

# Alameda County

With some of the fastest-growing cities in the Bay Area, Alameda County is ethnically and economically diverse, with the majority of jobs in technology, manufacturing, and a large services sector. Despite the high number of working parents who need child care, some centers have closed because of rising rents and competition for a shrinking pool of qualified providers. People decide not to enter the child care profession because the pay is low and the job rarely offers benefits. "There aren't enough new people coming into the field to replace those who are retiring," says a counselor at one of three local resource and referral (R&R) agencies in Alameda County.

Partially filling the demand unmet by centers, the number of slots in family child care homes has grown significantly in recent years in some parts of the county, but the cost of doing business has prompted many providers to raise their rates. Many low-income families turn to relatives or friends to watch their children. For parents with few options, these informal arrangements are critical to their ability to work because they are often very flexible.

## Incentives build the child care supply

To improve the quality of care and offer providers incentives to stay in the field, each of the three R&Rs, in collaboration with the county Children and Families Commission and local community colleges, has hired a career advocate to help providers connect with opportunities to increase their skills and education. The county's Child Development Corps program provides stipends for caregivers who get additional training, which has boosted attendance at R&R workshops and in child development classes. It is hoped that these efforts will increase the number of providers willing to stay in the field and improve the quality of care overall.

## Services in multiple languages increase

But more needs to be done to assist parents in finding child care. This is particularly true for a growing number of families who have recently immigrated to the U.S. from other countries and settled in Alameda County. In Oakland, Bananas provides services in 12 languages and offers an English as a Second Language class that uses child development concepts to teach language skills to licensed providers and those seeking to become licensed. 4C's of Alameda County provides materials in Spanish, Chinese, and Farsi, as well as English.

*"My boss wants to promote me, but if that happened I'd have to be more flexible about working evenings. With kids, it's just too hard."*

—Rosa, single mother of five

## The People

|  |                  |
|--|------------------|
| <b>Total number of residents in the county</b>                   | <b>1,443,741</b> |
| % change in population 1990-2000                                 | 13%              |
| Total number of children under 14                                | 281,523          |
| Total number of children under 18                                | 354,572          |
| % of children ages 0-17 living in poverty <sup>1</sup>           | 18% 62,405       |
| Total number of children ages 6-13                               | 162,399          |
| Total number of children ages 0-5                                | 119,124          |
| % of children ages 0-5 living in poverty <sup>1</sup>            | 18% 21,800       |
| Families with children 0-5, headed by single parent <sup>2</sup> | 22%              |

Alameda has the 43rd highest rate of child poverty among California's 58 counties.

## Children of Working Parents<sup>3</sup>

|   |             |
|---|-------------|
| Children living with working parents <sup>4</sup> |             |
| % of children ages 0-13                           | 59% 167,353 |
| % of children ages 6-13                           | 64% 103,292 |
| % of children ages 0-5                            | 54% 64,061  |

## Child Care Costs, Family Income, and Child Care Salaries

|  |          |
|--|----------|
| Average annual cost of full-time, licensed care in a center, for an infant up to 24 months | \$9,501  |
| Annual minimum wage of full-time worker  | \$11,960 |
| Care for an infant as % of minimum wage  | 79%      |
| Median annual household income in the county   | \$50,196 |
| Care for an infant as % of median income   | 19%      |
| Care for two children as % of median income <sup>5</sup>                                   | 33%      |
| Self sufficiency family income <sup>6</sup>  | \$52,328 |
| Fair market rent for a two-bedroom unit  | \$11,052 |
| Salary of child care worker <sup>7</sup>   | \$17,420 |
| Salary of preschool teacher <sup>7</sup>   | \$21,130 |
| Salary of entry-level public school teacher <sup>7</sup>                                   | \$25,433 |

Excerpted from *The California Child Care Portfolio* ©2001 (permission to reproduce granted), available through your local R&R. For data source information, see the full edition of the *Portfolio*.

1. Percentage based on 1997 average poverty threshold for a family of four: \$16,050.

Numbers estimated for 2000 population. (2000 data not available by county, at publication.)

2. Includes male and female heads of households with own children.

3. Nationally, 51% of children 0-5 with working parents are estimated to be in child care.

4. Children living with two employed parents or an employed single head of household.

5. Full-time care at a licensed child care center for an infant (up to 24 months) and a child (age 2-5).

6. For two working adults, one infant (up to 24 months) and one child (age 2-5).

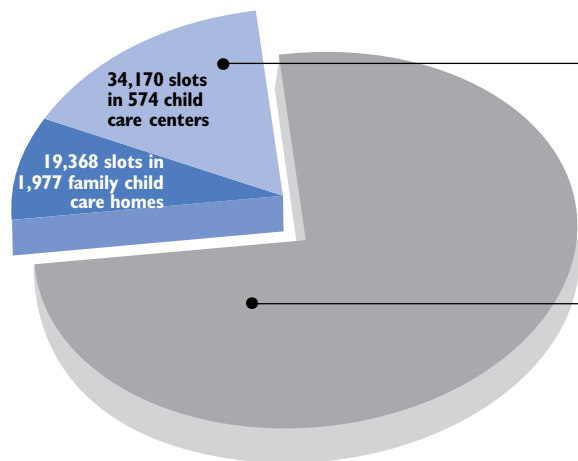
7. Statewide averages; public elementary school teacher salary based on school year.

## For more information about child care in Alameda County, call:

|                        |              |
|------------------------|--------------|
| Bananas                | 510-658-7353 |
| Child Care Links       | 925-417-8733 |
| 4C's of Alameda County | 510-582-2182 |

# Child Care Supply in Alameda County

Licensed child care still meets only a small fraction of the need in Alameda County.



Licensed Child Care Supply = 53,538 slots

64% of all slots are in child care centers

Up to 24 months 6% of center slots  
 Ages 2-5 61% of center slots  
 Ages 6 and over 33% of center slots

36% of all slots are in family child care homes<sup>8</sup>

Children Needing Child Care = 167,353

Children with working parents

Ages 0-5 64,061 children  
 Ages 6-13 103,292 children

Alameda County ranks 10th among California's 58 counties in its supply of licensed child care slots, as represented by this ratio.

Licensed child care supply meets only 32% of the estimated need for licensed care for children of all ages. There are 3.1 times more children, ages 0-13, with working parents than licensed child care slots.

## Child Care Requests to R&Rs<sup>9</sup>

### Type of care requested

|                            |              |
|----------------------------|--------------|
| Infant/toddler care        | 44% of calls |
| Preschool care             | 35% of calls |
| School-age care            | 21% of calls |
| Family child care homes    | 72% of calls |
| Child care centers         | 49% of calls |
| In-home care <sup>10</sup> | 11% of calls |

### Schedules requested

|                                   |     |
|-----------------------------------|-----|
| Full-time care                    | 63% |
| Part-time care                    | 38% |
| Before- and/or after-school care  | 14% |
| Full-time care, children ages 0-5 | 73% |
| Part-time care, children ages 0-5 | 28% |

Between 1998 and 2000, requests for infant/toddler care increased from 38 percent to 44 percent, while requests for preschool care decreased from 40 percent to 35 percent.

### Requests for care during non-traditional hours<sup>11</sup>

Evening, overnight, or weekend care 6%

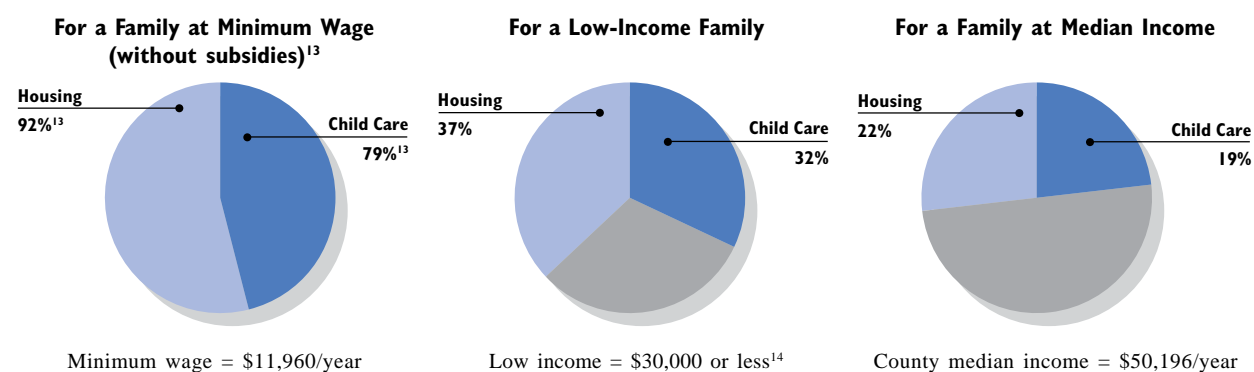
## Licensed Child Care Supply

| Facilities                      | 1998   | 2000   | Change |
|---------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|
| Child care centers              | 532    | 574    | 8%     |
| Slots for infants               | 1,764  | 1,914  | 9%     |
| Slots: ages 2-5                 | 19,553 | 20,877 | 7%     |
| Slots: ages 6 and over          | 10,588 | 11,379 | 7%     |
| Family child care homes         | 2,174  | 1,977  | -9%    |
| Slots for all ages <sup>8</sup> | 18,246 | 19,368 | 6%     |

### Schedules offered

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| Of all slots in licensed child care centers          |     |
| Full-time and part-time                              | 64% |
| Only full-time available                             | 9%  |
| Only part-time available                             | 27% |
| Of all slots in licensed family child care homes     |     |
| Full-time and part-time                              | 86% |
| Only full-time available                             | 11% |
| Only part-time available                             | 3%  |
| Centers with before-/after-school care <sup>12</sup> | 42% |
| Homes with before-/after-school care                 | 60% |
| Care available during non-traditional hours          |     |
| In licensed and license-exempt centers <sup>12</sup> | 1%  |
| In family child care homes                           | 26% |

## Portion of Income Needed to Pay for Basic Family Needs: Housing and One Infant in a Licensed Center



8. A breakdown of slots by age is not available, as family child care homes are licensed to care for children of all ages.  
 9. Percentage may total more or less than 100% because of rounding or because in some categories callers request more than one type of care. In some cases percentages could be less than 100% because not all types of care are noted in these data. (These requests would be noted as "other.") Also, since some parents find child care without using R&Rs, the calls recorded here do not necessarily represent total demand for child care, although they do reflect trends.  
 10. Care by a nanny or babysitter in the child's home. This, along with other forms of care, is referred to as license-exempt care.  
 11. Evening, overnight, or weekend care.  
 12. Some programs noted here are exempt from licensing requirements.  
 13. When the combined actual percentages for housing and child care costs are more than 100% of minimum wage, each is shown proportionately.  
 14. While "low income" is defined here as households earning less than \$30,000, eligibility for child care subsidies is based on 75% of the state median income level. In 2000, a family of three earning less than \$33,852 was eligible for a child care subsidy.

# Alpine County

Many of Alpine County's child care issues are the result of the area's small population – just over 1,200 people live in the county, according to the latest U.S. Census. Because the county's residents are spread among a handful of mountain communities, quality child care, especially infant care, is not accessible to everyone. "I know several parents who quit working because they can't find a decent place for their babies," says a staff member at Choices for Children, the local resource and referral (R&R) agency. "If these parents had a choice, they might not have quit."

## Informal arrangements are common

About one-fifth of Alpine County's population belongs to the Washoe Tribe. Washoe parents often rely on extended families to care for their children. While informal child care arrangements are common throughout the county, a recent survey of parents revealed that many would welcome more licensed care options, especially for infants and school-age children. Recruiting and retaining child care providers can present a challenge, though, as few communities in the county have enough children to fill a program and make it financially viable for a provider.

Local human services agencies have worked together to address the needs of families in the county. A new summer recreation program sponsored by the county Children and Families Commission has been popular with school-age children, and local officials are currently developing a strategic plan to promote infant care. Additionally, R&R staff provide child care information to parents at local health fairs and send out brochures about quality care to those who call for referrals.

To boost the supply of care, the R&R provides grants to pay start-up expenses for anyone opening a family child care home. There are several efforts underway in the county to improve the quality of care as well. The Provider Education and Resource Collaborative, a community partnership focused on quality child care, is expanding provider training and supporting a mentor program. New support from the county Children and Families Commission is also helping to fuel interest in improving the local child care system. "I feel very optimistic about care in the upcoming year," says a Choices for Children director. "There are additional resources in our community, and we're coming together in a collaborative way."

*"My husband works irregular hours, and I cut my hours back, so right now we 'tag team' child care. I won't be able to start a full-time job if I don't find child care."*

–Lauren, mother of three

## The People

|  |              |
|--|--------------|
| <b>Total number of residents in the county</b>                   | <b>1,208</b> |
| % change in population 1990-2000                                 | 9%           |
| Total number of children under 14                                | 193          |
| Total number of children under 18                                | 276          |
| % of children ages 0-17 living in poverty <sup>1</sup>           | 31% 84       |
| Total number of children ages 6-13                               | 119          |
| Total number of children ages 0-5                                | 74           |
| % of children ages 0-5 living in poverty <sup>1</sup>            | 23% 17       |
| Families with children 0-5, headed by single parent <sup>2</sup> | 42%          |

Alpine has the 35th highest rate of child poverty among California's 58 counties.

## Children of Working Parents<sup>3</sup>

|   |        |
|---|--------|
| Children living with working parents <sup>4</sup> |        |
| % of children ages 0-13                           | 46% 91 |
| % of children ages 6-13                           | 56% 67 |
| % of children ages 0-5                            | 32% 24 |

## Child Care Costs, Family Income, and Child Care Salaries

|  |          |
|--|----------|
| Average annual cost of full-time, licensed care in a center, for an infant up to 24 months | \$6,580  |
| Annual minimum wage of full-time worker  | \$11,960 |
| Care for an infant as % of minimum wage  | 55%      |
| Median annual household income in the county   | \$33,339 |
| Care for an infant as % of median income   | 20%      |
| Care for two children as % of median income <sup>5</sup>                                   | 35%      |
| Self sufficiency family income <sup>6</sup>  | \$40,330 |
| Fair market rent for a two-bedroom unit  | \$6,240  |
| Salary of child care worker <sup>7</sup>   | \$17,420 |
| Salary of preschool teacher <sup>7</sup>   | \$21,130 |
| Salary of entry-level public school teacher <sup>7</sup>                                   | \$25,433 |

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1. Percentage based on 1997 average poverty threshold for a family of four: \$16,050.

Numbers estimated for 2000 population. (2000 data not available by county, at publication.)

2. Includes male and female heads of households with own children.

3. Nationally, 51% of children 0-5 with working parents are estimated to be in child care.

4. Children living with two employed parents or an employed single head of household.

5. Full-time care at a licensed child care center for an infant (up to 24 months) and a child (age 2-5).

6. For two working adults, one infant (up to 24 months) and one child (age 2-5).

7. Statewide averages; public elementary school teacher salary based on school year.

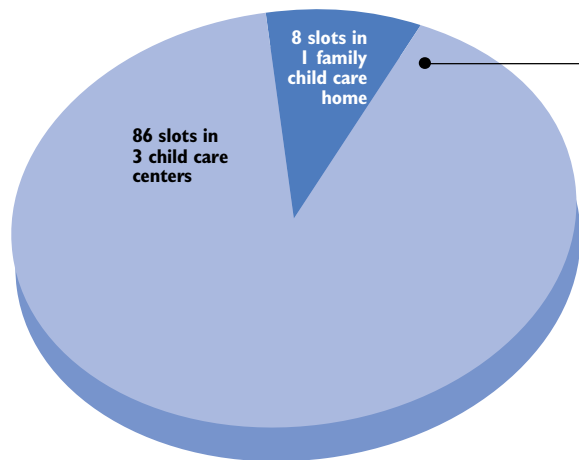
**For more information about child care in Alpine county, call:**

Choices for Children

530-694-2129

# Child Care Supply in Alpine County

## Licensed child care does not meet the need for infant care in Alpine County.



### Licensed Child Care Supply = 94 slots

#### 91% of all slots are in child care centers

|                 |                     |
|-----------------|---------------------|
| Up to 24 months | 0% of center slots  |
| Ages 2-5        | 67% of center slots |
| Ages 6 and over | 33% of center slots |

#### 9% of all slots are in family child care homes<sup>8</sup>

### Children Needing Child Care = 91

#### Children with working parents

|           |             |
|-----------|-------------|
| Ages 0-5  | 24 children |
| Ages 6-13 | 67 children |

Alpine County ranks 1st among California's 58 counties in its supply of licensed child care slots, as represented by this ratio.

Licensed child care supply meets the estimated need for licensed care for children ages two and older.

## Child Care Requests to R&Rs<sup>9</sup>

### Type of care requested

|                            |               |
|----------------------------|---------------|
| Infant/toddler care        | 100% of calls |
| Preschool care             | 0% of calls   |
| School-age care            | 0% of calls   |
| Family child care homes    | 100% of calls |
| Child care centers         | 0% of calls   |
| In-home care <sup>10</sup> | 0% of calls   |

### Schedules requested

|                                   |      |
|-----------------------------------|------|
| Full-time care                    | 0%   |
| Part-time care                    | 100% |
| Before- and/or after-school care  | 0%   |
| Full-time care, children ages 0-5 | 0%   |
| Part-time care, children ages 0-5 | 100% |

In 1998, all caller requests were for preschool and school-age care. In 2000, all caller requests were for infant/toddler care.

### Requests for care during non-traditional hours<sup>11</sup>

|                                     |     |
|-------------------------------------|-----|
| Evening, overnight, or weekend care | 33% |
|-------------------------------------|-----|

## Licensed Child Care Supply

| Facilities                      | 1998 | 2000 | Change |
|---------------------------------|------|------|--------|
| Child care centers              | 3    | 3    | 0%     |
| Slots for infants               | 0    | 0    | 0%     |
| Slots: ages 2-5                 | 64   | 58   | -9%    |
| Slots: ages 6 and over          | 15   | 28   | 87%    |
| Family child care homes         | 2    | 1    | -50%   |
| Slots for all ages <sup>8</sup> | 14   | 8    | -43%   |

### Schedules offered

Of *all* slots in licensed child care centers

|                          |     |
|--------------------------|-----|
| Full-time and part-time  | 76% |
| Only full-time available | 0%  |
| Only part-time available | 24% |

Of *all* slots in licensed family child care homes

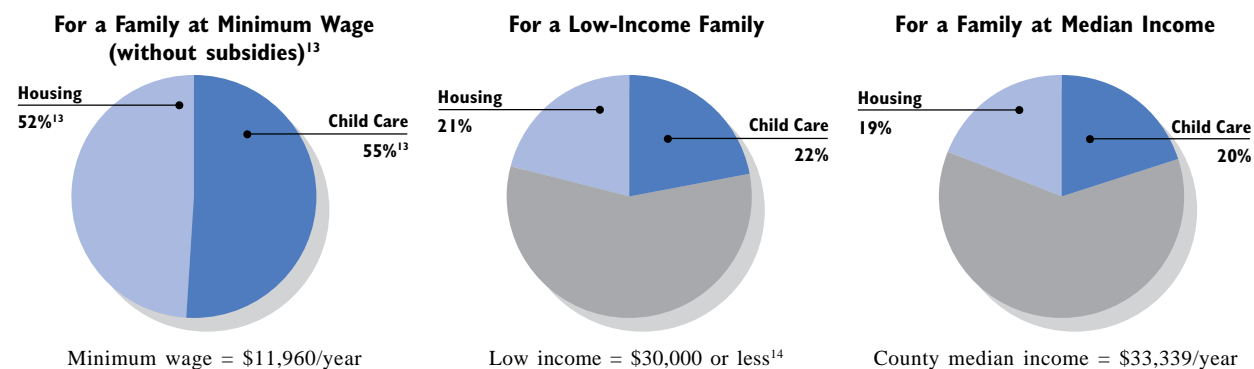
|                          |      |
|--------------------------|------|
| Full-time and part-time  | 100% |
| Only full-time available | 0%   |
| Only part-time available | 0%   |

|  |      |
|--|------|
| Centers with before-/after-school care <sup>12</sup> | 33%  |
| Homes with before-/after-school care                 | 100% |

### Care available during non-traditional hours

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| In licensed and license-exempt centers <sup>12</sup> | 33% |
| In family child care homes                           | 0%  |

## Portion of Income Needed to Pay for Basic Family Needs: Housing and One Infant in a Licensed Center



8. A breakdown of slots by age is not available, as family child care homes are licensed to care for children of all ages.  
 9. Percentage may total more or less than 100% because of rounding or because in some categories callers request more than one type of care. In some cases percentages could be less than 100% because not all types of care are noted in these data. (These requests would be noted as "other.") Also, since some parents find child care without using R&Rs, the calls recorded here do not necessarily represent total demand for child care, although they do reflect trends.  
 10. Care by a nanny or babysitter in the child's home. This, along with other forms of care, is referred to as license-exempt care.  
 11. Evening, overnight, or weekend care.  
 12. Some programs noted here are exempt from licensing requirements.  
 13. When the combined actual percentages for housing and child care costs are more than 100% of minimum wage, each is shown proportionately.  
 14. While "low income" is defined here as households earning less than \$30,000, eligibility for child care subsidies is based on 75% of the state median income level. In 2000, a family of three earning less than \$33,852 was eligible for a child care subsidy.

# Amador County

A picturesque slice of foothills and mountain wilderness, Amador County has attracted an increasing number of retirees, vacationers, and young families, pushing up real estate prices and putting pressure on the child care supply. Although the population of children under 13 has increased, according to the latest census, the number of slots for children in licensed child care facilities is falling. A tightened housing market has reduced opportunities for child care providers to buy or lease sufficient space to offer care, according to staff members at Child Care Resources, the local resource and referral (R&R) agency. Despite the R&R's successful efforts to recruit new family child care providers, each year many providers leave the field, discouraged by the difficulty of making a living caring for young children. For these providers, wages are low and benefits usually non-existent. The stagnating supply of licensed care has a significant impact on families who participate in CalWORKs, the state's welfare-to-work program, limiting their child care choices.

## Care for infants and toddlers is scarce

Parents in Amador County find it especially difficult to find child care for toddlers and newborns. From 1998 to 2000, the number of slots for infants in licensed centers fell by 33 percent, as some child care centers closed. Even for middle-income parents, the high cost of child care can be enough of a reason for one parent to stay home or for two parents to work opposite shifts. Parents whose jobs require weekend work face added obstacles: There is almost no licensed care available on weekends. "People are depending on families, friends, and whatever they can find," says a Child Care Resources staff member.

## Child care helps the economy

Despite these challenges, there is growing awareness about how access to quality child care contributes to economic well-being. Recognizing the relationship between child care and employee retention, a local casino that is one of the county's major employers has recently added a 24-hour child care center for employee families. And R&R staff are working with local city and county officials to find innovative ways to secure a facility that would house an Early Head Start program as well as a family child care home.

*"To avoid having to pay for child care, my husband and I juggled schedules. I worked days and he worked nights. I'm sure it wasn't good for my daughter not to have her parents in the same room ever."*

—Alicia, mother of a newborn and preschooler

## The People

|  |               |
|--|---------------|
| <b>Total number of residents in the county</b>                                   | <b>35,100</b> |
| % change in population 1990-2000   | 17%           |
| Total number of children under 14  | 5,079         |
| Total number of children under 18  | 7,223         |
| % of children ages 0-17 living in poverty <sup>1</sup>                           | 17% 1,235     |
| Total number of children ages 6-13   | 3,258         |
| Total number of children ages 0-5  | 1,821         |
| % of children ages 0-5 living in poverty <sup>1</sup>                            | 18% 319       |
| Families with children 0-5, headed by single parent <sup>2</sup>                 | 28%           |
| Amador has the 47th highest rate of child poverty among California's 58 counties |               |

## Children of Working Parents<sup>3</sup>

|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| Children living with working parents <sup>4</sup> |           |
| % of children ages 0-13                           | 57% 2,894 |
| % of children ages 6-13                           | 60% 1,967 |
| % of children ages 0-5                            | 51% 927   |

## Child Care Costs, Family Income, and Child Care Salaries

|  |          |
|--|----------|
| Average annual cost of full-time, licensed care in a center, for an infant up to 24 months | \$5,907  |
| Annual minimum wage of full-time worker  | \$11,960 |
| Care for an infant as % of minimum wage  | 49%      |
| Median annual household income in the county   | \$40,578 |
| Care for an infant as % of median income   | 15%      |
| Care for two children as % of median income <sup>5</sup>                                   | 25%      |
| Self sufficiency family income <sup>6</sup>  | \$41,675 |
| Fair market rent for a two-bedroom unit  | \$7,464  |
| Salary of child care worker <sup>7</sup>   | \$17,420 |
| Salary of preschool teacher <sup>7</sup>   | \$21,130 |
| Salary of entry-level public school teacher <sup>7</sup>                                   | \$25,433 |

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2. Includes male and female heads of households with own children.

3. Nationally, 51% of children 0-5 with working parents are estimated to be in child care.

4. Children living with two employed parents or an employed single head of household.

5. Full-time care at a licensed child care center for an infant (up to 24 months) and a child (age 2-5).

6. For two working adults, one infant (up to 24 months) and one child (age 2-5).

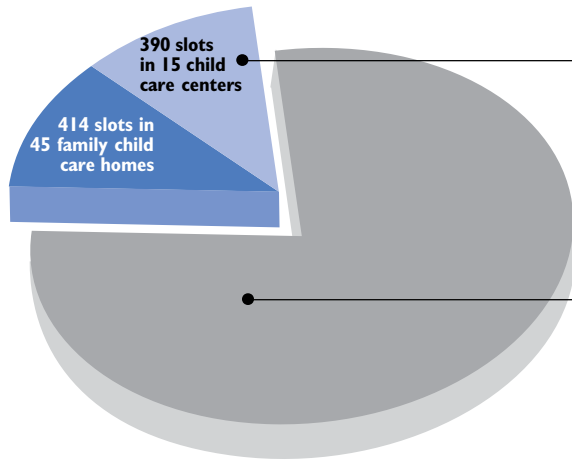
7. Statewide averages; public elementary school teacher salary based on school year.

**For more information about child care in Amador County, call:**

Child Care Resources 209-223-1625

# Child Care Supply in Amador County

Licensed child care still meets only a small fraction of the need in Amador County.



## Licensed Child Care Supply = 804 slots

49% of all slots are in child care centers

|                 |                     |
|-----------------|---------------------|
| Up to 24 months | 2% of center slots  |
| Ages 2-5        | 70% of center slots |
| Ages 6 and over | 28% of center slots |

51% of all slots are in family child care homes<sup>8</sup>

## Children Needing Child Care = 2,894

Children with working parents

|           |                |
|-----------|----------------|
| Ages 0-5  | 927 children   |
| Ages 6-13 | 1,967 children |

Amador County ranks 21st among California's 58 counties in its supply of licensed child care slots, as represented by this ratio.

Licensed child care supply meets only 28% of the estimated need for licensed care for children of all ages. There are 3.6 times more children, ages 0-13, with working parents than licensed child care slots.

## Child Care Requests to R&Rs<sup>9</sup>

### Type of care requested

|                            |              |
|----------------------------|--------------|
| Infant/toddler care        | 31% of calls |
| Preschool care             | 44% of calls |
| School-age care            | 25% of calls |
| Family child care homes    | 98% of calls |
| Child care centers         | 85% of calls |
| In-home care <sup>10</sup> | 0% of calls  |

### Schedules requested

|                                   |     |
|-----------------------------------|-----|
| Full-time care                    | 73% |
| Part-time care                    | 66% |
| Before- and/or after-school care  | 2%  |
| Full-time care, children ages 0-5 | 75% |
| Part-time care, children ages 0-5 | 61% |

Callers requesting referrals for child care centers increased from 59 percent in 1998 to 85 percent in 2000. The percent of requests for full-time care also increased from 51 percent to 73 percent.

### Requests for care during non-traditional hours<sup>11</sup>

|                                     |     |
|-------------------------------------|-----|
| Evening, overnight, or weekend care | 15% |
|-------------------------------------|-----|

## Licensed Child Care Supply

### Facilities

| Facilities                      | 1998 | 2000 | Change |
|---------------------------------|------|------|--------|
| Child care centers              | 20   | 15   | -25%   |
| Slots for infants               | 12   | 8    | -33%   |
| Slots: ages 2-5                 | 397  | 271  | -32%   |
| Slots: ages 6 and over          | 153  | 111  | -27%   |
| Family child care homes         | 46   | 45   | -2%    |
| Slots for all ages <sup>8</sup> | 368  | 414  | 13%    |

### Schedules offered

Of all slots in licensed child care centers

|                          |     |
|--------------------------|-----|
| Full-time and part-time  | 62% |
| Only full-time available | 0%  |
| Only part-time available | 38% |

Of all slots in licensed family child care homes

|                          |     |
|--------------------------|-----|
| Full-time and part-time  | 94% |
| Only full-time available | 2%  |
| Only part-time available | 4%  |

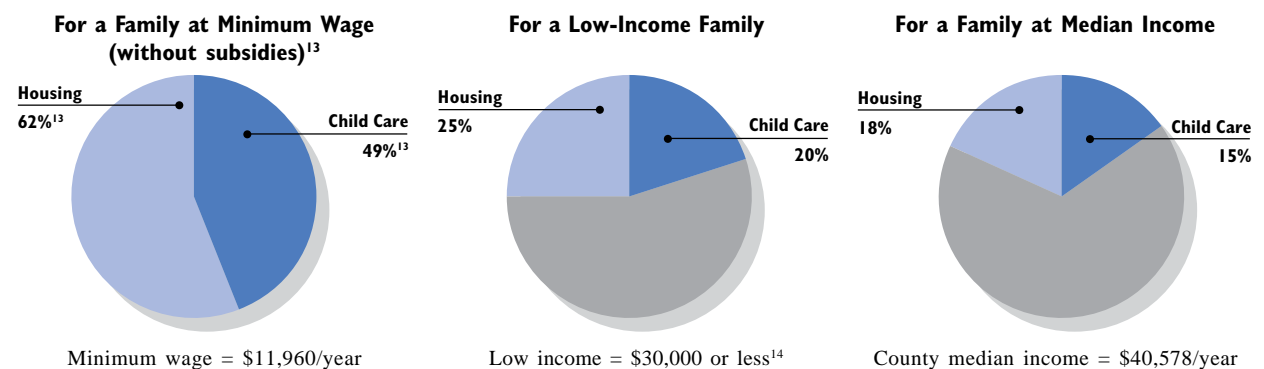
Centers with before-/after-school care<sup>12</sup>

Homes with before-/after-school care

### Care available during non-traditional hours

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| In licensed and license-exempt centers <sup>12</sup> | 0%  |
| In family child care homes                           | 22% |

## Portion of Income Needed to Pay for Basic Family Needs: Housing and One Infant in a Licensed Center



8. A breakdown of slots by age is not available, as family child care homes are licensed to care for children of all ages.  
 9. Percentage may total more or less than 100% because of rounding or because in some categories callers request more than one type of care. In some cases percentages could be less than 100% because not all types of care are noted in these data. (These requests would be noted as "other.") Also, since some parents find child care without using R&Rs, the calls recorded here do not necessarily represent total demand for child care, although they do reflect trends.  
 10. Care by a nanny or babysitter in the child's home. This, along with other forms of care, is referred to as license-exempt care.  
 11. Evening, overnight, or weekend care.  
 12. Some programs noted here are exempt from licensing requirements.  
 13. When the combined actual percentages for housing and child care costs are more than 100% of minimum wage, each is shown proportionately.  
 14. While "low income" is defined here as households earning less than \$30,000, eligibility for child care subsidies is based on 75% of the state median income level. In 2000, a family of three earning less than \$33,852 was eligible for a child care subsidy.

# Butte County

About 30 percent of Butte County's youngest children live in poverty. Because so many local families earn low wages working in farming, food service, and retail jobs, demand for affordable child care is high. However, child care subsidies for low-income families are limited, as local parents discover when seeking help in paying for child care. Many families whose income makes them eligible for subsidies must put their names on waiting lists because there aren't enough funds to go around. Rising costs for licensed child care have limited many low-income families' child care options.

## Infant care is in short supply

Despite high demand for infant-toddler care, few child care providers have slots for these children: Since 1998, the supply of infant care in child care centers has fallen. And while preschool care is more readily available than infant care, parents often face yet another struggle once their children begin elementary school. Licensed care for school-age children is limited, and transportation from school to care programs presents an obstacle for many families. Only one school in the county provides bus service for children going to after-school child care, leaving parents scrambling to make sure their children are not left home alone.

## Recruitment efforts have been successful

Valley Oak Children's Services, the local resource and referral (R&R) agency, is working to build the county's child care capacity, particularly to increase available care for infants and toddlers. The agency has recruited more child care providers willing to work nontraditional hours, such as weekends and evenings, as well as Spanish- and Hmong-speaking providers who are needed to meet the county's increasing ethnic diversity. To encourage providers to get additional training, the R&R gives stipends to providers who attend workshops on topics such as child development and health and safety. These programs have helped increase the number of slots in licensed family child care homes by 21 percent since 1998.

In addition, employer awareness about the need for child care and its impact on business is on the rise, R&R staff members say. "More businesses are asking about their employees' needs and recognize that child care is a priority," says an R&R counselor.

*"I wanted to keep my twins together, but it's really hard to find someone who will take two infants. I really wanted someone who could pay a lot of individual attention to them. But I couldn't find anything like that."*

—Maria, mother of three

## The People

|  |                |
|--|----------------|
| <b>Total number of residents in the county</b>                   | <b>203,171</b> |
| % change in population 1990-2000                                 | 12%            |
| Total number of children under 14                                | 36,830         |
| Total number of children under 18                                | 48,767         |
| % of children ages 0-17 living in poverty <sup>1</sup>           | 31% 15,069     |
| Total number of children ages 6-13                               | 22,650         |
| Total number of children ages 0-5                                | 14,180         |
| % of children ages 0-5 living in poverty <sup>1</sup>            | 32% 4,538      |
| Families with children 0-5, headed by single parent <sup>2</sup> | 34%            |

Butte has the 13th highest rate of child poverty among California's 58 counties.

## Children of Working Parents<sup>3</sup>

|   |            |
|---|------------|
| Children living with working parents <sup>4</sup> |            |
| % of children ages 0-13                           | 53% 19,800 |
| % of children ages 6-13                           | 58% 13,144 |
| % of children ages 0-5                            | 47% 6,656  |

## Child Care Costs, Family Income, and Child Care Salaries

|  |          |
|--|----------|
| Average annual cost of full-time, licensed care in a center, for an infant up to 24 months | \$5,666  |
| Annual minimum wage of full-time worker  | \$11,960 |
| Care for an infant as % of minimum wage  | 47%      |
| Median annual household income in the county   | \$31,501 |
| Care for an infant as % of median income   | 18%      |
| Care for two children as % of median income <sup>5</sup>                                   | 31%      |
| Self sufficiency family income <sup>6</sup>  | \$39,487 |
| Fair market rent for a two-bedroom unit  | \$6,852  |
| Salary of child care worker <sup>7</sup>   | \$17,420 |
| Salary of preschool teacher <sup>7</sup>   | \$21,130 |
| Salary of entry-level public school teacher <sup>7</sup>                                   | \$25,433 |

Excerpted from *The California Child Care Portfolio* ©2001 (permission to reproduce granted), available through your local R&R. For data source information, see the full edition of the *Portfolio*.

1. Percentage based on 1997 average poverty threshold for a family of four: \$16,050.

Numbers estimated for 2000 population. (2000 data not available by county, at publication.)

2. Includes male and female heads of households with own children.

3. Nationally, 51% of children 0-5 with working parents are estimated to be in child care.

4. Children living with two employed parents or an employed single head of household.

5. Full-time care at a licensed child care center for an infant (up to 24 months) and a child (age 2-5).

6. For two working adults, one infant (up to 24 months) and one child (age 2-5).

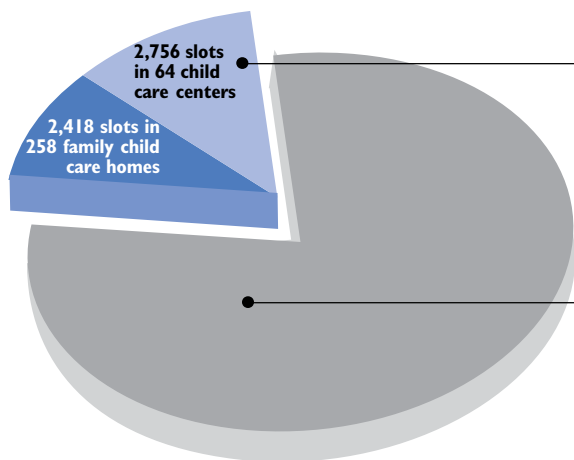
7. Statewide averages; public elementary school teacher salary based on school year.

**For more information about child care in Butte County, call:**

Valley Oak Children's Services 530-895-1677

# Child Care Supply in Butte County

Licensed child care still meets only a small fraction of the need in Butte County.



Licensed Child Care Supply = 5,174 slots

53% of all slots are in child care centers

Up to 24 months 7% of center slots  
 Ages 2-5 80% of center slots  
 Ages 6 and over 13% of center slots

47% of all slots are in family child care homes<sup>8</sup>

Children Needing Child Care = 19,800

Children with working parents

Ages 0-5 6,656 children  
 Ages 6-13 13,144 children

Butte County ranks 29th among California's 58 counties in its supply of licensed child care slots, as represented by this ratio.

Licensed child care supply meets only 26% of the estimated need for licensed care for children of all ages. There are 3.8 times more children, ages 0-13, with working parents than licensed child care slots.

## Child Care Requests to R&Rs<sup>9</sup>

### Type of care requested

|                            |              |
|----------------------------|--------------|
| Infant/toddler care        | 31% of calls |
| Preschool care             | 40% of calls |
| School-age care            | 30% of calls |
| Family child care homes    | 97% of calls |
| Child care centers         | 97% of calls |
| In-home care <sup>10</sup> | 1% of calls  |

### Schedules requested

|                                   |     |
|-----------------------------------|-----|
| Full-time care                    | 73% |
| Part-time care                    | 54% |
| Before- and/or after-school care  | 12% |
| Full-time care, children ages 0-5 | 78% |
| Part-time care, children ages 0-5 | 47% |

Between 1998 and 2000, requests for infant care increased from 24 percent to 31 percent. Requests for referrals to centers increased from 92 percent to 97 percent.

### Requests for care during non-traditional hours<sup>11</sup>

|                                     |    |
|-------------------------------------|----|
| Evening, overnight, or weekend care | 9% |
|-------------------------------------|----|

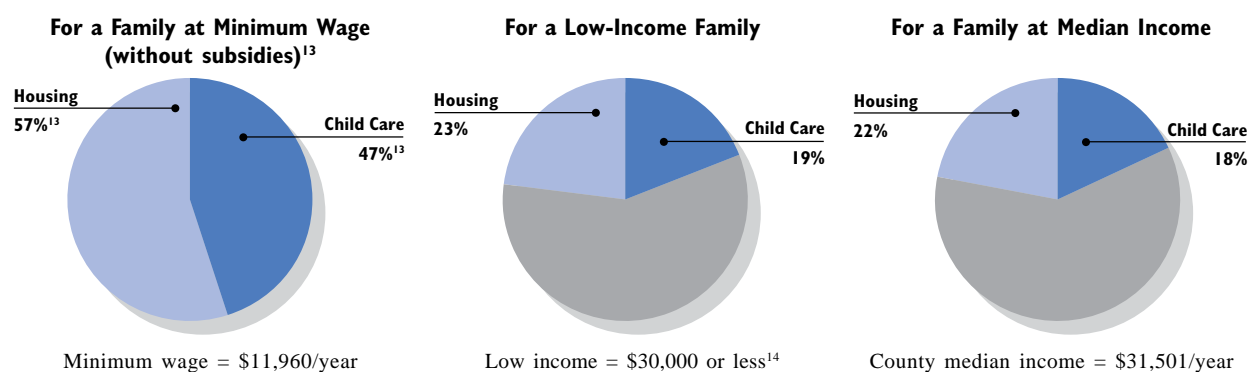
## Licensed Child Care Supply

| Facilities                      | 1998  | 2000  | Change |
|---------------------------------|-------|-------|--------|
| Child care centers              | 55    | 64    | 16%    |
| Slots for infants               | 194   | 192   | -1%    |
| Slots: ages 2-5                 | 2,001 | 2,205 | 10%    |
| Slots: ages 6 and over          | 320   | 359   | 12%    |
| Family child care homes         | 239   | 258   | 8%     |
| Slots for all ages <sup>8</sup> | 1,992 | 2,418 | 21%    |

### Schedules offered

|  |  |     |
|--|--|-----|
| Of all slots in licensed child care centers          |  |     |
| Full-time and part-time                              |  | 81% |
| Only full-time available                             |  | 2%  |
| Only part-time available                             |  | 17% |
| Of all slots in licensed family child care homes     |  |     |
| Full-time and part-time                              |  | 79% |
| Only full-time available                             |  | 16% |
| Only part-time available                             |  | 5%  |
| Centers with before-/after-school care <sup>12</sup> |  | 41% |
| Homes with before-/after-school care                 |  | 48% |
| Care available during non-traditional hours          |  |     |
| In licensed and license-exempt centers <sup>12</sup> |  | 1%  |
| In family child care homes                           |  | 12% |

## Portion of Income Needed to Pay for Basic Family Needs: Housing and One Infant in a Licensed Center



8. A breakdown of slots by age is not available, as family child care homes are licensed to care for children of all ages.  
 9. Percentage may total more or less than 100% because of rounding or because in some categories callers request more than one type of care. In some cases percentages could be less than 100% because not all types of care are noted in these data. (These requests would be noted as "other.") Also, since some parents find child care without using R&Rs, the calls recorded here do not necessarily represent total demand for child care, although they do reflect trends.  
 10. Care by a nanny or babysitter in the child's home. This, along with other forms of care, is referred to as license-exempt care.  
 11. Evening, overnight, or weekend care.  
 12. Some programs noted here are exempt from licensing requirements.  
 13. When the combined actual percentages for housing and child care costs are more than 100% of minimum wage, each is shown proportionately.  
 14. While "low income" is defined here as households earning less than \$30,000, eligibility for child care subsidies is based on 75% of the state median income level. In 2000, a family of three earning less than \$33,852 was eligible for a child care subsidy.

The diversity of economic conditions in Calaveras County has had varying impacts on the supply of child care. An increase in the number of vacation home sales in the county's scenic eastern mountains has shrunk the supply of housing for low-income, year-round families. In Arnold, near Alpine County's Bear Valley ski resort, the local Head Start center closed due to insufficient enrollment. Yet in Angels Camp, where many of Arnold's displaced families relocated, demand for child care has outpaced availability. In Valley Springs near Stockton, a new child care center filled up quickly, but many of the children are enrolled part-time to meet the desires of higher-income, stay-at-home moms who seek respite care and socialization for their preschoolers.

Despite this fragmentation, common themes have emerged – among them an acute shortage of licensed care for infants and toddlers and the difficulty that child care centers have in retaining qualified staff. Although the number of child care centers has grown, few offer care for infants and toddlers because it isn't cost-effective. The expansion of family child care homes has helped increase the overall number of licensed child care slots in the county, but there are still not enough to meet demand. This is due in part to CalWORKs, the state's welfare-to-work program. As parents participating in the program move into the work force or training and education programs, the need for child care grows.

Availability of care is only part of the problem. While CalWORKs participants receive financial assistance to pay for child care, other low-income working families who do not receive subsidies find that the cost of licensed care can be prohibitive or that it does not provide the flexibility to accommodate work schedules.

#### Providers encouraged to get training

Child Care Resources, the local resource and referral (R&R) agency, is working with the county Children and Families Commission to plan a program that promotes training for child care providers. The CARES (Compensation and Retention Encourages Stability) program will provide stipends to providers who take classes and attend training workshops. But while the benefits of supplemental education are obvious, the reality of seeking it can be a challenge. As one R&R counselor put it, "It's hard to get someone who works 14 hours a day to take a class after work." With limited professional opportunities in the county, the R&R is beginning to reach out to high school students to educate them about careers in child development.

# Calaveras County

*"I've been a single dad for more than 2 years. My son has had some behavioral issues, but the child care staff have been very patient with him. We went through a hard time, but things really fell into place."*

–Michael, single father of two school-age children

## The People

|  |               |
|--|---------------|
| <b>Total number of residents in the county</b>                   | <b>40,554</b> |
| % change in population 1990-2000                                 | 27%           |
| Total number of children under 14                                | 6,724         |
| Total number of children under 18                                | 9,248         |
| % of children ages 0-17 living in poverty <sup>1</sup>           | 21% 1,924     |
| Total number of children ages 6-13                               | 4,458         |
| Total number of children ages 0-5                                | 2,266         |
| % of children ages 0-5 living in poverty <sup>1</sup>            | 19% 428       |
| Families with children 0-5, headed by single parent <sup>2</sup> | 29%           |

Calaveras has the 39th highest rate of child poverty among California's 58 counties.

## Children of Working Parents<sup>3</sup>

|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| Children living with working parents <sup>4</sup> |           |
| % of children ages 0-13                           | 52% 3,560 |
| % of children ages 6-13                           | 58% 2,573 |
| % of children ages 0-5                            | 44% 987   |

## Child Care Costs, Family Income, and Child Care Salaries

|  |          |
|--|----------|
| Average annual cost of full-time, licensed care in a center, for an infant up to 24 months | \$4,320  |
| Annual minimum wage of full-time worker  | \$11,960 |
| Care for an infant as % of minimum wage  | 36%      |
| Median annual household income in the county   | \$37,192 |
| Care for an infant as % of median income   | 12%      |
| Care for two children as % of median income <sup>5</sup>                                   | 23%      |
| Self sufficiency family income <sup>6</sup>  | \$40,879 |
| Fair market rent for a two-bedroom unit  | \$6,852  |
| Salary of child care worker <sup>7</sup>   | \$17,420 |
| Salary of preschool teacher <sup>7</sup>   | \$21,130 |
| Salary of entry-level public school teacher <sup>7</sup>                                   | \$25,433 |

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1. Percentage based on 1997 average poverty threshold for a family of four: \$16,050.

Numbers estimated for 2000 population. (2000 data not available by county, at publication.)

2. Includes male and female heads of households with own children.

3. Nationally, 51% of children 0-5 with working parents are estimated to be in child care.

4. Children living with two employed parents or an employed single head of household.

5. Full-time care at a licensed child care center for an infant (up to 24 months) and a child (age 2-5).

6. For two working adults, one infant (up to 24 months) and one child (age 2-5).

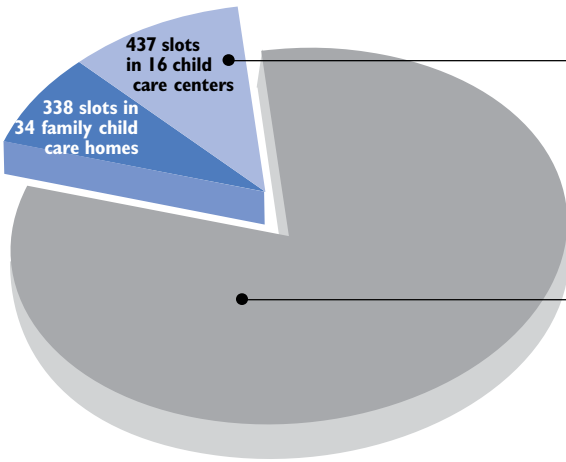
7. Statewide averages; public elementary school teacher salary based on school year.

**For more information about child care in Calaveras County, call:**

Child Care Resources 209-754-1028

# Child Care Supply in Calaveras County

Licensed child care still meets only a small fraction of the need in Calaveras County.



## Licensed Child Care Supply = 775 slots

56% of all slots are in child care centers

|                 |                     |
|-----------------|---------------------|
| Up to 24 months | 5% of center slots  |
| Ages 2-5        | 90% of center slots |
| Ages 6 and over | 5% of center slots  |

44% of all slots are in family child care homes<sup>8</sup>

## Children Needing Child Care = 3,560

Children with working parents

|           |                |
|-----------|----------------|
| Ages 0-5  | 987 children   |
| Ages 6-13 | 2,573 children |

Calaveras County ranks 45th among California's 58 counties in its supply of licensed child care slots, as represented by this ratio.

Licensed child care supply meets only 22% of the estimated need for licensed care for children of all ages. There are 4.6 times more children, ages 0-13, with working parents than licensed child care slots.

## Child Care Requests to R&Rs<sup>9</sup>

### Type of care requested

|                            |               |
|----------------------------|---------------|
| Infant/toddler care        | 28% of calls  |
| Preschool care             | 42% of calls  |
| School-age care            | 29% of calls  |
| Family child care homes    | 100% of calls |
| Child care centers         | 99% of calls  |
| In-home care <sup>10</sup> | 0% of calls   |

### Schedules requested

|                                   |     |
|-----------------------------------|-----|
| Full-time care                    | 61% |
| Part-time care                    | 43% |
| Before- and/or after-school care  | 6%  |
| Full-time care, children ages 0-5 | 67% |
| Part-time care, children ages 0-5 | 36% |

Between 1998 and 2000, the percent of requests for full-time care increased from 45 percent to 61 percent, while requests for part-time care decreased from 55 percent to 43 percent.

### Requests for care during non-traditional hours<sup>11</sup>

|                                     |     |
|-------------------------------------|-----|
| Evening, overnight, or weekend care | 17% |
|-------------------------------------|-----|

## Licensed Child Care Supply

### Facilities

| Facilities                      | 1998 | 2000 | Change |
|---------------------------------|------|------|--------|
| Child care centers              | 9    | 16   | 78%    |
| Slots for infants               | 12   | 22   | 83%    |
| Slots: ages 2-5                 | 219  | 393  | 79%    |
| Slots: ages 6 and over          | 93   | 22   | -76%   |
| Family child care homes         | 34   | 34   | 0%     |
| Slots for all ages <sup>8</sup> | 314  | 338  | 8%     |

### Schedules offered

Of *all* slots in licensed child care centers

|                          |     |
|--------------------------|-----|
| Full-time and part-time  | 36% |
| Only full-time available | 12% |
| Only part-time available | 52% |

Of *all* slots in licensed family child care homes

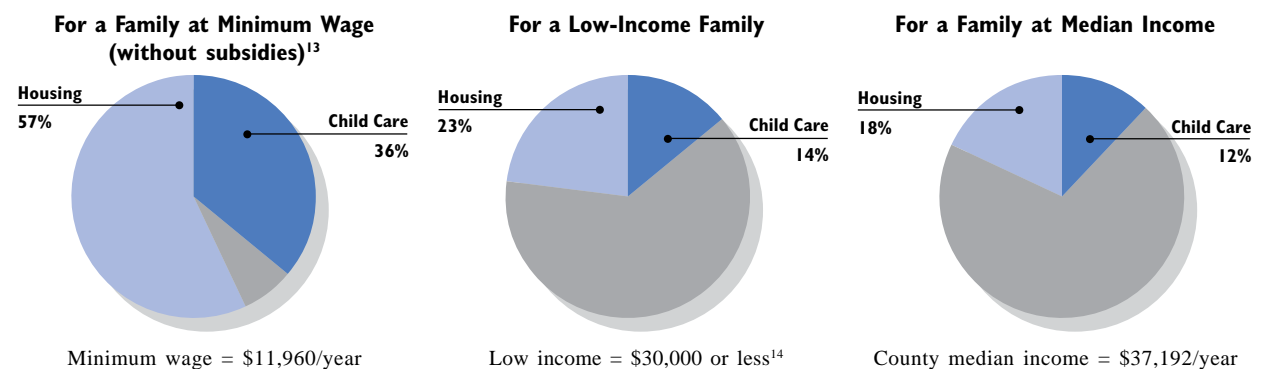
|                          |     |
|--------------------------|-----|
| Full-time and part-time  | 82% |
| Only full-time available | 7%  |
| Only part-time available | 11% |

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| Centers with before-/after-school care <sup>12</sup> | 44% |
| Homes with before-/after-school care                 | 82% |

### Care available during non-traditional hours

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| In licensed and license-exempt centers <sup>12</sup> | 4%  |
| In family child care homes                           | 18% |

## Portion of Income Needed to Pay for Basic Family Needs: Housing and One Infant in a Licensed Center



8. A breakdown of slots by age is not available, as family child care homes are licensed to care for children of all ages.

9. Percentage may total more or less than 100% because of rounding or because in some categories callers request more than one type of care. In some cases percentages could be less than 100% because not all types of care are noted in these data. (These requests would be noted as "other.") Also, since some parents find child care without using R&Rs, the calls recorded here do not necessarily represent total demand for child care, although they do reflect trends.

10. Care by a nanny or babysitter in the child's home. This, along with other forms of care, is referred to as license-exempt care.

11. Evening, overnight, or weekend care.

12. Some programs noted here are exempt from licensing requirements.

13. When the combined actual percentages for housing and child care costs are more than 100% of minimum wage, each is shown proportionately.

14. While "low income" is defined here as households earning less than \$30,000, eligibility for child care subsidies is based on 75% of the state median income level. In 2000, a family of three earning less than \$33,852 was eligible for a child care subsidy.

# Colusa County

Nearly 40 percent of residents in Colusa County work in agriculture. Because the work is seasonal, there is high demand for child care during the summer months and much lower demand in the winter. This fluctuation in enrollment creates financial instability for some local child care providers, resulting in a high turnover in the child care profession. In turn, this has made it more difficult for parents to find providers to care for their children. Children's Services, the resource and referral (R&R) agency in Colusa County's Office of Education, is working to build the supply of family child care providers by supplying incentive funds and reimbursement for continuing education. Workshops tailored to the interests of providers are offered regularly, and R&R staff visit family child care homes to lend advice and support to providers.

## Parents spend months seeking care

Despite some improvement in the availability of child care, many parents still spend months seeking care. It is difficult to come by, especially for parents whose jobs require rotating shifts that make planning for child care a challenge and for parents who work during evenings and weekends. Also, because only a handful of licensed child care providers in the county accept children under two (who require a higher staff-to-child ratio), many parents have limited choices for infant care. Relatives and friends often step in to watch children, but even this type of care is not available to everyone. In some cases, according to the R&R, parents are forced to leave very young children to be watched by older siblings for lack of other options.

Although local families who participate in CalWORKs, the state's welfare-to-work program, get access to child care subsidies, there is not enough funding to assist all the low-income working parents who are eligible. Even middle-income families have trouble finding affordable care. "Most subsidized child care centers are filled with children from low-income families, and little is available for other working families," says an R&R staff member. "The most common thing I hear from parents is: 'We're willing to pay for good child care, but there isn't any for us to pay for.'" According to the R&R, rising real estate costs have not only hurt working families' ability to find affordable housing but also made it more difficult to find facilities suitable for child care centers and obtain the financing needed to renovate them.

*"My sister watches my kids because there aren't enough good child care programs in this county."*

—Toni, mother of two children, ages 4 and 6

## The People

|  |               |
|--|---------------|
| <b>Total number of residents in the county</b>                   | <b>18,804</b> |
| % change in population 1990-2000                                 | 16%           |
| Total number of children under 14                                | 4,487         |
| Total number of children under 18                                | 5,937         |
| % of children ages 0-17 living in poverty <sup>1</sup>           | 29% 1,745     |
| Total number of children ages 6-13                               | 2,636         |
| Total number of children ages 0-5                                | 1,851         |
| % of children ages 0-5 living in poverty <sup>1</sup>            | 31% 578       |
| Families with children 0-5, headed by single parent <sup>2</sup> | 26%           |

Colusa has the 15th highest rate of child poverty among California's 58 counties.

## Children of Working Parents<sup>3</sup>

|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| Children living with working parents <sup>4</sup> |           |
| % of children ages 0-13                           | 56% 2,477 |
| % of children ages 6-13                           | 60% 1,585 |
| % of children ages 0-5                            | 48% 892   |

## Child Care Costs, Family Income, and Child Care Salaries

|  |          |
|--|----------|
| Average annual cost of full-time, licensed care in a center, for an infant up to 24 months | \$5,912  |
| Annual minimum wage of full-time worker  | \$11,960 |
| Care for an infant as % of minimum wage  | 49%      |
| Median annual household income in the county   | \$32,678 |
| Care for an infant as % of median income   | 18%      |
| Care for two children as % of median income <sup>5</sup>                                   | 29%      |
| Self sufficiency family income <sup>6</sup>  | \$38,745 |
| Fair market rent for a two-bedroom unit  | \$5,796  |
| Salary of child care worker <sup>7</sup>   | \$17,420 |
| Salary of preschool teacher <sup>7</sup>   | \$21,130 |
| Salary of entry-level public school teacher <sup>7</sup>                                   | \$25,433 |

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1. Percentage based on 1997 average poverty threshold for a family of four: \$16,050.

Numbers estimated for 2000 population. (2000 data not available by county, at publication.)

2. Includes male and female heads of households with own children.

3. Nationally, 51% of children 0-5 with working parents are estimated to be in child care.

4. Children living with two employed parents or an employed single head of household.

5. Full-time care at a licensed child care center for an infant (up to 24 months) and a child (age 2-5).

6. For two working adults, one infant (up to 24 months) and one child (age 2-5).

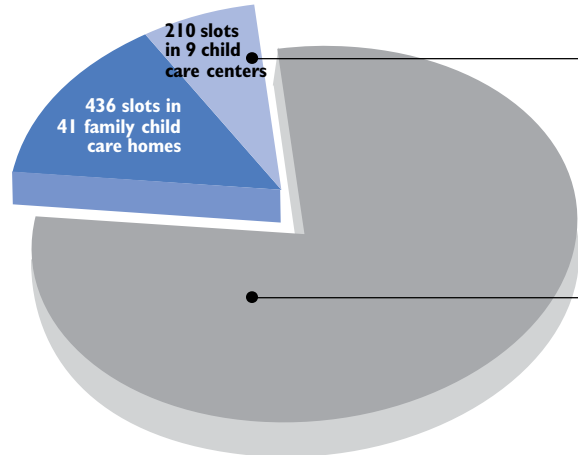
7. Statewide averages; public elementary school teacher salary based on school year.

**For more information about child care in Colusa County, call:**

Children's Services 530-458-0300

# Child Care Supply in Colusa County

Licensed child care still meets only a small fraction of the need in Colusa County.



Colusa County ranks 32nd among California's 58 counties in its supply of licensed child care slots, as represented by this ratio.

## Licensed Child Care Supply = 646 slots

33% of all slots are in child care centers

|                 |                     |
|-----------------|---------------------|
| Up to 24 months | 4% of center slots  |
| Ages 2-5        | 90% of center slots |
| Ages 6 and over | 6% of center slots  |

67% of all slots are in family child care homes<sup>8</sup>

## Children Needing Child Care = 2,477

Children with working parents

|           |                |
|-----------|----------------|
| Ages 0-5  | 892 children   |
| Ages 6-13 | 1,585 children |

Licensed child care supply meets only 26% of the estimated need for licensed care for children of all ages. There are 3.8 times more children, ages 0-13, with working parents than licensed child care slots.

## Child Care Requests to R&Rs<sup>9</sup>

### Type of care requested

|                            |              |
|----------------------------|--------------|
| Infant/toddler care        | 19% of calls |
| Preschool care             | 57% of calls |
| School-age care            | 24% of calls |
| Family child care homes    | 81% of calls |
| Child care centers         | 0% of calls  |
| In-home care <sup>10</sup> | 19% of calls |

### Schedules requested

|                                   |     |
|-----------------------------------|-----|
| Full-time care                    | 61% |
| Part-time care                    | 43% |
| Before- and/or after-school care  | 4%  |
| Full-time care, children ages 0-5 | 78% |
| Part-time care, children ages 0-5 | 28% |

In 2000, 64 percent of callers in Colusa County requested referrals for Spanish-speaking providers to care for their children.

### Requests for care during non-traditional hours<sup>11</sup>

|                                     |    |
|-------------------------------------|----|
| Evening, overnight, or weekend care | 9% |
|-------------------------------------|----|

## Licensed Child Care Supply

### Facilities

|                                 | 1998 | 2000 | Change |
|---------------------------------|------|------|--------|
| Child care centers              | 7    | 9    | 29%    |
| Slots for infants               | 8    | 8    | 0%     |
| Slots: ages 2-5                 | 176  | 188  | 7%     |
| Slots: ages 6 and over          | 7    | 14   | 100%   |
| Family child care homes         | 37   | 41   | 11%    |
| Slots for all ages <sup>8</sup> | 382  | 436  | 14%    |

### Schedules offered

Of all slots in licensed child care centers

|                          |     |
|--------------------------|-----|
| Full-time and part-time  | 65% |
| Only full-time available | 0%  |
| Only part-time available | 35% |

Of all slots in licensed family child care homes

|                          |     |
|--------------------------|-----|
| Full-time and part-time  | 76% |
| Only full-time available | 24% |
| Only part-time available | 0%  |

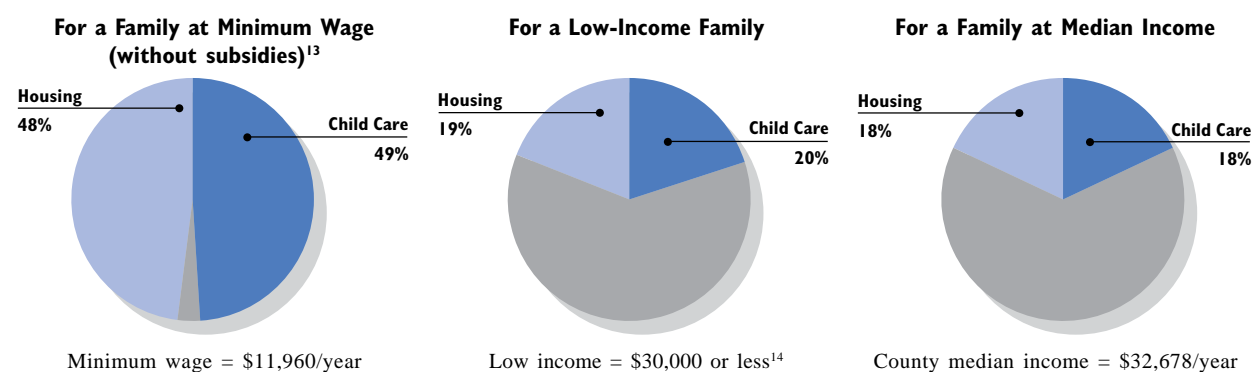
Centers with before-/after-school care<sup>12</sup>

Homes with before-/after-school care 83%

### Care available during non-traditional hours

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| In licensed and license-exempt centers <sup>12</sup> | 11% |
| In family child care homes                           | 41% |

## Portion of Income Needed to Pay for Basic Family Needs: Housing and One Infant in a Licensed Center



8. A breakdown of slots by age is not available, as family child care homes are licensed to care for children of all ages.  
 9. Percentage may total more or less than 100% because of rounding or because in some categories callers request more than one type of care. In some cases percentages could be less than 100% because not all types of care are noted in these data. (These requests would be noted as "other.") Also, since some parents find child care without using R&Rs, the calls recorded here do not necessarily represent total demand for child care, although they do reflect trends.  
 10. Care by a nanny or babysitter in the child's home. This, along with other forms of care, is referred to as license-exempt care.  
 11. Evening, overnight, or weekend care.  
 12. Some programs noted here are exempt from licensing requirements.  
 13. When the combined actual percentages for housing and child care costs are more than 100% of minimum wage, each is shown proportionately.  
 14. While "low income" is defined here as households earning less than \$30,000, eligibility for child care subsidies is based on 75% of the state median income level. In 2000, a family of three earning less than \$33,852 was eligible for a child care subsidy.

**C**ontra Costa County is a diverse county with a large percentage of two-income households and parents who commute long distances to work, creating a high demand for child care. Among low-income families in particular, there is a great need for non-traditional hour care for children whose parents work rotating shifts and evening and weekend hours.

Throughout the county, parents struggle to find – and, in some cases, pay for – child care for infants, school-age children, and children with special needs. Few child care programs have openings for infants because the higher staff-to-child ratio required makes it cost-prohibitive. Most before- and after-school programs have full enrollment and long waiting lists, and many providers do not feel adequately trained to care for children with special needs. To help child care providers better serve these populations, the Contra Costa Child Care Council, the local resource and referral (R&R) agency, offers courses in caring for infants, toddlers, and school-age children, as well as in the inclusion of children with special needs.

To increase the availability of child care, the Council offers “Road to Success,” a recruitment and training project for new family child care providers. In collaboration with the Contra Costa Children and Families Commission, the Council gives newly licensed providers a kit that includes child development materials, books, toys, and curriculum ideas. Financial assistance is available for these providers to purchase safety equipment and to access training. The Council also offers “El Comienzo,” a recruitment and training program for Spanish-speaking family child care providers.

**Quality improvement efforts help providers**  
The Child Care Council is committed to improving the quality of care as well as the supply. “We share information about child development, child health, safety, and nutrition with all providers, licensed and license-exempt,” says a Council staff member. The Council provides scholarships and workshops, conducts site visits, and sponsors an annual conference, and its Web site, [www.cocokids.org](http://www.cocokids.org), provides additional information. The Council also tracks the training and experience of child care providers and shares that information with parents when they call for referrals. Council staff frequently take resources and information out to community events and recently have begun extending evening hours one night a week to be more accessible to parents.

**For more information about child care in Contra Costa County, call:**

Contra Costa Child Care Council 925-676-5442

# Contra Costa County

*“My wife and I have been calling places, but we’re not really finding anything for infants. It just seems like there aren’t a lot of people out there to care for infants.”*

–Darin, father of a newborn

## The People

|  |                |
|--|----------------|
| <b>Total number of residents in the county</b>                   | <b>948,816</b> |
| % change in population 1990-2000                                 | 18%            |
| Total number of children under 14                                | 197,100        |
| Total number of children under 18                                | 251,794        |
| % of children ages 0-17 living in poverty <sup>1</sup>           | 14% 34,244     |
| Total number of children ages 6-13                               | 116,931        |
| Total number of children ages 0-5                                | 80,169         |
| % of children ages 0-5 living in poverty <sup>1</sup>            | 15% 11,705     |
| Families with children 0-5, headed by single parent <sup>2</sup> | 20%            |

Contra Costa has the 51st highest rate of child poverty among California’s 58 counties.

## Children of Working Parents<sup>3</sup>

|   |             |
|---|-------------|
| Children living with working parents <sup>4</sup> |             |
| % of children ages 0-13                           | 60% 119,169 |
| % of children ages 6-13                           | 65% 75,803  |
| % of children ages 0-5                            | 54% 43,366  |

## Child Care Costs, Family Income, and Child Care Salaries

|  |          |
|--|----------|
| Average annual cost of full-time, licensed care in a center, for an infant up to 24 months | \$9,727  |
| Annual minimum wage of full-time worker  | \$11,960 |
| Care for an infant as % of minimum wage  | 81%      |
| Median annual household income in the county   | \$58,219 |
| Care for an infant as % of median income   | 17%      |
| Care for two children as % of median income <sup>5</sup>                                   | 29%      |
| Self sufficiency family income <sup>6</sup>  | \$52,133 |
| Fair market rent for a two-bedroom unit  | \$11,052 |
| Salary of child care worker <sup>7</sup>   | \$17,420 |
| Salary of preschool teacher <sup>7</sup>   | \$21,130 |
| Salary of entry-level public school teacher <sup>7</sup>                                   | \$25,433 |

Excerpted from *The California Child Care Portfolio* ©2001 (permission to reproduce granted), available through your local R&R. For data source information, see the full edition of the *Portfolio*.

1. Percentage based on 1997 average poverty threshold for a family of four: \$16,050.

Numbers estimated for 2000 population. (2000 data not available by county, at publication.)

2. Includes male and female heads of households with own children.

3. Nationally, 51% of children 0-5 with working parents are estimated to be in child care.

4. Children living with two employed parents or an employed single head of household.

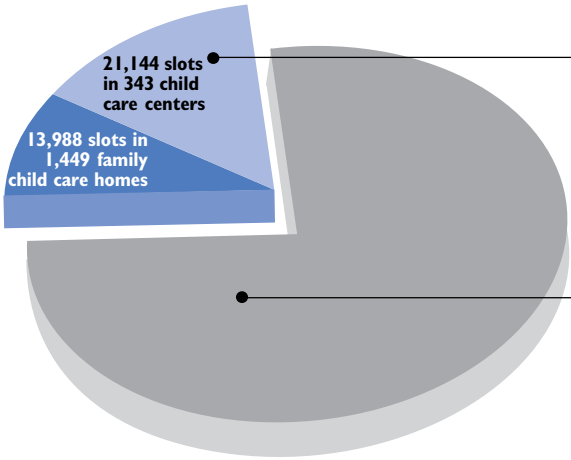
5. Full-time care at a licensed child care center for an infant (up to 24 months) and a child (age 2-5).

6. For two working adults, one infant (up to 24 months) and one child (age 2-5).

7. Statewide averages; public elementary school teacher salary based on school year.

# Child Care Supply in Contra Costa County

**Licensed child care still meets only a small fraction of the need in Contra Costa County.**



Contra Costa County ranks 15th among California's 58 counties in its supply of licensed child care slots, as represented by this ratio.

### Licensed Child Care Supply = 35,132 slots

**60% of all slots are in child care centers**

|                 |                     |
|-----------------|---------------------|
| Up to 24 months | 5% of center slots  |
| Ages 2-5        | 61% of center slots |
| Ages 6 and over | 34% of center slots |

**40% of all slots are in family child care homes<sup>8</sup>**

### Children Needing Child Care = 119,169

**Children with working parents**

|           |                 |
|-----------|-----------------|
| Ages 0-5  | 43,366 children |
| Ages 6-13 | 75,803 children |

Licensed child care supply meets only 29% of the estimated need for licensed care for children of all ages. There are 3.4 times more children, ages 0-13, with working parents than licensed child care slots.

### Child Care Requests to R&Rs<sup>9</sup>

| Type of care requested     | Percentage of calls |
|----------------------------|---------------------|
| Infant/toddler care        | 39% of calls        |
| Preschool care             | 38% of calls        |
| School-age care            | 23% of calls        |
| Family child care homes    | 87% of calls        |
| Child care centers         | 45% of calls        |
| In-home care <sup>10</sup> | 1% of calls         |

| Schedules requested               | Percentage |
|-----------------------------------|------------|
| Full-time care                    | 66%        |
| Part-time care                    | 34%        |
| Before- and/or after-school care  | 17%        |
| Full-time care, children ages 0-5 | 72%        |
| Part-time care, children ages 0-5 | 29%        |

In 2000, requests for care were about the same as in 1998. There was a slight increase, from 85 percent to 87 percent, in requests for family child care and a corresponding decrease in the percent of requests for care in centers.

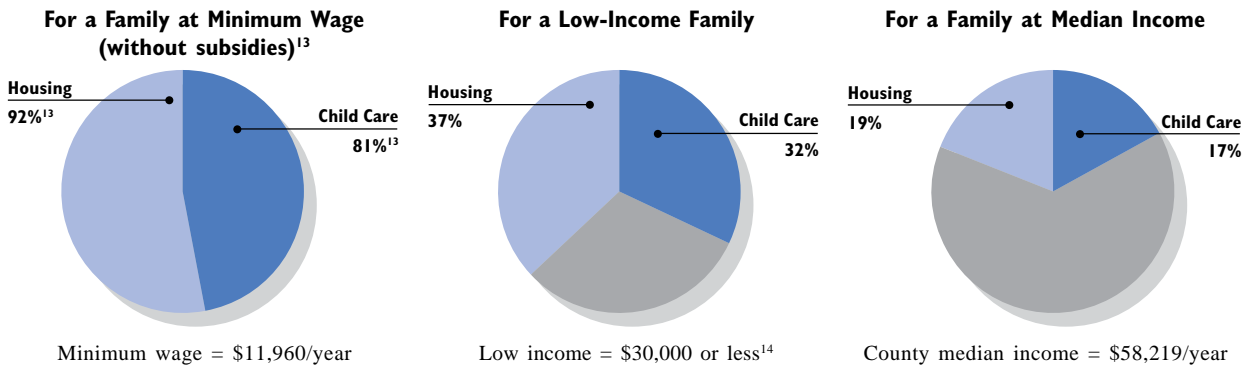
| Requests for care during non-traditional hours <sup>11</sup> | Percentage |
|--|------------|
| Evening, overnight, or weekend care                          | 4%         |

### Licensed Child Care Supply

| Facilities                      | 1998   | 2000   | Change |
|---------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|
| Child care centers              | 336    | 343    | 2%     |
| Slots for infants               | 910    | 1,074  | 18%    |
| Slots: ages 2-5                 | 12,808 | 12,852 | 0%     |
| Slots: ages 6 and over          | 6,758  | 7,218  | 7%     |
| Family child care homes         | 1,506  | 1,449  | -4%    |
| Slots for all ages <sup>8</sup> | 12,147 | 13,988 | 15%    |

| Schedules offered                                    | Percentage |
|--|------------|
| Of all slots in licensed child care centers          |            |
| Full-time and part-time                              | 69%        |
| Only full-time available                             | 5%         |
| Only part-time available                             | 27%        |
| Of all slots in licensed family child care homes     |            |
| Full-time and part-time                              | 88%        |
| Only full-time available                             | 8%         |
| Only part-time available                             | 5%         |
| Centers with before-/after-school care <sup>12</sup> | 47%        |
| Homes with before-/after-school care                 | 68%        |
| <b>Care available during non-traditional hours</b>   |            |
| In licensed and license-exempt centers <sup>12</sup> | 1%         |
| In family child care homes                           | 23%        |

### Portion of Income Needed to Pay for Basic Family Needs: Housing and One Infant in a Licensed Center



8. A breakdown of slots by age is not available, as family child care homes are licensed to care for children of all ages.  
 9. Percentage may total more or less than 100% because of rounding or because in some categories callers request more than one type of care. In some cases percentages could be less than 100% because not all types of care are noted in these data. (These requests would be noted as "other.") Also, since some parents find child care without using R&Rs, the calls recorded here do not necessarily represent total demand for child care, although they do reflect trends.  
 10. Care by a nanny or babysitter in the child's home. This, along with other forms of care, is referred to as license-exempt care.  
 11. Evening, overnight, or weekend care.  
 12. Some programs noted here are exempt from licensing requirements.  
 13. When the combined actual percentages for housing and child care costs are more than 100% of minimum wage, each is shown proportionately.  
 14. While "low income" is defined here as households earning less than \$30,000, eligibility for child care subsidies is based on 75% of the state median income level. In 2000, a family of three earning less than \$33,852 was eligible for a child care subsidy.

# Del Norte County

The largest employers in Del Norte, California's northernmost coastal county, operate around the clock: Pelican Bay State Penitentiary, a casino, a hospital, and a growing number of retail stores, restaurants, and hotels. More child care is needed for parents who work nights and weekends. Like other rural counties, Del Norte's child care costs are an increasing burden for parents who work in low-wage jobs. For a majority of these families, licensed care is simply out of reach, and parents complain that the high-quality child care facilities are already fully enrolled.

## Long distances limit child care choices

In addition, the lack of licensed care in outlying areas forces many working parents to travel long distances to and from work and child care. Some families drive 40 miles round-trip to and from child care, according to a counselor at the Del Norte Child Care Council, the local resource and referral (R&R) agency.

Discouraged by the low wages and long hours required of child care workers, many providers have opted for other careers that provide more financial stability. This staffing shortage has, in turn, led to little recent growth in the child care supply and high turnover rates, especially among infant care providers, according to the R&R. Although some new providers initially choose to provide infant care, many change their minds once they realize how difficult it is to run a viable business while meeting state regulations for staff-to-child ratios in infant care. Provider turnover, however, can be detrimental to young children, who learn best in the context of stable relationships, research shows.

Recruiting child care providers is a top priority for the Child Care Council, which has helped diversify the county's pool of child care workers through outreach to the Spanish-speaking community and a partnership with the county's Economic Development Program to recruit participants in CalWORKs, the state's welfare-to-work program. The R&R has also begun efforts to educate landlords, real estate companies, and businesses about child care. "Businesses need to understand the importance of child care to their employees' success," says an R&R staff member. "You can help parents with money for child care, but if employers don't understand the stresses of working parents, they won't be able to help employees succeed."

*"One of my co-workers became a child care provider because she couldn't find anyone good to leave her son with. Affordable day care for young children is a necessity and care attached to the schools is another necessity."*

—Dawn, working mother of a first-grader and a toddler

## The People

|  |               |
|--|---------------|
| <b>Total number of residents in the county</b>                   | <b>27,507</b> |
| % change in population 1990-2000                                 | 17%           |
| Total number of children under 14                                | 5,060         |
| Total number of children under 18                                | 6,896         |
| % of children ages 0-17 living in poverty <sup>1</sup>           | 32% 2,193     |
| Total number of children ages 6-13                               | 3,196         |
| Total number of children ages 0-5                                | 1,864         |
| % of children ages 0-5 living in poverty <sup>1</sup>            | 33% 608       |
| Families with children 0-5, headed by single parent <sup>2</sup> | 44%           |

Del Norte has the 10th highest rate of child poverty among California's 58 counties.

## Children of Working Parents<sup>3</sup>

|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| Children living with working parents <sup>4</sup> |           |
| % of children ages 0-13                           | 51% 2,622 |
| % of children ages 6-13                           | 59% 1,878 |
| % of children ages 0-5                            | 40% 744   |

## Child Care Costs, Family Income, and Child Care Salaries

|  |          |
|--|----------|
| Average annual cost of full-time, licensed care in a center, for an infant up to 24 months | \$5,912  |
| Annual minimum wage of full-time worker  | \$11,960 |
| Care for an infant as % of minimum wage  | 49%      |
| Median annual household income in the county   | \$31,155 |
| Care for an infant as % of median income   | 19%      |
| Care for two children as % of median income <sup>5</sup>                                   | 29%      |
| Self sufficiency family income <sup>6</sup>  | \$40,339 |
| Fair market rent for a two-bedroom unit  | \$6,852  |
| Salary of child care worker <sup>7</sup>   | \$17,420 |
| Salary of preschool teacher <sup>7</sup>   | \$21,130 |
| Salary of entry-level public school teacher <sup>7</sup>                                   | \$25,433 |

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1. Percentage based on 1997 average poverty threshold for a family of four: \$16,050.

Numbers estimated for 2000 population. (2000 data not available by county, at publication.)

2. Includes male and female heads of households with own children.

3. Nationally, 51% of children 0-5 with working parents are estimated to be in child care.

4. Children living with two employed parents or an employed single head of household.

5. Full-time care at a licensed child care center for an infant (up to 24 months) and a child (age 2-5).

6. For two working adults, one infant (up to 24 months) and one child (age 2-5).

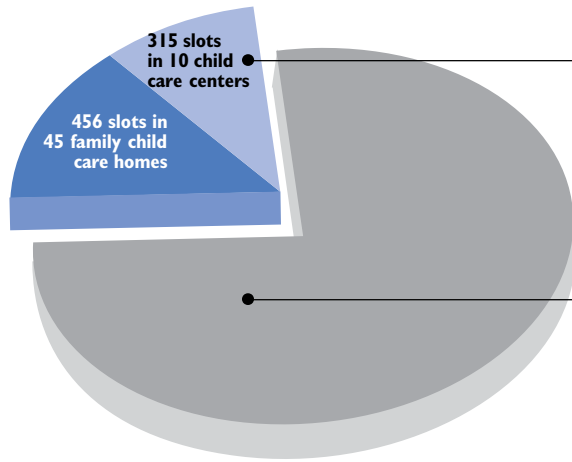
7. Statewide averages; public elementary school teacher salary based on school year.

**For more information about child care in Del Norte County, call:**

Del Norte Child Care Council 707-464-8311

# Child Care Supply in Del Norte County

Licensed child care still meets only a small fraction of the need in Del Norte County.



## Licensed Child Care Supply = 771 slots

41% of all slots are in child care centers

| Age Group       | Percentage of Center Slots |
|-----------------|----------------------------|
| Up to 24 months | 0%                         |
| Ages 2-5        | 73%                        |
| Ages 6 and over | 27%                        |

59% of all slots are in family child care homes<sup>8</sup>

## Children Needing Child Care = 2,622

Children with working parents

|           |                |
|-----------|----------------|
| Ages 0-5  | 744 children   |
| Ages 6-13 | 1,878 children |

Del Norte County ranks 16th among California's 58 counties in its supply of licensed child care slots, as represented by this ratio.

Licensed child care supply meets only 29% of the estimated need for licensed care for children of all ages. There are 3.4 times more children, ages 0-13, with working parents than licensed child care slots.

## Child Care Requests to R&Rs<sup>9</sup>

### Type of care requested

|                            |              |
|----------------------------|--------------|
| Infant/toddler care        | 21% of calls |
| Preschool care             | 45% of calls |
| School-age care            | 34% of calls |
| Family child care homes    | 88% of calls |
| Child care centers         | 32% of calls |
| In-home care <sup>10</sup> | 8% of calls  |

### Schedules requested

|                                   |     |
|-----------------------------------|-----|
| Full-time care                    | 74% |
| Part-time care                    | 39% |
| Before- and/or after-school care  | 16% |
| Full-time care, children ages 0-5 | 81% |
| Part-time care, children ages 0-5 | 35% |

In 2000, 9 percent of requests were for child care for families with rotating work schedules. From 1998 to 2000, requests for family child care decreased from 98 percent to 88 percent.

### Requests for care during non-traditional hours<sup>11</sup>

|                                     |     |
|-------------------------------------|-----|
| Evening, overnight, or weekend care | 22% |
|-------------------------------------|-----|

## Licensed Child Care Supply

| Facilities                      | 1998 | 2000 | Change |
|---------------------------------|------|------|--------|
| Child care centers              | 10   | 10   | 0%     |
| Slots for infants               | 0    | 0    | 0%     |
| Slots: ages 2-5                 | 239  | 231  | -3%    |
| Slots: ages 6 and over          | 76   | 84   | 11%    |
| Family child care homes         | 44   | 45   | 2%     |
| Slots for all ages <sup>8</sup> | 402  | 456  | 13%    |

### Schedules offered

Of all slots in licensed child care centers

|                          |     |
|--------------------------|-----|
| Full-time and part-time  | 64% |
| Only full-time available | 0%  |
| Only part-time available | 36% |

Of all slots in licensed family child care homes

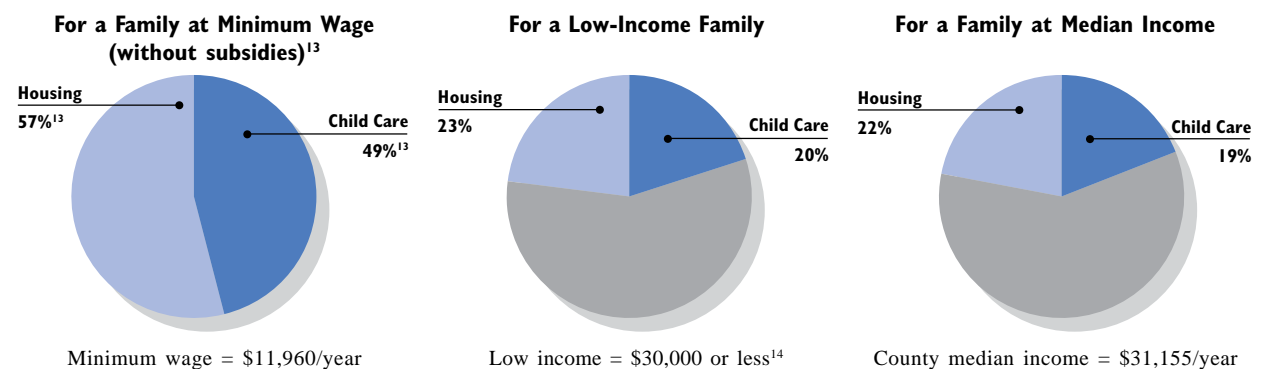
|                          |     |
|--------------------------|-----|
| Full-time and part-time  | 95% |
| Only full-time available | 5%  |
| Only part-time available | 0%  |

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| Centers with before-/after-school care <sup>12</sup> | 54% |
| Homes with before-/after-school care                 | 93% |

### Care available during non-traditional hours

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| In licensed and license-exempt centers <sup>12</sup> | 0%  |
| In family child care homes                           | 62% |

## Portion of Income Needed to Pay for Basic Family Needs: Housing and One Infant in a Licensed Center



8. A breakdown of slots by age is not available, as family child care homes are licensed to care for children of all ages.  
 9. Percentage may total more or less than 100% because of rounding or because in some categories callers request more than one type of care. In some cases percentages could be less than 100% because not all types of care are noted in these data. (These requests would be noted as "other.") Also, since some parents find child care without using R&Rs, the calls recorded here do not necessarily represent total demand for child care, although they do reflect trends.  
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 11. Evening, overnight, or weekend care.  
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 13. When the combined actual percentages for housing and child care costs are more than 100% of minimum wage, each is shown proportionately.  
 14. While "low income" is defined here as households earning less than \$30,000, eligibility for child care subsidies is based on 75% of the state median income level. In 2000, a family of three earning less than \$33,852 was eligible for a child care subsidy.

The Sierra Nevada and Lake Tahoe attract tourists to El Dorado County, but the mountainous terrain can inhibit transportation for many residents who call the county home. As a result, families find their child care options may be limited in geographically isolated communities, for example, or during winter months when road closures can make it impossible for parents to manage their usual commute to child care.

The county's proximity to Sacramento has helped stimulate local population and job growth. Large employers are moving into the county, including insurance services and high-tech companies, bringing thousands of new jobs. Choices for Children, the local resource and referral (R&R) agency, is working with business and community leaders to plan for the county's present and future child care needs.

#### There are fewer licensed child care slots

Unfortunately, some child care providers have left the field to pursue higher-paying work, contributing to a decrease in the overall supply of child care in the county since 1998. Because improving child care availability is a priority, the R&R and partnering organizations are trying to build the supply of licensed child care by encouraging license-exempt providers to become licensed. Grants from the state, the county, and others have helped to fund provider training and unit-based education, as well as weekly workshops, a comprehensive resource center with a mobile lending library, and provider stipends. "Regional collaboration has brought us a lot of additional resources, from training to technical assistance," says a Choices for Children director. "The early care and education workshops and technical assistance have helped our providers increase the quality of care in our communities."

As more parents have taken jobs that require rotating shifts, a growing number of family child care providers have begun to offer care during non-traditional hours. But the demand for care during these odd hours still outpaces supply. The R&R is also offering bilingual training to the increasing number of Spanish-speaking providers serving the community. As growth continues, more care will be needed, especially during non-traditional hours and for infants and school-age children.

R&R staff members are attempting to raise awareness about the importance of quality child care through a publicity campaign, outreach efforts at schools, and an annual "Kids' Expo," that draws about 6,000 participants each year. At the Expo and also Play-and-Learn program sites, parents can find out about quality care, child development, discipline, nutrition, and other topics.

# El Dorado County

*"I drive 20 minutes in one direction to drop my boys off at day care and then drive 40 minutes in the other direction to take my baby to the place that accepts infants. Then I drive the 20 minutes back to work, which is only three minutes from my house."*

—Niki, single mother of three children, ages 7, 5, and 17 months

## The People

|  |                |
|--|----------------|
| <b>Total number of residents in the county</b>                   | <b>156,299</b> |
| % change in population 1990-2000                                 | 24%            |
| Total number of children under 14                                | 30,831         |
| Total number of children under 18                                | 40,792         |
| % of children ages 0-17 living in poverty <sup>1</sup>           | 13% 5,385      |
| Total number of children ages 6-13                               | 19,783         |
| Total number of children ages 0-5                                | 11,048         |
| % of children ages 0-5 living in poverty <sup>1</sup>            | 13% 1,447      |
| Families with children 0-5, headed by single parent <sup>2</sup> | 21%            |

El Dorado has the 54th highest rate of child poverty among California's 58 counties.

## Children of Working Parents<sup>3</sup>

|   |            |
|---|------------|
| Children living with working parents <sup>4</sup> |            |
| % of children ages 0-13                           | 57% 17,860 |
| % of children ages 6-13                           | 62% 12,191 |
| % of children ages 0-5                            | 51% 5,669  |

## Child Care Costs, Family Income, and Child Care Salaries

|  |          |
|--|----------|
| Average annual cost of full-time, licensed care in a center, for an infant up to 24 months | \$7,193  |
| Annual minimum wage of full-time worker  | \$11,960 |
| Care for an infant as % of minimum wage  | 60%      |
| Median annual household income in the county   | \$48,221 |
| Care for an infant as % of median income   | 15%      |
| Care for two children as % of median income <sup>5</sup>                                   | 25%      |
| Self sufficiency family income <sup>6</sup>  | \$44,302 |
| Fair market rent for a two-bedroom unit  | \$7,572  |
| Salary of child care worker <sup>7</sup>   | \$17,420 |
| Salary of preschool teacher <sup>7</sup>   | \$21,130 |
| Salary of entry-level public school teacher <sup>7</sup>                                   | \$25,433 |

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2. Includes male and female heads of households with own children.

3. Nationally, 51% of children 0-5 with working parents are estimated to be in child care.

4. Children living with two employed parents or an employed single head of household.

5. Full-time care at a licensed child care center for an infant (up to 24 months) and a child (age 2-5).

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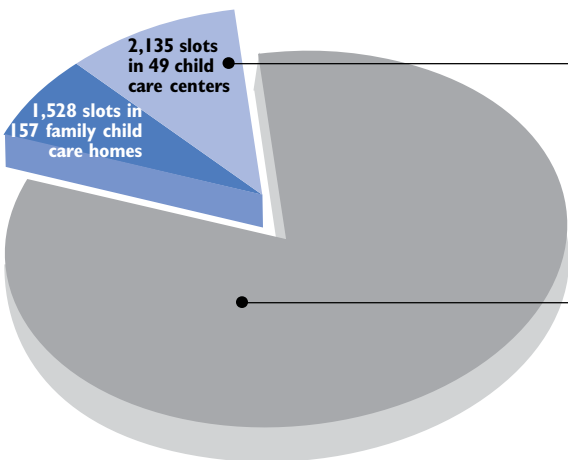
7. Statewide averages; public elementary school teacher salary based on school year.

**For more information about child care in El Dorado County, call:**

Choices for Children 530-676-0707

# Child Care Supply in El Dorado County

Licensed child care still meets only a small fraction of the need in El Dorado County.



El Dorado County ranks 48th among California's 58 counties in its supply of licensed child care slots, as represented by this ratio.

## Licensed Child Care Supply = 3,664 slots

58% of all slots are in child care centers

|                 |                     |
|-----------------|---------------------|
| Up to 24 months | 5% of center slots  |
| Ages 2-5        | 81% of center slots |
| Ages 6 and over | 14% of center slots |

42% of all slots are in family child care homes<sup>8</sup>

## Children Needing Child Care = 17,860

Children with working parents

|           |                 |
|-----------|-----------------|
| Ages 0-5  | 5,669 children  |
| Ages 6-13 | 12,191 children |

Licensed child care supply meets only 21% of the estimated need for licensed care for children of all ages. There are 4.9 times more children, ages 0-13, with working parents than licensed child care slots.

## Child Care Requests to R&Rs<sup>9</sup>

### Type of care requested

|                            |              |
|----------------------------|--------------|
| Infant/toddler care        | 37% of calls |
| Preschool care             | 44% of calls |
| School-age care            | 19% of calls |
| Family child care homes    | 86% of calls |
| Child care centers         | 74% of calls |
| In-home care <sup>10</sup> | 40% of calls |

### Schedules requested

|                                   |     |
|-----------------------------------|-----|
| Full-time care                    | 40% |
| Part-time care                    | 62% |
| Before- and/or after-school care  | 8%  |
| Full-time care, children ages 0-5 | 43% |
| Part-time care, children ages 0-5 | 60% |

Between 1998 and 2000, requests for care during non-traditional hours increased from 15 percent to 23 percent. Over that period, requests for in-home care increased from 5 percent to 40 percent.

### Requests for care during non-traditional hours<sup>11</sup>

|                                     |     |
|-------------------------------------|-----|
| Evening, overnight, or weekend care | 23% |
|-------------------------------------|-----|

## Licensed Child Care Supply

| Facilities                      | 1998  | 2000  | Change |
|---------------------------------|-------|-------|--------|
| Child care centers              | 55    | 49    | -11%   |
| Slots for infants               | 138   | 103   | -25%   |
| Slots: ages 2-5                 | 1,938 | 1,724 | -11%   |
| Slots: ages 6 and over          | 243   | 308   | 27%    |
| Family child care homes         | 184   | 157   | -15%   |
| Slots for all ages <sup>8</sup> | 1,630 | 1,528 | -6%    |

### Schedules offered

Of all slots in licensed child care centers

|                          |     |
|--------------------------|-----|
| Full-time and part-time  | 86% |
| Only full-time available | 3%  |
| Only part-time available | 11% |

Of all slots in licensed family child care homes

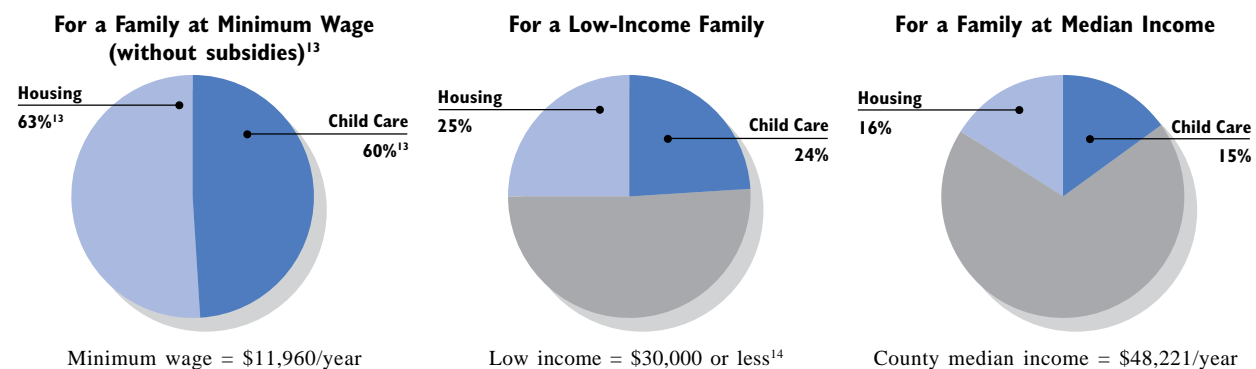
|                          |     |
|--------------------------|-----|
| Full-time and part-time  | 81% |
| Only full-time available | 11% |
| Only part-time available | 8%  |

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| Centers with before-/after-school care <sup>12</sup> | 47% |
| Homes with before-/after-school care                 | 71% |

### Care available during non-traditional hours

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| In licensed and license-exempt centers <sup>12</sup> | 9%  |
| In family child care homes                           | 29% |

## Portion of Income Needed to Pay for Basic Family Needs: Housing and One Infant in a Licensed Center



8. A breakdown of slots by age is not available, as family child care homes are licensed to care for children of all ages.  
 9. Percentage may total more or less than 100% because of rounding or because in some categories callers request more than one type of care. In some cases percentages could be less than 100% because not all types of care are noted in these data. (These requests would be noted as "other.") Also, since some parents find child care without using R&Rs, the calls recorded here do not necessarily represent total demand for child care, although they do reflect trends.  
 10. Care by a nanny or babysitter in the child's home. This, along with other forms of care, is referred to as license-exempt care.  
 11. Evening, overnight, or weekend care.  
 12. Some programs noted here are exempt from licensing requirements.  
 13. When the combined actual percentages for housing and child care costs are more than 100% of minimum wage, each is shown proportionately.  
 14. While "low income" is defined here as households earning less than \$30,000, eligibility for child care subsidies is based on 75% of the state median income level. In 2000, a family of three earning less than \$33,852 was eligible for a child care subsidy.

**F**resno County is, in terms of production, the top farm county in the nation. Its agricultural labor force consists mainly of migrant workers, who spend part of the year working long hours to gather crops and part of the year working only part-time or not at all. Despite the varying needs of farm-worker families, some child care providers are unwilling to serve families with irregular schedules. Parents find the lack of child care especially challenging in very rural areas and when looking for infant care.

#### Families wait for child care subsidies

The waiting list for subsidized child care is long, according to staff members at Central Valley Children's Services Network, the local resource and referral (R&R) agency. Although families participating in CalWORKs, the state's welfare-to-work program, receive financial assistance to pay for child care, there are insufficient funds for many other low-income families who are also eligible.

Many families use public transportation to get to and from child care and work. This prompts some parents, hoping to avoid the hassle of taking young children on public buses, to select care based on location rather than quality. Lack of transportation from school to child care can sometimes exclude children from school-age programs, forcing parents to leave them home alone in the afternoons.

#### New funding gives providers incentives

The R&R is partnering with other organizations to improve Fresno County's child care supply and quality. Funds from local colleges, the Fresno County Children and Families Commission, and state and local government have created incentives for child care providers, such as stipends for attending child development classes and start-up funds for family child care homes. As a result, many new providers have joined the profession since 1998, and the supply of licensed care has increased in nearly all categories. The quality of care has improved, also, thanks in part to a project of the R&R and the county's Department of Human Services that provides incentives for new caregivers who attend trainings.

Meanwhile, R&R staff members take advantage of community fairs and childbirth classes as venues to educate parents about quality care. Their efforts are paying off. "Parents can tell which providers have been through training and have high quality programs," says an R&R counselor. "It is awesome to see how involved these providers are with the children and how active and happy the kids are. It's just that we need more of them."

#### For more information about child care in Fresno County, call:

Central Valley Children's Services Network  
559-456-1100

# Fresno County

*"I wish I could put my daughter in the subsidized program with my son, but I don't meet the qualifications. It's O.K. now that my daughter goes to school and the provider only takes care of her for two hours. But when it's the whole day during the summer, it's expensive."*

—Lorena, mother of a 6-year-old and a 3-year-old

## The People

|  |                |
|--|----------------|
| <b>Total number of residents in the county</b>                   | <b>799,407</b> |
| % change in population 1990-2000                                 | 20%            |
| Total number of children under 14                                | 200,136        |
| Total number of children under 18                                | 256,425        |
| % of children ages 0-17 living in poverty <sup>1</sup>           | 38% 97,442     |
| Total number of children ages 6-13                               | 118,012        |
| Total number of children ages 0-5                                | 82,124         |
| % of children ages 0-5 living in poverty <sup>1</sup>            | 42% 34,328     |
| Families with children 0-5, headed by single parent <sup>2</sup> | 33%            |

Fresno has the 3rd highest rate of child poverty among California's 58 counties.

## Children of Working Parents<sup>3</sup>

|   |            |
|---|------------|
| Children living with working parents <sup>4</sup> |            |
| % of children ages 0-13                           | 48% 96,924 |
| % of children ages 6-13                           | 53% 62,353 |
| % of children ages 0-5                            | 42% 34,571 |

## Child Care Costs, Family Income, and Child Care Salaries

|  |          |
|--|----------|
| Average annual cost of full-time, licensed care in a center, for an infant up to 24 months | \$7,250  |
| Annual minimum wage of full-time worker  | \$11,960 |
| Care for an infant as % of minimum wage  | 61%      |
| Median annual household income in the county   | \$33,882 |
| Care for an infant as % of median income   | 21%      |
| Care for two children as % of median income <sup>5</sup>                                   | 37%      |
| Self sufficiency family income <sup>6</sup>  | \$41,623 |
| Fair market rent for a two-bedroom unit  | \$6,072  |
| Salary of child care worker <sup>7</sup>   | \$17,420 |
| Salary of preschool teacher <sup>7</sup>   | \$21,130 |
| Salary of entry-level public school teacher <sup>7</sup>                                   | \$25,433 |

Excerpted from *The California Child Care Portfolio* ©2001 (permission to reproduce granted), available through your local R&R. For data source information, see the full edition of the *Portfolio*.

1. Percentage based on 1997 average poverty threshold for a family of four: \$16,050.

Numbers estimated for 2000 population. (2000 data not available by county, at publication.)

2. Includes male and female heads of households with own children.

3. Nationally, 51% of children 0-5 with working parents are estimated to be in child care.

4. Children living with two employed parents or an employed single head of household.

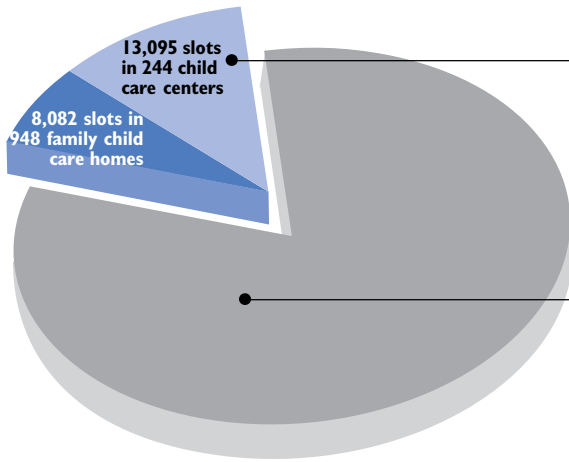
5. Full-time care at a licensed child care center for an infant (up to 24 months) and a child (age 2-5).

6. For two working adults, one infant (up to 24 months) and one child (age 2-5).

7. Statewide averages; public elementary school teacher salary based on school year.

# Child Care Supply in Fresno County

Licensed child care still meets only a small fraction of the need in Fresno County.



Fresno County ranks 44th among California's 58 counties in its supply of licensed child care slots, as represented by this ratio.

**Licensed Child Care Supply = 21,177 slots**

62% of all slots are in child care centers

Up to 24 months 6% of center slots  
 Ages 2-5 72% of center slots  
 Ages 6 and over 22% of center slots

38% of all slots are in family child care homes<sup>8</sup>

**Children Needing Child Care = 96,924**

Children with working parents

Ages 0-5 34,571 children  
 Ages 6-13 62,353 children

Licensed child care supply meets only 22% of the estimated need for licensed care for children of all ages. There are 4.6 times more children, ages 0-13, with working parents than licensed child care slots.

## Child Care Requests to R&Rs<sup>9</sup>

### Type of care requested

|                            |              |
|----------------------------|--------------|
| Infant/toddler care        | 34% of calls |
| Preschool care             | 35% of calls |
| School-age care            | 31% of calls |
| Family child care homes    | 60% of calls |
| Child care centers         | 40% of calls |
| In-home care <sup>10</sup> | 0% of calls  |

### Schedules requested

|                                   |     |
|-----------------------------------|-----|
| Full-time care                    | 67% |
| Part-time care                    | 14% |
| Before- and/or after-school care  | 17% |
| Full-time care, children ages 0-5 | N/A |
| Part-time care, children ages 0-5 | N/A |

Between 1998 and 2000, requests for school-age care increased from 22 percent to 31 percent. Requests for part-time care decreased from 42 percent to 14 percent.

### Requests for care during non-traditional hours<sup>11</sup>

|                                     |    |
|-------------------------------------|----|
| Evening, overnight, or weekend care | 2% |
|-------------------------------------|----|

## Licensed Child Care Supply

| Facilities                      | 1998  | 2000  | Change |
|---------------------------------|-------|-------|--------|
| Child care centers              | 239   | 244   | 2%     |
| Slots for infants               | 636   | 755   | 19%    |
| Slots: ages 2-5                 | 9,554 | 9,475 | -1%    |
| Slots: ages 6 and over          | 2,836 | 2,865 | 1%     |
| Family child care homes         | 820   | 948   | 16%    |
| Slots for all ages <sup>8</sup> | 6,024 | 8,082 | 34%    |

### Schedules offered

Of all slots in licensed child care centers

|                          |     |
|--------------------------|-----|
| Full-time and part-time  | 63% |
| Only full-time available | 7%  |
| Only part-time available | 31% |

Of all slots in licensed family child care homes

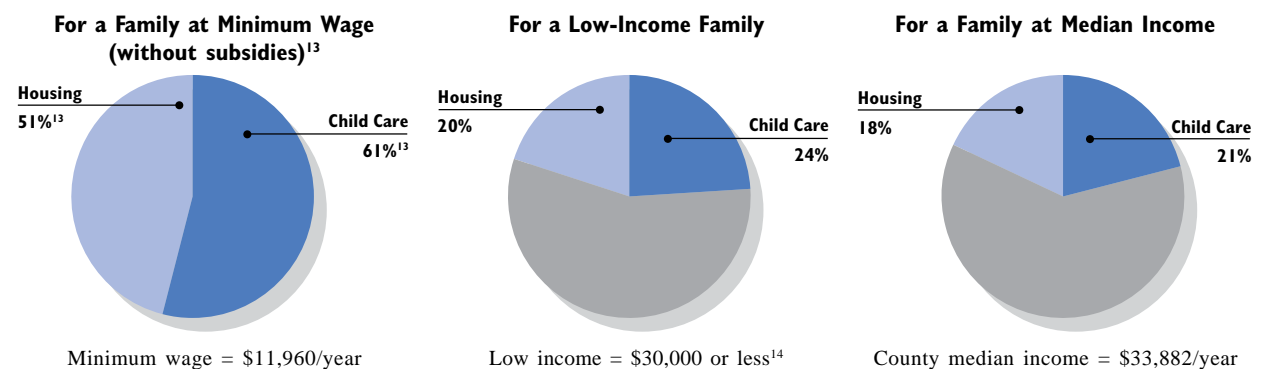
|                          |     |
|--------------------------|-----|
| Full-time and part-time  | 61% |
| Only full-time available | 37% |
| Only part-time available | 2%  |

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| Centers with before-/after-school care <sup>12</sup> | 39% |
| Homes with before-/after-school care                 | 44% |

### Care available during non-traditional hours

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| In licensed and license-exempt centers <sup>12</sup> | 2%  |
| In family child care homes                           | 18% |

## Portion of Income Needed to Pay for Basic Family Needs: Housing and One Infant in a Licensed Center



8. A breakdown of slots by age is not available, as family child care homes are licensed to care for children of all ages.  
 9. Percentage may total more or less than 100% because of rounding or because in some categories callers request more than one type of care. In some cases percentages could be less than 100% because not all types of care are noted in these data. (These requests would be noted as "other.") Also, since some parents find child care without using R&Rs, the calls recorded here do not necessarily represent total demand for child care, although they do reflect trends.  
 10. Care by a nanny or babysitter in the child's home. This, along with other forms of care, is referred to as license-exempt care.  
 11. Evening, overnight, or weekend care.  
 12. Some programs noted here are exempt from licensing requirements.  
 13. When the combined actual percentages for housing and child care costs are more than 100% of minimum wage, each is shown proportionately.  
 14. While "low income" is defined here as households earning less than \$30,000, eligibility for child care subsidies is based on 75% of the state median income level. In 2000, a family of three earning less than \$33,852 was eligible for a child care subsidy.

The economy in rural Glenn County is predominantly agricultural. The lack of steady work in some parts of the county has caused the population to shift, as participants in CalWORKs, the state's welfare-to-work program, relocate in search of jobs that match their skills and provide higher salaries. These population shifts have had an impact on child care demand: For example, demand has fallen in Willows but increased in Orland. Retail, another major source of jobs, often requires evening and weekend work or rotating shifts. Because most licensed child care facilities are closed during those times, families must parse together informal care provided by friends or relatives. These arrangements are not always long-term, so parents often shuffle their children among several different caregivers. Parents of children with special needs face added challenges, spending months searching for caregivers who have the appropriate training to attend to their children's needs.

Many Glenn County parents who find appropriate child care grapple with high costs. While families participating in CalWORKs receive financial assistance in paying for child care, there is not enough funding to supply subsidies to all low-income working families who are eligible for assistance. Head Start programs and state-funded preschools meet some of the need. But, for children of other ages and low-income working parents who do not receive a subsidy, there are limited affordable choices.

#### Spanish-speaking care is in demand

Latinos now make up nearly one-third of the county's population, and requests for Spanish-speaking providers have increased since 1996. The local resource and referral (R&R) agency, a part of the Glenn County Office of Education, is working to build the supply of Spanish-speaking providers and to increase child care capacity in the county. These and other efforts have contributed to a steady increase in the licensed child care supply since 1996.

The R&R has supported the Local Child Care Planning Council and the county Children and Families Commission in developing a CARES (Compensation and Retention Encourages Stability) program for providers. The program distributes stipends to providers who pursue additional child development education, especially in training that boosts the quality of infant and toddler care and care for children with special needs. Glenn County is also piloting a Web-based, central eligibility list for subsidized programs that will eventually help low-income parents find quality child care more efficiently.

# Glenn County

*"If your income is more than totally destitute, there are no subsidies, but the cost of child care is very high. There are a lot of people in my situation who aren't getting help."*

—Angela, single mother of three, including a child with special needs

## The People

|  |               |
|--|---------------|
| <b>Total number of residents in the county</b>                   | <b>26,453</b> |
| % change in population 1990-2000                                 | 7%            |
| Total number of children under 14                                | 6,188         |
| Total number of children under 18                                | 8,141         |
| % of children ages 0-17 living in poverty <sup>1</sup>           | 29% 2,377     |
| Total number of children ages 6-13                               | 3,753         |
| Total number of children ages 0-5                                | 2,435         |
| % of children ages 0-5 living in poverty <sup>1</sup>            | 25% 606       |
| Families with children 0-5, headed by single parent <sup>2</sup> | 31%           |

Glenn has the 28th highest rate of child poverty among California's 58 counties.

## Children of Working Parents<sup>3</sup>

|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| Children living with working parents <sup>4</sup> |           |
| % of children ages 0-13                           | 50% 3,127 |
| % of children ages 6-13                           | 56% 2,092 |
| % of children ages 0-5                            | 43% 1,035 |

## Child Care Costs, Family Income, and Child Care Salaries

|  |          |
|--|----------|
| Average annual cost of full-time, licensed care in a center, for an infant up to 24 months | \$5,912  |
| Annual minimum wage of full-time worker  | \$11,960 |
| Care for an infant as % of minimum wage  | 49%      |
| Median annual household income in the county   | \$30,731 |
| Care for an infant as % of median income   | 19%      |
| Care for two children as % of median income <sup>5</sup>                                   | 32%      |
| Self sufficiency family income <sup>6</sup>  | \$38,745 |
| Fair market rent for a two-bedroom unit  | \$5,796  |
| Salary of child care worker <sup>7</sup>   | \$17,420 |
| Salary of preschool teacher <sup>7</sup>   | \$21,130 |
| Salary of entry-level public school teacher <sup>7</sup>                                   | \$25,433 |

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1. Percentage based on 1997 average poverty threshold for a family of four: \$16,050.

Numbers estimated for 2000 population. (2000 data not available by county, at publication.)

2. Includes male and female heads of households with own children.

3. Nationally, 51% of children 0-5 with working parents are estimated to be in child care.

4. Children living with two employed parents or an employed single head of household.

5. Full-time care at a licensed child care center for an infant (up to 24 months) and a child (age 2-5).

6. For two working adults, one infant (up to 24 months) and one child (age 2-5).

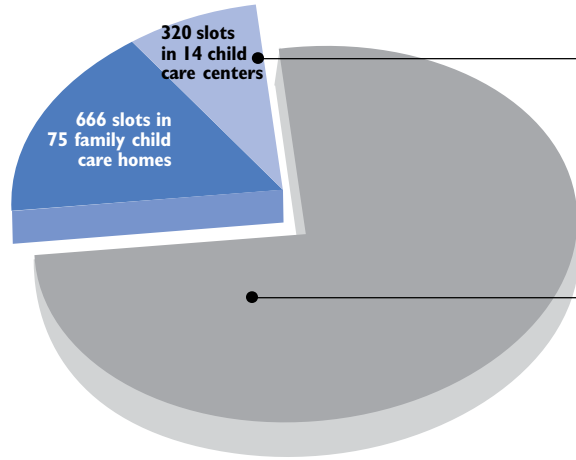
7. Statewide averages; public elementary school teacher salary based on school year.

### For more information about child care in Glenn County, call:

Office of Education,  
Child Care Resource & Referral  
530-865-1118

# Child Care Supply in Glenn County

Licensed child care still meets only a small fraction of the need in Glenn County.



Glenn County ranks 11th among California's 58 counties in its supply of licensed child care slots, as represented by this ratio.

## Licensed Child Care Supply = 986 slots

32% of all slots are in child care centers

|                 |                     |
|-----------------|---------------------|
| Up to 24 months | 0% of center slots  |
| Ages 2-5        | 86% of center slots |
| Ages 6 and over | 14% of center slots |

68% of all slots are in family child care homes<sup>8</sup>

## Children Needing Child Care = 3,127

Children with working parents

|           |                |
|-----------|----------------|
| Ages 0-5  | 1,035 children |
| Ages 6-13 | 2,092 children |

Licensed child care supply meets only 32% of the estimated need for licensed care for children of all ages. There are 3.2 times more children, ages 0-13, with working parents than licensed child care slots.

## Child Care Requests to R&Rs<sup>9</sup>

### Type of care requested

|                            |              |
|----------------------------|--------------|
| Infant/toddler care        | 25% of calls |
| Preschool care             | 55% of calls |
| School-age care            | 20% of calls |
| Family child care homes    | 99% of calls |
| Child care centers         | 13% of calls |
| In-home care <sup>10</sup> | 0% of calls  |

### Schedules requested

|                                   |     |
|-----------------------------------|-----|
| Full-time care                    | 84% |
| Part-time care                    | 70% |
| Before- and/or after-school care  | 1%  |
| Full-time care, children ages 0-5 | 82% |
| Part-time care, children ages 0-5 | 71% |

In both 1998 and 2000, 6 percent of callers requested Spanish-speaking providers for their children. In 1996, there were no requests for such care.

### Requests for care during non-traditional hours<sup>11</sup>

|                                     |     |
|-------------------------------------|-----|
| Evening, overnight, or weekend care | 11% |
|-------------------------------------|-----|

## Licensed Child Care Supply

### Facilities

| Facilities                      | 1998 | 2000 | Change |
|---------------------------------|------|------|--------|
| Child care centers              | 12   | 14   | 17%    |
| Slots for infants               | 0    | 0    | 0%     |
| Slots: ages 2-5                 | 301  | 276  | -8%    |
| Slots: ages 6 and over          | 44   | 44   | 0%     |
| Family child care homes         | 53   | 75   | 42%    |
| Slots for all ages <sup>8</sup> | 414  | 666  | 61%    |

### Schedules offered

Of all slots in licensed child care centers

|                          |     |
|--------------------------|-----|
| Full-time and part-time  | 45% |
| Only full-time available | 12% |
| Only part-time available | 43% |

Of all slots in licensed family child care homes

|                          |     |
|--------------------------|-----|
| Full-time and part-time  | 89% |
| Only full-time available | 8%  |
| Only part-time available | 3%  |

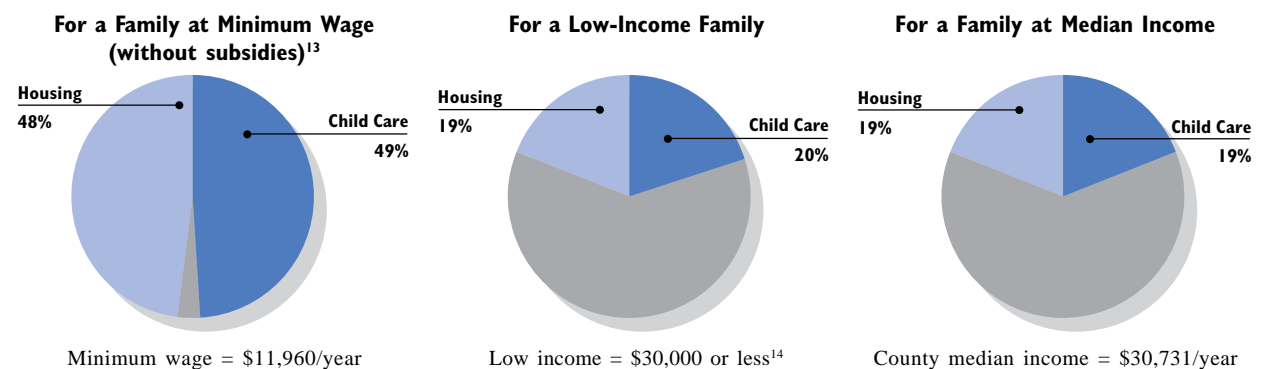
Centers with before-/after-school care<sup>12</sup>

Homes with before-/after-school care 64%

### Care available during non-traditional hours

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| In licensed and license-exempt centers <sup>12</sup> | 0%  |
| In family child care homes                           | 19% |

## Portion of Income Needed to Pay for Basic Family Needs: Housing and One Infant in a Licensed Center



8. A breakdown of slots by age is not available, as family child care homes are licensed to care for children of all ages.  
 9. Percentage may total more or less than 100% because of rounding or because in some categories callers request more than one type of care. In some cases percentages could be less than 100% because not all types of care are noted in these data. (These requests would be noted as "other.") Also, since some parents find child care without using R&Rs, the calls recorded here do not necessarily represent total demand for child care, although they do reflect trends.  
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 11. Evening, overnight, or weekend care.  
 12. Some programs noted here are exempt from licensing requirements.  
 13. When the combined actual percentages for housing and child care costs are more than 100% of minimum wage, each is shown proportionately.  
 14. While "low income" is defined here as households earning less than \$30,000, eligibility for child care subsidies is based on 75% of the state median income level. In 2000, a family of three earning less than \$33,852 was eligible for a child care subsidy.

# Humboldt County

*“When my provider closed her day care, it was traumatic. We knew what else was out there, and if this provider wasn’t there, we felt like we didn’t have options.”*

—Chris, mother of a preschooler

Although the overall supply of child care in coastal Humboldt County is up, many working families continue to find it difficult to meet their particular child care needs. Typically, infants are difficult to place in licensed child care; providers opt instead to teach preschoolers, who can be served by a lower staff-to-child ratio. At the same time, preschool enrollment has been declining with a drop in Humboldt’s birth rate over the past five years, so some child care centers focused on preschoolers have space available. Yet even those parents who need and use subsidized preschool are challenged when their children’s programs are open only half a day, not the full day that most parents work.

## Economic trends affect child care

Once home to a thriving timber industry, the county has experienced an economic slowdown over the past decade. Child care needs have changed, as some dislocated workers enter job training programs and enroll in night classes at local colleges to increase their skill levels. Other working parents have taken retail and food service jobs that require rotating shifts and evening or weekend hours, when child care availability is significantly lower than during the day.

The majority of children in Humboldt County are of elementary-school age, and many need after-school care. Although the supply of such care has increased slightly since 1998, it has not kept up with demand, according to the Humboldt Child Care Council, the local resource and referral (R&R) agency. “Working families need care throughout the day, not just during school hours,” notes a director.

To increase the supply of child care, the R&R is using local television to attract interest in child care as a profession. They are also reaching out to the Latino community and offering introductory workshops in remote areas of the county. Child care licensing orientations are usually full, and potential providers often must put their names on waiting lists. The R&R provides support and technical assistance to become licensed. The county’s CARES (Compensation and Retention Encourages Stability) program will make stipends available for providers who remain in the profession and continue their education in child development.

The R&R has collaborated with others to educate parents about the importance of quality child care. Working with the Employment Development Department, the R&R contacts job-seeking parents to talk about choosing care. A new program, Child Care Health Linkages, helps child care providers connect families with health professionals. That way, parents get health and safety questions answered and get access to support and resources that ensure their children’s well-being.

## The People

|  |                |
|--|----------------|
| <b>Total number of residents in the county</b>                   | <b>126,518</b> |
| % change in population 1990-2000                                 | 6%             |
| Total number of children under 14                                | 21,950         |
| Total number of children under 18                                | 29,413         |
| % of children ages 0-17 living in poverty <sup>1</sup>           | 26% 7,647      |
| Total number of children ages 6-13                               | 13,330         |
| Total number of children ages 0-5                                | 8,620          |
| % of children ages 0-5 living in poverty <sup>1</sup>            | 25% 2,172      |
| Families with children 0-5, headed by single parent <sup>2</sup> | 38%            |

Humboldt has the 27th highest rate of child poverty among California’s 58 counties.

## Children of Working Parents<sup>3</sup>

|   |            |
|---|------------|
| Children living with working parents <sup>4</sup> |            |
| % of children ages 0-13                           | 55% 12,061 |
| % of children ages 6-13                           | 60% 7,941  |
| % of children ages 0-5                            | 48% 4,120  |

## Child Care Costs, Family Income, and Child Care Salaries

|  |          |
|--|----------|
| Average annual cost of full-time, licensed care in a center, for an infant up to 24 months | \$6,256  |
| Annual minimum wage of full-time worker  | \$11,960 |
| Care for an infant as % of minimum wage  | 52%      |
| Median annual household income in the county   | \$32,637 |
| Care for an infant as % of median income   | 19%      |
| Care for two children as % of median income <sup>5</sup>                                   | 34%      |
| Self sufficiency family income <sup>6</sup>  | \$40,393 |
| Fair market rent for a two-bedroom unit  | \$6,888  |
| Salary of child care worker <sup>7</sup>   | \$17,420 |
| Salary of preschool teacher <sup>7</sup>   | \$21,130 |
| Salary of entry-level public school teacher <sup>7</sup>                                   | \$25,433 |

Excerpted from *The California Child Care Portfolio* ©2001 (permission to reproduce granted), available through your local R&R. For data source information, see the full edition of the *Portfolio*.

1. Percentage based on 1997 average poverty threshold for a family of four: \$16,050.

Numbers estimated for 2000 population. (2000 data not available by county, at publication.)

2. Includes male and female heads of households with own children.

3. Nationally, 51% of children 0-5 with working parents are estimated to be in child care.

4. Children living with two employed parents or an employed single head of household.

5. Full-time care at a licensed child care center for an infant (up to 24 months) and a child (age 2-5).

6. For two working adults, one infant (up to 24 months) and one child (age 2-5).

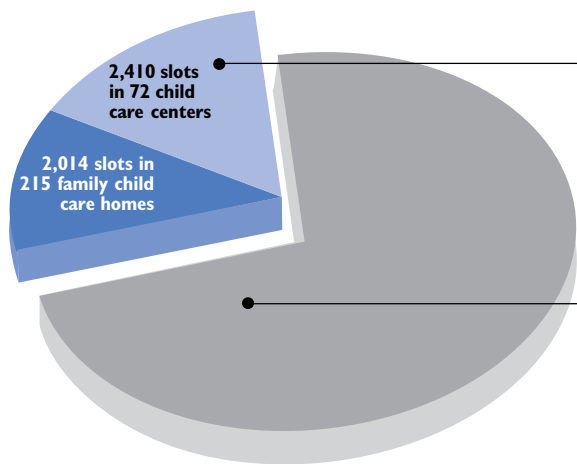
7. Statewide averages; public elementary school teacher salary based on school year.

**For more information about child care in Humboldt County, call:**

Humboldt Child Care Council  
707-444-8293

# Child Care Supply in Humboldt County

Licensed child care still meets only a small fraction of the need in Humboldt County.



Humboldt County ranks 5th among California's 58 counties in its supply of licensed child care slots, as represented by this ratio.

## Licensed Child Care Supply = 4,424 slots

54% of all slots are in child care centers

|                 |                     |
|-----------------|---------------------|
| Up to 24 months | 6% of center slots  |
| Ages 2-5        | 68% of center slots |
| Ages 6 and over | 25% of center slots |

46% of all slots are in family child care homes<sup>8</sup>

## Children Needing Child Care = 12,061

Children with working parents

|           |                |
|-----------|----------------|
| Ages 0-5  | 4,120 children |
| Ages 6-13 | 7,941 children |

Licensed child care supply meets only 37% of the estimated need for licensed care for children of all ages. There are 2.7 times more children, ages 0-13, with working parents than licensed child care slots.

## Child Care Requests to R&Rs<sup>9</sup>

### Type of care requested

|                            |              |
|----------------------------|--------------|
| Infant/toddler care        | 36% of calls |
| Preschool care             | 41% of calls |
| School-age care            | 23% of calls |
| Family child care homes    | 91% of calls |
| Child care centers         | 9% of calls  |
| In-home care <sup>10</sup> | 0% of calls  |

### Schedules requested

|                                   |     |
|-----------------------------------|-----|
| Full-time care                    | 46% |
| Part-time care                    | 54% |
| Before- and/or after-school care  | 8%  |
| Full-time care, children ages 0-5 | 48% |
| Part-time care, children ages 0-5 | 52% |

Requests for infant/toddler care increased from 29 percent in 1998 to 36 percent in 2000; during that time, requests for full-time care increased to 46 percent from 19 percent.

### Requests for care during non-traditional hours<sup>11</sup>

|                                     |     |
|-------------------------------------|-----|
| Evening, overnight, or weekend care | 12% |
|-------------------------------------|-----|

## Licensed Child Care Supply

| Facilities                      | 1998  | 2000  | Change |
|---------------------------------|-------|-------|--------|
| Child care centers              | 67    | 72    | 7%     |
| Slots for infants               | 95    | 155   | 63%    |
| Slots: ages 2-5                 | 1,608 | 1,642 | 2%     |
| Slots: ages 6 and over          | 595   | 613   | 3%     |
| Family child care homes         | 170   | 215   | 26%    |
| Slots for all ages <sup>8</sup> | 1,344 | 2,014 | 50%    |

### Schedules offered

Of all slots in licensed child care centers

|                          |     |
|--------------------------|-----|
| Full-time and part-time  | 58% |
| Only full-time available | 6%  |
| Only part-time available | 36% |

Of all slots in licensed family child care homes

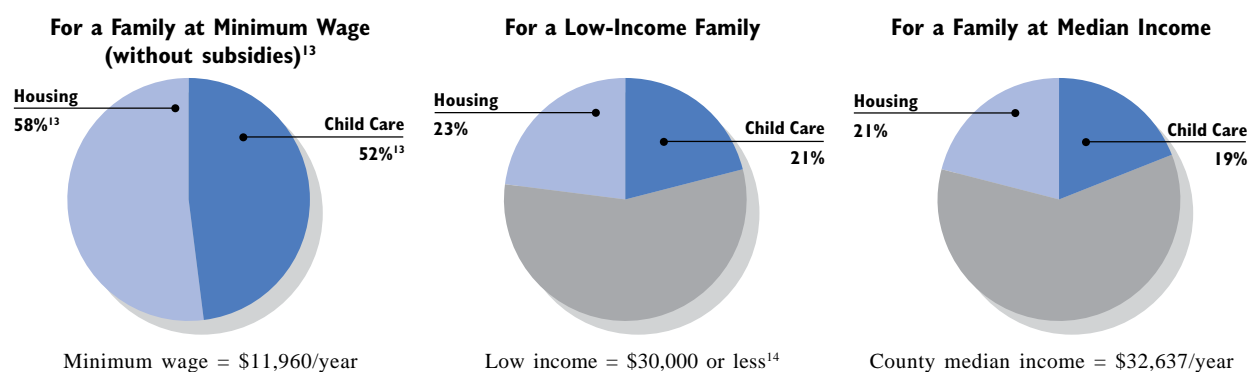
|                          |     |
|--------------------------|-----|
| Full-time and part-time  | 93% |
| Only full-time available | 5%  |
| Only part-time available | 2%  |

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| Centers with before-/after-school care <sup>12</sup> | 45% |
| Homes with before-/after-school care                 | 91% |

### Care available during non-traditional hours

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| In licensed and license-exempt centers <sup>12</sup> | 2%  |
| In family child care homes                           | 35% |

## Portion of Income Needed to Pay for Basic Family Needs: Housing and One Infant in a Licensed Center



8. A breakdown of slots by age is not available, as family child care homes are licensed to care for children of all ages.

9. Percentage may total more or less than 100% because of rounding or because in some categories callers request more than one type of care. In some cases percentages could be less than 100% because not all types of care are noted in these data. (These requests would be noted as "other.") Also, since some parents find child care without using R&Rs, the calls recorded here do not necessarily represent total demand for child care, although they do reflect trends.

10. Care by a nanny or babysitter in the child's home. This, along with other forms of care, is referred to as license-exempt care.

11. Evening, overnight, or weekend care.

12. Some programs noted here are exempt from licensing requirements.

13. When the combined actual percentages for housing and child care costs are more than 100% of minimum wage, each is shown proportionately.

14. While "low income" is defined here as households earning less than \$30,000, eligibility for child care subsidies is based on 75% of the state median income level. In 2000, a family of three earning less than \$33,852 was eligible for a child care subsidy.

Imperial County, on the U.S. border with Mexico, is home to small communities separated from one another by wide stretches of desert. Parts of the county have some of the lowest median incomes and the highest unemployment rates in California. Many families rely on CalWORKs, the state's welfare-to-work program, to help with child care expenses. But with looming CalWORKs time limits and thousands of other low-income families seeking assistance, more subsidies and affordable care options are needed. "The waiting lists for subsidies are getting longer," says a staff member at Child Development Services, the local resource and referral (R&R) program housed in the county Office of Education.

Existing subsidized programs do not meet all families' needs. Many preschools are open only half a day, not the full day most parents work. Although there have been substantial funds available for families participating in CalWORKs, the needs of other working low-income families have not been addressed. "We get a lot of calls from parents who need help paying for child care," explains an R&R manager. "Because they may have to wait months or years until they are served, we encourage families to call other subsidized programs in hopes their lists are shorter than ours."

Thousands of agricultural workers need care on a seasonal basis, and parents who work in retail stores, restaurants, and two local prisons need child care that accommodates their changing work schedules, which often include rotating shifts and evening and weekend hours. But the availability of care during non-traditional hours has not kept up with demand. In some parts of the county, a rapidly growing population strains the already tight child care supply. Licensed child care centers have few open slots and many children wait six or more months before an opening becomes available.

#### Provider group expands training

Despite the challenges, local child care advocates are seeing some positive trends. In 2000, family child care providers formed an association that works to increase training opportunities. Interest in preparing young children for school has prompted the county to invest in literacy training and preschool programs. The R&R works closely with the local child care planning council, the Department of Social Services, and other human services agencies to sponsor an Early Childhood Education Conference and to promote incentives to recruit new providers. A capacity-building grant from the state enabled the R&R to buy two vans for its mobile toy-lending library and help more than 100 new providers become licensed.

**For more information about child care in Imperial County, call:**

Imperial County Child Development Services  
760-312-6431

# Imperial County

*"I like knowing my son is in a child care environment that provides support, learning, and play activities. He'll know how to behave and follow rules, and it will be much easier for him to enter a classroom."*

—Nancy, teacher and mother

## The People

|  |                |
|--|----------------|
| <b>Total number of residents in the county</b>                   | <b>142,361</b> |
| % change in population 1990-2000                                 | 30%            |
| Total number of children under 14                                | 34,250         |
| Total number of children under 18                                | 44,746         |
| % of children ages 0-17 living in poverty <sup>1</sup>           | 44% 19,599     |
| Total number of children ages 6-13                               | 21,026         |
| Total number of children ages 0-5                                | 13,224         |
| % of children ages 0-5 living in poverty <sup>1</sup>            | 58% 7,630      |
| Families with children 0-5, headed by single parent <sup>2</sup> | 30%            |

Imperial has the highest rate of child poverty among California's 58 counties.

## Children of Working Parents<sup>3</sup>

|   |            |
|---|------------|
| Children living with working parents <sup>4</sup> |            |
| % of children ages 0-13                           | 46% 15,745 |
| % of children ages 6-13                           | 48% 10,091 |
| % of children ages 0-5                            | 43% 5,654  |

## Child Care Costs, Family Income, and Child Care Salaries

|  |          |
|--|----------|
| Average annual cost of full-time, licensed care in a center, for an infant up to 24 months | \$5,527  |
| Annual minimum wage of full-time worker  | \$11,960 |
| Care for an infant as % of minimum wage  | 46%      |
| Median annual household income in the county   | \$25,057 |
| Care for an infant as % of median income   | 22%      |
| Care for two children as % of median income <sup>5</sup>                                   | 40%      |
| Self sufficiency family income <sup>6</sup>  | \$39,169 |
| Fair market rent for a two-bedroom unit  | \$6,396  |
| Salary of child care worker <sup>7</sup>   | \$17,420 |
| Salary of preschool teacher <sup>7</sup>   | \$21,130 |
| Salary of entry-level public school teacher <sup>7</sup>                                   | \$25,433 |

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1. Percentage based on 1997 average poverty threshold for a family of four: \$16,050.

Numbers estimated for 2000 population. (2000 data not available by county, at publication.)

2. Includes male and female heads of households with own children.

3. Nationally, 51% of children 0-5 with working parents are estimated to be in child care.

4. Children living with two employed parents or an employed single head of household.

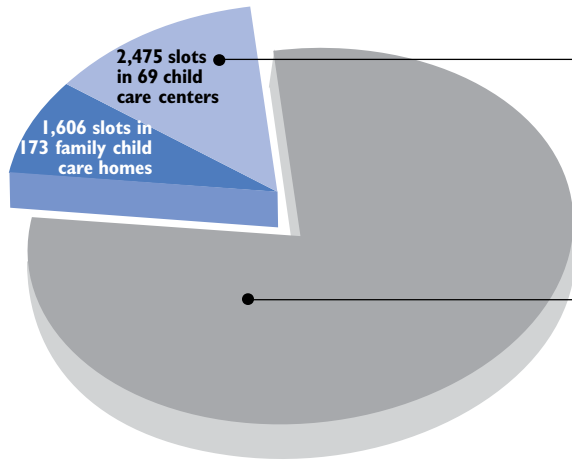
5. Full-time care at a licensed child care center for an infant (up to 24 months) and a child (age 2-5).

6. For two working adults, one infant (up to 24 months) and one child (age 2-5).

7. Statewide averages; public elementary school teacher salary based on school year.

# Child Care Supply in Imperial County

Licensed child care still meets only a small fraction of the need in Imperial County.



Imperial County ranks 33rd among California's 58 counties in its supply of licensed child care slots, as represented by this ratio.

## Licensed Child Care Supply = 4,081 slots

61% of all slots are in child care centers

|                 |                     |
|-----------------|---------------------|
| Up to 24 months | 11% of center slots |
| Ages 2-5        | 79% of center slots |
| Ages 6 and over | 10% of center slots |

39% of all slots are in family child care homes<sup>8</sup>

## Children Needing Child Care = 15,745

Children with working parents

|           |                 |
|-----------|-----------------|
| Ages 0-5  | 5,654 children  |
| Ages 6-13 | 10,091 children |

Licensed child care supply meets only 26% of the estimated need for licensed care for children of all ages. There are 3.9 times more children, ages 0-13, with working parents than licensed child care slots.

## Child Care Requests to R&Rs<sup>9</sup>

### Type of care requested

|                            |              |
|----------------------------|--------------|
| Infant/toddler care        | 26% of calls |
| Preschool care             | 43% of calls |
| School-age care            | 31% of calls |
| Family child care homes    | 61% of calls |
| Child care centers         | 31% of calls |
| In-home care <sup>10</sup> | 24% of calls |

### Schedules requested

|                                   |     |
|-----------------------------------|-----|
| Full-time care                    | 67% |
| Part-time care                    | 35% |
| Before- and/or after-school care  | 26% |
| Full-time care, children ages 0-5 | 82% |
| Part-time care, children ages 0-5 | 20% |

Between 1998 and 2000, requests for care during non-traditional hours increased from 1 percent to 27 percent. In 2000, 58 percent of callers requested a Spanish-speaking provider.

### Requests for care during non-traditional hours<sup>11</sup>

|                                     |     |
|-------------------------------------|-----|
| Evening, overnight, or weekend care | 27% |
|-------------------------------------|-----|

## Licensed Child Care Supply

| Facilities                      | 1998  | 2000  | Change |
|---------------------------------|-------|-------|--------|
| Child care centers              | 49    | 69    | 41%    |
| Slots for infants               | 117   | 273   | 133%   |
| Slots: ages 2-5                 | 1,737 | 1,966 | 13%    |
| Slots: ages 6 and over          | 137   | 236   | 72%    |
| Family child care homes         | 71    | 173   | 144%   |
| Slots for all ages <sup>8</sup> | 644   | 1,606 | 149%   |

### Schedules offered

Of all slots in licensed child care centers

|                          |     |
|--------------------------|-----|
| Full-time and part-time  | 58% |
| Only full-time available | 17% |
| Only part-time available | 26% |

Of all slots in licensed family child care homes

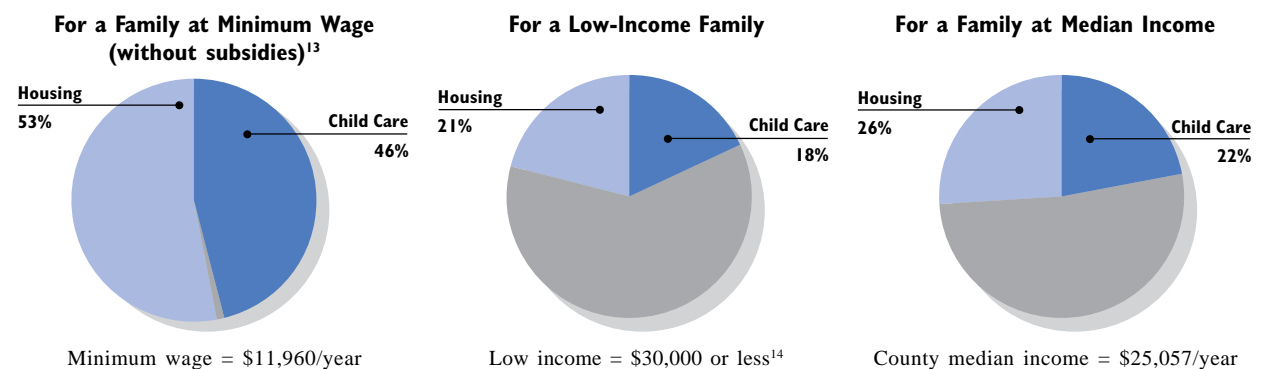
|                          |     |
|--------------------------|-----|
| Full-time and part-time  | 98% |
| Only full-time available | 2%  |
| Only part-time available | 0%  |

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| Centers with before-/after-school care <sup>12</sup> | 19% |
| Homes with before-/after-school care                 | 87% |

### Care available during non-traditional hours

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| In licensed and license-exempt centers <sup>12</sup> | 10% |
| In family child care homes                           | 64% |

## Portion of Income Needed to Pay for Basic Family Needs: Housing and One Infant in a Licensed Center



8. A breakdown of slots by age is not available, as family child care homes are licensed to care for children of all ages.

9. Percentage may total more or less than 100% because of rounding or because in some categories callers request more than one type of care. In some cases percentages could be less than 100% because not all types of care are noted in these data. (These requests would be noted as "other.") Also, since some parents find child care without using R&Rs, the calls recorded here do not necessarily represent total demand for child care, although they do reflect trends.

10. Care by a nanny or babysitter in the child's home. This, along with other forms of care, is referred to as license-exempt care.

11. Evening, overnight, or weekend care.

12. Some programs noted here are exempt from licensing requirements.

13. When the combined actual percentages for housing and child care costs are more than 100% of minimum wage, each is shown proportionately.

14. While "low income" is defined here as households earning less than \$30,000, eligibility for child care subsidies is based on 75% of the state median income level. In 2000, a family of three earning less than \$33,852 was eligible for a child care subsidy.

Covering more than 10,000 square miles, Inyo County is larger than many states. But with fewer than 18,000 residents countywide, its entire population is less than that of many moderate-sized towns, and Inyo is one of few California counties with a population that has declined over the past decade. Despite this decrease in population, demand for child care is not met, and availability of child care is uneven across the county. Areas that are geographically isolated suffer the greatest shortages. With tourism playing a major role in the local economy, many residents work in related restaurant and hospitality industry jobs, prompting demand for weekend and evening child care.

#### Child care subsidies make a difference

According to Child Care Connection, the local resource and referral (R&R) agency which is operated by the Inyo County Office of Education, the scarcity of government child care subsidies severely limits families' child care options. "Some child care centers aren't full because there isn't enough funding to provide subsidies to all eligible families," says an R&R staff member. "Without these subsidies, many parents cannot afford to put their children in centers." Assistance paying for child care makes a big difference for parents, who say without subsidies they would not be able to work.

There have been some improvements in the child care situation. Child Care Connection has increased its recruitment and incentive programs to build the supply of quality care in the county. Funds are available for centers and home-based providers who increase the number of slots they have for children. New providers receive a start-up kit to help them make their facility safe and to assist them in creating a successful business. Child Care Connection offers classes, such as "Time and Stress Management," to teach providers the skills they will need to stay in the profession and enjoy their work, along with classes on child development. A mobile lending library with teaching resources is available to family child care providers. These efforts have contributed to an increase, since 1998, in the county's child care supply, particularly in family child care homes.

The R&R partners with an adult education program to offer health and safety classes, including CPR and First Aid. Child Care Connection distributes information about child development and quality care and counsels parents to help them understand what constitutes quality child care. The agency also has a public lending library with age-appropriate books and toys and kits for parents to use as they explore the joy of playing with and reading to their children.

**For more information about child care in Inyo County, call:**

Child Care Connection      760-873-5123

# Inyo County

*"It's hard to find after-school care when you need it for only two hours. I prefer family child care, but for after-school care, that's been hard for me to find."*

—Melissa, working mother of a 9-year-old

## The People

|  |               |
|--|---------------|
| <b>Total number of residents in the county</b>                   | <b>17,945</b> |
| % change in population 1990-2000                                 | -2%           |
| Total number of children under 14                                | 3,221         |
| Total number of children under 18                                | 4,376         |
| % of children ages 0-17 living in poverty <sup>1</sup>           | 22%      941  |
| Total number of children ages 6-13                               | 2,048         |
| Total number of children ages 0-5                                | 1,173         |
| % of children ages 0-5 living in poverty <sup>1</sup>            | 23%      264  |
| Families with children 0-5, headed by single parent <sup>2</sup> | 37%           |

Inyo has the 36th highest rate of child poverty among California's 58 counties.

## Children of Working Parents<sup>3</sup>

|   |                |
|---|----------------|
| Children living with working parents <sup>4</sup> |                |
| % of children ages 0-13                           | 59%      1,905 |
| % of children ages 6-13                           | 63%      1,299 |
| % of children ages 0-5                            | 52%      606   |

## Child Care Costs, Family Income, and Child Care Salaries

|  |          |
|--|----------|
| Average annual cost of full-time, licensed care in a center, for an infant up to 24 months | \$6,518  |
| Annual minimum wage of full-time worker  | \$11,960 |
| Care for an infant as % of minimum wage  | 55%      |
| Median annual household income in the county   | \$35,260 |
| Care for an infant as % of median income   | 18%      |
| Care for two children as % of median income <sup>5</sup>                                   | 32%      |
| Self sufficiency family income <sup>6</sup>  | \$41,259 |
| Fair market rent for a two-bedroom unit  | \$6,600  |
| Salary of child care worker <sup>7</sup>   | \$17,420 |
| Salary of preschool teacher <sup>7</sup>   | \$21,130 |
| Salary of entry-level public school teacher <sup>7</sup>                                   | \$25,433 |

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1. Percentage based on 1997 average poverty threshold for a family of four: \$16,050.

Numbers estimated for 2000 population. (2000 data not available by county, at publication.)

2. Includes male and female heads of households with own children.

3. Nationally, 51% of children 0-5 with working parents are estimated to be in child care.

4. Children living with two employed parents or an employed single head of household.

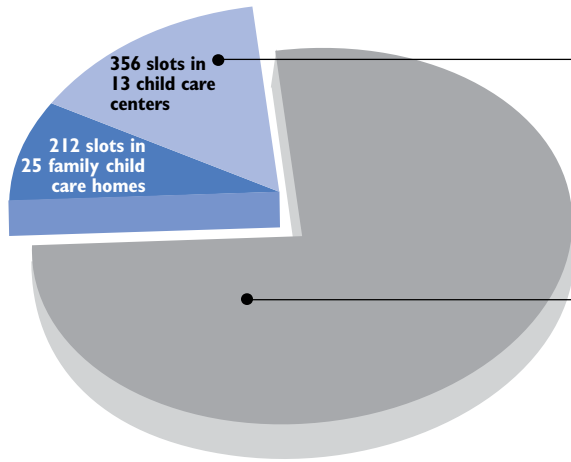
5. Full-time care at a licensed child care center for an infant (up to 24 months) and a child (age 2-5).

6. For two working adults, one infant (up to 24 months) and one child (age 2-5).

7. Statewide averages; public elementary school teacher salary based on school year.

# Child Care Supply in Inyo County

Licensed child care still meets only a small fraction of the need in Inyo County.



## Licensed Child Care Supply = 568 slots

63% of all slots are in child care centers

|                 |                     |
|-----------------|---------------------|
| Up to 24 months | 2% of center slots  |
| Ages 2-5        | 64% of center slots |
| Ages 6 and over | 34% of center slots |

37% of all slots are in family child care homes<sup>8</sup>

## Children Needing Child Care = 1,905

Children with working parents

|           |                |
|-----------|----------------|
| Ages 0-5  | 606 children   |
| Ages 6-13 | 1,299 children |

Inyo County ranks 14th among California's 58 counties in its supply of licensed child care slots, as represented by this ratio.

Licensed child care supply meets only 30% of the estimated need for licensed care for children of all ages. There are 3.4 times more children, ages 0-13, with working parents than licensed child care slots.

## Child Care Requests to R&Rs<sup>9</sup>

### Type of care requested

|                            |              |
|----------------------------|--------------|
| Infant/toddler care        | 20% of calls |
| Preschool care             | 62% of calls |
| School-age care            | 18% of calls |
| Family child care homes    | 89% of calls |
| Child care centers         | 16% of calls |
| In-home care <sup>10</sup> | 0% of calls  |

### Schedules requested

|                                   |     |
|-----------------------------------|-----|
| Full-time care                    | 79% |
| Part-time care                    | 24% |
| Before- and/or after-school care  | 5%  |
| Full-time care, children ages 0-5 | 82% |
| Part-time care, children ages 0-5 | 20% |

Between 1998 and 2000, requests for full-time care for children under six increased from 51 to 82 percent, while requests for part-time care for children under six fell from 56 to 20 percent.

### Requests for care during non-traditional hours<sup>11</sup>

|                                     |     |
|-------------------------------------|-----|
| Evening, overnight, or weekend care | 21% |
|-------------------------------------|-----|

## Licensed Child Care Supply

| Facilities                      | 1998 | 2000 | Change |
|---------------------------------|------|------|--------|
| Child care centers              | 11   | 13   | 18%    |
| Slots for infants               | 0    | 8    | N/A    |
| Slots: ages 2-5                 | 252  | 228  | -10%   |
| Slots: ages 6 and over          | 71   | 120  | 69%    |
| Family child care homes         | 24   | 25   | 4%     |
| Slots for all ages <sup>8</sup> | 180  | 212  | 18%    |

### Schedules offered

Of all slots in licensed child care centers

|                          |     |
|--------------------------|-----|
| Full-time and part-time  | 51% |
| Only full-time available | 7%  |
| Only part-time available | 42% |

Of all slots in licensed family child care homes

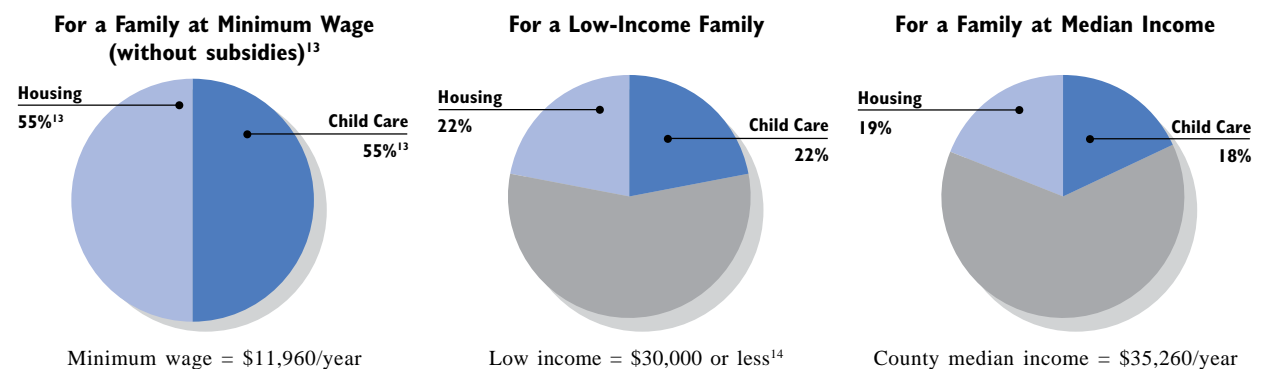
|                          |     |
|--------------------------|-----|
| Full-time and part-time  | 71% |
| Only full-time available | 25% |
| Only part-time available | 4%  |

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| Centers with before-/after-school care <sup>12</sup> | 40% |
| Homes with before-/after-school care                 | 64% |

### Care available during non-traditional hours

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| In licensed and license-exempt centers <sup>12</sup> | 0%  |
| In family child care homes                           | 40% |

## Portion of Income Needed to Pay for Basic Family Needs: Housing and One Infant in a Licensed Center



8. A breakdown of slots by age is not available, as family child care homes are licensed to care for children of all ages.

9. Percentage may total more or less than 100% because of rounding or because in some categories callers request more than one type of care. In some cases percentages could be less than 100% because not all types of care are noted in these data. (These requests would be noted as "other.") Also, since some parents find child care without using R&Rs, the calls recorded here do not necessarily represent total demand for child care, although they do reflect trends.

10. Care by a nanny or babysitter in the child's home. This, along with other forms of care, is referred to as license-exempt care.

11. Evening, overnight, or weekend care.

12. Some programs noted here are exempt from licensing requirements.

13. When the combined actual percentages for housing and child care costs are more than 100% of minimum wage, each is shown proportionately.

14. While "low income" is defined here as households earning less than \$30,000, eligibility for child care subsidies is based on 75% of the state median income level. In 2000, a family of three earning less than \$33,852 was eligible for a child care subsidy.

Located at the southern edge of the Central Valley, Kern County is California's third largest county in area and among the fastest-growing in population. As in other neighboring Central Valley counties, Kern's economy is based largely on agriculture. Parents working in farming, retail, and warehouse distribution jobs often earn low wages and are burdened by the high cost of child care. Infant care expenses sometimes encompass more of a family's budget than rent for a two-bedroom apartment.

#### Families seek affordable care

Thousands of low-income families who qualify for child care assistance linger on eligibility lists, because of a shortage of subsidy dollars. "The working poor are falling through the cracks," explains a staff member with Community Connection for Child Care, the local resource and referral (R&R) agency.

Families who participate in CalWORKs, the state's welfare-to-work program, have access to child care subsidies, but many still have trouble finding licensed child care that accommodates their rotating work schedules or that is close to home and doesn't require driving. CalWORKs families often turn to relatives, friends, and neighbors (license-exempt child care), while at the same time, some new centers and family child care homes in parts of the county have difficulty filling their programs.

Throughout the county, child care advocates are working to increase the supply and quality of care, especially for the county's rapidly growing Latino population, for children with special needs, and in areas where poverty is widespread. Collaboration with the Children and Families Commission and local social service agencies has enabled the R&R to offer business skills training and technical assistance to licensed providers and televised training for providers who want to continue their education. These efforts helped to increase the number of slots in family child care homes in the past two years. The R&R also offers training for license-exempt caregivers. As the R&R director puts it, "There is growing awareness about the difference between watching a child and caring for that child."

Awareness of the need for quality child care is increasing. Through the Local Investment in Child Care project and the Packard Foundation, a micro-loan fund helps child care providers make needed improvements or expand their services. Providing parents with information about quality care and how to identify it is part of the R&R's mission. This includes distributing a packet to every new mother in the county.

#### For more information about child care in Kern County, call:

Community Connection for Child Care  
661-861-5200

# Kern County

*"Family child care has been good for us. My son and I became friends with our last family child care provider and her kids. It's kind of like an extended family."*

—Teresa, mother of a 5-year-old

## The People

|  |                |
|--|----------------|
| <b>Total number of residents in the county</b>                   | <b>661,645</b> |
| % change in population 1990-2000                                 | 22%            |
| Total number of children under 14                                | 165,111        |
| Total number of children under 18                                | 211,379        |
| % of children ages 0-17 living in poverty <sup>1</sup>           | 30% 63,836     |
| Total number of children ages 6-13                               | 97,430         |
| Total number of children ages 0-5                                | 67,681         |
| % of children ages 0-5 living in poverty <sup>1</sup>            | 32% 21,861     |
| Families with children 0-5, headed by single parent <sup>2</sup> | 33%            |

Kern has the 12th highest rate of child poverty among California's 58 counties.

## Children of Working Parents<sup>3</sup>

|   |            |
|---|------------|
| Children living with working parents <sup>4</sup> |            |
| % of children ages 0-13                           | 53% 87,623 |
| % of children ages 6-13                           | 57% 55,976 |
| % of children ages 0-5                            | 47% 31,647 |

## Child Care Costs, Family Income, and Child Care Salaries

|  |          |
|--|----------|
| Average annual cost of full-time, licensed care in a center, for an infant up to 24 months | \$6,201  |
| Annual minimum wage of full-time worker  | \$11,960 |
| Care for an infant as % of minimum wage  | 52%      |
| Median annual household income in the county   | \$34,711 |
| Care for an infant as % of median income   | 18%      |
| Care for two children as % of median income <sup>5</sup>                                   | 30%      |
| Self sufficiency family income <sup>6</sup>  | \$39,172 |
| Fair market rent for a two-bedroom unit  | \$6,180  |
| Salary of child care worker <sup>7</sup>   | \$17,420 |
| Salary of preschool teacher <sup>7</sup>   | \$21,130 |
| Salary of entry-level public school teacher <sup>7</sup>                                   | \$25,433 |

Excerpted from *The California Child Care Portfolio* ©2001 (permission to reproduce granted), available through your local R&R. For data source information, see the full edition of the *Portfolio*.

1. Percentage based on 1997 average poverty threshold for a family of four: \$16,050.

Numbers estimated for 2000 population. (2000 data not available by county, at publication.)

2. Includes male and female heads of households with own children.

3. Nationally, 51% of children 0-5 with working parents are estimated to be in child care.

4. Children living with two employed parents or an employed single head of household.

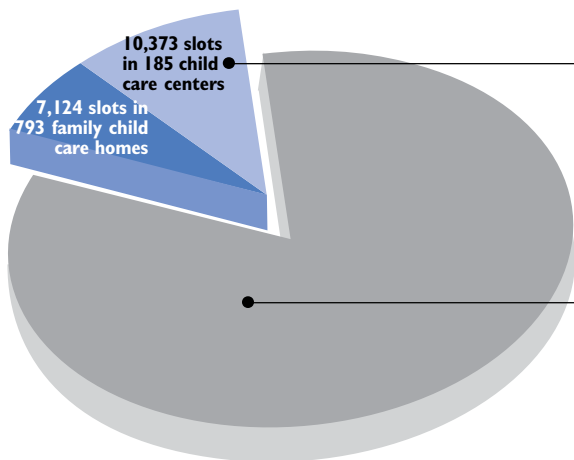
5. Full-time care at a licensed child care center for an infant (up to 24 months) and a child (age 2-5).

6. For two working adults, one infant (up to 24 months) and one child (age 2-5).

7. Statewide averages; public elementary school teacher salary based on school year.

# Child Care Supply in Kern County

Licensed child care still meets only a small fraction of the need in Kern County.



**Licensed Child Care Supply = 17,497 slots**

59% of all slots are in child care centers

| Age Group       | Percentage of Center Slots |
|-----------------|----------------------------|
| Up to 24 months | 5%                         |
| Ages 2-5        | 76%                        |
| Ages 6 and over | 19%                        |

41% of all slots are in family child care homes<sup>8</sup>

**Children Needing Child Care = 87,623**

Children with working parents

|           |                 |
|-----------|-----------------|
| Ages 0-5  | 31,647 children |
| Ages 6-13 | 55,976 children |

Kern County ranks 51st among California's 58 counties in its supply of licensed child care slots, as represented by this ratio.

Licensed child care supply meets only 20% of the estimated need for licensed care for children of all ages. There are 5 times more children, ages 0-13, with working parents than licensed child care slots.

## Child Care Requests to R&Rs<sup>9</sup>

### Type of care requested

|                            |              |
|----------------------------|--------------|
| Infant/toddler care        | 29% of calls |
| Preschool care             | 42% of calls |
| School-age care            | 29% of calls |
| Family child care homes    | 89% of calls |
| Child care centers         | 93% of calls |
| In-home care <sup>10</sup> | 0% of calls  |

### Schedules requested

|                                   |     |
|-----------------------------------|-----|
| Full-time care                    | 78% |
| Part-time care                    | 28% |
| Before- and/or after-school care  | 15% |
| Full-time care, children ages 0-5 | 83% |
| Part-time care, children ages 0-5 | 20% |

The percent of requests for care in centers increased from 78 percent in 1998 to 93 percent in 2000. In 2000, 4 percent of callers requested providers who could accommodate a rotating schedule.

### Requests for care during non-traditional hours<sup>11</sup>

|                                     |     |
|-------------------------------------|-----|
| Evening, overnight, or weekend care | 11% |
|-------------------------------------|-----|

## Licensed Child Care Supply

| Facilities                      | 1998  | 2000  | Change |
|---------------------------------|-------|-------|--------|
| Child care centers              | 175   | 185   | 6%     |
| Slots for infants               | 466   | 496   | 6%     |
| Slots: ages 2-5                 | 7,621 | 7,862 | 3%     |
| Slots: ages 6 and over          | 2,094 | 2,015 | -4%    |
| Family child care homes         | 534   | 793   | 49%    |
| Slots for all ages <sup>8</sup> | 4,594 | 7,124 | 55%    |

### Schedules offered

Of all slots in licensed child care centers

|                          |     |
|--------------------------|-----|
| Full-time and part-time  | 64% |
| Only full-time available | 10% |
| Only part-time available | 26% |

Of all slots in licensed family child care homes

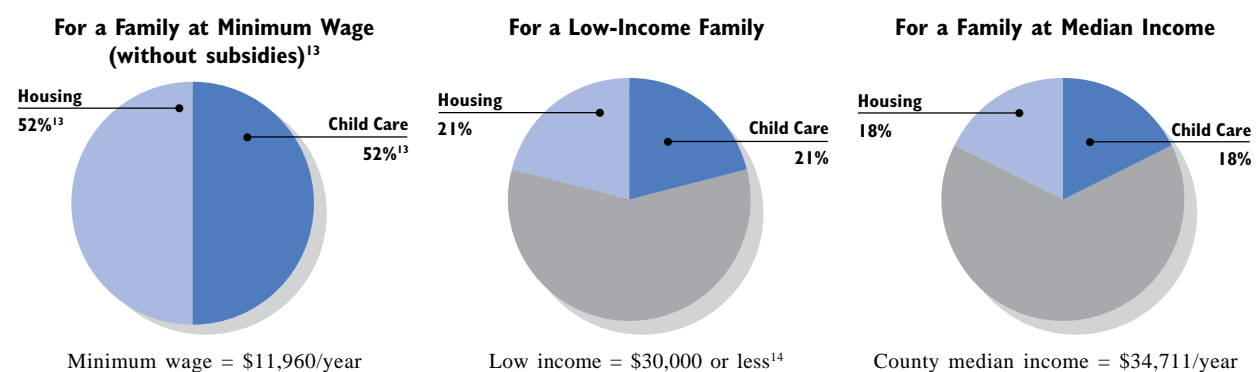
|                          |     |
|--------------------------|-----|
| Full-time and part-time  | 95% |
| Only full-time available | 2%  |
| Only part-time available | 3%  |

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| Centers with before-/after-school care <sup>12</sup> | 46% |
| Homes with before-/after-school care                 | 85% |

### Care available during non-traditional hours

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| In licensed and license-exempt centers <sup>12</sup> | 2%  |
| In family child care homes                           | 44% |

## Portion of Income Needed to Pay for Basic Family Needs: Housing and One Infant in a Licensed Center



8. A breakdown of slots by age is not available, as family child care homes are licensed to care for children of all ages.  
 9. Percentage may total more or less than 100% because of rounding or because in some categories callers request more than one type of care. In some cases percentages could be less than 100% because not all types of care are noted in these data. (These requests would be noted as "other.") Also, since some parents find child care without using R&Rs, the calls recorded here do not necessarily represent total demand for child care, although they do reflect trends.  
 10. Care by a nanny or babysitter in the child's home. This, along with other forms of care, is referred to as license-exempt care.  
 11. Evening, overnight, or weekend care.  
 12. Some programs noted here are exempt from licensing requirements.  
 13. When the combined actual percentages for housing and child care costs are more than 100% of minimum wage, each is shown proportionately.  
 14. While "low income" is defined here as households earning less than \$30,000, eligibility for child care subsidies is based on 75% of the state median income level. In 2000, a family of three earning less than \$33,852 was eligible for a child care subsidy.