



## **Siskiyou County Child Care Planning Council**

**Needs Assessment**

**2010**

# SISKIYOU COUNTY CHILD CARE PLANNING COUNCIL

## ***Mission Statement***

*Our mission is to plan for, promote and support quality child care and early education services that meet the needs of all Siskiyou County families.*

Siskiyou County Child Care Planning Council (also known as LPC) is a diverse, county-wide collaborative that assesses child care and early education needs; establishes and updates local priorities for maintenance, expansion and improvement of early childhood services; prepares a strategic plan to coordinate and maximize local, state, federal and private resources; supports local early care and education providers by coordinating trainings and incentive programs; and provides information, resources and counsel to both early care providers and community partners. Half of the members are appointed by the Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors, while half are appointed by the Siskiyou County Superintendent of Schools.

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# INTRODUCTION

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## **Role of Local Child Care Planning Councils**

In 1991, around the time of California welfare reform legislation, Local Child Care and Development Planning Councils (LPCs) were established to address the impact of increased numbers of working families on the local child care supply; to assess the unique child care and early education needs of each county; and to increase the availability and quality of such services.

From 1997-1999, the structure and role of Local Child Care Planning Councils was further clarified through California Assembly Bill 1542 and California Education Code. LPCs were charged with the task of conducting an assessment of child care needs at least once every five years; and were directed to include numerous, specific data elements.

This 2010 Siskiyou County Needs Assessment includes all of the state-required data elements and more. Whenever feasible, uniform data sources (those generally used by child care planning councils statewide) were accessed. The Needs Assessment is intended to guide the Local Child Care Planning Council, as well as others, in strategic planning. Additionally, it may be used by any local organization to advocate for additional services, thus maximizing Siskiyou County resources for families and children.

## **Importance of Child Care/Early Education**

Child care has become an essential component of our society's infrastructure. In 2006, it was estimated that 70.6% of U.S. women with children under 18 were in the labor force. Of these, 76.9% had children ages 6 – 17 years; 63% had children under 6; and 59.9% had children under 3 years of age.

*(Source: 2006 Annual Social & Economic Supplement, Current Population Survey, U.S. Department of Labor, U.S. Bureau of Statistics)*

Child care enables parents to work, participate in training programs, work toward self-sufficiency and contribute to the life of the community. Additionally, child care is an income-generating, job-creating industry that makes a vital contribution to the local economy. Child care and early education dollars move multiple times through local businesses.

*(Source: Partnership for America's Economic Success, Pew Charitable Trust, Issue Brief #13, January 2010)*

Recent research has focused on the connection between children's early experiences and their successful long-term development. The most rapid period in a child's development takes place in the early years (prenatal to age five). By the first nine months, disparities in cognitive, social, behavioral and health outcomes are already evident, and widen by the time the child is 24 months old. By age two, children spoken to often will have learned almost three hundred more words than children spoken to less often. This is significant as language development is an important foundation of future learning. By age four, 85% of children's core brain structure has been developed. Children who receive sensitive, responsive, consistent care from parents and other caregivers in their early years are more likely to develop healthy emotional attachments and to be better equipped to overcome adversity in later years. The effects of inadequate care, nutrition, and/or stimulation in the early years can be devastating and long-lasting.

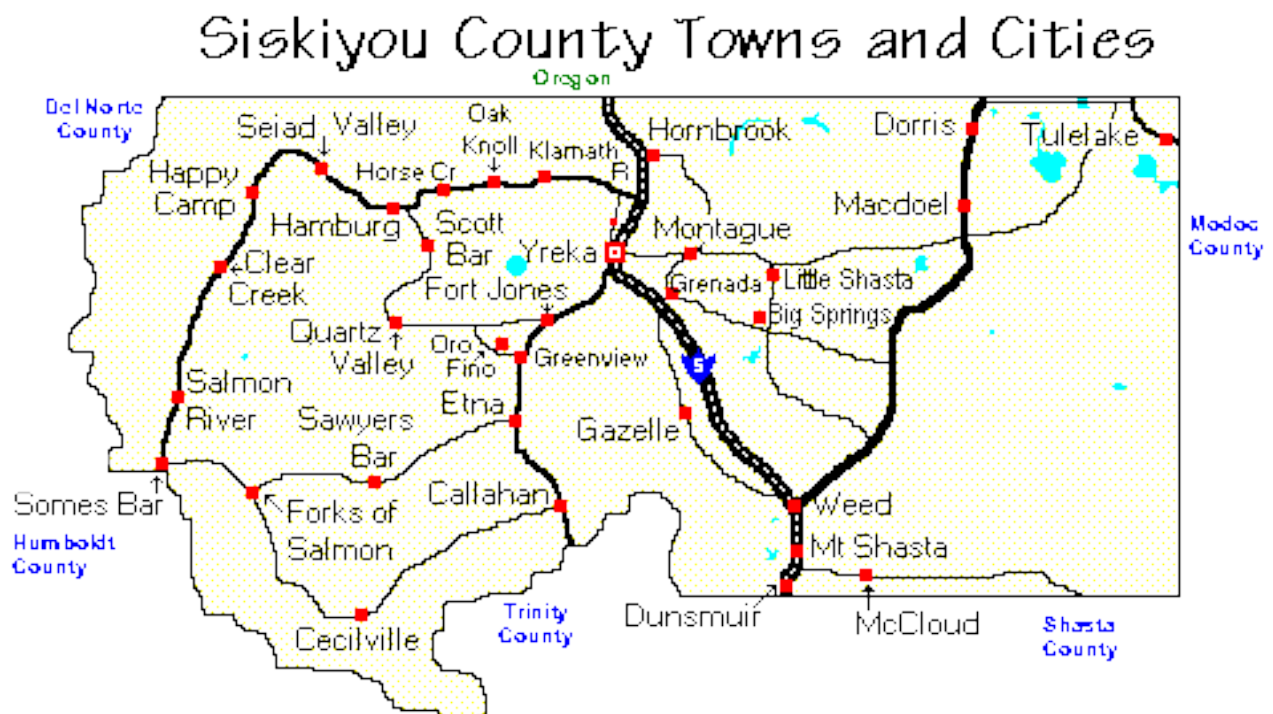
(Sources: California Report Card, Children Now, 2010; "Starting Smart – How Early Experiences Affect Brain Development", Zero to Three, Theresa Hawley and Megan Gunner; "Child Trends, Disparities in Early Learning and Development: Lessons from the Early Childhood Longitudinal Study – Birth Cohort", Child Trends, 2009)

The benefits and cost-effectiveness of investing in quality child care and early education programs is recognized not only by child care professionals, but by business leaders, criminal justice experts and health professionals. Employers find that good early childhood programs reduce absenteeism and increase productivity, recruitment and retention of employees. Economists have found that high-quality early childhood education offers one of the highest returns of any public investment – more than \$7 for every dollar spent. Children who attend high quality early childhood programs are less likely to need remedial education down the road; and are more likely to graduate from high school, attend college and earn higher salaries. In addition, they are more apt to avoid crime, substance abuse and teen pregnancy.

(Sources: High/Scope Perry Preschool Project Through Age 40, 2004; Partnership for America's Economic Success, Pew Charitable Trust, Issue Brief #13, January 2010)

There is also a strong link between high quality care and school readiness. Children in high quality early education programs are better able to get along with their peers, express themselves clearly and effectively, resolve conflict, and solve problems. They enter Kindergarten more focused and confident; and are more likely to have the foundational skills for a successful K-12 experience.

(Source: Rand Preschool Study 4: "Preschool Adequacy and Efficiency in California: Issues, Policy Options and Recommendations", Lynn A. Karoly, 2009.)



# SECTION ONE: COUNTY DEMOGRAPHICS

## GEOGRAPHY

Siskiyou County, adjacent to Oregon in the northern, inland region of California, is the fifth largest county in the state. More than sixty percent of Siskiyou County's land is managed by federal and state government agencies. These include the USDA Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the California Department of Fish and Game. Siskiyou County contains spectacular natural beauty and is regarded as a recreational paradise. Its 6,347 square miles encompass a wide variety of landscapes: western canyons and peaks, eastern lava plateaus, numerous farms and ranches, mountain ranges, dense forests, lakes, rivers, waterfalls, high desert chaparral and the towering Mount Shasta (elevation 14,162 ft.).

*(Sources: Siskiyou County Profile, Labor Market Information, California Employment Development Department; and Siskiyou County Economic Development Council, 2009)*

Siskiyou County is the fifth largest county in the State.

## POPULATION

While Siskiyou County ranks fifth largest in area among California counties, it ranks 44<sup>th</sup> (out of 58) in population. On average, there are approximately 7 people per square mile (which warrants a federal designation of Frontier). In 2000, the total population was 44,301\*. In 2009, the California Department of Finance estimated that the total population was 45,973\*\* (an approximate 3% increase over 9 years).

The largest incorporated cities in Siskiyou County are Yreka, the county seat, with a population of 7,443, followed by Mount Shasta (3,608) and Weed (3,024). The cities of Montague, Weed and Yreka had average annual population increases ranging from 0.1 and 0.3 percent between 1999 and 2009. The city of Mount Shasta saw 0.0% growth, while Dorris, Dunsmuir, Etna, Fort Jones and Tulelake all experienced average annual decreases between 0.1 and 0.7 over the last ten years.\*\*

Many residents live in remote areas and have difficulty accessing services.

Winter snow and icy conditions, as well as landslides and seasonal fires, can cause both smaller roads and major highways, to become impassable. Severe winter weather can occur from November to April. Since a large percentage of county residents live in remote areas, this makes access to services even more challenging.

*(Sources: \*U.S. Census Bureau, 2000, \*\*California Department of Finance, Demographic Research Unit)*

## AGE DISTRIBUTION

The median age of Siskiyou County residents is 43.0, considerably older than the California median age of 33.3. The number of people age 60 and older in the county is 23.4%, compared to a statewide average of 14%. Attachment 1, based on 2000 Census data, lists the ages of Siskiyou County residents by communities identified by zip code. The top 4 communities with the youngest median age are Tulelake (34.1), Callahan (39.8), Dorris (40.4) and MacDoel (35.2). \*

Siskiyou County residents are considerably older than California residents.

Year 2000 U.S. Census data indicates that 5.1% or 2,260 Siskiyou residents are under 5 years of age, 6.1% or 2,710 are age 5 to 9 years, and 7.7% or 3,414 are age 10 to 14 years, totaling 18.9% of the population. The following table shows the age distribution of children 0 to 14 years of age.

Years of Age	Siskiyou County		California
	#	%	%
All Ages	44,301	100.0	100.0
Under 5	2,260	5.1	7.3
Under 1	434	1.0	1.4
1 year	436	1.0	1.4
2 years	413	0.9	1.4
3 years	484	1.1	1.5
4 years	493	1.1	1.5
5-9 years	2710	6.1	8.0
10-14 years	3414	7.7	7.6

(Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2000-American Fact Finder Quick Tables)

(Source: \*U.S. Census Bureau, 2000)

California Department of Finance (DOF) projections indicate both increasing and decreasing population trends for specific age brackets within the county. DOF has projected that in 2010 the number of children from birth to age four will increase to 2,900 (640 more than the 2000 census figure); the number of children ages 5 - 9 years will decrease to 2,321 ( 389 less); the number of children ages 10 – 14 years will decrease to 2,562 (852 less ); and the number of children 15 – 19 years will decrease to 3,043 (351 less). It is also projected that in 2010 the number of adults 30 – 49 years will decrease (3,319 less ). These declines suggest that parents are leaving the county for better job opportunities and taking their school age children with them. Other 2010 increasing projections of interest are 20 – 24 year olds (1,753 more) and those 50 years old and over (3,484 more).

(Source: State of California, Department of Finance, Population Projections by Race/Ethnicity, Gender and Age Report 06 P-3, Demographic Research Unit, 2007)

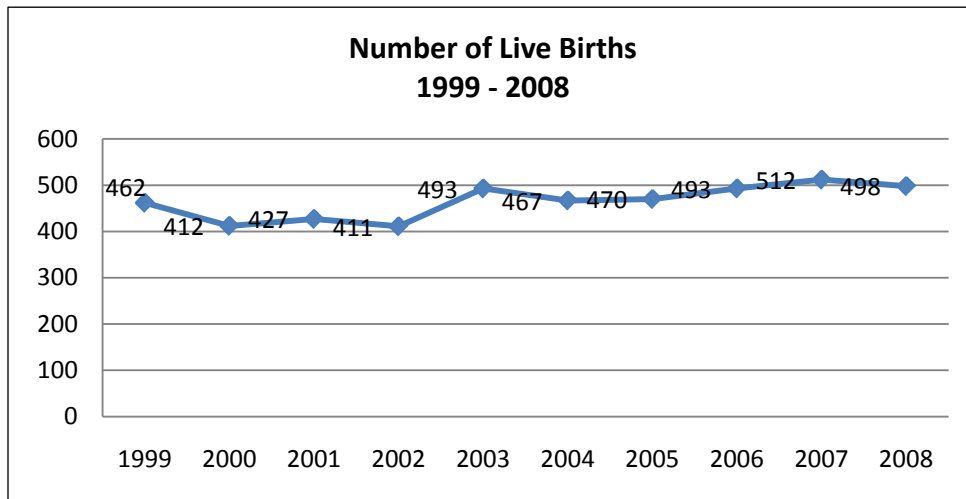
## BIRTHS

In the years 1999 through 2003, there were 2,205 live births recorded in Siskiyou County. In the years 2004 through 2008, 2,440 live births were recorded. This indicates an overall birth rate increase of 11 % (approximate); and an average annual birth rate of 488. The highest number of births occurred in 2007 (512) and 2008 (498). This trend could indicate a need for more child care and early education services in the next few years.

In 2008, 33% of Siskiyou County births were to women of color. Of these, 19% were Hispanic, 6 % were American Indian and 8% other (including mixed race mothers).

*(Source: State of California, Department of Public Health, Birth Records)*

The Siskiyou county birth rate increased 11% in the years 2004 – 2008. In 2008, 1 in 3 births were to women of color.



## SEX

There are more females (50.9%) than males in Siskiyou County. The overall female population in California is 50.2%. *(Source: U.S. Census 2000, Summary File, SF-1)*

## RACE/ETHNICITY

The ethnicity of Siskiyou County is 83.3% Caucasian, 7.6% Hispanic, 3.9% Native American, 1.2% Asian, 1.3% African American and 2.7% other. The race distribution of Caucasian children 0-5 in Siskiyou County is 72.1%, compared to a total Caucasian population of 83.3%. The percentage of the 0-5 population that is Hispanic is 112% higher than the percentage of the general Hispanic population of Siskiyou County.

	Siskiyou County	
	% of Total Population	% of Total 0-5 Population
Total	100.0	100.0
White or Caucasian	83.3	72.1
Hispanic	7.6	16.1
American Indian	3.9	5.0
Asian/Pacific Islander	1.2	1.3
Black or African American	1.3	1.3
Some other race	2.7	4.2

*(Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2000, Summary File SF-1)*

Attachment 2 shows the race/ethnicity of Siskiyou County residents by community/zip code. The most culturally diverse communities are Tulelake, Dorris, Happy Camp, MacDoel, and Weed. The most predominant minority in Tulelake and Dorris is Hispanic, at 31.1% and 15.1% respectively. In Happy Camp, over 24.0% of the community is American Indian. In MacDoel, 31.1% of the population is Hispanic, while 5.5% of the population is American Indian. In Weed, 9.0% of the community is Hispanic and 5.3% of the community African American. More specific race/ethnicity data by community/zip code is provided in Attachment 2.

## LANGUAGE

California has a significantly higher percentage of residents (39.5%) who don't speak English. Nine percent of Siskiyou County residents don't speak English. Most of these residents speak Spanish as their primary language.

*(Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000, Summary File 3)*

In academic year 2008-09, the total number of English Language Learners in Siskiyou County public schools (kindergarten through grade 12) was 207 (about 3% of total enrollment). Of these, 176 (85%) spoke Spanish as their primary language.

*(Source: California Department of Education, <http://dq.cde.ca.gov/dataquest>)*

## MIGRANT AGRICULTURAL FAMILIES

Though it is difficult to estimate the number of children in migrant agricultural families, Migrant Education counts provide some statistics. In Fall 2009, the total number of Siskiyou County children (ages 0 - 12) enrolled in Migrant Education was 57. Of these, 10 were ages 0 -5. The highest numbers of enrolled children were in Butte Valley Unified (22) and Weed Union Elementary (13) school districts.

*(Source: Migrant Education Program, Region 2, 2009)*

## INCOME

Residents of Siskiyou County had a nominal per capita income\* of \$29,538 in 2007, compared to \$41,571 in California in the same year. The total median household income\*\* in Siskiyou County in 2007 was \$35,692, compared to \$59,928 in California in the same year. Of twenty three other Northern California counties (including Sonoma County), Siskiyou County had the third lowest median income in 1999.

\*Per capita income is defined as total personal income divided by total population.

\*\*Median household income is the level at which half of the households earn more and the other half earn less.

*(Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis and Bureau of the Census; Siskiyou County Economic and Demographic Profile 2009-10, Center for Economic Development, California State University, Chico)*

## POVERTY RATE

In 1999, the average poverty rate in Siskiyou County was 18.6 percent, well above the statewide average of 14.2 percent. Of all Siskiyou County cities, Tulelake (34.6%), Fort Jones (26.0 %), Montague (24.2%), Weed (23.9%) and Yreka (21.1%) had the highest poverty rates.

*(Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2000, Summary File 3, U.S. Department of Commerce)*

## SEASONAL EMPLOYMENT

Siskiyou's varied natural resources support recreation and tourism industries, strongly affecting local employment trends. The county is home to world-famous trout-fishing rivers and streams, Castle Lake, Lake Siskiyou, and a winter ski park on Mt. Shasta. Hiking, mountain biking, camping and wilderness recreation abound, while historic logging practices have been largely discontinued.

Scott Valley, in the western part of the county, supports a number of large cattle ranches. The Butte Valley, Tulelake and Lower Klamath basins in northeastern Siskiyou County, have some of the deepest and richest soils in the state, producing alfalfa, potatoes, horseradish, brewing barley and strawberry plants.

*(Sources: Siskiyou County Profile, Labor Market Information, California Employment Development Department; and Siskiyou County Economic Development Council, 2009)*

## UNEMPLOYMENT

Unemployment in the county fluctuates dramatically during the year, with the highest rates occurring during the winter months. During the summer, when local farms employ seasonal workers, logging operations are fully engaged, and most roads are passable, the rates are lowest. The annual average unemployment rates for Siskiyou County continue to be significantly higher than the average statewide rates. The below tables compare county to state rates over time.

Siskiyou County's unemployment rate is significantly higher than the statewide average.

**Statewide and Siskiyou County Annual Unemployment, 1998-2008**

Year	Annual Average										
	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Siskiyou	12.6%	10.3%	9.5%	9.4%	9.8%	10.4	9.3%	9.1%	8%	8.6%	10.4%
California	5.9%	5.2%	4.9%	5.4%	6.7%	6.7	6.2%	5.4%	4.9%	5.4%	7.2%

**California and Siskiyou County Monthly Unemployment, 2008**

2008	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Siskiyou	12.4	12.2	11.7	9.2	8.4	8.4	8.6	8.5	8.5	9.1	12	14
California	6.4	6.2	6.5	6.0	6.5	7.0	7.6	7.7	7.6	7.9	8.4	9.1

**California and Siskiyou County Monthly Unemployment, 2009**

2009	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Siskiyou	17.6	18.1	18.5	15.6	14.5	13.9	14.1	14.0	13.5	14.7	16.9	18.3
California	10.6	11.0	11.5	11.0	11.3	11.6	12.1	12.2	12.0	12.3	12.3	12.1

*Source: California Department of Employment Development/Labor Market Division*

In 2008 and 2009, Siskiyou County had the 14<sup>th</sup> highest annual average unemployment rate in California. During several months in 2009, the Siskiyou County unemployment rate was over 18%.

## **EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY/REVENUE**

The services sector, accounting for 41.5 % of businesses, was the most prominent industry in Siskiyou County in 2008. The retail trade sector made up at least 16% of county businesses, while agriculture, forestry and fishing businesses made up 10.2 percent.

In 2007, the majority of jobs (highest to lowest) in the county came from the services sector, government and public administration, recreation and retail trade. While agricultural and mining sector data is now withheld to preserve confidentiality, historical data has shown the farm industries sector to employ a significant number of people in the county.

Siskiyou's top revenue generating industries in 2007 were government/public administration at \$229.1 million, the services sector at nearly \$175.3 million and the retail trade sector at over \$60.3 million.

Within the services sector, health care and social assistance earned the highest reported total, with over \$75.9 million in 2005. Professional, scientific, and technical services followed with over \$25.8 million in earnings in the same year.

*(Sources: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis; and Siskiyou County Economic and Demographic Profile 2009-10, Center for Economic Development, California State University, Chico)*

## HOUSING

The total number of housing units in Siskiyou County reached 24,044 in 2008. Of those, 72% were single-family units, 17% were mobile homes and 11% were multiple-family units. The number of housing units in the county and state increased 1.6 percent between 1998 and 2008. Most of the housing growth since 1990 in Siskiyou County has occurred in the unincorporated areas.

Between 2000 and 2009, the average rent price for a three-bedroom unit in the county was about 15 percent less expensive than the average rent price in twenty Northern California counties, and ranked twentieth among twenty-three counties. In 2009, the two-bedroom unit rent price was about 16 percent less than the average, while the four-bedroom unit price was 23 percent less expensive. Overall, rent prices in the county have been increasing at a slower rate than the Northern California average, and decreased 11 percent between 2008 and 2009.

*(Source: Siskiyou County Economic and Demographic Profile 2009-10, Center for Economic Development, California State University, Chico)*

# SECTION TWO: FAMILIES AND CHILDREN

## CHILDREN IN POVERTY

Siskiyou County has a high rate of children living in poverty. The American Community Survey (based on years 2006, 2007 and 2008) estimated that 22.4% of Siskiyou families with related children under 18 years old were living below the federal poverty level.\* Of these 5,379 families, 1,449 (27%) were headed by females with no husband present. In addition, 26% of Siskiyou families with related children under 5 years old were estimated to be living below the federal poverty level.

Estimates show that 22.4% of Siskiyou families with children under 18 years old live below the federal poverty level.

However, the 2007 California County Data Book from Children Now indicates a higher percentage. The Data Book shows that 27% of children in Siskiyou (ages 0 – 18 years) were living in poverty, compared to a statewide average of 19%.

*(Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2008 American Community Survey; Children Now, 2007 California County Data Book)*

\*The below chart shows 2009 Poverty Guidelines for the 48 Contiguous States and the District of Columbia

<b>The 2009 Poverty Guidelines for the 48 Contiguous States and the District of Columbia</b>	
<b>Persons in family</b>	<b>Poverty guideline</b>
1	\$10,830
2	14,570
3	18,310
4	22,050
5	25,790
6	29,530
7	33,270
8	37,010
For families with more than 8 persons, add \$3,740 for each additional person.	

## PROJECTIONS OF THE CURRENT ECONOMIC RECESSION

The California Index of Child and Youth Well-Being estimated that the statewide poverty rate for families with children ages 0 -18 would rise to a high of 27% in 2010, before falling to 24% in 2012. Since Siskiyou County's poverty rate has historically been higher than the statewide average, Siskiyou's poverty rate in the next few years could very well exceed state percentages.

*(Source: The California Index of Child and Youth Well-Being, [www.kidsdata.org](http://www.kidsdata.org), 2009)*

## TEEN BIRTHS

The U.S. continues to have a substantially higher teen birth rate than other developed countries. Since teen mothers and their babies face increased risk to health and economic status, teen pregnancy remains both a national and local concern. In 1991, the U.S. birth rate for teenagers (15-19 years) was 61.8 per 1,000 live births, while California's teen birth rate was 70.9 per 1,000. Over the next 14 years, the teen birth rate in both California and the U.S. steadily declined. Then in 2006, the U.S. teen birth rate rose 3 percent to 41.9 per 1,000 births. In 2006, the California teen birth rate rose slightly to 37.8 per 1,000, while Siskiyou County's teen birth rate was 38.8 per 1,000. Between 2006 and 2008, teen births comprised about 13% of the total births in Siskiyou County. State Public Health records show the following numbers of teen births to Siskiyou County residents: 63 in 2005, 67 in 2006, 68 in 2007 and 62 in 2008.

*(Sources: Center for Disease Control, National Center for Health Statistics, State of California, Department of Public Health, Birth Records)*

## FAMILIES AND CHILDREN RELYING ON PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

This section presents information on programs and enrollment trends in available public assistance programs that support Siskiyou County families.

### CalWORKS/TANF

The federal TANF (Temporary Aid to Needy Families) program was created in 1997 to replace the long-term entitlement program that welfare had become, with short-term assistance for families in need. These funds are distributed as a block grant to states and tribes. In Siskiyou County, CalWORKS funding is administered by the Department of Human Services; and Tribal TANF funding is administered by the Karuk Tribe.

CalWORKS, California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids, is the state of California's implementation of the federal TANF program. Every recipient of CalWORKS who does not have an exemption, must seek employment, acquire training for employment or participate in work related activities. There is an exemption currently in place (until July 1, 2011) for single parents (or one parent of a two-parent family) with two children under six years of age. Tribal TANF programs are allowed more flexibility in determining participation requirements.

The number of Siskiyou CalWORKS/TANF cases tends to be significantly higher than the statewide average.

In Siskiyou County, the number of TANF/CalWORKS cases has historically been significantly higher than the statewide average. Higher incidence of CalWORKS enrollment may indicate a lack of job opportunities or additional health or social issues that keep people from holding on to adequate employment. The county, however, has experienced a significant decrease in recipients as a percentage of the total population, beginning with 11.2 percent in 1991, and dropping to below 4 percent in 2008.

*(Source: Siskiyou County Economic and Demographic Profile 2009-10, Center for Economic Development, California State University, Chico)*

Between December 2008 and November 2009, the average number of CalWORKS cases in Siskiyou County was 876, compared to a three-year average of 764 for fiscal years 07/08, 06/07 and 05/06.

This upward trend may be indicative of the current economic downturn with its decreased job opportunities.

*(Source: California Department of Health Care Services, Medi-Cal Beneficiaries Count Pivot Tables, 2009)*

Child care centers, family child care homes and license-exempt individuals provide crucial child care services and resources to the children and families who participate in CalWORKS or tribal TANF programs.

### **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance (SNAP)** (formerly Food Stamp Program)

In October 2008, SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) became the new name for the Food Stamp Program, administered by the United States Department of Agriculture. It is one of several federal programs targeting hunger; and is the only federal benefit program that is generally available to all who need it and meet the eligibility standards. Much like CalWORKS and TANF, the household's income, property and number of people determine the program's benefits. SNAP is intended to subsidize the purchase of food for the household.

From Fiscal Year (FY) 1995-96 to FY 2001-02, the average number of persons receiving food stamps in Siskiyou County dropped by 46% to 2,634 people. During the same time period, the average number of households receiving food stamps dropped by 60% to 838 households. However, in FY 2002-03, an upward trend began. From FY 2001-02 to FY 2007-08, the average number of persons receiving food stamps in Siskiyou County rose by 25% or 789 people. During the same period, the average number of households receiving food stamps rose by 32% or 399 households.

The following four-year snapshot for the month of July shows the total number of Food Stamps/SNAP recipients in Siskiyou County.

<i>July 2006</i>	<i>July 2007</i>	<i>July 2008</i>	<i>July 2009</i>
3,861	3,815	4,000	4,708

*(Source: California Department of Social Services)*

The SNAP caseload may be indicative of lack of jobs, lack of ability to do paid work and/or low wage employment.

### **Medi-Cal**

Medi-Cal is California's version of the federal Medicaid program. It pays for the cost of medical care for low-income persons such as the elderly, disabled, and others with limited resources and high medical bills. Many Medi-Cal recipients are also CalWORKS and/or SNAP (food stamp) recipients, creating an overlap in program enrollment.

In 2008, approximately 22 percent of Siskiyou County's population was eligible for Medi-Cal programs (9,902 people). In comparison, 18 percent of the total California population was eligible. The number of eligibles in the county saw a low of about 8,179 people in 2000, before beginning to rise again.

A monthly snapshot for April 2009 shows that of 10,071 Medi-Cal eligibles, 3.6% (359) were 0 – 11 mos., 13.3% (1,344) were 1 – 5 yrs., 24.1% (2,429) were 6 – 17 yrs., 5% (507) were 18 – 20 yrs., 25.4% (2,586) were 21 – 45 yrs., 18% (1,810) were 46 – 64 yrs. and 10% (1,036) were 65 yrs. and older.

*(Sources: California Department of Health Care Services, Siskiyou County Economic and Demographic Profile 2009-10, Center for Economic Development, California State University, Chico)*

## Healthy Families

Healthy Families, which began in June 1998, provides health coverage to children, ages 1 to 19, whose families have income between 100 and 250 percent of the poverty level, do not have private insurance and do not qualify for Medi-Cal.

As of August 2009, there were 740 Siskiyou County children enrolled in Healthy Families.

(Sources: [www.healthyfamilies.ca.gov](http://www.healthyfamilies.ca.gov), California Managed Risk Medical Insurance Board, 2009)

## CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

California gives first priority for subsidized child care and early education services to children who have been abused or are at-risk of being abused and/or neglected. The next table shows the number of child abuse allegations and substantiations in Siskiyou County for 2008 by age cohort.

Siskiyou County's child abuse referral rate is 82% higher than the state average.

**Siskiyou County Child Population (0-17) and Children with Child Maltreatment Allegations, Substantiations, and Entries (Incidence per 1,000 Children)  
January 1, 2008 – December 31, 2008**

Age Group	Total Child Population	Children with Allegations	Incidence per 1,000 Children	Children with Substantiations	Incidence per 1,000 Children	% of Allegations	Children with Entries (entering care)	Incidence per 1,000 Children	% of Substantiations
Under 1	577	90	156.0	39	67.6	43.3	17	29.5	43.6
1-2	1,087	98	90.2	42	38.6	42.9	15	13.8	35.7
3-5	1,426	161	112.9	52	36.5	32.3	22	15.4	42.3
6-10	2,290	232	101.3	68	29.7	29.3	24	10.5	35.3
11-15	2,825	196	69.4	43	15.2	21.9	13	4.6	30.2
16-17	1,278	65	50.9	14	11.0	21.5	5	3.9	35.7
Siskiyou Totals	9,483	842	88.8	258	27.2	30.6	96	10.1	37.0
California Totals	10,003,896	486,866	48.7	97,220	9.7	20.0	32,753	3.3	33.7

(Source: Center for Social Services Research, University of California at Berkeley, December 2009)

When compared to the state of California average, Siskiyou County's referral rate for child abuse is significantly (82%) higher. In addition, Siskiyou's substantiation rate is nearly three times higher than the state average.

## FOSTER CARE

In 2008, the rate for children in foster care in Siskiyou County age 0 – 18 was 14 per 1,000. This compares to the statewide average rate of 6.5 per 1,000. Of all California counties, Siskiyou had the fifth highest percentage of children in foster care.

*(Source: California Department of Social Services & University of California at Berkeley, Child Welfare Dynamic Report System)*

Given the instability of foster care for many children, schools and child care facilities can play an important role, along with foster care providers, in ensuring that the needs of foster children are met.

The rate of Siskiyou County children in foster care is about two times higher than the state average.

## CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

In fiscal year 2008-2009, a total of 424 children ages 0 – 12 years were determined by a regional center (either Siskiyou County Office of Education or Far Northern Regional Center) to require either an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP)\* or an Individualized Education Plan (IEP)\*\*. Of these, 29 were ages 0 – 3 years, 67 were ages 4 – 5 years, and 328 were ages 6 – 12 years. The top four disabilities for ages 0 -12 were speech or language impairment (186), specific learning disability (116), mental retardation (32) and autism (27). Children with disabilities are protected under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), which prohibits providers of child care from discriminating against children with special needs.

*(Source: California Department of Education/Dataquest)*

*\*An Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) is a plan designed for families with children ages 0 -3 to work with service providers in order to facilitate a child's development.*

*\*\*An Individualized Education Plan (IEP) is an education plan that is designed to meet the specific needs of special education children (ages 3 – 22) and provide the resources necessary for their success.*

# SECTION THREE: CHILD CARE IN SISKIYOU COUNTY

## CHILD CARE AND THE FAMILY BUDGET

Child care is a significant expense for many families, especially families with a single source of income, families with a teen as the head of the household, families with a reliance on low earning jobs, families with more than one child or families needing infant/toddler care. Infant/toddler care costs more due to the lower adult: child ratios required for this age group.

In 2006, the California Child Care Resource and Referral Network created the following table to illustrate the likely percentage of a Siskiyou County family's income needed to pay for child care.

**Child Care and Siskiyou Family Budgets**

Family Income: One minimum wage earner	Family Income: One entry-level public school teacher*	Family Income: 75% state median for family of three**										
\$15, 600 Annual Income	\$34,000 Annual Income	\$43, 536 Annual Income										
<table border="1"> <tr> <td>49% Housing</td> <td>39% Infant/toddler care in family child care home</td> <td>All other family needs</td> </tr> </table>	49% Housing	39% Infant/toddler care in family child care home	All other family needs	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>23% Housing</td> <td>29% Infant/toddler care in child care center</td> <td>All other family needs</td> </tr> </table>	23% Housing	29% Infant/toddler care in child care center	All other family needs	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>18% Housing</td> <td>14% Infant/toddler in family child care home</td> <td>16% Preschooler in center</td> <td>All other family needs</td> </tr> </table>	18% Housing	14% Infant/toddler in family child care home	16% Preschooler in center	All other family needs
49% Housing	39% Infant/toddler care in family child care home	All other family needs										
23% Housing	29% Infant/toddler care in child care center	All other family needs										
18% Housing	14% Infant/toddler in family child care home	16% Preschooler in center	All other family needs									
	*Source: California Department of Education 2005/06	** Source: Child Care and Development Family Fee Schedule 2006										

Low-income families have a pivotal need for child care in order to increase their opportunities for self reliance by looking for work, going to school, learning new job skills, entering or re-entering the work force. However, without subsidized programs or other forms of public assistance, many licensed forms of child care would be out of financial reach for these families. Additionally, families on subsidized waiting lists, or families who do not qualify for subsidized programs (due to higher income or other factors), find it difficult, if not impossible, to afford the full cost of child care.

## LOCAL CHILD CARE NEED

The 2009 Child Care Portfolio, using Department of Finance population projections and Employment Development Department Labor Force Data, indicates that there are a total of 7,022 children, age 0 – 13 years, in Siskiyou County. It is estimated that 3,665 (or 52% of Siskiyou County children) have parents in the labor force.

## Licensed Child Care Supply

The following table shows the supply of licensed child care in Siskiyou County.

CHILD CARE SUPPLY <sup>1</sup>		LICENSED CHILD CARE CENTERS	LICENSED FAMILY CHILD CARE HOMES
Total number of slots		736 (70%)	312 (30%)
Infant slots (under 2 years old)		69 (9%)	
Preschool slots (2 – 5 years old) <sup>3</sup>		584 (79%)	
School Age slots (6 years and older)		83 (11%)	
Total number of sites		21	36
Sites offering preschool only <sup>3</sup>		14 (67%)	
CHILD CARE CENTERS WITH FEDERAL/STATE/LOCAL CONTRACTS <sup>4</sup>			
5 Head Start*	3 General Child Care, CDE	13 State Preschool, CDE <sup>5</sup>	17 One or more contracts

REQUESTS FOR CHILD CARE <sup>2</sup>	
Infant care	31%
Preschool care <sup>3</sup>	49%
2 years old	15%
3 years old	16%
4 years old	4%
5 years old	15%
School-age care	20%
Child care center	100%
Family child care home	100%

1. Data from local child care R & R programs, January 2008; compiled by California Child Care Resource & Referral Network
2. Requests for child care referrals received by local R & R programs, April/May/June 2008.
3. Preschool age defined as 2 – 5 years old, consistent with Title 22 regulations; Community Care Licensing, DSS
4. Licensed facilities receiving vouchers not included
5. California Department of Education

\*Two of these are Early Head Start sites serving ages 0 – 3. Three of these are Head Start sites serving ages 3 – 5. In addition, there are two Karuk Tribal Head Start half-day programs serving ages 3 – 5.

The California Child Care Portfolio indicates that the total number of child care slots in Siskiyou County decreased 15% between January 2002 and January 2008. This translates to a loss of 187 child care slots.\*\* While the number of licensed child care centers has remained stable since 2002, the number of licensed family child care homes in Siskiyou County has decreased significantly (by nearly 50%) since 2002. The combined total of licensed child care slots in the county is 1,048, making licensed child care available to only 29% of children 0 – 13 with parents in the labor force.

\*\*It is difficult to ascertain the true number of child care slots since slots are measured in terms of licensed capacity. Though child care centers typically run close to capacity, licensed family child care homes often run at less (or sometimes considerably less) than capacity.

## Infant Care

In Siskiyou County (as in all of California), there continues to be an acute shortage of licensed infant care. The above table indicates that although 31% of local requests are for infant child care, only 9% of licensed child care center slots are available for infants (defined above as children under 2 years of age). Since a number of programs counted above do not serve children under 18 months of age, there are even less slots available for younger infants.

Although the percentage of licensed child care centers serving this age group has increased slightly (5% since 2002), the capacity within licensed family child care homes has decreased significantly, given the fact that there is now only half as many family child care homes as there were in 2002. Due to the flexibility within family child care homes to serve varying age groups, it is difficult to determine

the exact number of infant slots lost or currently available. However, it is estimated that the majority of licensed infant care in Siskiyou County takes place in family child care homes.

## Schedule Requests

The following tables contain data collected from Siskiyou Child Care Council (the county's Child Care Resource and Referral Agency). The data shows the percentage of requests by age for full-time and part-time care; the percentage of requests for non-traditional hours, and the major reasons families seek child care.

## SISKIYOU COUNTY CHILD CARE SCHEDULE REQUESTS

CHILD CARE SUPPLY <sup>1</sup>	LICENSED CHILD CARE CENTERS	LICENSED FAMILY CHILD CARE HOMES	REQUESTS FOR CHILD CARE <sup>2</sup>		
			AGES	FULL-TIME <sup>3</sup>	PART-TIME <sup>3</sup>
Full-time and part-time slots	53%	92%	0 - 5	84%	27%
Only full-time slots	-	-	Under 2	94%	18%
Only part-time slots	47%	8%	2 years	88%	13%
Sites offering only part-time preschool slots	66%	-	3 years	67%	44%
Sites offering evening care	-	19%	4 years	100%	-
Sites offering weekend care	-	14%	5 years	75%	50%
<b>MAJOR REASONS FAMILIES SEEK CHILD CARE</b>			<b>REQUESTS FOR CARE DURING NON-TRADITIONAL HOURS</b>		
<b>85%</b> Employment	<b>15%</b> Parent in School or Training	<b>5%</b> Alternative or back-up care	Evening/Weekend Care	25%	

1. Data from local child care R & R programs, January 2008; compiled by California Child Care Resource & Referral Network
2. Requests for child care referrals received by local R & R programs, April/May/June 2008.
3. Full-time: 30 or more hours per week; Part-time: less than 30 hrs. per week

The majority of families in Siskiyou County request child care in order to begin or maintain employment. Although a large majority of child care requests are for full-time care, only 34% of licensed child care centers in Siskiyou County offer full-time care.

(Source: 2009 Child Care Portfolio, California Child Care Resource & Referral Network)

## Children and Families on the Centralized Eligibility List (CEL)

Each county in California is required to develop and maintain a Centralized Eligibility List (CEL). The CEL combines all of the separate waiting lists of state-subsidized (by California Dept. of Education, Child Development Division) programs only. Child Development Division contractors in the county are required to enroll children that have the highest priority. Families on the CEL are ranked by need for subsidized care and time spent on the list.

In July of 2008, 47 families (and 72 children) were on the Siskiyou CEL. Of these, 45 families needed care in order to work. Fifty children were on the waiting list for full-time care, 22 for part-time care, 6 for evening care and 2 for weekend care.

## **Informal, License-exempt Child Care**

Many Siskiyou County families utilize family, friends, neighbors and other individuals who care for children in their homes or in the homes of children needing care. This type of care is referred to as license-exempt because individuals are not required to obtain a license when caring for the children of just one family, in addition to their own children. Since license-exempt providers are not required to register with a central agency, it is difficult to determine how many active license-exempt providers there are in the county, what percentage of these are relatives and how many are currently available to serve local families. In 1997, the Siskiyou County Early Childhood Team (S.E.C.T.) Needs Assessment estimated that 40% of all county families using child care were using license-exempt providers. In remote areas of the county, license-exempt care may be the only type of care available. (Source: *Siskiyou County Child Care Needs Assessment Project, Siskiyou Early Childhood Team, 1997*)

## **CHALLENGES TO ENSURING QUALITY CHILD CARE FOR ALL WHO NEED IT**

- Need, but not enough population in some communities, to support a viable child care business or program
- Special difficulty in recruiting and maintaining qualified staff in outlying areas
- Lack of adequate public transportation and/or distance to nearest available facility
- Employment that requires non-traditional hours or rotating shifts
- Availability and affordability for both low and middle income families
- Inadequate funding to recruit and maintain well-educated, well-compensated staff; and to create and maintain high quality facilities and environments
- Low profit margin for private programs and family child care homes (E.g. Even a couple of openings in a family child care home during a high unemployment period can result in an inability to make ends meet.)
- Reimbursement delays from outside agencies (Typically, child care programs have very little reserve funding. Even a short reimbursement delay can put programs in jeopardy, and result in programs being unable to meet basic operating expenses. This is especially true during a tight lending market.)

# **SUMMARY/KEY AREAS FOR CONSIDERATION**

## **ACCESS TO CHILD CARE/EARLY EDUCATION SERVICES**

Access to licensed, quality child care/early education services in Siskiyou County is limited. There is an especially low supply of infant, full-time, flexible and non-traditional hours care. In addition, the cost of child care is often a financial hardship for both low and middle income families. It is therefore recommended that efforts continue to both expand the number of quality child care openings (especially in areas of low supply) as well as improve access and affordability for families.

Creating and maintaining a quality and economically viable child care program is quite challenging, especially in difficult economic times. It is therefore recommended that efforts continue to support child care providers in both tangible and intangible ways. Given the significant decrease in the number of family child care homes, retention efforts may be especially well spent in this sector.

Due to the rural nature and low-population density of many areas in the county, it is recommended that non-traditional methods of delivering early education services to these communities be continued, developed, supported and expanded.

## **QUALITY**

Given the known, cost-effective and research-based benefits of quality child care/early education, emphasis should be placed on quality enhancement efforts among all sectors of the caregiving/early education population (including, but not limited to, licensed and license-exempt early care and education providers, home visitors, parents, non-profit and public agency staff and pediatric care staff).

The following professionally recognized indicators of quality child care and early education should be used in planning, implementing and advocating for quality enhancement services and activities:

- A well-educated, well-trained, well-compensated and stable childcare/early education workforce
- Developmentally appropriate and optimally stimulating classrooms and child environments
- Safe and healthy practices and environments for children
- Culturally competent child care/early education services
- Warm, positive, respectful and developmentally appropriate relationships and interactions between adults and children
- Respect and accommodation for individual child needs and abilities
- High level of family involvement

## **FAMILY INVOLVEMENT AND LINKAGE TO SUPPORT SERVICES**

Given the significantly higher rates of poverty, unemployment, child abuse and neglect within the county, it seems fair to assume that many Siskiyou County families experience high levels of stress. Additional family stressors may include isolation, lack of adequate transportation and difficulty in accessing services. It is therefore recommended that efforts to provide and/or link families to support services and family participation activities be continued, developed, supported and expanded.

*Attachment 1*

**Age of Siskiyou County Communities by Zip Code**

Area	Total Population	Under 5 years		5 to 9 years		10 to 14 years		15 to 19 years		Over 65 years		Median Age
		#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	
Callahan (96014)	286	12	4.2	15	5.2	25	8.7	26	9.1	41	14.3	39.8
Castella *(96017)	222	11	5.0	9	4.1	14	6.3	11	5.0	46	20.7	50.0
Dorris (96023)	1151	61	5.3	96	8.3	105	9.1	79	6.9	20.7	197	40.4
Dunsmuir (96025)	2593	114	4.4	135	5.2	184	7.1	191	7.4	517	19.9	44.8
Etna (96027)	2147	88	4.1	126	5.9	183	8.5	189	8.8	418	19.5	44.6
Fort Jones (96032)	2329	116	5.0	123	5.3	164	7.0	150	6.4	429	18.4	44.3
Gazelle (96034)	373	21	5.6	33	8.8	22	5.9	22	5.9	76	20.4	43.7
Grenada (96038)	600	30	5.0	42	7.0	52	8.7	47	7.8	96	16.0	40.8
Happy Camp (96039)	1277	67	5.2	87	6.8	116	9.1	83	6.5	205	16.1	42.2
Hornbrook (96044)	1018	40	3.9	39	3.8	76	7.5	56	5.5	263	25.8	48.9
Klamath River (96050)	467	20	4.3	32	6.9	35	7.5	21	4.5	83	17.8	47.0
MacDoel (96058)	811	67	8.3	64	7.9	60	7.4	67	8.3	103	5.7	35.2
McCloud (96057)	1582	76	4.8	100	6.3	110	7.1	110	7.1	339	21.4	46.1
Montague (96064)	4582	222	4.8	299	6.5	372	8.1	333	7.3	786	17.2	43.2
Mount Shasta (96067)	7295	314	4.3	395	5.4	520	7.1	592	8.1	1245	17.7	44.1
Tulelake (96134)	2586	224	8.7	238	9.2	247	9.6	207	8.0	174	6.7	34.1
Weed (96094)	5883	340	5.8	356	6.1	414	7.0	505	8.6	1070	18.2	41.1
Yreka (96097)	9528	503	5.3	583	6.1	764	8.0	735	7.7	1851	19.4	42.2

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000, SF-1 Summary File

\*Though located in Shasta County, Castella is included here due to its close proximity to the city of Dunsmuir.

*Attachment 2*

**Ethnicity of Siskiyou county Residents by Community/Zip Code**

Area	White		Black		American Indian		Asian		Latino		More than 2 races	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Callahan (96014)	235	82.5	1	0.3	19	6.6	0	0.0	14	4.9	18	6.3
Castella* (96017)	184	82.9	1	0.5	18	8.1	4	1.8	15	6.8	6	2.7
Dorris (96023)	907	78.8	1	0.1	49	4.3	2	0.2	174	15.1	32	2.8
Dunsmuir (96025)	2175	83.8	54	2.1	61	2.4	15	0.6	239	9.2	72	2.8
Etna (96027)	1860	86.6	1	0.0	113	5.3	21	1.0	88	4.1	78	3.6
Fort Jones (96032)	1977	84.9	28	1.2	91	3.9	0	0.0	154	6.6	97	4.2
Gazelle (96034)	337	90.	0	0.0	14	3.8	0	0.0	13	3.5	12	3.2
Grenada (96038)	529	88.2	1	0.2	26	4.3	0	0.0	24	4.0	16	2.7
Happy Camp (96039)	808	63.3	3	0.2	306	24.0	4	0.3	58	4.5	117	9.2
Hornbrook (96044)	880	86.4	3	0.3	62	6.1	3	0.3	66	6.5	38	3.7
Klamath River (96050)	402	86.1	6	1.3	11	2.4	0	0.0	26	5.6	21	4.5
MacDoel (96058)	514	63.4	0	0.0	45	5.5	11	1.4	252	31.1	18	2.2
McCloud (96057)	1378	87.1	27	1.7	31	2.0	16.0	1.0	85	5.4	52	3.3
Montague (96064)	4052	88.4	16	0.3	175	3.8	13	0.3	212	4.6	135	2.9
Mount Shasta (96067)	6595	90.4	65	0.9	40	0.5	105	1.4	327	4.5	194	2.7
Tulelake (96134)	1604	62.0	16	0.6	31	1.2	7	0.3	896	34.6	141	5.5
Weed (96094)	4600	78.2	313	5.3	84	1.4	163	2.8	431	9.0	247	4.2
Yreka (96097)	8091	84.9	44	0.5	513	5.4	157	1.6	473	5.0	334	3.5

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000

\*Though located in Shasta County, Castella is included here due to its close proximity to the city of Dunsmuir.

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