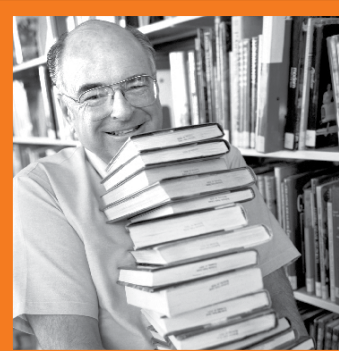


QUALITY OF LIFE INDICATORS FOR THE PIKES PEAK REGION



2007



Creating the first annual Quality of Life Indicators Report for the Pikes Peak Region was a true collaborative effort involving one hundred volunteers and several key community organizations.

Special thanks to:



PIKES PEAK
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION



Pikes Peak United Way

For more information on how you or your organization can get involved in this annual effort, please contact Pikes Peak United Way at (719) 955-0735.

INTRODUCTION



If you ask people in El Paso County whether our quality of life is improving or declining, you will get a variety of answers. This is a very subjective topic. Individuals tend to evaluate quality of life through the lens of their own experience, or the experiences of family and friends.

Quality of life factors are critical to a successful future. There are hundreds of examples of once desirable places to live that deteriorated because of controllable issues that local leaders did not recognize and address.

By examining what makes El Paso County great, we can bring people together around the issues that count. It is easier to create broad coalitions when there are basic community goals we can all agree on.

An excellent local example of a successful coalition was Citizen's Goals for the Colorado Springs Community, now called Leadership Pikes Peak. In the late 1970's, the participants accomplished a remarkable track record of improvements that still benefit us today.

In 2006, Pikes Peak United Way invited more than 100 interested community leaders to join Vision Councils to address one of nine different areas. These leaders were drawn from the private, public and nonprofit sectors. While they represent diverse interests, they share a passion for making El Paso County the best it can be. These councils provided the vision and guidance for the report. Their participation in this project makes it a community effort - they deserve many thanks.

The data, or indicators, are quantitative measures of the quality of community life. They reflect a combination of idealism (what we would like to measure) and pragmatism (what are we able to measure) in nine different categories. Although the report uses existing data, compiling the nine sections together gives a comprehensive view of the community. It is clear that ignoring any one of these areas has a negative ripple affect on the others. In turn, when these areas are strong they positively influence our lives in a variety of ways.

These categories cover a variety of issues that the community can improve through public decision making and action. They also point to ways we can support one another in making positive choices as individuals. Our hope is that by tracking data over time, the report helps the community understand who we are, where we've been and where we're going. In future years, the process would benefit from resources to conduct primary research, which answer more specific questions and focuses exclusively on El Paso County.

The report makes a conscious effort to present only facts. While it shows trends, the report does not attempt to evaluate these trends as positive or negative. The goal of presenting this data is to help community members prioritize and make educated decisions about which areas deserve investment of time, talent and resources. The goal of this entire effort is positive action.

With this first annual report in hand, our community will now begin to set goals for the coming year. We will look at what needs to be done, by whom, and what resources are needed. Let's work together to make life better for all of us!

If you are addressing any one of these issues and would like to share data, or are interested in becoming involved in the project, please contact Howard Brooks at 719-955-0735.

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About El Paso County

HISTORY

El Paso County was established in 1861. Colorado Springs became the county seat in 1873. Early on, many city leaders promoted the area as a tourist destination. Visitors came to see the area's beauty and were inspired to stay by a mild climate and the region's growing resort accommodations.

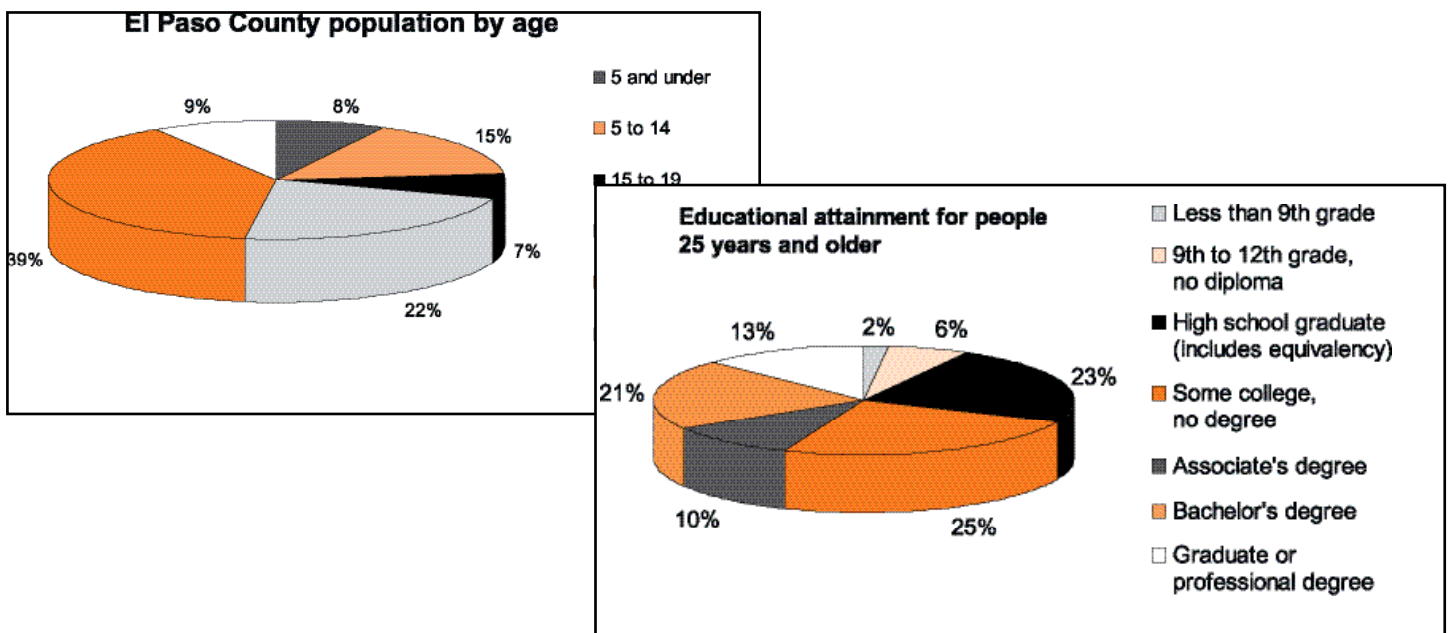
Gold was discovered in nearby Cripple Creek in 1891, and Colorado Springs found itself a thriving financial center until 1917 when the U.S. went to silver for its coinage and the local economy once again emphasized tourism.

With the start of World War II, the area offered land to the military, and Fort Carson was established on 137,000 acres to the south of Colorado Springs. The military's presence grew in the 1950s with the opening of the U.S. Air Force Academy. Over the next 30 years, additional Air Force installations, as well as space command, located here helping create the Pikes Peak Region's reputation as the nation's military space capital.

Manufacturing expanded in the 1960s and 1970s with the addition of computer, electronic equipment, and semiconductor manufacturing. The amateur sports segment is one of several service industries expanding in the region. Colorado Springs is home to the headquarters of the U.S. Olympic Committee and Olympic Training Center, the world's finest multi-sport training facility. Many other national nonprofit and religious organizations have moved their headquarters to the Pikes Peak Region.

PEOPLE

The population of El Paso County in 2005 is 550,130 and comprised of 216,015 households. These charts detail the race, age and educational attainment of the population in 2005. Approximately 471,806 residents reside in Colorado Springs or 85% of the total county population. The average size of a household is 2.55 persons and the average family is 3.15 related individuals.



GEOGRAPHY

El Paso County lies in east central Colorado, and encompasses more than 2,158 square miles. While the western portion of El Paso County is extremely mountainous, the eastern part is prairie. The altitude ranges from about 5,095 feet (1,569 m) on the southern border at Black Squirrel Creek to 14,110 feet (4,301 m) on the summit of Pikes Peak. This vast elevation difference creates a uniquely wide range of ecosystems and habitats.

When possible, the indicators presented in this report cover data for the entire area of El Paso County. The county seat and population center is Colorado Springs. Other major population centers in the county include Monument and Palmer Lake to the north; Security/Widefield and Fountain to the south; and Manitou Springs, Cascade and Green Mountain Falls to the west. For the past 10 years, rapid population growth continues in the northeastern parts of the county such as the Black Forest and Falcon areas.

At an elevation of 6,035 feet, residents enjoy a number of climatic advantages. During the summer months the days may be seasonally warm but when the sun sets, the evening and nights are refreshingly cool. Sunny days are abundant during the winter and the sun's intensity at this elevation quickly melts snow from streets and sidewalks. *The region's* meteorological classification is an alpine desert with about 250 days of sunshine and only 15 to 16 inches of precipitation per year. Humidity remains comfortably low.

GOVERNMENT

El Paso County is governed by five county commissioners assisted by a variety of other elected and appointed officials. Together, these leaders oversee 13 departments that serve the county's needs for safety, transportation, human services, environment, parks and recreation and a variety of other public functions. The El Paso County Department of Public Health and Environment is also a government institution receiving tax funds.

Colorado Springs is governed by a mayor and eight city council members. The city is charged with taking care of government responsibilities within city limits. Some of its major services include the municipal Utilities, the airport, the police and fire departments and parks, recreation and cultural services.

Compared to similar Colorado Counties, El Paso County's property taxes are the lowest and combined sales tax and property tax revenue per person, accounting for 50% of all revenue, is also the lowest.

The county collects the property taxes, but disperses all but 10% of the total property taxes collected to other government entities, like school and library districts. Below is a table demonstrating the dispersal of property taxes for a homeowner living in District 11 whose home has a market value of \$200,000 and a related mill levy of 7.1604% and who pays a total of \$1,140 in annual property taxes.

County	Taxes per person- sales and property	Mill levy -property tax rate
El Paso County	\$187 (10)	8.012 (10)
Adams	\$321 (6)	26.903 (6)
Arapahoe	\$252 (9)	36.226 (1)
Boulder	\$444 (2)	23.767 (7)
Douglas	\$502 (1)	32.715 (2)
Jefferson	\$390 (3)	28.249 (4)
Larimer	\$389 (4)	23.267 (8)
Mesa	\$363 (5)	21.709 (9)
Pueblo	\$295 (7)	29.189 (3)

	Dollars	Percent of total
El Paso County	\$97	9%
El Paso County Road and Bridge	\$13	1%
City of Colorado Springs	\$79	7%
City of Colorado Springs Road and Bridge	\$13	1%
Library District	\$52	5%
School District 11	\$697	61%
Water District	\$15	1%
General and Special improvement districts	\$174	15%

A grayscale background image of a man wearing glasses, a white shirt, and a patterned tie. He is looking slightly to the side with a faint smile.

Growing a vibrant economy

A vibrant economy is central to our quality of life. For individuals, good incomes and jobs encourage family stability, contributing to physical health and student achievement. For the community, a strong economy provides the tax base for government services that ensure public safety, transportation infrastructure, and public education. Discretionary income provides funding for organizations that promote arts, culture and recreation, community engagement and environmental sustainability. Likewise organizations addressing these issues help to support economic growth and general prosperity.

EMPLOYMENT AND INDUSTRY

- ▶ *Employment Rate*
- ▶ *Industry*
- ▶ *Occupations*
- ▶ *Military*
- ▶ *Tourism*

GROWTH

- ▶ *Employment Growth*
- ▶ *Primary Jobs*
- ▶ *Construction*
- ▶ *Foreclosures*

INNOVATION

- ▶ *Patents*

INCOME AND COST OF LIVING

- ▶ *Household Income*
- ▶ *Family Income*
- ▶ *Poverty*
- ▶ *Self-sufficiency*

Growing a Vibrant Economy Council Chairs

Mike Kazmierski

The Greater Colorado Springs Economic Development Corporation, CEO

Will Temby

Colorado Springs Chamber of Commerce, CEO

Growing a Vibrant Economy Council Members

Dave Bamberger

David Bamberger and Associates, President

Barry Baum

Western Forge Corporation, President

Barbara Cope

Progressive Insurance, IT Manager

Fred Crowley

University of Colorado – Colorado Springs,
Professor of Economics

Wendy Henry

BKD, LLP, Partner

Peggy Herbertson

Pikes Peak Workforce Center, Executive Director

Gary Markle

Colorado Springs Technology Incubator, CEO

Tom Naughton

U.S. Bank, Regional President

Larry Small

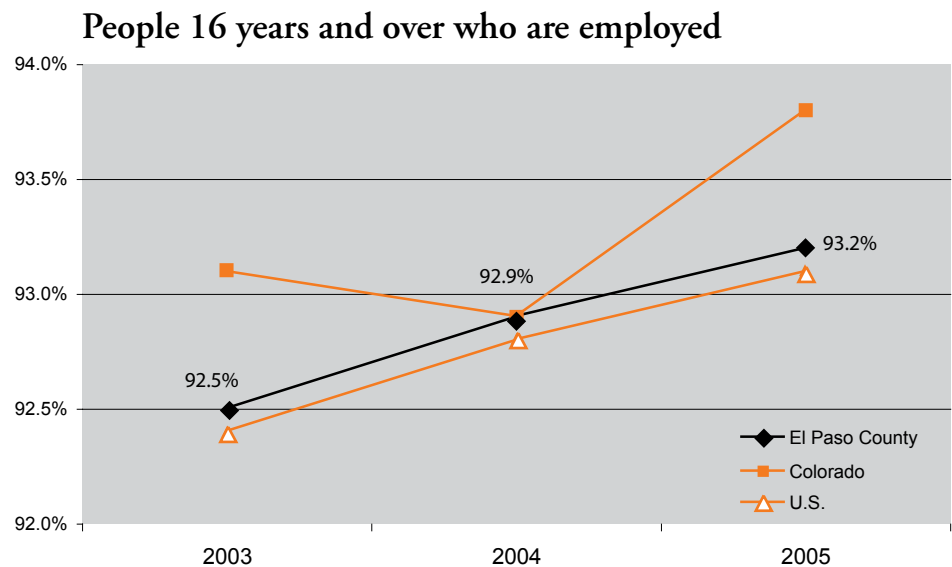
City of Colorado Springs, Vice Mayor

EMPLOYMENT AND INDUSTRY

A high *employment rate* reflects a healthy economy that provides jobs for all adults seeking employment. A low employment rate reflects a weak economy that results in increased pressure for government and nonprofit agencies to provide services to the unemployed. To fully understand the economy and its employment patterns it is also important to understand what types of *industry* make up a local economy and what types of *occupations* are reflected in the employment rate. A healthy economy should have a diverse range of industries represented so that it can withstand sudden economic shifts that adversely impact any one industry. The *military* and *tourism* are historically strong industries in the region. Optimally, local industries will generate wealth for the community through their revenues for local owners and high quality career opportunities for employees.

► ***Employment Rate***

This chart shows the percentage of people ages 16 years and above who are in the labor force and are employed.



Source: U.S. Census Bureau; American Communities Survey; 2003, 2004, 2005 data

How are we doing?

In El Paso County 93.2 percent of people 16 and over, in the labor force are employed. This is slightly lower than Colorado figures (93.8 percent) and slightly higher than the national average (93.1 percent).

► Industry

Employment by industry

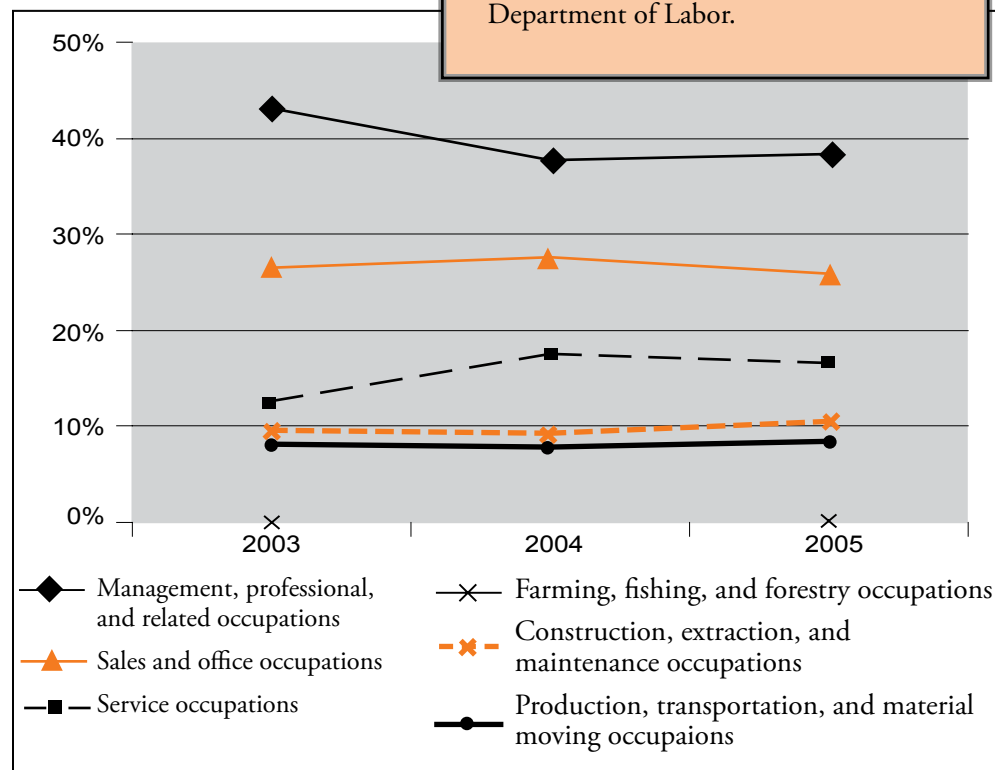
Industry	2003	2004	2005	Change from 2003 to 2005
Educational, health, and social services	17%	16.26%	17.09%	0.09%
Professional, scientific, management, administrative, and waste management services	13%	12.68%	14.41%	1.41%
Retail trade	10%	15.01%	11.78%	1.78%
Arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation, and food services	9%	8.69%	10.74%	1.74%
Manufacturing	11%	7.52%	8.73%	-2.27%
Finance, insurance, real estate, and rental and leasing	9%	9.61%	8.61%	-0.59%
Construction	9%	8.34%	7.69%	-1.31%
Other services (except public administration)	5%	5.33%	5.78%	0.78%
Public Administration	7%	6.37%	5.32%	-1.68%
Transportation and warehousing, and utilities	4%	3.48%	4.21%	0.21%
Information	4%	3.21%	3.12%	-0.88%
Wholesale trade	2%	2.65%	2.23%	0.23%
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining	1%	0.85%	0.28%	-.072%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau; American Communities Survey; 2003, 2004, 2005 data

This chart shows the percent of total employment held by each industry in El Paso County. Industry categories are determined by the U.S. Census Bureau and the National American Industry Classification System.

► Occupations

Employment by occupation



Source: U.S. Census Bureau; American Communities Survey; 2003, 2004, 2005 data

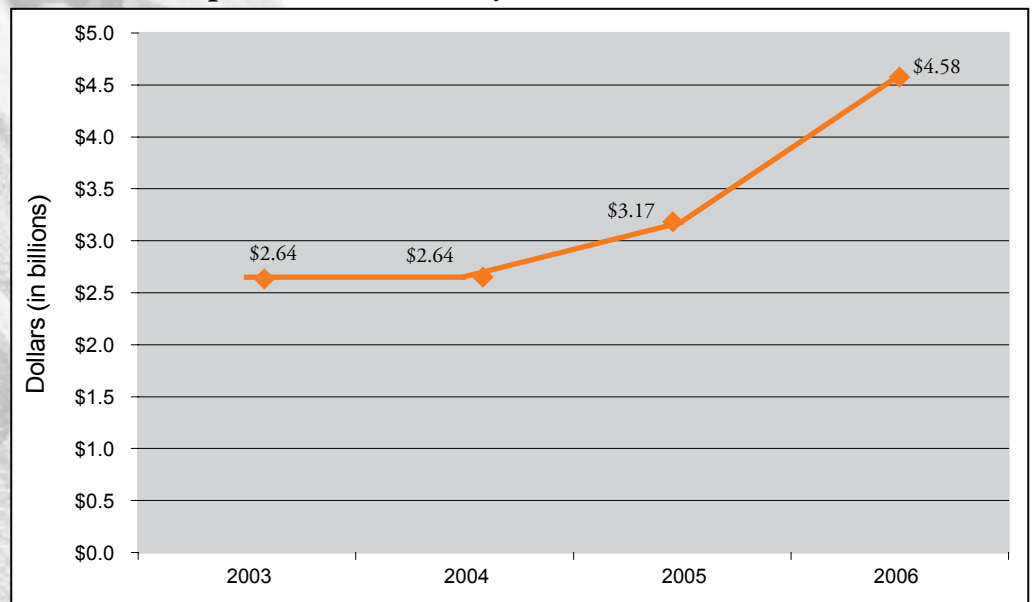
How are we doing?

The percentage of management, professional and related occupations has decreased slightly from 2003 to 2005 while the percentage of service occupations has increased slightly over the same time period. Generally, service occupations pay less than management occupations. Therefore the region may be seeing a slight shift in the quality of jobs held by the local labor force.

► *Military*

This chart shows the total estimated economic impact including payroll, construction, services, procurement of materials, equipment, supplies and dollar value of jobs created by the military in El Paso County. Installations included in the study are: Fort Carson, Peterson Complex, United States Air Force Academy, and Shriever Air Force Base.

Economic impact of U.S. military installations



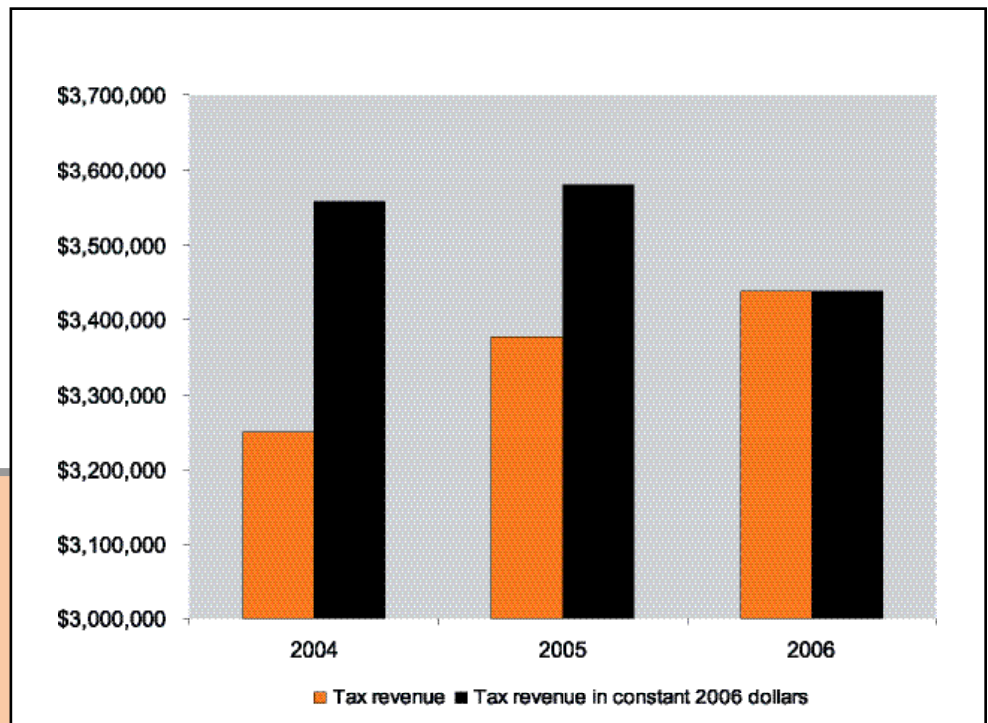
Source: Colorado Springs Chamber of Commerce, Military Affairs Council, Pikes Peak Region Military Facts

How are we doing?

The military is a major economic driver in El Paso County. Since 2003 the total dollar impact has been growing. In 2006 the \$4.58 billion dollars of impact represented 35% of the regional economy.

► *Tourism*

This chart shows tax revenue in the city of Colorado Springs from taxes specifically levied on lodging and auto rentals. This is a common measure of the economic impact of tourism since tourists represent the bulk of hotel stays and rental needs.



Source: City of Colorado Springs Finance Department

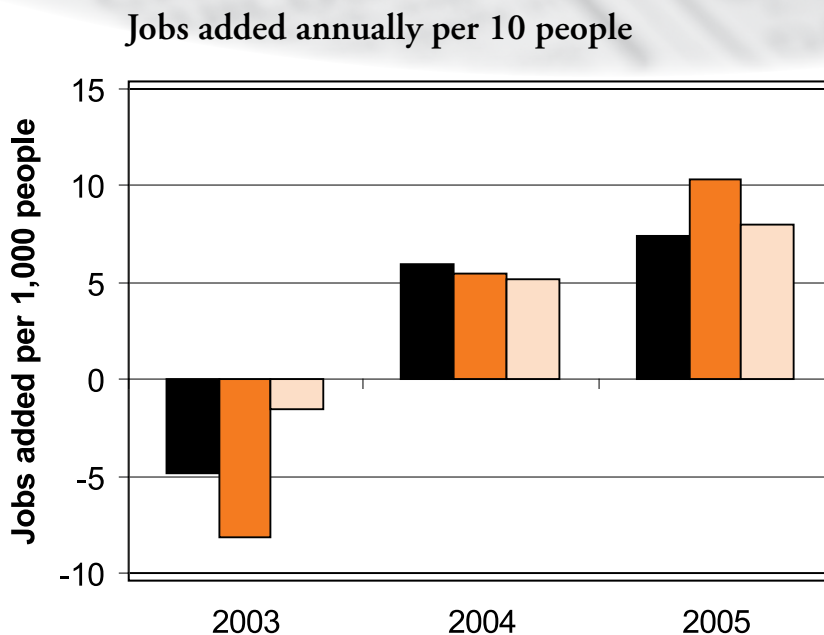
How are we doing?

Since 2004, Lodgers and Auto Rental Tax Revenue has been growing. However, because the tax is 2 percent of the total sales cost of hotel rooms and rental cars, it would need to show growth faster than the rate of inflation to indicate greater numbers of tourists traveling through the region. Adjusted to constant 2006 dollars, the revenue grew from 2004 to 2005 but dropped from 2005 to 2006.

GROWTH

A growing economy adds jobs each year to keep pace with population growth and the needs of growing businesses. Economic development efforts focus on *job growth* with respect to primary jobs. *Primary jobs* are associated with primary industries – those industries that bring new dollars into the local economy by selling goods and services to outside buyers. When those new dollars are spent in the local economy, more jobs are created. This is called the multiplier process.¹ *Construction* also indicates growth as it reflects the desire of people and businesses to join the community. The process of construction and subsequent real estate sales is an investment in the local economy. Remodels and even some demolitions are an economic investment adding value to the community. Conversely, home *foreclosures* signify an inability of individuals to meet mortgage payments. This not only affects the financial sector and housing markets, slowing construction and driving down the value of real estate; it may also indicate a general economic downturn.

► Job Growth



Source Colorado data: Colorado Department of Labor Colorado Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages

Source U.S. data: U.S. Department of Labor Bureau of Labor Statistics Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages

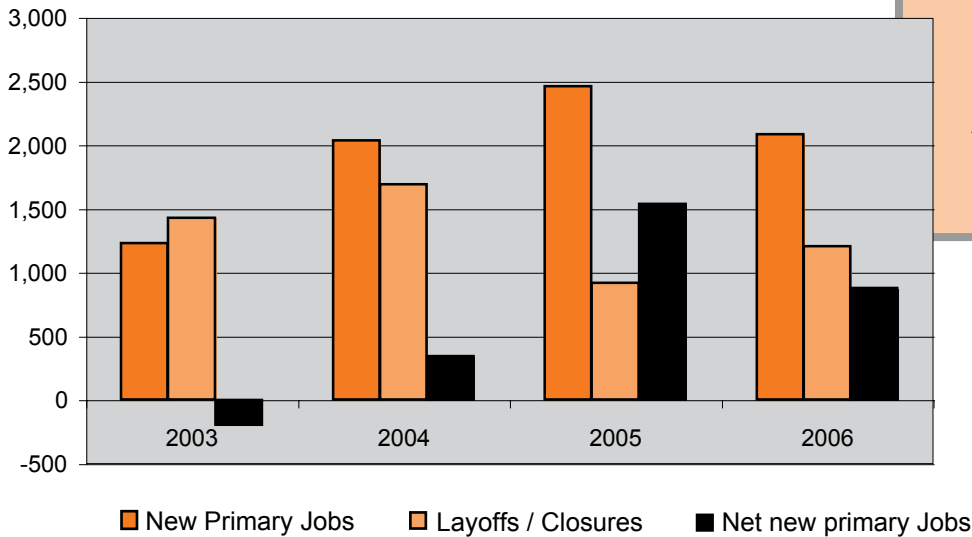
This chart shows the net number of jobs added per 1,000 people in El Paso County, Colorado and the U.S. including gains and losses in all industries.

How are we doing?

In 2003, all El Paso County, Colorado and the U.S. all lost jobs with Colorado losing just over 8 per 1,000 people. Since that time, El Paso County has steadily added jobs each year.

► *Primary Jobs*

Primary job growth –
new jobs, layoffs/closures and net new primary jobs



Source: Colorado Springs Economic Development Corporation

This chart shows the gains and losses of primary jobs which are those added by industries that sell services outside of El Paso County bringing money into the region. Generally, they are higher-paying jobs in specialized sectors of the economy.

How are we doing?

Since 2004, El Paso County has been adding primary jobs, which in turn supports the addition of more jobs within the community. However, some economists estimate that the region needs at least 1,600 new primary jobs each year to keep up with population growth. El Paso County's net new primary jobs indicator has not met this goal in the past five years.

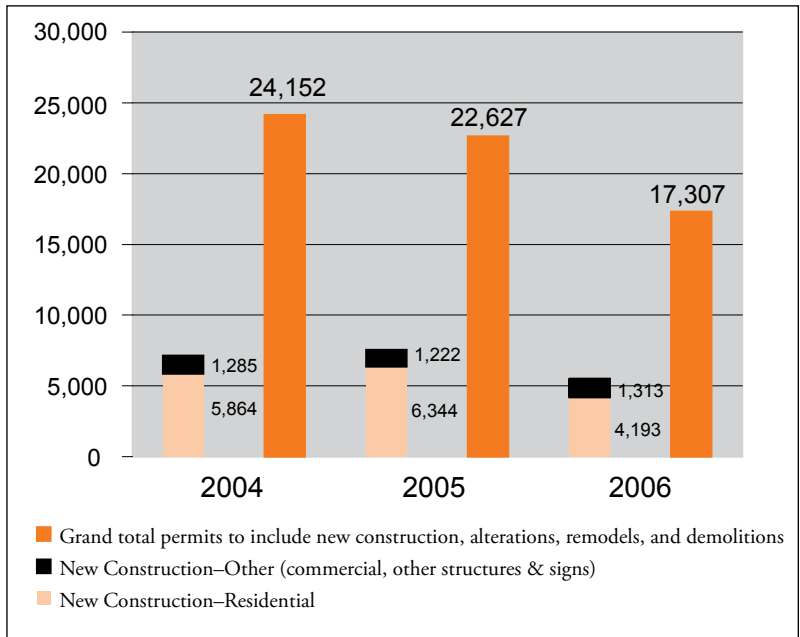
► Construction

This chart shows the number of building permits issued in El Paso County each year by type.

How are we doing?

New residential construction permits declined by 33 percent between 2005 and 2006. This reflects the state and nationwide decline in the housing market. Other new construction permits were not affected by this trend and saw a slight increase (7.4 percent) during this same period.

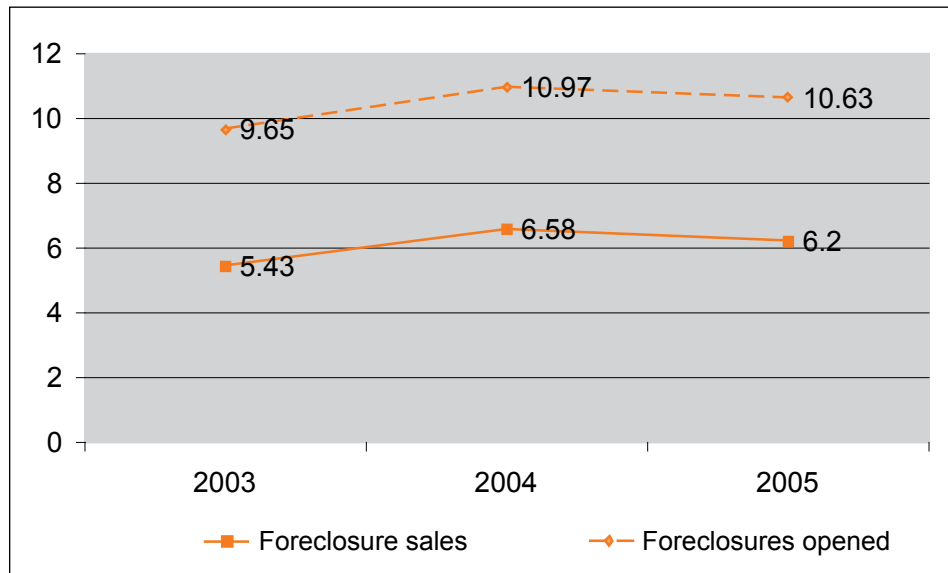
Construction permits issued



Source: El Paso County Pikes Peak Regional Building Department, Pikes Peak Region Building Report

► Foreclosures

Foreclosures opened and foreclosure sales per 1,000 households



Source: Colorado Public Trustees Association

This chart shows the number of foreclosure actions that were started or opened and how many actual sales occurred per 10,000 households in El Paso County. Banks foreclose on a home when the homeowner fails to make loan payments.

How are we doing?

El Paso County foreclosure rates increased from 2003 to 2004 and then decreased from 2004 to 2005.

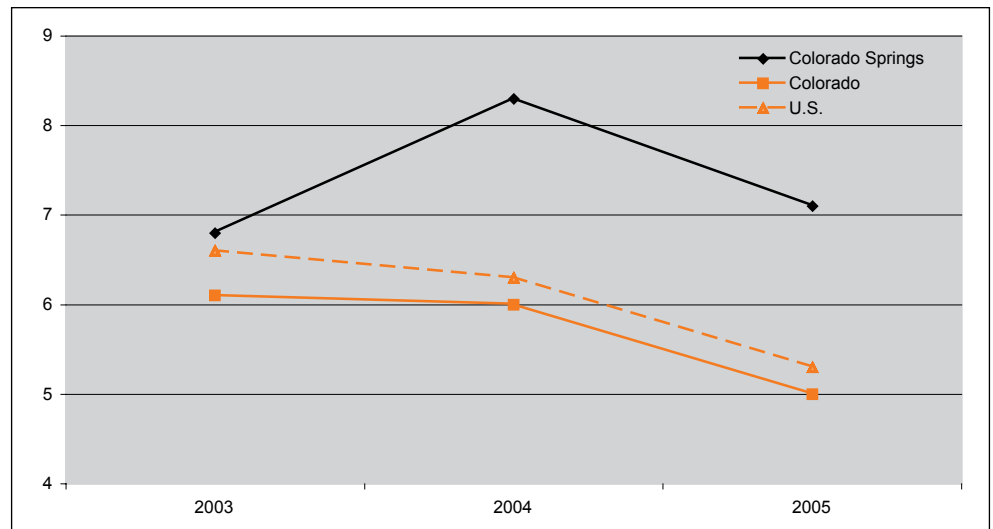
INNOVATION

Patents serve as an indicator of economic innovation as inventors develop new products and solutions. In turn, innovation can drive economic growth and provide new sources of technology and other products that improve quality of life.

► *Patents*

This chart shows the number of patents issued per 10,000 people to inventors reporting residence in each of the three locations.

Patents issued per 10,000 people



Source: U.S. Patent and Trademark Office Full Text and Image Database

How are we doing?

Colorado Springs has approximately two more patents issued per 10,000 people than the State of Colorado or the U.S. as a whole. From 2004 to 2005 all three demographic regions show a decrease in the number of patents issued.

INCOME AND COST OF LIVING

Income, poverty and self-sufficiency are closely interlinked. *Household income* level is one way of measuring the general strength of the economy while *family income* depicts the range of incomes in the region and sheds light on how families are doing. Families and individuals with a good income are generally able to meet their basic needs including housing, food and medical care. Families and individuals with discretionary income contribute to the economy by patronizing local services and businesses and consuming durable goods. Conversely, people and families living in *poverty* are typically unable to meet their basic needs and tend to need the support of community and government services. According to the Children's Defense Fund child poverty,

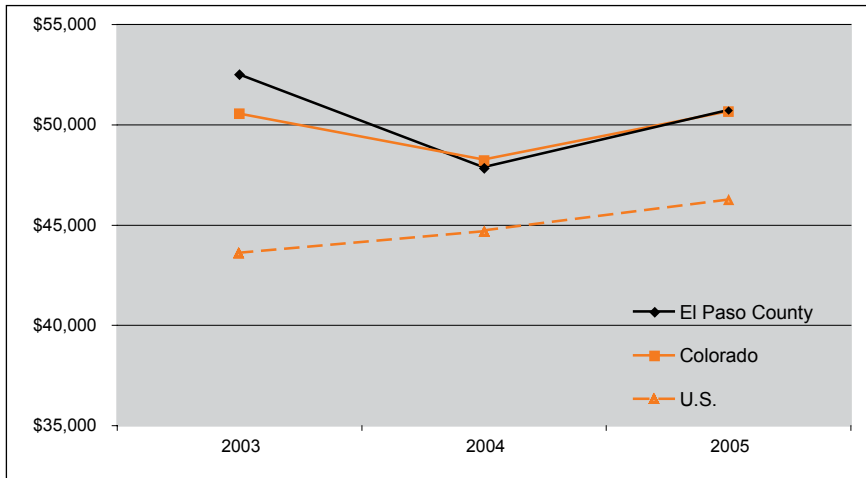
... places [children] at a greater risk of hunger, homelessness, sickness, physical or mental disability, violence, educational failure, teen parenthood and family stress and deprives them of positive early childhood experiences and the adolescent stimulation and creative outlets that help prepare more affluent children for school and then college and work.²

The Institute for Research on Poverty reports that health is directly correlated with income. People living in poverty are less healthy than those who are not whether the benchmark is mortality, the prevalence of acute or chronic diseases, or mental health.³ Additionally, research shows a clear relationship between poverty and lower test scores and increased school drop-out rates.⁴

The 2005 American Communities Survey data provided by the Census Bureau and included below provides the incidence of poverty based on the definition of the federal government. This definition was first established in the 1930s using a formula based on the cost of an inexpensive but nutritious food diet. Today, this definition is considered by many an inadequate indicator of real poverty and quality of life for households and families with lower incomes. In response, many organizations including the Colorado Fiscal Policy Institute (CFPI) have commissioned studies to calculate the minimum income level it would take for individuals and families to meet basic needs without public assistance⁵ and achieve *self-sufficiency*.

► Household Income

Median household income



Source: U.S. Census Bureau; American Communities Survey; 2003, 2004, 2005 data
Child Development/Head Start

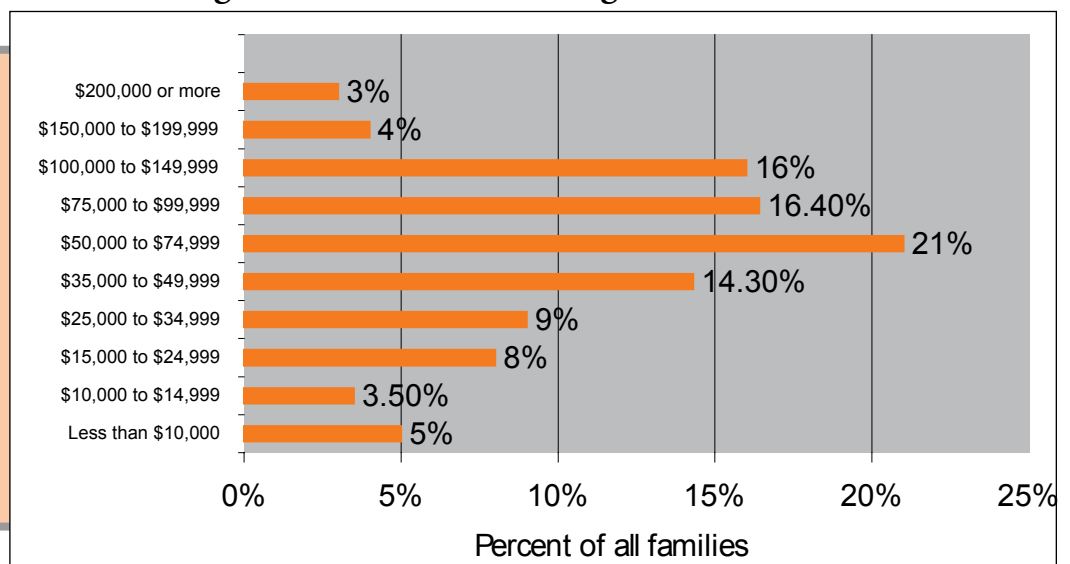
This chart shows the median household income in El Paso County, Colorado and the U.S. Median household income represents the exact middle of the income distribution of the household population in the community, with 50 percent of households earning incomes above the median, and 50 percent of households earning below the median. A household is defined as a group of people dwelling together and may consist of a single adult, a family, a group of roommates or unrelated individuals.

How are we doing?

The median household income in El Paso County is higher than that of the U.S and nearly the same as Colorado averages. Since 2003, median income has decreased in El Paso County. Taking inflation into account, the actual buying power of the median income in all three regions has decreased.

► Family Income

Families falling within listed income ranges in 2005



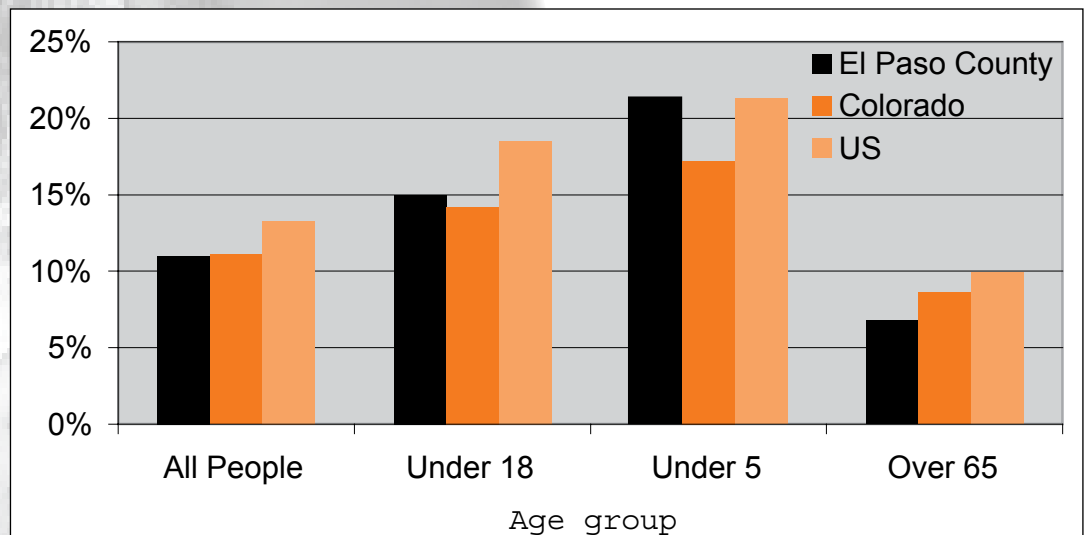
This chart shows the percent of total families with annual incomes falling within the ranges in El Paso County in 2005. A family is defined as the head of household plus one or more related individuals.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau; American Communities Survey; 2003, 2004, 2005 data

► *Poverty*

This chart shows the percentage of people living below the federal poverty thresholds. In 2005, an annual income of \$15,423 was the poverty threshold for a family of three with one member being a child under 18.⁶

People living in poverty by age group in 2005



Source: U.S. Census Bureau; American Communities Survey; 2003, 2004, 2005 data

How are we doing?

In general, a lower percentage of people in El Paso County live in poverty than the Colorado or U.S. average. However, more children under 18 and under five years old live in poverty here than in Colorado on average. Far fewer adults over 65 in El Paso County find themselves in poverty than in Colorado or the U.S. In El Paso County 8.5 percent of families earn incomes lower than \$15,000 per year.

► *Self-sufficiency*

This chart shows the required self-sufficiency income for different types of families in El Paso County and also gives the percentage of total families without regard to composition that earn less than the given self-sufficiency income. Self-sufficiency means maintaining a decent standard of living and not having to choose between basic necessities— whether to meet one’s need for child care but not for nutrition, or for housing but not health care. Self-sufficiency wages are family-sustaining wages.⁷ The self-sufficiency standard is determined by adding together the average costs of housing, food, child care, transportation, health care, minimal miscellaneous expenses and then subtracting applicable tax credits. In 2004, the Colorado self-sufficiency standard for a family of four living in metropolitan areas was \$47,760 and \$34,988 for those living in rural areas.⁸ Adjusted for 2005 dollars it would be approximately \$51,000 in metro areas and \$40,600 in rural areas.

Required income to meet self-sufficiency standards by type of family

	2005 El Paso County annual self-sufficiency income*	Percentage of El Paso County families with less than listed income in 2005
Adult & preschool age child	\$25,352–\$37,296	Less than \$35,000 = 25% Less than \$25,000 = 16.6%
Adult, preschool and school	\$37,926–\$44,489	Less than \$35,000 = 25%
Family of four	\$39,483–\$51,339	Less than 50,000 = 39.5%

Source: Colorado Fiscal Policy Institute

* range derived from cost of living data showing El Paso County to be slightly more expensive than Pueblo County and less expensive than Denver County

** percentage derived from family income data on page 14 of this report

How are we doing?

The table estimates how many families may live below the self-sufficiency standard in 2005. A study conducted using 2000 census data reported (more accurately) that 19 percent of El Paso County households and 20 percent of Colorado households had incomes below the self-sufficiency standard at that time.⁹



Promoting social wellbeing

Because we are all interconnected, the wellbeing of individuals affects each of us. Children are the future of every community, and families are the basic building blocks of society. Healthy, successful children and strong families are fundamental in promoting social wellbeing. The inability to pay for basic needs such as housing and childcare threaten social wellbeing by putting excess strain on individuals and families. Drug and alcohol abuse result in a variety of tragic problems for individuals and society as well.

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

- ▶ *Household Composition*
- ▶ *Family Stability*
- ▶ *Teen Pregnancy*
- ▶ *Subsequent Births to Teen Mothers*

DRUGS AND ALCOHOL

- ▶ *Deaths Due to Alcohol and Drugs*
- ▶ *Drug and Alcohol Use*

ECONOMIC WELLBEING

- ▶ *Neighborhood Integration*
- ▶ *Affordable Housing*
- ▶ *Homelessness*
- ▶ *Quality, Affordable Child Care*

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Valorie Jordan

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Pikes Peak Behavioral Health, Director - Project BLOOM

Maryann Stadjuhar

Catholic Charities of Colorado Springs, Director –
Emergency and Transition Services

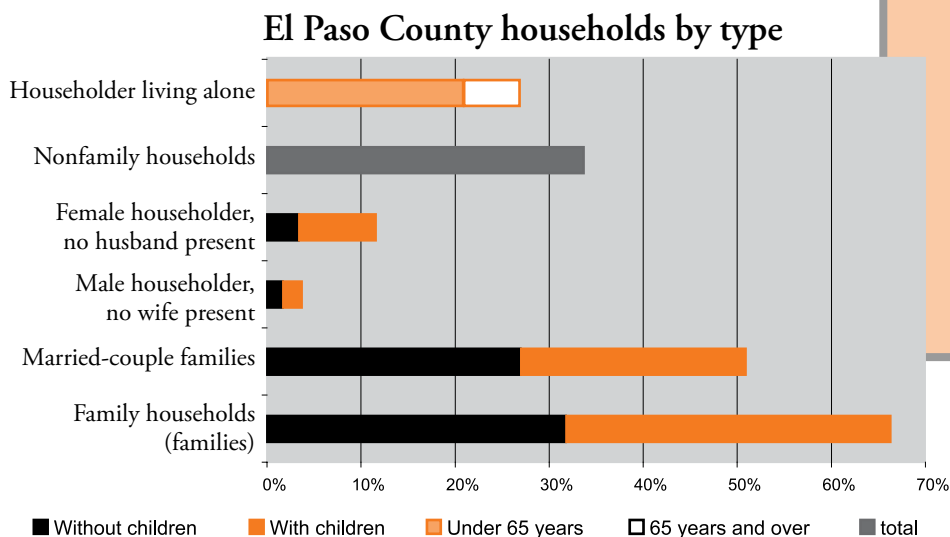
Michelle Valdez

T.E.S.S.A., Executive Director

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

All families are different: from single parents to married couples without children to seniors living alone. Knowing *household composition* helps communities understand how to support the wellbeing of all residents. Children are more likely to succeed when they live in a home characterized by *family stability*. When children must be removed from home because of abuse or neglect, the goal is to place them in a safe, permanent home as soon as possible, with their own family or an adoptive family. *Teen pregnancies* often result in health problems for mother and baby, and parenting problems can create potential social and economic hardship. *Subsequent births to teen mothers* are often the impetus for withdrawal of family support systems, greatly increasing risk factors for these young families.¹

► Household Composition



This chart shows the types of households in El Paso County as a percentage of total households. Of particular interest, it shows how many married couples, single women and single men lead households and how many of those have children living with them.

Source: American Communities Survey, U.S. Census 2005 data

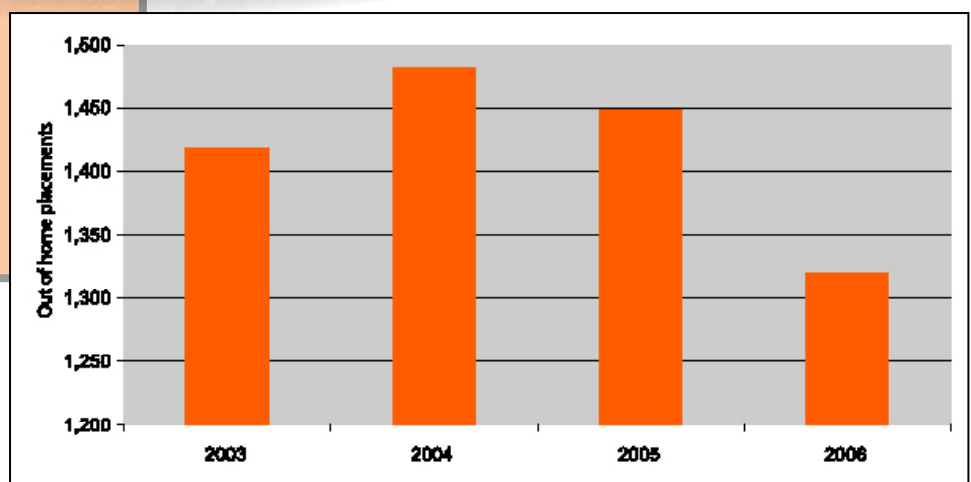
How are we doing?

Just over two-thirds of El Paso County households consist of families, with more than 60 percent of households led by married couples. Single parents with children represent a little more than 10 percent of total households numbering more than 21,000. Nearly 27 percent of households consist of just one person living alone and 6 percent of households consist of a single adult over 65 years. Additionally, in 2005 nearly 6,500 grandparents lived with their grandchildren and 53 percent of those were financially responsible for their grandchild's basic needs including food, shelter, clothing and childcare.²

► *Family Stability*

This chart shows the number of annual out-of-home placements of children 18 and younger. The numbers are not unduplicated – one child may be placed, reunited with family and placed again several times in a given year. Additionally, placements may vary from one day to several years depending on the family situation. Out of home placements include foster and relative care as well as residential treatment.

Out-of-home placements of children in El Paso County



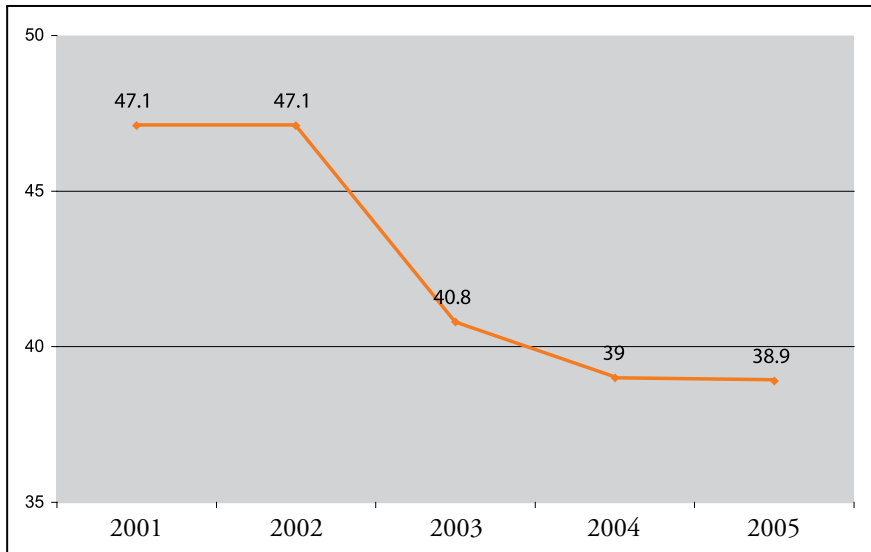
Source: El Paso County Department of Human Services

How are we doing?

The number of out-of-home placements has been decreasing since 2004 despite increases in the county population. This may reflect a combination of more stable families, the assistance of extended families when support is needed, and better preventative services for at-risk families from government and nonprofits before out-of-home placement is necessary.

► *Teen Pregnancy*

Births per 1,000 females ages 15-19 years



Source: Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment Vital Statistics

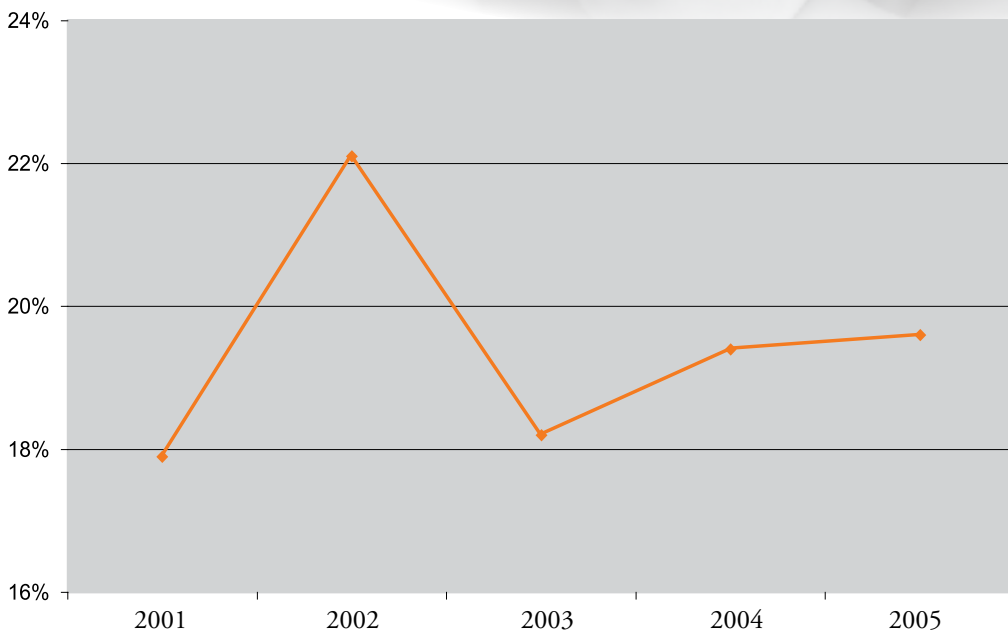
This chart shows the total annual live births in El Paso County to females ages 15 to 19 per 1,000 females in the same age group.

How are we doing?

Since 2001 the rate of births to teen girls has decreased by 17 percent, with the largest decrease between 2002 and 2003.

► *Subsequent Births to Teen Mothers*

Share of total births to teen mothers where the teen had a previous child



Source: Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment Vital Statistics

This chart shows the percentage of births to mothers ages 19 and younger in El Paso County in which the mother had a previous child.

How are we doing?

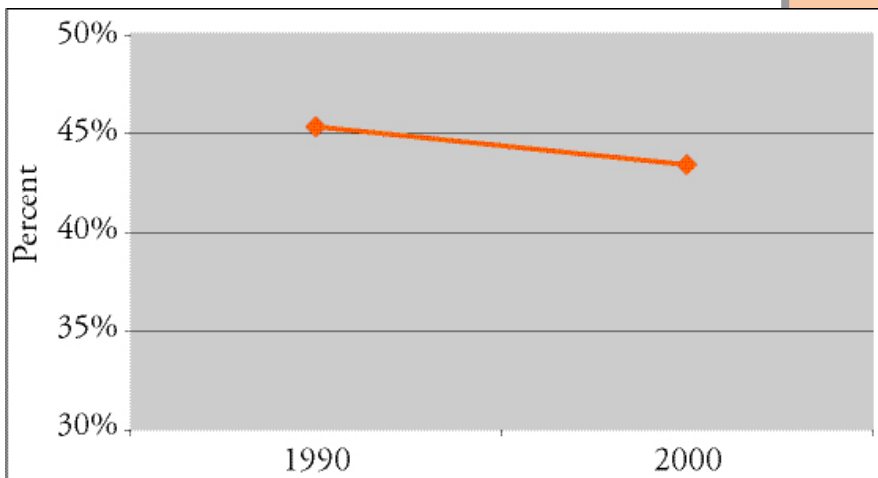
There does not appear to be a trend. However, since 2003 there has been a gradual increase.

ECONOMIC WELLBEING

Most people would agree that a good quality of life includes having a stable place to live in a safe neighborhood with adequate financial resources to be self-sufficient. A number of studies have shown that economic segregation intensifies problems of crime and drug abuse and exacerbates poverty by making it harder for people to connect to social networks that enable employment and upward mobility. Tracking *neighborhood integration* can help the community understand these issues. In order to achieve integration the community must have *affordable housing* for all its members. In turn, homeownership provides people with more stability, is linked to greater rates of community engagement such as volunteering, and promotes knowing neighbors (which can decrease crime.) Oppositely, *homelessness* is an indicator of a lack of financial stability that, in turn, causes a variety of social hardships. *Quality affordable childcare* is a necessity for many working parents and benefits our society by preparing children for school, work and the social relationships that make us a community. Ninety percent of a person's intellectual, emotional, and social ability is formed by the age of three.³

► ***Neighborhood Integration***

People that would have to move between neighborhoods to achieve complete economic integration



Source: Lewis Mumford Center for Comparative Urban and Regional Research at the University at Albany

This chart shows the percentage of low and high-income persons in Colorado Springs who would have to move to a different area to equalize the distribution of persons in each group in each census tract of the region. In 2000 an annual income of less than \$30,000 was defined as low-income, while an annual income of more than \$60,000 was defined as high income.⁴

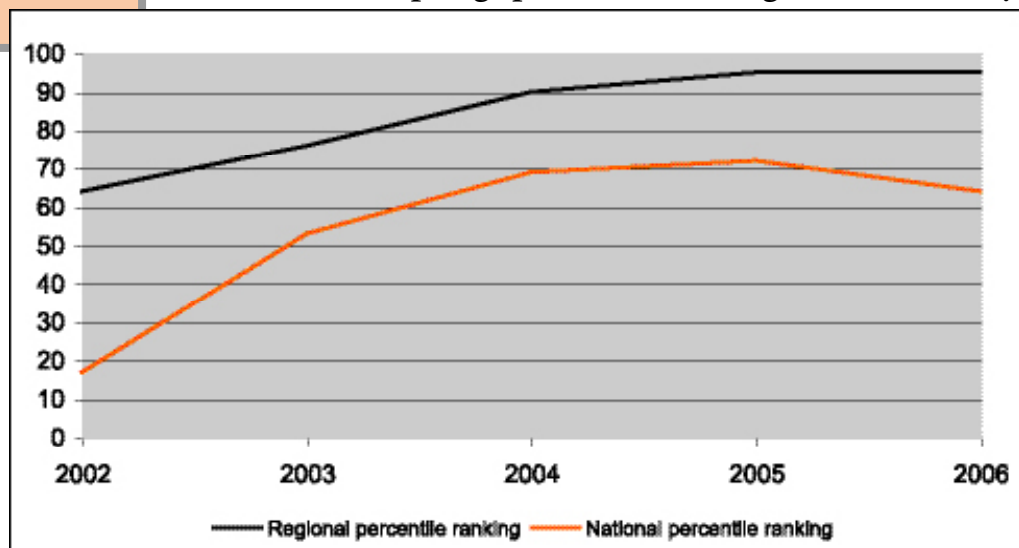
How are we doing?

In 2000, about 43 percent of low- and high-income persons in Colorado Springs would have to move in order to achieve complete economic integration compared to 45 percent in Denver and 39 percent in Pueblo.

► Affordable Housing

This chart shows Colorado Springs' percentile ranking for affordable housing compared to the region and the nation. For example, in 2006 Colorado Springs was more affordable than 95 percent of its regional peers and 64 percent of areas surveyed nationally.

Colorado Springs percentile ranking for affordability



Source: National Association of Homebuilders/Wells Fargo Housing Opportunity Index

How are we doing?

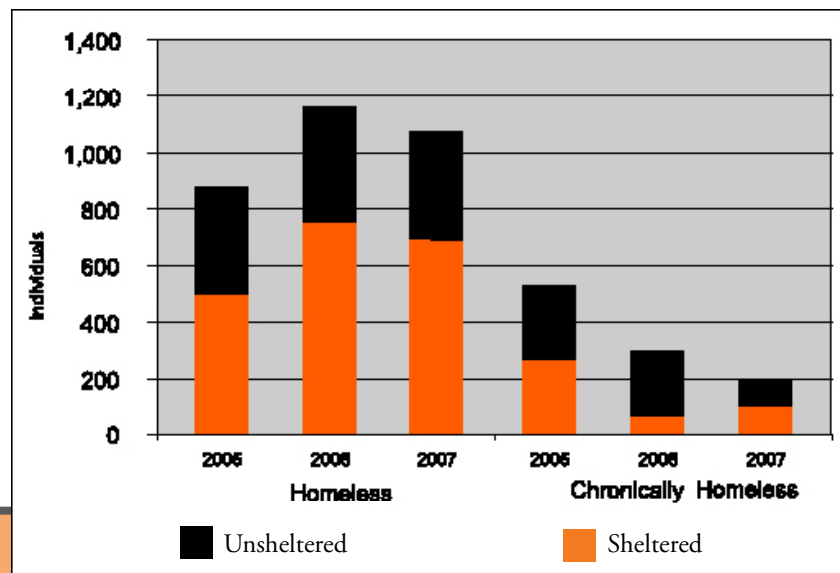
Colorado Springs has become more affordable compared to its regional and national peers since 2002. The median home price in Colorado Springs has remained relatively constant since 2002, hovering around \$200,000 (in constant 2006 dollars). In 2007, the City of Colorado Springs and the Pikes Peak Area Association of Realtors began tracking the number of homes sold for less than \$150,000 as a measure of affordability. Between January and June they reported a total of 75 single-family detached homes, condominiums or town homes sold for less than \$150,000.

► *Homelessness*

WILL WORK
FOR
FOOD

This chart shows the number of people during a one-day count who were homeless or chronically homeless in El Paso County.

Homeless and chronically homeless individuals



How are we doing?

The number of total homeless individuals has increased since 2005, peaking at 1,159 in 2006 and declining to 1,077 in 2007. The number of chronically homeless people has declined since 2005. In 2007 nearly 200 people were chronically homeless while, for most, the situation was temporary. According to Homeward Pikes Peak, the number of homeless families with children decreased from 94 in 2005 to 75 in 2006 and the most common characteristics of homeless people in 2007 include veterans (17 percent), chronic substance abuse problems (23 percent), and mental illness (21 percent).

Source: Homeward Pikes Peak, point-in-time study, January 2005, 2006, 2007

► *Quality, Affordable Child Care*

Availability of affordable early childcare for children below the poverty line

	El Paso County
Number of children under 5 benefiting from CCCAP	3395*
Percent of children in poverty under 5 benefiting from CCCAP	less than 37%

*Source: Colorado Child Care Assistance Program Annual Program Information
July 1, 2004-June 30, 2005

This chart shows the total number of children under five in El Paso County benefitting from the Colorado Child Care Assistance Program (CCCAP) from July 2004 to June 2005 and the percentage of children five years old and younger living below the federal poverty line who benefit from CCCAP. In El Paso County CCCAP assistance is available to any family that earns less than 140 percent of the federal poverty threshold. The monthly reimbursement rate is \$506.⁵ Preschool costs between \$5,000 and \$10,000 annually in Colorado.⁶

How are we doing?

Less than 37 percent of children living below the federal poverty line benefit from CCCAP funds. Even those who can afford child care may find it difficult to attain. El Paso County has more than 1,200 licensed childcare providers, but approximately two-thirds serve fewer than ten children. Therefore there is only one space available for every five children under the age of 15. More information on poverty rates and self-sufficiency can be found the *Growing a Vibrant Economy* section of this report.

DRUGS AND ALCOHOL

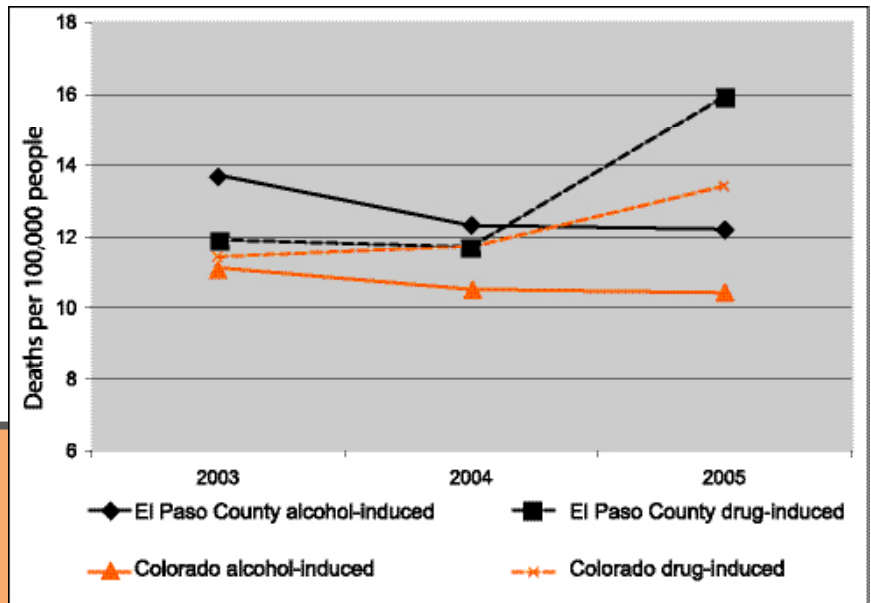
Substance abuse is the overindulgence in and dependence on an addictive substance, especially alcohol or a narcotic drug. Abuse can present significant obstacles in dealing with everyday life from maintaining financial stability and relationships to succeeding at school or work. Sometimes it can result in *death*. Colorado has higher rates of *drug and alcohol use* than U.S. averages and exhibits different patterns of use. For every \$100 spent on problems caused by substance abuse in Colorado, \$0.06 is spent on treatment or prevention compared to an average of \$3.70 in other states.⁷

In many instances, this is not just an individual problem. Substance abuse affects our community in a variety of ways. For individuals it often occurs in conjunction with mental health disorders requiring treatment (see *Maintaining a Healthy Community*). It affects nearly one in four homeless people (see *Promoting Social Wellbeing*). It is also linked to violence in the home against children and other family members and impacts the criminal justice system in a variety of ways (see *Keeping the Community Safe*).

► Deaths Due to Alcohol and Drugs

This chart shows the rate of alcohol- and drug-induced deaths per 100,000 people in El Paso County compared to Colorado averages.

Drug and alcohol induced death rates



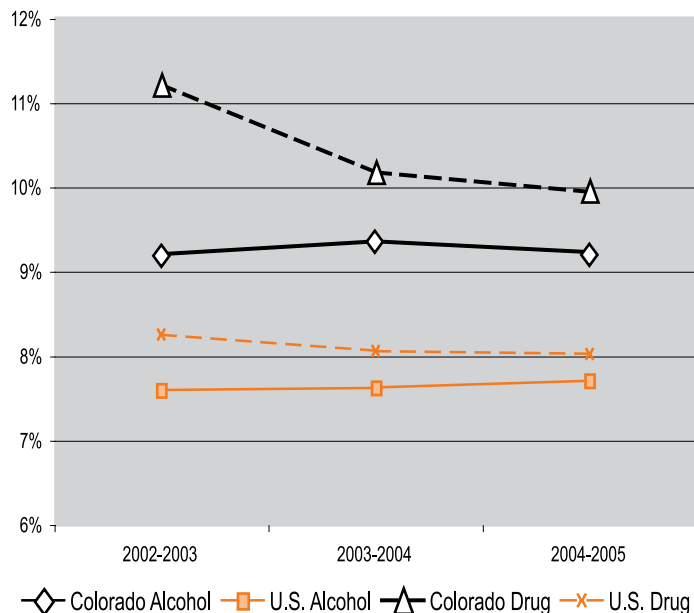
Source: Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment Vital Statistics

How are we doing?

El Paso County has a higher rate of alcohol- and drug- induced deaths than Colorado averages. In both geographic areas, the rate of alcohol-induced deaths is decreasing while the rate of drug-induced deaths increased from 2004 to 2005.

► Drug and Alcohol Use

Drug and alcohol use by people 12 and older



Source: SAMHSA, Office of Applied Studies, National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 2002, 2003, and 2004.

This chart shows the percentage of people 12 and older who, when questioned, reported using illicit drugs in the past month. It also tracks the percentage of people 12 and older who reported experiencing alcohol dependence or abuse over the past year. Both indicators compare Colorado averages to U.S. averages.

How are we doing?

Coloradans have higher rates of drug use and alcohol dependence and abuse than U.S. averages. Approximately one in 10 Coloradans over age 12 reports illicit drug use and nearly one in 10 reports an alcohol dependence or abuse problem. While there are slight trends upward and downward in the graph, the study reports that there have been no statistically significant changes from year to year. Many times people begin using drugs and alcohol in their teen years. In 2003, teens between 12 and 17 in El Paso County and five surrounding rural counties reported more frequent use of marijuana, other illicit drugs and binge drinking than U.S. averages.⁸

Average annual percentage of people ages 12 and older who have used drugs in the past year by type of drug

	Colorado	U.S.
Illicit drugs	19.1	14.5
Marijuana	14.5	10.6
Cocaine	4.2	.5
Heroin	.1	.2
Hallucinogens	3.2	1.6
Inhalants	1.0	.9
Non-medical use of psychotherapeutics	7.8	6.1
Illicit drugs other than marijuana	11.7	8.2

Source: SAMHSA, Office of Applied Studies, National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 2002, 2003, and 2004



Preserving the natural environment

This community is uniquely gifted with a majestic, but fragile, landscape, great climate, and access to clean, but limited water. Pollutants are a threat to human health and environmental sustainability. Protecting the natural environment and consuming resources responsibly benefits the present and future wellbeing of our citizens and enhances our economy.

WATER

- ▶ *Water Consumption*
- ▶ *Impervious Surfaces*
- ▶ *Pollution in Fountain Creek*

AIR

- ▶ *Ozone Levels*
- ▶ *Asthma Rates*
- ▶ *Trees*

ENERGY

- ▶ *Renewable Energy*
- ▶ *Energy Consumption: Electricity & Natural Gas*
- ▶ *Energy Efficient Homes*

WASTE

- ▶ *Pounds of Waste*

Preserving the Natural Environment Council Chairs

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Pikes Peak Community Foundation, Director

Eric Cefus

Catamount Institute, Director

Preserving the Natural Environment Council Members

Jane Ard-Smith

Pikes Peak Group of the Sierra Club, Chair

Simon Baker

Colorado Springs Utilities, Senior Conservation Specialist

Mary Barber

Directorate of Environmental Compliance
and Management, Fort Carson

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Fort Carson, Sustainability Planner

Linda Kogan

University of Colorado- Colorado Springs, Sustainability Officer

Rich Muzzy

Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments,
Environmental Program Manager

Gary Rapp

Recycling Coalition of Colorado Springs

Daphne Greenwood

Center for Colorado Policy Studies, Director
& Dept of Economics, Professor

Mark Robinson

Southeastern Chapter of the Colorado Renewable Energy Society

WATER

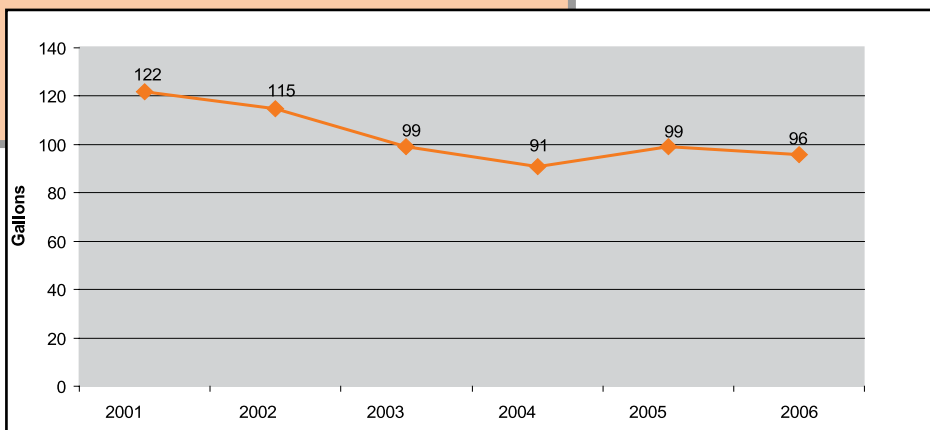
El Paso County is located in a semi-arid region of the country and averages less than 15 inches of rain and snow each year. During the 1930s, approximately 60 percent of Colorado Springs' water supply came from local streams and reservoir storage. Today, nearly 75 percent of the water used for homes and businesses comes directly from snowmelt near the Continental Divide. The infrastructure needed to bring water from afar to Colorado Springs for daily *water consumption* drives both the cost and quantity available.

After water is used, it is treated and released into Fountain Creek, increasing stream flows. Also contributing to stream flows are the increasing areas of *impervious surface* from development within the watershed. During storms, water washes chemicals and waste such as soaps, oils, fertilizers and pet waste from our streets and yards into the streams at rapid rates causing physical damage to the stream, washing *pollutants* into the streams, causing broad ecosystem damage, and creating conflicts with downstream neighbors.

► Water Consumption

This chart shows the average daily water consumption per capita of residential water supplied by Colorado Springs Utilities.

Gallons of water consumed daily per capita



Source: Colorado Springs Utilities

How are we doing?

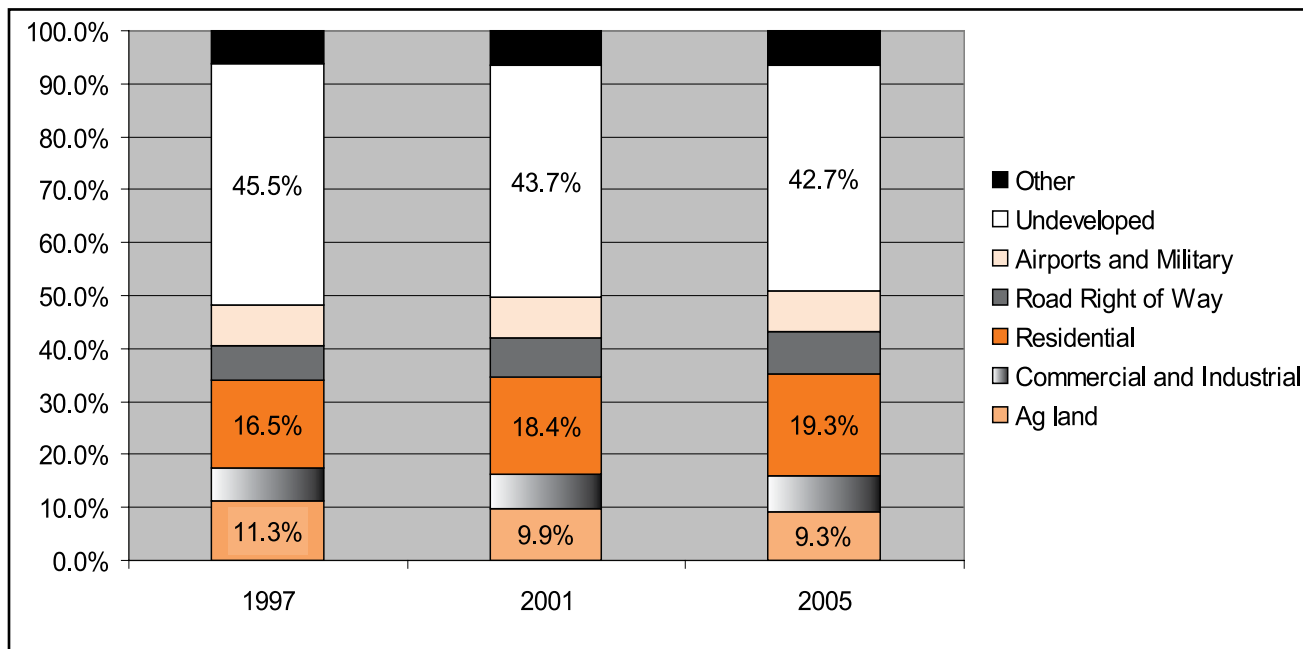
From 2001 to 2004 water consumption dropped nearly 30 gallons per person and is currently hovering between 90 and

100 gallons. An estimated 50 percent of household water is used for landscape irrigation. During the extreme drought that began in 2002, watering restrictions and aggressive water conservation education programs helped the community learn how to conserve. Restrictions were lifted in 2006. Water conservation can help delay the need for costly improvements to the infrastructure, as well as ensure residents continue to enjoy first use water or snowmelt rather than recycled water.

► *Impervious Surfaces* (roads, parking lots, buildings, etc)

This chart shows impervious surface, as a percentage of total square miles inside a 500 square-mile analysis area covering 54 percent of the total area of the Fountain Creek watershed. Impervious surfaces are those areas covered by material that water can not penetrate, such as roadways, parking lots, rooftops and cement-lined drainage channels. The chart also indicates the percentages of different land uses.

Land uses by type & total impervious surface



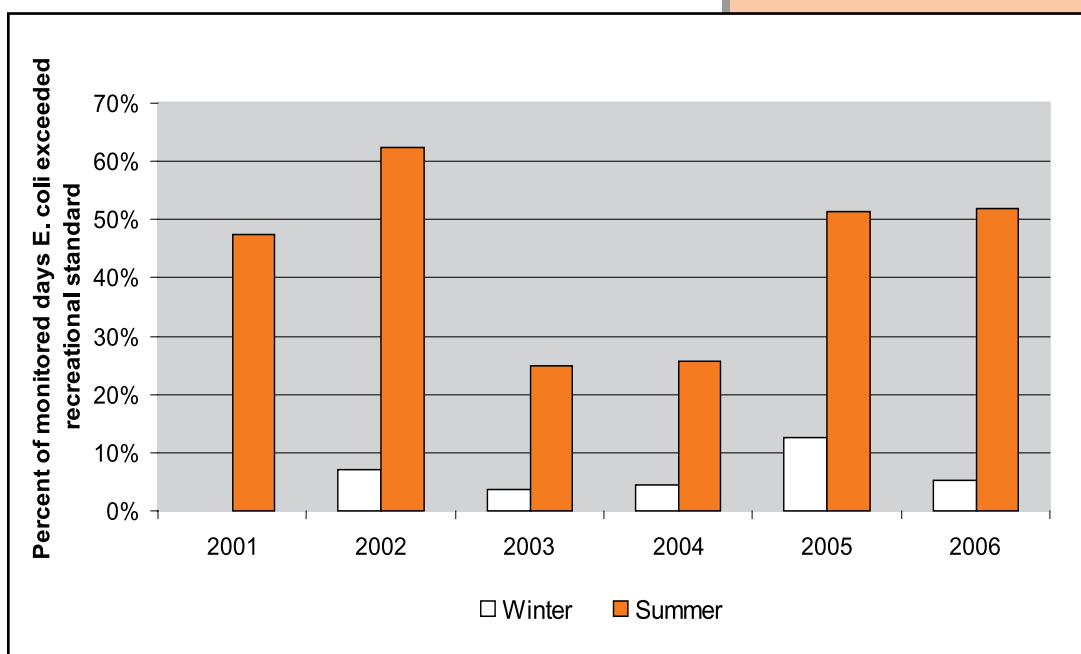
Source: Colorado Springs Utilities

How are we doing?

The Analysis Area averages 16 percent impervious surface, a small but steady increase from 1997. That percent falls within a range of 11 percent to 25 percent, that means the streams show clear signs of declining health.¹ In 2005, a Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments study showed that sub-areas within the city of Colorado Springs reached 45 percent impervious surface. This falls with a range that indicates streams can no longer support their designated uses. Impervious surface blocks the absorption of water into the ground, impacting supply to aquifers county residents rely on for drinking water.

► *Pollution in Fountain Creek*

Bacteria levels exceeding EPA standards



Source: U.S. Geological Survey

This chart shows the percentage of times E. coli (Escherichia coli) bacteria levels exceeded Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) standards at monitoring stations located along Fountain Creek during winter (November through April) and summer (May through October) months. The presence of bacteria can lead to human illnesses and harm the natural environment. EPA standards have

multiple levels. The standard shown in this graph is the recreational standard for one-time contact where levels should not exceed 235 col/100ml. The standard for swimming is 100 col/100ml.

How are we doing?

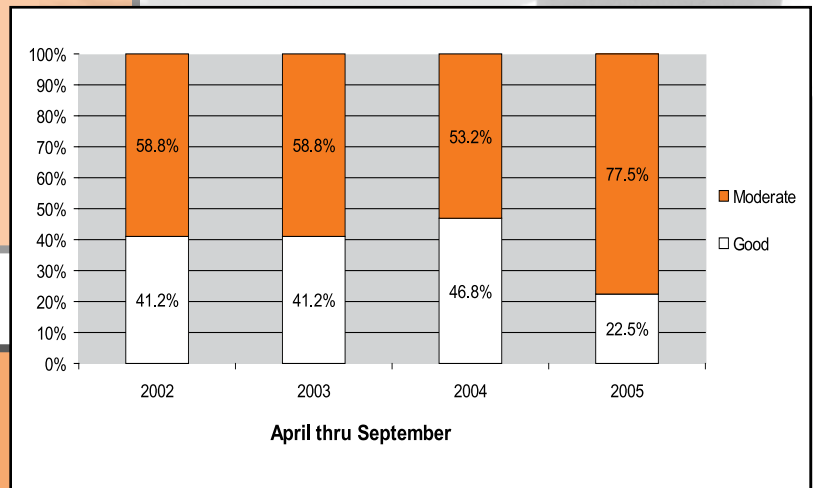
During low flow winter months, E. coli levels rarely exceeded the EPA standard. In the summer months, when flows are considered normal and are highly impacted by storms, the standard was exceeded more often. More than 50 percent of readings in 2006 exceeded the standard. E. coli is measured through a complex series of biological tests making it difficult to get readings on a daily basis. However, readings were as high as 41,000 col/100ml during and after storms in 2005.

One measure of air quality is the presence of ground-level ozone. High *ozone levels* present health concerns for all residents but are especially dangerous for sensitive people, particularly the elderly, young children and those with *asthma* or other respiratory ailments. Ground-level ozone also interferes with the ability of plants to produce and store food, compromising the health of our broader ecosystem. Automobiles contribute an estimated 56 percent of the pollutants that create ozone while the other 44 percent come from other sources, such as power plants, industrial boilers, gasoline vapors, dry cleaners, factories, and commercial products. Measuring vehicle miles traveled (found in the *Getting Around Efficiently* section) gives the community a sense of the impact of daily driving habits on air quality. Car emissions regulations and increased gas efficiency help reduce pollutants. The number of *trees* planted is one positive measure for helping air quality. *Trees* help reduce energy consumption by cooling the air.

► Ozone Levels

This chart shows the level of air quality as a percentage of monitored days each summer (April through September) of ground-level ozone at the Air Force Academy monitoring station. Only summer months are presented, because strong sunlight and hot weather conditions are a catalyst for ozone creation. During winter months, El Paso County has not recorded an ozone problem.

Ozone levels



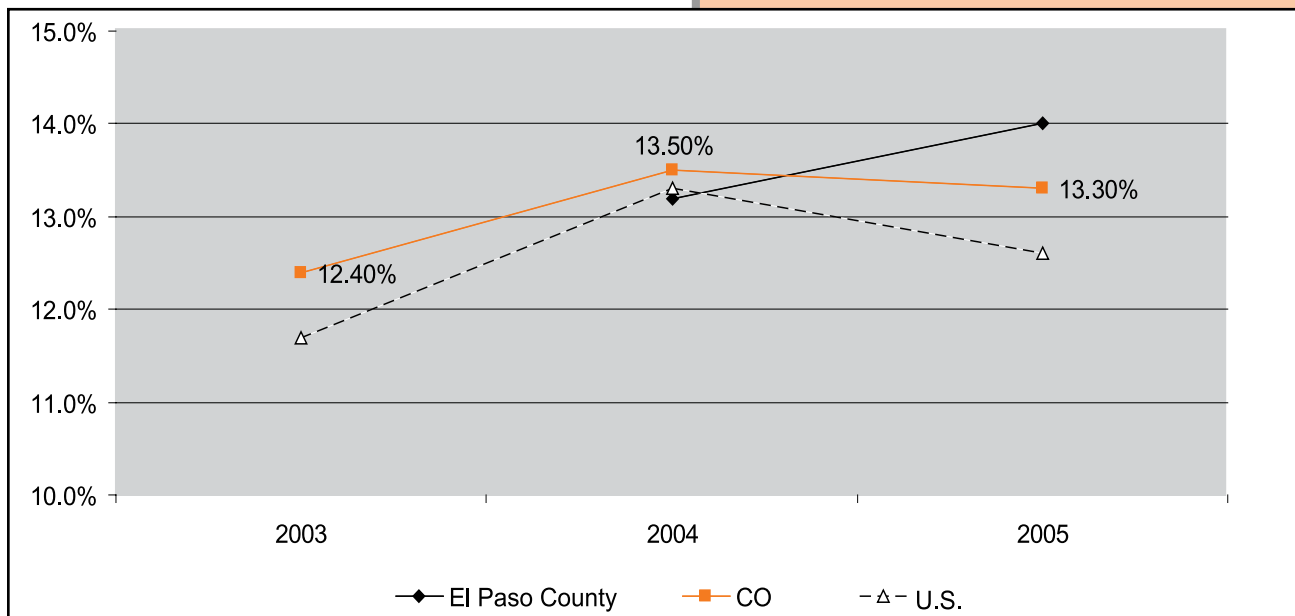
How are we doing?

There are six levels for reporting air quality: Good, Moderate, Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups, Unhealthy, Very Unhealthy and Hazardous. Monitors indicate the majority of days have been in the “moderate” range. The remaining days were rated “good,” meaning air quality is satisfactory and air pollution poses little or no risk. Overall El Paso County has clean air with regard to ozone.

Source: Colorado Department of Health and Environment, Air Quality Reporting System

▶ *Asthma*

Adults with asthma



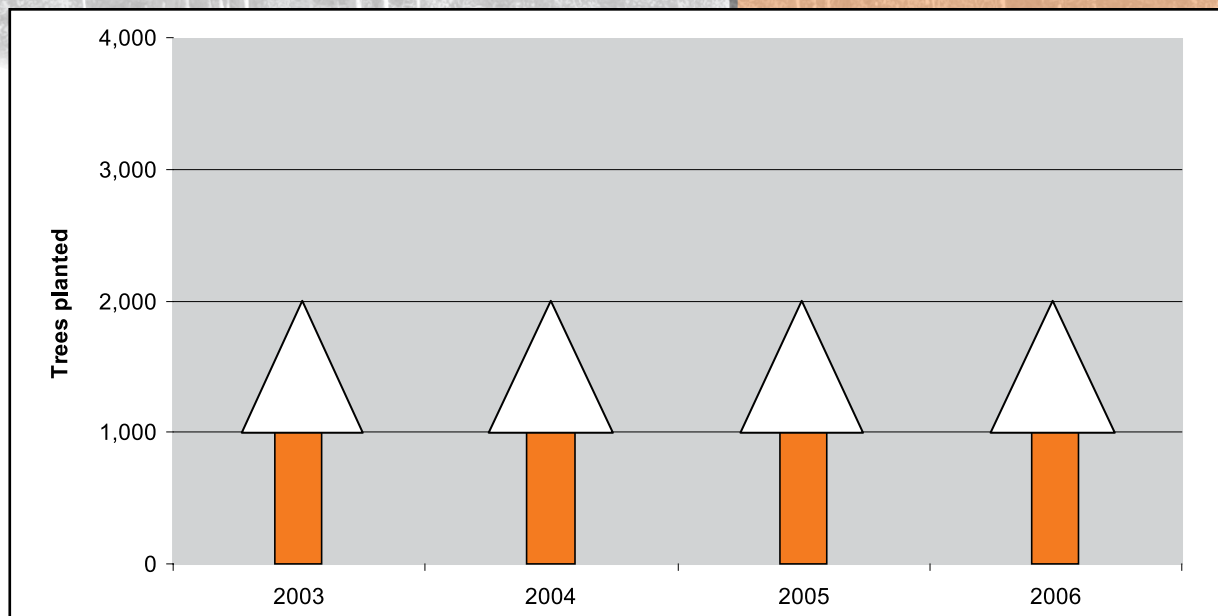
Source: El Paso County, Colorado-Year 2010 Health Objectives for the Nation BRFSS Data and U.S. Center for Disease Control, Behavior Risk Factors Surveillance System, Prevalence Data

How are we doing?

El Paso County had a slightly higher rate of asthma in 2005 than rates in Colorado or the U.S. Asthma is more common in children than adults and is the cause of approximately one quarter of all emergency room visits in the United States. African Americans are three times more likely than whites to be hospitalized for asthma. Additionally, asthma kills 5,000 people each year in the U.S.³

► Trees

Number of trees planted each year



Source: Colorado Springs Forestry Division

This chart shows the estimated number of trees installed each year by the Colorado Springs Park and Recreation and Forestry Department, including street trees, new parks, park replacement trees, and the new homes program.

How are we doing?

The Department estimates that it installs between 1,800 and 2,000 trees each year. The Colorado Springs urban forest has grown to more than 99,000 street trees and 18,500 park trees with 6,300 acres of open space and regional park forest areas. Trees supply oxygen, keep our air supply fresh, cut down noise pollution, trap and filter out dust and pollen, slow down strong winds, camouflage unsightly scenes and provide privacy, food and shelter, reduce home heating and cooling costs and roots stabilize the soil and prevent erosion.

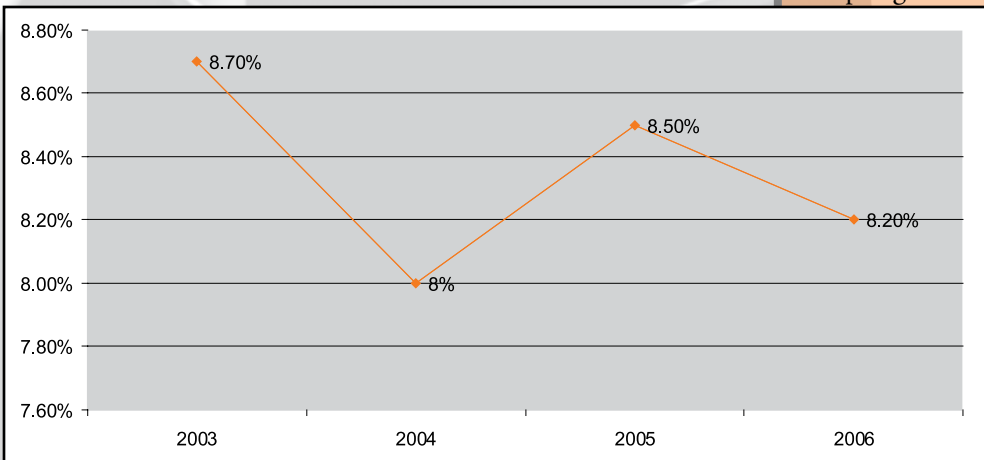
ENERGY

In recent years citizens have grown concerned about climate change. Science indicates a primary cause of global warming is burning fossil fuels such as natural gas, gasoline and coal to produce electricity. Energy consumption is often linked to air pollution and future supply problems, but is now recognized as contributing to our “carbon footprint.” Vehicle miles traveled (found in the *Moving Around Efficiently* section), is an indirect indicator of energy consumed. The greatest source of emissions of carbon or CO₂ is the energy used to heat and cool our buildings. Tracking household *electricity and natural gas consumption* can help each person better understand his or her impacts on energy consumption, helping protect the environment and save money. *ENERGY STAR* rated homes are one example of buildings constructed to meet efficiency standards. *Renewable energy* sources like wind, water and solar rays present an alternative to fossil fuels.

► Renewable Energy

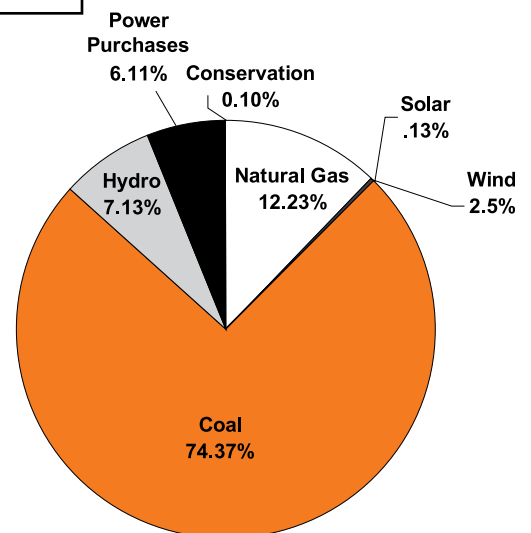
This chart shows the percent of energy coming from renewable energy sources and the sources of energy used to produce electricity for Colorado Springs Utilities customers in 2006. Renewable

Energy is hydropower, solar and wind.



Source: Colorado Springs Utilities

2006 sources of energy for Colorado Springs Utilities customers



Source: Colorado Springs Utilities - 2006 Electric Integrated Resource Plan

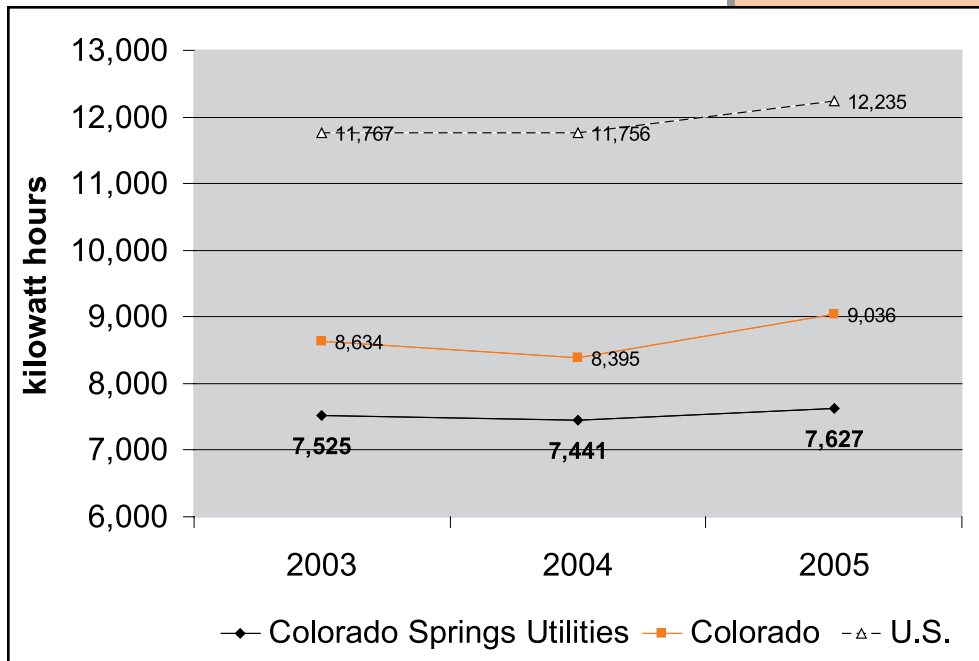
How are we doing?

How are we doing? Two fossil fuels – coal and natural gas – generate 91 percent of Colorado Springs Utilities provided electricity. In 2004, Colorado voters approved Amendment 37 which requires that 3 percent of electricity come from renewable energy sources by 2010 increasing to 10 percent by 2015. Colorado Springs Utilities is currently meeting the standard.

► *Energy Consumption: Electricity & Natural Gas*

Electricity used per household

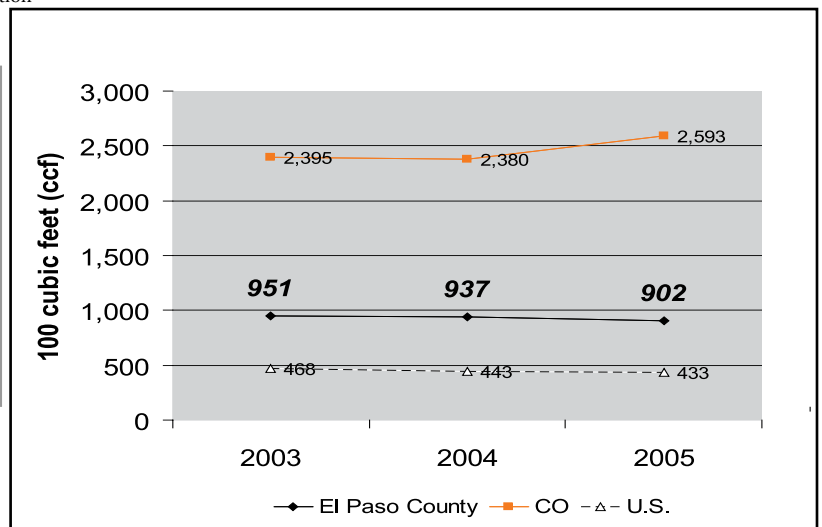
This chart shows annual household consumption in kilowatt hours for Colorado Springs Utilities customers, Colorado and the U.S.



Source: Colorado Springs Utilities and U.S. Energy Information Administration

Natural gas used per household

This chart shows the annual cubic feet of natural gas burned per household by Colorado Springs Utilities customers and the Colorado and U.S. averages.



Source El Paso County: Colorado Springs Utilities
 Source U.S.: Energy Information Administration <http://tonto.eia.doe.gov/dnav/ng/hist/n3010us2A.htm>
 Source CO: Energy Information Administration http://tonto.eia.doe.gov/dnav/ng/hist/na1490_sco_2a.htm

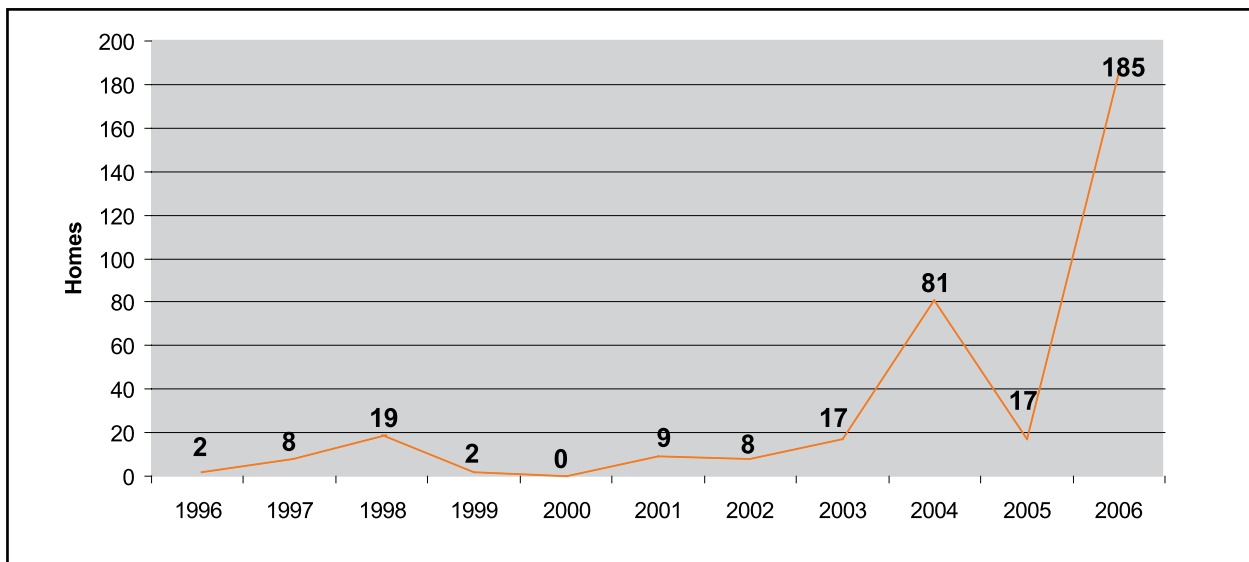
How are we doing?

Colorado Springs Utilities customers are consuming more natural gas than U.S. averages but less than the average Colorado household. Electricity consumption is less than both U.S. and Colorado averages. It is difficult to make comparisons between geographic regions because of climate differences and access to resources.

► *Energy Efficient Homes*

This chart shows the number of new homes built in the Pikes Peak Region that received an ENERGY STAR certification. To be ENERGY STAR certified, homes must meet guidelines for energy efficiency set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The certified homes must be at least 15 percent more energy efficient than homes built to the 2004 International Residential Code.

ENERGY STAR rated homes



Source: Patty Crow, U.S. EPA Region VIII

How are we doing?

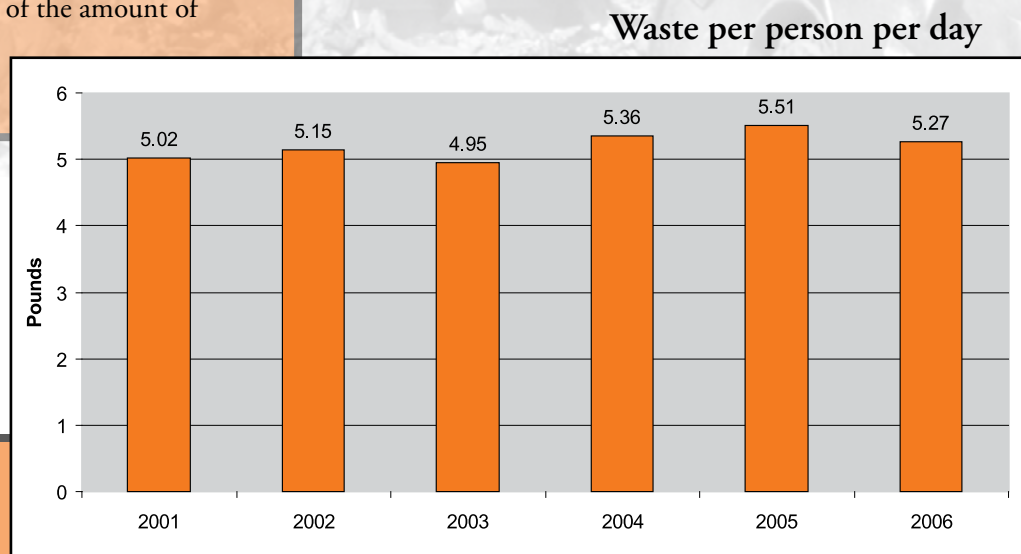
The Environmental Protection Agency has begun a program to help homeowners and developers convert to more energy-efficient ENERGY STAR certifications. Since 1996 a total of 348 new homes have been certified with an ENERGY STAR rating in El Paso County. This is a tiny percentage of total homes built. In 2005, more than 6,000 new homes were constructed in El Paso County. In 2006, Americans, with the help of ENERGY STAR, saved enough energy to avoid greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to those from 25 million cars — all while saving \$14 billion on their utility bills.

WASTE

The household goods we throw away were made by extracting resources from the environment. Packaging materials are made from metals mined from the ground, plastics are manufactured from petroleum, and paper and cardboard are derived from trees. When these materials enter a landfill, many of them never decompose and those that do, decompose without the benefit of returning any of these resources for future use. However, many of these items can be recycled and composted. Reducing, reusing and recycling waste supports our environment by limiting the damage done and energy consumed to extract, produce and throw away materials.⁴

► *Pounds of Waste*

This chart shows the pounds of waste deposited per person per day into El Paso County's three local landfills. In El Paso County there is currently no reliable tracking of the amount of recycled material.



Source: El Paso County Solid Waste Management Division

How are we doing?

In the U.S., approximately 230 million tons of municipal solid waste or garbage is generated each year. This means that each person in the U.S. generates an average of 4.6 pounds of solid waste per day. Compared to this estimate, El Paso County citizens generate more waste than the U.S. average.



Sustaining a healthy community

As a community we understand the importance of good physical and mental health and access to quality care. Health difficulties can impact family budgets and the local economy, and make it more difficult for individuals to participate as full members of society.

ACCESS TO CARE

- ▶ *Uninsured People*
- ▶ *Student Health*

CHRONIC DISEASE

- ▶ *Cardiovascular Disease*
- ▶ *Diabetes*
- ▶ *Arthritis*

MATERNAL AND INFANT HEALTH

- ▶ *Low Birth Weight*

IMMUNIZATIONS

- ▶ *Childhood Immunizations*
- ▶ *Flu and Pneumonia*

MENTAL HEALTH

- ▶ *Suicide Rates*

ORAL HEALTH

- ▶ *Access to Oral Health Care*

PUBLIC HEALTH

- ▶ *Local Funding*

Sustaining a Healthy Community Council Chair

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Penrose-St. Francis Health System, Hospital Chief Executive

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Public Health Administrator

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Pikes Peak Behavioral Health Group, COO

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Mission Medical Clinic, CEO

BJ Scott

Peak Vista Community Health Centers, CEO

Dale Terry

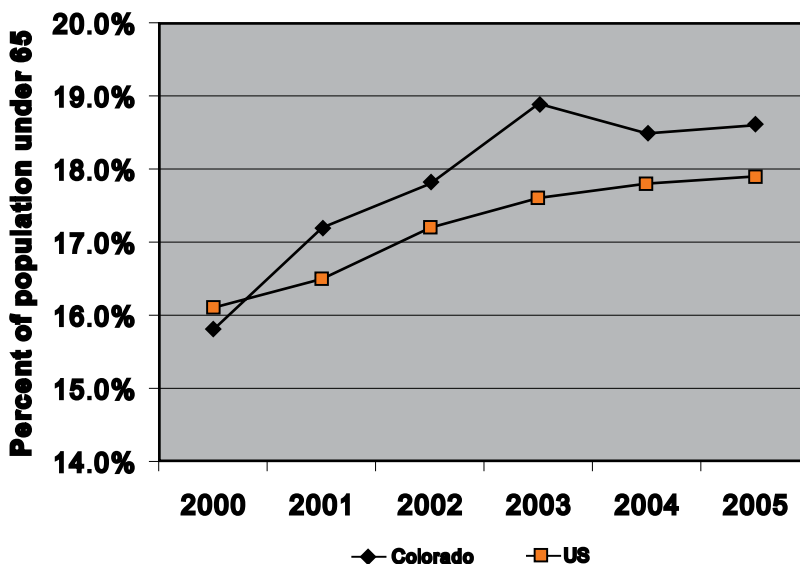
Pikes Peak Behavior Health Group, Research Director

ACCESS TO CARE

Uninsured people are vulnerable to a dangerous combination of health and financial crises.¹ Even those with health insurance are not guaranteed that services will be accessible or affordable.² Uninsured people frequently visit the emergency room for routine problems, contributing to inefficiencies. If youth learn to prevent health problems through good diet, exercise, and disease prevention, it will have a positive impact on their future health and the costs to society. The presence of a school nurse increases the opportunity for better *student health*.

► *Uninsured People*

People under 65 without health insurance



This chart shows an estimate of the number of people under age 65 who do not have health insurance in Colorado and the U.S. Accurate, regularly collected, county-level data for this indicator is not available.

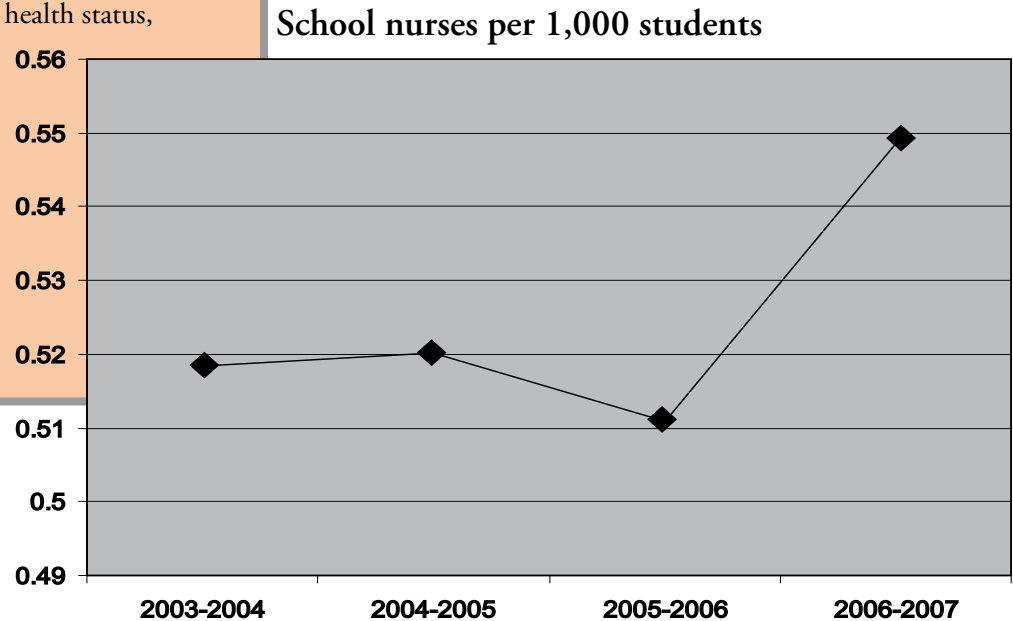
Source: Housing and Household Economic Statistics Division. U.S. Census Bureau.

How are we doing?

Since 2000, an increasing percentage of the population in Colorado and the U.S. are without health insurance. Currently, Colorado is above the national average for uninsured. In 2005, approximately 832,000 Coloradans under 65 were uninsured. The El Paso County Community Health Assessment Survey conducted in 2004 showed that 20.6 percent of local residents were uninsured - higher than the Colorado average.

► *Student Health*

This chart shows the number of school nurses per 1,000 students in El Paso County's six largest school districts, which enroll approximately 80 percent of the county's public school students. According to the National Association of School Nurses (NASN), the nurse's role includes assessing health status, identifying health problems that have an impact on health and learning, delivering emergency care, administering medications, performing health care procedures, providing wellness programs, advocating for families, and providing health counseling and education.³



Source: Colorado Department of Education

How are we doing?

Since the 2003-2004 school year, the rate of school nurses per 1,000 students has increased slightly. Over the 2006-2007 school year the figure ranged from a low of .42 to a high of .81 nurses per 1,000 students among the six school districts. Historically, the federal government and the NASN have recommended a school nurse-to-student ratio of 1:750 (1.33 per 1,000 students) or one full-time professionally prepared registered nurse all day, every day in each building.⁴ Currently there is approximately one nurse for every 1,823 students – less than the recommended ratio.

CHRONIC DISEASE

People with chronic diseases are especially impacted by health insurance and access to care. Many of these diseases, including *cardiovascular disease*, *diabetes* and *arthritis*, can be prevented, delayed and managed through the cooperation of patient and primary care physicians. Once diagnosed, ongoing care in the form of check-ups, medications and monitoring is necessary to effectively manage patient health.

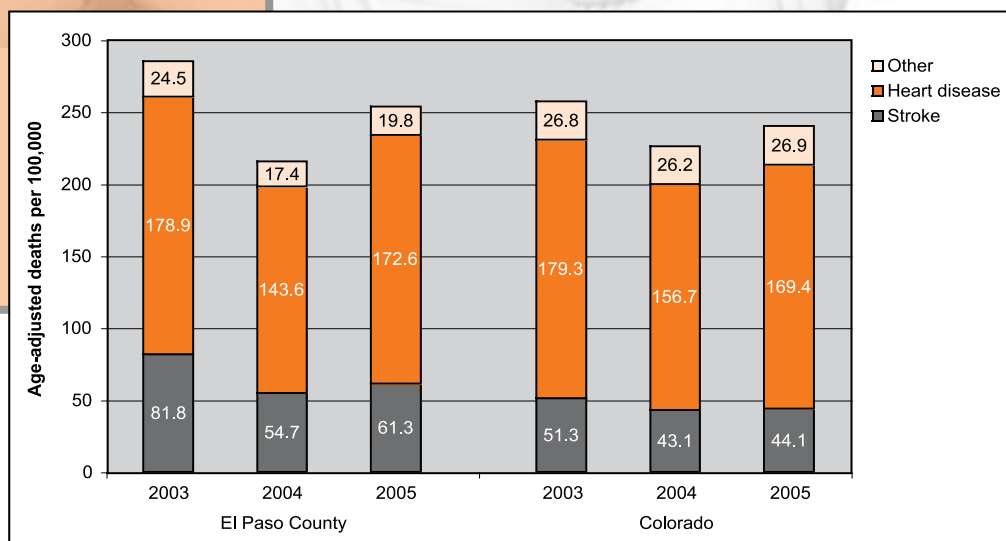
► Cardiovascular Disease

This chart shows age-adjusted* deaths due to cardiovascular disease in El Paso County and Colorado. Cardiovascular disease is a classification of diseases that affect the heart and blood vessels. Nationwide, heart disease is the leading cause of death of both men and women and stroke is the third leading cause of death.⁵

In 2004 cardiovascular conditions caused 1,699 El Paso County hospital admissions resulting in, on average, 3.8 days in the hospital with charges totaling \$22,328.⁶

*Age-adjusted rates are used when a disease disproportionately affects one age group. It allows for fair comparison across populations in different geographic areas.

Age-adjusted deaths due to cardiovascular disease



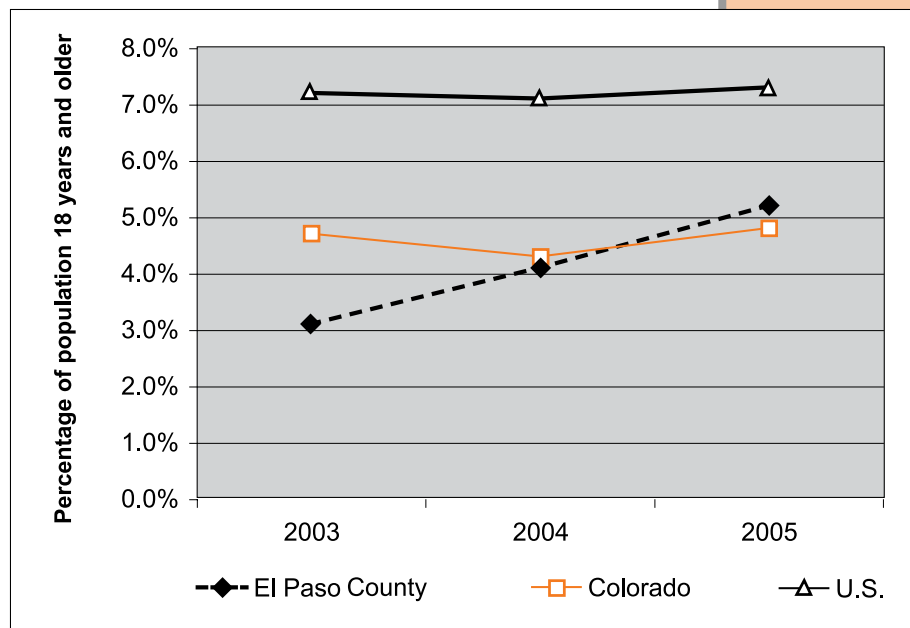
Source: Colorado Department of Public Health and the Environment

How are we doing?

In 2003 and 2005, El Paso County had higher rates of death due to cardiovascular disease than Colorado. Death rates due to stroke were higher in El Paso County from 2003-2005 while deaths due to heart disease were similar in El Paso County and Colorado.

► Diabetes

Adults diagnosed with diabetes



Source El Paso County and Colorado: Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

Source U.S.: National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, United States Center for Disease Control

This chart shows the percentage of the population 18 years and over who reported that they had been diagnosed with diabetes. Diabetes is a potentially deadly disease in which the body does not properly regulate

blood sugar. Complications include blindness, kidney disease, nervous system disease, amputations, dental disease and complications of pregnancy.⁷ The exact causes of diabetes are unclear, although both genetics and environmental factors such as obesity and lack of exercise appear to play roles.⁸

How are we doing?

El Paso County and Colorado residents have a lower rate of diabetes than the national average. Over the past three years rates in El Paso County have increased from 3.1 percent to 5.2 percent.

► Arthritis

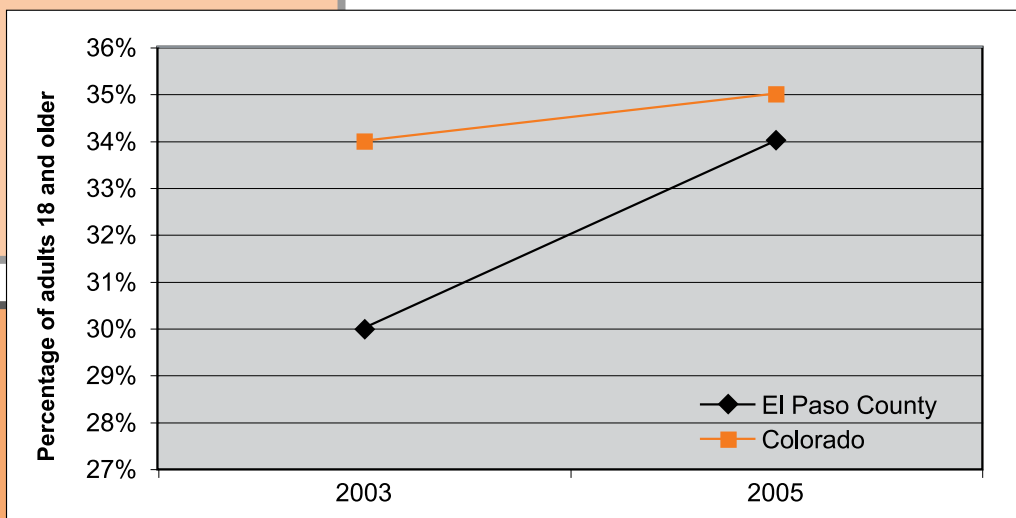
Adults who have experienced a limitation due to arthritic symptoms

This chart shows the percentage of people ages 18 and older who have experienced a limitation due to arthritic symptoms. Arthritis is a term used to describe a class of conditions that affect the joints and other parts of the body. It is a leading cause of disability in the U.S., costing the national economy \$128 billion annually.⁹

How are we doing?

El Paso County's rate of arthritis is slightly less than the Colorado

average. Self-reported rates of arthritic symptoms have increased in El Paso County from 2003 to 2005 to approximately 34 percent. The Center for Disease Control reports that approximately 26.9 percent of adults have been told they have arthritis. Some symptoms can be prevented or alleviated by losing excess weight and staying active.



Source: Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

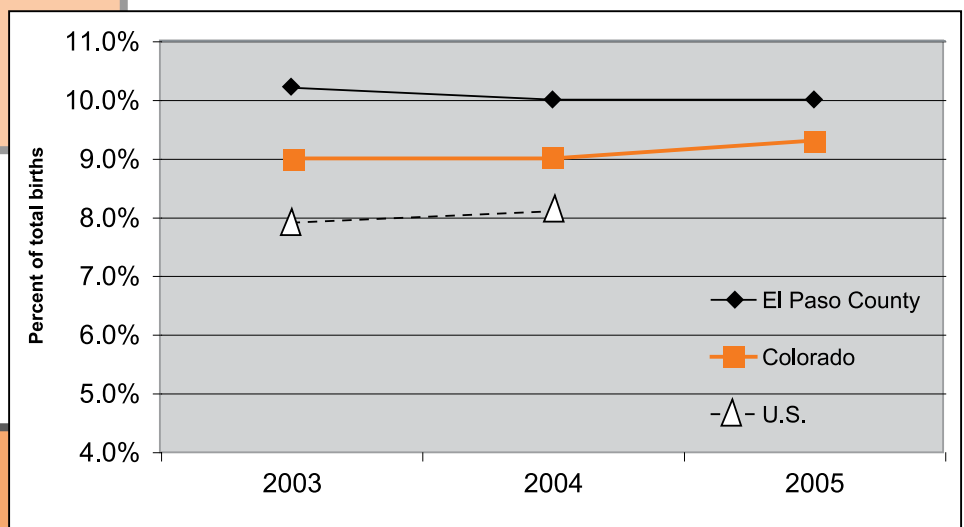
MATERNAL AND INFANT HEALTH

Low birth weight can often be prevented by quality prenatal care and cooperation between mother and doctor. Common causes of low birth weight in Colorado are multiple births, inadequate maternal weight gain, and maternal smoking.¹⁰ These babies have a greater risk of death and health complications. At birth, they are more likely to need intensive care, assisted ventilation, and multiple medical procedures and therapies. Later they may be affected by developmental delays, repeated hospitalizations, and increased susceptibility to illness.¹¹

► *Low Birth Weight*

This chart shows the percentage of babies born who are of low birth weight. A baby is of low birth weight if it is born at less than 5 pounds 8 ounces.

Low birth weight births



How are we doing?

El Paso County has a higher percentage of babies born at low birth weight than Colorado and U.S. averages.

Source *El Paso County and Colorado*: Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. Vital Statistics.

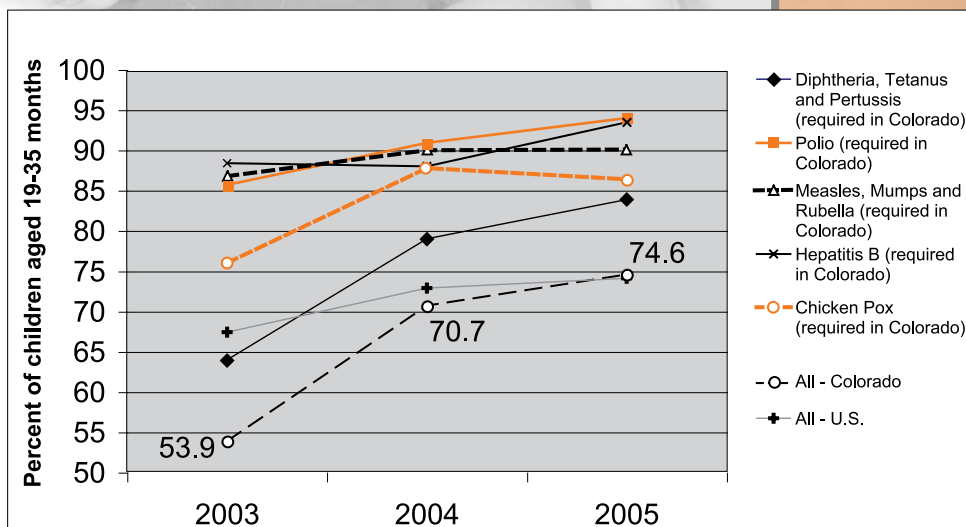
Source *U.S.*: National Center for Health Statistics. Center for Disease Control and Prevention.

IMMUNIZATIONS

Vaccines and *childhood immunizations* save lives by preventing the spread of infectious diseases that were once common in the U.S.¹² While healthy children and adults can usually overcome common illnesses such as *flu and pneumonia*, these diseases are particularly dangerous for the elderly who can benefit from vaccinations. The Center for Disease Control considers people over 50 years of age, people suffering from chronic medical conditions and people living in long term care facilities particularly high-risk and recommends an annual flu vaccination.¹³

► Childhood Immunizations

Children that have received listed immunizations



Source: National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases. United States Center for Disease Control and Prevention

This chart shows an estimate of the percentage of children statewide ages 19-35 months old that have completed the disease-specific immunizations required by the state for entry into kindergarten. According to the

American Academy of Pediatrics, a child should complete these immunizations by 24 months. *All* indicates children that have completed these vaccinations plus those for Haemophilus influenzae type b to prevent meningitis.

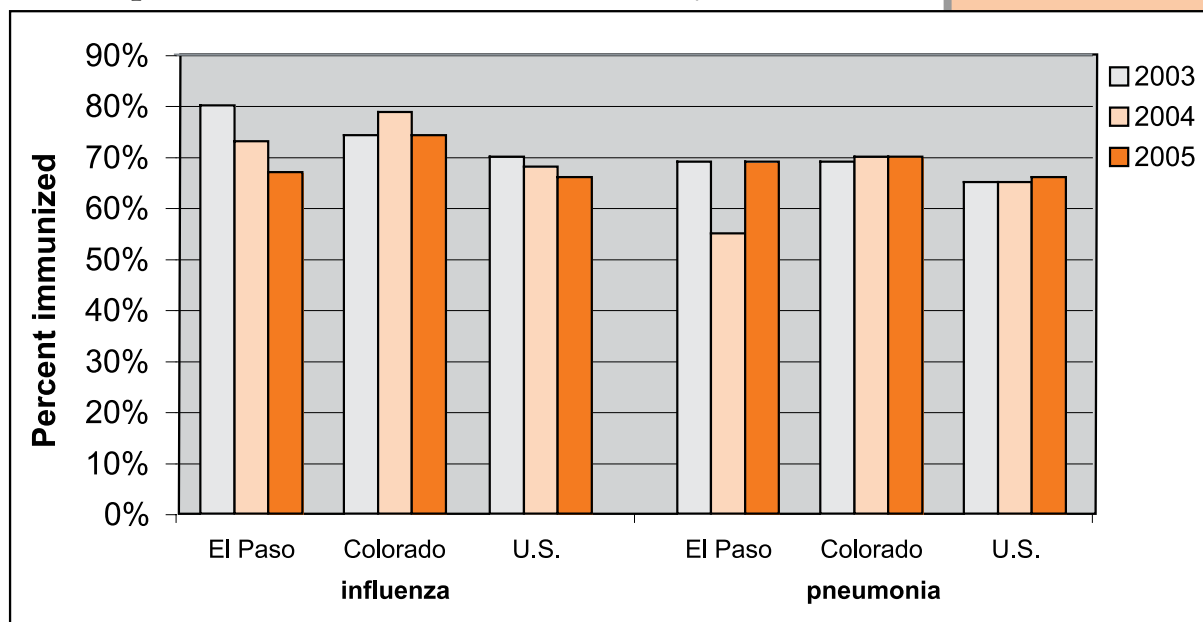
How are we doing?

Colorado immunization rates are steadily increasing. In 2003, Colorado ranked 43rd among U.S. states for having completed *All* vaccinations. By 2005, Colorado surpassed the national average ranking at 22nd, with 74.6 percent of children having completed the schedule. For required immunizations, more than 80 percent had completed the schedule.

► *Flu and Pneumonia*

This chart shows the percentage of adults ages 65 and older who reported that they had received a flu shot in the past year and a pneumonia vaccination in their lifetime in El Paso County, Colorado and the U.S.

Flu and pneumonia vaccinations for adults 65 years and older



Source El Paso County & Colorado: Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

Source U.S.: National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, United States Center for Disease Control and Prevention

How are we doing?

Colorado flu and pneumonia vaccination rates appear to be better than national averages and are remaining stable. In El Paso County, fewer adults reported receiving flu shots in 2005 than in previous years. El Paso County pneumonia vaccinations rates do not exhibit a trend.

MENTAL HEALTH

Mental health helps determine how we handle stress, relate to others and make choices. Everyone feels anxious, sad or stressed sometimes. But with a mental illness, these feelings do not go away and are severe enough to interfere with daily life. Mental health disorders – depression, phobias, bipolar disorder, schizophrenia and many others – are real diseases that one cannot will or wish away. Fortunately, they are often treatable through medication and therapy.¹⁴

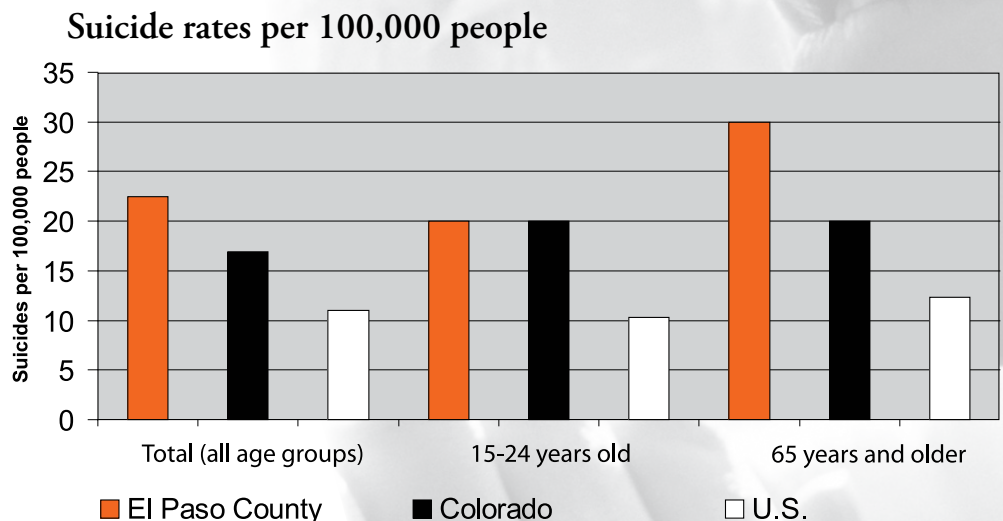
Mental illnesses affect about one in five families in the U.S. According to the National Institute of Mental Health, an estimated 26.2 percent of Americans ages 18 and older suffer annually from a diagnosable mental disorder. Using current population estimates this would indicate more than 112,000 people in El Paso County may need mental health services annually, including 11,000 children and teens.¹⁵ In addition, mental disorders are the leading cause of disability in the U.S. for ages 15 to 44.¹⁶ Mental illness, including suicide, accounts for more than 15 percent of the burden of disease in established market economies, such as the United States.¹⁷

Mental health disorders also directly impact the criminal justice system. The percentage of Colorado Department of Corrections inmates diagnosed with a serious mental illness has gradually increased from 1991 to 2004 from 3 percent to 18 percent.¹⁸

Suicide rates are one indicator of mental health in a community. More than 90 percent of people who kill themselves have a diagnosable mental disorder, most commonly a depressive or substance abuse disorder.¹⁹ However, far more people live with mental health problems than commit suicide.

► Suicide Rates

This chart shows the number of people per 100,000 who committed suicide in 2004. We present the total (age-adjusted) rate, rates for young people ages 15 to 24, and older adults. Data for older adults represents adults 65 years and older in El Paso County and Colorado. The U.S. data is for adults ages 65 to 74 only.



How are we doing?

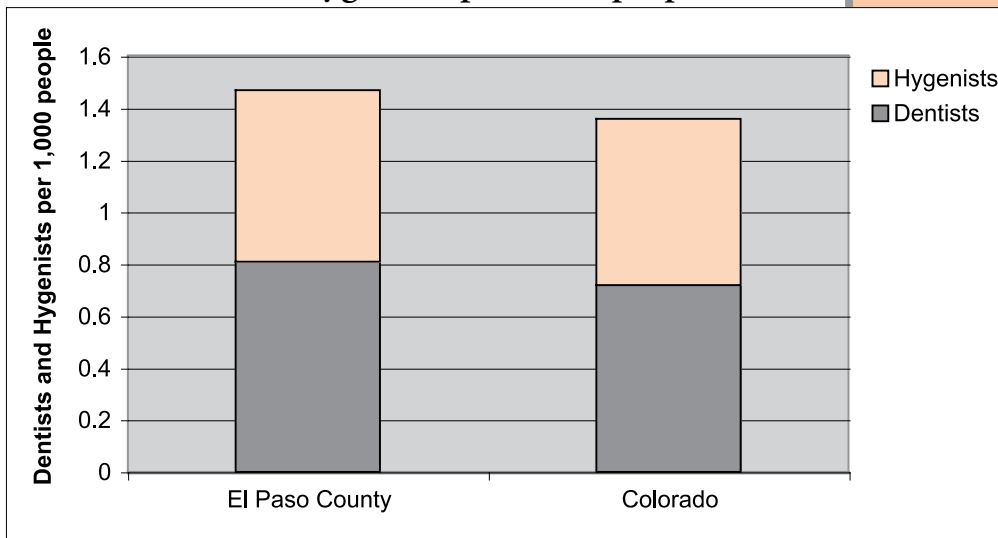
In 2004 the total suicide rate in El Paso County was double the national rate; suicides among young people were twice as frequent, and suicides among the elderly were nearly three times more frequent than national averages. Colorado suicide rates are also higher than national averages but are lower than or similar to El Paso County averages.

ORAL HEALTH

Access to oral health care is important because there is a strong relationship between oral health and general health. At the most basic level, oral pain limits one's ability to eat properly and get the nutrition the body needs. Additionally, some researchers have found that advanced gum disease is associated with cardiovascular disease, stroke, bacterial pneumonia and an increased risk of pregnant women delivering babies pre-term and/or at low birth weight. Tobacco, alcohol and illicit drug use also affects oral health. While the causal connections between these problems are unclear, oral health is one indicator of overall health.²⁰

► *Access to Oral Health Care*

Dentists and dental hygienists per 1,000 people



Source: Colorado Division of Registrations, May 2, 2007

This chart shows the number of dentists and dental hygienists per capita in El Paso County compared to Colorado averages. Per capita estimates are derived using population data from the 2005 American Communities Survey conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau.

How are we doing?

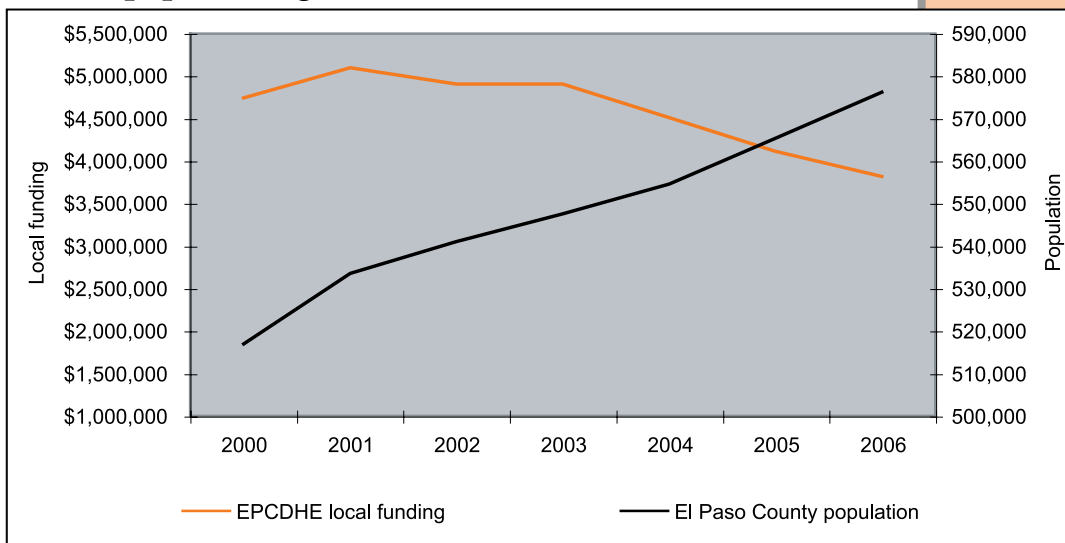
Currently El Paso County has more dentists and dental hygienists per capita than the Colorado average. Rural areas throughout Colorado typically have fewer health care providers which could account for the difference. According to the National Association of Dental Plans, 46 percent of Americans do not have dental insurance.²¹ Therefore, while care may be available, it may not be affordable for many people.

PUBLIC HEALTH

The El Paso County Department of Health and Environment (EPCDHE) provides a variety of services to the public. Among these, it provides immunizations, investigates disease outbreaks and inspects local eating establishments. Funding directly impacts the types and levels of service the EPCDHE can provide to protect public health. For example, the department is mandated to conduct two inspections per retail food establishment per year. The number of retail food establishments has increased steadily over the past five years, just as *local funding* has decreased for mandated services such as restaurant inspections. The number of complaints that required additional inspections in local retail food establishments has also increased, rising from 60 in 2005 to 178 in 2006.

► ***Local Funding***

**Local funding of EPCDHE
and population growth since 2000**



This chart shows the local funding of the El Paso County Department of Health and Environment as compared to population growth since 2000.

Source: El Paso County Department of Health and Environment

How are we doing?

Local funding for EPCDHE has steadily decreased over the past four years, despite rapid growth in the population of El Paso County and an increase in need for public health services. Since 2001, local funding of the department decreased more than 20 percent from more than \$5,000,000 to less than \$4,000,000 in 2006. When compared to other similar health departments in Colorado, EPCDHE receives fewer local dollars to provide mandated health protection services. For example, EPCDHE receives \$6.40 per person compared to Pueblo County at \$11.61 per person and Boulder County at \$19.30 per person.

Achieving educational excellence

Achieving educational excellence is a process that occurs throughout life from the day a child is born, throughout primary school, to high school graduation and beyond. Having a good education is essential to the quality of life of individuals and to the community. Intelligent, educated people who know how to analyze and solve problems can contribute significantly to economic and civic innovation. Education cultivates an understanding of how our community works and the value of diverse entities.¹

EARLY LEARNING

- ▶ *Early Childhood Education*
- ▶ *Third Grade Reading Skills*

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

- ▶ *Tenth Grade Reading Skills*
- ▶ *Tenth Grade Math Skills*

STUDENT GRADUATION

- ▶ *High School Graduation Rate*
- ▶ *High School Dropout Rate*

HIGHER EDUCATION

- ▶ *Adult Educational Attainment*
- ▶ *Outcomes of Higher Education*

TEACHER QUALITY

- ▶ *Teachers with Advanced Degrees*
- ▶ *Teacher Compensation*

EDUCATIONAL FUNDING

- ▶ *School Funding*
- ▶ *Students in Need*

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Community Partnership for Child Development, President/CEO

Pam Shockley-Zalabak

University of Colorado – Colorado Springs, Chancellor

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Peak Education, Founder

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Pikes Peak Board of Cooperative Education Services, Executive Director

Donna Selle

Retired Teacher

Gina Solazzi

Children's Literacy Center, Executive Director

James Stewart

Colorado Springs Black Chamber of Commerce, President

Dr. Mary Jane Willshire

Colorado Technical University, Dean of Computer Science

EARLY LEARNING

Children have greater chances of success if they learn to read early. Access to affordable *early childhood education* is a strong indicator of social and academic preparedness for a successful elementary education experience. Well-designed and well-implemented early childhood education programs can improve outcomes for all children –particularly those in low-income families. Up until third grade, a child learns to read; after third grade, the child reads to learn. Accordingly, good *third grade reading skills* are critical to future success.

► ***Early Childhood Education***

Enrollment of children below the poverty line in affordable early childhood education programs

	2004 - 2005	2005 - 2006	Change
El Paso County	54.4%	53.8%	-.6%

This chart shows the percentage of 3-4 year old children living below the federal poverty line in El Paso County who are enrolled in either a public preschool or Head Start Program.

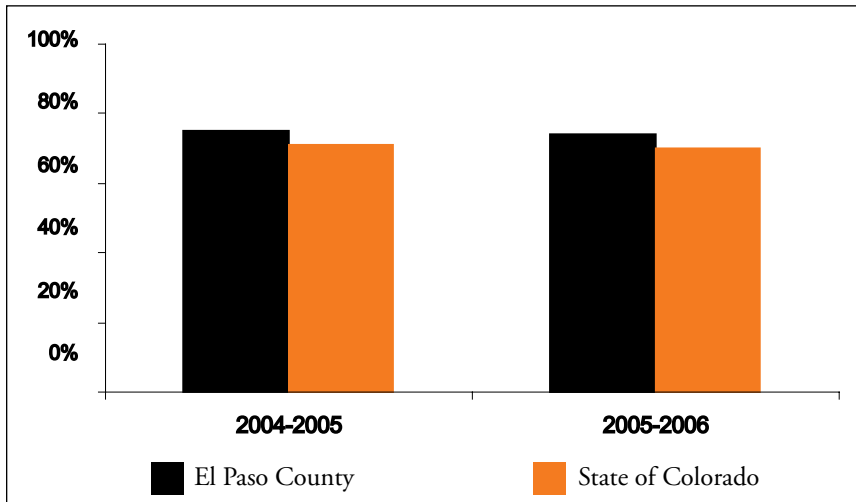
Source: U.S. Census Bureau; American Communities Survey; 2004 & 2005 data; Colorado Department of Education; Colorado State Demography Office; Community Partnership for Child Development/Head Start

How are we doing?

In El Paso County, the rate declined from 54.4 percent in 2004-2005 to 53.8 percent in 2005-2006.

► *Third Grade Reading Skills*

Third graders reading at grade level



Source: Colorado Department of Education

This chart shows the percentage of public school third graders in El Paso County's six largest school districts* who achieve at the top two (out of four) levels on the Colorado Student Assessment Program (CSAP) in reading.

*The six largest districts represent 80% of El Paso County's public school enrollment.

How are we doing?

The average rate for El Paso County's largest school districts declined from 74.9 percent to 73.9 percent in 2005-2006. In Colorado, the rate also fell, from 71 percent to 70 percent.

Third graders reading at grade level by district

	2004-2005	2005-2006	Change
Colorado Springs 11	70.0%	70.0%	0.0%
Academy 20	85.0%	87.0%	2.0%
Harrison 2	63.0%	61.0%	-2.0%
Falcon 49	80.0%	75.0%	-5.0%
Widefield 3	74.0%	68.0%	-6.0%
Fountain-Ft. Carson 8	78.0%	79.0%	1.0%
Largest Six Districts	74.9%	73.9%	-1.0%
State of Colorado	71.0%	70.0%	-1.0%

Source: Colorado Department of Education

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

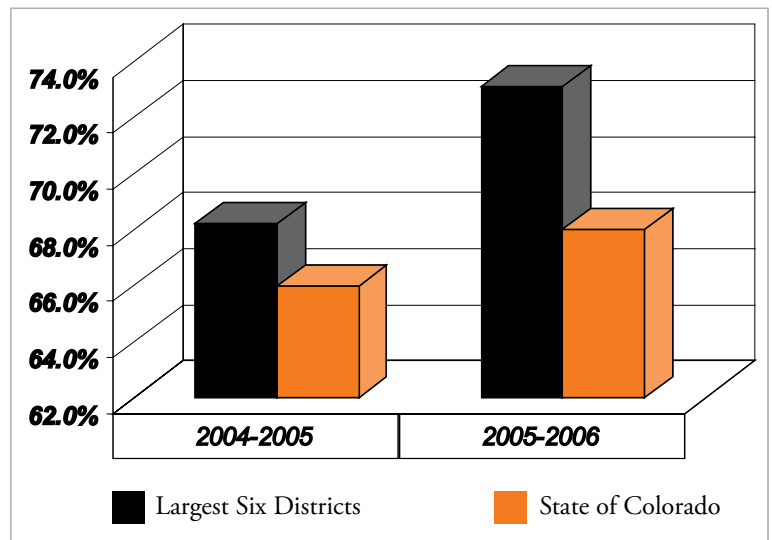
According to the Colorado Department of Education, assessment, challenging academic standards, and school and district accountability are the three pillars supporting Colorado's comprehensive school reform. Consequently, student achievement is often measured through scores on the Colorado Student Assessment Program, a standardized test commonly called the CSAP. The top two (out of four) levels indicate grade-level performance or above. Below are indicators of *tenth grade reading skills* and *tenth grade math skills*.

► Tenth Grade Reading Skills

This chart shows the percentage of public school tenth graders in El Paso County's six largest school districts who achieve at the top two (out of four) levels on the CSAP in reading.

*The six largest districts represent 80% of El Paso County's public school enrollment.

Tenth graders reading at grade level



Source: Colorado Department of Education

How are we doing?

In El Paso County, the rate increased from 68.2 percent to 73.1 percent in 2005-2006. In Colorado, the rate also increased from 66 percent to 68 percent over the same time period.

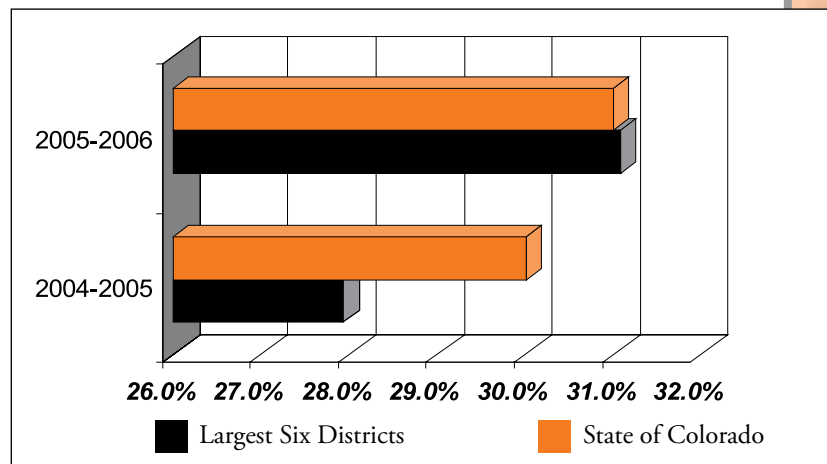
Tenth graders reading at grade level by district

	2004-2005	2005-2006	Change
Colorado Springs 11	64.0%	69.0%	5.0%
Academy 20	82.0%	84.0%	2.0%
Harrison 2	50.0%	57.0%	7.0%
Falcon 49	69.0%	74.0%	5.0%
Widefield 3	68.0%	75.0%	7.0%
Fountain-Ft. Carson 8	65.0%	74.0%	9.0%
Largest Six Districts	68.2%	73.1%	4.8%
State of Colorado	66.0%	68.0%	2.0%

Source: Colorado Department of Education

► Tenth Grade Math Skills

Tenth graders doing math at grade level



Source: Colorado Department of Education

This chart shows the percentage of public school tenth graders in El Paso County's six largest school districts who achieve at the top two (out of four) levels on the CSAP in math.

*The six largest districts represent 80% of El Paso County's public school enrollment.

How are we doing?

In El Paso County, the rate increased from 27.9 percent to 31.1 percent in 2005-2006. In Colorado, the rate also increased from 30 percent to 31 percent over the same time period.

Tenth graders doing math at grade level by district

	2004-2005	2005-2006	Change
Colorado Springs 11	24.0%	30.0%	6.0%
Academy 20	40.0%	41.0%	1.0%
Harrison 2	13.0%	17.0%	4.0%
Falcon 49	33.0%	31.0%	-2.0%
Widefield 3	22.0%	27.0%	5.0%
Fountain-Ft. Carson 8	27.0%	26.0%	-1.0%
Largest Six Districts	27.9%	31.1%	3.1%
State of Colorado	30.0%	31.0%	1.0%

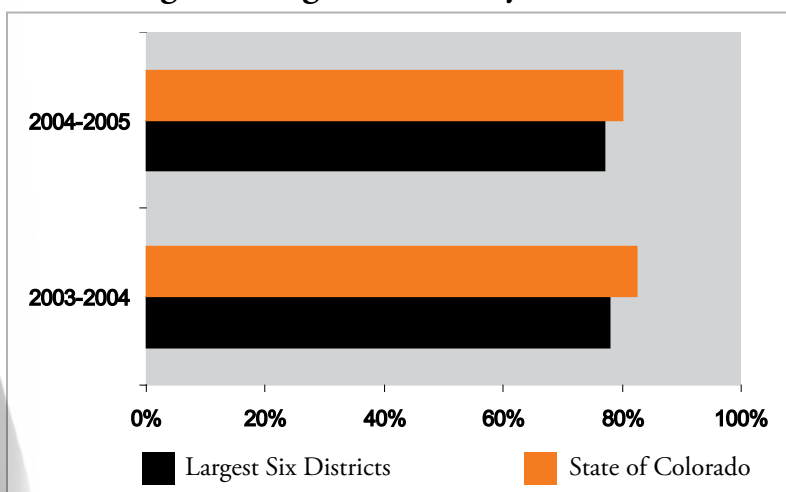
Source: Colorado Department of Education

STUDENT GRADUATION

Perhaps the clearest indicators of education in the community are the *high school graduation rate* and *high school dropout rate*. A diploma is critical for furthering one's education and obtaining quality employment. Youth who do not complete high school, on the other hand, have a difficult time finding employment or advancing beyond low-paying jobs.

► High School Graduation Rate

Students graduating within four years



Source: Colorado Department of Education

This chart shows the percentage of students who graduate from public high schools in El Paso County's six largest school districts within four years.

*The six largest districts represent 80% of El Paso County's public school enrollment.

Students graduating within four years by district

	2004-2005	2005-2006	Change
Colorado Springs 11	67.8%	69.0%	1.2%
Academy 20	91.6%	89.5%	-2.1%
Harrison 2	81.9%	65.0%	-16.9%
Falcon 49	81.5%	85.6%	4.1%
Widefield 3	83.8%	86.3%	2.5%
Fountain-Ft. Carson 8	87.7%	79.4%	-8.3%
Largest Six Districts	77.9%	77.1%	-0.8%
State of Colorado	82.5%	80.1%	-2.4%

Source: Colorado Department of Education

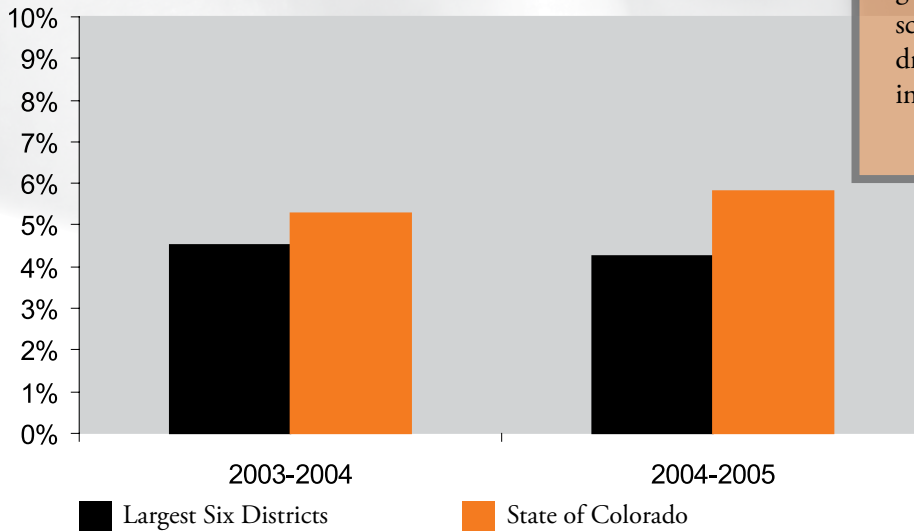
According to the Colorado Department of Education, many districts and schools will note a decrease in the graduation rate reported for the 2004-2005 collection period compared to previous years. In most cases this decrease is due to changes in the way data was tracked and collected.

How are we doing?

The graduation rate declined from 77.9 percent to 77.1 percent in 2004-2005 in El Paso County's six largest school districts. In Colorado, the rate also declined from 82.5 percent to 80.1 percent.

► *High School Dropout Rate*

Students who drop out between ninth and twelfth grade



This chart shows the percent of public high school students in El Paso County's six largest school districts who drop out between ninth and twelfth grade. Because many students leave school without graduating but did not drop out, the dropout rate is not the inverse of the graduation rate.

*The six largest districts represent 80% of El Paso County's public school enrollment.

Source: Colorado Department of Education

How are we doing?

The dropout rate declined from 4.5 percent to 4.3 percent in 2004-2005 in El Paso County's six largest school districts. In Colorado, the rate increased from 5.3 percent to 5.8 percent.

Students who drop out between ninth and twelfth grade by district

	2004-2005	2005-2006	Change
Colorado Springs 11	7.0%	6.1%	-0.9%
Academy 20	1.7%	1.6%	-0.1%
Harrison 2	1.9%	8.4%	6.5%
Falcon 49	4.2%	1.6%	-2.6%
Widefield 3	4.9%	4.1%	-0.8%
Fountain-Ft. Carson 8	4.4%	5.3%	0.9%
Largest Six Districts	4.5%	4.3%	-0.3%
State of Colorado	5.3%	5.8%	0.5%

Source: Colorado Department of Education

HIGHER EDUCATION

Community success in the 21st century often hinges on comprehensively developing the community's intellectual capital, including expanding participation in higher education. Moving to a knowledge-based economy requires a higher percentage of the population with college degrees. To meet the needs of the economy and of individuals who wish to advance their education it is important to understand *adult educational attainment* and the *outcomes of higher education* in the county.

► *Adult Educational Attainment*

This chart shows the percentage of adults age 25 and older in El Paso County with associate's, bachelor's, or graduate degrees.

Adults with varying levels of educational attainment

	2004-2005	2005-2006	Change
Some College	26.0%	24.8%	-1.2%
Associate	10.1%	10.2%	0.1%
Bachelor	19.7%	21.0%	1.3%
Graduate	11.9%	12.7%	0.8%
Bachelor or Higher	31.6%	33.7%	2.1%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau; American Communities Survey; 2003, 2004 & 2005 data

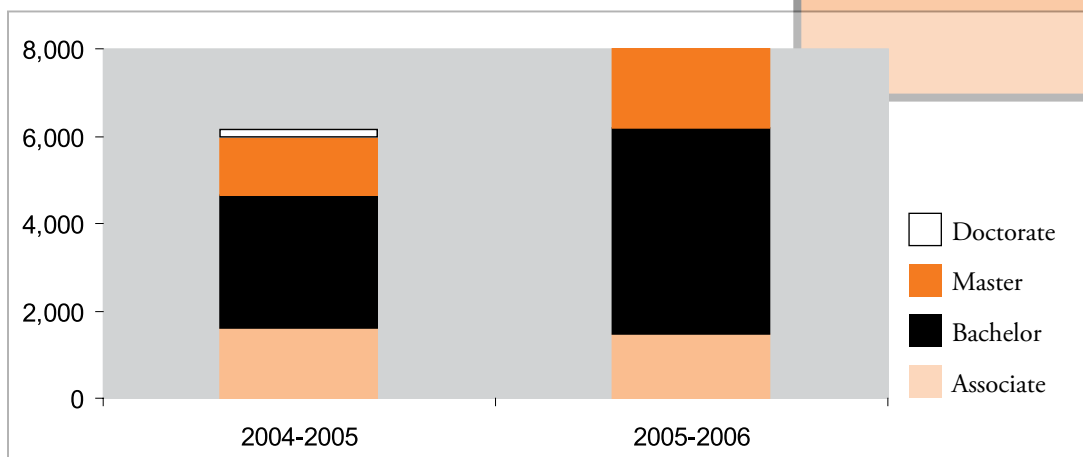
How are we doing?

The percentage of adults in El Paso County with a bachelor's or graduate degree rose from 31.6 percent in 2004 to 33.7 percent in 2005. In Colorado, the rate rose from 33.7 percent to 35.5 percent.

► *Outcomes of Higher Education*

This chart shows the total number of degrees awarded annually in El Paso County at postsecondary institutions accredited by an accrediting agency or state approval agency recognized by the U.S. Secretary of Education and tracked by the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS).

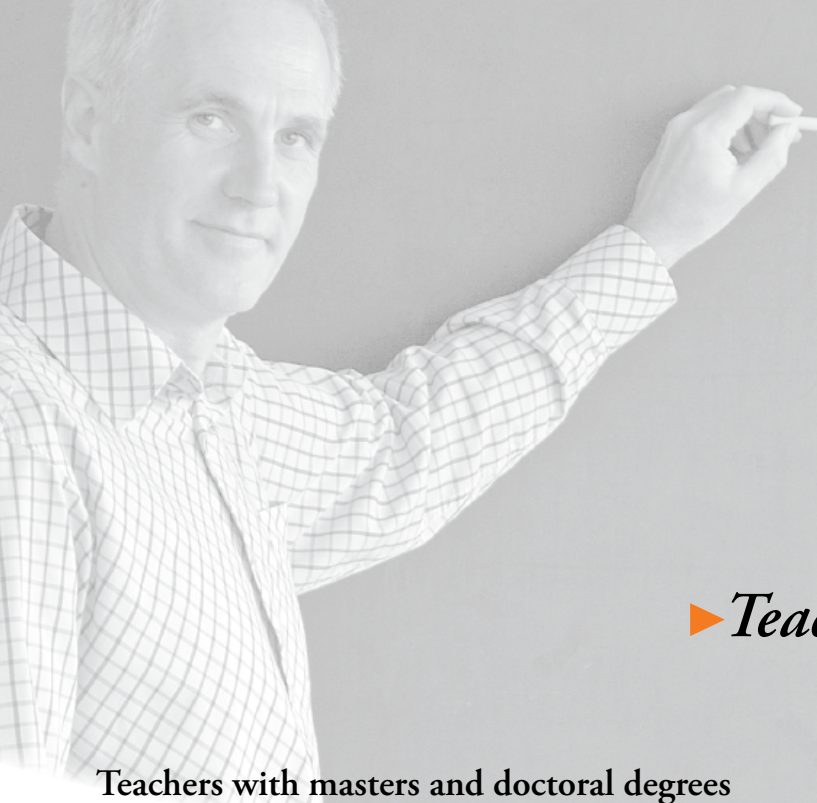
Higher education degrees awarded annually by type



Source: Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS)
Accredited institutions of higher education included in the data set are: College America-Colorado Springs, Colorado College, Colorado School of Professional Psychology, Colorado Technical University, Colorado Technical University Online, Everest College-Colorado Springs, Intellitec College-Colorado Springs, Intellitec Medical Institute, International Beauty Academy, National American University-Colorado Springs, Nazarene Bible College, Pikes Peak Community College, Pima Medical Institute-Colorado Springs, Remington College-Colorado Springs Campus, Toni & Guy Hairdressing Academy, United States Air Force Academy, University of Colorado at Colorado Springs, University of Phoenix-Southern Colorado Campus

How are we doing?

The total number of degrees rose from 6,154 in 2004-2005 to 8,000 in 2005-2006. The biggest increase was in bachelor's degrees with 1,667 more handed out in 2005-2006. Master's degrees also increased by 456 while the number of associate's and doctoral degrees awarded decreased.

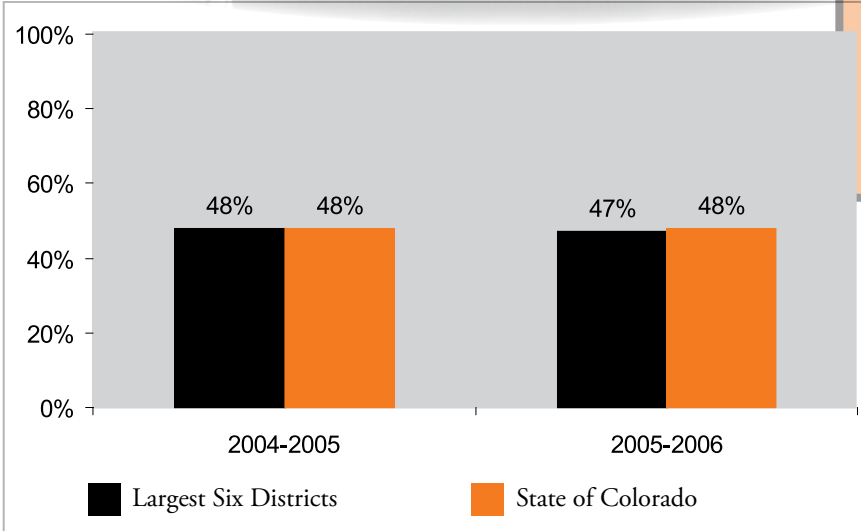


TEACHER QUALITY

Teacher quality factors such as teacher retention and *teachers with advanced degrees* often correlate to student performance, as well as student achievement as measured by the CSAP. The ability to recruit and retain high-quality teachers is an indicator of educational quality, and is affected by *teacher compensation*.

► Teachers with Advanced Degrees

Teachers with masters and doctoral degrees



Source: Colorado Department of Education

This chart shows the percentage of public school teachers in El Paso County's six largest school districts holding a masters or doctoral degree.

*The six largest districts represent 80% of El Paso County's public school enrollment.

Teachers with advanced degrees by district

	2004-2005	2005-2006	Change
Colorado Springs 11	53%	52%	-1%
Academy 20	54%	55%	1%
Harrison 2	41%	39%	-2%
Falcon 49	34%	33%	-1%
Widefield 3	43%	42%	-1%
Fountain-Ft. Carson 8	37%	39%	2%
Largest Six Districts	48%	47%	-1%
State of Colorado	48%	48%	0%

How are we doing?

In El Paso County's six largest districts, the rate declined from 48 percent to 47 percent in 2005-2006. In Colorado, the rate remained unchanged at 48 percent.

► *Teacher Compensation*

This chart shows the average public school teacher salary in El Paso County's six largest school districts compared to Colorado.

*The six largest districts represent 80% of El Paso County's public school enrollment.

Teacher salary by district

	2004-2005	2005-2006	Change
Colorado Springs 11	\$ 44,411	\$ 44,388	\$ -23
Academy 20	\$ 40,889	\$ 41,068	\$ 179
Harrison 2	\$ 38,240	\$ 38,394	\$ 154
Falcon 49	\$ 38,391	\$ 38,351	\$ -40
Widefield 3	\$ 42,086	\$ 42,026	\$ -60
Fountain-Ft. Carson 8	\$ 40,488	\$ 41,083	\$ 595
Largest Six Districts	\$ 41,617	\$ 41,666	\$ 49
State of Colorado	\$ 45,339	\$ 46,025	\$ 686

Source: Colorado Department of Education

How are we doing?

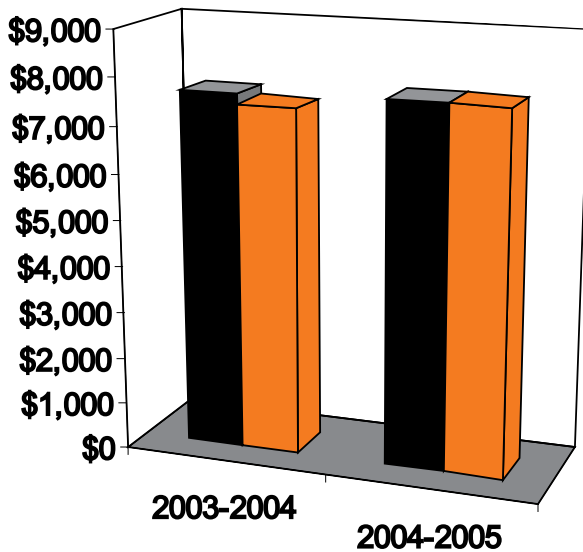
Average public school teacher salaries in El Paso County's six largest school districts increased by \$49 from 2004-2005 to 2005-2006. The median teacher salary for Colorado teachers is greater than El Paso County and increased by \$686 over the same period.

EDUCATIONAL FUNDING

Adequate *school funding* is critical to school success. Accordingly, the amount of total revenue per student is often an indicator of present and future educational success. This is particularly true when it comes to schools with higher percentages of *students in need*, as these children often require more expensive supplemental services.

► School Funding

Total annual revenue per student



This chart shows the amount of total revenue allocated for each public student in El Paso County's six largest school districts.

*The six largest districts represent 80% of El Paso County's public school enrollment.

■ Largest Six Districts ■ State of Colorado

Source: Colorado Department of Education

Total annual revenue per student by district

How are we doing?

The amount of total revenue allocated for each public student in El Paso County's six largest school districts increased from \$7,638 to \$7,733 in 2005. In Colorado, the amount rose from \$7,412 to \$7,730.

	2003-2004	2004-2005	Change
Colorado Springs 11	\$ 7,774	\$ 8,136	4.4%
Academy 20	\$ 7,500	\$ 7,668	2.2%
Harrison 2	\$ 8,020	\$ 8,222	2.4%
Falcon 49	\$ 6,735	\$ 6,612	-1.8%
Widefield 3	\$ 7,138	\$ 7,379	3.3%
Fountain-Ft. Carson 8	\$ 8,659	\$ 8,382	-3.3%
Largest Six Districts	\$ 7,638	\$ 7,733	1.2%
State of Colorado	\$ 7,412	\$ 7,730	4.4%

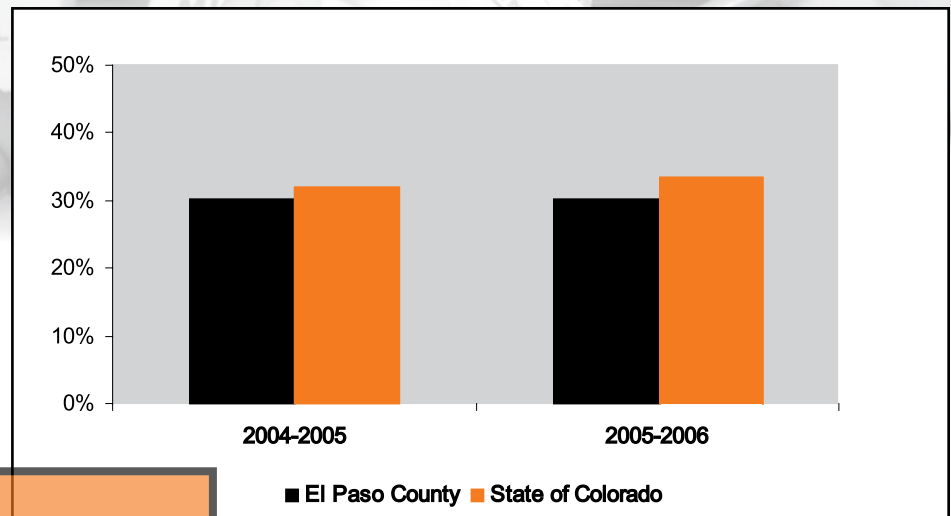
Source: Colorado Department of Education

► *Students in Need*

This chart shows the percentage of public students eligible for free or reduced lunch in El Paso County's six largest school districts.

*The six largest districts represent 80% of El Paso County's public school enrollment.

Students eligible for free or reduced lunch



How are we doing?

The percentage of public students eligible for free or reduced lunch in El Paso County's six largest school districts remained at 30.3 percent in 2005-2006. In Colorado, the amount rose from 32.1 percent to 33.6 percent.

■ Largest Six Districts ■ State of Colorado

Source: Colorado Department of Education

Students eligible for free or reduced lunch by district

	2004-2005	2005-2006	Change
Colorado Springs 11	40.0%	40.1%	.1%
Academy 20	6.0%	5.9%	-.1%
Harrison 2	62.1%	61.1%	-1.0%
Falcon 49	15.7%	15.0%	-.7%
Widefield 3	24.2%	26.4%	-2.2%
Fountain-Ft. Carson 8	34.1%	33.4%	-.7%
Largest Six Districts	30.3%	30.3%	0%

Source: Colorado Department of Education

Enjoying arts, culture, and recreation

A young girl with light brown hair in pigtails is smiling broadly and jumping in the air. She is wearing a dark jacket with a backpack strap visible. The background is a soft, out-of-focus outdoor setting.

Arts, culture and recreation play an important role in our quality of life by providing entertainment and opportunities to come together as a community, promoting physical and mental health, and benefiting our economy. The following indicators help us understand what arts, culture and recreational opportunities exist, how they are supported, and whether we participate.¹

PRESENCE

- ▶ *Arts, Culture and Recreational Establishments*
- ▶ *Community-wide Events*
- ▶ *Park Acreage*
- ▶ *Miles of Recreational Trail*

PARTICIPATION

- ▶ *Attendance at Local Venues*
- ▶ *Participation in Recreational Activities*
- ▶ *Arts Education*

SUPPORT

- ▶ *Nonprofit Revenue*
- ▶ *Arts Spending*

Enjoying Arts, Culture and Recreation Council Chairs

Paul Butcher

City of Colorado Springs –
Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services, Director

Susan Edmondson

Bee Vradenburg Foundation, Executive Director

Enjoying Arts, Culture and Recreation Council Members

Kurt Aichele

Southeast YMCA, Youth and Family Director

Lori Bammesberger

Colorado Springs Children's Chorale,
Conductor Sunrise Singers and Eastern Plains Youth Choir

Julie Cole

Smokebrush Gallery and Foundation for the Arts, Director

Marcia Hendricks

Colorado Springs Children's Chorale, Executive Director

Dot Lischick

Colorado Springs World Arena and Pikes Peak
Center, General Manager

Cleather Marchman

Community Leader

Doug Martin

Colorado Springs Sports Corporation, Director –
State Games of America and Rocky Mountain State Games

Deborah Thornton

Imagination Celebration, Curious Choreographer of Creativity

Jessica Turnwald

Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center, Capital Campaign Director

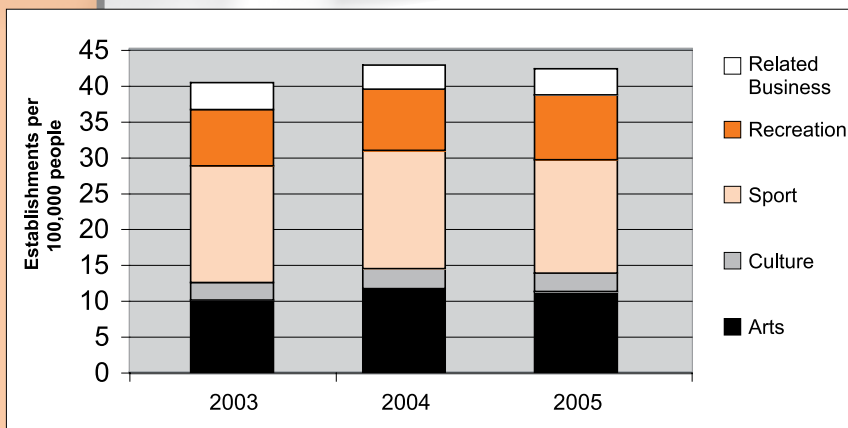
PRESENCE

Tracking the number of *arts, culture and recreational establishments*, the presence of *community-wide events, park acreage* and *miles of recreational trails* helps the community understand the presence of arts, culture and recreational opportunities. If these indicators are growing at least as quickly as the population, one can assume the community is maintaining current services to meet the needs of the public. This includes opportunities to experience visual and performing arts, maintain health through outdoor and indoor recreation, and participate alongside neighbors in community events, holiday celebrations, or to promote different cultures.

► *Arts, Culture and Recreational Establishments*

This chart shows the number of arts, culture and recreational establishments per 100,000 people. An establishment is a single physical location at which business is conducted or services or industrial operations are performed. A single company or enterprise may consist of one or more establishments. When two or more activities are carried on at a single location under a single ownership, the entire establishment is classified on the basis of its major activity and all data are included in that classification. Establishment counts represent the number of locations with paid employees any time during the year. Businesses operating without an employer identification number (EIN), and businesses with an EIN but without employees, are excluded from the data.

Arts, culture and recreational establishments per 100,000 people



Source: North American Industry Classification System. U.S. Census Bureau. County Business Patterns

Definitions:

Arts – Theater companies and dinner theaters, dance companies, musical groups and artists, other performing arts companies, and independent artists and writers

Culture – Museums, historical sites, zoos and botanical gardens, nature parks and other similar institutions

Sport – Sports teams and clubs, racetracks, other spectator sports, golf courses and country clubs, fitness and recreational sports centers, bowling centers

Recreation – Amusement and theme parks, amusement arcades, gambling industries, all other amusement and recreations industries

Related Business – Promoters with facilities, promoters without facilities, agents and managers

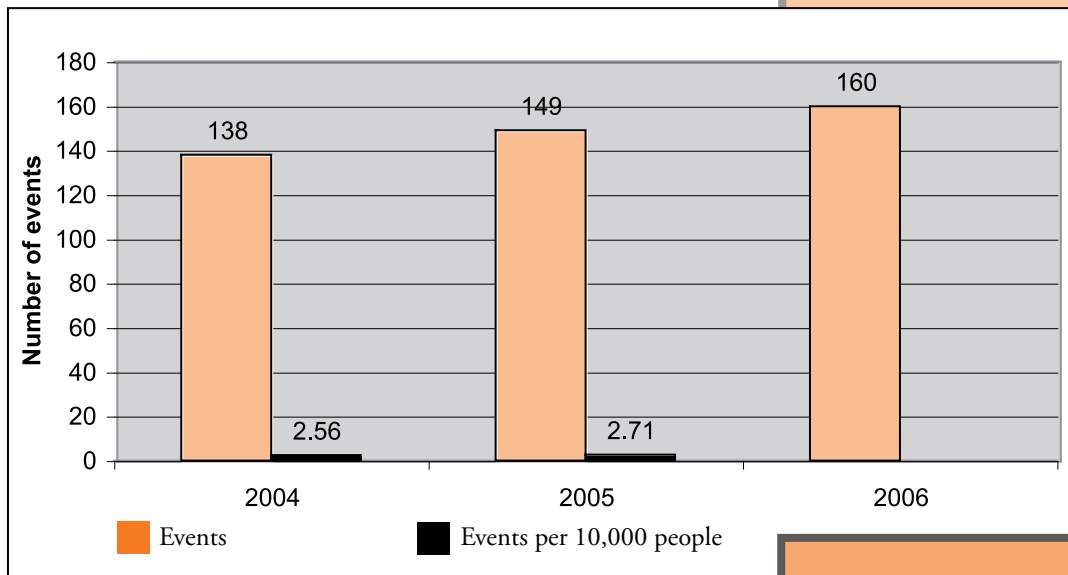
How are we doing?

The number of arts, culture and recreational establishments in El Paso County per 100,000 residents kept pace with population growth from 2003 to 2005. Growth in this sector contributes to overall economic growth and serves as an economic niche for the region.

► *Community-wide Events*

This chart shows the total number of community events and the number of events per 10,000 people that received a major use permit by the City of Colorado Springs. This includes but is not limited to, parades, cultural festivals, races, walks, concerts, and holiday celebrations. Events are classified this way if they involve police officers, road closures, bands, tents, vendors and large groups. Races and walks are included if impact is minimal but participation requires an entry fee. A certificate of insurance is required.

Community events in Colorado Springs



Source: City of Colorado Springs, City Clerks Office - Special Events

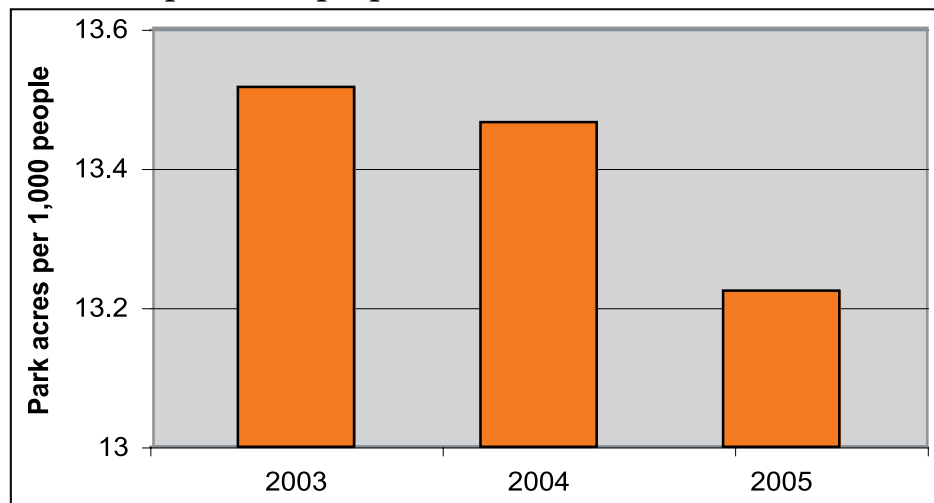
How are we doing?

The number of events scheduled by individuals and local organizations is increasing each year. Likewise, the number of events per 10,000 residents is also increasing. Community events not only provide people with things to do in their spare time, they also promote community togetherness, health, philanthropy and cooperation.

► *Park Acreage*

The presence of *parks, trails* and other opportunities for outdoor activity are a main attraction of living in Colorado. Generally mild weather gives Coloradans the opportunity to utilize outdoor spaces for recreational use throughout the year. Additionally, these areas provide space for athletic activities that benefit the overall health of people.

Park acres per 1,000 people



Source: City of Colorado Springs Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services & El Paso County Parks and Leisure Services

This chart shows park acreage per 1,000 people including community parks, neighborhood parks, sports complexes and open spaces designated as parks in El Paso County.

How are we doing?

Park acres per 1,000 people declined slightly, by about .2 acres per person, since 2003.

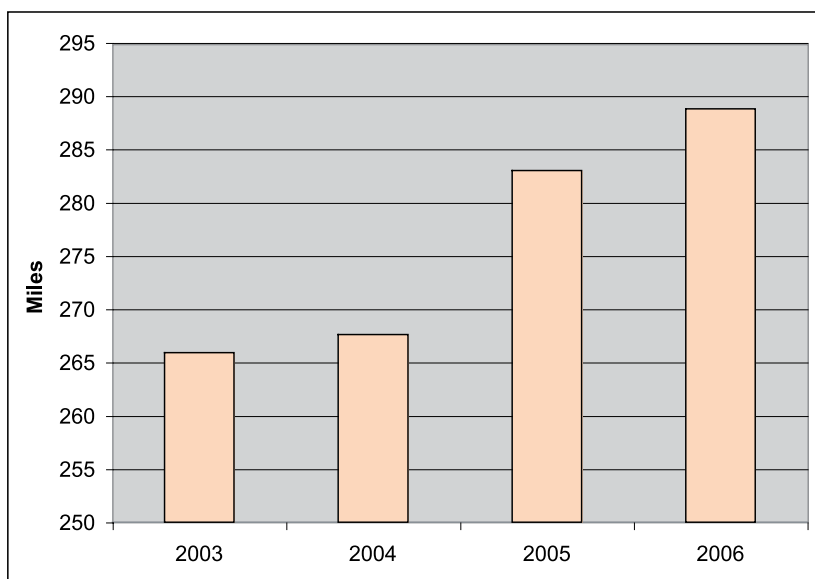
► *Miles of Recreational Trails*

This chart shows total trail miles in El Paso County to include those trails that are constructed throughout the city and county for commuters and recreational use as well as trails that are constructed inside various parks and open spaces.

How are we doing?

Trail mileage has increased since 2003 and is keeping pace with population growth.

Total trail miles in El Paso County



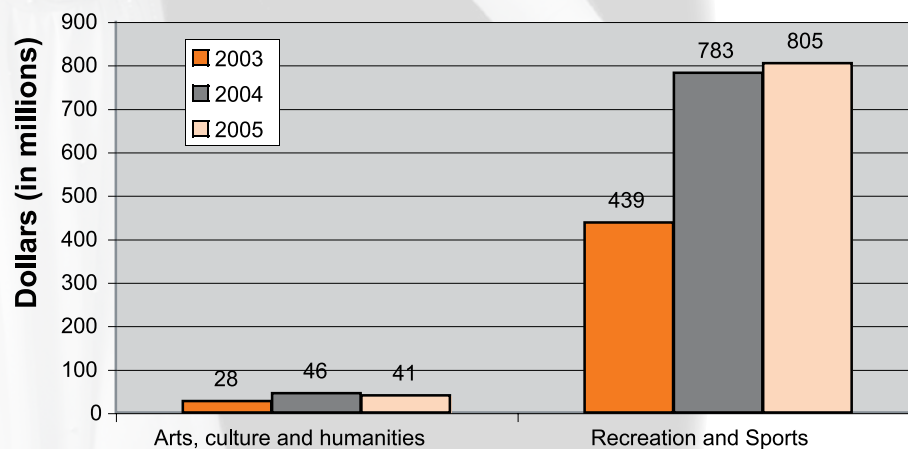
Source: City of Colorado Springs Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services & El Paso County Parks and Leisure Services

SUPPORT

The nonprofit sector contains many of the organizations that provide arts, culture and recreational services in our community. *Nonprofit revenue* (or income) levels are one measure of the strength of those organizations and the support for them in the community even though revenue sources are not limited to local funders. In general, more revenue indicates the ability to provide more activities and services to clients. Revenue can also reflect the impact of a sector on the economy as a whole. In turn, *spending by nonprofit arts organizations* and their audiences also indicates their activity and their place in the broader community. These types of organizations not only spend money, they also generate economic activity.

► Nonprofit Revenue

Arts, culture and recreation revenue per capita



This chart shows the amount of revenue per capita for nonprofits whose main activities address arts, culture and humanities and nonprofits working in the area of recreation and sports in El Paso County. Revenue is reported only for those nonprofits with an annual operating budget greater than or equal to \$25,000.

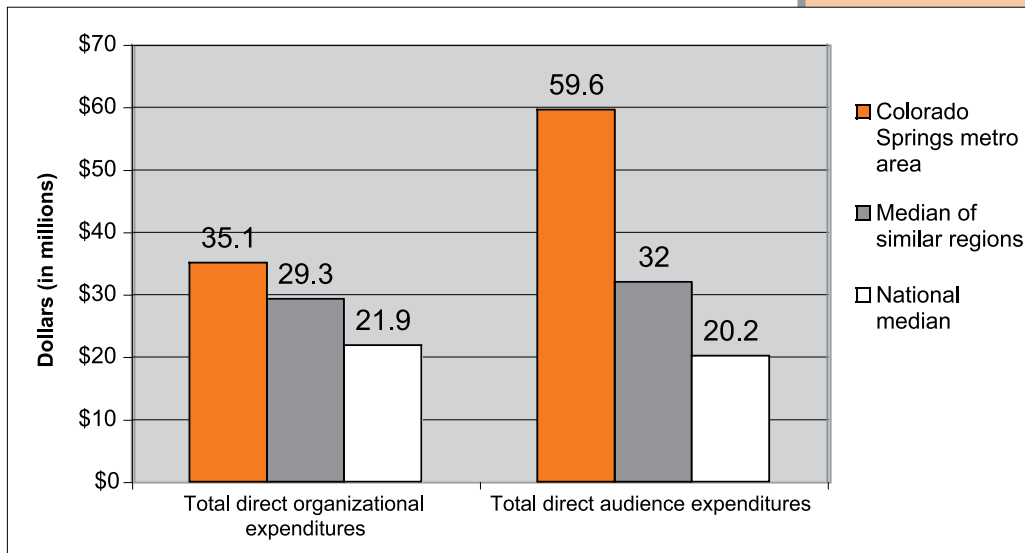
Source: National Center for Charitable Statistics. Registered Nonprofits by County
Major Category – Arts, culture and humanities.
Major Category – Recreation and sports

How are we doing?

The number of arts, culture and humanities nonprofits and their revenue per capita peaked in 2004 and has declined slightly since that time. The number of recreation and sports nonprofits and their revenue per capita has increased since 2003. The large amount of revenue for recreation and sports nonprofits reflects the presence of several national and international athletic organizations such as the U.S. Olympic Training Center – an economic development niche in El Paso County. These organizations may or may not directly serve residents of El Paso County.

► Arts Spending

Direct spending by arts and culture nonprofits and their audiences in 2005



Source: Arts and Economic Prosperity III

This chart shows the direct 2005 expenditures of nonprofit arts and culture organizations and their audiences in the Colorado Springs metro area, similar-sized regions and the nation. The Colorado Springs metro area represents 48 organizations located throughout Colorado

Springs, Manitou Springs and the Tri-Lakes area.

Organizational expenditures are all operational expenses including, but not limited to, the costs of staff, materials, and facilities. Audience expenditures include event-related spending such as souvenirs, meals, and parking. It does not include the cost of the ticket.

How are we doing?

Spending by arts and culture nonprofits in the Pikes Peak Region is greater than the same industry in similar regions and throughout the nation. For more information, please access the entire report provided by the Cultural Office of the Pikes Peak Region at www.coppercolo.org/economic.htm.

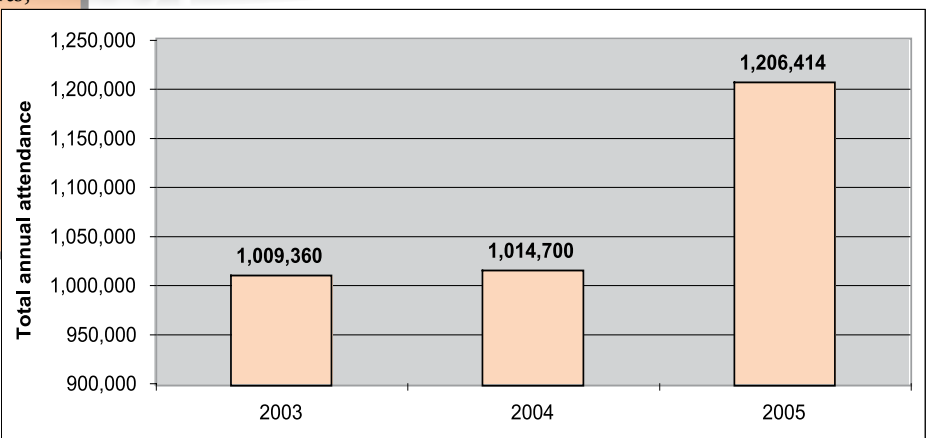
PARTICIPATION

Although arts, culture and recreational establishments and opportunities exist in the community, residents do not necessarily take advantage of these opportunities. Tracking participation demonstrates how these services touch the lives of individuals. Increasing *attendance* and *participation rates* may indicate that organizations are providing and effectively marketing opportunities for everyone. Another way to promote an appreciation of arts and culture in the population is to provide *arts education* in the public schools. In order to do this effectively, all students must have access to art and music teachers and the courses they offer.

► *Attendance at Local Venues*

This chart shows the total annual attendance at the following venues: Cheyenne Mountain Zoo, World Arena, Pikes Peak Center for the Performing Arts, Fine Arts Center, Kennedy Center Imagination Celebration, Hillside Community Center and UCCS Theatreworks.

Attendance at seven arts, culture and recreational venues



SOURCE: Cheyenne Mountain Zoo, World Arena, Pikes Peak Center for the Performing Arts, Fine Arts Center, Kennedy Center Imagination Celebration, Hillside Community Center, and UCCS Theatreworks

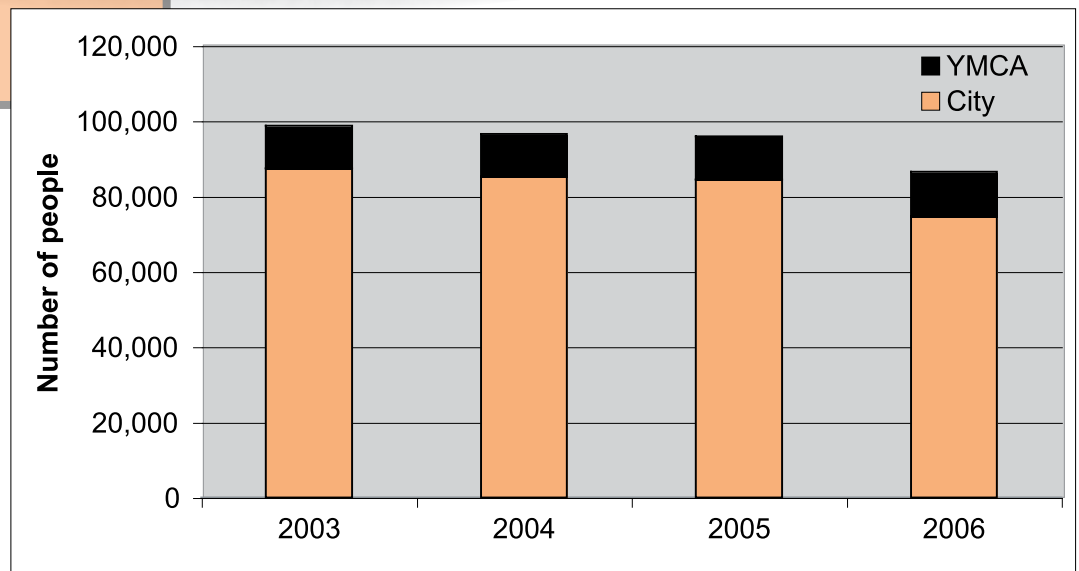
How are we doing?

Although the indicator does not include all venues within El Paso County, attendance at these venues has been growing. From 2004 to 2005 the increase of 191,714 attendees is primarily due to including attendance at the Pikes Peak Center for the Performing Arts for the first time. However, even without these figures, attendance still would have grown by more than 46,000 from 2004 to 2005.

► *Participation in Recreational Activities*

This chart shows the total annual adult and youth participation in recreational activities provided by the YMCA of the Pikes Peak Region and the City of Colorado Springs.

Adult and youth participation in recreational activities



Source: YMCA of the Pikes Peak Region & City of Colorado Springs Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services

These indicators only begin to tell a story about the strength of arts, culture and recreation in our community and how it impacts our quality of life. Vision council members recognize the importance of cultivating vibrant, diverse, affordable opportunities that appeal to every sector of society. Our goal is to gather more data through community surveys and primary research. If your organization is promoting arts, culture and recreation in El Paso County and needs more information or wishes to provide data to support this project please contact us.

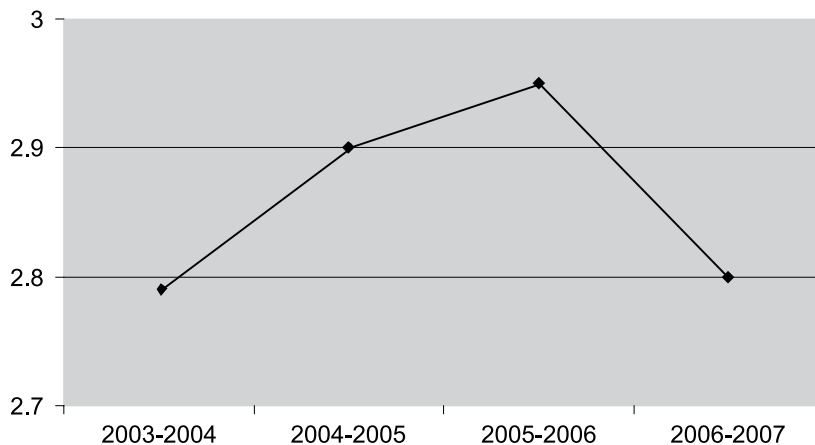
How are we doing?

Since 2003, participation in recreational activities sponsored by the city has been declining and participation at the YMCA has remained stable.

► Arts Education

This chart shows the number of music and art teachers per 1,000 students throughout the six largest school districts in El Paso County which enroll 80 percent of public school students.

Music and art teachers per 1,000 students in public schools



Source: Colorado Department of Education

Music and art teachers per 1,000 students in public schools by district

	2003-2004	2004-2005	2005-2006	2006-2007
Harrison 2	2.47	2.71	2.67	3.05
Widefield 3	3.54	3.53	3.51	3.69
Fountain-Ft. Carson 8	1.36	2.01	2.59	2.6
Colorado Springs 11	3.06	3.09	2.94	3
Academy 20	2.99	3.28	3.58	2.69
Falcon 49	1.96	1.79	1.87	1.8
Largest Six Districts	2.79	2.9	2.95	2.8

Source: Colorado Department of Education

How are we doing?

Each district varies in the number of music and art teachers it employs. During the 2006-2007 academic year there were, on average, 2.8 teachers per 1,000 students. What does this mean for student access? In Widefield, the district with the most teachers per 1,000 students, there were nearly 2 teachers per school (1.94) during the 2006-2007 school year. During the same period in Falcon, the district with the least teachers per 1,000 students there were approximately 1.6 teachers per school, and in Colorado Springs District 11, the largest district, there were 1.1 teachers per school.

Moving around efficiently

Transportation is the way to get people, goods and services to where they are needed. A global economy and more personal choice has created greater distances between products and the user as well as between our homes, workplaces, recreations areas, and cultural centers. As we spread out, we must allocate more time and money to getting around. Our ability to move around impacts the economy, health, access to quality education, safety, and the environment.

DAILY TRAVEL

- ▶ *Public Transportation*
- ▶ *Modes of Travel*
- ▶ *Access by Air*

GETTING AROUND SAFELY

- ▶ *Quality of Roads*
- ▶ *Traffic Accidents*
- ▶ *Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety*

TRAFFIC

- ▶ *Travel Time*
- ▶ *Vehicle Miles Traveled*

Moving Around Efficiently Council Chairs

Dan Stuart

Alpern, Myers & Stuart, Attorney

Wayne Williams

El Paso County Commissioner

Moving Around Efficiently Council Members

Vic Andrews

USAA, Vice President and General Manager

Al Brody

Pikes Peak Area Bikeways Coalition

Gary Bradley

Colorado Springs Citizen's Transportation Advisory Board

Craig Casper

PPACG, Transportation Planning Director

Dan Cleveland

Trails and Open Space Coalition, Director

Michael Decker

Silver Key, President and CEO

Mark Earle

Colorado Springs Airport, Aviation Director

Bob Hartwig

Colorado Springs Citizen's Transportation Advisory Board

Jerry Heimlicher

Colorado Springs City Council Member

Sara Jack

Housing and Building Association,
Vice President of Legislative Affairs

Chris Juniper

Fort Carson, Sustainability Planner

Sherre Ritenour

Mountain Metropolitan Transit, Manager of Transit Services

Terry Storm

Pikes Peak Association of Realtors, CEO

DAILY TRAVEL

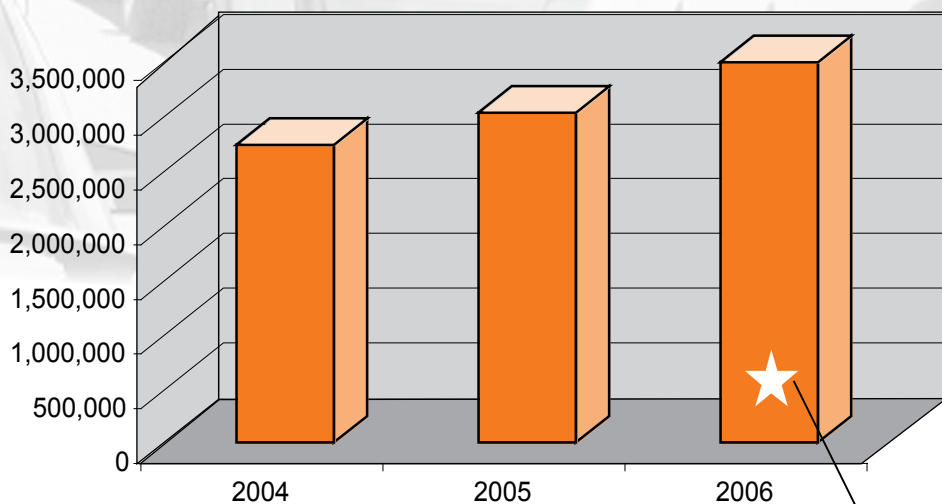
Modes of travel give us a snapshot of how our community moves around.

Public transportation provides an alternative to driving alone and, for some people who can not drive due to age, disability or financial barriers, it is the only option. Increasing use of frequent, reliable public transportation can save money, relieve congestion and improve air quality by taking cars off the road while generating revenue to improve the service for all users. *Access by air* travel is also critically important to the economic health and business climate of the region. Passengers realize time savings and avoid additional travel costs with access to direct flights.

► *Public Transportation*

This chart shows the number of rides provided by Mountain Metropolitan Transit's fixed route service including Front Range Express (FREX) to Denver and special needs service, a portion of which is mandated to serve door to door within a mile of the fixed route system.

Rides provided by public transportation



Source: Mountain Metropolitan Transit

**Consistent collection of special needs rides data began in 2006, prompted by Federal Legislation and driven by prioritization of federal pilot project research based on increased awareness of needs of specialized populations including the aging American population.*

Special Needs Rides
Provided by Amblicab,
Silver Key, Fountain
Senior Services and
Metro Mobility: 217,565

How are we doing?

In 2005, local voters passed the Rural Transportation Authority (RTA) tax that included dedicated funding for bus service in the region. The above increase in rides reflects both the addition of more service and an increase in people using transit in the region. However, in 2000, transit represented only 1 percent of the rides to work while nationally 4.7 percent used transit. A three-year, federal grant was used to begin commuter service to Denver in 2002. State and local RTA funds now support this program. Transit systems become more efficient as population density increases with urban development.

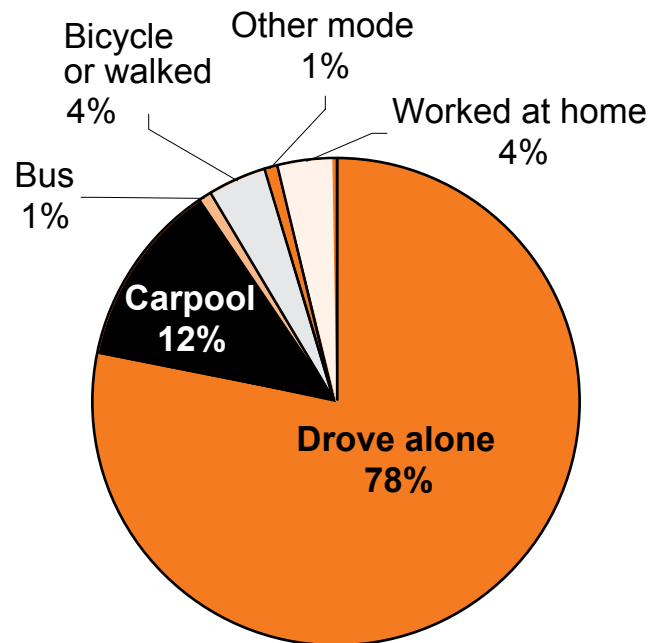
► *Modes of Travel*

This chart shows how El Paso County residents, 16 and older, traveled to work in 2000.

How are we doing?

In 2000, 78 percent of El Paso County residents drove alone to work as compared to 76 percent of the U.S. That is an increase from the U.S. averages of 64 percent in 1980 and 73 percent in 1990.

How El Paso County residents traveled to work in 2000

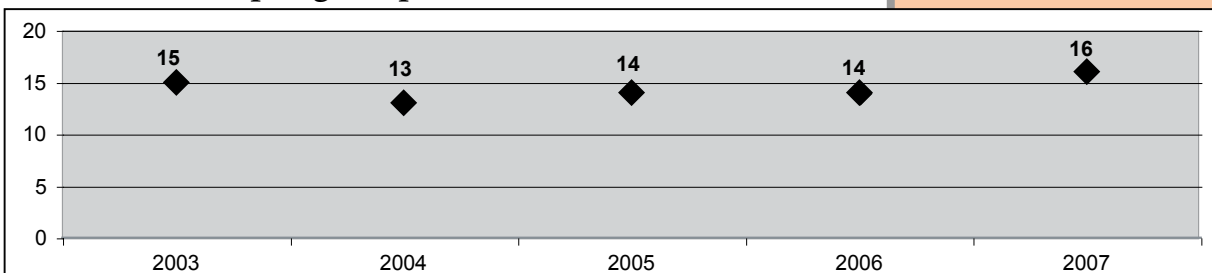


Source: U.S. Census Transportation Planning Package, 2000 data

► *Access by Air*

Number of cities reached by direct flights from Colorado Springs Airport

This chart shows the number of cities reachable by a direct flight from Colorado Springs Airport.



Source: Aviation Director, Colorado Springs Airport

How are we doing?

Travelers can now access 16 cities with direct flights from the Colorado Springs Airport including: Atlanta, Chicago, Cincinnati, Dallas, Denver, Houston, Kansas City, Las Vegas, Los Angeles, Minneapolis/St. Paul, Ontario, Phoenix, Salt Lake City, Sacramento, San Francisco, and San Diego. In addition to the economic impacts of passenger travel, air cargo is the fastest growing method of transporting commercial products, creating economic importance for the region with the growth of national and global markets and supply chains for manufactured goods.

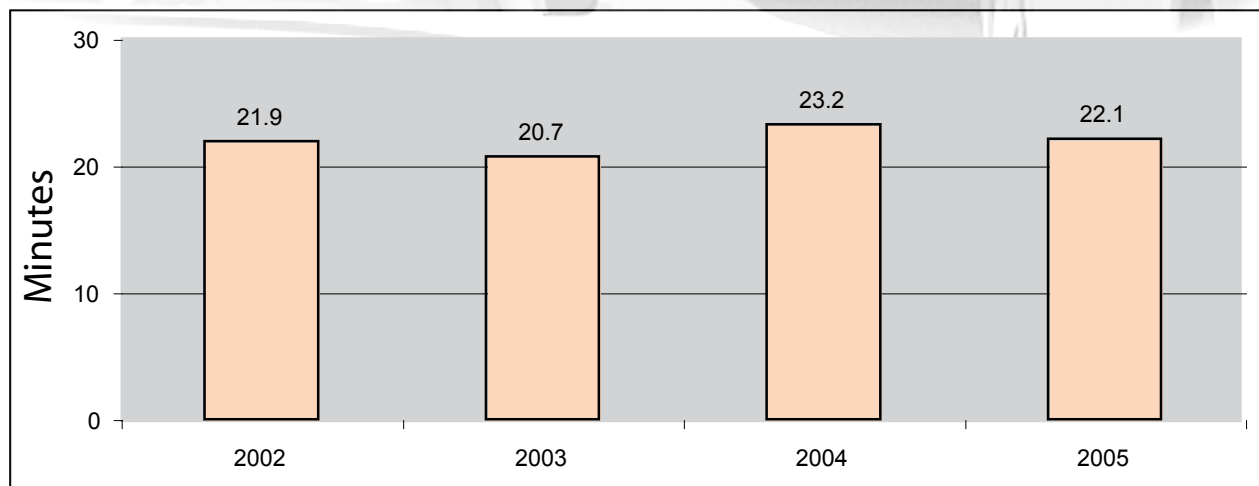
TRAFFIC

Traffic congestion is a major quality of life issue and is caused by more cars, farther commutes and increasing *vehicle miles traveled*. Nationally, while the number of miles traveled, *travel time*, and the number of residential vehicles increased, the total amount of paved and unpaved roadway did not change significantly providing us some indication of the reasons for increased traffic congestion. It seems reasonable that people living in the “wide-open spaces” of the West would drive more than people living in urban areas of the West and in other regions of the country. However, the average number of miles traveled per vehicle in the West was comparable to the average for the rest of the United States.¹

► *Travel Time*

This chart shows the average travel time to work of all workers in El Paso County 16 years and older who did not work at home.

Average commute time to work



Source: American Community Survey

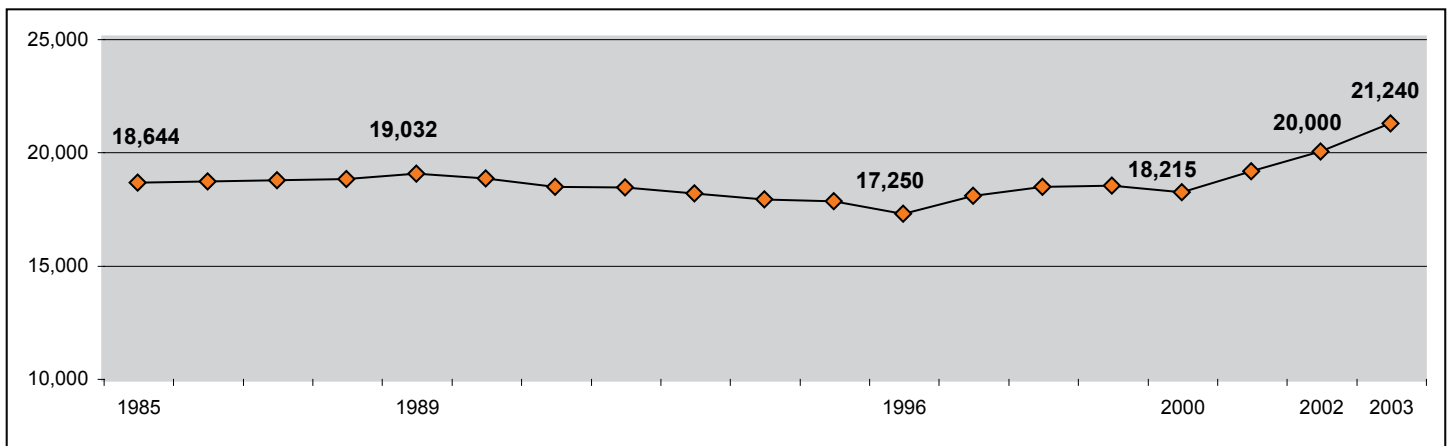
How are we doing?

The average travel time to work has not changed significantly since 2002. In 2005, the average in El Paso County was 22 minutes, up from 18.7 minutes in 1990, but lower than the average commute times in the U.S. (25 minutes in 2005 and 22 minutes in 1990).

► *Vehicle Miles Traveled*

This chart shows the estimated average annual vehicle miles traveled per capita in El Paso County. This number is not actually measured but rather is modeled for our region using a number of factors such as registered vehicles, types of vehicles, population and distance to work and other destinations.

Miles traveled per person per year



Source: Texas Transportation Institute Urban Mobility Report

How are we doing?

From 2000 to 2003 annual vehicle miles per person increased from 18,215 to 21,240 miles. Compared to nation-wide data, El Paso County appears to be about average for distances traveled.

GETTING AROUND SAFELY

Ensuring our transportation infrastructure, including roadways, bike paths and sidewalks are adequate and well maintained ensures the safety of mobility for all residents and serves and encourages the use of all modes of travel, helping reduce congestion and harmful air emissions. It is possible to prevent *traffic accidents* and ensure *bicycle and pedestrian safety* by following the rules of the road, preventing distractions while driving and improving the *quality of roads*. In 2000, 4 percent of the population regularly biked or walked to work in El Paso County.

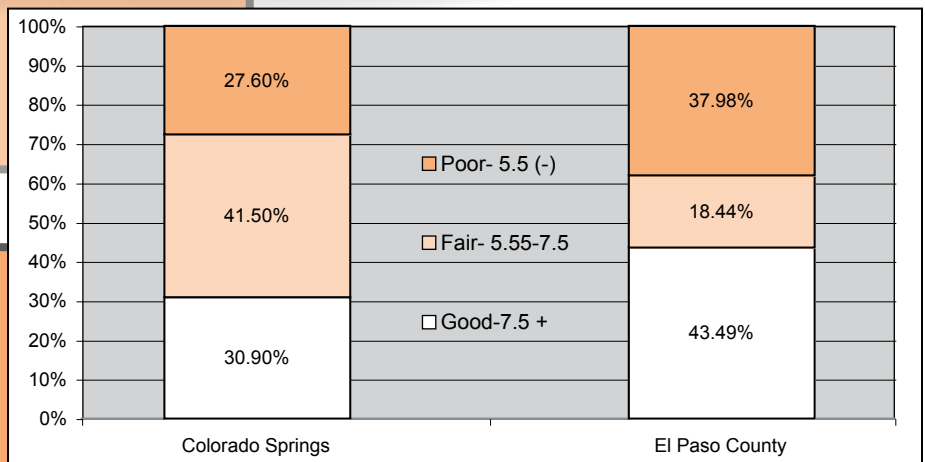
► Quality of Roads

This chart shows the quality of paved roads in El Paso County and the City of Colorado Springs in 2006 as measured by the Pavement Management Application adopted in late 1990's. This measurement is required for access to federal funds. The total number of lane miles maintained by the city in 2006 was 1,638 miles. The County maintained 998 paved miles (represented in the chart) and 1,072 miles of gravel roads (not represented in the chart). Miles of trails can be found in the *Arts, Culture, and Recreation* section of this report.

How are we doing?

Measuring the quality of the roads allows governments to allocate annual revenue to keep the roadways passable and safe. When a maintenance backlog occurs and quality declines from Fair to Poor it becomes more expensive to fix problems. Maintaining our local roadways ensures efficient commerce, reducing costs of products and services. It also protects each of our personal investments in our cars, homes and personal safety.

Road surface ratings in 2006

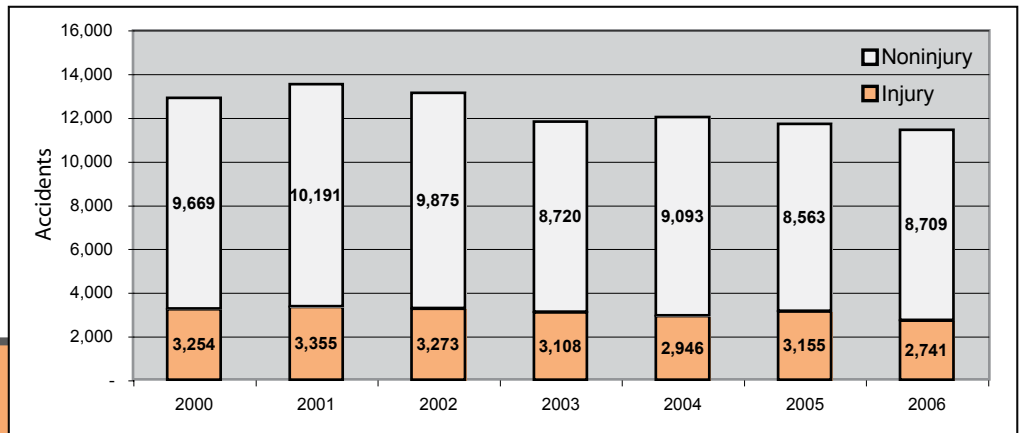


Source: City of Colorado Springs Public Works and El Paso County Transportation Department

► *Traffic Accidents*

This chart shows the total annual number of accidents in Colorado Springs indicating those with and without injuries.

Number of accidents with no injuries and with injuries



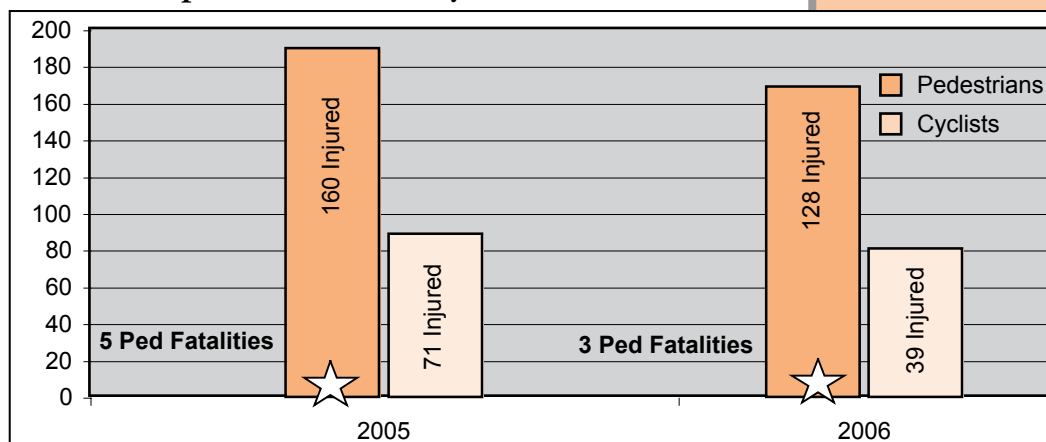
Source: Colorado Springs Police Department

How are we doing?

Since 2000, total traffic accidents have been decreasing. In 2006, there were 8.1 injury producing accidents per 1,000 people which is .9 percent more than comparable cities.² In the past six years, traffic fatalities have ranged from 13 to 31.³

► *Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety*

Number of pedestrian and bicycle crashes



Source: Colorado Springs Police Department

This chart shows the number of crashes involving a vehicle and either a pedestrian or a pedal bicycle, including injuries and fatalities. Accident reports involving

automobiles is only one measure of the safety of walking or biking. Injuries due to unsafe or inadequate infrastructure will occur, but are difficult to track.

How are we doing?

Accidents involving pedestrians and cyclists decreased from 2005 to 2006 as did injuries and fatalities. In 2005, five pedestrian fatalities occurred in Colorado Springs. Across Colorado 48 pedestrians were killed that year.⁴

Keeping the community safe

Every citizen's quality of life depends on being and feeling safe at home and in the community. Communities work together to provide a safe environment through prevention initiatives, police and fire service, criminal justice and court services, as well as nonprofit sponsored intervention.

PUBLIC SAFETY

- ▶ *Crime Rate*
- ▶ *Drug Cases*
- ▶ *DUI Arrests*
- ▶ *Repeat Offenders in Jail*

SAFETY IN THE HOME

- ▶ *Child Abuse*
- ▶ *Domestic Violence*

PROVIDING SERVICES

- ▶ *Calls for Service*
- ▶ *Response Times*
- ▶ *Crime Clearance Rates*
- ▶ *Neighborhood Safety*
- ▶ *Police Presence*

Keeping the Community Safe Council Chair

Dave Felice

Colorado Springs Police Department, Deputy Chief

Keeping the Community Safe Council Members

Charles Crawford

Fountain Police Chief

Mike Dalton

Colorado Springs Fire Department

Teri Goodall

El Paso County Sheriff's Office, Retired Undersheriff

Maile Gray

DRIVESMART, Director

Cari Karns

Pikes Peak Area Crime Stoppers, former Director

Brett Lacey

Colorado Springs Fire Marshall

Terry Maketa

El Paso County Sheriff

Manuel Navarro

Colorado Springs Fire Department, Chief

John Newsome

District Attorney, 4th Judicial District

Shirley Rhodus

El Paso County Department of Human Services,
Child Welfare Manager

MaryJo Smith

Manitou Springs Police Chief

Trudy Strewler

Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA), Executive Director

Michelle Valdez

T.E.S.S.A., Director

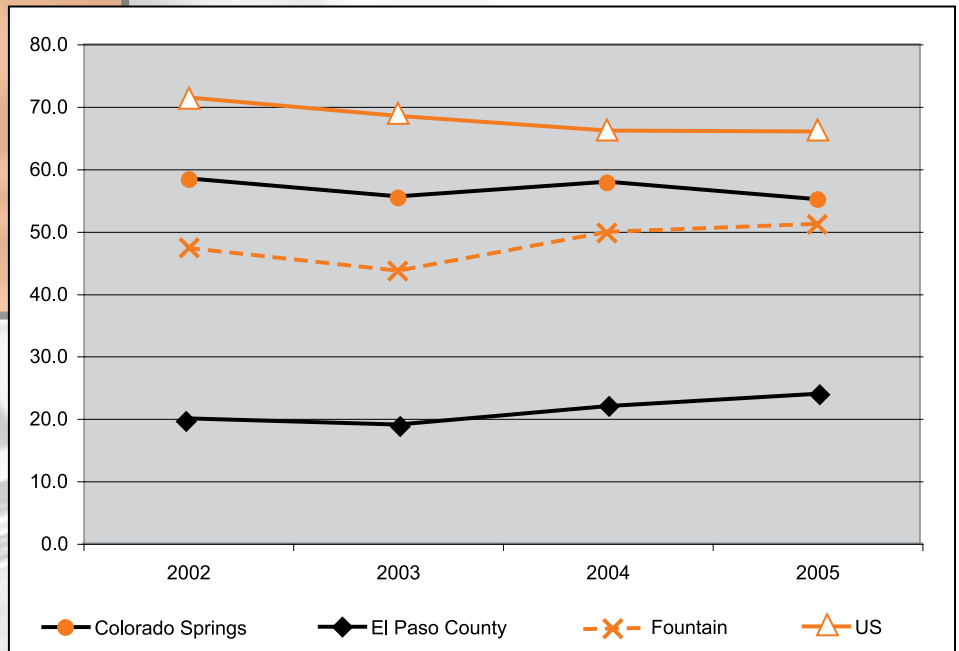
PUBLIC SAFETY

The *crime rate* is impacted not only by availability of jobs, wages and education levels but by public safety strategies employed to prevent crime and the tax dollars available to fund those strategies. It is well documented that substance abuse plays a role in crime. *Drug crimes, DUI and repeat offenders* all impact public costs of victimization and enforcement. El Paso County Sheriff's Office Detention Bureau Chief Presley says "an average of 80 to 85 percent of those incarcerated in El Paso County have some type of chemical dependency." Crime prevention, substance abuse and mental health treatment, as well as offering inmates life skills and job training are prevention measures that have a price tag but can both reduce the number of victims as well as the cost of incarceration.

► *Crime Rate*

This chart shows the rate of occurrence of serious or index crimes occurring per 1,000 persons in Colorado Springs, Fountain, unincorporated El Paso County and the U.S. The U.S. rate is for cities of similar size to Colorado Springs, 200,000 to 530,000 residents. Index crimes include: murder, sexual assault, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny and auto theft.

Serious crimes per 1,000 people



Source: Colorado Springs Police Department, Fountain Police Department, El Paso County Sheriff's Office, and FBI Crimes in the U.S., 2005

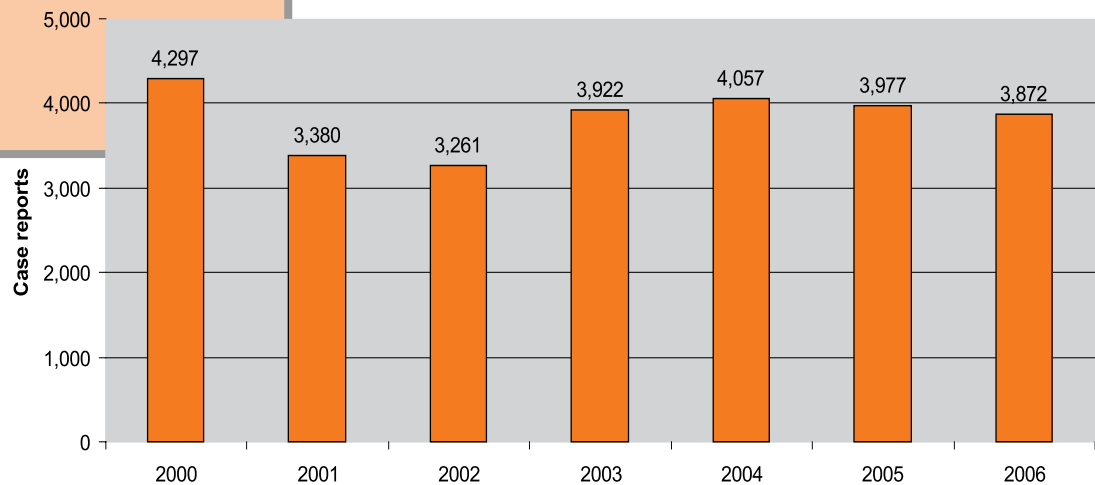
How are we doing?

In 2005, the index crime rate in Colorado Springs of 55.1 was below the national average of 66 for cities of similar size.

► *Drug Cases*

This chart shows the total number of drug offense case reports taken by Colorado Springs Police Department and El Paso County Sheriff's Office from 2000 to 2006. A drug offense is any crime involving a controlled substance such as possession of methamphetamine or marijuana.

Case reports for drug offenses



Source: Colorado Springs Police Department and El Paso County Sheriff's Office as reported to the National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS)

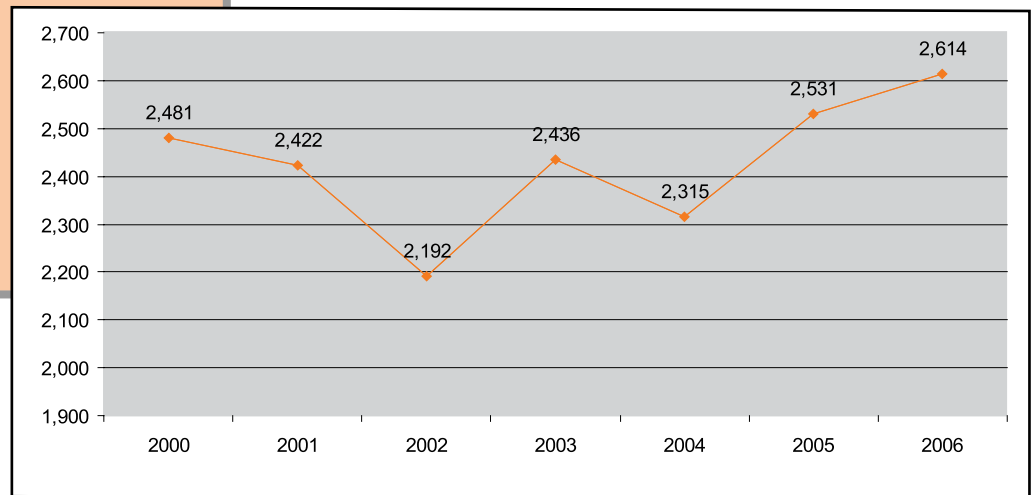
How are we doing?

This indicator held steady from 2003 to 2005, and decreased slightly in 2006. The Colorado Department of Corrections identified 77 percent of the prison population on June 30, 2003 were substance abusers. Substance abusers had more serious criminal histories than non-abusers and 22 percent of the returned substance abusers had committed a new crime while on parole. ¹

► *DUI Arrests*

This chart shows the total arrests per year for Driving Under the Influence (DUI) of alcohol by the Colorado Springs Police Department, Fountain Police Department and El Paso County Sheriff's Office. For a DUI arrest, drivers must have a blood alcohol level of .08% or greater indicating their driving has been impaired due to consumption.

Arrests for DUI



Source: Colorado Springs Police Department, Fountain Police Department, and El Paso County Sheriff's Office

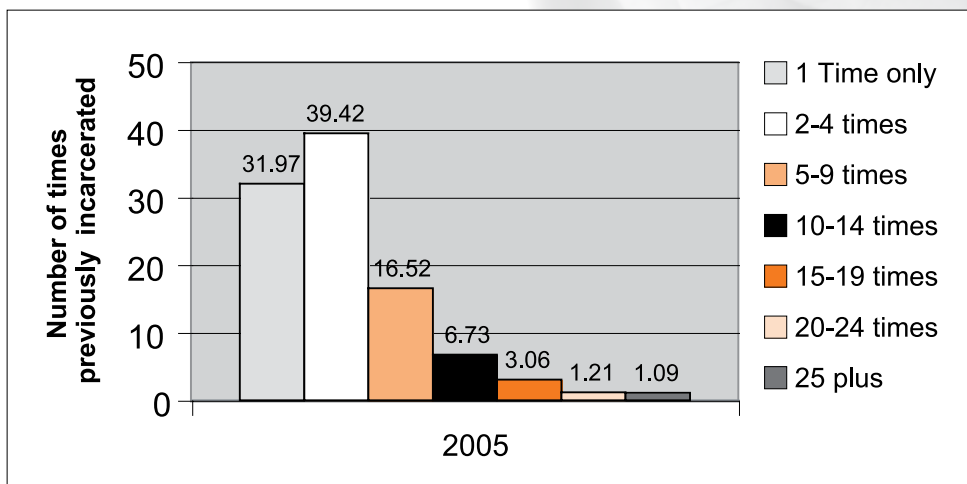
How are we doing?

Since 2002, DUI arrests in Colorado Springs, Fountain and El Paso County have increased. Drunk driving has grave impacts for the community. El Paso County rates third in the state for alcohol related traffic fatalities for a total of 25 deaths. However, because of our population size, the rate of 4.42 deaths per 100,000 people ranks El Paso County 39th of all Colorado counties. El Paso County is also below the national county average for alcohol related traffic deaths which is 7.61 per 100,000.² The ability to apprehend DUI offenders increases when focused policing strategies such as check points are used. These strategies often require additional funding.

► *Repeat Offenders in Jail*

This chart shows the number of times each inmate in the El Paso County jail had been previously incarcerated at the jail.

Repeat offenders in jail



Source: El Paso County Sheriff's Office

How are we doing?

In 2005, 26,150 people or .4 percent of the population served time in the El Paso County jail. Of these 68 percent had been previously incarcerated compared to 66 percent in 2004. County Sheriff Maketa reported, "The recidivism rate among Colorado state inmates is 49 percent. Simply put, half of those released will commit a crime within three years of their release and those deemed most likely to re-offend have a recidivism rate of 95 percent."³

PROVIDING SERVICES

It is the responsibility of any community to ensure the equitable and effective provision of public safety services to all citizens. The crime rate and subsequent need for service is impacted by public safety strategies employed to prevent crime. The number of *calls for service* affect service levels and *response times*. In addition to responding to calls and protecting citizens, it is the duty of police to investigate and solve crimes. The *crime clearance rate* is an indicator of the success of this process. Citizen satisfaction is an important indicator of how successful local government is in delivering public safety services and is measured here by perception of *neighborhood safety* and *police presence*.

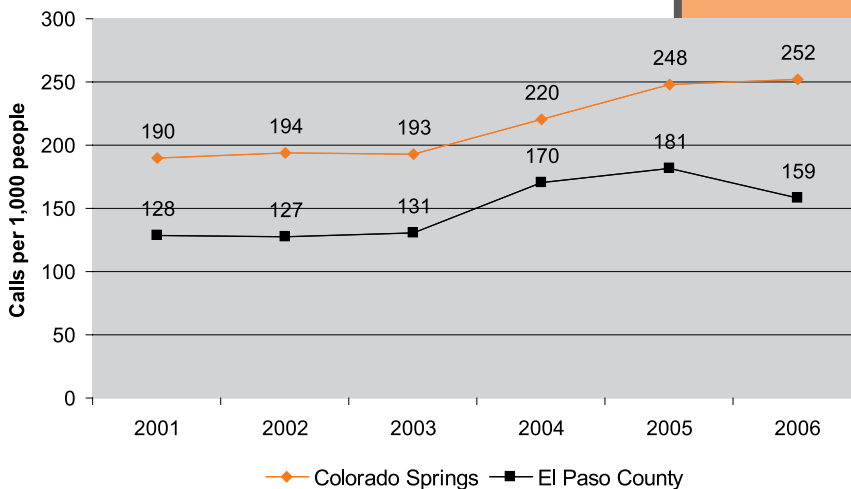
► Calls for Service

This chart shows the number of calls for service received per 1,000 residents by the Colorado Springs Police Department and the El Paso County Sheriff's Office, that patrols unincorporated El Paso County.

How are we doing?

The number of police calls for service per 1,000 people is increasing. Maintaining service levels and response times when calls for service increase requires more police officers. Responding to increasing calls for service also impacts the amount of time law enforcement officers have for other policing activities, such as proactive policing efforts and crime prevention.

Law enforcement calls for service



Source: Colorado Springs Police Department and El Paso County Sheriff's Office

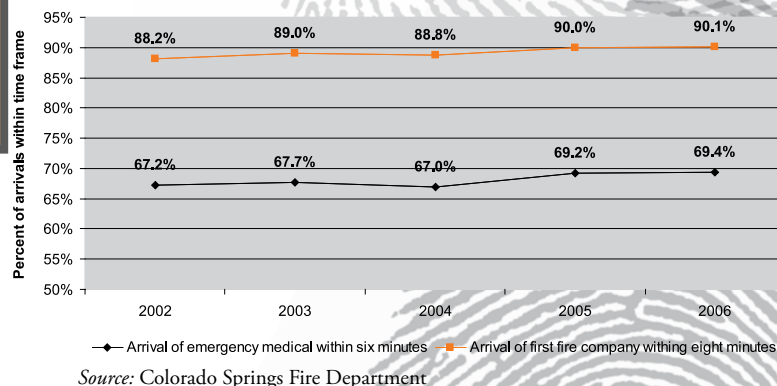
► Response Times

How are we doing?

In 2005, the Colorado Springs Fire Department achieved the objective of having the first unit on scene within eight minutes, 90 percent of the time, which is 4.5 percent better than the median of comparable cities for 2005.⁴ In 2006, 69.4 percent of emergency medical arrivals were within six minutes.

This chart shows the percentage of the time the Colorado Springs Fire Department arrived on the scene for emergency medical and fire calls within a given amount of time set as a goal for response. Response time is defined by the time from when a call is received by 911 until the first unit arrives on scene.

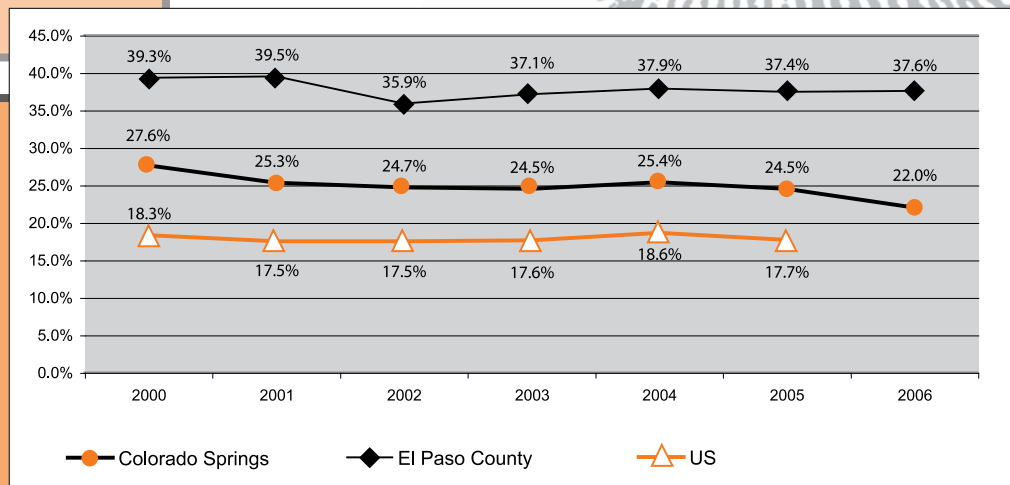
Fire and emergency service response times



► Crime Clearance Rate

This chart shows the clearance rate or those cases solved by Colorado Springs Police Department and El Paso County Sheriff's Office for all Part 1 Indexed Crimes: murder, sexual assault, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny and auto theft.

Cases solved

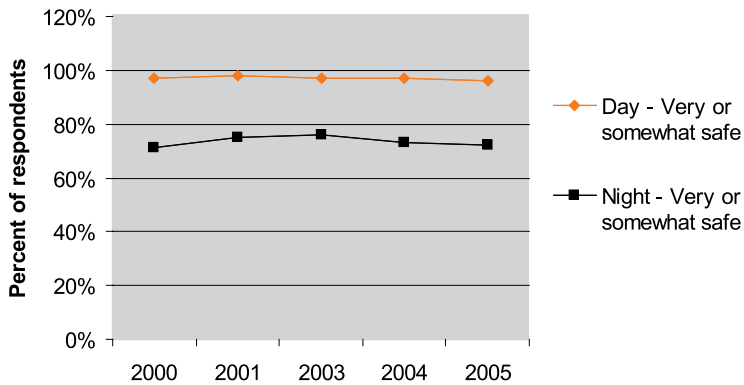


How are we doing?

The clearance rate has remained fairly level in both jurisdictions. In 2006, the El Paso County Sheriff's Office investigated 3,162 Part I Crimes and Colorado Springs investigated 20,284. Property crimes including burglary, larceny and auto theft, represent the vast majority of crimes in both jurisdictions. When separated from all Part 1 Crimes, the clearance rate for violent crimes is higher, about 55 percent for Colorado Springs and 80 percent for El Paso County. The clearance rate is affected by the number of officers available to investigate crime, increased number of crimes and calls for service, and availability of investigative tools such as information sharing.

► *Neighborhood Safety*

Do you feel safe walking in your neighborhood?



Source: Colorado Springs Police Department Police Accountability and Service standards (PASS) City-wide Survey

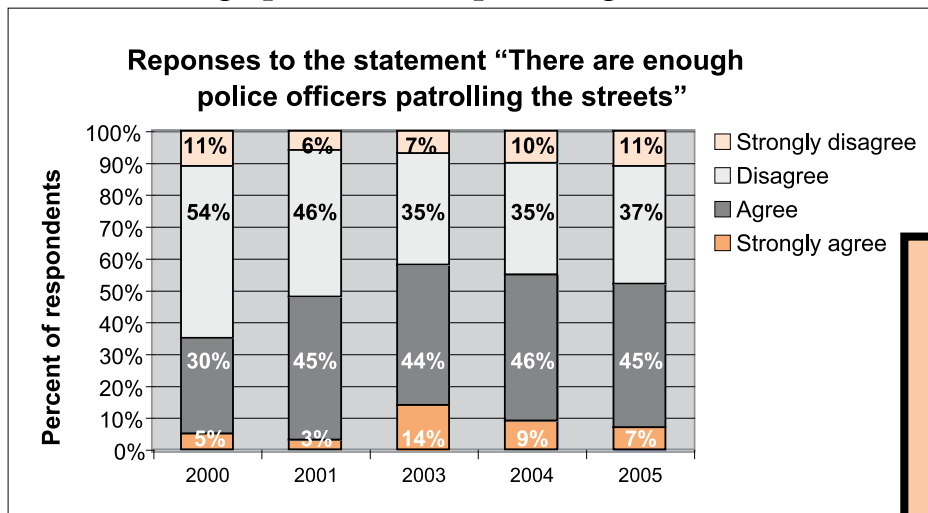
This chart shows the responses of independently polled citizens in Colorado Springs when asked if they feel safe walking alone in their neighborhoods during the day and at night.

How are we doing?

In 2005, more than 90 percent of people felt very safe or somewhat safe walking around their neighborhood during the day. Predictably, the number of people who felt very or somewhat safe walking around the neighborhood at night was lower at 72 percent.

► *Police Presence*

There are enough police officers patrolling the streets



Source: Colorado Springs Police Department Police Accountability and Service standards (PASS) City-wide Survey

This chart shows the responses of independently polled citizens in Colorado Springs when asked if they agree or disagree with the statement: There are enough police officers patrolling the streets.

How are we doing?

Since 2000, the percentage of respondents who agree or strongly agree with the statement has increased from 35 percent to 52 percent. However, the percentage peaked in 2003 at 58 percent and has been decreasing since that time.

SAFETY IN THE HOME

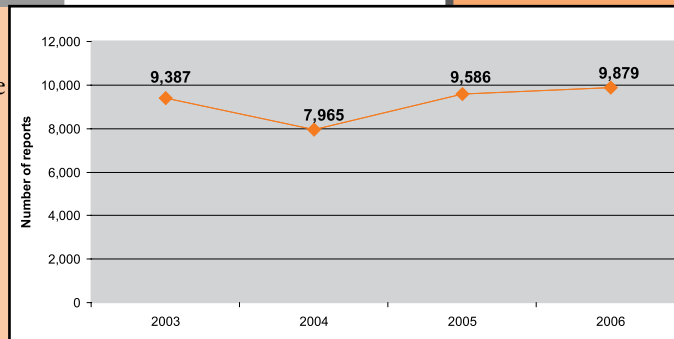
Domestic violence is a pattern of abusive behavior (emotional, verbal, physical, or sexual) that is used to establish power and control over another person through fear, intimidation and use of violence. Domestic violence can escalate into homicide. Because parental substance abuse is the primary presenting problem in child abuse cases, *child abuse* numbers can indicate a need for resources for early intervention strategies targeting substance abuse, mental health concerns, family violence, and poverty (please see *Promoting Social Wellbeing* for more information on these issues).

► Child Abuse

Child abuse reports

How are we doing?

This chart shows all allegations made by anyone in El Paso County that a child is being abused or neglected, is beyond the control of a parent, or a danger to the community.



Except for a temporary dip in 2004, referrals regarding abused and neglected children or children in trouble are increasing. The Department of Human

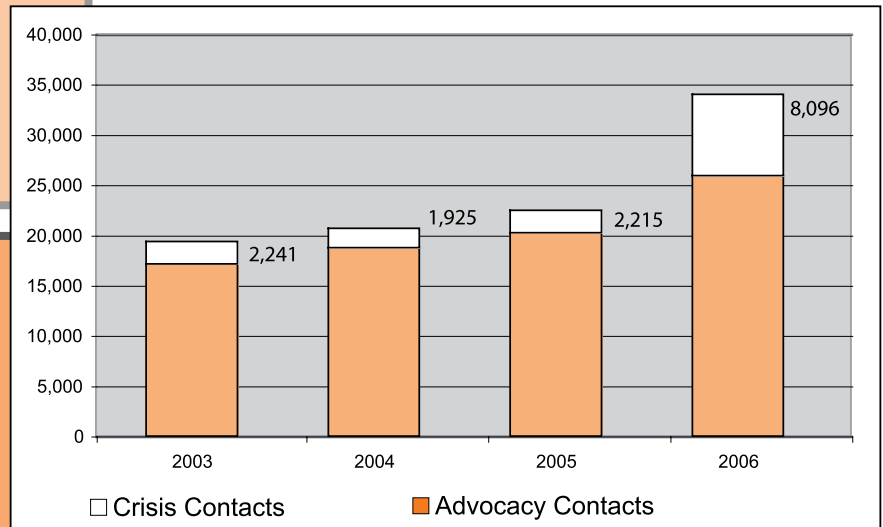
Services staff works closely with doctors, hospitals, law enforcement officials, schools, and others to identify maltreatment and intervene.

Source: El Paso County Department of Human Services

► Domestic Violence

This chart shows the number of advocacy and crisis contacts received annually at T.E.S.S.A., the primary nonprofit agency dedicated specifically and solely to the issues of domestic violence and sexual assault in El Paso and Teller Counties.

Advocacy and crisis contacts at T.E.S.S.A.



How are we doing?

Total advocacy and crisis contacts to T.E.S.S.A. increased each year since 2003. Notably, the number of crisis contacts increased from 2,215 in 2005 to 8,096 in 2006. Research estimates that family violence occurs in one out of every six households (Gelles & Straus, 1988), suggesting that over 32,000 El Paso County households could be struggling with this issue. ⁵ During 2004, nine people died from domestic violence in El Paso and Teller Counties: three females (homicides) and six males (suicides).

Source:
T.E.S.S.A.,
Colorado
Springs



Fostering community engagement

In order to be inclusive, democratic and effective, communities require the involvement and engagement of all residents. When people are well-informed, vote, donate time and money to local organizations, work together with their neighbors, act as leaders, and meet together in public spaces, the entire community benefits. With engagement comes knowledge about one another's successes, challenges and lifestyles. When people care about one another and community issues, and act upon that concern, it increases the quality of life for everyone.

LOCAL KNOWLEDGE AND ACCESS

- ▶ *Awareness of Local Issues*
- ▶ *Library Usage*

POLITICAL ENGAGEMENT

- ▶ *Voter Participation*

PHILANTHROPY

- ▶ *Community Donations*
- ▶ *Volunteerism*
- ▶ *Community-wide Volunteering*

RELIGIOUS ENGAGEMENT

- ▶ *Religious Membership*

LOCAL LEADERSHIP

- ▶ *Leadership Programs*

Fostering Community Engagement Council Chairs

Cathy Robbins

El Pomar Foundation, Vice President

Jon Stepleton

Pikes Peak Community College Foundation, Executive Director

Fostering Community Engagement Council Members

Bev Agnew

Interfaith Hospitality Network, Executive Director

Cindy Aubrey

KOAA-TV 5/30, News Director

Donna Gardner

DOVIA, President

Devin Knuckles

Focus on the Family, Assistant to the President

Carolyn McDole

Ecumenical Social Ministries, Executive Director

Amanda Mountain

Gazette Charities, Manager

Wanda Reeves

Colorado Mountain Reclamation Foundation, Project Manager

Susan Saks

Leadership Pikes Peak, Executive Director

Terry Schwartz

University of Colorado-Colorado Springs,
Associate Dean - School of Public Affairs

Pam Shipp

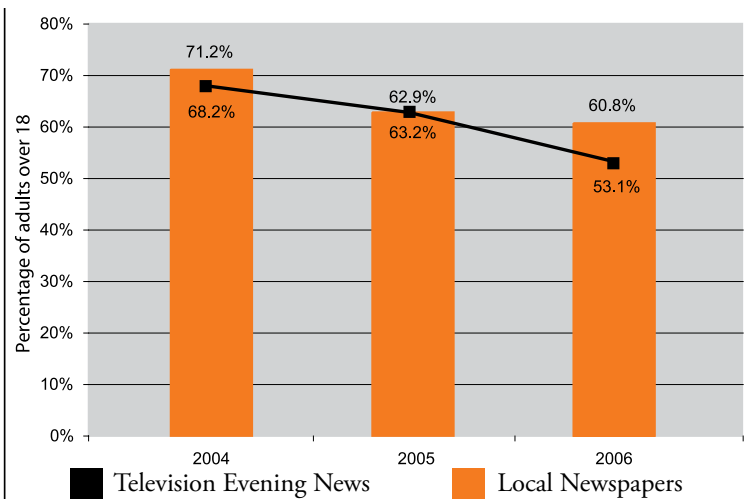
Center for Creative Leadership, Senior Program Associate

LOCAL KNOWLEDGE AND ACCESS

The first step toward engagement is knowledge of what is going on in the community. Watching local television news or reading the local newspaper gives people *awareness of local issues*, including city and county politics, the local business community and opportunities to socialize with one another. A flourishing *library* system provides residents with information, entertainment, internet access and a place to meet.

► Awareness of Local Issues

Accessing local television and print media



Source: Media Audit

This chart shows the percentage of the local population 18 years and older that watched the local television evening news (to include channels: KOAA 5/30, KKTU 11, KRDO 13 and Fox) at least once in the past week or read one of the last five issues of the Gazette, Independent or Colorado Springs Business Journal.

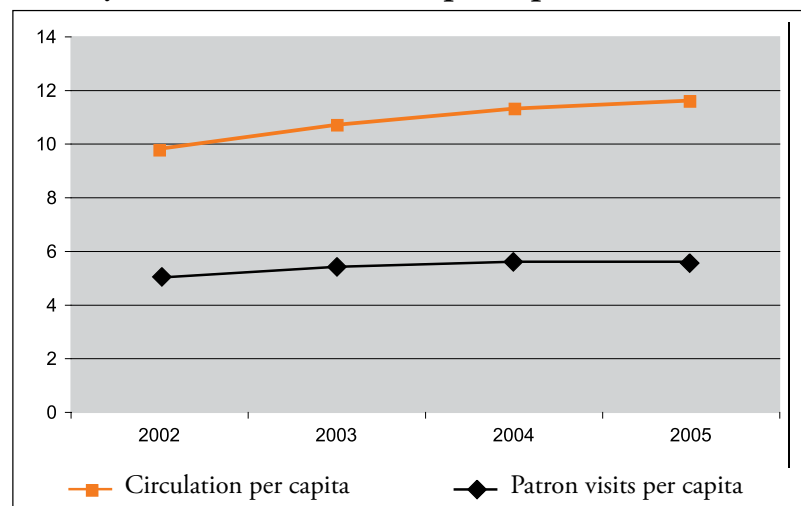
How are we doing?

The percentage of adults accessing traditional local news sources has been declining since 2004 for both television and print sources.

This chart shows the total annual patron visits and books circulated per capita since 2002.

► Library Usage

Library visits and circulation per capita



Source: Pikes Peak Library District

How are we doing?

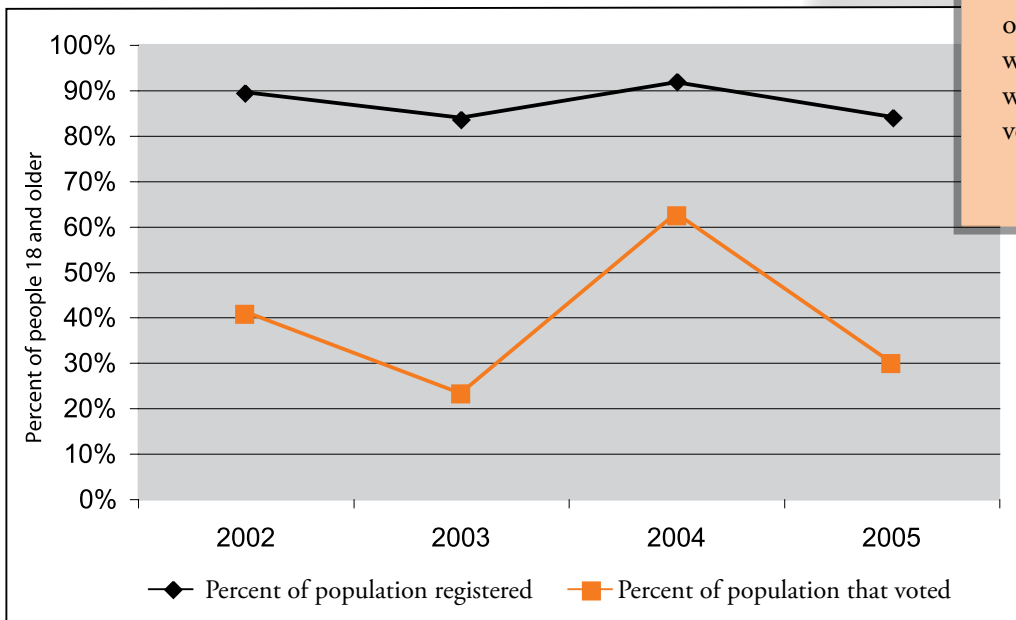
Since 2002, library usage measured by patron visits and circulation is increasing even as the population grows. Patron visits increased from 5 per person to 5.6, and circulation increased from 9.8 books per person to 11.6.

POLITICAL ENGAGEMENT

A universally recognized sign of a community's engagement is its willingness to elect its own leaders and to shape laws at the ballot.¹ *Voter participation* measures civic interest and the public's optimism regarding their impact on decision-making. A high level of citizen involvement improves the accountability of government and increases personal investment in community issues.²

► ***Voter Participation***

Voter registration and voting



This chart shows the percentage of the population 18 and older who are registered to vote, as well as the percent that actually voted.

Source: El Paso County Clerk and Recorder

How are we doing?

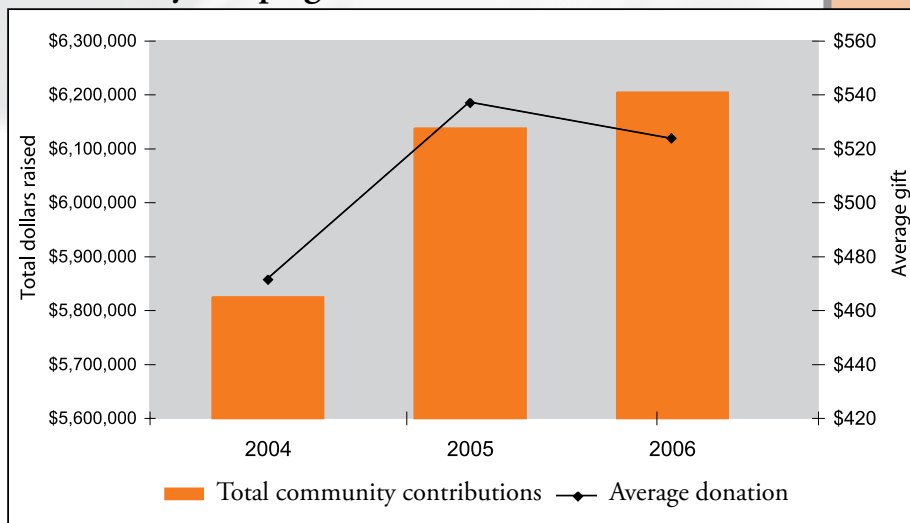
While most eligible voters are registered, less than half typically vote. Since 2002, voting participation has ranged between 23 percent and 63 percent of eligible voters. It is typical to see a spike in voter participation in presidential election years such as 2004. Nationally, voter participation in presidential elections has been declining since it peaked at 62.8 percent in 1960. In 2004, an estimated 55.3 percent of the U.S. population voted in the general election compared to 63 percent in El Paso County.

PHILANTHROPY

A strong, well-supported nonprofit community service sector is critical for maintaining a healthy and stable region. *Community donations* and *volunteerism* are helpful indicators for assessing the viability of the nonprofit sector and the extent to which residents are engaged and invested in the wellbeing of their community.³

► *Community Donations*

Community campaign contributions



Source: Pikes Peak United Way & Gazette Charities

This chart shows the total dollars raised by Pikes Peak United Way's annual campaign and the Empty Stocking Fund. It also tracks the average amount given by donors. While this does not track all charitable giving in El Paso County, both campaigns are widely marketed to the entire community and each campaign supports numerous local nonprofit organizations.

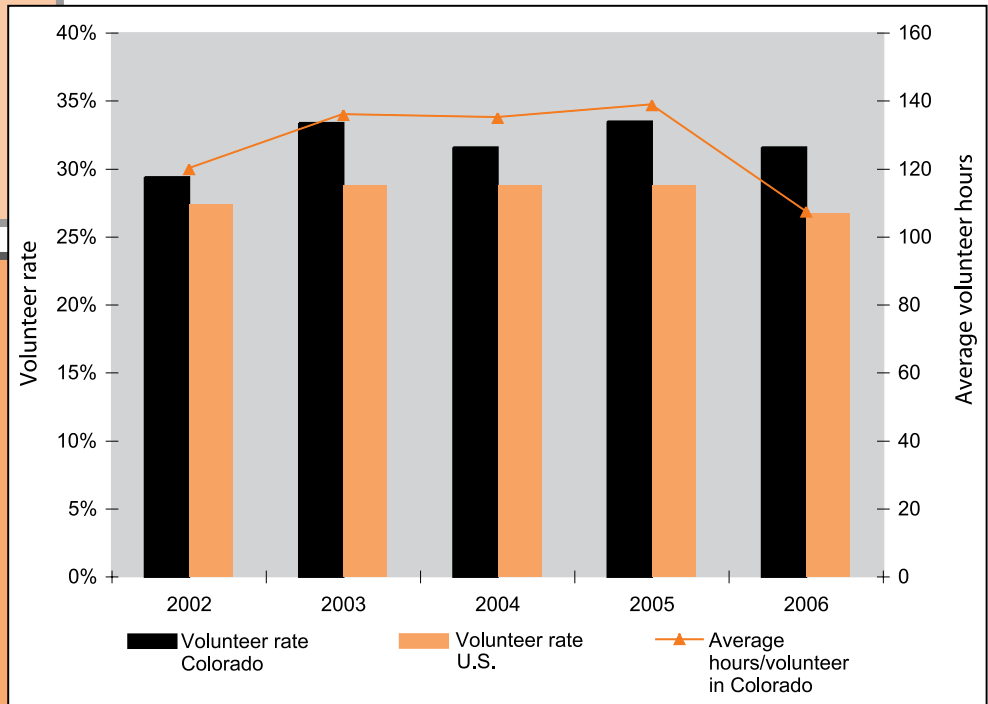
How are we doing?

Contributions to these two campaigns have increased each year. However, the average gift peaked in 2005 at \$537 and then dropped to \$523 in 2006. The 2002 Study on Giving and Volunteering in the Pikes Peak Region reports that 88 percent of El Paso County households make charitable contributions and that the average was \$1,340

► Volunteerism

This chart shows the percentage of Colorado and U.S. residents who volunteered through or for an organization at least once in the past year, as well as the average annual hours donated by each Colorado volunteer.

Volunteerism in Colorado and the U.S. and average hours volunteered



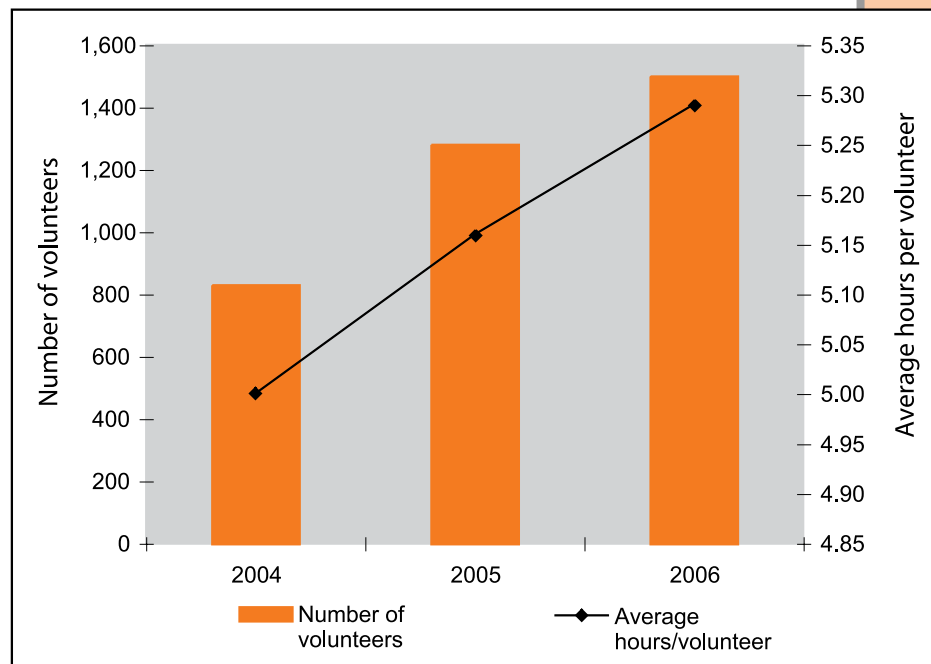
Source: Corporation for National and Community Service

How are we doing?

Coloradans volunteer more than the U.S. average. Since 2002, the percentage of Coloradans who volunteer has hovered between 29 percent and 32 percent. In 2006, average hours volunteered was at its lowest since 2002 at nearly 108 hours per year.

► Community-wide Volunteering

Volunteers and average hours donated at annual Make a Difference Day



Source: Pikes Peak United Way

This chart shows the number of volunteers and the average hours donated per volunteer at the annual Make a Difference Day, a community-wide volunteer event open to all people who want to participate. Individuals and groups can volunteer for a range of community projects with more than 30 local agencies.

How are we doing?

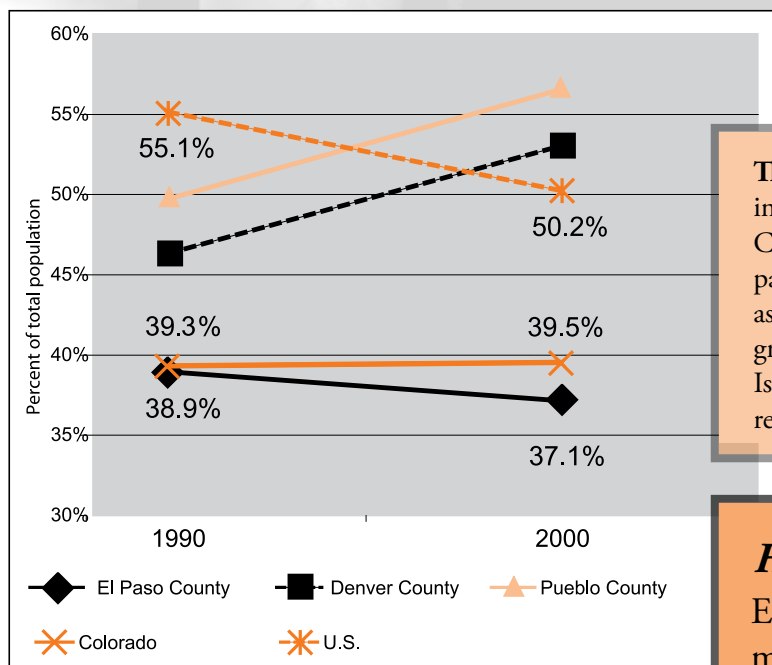
This measures one volunteer opportunity in the community. The number of volunteers and the average hours per volunteer have both increased since 2004. Make a Difference Day is promoted by the Points of Light Foundation and USA Today's Weekend Edition.

RELIGIOUS ENGAGEMENT

Churches, synagogues, mosques, and other houses of worship provide a vibrant institutional base for civic good works and community engagement. Roughly speaking, nearly half of America's social capital [or community engagement] is religious or religiously affiliated, whether measured by association memberships, philanthropy, or volunteering. Houses of worship run a variety of programs for members, from self-help groups to job training courses to singles' clubs. Houses of worship [across the U.S.] also spend \$15 billion to \$20 billion each year on social services, such as food and housing for the poor and elderly. Regular religious services attendees meet many more people weekly than non-worshippers, making religious institutions a prime forum for informal networking.⁴ For these reasons, tracking *religious membership* in the community provides insight into another avenue of community engagement.

► Religious Membership

Members of religious congregations



Source: Religious Congregations and Membership in the United States, 2000. Collected by the Association of Statisticians of American Religious Bodies (ASARB).

This chart shows membership (adults and children) in religious congregations in a national sample of 149 Christian and other religious bodies. Specifically, participants included 139 Christian denominations, associations or communions; two specially defined groups of independent Christian churches, Jewish and Islamic estimates and counts of temples for six Eastern religions.

How are we doing?

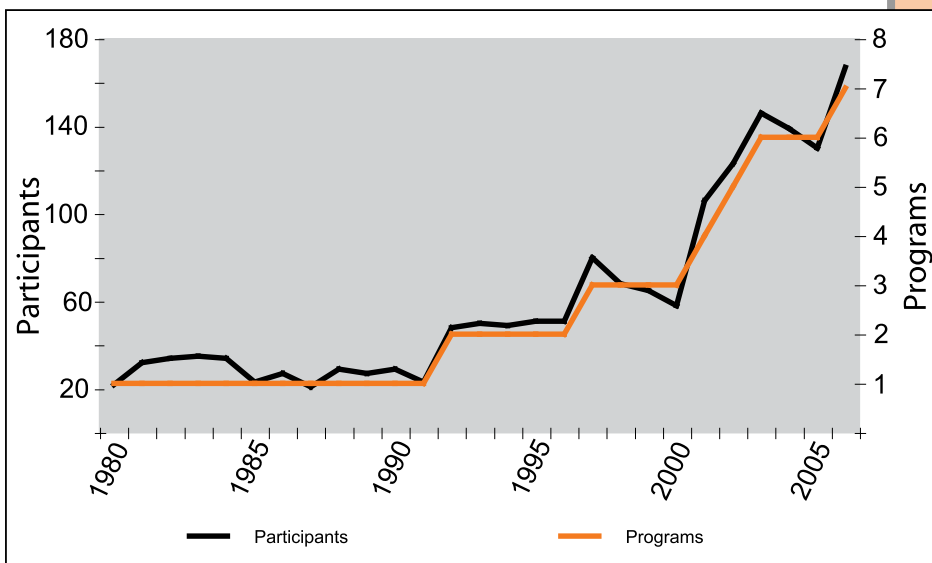
El Paso County has a lower rate of membership in religious congregations than Denver County, Pueblo County, Colorado and the U.S. Additionally, while other areas show an increase in membership from 1990 to 2000, only El Paso County residents' and U.S. average membership decreased.

LOCAL LEADERSHIP

Leadership programs teach people leadership skills, increase their knowledge about issues, and provide diverse populations opportunities to engage together in community projects. These programs also connect participants with appropriate volunteer opportunities and provide networking opportunities. This type of community engagement is valuable because it cultivates an even greater level of commitment and empowers people to take responsibility for their community and local government.

► *Leadership Programs*

Annual number of leadership programs and participants



Source: Leadership Pikes Peak, Center for Creative Leadership, El Paso County, City of Colorado Springs

This chart shows the number of formal leadership programs and their participants in El Paso County since 1980. The number of participants is not unduplicated – some community leaders have been participants in more than one of these programs. Programs tracked are: Leadership Pikes Peak Signature Program, Community Leadership Program, Colorado Springs Leadership Institute, Nonprofit Executive Leadership Program, Women's Community Leadership Initiative, Citizen's Academy and Citizen's College.

How are we doing?

In 1980 El Paso County offered one formal leadership program. Today, there are seven general leadership training programs plus several other programs offered for specific groups of people and sectors. Participation in these programs has grown from 22 people per year to more than 160 people per year in 2006. Since 1980 a total of 1,667 people have participated in one of these programs.

END NOTES

About El Paso County

1 Much of the narrative in this section is copied and adapted from information posted on El Paso County's official website at: <http://adm2.elpasoco.com/epchome/default.asp>, the City of Colorado Springs' official website at <http://www.springsgov.com/Page.asp?NavID=194> and the 2006 El Paso County Budget in Brief.

Growing a Vibrant Economy

- 1 Report on the Economy 2005 Colorado Springs, CO Metropolitan Area Quality Job for a Quality Community. Colorado Springs: The Greater Colorado Springs Economic Development Corporation, 2006. 32-33.
 - 2 Children's Defense Fund. Wasting America's Future. Boston: Beacon P, 1994. xvii.
 - 3 "Health and Poverty." Institute for Research on Poverty. 28 Feb. 2006. University of Wisconsin Madison. 1 June 2007 <<http://www.irp.wisc.edu/research/health.htm>>.
 - 4 Colorado: the State of Opportunity 2005 Report. The Bell Policy Center. Denver: The Bell Policy Center, 2005. 20.
 - 5 Ibid. 76.
 - 6 United States Census Bureau. American Community Survey Puerto Rico Survey 2005 Subject Definitions. 2006. 1 June 2007 <http://www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/2005/usedata/Subject_Definitions.pdf>.
 - 7 Pearce, Diana M. Overlooked and Undercounted: Struggling to Make Ends Meet in Colorado. Colorado Fiscal Policy Institute. 2007. 12. 1 June 2007 <http://www.wfco.org/documents/CCLP_SSProof_final.pdf>.
 - 8 Colorado: the State of Opportunity 2005 Report. The Bell Policy Center. Denver: The Bell Policy Center, 2005. 76.
 - 9 Pearce, Diana M. Overlooked and Undercounted: Struggling to Make Ends Meet in Colorado. Colorado Fiscal Policy Institute. 2007. 4-5. 1 June 2007 <http://www.wfco.org/documents/CCLP_SSProof_final.pdf>
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Promoting Social Wellbeing

- 1 Some of the narrative throughout this section is borrowed from: 2006 Quality of Life Progress Report. Jacksonville Community Council Inc. Jacksonville: Jacksonville Community Council Inc., 2006.
- 2 United States. Census Bureau; American Communities Survey; generated by Rachel Lindenberg; using American Fact Finder; <<http://factfinder.census.gov>>; 1 June 2007.
- 3 "Find Child Care: Why Quality Matters." Qualistar Early Learning. 2006. 1 July 2007 <http://www.qualistar.org/child_care/>.
- 4 "Income Differences and Residential Segregation."

- Dimensions of Segregation: Race, Class and Nativity. 2002. Lewis Mumford Center for Comparative Urban and Regional Research at University at Albany. 1 July 2007 <<http://mumford.albany.edu/census/segregation/SegIncNatPages/1720msaSegInc.htm>>.
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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

As with any community-wide effort, there are many people to thank. In the twelfth century, Bernard of Chartres said “We are like dwarves, standing on the shoulders of giants”. Likewise, today, this indicators project benefits from the strong community development work of many nonprofit, governmental, and business groups.

Nine separate Vision Councils created these indicators, and will lead efforts to set goals and targets moving forward. We are grateful all of these members, listed at the beginning of each section.

A special thanks to the Vision Council Chairs: Mike Kazmierski, Will Temby, Rick O’Connell, Paul Butcher, Susan Edmondson, Barbara Drake, Valorie Jordan, Pam Shockley-Zalaback, Noreen Landis-Tyson, Cathy Robbins, Jon Stepleton, Dan Stuart, Wayne Williams, Michael Hannigan, Eric Cefus, and Dave Felice. Our community is better because of your work.

Thanks are also in order for the scores of people who provided data—this is your report, too! Thank you to volunteer Teri Huff, your wisdom and connections were invaluable. Susan Saksa, Executive Director of Leadership Pikes Peak has been a tremendous help and will be a key to sustaining this effort going forward. Thanks to Dave Palenchar, Tamarind Doane, Gary Butterworth, Jennifer Dodd, Zach McComsey, Marybeth Welch, and Chris Holmes from El Pomar Foundation.

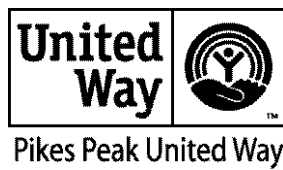
Todd Morrison from Ampersand Creative and Diane St Andre made the report attractive—it could not have been done without you!

The beautiful printing was sponsored by Ent Federal Credit Union, Leadership Pikes Peak, and Pikes Peak United Way, with additional support from the Economic Development Corporation and the Pikes Peak Community Foundation.

Last and never least, the “A Team”. Rachel Lindenberg from El Pomar Foundation and Annie Oatman-Gardner from the Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments were the two people most responsible for creating this report. Rachel is moving to California where she will make valuable contributions to the nonprofit sector, and in her spare time earn a Ph.D. from Stanford University. Annie will continue making improvements in this community through her professional work and her many volunteer passions. You two made this fun.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "H Brooks", with a stylized, flowing script.

Howard Brooks,
Vice President
Pikes Peak United Way



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