

# Nevada County

**Nevada County** has more groups involved in child care than ever before, according to Sierra Nevada Children's Services, the local resource and referral (R&R) agency. But that's not enough to meet the needs of working parents, many who struggle to find affordable, quality care – especially during non-traditional hours. In 2003, three centers that offered child care during non-traditional hours closed in Truckee, where more and more providers are limiting their hours or accepting only a certain age group. Grass Valley, a fast-growing community in the foothills above Marysville, lost four child care centers (center-based slots make up the majority of licensed care in the county). Just 2 percent of licensed centers offer care during evenings and weekends, and only 4 percent of center slots are for children under two.

In more rural communities, such as North San Juan and Sweetland, there is no licensed child care available. At the eastern edge of the county, where numerous ski resorts attract winter sports enthusiasts, low-income families compete with wealthier parents who use the area's child care services so they can participate in outdoor recreation activities. R&R staff also report that a growing number of families are looking for child care to provide enrichment and school-readiness for their young children.

## Recruiting providers to meet the need

The R&R's bilingual staff has been able to work closely with Latino families in Nevada County, which has seen a 112 percent growth in the number of Spanish-speaking households between 1990 and 2000. The agency has targeted the Child Care Initiative Project (CCIP), a statewide program, to recruit more Spanish-speaking providers, and is conducting its own pediatric CPR/first aid certification classes in both English and Spanish. To increase the supply of infant/toddler care in the county, the R&R is offering training through the Program for Infant Toddler Caregivers.

*“At the eastern end of the county, very poor families must compete for child care with middle class families who want enrichment for their children or who want to participate in the county's abundant outdoor recreational activities.”*

– R&R Counselor

The People <sup>1</sup>	1990	2000	Change
Total number of residents	78,510	92,033	17%
Total number of employed residents		40,673	
Percent working outside the county		28%	
Percent working non-traditional hours		16%	
Total number of households	30,807	36,956	20%
Speaking English	28,401	33,481	18%
Speaking Spanish	898	1,904	112%
Speaking an Asian language	97	192	98%

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

Total number of children (0–13 years) 15,557

Under 2	2	3	4	5	6–11	12	13
1,635	810	902	959	1,016	7,484	1,364	1,387

Children 0–5 living in poverty (% of total) 500 (10%)

Children 0–5 living in single parent household (% of total) 814 (18%)

Total number of children (0–13) with parents in the labor force<sup>2</sup> 9,825

Under 2	2	3	4	5	6–13
945	530	450	455	630	6,815

## 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>	\$5,075
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	36%
Annual median family income <sup>1</sup>	\$52,697
Annual fair market rent for a two-bedroom unit <sup>5</sup>	\$8,748
Salary of entry-level public school teacher <sup>6</sup>	\$36,866

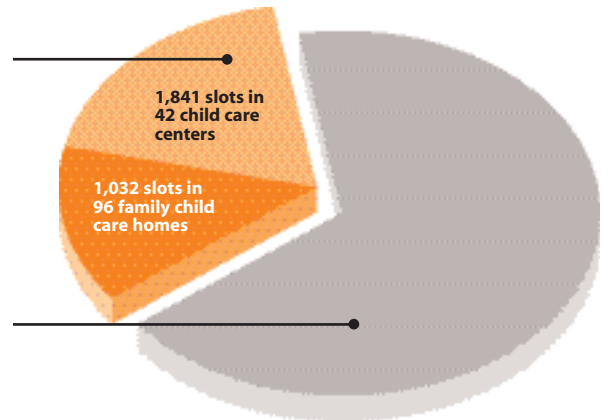
1. U.S. Census Bureau, 1990; 2000.
2. This number reflects children with either two parents or single head of household in the labor force.
3. 2002 Regional Market Rate Survey of California Child Care Providers.
4. California Department of Industrial Relations, Industrial Welfare Commission, 2002.
5.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

**For more information about child care in Nevada County, call:**  
Sierra Nevada Children's Services 530-272-8866

# Child Care Supply in Nevada County

## Licensed Child Care Supply 2,873 slots

Total number of licensed slots	2,873
Percent of slots in child care centers	64%
% of slots for infants (under 2 years old)	4%
% of slots for preschoolers (2–5 years old)	55%
% of slots for school-age children (6 years and older)	41%
Percent of slots in family child care homes <sup>1</sup>	36%



## Children with Parents in the Labor Force<sup>2</sup> 9,825

Licensed child care is only available for 29% of children with parents in the labor force<sup>2</sup>.

- Licensed center-based care available for 7% of infants<sup>1</sup>
- Licensed center-based care available for 49% 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	42	96
	Total number of slots	1,841	1,032 <sup>1</sup>
	Infant slots	65	
	Preschool slots	1,017	
	School-age slots	759	
<b>Schedules<sup>3</sup></b>	Full-time and part-time	86%	88%
	Only full-time available	1%	11%
	Only part-time available	13%	2%
	Care available during non-traditional hours	2%	10%

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

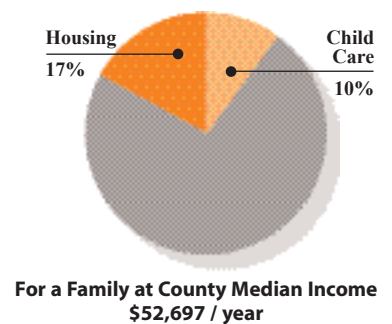
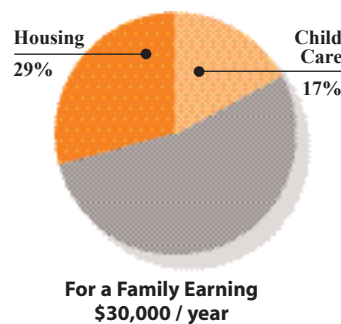
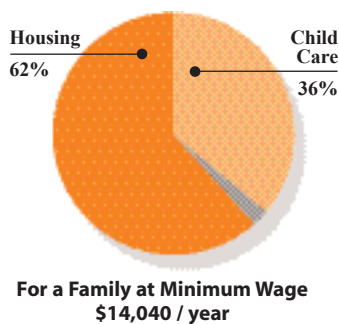
*Type of care:* 12% infant/toddler; 47% preschool; 41% school-age

*Type of facility:* 98% family child care homes; 99% child care centers

*Schedule of care:* 56% full-time care (0–5 years); 47% part-time care (0–5 years)

*Reasons for needing child care:* 96% employment; 13% school/training; 4% looking for work

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



- 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.