

Calaveras County Child Care Needs Assessment 2003



Prepared for the

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Summary of Findings

In the early 1990's, the Calaveras Child Care Council (CCCC), was established to develop local priorities for child care through the federal Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG).

The Calaveras Child Care Council is a collaboration of consumers, service providers, public agencies and other community representatives working together to assess and coordinate the delivery of quality child care services and programs. The Council's vision is that Calaveras County have " *...an inclusive, quality, affordable child care system that promotes healthy, successful children and youth*"

This report highlights child care needs and issues across the county and in specific Calaveras communities and is intended to assist the Council as well as other groups and policy makers in planning for future child care needs in Calaveras County. The variety of findings and research activities used include a county-wide needs assessment used to develop a 10-year master plan for children and youth; 2002 research on family needs related to child care; two child care provider surveys (2002 and 2003); and, a child care provider compensation report issued in 2002.

Child Population Highlights – According to 2000 Census data, there were 4,928 households with children 18 years of age or younger in the county, and the total population of children 0-14 years was 7,425. Of those, 627 children lived with their grandparents, 143 children lived with other relatives, and a total of 1,067 children or 11.5% of all children under the age of 18 lived in households without their parents. 87 children lived in foster care for at least some portion of 1999, while 120 children did so during the year 2000.

Languages Spoken in Homes - Of the 387 child care referrals provided by HRC Child Care Resources between May 2002 and April 2003, 384 families reported speaking English; 15 families reported speaking Spanish; one reported speaking Chinese, and three were reported as speaking an "other" language.

Subsidized Child Care Eligibility - As of May 2003, 143 families with 273 children were on the eligibility list for subsidized child care through the Human Resource Council (HRC) Child Care Resources (CCR). At the time of this report, 141 children ages 0-3 and 130 children ages 3-5 were on the Head Start / State Preschool Eligibility List maintained by HRC HS/SP. The subsidized child care program of the Calaveras County Office of Education (CCOE) has one family with two children ages six and eight on the waiting list for child care who were determined not to be at risk. Both of those children were English speaking.

Families Receiving Public Assistance –During the fiscal year ending July 2002, Calaveras CalWORKS caseload included 29 two parent families, 107 families with no parents, and 243 reported as "all other" families. Those cases involved 607 children overall, or 8% of the population 14 years and younger. Also, 763 families and 1191 children were actively on Medi Cal.

Children with Special Needs - In May 2003, the Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA) Eligibility list identified 12 children with an individualized family service plan (IFSP) and 792 with an individualized education program (IEP). According to HRC Child Care Resources, fifty percent of the providers responding to a 2003 survey stated they cared for children with disabilities. Types of disabilities for children in child care varied, with children frequently having more than one disability.

Child Abuse Cases - The Calaveras Works and Human Services Agency received 806 child abuse reports involving 960 children in 2002. Between May 2002 and April 2003 twenty-three referrals for respite care were received by the Human Resource Council's Child Care Referral program.

Migrant Families with Children - In 2003, no families were identified as migrant families with children in Calaveras County.

External Forces - Among the most important issues impacting child care are potential Realignment of child care from the state to county government, federal reauthorization of child care funding, state budget cuts, Calaveras' School Readiness Initiative and California's commitment to offer Universal Preschool by 2014.

Access to Child Care - Access to child care is a pressing concern for many Calaveras families. At the time of this report, the total number of licensed child care spaces available in Calaveras County was 817 including all Head Start and State Preschool facilities, licensed family child care homes and licensed centers. One Early Head Start facility, 8 Head Start facilities, 8 private child care centers and 41 licensed family child care homes are comprised of these available slots. The only providers offering weekend care are Family Child Care providers.

Affordability of Care - According to the survey of families conducted in 2002, 92% of all respondents had one or two children in care, with the remaining 8% having three or four children in child care. 50% of all respondents indicate cost as the biggest barrier to accessing child care for their family. Although the cost of child care in Calaveras County falls below the national average of cost of child care in rural areas, many times those lower costs are subsidized by the providers themselves.

Unlicensed Care - Solutions identified by parents to their inability to access care included staying home from work (47%), and family members staying home to care for children (21%). Two families reported having older children stay home from school in order to care for younger siblings. Between May 2002 and April 2003, 95 unlicensed providers including relatives and those certified through Trust Line provided subsidized child care.

Child Care Workforce Issues - In May 2002 the Calaveras Child Care Council conducted surveys of child care providers and families needing child care and published a report of findings. In April 2003, Child Care Resources issued a follow up survey to child care providers. Ninety-five percent of providers earn less than \$30,000 per year providing child care services.

Child Care Needs in Calaveras County

Introduction

In the early 1990's, the Calaveras Child Care Council (CCCC), was established to develop local priorities for child care through the federal Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG).

The Calaveras Child Care Council is a collaboration of consumers, service providers, public agencies and other community representatives working together to assess and coordinate the delivery of quality child care services and programs. The Council's mission is to "*...support the success of all children, their families and the economy of our communities through the development of affordable, accessible, quality child care.*" The Council's vision is that Calaveras County have "*...an inclusive, quality, affordable child care system that promotes healthy, successful children and youth*"

As part of its duties the CCCC is required to conduct periodic assessments of the county's child care needs and issue a Needs Assessment Report. This report highlights child care needs and issues across the county and in specific Calaveras communities and is intended to assist the Council as well as other groups and policy makers in planning for future child care needs in Calaveras County.

2003 Needs Assessment Methodology

Over the past 12-15 months a number of planning activities with research and analysis components have taken place in Calaveras County. Rather than repeat the work of those groups, information from those efforts along with current program data from a variety of sources was used to develop this report. The variety of findings and research activities used include a county-wide needs assessment used to develop a 10-year master plan for children and youth; 2002 research on family needs related to child care; two child care provider surveys (2002 and 2003); and, a child care provider compensation report issued in 2002. Also used was 2000 Census data, a combination of data required by Head Start, data and information deemed critical by Children and Families Services for tracking and measuring child and family outcomes, and data from the Calaveras Unified School District and Calaveras CalWORKS. A complete list of resources can be found in Appendix A of this document.

Calaveras County

Calaveras is one of California's original 27 counties, and came into existence in 1850. During the Gold Rush era more than 9 million ounces of gold were mined from its land. Calaveras County is comprised of 1,036 square miles ranging from expansive ranch land near sea level to rolling foothills to peaks over 8,000 feet high in the Sierra Nevada Mountains. A natural border to the south is formed by the Stanislaus River and New Melones Lake, while the Mokelumne River forms the county's northern boundary. It is prized by residents and visitors alike for its scenic beauty and wide variety of outdoor activities.

Population

As of the 2000 U.S. Census, the total population in Calaveras County is 40,554, an increase of 27% over the 1990 census. During this same period, California's overall population increased by 12%. The California Department of Finance projects the county's population to grow at an annual compounded rate of 2.2%. Calaveras County is therefore projected to reach a population of 55,744 by the year 2012. The percentage of the population under 18 years of age, however, has decreased between the 1990 and the 2000 Census, from 24.8% to 22.8%.

There were 4,928 households with children 18 years of age or younger in the county as of 2000. Of those, 3,436 or 70% were families of married couples, 1,415 or 29% were single parent households, and 77 or 1% were other forms of households. Additional important facts about Calaveras households with children identified in the 2000 Census data include:

- 70% of the single parent households had a female householder with no husband present
- 30% had a male householder with no wife present.
- 627 children lived with their grandparents
- 143 children lived with other relatives
- 297 lived with non-relatives
- A total of 1,067 children or 11.5% of all children under the age of 18 lived in households without their parents

Additionally, the number of children and youth ages 0 -17 in foster care practically doubled in three years. 87 children lived in foster care for at least some portion of 1999, while 120 children did so during the year 2000.

As shown in Table 1, the percentage of children ages 0-14 years of age was fairly consistent in communities throughout the county.

Community Name	Total Population in 2000	Population 0-14 Years of Age in 2000	Percentage of Population 0-14 Years of Age in 2000
Copperopolis	2,363	460	19%
Angels Camp/Altaville	3,004	581	19%
Murphys/Douglas Flat/Vallecito	2,488	404	16%
Hathaway Pines/ Avery/Arnold/White Pines/Dorrington	5,617	856	15%
Mountain Ranch/Sheep Ranch	1,557	228	14.6%
Rail Road Flat/Glencoe	549	86	15.7%
West Point/Wilseyville	746	148	20%
Mokelumne Hill	774	134	17.3%
San Andreas	2,615	499	19%
Valley Springs/Jenny Lind/Burson	2,560	572	22.3%
Wallace	220	36	16.4%
Entire County	40,554	7,425	18.3%

Table 1: Population by Community (2000 US Census Data)

Ethnicity

Calaveras County is not known for being ethnically diverse, as shown in Figure 1 below. Although only representing a combined 8.5% of total population, the Hispanic, Black, and Asian populations more than doubled between 1990 and 2000, while the white population grew by 21%.

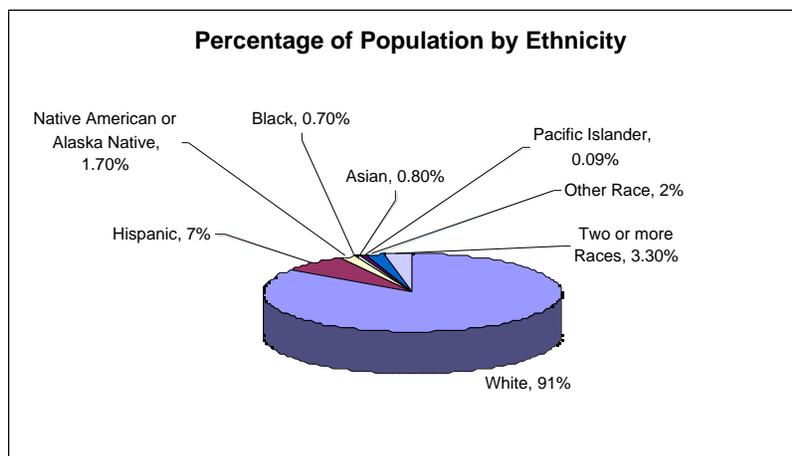


Figure 0: Ethnicity 2000

In the eleven Calaveras County communities identified in the final section of this report, the diversity of the population doesn't vary much from the county-wide figures. However, communities exist where certain ethnic groups are concentrated. For example, the Valley Springs/Jenny Lind/Burson communities have the highest percentage of total Hispanic population (10.7%). The Native American population including

persons of Native Alaskan descent is most highly concentrated in the West Point/Wilseyville area (8.2%); while the Mountain Ranch/Sheep Ranch area has the highest concentration of the Asian population (13%) compared to other Calaveras communities.

Language Spoken at Home

Of the 387 child care referrals provided by HRC Child Care Resources between May 2002 and April 2003, 384 families reported speaking English; 15 families reported speaking Spanish; one reported speaking Chinese, and three were reported as speaking an "other" language. As in most of California, the language most frequently spoken at home after English was Spanish.

Changing Communities

The county is unique in that there is no one central economic hub where residents county-wide are brought together. Instead, a number of communities containing populations between 500 to 4,000 people are scattered around the county. Business activities are similarly distributed. Many miles of winding two-lane roads through hills and mountains separate these communities.

Some Calaveras communities are currently changing at a rate unprecedented since the Gold Rush era. The population is growing quickly, especially in the county's west side, which in recent years has developed into a "bedroom" community for residents commuting to the San Joaquin Valley and the Bay Area for work. This phenomenon is resulting in families who are spending long periods of time away from each other and children being raised by adults other than their parents. This represents a tremendous sociological change from previous Calaveras generations. Once community residents worked and raised their families together, whereas today area residents often do not even know their neighbors.

Employment

According to the California Employment Development Division, in 2002 government jobs accounted for 29.1% of the total employment in the county. 430 new jobs are projected by the year 2006, a growth rate of almost 19%. The majority of projected jobs are expected to be in local government, including education, city and county government and Indian tribal government.

Service industries provide almost 23% of employment in Calaveras, while retail trades provide 19.8% of current employment. These industries plus government are projected to continue providing for almost 80% of the projected job growth through 2006.

Calaveras County had a 7% unemployment rate in 2002, which had risen to 8.9%, by April 2003. California's seasonally adjusted rate of unemployment as of April 2003 was 6.7%, the same as the statewide annual rate for 2002. Until recently, the unemployment rate in Calaveras County had been on a steady decline. However, in April 2003, Murphys had the highest unemployment rate in the county at 11.5%, followed by San Andreas at 10.4%, Arnold at 9.4% and Angels Camp at 8.3%.

Family Income

According to the 2000 Census, the median income of families in Calaveras County was \$47,379, 12% less than California's median income of \$53,025. However, in 1999 the percentage of children living in poverty in Calaveras County (15.6%) was lower than the overall percentage of children in California living in poverty (19%).

The county had a total of 4,928 households with a total of 9,248 children under 18 years in 2000; representing almost 23% of the total population. Almost 16% of people living in households with a child under 18 years old were below the poverty level. The highest rates for people living below the poverty level are found in the West Point / Rail Road Flat area (33.7% of that area's population) and Copperopolis and surrounding areas (20.1% of that area's population). County-wide, 40% of school aged children qualified for free or reduced price breakfast during the 2000-2001 school year. According to California Food Policy Advocates, Calaveras County ranked 41st out of the 58 counties in California for both poverty and child poverty levels in 2002. That means 40 counties have fewer families living in poverty.

In 1999, 34.5 percent of families in Calaveras with related children under five years of age were living below the poverty level. Figure 2 shows the breakout of families with children under 18 years living in poverty in a number of Calaveras communities.

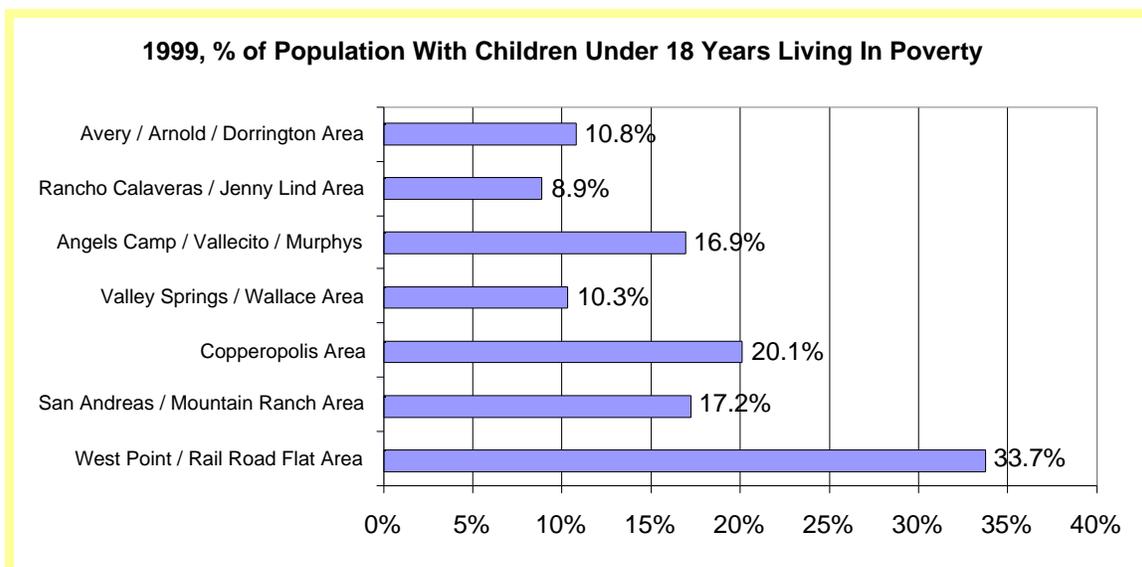


Figure 1: Children in Poverty by Community

Subsidized Child Care Eligibility

As of May 2003, 143 families with 273 children were on the HRC CCR subsidized child care eligibility list in Calaveras. Of these, 74 children were age 0-2, 68 children were between three and five years old, and 114 were between six and 13 years old. This is a 12.5% increase in the number of families on the eligibility list for subsidies and a 22% increase in the number of children since 1998.

The number of persons eligible for subsidized child care seeking referral information has nearly doubled over the past three years from 7% to 13%. During this same time the number of eligible teens seeking child care referrals has increased more than 400% (from 2 to 9). Between May 2002 and April 2003, 52 of the 387 child care referral calls were from residents eligible for subsidies.

Between May of 2002 and April 2003, almost 87% of child care referral calls were received from families not eligible for subsidies. Of both families eligible and ineligible for subsidies, 86% of families seeking child care referrals did so because of employment reasons – either to look for work or to maintain employment. The percent of requests for full time care and part time care remained equally divided over the past three years, with half of all child care referral requests being for full time care. According to parent surveys conducted in 2002 and 2003, families who needed but were unable to secure full time care asked for referrals to part time care in hope that they could meet their child care needs by using multiple sources.

Of the referrals provided between May 2002 and April 2003, 249 were for children two years old and under, 191 were for children ages 3-5, and 146 were for children six years and older. Over the past three years the percent of Child Care Resources' requests for referrals for weekend care has remained between 5% and 8% of all requests. However, requests for special schedules have shifted. The number of persons requesting evening and/or overnight care has doubled. While the number of after school care requests has

declined from 12% to 3%, the number of drop-in and/or rotating schedules have both increased from less than 10% to 24%. And roughly 97% of all persons requesting child care referrals indicate needing care year round. Families/primary caregivers overwhelmingly prefer to have child care options near their home; and, when that is not possible, near the parents' place of work or school.

Head Start Eligibility

A total of 8 Head Start sites and one Early Head Start site serve eligible Calaveras County families. At the time of this report, 141 children ages 0-3 and 130 children ages 3-5 were on the Head Start / State Preschool Eligibility List maintained by the HRC Head Start/State Preschool. One family with two children ages six and eight, was on the eligibility list for Calaveras County Office of Education (CCOE) subsidized child care and were determined not to be at risk. Both children were English speaking.

A break down of children served by each Head Start site, their ages, and the total number of slots available by community appears in the Community Profiles section of this report.

Families Receiving Public Assistance

At the time of this report, the Calaveras Works and Human Service Agency reported 763 families and 1191 children actively on Medi Cal. During the fiscal year ending July 2002, Calaveras CalWORKS caseload included 29 two parent families, 107 families with no parents, and 243 reported as "all other" families. Most CalWORKS recipients were white. However, 24 Hispanic, 6 black, 15 Native American families, one Filipino and one Hawaiian family were also served through CalWORKS in the county during that fiscal year.

During that same year, 144 children were placed in foster care; 336 families received food stamps; and 282 social service cases were also reported. In April 2003, a total of 38 two parent families, 109 families with no parents, and 239 families reported as "all other" comprised the Calaveras CalWORKS caseload. Those cases involved 607 children overall, or 8% of the population 14 years and younger.

Vacancy Rates and CalWORKS Recipients

Due to the rural nature of the county and the distances that parents must sometimes travel to get children into care, CalWORKS recipients are especially hard pressed to find affordable, accessible care even when licensed child care slots are available. Currently, Calaveras Head Start and Early Head Start programs are at full capacity. There are 27 vacant slots in licensed child care centers. However, those are only available in Angels Camp, Murphys, Arnold, and Valley Springs. Families in the more rural areas face a much greater challenge in accessing licensed care.

Vacancies county-wide in licensed family child care homes may seem abundant in some communities (see licensed capacity tables in the Community Profiles section of this report), however the figures do not reflect personal decisions made by providers regarding the number of hours they will work or number of

children they will serve, regardless of their licensure. The figures also do not factor in the number of providers' own children, which must, by regulation, be included in their total count of children, but may not be reflected in the reported numbers attending each site.

Children with Special Needs

In May 2003, the Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA) Eligibility list identified 12 children with an individualized family service plan (IFSP) and 792 with an individualized education program (IEP). During the 2001 -2002 school year, the Calaveras Unified School District reported 793 children out of a county total of 6,886 were enrolled as children with special needs.

According to HRC Child Care Resources, fifty percent of the providers responding to a 2003 survey stated they cared for children with disabilities. Of this group, 82% had from one to five children with disabilities in their care. Types of disabilities for children in child care varied, with children frequently having more than one disability. Speech was the most frequently noted disability in children (57%) followed by learning (41%), emotional disabilities (39%) and physical disabilities (35%). Other disabilities noted in descending order of frequency were ADD/ADHD (12%), hearing (8%), developmental delay (6%), behavioral (2%), and severe mental disturbance (2%).

Although only one provider in 2003 indicated the inability to serve a child because of special needs, a number of barriers to providing care for special needs children were noted by family child care providers, private center providers, and Head Start /State Preschool providers. In descending order of frequency, the barriers noted were as follows: 1) not enough time available – and too few staff; 2) inexperience working with special needs children; 3) concern for other children in care; 4) lack of adequate space; 5) equipment needs; and, 6) lack of available specialized training to prepare providers to effectively care for special needs children. Not surprisingly, providers' top three recommendations for addressing these barriers were: 1) specialized training; 2) meeting with [other] providers; and 3) additional staff.

Social Services

The Calaveras Works and Human Services Agency received 806 child abuse reports involving 960 children in 2002. This represents a decrease of almost 24% since 1998 when 1255 children were reported as victims of child abuse. Of the 806 reports: 50% involved neglect; 26% involved physical abuse; 12% involved children "at risk" due to abuse of a sibling; 17% involved alleged sexual abuse or exploitation; 11% involved emotional abuse; 8% involved caretaker absence or abandonment; and 3% involved domestic violence. 446 of the 806 reports were investigated.

Of the 960 children involved in the reports, 698 were 14 years of age or younger. Between May 2002 and April 2003 twenty-three referrals for respite care were received by HRC CCR. This was a 9.5% increase (21 children) over the year ending April 2002, and a 35% increase (17 children) over the year before that ending April 2001.

Migrant Families with Children

Migrant workers are identified as those who seek temporary or seasonal work in agriculture, fishing, or related industries including food processing. Generally, they follow growing seasons across the country and are largely responsible for the cultivation and harvest of fruits, vegetables, as well as other food products. Migrant workers usually have an average income below the national poverty level.

In 2003, no families were identified as migrant families with children in Calaveras County. The county is not included in the regions established by the federal government where services for migrant families are needed.

Trends in Calaveras County Child Care

This section discussed trends related to child care in Calaveras County such as availability and affordability of care, use of unlicensed care and issues regarding the child care workforce. Additionally, a number of external factors or trends are likely to affect the CCCC in coming years. Among the most important issues, are Realignment of child care from the state to county government, federal reauthorization of child care funding, state budget cuts, Calaveras' School Readiness Initiative and California's commitment to offer Universal Preschool by 2014.

Availability of Care

Access to child care is a pressing concern for many Calaveras families. According to the provider survey results compiled in 2002, 64% of providers maintained a waiting list for families needing care. The number of children on those waiting lists ranged from one to fourteen with an average of six children.

Although care for infants and toddlers is not the most needed type of care in terms of the number of children under the age of two in Calaveras, the 2002 survey of parents found that this type of care was one of the least available. Additionally, 47% of all respondents reported having used sick or other leave time from work due to providers closing. In fact, the most frequent request families made of their provider related to child care was for extended hours and/or substitute child care options and referrals according to the survey responses.

As of May 2003, a total of 920 licensed child care spaces were available in Calaveras County. That number includes all Head Start and State Preschool facilities, licensed family child care homes and licensed centers, subsidized CCOE child care programs and licensed part day programs. There are an additional 256 children at license exempt school-based, school-age centers and 20 at an exempt parent cooperative preschool. The Community Profiles section of this report identifies the number of licensed slots available, by type of care and age group for eleven Calaveras communities.

Hours of operation are fairly standard (7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday) with few options for families needing extended or non-traditional hours. The only providers offering weekend care are Family Child Care providers. Ninety-five percent of child care providers close for five or more normal days of operation due to holidays and sick days, vacation, training, and/or planning: potentially impacting as many as 300 children at any given time. Nearly two-thirds of all providers maintain a waiting list of one to fourteen children needing care. When vacancies occur preference is frequently shown for siblings of children already in care.

Affordability of Care

According to the survey of families conducted in 2002, 92% of all respondents had one or two children in care, with the remaining 8% having three or four children in child care. 31% of all respondents had a total

household income of less than \$20,000, while 68% have total household incomes less than \$50,000. 50% of all respondents indicate cost as the biggest barrier to accessing child care for their family. Additionally, 57% of respondents had their children enrolled in publicly funded programs.

Although the cost of child care in Calaveras County falls below the national average of cost of child care in rural areas, those lower costs are subsidized by the providers themselves. 90% of providers responding to the 2002 survey reported earning less than \$30,000 per year. While families using child care considered cost a barrier, they prioritized quality as more important than cost seven to one. 94% of parents considered quality as the first or second deciding factor in choosing care.

School Age Care

In response to needs in Calaveras communities for supervised school age care during non-school hours, schools and community based organizations have developed both licensed and license exempt options. Almost every community in the county now offers a school age program. The structure of these programs ranges from: licensed care, exempt care, and/or homework clubs to drop-in youth groups. Fees, program content, and group sizes also vary, and in some locations such as Jenny Lind and Murphys, parents are faced with long waiting lists. School age care options and number of slots available by community appear in the Community Profiles section of this report.

Use of Unlicensed Care

Between May 2002 and April 2003, 95 unlicensed providers including relatives and those certified through Trust Line were used for subsidized child care. Trust Line is a database of individuals who have passed background checks in California. As of June 2003, 63 children were being care for by unlicensed providers from the Trust Line database.

When parents were asked whether they had ever gone without needed child care, 49% of those surveyed answered yes. The most frequent reasons listed for going without child care was that their provider was closed for vacation, holiday, illness, facility emergency, or other reasons. The next most frequent reasons families went without care included care not offered during times needed (14%), cost of care (10%), and lack of type of care needed (9%), such as infant/toddler or before and after school care. Working-poor families are especially at risk of using unlicensed or unsafe care due to their low income levels.

Solutions identified by parents to their inability to access care included staying home from work (47%), and family members staying home to care for children (21%). Two families reported having older children stay home from school in order to care for younger siblings.

Child Care Workforce

In May 2002 the Calaveras Child Care Council conducted surveys of child care providers and families needing child care and published a report of findings. In April 2003, Child Care Resources issued a

follow up survey to child care providers. The information in this section is excerpted from the 2002 Report, with updates from Child Care Resources referral data and 2003 provider survey.

Provider Characteristics

Almost all child care providers in Calaveras County are female (99%), and most are Caucasian (86%), under 50 years of age (61%), and married (75%). One-third of all providers have a child under the age of five living in their home, and nearly half have children between the ages of six and seventeen.

Child Care Experience and Retention

Fifteen percent of the child care workforce in Calaveras County is made up of providers with less than one year of experience, and nearly half of all providers have less than five years of experience. Approximately 95% of providers surveyed in 2002, and 92% surveyed in 2003 indicated they would continue to provide care; approximately two-thirds anticipate working another one to five years.

The primary motivation noted by providers surveyed in 2002 was the enjoyment of working with children (42%) followed by the desire to earn money while staying home with their children (27%). When surveyed in 2003, providers again noted these two reasons most frequently.

Annual Income and Hourly Wages

Ninety-five percent of providers earn less than \$30,000 per year providing child care services. Nearly half earn between \$10,001 and \$20,000 annually, and another 33% earn less than \$10,000 per year (25.5% earn between \$5,001 and \$10,000, and 7.5 % earn less than \$5,000 per year). These figures are significant considering that the federal poverty level for a family of four is \$18,100 (2002 Health and Human Services Poverty Guidelines). While 33% of providers may earn less than \$10,000 per year, not all of them are living at poverty level due to additional family income. The percentage of providers with total household income less than \$10,000 annually drops to 5% when total household income is considered.

The median hourly wage for child care providers excluding benefits is \$9.30 per hour, with an average hourly wage of \$9.43. The median hourly wage for private Family Child Care and/or Center Providers is \$9.69, with an average wage of \$9.49 per hour. Of this group, 30% earn between \$7.00 and \$7.99 per hour, and 30% earn between \$10.00 and \$10.99 per hour. Nearly half of all providers receive some type of benefits, although the level of benefits and the employee share of costs vary significantly between publicly funded providers and private providers.

Other Factors Impacting Child Care in Calaveras

Federal Child Care Reauthorization

There have been few changes in recent years to Federal child care funding. In fiscal year 2002, funding increased by a mere \$250 million. This year however, Federal Child Care and Development Funds were cut by \$10 million in 2003. Due to low unemployment rates in past years, most states were able to channel TANF (Temporary Assistance to Needy Families) funds into child care. More recently, with the nation's economic downturn, TANF stopped being a source of additional funds in most states including California. When this began happening many state's including California had to redirect TANF dollars back into assisting families suffering from unemployment related issues and as a result many state child care programs, including California's, lost millions of dollars of funding.

State Budget Cuts and Realignment

In fiscal year 2003, balanced budget requirements in most states are forcing program cuts and revenue increases to cover deficits. State budget deficits nationwide are expected to range from \$70 billion to \$85 billion in 2004. California's most recent budget revision completed in May 2003 projects an estimated deficit of \$38.2 billion.

In January of 2003, Governor Gray Davis released the first draft of the 2003-2004 California budget. In that draft, the Governor proposed to realign childcare and other human services so that counties were responsible for funding and staffing those programs. This would have meant that funding was no longer channeled to those programs from the state's general fund. Instead, the draft budget recommended that revenue for these programs would be generated by tax increases including: a) a one percent increase in sales tax; b) increased tax rates for high-income tax brackets; and c) an additional tax of \$1.10 on each pack of cigarettes sold in the state.

The Governor's revised budget released in May deferred, not eliminated, January's realignment proposal for childcare. However, several changes to existing childcare programs in California were made. For example, services for eligible children will be limited to those 12 years and younger. Some provider rate limits will be lowered, and a share of childcare costs will be contributed by families when their income level reaches 40% or more of the current income level index used for determining eligibility.

In light of these changes, it is likely that Calaveras County will see a decrease in access to affordable, quality care for working-poor families. The coming year should not result in any necessary restructuring on behalf of the Council as was originally projected due to the Governor's first budget draft. However, given that realignment may be considered again next year, the Council will be better positioned if it prepares for realignment ahead of time.

Income eligibility restrictions will be implemented as a part of the Governor's revised budget. In 2002, California had at least 200,000 children eligible for child care who were on child care waiting lists for subsidies. Parent fees will be increased as a result of the projected budget also.

Transportation

The Calaveras County Board of Supervisors recently considered canceling the county public transportation system. However, they approved a contract with a new service provider for the next six months. The transportation committee will reassess how successfully this is working at the end of that six month period. Even with public transportation, 22% of parents surveyed in 2002 identified transporting children to and from child care as a significant barrier to accessing child care. The Calaveras Community Assessment conducted by the county First 5 Commission indicated that lack of transportation was one of the top seven concerns among residents.

Universal Preschool

A bill was recently approved by the Assembly Education Committee declaring that Universal Preschool would be available throughout California by the year 2014. Preschool programs would initially begin in the state's neediest school districts before branching out to reach all children. The bill does not specify yet whether the early education will be free to all parents or use a sliding fee scale.

The California First 5 Commission has been working with the Packard Foundation and Pew Charitable Trusts to explore delivery models and funding mechanisms for a new statewide Universal Preschool system, taking into account the state's current economic climate. In conjunction with this, the Packard Foundation announced a new grantmaking initiative in April that seeks to ensure that California achieves and implements voluntary preschool for all 3 and 4 year olds by 2013. At this time, only those invited may apply for the funds.

At this time, Calaveras County is not linked with statewide Universal Preschool efforts except state preschool and Head Start programs. Opportunities to access funds and collaborate with other agencies such as First 5 may arise in the coming year.

School Readiness Initiative

With the intent of achieving their goal to "Improve the development and school readiness of young children from birth to age five," the Calaveras First 5 Commission submitted a grant in March 2003 to fund a county-wide School Readiness Initiative. The proposed School Readiness Initiative will have two components. The primary component will result in a School Readiness Center at Jenny Lind Elementary School within the Calaveras Unified School District that will house numerous programs designed to enhance children's readiness to enter kindergarten. The second component will be to coordinate a county-wide approach to school readiness. This will include analyzing current community-wide assessments and input, developing and implementing a county-wide coordinated system for School Readiness, including community education and outreach.

The project will address the elements of Early Care and Education, Parenting and Family Support, Health and Social Services, School's Readiness for Children, and Program Infrastructure and Administration. Additionally, the project will build on existing programs, expanding some and adding a number of new services including the following:

2003 Calaveras Needs Assessment

- ✓ Mobile Outreach Program to ECE Providers
- ✓ Lending Library for Parents
- ✓ Lunchbox Learning Kits
- ✓ Mental Health Initiative that will include:
 - Behavior Intervention
 - Consultation and Referral
- ✓ Kindergarten Bridge Program
- ✓ School Readiness Newsletter
- ✓ Early Care and Education Provider/Kindergarten Teacher Coordination Project

The Calaveras Child Care Council was identified as a partner of the Calaveras School Readiness Initiative which will include numerous other programs as well as those mentioned here.

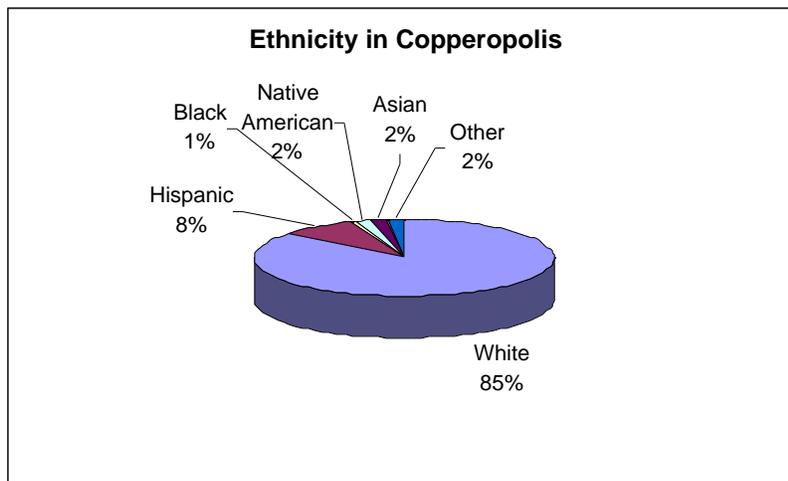
Community Profiles

Copperopolis

Total Population in 2000: **2,363**

Population 0-14 Years in 2000: **460 (19%)**

- ❑ This community has a number of assets including youth groups, job training, civic and historical clubs, various churches, recreation and outdoor resources, and mutual support and education groups.
- ❑ English was the only language reported that was spoken at Home for the population aged 5-17 according to the 2000 Census.
- ❑ 10 children in Copperopolis have been diagnosed with a disabling condition.



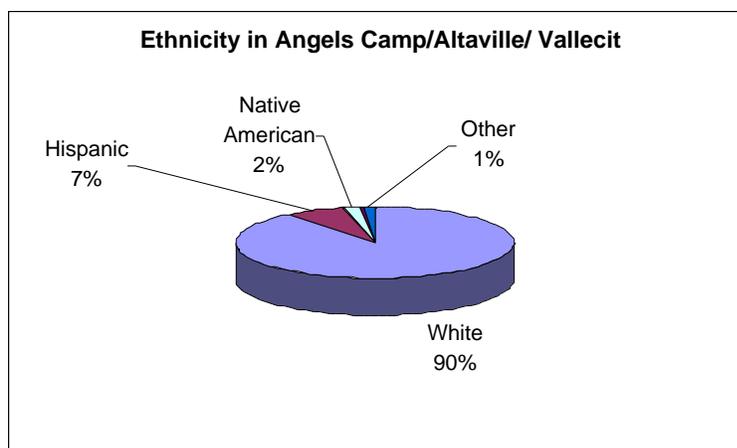
Licensed Child Care Capacity					Currently in Care		
<u>Type of Care</u>	<u>Number of Facilities</u>	<u>Capacity</u>	<u>Vacancies</u>	<u>Total Enrollment</u>	<u>Infants</u>	<u>Preschool</u>	<u>School Age</u>
Family Child Care Homes	2	16	11	6	1	4	1
Centers	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Early Head Start	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Head Start	1	16	0	16	0	16	0
Totals	3	32	11	22	1	20	1

- Additionally, 6 Trust Line providers also care for children in this community.
- 12 families with 19 children receive child care subsidies in Copperopolis.
- 7 families with 10 children are on the eligibility list for child care subsidies.
- Average cost of full time care in Copperopolis is \$100 per week for all age groups.
- 11 children 0-3 and 9 children 3-5 years are on the eligibility list for Head Start/State Preschool in this community.

Angels Camp/Altaville

Total Population in 2000: **3,004**

Population 0-14 Years in 2000: **581 (19%)**



❑ Assets of this community include licensed before and after school care for up to 30 children at elementary schools, the Sheriff's Office participation in schools, recreation and outdoor facilities, parent support groups, peer and mutual support groups.

❑ Of families with children between 5-17 years 88% reported speaking only English at home, 10% reported speaking Spanish and 2% reported speaking French at home.

❑ 8 children in this community have been diagnosed with a disabling condition and are receiving services from the state.

Licensed Child Care Capacity					Currently in Care		
Type of Care	Number of Facilities	Capacity	Vacancies	Total Enrollment	Infants	Preschool	School Age
Family Child Care Homes	3	24	9	18	4	10	4
Centers	2	87	2	85	-	40	45
Part Day Preschool Only	1	20	8	7	-	7	-
Head Start	1	20	-	20	-	20	-
Totals	7	151	19	130	4	77	49

- 17 Trust Line providers are also available to care for children in this community.
- 40 families with 64 children receive child care subsidies in this community.
- 28 families with 40 children are on the eligibility list for child care subsidies.
- Average cost of full time care is \$120 per week for children 0-2, \$110 per week for 2-5 years as well as children 6 and older.
- 13 children 0-3 and 9 children 3-5 years of age are on the eligibility list for Head Start/State Preschool in this community.

Murphys/Douglas Flat/Vallecito

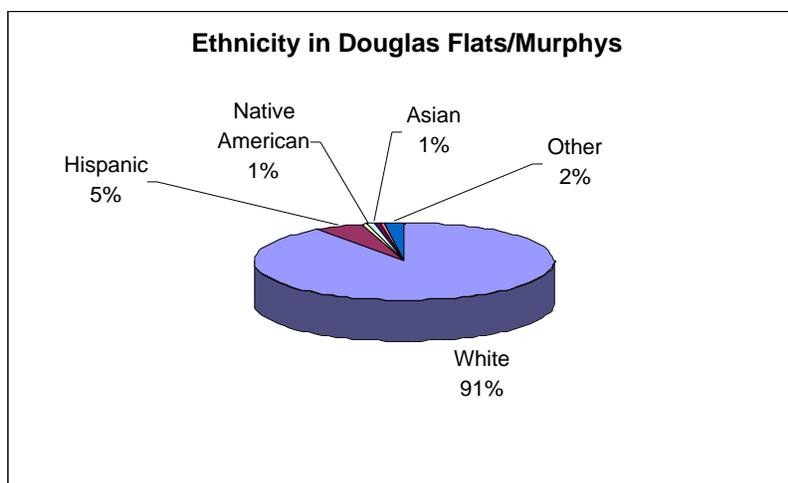
Total Population in 2000: **2,488**

Population 0-14 Years in 2000: **404 (16%)**

❑ Assets in this community include licensed before and after school care for up to 49 children at elementary schools, bus transportation to specific areas, outdoor recreation, youth sports leagues, youth and educational groups.

❑ 81% of families with children 5-17 years old reported speaking English at home, while 19% reported speaking Spanish.

❑ 12 children in the Murphys/Douglas Flat/Vallecito community have been diagnosed with a disabling condition and receive services from the state.



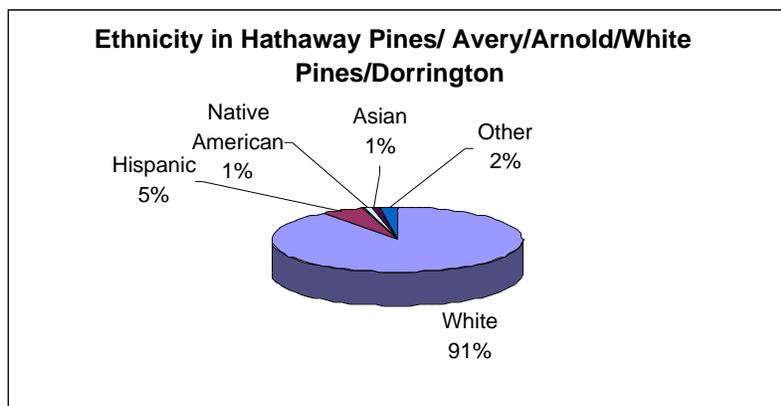
Licensed Child Care Capacity					Currently in Care		
Type of Care	Number of Facilities	Capacity	Vacancies	Total Enrollment	Infants	Preschool	School Age
Family Child Care Homes	4	44	10	32	5	10	17
Centers	2	69	-	77	0	28	49
Part Day Preschool	1	24	2	13	-	13	-
Head Start	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	7	137	12	122	5	51	66

- 4 Trust Line providers also care for children in this community.
- 21 families with 26 children receive child care subsidies in Murphys/Douglas Flat/Vallecito.
- 6 families with 12 children are currently on the eligibility list for child care subsidies.
- Average cost of full time care is \$100 per week for children 0-2, \$93 per week for children 2-5 years, and \$91 per week for children six and older.
- 8 children 0-3 and 8 children 3-5 are on the eligibility list for Head Start/State Preschool in this community.

Arnold/Avery/Hathaway Pines/White Pines/Dorrington

Total Population in 2000: **5,617**

Population 0-14 Years in 2000: **856 (16%)**



- ❑ Among assets of these communities are licensed before and after school care for up to 36 children at elementary schools, recreation facilities and outdoor activities, parent groups, education groups, and health related services.
- ❑ While most families in this community with children ages 5-17 spoke English, almost 1% spoke Spanish and 1% spoke an “other” language.

- ❑ 13 children in these communities have been diagnosed with disabling conditions and receive services from the state.

Licensed Child Care Capacity					Currently in Care		
Type of Care	Number of Facilities	Capacity	Vacancies	Total Enrollment	Infants	Preschool	School Age
Family Child Care Homes	3	36	4	32	8	17	7
Centers	2	94	13	62	8	24	30
Unlicensed Part Day Preschool (Parent Co-op)	1	20	-	20	-	20	-
Head Start	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	6	150	17	95	16	61	37

- One Trust Line provider cares for children on subsidies in these communities.
- 29 families with 43 children receive child care subsidies in these communities.
- 16 families with 29 children are currently on the eligibility list for child care subsidies.
- Average cost of care is \$110 per week for children 0-2, \$93 per week for children 2-5 years, and \$90 per week for children six and older.
- 8 children 0-3 and 7 children 3-5 years are on the Head Start/State Preschool eligibility list in these communities.

Mountain Ranch/Sheep Ranch

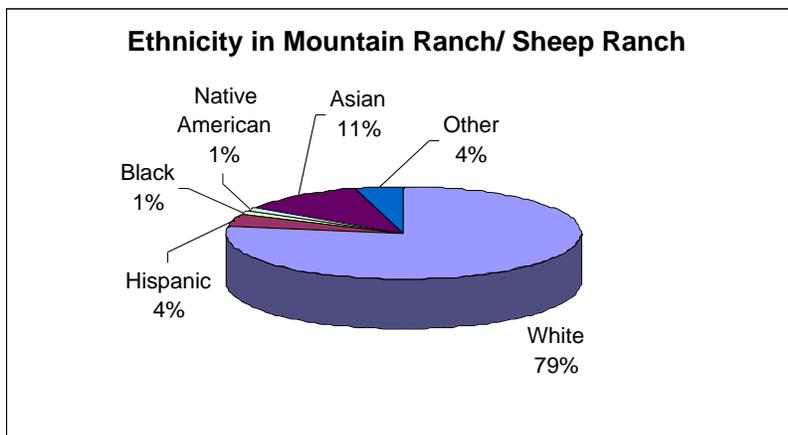
Total Population in 2000: **1,557**

Population 0-14 Years in 2000: **228 (14.6%)**

❑ Assets in these communities include close and supportive families, a caring community, with residents who have time to volunteer, and an afternoon/evening drop-in youth center.

❑ Families with children between 5-17 years reported only speaking English at home.

❑ 27 children in these communities combined with San Andreas have been diagnosed with a disabling condition and receive services from the state.



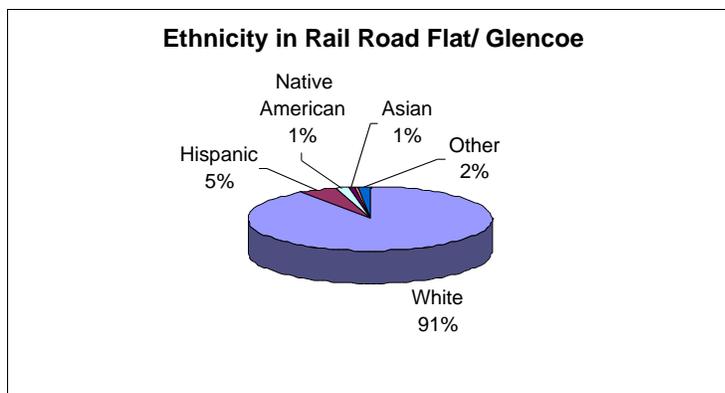
Licensed Child Care Capacity				Currently in Care			
<u>Type of Care</u>	<u>Number of Facilities</u>	<u>Capacity</u>	<u>Vacancies</u>	<u>Total Enrollment</u>	<u>Infants</u>	<u>Preschool</u>	<u>School Age</u>
Family Child Care Homes	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Centers	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Early Head Start	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Head Start	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

- No licensed child care is available in these communities. However, 2 Trust Line providers care for children in this community.
- 9 families with 14 children receive child care subsidies in this community.
- 5 families with 9 children are currently on the eligibility list for child care subsidies.
- 7 children 0-3 and 3 children 3-5 years are on the Head Start/State Preschool eligibility list in this community.

Rail Road Flat/Glencoe

Total Population in 2000: **549**

Population 0-14 Years in 2000: **86 (15.7%)**



- Assets in these communities include a number of youth groups, charitable organizations, education groups and mutual support programs as well as a close medical clinic in West Point and a volunteer medical group.
- Families with children between 5-17 years reported only speaking English at home.
- 12 children in these communities combined with the West Point/Wilseyville area have been

diagnosed with a disabling condition and receive services from the state.

Licensed Child Care Capacity				Currently in Care			
Type of Care	Number of Facilities	Capacity	Vacancies	Total Enrollment	Infants	Preschool	School Age
Family Child Care Homes	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Centers	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rail Road Flat Healthy Start – unlicensed care	1	20	15	5	-	-	5
Head Start	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	1	20	15	5	0	0	5

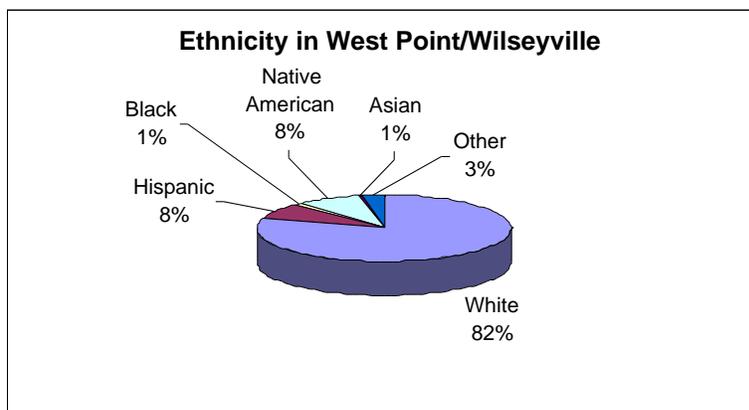
- No licensed child care is available in these communities. However, 1 Trust Line provider cares for children in this community.
- 11 families with 20 children receive child care subsidies in this community.
- 3 families with 10 children are currently on the waiting list for child care subsidies.
- Only part time care is available in this community and the average cost is \$2.00 per hour.
- 10 children 0-3 and 6 children 3-5 years are on the Head Start/State Preschool eligibility list in these communities.

West Point/Wilseyville

Total Population in 2000: **746**

Population 0-14 Years in 2000: **148 (20%)**

- ❑ Assets in these communities include that 31% of retired people in the area currently volunteer their time for a variety of community projects.
- ❑ Of families with children between 5-17 years 86% reported speaking only English at home, while 14% reported speaking Spanish at home.
- ❑ 12 children in these communities combined with the Rail Road Flat/Glencoe area have been diagnosed with a disabling condition and receive services from the state.



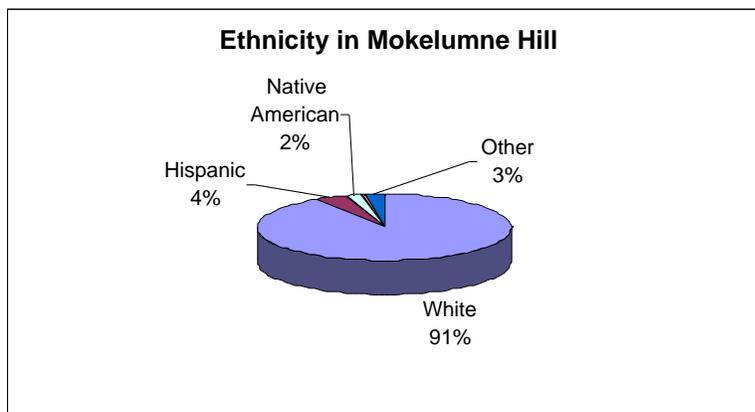
Licensed Child Care Capacity					Currently in Care		
Type of Care	Number of Facilities	Capacity	Vacancies	Total Enrollment	Infants	Preschool	School Age
Family Child Care Homes	1	8	5	3	1	0	2
Centers	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Early Head Start	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Head Start	1	20	0	20	0	20	0
Totals	2	28	5	23	1	20	2

- 5 Trust Line providers additionally care for children in this community.
- 16 families with 20 children receive child care subsidies in this community.
- 3 families with 8 children are currently on the waiting list for child care subsidies.
- Average cost of care is \$110 per week for children of all ages.
- 14 children 0-3 and 10 children 3-5 years are on the Head Start/State Preschool eligibility list in this community.

Mokelumne Hill

Total Population in 2000: **774**

Population 0-14 Years in 2000: **134 (17.3%)**



- Assets in this community include unlicensed before and after school care for up to 32 children at elementary schools, recreation facilities and programs, education, mutual support and charitable groups.
- All families with children between 5-17 years reported speaking only English at home.
- No children in this community have been diagnosed with a disabling

condition and receive services from the state.

Licensed Child Care Capacity				Currently in Care			
Type of Care	Number of Facilities	Capacity	Vacancies	Total Enrollment	Infants	Preschool	School Age
Family Child Care Homes	3	22	8	7	2	3	3
Centers	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unlicensed School-Age Care	1	32	12	20	-	-	20
Head Start	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	4	54	20	27	2	3	23

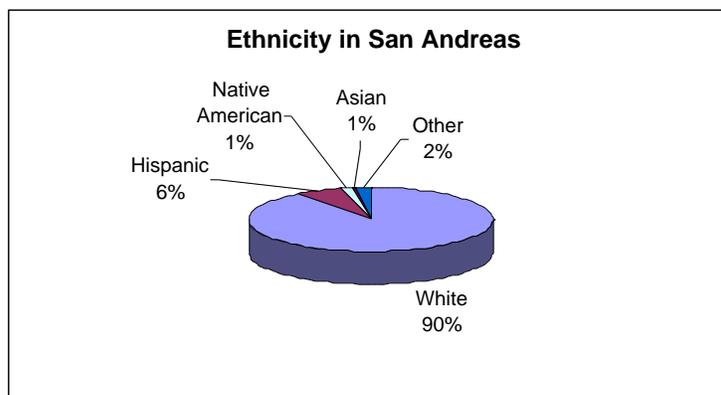
- 3 Trust Line providers additionally care for children in this community.
- 8 families with 11 children receive child care subsidies in Mokelumne Hill.
- 5 families with 10 children are currently on the eligibility list for child care subsidies.
- Average cost of care is \$128 per week for children 0-2, \$125 per week for children 2-5 years, and \$100 per week for children six and older.
- 3 children 0-3 and 7 children 3-5 years are on the Head Start/State Preschool eligibility list in this community.

San Andreas

Total Population in 2000: **2,615**

Population 0-14 Years in 2000: **499 (19%)**

- ❑ Assets in this community include unlicensed before and after school care for up to 64 children at elementary schools, the motivated leaders, volunteers, and agency collaborations.
- ❑ 96% of families with children between 5-17 years reported speaking only English at home, while 4% reported speaking Spanish according to the 2000 Census.



- ❑ 27 children in this community combined with Mountain Ranch/Sheep Ranch have been diagnosed with a disabling condition and receive services from the state.

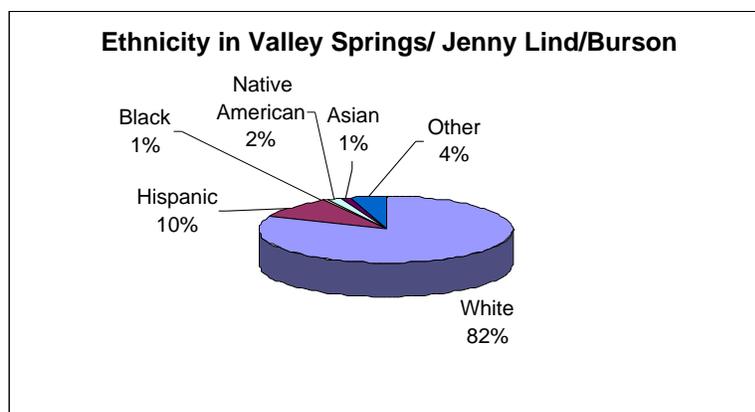
Licensed Child Care Capacity					Currently in Care		
Type of Care	Number of Facilities	Capacity	Vacancies	Total Enrollment	Infants	Preschool	School Age
Family Child Care Homes	5	46	11	21	5	16	0
Unlicensed School Age Care	1	64	7	57	-	-	57
Part Day Preschool Co-op	1	20	3	24	-	24	-
Early Head Start	1	22	-	22	6	16	-
Head Start	3	60	0	60	0	60	0
Totals	11	212	21	184	11	116	57

- 6 Trust Line providers additionally care for children in this community.
- 62 families with 99 children utilize child care subsidies in San Andreas.
- 30 families with 69 children are currently on the waiting list for child care subsidies.
- Average cost of care is \$128 per week for children 0-2, \$106 per week for children 2-5 years, and \$105 per week for children six and older.
- 24 children 0-3 and 15 children 3-5 years are on the Head Start/State Preschool eligibility list in this community.

Valley Springs/Jenny Lind/Burson

Total Population in 2000: **2,560**

Population 0-14 Years in 2000: **572 (22.3%)**



- 45 children in this community combined with Wallace have been diagnosed with a disabling condition and receive services from the state.

- Assets in this community include unlicensed before and after school care for up to 160 children at elementary schools, expanded transportation, multi-agency committees and workgroups, and fast food restaurants providing jobs for youth.
- 99% of families with children between 5-17 years reported speaking only English at home, while 1% reported speaking Spanish.

Licensed Child Care Capacity					Currently in Care		
Type of Care	Number of Facilities	Capacity	Vacancies	Total Enrollment	Infants	Preschool	School Age
Family Child Care Homes	21	192	78	113	20	62	31
Centers	1	20	3	30	-	30	-
Unlicensed School-Age Care	2	160	0	160	-	-	160
Head Start	2	60	0	60	0	60	0
Totals	26	432	81	363	20	152	191

- Vacancies plus total enrollment equal more than capacity due to part time attendance. 16 Trust Line providers additionally care for children in this community.
- 77 families with 125 children utilize child care subsidies in this community.
- 41 families with 78 children are currently on the waiting list for child care subsidies.
- Average cost of care is \$123 per week for children 0-2, \$108 per week for children 2-5 years, and \$104 per week for children six and older.
- 38 children 0-3 and 49 children 3-5 years are on the Head Start/State Preschool eligibility list in this community.

Wallace

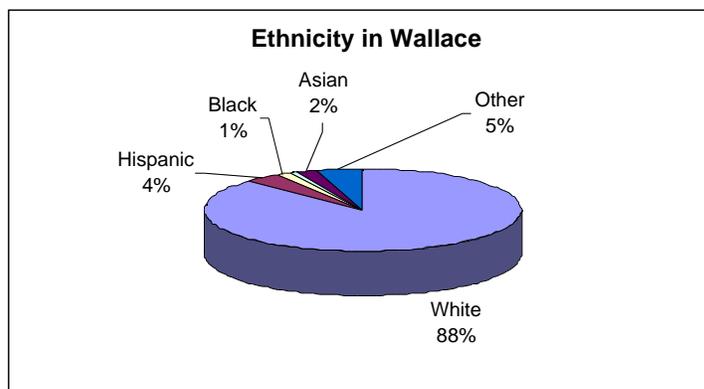
Total Population in 2000: **220**

Population 0-14 Years in 2000: **36 (16.4%)**

Assets in this community include sport leagues, youth and education groups, and charitable groups.

All families with children between 5-17 years reported speaking only English at home according to the 2000 Census.

45 children in this community combined with the Valley Springs/Jenny Lind/Burson area have been diagnosed with a disabling condition and receive services from the state.



Licensed Child Care Capacity					Currently in Care		
Type of Care	Number of Facilities	Capacity	Vacancies	Total Enrollment	Infants	Preschool	School Age
Family Child Care Homes	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Centers	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Early Head Start	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Head Start	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

- No licensed or Trust Line providers care for children in this community.
- No families or children are listed as utilizing child care subsidies in Wallace.
- No families or children are currently on the waiting list for child care subsidies.
- No children are on the Head Start/State Preschool eligibility list in this community.

Appendix A: Resources

1. Calaveras County: A Profile of Poverty, Hunger and Food Assistance – California Food Policy Advocates, June 2002
2. 1990 Census Population Reports: General Population Characteristics of California, the U.S., Tables DP-1, DP-2, DP-3, and DP-4 by county - <http://www.census.gov>
3. The Center for Law and Social Policy: Child Care Funding, The Story Since 1996 The Challenges of Reauthorization, Greenberg, Mezey, & Schumacher - March 2003
4. California Department of Education – Migrant Education Guide – www.dce.ca.gov/iasa/migrant.html
5. Calaveras Child Care Needs Assessment Report, Calaveras Child Care Council, March 1999
6. Calaveras School Readiness Program Application for Funding
7. California Employment Development Division: County Snapshot Calaveras 2002, Labor Force Data for Sub-county Areas, Monthly Labor Force Data for Counties Annual Average 2002 Benchmark – www.calmis.ca.gov
8. The 2002 HHS Poverty Guidelines - <http://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty/poverty.htm>
9. The State of Children and Youth in Calaveras County: An Assessment of Strengths and Challenges Affecting the Well-being of Our Children – Calaveras First Five Commission, January 2003
10. HRC Child Care Resources Reports: Subsidy Area Report, Trust Line/Relative Data, Eligibility List Area Report, Stat Sheet Reports - May 2003
11. Calaveras Office of Education: Head Start/State Preschool Eligibility List
12. Early Care and Education Providers Compensation Summary Report – Calaveras Child Care Council, September 2002
13. 2002 Survey Results for Calaveras Child Care Providers & Families with Children in Child Care – Calaveras Child Care Council, September 2002
14. California Department of Education Educational Demographics: Selected District Level Data for Calaveras Unified School District for year 2001-2002
15. California Children Services Summary by Area, Age, and Disabling Condition, September 2002