



Peak Progress (Quality of Life Indicators)

SAFETY REPORT

Safety Summary:

Strong communities are built on a foundation of respect for persons and property. That respect is visible through an effective, just system of public safety that protects people and property, preserves life, and provides citizens with a sense of security and well-being.

Effective public safety systems enable people to live fruitfully and without fear of harm through a shared commitment to the rule of law, to institutions and processes that prevent and deter crime and respond in emergencies, and that preserve people's health and property. Investments in public safety reduce the need for expensive private security and help keep insurance rates reasonable.

- In 2020, area law enforcement recorded 487 violent crimes per 100,000 residents compared to the national average of 388.
- Considering victim losses, justice system costs and other costs, the estimated cost of crime in the Pikes Peak region in 2020 was \$1,379 per person.
- In 2020, the local rate of hate crimes rose sharply to 2.4 incidents per 100,000 population. Despite the recent increase, Colorado Springs still ranked 3rd of 6 peer communities for fewest hate crimes per capita.
- In 2020, CSPD cleared 78% of murder cases, 60% of aggravated assault cases, and 58% of robbery cases.
- In 2021, El Paso and Teller counties together processed 16,213 child welfare calls, with 6,050 (37%) of them accepted for assessment.
- TESSA, El Paso, and Teller counties' largest dedicated provider of services for domestic and sexual assault victims, processed a record high of 13,574 calls in 2020.
- In El Paso and Teller counties, 3,835 DUI cases were filed in 2019, a rate of 649 per 100,000 residents aged 16 and up. The local rate increased by 24% from 2016 to 2019, even as the statewide rate dropped.
- CSFD has a published goal of seeking to reach incidents within eight minutes from the time of the call, 90% of the time. The department approached or reached that goal every year from 2011 through 2019 (86-90%) but fell well short during COVID-affected 2020 (71%).

COLORADO SPRINGS SAFETY



487

VIOLENT CRIMES
PER 100,000 RESIDENTS
IN 2020



+24%

RISE IN DUI CASES
FROM 2016 TO 2019



16,213

CHILD WELFARE CALLS PROCESSED IN
2021 IN EL PASO AND TELLER COUNTIES



\$1,379

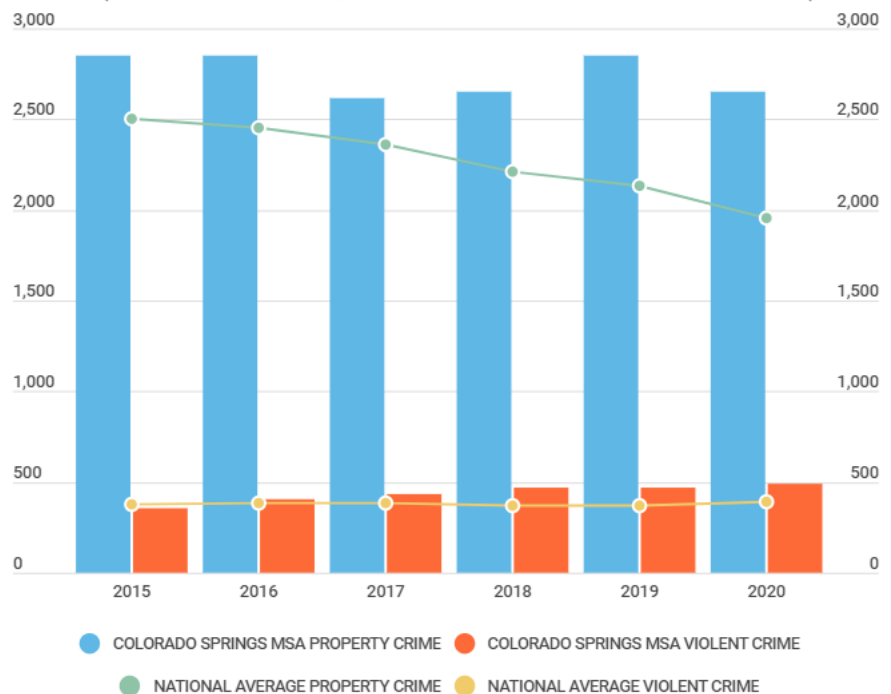
ESTIMATED COST OF CRIME PER PERSON
IN THE PIKES PEAK REGION IN 2020

Crime Rates

Nationally, violent crime was relatively steady between 2015 and 2020. In the Colorado Springs MSA, however, it rose by 35%. In 2020, area law enforcement recorded 487 violent crimes per 100,000 residents.¹

Nationally, property crimes dropped by a fifth between 2015 and 2020. In the Colorado Springs MSA, property crime rates have been more consistent. The 2020 rate was 2,653 property crimes per 100,000 people.²

COLORADO SPRINGS MSA CRIME RATE TREND (RATES PER 100,000 INHABITANTS, ESTIMATED)



³ Federal Bureau of Investigation

Considering victim losses, justice system costs and other costs, the estimated cost of crime in the Pikes Peak region in 2020 was \$1,379 per person.⁴

Comparing crime rates to those of other communities—and even to national averages—is discouraged by the FBI due to differences in reporting standards among local agencies. The

Colorado Springs Police Department explains why reported local crime rates may be higher than those of other communities or national averages:

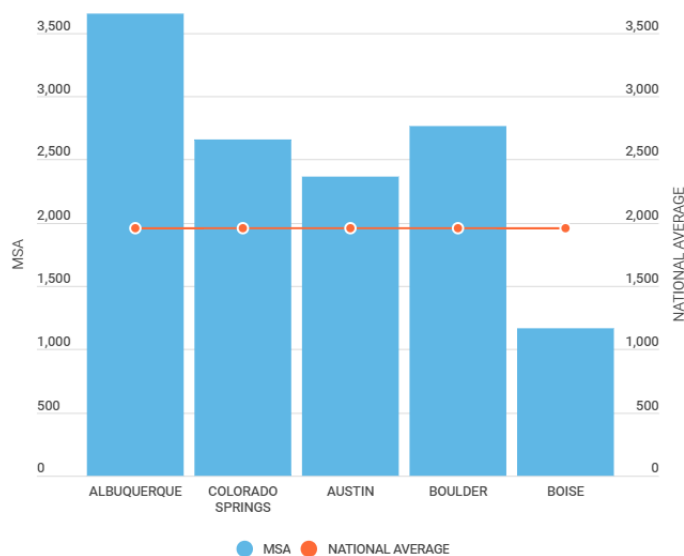
The FBI's Uniform Crimes Reporting (UCR), used through 2020, was hierarchical, only counting "the most serious offense in a multiple-offense criminal incident." The Colorado Springs Police Department is an incident-based reporting (IBR) agency, which means that it counts every offense in a multiple-offense criminal incident and therefore will have higher crime counts than reported in UCR for comparable incidents.⁵

Analysis by the National Crime Statistics Exchange in 2019 estimated that 10.2% of incidents in communities of 200,000 or more were multiple-incident offenses.⁶

The cautions about comparisons apply to the previous chart and the following two charts. In 2020, among five peer communities for which data was available, Colorado Springs MSA had the 2nd-highest property crime rate and 3rd-highest violent crime rate. Fort Collins MSA data for 2020 was unavailable although in 2019, Fort Collins had the lowest violent crime and 2nd-lowest property crime rate among the six peer communities.

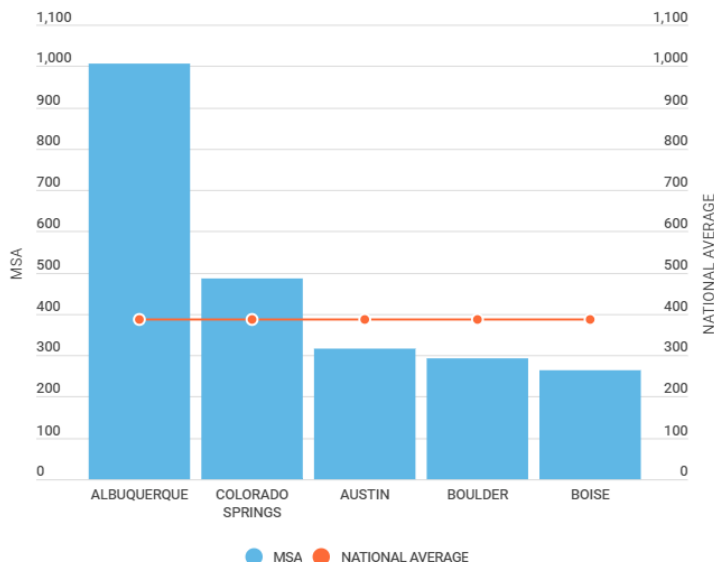
2020 PROPERTY CRIME RATE

(PER 100,000 INHABITANTS, VS NATIONAL AVERAGE)



2020 VIOLENT CRIME RATE

(PER 100,000 INHABITANTS, VS NATIONAL AVERAGE)



⁷ Federal Bureau of Investigation

Hate Crimes

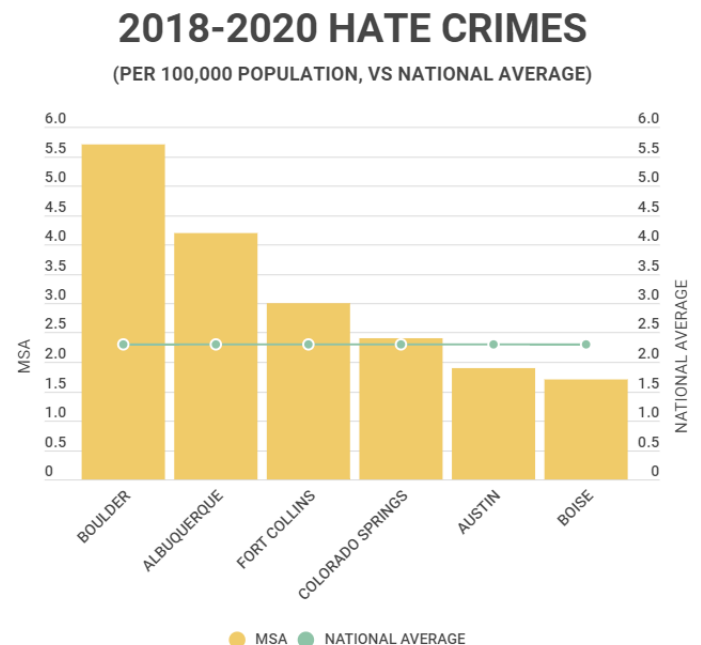
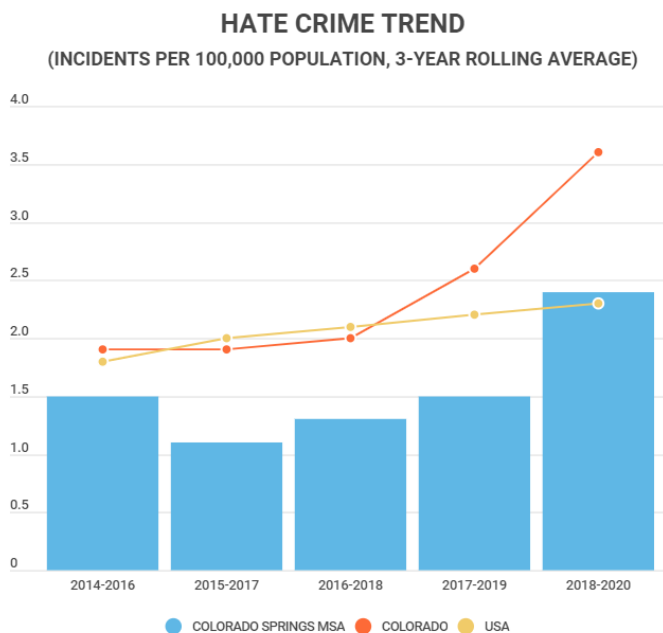
The FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting program defines hate crime as a committed criminal offense that is motivated, in whole or in part, by the offender's bias against one or more of the following.⁸

- race
- religion
- disability
- sexual orientation
- ethnicity
- gender
- gender identity

In 2020, 81% of law enforcement agencies participated in reporting hate crimes. Because not all agencies participate, results may be under-reported. Due to the small number of incidents recorded per year at the community level, three-year rolling averages are used.

Hate crimes nationally and in Colorado have been on the rise since 2017. The Colorado Springs MSA's level of hate crimes was below state and national averages until 2019. In 2020, the rate rose sharply to 2.4 incidents per 100,000 population. That mirrored a sharp statewide increase that was not reflected in national statistics.⁹

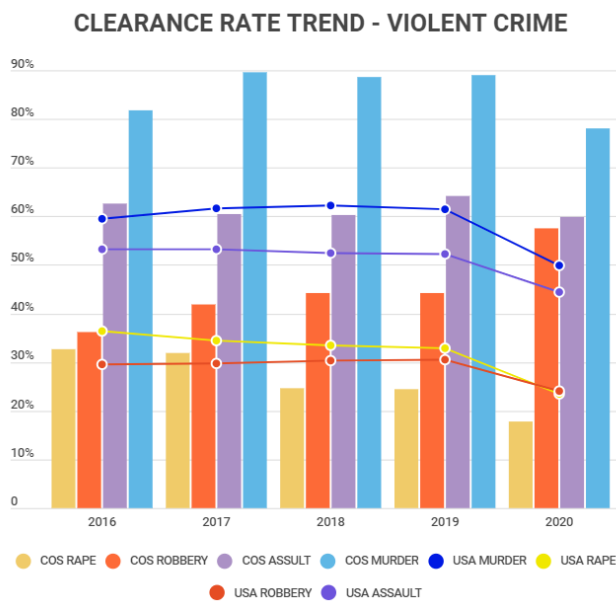
Despite the recent increase, Colorado Springs MSA still ranked 3rd of 6 peer communities for fewest hate crimes per capita.



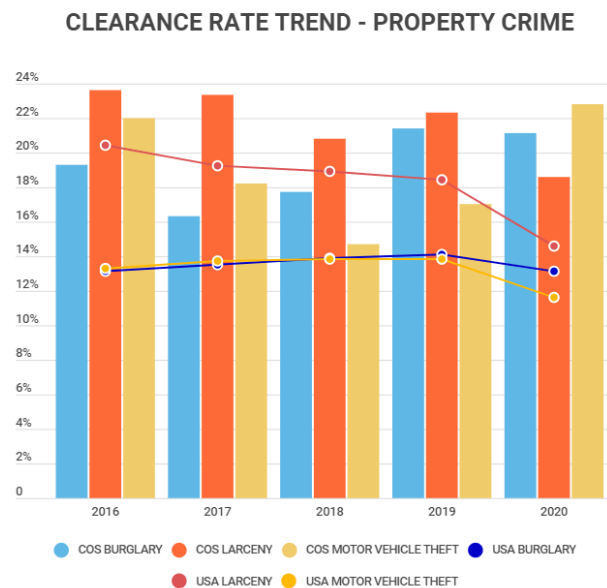
Crime Clearance Rates

One measure of police effectiveness is the rate at which crimes are cleared. Clearance of a crime generally requires fulfillment of three criteria: (1) an arrest is made; (2) a charge is brought; (3) the case is turned over to prosecution. Cases can also be cleared through “exceptional means.” This typically occurs when prosecution is not possible due to the offender’s death or inability to be extradited, or when victims are unwilling to cooperate with prosecutions.¹²

Colorado Springs Police Department (CSPD) has submitted its internal fulfillment rates for major crime categories for the past several years. From 2016 to 2020, Colorado Springs MSA clearance rates were better than the national average in all years in 6 of 7 categories. In 2020, CSPD cleared 78% of murder cases, 60% of aggravated assault cases, and 58% of robbery cases.¹³



¹⁴ CSPD, FBI



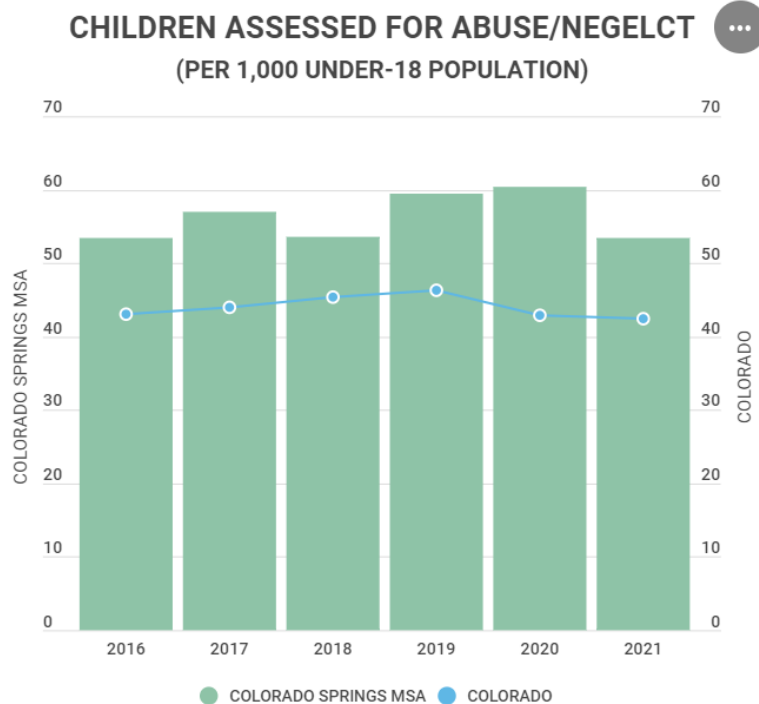
¹⁵ CSPD, FBI

Child Abuse/Neglect

Colorado’s Department of Human Services’ Division of Child Welfare “works to strengthen the ability of families to protect and care for their own children, minimize harm to children and youth, and ensure timely permanency planning.”¹⁶ This involves processing complaints received through the Colorado Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline, 844-CO-4-Kids. Calls are routed to the county where a child resides.

In 2021, El Paso and Teller counties together processed 16,213 child welfare calls, with 6,050 (37%) of them accepted for assessment. From those, the welfare of 9,462 children was assessed, a rate of 53.5 children per 1,000 population. That rate exceeded the state average (42.4), as well as the assessment rates of Boulder (44.1) and Fort Collins (35.2).¹⁷

Historically, the vast majority of assessments have been processed using a high-risk assessment (HRA) approach, with concerns judged as substantiated (leading to intervention) or unsubstantiated. Each year from 2016 to 2019, between 25 and 30% of assessments in the Colorado Springs MSA were substantiated.¹⁹ Since then, however, low-to-moderate risk referrals are increasingly being offered the less-adversarial option of Family Assessment Response (FAR), which does not result in a determination of substantiated abuse or neglect.²⁰



¹⁸ Colorado Department of Human Services, Child Welfare Division;
U.S. Census Bureau

For lower-risk cases, the process benefits families and case workers, but it complicates calculation of abuse and neglect rates. Use of FAR in Colorado Springs MSA rose from less than 2% in 2019 to 17% in 2021. In Boulder MSA and Fort Collins MSA, more than half of 2021 referrals were processed through FAR.²¹

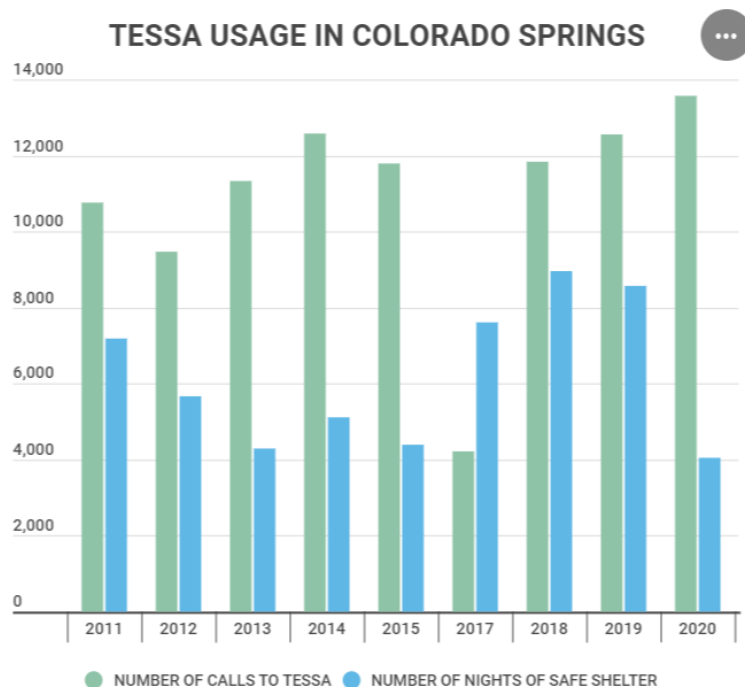
Another measure tracked by counties is the rate at which abuse or neglect recurs in cases where the state has intervened (whether inside or outside of the foster care system). In 2021, recurrence in Colorado Springs MSA was noted in 2.5% of cases, a rate similar to that of Boulder (2.4%) and Fort Collins (2.9%).²²

Domestic Violence

TESSA is El Paso and Teller counties' largest provider of services for domestic and sexual assault victims. TESSA provides a safehouse for the immediate safety for women, children and others escaping abuse. It operates a children's program and a clinical program, and it provides advocacy and counseling through offices in central Colorado Springs, Calhan, Hanover, Cripple Creek, within Memorial Hospital, and at county Department of Human Services offices.²³

In 2020, TESSA processed a record high of 13,574 calls. Call growth from 2015 to 2020 increased an average of 2.9% per year, while area population growth over the same period averaged 2.0%. In 2020, TESSA also provided 4,049 nights of shelter, a COVID-19 related decrease of more than half from 2018 and 2019 levels, when more than 8,500 nights of shelter were provided.²⁴

The Colorado Attorney General’s office analyzes domestic violence fatalities each year. Due to the small numbers at the local level in any one year, the 2018-2020 three-year average is presented for Colorado Springs MSA and the state as a whole.²⁶



²⁵ TESSA

Years	Colorado Springs MSA		Colorado	
	Annual Average Domestic Violence Fatalities	Annual rate per 100,000 population	Annual Average Domestic Violence Fatalities	Rate per 100,000 population
2018-2020	7.7	1.0	58.7	1.0

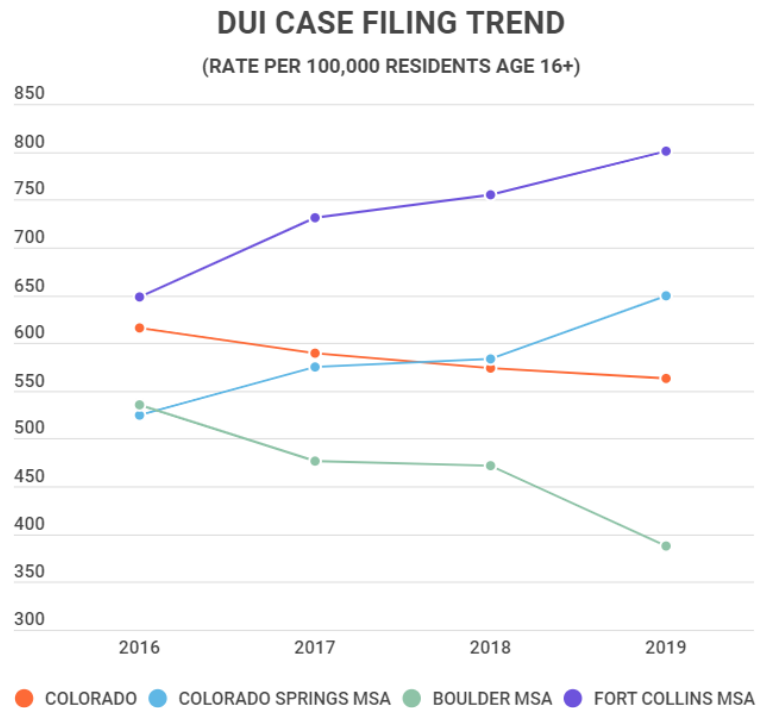
Source: Colorado Attorney General Office, U.S. Census Bureau

²⁷ Colorado Attorney General Office, U.S. Census Bureau

Driving Under The Influence (DUI)

In 2020, a driver under the influence of alcohol or drugs was involved in 30% of all traffic fatalities—one every 45 minutes.²⁸

A key measure for the rate of DUI offenses is the number of cases filed by prosecutors. In El Paso and Teller counties, 3,835 DUI cases were filed in 2019, a rate of 649 per 100,000 residents aged 16 and up.²⁹ The local rate increased by a total of 24% between 2016 and 2019, even as the statewide rate dropped. Among Colorado peer communities, Colorado Springs MSA ranked 2nd of 3 in 2019.



³⁰ Colorado Division of Criminal Justice, U.S. Census Bureau

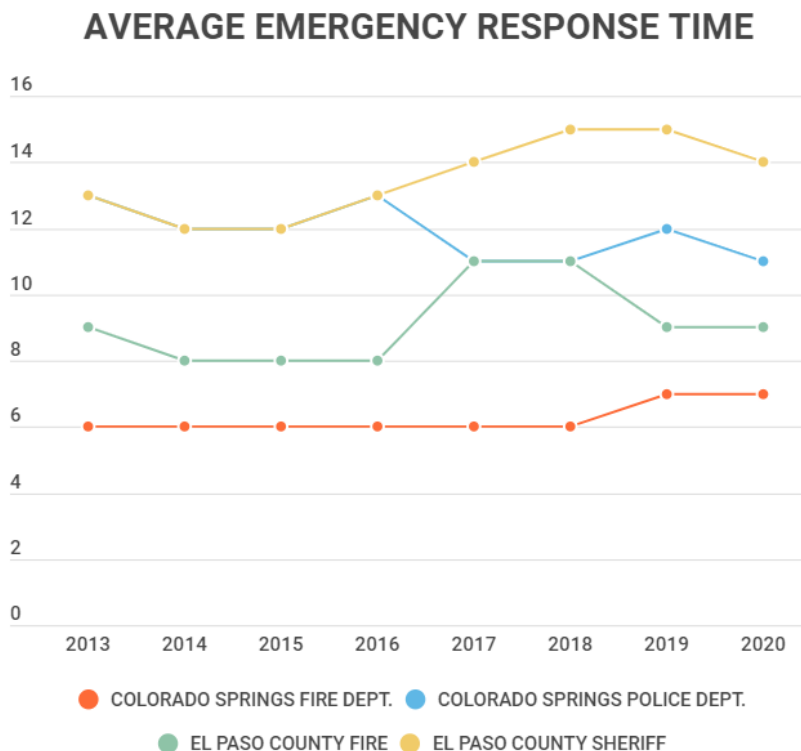
Emergency Response Time

Timely response to emergencies is essential to preserve life and property, especially in a semi-arid steppe environment with frequent lightning strikes, like that of Colorado Springs.³¹ In medical emergencies, response time is linked to mortality rates.³²

Agencies reporting in the Colorado Springs MSA for law enforcement response times include Colorado Springs Police Department (CSPD) within the city of Colorado Springs and El Paso County Sheriff's office for unincorporated areas of El Paso County only. The Sheriff's office does not report response times in any of the municipalities that provide their own law enforcement response, such as Fountain, Calhan, Widefield, etc. Agencies reporting emergency response times for fire in the Colorado Springs MSA include the Colorado Springs Fire Department (CSFD) and El Paso County Fire, which includes 22 separate fire agencies within El Paso County with dispatch provided by El Paso County Sheriff's office. Higher response times for the county compared to the city reflects the county's size and the distance covered by First Responders. Each agency has its own list of "Priority 1" emergencies for which response times are tracked.³³

Response time trends for these agencies appear in the following chart.

Colorado Springs Fire Department has a published goal of seeking to reach incidents within eight minutes from the time of the call, 90% of the time.³⁵ The department approached or reached that goal every year from 2011 through 2019 (86-90%) but fell well short in 2020 (71%) due to the effects of COVID-19.



³⁴ CSFD, CSPD, El Paso County Sheriff's Office

Next Steps

The Colorado Springs Police Department's 2020-2022 strategic plan includes several strategies to improve policing and public safety.³⁶ Among those are the following:

Implement an intelligence-led policing model department-wide.

Improve investigative strategies in crimes of domestic violence.

Examine methods of reducing call-for-service process time for officers.

Continually improve the relationship with the public through community relations and community policing efforts.

In 2017, the University of Colorado, Colorado Springs (UCCS) created a Public Safety Initiative to provide practical training in public safety measures and access to current research. The current calendar of events is available at <https://psi.uccs.edu/events>.

Volunteers also have a role to play. Citizens 18 years or older can volunteer in the Community Advancing Public Safety (CAPS) program in partnership with the Colorado Springs Police and Fire Departments. Roles include victim advocacy, photography, data entry, parks monitoring, impound facility assistance and monitoring handicapped parking. Program information is available at <https://springscaps.org/>.

References

- ¹ Federal Bureau of Investigation, Crime in the United States (CIUS) reports, 2015-2020. Data downloaded from <https://crime-data-explorer.app.cloud.gov/pages/downloads#nibrs-downloads>. Selections: Crime in the United States Annual Reports, Year 2020, CIUS Estimations data. Easy viewing of trend data is also available through secondary reporter Daily World (USA Today/Gannett), <https://data.dailyworld.com/crime-report/colorado-springs-co-metro-area/17820/summary/>. Both accessed June 8, 2022.
- ² Ibid.
- ³ Ibid.
- ⁴ Sum of the per-capita crime rate for each of eight classes of crimes multiplied by the relative cost of those crimes according to RAND Corporation cost estimation, adjusted for inflation. Cost per crime (average of 3 valuation methods in 2007 dollars) from Heaton, Paul, *Hidden in Plain Sight: What Cost-of-Crime Research Can Tell Us About Investing in Police*, Santa Monica, CA: RAND Corporation, 2010, p.5. https://www.rand.org/pubs/occasional_papers/OP279.html. Inflation adjustment to 2020 dollars based on Implicit Regional Price Deflator (using 2008 prices as proxy for 2007 due to availability) from Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, <https://fred.stlouisfed.org/series/IRPD17820>., Both sites accessed June 8, 2022.
- ⁵ Statement from Colorado Springs Police Department (CSPD) analytical supervisor Molly Miles. The quote contained in the statement is from the FBI, 2018 Crime in the United States report, <https://ucr.fbi.gov/crime-in-the-u.s/2018/crime-in-the-u.s.-2018/topic-pages/violent-crime>, accessed August 21, 2022. The CSPD statement was updated to reflect the FBI's transition from the Universal Crime Reporting (UCR) system to the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS). The FBI stated that the transition was complete at the beginning of 2021, although about half of reporting agencies had yet to transition to incident-based reporting (<https://ucr.fbi.gov/nibrs/2019>).
- ⁶ National Crimes Statistics Exchange (NCS-X), "Multiple Offense Incidents in the National Incident-Based Reporting System," Oct. 2019, p. 1, https://www.theiacp.org/sites/default/files/NCSX_MOI_REPORT.pdf, accessed June 8, 2022. NCS-X is an initiative of the Bureau of Justice Statistics, the primary statistical arm of the U.S. Department of Justice. For more, see <https://bjs.ojp.gov/programs/national-crime-statistics-exchange>, accessed June 8, 2022.
- ⁷ Federal Bureau of Investigation, Crime in the United States (CIUS) report, 2020. Data downloaded from <https://crime-data-explorer.app.cloud.gov/pages/downloads#nibrs-downloads>, Crime in the United States Annual Reports, Year 2020, CIUS Estimations. Easy viewing of trend data is also available through secondary reporter Daily World (USA Today/Gannett), <https://data.dailyworld.com/crime-report/colorado-springs-co-metro-area/17820/summary/>; select "View area-by-area comparison in crime summary." Both accessed June 8, 2022.

- ⁸ FBI, Hate Crime Definition, <https://www.fbi.gov/services/cjis/ucr/hate-crime#Definition-of%20a%20Hate%20Crime>, accessed June 9, 2022.
- ⁹ FBI, U.S. Census Bureau. FBI Hate Crime Statistics, Table 13. Colorado Springs MSA data was aggregated from individual municipalities, counties and educational institutions. State data is from Table 13 state totals. National data from Table 1, U.S. total. Data file (2020) https://s3-us-gov-west-1.amazonaws.com/cg-d4b776d0-d898-4153-90c8-8336f86bdfec/hate_crime_2020.zip, via <https://crime-data-explorer.app.cloud.gov/pages/explorer/crime/hate-crime>. Prior year data via <https://ucr.fbi.gov/hate-crime>. Annual per-capita data calculated using U.S. Census Bureau Vintage 2020 mid-year population estimates for each geography for each year, downloaded via <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/popest/technical-documentation/research/evaluation-estimates/2020-evaluation-estimates/2010s-totals-metro-and-micro-statistical-areas.html>. Three-year average based on unweighted average of yearly rates was used due to low incidence. Both sites accessed June 9, 2022.
- ¹⁰ Ibid.
- ¹¹ Ibid.
- ¹² Definition and a description of challenges in clearance measurement in Baughman, Shima, "How Effective Are Police? The Problem of Clearance Rates and Criminal Accountability" (2020). *Utah Law Faculty Scholarship*, vol. 213, p.58. <https://dc.law.utah.edu/scholarship/213>, accessed June 11, 2022.
- ¹³ Colorado Springs Police Department data from analytical supervisor Molly Miles. National data from FBI Crime in the United States Table 25; current-year via <https://crime-data-explorer.app.cloud.gov/pages/downloads> (NIBRS); prior-year data from annual CIUS reports, e.g. <https://ucr.fbi.gov/crime-in-the-u.s/2019/crime-in-the-u.s.-2019/topic-pages/tables/table-25>, accessed June 10, 2022.
- ¹⁴ Ibid.
- ¹⁵ Ibid.
- ¹⁶ Colorado Department of Human Services (CDHS) website, <https://cdhs.colorado.gov/our-services/child-and-family-services>, accessed June 10, 2022.
- ¹⁷ CDHS Community Performance Center, Number of Children Assessed in Child Welfare, queries by state and county for calendar years from 2016 through 2021. Colorado Springs MSA data aggregated from El Paso and Teller county data. https://rom.socwel.ku.edu/CO_Public/AllViews.aspx?RVID=647. Under-18 population from U.S. Census Bureau 2021 Vintage population estimates by county and age, <https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/popest/tables/2020-2021/counties/totals/co-est2021-pop-08.xlsx>. Both accessed June 10, 2022.
- ¹⁸ Ibid.

¹⁹ Ibid.

²⁰ For more on Family Assessment Response, see the Colorado Department of Human Service's Differential Response Program webpage (<https://cdhs.colorado.gov/differential-response-program>), accessed June 10, 2022.

²¹ CDHS Community Performance Center, Number of Children Assessed in Child Welfare, queries by county and calendar year for 2021, https://rom.socwel.ku.edu/CO_Public/AllViews.aspx?RVID=589, accessed June 10, 2022.

²² CDHS Community Performance Center, Absence of Abuse or Neglect After Services, queries by county and calendar year for 2021, https://rom.socwel.ku.edu/CO_Public/AllViews.aspx?RVID=589, accessed June 10, 2022.

²³ TESSA stands for Trust, Education, Safety, Support and Action. Its crisis phone line is 719-633-3819.

²⁴ Data provided by TESSA Colorado Springs via spokesperson Sherry Lynn Boyles. Not checkable via published sources. No data was provided for 2016; no explanation was provided for the low 2017 call volume.

²⁵ Ibid.

²⁶ Colorado Attorney General Office, U.S. Census Bureau. Fatalities include those of victims and perpetrators of domestic violence, as well as collateral deaths. Because of small numbers, three-year averages were compiled from Colorado Attorney General's Office, *Colorado Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board Annual Report*, (2019, 2020, 2021), pp. 16-17 (all years), downloaded from <https://coag.gov/office-sections/division-community-engagement/office-of-community-engagement-state-impact-programs/domestic-violence-fatality-review-board/>. Count data provided by county for 2018 & 2019; rate data provided by county for 2020. Remaining data calculated using U.S. Census Bureau Vintage 2020 mid-year population estimates for each county, averaged across each three-year period, downloaded via <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/popest/technical-documentation/research/evaluation-estimates/2020-evaluation-estimates/2010s-counties-total.html>. Both accessed June 11, 2022.

²⁷ Ibid.

²⁸ National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's National Center for Statistics and Analysis, Traffic Safety Facts 2020 Data, p. 1, <https://crashstats.nhtsa.dot.gov/Api/Public/ViewPublication/813294>, accessed June 12, 2022.

²⁹ Rosenthal, Allison, and Reed, Jack, Colorado Division of Criminal Justice (CDCJ), Office of Research & Statistics, *Driving Under the Influence of Drugs & Alcohol*, Jan. 2022, pp. 21, 78-79, https://cdpsdocs.state.co.us/ors/docs/reports/2021-DUI_HB17-1315_r.pdf, downloaded from <https://ors.colorado.gov/ors-reports>. Additional sources cited by CDCJ include State Judicial Department, Denver County Court, and State Demography Office. Rate per 100,000 as

published by county; for multi-county MSA, rate was calculated as a weighted average based on Census Bureau Vintage 2020 estimates for population age 16 and up, <https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/popest/datasets/2010-2020/counties/asrh/CC-EST2020-AGESEX-08.csv>. All sites accessed June 11, 2020.

³⁰ Ibid.

³¹ SKYbrary, Colorado Springs airport description, <https://skybrary.aero/airports/kcos>, accessed June 9, 2022.

³² Wilde, ET. “Do emergency medical system response times matter for health outcomes?” *Health Economics*, July 2013;22(7), pp. 790-806. PMID: 22700368. Abstract at <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/22700368/>, accessed June 9, 2022.

³³ Data and definitions provided by each agency: Colorado Springs Fire Department (CSFD), Colorado Springs Police Department (CSPD), El Paso County Fire, El Paso County Sheriff’s Office. Response times are measured for specific, “Priority 1” emergencies, the list of which differs by agency. For CSFD, they include false alarms, fire, good intent, hazardous conditions, hazmat, medical, natural disasters, rescue, and service calls. For CSPD, they include active shooter, assault in progress, urgent assist, bomb threat, explosion, home invasion, missing/found child, carjacking, found explosives, officer needing assistance, kidnapping, panic alarm, robbery alarm, robbery in progress, robbery with weapon in progress, sexual assault in progress, shooting, and stabbing. For El Paso County Fire, they include fire problem incident types including structure, wildland, medical, traffic accident with injury, hazmat, miscellaneous, arson, traffic accident without injury, 9E1, fire alarm, RR & ACC, rescue, rescue motorist, small outside fire, Waldo rockslide, technical and ice rescue, EOC emergency notification, and MOCOM request. For El Paso County Sheriff’s Office, they include aircraft emergency, hold up alarm, panic alarm, assault in progress/just occurred, burglary in progress/just occurred, bomb threat, child abuse in progress, child neglect in progress, disturbance, domestic violence in progress/just occurred, explosive ordinance device, explosion, fight, hostage situation, kidnapping, menacing, missing child, officer needs immediate assistance, pursuit, robbery, restraining order violations in progress/just occurred, sexual assault in progress/just occurred, shooting, shots fired, suicide attempt, suicidal welfare check, tornado, stabbing, riot, and barricaded subject.

³⁴ CSFD, CSPD, El Paso County Sheriff’s Office. Data and definitions provided to Peak Progress by each agency. Note: CSPD’s 2020 response time of 9.0 minutes differs from the 11 minute figure published in the city’s 2020 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report operating section, https://coloradosprings.gov/sites/default/files/inline-images/2020_acfr_co_springs_0.pdf (p. 294; pdf p 316), accessed June 9, 2022. The higher figure is closer to the historical trend.

³⁵ City of Colorado Springs, <https://coloradosprings.gov/colorado-springs-fire-department/page/emergency-services?mlid=5776>, accessed June 9, 2022.

³⁶ CSPD Strategic Plan, 2020-2022, pp. 4-16, https://coloradosprings.gov/sites/default/files/cspd_strategic_plan_commander_changes_1.8.2020.pdf?mlid=49836, accessed June 12, 2022.

