

Sutter County

While nearly half of the county's workforce is employed in agriculture and service industries – jobs that often require early morning, evening, and weekend shifts – others travel to Sacramento for higher-paying work. For working parents who add long commutes to their workdays and for local workers with irregular hours, finding child care that will accommodate their schedules is a formidable challenge. Just 3 percent of licensed child care centers and less than half of family child care homes in the county offer care during non-traditional hours. Finding care for infants and toddlers is equally difficult, with only 4 percent of center-based care available to children under two. And there is a growing need for Spanish-speaking providers to meet local demographic trends (the number of Spanish-speaking households grew by 58 percent over the last decade.) In addition to the lack of supply, many of these are low-income families, caught between being unable to afford quality care and not being poor enough to qualify for subsidies.

An increase in provider turnover and the sluggish economy, which makes it difficult for new providers to start up a business, have made capacity-building efforts challenging.

Stipends and incentives increase supply

To help build supply and improve the quality of care, Children's Home Society of California, the local resource and referral (R&R) agency, is collaborating with other programs and organizations to provide stipends and other incentives through the statewide Child Care Initiative Project (CCIP), which helps new providers start and maintain a child care business. To increase the supply of Spanish-speaking providers, the R&R formed a partnerships with neighboring Colusa County to host licensing orientations in Spanish. The R&R is also working with the local Child Care Planning Council to increase awareness of child care needs through presentations to community organizations and outdoor advertising.

"A large number of parents in Sutter County can't afford licensed child care. Those who can afford the cost of care are often commuting to jobs in Sacramento or the Bay Area so they need care during early morning and evenings, which makes a provider's day very long." – R&R Counselor

The People ¹	1990	2000	Change
Total number of residents	64,415	78,930	23%
Total number of employed residents		30,383	
Percent working outside the county		44%	
Percent working non-traditional hours		23%	
Total number of households	23,018	27,098	18%
Speaking English	18,240	19,580	7%
Speaking Spanish	2,768	4,387	58%
Speaking an Asian language	393	620	58%

The Children¹ 2000

Total number of children (0–13 years) 17,666

Under 2	2	3	4	5	6–11	12	13
2,232	1,132	1,174	1,190	1,241	8,025	1,331	1,341

Children 0–5 living in poverty (% of total) 1,589 (23%)

Children 0–5 living in single parent household (% of total) 1,297 (21%)

Total number of children (0–13) with parents in the labor force² 10,040

Under 2	2	3	4	5	6–13
1,120	600	540	690	765	6,325

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 \$4,498

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 32%

Annual median family income¹ \$44,330

Annual fair market rent for a two-bedroom unit⁵ \$6,264

Salary of entry-level public school teacher⁶ \$32,671

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 Sutter County, call:

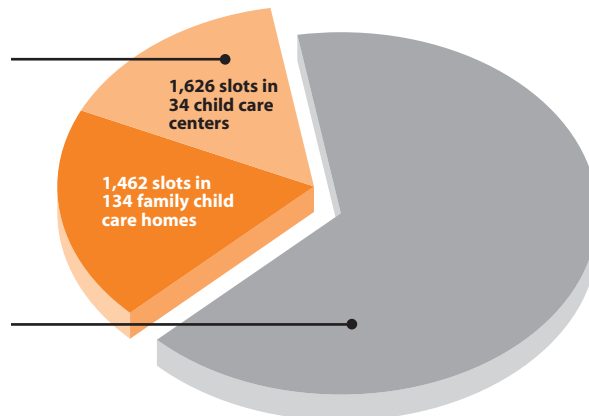
Children's Home Society of California

530-673-7503

Child Care Supply in Sutter County

Licensed Child Care Supply 3,088 slots

Total number of licensed slots	3,088
Percent of slots in child care centers	53%
% of slots for infants (under 2 years old)	4%
% of slots for preschoolers (2–5 years old)	77%
% of slots for school-age children (6 years and older)	19%
Percent of slots in family child care homes ¹	47%



Children with Parents in the Labor Force² 10,040

Licensed child care is only available for 31% of children with parents in the labor force².

- Licensed center-based care available for 6% of infants¹
- Licensed center-based care available for 48% 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	34	134
	Total number of slots	1,626	1,462 ¹
	Infant slots	70	
	Preschool slots	1,244	
	School-age slots	312	
Schedules³	Full-time and part-time	77%	98%
	Only full-time available	2%	2%
	Only part-time available	21%	1%
	Care available during non-traditional hours	3%	42%

Parent Requests to the R&R⁴

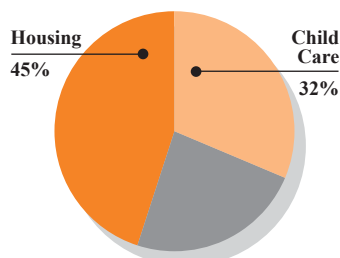
Type of care: 27% infant/toddler; 40% preschool; 33% school-age

Type of facility: 94% family child care homes; 56% child care centers

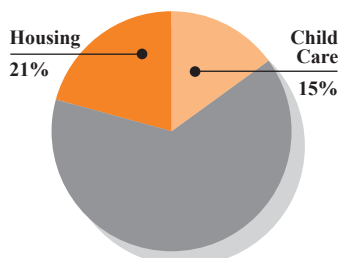
Schedule of care: 83% full-time care (0–5 years); 24% part-time care (0–5 years)

Reasons for needing child care: 76% employment; 18% school/training; 9% looking for work

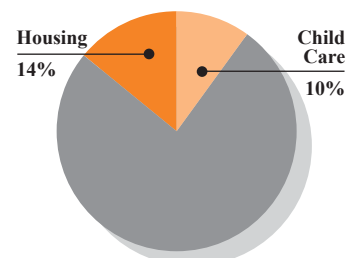
Portion of Income Needed to Pay for Basic Family Needs: Housing and One Preschooler in a Licensed Center



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



For a Family Earning \$30,000 / year



For a Family at County Median Income \$44,330 / 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.