

# Inyo County

**Inyo County** is a land of contradictions. Covering more than 10,000 square miles, it is the second largest county in the state, yet among the least populated. It is home to Mt. Whitney, the highest peak in the contiguous states, and Death Valley, the lowest point. Though rich in geographic diversity, it is economically poor.

A large service sector that includes jobs in tourism employs many county residents – mostly at minimum wage shift jobs – creating demand for evening and weekend child care. Yet, according to Inyo County Office of Education, Child Care Connection, the local resource and referral (R&R) agency, such care is difficult to find. “We have a low supply of weekend and evening care – which is what most of our CalWORKs clients need,” says an R&R staff member, referring to California’s welfare-to-work participants. Although 29 percent of licensed family child care homes offer care during non-traditional hours, no centers – which make up the majority of licensed care in the county – offer care during these times.

There are six Native American tribes scattered throughout Owens and Death valleys. As tribal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) caseloads increase, so does the need for Native American providers.

## Culturally-sensitive care for Latino, Native American families

Like many counties throughout the state, Inyo has seen an influx of Spanish-speaking families (up 57 percent since 1990). The R&R recruited two bilingual providers last year, and hired a bilingual staff member.

To build the supply of child care, the R&R offers training for new providers through the statewide Child Care Initiative Project (CCIP). Assistance in licensing is also helping new recruits. The R&R sponsored a “Basic Training Camp” for new providers, as well as a “Bootie Camp” for new parents and providers who work with infants and toddlers. These programs offer basic information and resources on age-appropriate care.

*“We have a very small supply of weekend and evening care, which is what most of our CalWORKs clients need, because of their work schedules. And we don’t have any where near enough providers who care for infants. Unfortunately this is a trend that has been growing.”* – R&R Counselor

The People <sup>1</sup>	1990	2000	Change
Total number of residents	18,281	17,945	-2%
Total number of employed residents		7,884	
Percent working outside the county		7%	
Percent working non-traditional hours		18%	
Total number of households	7,535	7,673	2%
Speaking English	6,666	6,682	0%
Speaking Spanish	444	697	57%
Speaking an Asian language	66	60	-9%

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

Total number of children (0–13 years) 3,221

Under 2	2	3	4	5	6–11	12	13
358	178	203	222	212	1,514	284	250

Children 0–5 living in poverty (% of total) 234 (20%)

Children 0–5 living in single parent household (% of total) 254 (23%)

Total number of children (0–13) with parents in the labor force<sup>2</sup> 2,284

Under 2	2	3	4	5	6–13
200	115	129	155	110	1,575

## 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> \$6,105

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 43%

Annual median family income<sup>1</sup> \$44,970

Annual fair market rent for a two-bedroom unit<sup>5</sup> \$6,876

Salary of entry-level public school teacher<sup>6</sup> \$30,530

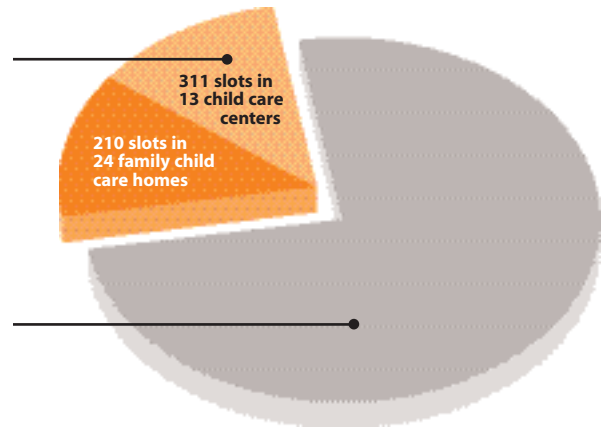
1. U.S. Census Bureau, 1990; 2000.
2. This number reflects children with either two parents or single head of household in the labor force.
3. 2002 Regional Market Rate Survey of California Child Care Providers.
4. California Department of Industrial Relations, Industrial Welfare Commission, 2002.
5.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

**For more information about child care in Inyo County, call:**  
Child Care Connection 760-873-5123

# Child Care Supply in Inyo County

## Licensed Child Care Supply 521 slots

Total number of licensed slots	521
Percent of slots in child care centers	60%
% of slots for infants (under 2 years old)	3%
% of slots for preschoolers (2–5 years old)	73%
% of slots for school-age children (6 years and older)	24%
Percent of slots in family child care homes <sup>1</sup>	40%



## Children with Parents in the Labor Force<sup>2</sup> 2,284

Licensed child care is only available for 23% of children with parents in the labor force<sup>2</sup>.

- Licensed center-based care available for 4% of infants<sup>1</sup>
- Licensed center-based care available for 45% 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	13	24
	Total number of slots	311	210 <sup>1</sup>
	Infant slots	8	
	Preschool slots	228	
	School-age slots	75	
<b>Schedules<sup>3</sup></b>	Full-time and part-time	41%	71%
	Only full-time available	11%	29%
	Only part-time available	49%	0%
	Care available during non-traditional hours	0%	29%

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

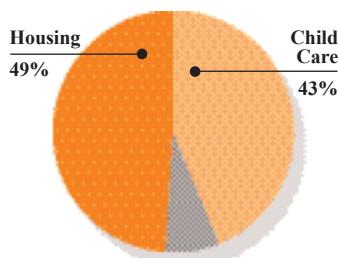
*Type of care:* 33% infant/toddler; 37% preschool; 30% school-age

*Type of facility:* 91% family child care homes; 33% child care centers

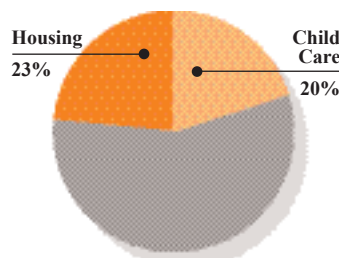
*Schedule of care:* 62% full-time care (0–5 years); 38% part-time care (0–5 years)

*Reasons for needing child care:* 84% employment; 3% looking for work

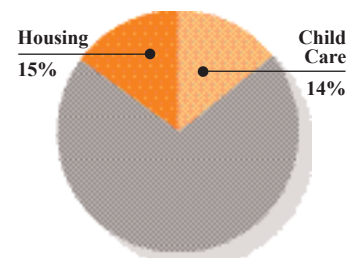
## Portion of Income Needed to Pay for Basic Family Needs: Housing and One Preschooler in a Licensed Center



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



For a Family Earning  
\$30,000 / year



For a Family at County Median Income  
\$44,970 / year

- 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.