,247 or 3.7 per cent more than in 2006.

The number of births rose in all age groups, particularly among mothers aged 30 to 34, and in every province and territory except Prince Edward Island and Yukon.

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Improved maternity and parental benefits allowing eligible parents to stay home for about a year have helped families, said Jody Dallaire of the Child Care Advocacy Association of Canada.

But the vast majority of parents want or need to return to full-time work once that cash dries up, she said. And they often face intense stress finding safe, reliable child care that is also affordable.

"It's going to be tough for those families to balance their life and work responsibilities," Dallaire said.

It's not unusual for unsubsidized child care to cost about \$1,200 a month - if you can find it.

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Just as more babies were born in 2007, federal funding for new child-care spaces was shrinking.

A report last week cited a drop in total federal transfers for regulated child care to \$600 million in 2007-08 compared to \$950 million the year before and \$725 million in 2005-06.

Co-author Martha Friendly, an early learning researcher who tracks provincial services, said 77 per cent mothers of children aged three to five were in the labour force in 2007. But there were only enough regulated spaces for 20 per cent of kids up to the age of five.

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- reprinted from Canadian Press

**Region:** Canada<sup>[2]</sup>

**Tags:** demographics<sup>[3]</sup>

mother's labour force participation<sup>[4]</sup>

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