

Santa Cruz County Child Care Planning Council

Child Care and Development Needs Assessment 2011



INTRODUCTION

The Santa Cruz County Child Care Planning Council *provides leadership for the assessment, development and sustainability of quality child care, early education and school-age extended learning options in Santa Cruz County.* Funded by the California Department of Education's Child Development Division, the Council operates under the authority of the Board of Supervisors and County Superintendent of Schools.

California's Education Code requires local child care planning councils to conduct a needs assessment every five years. When the last assessment was conducted in 2006, the Council utilized the 2000 Census data to provide a comprehensive analysis of the child population (ages 0 – 13) and compare the need for versus availability of early care and education (ECE) and school-age extended learning (SAEL) programs.

This time, however, the 2010 Census was being conducted as the Council began collecting data, and the 2000 Census data was deemed outdated for this purpose. At the recommendation of the California Department of Education, the 2011 Child Care Needs Assessment represents a basic update of required data that was available. It should be noted, however, that the lack of detailed data created some inherent limitations in the ability to fully assess the need versus supply of child care. A more thorough and comprehensive assessment may be conducted in the future when the 2010 Census data becomes available for Santa Cruz County.

DATA HIGHLIGHTS

- Children between the ages of Birth – 13 represent nearly 20% of the total population in Santa Cruz County.
- Of those children, almost half (46%) are younger than 6-years old.
- Over 22,000 children ages 0-12 live in families where both parents are in the workforce, while licensed centers, licensed family child care homes and license-exempt centers have the capacity to care for 14,555 children ages 0-12.
- The average weekly cost of child care varies depending on geographic location and type of care needed. The average costs tend to be highest for infant/toddler care and programs in mid-county.
- A family of four needs approximately 23% of its annual household income for child care. This is the second largest household expense for families after housing (27% of income).
- 57% of single mothers, 37% of single fathers and 31% of married couples with children have incomes below the Self-Sufficiency Standard – they are unable to earn enough income to meet their basic needs for housing, child care, food, transportation and health care.
- Some families are able to receive free or reduced-cost child care, early education and afterschool services through a number of organizations that receive funding from local, State and Federal sources. Several of these funding sources are slated for budget cuts, which may lead to programs closing or becoming inaccessible and unaffordable to families.
- If this happens, the current shortage of high-quality child care, early education and afterschool care in Santa Cruz County will become magnified, leaving families with fewer options.

DEMOGRAPHICS

Data on the child population, family income and poverty levels, languages spoken within the county, children enrolled in public benefits programs, and special populations.

Child Population: Birth – 13 years

Age Range	# of Children in County ¹	% of Child Population	% of County Population (268,237) ²
Birth – 5 years	20,673	46%	8%
6 – 10 years	15,346	34%	6%
11 – 13 years	8,827	20%	3%
Total Child Population	44,846	100%	17%

¹Source: As cited on kidsdata.org, State of California, Department of Finance, Race/Ethnic Population with Age and Sex Detail, 1990-1999, 2000-2050. Accessed online at <http://www.dof.ca.gov>.

²Source: State of California, Department of Finance, Race/Ethnic Population with Age and Sex Detail, 1990-1999, 2000-2050. Accessed online at <http://www.dof.ca.gov>

Child Population by Race/Ethnicity: Birth – 17 years

Race/Ethnicity	%
Latino	55.7%
Caucasian	36.1%
Asian American/Pacific Islander	3.4%
Multiracial	3.4%
African American	1.0%
American Indian/Alaskan Native	0.4%

Source: As cited on kidsdata.org, State of California, Department of Finance, Race/Ethnic Population with Age and Sex Detail, 1990-1999, 2000-2050. Accessed online at <http://www.dof.ca.gov> June 2009.

Languages Spoken by English Learners (grades K-12)

Language	# of Children	% of Children
Spanish	10,591	96.8%
Filipino	40	0.4%
Korean	19	0.2%
Mandarin	13	0.1%
Cantonese	12	0.1%
Vietnamese	9	0.1%
Hmong	2	0.0%
Other	260	2.4%
Total	10,946	100%

Source: As cited on kidsdata.org, California Department of Education, English Learners by Grade and Language Data Files. Accessed online at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ds/sd/lc/fileselesch.asp> October 2009.

Children with Special Needs

Children with special needs often need individualized and specialized child care, early education and afterschool services in order to foster their healthy growth and development. Approximately 9% of children in Santa Cruz County (birth – 13 years) have been identified as having special needs such as speech and language impairments, visual impairments, emotional disorders, specific learning disabilities and autism. Speech and language impairments and specific learning disabilities among school-age children are the most frequently-identified special needs.

Age	# of Children	% of Children
Birth-2 years	*280	7%
3-5 years	584	14%
6-13 years	3,261	79%
Total	4,125	100%

Sources: North Santa Cruz County Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA), Pajaro Valley Unified School District Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA) December 2010 and San Andreas Regional Center December 2010.

*These children may be receiving services from SELPA and San Andreas Regional Center.

Children in Foster Care

Children who have been removed from their birth families due to child abuse or neglect also have unique needs for child care services. Although not all foster parents may choose to enroll their children in child care or afterschool programs, the chart below provides a snapshot of the potential need for child care, early education and afterschool services for children living in foster homes.

Age Range	# of Children	% of Children
Birth-2 years	59	27%
3-5 years	40	19%
6-10 years	56	26%
11-15 years	60	28%
Total	215	100%

Source: UC Berkeley Center for Social Services Research, <http://cssr.berkeley7.edu/CWSCMSreports/>, July 2010.

Estimated Number of Children in Migrant Families: Birth – 13 years

Note: These numbers reflect children enrolled in migrant programs, as this is currently the best proxy measure. The actual number of migrant children living in the county is likely to be higher.

Category of Migrant Program	Estimated # of Children
Central CA Migrant Head Start (SCCOE) Directly Operated	70
Central CA Migrant Head Start (PVUSD) Directly Operated	683
Migrant Child Care (PVUSD CMIG & Go Kids CMIG)	175
Migrant Education Program Region 1	218
Migrant Education Program Region 11	2,445
Total	3,591

Sources: Santa Clara County Office of Education, Migrant Education Program, Region 1, Sept. 2009 – Aug. 2010 & Migrant Education Program Region 11, Sept. 2009 – Aug. 2010.

Children Under Age 18 in Families Receiving Public Assistance

The following chart provides an unduplicated count of all children who received public assistance during FY 2009-10.

	CalWorks, Medi-Cal & Food Stamps	CalWorks & Medi-Cal	Medi-Cal & Food Stamps	Medi-Cal Only	Food Stamps Only	Grand Total
Total	3,611	285	6,265	10,454	678	21,293

Source: Human Services Department, Planning & Evaluation Division, FY 2009-2010.

Children Under Age 18 in Poverty

In 2009, a family of two adults and two children was considered in poverty if their annual income fell below \$21,756.

Source: http://www.kidsdata.org/data/topic/table/child_poverty20.aspx?fmt=594&loc=370. Data was pulled in March 2011 from the American Community Survey 2009 report.

Income Category	Percent
Children At or Below Federal Poverty Level	15%

Source: As cited on kidsdata.org, U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey. Accessed online at <http://factfinder.census.gov/home/saff/main.html?lang=en>. March 2011.

Families With Children Living Below the Self-Sufficiency Standard

The self-sufficiency income standard measures how much money county residents need to meet their basic needs for housing, child care, food, transportation, medical care, and taxes, without reliance on public subsidies. A family of four (2 parents, 1 infant and 1 school-age child) needs \$65,343 in annual wages to meet basic needs. Of that annual income, 23% is needed for child care expenses. That is the second largest household expense for families after housing (27% of income).

Household Type	% of Families Living Below Standard
Single Mother	57%
Single Father	37%
Married with Children	31%

Source: Self-Sufficiency in Santa Cruz County, United Way of Santa Cruz County, 2009.

DEMAND vs SUPPLY OF EARLY CARE & EDUCATION (ECE) AND SCHOOL-AGE EXTENDED LEARNING (SAEL) SERVICES

Measuring the “demand vs supply” of ECE and SAEL is more complex than simply comparing the number of children in the county to the number of programs and slots available. Factors that impact this measurement include:

- Not all parents will choose to enroll their children in ECE or SAEL programs (e.g. stay-at-home parents).
- Some parents may choose informal child care arrangements that are either unpaid or not reflected in any existing data sources (e.g. neighbor, relative).
- Licensed child care providers may choose to enroll fewer children than their licenses allow.
- One program “slot” may be occupied by more than one child (e.g. two children, each attending a half-day).

Despite the difficulty of measuring demand vs supply, there are a few data points that provide a snapshot of the potential need for and the availability of early care and education and school-age extended learning services:

- Requests for referrals received by the Child Development Resource Center
- Children in the Centralized Eligibility List (waiting list)
- Number of children with both parents in the workforce
- Number of spaces available for children in licensed centers, licensed family child care homes and license-exempt centers.

Requests for Referrals	Infant/Toddler (0-2)	Preschool (3-5)	School-age (6-12)
Percent of Requests for Child Care Referrals Received by the Child Development Resource Center	40%	44%	16%

Source: “Quarterly Report, (April, May, June) 2009-2010. ” *Child Development Resource Center FY 2009-2010.*

Children on Waiting List	Infant/Toddler (0-2)	Preschool (3-5)	School-age (6-12)
Number of Children on Centralized Eligibility List	210	373	358

Source: CEL Age Report, January 2011.

Potential Need for Care	All Ages (0-12)
Number of Children with all Parents in Workforce	22,892

Source: Santa Cruz County Community Assessment Project, Year 2010, Applied Survey Research.

Capacity by Type of Care and Age Group

The following chart represents the availability of care for infants/toddlers, preschoolers and school-age children in licensed centers, licensed family child care homes and license-exempt centers. It should be noted that preferred capacity, or actual enrollment, may be lower than a provider’s license allows.

License-exempt centers (or programs) are operated on or by military bases, tribal communities, schools/school districts, public recreation programs and parent co-operatives that meet specific criteria. The CalSafe programs (serving children of teen parents), After School Education & Safety (ASES) Programs, 21st Century Learning Centers and Extended Learning/Enrichment programs are included in the category of license-exempt centers. Although informal caregivers (Family, Friends & Neighbors) are also license-exempt, they are not included in this chart.

When the total number of child care spaces (n=14,555) is compared to the number of children with both parents in the workforce (n=22,892), it appears that *child care is unavailable for 36% of these children (n=8,337)*. This gap is likely to increase if funding for child care programs is further reduced, as programs may need to close or will become unaffordable – and therefore inaccessible – to families.

# of Spaces Available	Infant/Toddler (0-2)	Preschool (3-5)	School-age (6-12)	Total
Licensed Centers	300	3,842	978	5,120
Licensed Family Child Care Homes	769	2,167	705	3,641
License-Exempt Centers/Programs	38	242	5,514	5,794
Total	1,107	6,251	7,197	14,555

Source: CDRC Capacity, Enrollment & Vacancy Report, October 2010.

COST OF CARE

The cost of child care represents a significant expense for many families, second only to housing in most cases. Many families require child care in order to obtain or maintain employment, yet the high cost makes child care unaffordable for many working families. Child care services are priced according to the age of the child receiving care and the hours per week that care is provided. The table below shows the average cost of care in three regions of the county in 2010. The rates listed here represent the *average* cost within each area of the County, ranging from \$115 - \$175 for part-time care to \$162 - \$251 for full-time care. Average rates tend to be higher for Infant/Toddler care and for programs in mid county.

Average cost per week of child care by program type and age of child

Region	Program Type	Infant/Toddler		Preschool		School-Age	
		Part-time	Full-time	Part-time	Full-time	Part-time	Full-time
North County	Centers	\$175.00	\$191.25	\$162.50	\$186.39	\$115.00	\$163.33
	Homes	\$175.00	\$198.50	\$162.50	\$187.96	\$120.00	\$174.00
Mid County	Centers	\$175.80	\$229.80	\$150.00	\$218.00	\$130.00	\$251.00
	Homes	\$174.75	\$219.56	\$166.25	\$210.56	\$114.00	\$239.17
South County	Centers	\$170.00	\$185.23	\$140.00	\$164.86	\$131.67	\$162.50
	Homes	\$150.78	\$189.89	\$138.91	\$171.66	\$132.53	\$165.43

Source: National Association of Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies, 2010.

CHILDREN SERVED THROUGH SUBSIDIZED CHILD CARE PROGRAMS

Enrollment in subsidized child care programs

Families who are unable to afford child care fees are currently able to request subsidized care through a number of programs, each with its own set of eligibility criteria. These figures represent a snapshot of actual enrollment in subsidized programs in 2010 and are likely to change significantly given the proposed reductions to funding for child care subsidies in FY 2011-12.

Program Type	Enrollment			Total Enrollment
	Infant/Toddler	Preschool	School-age	
Center-Based Child Care Program (CCTR or General Child Care)	106	55	187	348
CA State Preschool Program (CSPP) - Full Time	-	276	-	276
CA State Preschool Program (CSPP) - Part-Time	-	744	-	744
Migrant Child Care (PVUSD CMIG & Go Kids CMIG)	62	98	15	175
Central CA Migrant Head Start (PVUSD) Directly Operated	308	375	-	683
Central CA Migrant Head Start (SCCOE) Directly Operated	52	18	-	70
Alternative Payment	55	171	181	407
CalWORKs - Stage 1	-	1	27	28
CalWORKs - Stage 2	14	80	92	186
CalWORKs - Stage 3	17	99	164	280
Head Start (Center-Based)	-	398	-	398
Head Start (Home Based)	60	-	-	60
Early Head Start (Center-Based)	32	-	-	32
Early Head Start (Home Based)	138	-	-	138
Other:				
PVUSD Family Child Care Homes / CCTR (Gen Child Care) (CalSafe Children of Teen Parents)	42	8	-	50
PVUSD CalSafe (Children of Teen Parents)	8	-	-	8
SCCOE CalSafe (Children of Teen Parents)	18	-	-	18
Total	912	2,323	666	3,901

Sources: 1st quarter enrollment reports provided by UCSC, Head Start, Campus Kids' Connection, Community Bridges, SCCPA, Walnut Ave. Women's Center, YWCA, Migrant Head Start PVUSD, Cabrillo College, Live Oak School District, Pacific Preschool, PVUSD, SCCOE/CalSafe.

CHILDREN ENROLLED IN EXTENDED LEARNING/ENRICHMENT PROGRAMS ON SCHOOL SITES

The following chart provides additional details about enrollment in the following types of afterschool programs:

- 21st Century Community Learning Centers:** federally funded programs that provide before-and-after-school programs to disadvantaged students who attend low API schools. 21st Century programs provide academic enrichment opportunities and supportive services to help the students meet state and local standards in core content areas.
- After School Education and Safety Programs (ASES):** funded by Proposition 49, provides a partnership opportunity between schools and local community resources to provide literacy, academic enrichment and safe constructive alternatives for students in kindergarten through ninth grade.
- Extended Learning/Enrichment Programs on School Sites:** many elementary schools have extended learning clubs that offer academic tutorials to children who may be academically at risk. Extended learning clubs have various funding sources such as Title 1 and the California Department of Education.

The enrollment figures in this chart are a subset of the figures in the capacity chart on page 6.

Program	Enrollment			Total Enrollment
	ASES Program	21st Century	Extended Learning Clubs	
Live Oak School District				
Del Mar	77	-	-	77
Green Acres Elementary	29	-	-	29
Live Oak Elementary	87	-	-	87
Shoreline Middle School (operated by Boys & Girls Club)	-	-	100	100
Pájaro Valley Unified School District				
Alianza Charter	179	70	-	249
Amesti Elementary	84	72	-	156
Ann Soldo Elementary	194	75	-	269
Calabasas Elementary	208	82	-	290
Cesar Chavez middle	111	83	-	194
E.A Hall Middle	172	-	-	172
Freedom Elementary	194	84	-	278
H.A Hyde Elementary	83	76	-	159
Hall District Elementary	176	68	-	244
Lakeview Middle	127	92	-	219
Landmark Elementary	83	84	-	167
MacQuiddy Elementary	197	-	-	197
Mar Vista Elementary	-	-	TBD	TBD
Mintie White Elementary	167	71	-	238
Ohlone Elementary	182	73	-	255
Pajaro Middle	125	91	-	216
Pajaro Valley High	-	179	-	179

Program	Enrollment			Total Enrollment
	ASES Program	21st Century	Extended Learning Clubs	
Radcliff Elementary	83	82	-	165
Rio Del Mar Elementary	-	-	90	90
Rolling Hills Middle	173	-	-	173
Starlight Elementary	183	82	-	265
Valencia Elementary	-	-	68	68
Watsonville Charter School of the Arts	85	-	-	85
Watsonville High	-	185	-	185
San Lorenzo Valley Unified				
San Lorenzo Elementary	-	-	20	20
San Lorenzo Junior High	-	-	73	73
Santa Cruz City School District				
Gault Elementary	69	-	-	69
Mission Hill Middle School	-	-	50	50
Total	3,068	1,549	401	5,018

Source: Child Development Resource Center, Santa Cruz County Office of Education, and Santa Cruz County School Districts, March 2011.