

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

Early Care and Education Needs Assessment

Santa Cruz County
Child Care Planning Council

JUNE 2016 -2021



Child Focused - Data Driven




REPORT PRODUCED BY: 

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Foreword

The Santa Cruz County Office of Education, First 5 Santa Cruz County and Encompass Community Services/Head Start partnered to create this needs assessment for the Child Care Planning Council because we share several core beliefs. One common value is that learning begins in infancy and that every experience in the first five years of life helps to shape a child's health, intellect, and emotions.

Our programs are driven by decades of brain research that underscores the critical importance of a child's first five years. When we use the words “child care,” “early care” or “early education,” we are really talking about all of a child's earliest environments and experiences—the learning that begins at birth and continues, moment by moment, day by day. Because a young child's brain develops 700 new learning pathways every second, every environment is a classroom, every experience a teacher.

As more parents are driven into the work force due to the high cost of living in Santa Cruz County, a growing number of our young children are already spending their days in care outside their own home. This means that nurturing young children is increasingly becoming a community venture. It's a partnership between families, child care providers, centers, pre-schools, neighbors, and friends. We believe that providing affordable early care is not just about offering parents a place for their child to be while they work or go to school but about treasuring a child's earliest moments of learning. It's about engaging and building trust, self-esteem and healthy behaviors that last a lifetime.

We hope you'll read this report with a sense of urgency, as well as with a commitment and responsibility to more fully support early care and education for the most vulnerable members of our community. Every statistic presented in this needs assessment represents a real child, a real family—each with unique dreams, challenges and competencies. We regard every unmet need pointed out by this assessment as a missed opportunity to truly care for, engage, inspire and build on a working family's best hopes for their thinking, feeling and growing child.

We jointly submit this report for a greater impression,

Carole Mulford
Santa Cruz County Office of
Education

David Brody
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Executive Summary & Highlights

As the extremely high cost of living in Santa Cruz County (1 1/2 times the U.S. average) continues to drive both parents into the work force, demand for child care continues to outpace supply, leaving large segments of our county's working parents unable to find affordable care. In fact, nearly half of Santa Cruz County children (46%) qualify for a child care subsidy, based on family income (\$46,000 or less, annually).

Economic Snapshot

- *Santa Cruz County's* cost of living index is nearly **1 ½ times** the U.S. average. (147.9, as compared to the U.S. average of 100).
- Average child care costs in the county are higher than the statewide average. The average annual cost of enrolling a child in a licensed child care center in 2015 was \$15,045 for infants and toddlers, and \$10,590 for preschool age children. ***Each of these averages was nearly \$2,000 more per year than the corresponding statewide averages.***
- **1 in 5 children in Santa Cruz County live below the poverty line.** (*Head Start, 2014*) Eighteen percent of preschool age children in the county live below the federal poverty level. **(\$23,850 for a family of 4)**
- **Forty-five percent of children are estimated to live in households earning \$46,000** or less annually (i.e., 70% of state median income). These children may qualify for a child care subsidy yet still not be served due to a lack of available spaces.

Population

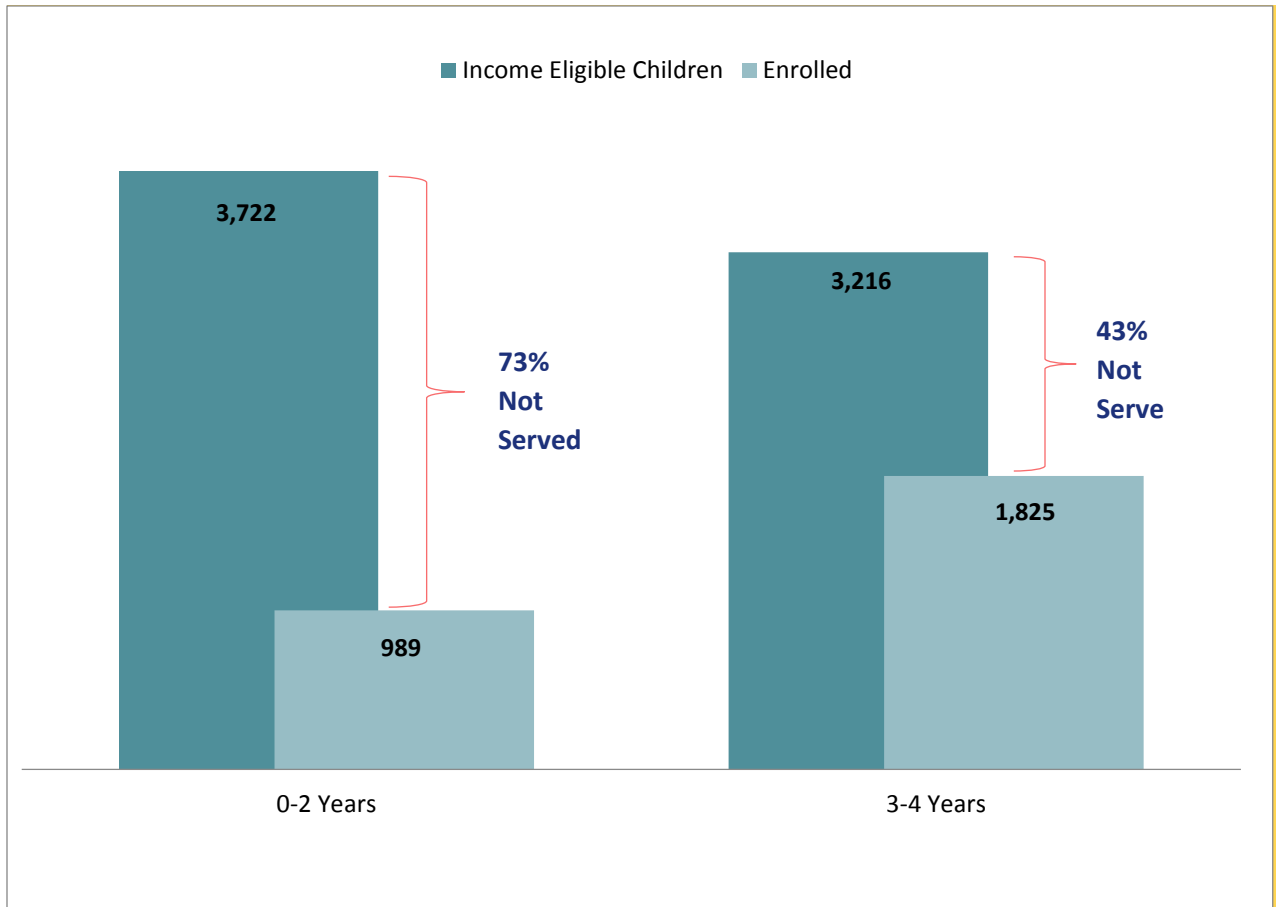
In 2014, there were an estimated **38,861 children** ages 12 and under in Santa Cruz County. Of these...

- 8,850 children were 0-2 years old (23%).
- 6,099 children were 3-4 years old (16%).
- 23,912 children were 5-12 years old (62%).

Capacity and Unmet Need

- Among working families in 2014-15, there were 9,963 children under age six, but only 6,977 child care spaces available – a **net shortfall of 30 percent**. For infants (ages 0-2), the shortfall was **60 percent**.
- In 2014-15, the number of children ages 0-5 enrolled in *subsidized* child care centers, preschools, and family child care homes, plus 5-12 year olds in *subsidized* after-school programs in 2015-16, was **11,050** children.
- **Unmet Need for Full-Time Care:** Overall, an estimated 46 percent of qualified children in need of full-time subsidized care were not served.
- **Unmet Need for All Types:** Overall, an estimated 37 percent of low-income children ages 0-12 were not provided with subsidized care.
 - Among 0-2 year olds, **73 percent were unserved** in subsidized care (see chart, following page).
 - Among 3-4 year olds, **43 percent were unserved** in subsidized care (see chart, following page).

LOW-INCOME CHILDREN UNDER AGE 5 ENROLLED IN SUBSIDIZED CHILD CARE (2014-2015)



Introduction

The purpose of the **Santa Cruz County Local Child Care Planning Council** (LPC) is to serve as a forum to address the early education and child care needs of all families and all child care programs in Santa Cruz County. The Council operates under the authority of the County Board of Supervisors and County Superintendent of Schools, and is funded by the California Department of Education, Early Education Services Division (EESD).

The LPC's primary responsibilities are to: 1) recommend priorities for child care funding from the EESD when appropriate and requested; and 2) advise the County Board of Supervisors and County Superintendent of Schools on child care program and policy issues.



As mandated by the CDE, each Local Planning Council across the state is required to conduct an assessment of child care needs at least once every five years, focused primarily on children from birth to age 12. Previous assessments in Santa Cruz County were conducted in 1999, 2006 and 2011. In 2016, the Santa Cruz County Office of Education partnered with First 5 Santa Cruz County, Encompass Community Services/Head Start and Applied Survey Research to conduct this 2016 Early Care and Education Needs Assessment.

This assessment largely follows the list of key data fields and indicators detailed in the LPC guidelines and template created by the California Child Care Coordinators Association. It focuses on these areas: a demographic profile, income eligibility rates for subsidized child care, licensed child care capacity, cost of care and current child care enrollment counts. In cases where the data were not available, the closest approximation to those indicators is provided. In addition to the indicators specified by the template and instructions, the needs assessment includes supplementary indicators that the Council believes are relevant to addressing the needs of children and families across the county.



One of the primary data sources of this needs assessment is a website created by American Institutes of Research (AIR) called the "Early Learning Needs Assessment Tool."¹ This site contains data relevant to LPCs through 2014, including the California Child Care Resource and Referral Network, California Department of Education, California Department of Public Health, the American Community Survey PUMS data, and an AIR-administered survey of Head Start programs.

¹ AIR Early Learning Needs Assessment Tool: <http://www.elneedsassessment.org>

Demographics & Other Child Background Information

This section describes the demographics of the childhood population by age, race/ethnicity, language, special needs status, service in Child Protective Services and foster care.

The last year that single year age counts were reported in the US Census was 2010. In the most recent U.S. Census American Community Survey (2014), counts of young children were only estimated for three subgroups: Under 5, 5-9 years, and 10-14 years. Thus, as Figure 1 shows, the overall 0-14 estimated population in Santa Cruz County changed very little from the overall 2010 population. To estimate the single age populations for 2014, each 2010 single age population count was adjusted by a factor proportional to the change within each subgroup from 2010 to 2014.

Fig. 1. NUMBER OF CHILDREN IN THE COUNTY, BY AGE

Age	2010 (US Census)	2014 (US Census)	2014 (Adjusted Estimates)
<1	2,821	-	2,803
1	3,029	-	3,010
2	3,057	-	3,037
0-2 years*	8,907	-	8,850
3	3,183	-	3,163
4	2,955	-	2,936
3-4 years*	6,138	-	6,099
Under 5	15,045	14,949	14,949
5	2,821	-	2,894
6	3,090	-	3,009
7	2,942	-	2,865
8	3,016	-	2,937
9	3,051	-	2,971
5-9 years	15,071	14,677	14,677
10	2,998	-	3,027
11	3,020	-	3,049
12	3,130	-	3,160
5-12 years*	24,219	-	23,912
0-12 years	39,264	-	38,861
13	3,049	-	3,078
14	3,150	-	3,180
10-14 years	15,347	15,493	15,493
Total 0-14 years	45,463	45,119	45,119

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates.

Note: Single year estimates are not available after 2010. This chart is in reference to Section 1 of the LPC template.

*These are the age sub-groups commonly used to classify children throughout this assessment: 0-2 as infants/toddlers, 3-4 as preschool age, 5-12 as school age children.

Technical Note: Throughout this report, most of the totals are disaggregated by age group, such as “0-2 years,” “3-4 years,” and “5-12 years.” “0-2 years” includes children from birth to 35 months, “3-4 years” includes children from 36 to 59 months of age, and “5-12 years” includes children from 60 to 155 months.

Figure 2 lists the percentage of K-12th grade children in the county by race/ethnicity during the 2015-16 academic year.

Fig. 2. K-12 ENROLLMENT PERCENTAGES BY RACE/ETHNICITY (2015-16)

Race/Ethnicity	K-12 Children
Hispanic or Latino	56%
White	36%
Asian	2%
Filipino	1%
African American	1%
Two or More Races	3%
Not Reported	1%
American Indian or Alaska Native	<1%
Pacific Islander	<1%

Source: CDE Dataquest (<http://dq.cde.ca.gov/dataquest/dataquest.asp>)

Note: "Hispanic or Latino" includes children who may be of any race. Other categories do not include children that are "Hispanic or Latino." This chart is in reference to Section 2 of the LPC template.

Figure 3 lists the percentage of K-12th grade English Learners by their primary language during the 2015-16 academic year.

Fig. 3. NUMBER OF ENGLISH LEARNERS, BY LANGUAGE (2015-16)

Language	In K-6 th Grade	Percent of Eng. Learners	In 7 th -12 th Grade	Percent of Eng. Learners
Spanish	7,844	88%	2,901	95%
Mixteco	262	3%	77	2%
Other non-English languages	44	<1%	-	<1%
Arabic	33	<1%	12	<1%
Filipino (Pilipino or Tagalog)	17	<1%	16	<1%
Mandarin (Putonghua)	19	<1%	-	<1%
Cantonese	11	<1%	-	<1%
German	10	<1%	-	<1%
Korean	10	<1%	-	<1%
Japanese	-	<1%	-	<1%
Total English Learners	8,330	37.6% of all K-6 th graders	3,067	16.9% of all 7-12 th graders

Source: CDE Dataquest (<http://dq.cde.ca.gov/dataquest/dataquest.asp>)

Note: Languages with fewer than 10 students are not shown. Chart is in reference to Section 3 of the LPC template.

SPECIAL NEEDS, CPS, HOMELESS AND FOSTER CARE CHILDREN

Children who are being served by the county’s Child Protective Services division, who are in the foster care system, who are homeless, or who have been diagnosed with special needs receive priority access to child care services. The number of children who qualified for child care under these conditions are provided below.

During the 2015-16 school year, 3,044 children were classified as having special needs, and assigned Individual Educational Plans (IEPs) or Individualized Family Service Plans (IFSPs). IFSPs are designed for children under 3 with needs, and IEPs are for children 3 years and older with needs.

Fig. 4. SPECIAL NEEDS STATUS (2015-16)

	0-2 Years (IFSP)	3-4 Years (IEP)	5-12 Years (IEP)	Total
IFSPs or IEPs	88	348	2,798	3,234
Pct. of Children with IEP/IFSP	1%	5%	8%	8%

Sources: Santa Cruz County Office of Education, SELPA Office; Pajaro Valley Unified School District, SELPA/Special Services.

Note: Section 4 of the LPC template.

Note: These percentages are based on total number of children in the county 38,861.

Child Protective Services provides protection for children who are at risk of, or are experiencing physical, sexual, or emotional abuse, or emotional or physical neglect. According to the Santa Cruz County Child Welfare Department, **1,944 (on average 150 per month)** children had received Child Protective Services.

Fig. 5. CHILDREN SERVED BY CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES IN 2015 (CPS)

	0-2 Years	3-4 Years	5-12 Years	Total
Number in CPS System	441	416	1,087	1,944

Source: Santa Cruz Child Welfare Department/CPS.

Children in foster care have unique needs for child care services. Overall there were at least 83 children under age six in foster care in Santa Cruz County as of January 2016.

Fig. 6. CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE (2016)

	0-2 years	3-5 years	6-10 years	11-15 years	Total
Number in Foster Care (Jan. 2016)	52	31	50	48	181

Source: UC Berkeley Center for Social Sciences Research, California Child Welfare Indicators Project (CCWIP), <http://cssr.berkeley.edu/CWSCMSReports/cssrFavorites/>

Note: Counts reflect point-in-time counts as of January 1 each year.

Children who are considered homeless receive priority access to child care. According to the most recent Homeless Survey completed by all Santa Cruz County local educational agencies (LEAs) and preschools, **2,229** children ages 0-12 were homeless during the 2014-15 school year.

Fig. 7. CHILDREN WHO ARE HOMELESS (2014-15)

Homeless Children in Santa Cruz County by Age	
Infant/Toddlers – 0-2 yrs.	4
Preschoolers – Kindergarten 3-5 yrs.	443
First Graders – 6 yrs.	243
Second Graders – 7 yrs.	265
Third Graders – 8 yrs.	306
Fourth Graders – 9 yrs.	275
Fifth Graders – 10 yrs.	245
Sixth Graders – 11 yrs.	222
Seventh Graders – 12 yrs.	226
Total	2229

Source: Santa Cruz County Office of Education (COE), Students in Transition Program, 2014-15.



Demand for Child Care by Income Eligibility & Need

This section estimates the demand for child care services for children from birth to age 12. It includes the total number of children who:

- Need child care because all parents are working or in school during the day, and no adult is at home to take care of them (regardless of income),
- Are eligible for at least *part-day* subsidized care based on their family income,
- Are eligible for *full-day* subsidized child care based on both income and need (e.g., parents are working or in school, or no one can provide child care at home), and
- Are in families below the poverty level, and thus eligible for Head Start.



Fig. 8. CHILDREN ELIGIBLE FOR STATE CHILD CARE & DEV. SERVICES (2014)

	0-2 Years	3-4 Years	5-12 Years	0-12 Years
Total Children in the County...	8,850	6,099	23,912	38,861
...In Working Families*	5,155	3,457	15,035	23,647
Percentage of Age Group	58%	57%	63%	61%
...In Low-Income Families**	3,722	3,216	10,526	17,464
Percentage of Age Group	42%	53%	44%	45%
...In Low-Income, Working Families***	1,785	1,493	4,547	7,825
Percentage of Age Group	20%	24%	19%	20%
...In families below the federal poverty level****	1,575	1,086	3,945	6,606
Percentage of Age Group	18%	18%	16%	17%

*All parents in the family are working. Source: AIR Early Learning Needs Assessment Tool

** Income under 70% of state median. This is the requirement for most subsidized *part-time* child care. Source: AIR Early Learning Needs Assessment Tool

***Income under 70% of state median and all parents working or in school. This is the requirement for most *full-day* subsidized child care. Source: AIR Early Learning Needs Assessment Tool

****Includes families with working/in-school and non-working/not-in-school parents. Source: US Census, 2010-2014 American Community Survey (5 year estimates), percentage of children living in families below the poverty level.

Child Care Capacity (0-5 Years)

According to the California Child Care Resource & Referral Network, there were **6,977** spaces available for children ages 0-5 across all licensed child care centers and family child care homes in 2014. These totals are only available by age group for children ages 0-1 and 2-5, which are slightly different from the groupings used throughout most of this report.

Fig. 9. NUMBER OF SPACES IN CHILD CARE CENTERS AND HOMES (2014)

	0-1 Years	2-5 Years	0-5 Years
Licensed Child Care Centers	309	3,486	3,795
Licensed Family Child Care Homes	861	2,321	3,182
Total	1,170	5,807	6,977

Source: California Child Care Resource & Referral Network, California Child Care Portfolio (Nov. 2015). The Portfolio Report provided family child care homes spaces as a total, not by age. The age-specific totals for FCCH listed in the table above are estimated based on the age distribution of FCCH's for the current year.

Note: Based on Section 13 of the LPC template. This table does not include the number of spaces in licensed and unlicensed centers and after-school programs for school-aged children, ages 6-12. There are different sources for these data which cannot be reconciled into an unduplicated total count.

Resource and Referral Network Portfolio: http://www.rrnetwork.org/california_child_care_portfolio/

Early Care and Preschool Quality

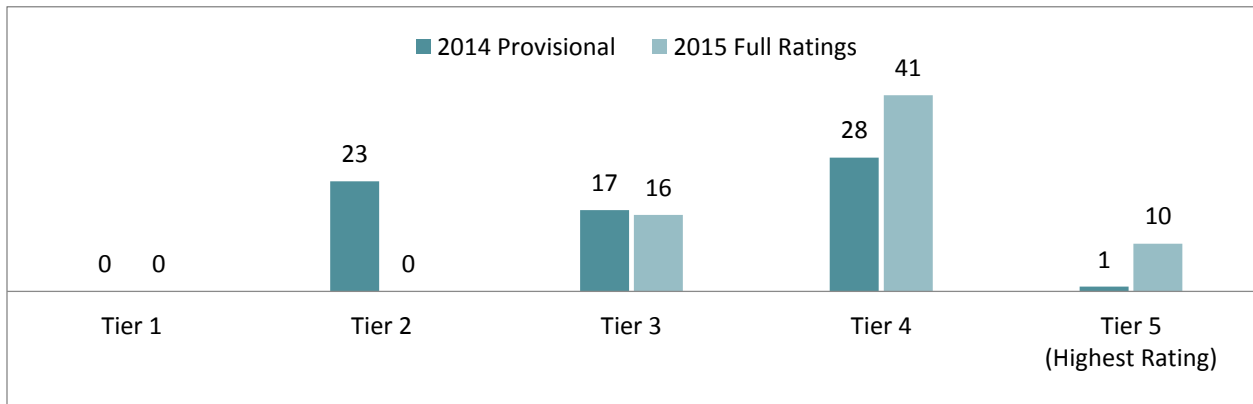


Building on a long-standing commitment to quality and collaboration amongst early care and education stakeholders in Santa Cruz County, First 5 Santa Cruz County launched the Quality Early Learning Initiative (QELI) consortium in 2012. Developed in collaboration with local partners, the initiative was designed to improve the quality of early learning programs in the county through the implementation of a local Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS).

A QRIS helps to improve early care and education programs by measuring current quality levels against research-based standards. In California, these standards focus on what research shows are the key components of quality early care and education, including learning environments, teacher-child ratios, adult-child interactions, staff qualifications, as well as other related criteria. QRIS can assist early learning educators with increased training to expand their skills in working with young children; provide coaching to help programs create learning environments that nurture the emotional, social, language and cognitive development of every child; and provide families information to help them understand and choose quality programs.

Over the course of the initiative the percentage of programs rated in the top two quality tiers (achieving or exceeding common quality standards defined by the QRIS) increased from 42 percent to 76 percent. In addition, 100 percent of all publicly-funded sites met this high quality standard.

Fig. 10. RATINGS OF QRIS SITES IN SANTA CRUZ COUNTY (2014-2015)



Source: First 5 Santa Cruz County

Note: 2014 ratings were considered “Provisional” rather than “Full” since no sites had yet received both an independent Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS) and Environmental Rating Scale (ERS) assessment as of December 2014.

N=69 sites in 2014. N=67 sites in 2015.

Drawing on resources from First 5 California, the California Department of Education and others, the QELI consortium will continue to expand the initiative to additional sites in Santa Cruz County in the coming years as a way to foster ongoing quality improvement that is proven to help children thrive.

Cost of Care

WEEKLY COST OF CARE

Below are the average weekly costs of care for full-time and part-time licensed child care centers and family child care homes in Santa Cruz County.

Fig. 11. WEEKLY MARKET RATES AT CHILD CARE CENTERS AND FAMILY CHILD CARE HOMES (2015)

		0-1 year	2-5 years	6+ years (school age)
Child Care Centers	Full-Time Average	\$293.10	\$221.50	\$107.25
	Part-Time Average	\$206.00	\$171.33	\$92.31
Family Child Care Homes	Full-Time Average	\$217.10	\$198.55	\$185.36
	Part-Time Average	\$162.52	\$161.61	\$124.55

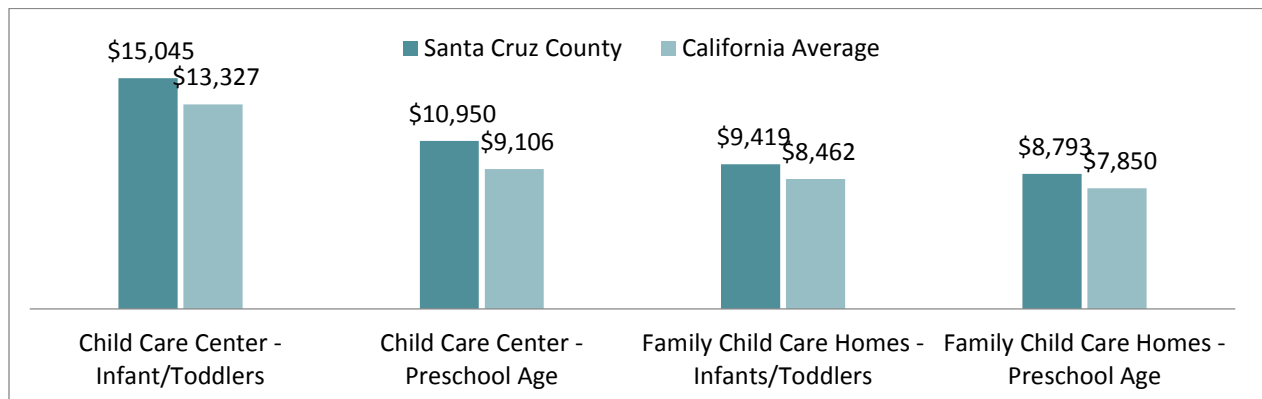
Source: Child Development Resource Center (CDRC) 2016.

Note: Age categories are those used by CDE and CDRC.

ANNUAL COST OF CHILD CARE

In addition to the estimated weekly costs of child care, annual costs estimates are also published in the California Child Care Resource & Referral Network’s *California Child Care Portfolio*.² As indicated in Figure 12, the average annual cost of child care in Santa Cruz County exceeds the statewide average for both child care centers and family child care homes. The largest percentage disparity in cost exists for child care centers serving preschool age children, where the countywide average cost is 20 percent higher than the state average—or about \$1,800 more per year.

Fig. 12. AVERAGE ANNUAL COST OF CHILD CARE IN SANTA CRUZ COUNTY AND STATEWIDE (2015)



Source: California Child Care Resource & Referral Network, California Child Care Portfolio (Nov. 2015); Cost data are from the Child Care Regional Market Rate Survey, 2014. <http://www.kidsdata.org/topic/1849/child-care-cost-age/facility/table#fmt=2358&loc=370&tf=79&ch=984,985,222,223&sortColumnId=0&sortType=asc>.

² http://www.rrnetwork.org/california_child_care_portfolio

Child Care Enrollment

This section provides the total number of children enrolled in various subsidized child care and development programs in 2014-2015 and after-school programs in 2015-16.

For infants and toddlers, Head Start (Migrant and Early Head Start) was the most common form of subsidized child care for low-income families. For preschool aged children (3-4 years), the California State Preschool Program (779 children) and Head Start (791 children across Head Start and Migrant Head Start) comprised the largest share of subsidized early education and child care enrollment. For school aged children (5-12 years), after school programs were most common.

Fig. 13. CHILDREN ENROLLED IN SUBSIDIZED CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS*

	Infants, Toddlers (0-2)	Preschool (3-4)	School Age (5-12)	All Children (0-12)
CA State Preschool Program (Title V)	0	779	31**	810
CCTR: General Child Care & Development (Title V)	168	45	122	335
Head Start (3-5) & Early Head Start (0-2)	169	378	29**	576
Migrant Head Start	395	413	96**	904
CMIG (Center based migrant child care)	36	23	14**	73
Handicap Program (CHAN)	0	0	0	0
Alternative Payment Program (CAPP)	46	45	137	228
CalWORKs Stage 1	119	97	142	358
CalWORKs Stage 2	39	32	63	134
CalWORKs Stage 3	4	8	68	80
Cabrillo Family Child Care (Family Child Care Homes - Title V)	13	5	0	18
Subsidized After School Programs (2015-16)	0	0	7,534	7,534
Total	989	1,825	8,236	11,050

Sources: All figures are from the AIR Early Learning Needs Assessment Tool with the following exceptions. Head Start, Family Child Care Homes, and CalWORKs Stage 1 enrollment is from the Santa Cruz Child Care Planning Council 2015 Priorities Report, and after-school program enrollment was collected by Santa Cruz COE, based on correspondence with individual school districts.

*All totals reflect 2014-15 enrollments, except the after school program totals which reflect 2015-16 enrollments.

**Number reflects age 5 children only.

Shortfall in Capacity & Unmet Needs for Child Care



This section estimates the shortfall in the capacity of child care and preschool spaces for Santa Cruz County children ages 0 to 5, and the number of children who have been eligible to receive various types of subsidized child care but were not enrolled (“unmet need”).

SHORTFALL IN CAPACITY FOR CHILDREN AGES 0-5

To estimate the overall shortfall in capacity, the number of spaces available are subtracted from the number of children estimated in need. The estimated total capacity for school aged children (ages 5-12) in after-school programs could not

be calculated, so this section focuses on children ages 0-5 only.

In 2014, there were an estimated 9,963 children ages 5 and under living in homes where all parents were working (or in school), and thus presumed to need child care (without regard to income eligibility). With an estimated 6,977 total spaces available for either part-time or full-time child care for children in this age group, there was a shortfall of 2,986 spaces. That equates to a 30 percent shortfall in the capacity of licensed child care for children 5 and under in working families.

Fig. 14. CHILD CARE CAPACITY FOR WORKING FAMILIES UNDER AGE 6 (2014-15)

	0-1 Years	2-5 Years	Total (0-5 Years)
Children in Working Families	2,910	7,053	9,963
Number of part-time or full-time spaces (capacity)	1,170	5,807*	6,977
Licensed Child Care Centers	309	3,486	3,795
Licensed Family Child Care Homes	861	2,321*	3,182
Shortfall in Capacity	(1,740)	(1,246)	(2,986)
Shortfall as Percentage of Children	60%	18%	30%

Sources: “Children in Working Families” totals are from AIR Early Learning Needs Assessment Tool. Licensed capacity totals are from the 2015 *Child Care Portfolio* of the California Child Care Resource & Referral Network.

Note: Shortfall as Percentage of Children = Shortfall / Children in Working Families.

*The R&R Network publishes only the total FCCH spaces, without specifying by age group. The age-group estimates in the table are based on the proportion of FCCH spaces by age group that existed in 2015, as provided by Santa Cruz COE.

UNMET NEED FOR CHILDREN AGES 0-12

To estimate the unmet need for child care, the principal concern is families with low incomes who would be unlikely to afford the full price. We estimate the unmet needs of such families by subtracting the number of children enrolled in various types of subsidized child care from the number who were likely qualified to receive subsidized care.



Head Start

Families whose incomes are below the federal poverty guidelines are eligible to enroll their children in Head Start at no cost. In Figure 15, the number of children enrolled in Head Start (1,146) are subtracted from the estimated number of children ages 0-5 who live in poverty (3,176, according to the US Census) to estimate the percentage of eligible children not enrolled.

Overall, 53 percent of children living in poverty (1,696 children) were not enrolled in Head Start in 2014-15.

This percentage is somewhat skewed by the inclusion of five year olds, many of whom were in kindergarten. Nonetheless, approximately one quarter of preschool-aged children living in poverty were not enrolled in Head Start in 2014-15 (27% of 3-4 year olds), and 64 percent of 0-2 year olds in poverty were not receiving child care through Early Head Start.

Fig. 15. PERCENT OF CHILDREN IN POVERTY & NOT ENROLLED IN HEAD START (2014-15)

	0-2 Years	3-4 Years	5 Years	Total (0-5 Years)
Number of Children Eligible: Below Federal Poverty Level	1,575	1,086	515	3,176
Enrolled in Head Start/Early Head Start	169	378	29	576
Enrolled in Migrant Head Start	395	413	96	904
Total NOT Enrolled	1,011	295	390	1,696
Percent Not Enrolled Percentage of Children Eligible But Not Enrolled	64%	27%	76%	53%

Source: AIR Early Learning Needs Assessment Tool, Santa Cruz COE.

Full-Day Care for Low-Income Working Families

The unmet need for full-time care is based on the estimated number of children in low-income families in which all parents are working (or in school) full-time. In 2014-15 there were 3,644 children ages 0-5 in families with incomes no more than 70 percent of the state median income and all parents working or in school. After subtracting the 1,975 children enrolled in full-time subsidized care from 3,644 eligible children, there were 1,669 children income-eligible and in need of full-time care who were not being served (Fig. 16, below).

Overall, an estimated 46 percent of children qualified for and in need of full-time care were not served.

Fig. 16. UNMET NEED: FULL-TIME CHILD CARE FOR LOW-INCOME, WORKING FAMILIES (2014-15)

	0-2 Years	3-4 Years	5 Years	Total (0-5 Years)
Number of Children Eligible: In Working Families, Income < 70% SMI	1,785	1,493	366	3,644
Total Enrolled in Full-Time, Subsidized Care	807	898	299	1,975
CA State Preschool (CSPP)	0	235	52	287
General Child Care/Dev. (CCTR)	168	45	29	213
Migrant Head Start	395	413	96	904
CalWORKs	162	137	79	378
Alternative Payment	46	45	29	120
Migrant (CMIG)	36	23	14	73
Total Eligible & Not Enrolled in Full-Time Care	978	595	67	1,669
Unmet Need for Full-Time Care Pct. of Children Eligible But Not Enrolled	55%	40%	18%	46%

Source: AIR Early Learning Needs Assessment Tool, Santa Cruz COE.

Subsidized Child Care for Low-Income Families

The unmet child care need for all low-income children ages 0-12 is based on the number of children living in low-income families (without regard to parents’ work status). In 2014-15 17,464 children ages 0-12 lived in families whose incomes were 70% or less than the state median income. After subtracting from this total the 11,050 children in any kind of subsidized child care in 2014-15 (and 2015-16 after school programs), 6,419 low-income children were estimated as not enrolled in a subsidized child care or after-school program. **Overall, an estimated 37 percent of low-income children ages 0-12 were not provided with subsidized child care.**

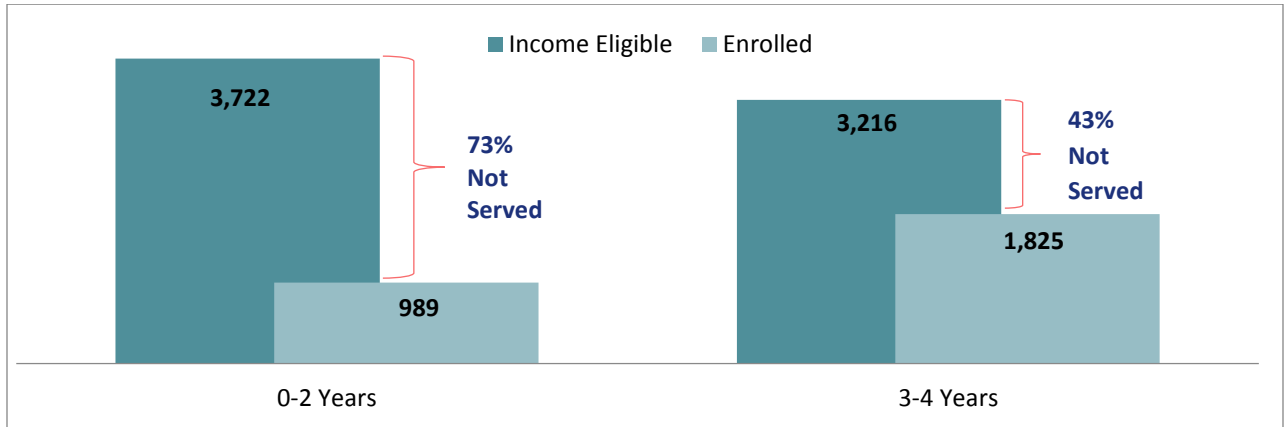
Fig. 17. UNMET NEED: CHILD CARE FOR LOW-INCOME FAMILIES (2014-2015)

	0-2 Years	3-4 Years	5-12 Years	Total (0-12 Years)
Number of Children Eligible: In families with Income < 70% SMI	3,722	3,216	10,526	17,464
Total Enrolled in Subsidized Child Care	989	1,825	8,236	11,050
State Preschool (CSPP) & General Child Care & Dev. (CCTR)	168	824	153	1,145
Head Start / Early Head Start	169	378	29	576
Migrant Head Start	395	413	96	904
CalWORKs	162	137	273	572
Alternative Payment.	46	45	137	228
Migrant (CMIG)	36	23	14	73
Cabrillo Family Child Care (FCCH - Title V)	13	5	0	13
After-School Programs	0	0	7,534	7,534
Total Not Enrolled in Full-Time Care	2,733	1,391	2,290	6,414
Unmet Need for Child Care: Percentage of Income Eligible Children Not in Subsidized Care	73%	43%	22%	37%

Source: AIR Early Learning Needs Assessment Tool, Santa Cruz COE.

Figures 18 and 19 illustrate the degree of unmet need for child care within each of the three age groups. Among children ages 0-2 who were income-eligible for subsidized care, **73 percent** were not enrolled in subsidized care; **43 percent** of similarly eligible 3-4 year-olds were not enrolled in subsidized care.

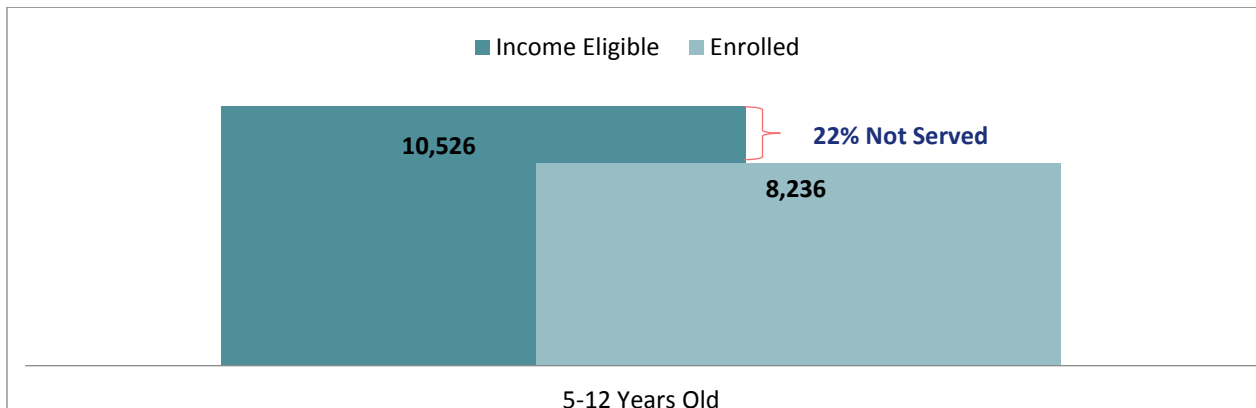
Fig. 18. LOW-INCOME CHILDREN UNDER AGE 5 ENROLLED IN SUBSIDIZED CHILD CARE (2014-2015)



Source: AIR Early Learning Needs Assessment Tool, Santa Cruz COE.

Among school-aged children (5-12) who were eligible for subsidized after-school care, an estimated **22 percent** did not participate.

Fig. 19. LOW-INCOME CHILDREN AGES 5-12 ENROLLED IN SUBSIDIZED CHILD CARE (2015-2016)



Source: AIR Early Learning Needs Assessment Tool, Santa Cruz COE.

About the Partners

First 5 Santa Cruz County

To help children succeed in school and in life, First 5 Santa Cruz County invests in health, early learning and family support to promote optimal development of Santa Cruz County Children. The goal of First 5 Santa Cruz County is to serve the most vulnerable children ages 0-5, including very low income families, English language learners and families who live in high risk zones of the county.

<http://www.first5scc.org/>

Encompass Community Services

Encompass Community services provides culturally sensitive, bilingual support to Santa Cruz County families through four service components: Child and Family Development Programs (Head Start, Early Head Start, State Preschool, Side by Side, Papas, Families Together), Youth Services, Community Recovery Services and Community Support Services.

<http://www.encompasscs.org/>

Santa Cruz County Office of Education (SCCOE)

Santa Cruz County Office of Education is charged with providing educational leadership, resources and services that secure quality educational opportunities for all children. Under the leadership of the SCCOE, The Child Care Planning Council and the Child Development Resource Center are designed to ensure that children have access to quality childcare where they are valued, nurtured, safe and healthy and learning to their potential.

<http://www.santacruz.k12.ca.us/>



About the Members

The Santa Cruz County Child Care Planning Council is a commission appointed by the County Board of Supervisors and the County Superintendent of Schools. The Council consists of parents (Consumer Representatives), community members (Community Representatives), educators (Public Agency Representatives), early education and child care professionals (Child Care Providers) and early education and child care advocates (Discretionary Appointees).

We would like to thank the following members of the Child Care Planning Council for their daily efforts on behalf of the families and children of Santa Cruz County as well as for their support and approval of this report.

Consumer Representatives	Child Care Provider Representatives
Yvette Brooks Parent	Jonnie Cardinale Spring Hill School
Christina Valentin Parent	Larry Drury Go Kids, Inc.
Martine Watkins Parent	Barbara Griffin Campus Kids Connection
Nicole Young Parent	Leticia Mendoza YWCA of Watsonville
	Elizabeth Root UCSC Early Education Services
	Jerri Winner Encompass/Early Head Start
Public Agency Representatives	Community Representatives
Patricia Pastor-Cross Cabrillo Children’s Center	Sara Balla Discovery Preschool & Family Center
Sita Moon Child Development Resource Center	Vicki Boriack First 5 Santa Cruz County
Rosario Navarro Central California Migrant Head Start	Irene Freiberg First 5 Santa Cruz County
Hendrika Sheldon Family Child Care Association	Jane Weed-Pomerantz Positive Discipline Community Resources
Discretionary Appointees	Staff
Rebecca Bogdan Special Education Nurse /SCCOE	Carole Mulford Child Development Department Manager
Karen Hamman PVUSD Childhood Development	Diane Oyler – Child Care Planning Council Coordinator
Elaine Henning Santa Cruz Parents Association	
Ashley Romele PAMF	

About the Researcher



ASR is a nonprofit social research firm dedicated to helping people build better communities by creating meaningful evaluative and assessment data, facilitating information-based planning, and developing custom strategies. The firm has more than 30 years of experience working with public and private agencies, health and human service organizations, city and county offices, school districts, institutions of higher learning, and charitable foundations. Through community assessments, program evaluations, and related studies, ASR provides the information that communities need for effective strategic planning and community interventions.

For questions about this report, please contact:

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