

# Imperial County

**A vast desert region** that borders Mexico and Arizona, Imperial County has one of the highest unemployment rates and child poverty rates among California's 58 counties. Despite an increase in the number of licensed family child care homes in the county – including some willing to provide care during evenings and weekends – some families are using license-exempt care out of economic necessity. According to Child Development Services, the local resource and referral (R&R) program housed in the County Office of Education, more than 85 percent of families in CalWORKs, the state's welfare-to-work program, select exempt care – mostly family members, who may not have training in child development.

The R&R reports a significant increase in requests for infant and toddler care as well as for school-age care. But only 7 percent of all slots in licensed centers are for children under two, and only 6 percent for school-age care. Accessibility is also a problem because the limited public transportation system does not meet the needs of the county's dispersed population. Although there was an increase in the number of part-day State Preschool programs, they are unable to meet the needs of low-income families who need care all day because parents are working, going to school, or participating in training programs.

## Recruiting and training providers

Through programs such as the statewide Child Care Initiative Project (CCIP) and LISTOS Exempt Care Training Project, the R&R recruited and trained more than 90 licensed and exempt caregivers in 2002. The R&R has built partnerships with several agencies, including the local Child Care Planning Council, which resulted in a stipend program for providers participating in training and workshops. Because of the county's proximity to the Mexico border, the R&R staff is bilingual and can serve the area's abundance of Spanish-speaking parents and providers.

*"Accessibility is a major issue because our county is so spread out and the public transportation system doesn't meet the needs of parents traveling long distance and using child care."*  
– R&R Counselor

The People <sup>1</sup>	1990	2000	Change
Total number of residents	109,303	142,361	30%
Total number of employed residents		43,204	
Percent working outside the county		7%	
Percent working non-traditional hours		23%	
Total number of households	32,857	39,433	20%
Speaking English	13,061	11,973	-8%
Speaking Spanish	18,802	26,115	39%
Speaking an Asian language	382	740	94%

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

Total number of children (0–13 years) 34,250

Under 2	2	3	4	5	6–11	12	13
4,243	2,164	2,190	2,305	2,322	15,876	2,657	2,493

Children 0–5 living in poverty (% of total) 3,864 (29%)

Children 0–5 living in single parent household (% of total) 2,637 (26%)

Total number of children (0–13) with parents in the labor force<sup>2</sup> 16,630

Under 2	2	3	4	5	6–13
1,740	1,015	1,075	1,295	1,095	10,410

## 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> \$4,830

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 34%

Annual median family income<sup>5</sup> \$35,226

Annual fair market rent for a two-bedroom unit<sup>5</sup> \$6,660

Salary of entry-level public school teacher<sup>6</sup> \$31,531

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 Imperial County, call:

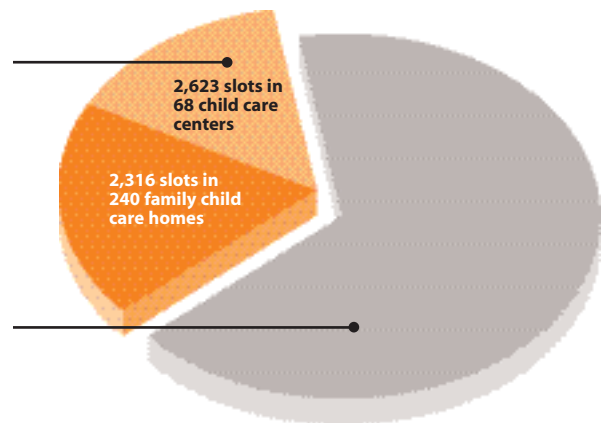
Imperial County Office of Education –  
Child Development Services

760-312-6431

# Child Care Supply in Imperial County

## Licensed Child Care Supply 4,939 slots

Total number of licensed slots	4,939
Percent of slots in child care centers	53%
% of slots for infants (under 2 years old)	7%
% of slots for preschoolers (2–5 years old)	87%
% of slots for school-age children (6 years and older)	6%
Percent of slots in family child care homes <sup>1</sup>	47%



## Children with Parents in the Labor Force<sup>2</sup> 16,630

Licensed child care is only available for 30% 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 51% 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	68	240
	Total number of slots	2,623	2,316 <sup>1</sup>
	Infant slots	181	
	Preschool slots	2,284	
	School-age slots	158	
<b>Schedules<sup>3</sup></b>	Full-time and part-time	47%	98%
	Only full-time available	19%	2%
	Only part-time available	34%	0%
	Care available during non-traditional hours	8%	73%

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

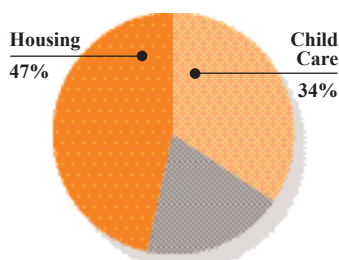
*Type of care:* 24% infant/toddler; 49% preschool; 27% school-age

*Type of facility:* 71% family child care homes; 49% child care centers

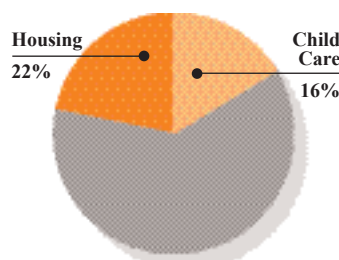
*Schedule of care:* 77% full-time care (0–5 years); 23% part-time care (0–5 years)

*Reasons for needing child care:* 83% employment; 15% school/training; 2% looking for work

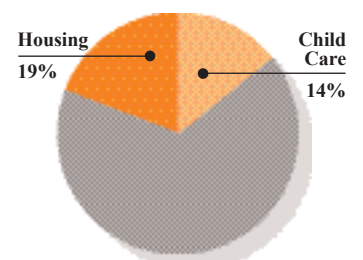
## Portion of Income Needed to Pay for Basic Family Needs: Housing and One Preschooler in a Licensed Center



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



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



**For a Family at County Median Income  
\$35,226 / 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.