

Mono County

Like its neighboring counties in the northeastern edge of California, Mono County is mostly mountainous country that relies heavily on tourism and outdoor recreation as an economic base. During the winter months, the population swells with skiers who take to the slopes of the eastern Sierra Nevada. Jobs in the area's resorts and other parts of the service industry essential to support tourism often require that employees work rotating shifts as well as weekends and evenings. Although the number of licensed child care providers who offer care during these times has increased, it is still in short supply. Jobs in tourism often pay minimum wage, making child care unaffordable for many families. Housing costs have also risen as more families move into the area to work in the county's expanding resort communities (Mono County experienced a growth rate of nearly 30 percent over the last decade). This adds to financial burdens families confront, and makes it difficult for family child care providers to stay in business.

The number of Spanish-speaking households more than doubled over the last decade. But, according to Community Connection for Children, the county's resource and referral agency (R&R), only a fraction of family child care providers speak Spanish.

Licensing, training improve quality

The R&R hosts monthly licensing orientations in both English and Spanish. With funding from the Compensation and Retention Encourages Stability (CARES) program as well as Child Care Initiative Project, the R&R is also helping providers with health and safety classes and financial assistance to pay for licensing fees. The agency is running public service announcements in newspapers and on radio to increase the overall supply of providers in the county.

The local child care planning council, which the R&R helped form, collaborates with other community organizations to fund training for providers and other professional development activities.

"With the high cost of housing and the low wages paid by the tourism industry, it has become increasingly difficult for families to afford quality child care."

– R&R Counselor

The People ¹	1990	2000	Change
Total number of residents	9,956	12,853	29%
Total number of employed residents		7,105	
Percent working outside the county		15%	
Percent working non-traditional hours		16%	
Total number of households	4,013	5,163	29%
Speaking English	3,489	4,251	22%
Speaking Spanish	338	680	101%
Speaking an Asian language	20	56	180%

The Children¹ 2000

Total number of children (0–13 years) 2,270

Under 2	2	3	4	5	6–11	12	13
285	139	155	148	149	1,046	155	193

Children 0–5 living in poverty (% of total) 105 (12%)

Children 0–5 living in single parent household (% of total) 192 (23%)

Total number of children (0–13) with parents in the labor force² 1,640

Under 2	2	3	4	5	6–13
145	130	90	155	115	1,005

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 ³	\$6,008
Annual minimum wage of a full-time worker ⁴	\$14,040
Care for a preschooler as a percent of income of a single parent household at minimum wage	43%
Annual median family income ¹	\$50,487
Annual fair market rent for a two-bedroom unit ⁵	\$9,324
Salary of entry-level public school teacher ⁶	\$29,768

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.

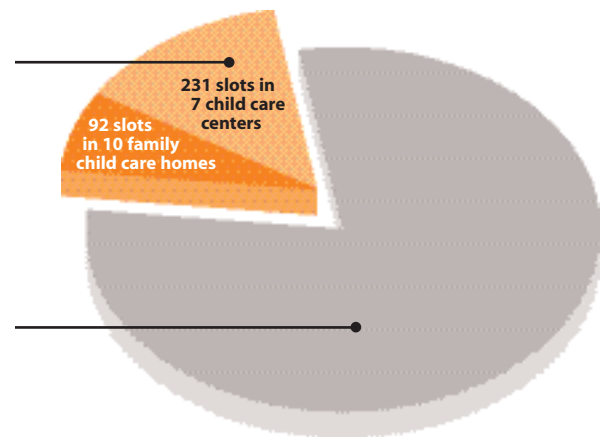
6. California Department of Education, 2002-2003.

For more information about child care in Mono County, call:
Community Connection for Children 760-934-3343

Child Care Supply in Mono County

Licensed Child Care Supply 323 slots

Total number of licensed slots	323
Percent of slots in child care centers	72%
% of slots for infants (under 2 years old)	12%
% of slots for preschoolers (2–5 years old)	85%
% of slots for school-age children (6 years and older)	3%
Percent of slots in family child care homes ¹	28%



Children with Parents in the Labor Force² 1,640

Licensed child care is only available for 20% of children with parents in the labor force².

- Licensed center-based care available for 19% of infants¹
- Licensed center-based care available for 40% of preschoolers¹

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

		Child Care Centers	Family Child Care Homes
Facilities	Total number of sites	7	10
	Total number of slots	231	92 ¹
	Infant slots	28	
	Preschool slots	197	
	School-age slots	6	
Schedules³	Full-time and part-time	100%	100%
	Only full-time available	0%	0%
	Only part-time available	0%	0%
	Care available during non-traditional hours	50%	50%

Parent Requests to the R&R⁴

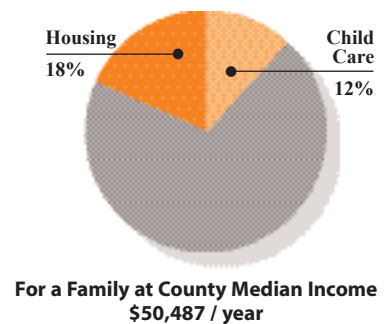
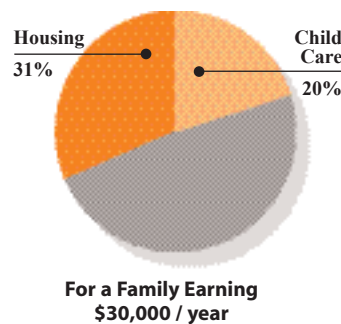
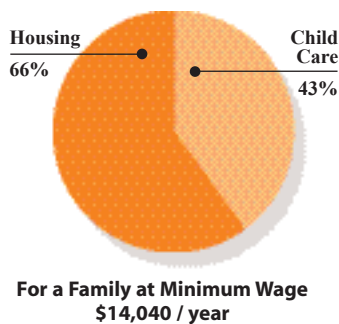
Type of care: 44% infant/toddler; 42% preschool; 14% school-age

Type of facility: 32% family child care homes; 14% child care centers

Schedule of care: 16% full-time care (0–5 years); 86% part-time care (0–5 years)

Reasons for needing child care: 31% employment

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



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.