

# San Benito County

**The slump** in Silicon Valley's economy has adversely affected neighboring San Benito County – a bedroom community for high tech workers. Although the number of residents in the county jumped 45 percent in the last decade, the lack of jobs in Santa Clara County has temporarily decreased child care demand. Agriculture remains the dominant industry in the county, and this often requires caregivers to work early mornings, late nights, and weekends. In child care centers, which make up only 41 percent of all licensed care in the county, only 7 percent offer care during non-traditional hours. Also, since a large portion of the county's farm labor force is Latino, the need for Spanish-speaking caregivers is great.

Like many other California counties, San Benito has a shortage of infant and toddler care. Just 4 percent of center slots were available to children under two.

## Training, collaboratives improve supply

Go Kids Inc., the local resource and referral (R&R) agency, continues its efforts to increase the number of licensed providers – especially family child care providers, who more often can care for children during non-traditional hours and serve more Spanish-speaking children. The statewide Child Care Initiative Project (CCIP) offers training for new providers in both English and Spanish. By expanding its library to include more capacity-building materials, the R&R has been reaching out to assist new and existing providers in professional development. Working with Community Partnership for Children (CPC) and the Regional Resource Center, the R&R has been able to offer workshops that focus on child development issues. The agency also collaborates with the Gilroy Family Resource Center to increase the quality of care. And there is much excitement about the local Private Industry Council's grant to build a child care center in Hollister – where the majority of the county's population lives.

*“San Benito is a bilingual county. So, we offer training in English and Spanish to meet the needs of residents. This has helped with supply and quality.”*

– R&R Counselor

The People <sup>1</sup>	1990	2000	Change
Total number of residents	36,697	53,234	45%
Total number of employed residents		23,105	
Percent working outside the county		48%	
Percent working non-traditional hours		19%	
Total number of households	11,454	15,911	39%
Speaking English	7,043	9,688	38%
Speaking Spanish	3,697	5,445	47%
Speaking an Asian language	152	300	97%

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

Total number of children (0–13 years) 13,558

Under 2	2	3	4	5	6–11	12	13
1,853	927	925	1,000	982	6,008	975	888

Children 0–5 living in poverty (% of total) 551 (10%)

Children 0–5 living in single parent household (% of total) 882 (18%)

Total number of children (0–13) with parents in the labor force<sup>2</sup> 7,560

Under 2	2	3	4	5	6–13
950	455	390	480	555	4,730

## 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> \$7,437

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 53%

Annual median family income<sup>1</sup> \$60,665

Annual fair market rent for a two-bedroom unit<sup>5</sup> \$9,720

Salary of entry-level public school teacher<sup>6</sup> \$35,017

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 San Benito County, call:**

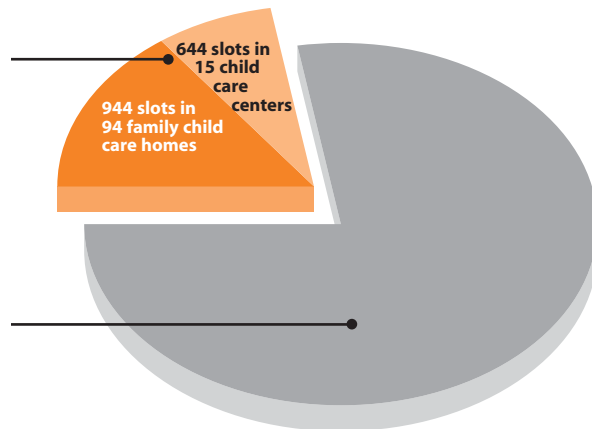
Go Kids, Inc.

831-637-9205

# Child Care Supply in San Benito County

## Licensed Child Care Supply 1,588 slots

Total number of licensed slots	1,588
Percent of slots in child care centers	41%
% of slots for infants (under 2 years old)	4%
% of slots for preschoolers (2–5 years old)	74%
% of slots for school-age children (6 years and older)	21%
Percent of slots in family child care homes <sup>1</sup>	59%



## Children with Parents in the Labor Force<sup>2</sup> 7,560

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

- Licensed center-based care available for 3% of infants<sup>1</sup>
- Licensed center-based care available for 25% 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	15	94
	Total number of slots	644	944 <sup>1</sup>
	Infant slots	28	
	Preschool slots	478	
	School-age slots	138	
<b>Schedules<sup>3</sup></b>	Full-time and part-time	67%	92%
	Only full-time available	3%	6%
	Only part-time available	30%	1%
	Care available during non-traditional hours	7%	46%

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

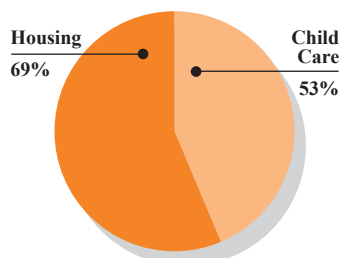
*Type of care:* 35% infant/toddler; 39% preschool; 26% school-age

*Type of facility:* 96% family child care homes; 4% child care centers

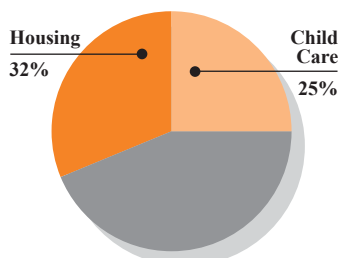
*Schedule of care:* 77% full-time care (0–5 years); 27% part-time care (0–5 years)

*Reasons for needing child care:* 87% employment; 13% school/training; 3% looking for work

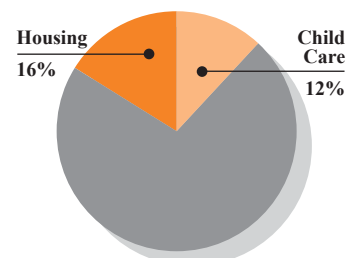
## Portion of Income Needed to Pay for Basic Family Needs: Housing and One Preschooler in a Licensed Center



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



For a Family Earning  
\$30,000 / year



For a Family at County Median Income  
\$60,665 / 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.