

# Santa Clara County

**As the heart of Silicon Valley**, Santa Clara County is “ground zero” for the state’s economic ills. The technology bust was felt first and hardest here, in this rapidly growing county. And the fallout continues, as evidenced by the types of calls coming in to the local resource and referral (R&R) agency, Community Child Care Council of Santa Clara County (4C). “The most significant change in demand for child care is seen in the reasons families seek child care referrals. In 2002, looking for work made up only 9 percent of the total number of reasons families needed care,” says a 4C staff member. “It was more than double that a year later.”

With more parents looking for work or in lower paying jobs, affordability is key. Yet the cost of running a child care business continues to rise.

## Responding to new needs

“It’s harder for child care programs to stay in business as there are fewer parents paying full costs,” says an R&R counselor. While the number of families calling for child care referrals declined between 2000 and 2002, there are pockets in San Jose where the number of children needing care during non-traditional hours exceeds the supply of providers. Many parents of these children work in jobs – often low-paying – that require early morning, late night, and weekend shifts. A large percentage of these families are Spanish speakers. This has resulted in increased demand from Spanish-speaking providers for more training and other types of support services.

To diversify its pool of providers, the R&R collaborated with the city of San Jose to increase the supply of licensed Spanish-speaking providers in the city’s Mayfair District. The agency is also focusing on expanding programs for underserved children, including care for children with special needs. Through FIRST 5 funding the county has developed the Institute for Early Childhood Professional Development to advance the educational opportunities of the child care workforce.

*“Everyone’s hurting. Provider costs are rising, so they are passing expenses on to parents. We’ve seen an increase in registration fees and a charge for books, art supplies, and even for smocks that children wear over their clothes when engaging in art activities.”* – R&R Counselor

The People <sup>1</sup>	1990	2000	Change
Total number of residents	1,497,577	1,682,585	12%
Total number of employed residents		828,927	
Percent working outside the county		12%	
Percent working non-traditional hours		17%	
Total number of households	522,040	566,485	9%
Speaking English	353,250	314,085	-11%
Speaking Spanish	68,493	86,454	26%
Speaking an Asian language	57,312	105,428	84%

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

Total number of children (0–13 years) 330,451

Under 2	2	3	4	5	6–11	12	13
47,860	23,625	23,839	24,094	23,920	143,550	22,044	21,519

Children 0–5 living in poverty (% of total) 11,580 (8%)

Children 0–5 living in single parent household (% of total) 15,879 (13%)

Total number of children (0–13) with parents in the labor force<sup>2</sup> 181,495

Under 2	2	3	4	5	6–13
23,070	11,805	11,965	11,650	12,740	110,265

## 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> \$9,189

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 65%

Annual median family income<sup>5</sup> \$81,717

Annual fair market rent for a two-bedroom unit<sup>5</sup> \$19,104

Salary of entry-level public school teacher<sup>6</sup> \$35,687

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 Santa Clara County, call:

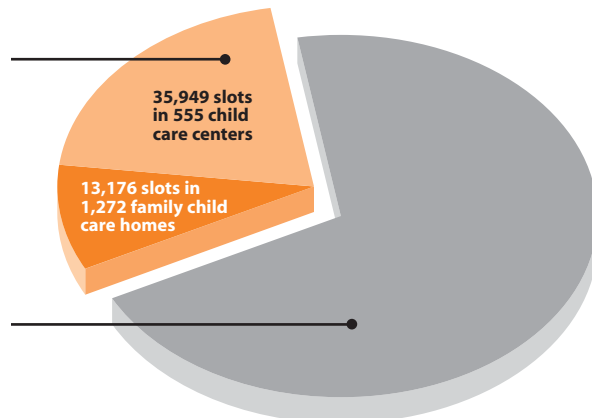
Community Child Care Council  
of Santa Clara County, Inc.

408-487-0747

# Child Care Supply in Santa Clara County

## Licensed Child Care Supply 49,125 slots

Total number of licensed slots	49,125
Percent of slots in child care centers	73%
% of slots for infants (under 2 years old)	7%
% of slots for preschoolers (2–5 years old)	62%
% of slots for school-age children (6 years and older)	31%
Percent of slots in family child care homes <sup>1</sup>	27%



## Children with Parents in the Labor Force<sup>2</sup> 181,495

Licensed child care is only available for 27% of children with parents in the labor force<sup>2</sup>.

- Licensed center-based care available for 10% of infants<sup>1</sup>
- Licensed center-based care available for 47% 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	555	1,272
	Total number of slots	35,949	13,176 <sup>1</sup>
	Infant slots	2,392	
	Preschool slots	22,449	
	School-age slots	11,108	
<b>Schedules<sup>3</sup></b>	Full-time and part-time	77%	83%
	Only full-time available	9%	13%
	Only part-time available	15%	4%
	Care available during non-traditional hours	1%	16%

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

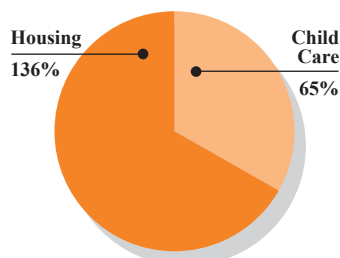
*Type of care:* 38% infant/toddler; 41% preschool; 21% school-age

*Type of facility:* 73% family child care homes; 82% child care centers

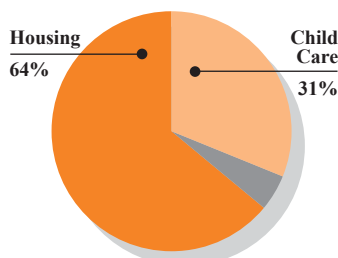
*Schedule of care:* 84% full-time care (0–5 years); 19% part-time care (0–5 years)

*Reasons for needing child care:* 82% employment; 5% school/training; 9% looking for work

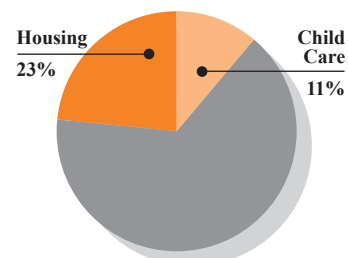
## Portion of Income Needed to Pay for Basic Family Needs: Housing and One Preschooler in a Licensed Center



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



For a Family Earning  
\$30,000 / year



For a Family at County Median Income  
\$81,717 / 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.