

El Dorado County

El Dorado County stretches from the foothills above Sacramento to Lake Tahoe at the state border. Much of the child care workforce at the county's eastern edge has left to find cheaper housing and higher-paying jobs in Nevada. Although high unemployment rates have lessened demand for child care in some parts of the county, there is an increased demand overall for care during non-traditional hours and for infants. In the El Dorado Hills area, job growth has created a demand for infant care as well. Only 8 percent of licensed child care centers offer care during nights and weekends, and only 5 percent of licensed center-based slots are for children under two. In South Lake Tahoe, an influx of Hispanic and Asian families – many of whom work in the tourist industry – has increased the need for bilingual providers.

Training and support build supply

To help build the supply of licensed child care, the statewide California Child Care Initiative Project (CCIP) offers training and technical assistance to those interested in starting a family child care home. A contract between Choices for Children, the resource and referral (R&R) agency that serves El Dorado County, and the local community college has helped increase the number of participants in CCIP. In South Lake Tahoe, the R&R offered El Comienzo (“The Beginning”), a program for Spanish-speaking providers covering both child development and business skills, as well as licensing requirements. On-site support by the R&R has also been helpful in recruitment and retention efforts.

To promote quality care in centers and in homes, the R&R created a resource lending library that offers an array of books, toys, videos, children's music, and craft supplies. The R&R has collaborated with the Local Planning Council to implement Compensation and Retention Encourage Stability (CARES) which encourages providers to enroll in professional development activities.

“Educational opportunities, including technical assistance in starting a family child care home – and help keeping it running – make a difference to providers.”

– R&R Counselor

The People ¹	1990	2000	Change
Total number of residents	125,995	156,299	24%
Total number of employed residents		72,119	
Percent working outside the county		45%	
Percent working non-traditional hours		18%	
Total number of households	47,033	59,013	25%
Speaking English	41,621	51,383	23%
Speaking Spanish	2,672	4,205	57%
Speaking an Asian language	577	917	59%

The Children¹ 2000

Total number of children (0–13 years) 30,831

Under 2	2	3	4	5	6–11	12	13
3,375	1,811	1,850	1,910	2,102	14,534	2,659	2,590

Children 0–5 living in poverty (% of total) 1,047 (10%)

Children 0–5 living in single parent household (% of total) 1,543 (15%)

Total number of children (0–13) with parents in the labor force² 18,415

Under 2	2	3	4	5	6–13
1,820	925	920	990	1,255	12,505

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 \$5,690

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 41%

Annual median family income¹ \$60,250

Annual fair market rent for a two-bedroom unit⁵ \$8,508

Salary of entry-level public school teacher⁶ \$31,334

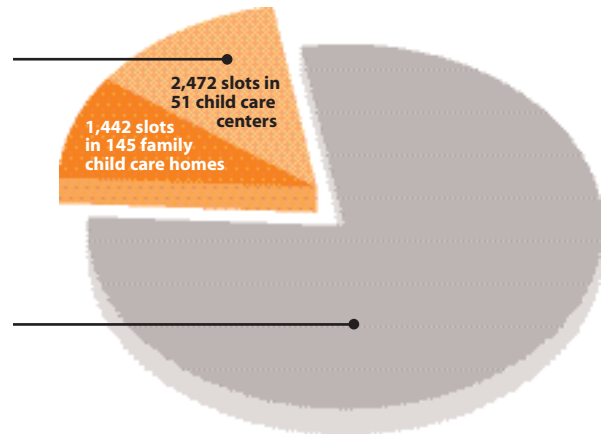
1. U.S. Census Bureau, 1990; 2000.
2. This number reflects children with either two parents or single head of household in the labor force.
3. 2002 Regional Market Rate Survey of California Child Care Providers.
4. California Department of Industrial Relations, Industrial Welfare Commission, 2002.
5.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

For more information about child care in El Dorado County, call:
 Choices for Children 530-676-0707

Child Care Supply in El Dorado County

Licensed Child Care Supply 3,914 slots

Total number of licensed slots	3,914
Percent of slots in child care centers	63%
% of slots for infants (under 2 years old)	5%
% of slots for preschoolers (2–5 years old)	84%
% of slots for school-age children (6 years and older)	11%
Percent of slots in family child care homes ¹	37%



Children with Parents in the Labor Force² 18,415

Licensed child care is only available for 21% of children with parents in the labor force².

- Licensed center-based care available for 7% of infants¹
- Licensed center-based care available for 51% 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	51	145
	Total number of slots	2,472	1,442 ¹
	Infant slots	123	
	Preschool slots	2,068	
	School-age slots	281	
Schedules³	Full-time and part-time	93%	86%
	Only full-time available	0%	8%
	Only part-time available	7%	6%
	Care available during non-traditional hours	8%	19%

Parent Requests to the R&R⁴

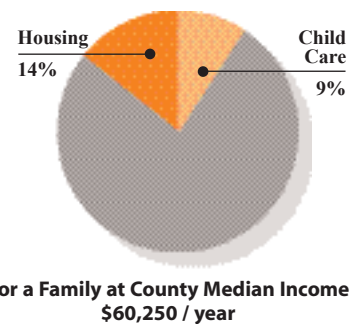
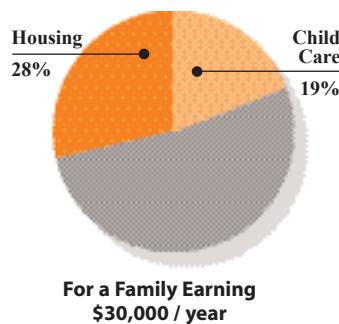
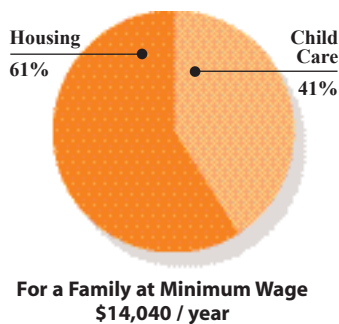
Type of care: 34% infant/toddler; 42% preschool; 24% school-age

Type of facility: 70% family child care homes; 90% child care centers

Schedule of care: 65% full-time care (0–5 years); 47% part-time care (0–5 years)

Reasons for needing child care: 79% employment; 5% school/training; 6% looking for work

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



1. 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.
2. Children (0–13 years old) living with two parents or with a single parent in the labor force. 2000 U.S. Census.
3. 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.
4. 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.