

Stanislaus County

The suburbanization of Stanislaus County has resulted in an unprecedented demand for child care professionals who can provide extra hours of care while commuting parents travel to jobs in the Bay Area and Sacramento. As farmlands and orchards give way to development, the need for care during early mornings and evenings will continue to increase. Only 3 percent of child care centers offer care during non-traditional hours, while slightly over a quarter of licensed family child care homes provide care during these hours. In addition to commuters, farmworker families also need child care during evenings and weekends because of their irregular work shifts. In addition, low wages and seasonal work schedules make licensed care cost-prohibitive for most of these families, and many do not receive child care subsidies. As a result, families turn to license-exempt caregivers – mostly relatives, friends, or neighbors.

Recruiting to increase supply

Stanislaus County Office of Education, Child Care Resource and Referral (R&R) is focusing its recruitment and retention efforts on family child care providers as a way to increase the supply of care during non-traditional hours as well as care for infants and toddlers.

Child care licensing orientations are now in both English and Spanish to serve the growing number of monolingual providers caring for children from Spanish-speaking households, including many farm and service sector workers (Spanish-speaking households grew by 72 percent between 1990 and 2000). Training of providers through the statewide Child Care Initiative Project (CCIP) is targeted to areas where the child care supply is lowest. In addition, the R&R partners with Compensation and Retention Encourages Stability (CARES) to provide college credits for professional development of providers.

“We’re seeing a population boom, but working parents are commuting longer distances and seeking child care during non-traditional hours. It’s tough for family child care providers to work 14-hour days.”

– R&R Counselor

The People ¹	1990	2000	Change
Total number of residents	370,522	446,997	21%
Total number of employed residents		170,169	
Percent working outside the county		21%	
Percent working non-traditional hours		25%	
Total number of households	125,731	145,253	16%
Speaking English	94,883	98,560	4%
Speaking Spanish	18,626	32,093	72%
Speaking an Asian language	3,059	3,749	23%

The Children¹ 2000

Total number of children (0–13 years) 108,287

Under 2	2	3	4	5	6–11	12	13
13,659	6,921	7,318	7,684	7,641	49,109	7,995	7,960

Children 0–5 living in poverty (% of total) 9,304 (22%)

Children 0–5 living in single parent household (% of total) 8,554 (23%)

Total number of children (0–13) with parents in the labor force² 56,955

Under 2	2	3	4	5	6–13
6,235	3,425	3,570	4,080	3,875	35,770

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 \$5,281

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 38%

Annual median family income⁵ \$44,703

Annual fair market rent for a two-bedroom unit⁵ \$7,860

Salary of entry-level public school teacher⁶ \$32,177

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 Stanislaus County, call:

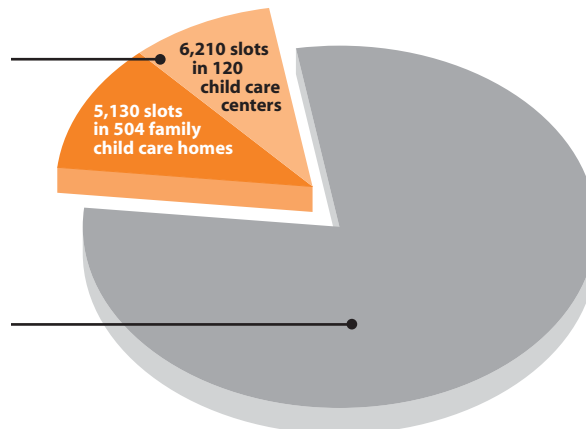
Stanislaus County Office of Education,
Child Care Resource and Referral

209-558-4050

Child Care Supply in Stanislaus County

Licensed Child Care Supply 11,340 slots

Total number of licensed slots	11,340
Percent of slots in child care centers	55%
% of slots for infants (under 2 years old)	9%
% of slots for preschoolers (2–5 years old)	79%
% of slots for school-age children (6 years and older)	13%
Percent of slots in family child care homes ¹	45%



Children with Parents in the Labor Force² 56,955

Licensed child care is only available for 20% of children with parents in the labor force².

Licensed center-based care available for 9% of infants¹

Licensed center-based care available for 33% 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	120	504
	Total number of slots	6,210	5,130 ¹
	Infant slots	536	
	Preschool slots	4,895	
	School-age slots	779	
Schedules³	Full-time and part-time	68%	92%
	Only full-time available	14%	7%
	Only part-time available	18%	1%
	Care available during non-traditional hours	3%	27%

Parent Requests to the R&R⁴

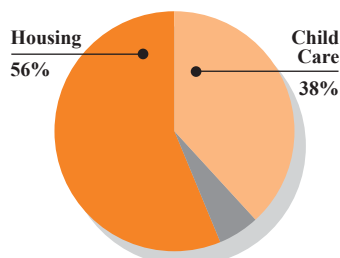
Type of care: 23% infant/toddler; 46% preschool; 31% school-age

Type of facility: 95% family child care homes; 85% child care centers

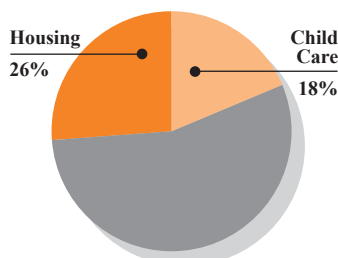
Schedule of care: 76% full-time care (0–5 years); 36% part-time care (0–5 years)

Reasons for needing child care: 75% employment; 24% school/training; 13% looking for work

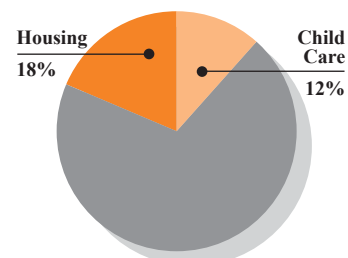
Portion of Income Needed to Pay for Basic Family Needs: Housing and One Preschooler in a Licensed Center



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



For a Family Earning
\$30,000 / year



For a Family at County Median Income
\$44,703 / 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.