

# San Diego County

**For families with young children** in San Diego County, finding quality, affordable child care can be a problem. There are an estimated 37,275 children under two with working parents, but only about 2,500 spaces for infants and toddlers in licensed child care centers (which make up the vast majority of the county's licensed care). The same goes for care during early mornings, evenings and weekends, when many parents are either working or commuting as the region continues to experience explosive growth. Of all licensed centers, only 5 percent provide care during evenings and weekends. The county's need for providers who speak Spanish and Asian languages has grown considerably: 49 percent over the last decade. Combined, Spanish-speaking and Asian households represent more than 25 percent of all households in the county.

## Collaborations improve quality

To address child care needs, YMCA Childcare Resource Service, San Diego's Resource and Referral (R&R) agency, has collaborated with local agencies and organizations to build supply and improve the quality of care. Compensation and Retention Encourage Stability (CARES) program provides stipends and trains a significant number of child care workers. In addition, the statewide Child Care Initiative Project (CCIP) provided training and technical assistance to help providers become licensed and improve care for infants. The R&R is increasing its support to Hispanic and Vietnamese families and providers and SB1703 funds are helping expand the quality of services for children with special needs. A collaboration with the county's Office of Education resulted in an early literacy training for providers. First 5 funds HealthLine, which provides health and behavioral health consultations to providers and families. And for the first time, the R&R partnered with the local college district to provide child development classes for family child care providers.

*"New housing developments in outlying areas of the county have created longer commutes and a need for child care during early mornings and evenings, when none exists. This is difficult for families."* – R&R Counselor

The People <sup>1</sup>	1990	2000	Change
Total number of residents	2,498,016	2,813,833	13%
Total number of employed residents		1,299,503	
Percent working outside the county		4%	
Percent working non-traditional hours		18%	
Total number of households	887,719	995,492	12%
Speaking English	659,059	667,233	1%
Speaking Spanish	134,388	199,635	49%
Speaking an Asian language	48,813	72,799	49%

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

Total number of children (0–13 years) 573,420

Under 2	2	3	4	5	6–11	12	13
78,315	38,759	39,960	41,587	41,804	254,614	39,760	38,621

Children 0–5 living in poverty (% of total) 40,961 (18%)

Children 0–5 living in single parent household (% of total) 41,779 (20%)

Total number of children (0–13) with parents in the labor force<sup>2</sup> 312,255

Under 2	2	3	4	5	6–13
37,275	19,210	19,420	21,165	22,620	192,565

## 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>	\$6,347
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	45%
Annual median family income <sup>1</sup>	\$53,438
Annual fair market rent for a two-bedroom unit <sup>5</sup>	\$12,144
Salary of entry-level public school teacher <sup>6</sup>	\$28,617

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.

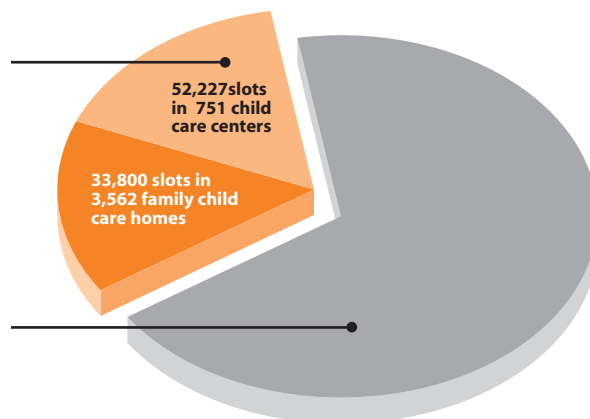
6. California Department of Education, 2002-2003.

**For more information about child care in San Diego County, call:**  
YMCA Childcare Resource Service 619-521-3055

# Child Care Supply in San Diego County

## Licensed Child Care Supply 86,027 slots

Total number of licensed slots	86,027
Percent of slots in child care centers	61%
% of slots for infants (under 2 years old)	5%
% of slots for preschoolers (2–5 years old)	71%
% of slots for school-age children (6 years and older)	25%
Percent of slots in family child care homes <sup>1</sup>	39%



## Children with Parents in the Labor Force<sup>2</sup> 312,255

Licensed child care is only available for 28% 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 45% 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	751	3,562
	Total number of slots	52,227	33,800 <sup>1</sup>
	Infant slots	2,511	
	Preschool slots	36,862	
	School-age slots	12,854	
<b>Schedules<sup>3</sup></b>	Full-time and part-time	81%	88%
	Only full-time available	6%	10%
	Only part-time available	13%	2%
	Care available during non-traditional hours	5%	34%

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

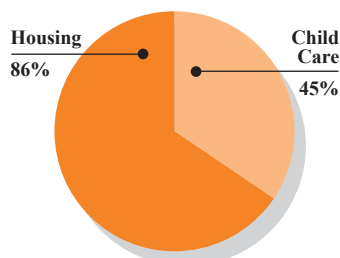
*Type of care:* 38% infant/toddler; 40% preschool; 22% school-age

*Type of facility:* 76% family child care homes; 41% child care centers

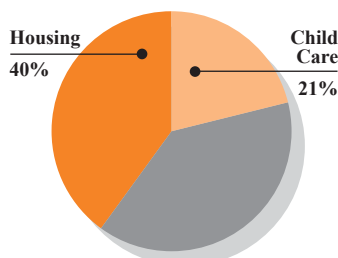
*Schedule of care:* 78% full-time care (0–5 years); 31% part-time care (0–5 years)

*Reasons for needing child care:* 75% employment; 9% school/training; 16% looking for work

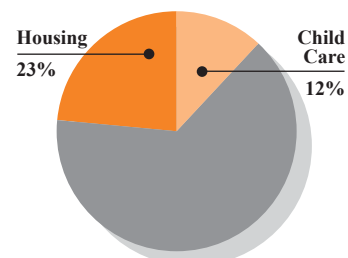
## Portion of Income Needed to Pay for Basic Family Needs: Housing and One Preschooler in a Licensed Center



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



For a Family Earning \$30,000 / year



For a Family at County Median Income \$53,438 / 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.