



BRION & ASSOCIATES

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

**Child Care Needs Assessment - 2008
with
Projections for 2013 and 2018
Calaveras County**

**Prepared for:
Calaveras Child Care Council**

Prepared by
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in conjunction with
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Calaveras Child Care Council (CCCC) is responsible for providing a forum to identify the child care priorities of families in Calaveras County and to develop policies to meet those needs. When State or Federal legislation does not identify specific target populations or geographic areas to be served in allocating child development expansion funds, The California Department of Education, Child Development Division will use the identified CCCC priorities for the purpose of allocating new State and Federal funds within each County in the State. The priorities shall be identified in a manner that ensures that all child care needs within the county area are met to the greatest extent possible. To accomplish this the CCCC is responsible for a number of tasks, one of which is to conduct an assessment of child care needs, called the “Needs Assessment”, at least once every five years. The Needs Assessment shall meet the requirements as specified in Education Code, Section 8499.5(b). This study represents the Needs Assessment in Calaveras County for 2008, and is an update from the 2003 study.

Brion & Associates has been retained by the CCCC to prepare the Needs Assessment update and possesses a variety and depth of experience working in the planning, urban economics and child care fields. This study represents an expansion from prior studies, in that a comprehensive forecast of future child care demand is also presented by Planning Area (PA), along with the current assessment of child care supply and demand as of 2008. Numerous other data has been collected and analyzed for this effort, as required by the State. The Needs Assessment – 2008 includes the following information:

- Data on children and families as of 2000, including language spoken, income and labor force participation rates
- Projections of population, employment, and households for 2008, 2013, and 2018
- Projections of shifts in demographic patterns and ethnicity
- Data on child care supply and demand at 2008, 2013, and 2018
- Data on special populations including data on Head Start, waiting lists for child care, child protective services, special needs and child care costs, etc.
- Discussions of the economic benefits of early childhood education, and the economic impacts of the child care industry in Calaveras County

Child Care Supply and Demand and Overall Growth

- ❖ Children as a percent of total population has significantly decreased, from 14.8% in 2000 to 10.5% in 2008, according to a DOF demographic forecast. This has implications for child care planning, as well as school planning. Over the next 10 years, children as a percent of population will increase to only 12.3%.
- ❖ Some planning areas have much higher or lower concentrations of children compared to the rest of the County. For instance, in PA #9 Valley Springs/Jenny

- Lind, this factor is 13.5% in 2008 or close to the 2000 figure. PA #5 Mountain - Sheep Ranch is 7.2%. Most planning areas in 2008 range from 9-10%.
- ❖ Growth in population will be tempered in the near term due to the housing slow down and mortgage crisis. There is a large supply of housing on the market due to newly constructed and unsold properties as well as recent foreclosures. Stockton is among the hardest hit areas in the Country and the housing situation in Stockton will spill over into surrounding communities. We have adjusted the County's population and employment forecast for the next 5 years by half or 50% less than growth projected by County transportation staff.
 - ❖ The majority of housing growth is expect in PA #1 Copperopolis, PA #9 Valley Springs Jenny Lind, PA #3 Murphys – Douglas Flats, and PA #6 Rail Road Flat. PA #1 and #9 account for 82% of the expected housing and population growth.
 - ❖ The County is expected to add about 8,700 new residents by 2018, 4,200 new homes, and about 1,600 new jobs. The County will add about 2,000 new children 0 to 12 by 2018.
 - ❖ The County currently has about 1,331 child care spaces, of which half are located in PA #8 San Andreas and PA #9 Valley Springs/Jenny Lind.
 - ❖ Currently, the County has a slight surplus of preschool spaces, and a shortage of infant and school age spaces. PA #8 and PA #9 have a surplus of spaces relative to demand from local residents; this is most likely due to the higher employment concentration in these two areas and the fact that some of the Head Start programs are located near the County offices in Angels Camp.
 - ❖ PA #1 and #4 have the largest estimated shortages of child care space; Copperopolis with a shortage of 160 spaces and Hathaway with a shortage of 197 spaces.
 - ❖ Over the next ten years, there will be demand for an additional 700 child care spaces, approximately. Of these; about 10% are infants, 52% preschool and the remainder school age spaces. The majority of this demand is located in PA #1 and #9.
 - ❖ The County has a large supply of small family child care home providers combined with public sector providers such as the local school districts and Head Start programs. There are very few private child care centers due to the rural nature of the county and the requisite rural development patterns.
 - ❖ Child care fees range from a low of about \$90 per week for school age care to over \$200 per week for infant care. The costs vary slightly between types of facilities/providers but the variations in costs are not significant.

- ❖ The County will experience some shifts in the ethnicity and race of children from 2008 to 2018, and over this period, whites as a percent of total population will decline from about 84% to 79% and Hispanics will increase to about 15%. All other ethnic groups will remain the same with the exception of a slight increase in multi-racial children.
- ❖ As the ethnic breakdown of children shifts more towards Hispanic in the county, the number of children speaking Spanish as their first language will shift as well and this will have implications for school planning and child care services.
- ❖ The County has lower than average household and family incomes than statewide averages but is far from the lowest in the State. Family income with two parents is much higher than single parent families, as would be expected. The incomes of households with children are much lower than those without children.
- ❖ There are a number of retiree households in the county, with no children. The labor force participation rates vary quite a bit by planning area, due to the presence of children and the age of the population.

Special Populations and Special Needs

In general, data on special populations and special needs children is not available at the community level. In some cases the data is not broken down by the age groups covered by the Needs Assessment. To the greatest extent possible, data is provided in as much detail as was made available by the representative agencies and county departments.

- ❖ About 8% of children 0 to 12 appear to have some type of special needs. Typically about 10% of the child population will have some type of special needs, which range from minor learning disabilities to major physical disabilities. The data for Calaveras County is consistent with this trend. We do not have data on children 0 to 3 with special needs except that which the Office of Education has provided. There may be additional younger children with special needs.
- ❖ Over the last two years, about 737 reports were made to Child Protective Services on average, involving a little over 1,000 children 0 to 18. Of these, about 82% are 0-13 on average. On average, over the last two years, about 48 families were involved in family maintenance support services, which provide services to keep children with their primary family or care givers.
- ❖ Overall about 3% of children are receiving subsidized care and another 3% are waiting for subsidized care.

- ❖ According to the CEL, an estimated 163 children receive some form of child care subsidy in the County and an additional 166 children are waiting for subsidized child care, as of 2008. The majority of the children waiting for subsidized care are located in PA#9 Valley Springs – Jenny Lind and about four other planning areas, including PA#2, 3, 4, and 5, each of which has about 20 children waiting for subsidized care. Given that Valley Springs – Jenny Lind is also the location of estimated surplus supply of child care spaces, suggests that cost is a key factor in whether available child care is used by families.
- ❖ The average wait time for subsidized child care varies by planning area quite a bit, PA #1, 2, 6, and 8 having longer wait times than the average overall in the county. The average wait time ranges from 59 to 81 days, or 2 to 2.5 months, depending on the age of the child. Compared to other counties, these wait times are not terribly long; but for a family needing subsidized care, this length of time can be the difference between taking a job and not being able to take a job.
- ❖ There are 180 children in Head Start programs and an additional 211 in Home Based Head Start programs. It is assumed that some of the children on the CEL reported as receiving subsidized care are the same children in the Head Start programs at centers. PA #8 and #9 have 70% of the Head Start child care spaces in the County. PA #1, 2, and 3 have some Head Start children and PA #4, 5, 6, 7, and 10 have no Head Start spaces. It is assumed these areas have more Home Base spaces given their more rural character.

Recommendations

Growth and Development

1. The LPC should work with the public decision makers, the planning department and local developers to ensure that child care is considered during the planning and entitlement process.

Data Collection

2. The variety of public agencies and departments that serve children and collect data on the well being of children should consider development and tracking systems that key each child by zip code and age so that in the future the data can be compared more readily in the next Needs Assessment.

Increasing Supply of Large FCCHs

3. The county has a large supply of small family child care home providers. It may be possible to create a program to assist those small providers in becoming large family child care providers where the demand exists for a larger supply of child care.

Leveraging Entitlement Process

- Given the amount of development that is likely to occur in the County, combined with the slow down in the housing market, new development is not expected to be significant in the short term. Mechanisms such as child care impact fees would not be cost effective given the smaller size of average projects and the small amount of growth. However, development agreements would be a useful mechanism for addressing child care issues, especially if development agreements are already being negotiated for projects.

Graphic Summary of Data and Results of Study

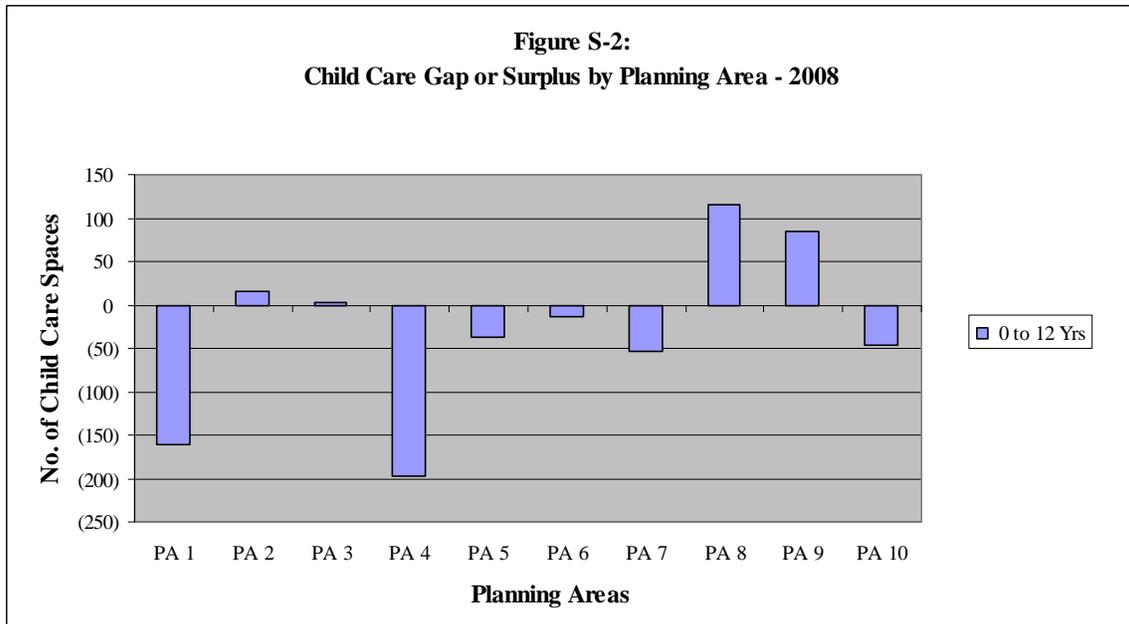
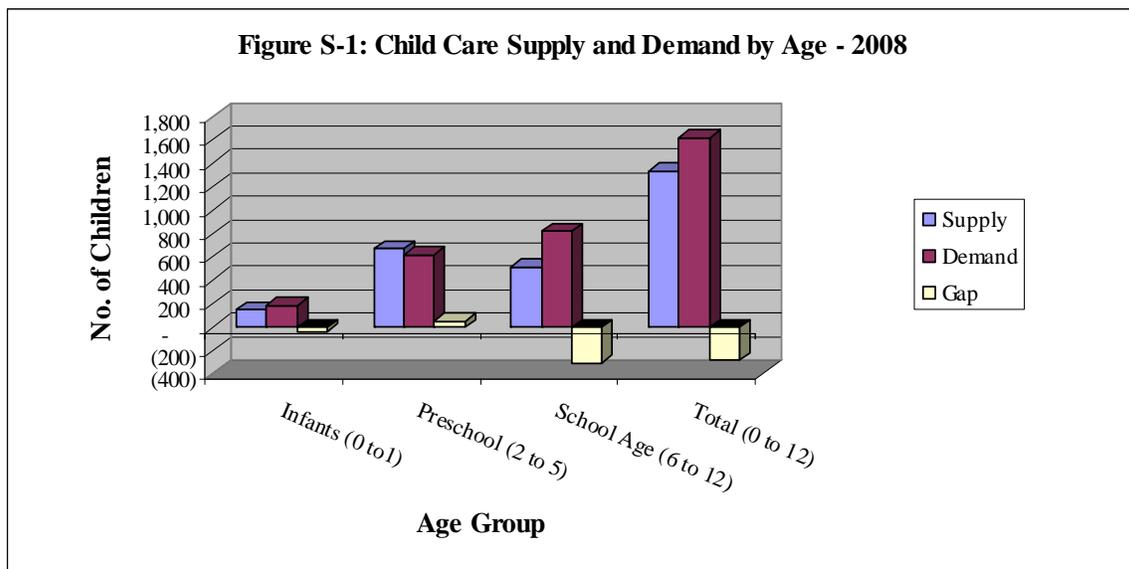


Figure S-3: Child Care Providers by Type - 2008

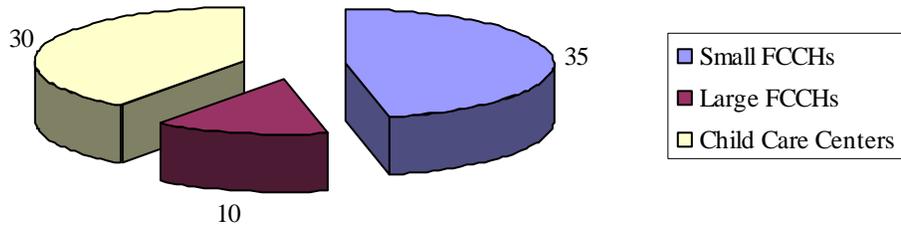


Figure S-4: Child Care Spaces by Provider Type - 2008

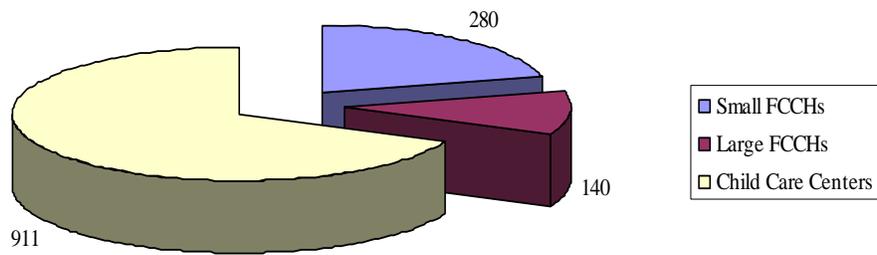
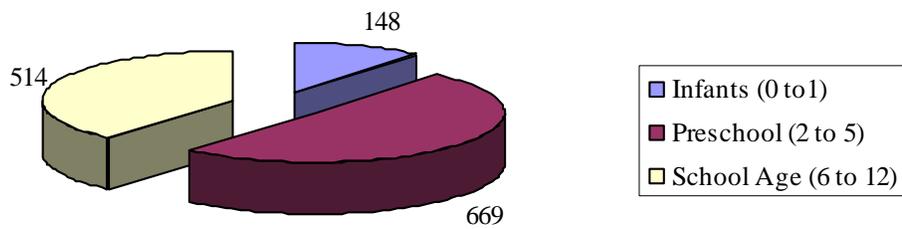


Figure S-5: Child Care Spaces by Age - 2008



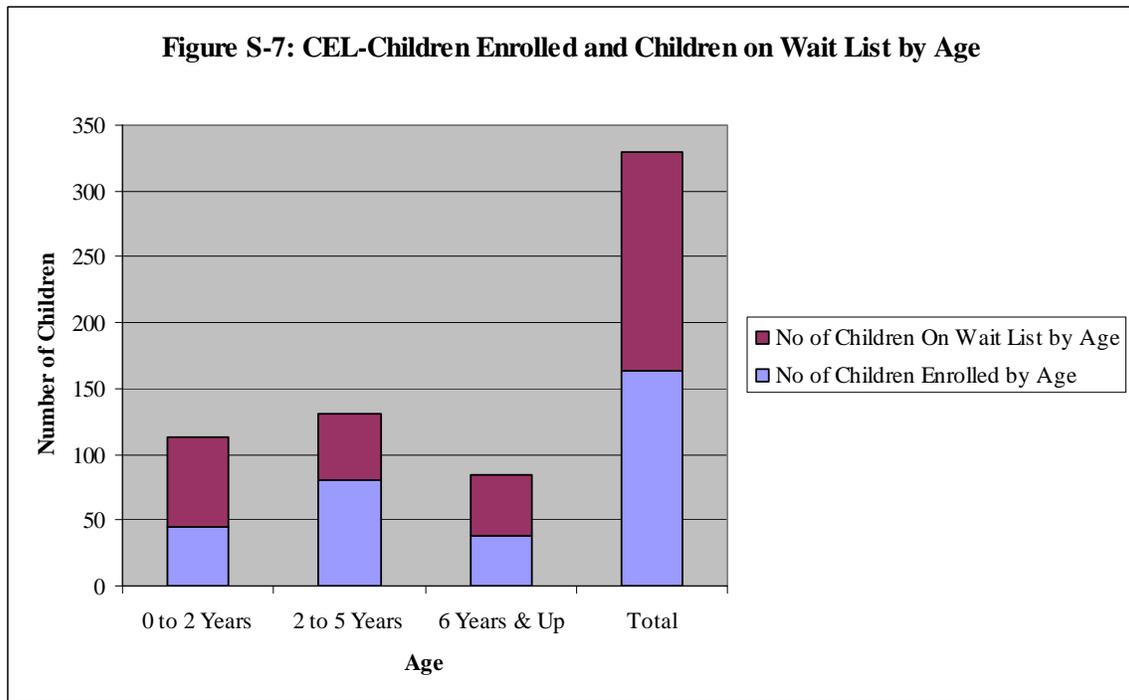
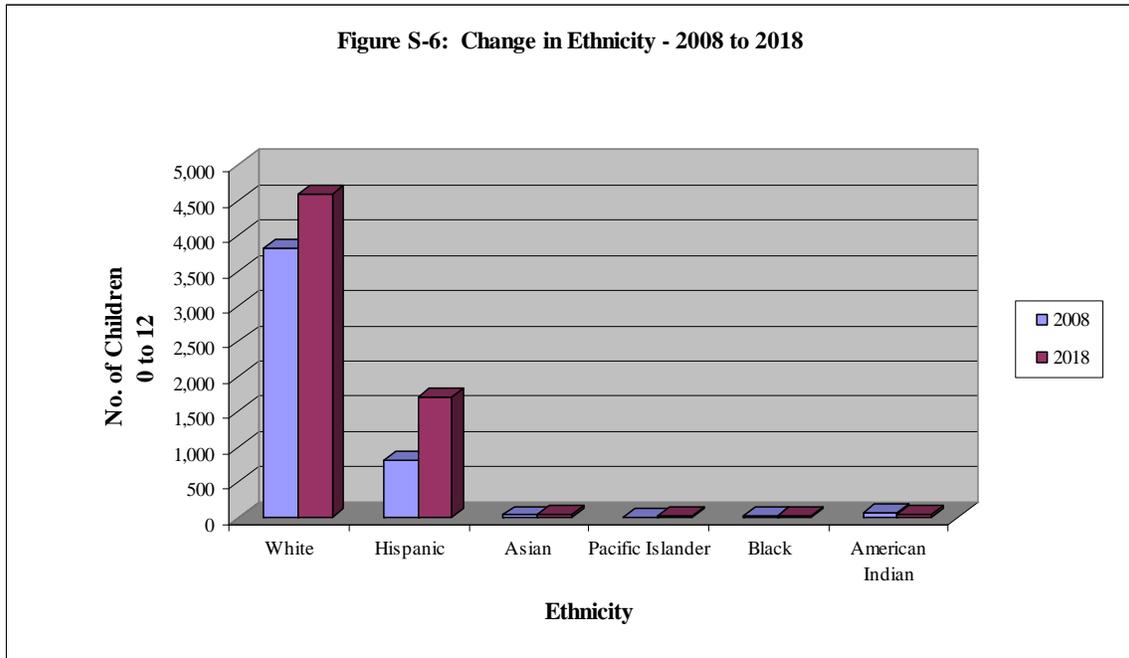


Figure S-8: Children by Age in Head Start - 2008

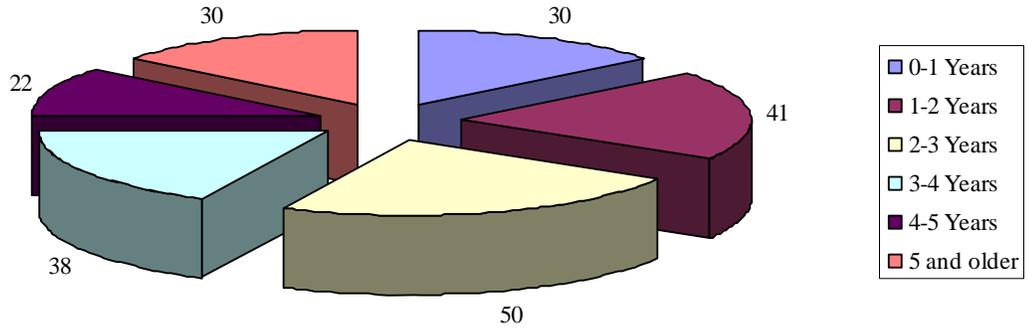


Figure S-9: Number of Children by Type of Abuse - 2007

