

Placer County

A long and narrow county that stretches from the suburbs east of Sacramento to mountain communities on the north-western shores of Lake Tahoe, Placer experienced 44 percent growth in population over the last decade. The expanding job base has helped the county's economy and also created an increased need for child care. Most of the county's growth has occurred in the Lincoln, Rocklin, and Roseville triangle with Lincoln being the fastest growing city in the state. Here the supply of child care – while more plentiful than in communities further east – still does not meet the demand. Care, especially during non-traditional hours, when many parents work, is very limited. Just 1 percent of licensed centers – which make up two-thirds of all licensed care in the county – offer child care during nights or weekends. The need for this kind of care is due, in part, to the large number of working parents in shift-based service and retail jobs. But, the low reimbursement for care during non-traditional hours has limited the number of providers willing to work these hours.

Providers eager for training

According to staff at Child Care Services, the local resource and referral (R&R) agency, seasoned child care providers are eager for training and new learning opportunities. To help retain these providers and continue to recruit new ones, the R&R has been involved in numerous activities and is working closely with the Local Child Care Planning Council and the First 5 Commission. The statewide Child Care Initiative Project (CCIP) has enabled the R&R to recruit, train, and retain providers, by teaching both child development and business skills. Additionally, more than 200 providers participated in Compensation and Retention Encourage Stability (CARES) in 2003 – a professional development program for providers. To address the increasing need for Spanish-speaking providers, prompted by a 77 percent increase in the number of Spanish-speaking households since 1990,

“So many families are asking for child care early mornings and nights, because of their work schedules. We have few providers that do this kind of care, making it very difficult for families trying to work and also care for children.”

– R&R Counselor

The People ¹	1990	2000	Change
Total number of residents	172,796	248,399	44%
Total number of employed residents		116,409	
Percent working outside the county		40%	
Percent working non-traditional hours		16%	
Total number of households	64,502	93,510	45%
Speaking English	56,794	80,393	42%
Speaking Spanish	3,894	6,910	77%
Speaking an Asian language	817	1,814	122%

The Children¹ 2000

Total number of children (0–13 years) 50,497

Under 2	2	3	4	5	6–11	12	13
5,954	3,127	3,278	3,565	3,570	23,304	3,929	3,770

Children 0–5 living in poverty (% of total) 1,319 (7%)

Children 0–5 living in single parent household (% of total) 2,524 (14%)

Total number of children (0–13) with parents in the labor force² 29,950

Under 2	2	3	4	5	6–13
3,510	1,710	1,740	1,845	1,960	19,185

Child Care Cost and Family Income 2002

Average annual cost of full-time licensed care for a preschooler, 2–5 years old, in a center³ \$6,618

Annual minimum wage of a full-time worker⁴ \$14,040

Care for a preschooler as a percent of income of a single parent household at minimum wage 47%

Annual median family income¹ \$65,858

Annual fair market rent for a two-bedroom unit⁵ \$8,508

Salary of entry-level public school teacher⁶ \$28,976

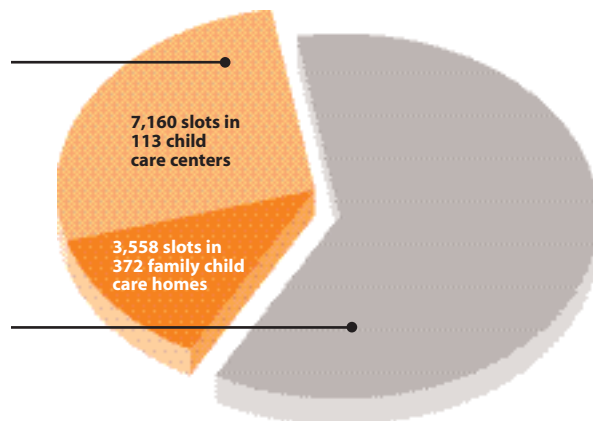
1. U.S. Census Bureau, 1990; 2000.
2. This number reflects children with either two parents or single head of household in the labor force.
3. 2002 Regional Market Rate Survey of California Child Care Providers.
4. California Department of Industrial Relations, Industrial Welfare Commission, 2002.
5.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

For more information about child care in Placer County, call:
PCOE – Child Care Services 530-745-1380

Child Care Supply in Placer County

Licensed Child Care Supply 10,718 slots

Total number of licensed slots	10,718
Percent of slots in child care centers	67%
% of slots for infants (under 2 years old)	6%
% of slots for preschoolers (2–5 years old)	54%
% of slots for school-age children (6 years and older)	40%
Percent of slots in family child care homes ¹	33%



Children with Parents in the Labor Force² 29,950

Licensed child care is only available for 36% of children with parents in the labor force².

Licensed center-based care available for 11% of infants¹

Licensed center-based care available for 53% 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	113	372
	Total number of slots	7,160	3,558 ¹
	Infant slots	396	
	Preschool slots	3,865	
	School-age slots	2,899	
Schedules³	Full-time and part-time	7%	9%
	Only full-time available	53%	88%
	Only part-time available	41%	3%
	Care available during non-traditional hours	1%	21%

Parent Requests to the R&R⁴

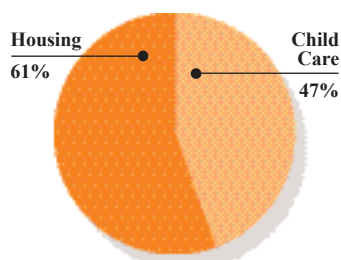
Type of care: 43% infant/toddler; 36% preschool; 21% school-age

Type of facility: 97% family child care homes; 14% child care centers

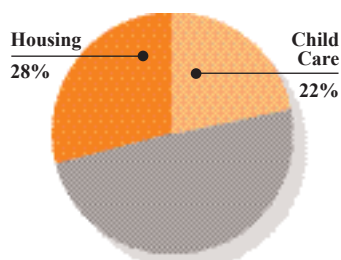
Schedule of care: 66% full-time care (0–5 years); 35% part-time care (0–5 years)

Reasons for needing child care: 92% employment; 2% school/training; 4% looking for work

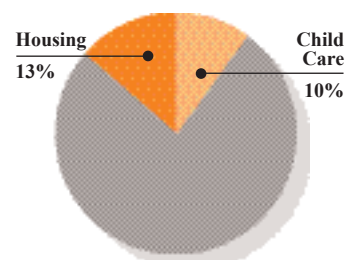
Portion of Income Needed to Pay for Basic Family Needs: Housing and One Preschooler in a Licensed Center



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



For a Family Earning
\$30,000 / year



For a Family at County Median Income
\$65,858 / year

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.