

Sacramento County

Once a government town surrounded by farmlands, Sacramento County has grown into a major metropolitan region with more than a million and a quarter residents and many of the ills associated with rapid growth – traffic and rising housing costs. But while the number of families in Sacramento County has increased – especially in new suburban developments in Elk Grove, Folsom, and Antelope – the supply of licensed child care remains relatively low. There is also limited infant and toddler care, countywide. And for the thousands of parents who have to work weekends, early mornings, or late nights, just 1 percent of licensed centers offer care during these hours.

Collaborations address quality, supply

To improve the supply of all types of care, Child Action, Inc., the local resource and referral (R&R) agency, is collaborating with the Sacramento County Office of Education, U.C. Davis, and other groups in the Quality Child Care Collaborative. The goal is to offer a single point of entry for providers to access services, stipends, and training as well as a connection to county services for children in their care. Significant strides have also been made to build relationships between the child care community and those who provide health, mental health, special needs and educational services. The agency has enhanced its referral services to families with children with special needs, and instituted a program that offers technical assistance to providers who are working to create a more inclusive environment for special needs children. More than 700 providers earned college credit in child development through participation in the Compensation and Retention Encourage Stability (CARES) program in 2003. To address the region's diverse language needs, including the county's burgeoning Eastern European population, the R&R sponsored an eight-part child development series in English, Spanish, Russian and Hmong.

“Significant strides have been made to build relationships between the child care community and county health, mental health, special needs, and education service providers. This is increasing support for child care providers in meeting the varying needs of children in their care.”

– R&R Counselor

The People ¹	1990	2000	Change
Total number of residents	1,041,219	1,223,499	18%
Total number of employed residents		536,310	
Percent working outside the county		15%	
Percent working non-traditional hours		19%	
Total number of households	395,157	453,841	15%
Speaking English	323,163	342,459	6%
Speaking Spanish	30,328	48,653	60%
Speaking an Asian language	21,392	32,429	52%

The Children¹ 2000

Total number of children (0–13 years) 264,685

Under 2	2	3	4	5	6–11	12	13
34,594	17,314	17,974	19,040	19,133	119,283	18,914	18,433

Children 0–5 living in poverty (% of total) 22,376 (21%)

Children 0–5 living in single parent household (% of total) 24,820 (26%)

Total number of children (0–13) with parents in the labor force² 148,855

Under 2	2	3	4	5	6–13
17,155	8,995	9,575	9,995	10,320	92,815

Child Care Cost and Family Income 2002

Average annual cost of full-time licensed care for a preschooler, 2–5 years old, in a center³ \$6,692

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 48%

Annual median family income¹ \$50,717

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

Salary of entry-level public school teacher⁶ \$29,967

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.

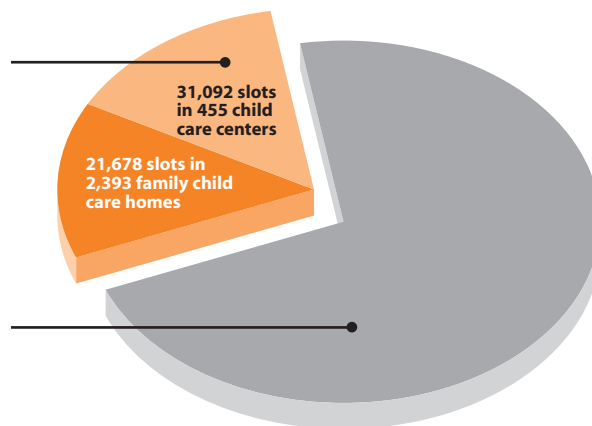
6. California Department of Education, 2002-2003.

For more information about child care in Sacramento County, call:
Child Action, Inc. 916-369-0191

Child Care Supply in Sacramento County

Licensed Child Care Supply 52,770 slots

Total number of licensed slots	52,770
Percent of slots in child care centers	59%
% of slots for infants (under 2 years old)	8%
% of slots for preschoolers (2–5 years old)	63%
% of slots for school-age children (6 years and older)	29%
Percent of slots in family child care homes ¹	41%



Children with Parents in the Labor Force² 148,855

Licensed child care is only available for 35% of children with parents in the labor force².

- Licensed center-based care available for 14% of infants¹
- Licensed center-based care available for 51% 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	455	2,393
	Total number of slots	31,092	21,678 ¹
	Infant slots	2,465	
	Preschool slots	19,725	
	School-age slots	8,902	
Schedules³	Full-time and part-time	79%	80%
	Only full-time available	6%	17%
	Only part-time available	14%	3%
	Care available during non-traditional hours	1%	29%

Parent Requests to the R&R⁴

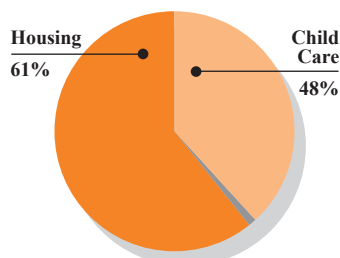
Type of care: 33% infant/toddler; 40% preschool; 26% school-age

Type of facility: 88% family child care homes; 72% child care centers

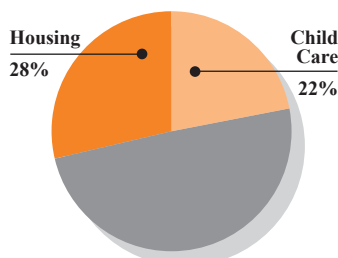
Schedule of care: 85% full-time care (0–5 years); 19% part-time care (0–5 years)

Reasons for needing child care: 85% employment; 8% school/training; 6% looking for work

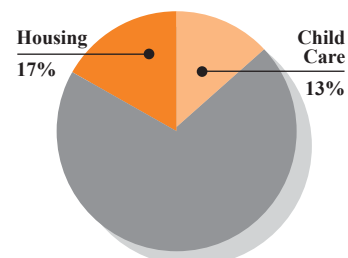
Portion of Income Needed to Pay for Basic Family Needs: Housing and One Preschooler in a Licensed Center



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



For a Family Earning \$30,000 / year



For a Family at County Median Income \$50,717 / 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.