



BRION & ASSOCIATES

FINAL REPORT:

**Child Care Needs Assessment – 2009
Sonoma County**

Prepared for:

CHILD CARE PLANNING COUNCIL OF SONOMA COUNTY



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I. INTRODUCTION AND FINDINGS

The Child Care Planning Council of Sonoma County (CCPC) is responsible for providing a forum to identify the child care priorities of families in Sonoma County and to develop policies to meet those needs. To accomplish this, the CCPC 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 Sonoma County for 2009, and it is an update from the 2004 study. A Data Committee, composed of Council staff and members, was assigned by the CCPC to oversee this study preparation. This committee has provided tremendous input and oversight into the preparation of this study, the data collection, and analysis process.

Brion & Associates has been retained by the CCPC to prepare the 2009 Needs Assessment update. This study represents an expansion from prior studies in that, whenever possible, the data in the Needs Assessment are organized by a set of community areas defined for the Study. Additionally, some future projections and analyses have been included, and the report has been structured to correspond with the outline of the current “For the Children: A Comprehensive Plan for Child Care and Learning Programs, Sonoma County 2005-2010” (Comprehensive Plan for Child Care). Numerous other data have been collected and analyzed for this effort, as required by the State, including the following, *not* listed in order of importance:

- ◆ Demographic data on children and their families
- ◆ Child care supply by type, age and location
- ◆ Child care demand by type, age and location
- ◆ Children by race, ethnicity, and language spoken
- ◆ Children with special needs and in special education programs
- ◆ Children receiving Children Protection Services and families receiving preservation or maintenance services
- ◆ Children receiving public assistance
- ◆ Household and family income and measures of self-sufficiency
- ◆ Children waiting for subsidized child care
- ◆ Children in Head Start, State Preschool Programs and other subsidy programs
- ◆ Costs (fees) of child care by type and age
- ◆ Children in Migrant Education Programs

Sonoma County is divided into 11 community areas for purposes of data gathering for this Study. The County has nine incorporated cities and many smaller rural towns and communities. We have identified three unincorporated areas for this effort, including Coastal Sonoma County, Russian River and Geyserville/Rural North East. Santa Rosa is the largest incorporated city in the County, with approximately 37% of the County’s population. For this analysis, we have organized the data collected at the zip code level, when available, into 11 community areas as shown in **Table 1**.

All data contained in this report are based on currently published data or data regularly collected from various public and non-profit agencies. No primary data collection was conducted for this study. While every attempt has been made to confirm the data's accuracy, we have not independently verified the accuracy of said data. Additional analysis of the data and estimates of child care demand were prepared by the study's prime consultant, Brion & Associates, with support from Nilsson Consulting.

The study is primarily a compilation of existing data and analysis of the current status of children for 2009 by age of children and location, e.g., community area, when available. Not all the data listed above were available at the community or zip code level, including data on child care subsidies. Detailed data and tables are presented in the Needs Assessment Profiles by community area under separate cover and in the report appendices. The report includes a summary overview of the data collected and analyzed.

In general, the study starts with "input" data, including U.S. Census data from 2000 on children and families, and combines these data, when relevant, with population and household growth forecasts at the community level from the Association of Bay Area Governments' (ABAG) *Projections 2007* and data from the California Department of Finance. The ABAG forecast was adapted for purposes of this study's time frame, i.e., 2009. While we recognize that the housing market has slowed down dramatically, we have nonetheless used the ABAG forecast and not made any adjustments. There is the possibility that the estimates for 2009 may be somewhat optimistic in terms of population estimates, but until more detailed information is available about the housing downturn, the Data Committee felt we should utilize published figures.

Table 1
Summary of Community Areas for Study Purposes with City Names and Zip Codes
Sonoma County Child Care Needs Assessment - 2009

#	Needs Assessment Geographic Area	Areas included in Geographic Subareas for Needs Assessment	Zip Codes
1	Cloverdale	Cloverdale	95425
2	Coastal Sonoma County	Annapolis, Bodega, Bodega Bay, Camp Meeker, Duncans Mills, Jenner, Occidental, Stewarts Point, The Sea Ranch	94922, 94923, 95412,95419,95430, 95450, 95465,95480, 95497
3	Geyserville/Rural North	Geyserville and other unincorporated areas	95441
4	Greater Healdsburg	Healdsburg and Rural Healdsburg	95448
5	Greater Petaluma	Petaluma and Rural Petaluma	94952, 94953, 94954, 94955, 94975, 94999
6	Greater Rohnert Park-Cotati	Cotati, Rohnert Park and Rural Rohnert Park-Cotati, Penngrove	94926, 94927, 94928, 94931,94951
7	Russian River	Cazadero, Forestville, Guerneville, Monte Rio, Rio Nido, Villa Grande	95421, 95436, 95446, 95462,95471, 95486
8	Greater Santa Rosa	Fulton, Santa Rosa and Rural Santa Rosa	95401, 95402, 95403,95404,95405, 95406, 95407,95409, 95439
9	Greater Sebastopol	Sebastopol, Rural Sebastopol, Graton, and Valley Ford	95472, 95473, 95444, 94972
10	Greater Town of Sonoma	Boyes Hot Springs, El Verano, Eldridge, Glen Ellen, Kenwood, Town of Sonoma, Vineburg, and Rural Sonoma Valley	95476, 95487, 95452, 95442, 95431, 95433,95416
11	Windsor	Windsor	95492

Overall Study Qualifications

Child care analysis and planning are two of the most complex types of studies that Brion & Associates prepares. There are many factors that affect the need for child care, including income, affordability of child care services, location and access, quality, cultural preferences and practices, and, of course, the “availability” of care itself and subsidies. Across the State, families face an increased struggle to find and afford child care. This is especially true when families have more than one child and/or infant. In rural areas, which make up about one-fourth of the County population, the dispersed nature of residential development, low-density patterns of housing, schools, and winding rural roads make child care access even more difficult.

In our analysis for the County’s 11 delineated community areas, some areas show slight surpluses in child care spaces relative to the demand for child care from residents living in those community areas. This is because some community areas also have a concentration of employment uses, which creates additional child care demand and/or a concentration of local schools, where school age care is in higher demand. Thus, although a community area shows a surplus figure for a particular age group, it may not mean that those spaces are not being filled. Some residents may commute to other community areas for work and secure child care in those

locations, outside their places of residence. Also, there may be some additional employees commuting into Sonoma County that require child care.

Vacancy data for child care providers is an ever-changing data set and has not been evaluated in this report specifically. Some child care planners believe that there should be a surplus of child care spaces relative to demand of 10% to 15% to provide parents with “choice.” In most communities, if there were this much excess supply of child care, providers would be struggling financially more than they already do. In almost every community we have worked with, there are shortages of child care spaces relative to demand overall.

In general, child care fees do not cover the full cost of providing the care. If the true costs of child care were charged, most parents would not be able to afford it. Child care does not generate a profit as is typical of most small businesses, and, thus, there is a lack of net income, which could be used for debt financing of child care facilities. Though there is an entire network of support available for child care facility construction in California, including low-interest loans, many providers do not qualify due to insufficient profits, weak credit, etc. Thus, many of these loan programs are not utilized fully.

Employment Growth in the County

We have analyzed the corresponding employment projections prepared by ABAG as a part of this analysis. However, in a countywide Needs Assessment, we do not estimate child care demand from employees separately so as not to double-count demand. Many residents that need child care in Sonoma County live and work in the County. Based on 2000 Census data, 82% of employed residents in the County live and work in the County (see **Appendix A, Table A-8**).

Economic Benefits of Early Childhood Education

According to “The Economic Impact of the Child Care Industry in Sonoma County,” prepared by National Economic Development and Law Center (NEDLC) in 2002, there are numerous economic benefits to be reaped from early childhood education. Children who have experienced high quality early childhood education are more likely to have increased behavioral and academic readiness, which can lead to greater success in grades K-12, including higher test scores and graduation rates, lower public dollars spent on remedial education, and a more prepared workforce to support the local economy. Early childhood education can also decrease the amount of public spending through the lowering of criminal justice costs and the reduction of welfare use. Investing in children at an early age therefore generates life-long benefits for children and society as a whole.

In addition to the direct benefits for children, the child care industry positively impacts the economy of Sonoma County in direct and indirect ways. Annual gross receipts for child care in 2002 were just over \$91.1 million, resulting in \$1.0 million in indirect business taxes annually. These annual gross receipts are higher than those for the poultry and egg industries and just

under those of the dairy industry. The local child care industry draws over \$30.3 million in State and Federal child care funds, which are spent in the County. Licensed child care facilities employed 2,412 full-time equivalent jobs in 2002, which is greater than the number of full-time equivalent jobs in tourist accommodations or lawyers.

Other industries affected by the child care industry include bookkeeping, tax compliance and audits, agriculture (food), and other suppliers to the child care industry. Based on the calculations in the NEDLC report, the child care industry indirectly supports 4,438 full-time equivalent jobs, a number considered to be a low estimate based on the study methodology.

Data Highlights and Findings

This section presents the 12 most important findings of the study and the implications for child care planning in Sonoma County. When recommendations are made, they are based on review of the current data prepared as part of this effort. These data highlights and findings are *not* presented in order of importance. Note that the summary tables referenced below are presented after the discussion.

- 1. Over the next 10 years, the County's population of children will increase overall, and children as a percent of total population will increase from approximately 18.5% to 20.1% by 2019, according to projections by the California Department of Finance (DOF).***

ABAG projects that by 2019, Sonoma County's population will increase by about 29,600 residents. Applying DOF's projections to this population estimate shows a net increase of children in the County over the next 10 years of about 14,200 (see **Table S-1**). This is in contrast to some other Bay Area counties, where children are expected to decrease overall during this time period. The County will experience a net gain of about 7,800 children 0 to 5 years old and approximately 6,400 school age children (see **Table S-2**). This is a 15% increase overall in the number of children countywide through 2019. While the focus of this study is 2009, it is important to consider the change in total child population that will occur in the County. Without a significant increase in the supply of child care facilities and children's services, it can be assumed that most of the adverse conditions reported in this report will increase over time and not decrease.

Table S-1					
Current and Projected Demographics in Sonoma County					
<i>Sonoma County Child Care Needs Assessment - 2009</i>					
Item	Year 2009	Year 2014	% Change 2009-2014	Year 2019	10-Year Change 2009-2019
Total Population	503,040	519,660	3.3%	532,620	2.5%
Net Increase		16,620		12,960	29,580
Children, 0-13 yrs old	93,168	100,785	8.2%	107,321	15.2%
Net Increase		7,616		6,536	14,153
Children as % of Population	18.5%	19.4%		20.1%	
Total Households	190,488	198,316	4.1%	205,418	3.6%
Net Increase		7,828		7,102	14,930
Person Per Household	2.64	2.62	-0.8%	2.59	-1.0%
Total Employment	233,692	252,336	8.0%	272,658	8.1%
Net Increase		18,644		20,322	38,966

Sources: California Department of Finance; ABAG Projections 2007;
 Brion & Associates.

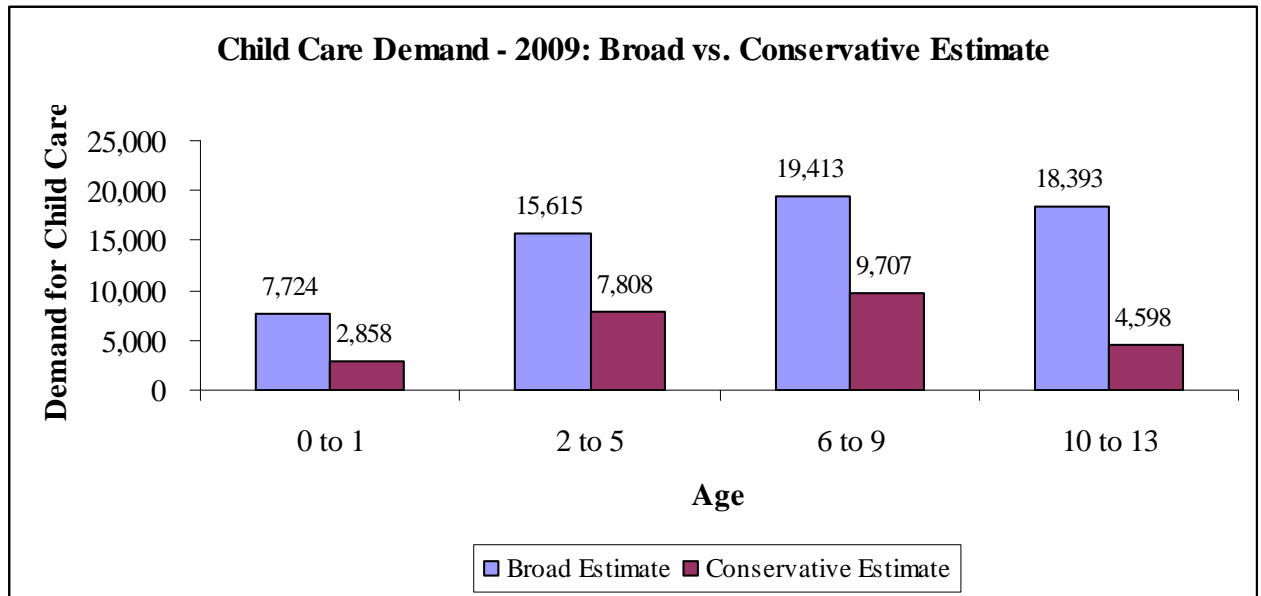
2. The demand for child care ranges from about 25,000 to 61,200 spaces, depending on the methodology used.

This study uses two estimates of child care demand. The “broad” estimate assumes all children 0 to 13 with working parents need a licensed child care space. This approach is consistent with the California Resource and Referral Network’s methodology and results in the 61,200 figure. The “conservative” estimate of child care demand, used predominantly in this study, assumes that not all working parents will use licensed child care and results in the lower estimate of 25,000 spaces. Under the broad estimate, approximately 66% of children 0 to 13 years old require child care. Using the conservative estimate, about 27% of children require licensed child care. **Table S-2** summarizes this information and shows the rates by age group.

Item	Total Children by Age Category in 2009	Child Care Demand		Percent of Total Children	
		Broad Estimate:	Conservative Estimate:	Broad Estimate	Conservative Estimate
		Children w/ Working Parents	Children Requiring Licensed Care		
0 to 1 or Infants	12,941	7,724	2,858	60%	22%
2 to 5 or Preschool	<u>26,278</u>	<u>15,615</u>	<u>7,808</u>	59%	30%
Total 0 to 5	39,220	23,339	10,665		
6 to 9 School Age	27,666	19,413	9,707	70%	35%
10 to 13 School Age	<u>26,283</u>	<u>18,393</u>	<u>4,598</u>	70%	17%
Total 6 to 13	53,949	37,806	14,305		
Total 0 to 13	93,168	61,145	24,970	66%	27%
Children 0 to 13 as % of Population	18.5%				

Sources: California Department of Finance; Census 2000; ABAG Projections 2007; Brion & Associates.

Figure S-1



3. ***The supply of child care in the County is roughly proportionate to the distribution of population, although the more rural and remote areas of the County are under-supplied with child care.***

Table S-3 summarizes the number of child care spaces by type and the number of child care providers by type by community area. As shown, there are about 18,900 total child care spaces in the County and 737 providers. Of this amount, 53% are school age spaces, 40% preschool, and 7% infant. Small Family Child Care Homes (FCCHs) make up 50% of the 737 total providers. Child care centers represent 33% of the supply with a total of 246 centers. Large FCCHs compose the remainder of the supply with 12% and 87 providers. There are 38 ASES/21st Century school age programs in the County as well.

Table S-3
Summary of Supply of Child Care by Community Area as of Fall 2008
Sonoma County Child Care Needs Assessment - 2009

Community Area	Child Care Spaces				Providers by Type				
	Infant Spaces	Preschool Spaces	School Age Spaces	Total Child Care Spaces	Small FCCH Providers	Large FCCH Providers	Child Care Centers Providers	ASES - 21st Century	Total Child Care Providers
1 Cloverdale	23	100	304	427	10	1	6	2	19
2 Coastal Sonoma County	11	24	90	125	1	3	3	1	8
3 Geyserville/Rural North East	0	0	42	42	0	0	1	0	1
4 Greater Healdsburg	34	339	351	724	9	0	12	2	23
5 Greater Petaluma	222	1,446	1,584	3,252	46	14	39	5	104
6 Greater Rohnert Park-Cotati	236	774	862	1,872	54	14	21	3	92
7 Russian River	46	190	410	646	13	4	8	3	28
8 Greater Santa Rosa	575	3,290	4,413	8,278	165	29	106	17	317
9 Greater Sebastopol	76	403	374	853	19	10	19	0	48
10 Greater Town of Sonoma	48	613	821	1,482	14	4	22	3	43
11 Windsor	106	413	702	1,221	35	8	9	2	54
Total Sonoma County	1,377	7,592	9,953	18,922	366	87	246	38	737
Percent Distribution	7%	40%	53%	100%	50%	12%	33%	5%	100%

Sources: Community Child Care Council of Sonoma County; Brion & Associates.

Figure S-2

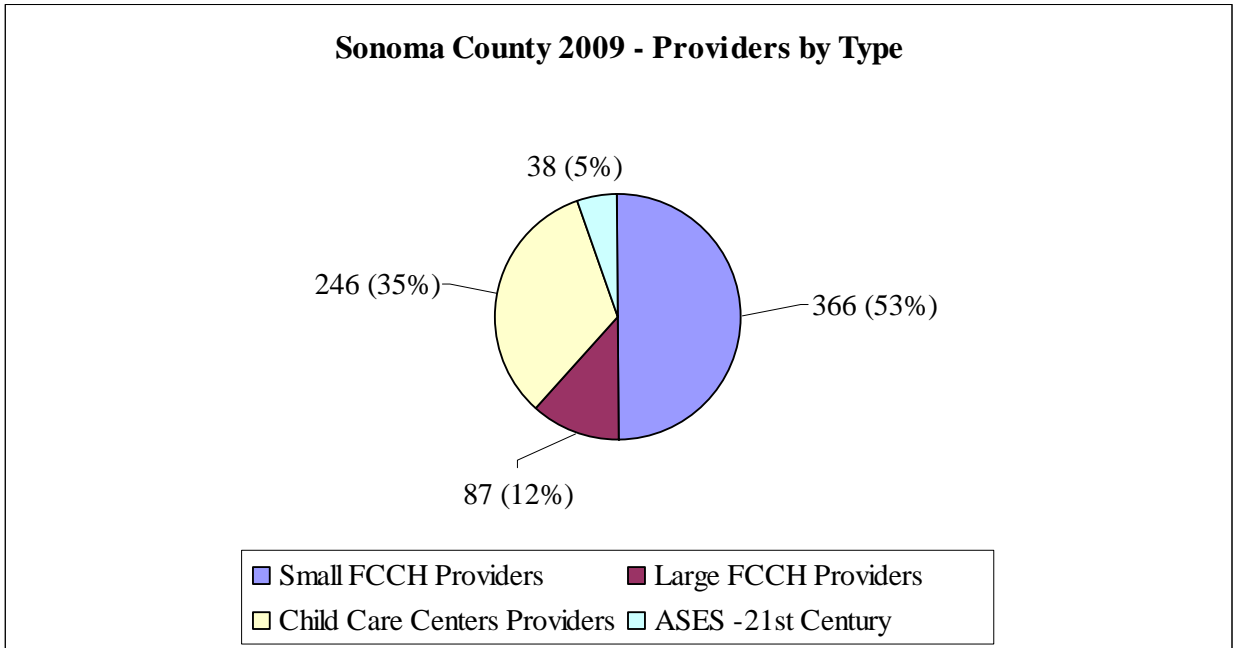
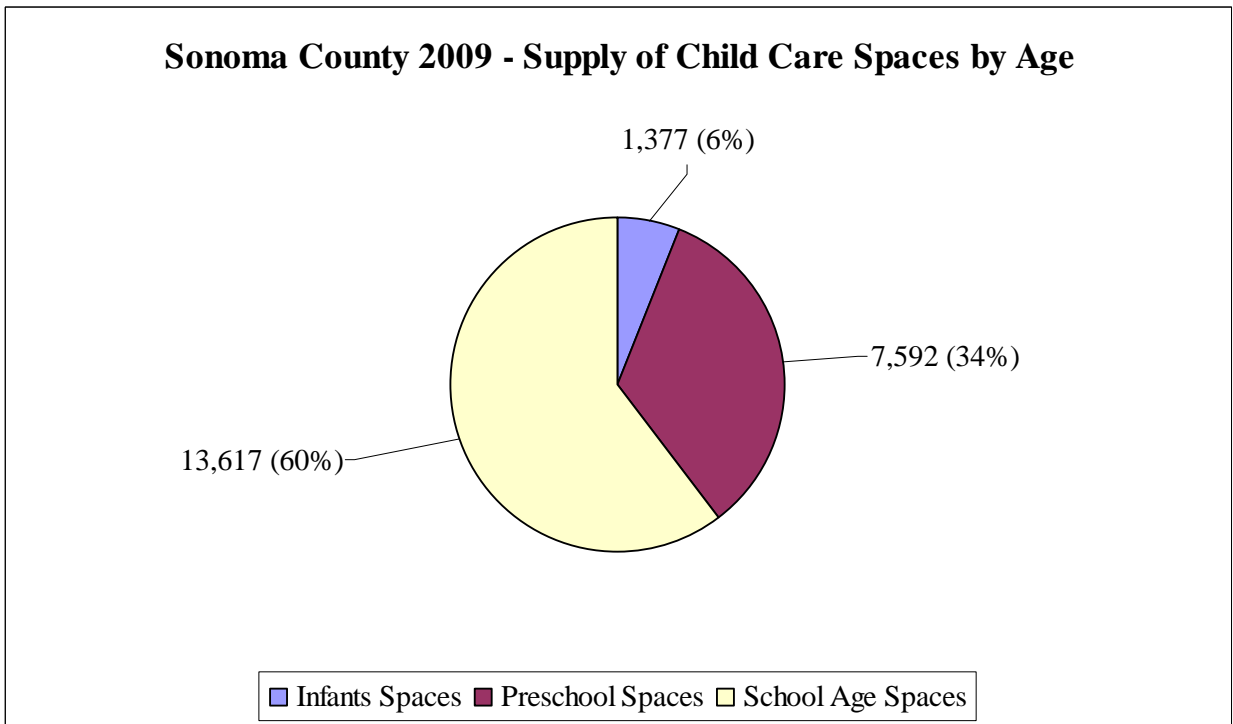


Figure S-3



Note: School Age Spaces include ASES/21st Century spaces.

4. *All community areas in the County have current shortages of child care spaces overall for all age groups, and all areas have a shortage of infant and school age care. Six of the 11 planning areas have a shortage of preschool spaces as shown in Table S-4.*

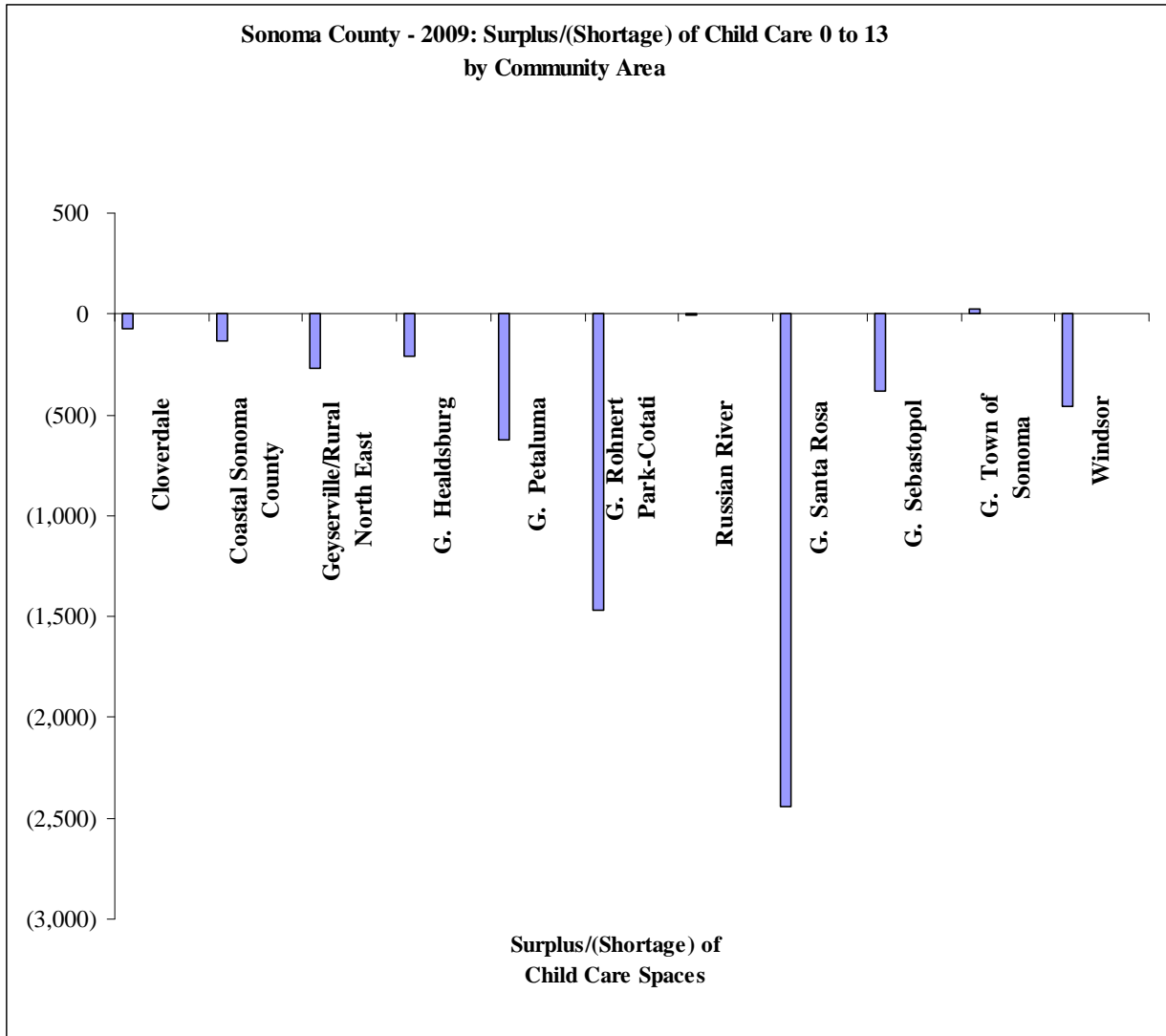
The total shortfall of child care spaces in the County equals about 6,000 spaces, the majority of which—4,350—is school age spaces. Based on the analysis of existing demand for child care by age and community area, at least three areas have significant child care shortages: Greater Petaluma, Greater Rohnert Park-Cotati, and Greater Santa Rosa. Greater Santa Rosa, which has the largest population of children, has the greatest gap in child care spaces with a shortage of over 2,400 spaces. The majority of these gaps are for school age care. The overall shortage for infant care is about 1,500 spaces or 24% of the total shortfall. Preschool age care in the County overall is roughly in balance, with a small shortfall of approximately 216 spaces. The estimated school age gap may not include a number of license-exempt facilities, such as programs operated by libraries, schools, community and faith-based organizations, and any city parks and recreation departments.

Table S-4
Summary of Supply and Demand of Child Care by Community Area: 2009
Sonoma County Child Care Needs Assessment - 2009

Community Area	Child Care Surplus/(Shortage) at 2009 - Conservative Estimate				Percent of Demand Met Overall
	0 to 1 Year or Infant	2 to 5 or Preschool	6 to 13 Years or School Age	Total 0 to 13 Years	
1 Cloverdale	(37)	(77)	39	(75)	85%
2 Coastal Sonoma County	(16)	(62)	(52)	(130)	49%
3 Geyserville/Rural North East	(35)	(79)	(152)	(266)	14%
4 Greater Healdsburg	(37)	80	(252)	(208)	78%
5 Greater Petaluma	(176)	276	(726)	(626)	84%
6 Greater Rohnert Park-Cotati	(128)	(151)	(1,192)	(1,472)	56%
7 Russian River	(2)	17	(23)	(9)	99%
8 Greater Santa Rosa	(811)	(258)	(1,374)	(2,444)	77%
9 Greater Sebastopol	(42)	48	(390)	(385)	69%
10 Greater Town of Sonoma	(132)	83	77	28	102%
11 Windsor	(64)	(91)	(307)	(462)	73%
Total Sonoma County	(1,481)	(216)	(4,352)	(6,048)	76%
Percent of Demand	24%	4%	72%	100%	

Source: Brion & Associates.

Figure S-4



5. Under the broad estimate, the shortage of child care is much higher, or about 42,223 spaces.

As with the conservative estimate, 66%, or the majority of this demand, is for school age care, followed by preschool at 19% of the total, and infant care at 15%. Under this scenario, there is a shortage of child care spaces in every community area and for every age group, as shown in **Table S-5**. This information is provided to be consistent with State child care planning documents, even though it overstates demand by not accounting for the working parents who use family, nannies, or unlicensed care. The broad estimate, however, is useful in assessing preschool demand, because the result is more in line with the estimated need for universal preschool. That is, about 80% of children, ages 3 and 4, are typically assumed to require a licensed preschool space under “Preschool for All” planning efforts.

Table S-5
Summary of Child Care Surplus/(Shortage) under Broad Estimate: 2009
Sonoma County Child Care Needs Assessment - 2009

Child Care Surplus/(Shortage) at 2009 - Broad Estimate					
Community Area	0 to 1 Year or Infant	2 to 5 or Preschool	6 to 13 Years or School Age	Total 0 to 13 Years	Percent Distribution
1 Cloverdale	(140)	(254)	(383)	(777)	2%
2 Coastal Sonoma County	(62)	(147)	(297)	(507)	1%
3 Geyserville/Rural North East	(95)	(159)	(439)	(693)	2%
4 Greater Healdsburg	(157)	(178)	(1,196)	(1,531)	4%
5 Greater Petaluma	(854)	(895)	(4,524)	(6,273)	15%
6 Greater Rohnert Park-Cotati	(749)	(1,077)	(4,453)	(6,278)	15%
7 Russian River	(84)	(156)	(728)	(968)	2%
8 Greater Santa Rosa	(3,172)	(3,807)	(11,003)	(17,982)	43%
9 Greater Sebastopol	(243)	(308)	(1,727)	(2,278)	5%
10 Greater Town of Sonoma	(438)	(448)	(1,188)	(2,073)	5%
11 Windsor	(352)	(596)	(1,915)	(2,863)	7%
Total Sonoma County	(6,347)	(8,023)	(27,853)	(42,223)	100%
Percent of Demand	15%	19%	66%	100%	

Source: Brion & Associates.

- 6. *With the exception of the Greater Rohnert Park-Cotati Area, the shortfall as a percent of demand is similar to the percent of overall children in the County, as shown in Table S-6. The distribution of income also does not appear to be a significant indicator of where child care shortfalls are located (see Table S-6).***

In some counties, the location of lower income households is a predictor of the location of child care demand. As might be imagined, child care providers that do not administer or offer subsidies would locate in areas with the highest incomes so they can charge market rates. In Sonoma County, several striking patterns emerge. First, the location of the shortfall is roughly parallel to the location of children, and the median household income by area is not significantly higher in areas with lower child care shortages. For instance, while Santa

Rosa has the largest portion of the child care shortfall, its household income is comparable to the County average. Overall, the income distribution in the County is fairly homogenous compared to other Bay Area Counties. The lowest median household income is only 17% lower (Cloverdale) than the County median, and the highest is 28% higher (Geyserville/Rural North East). In counties like Contra Costa and Alameda, the range in incomes is much greater.

Table S-6
Comparison of Child Care Surplus/(Shortage) to Percent of Total Children and Household Income
Sonoma County Child Care Needs Assessment - 2009

Community Area	Child Care Gap - Total 0 to 13 Years - Conservative Estimate	Percent of Shortfall	Percent of County's Children, 0-13 Years	Median Household Income (rounded)	Percent of County
1 Cloverdale	(75)	1.2%	2.0%	\$70,900	83%
2 Coastal Sonoma County	(130)	2.1%	1.1%	\$94,000	109%
3 Geyserville/Rural North East	(266)	4.4%	1.2%	\$110,200	128%
4 Greater Healdsburg	(208)	3.4%	3.8%	\$82,500	96%
5 Greater Petaluma	(626)	10.4%	15.7%	\$92,200	107%
6 Greater Rohnert Park-Cotati	(1,472)	24.3%	12.5%	\$82,000	95%
7 Russian River	(9)	0.1%	2.7%	\$73,000	85%
8 Greater Santa Rosa	(2,444)	40.4%	42.7%	\$86,400	101%
9 Greater Sebastopol	(385)	6.4%	5.4%	\$75,800	88%
10 Greater Town of Sonoma	28	-0.5%	6.0%	\$80,100	93%
11 Windsor	(462)	7.6%	6.7%	\$94,000	109%
Total Sonoma County	(6,048)	100.0%		\$85,900	100%

Source: Brion & Associates.

7. *In 2009, there are about 13,200 children that are potentially eligible for subsidized child care and 4,359 subsidized spaces available, which compose 33% of potential demand (see Table S-7).*

In every community area in Sonoma County, there is a need for subsidized child care. Greater Santa Rosa, which has the largest concentration of children, has the greatest shortfall, assuming 37% of children eligible for subsidized care have a funded space. Coastal Sonoma County and Russian River have the highest percentages of children served relative to potential eligibility; however, both of these areas also have fewer children than other

community areas in the County. The largest concentrations of unserved children eligible for subsidized care are in Greater Petaluma, Greater Rohnert Park-Cotati, and Greater Santa Rosa, consistent with the shortfall for child care overall discussed above. There are about 4,100 children on the County’s Centralized Waiting List (CEL) for subsidized child care. This is about half of the children that are potentially eligible and not served currently. About 60% of the children on the CEL are located in Greater Santa Rosa.

Table S-7
Summary of Children in Subsidized Child Care compared to those Potentially Eligible
Sonoma County Needs Assessment - 2009

Community Area No.	Name	Estimated Eligible Children in 2009 (1)	Children Receiving Subsidized Care	Percent Eligible Receiving Subsidies	Unserved Eligible Children or Funding Gap	Percent Distribution of Funding Gap
1	Cloverdale	405	100	25%	(305)	3%
2	Coastal Sonoma County	35	26	74%	(9)	0%
3	Geyserville/Rural North East	116	48	41%	(68)	1%
4	Greater Healdsburg	721	171	24%	(550)	6%
5	Greater Petaluma	1,571	398	25%	(1,173)	13%
6	Greater Rohnert Park-Cotati	1,438	421	29%	(1,017)	12%
7	Russian River	351	223	64%	(128)	1%
8	Greater Santa Rosa	6,461	2,395	37%	(4,066)	46%
9	Greater Sebastopol	499	127	25%	(372)	4%
10	Greater Town of Sonoma	917	165	18%	(752)	9%
11	Windsor	674	285	42%	(389)	4%
Total Sonoma County		13,188	4,359	33%	(8,829)	100%

(1) Based on distribution of children by area, age as of 2000 Census; assumes same distribution applies in 2009.

In reality, there could be more children with parents working and earning under 75% of State Median Income.

Source: Brion & Associates.

8. The County is expected to see an increase in the ethnic diversity of its residents, which may impact child care demand. Countywide, the languages spoken by children currently are 77% English, 18% Spanish, 2% Asian/Pacifica Islander, and 2% Other, based on the 2000 Census. Language spoken will shift along with changes in ethnicity.

Countywide, Hispanic children will increase from 42% of total children in 2009 to 47% by 2019. Hispanics in general compose about 24% of the population and are expected to increase to 30% of the total population by 2019. Thus, Hispanic children comprise a much greater proportion of children than the total population. Overall, Whites will decrease from 67% in 2009 to 58% in 2019, with White children decreasing from 46% in 2009 to 42% in 2019. Shifts in the percentage of Asian children will be smaller; Asian children compose 4.6% of total children in 2009 and will increase to 6.3% by 2019. African American children will increase from 1.5% to 2% by 2019.¹ Unfortunately, the State does not forecast ethnicity at the city level.

¹ Based on data from the California Department of Finance (DOF).

9. Child care costs compose a significant portion of families' budgets and can be as high as 25% to 34%, depending on the number and age of children and family income.

This analysis shows that for a single working parent with two children, child care costs can compose 25% to 34% of household income, assuming a self-sufficiency² income of approximately \$55,500. For single male head of households with children, the average household income is about \$51,200. For female heads of household with children, the average household income is about \$36,400, or significantly less than that required for self-sufficiency and than that of their male counterparts. In addition, the majority of single parents are female. So, while child care costs are a high percentage of a self-sufficiency income, they are an even higher portion of household income when that income is less than \$50,000 per year, resulting in an average of 39% to 52% of household income for single female heads of households. For two working parents, the average household income is sufficient to cover child care costs. However, in 2000, over half of all families had incomes below \$59,000, which is the close to the self-sufficiency income for a family with two working adults. When child care composes approximately one-fourth of a family's expenses, it does not leave much income for other necessities. The lower the average household income child care costs have a greater the impact on a family's resources. The analysis included in this report suggests the need for more subsidized child care. That is, only about 33% of children eligible for subsidies have a subsidized child care space.

10. Average child care costs in Sonoma County range from a low of 20% to a high of 29% of median household income in Sonoma County and they average 24% countywide (assuming one infant and one preschooler).

The average median household income in Sonoma County is \$85,900, and the average cost of child care, assuming one infant in a family child care home and one preschooler in center-based care is about \$21,000 per year or about 24% of income. This represents a significant household expense for families with children. As discussed above, average adjusted income of families with children in the County is \$87,000 for married couples, \$51,000 for male head of household with children, and \$36,400 for female head of household with children. Thus, for single parents, child care costs are a significantly higher portion of annual expenses and can represent a real barrier to finding and sustaining employment. Child care costs as a percent of household income are highest in Greater Sebastopol, Russian River, and Greater Town of Sonoma at 29% and lowest in Geyserville/Rural North East area at 20%.

² Self Sufficiency Standard for California 2008, Diana Pearce PhD.

11. Overall, 22% of Sonoma County families had incomes at or below 200% of the federal poverty level, which is about \$35,000, based on the 2000 Census.

By area, this percentage ranges from a high of 32% in the Russian River area to a low of 17% in Greater Petaluma and Windsor areas. Many consider 200% of federal poverty level to be the minimum income needed to meet basic needs. With child care at an average of \$21,000 per year for two children, many families cannot afford child care.

12. Of the 775 children involved in the Child Welfare System in Sonoma County, 406 are under age 13 and currently living/placed in Sonoma County: 144 in the family maintenance program and 262 under court supervision.

About 54% of the children served by CWS are in the Greater Santa Rosa area (220) and 11% are in Greater Rohnert Park-Cotati (44). Overall, the number of children in CPS represents about one-half of one percent of all children countywide, which totals approximately 92,000. In each of the community areas, children in CPS represents less than one percent of total children. There are additional children over age 13 being served in the County; total children served ages 0 to 18 equals about 775.

Study Organization

The mandate of the Needs Assessment is to collect a wide variety of data every five years about the well-being of children and their families. The purpose of this is many-fold, but one of the primary ones is to provide more information to public agencies serving children and their child care needs with which to plan and address children's needs. Each agency or County department undoubtedly has its own opinions about what these data mean and their impact on its specific mandates and service delivery systems. The Needs Assessment is organized according to the major goal statements from the County's current strategic plan, "For the Children: A Comprehensive Plan for Child Care and Learning Programs, Sonoma County 2005-2010."

There are five overall goal statements and desired outcomes. A chapter on each of these goals with relevant data follows this **Introduction and Findings** chapter. The data required to be collected in Needs Assessments are summarized according to their relationship to each goal and are included in **Chapters II** through **VI**. This builds on the Comprehensive Plan for Child Care, which included data from the 2004 Needs Assessment under each goal. **Chapter VII** includes information on the sources and limitations of the data the presented in the report. There are 10 appendices with detailed data tables for each measure that the Local Planning Councils are required to include in a Needs Assessment. Additional data beyond the basic requirements have been collected and analyzed for this study. Under separate cover are Child Care Profiles for each of the 11 community areas and Sonoma County as a whole. These three-page summaries highlight the status of children and the results of this study. These profiles are meant to be used by the broader child care community and others interested in the status of children in their communities.

II. GOAL 1: CHILD CARE IS VALUED BY THE COMMUNITY: ESTIMATE OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

This chapter focuses on the status of children and their families. It presents information on the distribution of children by age and location, families, population, households, and other basic demographics pertinent to child care.

Goal 1 of the Comprehensive Plan for Child Care is:

Child care and learning programs and the children and families they serve are valued by the community at large as vital to the overall quality of life of Sonoma County residents.

The desired outcomes for this goal include:

Government, business, labor, education, and the non-profit sector collaborate to fund and support child care programs. Social and public policy in Sonoma County represent the needs of the community's children and families.

The following presents information on children and their families that are used in all subsequent sections. In particular, special populations of children are compared to children in total, children by age, and children by location. Information on population, households, and employment is also presented. **Appendix A** presents detailed tables with the wide variety of demographic data used in this study. This section is a summary of that information.

Children, Population, and Other Demographics

As shown in **Table 2**, there are approximately 93,200 children 0 to 13 years old in Sonoma County in 2009. This estimate is based on projections from the Association of Bay Area Governments' (ABAG) *Projections 2007* for the period between 2005 and 2010 with adjustments based on projections by the California Department of Finance (DOF). The incremental growth between these two periods is then divided evenly by year to arrive at an estimate for 2009. Total population in the County is estimated to be just over 503,000. Most of this population resides in the Greater Santa Rosa, Rohnert Park-Cotati, and Petaluma community areas, at 344,000 or 68% of the total. Likewise, these three areas are home to about 71% of the County's children.

Children as a percentage of population is an important demographic indicator and is important to child care planning efforts. As shown, as of 2009, children as a percentage of total population is 18.5% overall, countywide. By community area, it varies substantially from a low of 11.6% in Coastal Sonoma County to a high of 23.4% in Windsor. These variations are congruent with known community characteristics, such as the coastal areas being home to many retired households and Windsor having a reputation as a family-friendly community with affordable housing options.

Table 2
Summary of Current Demographics by Community Area - 2009
Sonoma County Child Care Needs Assessment - 2009

Community Area	Total Estimated Population 2009	Total Estimated Children 0-13 in 2009	% Distribution of Children	Children as % of Population
1 Cloverdale	9,520	1,879	2.0%	19.7%
2 Coastal Sonoma County	9,020	1,050	1.1%	11.6%
3 Geyserville/Rural North East	6,020	1,098	1.2%	18.2%
4 Greater Healdsburg	19,800	3,571	3.8%	18.0%
5 Greater Petaluma	72,620	14,666	15.7%	20.2%
6 Greater Rohnert Park-Cotati	57,300	11,688	12.5%	20.4%
7 Russian River	16,820	2,529	2.7%	15.0%
8 Greater Santa Rosa	213,760	39,788	42.7%	18.6%
9 Greater Sebastopol	29,740	5,034	5.4%	16.9%
10 Greater Town of Sonoma	41,560	5,586	6.0%	13.4%
11 Windsor	26,880	6,281	6.7%	23.4%
Total Sonoma County	503,040	93,168	100.0%	18.5%

Sources: ABAG; 2000 US Census; Brion & Associates.

Changes in this ratio as projected countywide by DOF were applied to each area’s base ratio from the 2000 Census for this analysis. In some communities in the Bay Area, children as a percent of total population is declining overall, including Alameda, Contra Costa, and San Francisco Counties. In Sonoma County, this is not the case. **Table 2** shows countywide rates projected by the DOF, as follows:

Table 3
Children as a Percentage of Total Population by Year

Year	Children 0-13 as % of Population	Net Change
2000	18.6%	
2009	18.5%	-0.3%
2014	19.4%	4.7%
2019	20.1%	3.9%
2024	21.0%	4.2%

Sources: California Department of Finance; Brion & Associates

The rate changes by age groups vary slightly, with infants as a percent of population changing from 2.3% in 2000 to 3.0% in 2024. These demographic changes are not significant, but they do imply an increasing ratio of children 0 to 13 years old relative to the rest of the population, which, in turn, will require more child care.

It is important to note that many school districts are experiencing declining student enrollment. The trend of increasing numbers of children overall is often misinterpreted because of the enrollment issues facing public schools. While enrollment may be declining in some areas, children as a percentage of population is still increasing, suggesting that parents are making other choices for their children in terms of education, such as private schools, charter schools, and home schooling.

Another important indicator of child care demand is labor force participation rates (LFPRs). These rates determine a base of children that may require licensed care. However, we do know that not all children with working parents require or use licensed care based on data from surveys and other related studies. Thus, applying these factors to the number of total children in an area is the first step of estimating child care demand, as further discussed in **Chapter III**.

Table 4 below presents LFPR data from the 2000 Census for each community area. LFPRs of parents are collected by the Census for two age groups, 0 to 6 years old and 6 to 17 years old. As shown, the LFPR for 0 to 6 year olds is 58% overall in the County and 69% for 6 to 17 year olds. This reflects the fact that more women go back to work after their children start school. Areas with the lowest LFPRs include more affluent areas, like Healdsburg and the Town of Sonoma. Moderate income areas have higher LFPRs due to the high cost of housing in Sonoma County. The areas with the highest rates, especially for older children, include the Greater Rohnert Park-Cotati area, Cloverdale, Windsor, and the Greater Town of Sonoma.

Other basic demographic information that is relevant to the Needs Assessment includes household and employment data. **Table 5** summarizes the estimates of both for 2009, based on ABAG's forecast for Sonoma County by city and rural area. In general, the concentration of households parallels that of the population in the County. About 42% of households are located in the Greater Santa Rosa area, with about 80,500 households. Greater Petaluma has almost 27,000 households or 14%, followed by Greater Rohnert Park-Cotati area with about 21,000 or 11%.

Employment tends to follow the concentrations of population and households in Sonoma County. This is especially true in Greater Santa Rosa, which has 42% of total households and over 47% of total employment, or approximately half of the 233,700 total jobs, as of 2009. Although employment is a main demand generator for child care, many parents choose child care for social and developmental reasons, as well, when they can afford it.

Table 4
Summary of Labor Force Participation Rates
Sonoma County Child Care Needs Assessment - 2009

Community Area	LFPRs 0 to 6 Yrs Old as of 2000	LFPRs 6 to 17 Yrs Old as of 2000
1 Cloverdale	57%	71%
2 Coastal Sonoma County	60%	60%
3 Geyserville/Rural North East	64%	69%
4 Greater Healdsburg	52%	70%
5 Greater Petaluma	57%	70%
6 Greater Rohnert Park-Cotati	63%	74%
7 Russian River	57%	67%
8 Greater Santa Rosa	61%	70%
9 Greater Sebastopol	60%	63%
10 Greater Town of Sonoma	55%	72%
11 Windsor	55%	72%
Total Sonoma County	58%	69%

Sources: 2000 US Census; Brion & Associates.

Table 5
Summary of Current Households and Employment by Community Area - 2009
Sonoma County Child Care Needs Assessment - 2009

Community Area	Total Estimated Households 2009	% Distribution of Households	Total Estimated Employment 2009	% Distribution of Households
1 Cloverdale	3,512	1.8%	2,020	0.9%
2 Coastal Sonoma County	4,018	2.1%	3,522	1.5%
3 Geyserville/Rural North East	2,028	1.1%	3,190	1.4%
4 Greater Healdsburg	7,314	3.8%	10,288	4.4%
5 Greater Petaluma	26,778	14.1%	37,834	16.2%
6 Greater Rohnert Park-Cotati	21,382	11.2%	27,610	11.8%
7 Russian River	7,388	3.9%	4,114	1.8%
8 Greater Santa Rosa	80,500	42.3%	110,634	47.3%
9 Greater Sebastopol	11,678	6.1%	10,456	4.5%
10 Greater Town of Sonoma	16,818	8.8%	17,486	7.5%
11 Windsor	9,072	4.8%	6,538	2.8%
Total Sonoma County	190,488	100%	233,692	100%

Sources: ABAG; 2000 US Census; Brion & Associates.

Journey-to-Work data collected by the Census provides interesting information regarding child care demand. Sonoma County has a high percentage of residents that live and work in the County. This is not the case for many other Bay Area counties where inter-county commuting is more prevalent, such as those that commute into San Francisco for employment from all over the Bay Area. As of 2000, about 82% of employed residents live and work in Sonoma County, and the remaining 18% commute outside the County for employment. Some people who commute outside the County for work may take their children to child care near their place of work. We have not made adjustments for this possibility because we have not estimated child care demand from workers who commute into the County and who might bring their children for care within the County. We assume these figures would offset each other. In 2000, there were about 41,000 employed Sonoma County residents that commuted outside the County for work. Based on Census data, we estimate there are about 42,100 employees working in Sonoma County and living elsewhere in 2009 (see **Table A-8** in **Appendix A**).

Household and Other Income Measures

Income is a key determinant of the well-being of children and the ability of families to pay for child care. **Table 6** summarizes two important income measures for families: median household income and percentage of families at 200% of federal poverty level, which, as mentioned above, some consider the basic income needed to sustain a family. Sustainability issues are further discussed in **Chapter VI**. With a median household income of \$110,000, the Geyserville/Rural North East area is the only community area with a significantly higher median household income than the rest of the County. The majority of the community areas have median household incomes that range from a low of about \$70,000 to about \$94,000. The overall estimated median household income in the County is \$85,880 for 2009, based on ABAG projections. Six community areas' median household incomes are below this median, and five's are above it.

As of 2000, about 22% of families in Sonoma County have incomes at or below 200% of the federal poverty level, or approximately \$36,000. Greater Petaluma, Greater Rohnert Park-Cotati, and Windsor have the lowest rates in the County overall at 17%, 19%, and 17%, respectively. The Russian River area had the highest percent of families at or below 200% of federal poverty level, or about one-third. Cloverdale and Coastal Sonoma Area follow with 29% and 26%, correspondingly. In these areas, there are more families that may have financial difficulty paying for child care.

In 2004, the latest year for which information is available from DOF, per capita income in Sonoma County was about 10% higher than the State average. Per capita income was about \$38,000 in the County in 2004 versus about \$35,200 in the State. In 2000, Sonoma County's per capita income was about 12% higher than the State average, according to DOF.

Table 6
Income Measures by Community Area - 2009
Sonoma County Child Care Needs Assessment - 2009

Community Area	Median Household Income - 2009	Percent Above/Below County	Percent of Families Under Federal Poverty Level in 2000
1 Cloverdale	\$70,940	83%	29%
2 Coastal Sonoma County	\$93,980	109%	26%
3 Geyserville/Rural North East	\$110,200	128%	20%
4 Greater Healdsburg	\$82,500	96%	24%
5 Greater Petaluma	\$92,160	107%	17%
6 Greater Rohnert Park-Cotati	\$82,011	95%	19%
7 Russian River	\$72,960	85%	32%
8 Greater Santa Rosa	\$86,430	101%	23%
9 Greater Sebastopol	\$75,814	88%	21%
10 Greater Town of Sonoma	\$80,124	93%	23%
11 Windsor	\$93,980	109%	17%
Total Sonoma County	\$85,880	na	22%

Note: 200% of Federal Poverty Level is \$36,620 for a family of four.

Sources: 2000 US Census; Brion & Associates.

According to the 2000 Census, the median family income in 2008 dollars in Sonoma County was approximately \$76,400. This includes families with and without children. Married couples with children under 18 years old have a median family income—\$87,400—that is almost 14% higher than the overall median. Single head of households have much lower income when children are present. Male head of households with children under 18 years have a median family income of about \$52,000, or 67%, of the County median. Single female head of households with children under 18 years have the lowest median family income of about \$36,400, or 48%, of the County median (see **Table E-2** in **Appendix E**).

Table 7 compares the median household income to the costs of child care on an annual basis for a family with one infant in a family child care home setting and one preschooler in center-based care, or about \$21,000. As shown, child care costs equal about 24% of median household income overall in the County, and that rate varies by as low as 20% in Geyserville/Rural North East to as much as 29% in Russian River, Greater Sebastopol and Greater Town of Sonoma areas. Given the high cost of housing in Sonoma County in recent years, child care costs represent another significant burden on families' income. It is important to note the median household income data from ABAG includes households without children.

Chapter VI provides more discussion of child care affordability issues. See **Appendix E** for more detailed data on income measures in the County.

Table 7
Comparison of Annual Child Care Costs as Percent of Median Household Income by Area
Sonoma County Child Care Needs Assessment - 2009

Community Area and No.	Estimated Median Household Income in 2009	Annual Child Care Costs			Child Care Costs as % of Median Income
		Cost: 1 Infant at FCCH	Cost: 1 Preschooler at Center	Total Child Care Costs	
1 Cloverdale	\$70,940	\$9,263	\$6,054	\$18,526	26%
2 Coastal Sonoma County	\$93,980	\$11,128	\$5,200	\$22,256	24%
3 Geyserville/Rural North East	\$110,200	\$11,128	\$5,200	\$22,256	20%
4 Greater Healdsburg	\$82,500	\$9,995	\$6,393	\$19,991	24%
5 Greater Petaluma	\$92,160	\$10,624	\$8,118	\$21,247	23%
6 Greater Rohnert Park-Cotati	\$82,011	\$9,840	\$8,359	\$19,679	24%
7 Russian River	\$72,960	\$10,712	\$10,400	\$21,424	29%
8 Greater Santa Rosa	\$86,430	\$10,105	\$8,578	\$20,209	23%
9 Greater Sebastopol	\$75,814	\$10,817	\$7,039	\$21,634	29%
10 Greater Town of Sonoma	\$80,124	\$11,680	\$8,350	\$23,360	29%
11 Windsor	\$93,980	\$10,036	\$8,026	\$20,072	21%
Total Countywide	\$85,880	\$10,295	\$6,956	\$20,590	24%

Sources: Sonoma 4Cs; River to Coast Children's Services; Brion & Associates.

Ethnicity and Language

Like many counties in California, Sonoma County will experience significant changes in ethnicity and race over the next ten years. In general, demographic forecasters call it the “browning” of California. Hispanics have traditionally been the largest minority group in the County, and their share of total population will increase from about 24% to 30% by 2019, according to DOF forecasts. Whites will represent 58% of total population in 2019, down from 67% in 2009. In 2000, Whites represented over 80% of all residents in Sonoma County. Thus, in 10 years, Whites will no longer be the dominant ethnic group in Sonoma County, although they will still have a slight majority. All other minority groups will see smaller shifts and overall increases in their share of total population. Because the focus of this study is children, we highlight the demographic shifts for children 0 to 13 years of age. See **Appendix F** for more information and detailed tables on ethnicity and language.

In 2009, White children compose about 46% of total children, and by 2019, this figure will decrease to 42%. Thus, White children represent a smaller overall portion of total children than

White population overall in Sonoma County. Hispanic children on the other hand, represent 42% of the total in 2009, and that figure will increase to 47% in 2019. Proportionately, Hispanic families have more children per family than Whites in the County. DOF provides detailed forecasts of ethnicity by age and sex for the County but not by location. Although the 2000 Census presents data on ethnicity by location, its ethnic categories are slightly different from DOF’s, and it does not include a Hispanic category. However, there is a Census variable that is percent Hispanic and Non-Hispanic by community area; this data is included in **Appendix F**.

In 2000, Whites comprised from 65% to as high as 90% of total population by community area. Geyserville/Rural North East showed 65% Whites and 26% “some other race,” while Russian River and Greater Sebastopol showed 90% Whites. Across the County, the multi-racial population is expected to increase. These demographic changes, while not as extreme as some other locations in California, have implications for the provision of child care in terms of the language spoken by children, which predicts the need for providers and service agencies to offer additional services in other languages. The languages offered by child care providers are discussed in **Chapter III**.

The languages spoken by children 5 to 17, according to the 2000 Census, are summarized below in **Table 8**. As shown, English is the predominant language, spoken by 77% of children countywide, followed by Spanish by 18%, and Asian/Pacific Islander and all other languages each by 2%.

Table 8
Language Spoken by Children 5 to 17 Years Old - 2000
Sonoma County Child Care Needs Assessment-2009

Community Area	English Only	Spanish	Asian - Pacific Islander	All Other
1 Cloverdale	73%	27%	0%	0%
2 Coastal Sonoma County	84%	15%	1%	0%
3 Geyserville/Rural North East	60%	40%	0%	0%
4 Greater Healdsburg	69%	30%	0%	1%
5 Greater Petaluma	82%	13%	1%	4%
6 Greater Rohnert Park-Cotati	84%	10%	3%	3%
7 Russian River	92%	7%	1%	0%
8 Greater Santa Rosa	73%	21%	3%	3%
9 Greater Sebastopol	90%	9%	1%	1%
10 Greater Town of Sonoma	72%	19%	0%	2%
11 Windsor	79%	19%	1%	1%
Total Sonoma County	77%	18%	2%	2%

Source: US 2000 Census; Brion & Associates.

III. GOAL 2: ALL FAMILIES HAVE ACCESS TO HIGH QUALITY CHILD CARE: CHILD CARE SUPPLY AND DEMAND

The supply and demand for child care is the main focus of this chapter. This is the heart of a Needs Assessment. Information on supply and demand in Sonoma County has been estimated based on current available supply data from the two Resource and Referral agencies serving the County, the Community Child Care Council of Sonoma County (4Cs), and River to Coast Children’s Services (RCCS). The supply data is current as of fall 2008. Data on the ASES/21st Century after-school programs are also included in the analysis. The estimate of demand for child care is prepared by age and is related to infant, preschool, and school age care. School age demand is separated into ages 6 to 9 and 10 to 13 to provide communities with more detail about school age care needs. **Chapter VII** provides detailed descriptions of the methodology used to estimate child care demand and, therefore, is not discussed in detail here. **Appendices B and C** provide detailed tables on supply and demand for child care.

Goal 2 of the Comprehensive Plan for Child Care is:

All families have access to high quality learning experiences and child care programs that address the cognitive, physical, emotional, and social development of each child.

The desired outcomes for this goal include:

*Comprehensive and coordinated services are integrated with child care programs.
 Centralized access to information and resources for all programs is increased.*

Child Care Supply and Demand – Countywide

The first part of this section discusses child care supply and demand for all of Sonoma County (see **Table 9**). After this section, supply and demand by each community area are presented.

Table 9
Estimated Child Care Supply in Sonoma County – 2008

Age of Children	# of spaces	% of supply
0 to 1 years old – Infants	1,377	7%
2 to 5 years old – Preschool	7,592	40%
6 to 13 years old – School Age	9,953	53%
0 to 13, All Ages	18,922	100%

- ◆ **Child Care Facilities: 737**
 - Small family child care homes: 366
 - Large family child care homes: 87
 - Child care centers: 246
 - ASES/21st Century Programs:³ 38

³ Afterschool Safety and Education Program; 21st Center Community Learning Centers Program.

- ◆ **Supply: Full- and Part-Time Care⁴**
 - Providers offering full-time care: 637
 - Providers offering part-time care: 597

- ◆ **Supply of Care during Nontraditional Hours⁵**
 - Providers offering evening care: 20
 - Providers offering overnight care: 10
 - Providers offering weekend care: 49 on Saturdays; 31 on Sundays

- ◆ **Providers Speaking Languages Other than English**
 - Spanish only: 14
 - Spanish and English: 226
 - English and other: 35

As shown in **Table 10**, in 2004, when the last Needs Assessment was prepared, there were a total of 14,769 child care spaces; this number includes spaces with Family Child Care Homes (FCCHs) and Child Care Centers (but excludes ASES/21st Century spaces). Since then, an additional 999 child care spaces have been added, and there has been a loss of about 69 providers. Some providers have expanded the number of spaces they offer. Additionally, many smaller centers and FCCHs have closed, while new, larger center-based programs have opened.

Another adjustment was made for this study to the method for estimating supply of FCCH providers. In the 2004 study, full licensed capacity was utilized. However, while FCCHs can be licensed for either a total of 8 or 14 children, most providers do not fill their homes to maximum capacity but rather to a desired capacity (per data provided by the Resource and Referral agencies). We have assumed that, on average, small FCCHs offer six spaces and that large FCCHs offer 12 spaces. If we were to count maximum licensed capacity, the net new spaces could be higher. However, it still would not account for the loss of providers shown below in **Table 10**.

⁴ Some providers offer multiple services.

⁵ Ibid.

Table 10
Comparison of Child Care Supply between 2004 and 2009
Sonoma County Child Care Needs Assessment - 2009

Item	Total		Increase/(Loss) from 2004 to 2009
	Child Care Supply 2004	2009	
Providers	768	699	(69)
Spaces by Type			
Infants	1,292	1,377	85
Preschool	7,115	7,592	477
School Age	6,362	6,799	437
Total	14,769	15,768	999

Note excludes ASES/21st Century as it was not included in 2004.

Sources: Community Child Care Council of Sonoma County; Brion & Associates.

Child care demand is based on several assumptions or steps. Starting with an estimate of total children in Sonoma County for 2009, we apply labor force participation rates to these estimates by age group, as discussed in **Chapter II**. This provides an estimate of children with working parents. We know from surveys and other studies that not every child with a working parent or parents needs licensed child care, which is the focus of this study. We apply demand factors to reduce the estimate of children with working parents to those requiring licensed care. The following table shows the results by age group.

Table 11
Estimated Child Care Demand in Sonoma County at 2009⁶

Age of Children	Conservative: # of spaces needed	Conservative: % of demand	Broad: # of spaces needed	Broad: % of demand
0 to 1 years old – Infants	2,858	11%	7,724	12%
2 to 5 years old – Preschool	7,808	32%	15,615	26%
6 to 13 years old – School Age	<u>14,305</u>	<u>57%</u>	<u>37,806</u>	<u>62%</u>
0 to 13, All Ages	24,970	100%	61,145	100%

⁶ These figures are based on the conservative estimate of demand, which assumes some children of working parents do not use licensed care. Based on the broad estimate of demand, which assumes that every child with working parents needs a licensed child care space, there is an estimated shortfall of 42,223 child care spaces.

Given the supply of child care by age group, the Sonoma County currently has the following shortage of child care spaces. This shortage is also called “child care gap.”

Table 12
Estimated Child Care Surplus/(Shortage) in Sonoma County at 2009

Age of Children	Conservative: # of spaces needed	Conservative: % of shortage	Broad: # of spaces needed	Broad: % of demand
0 to 1 years old – Infants	(1,481)	24%	(6,347)	15%
2 to 5 years old – Preschool	(216)	4%	(8,023)	19%
6 to 13 years old – School Age	<u>(4,352)</u>	<u>72%</u>	<u>(27,853)</u>	<u>56%</u>
0 to 13, All Ages	(6,048)	100%	(42,223)	100%

The size of the child care gap implies that about one out of four children that need a licensed child care space does not have a space. By area and location, the shortage is worse in some cases. The results of our demand analysis assume that of the total children, 0 to 13 years old countywide, approximately 27% require a licensed child care space. This is a conservative estimate and one that could perhaps underestimate demand for certain age groups or by location. The same demand factors and approach are used for each community area; however, the labor force participation rates and children as a percent of total population vary by community area. The supply of child care in the County is summarized graphically, followed by the demand and gap.

Figure 1

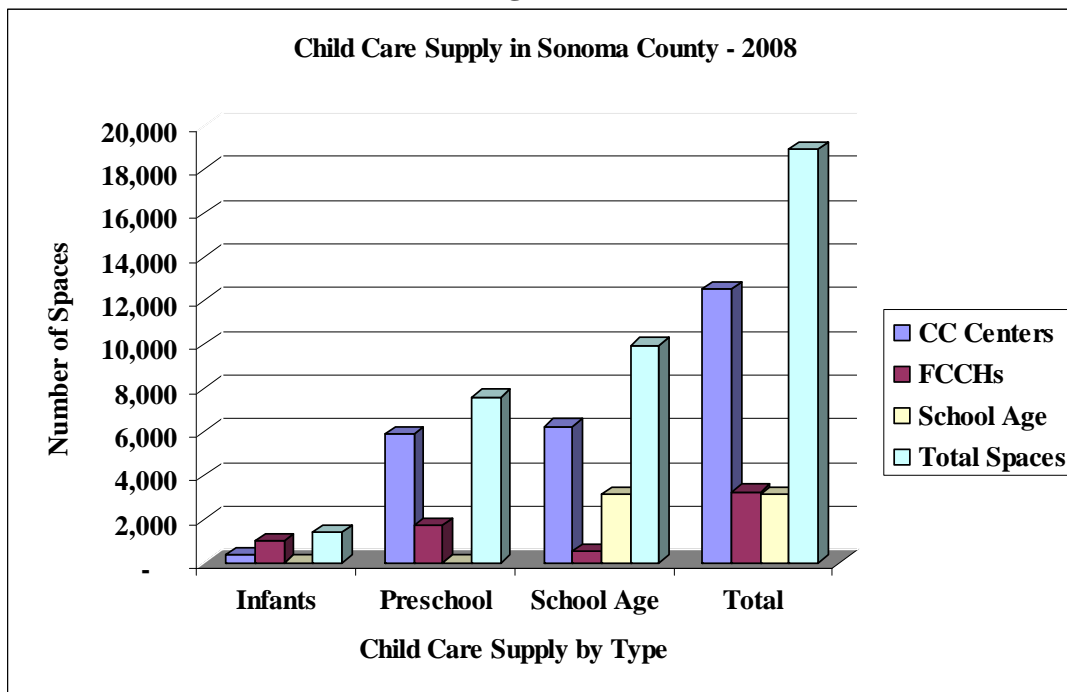
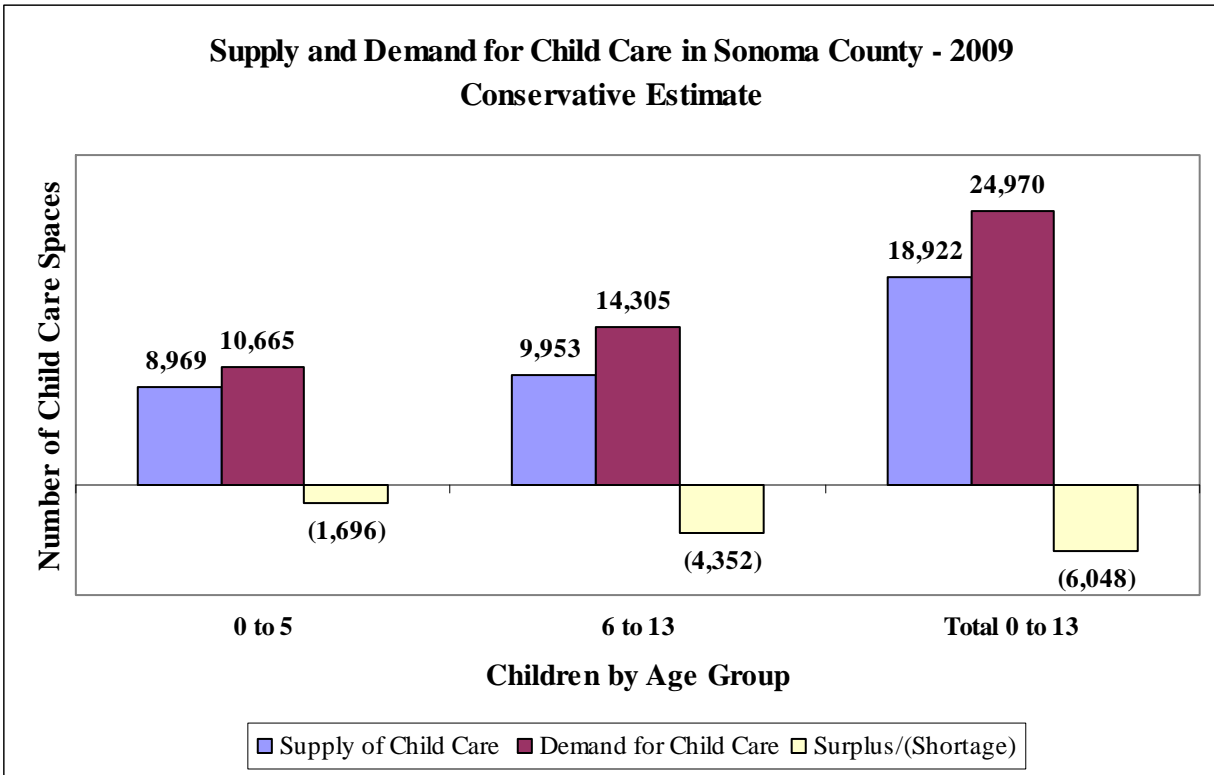


Figure 2



In addition to the current shortage of child care spaces, the County will continue to add residents and employees. This growth will increase the demand for child care over and above existing shortfalls. The following summarizes the future demand by age and type of care.

Table 13
Estimated Future Demand for Child Care in Sonoma County at 2014

Age of Children	Conservative: # of spaces needed	Conservative: % of shortage	Broad: # of spaces needed	Broad: % of demand
0 to 1 years old – Infants	3,101	12%	8,380	13%
2 to 5 years old – Preschool	8,412	32%	16,824	26%
6 to 13 years old – School Age	<u>14,848</u>	<u>56%</u>	<u>39,716</u>	<u>61%</u>
0 to 13, All Ages	26,630	100%	64,921	100%

Table 14
Estimated Future Demand for Child Care in Sonoma County at 2019

Age of Children	Conservative: # of spaces needed	Conservative: % of shortage	Broad: # of spaces needed	Broad: % of demand
0 to 1 years old – Infants	3,353	12%	9,062	13%
2 to 5 years old – Preschool	9,170	32%	18,341	27%
6 to 13 years old – School Age	<u>15,714</u>	<u>56%</u>	<u>41,625</u>	<u>60%</u>
0 to 13, All Ages	28,237	100%	69,028	100%

The broad estimate of child care demand, which assumes all children with working parents require child care, is summarized in the above tables for 2009, 2014, and 2019. This information is useful when comparing the results of the Needs Assessment to statewide planning efforts.

Child Care Supply and Demand by Community Area

The following section summarizes the supply and demand analysis at the community level for 2009. As discussed above, the same methodology and approach were used for each area, with the exception of the unique Labor Force Participation Rates (LFPRs) and children as a percent of total population. As shown below, there is an overall shortfall in the County of 6,048 child care spaces for ages 0 to 13. Geographically, the majority of this shortfall is in Greater Santa Rosa with 40%, Greater Rohnert Park-Cotati with 24% and Greater Petaluma with 10%. In each of these community areas, the majority of this shortfall is in school age care. Preschool spaces in the County show a slight shortfall of 216 spaces, but Greater Santa Rosa alone needs an additional 258 spaces. Greater Petaluma has a surplus of preschool spaces relative to demand of about 276 spaces. The Greater Petaluma area is a major employment center in the County, and it is likely that there is additional demand in these areas from employees not captured in this analysis that use these child care spaces.

Table 15
Summary of Supply, Demand and Surplus/(Shortage) for Child Care by Community Area - 2009
Sonoma County Child Care Needs Assessment - 2009

Community Area	Conservative Estimates						
	Supply 0 to 13	Demand 0 to 13	Surplus/ (Shortfall)	Percent Distribution	Surplus/(Shortfall) by Type in 2009		
					Infant	Preschool	School Age
1 Cloverdale	427	502	(75)	1%	(37)	(77)	39
2 Coastal Sonoma County	125	255	(130)	2%	(16)	(62)	(52)
3 Geyserville/Rural North Eas	42	308	(266)	4%	(35)	(79)	(152)
4 Greater Healdsburg	724	932	(208)	3%	(37)	80	(252)
5 Greater Petaluma	3,252	3,878	(626)	10%	(176)	276	(726)
6 Greater Rohnert Park-Cotati	1,872	3,344	(1,472)	24%	(128)	(151)	(1,192)
7 Russian River	646	655	(9)	0%	(2)	17	(23)
8 Greater Santa Rosa	8,278	10,722	(2,444)	40%	(811)	(258)	(1,374)
9 Greater Sebastopol	853	1,238	(385)	6%	(42)	48	(390)
10 Greater Town of Sonoma	1,482	1,454	28	0%	(132)	83	77
11 Windsor	1,221	1,683	(462)	8%	(64)	(91)	(307)
Total Sonoma County	18,922	24,970	(6,048)	100.0%	(1,481)	(216)	(4,352)

Source: Brion & Associates.

While all community areas have a shortfall overall, some have surpluses in certain age groups. **Table 16** presents the range of demand being met by age group and community area. This is an easier way to discern the pattern of supply and demand relationships. No area has a perfect balance of supply to demand, although Russian River and Greater Town of Sonoma areas come close with an estimated shortfall of nine spaces and a surplus of 28 spaces, respectively. The supply and demand relationships by age group are most important because surpluses in one age group cannot be used by children in another age group. In addition, surplus spaces in one area cannot easily be used by children in another area; Greater Petaluma, for instance, cannot easily serve children in the Coastal Sonoma County area. Given the margin of errors in estimating child care by age in any one area, a gap ratio of 90% to 110% would be reasonable. That is, an area that has 90% to 110% of demand by age group being met by current supply probably does not have significant problems. Anything below 90% is a problem. Supply over 110% could be used by additional employees in the area, or could be used by parents that are not working and desire child care for developmental or social reasons. For instance, it is not surprising that the preschool rates are over 100% in several areas, including Greater Healdsburg, Greater Petaluma, Greater Sebastopol, and the Greater Town of Sonoma. These areas are more affluent and have slightly lower LFPRs than other areas in the County. Parents in these areas may be choosing preschool for more than work reasons, and thus the market, is responding with more spaces than our analysis would suggest.

It is safe to say that any area with less than 80% of demand being met currently has a significant shortfall of child care, irrespective of the age group. Again, the overall 0 to 13 category is a broad indicator of supply and demand relationships in an area, but in terms of planning for child care, each age group and location must be considered separately.

Table 16
Percent of Child Care Demand Met by Age by Community Area - 2009
Sonoma County Child Care Needs Assessment - 2009

Community Area	Percent of Child Care Met in 2009			
	Infant 0 to 1	Preschool 2 to 5	School Age 6 to 13	Total 0 to 13
1 Cloverdale	38%	57%	115%	85%
2 Coastal Sonoma County	41%	28%	63%	49%
3 Geyserville/Rural North East	0%	0%	22%	14%
4 Greater Healdsburg	48%	131%	58%	78%
5 Greater Petaluma	56%	124%	69%	84%
6 Greater Rohnert Park-Cotati	65%	84%	42%	56%
7 Russian River	95%	110%	95%	99%
8 Greater Santa Rosa	41%	93%	49%	77%
9 Greater Sebastopol	64%	113%	49%	69%
10 Greater Town of Sonoma	27%	116%	110%	102%
11 Windsor	77%	82%	70%	73%
Total Sonoma County	48%	97%	70%	76%

Source: Brion & Associates.

IV. GOAL 3: ALL CHILD CARE INCLUDES INTEGRATED AND COORDINATED SERVICES: SPECIAL POPULATIONS AND SERVICES

This chapter of the Needs Assessment focuses on the populations of children in Sonoma County that have special needs or circumstances that require special consideration when it comes to their child care and other services. In this chapter, data on children with special needs and Individualized Education Plans, children in the Child Welfare System, children receiving public assistance, and children of migrant workers are presented. The following goal from the Comprehensive Plan for Child Care embraces the intent of meeting all children’s needs and those of their families.

Goal 3 of the Comprehensive for Child Care is:

All child care and learning programs include integrated, comprehensive, and coordinated services for children and families. These programs focus on the strengths of each individual family and incorporate principles that respect and value culture and diversity.

The desired outcomes for this goal include:

Comprehensive and coordinated services are integrated with child care programs. Centralized access to information and resources for all programs is increased.

By presenting information about special populations of children by age and community area, our intention is to provide organizations and public agencies with more precise information about where these children reside. Comparing the location of children by area or by age shows if and where there are concentrations of children that have special needs or require special services. Detailed data on each of these special populations is provided in **Appendices G through J**. This chapter presents highlights and summarizes that information with the goal of presenting the broader picture of special populations in Sonoma County.

It should be noted that data for the unincorporated community areas, which are dispersed throughout the County, are aggregated and listed as “unincorporated.” This represents a small portion of the children served in each program, ranging from 2% to 6%, depending on the program. In addition, the public assistance programs serve a number of children that are “out of county” and these are listed separately as well.

Children Receiving Public Assistance

The Human Services Department of Sonoma County provides public assistance through a number of programs that support children 0 to 13 years old, as shown in **Table 17**. Many children receive assistance from more than one program, and, thus, each of these programs is presented separately. These figures cannot be added up to a “total children served” by public assistance without double-counting many children. Each program is summarized below.⁷

⁷ Note that data for community areas 2, 3, and 7 are included in “other unincorporated areas.”

Table 17
 Children 0 to 13 Receiving Public Assistance as of September 2008
 Sonoma County Child Care Needs Assessment - 2009

<u>Community Area</u>		Sonoma County Children Ages 0 to 13 by Public Assistance Program											
No.	Name	CalWORKS		Food Stamps		Foster Care Cash Assistance		Medi-Cal		Child Care Stage 1			
		Amount	Percent	Amount	Percent	Amount	Percent	Amount	Percent	Amount	Percent		
1	Cloverdale	85	2%	169	2%	5	2%	460	2%	7	2%		
4	Greater Healdsburg	79	2%	155	2%	3	1%	528	3%	1	0%		
5	Greater Petaluma	291	7%	616	8%	12	5%	1,912	10%	28	8%		
6	Greater Rohnert Park-Cotati	418	10%	769	9%	10	4%	1,553	8%	51	14%		
8	Greater Santa Rosa	2,834	65%	5,190	64%	112	49%	10,601	57%	232	63%		
9	Greater Sebastopol	123	3%	204	3%	59	26%	588	3%	4	1%		
10	Greater Town of Sonoma	151	3%	279	3%	5	2%	829	4%	14	4%		
11	Windsor	201	5%	376	5%	6	3%	992	5%	27	7%		
	Other Unincorporated Areas	189	4%	399	5%	16	7%	1,125	6%	7	2%		
	Total Sonoma County	4,371	100%	8,157	100%	228	100%	18,588	100%	371	100%		
	Percent of Total Children	4.8%		8.9%		0.2%		20.2%		0.4%			
	Out of County Children Served	59		106		68		538		7			
	Total Children Served	4,430		8,263		296		19,126		378			

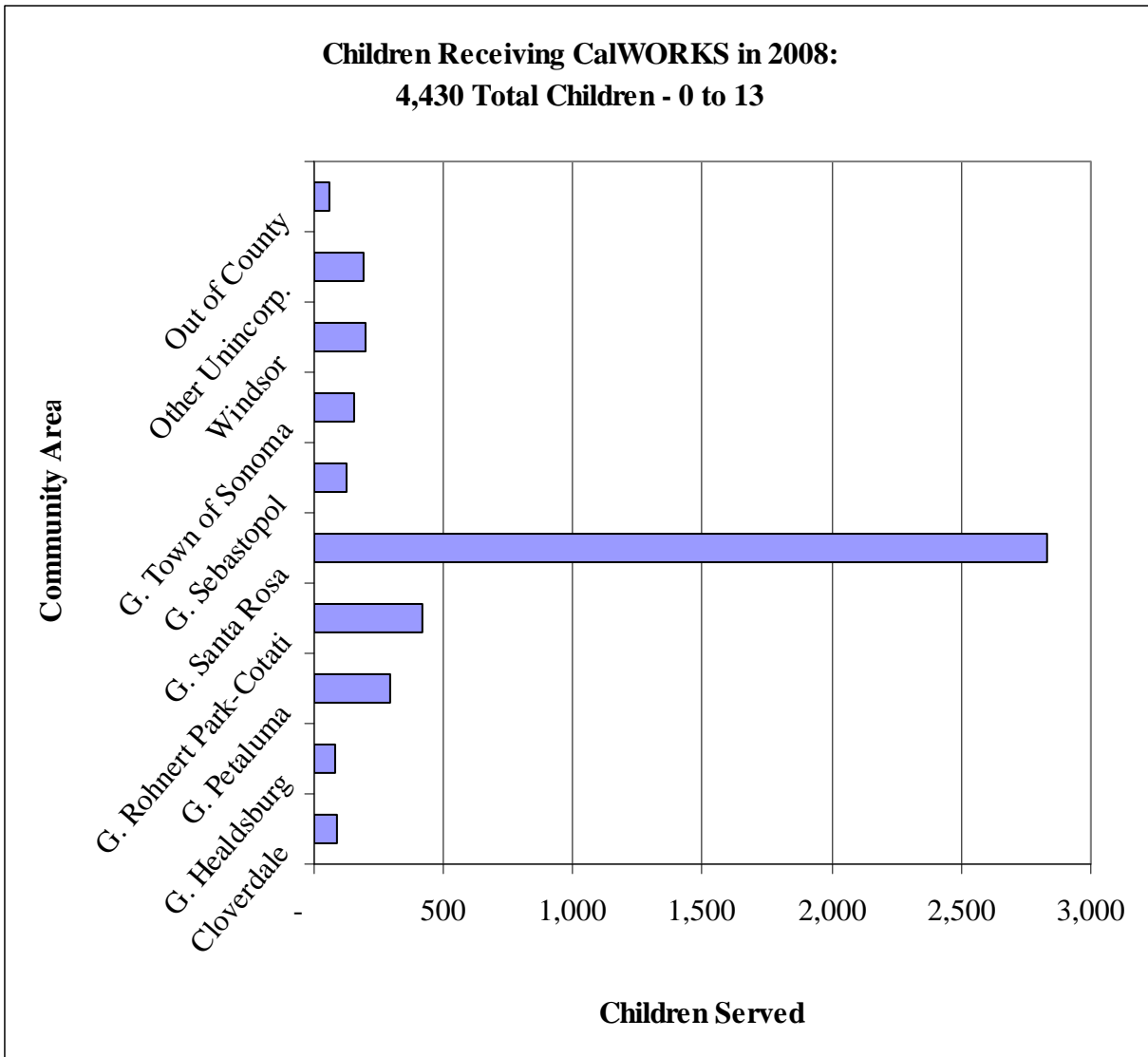
Note: data for community areas 2, 3, and 7 are included in Other Unincorporated Areas.

Sources: Human Services Department, County of Sonoma "Number of Sonoma County Children receiving Public Assistance on September 30, 2008, Division of Planning, Research and Evaluation; Tara Smith, October 27, 2008; Brion & Associates.

CalWORKS

There are a total of 4,430 children being served through the CalWORKS program in Sonoma County, with 64% in the Greater Santa Rosa area (7.2% of total children in Santa Rosa). All the other community areas have from 1% to 9% of the children in CalWORKS (from 2% to 4.7% of children in those areas). **Appendix G** provides more detail, by age group, on the children being served by CalWORKS. **Figure 3** summarizes the number of children served by CalWORKS by community area.

Figure 3⁸

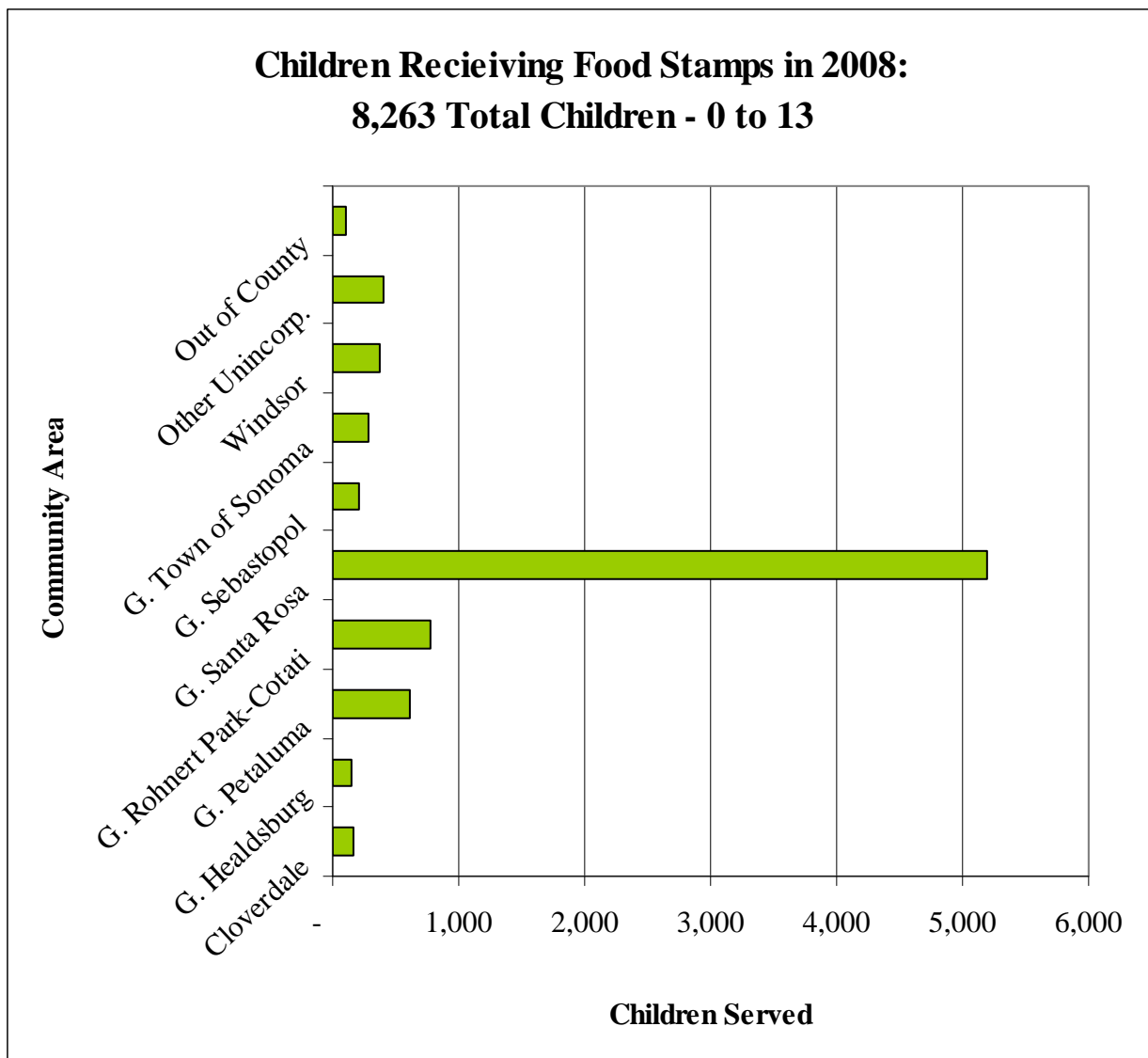


⁸ Note that data for community areas 2, 3, and 7 are included in “other unincorp.”

Food Stamps

There are about 8,300 children receiving food stamps countywide as of 2008. **Figure 4** summarizes the distribution of these children by community area. As shown, again as with CalWORKS, a majority (63%) of these children are in the Greater Santa Rosa area. All other areas have from 1% to 9% of the remaining children served by the food stamps program. About 9% of total children in the County are being served by the food stamps program.

Figure 4⁹

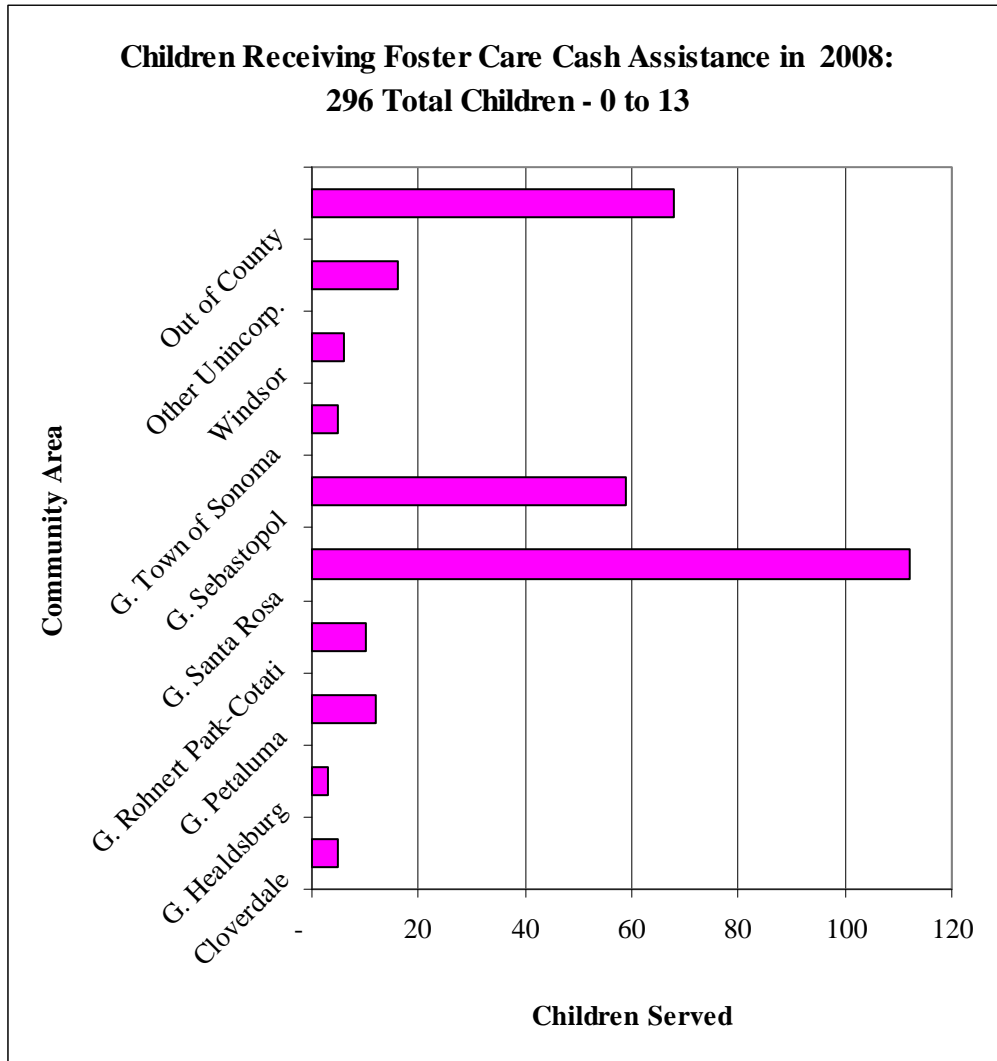


⁹ Note that data for community areas 2, 3, and 7 are included in “other unincorp.”

Foster Care Cash Assistance

A total of 296 children ages 0 to 13 receive Foster Care Cash Assistance in the program; 228 of these children live in Sonoma County. In this program, 38% are located in the Greater Santa Rosa community area, 20% in Greater Sebastopol, and 23% out of county. The other areas have a very small number of children receiving Foster Care Cash Assistance. Overall, only one-third of one percent of children 0 to 13 in the County receive Foster Care Cash Assistance. **Figure 5** summarizes this data graphically by community area.

Figure 5¹⁰

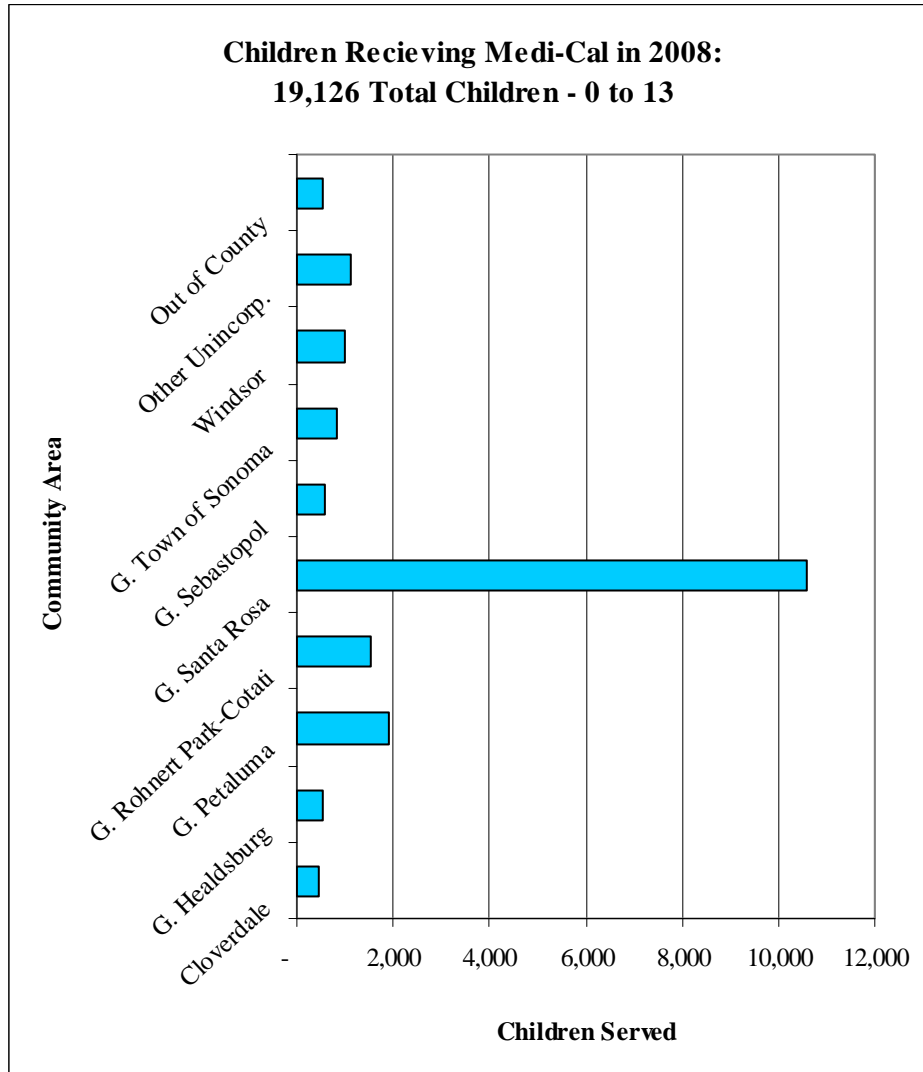


¹⁰ Note that data for community areas 2, 3, and 7 are included in “other unincorp.”

Medi-Cal

Medi-Cal serves the largest number of children of all the public assistance programs, with a total of about 19,100 children served, or 21% of all children 0 to 13. About 55% of these children are in the Greater Santa Rosa community area and 10% in Greater Petaluma. **Figure 6** presents this data in bar-chart form by community area.

Figure 6¹¹

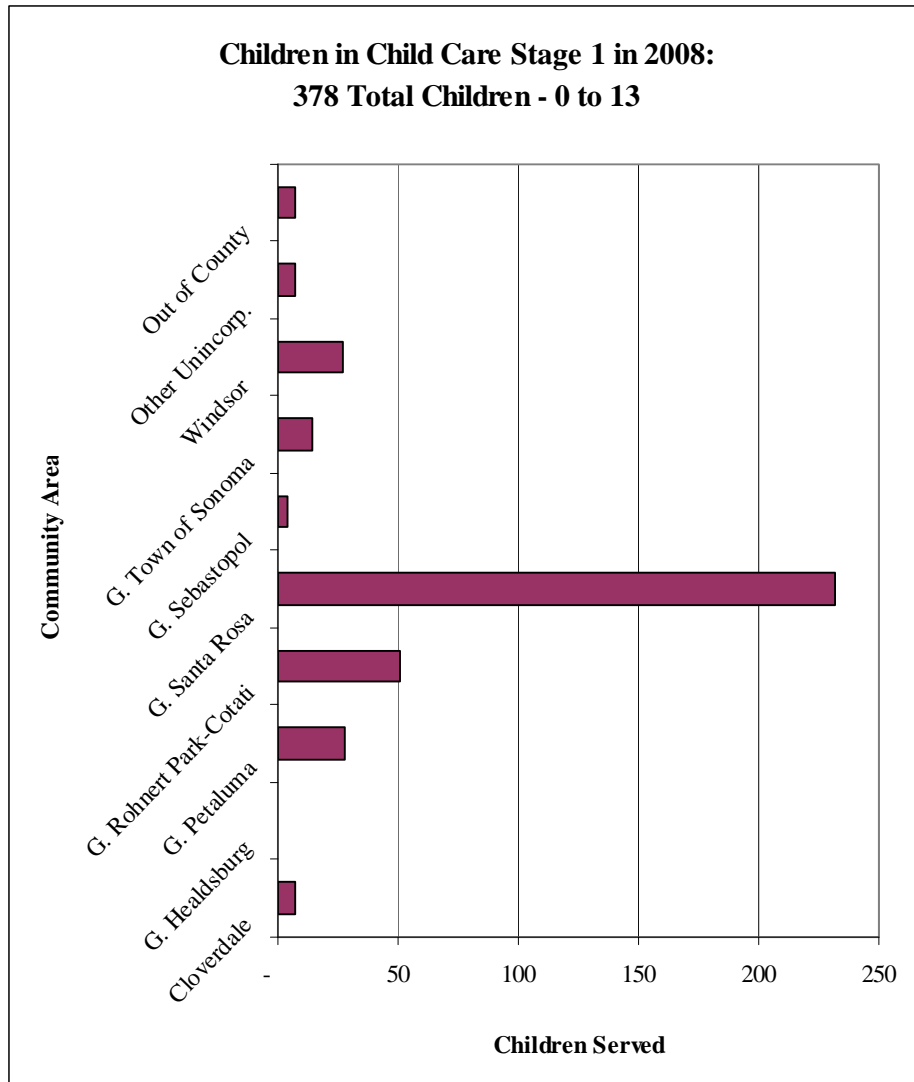


¹¹ Note that data for community areas 2, 3, and 7 are included in “other unincorp.”

Subsidized Child Care Program, Stage 1

There are 378 children being served by Stage 1 Child Care, with about 61% of these children located in the Greater Santa Rosa area and 13% in Greater Rohnert Park-Cotati community area (See **Appendix D** for definitions of Stage 1, 2, and 3 programs). The rest of the children are spread through the County equally. Children in Stage 1 Child Care represent less than one-half of one percent of all children 0 to 13 in the County. **Figure 7** summarizes these data.

Figure 7¹²



In summary, Medi-Cal and Food Stamps provide the most public assistance to children in the County; the other public assistance programs serve a relatively small number of children countywide. Data on each program by age of children and location are provided in **Appendix G**.

¹² Note that data for community areas 2, 3, and 7 are included in “other unincorp.”

Children Involved with the Child Welfare System

The Child Welfare System is responsible for investigating and responding to suspected child abuse, neglect and exploitation. In November 2008, there were 775 children ages 0 to 18 involved in the Child Welfare System in Sonoma County. There are two main programs within the Child Welfare System, one for children who are under court supervision and the other for children who are at home receiving family maintenance services. Of the 775 children involved in the Child Welfare System in Sonoma County, 406 are under age 13 AND currently living/placed in Sonoma County: 144 in the family maintenance program and 262 under court supervision. **Table 18** summarizes these children in total by age and by community area while **Figure 8** presents these data graphically. As with public assistance, 50% of these children reside in the Greater Santa Rosa area. However, the total number of children receiving child welfare services who are 0-13 years old and residing in Sonoma County constitutes only one half of one percent of all children ages 0-13 in Sonoma County. More detailed data on the Child Welfare System are presented in **Appendix H**.

Figure 8

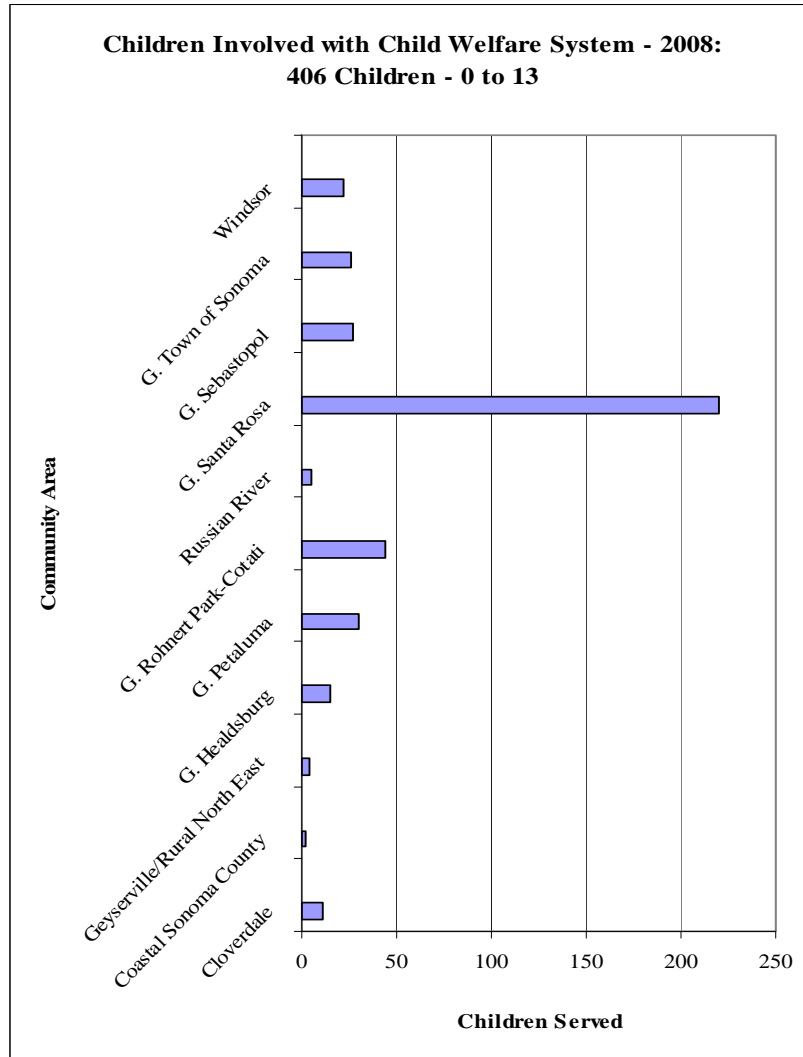


Table 18
Children Involved with Children Welfare System - 0 to 13 - November 2008
Sonoma County Child Care Needs Assessment-2009

Community Area No. Name	Age of Children						Total 0 to 13	Percent Distribution	Total Children in Sonoma County-2008	Percent of Children in CPS
	0 to 1	Percent	2 to 5	Percent	6 to 13	Percent				
1 Cloverdale	1	2%	3	3%	7	3%	11	2.7%	1,823	0.60%
2 Coastal Sonoma County	0	0%	1	1%	1	0%	2	0.5%	950	0.21%
3 Geyserville/Rural North East	0	0%	3	3%	1	0%	4	1.0%	1,083	0.37%
4 Greater Healdsburg	1	2%	5	4%	9	4%	15	3.7%	3,535	0.42%
5 Greater Petaluma	5	9%	11	10%	14	6%	30	7.4%	14,488	0.21%
6 Greater Rohnert Park-Cotati	7	13%	8	7%	29	12%	44	10.8%	11,565	0.38%
7 Russian River	0	0%	1	1%	4	2%	5	1.2%	2,491	0.20%
8 Greater Santa Rosa	33	60%	65	58%	122	51%	220	54.2%	39,204	0.56%
9 Greater Sebastopol	1	2%	4	4%	22	9%	27	6.7%	5,006	0.54%
10 Greater Town of Sonoma	2	4%	6	5%	18	8%	26	6.4%	5,554	0.47%
11 Windsor	5	9%	6	5%	11	5%	22	5.4%	6,207	0.35%
Total Sonoma County	55	100%	113	100%	238	100%	406	100.0%	91,906	0.44%

Note data does not include homeless families or children who are wards of the Sonoma county juvenile court but placed outside of the county. These numbers are also on the conservative side, as there are constantly changes to cases which affect their retrievability from the database.

Provided by Family, Youth & Children's Services, Sonoma County Human Services Department, Katie Greaves via email, November 3, 2008.

Sources: Family, Youth & Children's Services, Sonoma County Human Services Department; Brion & Associates.

Family Maintenance provides time-limited services to children in their own homes. Families whose children are at risk of neglect or abuse, and who state they are willing to accept voluntary services from the County, may be eligible for up to 12 months of Family Maintenance services if it is determined the children can remain safely in their home while these services are being provided. Services may be extended under certain circumstances if the family is willing to work on correcting the problems that brought the family to the attention of the Child Welfare System in the first place.

Children with Special Needs and Special Education

There are a variety of children in Sonoma County that have special needs or conditions that require special consideration. These range from speech and learning disabilities to severe physical or mental disabilities. The State Office of Education tracks data on special needs children by age, ethnicity, and diagnosis, and cross tabulates this information. The data, when possible, are presented for children 0 to 13 consistent with our focus. However, for some data items, the data are only available for children 0 to 22. This data are not available by community area and are therefore presented on a countywide basis. In addition, the North Bay Regional Center tracks special needs children 0 to 3, who are not necessarily in the Office of Education data due to their young ages.

Table 19 summarizes the data from DataQuest from the State Office of Education by age. As shown, there are 5,529 children under 13 years old and in K to 8th grade. There can be additional special needs children in K to 8th grade who are older than 13, however. There are a total of 7,546 children with special needs by diagnosis and 0 to 13. Some children can have multiple diagnoses, so this number is higher than the other data items on special needs children. By ethnic group, there are 6,202 children with special needs, and 6,091 children with Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) (see **Figure 9** for children with IEPs by age and community area).

Table 20 summarizes children 0 to 22 with special needs by ethnicity. As shown, about 57% of these children are reported as White, 36% as Hispanic, and 3% as African American. In total, there are 9,293 children 0 to 22 with special needs.

There are about 542 children 0 to 3, of whom approximately 55% are located in the Greater Santa Rosa community area (see **Figure 10**). The next largest concentration is in Greater Petaluma with about 15% or 84 of these children. Data on their diagnosis are not readily available. It should be noted that some of these children will not continue to be special needs children as they get older; some children grow out of various problems, such as delayed speech.

Figure 11 shows special education enrollment by disability for Sonoma County as a whole, for children 0 to 13. The majority, 39%, has Speech or Language impairment, and the second largest group, with 38%, is categorized as having Specific Learning Disability. Five percent is diagnosed as having autism, and 4% each as having Mental Retardation and Other Health Impairment.

Table 19
Children with Special Needs in Sonoma County
Sonoma County Child Care Needs Assessment - 2009

Age	Total Children with Special Needs 0 to 13			
	K to 8th Grade	All Diagnoses	All Ethnic Groups	with IEPs
0	-	19	19	13
1	-	38	38	30
2	-	57	24	26
3	2	258	258	198
4	9	322	322	322
5	299	580	316	272
6	420	420	420	413
7	535	535	535	500
8	645	955	645	660
9	754	754	754	694
10	717	717	717	784
11	734	1,471	734	717
12	742	743	743	725
13	672	677	677	737
Total 0-13 Countywide	5,529	7,546	6,202	6,091

Sources: California Department of Education - DataQuest-07-08; Brion & Associates.

Table 20
Children with Special Needs by Race, 0 to 22 by Race, All Diagnoses
Sonoma County Child Care Needs Assessment - 2009

Ethnicity	Total Children, 0-22	
	Ages	Percent Distribution
Native American	124	1%
Asian	173	2%
Pacific Islander	36	0%
Filipino	24	0%
Hispanic	3,351	36%
African-American	290	3%
White	<u>5,295</u>	<u>57%</u>
Total	9,293	100%

Sources: California Department of Education - DataQuest-07-08; Brion & Associates.

Figure 9

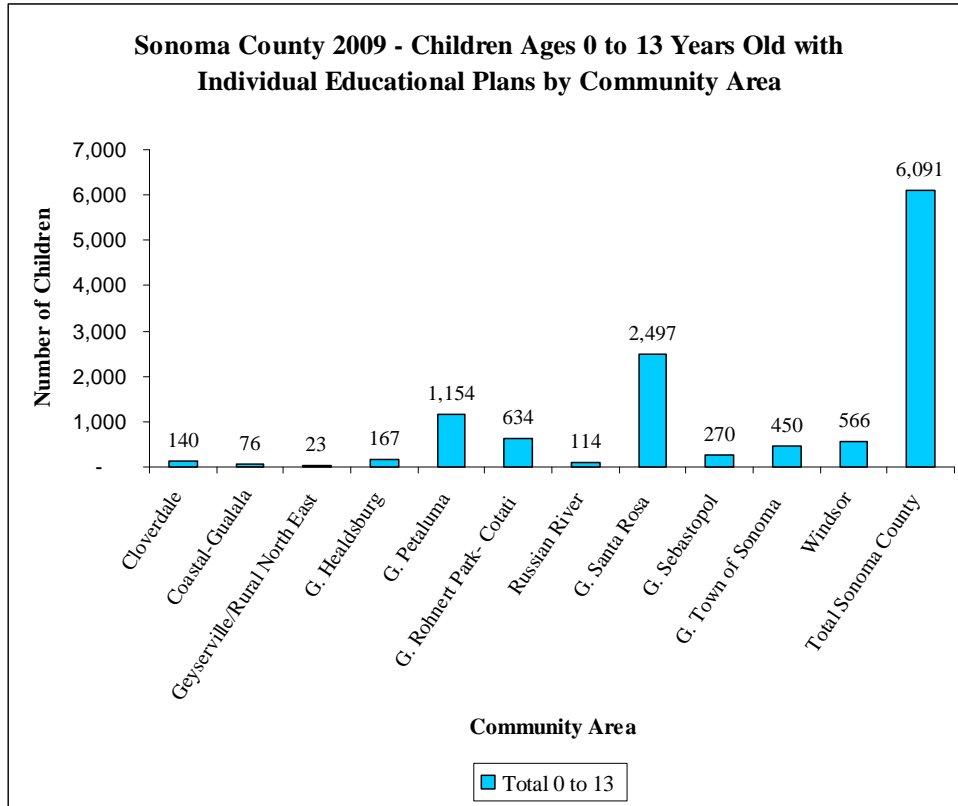


Figure 10

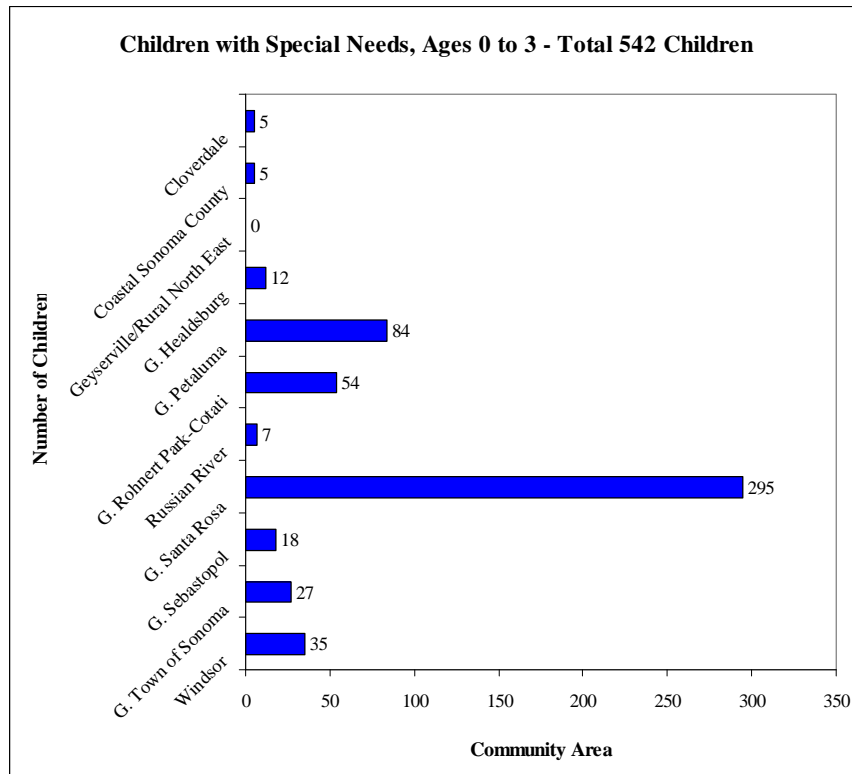
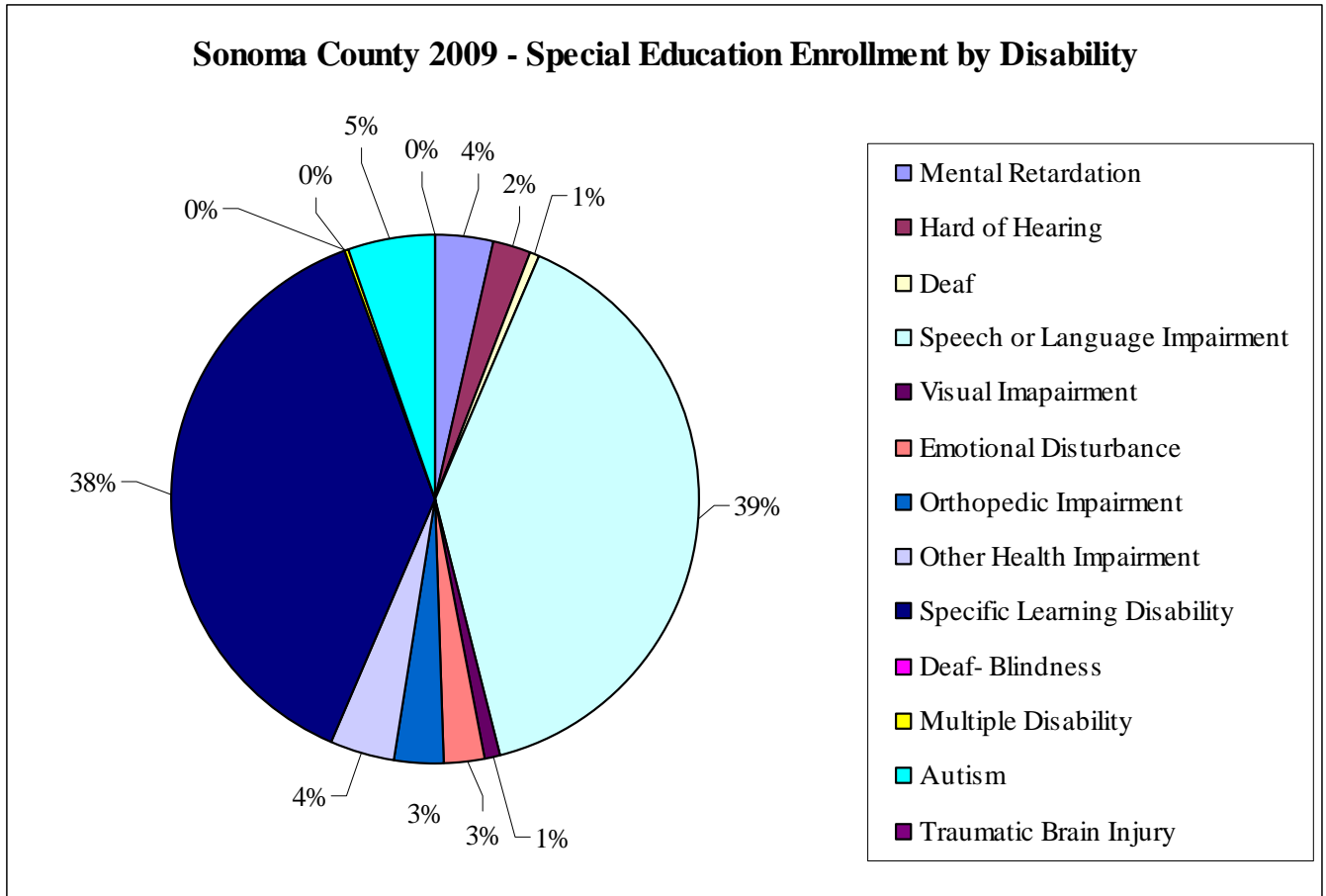


Figure 11



Children of Migrant Workers

Children of migrant workers are tracked by the Migrant Education Area 1 office. Since Sonoma County has a large agricultural component of the economy, there are children that have special needs due to the nature of their families’ work and migrant status, i.e., they often do not stay in the same location for a full school year and move from community to community. These children face extra challenges in attending school. Data on the specific child care needs of children of migrant workers are not available, but it is assumed to be similar to all children in the County. There are 2,343 migrant worker children from ages 0 to 12, as reported by the Migrant Education Area 1 office, or 2.5% of all Sonoma County children. There may be additional children that are not registered with the County, especially under the age of five. About half of these children (46%) are located in the Windsor community area and 32% in the Greater Santa Rosa area, followed by populations in Greater Petaluma and Greater Healdsburg.

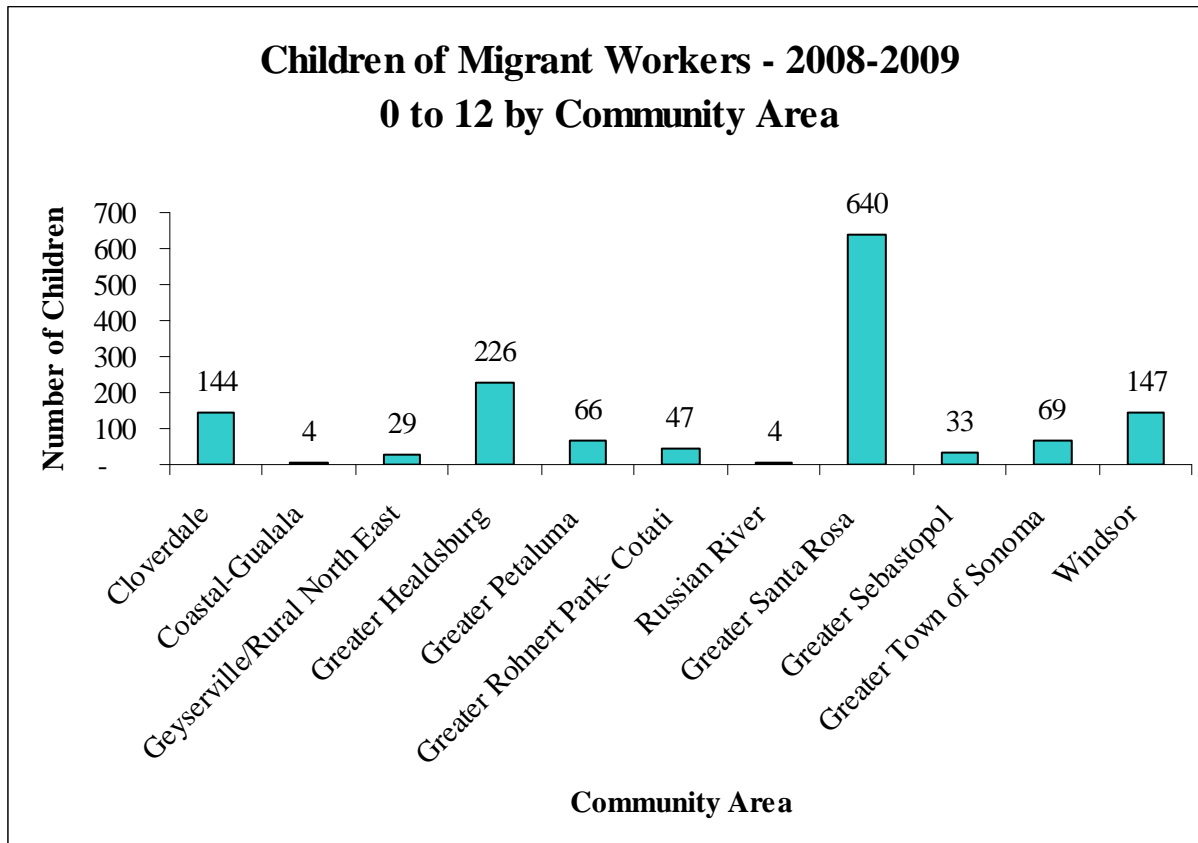
Table 21
Summary of Children of Migrant Workers, 0 to 12, by Community Area in 2008

Community Area	Children of Migrant Workers	Percent Distribution
Cloverdale	144	10.2%
Coastal Sonoma County	4	0.3%
Geyserville/Rural North East	29	2.1%
Greater Healdsburg	226	16.0%
Greater Petaluma	66	4.7%
Greater Rohnert Park-Cotati	47	3.3%
Russian River	4	0.3%
Greater Santa Rosa	640	45.4%
Greater Sebastopol	33	2.3%
Greater Town of Sonoma	69	4.9%
Windsor	147	10.4%
Total County	1,409	100%

Sources: Migrant Education Area 1, Child Care Planning Council of Sonoma County; Brion & Associates.

The following figure presents this information graphically.

Figure 12



V. GOAL 4: CHILD CARE WORKFORCE IS TRAINED, VALUED, AND WELL-COMPENSATED: PROVIDERS AND TRAINING

Child care workforce issues are a critical component in the analysis of child care quality, accessibility, and affordability. Although our efforts did not include any specific data collection or analysis related to this goal in the Comprehensive Plan for Child Care, other studies prepared by the County and the Study Consultants for other counties have been summarized below.

Goal 4 of the Comprehensive Plan for Child Care is:

The child care and learning workforce are highly trained, valued as professionals, and fairly compensated for their work, including benefits commensurate with professionals in comparable fields.

The desired outcomes for this goal include:

Recruitments and retention rates of the child care and learning program workforce are improved. Educational standards and opportunities for child care and learning program work force is increased.

This chapter provides information on the current workforce in the child care industry in Sonoma County, to the extent information is available. In collaboration with First 5 Sonoma, the CCPC is currently conducting a wage and salary compensation survey and expects to publish the data in the fall of 2009. Many child care teachers and providers participate in the Comprehensive Approaches to Raising Educational Standards program (CARES), which provides incentives for teachers and providers to gain additional education in early childhood education. Some information on workforce education is taken from a recent preschool feasibility study prepared for First 5 Sonoma County by American Institutes for Research, which was undertaken in 2006. Lastly, information on the various types of quality measurement systems used by the child care industry is presented with a discussion of some of the challenges such systems pose for providers and the industry.

Workforce Data on Sonoma County Providers

A 2009 professional workforce survey of Sonoma County Child Care Providers resulted in responses from 139 Family Child Care (FCC) providers and 46 Center Directors.

Center Directors

Results show that 71% of Center Director respondents have received a four-year college degree or higher, and 64% have an Associate's degree or higher in Early Childhood Education. Over half (56%) of Center Director respondents hold a child development permit.

Half of Center Director respondents (50%) earn a net income of between \$26,201 and \$40,000 a year. Twenty-three percent of Center Director respondents have a job outside of the child care field,

including jobs in retail, mental health, arts, and business management. A large majority of Center Director respondents have worked in the child care field for 11 years or more (81%).

Center Employees

Fifty-seven percent of Center employees have completed some college courses or a two-year college degree. Sixty-six percent have completed units in early child education or child development. More than one-third (37%) of Center employees hold child development permits.

With an average of \$15.10 an hour and 31.5 hours a week, Center employees are earning an average of \$1,902.6 a month.

FCC Providers

The majority of FCC provider respondents (54%) have not received a degree higher than their high school diploma or GED, although a large percentage (40%) has taken some college courses without attaining a college degree. Over two-thirds of FCC provider respondents (68%) have received a number of units in early child care or child development training; however only 10% have received a college or graduate degree in this area. One-fifth of provider respondents hold a child development permit.

Seventeen percent of FCC survey respondents (i.e. FCC owners) earn a net income between \$8,601 and \$11,600 a year and 66% earn a net income of \$16,501 - \$23,300 or less per year. 12% of FCC provider respondents report having another job outside of the child care field, including jobs in a variety of different fields: engineering, education, health and social services, the arts, or retail. A majority of FCC provider respondents have worked in the child care field for 11 years or more (51%).

FCC Employees

Sixty-four percent of FCC employees have received a degree higher than their high school diploma or GED. Forty-five percent have completed some ECE units. Less than one quarter of FCC employees (22%) have child development permits.

FCC employees earn an average of \$12.37 an hour and work an average of 26.7 hours a week (an average of \$1,321 a month).

The full survey results can be accessed at <http://www.scoe.org/pub/htdocs/scccpc-reports.html>.

Comprehensive Approaches to Raising Educational Standards (CARES)

The following charts summarize participation in the CARES program, which provides funding assistance to teachers and staff to increase their early childhood education training.

2008-2009 Informational Data on CARES Participants' Education, Permit Level, and Teaching Credentials

CARES Participants with Teaching Credential

From California		Out of State			Total
Multiple Subject	Special Needs	Single Subject	Multiple Subject		
10	7	1	1	19	

Highest Level of Education of CARES Participants

	Less than High School	High School or GED	Some College	AA	BA	Some Graduate	Some Graduate	Totals
CCC	25	16	176	55	79	4	4	359
FCC	12	12	43	10	5	1	1	84
FFN	<u>9</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>19</u>
Total	26	31	226	65	84	5	5	462

CARES Participants with Teaching Credential

From California		Out of State			Total
Multiple Subject	Special Needs	Single Subject	Multiple Subject		
10	7	1	1	19	

Education Levels by Type of Provider in CARES Program

Teacher Level	Associate Teacher		Teacher		Master Teacher		Site Supervisor		Program Director		
	Provider Type	Held	Applied - Applying	Held	Applied - Applying	Held	Applied - Applying	Held	Applied - Applying	Held	Applied - Applying
CCC		57	49	36	20	4	2	37	31	5	2
FCC		<u>7</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>
Total		64	55	40	22	5	2	40	34	6	2

Diversity Training and Tools

One of the current issues receiving significant attention and discussion in the early childhood education field is diversity, particularly the need to provide more opportunities for leadership in the field from a wider group of individuals. The CCPC has engaged in focused efforts to support diverse local engagement, dialogue, and leadership. The CCPC also recognizes that teachers and providers need resources to support and encourage diversity in their program curricula. To that end, a diversity workgroup was established within the CCPC to compile resources for early childhood educators. The CCPC’s new diversity statement is presented below.

Statement on Culturally Responsive Early Care and Education

Adopted April 2009

Our Mission	The Child Care Planning Council of Sonoma County’s mission is to advocate, to advise, and to plan for quality, accessible, and affordable child care services in Sonoma County.
Our Vision For Children	All Sonoma County children 0 to 12 years of age in child care and early learning programs (including family child care homes, school based child care, and center-based care) will be cared for in programs that are safe and healthy, nurturing, stimulating, interactive, culturally appropriate, and sensitive to the needs of all children.
Our Understanding of Cultural Diversity	We understand and believe that culture includes race, ethnicity, language, sexual orientation, physical and mental ability, immigration status, gender identity, age, socio-economic status, religion, etc. We want to emphasize that quality early care and education and cultural responsiveness are directly connected.
Culturally Responsive Early Care and Education	We believe that a strong foundation in child development, combined with a disposition toward flexible thinking, acceptance and openness, and respect for meeting a child’s individual needs prepares early childhood professionals to create culturally responsive programs. We believe that culturally responsive practices require more than the presence of children from different backgrounds; practices must focus on the full and active participation of all children and their families in community activities, services, and programs. Although a family’s preferences may at times seem to conflict with the needs of the group or best practices within ECE, we believe that sincere dialogue can help uncover areas of agreement and ways in which caregivers and families can work together to support the child and family. Intentional focus on the following professional development concepts and program policies will prepare ECE professionals to successfully meet these goals.

<http://www.scoe.org/pub/htdocs/scccpc-quality.html>

Child Care Quality Standards and Measures¹³

Sonoma County Definition and Statement of Quality Child Care (Revised February 2009)

All Sonoma County children 0 to 13 in child care and early learning programs (including family child care homes, school-based child care, and center-based care) will be cared for in programs that are safe and healthy, nurturing, stimulating, interactive, culturally appropriate, and sensitive to the needs of all children.

Child care programs in Sonoma County will plan and implement programs that support the social, emotional, cognitive, and physical development of children. The success of programs is dependent upon a well-educated workforce, strong linkages to a supportive community, and healthy relationships between caregivers and families.

The specific standards for quality child care will be the existing quality standards accepted by:

- ◆ Title 5 Regulations;
- ◆ Head Start Performance Standards;
- ◆ National Association for the Education of Young Children's (NAEYC) Criteria for Accreditation;
- ◆ National Association of Family Child Care (NAFCC) Quality Standards; and
- ◆ Environment Rating Scales.

Which Standards Apply to Which Child Care Settings?

The documents outlining high quality child care are specific to various programs:

- ◆ Title 5 contains required regulations for all child care programs under contract with the Child Development Division of the California Department of Education.
- ◆ Head Start Performance Standards are requirements for Head Start Programs.
- ◆ The NAEYC Criteria can be used by any center program and are the avenue towards becoming accredited if a program desires.
- ◆ The NAFCC Quality Standards serve the same purpose for family child care programs.
- ◆ The various Environment Rating Scales address centers, infant/toddler centers, Family Child Care Homes, and After School programs.

Programs that are required to adhere to particular standards or regulations may also incorporate the NAEYC/NAFCC criteria in their programs. In the absence of universal high quality standards for all early education and care programs (beyond basic licensing requirements), these diverse measures are what is currently available. The following descriptions provide more information about the measures in these categories:

¹³ This section is adapted from the Contra Costa County Needs Assessment Study conducted in 2006 by Brion & Associates and from the work of Kristen Andersen, child care planning consultant.

- ◆ Standards programs must meet due to funding sources;
- ◆ Voluntary quality assessment—accreditation systems;
- ◆ Participation in quality enhancement projects or accessing services; and
- ◆ Program quality assessment tools used as part of one of the above.

Program standards required by California and Federal child care and development funders, as well as those required by the voluntary accreditation systems described below, are very comprehensive. The following components of program quality are addressed in some form: health and safety, physical environment, equipment and materials, staff qualifications and professional development, staffing ratios and group sizes, staff-child interactions, curriculum, nutrition services/education, cultural diversity/competence, parent/family involvement, program administration, and program quality assessment (self and external).¹⁴

Quality Standards Required by Public Funding Sources

State-funded CDE

Child care and early education programs funded by the California Department of Education (CDE) Child Development Division must meet Education Code (Title 5) standards in addition to those of Community Care Licensing (Licensing) (Title 22). These programs serve children 0 to 13 from low-income families and/or other special populations in center-based and subsidized family child care networks. The programs include State Preschool, General Child Care, Latchkey, Migrant, Campus, and others.

Among other standards, Title 5 requires higher staff qualifications and smaller teacher-child ratios in classrooms than Licensing requires. The Desired Results for Children and Families report provides a comprehensive program monitoring system used for program planning, assessment, and quality improvement.¹⁵ The six areas of desired results, to which all CDE-funded child care and development programs are expected to contribute, are:

1. Children are personally and socially competent.
2. Children are effective learners.
3. Children show physical and motor competence.
4. Children are safe and healthy.
5. Families support their children’s learning and development.
6. Families achieve their goals.

Individual plans for each child and family are developed and evaluated and are part of the program’s annual reporting to CDE.

¹⁴ For a detailed comparison of standards, see “PFA Center-Based Quality Standards” and “Family Child Care Quality Standards” on the Preschool for All San Mateo website: www.smcoe.k12.ca.us/cyfs/pfa.html.

¹⁵ For more information on Desired Results, see www.cde.ca.gov/sp/cd/ci/desiredresults.asp.

Federally-funded Head Start/Early Head Start

Head Start and Early Head Start programs must implement national Head Start Program Performance Standards, as well as specific standards for services for children with disabilities.¹⁶ The standards define the objectives and features of a quality Head Start program in concrete terms, they articulate a vision of service delivery to young children and families, and they provide a regulatory structure for the monitoring and enforcement of quality standards. As with Title 5, staff qualifications are higher than required by Licensing.

Head Start programs must conduct annual self-assessments and receive a federal review every three years, using the Program Review Instrument for Systems Monitoring (PRISM). This comprehensive system ensures that programs make progress toward and meet very high quality standards. It can be assumed that these programs meet, or are working toward meeting, the high standards.

Voluntary Accreditation Systems

The following represent voluntary quality programs:

- ◆ National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) center-based child care and early education programs for children infants to school age.
- ◆ National Association for Family Child Care (NAFCC): FCCH programs.
- ◆ National AfterSchool Association (NAA; formerly National School Age Care Alliance, NSACA): after school programs for children 5-14.

Each of these systems' accreditation processes includes a comprehensive self-study, including parent and teacher surveys, classroom/program observations, documentation of administrative functions, etc. External validators trained by the sponsoring organization are assigned to make a one- to several-day visit, depending on program size, to observe and verify the information submitted by the applicant program. Accreditation decisions based on those reports are made by the accreditation organization's review team. These three systems are the most commonly used by both privately- and publicly-funded programs. Other organizations, such as American Montessori Society, offer accreditation that is not widely sought.

Quality of the child care workforce is assessed as part of the requirements of Title 5, Head Start, and national accreditation standards. However, the participation of staff in other professional development programs occurs through the CARES program and other professional development activities.

¹⁶ For more information, see <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/hsb/performance/index.htm>.

Quality Measurement Tools: Environment Rating Scales (ERS)¹⁷

The Environment Rating Scales, by Harms, Clifford, and Cryer, are widely used measures of program practices in child care and early education. The Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale-Revised (ECERS-R: Harms, Clifford, and Cryer, 1998) is used for preschool age programs. Classrooms are rated on seven subscale content areas by a trained observer, and each of 43 items is scored from one to seven, with one being inadequate and seven being optimal. The seven subscales are: Space and Furnishings, Personal Care Routines, Language and Reasoning, Activities, Program Structure, Interaction, and Parents and Staff.

Similar instruments are used for Family Child Care Homes, Infants/Toddler, and School Age environments. The Family Day Care Rating Scale uses 40 items (plus eight related to serving children with disabilities) that are organized into seven subscales: Space and Furnishings for Care and Learning, Basic Care, Language and Reasoning, Learning Activities, Social Development, Adult Needs, and Provisions for Exceptional Children.

The Environmental Rating Scales are increasingly being used by programs as a component of the systems described earlier for self-assessment and quality improvement and by external assessors for program monitoring. However, the reliability of rating-scale scoring by program staff is minimal, since “proper use,” as envisioned by the scale developers, is very complicated, and extensive training is needed to properly administer it. To illustrate, scores from self-assessments by child care program staff tend to be higher than those by highly trained external raters. The CCPC has trained a cadre of local ERS Assessors/Validators and administers the Gateway to Quality Program, which deploys these Assessors to provide reliable external scoring for several local quality improvement programs.

¹⁷ For more information on these scales, visit the website of the Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill: www.fpg.unc.edu/~ecers

VI. GOAL 5: CHILD CARE IS PART OF INFRASTRUCTURE THAT SUSTAINS ECONOMIC GROWTH: CHILD CARE COSTS, FAMILY SELF-SUFFICIENCY, AND OTHER DATA

This chapter of the Needs Assessment focuses on the cost of child care, children being served by subsidized care, and other affordability issues. Child care is not solely a supply and demand issue. Affordability of child care plays a huge role in the delivery system of child care. Many families that require child care cannot afford it. As discussed in **Chapter II**, about 22% of Sonoma County families are at or below 200% of the federal poverty level, which is considered by some a minimum income needed for basic shelter and necessities. This section also addresses what is called “the Self-Sufficiency Standard Index,” which measures the income needed to meet basic household needs and compares that income to the cost of child care overall and actual household incomes in Sonoma County. The data in this chapter relate to this overall goal.

Goal 5 of the Comprehensive Plan for Child Care is:

Quality, affordable, and accessible early care and education programs are considered critical parts of the infrastructure that sustains the economic growth and community development of Sonoma County.

The desired outcomes for this goal include:

Child care programs and facilities are integrated into the Sonoma County infrastructure.

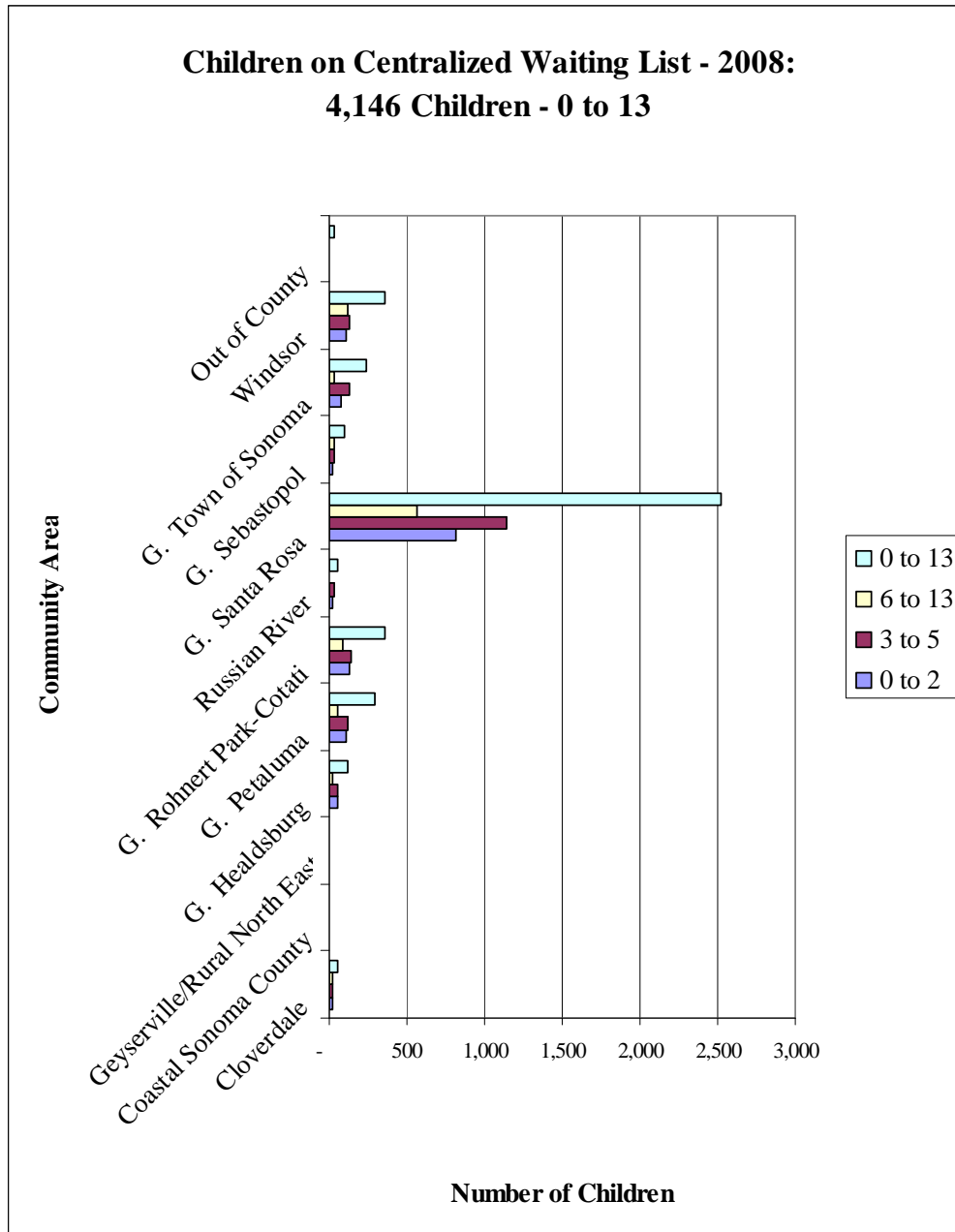
The following information is presented in this chapter:

- ◆ Centralized Eligibility List (CEL)
- ◆ Monthly Costs of Child Care Services
- ◆ Children receiving Subsidized Child Care by Program or Funding Source
- ◆ Amount of Funding available for Subsidized Child Care
- ◆ Children Eligible for Subsidized Care

Centralized Eligibility List

A number of years ago, an effort to simplify the process for securing subsidized child care was undertaken across the State of California. As a result, the CEL was created in 2005. It provides a comprehensive countywide waiting list for families in need of assistance with child care. Children are tracked by age, zip code, and type of care needed. Currently, there are a total of 4,146 children on the CEL in Sonoma County. This reflects about the same number of children that are currently receiving some type of subsidized care in the County, or about 4,359. When considered against potentially eligible children, or about 13,200, this figure is surprisingly low. This suggests that many parents whose children may be eligible for subsidized care may not know that they qualify or they may not know about the CEL process. **Figure 13** presents the information graphically.

Figure 13



Approximately 2,500, or 61%, of these children live in the Greater Santa Rosa area. Windsor and Greater Rohnert Park-Cotati each have about 8% of the total children on the CEL. It should be noted that the CEL data are only available for the 0 to 2, 3 to 5, and 6 to 13 year-old age groups. In addition to these children, there are another 168 children being screened and 5,711 listed as inactive. The income data used to screen families are presented below by size of family and is as of 2007.

**Table 22
Income Limits for Subsidized Child Care through CEL Process**

Family Size	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Monthly Income	\$3,518	\$3,518	\$3,769	\$4,188	\$4,858	\$5,528	\$5,653	\$5,779
Annual Income	\$42,216	\$42,216	\$45,228	\$50,256	\$58,296	\$66,336	\$67,836	\$69,348

There are 102 families on the list with at least one child verified with Child Welfare System or At Risk in the active list. There are an additional 97 families with at least one child with special needs, including both exceptional needs and severely disabled. Most families on the CEL are seeking child care outside the zip code they reside in.

Costs of Child Care Services

This section of the report discusses the cost of child care by type of care and location. Data for two types of providers is available, Family Child Care Homes (FCCHs) and Child Care Centers (Centers). We have collected data from both of the Resource and Referral Agencies in the County and calculated an average monthly cost for infant, preschool, and school age care for FCCHs and Centers. These data are presented by community area when available. In general, data are not available for the unincorporated areas of the County. The following three charts summarize this information. Detailed data on weekly and monthly costs are provided in **Appendix D**. In general, infant care is the most expensive type of child care because of the infant-teacher ratios required by State licensing. Preschool follows with the second highest cost. School age care is the least expensive of the three types of care because it allows the highest student-teacher ratio of the three types of care.

Countywide, the average monthly cost of infant care at a FCCH is about \$858, while at Centers the cost is about \$957, or about \$100 per month more. For Preschool, the average monthly cost at FCCHs is \$794, and at Centers, it is about \$580 or almost \$200 less. Child care centers serve many more children at the preschool level and can offer more affordable rates. School age monthly costs range from \$721 to \$523 per month at FCCHs and Centers, respectively. With school age care, the costs depend on whether both morning and afternoon care are used and whether care is full- or part-time. Some school age children have after school programs on some days and do not use care every day. School age programs that can offer transportation to and from nearby elementary schools are very popular and can charge more. Preschool rates are less for part-time slots. Full-time rates are shown below and discussed here.

Figure 14

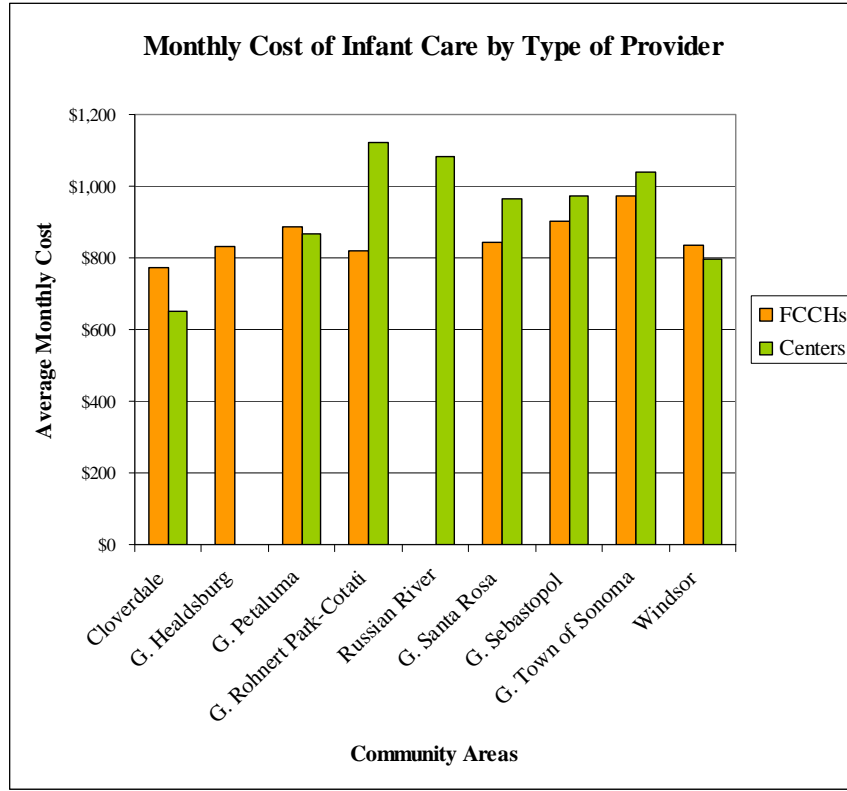
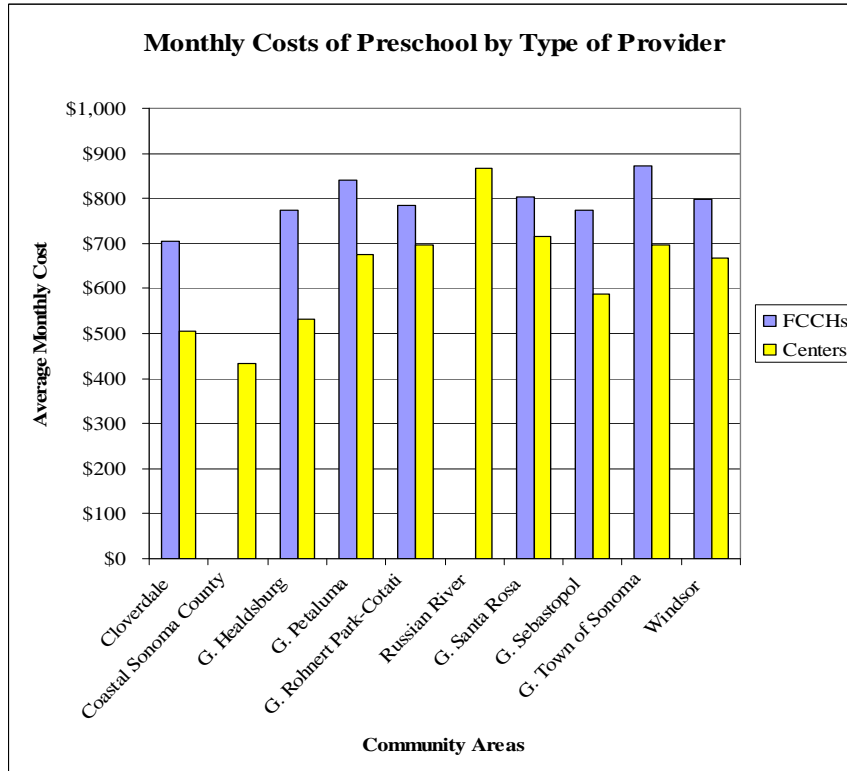


Figure 15



Supply of Subsidized Child Care

There are almost 4,400 children receiving some type of subsidized child care in Sonoma County, which represents about 4.7% of total children 0 to 13. These data are from 2007. About 55% of these children are in Greater Santa Rosa, another 10% are in Greater Rohnert Park-Cotati, and 9% are in Greater Petaluma. In terms of children served by area, most areas have from 3% to 5% of their children receiving some type of subsidized care. Russian River has the largest percentage at 9% but has lower household incomes with 32% of families at or below 200% federal poverty level. **Table 23** summarizes children receiving subsidized care by community area.

Figure 16

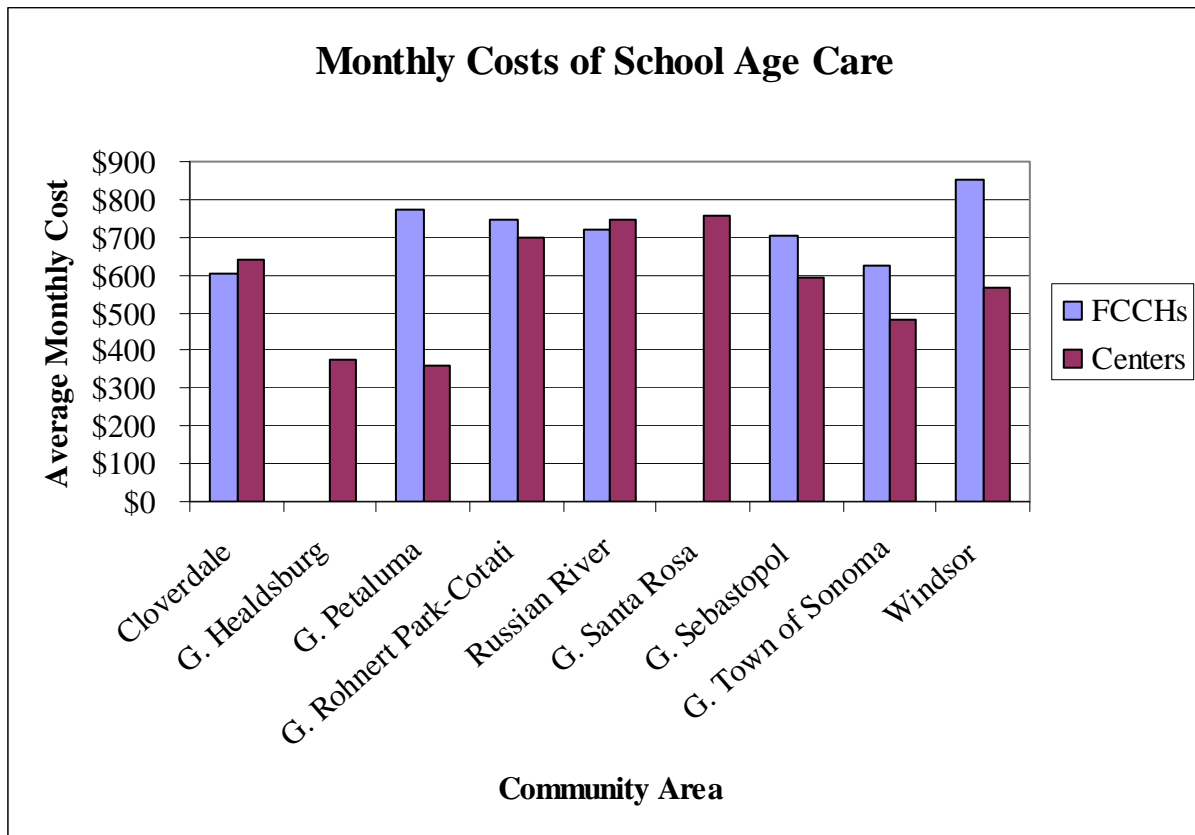


Table 23
Summary of Subsidized Child Care Spaces by Community Area
Sonoma County Child Care Needs Assessment-2009

Community Area	Number of Children Served All Programs	Percent Distribution	Total Children in 2007	Subsidized Children as % of Total by Area
1 Cloverdale	100	2%	1,768	5.7%
2 Coastal Sonoma County	26	1%	941	2.8%
3 Geyserville/Rural North East	48	1%	1,068	4.5%
4 Greater Healdsburg	171	4%	4,516	3.8%
5 Greater Petaluma	398	9%	14,311	2.8%
6 Greater Rohnert Park-Cotati	421	10%	11,443	3.7%
7 Russian River	223	5%	2,479	9.0%
8 Greater Santa Rosa	2,395	55%	38,619	6.2%
9 Greater Sebastopol	127	3%	4,979	2.6%
10 Greater Town of Sonoma	165	4%	5,521	3.0%
11 Windsor	285	7%	6,132	4.6%
Total County	4,359	100%	91,778	4.7%

Children 0 to 13 unless otherwise noted; Head Start and Early Head Start are 0 to 5.

Represents enrollment data in subsidized child care programs as of April 2007, based on place of child care use.

(1) Data for Stage 1 is for 2008 and only lists children outside cities as unincorporated or from outside the County.

Sources: California Department of Education, Child Development Division; SCCPC; Brion & Associates.

Table 24 summarizes the same data by subsidy program and area. Center-based programs, CalWORKS Stage 2 and 3, State Preschool, Part Day, and Head Start/Early Head Start serve the majority of children. **Appendix D** presents detailed data on each subsidized child care program by age and community area.

Not all children that are eligible are receiving subsidized care. As discussed elsewhere, one way of estimating eligible children is to quantify children in families with working parents earning less than State Median income and compare it to children receiving subsidies. **Table 25** presents an estimate of children with working parents with incomes below 75% of State Median Income. As shown, there are about 13,200 children in this category. Data used in this analysis are only available for 0- to 12-year-olds. Consistent with other data, about 50% of these children are located in Greater Santa Rosa, where about 42% of the County’s population resides. The table also shows the percentage of total children by age and community area. In some communities, the percentage of children in families earning 75% or less of State Median income ranges from as low as a single digit to as high as 25%. Overall, these children represent 15% on average countywide.

Table 24
 Children Receiving Child Care Subsidies by Community Area - April 2007
 Sonoma County Child Care Needs Assessment-2009

Community Area	Children Receiving Subsidies													Total - All Programs
	Center Based Care	FCCH Ed Networks	CalWORKS Stage 1 DSS	CalWORKS Stage 2 S CDD	CalWORKS Stage 3 S CDD	Alternative Care	State Preschool - Part Day CDD	State Preschool - Full Day CDD	Head Start and Early Head Start	School Age Community Programs - Latch Key CDD	Migrant & Tribal Programs	Head Start / Tribal / HS		
1 Cloverdale	2	0	7	10	7	5	3	0	40	0	0	26	100	
2 Coastal Sonoma County	0	0		1	21	1	3	0	0	0	0	26	26	
3 Geyserville/Rural North East	6	0		0	1	2	5	0	0	34	0	48	48	
4 Greater Healdsburg	35	4	1	13	16	12	50	0	39	1	1	171	171	
5 Greater Petaluma	106	8	28	31	59	27	68	7	39	25	7	398	398	
6 Greater Rohnert Park-Cotati	37	7	51	111	81	41	51	1	40	1	1	421	421	
7 Russian River	46	86	0	26	5	23	18	0	18	1	1	223	223	
8 Greater Santa Rosa	298	94	232	480	401	165	287	1	378	39	20	2,395	2,395	
9 Greater Sebastopol	10	32	4	32	1	48	0	0	0	0	0	127	127	
10 Greater Town of Sonoma	56	2	14	24	10	4	2	15	38	0	0	165	165	
11 Windsor	55	12	27	38	36	16	66	0	0	35	0	285	285	
Unincorporated/Outside Co. (1)			14											
Total County	651	245	378	766	638	344	553	24	592	136	46	4,359	4,359	
Percent Distribution	15%	6%	9%	18%	15%	8%	13%	1%	14%	3%	1%	100%	100%	
Total Children Countywide	91,778	91,778	91,778	91,778	91,778	91,778	91,778	91,778	38,733	91,778	91,778	91,778	91,778	
% of Total by Program	0.7%	0.3%	0.4%	0.8%	0.7%	0.4%	0.6%	0.0%	1.5%	0.1%	0.1%	4.7%	4.7%	

Children 0 to 13 unless otherwise noted; Head Start and Early Head Start are 0 to 5.
 Represents enrollment data in subsidized child care programs as of April 2007, based on place of child care use in Sonoma County.
 (1) Data for Stage 1 is for 2008 and only lists children outside cities as unincorporated or from outside the County.
 Sources: California Department of Education, Child Development Division; SCCCPC; Brion & Associates.

Table 25
Estimate of Children in 2009 with Working Parents with Incomes below 75% of State Median Income
Sonoma County Needs Assessment - 2009

Community Area No. Name	Total 0 to 12 Children with Working Parents Parents Under SMI	Percent Distribution	Total 0 to 12 Children in County	Percent of Total Children
1 Cloverdale	405	3.1%	1,767	22.9%
2 Coastal Sonoma County	35	0.3%	899	3.9%
3 Geyserville/Rural North East	116	0.9%	1,030	11.3%
4 Greater Healdsburg	721	5.5%	3,329	21.7%
5 Greater Petaluma	1,571	11.9%	13,610	11.5%
6 Greater Rohnert Park-Cotati	1,438	10.9%	10,872	13.2%
7 Russian River	351	2.7%	2,292	15.3%
8 Greater Santa Rosa	6,461	49.0%	37,028	17.4%
9 Greater Sebastopol	499	3.8%	4,580	10.9%
10 Greater Town of Sonoma	917	7.0%	5,225	17.6%
11 Windsor	674	5.1%	5,865	11.5%
Total County	13,188	100%	86,498	15.2%

(1) Based on distribution of children by area, age as of 2000 Census; assumes same distribution applies in 2009.
In reality, there could be more children with parents working and earning under 75% of State Median Income.

Sources: US Census 2000; Sonoma County Child Care Planning Council; Brion & Associates.

As discussed in **Chapter II**, 33% of children eligible for subsidized care actually receive it. However, this varies by community area. The highest rate countywide is found in the Russian River area, with 64% of children eligible for subsidized care receiving it, while the lowest percentage of children served is in the Greater Town of Sonoma community, with 18%. Factors impacting low percentages of children served include shortage of subsidized slots available in a particular community, families who do not know about subsidized programs, and families who are not signed up for such care through the CEL. As discussed above, not all children eligible are signed up on the waiting list for subsidized care. It is not expected that there would be a 100% match between those eligible and the sum of those receiving subsidized care and on the CEL, as the methodology used to estimate these figures is not precise. However, there could be a higher number of children on the CEL, so that if additional funding becomes available, children are prescreened to receive such care. Furthermore, each individual subsidized program has additional specific requirements that not all of these 13,200 children might meet.

Subsidized Child Care Funding by Program

Table 26 below summarizes the dollars available in subsidized child care funding. The County has about \$30.3 million in subsidy funding for child care, which serves a total of about 8,000 children. We have included the ASES/21st Century after school funding here, which totals about \$2.3 million annually and serves 3,664 school age children countywide. These school age spaces

are not included in the analysis above because this program is not income dependent. All children are eligible to participate in these programs, which occur at elementary and middle schools throughout the County. Each of the funding programs for subsidized child care has its own eligibility requirements, such as in which age group a child must be to receive a subsidy. The comparison in **Table 27** thus slightly understates the number of children being served by current subsidies; it does not include the ASES/21st Century program because it is not possible to determine how many low-income children are making use of this program by community area. **Figure 17** presents the data graphically.

Table 26
Summary of Child Care Subsidy Funding by Program
Sonoma County Child Care Needs Assessment - 2009

Child Care Subsidy Program Name	Total Children Served in 2007 (1)	Total Estimated Funding by Program (rounded \$1000)	Percent Distribution	Funding Source
Center Based Care	651	\$4,708,000	15.5%	CDD
FCCH Ed Networks	245	\$2,129,000	7.0%	CDD
CalWORKS Stage 1	378	\$3,884,000	12.8%	DSS
CalWORKS Stage 2	766	\$3,200,000	10.6%	CDD
CalWORKS Stage 3	638	\$2,708,000	8.9%	CDD
Alternative Payment Care	344	\$1,634,000	5.4%	CDD
State Preschool - Part Day	553	\$2,430,000	8.0%	CDD
State Preschool - Full Day	24	\$172,000	0.6%	CDD
Head Start and Early Head Start	592	\$6,574,000	21.7%	Head Start
School Age - Latch Key	136	\$227,000	0.7%	CDD
Tribal Funded	20	\$208,000	0.7%	Tribal
Migrant Head Start	26	\$170,000	0.6%	HHS
ASES/21st Century	3,664	\$2,265,000	7.5%	CDE
Total Funding - All Programs	8,037	\$30,309,000	100%	

Key *CDD: Child Development Division, California Department of Education,*
DSS: California Department of Social Services
Head Start: US Department of Health and Human Services, Head Start
Tribal: Lytton Band of Pomo Indians
HHS: US Department of Health and Human Services for Migrant Head Start
CDE: California Department of Education

(1) Represents enrollment data in subsidized child care programs as of April 2007, based on place of child care use in Sonoma County.

Sources: California Department of Education, Child Development Division; SCCCPC; Brion & Associates.

Table 27
Summary of Children in Subsidized Child Care compared to those Potentially Eligible
Sonoma County Needs Assessment - 2009

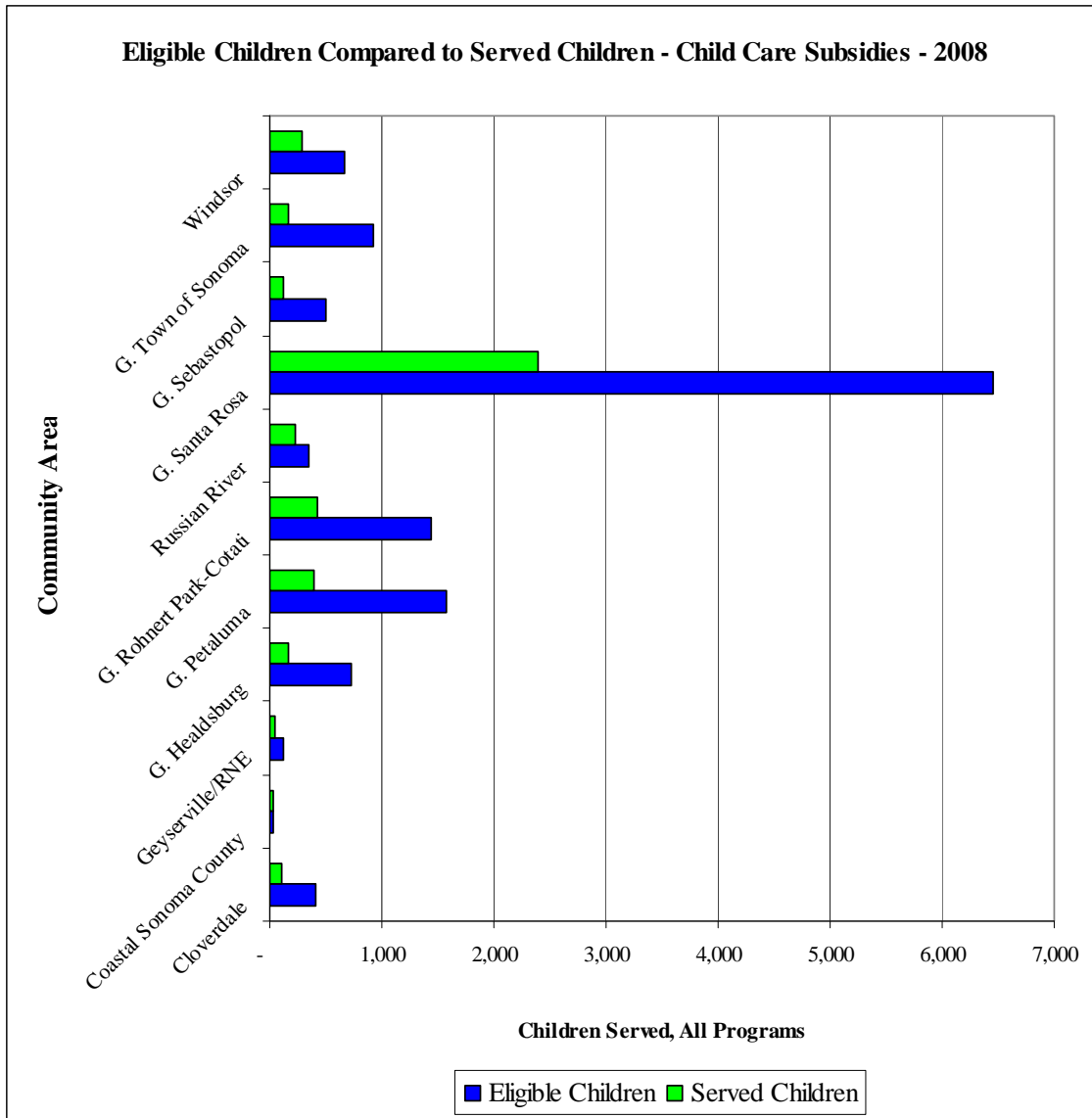
Community Area No.	Name	Estimated Eligible Children in 2009 (1)	Children Receiving Subsidized Care	Percent Eligible Receiving Subsidies	Unservd Eligible Children or Funding Gap	Percent Distribution of Funding Gap
1	Cloverdale	405	100	25%	(305)	3%
2	Coastal Sonoma County	35	26	74%	(9)	0%
3	Geyserville/Rural North East	116	48	41%	(68)	1%
4	Greater Healdsburg	721	171	24%	(550)	6%
5	Greater Petaluma	1,571	398	25%	(1,173)	13%
6	Greater Rohnert Park-Cotati	1,438	421	29%	(1,017)	12%
7	Russian River	351	223	64%	(128)	1%
8	Greater Santa Rosa	6,461	2,395	37%	(4,066)	46%
9	Greater Sebastopol	499	127	25%	(372)	4%
10	Greater Town of Sonoma	917	165	18%	(752)	9%
11	Windsor	674	285	42%	(389)	4%
Total Sonoma County		13,188	4,359	33%	(8,829)	100%

(1) Based on distribution of children by area, age as of 2000 Census; assumes same distribution applies in 2009.

In reality, there could be more children with parents working and earning under 75% of State Median Income.

Source: Brion & Associates.

Figure 17



VII. DATA ORGANIZATION AND DESCRIPTIONS

The Needs Assessment includes a large amount of data and tables. Each data item has been given a distinct number or label based on the list of appendices in the **Table of Contents**. **Appendix A**, for example, relates to data on the supply of child care and child care providers, and **Appendix B** relates to demographic data on children and families and the forecasts of growth and demographics used in the analysis.

The following chapter provides information pertinent to the data, its sources, and qualifications. As discussed in **Chapter I**, no primary data collection was undertaken either by the CCPC or the report consultants for this effort. Data were collected from a wide variety of agencies and aggregated and analyzed for this effort. The most important goal of the data collection effort was to gather data by community areas and by the three age groups used in the study. Some data, as noted, were only available by age or by community area, or just countywide.

Table Organization and Data Presentation

Generally, tables are organized with the cities or areas down the side of the table and the age data or other categories of data across the top. There are a few exceptions to this when it made sense to put cities across the top of the page. Many tables are multiple pages.

Data were always collected in as much detail as possible and then aggregated to community areas and by age categories. In some cases, data are only available at the school district, elementary school, or at the county level. Where possible, we try to compare the data to the total number of children 0 to 13 or to total population so the reader can see what percentage of the population a particular data item represents. This provides important context for the data. We present the percentage distribution and percentage of total when possible or relevant, as well. When available, data on children are broken down as follows:

- ◆ Infants: 0 to 1 year old (or through 24 months)
- ◆ Preschool: 2 to 5 years old
- ◆ School Age: 6 to 9 years old and 10 to 13 years old

General Data Limitations and Clarifications

The study started with a list of cities and rural areas from the *ABAG Projections 2007* and several unincorporated areas. The data were summed up to the list of 11 community areas (see **Table 1** for list). The 11 community areas are labeled “greater” when there are surrounding sphere of influence areas and other rural communities included in that city’s area. For instance, Fulton is included in Greater Santa Rosa. In the charts and figures in the report, “Greater” is abbreviated with a “G”.

Child care is not a service that is strictly provided within the jurisdictional boundaries of a city. The demand estimates include households or population living in a city’s sphere of influence

because it is expected that that household considers itself as part of the nearest city and would look for child care services in that city or broad community area, such as in the Russian River area. Jurisdictional boundaries change over time and do not relate to child care services per se. Likewise, if a child care provider is in a “sphere of influence” area, it is mostly counted in the supply for its nearby city. Some data were provided at the zip code level, and a correspondence table of zip code by city/community to community area is provided in **Appendix A**.

Family Child Care Home Supply

For the spaces by age for the small and large FCCHs, we have started with the total licensed capacity of each facility, i.e., eight or 14, and have divided these spaces by the licensing requirements. We then adjust the total capacity figure for small FCCHs to 6 total and large FCCHs to 12 total because we know that many providers do not serve their maximum licensed capacities. This adjustment overall results in a total supply figure for these providers that is in line with expressed “desired” capacity. We also know that some FCCHs may only serve preschoolers and others only school age. This is a data limitation faced by all Needs Assessment studies. The analysis treats FCCHs and child care centers as “comparable” facilities from a planning standpoint, although they meet different segments of the child care market. We present the surplus or shortage of child care spaces by age group and not by centers or FCCHs.

Published Data Only

The consultants have not conducted any independent verification of the data presented in this report. However, when possible, data were cross-checked with other sources and figures were double-checked to ensure accuracy.

Data Timeframe

In general, data in this report are from 2008. Projections are for 2009, 2014 and 2019. The most current data were requested from each agency. In some cases, data are only available for 2007 or by school year, such as 2006-2007 or 2007-2008. The time frame of the data presented is noted in each table.

Data Availability

This study only focuses on existing data that have been collected by other agencies, and it did not include any primary data collection. If data are missing for an area in the original data set or age group, “NA” or a dash is used. Some data are not available for all ages presented and are noted accordingly. More information on data is presented at the beginning of each appendix. A three-page summary profile of the data for each community area is presented in **Appendix K** under separate cover.

The complete Sonoma County Child Care Needs Assessment - 2009 includes three components: the Needs Assessment Report, the Community Profiles and the Appendices. The full Needs Assessment can be accessed at <http://www.scoe.org/pub/htdocs/ccpc-reports.html>. Contact information for CCPC Coordinator: phone - (707) 524-2792, email - ccpc@scoc.org.

VIII. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND STUDY AUTHORS

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- ◆ California Department of Finance;
- ◆ Child Care Planning Council of Sonoma County;
- ◆ Community Child Care Council of Sonoma County;
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- ◆ Community Child Care Council of Sonoma County;
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- ◆ U.S. Census Bureau.

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