

Appreciations

First and foremost we would like to thank all of the volunteers who have participated in the production of the 2009 Quality of Life Indicators report. This report is a prime example of one of our community strengths -the Pikes Peak Region is a community that volunteers. This is the third year for this publication and we continue to improve both the process and the product. A special debt of gratitude is owed to the Vision Council Chairs and Conveners for their leadership and commitment to this project and this community.

As part of this project we have identified quantitative measures of the quality of life in the Pikes Peak region. These measures, or indicators as we call them, reflect the idealism of our volunteer Vision Councils and what they would like to measure along with the pragmatic reality of what we are able to measure. Data for this report is collected from a variety of sources. Thank you to all our community stakeholders (public and private) for contributing this important support. In addition, as part of this initiative we have conducted our first statistically valid community survey to obtain citizen perceptions of our quality of life - the 2009 Quality of Life Community Visioning Survey.

We have compared our work on this report to other communities with similar projects around the County. There are some several excellent examples (check out Jacksonville, Florida www.jcci.org/indicators and Albuquerque, New Mexico www.cabq.gov/progress). Most of our peer communities spend considerable dollars and staff hours on their reports. Our publication has been accomplished with a volunteer effort and support from community sponsors.

Please look carefully at our list of sponsors and thank them if you have the opportunity. Without their community support we would not have this printed report, the website, or the survey. This year we also had an anonymous donor who allowed us to upgrade the publication to four-color. Every contribution is appreciated.

Our hope is that these statistics will help you get to know your community in new and sometimes surprising ways and with this knowledge you may choose to get involved in strengthening our community. All of us working on this project hope you find this information valuable and will utilize it as we make important decisions about the future of this wonderful place we call home.

Quality of Life Indicators Project Steering Committee,
Ann Oatman-Gardner
Becci Ruder
Susan Saksa
Stacy Storer
Lynne Telford

"Welcome to the third edition of the Quality of Life Indicators. This initiative is already making a difference, and I invite every citizen to get engaged in improving our community's quality of life."

Mayor Lionel Rivera

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EL PASO COUNTY

COMMISSIONERS:
JIM BENSBERG (CHAIRMAN)
SALLIE CLARK (VICE CHAIR)



AMY LATHEN
WAYNE WILLIAMS
DENNIS HISEY

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
JIM BENSBERG, CHAIRMAN

Citizens of El Paso County,

Our community has a rich and colorful past. Our county was formed by strong leaders with vision. Now it is our turn to leave our stamp, our legacy, for future generations that will call the Pikes Peak region their home. We must ensure they point to us and say we were good stewards.

Community sustainability has moved from the abstract to the real, from a debate about validity to a mandate for action. It's not only about future generations; it's impacting the here and now.

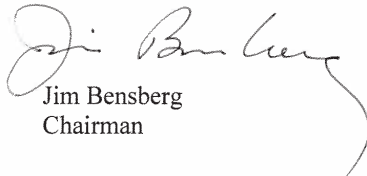
So how do we begin? We start with the facts. These facts need to be in the context of a sustainable community, not just what local government can address, but what our entire community must know to act effectively. The Quality of Life Indicators Report provides us with this foundation. When we think about our future and what our citizens desire for El Paso County, we now know where we are today. With this knowledge we can craft plans and take action to move us toward the desired future.

So read this carefully. Think about what you can do to advance our community toward these desired conditions. Take action! Get involved, volunteer, advocate, show your concern for this community.

As you read the Quality of Life Indicators Report, you'll see we have as much to be proud of as we have challenges to address. Recognize where we have progressed, but do your part to make our county better.

We appreciate the work done by the hundreds of volunteers and the community organizations that have come together to compile this report. If you are motivated to action and want to learn more about how you can contribute to a sustainable community, please contact Pikes Peak United Way at (719) 632-1543.

Sincerely,



Jim Bensberg
Chairman

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Letter of Support: Colorado Springs City Council



CITY OF COLORADO SPRINGS

LIONEL RIVERA
MAYOR

Citizens of Colorado Springs,

Colorado Springs is a beautiful city full of unique community assets and great people. Our quality of life is affected by many factors, all of them inter-related. We choose to live, work, and play here because of these many factors.

The strategic plan for Colorado Springs defines quality of life as an all inclusive term that includes economic prosperity, an affordable home, gainful employment, clean air and water, quality healthcare, safe and attractive neighborhoods and working environments, ample educational and recreational opportunities, convenient transportation systems, and an active and diverse community which is rich in art and cultural amenities.

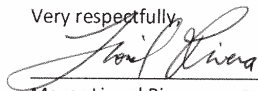
The strategic plan lists five prioritized strategic goals. Number four is Quality of Life. One of the key indicators listed in the plan for this area is "Participation in the United Way Quality of Life Indicator Initiative and incorporation of measures in annual progress reports." For more information on our city's strategic plan visit www.springsgov.com.

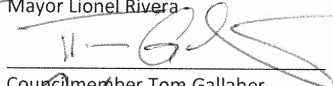
In 2006, Pikes Peak United Way invited more than 100 interested community leaders to join Vision Councils to address one of nine different areas and provide the guidance and vision for the reports. In 2009, the nine vision councils are still strong and include over 200 volunteers. Some have even begun work to "move the needle" on certain indicators.

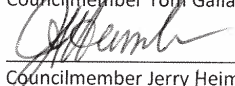
This third edition of the Quality of Life Indicators is not only a tool for you to understand our community, but it is intended to inspire you to become more involved. We hope you will use it to explore the elements of life in Colorado Springs and to join the many who are passionate about improving our quality of life.

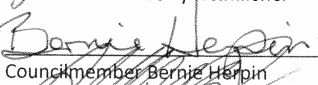
We wish to thank the many organizations that make this report possible including Leadership Pikes Peak, Pikes Peak Library District, and Pikes Peak United Way. And we want to thank the many volunteers who dedicated thousands of hours in research, discussion, and action. This type of community collaboration is an excellent example of working together to make Colorado Springs a city of choice for living, working and leisure.

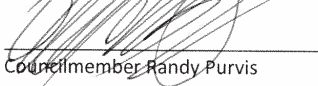
Very respectfully,



Mayor Lionel Rivera

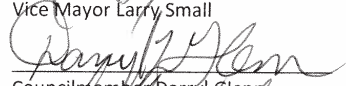

Councilmember Tom Gallaher

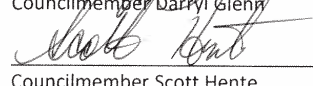

Councilmember Jerry Heimlicher

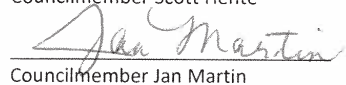

Councilmember Bernie Herpin


Councilmember Randy Purvis


Vice Mayor Larry Small


Councilmember Darryl Glenn


Councilmember Scott Hente

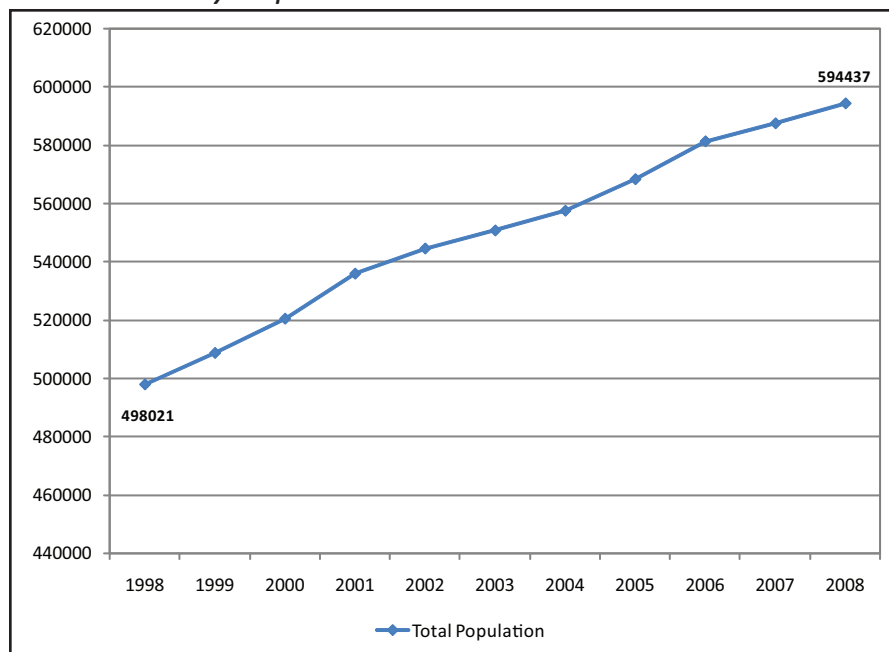

Councilmember Jan Martin

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About El Paso County

Snow capped mountains and over 300 days of sunshine a year make El Paso County a place of amazing natural beauty and outdoor fun. The county is at the foot of majestic Pikes Peak which was the inspiration for Katherine Lee Bates' famous

El Paso County Population Growth



Source: Colorado State Demography Office

song, *America The Beautiful*. Garden of the Gods has other-worldly monoliths that rise from the ground and glow in the early morning light. To the east is the beginning of the vast plains and vistas that seem to last forever.

These things are easy to see – even to the first time visitor as their plane is landing. But, there is a lot to know about our community and this publication, the Quality of Life Indicators, looks at 85 indicators. This deeper look at our community is intended to help us understand our strengths, weaknesses, and our opportunities as well as those things that threaten our quality of life.

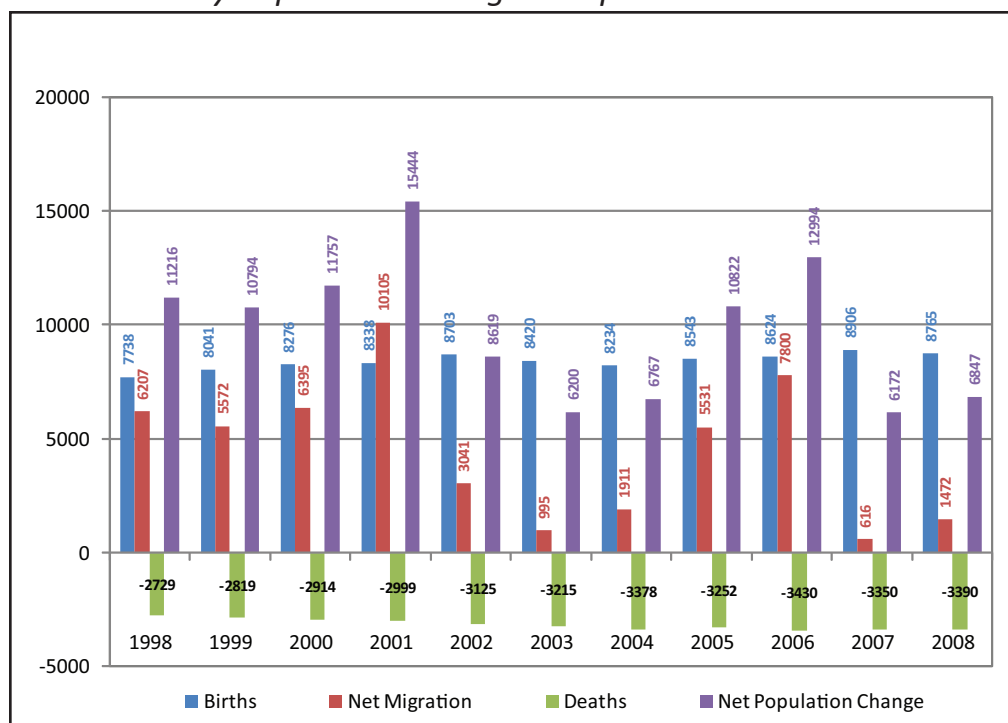
The report begins with some general information about our county and our population.

The city of Colorado Springs became the county seat in 1873. Our history has been influenced by a nearby gold rush, the perceived benefits of our dry air on tuberculosis, tourism, military bases, amateur sports, technology, and national nonprofit organizations.

El Paso County was established 1861.

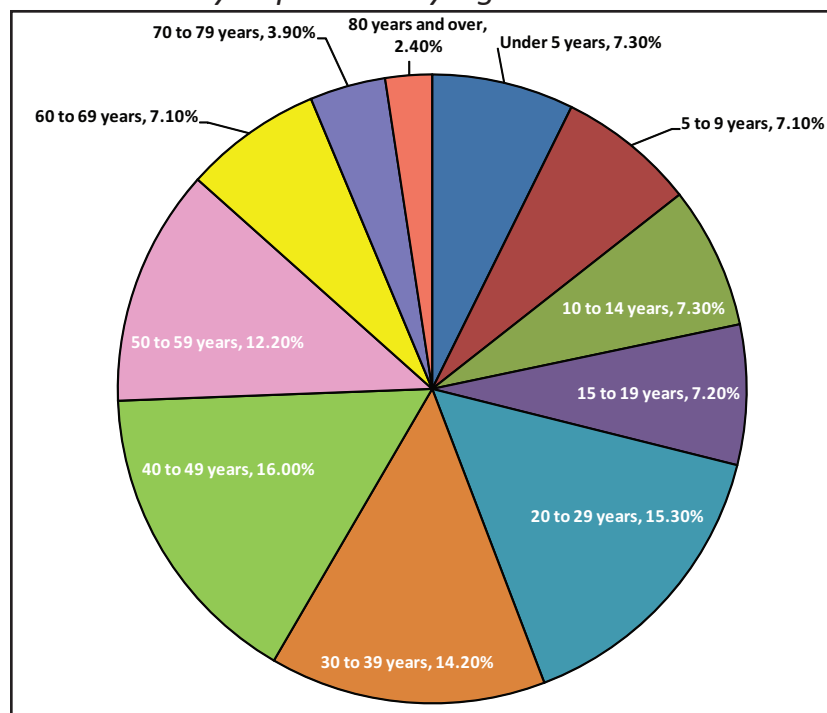
El Paso County's population is the second highest in the state of Colorado, second only to Denver County (whose population is 598,707), and Colorado Springs is the second most populous city after Denver, the state capital. The county has seen much of this population growth occur over the last decade, as demonstrated by the Total Population graph.

El Paso County Population Change Composite



Source: Colorado State Demography Office

El Paso County Population by Age



Source: American Community Survey (2007)

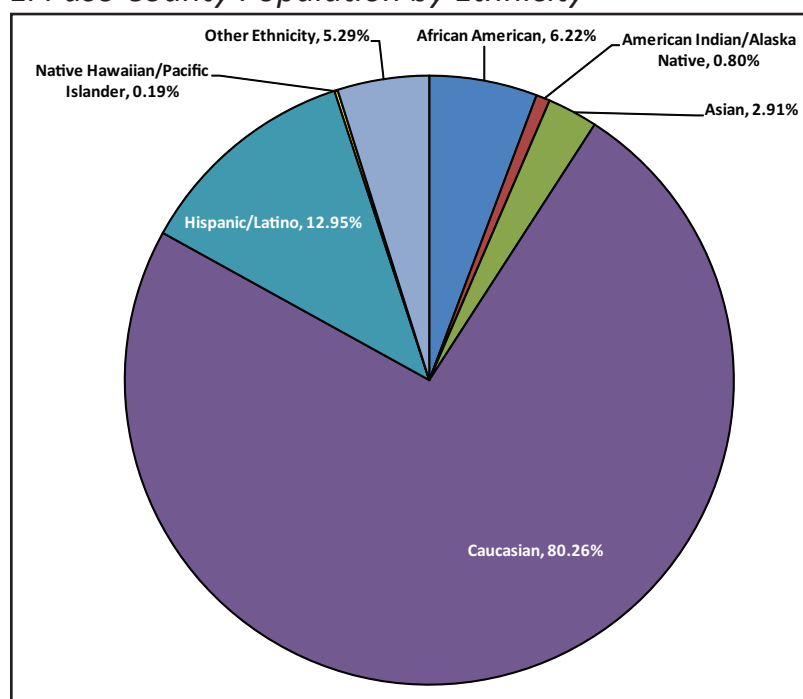
A little over 44% of El Paso County residents are under the age of 30, with 56% age 30 or older; unfortunately, the number of young professionals in the workforce has been dropping. Roughly 25% of the total population is over the age of 50, with 13% at or near the age of retirement.

The County's ethnic makeup is primarily Caucasian, with the Hispanic and Latino population as the second-largest ethnic segment. On page 108, you'll see that generally the Hispanic and Latino populations are under-represented on local boards and commissions. We have an opportunity to better engage the richness of our population.

A perhaps somewhat surprising figure is the relatively low percentage of active military compared to the total county population. Much of the military impact on our community comes not just from active duty soldiers, but from the many civilian jobs created by the presence of five major military installations in the county, as well as the number of retired military who have chosen to make the county their home. El Paso County has the highest population of veterans in the State of Colorado - 74,000 as of the 2000 Census - which comprised 21% of the local population in that year.¹

Looking at page 21 in *Growing a Vibrant Economy*, it's clear that the monetary impact of the military for our community is tremendous - and continues to grow. The presence of the military in our community creates almost as many jobs for civilians as it does for its active duty personnel.

El Paso County Population by Ethnicity



Source: U.S. Census Bureau and American Community Survey (2007)

Military Installations	# Active Duty
Cheyenne Mtn Air Station	~200
Fort Carson	18,100
Peterson Air Force Base	6,100
Schriever Air Force Base	2,500
U.S. Air Force Academy	4,400
TOTAL	31,300

Source: The Gazette

¹ United States. Department of Veterans Affairs.

Colorado County Comparison

County	Sales/Property Taxes Per Person	Mill Levy - Property Tax Rate	Population	County Budget	Cost of Government Per Person
El Paso	\$186	7.514	594,437	\$230,000,000	\$386.92
Arapahoe	\$253	15.217	561,388	\$350,000,000	\$623.45
Weld	\$283	16.804	250,835	\$189,000,000	\$753.48
Pueblo	\$301	31.708	159,204	\$156,000,000	\$979.87
Adams	\$334	26.899	433,267	\$426,000,000	\$983.23
Mesa	\$390	13.260	142,463	\$177,000,000	\$1242.43
Larimer	\$402	22.414	286,872	\$295,000,000	\$1028.33
Jefferson	\$407	24.346	542,152	\$386,000,000	\$711.98
Boulder	\$468	22.467	293,232	\$286,000,000	\$975.34
Douglas	\$492	19.774	284,144	\$238,000,000	\$837.60

Source: 2008 Citizen's Guide to El Paso County and individual county websites

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.



Photograph by Stephen Joos

El Paso County has very low cost of government. The county property tax rates are the lowest out of the major counties in Colorado. This low cost of government combined with the impact of the current economic recession is creating a significant strain on the county and city budgets and the ability of both to fund certain services. Cost saving measures have been taken which may impact certain aspects of the quality of life in our community.

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.

In this third edition of the Quality of Life Indicators for the Pike Peak region, the Vision Councils examine indicators that deserve applause (identified in the report with a star of achievement) or concern (warning flag). In some Councils, the membership is taking a leadership role in coordinating community responses to issues. This report is reflective of the work of nine Vision Councils, and is divided into nine sections. Each section has a set of indicators - data points - that measure various elements that together make up our quality of life. We have discovered that these nine areas are deeply intertwined. Some indicators have moved between sections and discussion between Vision Councils has been ongoing. In this edition of the Quality of Life Indicators we explore the interrelationships between



Where We're Doing Well:

- The city of Colorado Springs is an affordable place to live (page 20)
- Growth in our military population has a positive economic impact (page 21)
- Crime cases solved are above the national averages (page 92)
- Emergency response times are decreasing (page 98)
- Volunteerism is high (page 105)

indicators. We hope that this additional information makes it clear that all indicators are important and they all affect your quality of life.

The **ECONOMY** is impacted by all the other indicators and in turn, impacts all aspects of our quality of life. A vibrant economy is dependent upon an educated and healthy workforce. Workers are drawn to our community by a well-maintained infrastructure, efficient transportation systems, successful educational institutions, and cultural opportunities. Since 2008, both the local and national economies have experienced a significant slowdown. As growth in the economy slows and costs rise, there is less revenue to support those agencies that are critical to maintaining and improving our quality of life.

Promoting **SOCIAL WELLBEING** requires coordinated community efforts. Household composition impacts issues like economic wellbeing and social isolation of the elderly. When one in ten of El Paso County residents is experiencing a substance abuse problem, we are all

affected. High rates of substance abuse lead to crime, agitate mental issues, can result in loss of employment, and can act as a catalyst for so many other societal problems. Our community is trying to find ways to serve people in need of sobering and/or rehabilitation, but in these economically strapped times we are struggling for solutions.

Our **ENVIRONMENT** is a cornerstone of a livable region. Since our community's inception, the natural environment has been a key attractor for people, businesses and government operations. The quality of our natural resources and environment has an impact not only on the health of our residents, but also on our ability to attract new businesses to the region. 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.

HEALTH includes the physical health of our citizens, their mental health, and the systems of healthcare that we provide. We are measuring physical health through indicators of infant mortality, prenatal care, and obesity. Mental health includes suicide and depression. Our system infrastructure and capacity include measuring the number of uninsured citizens, public health spending, and shortages in healthcare professionals. The health of our population can be tied to socioeconomic status, crime, and our economy.

Success in early **EDUCATION** is the key to later life accomplishments. Education levels impact life expectancy, low birthweight, murder rates, obesity, income, poverty, unemployment, voting, and incarceration. An educated population is more employable, healthier, and more civically engaged. Providing quality educational opportunities for all of our residents improves the quality of life for everyone.

There are countless opportunities for community residents and visitors to participate in **ARTS, CULTURE**, and **RECREATIONAL** activities. In these challenging economic times, some people do not think this is a high priority. It is widely acknowledged that arts, culture, and exposure to nature increase learning. Companies considering relocation measure the level of cultural opportunities as one of their decision points. If you have a well-maintained park near your home, the value of your home may be improved by as much as 15%.

TRANSPORTATION issues are key to a strong economy and healthy lifestyle. If you are sitting in a traffic delay, you are impacting the quality of our air and affecting your mental and physical health. If you rely on public transportation, your ability to work and enjoy life is closely tied to the availability of transportation. Having

ground transportation and an airport are essential for commerce and important to companies that consider locating in El Paso County.

SAFETY is important to our sense of well-being. Most of us feel safe in our neighborhoods. We can thank the impressive work of the people who respond to emergencies for that safety. However, economic stress and lack of resources to fund services are hindering efforts to address causes of juvenile arrests, child abuse and neglect, and domestic violence.

Research demonstrates the connection between high levels of **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT** and successful community outcomes in areas such as education, unemployment, control of drug abuse, crime and health.¹ Community engagement is shown to be strong in terms

able to celebrate our accomplishments and focus on improvements.

QUALITY OF LIFE VISION COUNCILS PROMOTING COMMUNITY RESPONSES TO ISSUES

In the three years since this project began, the Quality of Life Indicators report has been well-received by community leaders. Not only is it being used by the City of Colorado Springs in helping to shape their strategic plan, but a number of groups have used the data to help drive community initiatives.



of philanthropy and volunteerism. Unfortunately, the region is challenged regarding the percentage of registered voters who actually vote as well as the discrepancy between the population's desire for greater tolerance and their present experience.

All of the indicators impact the **QUALITY OF LIFE** that we enjoy. The indicators form a tapestry that is our community personality and will shape our future. You may not have children in school, but the success of students will affect the economic vitality of our region. You may not enjoy attending cultural events, but these events draw creative individuals and companies to our area. All of the factors in this report describe our complex and interesting community. By tracking the changes in our indicators over time, we will be

Dream City 2020

A grassroots, community-owned initiative that was launched in 2008 to engage the people of the Pikes Peak region in meaningful dialogue about their vision for the future of this community.

As of July 2009, more than 3,000 citizens and hundreds of volunteers have been involved in the development of common visions themes, that coincide with the each of the sections of the Quality of Life Indicators report. Dream City now works to build citizen energy and movement toward that vision. Dream City now works to move people from conversation to action,



¹ Putnam, 103.

connecting them with existing community champions and new initiatives. Quality of Life Indicators is the natural companion to this vision initiative, providing measurement and accountability to our goals for the future. Want to know more? www.dreamcity2020.com

From the community members fiercely embroiled in discussions about the future to the fifth grader who built her science project around how boys and girls might imagine their futures differently, Dream City is gaining serious momentum.

Education Vision Council

The Education Vision Council discussed the gap in third-grade reading levels and solutions for two years. They are actively working to close the gap by targeting reading efforts from birth. They are getting books and information to parents, pediatricians, and early child care centers. They will be promoting reading with their Brainy Bunch campaign beginning in the fall of 2009.



School Readiness Initiative

Pikes Peak United Way is launching its second initiative project – School Readiness. Donors can designate to this area and nonprofit organizations that support the initiative will have a new pool of funding available. Pikes Peak United Way's 2-1-1 will be a resource for parents who want information about reading for their children. Pikes Peak United Way's Women's Leadership Council will be supporting the Education Vision Council by assisting with book drives and providing books and materials to early child care centers.

Community Cultural Plan

Spearheaded by the Cultural Office of the Pikes Peak Region (COPPeR) and a diverse group of volunteer leaders from around the region, this process takes stock of existing cultural resources and asks how they can be maintained, enhanced, or developed to continue to improve our lives and the vitality, livability, and success of our community.

Our Cultural Plan will ensure that the arts, culture, history and heritage of the Pikes Peak region are integrated into all aspects of the community and positioned to strengthen the region. 2008 work culminated in an online arts community needs assessment survey and the 2008 Arts Summit: Imagination and Innovation, which brought



Where We Need to Improve:

- This is the fourth year in a row that the Business Conditions Index has worsened (page 14)
- The Colorado Springs economy grew at a slower rate than the overall US economy (page 15)
- The number of primary jobs has been declining (page 18)
- El Paso County has the highest increase in foreclosure starts in the state (page 24)
- 1 in 10 of El Paso County residents has a substance abuse problem (page 37)
- The pounds of waste per person is increasing (page 49)
- We have a high instance of suicide (page 54)
- 25% of our 3rd graders do not read at grade level (page 65)
- Motor vehicle fatalities are up (page 93)
- Juvenile arrest rates are up (page 95)
- Referrals for child abuse and neglect are up (page 100)
- Domestic violence has increased (page 101)
- Diversity acceptance is below desired levels (page 107)

more than 150 artists, arts administrators, and arts educators together to develop a vision for the future.

To learn more, visit www.coppercolo.org

Operation 60ThirtyFive

A diverse coalition of community, government and business organizations have launched a broad study to chart a course for the future of economic development in the Pikes Peak region. Operation 60ThirtyFive is a multi-faceted, six-month project to develop a comprehensive regional economic development strategic plan for the Pikes Peak region.

AngelouEconomics, an economic development consulting firm based in Austin, Texas, will tap into focus groups, community leaders and the general public to create a shared vision for the region's economic future, assess the region's current competitiveness, and outline specific implementation strategies.

For more information visit www.operation6035.org

Growing A Vibrant Economy

Chair

MIKE KAZMIERSKI (Chair)
Colorado Springs Economic Development Corporation

ROBERT CUTTER (Convener)
Advent Advisors, LLC

Members

DEBRA ARNESON
Hewlett Packard

DAVID BAMBERGER
David Bamberger & Associates

BARRY BAUM

LISA BIGELOW
City of Colorado Springs

BRIAN BINN
Greater Colorado Springs Chamber of Commerce

DAVE CSINTYAN
Greater Colorado Springs Chamber of Commerce

PAULA FERGUSON
Pikes Peak Workforce Center

WILLIAM GAMBLE
Black Leadership Forum

CHRISTOPHER JUNIPER
Natural Capitalism Solutions, Inc.

LON MATEJCZYK
Colorado Springs Business Journal

THOMAS MOWLE
El Paso County Public Trustee

THOMAS NAUGHTON
U.S. Bank

CAROL ODELL
Colorado Springs Better Business Bureau

DIANE SALEK

ANNA SEDER
Colorado Springs Utilities

SCOTT SMITH
La Plata Communities, Inc.

Photograph by Pam Roth, CreatingOnline.com

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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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The Colorado Springs economy provides the financial resources to support many factors related to the quality of life. In turn, a vibrant and sustainable economy requires a solid foundation built on the quality of life inherent within the community. These attributes include the natural environment, access to a well educated and healthy workforce and good transportation. To attract and retain employers, employees and their families the region also needs sources for recreation, arts and culture. A thriving economy also requires effective public safety, infrastructure and government. A successful and growing economy provides local government funding through taxation for these needs. In addition, a solid economic base provides a base of corporate and individual philanthropy to support the less fortunate, funding for arts, culture and recreation as well as a platform for community engagement at various levels.

Throughout the 1980s and 1990s, Colorado Springs evolved into a growing, successful, technology-based community with diverse industries and employment. This section focuses on the performance of the economy over the last eight years. During this time, the Colorado Springs economy has grown at a rate less than the United States as a whole and much slower than other cities in Colorado, the Midwest and Rocky Mountain region. The relative impact of the Colorado Springs economy within the United States has declined steadily since the turn of the century.

In 2006, Colorado Springs ranked as the 83rd largest economy in the United States. Five years earlier, we ranked 89th. This decline has been due, in part, to the loss of over 16,000 technology jobs in eight years. Many of these jobs were replaced with lower income jobs in the service sector and government. We have been fortunate to experience continued growth in local military employment and investment growth particularly at Fort Carson. Continued growth is anticipated for the next few years.

The current state of the local economy is marginal. Of great concern is the downward trend shown in many of the charts in this section. The rate of productivity improvement is declining, our employment base is shrinking, our unemployment rate is the highest it has been in 8 years, our real estate construction activity has declined significantly and we have one of the highest foreclosure rates in Colorado.

With tepid economic growth, the cost of living in Colorado Springs has declined. Combined with modest growth in median income, this has made the Pikes Peak region one of the more affordable communities in which to live when compared to similar communities in the Midwest and Rocky Mountain regions.

These economic factors are best summarized in the

Milken Institute's "Best Performing Cities" annual report where Colorado Springs has fallen to 111th in 2008 from being 26th (out of 200) in 2001.¹

Several organizations have come together and sponsored "Operation 6035", a study aimed at defining a path to successful and sustainable economic growth for the Pikes Peak Region. One of the most alarming initial findings of the study is the significant decline, of over 10%, in the population between the age of 25 and 44 years old. It is this age group that provides the energy to drive the future of our economy. We must retain and attract this age group to become and sustain a vibrant economy.

The global and national recession has impacted communities across the United States. The decline in the performance of the Colorado Springs economy predates the recent recession. The challenge facing the local economy has manifested itself with lower tax collections to support government funding and has directly resulted in severe cutbacks in local services. The City forecasts this situation to continue.

The City of Colorado Springs 2008 Strategic Plan economic vitality goal aligns with the metrics and potential for action outlined in this section:

Through collaboration and partnership with City enterprises, other public entities, private entities and the military, support economic development efforts that attract, retain and create quality jobs to ensure a diverse economic base, a resilient and growing City tax base, and thriving neighborhoods.

The recommended action to improve our economic performance is for the community and its leadership to reach broad consensus on an appropriate economic development strategy with associated actions to reverse the current trend. While there are lead organizations identified in each section of this report, it is important for all groups, public or private, who have a vested interest or can make a contribution towards improvement, to contact the lead organization and help execute the recommended actions.

The Colorado Springs Regional Economic Development Corporation (EDC) has been identified as the lead organization for several actions; however, it is solely a marketing organization. Local government, various private sector organizations and the community as a whole own the responsibility for making Colorado Springs an attractive community for sustainable economic development. To move our community forward recommended actions must be accomplished and the results measured to assess our progress over the next months and years.

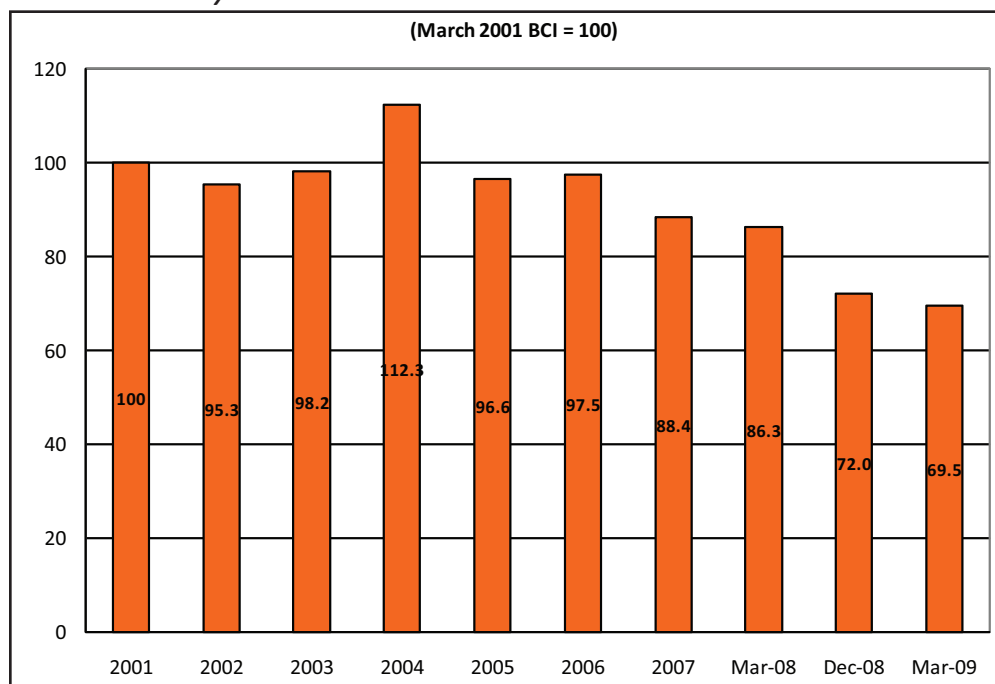
¹ Best Performing Cities 2008.

-Economy-

Business Conditions Index (BCI)



El Paso County BCI



Source: Southern Colorado Economic Forum

This chart: The Business Conditions Index (BCI) is a composite of ten seasonally adjusted measurements including: single family and townhome permits, new car sales, employment rate, foreclosures, employment, wages and salaries, sales and use tax collections and airport enplanements. Also included are the University of Michigan's Consumer Sentiment Index and the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City Manufacturing Index. The Consumer Sentiment Index is included in the BCI so that a near term assessment of national consumer attitudes on the business climate, personal finance, and spending can be understood. The

Manufacturing Index is included in the BCI to monitor manufacturing plants selected in the Tenth Federal District (which includes Colorado) according to geographic distribution, industry mix, and size. The Manufacturing Index results reveal changes in several indicators of manufacturing activity, including production and shipments, and identify changes in prices of raw materials and finished products.

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 now at its lowest point since inception in 1998, reflecting a significant continued slowdown in the local economy. All ten of the ten indicators are significantly worse than they were in December 2007. The BCI has dropped (worsened) by 21% since December 2007. The major components of this decline include the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City Manufacturing Index falling by 53% and the University of Michigan's Consumer Sentiment Index down by 20%. At the local level, El Paso County Single Family and Town Home permits have fallen 46%, car sales by 28% and enplanements are down by 20%. The significant drop in the BCI in the last year can be somewhat attributed to the slowdown in the overall national economy; however, this is the fourth consecutive year that the BCI has worsened and therefore reflects a significant concern for the local economy.

Potential for Action

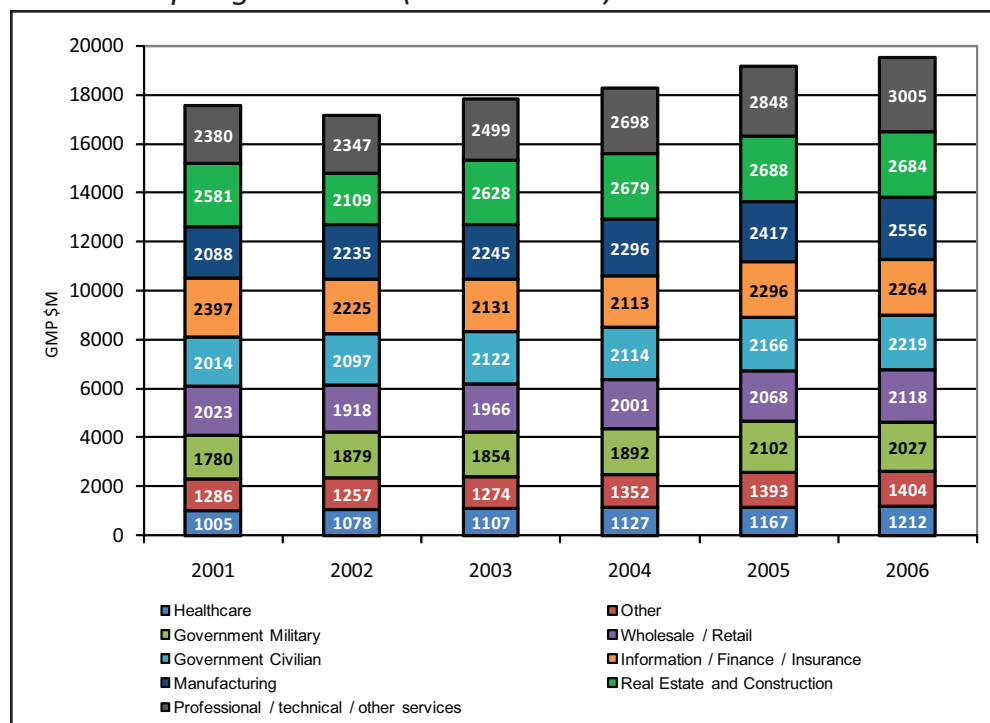
Lead organization: Colorado Springs Regional Economic Development Corporation (EDC)

Quality job growth in the local economy will help improve performance, especially the growth of primary employers that derive the majority of their revenues from outside the Pikes Peak region and therefore bring outside money into the community. The EDC must help attract new primary employers to the area as well as work closely with other groups to help existing companies grow, be globally competitive and remain in Colorado Springs.

Gross Metropolitan Product (GMP)



Colorado Springs' GMP in (2001 Dollars)



Source: Department of Commerce Bureau of Economic Analysis

This chart shows growth of the Colorado Springs Gross Metropolitan Product (GMP). The GMP is the measure of goods and services produced by labor and property in a specific region. 2001 constant dollars are used to remove the effects of inflation and thereby provide a measure of real economic growth.

Why is This Important?

GMP data provides a consistent measure across all States and Metropolitan Areas. The size of the GMP, its rate of growth and composition, directly influences the tax base for funding roads, schools, police, fire protection, health care and other services. A flat or declining level of GMP or a growth rate that does not keep up with inflation may

result in a degradation of infrastructure which adversely impacts 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 89th in 2006, a decline of 6 places. During the period 2001-2006, the Colorado Springs economy grew by 11% which was 3% slower than the overall U.S. economy. This growth rate may not support the increased demands for local infrastructure. Bakersfield CA, Lexington KY and Winston-Salem NC moved ahead of us in 2006.

Potential for Action

Lead Organization: City of Colorado Springs

Our goal should be to regain the 80th position in the nation within 5 years. This can be achieved through the diversification of the local economy and emphasis on industries that support high levels of economic growth and value such as alternative energy, manufacturing, information technology and system hardware/software design.

GMP Benchmark Cities Comparison

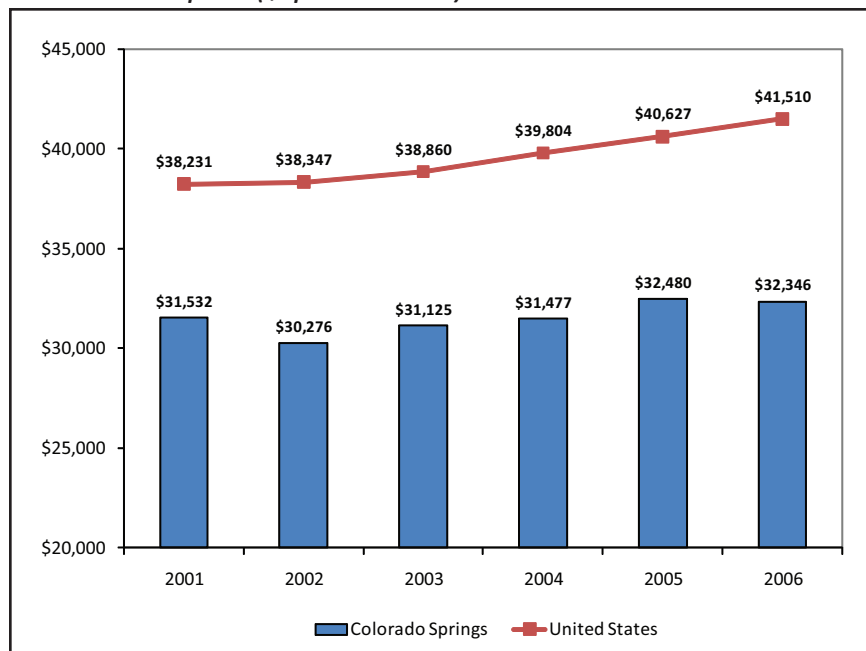
Metropolitan Area	GMP Value		GMP Growth	
	2006 \$M	Rank out of 363	2001-06 Growth	Rank out of 363
Denver	122,350	18	12%	207
Austin	65,741	37	23%	71
Salt Lake City	49,156	46	17%	138
Omaha	36,174	53	17%	133
Albuquerque	30,827	58	18%	126
Des Moines	28,081	64	23%	75
Boise	21,930	77	28%	41
Wichita	21,670	78	7%	280
Colorado Springs	19,489	89	11%	221
Boulder	15,367	107	3%	334
Fort Collins	9,154	160	17%	135
Pueblo	2,947	328	0%	351

Source: Department of Commerce Bureau of Economic Analysis

Gross Metropolitan Product Per Capita



GMP Per Capita (\$ per Person)



Source: Department of Commerce Bureau of Economic Analysis

This Chart: GMP per capita combines the level of economic output, GMP, 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 achieving a high level of wealth creation while placing a low demand on infrastructure. A community with a high economic output per person is more likely to have a higher tax base per person because higher wages typically provide discretionary funds for high value purchases. This discretionary income also provides a source 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?

Our GMP/capita is greatly influenced by the type of industries we have and the number of retired or underemployed citizens. For example, call centers, tourism, distribution and retail employ large numbers of people with below average economic output compared to technology and manufacturing industries. Our productivity is approximately 20% below the United States. Approximately 5% of this variance is due to the high level of enlisted military in the local population. Service personnel are counted in the local population but do not directly provide traditional economic output in goods and services. If we were able to achieve the same economic productivity as Denver, we would increase our annual output by approximately \$11 billion with the same number of people. Gulfport MS and Savannah GA moved ahead of us in the rankings in 2006.

GMP Per Capita Benchmark

Metropolitan Area	2001		2006	
	GMP/Capita \$	Rank out of 363	GMP/Capita \$	Rank out of 363
Boulder	49,839	9	53,706	10
Des Moines	46,726	19	52,413	13
Denver	49,049	10	50,729	16
Salt Lake City	42,447	30	45,603	34
Omaha	39,713	47	44,074	42
Austin	40,366	44	42,904	49
Boise	35,334	85	38,627	85
Albuquerque	35,366	84	37,696	101
Wichita	35,296	86	36,773	111
Fort Collins	29,983	169	32,505	164
Colorado Springs	31,532	140	32,346	167
Pueblo	20,482	335	19,381	358

Source: Department of Commerce Bureau of Economic Analysis

Potential for Action

Lead Organization: City of Colorado Springs

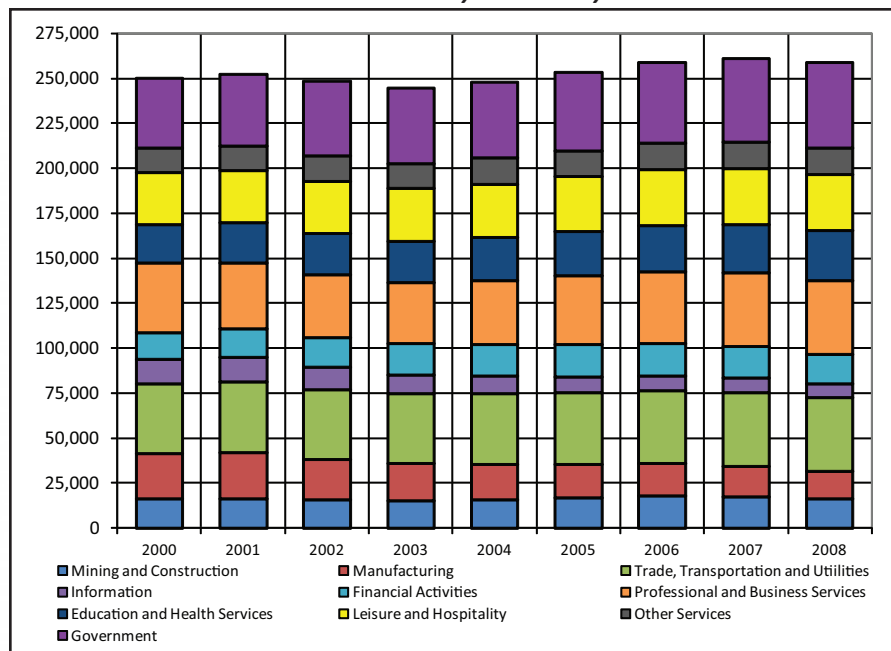
Secure a position in the top 100 communities within the U.S. in terms of GMP per capita within five years. Attract high value industries with high paying wages to improve the output achieved for a given population base.

-Employment-

Employment by Industry Segment



Total Civilian Non-Farm Jobs by Industry



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

These Charts show the number of jobs in each major industry in the Colorado Springs MSA and the change in number of jobs in each sector.

Why is This Important?

A community with a diverse economic base is better able to withstand normal employment cycles which affect industries with different intensities. The more variety in the economic makeup of a community, the more resilient it will be to national and global changes.

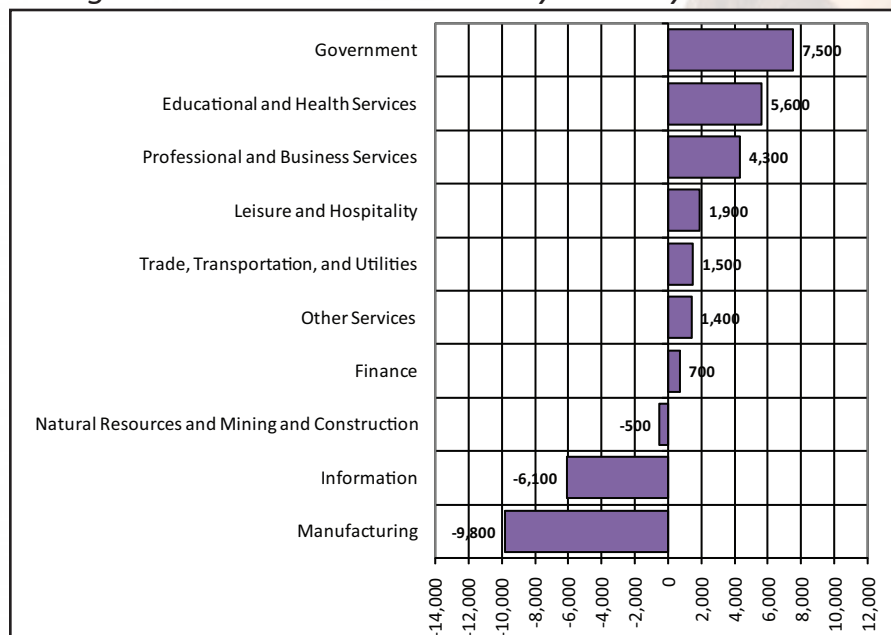
How are We Doing?

Government, which includes local, state and federal government employees, but not enlisted military, was the largest employer in the Colorado Springs MSA in 2008, with a total of 47,000 persons employed. The next largest industries were Professional and Business Services and Trade Transportation and Utilities

with 40,700 each. We have more than 30,000 military personnel employed in the area who are not shown in the civilian employment numbers.

Overall Employment Trend

Change in Civilian Non-Farm Jobs by Industry



Source: Colorado Department of Labor and Employment

A local economy that depends on government and the military is subject to the uncertainties of politics and tax revenue collections. Government employment had the largest growth over the last eight years adding over 7,500. We experienced a similar increase in the number of active duty military personnel in this period not shown in these numbers. During the same period we lost almost 16,000 information technology and manufacturing jobs. These industries have the highest potential for innovation and wealth creation to strengthen our economy.

Potential for Action

Lead Organization: Colorado Springs Regional Economic Development Corporation

Emphasis needs to be placed on attracting and growing those primary industries that sell goods and services

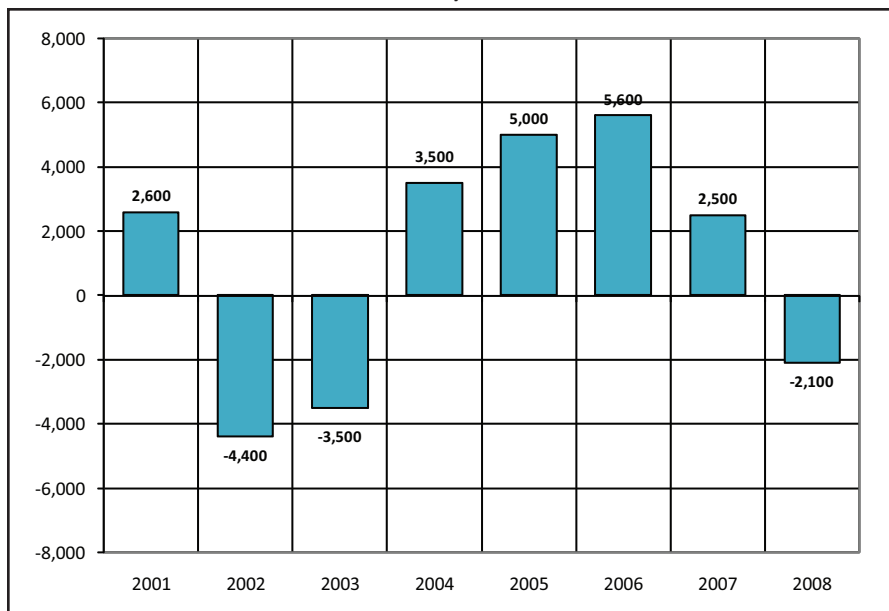
outside our region to bring money into this area. These include those in high technology design and manufacturing, information technology and software / web-based applications where we currently have a low level of activity.

Photograph by Irene K.

Primary Job Growth/Losses



Civilian Non-Farm Job Growth/Decline



Source: Colorado Department of Labor and Employment

These Charts show the net number of jobs added to the local economy taking into account the number of jobs lost and the number of jobs added in each period. It includes all types of civilian jobs including those for primary employers, retail, service industries, government members, etc. but does not include active duty military personnel.

Why is This Important?

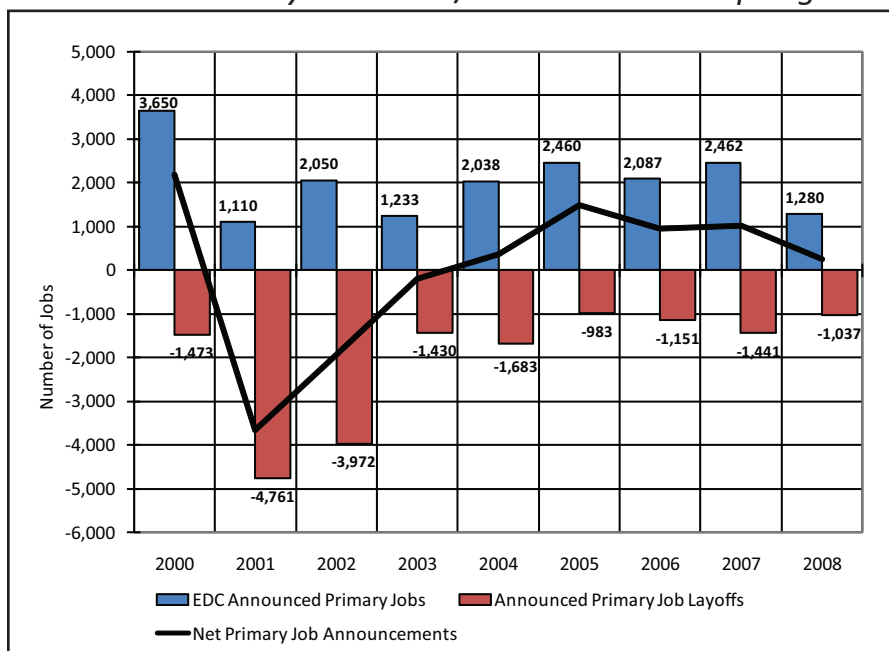
Each year the population of Colorado Springs grows by 4,000-8,000 people. In our region, approximately 50% of the population is in the civilian workforce; therefore, we need to add about 2,000 to 4,000 jobs each year to keep up with natural growth of our community. During the recent eight year period we added approximately 9,000 jobs or just over 1,000 jobs per year- well short of what we need. Added jobs

support expansion in our economy, new career opportunities for our citizens and additional tax base to support our public expenditures. Failure to achieve or exceed this population-driven level of job growth will result in a shortage of funding for public expenditure infrastructure items and an associated reduction in quality of life.

How are We Doing?

Primary employers and jobs drive the local economy. During the past nine years we only added a net of 500 primary jobs. We need to add 3,000-4,000 primary jobs per year to gain a net of 1,000-2,000 primary jobs each year to support a vibrant and healthy economy. These net primary jobs will support, and are part of, the total net job growth requirement of 2,000-4,000

Announced Primary Job Gains/Losses Colorado Springs Metro Area



Source: Economic Development Corporation

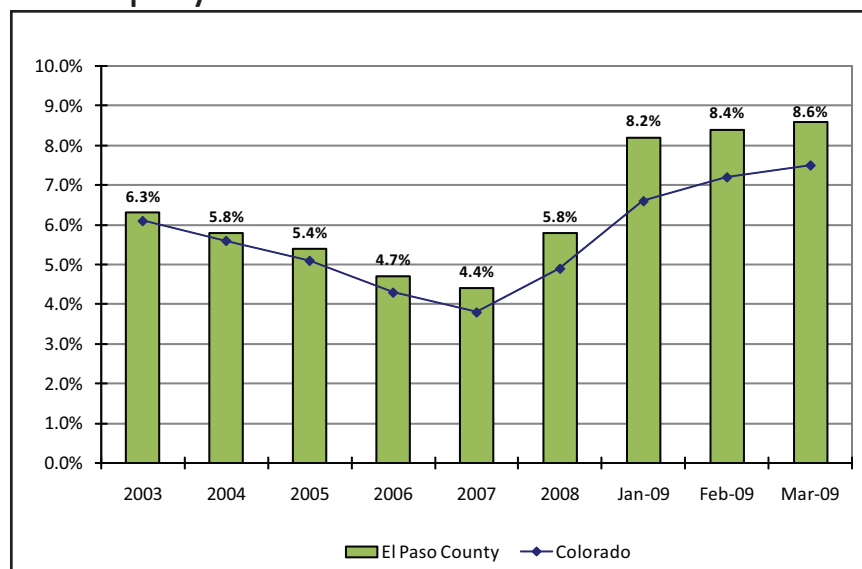
per year referenced above. Overall Colorado Springs' performance in job creation has been poor due, in part, to our inability to offer various forms of incentives which have become a competitive weapon in company attraction and retention. In eight years we increased the number of local jobs by just 4%. Other competitive cities increased their employment by 10-15%.

Potential for Action

Lead Organization: Colorado Springs Regional Economic Development Corporation

Add over 3,000 primary jobs (providing 6,000-9,000 total new jobs in the community) per year to exceed the current level of growth. This action will offset historical average losses of approximately 2,000 primary jobs per year and meet the employment needs of our community.

Unemployment Rate



Source: Colorado Department of Labor and Employment

This Chart shows the average annual unemployment rate for El Paso County and the state of Colorado. Unemployed workers are defined as job-seekers who do not currently have a job and are actively seeking viable employment. Economists often view an unemployment rate of approximately 4% as full employment.

Why is This Important?

The unemployment rate is an indicator of the overall health of the economy. It measures the number of people looking for work who could contribute more to the economic output of the region. People can normally claim unemployment for up to six months while looking for work. A high level of unemployment can place a burden on various local, state and federal government agencies and may give rise to

other problems including a rise in crime rates which adversely affects quality of life.

Continued Unemployment Claims City Comparison

	Year End Continued Claims								
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	Jan-09	Feb-09	Mar-09
Pueblo	7.5%	7.5%	7.0%	5.7%	4.9%	6.2%	8.6%	8.9%	9.1%
El Paso County	6.3%	5.8%	5.4%	4.7%	4.4%	5.8%	8.2%	8.4%	8.6%
Denver	6.4%	5.9%	5.3%	4.5%	4.0%	5.0%	7.4%	7.9%	8.2%
Boise	5.0%	4.2%	3.4%	2.7%	2.9%	5.1%	7.6%	8.4%	8.1%
Fort Collins	5.1%	4.7%	4.5%	4.0%	3.5%	4.3%	6.2%	6.5%	6.8%
Wichita	6.7%	6.2%	5.5%	4.5%	4.0%	4.2%	5.9%	6.0%	6.7%
Albuquerque	5.5%	5.3%	4.9%	4.0%	3.5%	4.3%	5.4%	6.0%	6.3%
Boulder	5.8%	4.9%	4.5%	3.8%	3.4%	4.2%	5.9%	6.1%	6.3%
Austin	6.0%	5.1%	4.5%	4.2%	3.7%	4.4%	6.4%	6.3%	6.2%
Des Moines	4.0%	4.4%	4.0%	3.4%	3.5%	3.9%	5.3%	5.2%	5.2%
Salt Lake City	5.8%	5.1%	4.1%	2.9%	2.6%	3.3%	4.4%	5.0%	5.1%
Omaha	4.3%	4.3%	4.3%	3.4%	3.3%	3.7%	5.2%	4.8%	5.1%

Source: Colorado Department of Labor and Employment

How are We Doing?

At the end of March 2009, the unemployment rate for El Paso County was the second highest of the major metropolitan areas in the State. This is likely due to the recent loss of technology, manufacturing and retail jobs in the area.

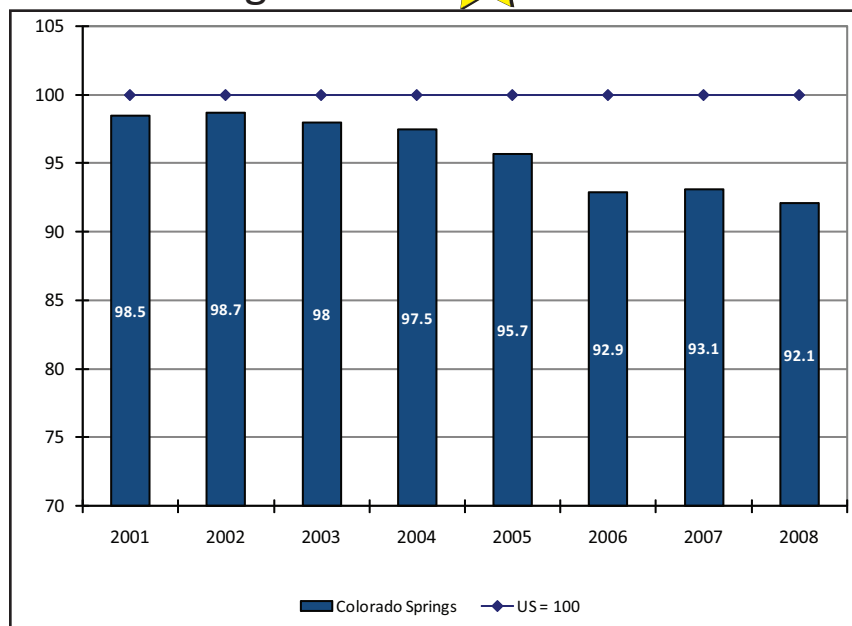
Potential for Action

Lead Organization: Colorado Springs Regional Economic Development Corporation

Focus on bringing primary employers and primary jobs to the region. A primary job may indirectly create 1-3 other jobs in the community in retail and service industries which lowers unemployment.

-Affordability-

Cost of Living Index



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

These Charts: The Cost of Living Index measures the cost of consumer goods and services, excluding taxes and non-consumer expenditures, for professional and managerial households in the top income quintile. The composite index is based on six components – housing, utilities, grocery items, transportation, health care and miscellaneous goods and services.

The median income is the income level at which half the working population earns more and half earns less. The Median Household Income table below compares the cost of living index to the median income index.

Why is This Important?

Areas with a high cost of living are less attractive to citizens and employers because more of their income is consumed in purchasing basic household necessities.

Median Household Income

MSA	Median Household Income (2007)	Income Index	Cost of Living Index (2008)	Affordability
Des Moines	55,853	110.1	91.6	18.5
Omaha	52,924	104.3	86.9	17.4
Austin	56,746	111.8	95.5	16.3
Colorado Springs	55,304	109.0	92.1	16.2
Salt Lake City	57,294	112.9	99.7	13.2
Denver	58,875	116.0	105.0	11.0
Fort Collins	52,046	102.6	95.3	7.3
Boise	49,888	98.3	95.8	2.5
Wichita	47,404	93.4	91.8	1.6
Boulder	63,257	124.7	123.3	1.4
United State	50,740	100.0	100.0	0.0
Pueblo	41,564	81.9	87.1	-5.2
Albuquerque	45,325	89.3	96.7	-7.4

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

A positive difference between these two metrics, with income higher than cost, shows a level of affordability where money is available to spend on discretionary items.

How are We Doing?

Colorado Springs has a relatively high income level and a reasonably low cost of living resulting in good affordability compared to other cities.

Potential for Action

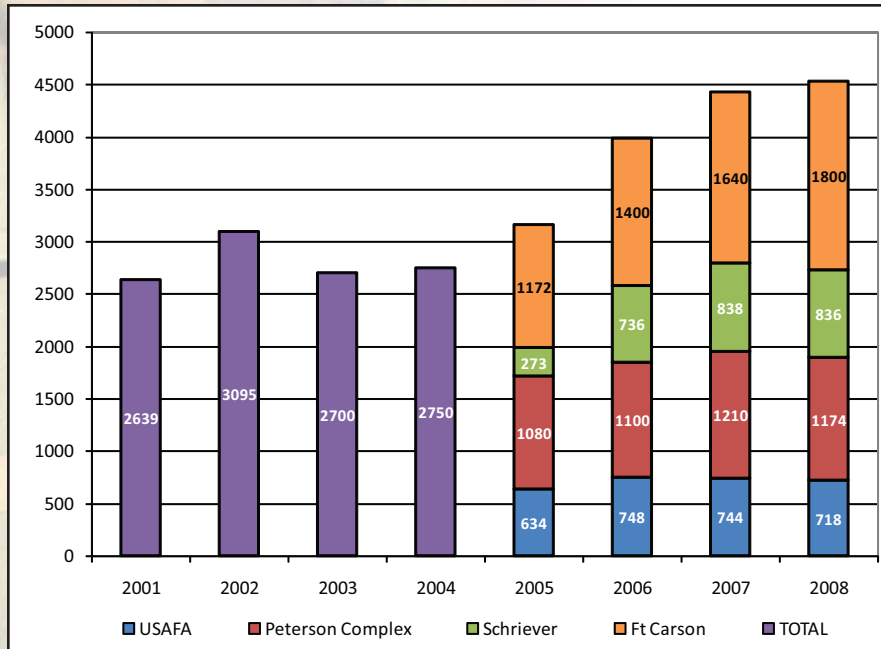
Lead Organization: City of Colorado Springs and El Paso County

Continue to have a lower cost of living to attract and retain businesses and their employees.

-Military Influence-



Economic Influence of Military in \$ Millions



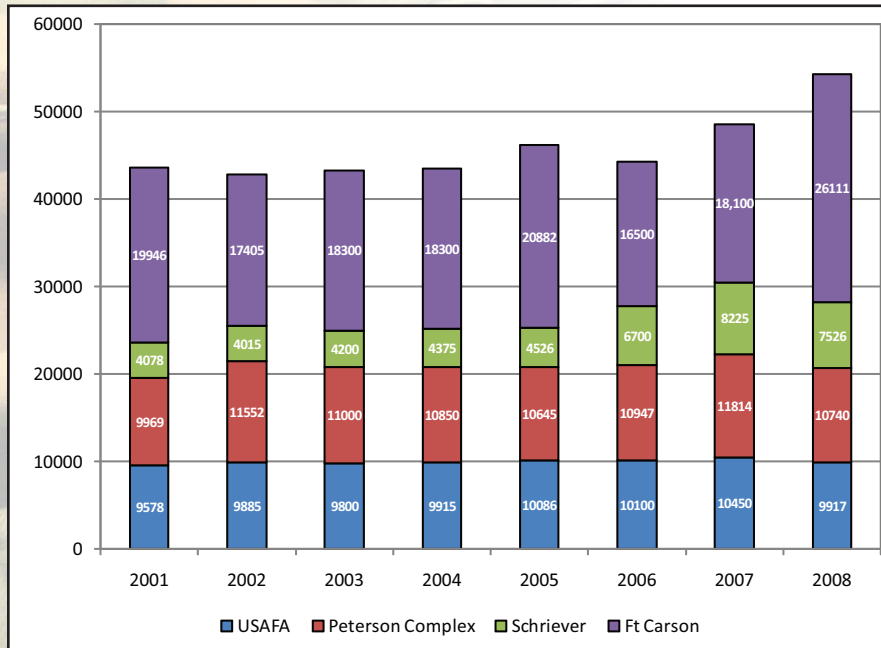
Source: Greater Colorado Springs Chamber of Commerce

These Charts represent the economic impact and the workforce of the military installations in El Paso County.

Why is This Important?

The military has always been a critical part of our economy since Fort Carson was established in 1942. The direct and indirect impact on the local economy is estimated at 20-25% of gross metropolitan product. The military component of our economy has provided a stabilizing influence for the region during economic boom and bust cycles affecting other industry segments. Growth and stability of our military installations translates into business growth and employment growth for the region in a wide range of sectors within the local economy.

Military Base Workforce Trend - Civilian and Military Personnel



Source: Greater Colorado Springs Chamber of Commerce

How are We Doing?

There has been steady growth since 2005, primarily because of the growth at Fort Carson. Anticipated personnel growth over the next several years at both Fort Carson and Peterson AFB will further drive positive economic impact for the region. The current concern and delay with respect to the purchase and operation of the Pinon Canyon Maneuver Site is a significant concern for the long term stability and growth of Fort Carson.

Potential for Action

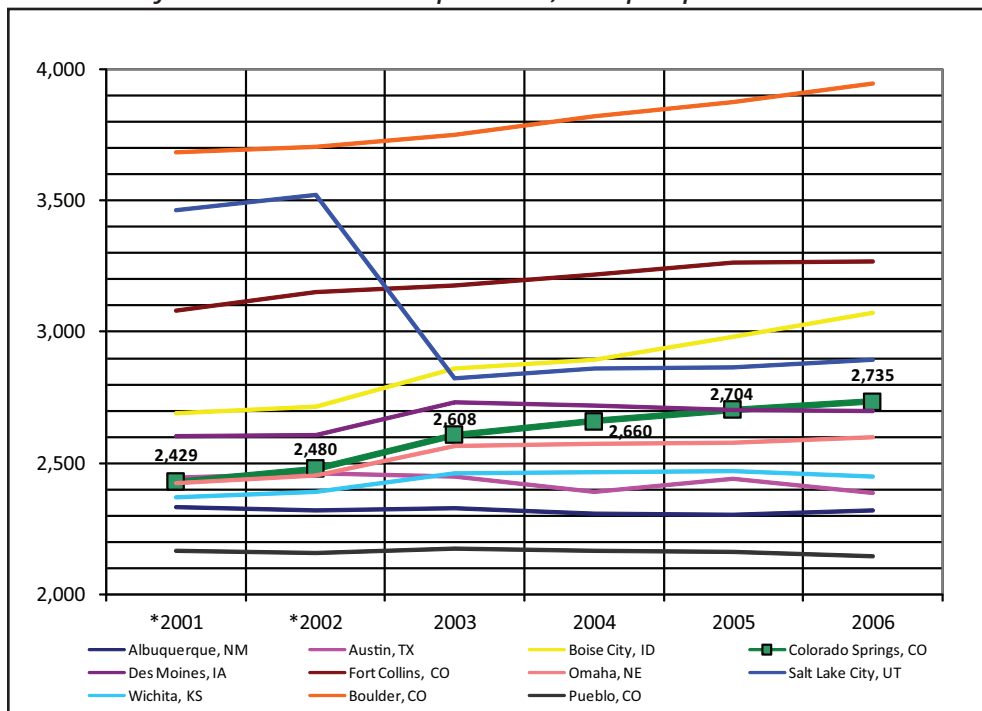
Lead Organization: Colorado Springs Chamber of Commerce

The State of Colorado, county and city governments and the private sector must continue to recognize the importance of maintaining the military missions in the area by continuing to support and promote positive

relationships with the military commands - both locally and in Washington DC. The consequences of proceeding with, delaying or terminating the Pinon Canyon project must be thoroughly understood and communicated.

-Small Business-

Number of Small Businesses per 100,000 people



Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis

This Chart shows the number of small businesses per 100,000 population enabling a simple comparison to communities having larger and smaller populations than Colorado Springs. The data is for the Colorado Springs Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) except for years 2001 and 2002. Small businesses are companies with 1-99 employees. As a note of interest, the dramatic decline in the number of small businesses in Salt Lake City occurred after the conclusion of the 2002 Winter Olympics.

Why is This Important?

Small businesses account for over 96% of all businesses in the region. This is typical for most metropolitan areas. These businesses provide the local support for larger businesses

and provide a variety of services and goods that help support the infrastructure and the region's quality of life. Many of these small businesses are also primary employers and derive over 50% of their revenues from outside the region bringing in money to the local economy. A healthy small business climate assists start-ups in a variety of areas including access to capital, technical expertise, cost effective facilities, supply chain relationships, and at the same time, provides employment opportunities for citizens.

How are We Doing?

In 2006, Colorado Springs was fifth out of eleven comparable cities. In 2006, there were 16,477 (98%) small businesses and 340 (2%) large businesses in Colorado Springs. The small business component for other cities include Des Moines 96.9%, Omaha 97.1%, Salt Lake City & Wichita 97.3%, Albuquerque & Austin 97.5%, Boise City 98.2%, Boulder & Pueblo 98.3%.

Potential for Action

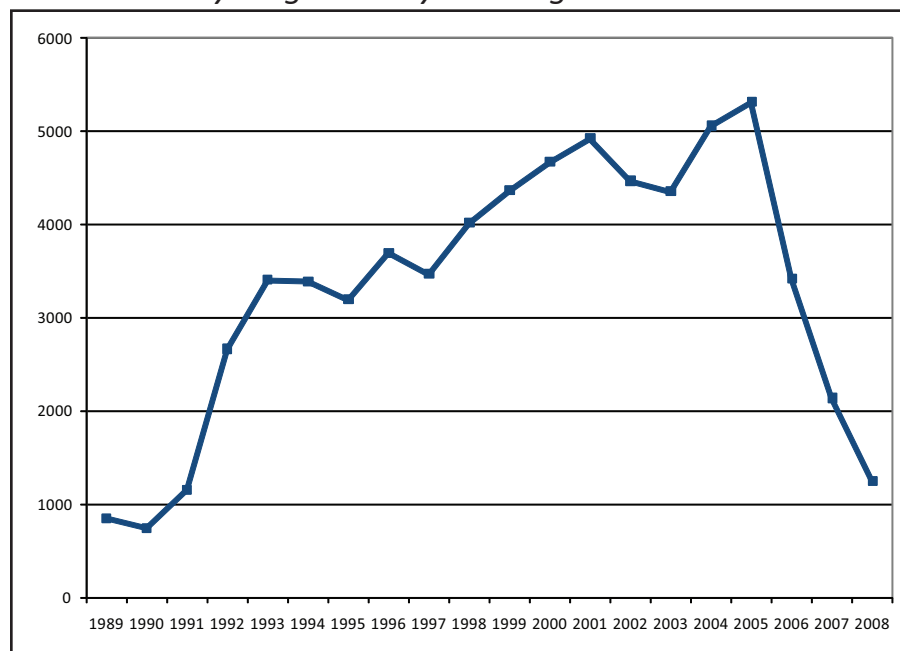
Lead Organization: Greater Colorado Springs Chamber of Commerce

Continue to work with a variety of organizations to meet the needs of small businesses in our region. These needs include enabling small businesses to obtain loans, providing education on cash flow management, marketing, effectively using the Web, and continuing education on customer service. Efficient and effective delivery of these components will enhance local businesses and their financial success. Smart use of social media will play heavily in these endeavors. The success of Boise should be examined to determine what positive variables influenced their growth and could be considered for the betterment of Colorado Springs.

-Real Estate-

Construction Activity

El Paso County Single Family Building Permits



Source: Pikes Peak Regional Building Department

The first Chart shows the single-family building permit activity in El Paso County. Construction activity is a good measure of local consumer confidence and economic activity. New home sales result from existing and new residents.

The second Chart shows the total value of permits (not adjusted for inflation) over the same period. The data shows the estimated value of the completed projects for new residential and commercial construction. The residential values track with the number of building permits. The commercial figures for 2008 appear strong, but reflect a few large unique projects (i.e. the USOC building).

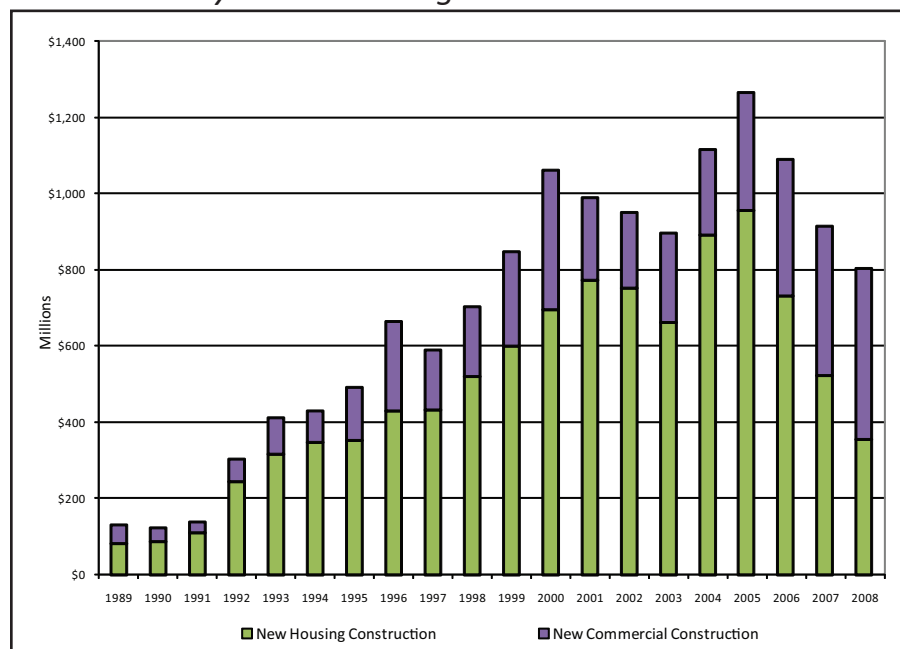
Why is This Important?

The construction of new homes and commercial real estate in a normal economy provides as much as 7% to 10% of the local economic activity and a similar portion of local employment especially for numerous lower skilled workers. Taxes and fees collected from the development and construction industry represent a significant portion of city, county and utility revenues. The availability of adequate, quality and affordable housing is an important consideration in the quality of life.

How are We Doing?

Colorado Springs and El Paso County have experienced significant declines in the past three years in building investment and activity. The single family permit activity in 2008 was less than 25% of the peak experienced in 2005, and is expected to dip further in 2009 before improving in 2010.

El Paso County Gross Building Permit Values



Source: Pikes Peak Regional Building Department

Potential for Action

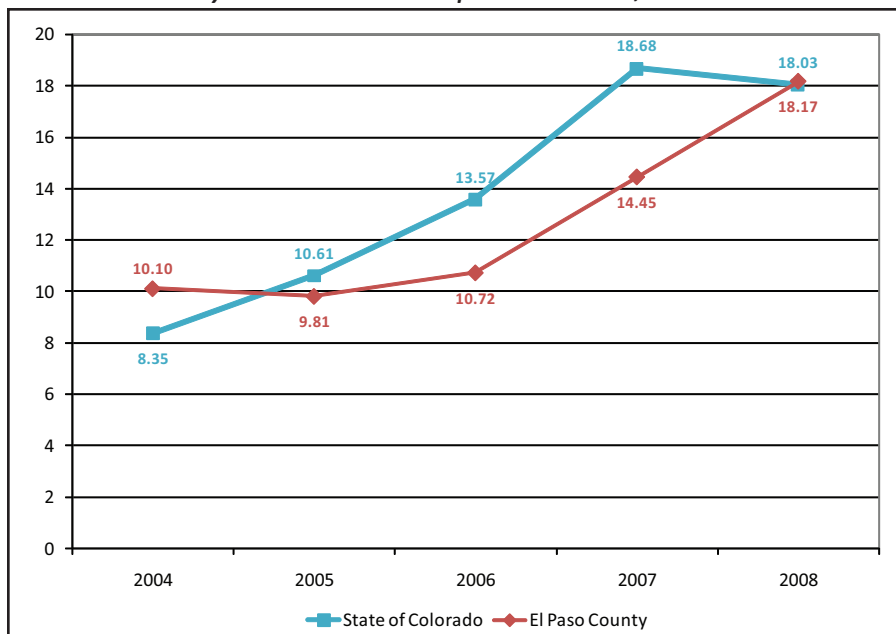
Lead Organization: City of Colorado Springs and El Paso County

Continue efforts in local primary job growth to drive the demand for housing and fund initiatives to adequately maintain and build important community infrastructure, including roads, utilities and storm drainage. Continue to insure that cost prohibitive barriers to housing and real estate development are kept to a minimum with stable fees and efficient approval processes.

Foreclosures



El Paso County Foreclosures Opened Per 1,000 Households



Source: Colorado Department of Local Affairs, Division of Housing

The Chart compares the annual rate of foreclosures opened in El Paso County with the statewide rate per 1,000 households. A foreclosure is opened after the lender files a Notice of Election and Demand with the Public Trustee. This chart shows that the rate of increase in El Paso County contrasts with a statewide drop in foreclosures opened. Comparisons with other states tend to be very inaccurate, as Colorado's process is unique.

Why is This Important?

The foreclosure rate is a second-order effect, reflecting the proportion of property owners who are in economic distress. About 65% of foreclosure starts result in sale at public auction; about 95% of these will go to the lenders. These foreclosure sales reduce property values, affecting others' ability

to sell or refinance their property. Foreclosed properties often sit vacant, becoming blighted and reducing neighborhood quality of life.

How are We Doing?

Statewide, foreclosures were flat from 2007 to 2008, while El Paso County's rate increased 29%. About 2.5% of properties in El Paso County went into foreclosure in 2008, up from 2% in 2007. The ratio of occupied households per completed foreclosure is better than in most large counties on the Front Range. Within the county, foreclosure starts are unevenly distributed, being heaviest on the Southeast side, the Fountain Valley, and in suburban and rural areas east of Powers Road. The table compares the foreclosure rate in El Paso County with that of other large counties in Colorado. Among such counties, El Paso County had the highest increase in foreclosure starts from 2007 to 2008. The foreclosure rate will drop when increased demand for homes stabilizes home prices, making it easier for property owners to sell and pay off property when needed. The foreclosure rate should drop as employment increases.

Potential for Action

There is little that can be directly done to reduce the foreclosure rate. Some help can be provided by the Pikes Peak Foreclosure Prevention Partnership to counsel borrowers who are facing foreclosure.

County	Foreclosure Starts			Completed FCs per 1000 Occupied HHs
	2007	2008	% Change	
Adams	6246	5558	-11%	23.0
Weld	2877	2824	-2%	18.2
Denver	7909	6212	-21%	16.9
Arapahoe	6259	5876	-6%	15.7
Pueblo	1504	1311	-13%	12.6
Douglas	1865	2180	17%	11.2
El Paso	3556	4597	29%	9.9
Jefferson	3588	3669	2%	8.4
Larimer	1588	1644	4%	7.1
Boulder	1009	1041	3%	4.1
Mesa	393	469	19%	2.0
Colorado Statewide	39915	39307	-2%	

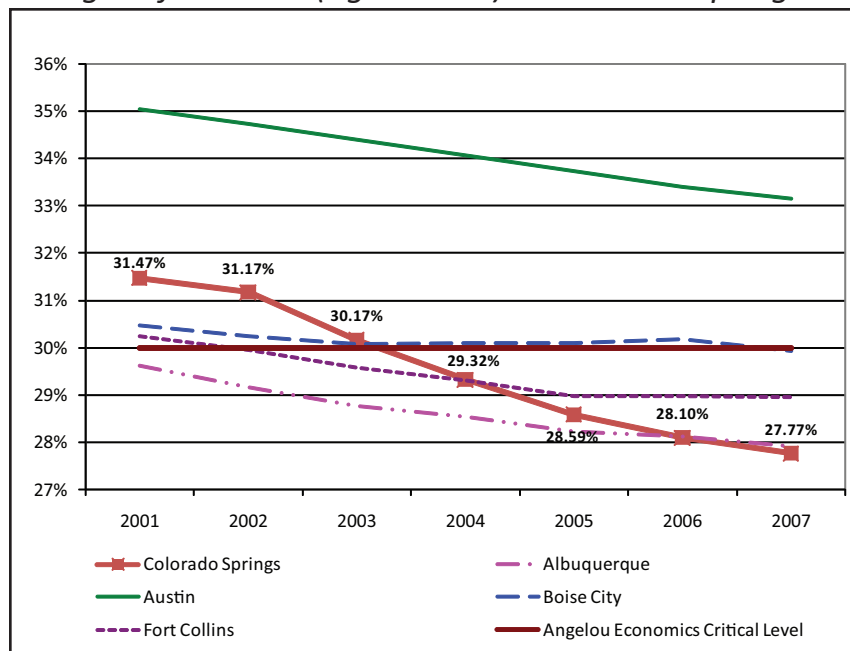
Source: Colorado Department of Local Affairs, Division of Housing

-Competitive Position-

Competitive Metrics: Key Success Factors



Young Professionals (ages 25-44) in Colorado Springs MSA Workforce



Source: U.S. Census

This chart shows the percentage of the Pikes Peak Region's working population that is considered "Young professionals" in the 25-44 age group.

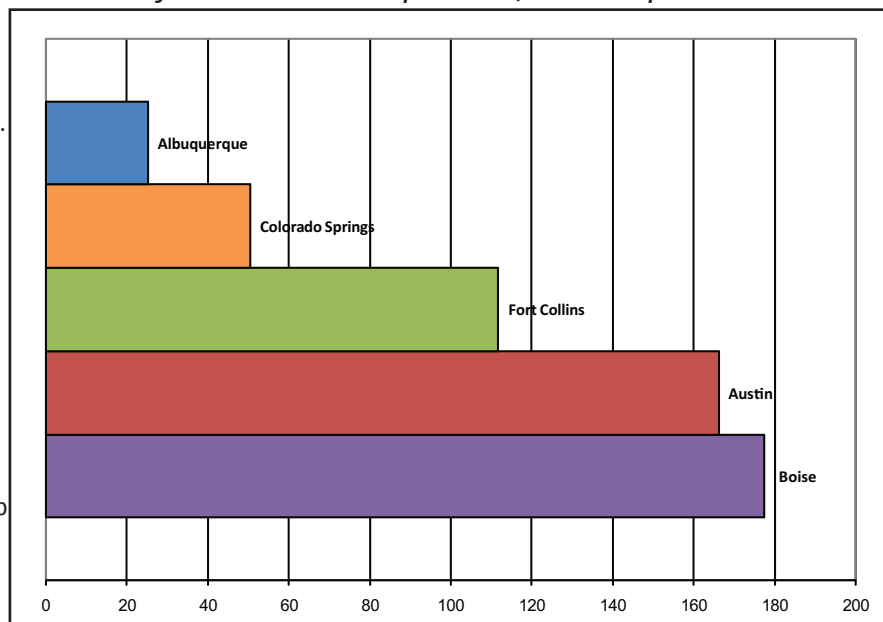
Why is This Important?

Young professionals are a key component of the workforce engaged in entrepreneurial activity and innovation. A decline in this segment of the working population jeopardizes the ability of Colorado Springs to attract and retain primary jobs. The number of patents issued reflects the region's ability to foster and sustain innovation. This attribute is attractive for high growth technology companies and new start-up ventures. Many site selection consultants and corporate real estate executives look to these factors to select or eliminate communities from consideration for potential company expansions and relocations.

How are We Doing?

The Pikes Peak Region's "Young Professionals" population is now below the 30% critical threshold used by many site selection consultants. The downward trend decreases the region's attractiveness to high-impact, high value, knowledge-based businesses that require a strong talent pool. The number of patents issued locally places our region in the middle of the group of cities against which we typically compete. Austin and Boise experienced three times the rate of patents generated compared to Colorado Springs. Our performance is unsatisfactory.

Number of Patents Issued per 100,000 People



Source: U.S. Patent and Trademark Office

This chart shows the number of patents issued in the Pikes Peak Region from 2004-2008 compared to benchmark cities.

Potential for Action

Lead Organization: Colorado Springs Regional Economic Development Corporation

Implement the agreed upon actions resulting from Operation 6035 to attract and retain young professionals. Continue to support the expansion and innovation coming out of UCCS. Develop a source of seed funding for entrepreneurs to develop their ideas to the point of attracting external institutional funding and thereby grow start-up companies in Colorado Springs.

Milken Institute National Ranking



Best Performing Cities 2001-2008

Ranking based on economic performance, job creation and high technology component of local economy

Ranking	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2007	2008
<10	Boulder Austin Boise	Boise					Salt Lake City Austin
<20		Boulder Austin		Boise Albuquerque		Salt Lake City Austin Boise	
<30	Denver Co Springs	Co Springs					Boise Des Moines
<40	Fort Collins	Albuquerque	Albuquerque Co Springs		Boise	Albuquerque	Albuquerque
<50	Salt Lake City Omaha	Fort Collins		Des Moines	Albuquerque Fort Collins		Denver Wichita Fort Collins
<60		Denver Salt Lake City	Austin		Austin	Des Moines	
<70				Austin	Des Moines		
<80			Boise Fort Collins		Co Springs	Fort Collins	
<90		Omaha	Denver Des Moines	Co Springs	Salt Lake City		Omaha
<100	Albuquerque		Boulder	Boulder	Boulder	Boulder Co Springs	Boulder
<110					Denver	Denver Omaha	
<120	Des Moines	Wichita		Salt Lake City Omaha	Omaha	Wichita	Co Springs

Note: No report was published in 2006

Source: Milken Institute

Cities in Green indicate Expansion Management Hottest Cities Top 50 Ranking (no data available for 2008)

This Table: Each year the Milken Institute publishes the well recognized “Best Performing Cities- Where America’s Jobs are Created and Sustained.” This chart shows the ranking of Colorado Springs within the 200 largest metropolitan areas in the United States. The ranking is a composite index based on short term and medium term job growth, income growth, strength of high technology within the local economy in absolute value and relative to the US as a whole. It is perhaps the best external benchmark assessment of our performance in high value job creation. Overlaid on this chart - indicated by cities highlighted in green - are those cities ranked by Expansion Management magazine as the “Hottest Cities” for expansion. The assessment is based on the direct perceptions of the site consultants who play a key role in selecting locations for future company expansion and input from the magazine’s editors.

Why is This Important?

Colorado Springs competes nationally and globally to attract new companies and expand existing businesses. The Milken Institute provides an objective benchmark to other communities and an assessment of our performance. This publication is widely reviewed by business executives and site selection consultants for companies looking to expand or relocate. A low ranking means that Colorado Springs is potentially less attractive to prospective companies, especially those seeking a community with growth opportunities, a solid economy and a high technology base of labor from which to draw in the future.

How are We Doing?

In 2008, Colorado Springs was ranked 111th out of 200 - our worst ranking ever. The table shows that for the first time we were at the bottom of our benchmark group. Other cities that jumped past Colorado Springs in the ranking were: El Paso, Oklahoma City, Shreveport and Kansas City. Colorado Springs ranked very high in terms of the current proportion of the economy that is based on high technology, high value, knowledge based industries. Our overall ranking declined due to the lack of overall job growth, poor growth in economic output and poor growth in high technology sectors. These results are reflective of the metrics reported elsewhere in this section.

The assessments conducted by Milken Institute and Expansion Management magazine focus on the economy and the potential economic development of Colorado Springs. Sustainable economic development requires an attractive, vibrant and healthy community as a foundation to attract and retain employers, employees and their families. Colorado Springs has been recognized with several awards demonstrating the quality of life and other factors that help make our community attractive. These awards include:

14th Cleanest City in the United States for air quality:
6th best city for defense jobs:
6th best alternative fueled city:
10th best city for business and careers:
9th best midsize metropolitan area:
2nd fittest city in America:
7th safest city from natural disasters:

American Lung Association
ClearanceJobs.com
Sustain Lane
Forbes Magazine
MSNBC
Men's Fitness magazine
U.S. News and World Report

Potential for Action

Lead Organization: City of Colorado Springs

The City of Colorado Springs must develop and execute a plan with the assistance of other organizations such as the Greater Colorado Springs Chamber of Commerce and the Greater Colorado Springs Economic Development Corporation to retain, grow and attract technology companies to our community to reverse the trend of a shrinking technology base.

Photograph by Dani Simmons

Promoting Social Wellbeing

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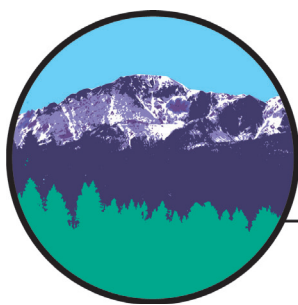
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Photograph by Carol Garbiano

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**Pikes Peak Area
Council of Governments**

Communities Working Together

AREA AGENCY ON AGING

The Pikes Peak Association Council of Governments is a voluntary association of 15 municipal and county governments serving a regional community. Since 1967, PPACG has worked to ensure that local governments have a forum to discuss issues that cross their political boundaries, identify shared opportunities and challenges, and develop collaborative strategies for action. The PPACG Area Agency on Aging is a division of PPACG. The mission of the PPACG AAA is to develop a comprehensive system of services for older persons and to facilitate in the improvement of independence and quality of life for older adults. For more information, visit www.ppacg.org.

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www.ppacg.org

Visit our website: <http://pikespeakqualityoflife.org>

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 threatens 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.

Economic Well-being has multiple benchmarks – cost of living, wage scales, housing costs, availability of jobs and benefits, access to those jobs by the workforce, and available childcare. Pulled altogether into a summary, the bottom line for economic well-being is having every citizen say: "In Colorado Springs, I can find and hold a decent job that allows my family and me to feel relatively secure."

The Southern Colorado Economic Forum tracks multiple data sources to measure the health of the local economy, and produces both quarterly and annual reports. In addition, the Colorado Springs Regional Economic Development Corporation tracks cost of living information.

What does the data show? We live in a relatively low-cost, low-wage community where the home price to salary ratio is approximately 5:1, about double the recommended ratio, which means that many residents cannot afford to buy a home. The relatively low rental rates suggest that more apartments are accessible to average and below-average wage-earners.

As the economic crisis takes its toll on jobs, city services, and home ownership, this makes it likely that those at the bottom of the salary scale or who fall off the salary scale face major challenges in three areas: finding new jobs; finding affordable housing; and finding adequate childcare to allow them to work. Our task force is focusing on those issues as barometers of the economic well-being of our citizens.

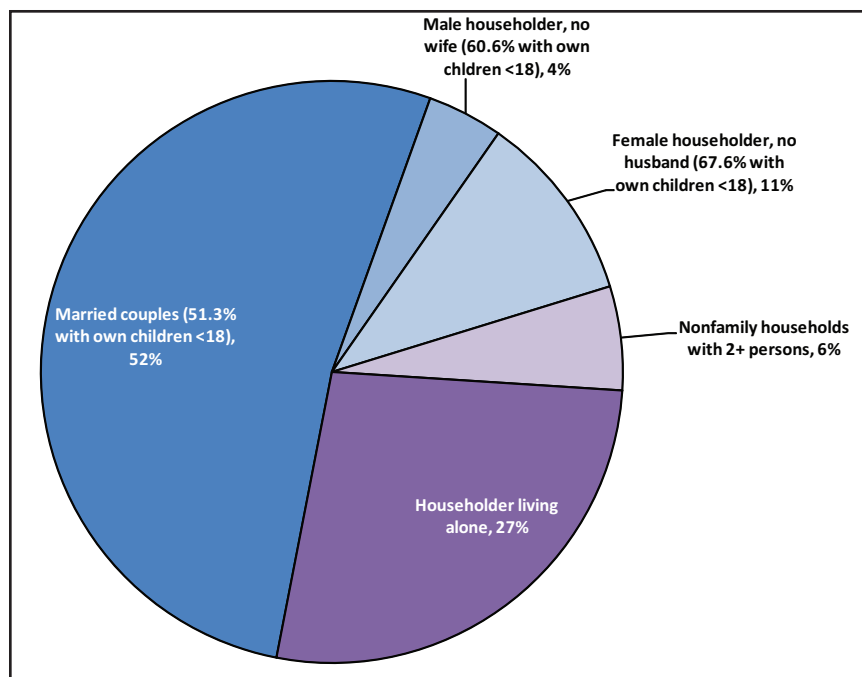
Substance abuse can present significant obstacles with everyday life from maintaining financial stability and relationships to succeeding at school or work. This is an issue of particular importance to Coloradans as Colorado has higher rates of drug and alcohol use than U.S. averages. In recent studies, 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.

-Children and Families-

Household Composition



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

This Chart shows the types of households (all persons who occupy a housing unit) in El Paso County as a percentage of total households.

Of particular interest: it shows how many married couples, single women, and single men lead households. Many of those households have children living with them.

Why is This Important?

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. The long term successful outcomes for a child and family can be better realized if a family can reasonably remain intact. Teen pregnancy and childbearing have significant consequences for the teen mother, her child and society as a whole; encompassing both human and monetary impacts. The increasing number of older adults in Colorado Springs challenges us to address the needs and cultivate the strengths of this population. Lastly, it is important for citizens to recognize that homelessness is a multi-dimensional problem and is not limited to the stereotypical homeless middle aged male but it affects women, runaway teens, veterans, as well as single mothers with one or more children.

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 10% of total households numbering 21,033. Just over 27% of households consist of just one person living alone; 6% of households consist of a single adult over 65 years, which is a percentage decrease from 2006. Additionally, in 2007 9,965 grandparents lived with their grandchildren, which has increased from 9,821 in 2006, and 48% of those were financially responsible for their grandchild's basic needs including food, shelter, clothing, and child care.¹

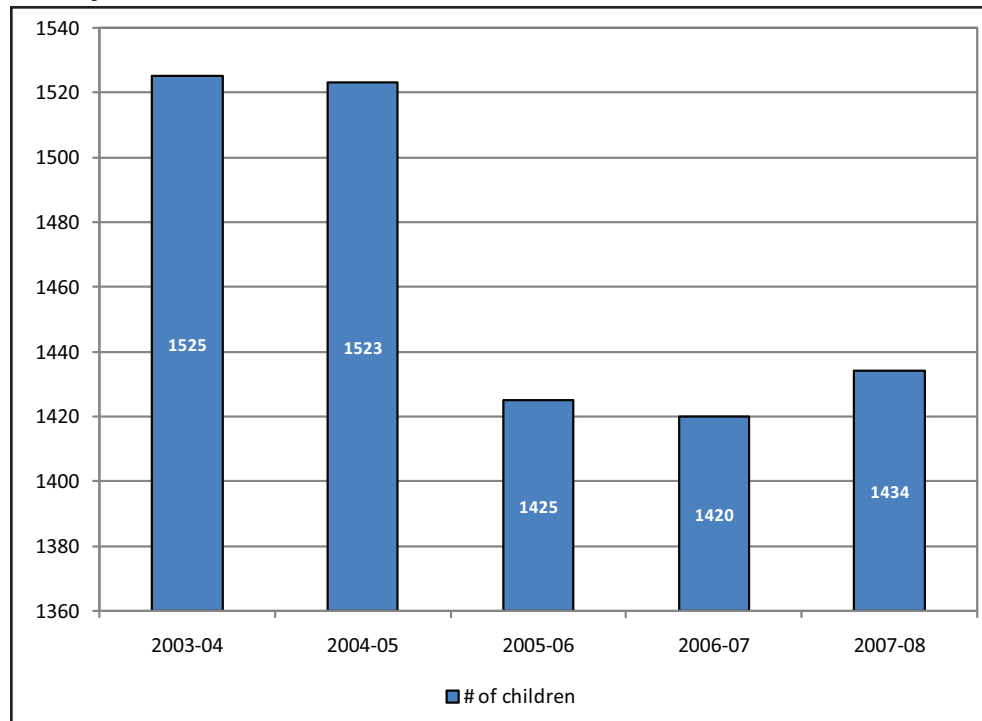
Potential for Action

Household composition is an important indicator to help a community focus its efforts on areas where the most services are needed. For example, if a community sees an increase in the number of single parent households, perhaps there is a need to explore increased child care programs, early education programs, after school programs, or teen mentoring programs. In the case of El Paso County, household composition will be a good starting point for further analysis of where we will need additional services in our county as we see growth in the number of military families in our community.

1 Information from the American Communities Survey US Census 2007 data.

Family Stability

Out-of-Home Placements



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.

Why is This Important?

This data is important as it reflects the ability of the family resources to have a child remain in the least restrictive environment while promoting safety and stability. The long term, successful outcomes for a child and family can be better realized if a family can reasonably remain intact.

There are realized cost savings when a child can remain safely at home.

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.

There was a slight increase in the number of out of home placements from 1420 (FY07) to 1434 (FY08). Taken in the context of the population growth, the relative stability of the out of home placements 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. The community stakeholders' commitment to utilizing innovative family centered approaches such as Family Treatment Drug Court and High Fidelity Wraparound continue to be factors in maintaining relatively low out of home placement rates for El Paso County.

Potential for Action

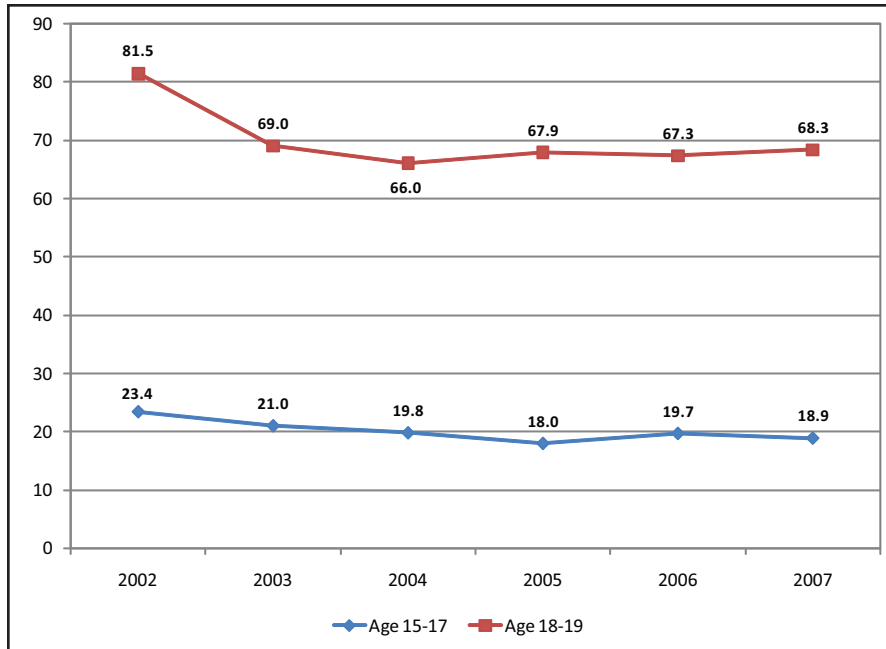
Support innovative strategies that focus on family centered approaches. Agencies and initiatives can explore different ways to work together by better understanding organizational mandates, both programmatic and fiscal, that create barriers to family success and to develop strategies to overcome them.



Photograph by Diana Lundin

Teen Pregnancy

Fertility Rate - El Paso County



Source: Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

The first chart shows the number of births to females ages 15-17 and 18-19 per 1,000 females in the same age group.

The second chart shows the proportion of births to mothers ages 17 and younger in El Paso County, in which the mother has a previous child. Note: data is for females under 18 years of age; previous years' data was for 19 years and under.

Fertility rate is the measure of births among the females of childbearing age of a population.

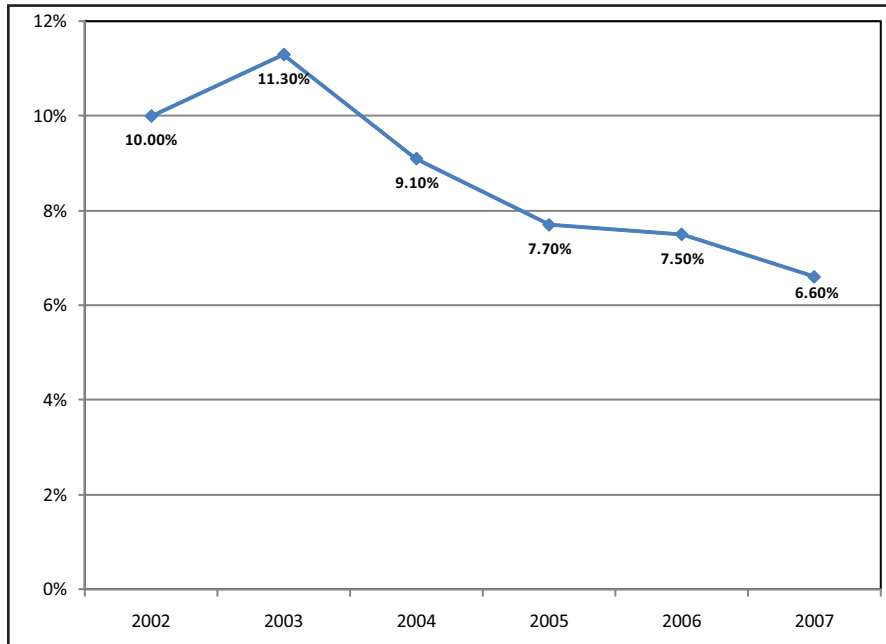
Why is This Important?

Teen pregnancy and childbearing have significant consequences for the teen mother, her child and society as a whole. Teen mothers are at increased risk for poor pregnancy outcomes, less likely to complete school, less likely to go to college, more likely to have larger families and remain single- increasing the likelihood that they and their children will live in poverty. Children of teen mothers are at risk of living in less supportive and stimulating home environments, experiencing lower cognitive development, fewer educational opportunities, higher rates of incarceration and adolescent child bearing. Nationally, teen childbearing cost taxpayers \$9.1 billion in 2004.¹

How are We Doing?

Since 2002, the rate of births to teen girls has generally declined, with a slight increase noted in 2006 for teen girls 15-17 years of age and a slight increase noted for teen girls 18-19 years in 2007. The Colorado Federal Year 2010 goal is to reduce the birth rate among females,

Subsequent Births to Teen Mothers in El Paso County



Source: Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

age 15-17, to 21.0 births per 1,000 females. El Paso County meets this goal. Subsequent births to teen mothers under the age of 18 have continued to steadily decline since 2003.²

¹ Kirby, D., 2007.

² Colorado Teen Fertility Rates, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment.

-Older Adults-

Social Engagement

Survey Question	2004	2009
Does not participate in a club or civic group	61%	88%
Does not volunteer in the community	60%	94%
Does not attend movies, plays, concerts or sporting events	59%	66%
Does not participate in senior center activities	82%	74%
Does not go to restaurants	No data	36%
Does not work in the garden or spend time outside	No data	35%
Does not visit family or friends	No data	8%

Source: Strengths and Needs Assessment of Older Adults in the State of Colorado (2004) and Needs Assessment and Impact Services (2009)

These Tables show the change in social interaction by adults 60 and over in the Pikes Peak region. The data suggests that the percentage of older adults participating in non-family related community social activities is decreasing.

Why is This Important?

Social interaction is an important indicator of quality

of life. As people age, they often become less connected socially. Retirement from work, children leaving home, and loss of friends and family can contribute to a narrowing of social interaction. Social isolation can also lead to a risk of exploitation as people seek engagement from strangers.

Social Support

Survey Question	2004	2009
Older adults who live alone	21%	72%
Have too few activities	20%	17%
Feel bored	20%	44%
Get only a little or no social support from family	17%	19%
Feeling lonely, sad, or isolated	19%	31%
Everyday activities such as walking or bathing is a problem	20%	57%
Need help with housework	21%	38%

Source: Strengths and Needs Assessment of Older Adults in the State of Colorado (2004) and Needs Assessment and Impact Services (2009)

How are We Doing?

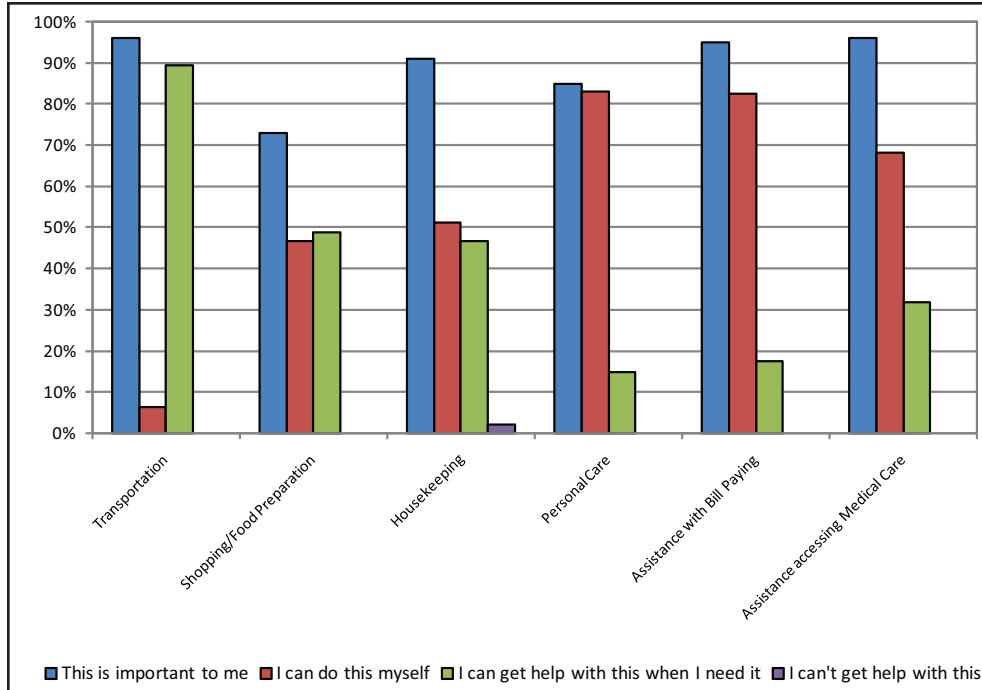
The data indicate that there is a decline in social activity in people 60 and older. Transportation and appropriate, accessible activities are key factors in older adults' engagement in their community. Senior centers, Parks and Recreation, and other community-based services may become even less accessible in the future.

Public transportation, including transportation that accommodates special needs associated with aging, has already been adversely affected by budget cuts.

Potential for Action

Increased awareness of potential isolation in older adults and its consequences are important to creating a community response. Investment in services that promote access and opportunity are vital to the inclusion of older adults in the community.

Supportive Services



Source: Needs Assessment and Impact Services (2009)

This Chart shows the response to a survey of Silver Key clients regarding their need for and access to services important to daily living and quality of life. All of the items included were rated as important to independence. Their ability to access services varied with the most pronounced need for assistance with transportation.

Why is This Important?

Most older adults wish to live independently in the community. When they are unable to perform activities of daily living like food preparation, housekeeping, personal care, bill paying, and other tasks, they must arrange for assistance. Most surveyed felt that they were able to obtain the assistance they needed to maintain independence.

How are We Doing?

That those surveyed have confidence in their ability to obtain services is a positive indicator. The availability of senior assistance agencies and programs in the community is a benefit to those aging in the region.

Potential for Action

Increased awareness of the needs of older adults is important to creating a community that supports and enriches the lives of its older population. Creating access to services that allow people to remain in their homes as long as possible benefits the entire community.

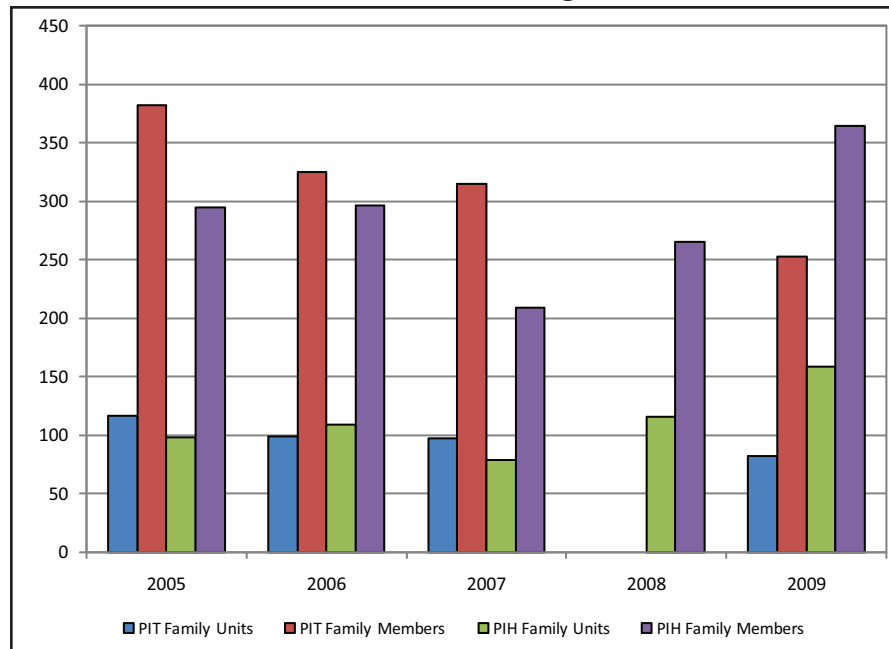


Photograph by Bobby Krumov and Nick Vasilkovski

-Economic Wellbeing-

Homelessness

Point-in-Time and Partners in Housing Homeless Counts - Families



Source: Homeward Pikes Peak, Partners in Housing

These Charts compare annual Point In Time (PIT) homeless counts conducted by Homeward Pikes Peak against actual numbers served by Partners In Housing (PIH). There was no PIT count conducted in 2008. Family unit refers to the family collective group. Family member is an individual part of the family (mother, father, child, etc.)

Note that PIH is **not** the only provider of transitional housing/services to homeless families (others include, but are not limited to, Salvation Army's Fresh Start, and Interfaith Hospitality Network). The PIH numbers are sufficient to highlight the consistently significant number of families within our homeless population, reflected by the record number of families served in 2009.

Point-in-Time and Partners in Housing Homeless Counts - Singles

Year	PIT	PIH
2005	877	5
2006	834	9
2007	762	10
2008	-	37
2009	996	45

Source: Homeward Pikes Peak, Partners in Housing

Why is This Important?

Homelessness is a multi-dimensional problem affecting families with children – the majority of which are single mothers, a large percentage of whom are fleeing domestic abuse.

The social impact on the children in homeless families is high. The lack of stability and high stress level negatively affect performance at school. The result is failure of many homeless children to complete a primary education, which in turn leads to their future inability to secure long-term, living-wage employment, aggravating the cycle of poverty and homelessness within our community.

How are We Doing?

For those served between 2005-07, homeless families consistently comprised approximately 30% of the homeless population, with an average of 175 homeless *children* per year.

The 2009 PIT reflects a lower percentage of homeless family members than previous counts. Despite this decrease, the number of homeless adults and children served for the first nine months of the fiscal year is 359 compared to 305 served in the previous 12 months. The PIT counts of the homeless population, in general, do not capture the significant number of "hidden homeless" (those living in overcrowded conditions; living week-to-week in motels; etc.). When included, the actual total homeless population in Colorado Springs is estimated at 2000 - 2400 individuals, with approximately 80% of that number comprised of families with children.

Potential for Action

Support Colorado Springs' *10-Year Blueprint to Serve Every Homeless Person in the Pikes Peak Region*. Funding is essential for the blueprint to have a positive impact on the community, and to allow continuation and expansion of successful initiatives to assist all segments of the homeless population.

Quality, Affordable Child Care for Families Below the Poverty Line

Year	# of children receiving CCCAP	% of children living in poverty accessing CCCAP
2004-05	3395	37%
2005-06	2911	35%
2006-07	2952	37%
2007-08	2870	46%

Source: Colorado Child Care Assistance Program

This Table shows the average monthly number of children in El Paso County under five years old benefiting from the Colorado Child Care Assistance Program (CCCAP) and the percentage of these children living below the Federal Poverty Level (FPL).

Why is This Important?

From 2004 to 2007, El Paso County CCCAP assistance was available to any family earning less than 140% of FPL. In September 2007, the level increased to 185% of FPL. On July 1, 2008 a two tiered system was implemented so that families were deemed eligible for CCCAP at 185% of federal poverty and once enrolled could remain eligible up to 225% of the FPL. This strategy allows working families to remain on CCCAP longer in order to support their sustainable employment and self-sufficiency.

How are We Doing?

The increase in poverty and decrease in CCCAP enrollment for 2007-08 is a result of the economic downturn. In such an environment increasing numbers of families become unemployed and are ineligible for CCCAP after 30 days. In April 2009, federal stimulus funds extended that eligibility to 180 days but this will only be available until June 2010. If ineligible for CCCAP, families find alternative care and many do not return. Financial costs for child care are staggering for many working families and quality is not guaranteed.

Potential for Action

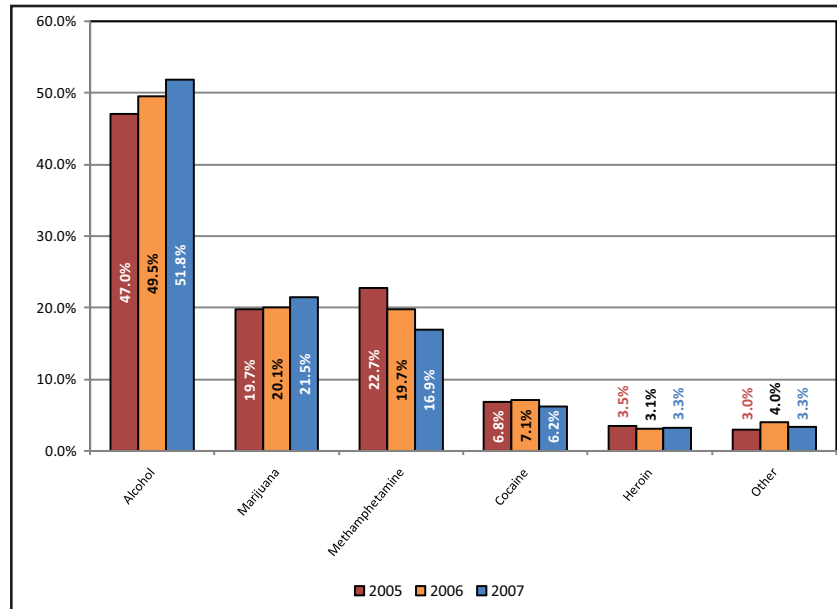
Quality, affordable child care is critical for children to be their best and ready to enter school prepared and to get parents into the workforce. Increased professional development of child care professionals, a differential reimbursement rate to child care centers that are accredited or 3 or 4 star rated programs will lead to higher quality programs being available. This is an opportunity to begin helping the families and the community focus on and demand high quality, licensed care for their children.

Photograph by Lynne Lancaster

Visit our website: <http://pikespeakqualityoflife.org>

-Drugs and Alcohol Abuse-

Percentage of Population using Drugs



Source: SAMHSA Office of Applied Studies National Survey on Drug Use and Health

This Chart shows the percentage of people who reported experiencing alcohol dependence or abuse over the past year.

Substance abuse information for El Paso County is collected by the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Division (ADAD) of the Department of Human Services, according to region. El Paso County is part of Region 3 which reports the highest prevalence rate for illicit drug use or dependence (other than marijuana) in the state. Also, this region is most lacking in treatment for illicit drug use in ages 12 or older.¹

Why is This Important?

Effective treatment for substance abuse is usually long-term and complex in delivery. Wrap around services - which are individualized services developed through a team approach - are needed to fully address

all barriers to successful recovery. Publicly funded services in El Paso County currently address about one-third of the need for treatment. Currently there is only enough public funding to cover basic services such as intake/assessment, treatment plans, crisis intervention and behavioral therapy or counseling.

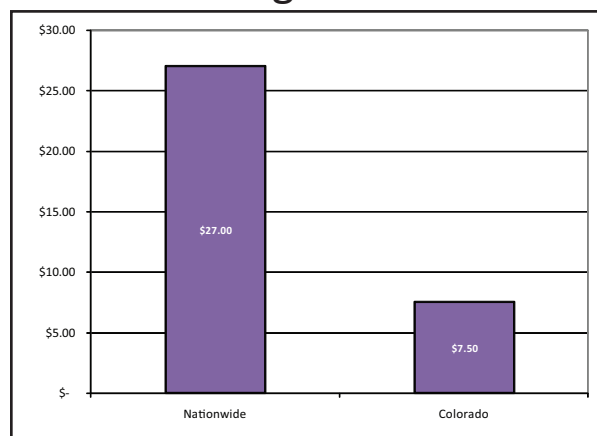
How are We Doing?

- Use of alcohol by individuals seeking publicly funded treatment was approximately 10% higher when compared to the State, and this has increased over the past three years.
- 18-24 yr olds seeking treatment for alcohol abuse is significantly higher than the State (23.3% vs. 16.6%)
- There is a significantly lower percentage of people seeking treatment for Cocaine use than the State (5% vs. 12.2%).

Potential for Action

There is a need to increase publicly funded treatment opportunities for alcohol abuse, specifically for individuals 18-24 years old.

Public Funding for Substance Abuse



Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

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.²

Why is This Important?

With an estimated prevalence rate of 10%, El Paso County has approximately 60,000 people with substance abuse or dependence issues.

How are We Doing?

The state of Colorado spends less 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.³

1 Coffey, Rosanna.

2 National Center of Addiction and Substance Abuse.

3 Ibid.

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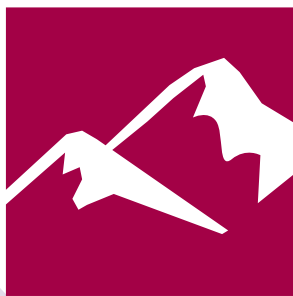
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Photograph by Laura Shreck

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University of the RockiesSM

University of the Rockies proudly supports the Pikes Peak region's efforts to preserve the natural environment. To that end, the University campus is housed within a 92-year-old Santa Fe Railroad station building just east of downtown Colorado Springs. University of the Rockies provides high-quality, accessible learning opportunities globally for diverse groups of individuals seeking preparation for life goals, professional practice, service, and distinguished leadership. Built on integrity, service and excellence, University of the Rockies' degree programs are designed to help individuals pursue careers in one of the many fields of psychology including professional therapist, professional consultant and coach, and more.



Ecological health is a cornerstone of a livable city and a sustainable economy. Nobody desires to harm natural environments, but the systems we've created to serve human needs, globally and in El Paso County, are doing so.

We can do better.

In Colorado, precipitation has decreased as much as 20 percent in certain areas, severely straining water supplies as population grows. The impacts of global climate change (aka global warming) are expected to cause dry areas to become drier. El Paso County carbon dioxide emissions, that may warm the planet as long as a century, have increased 67 percent since 1999.

Ongoing urbanization (residential land has replaced 6 percent of the County's agricultural land in the past three years) converts already fragile natural ecosystems into human-designed ecosystems. These artificial systems put people in conflict with wildlife and increase transportation impacts (i.e. watershed pollution as rainwater picks up eco-toxic substances from impervious roadways and sidewalks).

The goal of the Preserving the Natural Environment Vision Council is to not only review and measure trends in our natural capital—our ecological health and natural resources—but also to take responsibility for improving them. The non-governmental organizations, citizens and government agencies producing this chapter invite you to join us on the journey towards a sustainable economy, society and environment.

For 2009 the Council continued its focus on human health concerns, land use, water, air, energy and waste while adding wildlife protection. Yet many critical factors of sustainability remain difficult to measure, such as the health of soil, urban/wildlife interfaces, invasive species, and sustainable economic development progress.

Ozone is considered the most problematic air quality issue in our region. However, our ozone essentially is stable with few spikes upward or downward. Our urbanized area meets air quality standards for carbon monoxide (CO), ozone (O₃), sulfur dioxide (SO₂), nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), and lead. The Regional Air Quality Council currently is developing short-term and long-term strategies to reduce ozone concentrations.

The health of the Fountain Creek Watershed continues as a focal point since growing impervious surfaces increase stormwater runoff destined for the creek. Various municipalities are developing strategies to address imperviousness. At the same time, the Fountain Creek Watershed Flood Control and Gateway District, authorized by State of Colorado legislation in May, is underway.

We anticipate continued population growth despite declining economic conditions (see Economy chapter). In fact, demographers predict 75,000 more people will live in El Paso County by 2015.

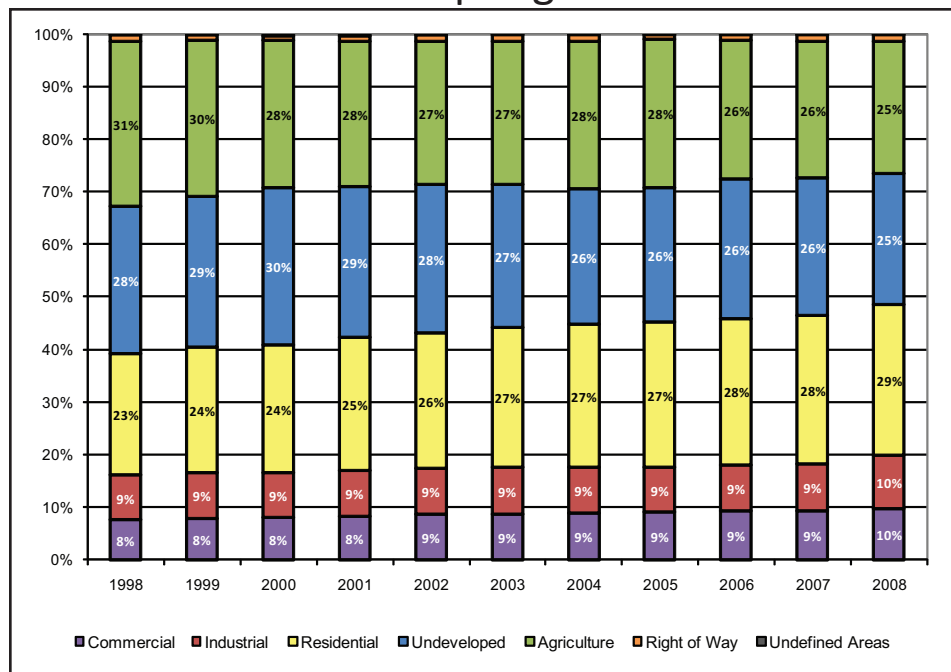
Beginning with the founding of Colorado Springs, its natural environment has been a key attractor for people, business and government operations. In addition to its economic impacts, the region's environment is closely tied to its transportation systems (impervious surfaces, hazardous air pollutants, and ecological destruction), citizen quality of life (recreational opportunities, water quality, cost-effective open space and parks maintenance) and social well-being (stress-reduction).

Natural cycles last longer than our political and economic cycles. The effects of pollution on health take years to manifest. Land use patterns and building choices lock in many of the adverse environmental impacts of urban development.

Though the indicators reported for 2009 fall short of emergency status, we must be vigilant to ensure our lifestyles minimize environmental impacts and give our next generation of El Paso residents an equal chance to enjoy the high quality of life we enjoy today.

-Natural Environment-

Land Use in Colorado Springs



Source: City of Colorado Springs Stormwater Department

This Chart shows the percentage of land use in the City of Colorado Springs broken down into seven categories.

Why is This Important?

Physical development is the greatest agent of change in the watershed. As municipalities and counties approve developments within the watershed, impervious surfaces increase. Meeting these increased demands of development not only affects natural resources and physical infrastructure, but also water quality, water quantity, the natural environment and patterns of land use within the watershed.

Land use drives imperviousness, which is a measure of the ability of the landscape to effectively

absorb or infiltrate rainfall. Imperviousness in turn affects the amount of water that infiltrates through the ground and the amount of water that runs off into the creeks. Examples of imperviousness include rooftops, roads, parking lots and driveways.

Imperviousness is important because it is an indicator of the changes in land use, aquatic habitat, water quality, hydrology, and biodiversity. Increases in population and housing growth are usually accompanied by an increase in imperviousness and treated domestic wastewater. Impervious levels can vary greatly in specific land use categories, such as single and multi-family residential depending on the layout of the streets, parking and homes.

How are We Doing?

Changes in Colorado Springs land use reflect a continuing decrease in the amount of agriculture and undeveloped land and an increase in residential and commercial land. The amount of undeveloped land (which includes vacant land, forest, open space, parks, golf courses and trails) and agriculture is decreasing; and residential and commercial and industrial use is increasing. These same trends are present throughout El Paso County.

Results of the Fountain Creek Watershed Impervious Surface Area and Watershed Health Analysis Report (PPACG, 2005), study indicate that changes in percent land use and imperviousness will be most pronounced in the northern and eastern portion of the El Paso County and in the areas which have shared boundaries between the City of Colorado Springs (or other municipalities) and unincorporated portions of El Paso County.

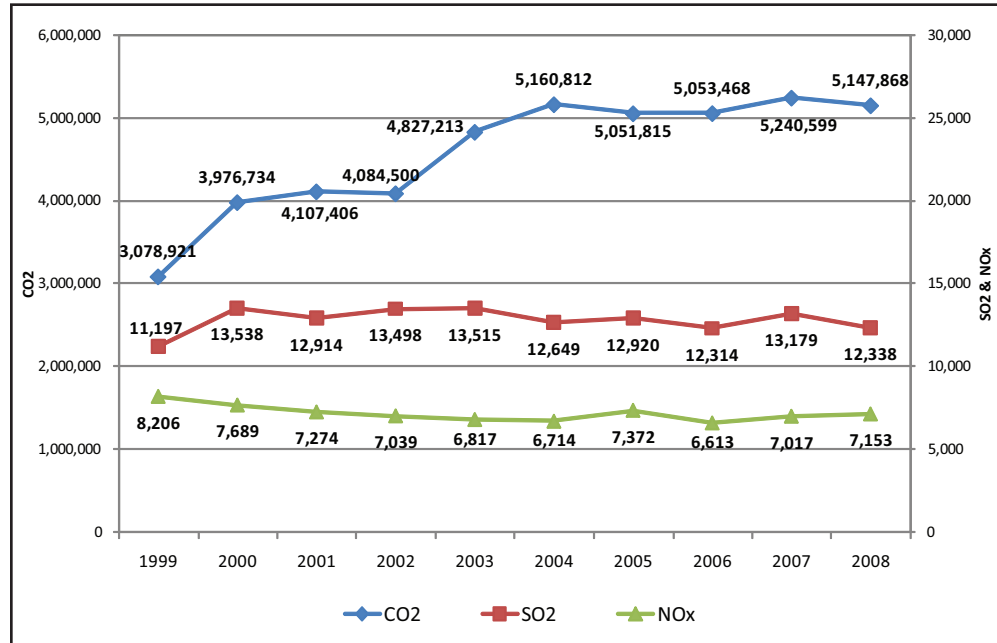
Potential for Action

Strategies to address increasing imperviousness are being considered by the various counties and municipalities within the watershed. Changes to development techniques may allow post-development hydrographs to approximate pre-development hydrographs on a site-by-site basis. The implementation of Low Impact Development practices may be one means to accomplish this goal. Adopting Smart Growth principles, and promoting Green Infrastructure, ENERGY STAR® housing and LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) criteria for non-residential structures will go a long way toward minimizing the negative impacts of development within the watershed. These strategies do not necessarily require changes in planned uses, only the manner in which sites are developed.¹

1 Fountain Creek Vision Taskforce, 2009.

Air Quality - Emissions

Carbon Dioxide (CO₂), Sulfur Dioxide (SO₂), and Nitrogen Oxides (NO_x) Emissions (Tons)



Source: EPA Clean Markets Database

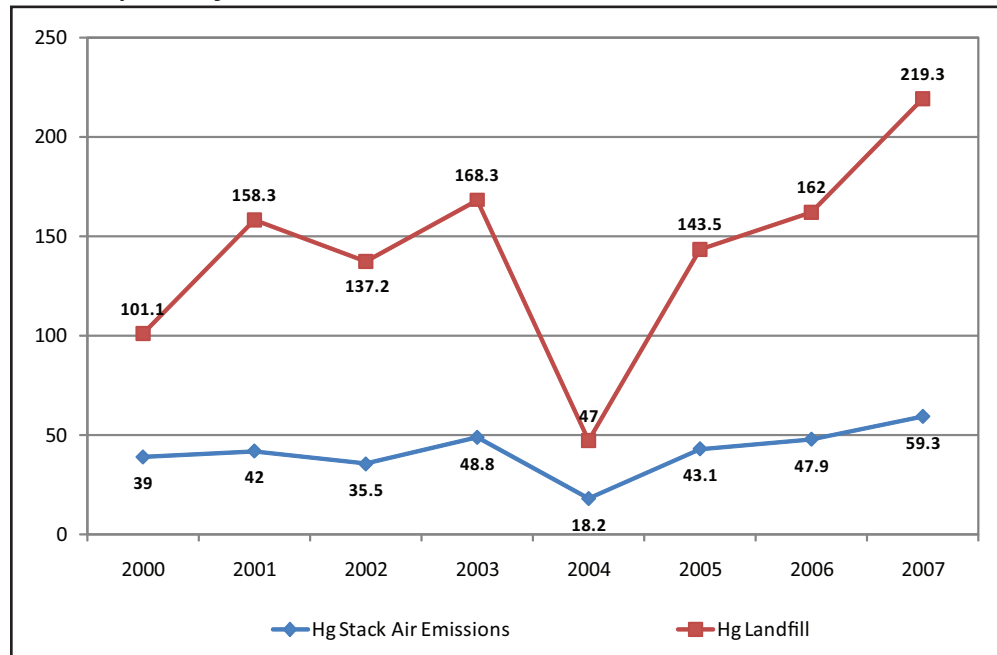
The first Chart shows CO₂, SO₂, and NO_x from Springs Utilities electric generation. Other sources of CO₂ include transportation, industrial, and residential.

The second Chart shows mercury (Hg) landfill and stack air emissions.

Why is This Important?

CO₂ is a principal greenhouse gas contributing to climate change. According to the Keeling Curve geochemist study, CO₂ has reached a level not seen in 650,000 years, at 382.3 parts per million. The study also states that "15 of the past 20 years rank among the warmest years on record."

Mercury Landfill and Stack Air Emissions



Source: EPA Toxics Release Inventory Program

Statewide testing of lakes and reservoirs shows 20% contain Hg. It's in the environment due to "combustion and manufacturing source categories: waste combustors, medical waste incinerators, coal and oil utility boilers." According to the EPA, 25 percent of all fossil-fuel emissions are deposited within the U.S.

How are We Doing?

Concentrations of CO₂, SO₂ and NO_x from Springs Utilities generation have stabilized. Emissions of mercury from landfills show an increasing trend. Air quality standards do not exist for CO₂ or Hg and monitoring stations indicate concentrations of SO₂ and

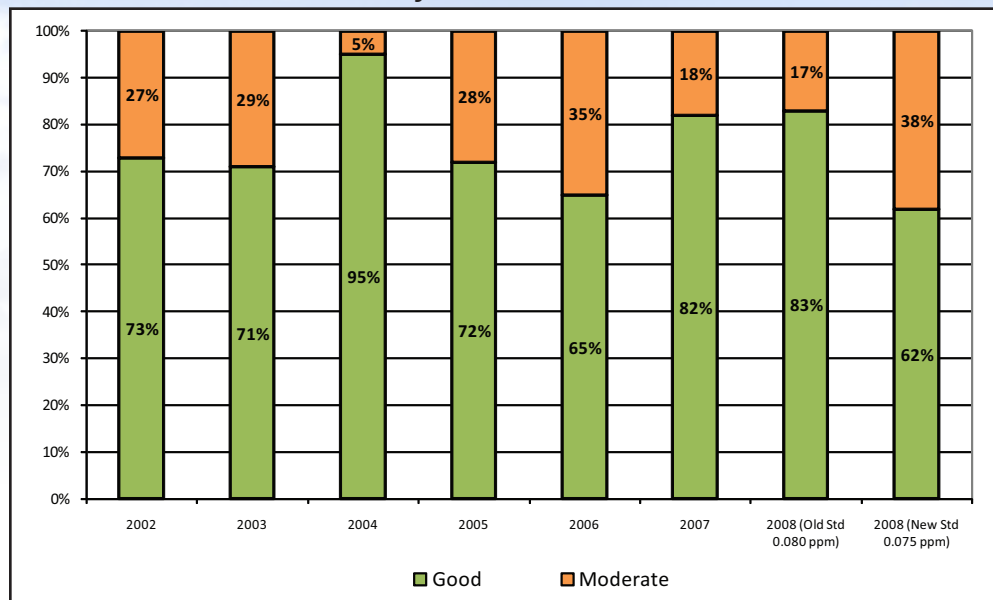
NO_x are less than the 30% of Federal and State Standards.

Potential for Action

These trends should show improvement as the Colorado Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) percentage of renewable energy increases and as the utility's best-value planning decisions result in cleaner energy alternatives. RPS is a regulation requiring the increased production of energy from renewable energy sources such as wind, solar, biomass and geothermal.

Air Quality - Ozone

Ozone Concentration Classifications



Source: Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment - Air Pollution Control Division

This Chart shows ozone concentration classifications based on the EPA air quality index reporting system and only reflects ozone concentrations during the ozone season--June 1 through August 31.

Note: 2002 – 2004 data is from the United States Air Force Academy (USAFA) Monitoring Station. 2005-2008 data is an average from the Manitou Springs and USAFA Monitoring Stations.

Why is This Important?

The Pikes Peak region is monitored for carbon monoxide, ozone, sulfur

dioxide, nitrogen dioxide, lead and two types of particulate matter to determine if the region complies with state and federal air quality standards (PPACG, 2008). These standards are designed to protect public health and welfare by determining the specific concentration levels of a pollutant allowed in the air. The region currently meets air quality standards for all six of these air quality pollutants.

Ozone is the most problematic air quality pollutant of concern in the region. There are ozone monitoring stations located at USAFA and Manitou Springs (established in 2005). Ozone levels are usually the highest in the summer, especially on sunny days with no wind.

Ozone (smog) is not emitted directly as a pollutant, but forms when sunlight powers a reaction between Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) and nitrogen oxide. Ozone comes from several different sources and often appears as a brown cloud. Motor vehicles, gasoline vapors, chemical plants, refineries, factories, consumer and commercial products, and other industrial sources emit VOCs. However, biogenic sources, naturally occurring emissions from vegetation, make up the largest component of VOCs. Ozone's other component, nitrogen oxide, is emitted from fossil-fuel burning vehicles, power plants and other sources of combustion.

High concentrations of ozone can 1) make people more susceptible to respiratory infection, 2) result in lung inflammation, and 3) aggravate pre-existing respiratory diseases, such as asthma. Other health effects include a decrease in lung function and an increase in respiratory conditions such as chest pain and cough.

How are We Doing?

The ozone concentrations appear to have stabilized over the past five years and the percentage of good and moderate air quality days have not changed dramatically. In March 2008, the Environmental Protection Agency created a more stringent ozone standard, so for 2008, there are two bars in the chart to indicate the number of good and moderate days for the old (0.080 ppm) and new (0.075 ppm) standard. El Paso County is the only county along the Front Range that remains in compliance with the new ozone standard. Lower average ozone concentrations in El Paso County reduces the potential for health effects and respiratory problems while exercising, working, or playing outdoors.

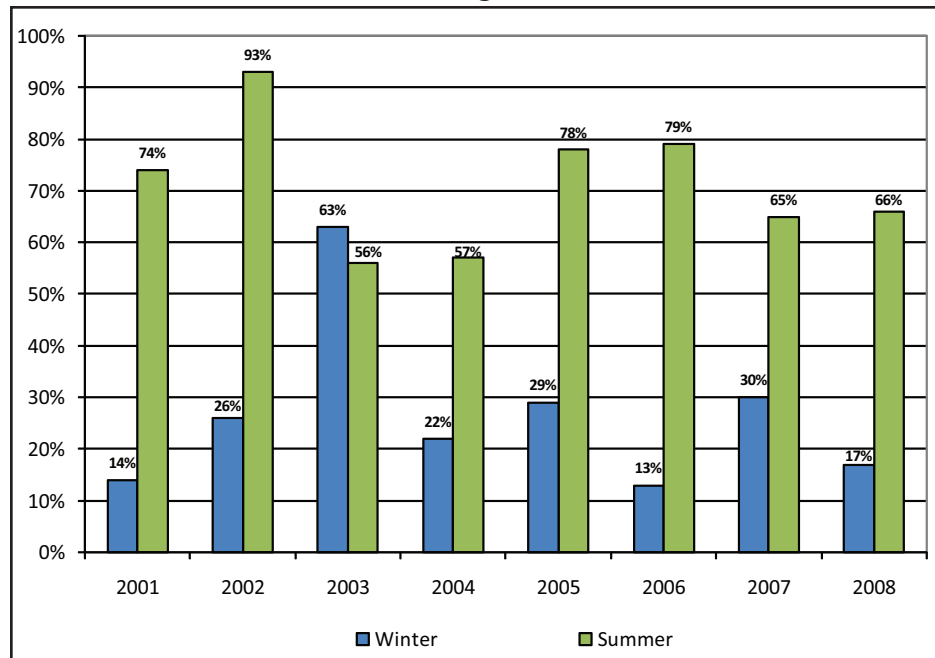
Potential for Action

Strategies to reduce ozone concentrations can be voluntary or regulatory and are required as part of Federal or State legislation. Voluntary programs are currently being implemented; if the region violates regulatory standards, strategies will be required that could significantly impact economic development.

Photograph by Roger Kirby

Water Quality

E. Coli Concentrations Exceeding EPA Standards in Fountain Creek Watershed



Source: United States Geological Survey (USGS) Monitoring Stations

This Chart shows the percentage of time *E. coli* (*Escherichia coli*) bacteria levels exceeded the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) standards used in Colorado at monitoring stations along Fountain and Monument Creeks and tributaries during Winter (November through April) and Summer (May through October) months.

Why is This Important?

Water quality is important to human health and the natural environment and is affected by the activities of people, wild and domestic animals and natural causes. Specific stream standards exist for most water quality parameters. The United States Geological Survey (USGS) monitors many different types

of water quality parameters. *E. coli* was selected as an indicator because of potential human-health effects associated with high concentrations and because it is used to determine if water is safe for recreation.

Bacteria are very small, single-celled life-forms that exist everywhere, and some types can cause illness in people. Two types of bacteria, fecal coliforms and *E. coli*, are used to monitor the possible presence of disease-causing organisms in surface waters and are the best predictor of swimming-associated gastrointestinal illness. The standard for most stream segments in the watershed are 126 *E. coli* bacteria per 100 milliliters of water. Sources of bacteria could include raw sewage spills, storm runoff from urban areas, wildlife (deer, elk, geese), livestock (cattle, horses, pigs, poultry), and runoff from farms, ranches, and open areas.¹

Pathogenic microorganisms that can cause human disease may be present where levels of bacteria are high. As a result, it might be unsafe to swim or wade in Fountain Creek when these levels are high—following a heavy rainstorm, as an example.

How are We Doing?

Bacteria levels in streams appear to be directly related to flows and water temperature. When flows are high, such as after a summer storm, higher bacteria levels are found in Fountain Creek. During low flow winter months, *E. coli* concentrations are usually below the EPA standard. High *E. coli* concentrations have caused several stream segments in El Paso and Pueblo counties to be listed as water quality impaired for *E. coli*.

Potential for Action

Two studies are currently ongoing to identify possible sources of *E. coli* in Fountain Creek. Colorado State University-Pueblo and the USGS are conducting sampling to determine if the sources are from people or animals. Identifying the main sources of bacteria may make it possible to reduce bacteria levels to below the established standards for each stream segment. Strategies to reduce concentrations will depend on the specific sources that are identified and could include regulations and policies or public outreach and education.

1 Fountain Creek Vision Task Force, 2009.

Wildlife and Tree Canopy

Birds in the Pikes Peak Region

Why is This Important?

Birds are the indicator species for how well all wildlife in the Pikes Peak region is faring. Because many species of our forest birds have suffered steep declines, other wildlife of the Pikes Peak region including black bears, mule deer, raccoons, and mountain lions are presumed to be in equal danger.

How are We Doing?

According to the State of the Birds Report 2009, issued by The Nature Conservancy, the majority of our bird population is considered western forest birds. The report says, "Forest Birds Face an Uncertain Future..."

Although forest birds have fared better overall than birds in other habitats, many species have suffered steep declines and remain threatened by unplanned and sprawling urban development, unsustainable logging, increased severity of wildfires, and a barrage of exotic (non-native) forest pests and disease, which will likely be exacerbated by climate change."¹

Potential for Action

The good news is that large western forests are on public lands protected from conversion to other uses. The report states, "Improved forest management, such as restoring natural fire regimes and fencing riparian areas to prevent overgrazing, can benefit many forest birds."

Tree Canopy Status for Colorado Springs

Tree Canopy Cover (TCC) is the percentage of an area covered by the canopies of trees. Many communities are adopting TCC goals to maintain and improve forest cover, such as outlined in a recent study completed by the City of Los Angeles.²

Why is This Important?

A healthy TCC contributes to a community's livability and environmental sustainability. One of the major benefits of an adequate TCC is stormwater runoff reduction. By intercepting rain-fall in their crowns, trees reduce stormwater runoff and protect water quality. This is significant as it relates to stormwater management efforts. In addition, TCC can enhance energy and water conservation, carbon sequestration and air quality. TCC also increases property values; consumer research suggests that property buyers are willing to pay 3% to 7% more if the property has trees and other landscaping.³

How are We Doing?

The most recent data available shows our community to be at roughly 9% to 10% canopy coverage.⁴ This is significantly below the nationally recommended average coverage of 20% to 40%.

Potential for Action

The bottom line is that a well-designed urban forest saves public and private money. Not only is professional and responsible stewardship of our natural resources important for our community, it is why our area is so appealing to millions of visitors and to our residents. The Pikes Peak Region needs to exhibit a strong commitment to a healthy and rejuvenated urban forest. Trees must be planted strategically, guided by careful planning and leadership. At the same time, the ongoing survival of the urban forest is dependent on support from local, engaged residents. El Paso County should emulate our neighbors to the north – *Greenprint Denver*, whose goal is to plant one million trees over the next 20 years.

1 The Nature Conservancy, 2009.

2 Los Angeles One Million Tree Canopy Cover Assessment Final Report, March 2007.

3 Center for Urban Forest Research, www.fs.fed.us/psw/programs/cufr.

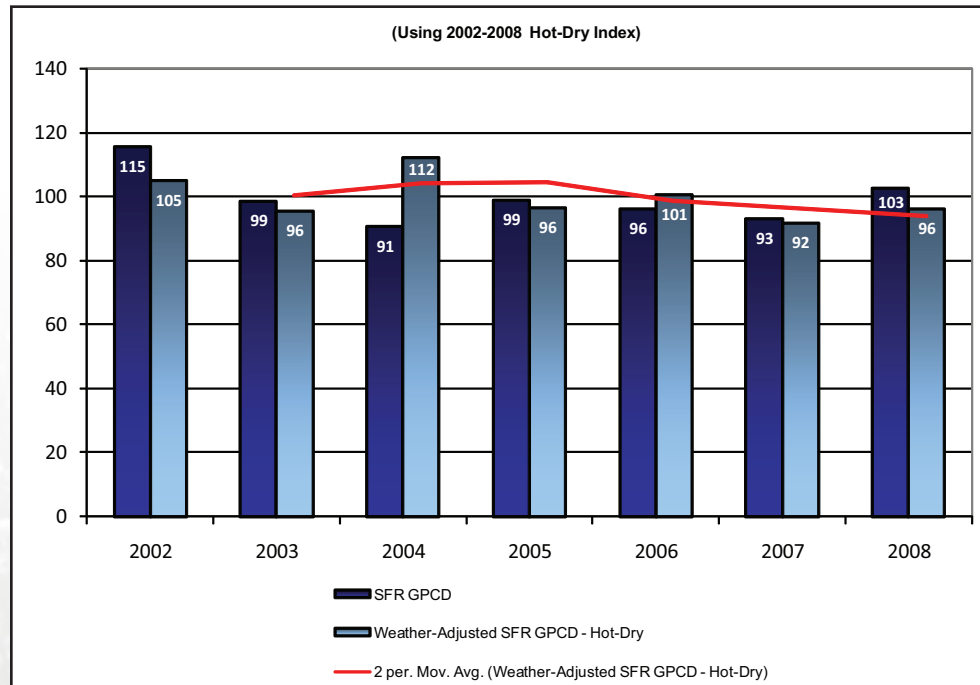
4 City Forestry and Information Technology estimates, based upon 1993 data.

Photograph by Tim and Annette Gulick

-Built Environment-

Water Service and Use

Daily Gallons per Capita Consumption



This Chart shows the average daily water consumption per capita (GPCD) of single-family residential (SFR) water supplied by Colorado Springs Utilities (CSU).

Why is This Important?

The Statewide Water Supply Initiative (SWSI), an 18-month basin by basin investigation of Colorado's existing and future water needs, conducted in 2004 and 2006 determined that there were numerous and conflicting water issues within the state.¹ The results of this initiative helped policy makers know, for the first time ever how much water Colorado will need in 2030, how much we are short, where we are short, what is being done, and what more can be done about the

shortfall. SWSI identified numerous strategies to help fill the gap of meeting the state's water needs for the future. One area of focus is to increase municipal and industrial water conservation.

The importance of water conservation and efficient water use to help meet the needs for the future cannot be overstated. Colorado Springs is "high and dry" with an average elevation of 6,035 feet and average precipitation of 17.4 inches per year. This semi-arid climate intensifies the need for water conservation, particularly given the uncertainties of drought, global climate change and population growth. With increased competition for state and regional water resources, water conservation offers an element of flexibility given changing conditions and system uncertainties.

How are We Doing?

Results from a recent study by Western Resource Advocates show that Colorado Springs has the lowest per capita residential water consumption along Colorado's Front Range study area.² In 2008, Colorado Springs water use was 5 billion gallons less than in 2001, despite population increases. This was accomplished through a combination of voluntary conservation, tiered pricing, efficiency rebates and customer education.

Potential for Action

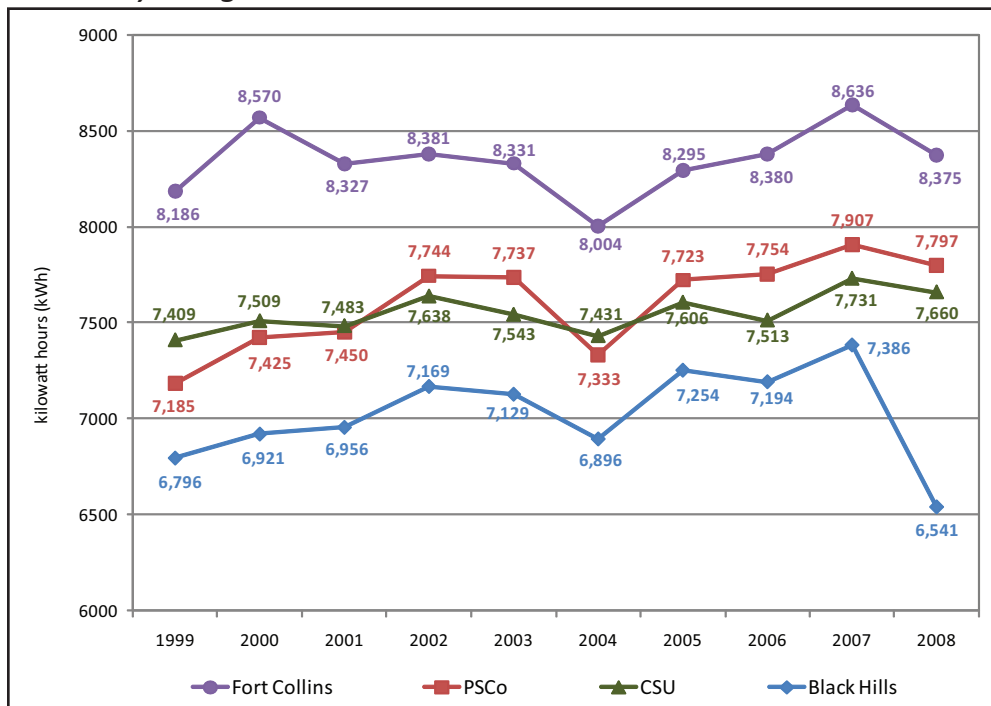
Given the results of the SWSI report, it is imperative to continue to proactively educate Colorado citizens about water and its efficient use.

1 Front Range Water Meter: Water Conservation and Recommendations for 13 Colorado Communities, 2007.

2 A Collaborative Assessment of Future Water Needs and Solutions, 2004.

Energy

Electricity Usage Per Residence



Source: U.S. Department of Energy Information Administration

These Charts show the annual kilowatt hours of electricity used and the cubic feet of natural gas burned per household by CSU customers, as well as by similar communities in Colorado.

Why is This Important?

Tracking the per household consumption of electricity and natural gas over time tells us whether consumers are using less energy in their homes. By reducing the amount of energy used per household, supplies go further, which delays the need to purchase additional or build additional supplies.

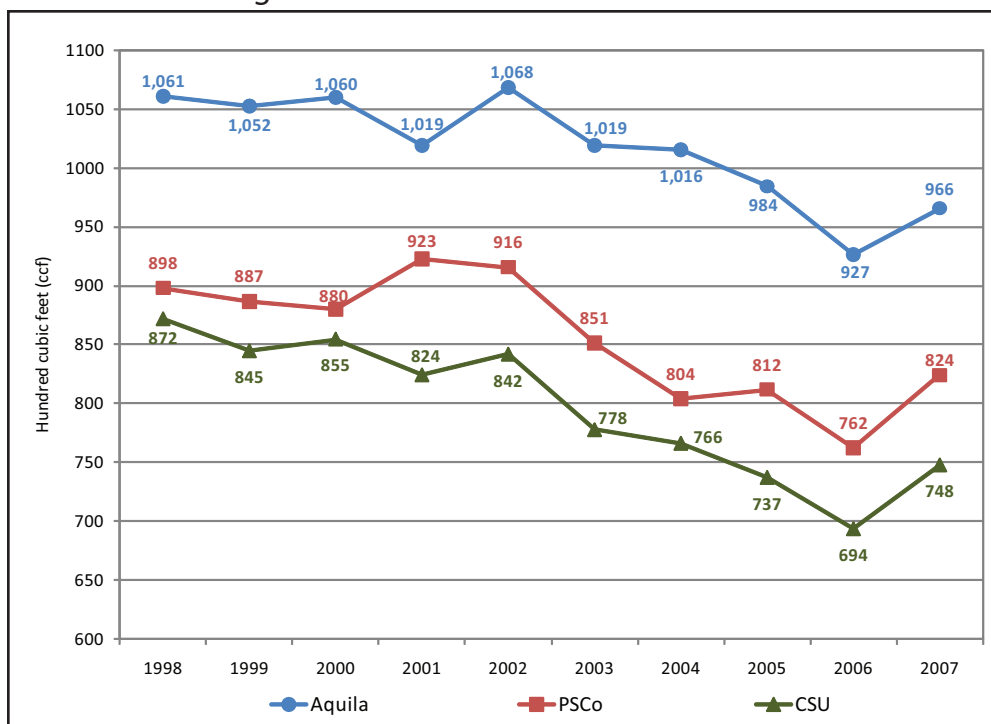
How are We Doing?

CSU customers are consuming less electricity and natural gas than most other communities in Colorado, but the gap is narrowing. Electricity usage decreased slightly in 2008, although the general trend still shows an increase. Natural gas use increased for the first time in several years, but the general trend is still downward.

Potential for Action

CSU and other nonprofit entities have stepped up their efforts to encourage residential and business customers to reduce their energy consumption. These efforts include using more efficient appliances and light bulbs, turning off lights, computers, and other appliances when not in use, and better insulating homes. If these efforts are successful, we should start to see a

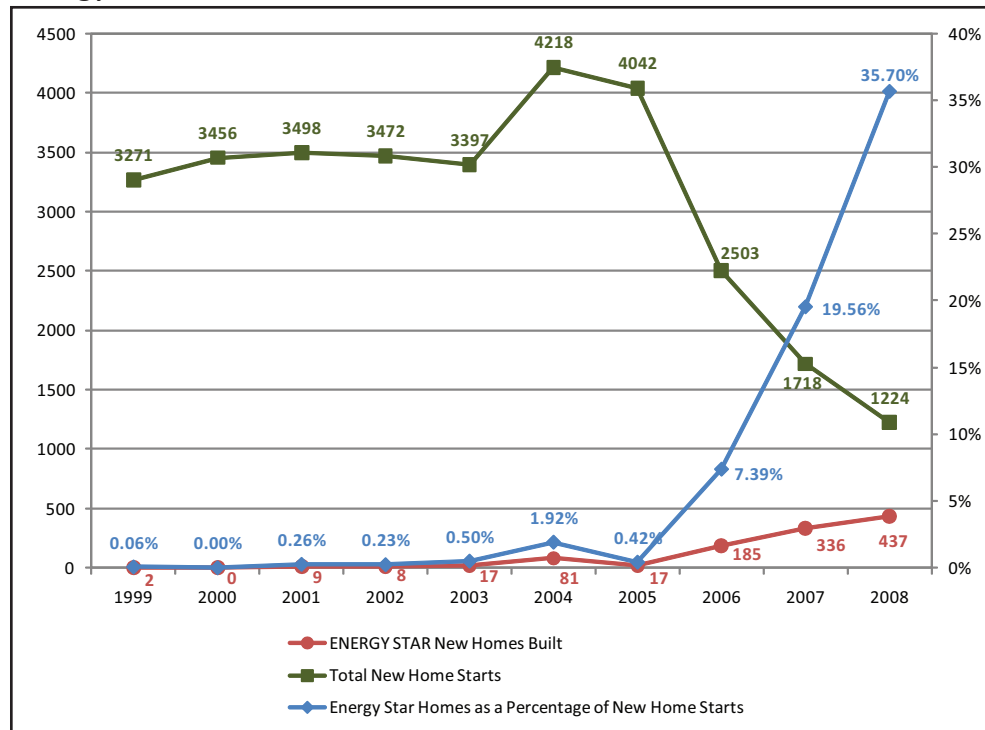
Natural Gas Usage Per Residence



Source: U.S. Department of Energy Information Administration

decrease in both electricity and natural gas consumption.

Energy Star Homes



Source: Colorado Springs Utilities, Environmental Protection Agency

This Chart shows the number of ENERGY STAR® new homes built in Colorado Springs compared to overall new home starts. The chart also shows the percentage of new homes that are ENERGY STAR® homes.

Why is This Important?

Buildings use 48% of all energy in the United States and are therefore major contributors to global climate change. ENERGY STAR® homes help reduce that energy usage. To be ENERGY STAR® qualified, homes must meet guidelines for energy efficiency set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. A qualified home must be at least 15% more energy efficient than a home built to the 2004 International Residential Code standards; generally, these homes are 20-

30% more efficient than standard homes.

A few of the attributes of ENERGY STAR qualified homes include:

- Increased comfort
- Better indoor air quality
- More durable construction
- Lower energy bills

How are We Doing?

Local builders, energy raters, realtors, industry partners, the Governor's Energy Office, and CSU have partnered to promote ENERGY STAR® qualified new homes. Please visit www.pikespeakenergystar.com for more information.

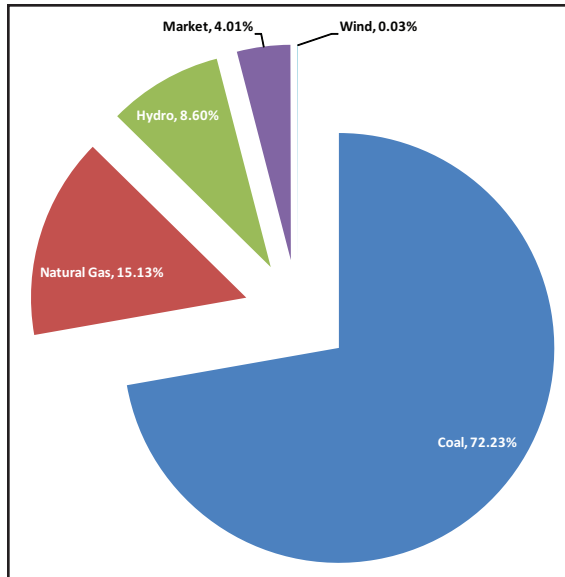
The percentage of new homes that are ENERGY STAR® is rising rapidly. In 2005 the percentage was less than 1%, while in 2008 it was over 35%.

Potential for Action

New home construction shows very positive trends for better energy efficiency and this should continue to be encouraged. However, since buildings last for decades, there is significant potential for energy savings through retrofit of existing buildings that do not meet ENERGY STAR® standards.



Energy Sources



Source: Colorado Springs Utilities

These Charts show the sources of energy used to produce electricity for CSU customers and the percent of our energy supply coming from renewable energy sources. Renewable energy includes solar, wind, and hydropower.

Why is This Important?

By using diverse, sustainable sources to produce electricity, utility companies ensure a reliable supply while reducing greenhouse gases released by the burning of fossil fuels. A diverse energy mix also helps utility companies stabilize prices charged to customers – if utility companies are heavily dependent on one energy source, they are more vulnerable to market and regulatory changes.

How are We Doing?

In 2008, coal and natural gas were used to generate 87% of our electricity supply. Although that is a slight decrease from last year (89 percent in 2007), we are still heavily dependent on fossil fuels. This leaves us vulnerable to energy market and regulatory changes that may impact price, such as a carbon tax.

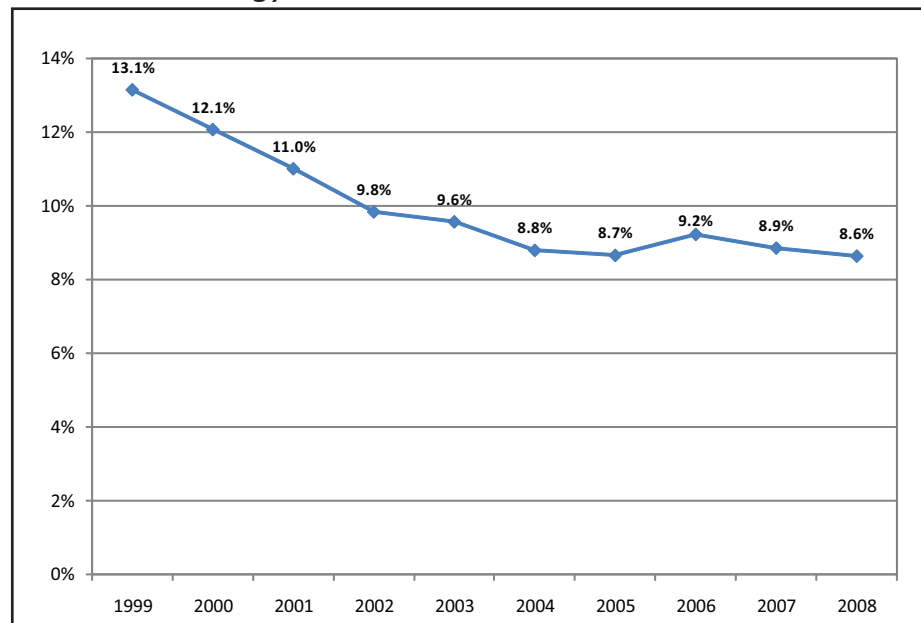
The percentage of renewable energy used to produce our electricity is also declining. CSU is still meeting the RPS, but is purchasing Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) to do so. While certainly allowable under Amendment 37, purchasing RECs to meet the RPS does nothing to help our community reduce its own carbon footprint.

The Governor's Climate Action Plan (2007) calls for a statewide reduction of carbon emissions to 20% below 2005 levels by 2020.

Energy markets are defined as electricity bought, traded, or supplied to and for an area.

RECs are tradable environmental commodities in the U.S., which represent proof that 1 megawatt-hour of electricity was renewable, that is, generated from an eligible renewable energy resource.

Renewable Energy



Source: Colorado Springs Utilities

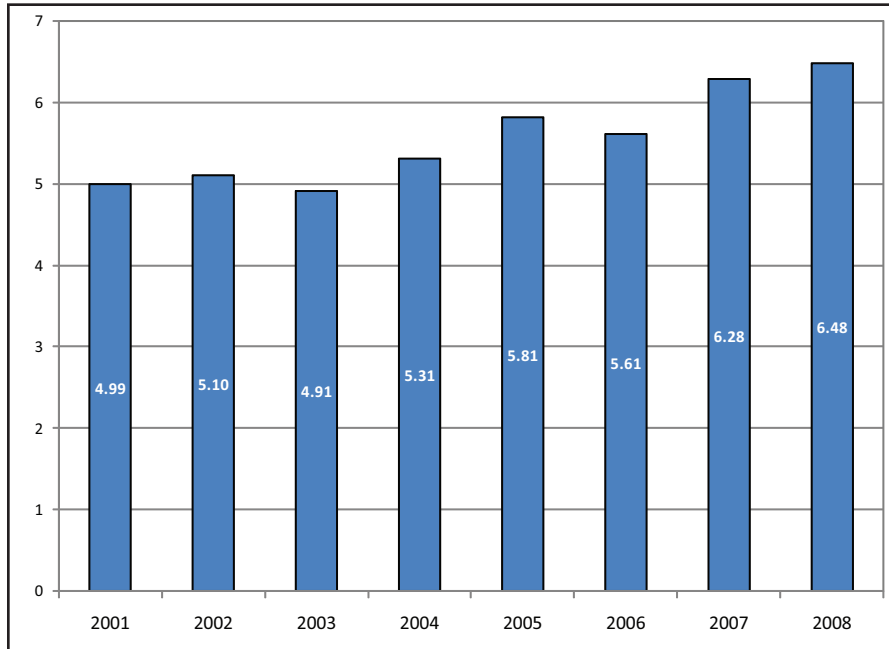
Potential for Action

CSU will be revising their Electric Integrated Resource Plan (EIRP) in 2010. This plan predicts the expected electricity requirements and the resources to meet those requirements. This is an opportunity for the utility and the community to wisely define the future investment in energy sources and energy efficiency. Another potential for action, which could be an input to the EIRP, is to study innovative energy efforts in other communities, including in Europe. Those efforts that could be effective in our community could be adapted and implemented.

Waste Management



Landfill - Pounds per Day/per Person



Source: El Paso County Solid Waste Management, Colorado Department of Local Affairs, U.S. Census Bureau

This Chart shows the pounds of waste deposited per person per day into El Paso County's three local landfills.

Why is This Important?

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.

How are We Doing?

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

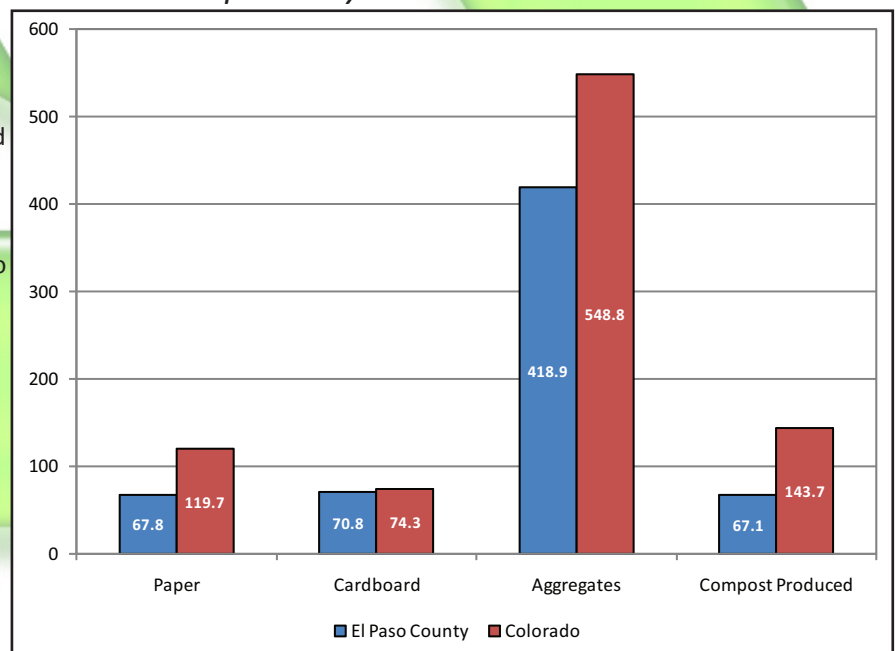
El Paso County citizens generate more waste than the U.S. average and the trend is **not** improving.

This Chart compares the average amount of materials recycled per person in El Paso County with Colorado as a whole during 2007. Aggregates (asphalt and concrete) are not usually recycled by households. Household compost production is not included. Plastics, metals and glass are not included because they are primarily processed in Denver.

How are We Doing?

According to the State, El Paso County trailed Colorado as a whole in all four categories of comparative recycling data available for 2007, significantly so in paper recycling and compost production.

Pounds Per Capita Recycled in 2007



Source: Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, U.S. Census Bureau. Computed and charted by Recycling Coalition of Colorado Springs.

Potential for Action

In 2008, some El Paso County household waste haulers began offering single-stream (commingled materials) recycling.

Recycling Image by Chris Windras

Sustaining A Healthy Community

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Steve Schaefer

Michelle Wolfe



Photograph by Sanja Gjenero

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Pikes Peak United Way

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

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Being healthy means different things to different people. Health can be absence of disease, feeling very energetic, losing weight, having a healthy baby, being able to stay at home when you are elderly, and seeing a health care provider on a regular basis. This portion of the report reveals information about the community's health through the use of data.

To have a healthy thriving community, a strong interrelated system of public health, health care, medical care, and other health focused improvement agencies need adequate resources to realize positive impacts, which benefit each individual in the community.

There are still many challenges that face the citizens of El Paso County according to the Colorado Springs Quality of Life Initiative "Sustaining a Healthy Community." The health status of a community can be correlated with the overall wellbeing and quality of life citizens enjoy in El Paso County and all of the towns and cities within. The access to health care and availability of health care providers to all citizens influences the majority of indicators included in this report. It's important to keep in mind, perceptions about the community's health and health data do not always match.

Increasing awareness and participation to improve the public health problem areas identified in this report will require a strong commitment of collaboration and leadership from all facets of the community including private citizens, elected officials, all areas within the professional health care arena such as hospitals, home health care, public health and mental health agencies, education institutions, and business organizations. Investing in the health of a community should be important to everyone, since it impacts everyone's quality of life.

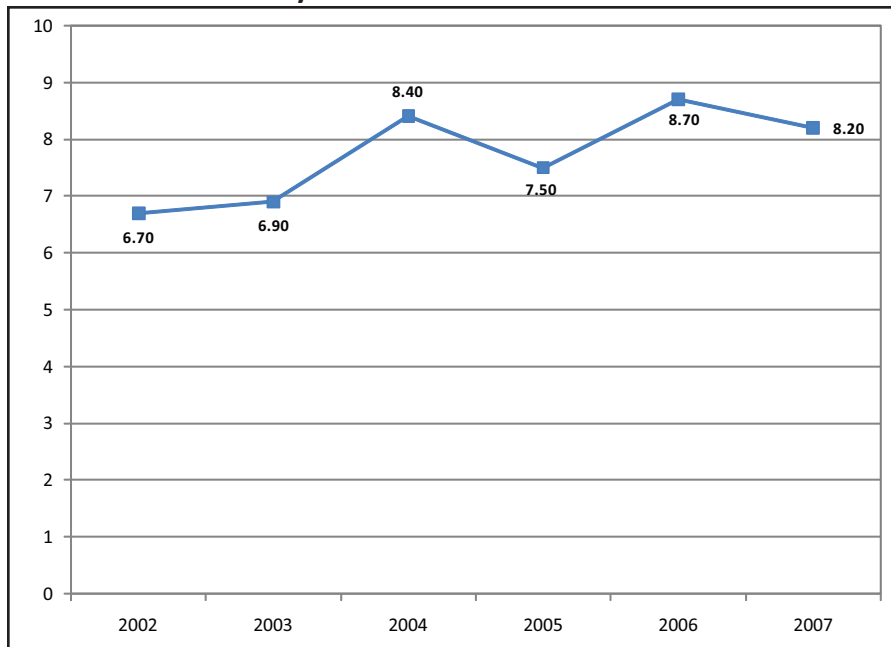


Photograph by Leah-Anne Thompson

Visit our website: <http://pikespeakqualityoflife.org>

-Physical Health-

Infant Mortality



Source: Colorado Health Information Dataset

The first Chart on infant mortality shows the rate of infant deaths from all causes in the first year of life, based on the number of deaths per 1,000 births.

The second Chart on prenatal care shows the percent of women receiving prenatal care in the first trimester of pregnancy. These fields are based on questions from the birth certificate that ask when prenatal care began. Prenatal care later than 1st trimester includes those whose prenatal care started in months 4-9 of the pregnancy, and the 'No care' includes those who answered 'no care' and did not receive any prenatal care.

Why is This Important?

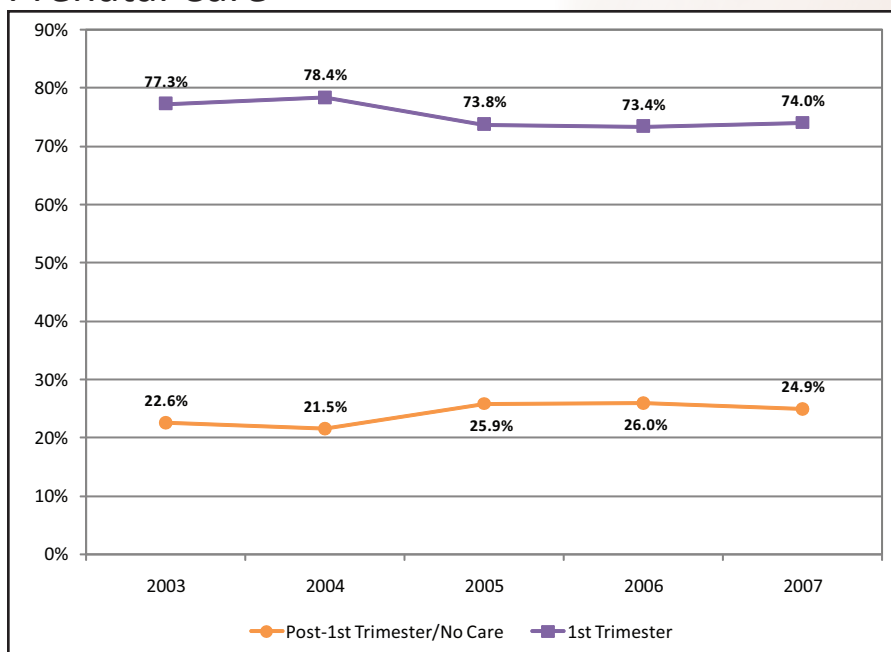
According to the March of Dimes, in 2007 the average cost for a premature and/or low weight baby was \$50,000 compared to a full-term baby at \$4,551 from birth to one year of age. Infants who survive may face lifelong problems including cognitive and developmental disabilities. El Paso County has a higher than average rate of low birth weight babies. Determining the exact cause for our community's high infant mortality is difficult as there are numerous potential factors. However, appropriate prenatal care is important to assure the health of the mother and infant.

How are We Doing?

El Paso County remains far from the Healthy People 2010 goal of 4.5 deaths per 1,000 live births. We are currently (2007) at 8.2 deaths per 1,000 live births. Healthy People 2010 goals for first trimester prenatal care are 90%, and El Paso County is at 74% in 2007.

Potential for Action

Prenatal Care

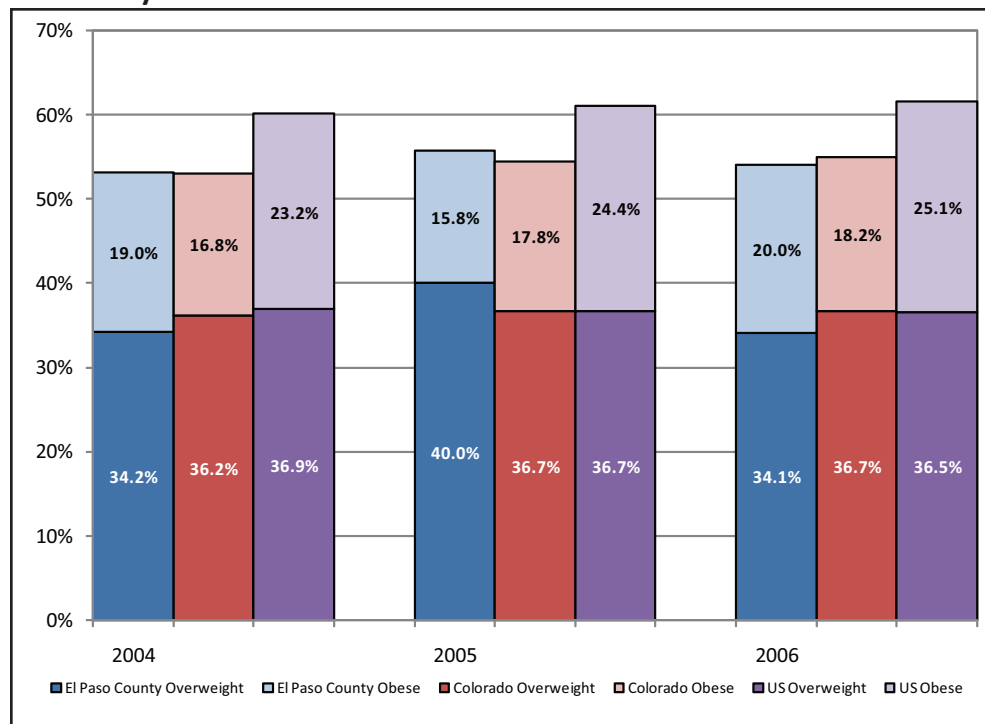


Source: Colorado Health Information Dataset

our community that are already addressing these issues. Community resources include The March of Dimes, El Paso County Department of Health and Environment and their Nurse Family Partnership and WIC program, Peak Vista Community Health Center and their Centering Pregnancy and Prenatal Plus program. Life Network/Colorado Springs Pregnancy Center offers Life Steps for pregnant teens and Nuts and Bolts for fathers. We need to support and enhance these programs, increase funding for education, service, and improve access to prenatal care in the first trimester.

Photograph by Aneta Blaszczyk

Obesity



Source: Smart Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System

This Chart shows the percentage of people whose Body Mass Index (BMI) classifies them as either Overweight (BMI of 25.0 - 29.0) or Obese (BMI of 30.0+).

Why is This Important?

Obesity increases the risk of many diseases and health conditions. These include coronary artery disease, type 2 diabetes, cancers (endometrial, breast, and colon), hypertension, dyslipidemia, stroke, liver and gallbladder diseases, sleep apnea and respiratory problems, osteoarthritis and gynecological problems (abnormal menses, infertility).

How are We Doing?

Colorado is often presented in main stream media as the

“healthiest” or “fittest” state. While the state is currently still better than the national average for overweight and obesity, it is clear that Colorado has a significant problem. In 2005, the population in El Paso County reported overweight rates above Colorado and the U.S. As of 2006, 20% of El Paso County residents were considered obese and 34.1% were considered overweight. The Colorado obesity rate in 2006 was 18.2% and 36.7% of the state population was overweight. In 2007 Colorado’s obesity rate for adults rose, to 18.7%.

Potential for Action

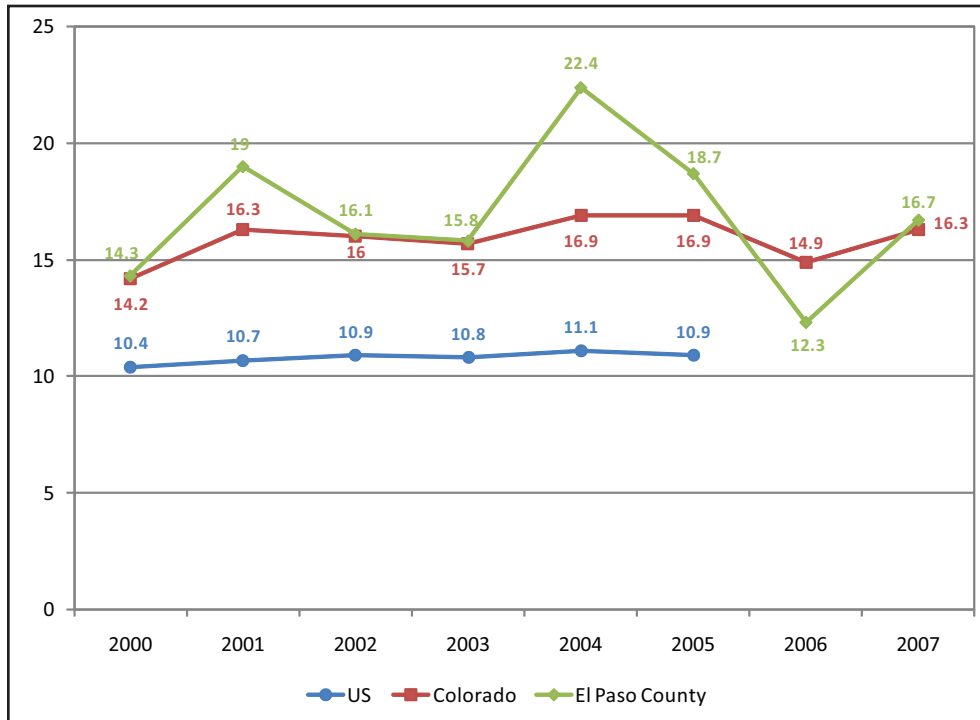
Two of the Healthy People 2010 national health objectives are:

1. To reduce the prevalence of overweight and obesity among adults to less than 15%.
2. To reduce the prevalence of obesity among children and adolescents to less than 5%.

Meeting these goals and interrupting the increasing obesity trends in El Paso Country will require lifestyle changes of its citizens. This effort must engage participants from all aspects of the community. It is recommended that a task force be created to develop a community plan of action such as the Live Well Colorado initiative.

-Mental Health-

Suicide



Source: Colorado Health Information Dataset, WISQARS Leading Causes of Death Reports

This Chart compares El Paso County suicide rates with those for the state of Colorado and the nation.¹

Why is This Important?

The 2000-2007 suicide rates for Colorado and El Paso County are notably higher than for the Nation.

How are We Doing?

Over the eight year span, an average of about 11 out of every 100,000 people in the U.S. died by suicide. In contrast, about 16 per 100,000 Colorado citizens and 17 per 100,000 El Paso County residents were suicide victims.

The resources and commitment towards suicide prevention in the Pikes Peak region is inadequate for the

number of completed and attempted suicides each year. Suicide prevention needs a systemic approach. Services in El Paso County are poorly funded, quick to be eliminated during budget cuts and largely dependent upon volunteers. There are few professional resources for attempters of suicide.

Potential for Action

El Paso County's suicide rate could improve through the implementation of a comprehensive community-based suicide prevention program. Comprehensive programs incorporate a range of services and providers within a community and engage community leaders through coalitions that cut across traditionally separate sectors, such as health and mental health care, public health, justice and law enforcement, education, and social services. The coalition must include members of the faith community, civic groups, business and subpopulations of people most at risk. The coalition should support and reflect the experience of survivors, build on community values and standards, and integrate local cultural and ethnic perspectives.

¹ 2005 is the most recent annual suicide data available for the United States. 2004-2007 data are averaged to obtain suicide rates for state and county groups due to the relatively small numbers of suicides amongst these sub-groups of the population.

Suicide Age Subpopulations

School Year	United States	Colorado ¹	El Paso County ¹
Teens, 15-18 years ^{2 3}	6.7	11.7	13.1
Males, 25-54 years ^{2 3}	22.9	32.5	40.4
Seniors, 65+ years ^{2 3}	14.7	20.5	20.3
Veterans, all ages ³	Not Available	41.8	39.3
<p>1 2004-2007 data are averages to obtain suicide rates for state and county groups due to the relatively small number of suicides among these sub-groups of the population.</p> <p>2 National data from National Center for Injury Prevention and Control. <i>WISQARS Leading Causes of Death Reports</i>. http://webappa.cdc.gov/sasweb/ncipc/mortrate10_sy.html.</p> <p>3 State and County data from Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. http://www.cdph.state.co.us/cohid/deathmenu.html.</p>			

Source: Colorado Health Information Dataset, WISQARS Leading Causes of Death Reports

This Chart examines the rate of suicide for specific subgroups that are at high risk or have special significance to the Pikes Peak region.

Previous El Paso County QLI reports include suicide rates among individuals 85+ years. Although the suicide rate per 100,000 among this age group is high, the number of individuals involved is very low, and represent only about

2% of the total suicides in El Paso County for the 2004-2007 time period. In contrast, 65+ year olds represent about 10% of total suicides during this time period.

State and county suicide mortality data for veterans were obtained from a special data analysis conducted in 2008 by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment using data from the Colorado Violent Death Reporting System. These data reflect deaths of individuals whose death certificates identified them as veterans (a yes/no question). Thus, these data include a proportion of active duty military.

Why is This Important?

Identifying and tracking these sub-groups allows employment of a “selective” type of suicide prevention strategy that focuses on subgroups of people who are at increased risk.

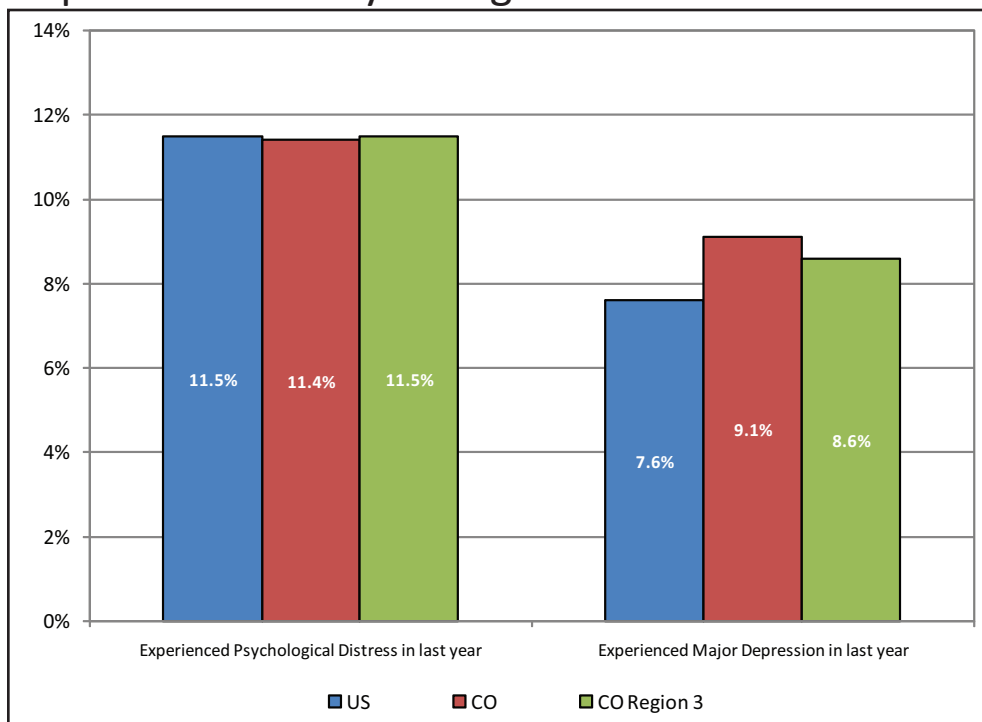
How are We Doing?

Colorado and El Paso County average suicide rates are higher for teens, males, and seniors compared to national figures. Also, suicide rates are unusually high for Colorado and El Paso County veterans. About one-third of all suicide deaths in El Paso County are veterans. There is a need for additional, concentrated prevention services for each of these special population groups.

Potential for Action

A selective approach should consider interventions that are bio-psycho-social, environmental and socio-cultural. Given the available data, the priority groups for intervention would be males, ages 25-54 and veterans.

Depression and Psychological Distress



Source: Office of Applied Studies, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

This Chart compares the rates of people who reported psychological distress or major depression in the last year in the United States, Colorado, and Colorado Region 3 (which includes Colorado Springs and nearby counties).

Why is This Important?

According to the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation Colorado Health Status report (2007), Colorado's percentage of adults reporting poor mental health (34.5%) is higher than the national average (33.3%).

Unfortunately, El Paso County is lacking in data on the mental wellness of its community members and must rely solely on state and national data for assessment.

How are We Doing?

The finding of the National Alliance on Mental Illness' Grade the States 2009 report on Colorado's health care system for adults with mental illness indicates there is much to be done to improve Colorado's behavioral health system. The "Urgent Needs" identified in this report include the following:

1. Better access to mental health services for those without Medicaid or other insurances
2. Crisis stabilization services to prevent increased stress on other systems such as jails and emergency rooms.¹

Over 47% of Colorado's 16,203 homeless individuals have a serious mental illness or chronic substance abuse issue.²

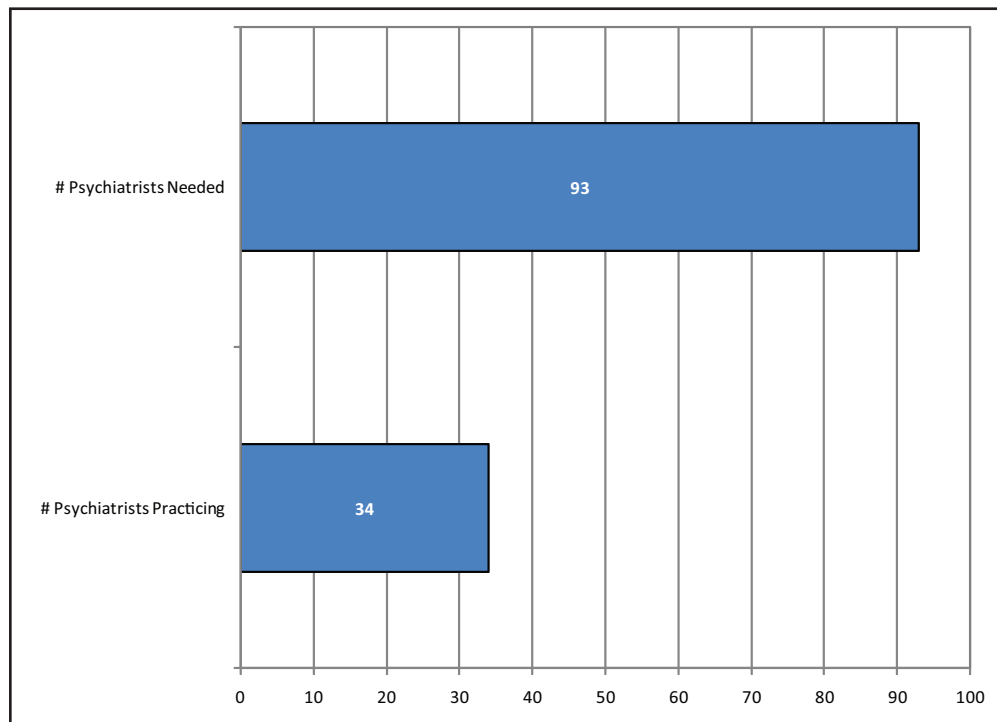


¹ Office of Applied Statistics. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. *National Surveys on Drug Use and Health*. For this national survey, Serious Psychological Distress (SPD) is defined as having a score of 13 or higher on the K6 scale. Major Depressive Episode is defined as in the 4th edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-IV), which specifies a period of at least two weeks when a person experienced a depressed mood or loss of interest or pleasure in daily activities and had a majority of specified depression symptoms.

² Colorado Interagency Council on Homelessness (2006).

Photograph courtesy of Stock Exchange Photos

Depression and Psychological Distress, continued



Source: El Paso County Medical Society

Potential for Action

Create a coalition of community leaders to serve as advisors to our elected officials and charged with developing a comprehensive and strategic plan to address the “Urgent Needs” identified in the NAMI report and identify other emerging behavioral health issues pertinent to El Paso County.

Identify indicators on the overall mental wellness of the community and develop a data collection system to track and report how El Paso County is fairing when compared to the rest of the state and the nation.

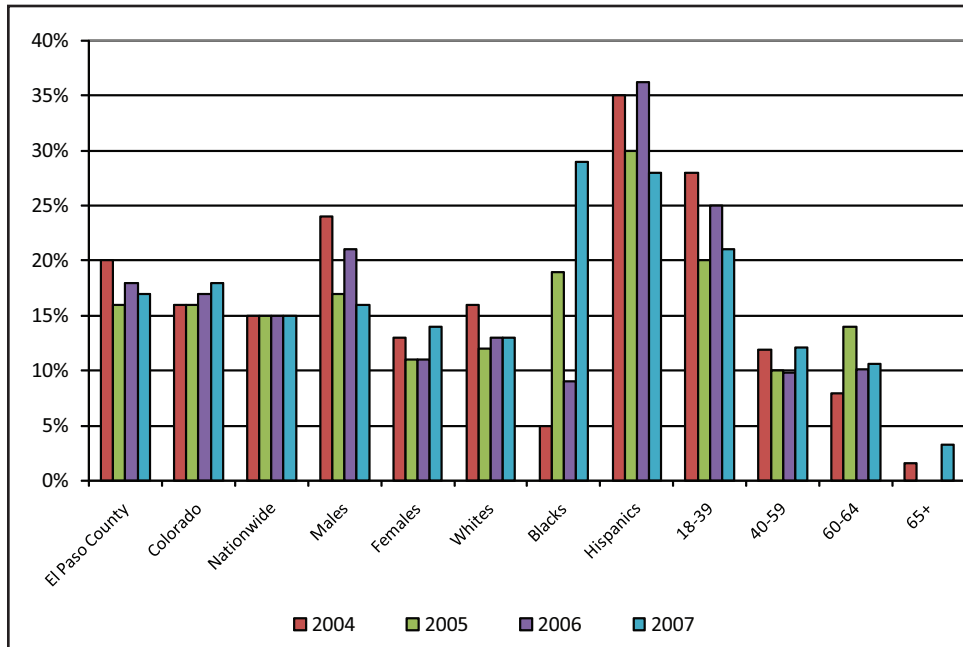
Identify State and local funding to begin implementing a strategic plan and addressing gaps in El Paso County’s behavioral health care system.



Photograph by Lisa F. Young

-System Infrastructure and Capacity-

Uninsured Citizens in El Paso County



Source: Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

This Chart shows the percentage of uninsured in several different categories.

Why is This Important?

Improving access to quality health care is critical in eliminating health disparities and increasing the quality and quantity of life for all in the Pikes Peak region. In particular, improved access to clinical preventative services such as screening tests and immunizations can reduce the number of preventable diseases and conditions. To facilitate the provision of such preventative services, it is important that individuals and families have an identified source of ongoing primary health care, i.e., a medical home.

How are We Doing?

Unfortunately, many in the Pikes Peak Region face severe barriers in accessing health care; one such barrier is being uninsured. In El Paso county, 15% of the population - more than 88,000 people - is uninsured. This high rate of uninsured is troubling since uninsured individuals are more likely to report poor health status, delay seeking medical care and forego necessary care for potentially serious symptoms. Adults with health insurance are twice as likely to receive a routine checkup as are adults without health insurance. Indeed, many uninsured in the Pikes Peak region rely on hospital emergency rooms for primary and preventive care.

Potential for Action

Local initiatives, including the Community Health Partnership (CHP), have been working to expand health care. CHP is a 501(c)(3) organization comprised of 20 healthcare related organizations and individuals whose mission is to foster a sustainable collaborative organization to address the healthcare issues of our community. Currently, CHP has a number of key health programs:

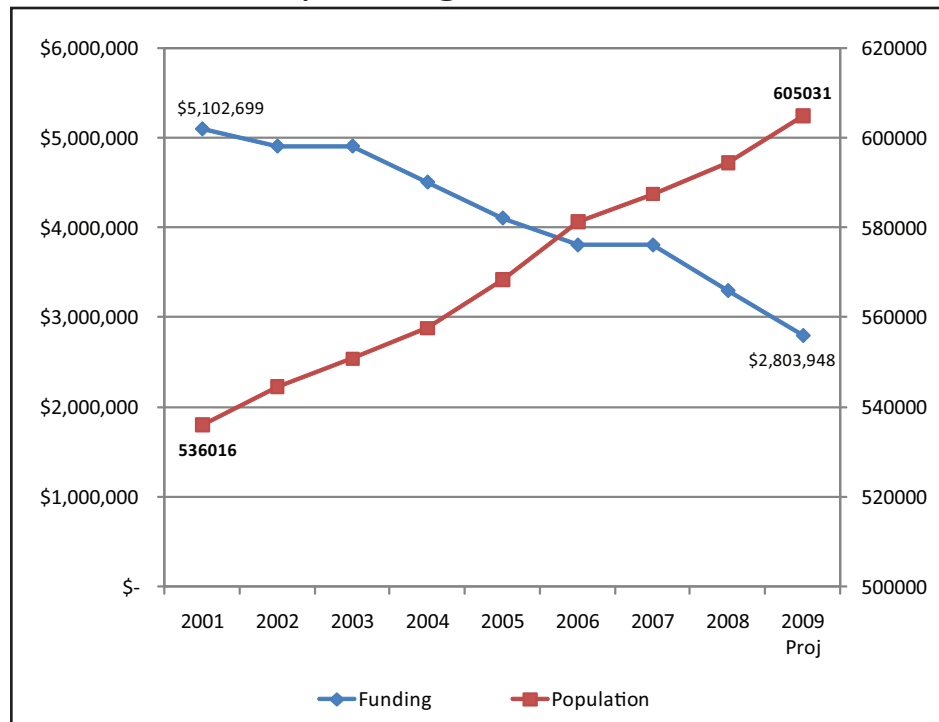
P.A.S.S.: Prescription Assistance Service Solution is a prescription drug financial assistance program designed to facilitate the enrollment process of income qualified patients needing prescribed medications for chronic disease management and other ailments, but cannot afford to pay for them.

C.A.T.C.H.: (Coordinated Access to Community Health) A virtual organization with coordination of resources where patients and providers work together to ensure quality medical care while reducing costs – Business Case: It is estimated that more than 88,000 El Paso County Residents are uninsured. Local Emergency Departments are the busiest in the state. Early diagnosis reduces health care costs. Available services are not coordinated and not meeting demand. Health care systems are difficult to navigate especially for uninsured.

HCAP: Healthy Community Access Program is designed to address the health care needs of El Paso County's medically uninsured and underinsured. It is designed to improve access to care for residents and promote a better quality of life in our community.

HealthTrack, a web-based, HIPAA-compliant software, will soon be in use in El Paso County. HealthTrack will facilitate applications for public benefits, billings for care provided, improved care by reducing fragmentation for clients that visit multiple safety-net providers, and will promote awareness for those who are El Paso County's under- and uninsured.

Public Health Spending



Source: El Paso County Department of Health and Environment, Public Health Information Office

This Chart is a comparison of El Paso County's population growth as compared to the number of dollars of funding for public health care.

Why is This Important?

For many years the Health Department has tried to maintain public health services and minimize the impacts of yearly funding cuts to the public. Now, the Health Department is at a breaking point and is no longer able to provide many essential public health protections such as ensuring methamphetamine properties (aka "meth labs") are cleaned-up; suicide prevention efforts within schools; reducing health risks by inspecting pools; conducting surveillance and investigation of STDs; West Nile virus field prevention efforts, evaluation of plague threats; investigation of hantavirus and testing of animals for rabies.

How are We Doing?

Since 2001, there has been a nearly 50% reduction in County funding to support core public health services provided by the El Paso County Department of Health and Environment. Over the same time period numerous programs have been scaled back or eliminated in addition to staffing reductions. For a complete listing of what public health programs have been discontinued go to www.elpasocountyhealth.org.

When public health's guard is let-down data will show over time the community becomes less healthy. During 2008, El Paso County reported the highest number of foodborne illness outbreaks in all of Colorado, managed 43 disease outbreaks - representing a 115% increase from the previous year - managed an increase in calls of nearly 35% related to infectious disease from the previous year.

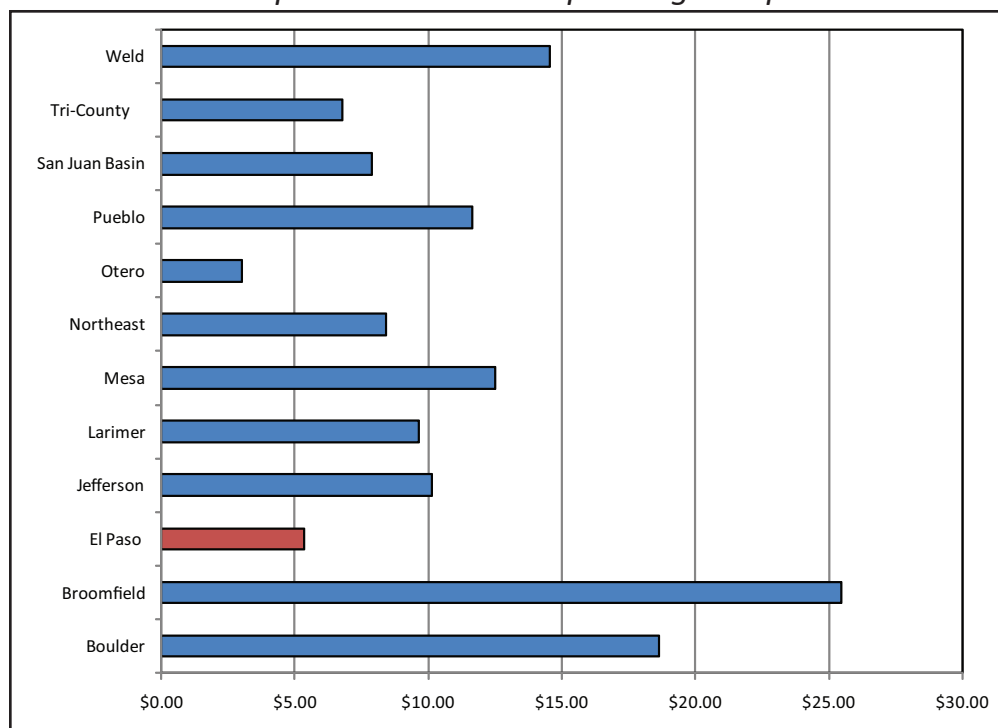
Staffing: The national median number of full-time-equivalents (FTE) for cities with populations greater than 500,000 is 363, as stated in the 2005 National Profile for Public Health Departments (NACCHO). The El Paso County Department of Health and Environment now has 178 FTEs, and in 2001 there were 251.

Potential for Action

Increased community partnerships and collaborations are needed to ensure the public's safety is protected. Provide community education on the unique role and importance of public health and how public health affects every citizen of El Paso County. No more local funding cuts to the Health Department and support for sustained local funding of public health.

Public Health Spending, continued

2008 Local Per Capita Public Health Spending Comparison



Source: El Paso County Department of Health and Environment

This Chart demonstrates that the El Paso County Department of Health and Environment receives fewer local dollars when compared to similar health departments around Colorado.

Why is This Important?

Local funding supports public health services and protections to assure quick identification, response and mitigation of public health threats within the community. In El Paso County, each taxpayer pays less than \$5 per year for public health prevention efforts and protections provided by the Health Department. The Health Department's local funding support is not adequate and hampers their ability to provide needed public health assurances to the community.

How are We Doing?

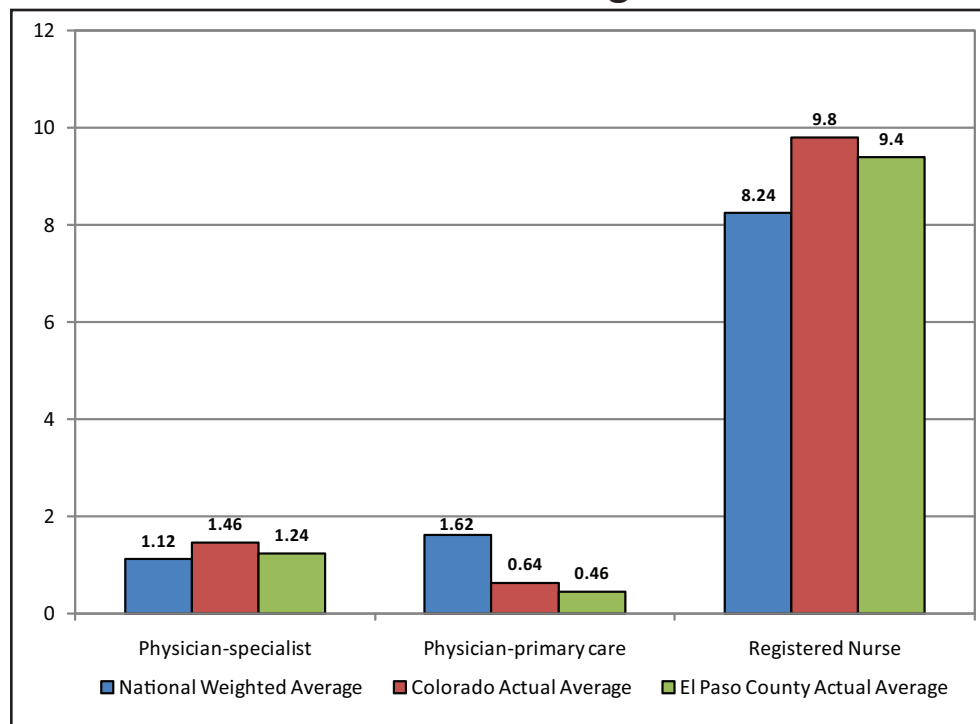
In various aspects, the Health Department is more reactive rather than proactive because of limited financial resources; however, Health Department experts know that preventing diseases and health conditions before they occur benefits individuals and the community as a whole. There are significant returns on investments when adequate resources are used to implement and sustain public health prevention programs within communities. As Kenneth Thorpe, chair of the Department of Health Policy and Management at Emory's University's School of Public Health, stated in an online article focused on the benefits of prevention June 26, 2009, "Research shows that savings range from a short-term return on investment of \$1 for every \$1 invested, rising to more than \$6 over the long-term. An investment of \$10 per person per year in community-based programs tackling physical inactivity, poor nutrition, and smoking could yield more than \$16 billion in medical cost savings annually within 5 years."¹

Potential for Action

Support for local funding of public health is essential in maintaining and improving the health of the community. Community collaboration focused on securing sustained local funding to provide needed public health prevention and protection efforts is imperative to El Paso County's quality of life.

1 Thorpe, Kenneth.

Healthcare Professional Shortages



Source: Cejka Search, American Medical Group Association

This Chart shows the ratio of healthcare providers per 1,000 people.

Why is This Important?

El Paso County falls below the state and national averages for per capita physicians. Some specialties are adequately represented, but some such as internal medicine, primary care and psychiatry are a concern. A recent national survey of primary care physicians shows that 48% of those responding report they plan to reduce the number of patients they see or stop seeing patients altogether and 78% feel there is a shortage of primary care physicians. They report that physician satisfaction has been negatively impacted by an increase in non-clinical paperwork and decrease in

reimbursement leading to less time spent with patients, which was the motivation to become a physician.

While the rate for registered nurses appears to exceed the national average the numbers are deceiving. Included in the state and county numbers are nurses holding advanced practice authority who would not be employed as a registered nurse. Also included in the state and county numbers are military licensed nurses holding Colorado licenses and practicing within the military ranks outside the state.

How are We Doing?

El Paso County falls below the national weighted average for professional health care providers. The responsibility placed on registered nurses has increased to include non patient care clerical duties. The focus of nurses has shifted in a direction away from patient care and physicians are forced to spend too much time dealing with many “hassle factors” that impact the time that can be spent with patients. According to numerous national studies the problems are expected to increase with the increased health care demands of our aging population and continually decreasing reimbursement rates. Without a focused effort to increase the number of nurses through education and recruitment the State of Colorado can expect a nursing shortage of 31% by the year 2020.

Potential for Action

A recent national Cejka’s Physician Retention Survey of primary care physicians revealed that “Physician workforce demographics will continue to shift. As a large proportion of physicians move toward retirement, there are fewer to replace them. Many of these younger physicians have work/life expectations that are far different from those of their pre-retirement counterparts.” The future of physicians in our community, as with the nation, will be directly impacted by the legislative “redesign” of the healthcare delivery system.

Much of the refocus on patient care must come from a national level. The substantial and growing impact of the under-insured and uninsured patients resulting in uncompensated medical care is a serious community problem. Achieving an adequate number of physicians and nurses requires an increase in recruiting efforts for licensed professionals and future students. Some of the refocus on patient care can come from a cooperative effort between our education system and employers.

Achieving Educational Excellence

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Colorado Technical University

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DENISE WISDOM



Photograph by Justas Cekas

Sponsored By



Community Partnership
for Child Development



Our children are the key to the success of our community. The Alliance for Kids and Community Partnership for Child Development are committed to building an early childhood system in El Paso County that prepares children to be successful in school and life. A quality education beginning at birth sets a lifelong learning foundation that ensures our children will be productive leaders.

2330 Robinson Street
719-635-1536
www.cpcdheadstart.org

2340 Robinson Street
719-634-8045
www.allianceforkids.org

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 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.

Life expectancy

On average, the more education people have, the longer they live.

Low birthweight

Infants born to less-educated mothers are more likely to have low birthweight, which is associated with developmental delays and infant death.

Murder

A one-year increase in the average level of schooling in a community is associated with a 30% decrease in the murder rate.

Obesity

Obesity has increased among all Americans, yet the more educated are less likely to be overweight or obese.

Income

The median annual earning of Americans 25 and over who did not complete high school is less than \$18,500, while those who completed high school typically earn nearly \$26,000. College graduates earn \$44,000 annually, and those with graduate or professional degrees typically earn \$57,500.

Poverty

Education is the single most important factor in the determination of a person's poverty status: almost 24% of the adult population without a high school diploma is poor, compared to 11% of those who are high school graduates and only 3.6% of college graduates.

Unemployment

The less education a person has, the more likely he or she is to be unemployed. A high school dropout is four times more likely to be unemployed than a college graduate.

Children's reading proficiency

Among eighth graders whose parents have less than a high school education, 13% read proficiently (beyond a basic level), compared with 42% of their classmates whose parents have a college degree.

Voting

In the 2004 presidential election, those with a college degree were 50% more likely to vote than high school graduates, and two and a half times more likely to vote than high school dropouts.

Incarceration

Nearly three-quarters of state inmates did not complete high school; fewer than three percent completed college or more.¹

An educated population is important to our quality of life as we move through this ever-changing world. Let's build a local culture of learning and reading.



Photograph by Tiffany Szerpicki

Beyond Reading

The world is changing and President Obama said:

"In a 21st-century world where jobs can be shipped wherever there's an Internet connection, where a child born in Dallas is now competing with a child in New Delhi, where your best job qualification is not what you do, but what you know -- education is no longer just a pathway to opportunity and success, it's a prerequisite for success."

In addition, President Obama noted that:

"I'm calling on our nation's governors and state education chiefs to develop standards and assessments that don't simply measure whether students can fill in a bubble on a test, but whether they possess 21st century skills like problem-solving and critical thinking and entrepreneurship and creativity."

¹ "Goals for the common good: exploring the impact of education," 3.

-Early Learning-

Early Childhood Education

Enrollment of Children in Poverty in Preschool Programs in El Paso County

School Year	Percent Enrolled
2004-05	54%
2005-06	53%
2006-07	59%
2007-08	64%

Source: American Communities Survey, US Census 2006-07, El Paso County, CO; Colorado Department of Education; Community Partnership for Child Development

This Table shows the percentage of 3 and 4-year old children in El Paso County living below 100% of the Federal Poverty Level who are enrolled in either the state-funded Colorado Preschool program or the Head Start program.

Why is This Important?

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 high-quality early childhood education is a strong indicator of a child's social and academic preparedness.

How are We Doing?

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 30%.

Potential for Action

Our goal is to serve all children who need, but can't afford, a preschool program. We have many children to reach.

Early Reading

Third grade reading level improvement starts at birth. The council talked about how to instill a culture in reading for parents and for children. How to provide opportunities for kids, from birth to age 5, to own books because 'Books in the home' is a major indicator of future reading skills. How to instill in parents an understanding of how critical reading is to their child's future and provide parents/caregivers with information on how to read with their child.

This lead to active efforts in four areas:

- Hospitals and Birthing Centers
- Pediatricians Offices
- Early Childhood Education Centers
- Home Visit Programs

The Education Vision Council formed task teams, started to galvanize volunteers, and is launching a book drive in the fall of 2009. The Vision Council will be promoting reading in our community. The Gazette is part of this effort and they have helped design a logo that we will use to promote early reading.



The Vision Council hopes that increasing third grade reading levels will have residual and future impact in other areas – dropout rates, crime rates, unemployment rates, college enrollment.

If you want to volunteer or offer resources for this project, call (719) 634-7619.

If you or someone you know need help, please call 2-1-1. This three digit phone number can link you to resources about reading and much, much more.

Third Grade Reading Skills



School District	School Year				% Change
	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	
Colorado Springs 11	70.0%	70.0%	71.0%	72.0%	1.0%
Academy 20	85.0%	87.0%	88.0%	87.0%	-1.0%
Harrison 2	63.0%	61.0%	64.0%	59.0%	-5.0%
Falcon 49	80.0%	75.0%	78.0%	77.0%	-1.0%
Widefield 3	74.0%	68.0%	70.0%	70.0%	--
Fountain-Fort Carson 8	78.0%	79.0%	78.0%	76.0%	-2.0%

This Table shows the percentage of public school third graders in El Paso County's six largest school districts¹ who achieve at the top two (out of four) levels on the Colorado Student Assessment Program (CSAP) in reading.

Overall Average by Student	School Year				% Change
	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	
Largest Six Districts	74.9%	73.9%	79.0%	75.0%	-4.0%
State of Colorado	71.0%	70.0%	71.0%	70.0%	-1.0%

Source: Colorado Department of Education

Why is This Important? 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 in their academic journey.

How are We Doing?

In El Paso County, one in four public school third graders are reading below grade level. This is a 4% decline from the 2006-07 figure.

Potential For Action

The education council met and discussed these issues for two years. They ended up asking:

What if... We could improve third grade reading levels of all children in El Paso County?

What if... Every child in El Paso County had a book of his or her own at home to read?

What if... Every parent in El Paso County understood that reading was the most critical skill for his child's future success in school, in business, and in life?

What if... Every parent also understood how easy it was to help her child, from birth to age five, prepare to learn to read?

What if... Hospitals, birthing centers, pediatricians' offices, day cares and early childhood centers, our libraries, our literacy centers, and our schools all joined together to make that happen?

What if... Colorado Springs became known as a City of Reading?

And... They decided to improve third grade reading levels.

1

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



Photograph by Rob Marmion

-Student Achievement-

Tenth Grade Reading Skills

School District	School Year				% Change
	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	
Colorado Springs 11	64.0%	69.0%	70.0%	66.0%	-4.0%
Academy 20	82.0%	84.0%	87.0%	86.0%	-1.0%
Harrison 2	50.0%	57.0%	59.0%	57.0%	-2.0%
Falcon 49	69.0%	74.0%	77.0%	69.0%	-8.0%
Widefield 3	68.0%	75.0%	75.0%	71.0%	-4.0%
Fountain-Fort Carson 8	65.0%	74.0%	80.0%	68.0%	-12.0%

These Tables show the percentage of public school tenth graders in El Paso County's six largest school districts who achieve at the top two (out of four) levels on the CSAP in reading and math.

Why is This Important?

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.

Students need to be proficient at reading and math to fill many of the jobs that will be available when they enter the workforce.

How are We Doing?

In El Paso County, each of the six largest school districts declined in reading from the 2006-07 figures. The overall decline in these districts was 7.9%. The state of Colorado declined by 3.0%.

Overall Average by Student	School Year				% Change
	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	
Largest Six Districts	68.2%	73.1%	79.9%	72.0%	-7.9%
State of Colorado	66.0%	68.0%	69.0%	66.0%	-3.0%

Source: Colorado Department of Education

Tenth Grade Math Skills

School District	School Year				% Change
	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	
Colorado Springs 11	24.0%	30.0%	28.0%	32.0%	4.0%
Academy 20	40.0%	41.0%	44.0%	47.0%	3.0%
Harrison 2	13.0%	17.0%	17.0%	16.0%	-1.0%
Falcon 49	33.0%	31.0%	35.0%	28.0%	-7.0%
Widefield 3	22.0%	27.0%	22.0%	28.0%	6.0%
Fountain-Fort Carson 8	27.0%	26.0%	27.0%	27.0%	--

Overall Average by Student	School Year				% Change
	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	
Largest Six Districts	27.9%	31.1%	31.4%	33.0%	1.6%
State of Colorado	30.0%	31.0%	30.0%	30.0%	--

Source: Colorado Department of Education

Only a third of our tenth grade students are able to perform math at or above grade level. This indicator has improved from 2006-07 by 1.6% in the top six districts in El Paso County, but individual districts vary widely.

Potential for Action

The efforts of the Education Vision Council to improve third grade reading levels will, in time, improve the scores of tenth grade students. Certain community events, such as All Pikes Peak Reads, encourage reading at all age levels.

-Student Graduation-

High School Graduation Rate

School District	School Year				% Change
	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	
Colorado Springs 11	67.8%	69.0%	67.5%	66.7%	-0.8%
Academy 20	91.6%	89.5%	91.4%	94.7%	3.3%
Harrison 2	81.9%	65.0%	69.8%	63.9%	-5.9%
Falcon 49	81.5%	85.6%	83.2%	79.7%	-3.5%
Widefield 3	83.8%	86.3%	81.5%	83.7%	2.2%
Fountain-Fort Carson 8	87.7%	79.4%	84.0%	83.7%	-0.3%

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

The second table 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.

Overall Average by Student	School Year				% Change
	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	
Largest Six Districts	77.9%	77.1%	76.7%	76.7%	--
State of Colorado	80.1%	74.1%	75.0%	73.9%	-1.1%

Source: Colorado Department of Education

Middle/High School Dropout Rate

Percentage of Students who Dropout between 7th and 12th Grades

School District	School Year				% Change
	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	
Colorado Springs 11	7.0%	6.1%	4.6%	4.0%	-0.6%
Academy 20	1.7%	1.6%	0.9%	0.6%	-0.3%
Harrison 2	1.9%	8.4%	3.1%	4.1%	1.0%
Falcon 49	4.2%	1.6%	2.5%	3.8%	1.3%
Widefield 3	4.9%	4.1%	1.8%	2.3%	0.5%
Fountain-Fort Carson 8	4.4%	5.3%	1.1%	1.8%	0.7%

Why is This Important?

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.

Overall Average by Student	School Year				% Change
	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	
Largest Six Districts	4.5%	4.3%	2.8%	2.9%	0.1%
State of Colorado	4.2%	4.5%	4.4%	3.8%	-0.6%

A high school dropout is four times more likely to be unemployed than a college graduate (U.S. Census Bureau 2007).

Source: Colorado Department of Education

How are We Doing?

Overall our graduation rates are better than the state-wide rates, but two districts - Districts 2 and 11 - have very low graduation rates. 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%. What are the reasons that our kids don't graduate?

1. Inability to read at grade level by the time that they get to 9th grade. They simply can't succeed in school and choose to drop out instead. That's why third grade reading levels are so important.
2. According to school officials, teenagers realize that the high school diploma in and of itself doesn't carry the same value that it did before and so if they don't see themselves going to college, or don't have the resources to go to college, they figure that there isn't any reason to stay in school once they get to 10th grade.
3. More students need additional services, and there aren't the resources to provide them, so they drop out. Example: more students who need English as a second language (ESL) services. If they aren't able to read on grade level in English by the completion of 9th grade, they tend to drop out. It costs districts an average of \$1,500 more per ESL student than non-ESL students and if schools don't have the resources to help them become proficient in English, they tend to drop out.

-Higher Education-

Educational Attainment

Adults in El Paso County by Education Level

Education	School Year				% Change
	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	
Some College	26.0%	24.8%	24.8%	23.5%	-1.3%
Associate Degree	10.1%	10.2%	9.7%	9.8%	0.1%
Bachelor Degree	19.7%	21.0%	22.0%	21.4%	-0.6%
Graduate Degree	11.9%	12.7%	12.4%	12.2%	-0.2%
State of Colorado - Bachelor or above			34.3%	35.0%	0.7%

Source: American Communities Survey, US Census 2004-2007, El Paso County, Colorado

This Table shows the percentage of adults age 25 and older in El Paso County who have attended college.

Why is This Important?

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.

Education is the single most important factor in the determination of a person's poverty status. An adult without a high school education is two times more likely to live in poverty than one with a high school diploma, and seven times more likely than a college graduate.

Education impacts generations. A mother's education level is strongly correlated to a child's educational success.

How are We Doing?

Over a third of people in El Paso County have a bachelor degree or higher. This has remained fairly steady over the past few years.

Outcomes of Higher Education

Number of Higher Education Degrees Awarded Annually

Degree	School Year				Change
	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	
Associate	1,594	1,475	1,488	3,414	1,926
Bachelor	3,046	4,713	6,055	5,695	-360
Master	1,347	1,803	2,127	1,908	-219
Doctorate	167	20	60	48	-12
TOTAL	6,154	8,011	9,730	11,065	1,335

Source: Integrated Post Secondary Education Data System (IPEDS)

This Table shows the total number of degrees awarded annually in El Paso County at accredited postsecondary institutions and tracked by the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS). The jump in Associate degrees is due to the increased opportunities for online degrees.

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 associate'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

-Teacher Quality-

Teachers with Advanced Degrees

School District	School Year				% Change
	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	
Colorado Springs 11	53.0%	52.0%	61.7%	58.6%	-3.1%
Academy 20	54.0%	55.0%	52.9%	55.0%	2.1%
Harrison 2	41.0%	39.0%	40.8%	37.4%	-3.4%
Falcon 49	34.0%	33.0%	35.7%	33.6%	-2.1%
Widefield 3	43.0%	42.0%	44.1%	44.5%	0.4%
Fountain-Fort Carson 8	37.0%	39.0%	41.3%	52.1%	10.8%

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

Note: the final numbers of the next four charts are a weighted average based on district population

Overall Average by Teacher	School Year				% Change
	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	
Largest Six Districts	48.0%	47.0%	50.5%	48.8%	-1.7%
State of Colorado	48.0%	48.0%	50.2%	50.3%	0.1%

Why is This Important?

The caliber of the teachers in our community schools has a direct correlation to student performance and achievement.

Source: Colorado Department of Education

How are We Doing?

In El Paso County's six largest districts, approximately half of our teachers have advanced degrees.

Teacher Compensation

School District	School Year				\$ Change
	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	
Colorado Springs 11	\$44,411	\$44,388	\$44,914	\$46,065	\$1,151
Academy 20	\$40,889	\$41,068	\$43,310	\$44,227	\$917
Harrison 2	\$38,240	\$38,394	\$38,610	\$40,389	\$1,779
Falcon 49	\$38,391	\$38,351	\$38,716	\$40,615	\$1,899
Widefield 3	\$42,086	\$42,026	\$43,225	\$44,693	\$1,468
Fountain-Fort Carson 8	\$40,488	\$41,083	\$42,646	\$43,180	\$534

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

Why is This Important?

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 our children.

Overall Average by Teacher	School Year				% Change
	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	
Largest Six Districts	\$41,617	\$41,666	\$41,904	\$43,187	\$1,283
State of Colorado	\$43,965	\$44,456	\$45,831	\$47,493	\$1,662

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 \$1,283 from 2006-2007 to 2007-2008. Salaries in El Paso County continue to be lower than the average salaries in the State of Colorado. Nationally, Colorado ranks 26th for average salaries of public school teachers. Our student-teacher ratio in public K-12 schools is 16.9. This is a high number; only eight states have a higher ratio.

Potential for Action

We encourage and value advanced education for our teachers. The compensation for a teacher is lower than other occupations where advanced degrees are abundant.

-Educational Funding-

School Funding

Cost per Pupil General Fund Revenue*

School District	School Year				\$ Change
	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	
Colorado Springs 11	\$6,120	\$6,283	\$6,610	\$6,930	\$320
Academy 20	\$6,842	\$7,038	\$7,218	\$7,591	\$373
Harrison 2	\$6,657	\$7,042	\$7,365	\$7,816	\$451
Falcon 49	\$5,889	\$6,415	\$6,832	\$7,155	\$323
Widefield 3	\$6,399	\$6,465	\$6,462	\$6,977	\$515
Fountain-Fort Carson 8	\$7,385	\$8,807	\$7,778	\$7,923	\$145

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

Why is This Important?

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.

How are We Doing?

The annual amount of basic operating revenue available for each public student in El Paso

Overall Average by Student	School Year				% Change
	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	
Largest Six Districts	\$6,436	\$6,743	\$6,940	\$7,399	\$459
State of Colorado	\$7,228	\$7,327	\$7,687	\$8,887	\$1,200

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

County's six largest school districts increased in all districts, but by a very small percentage. The current expenditure per student in Colorado is ranked 29th in the nation.

Potential for Action

Increasing school funding would likely help all students, but especially those who are under-performing.

School districts that put bond issues on the ballot invest considerable time and money, so they only do this when they have a good case for funding. Most bond issues for school funding have not been approved by the voters. Here is a summary of the major school bond/tax issues for the six largest school districts:

2004 – Five issues on the ballot, one was approved by the voters

2005 – One ballot issue, it was approved

2006 – Three ballot issues, one was approved

2007 – Two ballot issues, neither were approved

2008 – Five ballot issues, two were approved



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

Photograph by Cathy Yeulet

Students in Need

Pre K-12 Students Eligible for Free/Reduced Cost Lunch

School District	School Year				% Change
	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	
Colorado Springs 11	40.0%	40.1%	44.5%	48.0%	3.5%
Academy 20	6.0%	5.9%	7.6%	9.4%	1.8%
Harrison 2	62.1%	61.1%	62.7%	65.9%	3.2%
Falcon 49	15.7%	15.0%	15.5%	16.8%	1.3%
Widefield 3	24.2%	26.4%	25.9%	27.4%	1.5%
Fountain-Fort Carson 8	34.1%	33.4%	36.4%	39.6%	3.2%

Overall Average by Student	School Year				% Change
	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	
Largest Six Districts	30.3%	30.3%	31.5%	33.6%	2.1%
State of Colorado	33.3%	33.7%	34.3%	35.4%	1.1%

Source: Colorado Department of Education

This Table 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.

Why is This Important?

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. When you look at how many children get a free or reduced lunch, consider what happens on weekends and during the summer.

How are We Doing?

A third of our K to 12 students qualifies for free or reduced lunch in El Paso County. In Harrison School District 2, well over half qualify. This indicator is showing increasing need and the need may increase further as we weather this challenging economic time.

Schools in the Southeast have the greatest number of students in need. This is the region that also has the lowest high school graduation rates (see page 67).

Potential for Action

The Education Vision Council believes that by focusing their efforts on reading readiness for children 0-5 we can start to break the cycle of need. The council plans to target their efforts in the Southeast region where we have the greatest potential for improvement.

We know that education impacts life expectancy, low birthweight, rates of murder, obesity, levels of income, rates of poverty, unemployment, children's reading proficiency, civic engagement, and incarceration. In short, education impacts our Quality of Life.

If you would like to help the Education Vision Council improve third-grade reading levels, leading to improvements in all these factors, please call (719) 634-7619.



Photograph by Cathy Yeulet

Enjoying Arts, Culture And Recreation

Chair

PAUL BUTCHER (Co-Chair)
City of Colorado Springs, Parks and Recreation

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

MATT MAYBERRY (Convener)
Colorado Springs Pioneers Museum

Researcher

SUMMER GREENWOOD
Pikes Peak Library District

Members

SEAN ANGLUM
Cheyenne Mountain Zoo

TUESDAY HESLOP
Colorado Springs World Arena/Pikes Peak Center

DREW MARTORELLA
UCCS Theatreworks

DOUGLAS MARTIN
State Games of America

CHARLIE SNYDER
Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center



Photograph courtesy of COPPeR

Photograph by Stefano Barni

Sponsored By:



Leadership Pikes Peak has taken a leadership role with the 2009 Quality of Life Indicators report and the Dream City Vision 2020 initiative. As we celebrate our 30th year of community leadership development classes, we applaud the contributions of our alumni to these projects and many others they have made successful over the years (such as the founding of COPPeR). Together we can accomplish great things.

P.O. Box 128
24 South Weber Street, Suite 135
Colorado Springs, CO 80901
(719) 632-2618
www.leadershippikespeak.org

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 contributing to our economy. The following indicators help us understand what arts, culture and recreational opportunities exist, how they are supported, and whether we participate.

There is ample opportunity for residents and visitors to participate in arts, culture and humanities events in the Pikes Peak region. In a recent survey, 89.6% of respondents said they felt they were offered the chance to engage in these types of activities locally, while 45% of respondents said they or a member of their family participated in cultural activities at least once a month. Tracking the number of cultural organizations and the attendance at these types of facilities directly relates to our community's quality of life. If these indicators are growing at least as quickly as the population, one can assume the community is maintaining current services to meet the needs of the public.

Parks, trails and other opportunities for both indoor and outdoor physical activities are main attractions for both residents and visitors to the Pikes Peak region. Our generally mild, dry climate provides ample opportunity to utilize outdoor spaces for recreation throughout the year. Additionally, these areas provide space for athletic activities that benefit the overall health of people in our community.

DEFINITIONS OF TERMS USED IN THIS SECTION:

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

Culture – Art museums, zoos and botanical gardens, nature parks, and other similar organizations

Humanities – History museums, historical sites, preservation organizations, and other similar groups

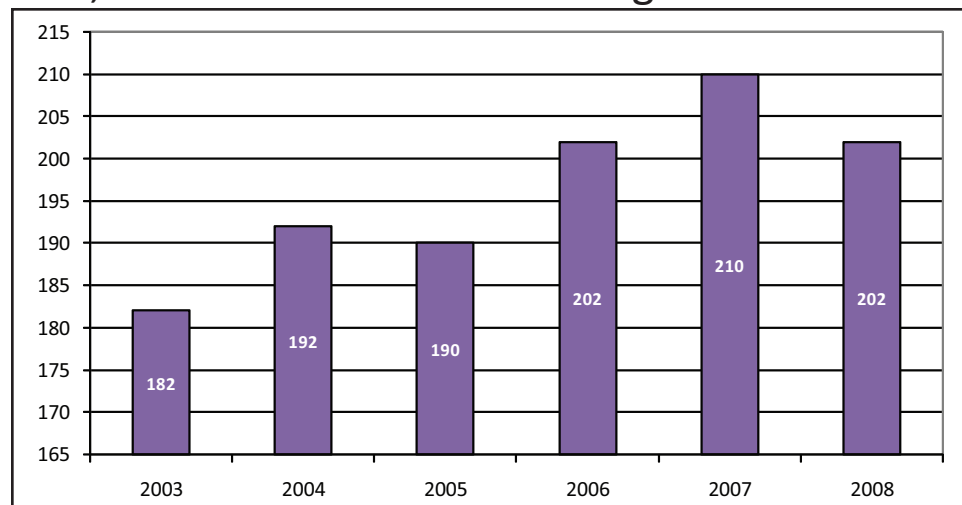


Photograph courtesy of COPPER

Visit our website: <http://pikespeakqualityoflife.org>

-Arts, Culture and Humanities Presence-

Arts, Culture and Humanities Organizations



Source: National Center for Charitable Statistics

This Chart shows the number of arts, culture and humanities organizations in El Paso County. The information is derived from the National Center for Charitable Statistics and is compiled from IRS files, state agencies and organizational listings, service organizations, and other data sources to create a master database.

While this gives an 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.

How are We Doing?

Every year since 2006, American Style magazine has named Colorado Springs among the top 25 arts destinations for midsize cities. Arts, culture and humanities organizations have shown strong growth in recent years that is consistent with the increases in population in the county. These non-profit organizations are especially susceptible to economic downturns and changes in funding streams. The decrease in numbers for 2008 may reflect this downturn. The ongoing recession may create critical pressure on these organizations both in terms of seeking funding and audiences.

The State of Colorado's Creative Economy, a 2008 report commissioned by the Colorado Council on the Arts, examined arts and creative businesses. The full report can be viewed at www.coloarts.org. Statewide, employment in creative enterprises alone is roughly four percent of the state's estimated 3.2 million jobs. Since 2002, employment in the state's creative enterprises increased by more than 8,000 jobs, or 7%, compared to a 6% growth in creative enterprise employment nationwide. Colorado's creative enterprise payroll earnings were about \$5 billion. For the purposes of this report, El Paso County was included in the thirteen-county south central region (El Paso, Teller, Park, Lake, Chaffee, Fremont, Saguache, Custer, Mineral, Rio Grande, Alamosa, Conejos and Costilla counties). Interestingly, roughly 65% of the 15,500 jobs in the creative economy for this region are located in El Paso County.

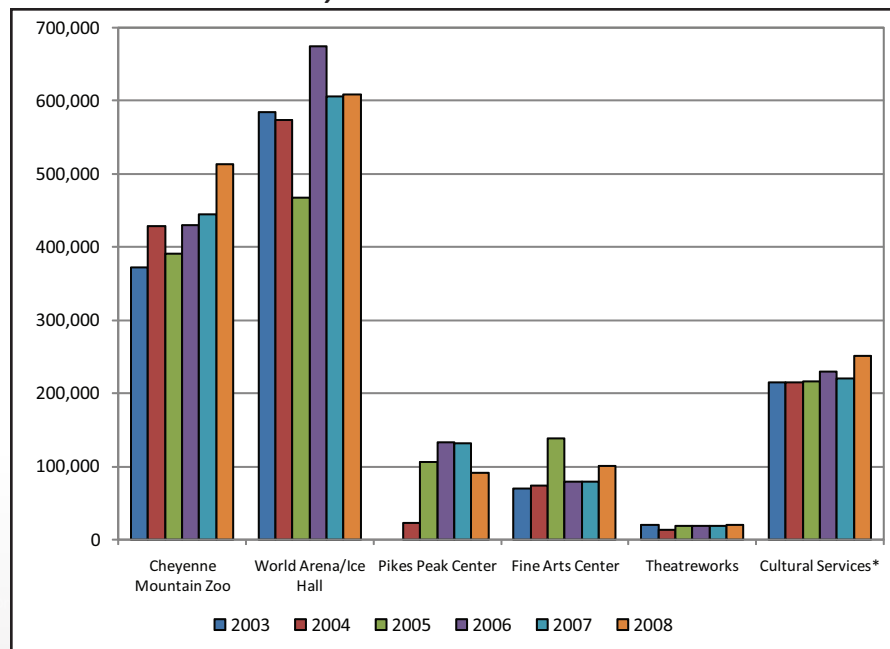
Potential for Action

The slight decline in Arts, Culture and Humanities organizations in the past year may indicate growing economic pressures on these groups as a result of the 2008 financial crisis. Continued decline in organization numbers should be of concern due to the integral part it plays in the region's quality of life and economic wellbeing.

Since 2006, the Cultural Office of the Pikes Peak Region (COPPeR) has been conducting ongoing research to more accurately determine the breadth and depth of arts and cultural opportunities. COPPeR will publish the second edition of The COPPeR Pages in 2009, 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 also researches the numerous arts available in our community, and offers an online calendar, www.PeakRadar.com.

Local Venue Attendance

Annual Attendance by Venue



Source: Statistics from Cheyenne Mountain Zoo, World Arena, Pikes Peak Center, Fine Arts Center, Theatreworks, and Cultural Services (Pioneers Museum, Rock Ledge Ranch, Starsmore, Helen Hunt Falls, Garden of the Gods)

The first Chart shows the total annual attendance at the following venues: Cheyenne Mountain Zoo, World Arena/ Ice Hall, Pikes Peak Center for the Performing Arts, UCCS Theatreworks, Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center, and the facilities operated by the City's Cultural Services Division.

The second Chart provides the cumulative attendance data for all venues.

Why is This Important?

Colorado Springs has a vibrant arts and culture community. The Cultural Office of the Pikes Peak Region (COPPeR) and their web site PeakRadar.com lists hundreds of arts and cultural events. Many of these activities take place outside of traditional ticketed venues and thus do not generate admission and visitation statistics. Though the

numbers represented here don't tell the whole story, they do represent a depth and breadth in the ways in which arts and culture touch the lives of community residents and visitors.

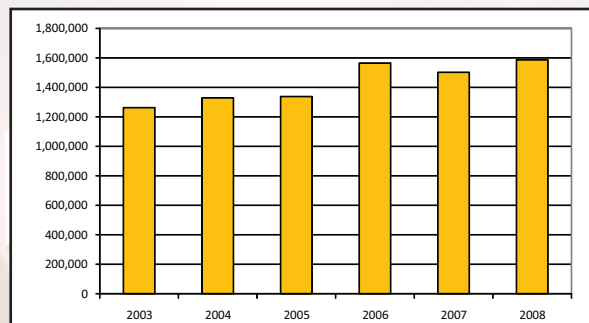
How are We Doing?

The 2008 visitation statistics show strong growth in attendance despite the economic downturn. In fact, this increase is directly related to "Staycations," the trend for families to vacation in their own communities and/or within a day's drive of home due to the high price of gasoline in 2008. At the Cheyenne Mountain Zoo, for instance, out-of-state visits were off by 7%, but there were huge increases in attendance from up and down the Front Range. "Staycations are for real, we saw it," said Sean Anglum, the Zoo's public relations and special events manager. Similar increases can be seen at Cultural Services sites.

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. There is concern, however, about the impact a prolonged recession will have on the ability for arts and cultural agencies to thrive, effectively market their services, and maintain participation levels.

Total Attendance at all Venues



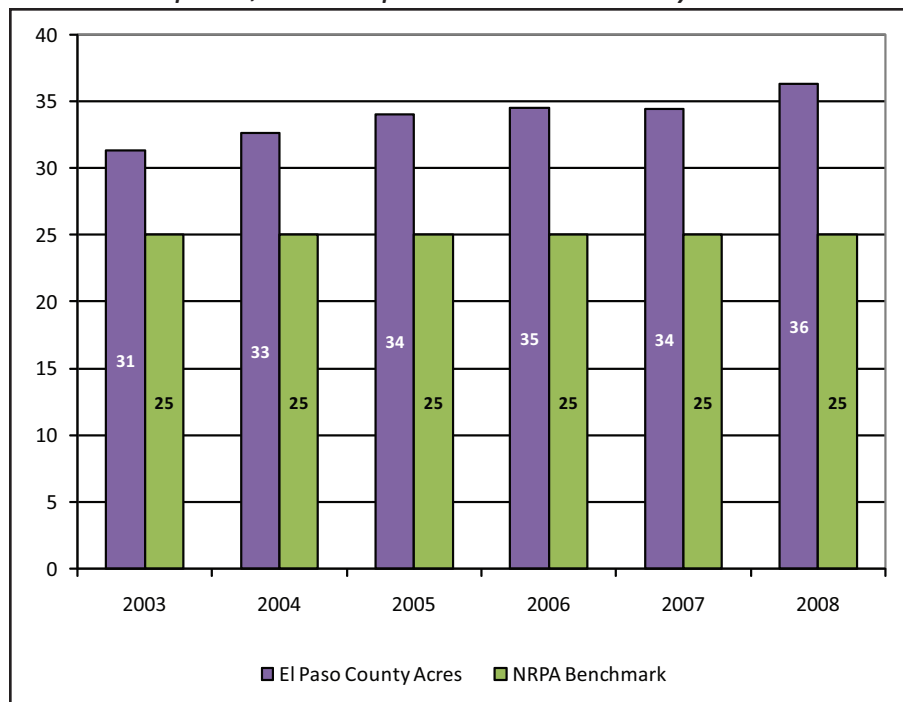
Source: Same as prior chart

Photograph courtesy of COPPeR

-Recreation Presence-

Parks Acreage

Park Acres per 1,000 People in El Paso County



Source: City of Colorado Springs Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services and El Paso County Parks and Natural Resources

This Chart shows park acreage per 1,000 people. Acreage includes regional, community, and neighborhood parks as well as sports complexes and open spaces. The national benchmark for park acreage per thousand is set by the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA).

Why is This Important?

Parks and open space are a key element of what makes Colorado Springs unique and attractive to both residents and tourists. It is also a critical factor in maintaining a healthy population and vibrant economy.

How are We Doing?

As a whole, total park acres showed a healthy increase within the Pikes Peak region. While the County has had to significantly curtail acquisition of land in the last two years due to budget

reductions, 2009 statistics will show the addition of nearly 1,070 acres by mid year.

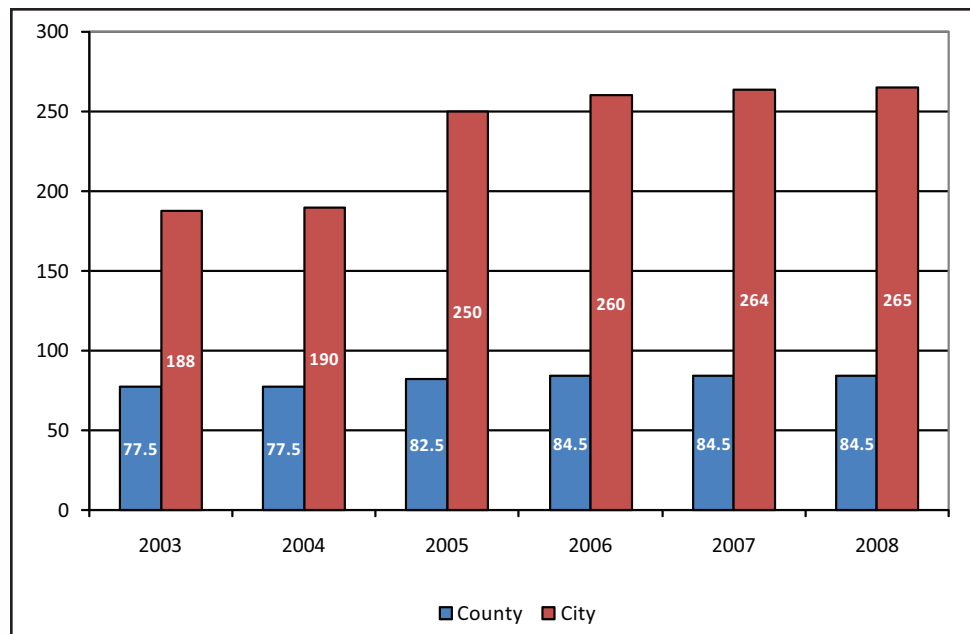
Growth in the City of Colorado Springs park acres relates almost exclusively to the ability to acquire land through the Trails, Open Space and Parks (TOPS) .01% sales tax. Passed in 1997 and extended in 2003, the TOPS tax generates approximately \$6.0 million annually, of which no less than 60% must be spent on open space purchases. The city's Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services Department, with input from the public, has developed a prioritized plan for open space acquisitions. In 2008, purchase of the first phase of Corral Bluffs Open Space and the Top of Cheyenne Mountain added 605 acres to the City's park land inventory.

Potential for Action

Due to the recession, both the City of Colorado Springs and El Paso County face significant challenges to fund the acquisition, development and maintenance of parks and open space. Stable funding must be found in order to continue adding new parks to the system and to keep existing parks green and inviting.

Miles of Trails in Parks and Open Spaces

Total Trail Miles



Source: City of Colorado Springs Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services and El Paso County Parks and Natural Resources

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.

Why is This Important?

Trails provide recreational opportunities for both visitors and residents of the community. They play an important role in keeping our citizens fit and healthy and create an attractive draw for our tourist economy. Commuter trails also help reduce traffic and congestion on the roadways.

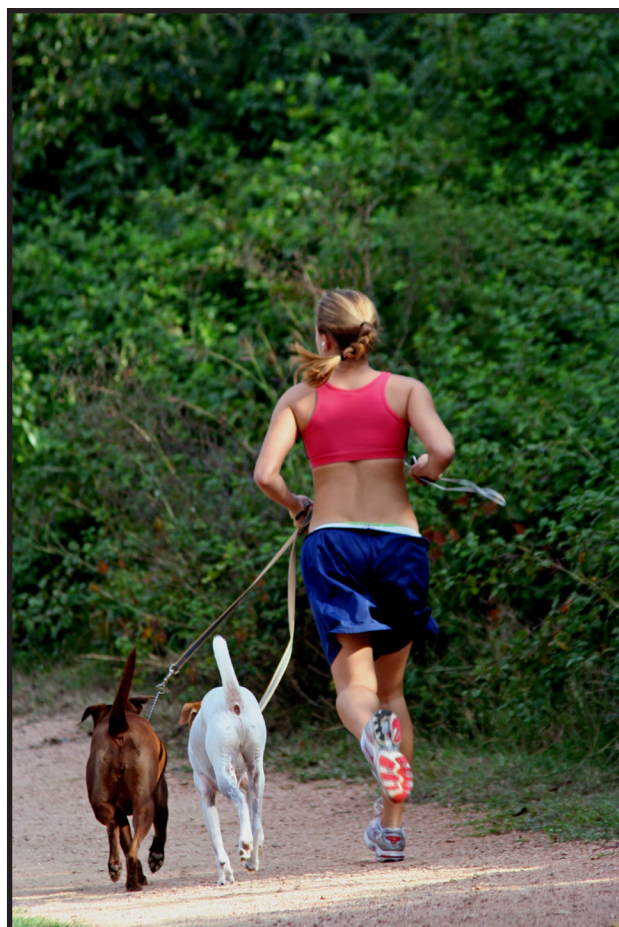
How are We Doing?

Progress on the construction of the regional trails system continues though not at the pace of the years 2004 – 2007. Emphasis has been placed on trail right-of-way acquisitions, with priority given to parcels that provide connections between existing trails. One major corridor, on the abandoned Rock Island Railroad land, will provide access through the Banning-Lewis Ranch development and serve as a major east-west spine trail.

Note: Significant differences between 2004 trail statistics and 2005 statistics are a result of the reclassification and addition of pedestrian routes into the City's three-tiered ranking system.

Potential for Action

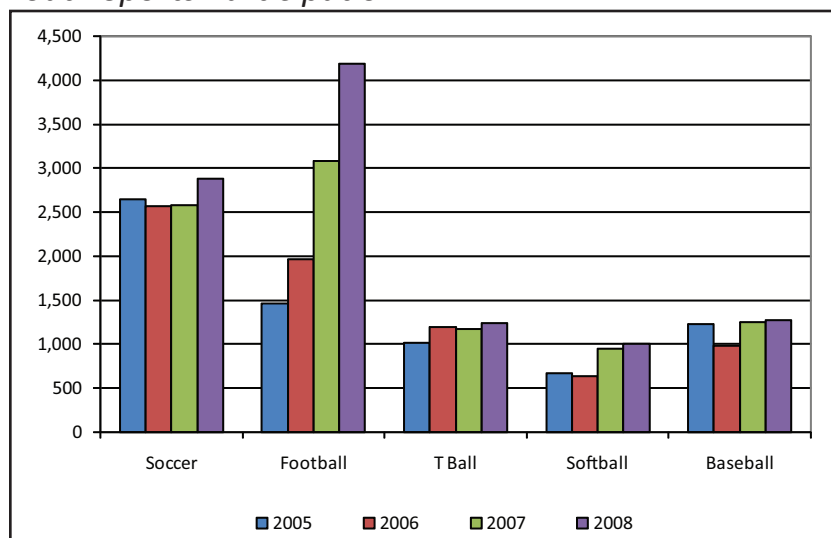
The community will continue to utilize funding from the Trails, Open Space and Parks tax to acquire trail corridors and create greater connectivity within the trails system.



Photograph by Cheryl Empey

Participation in Recreational Activities

Youth Sports Participation



Source: City of Colorado Springs Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services

These two Charts show the total participation in youth and adult sports sponsored but the city of Colorado Springs.

These numbers don't include participation in private clubs or high school sponsored sports.

Why is This Important?

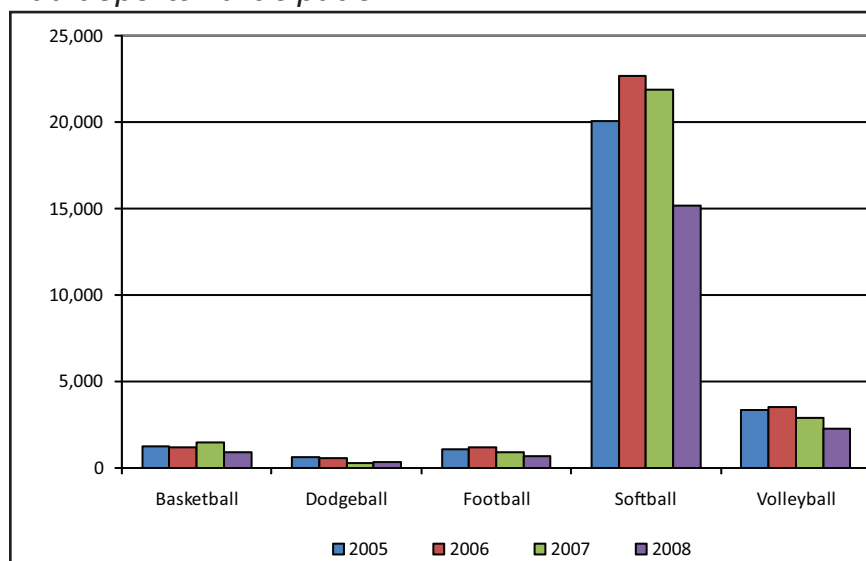
The availability of youth and adult sports opportunities is one measure of a healthy community. These activities also encourage community engagement.

How are We Doing - Youth Sports?

Despite a slowing economy and the price of fuel in 2008, all youth sports programs offered by the Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services Department show consistent growth.

Football continues to be an extraordinarily popular youth sport, growing from 1,459 participants in 2005 to nearly 4,200 participants in 2008. Part of this expansion can be attributed to the program's low cost and the absence of other public and private organizations offering organized football. Potentially a limiting factor in the future will be the City's ability to provide sufficient fields for game day competitions.

Adult Sports Participation



Source: City of Colorado Springs Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services

Colorado Springs Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services continues its philosophy of being a skill-building, all-inclusive, "everyone plays" organization. Program fees are kept at a minimum and scholarship opportunities are available to anyone showing a need for assistance. All sports programs are operated under adult volunteer leadership and the community responds well each year to meet this need.

How are We Doing - Adult Sports?

2008 showed a sharp decline in participation in adult sports. The most notable drop was in adult softball, though all adult sports fell significantly below 2005 levels. The Colorado Springs Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services Department (PRCS) attributes the economic conditions in the community and the high cost of fuel during the peak sports season as factors in the overall decline. The Department also speculates that many adults placed a higher priority on the recreational needs of their children and thereby spent their discretionary time and financial resources supporting youth sports programs.

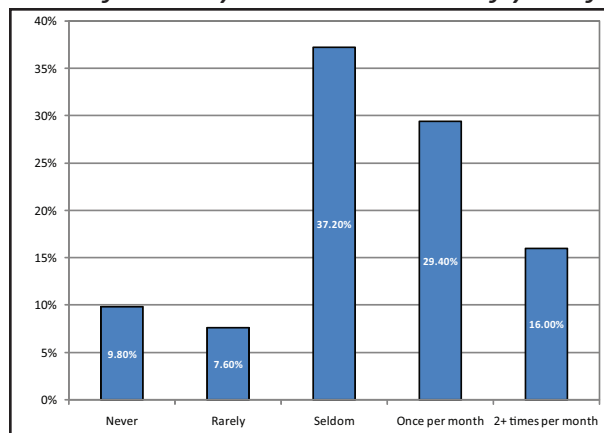
The PRCS Department anticipates 2009 will be a rebound year, though adult fees were raised to cover increased program expenses. One factor in the rise or decline of adult sports will be the cost to the City to maintain high quality sports fields.

Potential for Action

The community must find additional financial resources to irrigate sports fields in order to maintain safe and attractive conditions.

-2009 QLI Survey Responses-

How often do you or members of your family participate in arts and cultural activities?



Source: 2009 QLI Community Visioning Survey

This Chart shows the responses of people surveyed when asked about their families' participation in arts and cultural activities. Arts and cultural activities include concerts, plays, art exhibits, museum trips, and attending festivals.

Why is This Important?

This is important because it shows the level and regularity to which families in the Pikes Peak Region participate in cultural activities.

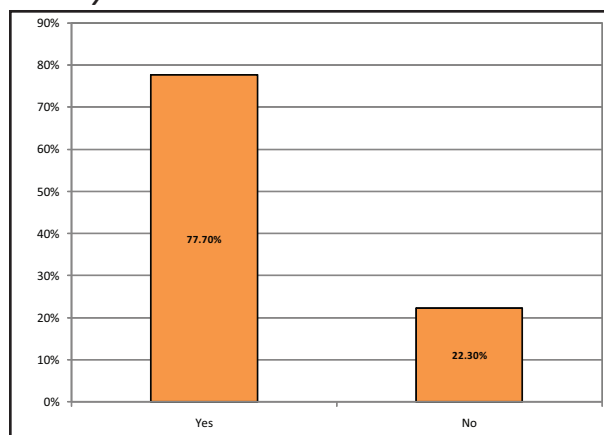
How are We Doing?

In 2009, 45% of respondents said they or one of their family members attended at least one cultural activity per month. This is strong participation, but it shows room for improvement.

Potential for Action

People who participate in cultural activities are better engaged in the community and increased participation will result in a more informed citizenry. This action can be accomplished in part through better marketing opportunities and enhancing existing communication methods, such as PeakRadar. The community should set a goal of only 5% of the population having never attended these types of events, effectively reducing the current percentage by half. It should also strive to increase the number of people that attend events on a regular basis.

Does your child receive arts education as part of their regular curriculum?



Source: 2009 QLI Community Visioning Survey

This Chart shows the percentage of parents who responded that arts education was or was not a part of their children's regular school curriculum.

Why is This Important?

A recent study by the Colorado Council on the Arts shows that public schools offering more arts education have higher academic achievement and lower drop out rates.

How are We Doing?

A survey of the community conducted in early 2009 shows that 77.7% of parents with school age children responded "yes" to the question: "Does your child receive arts education as part of their regular curriculum?" In 2008, District 11 opened the Galileo School, a math and science magnet school that infuses mandatory

performing arts education programs provided by the faculty of the Colorado Springs Conservatory. This innovative and unprecedented private/public collaboration is breaking new ground for the benefit of students and families throughout our community. Integrating math and science with the arts builds upon an enormous amount of research indicating the ability of music and creative studies to enhance interpersonal skills; heighten spatial awareness and intelligence; improve concentration and speech abilities; advance reading and language proficiency; and significantly increase SAT scores.

Potential for Action

According to the Colorado Council for the Arts study, 75% of school principals say the biggest obstacle to providing arts education is the limited amount of time available due to CSAP preparation and testing. The arts community needs to work with school teachers and administrators to find innovative ways of infusing art into the traditional core curricula of math, reading and science.

Moving Around Efficiently

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El Paso County Board of Commissioners

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Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments

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Metro Rides, City of Colorado Springs

BARD LOWER
City of Colorado Springs

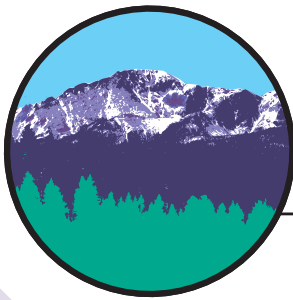
DAVE MUNGER
Old North End Neighborhood

TERRY STORM
Pikes Peak Association of Realtors



Photograph by Dave Gotisha

Sponsored By



Pikes Peak Area
Council of Governments

Communities Working Together

The Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments was designated the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Colorado Springs metro area in 1977 and is a voluntary association of 15 municipal and county governments serving a regional community. PPACG works to ensure that local governments have a forum to discuss issues that cross their political boundaries, identify shared opportunities and challenges, and develop collaborative strategies for action. The PPACG Transportation Program's mission is to develop a consolidated framework for a safe, efficient transportation system that serves the mobility and accessibility needs as essential elements of the Pikes Peak region. For more information, please visit www.ppacg.org.

15 South 7th Street, Colorado Springs, CO 80905
719-471-7080
www.ppacg.org

What does transportation have to do with your quality of life? Actually, quite a lot. Surveys¹ have shown that reducing the time people spend in cars is one of the quickest and most effective ways to improve their quality of life. Transportation touches every facet of our lives and when any part of the transportation system breaks down, we feel the impact immediately.

It is well documented that investment in our transportation system is vital to *Growing a Vibrant Economy* because transportation improvements lead to increased and more efficient economic activity. Investment in specialized transit can help in *Promoting Social Wellbeing* by preventing social isolation of otherwise home-bound people. *Preserving our Natural Environment* requires minimizing habitat fragmentation and destruction from transportation infrastructure. *Sustaining a Healthy Community* includes providing walking and bicycling facilities because communities without pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure experience much higher rates of obesity and stress.² *Keeping the Community Safe* includes reducing injuries and deaths from crashes. In the Pikes Peak region, the deaths from traffic accidents equal deaths from crime in a year. Finally, with our scenery and climate, transportation can be recreation.

According to the 2007 *Texas Transportation Institute report*, Colorado Springs is the 70th largest city in the country, and the 42nd most congested. More specifically, we are the most congested city under 500,000 in the country, with the congestion experienced here typical of a city twice our size. Transportation costs are also our second highest expenditures, to housing.³ The yearly cost of congestion in the Pikes Peak area is \$492 per person, while the cost of shabby roads and bridges increases our yearly maintenance costs by an average of \$250 per vehicle.

For decades, communities and regions have addressed housing, economic development; transportation, and

community as completely separate issues. Government and community agencies and departments are devoted to addressing single issues. However, it is possible to plan in ways that benefit local economies, provide housing that people can afford and reduce our reliance on our cars, all while improving the quality of our lives. This collaborative planning requires commitment to communication and coordination and evaluating the trade-offs that lead to the best overall solution, not the best transportation solution that also is the worst for the community. Over time, if we build more housing closer to where people work, shop and recreate, pay attention to transportation when we are developing our economies, and give people alternative ways to get where they want to go, we may find that we spend less time in our cars and more time doing important things, like enjoying life.



Photograph by Don Stott

During the extensive community outreach used to develop *Moving Forward*, the Regional Transportation Plan for the Pikes Peak Region, residents developed the following vision for our transportation system:

“Create a pre-eminent multi-modal transportation system that meets regional mobility and accessibility expectations as essential elements of the Pikes Peak area’s quality of life.”

It is this regionally collaborated statement that will help guide the investment in our multi-modal transportation facilities and services to efficiently move people and goods, support economic vitality, and sustain and improve the quality of life in the Pikes Peak region.

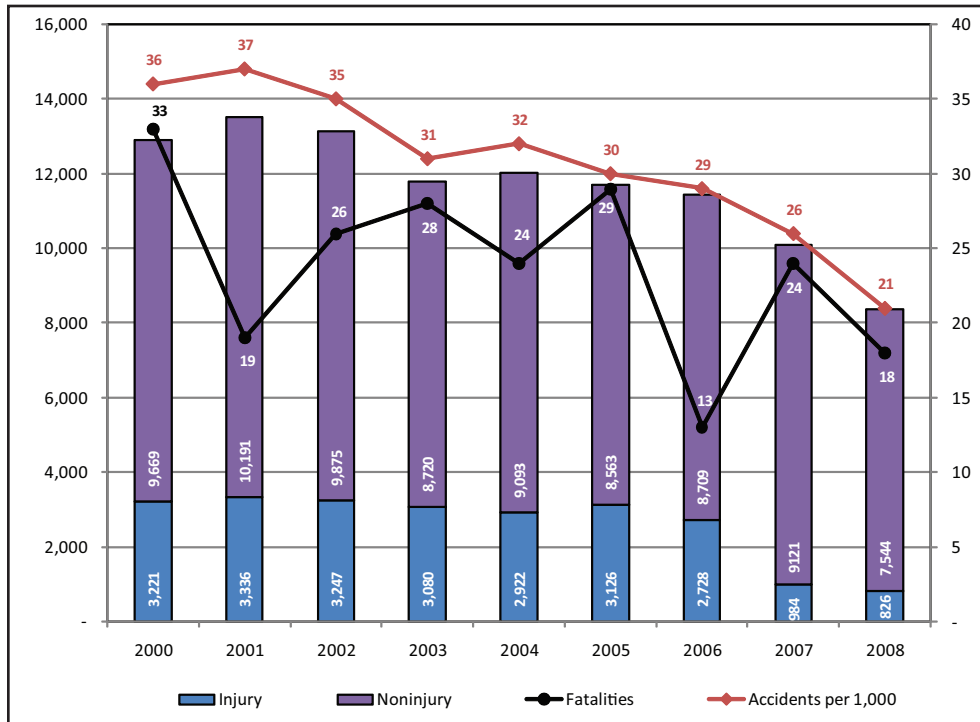
1 <http://www.massinc.org/index.php?id=596>; http://www.psychotron.org.uk/resources/environmental/A2_OCR_env_commute.pdf; www.bestworkplaces.org/coorkit/files/step4/newsletter_san_francisco_campaign.doc

2 <http://www.urbanhabitat.org/node/322>

3 <http://www.bls.gov/cex/csxstnd.htm>

-Getting Around Safely-

Automobile Accidents in Colorado Springs



Source: Colorado Springs Police Department

This Chart shows the total annual number of accidents in Colorado Springs.

Why is This 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 Million Vehicle Miles Traveled (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").

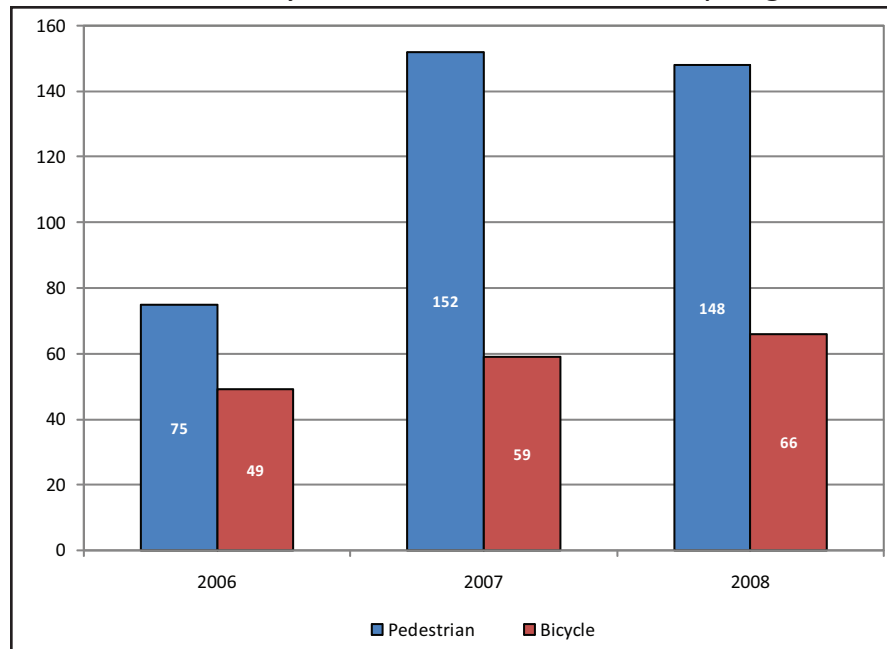
A new framework called Safety Conscious Planning replaces the fractured, narrow approach to safety as a purely engineering or enforcement concern by integrating safety concerns into planning at all levels. Safety Conscious Planning is a comprehensive, system-wide, multi-modal, proactive process:

- **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.

Photograph by Daron Cooke

Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety

Pedestrian and Bicycle Accidents in Colorado Springs



Source: Colorado Springs Police Department

These charts show the number of crashes involving a vehicle and either a pedestrian or a pedal bicycle, including injuries and fatalities. Accident reports involving automobiles are only one measure of the safety of walking or biking. Injuries due to unsafe or inadequate infrastructure also occur.

Why is This Important?

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.

How are We Doing?

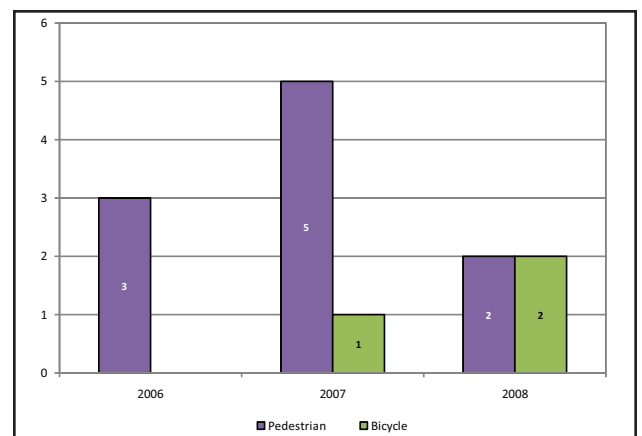
In 2007, Colorado Springs was awarded a Silver-level Bicycle-Friendly Community Award by the League of American Bicyclists.

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 were planned for installation in 2008.

The number of bicycles carried by buses, including the Front Range Express Bus (FREX), has increased steadily since 2004.

Reported pedestrian accidents increased dramatically from 75 in 2006 to 152 in 2007, and leveled off at 148 for 2008. There is an upward trend in reported accidents involving bicyclists. There were three fewer pedestrian fatalities in 2008 than in 2007, while bicyclist fatalities increased from one in 2007 to two in 2008.

Pedestrian and Bicycle Fatalities in Colorado Springs



Source: Colorado Springs Police Department

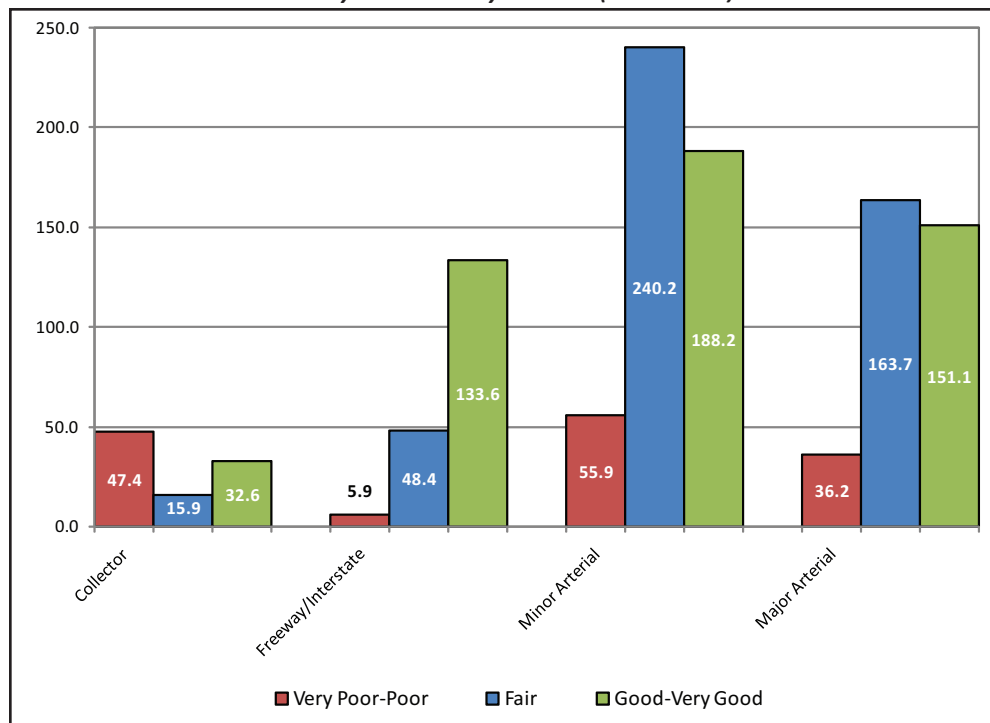
Potential for Action

Increasing motor vehicle driver awareness and safety training for bicyclists and pedestrians can help improve these numbers. 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.

-Infrastructure Maintenance and Preservation-

Condition of Pavement and Bridges

Pavement Condition by Roadway Class (in Miles)



Source: Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments

This Chart shows the quality of paved roads in El Paso County and the City of Colorado Springs in 2007 as measured by the Pavement Management Application adopted in late 1990's.

Why is This Important?

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 Minnesota 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?

Five significant capital projects were completed in 2008: Austin Bluffs Parkway Interchange at Union Boulevard; Cimarron Street Bridge Replacement; Constitution Avenue and Circle Drive Intersection Reconstruction; South Academy Improvements Project – Phases I and II; and the Baptist Road Widening Project. The 2009 construction season will see the following projects getting under way: Woodmen Road Corridor Improvements; Intersection Improvements at El Paso and Fillmore Streets; and the PPRTA Phase 2 Manitou Avenue Capital Improvement Project.

Potential for Action

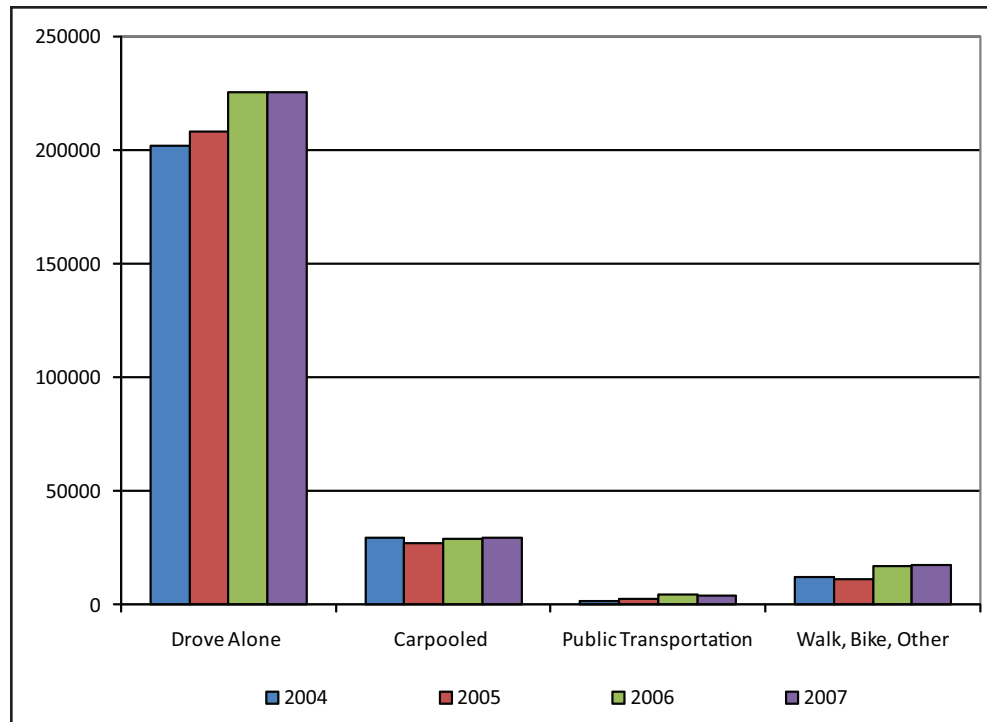
We need to invest more in maintenance while simultaneously conducting preventative maintenance. Even with the added funding from the Pikes Peak Rural Transportation Authority (PPRTA) we can't afford to do this because the lane miles that need to be maintained are expanding much faster than is our ability (funding) to maintain them.

Bridge Condition	Total in County
Good	409
Fair	18
Poor	30
TOTAL	457

Source: Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments

-Daily Travel-

Travel Mode



Source: TTI Urban Mobility Report

This Chart shows how many people used a particular mode of travel as their primary means of transportation.

Modes of travel are methods people use for transportation to work. Automobiles, public transit, bicycles, and pedestrian services are expected to remain the primary mobility options for the near future in the Pikes Peak region.

Why is This 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.

MOVING AROUND EFFICIENTLY

How are We Doing?

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 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.

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.

Potential for Action

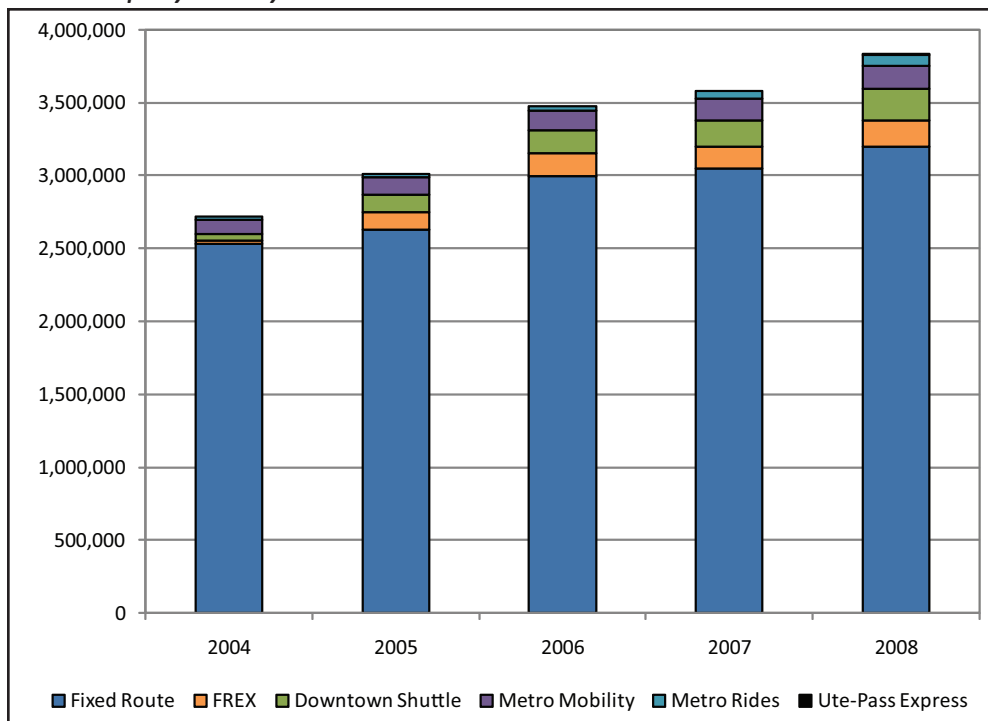
To create a more balanced transportation system, alternatives that are competitive to the private automobile are necessary. The addition of new bicycle and pedestrian facilities (trails, lanes, shoulders, sidewalks) will help to complete missing links and expand the existing network, thereby providing enhanced commuting opportunities. An effective and efficient public transportation system is what attracts discretionary riders. These are riders who have a choice in how they commute to work or school. Most often if the transit system is not convenient, reliable, or timely, the public will drive their automobile if they are able. As is currently the case in the Pikes Peak region, the existing transit system is not attracting enough potential riders out of their automobiles, resulting in more people choosing to drive alone. The region needs an improved public transportation system that can effectively and efficiently offer commuters a choice.

	2007 Population	Mode of Travel (by Metro Statistical Area)			
		Drive Alone	Carpool	Public Transport	Walk, Bike, Other
Colorado Springs, CO	302,328	76.9%	10.3%	1.3%	6.0%
Salt Lake City	541,547	75.3%	13.0%	3.1%	3.6%
Charleston, SC	302,778	81.4%	8.5%	1.6%	4.4%
Albuquerque, NM	382,720	78.0%	11.9%	1.6%	4.2%
Omaha, NE	423,731	82.7%	9.2%	0.7%	2.8%

Source: 2007 American Community Survey

Public Transportation Use

Ridership by Entity



This Chart shows ridership by Mountain Metropolitan Transit operating entity, which includes fixed-route service, the Front Range Express (FREX) to Denver, Downtown Area Shuttle (DASH), special needs services, and Metro Rides, an alternative transportation program. The Ute Pass Express is a new transit service that began operating on November 10, 2008.

Why is This Important?

As gas prices continue to rise, an efficient transit system can provide an effective alternative to personal car trips for residents who must commute to work everyday. Transit systems become more efficient as population density increases, and well-

planned systems help to encourage development along sustainable service corridors. Efficient transit systems reduce traffic congestion, decrease fuel consumption, and limit emissions, resulting in a healthier environment.

How are We Doing?

The implementation of PPRTA has allocated dedicated funding for bus service in the Pikes Peak region. However, the decline in sales tax revenue has forced a cutback in funding for transit projects at the same time that demand for an increase in public transit has increased.

	2005	2006	2007	2008
Vehicle Revenue Miles	2,883,233	3,390,229	3,441,970	3,653,475
Vehicle Revenue Hours	168,639	210,934	213,991	242,088

Source: Mountain Metropolitan Transit/National Transit Database

Potential for Action

Encouraging higher-density development and re-development is an important step in achieving the public's stated goal of improving mobility in the Pikes Peak region. The type, form, and location of residential and commercial development are important factors that impact how many potential users live in close proximity to public transportation facilities. In order for transit to be efficient, effective, financially feasible, and an appropriate alternative to the private automobile, land use densities need to be increased.

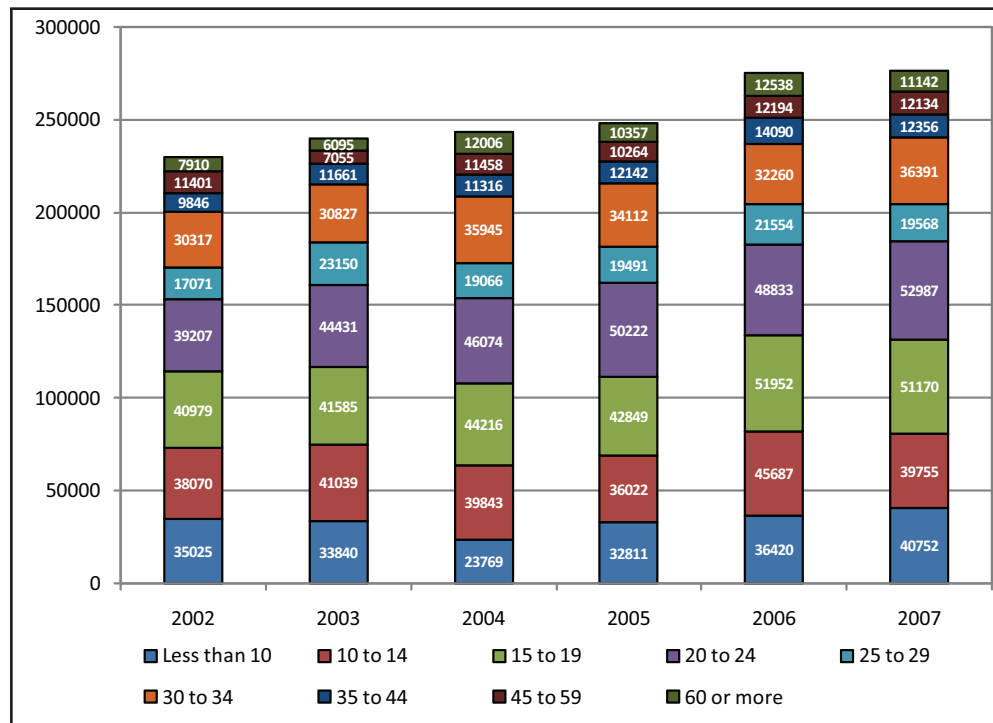
There is growing interest in providing alternative modes of transportation, with a funded feasibility study of a streetcar/trolley running from downtown to UCCS taking place, and possibly reinstating the Downtown Area Shuttle (DASH) with a small rider fee.

	2005	2006	2007	2008
Bikes on MMT Fixed Routes	52,683	62,587	64,940	76,989
Bikes on FREX Buses	N/A	2,191	2,587	2,500*
TOTAL	52,683	64,778	67,527	79,489
*2008 figure is an estimate. Due to malfunctioning fare boxes, only 4th quarter data was accurately collected				

Source: Mountain Metropolitan Transit

Commute Time

Travel Minutes to Work



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

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

Why is This Important?

Traffic congestion is a major quality of life issue. Congestion is caused by more cars, farther commutes and increasing Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) 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.

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 commute 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).

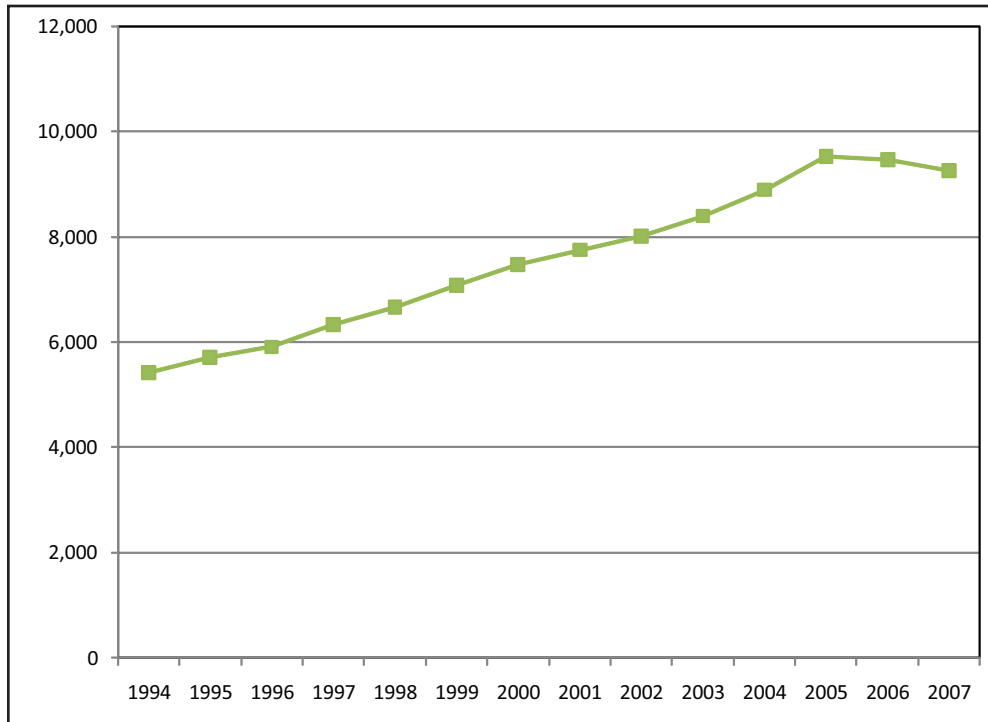
Potential for Action

In addition to building new interchanges where major arterials cross as an attempt to improve traffic flow throughout the region, travel time to work can be held steady or even decreased if high-density and infill land use development patterns are implemented. These actions will allow residents to travel on a more efficient roadway system while providing opportunities for citizens to live closer to where they work.



Photograph by Nicole Kotschate

Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT)



Source: Texas Transportation Institute

This Chart This chart shows the daily vehicle-miles of travel (DVMT) in Colorado Springs. DVMT is the average daily traffic of a section of roadway multiplied by the length (in miles) of that section of roadway. These figures were estimated for freeways and principal arterials in the Colorado Springs urbanized area.

Why is This Important?

Data gathered by measuring VMT 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 developments increase at an equal or greater rate.

Land-use development and transportation planning are 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. Presently, the low-density development pattern in the Pikes Peak region requires the use of an automobile for most of life's 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.

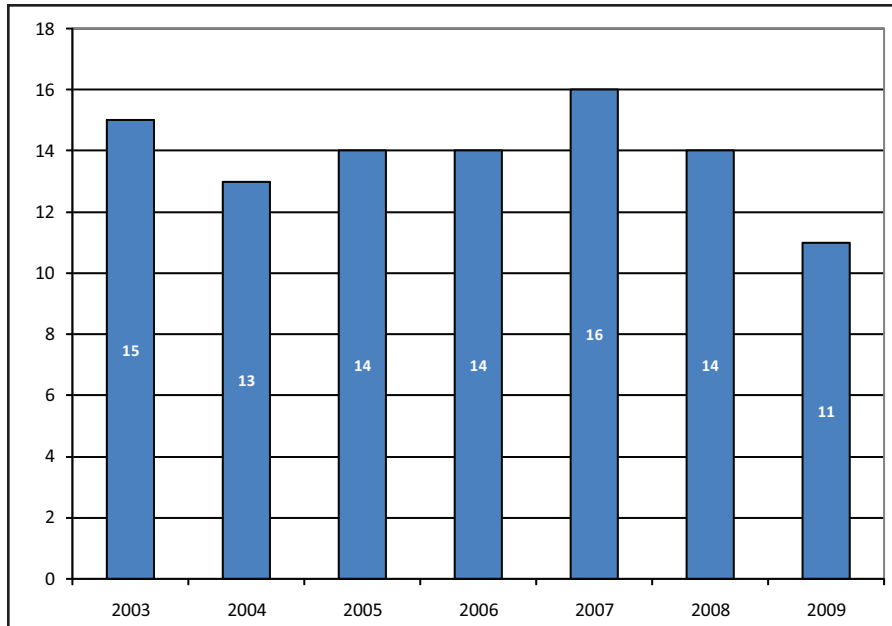
Potential for Action

Developments that are designed solely for automobile circulation limit residents' ability to use alternative modes of transportation. The increase of VMT can be slowed if high-density and infill land use development patterns are implemented throughout the region.

-Alternative Modes of Travel-

Airport Usage

Cities with Non-stop Service From Colorado Springs



Source: Colorado Springs Airport

This Chart shows the number of cities reachable by a non-stop flight from the Colorado Springs Airport.

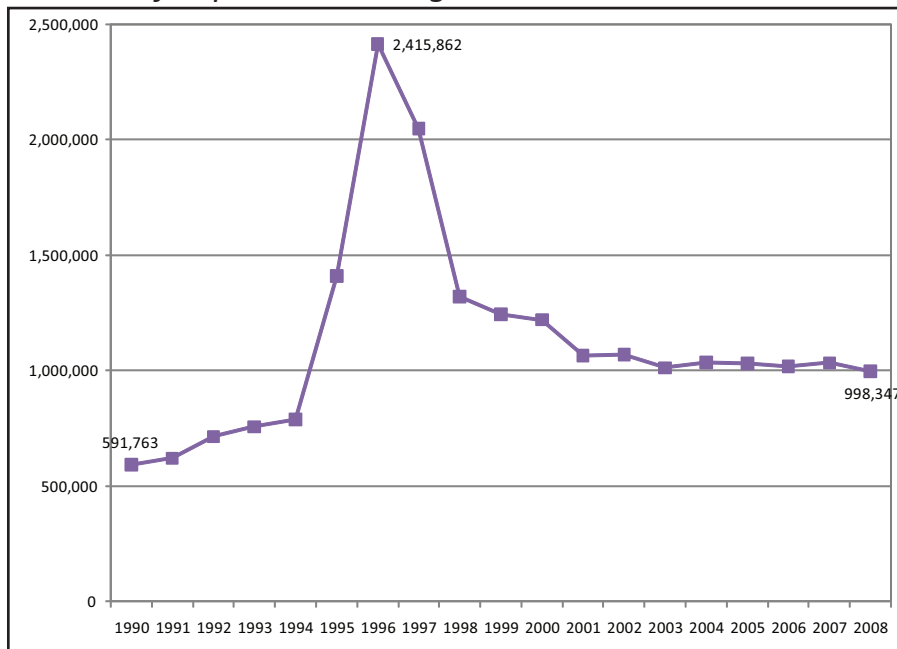
Why is This Important?

Increased air service contributes to the local economy. Enhancing the number of cities directly accessible from Colorado Springs makes the Pikes Peak region more attractive as a commercial and industrial center to more employers. Attraction of non-stop service between Colorado Springs and the nation's primary business and recreation markets should be a top air service development priority. Development of efficient connecting service through the nation's primary air transportation hubs is also essential as a means of improving access to secondary markets. The attraction of low fare service is a key element of any air service development strategy to keep downward price pressure in the local market.

How are We Doing?

Colorado Springs has seen a drop in the number of non-stop routes over the past year due to a nationwide effort by all airlines to reduce capacity in response to the economic downturn. While the trends in Colorado Springs are consistent with other small markets around the nation, the impact on commercial activity has the potential for being significant, and should be addressed to the extent practicable.

Number of Enplaned Passengers



Source: Colorado Springs Airport

Potential for Action

The Airport should work closely with all airlines to identify and aggressively pursue opportunities for new non-stop and connecting service to cities not easily accessible from Colorado Springs. The Airport should continue to emphasize the attraction of new low fare service, and constantly explore new strategies that encourage the airlines to maximize their presence in the Colorado Springs market.

2007 Enplaned Passengers

Colorado Springs, CO	1,040,879
Charleston, SC	1,145,129
Wichita, KS	795,535
El Paso, TX	1,669,792
Albuquerque, NM	3,239,096
Tulsa, OK	1,621,017
Omaha, NE	2,162,954

Source: Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments

Keeping the Community Safe

Chair

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Colorado Springs Police Department

STEVEN DUBAY (Convener)

Researcher

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Pikes Peak Library District

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Gay and Lesbian Fund for Colorado

MAILE GRAY
DriveSmart

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Public Safety Sales Tax Oversight Committee

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PAT RUFFINI
Colorado Springs Teen Court

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American Medical Response

DEIRDRE SCHANEMAN
El Paso County Bar Association

CARI SHAFFER
ADD STAFF, Inc.

MARY JO STRASSBURG-ALDAL
Colorado Springs Police Department



Photograph courtesy of Colorado Springs Police Department

Our quality of life is related to our safety at home and in the community. El Paso County is protected by multiple law enforcement agencies, fire and emergency medical services, and a highly effective criminal justice system. A variety of prevention and intervention programs provide education and rehabilitation in the Pikes Peak Region.

While updating public safety indicators for this publication, alcohol and drug abuse kept surfacing as a common denominator to the negative aspects of our community. Within “Keeping the Community Safe,” substance abuse permeated nearly every quality of life indicator. It is apparent that other sections such as “Promoting Social Wellbeing” and “Sustaining a Healthy Community” are also negatively influenced by alcohol and drug abuse. This is a “root cause of a community problem” and is up to the entire community to tackle if we are to make our Pikes Peak Region the best place to live with the highest possible quality of life.

Public Safety:

A community’s crime rate is impacted by many factors including jobs, wages, education levels, crime prevention, and funding for prevention strategies. DUI, juvenile crime, traffic fatalities, and repeat offenders all impact prevention, enforcement, and victimization.

Substance abuse permeates all aspects of public safety. EPSO statistics indicate that approximately 85% of those incarcerated in El Paso County have some type of chemical dependency. Division of Youth Corrections statistics reveal that approximately 60% of incarcerated youth have drug or alcohol problems and 70% have mental health issues. Offering all inmates substance abuse and mental health treatment, life skills, and job training are prevention measures that can reduce the number of victims and the cost of incarceration.

It is the responsibility of any community to ensure equitable and effective public safety for all citizens. The number of law enforcement calls impacts service levels and response times. The crime rate and subsequent need for service is impacted by public safety strategies employed to prevent crime. Joint fire/emergency medical service response times are critical to saving lives while the risk of structural fires is reduced and firefighter safety is increased by regular fire safety inspections.

Safety in the Home and Neighborhood:

Citizen satisfaction is an important indicator of how successful local government is in providing public safety and is measured by perception of neighborhood safety.

Child abuse is an act or omission that threatens the health or welfare of a child, to include physical, sexual, or emotional abuse; inadequate food, clothing, shelter, medical care, or supervision; an injurious environment; or exposure to controlled substances. Child abuse can

result in serious bodily injury and death.

Domestic violence is a pattern of abusive behavior (emotional, verbal, physical, or sexual) used to establish power and control over another person through fear, intimidation and use of violence. Domestic violence can escalate into homicide.

Pet abuse correlates to child abuse and domestic violence. Preventing pet abuse lowers the prevalence of child abuse and domestic violence.

In Conclusion:

The greater Colorado Springs community is not alone in experiencing growing pains associated with population growth and an unprecedented economic downturn. The quality of life in El Paso County continues to revolve around citizen willingness to take responsibility for personal and community safety while continually finding ways to effectively identify and address issues that arise.

Looking toward the future, youth services (such as Colorado Springs Teen Court, the Youth Transformation Center, and FutureSelf) offer prevention and intervention programs for El Paso County youth based on the philosophy of leadership development and restorative justice.

The Teen Court provides an alternative to Municipal Court sentencing for first-time misdemeanors committed by youth between 11 and 18 years old. All sentences include community service and jury duty in a subsequent Teen Court trial. For more information: www.csteencourt.org.

The Youth Transformation Center uses restorative justice and is dedicated to empowering youth through personal accountability, empathy, and leadership skills that shape positive social behaviors. The Youth Transformation Center offers restorative justice training for youth and adult leaders to build stronger, safer communities. For more information, Email info@youthtransformationcenter.org.

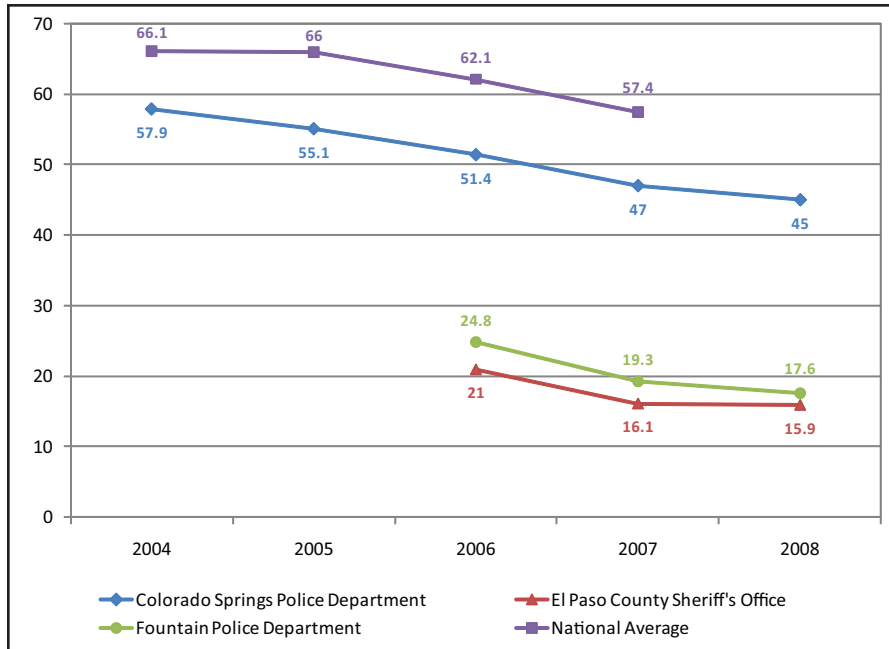
FutureSelf provides at-risk youth the transformational power of the creative process through commitment, exploration, self-expression, and community. The organization’s goal is to offer arts-based classes, workshops, and peer mentoring in an effort to reduce truancy, reduce juvenile crime and violence, improve academic performance, build communication and problem-solving skills, and improve communication skills. For more information: www.futureself.org.

In summary, Colorado Springs is a thriving community, dealing with the problems of today and preparing for a brighter tomorrow via crime prevention, intervention, and law enforcement.

-Public Safety-

Crime Rate

Index Crime Rate Comparison (Per 1,000 People)



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

This Chart shows Index Crimes per 1,000 persons in Colorado Springs, Fountain, unincorporated El Paso County and the U.S. The U.S. rate is for cities of similar size to Colorado Springs.

Index Crimes include: murder, sexual assault, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny, and auto theft.

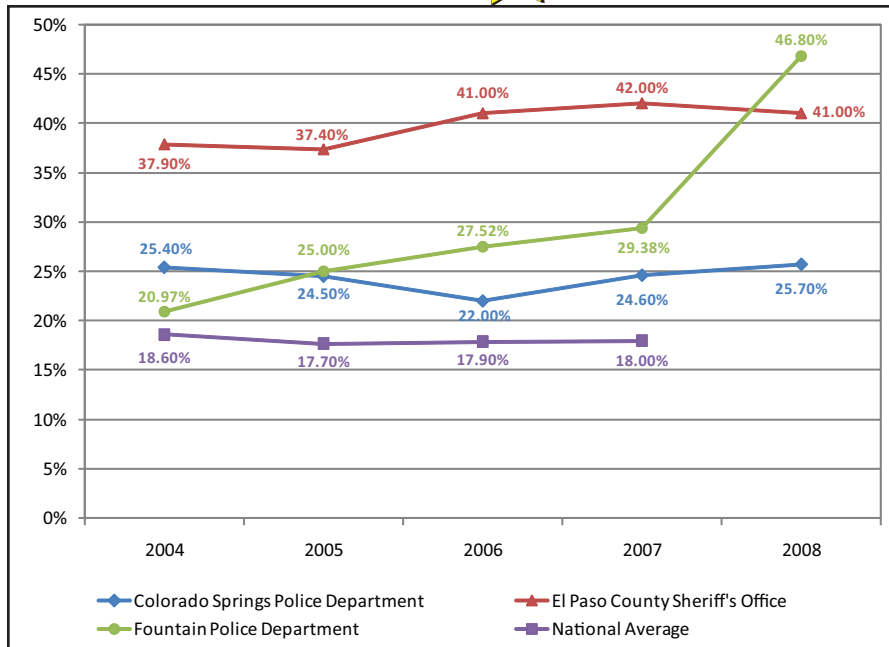
How are We Doing?

In 2007, the Index Crime rate in Colorado Springs was 47.0, below the national average of 57.4 and trending downward.

Potential for Action

Both CSPD and EPSO expect crime rate increases due to the current economy. Citizens should call 911 when suspicious behavior is observed.

Crime Clearance Rate



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

This Chart shows the clearance rate for Index Crimes solved by CSPD, EPSO, FPD, and the U.S. Clearance rate indicates successfully solving crimes and is affected by the number of officers investigating crimes, numbers of crimes, and investigative tools. Another indicator of law enforcement success is citizen awareness and assistance.

How are We Doing?

The clearance rate remains level in Colorado Springs and El Paso County. When separated from Index Crimes, the clearance rate for Violent Crimes is higher: 52.4% for Colorado Springs and 80% for El Paso County.

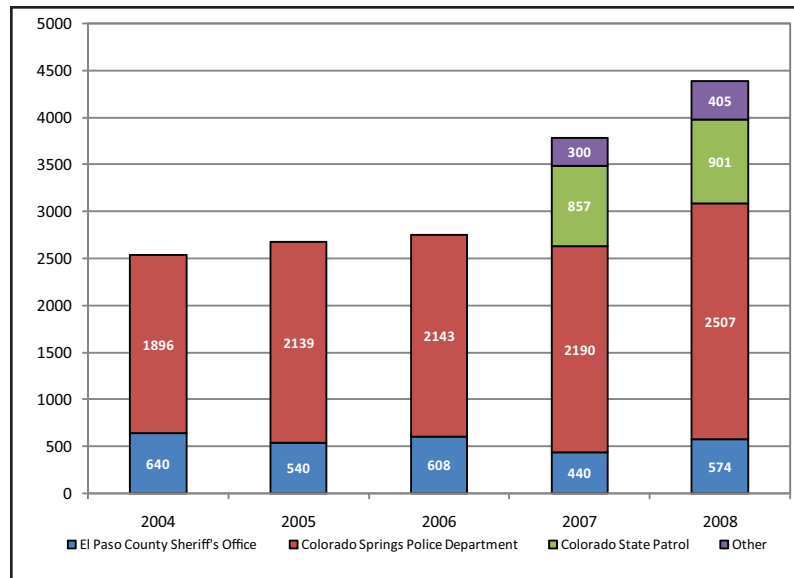
Potential for Action

In 2008 due to declining resources, CSPD and EPSO made adjustments to meet the demands of investigative needs. Resources were shifted from

Property Crimes to maintain Violent Crimes investigations. Support for law enforcement activities is vital to sustain clearance rates.

U.S. data through 2007. Index Crimes: murder, sexual assault, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny, auto theft. Property Crimes: burglary, larceny, auto theft. Violent Crimes: murder, sexual assault, aggravated assault, robbery.

DUI Arrests



Source: Colorado Springs Police Department, El Paso County Sheriff's Office, Colorado State Patrol

This Chart shows counts from the three largest agencies in the region (Colorado Springs Police Department, El Paso County Sheriff's Office, and the Colorado State Patrol) and also includes combined data from the Pikes Peak Community College PD, Ft. Carson PD, Monument PD, Fountain PD, Manitou Springs PD, University of Colorado at Colorado Springs PD, Green Mountain Falls Marshal, and the Calhan PD – identified in the graph as “Other.” Data collection for CSP and the Other combined agencies began in 2007.

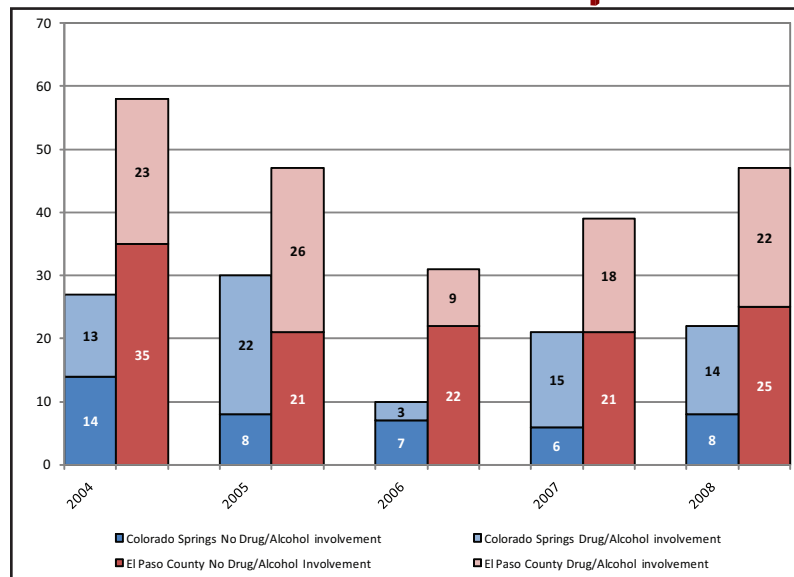
How are We Doing?

These numbers are not necessarily indicative of the number of impaired drivers on the road but rather the number apprehended, given the availability of police to patrol for these offenders.

Potential for Action

The ability to apprehend DUI offenders increases when targeted policing strategies such as checkpoints, high visibility enforcement, saturation patrols, and focused education are used. DUI enforcement may vary due to grant funding availability, budgetary allowances, and staffing available for prevention and enforcement. Sustained funding is critical for effective and consistent impact on this community problem. Law enforcement cannot accomplish this alone. Citizens must take personal responsibility for their actions and choose not to drive when impaired by drug or alcohol use.

Motor Vehicle Fatalities



Source: Colorado Springs Police Department, Colorado State Patrol

This Chart shows the number of fatal motor vehicle crashes in Colorado Springs and El Paso County, and indicates the percentage of the total fatalities that occurred each year that involved drugs and/or alcohol. If there is any alcohol or drug involvement in a fatal crash, it will be included in this total.

How are We Doing?

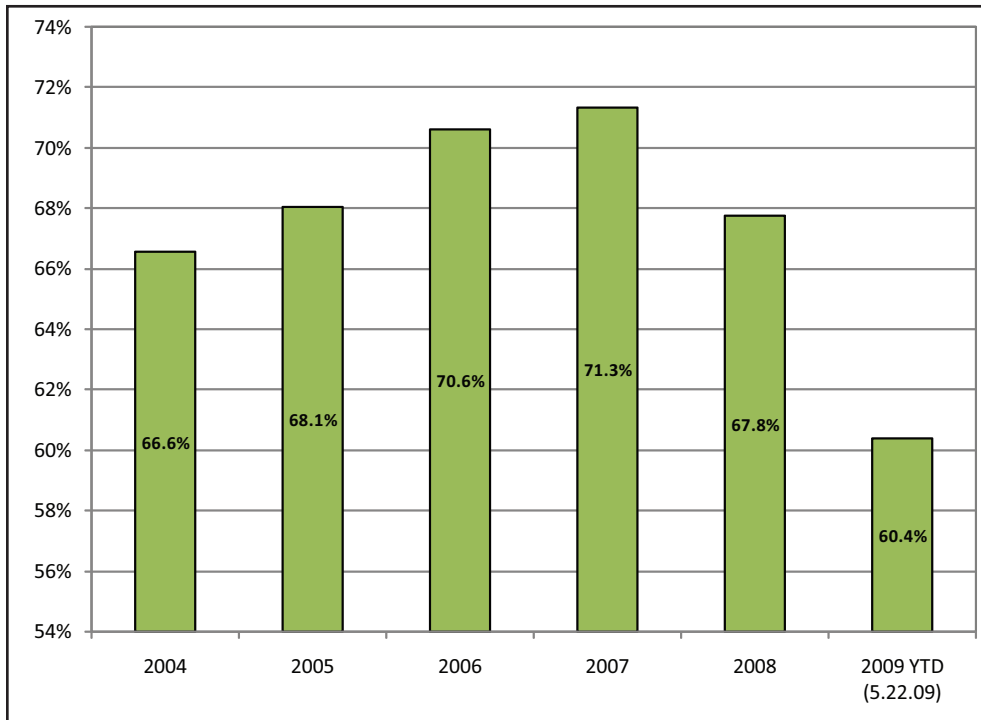
The national average for fatalities involving drug and alcohol impairment is 39%. The percentage of traffic fatalities involving drug and alcohol in El Paso County is regularly above the national average. Recent statistics show the City of Colorado Springs ranking 30% above the national average 3 out of the past 4 years.

Potential for Action

Funding is critical for increasing education, awareness, enforcement and prosecution of offenders and yet funding has decreased on national, state, and local levels. Funding is also essential for law enforcement trainings, saturation patrols, DUI checkpoints and state-of-the-art equipment and upgrades.

Educating the public and potential offenders to the dangers and consequences of driving while under the influence of drugs and alcohol ultimately leads to fewer people choosing to drive while impaired. Reducing the number of arrests, traffic accidents and fatalities can only be accomplished through sufficient funding for patrols and educational efforts.

Jail Recidivism



Source: El Paso County Sheriff's Office

This Chart shows the percentage rate of inmates in the El Paso County jail who are repeat offenders. The 2009 YTD figure was calculated based on figures from January 1, 2009 to May 22, 2009.

Recidivism, returning to jail for a new crime, represents a population that victimizes a community and creates a burden on the criminal justice system.

How are We Doing?

In 2008, 24,458 people, or approximately 0.4 % of the population, served time in the El Paso County jail. Of these, 68% had been previously incarcerated compared to 71% in 2007.

Potential for Action

In an effort to reduce the recidivism rate of offenders sentenced to the El Paso County jail, the Reintegration and Recovery program was established in 2007 to provide participants with the education, life skills, substance abuse therapy and vocational preparation to successfully return to the community and become productive citizens. Although the program is still within the first two years, preliminary data indicates that this type of disciplined programming positively affects the recidivism rate reducing it to 18% amongst this population compared to an overall recidivism rate of 62%. Offenders have provided positive feedback emphasizing that they believe the program provides them the tools and skills necessary to break the cycle of the revolving door into the justice system.

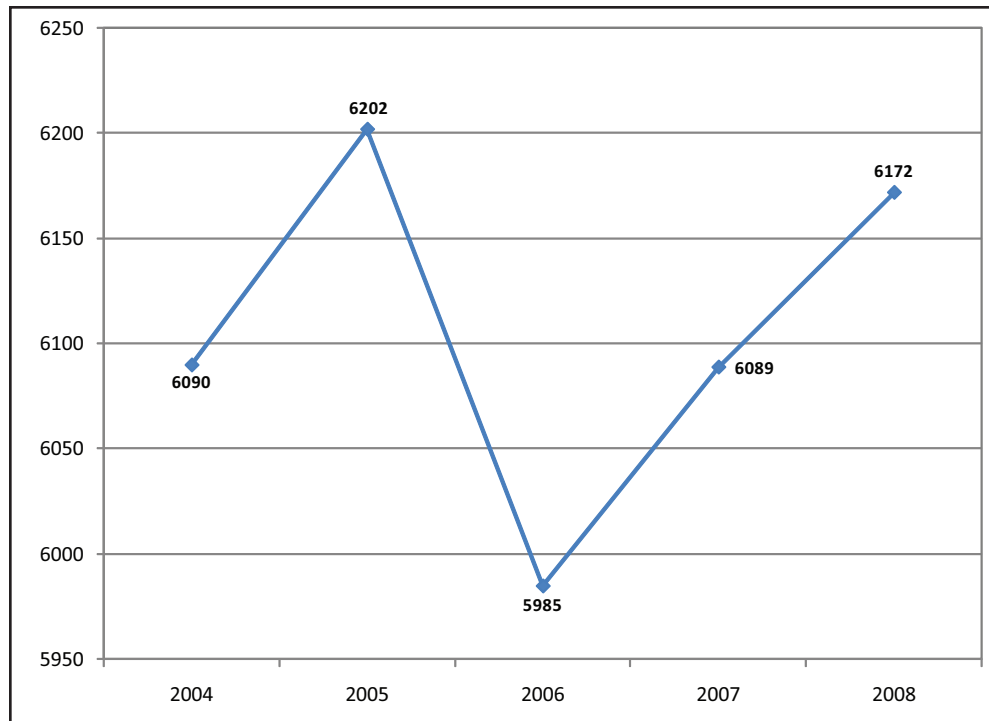


Photograph by Rebeca J. Schramm

Juvenile Crime



Juvenile Arrests



Source: Division of Youth Corrections, Colorado Springs Police Department, El Paso County Sheriff's Office

This Chart shows the number of youth in El Paso County who have been arrested by the Colorado Springs Police Department and the El Paso County Sheriff's Office. The number of juveniles arrested represents approximately 7.5% of the total number of youth aged 10 to 19 years in El Paso County

The juvenile arrest rate includes arrests of juveniles for all criminal offenses including misdemeanors and felonies. Of those arrests, only a certain percentage will be filed with the courts, which will then go to detention/probation status. If a youth commits a new offense and the court recommends commitment, the youth is sentenced to the Division of Youth Corrections.

The number of committed youth for El Paso County in 2007 was 83; in 2008 the number decreased to 78, currently in 2009, reports show an increase in committed youth. A committed youth is someone who is sentenced to serve a term of time under the Division of Youth Corrections.

How are We Doing?

The Council wanted to draw attention to youth in crisis. El Paso County has the highest rate for child abuse and neglect in the state. Youth who are committed to the Division of Youth Corrections from the County are at the highest risk to re-offend. This is a direct correlation of need for prevention services to youth and families.

Potential for Action

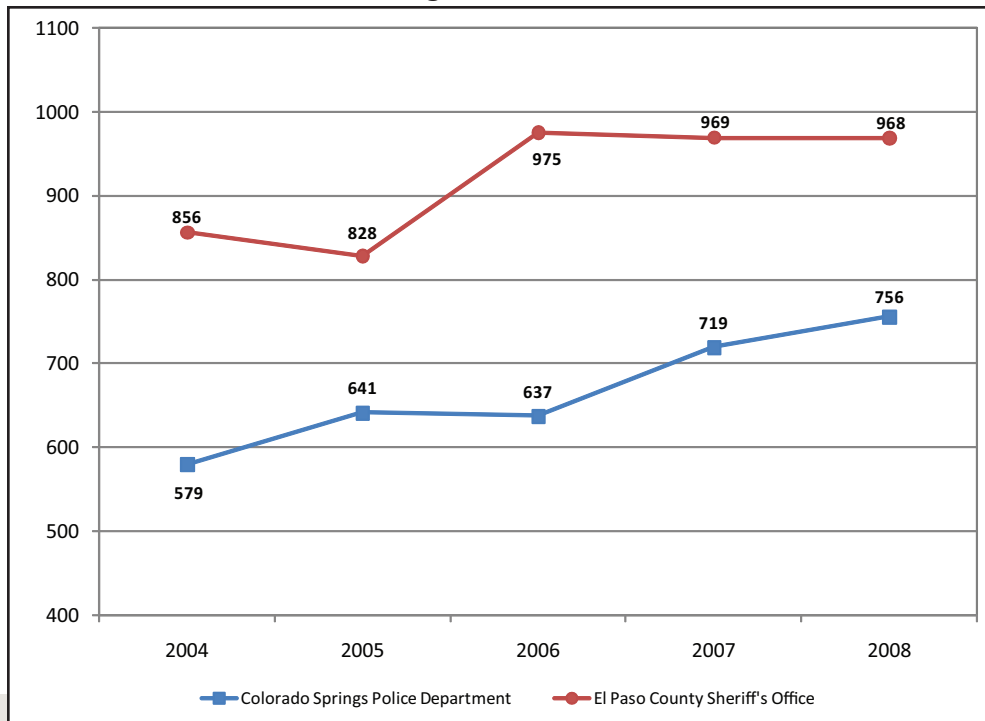
There are many opportunities for individuals to volunteer to help juveniles find productive ways to channel their energy. Please go to www.volunteerpikespeak.org for more information.



Photograph by Sascha Burkard

Calls for Service

Calls Made to Local Police Agencies



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

This Chart shows the number of calls for service received per 1,000 residents by the Colorado Springs Police Department (CSPD) and the El Paso County Sheriff's Office (EPSO).

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

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?

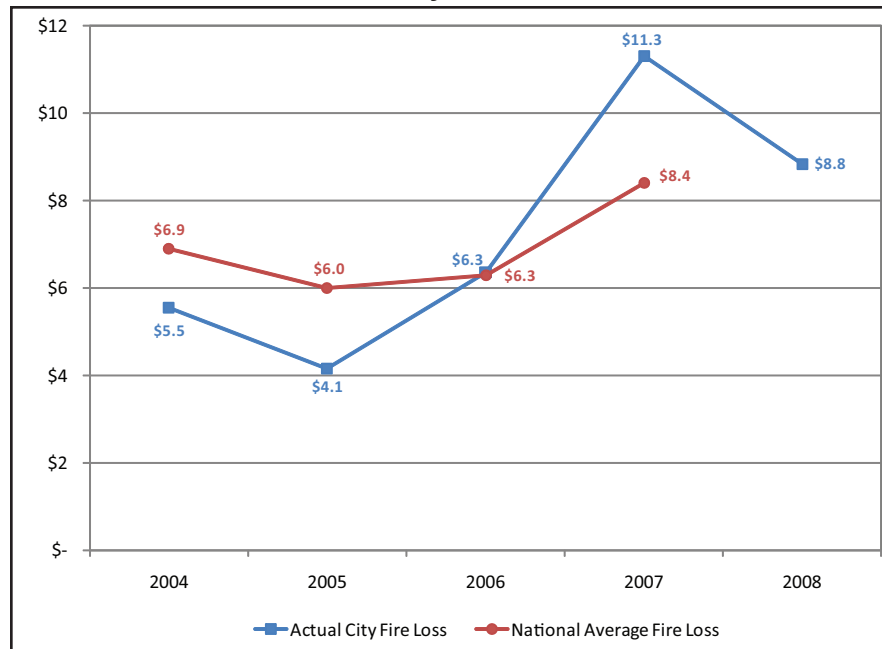
The number of law enforcement calls for service per 1,000 residents continues to show a steady upward trend in recent years. There is a resultant concern that law enforcement resources keep pace with both the rise in population and the calls for service. In order to address these gaps, law enforcement agencies, including the Colorado Springs Police Department, are utilizing alternate response strategies, such as enhanced telephone reporting, internet crime reporting and reduced response to non-emergency 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.

Overall Fire Loss and Per Capita Fire Loss

Actual Fire Loss in Millions of Dollars

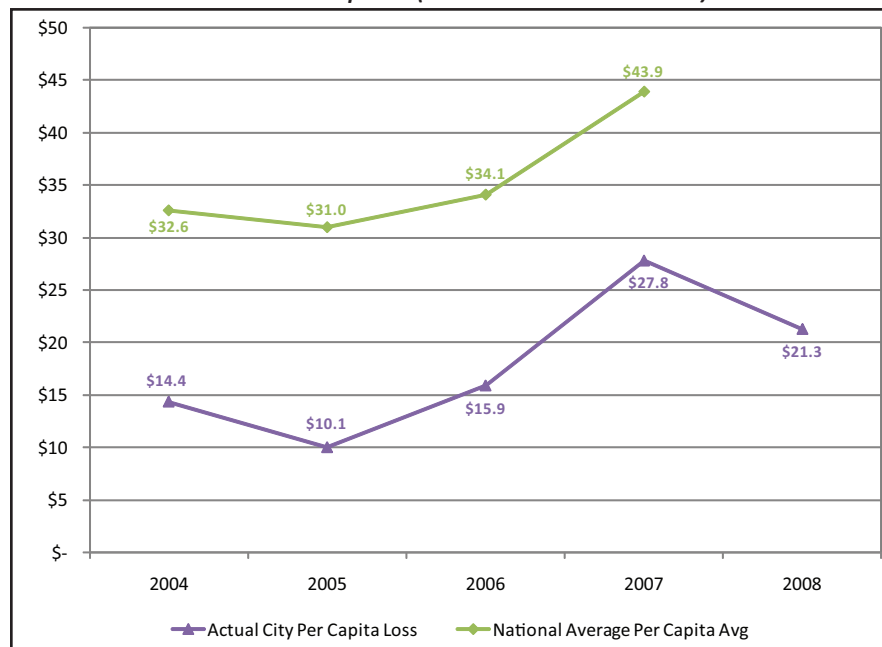


Source: Colorado Springs Fire Department, National Fire Protection Association

These Charts show the total fire loss and per capita fire loss per year since 2004. Actual city data is compared to national averages of cities with a population between 250,000 to 499,999 as Colorado Springs has a population of approximately 400,000. National data is provided by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), and is only available through 2007. The actual City fire loss and national average fire loss are both reported in millions of dollars while the per capita City fire loss and national average per capita fire loss are both reported in dollars.

The trends represent historical efforts toward fire prevention, mitigation and suppression. The spikes in actual city fire loss and per capita loss for 2007 were due to individual high dollar loss fires. These spikes are to be anticipated periodically due to limited strategic mitigation efforts being provided.

Actual Fire Loss Per Capita (Dollars Per Person)



Source: Colorado Springs Fire Department, National Fire Protection Association

How are We Doing?

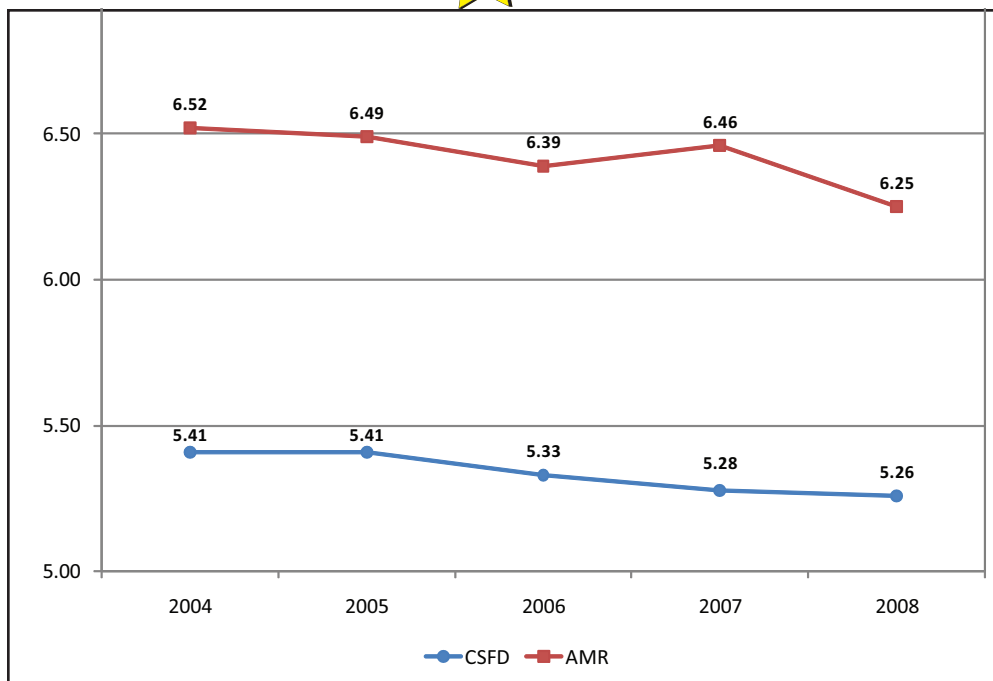
CSFD has a lower overall fire loss and per capita fire loss than the national averages. However, due to the current economic climate and resulting recent budget cuts, the ability to inspect properties has decreased. Because of this, the fire loss figures may increase as fire code violations are associated with nearly every commercial occupancy fire. In addition, national statistics show that over 60% of businesses that suffer serious fires never recover. Firefighter safety is also at serious risk because they do not know which hazards exist in a given occupancy and the hazards contained are left unmitigated.

Potential for Action

More consistent and regular inspections coupled with fire safety education will

work to mitigate larger losses as well as increase firefighter safety. Strategies for increasing inspections and other fire loss control measures should be investigated in order to maintain our lower than average losses.

EMS Response Time



Source: Colorado Springs Fire Department, American Medical Response

This Chart shows the average emergency medical system (EMS) response times for the city limits of Colorado Springs as reported by American Medical Response (AMR) and the Colorado Springs Fire Department (CSFD).

Average response time is measured in minutes and seconds and represents the time from which the agency is notified by 9-1-1 of an emergency call, to the time the respective agency's response apparatus arrives on scene.

How are We Doing?

The trend for the past seven years has been shorter average response times.

This is due to construction

of new fire stations, the creation and placement of medical squads that concentrate on responses to medical incidents in strategically high medical prone areas, and the addition of more ambulances.

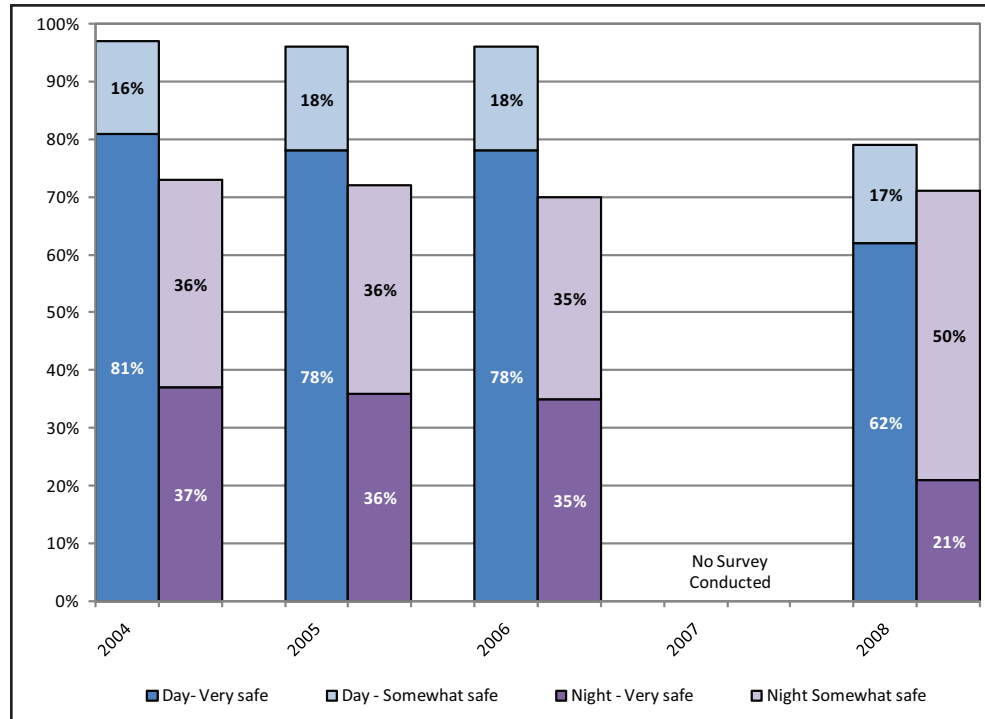
Potential for Action

While times are coming down for City fire response, concentrated efforts continue to be leveraged between American Medical Response and area fire departments for rural areas. When combined with dynamic deployment of ambulances, and the addition of paramedic staffed Quick Response Vehicles, we anticipate further reduction in first unit-in response times for enhanced service delivery to medical incidents.

-Safety in the Home and Neighborhood-

Neighborhood Safety

Community's Perception of Neighborhood Safety



Source: Colorado Springs Police Department

This Chart indicates the percentage of people who feel very safe or somewhat safe walking in their neighborhood during the day and after dark.

This information reflects responses to the Colorado Springs Police Department's survey of citizens in Colorado Springs when asked about neighborhood safety. NOTE: There was no survey completed in 2007.

How are We Doing?

In 2008, 79% of the people polled said they felt very safe or somewhat safe walking around their neighborhood during the day. While the combined percentage of those who reported feeling safe at night reflects a 1% increase overall compared to the 2006

statistics, it's important to note that the percentage of people who reported feeling *very safe* in 2008 is 14% lower than the 2006 response. Likewise, the percentage of people who reported feeling *very safe* walking around their neighborhood during the day has declined 16% in the two year period between 2006 and 2008.

Potential for Action

Neighborhood safety depends on the continued support of public safety initiatives such as law enforcement and ample street lighting. It also depends on the "response-ability" of its residents. The Colorado Springs Police Department (CSPD) offers a variety of crime prevention and personal safety classes, as well as guidance on how to form a Neighborhood or Business Watch. Neighborhood and/or homeowner association meetings are another great place for Colorado Springs residents to become actively involved in neighborhood safety.

Neighborhood Safety Resources:

Forming a Neighborhood or Business Watch – Contact CSPD Crime Prevention Officer

Falcon Division (719) 444 - 7246

Gold Hill Division (719) 385 - 2117

Sand Creek Division (719) 444 - 7276

Stetson Hill Division (719) 444 – 3168

Neighborhood Watch Program - El Paso County Sheriff's Office

(719) 520-7151

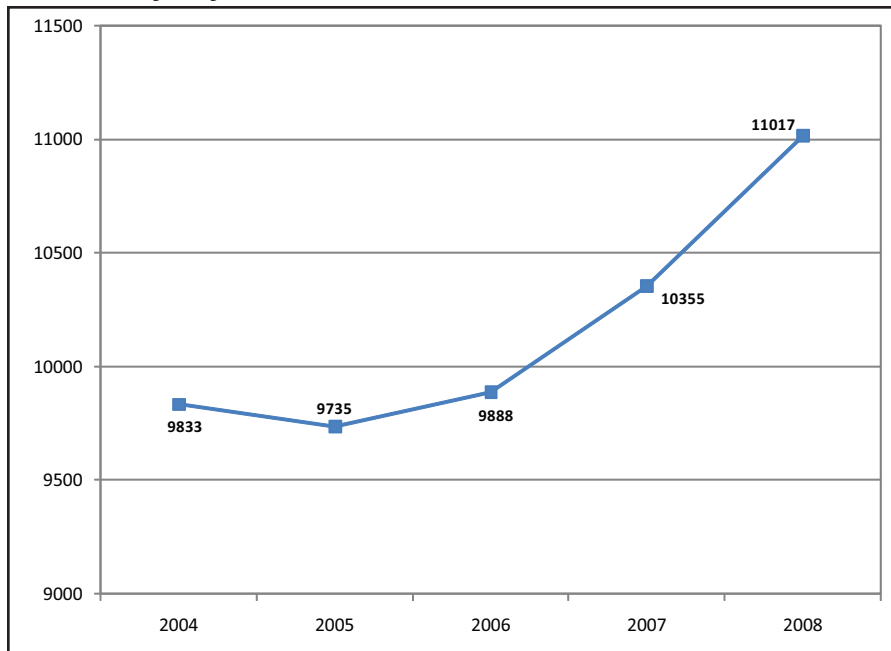
Refuse To Be A Victim Training – Contact CSPD for more information

(719) 444-7276

Child Abuse



Number of Referral Calls



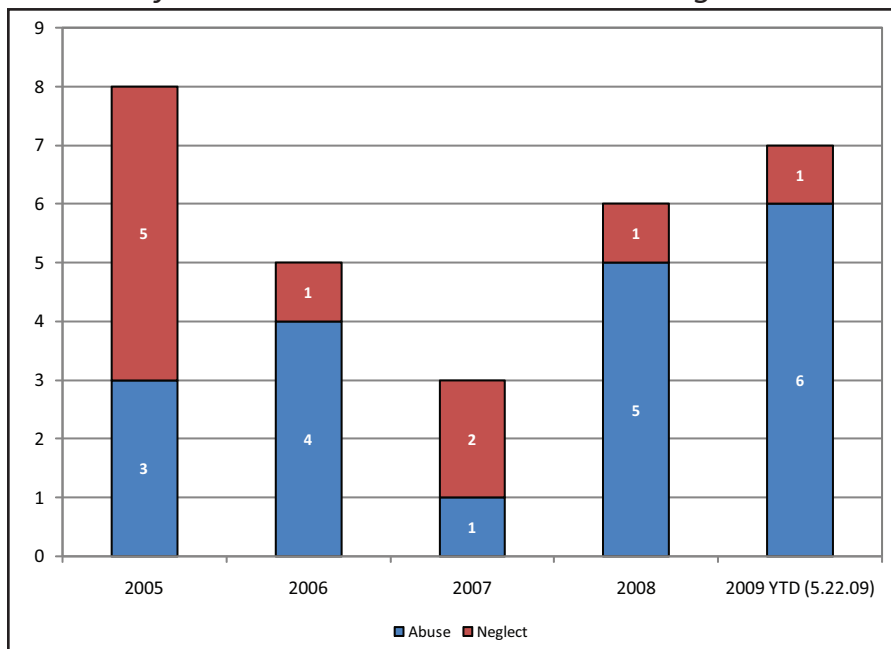
Source: El Paso County Department of Human Services

These charts show the number of child abuse and neglect referrals received by the El Paso County Department of Human Services (DHS) in the past five years and the number of fatalities due to child abuse over the last five years.

A child abuse and neglect referral is any report taken regarding child maltreatment and may include reports of adolescents who are beyond the control of their parent(s) or a danger to the community.

Death from abuse includes shaken babies, blunt force trauma, severe head injuries, burns, and gunshot wounds. Death as the result of neglect is often when a young child is left unsupervised and something happens like a drowning, hanging, or similar occurrence.

Number of Child Fatalities due to Abuse or Neglect



Source: El Paso County Department of Human Services

Children are our future. Children are dependent upon their parents and other caretakers to look after them and keep them safe.

How are We Doing?

Referrals for child abuse and neglect continue to show a steady increase over the past five years. In 2008, El Paso County received the most child abuse and neglect referrals of all Colorado counties.

One child death from abuse or neglect is too many. Already in 2009 we have surpassed the number of child fatalities that occurred in the previous three years, and are close to matching our total for 2005.

Potential for Action

The steady increase in child abuse and neglect referrals received by DHS shows

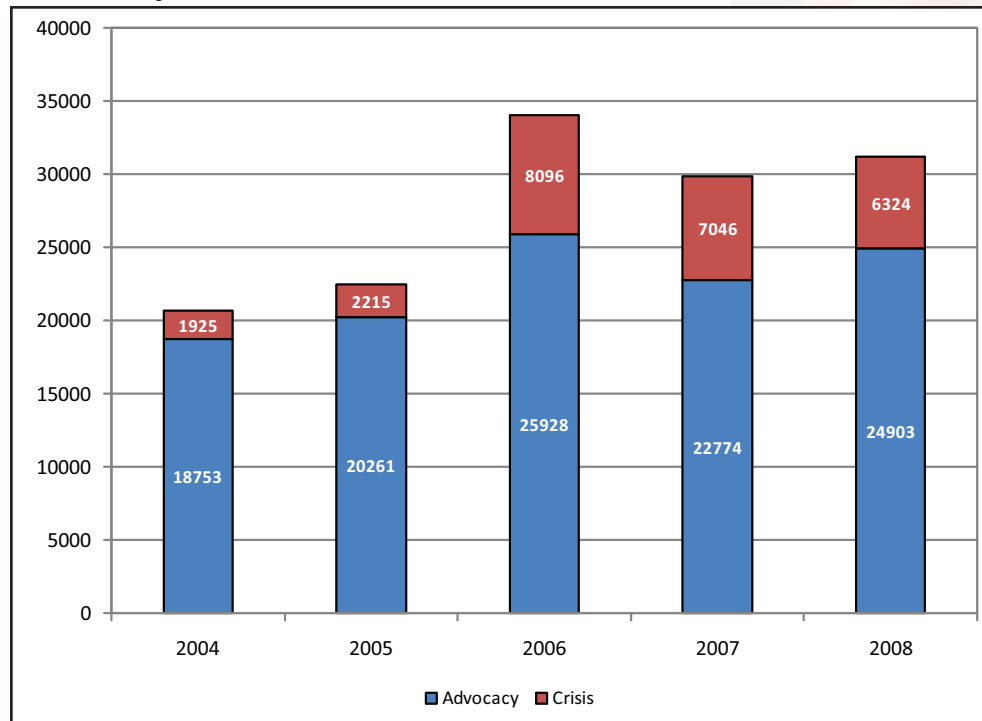
a need for action. Parental substance abuse, young parents without support and knowledge of safe child rearing, and family violence contribute to child maltreatment. Rising numbers indicate a need for resources for early intervention strategies targeting substance abuse, mental health concerns, family violence, and programs addressing poverty.

Parents can lack child development knowledge and parenting skills, are mentally ill and/or abuse substances, are ill equipped, or do not want to parent. A community that supports its families can help strengthen families and prevent child abuse and neglect.

Domestic Violence



Number of Calls to TESSA



Source: TESSA

This Chart shows the number of advocacy and crisis contacts received annually at TESSA through 2008.

Advocacy empowers domestic violence survivors through safety planning, court support, providing emotional support and understanding, and providing links to self-sufficiency programs. Crisis intervention includes safe housing, 24-hour support phone line, and providing advocacy to those victims at urgent risk of danger. TESSA is the primary agency dedicated to empowering survivors and addressing the issues of domestic violence and sexual assault in El Paso and Teller counties.

How are We Doing?

Key indicators for domestic violence show an increase in the number of victims seeking overall services and a decrease in the number of crisis only contacts. Information and referral calls to TESSA rose 15.8% to 8,767 in 2008 compared to 2007; crisis intervention contacts dropped from 8,096 in 2006 to 6,324 in 2008; and advocacy contacts rose in 2008 to 24,903.

In 2007, the City of Colorado Springs reported 28 total homicides -- 15 of the deaths were domestic violence related while El Paso County experienced 1 homicide (it was not related to domestic violence). For 2008, El Paso County experienced 2 homicides -- 1 of the deaths was domestic violence related.

Nationally, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention reported in 2008 that 1 in 4 women and 1 in 9 men report being a victim of intimate partner violence.

Pet abuse is a pattern of behavior which strongly correlates to both child abuse and domestic violence. A study conducted by Northeastern University and the Massachusetts SPCA found that people who abuse animals are five times more likely to commit violent crimes against humans.

- Up to 75% of domestic violence victims report that their partners threatened or killed family pets.
- Women seeking safety at domestic violence shelters are nearly 11 times more likely to report that their partner has hurt or killed pets than women who have not experienced domestic violence.
- Children exposed to domestic violence are three times more likely to be cruel to animals than children living in nonviolent households.

Potential for Action

Engaging more men as allies in the fight against domestic violence and creating awareness in the classroom and workplace will create a safer community. Investment in prevention and intervention programs are critical. Contact TESSA's 24-hour crisis line for help if you are in an abusive relationship: 719-633-3819, or check www.tessacs.org for information on how you can give help or get help.

Photograph by Stephanie Swartz

Fostering Community Engagement

Chair

SUSAN SAKSA (Chair)
Leadership Pikes Peak

PAUL JOHNSON (Co-Convener)
Pikes Peak Habitat for Humanity

DEE VAZQUEZ (Co-Convener)
Pikes Peak Library District

Researcher

EMILIE SATTERWHITE
Pikes Peak Library District

Members

LISA BACHMAN
Lisa Bachman PR

AIMEE LIOTINO
Pikes Peak United Way

WENDY MACK
T3 Consulting

KRISTY MILLIGAN
Citizens Project

KIRA PASQUESI
Colorado College

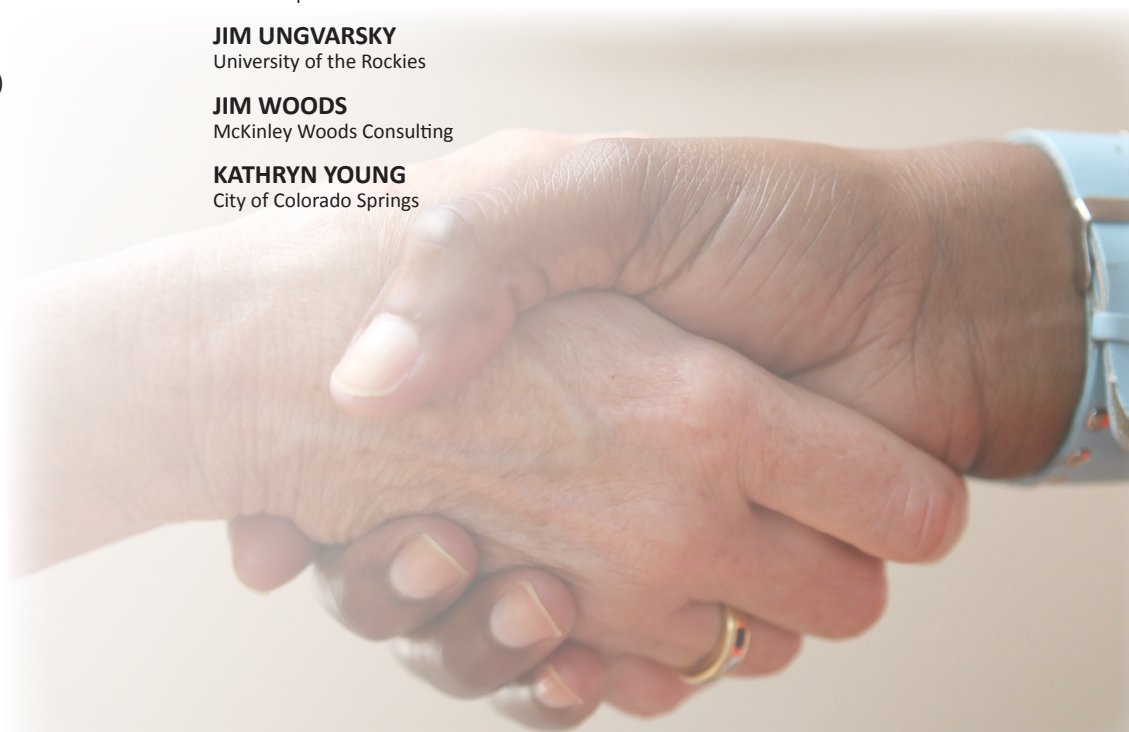
SUSAN PRESTI
Colorado Springs Utilities

BECCI RUDER
Leadership Pikes Peak

JIM UNGVARSKY
University of the Rockies

JIM WOODS
McKinley Woods Consulting

KATHRYN YOUNG
City of Colorado Springs



Photograph by Robbie Owen-Wahl, Lock Stock Photography

Sponsored By:

CHEYENNE MOUNTAIN CIVIC SOLUTIONS



Opportunity through empowered networks

Cheyenne Mountain Civic Solutions' overarching organizing principle is that civic engagement, energized by private initiative and philanthropy, holds the greatest promise for expanding pathways to opportunity.

Focus areas:

- Education as the window to the world of possibilities.
- Economic vitality as the engine of community wealth creation.
- Heightened capacity as the root of transformative power for nonprofits.
- Human networks as trustees of a greater community.

To learn more: Contact Jon Stepleton at 205 E. Cheyenne Mountain Boulevard, Colorado Springs, CO 80906; 719.641.2328; or jonstepleton@yahoo.com.

At a time when economic anxiety looms, corporations downsize, and communities struggle to provide services and infrastructure, civic engagement has the potential for even more positive and far reaching implications for our families and community. According to the American Psychological Association, “Civic engagement means not only a set of actions and efforts, but a feeling of belonging, an experience of investment and ownership in the local, regional, national, and/or international communities to which citizens belong.”¹ Research demonstrates the connection between high levels of community engagement and successful community outcomes in areas such as education, unemployment, control of drug abuse, crime, and health.²

A grassroots movement called the Community Challenge explains, “Civic engagement is comprised of individuals and collective efforts or processes designed to identify and address community needs and issues.”³ Democracy is characterized by all segments of the community, such as businesses, non-profits, government agencies, and everyday people, involved in civic engagement activities. These efforts offer the potential for citizens with differing viewpoints to create policies and programs representative of various parts of the community. Civic and community engagement can take many forms, ranging from individual service, to organization involvement, to political participation. The intended result of this action “is community change and decision making that is more reflective of community needs and desires.”⁴

The greater Colorado Springs community has above average volunteerism. However, we are not immune to the national trend of declining civic engagement and social connectedness as described by popular author Robert Putnam. This trend is reflected in lower voter participation on local and state ballot measures and a predominance of service in the religious and educational sectors. Citizen participation on government boards and commissions also does not mirror the diversity of the city’s population, as reflected by the population statistics in the *About El Paso County* section of this report and the statistics on local leadership demographics on page 108. This self-centric engagement may be contributed to the inability to constructively address the city and county’s recent economic, growth, and public infrastructure issues.

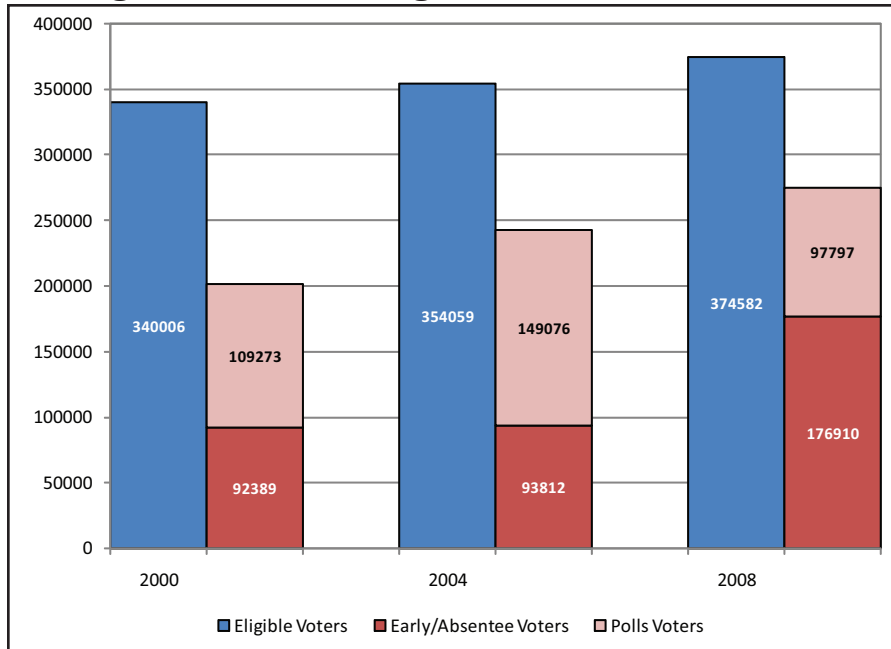
Grassroots efforts are underway to energize civic participation and facilitate dialogue about how to address community issues. Dream City 2020 is one such initiative that seeks to provide new opportunities for participation in broad community discussions on our shared vision for the Pikes Peak region.

Our hope is that a growing recognition on the part of local and national leaders of the need for active and productive citizens will impact that endeavor and our community as a whole.

1 American Psychological Association.
2 Putnam, 66.
3 The Community Challenge.
4 Ibid.

-Political Engagement-

Voting Patterns of Eligible Voters



Source: El Paso County

This Chart and Table depict the voting patterns of eligible voters in El Paso County. The chart demonstrates how 73% of eligible voters in El Paso County voted in the 2008 general election and 64% of those eligible voters utilized the mail-in ballot option. Both the percentage of eligible voters and early/absentee voters is up from the 2000 and 2004 general elections. The table shows the 2008 voting patterns relative to presidential and national official races, as well as statewide and local ballot measures.

Why is This Important

An engaged and vibrant community is characterized by a high rate of participation in the democratic process. Voting is the most fundamental way to get involved with this process and interact with elected officials at all levels.

Percent of Eligible Voters Casting Votes

Election	Percent
2008 Presidential	73%
2008 National Elected Officials Average	69%
2008 Statewide Ballot Measures Average	68%
2008 Local Ballot Measures	65%

Source: El Paso County

How are We Doing?

In the last election we witnessed new levels of political participation. The option of the mail-in ballot improves voter turnout, is cost effective, and extends to a wide population of voters that may be physically unable to get to the polls. Our voting patterns also reflect a trend called "drop off" where voters choose not to cast votes for lower level races or ballot initiatives.¹ Local issues become important to a voter when they appeal to their self-interest.

In the last year, have you attended any public meetings on community issues?

Why is This Important?

Public meetings facilitate dialogue and empower everyday people to voice their concerns and collaborate on important issues. This is a form of politics where diverse citizens are active participants in our democracy and are not limited to casting a vote.

How are We Doing?

The 2009 Quality of Life Indicators survey revealed 33% of respondents in the Pikes Peak Region attended a public meeting discussing community issues in the last year. This far exceeds the 13% of Americans nationally, as found by the Roper Center public opinion survey.²

Potential for Action

Further promotion of the permanent mail-in ballot option through the El Paso County Clerk & Recorder is needed to continue an uptick in voter turnout. Local and state-wide collaborations can also help make unbiased information available to voters to improve interest in ballot initiatives. Our community can encourage more citizens to voice their opinions by holding public meetings during times that are conducive to maximum and diverse participation and assist with transportation and childcare needs.

¹ Myers, 154.

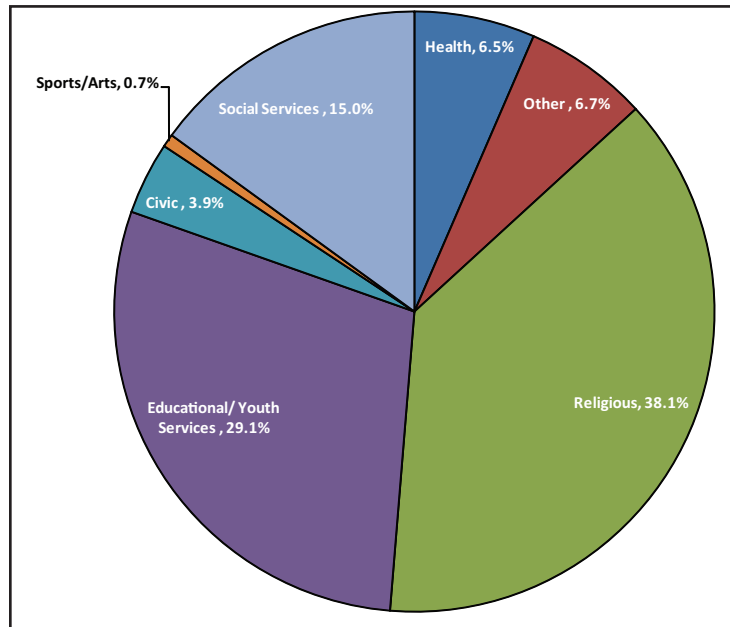
² As cited in Putnam, 68.



Image by Steve Woods

-Volunteerism- ★

Where People in Colorado Springs Volunteered (2005-2008)



Source: Corporation for National & Community Service, Volunteering in America 2007

This Chart shows the sectors in which people volunteer specifically in Colorado Springs. Volunteering with a religious organization was highest, followed by volunteers working within educational services.

Why is This Important?

Volunteering by its very nature entails social connectedness. This direct connection and contribution of personal energy is a venue for building community and strengthening social capital. Research has indicated that communities with higher levels of social capital are likely to have higher educational achievement, better performing institutions, faster economic growth, and less crime and violence.¹

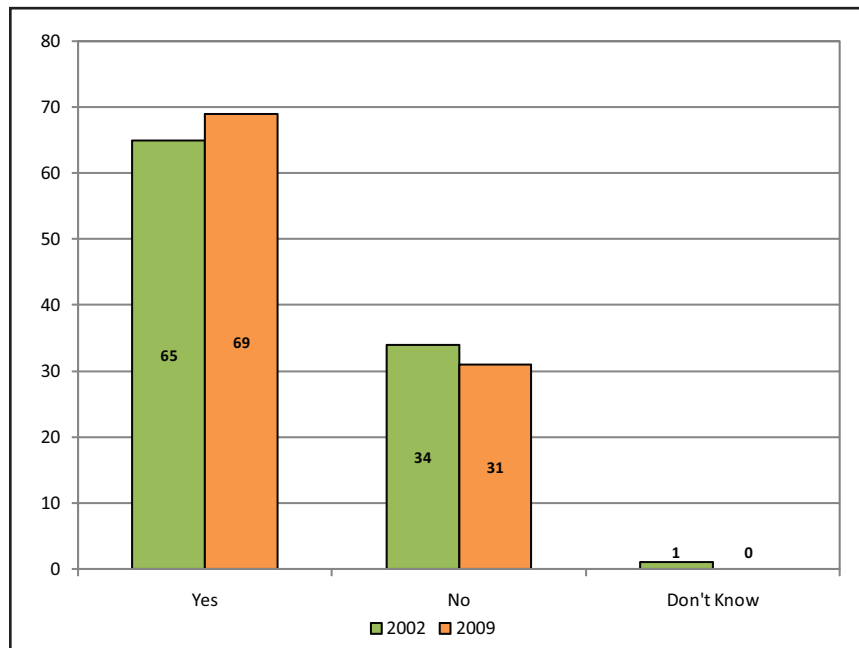
How are We Doing?

Compared to the state of Colorado, Colorado Springs residents are 10% more likely to volunteer with a religious organization than any other organizational sector. The percentage of people volunteering state-wide in educational institutions is about the same as Colorado Springs residents at about 30%.

Potential for Action

Encourage faith-based organizations and churches to better connect with the secular nonprofit community and increase community-wide volunteer opportunities. Promote service learning options that encourage the civic engagement of our youth through our local school districts. Promote the use of the Volunteer Center and www.volunteerpikespeak.org website as a clearing house for volunteer opportunities.

During the last year, did you or other household members spend any time on charitable volunteer service activities?



Source: 2009 QLI Community Visioning Survey, 2002 Survey on Charitable Giving & Volunteering for the Pikes Peak Region

This chart shows that El Paso County volunteerism is greater now than in 2002.

How are We Doing?

Based on the 2009 Community Visioning Survey, 69% of Colorado Springs residents surveyed stated they volunteered, which is twice the state average of 33%.

Potential for Action

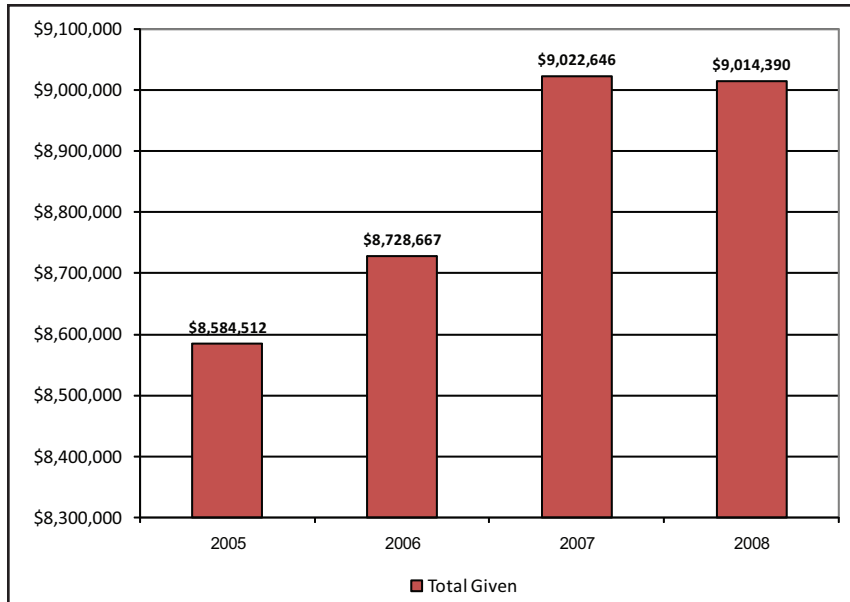
Encourage corporate support of volunteer initiatives such as Make A Difference Month which offer highly visible activities that encourage new volunteers. Continue to increase the visibility and educate the community about the Volunteer Center as a central information resource. www.volunteerpikespeak.org offers a matching function that can be utilized by citizens, employers and nonprofits to increase volunteerism to meet community needs. Increase the number of community-wide

days of service offered by the Volunteer Center and through partnerships across the community.

-Philanthropy-

Community Giving

Combined Community Contributions



Source: Combined Federal Campaign, Empty Stocking Fund, Pikes Peak United Way

This Chart shows the combined dollars raised by the Pikes Peak United Way's Annual Campaign, The Gazette's Empty Stocking Fund, and the Combined Federal Campaign. While this does not track all charitable giving in El Paso County, it does represent general giving trends for the community. While giving was down slightly in 2008 from 2007 for both the Pikes Peak United Way Annual Campaign and the Combined Federal Campaign, the Gazette Empty Stocking Fund saw an increase in both donors and overall donations in 2008.

Why is This Important?

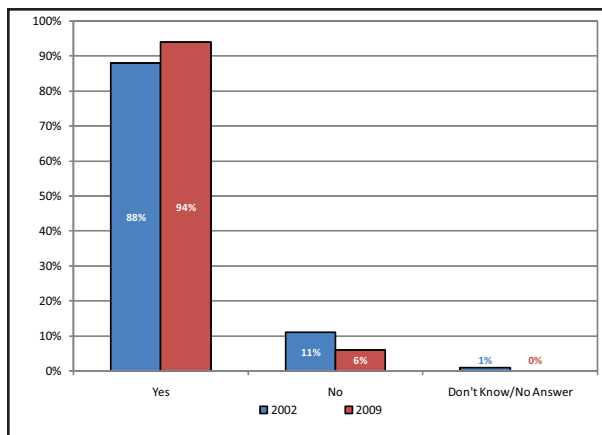
A well-supported nonprofit sector is critical for maintaining a healthy and stable region. Community donations are a helpful indicator for assessing the viability of the nonprofit sector, for which the Pikes Peak Region is known, and also are a measure of

the extent to which residents are engaged and invested in the wellbeing of the community.

How are We Doing?

The state ranks low in generosity when compared to the rest of the country. While Colorado ranks fifth in average income, the state ranks 38th in charitable contributions as a percent of that income.¹ El Paso County residents gave 3.7% of their income to charity, which is greater than the U.S. average of 3.4%.

Individual Donations



Source: 2009 QLI Community Survey, 2002 Community Survey

This chart shows self-reported citizen donations of money or property to charitable organizations in the past 12 months. This is a wider area of donation as compared to the three major giving campaigns, as the recipients of this giving may have been churches or small nonprofits as opposed to the large charities represented above.

How are We Doing?

This chart contradicts findings by the Colorado Nonprofit Association which indicates that donations are primarily coming from a small number of large donors within the region. For example, only 3% of tax returns filed by those living on the grounds of the United States Air Force Academy included deductions to charitable organizations.² Finally, the numbers of individual donors as reported to the Colorado Nonprofit Association were based on the number of individuals who took tax deductions on their yearly

tax returns, and this survey question is not an indication of how much people donated, only the physical act of donating. As the 2008 The Gazette Empty Stocking drive indicated, many small donations by a number of people may add up to make more of a difference than a large donation by one person.³

1 State of Colorado Giving 2008.

2 Ibid.

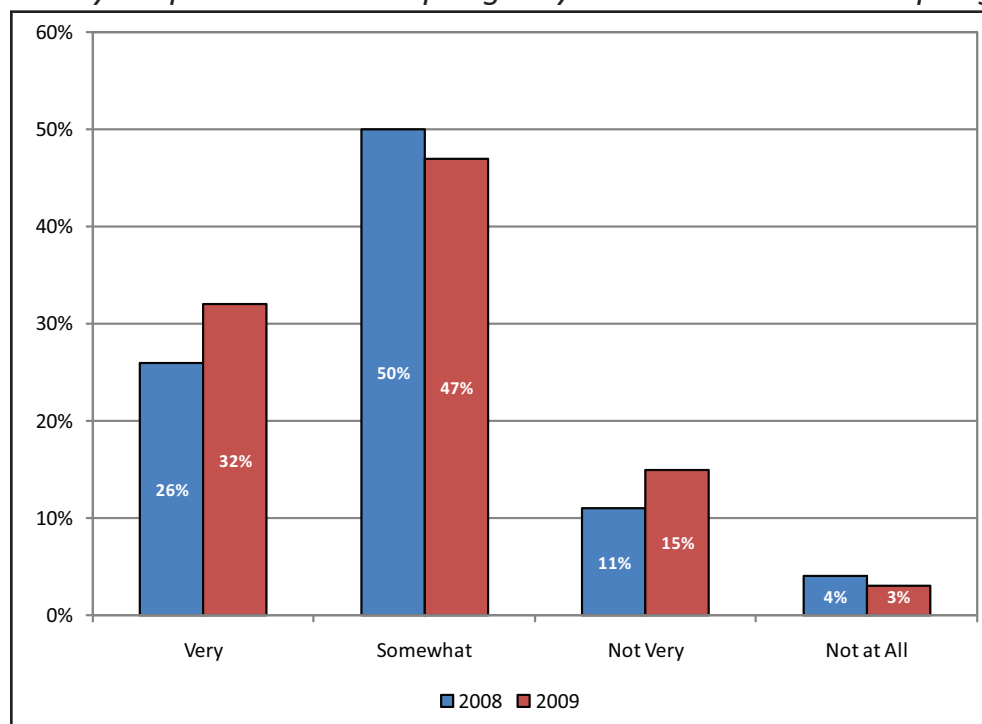
3 Gazette January 26, 2009.

-Community Diversity-

Acceptance



Survey Response: How accepting do you consider Colorado Springs to be?



Source: 2008 Community Survey, 2009 QLI Community Visioning Survey

This Chart: In 2008, the Community Visioning Survey asked “how tolerant and accepting” respondents considered the area to be. In 2009, the question was changed to “how accepting do you consider Colorado Springs to be?” Responses are shown in the chart to the left.

Why is This Important?

Diversity is what makes a community unique and a great place to live and work. For diversity to thrive, people of varying race, religion, sexual orientation, age, gender expression, physical ability, educational background, geographic location, political affiliation, and income level must be welcomed and accepted, not simply tolerated.

How are We Doing?

Colorado Springs residents want diversity. 89% of respondents indicated that having an accepting community is very or somewhat important. In 2009, 78% of residents surveyed perceived the region to be very or somewhat accepting – showing a gap between the desired and future state of 11%.¹

While the results of the Community Visioning Survey are encouraging, we are cautious about concluding that the region is completely accepting of diversity. It is possible that survey respondents were considering a limited definition of diversity when answering. Other sources indicate that the region may not be entirely accepting in terms of political affiliation, religious preference, and sexual orientation. For example, only 15% of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people reported feeling welcomed in the community.²

Robust community engagement is only possible in a community that welcomes and encourages the involvement of its fellow citizens. Diversity is not a box to check – but rather a process of learning to accept, value, and celebrate differences in one another. In 2008, a number of events signaled advancement in the region’s response to diversity: the Colorado Springs Diversity Forum hosted the second annual Everybody Welcome Event – a celebration of diversity and culture; the Colorado Springs Business Journal published the first edition of Inclusion, a magazine focusing on diversity in Colorado Springs; and the 18th Annual PrideFest & Parade drew more than 120 business supporters, and approximately 10,000 participants throughout the day, making Colorado Springs PrideFest one of the largest celebrated events in downtown Colorado Springs.

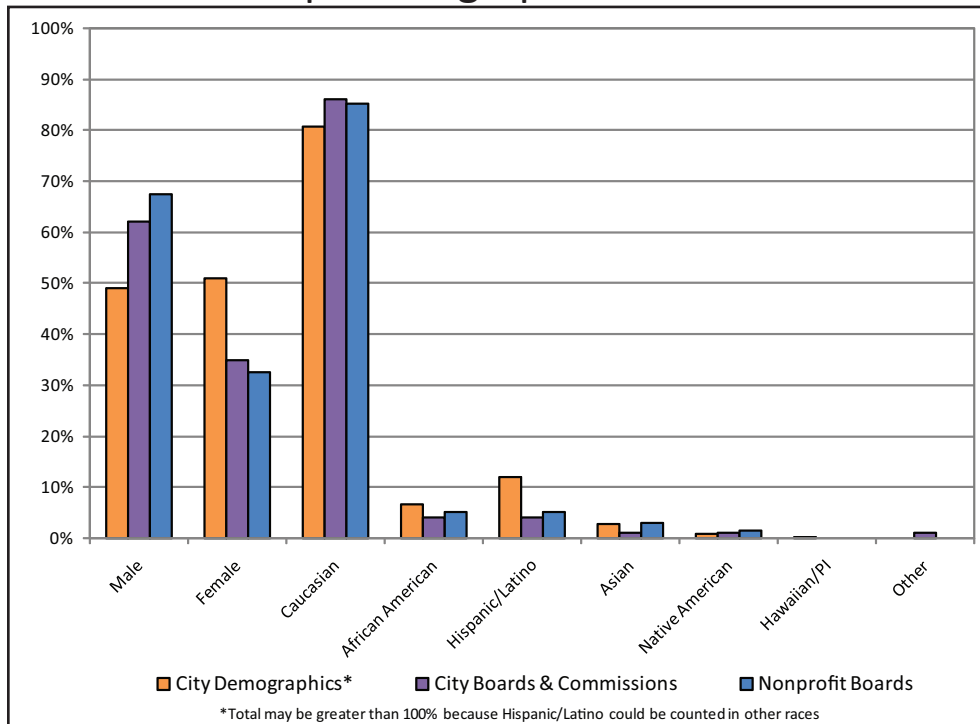
Potential for Action

While these activities indicate progress in the region’s acceptance of diversity there are opportunities for improvement. One measure of future progress may be the region’s voting patterns on issues related to diversity. For example, in the November 2008 election, Amendment 46 which would have been a major blow to equal opportunity was voted down at the state level but 56% of El Paso County residents voted in its favor.

1 2009 Community Visioning Survey

2 Pikes Peak Gay & Lesbian Community Center 2004 Needs Assessment & Community Survey.

Local Leadership Demographics



Source: Pikes Peak Library District/Center for Nonprofit Excellence Board Demographics Survey 2009

This Chart reflects the ethnic composition of those serving on City boards and commissions and nonprofit boards 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.

Why is This Important?

Standards for Excellence in both the nonprofit and government sectors assert that leadership of an organization should reflect the demographics of the population it serves. Diversity of leadership has a direct correlation to the effectiveness of an organization in equitably addressing the needs of its constituents.

The vitality of a community is dependent upon the quality and engagement of its leaders. Leaders include elected and appointed officials, executives, and nonprofit board members who volunteer to address specific issues consistent with the community's needs.

How are We Doing?

Boards in the government and nonprofit sectors of our community do not reflect the demographic makeup of the population. Representation is skewed in gender as well as race and ethnicity. There is notable under representation of the Hispanic/Latino and women populations.

Two barriers to broader participation on public and nonprofit sector boards were identified through this year's process. The first, lack of awareness of board and committee opportunities, is systemic across both sectors. The second, understanding board roles and participation requirements, is likewise widespread and reflects the complexity of communication processes used to disseminate opportunities for involvement. Organizations throughout the community, including the Center for Nonprofit Excellence and the Colorado Springs Diversity Forum, are acting to address these issues.

Potential for Action

In the Pikes Peak region, 58% of nonprofit boards report operating below the number of board members that would represent board capacity. This indicates an opportunity to develop women and minority representation in the sector, particularly on boards of public charities, which comprise the majority of nonprofit boards in our community.

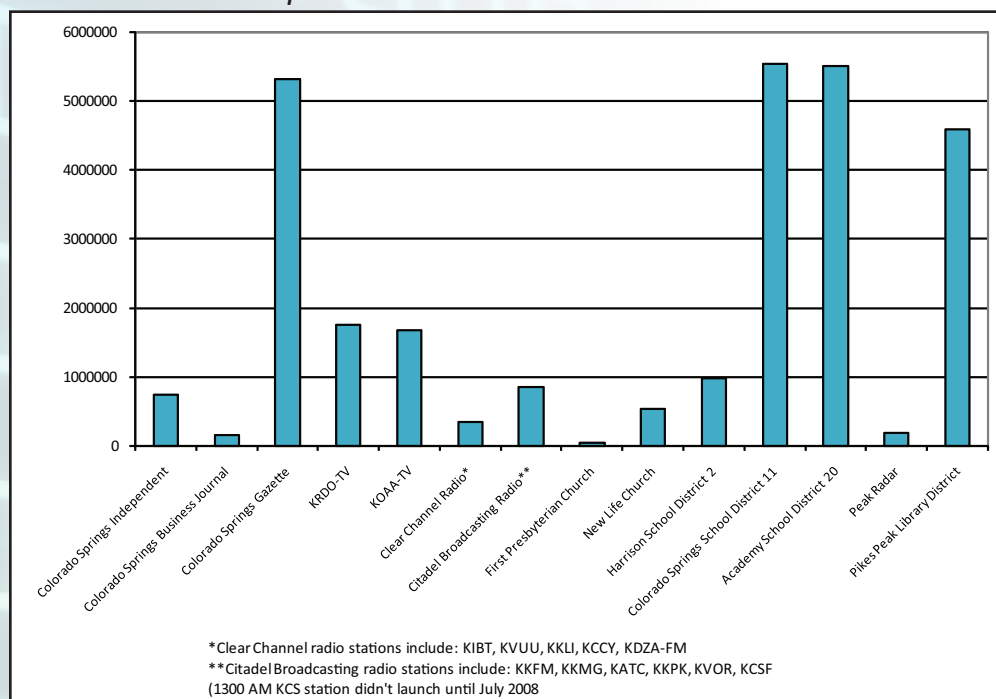
The City of Colorado Springs has implemented a process to begin collection of demographic information as appointments to boards and commissions are made. This is critical to both understanding and encouraging diverse participation at the leadership level. El Paso County currently has no such process in place.

Citizen-driven initiatives such as Dream City 2020, the Quality of Life Indicators and the Citizens' Public Health and Safety Initiative offer potential for meaningful engagement. Encouraging broad and diverse participation in these types of initiatives is critical to their success.

-Local Knowledge and Information-

Access to Information

Local Website Unique Visitors



This Chart reflects metrics for many of the main sources of community information in the Pikes Peak region – in their virtual forms. The data points provide a baseline for the tracking of electronic information trends over time.

The Table below reflects Colorado Springs' national ranking in the country for the percentage of the adult population accessing the Internet through the public library. Coupled with the fact that an average of 11,326 unique visitors utilize the local library's Community Database each month, this reflects trending toward electronic information seeking.

Source: Scarborough CityRank 2008

Why is This Important?

As information sources diversify, it is important to ensure that citizens understand both how and where to find what they need to be informed and engaged. Media outlets, schools, religious organizations, municipalities, and the public library each play a crucial role in keeping vital information in front of the community.

How are We Doing?

The number of ways that individuals access information about their communities has diversified greatly in the "Internet age." With blogs, RSS feeds, Tweets and more, there has been a migration away from traditional information sources. Traditional providers have tapped into the electronic information trend, offering a variety of options for their audiences.

The City of Colorado Springs reports that 46,383 viewers downloaded podcasts of its news and information programs from www.springsgov.com. The two most viewed programs were NewStuff and City Council Meetings, both rich sources of local information.

El Paso County reports that 391,457 unique visitors accessed its public information website, www.elpasoco.com, more than 96.7 million times in 2008. Electronic access to county information has facilitated better, faster service to residents of the region and better response time for individuals interested in our community.

Potential for Action

In researching access to information, it became apparent that collaboration – across and within sectors – is key to raising levels of civic and social participation. When information is easily accessed and understood, a greater percentage of the population is encouraged to become both informed and active. There is enormous opportunity for traditional and virtual dissemination of information and opportunities to the citizens of the Pikes Peak region.

Image by Flávio Takemoto

Adult Access of Internet through Public Library

Ranking	City	% population
1	Columbus, OH	8%
2	Baltimore, MD	7%
2	Kansas City, MO	7%
3	Colorado Springs, CO	6%
3	Cleveland/Akron, OH	6%

Source: Scarborough Research

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