

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%

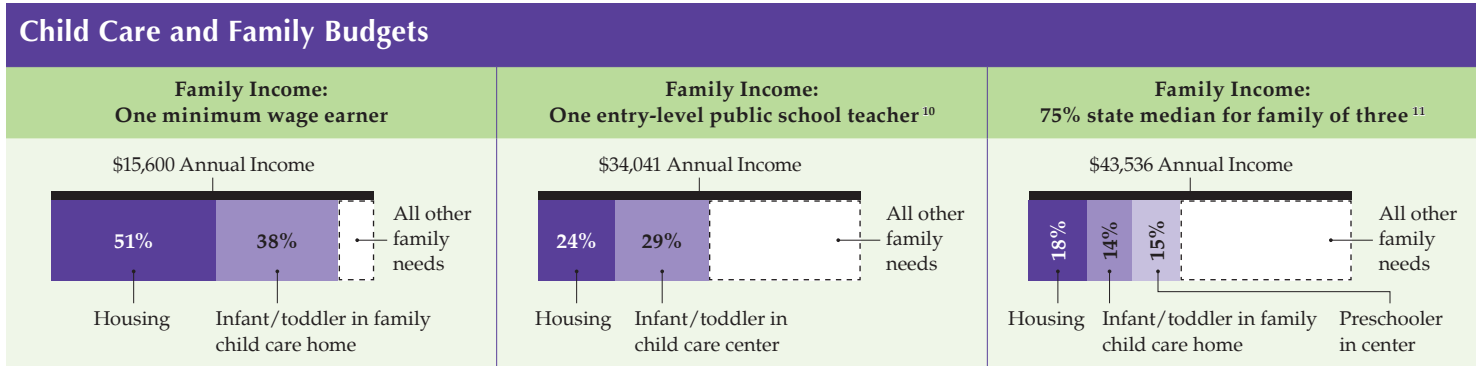
SCHEDULE Full-time: 93%, Part-time: 7%

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