

CHILD CARE AFFORDABILITY

Description of Indicator

This indicator measures the average yearly cost of child care for children 0-2 in Orange County, compared to similar counties. It also measures the number of children enrolled in California Department of Education subsidized child-care programs and the number of additional children eligible for this subsidized care based on greatest need according to family income and size.

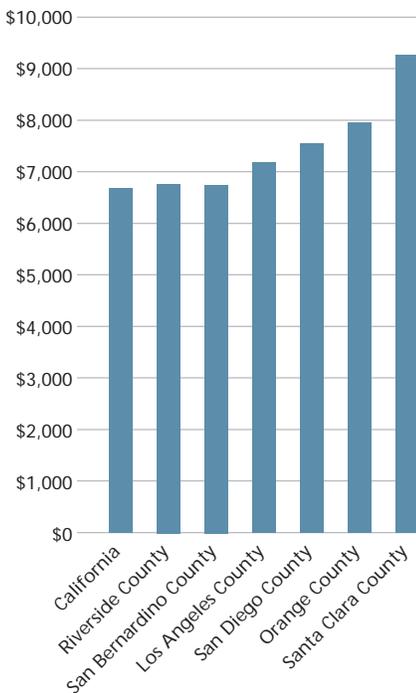
Why is it Important?

Cost-effective child care is essential to enable working families to maintain economic self-sufficiency. For many parents, finding and paying for child care is a significant challenge and an enormous financial burden.

How is Orange County Doing?

In Orange County, the average yearly cost for the care of an infant up to 24 months in a licensed center is \$7,959, almost \$1,500 more than the state average. This equates to 67 percent of the annual income of \$11,960 for a minimum wage earner. As of February 1999, funding allowed about 10,000 children to be enrolled in California Department of Education subsidized child-care programs in Orange County. However, a centralized eligibility list contains the names of 20,000 more Orange County children whose families were income-eligible for these child care services.

Average Child Care Cost Per Year - Infant (0-2) 1999



Department of Education Subsidized Care Enrollment and Eligibility (Feb 1999)

Number of Children Enrolled in Department of Education Subsidized Care	9,823
Number of Children on Centralized Eligibility List	19,994

Source: Children's Home Society of California, February 1999

Sources: California Child Care Resource and Referral Agency, The 1999 California Child Care Portfolio Children's Home Society of California, February 1999