

Appreciations

Publishing the fifth edition of the Quality of Life Indicators report for the Pikes Peak Region represents a unique accomplishment for our community and a culmination of the collaborative effort of hundreds of volunteers and many organizations. We have many people to thank who have contributed to this report – far beyond what can be captured in these pages. However, these people represent one of things that make this community great – people who care and give freely of their time and expertise.

As we roll-out the work of year five – we have several volunteers who have been involved with the Quality of Life Indicators report from the start. However, this year brought transition, some people stepped away, confident that they had done their part to launch this important community project, as others stepped forward anxious to learn and bring new insights and energy.

Many of the people and who deserve to be singled out are outlined at the front of each section of this report. It is also important to provide some special recognition to the following organizations:

- Pikes Peak United Way for their support and staffing
- Leadership Pikes Peak for recruiting talented volunteers
- Pikes Peak Library District for the great research support from their librarians
- Section chairs and conveners for their huge contribution and leadership!

All of us involved with this project are most gratified to see the increased use of the publication across the community. We watched proudly as candidates for elected office used the report and quoted from it during the campaign season earlier in 2011. We have also been excited to see the report used as a foundation for planning efforts in many community and nonprofit organizations in our region including municipal and county government. It is perhaps this application which provides the most opportunity for the future. The Steering Committee feels that publishing the report, although important, is only half of the task with the other half being the use of the report across many diverse organizations working collaboratively to address the many challenges facing our community through plans and actions. These will in turn continue to improve the quality of life in the Pikes Peak region.... the place we call home. We look forward to continuing to publish this report and offer thanks to all involved in the creation of this fifth edition and all who will use it in the coming year!

The Quality of Life Indicators Steering Committee;

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Letter of Support: El Paso County Commission

FROM THE DESK OF Amy Lathen

El Paso County Commissioner Chair, District 2
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Dear El Paso County Residents and Visitors,

This year we celebrate the 150-th Anniversary the establishment of El Paso County as a county in the newly created Colorado territory. Fifteen years later Colorado became a state and El Paso County was one of the original counties established by state lawmakers. We've come a long way from humble beginnings on the dusty streets of Old Colorado City to become Colorado's largest (most populous) county.

Here in the shadow of "America's Mountain," the natural beauty of our surroundings gives our community a solid foundation. But we are more than beautiful mountains. We also benefit from the legacy of many visionary leaders who produced ongoing economic opportunities and endowed our community with wide streets, reliable utilities, open spaces, parks, recreational opportunities, a wide variety of educational institutions, hospitals, libraries, churches, and arts and cultural facilities. The Quality of Life Indicators Report is a glass through which we can filter out some of the urgent matters of the day to get a clearer picture of how we're doing as a community. It gives us a snapshot of our strengths and challenges. Working together, we can put these facts into the context of a sustainable community. With this shared knowledge we are better equipped to develop a shared vision for our community and take the appropriate steps to achieve that vision. Together we can meet our responsibility to turn over to the next generation of leadership a sustainable community with a quality of life to be envied.

I appreciate the opportunity to share these thoughts with you and I especially appreciate the work done by hundreds of volunteers through the community organizations that have come together to compile this report. If you are not actively engaged in this great community of ours, Pikes Peak United Way at (719)632-1543 and Leadership Pikes Peak at (719) 632-2618 are good places to start.

Sincerely,



Amy Lathen
Chair – El Paso County Board of Commissioners



Celebrating 150 Years Serving Our Citizens!

Letter of Support: Colorado Springs City Mayor



STEVE BACH
MAYOR

CITY OF COLORADO SPRINGS

Citizens of Colorado Springs,

As your new mayor, I know that Quality of Life is important to you. A lot of things comprise this quality including jobs, educational systems, recreational opportunities, and transportation. All the factors are inter-related and blended together they become the personality of our community. Our vision is: Colorado Springs - the community of choice for living, working and leisure.

The City of Colorado Springs 2011 Strategic Plan describes 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 ...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.

This fifth 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.

I send my thanks to the many (over 200) volunteers who dedicate thousands of hours in research, discussion, and action. I also thank the many organizations that make this report possible including Pikes Peak United Way, Leadership Pikes Peak, and the Pikes Peak Library District. 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.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'SB', with a flourish extending to the right.

Steve Bach
Mayor of Colorado Springs

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About the Pikes Peak Region



The Pikes Peak Region is composed of El Paso and Teller counties. Prior to settlement by Europeans, both were part of an area frequented by largely nomadic Native Americans, principally the Utes.

The Pikes Peak gold rush of 1858 led to the establishment of El Paso County. Residents of what was then Arapahoe County of Kansas Territory voted to form the Territory of Jefferson on October 24, 1859. In November, 1859, the Jefferson Territorial legislature created 17 counties, including El Paso, which was named for the pass north of Pikes Peak (now known as Ute Pass). Jefferson Territory was never federally recognized, but when Colorado was made a U.S.

territory in February, 1861, El Paso remained a county of the new territory. The original county seat was Old Colorado City which served briefly as the first territorial capital as well. In 1873, the county seat was moved to Colorado Springs. In 1899, Teller County was created by carving out the western slope of Pikes Peak, which had been entirely within El Paso County, and the northern portion of Fremont County.

Beginning with the gold rush, our history has also been influenced by intense competition to create a railroad system, the perceived benefits of our dry air on tuberculosis and the resulting importance of developing medical treatment facilities, the creation of higher education institutions, tourism, military bases, amateur sports, technology, and national nonprofit organizations.

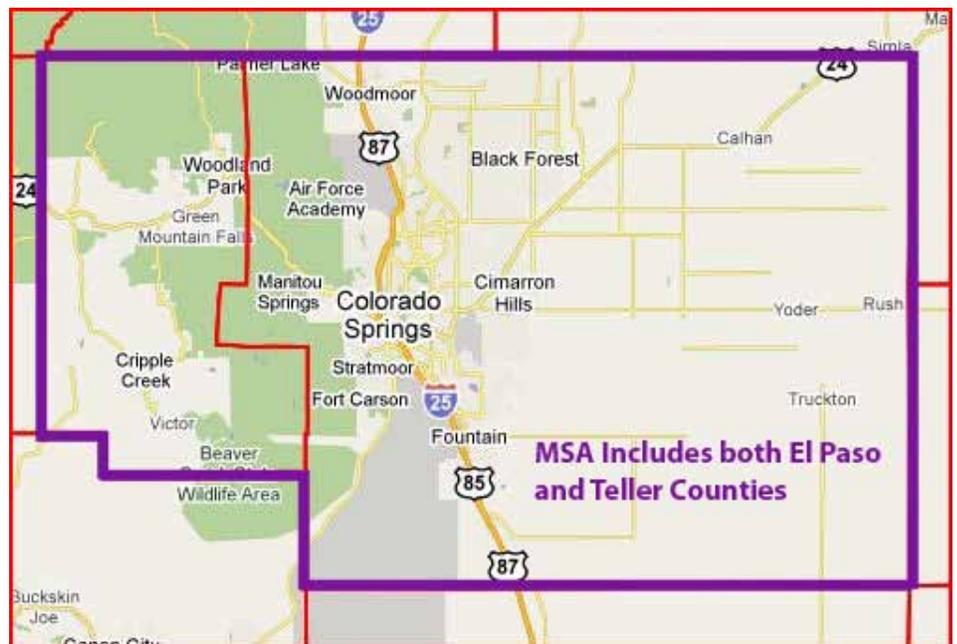
What is an MSA?

MSA stands for: Metropolitan Statistical Area

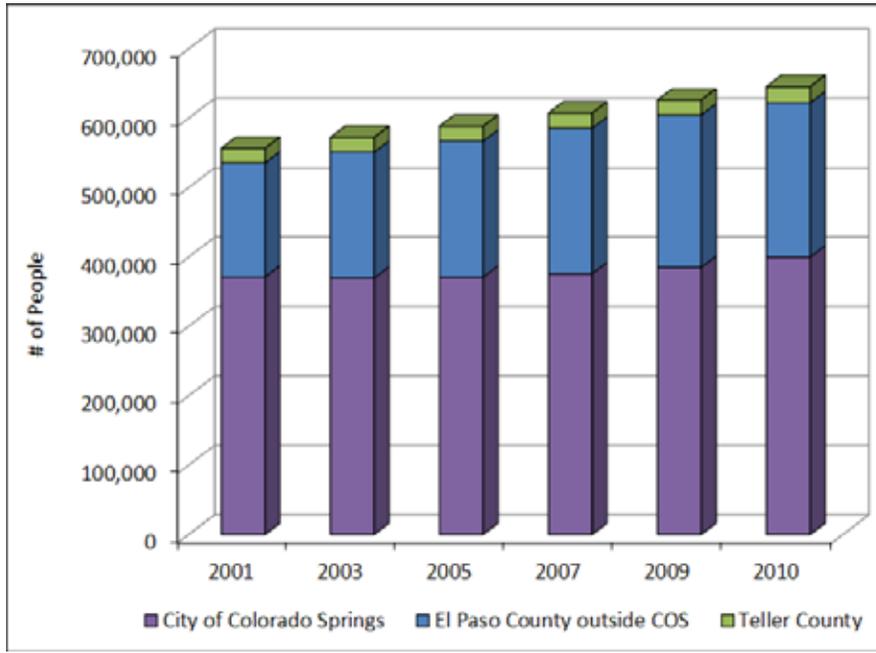
An MSA is a geographical region with a high population at its core and strong economic ties throughout the area. MSAs are determined by the United States Office of Management and Budget. They are used by such federal government entities as the Census Bureau for statistical purposes only.

In most cases, an MSA is centered around a single city; in the case of our community, the Colorado Springs MSA includes all of El Paso and Teller counties.

The Pikes Peak Region is synonymous with the nationally-designated Colorado Springs, Colorado Metropolitan Statistical Area. The MSA is defined by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget and many of the statistics in this publication refer to that area.



Colorado Springs MSA Population



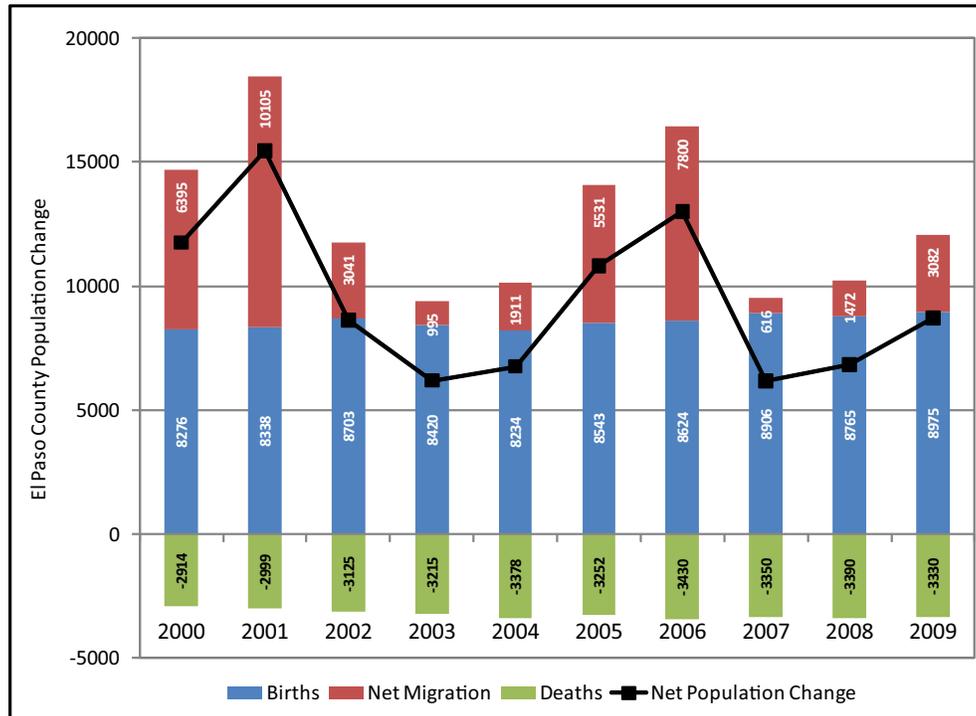
Source: U.S. Census Bureau

With over 645,000 people in our region, we comprise 13% of the state population. There are substantial differences between the two counties. El Paso County's population totals 622,263, the largest county population in the state; Teller County is the home of 23,350. El Paso's population increased 20.4% since 2000; Teller's increased 13.6%, with the greatest growth in both taking place outside of their incorporated cities and towns. The City of Colorado Springs is comprised of 416,427 people, 67% of the county's total, making it the 47th largest city in the U. S. Woodland Park, with a population of 11,924, is Teller County's largest city with 52% of that county's total. Similarly, El Paso's 248,000 housing units compares to Teller's 12,250.

The MSA encompasses more than 2,717 square miles (2,158 square miles in El Paso County and 559 in Teller County). Teller averages 42 people per square mile, while El Paso's population density is an average of 293. With an area of 286.1 square miles, Colorado Springs greatly inflates that, at an average density of 2,238 people per square mile.

The western portion of the region is extremely mountainous; the eastern part is high prairie. The altitude ranges from about 5,095 feet on the southern border at Black Squirrel Creek to 14,117 feet on the summit of Pikes Peak. That variation takes place entirely within El Paso County; Teller County's altitude ranges from about 6,700 to over 14,000 feet.

Population Change Composite



Source: Colorado State Demography Office

Colorado State Population Comparison by County

Colorado County	Population		Change 2000-2010	
	2010	2000	Number	Percent
State of Colorado	5,029,196	4,302,015	727,181	16.9%
Douglas	285,465	175,766	109,699	62.4%
Broomfield	55,889	39,193	16,696	42.6%
Weld	252,825	180,857	71,968	39.8%
Adams	441,603	347,985	93,618	26.9%
Mesa	146,723	116,935	29,788	25.5%
Larimer	299,630	251,486	48,144	19.1%
El Paso	622,263	516,933	105,330	20.4%
Arapahoe	572,003	488,890	83,113	17.0%
Boulder	294,567	269,768	24,799	9.2%
Pueblo	159,063	141,472	17,591	12.4%
Denver	600,158	553,691	46,467	8.4%
Teller	23,350	20,555	2,795	13.6%
Jefferson	534,543	525,330	9,213	1.8%

Since the year 2000, each year has seen an increase in our population; over the last ten years 108,125 people have been added. Births have grown moderately but consistently, and have consistently outnumbered deaths; net migration continues to be positive (more people move here than move away). The fluctuations in population growth are due primarily 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 17% since 2000 is in line with the entire state of Colorado also at 17%. El Paso County's population increased 20% since 2000, while Teller's grew by 14%. The U.S. population increased over this same period by less than 10%.

Population growth at any level has an important impact on our quality of life. Planning for growth or lack of growth is critical as we adjust to changing times and economies.

MSA Area	Population		Change 2000-2010	
	2010	2000	Number	Percent
Colorado Springs	645,613	537,488	108,125	20.1%
Denver	2,515,615	2,196,028	319,587	14.6%
Ft. Collins	299,630	251,494	48,136	19.1%
Albuquerque	887,077	729,649	157,428	21.6%
Austin	1,716,289	1,249,763	466,526	37.3%
Boise	616,461	464,840	151,621	32.6%
Omaha	865,550	767,041	98,509	12.8%

Source: Department of Commerce Bureau of Economic Analysis

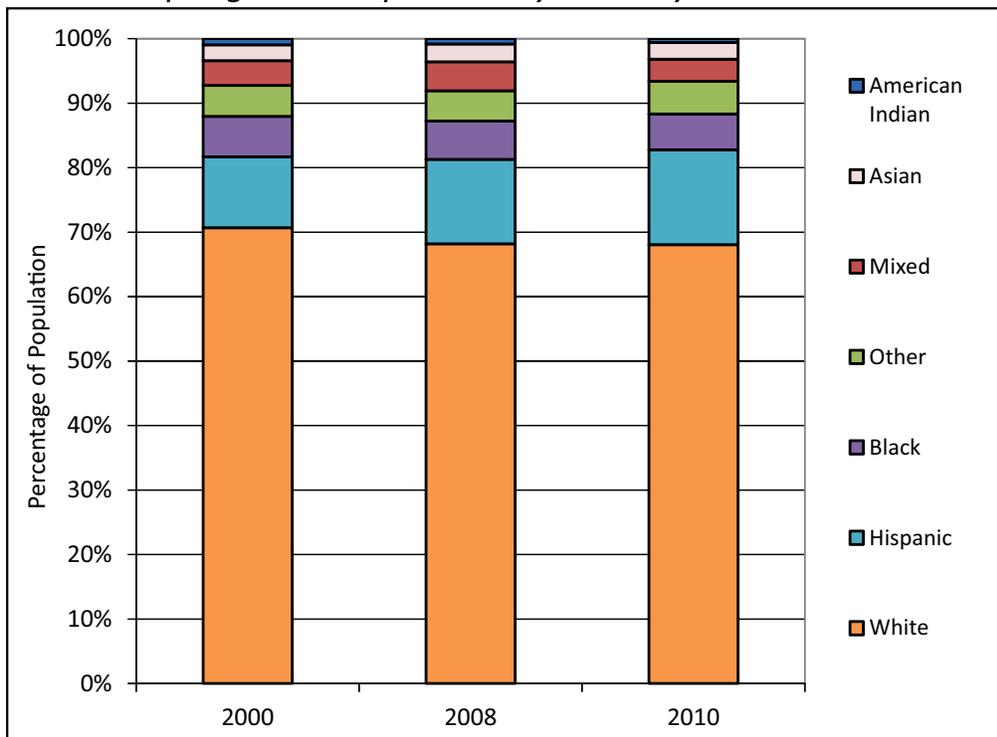
Major Employers of El Paso County

Employer	% of Total Employment
Fort Carson	10.49%
Peterson Air Force Base	5.00%
Schriever Air Force Base	3.38%
United States Air Force Academy	2.79%
Memorial Health System	2.01%
Colorado Springs School District 11	1.71%
Penrose-St. Francis Health Services	1.27%
Air Academy School District #20	1.16%
City of Colorado Springs	0.98%
El Paso County	0.86%

Source: 2010 City of Colorado Springs Annual Finance Report

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

Colorado Springs MSA Population by Ethnicity



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

The region's ethnic makeup is primarily non-Hispanic Caucasian, with the Hispanic and Latino population as the second-largest ethnic segment. Ninety-one percent of Teller County's population is non-Hispanic white, with Hispanics forming 5% of the population, and persons reporting two or more races comprising another 2.5%. Non-Hispanic whites form 72% of El Paso County's population, with Hispanics making up 15%, Blacks comprising 6% and persons reporting two or more races another 5%.

Comparing El Paso County to the entire nation, we have a higher percentage of non-Hispanic white people (64% of U.S. population) and lower percentages of Hispanic/

Latino (16% of U.S.), Black (13%) and Asian (5%) people. From 2000 to 2010, we saw a slight shift in our white population (down about 2%) and an increase in the Hispanic/Latino population (up about 5%).

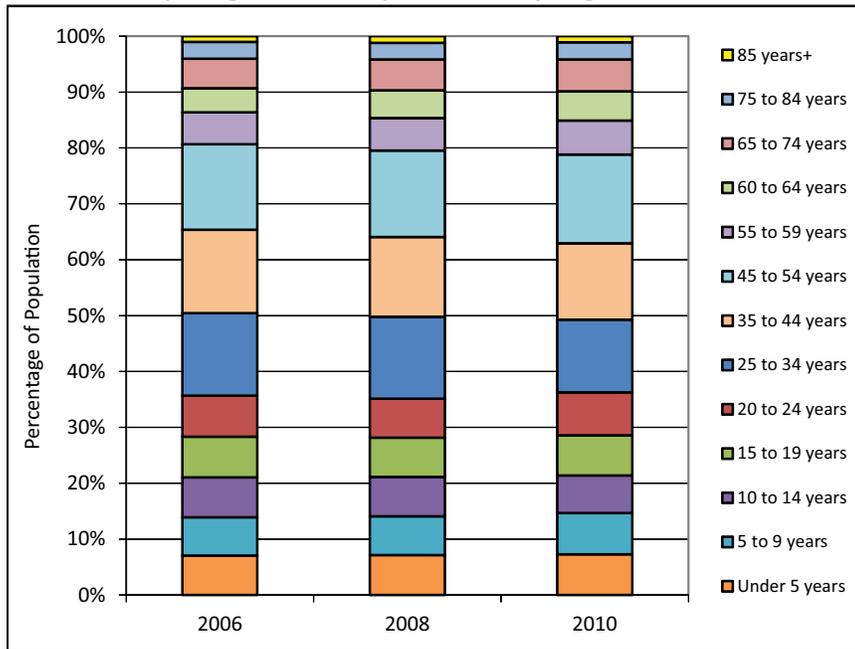


Photograph by Stephen Joas

2010	Pikes Peak MSA	State of Colorado	United States
White	68.1%	62.9%	60.1%
Black	5.6%	3.8%	12.3%
Hispanic	14.7%	20.7%	15.8%
Asian	2.6%	2.7%	4.4%
American Indian	0.6%	0.6%	0.8%
Hawaiian	0.3%	0.1%	0.1%
Mixed	3.4%	2.0%	1.7%
Other	4.8%	7.2%	4.9%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Fact Finder

Colorado Springs MSA Population by Age



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

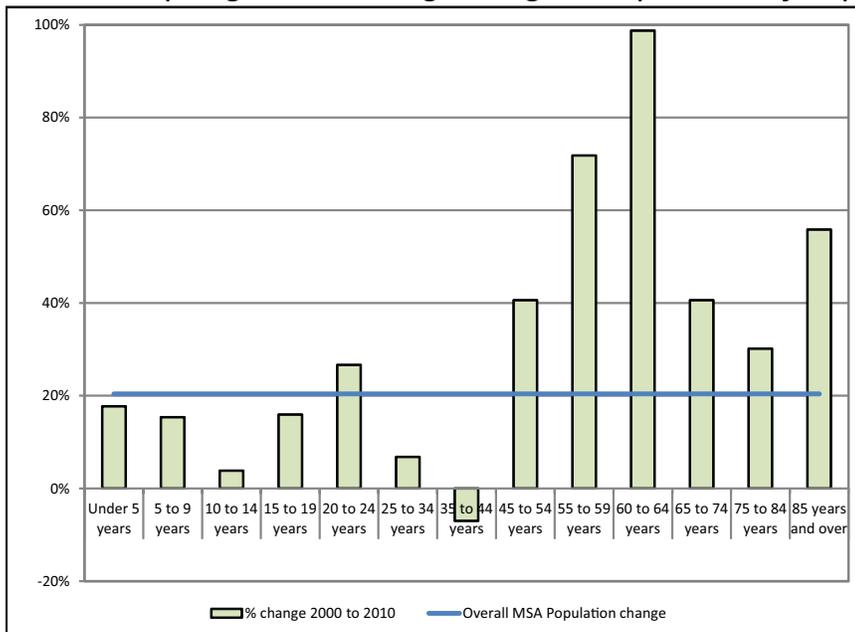
Our population is getting older, just as it is in Colorado and the United States. In 2002, 12% of our population was 60 or older. In 2010, about 15% of our population is 60 or older. Young professionals are categorized as 25 to 44 years old. This group has declined from 31% of the region's population in 2006 to about 27%. Are our young professionals leaving to work elsewhere? We have seen similar declines in the percentage of school-age children. What does this imply for our future?

The region's economy is largely dependent on government-related employment. Of the 13 largest employers in the county, 10 are governmental units, including public school systems. However, significant variation is visible throughout the area. In the eastern part of El Paso County, income from dairying and beef ranching provides the main source of ranchers' livelihoods.

In Teller County, tourism-related businesses provide the greatest number of jobs.

The largest industries providing employment in El Paso County are educational, health and social services (17.9% of all jobs), retail trade (12.7%), professional, scientific, management, administrative and waste management services (12.1%), and manufacturing (11.1%). In Teller County, the largest industry employers are the arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation and food services (16.0%), educational, health and social services (14.6%), construction (12.1%), and retail trade (11.1%).

Colorado Springs MSA Change in Age Composition of Population



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Fact Finder 2002-2010 MSA Data

In 2007, there were 3,429 business firms in Teller County and 57,479 firms in El Paso County. Tellers' merchant wholesale sales totaled over \$26 million, while El Paso's were over \$2.8 billion. Teller's per capita retail sales averaged \$7,771; El Paso's averaged \$13,578. In 2008, the federal government spent over \$7 billion dollars in the Pikes Peak Region. Over \$6.2 billion of that was spent in El Paso County.

For additional information on the US Census from which much of the above information has been taken, please review its website at: <http://2010.census.gov/2010census/>.

Executive Summary

This, our fifth year of publication, saw over 150 volunteers from our community working together to create and publish this report. We encourage you to take the time to read the entire report; we have done our best in this summary to capture what we feel are important trends and statistics worth watching within our community.

Our Region's population is aging overall; looking at the Introduction's page 10, the second chart clearly shows a marked increase in the population of those ages 45 and older, while the population of our youth has declined. Many of our young professionals are choosing to leave our community after they graduate from local colleges and universities. Page 27 in the [Growing a Vibrant Economy](#) section talks more about the issues surrounding our declining young professionals' population. Suicide rates amongst all age groups of our population remains high - far higher than both the State of Colorado and National averages. You can read more about our community's suicide problem on pages 70 and 71 of [Sustaining a Healthy Community](#).

We continue to struggle economically; the chart on page 20 shows that our primary jobs' growth remains in the negatives, though there was much improvement from 2009 to 2010, and our unemployment rate early this year was at 10.5%, higher than both the state and national average; page 21 talks more about our unemployment trends and how we fare compared to other cities. The number of homeless individuals and families is still increasing, with nearly 1,200 individuals and almost 300 families in our community having no permanent place to live. You can read more about our this issue in the [Promoting Social Wellbeing](#) section on page 34.

The number of children in our community living in poverty continues to climb; the marked increase seen on Page 33, from 15.27% in 2008 to 18.90% 2009, is cause for concern. Our Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) is higher than the state average, and rapidly approaching the national average. Childhood poverty has long-reaching effects on our community; children in poverty tend to fare worse in school, as evidenced by the chart on page 77 in the [Achieving Educational Excellence](#) section showing test score comparisons between children who do and do not qualify for free or reduced-cost school meals. A correlation may also be argued between poverty and the increase in the number of child abuse referral calls to the Department of Human Services. Families in crisis due to the current economic environment as well as other factors are more likely to be under stress, which may result in parents lashing out at their children, and also their spouses; after a strong downward trend in the number of calls to TESSA since 2005, you can see on pages 112-114 in the [Keeping the Community Safe](#) section that 2010 saw the number of calls increase to over 2,000. The number of safe shelter nights provided by TESSA also increased.

Transportation and infrastructure, too, are areas where our community is experiencing important challenges. Pages 98 and 100-101 in the [Moving Around in a Livable Community](#) sections details concerns with declining transportation infrastructure, lack of a robust mass transportation system, and the increased cost of living associated with affordable housing being associated with less affordable costs for transportation. This issue is closely related to our region's lack of density in the built environment, discussed on page 55 of the [Built Environment](#) section, which causes us to have to pay more per capita for infrastructure, maintenance, system operation, and public services such as police and fire than cities of greater density. One particular challenge, then, may be to determine how our community can find ways to make infill of our vacant urban spaces more affordable and attractive

The shortfalls of our community are mitigated in part by our many strengths.

Our cost of living is low and the median household income for our MSA has not seen as sharp a decrease as other major Colorado cities like Boulder and Denver, as evidenced by the charts on page 22. This means our money goes farther, and our Region is an affordable place to live when compared to other similar cities.

Our graduation rate has remained stable at around 75% over the years, and almost 70% of our residents have attended college, with 45% obtaining a degree. Pages 84-85 will give you a more detailed look into our higher education trends.

The community's energy usage has remained stable over the last several years; considering our continued population increase, this may indicate we are finding ways to use our energy more efficiently. Pollution levels have remained stable which, again, is promising when viewed against the backdrop of our growth in population. Energy usage and pollution information can be found in the [Preserving the Natural Environment](#) section on pages 47 through 50.

We are building a comprehensive system of bike and pedestrian trails and Colorado Springs as won national distinction for being a bicycle friendly city, as seen on page 102. You can read more about our Region's cycling on page 91 of the [Enjoying Arts, Culture and Recreation](#) section. We have also seen steady reduction in vehicle accidents in our Region, especially those that involve pedestrians or bicyclists. Both Teller and El Paso Countys saw fewer such accidents in 2009 when compared to 2008, and both counties' numbers, found on page 97, have been steadily declining.

Despite the difficult economic times, our community's philanthropy has remained generous; last year, we gave \$9,450,529 dollars to the annual Empty Stocking Fund, the Combined Federal Campaign, Pikes Peak United Way's campaign, and the Independent's Give! campaign. This doesn't even factor in the contributions our community's citizens give to the many other non-profit annual campaigns that are not directly tracked in this report. In addition, nearly 65% volunteered to help our community in some way; volunteering at one's place of worship and with various schools and educational nonprofits are the two most popular areas for our residents to donate their time and energy. You can learn more about our community's philanthropy in the [Fostering Community Engagement](#) section on pages 121-122.

Each of us made the choice to live in this community because we feel it's a wonderful place to live and raise our families. This report is a way for us to educate ourselves and come to better understand our community in order to help us make the best decisions to continue to improve the quality of life for all those who made the same choice and choose to make the Pikes Peak Region their home.

Introduction

More than 645,000 people choose to make the Pikes Peak Region their home. Some proudly tout the description “native” while others moved here because of family, work, enjoyment of the outdoors, the attractive cost of living, various recreational options, or the reputation this community has. No matter when people arrived or why they stay, one common interest for all of us is ensuring that this community offers the best quality of life possible.

History of the Quality of Life Indicators Report

If you ask people about their quality of life and whether it’s getting better or worse, you’ll hear a full range of answers because it’s a very subjective question. People tend to see their community’s quality of life from their perspective or from the perspective of their family, friends, coworkers and neighbors.

If you asked people back in 2006 what data or indicators supported their subjective answers few would have had concrete facts to point to. It was for that reason, for the good of the community conversations, and for the support of strategic plans that this report was coordinated, created and published for the first time in 2007 by Howard Brooks and Pikes Peak United Way. Over the next few years, scores of

New Insights and Linkages

During a meeting of the Vision Councils’ chairpersons and conveners in the early summer of 2011, we discussed some of the key themes and linkages that impacted all the findings of this year’s report. Those linkages were: the current economic situation, the gaps that exist in Colorado Springs Metropolitan Statistical Area’s (MSA) redevelopment and infill, and the continued need for community conversations and collaborations regarding services for both our self-sufficient community members as well as our disabled, dependant, and vulnerable populations. The following include more details and ties regarding each of these.

The current economic situation linking to unemployment or lower salaries then impacts:

- Ability to have health care insurance
- Tendencies toward drug and alcohol abuse, crime, domestic violence and thoughts of suicide
- Foreclosures and individuals/families movement toward homelessness
- Poverty but more specifically childhood poverty which in turn impacts early development and education
- Individuals or families ability to vacation out of town versus doing “staycations” and taking advantage of local arts, culture and recreation



diverse people from private, public and nonprofit sectors chose to become involved by voluntarily joining one of the Vision Councils and assisting in putting together these annual reports.

The longer we work on gathering and tracking data, identifying key quantitative indicators, and seeing how the information is used by local organizations, the more we see linkages between the ten sections of this report.

The gaps that exist in redevelopment and infill impact:

- Transportation issues including getting to work, recreational events, health care appointments, child care providers, volunteering, and school
- Deterioration of bridges and highways
- Access to emergency services
- Sense of unified community

The need for continued community conversations and collaborations regarding services for both our self-sufficient community members as well as our disabled, dependant, and vulnerable populations impact:

- General awareness of existing services and upcoming funding sources or cuts
- Reduction of silo projects, programs, and duplication of services
- Transportation collaborations like the Amblicab and Silver Key programs
- Progress made in the Operation 60ThirtyFive process and conversations
- Establishment of faith-based round tables and create church-based/ministry-based initiatives are aligned with community needs
- Community-wide strategic planning for entities like: City Council, County Commissioners, Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments, Joint Initiatives, Alliance for Kids, Economic Development Commission, Cultural Office of the Pikes Peak Region, and Citizens' Transportation Advisory Board

Member program, Diversity Forum, Early Learning Ventures Alliance, Rocky Mountain Women's Film Festival, Pikes Peak Urban Gardens, Court Care of the Pikes Peak Region, Dyslexia Center, Homeless Outreach Team, Neighborhood Watches, Myron Stratton Consortium, Safe Pets initiative, Farmer's Markets, to name just a few

Refining Times

One impact that is always seen in financially difficult times is the efforts to refine and improve programs and services to be more efficient and effective. That has been found in all sectors of our community – private, public, non-profit, and governmental. It often motivates people to think and act creatively as they did with the El Paso County Fair Sustainability program and in many of the programs, initiatives, and collaborations already mentioned in this introduction.



- Usage of existing programs like www.volunteerpikespeak.org, Leadership Pikes Peak, and Greater Colorado Springs Chamber of Commerce, Colorado Springs Leadership Institute, Black Chamber, Center for Creative Leadership, Southern Colorado Women's Chamber, Artemis, Hispanic Chamber, Rotary – for volunteer opportunities, professional development, and networking – which in turn develops community-wide leadership and new decision-makers.
- Development of initiatives, tools, or gatherings like: 2-1-1 Information and Referral, Comprehensive Homeless Assistance Providers (CHAP), Parenting Matters, Hanifen Center, Entrada School Based Health Center, Network of Care, Pikes Peak EcoFestival, Pride Center, Education Lighting-Rod Conversations, Domestic Violence Ended (DOVE) programs, Live Well Colorado, Exceptional Family

Invitation

This Quality of Life report was created by many of volunteers from a variety of backgrounds. This publication and effort is entirely community driven. With that said, if you are a community leader, concerned citizen, business person, parent, educator, veteran, health care provider, engineer, or volunteer – we extend to you an invitation to be involved as one of our Vision Council members. The future of this report depends on people who are willing to gather data, identify key indicators and express how and why these indicators matter, analyze trends, and/or coordinate details and information exchanges.

Growing a Vibrant Economy

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Photograph by Neil Podoll

Economic recovery in the Pikes Peak region during 2010 continued the slow trend observed in 2009. When looking for “stars” in our local economic performance there are few, other than a very reasonable cost of living and the continued significant growth in military investment in the local community. There are several areas of concern, or “red flags”. These include the continued loss of civilian jobs in 2010 and the associated increase in unemployment among others.

The quantitative measurements included in this section affect, and are affected by, many other elements throughout the sections of the whole report. For example, corporate and individual philanthropic giving, which come from a healthy economy, provides the base for the funding in many areas including arts & culture, recreation and social well-being. Conversely, a fit and healthy community, good air and water quality and miles of trails and open space have a positive influence on attracting businesses to Colorado Springs. There are many factors to consider when assessing the vitality of the local economy and the attractiveness of the area to existing and new businesses. The Milken Institute attempts to provide one consistent and meaningful assessment in their annual publication: “Best Performing Cities - Where America’s Jobs are Created and Sustained.” Readers are referred to the summary of this report at the end of this section. Some metrics tracked in other sections of the Quality of Life Indicators that have significant impact on the economy include levels of higher education and community diversity. Military investment figured even more prominently in 2010 when the 4th Infantry Division moved to Fort Carson, as well as several other activities that are the leading edge of what is planned for the base, including the addition of the Combat Aviation Brigade (CAB) over the next several years.

The locally compiled Business Conditions Index (BCI) was up only by 2% over year-end 2009. Over the last ten years, Colorado Springs has experienced higher levels of growth in Gross Metropolitan Product (GMP) than the country as a whole, but we lag the significant growth rates achieved by many of our competitor cities during the same period, including Austin, Oklahoma City and Albuquerque. Although the value of our economic output increased, we have experienced a very slow growth in economic output per person over the last 10 years.

As can be seen from the data in other sections of this report, we have experienced a population growth of over 100,000 people since 2001, but today we have fewer people employed, earning less real dollars, than 10 years ago. This is a very concerning trend which can only be reversed by the creation of new job opportunities for our citizens. This would, in turn, help reverse the trends in poverty levels seen in the Social Wellbeing section and provide an economic base from which to fund infrastructure, schools and other community needs.

The unemployment rate was 10.5% in February 2011. Arguably, this trend to higher levels of unemployment started at the beginning of the last decade. The chart on page 20 shows that although we had modest gains in employment from 2004-2007, the recent losses have wiped out those gains. This trend can only be addressed through the growth in primary jobs or jobs that create product and services that are shipped to other parts of the country and the world... effectively our exports. Operation 60ThirtyFive, the economic development initiative started by several community organizations three years ago is starting to focus on some potential areas for primary job

growth. It is critical that these efforts bear fruit to recover from the almost 13,000 civilian jobs lost in 2009 and 2010.

Building starts (both residential and commercial) were understandably weak. However, the good news is that the number of new foreclosures started to trend down from the high level reached in 2009.

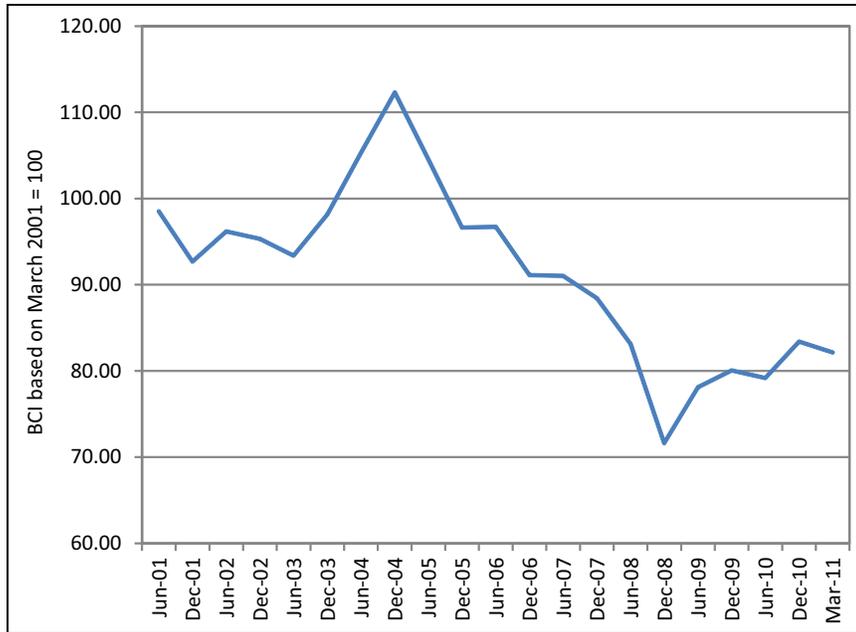
The need to attract and retain “young professionals” in the 25-44 age group continues to be a critical element in the development of a vibrant economy. During the recession, it appears that many smaller cities like Colorado Springs have seen some of their base of young professionals migrate to the larger cities where employment opportunities existed. This talent pool is critical to developing and sustaining local businesses. We have many natural assets that should be attractive to younger people: the pristine and visually appealing natural environment, amateur sports, recreation, and tourism. However, nothing in the employment numbers in 2010 indicated that these attributes translated into actual growth in jobs. This is perhaps an indication that although we have many attractive features, without job and career opportunities we will not attract and retain the young talent we need to grow a vibrant economy.

Our future success as a community, in many areas, is very dependent upon economic development and job creation. We have many critical ingredients for success in place. We need to address our weaknesses to attain our potential in the next five years. We need a broader economic base to help diversify the economy from being dominated by military investments, especially in the light of expected military budget cuts. This diversification would also provide a broader base of employment opportunities for our citizens and especially our young professionals. We also need to look closely at the areas we can control and influence. Are we making the necessary investments in infrastructure? Should we be providing incentives to attract the important employers who are critical to our future economic development plans? We must come together as a community to coordinate and plan our future economic development initiatives to ensure we will be successful in reaching our full potential. Failure to secure a vibrant economy will ultimately adversely impact many aspects of our quality of life in the Pikes Peak Region.

-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: El Paso County Single Family and Townhome Permits, El Paso County New Car Registrations, El Paso County Employment Rate, El Paso County Foreclosure Rate, El Paso County ES202 Employment, El Paso County ES202 Wages and Salaries, Colorado Springs Sales and Use Tax Collections, Colorado Springs Airport Enplanements, 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 El Paso County Wages and Salaries 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.

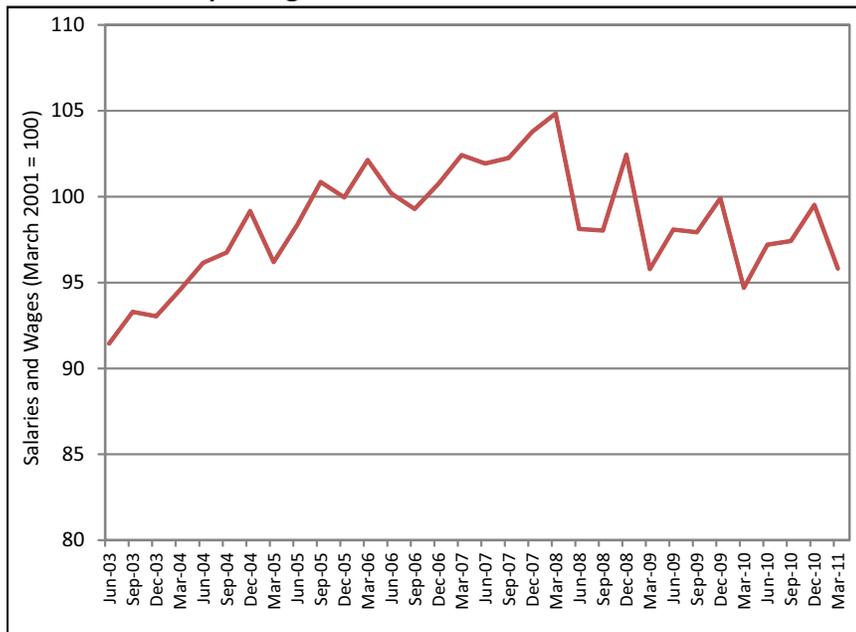
Why is This Important?

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.

How are We Doing?

The overall BCI has improved 2% in the last year (March 2011 vs. March 2010) and 20% from the low point of February 2009. Only 2 of the 10 elements (Manufacturing Index and New Car Registrations) that make up the BCI improved more than 10% from last

El Paso County Wage Index



Source: Southern Colorado Economic Forum

year. Employment Rate, and Foreclosures improved slightly (less than 2.5%), but are still significantly below pre-recession highs. The other elements performed poorly over the past year, or are nearly flat. Airport Enplanements dropped the second half of the year and is back to near record 2009 lows. Single Family and Town Home permits dropped heavily (17.0%) at the end of the year, and is now 77% from the peak of 2004. The second chart shows that even though wages improved, they are not yet at March 2001 levels and are 8.6% below March 2008.

Potential for Action

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

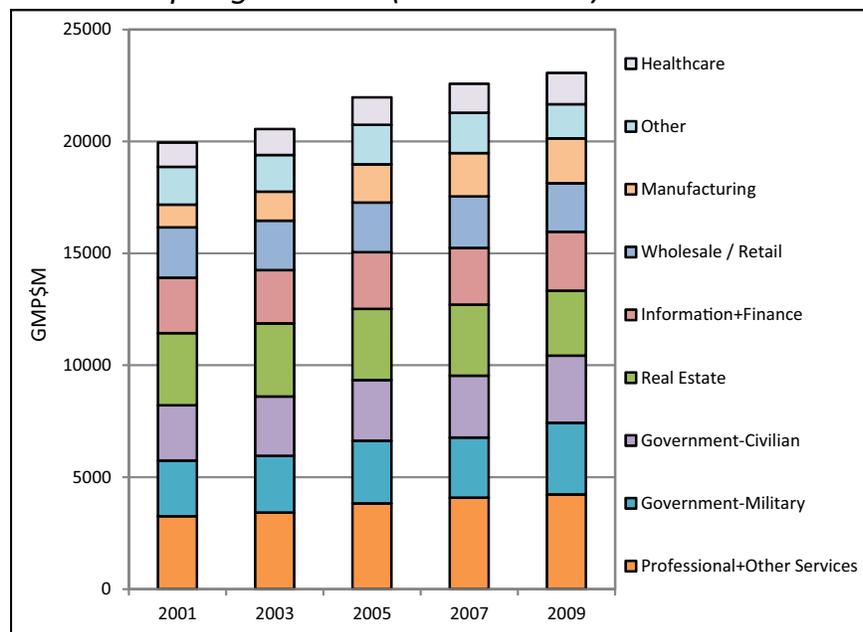
The EDC must continue to focus on bringing new primary employers into the region and helping to expand the growth of existing primary employers. The new Colorado Springs Mayor and City Council, along with the El Paso County Board of Commissioners, must work together to make the region more business-friendly by supporting economic growth.

The Greater Colorado Springs Chamber of

Commerce can also support the actions of the elected officials and EDC to improve the business climate both at local and state legislative levels.

Gross Metropolitan Product (GMP)

Colorado Springs GMP in (2005 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. 2005 constant dollars are used to remove the effects of inflation and thereby provide a measure of real economic growth. Data for 2010 will not be available until early 2012. The Colorado Springs economy did not falter in the recession and demonstrated some small growth in 2009.

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 83rd in 2009, three positions higher than our ranking in 2008. During the period 2001-2009, the Colorado Springs economy grew by 16%, which was 3% better than the total of all metropolitan areas contributing to the overall U.S. economy! The growth rate was comparable to Denver and Ft. Collins. However, this growth rate still continues to raise concern about the ability to support the increased demands for local infrastructure given the increase in population we have been experiencing. The portion of our economy derived from government, military and civilian has grown since 2001. The largest growth has been in manufacturing, including electronics and related software products, which has almost doubled its share since 2001. These sectors tend to have higher economic multipliers, which can stimulate further growth. The greatest declines have been in real estate and wholesale/retail, not surprising given the economic conditions. Four cities had growth rates that were twice or more than Colorado Springs. Each of these cities made a strategic investment in economic development and infrastructure.

GMP Benchmark Cities Comparison

Metropolitan Area	GMP Value		GMP Growth	
	2009 \$M	Rank out of 366	2001-09 Growth	Rank out of 366
Denver	125,448	18	15%	206
Austin	72,415	34	35%	31
Oklahoma City	59,532	43	36%	19
Omaha	41,207	53	16%	134
Albuquerque	33,229	60	19%	114
Des Moines	34,712	59	29%	37
Boise	23,568	82	31%	31
Colorado Springs	23,061	83	16%	152
Boulder	16,481	106	5%	265
Fort Collins	10,244	157	17%	128

Source: Department of Commerce Bureau of Economic Analysis

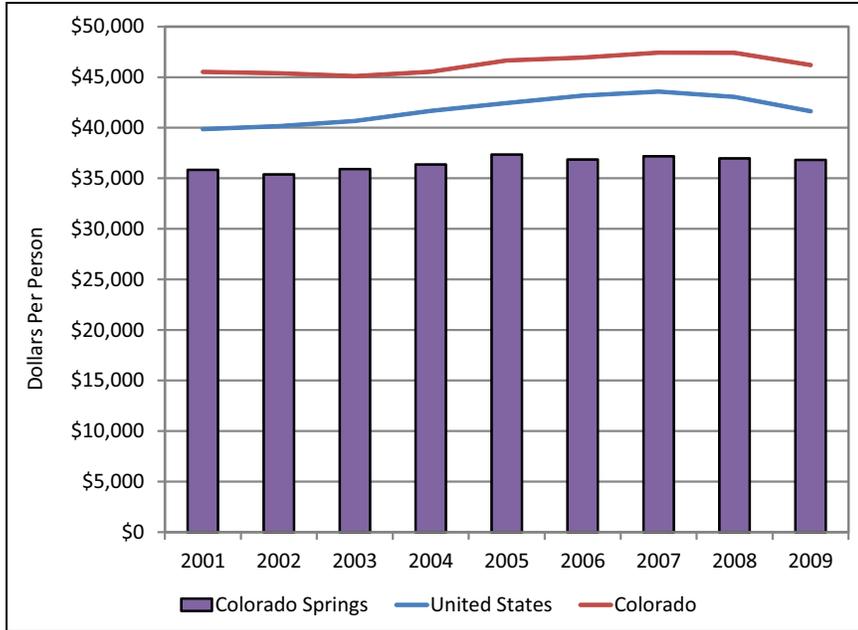
Potential for Action

Lead Organization: City of Colorado Springs

The City continues to move towards the goal of 80th position in the nation by 2012. There must be continued efforts to diversify the local economy, with emphasis on industries that support high levels of economic growth and value such as alternative energy, manufacturing, information technology and system hardware/software design. By attracting these industries with high job multipliers, we can generate sustainable growth in GMP. It is also important that we continue to support and enhance our base of government sector industries related to space operations and military related operations.

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?

GMP per capita may be a more important measure of a community's economic strength than GMP alone because it reflects the

productivity of the community workforce in creating wealth. Colorado Springs' rank of 139 in GMP per capita is lower than its GMP rank, both with benchmark cities and nationally. The industries we have and the number of retired or underemployed citizens influences this. Call centers, tourism, distribution and retail employ large numbers of people with below average economic output when compared to technology and manufacturing industries, which also produce more secondary jobs. The presence of large numbers of enlisted military who do not directly provide traditional economic output in goods and services could depress the economic productivity by an estimated 5%. The biggest factor, besides industry types, is the lack of job growth compared to population growth. Since 2001, employment has declined slightly with 3,600 jobs lost in the last ten years.

That becomes significant when compared with a population increase of almost 110,000 over the same period. This means that a modest 16% GMP growth is spread over a significant 20% population increase. The result is a mere 3% GMP per capita growth over that period. In other words, fewer workers providing lower output are paying for the services needed by more people. This has been a trend that needs to be reversed.

Potential for Action

Lead Organizations: City of Colorado Springs working with Colorado Springs Regional Economic Development Corporation.

GMP Per Capita Benchmark

Metropolitan Area	2009 GMP Per Capita Value		Change 2001-2009	
	\$/Person	Rank out of 366	%	Rank out of 366
Des Moines	61,666	11	12%	72
Boulder	54,307	22	4%	172
Denver	55,957	19	1%	213
Oklahoma City	48,507	37	23%	17
Omaha	48,506	38	6%	144
Austin	44,066	65	5%	160
Boise	38,868	119	5%	163
Albuquerque	38,733	120	2%	200
Colorado Springs	36,826	139	3%	194
Fort Collins	34,332	188	2%	198

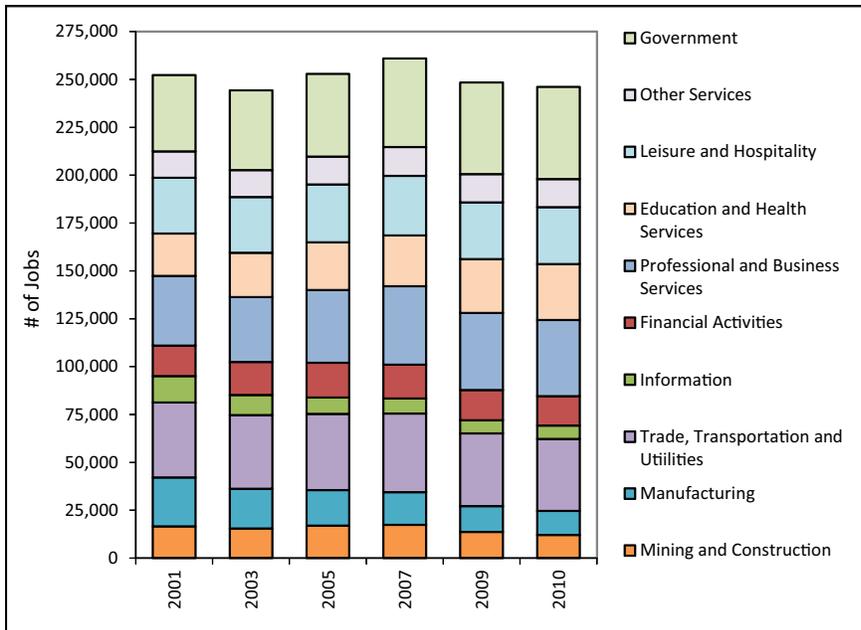
Source: Department of Commerce Bureau of Economic Analysis

The community needs to attract high value industries with high paying wages to improve the output achieved for a given population base. In addition the region should focus on manufacturing and tech jobs with economic multipliers in excess of 2.0, industries that create secondary job growth and additional output. This will require aggressively competing by creating a positive environment for these industries to relocate and grow. The goal is to 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.

-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 nine 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 such as those in information technology, manufacturing and professional service industries, which provide income and wealth to the community.

How are We Doing?

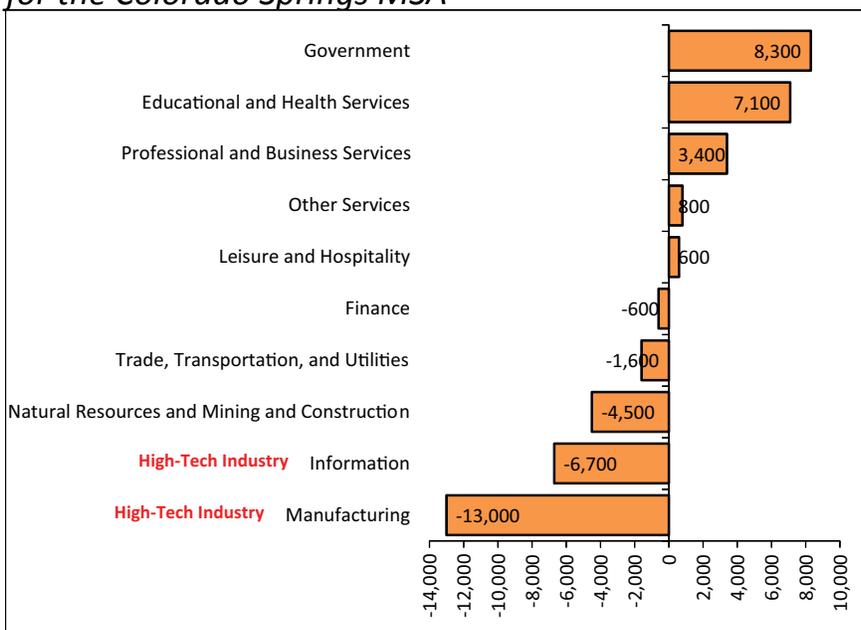
Total civilian wage and salary jobs fell by 2,500 between 2009 and 2010 to 246,100. Government, including local, state and federal, remained the largest employers in the Colorado Springs MSA in 2010, with a total of 48,200 persons employed. The next largest industries were Professional and Business Services and then Trade Transportation and

Utilities with 39,800 and 37,600 respectively, although both lost 400 jobs from the previous year totals. Not included in the above figures are the 30,000 military personnel in the area.

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 ten years - adding 8,300 people - although in 2011, it is expected to begin to show the declines experienced previously by other sectors.

Overall Employment Trend

2001-2010 Change in Civilian Non-Farm Jobs by Industry for the Colorado Springs MSA



Source: Colorado Department of Labor and Employment

In the past 10 years, we have lost 19,700 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. We did experience an increase in the number of active duty military personnel in this period that is not shown in the figures.

Potential for Action

Lead Organization: Colorado Springs Regional Economic Development Corporation

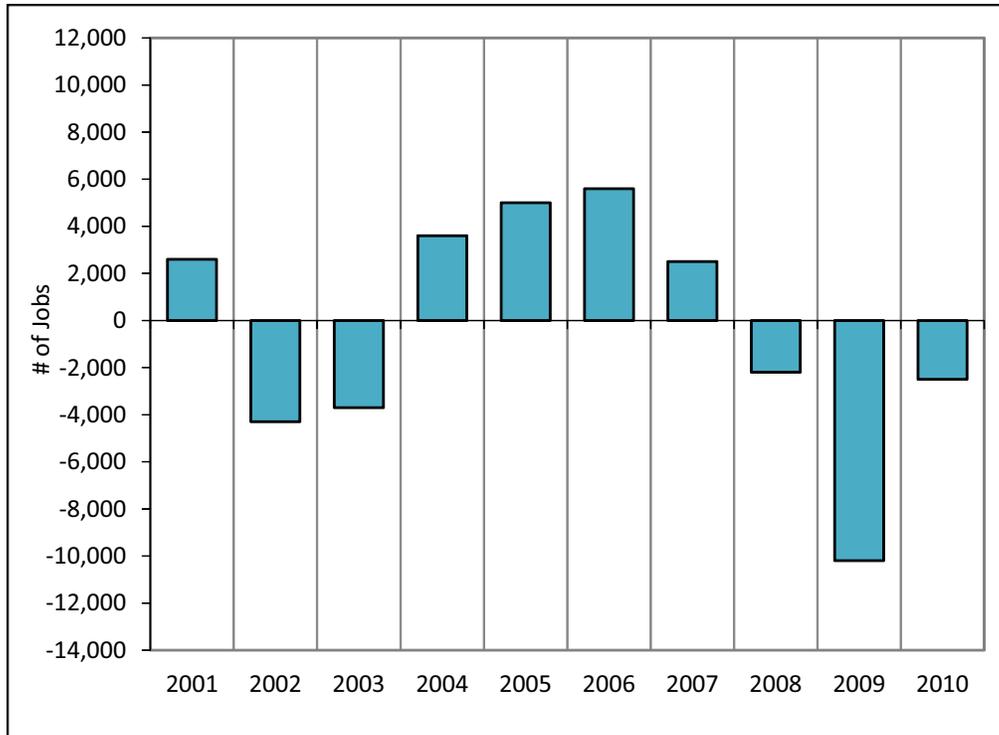
Attracting and retaining high tech design and manufacturing, IT, software and web-based businesses are a high priority for Colorado Springs.

Operation 60ThirtyFive has over the last two years defined sports related industries, sports medicine, defense businesses and recreation operations as key areas of economic growth potential leveraging existing assets in our region. 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 a total of approximately 6,500 jobs, or only 650 jobs per year, well short of the growth required to keep up with the growing population. In 2009 and 2010, we lost 12,700 jobs, meaning

that over ten years we suffered a net loss of more than 6,000 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. Offsetting this loss is the addition of an unknown number of sole proprietor and self-employed persons.

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 ten 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 Economic Development Corporation

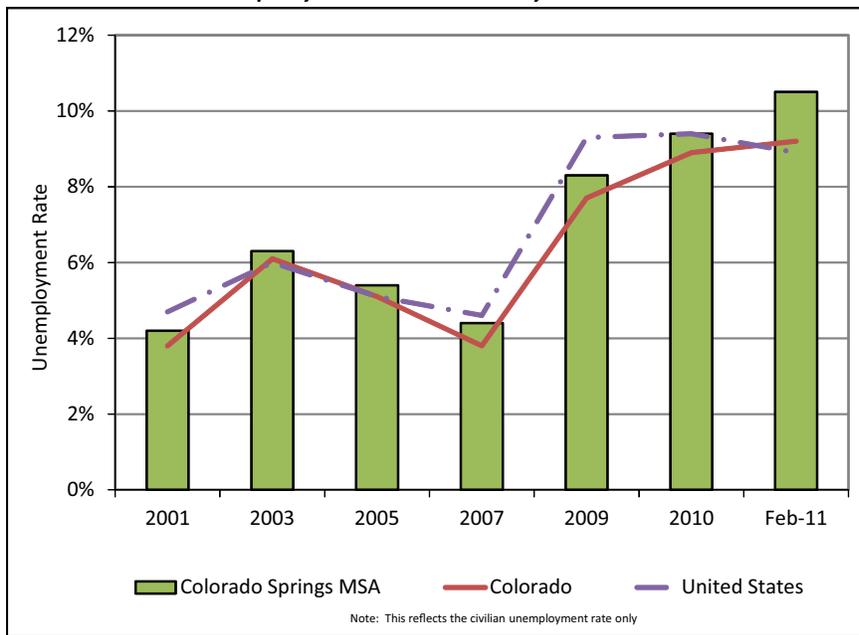
Add over 4,000 new primary jobs per year, to offset the typical losses per year of 2,000 jobs, to support a total job creation of 5,000 jobs per year to provide employment for the anticipated growth in the population.



Photograph courtesy of Shutterstock.com

Unemployment Rate

Continued Unemployment Claims by MSA



Source: Colorado Department of Labor and Employment

The Chart and Table represent the average continued unemployment claim rate. Because unemployment insurance records identify individuals that have applied for such benefits, and because it is impractical to actually count every unemployed person each month, the Government conducts a monthly sample survey called the Current Population Survey (CPS) to measure the extent of unemployment in the country.¹ Unemployed workers are defined as job-seekers that do not currently have a job, but are actively contacting employers searching for viable employment.

Why is This Important?

The unemployment rate has traditionally been identified as a key indicator of overall economic health in national, state and local economies. Government statistics identify the extent and nature of unemployment in a particular area. These statistics also look at how long the person has been unemployed, whether the number of unemployed individuals is growing or declining, and are these individuals more concentrated in one area of the country than

another. An unemployment rate below 4% is considered by many experts to be a positive indication of how an economy is performing. Elected leaders, business owners, community organizations can use unemployment statistics to gauge the health and vitality of an economic area. High unemployment numbers for an extended period of time can place burdens on other areas of a community. Crime may increase, volunteerism may decrease and overall community engagement may suffer as unemployed residents prioritize their basic needs.

How are We Doing?

Colorado Springs MSA hit a high of 10.5% unemployment in February 2011. This was 1.6% higher than the national unemployment rate and 1.3% higher than the state rate. A portion of the increase can be attributed to the extended claims benefits allowed through the federal extension of funds for states to assist the long-term unemployed. Colorado Springs MSA had the highest unemployment rate among the eight benchmark MSA areas in February 2011. The Colorado Springs MSA also finished 2010 with an unemployment rate above all of the benchmark MSA areas. There is some indication at the national level that the unemployment rate for the nation is trending lower.

Continued Unemployment Year End Claims - MSA						
	2001	2003	2005	2007	2009	2010
Colorado Springs	4.2%	6.3%	5.4%	4.4%	8.3%	9.4%
Denver-Aurora-Broomfield	3.8%	6.4%	5.3%	4.0%	8.2%	8.9%
Albuquerque	4.3%	5.5%	4.9%	3.5%	7.1%	8.4%
Fort Collins-Loveland	3.2%	5.1%	4.5%	3.5%	6.1%	7.2%
Austin-Round Rock	4.3%	6.0%	4.5%	3.7%	6.5%	7.1%
Boulder	3.7%	5.8%	4.5%	3.4%	5.9%	7.1%
Des Moines	2.8%	4.0%	4.0%	3.5%	5.6%	6.0%
Omaha-Council Bluffs	3.3%	4.3%	4.3%	3.3%	5.0%	5.2%
State of Colorado	3.8%	6.1%	5.1%	3.8%	7.7%	8.9%
United States	4.7%	6.0%	5.1%	4.6%	9.3%	9.4%

Source: Colorado Department of Labor and Employment

Potential for Action

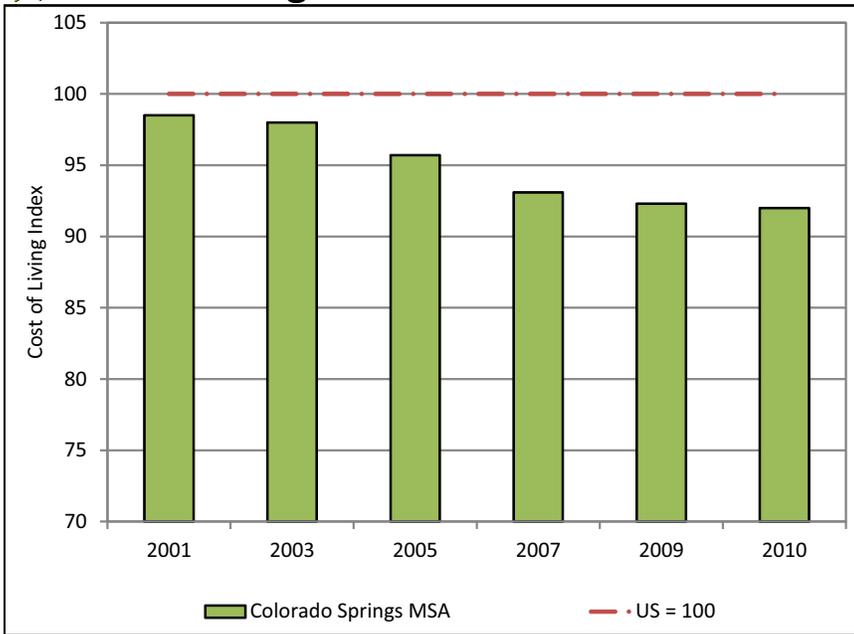
Lead Organizations: Greater Colorado Springs Chamber of Commerce and Colorado Springs Regional Economic Development Corporation

Focus on bringing primary employers and primary jobs to the region. A primary job may help to create 1-2 other jobs in the community in retail and service industries. Colorado Springs MSA should work toward diversify its economic base while taking advantage of local industries, i.e. the military, that are more resistant to recession-driven economic cycles.

1 <http://www.bls.gov/cps/faq.htm>.

-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 household 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" in the table below; the greater the Affordability number, the better.

Why is This Important?

The difference between the "Income Index" and the "Cost of Living Index" for Colorado Springs continues to be great in 2010. Colorado Springs is now ranked as the second most affordable city compared to other cities in the Median Household Income chart. Colorado

Spring's median income is higher than all comparison cities. Therefore, it appears that Colorado Springs and El Paso County have an even greater advantage to attract and retain businesses and their employees than ever before.

Median Household Income

MSA	Median Household Income 2009	Income Index	Cost of Living Index	Affordability
Austin	\$50,236	111.2	93.4	17.8
Colorado Springs	\$53,359	104.1	92.0	12.1
Boulder	\$49,920	127.7	117.8	9.9
Omaha	\$47,184	97.1	90.4	6.7
Boise	\$50,633	102.1	96.6	5.5
Denver	\$45,438	110.5	106.4	4.1
Oklahoma City	\$42,181	90.4	89.1	1.3
Albuquerque	\$45,478	94.5	93.4	1.1
Fort Collins	\$47,843	99.8	99.4	0.4
Des Moines	\$44,022	90.1	92.3	-2.2
United States	\$51,425	100	100	--

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

How are We Doing?

The difference between the "Income Index" and the "Cost of Living Index" of Colorado Springs has consistently grown since 2000.

Colorado Springs has maintained a better median household income and cost of living compared to our benchmark cities. Colorado Springs' median household income loss of \$5,000 is better than three of our comparison cities which lost more than \$10,000 each:

Denver, Boulder and Des Moines, as well as better than three other cities that lost between \$7,000 and \$9,000 each: Austin, Fort Collins and Omaha.

The cost of living Index for four of our comparison cities went down: Oklahoma City, Austin, Albuquerque and Boulder, and five went up: Denver, Fort Collins, Des Moines, Boise and Omaha.

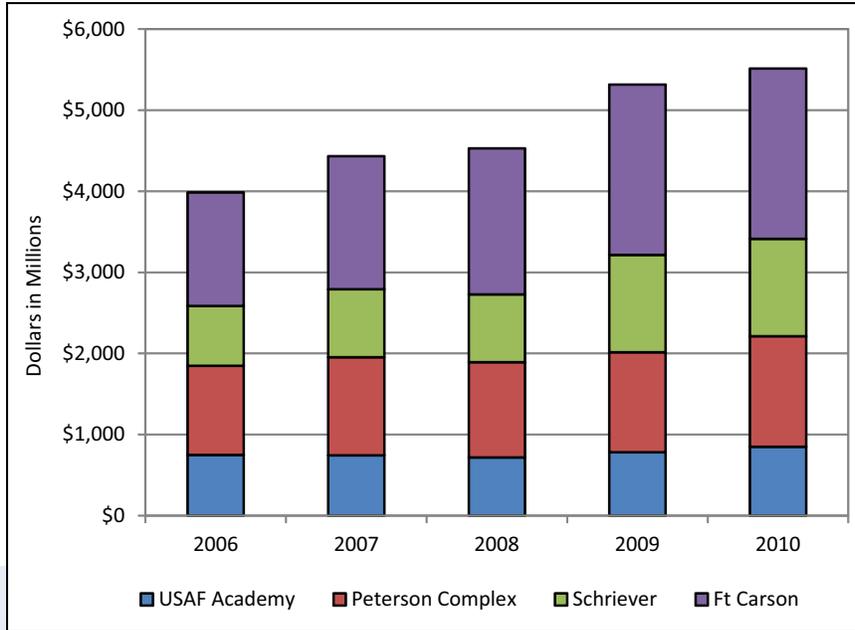
Potential for Action

Lead Organizations: City of Colorado Springs and El Paso County.

Balance the low cost of living with quality service 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, government civilian, and contractors - of the military installations in El Paso County.

Why is This Important?

The military has always been a critical part of our economy; 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 GMP. 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 within the local economy. It has also been beneficial for our regional universities and colleges.

How are We Doing?

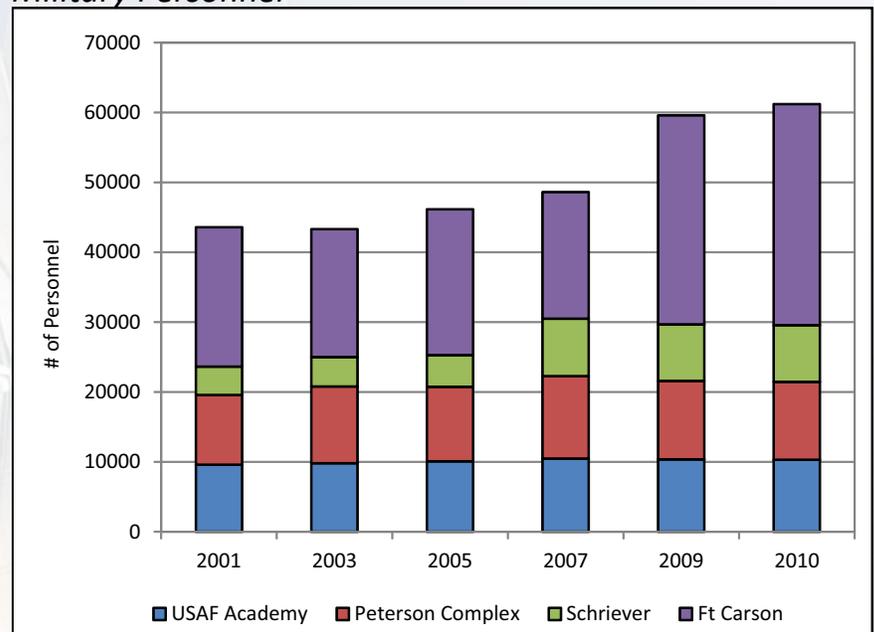
There has been steady military growth primarily because of the arrival of the 4th Infantry Division from Ft Hood, Texas, as a result of the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) actions. We will see further growth occurring over the next several years (2,700 Soldiers) as a result of the addition of a Combat Aviation Brigade (CAB). This also will add about \$750M in military construction at Fort Carson.

Potential for Action

Lead Organization: The Greater Colorado Springs Chamber of Commerce

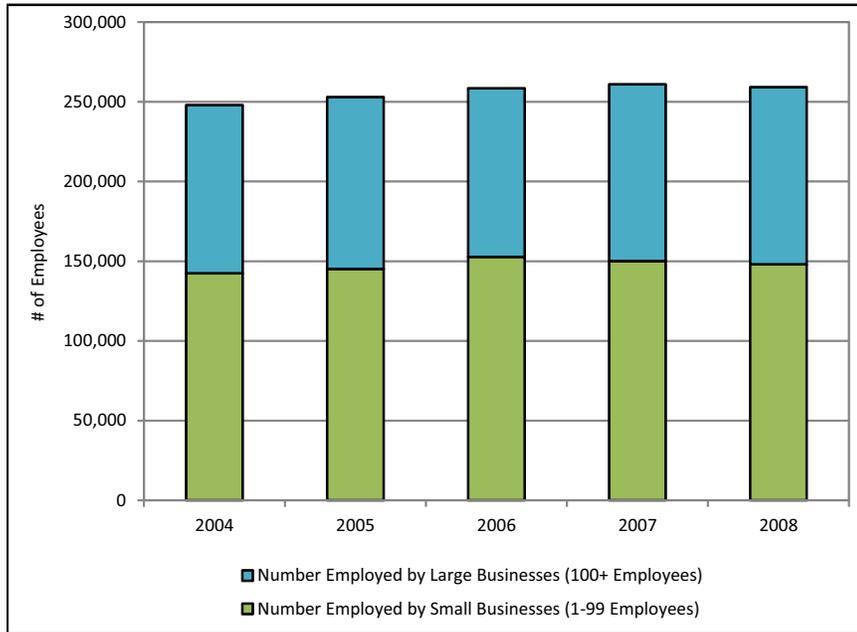
Our federal legislators, the State of Colorado, county and city governments and the private sector must continue to positively advocate for our military and recognize the importance of maintaining and appropriately growing the military missions in the area.

Military Base Workforce Trend: Civilian and Military Personnel



Source: Greater Colorado Springs Chamber of Commerce

Small Business Employment



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

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

The table shows the small business vitality ranking. This is reported by The Business Journals (a national publishing house), and uses a formula comprising six different factors including population growth, employment growth and small business growth.

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 16,700 businesses in the Colorado Springs MSA, 98% have less than 100 employees. According to the Small Business Administration Office of Advocacy, small businesses have generated 64% of net new jobs in the U.S. over the past 15 years.¹ Many small businesses exist to support large business, especially those large businesses with high economic multipliers (the number of additional small

business jobs arising from adding a new job at a large company), which means that the health of small business correlates to the health of these large companies.

How are We Doing?

The number of small businesses in our area grew steadily until 2008, the last year for which data is available. The number of small businesses in 2008 slipped below the level seen in 2006. This is reflected in The Business Journals’ ranking, where Colorado Springs slipped from 23rd to 65th in business vitality.

A Better Business Bureau (BBB) database of 21,080 regional companies shows that 71% have fewer than 100 employees; two-thirds of regional businesses have less than 10 employees. A survey by the BBB, the Chamber and Pikes Peak Workforce Center reveals that three-quarters of local small businesses perceived that the overall business climate for small businesses here is the same or better than the climate across the country. Following the recession, 50% of small businesses experienced a revenue increase from 2009 to 2010 and almost two-thirds expect revenues to increase in 2011. Despite this, fewer businesses expect to hire new employees due to several factors, the main ones being: lack of capital, health care costs and uncertainty about the future economy.

Small Business Vitality Index

	Vitality Score	2009	2010	2011
Austin	58.338	4	1	1
Oklahoma City	47.453	8	15	2
Denver	26.353	9	23	8
Des Moines	19.066	22	8	16
Omaha	10.213	26	14	30
Boise	-1.096	5	32	59
Colorado Springs	-4.044	23	49	65
Albuquerque	-21.216	49	62	84

Source: The Business Journals

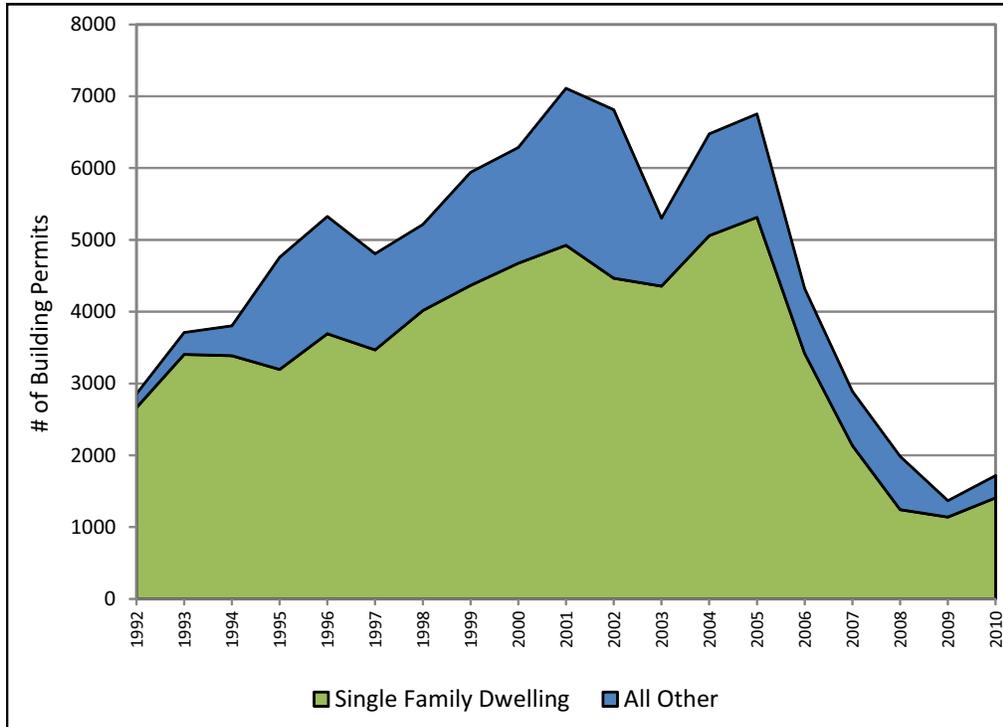
Potential for Action

Lead Organizations: Local governments and economic development agencies

Perception is very important to small business owners’ decision-making. Uncertainty about government policies such as regulation, taxation, healthcare, or about economic conditions, significantly impacts small business planning. Local government must create a regulatory environment that enables small businesses to start and grow with minimal interference or delay. Economic development efforts should be focused on those industries such as technology and manufacturing sectors that generate additional job growth in the small business segment. The focus should be on growing or recruiting industries with economic multipliers in excess of two to provide a vibrant and growing market for small businesses in our area.

1 www.sba.gov/advo.

Construction Activity El Paso County Building Permits



Source: Pikes Peak Regional Building Department

This chart shows both the single family and multi-family building permit activity in El Paso County since 1992. New home construction is a commonly referred to measure regarding the health of the economy, both nationally and locally, and is a good measure of consumer confidence.

New home sales are a result of new household formation as our kids grow up, as existing residents purchase move-up homes, and as new residents purchase homes.

Why is This Important?

The construction of new homes and commercial real estate in a normal economy provides as much as 7% to 10% of the local economic activity and a similar portion of local employment, especially for lower skilled workers. The taxes and fees collected from the development and construction

industry are a significant portion of city, county and utility revenues. The availability of adequate, good quality and affordable housing is an important consideration in the local quality of life.

How are We Doing?

Colorado Springs and El Paso County have experienced significant declines in the past five years in building investment and activity. Single family permit activity from 2008 through 2010 was less than 25% of the peak experienced in 2005. Although it improved slightly in 2010, permit activity in 2011 is expected to remain weak with significant improvement still years away.

Potential for Action

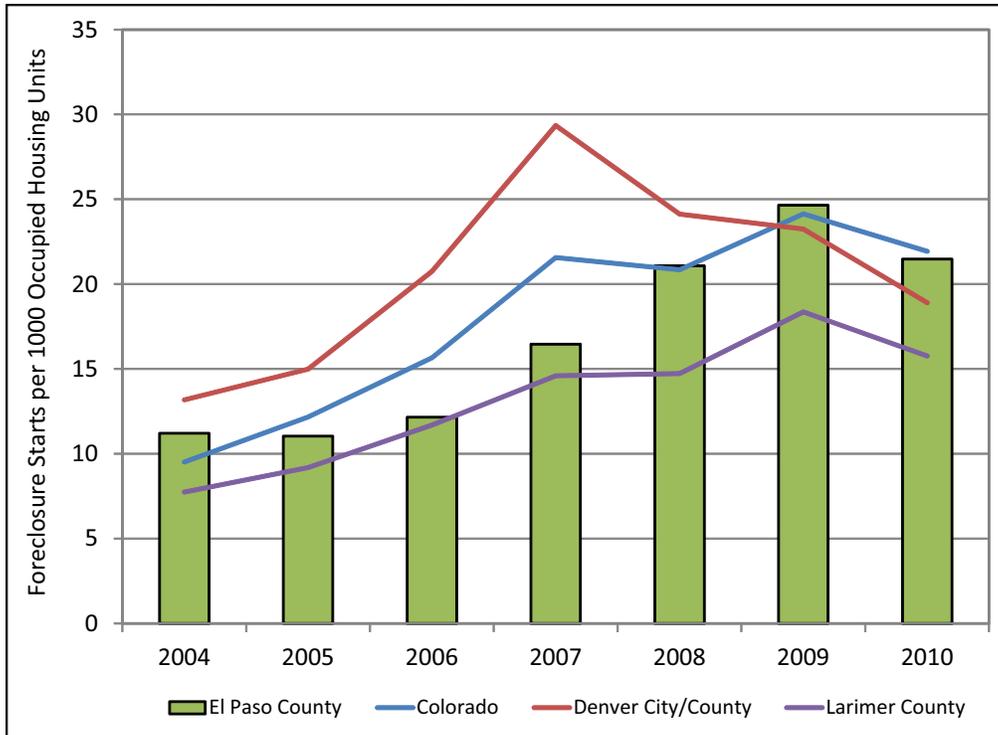
Lead Organizations: The City of Colorado Springs, El Paso County, Colorado Springs Regional Economic Development Corporation

Continue efforts to expand the local primary job base through existing companies and relocating companies. 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 but predictable approval and entitlement process and stable fee structures.

Foreclosures

El Paso County Foreclosures Opened Per 1,000 Households



Source: Colorado Department of Local Affairs, Division of Housing

The Chart compares the annual rate of foreclosures opened in El Paso County with the statewide rate 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.

The Table is a Colorado county comparison of the annual number of foreclosures opened, the rate of change in foreclosure starts, and the proportion of foreclosures completed with a sale at auction.

It's important to note that comparisons with other states can 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 55% 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, reducing neighborhood attractiveness and quality of life.

How are We Doing?

In 2010, foreclosure starts in El Paso County declined at a rate similar to the statewide trend, though at a slower rate than the City and County of Denver. Statewide, foreclosure starts decreased as a percentage of occupied housing units from 2.41% in 2009 to 2.19% in 2010, while El Paso County's rate decreased from 2.46% to 2.15%. The ratio of occupied households per completed foreclosure in El Paso County is near the middle of the urban counties; Boulder, Larimer, and Jefferson are doing better than El Paso.

Potential for Action

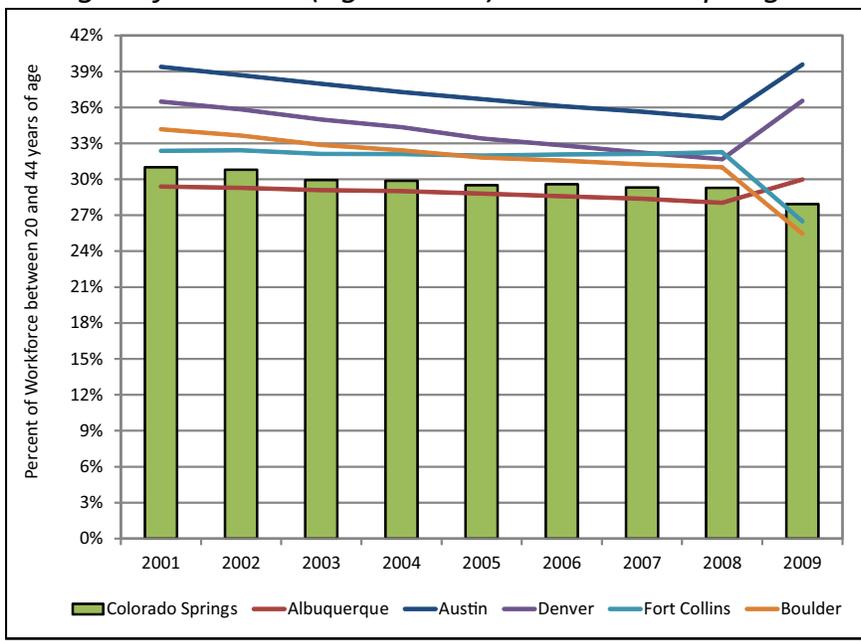
There is little that can be done directly to reduce the foreclosure rate. The rate will drop when jobs are available for existing homeowners to make payments on their mortgages. In short, the foreclosure rate should drop as employment increases.

County	Foreclosure Starts			Completed FCs per 1000 Occupied HHs
	2009	2010	% Change	
Weld	3354	2758	-18%	19.2
Adams	5647	4891	-13%	18.4
Arapahoe	1290	1672	30%	16.8
Pueblo	6233	5500	-12%	14.4
Denver	1569	1382	-12%	13.8
El Paso	2680	2399	-10%	13.0
Douglas	5470	4828	-12%	11.7
Jefferson	6141	5053	-18%	10.8
Larimer	4027	3849	-4%	9.4
Mesa	2091	1824	-13%	7.8
Boulder	1437	1352	-6%	5.2
Colorado	46394	42692	-8%	12.3

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 2001-2009

The first Chart shows the percentage of the Pikes Peak Region's working population that is considered "Young Professionals" - the 25-44 age group - from 2001-2009, compared to the benchmark cities.

The second Chart shows the number of patents issued per 100,000 people in the benchmark cities from 2008-2010.

Why is This Important?

Young professionals are a key component of a workforce; they engage in entrepreneurial activity, 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

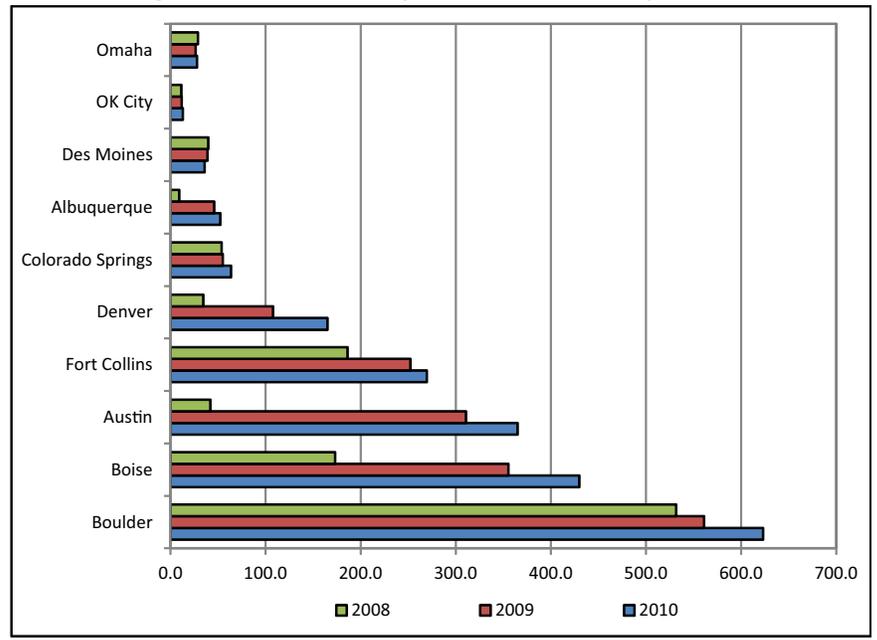
factors to select or eliminate communities from consideration for potential company expansions and relocations.

How are We Doing?

The Pikes Peak Region's "Young Professionals" population continues to decline and remains below the 30% critical threshold used by many site selection consultants. The downward trend make us less attractive to high-impact, high value, knowledge-based businesses that require a strong energetic talent pool. While we are declining, many of our benchmark cities are increasing.

The number of patents issued locally places our region on the lower end of the group of cities against which we typically compete. We are significantly below the high performers like Austin, Boulder and Boise, which experience up to six times the rate of patent generation of Colorado Springs, and their patent activity in 2010 increased significantly more than in our region. We must improve our performance in this area to be attractive to outside companies and to spur on entrepreneurial energy and job creation in the years ahead.

Number of Patents Issued per 100,000 People 2008-2010



Source: U.S. Patent and Trademark Office

Potential for Action

Lead Organizations: Colorado Springs Regional Economic Development Corporation, Greater Colorado Springs Chamber of Commerce, University of Colorado, Colorado Springs (UCCS) and many others.

Review and implement the action plan laid out in Operation 60ThirtyFive, 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.

Milken Institute National Ranking

Best Performing Cities 2001-2010

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

Rank	2001	2003	2005	2007	2009	2010
<10	Boulder Austin Boise				Austin	Austin
<20				Austin Boise		
<30	Denver Co Springs				Oklahoma City Fort Collins	Oklahoma City
<40	Fort Collins	Albuquerque Co Springs	Boise	Albuquerque		Des Moines
<50	Omaha		Albuquerque Fort Collins		Albuquerque Boulder	Omaha Fort Collins
<60		Austin	Austin	Des Moines	Des Moines Denver	Boulder
<70			Oklahoma City Des Moines		Omaha	Denver Albuquerque
<80		Boise Fort Collins	Co Springs	Fort Collins		
<90	Oklahoma City	Denver Des Moines				
<100	Albuquerque	Boulder	Boulder	Boulder Co Springs		Co Springs
<110			Denver	Denver Omaha Oklahoma City	Co Springs	
<120	Des Moines	Oklahoma City	Omaha		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 2010, Colorado Springs was ranked 99th out of 200 - an improvement of 2 positions from 2009. The table shows that we continue to be near the bottom of our benchmark group.

In other comparisons, Colorado Springs continued to be ranked very high in terms of the current proportion of the economy that is based on high technology industries. In these categories, we ranked 12th in the top cities list. It was the lack of overall job growth, poor growth in economic output and poor historical growth in high technology sectors that pulled our overall performance down. In these areas, Colorado Springs ranked 147th or below. These results are reflective of the metrics reported elsewhere in this section, where Colorado Springs has not experienced the same improvements as other benchmark cities over the last few years. This lack of recent improvement will likely hamper the level of recovery we achieve in the next few years.

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:

- | | |
|--|--------------------------------|
| 1st Cleanest City out of 277 for 24hr Particle Pollution | 2011 American Lung Association |
| 168th out of 277 cities for OzonePollution | 2011 American Lung Association |
| 32nd Best Regional University of the West (UCCS) | 2011 US News and World Report |
| 6th Most wired city | 2010 Forbes.com |
| 12th Best city for Business and Careers | 2010 Forbes.com |
| 4th Greatest City for College Graduates | 2009 Kiplinger |
| 18th Friendliest Bike City in America | 2010 Bicycling Magazine |
| 58th Best city for Job Growth | 2011 New Geography |

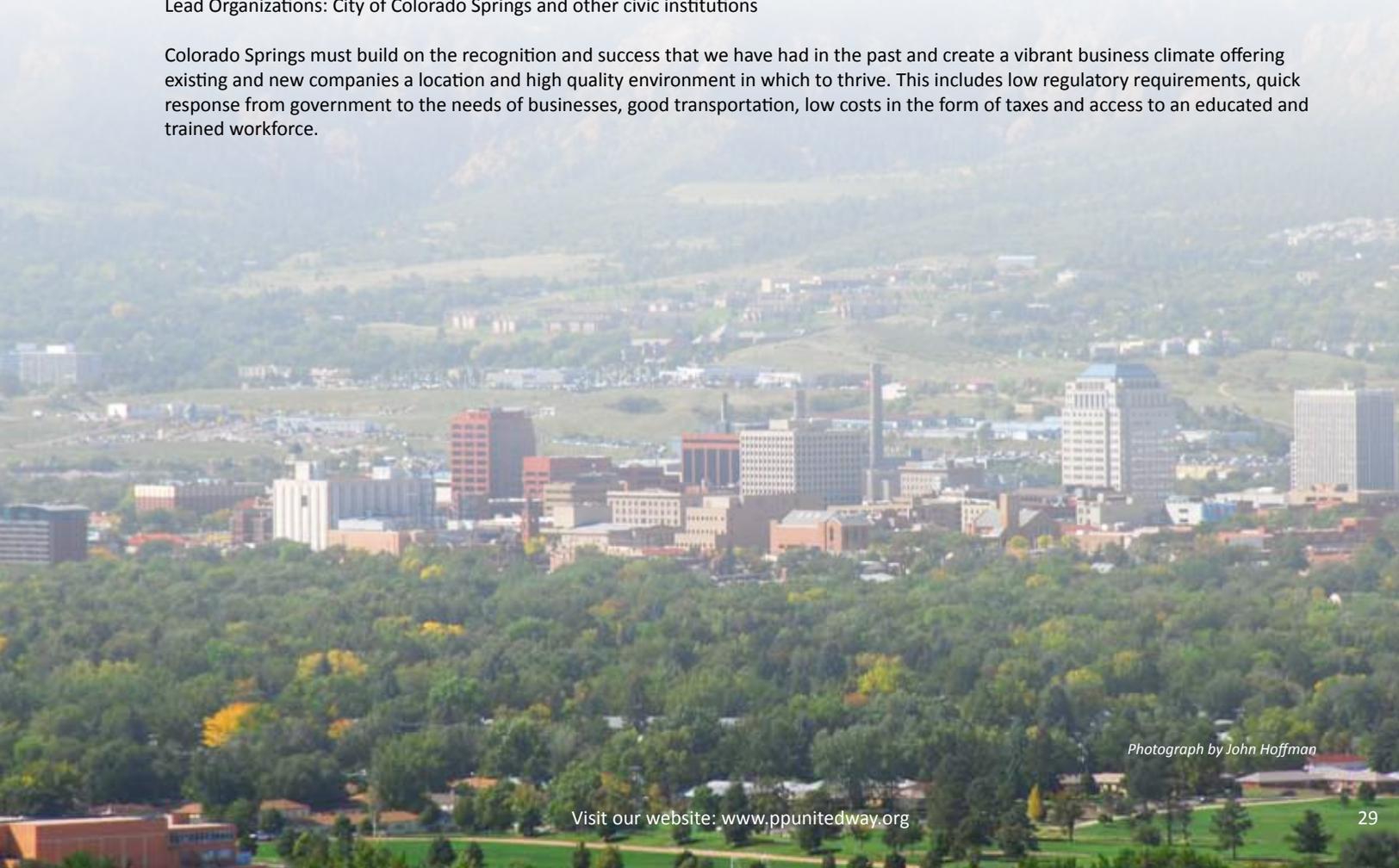
There are many organizations who routinely publish lists of “best cities” using one set of criteria or another. These criteria reflect many aspects of quality of life whether focused on education, health, fitness, recreation, crime rate, affordability and others which align with many of the sections in this report.

Success in improving these rankings will require a concerted effort to protect the success we have in the areas of recreation, affordability and military presence while focusing as a community in the already-mentioned strategic areas in order to grow the local economy to provide job opportunities for our citizens. This growth and economic development needs to take place to provide long term, sustainable growth and prosperity. If implemented, the impact would go a long way to restoring the position of Colorado Springs in the various economic and business rankings that are published each year. These are areas of focus and cooperation for many of our community groups.

Potential for Action

Lead Organizations: City of Colorado Springs and other civic institutions

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.



Photograph by John Hoffman

Promoting Social Wellbeing

Chairs and Convener

NOREEN LANDIS-TYSON (Co-Chair)
Community Partnership for Child Development

CHERYL SCHNELL (Co-Chair)
El Paso County Department of Human Services

MORGAN BEACH (Convener)
Pikes Peak United Way

Members

BEV AGNEW
Interfaith Hospitality Network

RICHARD BENGTTSSON
El Paso County Department of Human Services

TERESA CANTWELL
Peak Vista Senior Health Centers

MICHELLE DEAN
Silver Key Senior Services

JACKIE HASTY
Leadership Pikes Peak

KRISTA MEIER
Pikes Peak Library District

MICHELLE MILNER
Pikes Peak United Way, 2-1-1

DIANE PRICE
Early Connections Learning Centers

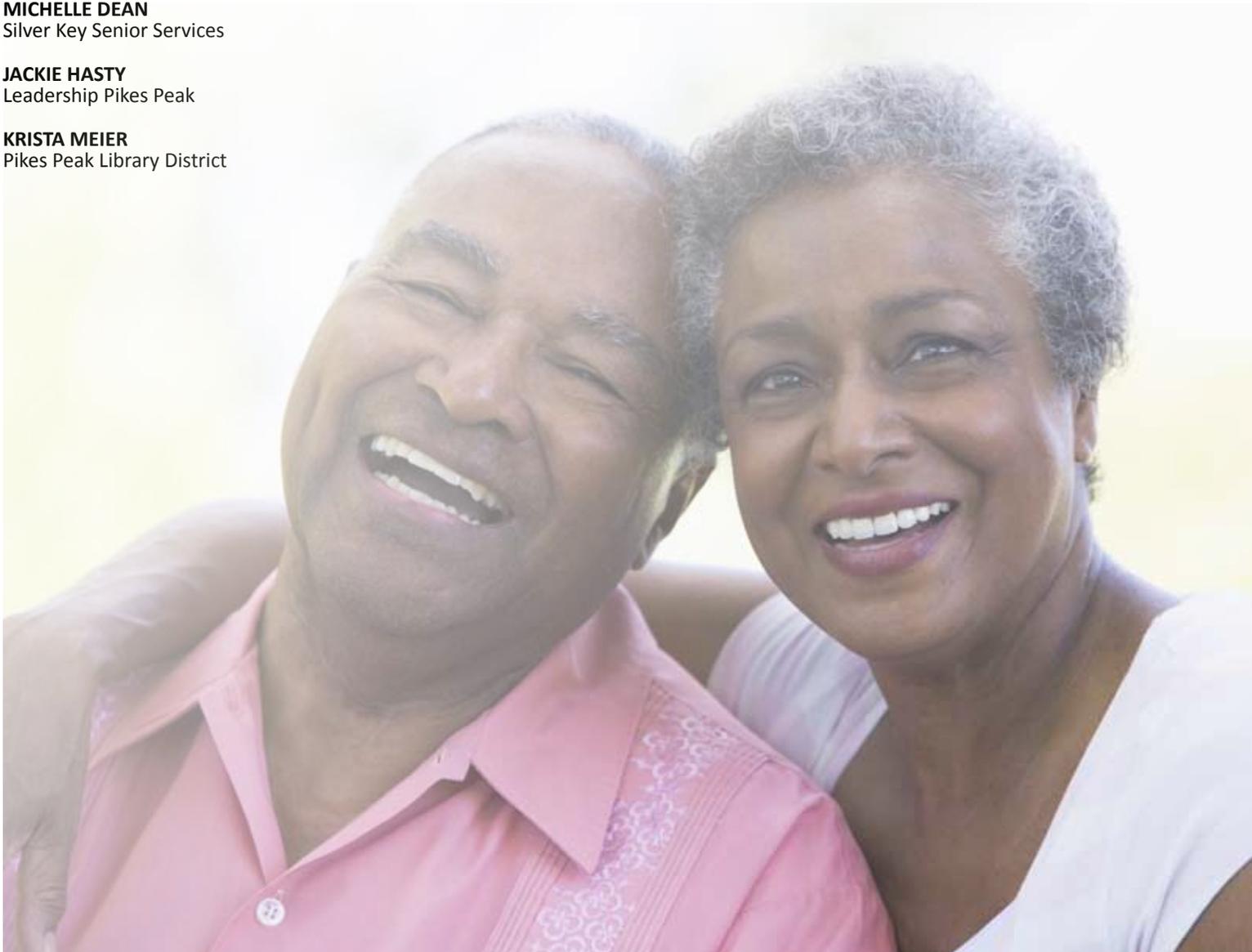
SETH RANKIN
Goodwill Industries

CARRIE SCHILLINGER-HARE
Pikes Peak Area Agency on Aging

MARY STEINER
El Paso County Department of Health and Environment

VALERIE TORRES
Goodwill Industries

ANN TURNER
Cheyenne Village



Photograph by Monkey Business Images

What is Social Wellbeing?

In approaching our work, the vision council adopted the following definition of social wellbeing as stated in the Oxford Dictionary of Geography (2004): "A state of affairs where the basic needs of the population are met. This is a society where income levels are high enough to cover basic wants, where there is no poverty, where unemployment is insignificant, where there is easy access to social, medical, and educational services, and where everyone is treated with dignity and consideration."

The social wellbeing of our community cuts across all demographic areas: successful children, strong families, populations with special needs that are addressed and supported, and thriving older adults are fundamental to a healthy community. Yet, as a community, we recognize that there are several aspects of individuals' personal lives that impact the quality of life for all and require a coordinated community effort to make positive change. The inability to pay for basic needs such as food, housing, transportation and childcare threatens social wellbeing by putting excess strain on individuals and families. Additionally, how a community addresses the needs of its children and adults with disabilities speaks volumes as to our social wellbeing.

In addition to those addressed in previous editions, the vision council added two new indicators to this year's report. We have provided a snapshot of people with disabilities in our community as an introduction to the need, and the gap between that need and available services. This is an area that needs significant work but previously has not been included in this publication. Additionally, as economic and social wellbeing go hand-in-hand, we have addressed the alarming increase in poverty in our community and State over the last decade and its impacts on children and families, in particular. According to the Colorado Children's Campaign's Kids Count 2010 report, poverty among children under 18 in El Paso County has risen by 63% since 2000. Poverty impacts educational success, food access, family stability, homelessness, child abuse and crime rates -- all factors in a community's social wellbeing

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

Why is this important?

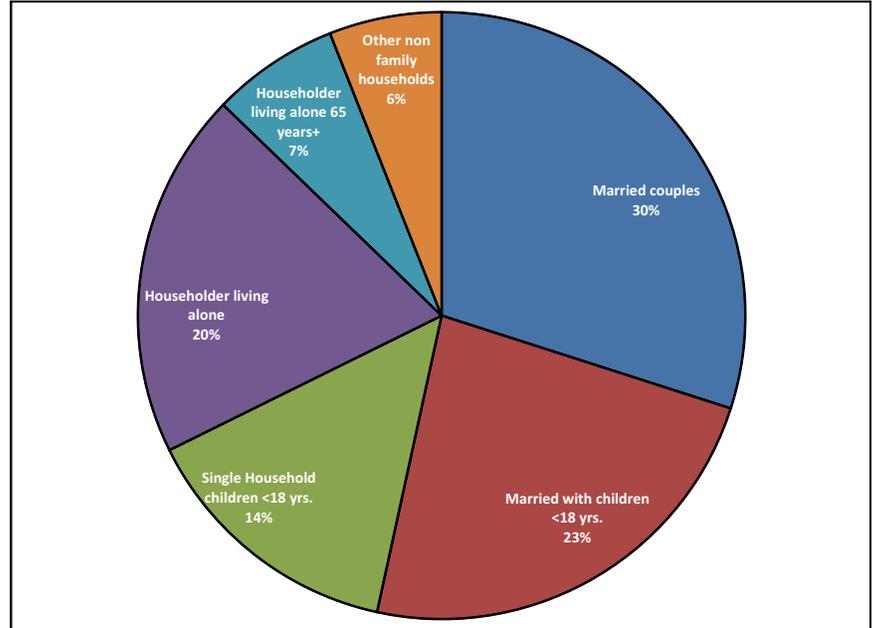
El Paso County households reflect differences in family composition and recognizing these differences helps our community understand how to support the wellbeing of all residents. Children, our youngest citizens, are more likely to succeed when they live in a home characterized by family

stability. Teen pregnancy and childbearing have significant consequences for the teen mother, her child and society as a whole. 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.

Potential for Action

Household composition is an important indicator to help our community focus its efforts on areas where the most services are needed, specifically due to the increasing senior population, as well as the number of single households with children.

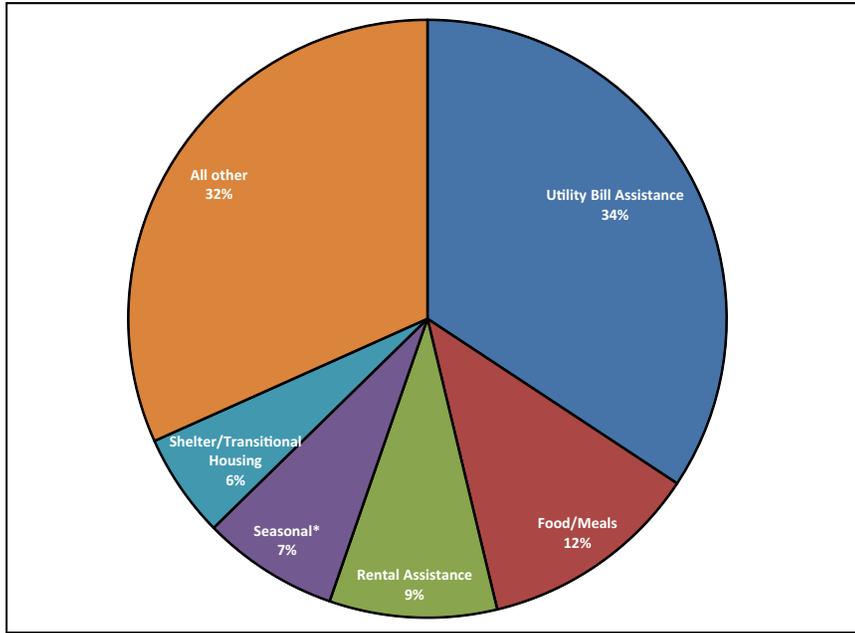
Household Composition



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

-Demographics and Needs-

2-1-1 Referrals



The Chart shows the most common type of referrals given to clients by Pikes Peak United Way 2-1-1 Information and Referral Service. 2-1-1 provides free, confidential information and referral for health and human service needs. Pikes Peak United Way 2-1-1 provides services for El Paso, Teller, Cheyenne, Chaffee, Park and Lincoln counties and also serves citizens of the San Luis Valley.

The table shows unmet needs in our community which can mean that 2-1-1 currently has no referral agencies in the database to give to clients or clients are not eligible for that particular service based on each agency's specific criteria for assistance.

Why is This Important?

2-1-1's services give us a basic snapshot of where the need lies in our community, allowing us to gauge the wellbeing of our population. For the 2010 calendar year, 2-1-1 provided 50,401 referrals in response to 25,684 requests for information. Since 2-1-1's inception in 2004, utility bill assistance remains the top presenting need. Food and meals, rental

*Seasonal includes holiday, income tax, educational and immunization

Source: 2-1-1 Information and Referral Service

assistance, seasonal needs and housing and shelter round out the top five (5). Seasonal needs include such things as free tax preparation, school supplies, holiday assistance and immunization/health clinics. 2-1-1 maintains a database of 1,015 agencies with 2,900 available services for those in need in our community.

2-1-1 works with its partner agencies and referral agencies to minimize the amount of unmet needs in the community. A 2-1-1 Advisory Council was established and meetings are held quarterly to facilitate collaboration between agencies to help minimize these unmet needs. Utility bill assistance and rent assistance are needs that most agencies can only address one time in a twelve month period for clients. This is due largely in part to lack of funding and the amount of clients seeking these services. Other unmet needs such as transportation/travel and income assistance are unmet needs as there are currently no agencies in our community that assist with travel out of state for any reason nor do we have an agency that provides straight cash assistance to clients. Seasonal unmet needs are largely clients looking for specific services that 2-1-1 does not have in the database either at all or not in the time frame of the call. For example clients who call 2-1-1 for a specific named agency that is not in the database or clients seeking services that are only offered during a specific period of time such as immunizations clinics and health fairs.

Unmet Needs

Top 5 Unmet Needs	Number of Calls
Rental Assistance	306
Transportation/Travel	232
Seasonal*	167
Utility Bill Assistance	166
Income Assistance**	132

*Seasonal includes holiday, income tax, educational and immunization
 **Income Assistance includes medical bills, auto repairs, moving expenses, storage, etc.

Source: 2-1-1 Information and referral Service

How are We Doing?

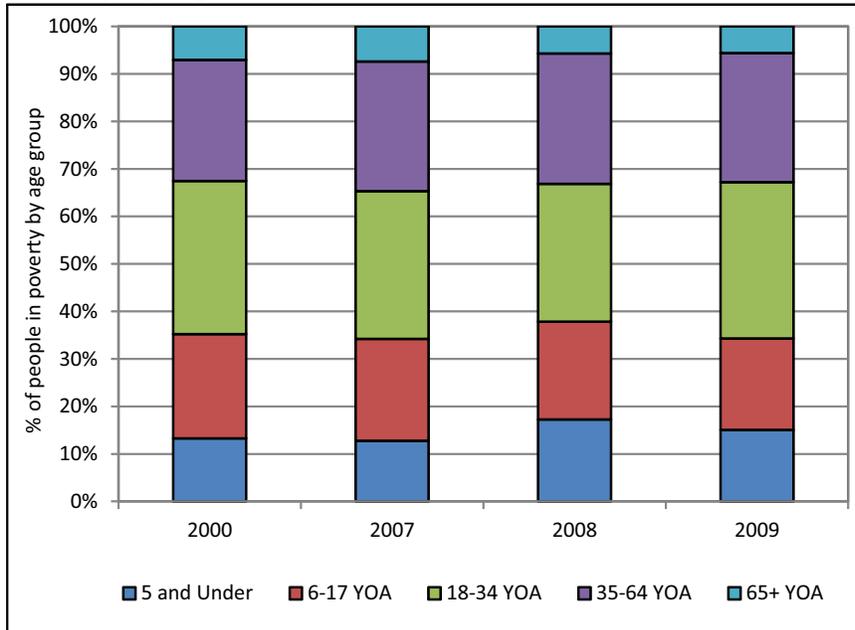
The number of calls to 2-1-1 continues to grow by 12-15% each year and in 2011, 2-1-1 expects to serve over 30,000 clients seeking assistance for basic human service needs. 2-1-1 is now available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. With the current economic situation, 2-1-1 is serving more first time clients than ever before. Of the 25,684 calls received in 2010, 79% were women, 9% seniors, 27% disabled, 42% unemployed and 32% uninsured. The average 2-1-1 client is a single, 41 year old woman with 2 children whose monthly household income is less than \$1,000.

Potential for Action

2-1-1 is actively working with partner and referral agencies to spread the word about this free, confidential service and create the most comprehensive database of services available to the community as possible. 2-1-1 has created an Advisory Council whose mission is to coordinate services, reduce duplication of services and find creative ways to meet the unmet needs in our community. Compared to other communities our size, PPUW 2-1-1 should have the capability to serve in excess of 62,000 clients per year. To serve that size population, 2-1-1 needs to increase both staff of Community Specialists and public awareness and utilization of the service.

Poverty

Poverty by Age Group



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

The first Chart shows the breakdown by age of the population of the Colorado Springs MSA who are living at or below the federal poverty line.¹ The second Chart shows the percentage of children under 18 years of age living in poverty.

Why is This Important?

“Poverty” is often used to refer to a lack of money, but living in a state of financial instability is also physically and emotionally damaging. According to the Foundation for Child Development at Duke University, poverty has profound effects on children’s physical, emotional, and cognitive health and development, with long-term implications for education, health and behavior. Research shows that children experiencing even short-term poverty can be negatively impacted long after a recession. Levels of stress in the family also correlate with economic circumstances. Job loss and subsequent poverty are associated

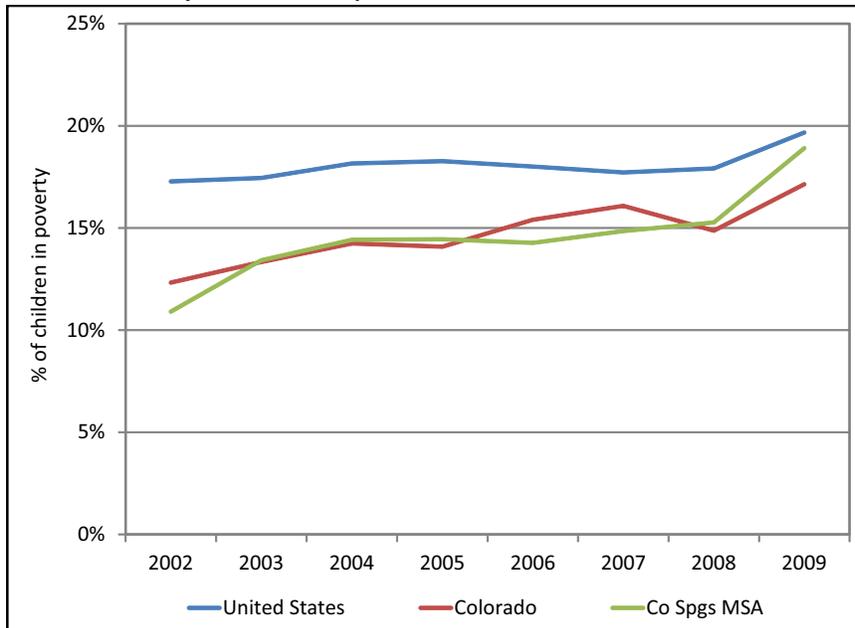
with violence in families, including child and elder abuse. Poor families are more likely than middle-class families to be exposed to many negative events, including illness, depression, eviction, job loss, criminal victimization, and family death.

% Population in Poverty

2000	2007	2008	2009
9.26%	11.97%	11.43%	12.90%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Child Poverty Rate Comparison



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2005-2009

How are We Doing?

While our population has grown since 2000, so too has the percentage of people living in poverty. From 2000 to 2008, the percentage of children living in poverty in El Paso County increased by 63%.² Colorado experienced the fastest growing number of children living in poverty in the nation. While below the national average, this percentage was high at the beginning of the recession with 179,000 children (15%) living in poverty. By 2009, the number rose to 210,000 children, or one of every six children in Colorado.³ In the Colorado Springs MSA, the ratio is closer to one of every five children (18.90%) living in poverty.⁴

Potential for Action

Funding is not keeping pace with the growth in poverty, or is being reduced. Other organizations are stepping up their efforts to fight the effects of poverty. Although these help alleviate the burden, the war on poverty is not over. Until there are enough jobs available that provide a true living wage, poverty will continue to rise.

1 In 2011, to be in poverty, a family of four may not gross more than \$22,350 per year. These federal guidelines are updated annually and vary depending upon the number of household members and the geographic area in which the family lives. To view the current poverty guidelines, go to <http://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty/11fedreg.shtml>.

2 Colorado Children’s Campaign, *Kids Count in Colorado 2011*, pg. 16.

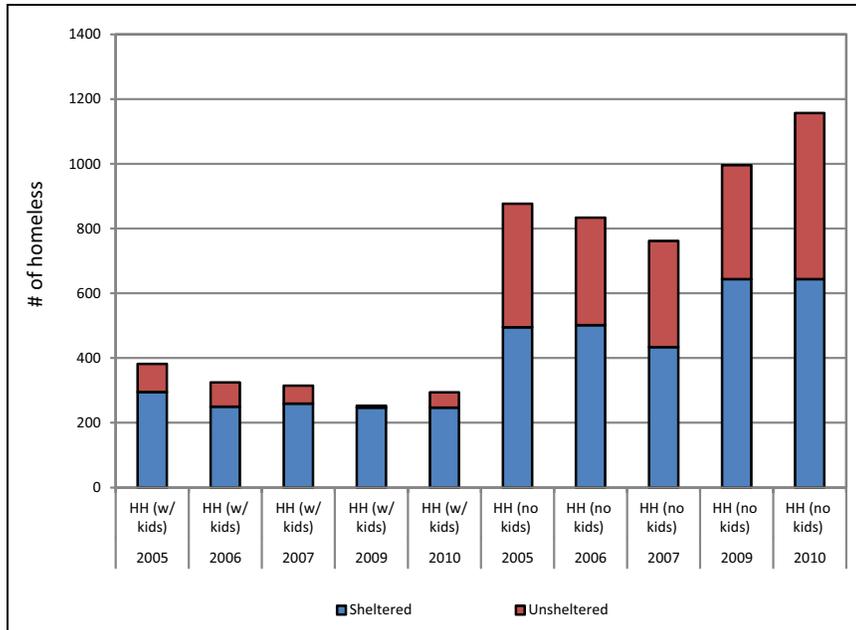
3 Ibid.

4 U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2000-2009.

-Basic Needs-

Housing

Point-in-Time (PIT) Homeless Counts



The first Chart shows the homeless counts from the PIT surveys. The surveys are required by the federal office of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Although the PIT Count does not provide a total headcount, it is a one-day snapshot of homelessness. The chart shows the categories of Sheltered (i.e. emergency shelters, transitional housing) or Unsheltered (i.e. living in cars, on the streets or in camps).

Why is This Important?

The 2010 population of unsheltered households without dependent children exceeded the count for every year since 2005. The increase in unsheltered households with dependent children indicates that there are many children in our community living on the streets or in cars. The experience of homelessness inhibits the physical, emotional, cognitive, social, and behavioral development of children.

How are We Doing?

The sheltered population in 2010 remained about the same as in 2009 because there was

HH = Households

Source: Homeward Pikes Peak, Pikes Peak United Way Homeless Management Information Systems

little change in shelter capacity. However, the 2010 unsheltered population shows an overall increase of 56.4% from the previous year due to two major factors: homeless population increase due to the economy and a more comprehensive methodology for the PIT count. The PIT does not show the number of homeless in both categories who are living with friends ("sofa surfing") or are living in motel rooms and are thus not included in the PIT count.

The second Chart shows the percentage and type of people in the Colorado Springs MSA who paid 30% or more of their income for housing.

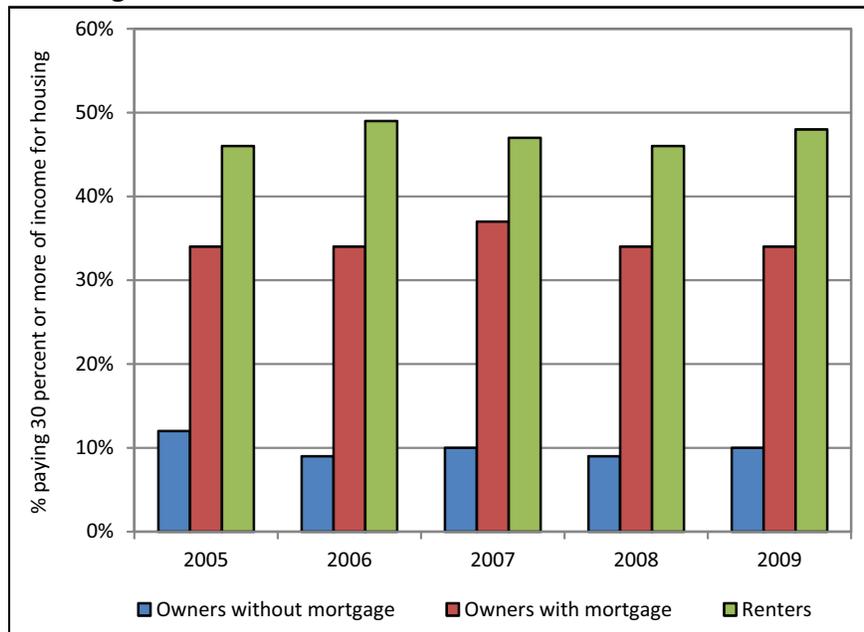
Why is This Important?

Housing expenditures that exceed 30% of household income have historically been viewed as an indicator of a housing affordability problem. Renters are the most burdened with the highest percentage of individuals paying more than 30% of their income on housing. Over the last 5 years, an average of 47% of renters are considered "burdened" by their housing costs.

How are We Doing?

47% of renters paying 30% or more for housing costs indicates that we need more affordable housing. If these income earners lose their jobs, even for a short time, they may lose their homes. According to Colorado Springs Housing Authority, there are 7500 households on waiting lists for subsidized housing.

Housing Cost Burden



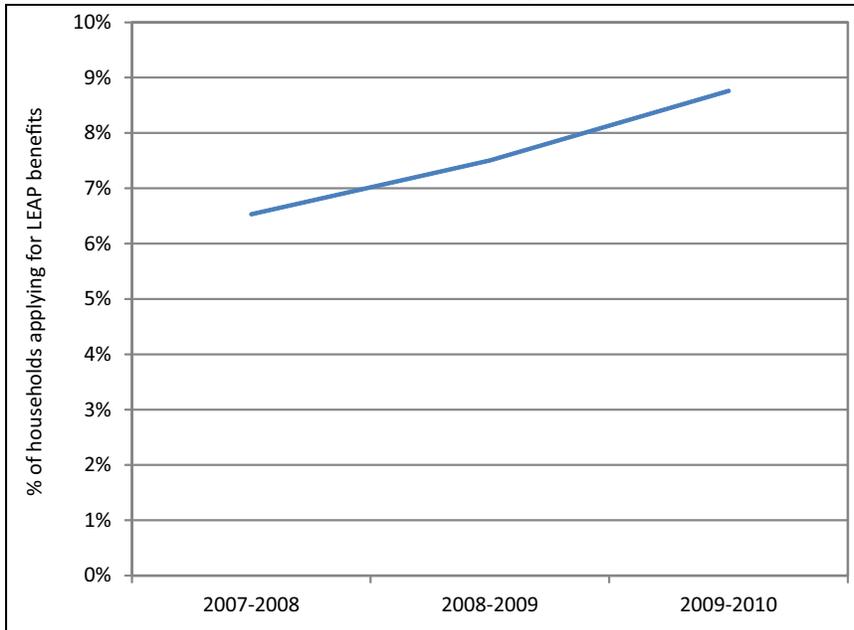
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey

Potential for Action

Increased community partnerships and collaborations are needed to ensure the availability of safe and affordable housing, especially for at-risk families. Ensure that eligible people know about all the affordable home ownership opportunities and affordable rental opportunities, as well as rental and mortgage assistance in the Colorado Springs area. Encourage more apartment owners to offer some of their rentals at affordable prices.

Public Assistance

Low-Income Energy Assistance Program



Source: El Paso County LEAP Program

The first Chart shows requests for public assistance for utilities through the Low-income Energy Assistance Program (LEAP) by showing the percentage of households in El Paso County applying for benefits each heating season (from November 1 through April 30). LEAP is a federally funded program designed to help eligible low-income households with home heating costs. Households are eligible for LEAP benefits at 185% of the federal poverty index and below.

The second Chart shows need for public assistance for food through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP aka food stamps) by showing the percentage of households in the Colorado Springs MSA receiving SNAP assistance. Households are eligible for SNAP benefits if their income is 130% of the federal poverty index and below.

Why is This Important?

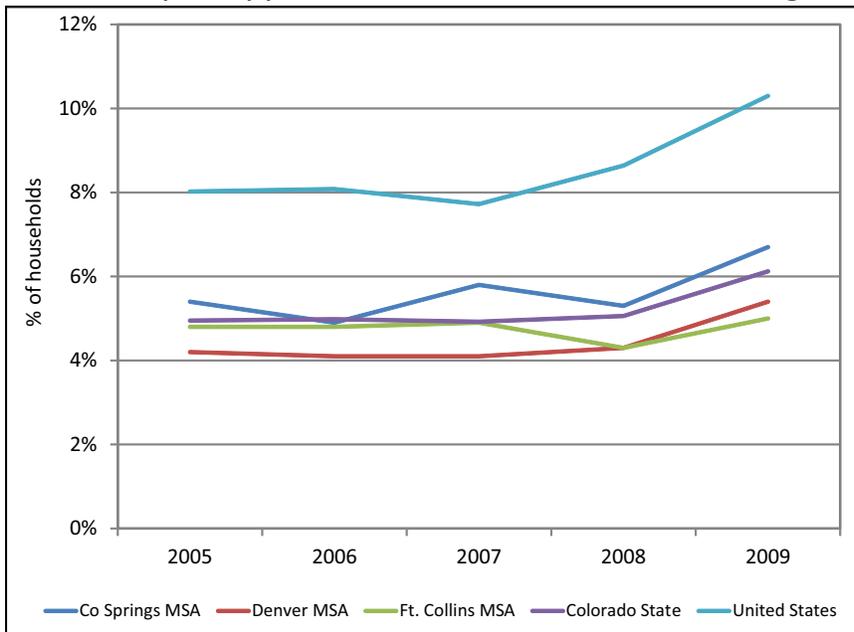
When addressing social wellbeing as “a state of affairs where the basic needs of the population are met,” adequate heating and nutrition are

two of the most basic components of meeting this condition. Knowing what percentage of the population needs assistance to meet these most basic needs allows us to gauge the overall need in the community over time.

How are We Doing?

Both charts show an increasing need for services in recent years.

Food Stamps/Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Annually, LEAP approves approximately 80% of the applications it receives. In the 2009-2010 heating season, the El Paso County LEAP Program provided assistance for 15,998 households. Over the last 5 years, our community’s need for assistance has continuously increased 1-2% faster than our population. In 2006, the average household benefit in Colorado was \$550 per heating season.

In 2009, the total number of households receiving SNAP benefits in the Colorado Springs MSA was 15,880. The Colorado Springs MSA has experienced an increase in SNAP assistance—a 1.4% increase from 2008 to 2009— greater than Denver MSA, Ft. Collins MSA or the state—these three averaged a .95% increase from 2008 to 2009.

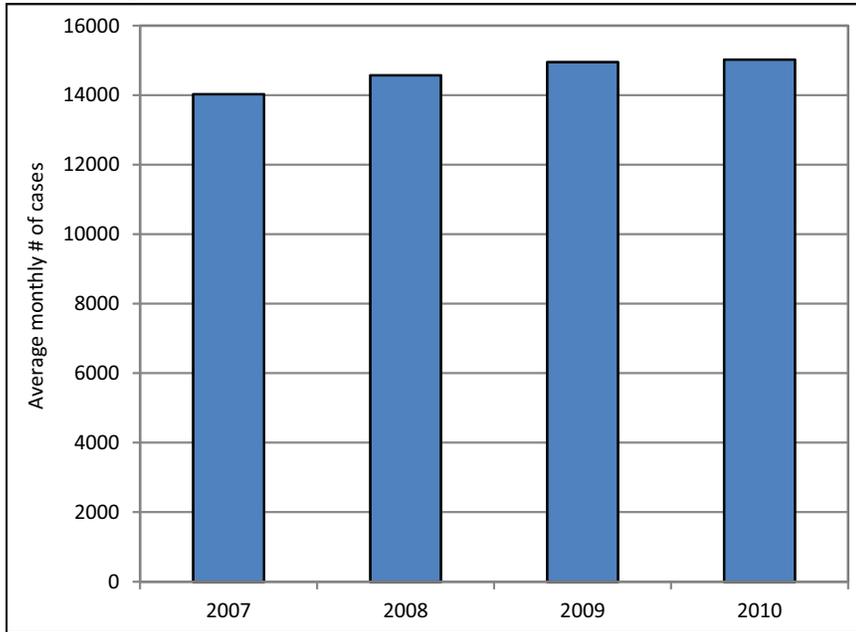
Potential for Action

Work collaboratively with utilities providers to keep rates affordable and invest in programs that help low-income families update poorly operating furnaces and weatherize homes to lower energy costs. Work to improve current

food assistance programs and develop a plan of action to combat the need for basic food assistance here in our community. Alternately, acknowledge that we are still significantly lower than national SNAP assistance levels (10.3% of households in 2009) and must support access to benefits for families and individuals who may be in need.

Food Assistance

WIC Program



Source: El Paso County Public Health Department

The first Chart shows the average monthly number of WIC (Women, Infants, and Children) recipients in El Paso County. This program serves low-income pregnant, postpartum and breastfeeding women, and infants and children up to age 5 who are at nutrition risk.

Why is This Important?

WIC currently serves 45 percent of all infants born in the United States. The following benefits are provided to WIC participants: 1) Supplemental nutritious foods, 2) Nutrition education and counseling, and 3) Screening and referrals to other health, welfare and social services. A 1990 study showed that women who participated in the program during their pregnancies had lower Medicaid costs for themselves and their babies than did women who did not participate. WIC participation was also linked with longer gestation periods, higher birth weights and lower infant mortality.¹

How are We Doing?

Although the average monthly caseload of

WIC recipients is increasing, the number of new WIC clients annually has been decreasing. In 2009, there were 11,401 new WIC clients and 10,875 in 2010. Of these new clients, there was a decrease in new pregnant & postpartum women and infants but a slight increase in children 3-5 years of age. This decrease in new pregnant and infant clients implies that we are seeing a decrease in at-risk pregnancies while keeping up with the need of this larger at-risk population as the children age from infants to children.

The second Chart represents the number of meals served to senior citizens by Golden Circle Nutrition Program and Silver Key Senior Service's Meals on Wheels Program. Not included in this chart are the numerous other organizations and churches serving additional meals to those in need.

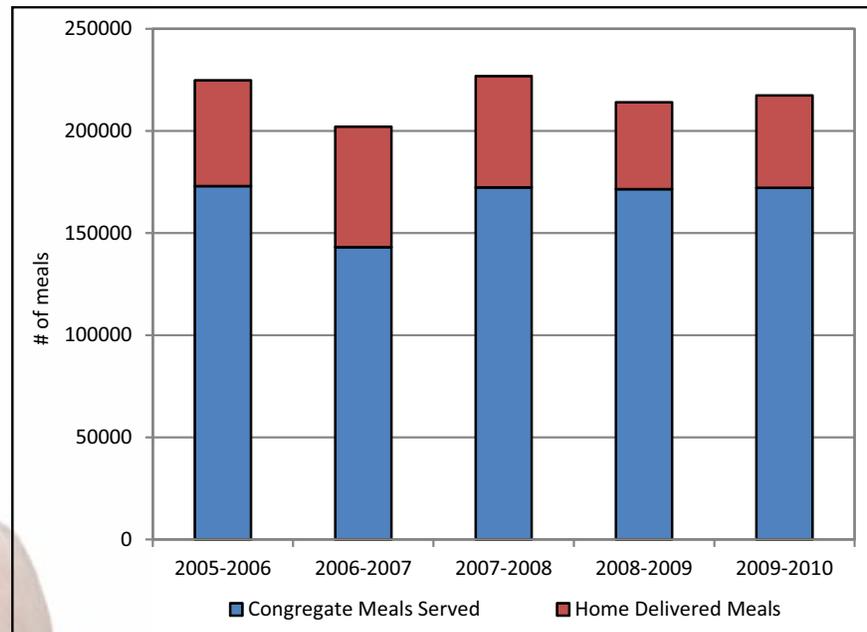
Why is This Important?

Many seniors face financial, functional or transportation barriers to getting adequate nutrition on a daily basis. This meal assistance can make the difference in allowing seniors to maintain independence. For the home-bound, the interaction with the volunteers who deliver the meals may be the only personal contact they receive throughout their day. Group dining programs provide opportunities for social interaction and mentally stimulating activities while decreasing isolation and depression.

How are We Doing?

The Golden Circle Nutrition Program, run by the Housing Authority of the City of Colorado Springs, served 172,127 meals at 26 locations from Colorado Springs to Victor. Silver Key Senior Services delivered 45,247 meals last year to Colorado Springs and Manitou Springs seniors.

Senior Meals

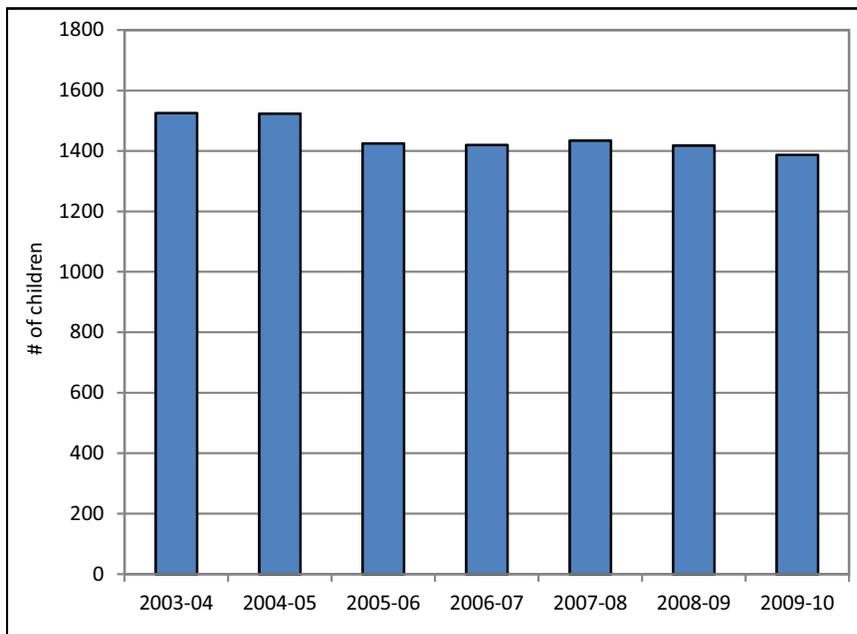


Source: Pikes Peak Area Agency on Aging, Silver Key Senior Services

1 US Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service. Women, Infants, Children. <http://www.fns.usda.gov/wic/>, access 3/15/2011.

-Family Stability-

Out-of-Home Placements



Source: El Paso County Department of Human Services

The first Chart shows the number of children living in out-of-home situations (for any duration), by fiscal year.

Why is This Important?

It is important that children remain in the least restrictive environment while living in safety and stability. While there are situations that require out-of-home placement, the best long-term outcomes for a child and family (and the greatest cost savings for these interventions) are achieved if a family can remain reasonably intact.

How are We Doing?

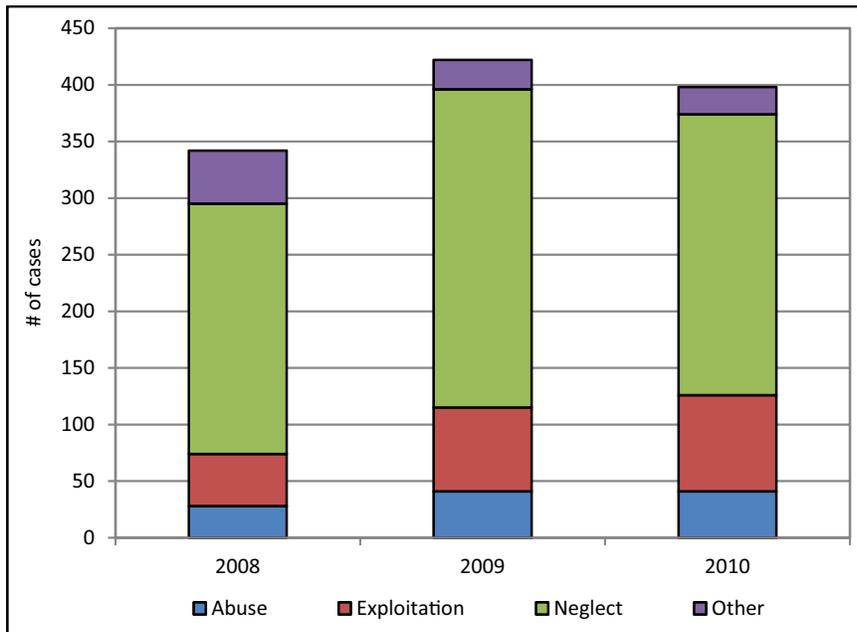
The number of out-of-home placements has remained steady, despite an increased population and a depressed economy. Taken in this context, the per capita decrease in out-of-home placements may reflect a combination of more stable families, the support of extended family members and better access to preventative services provided by government and non-profit agencies.

Potential for Action

Programs that focus on promoting the following protective factors: 1) Nurturing and Attachment; 2) Knowledge of Parenting and Child and Youth Development; 3) Parental Resilience; 4) Social Connections; and 5) Concrete Supports for Parents. Agencies (both private and government) that form partnerships to offer these family-centered approaches may be able to effect change in the future.¹

The second Chart represents both the number and type of Adult Protection (elderly or disabled persons over 18) cases in El Paso County. The chart shows four categories: Abuse (including physical, self and sexual), Exploitation (incl. financial and other), Neglect (incl. self and other) and Other.

Adult Protection



Source: El Paso County Department of Human Services

Why is This Important?

Elderly or disabled persons may be isolated or ill; they may lack a capable or willing caregiver, or the resources to meet their own basic needs.

How are We Doing?

In 2010, the El Paso County Department of Human Services received 1,392 referrals for Adult Protection services. Of those referrals, 398 became active cases. While the total number of cases has declined from 2009 to 2010, there is an increase in the number of neglect cases. Of those cases, over 50% constitute self-neglect. The National Center for Elder Abuse indicates that self-neglect is the most prevalent category of Adult Protection cases across the country. Self-neglect is defined as the inability of a vulnerable adult to provide for his or her physical or mental health and well-being.

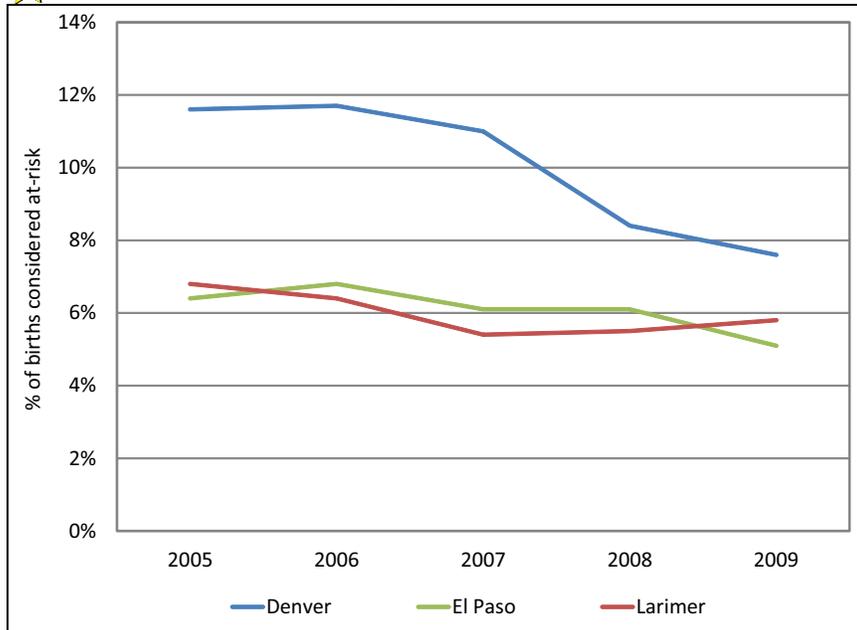
Potential for Action

Raise awareness of issues facing vulnerable adults, and educate the public to recognize signs of abuse or neglect. Support efforts and

strategies that look at prevention and education, as this will become a critical need as our community ages.

At-Risk Families

★ Three Risk Factor* Pregnancies



*The three risk factors are: unmarried women under 25 years of age with less than 12 years of education
 Source: Colorado Department of Health and Environment

The first Chart shows the percentage of births considered at-risk. A three risk-factor-birth is a birth to a woman who has less than a 12th grade education, is younger than 25, and unmarried.

Why is This Important?

A woman with three-risk factors faces significant consequences for herself, her child and society. Teens and young women 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. Children living in families with never-married mothers are at high risk of welfare dependence.¹ Children born to women with three-risk factors are at greater risk for exposure to domestic violence.²

How are We Doing?

In El Paso County, the percentage of three-risk factor births has decreased from 6.8% to 5.1%. This decrease may be attributed to the economy as birth rates do tend to drop in times of economic uncertainty.³

The second Chart illustrates the number of households in which grandparents are raising grandchildren. In 2009, 3,852 children under the age of 18 in the Colorado Springs MSA lived in a grandparent-headed household.

Why is This Important?

As grandparents take the responsibility of caring for their grandchildren they face financial, legal, work and emotional stressors. However, grandparents are often a more positive option than foster care. Foster care is costly and often less stable than a grandparent.

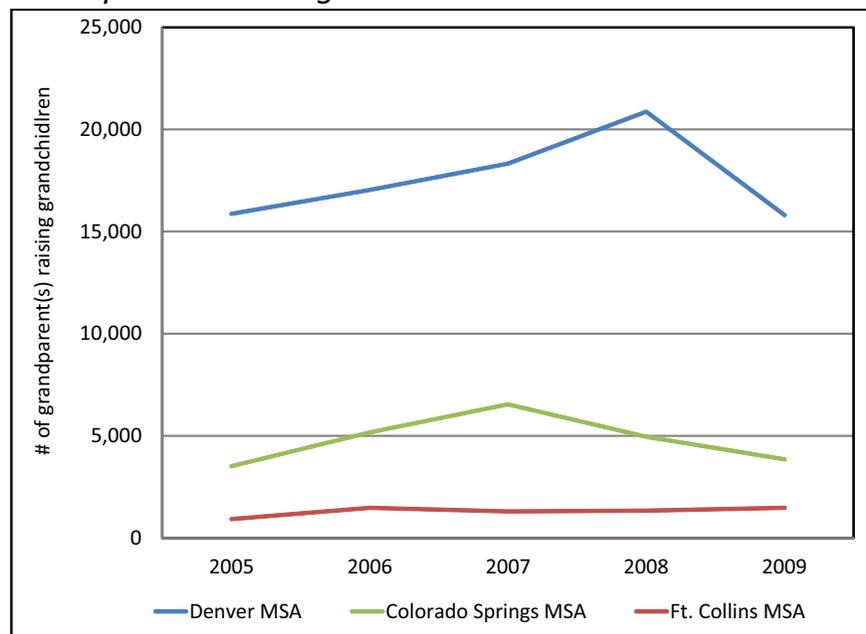
How are We Doing?

Although 2009 represents a decrease, it is likely that this decrease is because parents may have moved into the grandparent home due to economic stressors and grandparents may not see themselves as the primary caretaker.⁴

Potential for Action

Support strategies that focus on reproductive planning and education about three-risk factor pregnancies. Support programs designed to promote self-sufficiency and educational attainment. Recognize the connection between three risk factor births and grandparents raising grandchildren. Support programs that help grandparents effectively provide for their grandchildren's future.

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren

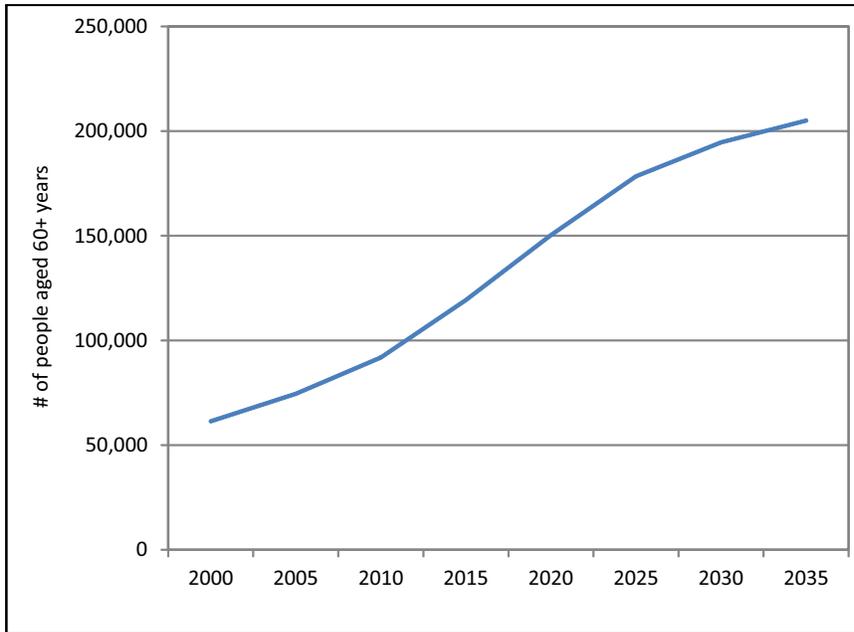


Source: U.S. Census Bureau

1 U.S. Department of Health & Human Services. *Indicators of Welfare Dependence: Annual Report to Congress*, accessed 04/13/2011.
 2 Scott, Mindy, Ph.D., et al, *Characteristics of Young Adult Sexual Relationships: Diverse, Sometimes Violent, Often Loving*, Child Trends Research Brief, January 2011, pg. 4, www.childtrends.org access 4/13/2011.
 3 Now Public News Coverage. *Pregnancy and Birth Rate Declines in Weak Economy*, http://www.nowpublic.com/health/pregnancy-and-birth-rate-declines-weak-economy accessed on 04/11/2011..
 4 Amy Goyer. *More Grandparents Raising Grandkids*, AARP, December 20, 2010, http://www.aarp.org/relationships/grandparenting/info-12-2010/more_grandparents_raising_grandchildren.html, accessed 4/11/2011.

-Specialized Services-

Projected Senior Population in El Paso County



Source: Colorado Division of Local Affairs

The first Chart reflects a regional presentation of the national trend: a steady increase in the senior population over the next several decades. The senior population (age 60 and older) is projected to increase from approximately 88,000 in 2010 to 150,341 in 2020, almost doubling in only ten years. In addition, the life expectancy for each new group achieving senior status increases each year. Seniors who reached the age of 60 in 1991 had an average life expectancy of 61.1 years, while seniors reaching 60 in 2011 can anticipate an average life expectancy of 68.4 years.

Why is This Important?

This data forecasts an increased load on the social services designed to assist the senior population at a time of Federal and State budget cuts.

Potential for Action

The state and local governments as well as the private agencies serving the seniors of El Paso County are striving to preserve services to this

needy population. It is currently, and will remain for some time to come, a significant challenge for our community.

The second Chart shows the cuts imposed on the city public transit budget since 2007: from \$19,003,303 to \$8,753,000. Also illustrated in this chart is the impact of increased demand on the organizations that have compensated for these cuts by developing and maintaining transportation services to both the elderly and disabled populations. (Please note that Goodwill began offering transportation in August 2008 and Community Intersections in April 2007.)

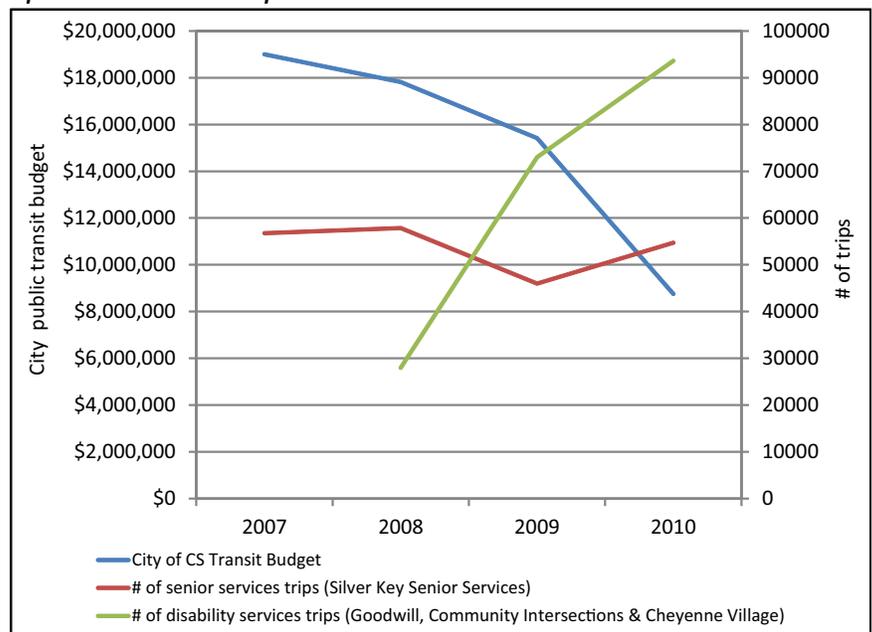
Why is This Important?

There is a consistent increase in demand for services provided by the organizations within our community, resulting in additional transportation trips carried out by auxiliary agencies in order to offset cuts in routes and trips on the public transit system. Cuts made to the transportation budget impact both the elderly and disabled populations more significantly than other riders; routes within the community may be discontinued, waiting periods between rides may become longer, and accessible bus stops may be further away. All of these changes pose great challenges for the elderly and disabled riders of our transit system.

Potential for Action

When you consider the elderly and disabled populations in our community, groups who rely heavily on more specialized services, access to public transportation allows them to remain independent, and therefore warrants both programmatic and financial support. As noted in the previous chart, the senior population will likely increase dramatically over the next several years; consequently we anticipate an increasing demand for specialized transportation. Numerous agencies county-wide are taking on the challenge of specialized transportation services and will need the support from the government and the community more than ever before. For more general information on transportation please see the section on Moving Around a Livable Community.

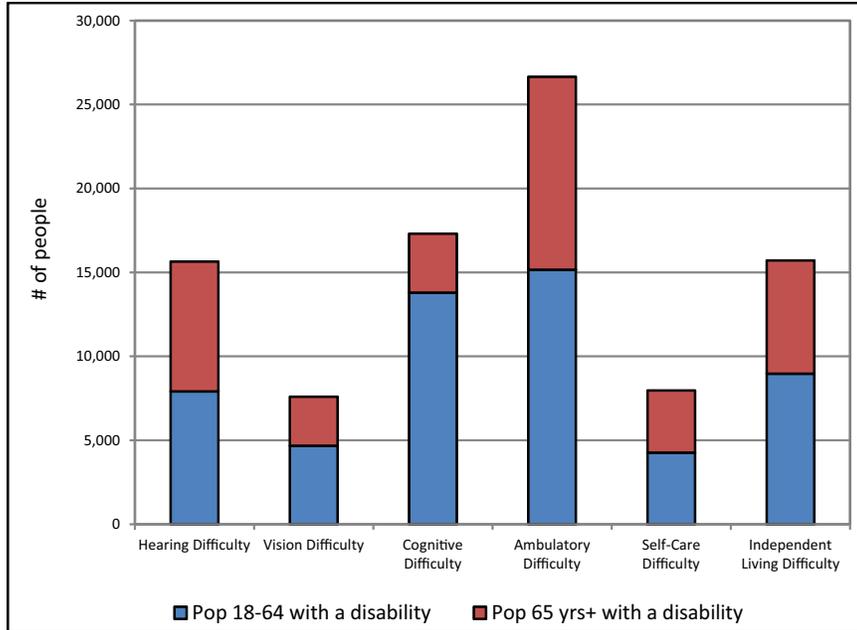
Specialized Transportation Services



Source: City of Colorado Springs Transit, Silver Key Senior Services, Goodwill Industries, Community Intersections, Cheyenne Village

Disabilities

Disability Characteristics in El Paso County



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

The first Chart demonstrates the number of people in El Paso County between 18 years of age and 65+ who have reported various fields of disabilities in 2009. The top three reported disabilities in our county are ambulatory, cognitive, and independent living limitations (which means these adults were limited in performing everyday tasks due to their physical, mental, or emotional condition).

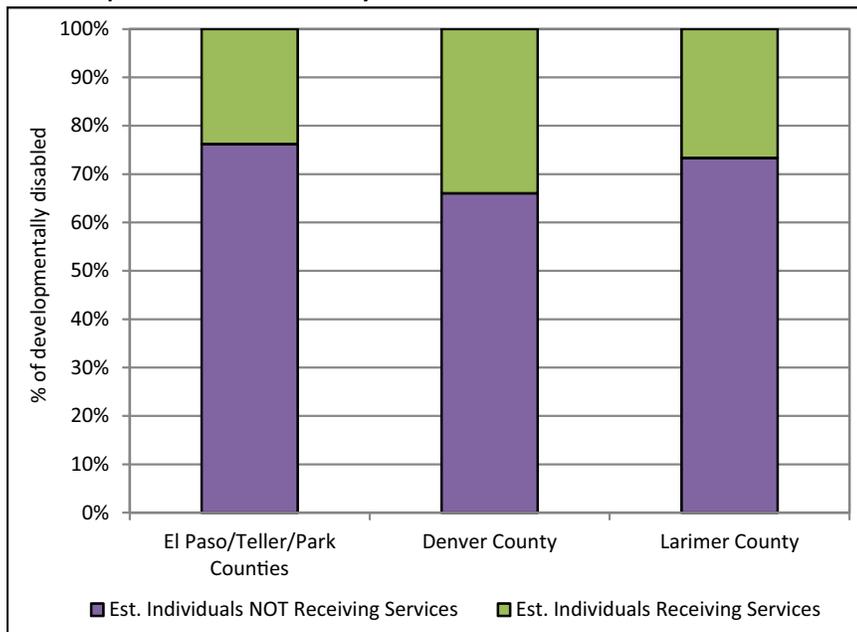
The second Chart shows the percentage of individuals with developmental disabilities who are receiving services through the Colorado Division for Developmental Disabilities compared to the estimated percentage of individuals with developmental disabilities who are not receiving services. The estimate is based on a prevalence of 1.6% of the population having a Developmental Disability.¹ Developmental disabilities include Mental Retardation, Down Syndrome and Autism Spectrum Disorders.

Why is This Important?

It is important to acknowledge that there are people living in our community who require a variety of specialized assistance and services based on a variety of disabilities reported in recent surveys of El Paso County. This includes services such as specialized transportation, specific medical care, day and recreational programs, assisted living, supported employment, nursing care facilities, etc. In addition, 2,444 individuals (24%) received services in El Paso, Teller, and Park Counties. Based on population estimates, an additional 7,843 individuals may be diagnosed with developmental disabilities who are not receiving services. While some may be children in K-12 education, the estimated number of individuals with developmental disabilities who are not receiving services indicates a high unmet need. This is further substantiated by the waiting list for services in El Paso, Teller and Park Counties, which has over 1000 individuals on it.

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Developmental Disability Services



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Colorado Department of Human Services, Dr. David L. Braddock from the Coleman Institute for Cognitive Disabilities

How are We Doing?

Colorado was ranked 46th in fiscal effort for developmental disabilities services based on spending per \$1,000.00 in aggregate state wide personal income in 2008.² Lack of funding has resulted in large waiting lists for services in all counties. Since the population of El Paso County has grown to the largest in the state, the number of individuals with developmental disabilities who are not receiving services will also grow.

Potential for Action

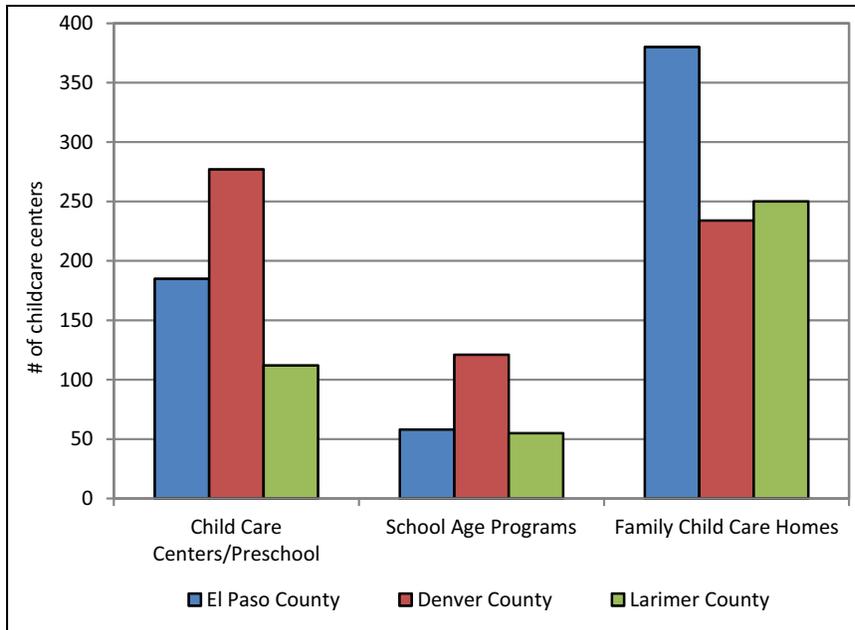
Raise public awareness regarding the needs of individuals with disabilities. Monitor trends in our population of the number of people with all disabilities and how they are currently utilizing services. Support for individuals and their families should be increased to promote long term planning in the absence of adequate government funding so families may receive an opportunity to access adequate services and support.

1 Braddock, David L., Richard Hemp and Mary Rizzolo. *The State of the States in Developmental Disabilities*, 7 ed.. The Coleman Institute for Cognitive Disabilities, University of Colorado, Boulder and The American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. 2008.

2 Ibid.

Child Care

Accessibility of Child Care



Source: Qualistar, NAEYC, NAFCC

The Chart shows the number of licensed child care centers, school aged-programs and family child care homes in operation.

The Table shows the number of providers who are recognized as high quality as demonstrated by a rating from Qualistar (Colorado Quality Rating and Improvement System), 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 research¹ has linked high quality child care to improved outcomes in education and increased social responsibility. Additionally, a recent national report has demonstrated that money invested in high quality early childhood education has a significant positive return for taxpayers.²

According to a study by the Pikes Peak Area Council on Governments (PPACG), access to high quality child care enables parents to

work, and generates \$292 million for the Pikes Peak economy.³ If child care were not available in the region, at least one member of the household would have to exit the workforce or reduce hours and the average household would lose \$27,000 per year in earnings.⁴ With the increase in military families in our community (70% of whom live off post/base), the need for high quality care in our neighborhoods is even greater.

How are We Doing?

Less than 1% of centers, homes and preschools in El Paso County are accredited or quality rated. Currently, the El Paso County Department of Human Services (DHS) is funding accreditation facilitation projects through a quality improvement grant, but few centers are able to participate due to limited funding. The Colorado DHS sponsors a funding-limited School Readiness project that provides coaching and support for 64 local classrooms, each of which receives a Qualistar rating and quality improvement support over a three year period. Facilities on Ft. Carson and Peterson Air Force Base are expanding but do not have enough spaces to care for all of the military children in need.

Potential for Action

Increase the number of new quality family child care homes in the region; Encourage and support NAFCC and NAEYC accreditation; Expand child care professionals' training; and Engage stakeholders to improve access to high quality, affordable care.

Quality of Child Care

	Number of Centers with Quality Rating		
	El Paso County	Denver County	Larimer County
NAEYC Centers	18	16	3
NAFCC Family Child Care	22	0	0
4 Star Centers	1	53	1
3 Star Centers	8	132	8
4 Star Homes	1	1	0
3 Star Homes	2	13	0
TOTAL	52	215	12

Source: Qualistar, NAEYC, NAFCC

1 Carolina Abecedarian Project (<http://www.fpg.unc.edu/~abc/>), Chicago's Child-Parent Study (<http://www.waisman.wisc.edu/clis/cbaexecsum4.html>) and the High/Scope Perry Preschool Study conducted in Ypsilanti, Michigan (<http://www.highscope.org/Content.asp?ContentId=219>).

2 Grunewald, Rob and Arthur J. Rolnick, An Early Childhood Investment with a High Public Return, The Regional Economist (July 2010), <http://www.stlouisfed.org/publications/re/articles/?id=1987>.

3 Economic Impact of Child Care and Early Education in the Pikes Peak Region: Executive Summary (2010), Phase 2 Regional Growth Plan: Section

3. Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments, www.ppacg.org.

4 Economic Impact of Child Care and Early Education in the Pikes Peak Region: Executive Summary (2010), Phase 2 Regional Growth Plan: Section

3. Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments, www.ppacg.org.

Preserving The Natural Environment

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Visit our website: www.ppunitedway.org

Our Environment

In Colorado, our natural environment is a cherished asset, an economic engine, for many a way of life, and for all of us, a source of identity and pride. For some, it's the reason we live here. We admire its beauty, use it for recreation, and its resources support our lives and economy. Our natural environment's health directly affects the plants, animals, and other species that depend on it, and that we depend on to survive, and ultimately determines our quality of life.

In 2010 and 2011, we watched global environmental catastrophes, including the BP oil well disaster and Japan's nuclear plant meltdown, and in response wrestled with the choices and impacts of meeting the needs of a growing population. We all share this planet and regardless of race, wealth, gender, age, sexual orientation, social status, political affiliation, or religious beliefs, living on Earth is one thing we all have in common. Thinking sustainably, we must consider how our decisions will impact future generations, and understand how to be stewards of resources. In order to make the Pikes Peak Region the best possible place to live, work, and play, today and in the future, we must all take the Hippocratic Oath; "Do no harm."

Our region has always been a popular destination, from early Indians to more recent inhabitants, and people continue to be attracted to our natural environment and quality of life. As the population of the Pikes Peak Region continues to grow, demand for natural resources will continue to rise. But our growth has direct environmental effects: changes in land use, air quality, water quality, livability, transportation, and waste are just a few of the concerns that face our community. Addressing environmental issues is complex, and can be depressing, confusing, and inspiring all at once. Understanding our choices, reducing our impacts, and improving our ecosystems can take teamwork, investment, education, and courage. We must be mindful of how we modify and use energy, air, water, and the landscape, and the effects on our planet and, consequently, our own, health.

Today, we are challenged. Data show that precipitation is changing, emissions are increasing, and temperatures are warming, a trend apparent worldwide, with 2010 tied for warmest year on record.¹ Both Ozone and E.coli concentrations have gotten worse, reversing positive trends. Human and animal health and safety are directly affected by pollution, with mercury an especially virulent biological threat.² Many species, including humans, cannot adapt at this pace of change, which presents the potential for political and social unrest to occur, often causing us to reexamine our ways. Therefore; we must plan and act differently for our future water, energy, and resource uses and sources, enabling the best of human innovation, creativity, and collaboration. These are problems that can be solved.

As a community, we've come a long way; we're learning more, and planning for the future. Locally, we are increasing our use of renewable energy, now 10% of our energy portfolio, evaluating biomass fuels in our power plants, partnering in progressive emissions technology development with Neumann Systems Group, and we've hosted a Global New Energy Summit

1 http://www.noanews.noaa.gov/stories2011/20110112_globalstats.html.

2 Arctic Mercury 2011 (Mercury in the Arctic) <http://www.amap.no/>.

with national leaders. We are increasing water efficiency with WaterSense products, landscape retrofits, and expanding supply through Southern Delivery System. We are building more efficient structures through EnergyStar, LEED, and WaterSense. We are treating wastewater better with UltraViolet light, and focusing on Fountain Creek as a Watershed. We are polluting more, but also recycling more, driving new markets and investment, including Bestway Disposal's construction of a Materials Recycling Center to sort recyclables right here in Colorado Springs. We continue protecting prime lands for habitat preservation, ecosystem services, future generations, and food production.

2011 Highlight Local Food Options continue to expand in the Pikes Peak Region.

Building on our community's agricultural heritage, rural character, and values of independence and health, Colorado Springs is increasing its food security. Economic conditions, supporting science, nutritional needs, and food safety and scarcity are creating a robust network of community and backyard gardens, farmer's markets, community supported agriculture, and business programs that provide locally grown products, engage citizens, and create community. With strong business support, and unique partnerships, school children eat healthier food made in Colorado, new generations experience food production for the first time, and local restaurants find success through local food celebrations like Local Food Week. Through Pikes Peak Urban Gardens, we now have 11 Community Gardens that provide unique benefits, such as stimulating social interaction, encouraging self-reliance, neighborhood safety and beautification, providing nutritious food, resource conservation, reduced family food costs, recreation, exercise, therapy, education, preserving open space, income opportunities, economic development, and inter- and cross-generational connections.

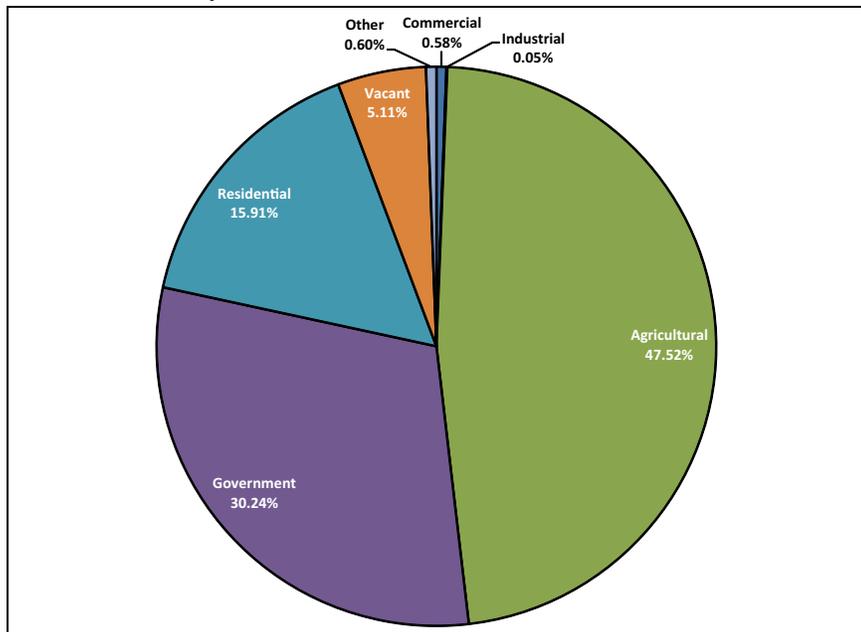
These collaborations support local and rural economies, promote the diversity and seasonality of local food and value-added products, create jobs, while helping the poor and malnourished. Partnerships with El Paso County, City of Colorado Springs Park and Recreation, and School District 11 integrate local food as an educational tool to improve children's health and awareness of Colorado products. Colorado College uses seasonal products and actively sources from local farmers. Farmer's Markets encourage small businesses and represent a unique cultural opportunity to celebrate diversity, health, and sustainability.

The economy will always affect and inspire these measurements, and while not all aspects of our natural environment are under our control, we realize as our future changes 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 future generations have access to the same environmental benefits, and quality of life, that we enjoy today.

-Natural Resource-

Land Use

El Paso County Land Use



Source: El Paso County Information Technologies

These Charts illustrate the current land use in El Paso County (County) and the City of Colorado Springs (City). In the County chart the Agricultural category includes farmland, grazing, and irrigated land. The Government category includes various government entities: federal, state, county, and local political subdivisions. In the City chart the Other category includes cemeteries, golf courses, right-of-ways and undetermined areas.

Why is This Important?

How an area dedicates and develops its land has a significant impact on environmental quality and natural resources. Failing to preserve natural spaces during periods of growth can affect wildlife, hydrology and biodiversity. For example, development can result in increased impervious surfaces, such as rooftops, roads, and parking lots. This reduces the amount of water that infiltrates through the ground and increases run-off into the creeks. Such changes in land use inevitably exact positive and negative impacts on the environment.

Land use in the Pikes Peak Region (Region) remains an important determinant of the nature and scope of environmental pressures. Tracking land use changes can aide in determining areas of high conservation value, regulating flooding and other natural hazards, as well as maintaining air and water quality. Land use and the natural environment remain inextricably linked; knowledge of changes in land use assists in formulating solutions for sustainable resource use and safeguarding the natural environment. The Land Protection Section speaks to particular efforts in retaining crucial landscapes and features in the Region.

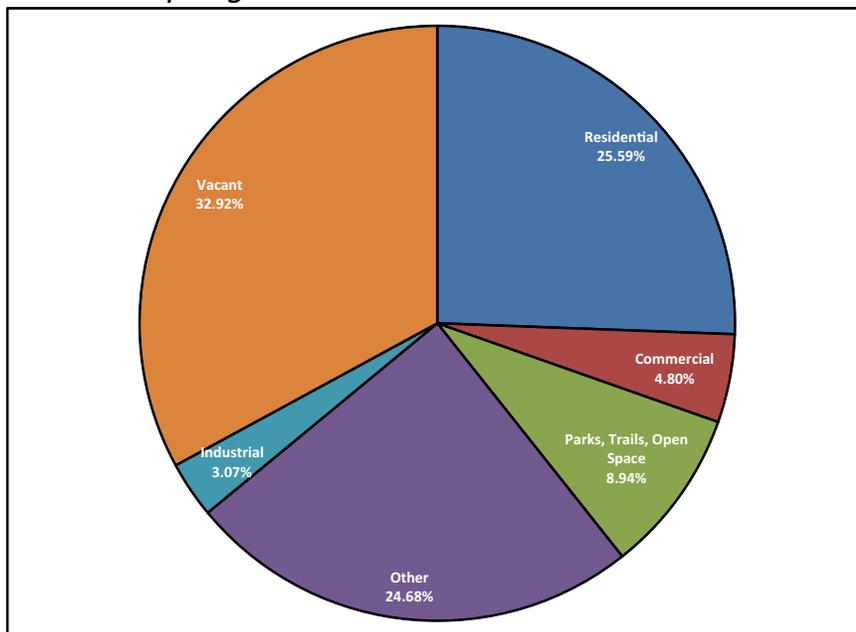
How are We Doing?

Though the Region does not have urban growth boundaries, the City and County both have open space plans to promote effective land use through parks, open space, and partnerships.¹

Potential for Action

While the County consists mostly of agricultural and government areas, the City is mostly residential, vacant and other land. The recent economic climate halted most development, though an increase in residential, commercial and industrial growth will likely occur when the economy rebounds. The substantial amount of vacant and agricultural land indicates the capacity for changing land use since those areas can convert to residential, commercial, industrial, or remain open spaces. The Region should integrate sustainable land use policy into future growth, ensuring that land use changes have limited negative impacts on environmental quality and natural resource systems. One such effort of mitigation, the City's comprehensive assessment for an integrated watershed approach, addresses the reduction of impervious surfaces through Low Impact Development methods. Additional solutions include enacting Smart Growth and Green Infrastructure policies that preserve and maintain environmental integrity while promoting healthy land use changes.

Colorado Springs Land Use

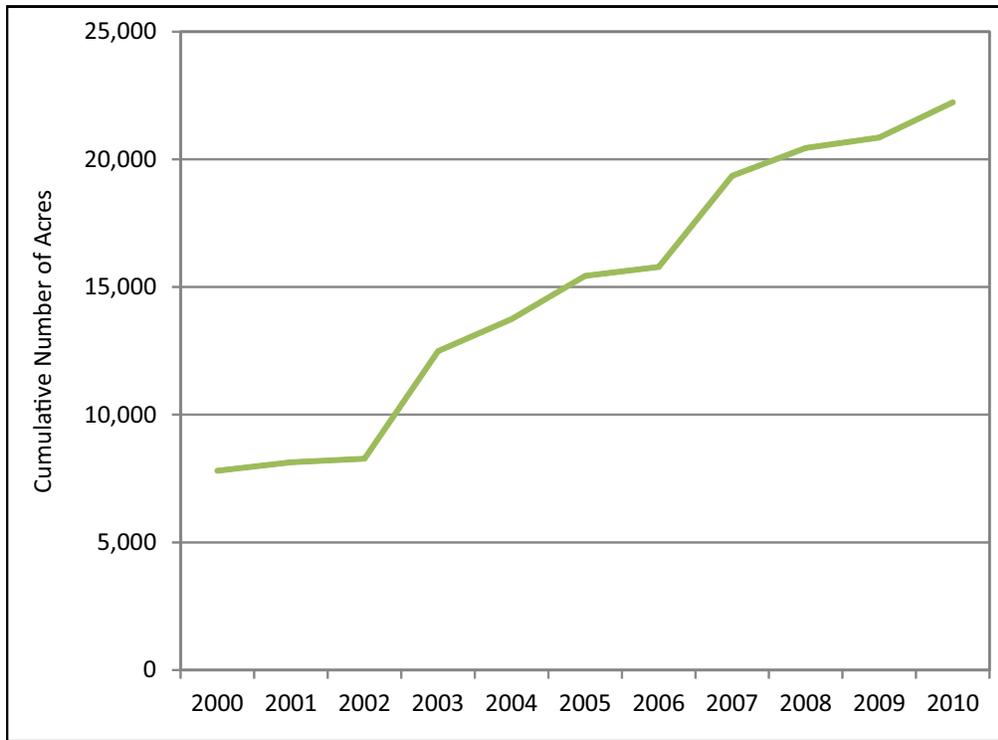


Source: City of Colorado Springs

1 See <http://www.springsgov.com/Page.aspx?NavID=3594> and <http://adm2.elpasoco.com/Planning/Policy-plan/page13.htm>.

PRESERVING THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Land Protection



Source: Palmer Land Trust

This Chart shows the cumulative acreage of private and public conservation easements in El Paso and Teller Counties 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.

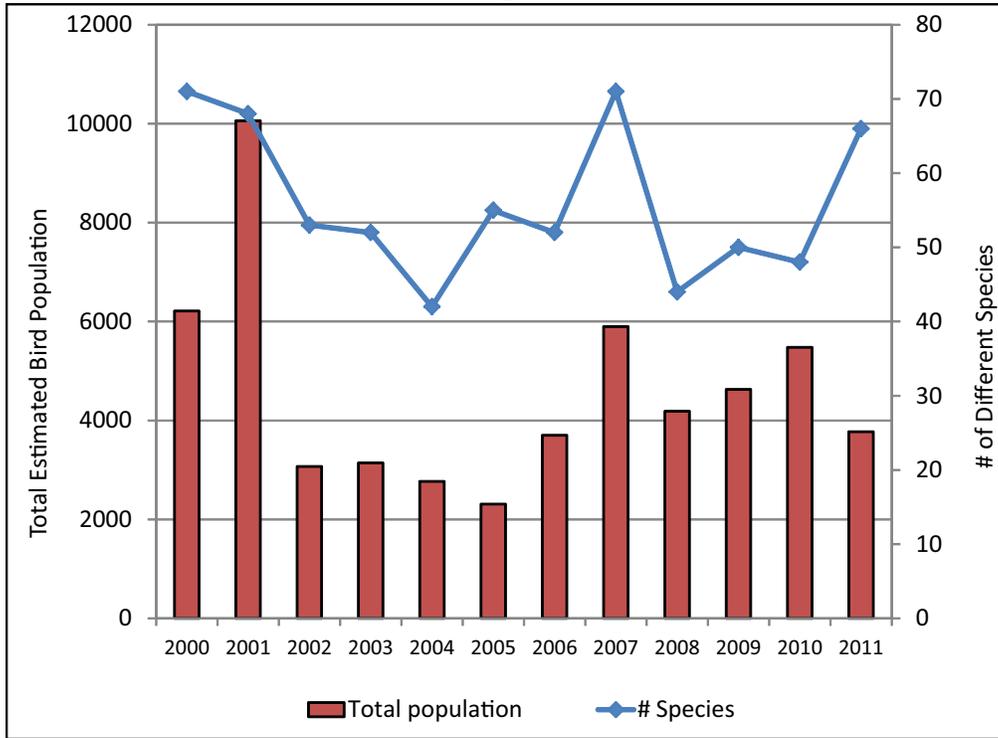
How are We Doing?

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, El Paso County Environmental Division, 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.

Birds in the Pikes Peak Region



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

Source: Great Backyard Bird Count

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. A primary consideration of properties approved for Conservation Easements in Land Protection includes existing habitat, ecosystem support and species diversity. These preserved properties help ensure these crucial and limited food sources in addition to bioremediation and stormwater benefits and social values.

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.

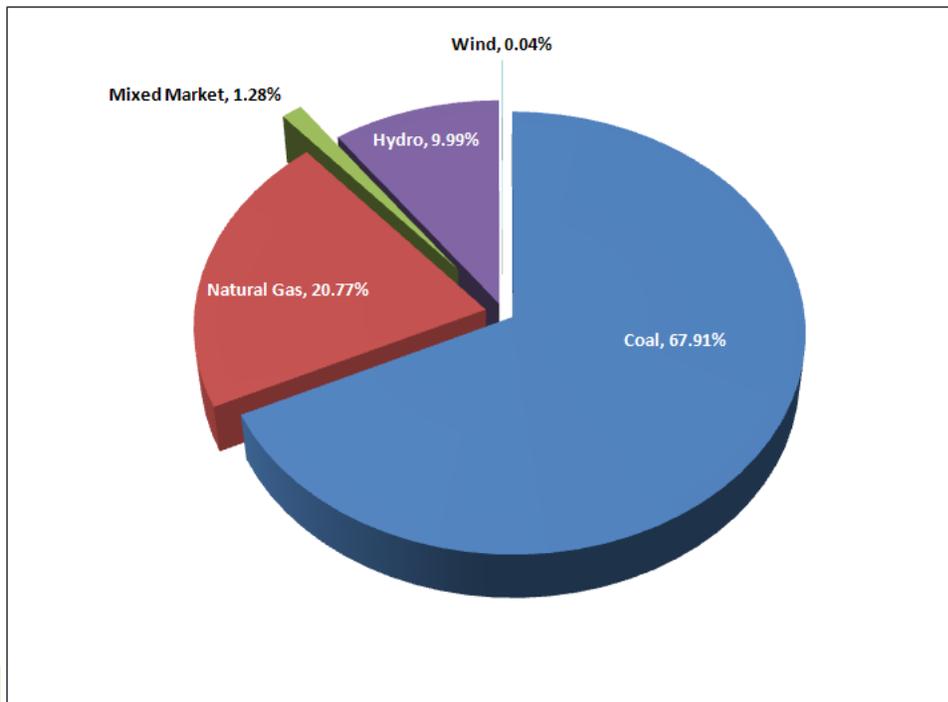
The 2011 survey indicates our population values the natural environment, and our support of City and County Trails, Parks and Open Space provide critical services to animal and human stakeholders through interaction and appreciation of nature and preservation of habitat, food sources, and waterways.



Photograph by Claud B.

-Resource Use-

2010 Electric Portfolio by Fuel Type



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, biomass 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 2010, coal and natural gas accounted for a decreasing percentage of our electricity

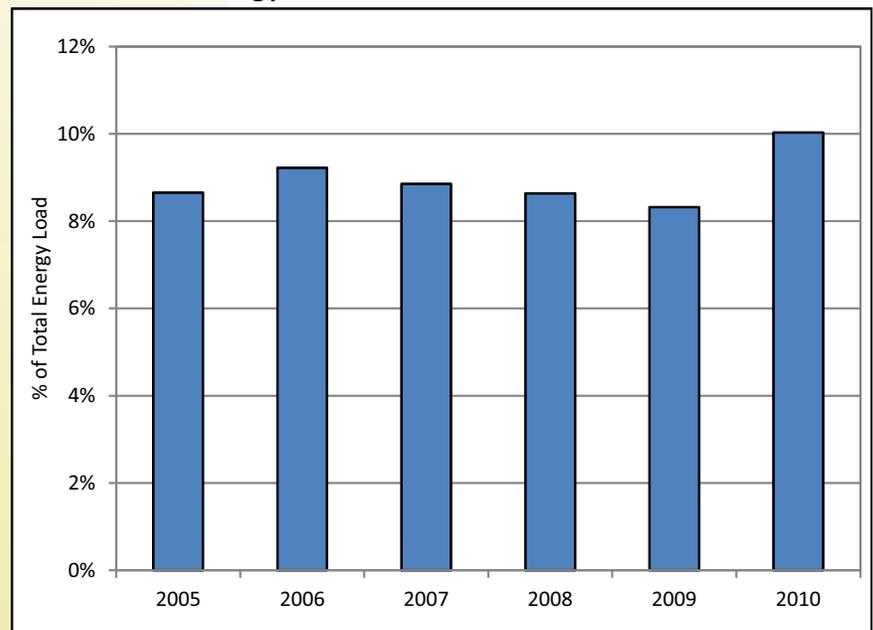
supply. While we are still heavily dependent on fossil fuels, we are using over 10% of renewable and additional renewable supply is under development. A solar array at the Air Force Academy will soon contribute an additional 6 MW of power, and exciting woody biomass and emissions projects are underway.

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.

Potential for Action

Colorado Springs Utilities is revising its Electric Integrated Resource Plan (EIRP) in 2011. 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 (PPRSP) and regional sustainable energy plan (PRISTINE energy plan) present opportunities for local utilities and the community to wisely define the future investment in energy sources and energy efficiency. Those efforts that could be effective in our community could be adapted and implemented. Although perhaps outside the timeframe of this report, the Department of Energy has started the Sunshot initiative,¹ the goal of which is to reduce the cost of solar energy by approximately 75% before 2020. This comprehensive approach includes – panels, balance of system, labor. If this initiative is successful, it may provide substantial opportunity to renewable energy portfolio options.

Renewable Energy

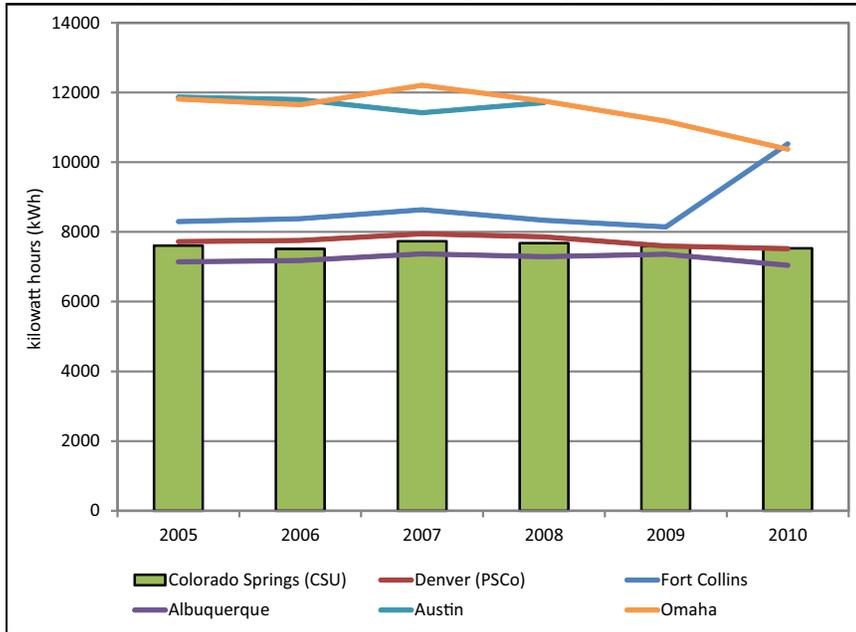


Source: Colorado Springs Utilities

¹ <http://www1.eere.energy.gov/solar/sunshot/index.html>.
Photograph by Claud B.

Energy

Electricity Usage Per Capita City Utility Company Comparison



These Charts show the kilowatt hours of electricity and the cubic feet of natural gas burned per household by the residential customers of Colorado Springs Utilities and comparison cities. Denver and Fort Collins are separate in Electricity but combined in Natural Gas.

Why is This Important?

Looking at energy consumption over time shows the trends in energy use. By reducing our energy usage per capita, supplies go further, which prevents us from having to purchase or create additional resources.

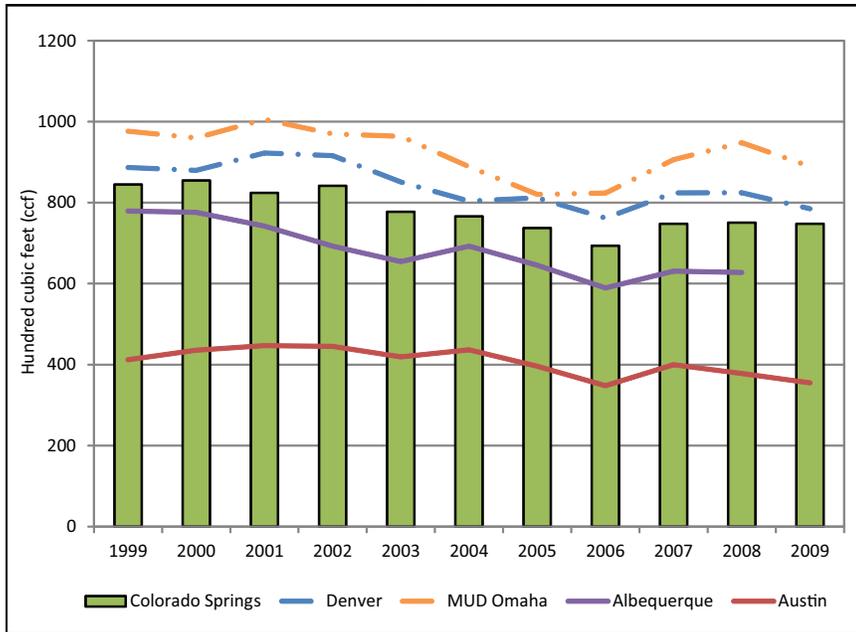
How are We Doing?

Colorado Springs Utilities consumers have been fairly consistent in their energy usage, with a slightly downward trend. This trend is also reflected in the comparison cities. Recent economic changes may also have contributed to reduced demand. It is important to note that the climate of a region can affect the type of energy used. In colder areas, more natural gas is used to provide heating, while in warmer areas; more electricity is used for cooling and air conditioning. In the last ten years, energy usage per consumer (Kwh) has been about the same, though as plug loads increase, efficiency measures have offset much of that growth. Efficiency is often the least expensive form of supply, and technology and behavior combine to maximize use of existing resources.

Potential for Action

Survey information shows that consumers are primarily interested in conserving electricity to save money, with a smaller percentage of people being interested in conservation efforts for environmental concerns.¹ Highlighting the monetary benefits of conserving electricity and natural gas could be one way to increase conservation and efficiency. Advances in codes, design and construction such as the US Green Building Council's LEED Certification, NAHB, and Department of Energy's EnergyStar homes contribute to conservation and efficiency and can be found in the Built Environment section of this publication.

Natural Gas Per Capita Usage City Comparison

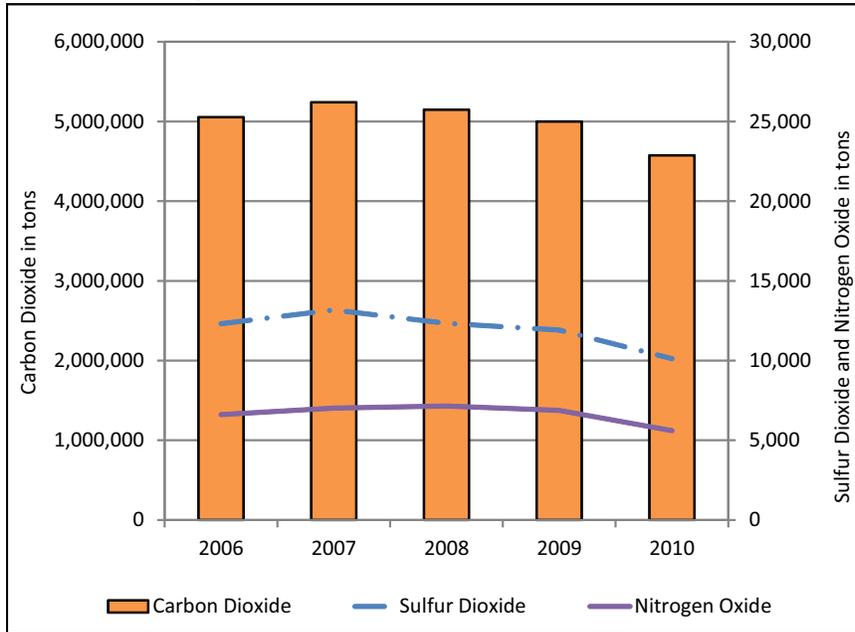


Source for both charts: U.S. Department of Energy Information Administration

EnergyStar certified products in the marketplace continue to expand and improve efficiency in appliances and consumer goods, and commercial and home energy retrofits have made existing buildings less expensive to run and more comfortable to use. Demand Side Management efforts such as rebates and retrofits from many sources help reduce energy consumption through retrofits using highly efficient products and systems. These programs have proven popular with businesses and consumers given choice and options and facilitate the adoption of reduced demand technology.

1 2011 QLI Community Survey.

Air Quality - Emissions



Source: EPA Clean Markets Database

The first chart shows Carbon Dioxide (CO₂), Sulfur Dioxide (SO₂), and Nitrogen Oxide (NO_x) from Colorado 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. SO₂ and NO_x 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, and can accumulate in food systems. Mercury can harm children's developing brains, including effects on memory, attention, language, and fine motor and visual spatial skills. Other toxic metals such as arsenic, chromium and nickel can cause cancer. Mercury and many of the

other toxic pollutants also damage the environment and pollute our nation's lakes, streams, and fish.¹

How are We Doing?

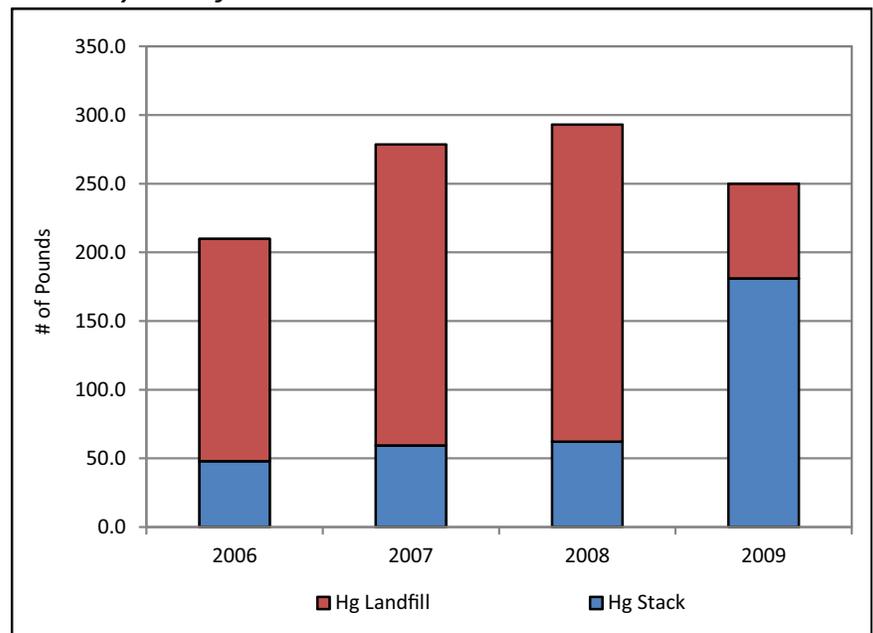
2010 concentrations of CO₂, SO₂ and NO_x from Springs Utilities generation decreased slightly from the previous years, due to slightly decreased energy production to a slight increase in consumer numbers. Air and landfill emissions have shown an increasing trend, although Mercury emissions data are incomplete for 2009 Nixon landfill amounts. While the region no longer has monitoring stations for SO₂ and NO_x, monitoring results from 2007 indicate that the region is below the standard for both pollutants. Currently, EPA has no limits on Mercury emissions from power plants.

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. Strategies to control CO₂ include switching from coal to natural gas, wind, solar, and hydro. See Energy Sources for how those technologies have been integrated into the Colorado Springs Utilities fuel portfolio.

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. A March 2011 EPA proposal to limit Mercury emissions may impact future production options and technology upgrades.

Mercury Landfill and Emissions

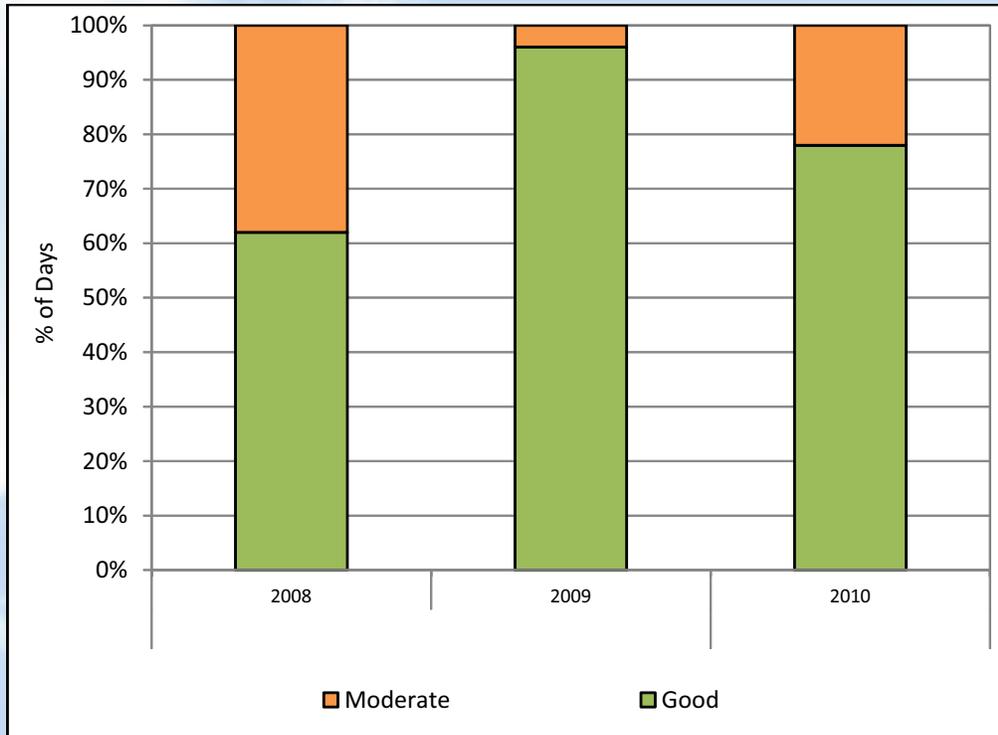


Source: EPA Toxics Release Inventory Program

1 <http://www.epa.gov/airquality/powerplanttoxics/>.

Air Quality - Ozone

Ozone Concentration Classifications



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

This Chart shows ozone concentration classifications based on the EPA air quality index reporting system. 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 March 2008, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) created a more stringent ozone standard. The chart indicates the number of good and moderate days for the 0.075 ppm existing 8-hour standard. El Paso County is the only county along the central and northern Front Range that remains in compliance with the 0.075 ppm ozone standard.

The EPA intends to set a new final primary and secondary standard for ozone. For the primary standard, EPA is proposing to adopt a more stringent 8-hour standard between 0.060 to 0.070 parts per million (ppm) and a separate cumulative secondary standard within the range of 7-15 ppm-hours. The Pikes Peak Region may not comply with these new standards.

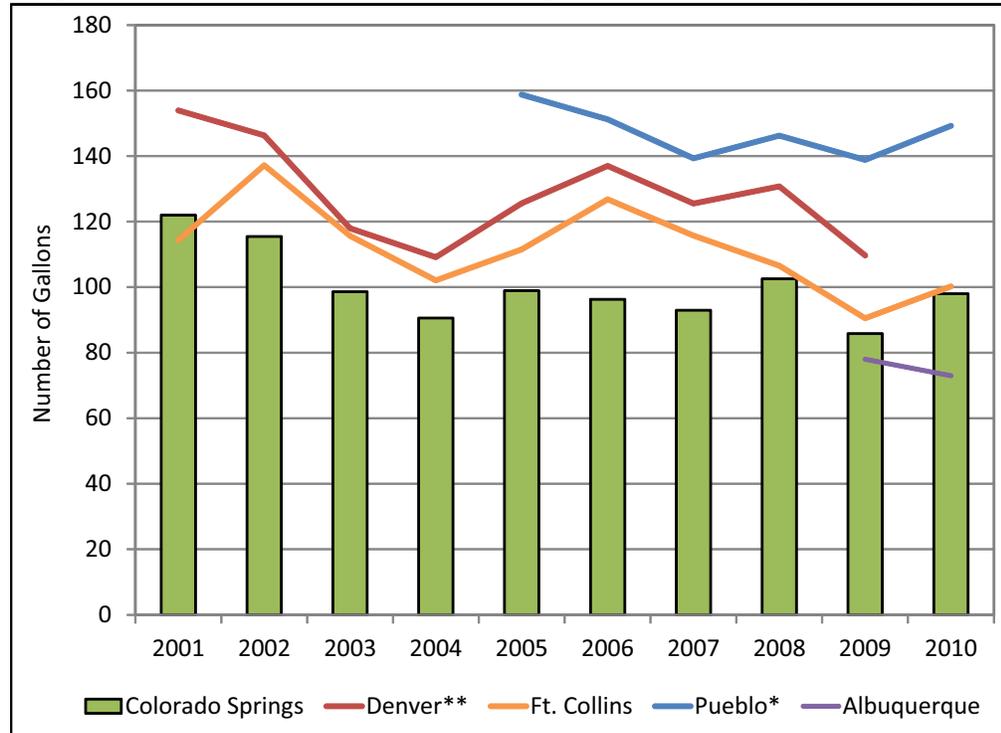
Potential for Action

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.

Photograph courtesy of Shutterstock.com

Water Service and Use

Single Family Household Water Usage Gallons Per Capita City Comparison



*Pueblo estimates single-family residential population by taking the total estimate residential population less the number of multi-family residential units multiplied by 2.
 ** No data available for 2010.

Source: Colorado Springs Utilities

This Chart shows daily single family residential water consumption per capita (GPCD) from 2001 through 2010 in Colorado Springs and four other benchmark communities. Data was not available for all communities in all years.

Why is This Important?

El Paso County is home to more than 600,000 residents, approximately 250,000 housing units, and more than 16,000 businesses.¹ Considering the population of the County is projected to grow to more than 1 million over the next 50 years, the importance of a reliable water supply and efficient use to help meet the growing needs of the Pike’s Peak Region cannot be overstated. El Paso County is “high and dry” with elevations ranging from 5,095 feet on the southern border at Black Squirrel Creek to 14,110 feet on the summit of Pikes Peak and average precipitation in Colorado Springs of about

17 inches per year. This semi-arid climate further intensifies the need for more efficient use of water resources, particularly given the uncertainties of water supply, drought, climate change and population growth.

There are 25 individual water districts or “providers” in El Paso County, including Colorado Springs Utilities, which provides approximately 80% of the water used domestically. Additionally, there are approximately 22,000 private residential wells in the County. While Colorado Springs Utilities’ water supply portfolio is made up primarily of renewable surface water sources, much of the remaining water use in the County is from ground water sources, some of which are non-renewable in nature, as they receive only minimal recharge to replace the water which is currently being pumped out of these aquifer systems.

How are We Doing?

The chart above indicates that Colorado Springs and each of the benchmark communities have seen reduced demands since 2001, though these demands may be leveling off slightly. Water use per capita per day is a common measure of changing water demands, but it may be misleading when comparing communities and evaluating conservation and efficiency. Weather, demographics, economics, and water pricing are primary determinants of municipal water demands which must be considered when making such comparisons. Different water providers also classify customers and calculate use per person per day differently. Use per person per day normalized for changes in weather, water price, and economic conditions is best utilized to monitor increases or reductions which may be permanent in nature, i.e. conservation. Normalizing for weather alone, Colorado Springs residential users reduced consumption by about 16% since 2001.

Potential for Action

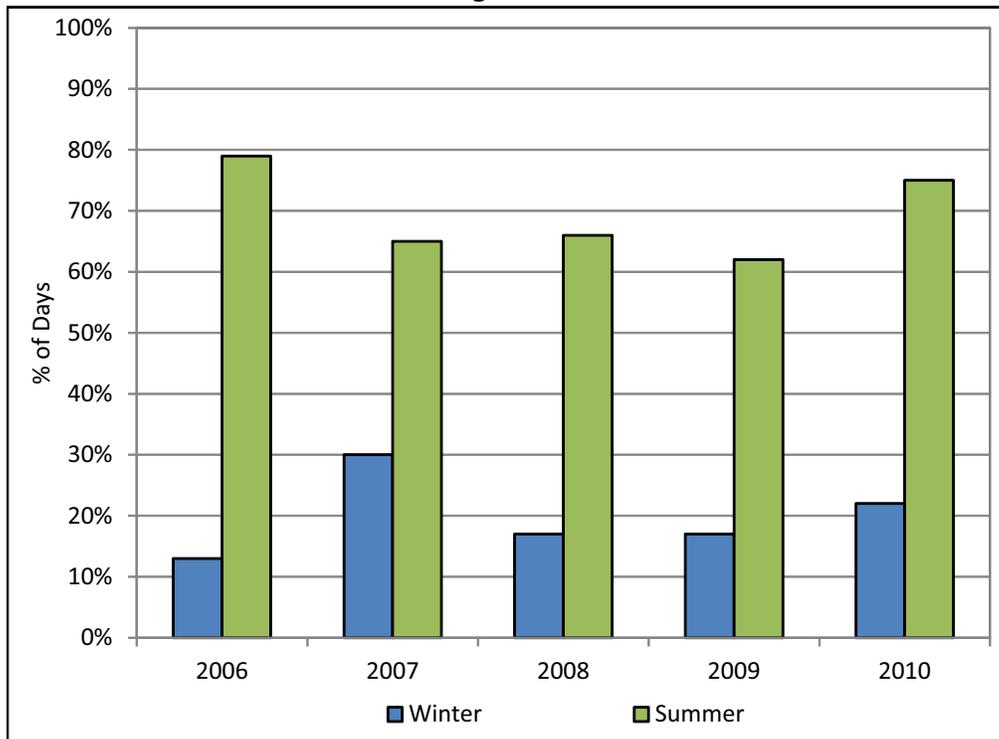
Clearly, securing water to meet the region’s growing water demands is essential to ensure a high quality of life in our region. In addition to ensuring efficient use of the resource, this is best done by developing a diverse portfolio of reliable supply options which meet the needs of multiple providers well into the future. Water supply projects which meet these criteria, such as the Southern Delivery System, are critical to meeting the future needs of the region. It is also important for water providers to consider and implement water conservation and efficiency measures strategically to meet growing demands, minimize the loss of non-renewable resources, and mitigate other possible environmental concerns.

1 U.S. Census Bureau.

Photograph courtesy of Shutterstock.com

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. Some types of bacteria 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. 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.¹

Pathogenic microorganisms that can cause human disease may be present where levels of bacteria are high. As a result, it might be unsafe to swim or wade through Fountain Creek when these levels are high e.g. following a heavy rainstorm. Other water quality concerns to Fountain and Monument Creeks include Selenium and Nutrients.

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 and several tributaries to these creeks to be listed as water quality impaired for E. coli.

Potential for Action

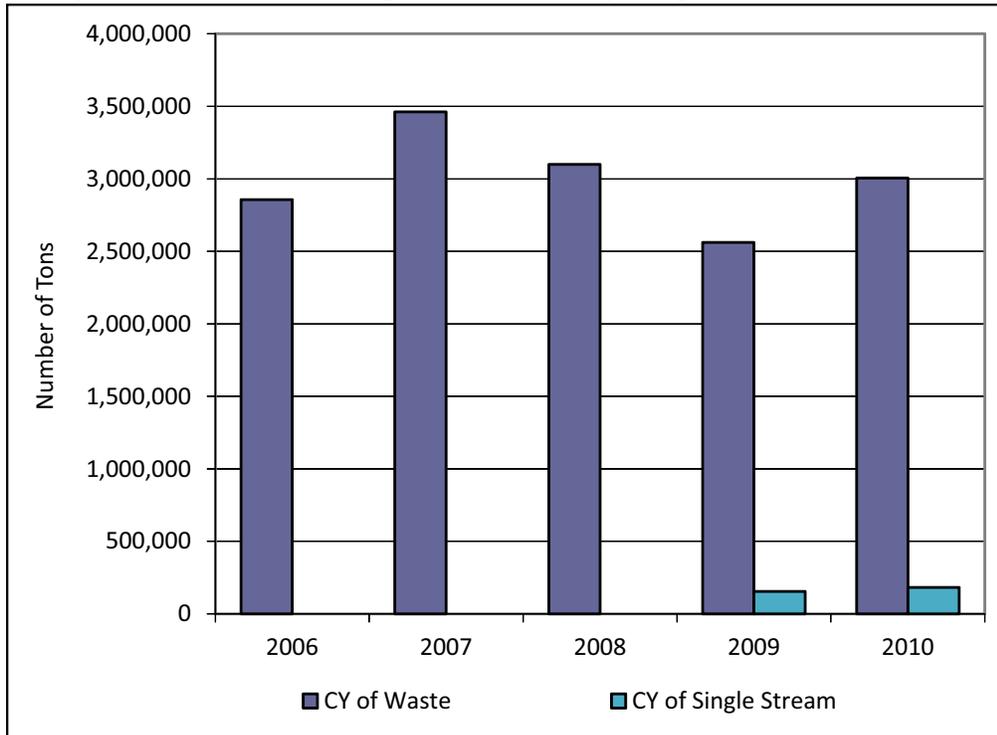
Two separate studies have been conducted on different stretches of Fountain Creek through the use of microbial source tracking methods (using DNA from E. coli bacteria) to determine whether E. coli sources are from people or animals. A study completed in 2009 on Upper Fountain Creek by the USGS identified birds as a probable source of fecal contamination and not human activities. Results for a study completed in 2010 on the mainstream of Fountain Creek by Colorado State University-Pueblo were inconclusive. Strategies to reduce concentrations will depend on the type of water quality contamination and 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>. Low Impact Development techniques, mentioned in Land Use, can have beneficial effects on water quality, including reductions in E.coli and other pollutants, through bioremediation using plants and soil systems that treat and improve water quality.²

1 Fountain Creek Vision Task Force, 2009, and <http://www.fountain-crk.org/>.

2 <http://water.epa.gov/polwaste/nps/urban/index.cfm>.

-Resource Reuse-

★ Landfill Quantities/Diversion Data Landfill/Waste versus Single-Stream Recycling



Source: Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

These Charts show the cubic yards of waste deposited annually into El Paso County's three local landfills and the amount of single stream recycling that is collected per year.

Why is This Important?

The items we dispose of 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 take many years. Many of these items can be recycled or composted. Reducing, reusing and recycling waste supports the earth and our environment and can often be less expensive than using raw materials.

How are We Doing?

We continue to utilize our landfills. Since 2008, all four major trash haulers have implemented single-stream collection of recyclables available to the majority of the county. This new measure contributes to the reduction of waste sent to the landfills. Education on the process is critical to the success and continued increased participation. Additionally, within the next year El Paso County will have its first Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) owned and operated by a local hauling company. This will be a commingled stream MRF; the process will provide 10 -12 new jobs. Residences can all choose to implement "single-stream recycling" as a way of life and a method of reducing wastes sent to the landfill. Most work happens at the local level and it is very important to encourage and empower our residents to take positive environmental action. Large scale cooperation and increased opportunities for recycling assure continued success. The City of Colorado Springs launched a 'Green Corners' campaign in April 2011 to provide single stream recycling options in the core of downtown.

Potential for Action

Recycling presents multiple economic development opportunities. The Pikes Peak Sustainability Materials Recovery Committee, El Paso County Environmental Division, the Recycling Coalition, the City of Colorado Springs Green Team and other groups are working toward developing a strategic action plan to encourage and expand recycling and green procurement in the Pikes Peak region. This will include an analysis of existing recycling efforts, collection of baseline data, specific improvement targets, and strategic objectives to realize success.

In August of 2010, at the EcoFestival the Recycling Coalition of Colorado Springs spearheaded an audit of 359 pounds of residential trash. Of the sample, 292 pounds was recoverable and/or recyclable. Readers can find out more about recycling at El Paso County's Environmental Division webpage under www.elpasoco.com search "Environmental Division."



Photo courtesy of El Paso County Environmental Division

Built Environment

Chairs and Convener

STELLA HODGKINS (Co-Chair)
Ambient Energy

BEN LOWE (Co-Chair)
Sierra Commercial Real Estate

JIM EGBERT (Convener)

Researcher

DELAINA MASSIE
Pikes Peak Library District

Members

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N.E.S. Inc.

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Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments

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Pikes Peak Regional Building Department

MARK FLUTCHER
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TASHA NORMAN
El Paso County Development Services

TIM OLIVER
Sustainable Building Concepts

JOHN OLSON
Olson Planning and Design

DOUG SHAW
HB&A

SCOTT SMITH
YJ Smith, LLC

MARY J. TALBOTT

LONNA THELEN
City of Colorado Springs

J. DAVID THORPE
J. David Thorpe Illustration and Design

MIKE WHITLEY
OZ Architecture

RAYMOND WINN
Woodland Park Planning Department

Avg Year Built by Census Tract in the Primary Urbanized Area for Residential and Commercial Properties

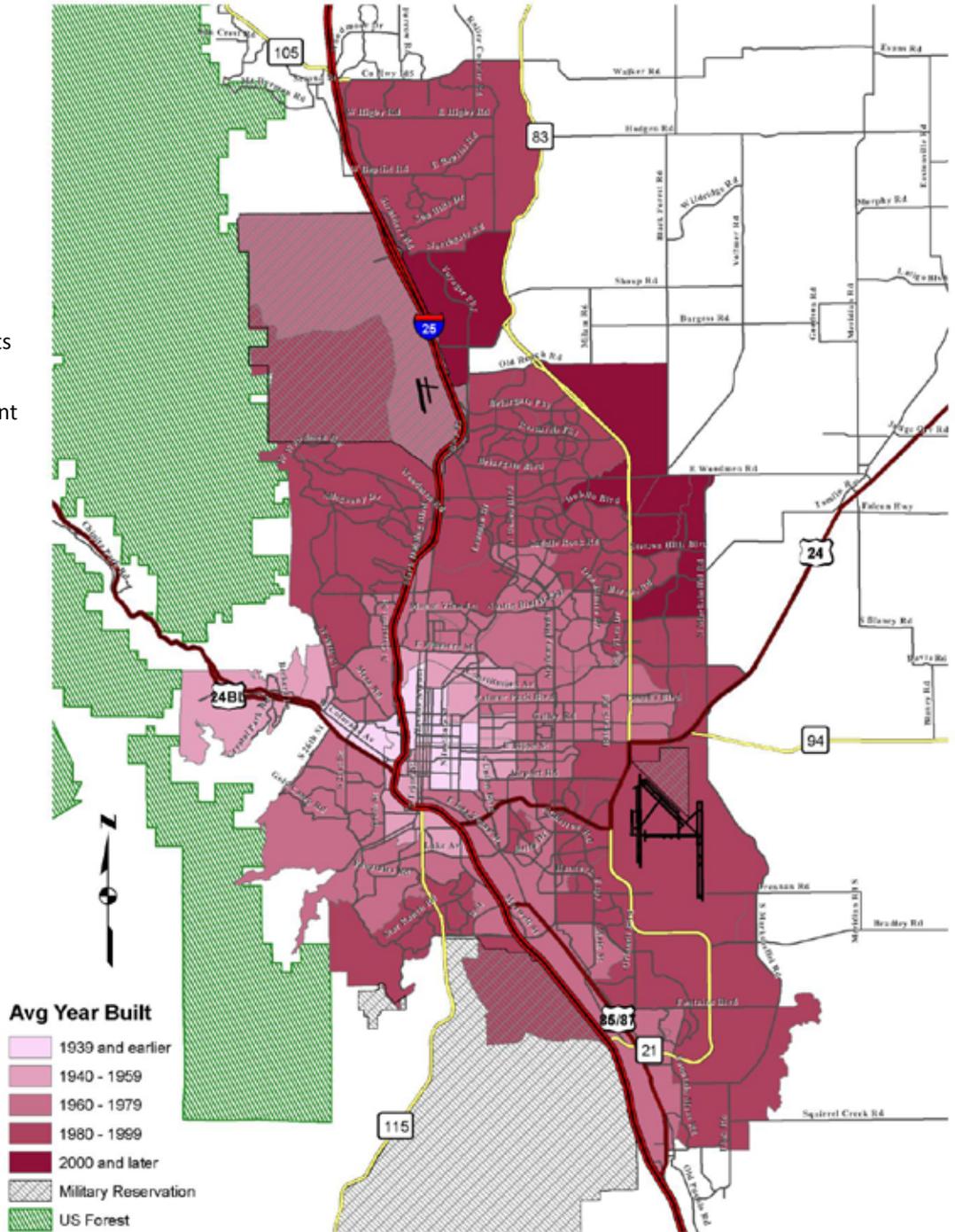


Image courtesy of the Office of the El Paso County Assessor

The Built Environment is the result of a complex network of physical, cultural, political, social and economic influences that all interact in the development and long-term sustainability of the community. Changes in one area of the built environment can often have dramatic and profound impacts upon other areas that are not always apparent at first glance.

As of 2010, there were approximately 253,000 housing units,¹ 28.6 million square feet of office space, 32.2 million square feet of industrial space, 3.3 million square feet of medical facilities and 20.9 million square feet of commercial/retail space in El Paso County alone.² Key quality of life indicators associated with the built environment include energy use, access to transportation, the housing stock, housing affordability, and the infrastructure. The relative age and quality of the housing stock, vacancy rates and the ability to maintain and manage the public improvements are all important issues to consider when analyzing the state of the built environment.

Area of Study

The Built Environment studied by this publication exists within the Colorado Springs Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) and includes developed areas in both unincorporated El Paso and Teller Counties and the cities of Colorado Springs, Fountain, Manitou Springs, Woodland Park, Monument and Palmer Lake. Comparing the data associated with the built environment within the boundaries of the Pikes Peak Region to other metropolitan areas can be problematic. Local jurisdictions often track and report information in different ways. This report utilizes the best currently available data on the built environment within the MSA to provide a relatively complete picture of quality of life.

Homes, roadways, drainage ways, drainage improvements, parks, commercial, retail and office buildings, industrial facilities, medical facilities, government buildings and police and fire structures make up the visible built environment. Underground networks of utility systems and telecommunication lines are also part of the built environment, even though they are seldom seen. In each of the jurisdictions within the MSA, both private and public sector influences have combined to create our built environment.

In many ways, the built environment is the backbone of the community and overlaps the *Growing a Vibrant Economy*, *Preserving the Natural Environment*, and *Moving Around in a Livable Community* sections of this report.

Development Models

In Colorado Springs development began in the hands of one private sector developer, General Palmer. Palmer had a vision for Colorado Springs and controlled all aspects of the early built environment from design to implementation. Over time, regulation has shifted to public sector entities to establish the land use, development processes and construction codes needed to implement the shared vision for the region. Development and construction responsibility remains with the private sector. Under the current development model utilized in most local jurisdictions, the private sector funds the majority of improvements associated with growth by dedicating land and constructing roads, installing necessary utility infrastructure,

dedicating land or funding for schools and parks, and installing or funding drainage improvements with public sector oversight. The public sector then becomes the guardian of these facilities and ensures they are maintained by employing revenues from property and sales taxes.

The following sections discuss and analyze key quality of life indicators within the built environment. Each section describes how the indicator relates to quality of life, provides a current assessment of the indicator, and recommends potential actions. Referring to these indicators will encourage long-term community sustainability as the region grows.

Our Low Density Built Environment

Based on the aggregate of the indicators in this section, the region's low density built environment warrants a red flag. Therefore, the Potential for Action sections of this report tend to focus on making infill development easier in a number of ways, addressing regional governance issues, proposing long-term/holistic thinking about funding our growth, and recommending that the community help create walkable, transit-oriented neighborhoods in the city. The City of Colorado Springs has established Designated Development Corridors and an Infill Boundary as a vehicle for future higher density development.

Designated Redevelopment Corridors & Infill Boundary

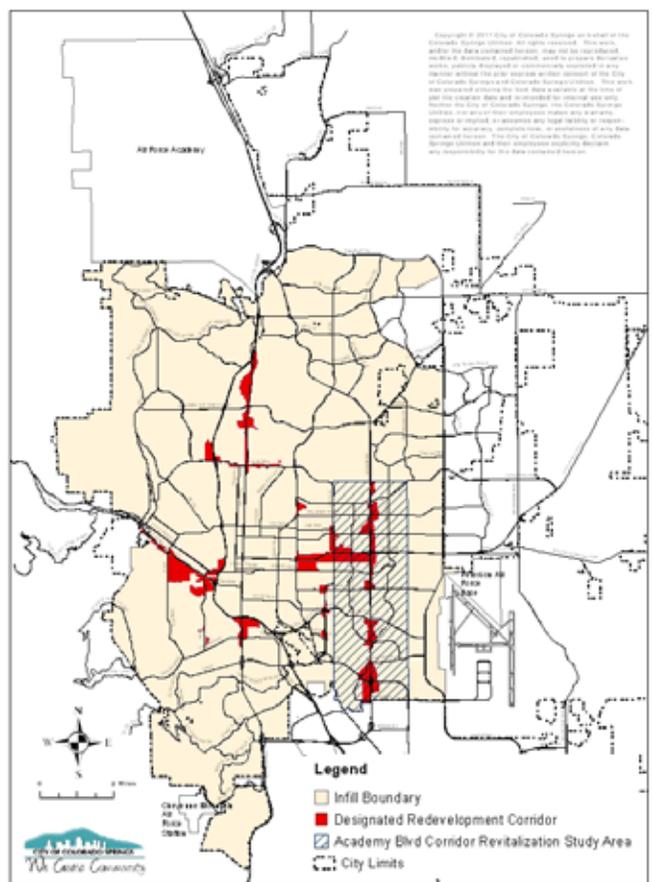


Image courtesy of the City of Colorado Springs Comprehensive Planning Department

1 2010 data, US Census Bureau Housing Unit Data from dola.colorado.gov/dlg/demog/2010data.

2 Sierra Commercial Real Estate.

-Land Use and Sustainable Buildings-

Land Use by Type in Acres

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Residential	28,000	28,919	29,523	30,278	30,739	31,077	31,284	31,414
Commercial/Office/Industrial	8,538	8,761	8,929	9,115	9,245	9,464	9,587	9,656
Parks/Trails/Open Space	9,684	9,852	10,804	10,843	10,922	10,956	10,978	10,978
Institution	9,594	9,699	9,791	10,064	10,042	11,744	11,832	11,836
Other	17,527	17,898	18,282	19,009	19,453	19,681	20,230	20,305
Vacant	45,884	46,029	46,067	44,751	43,802	41,478	40,701	40,423
TOTAL	119,226	121,157	123,396	124,060	124,203	124,385	124,612	124,612

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

The Table shows the physical use of the land within the City of Colorado Springs. While the Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) is far greater than the area of Colorado Springs, data aggregated in the same way are not available for all areas. For each land use type, the acreage is provided. Specific land uses categorized as "Institution" include universities, conference centers, hospitals, airports, military installations, museums, public safety buildings, detention centers, libraries, schools, churches and arenas.

The Map provides a visual representation of the density of Colorado Springs. The lower the ratio of dwelling units per acre (du/ac), the less dense the area is. Most of Colorado Springs falls into the least dense category.

Why is This Important?

Land use provides insight into the population density of a particular area. The less dense the city, the more inefficiently resources, including public service, roads, utilities, police, and fire, are utilized. For example, it is generally accepted that people will walk 0.25-mile, or five minutes to a local transit stop and 0.5-mile to a regional or high speed transit stop. The City of Colorado Springs has a significant amount of vacant land, including the 24,000-acre Banning Lewis Ranch on the eastern edge, which results in a low population density.

How are We Doing?

Approximately 61% of the vacant land in Colorado Springs is within the Banning Lewis Ranch on the eastern edge of the city; the remaining 39% is attributable to infill property, which is often closer to or already serviced by utility lines and roads.

Of the approximately 253,000 dwelling units located within El Paso County as of 2010, just over 50% are within 0.5-mile of a fixed-route bus service and approximately 61% are located within 0.5-mile of an urban trail. Considering the distances and times people are likely to walk to utilize transit, more than one half of El Paso County is mono-mobile and auto-dependent. While some people prefer this lifestyle, many cities are actively trying to create walkable, transit-oriented developments. The Pikes Peak region is not a leader in this field.

Potential for Action

- Define areas where moderate and high densities are appropriate, since moderate density on urban fringe can exacerbate infrastructure issues, especially when undeveloped land within urbanized area exists.
- Develop a comprehensive approach to development that considers short- and long-term ramifications.
- Incorporate transit service into master planning as a crucial step.

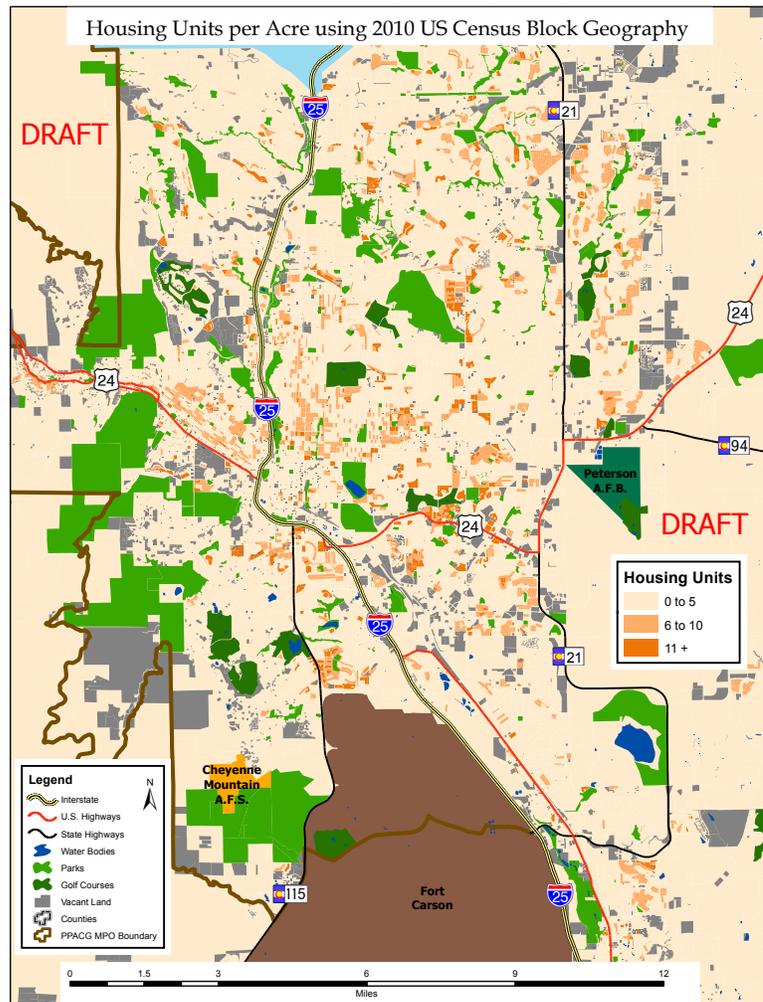
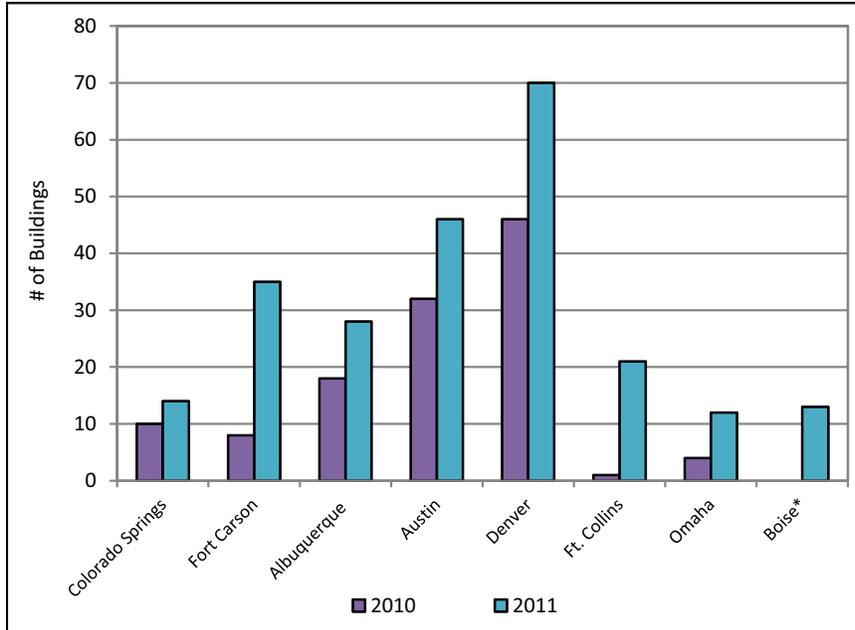


Image courtesy of the Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments

Sustainable Structures

LEED Certified Buildings Comparison



*Boise was not included in the 2010 QLI report.
Source: U.S. Green Building Council, Fort Carson Sustainability and Environmental Management System

The first Chart shows the number of Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED®) certified buildings in Colorado Springs and its comparable cities.¹ The figures published here represent the data available from US Green Building Council (USGBC) as of March 2011.

The second Chart shows the total number of new homes and the number of new Energy Star homes built in the City of Colorado Springs. Energy Star is a national standard that provides a measurement of energy efficiency.

Why is This Important?

There is no single, perfect sustainable building indicator. LEED and Energy Star are two of the most recognizable and well-known measures; therefore, they are included in this document. Sustainable buildings are important because buildings are nationally among the highest users of energy, consuming 72% of all electricity and representing 39% of all CO2 emissions.² Sustainable buildings reduce utility expenses, lower construction waste, decrease water use, and provide healthy environments

for occupants. Sustainable office and commercial buildings increase their return on investment by increasing the productivity of employees while attracting and retaining environmentally conscious tenants; they also consume less energy and other utilities over the lifespan of the building.

How are We Doing?

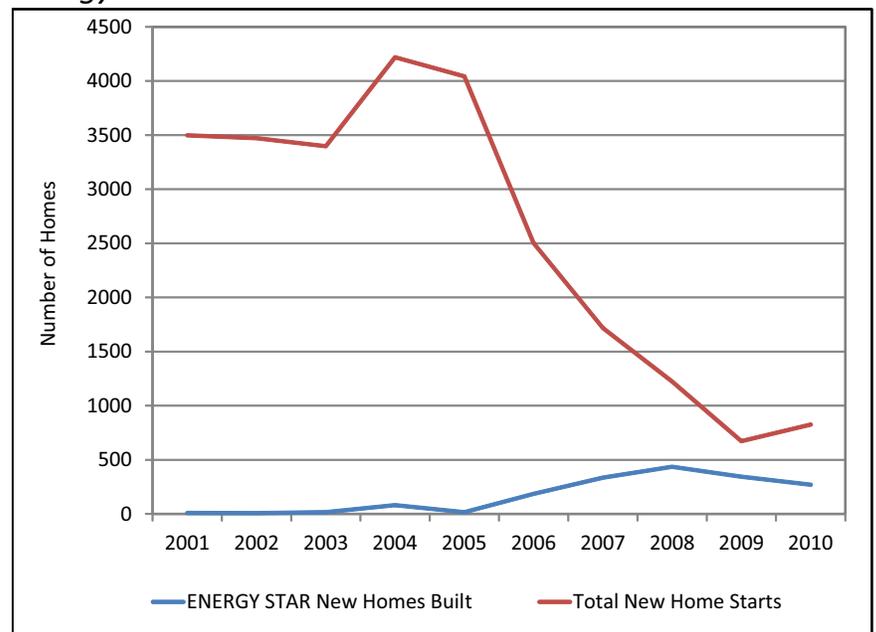
Colorado Springs has notably fewer LEED certified buildings than comparable cities. Fort Carson requires that, by 2012, all new buildings and renovations surpass the second level of LEED certification. Their goal is that, by 2027, all new buildings will surpass the criteria for the highest level of certification, LEED Platinum.³ Building energy code standards are increasing in Colorado Springs and therefore the energy efficiency of many residential units is also increasing. Colorado Springs Utilities also provides incentives for builders to have their homes Energy Star certified.

Teller County and the City of Woodland Park encourage green building practices, though there are currently no LEED certified buildings in Teller County.

Potential for Action

- Develop city and county incentives for green building practices and adjust local building policies and practices to support sustainable, high performance buildings and construction.
- Require the disclosure of energy use for both commercial and residential buildings.
- Educate the general public, policy makers, and local leaders on the life-cycle of buildings and the impact on the community, including energy use, water use, transportation, and capital costs vs. savings over a building's life-span.

Energy Star Homes

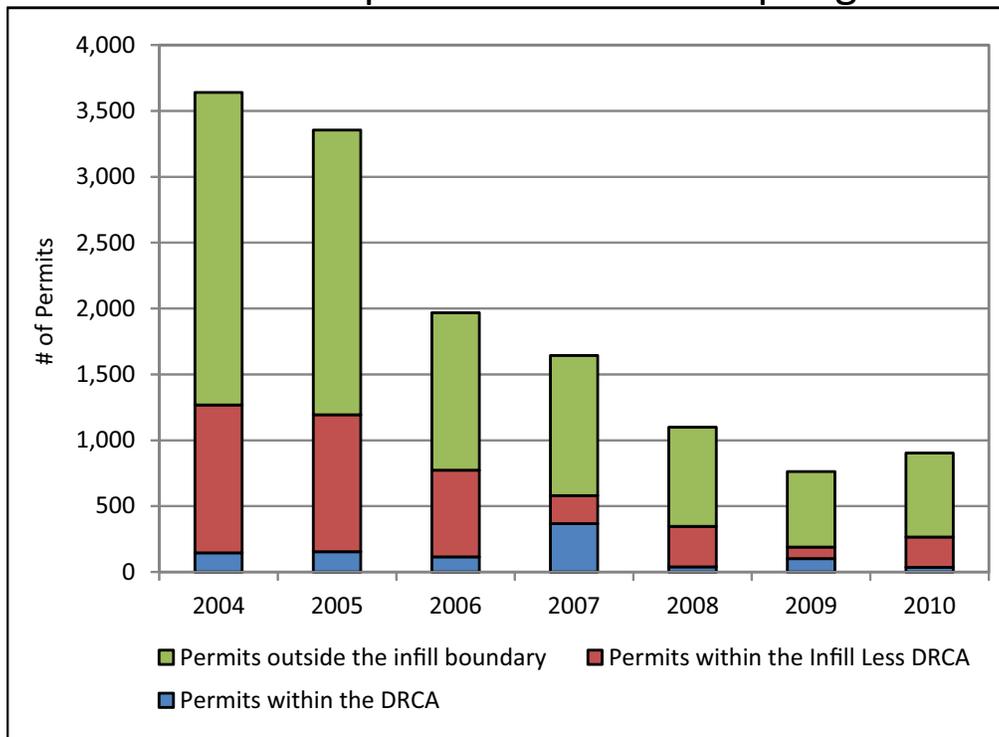


Source: U.S. Green Building Council, Fort Carson Sustainability and Environmental Management System

1 More information on LEED can be found at <http://www.usgbc.org/DisplayPage.aspx?CategoryID=19>.
 2 US Green Building Council. "Building Impacts" presentation. Available at <http://www.usgbc.org/DisplayPage.aspx?CMSPageID=1720>. 2011.
 3 Barber, Mary. Installation Sustainability Resource Officer. Fort Carson, CO.

-Patterns of Development-

Infill and Redevelopment in Colorado Springs



Source: Pikes Peak Regional Building Department

This Chart shows the number of permits issued for new commercial and residential structures, excluding building additions, from 2004 to 2010. There are nine Designated Redevelopment Corridor Areas (DRCAs) within the City of Colorado Springs, all located within the Infill Boundary defined by the City's Comprehensive Plan and shown by the map on page 55.

Why is This Important?

Infill development refers to the reuse of underused or vacant land already serviced by infrastructure, including utilities, roads and stormwater drainage. While infill projects may experience unique problems, the benefits often outweigh the costs. Solutions to such problems can usually be found through intergovernmental and regional cooperation. Infill developments often require less construction of new infrastructure

components, increase downtown or central city property values, spur redevelopment and revitalization of declining areas, increase density, and increase the efficiency of local and regional transit. On the other hand, continued outward growth and decreased funding for maintenance can result in deterioration of the inner portion of the city.

The *Academy Boulevard Corridor Revitalization Plan* is an excellent study of the interrelation between infill development and transportation. The project focuses on Academy from Maizeland to Drennan.¹

How are We Doing?

In 2010, 29% of building permits corresponded to properties located within the infill area; 71% were located elsewhere. While these numbers show a slight increase from 2009 (25% in the infill area and 75% outside the infill area), the majority of the permits are still issued for construction at the northern and eastern fringes of the city.

Outward development is expected to continue, but the city needs to be conscious of the ratio of infill to total development and should work in concert with the Colorado Springs Urban Renewal Authority (www.csurbanrenewal.org) to encourage development inside the infill areas. The DRCAs are identified by the City Comprehensive Plan as areas for potential infill but, as of yet, are not currently experiencing any strong redevelopment.

Teller County, by comparison, is composed of 48% public land and also features a very low population density. The city of Woodland Park is unique in that it has a natural growth boundary in the forests that surround the city and therefore limit growth. Due in part to this boundary, Woodland Park encourages infill and mixed-use development in the downtown area. The city also encourages walkability and bikeability within the community.²

Potential for Action

- Encourage and provide incentives for infill, including aging and capacity-limited utilities, creating new avenues for neighborhood participation, solving problems with entitlements, reevaluating existing development guidelines and fees, and providing community amenities such as parking garages.
- Invest in an urban circulator such as a streetcar and pursue other multimodal transportation options, especially those that connect to the Denver metropolitan area.
- Incentivize growth at transit stops, specifically in DRCAs and Urban Renewal Areas. Utilize best-practices, such as identified by the Brookings Institute, especially as they pertain to multi-modal transportation to Denver. More information can be found in the Brookings' 2008 report, *Mountain Megs*³ and from corollary lectures delivered locally as a part of the Mountain Megs project.⁴

1 More information on this 12-square mile planning area can be found at <http://www.springsgov.com/Page.aspx?NavID=3077>.

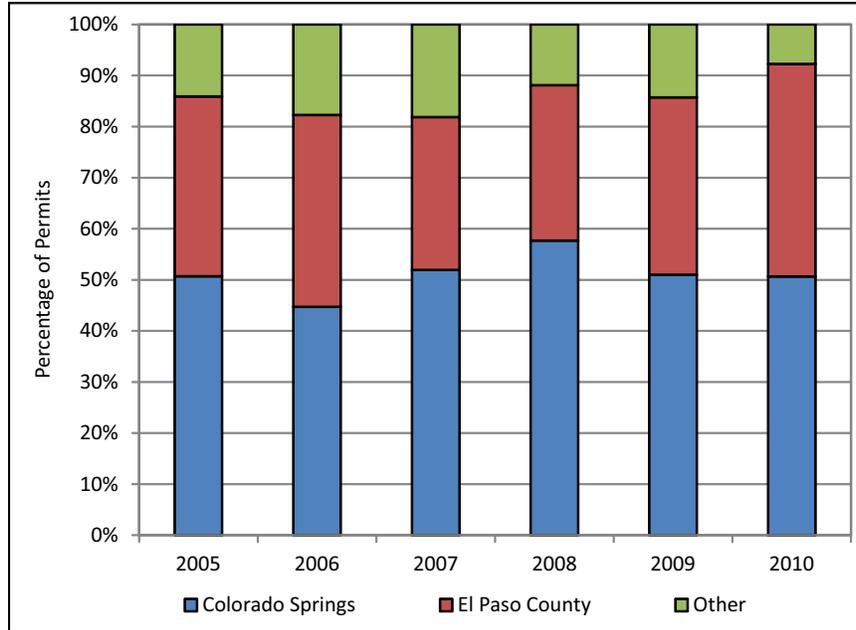
2 More information on Woodland Park can be found in their Comprehensive Plan at <http://city-woodlandpark.org/media/65658/comprehensive%20plan.pdf>.

3 http://www.brookings.edu/reports/2008/0720_mountainmegs_sarzynski.aspx.

4 http://www.brookings.edu/speeches/2009/0407_intermountain_west_muro.aspx.

Building Permits in El Paso County

Residential Permits Percentage



Source: Pikes Peak Regional Building Department

The Chart shows the percentage of residential construction permits pulled each year and the location of the residential units.

Why is This Important?

Currently, the development codes for El Paso County and Colorado Springs differ. El Paso County's requirements allow more options for lower density, discontinuous and/or rural development.

In general, it is less expensive to provide services in cities, as the increase in density allows for more inexpensive transportation, utilities, and schools. Moreover, when retail development occurs in the county, the city does not receive sales tax revenue. However, the county's portion remains the same regardless of location. Providing infrastructure and maintenance in the county requires a dependence on groundwater and often the creation of a Metro District to tax, bond, and provide services.

City development is more comprehensive in nature but growth is shifting into the unincorporated county because of higher costs for developing within the City. Ramifications include longer vehicle trips, higher dependence on groundwater, increases in service requirements (police/fire, etc), and reduced effectiveness of public transport.

Where we live also determines how much we drive. In a recent study by the Environmental Protection Agency, the total energy use of homes and the transportation used by each type of home were analyzed and compared. The total energy use, in British Thermal Units (BTUs), of a single family detached house in a conventional suburban development and the transportation used by that house was found to be roughly two and one half times greater than multi-family attached housing in a Transit-Oriented Development (TOD).¹ Energy savings in TODs were even higher with green buildings and green automobiles. Colorado Springs' housing stock is primarily single-family detached housing (see page 62) and the community is highly auto dependent. The Pikes Peak region could see significant energy savings by promoting walkable, mixed-use, transit-oriented neighborhoods.

How are We Doing?

While the total number of permits has declined in the Pikes Peak region, (see page 58) the percentage of growth in the county has been steadily increasing.

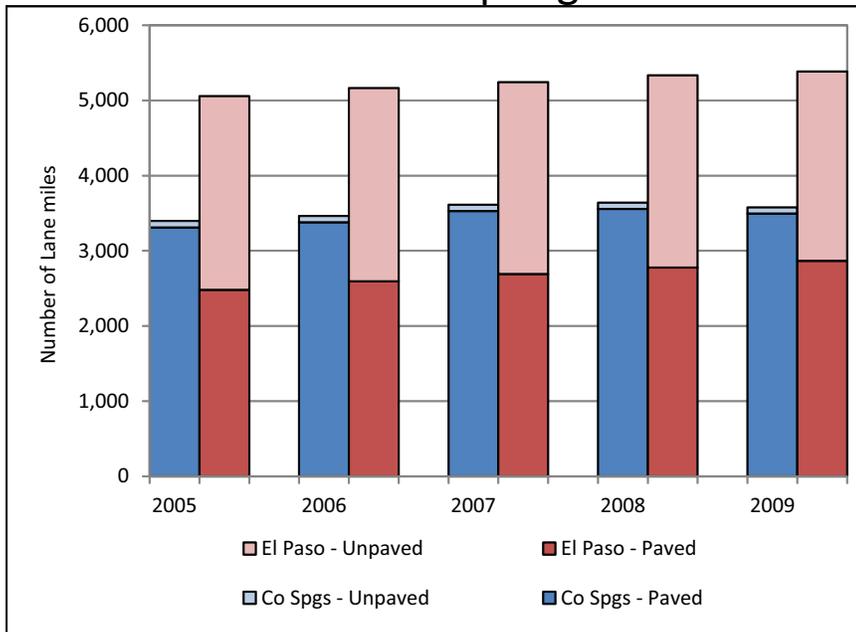
Potential for Action

- Inventory all vacant parcels within the urban area and identify obstacles to development on those sites.
- Develop intergovernmental agreements to foster regional cooperation between the city and county that focuses on growth in the areas of the county that are likely to be annexed into the city at a future point.
- Develop regional policy to encourage urban or suburban density development (2 dwelling units per acre and up) to occur primarily in municipalities. A minimum of 10 dwelling units per acre is needed to support strong transit and most of the Pikes Peak region is significantly below this. Increasing density at crucial nodes will also help make transit more effective.
- Convene meetings with local builders, Land Use Review, downtown interests, Planning Commission, City Council, and others to identify how development site selection is made and the obstacles to infill development.

1 "Location Efficiency and Housing Type – Boiling it Down to BTUs." Prepared by the Jonathan Rose Companies. January 2011. Available at <http://epa.gov/smartgrowth/>.

-Infrastructure and Connectivity-

Lane Miles in Colorado Springs and El Paso County



The first Chart shows the number of lane miles, paved or unpaved in Colorado Springs and El Paso County from 2005 to 2009 that require maintenance by either the City or the County.

The second Chart shows the annual budget for roadway maintenance from 2004 through 2011 and displays the dollars provided by the City of Colorado Springs and Pikes Peak Rural Transportation Authority (PPRTA) to maintain city streets.

The Chart on Page 61 shows the total dollars spent annually to maintain Colorado Springs roads and the City's contribution to the total allocation from 2002 through 2009.

Why is This Important?

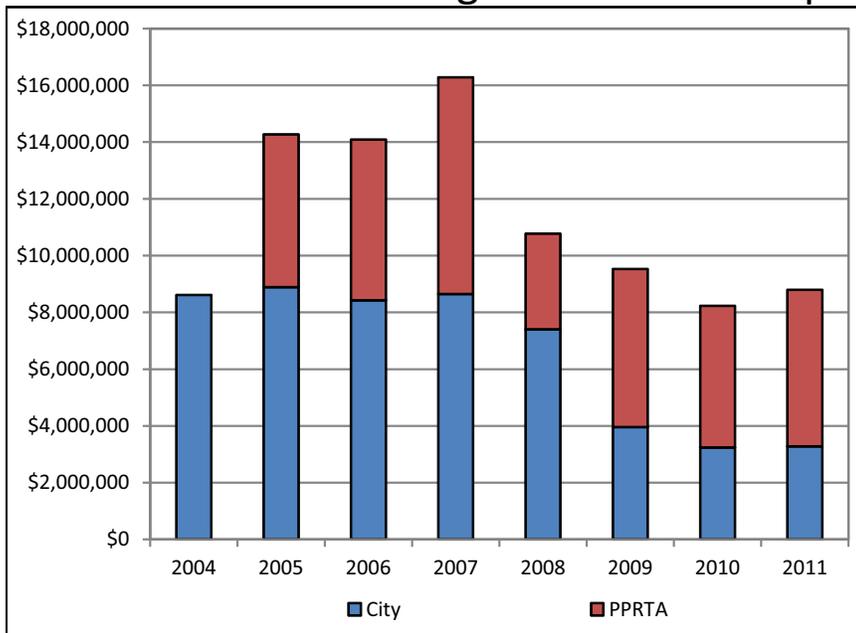
Infrastructure refers to publically-owned physical systems in a city such as roads, bridges, sidewalks, water supply systems, sanitary sewers systems, and stormwater drainage systems. Publicly owned infrastructure is most often maintained with taxes or metered user fees. Private infrastructure, such as private roads or water systems, is paid for by the users. Primary infrastructure components require large

Notes:
 City Road Statistics: include only those roads under municipal jurisdiction, and do not include Colorado highways, toll roads, or county roads.
 County Road Statistics: limited to roads under county jurisdiction, and do not include Colorado highways, municipal roads, or toll roads.

Source: Colorado Department of Transportation

financial commitments for their development, repair and replacement, and are typically financed by the issuance of long-term bonds.

Road Maintenance Budget for Colorado Springs



Infrastructure is a critical component of urban development. The cost of building and maintaining infrastructure is closely tied to development patterns, particularly urban density. One of the greatest challenges facing the City of Colorado Springs is how to adequately fund infrastructure and capital facilities for new suburban development on the fringe without reducing the levels of service provided to existing areas of the city. The cost and complexity of upgrading inadequate and aged infrastructure in the city's core can also be a deterrent to redevelopment and urban infill when compared to suburban and exurban development options.

How are We Doing?

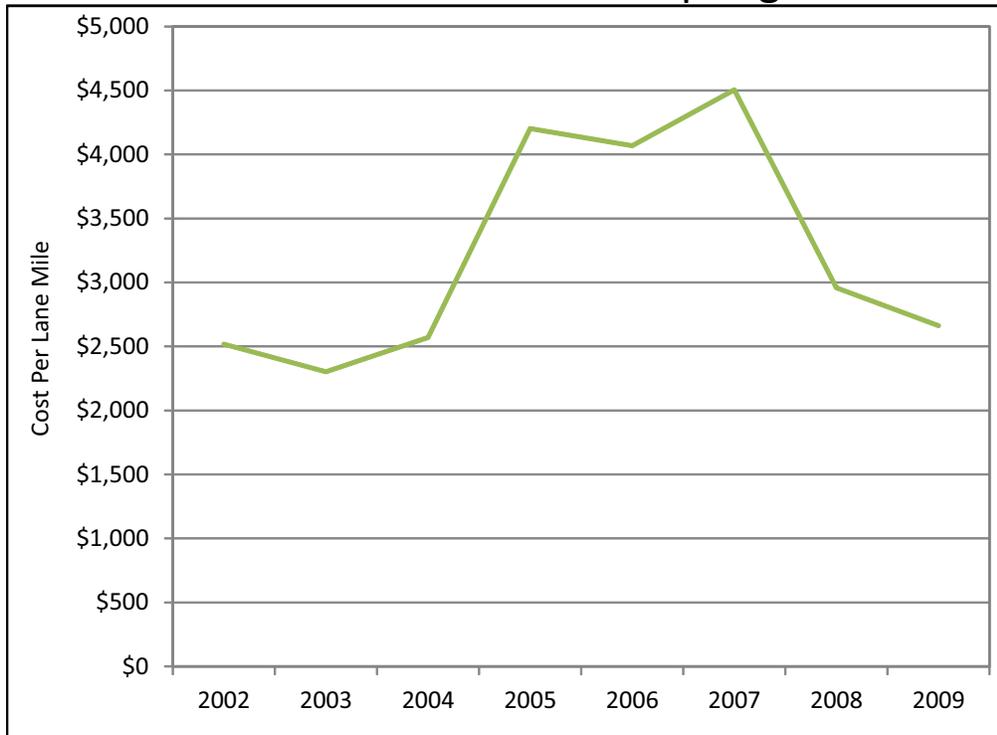
Although there was a slight increase in 2011 City and PPRTA funding for roadway maintenance, the budget for roadway maintenance has been generally declining since 2007. According to the Moving Around in a Livable Community section of this report, there is a modeled backlog of needed maintenance to the city's roadway system. Because of this

Note: PPRTA funds are only those allocated to the City of Colorado Springs
 Source: City of Colorado Springs Roadway Engineering

lack of funding, the city has deferred maintenance which will create issues in the future when these roadways need to be replaced or repaired.¹

1 For a more complete look at the state of the city's roads, visit <http://www.springsgov.com/units/streets/CurrentRoadConditions-FutureFundingNeeds.pdf>.

Dollars Per Lane Mile in Colorado Springs



Note: Total dollars per lane mile reflect the combined City of Colorado Springs and PPRTA funds allocated to the City of Colorado Springs.

Source: City of Colorado Springs Roadway Engineering

In addition, the City of Colorado Springs has 3,000 miles of curb & gutter, 326 miles of open drainage channels, 637 miles of underground storm systems.¹

Infrastructure, as noted earlier, is not limited to roadways. The City of Colorado Springs 2011 Budget indicates \$954M in *unfunded* 5-Year high, medium and low priority Capital Improvement Program (CIP) projects; of these, \$655M are high priority projects, meaning there is a significant shortage of funds to make necessary upgrades and repairs. CIP projects include engineering, fire, parks and recreation, police, streets, bridges, transit and storm water projects.² These infrastructure impacts are not limited to Colorado Springs. For example, Woodland Park has a limited water supply for the foreseeable future.

The infrastructure across El Paso County, and recently the City of Colorado Springs, is also influenced by Metro Districts, which are quasi-municipal corporations that have the power to borrow money, access the tax-exempt bond market, and levy taxes on their residents. There are 148 Metro Districts in El Paso County, made up of 42,715 parcels containing 226,056 acres. While Metro Districts generally work for the benefit of each individual district, the extensive uses of Metro Districts across the county, and more recently the city, have the potential to undermine the tax base needed to maintain the entire infrastructure. As regional solutions to problems of stormwater, road maintenance, utilities, and transit are needed, the large number of Metro Districts makes regional solutions significantly harder to accomplish. General Improvement Districts allow for similar but more limited scope services and are governed by City Council. Conversely, each Metro District is governed by its own board, though there is some governmental oversight in the initial service plan. General Improvement Districts were the only tool of its kind in the city before Metro Districts were allowed.

Potential for Action

- Increase the revenue available to maintain our infrastructure.
- Find and implement a sustainable, dedicated funding stream for CIPs, including the maintenance or replacement of aging and capacity limited utilities, which in part prevent infill redevelopment.
- Analyze the impact of Metro Districts on the municipalities to determine the hidden costs to local municipalities; and identify the number of homeowners in each district, the planned/projected number of homes, each Metro District's unique mill levies, and what is funded. This information can then be used to find ways to unify the districts on regional issues.
- Educate the public about long-term costs and how they are influenced by how the region grows. Ensure that there is a willing and able tax base to maintain new infrastructure over time before it is constructed.
- Develop a multi-modal transportation system in the future that is not auto-dependent and that further promotes walking, biking, and transit ridership, and thus take cars off the roads. This will also help promote medium-density mixed-use developments that require fewer new utilities and services.

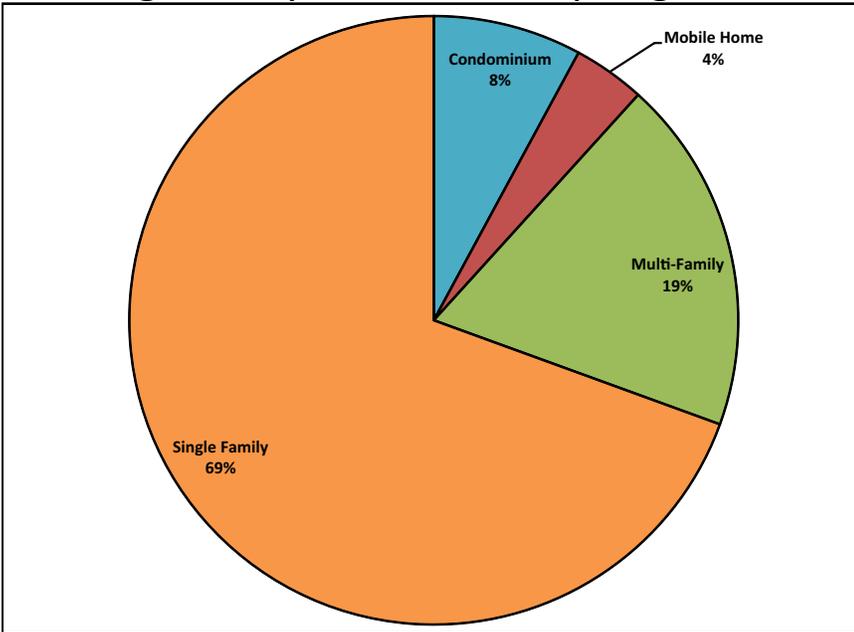
1 <http://www.springsgov.com/Page.aspx?NavID=951>.

2 <http://www.springsgov.com/units/budget/2011/21-CIP.pdf>, page 72, accessed on 5-10-2011.

Photograph by Ambient Ideas

-Housing Success Factors-

Housing Variety in Colorado Springs MSA



Source: El Paso County Assessor's Office

The first Chart shows the types of housing available in the Colorado Springs MSA as of January 1, 2011.

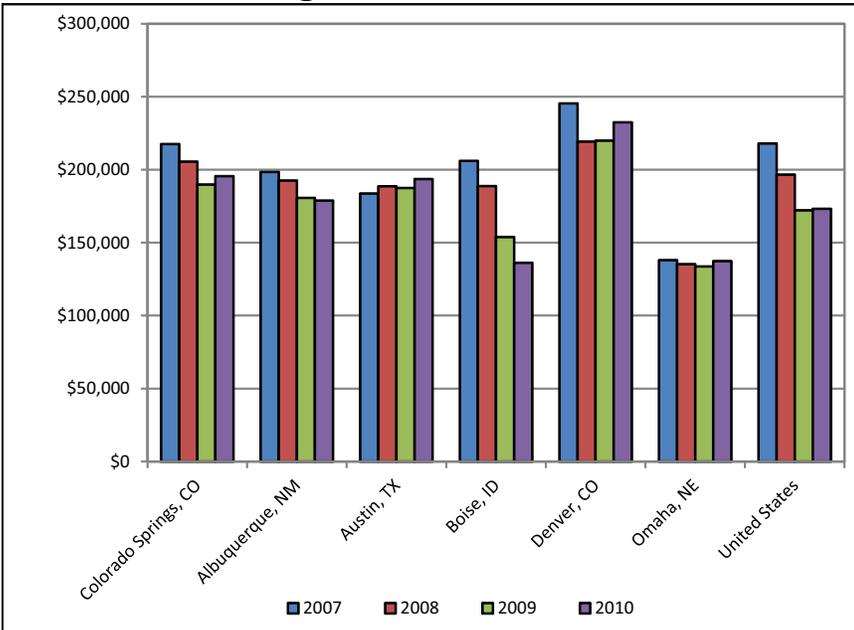
The second Chart shows the median sales price of existing single-family homes in Colorado Springs MSA and comparable metropolitan areas, as well as the national average. The median housing price only reports what has sold and is therefore not a complete reflection of the housing stock as a whole.

Why is This Important?

Housing variety describes what is currently built. New construction is driven by market demand and the creativity of privately funded developers working to anticipate and influence future buying decisions. The dominant supply of housing in the Colorado Springs MSA is single-family, detached homes. This reflects the region's current personality. As discussed throughout this section, there are per-capita costs, often unrecognized by home buyers, associated with this personality; such as higher energy consumption, more lane-miles of roads to maintain and construct, greater stormwater

drainage investments, and the inability to provide economically viable public transit services to many residential areas. Changing a region's housing personality to implement a new shared vision is a difficult task, which will require an innovative partnership between community leaders, public sector regulators and private developers.

Median Housing Prices



Source: National Association of Realtors

How are We Doing?

As noted in the introduction, there are about 253,000 housing units in El Paso County, and the bulk of these are single-family homes. The local median housing price is similar to the national average and the number of local foreclosures increased from 2000 through 2009 and then decreased slightly in 2010, to 4,828 properties.¹

Potential for Action

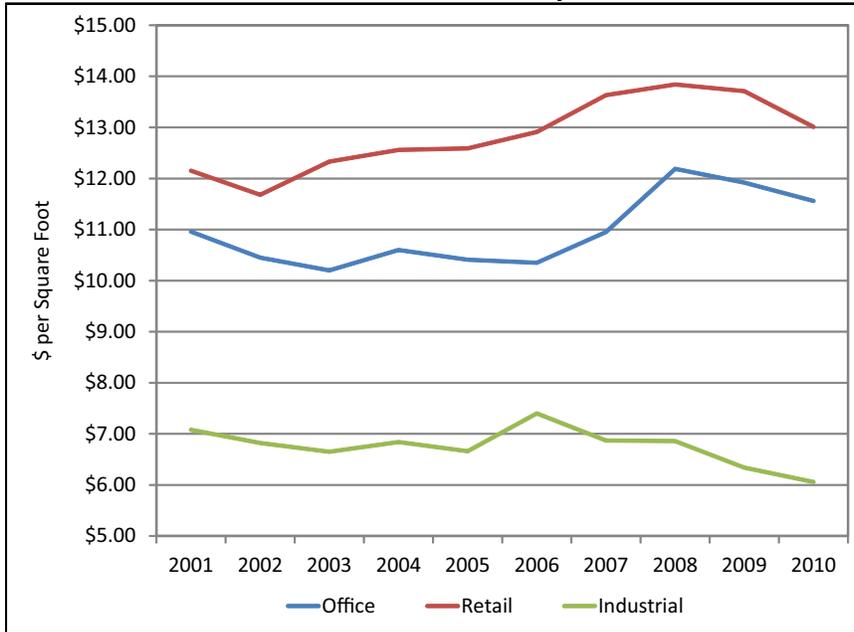
- Update Colorado Springs' Comprehensive Plan, which was last revised in 2001, to provide guidance on current growth issues, density, and city goals, while considering long-term regional participation in the process.
- Develop a comprehensive City and County Development policy that includes regional cooperation, identifies unintended consequences, and minimizes unnecessary costs.
- Create a regional plan for the entire MSA which identifies both land use and transportation issues, and incorporate these findings into individual county and municipal plans.

¹ El Paso County Public Trustee web site <http://elpasopublictrustee.com/reportdetails.aspx?t=13>, select report Monthly Activity since 1979, accessed on May 13, 2011.

Photograph by Sheila Say

-Non-Residential/Commercial Supply-

Lease Rates in El Paso County



Source: Sierra Commercial Real Estate

The first 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 base 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 second 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

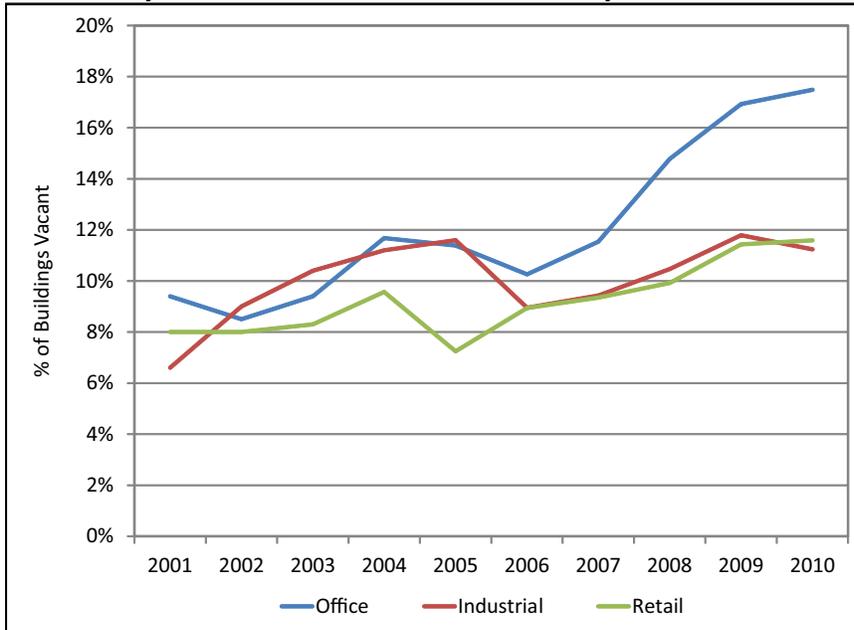
remain vacant for long periods of time, they can negatively impact the surrounding areas of the city.

How are We Doing?

In general, the lease rates for all three types of commercial space dropped between 2008 and 2010. The declining economy has influenced commercial vacancy rates and development. 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 unincorporated areas. Thus, the total amount of revenue available to cities to address public services is fundamentally reduced whenever taxable unincorporated development occurs.

Vacancy Rates in El Paso County



Source: Sierra Commercial Real Estate

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. More than the Urban Renewal Authority alone, this will require strong support from City Council and coordinated city-wide efforts to remove roadblocks to infill.
- Continued monitoring of all commercial vacancy rates by specific areas would alert planners and officials to emerging problems and provide time to develop mitigation plans.

Sustaining A Healthy Community

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El Paso County Public Health



Photograph courtesy of Shutterstock.com



Wellness is personal and health care is local. Perhaps more than any other factor, the way we judge our quality of life is directly related to our personal health and well-being. Building and sustaining a healthy community requires that we work together to empower individuals to exert control over factors that contribute to health, support a strong health care delivery system, and guarantee access to health care for everyone. The Pikes Peak Region has many advantages—clean air and water, opportunities for outdoor recreation, and access to healthy food. Our task as a community is to use these fundamentals as a foundation to build a strong, healthy community.

A healthy community begins with healthy people. The way we live, work, play, and learn has an impact on our health as individuals and as a community. We can control what we eat, what we do, and how we manage our health care.

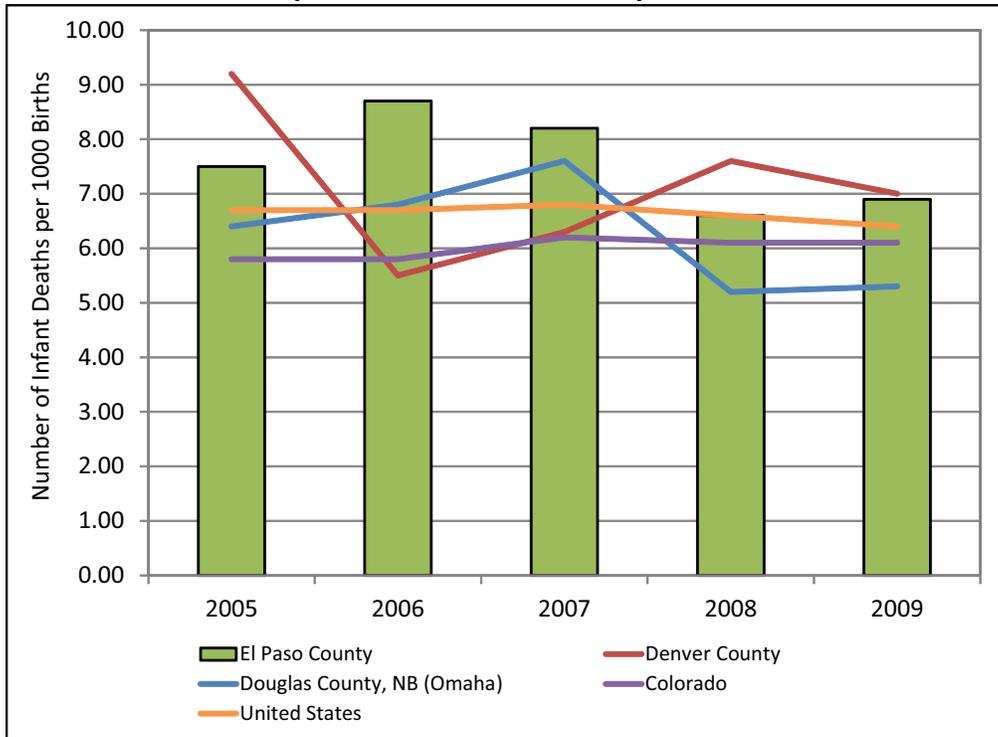
Health, for the community and for individuals, represents physical, mental and social well-being, not merely the absence of disease or pain. When people are strong and healthy, they are more productive at work and better equipped to meet the challenges of everyday life. When children have good nutrition and healthy lifestyles, they perform better in school. It's up to all of us to set high standards for the health of our community and its residents with an emphasis on wellness and prevention.

Health care costs continue to rise and the burden to the federal and state budgets, private businesses, and individuals appears unsustainable given growth projections. Last year's contentious health care reform debate reflects the passion and personal investment we all share in healthcare and access to care. Our community, like many others throughout the nation, faces current and future shortages of health care professionals—especially primary care physicians. This gap impacts us as individuals and also as a community, reducing our competitiveness in attracting new businesses. Unrelenting cuts to public health spending over the past decade undermine our ability to manage the community's health.

In the next few pages we hope to shed light on indicators that reflect our health and wellness to engage and empower our community. Some show progress and success while others demand our attention and action. In 2011 El Paso County Public Health is coordinating a community-wide health assessment, which will inform the formation of specific health goals. For next year, these goals will provide a benchmark for future Quality of Life Health indicators.

-Physical Health-

Infant Mortality in El Paso County



Source: Colorado Health Information Dataset

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

The Table provides information about El Paso County rates compared to other Colorado Counties of similar population size.

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 has not met the Healthy People 2010 goal of 6.0 deaths per 1,000 live births. Although the infant mortality rate has not changed significantly in El Paso County since 2006, prevention efforts should continue in this area.
- El Paso County's rate of preterm and low birth weight infants has not changed substantially between 2005 and 2009.

Potential for Action

Increase access to prenatal care, which is associated with improved maternal and infant outcomes.

Action: The Alliance for Kids Health Integration Grant continues to provide prenatal outreach to the community and increasing access to insurance coverage and early prenatal care.

Continue to emphasize 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.

Action: El Paso County Public Health has formed a task force to look into potential ways to assess the need for education around Life Course Planning for Reproductive health.

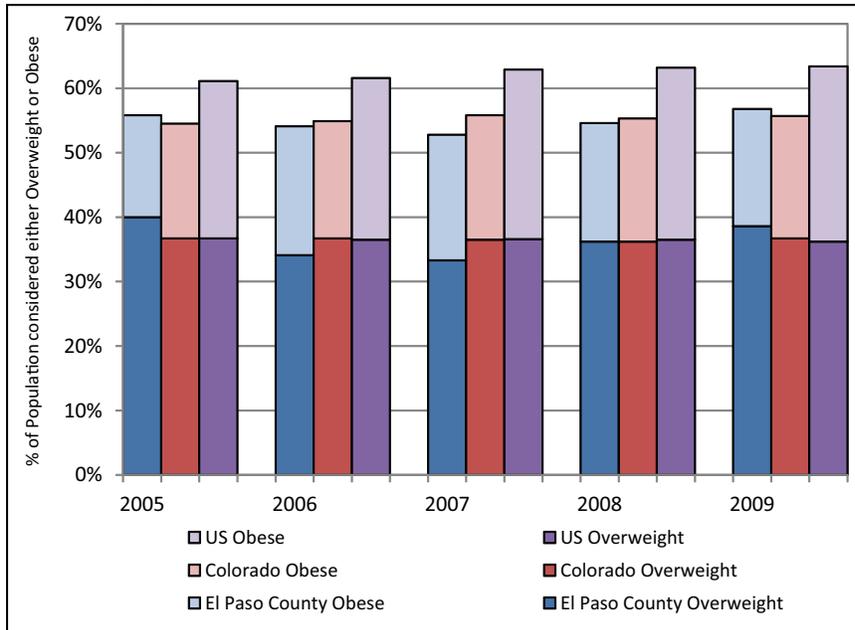
Continue to educate the public and professionals about safe sleeping environments for infants. Sudden Infant Death Syndrome remains the leading cause of death in the United States for infants aged one month to one year.

County	Infant Mortality Rate
El Paso	6.9
Arapahoe	6.9
Denver	7.0
Jefferson	5.2
Adams	7.7
State of Colorado	6.3

Source: Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

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 25.0-29.9) or obese (BMI of 30.0+). Obesity continues to be a 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.

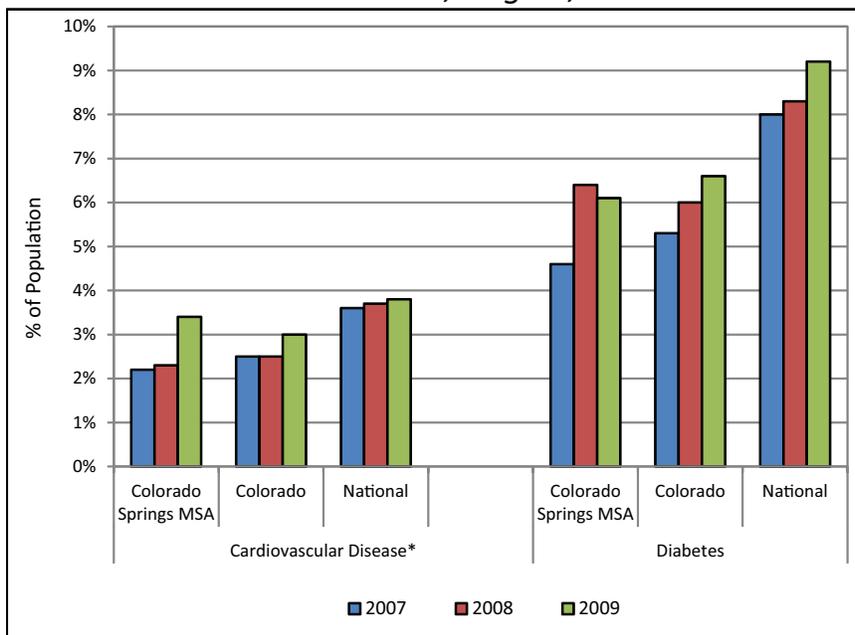
Why is This Important?

Obesity is a serious public health problem. As the second leading cause of preventable death, obesity is a complex health condition that involves environmental, genetic, physiological, metabolic, behavioral and psychological aspects. 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.

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%).

Overweightness and obesity have complex origins. 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 behavioral factors that influence energy balance. Simply put, the balance between the amount of energy a person consumes and the amount of energy a

Cardiovascular - Heart Attack, Angina, and Stroke



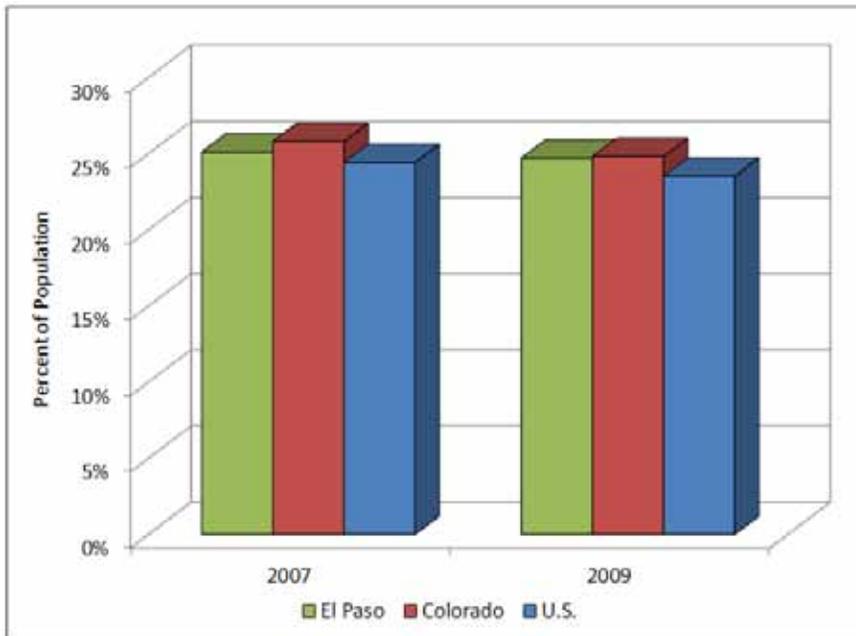
Source: Smart Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System

person expends is the most important predictor of being overweight or obese.

How are We Doing?

Colorado is the leanest state in the country, but adult obesity rates are climbing here at a faster rate than in the country as a whole. The adult obesity rate has more than doubled in Colorado since 1990 and now, like all other states, exceeds the *Healthy People 2020* target goal to reduce the number of obese adults to 30.6 % of the population. Colorado is second to Nevada for having the fastest growing rate of obesity in children – increasing 23% in just 5 years. While obesity rates are higher for low-income Coloradans, even those in higher-income brackets, who can most afford a healthy lifestyle, exceed the *Healthy People 2020* target.

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



Source: Colorado BRFSS, 2007 and 2009

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.

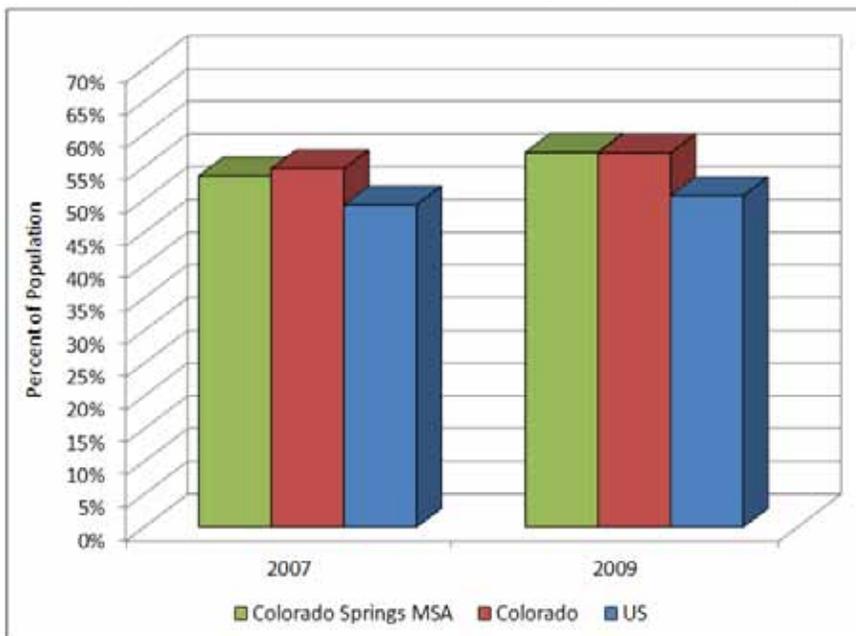
Why is This Important?

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.

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.

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



Source: Colorado BRFSS, 2007 and 2009

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 2020 national health objectives are:

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

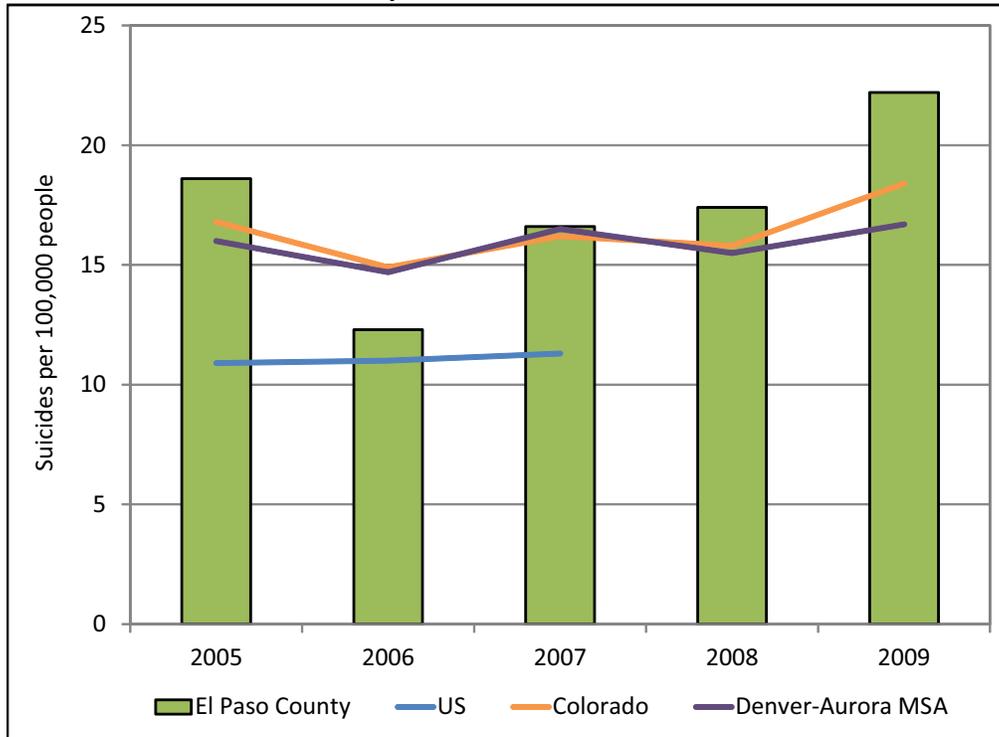
Meeting these goals and interrupting the increasing obesity trends in El Paso County will require citizens to make lifestyle changes. This effort must engage participants from all aspects of the community. It is recommended that the community support initiatives such as Live Well Colorado and Healthy Communities, which specifically address physical activity and nutrition. The community will also need to support policy-makers as they attempt to reduce the impact of obesity. Obesity related healthcare costs in 2009 were over 147 billion dollars. If the rate of obesity in Colorado continues, those costs will be harder if not impossible to contain. The Colorado Senate recently introduced a bill that would require schools to include 150 minutes of physical activity each week or 30 minutes per day in an effort to reduce childhood obesity.

Changes in the way people live and work greatly impact daily levels of physical activity. Those communities that embrace 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 NADKI

-Behavioral Health-

Suicide Rate Comparison



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

This Chart compares El Paso County suicide rates with those of Denver-Aurora Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) and Colorado. U.S. data were not available for 2008 and 2009. El Paso County has a relatively small population, and suicide is a relatively infrequent event. For these reasons, it is important to look at suicide rates over several years.

This chart demonstrates that the suicide rate per 100,000 is more variable for El Paso County than for Colorado or the U.S.

Why is This Important?

In 2009, Colorado had the highest recorded suicide rate in over two decades. The number of people who died by suicide surpassed the number of those who died by influenza, pneumonia, car accidents, and diabetes. El Paso County suicide rates for 2004-2009 are notably higher than for the Denver-

Aurora MSA and Colorado. During 2005-2009, except for 2006, the annual suicide rates for El Paso County equaled or surpassed the rates for the Denver-Aurora MSA and Colorado.

How are We Doing?

Suicide in El Paso County continues to be a significant and growing health problem. Over the six-year span reported in the chart above, approximately 18 per 100,000 Colorado citizens and nearly 17 per 100,000 for the Denver-Aurora MSA were suicide victims versus 22 per 100,000 in El Paso County. 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 and there are few professional resources for people who attempt suicide. Beyond the social and emotional impact, suicide and suicide attempts have significant economic consequences. Medical costs for suicide and suicide attempts in El Paso County are estimated at \$4 million annually. For a suicide attempt, average medical costs, combined with lost work, are approximately \$25,000 per attempt. For completed suicide, these costs are 58 times higher or \$1.45 million per suicide.

Potential for Action

A recently launched study by Colorado State University, in collaboration with the Colorado Office of Suicide Prevention, will examine and assess Colorado Springs' suicide referral network using social network analysis. CSU's Project Safety Net hopes to identify a more effective means of preventing suicide by using research outcomes to facilitate dialogue and action-planning, strengthen suicide referral network relationships, and build capacity.

Gauging community behavioral health can be complex and suicide is only one indicator of the overall mental health of a community. El Paso County is profoundly lacking in data on the mental wellness of its community members. Past QLI reports have relied solely on state and national mental health data for overall assessment; however, in preparing this year's QLI, the state and national data were determined to be out dated and therefore irrelevant. Implementation of a comprehensive community-based prevention program could improve El Paso County's suicide rate. This should be supplemented with an overall assessment of community mental health.

Some communities have recognized the need for a broader approach to understanding and evaluating community mental health. Austin, Texas, for example, targeted improvement of key behavioral health indicators with local relevance and included a broad range of services and providers. The goal is to become a national model of a mentally healthy community. Programs like this would be beneficial for El Paso County.

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

	United States 2007	Colorado 2006-2009 Avg	Denver-Aurora 2006-2009 Avg	El Paso County 2006-2009 Avg
Teens 15-18 years	6.0	11.1	9.5	15.2
Males 25-54 years	24.0	32.7	32.1	37.3
Seniors 65+ years	14.3	21.1	19.7	20.3

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 Quality of Life Indicators 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 2006-2009.

Why is This Important?

Identifying and tracking these subgroups allows employment of a selective type of suicide prevention strategy focusing on subgroups of people who are at increased risk. Suicide is a leading cause of death among adolescents and young adults. The Colorado, Denver-Aurora MSA, 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. Traditionally in the U.S., about 75-80% of completed suicides are among males and about 20-25% among females.

El Paso County veterans have an alarmingly high suicide rate at 50.5 suicides for every 100,000 veterans in the county in 2009 - more than twice the rate of the El Paso County general population.

The 65 and older age group is growing as a percentage of our state and county population and the suicide rates for the U.S., Colorado, and El Paso County all show an increase over suicide rates for this population reported in the 2010 QLI.

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. More data are needed on the suicide risks for this population.

How are We Doing?

There is still a compelling need for concentrated prevention services for each of these special population groups. Every QLI report since 2007 has reported higher Colorado and El Paso County suicide rates for teens, males (25-54 years), and seniors compared to national figures. El Paso County veterans have an alarmingly high suicide rate' 50.5 suicides for every 100,000 veterans in the county in 2009.¹ This is more than twice the rate for the El Paso County general population.

Potential for Action

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

¹ State and county suicide mortality data for veterans were obtained from a special data analysis conducted by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment.

Photograph by Mikael Damkier

Substance Abuse

	United States	Colorado	NIH Survey Region including Denver Metro Area	NIH Survey Region including El Paso County
Illicit drug use in past month (includes marijuana)	8.1%	10.9%	12.0%	8.5%
Binge alcohol use in the past month (5+ drinks on 1 occasion)	23.3%	26.2%	27.2%	21.4%
Cocaine use in past year	2.3%	3.2%	3.5%	2.5%
Nonmedical use of pain relievers in past year	5.0%	5.5%	5.7%	4.8%

Source: Office of Applied Statistics, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

This Chart shows the estimated percentage of population greater than 12 years of age with illicit drug and alcohol dependence in the past year. U.S. and Colorado data are from SAMHSA’s Office of Applied Statistics. Regional data were derived from National Institutes of Health (NIH) survey regions which include the Denver Metro area and El Paso County.

Why is This Important?

Drug and alcohol dependence have a detrimental effect on the overall health of a community and burden a broad spectrum of community services, including law enforcement, public safety, corrections, child welfare, social services, and medical and mental health care. In addition, the National Surveys on Drug Use and Health found that depression, substance dependence, and the inability to access help for substance abuse are all risk factors for suicide.

How are We Doing?

In terms of illicit drug dependence during the past year, the NIH Survey Region that includes El Paso County is slightly lower than those estimated percentages of the population for the U.S., Colorado, and the NIH Survey Region that includes the Denver Metro area. The percentages of El Paso County residents reporting ‘alcohol dependence in the past year’ and ‘needed but did not receive drug or alcohol treatment’ are approximately equal to or slightly lower than the U.S., Colorado, and the NIH Survey Region that includes the Denver Metro area.

Potential for Action

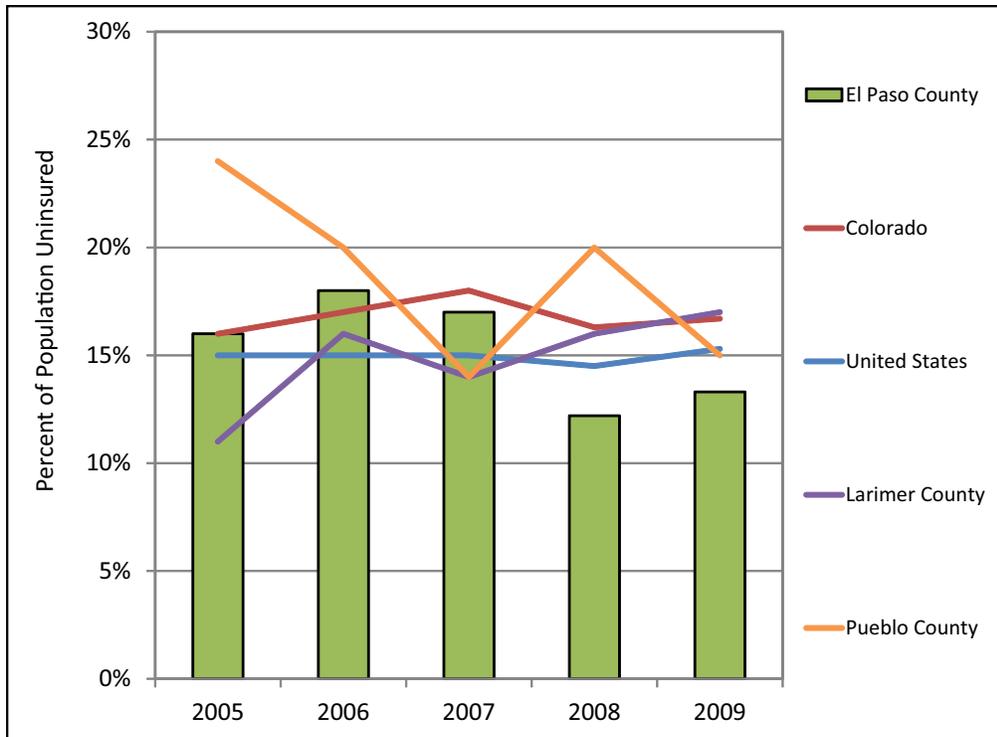
There is a need to fund recovery services to support gains made in substance abuse treatment services. Effective treatment for substance dependence requires viewing persons as a whole rather than simply by their addictions. This means that recovery support services, such as assistance with transportation, housing, and childcare, are necessary to help people get into treatment and 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 for those with the most severe problems.



Photograph by Lobke Peers

-System Infrastructure and Capacity-

Citizens without Medical Insurance Comparison



Source: Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, Colorado Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System

This Chart shows the percentage of uninsured people in El Paso County, Colorado and the United States. The El Paso County data is also broken down by age groups, and demonstrates that from 2008 to 2009, El Paso County saw an increase in the percentage of uninsured from 12.2% to 13.3%.

Why is This Important?

One of the critical issues with our healthcare system is the number of uninsured. There were over 50.7 million uninsured Americans (14.4% of all Americans) in 2009. The uninsured are consumers of healthcare, primarily in Emergency Rooms. Since the care provided to those uninsured individuals is largely uncompensated, the hospitals and doctors are forced to pass the expenses for providing this care on to the insured population. This causes large increases in the costs of

insurance premiums. The rise in insurance premiums makes health insurance less and less affordable for companies and individuals. More companies are forced to drop health insurance for their employees due to cost and this raises the number of uninsured. Historically, many uninsured people have not sought healthcare until they were critically ill and need to use emergency rooms. As the population has grown and the economy has declined, this issue has caused an increased financial burden on hospital systems and the wider community.

How are We Doing?

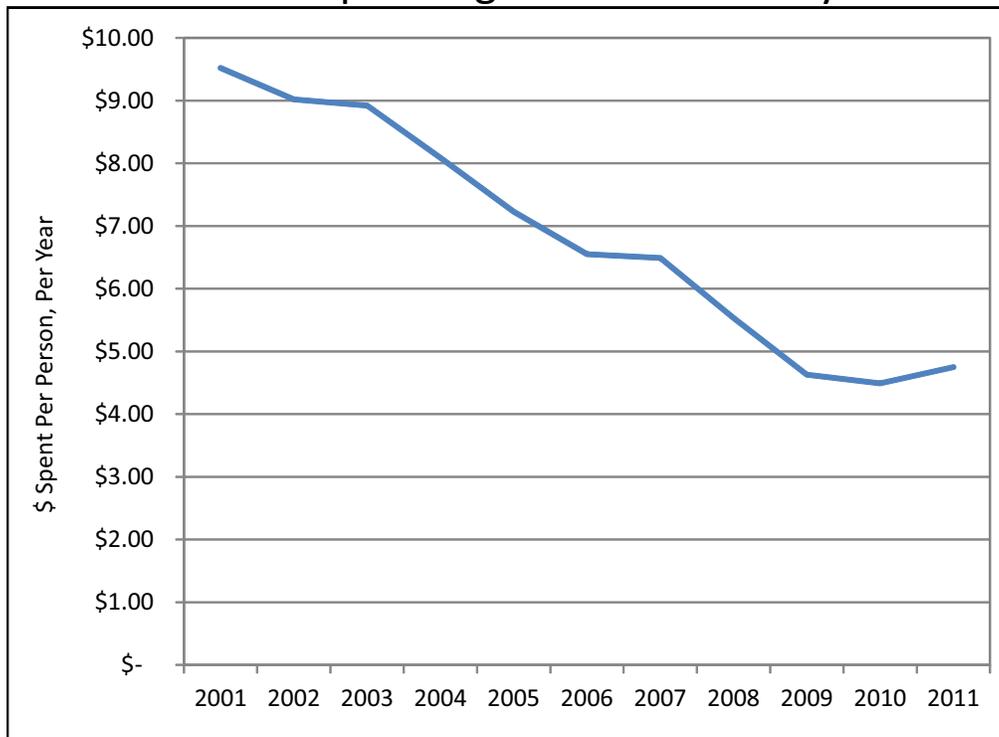
Our local hospitals, Penrose St. Francis and Memorial, have provided hundreds of millions of dollars in uncompensated care for injured and ill people. In 2009, Memorial provided \$73.1 million in direct community benefit. This includes the unreimbursed cost of providing medical care to those who cannot afford to pay. More than 700,000 Coloradans are without health insurance and, as a result, growing numbers are facing difficulties in paying for medical care. Penrose St. Francis believes that hospitals should have the ability to offer discounts to those who are unable to obtain insurance and do not meet charity care criteria.

The Pikes Peak Region has responded to the lack of capacity to provide care for the underinsured and uninsured with the formation of the Community Health Partnership (CHP) with the goal of improving communication and collaboration regarding healthcare. CHP is a group of 23 partnering community health care organizations and individuals committed to collaboration on health care issues affecting our community.

Safety Net System for Uninsured and Underinsured

- **Pikes Peak United Way maintains a 2-1-1 hotline to help people find access to care.**
- **Clinics**
 - o Peak Vista Community Health Centers is a non-profit Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) that provides primary care, women's health, obstetric and dental care, health education, immunizations and behavioral health care to underinsured, uninsured, and homeless patients. Peak Vista provided care to over 60,000 patients in 2010.
 - o Mission Medical Clinic, a faith based organization for adults, serving low income adults with no coverage and no access living in El Paso and Teller counties with chronic disease conditions.
 - o Open Bible Medical Clinic, a faith based organization provides medical care and medications for hundreds of patients per year.
 - o SET Family Medical Clinics operates as a safety net provider and provides care for hundreds of patients per year.
- **Prescription Medicines**
 - o Prescription Assistance Service Solution (PASS), a program designed to help physician offices and community clinics assist qualified low-income patients in accessing drug manufacturer patient assistance programs.
 - o TLC Pharmacy, a non-profit pharmacy that provides prescription medications to enrolled low-income members.
 - o Peak Vista also maintains two pharmacies to provide prescription medications to registered patients.

Public Health Spending in El Paso County



Source: El Paso County Public Health

This Chart: Since 2001, El Paso County Public Health has experienced significant and frequent funding cuts from El Paso County, a total of nearly \$2.1 million, or 41%. Over the same time period, numerous prevention programs and services have been scaled back or eliminated. Staffing reductions have resulted in a 28% workforce reduction since 2000. The slight funding increase of \$150,000 in 2011 is designated to pay for increased expenses at the new facility.

Funding Sources and Designations:

The majority of El Paso County Public Health's \$14,878,963 annual budget (2011) comes from grants/contracts (57%). The State of Colorado provides 94% (\$7,972,148) of the total grant/contract funding. El Paso County provides \$2,953,948 (20%) of total funding, and the State of Colorado provides

\$841,178 (5.7%) in per-capita funding. Of the \$2,953,948 in county funding, public health returns \$2,259,229 to El Paso County for facility expenses, purchase of benefits, and information technology assistance leaving \$694,719 towards public health services.

Please note: Funding from El Paso County and state per capita funding is allocated for core public health protection services. Grant and contract funding is restricted for specific purposes approved by grantors. Each El Paso County taxpayer pays less than \$5 per year for core public health protection services.

Why is This Important?

Public Health's work concentrates on protecting and promoting health in the community and striving to assure the conditions in which people can be healthy. Public health practice is population based, focusing on wellness and prevention using epidemiology, biostatistics, environmental science, management sciences, and behavioral and social sciences. When funding is inadequate the agency can not retain and recruit qualified public health experts to provide essential public health services. The ability to reinstate essential services previously eliminated or scaled back cannot be accomplished with the current level of funding.

How are We Doing?

The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) states that 44% of local health departments reported their current year budget is lower than the previous year; 40% had to cut programs; and 29,000 public health jobs were lost due to layoffs or attrition from 2008-2010.

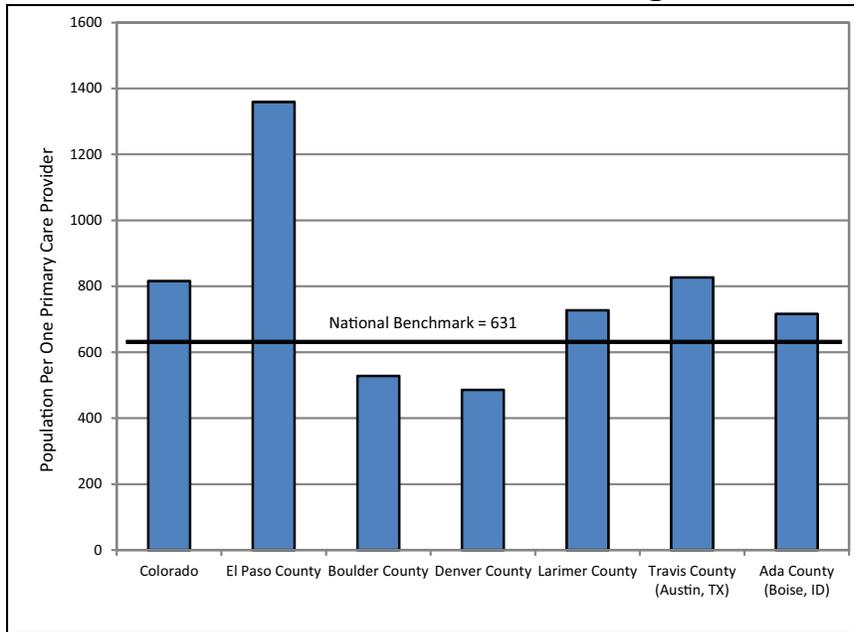
When comparing local per capita funding among public health agencies in Colorado, El Paso County Public Health receives \$4.66 per-person per-year to provide public health services in El Paso County (including all of the towns and cities within). Some public health agencies receive more than double and triple in local per-capita funding for prevention programs such as Pueblo City-County at \$12.62; Weld \$12.67 and Boulder at \$18.98. Local per-capita is the gross amount of funding received by local public health agencies from local government to provide public health services.

As stated in a 2009 report from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and by the NACCHO, reduction of services will result in more infectious diseases such as tuberculosis, meningitis, hepatitis, sexually 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.

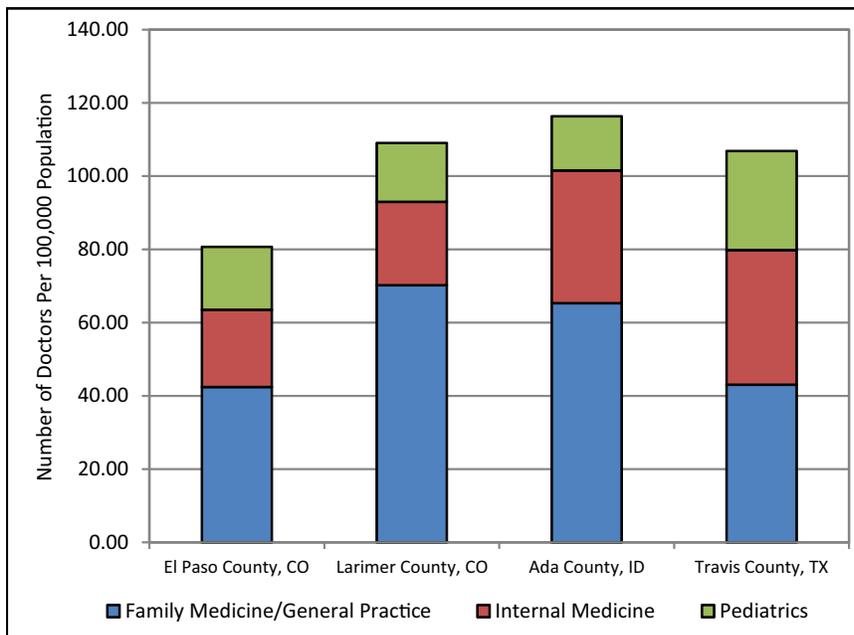
Potential for Action

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

Healthcare Professional Shortages



Source: Colorado Health Foundation, 2010 Robert Wood Johnson County Rankings Study



Source: Colorado Health Foundation

These Charts indicate Colorado county trends in number of Primary Care Providers (PCP) as well as Physician specialties among different counties.

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

The Council on Graduate Medical Education recommends that “patient care generalists” comprise 40% of the total physicians in a community. This means that El Paso County, at about 27%, would have to almost double its current number of PCPs.

Other health professions will also continue to be in demand. 91 additional Registered Nurses (RN) will be required to meet the ratio of physician to RN at the 40% recommendation. Physician Assistants (PA) and Nurse Practitioners (NP) will also shortfall by a minimum of 10% based on current figures and 2019 projections.

How are We Doing?

El Paso County held its own with 2.2 physicians per 1,000 people. Certain specialties including primary care are in short supply, matching national trends. According to the AMA, El Paso County has a 30% PCP count, just 10% off the recommended figures. The figure for total physicians continues to hold at about 27%.

RN figures fell in 2010; this crisis continues to plague our service area, and nursing continues to be one of the top careers for hiring in Colorado. PA numbers remained flat, and NP numbers grew 2%, showing promise for bridging the gap for patient access.

Potential for Action

The Pikes Peak Region is fortunate to have several initiatives currently addressing access to care. Community Health Partnership was granted the Regional Collaborative Care Organization for Medicaid patients. Several provider organizations and both hospital

systems are involved in the Health Information Exchange process, led by the Colorado Regional Health Information Organization. Several of those same provider groups are working with state medical institutions to expand potential for medical residencies, as over 50% of residencies remain in the area in which they completed their residency.

Payment policy reform continues to be a priority for action. The movement to a value/outcomes based system is beginning and requires collaboration from all walks of the health care system. The Colorado Business Group on Health, several insurance plans and other provider representative entities are committed to outcomes based medicine as well. Models like Patient Centered Medical Home are taking hold in many parts of our community and truly put health care value and outcomes at the center of health care delivery.

	2010	2019 Projected
Registered Nurses	5,943	6,669
Physicians	1,363	1,634
RNs per Physician	4.36	4.09

Source: Colorado Health Foundation

Achieving Educational Excellence

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Pikes Peak Workforce Center



Photograph courtesy of Shutterstock.com

The following pages report on education indicators in the Colorado Springs Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA). The MSA is made up of El Paso County and Teller County. The data in this section represents the six largest El Paso County school districts and the one largest Teller County school district from the Colorado Springs Metropolitan Statistical Area.

El Paso County	Student Count 10-2010
Colorado Springs District 11:	29,459
Academy District 20:	23,119
Falcon District 49:	14,708
Harrison District 2:	11,147
Widefield District 3:	8,963
Fountain-Ft. Carson District 8:	7,536
Lewis-Palmer District 38:	5,977
Cheyenne Mountain District 12:	4,561

Teller County	Student Count 10-2010
Woodland Park District RE 2:	2,752
Cripple Creek/Victor District RE 1:	441

Source: Colorado Department of Education

2010-2011 is the final year the Colorado State Assessment Program (CSAP) will be administered. The Transitional Colorado Assessment Program (TCAP) will be administered in 2011-2012.

National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) provides results for the nation as a whole and for the states separately. Performance is reported by groups of students, e.g. by total, by gender, by racial and ethnic groups, and by participation in special programs such as those servicing students with special needs and limited English proficiency. Each of these assessments/studies is based on a representative sample of the student population of the state and nation and none are designed to produce individual district, school or student data.¹

¹ Colorado Department of Education: Assessment Data and Results, 2010.

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. It continues with excellent K-12 schools, and on to multiple higher education venues and opportunities.

The benefits of a quality education, to both individuals and to the regions 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. While 16% of American youth do not complete high school, nearly 75% of state inmates do 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 2008 presidential election, 77% of those with a college degree reported voting, as opposed to 54.9% of high school graduates, and 39.9% of high school dropouts.

Education (or lack of those opportunities and successes) has a huge impact on numerous other quality of life indicators: health, crime, employment rates, earning potential, and civic engagement.

There is one factor, however, that tremendously impacts educational opportunities and attainment at every stage of life, and that is poverty.

Poverty Impact on Education

Education affects poverty and poverty affects education.

“The Great Recession, which officially lasted from December 2007 to June 2009, took its toll on thousands of Coloradans, impacting families from a wide range of backgrounds, economic statuses, and communities, including families who had not previously faced significant challenges. For those already experiencing the negative impacts of Colorado’s dramatic rise in poverty since 2000, the ramifications were even more devastating.”¹

As noted in the Social Wellbeing section on page 33, between 2000 and 2009, Colorado experienced the fastest growing number of children living in poverty in the nation. From 2008 to 2009 the number of children living in poverty in Colorado rose

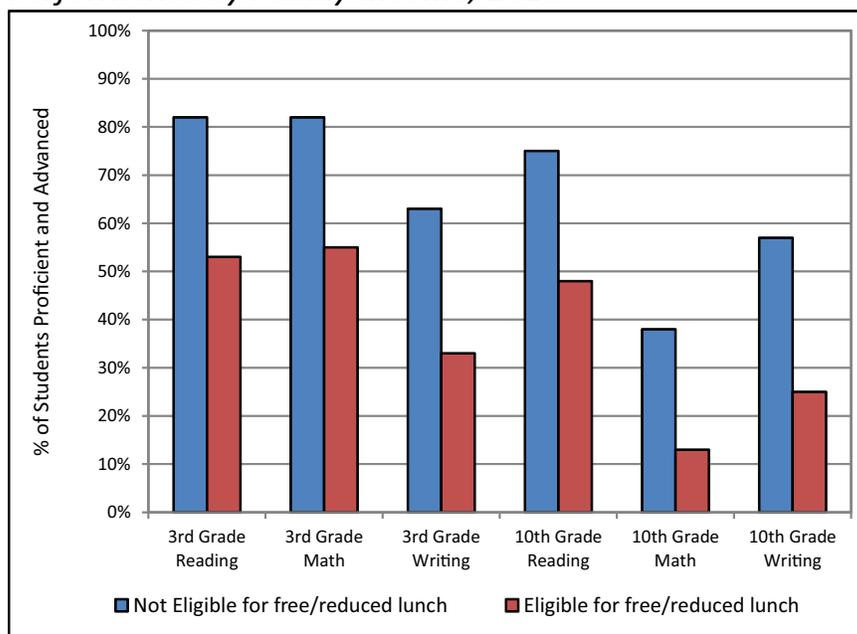
by 31,000. The percentage of children in poverty rose from 9.7% in 2000 to 15.1% in 2008, and 17.4% in 2009. In El Paso County, the percentage of all children living in poverty rose from 10.4% in 2000 to 15.7% in 2008, and 15% in 2009. In 2009, there were 26,285 children under the age of 18 living in poverty.²

Because poverty negatively influences almost every other aspect of a child’s well-being, this data has significant implications for our state’s children and our future.

Children from low-income homes start school behind higher income 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. Children who live in poverty, even for a short time, can suffer permanent setbacks, especially if the poverty occurs during the first 10 years of life.

Young children from low-income families score lower on tests

**Colorado Student Assessment Program:
Performance by Family Income, 2010**



Source: Colorado Department of Education

of early reading, writing, and math, and are more likely to face social and economic problems later in life, including illiteracy, teen pregnancy, high dropout rates and unemployment. Subsequently, their children will be at risk as well.

The graph above demonstrates the standardized test results gap for children living in low-income families.

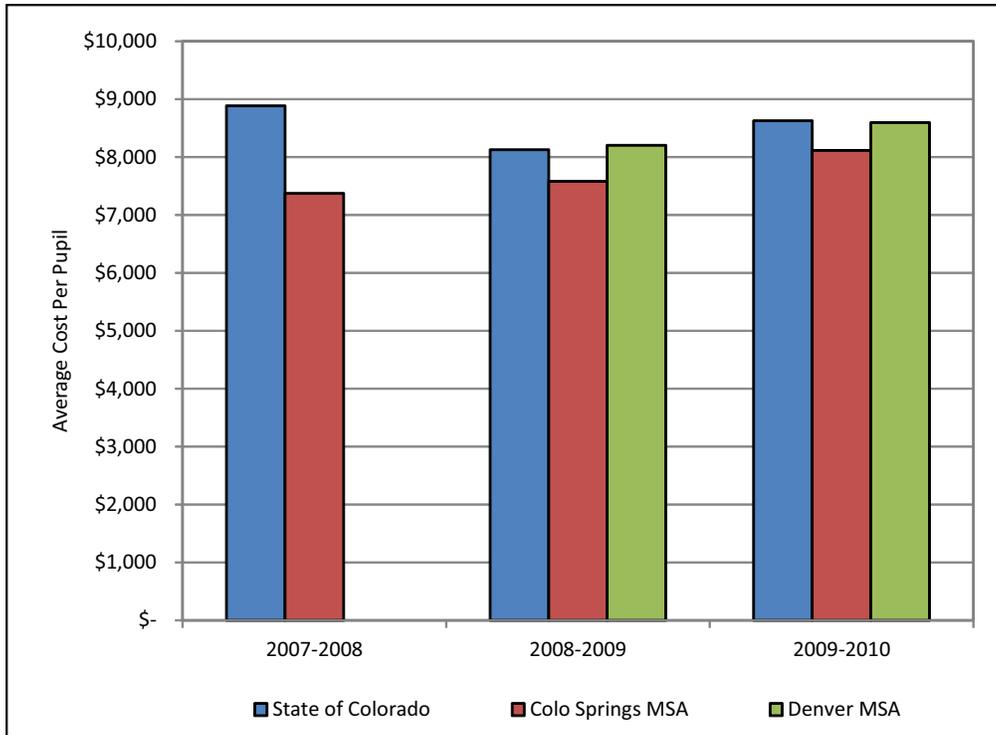
The Education Vision Council firmly believes that one path to improving academic outcomes is to identify community strategies to address poverty, particularly among children.

¹ Colorado Children’s Campaign, 2011 Kids Count in Colorado!, pg. 5 www.coloradokids.org

² US Census Bureau’s American Community Survey for 2009 for Colorado and El Paso County.

-Educational Funding-

School Funding Cost per Pupil General Fund Revenue*



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

This Chart shows the annual amount of basic operating revenue per student provided by the state in the Colorado Springs Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA). This funding is provided by the state of Colorado.

Why is This Important?

With ample resources and supplies, students and teachers will find quality learning more feasible. Examining the amount of money the state provides per pupil is vital in informing our community of the importance the state places on education.

How are We Doing?

The annual cost per student continues to increase each year, but the funding is now decreasing. 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.

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 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 student populations, which have increased in the last decade, are far more expensive to serve.

In order to quantify the loss of funding in Colorado K-12 Education, Children's Voices contracted Augenblick, Palaich and Associates to calculate the resources needed to meet the standards and requirements for students, schools, school districts, and educators. The cost to implement reforms and requirements is an additional \$4 billion **above** the current funding levels. Already, Colorado is over \$2,000 **below** the national average in per-pupil funding. Some of the major differences are 10 more days in the school year for students and 5 more for teachers, a longer school day for most students, netbooks for 4th - 12th graders, full day kindergarten and preschool for at-risk 3 and 4 year olds.

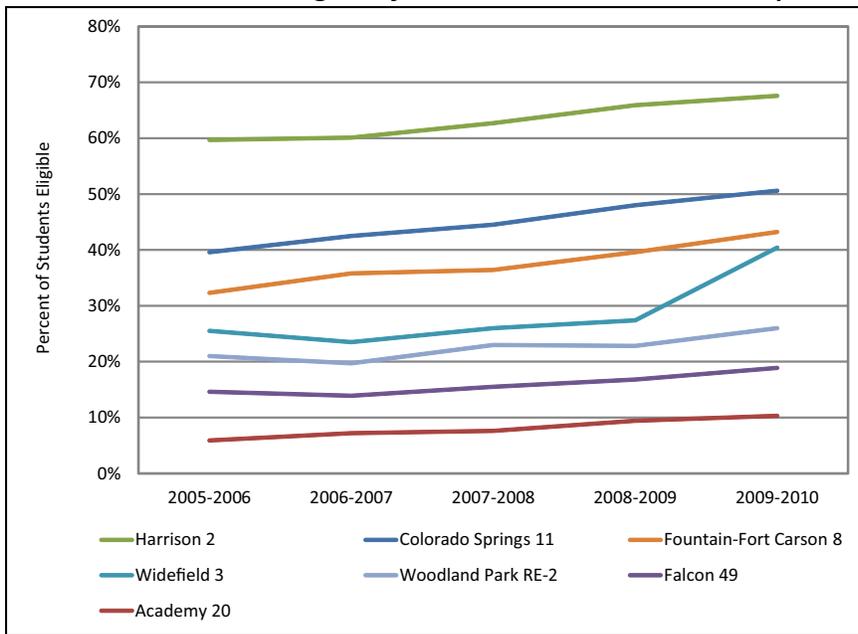
Potential for Action

In general, our community's most vulnerable children are in our public school systems, and addressing their needs requires significant resources. 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 affect school funding in Colorado Springs.

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

-Students in Need-

Pre K-12 Students Eligible for Free/Reduced Lunch by District



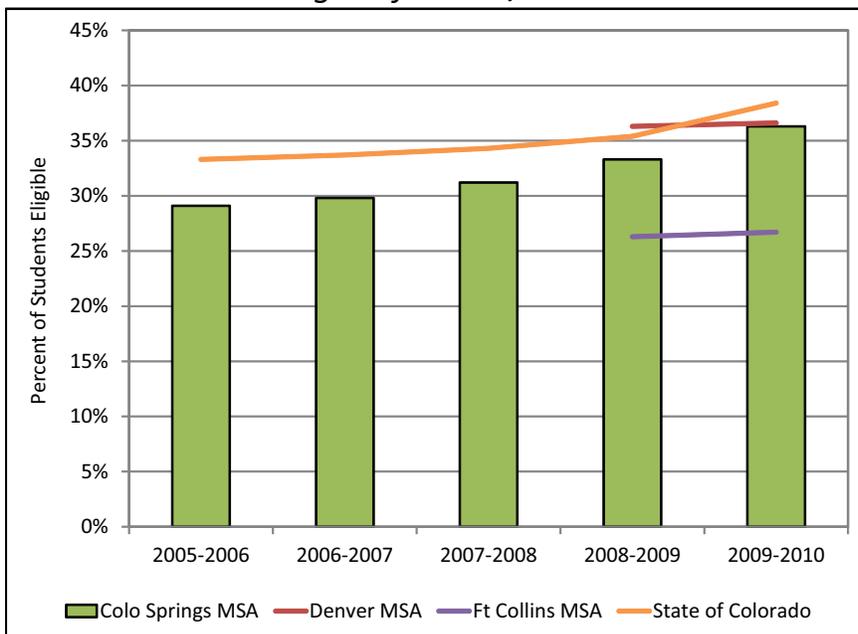
The first Chart shows the percentage of public school students (PreK through Grade 12) eligible for free or reduced lunch in El Paso County's six largest school districts and Teller County's largest school district.

The second Chart compares the Colorado Springs, Denver, and Fort Collins MSAs and the state of Colorado.

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 area public school districts. As noted in the introduction, family income is associated with gaps in student achievement. Students who are eligible for free or reduced price lunch score lower on average on reading, math, and writing tests than those students who are not eligible. As noted on the previous page, these students are more likely to drop out of school, become teen parents, and have health, mental health, behavioral, and emotional problems.

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



Note: Children from families with incomes below 130 percent of the federal poverty level, or \$28,665 for a family of four are eligible for free and reduced lunch. Children living in families with incomes above 130 percent and below 185 percent of the federal poverty level, or \$40,793, are eligible for reduced price breakfast and lunch.¹

How are We Doing?

Every school district in the chart above has seen a steady increase over the years in free and reduced lunch percentages. However, Widefield School District 3 had a large increase of 13% in the last year. Harrison District 2 has the largest number of students eligible for free and reduced lunch (67.6%), followed by Colorado Springs School District 11 with 50.6%.

Potential for Action

As stated in the introduction, there are more children in poverty every year in Colorado. A child's ability to learn and succeed in school is 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. 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.

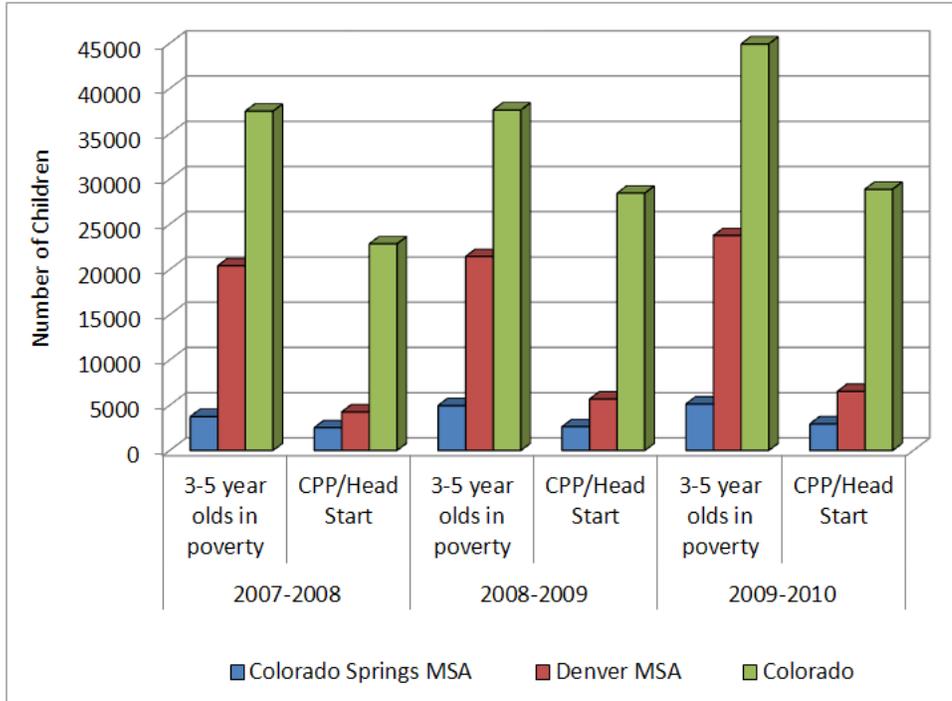
Source for both charts: Colorado Department of Education

1 Colorado Children's Campaign, 2011 Kids Count in Colorado, p. 23, www.coloradokids.org.

-Early Learning-

Early Childhood Education

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



Source: Colorado Department of Education

This Chart shows the change from 2007-08 school year to the 2009-10 school year in the percentage of 3- to 5-year old children in the Colorado Springs MSA, the Denver MSA, and the State of Colorado who are living below the Federal Poverty Level and have the potential to be enrolled in principally publicly-funded preschool programs (Head Start and the Colorado Preschool Program), as compared to the number of available slots for those children to enroll.

Why is This Important?

According to the Colorado Children's Campaign's *2011 Kids Count* publication, attending a high-quality preschool helps children build the skills so that they are ready for elementary school success. It also helps prepare children for a lifetime of successful learning. Research shows that preschool participants are less likely to require special education or be retained a grade, and more likely to become proficient readers and graduate

from high school and college.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. Research also tells us that students who begin school behind have a tendency to remain behind throughout their academic careers.²

How are We Doing?

As noted in the Social Wellbeing Section on page 33, the number of children under the age of 18 living in poverty in Colorado has more than doubled since 2000. While poverty is growing, particularly among children under the age of 5, the number of publicly-funded preschool slots available to our state's and region's lowest income families is not keeping pace. In the Colorado Springs MSA over the past three years, some school districts have been successful in receiving additional slots in the Colorado Preschool Program since 2007, and Community Partnership for Child Development (the Head Start grantee in El Paso County) expanded its Head Start slots by 57 in 2009 (from 977 to 1,034). Even with those extra investments, only 57% of the 3-5 year olds living in poverty had access to a free early childhood education during the 2009-2010 school year. Additionally, according to the Colorado Children's Campaign, the federal government defines children to be at risk for education failure because of poverty if their family earns less than 200% of the federal poverty level. In the Colorado Springs MSA, that percentage is 37% of all 3 to 5 year olds (almost 7,100 children).

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.³ As a community, our goal is to serve all children who need, but can't afford, an early learning program. Based on data from the American Communities Survey (2009), the Colorado Preschool Program Legislative Report 2011 and the Head Start grantees in the Colorado Springs MSA, at least 2,200 additional slots are needed to enroll children in early learning programs who are at 100% of the Federal Poverty Level, and an additional 2,000 slots are needed to enroll those at 200% of the FPL.

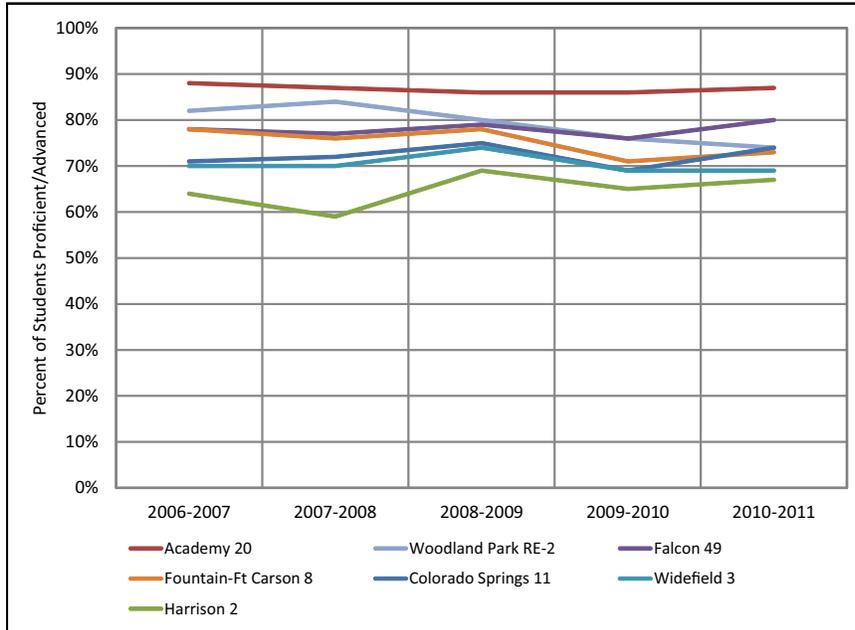
1 Preschool California. Benefits of Preschool. http://www.preschoolcalifornia.org/benefits_of_preschool

2 Heckman, Dr. James J. (May 2008). Schools, Skills and Synapses. University of Chicago, American Bar Foundation, University College Dublin and IZA.

3 Rolnick, Art and Rob Grunewald. (March 2003). Early Childhood Development: Economic Development with a High Public Return. Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis.; and Heckman, Schools, Skills and Synapses (2008), pg. 91.

-Student Achievement-

Third Grade Reading Skills District Comparison



Source: Colorado Department of Education

These Charts report the outcomes for third grade students by District and MSA. The Colorado Student Assessment Program (CSAP) was the evaluation tool used to assess reading skills. The data show the percentage of students who scored at proficient or advanced (the top two of four levels of proficiency performance).

Why is This Important?

Reading proficiently by the end of 3rd grade can be a make-or-break benchmark in a child's educational development. Until 4th grade, students learn to read. During and after 4th grade, students should be reading to learn, using their skills to gain more information, to solve problems, to think critically about what they are learning, and to act upon and share that knowledge in the world around them. Research shows 75% of students who are poor readers in 3rd grade will remain poor readers in high school. Low achievement in reading has long-term consequences in terms of earning potential, global competitiveness, and general productivity.¹

How are We Doing?

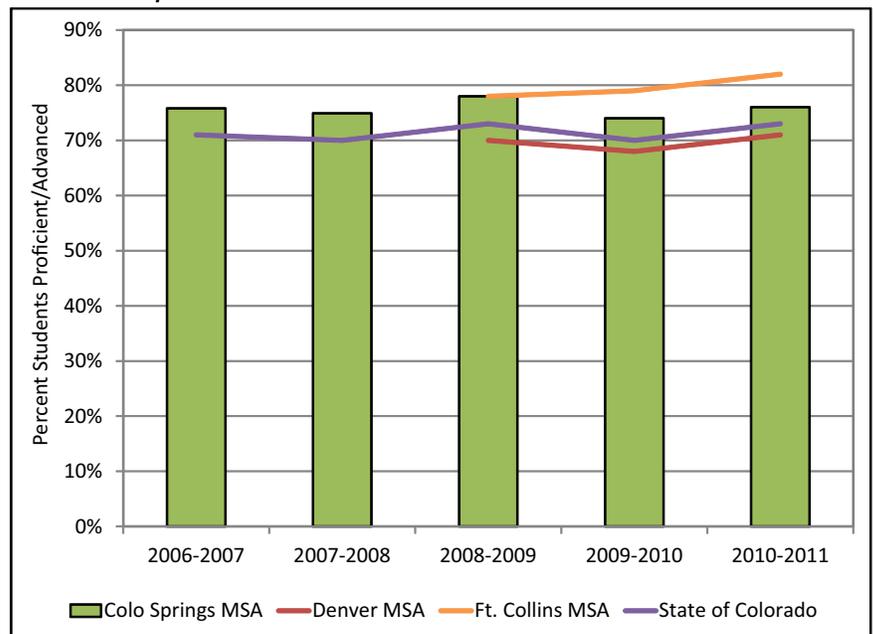
Five of the seven reported districts improved their scores, while one stayed the same and one dropped. The trend does not demonstrate significant improvement and sustainability with 3rd grade reading scores.

3rd grade reading levels increased overall for Colorado Springs MSA, Denver and Ft. Collins. In addition, the Colorado Springs MSA 3rd grade reading levels are higher than the state of Colorado, but there is still need for reading interventions and remediation programs.

Potential for Action

The Education Vision Council recommends future reading data be collected from the NAEP, a growth data assessment. The National Assessment of Education Progress, a.k.a. "the Nation's Report Card," is the only nationally representative and continuing assessment of what America's students know and can do in different subject areas. Its two major goals are to measure student achievement and to report change in performance over time.

MSA Comparison



Source: Colorado Department of Education

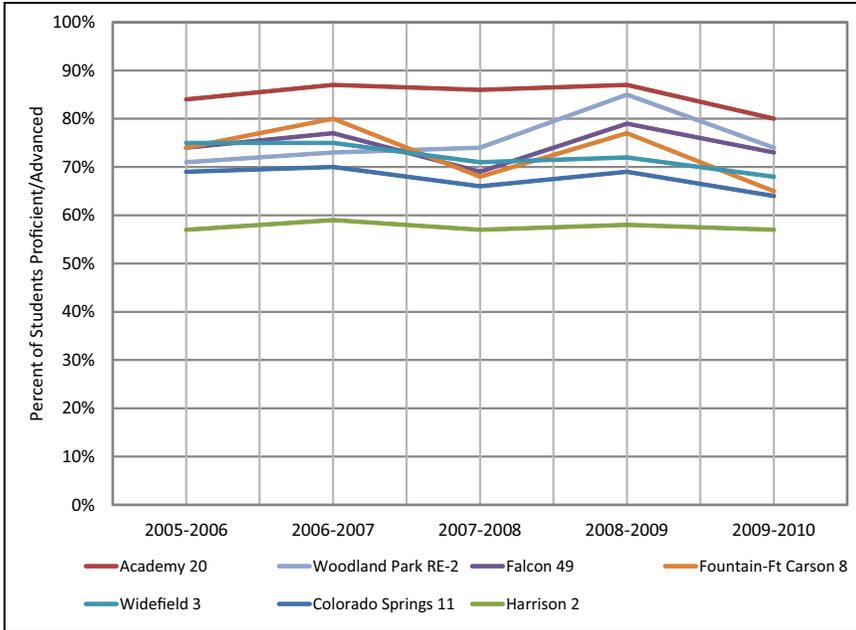
This is the right time to take on the challenge of dramatically increasing the number of children, especially from low-income families, who read proficiently. We encourage you and our community to act. Read, read to family members, read to neighbors, and volunteer in schools and other organizations committed to student achievement.

Please contact Pikes Peak United Way (719 955-0746) or your local school district to volunteer or offer resources.

1 Annie E Casey Foundation: Early Warning: Why Reading by the End of Third Grade Matters, 2010.

Tenth Grade Reading Skills

District Comparison



These Charts show the percentage of public school tenth graders in the Colorado Springs Metropolitan Statistical Area (see page 76) 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 video, reading is still the most important skill for future success. In fact, 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 only high school graduates is falling. Even those who decry the connection of education solely to future careers understand the importance of reading to a good life. Most importantly, please note the connection between poor outcomes in 3rd grade reading and poor results in 10th grade upon which we elaborate on the 3rd-Grade Reading Skills page.

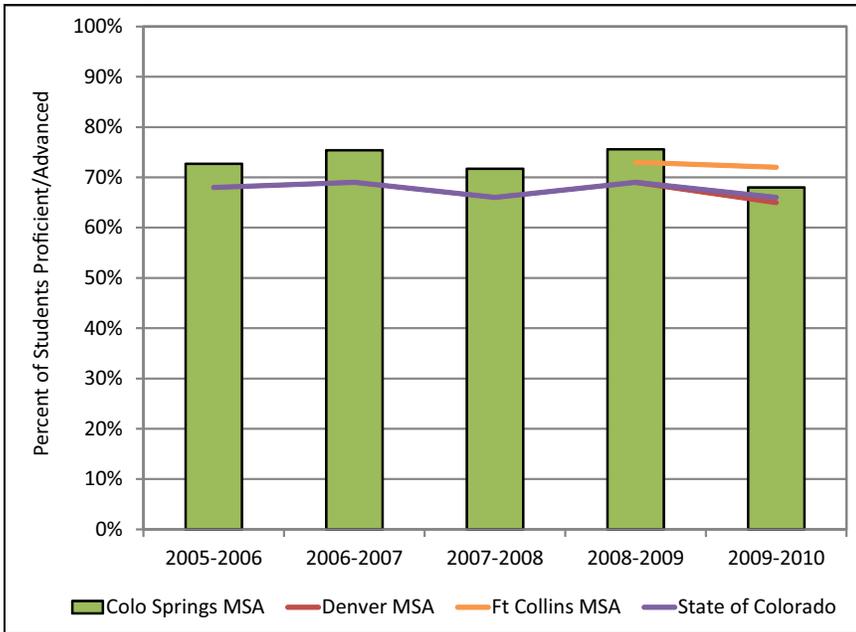
How are We Doing?

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 Colorado Springs students score in the top two quartiles of the CSAP tests simply means that this group of kids scored above 50% of all students. 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 have to score at 14% 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 the true nature of our students’ competence,

MSA Comparison

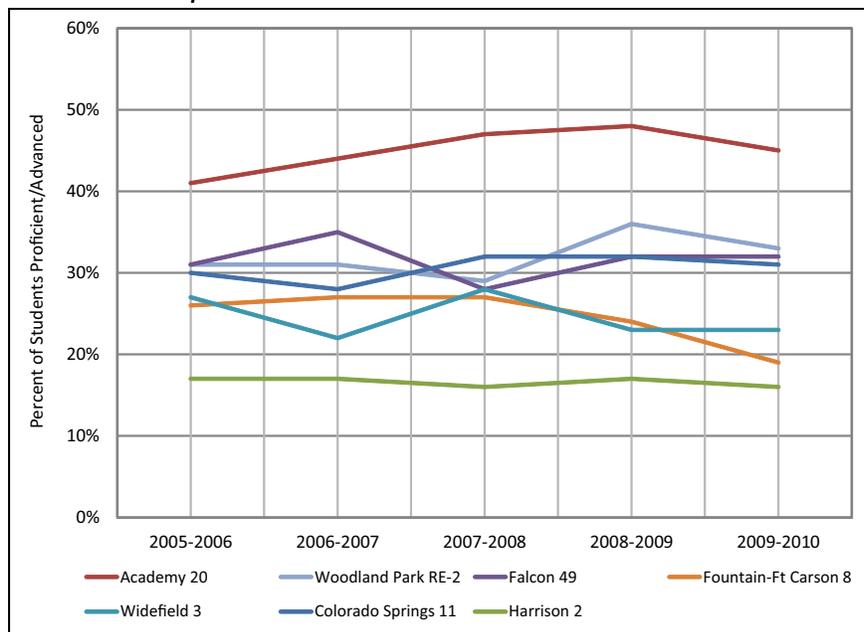


Source for both charts: Colorado Department of Education

instead of being disillusioned about great achievements. There is a Common State Standards movement that would be a good first start. Also, the Education Vision Council recommends collecting future reading data from the NAEP, a growth data assessment, especially as Colorado is dropping the CSAP test and creating another state-based evaluation system. The full explanation for this can be found on pages 76 and 81.

Tenth Grade Math Skills

District Comparison



Source: Colorado Department of Education

These Charts show the percentage of public school tenth graders in the Colorado Springs Metropolitan Statistical Area (see page 76) 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, although boasting one of the best educated citizenry in the U.S., must import its talent. 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

five 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.¹ 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

School districts should look at potentially adjusting their standards to the highest possible levels. This will give us a better gauge on the level of competency of our students.

MSA Comparison



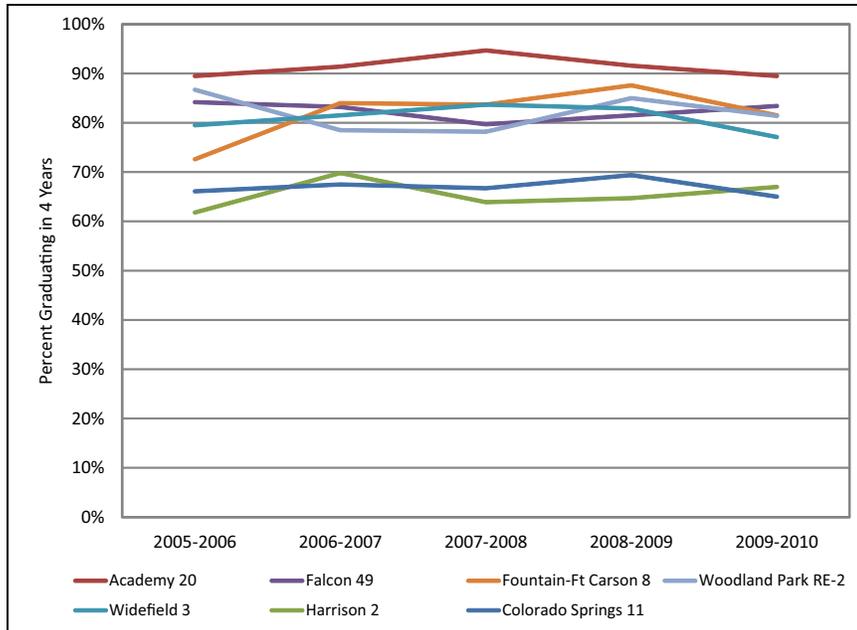
Source: Colorado Department of Education

1 The Proficiency Illusion, Thomas B. Fordham Institute, October, 2007.

Photograph by ARENA Creative

-Student Graduation-

High School Graduation Rate District Comparison

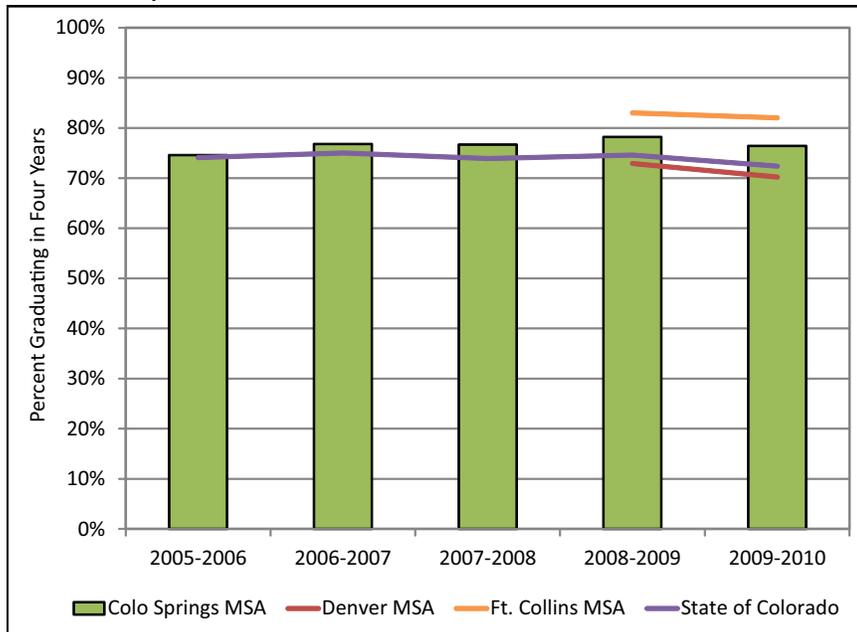


These Charts show the percentage of students who graduate from public high school utilizing the 4-year Completion formula in the Colorado Springs MSA. Four year completion includes students who obtain a General Education Degree (GED) or certificate of completion other than a high school diploma, late graduates who interrupt their coursework, and early graduates receiving a diploma in fewer than four years.

If a student is reported to have moved to another district and does not show up and cannot be located, the state assumes that student is a drop out.

Colorado currently uses two calculations for graduation rates "4-Year On-time" and "4-Year Completion". The Colorado Department of Education reported that by year end 2011, Colorado will report a 4-Year On-time graduation rate. This formula yields a rate that cannot be compared directly with prior year data.¹

MSA Comparison



Source for both charts: Colorado Department of Education

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 be community volunteers, vote in elections, or accumulate wealth, and these factors impact living conditions, educational opportunities, and job opportunities. They pay fewer taxes, are more likely to collect welfare, and more likely to engage in criminal activity. 63% of Colorado's inmates do not have a high school diploma or GED and 22% of inmates are functionally illiterate.² A major driver of lower graduation rates is poverty.

How are We Doing?

With the exception of Harrison School District 2 and Falcon School District 49, 4-Year Completion graduation rates have dropped within the Colorado Springs MSA, Denver MSA, and the State of Colorado.

Potential for Action

Support from trained and dedicated adults working as tutors, mentors, attendance

monitors and problem solvers helps students and schools succeed. Programs that support parents as the "most important teacher", family literacy programs, parents that value education and pass that value on to their children, and parents involved with school are critical to improving graduation rates.

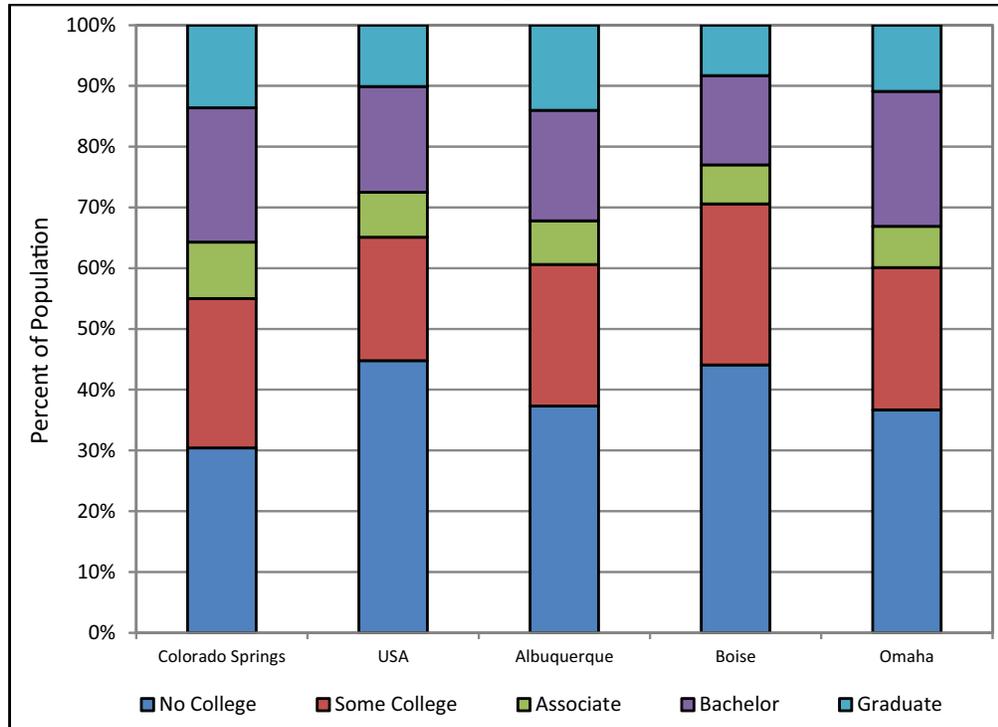
¹ Colorado Department of Education, New Federal Formula Figures Four-Year "On-Time" Graduation Rate for Colorado, February 9, 2011.

² Colorado Department of Corrections, Statistical Report: Fiscal Year 2010.

-Higher Education-

★ Educational Attainment

Percent of Residents Over 25 - Degrees Earned, 2005-2009



Source: American Communities Survey, US Census 2005-2007, El Paso County, Colorado

This Chart shows the percentage of adults age 25 and older who have gained some level of education in 2005-2009 in the Colorado Springs MSA as well as in Omaha, Boise, Albuquerque, and the USA.

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.

Many people are looking at returning to college as a way to make themselves more marketable; thus, it is important to look at the breakdown of college degrees to compare the educational level attained by our citizens.

It is noteworthy that accredited postsecondary institutions¹ in the Colorado Springs MSA offer a variety of degrees. Eleven of those institutions offer associate degrees, eleven offer baccalaureate degrees, seven offer masters degrees, and three offer doctoral degrees.

How are We Doing?

In comparison to benchmark cities such as Omaha, Boise, and Albuquerque, El Paso County residents are attaining high levels of education and earning more degrees. The effort to learn a new trade or skill should provide benefits to the region in increased productivity. However, the data does not indicate whether students are choosing degrees which will guarantee them jobs. The offering of graduate degrees indicates an expected increase in productivity. Also, the percentage of residents with college degrees is above the country as a whole. Below are some examples of how our colleges are doing:

Colorado Technical University was recognized by the Department of Homeland Security and the National Security Agency as a Center of Academic Excellence in Information Assurance Education. CTU received the Diversity and Inclusion Award from the Colorado Springs Diversity Forum and CTU received the Foothills Award under Colorado Performance Excellence (CPEx), a stepping stone toward the National Baldrige Quality Award.

US News & World Report named UCCS as one of America's Best Colleges, seventh among Western regional public universities, seventh nationally for public undergraduate engineering, in the top one-third nationally for undergraduate business, and top-ranked graduate programs in nursing and public affairs. The American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU) named UCCS one of two national leaders in community engagement efforts.

Colorado College, established as a coeducational educational institution in 1874, now employs a block plan for course work where students take one course in a three and a half week block, and is recognized by *US News & World Report* as the 26th best liberal arts college in the entire country.

US News & World Report ranks the United States Air Force Academy as the best (#1) College in the West and the 8th best in electrical/electronics/communications in the entire country.

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.

Enjoying Arts, Culture And Recreation

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CHRISTY STETTLER
Pikes Peak Hospice Foundation

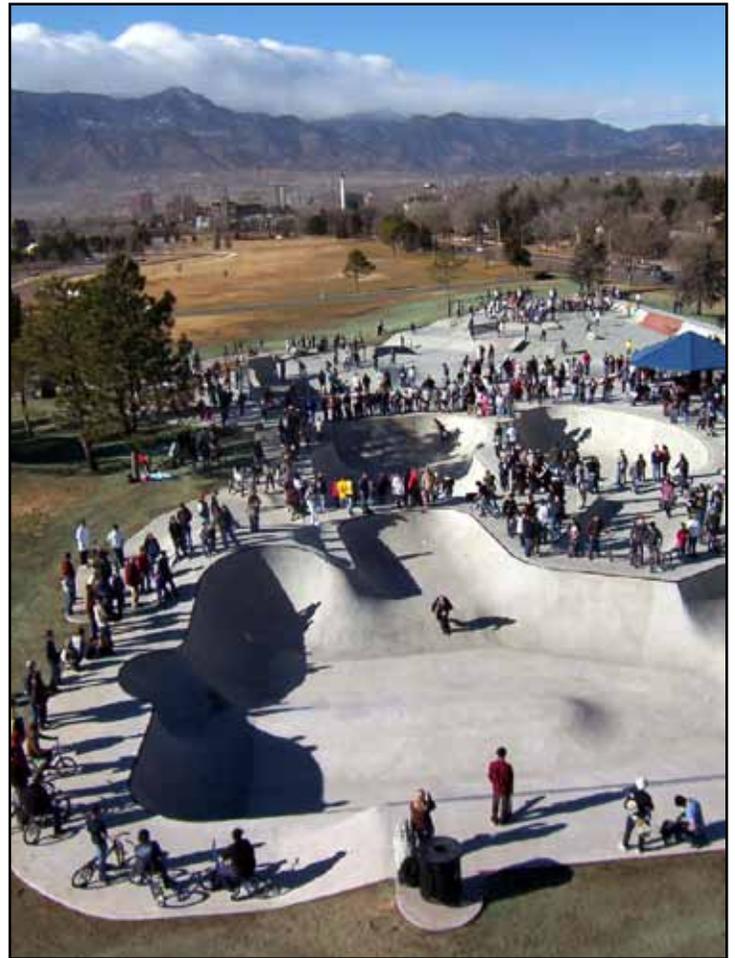


Photograph courtesy of Stock.xchng

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. Cities around the world are competing to attract new businesses as well as bright young professionals. We know the winners will be communities that offer an abundance of arts, cultural and recreational activities. The following indicators help us understand what arts, culture and recreational opportunities exist, how they are supported and whether we participate.

There are ample opportunities for residents and visitors to participate in arts, culture and humanities events in the Pikes Peak region. 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.

When we invest in the arts, not only will our region reap the additional benefits of jobs, economic growth and quality of life, but the arts also foster vibrant neighborhoods and urban revitalization. There are several efforts afoot to develop creative districts within the community. Creative districts that come with tax incentives or are even purely recognized by name, can have a positive impact on a community.



Photograph courtesy of City of Colorado Springs Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department

Parks, trails and open space are also major attractions both for residents and visitors to the Pikes Peak region. Our generally mild, dry climate provides a multitude of options 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.

The founder of Colorado Springs, General William Jackson Palmer, loved the outdoors. His gifts of land to the city guaranteed future generations the opportunity to wander trails and play in beautiful parks. In the latest Community Visionary Survey, 83% said “parks, recreation, trails and open space are essential to my community.” These public spaces contribute to our quality of life, attract visitors and are a health and economic benefit for our community. A challenging economy has created difficult choices for the community. Parks and recreational programs have felt the effects of deep budget cuts. At the same time, volunteerism has increased and new, beneficial partnerships have formed. The early reputation of Colorado Springs as a healthy destination remains true today!

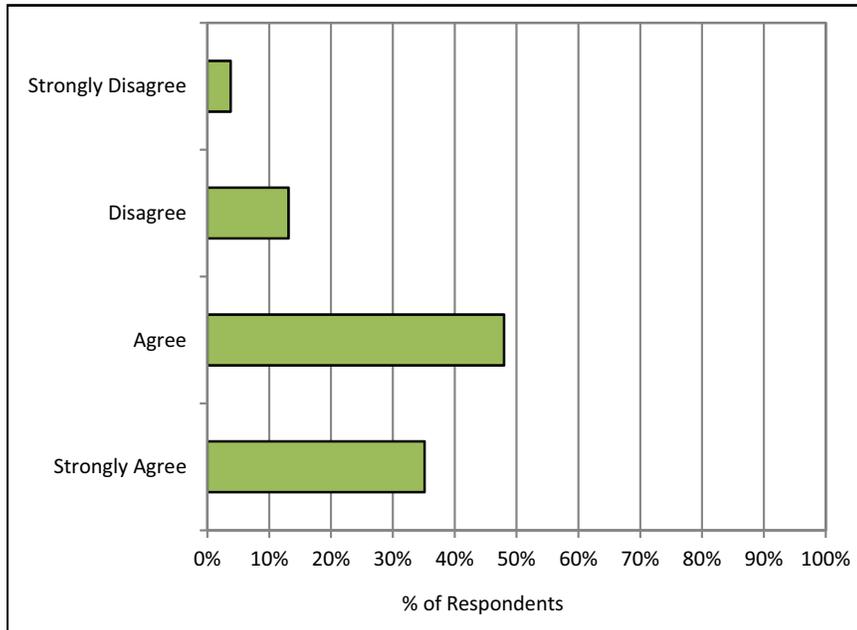


Photograph by Waldrons Photography

-Local Arts and Culture Activities-

Community Opinion on Arts, Culture and Recreational Activities

Arts and culture improve my quality of life.



Source: 2011 QLI Community Visioning Survey

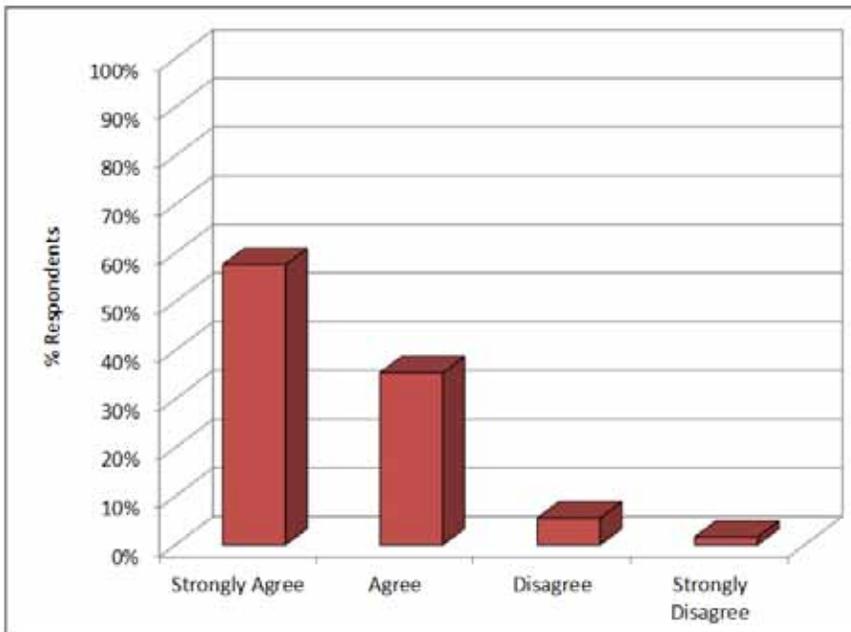
Knowing that arts are important how are we measuring up? 68.6% of respondents said they or a member of their family participated in arts and cultural activities at least once a month. This is a significant increase from 2010 when only 37% reported having attended at least one event each month. While the number of arts, culture and humanities organizations hasn't shown significant growth in the past year, attendance is up.

Potential for Action

In 2011, 82% of respondents agreed that arts and culture improve their quality of life. But why? Studies show that arts build community identity, inclusion and pride; creating a positive, unique and authentic regional brand. Survey respondents were asked to identify reasons why they believed these were true, and their answers included: enriches life, broadens exposure, helps people become better educated and open minded, and was a chance to do something new. Knowing there is a strong correlation between arts and culture and quality of life, we need to continue

to provide arts and cultural opportunities to individuals and families. Specifically, we need to educate people on what is available and develop ways to make those experiences more accessible.

Parks, recreation, trails and open spaces are essential to my community.



Source: 2011 QLI Community Visioning Survey

This chart shows that locals value the region's many opportunities for outdoor recreation. Colorado Springs has 135 neighborhood parks. Recent additions include Memorial Park's 40,000sf skate park, a universally-accessible playground to accommodate children with disabilities, and 3 new off-leash dog hiking areas.

Why is this important?

Non-traditional parks increase opportunities for exercise, recreation and community interaction, and increase neighborhood safety and property values.

The Stratmoor Valley neighborhood had no schools or recreation areas, forcing children to play primarily in the streets. Vehicle and pedestrian accidents, loitering and vandalism were a problem. With the help of a Great Outdoors Colorado grant, the neighborhood built the Stratmoor Valley Park, which received the 2010 Starburst Community Award from the Colorado Lottery.

How are we doing?

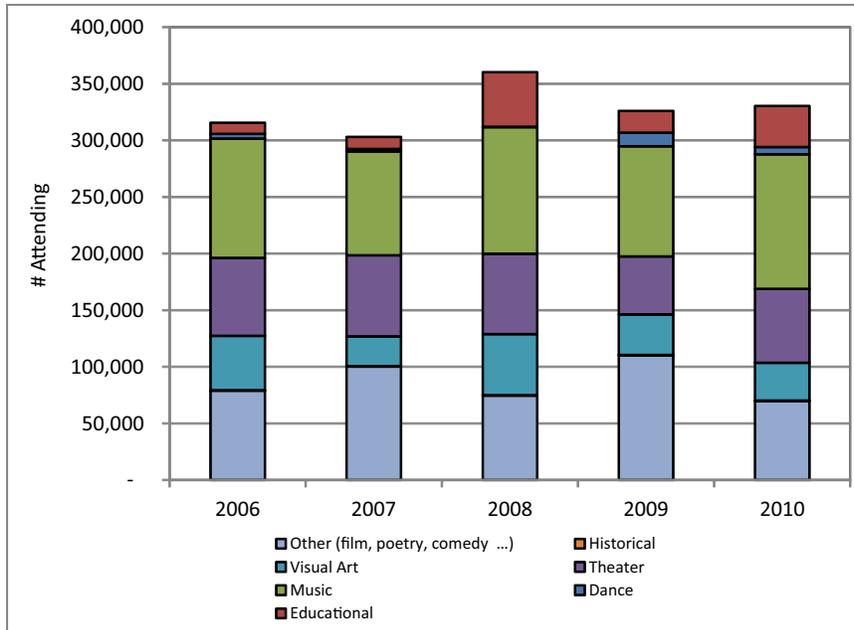
Approximately 90,000 individuals participated in volunteer projects and visited Bear Creek Dog Park alone during 2009, attesting to its popularity. The park was named one of the Top Ten Dog Parks in the United States by Dog Fancy Magazine. Stratmoor Valley Park has given residents the opportunity to meet, socialize and develop connections. Advertisements for housing in the area highlight the park as an amenity, and it provides a sense of community pride that in turn stimulates additional neighborhood improvements.

Potential for action

City parks need significant maintenance since much upkeep has been deferred over the last decade. These needs must be made a budget priority, or the number and cost of projects will continue to mount and facilities will continue to deteriorate.

Local Venue Attendance

Annual Event Attendance



Source: Statistics from Colorado Springs World Arena, Pikes Peak Center, Fine Arts Center, and Theatreworks

The first Chart shows the total annual attendance at the following venues: Colorado Springs World Arena; Pikes Peak Center for the Performing Arts; Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center; and UCCS Theatreworks.

The second Chart shows the total annual attendance at seven popular local area attractions.

Why is This Important?

Colorado Springs has a vibrant arts and culture community, with consistently high levels of participation for creative events and exhibits throughout the community. Many cultural activities take place outside of traditional ticketed venues and thus do not generate admission and visitation statistics. While this chart does not tell the whole story, it does give a snapshot of the many diverse ways in which arts and culture touch the lives of community residents and visitors.

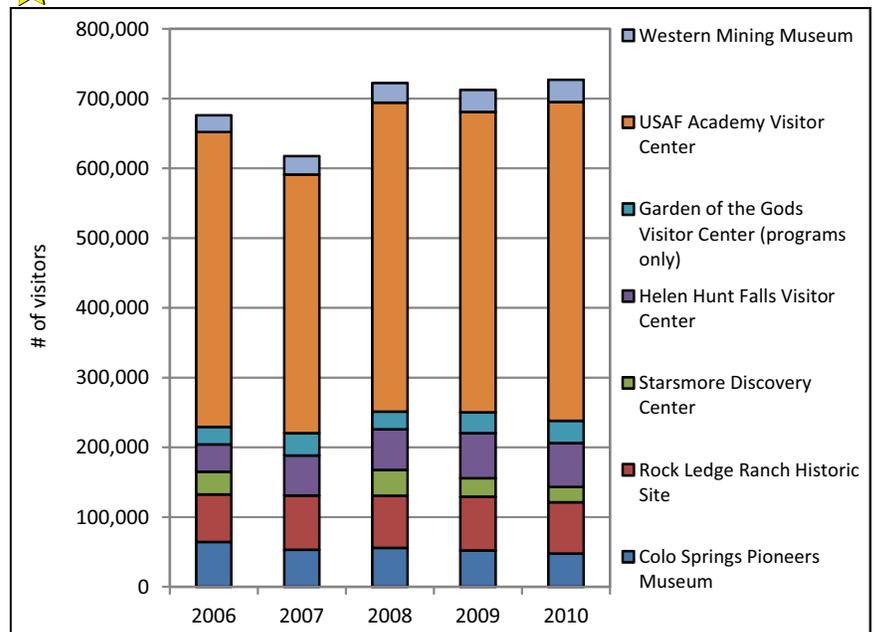
a slowly reawakening economy and of “staycations,” the continuing trend for families to vacation in their own communities and/or within a day’s drive of home. With a history of being a tourist destination since its founding by Gen. William Palmer, Colorado Springs has always had a wide variety of attractions, coupled with fine hotels, a strong cultural climate and plenty of natural beauty to make it a tourist hot spot.

★ Area Attractions Attendance

In the past decade, the ratio of in-state to out-of-state tourists has reversed for the majority of attractions and the in-state, and in many cases in-town, vacation destination has become a stronger reality. Couple this with the weakened economy and unstable fuel prices and the attendance numbers for 2010 come into better focus.

How are We Doing?

The 2010 statistics show a slight increase in attendance over the previous year but still remains lower than a peak in 2008, which was driven by surging attendance at the Fine Arts Center and World Arena. Attendance at music events reached a new highpoint in 2010, while most other categories remain steady. The sector’s overall healthy position may be driven by locals, who are responding to a sour economy by attending more meaningful events at home.



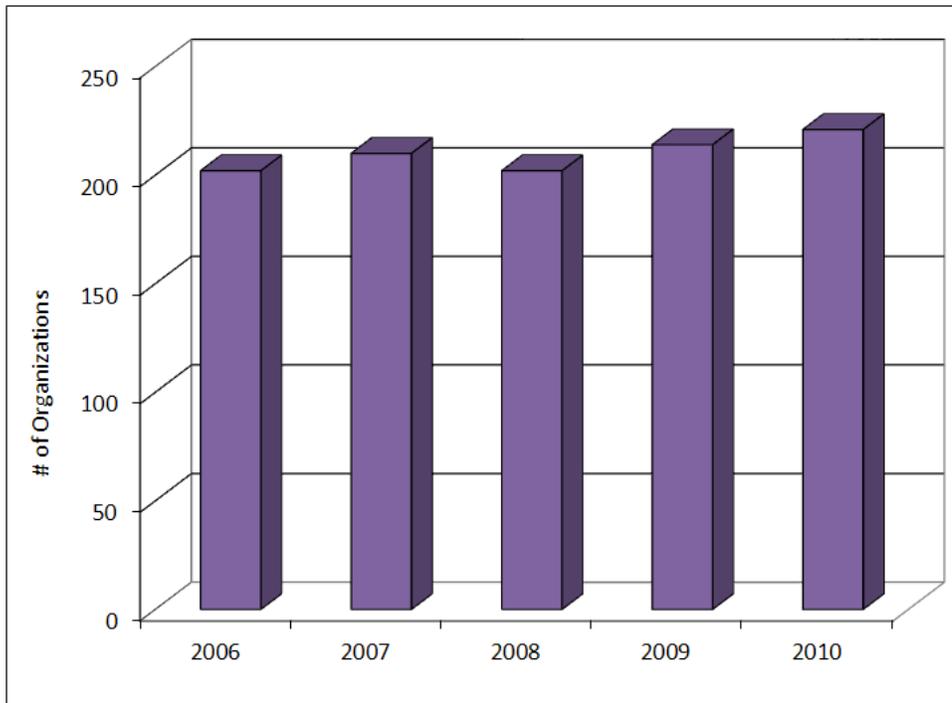
Source: Statistics from Pioneers Museum, Rock Ledge Ranch, Starsmore, Helen Hunt Falls, Garden of the Gods, USAF Academy, and Western Mining Museum

Of the increased attendance reports, the Air Force Academy Visitor Center and Cheyenne Mountain Zoo led the way with modest increases of 6% and 2% respectively. Of those reporting lowered attendance, attraction reports ranged from 2.9% to 18% reduction from their 2009 numbers. Again, various economic factors were certainly reflected in these numbers. Overall total attendance for these eight venues showed an increase of 2% over the previous year.

Potential for Action

Arts and culture organizations should be very proud of their ability to continue offering desirable programming during the recession. Moving forward, they must continue to seek out effective means to develop and deliver relevant programs.

Number of 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.

Arts: Theater companies, dinner theaters, dance companies, visual art galleries and similar organizations.

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

Humanities: History museums, historical sites, preservation organizations and other similar organizations.

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. Besides coordinating and providing a strategic base

for the region, The Cultural Office of the Pikes Peak Region (COPPeR) provides a non-paralleled information source called the *COPPeR Pages: The Official Guide to Arts & Cultural Organizations in the Pikes Peak Region*. This 24-page document, available on its website (www.coppercolo.org), lists 147 different organizations within the creative community. COPPeR also has a comprehensive listing of the numerous arts-presenting organizations on their online calendar: www.PeakRadar.com.

How are We Doing?

The number of arts, culture and humanities organizations has shown strong growth, expanding in the last two decades consistently with increases in population in the county. Consequently, local arts leaders identified a pronounced need for a comprehensive strategy to strengthen the sector in order to enhance the overall community.

Henceforth, COPPeR and the Cultural Plan Steering Committee gathered information and conducted research for the last five years, resulting in the release of the Cultural Plan for the Pikes Peak Region, a 10-year plan identifying goals, strategies and tactics for supporting the growth and diversity of cultural activities and offerings in the Pikes Peak region, and, in turn, pointing to methods in which the arts can strengthen all sectors of the community.

COPPeR also worked with Americans for the Arts on the *Arts & Economic Prosperity III: The Economic Impact of Nonprofit Arts and Culture Organizations and Their Audiences* on the region, which found that the nonprofit arts industry generated \$94.7 million in economic impact and 2,639 jobs.

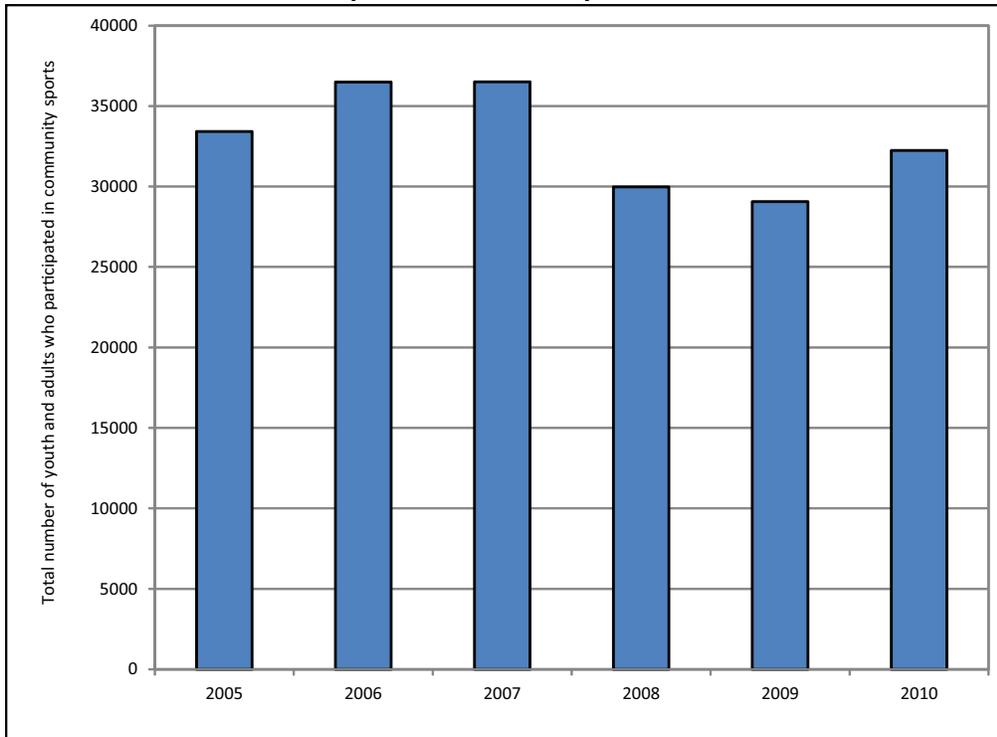
Also, according to the “Colorado Visual and Performing Arts Education Survey Statistical Report” presented by Cypress Research Group, 93% of elementary grade schools, 86% of middle school grades and 83% of high schools offer some formal arts education to its students. The focus of arts education in Colorado and the Pikes Peak region for the past two years has been on: 1) engaging partners, 2) inspiring advances in new standards 3) arts legislation and 4) developing a new creative industries division, as reported by Karol Gate, the State Department of Education’s Content Specialists for the Arts. Ms. Gates suggests that these events are creating “the perfect storm” for arts education to lead the way in the 21st century in our region.

Potential for Action

The arts are an ecosystem, and in order for that ecosystem to flourish, we require a unified vision for our sector’s many players including: individual artists, nonprofits, creative industries and a wide range of cultural consumers and arts participants. The diversity of so many organizations and individuals coming together to work on that shared vision will serve as a source of strength and inspiration. In addition to advancing the creative sector it will enhance the economic vitality of the entire region, developing a reputation for our region as a cultural destination. Educating our community about the Cultural Plan and then engaging the community to take action is the next step in developing a robust arts and culture community.

-Local Recreational Activities-

Youth and Adult Sports Participation



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

This Chart shows the total participation in sports sponsored by the City of Colorado Springs. These numbers do not include participation in private clubs or school-sponsored sports.

Why is This Important?

Access and participation are factors in creating healthy lifelong habits and a healthy community. Rising obesity rates make it important to have a range of affordable recreational opportunities for our community.

How are We Doing?

Participation fees for youth sports programs increased in 2009 and 2010 due to city budget constraints. The city is trying to balance “cost-neutral” programs with encouraging broad participation. As a result, a few programs were cancelled in 2010. Scholarship programs offer financially-challenged

youth the opportunity to participate. A reduced budget continues to affect the city’s ability to maintain high-quality sports fields.

Bicycling

Colorado Springs is home to a vibrant and diverse cycling community with opportunities for all levels of cyclists, including the United States Olympic Training Center, USA Cycling, Carmichael Training Systems and the 7-11 Velodrome. Colorado Springs maintains 85 miles of on-street bike lanes, 118 miles of urban bicycle trails and 61 miles of unpaved mountain bike trails. More information about cycling in the Region can be found on page 102.

How are We Doing?

In August 2011, Colorado hosted the opening prologue for the inaugural USA Pro Cycling Challenge, a seven-stage race hosting professional cyclists from around the world, as well as the 2nd Annual Assault on the Peak, a 24-mile hill climb that finishes at the summit of Pikes Peak.

Colorado Springs was awarded the Silver Level “Bicycle-Friendly Community” award by the League of American Bicyclists in 2008. Cyclists in Colorado Springs face challenges in the lack of trail connectivity. Also, Colorado Springs covers an area of 194 square miles, which makes cross-town commutes lengthy.

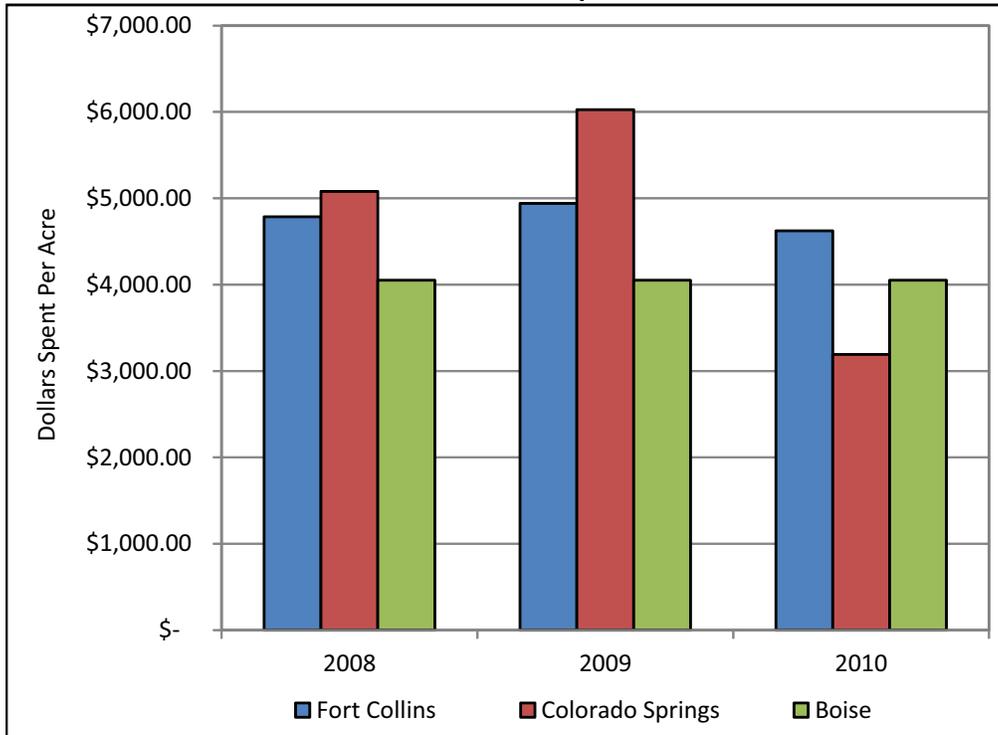
Potential for Action

Although trail connectivity has improved dramatically in recent years, there are still trail projects on the city’s master plan that have no start dates in the foreseeable future.



Photograph by Dmitry Naumov

Maintenance Cost Per Developed Park Acre



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

This Chart shows how much money is spent maintaining developed park land in Colorado Springs, Ft. Collins and Boise, Idaho.

Why is This Important?

When parks are maintained, they contribute to local property values and become less of a target for vandalism. When budget cuts lead to a reduction in maintenance, people are less likely to use parks without trash cans or with closed bathrooms.

How are We Doing?

City budget cuts reduced funding and staffing for park maintenance in 2010. Only basic maintenance was performed. Significant deferred maintenance continues to be a challenge. For example, 25 irrigation systems are more than 30 years old and need to be replaced to improve water efficiency. Twenty-two of the city's 168 playgrounds also need

to be replaced. Aging playgrounds increase liability costs. Grassy areas in parks and medians continue to deteriorate.

Irrigation improvements in city parks save water, money

During the 2010 watering season, Colorado Springs Utilities and the City of Colorado Springs worked together to upgrade irrigation systems in 67 city parks and medians and test a conservation rate.

Why is This Important?

Budget shortfalls in recent years have caused drastic cuts to the city's parks, recreation and cultural services budget, resulting in inadequate watering in most parks and medians.

How are We Doing?

Thanks to the lower cost, the city's total water bill was reduced by nearly half a million dollars, allowing irrigation of almost 27% more parks and medians. Inefficient irrigation equipment was replaced, with improvements including rain sensors, pressure regulators, new sprinkler heads and changes to spray patterns. On average, the upgrades improved water-use efficiency from 62% to 81%.

Parks received an average of about sixteen inches of supplemental irrigation from May through October. While that's still 30% less than ideal, its four inches more than would have been possible without the conservation rate. System upgrades are saving water now and will continue reducing consumption in the future.

Potential for Action

Additional efficiency upgrades were planned during the 2011 watering season, including a central irrigation control and conversion to non-potable water at Memorial Park.

Doing more with less

In 2010, El Paso County Recreation and Cultural Services staff and volunteers generated \$450,000 through programs, private donations, sponsorship, grants and in-kind donations. Using the federal standard rate of \$20.25 per hour, the value of the 2,250 who volunteered 26,700 hours was \$540,675. Volunteer efforts included park and waterway clean-ups, dog waste removal, nature center staffing and the El Paso County Fair Sustainability Program. Community collaborations to raise money and time saved programs, services and facilities threatened by deep cuts in city, county and non-profit budgets and staffing.

The El Paso County Fair Sustainability Program was honored with a National Association of Counties Achievement Award for Financial Sustainability for its creative model using sponsorships, vendors, gate revenue and year-round programming on the fairgrounds to raise \$240,000.



Stellar Propeller Studio 2011
Photograph by Stellar Propeller Studio



Photograph courtesy of City of Colorado Springs Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department



Photograph by Douglas Knight

Moving Around in a Livable Community

Chairs and Convener

DIRK DRAPER (Co-Chair)
CH2M HILL

DAVE MUNGER (Co-Chair)
Council of Neighbors and Organizations

CRAIG CASPER (Convener)
Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments

Researcher

BRIAN VITULLI
Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments

Members

ANDREA ARCHER
Colorado Springs Independence Center

ALICIA ARCHIBALD
Fort Carson

KRISTIN BENNETT
City of Colorado Springs

CRAIG BLEWITT
Mountain Metropolitan Transit

PATRICK BOWMAN
Colorado Springs Airport

AL BRODY
Bike Colorado Springs

DAN GALLAGHER
Colorado Springs Airport

BARD LOWER
City of Colorado Springs

DAVID MENTER
Mountain Metropolitan Transit

THOMAS MOWLE
El Paso County Public Trustee

TIM ROBERTS
City of Colorado Springs



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 Texas Transportation Institute's 2010 Urban Mobility Report, Colorado Springs is the 75th largest metropolitan statistical area in the country, and the 54th 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 \$493 per person, while the cost of deteriorating roads and bridges increases our yearly maintenance costs by an average of \$250 per vehicle. These costs will continue to increase due to our current inability to provide enough funds for needed maintenance.

For decades, communities and regions have addressed housing, economic development, transportation, and community as completely separate 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.”

Concurrent to the Regional Transportation Plan development, the region also has developed a comprehensive Sustainability Plan. The Transportation goal for the Plan is:

“By 2030, the region has a sustainable, equitable, and affordable multi-modal transportation system (roads, transit, bicycles, and pedestrian walkways) that efficiently and safely moves people and goods.”

Achieving this goal means:

1. The region has sustainable, adequate transportation funding for all modes, including regional transit, which is an integral part of the transportation solution.
2. There is increased accessibility, integration, and connectivity between where we live, work, and play.
3. Half of all fuels purchased in the region are sustainable fuels and transportation-related fossil fuel use is reduced by 40% from a 2010 baseline.
4. All transportation infrastructure is constructed, maintained, and operated using sustainable practices.
5. There is increased reliance on non-single-occupancy-vehicle modes of travel with public transit's share of trips increasing to over 3 percent.”

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.

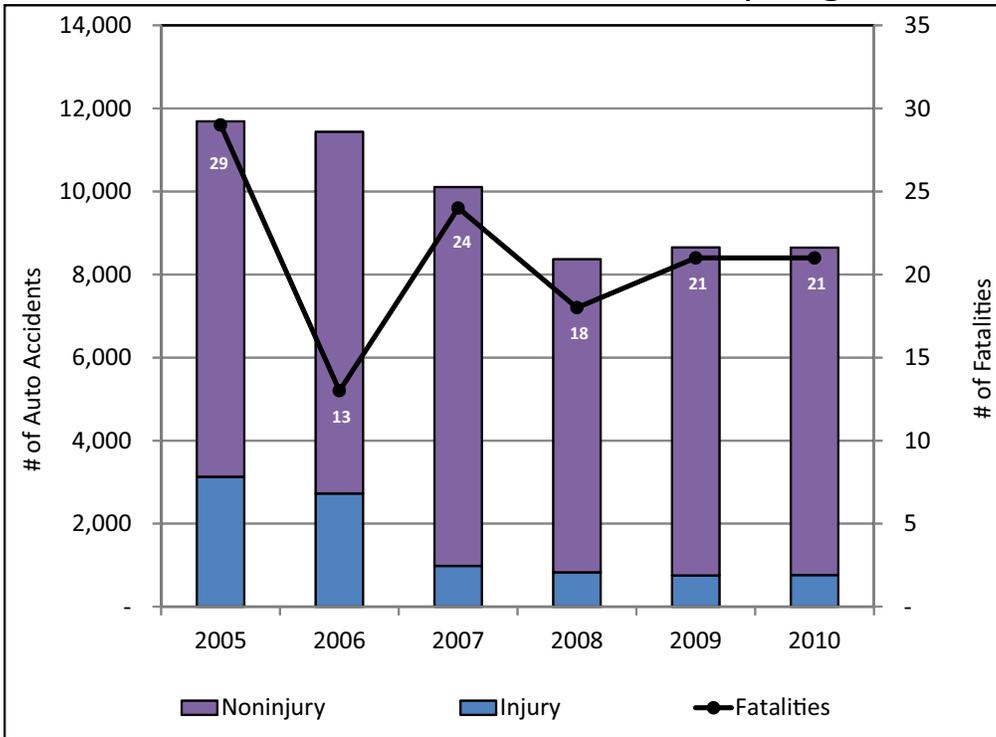
2 <http://www.urbanhabitat.org/node/322>.

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

Photograph by Dave Gastisha

-Getting Around Safely-

★ Automobile Accidents in Colorado Springs



Source: Colorado Springs Police Department

This Chart shows the annual number of accidents per vehicle mile traveled in Colorado Springs. No data is 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.

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:

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Accidents per 10,000 VMT	13	12	12	11	9	9	9

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

Comprehensive: Considers all aspects of transportation safety-engineering, education, enforcement, and emergency medical response.

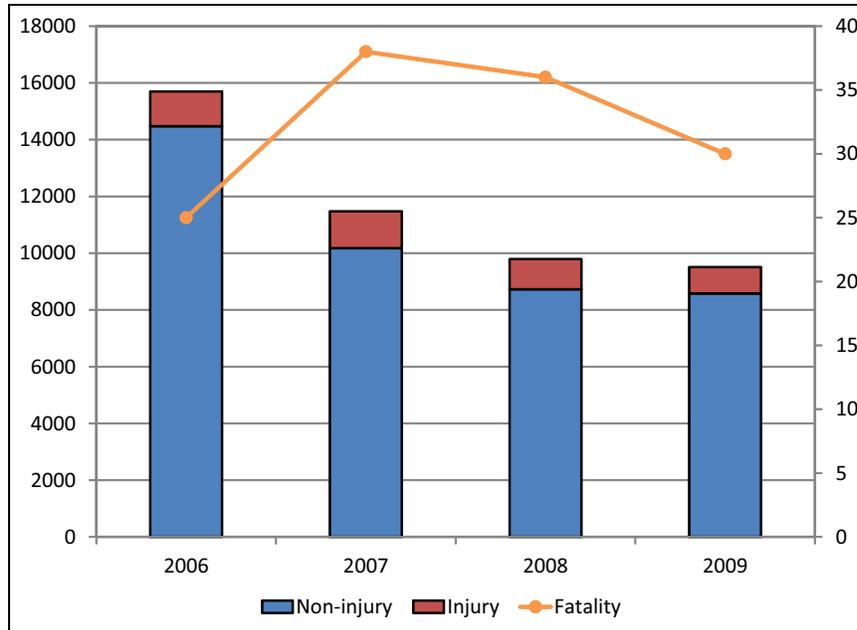
System-wide: considers corridors and entire transportation networks at the local, regional and state levels as well as specific sites.

Multi-modal: includes transit, bicycle, and pedestrian safety improvements.

Proactive: addresses current safety problems and presents future hazards and problem behaviors.

Regional Auto-Pedestrian/Bicycle Crash Comparison

El Paso County Automobile Accidents



Source: Colorado Department of Revenue

These charts show the number of crashes in El Paso and Teller counties 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.

Pedestrian and Bicycle Fatalities in Colorado Springs

	2007	2008	2009	2010
Pedestrian	5	2	2	4
Bicycle	1	2	1	0

Source: Colorado Springs Police Department

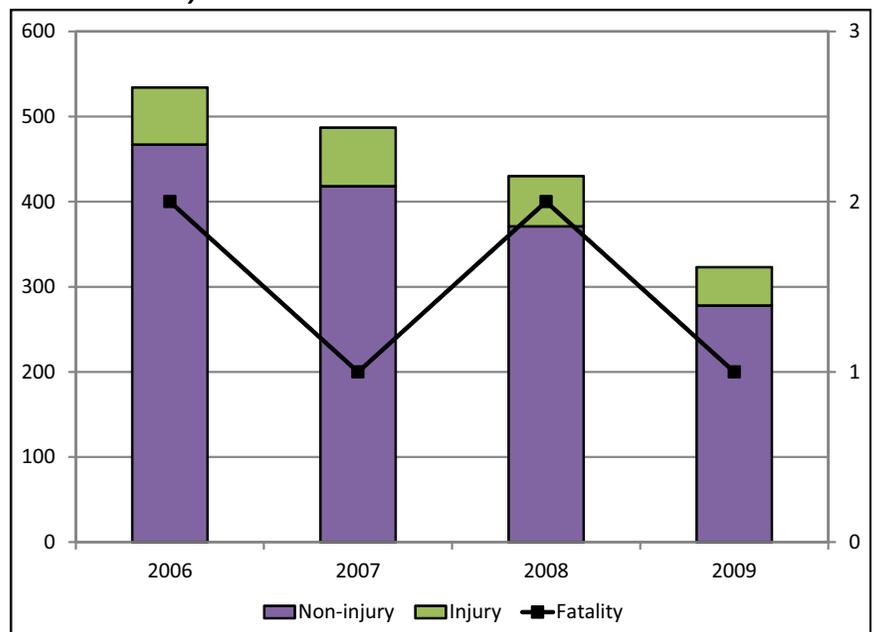
In 2007, Colorado Springs was awarded a Silver-level Bicycle-Friendly Community Award by the League of American Bicyclists.

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

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 places because good connections don't exist.

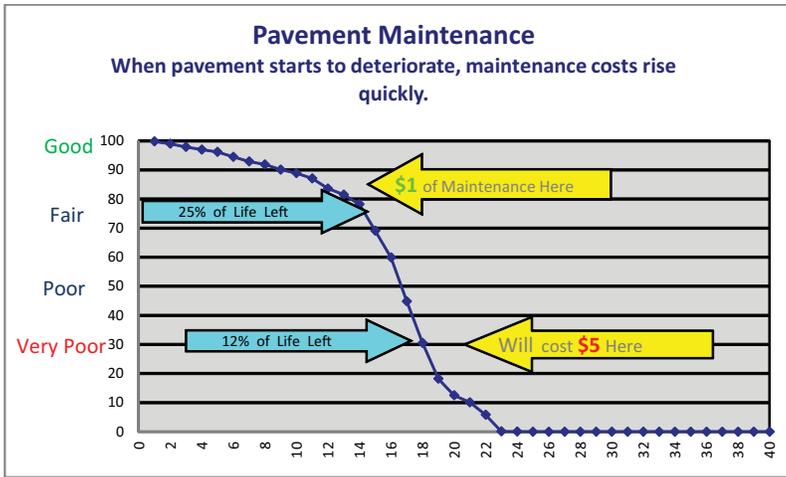
Teller County Automobile Accidents



Source: Colorado Department of Revenue

-Infrastructure Maintenance and Preservation-

Pavement Condition and Maintenance Needs



Source: City of Colorado Springs Streets Division

This Chart shows the cost results of deferred pavement maintenance. Nearly 77% of the roads and 19% of bridges in our Region are in fair or poor condition and require some type of maintenance treatment.

The two bottom Charts show the current condition of bridges in both El Paso and Teller counties. While work is needed to improve the structurally deficient and functionally obsolete structures, at least three-quarters of the bridges in both counties are without deficiencies

Currently, there is an approximate \$900 million backlog of unmet 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?

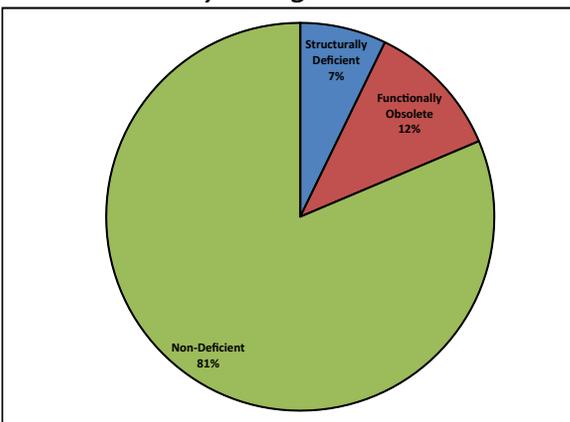
Since 2001, revenues supporting the Pikes Peak Region's transportation budgets, excluding the 2004 one cent sales tax for the Pikes Peak RTA, have decreased 81%. When including the Pikes Peak RTA, overall transportation budgets have decreased 44%. This does not take into account that costs of materials in 2010 were 170% higher than they were in 2001. This combination of factors means that the buying power of transportation funding in 2010 is one third of what it was in 2001. In 2011, the modeled backlog of needed maintenance activities in the two-county MSA was approximately \$1 billion. Without significant new sources of funding this backlog is forecast to grow to \$6 billion. The cost to maintain roads and bridges in their present condition is \$1.96 billion more than we presently have available in the total of local, state and federal funding.

Potential for Action

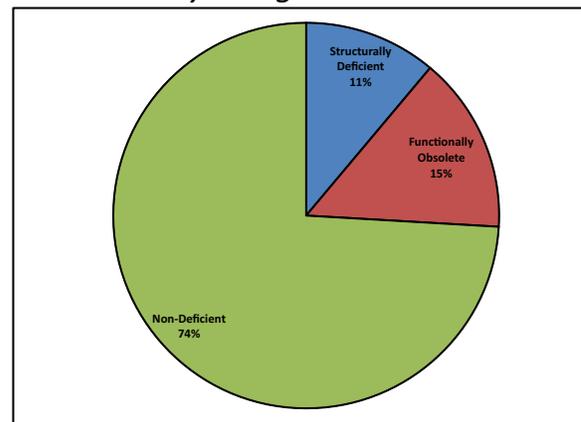
We need to change how we view maintenance activities by simultaneously investing more in regular maintenance and conducting preventative maintenance. Even with the added funding from the Pikes Peak Rural Transportation Authority (PPRTA) we can't afford to do this because the lane miles that need to be maintained are expanding faster than is our ability (funding) to maintain them. Page 58 discusses our Infill and Redevelopment challenges. Moreover, deferring maintenance of roads and bridges results in dramatically higher costs for future maintenance and replacement; as well as higher costs to operate vehicles on poorly maintained facilities.

Bridge Conditions

El Paso County Bridges



Teller County Bridges



Source for both pie charts: Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments

-Daily Travel-

Travel Mode

Metropolitan Area	2009 Workers (16 yrs and older)	Mode of Travel (by Metro Statistical Area)			
		Drive Alone	Carpool	Public Transport	Walk, Bike, Other
Austin	860,273	76.0%	10.5%	2.8%	10.8%
Fort Collins	155,327	74.0%	9.6%	1.0%	15.4%
Denver	1,277,368	75.6%	9.5%	4.6%	10.3%
Albuquerque	396,357	78.7%	10.9%	1.6%	8.9%
Colorado Springs	303,830	76.9%	9.5%	1.2%	12.5%
Omaha	437,684	82.2%	10.9%	0.9%	7.0%

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 use 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. A robust public transportation system affords those who cannot drive significant access to medical care, food and clothing purchasing, and employment opportunities.

How are We Doing?

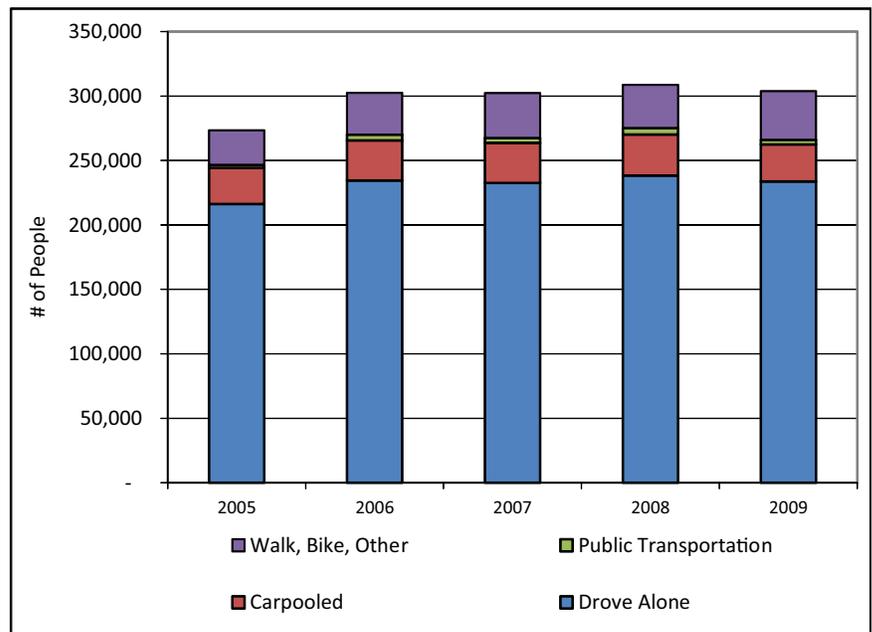
In 2009, 77% of El Paso County residents drove alone to work, and 10% carpooled. Some residents walk or bike to work. The region has many designated bicycle routes and a trail network that continues to expand. Non-motorized transportation takes traffic off roads, reduces emissions, and provides a healthy alternative for commuters. Unfortunately, budget shortfalls required the City of Colorado Springs to reduce transit funding 20% from 2008 to 2009 and 70% from 2009 to 2010.

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.

Freeing our transit system from its reliance on local funding and moving toward a regional paradigm, as suggested recently by the Future of Regional Transit (www.FutureOfRegionalTransit.com) study, 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.



Source: US Census Bureau

Public Transportation Use

Annual Operating Characteristics	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Vehicle Revenue Miles	2,883,096	3,390,229	3,441,890	3,663,734	3,168,664
Vehicle Revenue Hours	168,678	210,934	213,877	220,399	176,390

Source: Mountain Metropolitan Transit, National Transit Database

The **Charts** shows annual operating characteristics for Mountain Metropolitan Transit's (MMT) bus division. Vehicle revenue miles and hours measure a system's 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 (PPRTA) was formed in 2004, and declined after 2008, when budget shortfalls in the City of Colorado Springs necessitated transit cutbacks.

Why is This Important?

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. Such systems also enable those who are mobility impaired the important opportunity to live fuller lives.

Annual Bus Ridership (millions)	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Colorado Springs	2.3	2.3	3.5	3.6	3.4
Albuquerque	7.6	8.5	9.3	10.4	10.7
Austin	32.4	34.4	33.0	36.3	38.4
Grand Rapids	6.0	7.0	7.7	8.6	8.9
Little Rock	2.1	2.2	2.2	2.5	2.3
Omaha	4.6	3.8	3.8	4.0	4.0
Richmond	12.4	13.4	14.7	13.6	13.2
Spokane	7.7	8.4	9.4	11.1	11.2

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

How are We Doing?

Due to the economic downturn in 2009 and 2010, City of Colorado Springs' funding for 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

Annual System Passenger Miles of Travel (millions)	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Colorado Springs	17	25	27	26	24
Albuquerque	21	30	33	37	38
Austin	113	132	137	162	183
Grand Rapids	27	31	35	39	39
Little Rock	9	9	9	14	14
Omaha	15	17	17	18	18
Richmond	45	49	58	61	69
Spokane	41	39	50	52	52

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

ridership highs that were observed in 2008 and a significant increase in the region's population. The recently-completed regional transit study (see below) recommended that the Pikes Peak Region pursue a phased approach to increasing public transit service; return transit service levels to what was delivered in 2008; and shift responsibility and governance of the transit system, from the City of Colorado Springs to a new public transportation governing board within the PPRTA.

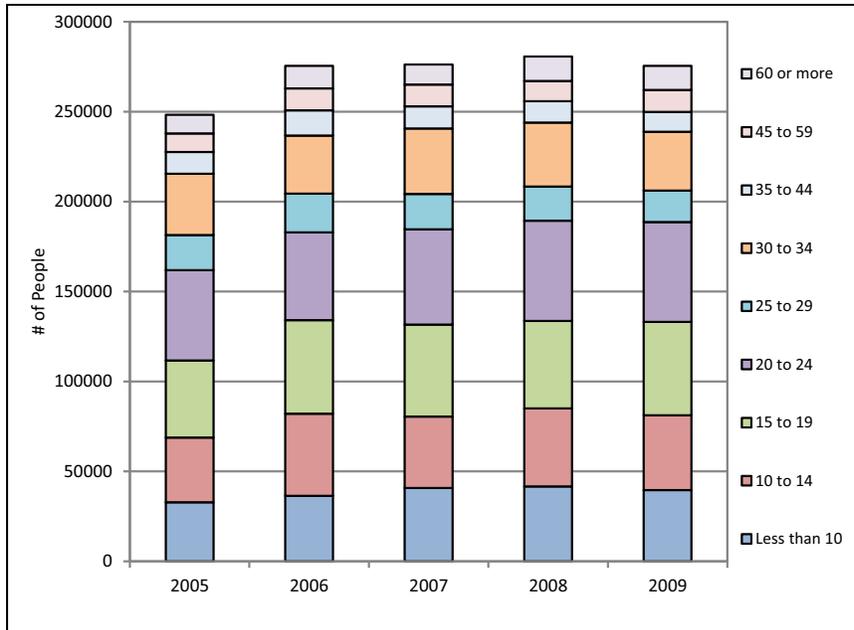
Potential for Action

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. We need to find ways to make development and re-development of our urban cores more attractive and affordable than developing vacant land.

There is growing interest in providing alternative modes of transportation. The Streetcar Feasibility Study (<http://www.springsgov.com/Page.aspx?NavID=2758>) found that a system between Downtown and UCCS is attainable without significant tax increases. The Future of Regional Transit Study (www.FutureOfRegionalTransit.com) found that a viable transit system requires a dedicated governing body focused on operating a transit system. The Study also concluded that higher land use density, on the order of 10 dwelling units per acre, is necessary to support a viable transit system.

Commuter 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 still lower than the average commute times in the U.S. (25 minutes in 2005 and 22 minutes in 1990).

The Map Image shows the combined cost of housing and transportation and its impact on household income in El Paso County.

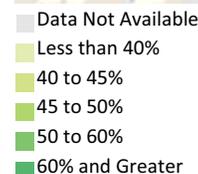
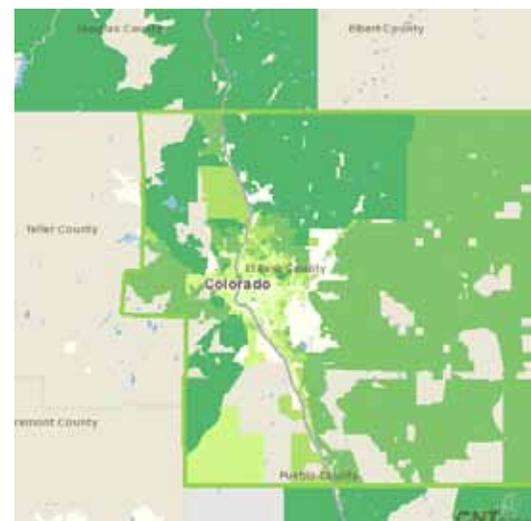
Considering the cost of housing plus transportation developed a more complete measure of affordability beyond the standard method of assessing only housing costs. By taking into account both the cost of housing as well as the cost of transportation associated with the location of the home, Housing plus Transportation provides the true cost of housing decisions.

Dividing these costs by Representative Regional Incomes illustrates the Cost Burden placed on a Typical Household by combined housing and transportation expenses. The national standard is 45% or less for the combined cost.¹

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.

Housing and Transportation Costs as a Percentage of Income



Source for map image: Center for Neighborhood Technology

1 <http://htaindex.cnt.org>.

★ Bicycling in the Pikes Peak Region

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Ute Pass Express	N/A	N/A	N/A	920	884
Bikes on MMT Fixed Routes	52,587	64,940	76,989	69,038	57,150
Bikes on FREX Buses	2,191	2,587	2,500*	3,147	1,621
TOTAL	64,778	67,527	79,489	73,105	59,655

*2008 figure is an estimate. Due to malfunctioning fare boxes, only 4th quarter data was accurately collected

The Table shows the number of bicycles carried on Mountain Metropolitan Transit vehicles. The number of bicycles carried on transit steadily increased until service reductions took effect in 2009.

Source: Mountain Metropolitan Transit

The Chart shows the increase in bicycle lane mileage since the late 1990s. 2006 and 2008 were the years with the largest expansion of lane mileage with 9.65, and 17.85 miles added, respectively.

Why is This Important?

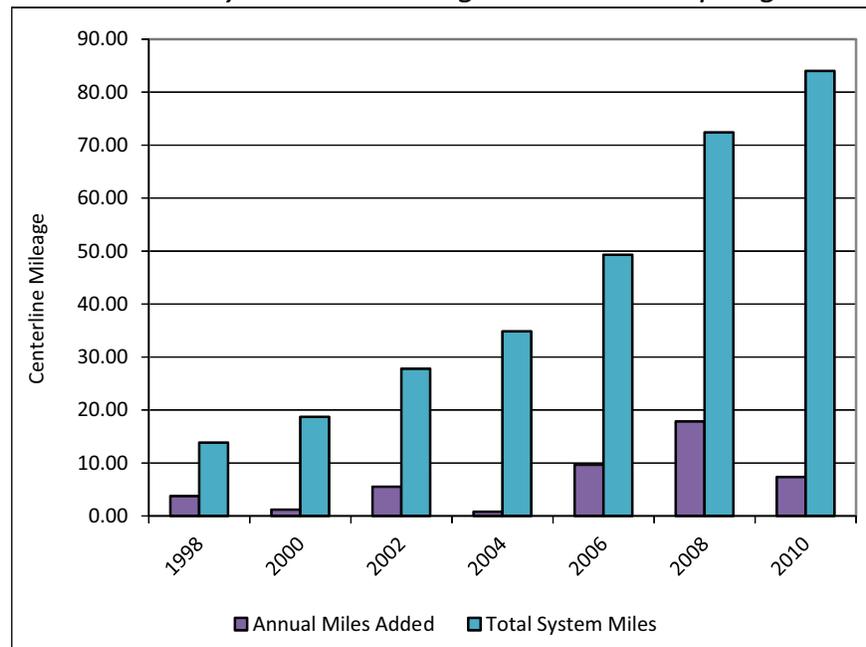
Bicycles are single occupant vehicles that many of us love. Bicycling promotes active lifestyles, healthier citizens and employees, reduces traffic congestion and improves air quality. Bicycling helps create fun, vibrant places to live and work. According to the Worldwatch Institute, "Advancing cycling may be the best buy in raising a city's quality of life. Not only does cycling capture the manifold benefits of moderate exercise, it is good for a city's environment, livability, and fiscal health." Bicycling can also be a much greater contributor to the growth of our region's tourist industry.

How are We Doing?

In 2008 the City of Colorado Springs received a Silver-level award as a Bicycle Friendly Community (BFC). In its assessment report back to the City following the award designation, the League of American Bicyclists highlighted several significant bicycling strengths in Colorado Springs:

- Bicycling opportunities: on street, trails, BMX, dirt jumping, skate park, and even a velodrome
- Annual increases in bicycle lane mileage
- Annual Bike Month with a broad range of activities for lots of audiences, including the Mayor's Ride
- Steady and unique funding sources: portions of the Pikes Peak Rural Transportation Authority transportation sales tax (1 cent); a portion of the Trails, Open Space and Parks sales tax (1/10th cent); and Bicycle Excise Tax (\$4.00 per new bicycle sold in City limits)
- Complete Streets policy (City Ordinance 05-196) in place in the City of Colorado Springs.

Increase in Bicycle Lane Mileage in Colorado Springs



Source: City of Colorado Springs

Since the 2008 award, the City of Colorado Springs has continued to make progress in several areas:

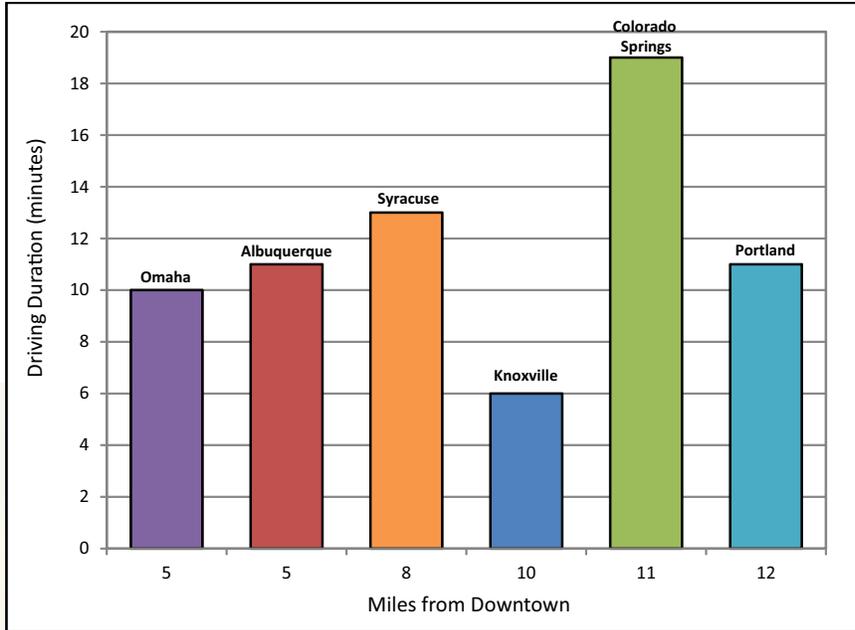
- 29.5 miles of bicycle lanes have been added, bringing the City's total Bicycle Lane mileage (through 2010) to 84 miles.
- The City has upgraded 2.7 miles of existing urban trails and added 5.75 miles of new trail mileage. City staff from Public Works, Transit and Parks have been working together to improve trail crossings of streets, connections to transit routes, and connections between on-street bicycle lanes/routes and the off-street urban trail system.
- The Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments (PPACG) and the City of Colorado Springs initiated an on-going bicycle/pedestrian data collection effort in September 2010, using volunteers to collect trail and bike lane user data several times each year.

Potential for Action

The following actions would play a significant role in helping our region achieve its full bicycling potential: 1) Update the City's 1996 Bicycle Transportation Plan, preferably in conjunction with an update to the City's 2000 Trails Plan; 2) Fund a full-time Bicycle Transportation Coordinator; 3) Improve network connectivity and safety in addition to adding new facility miles; 4) Develop a meaningful relationship between area law enforcement agencies and the bicycling community, including identifying their respective roles in targeted enforcement and bicycle safety education.

-Intercity Connections-

Airport Usage Airport Access to Downtown



The first Chart shows the amount of time travelers spend driving from the airport to downtown.

The Table shows the number of enplanements at the Colorado Springs (COS) airport and peer airport facilities.

The second Chart shows trend enplanement data for Colorado Springs and peer airports during the 2005-2009 period.

Why is This Important?

Access to the airport from the surrounding community is a crucial part of the overall success of the airport. The location and accessibility of one airport over another has a significant effect in the evaluation process of which particular airport a passenger may choose to use. The importance of having a rapid link between an airport, the central business district and surrounding attractions is essential to encourage new businesses to

the community. An influx of new businesses will benefit the community economically as well as boost the airports potential of gaining additional non-stop destinations. Having a relatively high amount of time spent driving to an airport can deter potential passengers to other surrounding airports.

How are We Doing?

Colorado Springs travelers spend a longer time driving from downtown to the airport in comparison to other travelers from similarly sized airports. This can be attributed to those airports having better road infrastructure and accessibility to the surrounding population.

Colorado Springs has seen a drop in the number of passengers over the past five years due to a nationwide effort by all airlines to reduce capacity in response to the economic downturn. The trends in Colorado Springs are consistent with other small markets around the nation.

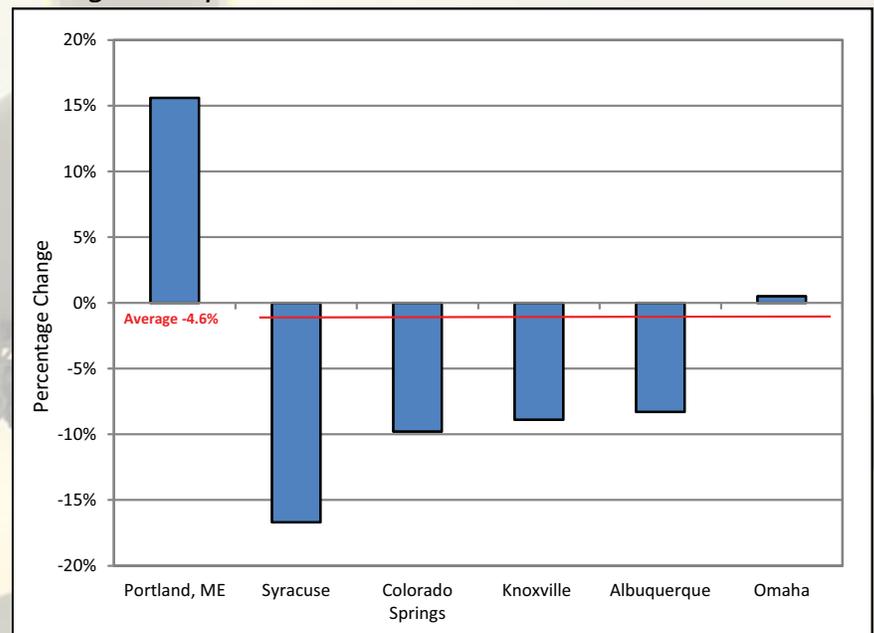
2009 Enplaned Passengers	
Colorado Springs	931,993
Syracuse, NY	1,019,146
Omaha, NE	2,112,179
Portland, ME	862,475
Knoxville, TN	842,351
Albuquerque, NM	2,820,371

Source: Federal Aviation Administration

Potential for Action

An improved ground access infrastructure will increase the amount of passengers served by the COS airport and ultimately strengthen potential new entrants of air carriers at COS airport. A more convenient access from the surrounding communities will encourage passengers to choose this airport.

Change in Enplanements 2005-09



Photograph courtesy of Shutterstock.com

Source for both charts: Federal Aviation Administration, local airport websites and airport staff

Keeping the Community Safe

Chairs and Conveners

MARY JO STRASSBURG-ALDAL (Chair)
Colorado Springs Police Department

BRETT LACEY (Co-Convenor)
Colorado Springs Fire Department

TRESSIE KNOWLTON (Co-Convenor)
TESSA

Data and Administrative Assistance

DAWN BENTLEY
Fountain Police Department

LIZ BROWN
El Paso County Sheriff's Office

GLENDA KELLY
Colorado Springs Police Department

MOLLY MILES
Colorado Springs Police Department

Members

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El Paso County Bar Association

REGINA DIPADOVA
Spring Creek Youth Services

LARRY DURANDETTE
Agilent Technologies, Inc.

RODNEY GEHRETT
El Paso County Sheriff's Office

RICHARD HANSEN
Public Safety Sale Tax Oversight Committee

MAILE GRAY
DriveSmart Colorado

SCOTT MCCUNE
American Medical Response

MELISSA MITCHELL
Pikes Peak Library District

TED MOSSMAN
Vectra Bank Colorado

SHIRLEY RHODUS
El Paso County Department of Human Services

TINA YOUNG
Colorado Springs Police Department



Photograph courtesy of Steven "Smitty" Smith

© Steven "Smitty" Smith

Public safety involves the prevention of and protection from events, such as crimes and disasters that could endanger public well being. Individuals tend to evaluate public safety through the lens of their own experiences, others with whom they interact, or by what they read in newspapers and see on television news. Citizens need to feel safe while living, working, driving, and playing in our great community. Law enforcement, fire, emergency medical services, the judicial system and numerous agencies all work together to keep the citizens of our region safe.

Public Safety Indicators

Many indicators measure public safety, such as crime rate, DUI arrests, motor vehicle fatalities, repeat offenders, juvenile crime, total fire loss and fire loss per capita, neighborhood safety, child abuse, and domestic violence. Public safety indicators may measure dangers to citizens that have already occurred (i.e. crimes, arrests, fatalities, fire loss, and abuse reports), while others measure the region's ability to respond, intervene, and prevent future danger, creating a strong foundation for public safety.

The community is responsible for ensuring equitable and effective public safety for all citizens. The number of available responders affects service levels and response times, especially in the current economic climate when coupled with a growing population. Continued, and perhaps increased, investment in support of public safety is critical if we want to attract business and improve the community's quality of life.

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. Safety in the home is measured by the occurrence of child abuse, domestic violence, and pet abuse; unfortunately, these crimes are among the most highly underreported. Tracking referrals and services provided to victims can provide information about the prevalence of family safety.

Child abuse is an act or omission that may ultimately result in serious trauma or death; it includes physical, sexual, or emotional abuse; inadequate food, clothing, shelter, medical care, or supervision; an injurious environment; or exposure to controlled substances.

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 the 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.

Pet abuse may be an indicator of child abuse and domestic violence, thus its prevention is also a matter of public safety. Preventing the use of pet maltreatment as tools to control family members decreases the prevalence of animal cruelty, child abuse, and domestic violence.

Conclusion

The quality of life in El Paso County continues to rely on citizens' willingness to take responsibility for personal and community safety, while continually finding ways to identify and address issues that arise. Law enforcement agencies, emergency response teams, human services agencies, and prevention organizations all work together to find effective, efficient ways to sustain the current level of public safety in El Paso County.

The Pikes Peak Region offers many innovative programs to educate citizens and improve public safety. The Colorado Springs Police Department's Homeless Outreach Team (HOT), Downtown Area Response Team and the Civilian/Military Law Enforcement Collaborative have utilized initiative, innovation, and partnerships with the community to create incredibly successful programs improving law enforcement's response to specific populations and communities. The International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) and DynCorp recognized this effort in 2010 by awarding CSPD, Peterson Air Force Base Security Forces, and Fort Carson Department of Emergency Services their second annual International Award for Civilian Law Enforcement/Military Cooperation. All three programs are shining examples of significant achievement through positive working relationships.

The El Paso County Community Detoxification Facility opened in August 2009 with a mission to provide a safe and effective continuum of care for citizens in need of substance abuse and addiction treatment. The Detox Facility is operated by the El Paso County Sheriffs' Office, and primarily funded by Memorial Hospital, Penrose Hospital, the Colorado Division of Behavioral Health, and grants from Pikes Peak United Way. The facility serves a crucial role within the community and significantly reduces the impact of substance abuse on local hospitals and emergency service providers.

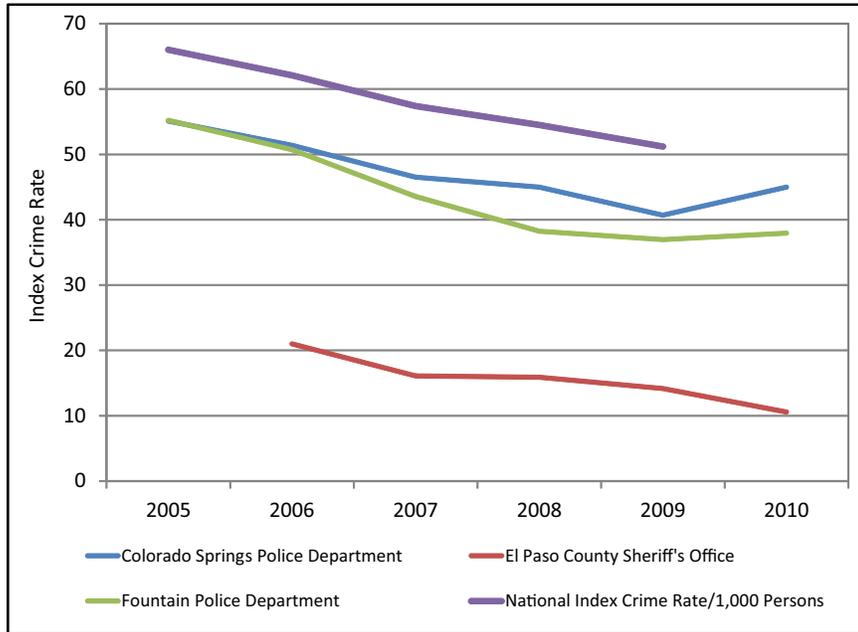
Several pro-active organizations are working to promote safety and improve the quality of life for youth in the Pikes Peak Region. Colorado Springs Teen Court provides an alternative to Municipal Court sentencing for first-time misdemeanors committed by youth between 10 and 18 years old. All sentences 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 introducing young women to career opportunities in the fire service. FireFactor is a prevention based program used to target Juvenile Firesetting in 6th and 7th grade demonstrating the reality of fire damage and loss against those images typically seen in popular mainstream media.

Public safety is a mix of perceptions and facts available to citizens in the community. Listening to the news everyday about criminal activity and hearing radio reports of recent bank robberies can lead people to conclude that they live in an unsafe community, yet the crime rate in Colorado Springs is lower than the national average. The indicators presented provide a clearer perspective on how Colorado Springs and El Paso County stack up in the area of public safety.

-Public Safety-

Crime Rate

Index Crime Rate Comparison (Per 1,000 People)



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.

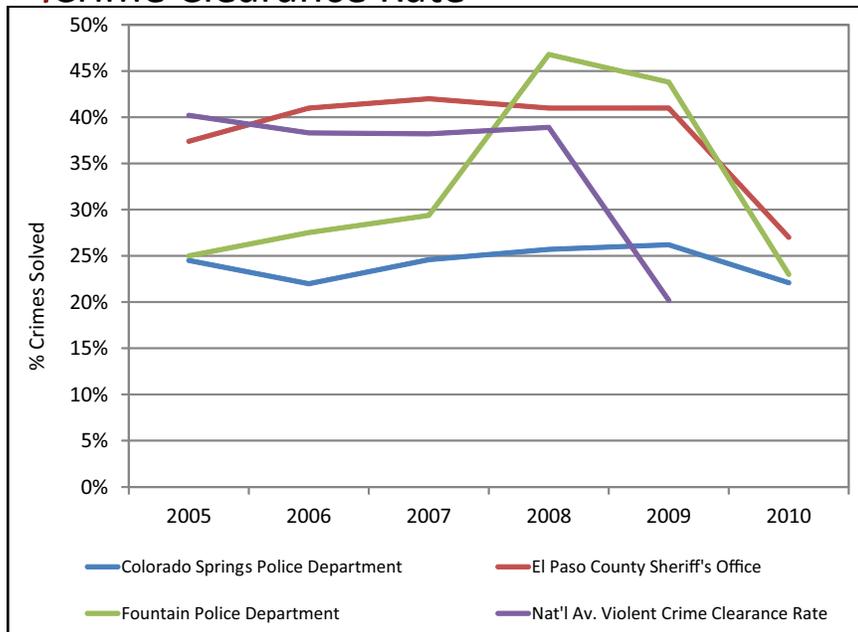
Why is This Important?

Tracking the local crime rate allows us to scrutinize our strategies in order to ensure we are using the most effective measures to reduce crime in our community.

How are We Doing?

In 2009, the Index Crime rate in Colorado Springs was 40.1 - below the national average of 51.2. However, the crime rate is trending upward in 2010. As noted in the graph, the Index Crime rate for Fountain Police Department rose slightly from 2009 to 2010.

Crime Clearance Rate



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

Potential for Action

As noted in the 2010 report, both the Colorado Springs Police Department and El Paso County Sheriff's Office continue to expect crime rate increases due to the current sluggish economy and high unemployment rates. This economic downturn correlates to the reduction in parks and recreation, community centers and other services available to citizens that indirectly assist law enforcement in the fight against crime.

The second Chart shows the clearance rate for Index Crimes solved by CSPD, EPSO, 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 complements the strategies for tracking the crime rate in that it is a more narrow focus on the efforts made to keep the community safe by apprehending

those responsible for the criminal behavior.

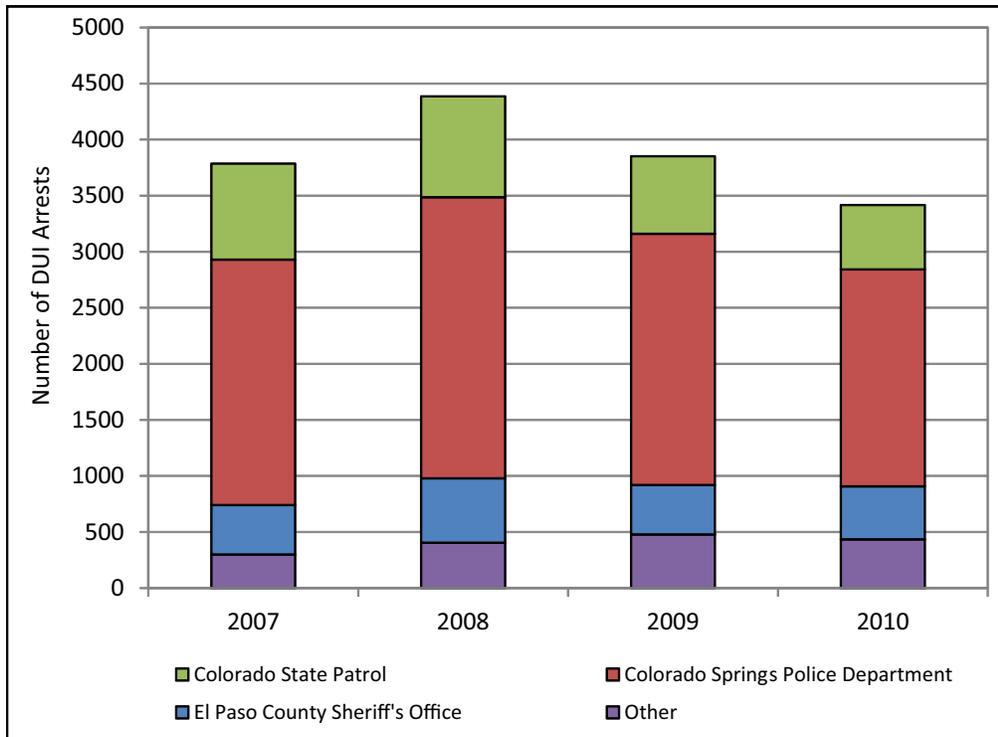
How Are We Doing?

The 2010 clearance rate has dropped to 22.10% in Colorado Springs, while the clearance rate also dropped notably for El Paso County to 27.00% and Fountain to 23.00%. National clearance rates were not available at the time of this publication; however, the 2009 clearance rate is 20.20%.

Potential for Action

In 2010, due to continued declining resources from the previous year, CSPD continued the adjustments that were made to meet the demands of investigative needs. Resources that were shifted from Property Crimes to maintain Violent Crimes investigations remained in place through 2010. In addition, Alternative Service Delivery was implemented in an effort to continue service to the public, while maintaining resources for the more serious crimes.

DUI Arrests

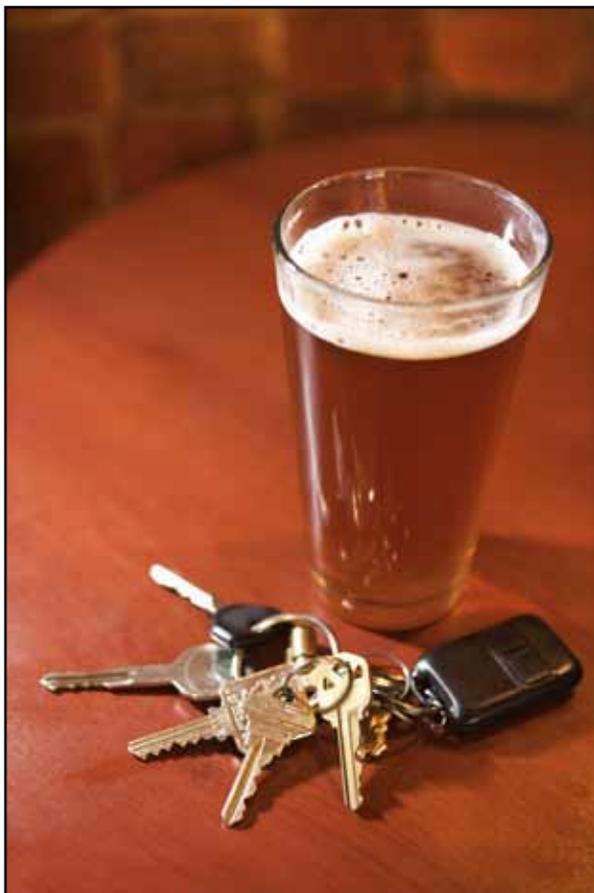


Source: Colorado Springs Police Department, El Paso County Sheriff's Office, Fountain Police Department, and Colorado State Patrol

This Chart shows counts from the three largest agencies in the region (Colorado Springs Police Department, El Paso County Sheriff's Office, and the Colorado State Patrol) and also includes combined data from the Pikes Peak Community College 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." Data collection for CSP and the other combined agencies began in 2007.

Why is This Important?

There were 435 DUI arrests in outlying areas. This is down from the all-time high of 479 arrests in 2009. The outlying areas are mimicking the larger agencies in that less manpower on the roads equals fewer arrests.



Photograph by IO Photo

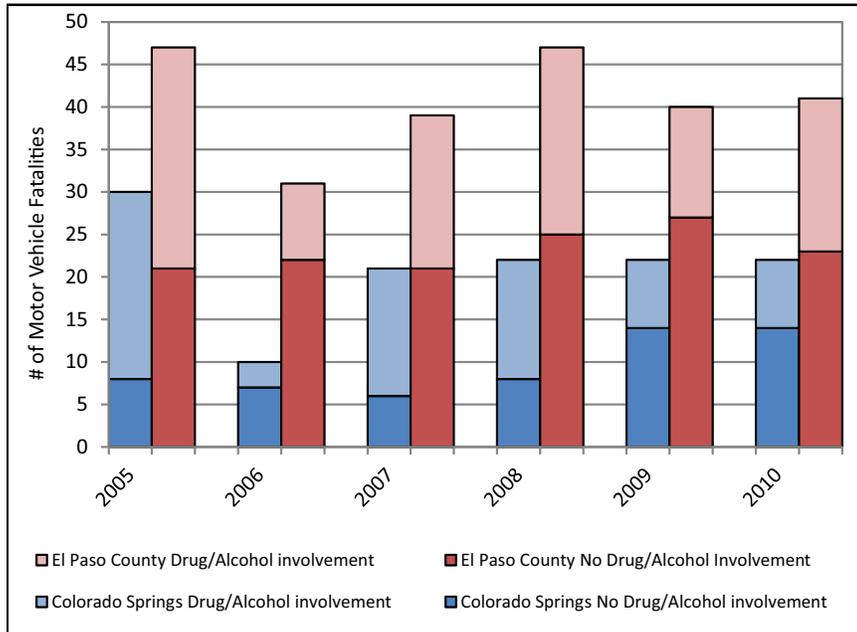
How are We Doing?

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

Potential for Action

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

Motor Vehicle Fatalities



Source: Colorado Springs Police Department, Colorado Department of Transportation

The first Chart shows the number of fatal motor vehicle crashes in Colorado Springs and El Paso County, and indicates the percentage of the total fatalities that occurred each year that involved drugs and/or alcohol. Note that the graph reflects El Paso County fatality statistics, including the Colorado Springs fatalities. Because the population base in El Paso County is highest in Colorado Springs, the graph separates the fatalities that occurred within the City boundaries.

The second Chart details the number of drug/alcohol related fatalities in the City of Colorado Springs as compared to Albuquerque, NM.

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.

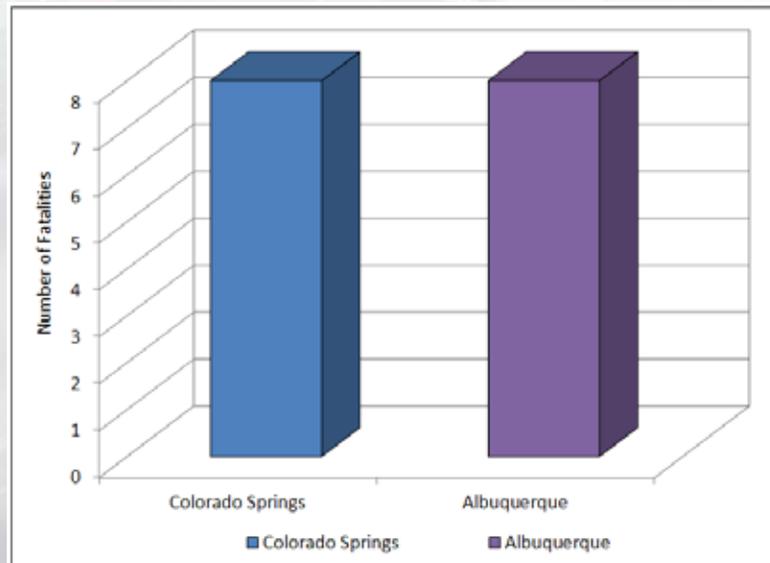
How are We Doing?

According to the National Highway Traffic

Safety Administration (NHTSA), about 11,000 people die in alcohol-impaired driving crashes each year – one every 48 minutes. NHTSA states that the national average for fatalities involving drug and alcohol impairment is nearly 33% of all traffic fatalities. The percentage of traffic fatalities involving drug and alcohol in El Paso County is regularly above the national average, and 2010 was no different. The total percentage of drug/alcohol related fatalities in El Paso County was 44%. While the number of DUI Arrests is generally much higher in the City of Albuquerque, the two cities shared exactly the same number of motor vehicle fatalities related to drugs and/or alcohol in 2010: 8.

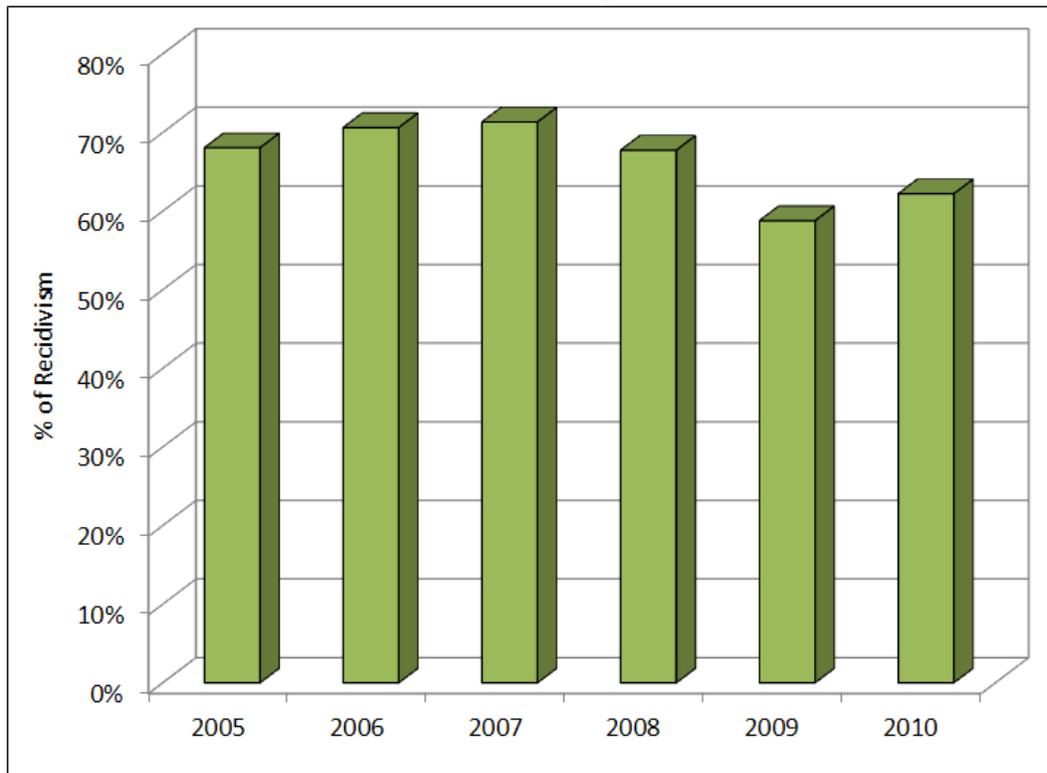
Potential for Action

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.



Source: Colorado Springs Police Department, Albuquerque Police Department

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 is 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 2010, 25,063 people, or approximately 4.0 % of the population, served time in the El Paso County jail. Of these, 62.2% had been previously incarcerated compared to 58.8% in 2009.

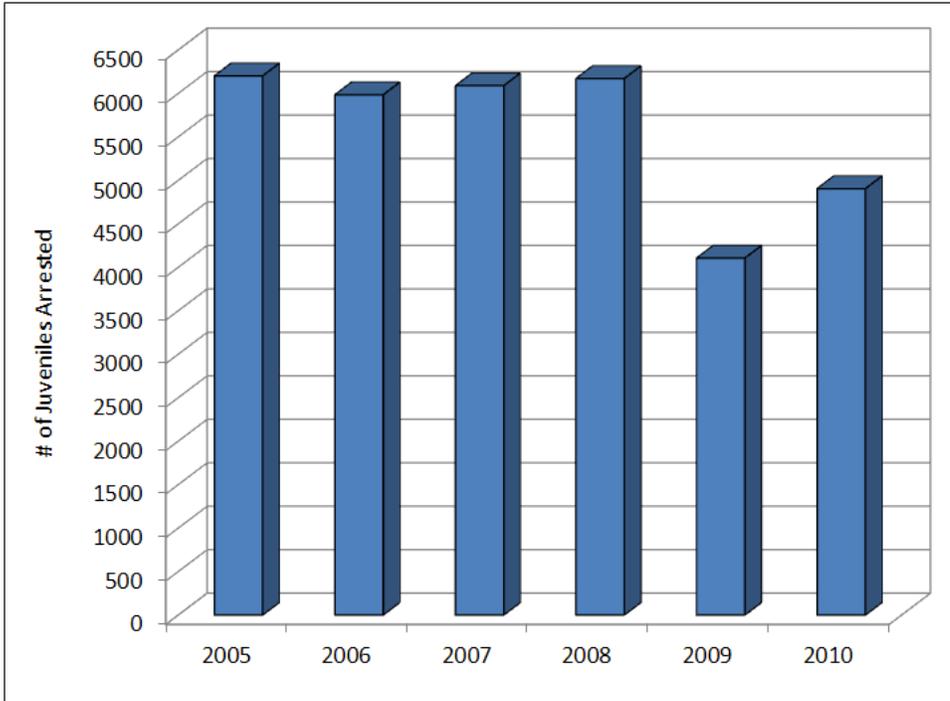
Potential for Action

Continue to support the Reintegration and Recovery program and Detox facility.

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. This program has shown positive results and helped many participants chart a new course in life. As of December 2010, 1310 inmates have successfully completed the program. Offenders have provided positive feedback emphasizing the tools and life skills necessary to break the cycle of the revolving door into the justice system. Additionally, the El Paso Detox facility opened in August 2009. The facility provides a safe and effective means for detoxification treatment, as well as an alternative to incarceration. This serves a crucial role within the community and significantly reduces the impact of substance abuse on local hospitals and emergency service providers.

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 youth in El Paso County who have been arrested by the Colorado Springs Police Department and El Paso County Sheriff's Office. The number of juveniles arrested represents 7.5% of the total number of youth under 18 years old in El Paso County. The number of arrests has increased by approximately 19%, or 800 arrests, from 2009.

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

The number of committed youth for El Paso County in 2008 was 78, in 2009 was 67 and in 2010 was 68. Although commitment numbers appear to be staying steady, as of this year 2011, in March commitments began to increase again.

Why is This Important?

Youth are our leaders of tomorrow and the community needs to offer safe environments where they can thrive and grow.

How are We Doing?

The Public Safety Vision Council would like to note the decrease in arrests and commits in 2009 and the current upward trend in 2010. Youth who are at high risk usually come from homes where drugs/alcohol, abuse and neglect are also present. The Council asks citizens to draw a correlation between these numbers and domestic violence and child abuse rates covered in this section. 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. However, with the recent cuts in city and county programs, especially parks and recreation, it is imperative that our citizens continue to volunteer, mentor and support non-profits serving youth.

Potential for Action

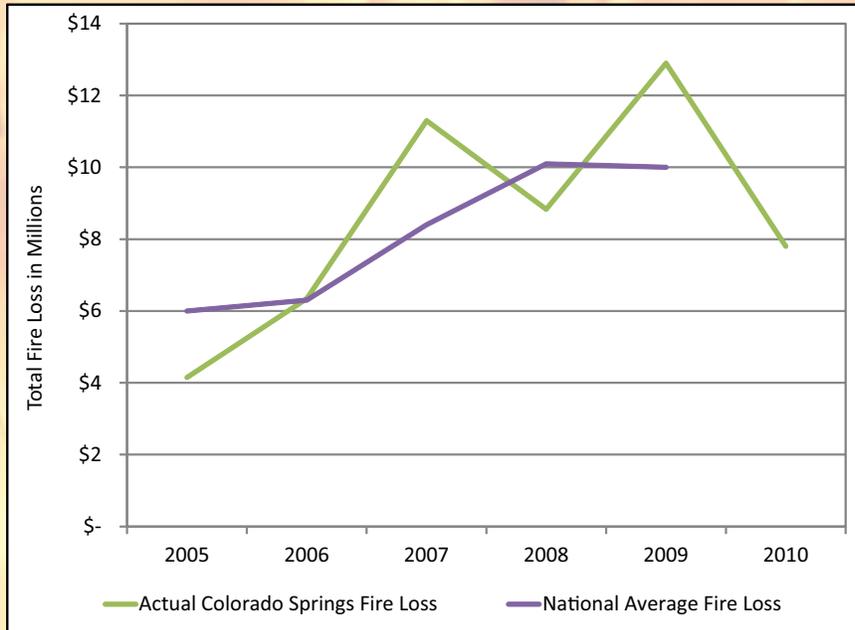
Get involved! Volunteer at one of the many youth serving organizations in El Paso County and make a difference in a youth's life.



Photograph courtesy of Steven "Smitty" Smith

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 total fire loss and per capita fire loss since 2005. City data is compared to national averages of cities with populations between 250,000 to 499,999; Colorado Springs has a population of 416,427. National data is provided by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), and is only available through 2009. City fire loss and national average fire loss are reported in millions of dollars while City and national per capita fire loss are reported in real dollars. The trends represent efforts toward fire prevention, mitigation and suppression.

The trend for total national fire loss shows a predicted increase of about 9% in 2010 from 2004. Our City's total fire loss trend is increasing with a prediction of a 47% increase from 2004. This is well above the 9% national increase shown.

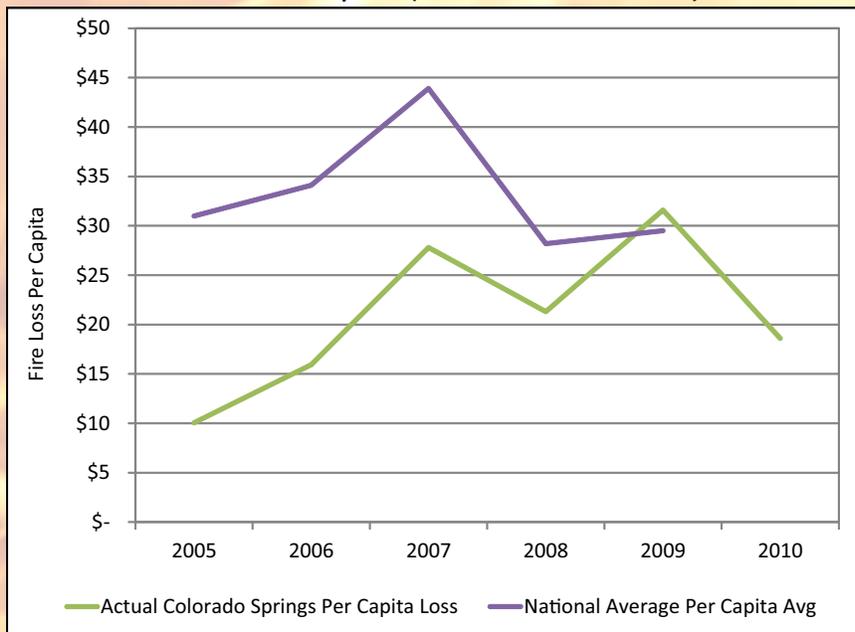
The per capita loss chart shows the predicted national loss to be about \$33.40 for 2010 which is only 2.5% above the 2004 national number of \$32.60. Our local per capita loss for

2010 was \$18.60 with a predicted per capita loss for 2011 of \$20.00. This reveals a 39% increase from 2004 which had a loss of \$14.10.

How are We Doing?

CSFD has a lower per capita fire loss than the national average; however, we may now have surpassed the total fire loss national average for comparable cities. While the spikes in actual city fire loss and per capita loss for 2007 and 2009 were due to individual or single

Actual Fire Loss Per Capita (Dollars Per Person)



Source: Colorado Springs Fire Department, National Fire Protection Association

property high dollar loss fires, our trend is surpassing the national averages in total fire loss and per capita fire loss. If history is comparable, the difficult economic conditions and resulting loss of resources over the last few years indicate we could expect local losses to increase. Unfortunately, it appears the local trend is doing just that.

Locally this move may hit a per capita fire loss in 2011 of \$20.00, a 39% increase over 2004 and possibly a 47% increase in total fire loss from 2004. Compared to a 2.5% and 9% national loss respectively, this is concerning. Additionally, NFPA statistics show over 60% of businesses that suffer serious fires never recover. Firefighter safety is also at greater risk because the larger the fire, the more hazardous it is to fight.

Potential for Action

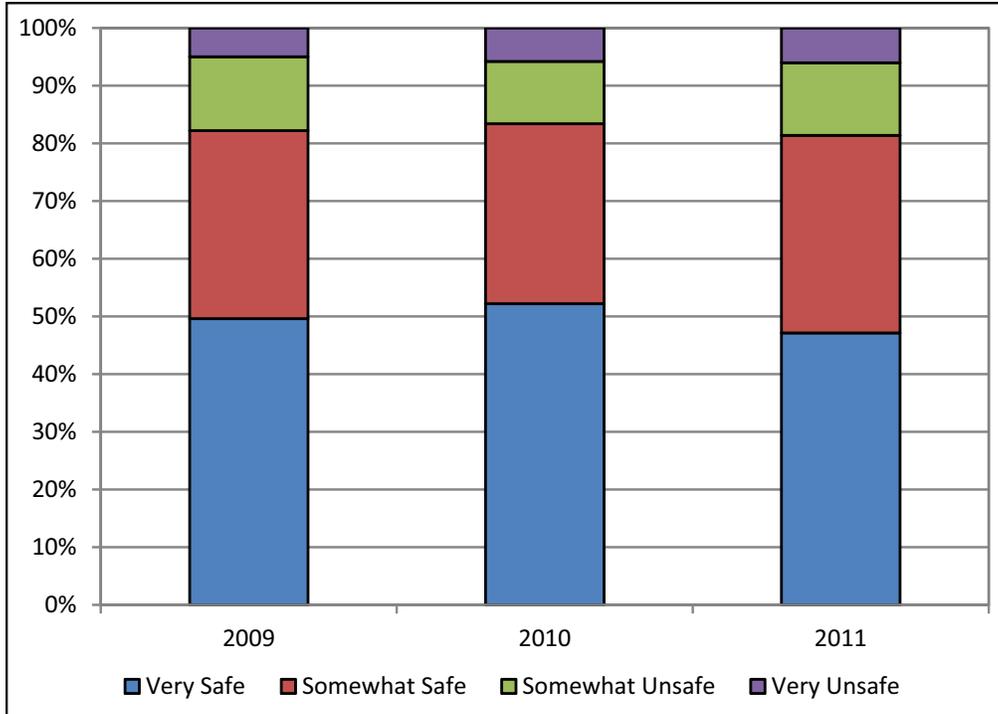
The 1973 federal report *America Burning* emphasized that more effort needed to be made in prevention and mitigation to reduce local and national fire loss. This is true today. More consistent and regular inspections coupled with fire safety education will work to

mitigate and reduce larger losses as well as increase firefighter safety. Strategies for increasing inspections and other progressive fire loss control measures should be investigated in order to maintain or reduce fire losses.

-Safety in the Home and Neighborhood-

Neighborhood Safety

How safe do you feel walking in your neighborhood at night?



Source: QLI Community Visioning Survey

Why is This Important?

We normally think of neighborhood safety in terms of crime rate and crime prevention. While this is a key component, a broader definition would include fire safety and citizens' response to natural disasters.

The El Paso County Sheriff's Office along with the Colorado Springs Fire and Police Offices have a number of excellent programs available to help promote increased neighborhood safety.

How are We Doing?

The greater Colorado Springs area continues to be safe place to live with a crime rate typically 10 points lower than the national index. However, in the last year the local crime clearance rates have fallen significantly – that is, more crimes are going unsolved.

Whether this is a single year aberration or a fundamental

change, only time will tell.

In 2009, 82% of the people polled said they felt very safe or somewhat safe walking around their neighborhood during the day; however, the statistic dropped to 71% when referring to the perception of night time safety. Even so, the three-year trend indicates that our citizens feel that their night-time safety has increased.

Potential for Action

Neighborhood safety starts with the individual citizen being aware of their surroundings. Refuse To Be A Victim[®] is a free four-hour program that teaches you how to develop a personal safety strategy. More information is available at <http://tinyurl.com/EPSo-Refuse-to-be-victim>. Many property crimes are "crimes of opportunity," and you can reduce chances of being the victim of a burglary or theft by anticipating the potential risks and taking steps to address them. The following tool is available at <http://tinyurl.com/EPSo-Home-Security-Survey> to assist you in the identification of possible security and safety issues.

Neighborhood Watch is probably the best known program in which a group of neighbors are willing to communicate with each other to pass along information on suspicious activity and report this to the police. While the Neighborhood Watch program does not include citizen patrols or citizen assist, it does require a commitment to meet twice per year and continuing education for block captains. Currently there are 754 active Neighborhood Watch groups in Colorado Springs. For more information, please see <http://tinyurl.com/EPSo-Neighborhood-Watch> or <http://tinyurl.com/CSPD-Neighborhood-Watch-HB2008>. Neighborhood Watch is about developing the "mindset" of keeping an eye out for each other.

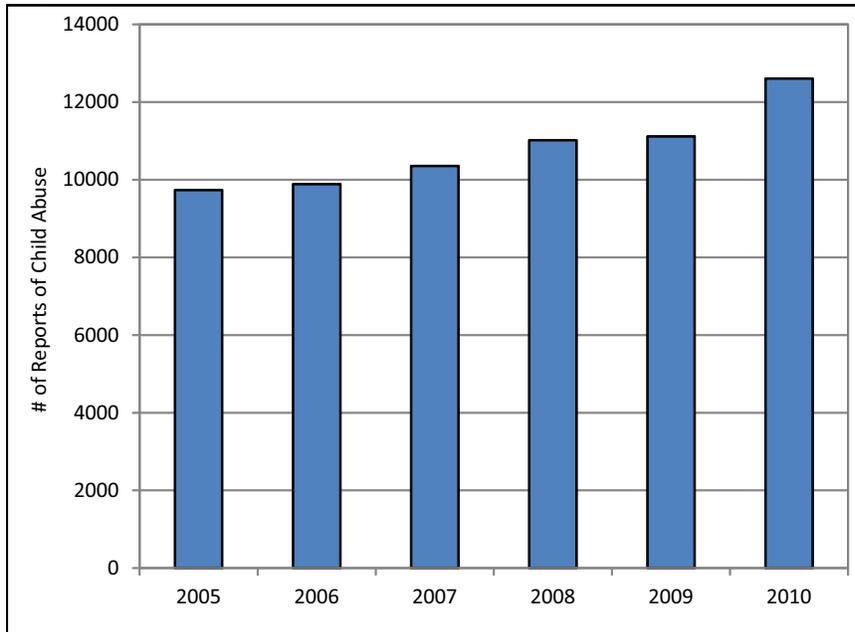
The third element of neighborhood safety, given the city's wild land-urban interface is fire safety. The Colorado Springs Fire Department has performed more than 35,360 evaluations by working with 59 homeowner associations and neighborhood organizations (<http://tinyurl.com/CSFD-Mitigation>).

For information into a broader range of topics, please see the Emergency Preparedness and Safety Guide (<http://tinyurl.com/CSFD-Emergency-Prep-Guide>). Lastly, Community Emergency Response Training (CERT) is a free course that provides citizens with basic training in disaster preparedness and response (<http://tinyurl.com/CSFD-CERT>).

As you can see neighborhood safety begins and ends with you, the citizen.

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.

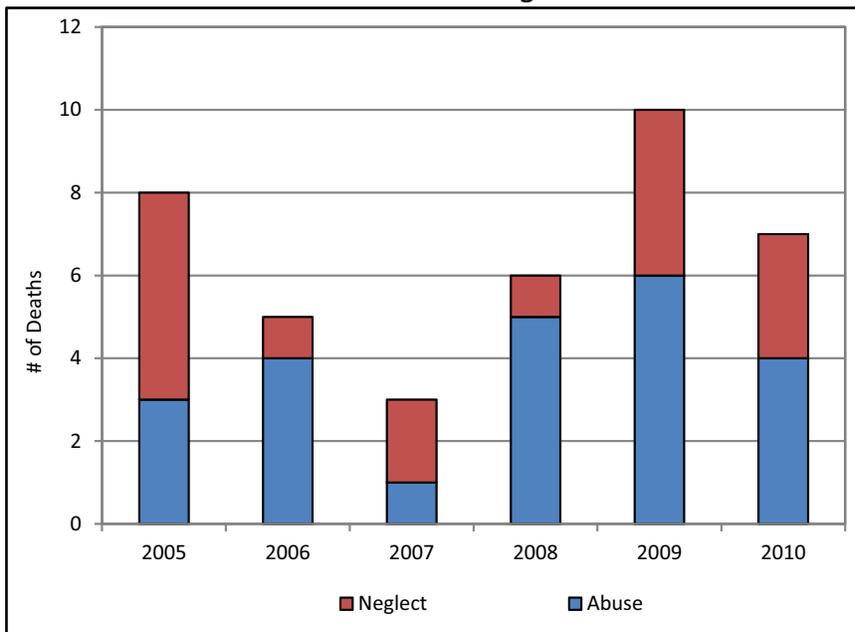
thrive is hampered, sometimes seriously and permanently. Children are our future. Children are dependent upon their parents and other caretakers to look after them and keep them safe.

When children's basic needs for sufficiency and safety are not met, their ability to develop and

How are We Doing?

Referrals for child abuse and neglect continue to show a steady increase over the past five years, with a larger increase occurring in 2010. In 2010, for the third year in a row, El Paso County received the most child abuse and neglect referrals of all Colorado counties; 19% of all the referrals made in Colorado come into El Paso County.

Child Fatalities due to Abuse or Neglect



Source: El Paso County Department of Human Services

One child death from abuse or neglect is too many. In 2010, 7 children were determined to have died as the result of child abuse or neglect; it is the third highest number in the last 6 years.

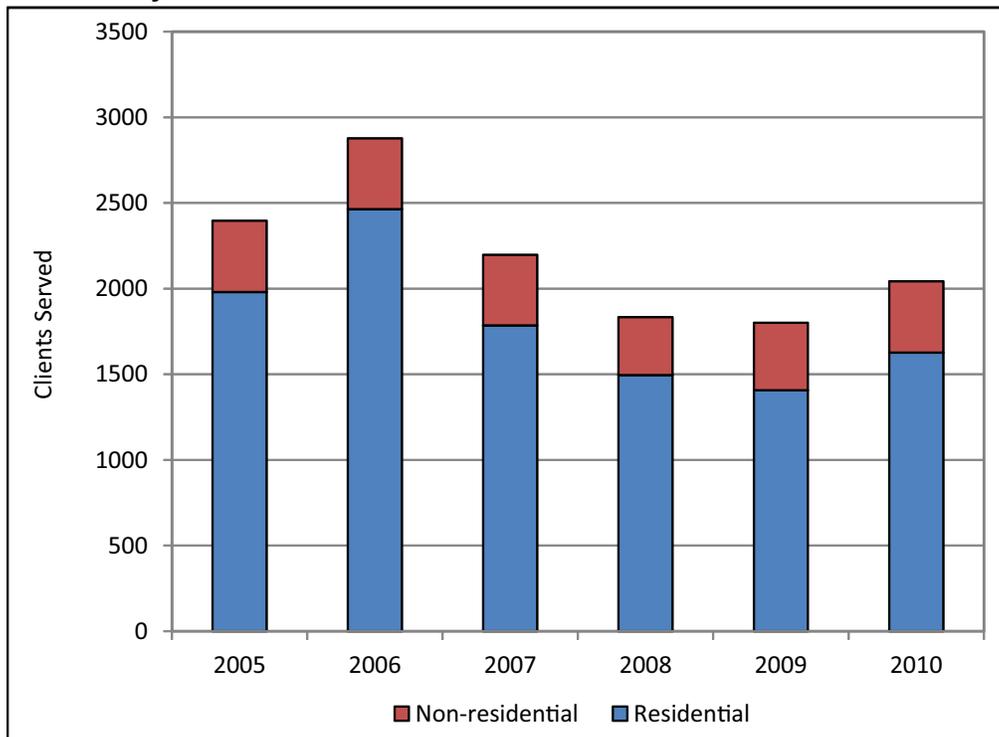
Potential for Action

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.

A community that supports its families can help strengthen families and prevent child abuse and neglect.

Domestic Violence and Pet Abuse

Number of Calls to TESSA



Source: TESSA

This Chart shows the number of domestic violence and sexual assault victims receiving services from TESSA. Residential services represent the number of women and children who stayed in TESSA's Safehouse emergency shelter during 2010 and non-residential services represent the number of clients who came to TESSA's main office for confidential advocacy, counseling, children's programming and other services to help them overcome domestic and sexual violence.

TESSA is the sole provider in El Paso and Teller counties of safe shelter, a 24/7 crisis line and confidential services specifically for adult and child victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. Victims are provided confidential advocacy, individual counseling, group therapy, and a full range of children's services. Confidential victim advocates empower domestic

violence survivors through assistance with safety planning, court support, emotional support, and connections to community resources designed to help clients regain self-sufficiency. All of TESSA's services focus on the safety and well-being of victims and their children.

How are We Doing?

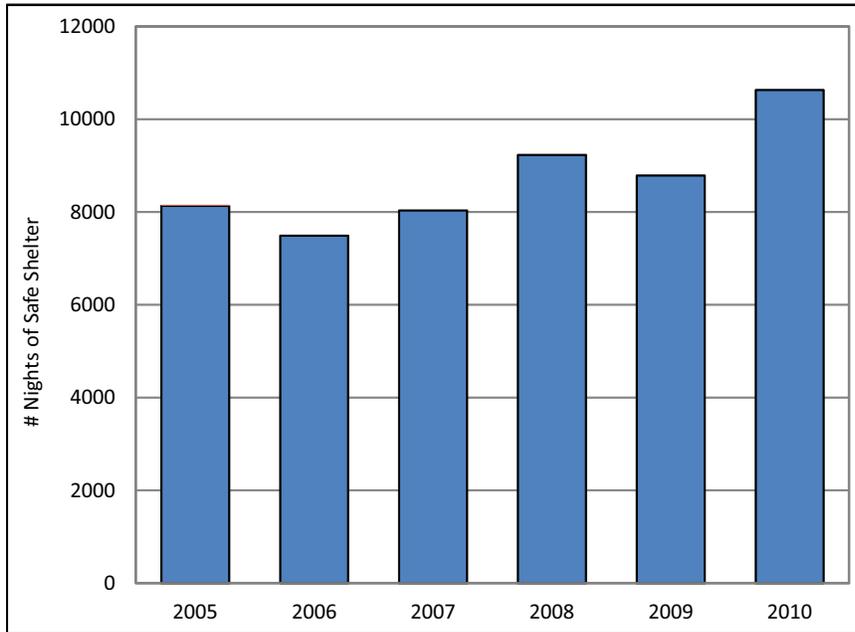
Family pets are often the forgotten victims in violent homes. There is a strong correlation between domestic violence, child abuse, and pet abuse. TESSA works with the Humane Society of the Pikes Peak Region in a "Safe Pets" program, which provides shelter for pets of families living in TESSA's Safehouse.

- 71% of pet owners entering domestic violence shelters report that their batterer had threatened, injured, or killed family pets
- 87% of batterer-perpetrated incidents of pet abuse are committed in the presence of their partners for the purpose of revenge or control
- 76% of batterer-perpetrated pet abuse incidents occur in the presence of children
- Investigation of animal abuse is often the first point of social services intervention for a family experiencing domestic violence
- Similar to domestic abuse, abusers demonstrate control over the family by threatening, harming, or killing animals
- Victims whose batterers abuse their pets report more than twice as many incidents of child abuse as compared to domestic violence victims whose batterers have not abused their pets
- Abusers harm pets to punish the victim for leaving or in attempts to coerce the victim to return

Recognizing the severity of pet abuse in violent homes, the state of Colorado signed Senate Bill 80 into law in April 2010 to protect family pets. The bill ensures that courts issuing civil protection orders have the authority to order protections for animals (as property), including awarding care and possession of the animals to victims of domestic abuse, elder abuse, or at-risk adults who are abused and who are seeking protections for themselves.

Photograph by Rudyanto Wijaya

Nights of Safe Shelter Provided for Domestic Violence Victims



Source: TESSA

The first Chart shows the number of nights/ days of safe shelter TESSA provided to adult and child victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.

The second Chart shows the number of safe shelter nights provided to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault in Albuquerque, NM and Colorado Springs, CO in 2010. TESSA of Colorado Springs and S.A.F.E. House of Albuquerque serve a very similar population size (approx. 650,000); however, S.A.F.E. House has a shelter capacity of 85 and TESSA has a shelter capacity of 36, resulting in S.A.F.E. House's ability to provide more nights of shelter to more victims each year than TESSA.

How are We Doing?

Key indicators for domestic violence show an increase in the need for safe shelter and victim advocacy. During 2010, TESSA provided 10,631 nights of safe shelter - marking an all time high and a 21% increase from 2009. Safe shelters throughout the nation have reported more victims seeking shelter and requiring longer

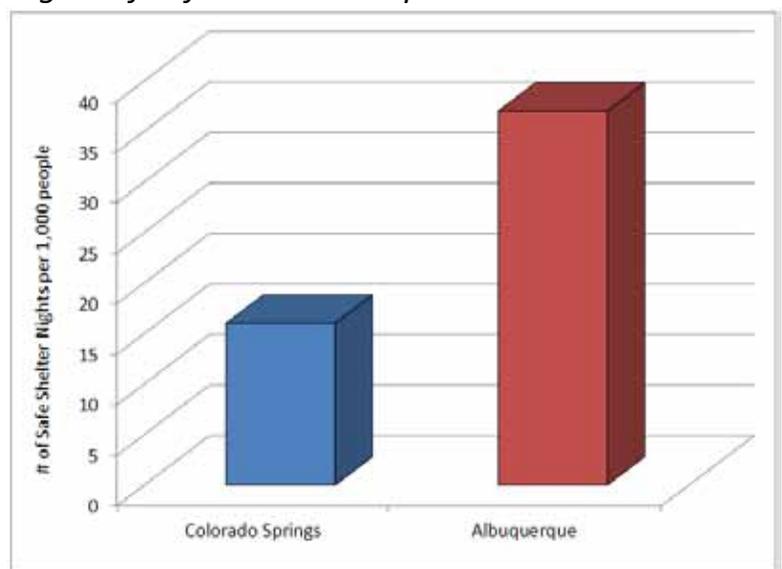
durations of stay. Many in the domestic violence prevention field attribute this increase to the economic downturn and the difficulty of securing employment and permanent housing after leaving an abusive situation, in which the abuser controls all of the family's financial resources. The number of clients seeking temporary protection orders, safety planning, counseling, and referrals increased by 15% from 2009. TESSA provided 320 children with safe shelter, play therapy, counseling, and group therapy to help mitigate the long-term impacts of exposure to violence; such as juvenile crime, substance abuse, mental health issues, and increased risk of becoming a victim or abuser in the future.

Domestic violence and sexual assault are devastating crimes that continue to affect individuals, families and the entire region. The Colorado Springs Police Department responds to 10,000-12,000 domestic violence calls for service each year. The rate of sexual assault in Colorado Springs is the highest in the state of Colorado and three times higher than the national average (City Crime Rankings 2010-11: Crime in Metropolitan America). There have been 36 domestic violence related homicides in Colorado Springs since 1990, comprising 19.7% of the city's total homicides.

Potential for Action

Crisis intervention and prevention education programs are vital to helping victims find immediate safety and breaking the cycle of violence for future generations. In 2010, victims in our community reported that more than 2,000 children had been exposed to domestic violence, yet only about 300 received services from TESSA. Enhancing community awareness of resources available to victims will help victims connect with service providers. Also, providing education about healthy relationships to community youth promotes the development of attitudes and behaviors that do not condone relationship and sexual violence and effectively prevents the continuation of domestic violence from one generation to the next. Investment in prevention and intervention programs is critical to building safe homes and healthy communities for all individuals, families, and their pets. Contact TESSA's 24-hour crisis line for help if you are in an abusive relationship: 719-633-3819, or check www.tessacs.org for information on how you can give help or get help.

Nights of Safe Shelter Comparison



Source: TESSA and S.A.F.E. House

Fostering Community Engagement

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Photograph by Yuri Arcurs

Visit our website: www.ppunitedway.org

The *Fostering Community Engagement* section highlights indicators that include voter turnout, public meeting attendance, quantity of neighborhood organizations, volunteerism rates, community giving and individual donations, citizen perceptions of community acceptance, and local leadership demographics. You will read that nearly 64% of voters turned out for the mayoral runoff in May 2011, that 93% of QLI survey respondents indicated fostering an accepting and welcoming community is somewhat to very important, and that our region has a 65% volunteer rate that's nearly double the average for the state of Colorado.

Colorado Springs received national attention in 2010 for dramatically reduced city budgets and resources. The community rallied to support vital services and the city formed many public-private partnerships. As stated by President Obama, "Economic recovery is as much about what you're doing in your communities as what we're doing in Washington – and it's going to take all of us, working together."¹

In the 2010 Volunteering in America Issue Brief, the Corporation for National & Community Service examined economic and community factors in relation to volunteer rates. Findings indicate that some community factors, such as higher rates of homeownership, higher percentages of high school or college graduates, and larger numbers of nonprofit organizations have a positive relationship with higher volunteer rates. Other factors, such as higher percentages of multi-unit housing, longer commuting times, and higher rates of poverty, unemployment, and foreclosure, correspond with lower volunteer rates in states and/or large metropolitan areas. While volunteering is just one type of contribution, it is a vital component of community engagement. Many of these factors are listed as indicators in other sections, showing impact on additional aspects of quality of life as well.

The Community Engagement Vision Council invites you to explore how we can continue to foster community engagement in the Pikes Peak region. We hope the section will not only provide indicators for our current status and progress, but allow us to imagine a future with greater community involvement.

Consider the following questions and their potential impact:

What if we all knew our neighbors' names and dialogued about community concerns and solutions? What if every teacher discussed local issues and students took action in local schools? What if our 2,097 nonprofit organizations were flooded with volunteers, donations, and board member applicants? What if every registered voter cast a vote or attended a caucus? What if every citizen of our region perceived the community to be very accepting? What if citizens had an organized forum to address community challenges like redevelopment and smart planning?

As we host national and international events such as the US Women's Open, the 2012 World University Championships in Softball and Boxing, US Pro Cycling Challenge, and the 50th Anniversary of our Sister City relationship with Fujiyoshida, Japan, we have the opportunity to showcase our engagement across the world. Our individual and collective action has the potential to multiply in unexpected and meaningful ways.

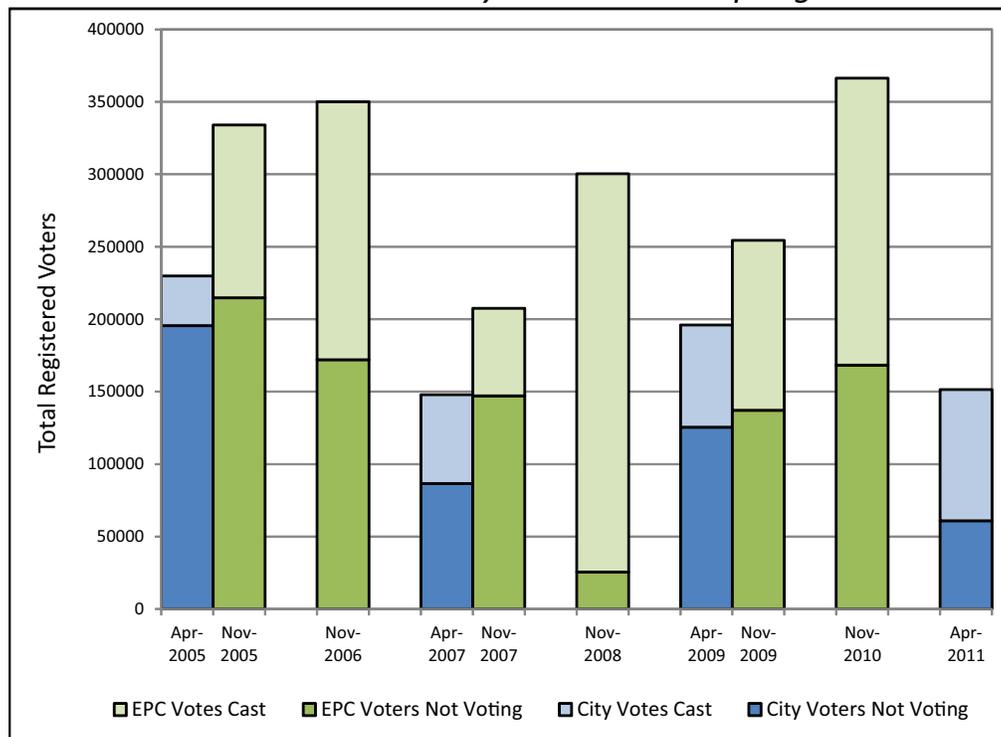


1 "President Obama Unveils 'United We Serve,' Calls on All Americans to Commit to Meaningful Volunteer Service in their Daily Lives." The White House, 17 June 2009. Web. May 2011. <http://www.whitehouse.gov>.

-Civic Engagement-

Voting Patterns

Election Trends in El Paso County and Colorado Springs



Source: El Paso County and the City of Colorado Springs

The first Chart shows the voting patterns of eligible voters in El Paso County and Colorado Springs municipal elections. Coordinated elections are conducted by the El Paso County Clerk & Recorder and include ballot measures and races across County municipalities. It should be noted that there was no city election in 2006, 2008 or 2010. Voting in the City of Colorado Springs continued to increase, with 60% of registered Colorado Springs voters casting ballots in April 2011, compared to 36% of registered Colorado Springs voters in 2009. Voter turnout has continued to increase 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. What is evident with the new voter data

is the turnout was not just a one-time change, but is trending towards a long-term increase in voter participation. Even with the increase in voter turnout, the number of registered voters shifts year to year. Elections with national races and high profile ballot issues attract a larger block of the voting population.

How are We Doing?

The year 2011 marks a significant change in Colorado Springs with the election of our first strong mayor, Steve Bach, sworn into office June 7th. The Strong-Mayor Council form of government broadens the role of Mayor, in which the Mayor is the chief executive and the City Council is the legislative body. It is modeled after our national government.



Photograph by Karin Hildebrand Lau

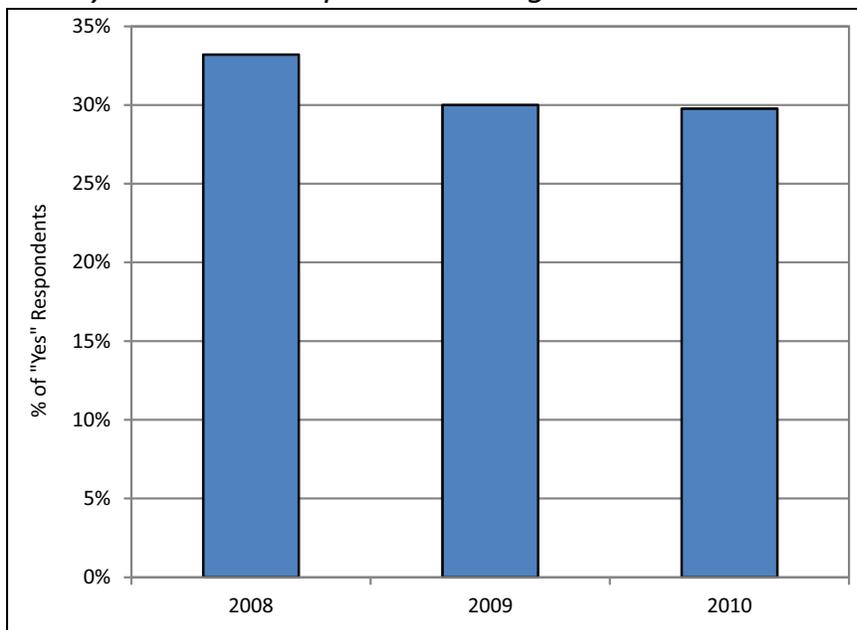
In April of 2011 60% of registered voters cast votes and 64% cast votes again in May 2011 during the historic transition to our new form of government. Dr. Robert Loevy, a political science professor at Colorado College, describes the voting role as a "privilege and opportunity" but notes our new Mayor will set a precedent about how the Strong-Mayor of Colorado Springs will operate.

Potential for Action

The Strong-Mayor position creates a visible and responsible office directly accountable to the voters of Colorado Springs. With the important shift in the mayoral role, communication to the general public and availability of the Mayor is as important as ever. Even with increased accountability in the position, the valuable role of informed and engaged citizens in civic life is still as important as ever.

Public Meeting Attendance

Have you attended a public meeting that discussed community affairs in the last year?



Source: QLI community Visioning Surveys

The first Chart shows the "Yes" responses for the past three years to the question "In the last year have you attended any public meetings in which there was discussion of community affairs?"

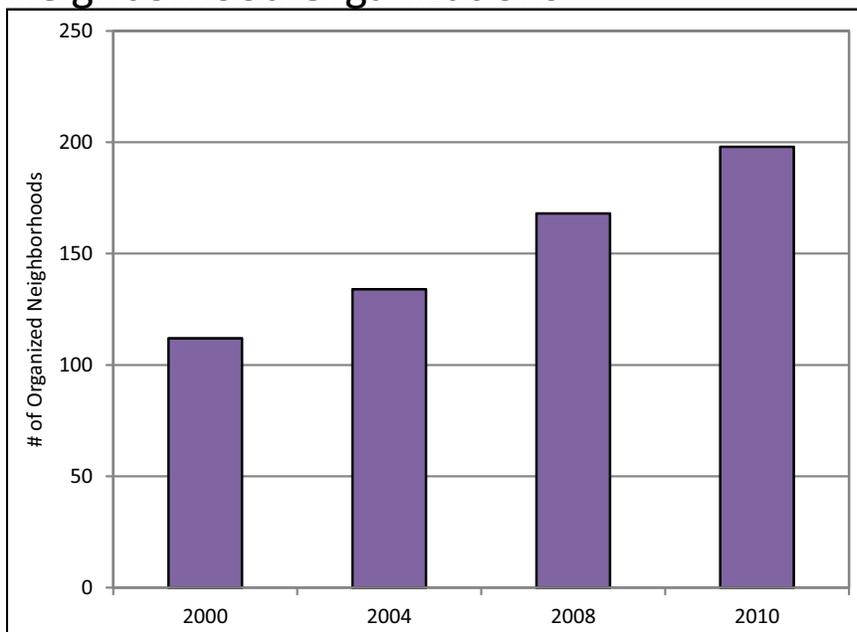
Why is This Important?

It is important that our citizens are engaged in the community and informed about issues. There has been little change during the three years surveyed.

Potential for Action

A collaborative effort by multiple community organizations will be necessary to move the bar on this indicator. A team approach to outreach would be an effective path to increased community involvement.

Neighborhood Organizations



Source: Council of Neighbors and Organizations

The second Chart shows the growth in organized neighborhood associations in the last five years. These are either legally established Homeowners Associations (as recognized by Colorado State Law – i.e.: HOA's), which may have been created by the original neighborhood developer, or an independently established HOA. Both types normally have elected neighborhood officers and regular meetings/activities.

Why is This Important?

Neighborhood organizations are an important vehicle for mutual support in recreational, interactional, and political goals.

How are We Doing?

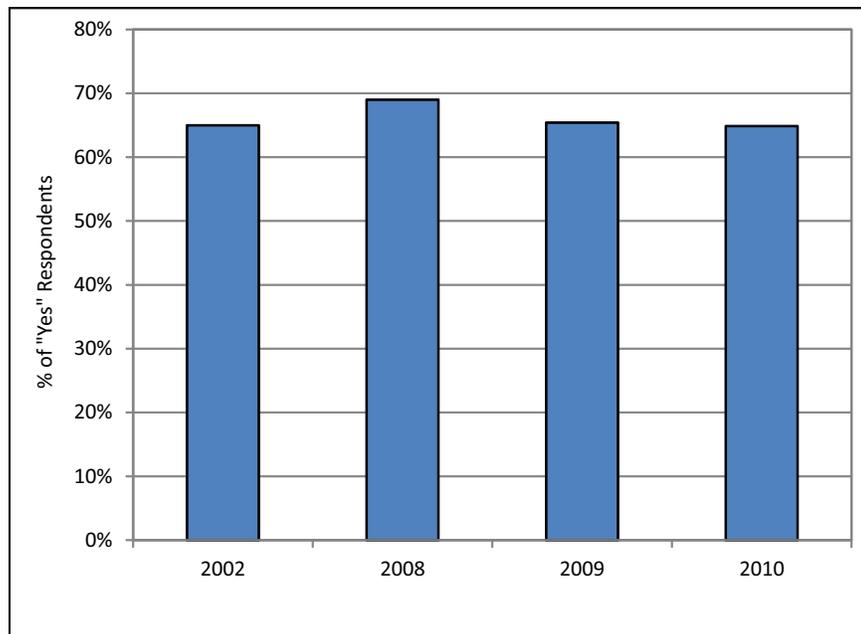
Previous growth may be attributed to better tracking and visibility on the part of Council of Neighbors and Organizations (CONO) and the growth of new communities. CONO plays an active role in many local issues, including public safety and open space advocacy, various legislation and ordinances, candidate forums, comprehensive planning and a mobility study, the development review process, and public schools.

Potential for Action

Neighborhood Associations can play an important role in relating local government decision-making to a community level. Growing and strengthening opportunities for neighbors to connect is an important strategy to support and engage community. We can also look to new opportunities for informing the community with limited time by utilizing emerging technology.

-Volunteerism-

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



Source: QLI Community Visioning Surveys

The first Chart shows there is a slight decline (.52%) in the number of households that reported being engaged in volunteer or charitable activity from 2010 and a little over 4% decline from the all-time high of 69% in 2008.

Why is This Important?

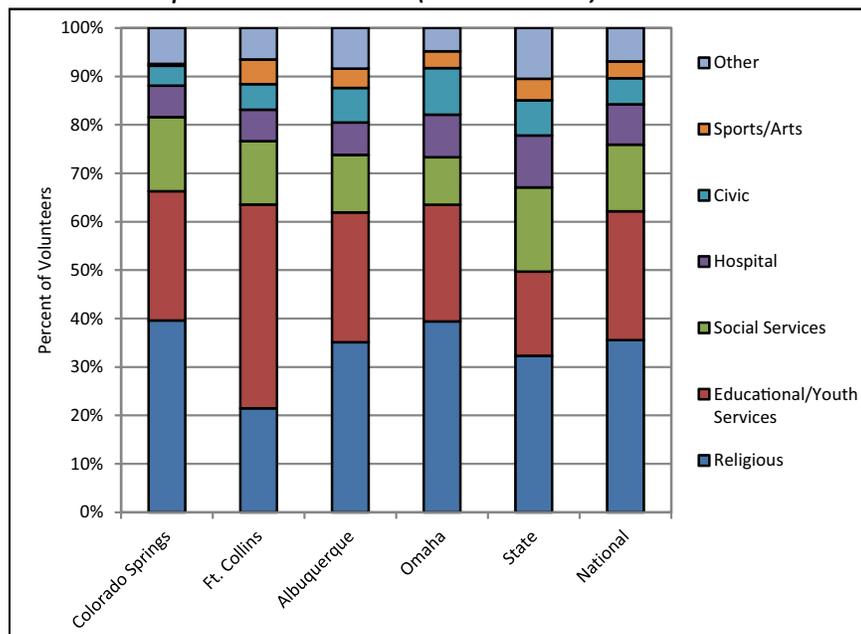
While the Pikes Peak Region experienced a decline for two years, a rate of 64.88% is still nearly double the 33% average for the state of Colorado, and significantly higher than the national average of 26.8%.

Volunteer administrators are reporting an increase in highly qualified volunteer recruits inquiring about volunteer opportunities. The downturn in the economy may bring a number of community members forward who have not previously volunteered. This positive aspect could strengthen the volunteer base in Colorado Springs.

Potential for Action

We can encourage community members seeking volunteer opportunities to use the website, www.volunteerpikespeak.org and look for opportunities as an individual, family, small group or work entity to increase participation in community-wide service events such as Make a Difference Month, Days of Service and GenerationNEXT. Another suggestion is to encourage DOVIA (Directors of Volunteers in Agencies) to sponsor a forum for nonprofit organizations and local faith-based organizations to discuss about how they can work together to provide opportunities that better engage their community members.

Where People Volunteered (2006-2009)



Source: Volunteering in America

The second Chart shows the sectors in which people have volunteered over the last four years. Volunteering with a religious organization was highest for most communities, followed by volunteers working within educational services.

Why is This Important?

This is one way to show the immense value volunteers bring to a community. By looking at the areas in which people volunteer, Volunteer Pikes Peak and other charitable services can better see where community service can make a dynamic impact in the Pikes Peak Region.

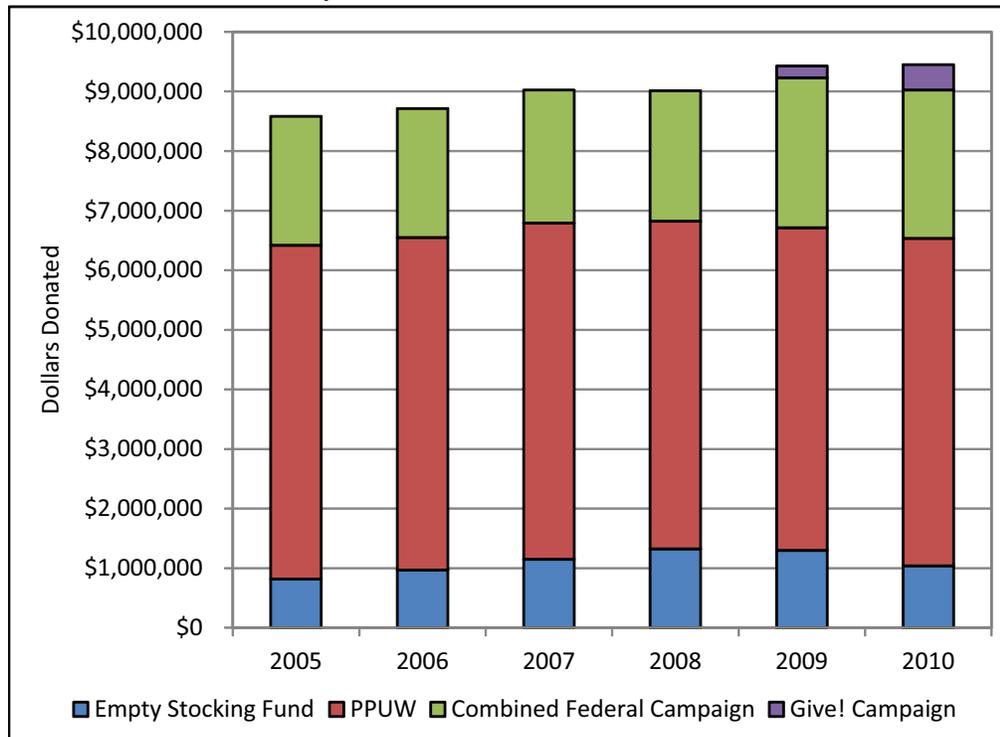
How are We Doing?

Compared to the nation, Colorado Springs residents are 4% more likely to volunteer with a religious organization and 1% more likely to volunteer with educational institutions than with other organizational sectors. While we are trending with the national sector, Colorado Springs volunteerism rate is still decreasing.

With only 32% of Colorado Springs residents volunteering in 2009, we ranked 27th out of 75 mid-sized cities, a drop from 26th in 2008. With the slight decline, our community's needs and opportunities for improvement continues to grow.

-Philanthropy-

Community Giving Combined Community Contributions



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

The Chart shows the trend in dollars raised by the Pikes Peak United Way’s annual campaign, The Gazette’s Empty Stocking Fund, the Combined Federal Campaign and, in the most recent years, the Independent’s GIVE! Campaign. While this does not track all charitable giving in El Paso County, it is the data most universally reported by communities to indicate their giving trends. Donations through the three traditional campaigns decreased in 2010, but with the addition of the GIVE! Campaign, total giving remained flat. Combined giving for these sources totaled \$9,450,529 in 2010.

Why is This Important?

Our local governments’ reduced budgets and resources made national headlines in 2010. As a result, the community turned to the nonprofit and private sectors to fill in the gaps and keep valued community services

such as parks maintenance and community centers functioning. The increased burden of providing these services requires an increase in donor giving to be sustainable.

How Are We Doing?

The Pikes Peak Region has maintained its giving levels better than the national average. Total charitable giving nationally fell 3.6% in 2009. However, comparable cities such as Fort Collins, Colorado and Albuquerque, New Mexico saw significant increases in their 2010 United Way campaign donations of 12.23% and 4.12% respectively.

As part of the Community Visioning Survey, participants were asked: Have you donated money or property to charity in the last 12 months? The findings indicate that self-reported individual giving is down 6% from the last year. Even with the decrease in individual giving, El Paso County residents reported that 83% of individuals gave to charities in 2010 which is greater than the U.S. average of 70% in 2009. In 2006, Colorado ranked fifth among all 50 states in average adjusted gross income but ranked 38th in charitable contributions as a percent of that income (Coloradans earned 7% more than the average American, but gave 9% less to charity).

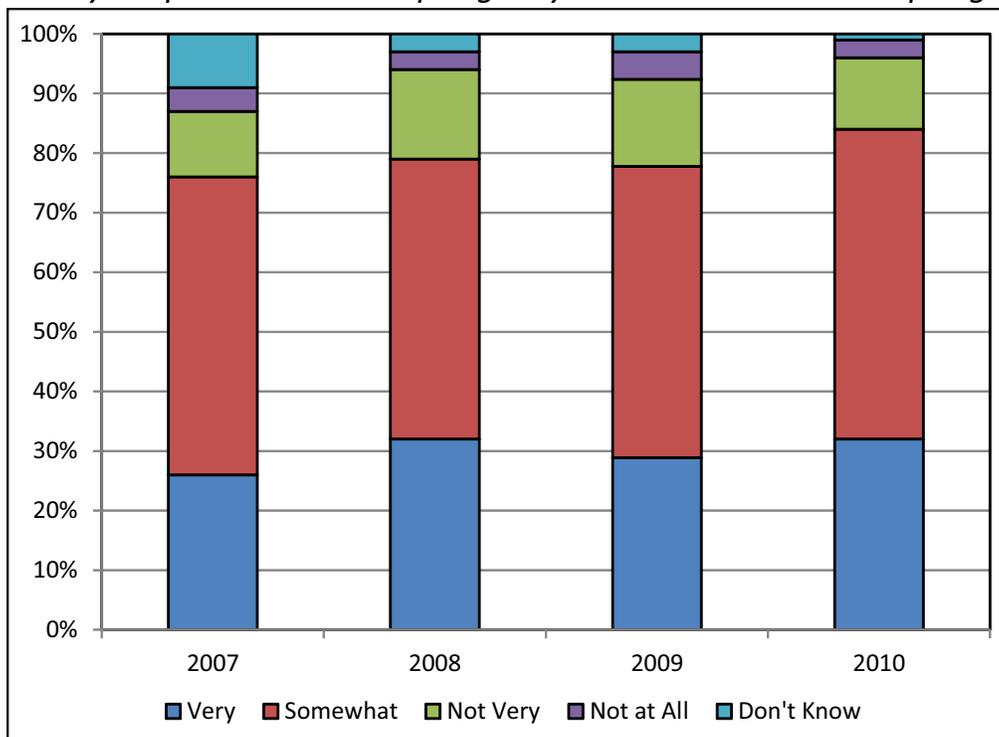
Potential for Action

A 2010 study conducted by Cygnus Applied Research, a Chicago fund-raising consulting firm, found that donors at every age prefer online giving. Eighty-six percent of those under 35 years of age prefer giving online and 75% of those ages 35 to 64. More than 50% of those over 65 said they would give via the Internet. The same study found that the majority of Americans will make their 2011 donations online rather than through the mail, in response to telemarketing calls, or other techniques. This compelling study has broad implications for how nonprofits and philanthropic programs connect with potential donors.

-Community Diversity-

★ Acceptance

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



Source: Leadership Summit 2008 Community Visioning Survey, 2009-2011 QLI Community Visioning Surveys

This Chart: In 2010, 84% of residents surveyed perceived the region to be somewhat to very accepting; 52% indicated that Colorado Springs is “Somewhat Accepting,” while 32% say it is a “Very Accepting” community. Both numbers are up from last year.

Why is This Important?

Diversity is one component that 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 value diversity and acceptance. According to the 2011 Community Survey, 93% of respondents indicated

that fostering an accepting and welcoming community is somewhat to very important. This number is up 6% from last year. Local organizations like the Diversity Forum, with their annual celebration, *Everybody Welcome*, continue to create opportunities for residents to broaden their awareness of the depth and breadth of multi-cultural opportunities in the community.

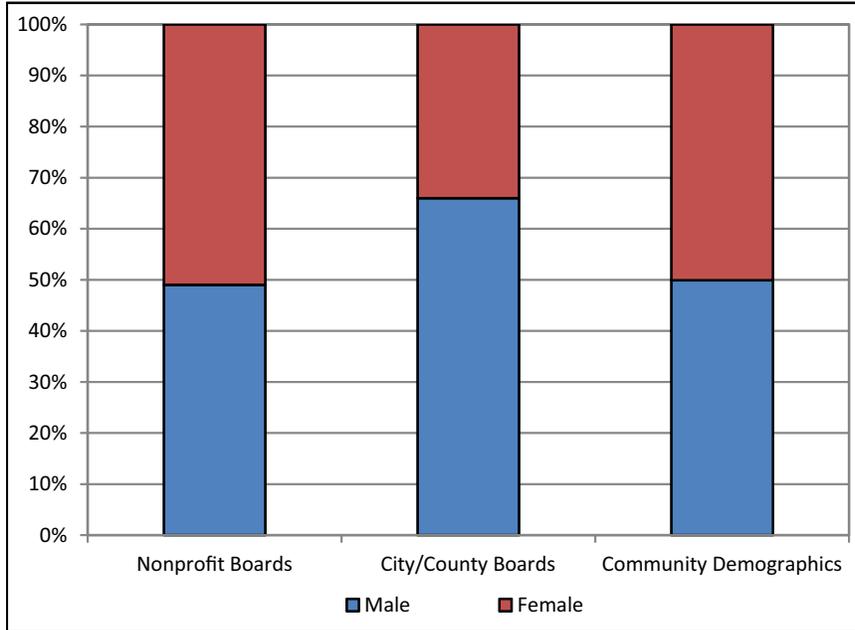
Potential for Action

In order to continue to broaden awareness and acceptance in Colorado Springs, it is imperative to promote opportunities offered by community organizations with the vision of reaching a more diverse representation of the community. One local organization committed to promoting multicultural awareness is Citizens Project (CP), which hosts a Citizens Religious Freedom Institute each spring, encouraging educators, families, and school board members to talk about religious freedom and First Amendment rights in the public school setting. They are also a voting resource and act as watchdog or a venue for recourse. CP also offers opportunities for all people to get involved in the voting process through nonpartisan election forums during every local election.



-Leadership Demographics-

Leadership Demographics - Gender



Source: Pikes Peak Library District, Center for Nonprofit Excellence

These Charts show the composition of local boards in terms of gender and race/ethnicity.

Why is This Important?

A community's leadership comprises both elected and appointed officials and those who step forward to adopt roles on boards, commissions, and community service endeavors. It is important to understand how these leaders intersect with and reflect the populations they serve.

Standards for Excellence® is an ethics and accountability code for the nonprofit sector. It states that "Board membership should reflect the diversity of the communities served by the organization." A homogenous board risks a narrow perspective, which can distort the focus of the mission and limit creativity. However, these statements are not mutually exclusive. In fact, according to *Standards for Excellence*, having a board that is representative of the community served requires a sustained effort, often over many years.

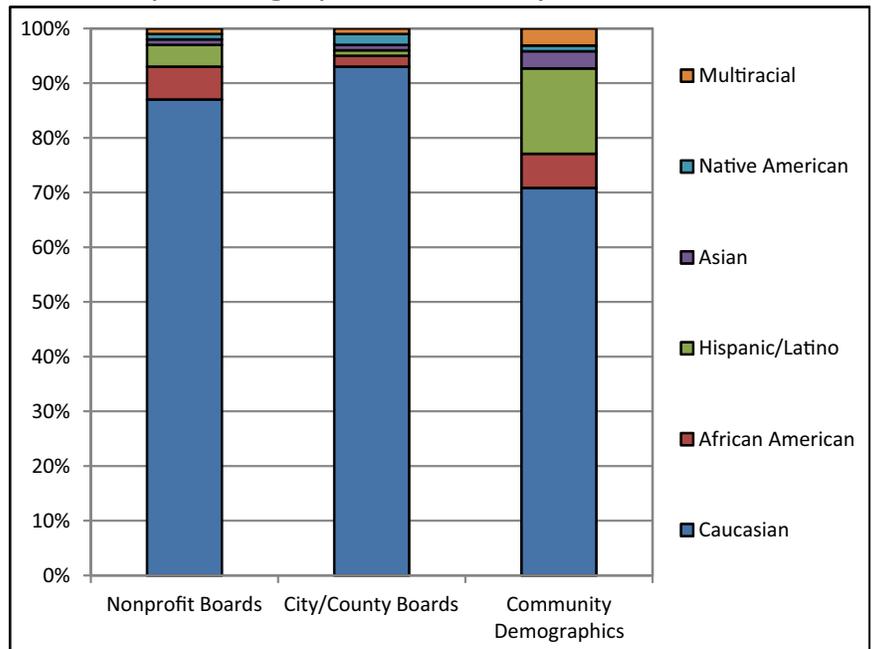
How are We Doing?

Contrasting this data with community demographics indicates representational deficits in gender and race among municipal board and commission members. Municipal leadership is disproportionately male and Caucasian compared to respective service populations.

Nonprofit boards appear more gender relative; however, while the average gender distribution on nonprofit boards is equitable, analysis of individual boards shows that many nonprofit organizations report boards that are heavily weighted toward one gender or the other. Nonprofit boards are also less ethnically diverse than the general population, with 87% Caucasian membership versus the 68% population percentage.

One factor not reflected in these demographics is the relevant experience and program knowledge the some of our leadership has that significantly benefits the populations they serve. Data was collected for the first time on the demographics of nonprofit executive directors, reported as 94% Caucasian and 58% female. Nearly two thirds have more than 10 years of experience in the nonprofit sector.

Leadership Demographics - Ethnicity



Source: Pikes Peak Library District, Center for Nonprofit Excellence

Potential for Action

Nearly one-third of municipal boards and commissions and nearly 40% of nonprofit boards consistently operate below capacity, indicating an opportunity for these entities to reflect on their composition as it relates to the populations they serve. Nonprofits and municipalities have the opportunity to bring in staff and develop future leaders to better reflect the community.

The Center for Nonprofit Excellence and other community organizations provide board development resources, recruitment protocols, and standards for evaluation. Organizations such as the Colorado Springs Diversity Forum work to educate individuals on the commitment and information requirements for municipal boards and commissions. Utilizing these resources can improve outcomes and offset some of the effort required to maintain diverse leadership.

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