THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS CONTRIBUTORS

For more information on how you or your organization can get involved in this annual effort, please contact:

**Pikes Peak United Way**

518 N. Nevada Ave
Colorado Springs, CO 80903
(719) 955-0735
In this second edition of the Quality of Life Indicators for the Pikes Peak region, the Vision Councils have begun to look at indicators that deserve applause (identified in the report with a star of achievement) or concern (warning flag). In some Councils, the membership has taken a leadership role in coordinating a community response to an issue. The following is a high-level summary of each of the nine areas:

Both the national and local ECONOMY are currently experiencing a significant slowdown. As growth in the economy decreases and costs rise, there is less money to support those agencies that are critical to maintaining and improving our quality of life. We are proud of the broad growth in the military presence in the region over the last 5 years. While continuing to support this vital part of our economy, we must grow new and existing industries that provide high paying, good opportunities for our citizens. This in turn will ensure a robust economy to provide for our future vitality.

SOCIAL WELLBEING is the measure of a community's vibrancy. All the measures are interconnected, not only to each other, but to the overall quality of life. Household composition impacts issues like economic wellbeing and social isolation of the elderly. Likewise, issues of drug and alcohol abuse affects out-of-home placement of children.

Many indicators of the status of our ENVIRONMENT are tied to measurements in many different sections of this report. For instance, transportation impacts air and water quality while also affecting the overall health of community members. Stars of achievement go to the fact that our local water consumption per capita remains the lowest for Front Range cities and to our air quality for a high number of ozone free days. While measuring our collective (and individual) "carbon footprint" remains elusive, our community is doing about as well — or as poorly — as any other community that is heavily dependent on the burning of fossil fuels to generate electricity. The fact that measurements are just now beginning to be developed regarding how much or how efficiently El Paso County residents recycle deserves a warning flag, in and of itself, to acknowledge this basic lack of information.

Regarding the HEALTH of our community there are current issues, emerging issues, and capacity issues. The current issues concern untimely death — teen suicide, suicide deaths among older adults, infant mortality, and deaths from stroke. The emerging issues are obesity among adults and adults reporting poor mental health. The capacity issues are persons without health insurance, licensed beds in general hospitals, registered nurses, and public health resources.

In EDUCATION, high school graduation rates fell, on average, in the six largest districts in El Paso County, though the rates vary widely among districts. An early indicator of student success is third grade reading levels, which earned a warning flag for only having 79% of students proficient or advanced. Another concern of the Vision Council is that Colorado is in the bottom ten percent nationwide in funding for our schools.

There are countless opportunities for community residents and visitors to participate in ARTS, CULTURAL, and RECREATIONAL activities. The data that is available shows sustained growth in park acreage, trail miles, and recreation establishments. There has been especially good news in the outstanding increase in arts organizations. Attendance to those sites sampled remains steady, though there doesn’t seem to be consistent growth. The biggest challenges facing this segment of our community are the weakening economy which results in lack of disposable income and the downward affect on tourism.

In TRANSPORTATION, efficiently and effectively moving people and goods is vital to a good regional quality of life. With the passage of the Pikes Peak Rural Transportation Authority, the regional transportation system has crossed the threshold into a new period of innovation and investment aimed at reducing the backlog of system needs. As the backlog of needs is reduced, the benefits from future investments could include long-term economic productivity, enhanced competitiveness, and improved quality of life for all citizens in the region.

In community SAFETY, the crime rate remains below the national average and the crime clearance rate is above the national average. The majority of citizens feel safe in their neighborhood. However, fire safety inspections, child abuse, and domestic violence continue to rise, earning warning flags and causing concern as issues that need further research, education, and community involvement to reverse the trends.

The COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT Vision Council continues to seek new and better measures of engagement. While we are excited to have some new data from the 2008 Community Survey, comprehensive measures for many key indicators still do not exist. In this report, we are encouraged by indicators of strong volunteerism and community philanthropy. Unfortunately, we see a challenge regarding the percentage of registered voters who actually vote as well as the discrepancy between our community’s desire to be more accepting and tolerant and our present reality regarding those issues.
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iii
ABOUT EL PASO COUNTY

When possible, the indicators presented in this report cover data for 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.

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 the mild climate and the region’s growing resort accommodations.

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

When World War II began, 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, the Pikes Peak Region gained a reputation as the nation’s military space capital as Space Command and additional Air Force installations relocated here.

Manufacturing expanded in the 1960s and 1970s with technical advances in computers, electronic equipment, and semiconductor manufacturing. The amateur sports segment is also 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, (one of the world’s finest multi-sport training facilities). Many other national nonprofit and religious organizations have moved their headquarters to the Pikes Peak Region as well.

PEOPLE

The population of El Paso County in 2007 is estimated at 587,272 comprised of 239,662 households in 2006. These charts detail the race, age and educational attainment of the population in 2006. In total approximately 372,437 residents reside in the city of Colorado Springs. The average size of a household was 2.57 people and the average family consisted of 3.14 related individuals.

EL PASO COUNTY POPULATION

By Age

By Race

Education Attainment 25+

Source: U.S. Census Bureau; American Communities Survey; 2006 data
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 5,095 feet (1569 m) on the southern border at Black Squirrel Creek to 14,110 feet (4301 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 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 are seasonally warm, but when the sun sets, the evenings and nights are refreshingly cool. Sunny dates are abundant even during the winter and the sun’s intensity at such elevation melt snow from streets and sidewalks quickly. The region’s meteorological classification is an alpine desert with about 250 days of sunshine and only 15-16 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 the mayor and eight other 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, Colorado Springs Airport, Police and Fire departments, Parks, and Recreation and Cultural Services.

Compared to similar Colorado counties, El Paso County’s property tax rates rank the lowest. Combined sales tax and property tax revenue per person is also the lowest.

The county collects all property taxes, but disperses all but 10% of the total property taxes collected to other government entities, such as schools and library districts. This table demonstrates the dispersal of property taxes for a homeowner living in District 11, whose home has a market value of $200,000. It also shows a related mill levy of 7.1678% and who pays a total of $1,141 in annual property taxes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Taxes per person-sales and property (ranking highest to lowest)</th>
<th>Mill levy -property tax rate (ranking highest to lowest)</th>
<th>Dollars</th>
<th>Percent of Total</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>El Paso County</td>
<td>$186 (10)</td>
<td>7.514 (10)</td>
<td>$99</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adams</td>
<td>$334 (6)</td>
<td>26.899 (2)</td>
<td>$10</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arapahoe</td>
<td>$253 (9)</td>
<td>15.217 (8)</td>
<td>$79</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boulder</td>
<td>$468 (2)</td>
<td>22.467 (3)</td>
<td>$10</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Douglas</td>
<td>$492 (1)</td>
<td>19.774 (6)</td>
<td>$53</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jefferson</td>
<td>$407 (3)</td>
<td>24.346 (5)</td>
<td>$701</td>
<td>61%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Larimer</td>
<td>$402 (4)</td>
<td>22.414 (4)</td>
<td>$15</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mesa</td>
<td>$390 (5)</td>
<td>13.260 (9)</td>
<td>$174</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pueblo</td>
<td>$301 (7)</td>
<td>31.708 (1)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Weld</td>
<td>$283 (8)</td>
<td>16.804 (7)</td>
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The national and local economies are currently experiencing a significant slowdown. As growth in the economy decreases and costs rise, there is less money to support those agencies that are critical to maintaining and improving our quality of life. We are proud of the broad growth in the military presence in the region over the last 5 years. While continuing to support this vital part of our economy, we must grow existing industries and work to attract new businesses that provide high paying, good opportunities for our citizens, bringing money in to our area to ensure a robust economy to assure our future vitality.

The Economic and Civic Literacy Project, a program of the nonpartisan Limited Government Forum, works to nurture a better understanding of economics, history and civics in the Pikes Peak Region, believing, as the founders did, that a free Republic won’t long survive without an informed, educated and rational citizenry. We believe improved economic literacy will encourage more enlightened decision-making by politicians and all citizens, based on a deeper understanding of the ideas and economic forces that sustain a free and prosperous society.

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Growing a Vibrant Economy Council

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Economic Impact of Military Installations
Tourism

Growth

Job Growth
Primary Job Growth
Construction Permits Issued
Foreclosures

Income & Cost of Living

Median Household Income
Poverty
Unemployment Rate
GROSS METROPOLITAN PRODUCT

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

GMP data provides a consistent measure across all States and Metropolitan Areas enabling government and citizens to easily evaluate the following:

• The size and growth trends of the local economy
• Comparison to other metropolitan areas, states and the overall U.S. economy

The size of the GMP, its rate of growth and composition, directly influences the tax base, from which local government funding is derived. This tax base supports infrastructure including, roads, schools, police, fire protection, health care and others services. A flat or declining level of GMP or a growth rate which does not keep up with inflation may result in a degradation of infrastructure adversely impacting quality of life.

HOW ARE WE DOING?

Out of the 363 metropolitan areas within the U.S., the Colorado Springs Metropolitan Area ranked 83rd in 2001 and 86th in 2005 a slip of 3 places. During the period 2001-2005, the Colorado Springs economy grew by 9.6% – 1.5% slower than the rate of growth of the overall U.S. economy. With this performance we can expect our ranking to slip further, making Colorado Springs less important to overall U.S. economic output. This level of growth may not support the increased demands for local infrastructure.

POTENTIAL FOR ACTION

Our goal should be to regain the ground we lost and to work towards securing the 80th position in the nation within 5 years. This can be achieved through the diversification of the economy and emphasis on industries that support high levels of economic growth and value such as alternative energy, manufacturing, information technology, system hardware/software design and aerospace design/manufacturer. The Colorado Springs Economic Development Corporation and the City of Colorado Springs should develop a plan to support this goal.
**WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?**

This reflects the diversity in the local economy. As a community we don’t want to be dependent on any one segment of the economy. A well diversified economy won’t suffer from the challenges associated with extraordinary growth in a unique sector driving large increases in population and housing placing high demands on infrastructure. In addition, a diversified economy won’t suffer the consequences of downturns in individual segments creating large layoffs and decreases in property values. A balanced portfolio of companies and industries within the local economy provides quality, sustainable, growth.

**PERCENT CHANGE IN THE GMP COMPONENTS**

Focus our economic development activities to increase information technologies, manufacturing, research and other high value-added segments to balance the large portion of the economy that depends on government spending and services. The Colorado Springs Economic Development Corporation and the City of Colorado Springs need to work to attract companies to Colorado Springs within these segments. Possible targets might include alternative energy, pollution control, aerospace, software development, communications, data storage, biotechnology and electronic design and manufacture. These would hopefully include headquarters operations. We should continue to enhance and preserve our military facilities and operations to protect the substantial military economic base we have today.
Employment & Industry

GROSS METROPOLITAN PRODUCT PER CAPITA

THIS CHART combines the level of economic output (GMP in $), with the number of people in the population, to provide a measurement of how productive the population is in generating goods and services comprising the output of the local economy.

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

A high level of economic output per person results in a community that achieves a high level of wealth creation while at the same time placing a low demand on the infrastructure to support the population. Conversely, a low level of economic output per person places high demands on infrastructure in the form of housing, roads and schools without providing the economic output that provides a funding base to support such needs. In addition a community with a high economic output per person is more likely to have a higher tax base because of the discretionary funds available for high value purchases to fund a higher quality of life. This discretionary income also provides a higher level of donations to charitable and philanthropic causes. In short, high productivity results in a sustainable, higher quality, standard of life for the whole community.

HOW ARE WE DOING?

In 2005 Colorado Springs ranked 162nd out of 363 cities in the nation in terms of economic output per person. The productivity ranking significantly lags behind our ranking based on the size of the local economy where we rank 86th. We therefore have a higher population for a given level of output. The output per person is affected by the type of jobs and industries within the economy as well as the number of retired or unemployed people in the community. Since we have a reasonable level of unemployment it’s likely our GMP/capita is most influenced by the industries we have and the number of retired or underemployed citizens. For example, call centers and tourism employ large numbers of people with below average economic output. Employees in such industries tend to have lower salaries compared to technology and manufacturing industries, leaving little discretionary income to spend on luxury items. This in turn provides a lower basis for various forms of tax collections. In 2007, 49% of the Colorado Springs population was in the workforce compared to 59% for Boulder, 54% for Denver, 54% for the State of Colorado and 62% for the nation. In Colorado Springs we have a less than satisfactory situation with a relatively high population for our economic output placing high demands on infrastructure without the economic base to effectively fund the expected levels of service.

POTENTIAL FOR ACTION

Attract high value industries with high paying wages to improve the output achieved for a given population base. These industries would include financial services, engineering, alternative energy, military aerospace design and manufacture. Using this industrial base, we can work to secure a position in the top 100 communities within the U.S. in terms of GMP per capita within 5 years. The Colorado Springs Economic Development Corporation and the City of Colorado Springs should work together to develop a plan to support this goal.
**WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?**
This is an overall measure of the economic health of the area.

**HOW ARE WE DOING?**
The Business Climate Index is at its lowest point since 2002 reflecting a significant slowdown in the local economy. Seven of the ten indicators continued their downward trend.

**POTENTIAL FOR ACTION**
The drop in the BCI can be attributed to the slowdown in the overall national economy. Quality job growth in the local economy will help improve performance, especially the growth of Primary Employers who derive the majority of the revenues from outside the Pikes Peak region and therefore bring outside money into the community. The Colorado Springs Economic Development Corporation (EDC) is working to bring new Primary Employers into the area and help existing companies grow.

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**BUSINESS CONDITIONS INDEX**

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</table>

**THIS CHART**
The Business Conditions Index is a geometric index of ten seasonally adjusted data series for El Paso County. This includes single family and town home permits, new car sales, employment rate, foreclosures, ES202 employment and ES202 wages and salaries. Colorado Springs data includes sales and use tax and airport enplanements. It is based on an index of March 2001 = 100.

**Source:** Southern Colorado Economic Forum
EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

The 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Industry</th>
<th>2003</th>
<th>2004</th>
<th>2005</th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>Change 2003-07</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Public Administration</td>
<td>20.0%</td>
<td>19.9%</td>
<td>20.2%</td>
<td>19.6%</td>
<td>19.9%</td>
<td>-0.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional, Scientific, Management, Administrative, and Waste Mgmt Service</td>
<td>13.8%</td>
<td>14.3%</td>
<td>14.3%</td>
<td>14.8%</td>
<td>14.8%</td>
<td>1.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retail Trade</td>
<td>10.7%</td>
<td>10.7%</td>
<td>10.5%</td>
<td>10.4%</td>
<td>10.5%</td>
<td>-0.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finance, Insurance, Real Estate, Rental and Leasing</td>
<td>9.6%</td>
<td>9.7%</td>
<td>10.1%</td>
<td>10.3%</td>
<td>10.2%</td>
<td>0.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Educational Services, Health Care and Social Assistance</td>
<td>9.2%</td>
<td>9.2%</td>
<td>9.3%</td>
<td>9.3%</td>
<td>9.4%</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arts, Entertainment, Recreation, Accommodation and Food Services</td>
<td>9.2%</td>
<td>9.2%</td>
<td>9.0%</td>
<td>9.1%</td>
<td>9.1%</td>
<td>-0.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Services, Except Public Administration</td>
<td>6.8%</td>
<td>6.8%</td>
<td>7.0%</td>
<td>6.9%</td>
<td>6.9%</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction</td>
<td>6.3%</td>
<td>6.4%</td>
<td>6.6%</td>
<td>6.9%</td>
<td>6.7%</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manufacturing</td>
<td>6.3%</td>
<td>6.0%</td>
<td>5.4%</td>
<td>5.1%</td>
<td>5.0%</td>
<td>-1.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information</td>
<td>3.5%</td>
<td>3.4%</td>
<td>3.1%</td>
<td>2.9%</td>
<td>2.8%</td>
<td>-0.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities</td>
<td>2.0%</td>
<td>2.0%</td>
<td>3.1%</td>
<td>2.2%</td>
<td>2.2%</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wholesale Trade</td>
<td>2.1%</td>
<td>3.1%</td>
<td>2.1%</td>
<td>1.9%</td>
<td>1.9%</td>
<td>-0.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing &amp; Hunting and Mining</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
<td>-0.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Communities Survey

Why is this important?
A community with a diverse industrial base is better able to withstand normal employment up- and down-cycles. For example, tourism will have higher employment during the summer months and less during spring and fall months while retail may peak during spring and winter. The more variety in the economic makeup of a community, the more resilient it may be to national and global changes.

How are we doing?
While we have a very diverse employment base in the community, emphasis needs to be placed on growing those industries which sell goods and services to those outside our region to bring money into this area and increase our economic output per person.

Potential for action
Attract high value industries including those in various forms of high technology design and manufacturing, information technology and software/web-based applications where we currently have a lower level of activity. The Colorado Springs Economic Development Corporation and the City of Colorado Springs could take the lead in developing and implementing these objectives.
**WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?**

The military in the Pikes Peak region is a significant positive driver for the region’s economy. The direct and indirect impact on the economy is nearly 40%. This provides a stabilizing affect on the region’s economy.

**HOW ARE WE DOING?**

Since 2004, this indicator has continued to rise, primarily as a result of the ongoing major growth at Fort Carson. This growth has not only resulted in an increased number of personnel stationed at the Post, but also a large amount of construction. The indirect impact on other sectors of the economy, such as services, retail, etc., is significant.

**POTENTIAL FOR ACTION**

Although the direction of this indicator has been positive over the last several years, the community must remain proactive in maintaining and growing the military infrastructure in the region. The forecast is for this indicator to continue to be positive over the next several years.

---

**ECONOMIC IMPACT OF MILITARY INSTALLATIONS**

*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. Military installations included in the study are Fort Carson, Peterson Complex, U.S. Air Force Academy, and Schriever Air Force Base.

*Source: Colorado Springs Chamber of Commerce, Military Affairs Council, Pikes Peak Region Military Facts*
Employment & Industry

TOURISM Star of Achievement

Tax Revenue from Lodging & Auto Rentals (LART)

Why Is This Important?
Tourism is Colorado Springs’ third-largest industry, employing more than 14,000 people. Each year, over six million people visit Colorado Springs and the Pikes Peak Region and spend over one billion dollars at our hotels, restaurants, attractions and retailers. Tax revenue collected from non-residents makes up about 25% of our City’s annual general fund budget. A portion of the Lodgers and Auto Rental Tax (LART), collected by hotels (2%) and car rental companies (1%) within City limits is channeled into marketing, advertising and sales programs to keep Colorado Springs top of mind when people are choosing a destination for a leisure or business trip.

How Are We Doing?
In 2002 and again in 2003, the LART tax went down due to the events of September 11, 2001 and the subsequent slowing of the economy. As the country and economy recovered, so did the tourism and business travel industry, with the LART tax growing steadily ever since. However, when adjusted for inflation, compared to the late 90s, the effective amount of dollars available for tourism promotion and other City projects has actually decreased.

Potential for Action
Competition is fierce for tourism and business travel dollars. In 2006, the governor signed a $26 million economic development package that increased the Colorado Tourism Office’s annual budget from $5 million to $19 million. These funds are vital to promoting the entire state and provide a springboard for Colorado Springs to then inspire travel to our city. It is critical for this funding mechanism to continue and citizens should encourage their state representatives not to waiver in their support of tourism. As a community, we need to encourage City Council to continue to fund tourism promotion at its current level or to increase funding to increase visitation. The community also needs to pull together to create and communicate a strong brand identity that allows various marketing entities to present a consistent message to the traveling public so that the tourism industry continues to flourish.

This chart shows tax revenues in the City of Colorado Springs from taxes levied on lodging and auto rentals. This is a common measure of the economic impact of tourism since tourists represent the majority of hotel stays and auto rentals.

Source: City of Colorado Springs Finance Department

1 Nominal LART
2 Inflation Adjusted LART (1997 $)
Growth

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?
Each year the population of Colorado Springs grows by 6,000-8,000 people. In our region, approximately 50% of the population is in the civilian workforce; therefore, we need to add about 3,000-4,000 jobs each year to keep up with natural growth in our community. Added jobs support the expansion in our economy which provides new career growth opportunities for the workforce and generates the wealth and additional tax base to support our infrastructure, including roads, health services, safety services and schools. Failure to achieve or exceed this level of job growth will result in a shortage of funding for infrastructure items, a lower level of economic output and the associated reduction in quality of life.

HOW ARE WE DOING?
32,000 jobs in all categories were added over the seven year period 2001-2007, representing a 12% increase in the workforce since the start of the decade. In 2007, a significant reduction in the net jobs added occurred. With the economic pressures in the overall U.S. economy, we can expect a low level of net job growth in 2008.

POTENTIAL FOR ACTION
1) Identify overall job growth targets required to achieve and support our desired level of economic growth and establish a plan to achieve them. This target needs to include the inevitable losses which occur due to layoffs, corporate restructuring etc. It is likely that the number of jobs we actually need to add is twice the desired net level of job growth to make up for these losses. Overall new job additions must be in the range of 6,000-8,000 per year for current level of modest growth and perhaps at a level of 9,000-10,000 to meet our goals for higher level of economic growth and productivity.

2) Determine the desired mix of jobs to be added to promote “quality growth” (high salaries, fewer jobs with lower demand on infrastructure) but at the same time meet the needs of the community (available skills vs. job requirements). This mix will include desirable industries and skills for sustained growth without significant boom and bust cycles and with high overall economic output per person. The Colorado Springs Economic Development Corporation and Pikes Peak Workforce Center will play a lead role to meet this goal.

THis CHART shows the number of jobs added to the local economy. This is a net number taking into account the number of jobs lost in the same period. It includes all types of civilian jobs including those for primary employers, retail, service industries, government members, etc. but not military servicemembers. This measurement does not take into account the quality or salary level of the added jobs.

Source: Colorado Data: Colorado Department of Labor, Colorado Quarterly Census of Employment & Wages

Colorado Springs MSA Net Number of Jobs Added per Year
**Primary Job Growth**

The chart shows the announced gains and losses of primary jobs within El Paso County. Primary jobs are those companies that derive greater than 50% of their revenue from outside the Pikes Peak Region. While attracting new quality jobs, retaining the existing jobs from existing primary employers is also important.

### Why Is This Important?

Primary jobs drive the entire economy and bring in the wealth for the community that is needed to sustain and grow the economy. There is no size consideration for these employers, only the fact that they bring wealth into the community through their external customer base. Only 4% of the businesses in the region are primary employers yet they account for over half of the jobs in the community. The region needs on average 3,500 new primary jobs each year (1,900 to replace the average number of primary jobs lost each year and 1,600 to meet the needs of the young adults entering the workforce).

### How Are We Doing?

Over the last four years, our performance has been satisfactory, with greater than 2000 primary jobs announced each year. Each year we need a net gain of over 1,100 new primary jobs to sustain a modest growth in the economy. These primary jobs are multiplied by a factor of 2 or 3 with other support jobs added to the community.

### Potential for Action

More financial support is needed for primary jobs creation. The primary job creation effort is led by the Colorado Springs Economic Development Corporation (a non-profit) and the EDC program is under-funded in comparison to other communities our size. Additionally, the state and the region do not support incentives as a way to attract and retain quality jobs. The days of companies making major relocation decisions primarily on quality of life factors have ended, as companies now must consider the cost of doing business and incentives provided to offset costs as they work to remain competitive in a global market place.

---

**2001–2007 EDC Job Announcements vs. Losses**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>New Primary Jobs</th>
<th>Layoffs/Closures</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>1,500</td>
<td>1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>2,000</td>
<td>1,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>2,500</td>
<td>2,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>3,000</td>
<td>2,500</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Colorado Springs Economic Development Corporation
**Why Is This Important?**
Home and business ownership creates a sense of community. A greater number of permits will translate into more families owning their own home. In addition, permits allow the community to project and adjust service needs to meet general demands including schools, parks, roads, tax revenue, etc.

**How Are We Doing?**
Construction permits slowed significantly in 2006 and 2007. The market is reacting to the economy and the building industry is slowing down from the heated market in 2004 and 2005. Per the Colorado Springs Home Builders Association, a healthy and normal market for the Pikes Peak region for single family homes is between 3,500 and 4,500 permits per year.

**Potential for Action**
A vibrant and growing community creates opportunities for people to enter the home ownership market and provides opportunities for businesses to expand. As a community we need to collaborate on ways to keep the cost of entry appropriate and accessible to working adults.
Growth

**WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?**
The effects on numerous business sectors due to high foreclosure rates are negative. Mortgages and equity loans are harder to get, home prices drop, which is perhaps positive for home buyers; however, a continued drop in home prices could leave a home owner owing more than the house is worth. This is a national problem being addressed at the federal level.

The homeless rate could increase, crime could increase and other adverse quality of life items could increase if a high level of foreclosures is not addressed.

**HOW ARE WE DOING?**
The El Paso County Public Trustee’s Office is reporting that February 2008 foreclosures were the highest since the Public Trustee Office started keeping records.

Recent state statute changes have allowed for additional time prior to the home sale for the homeowner to cure the deficit payment. This may have a positive effect on the state’s foreclosure rate moving forward.

This is a national problem, not just an El Paso County problem.

**POTENTIAL FOR ACTION**
People need to continue to be educated to live within their means. Lending companies need to return to lending practices that qualify people based on their financial situation at the time of the loan.
Income & Cost Of Living

Why Is This Important?
Household income is a measure of current private income commonly used by the United States government and private institutions. It combines the pre-tax money receipts of all residents over the age of 15 in a single dwelling unit. As the median household income rises, their buying power increases for the purchase of goods and services. These in turn generate tax revenues to fund necessary community infrastructure. In addition, a higher median income level supports a higher level of charitable contributions to those in need.

How Are We Doing?
The median household income in El Paso County is higher than the U.S., but only slightly above the State of Colorado averages. In 2006, median income in El Paso County dropped to 2003 levels while the U.S. and Colorado showed modest gains.

Potential For Action
While the median household income nationally has increased 30% since 1990, it has increased only slightly in real dollars after considering the impact of inflation. We need to attract high paying jobs to the community that in turn maximize the earning potential for all our citizens based on their skills and availability. This action is driven by the Colorado Springs Economic Development Corporation and the City of Colorado Springs.
**Why is this important?**
This is important because it helps to gauge the overall quality of life for all El Paso County citizens. Keeping the number of people living below the poverty level as low as possible translates into a better quality of life for all. This measure also helps to guide the level of funding and efforts necessary to provide services to the less fortunate people in our community.

**How are we doing?**
The U.S. official poverty rate in 2006 was 12.3%, down from 12.6% in 2005, thus we can take some comfort in being below the national average for all groups taken collectively. However, the situation would be much improved if we had lower levels of poverty in the under 18 and under 5 year-old groups. While both the poverty rate and the number in poverty decreased for people aged 65 and older nationally (9.4% and 3.4 million in 2006, down from 10.1% and 3.6 million in 2005), El Paso county showed a slight increase in this category but still remained below the national level for this group.

**Potential for action**
For the groups shown above the largest groups historically and currently affected are those under 18 and under 5 years of age. This would point to a need to enhance programs that support early child development and support, and to enhance programs and increase funding for pre-teen and teen training and jobs.
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

Year End Continued Claims

This chart shows the average annual unemployment rate for El Paso County and the state of Colorado. Unemployed workers are defined as job-seekers that do not currently have a job and are actively contacting employers for viable employment. Full employment occurs when everyone in the economy who is willing to work at the current market rate for someone of his skills has jobs. Full employment does not imply that all adults have jobs.

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?
The unemployment rate has long been identified as an indicator of the overall health of the nation and economy. An unemployment rate below 4% is considered by many experts to be a good sign.

HOW ARE WE DOING?
The local unemployment rate spiked in 2003 and has been steadily decreasing ever since. The more businesses that are brought into the area along with the continued growth of current employers, will help ensure the local economy stays healthy and balanced.

POTENTIAL FOR ACTION
If the unemployment rate number continues its downward trend, the local economy will continue to thrive. However, recent announcements in the community will likely reverse this favorable trend in 2008.

Source: Colorado Department of Labor & Employment
As a community we recognize that there are several aspects of individuals’ personal lives that impact the quality of life for all of us and require coordinated community efforts to make positive change. Children are the future of every community, and families are the basic building blocks of society. Healthy, successful children, strong families, and thriving older adults 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 alike.

The Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments is involved daily in promoting well being in the Pikes Peak region. We are the home of the Pikes Peak Area Agency on Aging and work with community partners such as Silver Key Senior Services, United Way and the CU Aging Center to enhance the vitality of our region and the people who live here.
Promoting Social Wellbeing Council

Chair
BARBARA DRAKE
El Paso County Dept of Human Services

DEB NOTTINGHAM
Convener

LISA SALLEY
Convener

Members

TERRI ANDERSON
Silver Key Senior Services

LESLIE COOK

MONICA DAVIS
Pikes Peak Library District

DEE DRAKE
EPC Co-occurring Collaborative

JEANNINE HOLT
Harbor House Collaborative

BOB HOLMES
Homeward Pikes Peak

DENISE KRUG
Goodwill Industries of Colorado Springs

REGINA LEWIS
Pikes Peak Community College

LINDA MEREDITH
Community Partnership for Child Development

KATHY MOAN
Joint Initiatives for Youth and Families

JEFF MURRELL

ALISON NAGEL

LORI NOLEN
Silver Key Senior Services

DEB NOTTINGHAM

LEE OESTERLE
Kids Crossing

 children & Families

Household Composition
Family Stability
Teen Pregnancy
Subsequent Births to Teen Mothers

Older Adults

Social Isolation
Living in your Environment of Choice
Respite and Caregiver Options

Economic Wellbeing

Homelessness
Availability of Quality, Affordable Child Care

Drugs & Alcohol

Publicly Funded Treatment
Drug and Alcohol Use by Children

SHANNON PONCE
Goodwill Industries of Colorado Springs

DIANE PRICE
Child Nursery Centers

PATRICIA RANDLE
Army Community Services

NICHOLAS SACCARO
Care & Share, Inc.

KEN SANDERS
Centre on Fathering/Fountain Valley Sr. Center

MARYANN STADJUHAR
Catholic Charities of Colorado Springs
All families are different: from single parents to married couples with or 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, either 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.

**HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION**

**Types of Households**

- **FAMILY HOUSEHOLDS 67%**
  - Married Couple Families 52% (44% with own children <18)
  - Female Householder, No Husband Present 10% (66% with own children <18)
  - Male Householder, No Wife Present 4% (59% with own children <18)

- **NON-FAMILY HOUSEHOLDS 33%**
  - Householder Living Alone 28%

**HOW ARE WE DOING?**

67% of households consist of families with more than 52% of households led by married couples. Single parents with children represent 13% of total households numbering 20,425. This figure is down from 21,000 single parent households in 2005. Just over 27% of households consist of just one person living alone; 7% of households consist of a single adult over 65 years, which is a percentage increase from 2005. Additionally, in 2006 9,821 grandparents lived with their grandchildren, which has increased from 6,500 in 2005, and 46% of those were financially responsible for their grandchild's basic needs including food shelter, clothing, and child care.1

1Information from American Communities Survey US Census 2006 Data
http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/ADPTable?_bm=y&geo_id=05000US08041&qr_name=ACS_2006_EST_G00_DP2&ds_name=&_lang=en&redoLog=false
Children & Families

How Are We Doing?
The number of out-of-home placements has been decreasing since 2004 despite increases in the county population. The county’s child/youth population increased to 153,698 during the 2007 State Fiscal Year. 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.

Family Stability

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1550</td>
<td>1500</td>
<td>1450</td>
<td>1500</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: El Paso County Department of Human Services

This chart measures the number of out-of-home placements of children. The numbers may be duplicated and include a child placed for any period of time during the state fiscal year. Out-of-home placements include foster and relative care as well as residential treatment.
**Children & Families**

**TEEN PREGNANCY**

**Births Per 1,000 Females Ages 15-19 Years**

![Chart showing birth rates for females ages 15-19 years in El Paso County.](chart1)

*Source: Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, Vital Statistics 2008*

**HOW ARE WE DOING?**

Since 2002 the rate of births to teen girls has decreased; however, 2006 indicates teen pregnancies are increasing.

**SUBSEQUENT BIRTHS TO TEEN MOTHERS**

**Percentage of Births to Mothers 19 and Under**

![Chart showing subsequent births to teen mothers.](chart2)

*Source: Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, Vital Statistics 2008*

**HOW ARE WE DOING?**

There does not appear to be a trend. However the rate is the lowest it has been since 2002.
A community must address the needs and cultivate the strengths of its older population. The increasing number of older adults in Colorado Springs presents new opportunities and challenges to this community. Safety, independence, access to a social network, and support by family and informal caregivers, as needed, are important components of a livable community.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Population 60 and older:</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Census 2000</td>
<td>64,957</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Census 2004</td>
<td>73,916</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Census 2008 (prediction)</td>
<td>86,978</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Census 2012 (prediction)</td>
<td>104,154</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Census 2020 (prediction)</td>
<td>144,821</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Social engagement is crucial to the physical and psychological well-being of older adults. Transportation and appropriate, accessible activities are key factors in older adults being engaged in their community. A large percentage of the older adults surveyed had little to no social engagement in their daily lives.

**Social Isolation**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Does not participate in senior center activities.</td>
<td>82%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Does not participate in a club or civic group.</td>
<td>61%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Does not volunteer or help out in the community.</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Does not attend movies, sporting events, or group events</td>
<td>59%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Does not participate in religious or spiritual activities with others.</td>
<td>42%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: *Strengths and Needs Assessment of Older Adults in the State of Colorado*

**H O W  A R E  W E  D O I N G ?**

Social engagement is crucial to the physical and psychological well-being of older adults. Transportation and appropriate, accessible activities are key factors in older adults being engaged in their community. A large percentage of the older adults surveyed had little to no social engagement in their daily lives.
## Living in Your Environment of Choice

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Survey Results</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Older adults who live alone</td>
<td>21.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Have too few activities or feeling bored had been</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a problem in the past year.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Get only a little or no social support from family.</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Get only a little or no practical support from</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>family.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feeling lonely, sad, or isolated had been a problem</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>in the past year.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Need help getting or arranging transportation in</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>the past year.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Everyday activities such as walking, bathing or</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>getting in and out of a chair had been a problem.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cannot do heavy housework</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cannot do yard work and show shoveling</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Difference between these numbers and those in report are the result of rounding of the reported percent. All information from the Status of Older Adults in the Pikes Peak Region.*

## Respite & Caregiver Issues

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Respite &amp; Caregiver Issues</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Frequently or sometimes felt burdened by their</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>care giving.</td>
<td>3,124</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The person they care for was frequently or</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sometimes uncooperative.</td>
<td>3,450</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The person they care for was frequently or</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sometimes verbally aggressive.</td>
<td>1,791</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Could use more services or information about</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>services.</td>
<td>1,469</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Could use more financial support.</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,665</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Could use more respite or free time for</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>themselves.</td>
<td>294</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Difference between these numbers and those in report are the result of rounding of the reported percent. All information from the Status of Older Adults in the Pikes Peak Region.*
How Are We Doing?

Currently there are approximately 2,000 homeless individuals in El Paso County. Approximately 1,600 are women and kids who are fleeing abusive domestic situations, along with families who have experienced that one, large, emergency that has put them over the financial edge: broken car, breadwinner’s health problems, loss of job. Approximately 400 are those who suffer from untreated mental health and substance abuse problems, and who have been homeless most of their lives.

In spite of greater outreach and actually helping people into homes and apartments, homeless numbers, in general, have remained mostly the same because of the general decline in the economy, the subprime mortgage meltdown and the rising cost of food and petroleum products.

Outstanding New Programs:

Over the past three years several outstanding programs have been developed to assist individuals and families at various stages of homelessness. An impressive aspect is how many of these programs involve collaboration among agencies to provide a synergistic effect in maximizing the utilization of resources.

2-1-1 Community Help Line

Pikes Peak United Way

2-1-1 operators are on duty from 8 am to 5 pm and bilingual operators are available. 2-1-1 has the largest compendium of available services anywhere in the county.

Crisis Intervention Training & Community Mental Health Grant

Colorado Springs Police Department

The CSPD has recognized the special challenges of policing the mentally ill population. Specially trained officers are skilled in negotiations and talking individuals through potentially explosive problems. This program will save lives!

Housing First

Collaboration: Homeward Pikes Peak, Harbor House, Salvation Army, The Mental Health Collaborative

Housing First provides housing and extensive counseling and case management to homeless suffering from alcohol addiction. Many participants do quit or drastically reduce alcohol usage, and many return to the community workforce. Retention rate in the program is 80+. This program costs about $15,000 per year per person, compared with the estimated $54,000 cost associated with leaving people out on the street. That cost includes the price of police, fire, ambulance and emergency room services.

Home Ownership Opportunities

Habitat for Humanity and Rocky Mountain Community Land Trust

Woodman Vistas: 67 affordable housing units will be included in a larger housing development in northern Colorado Springs, making home ownership a “dream come true” for families who never thought owning a home was a reality.

Treatment for Chronically Homeless Substance Abusers

Harbor House

Some homeless individuals are ready to quit abusing substances, and Harbor House is there to help. Harbor House has a 90+% success rate. Cost savings to taxpayers in the program are similar to those in Housing First.

Treatment for Uninsured Homeless with Co-Occurring Disorders

The Mental Health Collaborative

Funded by a five-year grant for $500,000, The Collaborative works to provide “best practices” treatment for uninsured homeless individuals with the co-occurring disorders of mental health and substance abuse problems.

Vocational Training Opportunities

Springs Rescue Mission

Springs Rescue Mission offers a program for substance abusers, requiring abstinence, which provides them with a salable job skill upon completion. The most famous of their array of courses is one that prepares future sous chefs, and is accredited through a major culinary institute.
HOW ARE WE DOING?

Less than 37% 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 can be found in the Growing a Vibrant Economy section of this report.

*Availability of affordable early childcare for children below the poverty line

---

**QUALITY, AFFORDABLE CHILD CARE***

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Children Under 5 Benefiting from Colorado Child Care Assistance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>July 1, 2004 – June 30, 2005</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of children under 5 benefiting from CCCAP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent of children in poverty under 5 benefiting from CCCAP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>July 1, 2005 – June 30, 2006</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of children under 5 benefiting from CCCAP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent of children in poverty under 5 benefiting from CCCAP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>July 1, 2006 – June 30, 2007</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of children under 5 benefiting from CCCAP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent of children in poverty under 5 benefiting from CCCAP</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: El Paso County Department of Human Services

**THIS CHART** shows the total number of children under five in El Paso County benefiting from the Colorado Child Care Assistance Program (CCCAP) in the last 3 years and the percentage of children five years old and younger living below the federal poverty line who benefit from CCCAP. In the years shown, El Paso County CCCAP assistance was available to any family earning less than 140 percent of federal poverty. In September 2007, the level increased to 185 percent of federal poverty. On July 1, 2008 families eligible at 185 percent or below remain eligible to 225 percent of the federal poverty threshold. The average monthly reimbursement rate is $558.⁵

¹Colorado Child Care Assistance Program Annual Program Information, July 1, 2004 – June 30, 2005
²Colorado Child Care Assistance Program Annual Program Information, July 1, 2005 – June 30, 2006
³Colorado Child Care Assistance Program Annual Program Information, July 1, 2006 – June 30, 2007
Drugs & Alcohol

Substance abuse refers to overindulgence in and dependence on an addictive substance, especially alcohol or a narcotic drug. Substance abuse can present significant obstacles with everyday life from maintaining financial stability and relationships to succeeding at school or work. This is an issue of particular importance to Coloradans as Colorado has higher rates of drug and alcohol use than U.S. averages. In recent studies, the state ranks 19% higher than the national average in per capita consumption of alcoholic beverages. Colorado also ranks in the top five for illicit drug use and dependence (other than marijuana).

Substance abuse is not just an individual problem, but profoundly impacts the community at large. The direct and indirect costs for public agencies controlling the use of substance abuse or responding to the consequences of it, add up to more than an estimated $168 billion per year for the United States. Substance Abuse often occurs in conjunction with mental health disorders requiring a more complicated treatment approach.

**Drug and Alcohol Use**

![Graph showing Publicly Funded Substance Abuse Treatment](image)

**This Chart**

Nationwide, $27 is spent per US Resident on publicly funded substance abuse treatment. Only $7.50 is spent per person in the state of Colorado.

**How Are We Doing?**

The state of Colorado spends the least on treatment, prevention and research compared to 46 other states. 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.

**Why Is This Important?**

With an estimated prevalence rate of 10%, El Paso County has approximately 57,500 people with substance abuse or dependence issues. This means that 1 out of 10 people in El Paso County have a substance abuse issue.
Time Magazine is quoted as saying, “Don’t blow it, good planets are hard to find.” This is true for our beautiful community. If we take for granted the natural resources and beauty of our area and not understand and protect them, we risk losing or degrading these resources for future generations. Our environment is tied to many other aspects of our community and thus many other vision councils:

- Transportation–air and water quality
- Education–experiential environmental learning improves science standardized testing scores
- Health–air and water quality, and contact with natural settings reduces stress
- Wellbeing–natural settings promote happiness and healthy living
- Arts–nature continues to be one of the greatest sources of inspiration
- Economy–conservation and sustainability attract global businesses.

Fort Carson is proud to partner with the Environment Vision Council of the Quality of Life Indicators project to produce this 2008 indicators report. Fort Carson embraces sustainability as a partnership between our present and our future. For more information about Fort Carson’s Sustainability and Environmental Management System (SEMS) efforts, including our annual sustainability progress report, visit [http://sems.carson.army.mil](http://sems.carson.army.mil) or call our SEMS Coordinator at 719-526-9777.
Preserving the Natural Environment Council

Co-Chairs
MICHAEL HANNIGAN
Pikes Peak Community Foundation
ERIC CEFUS
Catamount Institute

Members
MARK TREMMEL CONVENER
Colorado Arch Partnership – Convener
JANE ARD-SMITH
Sierra Club
RICHARD MUZZY
Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments
MARK ROBINSON
Colorado Renewable Energy Society
GARY RAPP
Recycling Coalition of Colorado Springs
GAIL CONNERS
Colorado Springs Utilities
TIM OLIVER
CHRISTOPHER JUNIPER
Fort Carson Sustainability Planner

Water
Water Consumption
Impervious Surfaces
Pollution in Fountain Creek

Air
Ozone Levels

Energy
Renewable Energy
Energy Sources
Energy Consumption: Electricity & Natural Gas
Carbon Dioxide

Waste
Pounds of Waste
Recycling
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% of Colorado Springs’ water supply came from local streams and reservoir storage. Today, nearly 75% 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 streams, washing pollutants into them which cause broad ecosystem damage, and creates conflicts with downstream neighbors.

**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% 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. Conservation efforts by our community earned a star of achievement this year.
**WHAT DOES IT MEAN?**

The impervious surfaces are those areas covered by material that water cannot penetrate, such as roadways, parking lots, rooftops and cement-lined drainage channels. In 2007, the first year of annual replicable available data, the percentage of land that was calculated to be impervious, not including sidewalks, was 14%. This is the number that will be tracked forward.

**HOW ARE WE DOING?**

The total acres of land in the city of Colorado Springs has increased only slightly since 1997. The last major annexation or addition of land into the city was the 24,000 acres of Banning Lewis Ranch in 1988, increasing the city footprint by 20%. Banning Lewis currently makes up a large portion of the undeveloped land in the city. The City of Colorado Springs calculated this number per property for the first time in 2007 to ensure an equitable collection of a fee used to repair storm water infrastructure in the city. In 2005, a Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments study showed that sub-areas within the city of Colorado Springs reached 45% impervious surface. This falls within a range that indicates streams can no longer support their designated uses. An impervious surface blocks the absorption of water into the ground, impacting supply to aquifers county residents who rely on the water for drinking.

**POTENTIAL FOR ACTION**

The Fountain Creek Watershed Taskforce, housed at PPACG, monitors the impervious surface ratio as one measure of watershed health.
Pollution in Fountain Creek

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.

What does it mean?
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 126 col/100ml. The standard for swimming is 100 col/100ml. E. coli is measured through a complex series of biological tests making it difficult to get readings on a daily basis.

How are we doing?
During low flow winter months, E. coli levels rarely exceeded the EPA standard. However, in the summer months, when flows are considered normal and are highly impacted by storms, the standard was exceeded more often. More than 60% of readings in the summer of 2007 exceeded the standard. In fact, a reading at one location was as high as 150,000 col/100ml during and after storms in August 2007.

Potential for action
The Fountain Creek Watershed Taskforce, housed at PPACG, collaborates with many stakeholders like Colorado State University and the USGS, on monitoring and problem solving this impact. Cities and counties receive permits that outline the regulations for creek pollution in their area.
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% of the pollutants that create ozone while the other 44% 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.

**Ozone Levels**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Moderate</th>
<th>Good</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>59%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>59%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>53%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>78%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>59%</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>77%</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments

**This Chart**

shows the level of air quality as a percentage of ground level ozone monitored days each summer (April through September) at the Air Force Academy monitoring station.

**What Does It Mean?**

Only summer months are presented, because strong sunlight and hot weather conditions are a catalyst for ozone creation. There are six levels for reporting air quality: Good, Moderate, Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups, Unhealthy, Very Unhealthy and Hazardous.

**How Are We Doing?**

During winter months, El Paso County has not recorded an ozone problem. Monitors indicate that a majority of days in our region are in the “Good” range while no days fall lower than “Moderate”, meaning air quality is satisfactory and air pollution poses little or no risk. Overall, El Paso County has clean air with regard to ozone, earning a star of achievement.
Many citizens are concerned about climate change. Science proves that a primary cause of global warming is burning fossil fuels such as natural gas, gasoline and coal to produce electricity. (Note: 71% of Colorado Springs electricity comes from the burning of coal.) Energy consumption is linked to air pollution as well as future supply and security issues, and our “carbon footprint.” Vehicle miles traveled (found in the Moving Around Efficiently section), is an indicator of energy consumed. The greatest source of carbon dioxide emissions (CO₂) is the energy used to heat and cool our buildings. Tracking household electricity and natural gas consumption can help each person understand his or her impacts on energy consumption and perhaps help protect the environment and save money. Renewable energy sources like wind, water and solar present an alternative to fossil fuels.

**RENEWABLE ENERGY**

![Renewable Energy as a Percentage of the Total Load](source: Colorado Springs Utilities)

**HOW ARE WE DOING?**

In 2004, Colorado voters approved Amendment 37, a Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS). It was amended in 2007 and requires that 3% of electricity come from renewable energy sources by 2011, increasing that to 10% by 2020. Colorado Springs Utilities is currently meeting the standard and for the future, and has plans to purchase Renewable Energy Credits to continue to meet the standards.

Conservation is one way to reduce the financial and environmental impacts of energy consumption. In the Pikes Peak region in 2007, there was an overall energy savings from Colorado Springs Utilities of 5.72 MW of electricity because of demand-side management programs and 9.297 MWh of electricity consumption. In addition since 2006, Colorado Springs Utilities has incentivized the installation of 48.9 kW of solar electricity generation on area homes, resulting in the generation of 220.18 MWh of clean electricity.

**POTENTIAL FOR ACTION**

Diversifying local energy sources is like low hanging fruit in reducing dependence on fossil fuels. Examples of such include: whether purchase of wind power, conservation (the silent renewable energy source) and residential solar units with meters to sell power back to the city system. Federal and state incentives could help to accelerate these advances.
**How Are We Doing?**
This is not a very diverse energy mix. Historically, Colorado Springs Utilities has offered the least expensive option when determining long-range electric resource plans. That trend is changing and the result is an Electric Integrated Resource Plan (EIRP) in 2007, which for the first time didn’t suggest a least cost option. Rather, it suggested a best value, with additional studies and research. This is due to a changing landscape for energy portfolios. Within one year, we’ve witnessed significant changes in environmental legislation and fuel economies.

**Potential for Action**
In order to respond to these changing conditions, Colorado Springs Utilities is soliciting proposals from the industry for significant new wind generation, conducting a wind integration study, and studying the potential for increased Demand Side Management.

**This Chart**
shows the sources of energy used to produce electricity for Colorado Springs Utilities customers in 2007.

**What Does It Mean?**
Two fossil fuels, coal and natural gas, were used to generate 89% of our electricity in 2007.

---

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Energy Source</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Coal</td>
<td>71.28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gas</td>
<td>17.65%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hydropower</td>
<td>8.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Market</td>
<td>2.15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wind</td>
<td>0.04%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Colorado Springs Utilities
**Energy Consumption:**

**Electricity**

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

**Natural Gas**

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.

**How Are We Doing?**

Colorado Springs Utilities customers are consuming less electricity than the U.S. and Colorado residential averages. However, there is a slight trend showing increasing electricity usage. This could be explained by the increasing use of electronic devices. Colorado Springs Utilities customers are consuming more natural gas than U.S. averages but less than the average Colorado household.
**HOW ARE WE DOING?**

Our community is doing about as well (or as poorly) as any other community that is heavily dependent on the burning of fossil fuels to generate electricity.

**POTENTIAL FOR ACTION**

These trends should show improvement in future years as the Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) percentage of renewable energy increases and as the utility best value planning decisions result in cleaner energy alternatives.
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.

**POUNDS OF WASTE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Pounds per day/person landfilled waste</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>5.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>4.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>5.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>5.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>5.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>6.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*T HIS C H A R T* shows the pounds of waste deposited per person per day into El Paso County’s three local landfills.

**WHAT DOES IT MEAN?**
Pounds of waste per person is calculated by running annual gross cubic yards of waste in local landfills through a calculator formula developed by the University of Illinois.

*a discrepancies between the 2007 and 2008 report are due to corrections in 2007 source data and in 2008, the calculation was run using US Census data for population rather than Colorado DOLA.*

**H O W A R E W E D O I N G ?**

Our community’s pounds per person of waste have increased over the last few years.

In the U.S., approximately 230 million tons of municipal solid waste or garbage are 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 and the trend is NOT improving.
HOW ARE WE DOING?
Up until 2007, when Colorado launched an initiative to focus on recycling in the state, no data was available on total amounts, earning a warning flag.

The state of Colorado, through the Department of Health and Environment, will release in late 2008 newly collected data on recycling by county as compared to the state as a whole.

POTENTIAL FOR ACTION
In 2008, locals launched the Green Cities Coalition and chose recycling as one of six areas to target for action. Also, Catamount Institute will be launching a Sustainable Business Network to support reduction of business waste. Recycling Coalition of Colorado Springs also advocates for better recycling in our region.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?
This is a total tonnage for all of El Paso County, not per person. Aggregates represent asphalt and concrete and are not generally recycled by households. Plastics are not included because the numbers are collected in Denver only.

T H I S  C H A R T
shows the breakdown of quantities of materials recycled in 2007 in El Paso County.

T H I S  C H A R T
shows the number of pounds per person recycled in El Paso County.
As a community, we understand the importance of good physical and mental health and the need for everyone to have access to quality healthcare, regardless of income level. Health difficulties can impact everything from family budgets to the local economy, and often make it more difficult for individuals to participate as full members of society.

The Gay & Lesbian Fund, recognizing the importance of safe communities where access and opportunity exist regardless of differences.

The Gay & Lesbian Fund for Colorado is proud to support organizations working to make Colorado families healthier. We recognize that when all families are healthy, Colorado is a better place.
**Sustaining a Healthy Community Council/Community Health Partnership**

**Chairs**

**RICK O’CONNELL, 2007-2008**
Formerly with the Penrose-St. Francis Health Services, who engaged the project

**KANDI BUCKLAND, 2008-2009**
El Paso County Department of Health and Environment

**Board Members Engaged in the Project:**

**DIRK HOBBS**
M.D. NEWS/Medical Voice, Inc.

**SHARON RAGGIO**
Pikes Peak Behavioral Health Group

**LAURIE PICUS, MSW, LCSW**
Colorado Consumer Health Initiatives

**ROSEMARY BAKES-MARTIN**
El Paso County Department of Health and Environment

**B. J. SCOTT**
Peak Vista Community Health Centers

**ELLEN DEAUSTIN**
HealthSouth Rehabilitation Hospital

**MARCELLA RUCH**
Mission Medical Clinic

**MARTHA BARTON**
Pikes Peak Hospice & Palliative Care

**RICHARD (DICK) EITEL**
Formerly with Memorial Hospital

**WILLIAM MANDELL, D.O.**
El Paso County Medical Society

**ZELNA JOSEPH**
S.E.T. of Colorado Springs

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**Current Health Issues**

Teen Suicide
Suicide Deaths Among Older Adults
Infant Mortality
Deaths From Stroke

**Emerging Health Issues**

Obesity Among Adults
Adults Reporting Poor Mental Health

**Infrastructure/Capacity**

Persons Without Health Insurance
Licensed Beds In General Hospitals
Registered Nurses
Public Health Resources

---

**Other Contributors:**

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**LYNN PELZ**
Peak Vista Community Health Centers

**CAROL A. WALKER**
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**AMY SUFAK**
Penrose-St. Francis Health Services

**ANNETTE FRYMAN, RN, MBA**
Pikes Peak Behavioral Health Group

---

**Medical Direction Provided by:**

**JOEL DICKERMAN, D.O.**

**MICHAEL WELCH, D.O.**

**BERNADETTE ALBANESE, M.D.**
These indicators are among the most significant in mortality issues impacting our area.

**teen suicide**

This chart shows suicide rates for teens in Colorado and the El Paso County region. El Paso County’s suicide rate of 8.1 per 100,000 is significantly higher than the state’s rate of 6.4 per 100,000.

**How are we doing?**

These figures place El Paso County among the top 10 highest teen suicide rates in the U.S. Additionally, among younger populations (aged 15 – 24), it is estimated that for every individual who commits suicide, there are approximately 100-200 attempts, which indicates that approximately 1 million young adults attempt suicide each year.

**Potential for action**

Making El Paso County youth aware of the services and support systems available to them can help curb the high suicide rates.

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1. *Life, Death and Disease in El Paso County, Colorado, 2006 Report to the Community, page 55*
**How Are We Doing?**

Nationally, Colorado ranks fourth in elderly suicide rates. Within these statistics, 81% of suicide deaths are men.

**Potential for Action**

There are various services, activities and support systems available for older adults. Connecting older adults with such resources may help lower the suicide rate. Please see Social Wellbeing Section for more information.

---

**Suicide Deaths Among Older Adults**

This chart shows suicide rates among older adults. The suicide rate in Colorado for individuals 85 and older is 31.9 per 100,000 people. The El Paso County rate is 39.7 per 100,000 people.

Source: El Paso County Department of Health and Environment

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2Life, Death and Disease in El Paso County, Colorado, 2006 Report to the Community, page 55
INFANT MORTALITY

This chart compares infant mortality rates in El Paso County and Colorado. The 2004 infant mortality rates were 8.6 per 1,000 live births for El Paso County and 6.3 per 1,000 live births for Colorado.

How are we doing?
Since 2001 infant mortality rates have increased in both El Paso County and Colorado. In 2004, there were 8,139 live births in El Paso County.

Potential for action
It is the goal of Healthy People 2010 to bring infant mortality rates to 4.5 per 1,000 live births. Similarly, they want to increase the percent of women who begin prenatal care in the first trimester to 90% (in 2004 it was 78.5%).

Source: El Paso County Department of Health and Environment

Footnote: Life, Death and Disease in El Paso County, Colorado, 2006 Report to the Community, pages 70, 71, 73 and 75
Current Health Issues

DEATHS FROM STROKE

**HOW ARE WE DOING?**

Current information from American Heart Association and American Stroke databases indicates that the combined incidence of stroke or trans-ischemic attack at Penrose and Memorial Hospitals reached 867 cases from July 2007 until July 2008. There were 2,221 strokes entered into these databases in all of Colorado for the same time period. Thus, Colorado Springs had approximately 40 – 45% of cases reported in the entire state.

**POTENTIAL FOR ACTION**

The *Healthy People 2010* target is 50 deaths from stroke per 100,000 population. Colorado Springs and El Paso County lie within a high area of stroke incidence according to national studies. Because risk factors for stroke are the same as for cardiac myocardial infarction, and often preventable, it is imperative that our city and county focus attention and public education into this area.

*Source: El Paso County Department of Health and Environment*

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4*Life, Death and Disease in El Paso County, Colorado, 2006 Report to the Community, page 12*
These indicators are statistically emerging from the population and are quickly becoming major burdens on our service delivery system.

**OBESITY AMONG ADULTS**

This chart shows that adults in El Paso County had a higher obesity percentage than the Colorado percentage. Similarly, there was a greater percentage of overweight adults in El Paso County than the Colorado percentage.

**HOW ARE WE DOING?**

Notably in 1990-1991, only 6.9% of El Paso County adults were obese as compared to 21.4% in 2004. This means that the number of obese adults in El Paso County has more than tripled over the last 15 years. Current data indicate that the situation is worsening rather than improving.

**POTENTIAL FOR ACTION**

The Healthy People 2010 goal is to reduce the prevalence of adult obesity to less than 15%. Additionally, 53.6% of adults report that they are trying lose weight.

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\(^1\) Life, Death and Disease in El Paso County, Colorado, 2006 Report to the Community, page 33
**HOW ARE WE DOING?**

This chart also shows that of those surveyed, 13.7% of respondents said that they had at least 14 days of poor mental health in the prior 30 days. The 2004 El Paso County Community Health Survey reveals that 18% of respondents needed mental health counseling or therapy during the previous year; 79.3% of those respondents indicated that they were able to get the services they needed.

**POTENTIAL FOR ACTION**

Compared to other states, Colorado's behavioral health care spending is 20% below the national average. Please see Social Wellbeing section for additional mental health information.

---

T H I S C H A R T shows that in 2004, 47% of El Paso County adults reported experiencing at least one day of poor mental health during the past 30 days. This compares to 34% of Colorado adults and 34.4% adults nationwide.

---

4 Life, Death and Disease in El Paso County, Colorado, 2006 Report to the Community, pages 46-49
These indicators identify deficits and vulnerabilities in our current care system that will have a major impact on institutions, businesses and individuals.

**PERSONS WITHOUT HEALTH INSURANCE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percent of Uninsured El Paso County Residents</th>
<th>0%</th>
<th>10%</th>
<th>20%</th>
<th>30%</th>
<th>40%</th>
<th>50%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age 60+</td>
<td>6.8%</td>
<td>16.6%</td>
<td>28.8%</td>
<td>24.0%</td>
<td>29.5%</td>
<td>37.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age 40-59</td>
<td>17.2%</td>
<td>28.8%</td>
<td>28.8%</td>
<td>24.0%</td>
<td>29.5%</td>
<td>37.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age 18-39</td>
<td>28.8%</td>
<td>24.0%</td>
<td>28.8%</td>
<td>24.0%</td>
<td>29.5%</td>
<td>37.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>17.2%</td>
<td>24.0%</td>
<td>28.8%</td>
<td>24.0%</td>
<td>29.5%</td>
<td>37.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>15.9%</td>
<td>24.0%</td>
<td>28.8%</td>
<td>24.0%</td>
<td>29.5%</td>
<td>37.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>15.9%</td>
<td>24.0%</td>
<td>28.8%</td>
<td>24.0%</td>
<td>29.5%</td>
<td>37.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>African-American</td>
<td>15.9%</td>
<td>24.0%</td>
<td>28.8%</td>
<td>24.0%</td>
<td>29.5%</td>
<td>37.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>37.1%</td>
<td>28.8%</td>
<td>24.0%</td>
<td>16.6%</td>
<td>8.8%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: El Paso County Department of Health and Environment

**HOW ARE WE DOING?**

In our community about 1 out of every 5 adults is uninsured. Additionally, 28% of those surveyed indicated that they have not gone to a doctor or a clinic, although they needed assistance, because they could not afford the medical care. When looking at the uninsured population by age, gender and race/ethnicity, the data indicates that Hispanics, men and younger adults are more likely to be uninsured.

**POTENTIAL FOR ACTION**

Local initiatives, including the Community Health Partnership, have been working to expand health care resources for the underinsured and uninsured in El Paso County. Other local initiatives are being led by the Latino American Health Network and the Black Leadership Forum.

*TLife, Death and Disease in El Paso County, Colorado, 2006 Report to the Community, page 24-27*
Infrastructure/Capacity

**Licensed Beds in General Hospitals**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>Beds per 1,000 People</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Boise City</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nampa, ID</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colorado Springs, CO</td>
<td>3.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greenville, SC</td>
<td>3.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jackson, MS</td>
<td>3.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knoxville, TN</td>
<td>3.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Little Rock, AR</td>
<td>2.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Little Rock, AR</td>
<td>2.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McAllen–Edinburg, TX</td>
<td>2.38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mission, TX</td>
<td>1.97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Odessa–Clarendon, TX</td>
<td>1.97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>San Angelo, TX</td>
<td>1.88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Syracuse, NY</td>
<td>1.88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toledo, OH</td>
<td>1.88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wichita, KS</td>
<td>1.88</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**How Are We Doing?**

Colorado Springs ranks 29th among 31 comparable cities in the United States in the number of licensed general hospital beds. Colorado Springs has 1.97 licensed general hospital beds per 1,000 people. The average among the 31 comparable cities was 3.25 licensed general hospital beds per 1,000 people. Jackson, Mississippi ranks the highest with 5.08 beds per 1,000 people.

**Potential for Action**

With new additions to local hospitals, the number of licensed beds and the number of staffed beds will increase.

---


**How Are We Doing?**

Colorado Springs ranks 30th among 33 comparable cities in the United States in the number of registered nurses. Colorado Springs has 7.09 registered nurses per 1,000 people. The average among the 33 comparable cities was 8.67 registered nurses per 1,000. Colorado Springs is also below the statewide average. The average in Colorado is 8.68 registered nurses per 1,000 people. Little Rock, Arkansas ranks the highest with 18.5 registered nurses per 1,000 people.

**Potential For Action**

Efforts are underway to increase educational opportunities and improve the health care training infrastructure, and initial results from these programs are encouraging. Cooperation between training programs, community organizations, and health care providers is especially effective because it provides students with a clear “pipeline” for career development.

---

*T his Chart* compares the number of registered nurses per 1,000 people in Colorado Springs with other cities similar in populations.

---

**WHAT DOES IT MEAN?**

Funding directly impacts the types and levels of service the El Paso County Department of Health and Environment (EPCDHE) can provide to protect public health.

**HOW ARE WE DOING?**

When compared to other similar health departments in Colorado, the 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.

**POTENTIAL FOR ACTION**

The rate of growth of local funding of the EPCDHE should be keeping in pace with the local population growth. But instead, the local funding for the EPCDHE has steadily decreased, earning this warning flag.

---

Educational excellence is not simply about acquiring knowledge, but also about honing critical thinking skills, learning appropriate social behavior and being exposed to new ideas and innovation. Achieving said excellence is a process that begins the moment a child is born, and continues through adulthood. A quality education is vital to a person’s quality of life, and allows them the opportunity to contribute to their community in a meaningful way.

ENT Federal Credit Union knows that our children are the key to the future success of our community, and that a quality education is an integral part of ensuring our children are prepared to become productive citizens. We are pleased to sponsor the Achieving Educational Excellence section of the 2008 Quality of Life Indicators report.
Achieving Educational Excellence Council

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NOREEN LANDIS-TYSON
Co-Chair
PAULA MILLER

Members
ANTHONY ANDERSON
JOHN ATKINSON
DEE BEAUDETTE
TERRY BISHOP
MARGE BLACK
JOHN BOX
HOWARD BROOKS
CHRIS CHAPARRO
DALTON CONNER
JOYCE COPE
ROY CRAWFORD
RANDY DALTON
MIKE EDMONDS
JACQUELINE GOODEN
GREG GARCIA
TOM HAROLD
NANCY MARTINEZ
MARY ELLEN MCNALLY
MIKE MILES
JOE MOORE
VANNESSA MOSES
VINCE PUZICK

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
Educational excellence is dependent upon a child’s ability to read well. Children who learn to read early have a greater chance of success. Early childhood education programs prepare children for the learning process in elementary school and can improve outcomes for all children, especially those in lower-income families. Thus, access to affordable and quality early childhood education is a strong indicator of a child’s social and academic preparedness.

Children spend much of their time in kindergarten through second grade learning to read; in the third grade, the focus switches. Instead of learning to read, the child must be able to read in order to learn. Measuring the third-grade reading skills of the children in our community gives us an indication of how well they will be able to succeed as they continue their academic journey.

### EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Enrollment of Children in Poverty in Early Education</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>El Paso County</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Warning: Flag)

*Source: American Communities Survey, US Census 2006-2007, El Paso County, CO; Colorado Department of Education; Colorado State Demography Office; Community Partnership for Child Development/Head Start*

Note: the final numbers of the next five charts are weighted average based on district population.

### HOW ARE WE DOING?

In El Paso County, the rate declined from 54.4% in 2004-2005 to 53.8% in 2005-2006, but rose in 2006-2007 by 5.2%, as a result of the State’s increased investment in the Colorado Preschool Program.

### POTENTIAL FOR ACTION

According to the Colorado Children’s Campaign, the federal government defines children to be at risk of education failure because of poverty, if their family earns less than 185% of the federal poverty level (FPL). In El Paso County, the percent of children in families below this level is 28%, or one out of every four.

### THIRD GRADE READING SKILLS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Third Graders Reading at Grade Level by District</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colorado Springs 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Academy 20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harrison 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Falcon 49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Widefield 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fountain-Fort Carson 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Largest Six Districts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State of Colorado</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Colorado Department of Education

### HOW ARE WE DOING?

The average rate for El Paso County’s largest school districts improved from 73.9% in 2005-2006 to 79.0% in 2006-2007. In Colorado, the rate improved by 1% over the previous year, returning to 2004-2005 levels.

### POTENTIAL FOR ACTION

Five of the six largest school districts in El Paso County showed at least a 1% improvement in this indicator, with Harrison School District 2 and Widefield School District 3 improving by 3%. Only Fountain Ft. Carson School District 8 showed a decline. The Educational Vision Council has determined that improvement in third grade reading levels is critical to school success for El Paso County students, and is focusing efforts on improving this indicator.
The Colorado Department of Education believes that student assessment, high academic standards, and accountability at both the school and school district level are the three most important factors of school reform. In Colorado, student achievement is measured primarily through scores on the Colorado Student Assessment Program (the standardized test more commonly called CSAP). The test scores on four levels; the top two levels indicate a student is performing at grade-level or above.

**Tenth Grade Reading Skills**

Tenths Graders Reading at Grade Level by District

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2004-05</th>
<th>2005-06</th>
<th>2006-07</th>
<th>Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Colorado Springs 11</td>
<td>64.0%</td>
<td>69.0%</td>
<td>70.0%</td>
<td>1.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Academy 20</td>
<td>82.0%</td>
<td>84.0%</td>
<td>87.0%</td>
<td>3.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harrison 2</td>
<td>50.0%</td>
<td>57.0%</td>
<td>59.0%</td>
<td>2.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Falcon 49</td>
<td>69.0%</td>
<td>74.0%</td>
<td>77.0%</td>
<td>3.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Widefield 3</td>
<td>68.0%</td>
<td>75.0%</td>
<td>75.0%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fountain-Fort Carson 8</td>
<td>65.0%</td>
<td>74.0%</td>
<td>80.0%</td>
<td>6.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Largest Six Districts</td>
<td>68.2%</td>
<td>73.1%</td>
<td>79.9%</td>
<td>6.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State of Colorado</td>
<td>66.0%</td>
<td>68.0%</td>
<td>69.0%</td>
<td>1.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Colorado Department of Education

**How Are We Doing?**
In El Paso County, the rate increased by 6.8%, from 73.1% in 2005-2006 to 79.9% in 2006-2007. In Colorado, the rate also increased by 1% over the same time period.

**Potential for Action**
Five of the six largest school districts in El Paso County showed at least a 1% improvement in this indicator, with Fountain Ft. Carson School District 8 improving by 6%. Widefield School District 3 showed no improvement in this indicator over the same time period.

**Tenth Grade Math Skills**

Tenth Graders Doing Math at Grade Level by District

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2004-05</th>
<th>2005-06</th>
<th>2006-07</th>
<th>Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Colorado Springs 11</td>
<td>24.0%</td>
<td>30.0%</td>
<td>28.0%</td>
<td>-2.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Academy 20</td>
<td>40.0%</td>
<td>41.0%</td>
<td>44.0%</td>
<td>3.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harrison 2</td>
<td>13.0%</td>
<td>17.0%</td>
<td>17.0%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Falcon 49</td>
<td>33.0%</td>
<td>31.0%</td>
<td>35.0%</td>
<td>4.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Widefield 3</td>
<td>22.0%</td>
<td>27.0%</td>
<td>22.0%</td>
<td>-5.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fountain-Fort Carson 8</td>
<td>27.0%</td>
<td>26.0%</td>
<td>27.0%</td>
<td>1.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Largest Six Districts</td>
<td>27.9%</td>
<td>31.1%</td>
<td>31.4%</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State of Colorado</td>
<td>30.0%</td>
<td>31.0%</td>
<td>30.0%</td>
<td>-1.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Colorado Department of Education

**How Are We Doing?**
In El Paso County, the rate increased by less than 1% from 2005-2006 to 2006-2007. In Colorado, the rate declined from 31% to 30% over the same time period.

**Potential for Action**
Three of the six largest school districts showed an improvement in this indicator of at least 1%, while one school district showed no improvement, and two declined by at least two percentage points.
Obtaining a high school diploma is critical if a student wishes to further his or her education, and in finding good-paying, quality employment. Youth who do not complete high school are often only able to obtain low-paying jobs. Looking at high school graduation and dropout rates can tell us whether our children are adequately prepared to enter college or the workforce.

**High School Graduation Rate**

*T HIS C H A R T* shows the percentage of students who graduate from public high schools in El Paso County’s six largest school districts within four years.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Students Graduating within Four Years by District</th>
<th>2004-05</th>
<th>2005-06</th>
<th>2006-07</th>
<th>Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Colorado Springs 11</td>
<td>67.8%</td>
<td>69.0%</td>
<td>67.5%</td>
<td>-1.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Academy 20</td>
<td>91.6%</td>
<td>89.5%</td>
<td>91.4%</td>
<td>1.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harrison 2</td>
<td>81.9%</td>
<td>65.0%</td>
<td>69.8%</td>
<td>4.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Falcon 49</td>
<td>81.5%</td>
<td>85.6%</td>
<td>83.2%</td>
<td>-2.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Widefield 3</td>
<td>83.8%</td>
<td>86.3%</td>
<td>81.5%</td>
<td>-4.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fountain-Fort Carson 8</td>
<td>87.7%</td>
<td>79.4%</td>
<td>84.0%</td>
<td>4.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Largest Six Districts</td>
<td>77.9%</td>
<td>77.1%</td>
<td>76.7%</td>
<td>-0.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State of Colorado</td>
<td>80.1%</td>
<td>74.1%</td>
<td>75.0%</td>
<td>0.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: Colorado Department of Education*

**How Are We Doing?**

The graduation rate declined by less than one percent, from 77.1% in 2005-2006 to 76.7% in 2006-2007 in El Paso County’s six largest school districts. In Colorado, the rate improved from 74.1% to 75% over the same time period.

**Potential For Action**

Three of the six largest school districts improved graduation rates in 2006-2007, while three declined. Harrison School District 2 increased graduation rates by 4.8%, while Widefield School District 3 declined by 4.8%.

**High School Dropout Rate**

*T HIS C H A R T* 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Students Who Drop Out Between Ninth &amp; Twelfth Grade</th>
<th>2004-05</th>
<th>2005-06</th>
<th>2006-07</th>
<th>Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Colorado Springs 11</td>
<td>7.0%</td>
<td>6.1%</td>
<td>4.6%</td>
<td>-1.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Academy 20</td>
<td>1.7%</td>
<td>1.6%</td>
<td>0.9%</td>
<td>0.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harrison 2</td>
<td>1.9%</td>
<td>8.4%</td>
<td>3.1%</td>
<td>-5.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Falcon 49</td>
<td>4.2%</td>
<td>1.6%</td>
<td>2.5%</td>
<td>0.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Widefield 3</td>
<td>4.9%</td>
<td>4.1%</td>
<td>1.1%</td>
<td>-3.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fountain-Fort Carson 8</td>
<td>4.4%</td>
<td>5.3%</td>
<td>1.1%</td>
<td>-4.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Largest Six Districts</td>
<td>4.5%</td>
<td>4.3%</td>
<td>2.8%</td>
<td>-1.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State of Colorado</td>
<td>4.2%</td>
<td>4.5%</td>
<td>4.4%</td>
<td>-0.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: Colorado Department of Education*

**How Are We Doing?**

The dropout rate declined from 4.3% to 2.8% in 2006-2007 in El Paso County’s six largest school districts. In Colorado, the rate also declined from 4.5% to 4.4%.

**Potential For Action**

Harrison School District 2 and Fountain Ft. Carson School District 8 improved dropout rates by more than 4%; only two of the County’s six largest school districts showed an increase in dropout rates.
The 21st century finds our world moving to a knowledge- and skill-based economy, and thus community success depends on strong development of a community’s intellectual capital. This includes working to expand participation in higher education because the economy demands a higher percentage of educated, skilled workers. Adult educational achievement is just as important as children’s educational achievement if our community is to truly achieve educational excellence.

**Educational Attainment**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Adults in El Paso County by Education Level</th>
<th>2004-05</th>
<th>2005-06</th>
<th>2006-07</th>
<th>Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Some College</td>
<td>26.0%</td>
<td>24.8%</td>
<td>24.8%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Associate</td>
<td>10.1%</td>
<td>10.2%</td>
<td>9.7%</td>
<td>-0.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor</td>
<td>19.7%</td>
<td>21.0%</td>
<td>22.0%</td>
<td>1.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate</td>
<td>11.9%</td>
<td>12.7%</td>
<td>12.4%</td>
<td>-0.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor or Higher</td>
<td>31.6%</td>
<td>33.7%</td>
<td>34.5%</td>
<td>0.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State of Colorado Bachelor or Higher</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>34.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**HOW ARE WE DOING?**

The percentage of adults in El Paso County with a bachelor’s or graduate degree rose from 33.7% in 2006 to 34.5% in 2007. In Colorado, the rate declined from 35.5% to 34.3%.

**Potential for Action**

While the percent of adults with a bachelor’s degree increased by 1% in El Paso County, the number of adults with associate’s and graduate degrees declined; the number of adults with some college remained unchanged.

**Outcomes of Higher Education**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Higher Education Degrees Awarded Annually by Type</th>
<th>2004-05</th>
<th>2005-06</th>
<th>2006-07</th>
<th>Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Doctorate</td>
<td>167</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Master</td>
<td>1,347</td>
<td>1,803</td>
<td>2,127</td>
<td>324</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor</td>
<td>3,046</td>
<td>4,713</td>
<td>6,055</td>
<td>1,342</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Associate</td>
<td>1,594</td>
<td>1,475</td>
<td>1,488</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>6,154</td>
<td>8,011</td>
<td>9,730</td>
<td>1,719</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**HOW ARE WE DOING?**

The total number of degrees rose from 8,011 in 2005-2006 to 9,730 in 2006-2007. While the number of degrees awarded increased in all categories, the biggest increase was in bachelor’s degrees with 1,342 more handed out in 2006-2007. The El Paso County area can be proud to note that all of the statistics increased.

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
- National American University—Colorado Springs
- Nazarene Bible College
- Pikes Peak Community College
- Remington College—Colorado Springs Campus
- United States Air Force Academy
- University of Colorado at Colorado Springs
- University of Phoenix—Southern Colorado Campus
The caliber of the teachers in our community schools has a direct correlation to student performance and achievement. Providing a strong compensation package is necessary for our community’s ability to recruit and retain high-quality teachers. To educators, it’s an indication of our commitment to them and to our children, and ensures our children receive a quality education.

**Teachers with Advanced Degrees**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>Fall 2004</th>
<th>Fall 2005</th>
<th>Fall 2006</th>
<th>Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Colorado Springs 11</td>
<td>53.0%</td>
<td>52.0%</td>
<td>61.7%</td>
<td>9.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Academy 20</td>
<td>54.0%</td>
<td>55.0%</td>
<td>52.9%</td>
<td>-2.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harrison 2</td>
<td>41.0%</td>
<td>39.0%</td>
<td>40.8%</td>
<td>1.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Falcon 49</td>
<td>34.0%</td>
<td>33.0%</td>
<td>35.7%</td>
<td>2.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Widefield 3</td>
<td>43.0%</td>
<td>42.0%</td>
<td>44.1%</td>
<td>2.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fountain-Fort Carson 8</td>
<td>37.0%</td>
<td>39.0%</td>
<td>41.3%</td>
<td>2.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Largest Six Districts</td>
<td>48.0%</td>
<td>47.0%</td>
<td>50.5%</td>
<td>3.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State of Colorado</td>
<td>48.0%</td>
<td>48.0%</td>
<td>50.2%</td>
<td>2.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Source:** Colorado Department of Education

**How Are We Doing?**

In El Paso County’s six largest districts, the rate increased from 47% in Fall 2005 to 50.5% in Fall 2006. In Colorado, the rate increased from 48% to 50.2%.

**Potential for Action**

Of the six largest school districts, only Academy School District 20 showed a decline in this indicator, decreasing from 55.0% in Fall 2005 to 52.9% in Fall 2006. Colorado Springs School District 11 showed the greatest jump, with a 9.7% increase.
**Teacher Compensation**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Teacher Salaries by District</th>
<th>2004-05</th>
<th>2005-06</th>
<th>2006-07</th>
<th>Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Colorado Springs 11</td>
<td>$44,411</td>
<td>$44,388</td>
<td>$44,914</td>
<td>$526</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Academy 20</td>
<td>$40,889</td>
<td>$41,068</td>
<td>$43,310</td>
<td>$2,242</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harrison 2</td>
<td>$38,240</td>
<td>$38,394</td>
<td>$38,610</td>
<td>$216</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Falcon 49</td>
<td>$38,391</td>
<td>$38,351</td>
<td>$38,716</td>
<td>$365</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Widefield 3</td>
<td>$42,086</td>
<td>$42,026</td>
<td>$43,225</td>
<td>$1,199</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fountain-Fort Carson 8</td>
<td>$40,488</td>
<td>$41,083</td>
<td>$42,646</td>
<td>$1,563</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Largest Six Districts</td>
<td>$41,617</td>
<td>$41,666</td>
<td>$41,904</td>
<td>$238</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State of Colorado</td>
<td>$43,965</td>
<td>$44,456</td>
<td>$45,831</td>
<td>$1,375</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*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 $238 from 2005-2006 to 2006-2007. The median teacher salary for Colorado teachers is greater than El Paso County and increased by $1375 over the same period.

**Potential for Action**

Only two of the six largest school districts increased average teacher salaries by more than the state average of $1,375; three increased salaries by less than $600, an average of a 1% increase from 2005-2006 to 2006-2007.
Educational funding is vital for school success. Tracking the amount of total revenue per student in our schools can give an indication of how our community is doing in terms of educational success. In schools with a large percentage of students in need, this number is even more important, as these students often require more expensive supplemental services.

**School Funding**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Colorado Springs 11</td>
<td>$6,120</td>
<td>$6,283</td>
<td>$6,610</td>
<td>$327</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Academy 20</td>
<td>$6,842</td>
<td>$7,038</td>
<td>$7,218</td>
<td>$180</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harrison 2</td>
<td>$6,657</td>
<td>$7,042</td>
<td>$7,365</td>
<td>$323</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Falcon 49</td>
<td>$5,889</td>
<td>$6,415</td>
<td>$6,832</td>
<td>$417</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Widefield 3</td>
<td>$6,399</td>
<td>$6,465</td>
<td>$6,462</td>
<td>-$3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fountain-Fort Carson 8</td>
<td>$7,385</td>
<td>$8,807</td>
<td>$7,778</td>
<td>-$1,029</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Largest Six Districts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2004-05</th>
<th>2005-06</th>
<th>2006-07</th>
<th>Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$6,436</td>
<td>$6,743</td>
<td>$6,940</td>
<td></td>
<td>$197</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

State of Colorado

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2004-05</th>
<th>2005-06</th>
<th>2006-07</th>
<th>Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$7,228</td>
<td>$7,327</td>
<td>$7,687</td>
<td></td>
<td>$360</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Represents basic operating revenue of each district divided by the number of students*

**How Are We Doing?**

The annual amount of basic operating revenue available for each public student in El Paso County’s six largest school districts increased from $6,743 to $6,940 in 2006. In Colorado, the amount rose from $7,327 to $7,687. School funding per pupil in Colorado is one of the lowest in the nation.

**Potential for Action**

Two school districts (Widefield School District 3 and Fountain Ft. Carson School District 8) saw a reduction in the basic operating revenue available per student from 2005-06 to 2006-07 ($3 and -$1,029 respectively) while no district saw more than a 7% increase in general operating revenue per student (Falcon District 49).

This chart shows the annual amount of basic operating revenue available per full time student in El Paso County’s six largest public school districts.

Source: Colorado Department of Education, Comparison of Revenues & Expenditures for Selected Funds, Column F
STUDENTS IN NEED

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pre K–12 Students Eligible for Free or Reduced Lunch</th>
<th>2004-05</th>
<th>2005-06</th>
<th>2006-07</th>
<th>Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Colorado Springs 11</td>
<td>40.0%</td>
<td>40.1%</td>
<td>44.5%</td>
<td>4.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Academy 20</td>
<td>6.0%</td>
<td>5.9%</td>
<td>7.6%</td>
<td>1.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harrison 2</td>
<td>62.1%</td>
<td>61.1%</td>
<td>62.7%</td>
<td>1.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Falcon 49</td>
<td>15.7%</td>
<td>15.0%</td>
<td>15.5%</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Widefield 3</td>
<td>24.2%</td>
<td>26.4%</td>
<td>25.9%</td>
<td>-0.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fountain-Fort Carson 8</td>
<td>34.1%</td>
<td>33.4%</td>
<td>36.4%</td>
<td>3.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Largest Six Districts</td>
<td>30.3%</td>
<td>30.3%</td>
<td>31.5%</td>
<td>1.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State of Colorado</td>
<td>33.26%</td>
<td>33.70%</td>
<td>34.33%</td>
<td>0.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

T H I S  C H A R T shows the percentage of public students (pre-K through Grade 12) eligible for free or reduced lunch in El Paso County’s six largest school districts.

H O W  A R E  W E  D O I N G?
The percentage of public students eligible for free or reduced lunch in El Paso County’s six largest school districts increased 1.2% from 30.3% in 2005-2006 to 31.5% in 2006-2007. In Colorado, the amount rose by 0.6%, from 33.7% to 34.33%.

P O T E N T I A L  F O R  A C T I O N
Harrison School District 2 continues to have the highest percentage of Pre-K through Grade 12 population who are eligible for free and reduced lunch, rising from 61.1% in 2005-2006 to 62.7% in 2006-2007. Colorado Springs School District 11’s eligible population rose by 4.4% over the same period, representing the largest percentage increase of any of the six largest districts.

Source: Colorado Department of Education
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 the economy. The indicators presented in this report help the community understand the presence of arts, culture and recreational opportunities, which include visual and performing arts, outdoor and indoor recreation, community events, and cultural celebrations.

Leadership Pikes Peak is a proud partner on the Dream City Vision 2020 initiative, engaging the community in crafting our community vision and on the Quality of Life Indicators project which will measure our progress toward that vision.
Arts, Culture, and Recreation Council

Co-Chairs and Conveners

PAUL BUTCHER
City of Colorado Springs
Co-Chair

BETTINA SWIGGER
Cultural Office of the Pikes Peak Region
Co-Chair

JUDITH RICE-JONES
University of Colorado at Colorado Springs
Convener

MATT MAYBERRY
City of Colorado Springs
Convener

Members

KURT AICHELE
Southeast YMCA

MOREY BEAN
Colorado Architecture Partnership

ERIN HANNAN
United States Anti-Doping Agency

KAY JEANSONNE

DOT LISCHICK
Colorado Architecture Partnership

DOUG MARTIN
Colorado Springs Sports Corporation

Arts, Culture and Humanities Presence

Organizations
Attendance at Local Venues

Recreation Presence

Recreational Establishments
Parks Acreage
Miles of Recreational Trails
Participation in Recreational Activities
Though opportunities to participate in arts, culture and humanities organizations are abundant in the community, residents do not necessarily take advantage of these opportunities. Tracking the number of organizations and 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.

**ORGANIZATIONS**

**Star of Achievement**

**Arts, Culture and Humanities Organizations**

*Source: National Center for Charitable Statistics*

**WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?**

While this gives a more apples-to-apples comparison of organizational numbers over a series of years, it does not provide complete insight into the rich tapestry of the local arts and culture groups that operate informally or without nonprofit certification. In 2007 the Cultural Office of the Pikes Peak Region (COPPeR) worked to remedy this issue. COPPeR collected names of arts and cultural organizations for its 2007-2008 COPPeR Pages publication, which is the official guide to the region’s arts and cultural organizations. This guide focuses on organizations with arts, culture and heritage as their primary purpose and function. COPPeR cross-referenced these organizations with registered organizations on www.PeakRadar.com. These two important measurement tools did not exist before 2007.

**HOW ARE WE DOING?**

Arts, culture and humanities organizations have seen overall growth consistent with increases in population in El Paso County. Colorado Springs ranks 36th out of 276 metropolitan areas in number of arts businesses per capita. In 2007, American Style magazine named Colorado Springs among the top 25 arts destinations for midsize cities.

These non-profit organizations are especially susceptible to economic downturns and changes in funding streams. The current economic climate may create critical pressure on these organizations both in terms of seeking funding and audiences.

Several remarkable capital projects were completed in 2007. The Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center finished a $28.6 million capital campaign to remodel and expand their main facility by 48,000 square feet. Also notable is Colorado College’s Edith Kinney Gaylord Cornerstone Arts Center, a $33.4 million multi-disciplinary facility that was designed by world-renowned architect Antoine Predock, which opened in the summer of 2008. The Pikes Peak Center for the Performing Arts completed a $5 million capital campaign for renovations and technical improvements to its 2,000-seat hall.
**ATTENDANCE AT LOCAL VENUES**

**Annual Attendance by Venue**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Venue</th>
<th>2003</th>
<th>2004</th>
<th>2005</th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2007</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cheyenne Mtn. Zoo</td>
<td>1,000,000</td>
<td>1,100,000</td>
<td>1,200,000</td>
<td>1,300,000</td>
<td>1,400,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World Arena</td>
<td>1,200,000</td>
<td>1,100,000</td>
<td>1,200,000</td>
<td>1,300,000</td>
<td>1,400,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pikes Peak Center</td>
<td>1,100,000</td>
<td>1,200,000</td>
<td>1,300,000</td>
<td>1,400,000</td>
<td>1,500,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fine Arts Center</td>
<td>1,000,000</td>
<td>1,100,000</td>
<td>1,200,000</td>
<td>1,300,000</td>
<td>1,400,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theaterworks</td>
<td>900,000</td>
<td>1,000,000</td>
<td>1,100,000</td>
<td>1,200,000</td>
<td>1,300,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cultural Services*</td>
<td>800,000</td>
<td>900,000</td>
<td>1,000,000</td>
<td>1,100,000</td>
<td>1,200,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Cultural Services includes the following venues: Colorado Springs Pioneers Museum, Rock Ledge Ranch Historic Site, Starsmore Discovery Center, and Helen Hunt Falls Visitor Center.

**HOW ARE WE DOING?**

Colorado Springs has a vibrant arts and culture community. This assessment is supported by the creation of the Cultural Office of the Pikes Peak Region (COPPeR) and their web site PeakRadar.com, the expansion of the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center, the construction of the Cornerstone Arts building at Colorado College, and the success of the public art program “Art on the Streets.” The activity and energy represented by these and so many other developments are not necessarily reflected in admission and visitation statistics. Though these numbers don’t tell the whole story, they are a testament to the ways in which arts and culture touch the lives of community residents and visitors, but numbers alone do not tell the whole story.

**POTENTIAL FOR ACTION**

Arts and culture organizations will continue to seek out effective ways of developing and marketing relevant programs. In addition to attendance figures, the community must also work to find other reliable ways of tracking the true impact of these programs.

**T H I S  C H A R T**

shows the total annual attendance at the following venues: Cheyenne Mountain Zoo, World Arena, Pikes Peak Center for the Performing Arts, Fine Arts Center, UCCS Theatreworks, and the facilities operated by the City’s Cultural Service Division.

[The decline in 2007 was driven by the Fine Arts Center being closed for expansion.]

* Cultural Services includes the following venues: Colorado Springs Pioneers Museum, Rock Ledge Ranch Historic Site, Starsmore Discovery Center, and Helen Hunt Falls Visitor Center.
Parks, trails and other opportunities for both indoor and outdoor physical activities are main attractions for living in Colorado. The state’s generally mild weather gives residents and visitors 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 in our community.

**RECREATIONAL ESTABLISHMENTS**

![Chart showing the number of recreational and sports establishments in El Paso County.](chart)

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

**HOW ARE WE DOING?**

In 2008, Colorado Springs was named the “Fittest City in America” by Men’s Fitness Magazine. The number of recreational establishments in El Paso County per 100,000 residents kept pace with population growth from 2003 to 2006. Growth in this sector also contributes to overall economic health and serves as an economic niche for the region. Recreational establishments provide extensive opportunities for interaction with family, friends and other community members but offer less active participation and exercise than sports establishments. During this period, recreational establishments increased by nearly 10% while the sports establishments grew by only 1%.

**DEFINITIONS**

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

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

**Recreation Establishment** – 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.
H O W  A R E  W E  D O I N G ?

The national average for this measurement is 25 acres/1,000 population. While both the City of Colorado Springs and El Paso County have added over 1,200 acres of parkland from 2005 to 2007, growth in population has kept a steady pace as well, resulting in only a slight increase in park acres per 1,000 people. The number of park acres per 1,000 people in El Paso County remains well above the standard benchmark established by the National Recreation and Parks Association. This statistic certainly contributed to Men’s Fitness magazine ranking Colorado Springs as the “Fittest City in America” in 2008.
Recreation Presence

MILES OF RECREATION TRAILS

Total Trail Miles in El Paso County

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Miles</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>350</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: City of Colorado Springs

HOW ARE WE DOING?

Trail mileage has increased since 2003 and is keeping pace with population growth. This is also a key factor in Men's Fitness magazine ranking Colorado Springs as the “Fittest City in America” designation.

THIS CHART

This chart shows total trail miles in El Paso County. It includes 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?**

Growth in youth sports participation is directly linked to the addition of spring football to available programs. For adult sports (basketball, dodgeball, football, softball and volleyball) only basketball has shown a program increase. Dodgeball participation has dropped by nearly half since 2005. Other decreases may be related to less discretionary time, money and increasing fuel costs.
Efficiently and effectively moving people and goods is vital to a good regional quality of life. With the passage of the Pikes Peak Rural Transportation Authority, the regional transportation system has crossed the threshold into a new period of innovation and investment aimed at reducing the backlog of transportation system needs. As the backlog of needs is reduced, the benefits from future investments could include long-term economic productivity, enhanced competitiveness, and improved Quality of Life for all citizens in the region.

The Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments provides the regional forum for communities to work together to develop a safe and efficient transportation system for all users.
Moving Around Efficiently
Vision Council

Chair
DAN STUART
Alpern, Myers & Stuart LLC
Co-Chair
WAYNE WILLIAMS
El Paso County Commissioner
Co-Chair

Members
LISA AMEND
Experience Colorado Springs at Pikes Peak
Convener
VIC ANDREWS
Community Leader USAA
KRISTIN BENNETT
City of Colorado Springs
CRAIG BLEWITT
City of Colorado Springs
AL BRODY
Pikes Peak Area Bikeways Coalition
CRAIG CASPER
Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments (PPACG)
DAN CLEVELAND
Trails & Open Space Coalition
MARK EARLE
Colorado Springs Airport
JOHN FAULKNER
Colorado Springs Airport
JEN FURDA
Greater Colorado Springs Chamber of Commerce
FRANCINE HANSEN
Council of Neighborhoods & Organizations (CONO)
BOB HARTWIG
Colorado Springs Citizen’s Transportation Advisory Board (CTAB)

Daily Travel
Modes of Travel

Traffic
Travel Time
Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT)

Getting Around Safely
Quality of Roads and Bridges
Traffic Accidents
Bicycle & Pedestrian Safety

Alternate Methods of Transportation
Public Transportation
Access by Air
Looking at the different travel modes in the region provides us with a snapshot of how our community moves around. Primarily, people in the Pikes Peak region drive alone, while some do carpool.

Some residents walk or bike to work. The region has many designated bicycle routes and a trail network that continues to expand. Non-motorized transportation takes traffic off roads, reduces emissions, and provides a healthy alternative for commuters.

**Modes of Travel**

**Means of Travel to Work**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mode of Travel</th>
<th>2004</th>
<th>2005</th>
<th>2006</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Drove Alone</td>
<td>250,000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carooled</td>
<td>50,000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Transportation</td>
<td>100,000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walk, Bike or Other</td>
<td>150,000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: American Community Survey*

**Why is it Important?**

Tracking trends in modes of travel will help to plan improvements for existing systems to make them more accessible to all segments of the population in an effective manner.

**How Are We Doing?**

In 2000, 78% of El Paso County residents drove alone to work as compared to 76% of the U.S. That is an increase from the U.S. averages of 64% in 1980 and 73% in 1990.
Traffic congestion is a major quality of life issue. Congestion is caused by more cars, farther commutes and increasing Vehicle Miles Traveled per person. The number of miles traveled, travel times and the number of residential vehicles are increasing at a more rapid rate than lane miles in the Pikes Peak Region. This provides insight into the reasons for increased traffic congestion.

**Why Is This Important?**
Travel time is the natural measure of the effectiveness of a transportation infrastructure. The purpose of a road or freeway is to transport people and goods to their destinations. While safety, simplicity of route and scenery play some role, the measure that is most important to people is travel time.

**How Are We Doing?**
Data shows that prior to the completion of the Colorado Springs Metro Interstate Expansion (COSMIX) project, the average travel times to work have not changed significantly since 2002. Although specific data is not yet available, completion of the COSMIX project has had a positive impact on the travel time of the average commute. 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).

The chart at right is an overview of travel speeds on major corridors in the City of Colorado Springs.

**Potential for Action**
Building new interchanges where major arterials cross will improve traffic flow throughout the region.
**VEHICLE MILES TRAVELED (VMT)**

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.

**WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?**

Data gathered by measuring Vehicle Miles Traveled is crucial to the success of highway planning and management. This data is also a common measure of roadway use. VMT are often used to estimate congestion, air quality and potential gas-tax revenues. VMT can also provide a general measure of a region's economic activity.

**HOW ARE WE DOING?**

The demand for transportation services is directly related to the demographic, economic and geographic characteristics of an urban area. The total demand for transportation typically rises in proportion to increases in population, employment and improved economic conditions. As an urban area expands, the numbers and lengths of individual trips increase unless land-use densities and mixed-use development increase at an equal or greater rate.

Land-use development and transportation planning are inextricably linked. The relationship between transit or bicycle/pedestrian travel and the structure of development is not now emphasized in municipal plans or regional policy statements. At present, the low-density development patterns in the Pikes Peak region require the use of a vehicle for all of life’s typical daily activities. Developments that are designed solely for automobile circulation exclude buses and other modes of travel from easy and efficient access. Furthermore, areas that develop without providing connections to adjacent developments or neighborhoods increase regional vehicle usage.

Source: Texas Transportation Institute Urban Mobility Report/PPACG
Getting Around Safely

QUALITY OF ROADS & BRIDGES

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?
Measuring the quality of paved roads is required for access to federal funds. Measuring the quality of roads and bridges 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 and bridges ensures efficient commerce, reducing costs of products and services. It also protects each of our personal investments in our cars, homes, and personal safety.

Since the collapse of the I-35 W. Mississippi River Bridge in 2007, there has been an emphasis on bridge safety at the federal level. In 2007, El Paso County reported that 30 of 457 bridges were in poor condition while another 18 were only listed in fair condition.

HOW ARE WE DOING?
Since the implementation of the Pikes Peak Rural Transportation Authority (PPRTA) in 2005, significant progress has been made in bridge reconstruction, sidewalk and curb and gutter repairs and overlaying streets. In 2007 alone, PPRTA funds helped resurface 34 miles of roadways in the City of Colorado Springs and reconstructed concrete curbs, gutters and sidewalks as needed along 44 miles of repaved roadways, enabling $1.4 million in high priority repairs. In El Paso County, PPRTA funds paved 39.13 miles on 39 roads. (Source: 2007 PPRTA Annual Report to the Citizens)

PPRTA funds allocated $8.6 million to the repair of the Cimarron Street Bridge in Colorado Springs. Construction began in October of 2007 and will be completed this fall. (Source: 2007 PPRTA Annual Report to the Citizens)

Other significant projects funded by PPRTA under construction in 2008 include the Baptist Road Widening project ($8.8 million) and Phase 2 of South Academy Improvements ($10.6 million) to complete the four-lane expressway section between I-25 and SH-115. (Source: 2007 PPRTA Annual Report to the Citizens).

POTENTIAL FOR ACTION
We need to invest more in maintenance while simultaneously conducting preventative maintenance. Even with the PPRTA we can’t afford to do this because the lane miles that need to be maintained are expanding much faster than our ability (funding) to maintain them is.

2007 El Paso County Bridges

<p>| | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>457</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good</td>
<td>409</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fair</td>
<td>18</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poor</td>
<td>30</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments (PPACG)
Getting Around Safely

**Traffic Accidents**

**Reported Accidents in Colorado Springs**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Deaths</th>
<th>Injury</th>
<th>Non-Injury</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>3,254</td>
<td>9,669</td>
<td>10,191</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>3,355</td>
<td>10,191</td>
<td>9,875</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>3,273</td>
<td>9,875</td>
<td>8,702</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>3,106</td>
<td>8,702</td>
<td>9,093</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>2,946</td>
<td>8,563</td>
<td>8,709</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>3,155</td>
<td>8,563</td>
<td>8,709</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>2,741</td>
<td>3,155</td>
<td>8,709</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Source:** Colorado Springs Police Department

---

**Why is it important?**

This data is collected as a measure to effectively propose and implement traffic accident prevention countermeasures and evaluate the effectiveness of those countermeasures. Accidents are a major contributing factor to traffic congestion. Reducing traffic accidents is a major goal of transportation planning and roadway management.

**How are we doing?**

Since 2000, the accident rate has been decreasing. In 2007, there were 8.1 injury producing accidents per VMT.

**Potential for action**

Safety is traditionally viewed as a concern to be addressed during project design or left to enforcement agencies. A traditional engineering approach might be to simply improve the geometric design of a road or to change the operation of an intersection. Safety should be more broadly defined as an issue to be addressed through a combination of engineering, enforcement, education and emergency services (the four “E’s”).

A new framework called Safety Conscious Planning replaces the fractured, narrow approach to safety as a purely engineering or enforcement concern by integrating safety concerns into planning at all levels. Safety Conscious Planning is a comprehensive, system-wide, multi-modal, proactive process:

- Comprehensive: Considers all aspects of transportation safety-engineering, education, enforcement, and emergency medical response
- System-wide: considers corridors and entire transportation networks at the local, regional and state levels as well as specific sites.
- Multi-modal: includes transit, bicycle, and pedestrian safety improvements
- Proactive: addresses current safety problems and presents future hazards and problem behaviors.
**Getting Around Safely**

**BICYCLE & PEDESTRIAN SAFETY**

**W H Y  I S  I T  I M P O R T A N T ?**

The City of Colorado Springs is making significant progress in creating a more bicycle- and pedestrian-friendly environment for its residents and visitors. The City currently maintains 104 miles of multi-use trails. An additional 14.5 miles of multi-use trail are maintained by homeowners associations. Multi-use trails are typically 10-12’ wide and accommodate many non-motorized uses and are referred to as Tier 1 and Tier 2 trails. Tier 3 trails are rustic, single track trails, usually found within open spaces.

Sixty-one miles of the total 94 miles of Tier 3 trails within the City of Colorado Springs are open to mountain biking and there are 54 miles of bicycle lanes within City limits. Another 15 miles of bicycle lanes are planned for installation in 2008.

**H O W  A R E  W E  D O I N G ?**

In 2007, Colorado Springs was awarded a Silver-level Bicycle-Friendly Community Award by the League of American Bicyclists. The number of bicycles carried by buses, including FREX, has increased steadily since 2004.

Accidents involving cyclists and pedestrians decreased from 2005 to 2006, as did injuries and fatalities. In 2005, five pedestrians fatalities occurred in Colorado Springs, while statewide there were 48 pedestrian fatalities.

**P O T E N T I A L  F O R  A C T I O N**

Further increasing motor vehicle driver awareness and safety training for bicyclists and pedestrians will help. Connecting the disconnected multi-use trail system that we currently have will help. A lot of the crashes occur when non-motorized travelers try to cross busy streets in bad places because good connections don’t exist.

**T H I S  C H A R T**

- 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 also occur.

**T H I S  C H A R T**

- The number of bicycles carried on buses, including FREX, has increased steadily since 2004.

---

**Bicycle and Pedestrian Accidents**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Pedestrians</th>
<th>Cyclists</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>190 Injured</td>
<td>160 Injured</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>169 Injured</td>
<td>128 Injured</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Number of Bikes Transported Transit Buses**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Metropolitan Transit</th>
<th>FREX</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>52,683</td>
<td>2,191</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>62,587</td>
<td>2,587</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>64,940</td>
<td>2,191</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Colorado Springs Police Department/City of Colorado Springs Transportation Planning

Source: Mountain Metropolitan Transit
Alternate Methods of Transportation

Maintaining our transportation infrastructure, including roadways, bike paths and sidewalks ensures safety and mobility for local residents and visitors. Adequate maintenance encourages the use of all modes of travel, which can reduce congestion and harmful air emissions.

People in the Pikes Peak region utilize a variety of transportation methods, including public transportation, air travel, bicycles, and pedestrian trails.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rides by Entity 2004-2007</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3,500,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3,000,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>2,500,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>2,000,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>2004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?
As gas prices continue to rise, an efficient transit system can provide an effective alternative to single car trips for residents who must commute to work every day and ensure that transit systems become more efficient as population density increases with urban development. Efficient transit systems reduce traffic congestion and emissions, contributing to a healthier environment.

HOW ARE WE DOING?
The implementation of PPRTA has allocated dedicated funding for bus service in the Pikes Peak region. In 2007, PPRTA funds purchased 9 new commuter buses ($6.32 million), made significant route improvements including two new weekday, peak hour express routes, and installed talking signs on all buses at the Downtown Terminal to assist visually impaired riders. PPRTA funds also assisted those with disabilities by providing funding for ADA access improvements at various locations including Pikes Peak Community College. (Source: 2007 PPRTA Annual Report to Citizens)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bikes Transported</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mountain Metropolitan Transit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FREX</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Mountain Metropolitan Transit
**ACCESS BY AIR**

**Cities with Direct Flights from Colorado Springs**

![Graph showing number of cities reachable by direct flight from Colorado Springs Airport]

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

**WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?**

Increased air service contributes to the local economy. 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.

**HOW ARE WE DOING?**

Travelers can now access 15 cities with non-stop flights from the Colorado Springs Airport including: Atlanta, Chicago, Cincinnati, Dallas-Fort Worth, Denver, Houston, Las Vegas, Los Angeles, Minneapolis/St. Paul, Ontario, Phoenix, Salt Lake City, Sacramento, San Francisco and San Diego.

**POTENTIAL FOR ACTION**

Rising fuel costs and airline consolidation remain areas of concern.
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, fire and emergency medical services, criminal justice and court services, as well as nonprofit sponsored intervention.

Committed to addressing the root causes of community problems to create lasting solutions.

United Way

Pikes Peak United Way

518 North Nevada Avenue
Colorado Springs, CO 80903
719-632-1543
**Keeping the Community Safe Council**

**Chair**

**Pete Carey**  
Deputy Chief, Colorado Springs Police Department

**Steve Dubay**  
Convener

**Members**

**Regina Dipadova**  
Spring Creek Youth Services

**Maile Gray**  
Drive Smart

**Jeanine Holt**  
Harbor House

**Brett Lacey**  
Fire Marshal, Colorado Springs Fire Department

**Terry Maketa**  
Sheriff, El Paso County

**Shirley Rhodus**  
El Paso County Department of Human Services

**Ted Sayer**  
Operations Manager, American Medical Response

**Trudy Strewler**  
CASA

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**Public Safety**

- Crime Rate
- DUI Arrests
- Repeat Offenders in Jail
- Juvenile Arrests

**Providing Services**

- Law Enforcement Calls for Service
- Crime Clearance Rate
- Neighborhood Safety
- Joint Fire and EMS Response Times
- Fire Safety Inspection Rate

**Safety In The Home**

- Child Abuse
- Domestic Violence
A community’s crime rate is impacted not only by availability of jobs, wages and education levels, but also 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. DUI, juvenile crime and repeat offenders impact public costs of victimization and enforcement. El Paso County Sheriff’s Office Detention Bureau Chief Presley says, “An average of 80 to 85% of those incarcerated in El Paso County have some type of chemical dependency.” Offering inmates substance abuse and mental health treatment as well as life skills and job training are prevention measures that have a price tag, but can both reduce the number of victims and the cost of incarceration.

**Crime Rate**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>U.S.</th>
<th>Colorado Springs</th>
<th>Fountain</th>
<th>El Paso County</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2005</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: Colorado Springs Police Department, Fountain Police Department, El Paso County Sheriff’s Office, and FBI Crimes in the U.S., 2006*

**How Are We Doing?**

In 2006, the index crime rate in Colorado Springs was 51.4, below the national average.

**Potential for Action**

In 2008, Citizens for Effective Government, a group of civic leaders organized the Safer Community Initiative to encourage support for adequate levels of funding for public safety, including law enforcement and crime prevention.
**DUI ARRESTS**

**THIS CHART** shows the total arrests per year for Driving Under the Influence (DUI) of alcohol by the Colorado Springs Police Department, and the El Paso County Sheriff’s Office.

**WHAT DOES IT MEAN?**
For a DUI arrest, drivers must have a blood alcohol level of .08% or greater, indicating their driving has been impaired due to consumption.

**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 with 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 64 Colorado counties. El Paso County is also below the national county average for alcohol related traffic deaths which is 7.61 per 100,000.

**POTENTIAL FOR ACTION**
The ability to apprehend DUI offenders increases when focused policing strategies such as check points, education, street racing enforcement, and focused high school education are used. DUI enforcement may vary due to grant funding availability for prevention and enforcement activities. Sustained funding sources are critical for effective and consistent impact to this community problem.
This chart shows the recidivism percentage of inmates in the El Paso County jail.

What does it mean?
Recidivism, returning to jail for a new crime represents a population and, that victimizes a community and creates a burden on the public safety system.

How are we doing?
In 2006, 26,150 people or 0.4% of the population served time in the El Paso County jail. Of these 68% had been previously incarcerated compared to 66% in 2004. In 2007, County Sheriff Maketa reported, “The recidivism rate among Colorado state inmates is 49%. 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%.”

Potential for action
In 2008, Citizens for Effective Government, a group of civic leaders organized the Safer Community Initiative to fund substance abuse, prevention and rehabilitation programs to help reduce recidivism.

---

How are we doing?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Repeat Offenders in Jail</th>
<th>2005</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Time Only</td>
<td>31.97%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2-4 Times</td>
<td>39.42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-9 Times</td>
<td>16.52%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10-14 Times</td>
<td>6.73%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15-19 Times</td>
<td>3.06%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20-24 Times</td>
<td>1.21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 Times</td>
<td>1.09%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: El Paso County Sheriff’s Office
**How Are We Doing?**
The juvenile arrest rate includes arrests of juveniles for all criminal offenses including misdemeanors and felonies.

The Council wanted to draw attention to youth in crisis and the impact of crime and substance abuse on juveniles. This data will establish the foundation for future reports.

**Potential for Action**
There are many opportunities for individuals to volunteer to help juveniles find productive ways to channel their energy. Please go to www.volunteerpikespeak.org for more information.

---

**Juvenile Arrests**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Juvenile Arrests</th>
<th>2002</th>
<th>2003</th>
<th>2004</th>
<th>2005</th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2007</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7,000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6,600</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6,200</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5,800</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5,400</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Colorado Springs Police Department
It is the responsibility of any community to ensure the equitable and effective provision of public safety services to all citizens. For law enforcement, the crime rate and subsequent need for service is impacted by public safety strategies employed to prevent crime. The number of calls for service affects service levels and response times. 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. For emergency medical services the joint fire/emergency medical service (ems) response times are critical to saving lives. The risk of structural fires is reduced by regular fire safety inspections.

### Calls for Service

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Colorado Springs</th>
<th>El Paso County</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>128</td>
<td>127</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>127</td>
<td>131</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>131</td>
<td>170</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>170</td>
<td>181</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>181</td>
<td>159</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>159</td>
<td>162</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>162</td>
<td>170</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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. **Note:** Calls for service may be defined differently by individual law enforcement agencies. Data reflects information as calculated by CSPD and EPSCO.

**What Does It Mean?**

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.

**How Are We Doing?**

The number of law enforcement calls for service per 1,000 residents continues to show a steady upward trend in recent years. There is a resultant concern that law enforcement resources keep pace with both the rise in population and the calls for service.

**Potential for Action**

Effective crime prevention strategies and community education are essential to decreasing the number of calls for law enforcement service. Citizen support for and participation in these activities raise awareness and have the potential to decrease the trend of calls despite the faster level of population growth.
**Crime Clearance Rate**

*This chart shows the clearance rate—the 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. Note: U.S. data available only through 2006.*

**What Does It Mean?**
The crime clearance rate is an indicator of the success of solving crimes and is affected by the number of officers available to investigate crime, increased number of crimes and calls for service, and availability of investigative tools.

**How Are We Doing?**
The clearance rate has remained fairly level in both Colorado Springs and El Paso County. Property crimes (including burglary, larceny, and auto theft) represent the vast majority of crimes. When separated from all Part 1 Crimes, the clearance rate for violent crimes is higher, about 55% for Colorado Springs and 80% for El Paso County.

**Potential for Action**
With declining resources, the potential exists that investigatory resources may shift away from property crimes to maintain investigation of violent crimes. This would decrease the overall crime clearance rate. Continued support for all law enforcement activities, including investigatory personnel, tools, and techniques are vital to sustain and improve this data.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Colorado Springs</th>
<th>El Paso County</th>
<th>U.S.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>40.3%</td>
<td>30.7%</td>
<td>56.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>40.3%</td>
<td>37.1%</td>
<td>55.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>42.6%</td>
<td>37.9%</td>
<td>56.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>40.2%</td>
<td>37.4%</td>
<td>57.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>41.0%</td>
<td>38.3%</td>
<td>53.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>51.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

---

**Providing Services**
Providing Services

**Neighborhood Safety**

**Perception of Neighborhood Safety**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Day – Very or Somewhat Safe</th>
<th>Night – Very or Somewhat Safe</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>90</td>
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<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

**How Are We Doing?**

In 2006, more than 96% of those polled continued to feel 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 and decreased from 2005 to 2006 by 2%.

**Potential For Action**

A variety of services for community safety, day or night, are essential for a vibrant community. The continued support of public safety initiatives, including law enforcement and lighting are crucial for sustaining this data. Opportunities for citizens to participate in their neighborhood’s safety through collaboration and partnerships include attending Business Watch meetings, Neighborhood Watch meetings, and homeowner association meetings.

**This Chart**

Indicates the percentage of people who feel very safe or somewhat safe walking in their neighborhood.

**What Does It Mean?**

This information reflects responses to the Colorado Springs Police Department’s survey of citizens in Colorado Springs when asked about neighborhood safety.
Providing Services

Joint Fire and EMS Response Times

**THIS CHART** shows how often the Colorado Springs Fire Department and American Medical Response (AMR) arrived on the scene for an emergency medical call within six minutes.

**WHAT DOES IT MEAN?**
Response time is defined by the time from when a call is received by 911 until the first unit arrives on scene.

**HOW ARE WE DOING?**
The Colorado Springs City Council has set a goal of meeting the six minute response time 90% of the time. In 2007, the first unit arrived on the scene within six minutes 73.8% of the time, falling short of the Council's goal.

**Potential for Action**
In 2008, Citizens for Effective Government, a group of civic leaders, organized the Safer Community Initiative to encourage support for adequate levels of funding for all aspects of public safety, including support for fire and emergency medical services.

Fire Safety Inspection Rate

**THIS CHART** shows the number of businesses that receive fire safety inspections annually in comparison with the total estimated number of businesses in the city of Colorado Springs.

**WHAT DOES IT MEAN?**
This graph represents the number of businesses in the City of Colorado Springs and how many of those receive fire safety inspections annually. The total number of businesses is an estimate because an accurate tracking method for businesses doesn’t currently exist.

**HOW ARE WE DOING?**
More than 90% of businesses each year don’t receive a fire safety inspection. Each of these businesses should have regular inspections to help ensure the public’s safety and welfare.

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Potential for Action

The lack of fire inspections increases the risk, not only to the individual business but to employees, customers and the economic vitality of the community. Fire code violations are associated with nearly every commercial occupancy fire. Fire fighter safety is at serious risk because they don’t know which hazards exist in a given occupancy and the hazards contained therein are left unmitigated.
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.

This chart shows the total number of child abuse and neglect referrals received by the El Paso County Department of Human Services in the past five years.

What does it mean? A child abuse and neglect referral is any report taken regarding child maltreatment and may include reports of adolescents who are beyond control of their parents. Other abuse referrals include reports of neglect, physical, sexual and emotional abuse.

How are we doing? Referrals for child abuse and neglect continue to show a steady increase in the past five years.

Potential for action The steady increase in the child maltreatment referrals received by the Department of Human Services shows a need for action. 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 programs addressing poverty (please see Promoting Social Wellbeing for more information on these issues).
Safety In The Home

**Total advocacy and crisis contacts to T.E.S.S.A. have 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.**

**Increasing awareness and providing preventive education are keys to impacting domestic violence and sexual assault. Community support for programs aimed at decreasing domestic violence and sexual assault are critical to improve these data.**

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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.

FOSTERING COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

THE COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP FUND
Investing to Preserve and Enhance the Region’s Quality of Life

The fund’s central organizing principle is that civic engagement, empowered by private initiative and philanthropy, holds the greatest promise in building a model city of opportunity. Society’s capacity for creativity, innovation and risk taking resides mostly in voluntary action. This is the engine of transformation.


Community Engagement Council

Chair
SUSAN SAKSA
Leadership Pikes Peak
Chair

PAUL JOHNSON
Pikes Peak Habitat for Humanity
Convener

DEE VASQUEZ
Pikes Peak Library District
Convener

Members
AMANDA MOUNTAIN
Gazette Charities

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City of Colorado Springs

SUSAN PRESTI
Colorado Springs Utilities

JON STEPLETON
Woodford Foundation

DAVE PHILLIPS
Young Life

Political Engagement
Projected Voter Participation

Diversity
Acceptance and Tolerance

Philanthropy
Community Giving
Where Coloradans Volunteer
Finding Volunteer Opportunities

Local Leadership
Leadership Demographics

Local Knowledge & Access
Access to Information
A universally recognized sign of a community's engagement is its willingness to elect its own leaders and to shape laws at the ballot. 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.

**PROJECTED VOTER PARTICIPATION**

This chart shows the likelihood of voting in the upcoming election based on family income. Families making less than $25,000 a year (under the poverty line) are less likely to vote, whereas families making more than $25,000 a year are more likely to vote. Potential barriers to voting for lower-income families are transportation to the polls, childcare needs, and access to information regarding elections. As we have seen with local elections, more people vote when they are mailed their ballot and given ample time to fill it out.

**HOW ARE WE DOING?**

**Overall Trends**

In El Paso County we consistently have 80-90% of the population registered to vote. During the past two presidential elections, 60-70% of those registered voters voted while only 30-50% voted in prior election years. Municipal elections in Colorado Springs often see less than a 30% turnout with the exception of mail-only elections (where all voting happens by mail), which have seen a turnout of 40-60%. Source: El Paso County Clerk and Recorder

**POTENTIAL FOR ACTION**

Making all local elections mail-only might improve voter participation. Mail-only elections reduce barriers that low-income families and others face while voting. They can help to increase voter turnout and produce election results that are more representative of El Paso County's constituents. Source: El Paso County Clerk and Recorder
Robust community engagement is only possible in a community that welcomes and encourages the involvement of its fellow citizens. The first step toward tolerance is promoting an understanding of diverse cultures. Cultural and ethnic diversity is what makes a community unique and a great place to live and work. Acceptance connotes not just a tolerance of diversity but also a celebration of it.

**ACCEPTANCE AND TOLERANCE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Community Perception of Acceptance and Tolerance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Very</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somewhat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not Very</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not At All</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This chart shows that community residents rate acceptance and tolerance as important but consider this community only “Somewhat Tolerant”. Minorities are most likely to rate tolerance as important (67%) and least likely to say that the community is “Very Tolerant” (18%). 50% of the respondents find Colorado Springs to be a “Somewhat Tolerant” place while 26% say it is a “Very Tolerant” community.

**HOW ARE WE DOING?**

In 2006, Colorado Springs reported 20 hate crime incidents as a result of bias against a particular race, religion, sexual orientation, ethnicity/national origin, or physical or mental disability. When compared with other cities in Colorado, Colorado Springs had the most hate crimes, followed by Grand Junction and Denver with 16 and 11 respectively. In Colorado Springs, 12 of the 20 reported incidents were based on religion and 6 were based on race. Source: Federal Bureau of Investigation, 2006 Statistics

**POTENTIAL FOR ACTION**

The Colorado Springs Diversity Forum, a coalition of citizens and community organizations, is taking the lead in improving cultural acceptance and raising awareness of diversity issues. In 2007, they developed an annual event for the celebration of diversity and culture. The Forum has the demonstrated support of both the citizens and the local government which makes it the logical organization to develop additional initiatives to address this issue.
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.

**COMMUNITY GIVING**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Combined Community Contributions</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$8,500,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$8,300,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**THIS CHART** shows the combined total dollars raised by Pikes Peak United Way’s annual campaign, the Empty Stocking Fund and the Combined Federal Campaign. While this does not track all charitable giving in El Paso County, these drives represent the most widely marketed campaigns that represent general giving trends for the community.

**HOW ARE WE DOING?**

Contributions to these three campaigns have increased each year. Colorado Springs ranks 17th in a comparison of United Way campaign results for 30 comparable cities. Given the constitutional constraints on government funding, the health of the nonprofit sector is especially reliant on private philanthropies to meet the needs of this community. The Empty Stocking Fund grew by 34% from 2005 to 2007 and is now on par with similar fundraising efforts at large metropolitan newspapers including the *Boston Globe* and the *Dallas Morning News*.  
Sources: PP United Way giving statistics, 2008; Colorado Springs Gazette

**POTENTIAL FOR ACTION**

Continued growth of the major funding campaigns could be achieved through increased marketing and visibility. The increasing strength of the Empty Stocking Fund may be an opportunity to reach untapped donors. Changing demographics will drive increased need to offer on-line donation options.
Volunteering

Finding Volunteer Opportunities

Friends

Family

Church

Local NPO

Newspaper

Internet

Other

Don’t Know

15

24

6

5

3

7

24

16

6

5

3

7

24

15

Friends

Family

Church

Local NPO

Newspaper

Internet

Other

Don’t Know

Source: 2008 Community Visioning Survey

This chart shows the various sources people use to find volunteer opportunities in El Paso County.

How are we doing?

Most people (48%) learn about volunteer opportunities through their churches or the internet. Newspapers and friends are the 3rd and 4th most popular way volunteers find out about opportunities.

Potential for action

Promoting volunteer opportunities through churches, newspapers, friendships and the internet will continue to be the most effective communication strategy to encourage participation.

Source: 2008 Community Visioning Survey

Volunteerism

This chart shows the sectors in which people volunteer. Most people volunteer with their religious organization followed by volunteers working with educational or youth services.

How are we doing?

Coloradans volunteer more than the U.S. average. Since 2002, the percentage of Coloradans who volunteer has hovered between 29% and 32%. In October 2007, 3,000 individual volunteers took part in the Pikes Peak United Way Make a Difference Month volunteer effort. They worked on 150 projects for community nonprofits. These volunteers donated 12,700 hours for a contribution to the community valued at $240,000*.

*Based on Points of Light Foundation’s standard average of $19.51 per hour for 2007.

Potential for action

Make a Difference Month is a highly visible activity that can encourage companies and new volunteers to get involved. The Volunteer Center is a central information resource and has a website (www.volunteerpikespeak.org) with the matching function that can be utilized by citizens, employers and nonprofits to increase volunteerism to meet community needs.
The vitality of a community is dependent upon the quality and engagement of its leaders. Leaders include elected and appointed officials as well as volunteer coalitions of individuals and organizations that address specific issues consistent with the community’s values.

**LEADERSHIP DEMOGRAPHICS**

This chart reflects the ethnic composition of those serving on City boards and commissions compared to the community population as a whole. Unfortunately, the composition of the boards and commissions are not an accurate representation of the demographic make up of our community.

**HOW ARE WE DOING?**

When asked to rate the quality of the County Commissioners and the City Council, El Paso County nearly 50% of residents gave favorable ratings. This community has a wealth of leadership programs that continue to grow in offerings and participation. In recent years, coalitions of informal leaders have come together to drive community action initiatives that have been approved by voters in order to improve the community (examples include Referendum C, Police & Fire tax, Open Space (TOPS)). A trend worth watching is a shift toward collaborative community leadership initiatives. *Source: RBI 2008 Community Visioning Survey*

**POTENTIAL FOR ACTION**

Citizen-driven initiatives such as Dream City 2020 and the Citizens’ Public Health and Safety Initiative led by the Citizens for Effective Government Coalition offer potential for meaningful engagement. Graduates of community leadership programs are a resource that should be more fully engaged in these efforts and other leadership roles.
Understanding what is going in our community is critical to making informed personal and communal decisions. As a culture, we rely on a multitude of information sources when we seek information that affects our lives. Where and how often we find information reflects our level of interest in our quality of life.

ACCESS TO INFORMATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Library visits per capita</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Boise ID</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Washoe County NV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Albuquerque Bernalillo Co. NM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wake County NC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salt Lake County UT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>King County WA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dallas TX</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Las Vegas Clark County NV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phoenix AZ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Los Angeles County CA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pikes Peak Library District CO</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

HOW ARE WE DOING?
In comparison to cities similar in size, the Pikes Peak Library District ranks 2nd with a 6.49 rating. King County, Washington ranks 1st with a 8.80 rating. Last year the PPLD had 3,423,072 visits.

POTENTIAL FOR ACTION
The Pikes Peak Library District is a vital part of the El Paso County community and a valuable resource. Initiatives taken by the Pikes Peak community and local leadership can use the resources and services the Pikes Peak Library District provide.
GROWING A VIBRANT ECONOMY


CAI-3 personal income, population and per capita income <http://www.bea.gov/regional/reis/drill.cfm>


Colorado Springs Economic Development Corporation Annual Report


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Colorado Child Care Assistance, El Paso County Department of Human Services.


Health Care Spending: National Estimates of Expenditures for Mental Health and Substance Abuse Treatment, 1997 (July 2000)

Modified diagram from Principles of drug addiction treatment principles National Institute on Drug Abuse National Institutes of Health NIH Publication No. 99-4180 Printed October 1999

National Survey on Drug Use and Health, SAMHSA, Office of Applied Studies, 2002-2006


PRESE RVING THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

City of Colorado Springs Stormwater Enterprise. Impervious Surfaces.


El Paso County Department of Health and Environment, Solid Waste Division. Pounds of Waste per Day/Person.

Patty Crow, U.S. EPA, Region VIII. Natural Gas.

Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments. Percentage of Monitoring Days Exceeding E.Coli Concentration Standards.

Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments. Ozone Levels.


SUSTAINING A HEALTHY COMMUNITY

Life, Death and Disease in El Paso County, Colorado, 2006 Report to the Community, pages 12, 24-27, 33, 46-49, 55, 70-71, 73, 75


ACHIEVING EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE


Average Teacher Salaries Report, Colorado Department of Education. <www.cde.state.co.us/index_stats.htm>

Colorado Education Facts; Percent of Children Qualifying for Free and Reduced Lunch, Colorado Department of Education. <www.cde.state.co.us/index_stats.htm>

Colorado Preschool Program, Colorado Department of Education. <www.cde.state.co.us/cdeprevention/pi_colo_preschool.htm>

Colorado State Demography Office <www.cde.state.co.us/dig/demog/index.html>

Community Partnership for Child Development/Head Start: Enrollment numbers in Head Start (Noreen Landis-Tyson, August 2008) (719-635-1536, nlandistyson@spcd.org)

District Revenue and Expenses, Comparison of Revenues and Expenditures for Selected Funds, Column F, Colorado Department of Education: <www.cde.state.co.us/index_finance.htm>

Early Learning; Third Graders Reading at Grade Level, Colorado Department of Education. <www.cde.state.co.us/cdeassess/documents/csap/csap-plds.html>


Student Achievement: Tenth Grade Math Skills, Colorado Department of Education. <www.cde.state.co.us/cdeassess/documents/csap/csap-plds.html>

Student Achievement: Tenth Grade Reading Levels, Colorado Department of Education. <www.cde.state.co.us/cdeassess/documents/csap/csap-plds.html>

Student Graduation: High School Dropout Rate, Colorado Department of Education. <www.cde.state.co.us/cdeeval/ rv2006DropoutLinks.htm>

Student Graduation: High School Graduation Rate, Colorado Department of Education. <www.cde.state.co.us/cdeeval/ rv2006GradLinks.htm>

Teacher Quality: Teachers with Advanced Degrees, Colorado Department of Education. <www/reportcard.cde.state.co.us/reportcard/CommandHandler.jsp>

ARTS, CULTURE AND RECREATION

Cheyenne Mountain Zoo: Attendance numbers.

City of Colorado Springs Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services

Colorado Springs Cultural Service Division

El Paso County Parks and Natural Resources

Fine Arts Center: Attendance numbers.


Pikes Peak Center: Attendance numbers.

Theaterworks: Attendance numbers.

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

World Arena: Attendance numbers.

MOVING AROUND EFFICIENTLY

American Community Survey, U.S. Census.

Bicycle and Pedestrian Accidents, City of Colorado Springs Transportation Planning

Direct Flights, Colorado Springs Airport.

El Paso County Bridges, Colorado Department of Transportation

Pavement Conditions – Roads and Bridges, Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments

Public Transportation, Mountain Metropolitan Transit & Front Range Express.

Traffic Accidents, Colorado Springs Police Department

Travel Speeds, City of Colorado Springs Traffic Engineering Division.

Vehicle Miles Traveled, Texas Transportation Institute Urban Mobility Report.

KEEPING THE COMMUNITY SAFE

Colorado Springs Police Department

Colorado Springs Fire Department

El Paso County Sheriff’s Office

FBI Crimes in the U.S., 2006

Fountain Police Department


Police Accountability and Service Standards (PASS) Survey, Colorado Springs Police Department.

FOSTERING COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT


Boards & Commissions Demographics, City of Colorado Springs

El Paso County Clerk and Recorder


Pikes Peak Library District

I was able to find 2005 data online (it does not match the numbers in your chart, Which tells me your data must be more recent, though it doesn’t state what year it’s from):


A very special thanks to each member of the nine Vision Councils who are devoted to protecting and improving the amazing quality of life that we enjoy. Your volunteer work is noticed and appreciated.

This year a key team of volunteers worked to convene the Councils. With a team of volunteers as busy as these council members, that was no easy task. We are especially thankful for these “conveners” and their great work.

Each section of this report was sponsored, allowing us to conduct primary research, print additional copies of the report to help satisfy demand, and produce a more professional product. Many thanks to ENT Federal Credit Union, the Economic and Civic Literacy Project, the Community Leadership Fund, The Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments, The Pikes Peak Area Agency on Aging, Fort Carson Sustainability and Environmental Management System, the Gay and Lesbian Fund for Colorado, Leadership Pikes Peak, and Pikes Peak United Way. You made this possible.

Numerous employees of local and state government helped us. Warm thanks to the dedicated public servants that provided valid, accurate, reliable data for this report!

The core volunteer team providing project leadership this year was Susan Saksa, Annie Oatman-Gardner, and Lisa Amend. Three words: dedicated, skilled, caring.

When it comes down to it, there is no team I would rather work with than the folks who produced the final report. Thanks to summer intern extraordinaire Brittany Weddel—have a great senior year of college. Thanks to an amazing editor, Rick Fesler. Thanks to keen-eyed United Way colleagues Stacy Storer, JD Dallager, and Carrie McKee. Your detail-orientation and hard work made this happen. Finally, thanks to Todd Morrison of Ampersand Creative—it looks great, friend!

This is an annual effort, and we welcome your help. Call me at 719-955-0735 if you feel like joining the fun!

HOWARD BROOKS,
VICE PRESIDENT
PIKES PEAK UNITED WAY