

Tulare County

In Tulare County, the second-leading producer of agricultural commodities in the U.S., more than half of the population – and most of the agricultural workforce – speaks Spanish. “Until recently, licensed providers in Tulare County were predominately English speaking while many of the families were Spanish speaking. This is changing rapidly,” according to staff members at the local resource and referral (R&R) agency in Tulare County’s Office of Education. Because much of the county is rural and public transportation is limited, many families seeking after-school care are requesting that providers drive children to and from school. Rural families are also less likely to have licensed care than those in the county’s more populated areas. High unemployment, low agricultural wages, and seasonal employment make it difficult for families to make ends meet, and for child care providers to maintain a profitable business year-round. Many families are below federal poverty level (36 percent of children 0-5 live in poverty) and unable to pay for child care services. Need for subsidized care is great, but there is not enough money to go around. Thousands of families are on waiting lists, and some wait months and even years to receive assistance.

Recruiting providers, increasing supply
Collaborations and funding from the statewide Child Care Initiative Project (CCIP) as well as other county and state resources have helped the R&R build a comprehensive recruitment and training program for family child care providers. Workshops have increased providers’ understanding of child development, health and safety, and the business aspects of child care. Training has also increased the supply of providers who care for children with special needs. R&R staff say family child care providers are willing to meet specific child care needs including care for infants and during non-traditional hours, and to provide transportation.

“Although care during nights and weekends is always hard to find, we continue to work to meet the need.”
– R&R Counselor

The People ¹	1990	2000	Change
Total number of residents	311,921	368,021	18%
Total number of employed residents		130,744	
Percent working outside the county		12%	
Percent working non-traditional hours		21%	
Total number of households	97,726	110,356	13%
Speaking English	63,305	62,528	-1%
Speaking Spanish	27,507	41,167	50%
Speaking an Asian language	2,610	2,604	0%

The Children ¹							2000
Total number of children (0–13 years)							96,567
Under 2	2	3	4	5	6–11	12	13
12,838	6,449	6,636	6,903	7,026	43,052	6,840	6,823
Children 0–5 living in poverty (% of total)							13,899 (36%)
Children 0–5 living in single parent household (% of total)							8,674 (26%)
Total number of children (0–13) with parents in the labor force ²							50,405
Under 2	2	3	4	5	6–13		
5,700	3,195	3,280	3,270	3,665	31,295		

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 ³	\$4,469
Annual minimum wage of a full-time worker ⁴	\$14,040
Care for a preschooler as a percent of income of a single parent household at minimum wage	32%
Annual median family income ⁵	\$36,297
Annual fair market rent for a two-bedroom unit ⁵	\$6,504
Salary of entry-level public school teacher ⁶	\$34,376

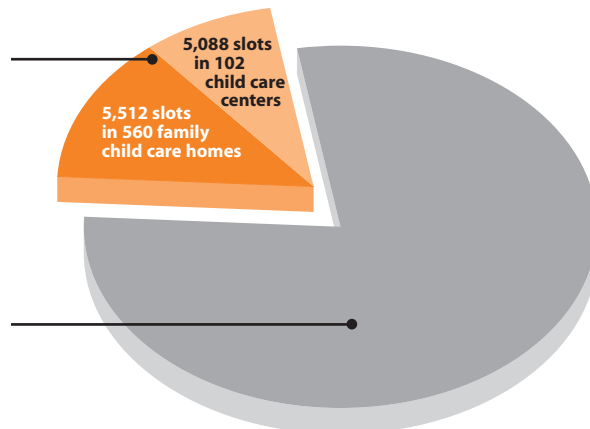
1. U.S. Census Bureau, 1990; 2000.
2. This number reflects children with either two parents or single head of household in the labor force.
3. 2002 Regional Market Rate Survey of California Child Care Providers.
4. California Department of Industrial Relations, Industrial Welfare Commission, 2002.
5. U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, 2002.
6. California Department of Education, 2002-2003.

For more information about child care in Tulare County, call:
Tulare County Office of Education,
Child Care Resource & Referral Services 559-651-0862

Child Care Supply in Tulare County

Licensed Child Care Supply 10,600 slots

Total number of licensed slots	10,600
Percent of slots in child care centers	48%
% of slots for infants (under 2 years old)	2%
% of slots for preschoolers (2–5 years old)	77%
% of slots for school-age children (6 years and older)	21%
Percent of slots in family child care homes ¹	52%



Children with Parents in the Labor Force² 50,405

Licensed child care is only available for 21% of children with parents in the labor force².

- Licensed center-based care available for 1% of infants¹
- Licensed center-based care available for 29% 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	102	560
	Total number of slots	5,088	5,512 ¹
	Infant slots	84	
	Preschool slots	3,938	
	School-age slots	1,066	
Schedules³	Full-time and part-time	48%	93%
	Only full-time available	27%	7%
	Only part-time available	25%	0%
	Care available during non-traditional hours	5%	61%

Parent Requests to the R&R⁴

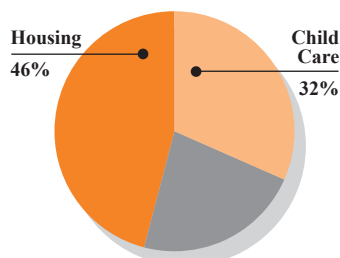
Type of care: 27% infant/toddler; 45% preschool; 28% school-age

Type of facility: 98% family child care homes; 49% child care centers

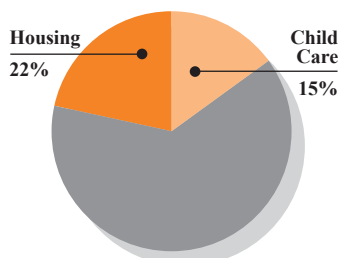
Schedule of care: 88% full-time care (0–5 years); 22% part-time care (0–5 years)

Reasons for needing child care: 75% employment; 13% school/training; 11% looking for work

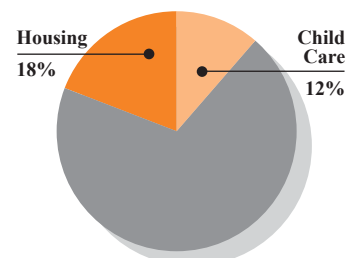
Portion of Income Needed to Pay for Basic Family Needs: Housing and One Preschooler in a Licensed Center



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



For a Family Earning \$30,000 / year



For a Family at County Median Income \$36,297 / 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.