

Sierra County

Sierra County is one of 10 counties with the fewest residents and children birth to 13.

It is the only county in the state that experienced a decrease in population between 2000 and 2004, resulting from a natural decrease (more deaths than births) that was not outweighed by foreign immigration and domestic migration into the county.

Sierra has the 5th lowest percentage of foreign-born residents and ranks 9th in the state for its percentage of households speaking English at home.

The county's percentage increase in the number of workers with a one-way commute of one hour or more is higher than the state (56% vs. 34%).

Sierra County's percentage increase of women in the workforce (37%) is more than 4 times California's (9%).

The People	2000 ¹	2004 ²	Change ²
Total number of residents	3,555	3,529	-1%
• Population foreign born residents	3%		
• Population change from natural increase			-395%
• Population change from domestic migration			216%
• Population change from foreign immigration			79%

The Children	2000 ¹	2004 ²	Change
Children 0-13	584	458	-22%
• Under 2	48		
• 2 years	37		
• 3 years	29		
• 4 years	33		
• 5 years	46		
• 6 to 13 years	391		
Children 0-13 with parents in the labor force ³	365	286 ⁴	-22%
• Under 2	24		
• 2 years	20		
• 3 years	14		
• 4 years	29		
• 5 years	28		
• 6 to 13 years	250		
Children 0-5 living in poverty	13%		

The Labor Force	1990 ⁵	2000 ¹	Change
• Number of employed residents	1,302	1,502	15%
• Workers with an hour or more commute	119	186	56%
• People working at home	113	64	-43%
• People working non-traditional hours ⁶	236	288	22%
• percent working non-traditional hours		19%	
• People working 35 hours or more	1,136	1,309	15%
• percent working 35 hours or more		70%	
• Men in the labor force	900	881	-2%
• Women in the labor force	578	791	37%
• Women with a child under 6		142	
• percent in the labor force		69%	

The Households	2000 County ¹	2000 State ¹
• Number of households	1,523	11,512,020
• speaking English at home	90%	62%
• speaking Spanish at home	4%	22%
• speaking an Asian language at home	1%	9%
• speaking another language at home	6%	7%
• Number of families with children under 18	446	4,208,775
• percent of families with children under 18	45%	53%
• percent of single parent families	29%	26%
• Homeowners with children under 6	7%	14%
• Renters with children under 6	16%	20%
• Residents over 24 with BA or higher	17%	27%

The 2005 California Child Care Portfolio

For more information about child care, call Sierra Nevada Children's Services at (530) 993-1288.

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 Sierra County

		Child Care Centers	Family Child Care Homes ¹
Facilities	Total number of sites	2	6
	Total number of slots (percent)	36 (38%)	60 (63%)
	Infant slots in centers	3 (8%)	
	Preschool slots in centers	24 (67%)	
	School-age slots in centers	9 (25%)	
Schedules ²	Full-time and part-time slots	100%	100%
	Only full-time slots	0%	0%
	Only part-time slots	0%	0%
	Care available during non-traditional hours	0%	33%
Languages	English	100%	100%
	Spanish	0%	0%
	Other	0%	0%

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 Sierra County, there are an estimated 286 children ages 0-13 with parents in the labor force³ and 96 licensed child care slots.

Licensed child care is available for 34% of children with parents in the labor force.*

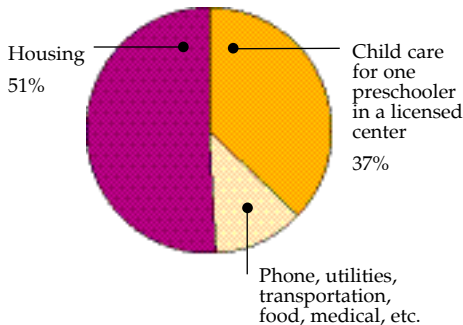
* Some families choose friends and relatives (license-exempt caregivers) to care for their children, and programs for school age children are often not licensed by the state.⁴

Parent Requests to the R&R⁵

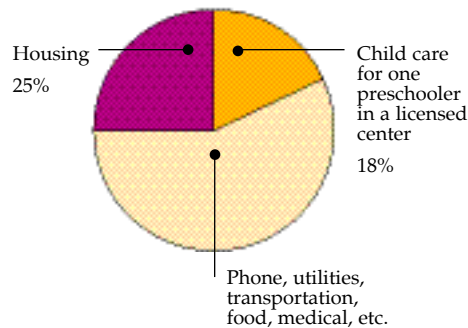
- Type of care requested: 25% infant/toddler; 0% preschool; 75% school-age
- Schedule requested: 100% full-time (0-5 years); 0% part time (0-5 years)
- Reasons for needing care: 100% employment

Child Care and Family Budgets

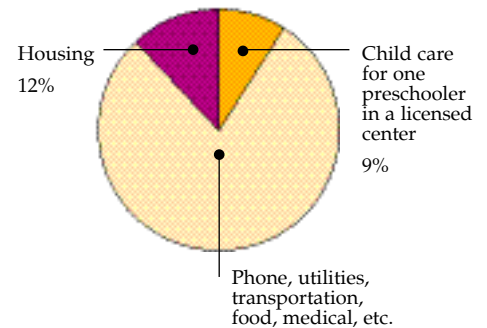
How child care fits a Sierra County family's budget (Housing⁶: \$7,116; Preschooler in licensed child care center⁷: \$5,195)



Annual Income: \$14,040
Families with 1 minimum wage earner
 Care for one infant in a licensed family child care home: 50% of income



Annual Income: \$28,080
Families with 2 minimum wage earners
 Care for one infant in a licensed family child care home: 25% of income



Annual Income: \$58,454
Families with 2 entry level public school teachers working in the county⁸
 Care for one infant in a licensed family child care home: 12% of income