

Santa Cruz County

The percentage change in the population due to natural increase (more births than deaths) is the second highest in the state and the percentage change due to foreign immigration is the 3rd highest. The county also experienced domestic migration out of the county, mitigating the overall population increase.

Santa Cruz is one of 13 counties in the state in which a higher percentage of public school children are English language learners than in the state as a whole (28% vs. 25%). (CA Dept. of Education 2004/05)

The county has the 8th highest percentage of Spanish-speaking family child care providers.

The percentage of children living in poverty is significantly lower than the state (14% vs. 20%) and the percentage of residents 25 or older with a 4-year college degree or higher is the 7th highest in the state.

Santa Cruz is one of 9 counties where 40% or more of employed residents are in management/professional occupations.¹

The People	2000 ¹	2004 ²	Change ²
Total number of residents	255,602	259,990	2%
• Population foreign born residents	18%		
• Population change from natural increase			132%
• Population change from domestic migration			-167%
• Population change from foreign immigration			135%

The Children	2000 ¹	2004 ²	Change
Children 0-13	46,808	45,431	-3%
• Under 2	6,077		
• 2 years	3,086		
• 3 years	3,106		
• 4 years	3,275		
• 5 years	3,195		
• 6 to 13 years	28,069		
Children 0-13 with parents in the labor force ³	26,690	25,905 ⁴	-3%
• Under 2	2,860		
• 2 years	1,435		
• 3 years	1,575		
• 4 years	1,820		
• 5 years	1,630		
• 6 to 13 years	17,370		
Children 0-5 living in poverty	14%		

The Labor Force	1990 ⁵	2000 ¹	Change
• Number of employed residents	115,199	126,106	9%
• Workers with an hour or more commute	10,361	15,386	48%
• People working at home	5,479	6,745	23%
• People working non-traditional hours ⁶	21,353	23,668	11%
• percent working non-traditional hours		19%	
• People working 35 hours or more	97,094	108,262	12%
• percent working 35 hours or more		72%	
• Men in the labor force	69,806	75,298	8%
• Women in the labor force	54,918	62,436	14%
• Women with a child under 6		12,905	
• percent in the labor force		59%	

The Households	2000 County ¹	2000 State ¹
• Number of households	91,244	11,512,020
• speaking English at home	75%	62%
• speaking Spanish at home	17%	22%
• speaking an Asian language at home	2%	9%
• speaking another language at home	6%	7%
• Number of families with children under 18	29,832	4,208,775
• percent of families with children under 18	52%	53%
• percent of single parent families	27%	26%
• Homeowners with children under 6	12%	14%
• Renters with children under 6	17%	20%
• Residents over 24 with BA or higher	34%	27%

The 2005 California Child Care Portfolio

For more information: Child Development Resource Center - Santa Cruz County Superintendent of Schools at (831) 479-5282.

1. U.S. Census Bureau, 2000.

2. California Department of Finance population projections.

3. This number reflects children with either two parents or a single head of household in the labor force.

4. Network estimate based on California Department of Finance (DOF) population projections.

5. U.S. Census Bureau, 1990.

6. Estimate using commute time. Might or might not include weekends.

Child Care in Santa Cruz County

		Child Care Centers	Family Child Care Homes ¹
Facilities	Total number of sites	109	346
	Total number of slots (percent)	4,610 (55%)	3,770 (45%)
	Infant slots in centers	246 (5%)	
	Preschool slots in centers	3,348 (73%)	
	School-age slots in centers	1,016 (22%)	
Schedules ²	Full-time and part-time slots	70%	94%
	Only full-time slots	1%	0%
	Only part-time slots	29%	5%
	Care available during non-traditional hours	0%	24%
Languages	English	100%	78%
	Spanish	56%	49%
	Other	5%	8%

1. A breakdown of slots by age is not available for family child care homes because their licenses are not specific to particular age groups.
2. Full-time (30 or more hours/week) and part-time are a % of total slots. Non-traditional (evenings, weekends, overnight) are a % of total sites.
3. Network estimate based on CA DOF Projections, 2004: either two parents or single head of household in labor force.
4. These types of care are not included in the supply of licensed care available.
5. Some parents find child care without using R&Rs. These requests do not necessarily represent total demand, but they do reflect trends.
6. U.S. HUD. Median rent for a 2-bedroom unit. 2004.
7. Cost estimates 2004/5; 2002 Regional Market Rates with CPI Inflation Factor. Full-time.
8. California Dept. of Education. 2003/4.

Availability of Licensed Child Care

In Santa Cruz County, there are an estimated 25,905 children ages 0-13 with parents in the labor force³ and 8,380 licensed child care slots.

Licensed child care is available for 32% of children with parents in the labor force.*

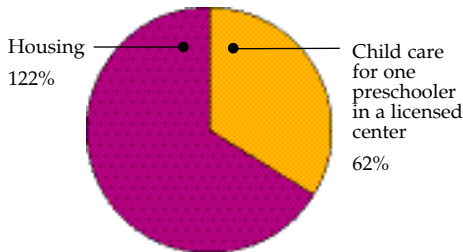
* Some families choose friends and relatives (license-exempt caregivers) to care for their children, and programs for school age children are often not licensed by the state.⁴

Parent Requests to the R&R⁵

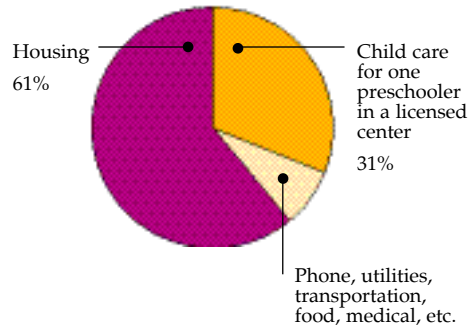
- Type of care requested: 39% infant/toddler; 46% preschool; 15% school-age
- Schedule requested: 52% full-time (0-5 years); 49% part time (0-5 years)
- Reasons for needing care: 71% employment; 7% school/training; 5% looking for work

Child Care and Family Budgets

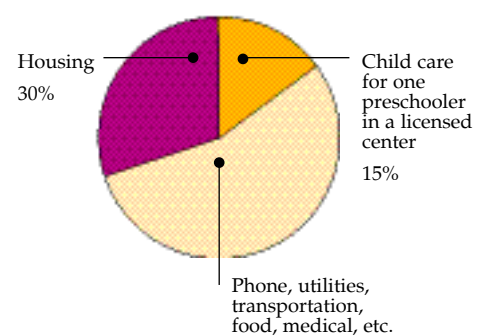
How child care fits into a Santa Cruz County family's budget (Housing⁶: \$17,112; Preschooler in licensed child care center⁷: \$8,653)



Annual Income: \$14,040
Families with 1 minimum wage earner
Care for one infant in a licensed family child care home: 65% of income



Annual Income: \$28,080
Families with 2 minimum wage earners
Care for one infant in a licensed family child care home: 33% of income



Annual Income: \$57,992
Families with 2 entry level public school teachers working in the county⁸
Care for one infant in a licensed family child care home: 16% of income