

Appreciations

How do you properly thank volunteers that invest their time, talent, community passion, and thought in the 2010 Quality of Life Indicators report? Many hours of research and discussion take place each year to provide the community with this resource. The Steering Committee and the community are grateful for your hard work.

We give a special thanks to Chairs and Conveners for their leadership and commitment in this process. They lead, motivate, and organize diverse groups of volunteers with a variety of opinions.

Wendy Mack facilitated discussions with the Steering Committee, Chair, and Conveners. These lively and interesting discussions focused on the synergy between the sections of the report. Indeed, our quality of life is based upon a tapestry of indicators. Thank you, Wendy, for helping us understand how we are all connected.

Librarians from the Pikes Peak Library District did most of the data collection for this report. Their research skills and attention to detail were critical to the credibility and accuracy of this report. We are grateful for their involvement and efforts.

Some sections used interns from the University of Colorado, Colorado Springs as Technical Writers. We appreciate the fresh voices and ideas that they provided.

The financial support for the 2010 Quality of Life Indicators report comes from generous contributions from the Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments and the Pikes Peak Area Agency on Aging. Thank you for making this attractive and informative document available to our community.

The Quality of Life Indicators project is an example of the way our community comes together to achieve something important for the community. We see these kinds of effort every day. If you want to be more involved in this project or other community projects, we encourage you to follow your passion. Volunteering is rewarding and it fuels the great work in our region.

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 will 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 exciting and limitless futures of this wonderful community.

Quality of Life Indicators Project Steering Committee,

Lynne Telford
Bob Cutter
Ann Oatman-Gardner
Anastasia Storer

Susan Saksa
Lisa Bachman
Becci Ruder

Table of Contents

Appreciations	i
Table of Contents.....	ii
Letter of Support:	
El Paso County Commission	4
Letter of Support:	
Colorado Springs City Council	5

About the Pikes Peak Region	6
Executive Summary	9
Introduction	10

Growing A Vibrant Economy	12
-Economy-	14
Business Conditions Index (BCI)	14
Gross Metropolitan Product (GMP)	15
Gross Metropolitan Product Per Capita	16
-Employment-	17
Employment by Industry Segment.....	17
Overall Employment Trend	17
Primary Job Growth/Losses	18
Unemployment Rate.....	19
-Affordability-	20
Cost of Living Index	20
Median Household Income.....	20
-Military Influence-	21
-Small Business-	22
-Real Estate-	23
Construction Activity	23
Foreclosures.....	24
-Competitive Position-	25
Competitive Metrics: Key Success Factors	25
Milken Institute National Ranking.....	26

Promoting Social Wellbeing	28
-Children and Families-	30
Household Composition	30
Family Stability.....	31
Teen Pregnancy.....	32
-Older Adults-.....	33
Population Growth.....	33
Living Situation	33
Health Services for Older Adults.....	34
Transportation Access.....	34
-Economic Wellbeing-	35
Homelessness	35
Quality, Affordable Child Care for Families	36
-Drugs and Alcohol Abuse-	37
Percentage of Population using Drugs -	
County Comparison	37
Public Funding for Substance Abuse.....	37

Preserving The Natural Environment	38
Land Use in Colorado Springs	40
Land Protection.....	41
Air Quality - Emissions	42
Air Quality - Ozone.....	43
Water Quality.....	44
Birds in the Pikes Peak Region	45
Local Food in Colorado Springs.....	45
Water Service and Use.....	46
Energy	47
Waste Management	49

Built Environment	50
-Land Use-	52
Infrastructure.....	53
-Development-	54
Patterns of Development.....	54
Connectivity and Sustainable Buildings	55
Housing Success Factors	56
Non-Residential Supply (Commercial)	57

Sustaining A Healthy Community.....	58
-Physical Health-.....	60
Infant Mortality in El Paso County	60
Obesity and Cardiovascular Health	61
-Mental Health-	64
Suicide.....	64
Depression and Psychological Distress	66
-System Infrastructure and Capacity-	67
Uninsured Citizens in El Paso County.....	67
Public Health Spending	68
Healthcare Professional Shortages	69

Achieving Educational Excellence.....	70
-Students in Need-	72
-Early Learning-	73
Early Childhood Education	73
Third Grade Reading Skills	74
-Student Achievement-	75
Tenth Grade Reading Skills.....	75
Tenth Grade Math Skills.....	76
-Student Graduation-	77
High School Graduation Rate	77
-Higher Education-	78
Educational Attainment	78
Outcomes of Higher Education	78
-Educational Funding-	79
School Funding.....	79

Enjoying Arts, Culture And Recreation 80

-Arts, Culture and Humanities Presence-	82
Arts, Culture and Humanities Organizations.....	82
Local Venue Attendance	83
-Recreation Presence-	84
Parks Acreage.....	84
Miles of Trails in Parks and Open Spaces	85
Participation in Recreational Activities	86
-QLI Survey Responses-	87

Moving Around in a Livable Community . 88

-Getting Around Safely-	90
Automobile Accidents in Colorado Springs.....	90
Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety	91
-Infrastructure Maintenance and Preservation-	92
Pavement Condition and Maintenance Needs	92
-Daily Travel-.....	93
Travel Mode	93
Public Transportation Use.....	94
Commute Time	95
Multimodal Travel in the Colorado Springs Region	96
-Intercity Connections-.....	97
Airport Usage.....	97

Keeping the Community Safe..... 98

-Public Safety-	100
Crime Rate	100
Crime Clearance Rate.....	100
DUI Arrests.....	101
Motor Vehicle Fatalities	101
Jail Recidivism in El Paso County.....	102
Juvenile Crime.....	103
Calls for Service.....	104
Overall Fire Loss and Per Capita Fire Loss.....	105
EMS Response Time.....	106
-Safety in the Home and Neighborhood- ..	107
Child Abuse in El Paso County.....	107
Neighborhood Safety	108
Domestic Violence	109

Fostering Community Engagement 110

-Political Engagement-	112
Voting Patterns	112
-Volunteerism-	113
-Philanthropy-	114
Community Giving	114
-Community Diversity-	115
Acceptance	115
-Getting Involved-.....	116

Bibliography 118

Letter of Support: El Paso County Commission



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

DENNIS HISEY
CHAIR
DISTRICT #4

July 7, 2010

Fellow El Paso County Residents;

The natural beauty of our surroundings at the foot of Pikes Peak has given our community a solid foundation. But we must also give credit to a good many visionary leaders who shaped our rich and colorful past and endowed us with wide streets, reliable utilities, open spaces, parks and recreation opportunities, a wide variety of educational opportunities, hospitals, libraries, churches, community centers and arts and cultural facilities. But now it is our turn to leave a legacy for future generations of residents who call the Pikes Peak region their home.

We must do everything we can to leave future generations a community able to sustain the quality of life we have enjoyed. The Quality of Life Indicators Report provides us with the foundational knowledge we need to act decisively and affectively. It tells us where we are today, assesses our strengths and our weaknesses and helps us develop action plans to move us in the right direction.

The Quality of Life Indicators report gives us the facts. As we put these facts in the context of a sustainable community, we can determine not just what local government can address, but what our entire community must know to act effectively. It tells us what our citizens want for the future of El Paso County and is a valuable tool for all of us who take seriously our responsibility to turn over to the next generation of leadership a sustainable community with a quality of life to be envied.

Please read this report carefully. Most of us came to El Paso County because it was a great place to live, work and play. Think about what you can do to keep it that way. Recognize the great progress our community has made and great challenges that lie ahead. Then take action! Get involved, volunteer, advocate and demonstrate your enthusiasm for this outstanding community.

We appreciate the work done by the hundreds of volunteers and the community organizations that have come together to compile this report. Pikes Peak United Way at (719) 632-1543 and Leadership Pikes Peak at (719) 632-2618 are good places to turn for more information on this report and opportunities for you to become involved.

Sincerely,

Dennis Hisey
Chair

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Letter of Support: Colorado Springs City Council



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.

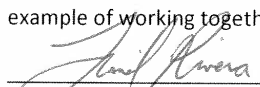
The strategic plan for Colorado Springs defines quality of life as an all inclusive term that includes economic prosperity, an affordable home, gainful employment, clean air and water, quality healthcare, safe and attractive neighborhoods and working environments, ample educational and recreational opportunities, 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.

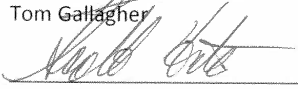
In 2006, more than 100 interested community leaders joined Vision Councils to address one of nine different areas and provide the guidance and vision for the reports. In 2010, the vision councils are still strong and include over 200 volunteers. Some have even begun work to "move the needle" on certain indicators.

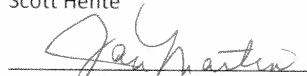
This fourth edition of the Quality of Life Indicators is not only a tool for you to understand our community but it is intended to inspire you to become more involved. We hope you will use it to explore the elements of life in Colorado Springs and to join the many that are passionate about improving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

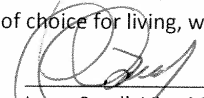
We wish to thank the many organizations that make this report possible including Leadership Pikes Peak, Pikes Peak Library District, and Pikes Peak United Way. And we want to thank the many volunteers who dedicated thousands of hours in research, discussion, and action. This type of community collaboration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

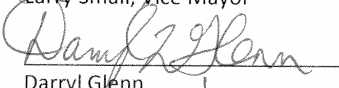

Lionel Rivera, Mayor

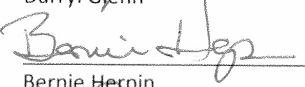

Tom Gallagher



Scott Hente

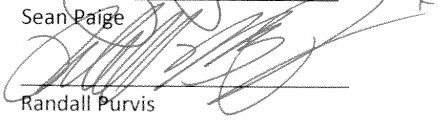

Jan Martin


Larry Small, Vice Mayor


Darryl Glenn


Bernie Herpin

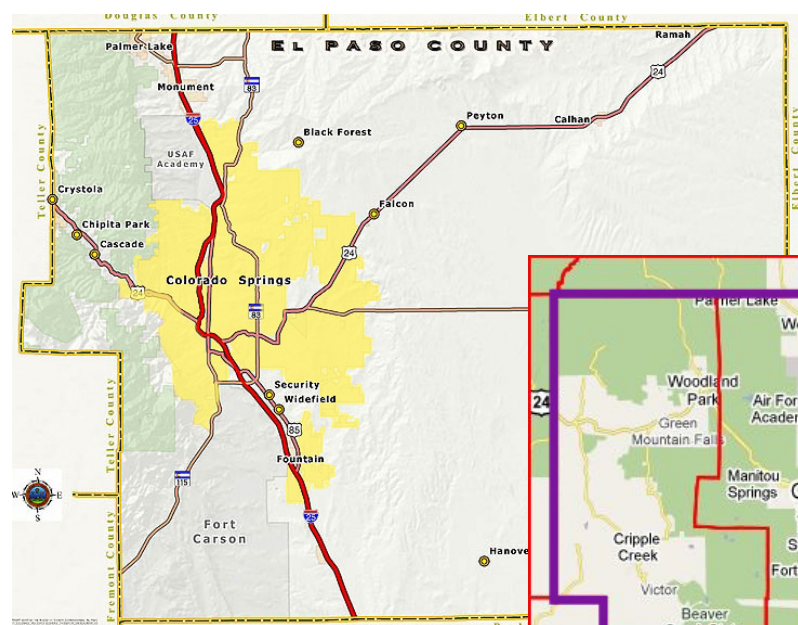

Sean Paige


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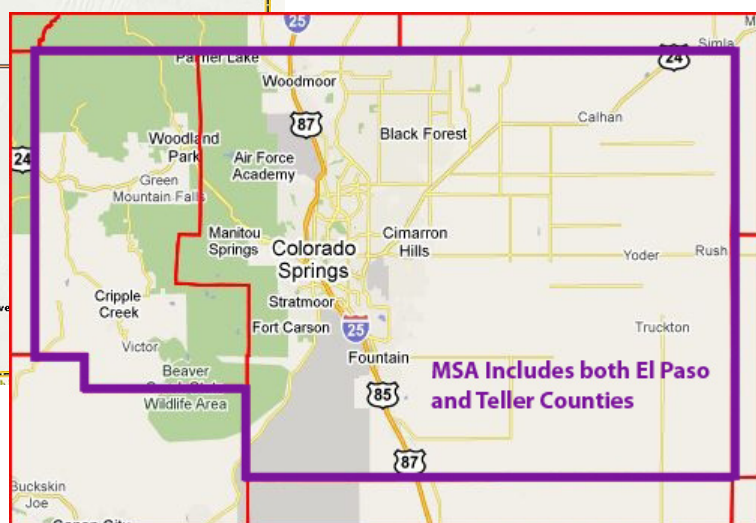
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About the Pikes Peak Region

El Paso County was established in 1861. In 1899, Teller County was carved from the western slope of Pikes Peak, which had been entirely within El Paso County. Our history has been influenced by gold rush, the perceived benefits of our dry air on tuberculosis, tourism, military bases, amateur sports, technology, and national nonprofit organizations.



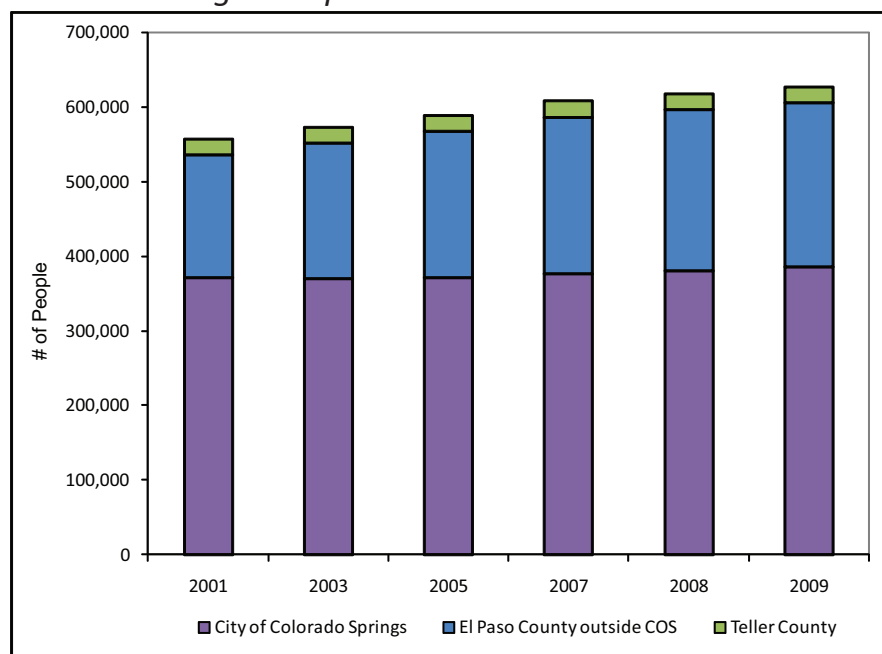
The Pikes Peak Region is often considered our Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) which includes both Teller County and El Paso County. The MSA is defined by the U.S. Office of Management on Budget and many of the statistics in this publication are based on MSA.



With over 600,000 people in our region, we comprise 12% of the state population. The total population has been fairly steady in the city of Colorado Springs and in Teller County over the last six years. The greatest growth is in El Paso County outside of the Colorado Springs City limits – 34% increase in population from 2001 to 2009.

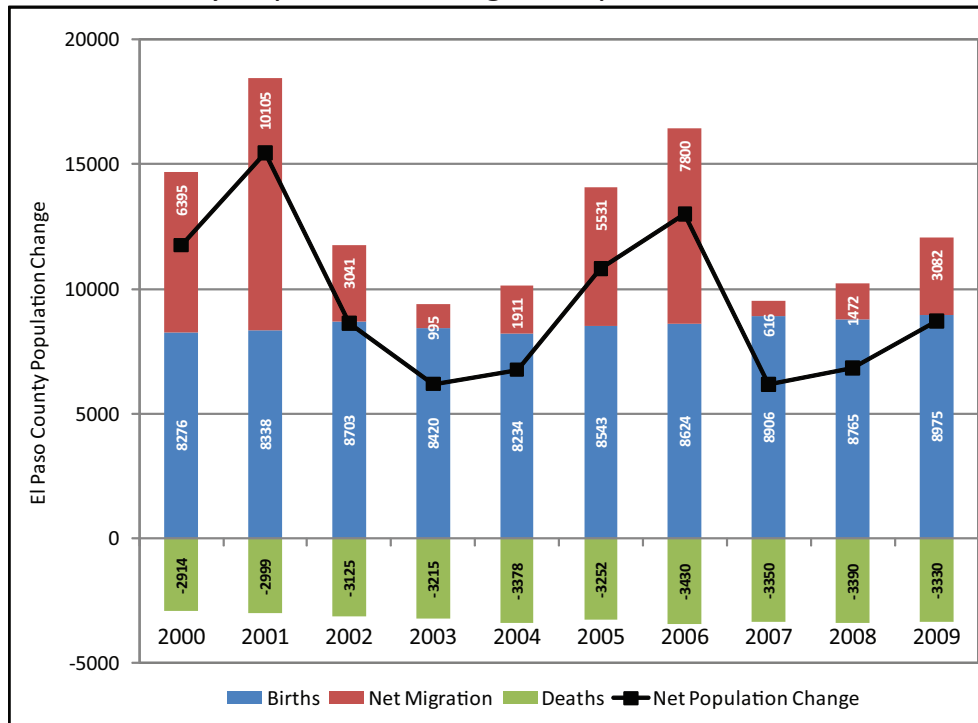
The MSA encompasses more than 2,717 square miles (2,158 square miles in El Paso County and 559 in Teller County). While the western portion is extremely mountainous, the eastern part is prairie land where dairy cows and beef cattle are the main source of rancher's income. The altitude ranges from about 5,095 feet on the southern border at Black Squirrel Creek to 14,110 feet on the summit of Pikes Peak.

Pikes Peak Region Population



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

El Paso County Population Change Composite



Source: Colorado State Demography Office

Since the year 2000, each year has increased our population and over the last ten years 87,609 people have been added. Births have consistently outnumbered deaths and net migration continues to be positive (more people move here than move away). The fluctuations in population growth are due to the different net migration numbers each year. Net migration has been as low as 616 in 2007 and as high as 10,105 in 2001.

Our population growth of 16.9% since 2000 is in line with the entire state of Colorado at 16.8%. Some counties have seen much greater growth, such as Douglas (directly to our north) at 64%. Others have low growth, such as Teller County (directly West) at 5.5%.

Population growth can be considered a good or bad trend, but in either case it has a big impact on our quality of life. Planning for growth or lack of

growth is critical as we adjust to changing times and economies.

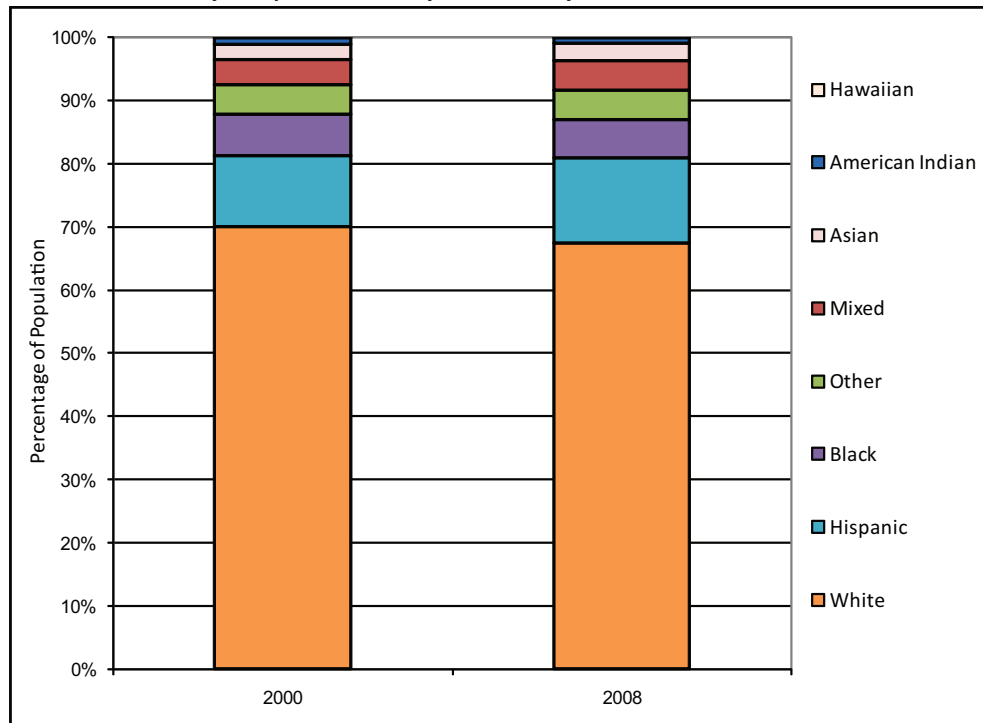
It is also important to consider the changing demographics of population changes. What are the impacts of an increasing military presence? What does the decline in young professional mean? How will we be impacted by the increasing number of retirees in our population? Can we and should we influence these demographic?

Colorado State Population Comparison by County

Colorado County	Population		Change 2000-2009	
	2009	2000	Number	Percent
State of Colorado	5,024,748	4,302,015	722,733	16.8%
Douglas	288,225	175,766	112,459	64.0%
Broomfield	55,990	39,193	16,797	42.9%
Weld	254,759	180,857	73,902	40.9%
Adams	440,994	347,985	93,009	26.7%
Mesa	146,093	116,935	29,158	24.9%
Larimer	298,382	251,486	46,896	18.6%
El Paso	604,542	516,933	87,609	16.9%
Arapahoe	565,360	488,890	76,470	15.6%
Boulder	303,482	269,768	33,714	12.5%
Pueblo	157,224	141,472	15,752	11.1%
Denver	610,345	553,691	56,654	10.2%
Teller	21,685	20,555	1,130	5.5%
Jefferson	536,922	525,330	11,592	2.2%

Source: Department of Commerce Bureau of Economic Analysis

El Paso County Population by Ethnicity



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

The County's ethnic makeup is primarily Caucasian, with the Hispanic and Latino population as the second-largest ethnic segment.

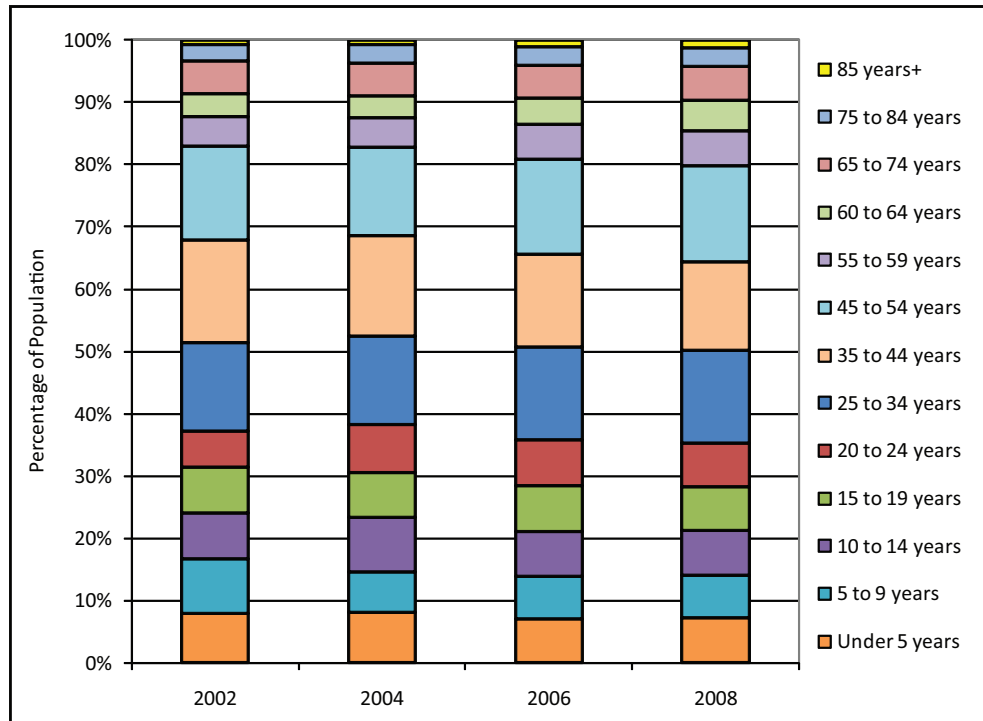
Comparing El Paso County to the entire nation, we have a slightly higher percentage of white people and lower percentages of Hispanic/Latino, Black and Asian people. From 2000 to 2008, we saw a slight shift in our white population (down 2%) and an increase in the Hispanic/Latino population (up 2%).

Our population is getting older. In 2002, 12% of our population was 60 or older. In 2008, 15% of our population is 60 or older. Young professionals are categorized as 25 to 44. This group has declined from 31% of the population to 29%. Are our young professionals leaving to work elsewhere? Please see page 25 for information about how this impacts our economy and our quality of life.

This past spring and summer, our community participated in the every-ten-year US Census. Results from it will go to the President by year's end and be released officially to the public in February/March of 2011.

This important effort has a huge impact on national, state, and local representation in government; and it also heavily influences the federal support we're eligible to receive to address community quality of life issues -- such as health, education, transportation, the

El Paso County Population by Age



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

environment, public safety, and scores of other areas highlighted in this report. All totaled, the community, if fully counted, could expect to be eligible for up to nearly \$5.5 Billion in federal support over the next decade! That's about \$880 per resident each year for the next ten years. We hope this report stimulates thought on what support we might want to pursue as a community and how we might want to use it.

For additional information on the US Census, please review their website at: <http://2010.census.gov/2010census/>.

Executive Summary

This is the fourth year of publication. Much progress has been made including more extensive historical trends and benchmarking against other communities. Over 5,000 hours of volunteer time have gone into this publication representing the involvement of around a hundred organizations and many private citizens. Although the assessment quality of life varies from person to person we have selected the following indicators which to a greater or lesser extent impact our quality of life and the quality of life of those around us.

Here's a summary of the findings for 2010:

- Over the last 10 years we have added 90,000 people to our community.
- We have only added 14,000 jobs - 16,000 more military personnel, 2,000 fewer civilian jobs.
- Our workforce is earning less. Since March 2001, real salaries and wages paid in El Paso county have dropped by 10%.
- El Paso County residents use methamphetamine at a rate 40-50% higher than other large counties in Colorado – a trend that has been ongoing for several years.
- Colorado Springs has a major crime rate almost 20% lower than the national average.
- 75% of our need for electricity is met by burning coal in powerplants - only 9% comes from renewable sources.
- We have 35 acres of park for every 1,000 people living in El Paso County - 40% higher than the national benchmark.
- Our people are healthy; our rate of cardiovascular disease is approximately 25% of the rate for the U.S. as a whole. But - the incidence of diabetes has jumped 40% in one year.
- Our level of suicides in the 15-19 year-old age group is almost 80% higher than the national average.
- The Pikes Peak Region students achieve CSAP scores and high school graduation rates 3-5% higher than the State of Colorado average.
- We have over 200 arts and cultural organizations in the Pikes Peak Region.
- We are safer drivers - the rate of automobile accidents has dropped by 40% since 2001.
- The hours of service for our bus system have been cut in half in 2010 due to a cut in funding from the City of Colorado Springs.
- Approximately 1 million people use the Colorado Springs airport each year.
- We have reduced the amount of waste going to landfills by approximately 35% since 2005.
- 89% of those people surveyed felt that an accepting community is important – 78% of them felt we have it.
- We have seen a 63% percent increase in the number of children living in poverty from 2000-2008 - an increase of over 9,000 kids in eight years.

Introduction

If you could live anywhere, where would it be? More than 700,000 people choose to make the Pike's Peak region home. Some were born here and may track their ancestry to this region for generations. Others moved here recently because of family, work, or an attraction to the outdoors, arts, and other forms of recreation. Those of us who call this region home are diverse in our backgrounds, interests, upbringing, and demographic details. Yet, no matter who we are, we share a common interest in ensuring that this area remains a great place to live, work, and play. Our quality of life matters to all of us.

History of the Quality of Life Indicators

If you ask people in any part of the country whether their quality of life is improving or declining, you will get a variety of answers. This is a very subjective topic. Individuals tend to measure it through the lens of their own experience, or the experiences of family and friends.

In 2006, volunteer leaders from the Pikes Peak region recognized the subjective nature of opinions on quality of life and realized the need to be able to gather and track objective data. Over the next year, scores of diverse people from private, public and nonprofit sectors chose to become involved by joining one of nine original Vision Councils – volunteer groups that would be responsible for gathering, tracking, and reporting on key quantitative indicators concerning quality of life in this area.

The first annual Quality of Life Indicators Report for the Pikes Peak Region was published in 2007. 2010 marks the 4th edition of the report.

Our hope is that by tracking data over time, the report helps the community understand who we are, where we've been and where we're going. The report makes a conscious effort to present only facts in the form of data and trends. You might think of this report as being a snapshot of the health of the Pike's Peak region. The goal of presenting this data is to help community members prioritize and make educated decisions about which areas deserve investment of their time, talent and resources.

More than the Sum of Its Parts

In the five years that the Vision Councils have worked to create this report, we have discovered the sections are deeply intertwined. What these linkages imply is that while we may care passionately about a particular topic, our quality of life depends on all areas. A teacher, principal, or parent may be tempted to focus only on the education measures, yet the quality of education may be dependent on, and may influence other factors. An avid outdoors-lover may be first interested in the environment, yet separating the environment from the economy, safety, and health proves to be impossible.

Here are just a few more ways in which the topics are interdependent:

- The economy is impacted by all the other indicators and in turn, impacts all aspects of our quality of life. Companies and organizations are dependent upon an educated and healthy workforce. Workers, in turn, are drawn to our community by a well-maintained infrastructure, efficient transportation systems, successful educational institutions, and cultural opportunities. As growth in the economy decreases and costs rise, there is less money to support this critical infrastructure.

- The inability to pay for basic needs such as housing, transportation, childcare, and healthcare threaten social wellbeing by putting excess strain on individuals and families. Drug and alcohol abuse result in a variety of tragic problems for individuals and society alike. Health difficulties can impact everything from family budgets to the local economy, and often make it more difficult for individuals to participate as full members of society.

- 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 individuals and businesses to the region.

In the end, the 10 areas reported on here are somewhat arbitrary means of organizing the data and making it accessible. The reality is that a healthy community and robust quality of life requires citizens, community organizations, and the government to view our region's health in holistic and connected terms. 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 community.

We Need You

The Quality of Life report is made possible because of the generous time and commitment of the hundreds of volunteers acknowledged in the Appreciation section. This product is entirely community driven – making it unusual in comparison to similar work done in other communities.

QLI volunteers are often asked what happens with the data we produce. Numerous groups and organizations use this report in a wide variety of ways. Here are just a few examples:

- Community leaders (nonprofits, city and county etc.) refer to the data included here as they do strategic planning and benchmarking, and reporting.

- Several Vision Councils extend their work beyond reporting to taking a leadership role in coordinating community responses to issues identified in their analysis.

- Dream City 2020 identified this report as a critical measure of accountability.

- While we are pleased that many organizations use this data, the most important consumer is you. We hope that this report helps you appreciate how all the elements of our quality of life are deeply and inextricably linked. In addition, we hope that reading this report will help you be an informed citizen and enable you to have rich and informed dialogue with your fellow citizens.

-
- Community
- Health
- Transportation
- Environment
- Education
- Economy
- Safety
- Children
- Recreation
- Culture
- Employment
- Water
- Leadership
- Poverty
- Crime
- Jobs
- Alcohol
- Drugs
- Obesity
- Homicide
- Military
- Suicide
- Foreclosures
- Families
- Infrastructure
- Philanthropy
- Wellness
- Graduation
- Bridges
- Funding
- Air
- Seniors
- Diversity
- Teens
- Abuse
- Congestion
- Roads
- Trails
- Trees
- Parks
- Traffic
- Engagement
- Arts

Growing A Vibrant Economy

Chair and Convener

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SCOTT SMITH
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BOB STOVALL
Gain-Stovall, Inc.

Photograph by Tim Pleasant

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 needs areas and venues 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 source 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 successful, technology-based community with diverse industries and employment. This section focuses on the performance of the Colorado Springs economy over the last nine years where we have experienced much slower growth compared to the United States, as a whole, and many other cities in Colorado, the Midwest and Rocky Mountain region.

In 2009, the Pikes Peak region suffered a loss of almost 11,000 jobs. With this significant loss of jobs, civilian employment in our area has returned to the level of almost ten years ago, with approximately 250,000 people employed out of a total population of approximately 600,000. During the same period we added almost 90,000 people to the region's population. Thus, we have had a 15% increase in population with no increase in the number of civilian jobs. We have been fortunate to experience continued growth in local military employment and investment, particularly at Fort Carson. This lack of increase in civilian employment levels directly correlates with other measurements such as foreclosures and lower levels of tax collection.

In the charts that follow, we compare data to other cities against whom we compete for job growth and corporate site selection. While we value the uniqueness of our region, city to city comparisons provide an important economic perspective. The state of the local economy is of great concern. Although we have recovered slightly in many areas over the last year, we continue to see record levels of unemployment. We also compare unfavorably across many economic benchmarks. Operation 6035, a community economic development initiative has been delayed and has made little tangible progress to position Colorado Springs for the anticipated national recovery. In a survey conducted by Pikes Peak United Way in January 2010, 69% of those surveyed felt that public funds should be used to assist in job creation. But local and state governments are suffering budget shortfalls and the money is not available. Over the last decade, not only have employment levels remained flat but we have actually lost, and not replaced 20,000-30,000 primary jobs in high technology, information technology and other areas. Primary jobs bring money into our community through the export of goods or services and are often high paying jobs. Economists estimate that for every primary job there are two secondary, or support jobs, in areas such as retail and local government. Urgent action is required to grow the primary jobs in our community to support a vibrant economy.

Attracting stable, high paying, high growth, employers to the Pikes Peak region remains difficult. One of the challenges is the continued decline in the number of young professionals in the community. The 25-44 year-old age group provides the talent pool from which new and existing companies can grow and thrive. Colorado Springs remains very attractive with respect to affordability, natural environment and healthy lifestyle. It is important for us to leverage these and other attributes and focus on providing employment opportunities for our citizens and increasing the tax base from which to fund services which directly impact quality of life.

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 of Colorado Springs 2010 Strategic Plan lacks specific actions and measurable performance however; attainment is still poor against the qualitative line items defined in the plan:

- Number of new primary employers as a result of recruitment activities.
- Employment and retail growth in targeted areas of the city.
- Air service levels compared to similar markets.
- Housing Indicators such as median housing cost comparisons to median income.
- Measure city's progress in implementing the Economic Development Incentives plan and Economic Development.¹

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. This could be accomplished under the umbrella of the delayed Operation 6035 initiative. Local government, various private sector organizations and the community as a whole own the responsibility for making Colorado Springs an attractive community with the right business climate for sustainable economic development. We cannot wait and hope things will get better.

As a community we need to use metrics, such as those contained in this report, to assess our position, define actions and measure progress. These metrics should form an integral part of the budget and strategic plan for the City of Colorado Springs and El Paso County ensuring that local government is aligned with actions and measurable results to drive improvement. Our economic performance has eroded in many areas over the last decade. For example, real salaries and wages have declined by 10% over the last 9 years.² These losses have been offset by strong growth in our military bases. However, this leaves our local economy overly exposed to the impact of defense department budget cuts such as those that threatened Fort Carson in the 1990s. We must come together as a community to address these weaknesses and threats to our future success across all organizations and initiatives. Failure to do so will have a detrimental impact to our quality of life.

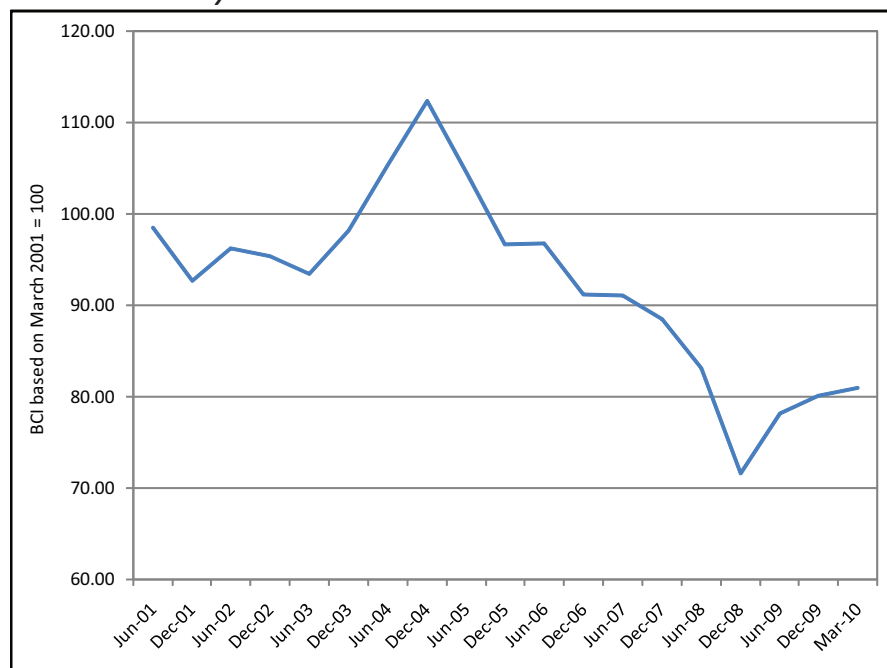
1 Page C-8, Appendix C, City of Colorado Springs 2010 Budget <http://www.springsgov.com/units/budget/2010/AppendixCStratPlan.pdf>.

2 P2 Southern Colorado Economic Forum - Quarterly Updates and Estimates - April 2010, Volume 8 Number 4 University of Colorado at Colorado Springs, College of Business and Administration, Fred Crowley.

-Economy-

Business Conditions Index (BCI)

El Paso County BCI



Source: Southern Colorado Economic Forum

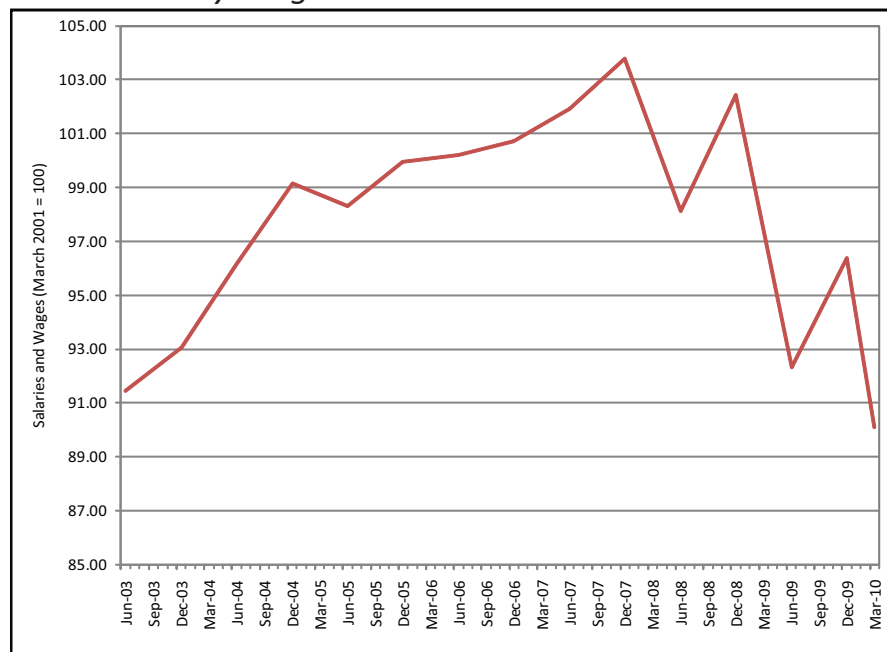
The first chart: The Business Conditions Index (BCI) is a composite of ten seasonally adjusted measurements including: single family and townhome permits, new car sales, employment rate, foreclosures, employment, wages and salaries, sales and use tax collections and airport enplanements. Also included 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 second chart shows the index of wage and salary levels in El Paso County as collected by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and State Employment Agencies using the ES202 program with March 2001 having an index baseline of 100.

Why is This Important?

The BCI, which is updated quarterly, represents an overall measure of the economic health of the area, as compared to Federal or State economic data which are updated annually.

El Paso County Wage Index



Source: Southern Colorado Economic Forum

How are We Doing?

While the overall BCI for January through March 2010, shows improvement from the same period a year ago, enplanements, employment rate, and real wages are at their lowest point in BCI history. The single family & town home permits (up 90%), consumer sentiment index (up 28%) and the manufacturing index (up 126%) show the greatest areas of improvement from March 2009 to March 2010. The wages and salaries paid in El Paso County are now 10% lower than they were almost 10 years ago, leaving the population with less money to spend on essential and discretionary items which may impact quality of life and sales tax collections for local government.

Potential for Action

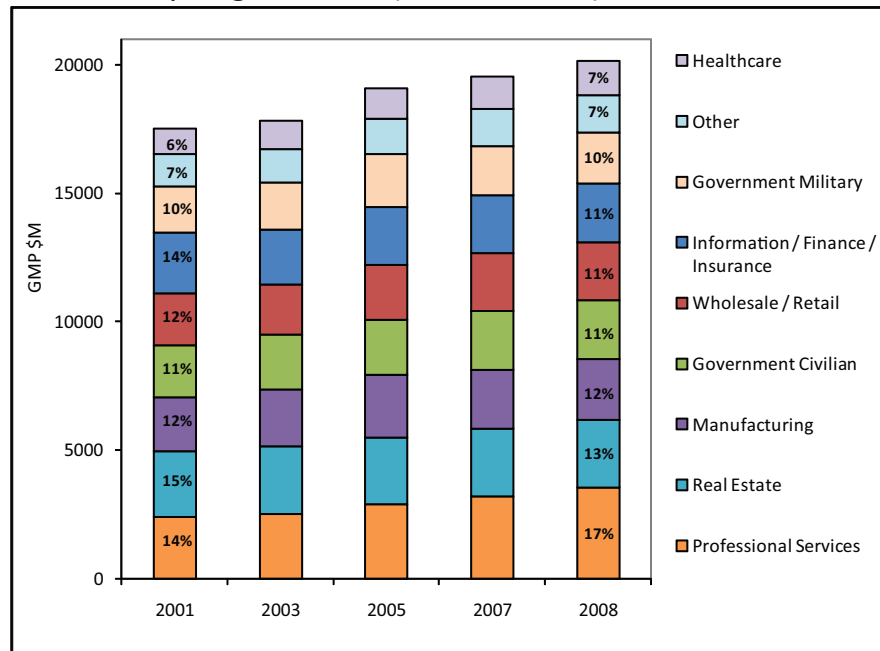
Lead organization: Colorado Springs Regional Economic Development Corporation (EDC).

Quality job growth in the local economy will help improve performance, especially the growth of primary employers who bring money from outside Colorado Springs, into the community. Attracting new primary

employers to the area, and supporting the growth of local companies are the primary goals of the EDC.

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. Data for 2009 will not be available until early 2011 so the full effects of the recession on the local economy are not shown.

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 366 metropolitan areas within

the United States, the Colorado Springs Metropolitan Area ranked 86th in 2008, three positions higher than our ranking in 2006. During the period 2001-2008, the Colorado Springs economy grew by 15%, which was 2% slower than the overall U.S. economy. This growth rate may not support the increased demands for local infrastructure and is lower than the growth recorded by many comparable cities. The portion of our economy derived from information technology, finance and insurance has declined since 2001 offset by increases in professional services. The economy of Austin, TX, a city against which we are often compared, grew by over twice the rate of the Colorado Springs economy during the same period and now has an economy three and a half times bigger than Colorado Springs. Fort Collins showed the most significant growth of the Colorado front range economies.

Potential for Action

Lead Organization: City of Colorado Springs

Our immediate goal should be to achieve the 80th position in the nation by 2012. 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.

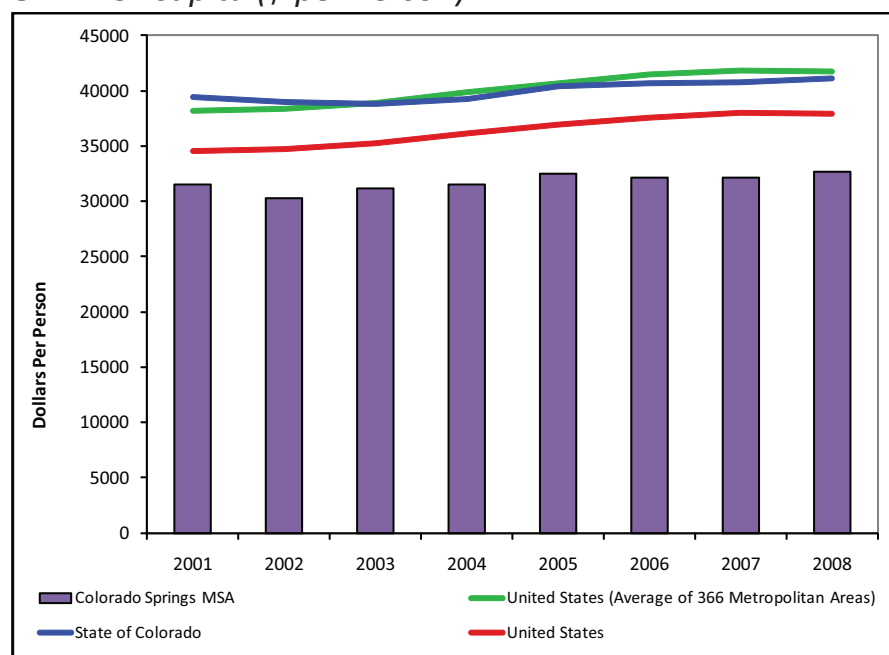
GMP Benchmark Cities Comparison

Metropolitan Area	GMP Value		GMP Growth	
	2008 \$M	Rank out of 366	2001-08 Growth	Rank out of 366
Denver	125,448	18	15%	206
Austin	72,415	34	35%	31
Salt Lake City	51,827	43	23%	98
Omaha	36,851	54	20%	153
Tulsa	34,411	55	12%	241
Albuquerque	32,111	57	23%	106
Des Moines	28,345	63	24%	92
Wichita	22,942	75	13%	230
Boise	22,246	78	30%	47
Charleston	21,495	80	25%	75
El Paso, TX	21,292	81	21%	136
Colorado Springs	20,178	86	15%	204
Boulder	16,533	100	10%	261
Fort Collins	9,685	157	24%	91
Pueblo	3,150	319	7%	308

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 and a source of donations to charitable and philanthropic causes. In short, high productivity results in a sustainable, higher standard and quality of life for the whole community.

How are We Doing?

Our GMP per capita is influenced by the industries we have and the number of

retired or underemployed citizens. 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 22% below the average of all U.S. metropolitan areas. Approximately 5% of this variance is due to the number of enlisted military in the local population who do not directly provide traditional economic output in goods and services. Our lower level of productivity is understandable since, during the last nine years, we have added 90,000 people to the population and have lost 2,000 civilian jobs during the same period. Our economic output is therefore spread across more people, placing additional demands on community infrastructure and services for which we do not have the economic base to support. If we were to achieve the same economic productivity per capita as Denver, we would increase our annual output by over 50%, or \$11 billion. Our slow rate of productivity improvement, only 4% in eight years, is cause for concern.

GMP Per Capita Benchmark

Metropolitan Area	2008 GMP Per Capita Value		Change 2001-2008	
	\$/Person	Rank out of 366	%	Rank out of 366
Boulder	56,396	10	13%	113
Des Moines	50,959	15	9%	180
Denver	50,047	19	2%	300
Salt Lake City	46,453	29	9%	172
Omaha	43,979	41	11%	144
Austin	43,819	43	8%	190
Wichita	38,001	89	8%	206
Albuquerque	37,960	91	7%	215
Tulsa	37,563	98	6%	233
Boise	37,092	106	5%	255
Charleston	33,352	152	8%	188
Fort Collins	33,075	156	10%	157
Colorado Springs	32,665	165	4%	273
El Paso	28,694	230	11%	136
Pueblo	20,096	358	-2%	338

Source: Department of Commerce Bureau of Economic Analysis

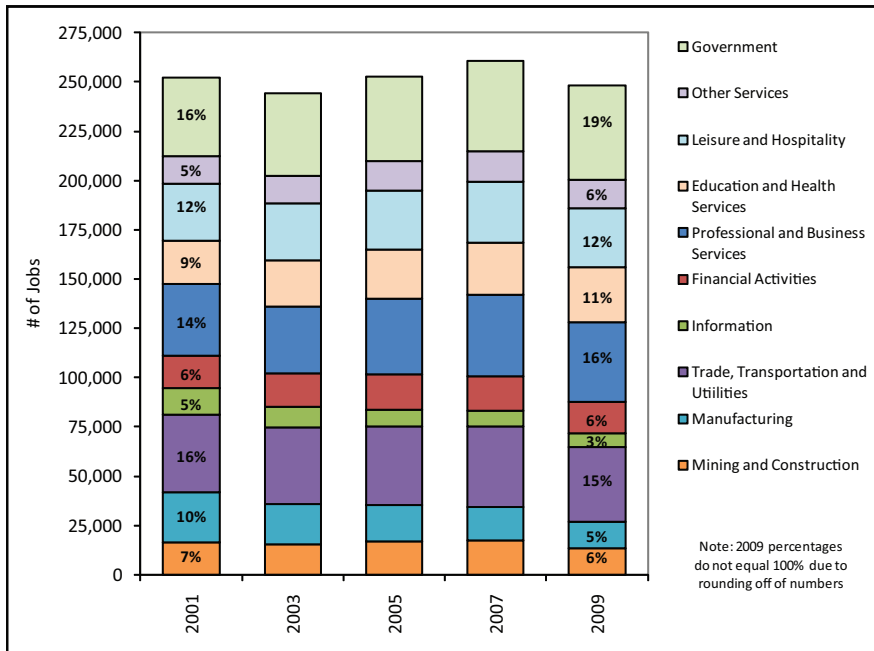
Potential for Action

Lead Organization: City of Colorado Springs

Secure a position in the top 100 communities within the U.S. in terms of GMP per capita, consistent with the national ranking of our local economy and population, by 2014. 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 display the number of jobs in each major industry segment in the Colorado Springs MSA and the change in the number of jobs in each sector over the last eight years.

Why is This Important?

A diverse economic base provides an effective hedge against normal employment cycles and changes in global/national economic and political conditions. It is also important to focus on high value-added, primary jobs, which provide income and wealth to the community, in information technology, manufacturing and professional service industries.

How are We Doing?

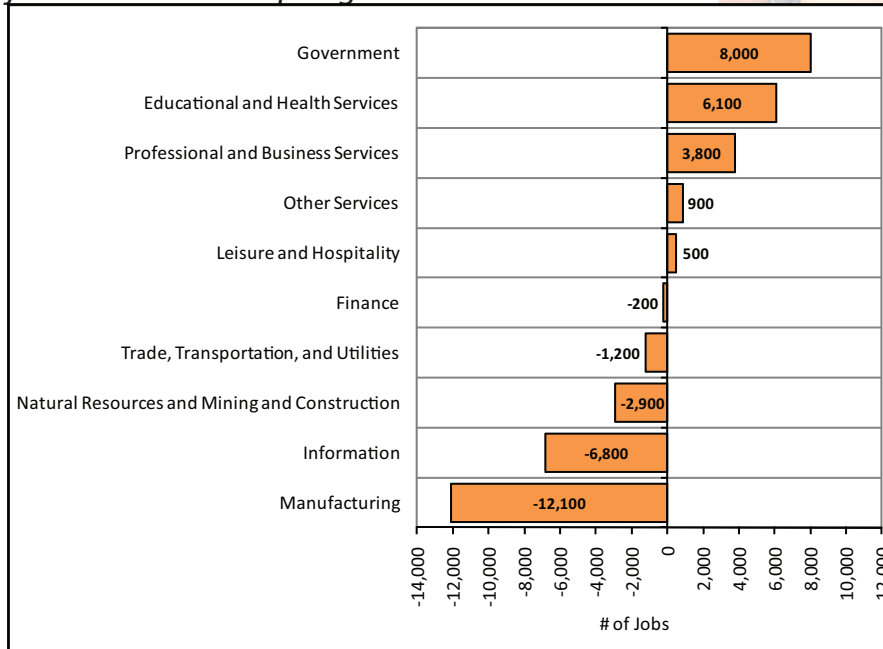
Government, including local, state and federal were the largest employers in the Colorado Springs MSA in 2009, with a total of 47,900 persons employed. The next largest industries were Professional and Business Services and Trade Transportation and Utilities with 40,200 and 38,000 respectively.

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

A local economy, dependent on government and military employment, is exposed to the uncertainties of politics and tax revenue collections. Government employment had the largest growth over the last nine years adding over 8,000 people. We experienced a similar increase in the number of active duty military personnel in this period that is not shown in these numbers. During the same period we lost almost 19,000 information technology and manufacturing jobs. It is these industries that have the highest potential for innovation and

wealth creation to strengthen our economy. The loss of these jobs has and will continue to have a significant impact on the local economy.

Overall Employment Trend 2001-2009 Change in Civilian Non-Farm Jobs by Industry for the Colorado Springs MSA



Source: Colorado Department of Labor and Employment

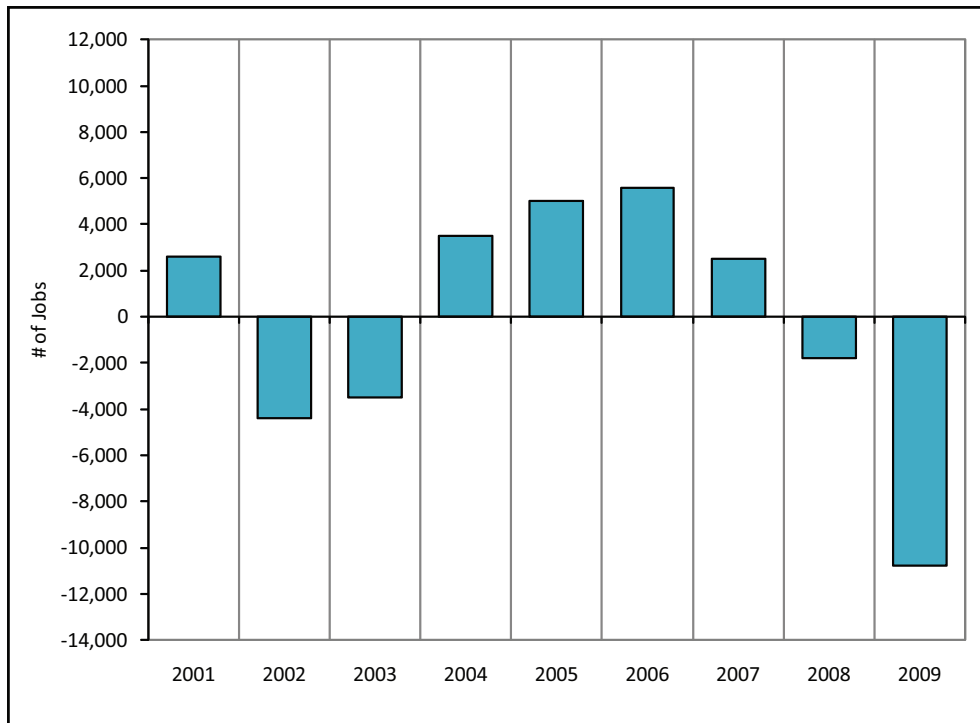
Potential for Action

Lead Organization: Colorado Springs Regional EDC

Attracting and retaining high tech design and manufacturing, IT, software and web-based businesses are a high priority for Colorado Springs. These jobs provide the revenue from external customers, strengthening the economic base of our city. Private industry employers such as these balance our large concentration of government sector employment.

Primary Job Growth/Losses

Civilian Non-Farm Job Growth/Decline



Source: Colorado Department of Labor and Employment

This Chart shows 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 but does not include active duty military personnel.

Why is This Important?

Over the last ten years the population of the Colorado Springs region has grown by an average of almost 10,000 people per year. In our region, approximately 50% of the population is in the civilian workforce. To keep pace with this population growth requires an additional 5,000 jobs each year. From 2001 through 2008, we added approximately 9,000 jobs in total or just over 1,000 jobs per year, well short of the growth required to keep up with the growing population. In 2009, we lost 10,800 jobs, meaning that over ten years we suffered a net loss of almost 2,000 jobs. New jobs

support expansion in our economy, new career opportunities for our citizens and additional tax base to support our desired infrastructure and services. State and local governments are experiencing the loss of tax revenues driven by fewer jobs, impacting the quality of services provided to the community.

How are We Doing?

Primary employers (those that import income from elsewhere, including federal government facilities and tourism), in addition to retiree income, drive the local economy. During the past nine years we appear to have lost between 20,000 and 30,000 primary jobs. Each primary job supports 1-2 additional local jobs. To employ 5,000 additional people each year, we need to add approximately 2,000 primary jobs to meet the employment needs of our citizens.

The loss of primary jobs in Colorado Springs is due to several reasons; including globalization and the outsourcing of manufacturing jobs, lack of availability of high-tech employees, and the lack of incentive packages for some companies to relocate here. It should be noted that many high growth, desirable, cities do not use incentives (e.g. Boulder, Fort Collins).

Potential for Action

Lead Organization: Colorado Springs Regional EDC

Add over 4,000 new primary jobs per year, to offset the typical losses per year of 2,000 jobs, to support a total job creation of 5,000 jobs per year to provide employment for the anticipated growth in the population.

CLASSIFIEDS

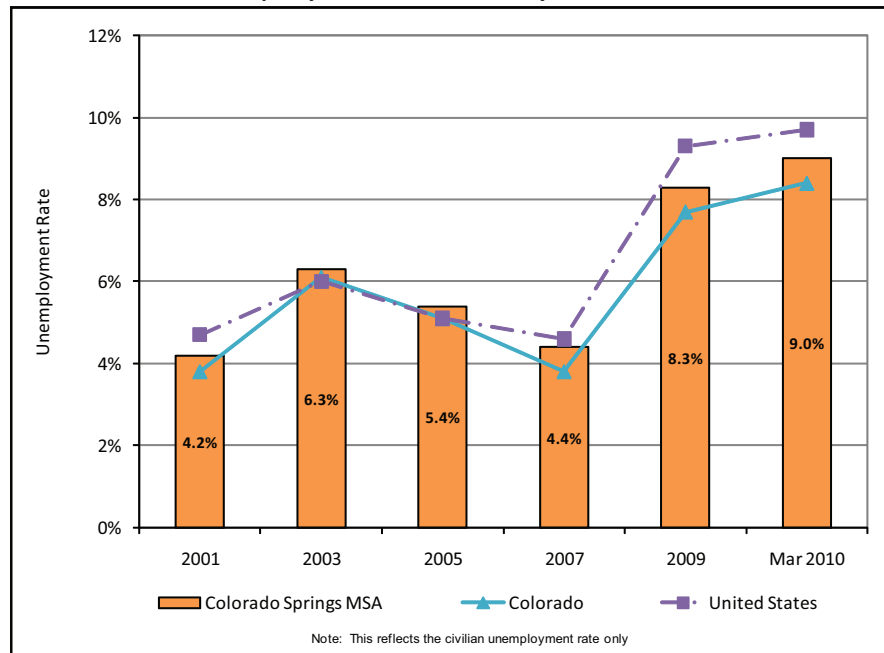
REACH YOUR PROSPECTS FIRST

Photograph by Senai Aksoy

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Unemployment Rate

Continued Unemployment Claims by MSA



Source: Colorado Department of Labor and Employment

This Chart shows the average continued unemployment claim rate by Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA). Unemployed workers are defined as job-seekers that do not currently have a job and are actively contacting employers for viable employment. If all unemployed individuals, including those who have given up looking for work, were included, Colorado would have had an unemployment rate of 13.7% for 2009, which is over 4% higher than the number of people continuing to claim benefits. Workers between 16 and 19 years of age, had a much higher unemployment rate of 24.7% for 2009.

Why is This Important?

The unemployment rate has long been identified as an indicator of the overall health of the economy. An unemployment rate below 4% is considered by many experts to be good.

How are We Doing?

The Colorado Springs MSA saw almost a 50% increase, from 5.7% to 8.3%, in annual unemployment rate from 2008 to 2009. A portion of the increase can be attributed to the extended claims benefits allowed to unemployed workers. Although below the national average, Colorado Springs has a higher unemployment rate than the State of Colorado and many benchmark metropolitan areas.

Potential for Action

Lead Organization: Colorado Springs Regional EDC

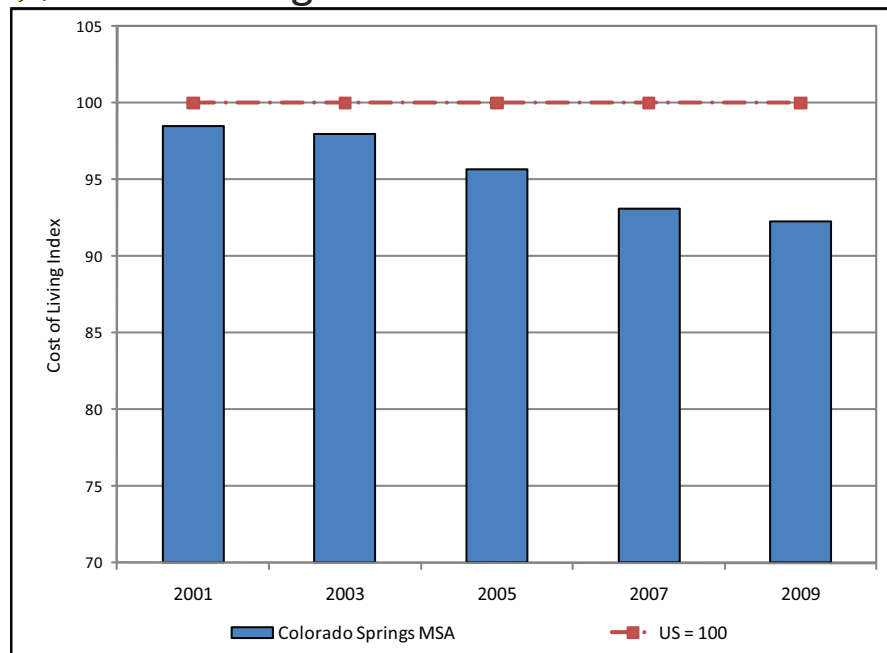
Focus on bringing primary employers and primary jobs to the region. A primary job may indirectly create 1-2 other jobs in the community in retail and service industries. Colorado Springs should continue to diversify its economic base to be able to better weather normal and recession-driven employment cycles.

Continued Unemployment Year End Claims - MSA						
	2001	2003	2005	2007	2009	3/2010
Boise City-Nampa	4.1%	5.0%	3.4%	2.9%	9.2%	9.9%
Charleston-Summerville	4.2%	5.3%	5.4%	4.4%	9.5%	9.8%
El Paso, TX	7.3%	8.8%	7.6%	5.9%	8.9%	9.4%
Pueblo	5.2%	7.5%	7.0%	4.9%	8.3%	9.5%
Albuquerque	4.3%	5.5%	4.9%	3.5%	7.1%	9.2%
Colorado Springs	4.2%	6.3%	5.4%	4.4%	8.3%	9.0%
Denver-Aurora-Broomfield	3.8%	6.4%	5.3%	4.0%	8.2%	8.5%
Tulsa	3.4%	6.1%	4.4%	3.9%	6.7%	7.5%
Wichita	4.1%	6.7%	5.5%	4.0%	7.8%	8.1%
Salt Lake City	4.4%	5.8%	4.1%	2.6%	5.7%	7.1%
Austin-Round Rock	4.3%	6.0%	4.5%	3.7%	6.5%	7.1%
Fort Collins-Loveland	3.2%	5.1%	4.5%	3.5%	6.1%	7.1%
Des Moines	2.8%	4.0%	4.0%	3.5%	5.6%	7.1%
Boulder	3.7%	5.8%	4.5%	3.4%	5.9%	6.4%
Omaha-Council Bluffs	3.3%	4.3%	4.3%	3.3%	5.0%	5.9%
State of Colorado	3.8%	6.1%	5.1%	3.8%	7.7%	8.4%
United States	4.7%	6.0%	5.1%	4.6%	9.3%	9.7%

Source: Colorado Department of Labor and Employment

-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. Affordability is measured as the difference between the “Income Index” and the “Cost of Living Index” in the table; the greater the Affordability number, the better.

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. A positive difference between income index and the cost of living index is desirable.

How are We Doing?

Colorado Springs has a very favorable level of affordability compared to other cities driven, in part, by a low cost of goods and services.

Median Household Income

MSA	Median Household Income 2008	Income Index	Cost of Living Index	Affordability
Des Moines	\$57,543	110.3	90.6	19.7
Colorado Springs	\$57,782	110.7	92.3	18.4
Omaha	\$55,138	105.7	89.3	16.4
Austin	\$57,973	111.1	96.5	14.6
Fort Collins	\$55,863	107.1	92.7	14.4
Salt Lake City	\$58,885	112.9	100	12.9
Denver	\$60,012	115.0	102.9	12.1
Boise	\$52,098	99.9	95	4.9
Wichita	\$49,092	94.1	90.6	3.5
Tulsa	\$46,258	88.7	87.4	1.3
Boulder	\$65,960	126.4	125.3	1.1
United States	\$52,175	100	100	--
Pueblo	\$41,381	79.3	84.3	-5.0
Albuquerque	\$47,418	90.9	96.2	-5.3
Charleston	\$41,362	79.3	93.3	-14.0

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

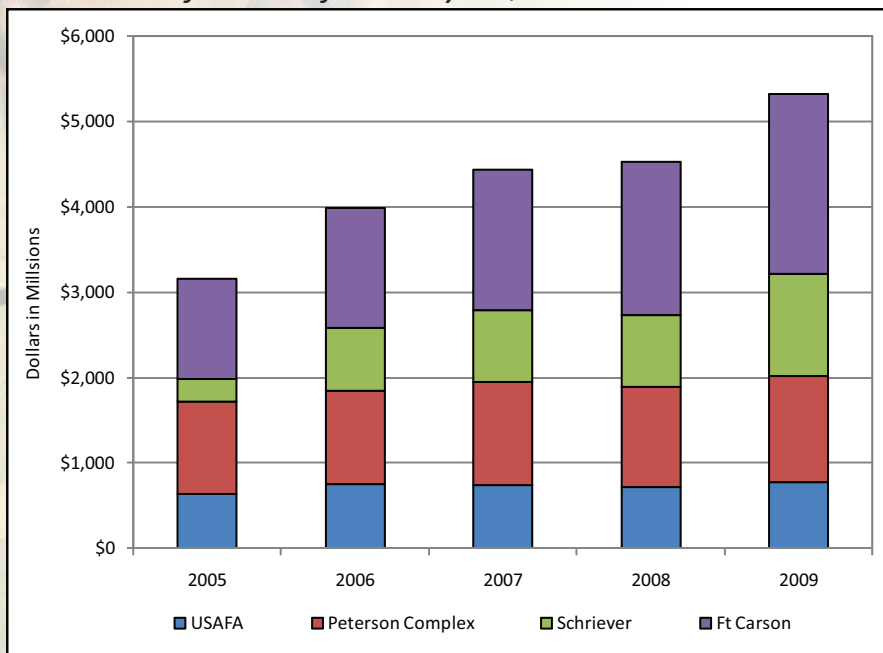
Potential for Action

Lead Organization: City of Colorado Springs and El Paso County

Balance the low cost of living with quality services and infrastructure in order 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 reported economic impact and the workforce (military and civilian) of the military installations in El Paso County.

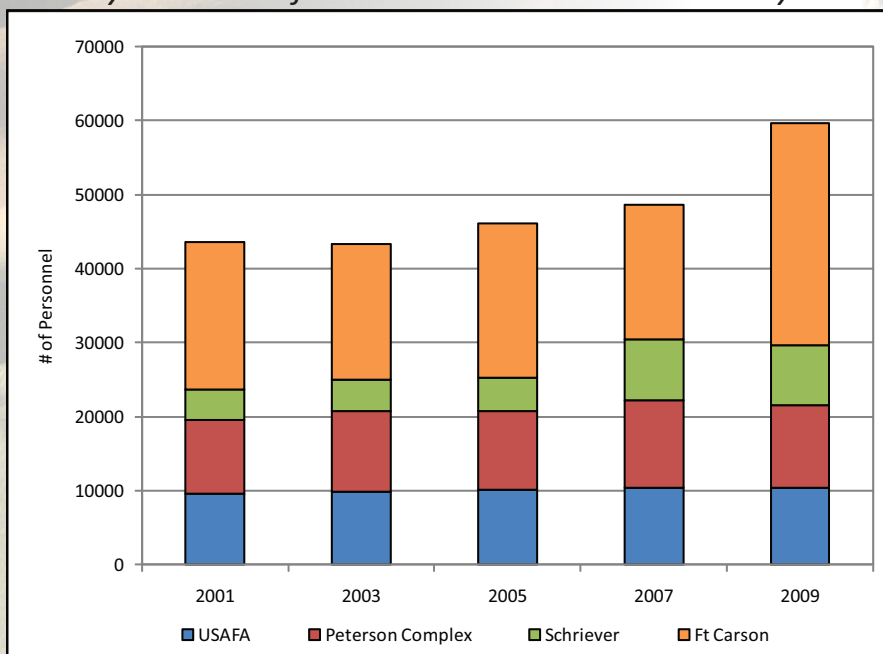
Why is This Important?

The military has always been a critical part of our economy since Fort Carson was established in 1942. Since that time, the region has added significant and diverse military missions and commands. 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 technical and service sectors and has also been beneficial for our regional universities and colleges.

How are We Doing?

There has been steady growth since 2005, primarily because of the growth at Fort Carson. The Air Force cyberspace mission recently became part of Air Force Space Command. This will have a positive effect on the growth of the local cyberspace industries and the educational institutions which support them.

Military Base Workforce Trend - Civilian and Military Personnel



Source: Greater Colorado Springs Chamber of Commerce

Potential for Action

Lead Organization: Colorado Springs Chamber of Commerce

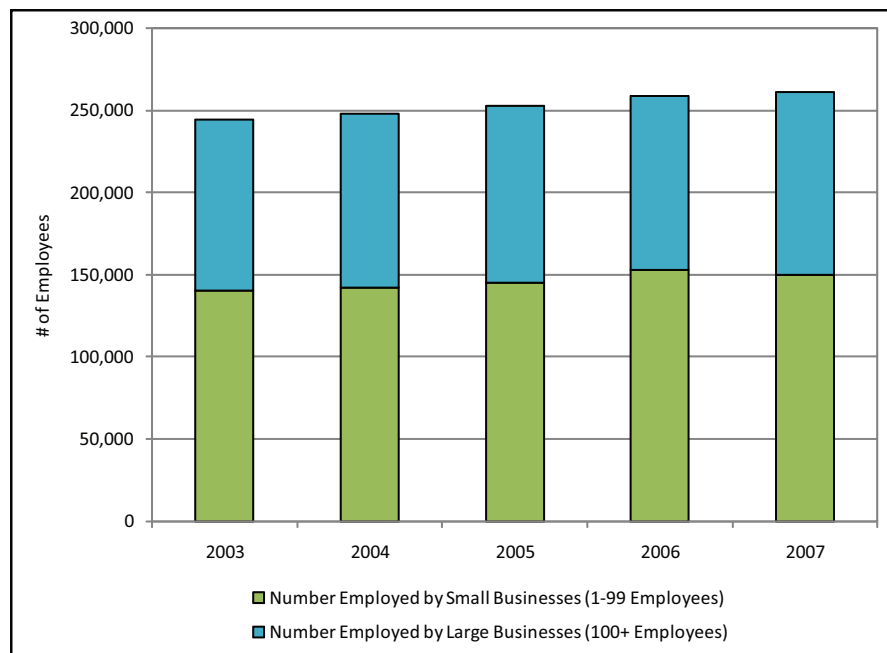
Our federal legislators, the State of Colorado, county and city governments and the private sector must continue to positively advocate for our military facilities and recognize the importance of maintaining, and appropriately growing, the military missions in the area.

Photograph by Gerhard Höllisch

Photograph by Carolina K. Smith. M.D.

-Small Business-

Number of Jobs by Size of Business



Source: U.S. Government Census, MSA Business Patterns

The Chart shows the number of people employed in small (<100 employees) and large businesses (100+ employees) businesses.

Why is This Important?

Small businesses play a vital role in our economy. Almost 60% of workers are employed by small businesses. Of the approximately 17,000 businesses in the Colorado Springs Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) 98% have less than 100 employees. Many of these businesses provide support for large businesses and provide a variety of goods and services supporting the infrastructure and the region's quality of life. Small businesses have generated 64 percent of net new jobs in the U.S. over the past 15 years according to the Small Business Administration Office of Advocacy, www.sba.gov/advo.

How are We Doing?

The number of small businesses in our area has grown an average of 369 businesses per year over the past 5 years. The number of

large businesses has also increased during the same period growing at an average of 12 businesses per year. The Better Business Bureau of Southern Colorado and The Greater Colorado Springs Chamber of Commerce surveyed their members in March, 2010. The respondents ranked, in order of importance,

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Small Businesses	14,934	15,443	15,935	16,477	16,779
Large Businesses	306	318	316	340	346

Source: U.S. Government Census, MSA Business Patterns



Photograph courtesy of Shutterstock.com

the potential barriers to expanding and growing business in our region as follows: lack of access to capital, poor business climate, lack of availability of qualified employees and too much competition. We need to address these shortfalls if we are to grow the base of small businesses in the area.

Potential for Action

Lead Organization: SEGWay (Springs Entrepreneurial Gardening... The Way to Success)

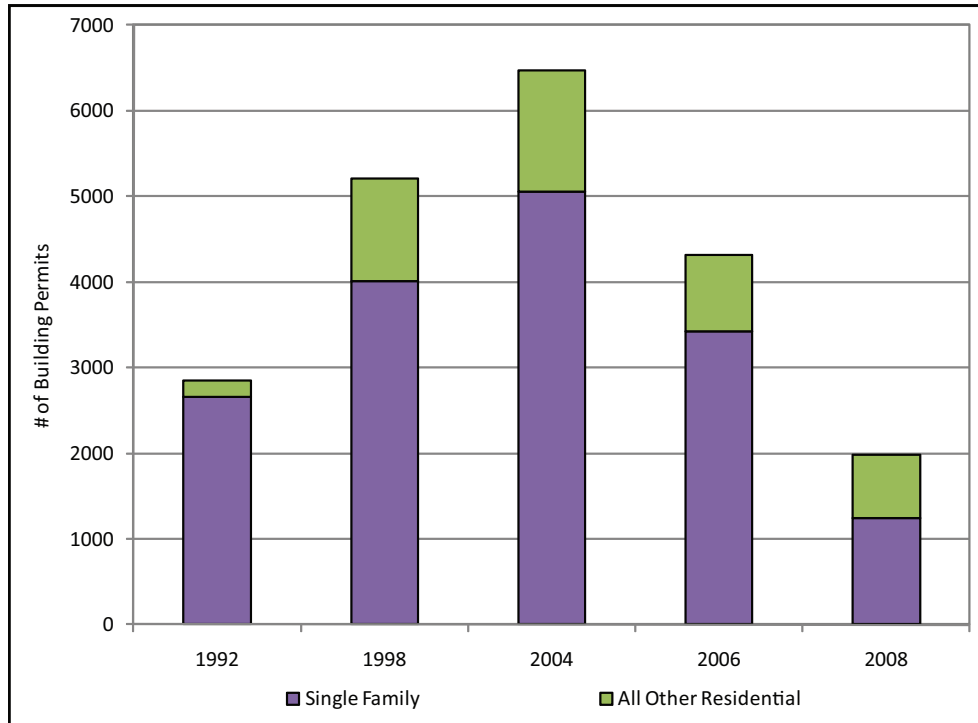
This consortium comprising SCORE, Pikes Peak Library District, The Great Colorado Springs Chamber of Commerce, Better Business Bureau, City of Colorado Springs, Colorado Springs Utilities, UCCS Business School, Pikes Peak Community College, Economic Development Corporation, Pikes Peak Workforce, Colorado Springs Technology Incubator will provide help for new and existing small businesses through their web-portal: <http://www.springssmallbiz.com/segway.php>, offering a one stop shop to address critical business issues.

The table compares MSA business growth patterns between large and small businesses.

-Real Estate-

Construction Activity

El Paso County Single Family Building Permits



Source: Pikes Peak Regional Building Department

This chart shows residential building permit activity for single-family dwelling construction in El Paso County for the past 18 years. Construction activity is a commonly accepted measure of economic activity and local consumer confidence. New home sales are a result of new household formation as local children grow up and get a place of their own, as existing residents purchase move up homes and as people who are coming in to the region purchase homes.

Why is This Important?

The construction of new homes and commercial real estate provides as much as 7% to 10% of the local economic activity and a similar portion of local employment especially for 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, good quality and affordable housing is an important consideration for the quality of life.

How are We Doing?

Colorado Springs and El Paso County have experienced significant declines in the past four years in construction investment and building activity. Single family permit activity in 2008 and 2009 was less than 25% of the peak experienced in 2005, and is expected to remain low in 2010, well below historical levels. The performance in the local housing industry is expected to remain anemic in 2010, with slow improvement in 2011.

Potential for Action

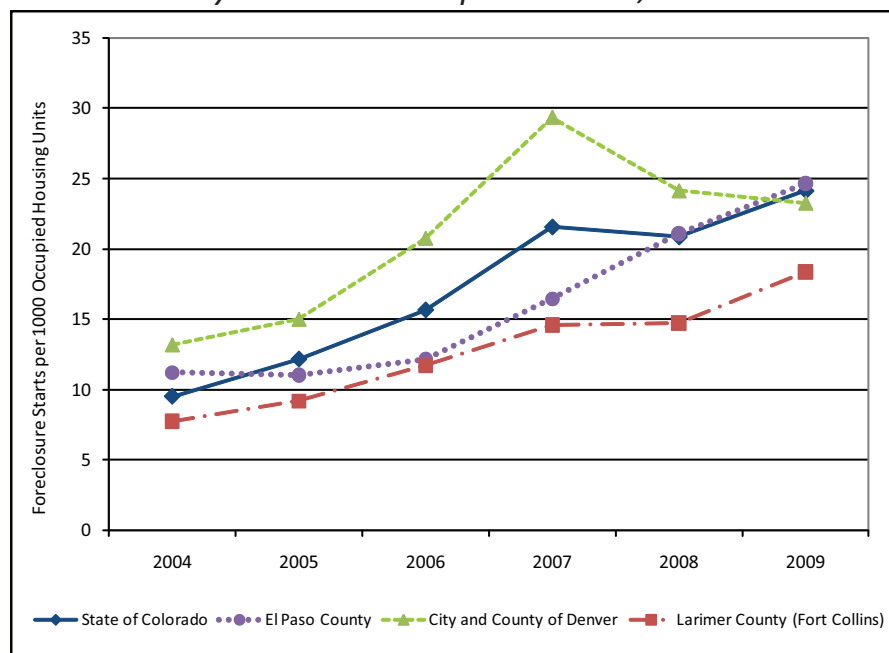
Lead Organization: City of Colorado Springs and El Paso County

Continue efforts in local primary job growth. Pursue new and continuing initiatives to adequately maintain and build important community infrastructure, including roads, utilities and storm drainage. Monitor the local regulatory environment to assure that cost prohibitive barriers to housing and real estate development are at a minimum. Take steps to assure the maintenance of a reasonable, predictable and expeditious approval process with stable fee structures.

Photograph by Chad McDermott

Foreclosures

El Paso County Foreclosures Opened Per 1,000 Households



Source: Colorado Department of Local Affairs, Division of Housing

This Chart compares the annual rate of foreclosures opened in El Paso County with the statewide rate measured in opened foreclosures 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 increase in foreclosures in El Paso County contrasts with a decrease in foreclosures in Denver. Comparisons with other states tend to be 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 60% of foreclosure starts result in sale at public auction; about 90% of these will go to the lenders. Foreclosure sales reduce property values, affecting other residents' ability to sell or refinance their property. Foreclosed properties often sit vacant, becoming blighted and reducing neighborhood attractiveness and quality of life.

How are We Doing?

Statewide, foreclosure starts increased from 2.08% in 2008 to 2.41% in 2009, while El Paso County's rate increased from 2.11% to 2.46%. The ratio of occupied households per completed foreclosure is better than in most large counties along the Front Range. This chart compares the foreclosure sales rate in El Paso County with that of other large counties in Colorado. Among such counties, El Paso County foreclosure rate was higher than Ft. Collins and Denver, but lower than the combined city and county of Denver. The foreclosure rate will drop when increased demand for homes stabilizes home prices and jobs are available for existing homeowners to make payments on their mortgages. In short, the foreclosure rate should drop as employment increases.

Potential for Action

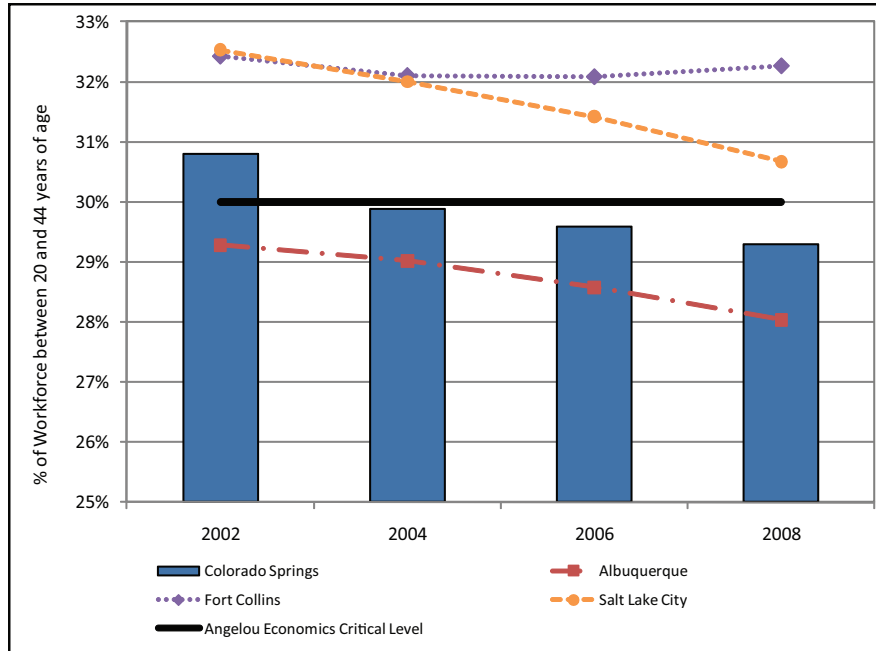
There is little that can be directly done to reduce the foreclosure rate. Some help can be provided by the Pikes Peak Foreclosure Prevention Partnership to counsel borrowers who are facing foreclosure.

County	Foreclosure Starts			Completed FCs per 1000 Occupied HHs
	2008	2009	% Change	
Weld	2824	3354	19%	18.5
Adams	5558	5647	2%	17.9
Arapahoe	5876	6233	6%	13.0
Pueblo	1311	1569	20%	13.0
Denver	6212	6141	-1%	11.8
El Paso	4597	5470	19%	10.9
Douglas	2180	2680	23%	10.6
Jefferson	3669	4027	10%	7.8
Larimer	1644	2091	27%	7.2
Mesa	469	1290	175%	6.3
Boulder	1041	1437	38%	6.1
Colorado Statewide	39333	46394	18%	

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 Bureau, American Factfinder 2006-2008

The first Chart shows the percentage of the Pikes Peak Region's working population that is considered "Young Professionals" in the 25-44 age group.

The second Chart shows the number of patents issued in the Pikes Peak Region from 2004-2008, compared to benchmark cities.

Why is This Important?

Young professionals are a key component of a workforce because they engage in entrepreneurial activity, and innovation, and provide a key resource for existing and new companies. A decline in this segment 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?

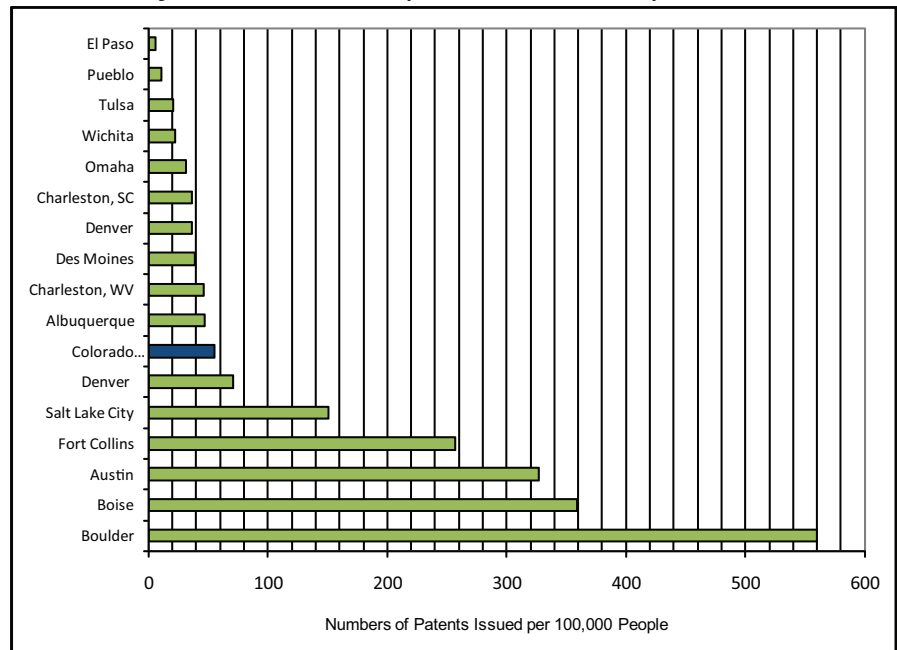
The Pikes Peak Region's "Young Professionals" population is now below the 30% critical threshold used by many site selection consultants. The downward trend decreases the region's attractiveness to high-impact, high value, knowledge-based businesses that require a strong talent pool. The number of patents issued locally places our region in the middle of the group of cities against which we typically compete. However, we are significantly below the high performers like Austin and Boise, which experience three times the rate of patent generation in Colorado Springs. We must improve our performance to be attractive to outside companies.

Potential for Action

Lead Organizations: Colorado Springs Regional Economic Development Corporation, Greater Colorado Springs Chamber of Commerce, University of Colorado, Colorado Springs (UCCS) and Operation 6035 implementation effort.

Implement the action plan laid out in Operation 6035, to attract and retain young professionals and to expand our entrepreneurial growth. Continue to support the expansion and innovation coming out of UCCS. Develop a community venture fund for entrepreneurs to develop their ideas and thereby grow start-up companies in Colorado Springs.

Number of Patents Issued per 100,000 People



Source: U.S. Patent and Trademark Office

Milken Institute National Ranking

Best Performing Cities 2001-2009

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

Rank	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2007	2008	2009
<10	Boulder Austin Boise	Boise					Salt Lake City Austin Charleston	Salt Lake City Austin
<20		Austin Boulder		Boise Albuquerque		Salt Lake City Boise Charleston		El Paso, TX Wichita Tulsa
<30	Co Springs Denver	Co Springs			Charleston		Boise Des Moines	Fort Collins Charleston
<40	Fort Collins	Albuquerque	Albuquerque Charleston Co Springs		Boise	Albuquerque	Albuquerque El Paso, TX	
<50	Salt Lake City Omaha Charlotte	Fort Collins Tulsa		Des Moines	Albuquerque Fort Collins		Denver Wichita Fort Collins	Albuquerque Boulder
<60		Denver Salt Lake City	Austin	Charleston	Austin	Des Moines		Des Moines Denver
<70				Austin	Des Moines			Omaha
<80			Boise Fort Collins Tulsa		Co Springs	Fort Collins	Tulsa	
<90		Omaha Charleston	Denver Des Moines	Co Springs	Salt Lake City		Omaha	
<100	Albuquerque		Boulder	Boulder	Boulder	Boulder Co Springs Tulsa	Boulder	
<110	Tulsa				Denver	Denver Omaha		Co Springs
<120	Des Moines				Omaha	Wichita	Co Springs	Boise

Source: Milken Institute

This Table: Each year the Milken Institute publishes the well recognized “Best Performing Cities- Where America’s Jobs are Created and Sustained.” This table 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 U.S. as a whole. It is perhaps the best external benchmark assessment of our performance in high value job creation.

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 2009, Colorado Springs was ranked 101st out of 200 - an improvement of 9 positions from 2008. The table shows that we continue to be near the bottom of our benchmark group. Colorado Springs ranked very high in terms of the current proportion of the economy that is based on high technology industries. The lack of overall job growth, poor growth in economic output and poor historical growth in high technology sectors dragged our overall performance down. These results are reflective of the metrics reported elsewhere in this section.

The assessment conducted by Milken Institute focuses 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:	2009 American Lung Association
6th Best Regional Public University (UCCS):	2010 US News and World Report
6th Most wired city:	2010 Forbes.com
12th Best city for business and careers:	2010 Forbes.com
9th Best midsize metropolitan area:	2010 MSNBC
2nd Fittest city in America:	2009 Men's Fitness Magazine
18th Friendliest Bike City in America:	2010 Bicycling Magazine

There are many organizations who routinely publish lists of “best cities” using one set of criteria or another. These criteria reflect many aspects of quality of life whether focused on education, health, fitness, recreation, crime rate, affordability and others which align with many of the sections in this report. As Operation 6035 moves forward one of the areas on which it will focus is entrepreneurship and innovation to drive economic growth. A recent Kiplinger’s Personal Finance Advisor report listed top cities focusing on out-of-the-box thinking, lifting innovation to new levels based on growth and growth potential.¹ Although Colorado Springs was not ranked, many of our benchmark cities were, as follows:

Austin	#1
Boulder	#4
Salt Lake City	#5
Des Moines	#8

The research, conducted by Kevin Stolarick, research director of the Martin Prosperity Institute found that successful community innovation had three key elements: smart people, great ideas and collaboration. It is the latter element upon which the Operation 6035 team is currently focusing.

Potential for Action

Lead Organization: City of Colorado Springs

Colorado Springs must build on the recognition and success that we have had in the past and create a vibrant business climate offering existing and new companies a location and high quality environment in which to thrive. This includes low regulatory requirements, quick response from government to the needs of businesses, good transportation, low costs in the form of taxes and access to an educated and trained workforce. Community initiatives such as Operation 6035 should play a key role in this action.

1 Kiplinger’s Personal Finance Advisor, June 2010.

Photograph by Neil Podoll

Promoting Social Wellbeing

Chairs and Convener

KATHY MOAN (Co-Chair)
Joint Initiatives for Youth and Families

DIANE PRICE (Co-Chair)
Early Connections Learning Centers

LINDA MEREDITH (Convener)
Community Partnership for Child Development

Members

MICHAEL ALLEN
Pikes Peak Behavioral Health Group

TERRI ANDERSON
Silver Key Senior Services

RICHARD BENGTTSSON
El Paso County Department of Human Services

LINDSAY CARLETON
Silver Key Senior Services

CHRIS GARVIN
El Paso County Department of Human Services

SANDY HELLER

ERICA LISBY
University of Colorado at Colorado Springs

KRISTA MEIER
Pikes Peak Library District

FAYE POINTE
Goodwill Industries

JEFF SCHAW
Goodwill Industries

GUY DUTRA-SILVEIRA
Pikes Peak Area Agency on Aging

FRANK STAMPF
Partners in Housing

DEBBIE SWANSON
Fostering Hope Foundation



Photograph by Eva Story



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.

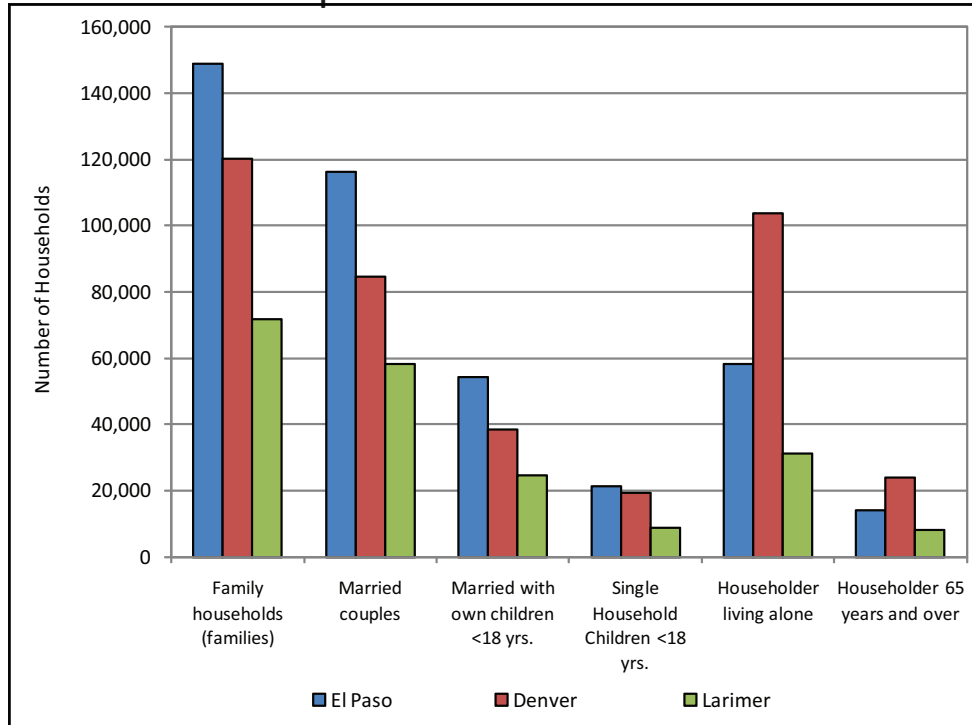
What does the data show? We live in a relatively low-cost, low-wage community where the home price to salary ratio is approximately 5:1, about double the recommended ratio, which means that many residents cannot afford to buy a home. The relatively low rental rates suggest that more apartments are accessible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

Photograph by Kurhan

-Children and Families-

Household Composition



Source: U.S. Government Census, MSA Business Patterns

This Chart shows the types of households (all persons who occupy a housing unit) as a percentage of total households in El Paso County as compared to Denver and Larimer Counties

Of particular interest is that it shows how many households have children under age 18 living with them.

Why is This Important?

El Paso County households reflect differences in family composition and recognizing these differences helps our community understand how to support the wellbeing of all residents. Children, our youngest citizens, are more likely to succeed when they live in a home characterized by family stability. Teen pregnancy and childbearing have significant consequences for the teen mother, her child and society as a whole; encompassing both human and monetary impacts which can be reduced with family

stability. The anticipated, significant increase in the number of aging baby boomers in El Paso County challenges us to address the needs and cultivate the strengths of this population.

How are We Doing?

In El Paso County 68% of households consist of families, which is significantly higher than Denver and Larimer Counties with 49% and 55% respectively. Married couples are also higher in El Paso County with 53%. Denver and Larimer Counties trail behind with 34% and 43% of married couples. Single parents with children in El Paso County represent 10% of total households which is higher than in Denver at 7.8% and Larimer at 7%. Approximately 27% of households consist of just one person living alone, which is much lower than households in Denver and Larimer at 42% and 30% respectively. Approximately 6.5% of households consist of a single adult over 65 years, which is lower than Denver at 10% and on par with Larimer County at 6%. Additionally, in 2008 11,244 grandparents lived with their grandchildren, which increased significantly from 9,965 in 2007, and 45.5% of those were financially responsible for their grandchild's basic needs including food, shelter, clothing, and child care.¹ The percentage of grandparents caring for their grandchildren is comparable to Denver and Larimer Counties.

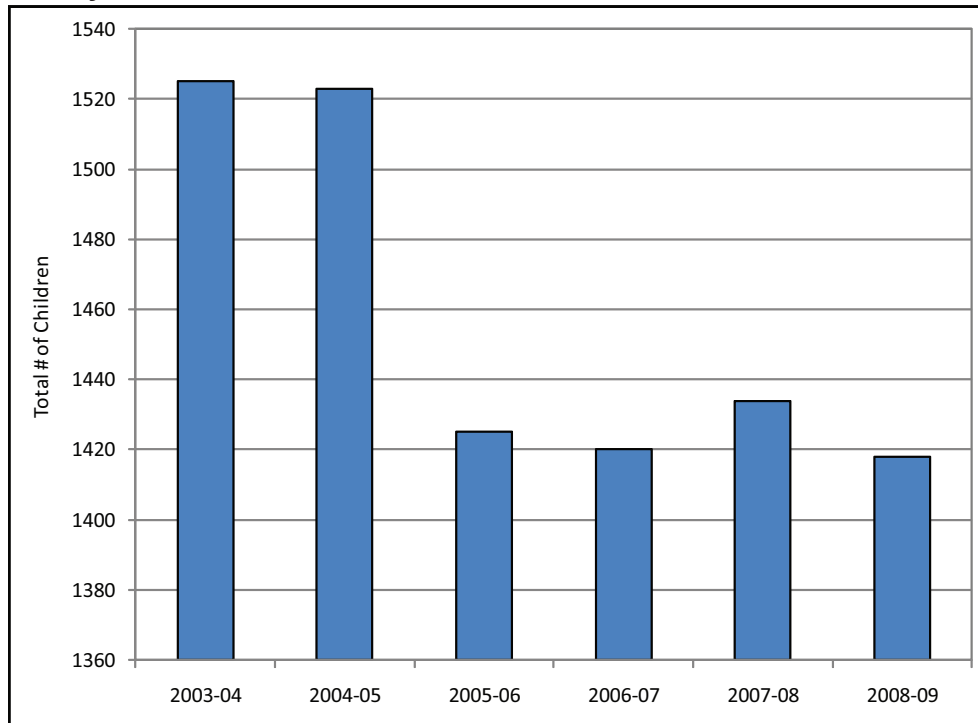
Potential for Action

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

¹ American Communities Survey US Census 2008 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?

It is important that children remain in the least restrictive environment while promoting their safety and stability. This data reflects the ability of families to have the needed resources and supports to meet this need. The long term, successful outcomes for a child and family can be better achieved 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, under 18 years, increased to 153,698 during 2007 and remained relatively flat in 2008 at 153,968.

There was a decrease in the number of out of home placements from 1434 (FY2007-08) to 1418 (FY 2008-09). Taken in the context of the population growth, the decrease in 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

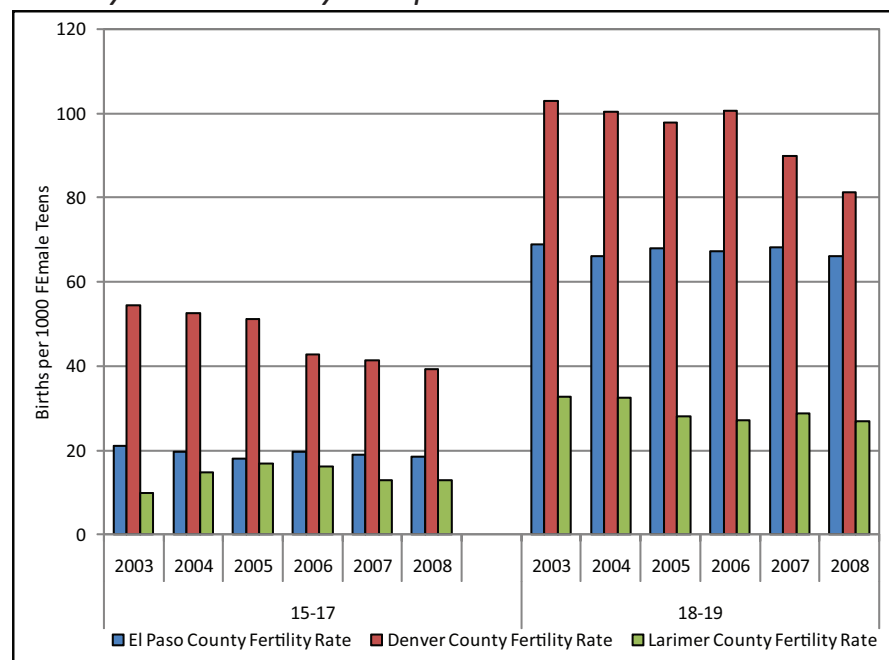
Support innovative strategies that focus on family centered approaches. Agencies and initiatives can explore different ways to work together by better understanding organizational mandates, both programmatic and fiscal, that create barriers to family success and to develop strategies to overcome them.



Photograph by Golden Pixels, LLC

Teen Pregnancy

Fertility Rate - County Comparison



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

The second chart shows the comparative proportion of subsequent births to mothers under age 18.²

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

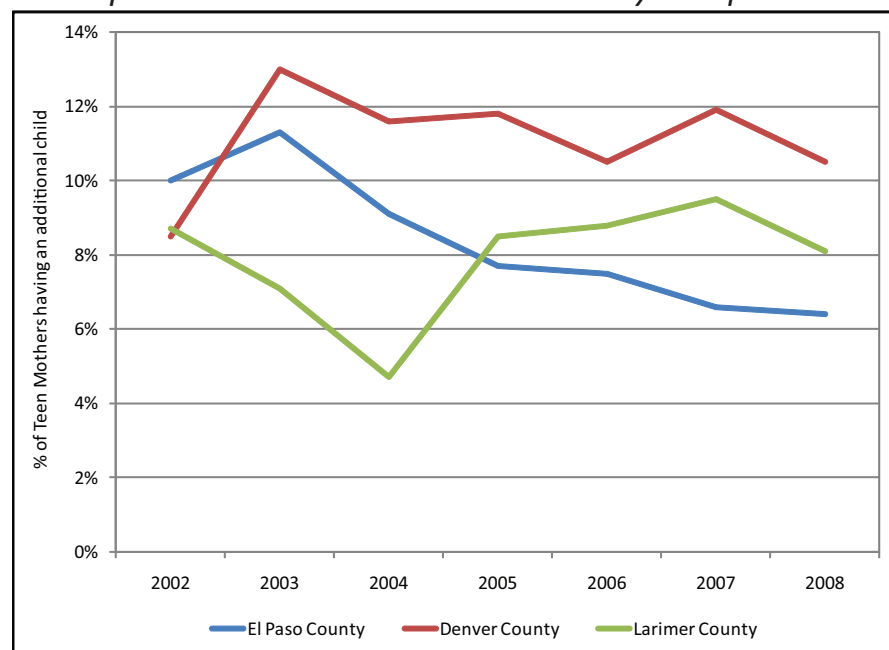
Why is This Important?

Teen pregnancy and childbearing have significant consequences for the teen mother, her child and society. 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.³ Estimates show that teen childbearing in Colorado cost taxpayers (federal, state and local) at least \$167 million in 2004.⁴

How are We Doing?

In El Paso County, between 2002-2008, the rate of births to teen girls decreased 21% for teens aged 15-17 and 19% for teens aged 18-19, although the rate of decline has been less substantial over the last 3 years. The Colorado 2010 goal is to reduce the birth rate among females, age 15-17, to 21.0 births per 1,000 females.⁵ El Paso County meets this goal. Subsequent births to teen mothers under the age of 18 have continued to steadily decline since 2003.

Subsequent Births to Teen Mothers County Comparison



Source for both charts: Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

1 Kirby, D., 2007.

2 Ibid.

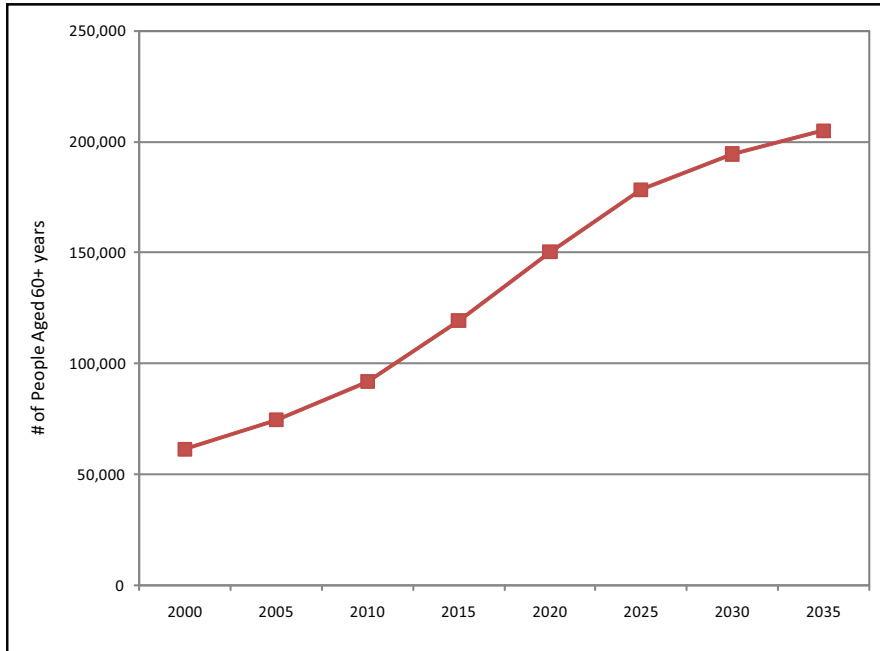
3 Ibid.

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

5 Kirby, D., 2007.

-Older Adults-

Population Growth



Source: Older Adult Survey 2010

The first Chart: Colorado currently ranks third in the nation in the speed of population aging. As illustrated in this chart, growth in El Paso County is projected to more than double in the next 25 years as the population increases by more than 100,000 individuals between 2010 (624,314) and 2020 (735,428). It is also projected that by 2020 about 150,341 of those individuals will be between 60 and 90 years of age.

This growth is an important issue for government and human services agencies since the elderly are generally considered a special needs group due in part to the high correlation between age and disabilities. In addition, this population relies heavily on public systems of transportation, medical and mental health services, and specialized housing.

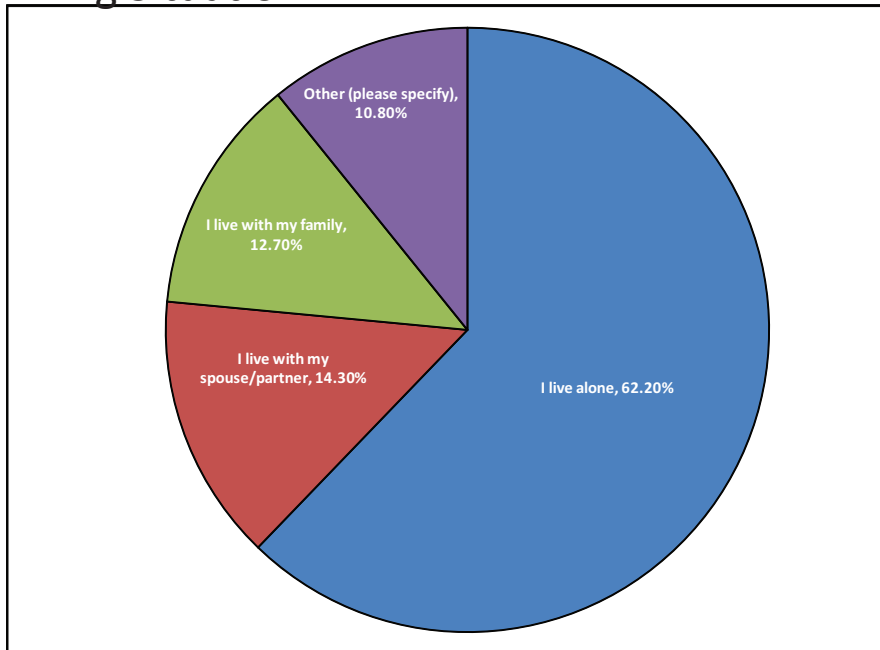
Potential for Action

The El Paso County Community has been approaching problems and solutions to this issue with an eye toward creating a community that considers the needs of an aging population and enhances the quality of life of older individuals. This is a challenge in the current climate of limited resources and the resulting cuts in services. As a community, we are working to ensure that we are poised to respond to the growing needs of an older population.

The second Chart: There are various senior housing options in El Paso County, including living independently, supportive senior housing environments, assisted-living facilities, and skilled nursing facilities. In home services are also options for senior residents.

The 2010 Older Adult Survey shows that 62% of respondents live alone and 27% live with a spouse or family member. 11% report other living arrangements. Of those surveyed, 84% of respondents felt their housing met their physical needs. With the majority of area seniors living alone, access to essential services becomes a critical issue to help seniors maintain their quality of life.¹

Living Situation



Source: Older Adult Survey 2010

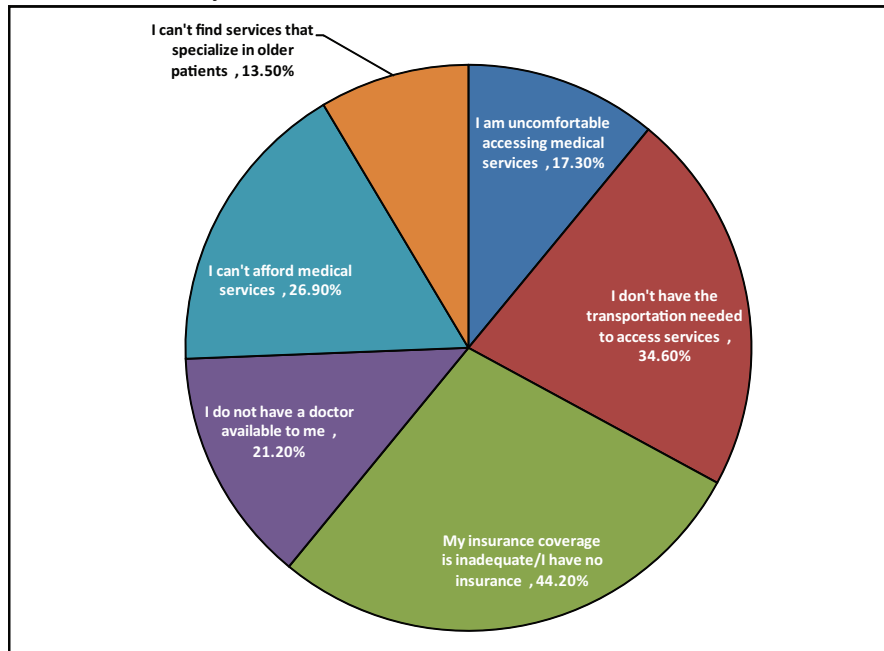
Potential for Action

As the population ages housing options and environments will become even more important. This is a challenge being faced by communities everywhere. El Paso County is examining creative options to improve the accessibility of housing options to enhance the quality of life of an aging population.

1 Colorado Department of Local Affairs State Demographers Office (DOLA).

Health Services for Older Adults

Barriers to Physical Health Care

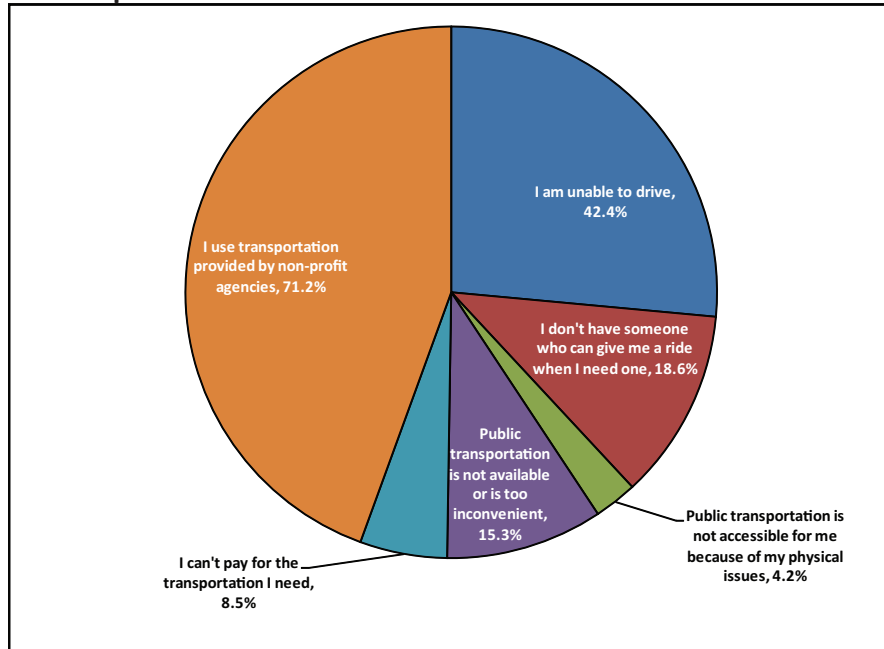


Source: Older Adult Survey 2010

The first Chart shows the responses for seniors who do not have access to medical services. While this table illustrates the largest obstacle as having inadequate or no insurance at 40.5%, if the seniors who report that they can't afford medical services (27%) are added to this number, we find a combined total of 67.5% of seniors surveyed are experiencing financial barriers. The next greatest obstacle to accessing services was lack of transportation to these services (34%).

12.5% of seniors surveyed also reported lack of access to needed mental health indicating they couldn't afford insurance (40.4%) or to pay for services (23.1%). Discomfort with seeking services was also a barrier (34.6%). There is still a stigma attached to seeking out these services, yet there are approximately 15,000 seniors in this region who have diagnosable psychological conditions with most not receiving care. When the normal grief, loss, and adjustment to aging are added and the numbers of older people who could benefit from mental health services is considered, the need for accessible, stigma free services becomes even more pronounced.

Transportation Access



Source: Older Adult Survey 2010

The second Chart: The City of Colorado Springs, Colorado covers more than 194 square miles and is the most populous city in El Paso County with an estimated 414,658 residents in 2009.¹ Access to transportation is a key issue that profoundly impacts the quality of life for seniors. About 62.2% of those over 60 in our community live alone. It is unknown how many of those cannot drive themselves to buy food or attend medical appointments or social activities. Without transportation support a senior may not be able to continue to care for themselves, seek medical attention, obtain food, and maintain social connections. Accessible transportation is essential to quality of life for today's aging population.

Potential for Action

In 2009, the two nonprofit transportation services in the region combined and provided approximately 57,000 rides to people aged 60 and older. Because of deep

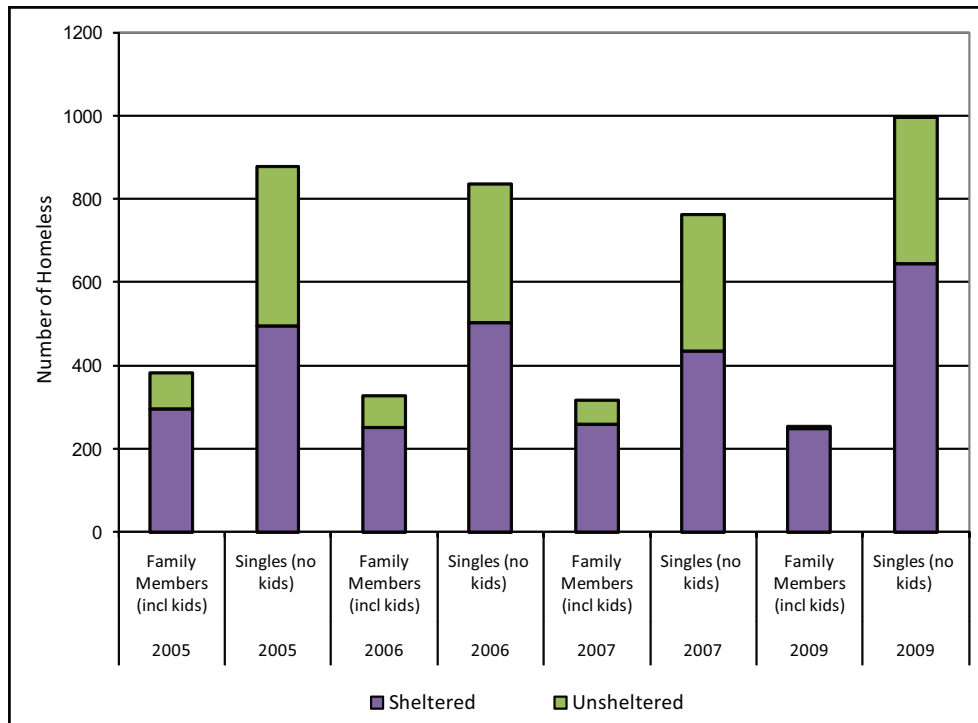
budget cuts to the City of Colorado Springs public transit systems, those relying on those services have been impacted. Government and human service transit providers are working toward collaborative solutions to bridge the gap and address current and future need.

1 Collaborative Older Adult Survey, El Paso County, 2010.

-Economic Wellbeing-

Homelessness

Point-in-Time Homeless Counts



Source: Homeward Pikes Peak

This Chart illustrates the numbers of homeless family members, including children, and the numbers of single adults reported in the Point In Time (PIT) Counts conducted by Homeward Pikes Peak from 2005 through 2009 . There was no PIT Count conducted in 2008, and data from an “abbreviated” count held in early 2010 was unavailable at the time of this writing. The colored bars further break each category (family members vs. singles) into whether they were sheltered (emergency shelters, transitional housing, etc.) or unsheltered (on the streets, in cars, etc.). During late 2009 and early 2010, public awareness of the chronically homeless in the Colorado Springs community was raised significantly by the highly visible homeless camps that began appearing near and around the downtown area.

Why is This Important?

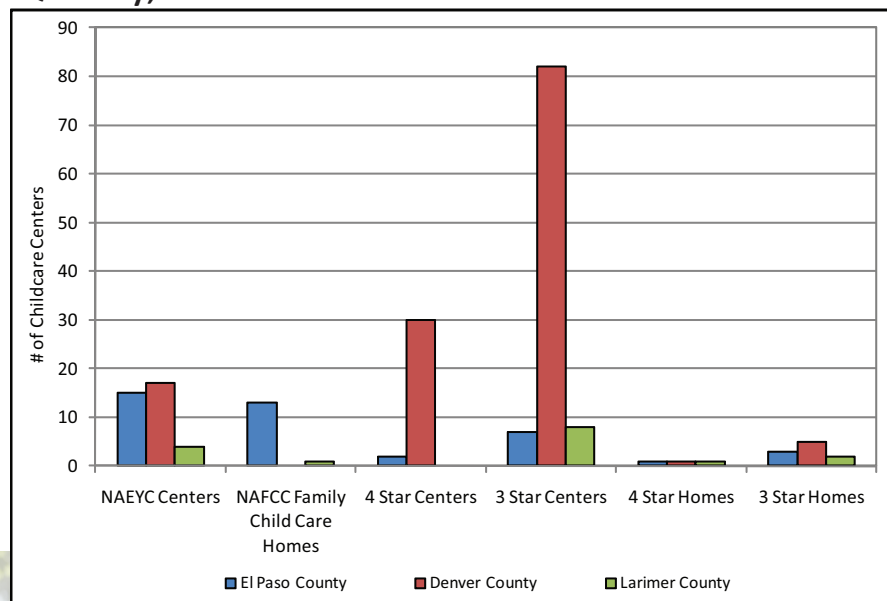
Regarding chronically homeless single adults, the chart reflects that the number of homeless singles (996) rose in 2009/2010 to above 2005 levels, even after a three-year slight declining trend, and that increase likely includes at least some of the 350+ homeless campers who received so much attention from the media. However, the apparent downward trend in the number of homeless family members does not tell the whole story, because homeless families make up the bulk of the “hidden homeless” in the community. These are living under temporary conditions, moving from friend to friend or staying in cheap motel rooms, etc. and are not picked up in the traditional annual Point In Time counts. This is highlighted by the fact that in 2009, Partners In Housing (PIH), the largest single provider of transitional housing in the city, served a record number of homeless families since 1991 - 342 individual family members, including 209 children. Comparing that number of 342 PIH family members served to the reported total of 253 homeless family members reflected in the 2009 Point In Time count clearly indicates the difficulty of capturing accurate data about the true scope and nature of homelessness. As a result of that disparity, scarce resources are not always allocated as effectively as they could be.

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.

Photograph by EML

Quality, Affordable Child Care for Families



Source: Qualistar, NAEYC, NAFCC

These Charts show the number of quality childcare centers, homes and preschools as demonstrated by a three or four star rating from Qualistar (Colorado Quality Rating and Improvement System) or national accreditation by the National Association of Family Child Care Homes (NAFCC) or by the National Association for The Education of Young Children (NAEYC).

Why is This Important?

Recent research has linked quality care to improved outcomes in education, increased social responsibility and shown money invested has a huge, positive return for taxpayers.

Three important studies are noted:

- North Carolina Abecedarian Study
- Chicago's Child Parent Study
- High/Scope Perry Preschool Study, conducted in Ypsilanti, Michigan

These studies found that early childhood programs were beneficial not only to the children involved in the programs, but also to society as a whole. The studies showed a positive impact on participant's academic performance and educational attainment; participants were more socially responsible and less likely to need special attention in school, and the cost benefit analysis of these programs show that money invested in early childhood education has a huge, positive return for taxpayers.

A recent study conducted for El Paso County showed that by enabling the region's parents to work and the financial contributions through operations of centers and homes, the child care industry generates \$413 million annually for the Pikes Peak economy.

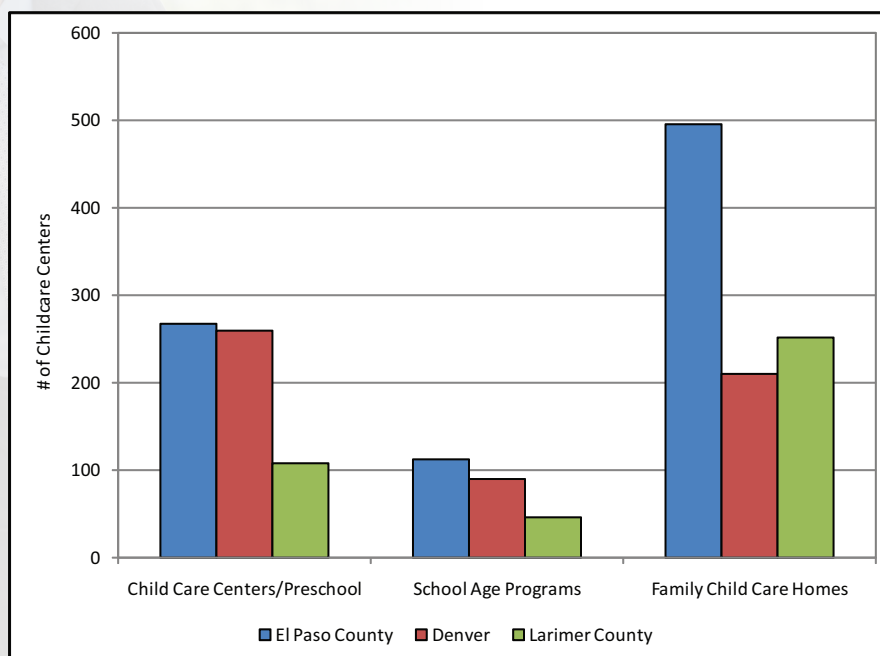
How are We Doing?

Less than 1% of centers, homes and pre-schools in El Paso County are accredited or quality rated. Currently, the El Paso County Department of Humans Services is funding accreditation facilitation projects for centers and family child care homes through a quality improvement grant, but space is limited. These projects will increase the number of accredited programs but not by a significant number.

Potential for Action

Quality, affordable child care is critical for children to be their best, be ready to enter school prepared and to get parents into the workforce. Community support for expanded accreditation is critical to improving the number of quality programs.

Community support for increased professional development and formal education of early childhood teachers, improved governmental reimbursement rates to programs that are accredited, and business support for programs and families 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.

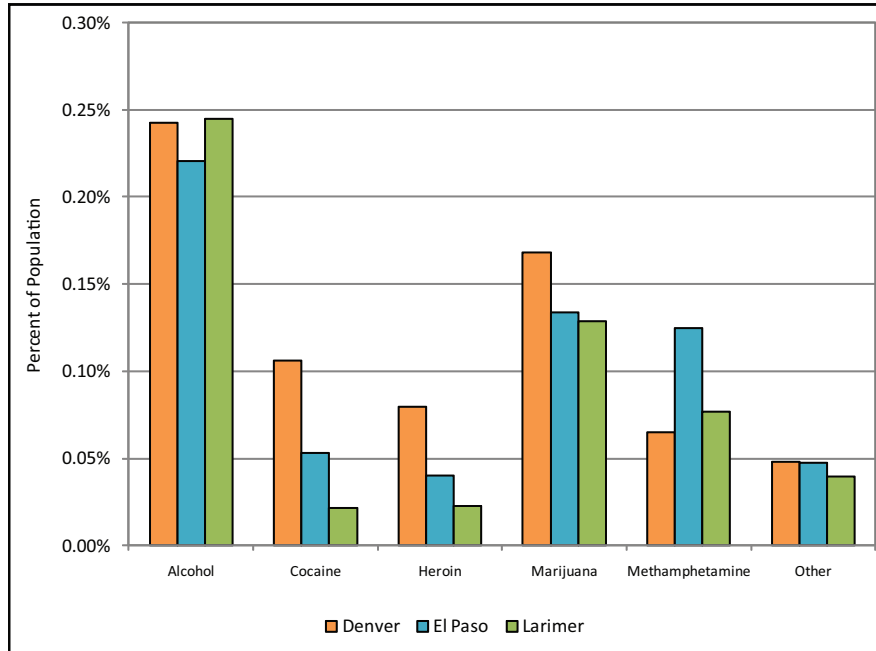


Source: Qualistar, NAEYC, NAFCC

Photograph by Ed Bock

-Drugs and Alcohol Abuse-

Percentage of Population using Drugs - County Comparison



Source: Division of Behavior Health, Colorado Department of Human Services

This Chart shows the percentage of El Paso County residents using alcohol and drugs as compared to similar counties in Colorado (Denver and Larimer). Substance abuse information for El Paso County is collected by the Division of Behavioral Health within the Department of Human Services, according to region.

Why is This Important?

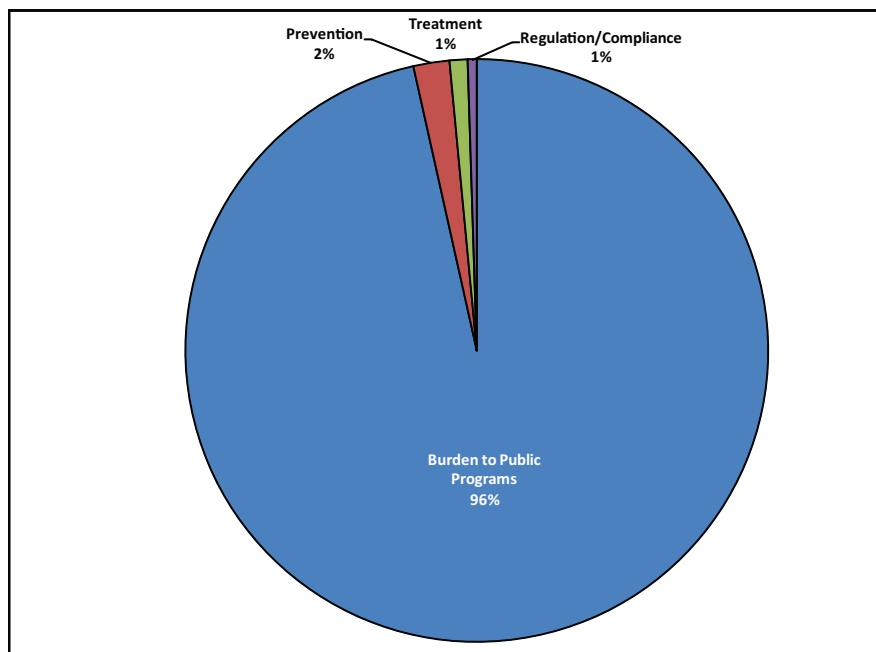
Effective treatment for substance abuse requires viewing the person as a whole rather than simply by their addiction. This means that recovery support services (such as assistance with transportation, housing, childcare, etc.) are necessary to support and maintain gains made in treatment. Currently there is only enough public funding to cover basic services such as intake/assessment, treatment plans, crisis intervention, and therapy/counseling.

How are We Doing?

El Paso County residents use methamphetamine in greater percentages than comparable counties.

Methamphetamine use has been a problem in El Paso County for several years, burdening a broad spectrum of community services, including law enforcement, public safety, corrections, child welfare, social services, environmental clean-up and medical and mental health care.

Public Funding for Substance Abuse



Source: National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse (CASA) at Columbia University

Potential for Action

There is a need to fund recovery support services to support gains made in substance abuse treatment services.

This Chart shows where each dollar spent on substance abuse-related problems goes: 2 cents goes to prevention, 1 cent goes to treatment, less than 1 cent goes to regulation, and 96 cents goes toward public programs such as criminal justice, child/family assistance, public safety, and healthcare.

Why is This Important?

This chart shows how state spending is skewed toward shoveling up the burden of our continued failure to prevent and treat the problem rather than toward investing in cost effective approaches to prevent and minimize the disease and its consequences.

How are We Doing?

The State of Colorado spends more on substance abuse prevention, treatment and research than 36 other states and territories. For every \$100 spent on problems caused by substance abuse in Colorado, \$3.23 is spent on prevention, treatment and research compared to an average of \$2.38 in other

states. This is a significant increase since 2001 when Colorado spent \$0.06 for every \$100 compared to an average of \$3.70 in other states.

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Photograph by Laura Shreck



Regardless of our race, gender, age, sexual orientation, social status, political affiliation, or religious beliefs, the environment is the one thing we all have in common. It affects our quality of life. Our region's ecological health impacts us today, tomorrow, and for generations to come.

The Native American Iroquois people had a rule when making decisions. The "seven generation rule" says that we must understand the consequences of every decision as it affects the next seven generations. In order to make the Pikes Peak Region the best possible place to live, work, and play, we must all take the Hippocratic Oath; "Do no harm."

As our region's population continues to grow, our demand for natural resources continues to rise. People will continue to be attracted to our natural environment. Sprawl, air quality, water quality, traffic problems, and pollution are just a few concerns that face our community. The quality of our environment depends on the condition of the air and water that sustains humans and other living things. Emissions from vehicles, power plants, and industries that create the products we use are the main sources of air pollution. Runoff from roads, homes, and agriculture affects our water quality. We must be mindful of how we use our energy, water, and landscape.

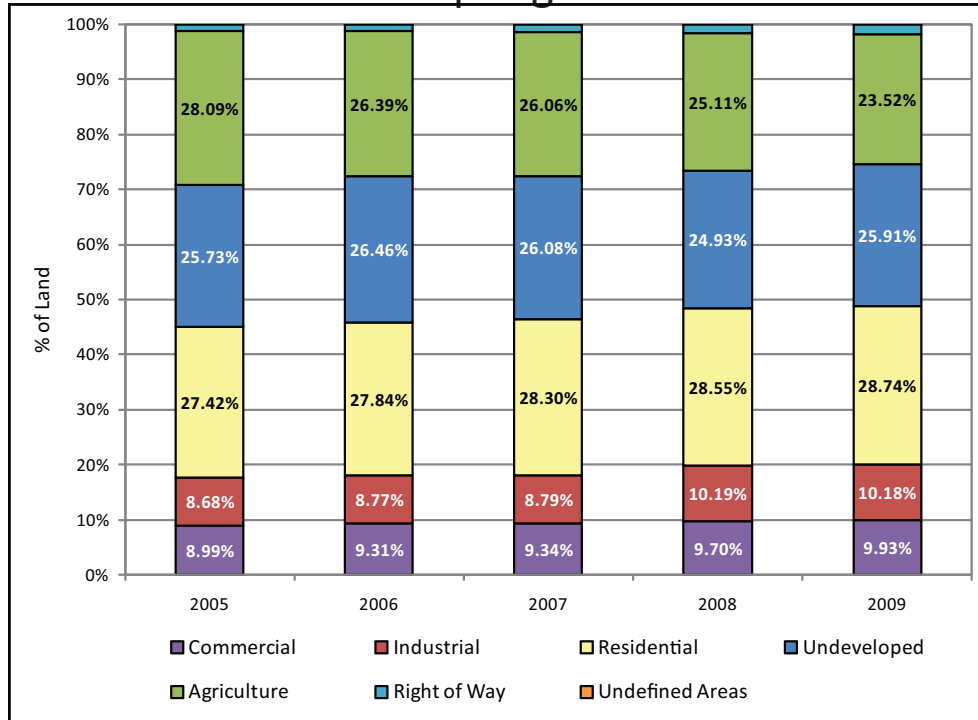
We have data for our region showing that precipitation is decreasing, temperatures are warming, and emissions are at an all time high. Evidence shows that human and animal health is directly affected by the environment. As climate change and power generation formats, systems and impacts change, we need to plan for our future water and energy uses and sources. For the sake of our community, we need to understand today's environment and the effect it will have on our future generations. New regulations, studies, and collaborations can help us to meet these challenges.

We continue to make progress; our recycling systems are improving and we are preserving open space for the future. Ozone and E.coli concentrations continue to improve, demonstrating our abilities to reduce some of our impacts and restore nature's balance. Yet mercury emissions and bird species declines show unfavorable trends, illuminating challenges we have yet to understand and address. Certainly our economy has affected these measurements, and while not all aspects of our natural environment are under our control, we realize as our fortunes change we will continue to stress our biological systems. We need to continuously consider how our lifestyles impact our environment, and adapt and pursue changes and efficiencies that can meet our needs in ways that ensure our future generations have access to the same environmental benefits we enjoy today.

Photograph by John Hoffman

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

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 not only affects natural resources and physical infrastructure, but also water quality and quantity, the natural environment, and patterns of land use. As municipalities and counties approve developments, the percentage of land area that is impervious will increase. In turn, the amount of water that infiltrates through the ground will decrease and run-off into the creeks will increase. Examples of impervious surfaces include rooftops, roads, parking lots and driveways.

Tracking the amount of impervious surfaces present in the environment is important because it exposes 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 the percentage of land area considered impervious and the amount of domestic wastewater that must be treated in the region. Depending on the layout of the streets, parking areas and homes, the percentage of impervious surface area are separated into different land use categories such as single and multi-family. Residential land use categories can vary greatly.

How are We Doing?

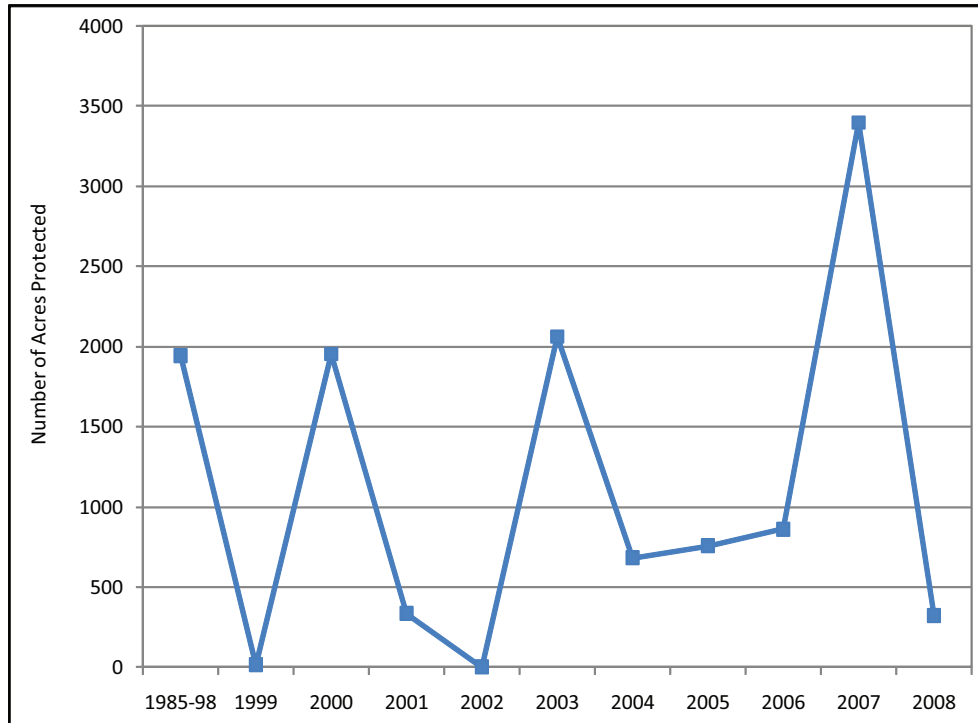
Within the City of Colorado Springs, land use has not changed significantly within the past 5 years. Overall, however, a shift towards a continuing decrease in the amount of agriculture and undeveloped land (which includes vacant land, forest, open space, parks, golf courses and trails) and an increase in residential and commercial land has emerged. These same trends are more pronounced outside of Colorado Springs and throughout the unincorporated area of El Paso County (see QLI Economy Section).

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

Potential for Action

Various counties and municipalities within the watershed are considering strategies that address increasing imperviousness. For example, the city of Colorado Springs is conducting a comprehensive assessment (to be completed by March 2011). Its assessment includes stormwater planning and design, construction policies and practices, and revisions of appropriate documents. The intention behind this assessment is an integrated watershed approach. This includes approaches to reduce the amount of impervious surface area such as Low Impact Development (LID) practices. Adopting Smart Growth principles and promoting Green Infrastructure such as Energy Star Housing and LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) criteria for structures will go a long way towards 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 (Fountain Creek Vision Task Force, 2009). More information on the Fountain Creek Watershed can be found at www.fountain-crk.org.

Land Protection



Source: Palmer Land Trust

This Chart provides the acreage of private and public conservation easements in El Paso County serviced by the most active land trusts and local government easement holders in the Pikes Peak Region.

Why is This Important?

The open spaces that surround Colorado Springs are amenities for human recreation and enjoyment as well as habitat for many native species of plants and animals. Governmental lands and parks make up a large part of the lands adjacent to Colorado Springs. These lands contribute to the views, open space, and biological habitat adjacent to Colorado Springs.

Similarly, private landowners are pursuing the preservation of their lands for many reasons and through many means. For example, ranchers and farmers are placing conservation easements on their lands to ensure that those lands remain open for agricultural

purposes and the lifestyles of ranching and food production rather than face the potential of development. These easements preserve scenic corridors that support tourism, protect critical watersheds and historical areas and provide income to our rural areas.

How are We Doing?

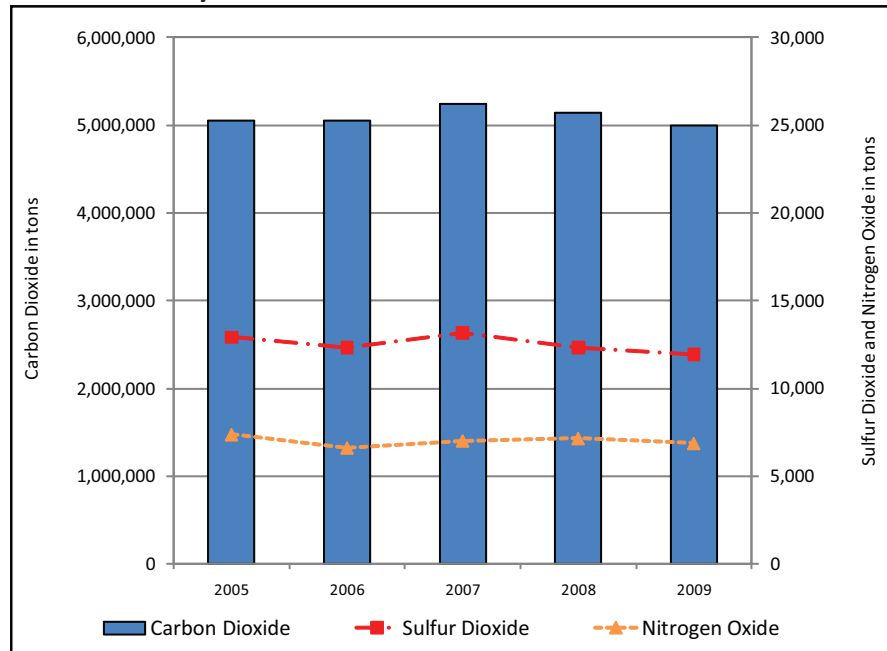
There is an active land preservation movement in the Pikes Peak Region. The Palmer Land Trust, The Trails and Open Space Coalition, Colorado Open Lands, Trust for Public Lands, the Nature Conservancy, Colorado Cattlemen's Association and other groups are instrumental in maintaining open space and functioning agricultural lands for generations to come. Additionally their efforts in neighboring counties will have a long and lasting impact to ensure that food can be produced locally and wildlife has critical habitat.

Potential for Action

We hope to see private landowners find continued support in their efforts to protect their lands and to preserve the agricultural heritage and local food base of the region. www.PalmerLandTrust.org

Photograph by John Hoffman

Air Quality - Emissions



Source: EPA Clean Markets Database

The first chart shows Carbon Dioxide (CO₂), Sulfur Dioxide (SO₂), and Nitrogen Oxide (NO_x) from Springs Utilities electricity 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. SO₂ and NO_x emissions can aggravate an individual's respiratory tract, impair pulmonary functions, and increase risk of asthma attacks. Sulfur dioxide and nitrogen dioxide are the major precursors to acid rain, which is associated with the acidification of soils, lakes, and streams.

Mercury acts as a neurotoxin, interfering with the brain and nervous system.

How are We Doing?

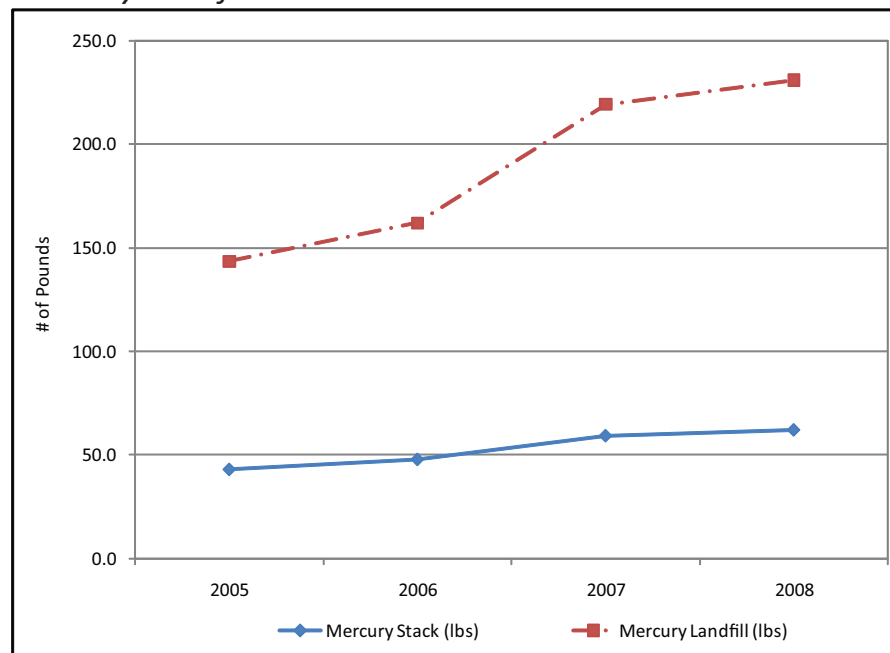
2009 Concentrations of CO₂, SO₂ and NO_x from Springs Utilities generation decreased slightly from the previous year, due to decreased energy production. Mercury emissions, both in the air and landfill by Springs Utilities, show an increasing trend. Although the region no longer has monitoring stations for SO₂ and NO_x, the last monitoring results from 2007 indicate that the region is below the standard for both pollutants.

Potential for Action

Potential strategies to reduce emissions include, but are not limited to: 1) Installation of pollution control equipment (called "scrubbers") to reduce emissions; 2) Encourage the use of cleaner fuels, such as natural gas, solar and wind power; 3) Continue to use low-sulfur coal; and 4) Conserve energy at work, home and other places.

The December 2009 Endangerment finding by the EPA for carbon dioxide set the federal government on the path toward regulating emissions from power plants, factories, automobiles and other major sources. In the future there might be federal and state regulations regarding carbon dioxide.

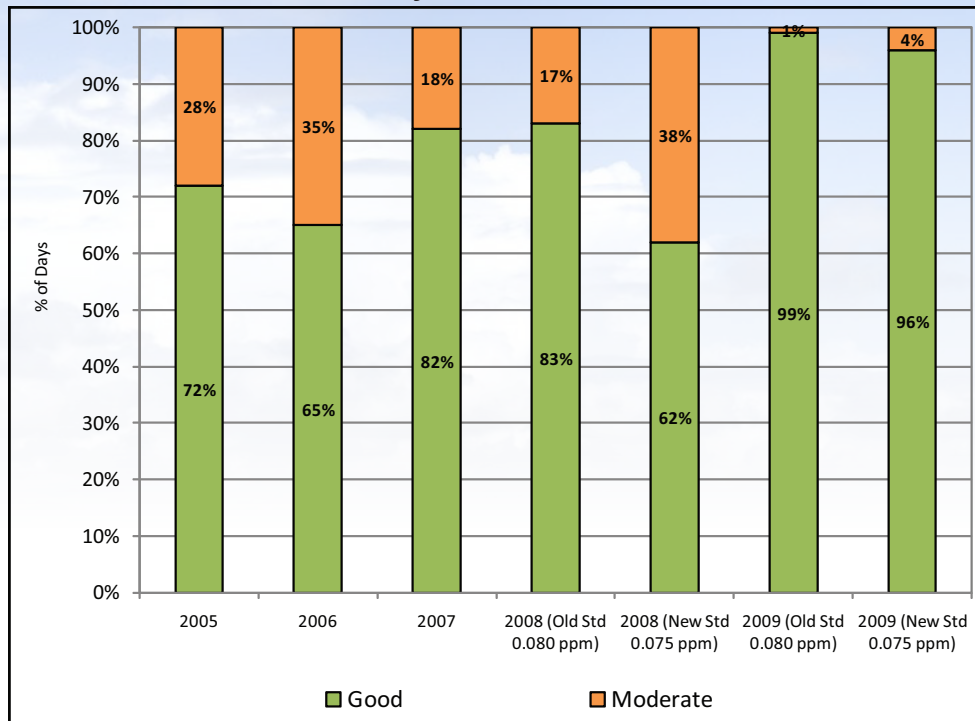
Mercury Landfill and Emissions



Source: EPA Toxics Release Inventory Program

Air Quality - Ozone

Ozone Concentration Classifications



Source: Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment - Air Pollution Control Division
 *Data from 2005-2008 is an average from the Manitou Springs and USAFA Monitoring Stations.

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

Why is This Important?

The Pikes Peak Region is currently monitored for carbon monoxide, ozone, and two types of particulate matter, and until 2008 it was monitored for sulfur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide and lead. Monitoring is conducted to determine the region's compliance 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 the air quality standards for all six of these air quality pollutants.

Ground level ozone is the most problematic air quality pollutant of concern in the region. Ozone monitoring stations are located at the 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 notwithstanding its general "brown cloud" appearance. Indeed, biogenic sources, i.e. naturally occurring emissions from vegetation, make up the largest component of ozone. Other sources include motor vehicles, gasoline vapors, power plants, chemical plants, refineries, factories, consumer and commercial products, in addition to other industrial sources.

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 coughs.

How are We Doing?

Ozone concentrations appear to have stabilized and have even improved over the past 5 years. In 2009 they were significantly lower than 2008 because of cooler air temperatures and the recession which caused lower manufacturing output and less driving.

In March 2008, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) created a more stringent ozone standard. Thus, for 2008 and 2009, two bars 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 central and northern Front Range that remains in compliance with the new ozone standard.

On August 31, 2010, the EPA will be issuing new standards for ozone. The primary standard that the EPA is proposing to adopt is a more stringent 8-hour standard between 0.060 and 0.070 parts per million (ppm). A separate cumulative secondary standard proposed is within the range of 7 to 15 ppm-hours. The region may not be able to comply with these new standards.

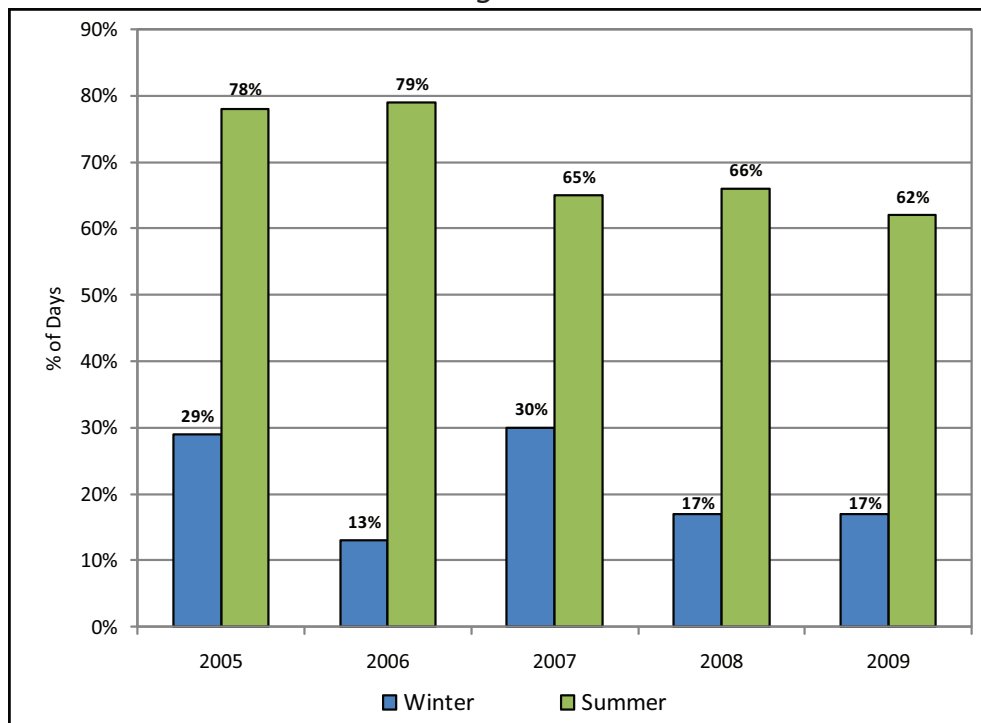
Potential for Action

Strategies to reduce ozone concentrations can be voluntary or regulatory as part of Federal or State legislation. Voluntary programs currently are being implemented to reduce ozone concentrations. Through public outreach and education these programs prevail upon consumer participation. For example, consumers are discouraged from overfilling gas tanks, while encouraged to reduce the amount of car driving and to car pool, and to avoid using gasoline powered lawn-care equipment. Regulatory strategies will be considered if the region violates the state and federal standard and could include anti-vehicle idling measures, using lower Reid Vapor Pressure gasoline; Stage II Vapor Recovery Systems, Motor Vehicle inspection/maintenance programs, employer trip reduction programs, and additional state regulations (refer to Page 93 - Moving Around Efficiently, Daily Travel, 2010 QLI Report).

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 that the *E. coli* (*Escherichia coli*) bacteria levels have exceeded the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) standards used in Colorado at monitoring stations along the 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 to the natural environment. It 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 monitors many different types of water quality parameters. *E. coli* was selected as an indicator because of the potential human-health effects associated with its high

concentrations and because it is used to determine whether or not water is safe for recreation.

Bacteria are very small, single-celled life-forms that exist everywhere. Some types, however, can cause illness. The amount of two bacterial types, fecal coliforms and *E. coli*, present in surface waters are monitored because they are disease causing organisms and could cause swimming-associated gastrointestinal illnesses. As indicated in the "Sustaining a Healthy Community" sections of the QLI report, the presence of these types of bacteria in our natural water could affect the "uninsured citizens in El Paso County" (refer to Page 67) because they fail to see physicians on a regular basis. If *E. coli* makes them too sick, the only way that they will receive care is in the emergency room.

The standard for most stream segments in Colorado 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 (Fountain Creek Vision Task Force, 2009).

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 through Fountain Creek when these levels are high e.g. following a heavy rainstorm.

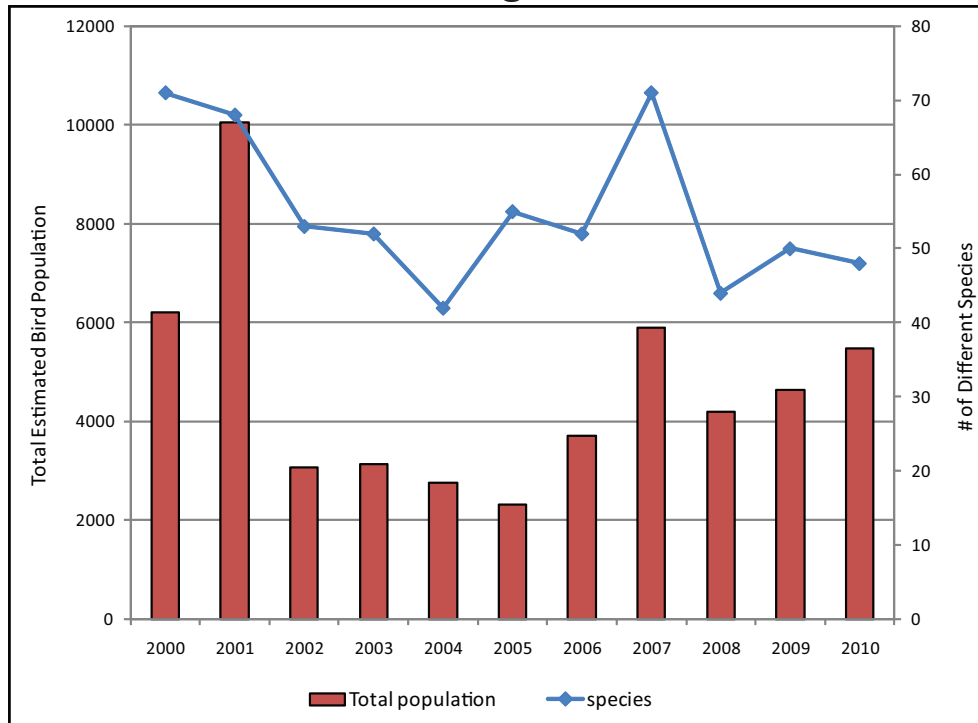
How are We Doing?

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 almost all of Fountain and Monument Creeks to be listed as water quality impaired for *E. coli*.

Potential for Action

A recently completed study in Upper Fountain Creek found that during the summer months, the high levels of *E. coli* generally cannot be explained as caused by human or ruminant sources. In fact, birds were the only tested source that could have contributed this much *E. coli*. In the area of Manitou Springs, pigeons were observed to roost in large numbers under bridges. Although studies have not been completed along Monument Creek or Lower Fountain Creek, water quality data from Colorado State University-Pueblo along Fountain Creek suggests sources of *E. coli* are not associated with human sources. Strategies to reduce concentrations will depend on the specific sources that are identified and could include regulations and policies or public outreach and education. More information regarding *E. coli* can be found at: <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/contaminants/ecoli.html>.

Birds in the Pikes Peak Region



Source: Great Backyard Bird Count

This Chart gives an indication of total number of birds and the corresponding species count attained by volunteers during the annual Backyard Bird Count.

Why is This Important?

Colorado Springs hosts many birds, some as permanent residents and some which briefly use our environment as a refueling (food) stop during an extensive migration. The birds present in the annual bird count represent a broad assortment of species and niches that include small insectivorous and seed eating songbirds as well as the majestic raptors near the top of food chains. The fact that we find them proximal to our cityscape indicates the availability of food and habitat.

How are We Doing?

Assessing the number of birds provides us with baseline data on how well birds, as one important wildlife group, are doing. In the

case of resident birds, this data gives us insight into the amount of naturally productive habitat, tree canopy and open space we provide. When looking at migratory species, we need to take an ecosystem view for the role of the Colorado Springs habitat. Many of these songbird species, some weighing barely more than a quarter (\$0.25) or two, may travel several hundred miles between stops. As a result we need to continue to look at our effect on the larger ecosystem, especially the upkeep of streamside corridors and the preservation of diverse native habitats in all of southeastern Colorado.

Potential for Action

Maintaining urban habitat through well designed urban forests and open space is important to all wildlife, with birds serving as indicator species for the ecosystem as a whole. Strategic planning plays a critical role in making a livable city for humans and wildlife while sustainable development helps us understand our total impact on larger ecosystems.

Local Food in Colorado Springs

Why is This Important?

Colorado Springs is experiencing an amazing awakening to our local food resources through community gardens, farmers' markets, backyard gardens, and community supported agriculture, or CSAs. Mirroring a national trend, this community has started to embrace the state and region's agricultural heritage and farming industry. As national news highlights food scares, fuel costs, poor health, and challenges with the industrialized food systems, our citizens and businesses have responded by seeking out and supporting alternatives available in our region with vigor, enthusiasm, and collaboration.

How Are we Doing?

While our city has long-featured one farmer's market and two community gardens, new organizations, cooperatives, and non-profits have expanded and enhanced markets and gardens throughout the Pikes Peak Region. Partnerships with local restaurants, school districts, religious organizations, social needs groups, and institutions of higher learning speak to the renewed interest in healthy food. These collaborations support local and rural economies, and promote the diversity and seasonality of local produce, meats, dairy, honey and value-added products such as sauces and jams. Clearly our population has hungered for this change, and the strong prominence of historical production speaks to the respect we have for our food systems.

Potential for Action

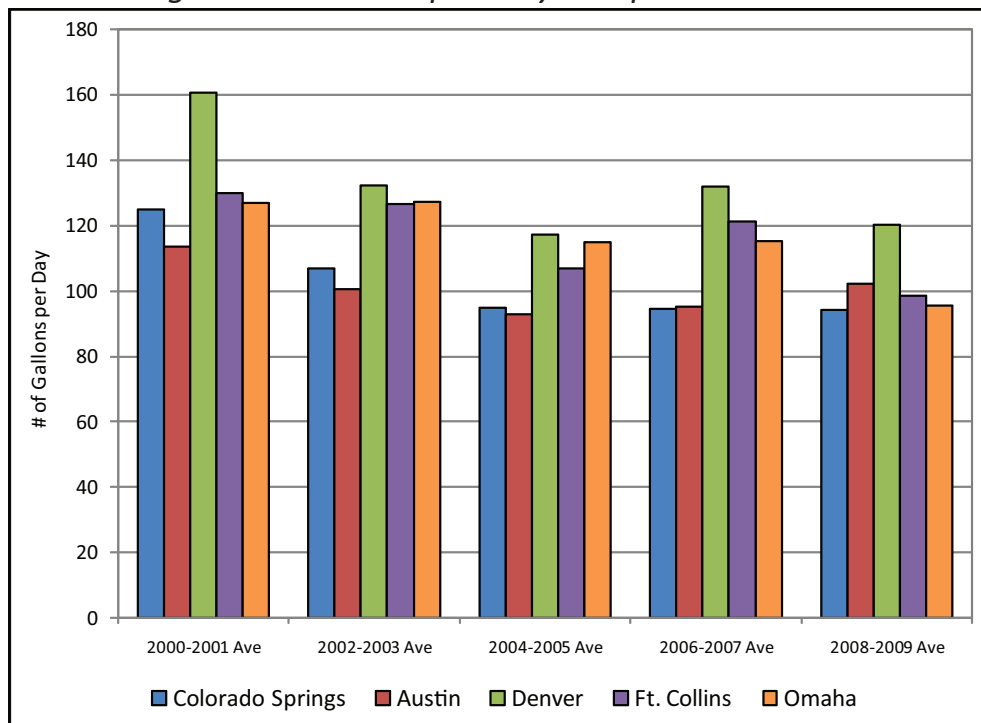
Compared to 50 peer cities¹, our local food system is fairly robust. SustainLane's 2008 rankings placed Denver in an Advanced state at number 12, Colorado Springs in Mixed at 26, followed by Omaha at 28 and Austin a Challenged at 31. Fort Collins was not included in the rankings, but should fare favorably given the strong agricultural industry in its region and its progressive interest in food and local economies. We await SustainLane's update and are thankful to those who locally provide expanded choice and education.

¹ Sustainlane Local Food and Agriculture Rankings, 2008.

Photograph by Crystal Kirk

Water Service and Use

Water Usage Gallons Per Capita City Comparison



Source: Colorado Springs Utilities

This Chart shows the two-year average daily water consumption per capita (GPCD) of single-family residential water supplied by Colorado Springs Utilities compared to four other benchmark communities.

Why is This Important?

Treated water in Colorado Springs is available only after it has traveled through miles of pipe, tunnels, mountain reservoirs, and undergone a lengthy treatment process. Just one percent of the entire water supply in the world is available for human use – the rest is salty or locked in ice caps and glaciers. This one percent meets all the world’s agricultural, manufacturing, community and personal household and sanitation needs. Human’s drink very little of the processed “drinking water” -- about one percent of all treated water. The other 99 percent goes on lawns, in washing machines, and down toilets and drains.

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.

How are We Doing?

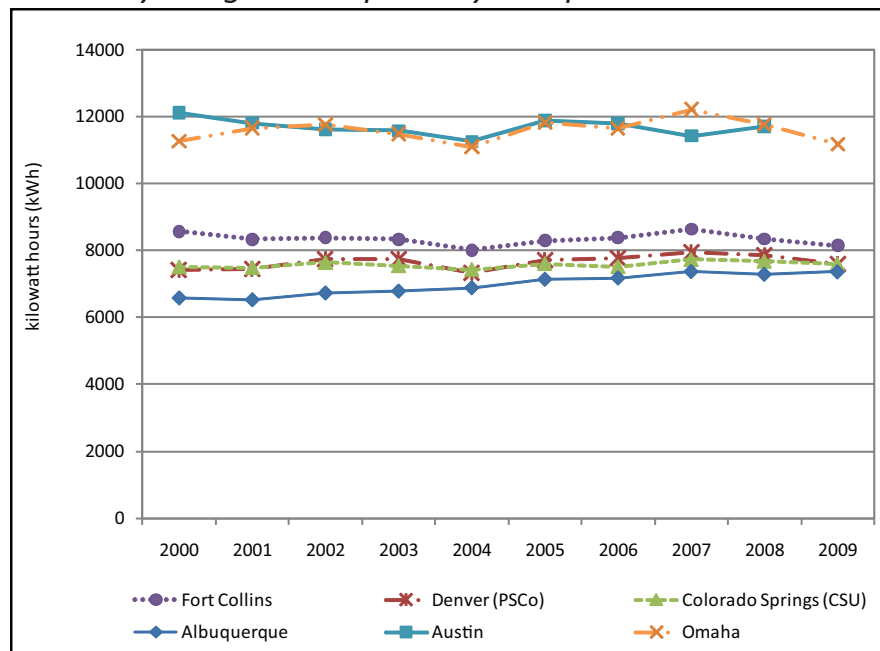
Each community sampled here appears to be making progress toward higher levels of conservation and efficiency. But it can be difficult to assess progress - let alone make direct comparisons between communities - without considering factors which affect water demand, such as climate, demographics, and economic conditions. Normalizing for weather, Colorado Springs residential users reduced consumption by about 16 percent from the beginning of the period to the end. The average weather-normalized reduction for the benchmark communities is about 9 percent. The largest reductions are seen in Austin, where consumption has dropped by 28 percent.

Potential for Action

Clearly, conservation is a significant factor that contributes to reduced consumption in Colorado Springs. Other factors, however, are also important. It is crucial that the role of conservation and other possible influences be continually monitored, analyzed, and estimated so that policy development and planning efforts effectively address changing demands.

Energy

Electricity Usage Per Capita City Comparison



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

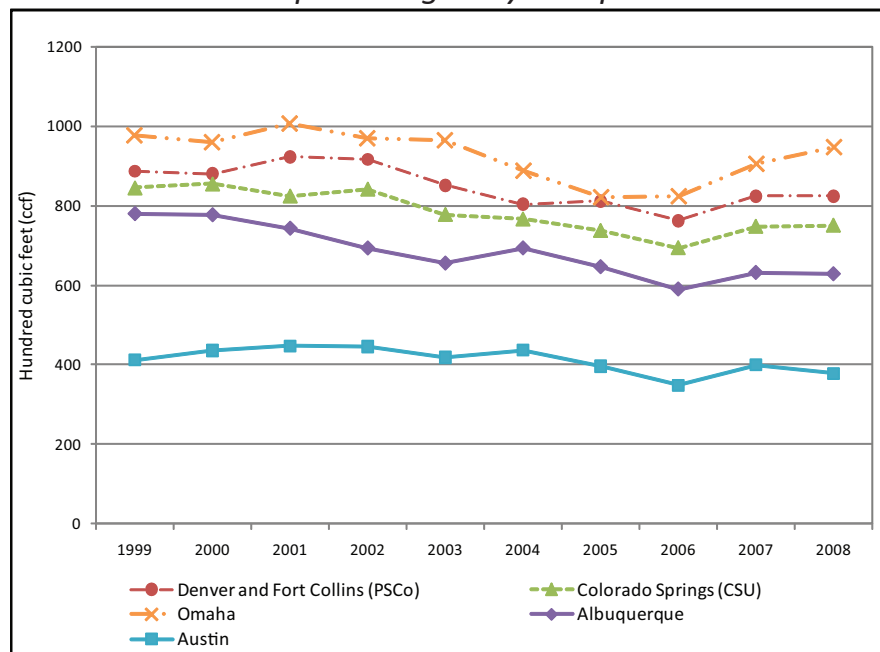
Why is This Important?

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

How are We Doing?

Colorado Springs Utilities customers in 2009 consumed slightly less electricity than they did in 2008. The trend for electricity consumption appears slightly downward, which is consistent with the trend in similar communities.

Natural Gas Per Capita Usage City Comparison



Source for both charts: U.S. Department of Energy Information Administration

Customers in 2009 consumed about the same amount of natural gas as in 2008. It is too early to tell whether this consumption level indicates a change in the general downward trend, but it is consistent with other similar Colorado communities.

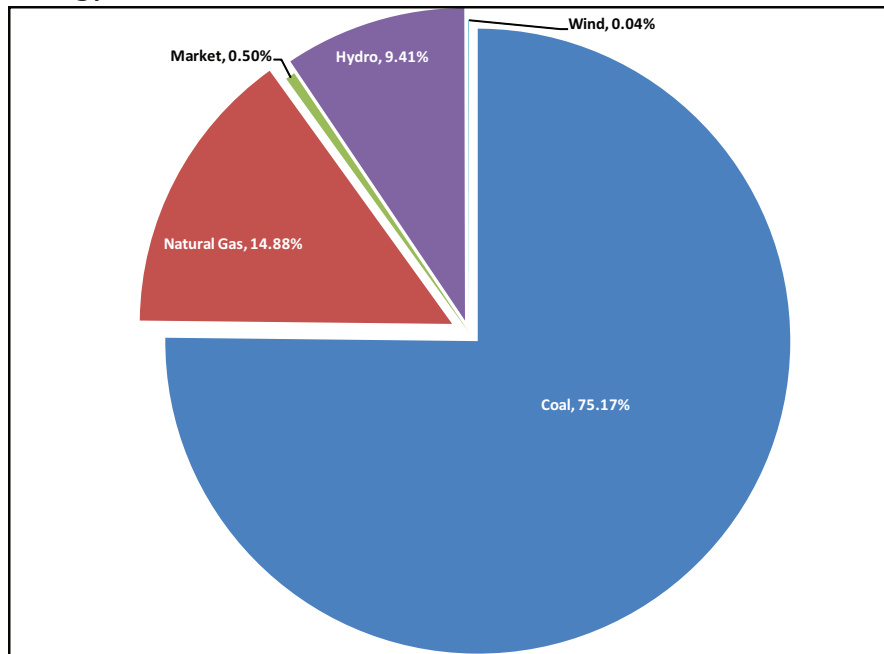
Potential for Action

The stepped up efforts to encourage residential and business customers to reduce their energy consumption appear to be having an effect on electricity consumption, but the impact on natural gas consumption is less clear. Survey data tells us that the primary reason individuals conserve electricity is to save money. Increased efforts to highlight the financial benefit of using less electricity and natural gas can help encourage less consumption over time.



Photograph courtesy of Shutterstock.com

Energy Sources



Source: Colorado Springs Utilities

These Charts show the fossil fuel versus renewable sources of energy used to produce electricity for Colorado Springs Utilities 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 2009, coal and natural gas accounted for 90% of our electricity supply. This is an increase from last year (87%) and demonstrates that we are still heavily dependent on fossil fuels. The upturn leaves

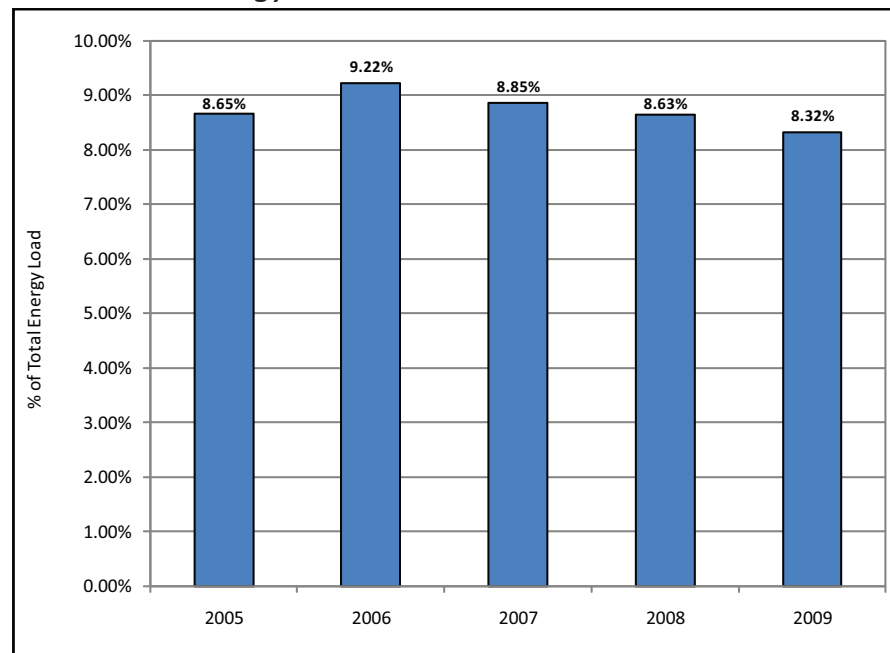
us vulnerable to energy market and regulatory changes that may impact price.

The percentage of renewable energy used to produce our electricity increased slightly from last year. The majority of our renewable energy comes from hydropower. The percentage of wind energy in our portfolio mix actually decreased from last year. Colorado Springs Utilities is purchasing Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) to meet the State Renewable Portfolio Standard.

Potential for Action

Colorado Springs Utilities will be revising their Electric Integrated Resource Plan (EIRP) in 2010. This plan predicts the expected electricity requirements and identifies possible resources to meet those requirements. In addition to the EIRP, a region-wide sustainability planning process (SNAPP) and regional sustainable energy plan (PRISTINE energy plan) present opportunities 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.

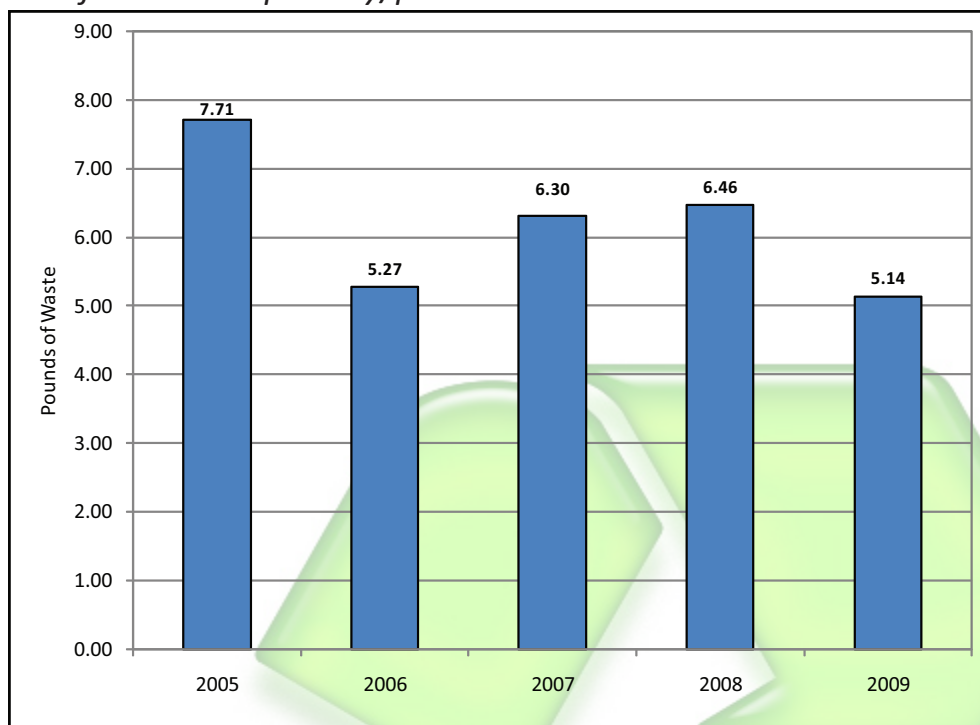
Renewable Energy



Source: Colorado Springs Utilities

★ Waste Management

Landfill - Pounds per Day/per Person



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

These Charts 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 not will never be available for future use. However, many of these items can be recycled and composted. Reducing, reusing and recycling waste supports our environment. These measures limit the damage done and energy consumed to extract, produce and throw away materials.

How are We Doing?

The pounds per person of waste in our community decreased dramatically in 2009. This reduction has continued over the last five years. Since 2008, all four major trash haulers have implemented single-stream collection of recyclables throughout the county. This new measure has contributed greatly to the reduction of waste sent to the landfills. Additionally, the municipal agencies, many large businesses, the local utility agency and many of the residences all chose to implement "single-stream recycling" as the method of reducing wastes sent to the landfill. Cooperation of this sort assures success.

Potential for Action

Readers can find out more about recycling at the El Paso County Solid Waste Management's website: http://adm.elpasoco.com/Environmental_Services/Solid_Waste_Management. Utilizing services that are available and participating in community action opportunities will help improve recycling in the community overall.

Increasing Recycling Pounds Per Person

Why is This Important?

A 2010 Community Survey was conducted via telephone with 500 respondents. Respondents identified recycling as the second biggest environmental challenge facing the Pikes Peak Region today. Several factors may contribute to this perception - being a community that has a large transient military population and an influx of newcomers who expect the same products and services they formerly enjoyed.

How are We Doing?

2009 was a year of many local community initiatives regarding public outreach and education to encourage individuals, businesses and municipalities to utilize local recycling infrastructure proactively. Many public events collected recyclables on a larger scale in order to project the public image that the Pikes Peak Region is working hard to manage its land resources. Volunteerism by passionate volunteers seems to be the most effective way to implement the change needed in our community. This was demonstrated by the "Art of Recycling" project that brought together local artists, elementary schools, the City of Colorado Springs' Green Team and private industry. To read more, please go to http://www.bettrecycling.com/images/pdfs/The_Art_of_Recycling.pdf.

Potential for Action

Aggregated 2009 single-stream recycling data from our major local haulers will be compared to the State as a whole when CDPHE releases its annual totals. This data will be essential to attracting a single-stream materials recovery facility (MRF) to our region. Public education and outreach is essential to increase recycling participation by residential and commercial customers in the Pikes Peak region.

Recycling Image by Chris Windras

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LONNA THELEN
City of Colorado Springs

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Annexation History

City of Colorado Springs

1872-2010

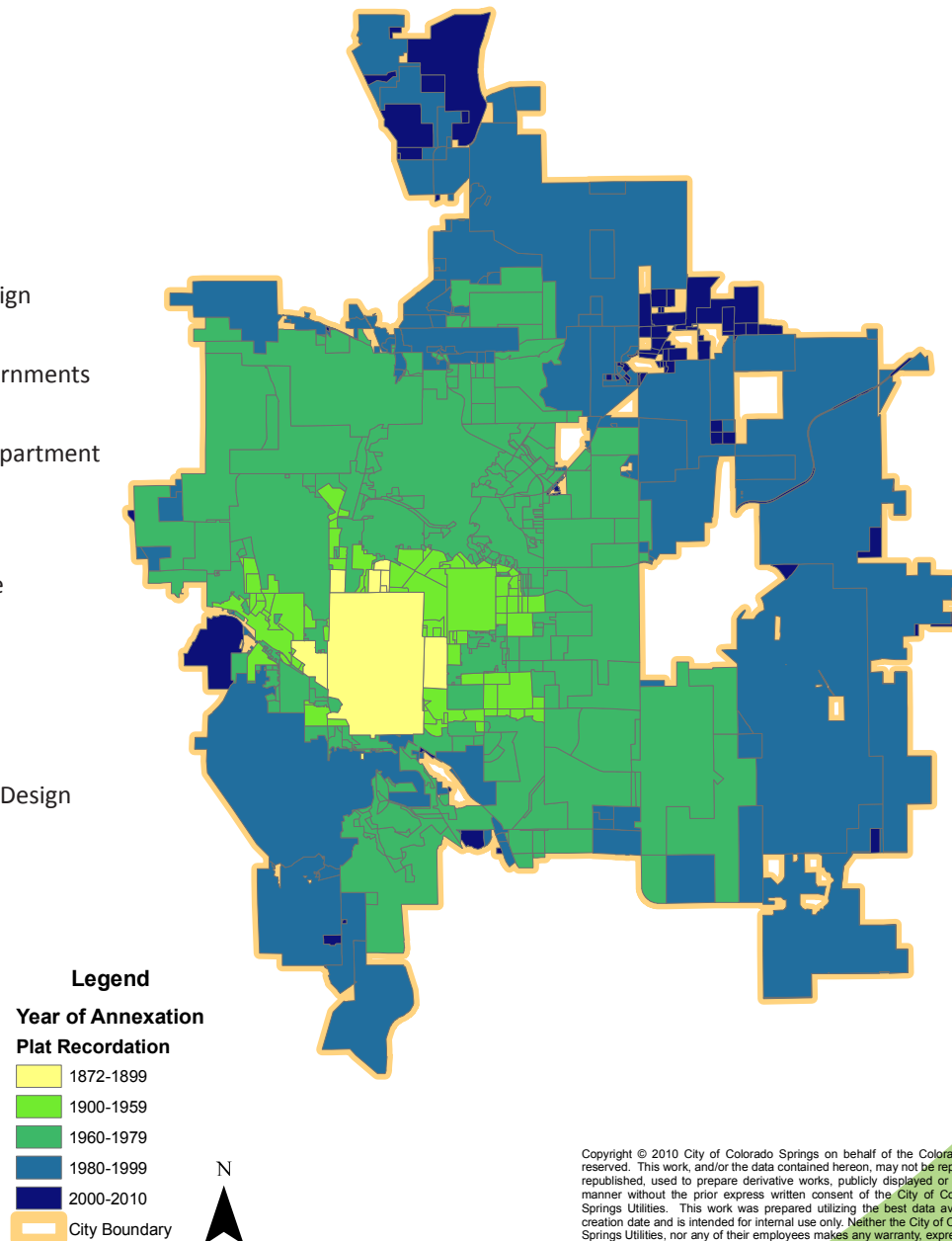


Image courtesy of the City of Colorado Springs

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Most residents of the Pikes Peak region would agree that we live in a vibrant community with an abundance of natural scenic beauty. Many, however, may not agree on how growth in this region has contributed to, or detracted from, this vibrancy and beauty. The built environment of our region has a major impact on the quality of life of its residents – not only through the function and appearance of our communities, but also due to the economic, social and environmental benefits that arise from an efficient and sustainable community form. Therefore, if Colorado Springs and the Pikes Peak region are to maintain the beauty and vibrancy enjoyed by our community and our visitors, evaluating and managing land use and growth must be part of the program that will preserve our quality of life. Development patterns, and ultimately urban form, influence transportation, the cost of housing, infrastructure construction and maintenance requirements, environmental quality, sprawl, safety, the time we spend in our cars, physical and mental health, social well-being and our economic sustainability. In short, the built environment is a foundational element in our quality of life. How people think about the built environment, however, has been changing.

Across the nation, attention has begun to focus on the impact of our decisions as we build cities and towns. Organizations and movements such as Smart Growth, Livable Communities, New Urbanism, and LEED for Neighborhood Design are enlightening us on how cities can create places that positively impact the people who live in them, and can minimize negative impacts on the environment. Federal agencies such as the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) are beginning to cooperatively focus their dollars on urban livability. Finally, cities within the U.S. are beginning to re-center themselves, with an ever-growing number of residents moving into urban areas and city centers.¹ These changes have required new paradigms for how local regulations, public infrastructure investment, and development guidelines can serve to balance diverse community interests regarding growth and density.

In terms of residential density, is the recommendation of Peter Calthorpe, a leader in Transit-Oriented Development (TOD), that a minimum average density of roughly ten dwelling units per acre is needed for successful walkable, transit-oriented neighborhoods. He recommends an average of fifteen dwelling units per acre in urban TODs, and major urban centers can be as high as 90+ du/ac.² In comparison, the majority of Colorado Springs' neighborhoods average between 5 and 10 du/ac, with many areas lower than 5 du/ac.³ Therefore our urban densities are significantly lower than the recommended average to support strong transit use. This illustrates one way land use management may be utilized to help create the critical mass transit nodes require.

While the term “density” can evoke images of the public housing projects in cities such as New York, what is advocated here is the creation of urban areas akin to Portland or Seattle: places with vibrant street life; sidewalks fronted by cafes, plazas, and parks; and neighborhoods alive with citizens. This is a picture which resonates with the DreamCity 2020 citizen visioning recommendations.

1 Environmental Protection Agency. “Residential Construction Trends in America’s Metropolitan Regions.” 2010. <http://www.epa.gov/piedpage/pdf/metro_res_const_trends_10.pdf>.

2 Calthorpe, Peter. *The Next American Metropolis: Ecology, Community and the American Dream*. New York: Princeton Architectural Press, 1993. p. 83..

3 Casper, Craig. Email Interview. 17 May 2010.

A major impact upon quality of life in our region is urban sprawl. Conventional wisdom in Colorado Springs suggests that our city is “sprawling,” steadily growing in a somewhat irregular fashion to the North and East. To a degree this is true and the cause is often attributed to zoning. However, if Colorado Springs is to create great neighborhood centers and a strong downtown, changing zoning alone will not be sufficient. Successful communities are bringing businesses to their cores, providing a diversity of housing styles in denser neighborhoods, prioritizing the pedestrian - and thus transit - in master plans, and investing in multiple forms of transportation such as commuter rail, Bus Rapid Transit (BRT), and urban circulators like streetcars. Transit systems in such cities are utilized by all sectors of the population and are seen as far more than simply a “safety net” for those that cannot afford to own a car. Locally, feasibility studies are currently underway for many of these transit systems.

In selecting indicators for this report the council researched the various “sprawl indexes” available nationally; however, many of their conclusions are based on older sources, such as Census 2000 data. We have therefore focused on indicators that examine the implications of our growth patterns. Examples include road maintenance costs and the valuation of building permits.

Another measure of quality in the built environment is how well buildings and structures have been constructed. While there is not a single quantifiable indicator of the quality of construction, the advisory agency “Insurance Services Office” (ISO) uses rating systems as one uniform method to classify the safety and quality of building construction. In addition to the more well-known ISO ratings regarding fire suppression capabilities of local fire departments, ISO also uses a rating system that quantifies the quality of a community’s building code and the degree to which it is enforced. Insurance companies use this information to set premiums in a given area. On a scale of 1 to 10, with 1 being the best score, Colorado Springs has a 4, meaning our codes require high quality and safe construction.⁴

Having a streamlined Regional Building Department has helped us achieve this rating. The Pikes Peak Regional Building Department reviews construction plans for both the City of Colorado Springs and El Paso County governments, as well as the jurisdictions of Manitou Springs, Green Mountain Falls, Monument and Palmer Lake. Understanding the correlation between the various elements of urban form, and the benefits of intergovernmental coordination in managing land use and construction, is an important foundation for developing innovative and realistic growth management strategies.

The Pikes Peak Region has grown substantially over the years. The map printed on the previous page highlights this, showing the annexation history of Colorado Springs from 1872 through 2010. As the Region continues to grow and areas of the city are redeveloped, it is in everyone’s best interest that we are aware of the positive and negative implications of the development decisions we make. Technologies, transportation modes, and ways of living will change over time. Adaptability and planning for a sustainable future is paramount. The Pikes Peak region will thus have to look beyond what it can see at this moment. In reading the other sections of this document, we challenge you to ask, “How might our city be solving or creating the problems identified throughout this report by the ways in which we grow?”

4 Croft, Bob. Email Interview. 18 May 2010.

-Land Use-

Land Use by Type in Acres

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Residential	27,142	28,000	28,919	29,523	30,278	30,739	31,077	31,284
Commercial/Office/ Industrial	8,336	8,538	8,761	8,929	9,115	9,245	9,464	9,587
Parks/Trails/Open Space	9,607	9,684	9,852	10,804	10,843	10,922	10,956	10,978
Institution	9,698	9,594	9,699	9,791	10,064	10,042	11,744	11,832
Other	17,095	17,527	17,898	18,282	19,009	19,453	19,681	20,230
Vacant	47,347	45,884	46,029	46,067	44,751	43,802	41,478	40,701
TOTAL	119,225	119,226	121,157	123,396	124,060	124,203	124,385	124,612

Source: El Paso County Assessor's Office, Colorado Springs Parks and Recreation and Cultural Services Department

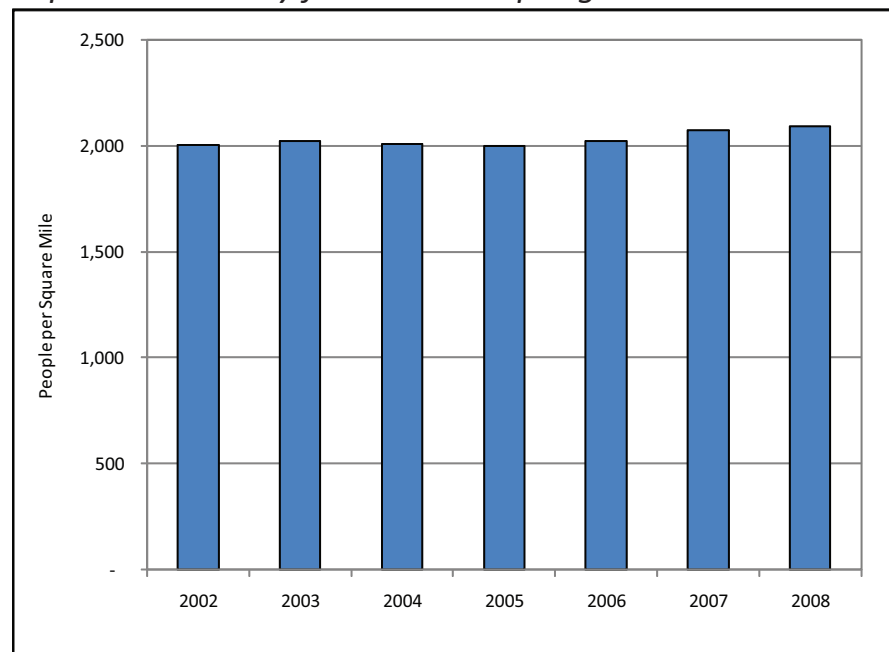
The **Land Use by Type in Acres Table** shows the physical use of the land, in acres, in the City of Colorado Springs. The institution category includes universities, conference centers, hospitals, airports, military installations, museums, public safety, detention centers, libraries, schools, churches and arenas.

The **Population Density Chart** shows the number of people per square mile within the City of Colorado Springs from 2002 - 2008.

Why is This Important?

The largest portion of all land in Colorado Springs is vacant and undeveloped, representing 32% of the City. This includes the vacant land in Banning Lewis Ranch. The next largest portion of land is residential, which is common because a residential population base is needed to support other uses. Population density shows how compact a city is, which can affect how well resources are being used. The less

Population Density for Colorado Springs



Source: Colorado Department of Local Affairs, Colorado Springs City Budget

dense the City, the more resources including public service, roads, utilities, police, and fire are being used for fewer people over a larger area.

How are We Doing?

The annexation of Banning Lewis Ranch's 24,483 acres in 1988, gave Colorado Springs room for expansion. The majority of the vacant land in the City is in Banning Lewis Ranch. Another large portion of vacant land is infill property which requires significantly fewer utility service lines and roads when it is developed.

Over the last seven years, the City of Colorado Springs has increased its population density from approximately 2,000 people per square mile to a current level of 2,091 per square mile. Colorado Springs also emphasizes parks, which currently account for almost 9% of the land area and contribute to the City's lower density. According to Census 2000, Colorado Springs encompassed 185 square miles and had 1,943 persons per square mile. Similarly, Albuquerque, NM, 180 square miles, had

2,483.4; Austin, TX, 251 square miles, had 2,610.4; and Salt Lake City, UT, 109 square miles, had 1,666.1 persons per square mile.¹ We have traditionally been less dense than other comparable cities. This is at least in part due to the undeveloped status of large master-planned projects such as Banning Lewis Ranch.

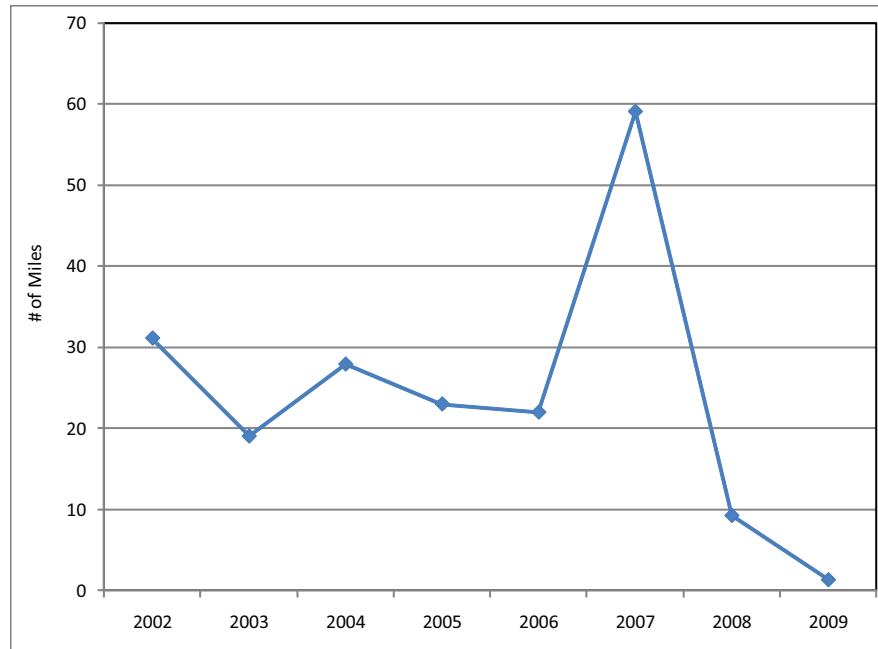
Potential for Action

Developing vacant land with a clear understanding of the impacts on the natural environment, infrastructure costs and the overall financial, economic and social impacts on the entire city will promote the region's long-term sustainability, vitality and unique characteristics. Incorporating transit service into master planning may be a crucial step.

¹ United States. Census Bureau. State & County QuickFacts. <<http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/>>.

Infrastructure

Miles of Road Developed Annually in Colorado Springs



Source: City of Colorado Springs Engineering

The Miles of Road Developed Chart shows the new centerline miles of arterial and residential roadways constructed or annexed by the City of Colorado Springs from 2002 through 2009.

The Road Maintenance Chart shows the budget for roadway maintenance from 2002 through 2010 and displays the dollars provided by the City of Colorado Springs and Pikes Peak Rural Transportation Authority (PPRTA) to maintain city streets.

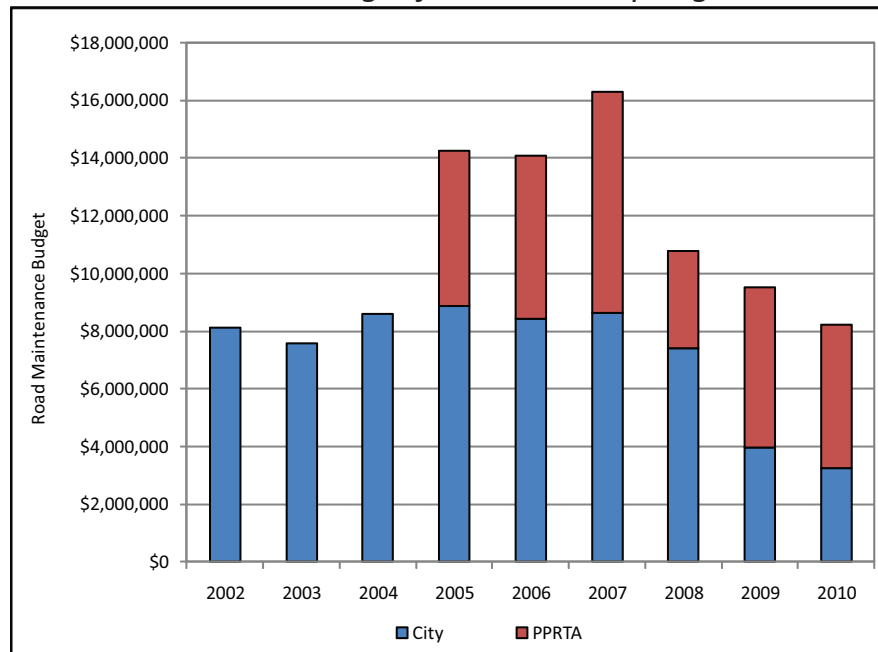
Why is This Important?

As the City of Colorado Springs expands either by annexation or development of land, additional roads are added. When roadways are added, the roads must then be maintained and the total cost of maintaining the existing and new roadways increases. With insufficient funds for infrastructure maintenance, roadways deteriorate.

How are We Doing?

Since 2002, the funds available from the City of Colorado Springs for roadway maintenance have ranged from a high of approximately \$8.89 million in 2005 to a low of \$3.24 million in 2010. Beginning in 2005, the voter approved PPRTA funds became available, and in 2010, PPRTA funds will provide more than half the road maintenance budget.

Road Maintenance Budget for Colorado Springs



Source: City of Colorado Springs Roadway Engineering

Potential for Action

Using multiple modes of transportation and promoting walkable communities could reduce the need for expanding roadways and infrastructure, as well as maintenance costs associated with them. By developing within the city infill areas, the need for additional roadways, and municipal services such as police and fire protection, is reduced or eliminated. The Pikes Peak region will need to identify stable funding sources for maintaining its current infrastructure, regardless of its future expansion. By expanding mass transit options, Colorado Springs may be able to take cars off the roads and ultimately reduce the number of lane miles per capita it needs to maintain.

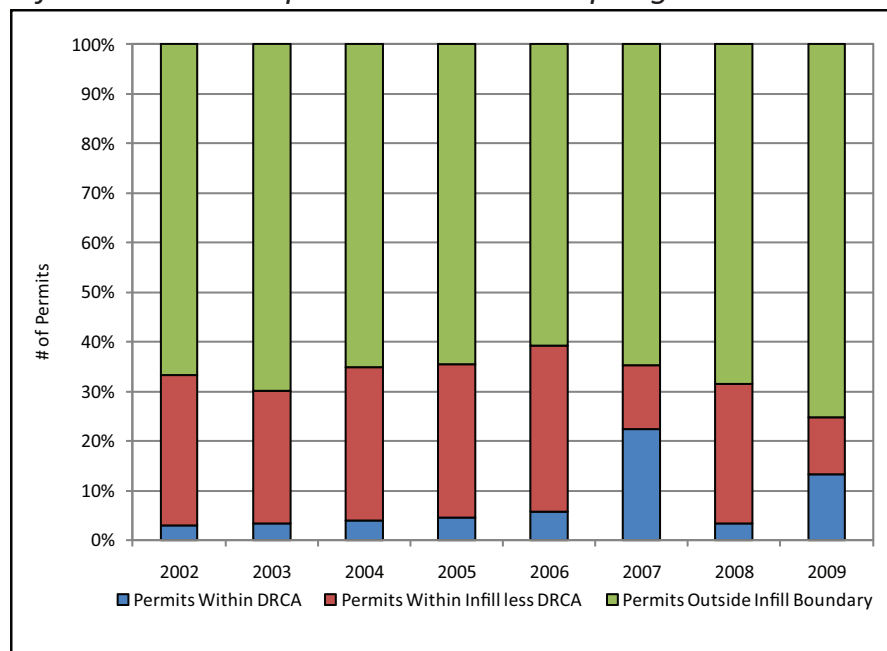
Changing demographics (i.e., a higher proportion of non-driving senior citizens) and projected increases in the real price of gasoline, should also result in a disincentive for auto-intensive land uses.

Currently, the development codes for El Paso County and Colorado Springs differ. El Paso County's requirements incorporate more options for lower density, discontinuous and/or rural development. When areas developed under El Paso County guidelines and regulations are annexed into the City of Colorado Springs they may not meet all of the City's requirements for sidewalks, curbs or streets, especially in lower density areas. This can result in costly up-front or subsequent maintenance expenses when annexation occurs. Creating an extraterritorial jurisdiction agreement between the City of Colorado Springs and El Paso County would enable these issues to be addressed at the time of development, thereby reducing major expenses later for the City or the residents. Many other cities use this same method and cooperatively look at development plans located within a three mile buffer of the city limits.

-Development-

Patterns of Development

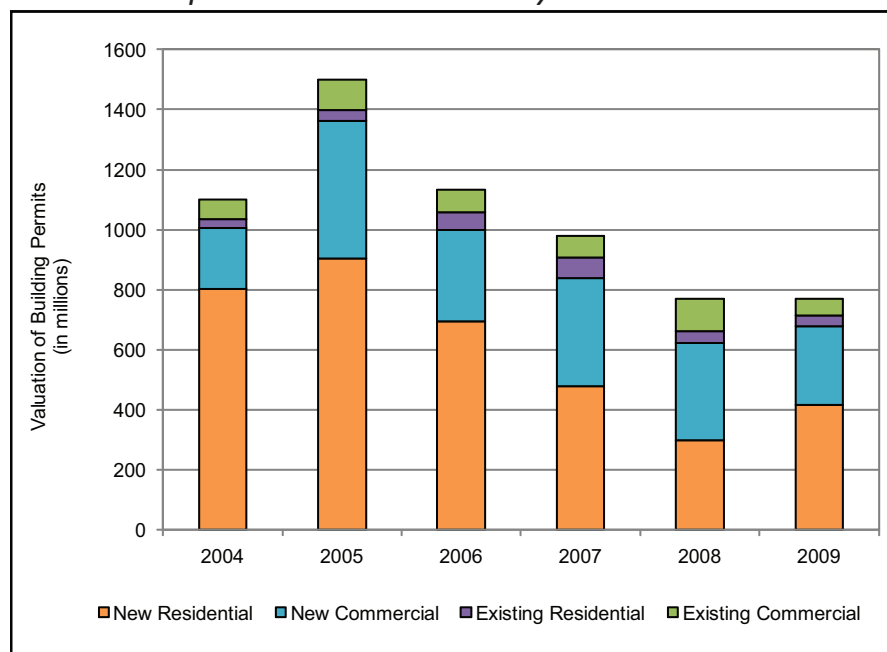
Infill and Redevelopment in Colorado Springs



The Infill and Redevelopment Chart shows the number of permits for new commercial and residential structures (building additions were not included). The permits are divided into three categories: permits within the Designated Redevelopment Corridors and Areas (DRCA); permits within the infill area, not including the DRCA's; and permits outside the infill boundary. There are nine DRCA's within the City of Colorado Springs, all of which are within the infill boundary. A map of the DRCA's can be found at: www.springsgov.com/Files/AnnualReport_2007-08.pdf, page 28. Infill development refers to the reuse of underused or vacant land that is already fronted or serviced by utilities and roads.

The New Development Chart shows building permits issued in El Paso County. The building permits for the existing categories are limited to work which increases habitable and usable floor areas. New development does not include maintenance, re-roof, siding, new electric service, furnace, and water heater replacement.

New Development in El Paso County



Source for both charts: Pikes Peak Regional Building Department

Why is This Important?

Development inside the infill boundary and DRCA's requires fewer new services, such as police, fire and roadways, while also revitalizing older or declining areas of the city, increasing density, and making transit more efficient. Continual investment in established residential and commercial properties is crucial to the prevention of future deterioration and blight.

How are We Doing?

The infill boundary area of Colorado Springs contains approximately 60% of the city's land area; however, permits in the infill boundary accounted for only 33.86% of the total permits issued from 2002 through 2009. This includes DRCA permits which accounted for 5.95% of total permits pulled in the same period. Outward development is expected to continue with the majority of permits issued for areas outside the infill boundary.

We continue to build new homes and new

commercial buildings, but are investing substantially less in existing structures. Examples of redevelopment in DRCA's include University Village Center and Gold Hill Mesa.

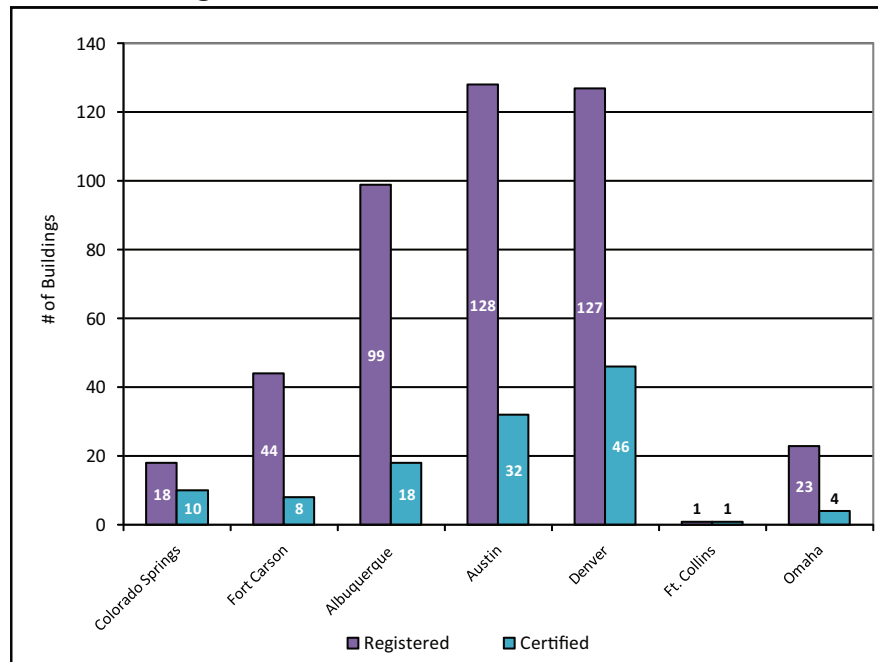
Potential for Action

Encouraging development and redevelopment in the infill and DRCA areas could greatly enhance the vibrancy and sustainability of Colorado Springs and reverse deterioration in some areas of the City. While construction adds to the local economy, certain projects have additional benefits. By remodeling and expanding existing buildings, older structures can be brought up to code and developers have a reduced cost per square foot, use less raw materials, and have lower construction material costs.

Infill and DRCA projects could be made more attractive by fundamentally redesigning our development guidelines and fees to be easier and less expensive to build in the infill area. Water tap fees and other connection fees inside the infill area could be substantially reduced while those outside the infill area are increased.

Connectivity and Sustainable Buildings

LEED Buildings



Source: U.S. Green Building Council, Fort Carson Sustainability and Environmental Management System

The LEED® Buildings Chart shows Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) registered and certified buildings in Colorado Springs and other similar cities. The LEED green building rating system was created in 2000 by the U.S. Green Building Council and is an internationally recognized third-party verification system that certifies high-performance, sustainable buildings. LEED certified buildings must meet rigorous prerequisite criteria and are awarded points in categories that address energy use, water use, connectivity, and sustainable construction materials. Because of LEED's emphasis on connectivity and transportation, constructing such buildings can also significantly lower CO2 emissions from autos by promoting walking and transit use.

Why is This Important?

Sustainable buildings are important because buildings and the built environment are nationally among the highest users of energy, consuming 72% of all electricity and representing 39% of total energy use.¹

Sustainable buildings not only reduce utility expenses, but also lower construction waste, decrease water use, and provide a healthy environment for occupants.

A typical American shopping center is designed with a life span of 20-30 years.² Sustainable communities will have to design their buildings with much longer life spans. Where buildings with limited life spans have proliferated, communities will be faced with the costs of renewal and redevelopment to prevent decline or degradation.

How are We Doing?

Some cities, such as Albuquerque, have green building programs that incentivize LEED certification; however, Colorado Springs does not. Conversely, by 2012 Fort Carson will require all new buildings and major renovations to surpass the criteria for the second tier of LEED certification. Fort Carson's goal is that by 2027 all new buildings will surpass the criteria for the highest certification level, platinum.³ Fort Carson, with 70+ registered and certifiable buildings, is becoming a local leader in this area.

The built environment and transportation go hand-in-hand. Colorado Springs' low-density growth patterns and large geographic area make it difficult to provide a high level of mass transit service. As can be seen in other cities, transit is highly effective in dense and medium-dense urban areas.

Furthermore, cuts in the City of Colorado Springs budget from 2009 to 2010 have resulted in decreased Mountain Metropolitan Transit bus service and now 19.59% fewer residences are within 1/2 mile of fixed-route bus service. Access to public transportation impacts social well-being, the economy, and safety. A whole portion of our population now has a more difficult time finding and keeping employment due to a lack of transportation.

Potential for Action

It is recommended that transportation and land use planning in Colorado Springs be completed concurrently to foster the development of more dense, mixed-use, and transit-oriented neighborhoods. Government prioritization of infrastructure and transportation projects in already developed areas will help direct further growth to those regions.

The growth of denser, walkable neighborhood cores will require more than incentivized building guidelines. Stronger changes in building and land use codes to incorporate green building principles, or even the creation of a local LEED-like system that would address elements such as water runoff or energy use, would provide an impetus for more sustainable design and construction in the Pikes Peak region. Beyond these measures a deeper paradigm shift may need to take place about the relationship between transportation and land use.

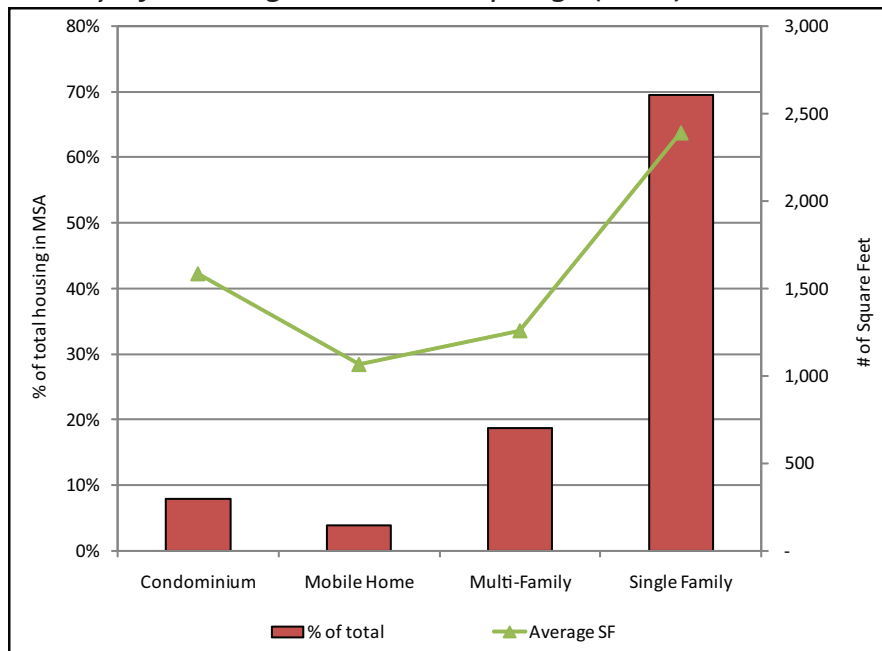
1 U.S. Green Building Council. "Green Building Research." 2010. <http://www.usgbc.org/DisplayPage.aspx?CMSPageID=1718>.

2 Gibbs, Robert. Gibbs Planning Group. Email Interview. 27 July, 2010.

3 Barber, Mary J. Installation Sustainability Resource Officer, Fort Carson. Email Interview. 27 July 2010.

Housing Success Factors

Variety of Housing in Colorado Springs (MSA)



Source: El Paso County Assessor's Office

The Variety Table shows the types and volume of housing available in the Colorado Springs Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) which includes both El Paso and Teller Counties.

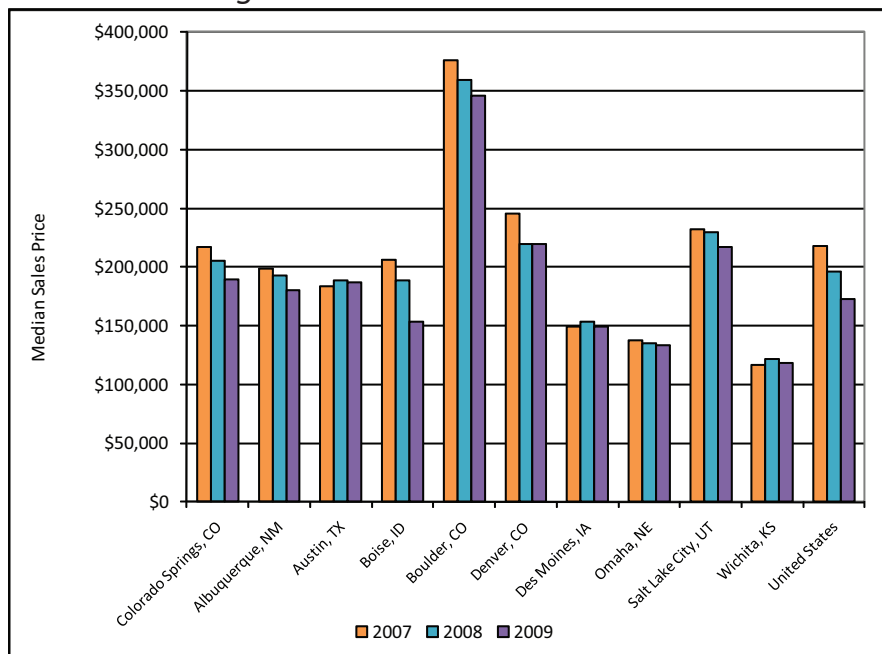
The Median Housing Price Chart shows the median price for single-family homes in Colorado Springs and comparable cities, as well as the national average.

Why is This Important?

Housing variety is important to policy makers and community planners because it is their responsibility to make sure a city offers balanced types of housing. It is also important that a community does not have an oversupply of any particular housing type.

The median home price is a common economic measure used to compare one community to another. From it, people often infer other information such as income levels, cost of living, and the economic health of the community.

Median Housing Price



Source: National Association of Realtors

How are We Doing?

Based on current vacancy rates, supply and demand for multi-family units are balanced and there is not an oversupply of single-family homes. Colorado Springs does favor single-family homes, with this type representing almost 70% of our housing supply. This city, along with most others, saw erosion in the median single-family home price between 2007 and 2009. The declines in our community were somewhat less than those of other cities and the national average.

Potential for Action

As a community, it is essential to ensure there is enough affordable housing supply by allowing new development/construction, infill development and redevelopment to occur. Due to the popularity of single-family dwellings, row houses may accomplish higher density while meeting current demand for this housing type.

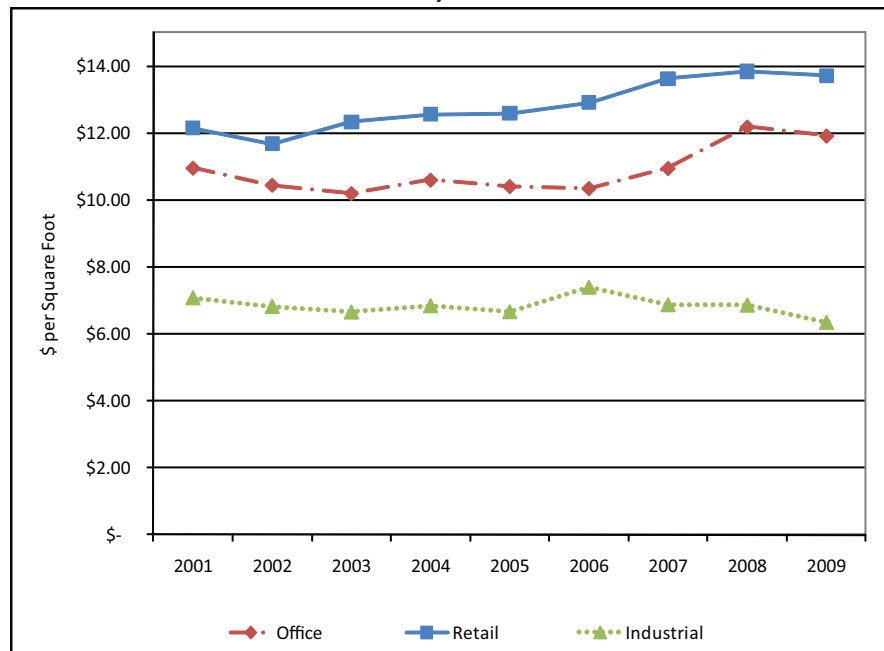
in 2001. With substantial growth and change in the last decade, the City needs a current and clear plan for future growth. The purpose of the plan is to be "...a long-range vision of what we want our city to become, a tool for making decisions about how that vision should be achieved, and as a specific program of action for reaching our stated objectives."¹ New annexations and development plans should be carefully weighed against the plan before being approved. This will require thinking on a broader scale rather than just a case-by-case basis.

1 City of Colorado Springs Comprehensive Plan. p.21.

Photograph by Sheila Say

Non-Residential Supply (Commercial)

Lease Rates in El Paso County



Source: Sierra Commercial Real Estate

The Lease Rates Chart shows the average office, retail and industrial asking lease rates per year. A triple net (NNN) lease is one requiring the tenant to pay, in addition to a fixed rental, the expenses of the leased property, such as taxes, insurance, maintenance, etc. When a lease rate is quoted in NNN, it is only the base rent; expenses will be added to create the gross lease.

The Vacancy Rates Chart shows the office, industrial and retail vacancy rates in El Paso County for the same period.

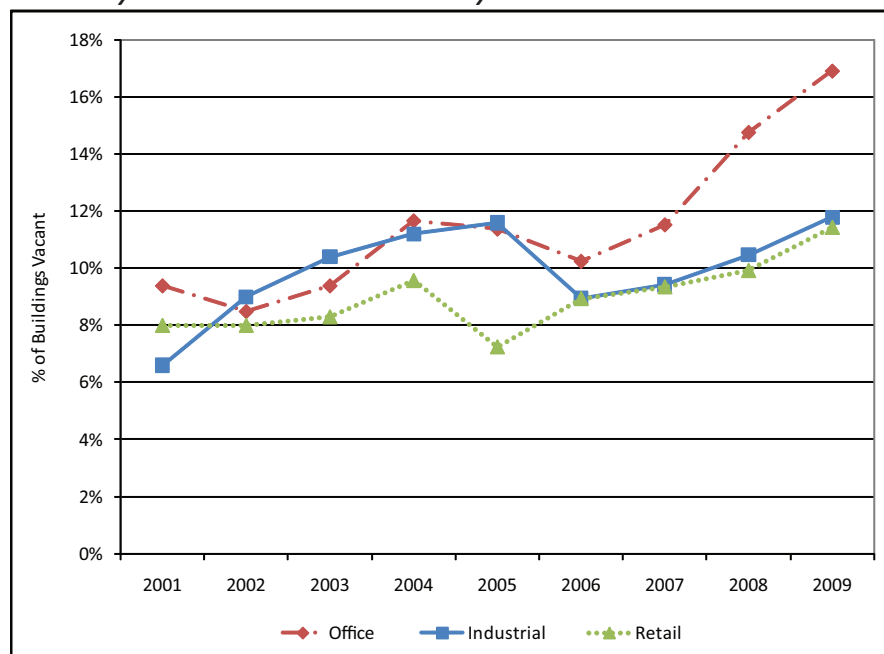
Why is This Important?

Businesses considering relocating to, or remaining in, the County may compare the lease rates, along with other factors, among cities before making a final decision. The cost of space may also influence the number of small, independent and/or start-up businesses an area can attract. The vacancy rates indicate supply in excess of demand. When supply exceeds demand, buildings sit empty. When such buildings are clustered in an area, and remain vacant for long periods of time, they can negatively impact the surrounding areas of the city.

How are We Doing?

In general, the lease rates for all three types of commercial space dropped between 2008 and 2009. While the declining economy has influenced commercial vacancy rates, the New Development Chart on page 54 indicates that new commercial has continued to be built since 2004, exacerbating the problem. The City does maintain a strong central population, but many businesses are moving to our urban edge. Continued commercial construction outside of the infill area can lead to greater vacancy rates in the infill area by drawing business out of the City. This could be very damaging for City efforts at urban revitalization and can result in fewer services for the City's centrally located residences. Furthermore, although County sales and property taxes may not be affected, City sales and property taxes are foregone whenever taxable development occurs in

Vacancy Rates in El Paso County



Source: Sierra Commercial Real Estate

unincorporated areas. Thus, the total amount of revenue available to cities to address public services is fundamentally reduced whenever taxable unincorporated development occurs.

Potential for Action

The redevelopment of chronically vacant commercial and industrial space as part of comprehensive urban renewal plans could reduce urban blight in the Pikes Peak region. A balanced redevelopment plan will also have to take into account the life-cycle costs of our developments. The current model is profitable in the short-term, but as the roadway maintenance indicator shows we are struggling financially to maintain what we have built. Continued monitoring of all commercial vacancy rates by zip code would alert planners and officials to emerging problems and provide time to develop mitigation plans. The economics of growth must be included as part of a balanced, holistic long-range model that will be crucial to the region's future.

Sustaining A Healthy Community

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Pikes Peak Behavioral Health Group

CAROL WALKER
El Paso County Medical Society

KATHY WALLACE



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 influence 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.

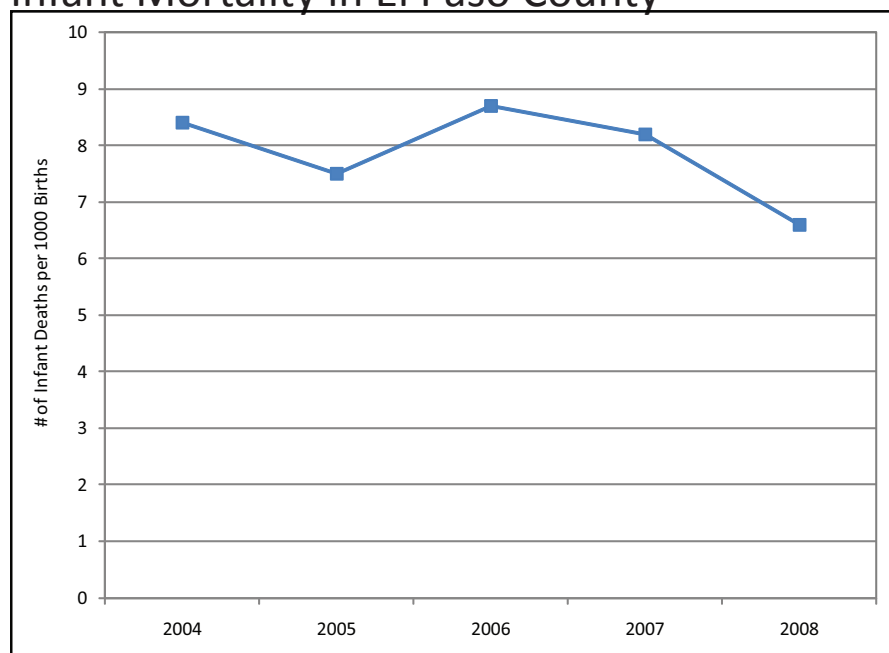
Increasing awareness and participation to improve the public health problem areas identified in this report will require a strong commitment of collaboration and leadership from all facets of the community including private citizens, elected officials, all areas within the professional health care arena 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.



Image by Dusan Zidar

-Physical Health-

Infant Mortality in El Paso County



Source: Colorado Health Information Dataset

This 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.

Why is This Important?

Infant mortality can be used to measure a community's overall social and economic well being, as well as its general health. Communities with a persistently high infant mortality rate need to place increased emphasis on core public health in order to assess trends and gaps in community services provided to women and children.

How are We Doing?

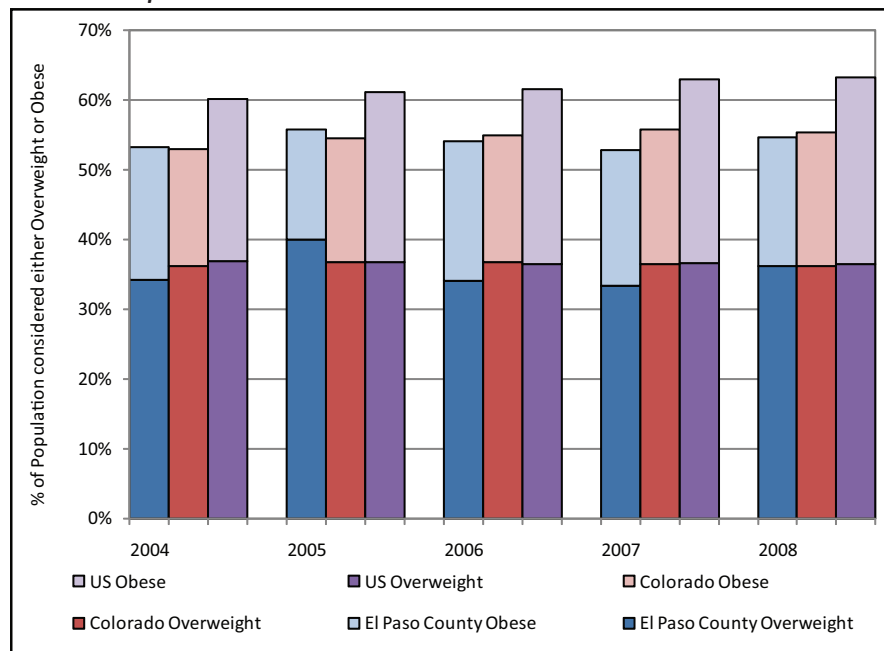
El Paso County's infant mortality rate is still far from the Healthy People 2010 goal of 4.5 deaths per 1,000 live births. Although the infant mortality rate has decreased somewhat in El Paso County since 2006, prevention efforts should continue in this area.

Potential for Action

- Increase access to prenatal care, which is associated with improved maternal and infant outcomes. Currently, the Alliance for Kids Health Integration Grant is providing prenatal outreach within the community and increasing access to insurance coverage and early prenatal care.
- Increase preconception (before conception) and inter-conception (time between pregnancies) care for mothers. Preconception and inter-conception care are thought to promote mothers' use of health care and adoption of healthy life styles, which contribute to reducing the number of low birth weight infants and the complications associated with low birth weight infants, premature births and infant mortality. Women who receive preconception care enter into pregnancy at optimal health. This includes a healthy weight, not smoking or drinking alcohol, avoiding medications that are harmful in early pregnancy and taking prenatal vitamins and folic acid. When looking for potential action to improve birth outcomes, evidence shows that nutritional and smoking intervention reduces the rate of low birth weight infants. Survey data from 2007 in El Paso County shows that 14.6% of pregnant mothers smoked during the last three months of pregnancy. The community needs increased knowledge of maternal smoking risks and greater access to smoking cessation programs.
- Continue educating the public and professionals about safe sleeping environments for infants. SIDS remains the leading cause of death in the United States for infants ages one month to one year. The El Paso County Department of Health and Environment continues its efforts with community partners to increase public knowledge of safe sleeping environments for infants.
- Continue community efforts to prevent child abuse and neglect. Many community groups are collaborating on this issue, including The Coalition for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect, the Domestic Violence Awareness Campaign by Stop Family Violence and the prevention of Shaken Baby education program developed by Memorial Health System. Joint Initiatives has identified child abuse and neglect as a community concern and is analyzing available local resources, identifying potential gaps and continuing to assess community needs.
- Continue programs that have demonstrated their ability to improve maternal and infant health outcomes. Prenatal Plus, Centering Pregnancy, Nurse Family Partnership (NFP) and Strong and Healthy Families (SHF) are programs providing education in pre- and postnatal care, as well as normal infant/toddler growth and development. NFP and SHF provide home visits before birth until the infant's second birthday. Improve follow-up after birth with home visits to any family identified as having an infant with greater risk or a need for additional home-visitation support. First Visitor is an example of a home-visit program providing health, safety, child development and resource information for parents.

Obesity and Cardiovascular Health

BMI Comparison Chart



Source: Smart Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System

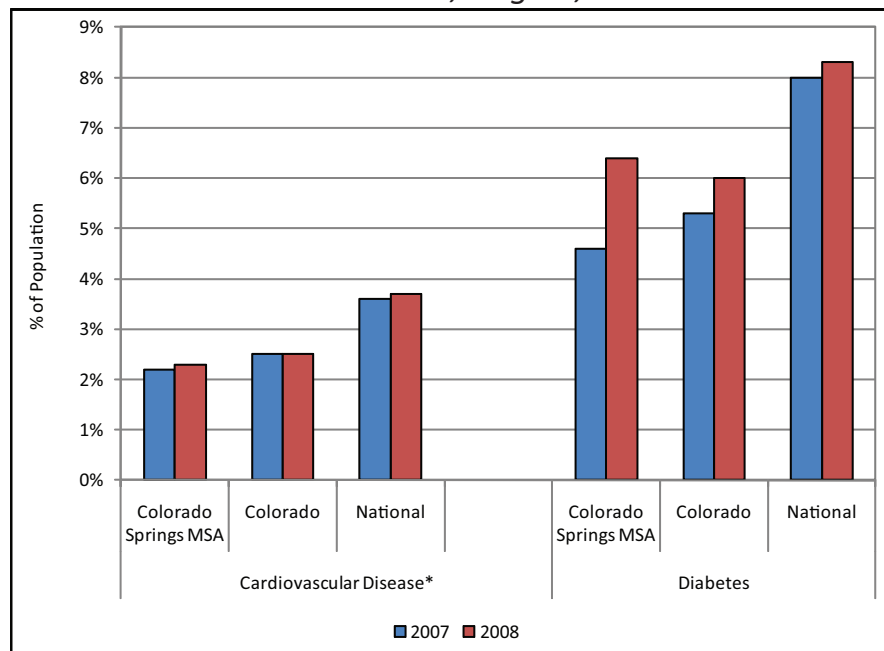
The first Chart shows the percentage of people whose Body Mass Index (BMI) classifies them as either overweight (BMI of 25.0-29.0) or obese (BMI of 30.0+). Obesity continues to be a growing problem for Coloradans.

The second Chart shows the percentage of people who have cardiovascular disease or diabetes. While the rate of cardiovascular disease is growing slowly but steadily, the rate of diabetes is growing rapidly.

Why is This Important?

Obesity has been characterized as a chronic disease by itself and has reached epidemic proportions in the United States. Obesity increases a person's risk for disability and can contribute to other chronic diseases such as heart disease, stroke and diabetes. Eliminating this epidemic is of vital public health importance. Obesity is the leading contributor to rising economic costs in terms of direct and indirect health care expenses in Colorado and the rest of the nation.

Cardiovascular - Heart Attack, Angina, and Stroke



Source: Smart Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System

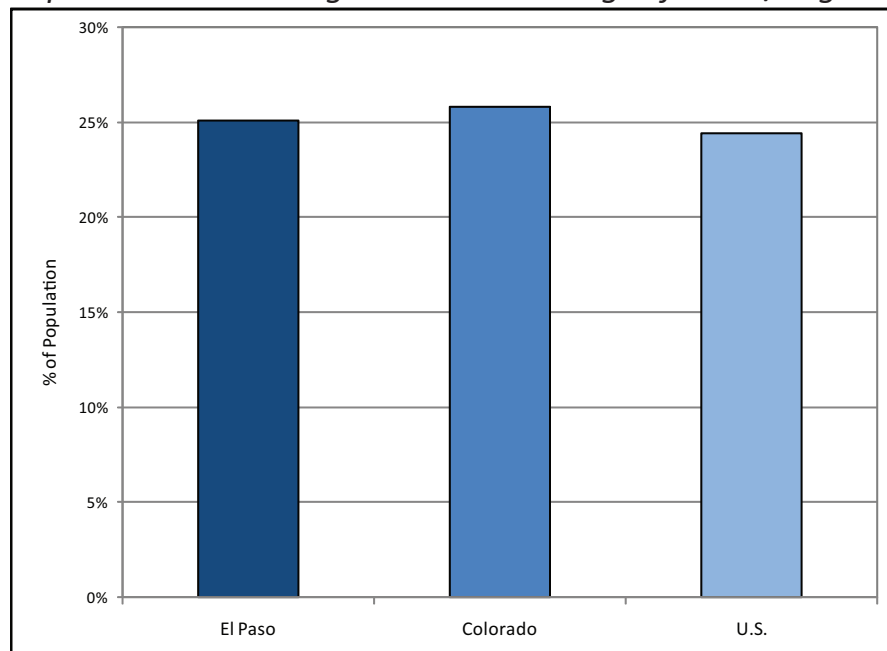
Four out of five adult Coloradans with diabetes were overweight or obese. The difference in obesity prevalence among adults with or without diabetes is dramatic: 44.9% compared with 17.5%. Being overweight or obese increases the risks of high blood pressure, high cholesterol, angina and coronary heart disease. In Colorado, adults with high blood pressure are more likely to be overweight (40.5%) or obese (32.9%).

Overweight and obesity have a complex etiology. Evidence suggests that being overweight is influenced by issues such as genetics, the built environment, availability of particular foods, and cultural and social norms and values. However, at the individual level, the best predictor of obesity and overweightness are the behavioral factors that influence energy balance. Simply put, the balance between the amount of energy a person consumes and the amount of energy a person expends is the most important predictor of being overweight or obese.

How are We Doing?

Colorado is often presented in mainstream media as the 'healthiest' or 'fittest' state. While the state's overweight and obesity rates are better than the national average, it's clear that Colorado has a significant problem. As of 2006, 17.8% of Coloradans were considered obese and just a year later, in 2007) the obesity rate rose to 19%.

Population consuming 5 or more Servings of Fruits/Vegetables per day



Source: Colorado BRFSS, 2007

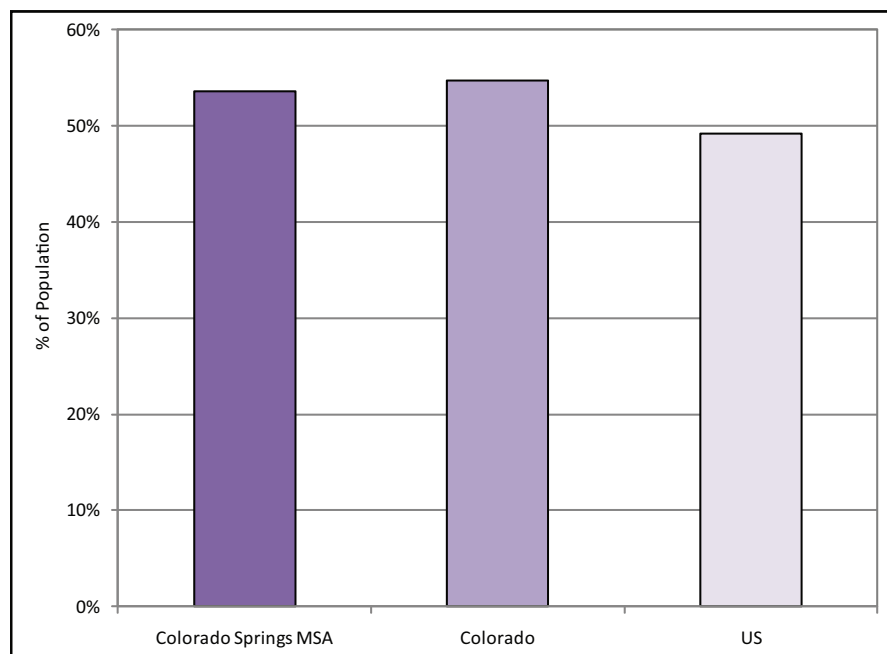
The first Chart shows the percentage of adults who report consuming at least five fruits and vegetables per day. Poor nutrition is a risk factor that, if modified, reduces the risks of being overweight or obese and their complications.

The second Chart shows the percentage of adults who currently get at least 30+ minutes of moderate physical activity 5 or more days per week, or vigorous physical activity for more than 20+ minutes three or more days per week.

Why is This Important?

Consuming at least the recommended amount of fruits and vegetables decreases the risk for obesity. This is especially true if fruits and vegetables are substituted for foods that are high in fat and calories.

Adult Population with 30+ Minutes of Physical Activity 5 days/week



Source: Colorado BRFSS, 2007

Physical activity is defined as any bodily movement that results in energy expenditure. U.S. adults should accumulate 150 minutes per week of moderate to vigorous physical activity for health benefits. For those attempting to manage weight with physical activity, 60-90 minutes of moderate to vigorous physical activity per day is recommended. Moderate activity increases heart rate and respiration, and may even cause a person to break a sweat. Breathing hard and rapid respiration are signs of vigorous activity. Unfortunately, many Americans do not meet the minimum recommended level of physical activity for health benefits. Physical activity helps people lose or maintain weight, reduces risk for type 2 diabetes, heart attack, stroke and several other chronic diseases.

How are We Doing?

Although the percentage of Coloradans who eat five or more servings of fruits and vegetables per day exceeds the national average, El Paso County lags behind state

consumption of fruits and vegetables. In addition, research shows that people in Colorado lag behind the nation in recommended nutrient intake of vitamin C, vitamin E, thiamin, niacin, iron, copper, and fiber.

While Colorado citizens and those in the Pikes Peak region are more active than their U.S. counterparts, more than 40% are still not active enough to accrue health benefits from physical activity.

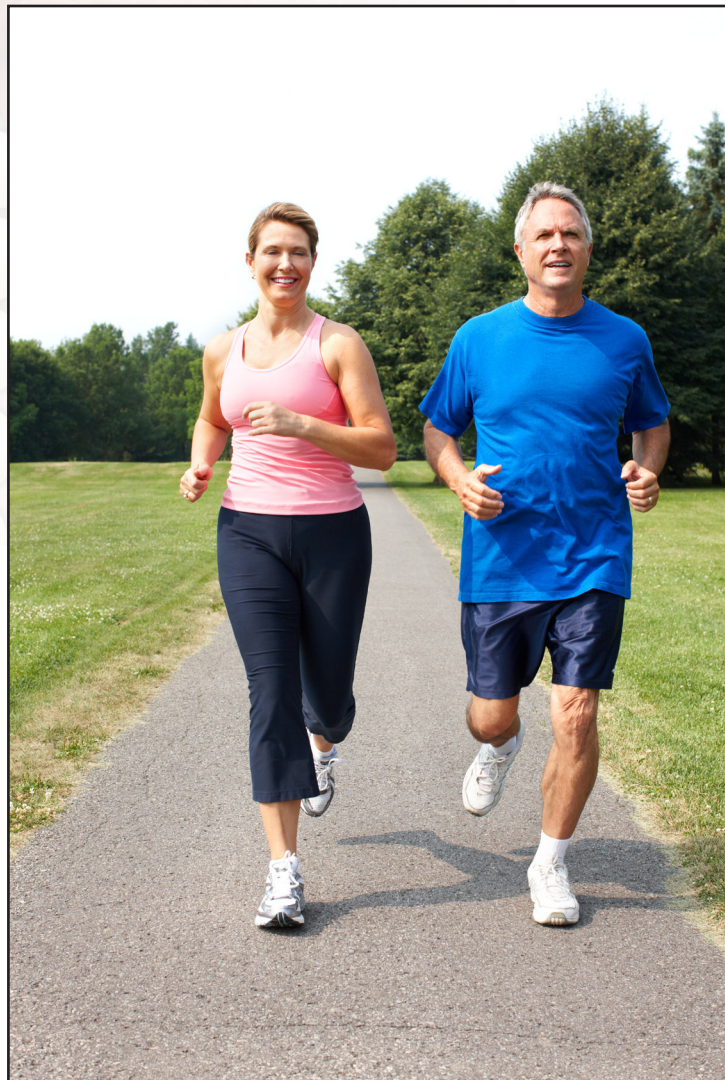
Potential for Action

Two of the Healthy People 2010 national health objectives are:

1. Reduce the rate of being overweight or obese among adults to less than 15%
2. Reduce the rate of obesity among children and adolescents to less than 5%

Meeting these goals and interrupting the increasing obesity trends in El Paso County will require its citizens to make lifestyle changes. This effort must engage participants from all aspects of the community. It is recommended the community support initiatives such as Live Well Colorado and Healthy Communities.

Changes in the way people live and work have had a great impact on daily levels of physical activity. Those communities that have embraced the built environment (aspects of a person's surroundings which are human-made or modified, as compared with naturally occurring aspects of the environment) promote the health of citizens. Policy and environmental change initiatives that make healthy choices in nutrition and physical activity available, affordable and easy likely will prove most effective in combating obesity. By incorporating the built environment concept in planning and development, communities can promote health through the development of bicycle paths, the inclusion of sidewalks in subdivisions, rezoning for community gardens and local agriculture, and the allocation of parks and open spaces for recreation.

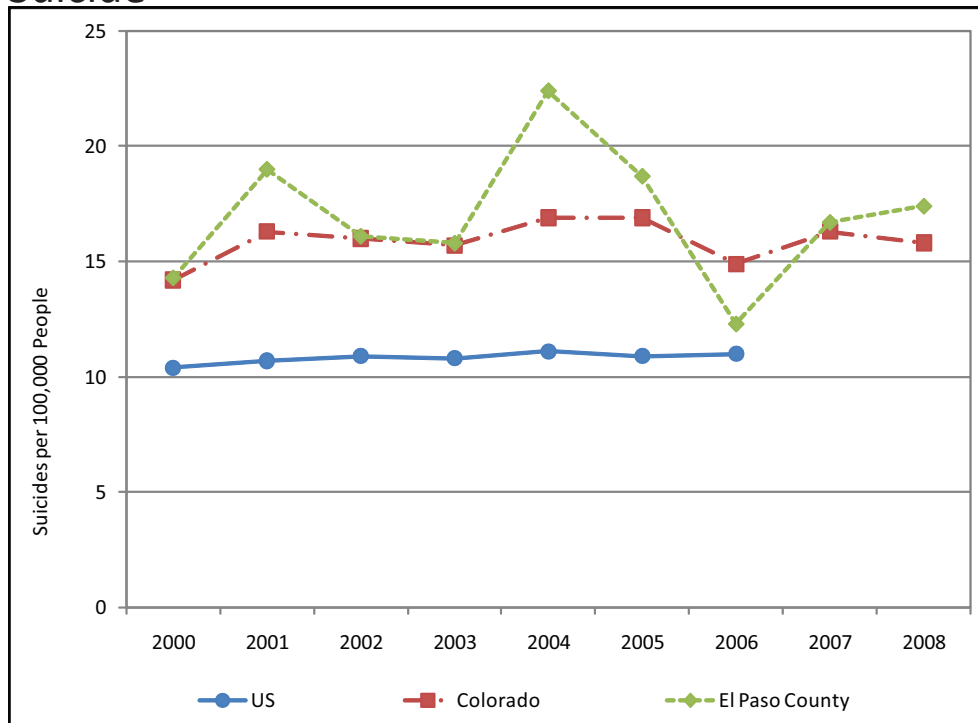


Photograph by Kurhan

Photograph by Morgan Lane Photography

-Mental Health-

Suicide



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

This Chart compares El Paso County suicide rates with those of Colorado and the nation. El Paso County has a relatively small population, and suicide is a relatively infrequent event (about 100 per year among county residents). For these reasons, it's important to look at suicide rates over several years, not just one year, as this mathematical phenomenon causes the suicide rate per 100,000 to appear more variable for El Paso County than for Colorado or the U.S.

Why is This Important?

The 2000-2008 suicide rates for Colorado and El Paso County are notably higher than for the nation. Colorado's annual suicide rate is among the top 10 in the nation compared with other states and the District of Columbia. Except for 2006, the annual suicide rates for El Paso County equaled or surpassed the rates for Colorado during the 2000-2008 time span.

How are We Doing?

Suicide in El Paso County is a significant health problem. Over the nine year span reported in the chart, 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 community-wide commitment toward suicide prevention in the Pikes Peak region continue to be inadequate for the number of completed and attempted suicides each year. Services in El Paso County remain poorly funded and largely dependent upon volunteers. There are few professional resources for people who attempt suicide. Medical costs alone for suicide and suicide attempts in El Paso County are estimated at \$4 million annually.

Previous QLI reports have recommended a systemic approach to suicide prevention, but no such approach has emerged. Some community organizations have implemented more immediate, tactical suicide prevention measures, such as development of a suicide lethality form that could be used by any institution to assess suicide risk. Standardized lethality screenings help ensure that people at risk of attempting or completing suicide are referred to proper service providers and receive services consistent with their needs. Pikes Peak Mental Health now conducts a risk assessment during all routine contacts with clients in order to flag behaviors suggestive of suicide risk.

Potential for Action

El Paso County's suicide rate could be reduced through the implementation of a comprehensive community-based prevention program. Comprehensive programs incorporate a range of services and providers 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. According to a 2009 White Paper, *El Paso County Suicide Rates: Cause for Alarm?*, comprehensive suicide prevention programs have the greatest likelihood of reducing the suicide rate if the programs incorporate a range of services and providers and include three types of prevention strategies:

- Universal – Focus on everyone in a defined population or geographic area regardless of their risk, e.g., a hospital, school or county.
- Selective – Target subgroups of people at increased risk due to age, gender, ethnicity or stressors such as unemployment or multiple military combat deployments.
- Indicated – Provide services to individuals assessed as being at the greatest risk of suicide due to previous suicide attempts and other factors.

Suicide Among Special Population Groups - Rates per 100,000 People

	United States 2006	Colorado 2005-2008 Avg	El Paso County 2005-2008 Avg
Teens 15-18 years	6.3	11.2	11.5
Males 25-54 years	23.2	31.8	36.3
Seniors 65+ years	14.2	21.0	18.2
Veterans All ages	Not Available	42.8	40.4

Source: Colorado Health Information Dataset, WISQARS Leading Causes of Death Reports, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

This Table examines the rate of suicide for specific subgroups at high risk or having special significance to the Pikes Peak region. It's intended to illustrate only those groups in our local population with notably high suicide rates - not all age or other population groups. This tactic is consistent with a public health approach to risk determination.

Previous QLI reports included El Paso County suicide rates for individuals 85+ years. Although the suicide rate per 100,000

among this age group is high, the number of individuals is very low. This chart aggregates suicides for all individuals 65+ and shows the average suicide rate per 100,000 for 2005-2008.

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.

Why is This Important?

Identifying and tracking these subgroups allow use of a selective suicide prevention strategy focusing on subgroups of people at increased risk. Suicide is a leading cause of death among adolescents and young adults. For the U.S., Colorado, and El Paso County, suicides among 15-18 year olds account for about 6-7% of total suicides. Similar to other age groups, the Colorado and El Paso County suicide rates for 15-18 year olds are notably higher than the national rate, with the rate for males higher than that for females. In the 2008 QLI report, the high suicide rate among teens and older adults was identified as one of the region's four significant health issues. They were the only health issues out of the four to receive red flag warnings.

Nationally, suicide rates are higher among individuals 65 and older compared to other age groups. Although this is not the age group with the highest suicide rate in either Colorado or El Paso County, this age group is growing as a percentage of our state and county population.

In addition to the subgroups above, numerous research studies have found major individual risk factors for suicide and suicide attempts to include gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender identity. A 2009 survey of the GLBT population in El Paso County also reported evidence of this subpopulation risk factor.

How are We Doing?

There is still a compelling need for concentrated prevention services for each of these special population groups. As reported in the 2007, 2008 and 2009 QLI reports, Colorado and El Paso County average suicide rates continue to be higher for teens, males (25-54 years) and seniors compared to national figures. Also, suicide rates are unusually high for Colorado and El Paso County veterans. While El Paso County has achieved some reduction in the average rate of suicides for teens, males (25-54 years) and seniors, more than a third of all suicide deaths in El Paso County are veterans. Population-based studies indicate that male veterans face roughly twice the risk of dying from suicide as their civilian counterparts. A portion of the excess suicide rate in El Paso County may be due to the high proportion of veterans in the population. El Paso County has more veterans than any county in Colorado. Veterans comprise approximately 18% of the Colorado Springs adult population, second among metropolitan areas only to Virginia Beach, VA.

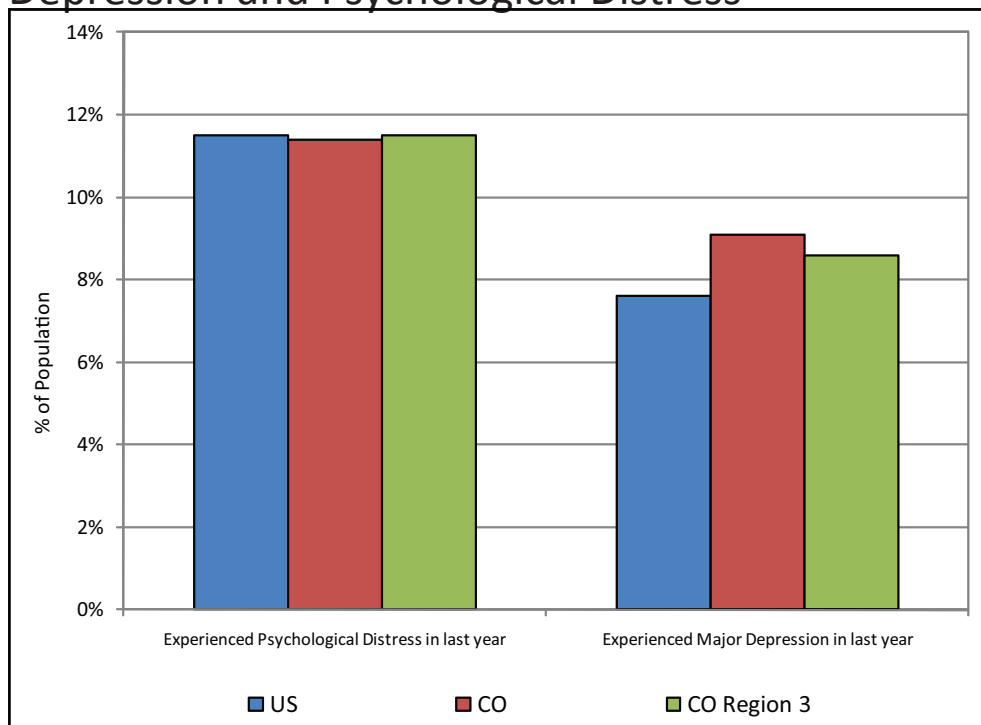
Potential for Action

A selective approach should consider interventions that are bio-psycho-social, environmental and socio-cultural. The priority groups for intervention should be males (25-54 years) and veterans.



Photograph by JCJG Photography

Depression and Psychological Distress



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

This Chart is an average taken from national surveys conducted by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration in 2004, 2005 and 2006 and is based on the rates of people in the United States, Colorado, and Colorado Region 3 (which includes Colorado Springs and nearby counties) who reported psychological distress or major depression. The survey is only analyzed every other year, and as always, the national data are several years behind.

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.

Findings from the 2004-2005 National Surveys on Drug Use and Health ranked Colorado first in the nation in the rate of adolescents 12 to 17 who reported having at least one major depressive episode during the previous year. Almost 10% of Colorado youth reported having such an episode, defined as a period of at least two weeks in which they had most of the signs of clinical depression.

According to the Colorado Interagency Council on Homelessness (2006), over 47% of Colorado's 16,203 homeless individuals have a serious mental illness or chronic substance abuse issue.

Each of these statistical reports is several years behind the calendar year and does not reflect the impact of the current economy or the subsequent fallout in terms of high rates of unemployment, frequency of home foreclosures, increasing number of homeless (especially among families with children), and reduced funding for social services, community centers and senior centers. It's reasonable to assume the economic downturn has had a profound impact on mental health and psychological well-being at every level of community.

How are We Doing?

The National Alliance on Mental Illness' *Grade the States* 2009 report on Colorado's health care system for adults with mental illness indicated that much is needed to improve Colorado's behavioral health system. Two particularly urgent needs are better access to mental health services for those without Medicaid or other insurances and crisis stabilization services to prevent increased stress on other systems such as jails and emergency rooms. In response to the latter of these needs, two regional initiatives were implemented in 2009 - the Veterans Trauma Court (VTC) and the Peer Navigator Program for veterans.

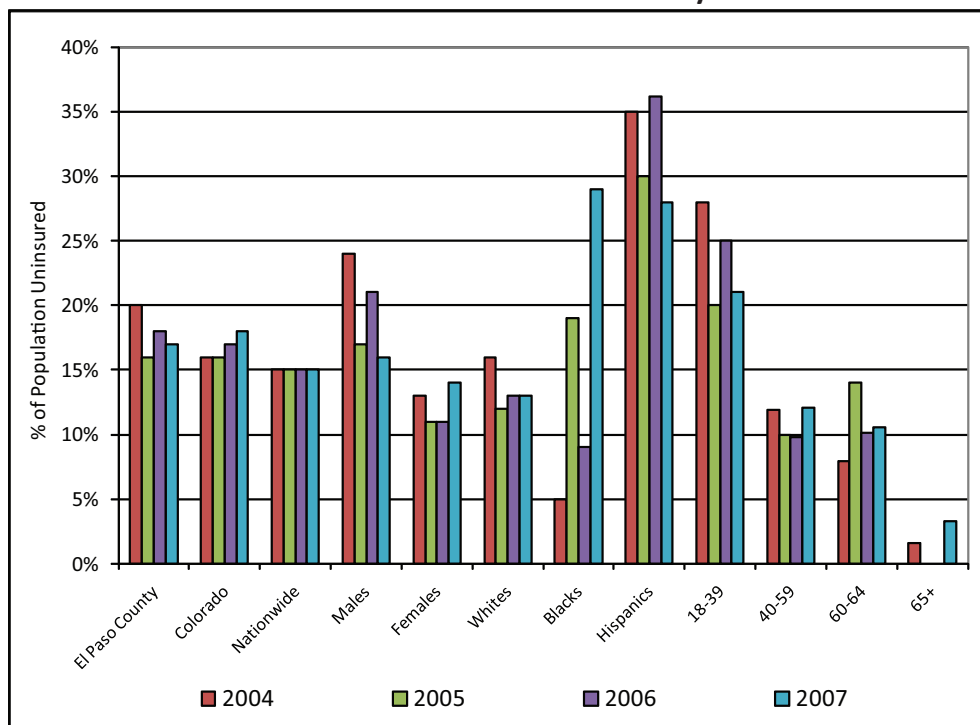
Potential for Action

As recommended in the 2009 QLI report, El Paso County still needs:

- A comprehensive strategic plan to identify and address current and emerging behavioral health issues in the region
- Indicators on overall mental wellness pertinent to our community
- A data collection system to track and report how El Paso County is faring in comparison to the rest of the state and the nation
- State and local funding to begin implementing a strategic plan and addressing gaps in El Paso County's behavioral health care system

-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 people in several different categories.

Why is This Important?

Historically, many uninsured people have not sought health care until they were critically ill and became frequent users of emergency rooms. As the population has grown and the economy has declined, the issue has caused an increased financial burden on hospital systems and the wider community.

A free clinic started in the 1970's grew into a federally qualified health center, now known as Peak Vista Community Health Centers. In the early 1990's, SET Medical Clinic was established to serve the homeless and very poor. In 2004, two more free clinics opened, Mission Medical Clinic and Open Bible Medical Clinic.

These clinics have improved the quality and access to health care in El Paso County significantly. Coordinated Access To Community Health, a Community Health Partnership (CHP) committee, meets monthly to reduce duplication and share and expand services in an effort to improve access and reduce emergency room use by the uninsured.

How are We Doing?

Two barriers: Capacity does not meet the need of all low income persons without health insurance, and poor communication to the uninsured regarding available resources. The Pikes Peak Region has responded with Community Health Partnership, a gathering of 20 partnering community health care organizations.

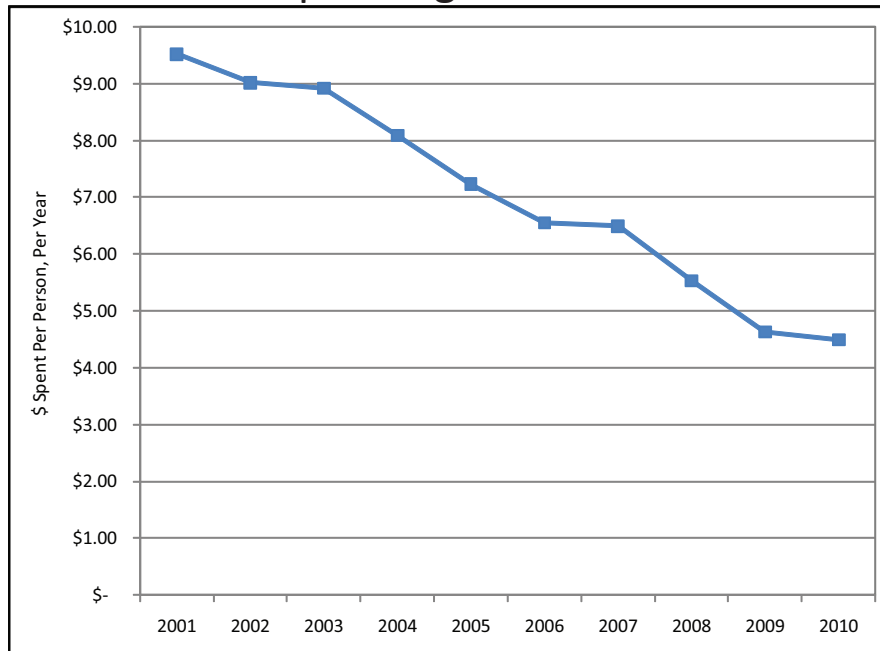
Medical Homes and Safety Net Clinics:

- Pikes Peak United Way maintains a 2-1-1 hot line to help people find access to care.
- Peak Vista, with 17 locations, provides a primary medical home to over 58,000 patients and offers others services such as dental, health education, immunizations, outreach, school based health centers, mobile clinics and integrated behavioral health.
- SET recently received a grant to help ex-offenders stay healthy while re-integrating back into society. Their capacity has been greatly increased by this grant, but they also see patients of all ages, and maintain immunization clinics for children. They partner with other organizations to provide care for hundreds of patients.
- Mission Medical, a temporary medical home for adults, transfers most patients to Peak Vista after one year.
- Open Bible cares for hundreds of patients per year and refers to Peak Vista for follow up care.

Pharmacy (Medication) Assistance:

- Prescription Assistance Service Solution (P.A.S.S.), administered by the El Paso County Medical Society, is a prescription drug financial assistance program designed for income-qualified patients needing but unable to pay for prescribed medications for chronic disease management and other ailments.
- TLC Pharmacy provides prescription medications to enrolled low-income members at no charge. Pharmaceutical companies provide bulk medications to TLC to be distributed to the poor. A new law in the State of Colorado makes it possible for hospitals, nursing homes and hospices to donate unused sterile medications to TLC for redistribution.
- Dispensaries: Mission Medical and Open Bible maintain dispensaries and Peak Vista maintains two pharmacies to provide prescription medications to registered patients.

Public Health Spending



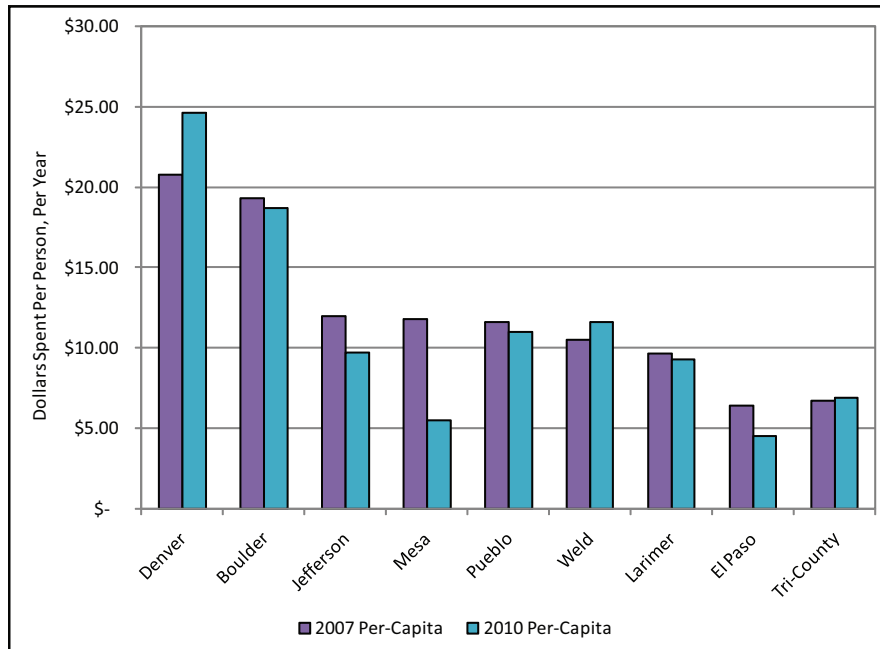
These Charts show significant local per-capita funding reductions experienced by the El Paso County Department of Health and Environment since 2001. Many prevention programs have been eliminated or scaled back due to the 45 percent reduction in funding from the El Paso County government.

Why is This Important?

The Health Department's work concentrates on protecting and promoting public health in the community, striving to assure the conditions in which people can be healthy. Public health practice is population-based focusing on prevention and should be based on epidemiology, biostatistics, environmental science, management sciences, and behavioral and social sciences. The Department's available funding is inadequate to maintain and recruit qualified public health experts and to provide essential public health services, allowing flexibility for preparedness and response to identify and address local public health issues. The ability to reinstate essential services previously eliminated or scaled back cannot be accomplished with the current level of non-restricted funding.

How are We Doing?

When comparing local per capita funding among the 10-county grouping for health departments in Colorado plus Denver, the El Paso County Department of Health and Environment receives the lowest amount of \$4.49 per-person per-year to provide public health services in El Paso County (including all of the towns and cities within). Local per-capita is the gross amount of funding received by local health departments from local government to provide public health services. As stated in a 2009 Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the National Association of County & City Health Officials (NACCHO) report, reduction of services will result in more infectious diseases such as tuberculosis, meningitis, hepatitis, sexually



Source for both charts: El Paso County Department of Health and Environment

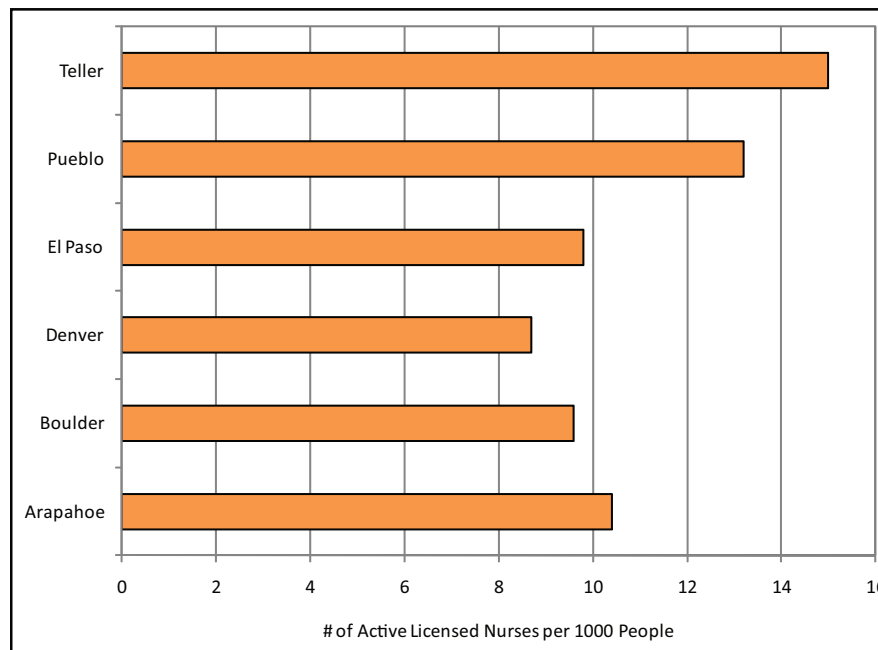
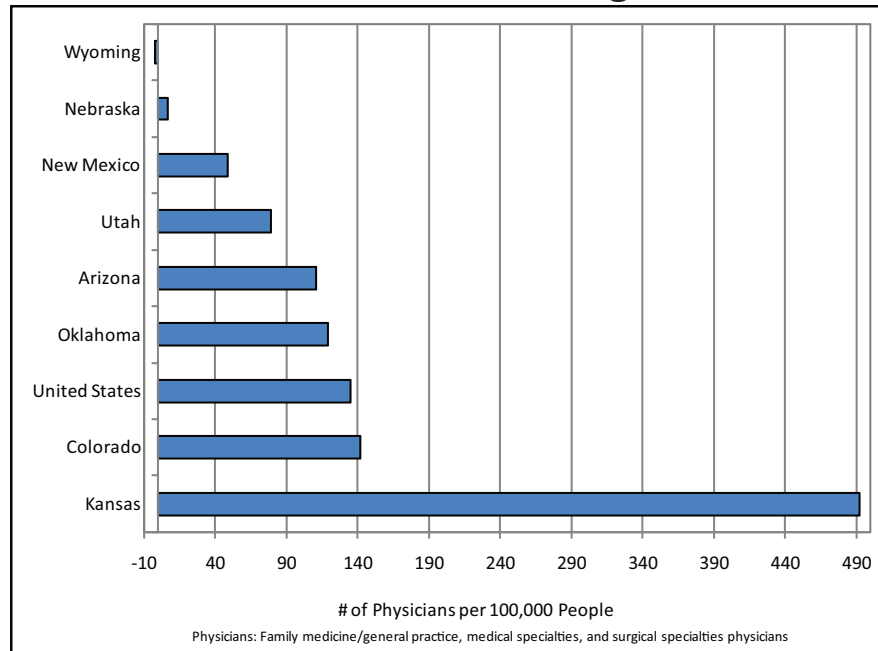
transmitted diseases, and other serious diseases because fewer people will be tested and treated. Funding cutbacks also translate into fewer community-based interventions mounted against chronic diseases such as diabetes and asthma, further escalating illness, disability and health care costs.

Staffing: The mean number of full-time-equivalents (FTE) is 430 for local health departments serving populations 500,000 - 999,999 as stated in the 2008 National Profile of Local Public Health Departments (NACCHO). The El Paso County Department of Health and Environment has 181 FTEs. In 2001, there were 251 FTEs.

Potential for Action

- Increased community partnerships and collaborations are needed to ensure the public's safety is protected.
- Increase community education on the unique role and importance of public health and how public health affects every citizen of El Paso County.
- Establish funding mechanisms to ensure delivery of core public health services.

Healthcare Professional Shortages



Source for both charts: Colorado Health Institute

These Charts These charts show the number of physicians and active licensed nurses within El Paso County and Colorado as well as other nearby counties and states.

Why is This Important?

"If current trends continue, by 2025 there will be a statewide shortage of nearly 2,200 primary care providers."
- Colorado Health Institute

- Colorado's aging health care workforce will become an increasingly serious problem over the next 10 years. Availability of health care jobs is expected to grow by 20%; the numbers of health care workers will shrink by 17% as aging workers retire.
- Colorado is expected to experience severe shortfalls in the numbers of physicians, surgeons, nurses, pharmacists, dental hygienists, physician assistants and physical therapists.
- Colorado's current nursing shortage of 11% is predicted to triple by 2020.
- Community economies are affected. Studies show that one primary care physician can generate up to \$1.5 million in revenue, \$0.9 million in payroll and create 23 jobs in both the physician clinic and the hospital.

How are We Doing?

In 2010, El Paso County continues to fall below the national and, in some cases, Colorado, averages.

- Active licensed physicians: statewide, the rate is 2.6 per 1,000 population; in El Paso County, the rate is 2.2.
- Practicing primary care physicians: statewide, the rate is 29.9 per 1,000 population; in El Paso County, the rate is 26.8%.
- Active licensed registered nurses: statewide, the rate is 10.0 per 1,000 population; in El Paso County, the rate is 9.8.

Potential for Action

Though we hear much discussion around health care reform, the immediate potential for change comes through payment policy reform. Reforms to the current reimbursement system, including moving away from the fee-for-service model toward paying for performance and reimbursing for care through integrated models, are well underway. A new delivery model such as medical homes reorients primary care and specialists toward medical communities. Promising preventive services and chronic care management pilot programs are underway such as the El Paso County Medical Society Improving Performance in Practice (IPIP) program (<http://epcms.org/>).

Serious consideration must be given to training primary care physicians. Policies to increase the number of clinical experiences and residencies offered should be explored.

Achieving Educational Excellence

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Educational Excellence: An Overview

Educational excellence encompasses the full spectrum of lifelong learning. It begins at birth, with parents and caregivers who provide a child with activities, with books, and with environments that foster emergent literacy skills. And, it continues with excellent K-12 schools, and then on to multiple higher education avenues and opportunities.

The benefits of a quality education, to both individuals and to the region as a whole, are manifold:

- On average, the more education people have, the longer they live.
- A one-year increase in the average level of schooling in a community is associated with a 30% decrease in the murder rate. Nearly three-quarters of state inmates did not complete high school.
- A high school dropout is four times more likely to be unemployed than a college graduate.
- 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.
- 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.

Education (or lack of those opportunities and successes) has a huge impact on numerous other quality of life indicators – on health, on crime, on employment rates, on earning potential, and on civic engagement, to name a few of those areas. There is one factor, however, that impacts tremendously on educational opportunities and attainment at every stage of life, and that is poverty.

The Impact of Poverty on Education

“By many different measures, poverty is the largest obstacle to opportunity for Colorado’s children, leading to negative outcomes for kids that impact nearly every other measure of their well-being. Whether the difference between being proficient in math or reading or well below average; between having the opportunity to see a regular physician or having to wait until the need for an emergency room visit; or between spending years in safe, quality child care settings or inconsistent years in facilities that aren’t licensed, these gaps have real impacts on children’s lives.”¹

In Colorado, an estimated 75,000 more children live in poverty in 2008 than in 2000, with the percentage of children increasing from 9.7% in 2000 to 15.1% in 2008. In El Paso County, the percent of all children living in poverty increased from 10.4% in 2000 to 15.7% in 2008, a 63% increase between 2000 and 2008. The estimated total number of children (under 18 years of age) in poverty in 2008 was 23,708.²

Low-income children start school behind their more advantaged peers, and research shows that this achievement gap continues throughout the school years. Poverty is particularly detrimental to young children as it impacts brain development and, subsequently, overall long-term success. Young children from low-income families score lower on tests of early learning and math, and are more likely to face social and economic problems later in life, including illiteracy, teen pregnancy, high dropout rates and unemployment. The chart demonstrates this gap.

The Education Vision Council firmly believes that one path to improving academic outcomes is to identify community strategies to address poverty, particularly among children. This cuts across all areas in this publication.

	2009 Percentage of Students Proficient and Above on CSAP		
	All Students	Not Eligible for free or reduced lunch	Eligible for free or reduced lunch
3rd Grade Reading	73%	84%	56%
3rd Grade Math	70%	80%	52%
3rd Grade Writing	54%	68%	35%
10th Grade Reading	69%	79%	50%
10th Grade Math	30%	39%	10%
10th Grade Writing	49%	58%	28%

Source: Colorado Department of Education

¹ Colorado Children’s Campaign, 2010 Kids Count in Colorado!, Pg 5, www.coloradokids.org.

² US Census Bureau’s American Community Survey for 2000 and 2008 for Colorado and Counties.

-Students in Need-

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

School District	School Year				% Change
	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	
Colorado Springs 11	39.6%	42.5%	44.5%	48.0%	3.5%
Academy 20	5.9%	7.2%	7.6%	9.4%	1.8%
Harrison 2	59.7%	60.1%	62.7%	65.9%	3.2%
Falcon 49	14.6%	13.9%	15.5%	16.8%	1.3%
Widefield 3	25.5%	23.5%	26.0%	27.4%	1.4%
Fountain-Fort Carson 8	32.3%	35.8%	36.4%	39.6%	3.2%
Woodland Park RE-2	21.0%	19.7%	23.0%	22.8%	-0.2%

This Table shows the percentage of public students (pre-K through Grade 12) eligible for free or reduced lunch in El Paso County's seven largest school districts.

Why is This Important?

Examining free or reduced lunch statistics in our community provides us with a snapshot of the economic status of the children attending school in our largest public school districts. As noted in the introduction, family income is associated with gaps in student achievement. Consistently, students who are eligible for free or reduced price lunch are less likely to be proficient in reading, math and writing compared to students who are not eligible.¹ Additionally, these students are more likely to drop out of school, become teenage parents, and to have health, behavioral health and

Overall Average by Student	School Year				% Change
	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	
Largest 7 Springs MSA	29.1%	29.8%	31.2%	33.3%	2.1%
Largest 7 Denver MSA				36.6%	
Ft. Collins MSA - All				26.7%	
State of Colorado	33.3%	33.7%	34.3%	35.4%	1.1%

Source: Colorado Department of Education

emotional problems.²

Note: Families who qualify for free lunch are living at 130% or below of the Federal Poverty Level while those qualifying for reduced lunch are at 185% of the FPL. An explanation of the Federal Poverty Level can be found on the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services website at <http://liheap.ncat.org/profiles/poverty-tables/FY2010/popstate.htm>.

How are We Doing?

Unfortunately, each district, with the exception of Woodland Park RE-2, has seen slight increases over the years in free or reduced lunch percentages. Harrison District 2 has over 65% of its students on free or reduced lunch and District 11 has almost half of its student body on this type of financial aid. The seven largest Colorado Springs districts have 33.3% of their students qualifying for financial help on meals, which is an increase from the previous school year. Furthermore, this percentage has been steadily climbing since 2005.

Potential for Action

As stated in the introduction, poverty is on the rise in El Paso County and Colorado, especially among children. A child's ability to learn and succeed in school is, in no small part, based on having safe, stable and stimulating home and play environments, nutritious meals, and access to preventive health and dental care – all factors addressed in other sections of this report. With one out of six children living in poverty in the Colorado Springs MSA, it is imperative that we identify and implement a community effort focusing on poverty and its impact on brain development and children's long term success, in order to support the children of our community.



Photograph by Steve Coburn

1 Colorado Children's Campaign, 2010 Kids Count in Colorado!, Pg 41, www.coloradokids.org.

2 Child Trends Research Brief. Children in Poverty: Trends, Consequences and Policy Options. April 2009. www.childtrends.org.

-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%
2008-09	61%

Source: 2010 Kids Count in Colorado (Colorado Children's Campaign);
Colorado Department of Education; Early Childhood Learning and
Knowledge Center, Office of Head Start

This Table shows the percentage of 3 and 4-year-old children in El Paso and Teller Counties living below 100% of the Federal Poverty Level who are enrolled in either the Head Start program or the state-funded Colorado Preschool Program. Note: The percentages for the years prior to 2008-2009 do not include Teller County.

Why is This Important?

According to the Colorado Children's Campaign's 2010 Kids Count publication, education is one of the best ways to ensure children grow up with the skills they need to find and keep good jobs, support a family and contribute to their communities in positive ways. Research has shown that access to high-quality preschool improves student achievement outcomes for children and helps close achievement gaps.¹ It is particularly important for minority and low-income students to enroll in preschool before age four, as both groups are more likely to enter school not prepared to learn.

How are We Doing?

Between 2000 and 2008, the percent increase in the number of children in poverty in El Paso County who are under age 18 rose by 63%. While poverty is growing, particularly among children under the age of 5, the number of publicly-funded preschool slots available to our region's lowest income families is not keeping pace. Therefore, after a steady rise to a high of 64% in poverty enrolled in preschool programs in 2007-2008, the percentage is on the decline. Additionally, 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. In El Paso County, the percent of children in families below this level is 32%.

Potential for Action

National and regional studies have shown that for every \$1 invested in high quality early care and education for children living in low-income homes, the return on investment for a community is between \$7 and \$17 in reduced high school drop-out rates, lower teen pregnancy and crime rates, less reliance on public assistance, and an increased emphasis on preventive health practices.² Our goal is to serve all children who need, but can't afford, a preschool program.

Brainy Bunch Project: Because a child's ability to read is a major factor in determining his/her school success, the vision council believes that it is important that families have books in the home and parents have the information they need to understand the importance of reading to their children. In partnership with the Gazette, the Pikes Peak Library District, Alliance for Kids, Reach Out and Read, the Women's Leadership Council and Pikes Peak United Way, the Education Vision Council started the Brainy Bunch project in 2009 to support building home libraries and reaching parents through hospitals and birthing centers, pediatrician's offices, and early care and education centers.



Today, the Brainy Bunch project falls under Pikes Peak United Way's School Readiness Initiative to ensure the long-term sustainability of the effort. To conduct a book drive or volunteer to be a part of the project, call 719-955-0746.

1 Colorado Children's Campaign. (2009). *Widening the Gap: The Potential Impact of Eliminating the Colorado Preschool Program*. <http://www.coloradokids.org>.

2 Rolnick, Art and Rob Grunewald. (March 2003). *Early Childhood Development: Economic Development with a High Public Return*. Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis.

Third Grade Reading Skills

School District	School Year				% Change
	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	
Colorado Springs 11	71.0%	72.0%	75.0%	69.0%	-6.0%
Academy 20	88.0%	87.0%	86.0%	86.0%	--
Harrison 2	64.0%	59.0%	69.0%	65.0%	-4.0%
Falcon 49	78.0%	77.0%	79.0%	76.0%	-3.0%
Widefield 3	70.0%	70.0%	74.0%	69.0%	-5.0%
Fountain-Fort Carson 8	78.0%	76.0%	78.0%	71.0%	-7.0%
Woodland Park RE-2	82.0%	84.0%	80.0%	76.0%	-4.0%

This Table reports the outcomes for third grade students in El Paso County's largest public school districts on the Colorado Student Assessment Program (CSAP), an evaluation tool used to assess reading skills. The data show the percentage of students who ranked at proficient or advanced (the top two of four levels of proficiency performance).

Why is This Important?

Third grade is a significant transition point in education. Third grade students are expected to take their emergent reading skills learned during preschool through second grade where they learned to read and now read to learn. Scoring at the proficient or advanced level of the third grade Reading CSAP indicates the student consistently utilizes sophisticated strategies to comprehend and interpret complex text. Students' proficiency levels demonstrate a solid academic performance which is recognized as having positive influences in all aspect of a child's life.

Overall Average by Student	School Year				% Change
	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	
Largest 7 Springs MSA	75.8%	74.9%	78.0%	74.0%	-4.0%
Largest 7 Denver MSA			70.0%	68.0%	-2.0%
Ft. Collins MSA - All			78.0%	79.0%	1.0%
State of Colorado	71.0%	70.0%	73.0%	70.0%	-3.0%

Source: Colorado Department of Education

How are We Doing?

In El Paso County, we have had an overall decline of 4.0%, for this reporting period, with none of the districts showing improvement.

Looking at the average of the seven largest Colorado Springs districts, our third grade reading levels are higher than the state of Colorado by 4%. We have yet to achieve upward movement and sustainability with third grade reading scores, therefore, emphasizing the need for interventions and remediation programs.

Potential For Action

The Brainy Bunch project, described in the Early Learning section, will help more children in our community enter school prepared to learn and to be interested in reading. These are important predictors of later reading achievement.

The Vision Council hopes that increasing third grade reading levels will have residual and future impacts in other areas – dropout rates, crime rates, unemployment rates and college enrollment. This compels a call to community action to assist families, schools, and other organizations that are trying to make a difference in student achievement. There are many opportunities to lend a hand from volunteering for organizations such as the Children's Literacy Center, in schools and after-school programs or doing something as simple as participating in a book drive.

If you want to volunteer or offer resources, call Pikes Peak United Way at (719) 955-0746.

To learn more about literacy projects, or find information to help someone you know, please call 2-1-1. This three digit phone number can link you to resources about reading and much more.

Photograph by Dmitry Shironsonov

-Student Achievement-

Tenth Grade Reading Skills

School District	School Year				% Change
	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	
Colorado Springs 11	69.0%	70.0%	66.0%	69.0%	3.0%
Academy 20	84.0%	87.0%	86.0%	87.0%	1.0%
Harrison 2	57.0%	59.0%	57.0%	58.0%	1.0%
Falcon 49	74.0%	77.0%	69.0%	79.0%	10.0%
Widefield 3	75.0%	75.0%	71.0%	72.0%	1.0%
Fountain-Fort Carson 8	74.0%	80.0%	68.0%	77.0%	9.0%
Woodland Park RE-2	71.0%	73.0%	74.0%	85.0%	11.0%

This Table shows the percentage of public school tenth graders in the Colorado Springs Metropolitan Statistical Area (seven largest school districts) who achieve at the top two levels on the CSAP in reading and the corresponding percentages for tenth graders in Denver's seven largest school districts, all of Ft. Collins's districts, and the entire state of Colorado.

Why is This Important?

If we expect students to survive in the 21st century it is essential that they are able to read. Although the world is increasingly using icons and text messages, reading is still the most important skill for future success. The Partnership for 21st Century Skills states that "high school and college graduates need to master basic academic skills" and the percentage of employers hiring candidates with only high school degrees is falling. Reading

will continue to be a necessary skill for success in college. Even those who decry the connection of education solely to future careers understand the importance of reading to a good life.

How are We Doing?

Unfortunately, although students are scoring above their peers in Denver, Ft. Collins, and statewide, there are significant numbers of students not meeting the CSAP standards. Having 89% of its students score in the top two quartiles of the CSAP tests simply means that this group of kids scored above 50% of all students. How many of these students are in the 3rd quartile of 51-75% achievement? Even worse, the CSAP standards are some of the lowest in the nation and have fallen over the last few years (The Proficiency Illusion, Thomas B. Fordham Institute, October, 2007). Colorado students at the 8th grade level only have to score at 14% of the national norm to be above average in Colorado.



Photograph by Diego Cervo

Tenth Grade Math Skills

School District	School Year				% Change
	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	
Colorado Springs 11	30.0%	28.0%	32.0%	32.0%	--
Academy 20	41.0%	44.0%	47.0%	48.0%	1.0%
Harrison 2	17.0%	17.0%	16.0%	17.0%	1.0%
Falcon 49	31.0%	35.0%	28.0%	32.0%	4.0%
Widefield 3	27.0%	22.0%	28.0%	23.0%	-5.0%
Fountain-Fort Carson 8	26.0%	27.0%	27.0%	24.0%	-3.0%
Woodland Park RE-2	31.0%	31.0%	29.0%	36.0%	7.0%

This Table shows the percentage of public school tenth graders in the Colorado Springs Metropolitan Statistical Area (seven largest school districts) who achieve at the top two levels on the CSAP in math and the corresponding percentages for tenth graders in Denver's seven largest school districts, all of Ft. Collins's districts, and the entire state of Colorado.

Why is This Important?

If we expect students to survive in the work world of the 21st century, it is essential that they are able to perform mathematics. Colorado boasts one of the best educated citizenry in the U.S.¹, ranking 4th for percentage of people with a bachelor's degree with 34.3%, but we import most of our talent.²

While this is likely to continue, Colorado could easily boost its productivity by applying more

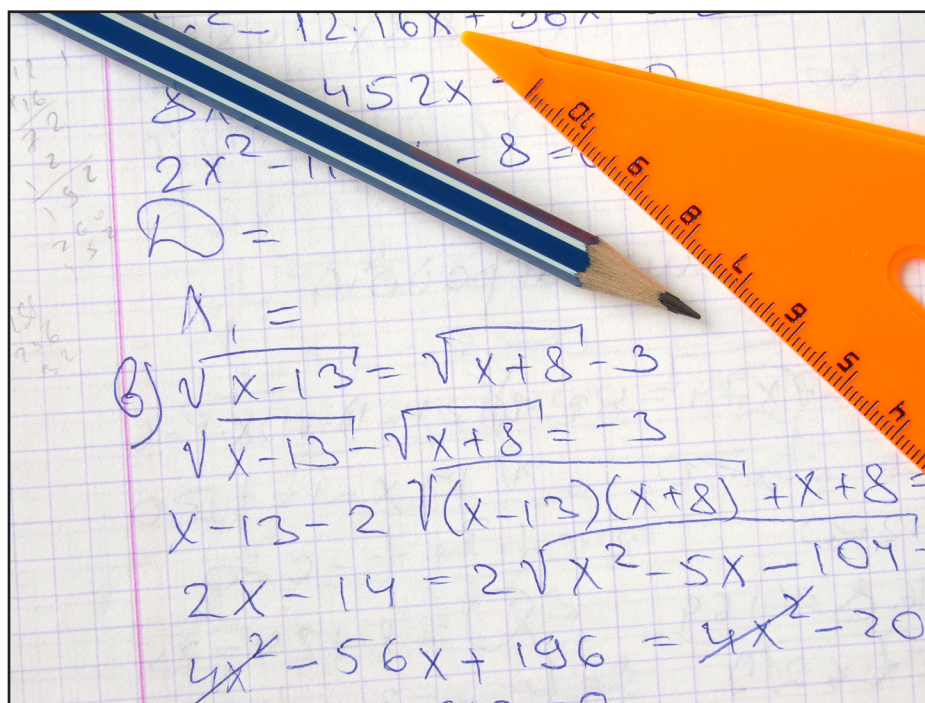
rigorous standards and working with its students to achieve much higher levels.

How are We Doing?

We are doing terribly. Not one district scored above 50%. This abysmal performance makes comparisons to other districts meaningless. Although a few districts have improved, over 5 years the percentages don't indicate great improvement. Even worse, the CSAP standards are some of the lowest in the nation and have fallen over the last few years (The Proficiency Illusion, Thomas B. Fordham Institute, October, 2007). Colorado students at the 8th grade level only have to score at 25% of the national norm to be above average in Colorado.

Potential for Action

Citizens of Colorado Springs should demand that their schools adjust their standards to the highest standards possible. Then we will know where our students fall instead of being disillusioned about great achievements. Supporting a Common State Standards movement would be a good first step and finding out about international standards would be a good next step.



Photograph by Diego Cervo

1 American Community Survey, 2006.

2 (Colorado Department of Higher Education (2010), http://highered.colorado.gov/CCHE/Meetings/2010/apr/apr10_ia_rpt.pdf).

-Student Graduation-

High School Graduation Rate

School District	School Year				% Change
	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	
Colorado Springs 11	66.1%	67.5%	66.7%	69.4%	2.7%
Academy 20	89.5%	91.4%	94.7%	91.6%	-3.1%
Harrison 2	61.8%	69.8%	63.9%	64.7%	0.8%
Falcon 49	84.2%	83.2%	79.7%	81.5%	1.8%
Widefield 3	79.5%	81.5%	83.7%	82.9%	-0.8%
Fountain-Fort Carson 8	72.6%	84.0%	83.7%	87.6%	3.9%
Woodland Park RE-2	86.7%	78.5%	78.2%	85.0%	6.8%

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

Why is This Important?

Youth who drop out of school significantly diminish the quality of life for residents in their communities. Dropouts are less likely to volunteer in their community, vote in elections or accumulate wealth, which impacts living conditions, educational opportunities and job opportunities. They pay fewer taxes, are more likely to collect welfare and more likely to engage in criminal behavior. In fact, 70 percent of state prison inmates are high school dropouts.

Overall Average by Student	School Year				% Change
	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	
Largest 7 Springs MSA	74.6%	76.8%	76.7%	78.2%	1.5%
Largest 7 Denver MSA				72.9%	
Ft. Collins MSA - All				83.0%	
State of Colorado	74.1%	75.0%	73.9%	74.6%	0.7%

Source: Colorado Department of Education

How are We Doing?

Overall, our graduation rates, at 78% of students graduating within four years, are still better than the state-wide rates and the seven largest Denver districts. While districts 2 and 11 still have fairly low rates, lower than the state average, they are trending up from last year. Woodland Park RE-2 experienced a respectable increase of 6.8% which has brought them out of their downward trend beginning in 2006.

What are the reasons that our kids don't graduate?

Poverty is the fundamental driver of low graduation rates. A comprehensive study from Johns Hopkins University found that students who are most at risk of dropping out of school can be identified as early as middle school through key indicators – poor attendance, unsatisfactory behavior and course failure in math and English. When just one of these off-track indicators is exhibited by a child as early as the 6th grade, students have less than a 25% likelihood of graduating from high school.

The research also found that continuous support from trained and dedicated adults working as tutors, mentors, attendance monitors and problem solvers works to help students and schools succeed.

How are graduation and dropout rates calculated?

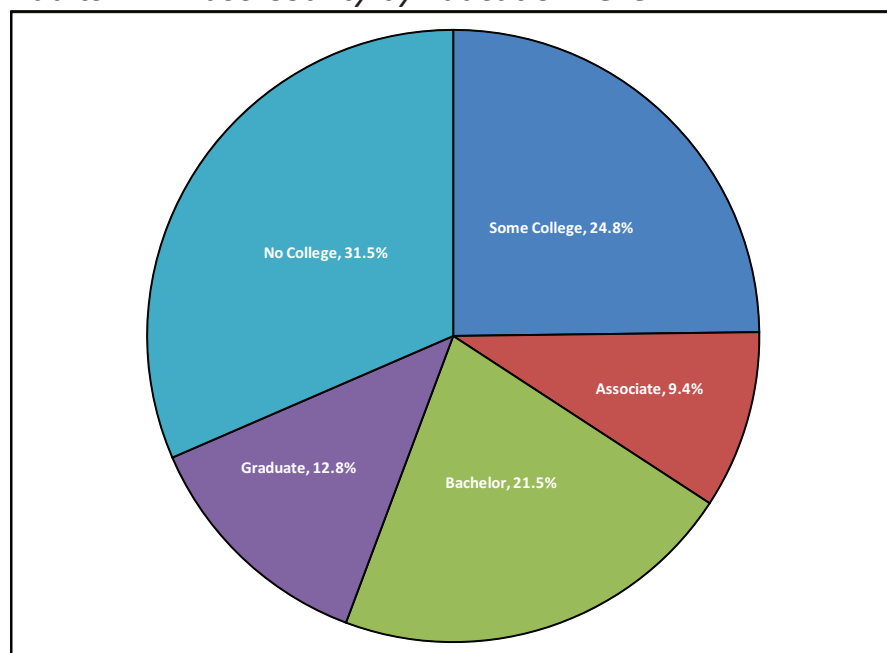
If a student is reported to CDE as moving to another district and shows up at that district, they are not counted as a dropout. If that student does not show up and is not able to be tracked down, then the state assumes that student is a drop out. A student who does not graduate from high school but obtains their GED does not count towards the graduation rate.

Potential for Action

Investing your time, resources and energy into being a tutor, mentor, attendance monitor or problem-solver is critical to improving graduation rates. Call your school and become a teacher's aide, volunteer with Children's Literacy Center and tutor a child, mentor at Big Brother/Big Sisters or Boys and Girls Club. Volunteer coach at your local YMCA, become a Scout Leader or youth counselor at your church; use your artistic talents at Bemis Art School, or simply call 2-1-1 for more opportunities. Choosing nothing will change nothing.

-Higher Education-

Educational Attainment Adults in El Paso County by Education Level



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

The Chart shows the percentage of adults age 25 and older in the Colorado Springs MSA who have attended college.

Why is This Important?

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.

With significant job losses in our community, many people are looking to return to college as a way to make themselves more marketable. Thus, it is important to look at the breakdown of college degrees to examine how educated and competitive our workforce is.

The Table shows the total number of degrees awarded annually in the Colorado Springs MSA at accredited postsecondary institutions¹ and tracked by the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System

(IPEDS). The jump in both Associate and Master Degrees stems from a number of factors.

How are We Doing?

In comparison to the last few years, El Paso County residents are attaining higher levels of education and earning more degrees. The effort to learn a new trade or skill (as evidenced by the increase in Associate degrees) should provide benefits to the region in increased productivity. However, the lack of specificity in the data do not indicate whether students are choosing "hot" degrees which will guarantee them jobs when they get the degree. Often with educational funding, students are rewarded for choosing certain fields, but having a degree does not make someone productive, having a job does. Please see the Economic section of this report for more information on that. Also, the increase in Master degrees awarded indicates an expected increase in productivity. One might think that pursuit of an advanced degree would be done by more savvy individuals, but there is no signal at the university level that indicates when a field may be swamped. Also, the percentage of residents with bachelor degrees is about 2/3 of the state as a whole and below the national average. Nevertheless, readers should keep in mind that increased educational attainment highly correlates with increased productivity, thus the data in this table should impact the above graph positively in a few years.

Outcomes of Higher Education

Number of Higher Education Degrees Awarded Annually

Degree	School Year				Change
	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	
Associate	1,475	1,488	3,414	6,588	+3,174
Bachelor	4,713	6,055	5,695	5,638	-57
Master	1,803	2,127	1,908	2,448	+540
Doctorate	20	60	48	74	+26
TOTAL	8,011	9,730	11,065	14,748	+3,683

Source: Integrated Post Secondary Education Data System (IPEDS)

Potential for Action

Residents of the Colorado Springs area have an opportunity to dig deeper in the data and discover how our population can avail itself of the education opportunities. Questions such as why are our residents not going on to college? Why do we lag the national average in bachelor degrees? Does the transience of a population cause it to have fewer degrees?

¹ 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

-Educational Funding-

School Funding Cost per Pupil General Fund Revenue*

School District	School Year				\$ Change
	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	
Colorado Springs 11	\$6,283	\$6,610	\$6,930	\$7,051	\$121
Academy 20	\$7,038	\$7,218	\$7,591	\$7,886	\$295
Harrison 2	\$7,042	\$7,365	\$7,816	\$7,956	\$140
Falcon 49	\$6,415	\$6,832	\$7,155	\$7,451	\$296
Widefield 3	\$6,465	\$6,462	\$6,977	\$7,150	\$173
Fountain-Fort Carson 8	\$8,807	\$7,778	\$7,923	\$8,307	\$384
Woodland Park RE-2	\$6,550	\$6,843	\$7,231	\$7,270	\$39

Overall Average by Student	School Year				% Change
	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	
Largest 7 Springs MSA	\$6,943	\$7,015	\$7,375	\$7,582	\$207
Largest 7 Denver MSA				\$8,204	
Ft. Collins MSA - All				\$7,912	
State of Colorado	\$7,327	\$7,687	\$8,887	\$8,128	\$(759)

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

This Table shows the annual amount of basic operating revenue available per student in El Paso County's seven largest public school districts. This funding is provided by the state of Colorado.

Why is This Important?

Educational funding is vital for school success. With ample resources and supplies, students and teachers will find quality learning more feasible. Thus, examining the amount of money the state provides per pupil is vital in informing our community of the importance the state places on education and the distribution of funding from district to district.

How are We Doing?

The annual cost per student continues to increase each year but only slightly. Funding that comes from the state of Colorado

is based on a specific formula that includes several factors. **The base for the funding is the October student count multiplied by the total per student funding plus at-risk funding plus online funding.** Total per student funding consists of three factors. The cost of living factor mirrors the local cost of housing, goods and services. The personnel costs factor, which includes employee salaries and benefits, varies by district based on enrollment, as does the size factor to recognize purchasing power differences among districts. These are both aspects that are distinctive to each district. At-risk funding is determined by the number of students that qualify for the federal free lunch program. If the district's number of at-risk students is above the state average (35.44%) additional funding is then provided. The online funding is for students enrolled in a certified multi-district online program. There are two local sources of revenue: property taxes (mil levy) and vehicle registration taxes. According to Education Week, Colorado was ranked 42nd in education spending per student in 2007.

Complexities of Public School Funding

The system for funding school districts is necessarily complex in order to address the many diverse needs for students. While the total funding comes from three primary sources - local property taxes, local vehicle ownership taxes, and state equalization funds - the factors for determining these amounts are fairly complex. In addition to the number of students, school districts receive funding based on the size of the district, the cost of living, and personnel costs. Probably more important than the complexity of public school funding is the inadequacy of funds. The funding formula does not provide enough resources or differentiate for our dramatically changing student demographics of increasing at-risk students, increasing minority representation, and increasing special needs students. These three student demographics, which have significantly increased in the last decade, are far more expensive to serve than our traditional student population.

Potential for Action

El Paso County has not had a tremendous success rate for passing mil levies and bond issues to support the public schools. In general, our community's most vulnerable children are in our public school systems and addressing their needs requires significant resources, especially if we hope to reverse the trend in low CSAP scores. The public must become educated on school funding in Colorado and the laws that govern the formulas used to fund different school districts. We must also educate ourselves on the issues that come forward through our national, state and local governments that effect school funding in Colorado Springs. It is imperative that we demand adequate funding for all our schools.

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

Enjoying Arts, Culture And Recreation

Chairs and Conveners

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 by Nemesis Inc.

Arts, culture and recreation play an important role in our quality of life by providing entertainment and opportunities to come together as a community, promoting physical and mental health, and benefiting our economy. The following indicators help us understand what arts, culture and recreational opportunities exist, how they are supported, and whether we participate. 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, 84.8% of respondents said they felt they were offered the chance to engage in these types of activities locally, while 37% of respondents said they or a member of their family participated in cultural activities at least once a month.

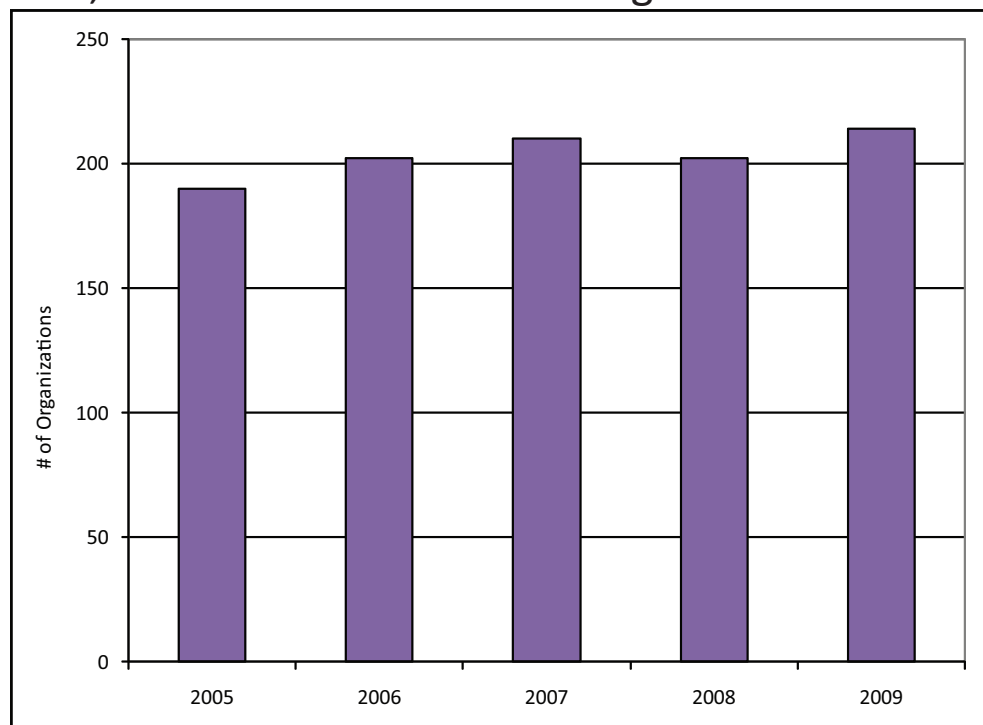
Tracking the number of cultural organizations and the attendance at these types of events directly relates to our community's quality of life. If these indicators are growing at least as quickly as the population, one can assume the community is maintaining current services to meet the needs of the public. These opportunities include experiencing visual and performing arts, maintaining health through outdoor and indoor recreation, and participating alongside neighbors in community events, holiday celebrations, or promoting different cultures.

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.

Photograph by Susan Chiang

-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.

Arts – Theater companies and dinner theaters, dance companies, musical groups and artists, other performing arts companies, and visual arts galleries and other similar groups.

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

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

Why is This Important?

While this gives a more apples-to-apples comparison of organizational numbers over a series of years, it does not provide complete insight into the rich tapestry of the local arts and culture groups that operate informally or without nonprofit certification. 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. In 2009, COPPeR published the second edition of The COPPeR Pages, 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 has a comprehensive listing of the numerous arts-presenting organizations on their online calendar: www.PeakRadar.com.

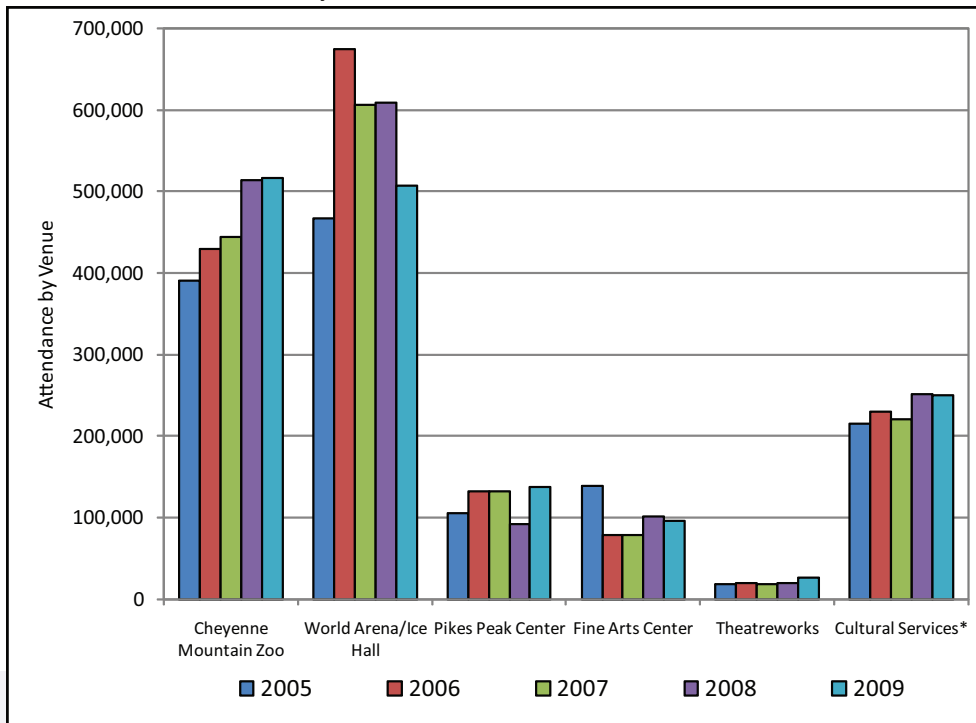
How are We Doing?

Every year since 2006, American Style magazine has named Colorado Springs among the top 25 arts destinations for midsize cities. The number of arts, culture and humanities organizations has shown strong growth that is consistent with increases in population in the county. These nonprofit organizations are especially susceptible to economic downturns and changes in funding streams. The ongoing recession may create critical pressure on these organizations both in terms of seeking funding and audiences. However, unlike in other cities, the local arts scene has not contracted in a major way – the chart shows only a small downslide in numbers of organizations, which reversed in 2009.

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 (seven percent) compared to a six percent growth in creative enterprise employment in the country as a whole. Interestingly, roughly 65 percent of the 15,500 jobs in Colorado's creative economy are located in El Paso County. Four bills addressing building the creative economy were signed in to law by Governor Ritter in Spring of 2010, which will impact creative industries growth in 2010 and beyond.

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 of Colorado Springs' Cultural Services Division.

The second Chart shows the overall total attendance for all venues listed in the first chart.

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 these numbers don't tell the whole story, they do capture a

snapshot view of the depth and breadth in the ways in which arts and culture touch the lives of community residents and visitors.

The budget for the City of Colorado Springs Cultural Services Division was cut drastically in 2010, with an expectation that private funding would cover the financial gap. A reduction in service hours and programs will result in significant decreases in opportunities for visitors and residents. Attendance numbers for 2010 will certainly reflect these budget changes.

How are We Doing?

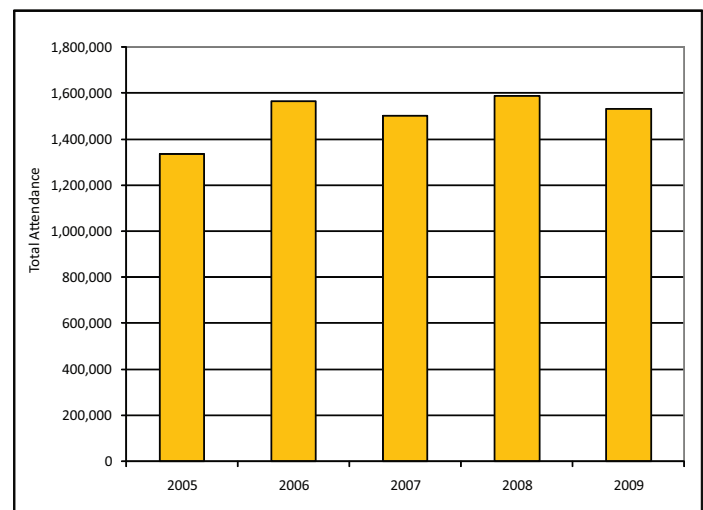
The 2009 visitation statistics show a slight decrease in attendance, but this may be attributed to the significant drop in attendance at the World Arena/Ice Hall (likely related to fewer programs offered at the facility in 2009). Attendance at smaller venues stayed the same or increased slightly in 2009. This modest increase may be directly related to "staycations," the trend for families to vacation in their own communities and/or within a day's drive of home.

Potential for Action

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

An effort to develop a Cultural Plan for the region has been in process since 2008. The completion and implementation of this Cultural Plan in 2010 will provide the framework to effectively move arts and culture forward, maintain participation levels, and create more cultural engagement. To learn more, visit www.coppercolo.org.

Total Attendance at all Venues



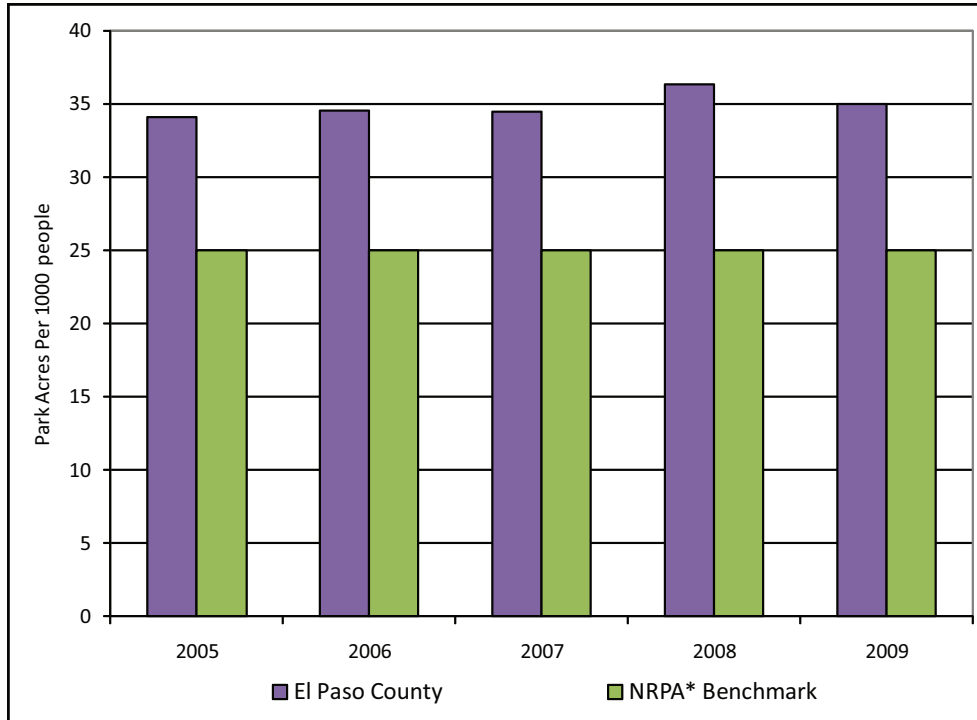
Source: Same as prior chart

Photograph by Tim Pleasant

-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 visitors. Beautiful parks and outdoor recreational activities are important aspects of our heritage, dating back to Colorado Springs founder William Jackson Palmer. They are also critical factors in maintaining a healthy population and vibrant economy.

How are We Doing?

El Paso County remains well above the NRPA benchmark of park acres per capita. The slight decline in

this statistic in 2009 reflects an increase in the county's population, which surpassed parkland acquisition in 2009. Both the County and the City have had to significantly curtail acquisition of land due to budget reductions. The growth in the park acres in the City of Colorado Springs relates almost exclusively to the ability to acquire land through the Trails, Open Space and Parks (TOPS) .01% sales tax. Passed by the voters 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 2009, purchase of the second phase of the Top of Cheyenne Mountain added 105 acres to the City's park land inventory.

The City of Colorado Springs faced dramatic budget shortfalls during 2009 as a result of the ongoing economic downturn and its effect on sales tax collection and other revenue sources. Nearly every City department felt the impact of these cuts, but the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department was particularly hard hit. The department's initial 2009 general fund budget was \$17,364,370. At the end of the year, the approved 2010 general fund budget declined to just \$3,663,319, which represents a 78.9% drop. These drastic cuts led to the elimination of programs and services, curtailed maintenance and irrigation of parks, the proposed closure of pools and community centers, and efforts to privatize activities such as Rock Ledge Ranch Historic Site. In reaction to these cuts the Trails and Open Space Coalition (TOSC), a community non-profit, began seeking more sustainable methods of funding Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services. This task force is evaluating a number of options and timelines, but all will require a vote of the people.



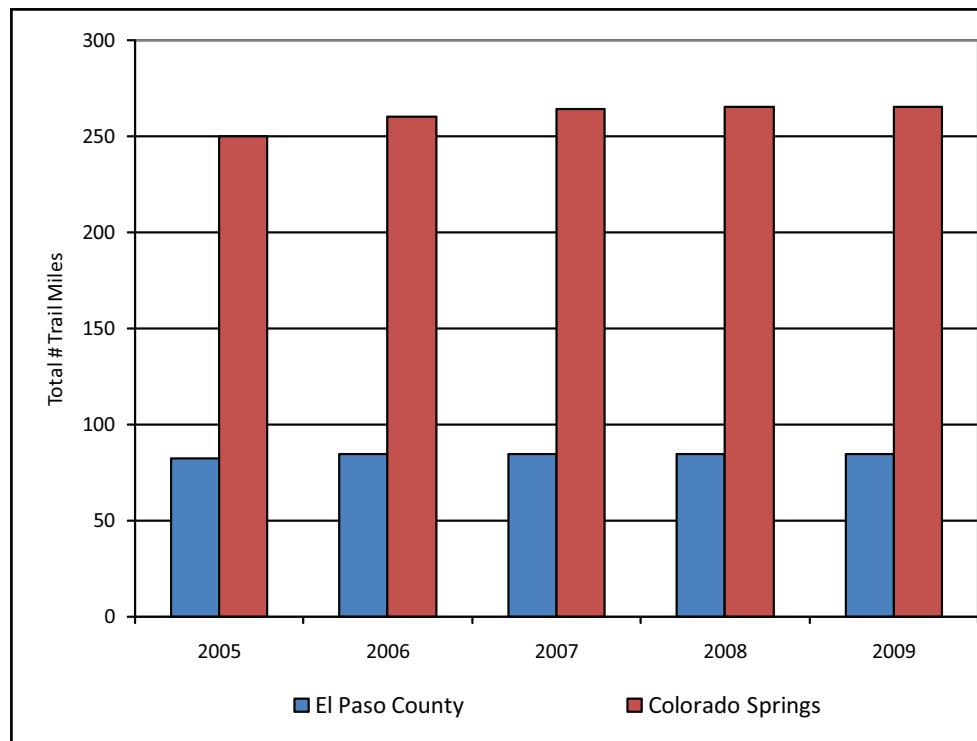
Photograph courtesy of GoodMood Photo

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 2005 – 2007. The emphasis now is on complicated issues related to right-of-way and land acquisitions, with priority given to parcels that

provide connections between existing trails. In 2009, the focus was on planning activities related to the Midland Trail, which will ultimately connect Manitou and Colorado Springs. Construction of this trail will begin in 2010. Beyond this, most of the effort in 2009 was on improvements to existing trails.

Potential for Action

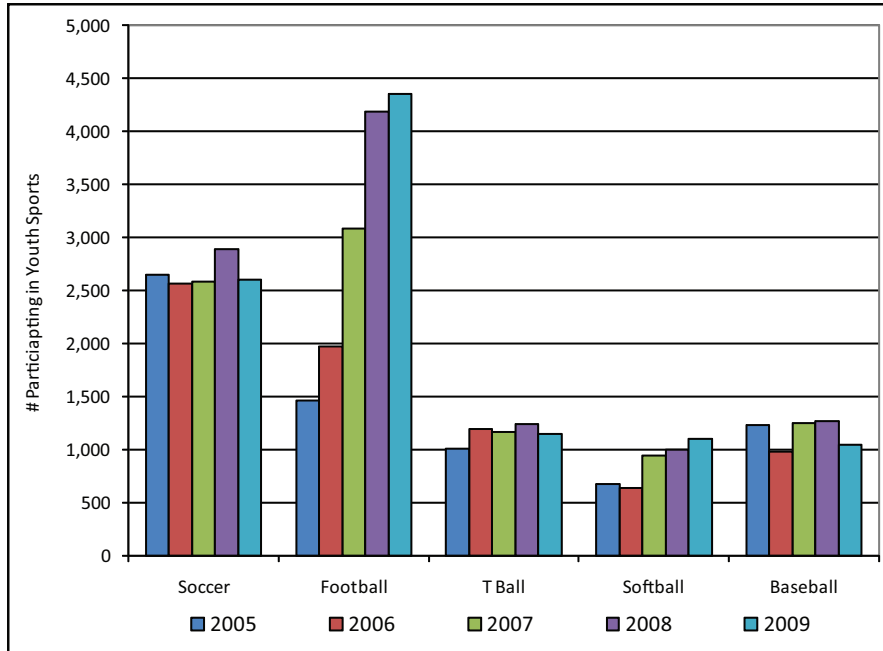
The community will continue to utilize funding from the Trails, Open Space and Parks tax to acquire trail corridors and create greater connectivity within the trails system. The economic challenges facing local governments will continue to stress their abilities to build and maintain these trails.



Photograph courtesy of Shutterstock.com

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 by the city of Colorado Springs. These numbers do not include participation in private clubs or high school sponsored sports.

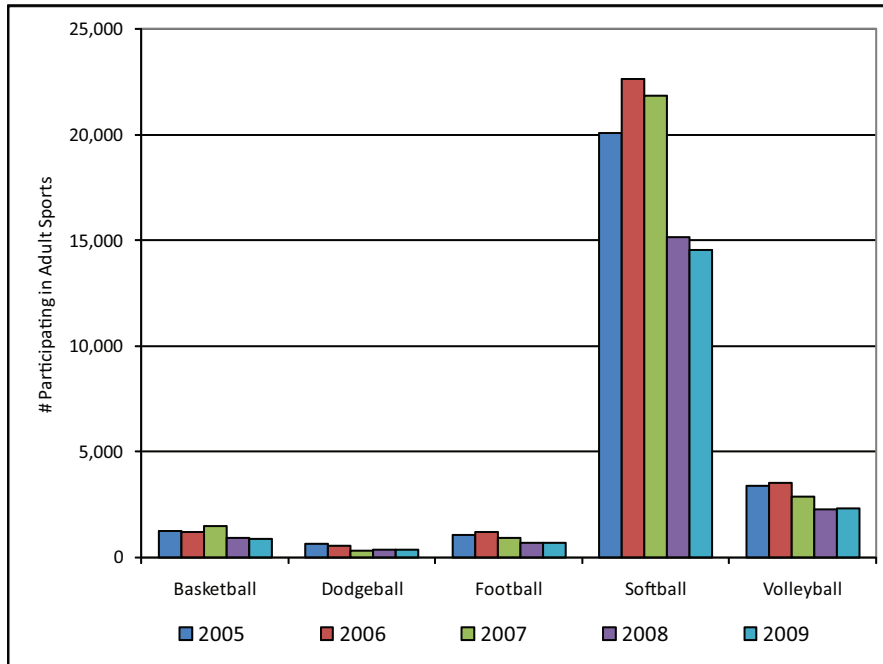
Why is This Important?

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

How are We Doing - Youth Sports?

Among all of the youth sports categories football and softball were the only ones that showed growth in 2009. All other indicators declined. This is undoubtedly a result of the ongoing economic downturn and related financial concerns. Youth sports programs faced fee increases in April 2009 and again in January 2010. Football continues to be an extraordinarily popular youth sport. Potentially a limiting factor for football 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

The Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services Department continues its philosophy of being a skill-building, all-inclusive, "everyone plays" organization. However, budget constraints have forced higher fees for program participation. The department is now focused more on cost recovery than on keeping fees low to ensure broad participation. 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?

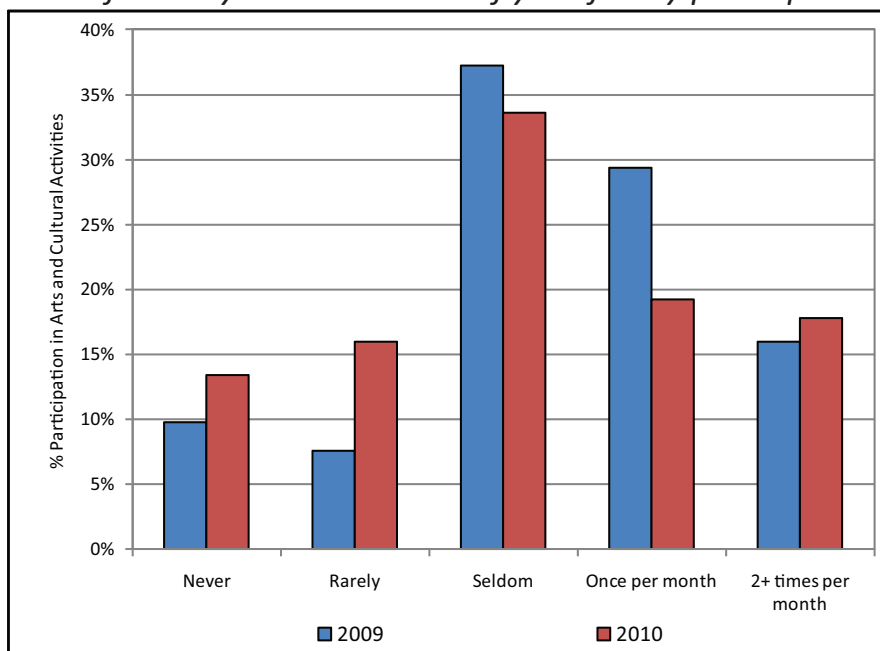
The adult sports market continued to show weakness during 2009, which follows sharp declines in participation in 2008. Adult softball continued losing participants while the other adult sports remained flat. The Colorado Springs Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services Department attributes the economic conditions in the community and concerns relating to disposable income as factors in the overall decline. General concerns over the economy were undoubtedly exacerbated

by across-the-board increases in participation fees that were implemented on April 1, 2009, in response to City budget challenges. The Department 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.

There are reasons to be concerned that flat or downward trends may continue into 2010 and beyond. Additional fee increases were implemented at the end of 2009 for the 2010 budget year. This is in response to a new budget philosophy that prioritizes cost recovery over participation rates. Additionally, budget cuts implemented late in the year will impact the ability for the City to maintain high-quality, attractive sports fields.

-QLI Survey Responses-

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



Source: 2009 and 2010 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.

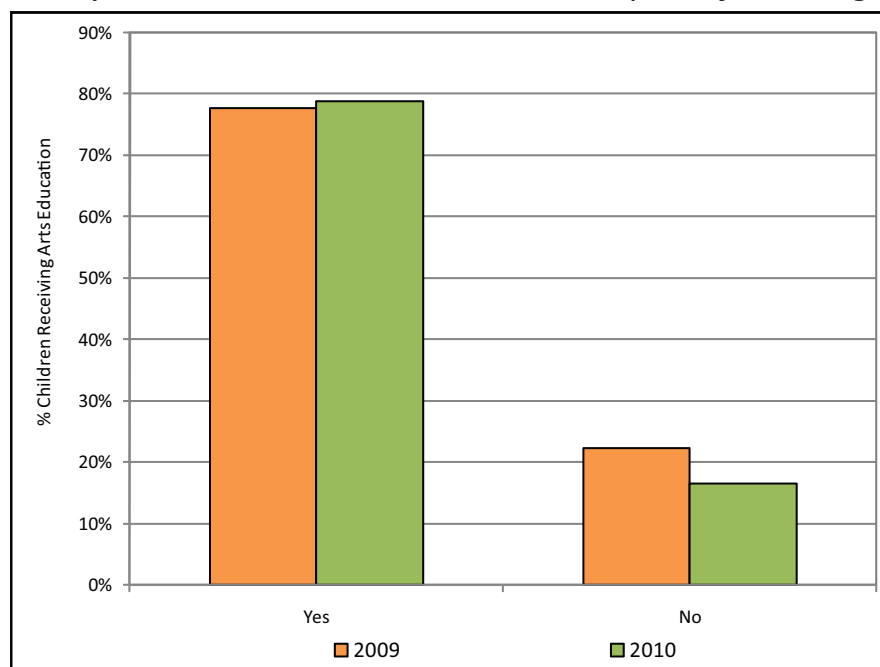
How are We Doing?

In 2008, more than 45% of respondents said they or one of their family members attended at least one cultural activity per month. In 2009, that number dropped slightly for families who participated once per month but went up slightly for families who participate in such activities two times per month or more. Significant rises in those who rarely or never participate in such activities is cause for concern.

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 and 2010 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?

Survey respondents indicated that their children were receiving arts education as part of their regular curriculum, up several percentage points from 2008.

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. New state arts education bills signed into law in May 2010 may help to move the community toward the goal of having arts education as part of regular curriculum for upwards of 90% of survey respondents.

Moving Around in a Livable Community

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Council of Neighborhood Organizations

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TIFFANY WILLIAMSON
Colorado Springs School

JEFF ZEARFOSS

Photograph provided by Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments

Transportation touches every facet of our lives. Improving transportation in any way—making it quicker, less expensive, or easier to get from place to place, reducing the impact of travel on the environment—makes our community more livable. When any part of the transportation system breaks down, we feel the impact immediately. 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.

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, reducing transportation-related noise, and minimizing pollution caused by vehicle operation. 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 2009 Texas Transportation Institute report, Colorado Springs is the 70th largest city in the country, and the 42nd most congested. Transportation costs are our residents' second highest expenditures, next 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, a cost that will steadily increase due to our inability to provide enough funds to keep up with the pace of needed maintenance.

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, rather than 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.

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

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



Photograph provided by Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments

It is through regional collaboration and integrated consideration of land-use and transportation that we will most effectively guide 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.

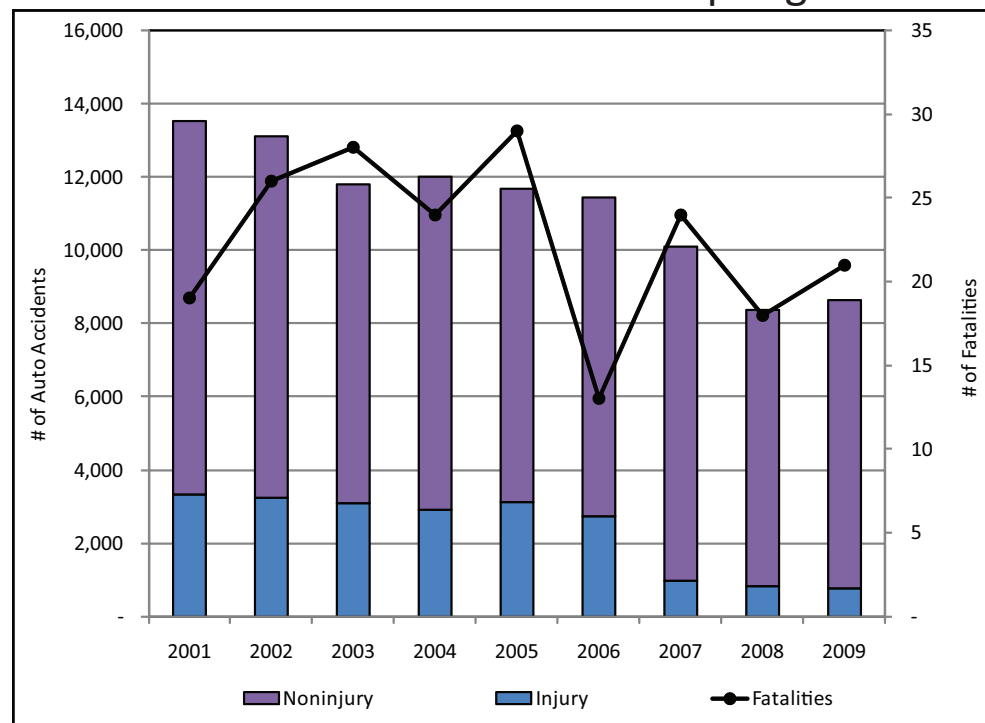
1 <http://www.massinc.org/index.php?id=596>; http://www.psychotron.org.uk/resources/environmental/A2_OCR_env_commute.pdf; www.bestworkplaces.org/coorkit/files/step4/newsletter_san_francisco_campaign.doc.

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

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

-Getting Around Safely-

Automobile Accidents in Colorado Springs



This Chart shows the annual number of accidents per vehicle mile traveled in Colorado Springs. No data are available for accidents on state highways, so this number is almost certainly less than the actual number.

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 principle goal of transportation planning and roadway management.

How are We Doing?

Since 2001, the rate of crashes per vehicle mile of travel (VMT) has been decreasing.

Source: Colorado Springs Police Department

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Accidents per 10,000 VMT	17	16	14	13	12	12	11

Source: Colorado Springs Police Department, Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments

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:

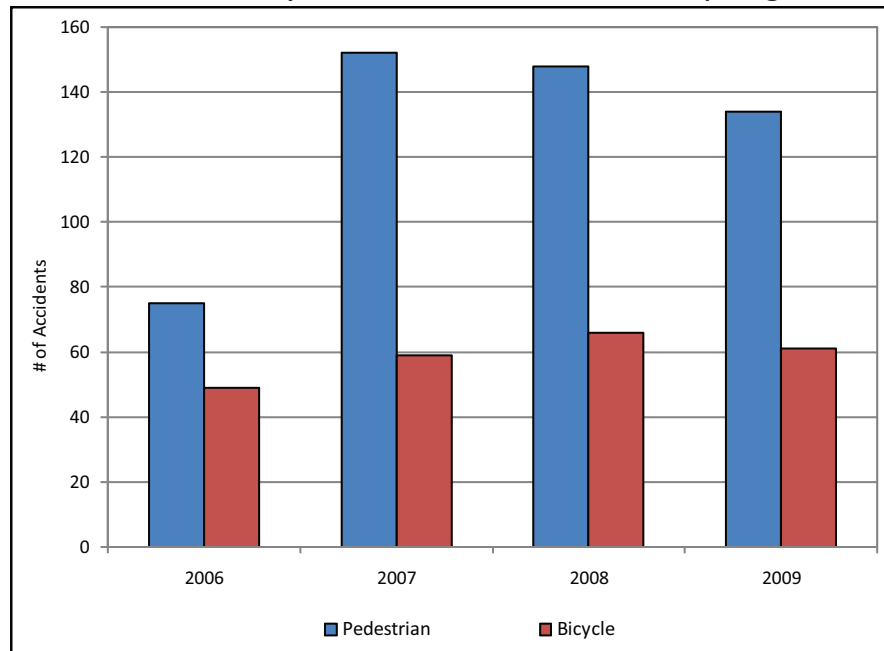
- **Comprehensive:** Considers all aspects of transportation safety-engineering, education, enforcement, and emergency medical response.
- **System-wide:** considers corridors and entire transportation networks at the local, regional and state levels as well as specific sites.
- **Multi-modal:** includes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

Photograph by Daron Cooke

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

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 five pedestrians were killed in crashes, there were two pedestrians killed in both 2008 and 2009. In 2007 there was one fatality as a result of bicycle crashes, in 2008 there were two, and in 2009 there was one fatal bicycle crash. Reported pedestrian accidents increased dramatically from 75 in 2006, to 152 in 2007, 148 in 2008 and 134 in 2009.

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.

Pedestrian and Bicycle Fatalities in Colorado Springs

	2006	2007	2008	2009
Pedestrian	3	5	2	2
Bicycle	0	1	2	1

Source: Colorado Springs Police Department

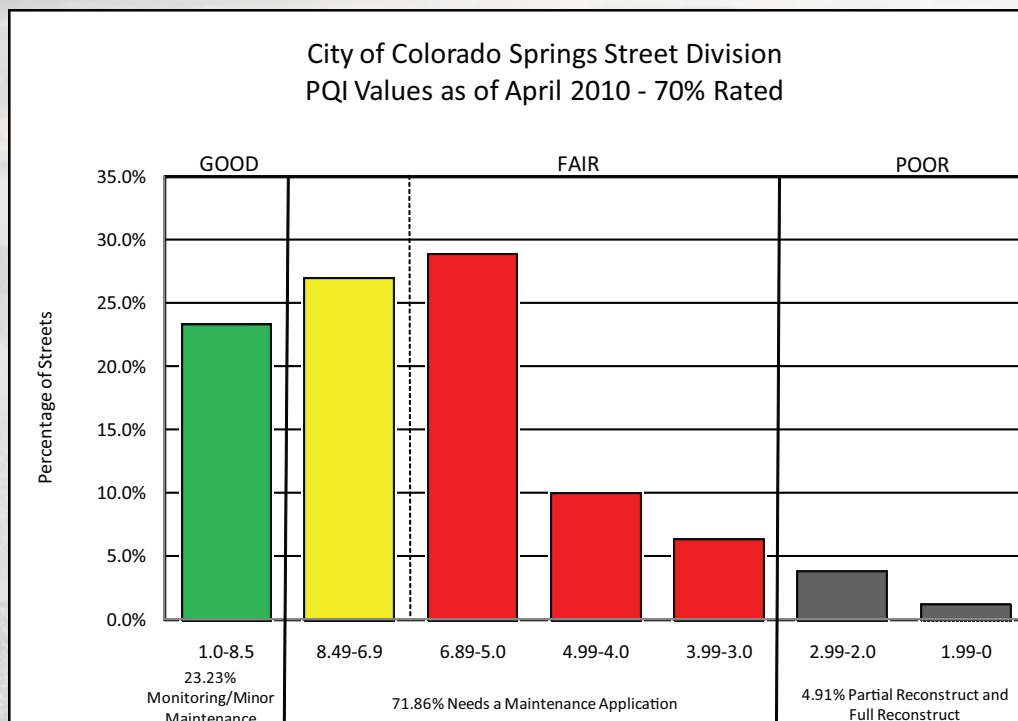
Potential for Action

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.

Photograph by Dmitry Naumov

-Infrastructure Maintenance and Preservation-

Pavement Condition and Maintenance Needs



Source: City of Colorado Springs Streets Division

This Chart shows the results of the City of Colorado Springs' Pavement Quality Index rating system, indicating that nearly 77% of the City's roads are in fair or poor condition and require some type of maintenance treatment. There is a \$418 million backlog of road maintenance needs. Factors contributing to this backlog include an aging infrastructure, increased traffic, deferred maintenance, and reduced funding.

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

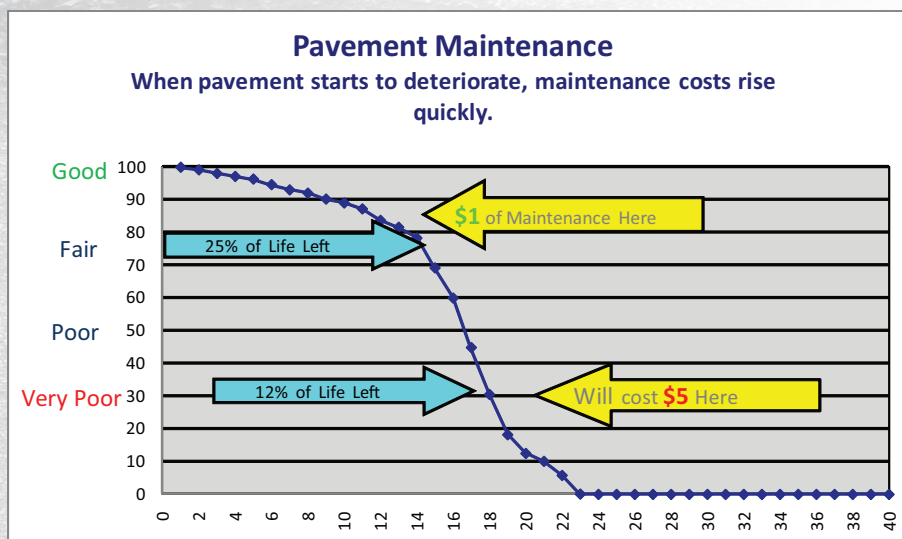
commerce, reducing costs of products and services. It also protects each of our personal investments in our cars, homes, and personal safety. We have been neglecting the maintenance of our roads and we are going to pay a heavy price to repair them.

How are We Doing?

Since 1990 the City of Colorado Springs maintenance budget has decreased 86%. When including the Pikes Peak RTA, the overall maintenance budget has decreased 27%. This does not take into account that the purchasing power of each dollar has decreased 43% in the last 5 years. In 2007, the modeled backlog of needed maintenance activities in the two-county MSA was \$1 billion. Without significant new sources of funding this backlog is forecast to grow to \$6 billion.

Potential for Action

We need to change how we view maintenance activities by simultaneously investing more in regular maintenance and 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 faster than is our ability (funding) to maintain them.



Source: City of Colorado Springs Streets Division

-Daily Travel-

Travel Mode

Metropolitan Area	2008 Workers (16 yrs and older)	Mode of Travel (by Metro Statistical Area)			
		Drive Alone	Carpool	Public Transport	Walk, Bike, Other
Austin	851,367	72.9%	13.2%	3.0%	10.9%
Fort Collins	155,596	73.3%	10.1%	1.0%	15.6%
Denver	1,319,699	74.6%	10.5%	4.9%	10.0%
Albuquerque	395,827	76.8%	12.5%	2.0%	8.7%
Colorado Springs	308,655	77.2%	10.3%	1.6%	10.8%
Omaha	440,892	82.1%	10.3%	0.9%	6.8%

Source: US Census Bureau, 2008 American Community Survey

The Table shows how the Pikes Peak region's use of different modes of transportation compares with other cities. Automobiles bicycles, and pedestrian services are expected to remain the primary mobility options in the Pikes Peak region for the near future. In other cities, there is greater usage of public transportation as well as other modes of travel not yet available locally.

Why is This Important?

Providing attractive and effective public transportation encourages greater residential and commercial density, which in turn makes the provision of government services more cost-effective; reduces maintenance costs for roads and bridges, traffic congestion, and fuel consumption; and decreases the emission of gases and particulates.

How are We Doing?

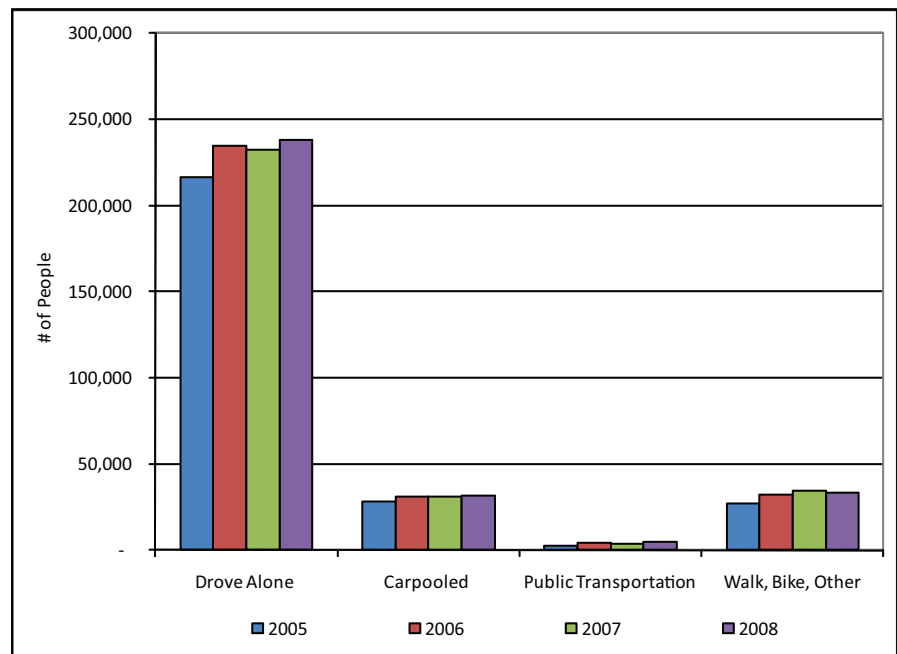
Primarily, people in the Pikes Peak region drive alone, while some carpool.

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. Unfortunately, budget shortfalls required the City of Colorado Springs to reduce transit funding 20 percent from 2008 to 2009 and 70 percent from 2009 to 2010.

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

For a city its size, Colorado Springs is highly dependent on automobile transportation. By developing a more robust, more diversified transportation system, we can reduce our reliance on increasingly expensive fossil fuels, provide affordable transportation for those who lack access to private automobiles, and mitigate the adverse effects of air pollution. Completing our comprehensive plan for bike and pedestrian trails and lanes will encourage more people to walk or bike to work, shop, recreate, and worship.



Source: US Census Bureau, 2008 American Community Survey

Freeing our transit system from its reliance on funding from the City of Colorado Springs will make it both more sustainable and more responsive to the transportation needs of the entire region. Building a business model for providing intra-region bus and streetcar and intercity rapid transit will stimulate the economy, improve the environment, promote walkable neighborhoods, and encourage higher levels of physical activity.

Public Transportation Use

Annual Operating Characteristics	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Vehicle Revenue Miles	2,883,233	3,390,229	3,441,970	3,653,475	3,160,000
Vehicle Revenue Hours	168,639	210,934	213,991	242,088	172,000

Source: Mountain Metropolitan Transit, National Transit Database

This Chart shows annual operating characteristics for Mountain Metropolitan Transit's bus division. Vehicle revenue miles and hours measure a systems performance by identifying the actual amount of transit service (in miles and hours) that is operating on the road, picking up and transporting individuals to their destinations. The data in this table show that transit service increased every year since the Pikes Peak RTA was formed in 2004, and declined after 2008, when budget shortfalls in the City of Colorado Springs necessitated transit cutbacks.

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 every day. 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.

Due to the economic downturn in 2009 and 2010, City of Colorado Springs' funding for Mountain Metropolitan Transit (MMT) was cut by more than 70%. This required 2010 MMT service to be cut in half from 2008 service levels. 2010 fixed route service in the Colorado Springs metropolitan area is operating at levels last seen in 1995. This reduction in service follows all-time ridership highs that were observed in 2008 and a significant increase in the region's population. To address this situation, MMT staff is managing a regional transit study to assess continued funding options and governance of a potential regional transit system that better meets the region's long-term needs and goals.

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.

Annual Bus Ridership (millions)	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Colorado Springs	2.6	2.3	3.3	3.5	3.6
Albuquerque	7.6	7.6	8.5	9.3	10.4
Austin	35.0	32.4	34.4	33.0	36.3
Denver	71.3	74.6	74.0	73.9	78.5
Fort Collins	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.6	1.6
Omaha	4.4	4.6	3.8	3.8	4.0

Source: Texas Transportation Institute 2009 Urban Mobility Report, National Transit Database

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. Federal and city funds are being used to conduct a study of the most feasible way to fund public transit in the Pikes Peak region.

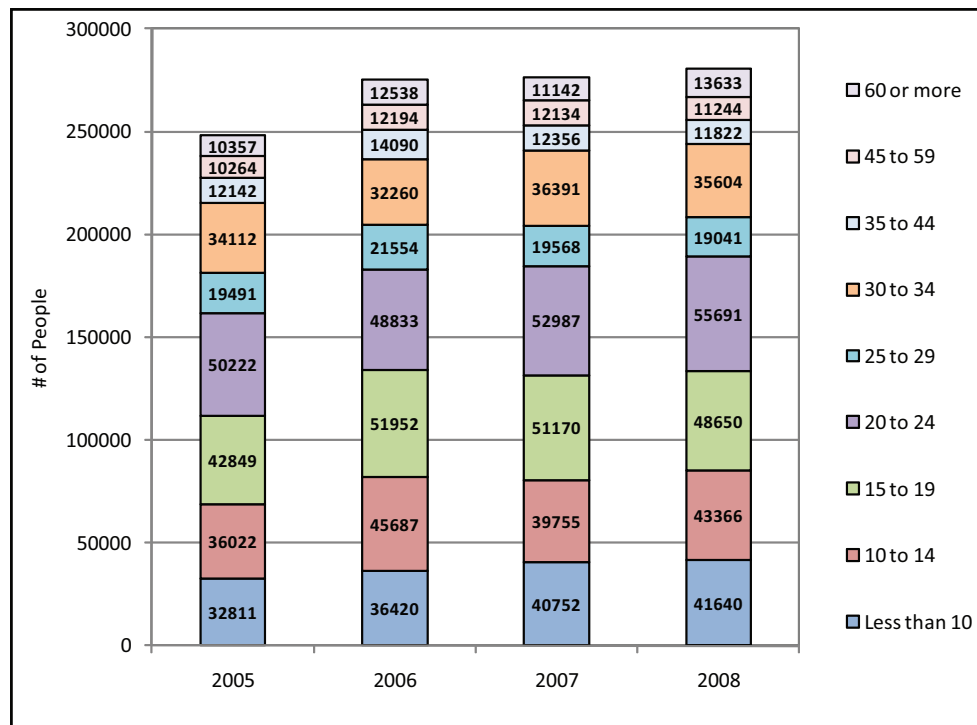
Annual System Passenger Miles of Travel (millions)	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Colorado Springs	10	17	25	27	26
Albuquerque	21	21	30	33	37
Austin	121	113	132	137	162
Denver	403	443	473	538	554
Fort Collins	4	6	6	6	6
Omaha	17	15	17	17	18

Source: Texas Transportation Institute 2009 Urban Mobility Report, National Transit Database

Photograph courtesy of Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments

Commute Time

Travel Minutes to Work



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

The 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?

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, shop, and recreate.

The Table compares the travel time index of various cities. The travel time index is a measure of congestion that focuses on each trip and each mile of travel. It is a ratio of travel time in the peak period to travel time in free-flow. The values in the table indicate how many minutes it takes to travel a 20 minute stretch of roadway during the peak period. For example, in 2007, it took motorists in the peak period 22.6 minutes to travel on a typical roadway that normally takes 20 minutes during off-peak periods. Colorado Springs has the best travel time index when comparing it to its comparison cities; meaning it has lower levels of congestion.

Travel Time Index	2005	2006	2007
Colorado Springs	22.8	22.8	22.6
Albuquerque	23.4	23.4	23.6
Austin	26.2	25.8	25.8
Denver	26.4	26.2	26.2
Fort Collins	N/A	N/A	N/A
Omaha	23.2	23.4	23.2

Source: Texas Transportation Institute 2009 Urban Mobility Report, Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments

Multimodal Travel in the Colorado Springs Region

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Ute Pass Express	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	920
Bikes on MMT Fixed Routes	52,683	62,587	64,940	76,989	69,038
Bikes on FREX Buses	N/A	2,191	2,587	2,500*	3,147
TOTAL	52,683	64,778	67,527	79,489	73,105
*2008 figure is an estimate. Due to malfunctioning fare boxes, only 4th quarter data was accurately collected					

Source: Mountain Metropolitan Transit

This Table shows the number of bicycles carried on Mountain Metropolitan Transit vehicles. This is a true example of multimodal travel in the Colorado Springs region – the use of a bicycle in combination with transit services. As you can see in the table, the number of bikes carried on MMT vehicles was steadily increasing until transit service started to be reduced in 2009.

Other Modes of Travel

Walking

Colorado Springs cares for 105 miles of urban trails great for walking or running and 160 miles of park hiking trails. The number of miles of paved sidewalk is unknown.

The City of Colorado Springs has adopted a policy of “complete streets” for all roadways in the city, with the exception of major highways. This means that all such streets should provide for safe travel of pedestrians, bicycles, and motorized traffic.

Biking

Colorado Springs maintains 70 miles of on-street bike lanes, 118 miles of urban bicycle trails and 61 miles of un-paved mountain bike trails.

The “complete streets” policy adopted by Colorado Springs will mean ultimately that bicyclists can expect to be able to travel safely on most streets in the city.

Train

Although the Pikes Peak region was originally developed on one of the major north-south rail corridors in the mountain West, we are now without passenger and most freight rail connections. Providing passenger and freight service by rail to other cities will decrease our dependence on automobiles and trucks and provide us with a more robust, competitive, and economic transportation system.

Bus

Intercity bus travel is limited to Greyhound Lines, which has direct service to Denver and Pueblo, and an informal bus system which is unlicensed and unregulated. The popularity of FREX shows that regularly scheduled bus transportation from the region to Denver, in particular, can be a successful alternate mode of travel for many.

How are We Doing?

The Brookings Institution notes, in its recent MountainMegas report, that Colorado Springs lacks robust air connections outside of the West, and that it also lacks any significant rail connection to Denver. Both are needed for the Pikes Peak region to take full advantage of impressive growth potential predicted by Brookings.

Potential for Action

The recently completed Streetcar Feasibility Study concluded that not only is a streetcar line feasible in Colorado Springs, but that it is possible to fund the first phase of a comprehensive streetcar system without recourse to additional taxation. Federal and city funds are paying for a thorough analysis of the best way to provide for the financing and governance of transit in the Pikes Peak region. Federal and city funds are also paying for an Academy Boulevard “Great Streets” coordinated transportation and land-use study to determine how best to use transit and transportation planning to provide for a sustainable development approach to that area of the city.

Photograph courtesy of Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments

-Intercity Connections-

Airport Usage

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Cities with non-stop service from Colorado Springs	15	13	14	14	16	14	11	13

Source: Colorado Springs Airport

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

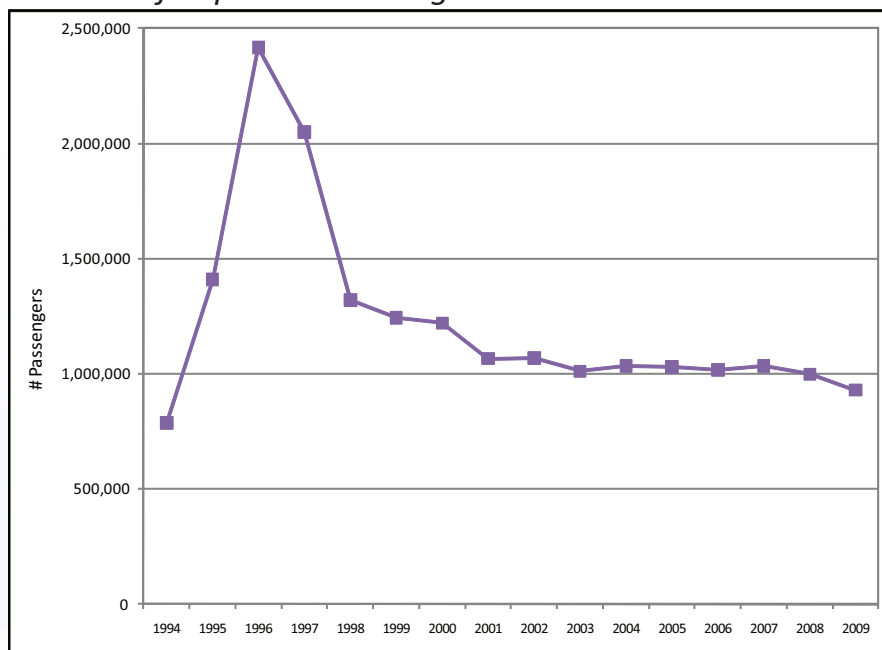
Why is This Important?

Increased air service contributes to the local economy. Increasing 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.

Despite a nationwide effort by all airlines to reduce capacity in response to the economic downturn, Colorado Springs has seen a net increase in the number of non-stop routes over the past year. While the challenges associated with attracting new air service to Colorado Springs are consistent with other small airports around the nation, the impact on commercial activity has the potential for being significant, and should be addressed to the extent practicable.

The comparison cities selected for this study provide an appropriate set of benchmarks for most Quality of Life indicators; however, in the case of air transportation, there are inherent differences in the nature and scope of activity in Colorado Springs that make comparisons to the benchmark cities less useful.

Number of Enplaned Passengers



Source: Colorado Springs Airport

The Colorado Springs Airport is classified by aviation planners as an "Origin and Destination" airport, one that is utilized by passengers who are initiating or terminating their trip in the Colorado Springs area. By contrast, three of the four airports in the comparison cities are classified as "Hub" airports, where as much as 40% of the passenger traffic connects through the airport. Another important factor is whether an airport is served by a Low Cost Carrier or LCC. Colorado Springs is currently served by one Low Cost Carrier that limits service to a handful of leisure destinations, while there are four cities with full service LCCs among the comparison cities in this report.

One may ask why isn't the Colorado Springs Airport utilized as a Hub; and why is there no full service LCC serving Colorado Springs? The answer, in both cases, lies in the size of the population base served by the airport. Typically, airlines are looking for a population base of at least 2 to 3 million to help create the volumes necessary for a successful Hub operation, or to support Low Cost service.

The population base served by the Colorado Springs Airport is approximately 1 million passengers.

How are We Doing?

New non-stop jet service from the Colorado Springs Airport to Washington Dulles International Airport was initiated in June 2010. Additional new low-fare, non-stop jet service to Phoenix-Mesa, AZ and Long Beach, CA will begin in September 2010.

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 targeted high-demand markets 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.

Photograph courtesy of Shutterstock.com

2008 Enplaned Passengers	
Colorado Springs	997,348
Albuquerque	3,158,971
Austin	4,268,536
Denver	24,287,939
Fort Collins	31,094
Omaha, NE	2,136,880

Source: Federal Aviation Administration

Keeping the Community Safe

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Colorado Springs Police Department

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El Paso County Bar Association



Photograph courtesy of Colorado Springs Police Department

Safety in our homes, neighborhoods, and communities is a vital component in creating a high quality of life. A strong sense of safety allows citizens to freely access work, recreation, and relaxation with decreased levels of stress and vigilance. El Paso County is the hub of southern Colorado – home to large corporations, small businesses, community organizations, arts and culture, and some of the nation's top outdoor recreation activities. Residents of the region are protected by local law enforcement agencies, fire and emergency medical services, and a criminal justice system that work together to effectively keep citizens safe as they live, play, and thrive in the Pikes Peak Region.

As the nation experienced the worst economic recession in recent history, El Paso County did not go unaffected. Several factors indicate that the economic recession has taken a significant toll on public safety in the Pikes Peak Region. First, although crime rates appear to be trending down, the cause may be linked to the fact that there are fewer law enforcement officers available to physically respond to a crime and file an official report, and citizens are not self-reporting all crimes that occur. Second, juvenile arrest rates are trending down; however, this could also be the result of fewer available officers to catch offenders in action and make arrests. Third, the rates of both child abuse and domestic violence in our community are at an all time high, and considerable research links financial problems/economic downturns to increased violence in the home.

Public Safety Indicators:

A community's crime rate is impacted by jobs, wages, education levels, crime prevention, available community resources and funding for prevention strategies. DUI arrests, juvenile crime, traffic fatalities, and repeat offenders all impact the region's crime atmosphere.

Substance abuse permeates all aspects of public safety. Offering 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.

The community is responsible for ensuring equitable and effective public safety for all citizens. The number of law enforcement calls and available responders impacts service levels and response times. The community's investment in trainings, tools, and strategies that help prevent crime improve the community's overall public safety. In addition, sufficient personnel, funding, and equipment are critical to effective fire and emergency medical service response times. Regular fire safety inspections improve firefighter safety and save citizens' lives by reducing the risk of structural fires.

Safety in the Home and Neighborhood:

Citizens' sense of safety in their homes and communities is a key indicator of the local government's success in providing public safety. Sense of safety is measured through an annual survey distributed to various communities throughout the region.

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 often leads to severe physical injury, homelessness, mental illness and even homicide, while negatively affecting every member of the household, the neighborhood and the community at large.

Pet abuse is closely linked to households that experience child abuse and domestic violence. Preventing the use of pet maltreatment as tools to control family members decreases the prevalence of animal cruelty, child abuse, and domestic violence.

In Conclusion:

The greater Colorado Springs community has been significantly impacted due to the unprecedented economic downturn. The quality of life in El Paso County continues to rely on citizen willingness to take responsibility for personal and community safety, while continually finding ways to effectively identify and address issues that arise. From donating to organizations providing human services to organizing fundraisers to pay for parks and recreation maintenance, residents and businesses of the region willingly contribute additional effort to sustain a high quality of life in our communities.

The Pikes Peak Region offers many innovative programs to educate citizens about safety issues and improve public safety. Several pro-active organizations are working to promote safety and improve the quality of life for youth in the Pikes Peak Region. Colorado Springs Teen Court provides an alternative to Municipal Court sentencing for first-time misdemeanors committed by youth between 10 and 18 years old. All sentences include community service and jury duty in a subsequent Teen Court trial. The Colorado Springs Fire Department's Summer Heat program is a Firecamp for teenage girls that introduces young women to career opportunities in the fire service. TESSA, whose mission to help women and their children achieve safety and well-being, is expanding community outreach services, particularly around the issue of Teen Dating Violence, to help educate the community about preventing interpersonal violence and to help El Paso County citizens learn how to stay safe in their homes, at school, and in all of their relationships.

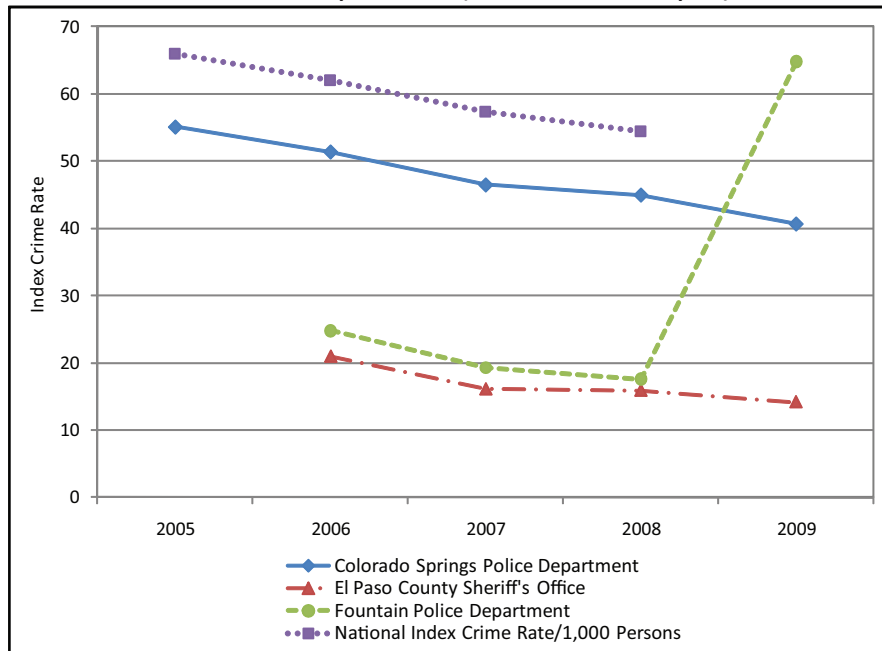
More information can be found at:

www.csteencourt.org
www.springsgov.com/summerheat
www.tessacs.org
www.springsgov.com
www.elpasoco.com

-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

The first 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.

Why is This Important?

Tracking the local crime rate allows us to scrutinize strategies in order to ensure we're using the most effective measures to reduce crime. It allows us to compare our efforts to agencies throughout Colorado, and the nation.

How are We Doing?

In 2008, the Index Crime rate in Colorado Springs was 45.0, below the national average of 54.5 and trending downward. The Index Crime rate for the Fountain Police Department (FPD) rose significantly from 2008 to 2009.

Potential for Action

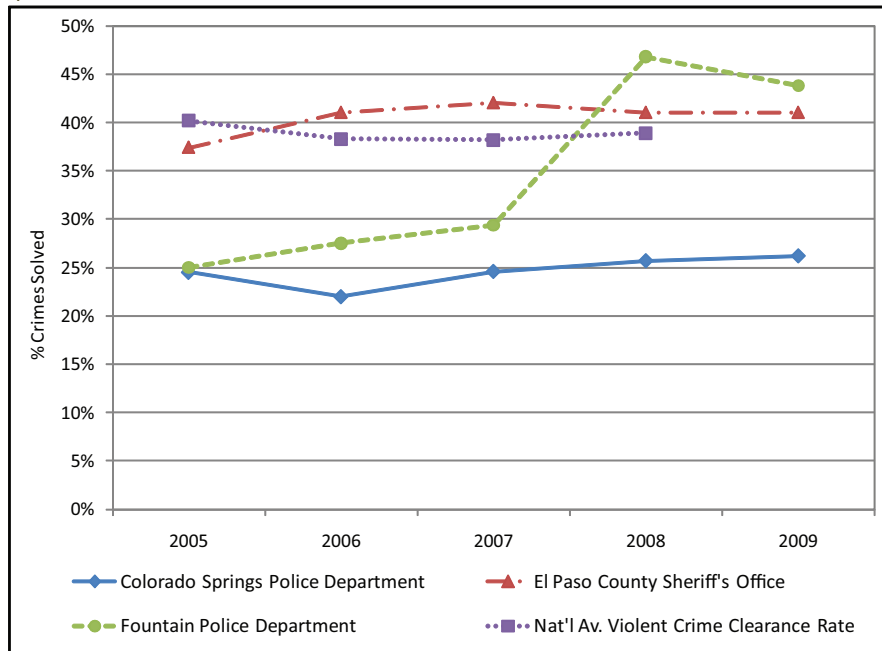
The Colorado Springs Police Department (CSPD) and El Paso Sheriff's Office (EPSO) expect crime rate increases due to the continued economic downturn. This downturn correlates to the reduction in leisure and recreation services available to the community that indirectly assist law enforcement in the fight against crime. Citizens should call 911 when suspicious behavior is observed.

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

Why is This Important?

Tracking clearance rates compliments crime rate tracking strategies. It is more focused on the efforts made to keep the community safe by apprehending those responsible for the criminal behavior.

★ Crime Clearance Rate



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

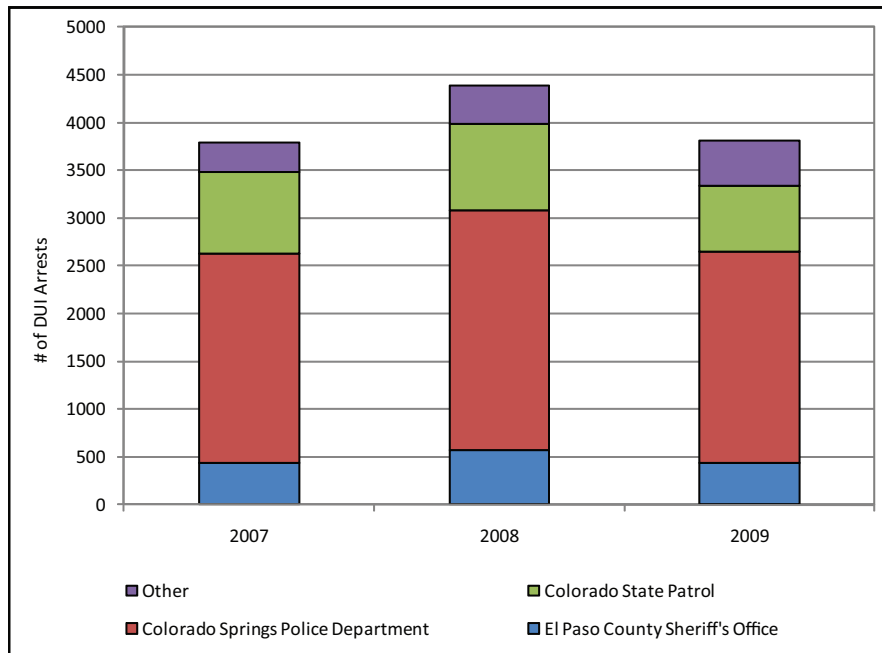
How Are We Doing?

The 2009 clearance rate remained level in Colorado Springs and El Paso County. When separated from Index Crimes, the clearance rate for Violent Crimes is higher: 52.30% for Colorado Springs, 43.80% for the FPD, and 68.25% for El Paso County. 2009 national clearance rates were not available at the time of this publication; however, the 2008 clearance rate was 38.90%. As such, the clearance rate for all three local law enforcement agencies is higher than the national level from the previous year.

Potential for Action

Due to declining resources, CSPD made adjustments to meet investigative demands. Resources were shifted from Property Crimes to maintain Violent Crimes investigations. Now more than ever, support for law enforcement activities is vital to sustain clearance rates.

DUI Arrests



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

This Chart reflects data from the three largest agencies in the region (Colorado Springs Police Department, El Paso County Sheriff's Office, and the Colorado State Patrol). Also included is combined data from the Pikes Peak Community College Campus Police, Ft. Carson PD, Monument PD, Fountain PD, Manitou Springs PD, University of Colorado at Colorado Springs Campus Police, Green Mountain Falls Marshal, and the Calhan PD – identified in the graph as "Other."

Why is This Important?

According to statistical update, DUI arrests in outlying areas increased by 18% since last year.

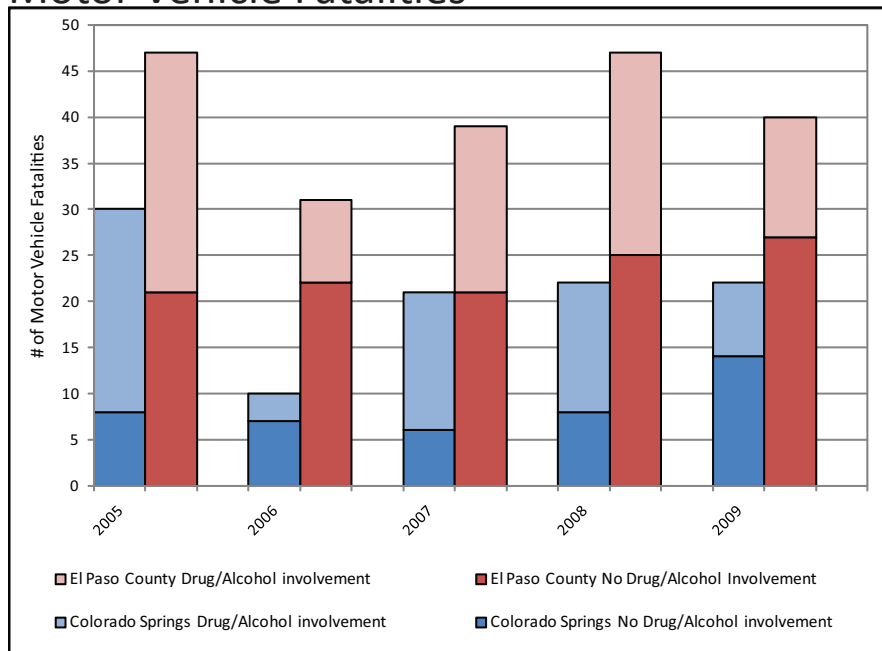
How are We Doing?

These numbers reflect offenders apprehended; they are not necessarily indicative of the actual number of impaired drivers on the road.

Potential for Action

The ability to apprehend DUI offenders increases with targeted policing strategies. DUI enforcement may vary due to grant funding, budgetary allowances, and staffing. Citizens must take personal responsibility for their actions and not drive when impaired by drug or alcohol use.

Motor Vehicle Fatalities



Source: Colorado Springs Police Department, Colorado Department of Transportation

This Chart shows the number of fatal motor vehicle crashes in Colorado Springs and El Paso County, and indicates the percentage of total fatalities involving drugs and/or alcohol that occurred each year. Note, the graph reflects El Paso County fatality statistics, which includes Colorado Springs. Colorado Springs represents more than 50% of total fatalities.

Why is This Important?

Impaired driving impacts not only people who choose to drive intoxicated, but also innocent victims in their path. Comprehensive education, targeted enforcement and prosecution are critical.

How are We Doing?

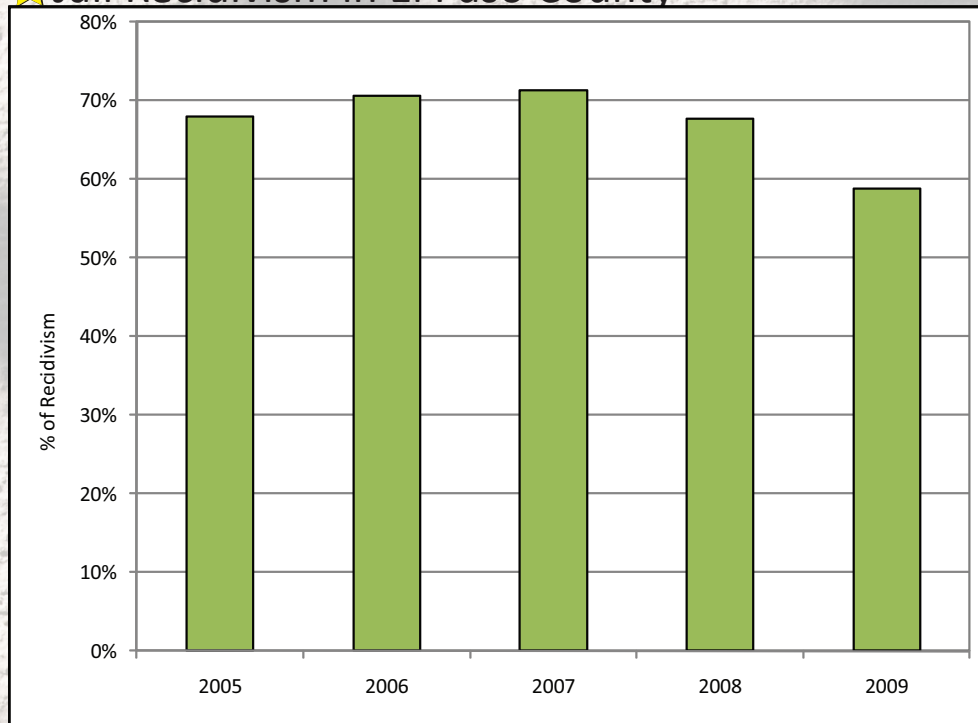
The national average for fatalities involving drug and alcohol impairment is above 35%. While the percentage of traffic fatalities involving drug and alcohol in El Paso County is regularly above the national average, in 2009 it was slightly below. The City of Colorado Springs has ranked above the national average 4 out of the past 5 years.

There were 15% fewer traffic fatalities in 2009 compared to 2008. This mirrors a national trend of a measurable reduction in traffic fatalities in 2009 as compared to previous years.

Potential for Action

Funding is critical for increasing education, enforcement and prosecution of offenders. Funding is also essential for law enforcement trainings, saturation patrols, DUI checkpoints and state-of-the-art equipment and upgrades.

★ Jail Recidivism in El Paso County



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

Why is This Important?

The human cost and fiscal impact of recidivism are readily apparent. Repeat offenders are not productive members of society. While incarcerated, they do not support their families, have jobs, or pay taxes. They place a burden on strained government resources and budgets that have been stretched thin by the current economic crisis. The cost to arrest, prosecute, and house criminals continues to rise, while the victims of crime and the families of the offenders are often left in the wake of the destructive cycle.

How are We Doing?

In 2009, 26,302 people, or approximately 4.4 % of the population, served time in the El Paso County jail. Of these, 58.8% had been previously incarcerated compared to 67.8% in 2008.

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 three years, preliminary data indicates that this type of disciplined programming positively affects the recidivism rate reducing it to 21.9% amongst this population compared to an overall recidivism rate of 58.8%. 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.

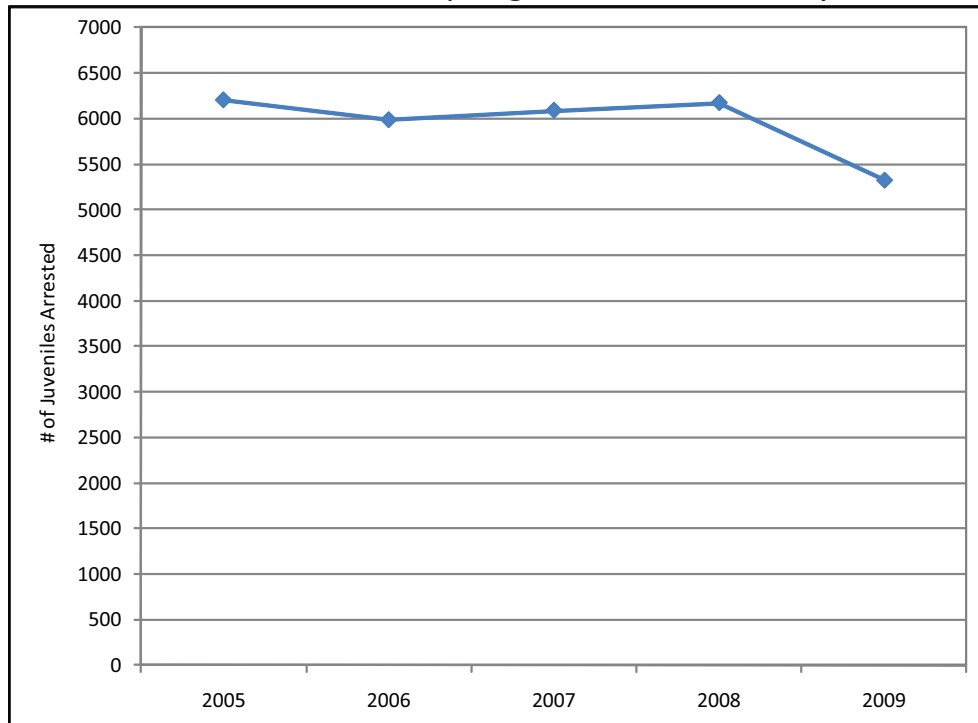


Photographs by Bob Orsillo and Willee Cole

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

Juvenile Crime

Juvenile Arrests in Colorado Springs and El Paso County



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

This Chart shows the number of juveniles, ages 10 to 19, in El Paso County who have been arrested by the Colorado Springs Police Department and the El Paso County Sheriff's Office. This past year, youth arrests decreased by 848. This arrest rate includes all juvenile misdemeanor and felony offenses.

Only a certain percentage of juvenile arrests will be filed with the courts and proceed to detention/probation status. Both the Municipal and District Courts offer deferred sentencing programs for first-time youth misdemeanor offenders. Those who successfully complete these programs can get their charges dismissed and their records expunged. If the charges are serious enough to merit commitment, juvenile offenders are 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, and in 2009 continued to decrease to 67.

Why is This Important?

This is very important to our future as a community. We need to have healthy young people who have developed integrity and confidence order to continue to evolve our community in positive direction.

How are We Doing?

The Council would like to thank the many citizens and youth service organizations that have worked together to decrease juvenile arrests rates in the past year. A number of prevention agencies have partnered to create programs aimed at helping young people make better choices and preventing our community's youth from re-offending.. All areas of the juvenile justice system report lower numbers of youth in their programs and a higher success rate of completion. With the recent cuts in city and county programs, especially park and recreation, it imperative that our citizens continue to volunteer, mentor and support non-profits serving youth.

Potential for Action

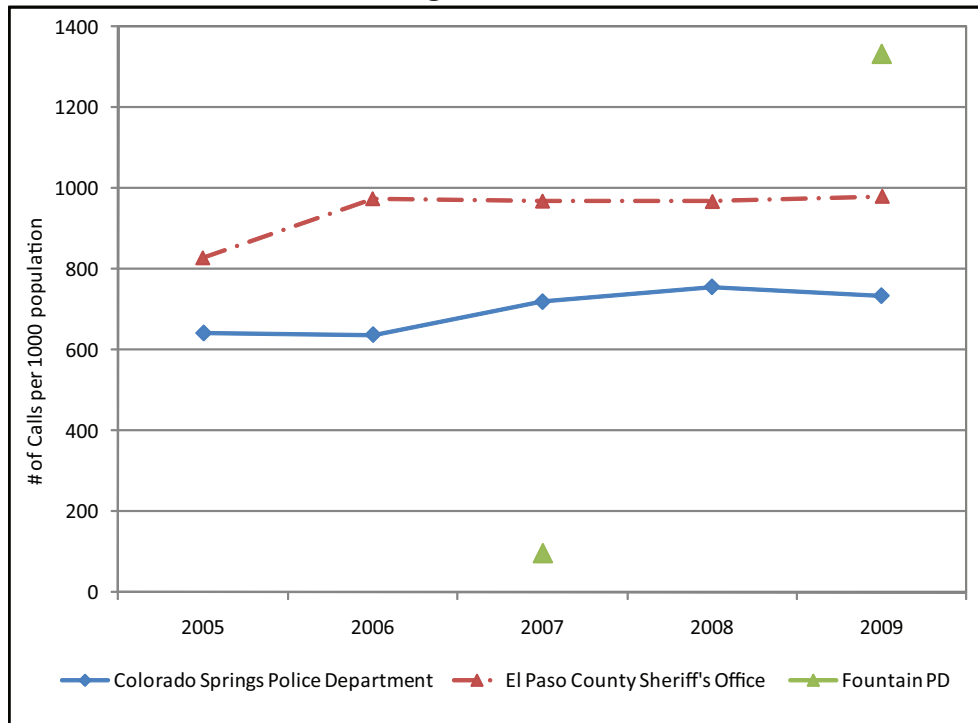
There are many volunteer opportunities for individuals interested in helping juveniles find productive ways to channel their energy. For more information on volunteering, go to www.volunteerpikespeak.org.



Photograph courtesy of Shutterstock.com

Calls for Service

Calls Made to Local Police Agencies



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

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.

When calls for service increase, maintaining service levels and response times 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.

Why is This Important?

Tracking calls for service allows the law enforcement agency to better assess the needs of the community

in terms of balancing receiving the call for assistance with dispatching the proper response of service, i.e. police, fire, medical. By doing so, this information can be used to improve the services given to community members.

How are We Doing?

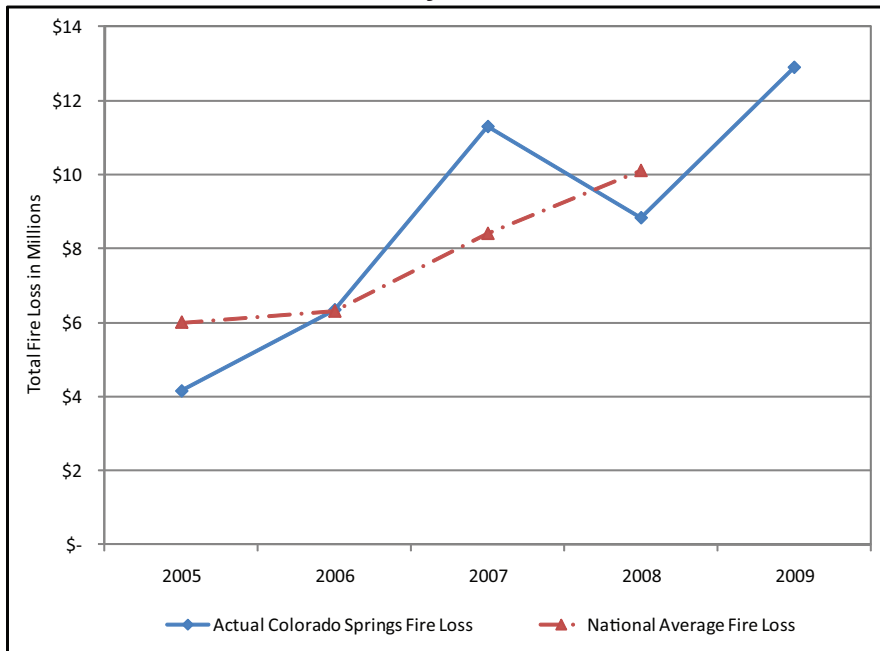
The number of law enforcement calls for service per 1,000 residents continues to show a steady upward trend in recent years. There is a concern that law enforcement resources keep pace with both the rise in population, and the calls for service. In order to address these gaps, law enforcement agencies – including the Colorado Springs Police Department – are utilizing alternate response strategies such as enhanced telephone reporting, internet crime reporting, increased volunteerism where possible, 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 raises awareness and has the potential to decrease the trend of calls despite the faster level of population growth. Over the course of the past year, CSPD has held public forums in various locations to inform the citizens of the effects of the continued downturn in the local economy. It is anticipated these efforts, and others, to educate the public will continue in the foreseeable future.

Overall Fire Loss and Per Capita Fire Loss

Actual Fire Loss in Millions of Dollars



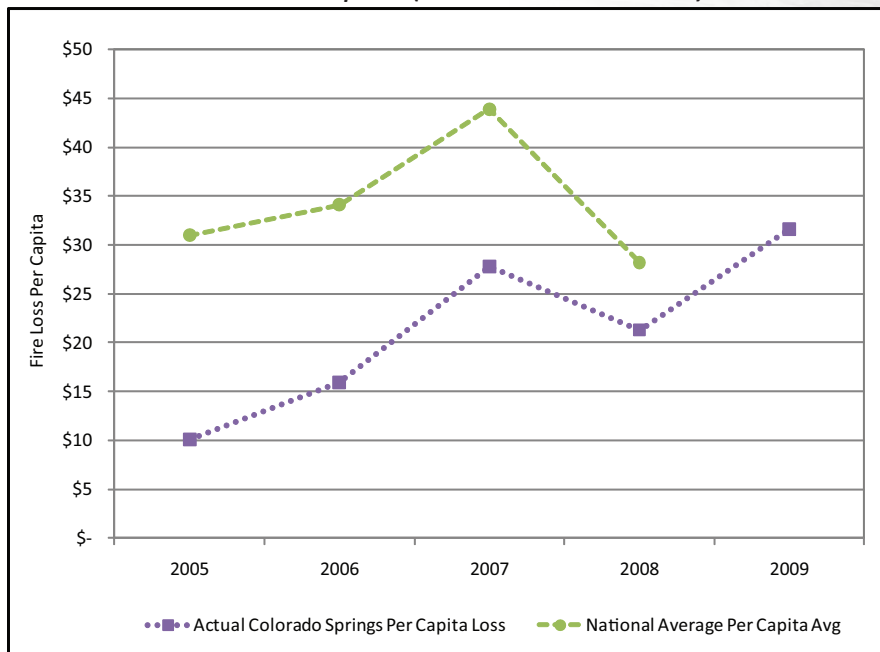
Source: Colorado Springs Fire Department, National Fire Protection Association

These Charts show the total fire loss and per capita fire loss per year since 2004. City data is compared to national averages of cities with a population between 250,000 to 499,999; Colorado Springs has a population of just over 400,000. National data is furnished by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). It must also be noted that national 2009 data is unavailable in time for this report.

Why is This Important?

The spikes in actual city fire loss and per capita loss for 2007 were due to higher than average dollar loss fires, which occur from time to time. However, there is a disturbing trend developing in increasing fire loss on both an overall and per capita basis. The fact that Colorado Springs has a loss amount lower than the national average is a testament to the high quality and skill our fire prevention and suppression forces possess with regard to mitigation and emergency scene management.

Actual Fire Loss Per Capita (Dollars Per Person)



Source: Colorado Springs Fire Department, National Fire Protection Association

How are We Doing?

The Colorado Springs Fire Department (CSFD) has a lower overall and per capita fire loss than the national averages. However, the loss trend is increasing locally and nationally. Increasing loss rates can cause additional economic stress due to interruption of business operation, increased business dollar loss and insurance payouts and increased insurance premiums. Due to the struggling economy and ongoing budget cuts, the ability to provide fire safety education with behavior modification and the performance of inspections in commercial properties has decreased. The resulting increase in fire loss may be exacerbated as a result.

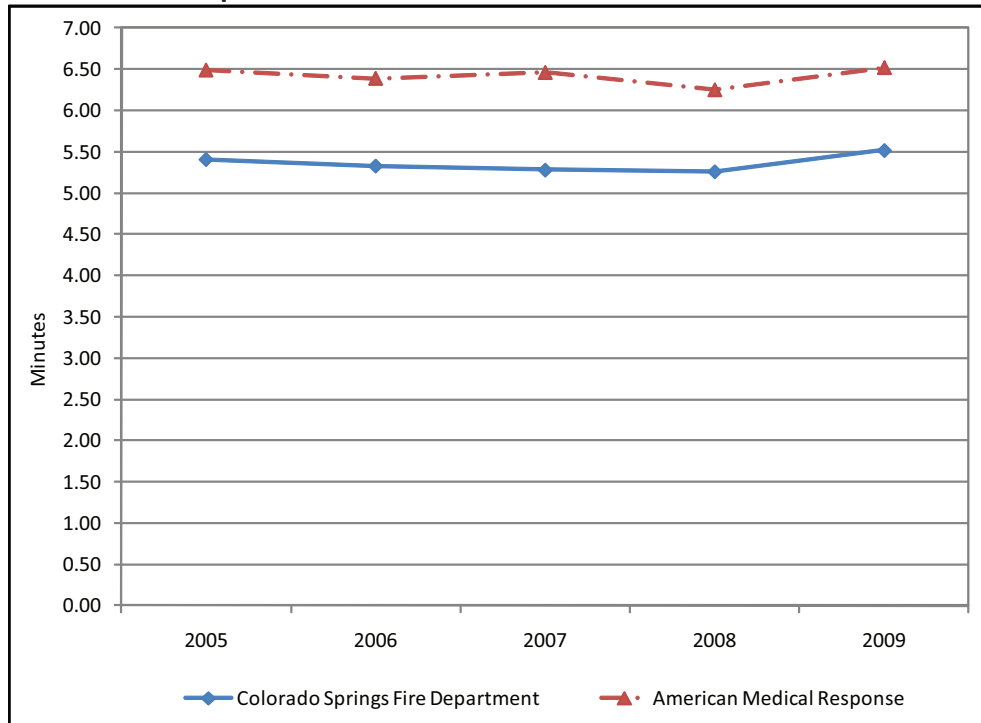
Potential for Action

CSFD has modified its approach to inspections and fire safety loss control through a risk based methodology. The impact of this modified approach on its loss trends is yet to be determined. Firefighter safety is also a significant concern as suppression crews are required to enter buildings / facilities to address hazards that are frequently unidentified due to the lack

of inspection. The best way to address fire and life safety risk is to engage the public in "sharing the responsibility." Fire and life safety education efforts are a proven method of accomplishing this goal and opportunities for enhancing or reconstructing this effort should be explored. The development of minimum fire and hazard inspection standards will also work to reduce our overall and per capita fire loss. As with any undesired outcome, the wisest investment is in prevention and mitigation before the incident occurs, rather than reacting after an event.

Photograph courtesy of Colorado Springs Fire Department

★ EMS Response Time



Source: Colorado Springs Fire Department, American Medical Response

This Chart displays the average emergency medical system (EMS) response times within the Colorado Springs city limits as reported by American Medical Response (AMR) and the Colorado Springs Fire Department (CSFD). The average response time is measured in minutes from the time the 911 call is received until the first unit arrives on scene.

Why is This Important?

The trend for the past 8 years shows a decrease in average response times. This is due to more strategic apparatus and dynamic ambulance placement. However, the trend is beginning to increase, indicating a longer average response time. It should be noted that the increase is only in terms of tenths of a second and is not cause for alarm. It is, however, an indication that as workload increases and fewer units become available, the increase in response time can

continue, potentially to an undesirable level. For 2010, the times still reflect very high performance standards and excellent emergency medical response service times.

How are We Doing?

Current statistics continue to reflect very high performance standards and excellent emergency medical response service times.

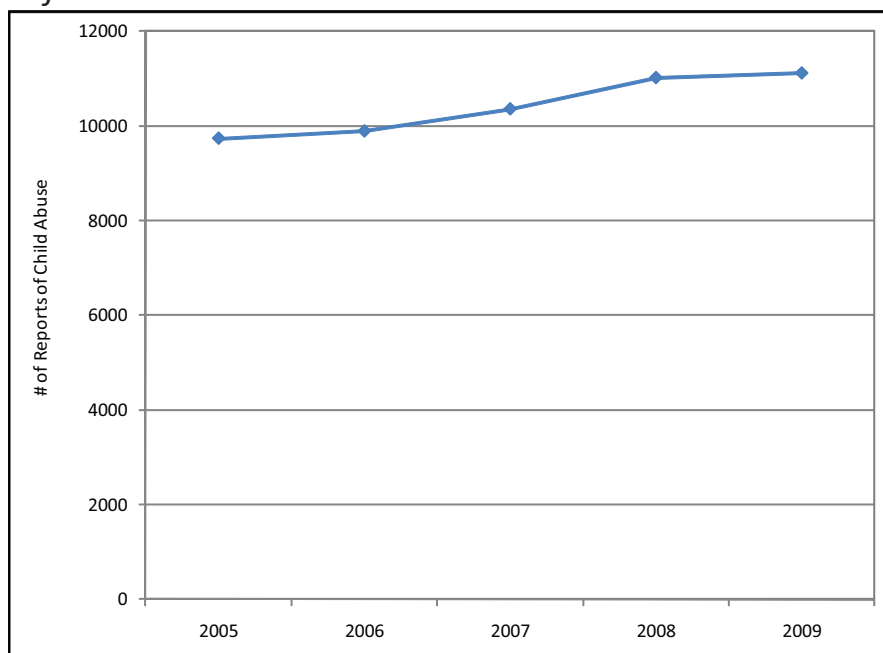
Potential for Action

Challenges tied to state and local economics may result in an undesired threat to the quality of future service. However, public safety officials continue to monitor the workload and levels of appropriate response, working to identify collaborative opportunities wherever present. Current conditions dictate only a "wait and see" posture.

-Safety in the Home and Neighborhood-

Child Abuse in El Paso County

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), and the number of fatalities due to child abuse or neglect 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.

Why is This Important?

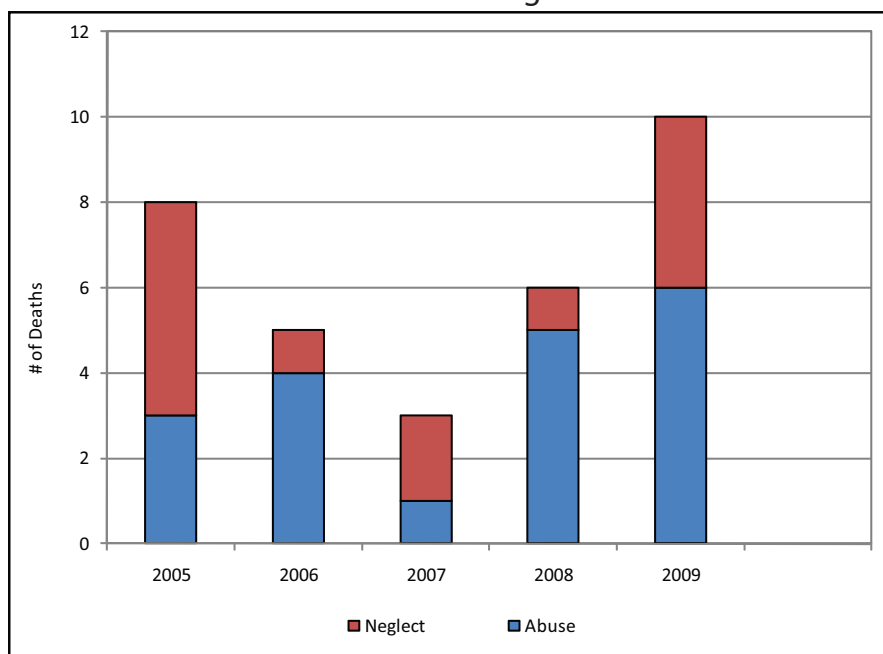
Increasing reports of child abuse and neglect signify stress and instability within families, which affect children's health and welfare. When children's basic needs for sufficiency and safety are not met, their ability to develop and thrive is hampered, sometimes seriously and permanently. The death of a child is particularly tragic and impacts everyone in the family, and the community. 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 2009, for the second year in a row, El Paso County received the most child abuse and neglect referrals of all Colorado counties. Seven of the other nine largest counties in Colorado – including Denver County – had a decrease in referrals in 2009.

One child death from abuse or neglect is too many. In 2009 we had the largest number of child fatalities determined to be as the result of child abuse or neglect in the last five years.

Child Fatalities due to Abuse or Neglect



Source: El Paso County Department of Human Services

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.

Neighborhood Safety

Why is This Important?

Our perception of neighborhood safety plays an integral part in how actively we engage with the family next door or the couple across the street from where we live; ultimately, it reflects on how deeply invested we are in our community, and how we view its capacity to protect the people we love.

How are We Doing?

In 2008, 79 percent of the people polled said they felt very safe or somewhat safe walking around their neighborhood during the day; that overall statistic dropped to 71 percent when referring to the perception of night time safety. 2009 survey results showed a 10 percent increase in the perception of night time safety (81%), possibly due to the fact that the average age of survey respondents was younger than in previous years. Neighborhood safety continues to depend on the “response-ability” of its residents, coupled with public safety initiatives such as neighborhood or business watch groups.

A Neighborhood Watch is a group of neighbors who are willing to communicate with each other and pass along information on suspicious activity, and report this activity to the police. Neighborhood Watch does not require citizen patrols or citizen assist. It is a program in assisting neighbors to develop the “mindset” of keeping an eye out for one another.

Potential for Action

The Colorado Springs Police Department (CSPD) offers an excellent crime prevention and emergency preparedness handbook available for download from the internet at: www.springsgov.com/units/police/miscdocs/neighborhoodwatchhandbook2008.pdf. This handbook contains pertinent emergency and non-emergency numbers for Colorado Springs and outlying areas, as well as detailed instructions on how to form a neighborhood or business watch program.



Photograph by Sascha Burkard

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

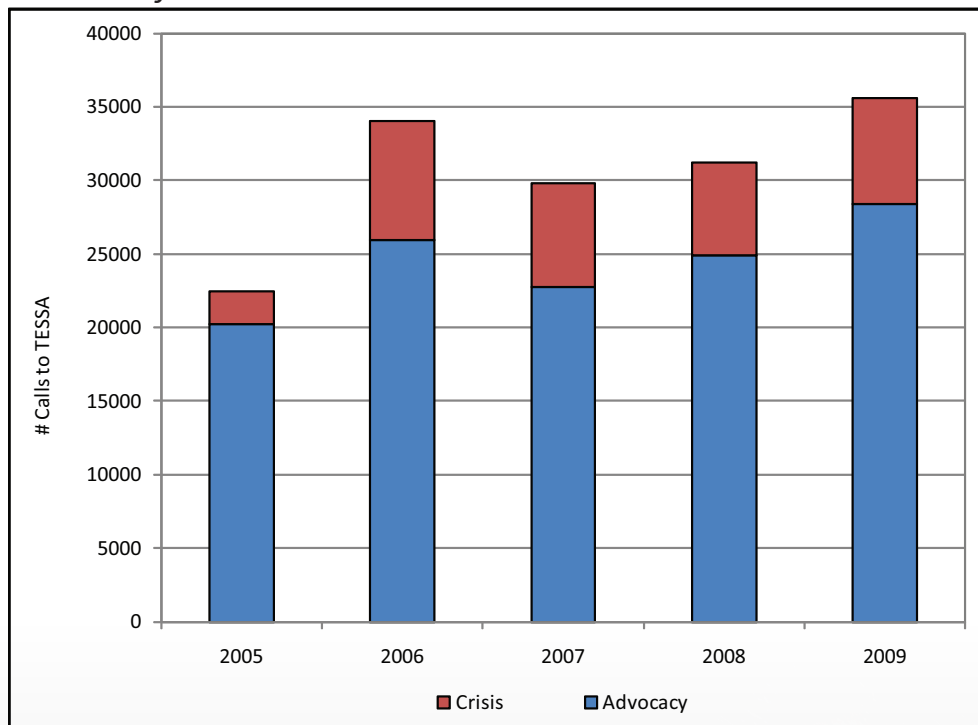
Neighborhood Watch brochure from the El Paso County Sheriff's Office
http://shr.elpasoco.com/NR/rdonlyres/883017CE-5417-4009-9D7D-A8224E6BC673/0/Neighborhood_Watch_TriFold.pdf

Refuse To Be A Victim brochure from the El Paso County Sheriff's Office
http://shr.elpasoco.com/NR/rdonlyres/C48C29D0-B3B3-42AF-AE5B-8EF7B4DD10EC/0/Refuse_To_Be_A_Victim_Flyer.pdf

Home Security Survey from the El Paso County Sheriff's Office
<http://shr.elpasoco.com/NR/rdonlyres/9F4FC444-97BB-4C9A-939B-6B09D39BB320/0/HomeSecuritySurvey.pdf>

Domestic Violence

Number of Calls to TESSA



Source: TESSA

This Chart shows the number of advocacy and crisis contacts received by TESSA through 2009. Crisis intervention includes emergency safe shelter, 24-hour Crisis Line, Kids' Crisis Line, and emergency advocacy for clients in immediate risk of danger. TESSA is the sole confidential provider in El Paso and Teller counties of crisis intervention and supportive services for adult victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.

Why is This Important?

Domestic violence takes an incredible toll on our community. In addition to the cost of injuries and lives, the cost of domestic violence to the taxpayer in terms of law enforcement, courts, and correctional facilities is massive. Employers feel the impact through lost profit due to employee absences, and increased costs of healthcare. One in six households experiences some form of

domestic abuse. This startling statistic illustrates the prevalence of domestic violence in our society, and the need for comprehensive, collaborative community response.

How are We Doing?

Key indicators for domestic violence show an increase in the number of victims seeking overall services, while the ratio of crisis contacts to advocacy contacts remains steady at approximately one to four. Information and referral calls to TESSA rose 16.4% to 10,490 in 2009. Crisis intervention contacts rose 19.1% from 4,630 to 5,724 between 2008 and 2009, and advocacy contacts rose in 2009 to 28,357.

Domestic violence is a long-term safety issue for thousands of families in our community. Nearly 3,000 domestic violence misdemeanor cases pass through the El Paso County District Attorney's office each year – this number doesn't include the most severe domestic violence cases involving assault and homicide felonies. Between 2004 and 2009, 38.6% of misdemeanor cases involved repeat domestic violence offenders.

Nationally, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that 1 in 4 women will be a victim of intimate partner violence in her lifetime. A 2005 Bureau of Justice Statistics study found that of homicides committed in our country between 2001 and 2005, violent intimate partners killed 30% of all females murdered and 4% of all males murdered.

Pet abuse is a pattern of behavior which strongly correlates to both child abuse and domestic violence. According to statistics published by the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (www.ncadv.org):

- 71% of pet owners entering domestic violence shelters report that their batterer had threatened, injured or killed family pets.
- Women in domestic violence shelters are 11 times more likely to report animal abuse by their partner than women not experiencing violence.
- 85% of domestic violence shelters report that they commonly encounter women who speak about pet abuse incidents.

Potential for Action

Engaging more men as allies in the fight against domestic violence and increasing awareness help make our community safer for all citizens. Providing education about healthy relationships promotes the development of attitudes and behaviors that do not condone interpersonal violence. Investment in prevention and intervention programs is critical. Contact TESSA's 24-hour crisis line - 719-633-3819 - for help if you are in an abusive relationship, or check www.tessacs.org for information on how you can give or get help.

Photograph by Rudyanto Wijaya

Fostering Community Engagement

Chairs and Conveners

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

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Pikes Peak Library District

AIMEE LIOTINO (Co-Convenor)
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Leadership Pikes Peak

SUSAN SAKSA
Leadership Pikes Peak

Photograph by Losevsky Pavel

Being civically engaged, according to Thomas Ehrlich, means a person “recognizes himself or herself as a member of a larger social fabric and therefore considers social problems to be at least partly his or her own; such an individual is willing to see the moral and civic dimensions of issues, to make and justify informed moral and civic judgments, and to take action when appropriate.”¹ The reality is that there are social, economic and environmental issues in the Colorado Springs area; however, are we as individuals going to join together as a community and take responsibility for solving these issues?

- “Imagine people of every walk of life getting together to discuss what we want our community to be like in the year 2020.”² Dream City Vision 2020 promotes this idea and gives Colorado Springs citizens the opportunity to be civically engaged and to be an active part of the future of this region.
- Peter Block, author of *Community: The Structure of Belonging* visited the Colorado College campus in January of this year to not only promote his book, but to discuss the ideas involved in being a community and having a sense of belonging in and accountability to one’s city.³ Block states: “Restoration begins when we think of community as a possibility, a declaration of the future that we choose to live into.”⁴
- Elementary schools and churches are promoting youth philanthropy by implementing Pennies for Peace into their programs and lessons. First United Methodist Church in Colorado Springs is currently raising money through children offering their pennies to support a school in Afghanistan.⁵

Over the course of the last year, Colorado Springs has seen a decrease in self-reported charitable giving as shown in the Philanthropy section on page 114; however, the community has experienced an increase in the number of total votes cast in the Colorado Springs Municipal City Elections, as shown in the Political Engagement section on page 112. With more citizens voting on local issues, perhaps Colorado Springs can become more aware of the needs of the community and can thus make dynamic changes.

“Your ideas about our future as a region are just as important as anyone else’s, and together we can inspire, educate and mobilize this community to create a better place for us all to live, work and play.”⁶

1 Thomas Ehrlich and his colleagues in *Civic Responsibility and Higher Education*. (Introduction, page xxvi).

2 <http://www.dreamcity2020.org/index.php>.

3 <http://www.csindy.com/colorado/Event?oid=1553393>.

4 Peter Block in *Community: The Structure of Belonging* (page 48).

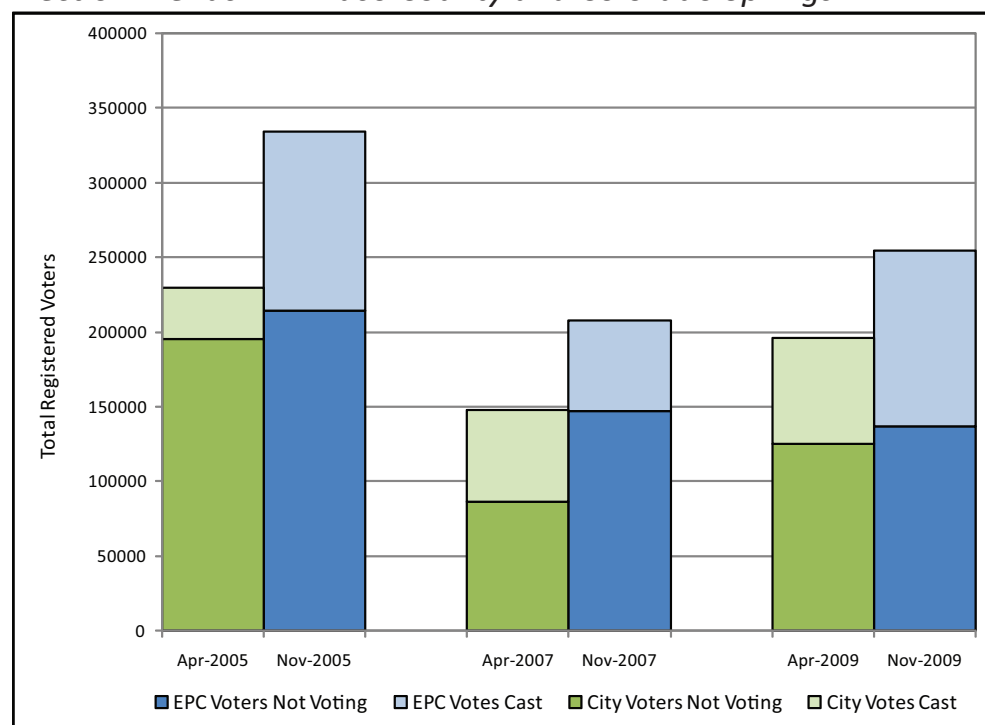
5 <http://www.fumc-cs.org/Children/ChildrensMinistry/CurrentEvents/tabid/3498/Default.aspx>.

6 <http://www.dreamcity2020.org/index.php>.

-Political Engagement-

Voting Patterns

Election Trends in El Paso County and Colorado Springs



Source: El Paso County and the City of Colorado Springs

The Chart depicts the voting patterns of eligible voters in El Paso County coordinated elections and city of Colorado Springs municipal elections. Coordinated elections are conducted by the El Paso County Clerk & Recorder and include ballot measures and races across county municipalities. 46% of registered El Paso County voters cast votes in November 2009. 36% of registered Colorado Springs voters cast votes in April 2009, which represents growth in municipal election turnout since 2005.

Why is This Important?

In 2008, 78% of eligible voters in El Paso County voted in the presidential election. Across the nation, communities like ours witnessed new levels of political participation. How do we translate this interest and passion to local elections? According to the 2010 Community Survey, 76.4% of respondents were very or

somewhat concerned with voter participation, 77% of respondents were very or somewhat concerned with community engagement in local issues, and 9.8% of those respondents trust their local government when addressing community issues. How do we translate this concern and mistrust to greater voter turnout?

The Table outlines the attendance at the 2010 Democratic and Republican caucuses.

A caucus is the beginning of the process by which political parties nominate candidates and create a platform. They take place in a school, church or other

neighborhood location and are organized around

precincts. In 2010, 4,090 registered voters with the Democratic and Republican parties in El Paso County participated in a straw poll for the Senate race (note, the GOP also polled for Governor). Denver County had 2,618 more registered voters in attendance than El Paso County.

2010 Caucus Participation	
El Paso County	4,090
Denver County	6,708

Source: Colorado Caucus

Why is This Important?

The caucus is an opportunity for neighbors to engage in dialogue about candidates and issues of concern. According to the Community Visioning Survey, 70% of respondents did not attend a public meeting on community issues in 2010. The caucus can both serve as a chance for neighbors to discuss important issues and participate in the political process.

Potential for Action

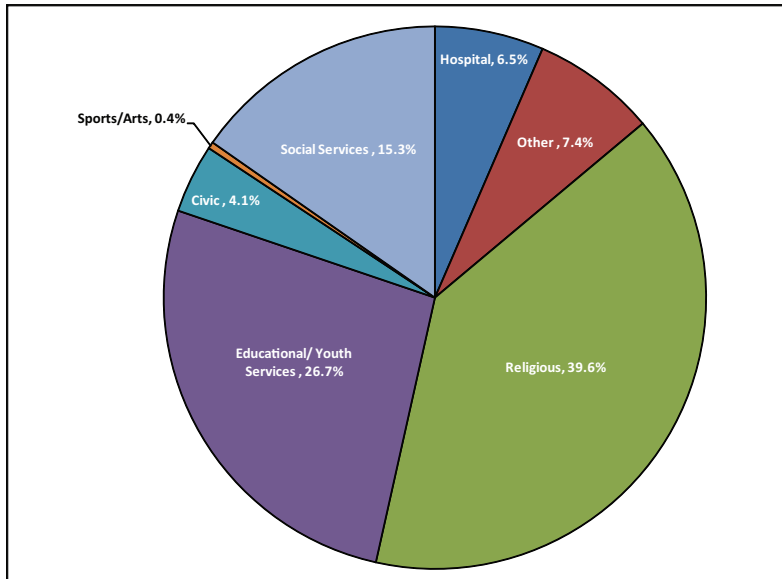
While voting patterns for coordinated and municipal elections are on the rise locally, turnout is still considerably less compared to general elections with a presidential race. Local elections encompass important decisions for the future of our community, ranging from raising or lowering tax bases, to electing government officials, to levels of city-provided services, and K-12 governance and funding.



Image by Frontpage

-Volunteerism-

Where People in Colorado Springs Volunteered (2006-2009)



Source: Volunteering in America

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

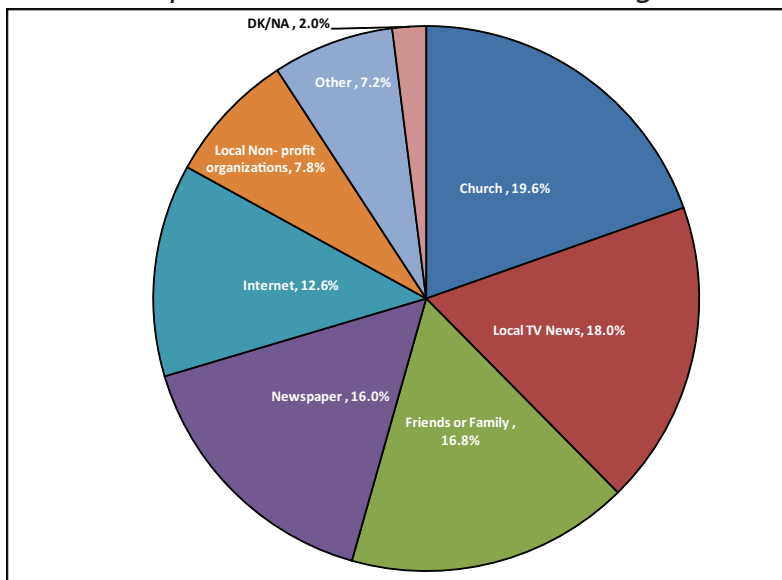
Why is This Important?

During these trying economic times, it is crucial for our community to have volunteers when individuals lack the funds for charitable giving. The dollar value placed on each volunteer hour equals \$20.85.¹ With that worth, it's unbelievable to imagine the differences individuals can make on the community through volunteer efforts. By examining at the areas in which people volunteer, the Volunteer Center and other charitable services can better understand where community service can make a dynamic impact on Colorado Springs.

How are We Doing?

Compared to the nation, Colorado Springs residents are 4% more likely to volunteer with a religious organization and 0.1% more likely to volunteer with educational institutions than with other organizational sectors. Thus, the most popular impact areas for volunteerism in Colorado Springs are in line with those of the nation.

Where People Find Out About Volunteering



Source: 2010 Community Survey from Cheyenne Mountain Civic Solutions

The second Chart shows the sources our community uses to find out how to get connected. Following the trend, 19.6% of Colorado Springs residents said they hear about ways to get involved through their religious organizations.

Why is This Important?

As we identify the sources of information people use to find opportunities to get involved, we can better target our recruitment efforts. This will help us to increase our impact on the community.

Potential for Action

Looking at other highly religious-based cities, for example Salt Lake City, can give Colorado Springs goals to work toward. Salt Lake City's volunteerism is 52.5% through religious organizations, which is dramatically more than Colorado Springs' 39.6%. However, 35.3% of Salt Lake City residents volunteer, while 32.2% of

Colorado Springs residents do.² If Colorado Springs can target religious organizations to attract more volunteers, perhaps it can increase the amount of residents who volunteer in the area.

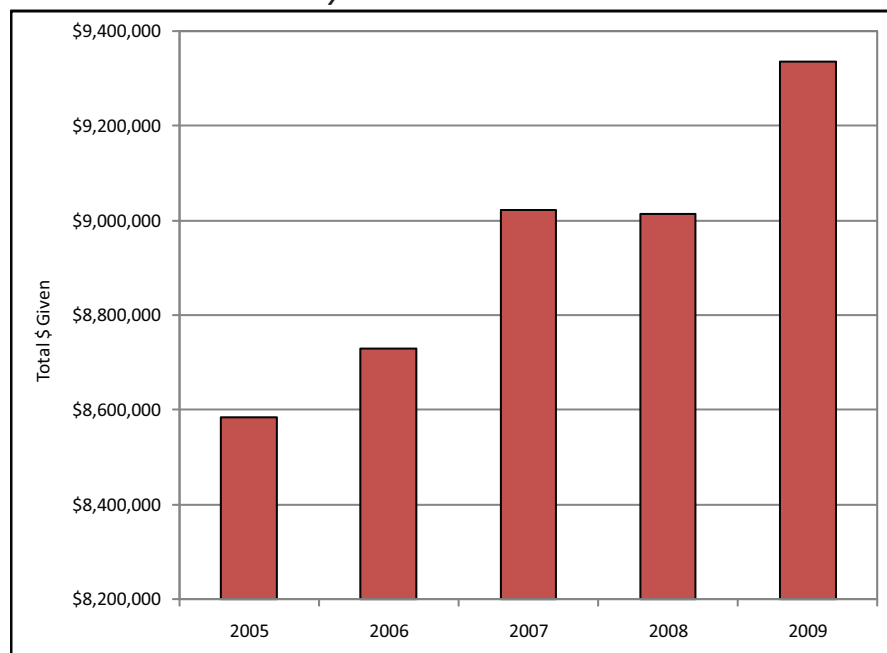
Make a Difference Month in October, and Generation Next Youth Volunteer Week are two examples of local community service opportunities that are not religiously-based. All of these volunteer opportunities give community members a chance to participate in bettering their county and the lives of their neighbors, and improving their lives as well through the act of charitable service and team-building.

1 Independent Sector.

2 Volunteering in America.

-Philanthropy-

Community Giving Combined Community Contributions



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

The first 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. Combined giving from these sources totaled \$9,336,763 for an increase of 3.5% from 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 well-being of the community.

How are We Doing?

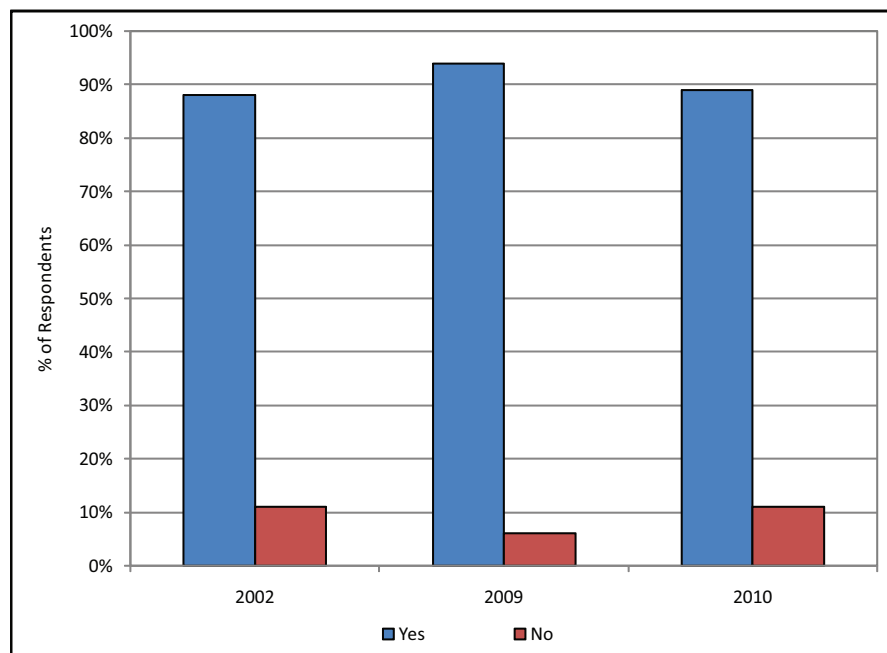
Total individual giving in the United States was \$227.41 billion for 2009. This is a 0.4% decline compared with individual charitable giving in 2008. In light of the difficult economic conditions present during 2009, this decline was not as severe as might have been expected. Locally, as noted above, giving to the three largest giving campaigns increased by 3.5%, demonstrating the remarkable commitment to philanthropy in our region.¹

The second 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.

Why is This Important?

Philanthropy fills an important role at any given time, but particularly so during periods of economic difficulty. Individual donors, private foundations, businesses, corporations, service clubs, the faith-community, and countless other informal fundraising efforts help a community fill critical gaps in programs and services to the most vulnerable members of society. These

Individual Donations



Source: 2009 QLI Community Survey, 2010 QLI Community Survey

numbers confirm the generosity of spirit present among our local citizenry.

How Are We Doing?

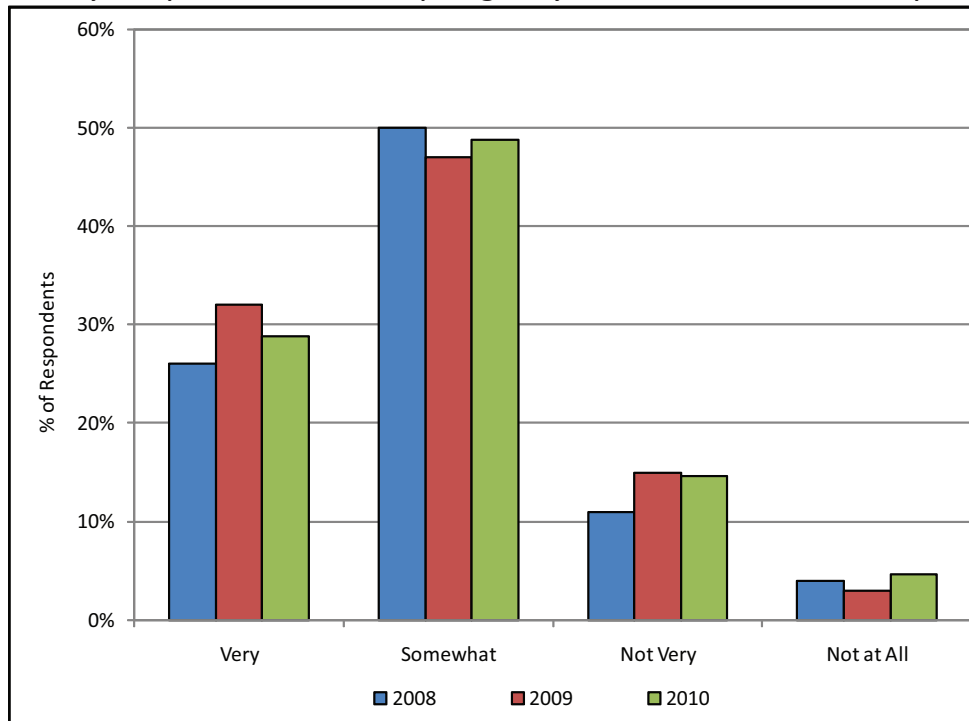
For self-reported local donations, individual giving is down 5% from last year (although giving to the large campaigns described above experienced an increase). This is hardly surprising given the impact of the economic recession. Even with a decrease in individual giving, El Paso County residents reported that 89% of individuals gave to charity in 2009 which is greater than the U.S. average of 70% of households giving to charity. Many local efforts are underway designed to encourage more local giving and involvement.

1 Giving USA, 2010.

-Community Diversity-

Acceptance

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



Source: 2008 Community Survey, 2009 QLI Community Visioning Survey, 2010 QLI Community Visioning Survey

This Chart: In 2010, 78% of residents surveyed perceived the region to be somewhat to very accepting. 49% of the respondents find the Colorado Springs area to be “Somewhat Accepting” while 29% say it is a “Very Accepting” community. Responses to the 2010 Community Survey remain consistent with information collected in 2009.

Why is This Important?

Diversity is what makes a community unique. 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 2010, 78% of residents surveyed perceived the region to be very or somewhat accepting – showing a gap between the actual and desired state of 11%. While this does not demonstrate a statistical difference from the 2009 results, community organizations have created opportunities for Colorado Springs residents to broaden their awareness of the depth and breadth of cultural variety in the community.

The National Black Caucus of Local Elected Officials, a constituency group of the National League of Cities, chose Colorado Springs as the recipient of a City Cultural Diversity Award because of the diligence and hard work of one such organization and their community event. The Colorado Springs Diversity Forum and its Everybody Welcome festival held each August creates a venue for community members to experience the diversity of talented area performers, artisans, and cultural craftsmen through activities and exhibits with education as the desired outcome encouraging differences to be viewed as a community asset.

The Festival concept, “Everybody Welcome,” is the legacy left by local entrepreneur, business owner, and community leader Fannie Mae Duncan. Expanding on her precept, the Festival is the gathering point for anyone and everyone wishing to develop a greater understanding and appreciation for their neighbors. It promulgates a change in attitude, from one of indifference or suspicion when difference is encountered, to one of curiosity and delight.¹

Potential for Action

The question becomes how do we begin to make a change in this area and close the gap between the actual and desired state of 11%. It is critical to promote opportunities offered by community organizations with the vision of reaching a diverse representation of the community.

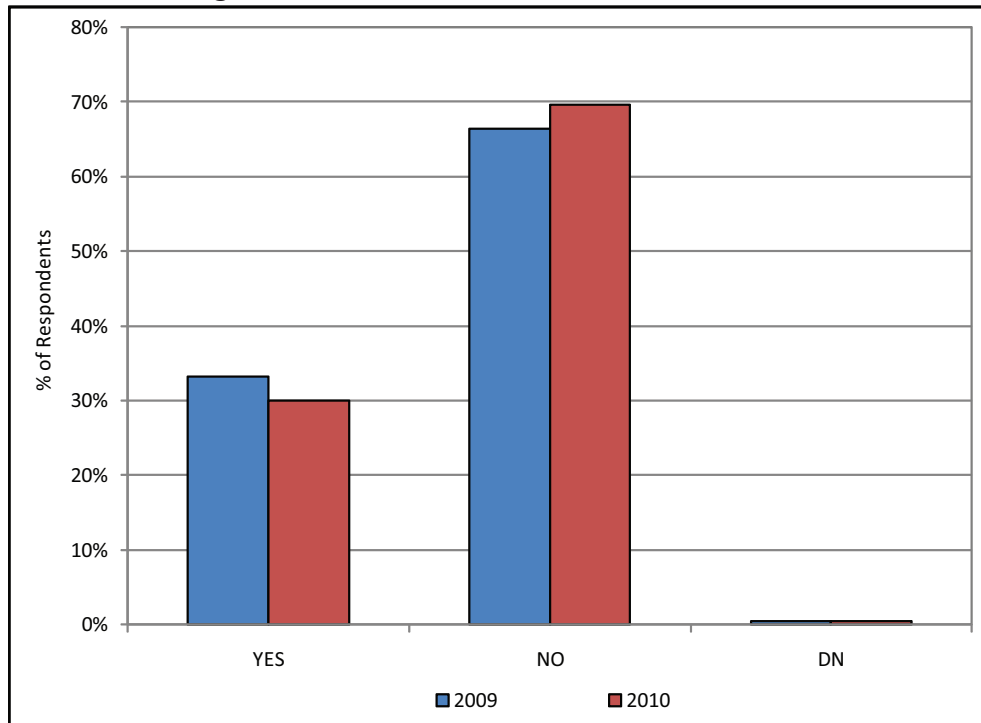
The Colorado Springs Diversity Forum offers a number of opportunities throughout the year to engage people with diverse backgrounds for the purpose of exchanging ideas and learning from one another. One example is the Food for Thought program intended to have people with diverse backgrounds share a meal and engage in dialogue.

Citizens Project is hosting Community Conversations at different locations throughout Colorado Springs with the intention of bringing together people who may not have another reason to associate to share their differences in a conversation that will build bridges to move past the cultural gaps in our community. In April, they hosted The Citizens’ Religious Freedom Institute encouraging educators, families and school board members to talk about religious freedom in the public school setting. A Cultural Competence Workshop to be held in June will provide participants with strategies to effectively communicate with individuals across cultures and provide insight into their own personal issues regarding cultural diversity.

The challenge is to create a community expectation for citizens to engage and participate in public dialogue for the purpose of greater awareness and ultimately greater appreciation of the richness of our diverse cultural community.

-Getting Involved-

Public Meeting Attendance



Source: 2009 and 2010 Community Visioning Surveys

The first Chart shows the responses to the question “In the last year have you attended any public meetings in which there was discussion of community affairs?” This question has been asked as part of the QLI Community Visioning Survey for the past two years.

Why is This Important?

Colorado Springs and El Paso County face significant challenges, and so it is particularly important that our citizens are engaged and informed on community issues.

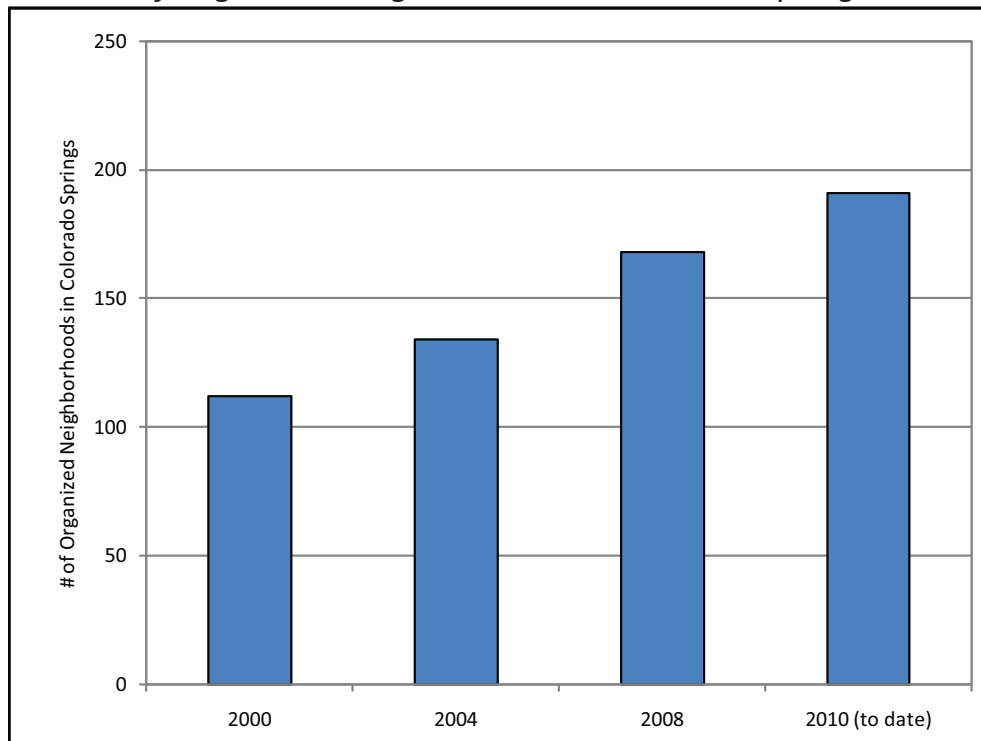
How are We Doing?

We have not seen change over these two years. Community leaders are not satisfied that we are reaching and involving enough of our community.

Potential for Action

It is going to take a collaborative effort by multiple community organizations to move the bar on this indicator. Outreach to invite people to attend community focused events and public meetings needs a team approach.

Number of Organized Neighborhoods in Colorado Springs



Source: Council of Neighborhood Organizations

The second Chart shows the growth in organized neighborhood associations in the last 3 years. These are either formally established Homeowners Associations (as recognized by Colorado State Law), which may have been created by the developer building a neighborhood, or a neighborhood organization independently organized with elected neighborhood officers and active, regular meetings/activities.

Why is This Important?

Neighborhood organizations are an important vehicle to support neighbors knowing each other and offer opportunities for people to connect socially or around issues important to their quality of life.

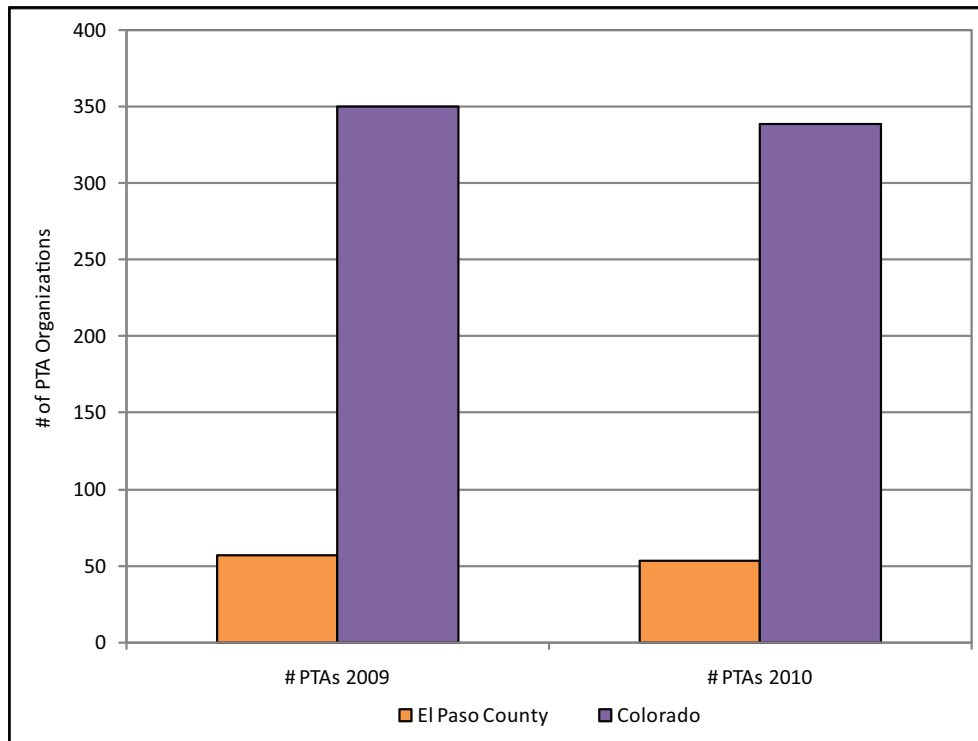
How are We Doing?

The apparent growth is positive but may be attributed to better tracking and visibility on the part of Council of Neighborhood Organizations.

Potential for Action

Neighborhood Associations can play an important role connecting local government decision making to a local level. Growing and strengthening opportunities for neighbors to connect is an important strategy to support an engaged community.

PTA Organizations



Source: El Paso County PTA Organizations

These Tables show the number of Parent-Teacher Associations (PTAs) in Colorado and El Paso County, and the number of parents who are members. These organizations offer a mechanism for involvement and support of local schools. Local PTA's are affiliated with state and national chapters.

Some local schools have Parent Teacher Organizations (PTO's) that are independently organized and therefore more difficult to track.

Why is This Important?

PTA at the local level is linked to the state PTA and the national PTA organization, forming a nationwide network of members working on behalf of all children and youth. Because of its connections to the state and national PTAs, the local PTA is a valuable resource to its school community with:

1. Access to programs to benefit children, youth, and their families.
2. Recognition and size to influence the formulation of laws, policies, and practices—education or legislative.

These organizations offer opportunities for involvement and support of local schools. They are also vehicles for building community and ways to get to know and work together with neighbors on common goals and projects.

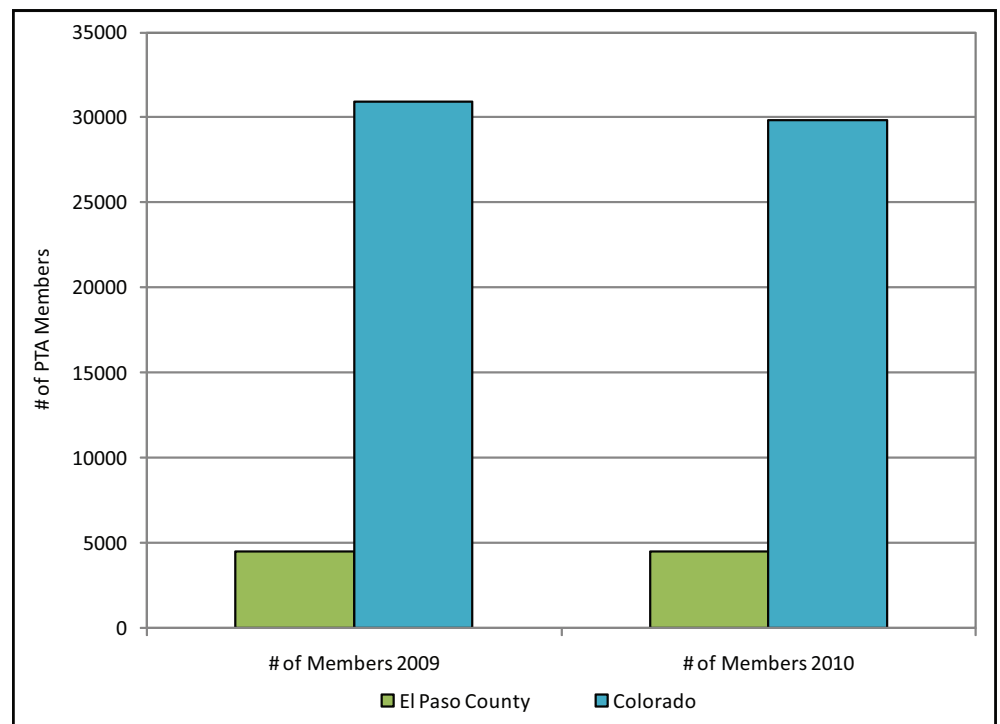
How are We Doing?

PTAs currently exist in only five school districts in the county. There is a great capacity to build a network of organizations that engages community members, businesses, and organizations as partners in children's education.

Potential for Action

Beyond what these organizations can do for individual schools they build a sense of community that should be encouraged and supported. Schools without organizations should be supported by others with the organizational skills and know-how to help create and build these grassroots organizations. PTA offers an opportunity to shift the focus from what schools should do to involve parents to what parents, schools, and communities can do together to support student success by implementing the National Standards for Family-School Partnerships.

PTA Members



Source: El Paso County PTA Organizations

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