

San Mateo County

San Mateo County was directly affected by the economic slowdown in Silicon Valley. It, along with neighboring counties, supplied much of the workforce related to the technology sector. But layoffs and sluggish job growth rates coupled with rising housing costs forced many families to seek work elsewhere. “Because of the slowdown in the economy, we saw family child care homes close or move out of the area,” says a staff member with Child Care Coordinating Council, the local resource and referral (R&R) agency. “Meanwhile, housing costs continue to rise and families still need child care. The combination takes a huge chunk of a family’s budget.”

For the county’s low-income families, the child care supply does not meet the need. Adds the R&R: “Demand for affordable child care remains very strong, as measured by continued growth of our eligibility list.” These families, many of whom work in the service and health sectors, depend on care offered during early mornings and evenings. In centers, which provide 70 percent of the county’s licensed child care, there is just one that offers care during these hours.

Increasing supply, improving quality

Through funding provided by the county’s Human Services Agency and First 5, the Council helps existing child care homes and centers expand their capacity and facilities. The R&R has been actively involved in helping the county and several municipalities revise general plans to provide mandates and incentives for new child care facilities, and has developed a successful career development project to recruit new providers and retain existing caregivers. Additionally, San Mateo County has moved quickly to develop a 10-year plan for Preschool for All. The R&R has been a leader in this effort, focused on designing the initiative to build on existing community resources and to allow parent choice among diverse settings.

“Although there has been a decline in the number of families with both parents working full-time in San Mateo County, this has been offset by increased interest among all families in preschool as an important element of their child’s readiness for school.”

– R&R Counselor

The People ¹	1990	2000	Change
Total number of residents	649,623	707,161	9%
Total number of employed residents		354,096	
Percent working outside the county		42%	
Percent working non-traditional hours		17%	
Total number of households	242,348	254,219	5%
Speaking English	167,466	151,872	-9%
Speaking Spanish	27,943	37,427	34%
Speaking an Asian language	25,391	38,021	50%

The Children¹ 2000

Total number of children (0–13 years) 128,020

Under 2	2	3	4	5	6–11	12	13
18,549	8,884	8,929	9,012	9,151	56,308	8,613	8,574

Children 0–5 living in poverty (% of total) 3,382 (6%)

Children 0–5 living in single parent household (% of total) 5,514 (12%)

Total number of children (0–13) with parents in the labor force² 74,395

Under 2	2	3	4	5	6–13
9,500	4,525	4,820	4,755	5,040	45,755

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 \$8,499

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 61%

Annual median family income⁵ \$80,737

Annual fair market rent for a two-bedroom unit⁵ \$20,964

Salary of entry-level public school teacher⁶ \$27,105

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 Mateo County, call:

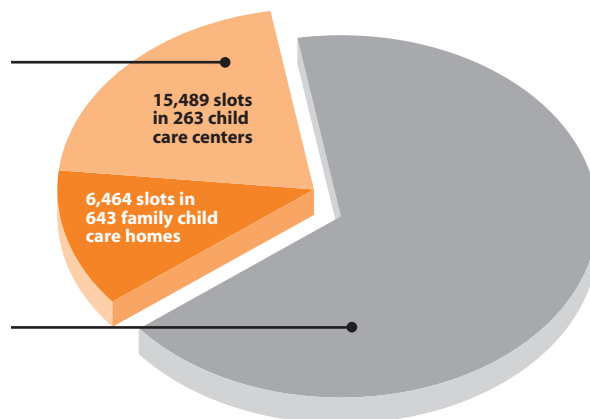
Child Care Coordinating Council
of San Mateo County, Inc.

650-655-6770

Child Care Supply in San Mateo County

Licensed Child Care Supply 21,953 slots

Total number of licensed slots	21,953
Percent of slots in child care centers	71%
% of slots for infants (under 2 years old)	5%
% of slots for preschoolers (2–5 years old)	67%
% of slots for school-age children (6 years and older)	29%
Percent of slots in family child care homes ¹	29%



Children with Parents in the Labor Force² 74,395

Licensed child care is only available for 30% of children with parents in the labor force².

Licensed center-based care available for 8% of infants¹

Licensed center-based care available for 54% 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	263	643
	Total number of slots	15,489	6,464 ¹
	Infant slots	734	
	Preschool slots	10,336	
	School-age slots	4,419	
Schedules³	Full-time and part-time	69%	82%
	Only full-time available	8%	13%
	Only part-time available	23%	5%
	Care available during non-traditional hours	1%	21%

Parent Requests to the R&R⁴

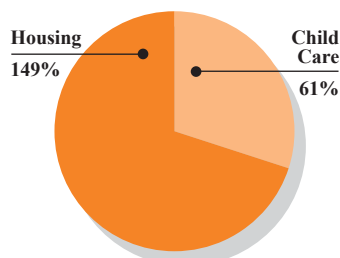
Type of care: 13% infant/toddler; 52% preschool; 36% school-age

Type of facility: 97% family child care homes; 93% child care centers

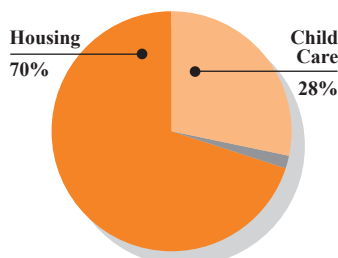
Schedule of care: 74% full-time care (0–5 years); 57% part-time care (0–5 years)

Reasons for needing child care: 92% employment; 18% school/training; 20% looking for work

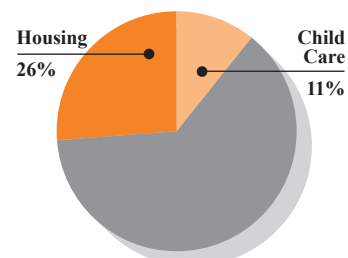
Portion of Income Needed to Pay for Basic Family Needs: Housing and One Preschooler in a Licensed Center



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



For a Family Earning
\$30,000 / year



For a Family at County Median Income
\$80,737 / 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.