

Merced 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 Merced 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.

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

People	COUNTY			STATE
	2000 ¹	2006 ⁴	CHANGE	2006 ⁴
Total number of residents	210,554	249,116 ²	18%	37,444,385 ²
New mothers ³		5,981		515,991
with high school or less education		64%		48%
some college or A.A. degree		26%		28%
B.A. or higher		10%		25%
living in poverty		49%		23%

Households	COUNTY			STATE
	2000 ¹	2006 ⁴	CHANGE	2006 ⁴
Number of households	63,933	72,180	13%	12,151,227
speaking English at home	55%	51%		59%
speaking Spanish at home	34%	40%		25%
speaking an Asian language at home	4%	4%		9%
speaking another language at home	7%	6%		7%
Number of families with children under 18	29,613	35,521	20%	4,635,986
Percent with children under 18	59%	64%		56%
percent of single parent families	27%	34%		31%
Children 0-5 in single parent households	4,918	6,528	33%	657,758
Homeowners with children under 6	16%	15%		13%
Renters with children under 6	29%	30%		18%
Residents over 24 with B.A. or higher	11%	12%		29%

Labor Force	COUNTY			STATE
	2000 ¹	2006 ⁴	CHANGE	2006 ⁴
Number of employed residents	73,346	96,821	32%	16,740,938
working 35 hours or more	79%	80%		78%
working at home	3%	5%		5%
working non-traditional hours	23%	24%		22%
Women in the labor force	37,865	46,003	21%	8,043,236
New mothers ³ in the labor force prior to the birth of a child		3,095		259,427
Women who took <i>Paid Family Leave</i> for the birth of a child ⁵		899 ⁵		126,958 ⁵
Men in the labor force	48,813	62,831	29%	10,021,262
Men who took <i>Paid Family Leave</i> for the birth of a child ⁵		283 ⁵		31,672 ⁵

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 Merced County

Children	COUNTY			STATE
	2000 ¹	2006	CHANGE	2006
Children 0-13 ²	56,488	59,661	6%	7,628,506
Under 2	7,173	9,074	27%	1,078,951
2 years	3,732	4,217	13%	539,981
3 years	3,681	4,264	16%	542,494
4 years	4,107	4,073	-1%	537,387
5 years	4,051	4,080	1%	547,458
6-13 years	33,744	33,953	1%	4,382,235
Children 0-5 living in poverty	6,493	6,366 ³	-2%	595,847 ³
Children 0-13 with parents in the labor force ⁴	28,950	30,576 ⁵	6%	3,980,711 ⁵
Children 0-13 receiving subsidized child care ⁶		5,308		486,327

For more information about child care in Merced County, call:
A.C.C.E.S.S. Resource and Referral
(209) 722-3804

AVAILABILITY OF LICENSED CARE

Number of children 0-13 with parents in the labor force⁴ 30,576⁵
Estimated number of licensed child care slots 7,548
Licensed care available for children with parents in the labor force¹² 25%

Infant/toddler slots in licensed child care centers represent

4%

of the total number of slots in licensed centers.

PARENT REQUESTS TO R&R¹³

TYPE OF CARE REQUESTED Infant/toddler: 30%,
Preschool: 45%, School-age: 25%

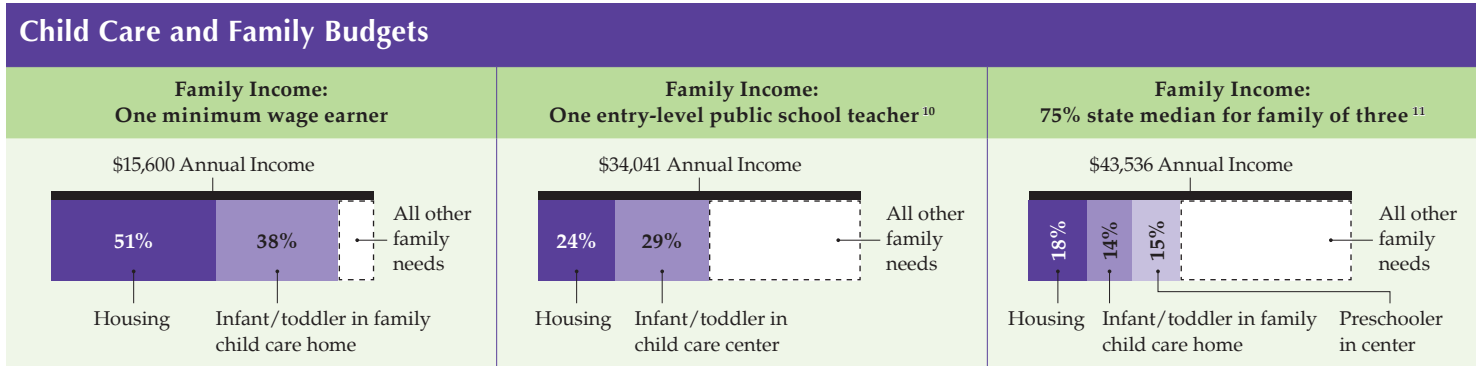
SCHEDULE Full-time: 93%, Part-time: 7%

REASONS FOR NEEDING CARE Employment: 74%,
School/training: 24%, Looking for work: 0%

COST OF LICENSED CARE¹⁴ AND HOUSING¹⁵

Care for one infant/toddler
Licensed family child care home \$5,999
Licensed center \$9,778
Care for one preschooler
Licensed family child care home \$5,520
Licensed center \$6,686
Housing (rent for 2 bedroom unit) \$8,016

Child Care	LICENSED CHILD CARE CENTERS	LICENSED FAMILY CHILD CARE HOMES
FACILITIES		
Total number of sites	66	409
Total number of slots/percent	3,690 49%	3,858 ⁷ 51%
Infant slots (under 2 years old)	137 4%	
Preschool slots (2-5 years old)	3,057 83%	
School-age slots (6 years and older)	496 13%	
SCHEDULES⁸		
Full-time and part-time slots	32%	60%
Only full-time slots	39%	39%
Only part-time slots	29%	1%
Care available during non-traditional hours ⁹		39%
LANGUAGES		
English	100%	90%
Spanish	70%	51%
Tagalog	0%	1%
Other languages	5%	6%



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