

Colusa County

Colusa County lies in the heart of the Sacramento River Valley, where agriculture is the main industry. The introduction of a state-of-the-art rice processing mill and the largest tomato processing plant in the state have automated operations and forced many families into Regional Occupational Program courses to learn new job skills. As a result of the job losses, more parents are at home with their children, reducing demand for child care in some communities. In addition, because farm work is seasonal, demand for child care changes from season to season, making it difficult for many providers to make a living. For families working in agriculture, long hours and shifts during early mornings, evenings, and weekends create a demand for child care during non-traditional hours. Since the number of Spanish-speaking households increased by more than 50 percent since 1990, there is a greater demand for Spanish-speaking child care providers.

Increase in Spanish-speaking caregivers

While the supply of child care during evenings and weekends cannot meet the demand and none of the licensed centers in the county offer this care, 79 percent of licensed family homes are available during these non-traditional hours. And the number of Spanish-speaking providers offering licensed care has increased considerably, according to Children's Services, the resource and referral (R&R) agency in Colusa County. R&R counselors say certain communities, including the towns of Williams and Maxwell, are now experiencing a shortage of English-speaking providers.

To help build the supply of all types of child care and to improve quality, the County Office of Education, uses many local resources to promote, recruit, and retain providers. The Child Care Initiative Project (CCIP), and Compensation and Retention Encourages Stability (CARES), two statewide programs operating in the county have helped increase the quality of care countywide.

"Child care providers have been very active in professional development courses and other kinds of training. This has dramatically improved the quality of care in Colusa County."

– R&R Counselor

The People ¹	1990	2000	Change
Total number of residents	16,275	18,804	16%
Total number of employed residents		7,052	
Percent working outside the county		20%	
Percent working non-traditional hours		15%	
Total number of households	5,567	6,081	9%
Speaking English	4,000	3,802	-5%
Speaking Spanish	1,340	2,078	55%
Speaking an Asian language	56	41	-27%

The Children¹ 2000

Total number of children (0–13 years) 4,487

Under 2	2	3	4	5	6–11	12	13
597	347	284	289	334	1,962	350	324

Children 0–5 living in poverty (% of total) 374 (20%)

Children 0–5 living in single parent household (% of total) 344 (21%)

Total number of children (0–13) with parents in the labor force² 2,489

Under 2	2	3	4	5	6–13
255	215	139	190	185	1,505

Child Care Cost and Family Income 2002

Average annual cost of full-time licensed care for a preschooler, 2–5 years old, in a center³ \$3,900

Annual minimum wage of a full-time worker⁴ \$14,040

Care for a preschooler as a percent of income of a single parent household at minimum wage 28%

Annual median family income¹ \$40,138

Annual fair market rent for a two-bedroom unit⁵ \$6,036

Salary of entry-level public school teacher⁶ \$28,718

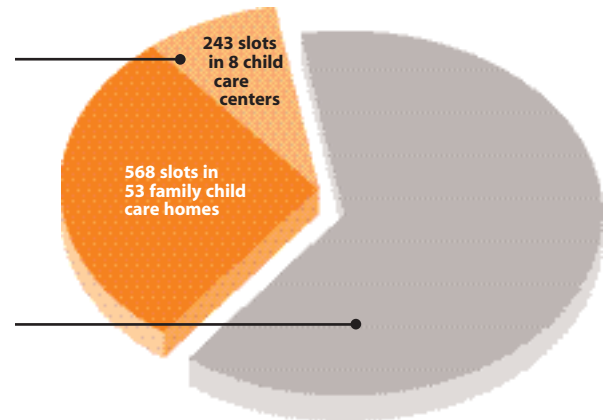
1. U.S. Census Bureau, 1990; 2000.
2. This number reflects children with either two parents or single head of household in the labor force.
3. 2002 Regional Market Rate Survey of California Child Care Providers.
4. California Department of Industrial Relations, Industrial Welfare Commission, 2002.
5. U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, 2002.
6. California Department of Education, 2002-2003.

For more information about child care in Colusa County, call:
Colusa County Office of Education 530-458-0300

Child Care Supply in Colusa County

Licensed Child Care Supply 811 slots

Total number of licensed slots	811
Percent of slots in child care centers	30%
% of slots for infants (under 2 years old)	15%
% of slots for preschoolers (2–5 years old)	77%
% of slots for school-age children (6 years and older)	8%
Percent of slots in family child care homes ¹	70%



Children with Parents in the Labor Force² 2,489

Licensed child care is only available for 33% of children with parents in the labor force².

- Licensed center-based care available for 14% of infants¹
- Licensed center-based care available for 26% of preschoolers¹

Supply of Licensed Child Care and Requests from Parents to the R&R

		Child Care Centers	Family Child Care Homes
Facilities	Total number of sites	8	53
	Total number of slots	243	568 ¹
	Infant slots	36	
	Preschool slots	187	
	School-age slots	20	
Schedules³	Full-time and part-time	75%	23%
	Only full-time available	0%	77%
	Only part-time available	25%	0%
	Care available during non-traditional hours	0%	79%

Parent Requests to the R&R⁴

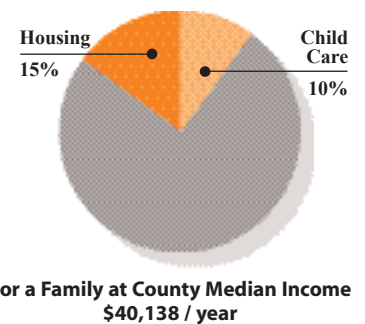
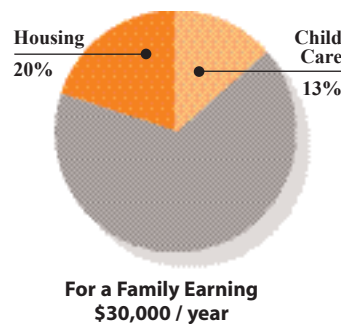
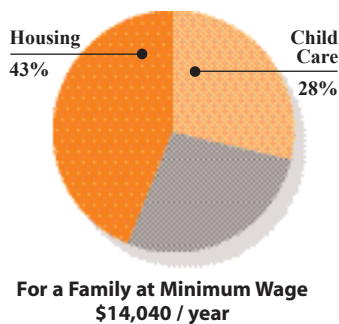
Type of care: 26% infant/toddler; 50% preschool; 24% school-age

Type of facility: 95% family child care homes; 8% child care centers

Schedule of care: 75% full-time care (0–5 years); 25% part-time care (0–5 years)

Reasons for needing child care: 92% employment; 23% school/training

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



- A breakdown of slots by age is not available for family child care homes because they are licensed to care for children of all ages.
- Children (0–13 years old) living with two parents or with a single parent in the labor force. 2000 U.S. Census.
- Full-time and part-time schedules are percentages of total slots. Some centers that are exempt from licensing requirements are included in the percentages related to care during non-traditional hours (evening, weekend, or overnight.) Non-traditional schedules are percentages of total sites.
- 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.