

# Kern County

## by the numbers

### A decade of data about child care in California counties

Locally-based child care resource and referral programs (R&Rs) are located in every county in California. Their services have evolved over 30 years—from a grassroots effort to help parents find child care, to a well-developed statewide system that supports parents, providers, and communities to find, plan for, and develop quality child care that is affordable and accessible.

In 1997, following a two-year effort to standardize the data collection of the 61 R&Rs across the state, the California Child Care Resource & Referral Network launched the first *Child Care Portfolio*, a report which documented child care supply and demand, and portrayed the trends and needs of real families as they struggle to find appropriate, quality care for their children, especially as they juggle work and family. *The Portfolio* has been produced biennially since that time. The information presented here offers a picture of the supply and demand for child care in Kern County, as well as relevant demographics about children and families. The data reflects the most up to date information available and comes from a variety of sources, including the R&R's interaction with parents and providers.

For a copy of the *2007 Portfolio*, including county data pages, visit [www.rrnetwork.org](http://www.rrnetwork.org).

The 2007 Portfolio is a project of the California Child Care Resource & Referral Network  
(415) 882-0234  
[www.rrnetwork.org](http://www.rrnetwork.org)

People	COUNTY			STATE
	2000 <sup>1</sup>	2006 <sup>4</sup>	CHANGE	2006 <sup>4</sup>
Total number of residents	661,645	796,331 <sup>2</sup>	20%	37,444,385 <sup>2</sup>
New mothers <sup>3</sup>		16,993		515,991
with high school or less education		59%		48%
some college or A.A. degree		28%		28%
B.A. or higher		13%		25%
living in poverty		42%		23%

Households	COUNTY			STATE
	2000 <sup>1</sup>	2006 <sup>4</sup>	CHANGE	2006 <sup>4</sup>
Number of households	208,786	238,229	14%	12,151,227
speaking English at home	67%	61%		59%
speaking Spanish at home	28%	34%		25%
speaking an Asian language at home	2%	2%		9%
speaking another language at home	3%	3%		7%
Number of families with children under 18	89,902	113,207	26%	4,635,986
Percent with children under 18	57%	63%		56%
percent of single parent families	29%	38%		31%
Children 0-5 in single parent households	16,440	23,973	46%	657,758
Homeowners with children under 6	15%	14%		13%
Renters with children under 6	29%	31%		18%
Residents over 24 with B.A. or higher	14%	14%		29%

Labor Force	COUNTY			STATE
	2000 <sup>1</sup>	2006 <sup>4</sup>	CHANGE	2006 <sup>4</sup>
Number of employed residents	229,733	317,172	38%	16,740,938
working 35 hours or more	80%	80%		78%
working at home	3%	3%		5%
working non-traditional hours	21%	23%		22%
Women in the labor force	118,457	151,105	28%	8,043,236
New mothers <sup>3</sup> in the labor force prior to the birth of a child		8,492		259,427
Women who took <i>Paid Family Leave</i> for the birth of a child <sup>5</sup>		2,698 <sup>5</sup>		126,958 <sup>5</sup>
Men in the labor force	149,146	202,045	35%	10,021,262
Men who took <i>Paid Family Leave</i> for the birth of a child <sup>5</sup>		507 <sup>5</sup>		31,672 <sup>5</sup>

1. United States Census Bureau 2000

2. California Department of Finance Projections

3. Women who had a birth in the last 12 months; American Community Survey 2006

4. American Community Survey 2006

5. Approved bonding claims for *Paid Family Leave* 2006; includes claims through one year after birth

# Children and Child Care in Kern County

Children	COUNTY			STATE
	2000 <sup>1</sup>	2006	CHANGE	2006
Children 0-13 <sup>2</sup>	165,111	187,587	14%	7,628,506
Under 2	22,006	29,019	32%	1,078,951
2 years	10,956	13,528	23%	539,981
3 years	11,041	13,139	19%	542,494
4 years	11,704	12,738	9%	537,387
5 years	11,974	12,755	7%	547,458
6-13 years	97,430	106,408	9%	4,382,235
Children 0-5 living in poverty	20,696	24,621 <sup>3</sup>	19%	595,847 <sup>3</sup>
Children 0-13 with parents in the labor force <sup>4</sup>	84,995	96,565 <sup>5</sup>	14%	3,980,711 <sup>5</sup>
Children 0-13 receiving subsidized child care <sup>6</sup>		15,321		486,327

For more information about child care in Kern County, call:  
Community Connection for Child Care  
(661) 861-5200

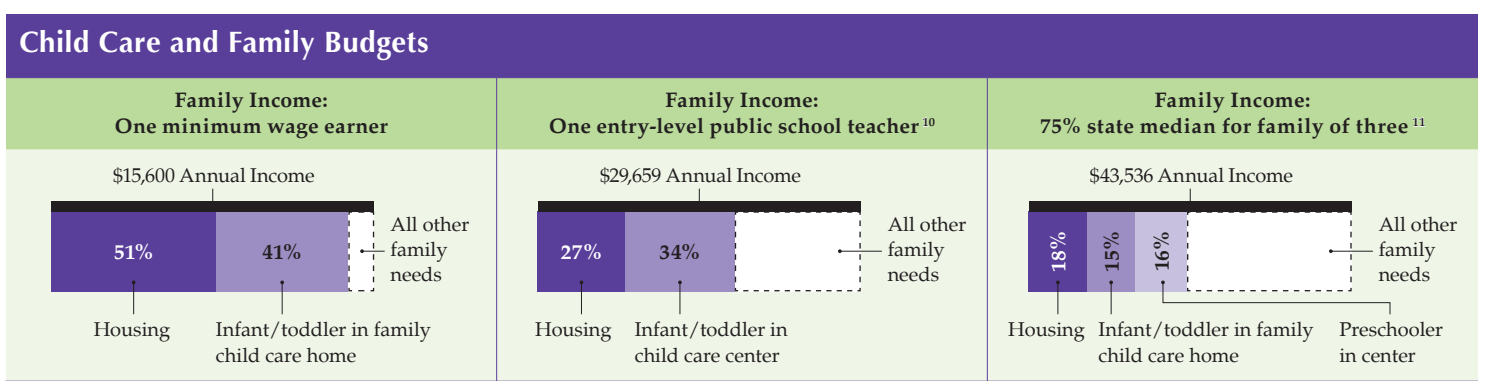
**AVAILABILITY OF LICENSED CARE**  
Number of children 0-13 with parents in the labor force<sup>4</sup> 96,565<sup>5</sup>  
Estimated number of licensed child care slots 23,061  
Licensed care available for children with parents in the labor force<sup>12</sup> 24%

Infant/toddler slots in licensed child care centers represent **6%** of the total number of slots in licensed centers.

Child Care		LICENSED CHILD CARE CENTERS	LICENSED FAMILY CHILD CARE HOMES
FACILITIES	Total number of sites	206	1,138
	Total number of slots/percent	12,187 53%	10,874 <sup>7</sup> 47%
	Infant slots (under 2 years old)	683 6%	
	Preschool slots (2-5 years old)	9,108 75%	
SCHEDULES <sup>8</sup>	School-age slots (6 years and older)	2,396 20%	
	Full-time and part-time slots	55%	97%
	Only full-time slots	16%	1%
	Only part-time slots	28%	2%
LANGUAGES	Care available during non-traditional hours <sup>9</sup>	3%	59%
	English	100%	75%
	Spanish	50%	43%
	Other languages	1%	1%

**PARENT REQUESTS TO R&R<sup>13</sup>**  
TYPE OF CARE REQUESTED Infant/toddler: 31%, Preschool: 42%, School-age: 27%  
SCHEDULE Full-time: 88%, Part-time: 22%  
REASONS FOR NEEDING CARE Employment: 84%, School/training: 11%, Looking for work: 6%

**COST OF LICENSED CARE<sup>14</sup> AND HOUSING<sup>15</sup>**  
Care for one infant/toddler  
Licensed family child care home \$6,457  
Licensed center \$10,116  
Care for one preschooler  
Licensed family child care home \$5,840  
Licensed center \$6,903  
Housing (rent for 2 bedroom unit) \$7,920



1. United States Census Bureau 2000  
2. California Department of Finance Projections 2006  
3. American Community Survey 2006  
4. Children living with two parents or single head of household in the labor force  
5. Network estimate applied to 2006 child population projections  
6. Child care slots funded by Head Start, CA Child Development Division, and Department of Social Services 2006  
7. Breakdown by age not available for family child care homes  
8. Full-time defined as 30 hours or more per week  
9. Evening, weekend, or overnight care  
10. California Department of Education 2005/06  
11. Child Care and Development Family Fee Schedule 2006  
12. Some children are cared for by friends and relatives (license-exempt) or school-age programs (often not licensed)  
13. Resource & referral programs are located in every county in CA  
14. Regional Market Survey of CA Child Care Providers 2004/05  
15. US HUD, Median rent for 2 bedroom unit 2006