

# Mariposa County

*“Our data shows that 93 percent of families who call us want a licensed home or center, but most of these providers don't offer care for infants or care at night or weekends, when many working families need it. So, many families end up using license-exempt care.”* – R&R Counselor

**Nearly half of the land** that comprises Mariposa County is owned by Yosemite National Park, two national forests, and the U.S. Bureau of Land Management. Located in central California on the western slope of the Sierra Nevada, the region's economy is largely dependent on recreation and tourism. Many of the jobs in these industries are low-paying, part-time jobs with irregular work schedules. Finding affordable child care with schedules that match parents' work times can be challenging. Some parents – in search of better pay and employment opportunities – commute to the Central Valley's urban centers of Fresno and Merced, but these families also require child care during early mornings and evenings because their workdays are extended as they travel long distances to and from work. Although 45 percent of family child care homes – which make up the majority of licensed care in the county – provide care during non-traditional hours, there are no licensed centers that offer care during these times. There is also no center-based care available for infants and toddlers under two years of age anywhere in the county. In the more isolated northern part of the county, child care of all types is lacking.

## Improving supply and quality of care

Stipends from the county's First 5 Commission were given to 25 child care providers to attend training in child development. Infant/Child Enrichment Services, the local resource and referral (R&R) agency, recruited six new licensed providers through the Child Care Initiative Project (CCIP), a statewide program, and a partnership with Merced Community College provides early childhood education credit for participants in the R&R's provider training programs. To help new parents find quality care, the R&R provides information on infant care.

The People <sup>1</sup>	1990	2000	Change
Total number of residents	14,302	17,130	20%
Total number of employed residents		6,646	
Percent working outside the county		28%	
Percent working non-traditional hours		19%	
Total number of households	5,679	6,592	16%
Speaking English	5,090	6,147	21%
Speaking Spanish	280	252	-10%
Speaking an Asian language	15	15	0%

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

Total number of children (0–13 years) 2,704

Under 2	2	3	4	5	6–11	12	13
275	154	168	157	156	1,335	233	226

Children 0–5 living in poverty (% of total) 135 (13%)

Children 0–5 living in single parent household (% of total) 179 (21%)

Total number of children (0–13) with parents in the labor force<sup>2</sup> 1,594

Under 2	2	3	4	5	6–13
180	115	64	80	140	1,015

## 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> \$5,268

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 38%

Annual median family income<sup>1</sup> \$42,655

Annual fair market rent for a two-bedroom unit<sup>5</sup> \$6,768

Salary of entry-level public school teacher<sup>6</sup> \$28,250

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.

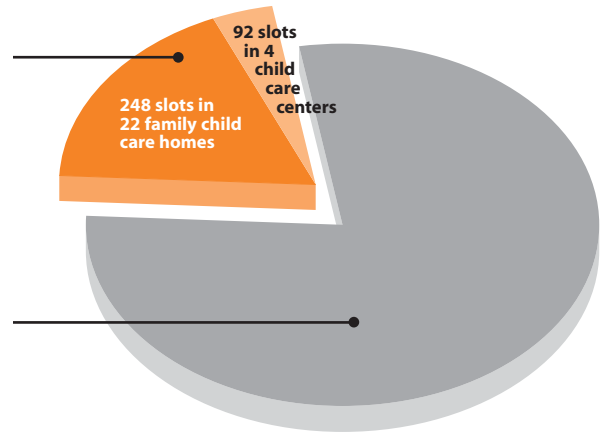
**For more information about child care in Mariposa County, call:**

Infant/Child Enrichment Services 209-966-4474

# Child Care Supply in Mariposa County

## Licensed Child Care Supply 340 slots

Total number of licensed slots	340
Percent of slots in child care centers	27%
% of slots for infants (under 2 years old)	0%
% of slots for preschoolers (2–5 years old)	59%
% of slots for school-age children (6 years and older)	41%
Percent of slots in family child care homes <sup>1</sup>	73%



## Children with Parents in the Labor Force<sup>2</sup> 1,594

Licensed child care is only available for 21% of children with parents in the labor force<sup>2</sup>.

- Licensed center-based care not available for infants<sup>1</sup>
- Licensed center-based care available for 14% 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	4	22
	Total number of slots	92	248 <sup>1</sup>
	Infant slots	0	
	Preschool slots	54	
	School-age slots	38	
<b>Schedules<sup>3</sup></b>	Full-time and part-time	30%	76%
	Only full-time available	0%	9%
	Only part-time available	70%	15%
	Care available during non-traditional hours	0%	45%

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

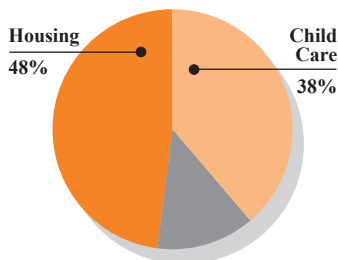
*Type of care:* 22% infant/toddler; 50% preschool; 28% school-age

*Type of facility:* 98% family child care homes; 12% child care centers

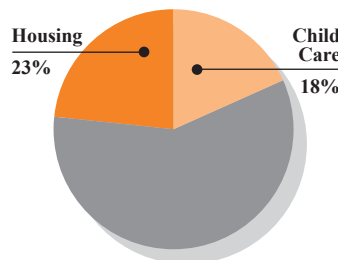
*Schedule of care:* 59% full-time care (0–5 years); 43% part-time care (0–5 years)

*Reasons for needing child care:* 77% employment; 10% school/training; 5% looking for work

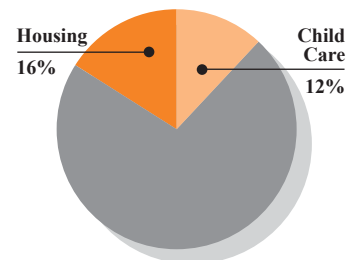
## Portion of Income Needed to Pay for Basic Family Needs: Housing and One Preschooler in a Licensed Center



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



For a Family Earning  
\$30,000 / year



For a Family at County Median Income  
\$42,655 / 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.