

# Kings County

**The Tulare Lake Basin**, a natural drainage area for the Kings, Kaweah, and Tulare rivers, makes Kings County one of the most fertile regions in the world. In addition to agriculture, large employers include hospitals, a state prison in Corcoran, a casino, and a growing service industry.

Many of these jobs pay low wages and have varying work schedules. Nearly 25 percent of employed residents work during non-traditional hours, including nights and early mornings. Although child care during all hours is available in some family child care homes, there is a severe shortage of care during these hours in licensed centers. Care for infants and toddlers is also in short supply. In child care centers, only 4 percent of slots are available for children under two.

According to counselors at Kings Community Action Organization, the local resource and referral (R&R) agency, the number of Spanish-speaking families seeking English-speaking providers for their young children is growing. But in many licensed family child care homes, particularly in Corcoran, providers speak only Spanish.

## Outreach is helping to improve quality

To continue improving the quality and supply of child care – especially for the county’s poorest families, who often turn to friends, relatives, and neighbors for child care help – the R&R launched a mobile training program in cooperation with a local community resource center. Additionally, in partnership with another community agency, the R&R launched a training program for licensed-exempt providers. And, the statewide Child Care Initiative Project (CCIP) provides quality training opportunities for new and existing providers. Finally, TANF funds were used to expand a local child care lending library that serves both families and child care providers.

*“We’ve made tremendous progress in expanding the supply of Spanish-speaking providers. Now, we have to focus on bringing in more English-speaking caregivers – especially those who want to care for infants and toddlers.”*

– R&R Counselor

The People <sup>1</sup>	1990	2000	Change
Total number of residents	101,469	129,461	28%
Total number of employed residents		41,944	
Percent working outside the county		21%	
Percent working non-traditional hours		23%	
Total number of households	29,104	34,429	18%
Speaking English	18,797	20,585	10%
Speaking Spanish	7,341	11,050	51%
Speaking an Asian language	1,028	1,252	22%

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

Total number of children (0–13 years) 29,556

Under 2	2	3	4	5	6–11	12	13
4,163	2,036	2,124	2,114	2,052	13,062	2,018	1,987

Children 0–5 living in poverty (% of total) 3,583 (29%)

Children 0–5 living in single parent household (% of total) 2,611 (25%)

Total number of children (0–13) with parents in the labor force<sup>2</sup> 15,540

Under 2	2	3	4	5	6–13
2,065	940	1,080	865	1,000	9,590

## 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>	\$4,757
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>1</sup>	\$38,111
Annual fair market rent for a two-bedroom unit <sup>5</sup>	\$6,456
Salary of entry-level public school teacher <sup>6</sup>	\$32,792

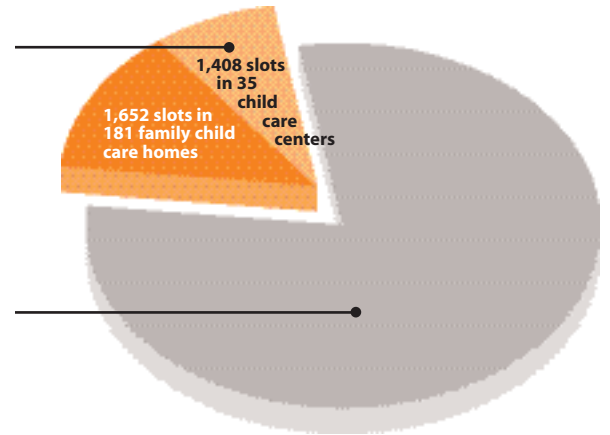
1. U.S. Census Bureau, 1990; 2000.
2. This number reflects children with either two parents or single head of household in the labor force.
3. 2002 Regional Market Rate Survey of California Child Care Providers.
4. California Department of Industrial Relations, Industrial Welfare Commission, 2002.
5.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

**For more information about child care in Kings County, call:**  
 Kings Community Action Organization 559-582-4386

# Child Care Supply in Kings County

## Licensed Child Care Supply 3,060 slots

Total number of licensed slots	3,060
Percent of slots in child care centers	46%
% of slots for infants (under 2 years old)	4%
% of slots for preschoolers (2–5 years old)	83%
% of slots for school-age children (6 years and older)	13%
Percent of slots in family child care homes <sup>1</sup>	54%



## Children with Parents in the Labor Force<sup>2</sup> 15,540

Licensed child care is only available for 20% of children with parents in the labor force<sup>2</sup>.

- Licensed center-based care available for 3% of infants<sup>1</sup>
- Licensed center-based care available for 30% 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	35	181
	Total number of slots	1,408	1,652 <sup>1</sup>
	Infant slots	63	
	Preschool slots	1,162	
	School-age slots	183	
<b>Schedules<sup>3</sup></b>	Full-time and part-time	54%	73%
	Only full-time available	0%	26%
	Only part-time available	46%	1%
	Care available during non-traditional hours	3%	42%

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

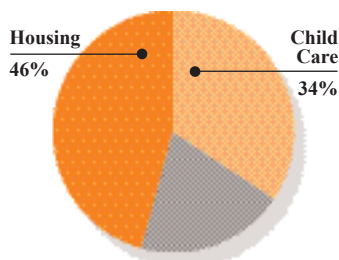
*Type of care:* 41% infant/toddler; 32% preschool; 27% school-age

*Type of facility:* 97% family child care homes; 9% child care centers

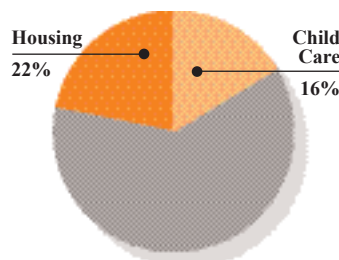
*Schedule of care:* 75% full-time care (0–5 years); 32% part-time care (0–5 years)

*Reasons for needing child care:* 80% employment; 20% school/training; 4% looking for work

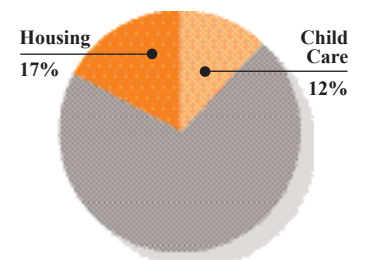
## Portion of Income Needed to Pay for Basic Family Needs: Housing and One Preschooler in a Licensed Center



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



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



**For a Family at County Median Income  
\$38,111 / 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.