

# Humboldt County

*“We’ve built strong relationships with the provider community. They trust us to help them get through the process of becoming licensed.”*

– R&R Counselor

**Two major trends** have affected the supply of child care in coastal Humboldt County: the near doubling of Spanish-speaking households since 1990, and a decrease in the school-age population. In recent years, several child care centers closed and were not replaced. In addition, under-enrollment due to declining birth rates countywide forced the closing of two elementary schools in Eureka. But not all areas in the county have the same child care demands.

Cities such as Arcata, where the local state university is located, have less available child care because the housing market is tight and many potential providers cannot afford the cost of a home or apartment. Also, as is the case with many other California counties, the availability of care during non-traditional hours and for infants and toddlers is limited. Only 2 percent of child care centers offer care during evenings and weekends, and just 7 percent of center slots are for children under two.

**Building supply and improving quality** Humboldt Child Care Council, the local resource and referral (R&R) agency, expanded licensing orientations, health and safety training, and other workshops for Spanish-speaking providers, and developed media ads encouraging Spanish-speakers to become licensed providers. These efforts resulted in a three-fold increase in Spanish-speaking caregivers in the county. The R&R has also hosted the Program for Infant/Toddler Caregivers to increase the number of providers serving this age group. License-exempt providers are invited to attend the workshops, and are encouraged to become licensed, with training and stipends from the statewide Child Care Initiative Project (CCIP), which includes extensive training and materials on providing quality child care and maintaining a child care business.

The People <sup>1</sup>	1990	2000	Change
Total number of residents	119,118	126,518	6%
Total number of employed residents		54,034	
Percent working outside the county		2%	
Percent working non-traditional hours		21%	
Total number of households	46,617	51,235	10%
Speaking English	42,467	45,380	7%
Speaking Spanish	1,521	2,925	92%
Speaking an Asian language	466	578	24%

## The Children<sup>1</sup> 2000

Total number of children (0–13 years) 21,950

Under 2	2	3	4	5	6–11	12	13
2,792	1,458	1,434	1,441	1,495	9,860	1,723	1,747

Children 0–5 living in poverty (% of total) 2,356 (28%)

Children 0–5 living in single parent household (% of total) 2,528 (33%)

Total number of children (0–13) with parents in the labor force<sup>2</sup> 12,875

Under 2	2	3	4	5	6–13
1,450	925	635	785	930	8,150

## Child Care Cost and Family Income 2002

Average annual cost of full-time licensed care for a preschooler, 2–5 years old, in a center<sup>3</sup> \$5,500

Annual minimum wage of a full-time worker<sup>4</sup> \$14,040

Care for a preschooler as a percent of income of a single parent household at minimum wage 39%

Annual median family income<sup>1</sup> \$39,370

Annual fair market rent for a two-bedroom unit<sup>5</sup> \$7,176

Salary of entry-level public school teacher<sup>6</sup> \$31,309

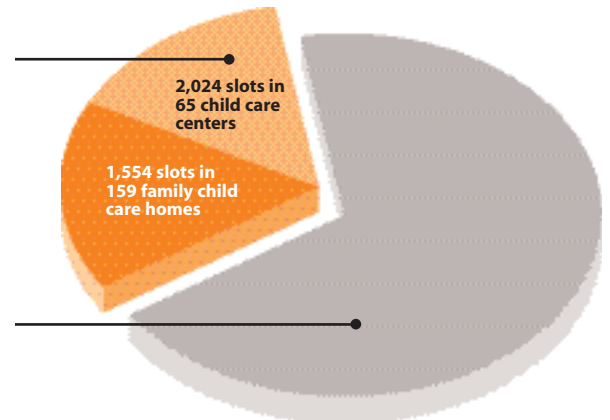
1. U.S. Census Bureau, 1990; 2000.
2. This number reflects children with either two parents or single head of household in the labor force.
3. 2002 Regional Market Rate Survey of California Child Care Providers.
4. California Department of Industrial Relations, Industrial Welfare Commission, 2002.
5.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

**For more information about child care in Humboldt County, call:**  
Humboldt Child Care Council 707-444-8293

# Child Care Supply in Humboldt County

## Licensed Child Care Supply 3,578 slots

Total number of licensed slots	3,578
Percent of slots in child care centers	57%
% of slots for infants (under 2 years old)	7%
% of slots for preschoolers (2–5 years old)	72%
% of slots for school-age children (6 years and older)	21%
Percent of slots in family child care homes <sup>1</sup>	43%



## Children with Parents in the Labor Force<sup>2</sup> 12,875

Licensed child care is only available for 28% of children with parents in the labor force<sup>2</sup>.

- Licensed center-based care available for 10% of infants<sup>1</sup>
- Licensed center-based care available for 44% of preschoolers<sup>1</sup>

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

		Child Care Centers	Family Child Care Homes
<b>Facilities</b>	Total number of sites	65	159
	Total number of slots	2,024	1,554 <sup>1</sup>
	Infant slots	143	
	Preschool slots	1,448	
	School-age slots	433	
<b>Schedules<sup>3</sup></b>	Full-time and part-time	54%	92%
	Only full-time available	11%	4%
	Only part-time available	34%	4%
	Care available during non-traditional hours	2%	31%

### Parent Requests to the R&R<sup>4</sup>

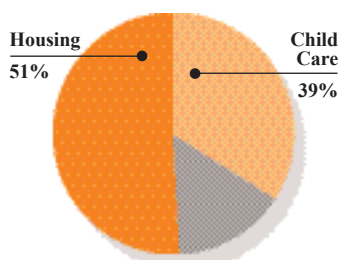
*Type of care:* 40% infant/toddler; 42% preschool; 19% school-age

*Type of facility:* 94% family child care homes; 36% child care centers

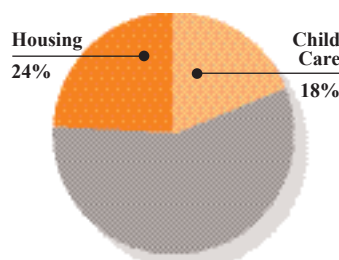
*Schedule of care:* 46% full-time care (0–5 years); 54% part-time care (0–5 years)

*Reasons for needing child care:* 80% employment; 9% school/training; 4% looking for work

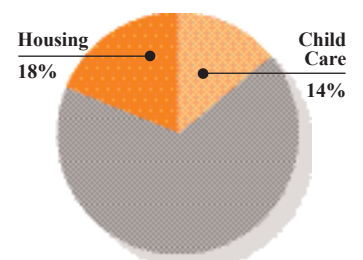
## Portion of Income Needed to Pay for Basic Family Needs: Housing and One Preschooler in a Licensed Center



**For a Family at Minimum Wage  
\$14,040 / year**



**For a Family Earning  
\$30,000 / year**



**For a Family at County Median Income  
\$39,370 / year**

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.