

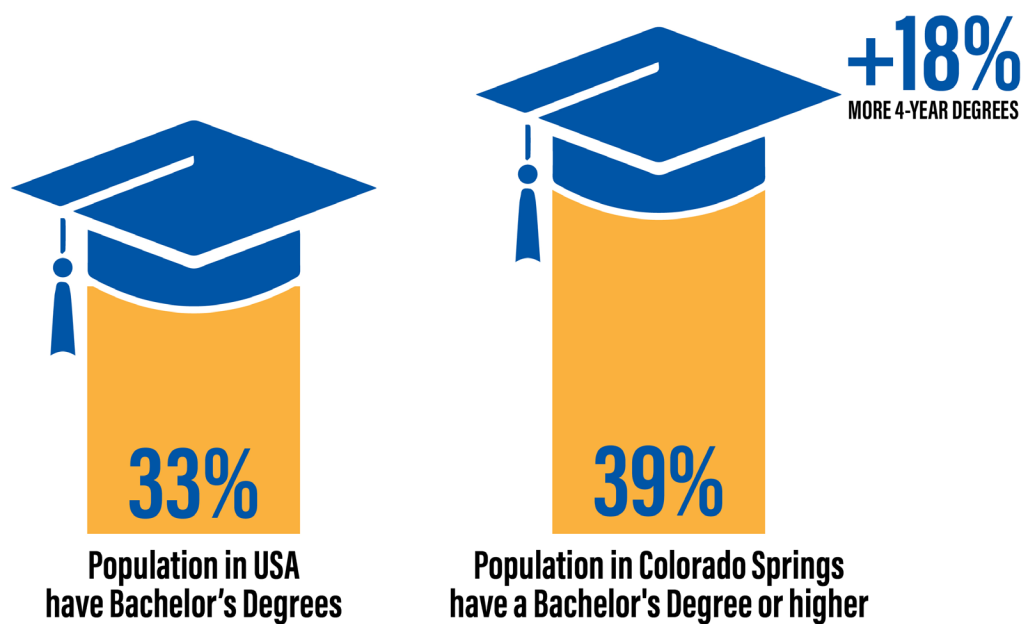
Peak Progress (Quality of Life Indicators) **DEMOGRAPHICS REPORT**

Demographics Summary:

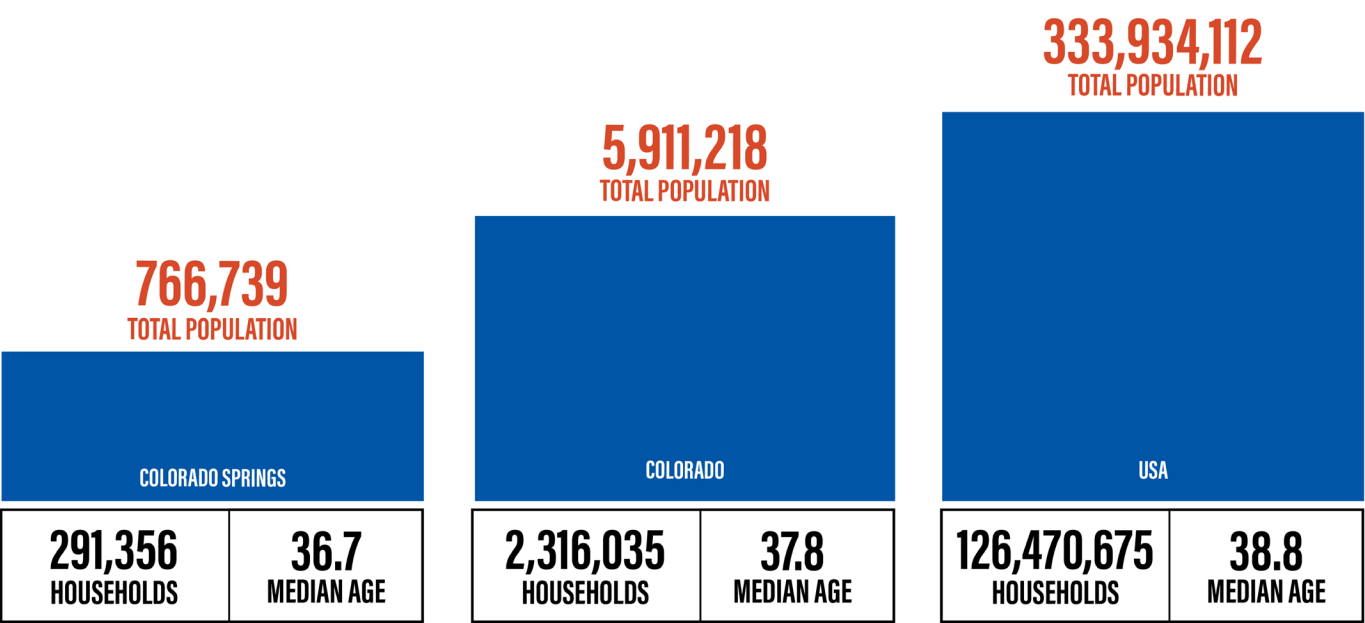
The Colorado Springs **Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA)** is different than the United States in many ways and is rapidly changing in terms of demographic composition. We've opted to use a variety of data sources and timeframes to illustrate where we have been, where we are today and where we are headed. Check out the sources section at the bottom for an explanation of the different sources, and the best places to use them.

- El Paso County (730,395) and Teller County (24,710) combined comprise the Colorado Springs MSA, with a total population of 755,105.
- El Paso County is the largest county by population in the state.
- In 2020, the City of Colorado Springs, a component of El Paso County, had a population of 478,961.
- Between 2010 and 2020 in the Colorado Springs MSA, population increased 17%, whereas the State of Colorado increased 14.8% and the overall U.S. population increased 7.4%.
- Between 2020 and 2050, El Paso County is projected to have an increase of approximately 321,449 additional people; Teller County is projected to have an increase of approximately 4,361 people.
- The median age in 2020 was 33.7 in El Paso County and 47.5 in Teller County, while it was 37.3 in Colorado and 38.4 (2019 projection) in the U.S.
- The two largest age cohorts in our region (El Paso and Teller Counties combined) using 2019 estimates were 0 to 17 and 25 to 44 years old.
- The Colorado Springs MSA age group of 65 and over increased 23.43% from 2015 to 2020, with differences between El Paso, up 22.98%, and Teller, up 31.30%.
- The Colorado Springs MSA Hispanic population increased 19.3% between 2015 and 2020, up three percentage points from the previous five years, while White non-Hispanics increased 20.5% during that same time span.
- For people aged 16 and over who are in the labor force, El Paso County has a higher percentage (5.2%) in the U.S. Armed Forces than the comparison counties (American Community Survey 2019).
- The Colorado Springs MSA was home to a quarter of all veterans living in Colorado in 2018.

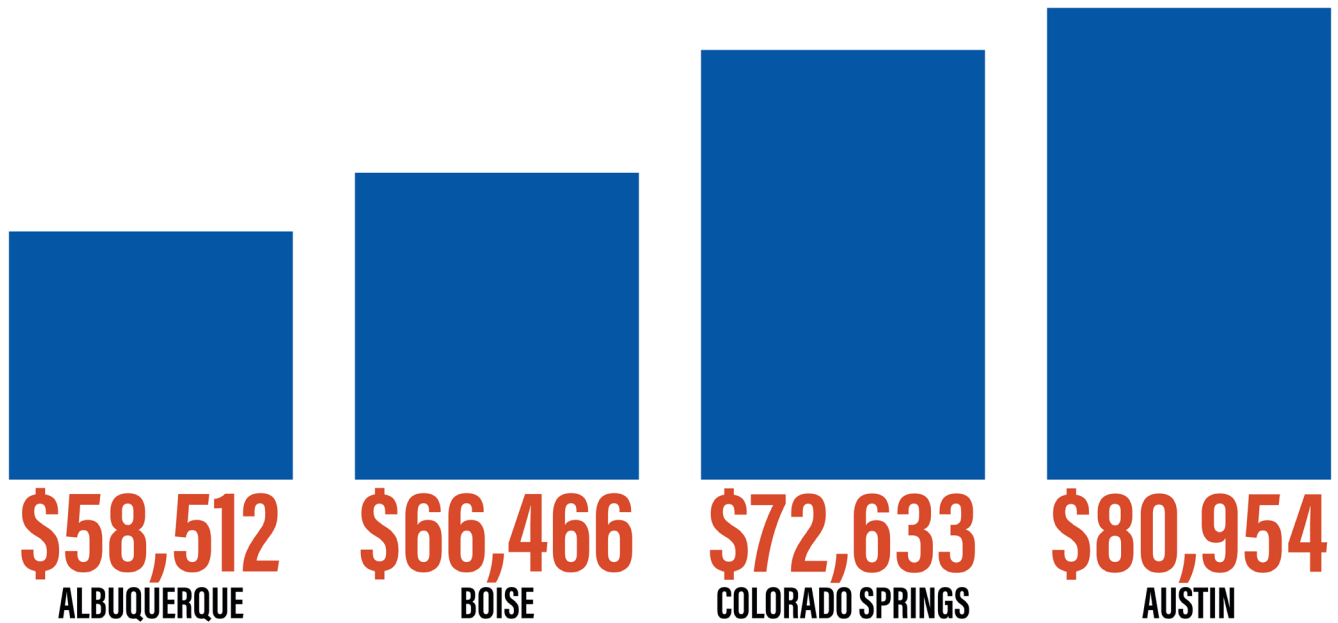
COLORADO SPRINGS EDUCATION (MSA) VS TOTAL USA



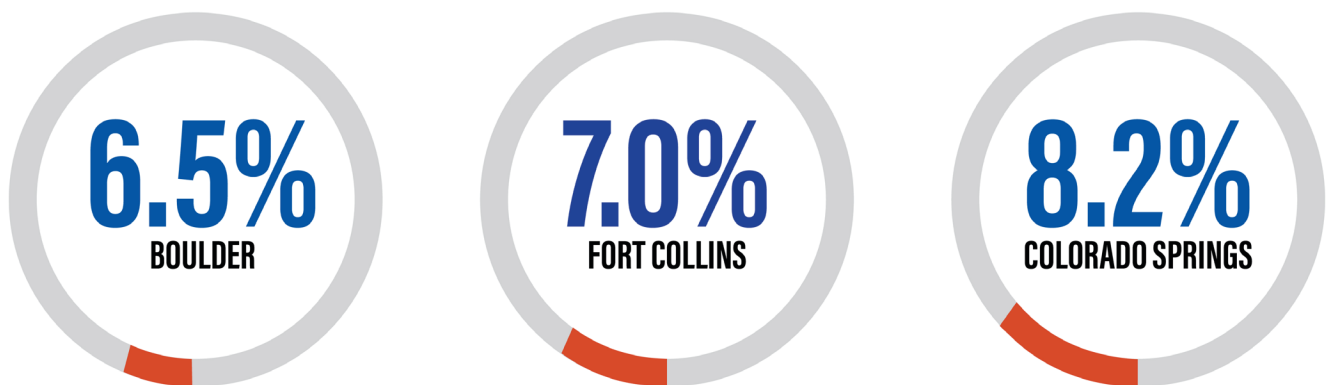
CITY VS STATE VS NATIONAL 2026 POPULATION



MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME COMPARISON



UNEMPLOYMENT RATE BY CITY

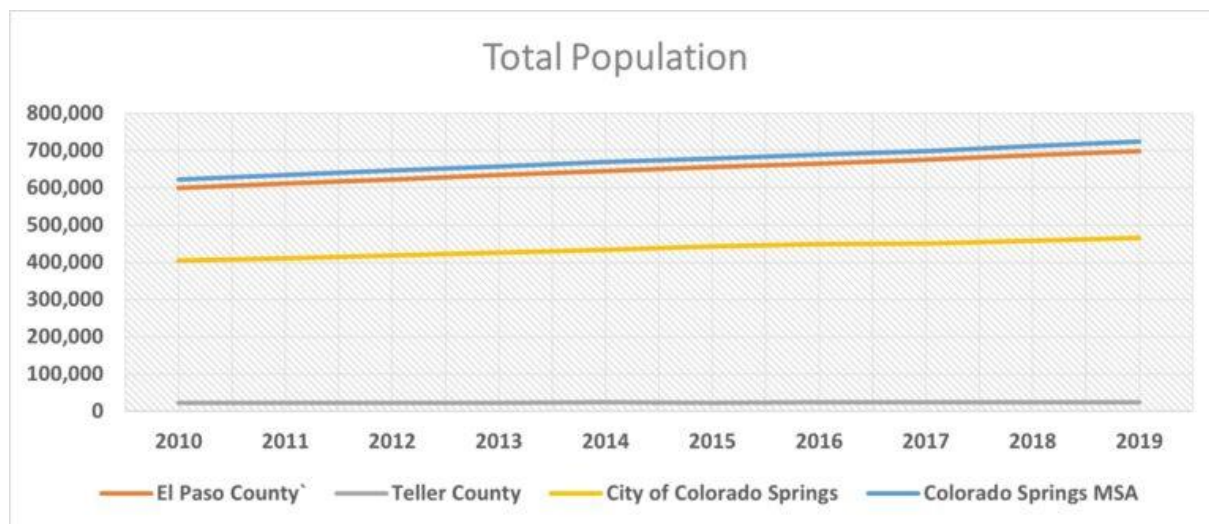


Fast Growing Population

Colorado was one of eight states in the top 10 for numeric and percentage growth between 2018 and 2019 (Johnson, 2019). In 2020, Colorado's population was 5,773,714, an increase of 14,978 residents from the previous year, which was based on forecasts from the 2010 census data (military personnel are included in population numbers).

El Paso County (15.8%) has grown slightly faster than Colorado (14.5%) since 2010, with Teller County (8.7%) outpacing the overall increase in the U.S. (6.3%). According to the State Demography Office, El Paso and Teller Counties hit their peak population increases between 2015 and 2020 and will begin to have smaller increases, ranging from 0.4% to 1.5% over five-year increments.

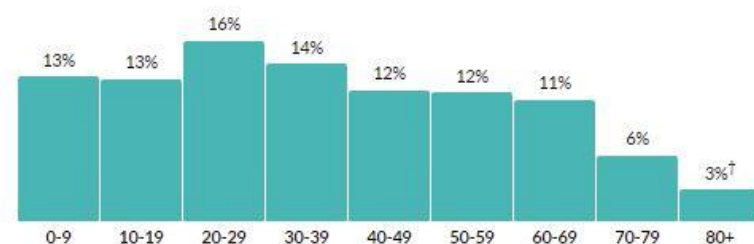
Population growth of any kind has a significant impact upon quality of life. It influences the labor market, education and other infrastructure needs, the tax base, future planning, and conservation of resources, as well as the health of the economy in general. Planning for growth is important for quality of life, but also to pursue economically and socially sustainable policies.



Diversity

Community diversity includes racial and ethnic identity, languages spoken, immigration status, religion, beliefs, backgrounds, sexual orientation, gender, age, and social class. There are hundreds of variances in indivi

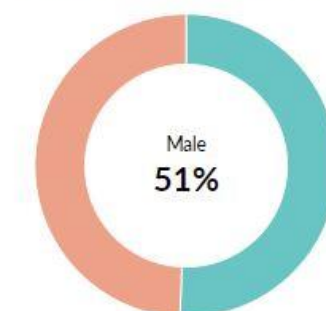
Colorado Springs, CO Metro Area
Population by age range



Census Reporter

[About this chart](#)

Colorado Springs, CO Metro Area

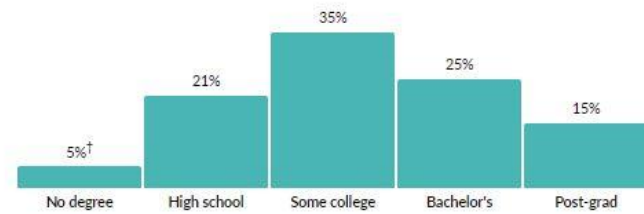


Male Female

Census Reporter

[About this chart](#)

Colorado Springs, CO Metro Area
Population by highest level of education

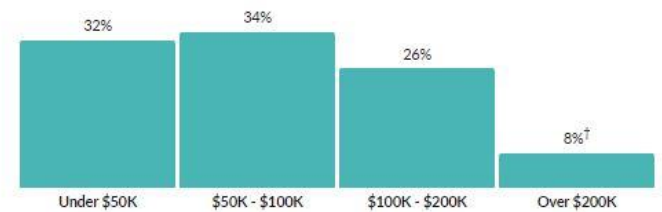


* Universe: Population 25 years and over

Census Reporter

[About this chart](#)

Colorado Springs, CO Metro Area
Household income



Census Reporter

[About this chart](#)

Proportions of household composition (e.g., married, single parent, nonfamily household) have not changed significantly in the Colorado Springs MSA since 2009. Recognizing the variety among the MSA's household composition guides the community in considering ways to support the well-being of its residents.

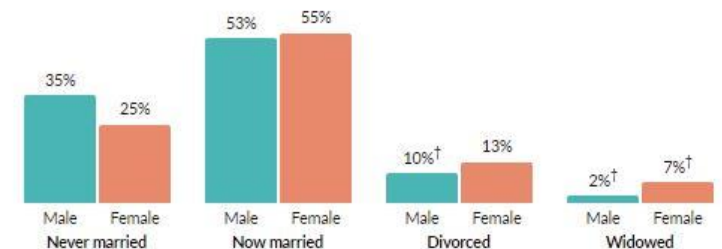
Colorado Springs, CO Metro Area
Population by household type



Census Reporter

[About this chart](#)

Colorado Springs, CO Metro Area
Marital status, by sex



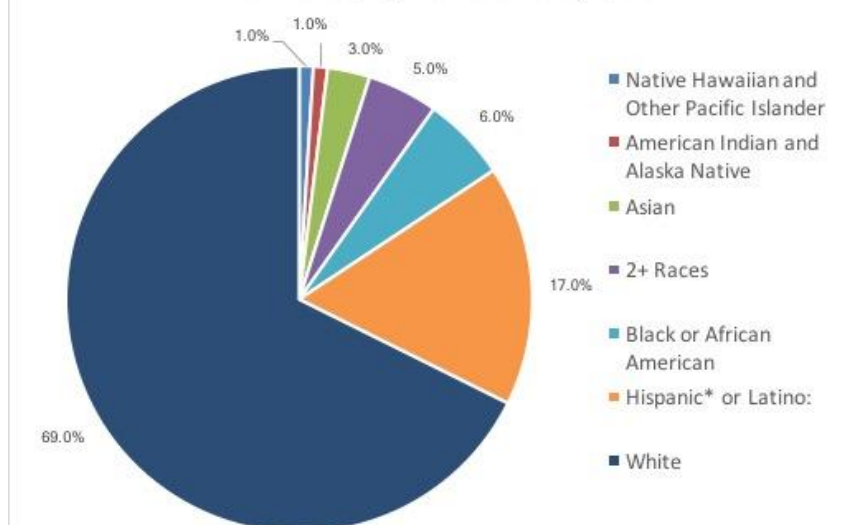
Census Reporter

[About this chart](#)

In 2019, compared to the United States, the Colorado Springs MSA had a slightly higher percentage of people who identify as two or more races, about the same percentage of Hispanic or Latinos and American Indians, fewer Black or African Americans, and more White people. According to the State Demography Office, our MSA is expected to see a significant increase in both the Hispanic and Asian populations by 2050 and a significant decrease (approximately 13.5%) in the White population.

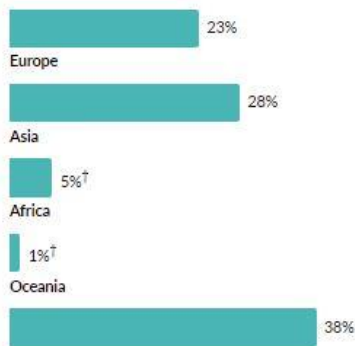
NOTE: According to the Department of Local Affairs, race and ethnicity in the U.S. Census are self-identification data items in which residents choose the race or races with which they most closely identify, indicating whether they are of Hispanic or Latino ethnicity. Race and ethnicity are considered separate and distinct identities.

Colorado Springs MSA Racial Demographics

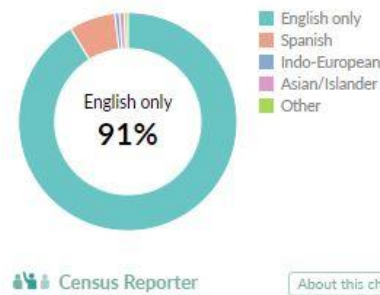


*Hispanic includes respondents of any race. Other categories are non-Hispanic.

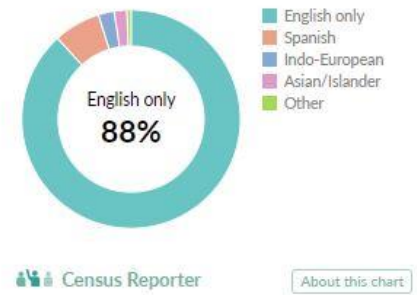
Colorado Springs, CO Metro Area Place of birth for foreign-born population



Colorado Springs, CO Metro Area Language at home, children 5-17



Colorado Springs, CO Metro Area Language at home, adults 18+



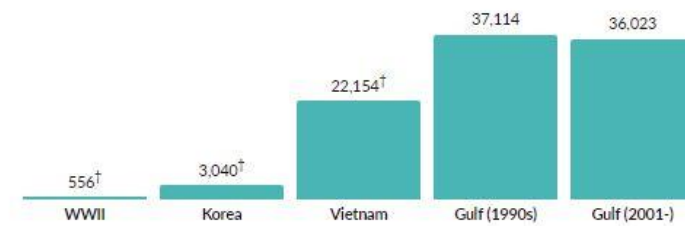
Veteran Status

16.1%

Population with veteran status

about double the rate in Colorado:
8.2%
more than double the rate in the
United States: 6.9%

Colorado Springs, CO Metro Area Veterans by wartime service



* Civilian veterans who served during wartime only

87,577 Total Veterans

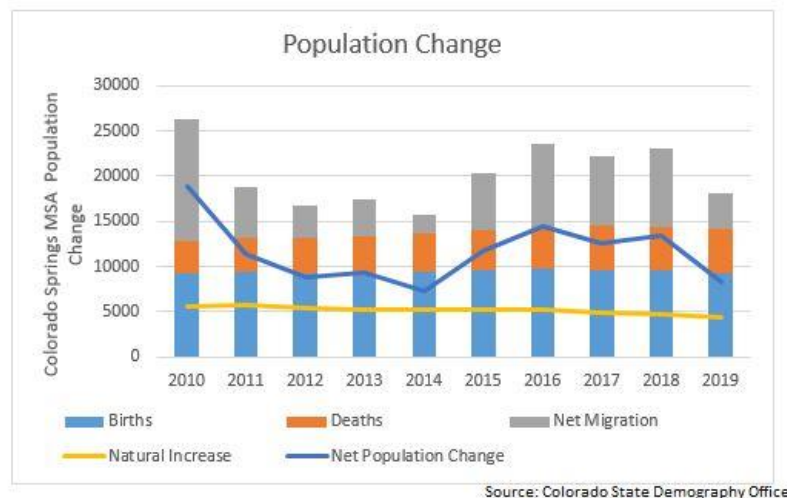
74,676 Male

12,901 Female

Components of Change

The Colorado Springs MSA, located on the fast-growing Front Range, reflects the popularity of the state for employers and residents. From 2017-2018, El Paso County's population experienced the largest growth in Colorado for a second year in a row, increasing by 12,854. While the local natural increase has remained relatively steady over the last several years, net migration has had a great deal of fluctuation, with a notable decrease in the state (34%) from 2019 to 2020 due to the pandemic. While Colorado and the Colorado Springs MSA will continue to grow, the rate of growth is expected to decline over the next decade.

Population change comes from natural increase (births minus deaths) and from net migration (people moving in minus those moving out of a region). The sum of these components is the change in population. Colorado varies considerably in growth trends, with some rural counties experiencing both out-migration and more deaths than births.



Population Trends

Overall, our population is expected to age and to become more diverse over the course of the next 5 years according to the State Demography Office. By 2025, the population of those aged 65 and over is projected to increase by 3.5% in the MSA. There has been some growth in the 30–49-year-old group, which is favorable given that those are prime working ages. Increases will also be seen in the ages leading up to that cohort (ages 0 to 29), while there are projected decreases for the pre-retirement cohort (ages 50 to 64). The forecast for population growth in the United States is 0.5% and the state of Colorado at 0.9%, with El Paso County at 1.6% (Colorado Office of State Planning).

Sources

Using American Community Survey Data

The American Community Survey (ACS) is conducted and managed by the United States Census Bureau. The ACS provides many benefits:

- Offers help for local officials and businesses to better understand the demographic makeup of their communities which enables them to better and more accurately plan for the future.
- Dives deeper than the Decennial Census in 2010 and 2020.
- Provides data about occupations, educational attainment, homeownership, income and other topics.
- Conducts monthly surveys, produces a variety of data products such as ACS 1-year and ACS 5-year estimates.
- Uses smaller samples of the population for ACS 1-year surveys, but best for point-in-time information and comparisons.
- Uses a larger sample size and an average view of the data over the specific time intervals for ACS 5-year estimates.
- Ensures that all data gathered in multiple regions is comparable. (Local governments, agencies, and school boards, for example, do not collect or disseminate data in the same manner or timelines.)

Just as there are many data products available from the US Census Bureau, there are also other valid sources for population estimates and other demographic variables.

<https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/about.html>. As read June 9, 2021.

Geographic Information System

“A geographic information system (GIS) is a framework for gathering, managing, and analyzing data. Rooted in the science of geography, GIS integrates many types of data. It analyzes spatial location and organizes layers of information into visualizations using maps and 3D scenes. With this unique capability, GIS reveals deeper insights into data, such as patterns, relationships, and situations—helping users make smarter decisions.”

<https://www.esri.com/en-us/what-is-gis/overview>. As read June 9, 2021

This QLI Report utilized GIS technology to provide maps as data visualizations.

- Maps often provide readers striking insights into how demographic and other data are distributed across their communities.
- Suppose we assume that we know that a certain side of town might be wealthier or poorer than another side of town. GIS mapping allows us to drill down into the data at a finer level, say Census Tracts, and visualize the data at a more granular level.
- Clear patterns can be observed that sometimes reflect our understandings about our city or even counter what our preconceived notions might be.

- We might see pockets of wealth or poverty where we did not expect them to be.
- Accurate data drives more informed decision-making and creates space for discussions as to where and how to best allocate resources.

References

Center for Health and Environmental Data: <https://cdphe.colorado.gov/center-for-health-and-environmental-data>

Colorado Office of State Planning and Budgeting, December 2020 Revenue Forecast in the 24th Annual Economic Update: <https://uccseconomicforum.com/booklets/>

Colorado Population Growth, Components of Change, 1970-2025, Source: Colorado Department of Local Affairs, State Demography Office.

Colorado State Demography Office:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1iiBcdkXzXAM6w1IRkt54y_vLdbCgTBY8/view

Colorado's Population and Economic Trends 2019:

<https://demography.dola.colorado.gov/demography/publications-and-presentations/>

Growth Continues to Slow: <https://www.census.gov/library/stories/2019/12/new-estimates-show-us-population-growth-continues-to-slow.html>

Johnson, S. L. (2019). <https://www.census.gov/library/stories/2019/12/new-estimates-show-us-population-growth-continues-to-slow.html>

National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics: https://www.va.gov/vetdata/veteran_population.asp

Population Data – Components of Change: <https://demography.dola.colorado.gov/births-deaths-migration/>
65 and Older Population Grows as Baby Boomers Age: <https://www.census.gov/newsroom/press-releases/2020/65-older-population-grows.html>

Types of Disabilities in Colorado: <https://data.census.gov/cedsci/profile?g=0400000US08>

U.S. Census Bureau

Table 2. RESIDENT POPULATION FOR THE 50 STATES, THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, AND PUERTO RICO: 2020 CENSUS: <https://www.census.gov/data/tables/2020/dec/2020-apportionment-data.html>

U.S. Census Bureau Quick Facts for El Paso and Teller Counties / Colorado:

<https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/CO,US,tellercountycolorado,elpasocountycolorado/PST045219>;
<https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/CO>

Veterans Data Tables: <https://www.census.gov/topics/population/veterans/data/data-tables.html>

NOTE: Social Explorer Data produced through QLI Demographics Council



Peak Progress (Quality of Life Indicators)

TRANSPORTATION REPORT

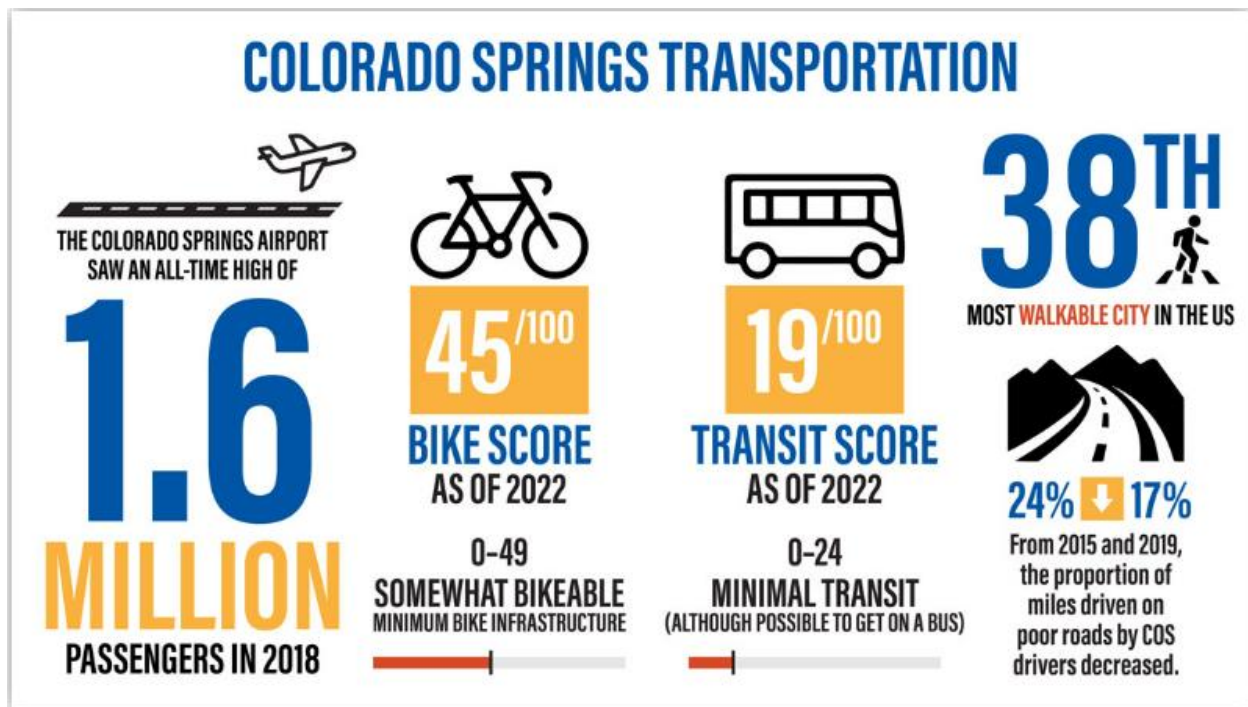
Transportation Summary:

Transportation for individuals in a community can have a great impact on their quality of life. A core element of modern life is having the ability to leave your home and travel to the desired location. Transportation is a necessity for access to essentials like healthcare, employment, grocery shopping, and social activities.

However, reliance on a personal vehicle restricts the movement of some older people, those under age 16, people with a disability that prevents safe driving, and people who are not able or willing to spend thousands of dollars per year to own and operate a motor vehicle.

Increasing transportation options and connectivity offers a less expensive, healthier, and more enjoyable lifestyle for those who do drive. Everyone, including people who drive as their primary mode of transportation, is a pedestrian at one point or another.

- Colorado's transportation infrastructure is in mediocre condition, but is generally in line with our comparison city's states, where Texas scored a C, and Idaho scored a C-. Colorado is also right in line with the nation's grade of C-. (American Society of Civil Engineers)¹
- From 2015 and 2019, the proportion of miles driven on poor roads by Colorado Springs drivers decreased from 24% to 17%. The 2019 level ranked 3rd among 6 peer communities.
- After losing nearly a third of its passenger traffic between 2012 and 2015, Colorado Springs Airport regained all of the losses to a high of 1.67 million passengers in 2018. In 2020, passenger traffic declined 56%, which was in line with peer-community airports, all of which lost more than half of their 2019 passenger load.
- Colorado Springs commuters lost an average of 48 hours due to traffic in the last full year before the pandemic. That ranked tied for 4th among the group of 6 peer cities.
- Colorado Springs is considered the 38th most walkable large city in the United States
- Colorado Springs' Bike Score® is 45 out of 100 as of March 2022. Scores between 0 and 49 are considered "somewhat bikeable" with minimum bike infrastructure.
- Colorado Springs' Transit Score® is 19 out of 100 as of March 2022. Scores between 0 and 24 are considered "minimal transit," though it is possible to get on a bus.



Key Indicators:

Transportation options contribute to the quality of life in many ways. Indicators address various modes of travel: driving, walking, biking, public transit and air travel. They consider conditions, use, safety and efficiency.

Some aspects of transportation discussed within this section (e.g., air travel) relate to the full Colorado Springs Metropolitan Statistical Area while others are rated/ranked on the basis of the urbanized area of the two-county MSA area. In the report, we will address the following indicators: Air Travel, Road Conditions, Traffic Congestion, Traffic Safety, Walkability, Bicycling, and Transit.

Air Travel:

Air travel describes airport usage and access and is measured by the number of passengers and number of nonstop destinations.

Air travel can play an important role for residents and increases accessibility to the region for tourists. The travel and tourism industry are heavily dependent on quality air service. Local companies also rely on accessible and efficient air travel service in order to maximize productivity and minimize travel time. These factors influence a company's decision to locate or expand within a particular area.

The Colorado Springs Airport saw an all-time high of 1.7 million air passengers in 2018.

How Are We Doing?

After losing nearly a third of its passenger traffic between 2012 and 2015, Colorado Springs Airport regained all of the losses to a high of 1.67 million passengers in 2018. In 2020, passenger traffic declined 56%, which was in line with peer-community airports, all of which lost more than half of their 2019 passenger load.

Comparative data for Colorado Springs is challenging because of the dominance of the regional hub, Denver International Airport (DIA), which is only 90 miles away. Albuquerque and Boise provide the best comps of what Colorado Springs could be with no draw-off from Denver. Pre-COVID-19, Colorado Springs' 2019 passenger load was 2.2 passengers per metro-area resident, which was 40% of Boise's 5.5 passengers per capita and 38% of Albuquerque's 5.7 passengers per capita.²

Potential Steps:

Continued investment into Colorado Springs will allow it to continue growing air service through several developmental improvements: airport access via public transit and rideshare services, additional roadway access, and air service development.

Road Conditions

The condition of roadways is linked to the overall assessment of transportation in an area. The maintenance or lack thereof impacts commuters in the form of time to navigate damaged roads as well as monetarily if the adverse conditions inflict damage to the vehicle.

The Federal Highway Administration tracks the proportion of miles driven on substandard pavement within urbanized areas. Pavement conditions are not only associated with vehicle maintenance costs and insurance claim costs, but also road maintenance costs, which increase dramatically as pavement conditions deteriorate.



³ Federal Highway Administration

How Are We Doing?

Nationwide COVID-19 has impacted congestion in a positive way. While not every profession can utilize remote working (tele-working), many have found that working from home is a viable tool to reduce overhead and improve employee productivity and morale. In 2015, Colorado Springs voters passed road-improvement tax initiative 2C and have since extended it through 2025. From 2015 to 2019, the proportion of miles driven on poor roads by Colorado Springs drivers decreased from 24% to 17%. The 2019 level ranked Colorado Springs 3rd among 6 peer communities. In 2020, the proportion of miles driven on Colorado Springs roads increased to 22%. The increase is likely due to differences in driving patterns, as a 20% overall drop in miles driven was accompanied by an increase in the proportion of miles driven on minor arterial roads.³ A 2021 report by the non-profit organization TRIP estimated the average annual cost of deteriorating roads to be \$644 per Colorado Springs driver.⁴

Potential Actions:

Colorado Springs has already begun to take action with the road-improvement initiative 2C. With the recent extension of 2C to 2025, Colorado Springs will be able to continue communication of the net savings and other benefits of this road-improvement tax initiative.

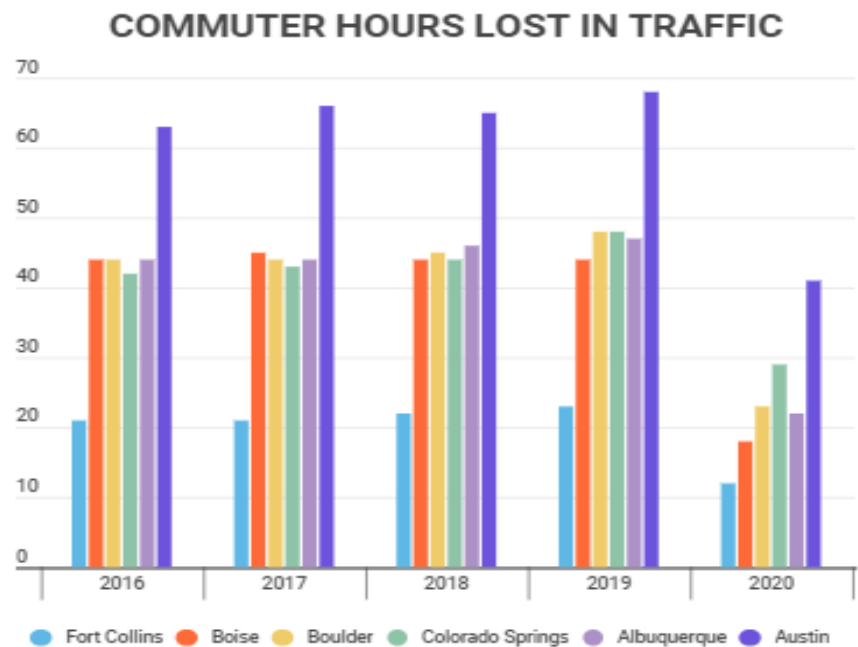
Traffic Congestion

Congestion data looks at the subgroup of the population that commutes to work during the heaviest-volume hours of the day.

A region's roadway network can be judged on its overall condition and efficiency in moving people and goods.

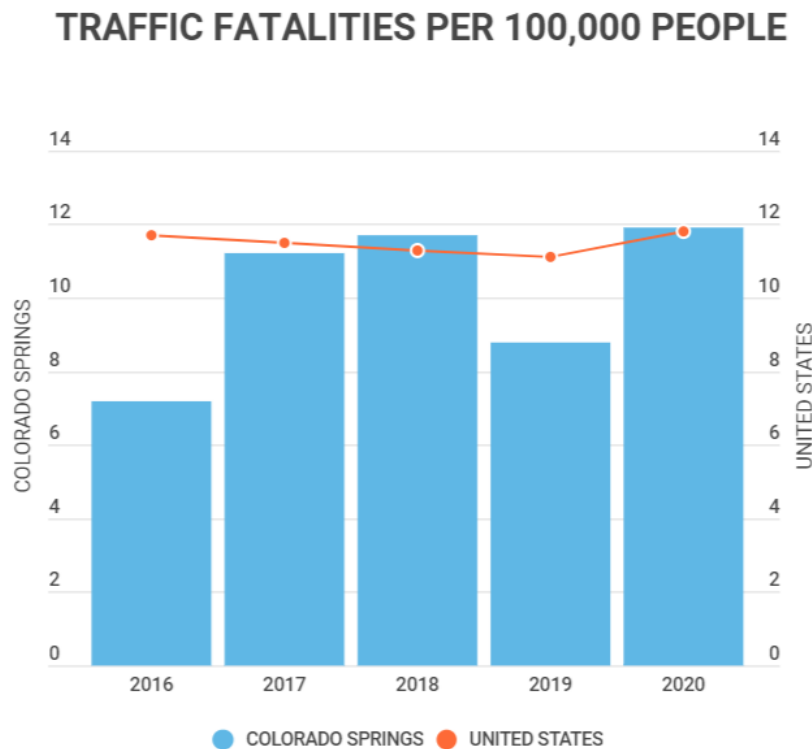
How Are We Doing?

Over the five-year period of 2014-2019, Colorado Springs experienced a 20% increase in hours lost due to congestion and a 21% increase in costs—the largest increases among the group of peer cities.



⁵ Texas A&M Traffic Institute methodology

Colorado Springs commuters lost an average of 48 hours due to traffic in the last full year before the pandemic, which ranked 4th among the group of 6 peer cities. The loss of time, fuel and repairs due to congestion cost Colorado Springs commuters an average of \$936 in 2019. Due to the much lower traffic volume in 2020, traffic congestion losses for Colorado Springs commuters dropped to 29 hours and \$582.⁵



⁶ National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

Traffic Safety

There are numerous metrics that may be considered when evaluating how safe travel is in an area. One acceptable metric for transportation safety evaluation is the fatality rate related to vehicle use, normalized per 100,000 people of population. This data is tracked by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) for states, counties, and urban centers (medium to large cities)

Understanding the nature and magnitude of daily trips should be used as an aid in understanding the fatality rate of these cities. If average commuter trips are several miles away, there is a greater time exposure and speed exposure for these individuals as compared to a city in which average daily commute times are short and or utilize arterial roadways to complete trips. Different transportation facility types and facilities available can dictate driver use and speeds.

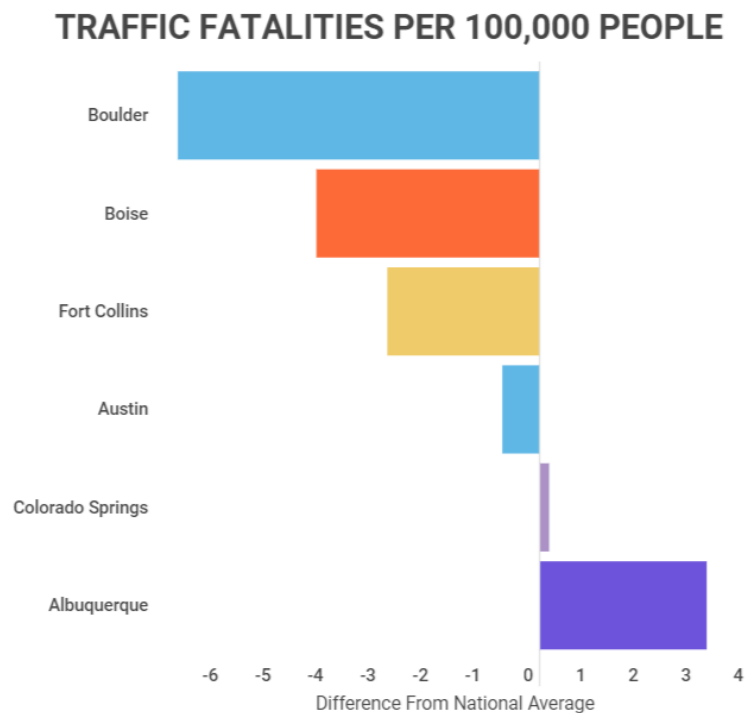
How Are We Doing?

The number of fatalities from traffic accidents in Colorado Springs in 2019 was 66, which corresponds to 8.8 fatalities per 100,000 residents. In 2020, even with fewer miles driven, the number of fatalities in Colorado Springs increased to 90, or 11.9 per 100,000 residents. That was close to the national average of 11.8.

Among peer communities, Colorado Springs ranked 4th of 6 in 2019, and 5th of 6 in 2020.⁶

Potential Steps

Steps that can be taken to increase traffic safety include the integration of professionals in transportation design and regulation and effective safety education and messaging. The Colorado Springs Police Department is advancing traffic safety through additional use of data and technology, through increased training in roadside impairment detection, and through the creation of a community-wide traffic safety steering committee.⁷



⁶National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

Walkability

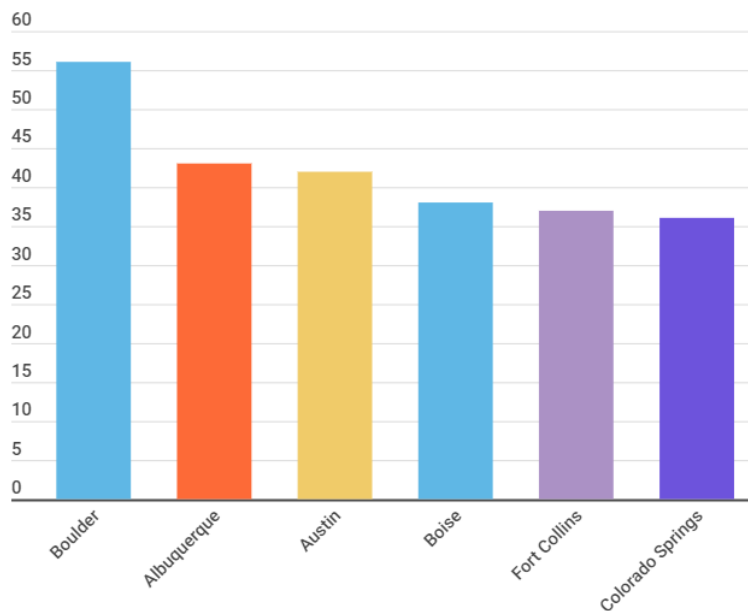
Walkability measures access in terms of walking time to various amenities using a score of 1 to 100, as provided by commercial information service Walk Score®. Walk Score® attempts to quantify two elements: distance to 7 various kinds of amenities (groceries, dining/drinking, shopping, errands, parks, schools, and culture/entertainment) and pedestrian friendliness. Pedestrian friendliness is calculated from population density and road metrics including block length and intersection data.

People who are suddenly no longer able to drive but who live in an auto-dependent part of the community are often cut off from the life of the community. Not being able to leave your home and transport yourself can be very isolating and borderline dangerous. On the other hand, providing options for people to get to their destinations by public transit, by bike, or on foot offers independence and autonomy to people who cannot drive, and a less expensive, healthier, sometimes more fun transport to people who do drive.

How Are We Doing?

Colorado Springs' Walk Score® is 36 out of 100 as of March 2022. Scores between 25 and 49 are considered “car dependent,” with most errands requiring a car. Colorado Springs Walk Score® improved by 1 point since 2021. Colorado Springs is considered the 38th most walkable large city in the United States and ranks 6th of 6 peer cities for walkability. However, a little improvement would go a long way—improving by 8 points would improve the ranking to 2nd. Of the peer communities, Boulder's score was the highest at 56. Ten Colorado Springs neighborhoods rate above-average (over 50) for both walkability and bikeability. They include Shooks Run, Downtown, Knob Hill, Westside, Ivywild, Old Colorado City, North End, Venetian Village, Divine Redeemer, and Stratton Meadows. Fort Carson and the United States Air Force Academy are both excluded from Walk Score®'s urbanized area. USAFA maintains more than 30 miles of trails on its main campus and Fort Carson more than 20 miles.⁸

2022 WALK SCORE (OUT OF 100)



⁸Walk Score®

Potential Steps

Colorado Springs could improve its walkability score by replacing sidewalks, improving safety at intersections, adding more opportunities to cross large arterial roadways safely, and incorporating more mixed-use development. As these changes and improvements are made, Colorado Springs could use Walk Score's® predictive analysis tool to simulate score improvement to determine impact.

Bicycling

Bikeability measures consider how good an area is for biking on a scale of 0 to 100 using Bike Score®, which considers bike infrastructure (lanes, trails), terrain, route connectivity, proximity to services, and the number of bike commuters. Bike Score® measures the bikeability of an address (aggregated to neighborhood and community levels) based on the available bike infrastructure, the hills, distance to destinations, connectivity, and the bicycle commute share.

The score reflects a preference for bike paths over bike lanes, and both over shared infrastructure. It calculates hilliness based on the steepest grade close to the address and uses distance to amenities by modifying the Walk Score® data. It recently included the commute mode share from the U.S. Census to reflect social and cultural influences on bikeability.

Providing ways for people to walk and bike for transportation gives them easy, low-cost ways to incorporate activity into their lives.

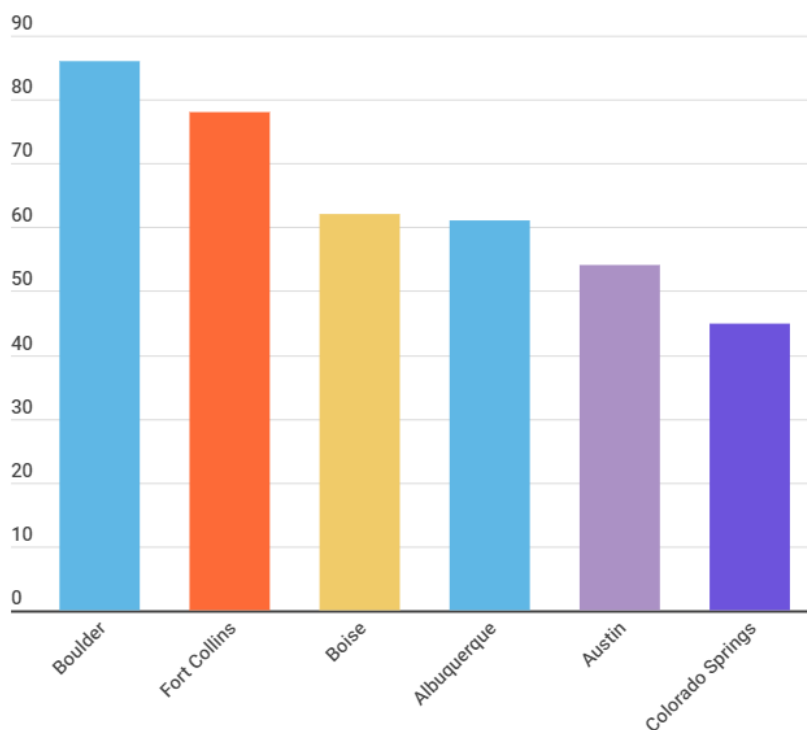
How Are We Doing?

Colorado Springs' Bike Score® is 45 out of 100 as of March 2022. Scores between 0 and 49 are considered “somewhat bikeable” with minimum bike infrastructure. Colorado Springs ranks 6th of 6 peer communities for bikeability. Boulder had the highest Bike Score at 86. Colorado Springs Bike Score® has improved by 3 points since 2018.⁹

Potential Steps

To increase bikeability, Colorado Springs could focus on several steps, similar to those that might be used to increase walkability. These include the improvement of intersections, increased opportunities to cross large arterials safely, more mixed-use development, and increased connectivity with rapid transit, including fare integration of bike-rental service.

2022 BIKE SCORE (OUT OF 100)



⁹Walk Score®

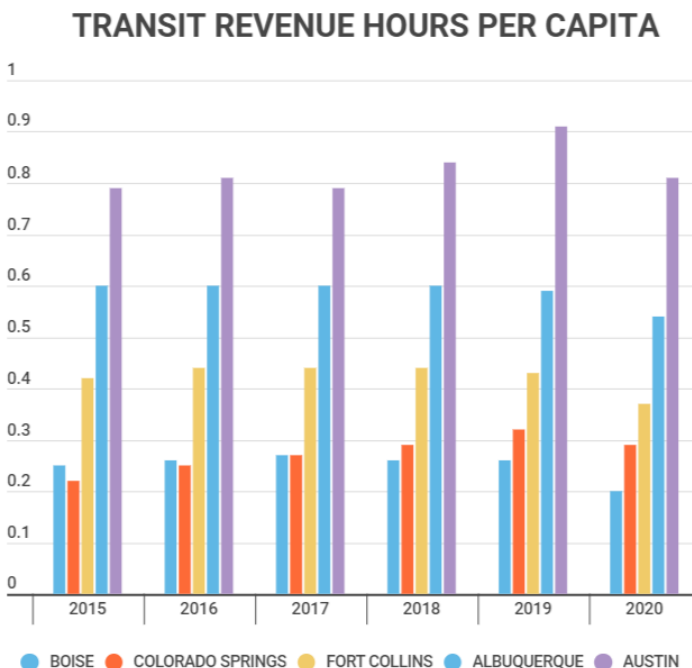
Transit

Transit Score® is an indicator of access of a city's transit system—that is, usefulness of the transit routes. Transit usefulness measures how well an area is served through public transit on a scale of 0 to 100 using Transit Score®, which considers distance to stops, route frequency, and service mode (e.g., bus, train). Transit Score® measures the usefulness of nearby routes to a given address (and is aggregated to the community level).

This includes data about the distance to the nearest stop on the route, the frequency of a route, and the type of route (with preference given to rail routes over ferries, cable cars, etc., and the least preference given to buses). This is based on GTFS, the General Transit Feed Specification,

an open-source method for transit operators to share their data (both static and live) with software developers of all kinds.

Reliance on personal vehicle transportation restricts the movement of some older people, those under age 16, people with a disability that prevents safe driving, and people who are not able or willing to spend thousands of dollars per year to own and operate a motor vehicle. Safe and convenient ways to get by foot or bike to a bus stop can help expand the footprint of transit service in a community. Similarly, being able to take a bus for a portion of a trip can expand where in the city someone can travel through active transportation.



¹⁰Walk Score®

How Are We Doing?

Colorado Springs' Transit® Score is 19 out of 100 as of March 2022. Scores between 0 and 24 are considered “minimal transit,” though it is possible to get on a bus. Colorado Springs ranks 6th of 6 peer communities for transit. Among peer cities, Boulder had the highest Transit Score® of 47.5.¹⁰

A key secondary measure is the volume of transit service available to the urban population. Colorado Springs' vehicle hours per capita was .29 (17.7 minutes) in 2020, placing it 4th of 5 peer communities.* Available bus service in Colorado Springs has grown faster than the population. Per capita vehicle hours increased every year from 2013 to 2019. Even after reducing service due to COVID-19, available bus service in 2020 was 35% greater than in 2015. More than 3.2 million trips were made on Mountain Metro buses in 2019. The number of trip segments increased 5 out of 6 years between 2014 and 2019; in 2020, passenger volume decreased to 1.9 million.¹¹

*Boulder-specific data was unavailable, as its bus service is provided by Denver's Regional Transportation District.

Potential Steps

Continued emphasis on regulations and infrastructure to support integration of bus service with micro mobility services, shared scooters and bikes, that can make use of the city's 250 miles of urban trails. As with walkability, transit officials and city leaders can access a fee-based Predictive Analysis tool to assess how their Transit Score® would be improved by adding routes or increasing frequency.

Sources - Transportation

¹American Society of Engineers, 2021 Report Card for America's Infrastructure:
<https://infrastructurereportcard.org/>

²Bureau of Transportation Statistics T-100 Market data:
https://www.transtats.bts.gov/Data_Elements.aspx?Data=3;
Census Bureau 2020 Vintage MSA Data: <https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/popest/datasets/2010-2020/metro/totals/cbsa-est2020.csv>

³Federal Highway Administration:
<https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/policyinformation/statistics/2019/hm74.cfm>

⁴TRIP: https://tripnet.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/TRIP_Keeping_Colorado_Mobile_Report_March_2021.pdf

⁵Texas A&M Traffic Institute Mobility Division:
<https://mobility.tamu.edu/umr/data-and-trends/>; Methodology:
<https://static.tti.tamu.edu/tti.tamu.edu/documents/mobility-report-2021-appx-a.pdf>

⁶National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
<https://cdan.dot.gov/query>; <https://www.nhtsa.gov/research-data/fatality-analysis-reporting-system-fars>

⁷Colorado Springs Police Department:
https://coloradosprings.gov/sites/default/files/cspd_strategic_plan_commander_changes_1.8.2020.pdf

^{8,9,10}Walk Score®:
https://www.walkscore.com/CO/Colorado_Springs; <https://www.walkscore.com/methodology.shtml>;

¹¹Federal Transit Administration, National Transit Database 2019 Annual Agency Profiles:
<https://www.transit.dot.gov/ntd/transit-agency-profiles>



Peak Progress (Quality of Life Indicators)

SOCIAL WELL-BEING REPORT

Social Well-Being Summary:

The well-being of a community as a whole is contingent in part upon the social well-being of its community members.

The social well-being of community members depends on a complex interplay of the other indicators mentioned in this report.

However, how people are able to meet their own needs as well as recognize the needs of others and their ability and willingness to offer support to those in need feeds the overall community's strength, leading to a better quality of life for all.

- In fiscal year 2020-2021, Pikes Peak United Way 2-1-1 had over 36,980 requests for service.
- In 2021, the Colorado Springs Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) poverty rate (9.0%) was less than that of Fort Collins MSA (9.9%) and Boulder MSA (9.5%).
- While 10% of Colorado Springs residents experience food insecurity, approximately one third of these 75,000 people are ineligible for any federal nutrition programs.
- More than 1 in 4 households function below the Self-Sufficiency Standard in Colorado Springs.
- In Colorado Springs, nearly 1 in 3 households (32.7%) paid more than 30% of their income on housing prior to the pandemic.
- In 2020, Colorado Springs had the 3rd lowest rate of persons experiencing homelessness of 6 communities.
- In the Colorado Springs MSA, 1 in 8 people (12.4%) has a disability.
- One in five adults (20.1%) between the ages of 18 and 64 with disabilities in Colorado Springs lives below the poverty line.

COLORADO SPRINGS MSA SOCIAL WELL-BEING



36,980

REQUESTS FOR SERVICE
TO PIKES PEAK UNITED WAY
2-1-1 IN 2020-2021



12%

OF PEOPLE IN THE
COLORADO SPRINGS MSA
HAVE A DISABILITY



9%

2021 POVERTY RATE
IN COLORADO SPRINGS



32.7%

OF HOUSEHOLDS PAID MORE THAN
30% OF THEIR INCOME ON HOUSING
PRIOR TO THE PANDEMIC

Key Indicators

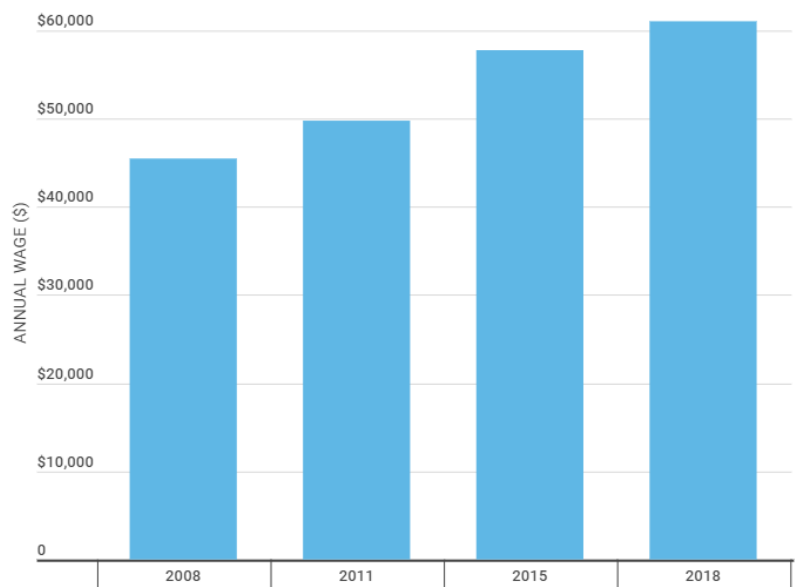
The social well-being of a community and its members is reflected in the manner in which members recognize, care for, and show each other respect. Community members represent a vast spectrum from the most vulnerable to the most capable, with ever-evolving needs and strengths. Providing support, care, and resources for those experiencing distress and hardship, strengthens the community as a whole.

Self Sufficiency

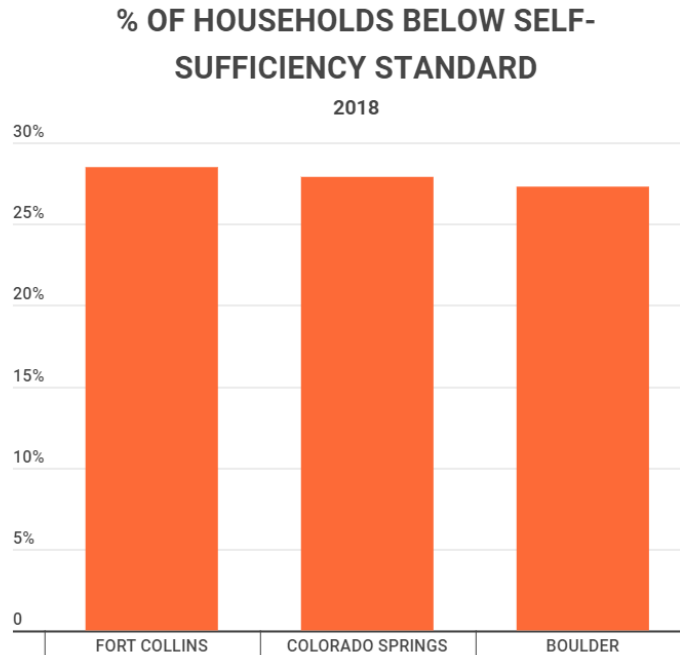
Self-Sufficiency Standard

The Self-Sufficiency Standard is a measure of income adequacy that is based on the costs of basic needs for working families: housing, childcare, food, health care, transportation, and other miscellaneous items, as well as the cost of taxes and the impact of tax credits. The Standard is an affordability and living wage economic security measure that provides an alternative to the official poverty measure. More than one in four households function below this Self-Sufficiency Standard in Colorado Springs as well as in Fort Collins and Boulder.

COLORADO SPRINGS MSA SELF-SUFFICIENCY STANDARD - ANNUAL 2008-2018



* Data is for a family with one adult, one infant and one preschooler



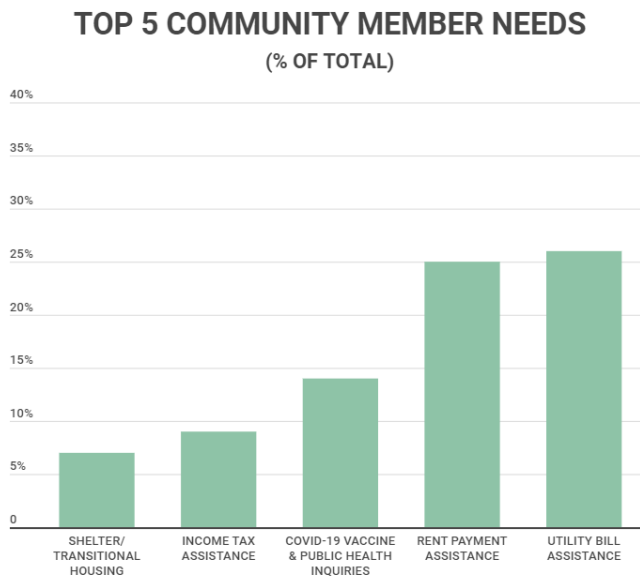
^{1,2} Self-Sufficiency Standard at the Center for Women's Welfare, University of Washington

Community Member Needs

Identifying Needs: 2-1-1 Requests

Staffed by community resource experts, 2-1-1 is a free, confidential, and bilingual phone line that compassionately connects callers in need with personalized referrals for help. 2-1-1 collaborates with hundreds of local health and human service agencies. For many of the 35,000 people who use 2-1-1, it is a lifeline, sometimes a lifesaver. In the fiscal year of 2020-2021,

Pikes Peak United Way received over 36,980 requests for service.



2-1-1 requests provide a snapshot of the community's needs and where assistance may be lacking. Since 2-1-1 began in 2004, utility bill assistance has remained the top need of community members, followed by rental assistance. Need-specific assistance programs help households extend their income by covering a portion of basic needs.

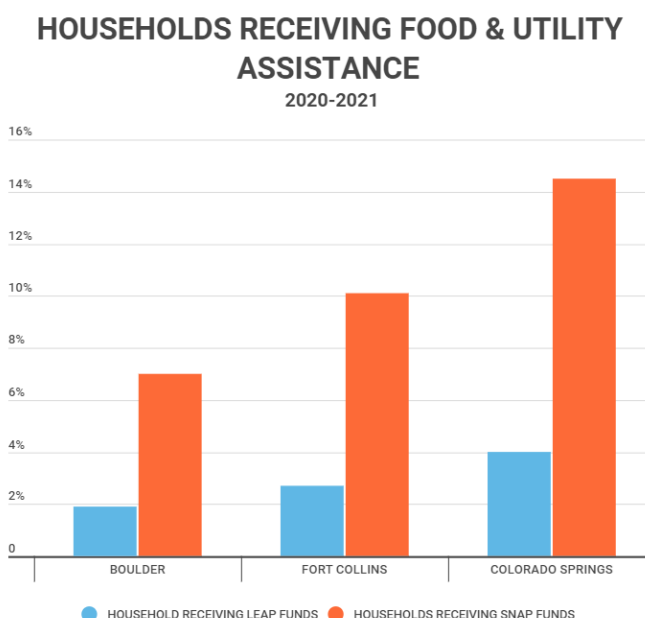
³United Way of the Pikes Peak Region

Food & Utility Assistance

The Colorado Low-Income Energy Assistance Program (LEAP) is a federally funded program that pays a portion of winter home heating costs to families making less than 60% of the state median income. The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is part of a federal program to help lower-income households (less than 200% of the Federal Poverty Level) purchase food using cards similar to debit cards. County human services departments are responsible for determining eligibility and authorizing SNAP.

In 2021, Colorado Springs MSA poverty rate (9.0%) was less than that of Fort Collins MSA (9.9%) and Boulder MSA (9.5%). However, Colorado Springs had higher rates of households receiving LEAP and SNAP funds.

The combination of higher utilization of public funds and lower poverty (compared to peer communities) suggests that public and private agencies in Colorado Springs are effective in building awareness, in referring households in need, and in helping applicants to successfully navigate the application process.



⁴ Colorado Department of Human Services, U.S. Census Bureau

Food Insecurity

Food insecurity refers to USDA's measure of a lack of access to enough food for an active, healthy life for all household members and limited or uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate foods. Food-insecure households are not necessarily food insecure all the time. Food insecurity may reflect a household's need to make trade-offs between important basic needs, such as housing or medical bills, and purchasing nutritionally adequate foods.

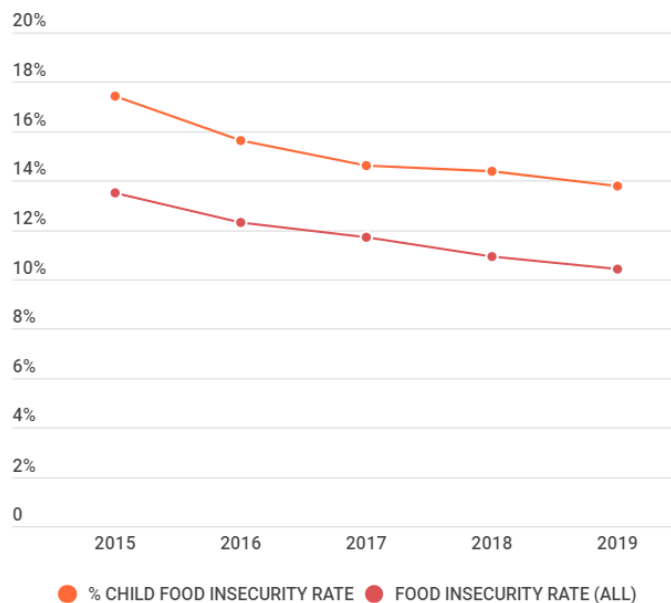
Although food insecurity is harmful to any individual, food insecurity is particularly devastating among children due to their increased vulnerability and the potential for long-term consequences. Several studies have demonstrated that food insecurity impacts cognitive development among young children and is linked to poorer school performance.⁵

Other data show negative health consequences of food insecurity among children, including increased illness and higher associated health costs.

While 10% of Colorado Springs residents experience food insecurity, approximately one third of these 75,000 people are ineligible for any federal nutrition programs. This disparity speaks to the importance of local food banks such as Care and Share and Meals on Wheels, among others.

The percentage of people experiencing food insecurity in the area declined substantially between 2015 and 2019, although Feeding America still estimates an annual budget shortfall of \$43 million.

COLORADO SPRINGS MSA FOOD INSECURITY



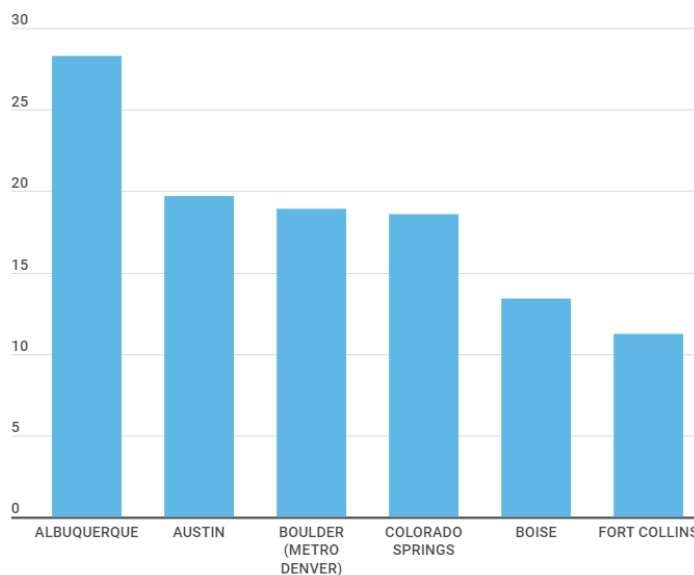
⁶ Feeding America's Map the Meal Gap Survey

Experiencing Homelessness

The social costs of homelessness are enormous, as are the financial costs. About one-third of all visits to emergency rooms are made by people experiencing chronic homelessness, who have higher rates of chronic health problems than the general or impoverished population.¹¹ The vast majority of these costly visits could have been addressed through preventive care. As people obtain stable housing, their dependence on emergency services drops, and health outcomes improve.

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requires that all Continuums of Care (CoC) conduct an annual count of people experiencing homelessness on a single

2020 RATE OF THOSE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS (PER 10,000 GENERAL RESIDENTS)



¹³ National Alliance to End Homelessness

night in January. This includes transitional housing programs, emergency shelters, and those who were unsheltered that night. Trend data by state and community is maintained by the [National Alliance to End Homelessness](#).¹²

Between 2011 and 2020, Colorado Springs' total population of those experiencing homelessness increased by 31%, and the population of those unsheltered increased by 111%. In 2020, 1,339 persons were experiencing homelessness. In 2020, Colorado Springs had the 3rd lowest rate of persons experiencing homelessness of 6 peer communities.

Rapid Rehousing Systems use affordable housing identification, rent assistance, and case management to help homeless people develop a level of stability that leads to improved health outcomes and reduces the likelihood of a return to homelessness.¹⁴

Serving Those With Disabilities

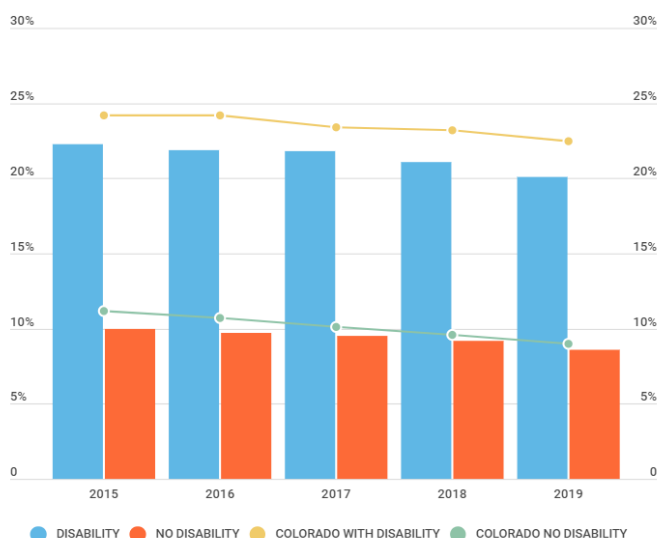
It is imperative that we as a community be especially cognizant of those members in our community that may be more vulnerable or face more disparity than others due to characteristics that place them at a higher risk of experiencing hardship or being mistreated and therefore needing assistance.

In the Colorado Springs MSA, one out of every eight people (12.4%) has a disability. This is a higher percentage than that of the state as a whole and that of peer counties in Colorado.

One in five (20.1%) adults between the ages of 18 and 64 with disabilities in Colorado Springs lives below the poverty line. That percentage is below the state average and below that of most peer communities. The percentage of those with disabilities who live in poverty has also decreased in recent years.

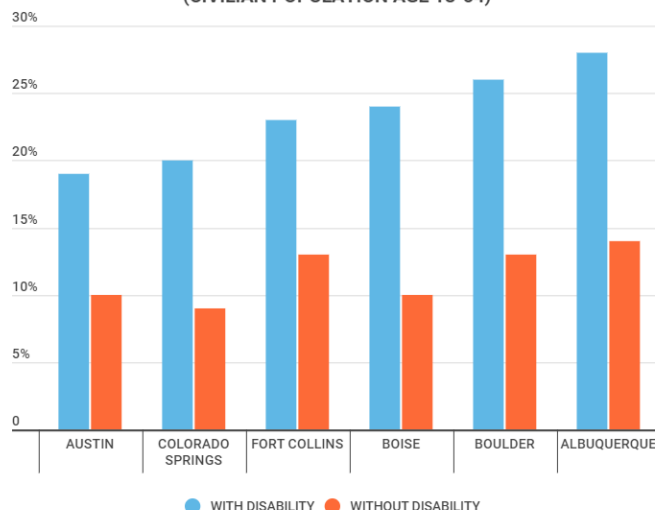
COLORADO SPRINGS MSA POVERTY RATES

(CIVILIAN POPULATION WITH/WITHOUT DISABILITY, AGES 18-64)



2019 POVERTY RATES OF THOSE WITH A DISABILITY & THOSE WITHOUT A DISABILITY

(CIVILIAN POPULATION AGE 18-64)



¹⁵ Institute on Disability

Quality of life for persons with disabilities includes physical access to goods and services in the community as well as accommodations to use those goods and services, such as large print, sign language interpreters, and captioning for virtual meeting platforms. For those with significant physical disabilities, difficulties may lead to living in an institution, although receiving care in the home from paid staff, family members, or friends is greatly preferred by most individuals. It is also more cost effective. Having a choice of where one lives in a space that meets one's needs as well as the ability to participate in community life can be vital to physical and mental health for persons with disabilities.

Supplement: Disability Care

In the early 1980s, people with disabilities and seniors in Colorado started to pressure federal and state policy makers to move away from institutionalizing those who could not safely live at home because of a physical or mental health disability.¹⁷ The cost of nursing homes was becoming prohibitive, and few people wanted institutionalization.

At the beginning of the 21st century, the United States policy on caring for persons with disabilities and seniors who could not live independently pivoted away from nursing homes and toward what is now known as Home and Community Based Services (HCBS). Priority was given to helping people with disabilities of all ages receive services to support daily activities in their homes and the community rather than in institutions. Many of these services are paid by Medicaid for those who are enrolled. The federal Medicaid program shares the cost of HCBS with the state Medicaid program. In Colorado, advocates from both the aging and disability communities work with the state's Department of Health Care Policy & Financing, the home of Colorado's Medicaid program.

Currently there are several state waivers that allow for additional services to enable those with disabilities and seniors to live, go to school, work, and socialize in the community. Six waivers are adult-focused and four are child-focused.¹⁸ Additional services include the following:

Nursing home facilities for seniors and adults with disabilities who don't want to live in the community or cannot, due to health complications. This is the default program under Medicaid. The PACE program (Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly), which provides care services for older adults who qualify.¹⁹ This service is provided in the home as opposed to a live-in facility.

Other payment options for senior services include long-term care insurance and private pay. Currently, Medicare in Colorado does not assist with in-home care costs but in other states the Medicare program does support that cost.

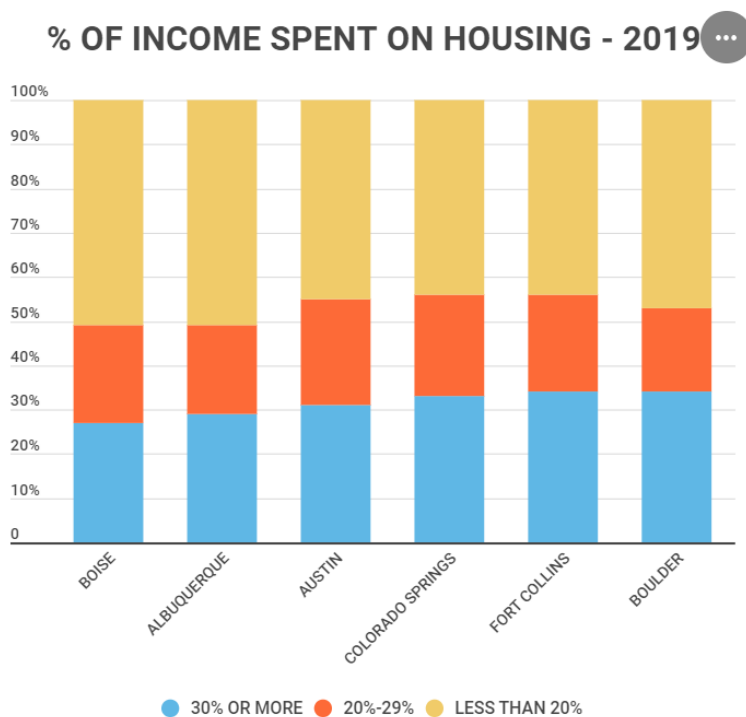
As the opportunity for those with disabilities to live in a home rather than an institution has grown in recent years, there has been a significant increase in persons with disabilities who are living at home rather than in an institution.

One of the key frustrations for those who serve people with disabilities in our community is the lack of accessible data related to their well-being. Although access to services is arguably the

greatest need, it is very difficult to find relevant data. This includes utilization measures that factor in the percent of people who are eligible for the service as well as more detailed measures, such as access to transportation services because someone may have a disability waiver but be unable to access the service without transportation. Community leaders know the difficulty faced by many disabled individuals and their families as they try to access services, but it is difficult to tell this story in a compelling way without relevant data.

Housing Cost Burden

Households burdened by housing costs are at high risk of being evicted or foreclosed on should they experience a job loss or other unanticipated financial hardship. Those that spend more than 30% of their income on housing often struggle to meet other basic needs, such as healthcare, food, childcare, and transportation. In Colorado Springs, nearly one-third of households paid more than 30% of their income on housing prior to the pandemic.



Social Well-Being References

¹ Self-Sufficiency Standard at the Center for Women’s Welfare, University of Washington, <https://selfsufficiencystandard.org/Colorado>. Colorado Springs amount is calculated as a weighted average of El Paso County and Teller County amounts based on population according to U.S. Census mid-year population estimate (2020 vintage) for the given year, <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/popest/technical-documentation/research/evaluation-estimates/2020-evaluation-estimates/2010s-counties-total.html>. Both accessed April 26, 2022.

² Ibid.

³ Pikes Peak United Way 2-1-1 information & referral 2020-2021 spreadsheet report provided by Lori Obermeyer, Director of Data & Strategic Operations, April 1, 2022.

⁴ Colorado Department of Human Services, Low-income Energy Assistance Program (LEAP) statistical information about LEAP applications, <https://drive.google.com/open?id=1W8WbJsb5Mgb4CUkte2SCuDnqigqkmaO3LC0KSfhEdGg>, accessed via <https://cdhs.colorado.gov/leap>; Colorado Department of Human Services, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), <https://cdhs.colorado.gov/snap-data>, (Case, client and issuance reports, ‘Average caseload_SFYZ.xlsx’, tab ‘SFYZ21’); U.S. Census Bureau Vintage 2020 data used to calculate percentage of residents and households. All sites accessed April 26, 2022.

⁵ One review of available research is Royer, M.F.; Guerithault, N.; Braden, B.B.; Laska, M.N.; Bruening, M. Food Insecurity Is Associated with Cognitive Function: A Systematic Review of Findings across the Life Course. *International Journal of Translational Medicine*. 2021, 1, 205–222. <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijtm1030015>, accessed April 26, 2022.

⁶ Feeding America’s Map the Meal Gap Survey, <https://map.feedingamerica.org/>, accessed April 26, 2022. Food insecurity estimates are derived based on a combination of need and cost. Need is assessed through the U.S. Census Bureau’s Current Population Survey; cost is measured through Nielsen’s Cost of Food Index. County figures are estimates modeled from state-level food insecurity data using the socioeconomic profile and food purchasing behavior of individual counties. More info about the methodology is available at <https://www.feedingamerica.org/research/map-the-meal-gap/how-we-got-the-map-data>.

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ Those who are both food insecure and ineligible for federal nutrition programs reflects those who are food insecure as determined through Feeding America’s Map the Meal Gap Survey (see note 6), but whose income exceeds the qualifying income threshold of SNAP and other government nutrition programs (200% of the Federal Poverty Level).

⁹ Percent of children who are food insecure (see note 8) but whose family income exceeds the qualifying income threshold for federal nutrition programs for children (estimated at 185% of the Federal Poverty Level).

¹⁰ The total annualized additional dollar amount that food-insecure individuals report needing, on average, to purchase just enough food to meet their food needs. This amount, from Feeding America's Map the Meal Gap Survey (<https://map.feedingamerica.org/>), is based on responses in the U.S. Census Bureau's Current Population Survey and the USDA estimation that individuals in households that are food insecure experience food insecurity, on average, seven months out of the year. This amount has been adjusted to reflect local food prices and relevant taxes. See note 6.

¹¹ Garrett, Daniel G. "The business case for ending homelessness: having a home improves health, reduces healthcare utilization and costs." *American health & drug benefits* vol. 5,1 (2012): 17-9. Accessed at <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4046466/>, April 26, 2022.

¹² National Alliance to End Homelessness, *State of Homelessness: 2021 Edition*. 2020 data from HUD and the U.S. Census Bureau. The 2020 point-in-time count took place in January, before the disruptions brought by the COVID pandemic. <https://endhomelessness.org/homelessness-in-america/homelessness-statistics/state-of-homelessness-2021/>, accessed April 26, 2022.

¹³ National Alliance to End Homelessness, *State of Homelessness: 2021 Edition*. 2020 data from U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development and the U.S. Census Bureau, <https://endhomelessness.org/homelessness-in-america/homelessness-statistics/state-of-homelessness-2021/>, accessed April 26, 2022. Local point-in-time counts conducted by Pikes Peak Community Health Partnership, <https://www.ppchp.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/2020-PIT-Count-CO-504.pdf>, Metro Denver Homeless Initiative, https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5fea50c73853910bc4679c13/t/60aebbc8b9794e08ea377e2e/1622064127685/Boulder_2020_PIT_Report, New Mexico Coalition to End Homelessness <https://www.nmceh.org/pitreports>, Ending Community Homelessness Coalition (ECHO Austin), https://www.austinecho.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/HMIS_Snapshot_2021_Prevalence_05.21.2021.html#Results, and Boise/Ada County Homeless Coalition, <https://www.homelesscoalitionboise.com/about-homelessness/basic-facts-on-homelessness/>. All accessed July 30, 2022.

¹⁴ National Alliance to End Homelessness, *Rapid Rehousing Toolkit*, 2022. https://endhomelessness.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/NAEH_RapidRehousingToolkit.pdf, accessed April 26, 2022.

¹⁵ Institute on Disability, *Annual Disability Statistics Compendium, 2019 County Reports*. <https://disabilitycompendium.org/county-reports>, accessed May 7, 2021.

¹⁶ U.S. Census Bureau, 2019 American Community Survey, Table S2503 1-Year Estimates. Includes all occupied units (renters and homeowners). Households paying no rent or for which the percentage was unknown were included with the "less than 20%" group. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development considers those who spend more than 30% of income on housing to be "cost burdened" and those who spend more than 50% to be "severely cost burdened." https://www.huduser.gov/portal/pdredge/pdr_edge_featd_article_092214.html, accessed August 4, 2022.

¹⁷ According to Julie Reiskin, Colorado Cross Disability Coalition, private conversation, May 7, 2021.

¹⁸ Colorado Department of Health Care Policy & Financing, Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Waivers, <https://hcpf.colorado.gov/long-term-services-and-supports-programs#Waivers>, accessed August 4, 2022.

¹⁹ Colorado Department of Health Care Policy & Financing, Program of All-Inclusive Care For The Elderly (PACE), <https://hcpf.colorado.gov/program-all-inclusive-care-elderly>, accessed May 7, 2021.



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

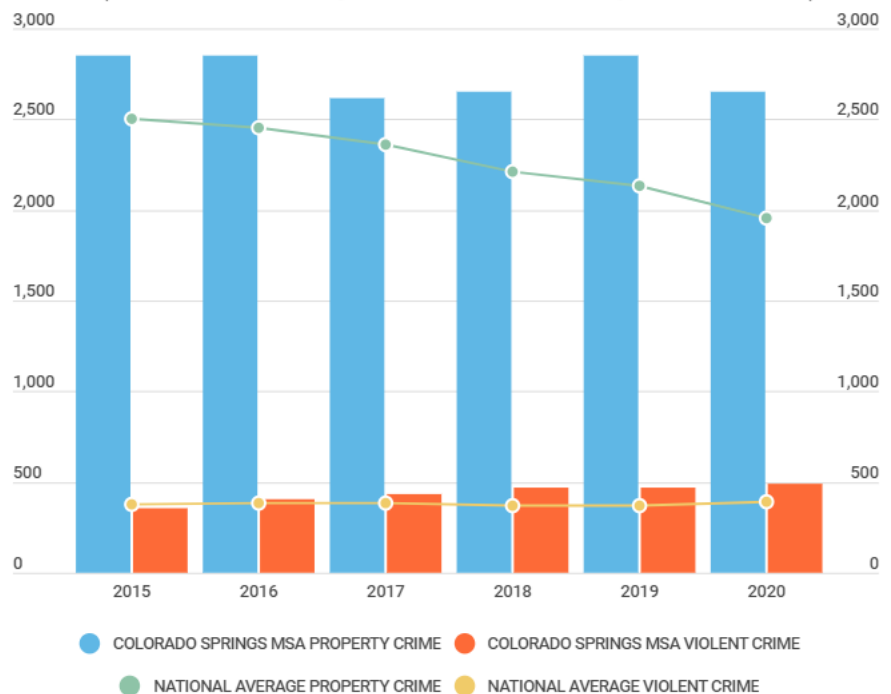
ESTIMATED COST OF CRIME PER PERSON
IN THE PIKES PEAK REGION IN 2020

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

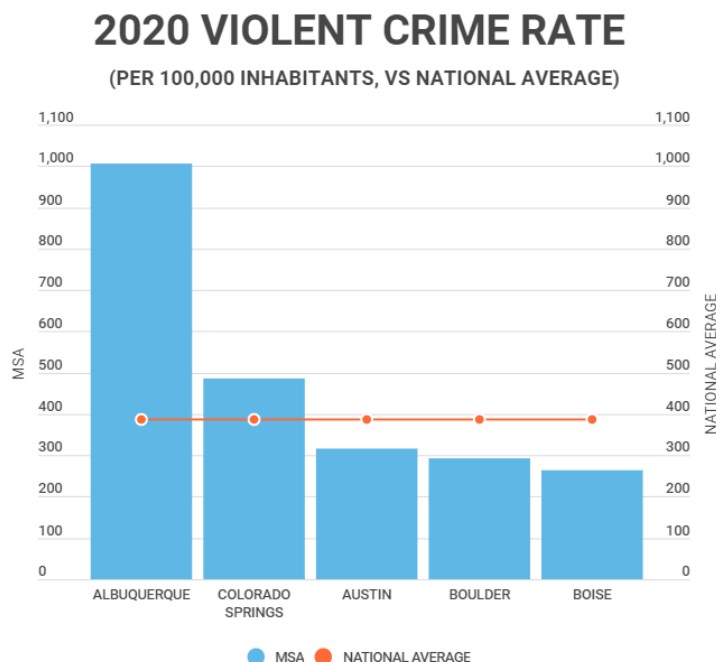
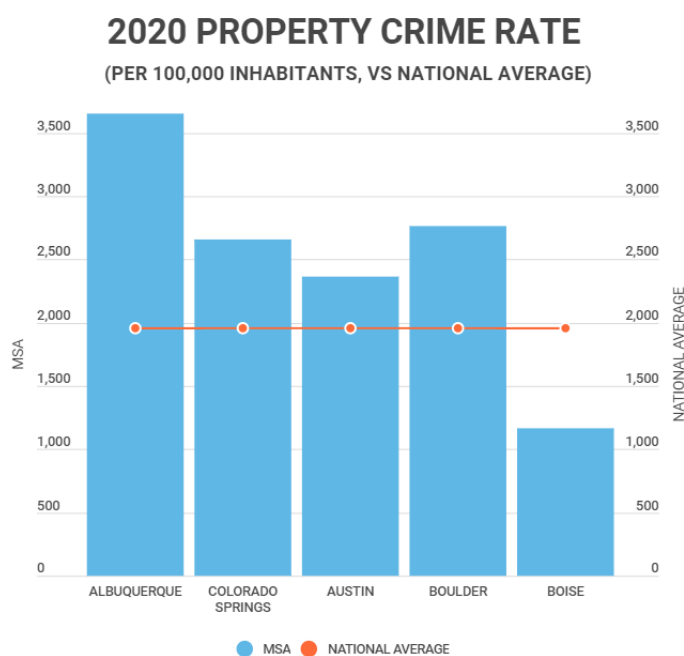
Comparing crime rates to those of other communities—and even to national averages—is discouraged by the FBI due to differences in reporting standards among local agencies. The

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.



⁷ Federal Bureau of Investigation

Hate Crimes

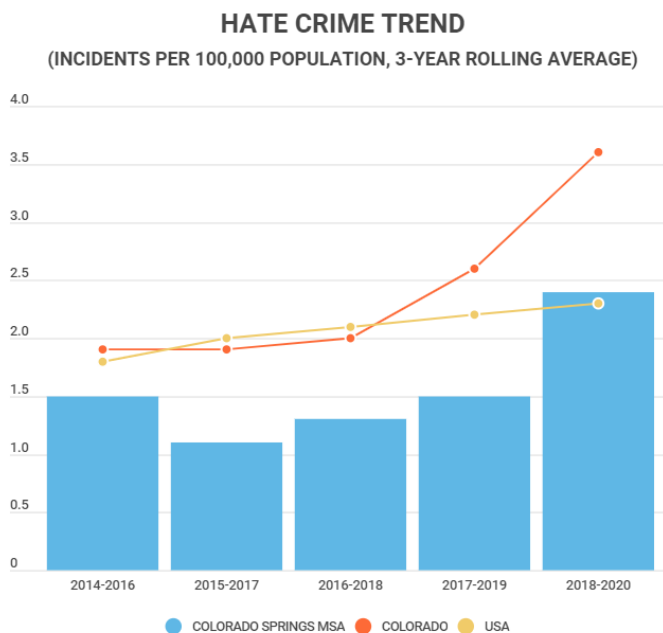
The FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting program defines hate crime as a committed criminal offense that is motivated, in whole or in part, by the offender's bias against one or more of the following.⁸

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

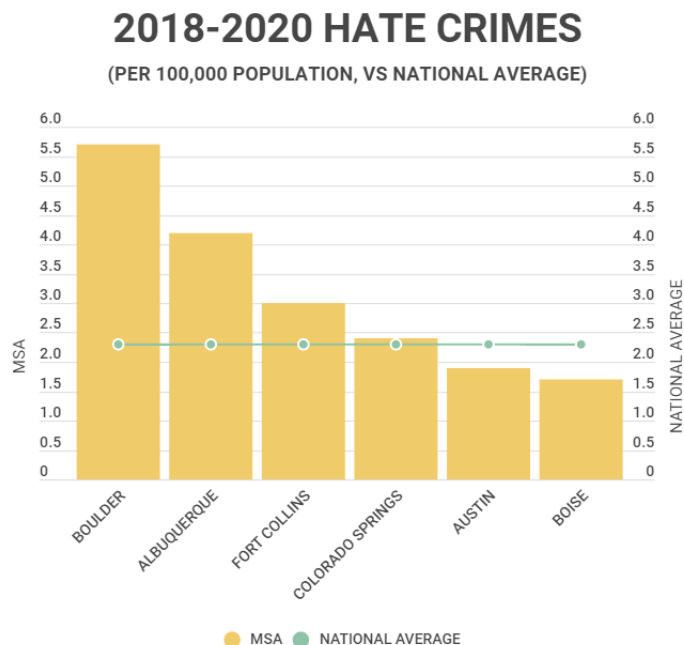
In 2020, 81% of law enforcement agencies participated in reporting hate crimes. Because not all agencies participate, results may be under-reported. Due to the small number of incidents recorded per year at the community level, three-year rolling averages are used.

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.



¹⁰ FBI, U.S. Census Bureau

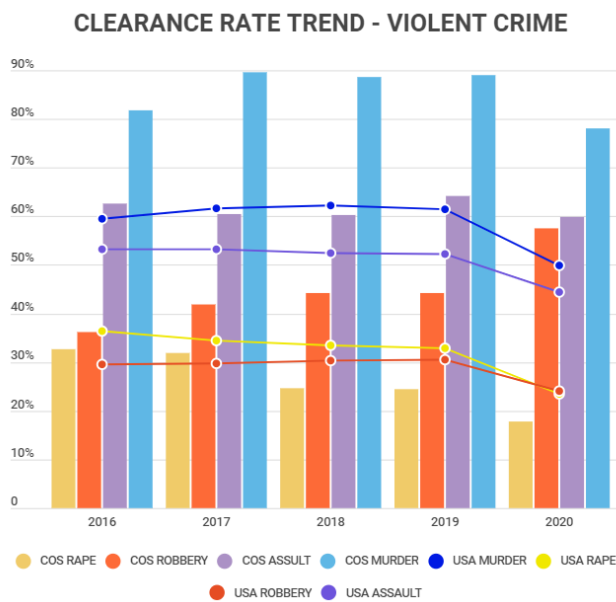


¹¹ FBI, U.S. Census Bureau

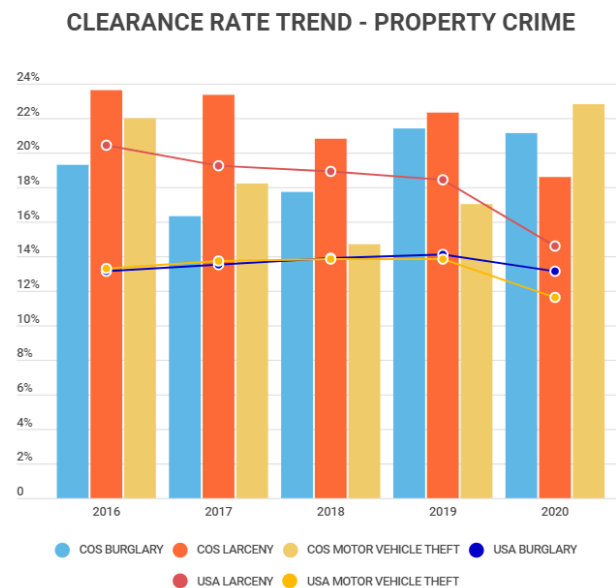
Crime Clearance Rates

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



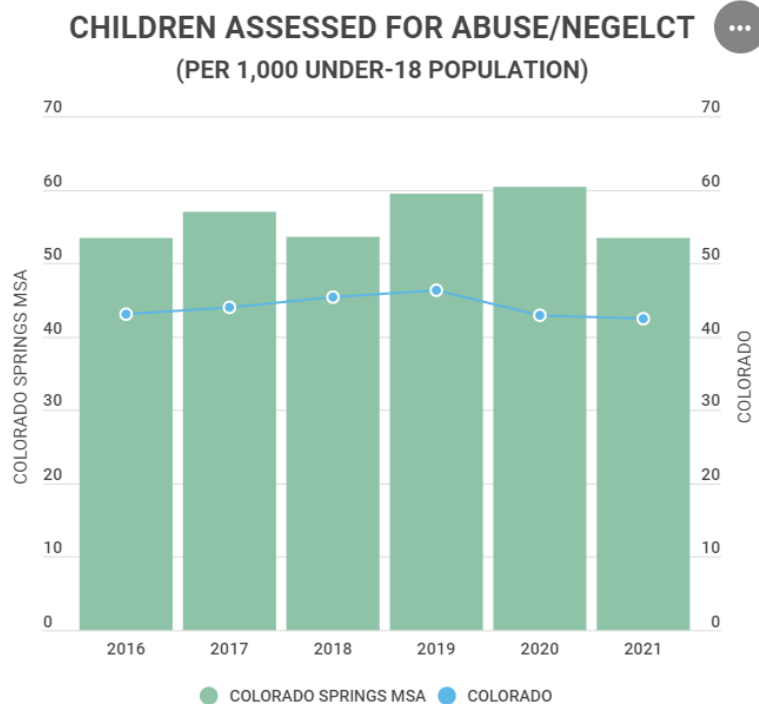
¹⁵ CSPD, FBI

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

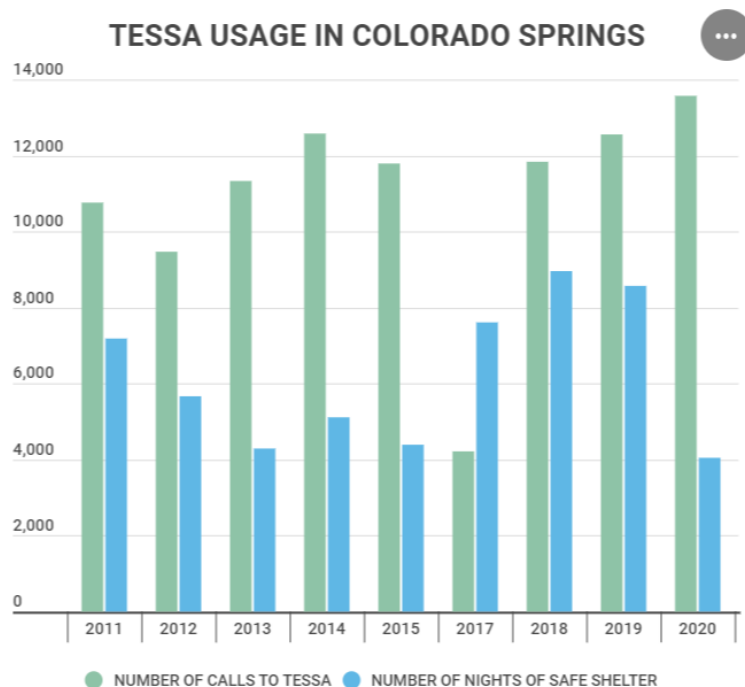
Another measure tracked by counties is the rate at which abuse or neglect recurs in cases where the state has intervened (whether inside or outside of the foster care system). In 2021, recurrence in Colorado Springs MSA was noted in 2.5% of cases, a rate similar to that of Boulder (2.4%) and Fort Collins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

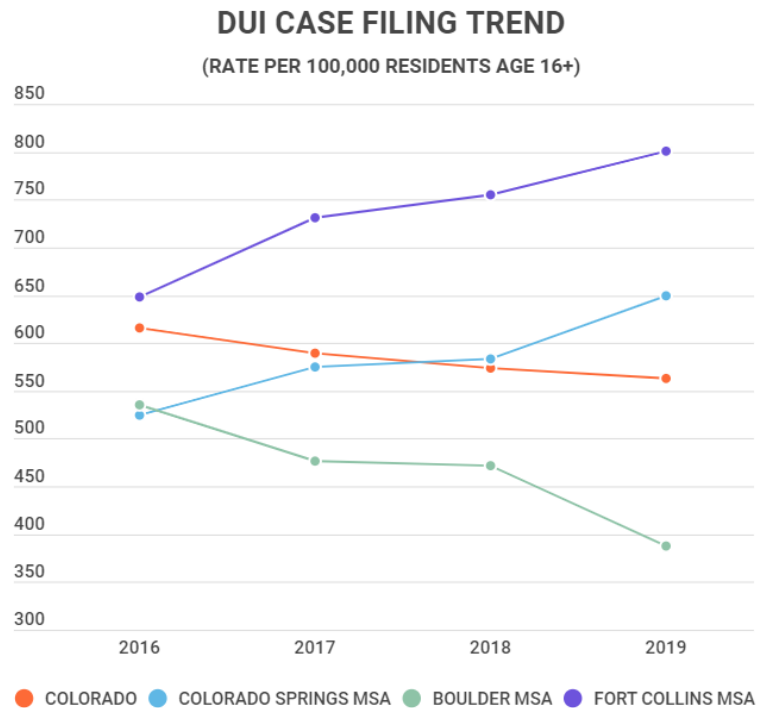
Source: Colorado Attorney General Office, U.S. Census Bureau

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

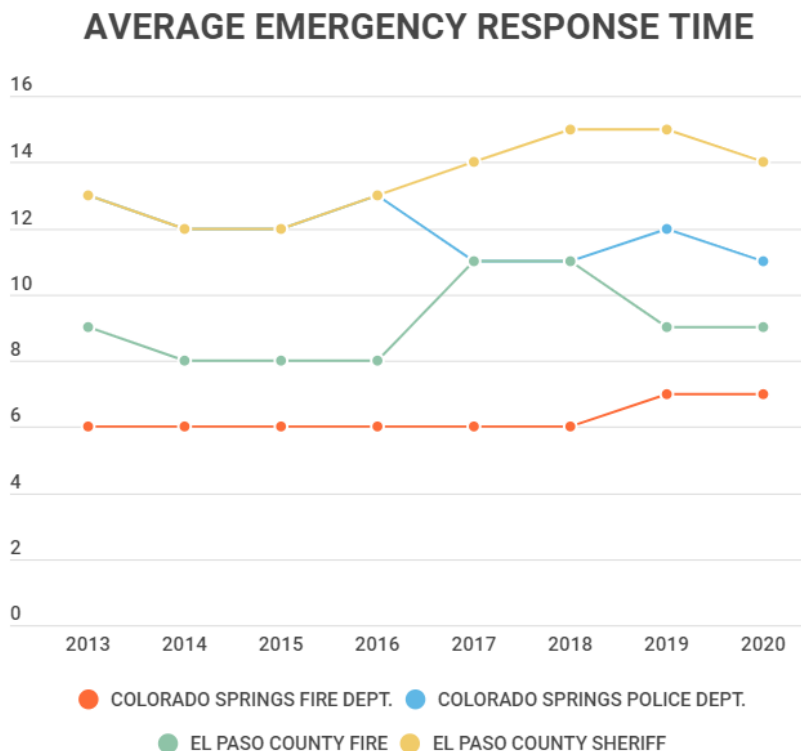
Emergency Response Time

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/>.

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- 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.



Peak Progress (Quality of Life Indicators)

RECREATION REPORT

Recreation Summary:

Colorado Springs will always be a special place to live, work, and visit because of the amazing natural beauty that attracted the community's founders. This inspiring beauty directly enhances quality of life but cannot be taken for granted.

Colorado Springs' quality of life will suffer if investment in parks and recreation continues to be half or less per capita than peer communities. Increasing investment will attract new residents, businesses, and tourists. Funding mechanisms should continue to include those directly paid by local residents as well as those paid primarily by visitors. Building and investing in the community's parks and recreation is an efficient approach to improve and sustain the high quality of life in the Pikes Peak region.

Finally, as the community builds, improves, and invests in parks, it should continue designing and improving spaces in such a way that inspires visitors to stay longer and spend more money to ensure a sustainable and healthy parks and recreation system.

- Colorado Springs is ranked 9th in Best Places to Live in America – Livability.com
- 92% of Colorado Springs residents are satisfied with the community's outdoor recreation opportunities and 84% of Colorado Springs residents are satisfied with public parks/spaces – a higher percent of satisfaction than any other aspect of living.
- Colorado Springs' park spending per resident is less than the national median and less than all peer communities except Albuquerque.
- Colorado Springs' proximity to and volume of national forests, national parks, BLM open spaces, state parks, county parks, and destination city managed parks may offset public desire to invest in city parks.
- The value of volunteer hours for time contributed within Colorado Springs Parks & Recreation ranked 1st amongst comparable cities.

COLORADO SPRINGS OUTDOOR RECREATION



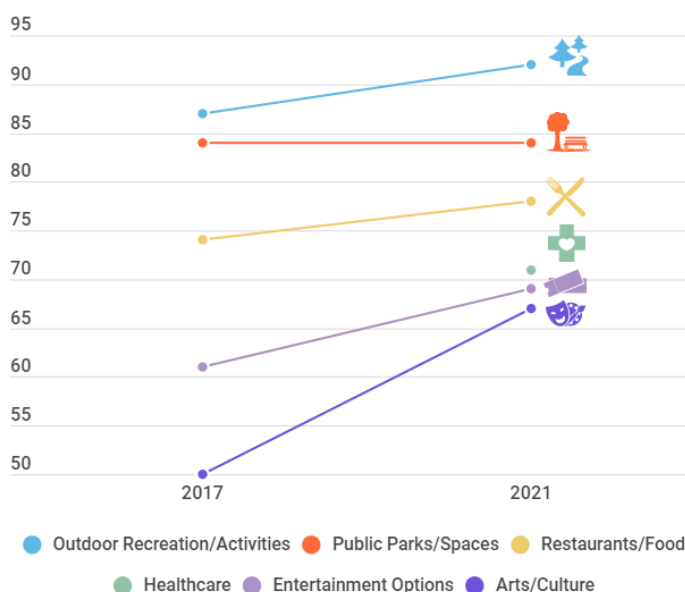
Parks and Recreation

Colorado Springs “offers unparalleled access to nature and plenty of outdoor recreation activities to keep us busy, making it one of the best places to live in America” according to Livability.com¹.

Colorado Springs was ranked 9th in Livability.com’s annual ranking of the best places to live in America. This makes the city unique amongst its peers, and is heralded as one of four U.S. cities that will be one of “the Next Dream Outdoor Hubs”³ by Outside.

The purpose of this report is to identify specific ways to continue improving this city and region to match its beautiful setting. Due to public parks and spaces having more readily available data compared to recreational activity data, this study focuses on public parks and spaces.

% OF RESIDENTS SATISFIED WITH SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF LIVING IN GREATER COS AREA



⁴ <https://elevatedinsights.com/ask-cos-2/>

According to AskCOS, an annual, syndicated tracking study for the greater Colorado Springs area, 92% of Colorado Springs residents are satisfied with the community’s recreation opportunities and 84% are satisfied with the parks/spaces – a higher percent of satisfaction than any other aspect of living.⁴

Park Systems

ParkScore®, prepared by Trust for Public Land (TPL), compares park systems across the 100 most populated cities in the United States. Published annually, the index measures park systems according to access, investment, amenities, acreage, and equity. (Boulder and Fort Collins are not among the 100 most populated American cities, therefore, they are not included in the scoring.)

ParkScore® Index, 2017 – 2022 (scored on a 100-point scale based on highest actual score among set)⁵

Colorado Springs has the smallest range of scores across these five measures (from 36 to 64), indicating a balanced approach to parks management.

It is also useful to compare park spending per resident. Colorado Springs’ spending is less than the national median and less than all peer communities except Albuquerque. Increases in per-capita spending between 2017 and 2022 in Austin, Boise, and Denver compared to Colorado Springs are also noteworthy.

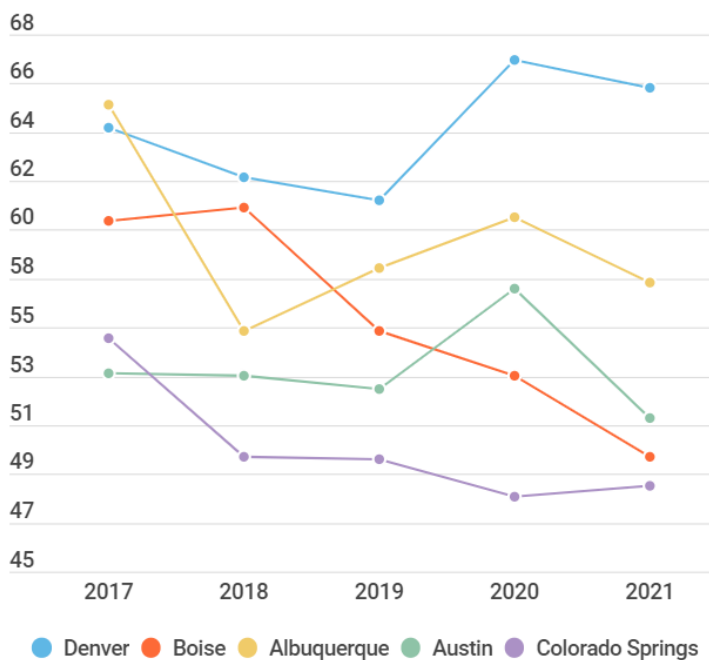
ParkScore®

Further investigation is warranted regarding how park space for military installations is considered.

Colorado Springs rates above-average on park space for lower-income

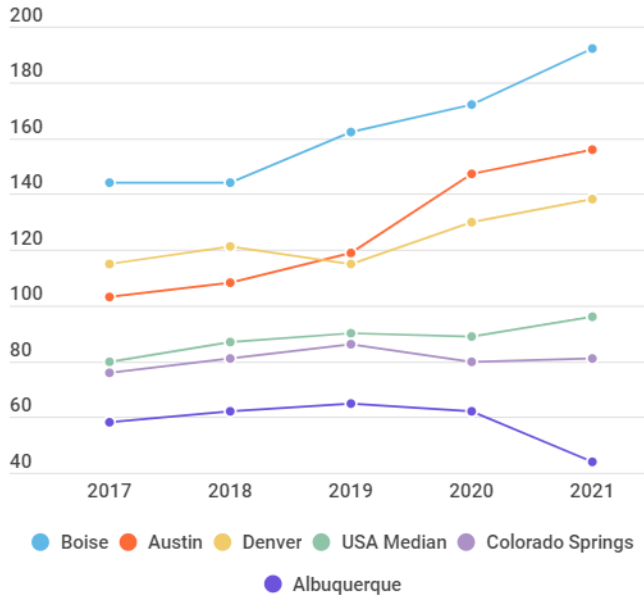
neighborhoods, yet very low on park space for neighborhoods of color. A contributor to this unusual pattern appears to be that military installations rank as underserved because park space there may not meet the definition of “no barrier to entry for any portion of the population.”

2017-2021 PARKSCORE® BETWEEN CITIES



⁵ <https://www.tpl.org/parkscore>

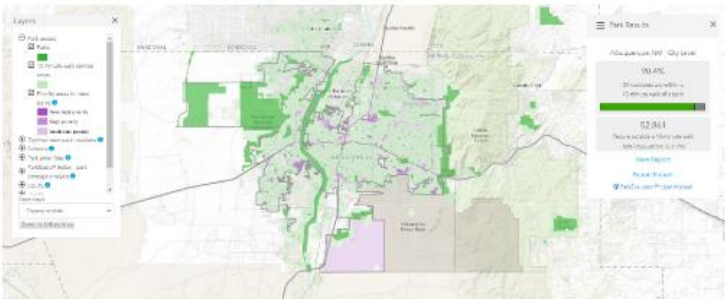
PARK INVESTMENT PER CAPITA



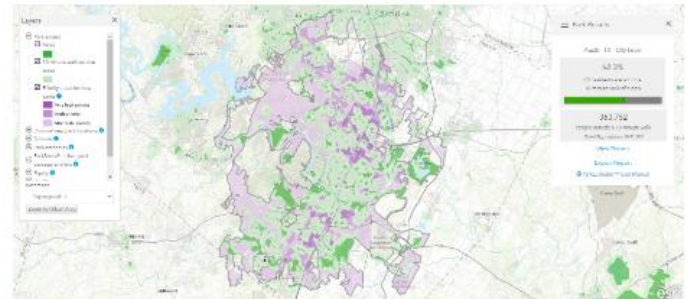
Colorado Springs parks and recreation ratings should be considered in context to Colorado Springs' proximity and volume of national forests, national parks, BLM open spaces, state parks and county parks. That wealth of resources has perhaps offset public desire to invest in city parks. The maps below visually show the park access differences between cities according to the Trust for Public Lands. Parks are highlighted in dark green.

⁷ Park System Per-capita Spending by Trust for Public Lands. ParkScore bases spending totals on a three-year rolling average and includes public and nonprofit spending as well as volunteer hours in their calculation. Spending figures for Denver do not include per capita spending for Aurora, a city that has traditionally invested more than Denver in its park system.

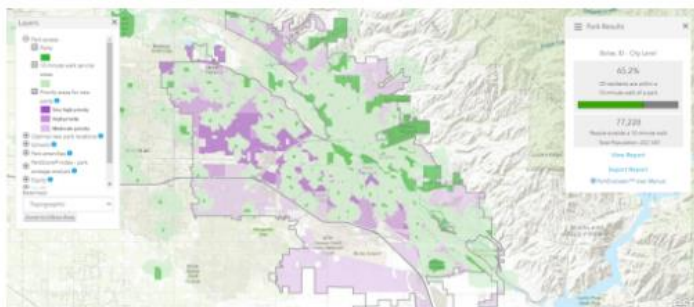
Albuquerque



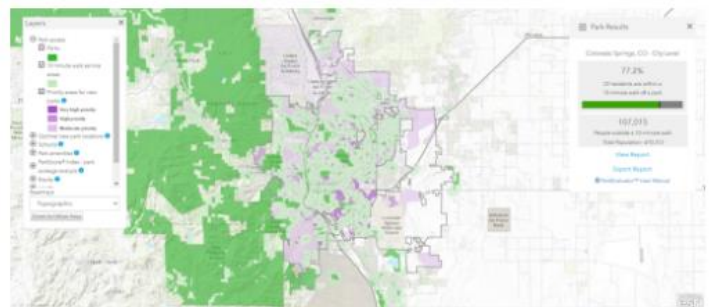
Austin



Boise

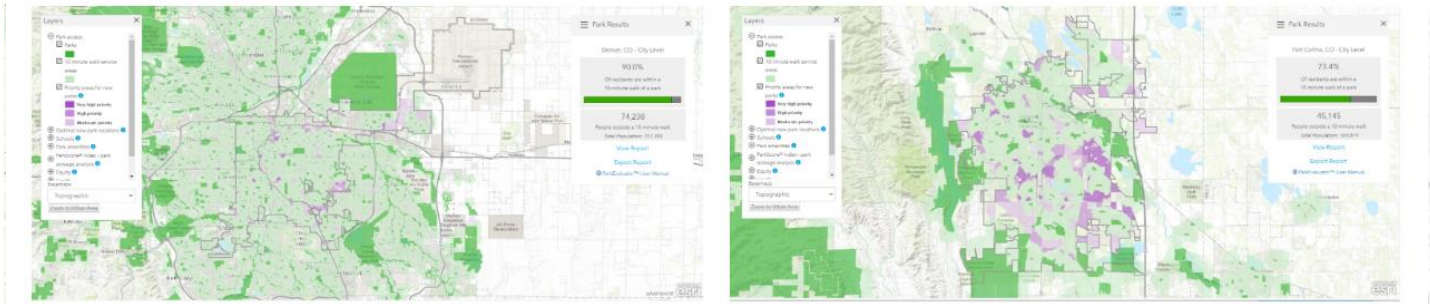


Colorado Springs



Denver

Fort Collins



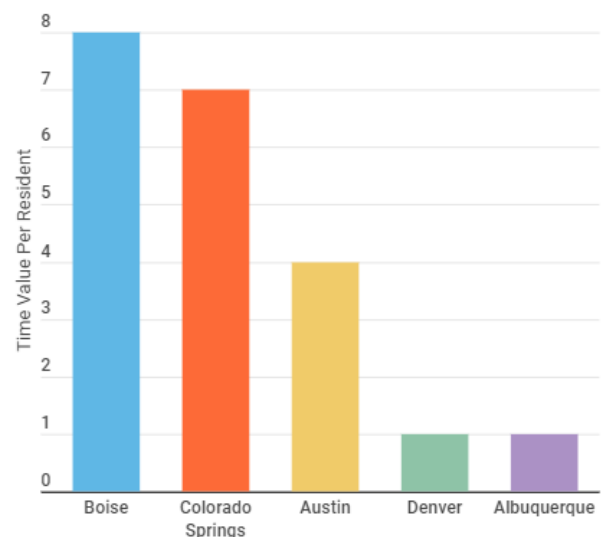
⁸ <https://www.tpl.org/parkscore>

An efficient and inexpensive method to improve quality of life centered around parks and recreation is to improve communication and coordination within the parks and recreation-focused community. Many parks and recreation stakeholders are involved in the Colorado Springs and Pikes Peak region. Organizations like the Pikes Peak Outdoor Recreation Alliance (PPORA), that bring numerous stakeholders together to communicate and align, are critically important. An opportunity, albeit complex, for PPORA could be to include other institutions with significant recreational assets like public school districts, colleges, sport's governing bodies, and large private organizations like YMCA and The Broadmoor.

It is also clear by the amount of measured volunteer hours, that even outside the daily businesses involved in outdoor recreation, Colorado Springs residents care more deeply about parks and recreation than many peer cities.

Several steps can be taken to increase the focus on and quality of Colorado Springs Parks and Recreation. For instance, emphasizing the monetized value of volunteer hours in Colorado Springs parks will increase park spending per capita with no budgetary cost. Additionally, focus should be placed on recreation and senior centers per capita. Only three communities out of the 100 surveyed have fewer recreation and senior centers than Colorado Springs. Also, continuing to expand publicly managed trails, can increase access to underserved populations within a 10-minute walk at relatively low cost. Colorado Springs can also work with ParkScore® personnel to determine if park space

VALUE OF VOLUNTEER HOURS (PER CAPITA)



⁹ <https://www.tpl.org/parkscore>

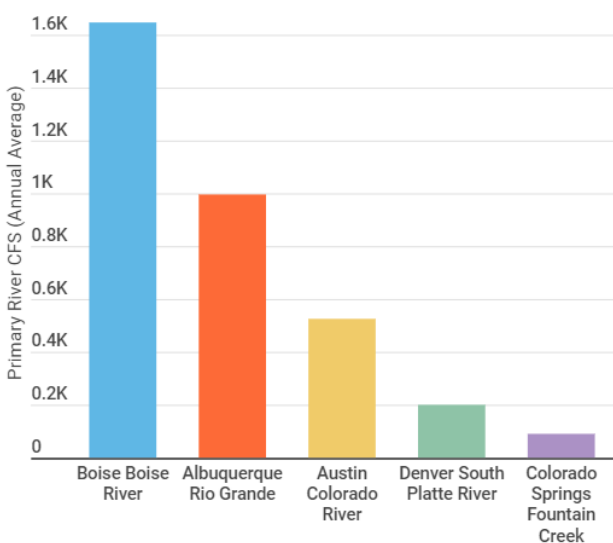
on military installations (especially pass-through trails) can be recognized in the system as accessible. Finally, planners, developers, and the public are encouraged to use the ParkServe mapping application for informed decision making about public access to parks, trails, and open space.

[SEE MORE PARKSERVE CONTEXTUAL DATA.](#)

Water Recreation

In contrast to the comparison cities, Colorado Springs has the smallest amount of urban creek/ river water access that is measured by the year-over-year average of cubic feet per second of a primary waterway. Public lakes and ponds also provide access to recreational water, but a reliable data set could not be found for comparison. Fountain Creek, the central waterway in Colorado Springs needs special attention and investment to ensure the best use of this limited resource.

ANNUAL WATER FLOW (CFS)



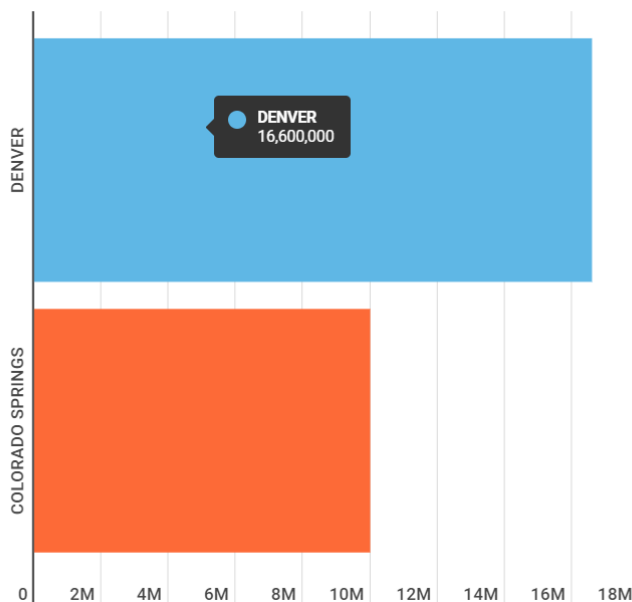
¹⁰ snoflo.org

Recreational Tourism

Tourism is and has been a leading industry in Colorado Springs since its founding. Outdoor recreation access is a critical element in driving visitors, with Pikes Peak and Garden of the Gods being two nationally ranked parks. The following comparative data is limited to Denver and Colorado Springs.

According to a 2021 Longwoods International tourism report, Denver saw 6.2 million more overnight visits in 2021 than Colorado Springs, or 62% more. As a capital city, regional hub, and one of the busiest airports in the country, Denver, is expected to have more overnight visitors and more business travelers in particular.

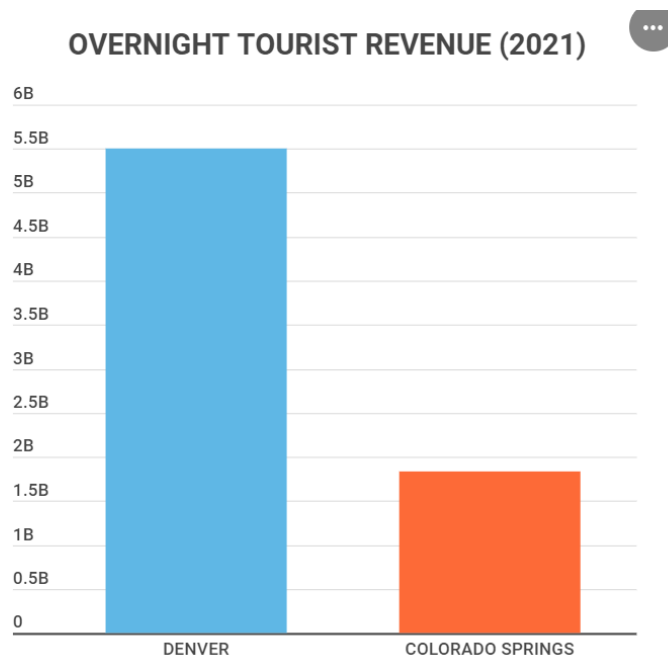
OVERNIGHT TOURIST VISTS



¹¹ Longwood, Travel USA Visitor Profile 2021 for Colorado Springs, accessed 8/8/22

However, the revenue spent per overnight visit in Denver (\$331) was essentially twice that of Colorado Springs (\$176). Furthermore, it seems safe to estimate that The Broadmoor, being arguably the best luxury hotel in Colorado, drives the Colorado Springs overnight spend up and without it there would be a more dramatic disparity in overnight spend.

Based on the amount spent by tourists on day trips in Colorado Springs, it seems important to plan and influence recreation attractions, facilities, fees, and transportation in a way to increase opportunities for tourists to spend more dollars and stay overnight.



¹² <https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/denver-tourism-surges-to-31m-visitors-in-2021-301573410.html>

Dive Deeper:

Stay up to date with the new Pikes Peak Outdoor Economy Data Dashboard with this link:

<https://ppora-data-hub-ges-gislab.hub.arcgis.com/>

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³ <https://www.outsideonline.com/adventure-travel/destinations/best-adventure-cities-2020/>

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⁵ <https://www.tpl.org/parkscore>

⁶ <https://www.tpl.org/parkscore>

⁷ Note: ParkScore bases spending totals on a three-year rolling average and includes public and nonprofit spending as well as volunteer hours in their calculation. Spending figures for Denver do not include per capita spending for Aurora, a city that has traditionally invested more than Denver in its park system.

⁸ <https://parkserve.tpl.org/mapping/index.html>

⁹ <https://www.tpl.org/parkscore>

¹⁰ snoflo.org

¹¹ Longwoods, Travel USA Visitor Profile 2021 for Colorado Springs, accessed 8/8/22

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Peak Progress (Quality of Life Indicators)

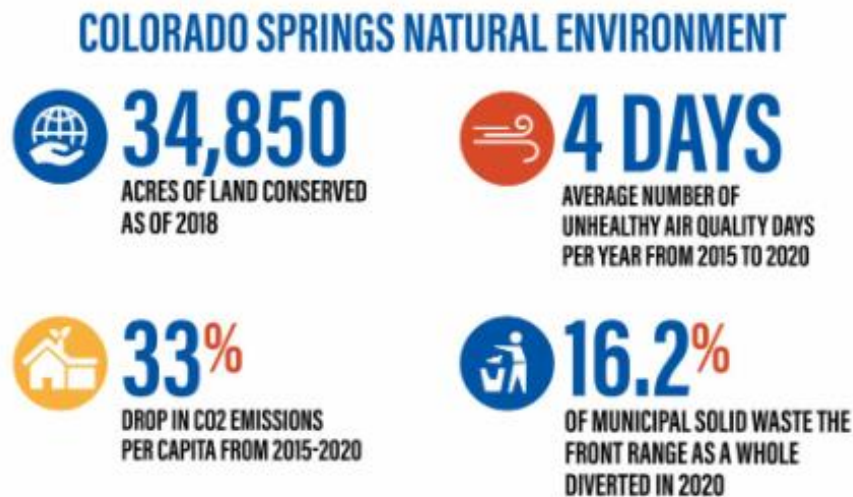
NATURAL ENVIRONMENT REPORT

Natural Environment Summary:

The Pikes Peak region's natural environment is a treasured, vital, and vulnerable asset that is key to the community's way of life. It plays an integral role in the community's health, economy, and vitality, and we work hard as a community to ensure that it is protected and preserved.

Our natural environment is also a source of identity and pride for many in the region as well as the reason many community members choose to live here. It is imperative that we maintain the balance of health of our natural environment as it directly affects the plants, animals, and other species that depend on it, and that we depend on, to survive. It is without question that our natural environment will impact our quality of life today and into the future.

- Among 6 peer communities, Colorado Springs ranks 3rd in acreage conserved as a percentage of total land area and 2nd in growth in acreage conserved since 2010.
- In 2021, Colorado Springs' 92 watersheds had an average health index of 0.72 (relative to state standards with 0.00 being the unhealthiest and 1.00 being the healthiest)
- For the five-year period ending in 2020, Colorado Springs averaged four unhealthy days per year in air quality, which ranked 2nd of 6 peer communities for fewest unhealthy days.
- From 2015 to 2020, Colorado Springs reduced its carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions by 33%. However, among 6 peer communities, Colorado Springs still only ranks 5th for CO₂ emissions per capita; Colorado Springs Utilities, which provides electricity and gas to much of the area, agreed in 2020 to cut a further 80% of its greenhouse gas emissions by 2030.
- In 2020, the front range as a whole diverted 16.2% of its municipal solid waste. That corresponds to 1.1 pounds of recycled waste per person, per day (out of 6.9 pounds of waste generated).



KEY INDICATORS

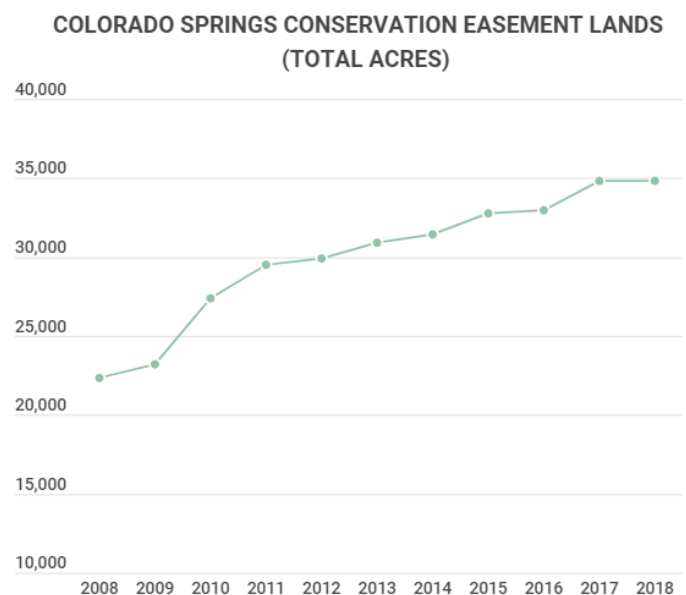
For generations, people have been drawn to the natural beauty and landscapes of the Pikes Peak region. As more people come to enjoy the area, however, more pressure is placed on the natural environment, which is a source of scenic beauty, wildlife habitat, food and water, and economic productivity.

Palmer Land Conservancy CEO, Rebecca Jewett, has said, “Protecting, conserving, and stewarding land, nature, and water is ultimately a catalyst for our community’s well-being, resiliency, and prosperity.”¹

Land Conservation

Land conservation provides critical habitat for native plants and wildlife, protects watersheds, advances recreation and tourism, and supports food production. To prioritize land conservation, the State of Colorado uses a portion of lottery revenues to acquire land via Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO).² It also provides a tax credit to encourage private landowners to set aside lands as conservation easements—a legal designation that preserves land use, restricts future development, and ensures a public benefit.³

Through those two vehicles, the state invested more than \$1 billion in land conservation from 1995 to 2017, with each dollar spent producing at least \$4 in public benefits—or \$2,700 per acre.⁴



⁶ Colorado Ownership, Management and Protection (COMaP)

As of 2018 in El Paso and Teller Counties, 159 land parcels had been set aside as conservation easements, comprising 34,850 acres. That represents 2.0% of the total metro land area.⁵

In terms of total acreage and percent of land area conserved, Colorado Springs trails Boulder and Fort Collins. However, Colorado Springs has substantially closed the gap, with a third of its easement acreage having been added since the beginning of 2010 (vs. less than 10% for Boulder and less than 15% for Fort Collins).

Across six peer communities, Colorado Springs ranks 3rd in acreage conserved as a percentage of total land area and 2nd in growth in acreage conserved since the beginning of 2010.⁷

Watershed Health and Water Body Impairment

A watershed is a region of land that drains to a single point in a body of water such as a stream, river, or lake. Smaller watersheds, like creeks are part of bigger watersheds, like rivers. All watersheds eventually drain to the oceans. Everyone lives in a watershed.

Healthy watersheds support wildlife, recreation, agriculture and supplies of drinking water. They are marked by clean water (free from pollutants and harmful bacteria), a thriving habitat, and movement of water (hydrology) and land (geomorphology) that varies within an expected natural range.⁸

The Pikes Peak region spans a boundary between two regional watersheds—the South Platte River and the Arkansas River. Within those regional watersheds are 92 defined smaller watersheds. Several of those make up the Fountain Creek watershed (shown in map), which drains 927 square miles of land and water from the top of Pikes Peak to Pueblo, including nearly all of the city of Colorado Springs. Varying widely in elevation, precipitation, soil type, temperature, gradient, ecosystem, and water use, Fountain Creek is a challenging environment to manage.⁹



The Healthy Watersheds Assessments Project of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) monitors watershed conditions for impacts from erosion, floods, wildfires, litter, and chemical and biological pollutants.¹⁰ Several measures are combined into overall indexes of watershed health and vulnerability, relative to state and ecological region.¹¹

The EPA's watershed health index ranges from 0.00 (unhealthiest) to 1.00 (healthiest). In 2021, Colorado Springs' 92 watersheds had an average health index of 0.72 (relative to state standards). That compared favorably to Boulder, whose 33 watersheds averaged 0.64.¹²

However, some watersheds in Colorado Springs did score high for vulnerability. In 2021, five local watersheds had statewide vulnerability index scores greater than 0.50, while none of Boulder County’s watersheds did. The most vulnerable watersheds include:

Watershed	Statewide Vulnerability Index (higher is more vulnerable)
Lower Monument Creek	0.63
City of Colorado Springs-Fountain Creek	0.58
Cottonwood Creek	0.56
Sand Creek	0.55
Cheyenne Mountain	0.52

13 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Additionally, states are required by the Clean Water Act to report whether individual bodies of water have experienced significant impairments in water quality.¹⁴ Sixty of the 72 defined water bodies in El Paso and Teller Counties (which includes segments of creeks and rivers, along with their tributaries, as well as groups of ponds in close proximity) have been assessed in the 2022 reporting cycle. Of those, 63% (38) were rated as good (unimpaired), while 37% (22) were rated as impaired. The most common impairment was bacteria and microbes (noted in 13 bodies of water), followed by metals (10). That rate also compares favorably to Boulder, where 77% of 57 assessed water bodies were rated as impaired.¹⁵

Organizations, businesses, and neighborhood groups can volunteer to improve watershed health through the City of Colorado Springs’ Adopt-A-Waterway program. In 2019, more than 3,300 volunteers removed 32.9 tons of litter from area waterways.¹⁶

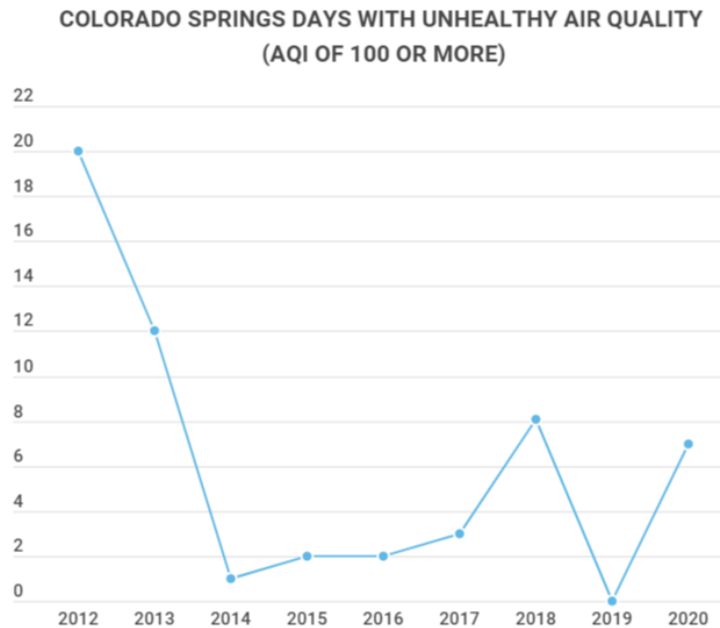
[Watershed Health Supplement](#)

Air Quality

The EPA is authorized through the Clean Air Act to establish and monitor air-quality standards to protect public health and to regulate emissions of hazardous air pollutants.¹⁷

Among the six pollutants it monitors, ozone is of greatest concern in the Pikes Peak region. Ozone has harmful effects on the respiratory system, particularly for children and people with asthma and lung diseases. It forms when sunlight causes a chemical reaction between nitrogen oxides—emitted from combustion engines and furnaces—and organic compounds, such as those in gasoline vapor, dry cleaning chemicals, and refinery emissions. The EPA standard for maximum ozone levels in the air is 70 parts per billion.

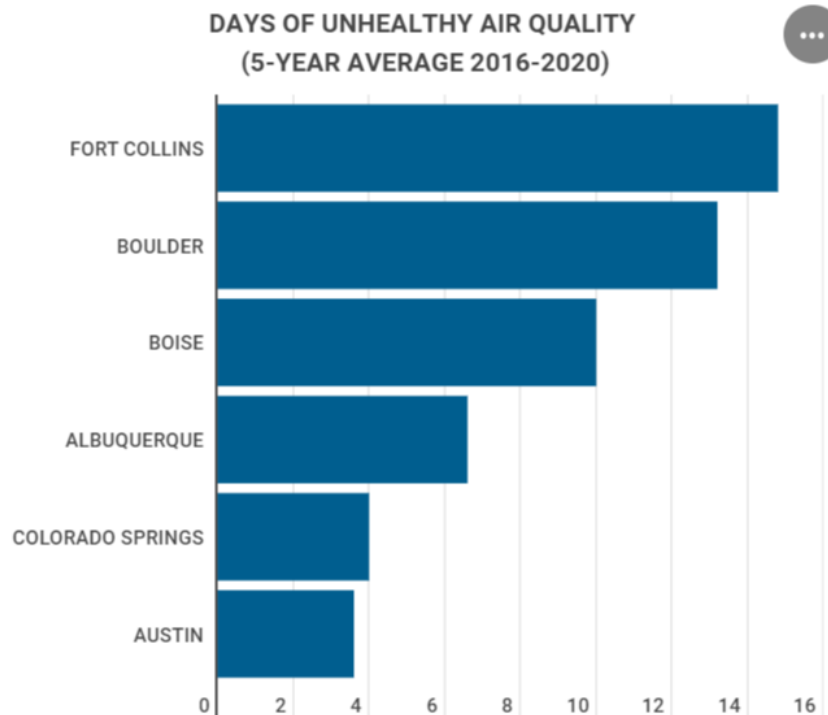
Air quality in the region is monitored year-round at monitoring stations in Manitou Springs and at the U.S. Air Force Academy, where ozone concentrations are usually the highest. Air Quality Index (AQI) levels over 100 are considered “unhealthy for sensitive groups”; levels over 150 are “unhealthy” for all populations.¹⁸ The following charts show the number in which the AQI exceeded 100.¹⁹



²⁰ AirNow

For Colorado Springs, the most significant number of unhealthy days in the past decade occurred during the 2012 Waldo Canyon Fire, which burned for 18 days in the northwest portion of Colorado Springs.²¹

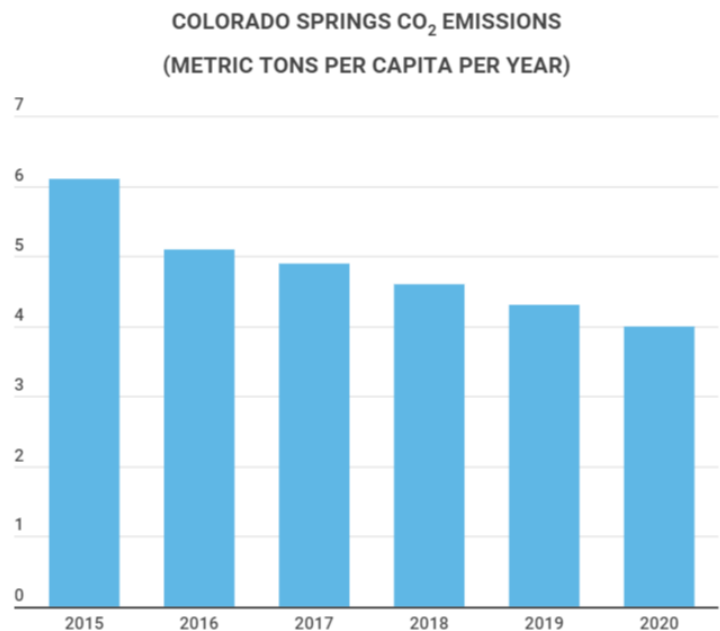
For the five-year period ending in 2020, Colorado Springs averaged four unhealthy days per year, which ranked 2nd of 6 peer communities for fewest unhealthy days.



²² AirNow

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Greenhouse gases absorb heat in the atmosphere and release it gradually over time, like bricks in a fireplace cooling slowly after the fire dies. Carbon dioxide (CO₂) is the most abundant of these gases. It is naturally present in the atmosphere; its greenhouse effect prevents earth's average annual temperature from being below freezing. Forests and soils remove and store CO₂ from the atmosphere, but industrial activity and combustion from fossil fuels have created an overabundance of CO₂. Due to CO₂ staying in the atmosphere longer than many other gases, it both creates unnatural warmth and raises the acidity of ocean water.²³

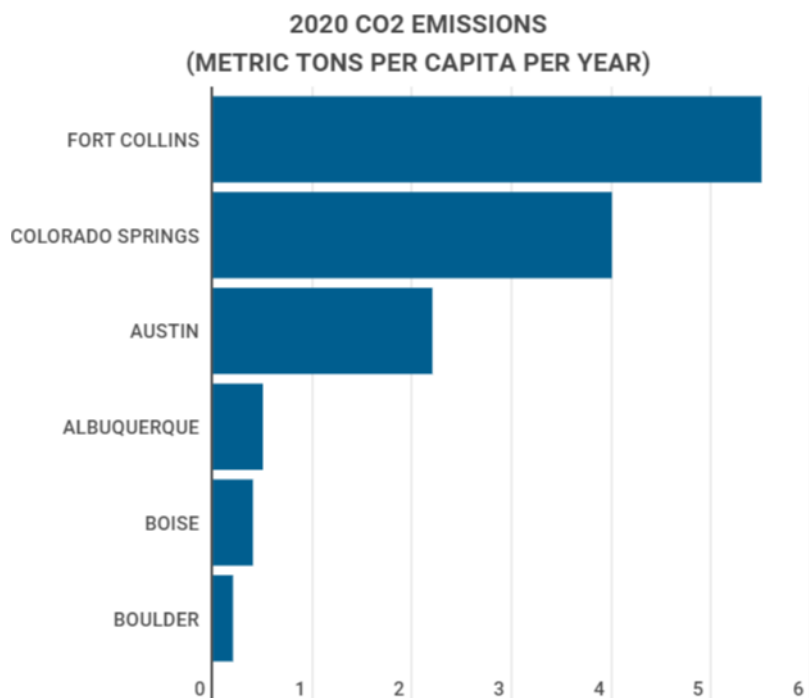


²⁶ U.S. Environmental Protection Agency,
U.S. Census Bureau

Colorado has the 11th-highest rate of CO₂ production among U.S. states.²⁴ Emissions from large facilities in the metro area have trended downward in recent years as governments and industry have sought to reduce emissions.²⁵

The state of Colorado is pursuing ambitious policies to address greenhouse gas emissions across the state.²⁸ Among those policies is linking funding for transportation projects to decreasing greenhouse gas emissions.²⁹

Colorado Springs Utilities, which provides electricity and gas to much of the area, agreed in 2020 to cut 80% of its emissions by 2030.³⁰



²⁷ U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Census Bureau

Waste and Recycling

Municipal solid waste (MSW) refers to garbage or trash from households and businesses, much of which is disposed of in landfills. The MSW diversion rate reflects how much of the generated waste is diverted from disposal in a landfill (or incineration) by recycling and composting. Diversion rates are commonly measured as a percentage of all waste generated or on the basis of pounds-per-person.

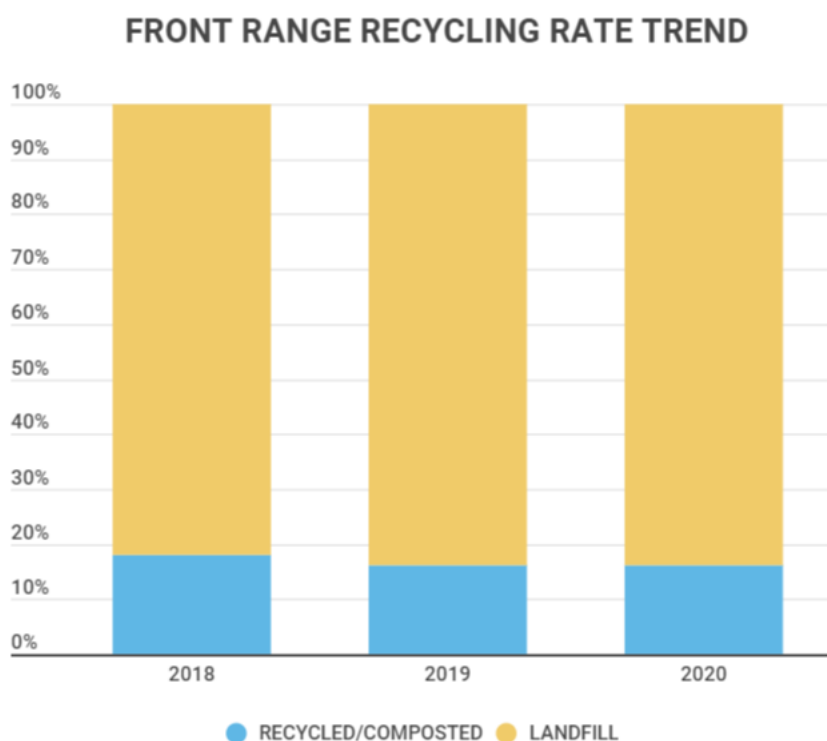
The state of Colorado reports on recycling for the state as a whole and also for the 11-county front-range urban/suburban corridor. Availability of county- and city-level data is dependent on locally authorized monitoring.³¹

In 2020, the front range as a whole diverted 16.2% of its MSW. That corresponds to 1.1 pounds of recycled waste per person, per day (out of 6.9 pounds of waste generated).³²

The front range's rate and Colorado's statewide rate (17.2% in 2018, 15.3% in 2020) are far below the national average (32.1% in 2018).³⁴

Only one cited study of recycling in El Paso and Teller counties was identified; conducted in 2010, it indicated an MSW diversion rate of 11 percent.³⁵ That rate compares unfavorably to those calculated in recent years for Larimer County (32.0% in 2016)³⁶ and Boulder County (44.6% in 2018).³⁷

Colorado Springs hired its first dedicated sustainability coordinator in 2021.³⁸



³³ Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

Next Steps

The City of Colorado Springs' Comprehensive Master Plan, PlanCOS, lists "Majestic Landscapes" among its six priority areas.³⁹ The plan includes numerous strategies for protecting and improving the natural environment, including:

- Acquire or protect additional properties to preserve as part of Natural Resources and Regional Recreation Typology 3 and Greenways Typology 5. (Strategy ML-4.A-1)
- Align annexation, master plans, and large-scale planned unit developments to contribute and connect to natural areas. (Strategy ML-4.A-4)
- Consider establishment of wildlife-sensitive composting and recycling programs on City-owned and partner-entity properties. (Strategy ML-4.B-2)
- Encourage increased use of xeric and native plants throughout most landscaped park and median areas. Reduce the water demand footprint and maintenance costs in parks by identifying high water use turf areas not suitable for recreation and replacing a percentage of these areas with lower-water requiring native grass species. (Strategy ML-4.B-4)
- Update the Commercial Landscape Code and Policy Manual to improve its effectiveness at ensuring healthy, resilient, water-conserving landscapes. Provide adequate funding to ensure on-site inspections of each project. (Strategy ML-4.B-7)
- Coordinate with Colorado Springs Utilities on the decommissioning of the Drake Power Plant and replacement power. (Strategy ML-4.C-1)
- Support and implement cost effective upgrades to Colorado Springs' vehicle and equipment fleets to incorporate zero and low emissions technology. (Strategy ML-4.C-4)
- Partner with Colorado Springs Utilities and school districts to support educational efforts and provide incentives to support water and energy conservation, and environmental quality best practices. (Strategy ML-4.D-3)

Stay up to date with the new [Pikes Peak Outdoor Economy Data Dashboard](#).

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City of Colorado Springs-Fountain Creek:
<https://mywaterway.epa.gov/community/110200030303/overview>;
Cottonwood Creek: <https://mywaterway.epa.gov/community/110200030106/overview>;
Sand Creek: <https://mywaterway.epa.gov/community/110200030302/overview>;
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³⁷ MSW Consultants, Countywide Waste Composition Study, Final Report, Nov. 25, 2019, p.4 <https://assets.bouldercounty.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/boulder-county-final-waste-composition-study-2019.pdf>, accessed June 20, 2022. Also note Setzke, Rachel; Bailey, Kate; & Katz, Danny, Eco-Cycle/Colorado Public Interest Research Group, State of Recycling and Composting in Colorado, 5th ed. (2021), p. 14, citing 43% in 2020. https://ecocycle.org/files/pdfs/2021_State_of_Recycling_and_Composting_in_Colorado_Report.pdf, accessed June 20, 2022.

³⁸ Ibid., p. 18. The role of sustainability coordinator was created by the city in October 2015 and was the responsibility of the contract compliance manager prior to the hire of full-time coordinator Samantha Bailey in Feb. 2021. UCCS Office of Sustainability, Feb. 2016 newsletter, https://sustain.uccs.edu/sites/g/files/kjihxj1306/files/inline-files/Spotlight_on_New_Sustainability_Manager_for_City_of_Colorado_Springs-FINAL.pdf, accessed June 20, 2022.



Peak Progress (Quality of Life Indicators)

HEALTH REPORT

Health Summary:

While Coloradans have traditionally enjoyed good health compared to residents of other states, we are developing more complex physical and mental health problems which, if not addressed, will influence the health of our community in the future. Data can better help us understand critical indicators surrounding our health and influence our trajectory. Those indicators include adult and childhood obesity, behavioral health (particularly suicide and substance use), and access to care.

Understanding the Pikes Peak region's health is a complex endeavor. Historic and current day policies and practices influences a complex interplay of factors that shape our health status and outcomes. As a result, it is difficult to make sensible generalizations about a community's health. Instead, this complexity invites us to look more closely at the different factors influencing health to understand our region's strengths and opportunities for improvement. This often involves analyzing health issues in a disaggregated fashion to detect health disparities among demographic groups or geographic regions, which we have reflected in the presentation of health data in this section.

- El Paso and Teller Counties have a significantly higher rate of premature death relative to the state overall.
- In El Paso and Teller Counties, the proportion of the adult population estimated to be obese was 28% in 2020, an increase from 21% in 2015.
- Data from 2020 indicates that 15% of El Paso County individuals (ages 5+) reported 14 or more days of poor mental health within the previous 30 days.
- In El Paso County, drug-related deaths jumped from 130 to 186 between 2019 and 2020.
- Colorado Springs has a higher age-adjusted suicide rate than the state overall as well as peer communities in Colorado.
- In 2019, Colorado Springs had 61.8 primary care physicians per 100,000 population or 1 for every 1,620 residents.
- 9% of Colorado Springs residents under age 65 lacked health coverage in 2019.
- The pandemic affected primary care utilization, resulting in a 25% drop in visits to care providers.
- More than 25% of Colorado Springs MSA residents have contracted COVID-19.

COLORADO SPRINGS HEALTH



OF COLORADO SPRINGS
RESIDENTS UNDER AGE 65
LACKED HEALTH COVERAGE
IN 2019



IN EL PASO COUNTY, DRUG-RELATED
DEATHS JUMPED FROM 130 TO 186
BETWEEN 2019 AND 2020.



OF COLORADO SPRINGS
MSA RESIDENTS HAVE
CONTRACTED COVID-19



OF ADULTS ESTIMATED TO BE OBESE
IN EL PASO AND TELLER COUNTIES
IN 2019

Key Indicators:

The World Health Organization defines health as “a state of complete physical, mental, and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity.”¹ Good health allows us the opportunity and ability to pursue and achieve life’s delights, interests and goals. Five determinants of health that are widely accepted as influencing length and quality of life include the following:²

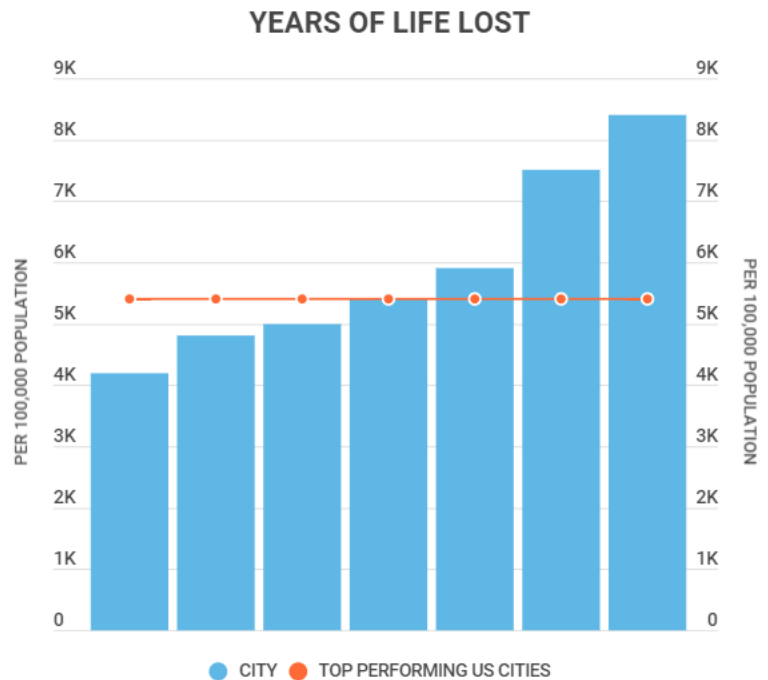
- Health behavior (such as nutrition, physical activity, and substance use)
- Healthcare access and quality
- Genetics
- Social and economic factors
- Physical environment

This report looks at length of life, along with health behaviors and healthcare access.

Length of Life

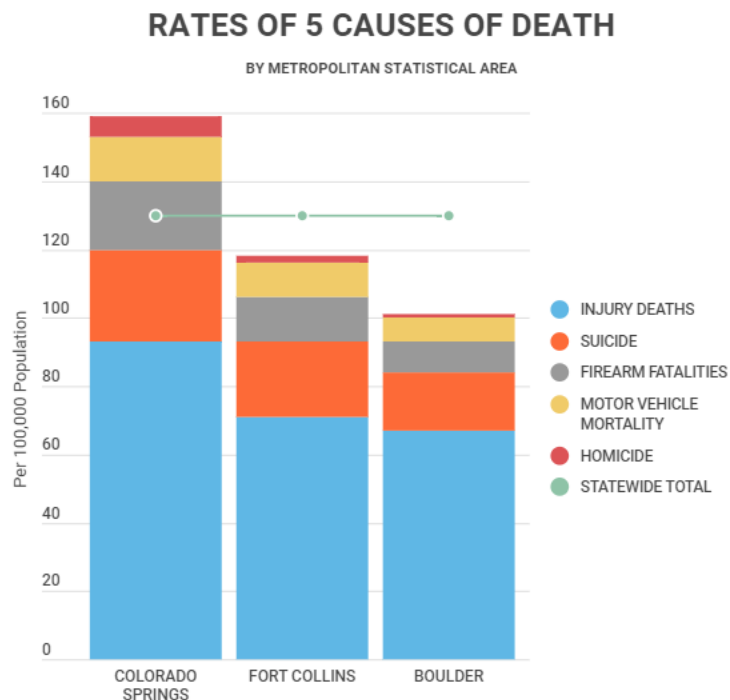
A key measure of community health is the rate of premature deaths—that is, the years of potential life lost before age 75³. The fewer premature deaths experienced, the healthier the community. This measure focuses attention on preventable causes of death among people in their younger and middle years. Colorado Springs Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) has a significantly higher rate of premature death than the state overall. It ranks 5th of 6 peer communities.

Between 2015 and 2019, Colorado Springs fared worse than peer Colorado communities in rates of preventable deaths. Additionally, Colorado Springs' COVID-19 death rate up to April 2022 has exceeded Boulder's by 91% and Fort Collins' by 55%.



⁴ National Center for Health Statistics – Mortality Files, as cited by County Health Rankings

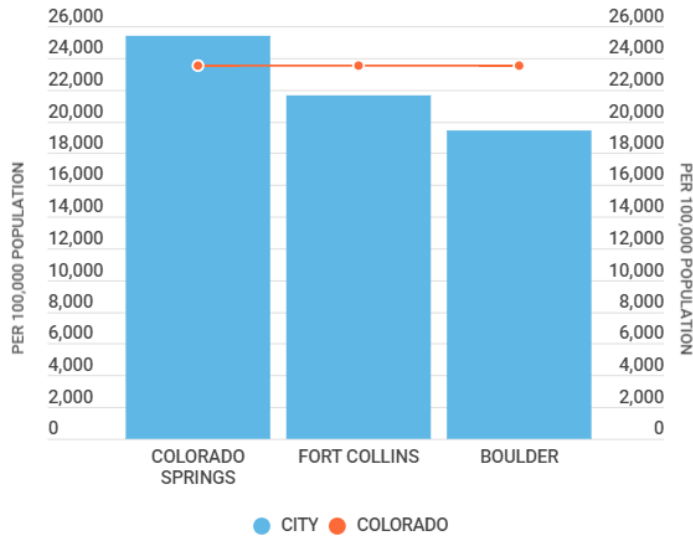
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⁵ National Center for Health Statistics – Mortality Files, as cited by County Health Rankings

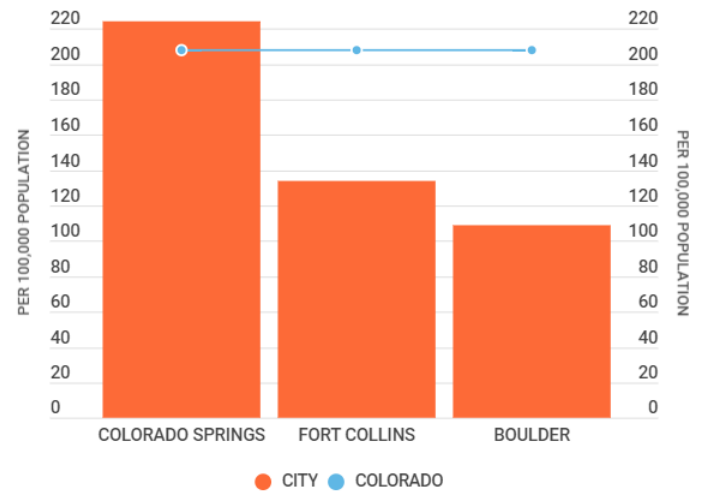
COVID-19 RATES

(INCEPTION TO APRIL 2022)



COVID-19 DEATHS

(INCEPTION TO APRIL 2022)



⁶ CDPHE/Colorado State Emergency Operations Center

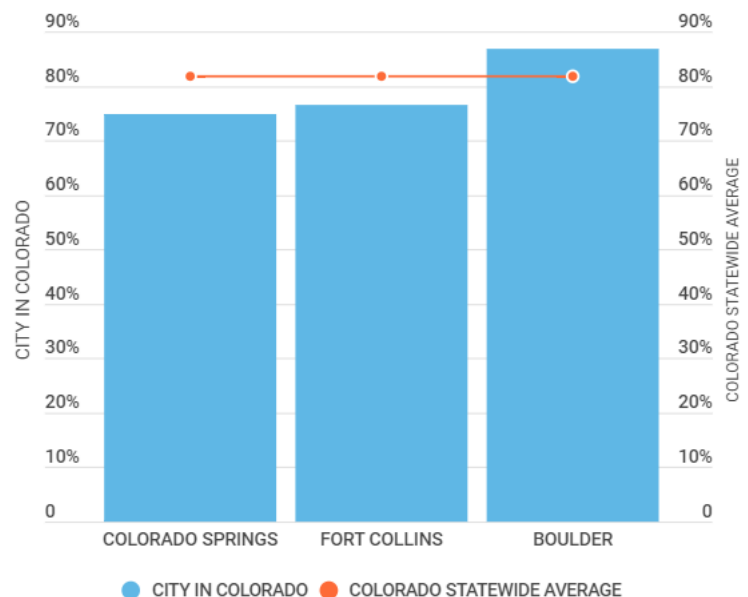
Vaccine availability has been extremely helpful toward protecting people from infection, serious illness, and death; however, a significant portion of the Colorado Springs community remains unvaccinated.

This report was prepared during the timeframe in which COVID-19 began circulating in the Pikes Peak region. As of April 6, 2022, El Paso County had experienced 175,679 COVID-19 cases, 7,498 COVID-19 hospitalizations and 1,606 COVID-19 deathsⁱ. More than 25% of Colorado Springs MSA residents have contracted COVID-19. Case rates and death rates for Colorado Springs are higher than in Colorado peer MSAs.

El Paso County Public Health and Teller County Public Health and Environment track and report numerous COVID-19-related statistics.

COVID-19 VACCINATION RATE

(AGE 5+, AT LEAST ONE DOSE)



These data change continuously, and we encourage the reader to explore their websites to obtain the latest picture of how the disease affects our region.ⁱⁱ

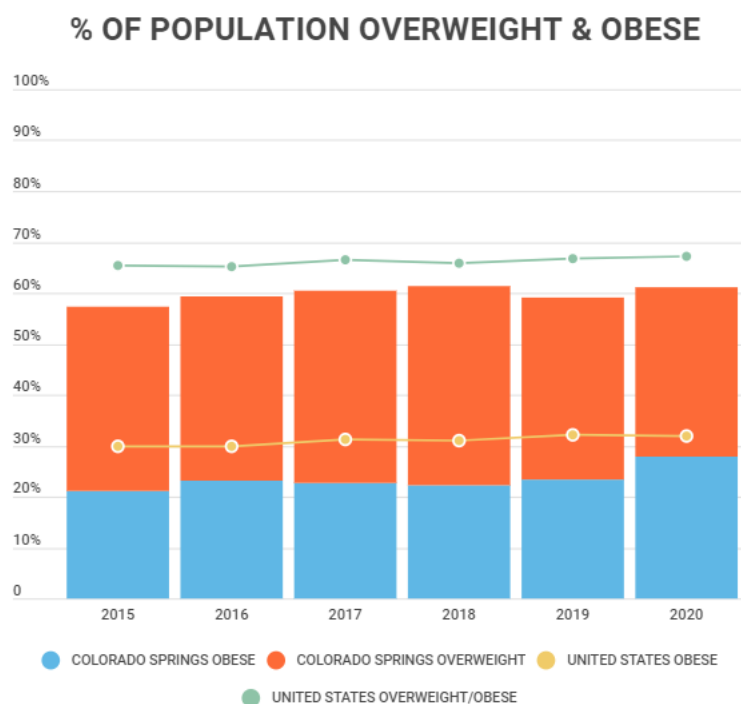
Health Conditions & Behaviors

Many health factors are within an individual's control, including diet, exercise, personal hygiene, and preventive care. People can also avoid unhealthy behaviors such as overeating, substance abuse, and self-harm. Health behavior is estimated to account for at least 36% of health outcomes. Social circumstances—including where in the community people live—influence 24% of health outcomes.⁷

Complicating Factor: Obesity

Being overweight or obese increases the risk of chronic disease, cancer, heart disease, stroke, diabetes, and other metabolic diseases. Body Mass Index (BMI) is used to measure this factor.⁸ Though Colorado Springs and the state of Colorado historically have been among the healthiest in the nation, more people in the community are becoming overweight and obese. In 2020, more than six in 10 adults in the community were in an unhealthy weight category,⁹ and 28% were estimated to be obese,¹⁰ up from 21% in 2015.¹¹

One in four youth in El Paso County has elevated weight,¹³ and in 2019-2020, 11% of local high school students were obese (vs. 16% nationwide).¹⁴ Obesity leads to many chronic conditions. The incidence of these in Colorado Springs and peer communities can be found in the Chronic Conditions supplement button below.



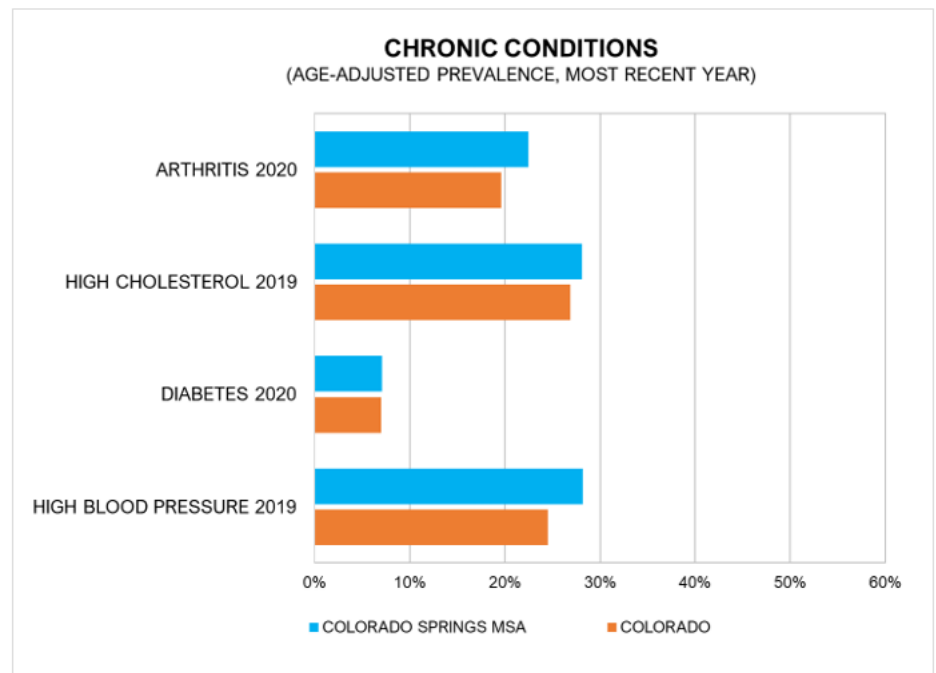
¹² CDC's Behavioral Risk Factor System

Learn More: Chronic Conditions

Elevated BMI and being overweight and/or obese increases the risk of chronic disease and morbidity (incidence of other diseases) and decreases life expectancy. The risk of cancers, heart disease and stroke, as well as other cardiovascular conditions such as hypertension, atherosclerosis, angina, and myocardial infarction are at an increased risk due to being overweight or obese. The rates of metabolic diseases, such as diabetes and hyperlipidemia, are increased with a BMI of 25 or more. Quality of life is also affected due to degenerative changes

in the joints resulting in arthritis and pain that limit mobility and functionality.ⁱⁱⁱ The graph below highlights the prevalence of four of these chronic conditions in our community and state.

It is important to recognize that the prevalence of conditions increased by elevated BMI correlate with many of the top causes of mortality and morbidity within the country, Colorado, and El Paso and Teller Counties. Being overweight and/or obese threatens quality and duration of life, but also strains the healthcare system. The seriousness of obesity has been further highlighted by COVID-19 – individuals who have elevated BMIs are at increased likelihood of hospitalization and death.^v



^{iv} CDC, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System

Nutrition

Obesity can be combatted by good nutrition, including a diet that matches calories consumed with calories burned. The [Dietary Guidelines for Americans](#) promote eating foods that are nutritionally dense and low in calories such as vegetables, whole fruits, and whole grains.

The Healthy Eating Index (HEI) is a measure of diet quality. Since 2015 HEI scores have indicated poor diet quality across all populations.¹⁵ In 2019, four of five Colorado Springs adults reported consuming one or more vegetables a day.¹⁶ That proportion parallels state and national rates but ranked only 3rd out of 4 peer communities for which data was available. Those with household income below \$50,000 had a much lower rate of vegetable consumption than those making \$50,000 or more.¹⁷

Exercise

For substantial health benefits, children should have one hour of activity daily for at least five days per week, and adults should have 30 minutes or more of activity at least five days a week to maintain a healthy lifestyle and decrease the risk of cardiovascular and chronic disease.

Only 46% of high school students in El Paso County reported being sufficiently physically active for a total of at least 60 minutes per day for five or more days within the past week.¹⁸

Next Steps

Each individual has the responsibility to eat healthy and exercise, but policy makers, local organizations, employers, and elected leaders can all help to create an environment that supports healthier lifestyles and that reduces risk factors. Steps can be taken to increase access to exercise options (trails, open space, safe neighborhoods) and affordable healthy foods (fresh fruits and vegetables in stores accessible by walking and/or public transportation), and to improve education about nutrition. Public policy should support regular physical activity, increase affordable dietary choices, promote reduction of sugar, fat, salt, and preservatives in processed and fast foods, and restrict marketing to youth of foods and beverages high in sugar, fats, and salts.

Behavioral Health

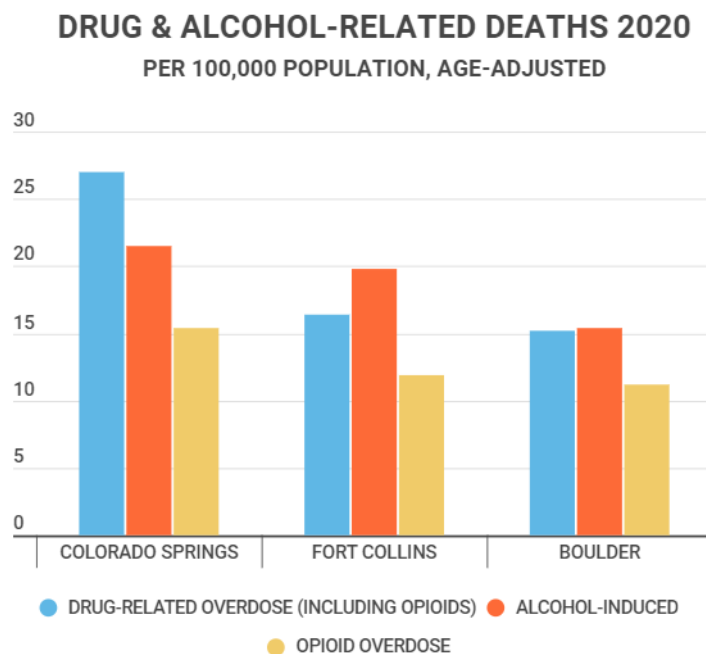
Behavioral health “refers to the promotion of mental health, resilience, and well-being; treatment of mental and substance use disorders; and support of those who experience and/or are in recovery from these conditions, along with their families and communities.”¹⁹ In short, behavioral health includes both mental health and substance use, and this section will review those topics along with suicide.

Mental Health

Self-reported health status, specifically poor mental health days, is often used as a general measure of health-related quality of life in a population.²⁰ Data from 2020 indicate that 15.6% of Colorado Springs individuals (ages 5+) reported 14 or more days of poor mental health within the previous 30 days, which is notably higher than the State target level of 10.3%. Among peer communities for which data was available (Albuquerque, Austin, and Boise), Colorado Springs ranked 4th of 4.²¹

Substance Use Disorder

SAMHSA’s [2020 National Survey on Drug Use and Health](#) (NSDUH) reports that approximately 19.3 million people aged 18 or older had a substance use disorder in the past year. In El Paso County, drug-related deaths jumped from 130 to 186 between 2019 and 2020.²² Among Colorado peer communities, Colorado Springs ranked 3rd of 3 in each of three key categories of drug-related deaths.



²³ Colorado Health Information Dataset (COHID)

Alcohol

Alcohol is the most used substance nationally and in the state. In 2021, 18% of adults in the Colorado Springs MSA reported binge drinking or heavy alcohol consumption.²⁴ That ranked 2nd best of 6 peer communities.

In 2019 the percentage of El Paso County high school students reported binge drinking in the previous 30 days was 10.6%, compared to 14.2% statewide.²⁵ That ranked 1st of 3 Colorado peer communities for least binge drinking among high school students.

Substance Use Disorder

Substance use disorders occur when the recurrent use of alcohol and/or drugs causes clinically significant impairment, including health problems, disability, and failure to meet major responsibilities at work, school, or home.^{vi} [SAMHSA's 2020 National Survey on Drug Use and Health](#) (NSDUH) reports that approximately 19.3 million people aged 18 or older had a substance use disorder in the past year. The primary types of substance use disorders include:

- Opioid Use Disorder
- Marijuana Use Disorder
- Nicotine Use Disorder
- Stimulant Use Disorder
- Sedative Use Disorder
- Hallucinogen Use Disorder
- Alcohol Use Disorder

Alcohol

In 2020, according to the NSDUH report, 50% of Americans aged 12 or older (or 138.5 million people) used alcohol in the past month (i.e., current alcohol users) and of those, 44% were classified as binge drinkers. The percentage of people who were past month binge alcohol users was highest among young adults aged 18 to 25 (31.4%) compared with 22.9% of adults aged 26 or older and 4.1% of adolescents aged 12 to 17.

In our region and of those self-reporting, the use of alcohol remains high. Alcohol is the most used substance nationally and in the state. In 2021, 18% of adults in the Colorado Springs MSA reported binge drinking (having five or more drinks for men and four or more drinks for women within the past 30 days) or heavy alcohol consumption (more than two drinks for males and more than one drink for females per day).^{vii} Colorado Springs ranked 2nd of 6 peer communities for least binge drinking.

Marijuana

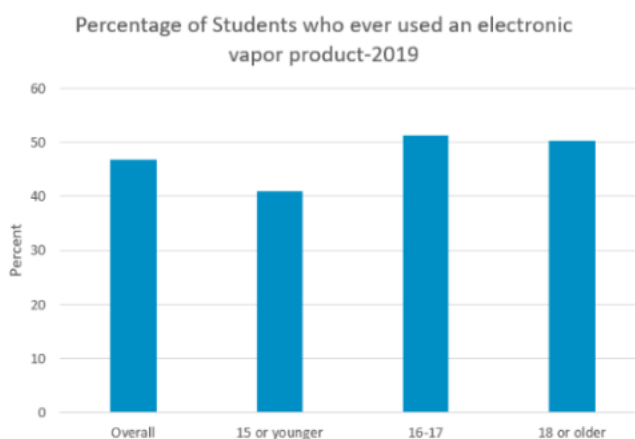
According to SAMHSA, “marijuana is the most commonly used illegal substance in the U.S. and its use is growing. Marijuana use among all adult age groups, both sexes, and pregnant women is going up. At the same time, the perception of how harmful marijuana use can be is declining. Increasingly, young people today do not consider marijuana use a risky behavior.”^{viii}

It is difficult to compare Colorado marijuana use to the rest of the country because many states have not legalized marijuana; however, we do know that approximately 1 in 10 people who use

marijuana will become addicted. If they begin to use marijuana before the age of 18, the rate of addiction rises to 1 in 6 people.^{ix} From 2013-2019, marijuana use increased across all demographics in El Paso County. For example, in 2013 14.7% of youth reported having used marijuana in the past 30 days. That percentage had increased to 21.5% by 2019.^x An increasing proportion of females reported usage over this time period, while there was only a slight increase in reported usage among males.^{xi} Year-over-year data from Healthy Kids Colorado shows an upward trend in usage for all demographics, and youth identifying as LGB+ demonstrate a higher use rate overall.^{xii}

Vaping

According to the Healthy Kids Survey,^{xiii} of more than 100,000 Colorado students, nearly 26% of high schoolers said they currently vape nicotine, defined as having smoked an electronic cigarette in the last 30 days. In El Paso County, the percentage was 26.1%. The same survey indicated that most students try vaping by the time they are 15 years old; 40% of students 15 years old or younger reported they had used an electronic vape, and that percentage jumped to 50% by age 17. The graph below shows that in El Paso County, almost 50% of students surveyed in 2019 had used a vaping product.



Access to vaping supplies is relatively easy. Forty-five percent of youth under 15 years old and 80% of young adults 18 years or older were confident they could get an electronic vape. Students reported it was slightly easier to get e-vapes in 2019 than in 2017, although students 15 or younger reported it was much harder.^{xiv}

Opioid Use and Overdoses

Opioid overdose deaths in Colorado in 2020 were 16.2 per 100,000 people (age adjusted). The rate for Colorado Springs was slightly lower at 15.4. According to the 2020 El Paso County Coroner's Report,^{xv} drug-related deaths increased from 130 in 2019 to 186 in 2020. The table below summarizes the types of substances that were found during autopsy and the associated increase in deaths between 2019 to 2020. Forty percent of drug-related deaths in El Paso County were due to a combination of substances.

Drug	2019 Deaths	2020 Deaths	% Change 2019 to 2020
Fentanyl	21	47	+123%
Methamphetamine	66	91	+38%
Cocaine	20	30	+50%
Heroin	35	43	+23%

Mental Health America data from 2020 show a growing prevalence in substance use due to the extended isolation and stressors of the COVID-19 pandemic.^{xvi} Eight percent of Americans now indicate they have a substance use disorder (SUD), while in Colorado, the percentage is closer to 12%.^{xvii}

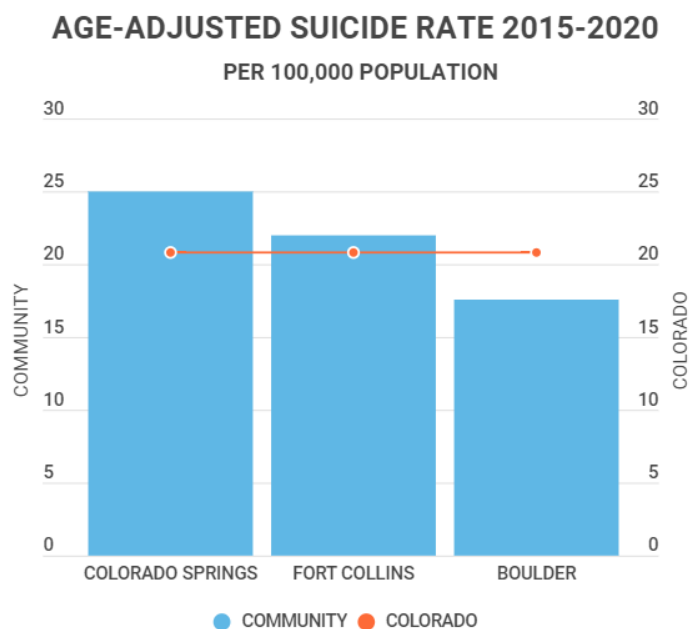
This concerning increase, coupled with a decrease in addiction counselors, underscores the critical need for substance use disorder prevention, treatment and recovery programs in the region. This is especially true for those who are served by Colorado's Medicaid program as there are currently no residential treatment providers within the Regional Accountable Entity (RAE) that serve El Paso and Teller Counties. Lack of a full continuum-of-care often forces residents to seek care outside of the region or state, or, worse yet, forgo treatment.

Reducing barriers to accessing help, including same-day treatment, medication-assisted treatment, and residential treatment when appropriate, can help reduce opioid and drug overdose deaths. Educating the community on Narcan and expanding safe needle exchange programs in the community are evidence-based practices that can help reduce opioid use and deaths.

Suicide

Colorado Springs MSA lost 200 people to suicide in 2020; El Paso County accounted for 183 suicide deaths and Teller County accounted for 17. The 2020 El Paso County Coroner's Report indicated that firearms were responsible for 54% of local deaths by suicide.²⁶ Colorado Springs has a higher age-adjusted suicide rate than the state overall as well as peer communities in Colorado.²⁷

According to the United Health Foundation, Colorado had the highest increase in the teen suicide rate in the U.S. between 2014 and 2017.²⁸



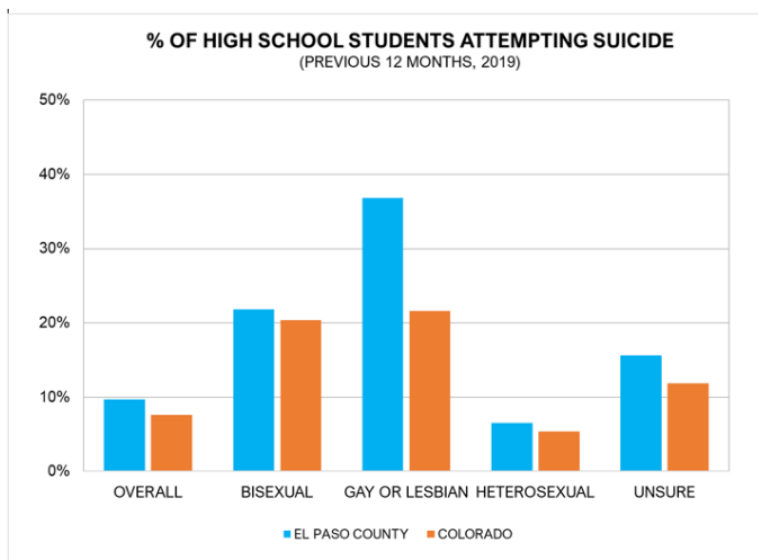
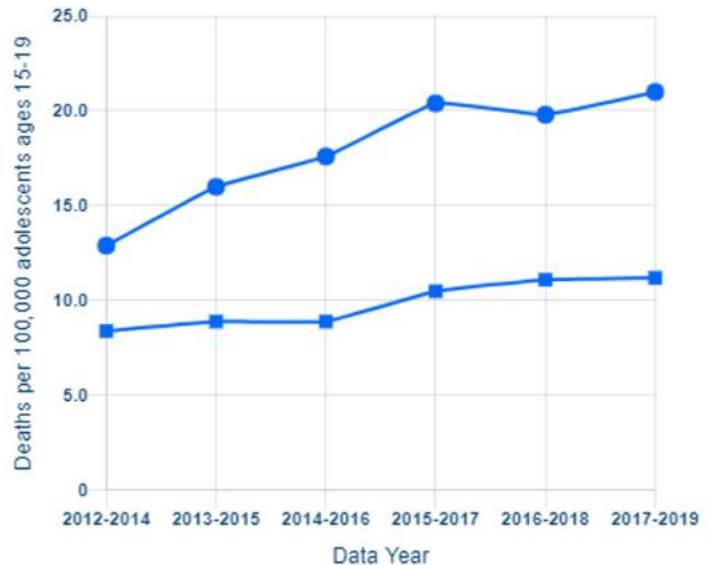
²⁹ CDPHE/Colorado Center for Health and Environmental Data

Youth Suicide

According to the United Health Foundation's Health of Children and Women Report 2019, Colorado had the highest increase in the teen suicide rate in the U.S. between 2014 and 2017.^{xviii} The graph below demonstrates the year-over-year trend comparing Colorado to the nation overall.

Between 2014 and 2019, teen suicide in Colorado rose from 12.9 to 21.0 deaths per 100,000 adolescents ages 15-19, according to the 2021 report. Overall, that rate put Colorado as the eighth-worst state in the country. Colorado's 2017-2019 rate is nearly double the national rate of 11.2 per 100,000 adolescents ages 15-19.^{xix}

While trend data for younger youth are not available, the suicide attempts in 2019 were higher in El Paso County and Health Statistics Region 4 (Teller, Park, Gilpin and Clear Creek Counties) than the state average according to the 2019 [Healthy Kids Colorado Survey](#), and females considered, planned or attempted suicide more often than males. Suicide attempts and deaths are significantly higher for youth who identify as Lesbian, Gay or Bisexual and for transgender youth. The following graph presents a clear picture of variations in 2019 suicide attempts by different demographic groups.



^{xx} Colorado Healthy Kids Survey 2019

Data in the 2021 [National Survey on LGBTQ Youth Mental Health](#) further underscores these disparities, noting that 20% of transgender and non-binary youth attempted suicide; 62% of LGBTQ+ youth reported symptoms of major depressive disorder; and that 48% wanted mental health care, but didn't get it. Stress resulting from prejudice and discrimination (e.g., family rejection, bullying, violence) is a known risk factor for suicide attempts among [lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender \(LGBT\)](#) youth.^{xxi}

Lastly, several studies have documented the need for culturally-competent providers with specific training in addressing the behavioral health needs of LGBTQ+ persons.^{xxi xxii xxiv} Although the need to develop a culturally and linguistically competent workforce is ever more important, it is compounded by the ongoing challenges with shortages in most mental health provider types. Behavioral health organizations are working to rapidly build or partner with organizations that can provide unique specialized training to work toward better supporting this need.

The efficacy of suicide-prevention education and specific interventions among teens is uncertain.^{xxv} However, expanded access to behavioral health services is vital for improving mental health, with the goal to reduce deaths by suicide. Evidenced-based practices and programs like Mental Health First Aid and CALM – Counseling Access to Lethal Means provide community members, and other healthcare providers, with resources and tools to support upstream prevention work in an effort to decrease deaths by suicide.^{xxvi, xxvii}

Access to Health Care

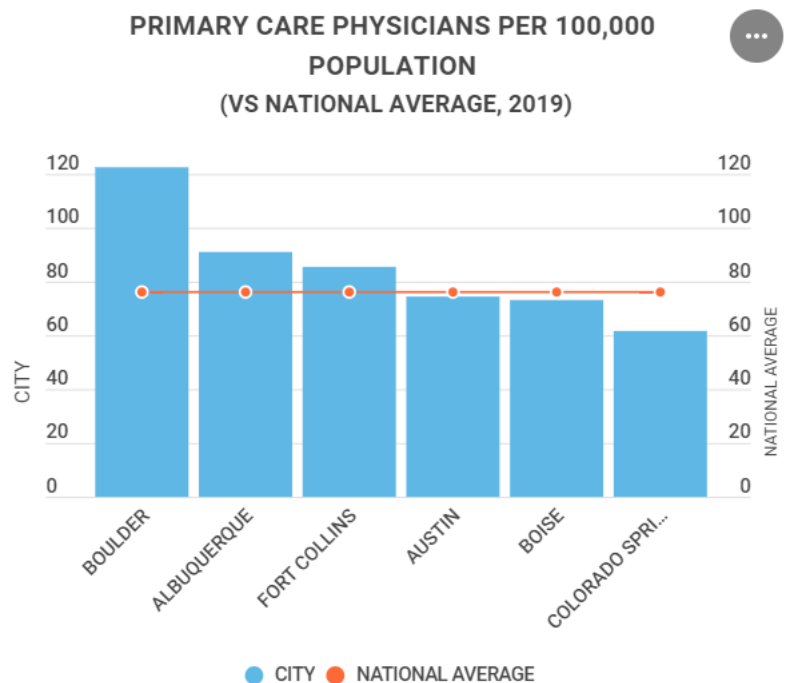
Clinical medical care (access and quality) accounts for 10 to 20% of a person’s total health.³⁰ Access to care, especially primary care, is a key resource for individuals to meet their potential.

Primary Care Access

In 2019, Colorado Springs had 61.8 primary care physicians per 100,000 population (1 for every 1,620 residents). While the number grew throughout the 2010s, Colorado Springs still had fewer primary care doctors, relative to population, than the state (82.6) and nation (76.4). Colorado Springs also ranked 6th out of 6 peer communities.

In 2014, the Colorado Health Institute identified the regions containing El Paso and Teller counties as state “hot spots,” that needed more than 120 primary care physicians both for the overall population as well as for people covered by Medicaid.³²

Colorado Springs also has a shortage of mental health and substance use disorder treatment professionals. As of 2020, Colorado Springs had a mental health professional for every 297 residents, which ranked 4th of 6 peer communities.



³¹ Health Resources & Services Administration

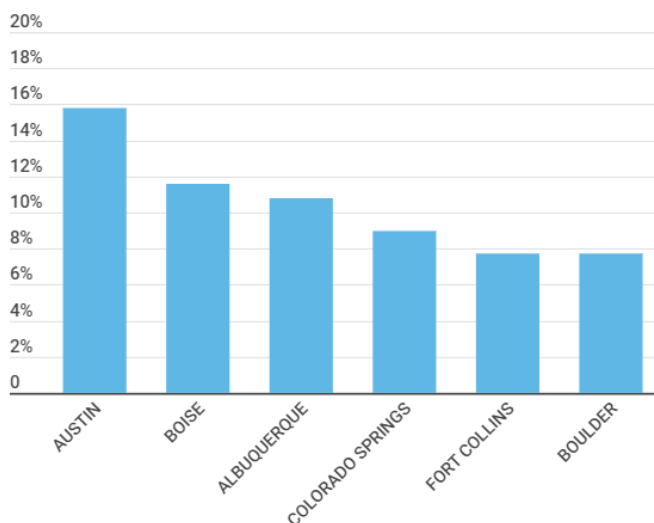
Health Insurance

Health care costs may be covered through employer-sponsored insurance, individual plans purchased through the Health Insurance Exchange, other insurance and government-sponsored programs such as Medicare for adults aged 65 and over, Medicaid for low-income families, and the Children's Health Insurance Program for young people in low-income settings.³³

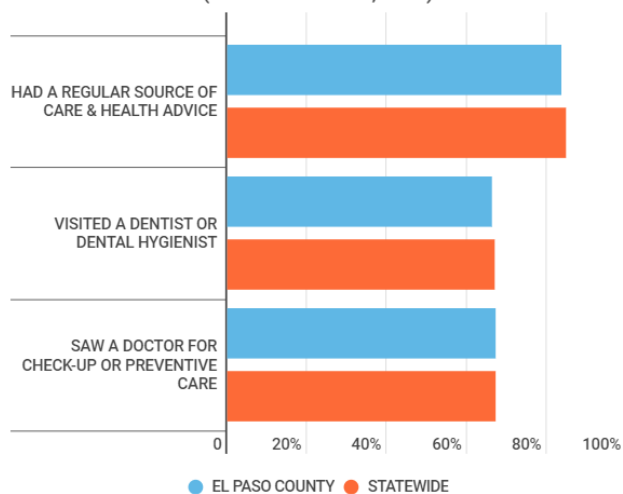
In 2019 Colorado Springs' rate of residents under age 65 who lacked health coverage was 9.0%, which was better than state (10.3%) and the national (10.8%) rates.³⁴ Colorado Springs ranked 3rd of 6 peer communities for lowest rate of uninsured residents.

The Colorado Health Institute has estimated coverage for all Coloradans in the midst of COVID-19. Between 2019 and 2021 the number of commercially insured El Paso County residents decreased by almost 6 percentage points, while Medicaid enrollment increased from 19.4% to 28.7% of the county's population due to a COVID-related mandate.³⁶ El Paso County's Medicaid enrollment rate is 4% higher than the national average.

% OF RESIDENTS UNINSURED IN 2019
(UNDER AGE 65)



PREVENTIVE HEALTH BEHAVIORS
(LAST 12 MONTHS, 2021)



Health Care Utilization

According to the Colorado Health Access Survey 2021, El Paso County falls in the middle of the pack for Colorado regions for accessing health services such as primary care and dental care. El Paso County ranked 3rd of 3 Colorado peer communities for proportion of the population with a source of care and for seeing a doctor for preventive care. However, the county ranked 1st of 3 Colorado peer communities for dentist visits.³⁷

The pandemic affected primary care utilization, resulting in a 25% drop in visits to care providers. Once people felt safe

³⁸ Colorado Health Access Survey 2021

enough to return to their providers, their conditions were more serious and required more invasive interventions in many cases.³⁹

Healthcare Workforce

The healthcare environment cannot be addressed without mention of the drastic impact of the pandemic on the healthcare workforce. After anticipating a decline in pandemic-related hospitalizations, numbers ramped up again in El Paso County and statewide. Hospitals and public health departments were challenged with mandated vaccines, burnout, and lack of qualified workforce when staffing. The rapid adaptation to telemedicine, although in process prior to the pandemic, did little to impact workforce needs due to increased training needs, different expertise required, and additional burden on an already overstretched workforce. Additionally, as Tatiana Bailey, Health Care Economist and Executive Director of the UCCS Economic Forum, stated in a June 11, 2021, article from the Colorado Springs Business Journal, “Health care is a very labor-intensive industry. There’s only so much you can automate.”^{xxvi}

The University of Colorado’s School of Public Health reports that between 20-30% of front-line U.S. healthcare workers are considering leaving their professions, increasing the workload on those remaining, from housekeepers to nursing staff to physicians.^{xxvii} As a result, significant healthcare labor shortages in Colorado are projected through 2026, including:

- 54,000 medical assistants & home-health workers (18th nationally)
- 10,400 registered nurses (3rd nationally)
- 4,400 mental health care workers (5th nationally)^{xxviii}

The public health workforce has fared no differently than the clinical workforce, with workers having left in historically high numbers and pandemic fatigue having impacted individuals and systems in ways not seen before. On the bright side has been the wide range of resources that have come to the state and communities to address the pandemic, workforce being a high priority for behavioral health, allied health professions, and home-based services like home and personal care aids and CNAs, positions that had been in dire need for an extended period locally and statewide.^{xxix, xxx}

On the positive side of behavioral healthcare access, the use of telehealth increased significantly during the pandemic. Behavioral health care services accounted for 38% of all telehealth services provided in Colorado.^{xxxi} The rapid and broad adoption of telehealth has allowed for more creative and efficient use of staffing to meet client needs. This mode of delivery, however, is not appropriate for all types of care and diagnoses, and poor internet access, especially in rural portions of Teller County, has limited this resource as a “meets all needs” solution.

Another promising approach to addressing access issues is the use of peer support specialists, which are seen as innovative and impactful members of treatment teams.^{xxxii} Peer specialists can meet people’s mental health and substance use recovery needs in the community without further burdening licensed and medical professionals that are already stretched thin.

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¹ World Health Organization, <https://www.who.int/about/governance/constitution>, accessed July 10, 2022.

² Choi, Edwin, and Sonin, Juhan. Meta-analysis of seven published studies of the relative contribution of five determinants of health categories. Nov. 15, 2018 (v. 3). <https://www.goinvo.com/vision/determinants-of-health/>, accessed April 25, 2022.

³ This is described as the total per 100,000 population, adjusted for the community's age profile.

⁴ National Center for Health Statistics – Mortality Files, as cited by County Health Rankings. Data published in 2021 based on age-adjusted data aggregated from 2017-2019. MSA data was calculated from county data, with each county weighted proportionally based on the population or sub-population referenced. Results rounded to nearest 100. County Health Rankings; Data published in 2021 based on data aggregated from 2017-2019. <https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/explore-health-rankings/rankings-data-documentation>, accessed April 7, 2022. MSA data was calculated from county data, with each county weighted proportionally based on the population or sub-population. Results rounded to nearest 100.

⁵ National Center for Health Statistics – Mortality Files, as cited by County Health Rankings. Rates published in 2021 based on aggregated data from various periods from 2013-2019. <https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/explore-health-rankings/rankings-data-documentation>, accessed April 7, 2022. MSA data was calculated from county data, with each county weighted proportionally based on population. Suicide rate includes adjustment for age profile of community.

⁶ CDPHE/Colorado State Emergency Operations Center. Current data at <https://covid19.colorado.gov/data>.

⁷ Choi, Edwin, and Sonin, Juhan. Meta-analysis of seven published studies of relative contributions of determinants of health. Nov. 15, 2018 (v. 3). <https://www.goinvo.com/vision/determinants-of-health>, accessed July 10, 2022. More on health determinants can be found at CDPHE's Health Disparities and Community Grant program, <https://cdphe.colorado.gov/hdcgp>, and in the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute's County Health Rankings, <https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/explore-health-rankings/measures-data-sources/county-health-rankings-model>.

⁸ BMI is calculated by comparing weight measured in kilograms to height measured in meters squared (kg/m²). The World Health Organization considers adults with a BMI of 25 or greater to be overweight; it considers those with a BMI of 30 or greater as obese. Children under the age of two are considered overweight if their BMI is at least two standard deviations above WHO Child Growth Standard Medians; they are considered obese if they are three standard deviations above. Children ages 5-19 are considered overweight if they are one standard deviation above the median and obese if two standard deviations above.

- ⁹ CDC's Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System, 2019 data, <https://www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth/data/yrbs/data.htm>; <https://www.elpasocountyhealth.org/sites/default/files/files/services/Community-Health-Data-Statistics/Obesity.pdf>, both accessed April 25, 2022.
- ¹⁰ CDC's Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2020, <https://www.cdc.gov/brfss/index.html>; tinyurl.com/mpj33tfc, both accessed July 10, 2022.
- ¹¹ CDC's Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2015, <https://www.cdc.gov/brfss/index.html>; tinyurl.com/mpj33tfc, both accessed July 10, 2022.
- ¹² CDC's Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2015, <https://www.cdc.gov/brfss/index.html>; tinyurl.com/mpj33tfc, both accessed July 10, 2022.
- ¹³ Healthy Kids Colorado Survey 2019, https://cohealthviz.dphe.state.co.us/t/HSEBPublic/views/13_19HKCSHS_Tableau_05_21sizeTest/Story1?%3Aembed=y&%3AisGuestRedirectFromVizportal=y, accessed April 26, 2022. Query selections: Reset Filters; Region 4 (El Paso County); Year: 2019; Health Topic: Weight Status; Health Measure: Percentage of students who were overweight or obese.. Results noted for El Paso County only because Teller County is combined with other counties in another region.
- ¹⁴ State of Childhood Obesity, <https://stateofchildhoodobesity.org>, accessed April 26, 2022.
- ¹⁵ Dietary Guidelines for Americans, https://www.dietaryguidelines.gov/sites/default/files/2021-03/Dietary_Guidelines_for_Americans-2020-2025.pdf, accessed April 26, 2022.
- ¹⁶ CDC's Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), https://nccd.cdc.gov/BRFSSPrevalence/rdPage.aspx?rdReport=DPH_BRFSS.ExploreByLocation, accessed April 6, 2022. Query selections: MMSAs; Location: Colorado Springs MSA; Class: Fruits and Vegetables; Topic: Vegetable Consumption; Year: 2019.
- ¹⁷ CDC's Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), https://nccd.cdc.gov/BRFSSPrevalence/rdPage.aspx?rdReport=DPH_BRFSS.ExploreByTopic, accessed April 6, 2022. Query selections: Class: Fruits and Vegetables; Topic: Vegetable Consumption; Year: 2019; View by: Household Income; Response: One or more times per day.
- ¹⁸ Healthy Kids Colorado Survey 2019, https://cohealthviz.dphe.state.co.us/t/HSEBPublic/views/13_19HKCSHS_Tableau_05_21sizeTest/Story1?%3Aembed=y&%3AisGuestRedirectFromVizportal=y, accessed April 26, 2022. Query selections: Reset Filters; Region 4 (El Paso County); Year: 2019; Health Topic: Physical Activity; Health Measure: Percentage of Students who were physically active for a total of at least 60 minutes per day on five or more days in the past week. Results noted for El Paso County only because Teller County is combined with other counties in another region.

¹⁹ Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), <https://www.samhsa.gov/sites/default/files/samhsa-behavioral-health-integration.pdf>, accessed April 27, 2022.

²⁰ Centers for Disease Control, <https://www.cdc.gov/populationhealth/well-being/index.htm>, accessed April 27, 2022.

²¹ CDC's Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System https://nccd.cdc.gov/BRFSSPrevalence/rdPage.aspx?rdReport=DPH_BRFSS.ExploreByLocation&rdProcessAction=&SaveFileGenerated=1&irbLocationType=MSMAs, Query settings: MMSAs; Location: Colorado Springs; Class: Days of Poor Health; Topic: Healthy Days; Year: 2020; Data Type: Age-adjusted Prevalence. Accessed April 27, 2022. Comparison community data is available for Albuquerque, Austin and Boise, but not for Boulder or Fort Collins. County-level information from BRFSS is also tracked via dashboard at <http://thrivingcolorado.com>.

²² El Paso County Coroner's Office, 2020 Annual Report, p. 9. <https://www.elpasocountyhealth.org/sites/default/files/El%20Paso%20County%20Coroner%27s%20Office%202020%20Annual%20Report.pdf>, accessed April 27, 2022.

²³ Colorado Health Information Dataset (CoHID), 2020 data, age-adjusted, with Colorado Springs MSA figures calculated as a weighted average of county statistics based on 2020 population proportions (El Paso County 96.61%; Teller County 3.39%). https://cohealthviz.dphe.state.co.us/t/HealthInformaticsPublic/views/COHIDFullDeathQuery_StateDemographyPopEstimates/MortalityStatistics, accessed April 27, 2022.

²⁴ Binge drinking is defined as having five or more drinks for men and four or more drinks for women within the past 30 days, Heavy consumption is defined as more than two drinks for males and more than one drink for females per day.

²⁵ Healthy Kids Colorado Survey 2019; data reported for El Paso County only because Teller County was included in a separate region with Park, Gilpin and Clear Creek counties. https://cohealthviz.dphe.state.co.us/t/HSEBPublic/views/13_19HKCSHS_Tableau_05_21sizetest/Story1, accessed April 27, 2022.

²⁶ El Paso County Coroner's Office, 2020 Annual Report, p. 14 (97 of 178 suicides). <https://assets-coroner.elpasoco.com/wp-content/uploads/EPCCO-2020.pdf>, accessed April 27, 2022.

²⁷ Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment, https://cohealthviz.dphe.state.co.us/t/HSEBPublic/views/CoVDRS_12_1_17/Story1?%3Aembed=y&%3AshowAppBanner=false&%3AshowShareOptions=true&%3Adisplay_count=no&%3AshowVizHome=no#4, accessed April 27, 2022.

²⁸ United Health Foundation, Health of Women and Children Report 2019, 45. <https://assets.america'shealthrankings.org/app/uploads/2019-health-of-women-and-children-report.pdf>, accessed April 27, 2022.

²⁹ CDPHE,
https://cohealthviz.dphe.state.co.us/t/HSEBPublic/views/CoVDRS_12_1_17/Story1?%3Aembed=y&%3AshowAppBanner=false&%3AshowShareOptions=true&%3Adisplay_count=no&%3AshowVizHome=no#4, accessed April 27, 2022.

³⁰ GoInvo meta-analysis of seven estimates of contribution of determinants of health.
<https://www.goinvo.com/vision/determinants-of-health/#methodology>, accessed April 27, 2022. Among the top-end estimates (20%) is that of the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute's County Health Rankings, which excludes genetics.
<https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/explore-health-rankings/measures-data-sources/county-health-rankings-model>, accessed April 27, 2022.

³¹ Health Resources & Services Administration <https://data.hrsa.gov/data/download>, Area Health Resources Files, County Data 2020-2021, fields f1467510 to f1467519. MSA-level data created by weighting county level data by population estimates in file, fields f1198411 to f1198420 (figures differ slightly from Census estimates).

³² Colorado Health Institute, Colorado's Primary Care Workforce: A Study of Regional Disparities. Feb. 12, 2014, 8.
https://coloradohealthinstitute.org/sites/default/files/file_attachments/Colorados_Primary_Care_Workforce1.pdf, accessed April 27, 2022.

³³ Health Resources & Services Administration, <https://data.hrsa.gov/data/download>, Area Health Resources Files, County Data 2020-2021, f1526113 to f1526121. MSA-level data created by weighting county level data by population estimates in file, fields f1198411 to f1198420 (figures differ slightly from Census estimates).

³⁴ U.S. Census, Small Area Health Insurance Estimates, Downloaded from <https://www.census.gov/data-tools/demo/sahie/#/>, accessed April 19, 2022. Estimates are provided at the county level for total population under age 65. MSA figures are calculated from component county estimates of uninsured persons and population. Checked against same data as reported by the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute County Health Rankings. Additional perspective can be found in Colorado Health Access Survey data, which considers the percent uninsured in the total population. See <https://www.coloradohealthinstitute.org/research/colorado-health-access-survey-2021>, accessed April 19, 2022.

³⁵ Ibid.

³⁶ Colorado Health Access Survey 2021 regional data, downloaded via <https://www.coloradohealthinstitute.org/research/colorado-health-access-survey-2021>, accessed April 27, 2022. See also <https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/national-medicaid-chip-program-information/medicaid-chip-enrollment-data/index.html>.

³⁷ Colorado Health Access Survey 2021 regional data, downloaded via <https://www.coloradohealthinstitute.org/research/colorado-health-access-survey-2021>, accessed

April 27, 2022. El Paso County data used because Teller County is included in a separate region with Park and Gilpin counties. For comparisons, Boulder includes combined Boulder and Broomfield counties.

³⁸ Ibid.

³⁹ Colorado Health Institute, analysis of Colorado Health Observation Regional Data, <https://www.coloradohealthinstitute.org/news/pandemic-led-25-drop-health-care-visits-new-analysis-data-colorado-health-providers>, accessed April 27, 2022.

ⁱ El Paso County Health Department, <https://www.elpasocountyhealth.org/COVID-19data-dashboard>, accessed April 27, 2022.

ⁱⁱ El Paso County Health Department: <https://www.elpasocountyhealth.org/covid19data-dashboard>; Teller County: <https://www.tellerCOVID.com/>; both accessed April 27, 2022.

ⁱⁱⁱ CDC, <https://www.cdc.gov/obesity/adult/causes.html>, accessed April 27, 2022.

^{iv} CDC Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, https://nccd.cdc.gov/BRFSSPrevalence/rdPage.aspx?rdReport=DPH_BRFSS.ExploreByLocation, accessed July 11, 2022.

^v Kompaniyets L, Goodman AB, Belay B, et al. Body Mass Index and Risk for COVID-19–Related Hospitalization, Intensive Care Unit Admission, Invasive Mechanical Ventilation, and Death — United States, March–December 2020. *MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep* 2021; 70:355–361. DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.mm7010e4>.

^{vi} Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, <https://www.samhsa.gov/>, accessed April 27, 2022.

^{vii} County Health Rankings, <https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/app/colorado/2021/measure/factors/49/data>, accessed April 27, 2022.

^{viii} Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, <https://www.samhsa.gov/marijuana>, accessed April 27, 2022.

^{ix} Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, <https://www.samhsa.gov/marijuana>, accessed April 27, 2022.

^x CDPHE, Healthy Kids Colorado Survey, <https://cdphe.colorado.gov/healthy-kids-colorado-survey-data-tables-and-reports>, accessed April 27, 2022.

^{xi} CDPHE, Healthy Kids Colorado Survey, <https://cdphe.colorado.gov/healthy-kids-colorado-survey-data-tables-and-reports>, accessed April 27, 2022.

- ^{xii} CDPHE, Healthy Kids Colorado Survey, <https://marijuanahealthinfo.colorado.gov/health-data/healthy-kids-colorado-survey-hkcs-data>, accessed April 27, 2022.
- ^{xiii} CDPHE, Healthy Kids Colorado Survey, <https://cdphe.colorado.gov/healthy-kids-colorado-survey-data-tables-and-reports>, accessed April 27, 2022.
- ^{xiv} CDPHE, Healthy Kids Colorado Survey, <https://cdphe.colorado.gov/healthy-kids-colorado-survey-data-tables-and-reports>, accessed April 27, 2022.
- ^{xv} El Paso County Coroner's Office
<https://www.elpasocountyhealth.org/sites/default/files/El%20Paso%20County%20Coroner%27s%20Office%202020%20Annual%20Report.pdf>, accessed April 27, 2022.
- ^{xvi} Mental Health America, <https://mhanational.org/mha-state-county-data>, accessed April 27, 2022.
- ^{xvii} Colorado Health Institute,
https://www.coloradohealthinstitute.org/sites/default/files/file_attachments/2019%20CHAS%20Substance%20Use%20Brief_1.pdf, accessed April 27, 2022.
- ^{xviii} United Health Foundation, Health of Women and Children Report 2019, 45.
<https://assets.americashealthrankings.org/app/uploads/2019-health-of-women-and-children-report.pdf>, accessed April 27, 2022.
- ^{xix} America's Health Rankings analysis of CDC WONDER, Multiple Cause of Death Files, United Health Foundation, https://www.americashealthrankings.org/explore/health-of-women-and-children/measure/teen_suicide/state/CO, accessed April 27, 2022.
- ^{xx} Healthy Kids Colorado Survey, 2019
https://cohealthviz.dphe.state.co.us/t/HSEBPublic/views/13_19HKCSHS_Tableau_05_21sizeTest/Story1?%3Aembed=y&%3AisGuestRedirectFromVizportal=y, accessed July 11, 2022.
- ^{xxi} CDC, <https://www.cdc.gov/suicide/factors/index.html>, accessed April 27, 2022.
- ^{xxii} Bettergarcia, Jay & Matsuno, Em & Conover, Kristin. (2021). Training mental health providers in queer-affirming care: A systematic review. *Psychology of Sexual Orientation and Gender Diversity*. 8. 365-377. 10.1037/sgd0000514.
- ^{xxiii} Kirstin R. Painter, Maria Scannapieco, Gary Blau, Amy Andre & Kris Kohn (2018) Improving the Mental Health Outcomes of LGBTQ Youth and Young Adults: A Longitudinal Study, *Journal of Social Service Research*, 44:2, 223-235, DOI: 10.1080/01488376.2018.1441097
- ^{xxiv} Bochicchio, Lauren & Reeder, Kelsey & Ivanoff, Andre & Pope, Hunter & Stefancic, Ana. (2020). Psychotherapeutic interventions for LGBTQ + youth: a systematic review. *Journal of LGBT Youth*. 10.1080/19361653.2020.1766393.

^{xxv} Bertolote, José M. “Suicide prevention: at what level does it work?” *World psychiatry: official journal of the World Psychiatric Association (WPA)* vol. 3,3 (2004): 147-51. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1414695/>; Lewitzka, U., Sauer, C., Bauer, M. et al. Are national suicide prevention programs effective? A comparison of 4 verum and 4 control countries over 30 years. *BMC Psychiatry* 19, 158 (2019). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12888-019-2147-y>, accessed April 27, 2022.

^{xxvi} The Larry A. Green Center/Primary Care Collaborative, Quick COVID-19 Primary Care Survey, Series 31, 2021. https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5d7ff8184cf0e01e4566cb02/t/6171a03c49caaa47a3532dfe/1634836542339/C19_Series_31_National_Executive_Summary_vF.pdf, accessed July 10, 2022.

^{xxvii} Colorado School of Public Health, “The COVID-19 Pandemic: Vaccine mandates and disturbing concerns about healthcare workers with Dr. Marc Moss,” August 16, 2021, <https://coloradosph.cuanschutz.edu/news-and-events/newsroom/deans-notes/public-health-main-site-news/the-COVID-19-pandemic-vaccine-mandates-and-disturbing-concerns-about-healthcare-workers>, accessed July 10, 2022.

^{xxviii} Bateman, Tanner, et. al. Mercer Inc. U.S. Healthcare Labor Market white paper, 2021, pp. 4-8. Estimated shortages based on historical and trend data from Emsi (labor data consultancy) and other public sources. <https://www.mercer.us/content/dam/mercer/assets/content-images/north-america/united-states/us-healthcare-news/us-2021-healthcare-labor-market-whitepaper.pdf>, accessed July 10, 2022.

^{xxix} The Colorado Springs Business Journal, https://www.csbj.com/premier/pandemic-boosts-health-care-employment-trends/article_75f5cf4a-ca22-11eb-bffd-3785354dc86f.html, accessed July 10, 2022.

^{xxx} Colorado School of Public Health, “The COVID-19 Pandemic: Vaccine mandates and disturbing concerns about healthcare workers with Dr. Marc Moss,” August 16, 2021, <https://coloradosph.cuanschutz.edu/news-and-events/newsroom/deans-notes/public-health-main-site-news/the-COVID-19-pandemic-vaccine-mandates-and-disturbing-concerns-about-healthcare-workers>, accessed July 10, 2022.

^{xxxi} Center for Improving Value in Healthcare, Telehealth Service Analysis, <https://www.civhc.org/covid-19/telehealth-services-analysis/>, accessed July 10, 2022.

^{xxxii} Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), <https://www.samhsa.gov/brss-tacs/recovery-support-tools/peers>, accessed July 10, 2022.



Peak Progress (Quality of Life Indicators)

GOVERNMENT REPORT

Government Summary:

Local governments provide vital services to develop communities that are healthy, safe, and vibrant. The Colorado Springs Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) is comprised of El Paso and Teller counties.

In Colorado, counties are not independent governmental units but political subdivisions of state government that are authorized to carry out the will of the state. El Paso and Teller counties possess only such powers as are conferred by the state. This report examines key measures for monitoring local government effectiveness, including voter participation, budget integrity, credit rating, debt load, and tax burden.

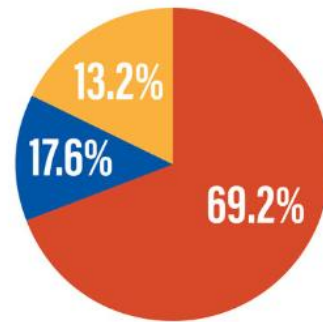
- 82.4% of adults in the Colorado Springs MSA were registered to vote in 2020.
- 69.2% of adults in the Colorado Springs MSA voted in the 2020 general election (turnout rate of 84.0% of those registered to vote).
- El Paso County total general fund expenditures per capita were \$492 in 2020 and Teller County's were \$736.
- In 2020, Colorado Springs ranked 2nd of 6 communities for lowest local government debt.
- Since 2015 El Paso County has had a credit rating of Aa1 – Obligations are of high quality and subject to very low credit risk.
- In 2022, Colorado residents are estimated to pay \$6,699 per capita in state and local taxes.

COLORADO SPRINGS GOVERNMENT



\$6,699

ESTIMATED PER CAPITA
STATE AND LOCAL TAXES TO
BE PAID BY COLORADO
RESIDENTS IN 2022

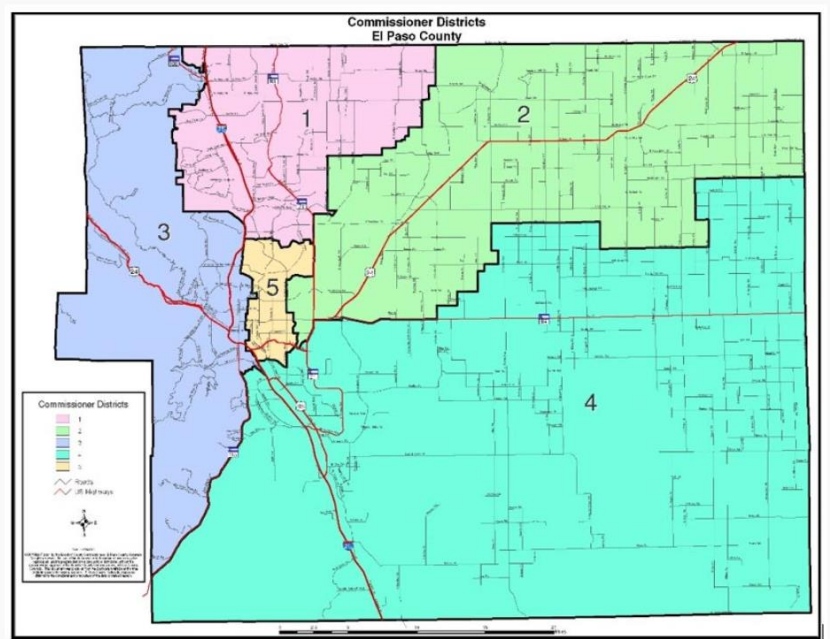


69.2% REGISTERED AND VOTED
13.2% REGISTERED BUT DID NOT VOTE
17.6% DID NOT REGISTER TO VOTE

Key Indicators:

The Colorado Springs Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) is comprised of El Paso and Teller counties. In Colorado, counties are not independent governmental units but political subdivisions of state government that are authorized to carry out the will of the state. El Paso and Teller counties possess only such powers as are conferred by the state.

El Paso County is the most populous in the state. Colorado counties may have a three or five-member board of commissioners. El Paso County voters chose in 1976 to have a five-member board, with each commissioner representing a district of equal population; district boundaries are adjusted by the board every two years. The board meets weekly on Tuesdays at 9 a.m. at Centennial Hall, 200 S. Cascade in Colorado Springs.



¹ El Paso County

Teller County was created from portions of El Paso and Fremont counties in 1899, at the end of a decade when the gold boom saw the population of the Cripple Creek mining district grow from a few dozen people to more than 50,000. Cripple Creek is the county seat, while Woodland Park is its largest city. Teller County has three commissioners who are elected at large from the members of three geographic districts. They serve up to two four-year terms.²

More than half of the metropolitan area residents live in Colorado Springs. Since 2011 the city government has used a mayor-council system. The mayor serves as the chief executive for the city's government and the city council is the legislative branch. The mayor is not a member of the city council but may participate in city council meetings. The Colorado Springs City Council is made up of nine officials who are elected for four-year terms. Citywide residents elect three council members at-large. Citizens in each of six equally-populated quadrants elect an additional council member to represent them.³

This report examines key measures for monitoring local government effectiveness, including voter participation, budget integrity, credit rating, debt load, and tax burden.

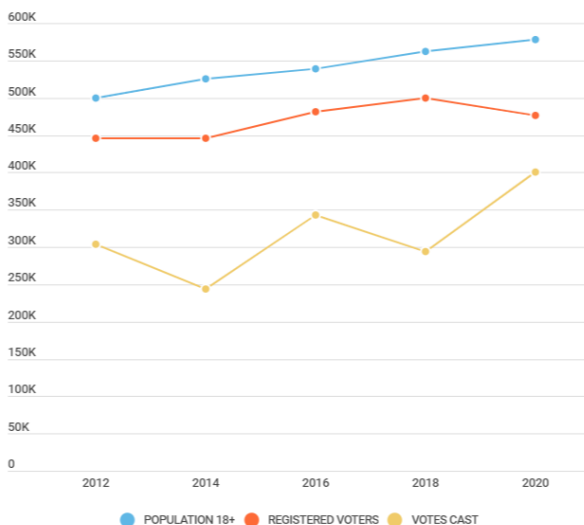
Voter Registration & Participation

An engaged and vibrant community is characterized by a high rate of participation in the democratic process. Voting is a fundamental way to become involved with this process. Combined, El Paso and Teller counties have nearly half a million registered voters.

The proportion of Colorado Springs MSA adults who are registered to vote in 2020 was 82.4%, which reflected a drop from 2016, when it was 89.3%.⁴ Colorado Springs ranked 4th of 6 peer communities in the proportion of adults registered to vote.⁵

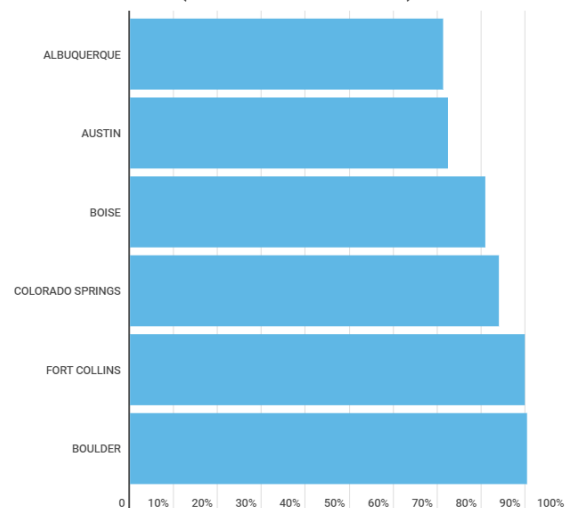
Between El Paso and Teller Counties, 84.0% of registered voters took part in the 2020 general election. This ranked 3rd among 6 peer communities.

COLORADO SPRINGS MSA VOTER TREND



⁴ El Paso County Clerk & Recorder, Teller County Clerk & Recorder, U.S. Census Bureau

**2020 ELECTION TURNOUT
(% OF REGISTERED VOTERS)**



¹¹ Colorado Secretary of State, El Paso County Clerk & Recorder, Idaho Secretary of State, New Mexico Secretary of State, Texas Secretary of State

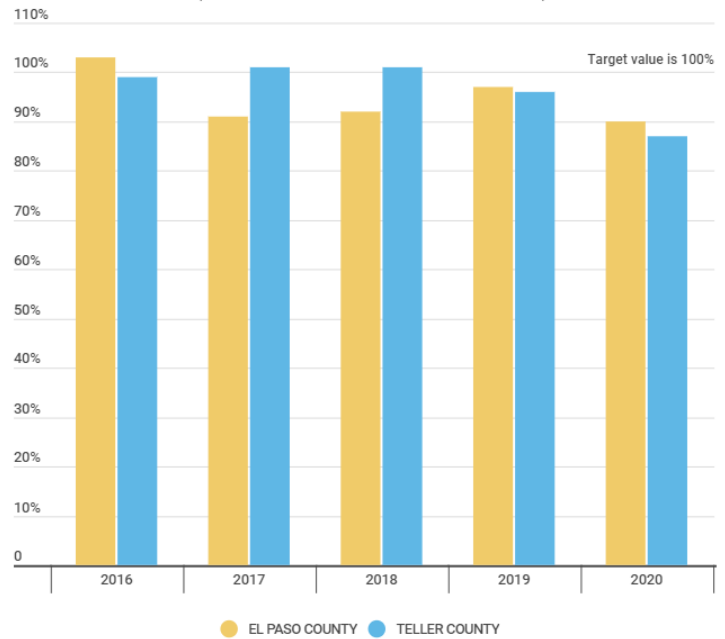
Budgeting Ratio

As governments collect and spend money on behalf of the public, they must do so responsibly. They should not dramatically overspend, such that the public debt increases, nor should they dramatically underspend, such that public monies are withheld from being spent for the public good.

How well governments achieve this balance is described by the budgeting ratio, which is calculated by dividing the general fund expenditures by general fund revenues. The closer to 100%, the better the balance.

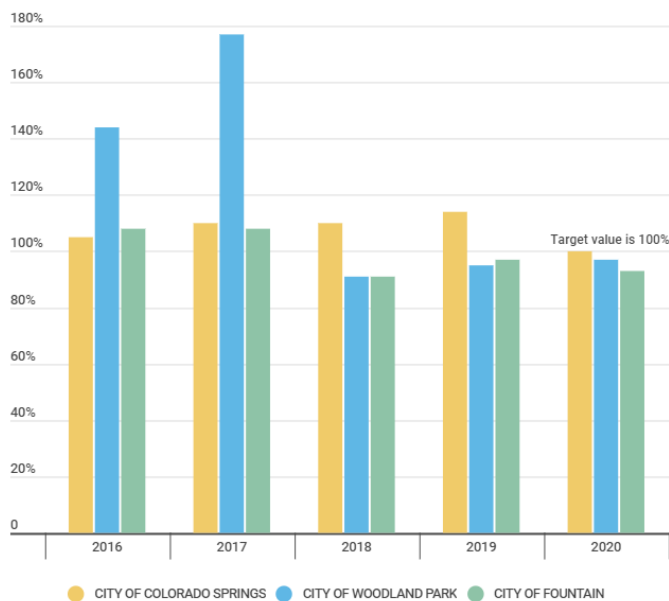
Budgeting ratios were calculated over several years for both Colorado Springs counties as well as three cities in the region, using data from their comprehensive annual financial reports.

BUDGETING RATIO TREND - COUNTIES
(EXPENSES AS A % OF REVENUES)



¹² El Paso County Comprehensive Annual Financial Reports, Teller County Financial Statements

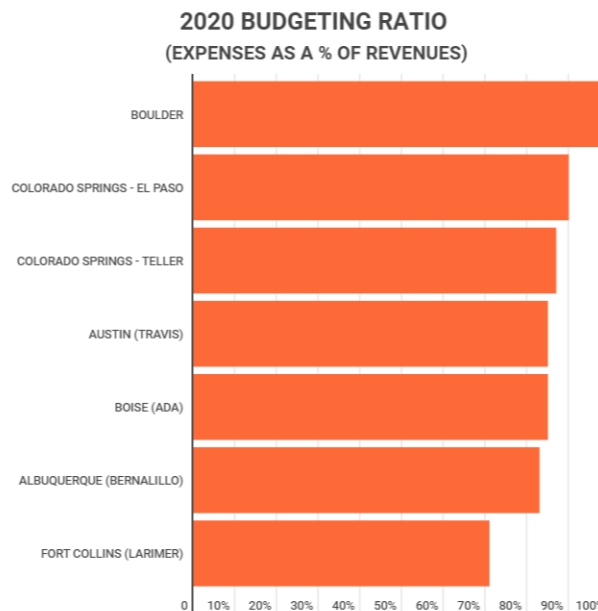
BUDGETING RATIO TREND - CITIES
(EXPENSES AS A % OF REVENUES)



¹³ City Comprehensive Annual Financial Reports

Budgeting ratios were also calculated for 2020 for the largest county in each peer community. Due to COVID-19, many governments scaled back non-essential services, which lowered spending and reduced budgeting ratios to lower than 100%. El Paso and Teller counties' ratios were closer to balanced (100%) than all but one peer community.

El Paso County total general fund expenditures per capita were \$492 in 2020 and Teller County's were \$736.²²



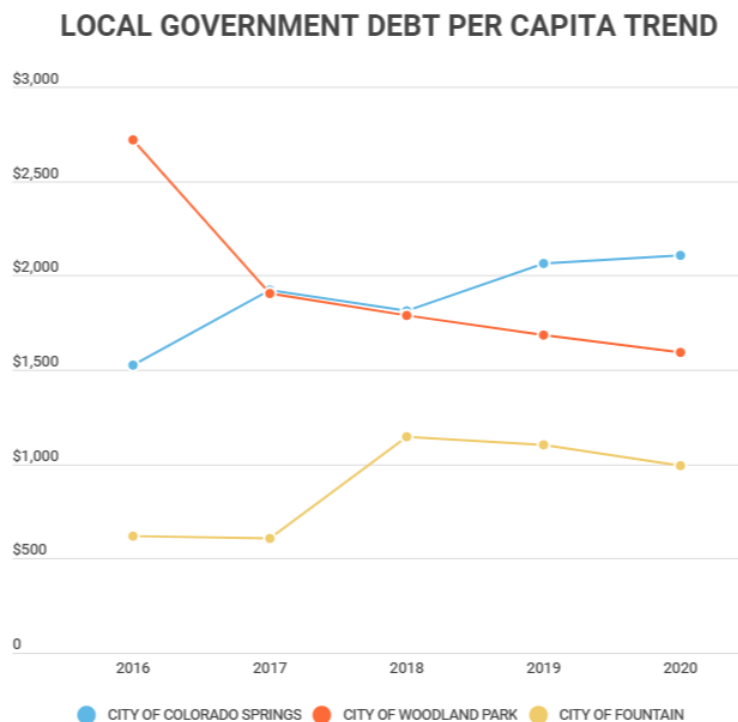
²¹ County Comprehensive Annual Financial Reports

Debt Per Capita

City and county governments, school districts, fire districts, utilities, and other public entities commonly take on long-term debt. This allows the construction cost of buildings and other infrastructure to be paid back over time by those who use or are served by the facilities. Due to jurisdictions overlapping, many cities and counties publish statements of “direct and overlapping debt” to report the share of public debt borne by residents.

In Colorado Springs MSA, three cities provide this calculation in their comprehensive annual financial report. Per capita local debt in each community is less than 35% of the most recent available national average of \$6,058 (2019).

A weighted average of those cities, which comprise 69% of the metro population, is used in the following peer comparison chart as an estimate for Colorado Springs MSA. For peer



²³ City of Colorado Springs Comprehensive Annual Financial Reports, U.S. Census Bureau

²⁴ City of Fountain Comprehensive Annual Financial Reports, U.S. Census Bureau

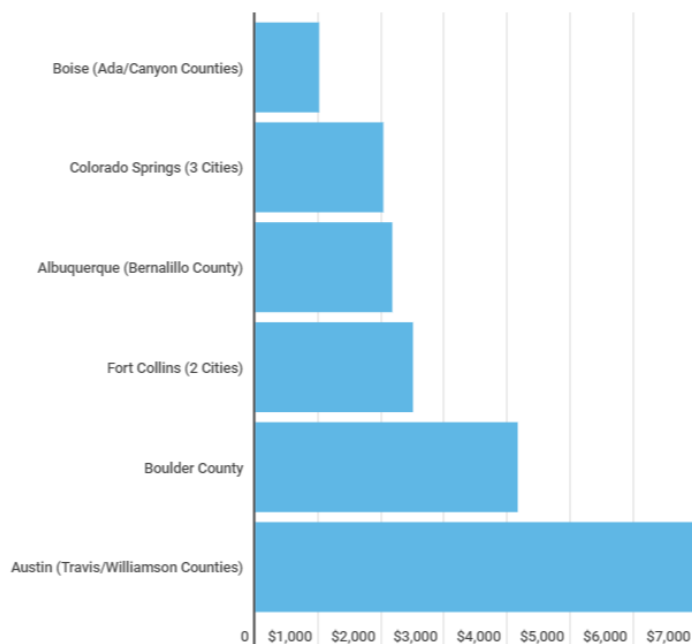
²⁵ City of Woodland Park Comprehensive Annual Financial Reports, U.S. Census Bureau

²⁶ City Comprehensive Annual Financial Reports, U.S. Census Bureau

communities, the largest available cities or counties are used. In 2020, Colorado Springs ranked 2nd of 6 communities for lowest local government debt.

Counties with a higher per-capita gross product can sustain a higher level of per-capita debt. As a percentage of per-capita gross product, Colorado Springs' local government debt in 2020 was 3.9%, which also ranked 2nd of 6 peer communities.

2020 LOCAL GOVERNMENT DEBT PER CAPITA



³² 2020 City and county Comprehensive Annual Financial Reports, U.S. Census Bureau

Credit Rating

As with individuals and companies, the creditworthiness of local governments impacts the rate at which they can borrow, whether by commercial loans or bond issues. Three credit bureaus—Moody's Investors Service, S&P Global (formerly Standard & Poor's), and Fitch Ratings—assign ratings to various bond issues and sometimes assign a long-term credit rating to the issuer itself. In 2011, Moody's assigned the City of Colorado Springs a rating of Aa2. Since 2015 El Paso County has had a rating of Aa1. The following table explains the investment-grade Moody's ratings tiers and how local governments compares to peers.

Credit Rating	Definition	Communities with Long-term Issuer Rating
Aaa	Obligations are highest quality, subject to the lowest level of credit risk.	City of Fort Collins ³³ Larimer County ³⁴
Aa1	Obligations are of high quality and subject to very low credit risk.	El Paso County ³⁵
Aa2		City of Austin ³⁶
Aa3		City of Boise ³⁷
A1		City of Colorado Springs ³⁸
A2	Obligations are judged to be upper-medium grade and subject to low credit risk.	
A3		
Baa	Obligations are judged to be medium-grade and subject to moderate credit risk. This is the lowest "investment-grade" level.	

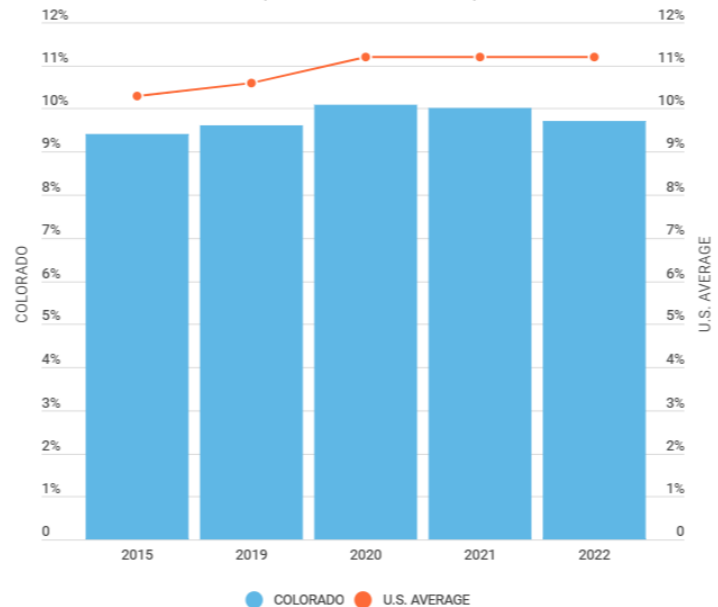
³⁹ Moody's Investor Service

State & Local Tax Burden

Data on the effective rate of state and local taxes is primarily available at the state level. Tax Foundation’s calculations are favored because they account for “tax exporting,” which adjusts for the portion of taxes—20% nationally—that is paid by out-of-state residents.⁴⁰ This includes sales tax paid by tourists, property tax on vacation homes, and severance tax on oil and mineral extraction.⁴¹

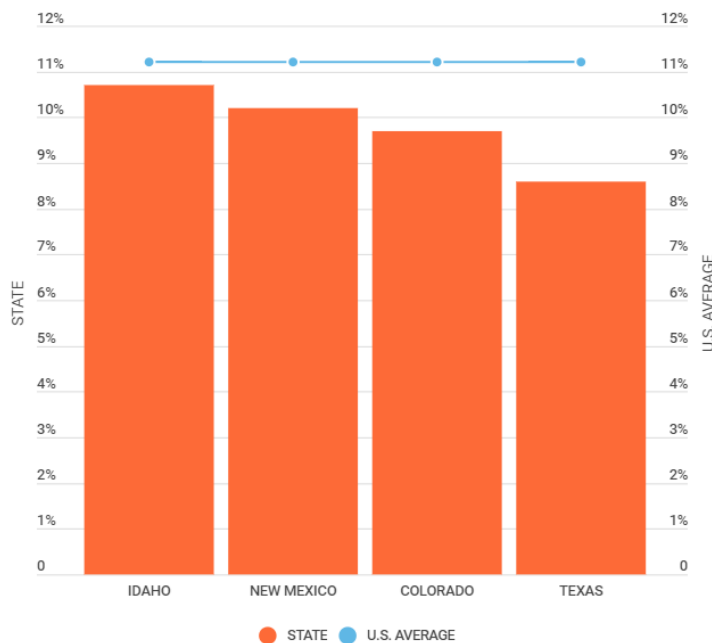
In 2022, Colorado residents are projected to pay \$6,699 per capita in state and local taxes. As a percentage of economic output, the Colorado state-and-local tax burden is 9.7%, which is less than the U.S. average of 11.2% and ranks as the 19th lowest of 50 states.⁴²

COLORADO LOCAL-STATE TAX BURDEN TREND
(% OF NET PRODUCT)



⁴³ Tax Foundation

2022 LOCAL-STATE TAX BURDEN
(VS U.S. AVERAGE)



⁴⁶ Tax Foundation

A published amount for Colorado Springs MSA is not available. The region’s net product in 2020 was 79.6% of the state average,⁴⁴ but the effective property tax rate for El Paso County is also less than the statewide average.⁴⁵

Compared to the nation as a whole, Colorado and each of the peer-community states have a lower-than-average tax burden. Albuquerque and Boise, as the only large metropolitan areas in their respective states, have local tax rates that are very close to the state average. The effective property tax rate of Austin and its suburbs ranges from 0.5% to 1.0% higher than the state average.⁴⁷

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² Teller County website, <https://www.co.teller.co.us/tellercountyhistory.aspx>, <https://www.co.teller.co.us/BOCC/default.aspx>, accessed May 31, 2022.

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⁵ While not everyone in the U.S. 18+ population is eligible to vote (non-citizens and incarcerated people among them), the adult population provides a proxy that is available and comparable across MSAs. U.S. Census Bureau estimates by county and year from <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/popest/technical-documentation/research/evaluation-estimates/2020-evaluation-estimates/2010s-county-detail.html>, accessed May 30, 2022.

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¹¹ 2020 turnout statistics at county level aggregated to produce MSA-level data. Colorado Secretary of State <https://results.enr.clarityelections.com/CO/105975/web.276603/#/reporting>; El Paso County Clerk & Recorder <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Wlmgm-BhDqHKaL7agNnrj9kNpsB2fchn>; <https://coloradosprings.gov/accounting/page/annual-comprehensive-financial-report-acfr>; Idaho Secretary of State https://canvass.sos.idaho.gov/eng/voter_stats/view/5912/; New Mexico Secretary of State <https://electionresults.sos.state.nm.us/Default.aspx?eid=2782>; Texas Secretary of State <https://results.texas-election.com/county>. All sites accessed May 31, 2022.

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¹⁷ Travis County, Texas, Comprehensive Annual Financial Report, year ending Sept. 30, 2020, p. BFS

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Peak Progress (Quality of Life Indicators)

EDUCATION REPORT

Education Summary:

According to The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), “Education plays a key role in providing individuals with the knowledge, skills, and competencies needed to participate effectively in society and in the economy.”

In addition, education may improve people’s lives in such areas as health, civic participation, political interest, and happiness.

- Colorado Springs’ early-education enrollment percentage ranks 4th of 6 peer communities but is very close to that of Boulder (9.9%) and Fort Collins (10.0%).
- In English/Language Arts, in 2021, 40% of Colorado Springs third graders met or exceeded expectations, as did 44% of seventh graders. In Math, scores were lower, with 30% of fourth graders meeting or exceeding expectations, and 28% of seventh graders doing the same.
- Across Colorado Springs MSA, the 2021 four-year high school graduation rate was 74.3%.
- In 2020, the proportion of Colorado Springs MSA graduates who enrolled in college or career education the following fall was 55%, which was four percent below the state average.
- Pikes Peak Community College’s graduation rate was 24% in 2020, compared to the state average of 26% for two-year institutions.
- In 2020-2021, base teacher salaries across the Colorado Springs MSA averaged \$50,432, which was above the median wage for the community (110%). However, in terms of total base salary and as a percentage of the median wage, Colorado Springs ranked 5th of 5 peer communities (data for Albuquerque unavailable).
- In Colorado Springs, per-pupil spending ranked 2nd among 6 peer communities in 2018-2019, the most recent year for which comparative data is available.
- The 2021-2022 student-teacher ratio across all Colorado Springs MSA schools was 16.9 to 1, reflecting an increase of more than half a point from 2020-2021, after four years of decreases.

COLORADO SPRINGS EDUCATION



74.3%

4-YEAR HIGH SCHOOL
GRADUATION RATE ACROSS
COLORADO SPRINGS MSA
IN 2021



28%

OF 8TH GRADERS MET OR
EXCEEDED EXPECTATIONS
IN MATH IN 2021



16.9 : 1

STUDENT-TEACHER RATIO
ACROSS ALL COLORADO
SPRINGS MSA SCHOOLS
IN 2021-2022



44%

OF 7TH GRADERS MET OR EXCEEDED
EXPECTATIONS IN ENGLISH/
LANGUAGE ARTS IN 2021

Key Indicators:

The Pikes Peak region provides a variety of educational experiences for students. The area is home to 17 public school districts along with several charter schools and private schools. The public schools provide open enrollment to any student but primarily serve their local students. Each district varies greatly from the largest serving 27,000 students to the smallest serving 200 students. In addition, the districts range in the number of culturally and linguistically diverse students, special education students, and gifted and talented students they serve. While each district is diverse, each works to meet the needs of their local community.

Having a good education greatly improves the likelihood of finding a job and earning enough money to have a good quality of life. Highly educated individuals are less affected by unemployment trends, typically because educational attainment makes an individual more attractive in the workforce. Lifetime earnings also increase with each level of education attained.”¹

Pre-Kindergarten & Kindergarten

A key indicator for student success measures is participation in early education, which is associated with increases in grade advancement and in high school graduation rates. Public support of early childhood education can help reduce the overall cost of education and promote child well-being.²

For the 2021-2022 academic year, kindergarten and pre-kindergarten enrollment in Colorado Springs MSA public schools was 9.8% of total enrollment. The level has been relatively

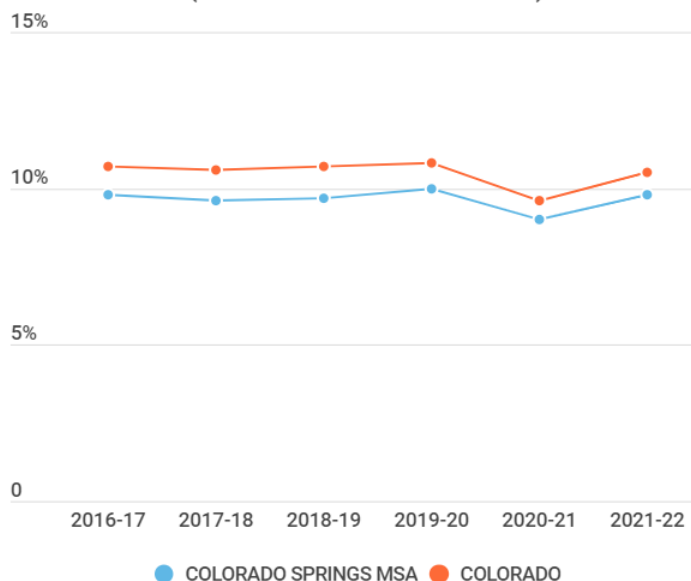
consistent over the years and bounced back almost fully in 2021-'22 following a pandemic-related dip.

Colorado Springs' early-education enrollment percentage ranks **4th of 6** peer communities but is very close to that of Boulder (9.9%) and Fort Collins (10.0%). The earlier the investments and interventions (age/stage-wise), the better. It is important for Colorado Springs to continue to support early-childhood education, institutionally and especially in the home.

Public school enrollment for all grades in the Colorado Springs MSA grew by 11% from 2010 to 2019, which was less than the total population growth in the region (16% or just over 100,000 people)⁴. Growth mirrored that of the city's development, with public school districts in outlying areas growing and those in established areas declining slightly as the population aged. The 2021-2022 school year saw a bounce-back from a COVID-19 related dip.

COLORADO SPRINGS MSA KINDERGARTEN & PRE-K ENROLLMENT

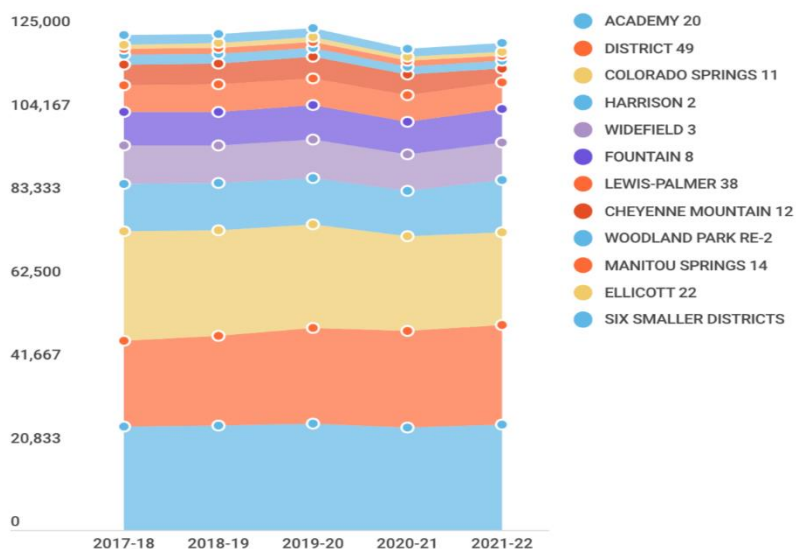
(% OF ALL STUDENTS ENROLLED)



³ Colorado Department of Education.

PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT ENROLLMENT TREND

2018-2022



⁵ Colorado Department of Education

Maturing districts can expect to need to repurpose facilities as their school-age population drops. Budgets may also be affected as a significant number of property owners qualify for the senior

Throughout the 2020s, the area population is again expected to grow by 100,000, but most of the growth is expected in the over-75 age category as aging accelerates. The under-18 population should be stable, with growth anticipated at just 4%, but districts in mature neighborhoods should see significant declines.⁶

property tax exemption. Collaboration across districts and among government structures is recommended, along with increasing public-private partnerships.

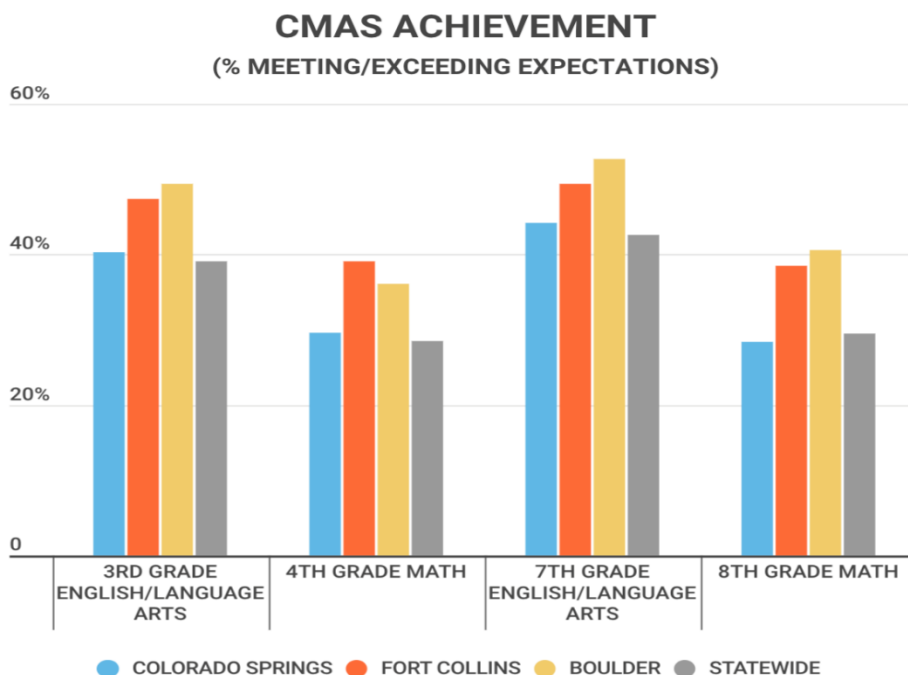
Elementary & Middle School

As students enter elementary years, the focus shifts from participation to proficiency. Test scores are compared to educational standards, which reflect expectations for students and teachers. In middle school, test scores remain important. Scores are not only measured against objective standards but also compared to results from earlier years—the level of progress that students make.

Research has shown that third grade reading skill affects long-term academic achievement, particularly students' likelihood of graduating from high school.⁷ Colorado public school students' scores on English/Language Arts and Math tests are grouped into five categories:

- Did not yet meet expectations
- Partially met expectations
- Approached expectations
- Met expectations
- Exceeded expectations

In English/Language Arts, in 2021, 40% of Colorado Springs third graders met or exceeded expectations, as did 44% of eighth graders. In Math, scores were lower, with 30% of seventh graders meeting or exceeding expectations, and 28% of eighth graders doing the same.⁸



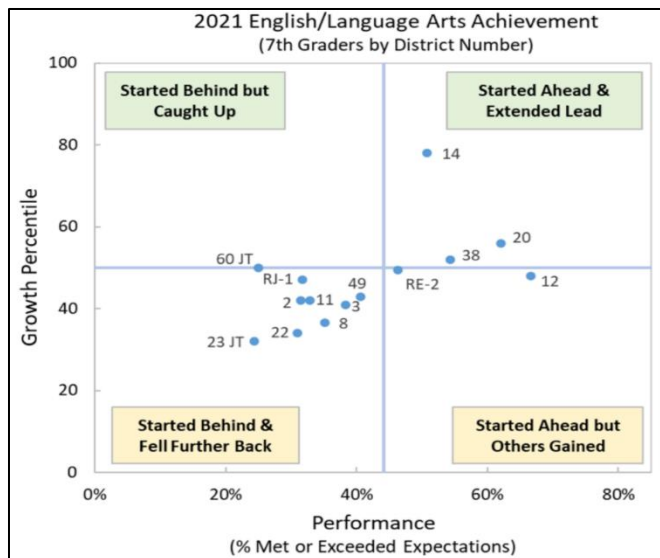
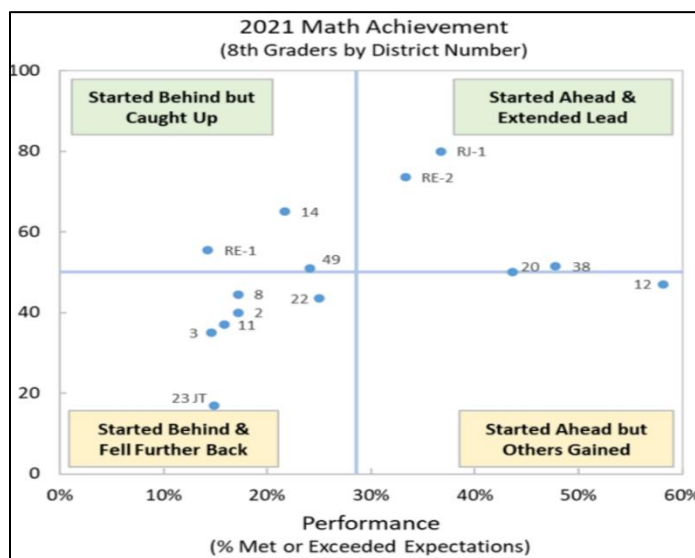
Each proportion was within 2% of the state average; all were slightly lower than those of Colorado peer communities—both of which are centered around a large university.

⁹ Colorado Department of Education

Middle School Growth

Student Growth Percentile measures how a student, or group of students, has grown by comparing their scores over time. Growth data is important as it can reveal the quality of teaching and learning experiences. It reflects how far students have progressed, relative to other students.

At the district level, growth scores can be presented alongside achievement scores, to provide context. The following charts show absolute achievement levels from left to right, and relative growth levels from bottom to top. Districts are labeled by number; those on the right half earned higher test scores than the district average; those in the upper half showed better-than-average growth over time.



¹⁰ Colorado Department of Education

In both subject areas, a diagonal trend can be seen. It indicates that those who start well usually get further ahead over time, while those who fall behind early often lose further ground. This supports the importance of early childhood education, both at home and in the classroom.

Equity issues also emerge, as districts in wealthier parts of the community tend to have higher test scores and stronger growth. Still, some districts stand out for above-average growth rates, suggesting an effective learning environment. Calhan District RJ-1 and Woodland Park District RE-2 both stood out for strong growth in Math. Manitou Springs District 14 also had above-average growth in Math, as well as very high growth in English/Language Arts. On the other end of the spectrum, Peyton District 23-JT had the lowest growth rate in both subjects.

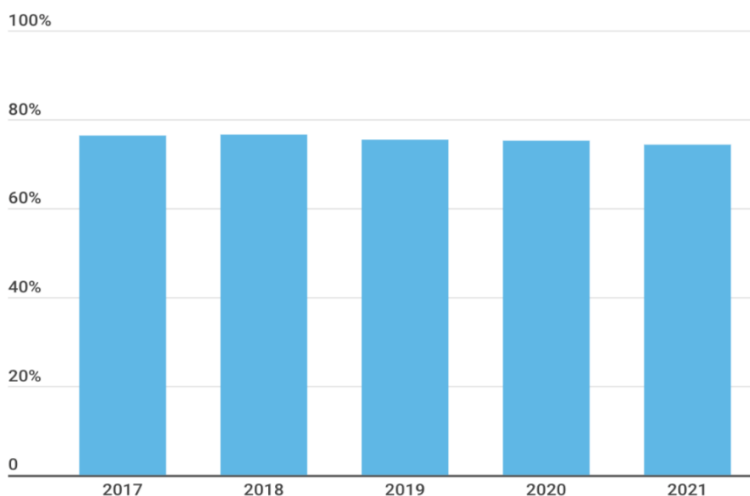
High School

In high school, the focus shifts once again, this time to completion of a broad course of study. Students who earn a high school diploma not only can expect to earn a higher income, but also to have better physical health and a lower risk of premature death.¹¹

Across Colorado Springs MSA, the 2021 four-year high school graduation rate was **74.3%**. Colorado Springs' graduation rate has dropped for three consecutive years. Statewide, rates had risen consistently for 10 years before experiencing a slight decline in 2021. The gap between Colorado Springs graduation rate and the state average grew from 2.7% in 2017 to 7.4% in 2021.¹²

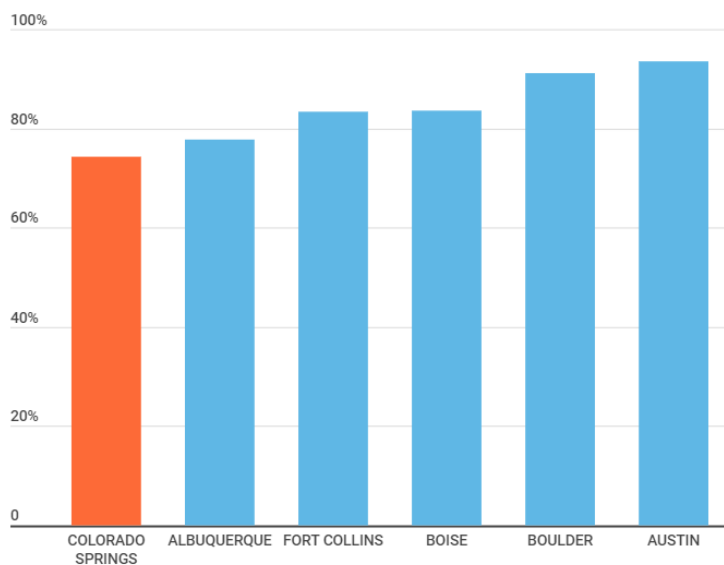
Colorado Springs' graduation rate also compares unfavorably to peer communities, ranking **6th of 6** in 2021 and trailing four communities by nine points or more.¹³ – *Colorado Springs MSA High School Graduation Trend*

**COLORADO SPRINGS MSA HIGH SCHOOL
GRADUATION TREND**
(COMPLETION IN 4 YEARS)



¹⁴ Colorado Department of Education

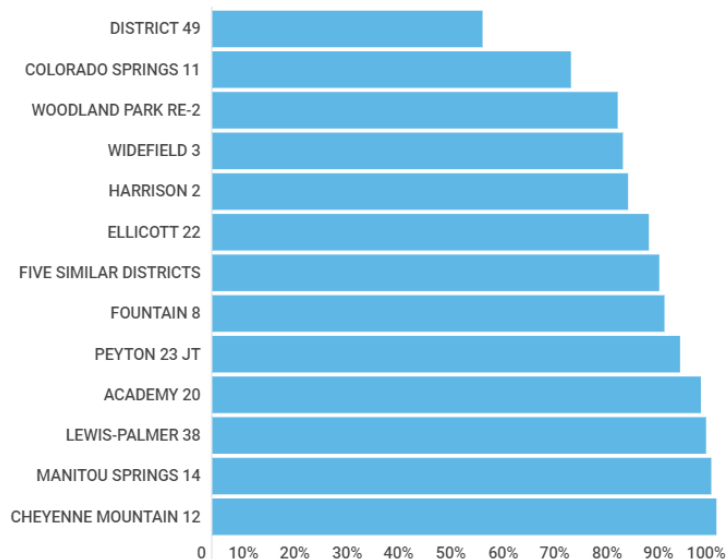
2021 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATES
(COMPLETION IN 4 YEARS)



¹⁵ Colorado Department of Education,
New Mexico Public Education Department, Idaho State

2021 DISTRICT GRADUATION RATES

(VS REGION AVERAGE OF 74.3%)



At the district level, one large district had an outsized impact on average graduation rate. – *2021 High School Graduation Rates*

¹⁶ Colorado Department of Education

Higher Education

Higher education delivers many benefits beyond a brighter financial outlook—but the monetary value of post-secondary education is striking. A 2011 analysis by the Pew Research Center found the following median earnings for a 40-year work life:

- High school graduate with no further education \$770,000
- Worker with a (two-year) associate degree \$1.0 million
- Worker with a bachelor's degree & no advanced degree \$1.4 million

Pew estimated that, after deducting the cost of college and foregone earnings, the difference between the first and last categories is still more than \$500,000.¹⁷

Educators closely track the proportion of high school graduates who continue their education. In 2020, the proportion of Colorado Springs MSA graduates who enrolled in college or career education the following fall was **55%**, which was four percent below the state average. COVID-19 led to a dip in four-year college enrollment, which was partially offset by a substantial increase in career/technical education enrollment, as students stayed closer to home. Being that virtual learning options are likely to expand and become a teaching specialty to their own, it would behoove Colorado Springs to invest in training for virtual education specialties. Career and technical education are also likely to continue expanding. Cooperation with local industry to meet its needs will enhance this for students and employers.

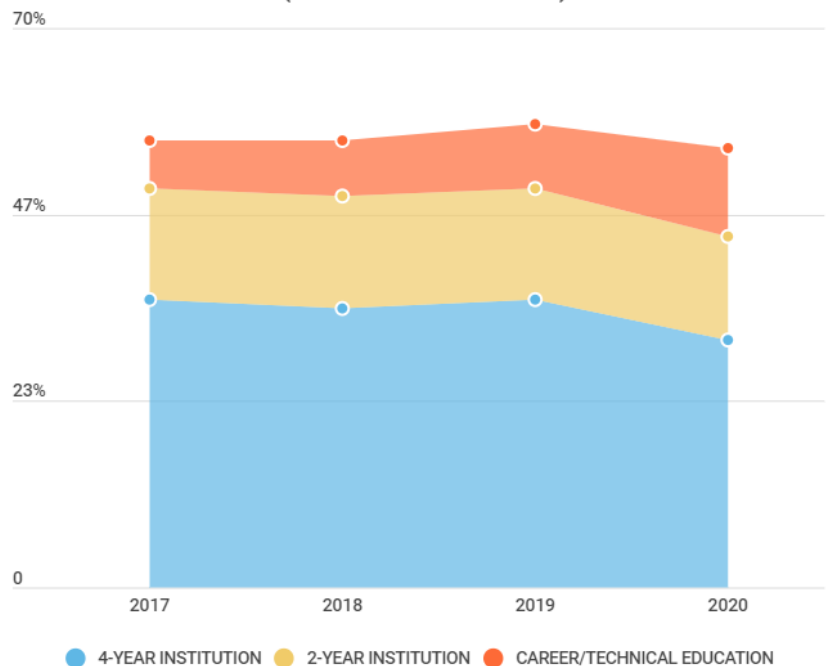
By comparison, 58% of Fort Collins 2020 graduates and 68% of Boulder-area graduates pursued post-secondary education.

College Retention (first year)

The University of Colorado, Colorado Springs (UCCS) tracks first-year retention and graduation rates within six years of initial enrollment. First-year retention has seen a slight upward trend over the past two decades;- since 2011 it has varied between 65% and 70%. In 2020, first-year student retention was **65%**.²⁰ The state average for four-year public institutions was 78% in 2018. That year, UCCS ranked **8th of 12** in first-year retention.²¹ For Pikes Peak Community College, first-year retention in 2018 was **52%**, compared to the state average for two-year institutions of 57%.²²

CONTINUATION RATE FOR COLORADO SPRINGS HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

(% ENROLLING SAME FALL)



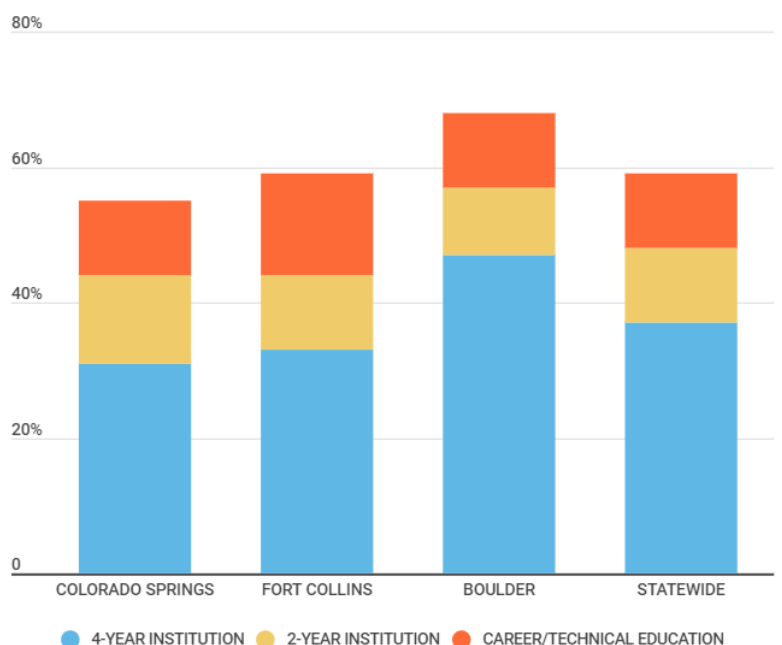
¹⁸ Colorado Department of Education

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CONTINUATION RATE

(% OF 2020 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES MATRICULATING FALL OF 2020)



¹⁹ Colorado Department of Education

College Graduation

UCCS tracks how many of its first-time, first-year, full-time students graduate from UCCS within six years of enrolling. In each of the years between 2018 and 2020 (the most recent years available), that proportion of students (out of those who began six years prior) was **45%**.²³ Statewide, the average among public, four-year institutions was 57% in 2018; UCCS ranked **7th of 12** institutions that year.²⁴ Other institutions with graduation rates in the 40 to 50% range included Western State, University of Northern Colorado, CU-Denver and Fort Lewis College.

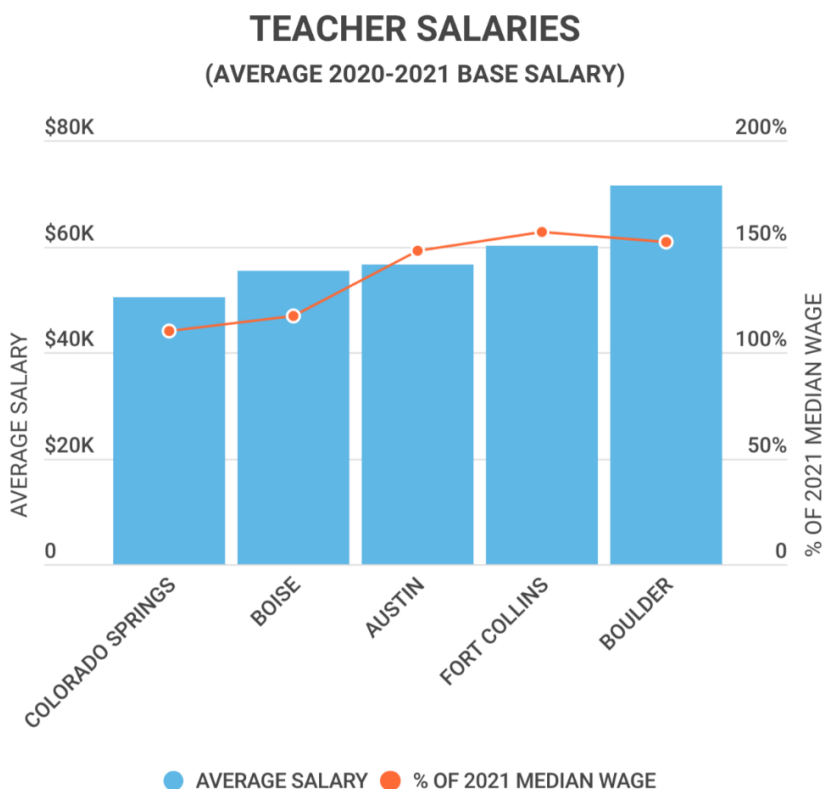
Pikes Peak Community College uses a similar measure for graduation with an Associates Degree or relevant certificate (within three years of initial enrollment). PPCC's graduation rate was **24%** in 2020, compared to the state average of 26% for two-year institutions.²⁵

Investment in Education

Local school boards determine how resources are allocated, including how many teachers to hire, how much teachers are paid, and how school budgets are structured. Investing more resources in public education does not guarantee successful education outcomes, but investment usually has a positive outcome.

Teacher Salary

In 2020-2021, base teacher salaries across the Colorado Springs MSA averaged **\$50,432**, which was above the median wage for the community (110%). However, in terms of total base salary and as a percentage of the median wage, Colorado Springs ranked **5th of 5** peer communities (data for Albuquerque unavailable). Competition for quality teachers can be expected to increase so districts will need to work to retain the best teachers in a tight labor market. It would be prudent to consider policies that provide incentives to teachers to delay retirement or return to the profession.



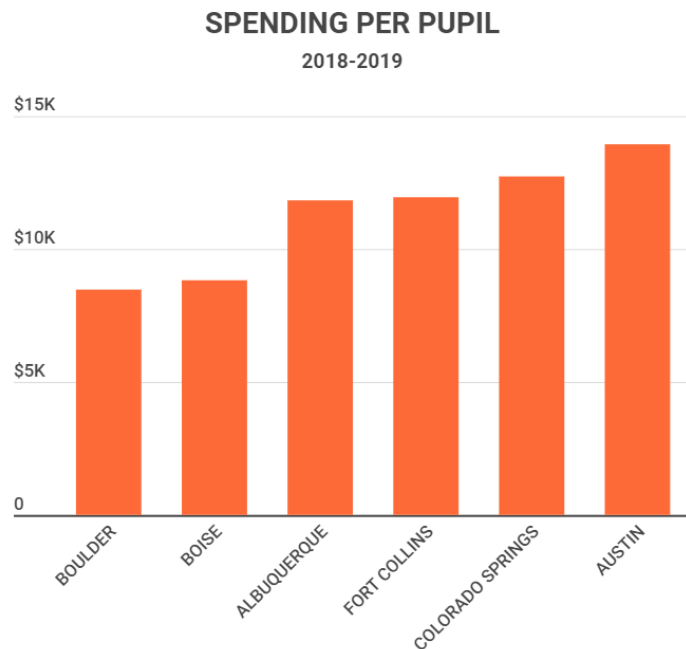
²⁸ Colorado Department of Education, Idaho State Department of Education, Texas Education Agency, & U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Increasing teacher pay, for example, has been found to reduce teacher turnover, which in turn leads to increased student achievement. Additionally, countries with higher starting salaries for teachers tends to attract more and better-qualified teachers into the profession.²⁷

Expenditures per pupil

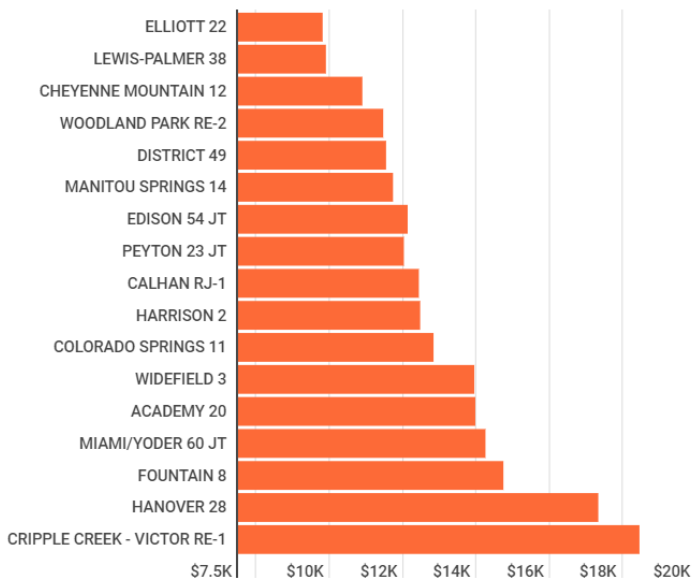
In multiple studies, increases in per-pupil spending have been positively linked to improved student successes, especially for those from disadvantaged backgrounds.²⁹ In Colorado Springs, per-pupil spending ranked **2nd among 6** peer communities in 2018-2019, the most recent year for which comparative data is available.

At the district level, spending varied by more than \$8,000 per pupil.



DISTRICT SPENDING PER PUPIL 2018-2019

(VS MSA AVERAGE OF \$12,727)



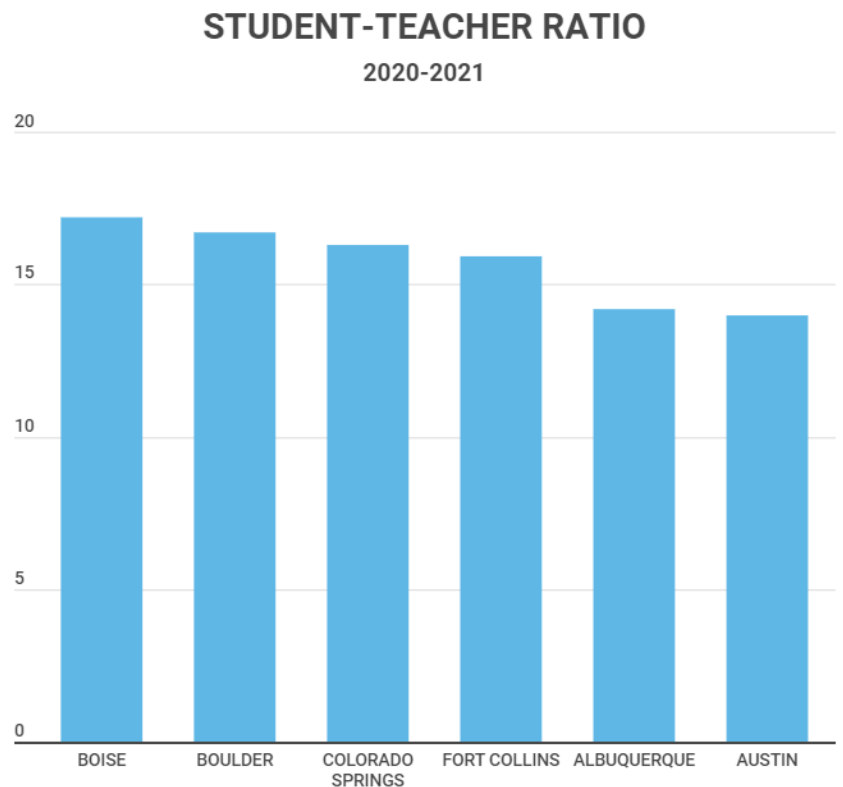
³⁰ National Center for Education Statistics, Colorado Department of Education, Idaho State Department of Education, New Mexico Public Education Department, & Texas Education Agency

Student-Teacher Ratio

Due to teacher compensation being the largest portion of school budgets, boards, and administrators carefully consider how many teachers to hire. The more teachers, the lower the student-teacher ratio, which typically reduces average class size and increases teachers' capacity to give students personal attention. Although the connection between class size and student performance is weak, research suggests that students with disadvantaged backgrounds benefit from smaller class sizes, and lower ratios are associated with greater teacher satisfaction.³²

The 2021-2022 student-teacher ratio across all Colorado Springs MSA schools was **16.9 to 1**, reflecting an increase of more than half a point from 2020-2021, after four years of decreases.³³ For peer-community comparisons, 2020-2021 data is used.

Colorado Springs ranked **4th of 6** peer communities, ahead of Boulder and Boise. The rise in student-teacher ratio is due to a drop of nearly 200 teachers in 2021-2022, reflecting a post-pandemic trend across many professions that some have called the "Great Resignation." The Gazette reported that Pikes Peak-area schools have more than 400 teacher vacancies as of April 2022.³⁴



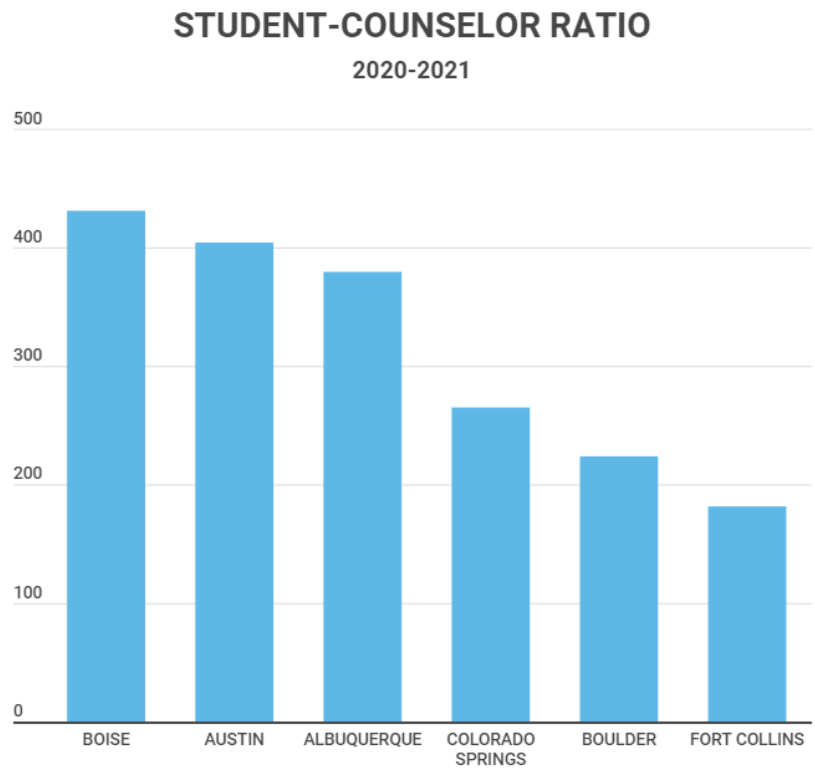
³⁵ National Center for Education Statistics

Student-Counselor Ratio

Research shows that increased contact with school counselors is positively associated with college enrollment, even when controlling for differences in student intentions and background.³⁷ The link is stronger among those from less-advantaged backgrounds.

Counseling also plays a key role in students' mental health. Fewer than two-thirds of children with mental health issues obtain professional help,³⁸ but of those who receive mental health services, at least 70% do so through school.³⁹

The American School Counselor Association recommends that schools maintain a ratio of no more than 250 students per school counselor.⁴⁰ In 2020-2021, schools in metro Colorado Springs did not quite meet that standard, with a ratio of **264.5 to 1**. That ranked **3rd of 6** peer communities.



³⁶ National Center for Education Statistics

Education Sources

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⁴Public school enrollment data from <https://www.cde.state.co.us/cdereval/2021-2022districtmembershiptrends> (Excel download), with Colorado Springs data aggregated across 17 area districts. State growth data from Census Bureau <https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/popest/tables/2010-2019/metro/totals/cbsa-met-est2019-cumchg.xlsx> accessed April 22, 2022.

⁵Colorado Department of Education, <https://www.cde.state.co.us/cdereval/2021-2022districtmembershiptrends> (Excel download), from <https://cde.state.co.us/cdereval/pupildcurrent>, accessed April 24, 2022.

⁶Colorado State Demography Office dashboard, https://demography.dola.colorado.gov/apps/demographic_dashboard/, accessed April 22, 2022.

⁷Hernandez DJ. “Double jeopardy: how third-grade reading skills and poverty influence high school graduation.” New York: The Annie E. Casey Foundation; 2011. Cited by HealthyPeople.gov, <https://www.healthypeople.gov/2020/topics-objectives/topic/social-determinants-health/interventions-resources/high-school-graduation>, accessed April 22, 2022.

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⁹ Ibid

¹⁰ Colorado Department of Education 2021 growth data file: <https://www.cde.state.co.us/accountability/2021-cmas-growth-percentiles-final> (Excel download), accessed from <https://www.cde.state.co.us/schoolview/datafiles>. Trend data available

at <https://www.cde.state.co.us/accountability/performance-framework-flat-files-from-prior-years>.
Explanation of growth concepts at: <https://www.cde.state.co.us/accountability/coloradogrowth>.
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¹¹ Oreopoulos P. “Do dropouts drop out too soon? Wealth, health and happiness from compulsory schooling.” *Journal of Public Economics*, 2007;91(11):2213–29. Cited by HealthyPeople.gov, <https://www.healthypeople.gov/2020/topics-objectives/topic/social-determinants-health/interventions-resources/high-school-graduation>, accessed 22 April, 2022.

¹² Colorado Department of Education Graduation Rates, <https://www.cde.state.co.us/cdereval/gradratecurrent>, accessed April 24, 2022. Total MSA rate calculated as an average of component schools, weighted by 12th grade enrollment. That is, total number of graduates divided by total number of 12 graders.

¹³ Peer community data is aggregated from district-level public-school data from national and state sources. Averages are weighted by enrollment. For some measures, districts may have included or excluded charter schools. Full data from districts headquartered in respective MSAs were used, in Boulder, for example, a small portion of one district lies outside the Boulder MSA. Number of districts aggregated by city: Albuquerque 10, Austin 28, Boise 18, Boulder 2, Fort Collins 3.

¹⁴ Colorado Department of Education, <https://www.cde.state.co.us/cdereval/graduatecurrent>, assessed April 24, 2022.

¹⁵ Four-year graduation rates aggregated from district-level data, weighted by enrollment. Sources: Colorado Department of Education (<https://www.cde.state.co.us/code/graduationrate2021>); New Mexico Public Education Department (<https://webnew.ped.state.nm.us/bureaus/accountability/graduation/>); Idaho State Department of Education (<https://www.sde.idaho.gov/assessment/accountability/results.html>); Texas Education Association (<https://rptsrv1.tea.texas.gov/acctres/completion/2020/district.html>); all accessed July 15, 2022.

¹⁶ Colorado Department of Education, https://www.cde.state.co.us/cdereval/2021gradstat_districtbygender-race-ethnicity (Excel download), accessed April 24, 2022.

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¹⁸ Colorado Department of Education Postsecondary and Workforce Readiness Flat Files. Data aggregated from district-level data (graduates enrolling divided by all graduates). 2020 data accessed via <https://www.cde.state.co.us/accountability/2020-matriculation-rates-by-school-district-and-state> (Excel download); prior year data via

<https://www.cde.state.co.us/accountability/performance-framework-flat-files-from-prior-years>; files accessed April 20, 2022.

¹⁹ Ibid.

²⁰ UCCS Institutional Research fall-to-fall census.

https://ir.uccs.edu/sites/g/files/kjihxj1231/files/inline-files/RetentionRates_3.pdf, accessed from <https://ir.uccs.edu/studentdata/outcomes>, April 24, 2022.

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²² Colorado Department of Higher Education; Reports & Publications. Accessed from <https://highered.colorado.gov/Data/Reports.aspx?cat=12>, April 24, 2022.

²³ UCCS Institutional Research, Graduation Rate Chart,

https://ir.uccs.edu/sites/g/files/kjihxj1231/files/inline-files/OfficialGraduationRatesChart_2.xlsx, from <https://ir.uccs.edu/studentdata/outcomes>, accessed April 24, 2022.

²⁴ Colorado Department of Higher Education graduation rates within six years at original institution,

https://highered.colorado.gov/Publications/Reports/Enrollment/FY2018/2018_GradRates.pdf, accessed from <https://highered.colorado.gov/Data/Reports.aspx?cat=11> on April 24, 2022. UCCS rate recorded as 43.9%.

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²⁷ Peter Dolton & Oscar D. Marcenaro Gutiérrez, “If You Pay Peanuts Do You Get Monkeys? A Cross-Country Analysis of Teacher Pay and Pupil Performance.” *Economic Policy* 26(65):5 – 55, January 2011. Accessed at

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/227660116_If_You_Pay_Peanuts_Do_You_Get_Monkeys_A_Cross-Country_Analysis_of_Teacher_Pay_and_Pupil_Performance, April 22, 2022.

²⁸ Metro teacher salary average aggregated from district data as the total summed payroll of all districts divided by the total FTE teacher count across all districts. Some district payroll amounts determined from FTE count and average salary. Colorado teacher salary data for 2020-2021 from

Colorado Department of Education, <https://www.cde.state.co.us/cdereval/averageteachersalaries2020>; Idaho teacher salary data from Idaho State Department of Education, <https://www.sde.idaho.gov/finance/files/staffing/salary-summaries/2021-2022/2021-2022-Staff-Salary-Summary-Combined-Report.pdf>, accessed from <https://www.sde.idaho.gov/finance/> (Heading: “Financial information”); Texas teacher salary data from Texas Education Agency, <https://rptsvr1.tea.texas.gov/adhocrpt/adpeb.html>; Median metro wages for 2021 from Bureau of Labor Statistics, <https://www.bls.gov/oes/special.requests/oesm21ma.zip>, accessed via <https://www.bls.gov/oes/tables.htm>. All sites accessed April 24, 2022.

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³³ 2021-2022 Colorado Department of Education data, <http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdereval/2021-22studentteacherratiosxls> (Excel download), with metro amounts computed as sum of all students across all districts divided by all teachers across all districts.

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³⁵ National Center for Education Statistics; for comparative purposes, 2020-2021 data are used from district-level queries run at <https://nces.ed.gov/ccd/districtsearch/>. Weighted average across districts calculated based on district enrollment for 2020-2021 per Colorado Department of Education, <https://www.cde.state.co.us/cdereval/rvprioryearpmdata>; both accessed July 14, 2022.

³⁶ National Center for Education Statistics. Data for total Guidance Counselors summed across all constituent districts and divided by sum of Total Enrollment across all districts. <https://nces.ed.gov/ccd/districtsearch/index.asp>, accessed April 24, 2022.

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Peak Progress (Quality of Life Indicators)

ECONOMY REPORT

Economy Summary:

Colorado Springs continues to draw people evidenced by the increase in population of the Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) by more than a third over the past two decades.

Population growth is good when accompanied by growth in productivity, quality jobs, employment, and personal income. Such growth creates a base of support so that public services and infrastructure can also grow and be sustained. However, without economic growth, population growth increases stress on community assets. Several measures show the quality of Colorado Springs' growth.

- In 2020, the total Gross Metropolitan Product of Colorado Springs in current dollars was \$39.5 billion.
- In 2019, Colorado Springs had 18,727 employers, which is 25 employers per 1,000 residents of working age.
- In 2020, 57.6% of the Colorado Springs population (all ages) was employed, which includes active-duty military and self-employed proprietors.
- Over the past two decades, substantial job increases have been seen in: Education & Health Services +111%; Local Government Education + 38%; Leisure & Hospitality +35%.
- In 2020, median household income for the Colorado Springs MSA was \$71,171.
- In 2020, the cost of rent in Colorado Springs was 16% more than the national average.
- The median price of a single-family home as of March 2022 was \$475,000.

COLORADO SPRINGS ECONOMY



\$475,000
MEDIAN PRICE OF A
SINGLE-FAMILY HOME
(AS OF MARCH 2022)



\$71,171
MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME
FOR THE COLORADO SPRINGS MSA
(IN 2020)



16% MORE
THE COST OF RENT IN COLORADO
SPRINGS WAS 16% MORE THAN THE
NATIONAL AVERAGE (IN 2020)



18,727 EMPLOYERS
25 EMPLOYERS PER 1,000 RESIDENTS
OF WORKING AGE (IN 2019)

Key Indicators:

There are many factors to consider when assessing the vitality of a local economy. The quantitative measurements included in this section affect, and are affected by, many indicators throughout the report. The Colorado Springs Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) has experienced fluctuations in the areas of economic production, employment, income, and cost of living impacting their overall economic performance.

Economic Productivity

What is this?

Gross Metropolitan Product (GMP) is a measure of the goods and services produced by labor and property in a community. It is the local version of Gross Domestic Product (GDP), which measures the economic output of a country. Per capita GMP is a measure of individual economic productivity for a community. It is calculated by dividing the GMP by the population of the community.

How Are We Doing?

Adjusted for inflation, Colorado Springs' economy grew an average of 1.8% annually from 2010 to 2020. In 2020, the total GMP of Colorado Springs in current dollars was \$39.5 billion, which reflected slight contraction from the previous year (-0.1%). The small local drop in productivity during the first year of COVID-19 was much less than that recorded statewide and countrywide. This may have been due to the large concentration of military installations, which makes Colorado Springs less susceptible to downturns than other communities.

Sustainable growth requires individual productivity to keep up with population growth. From 2012 to 2016 it did not, as real (inflation-adjusted) per-capita gross product declined almost every year. That flipped in recent years, with personal productivity increasing in 2017, 2018, and

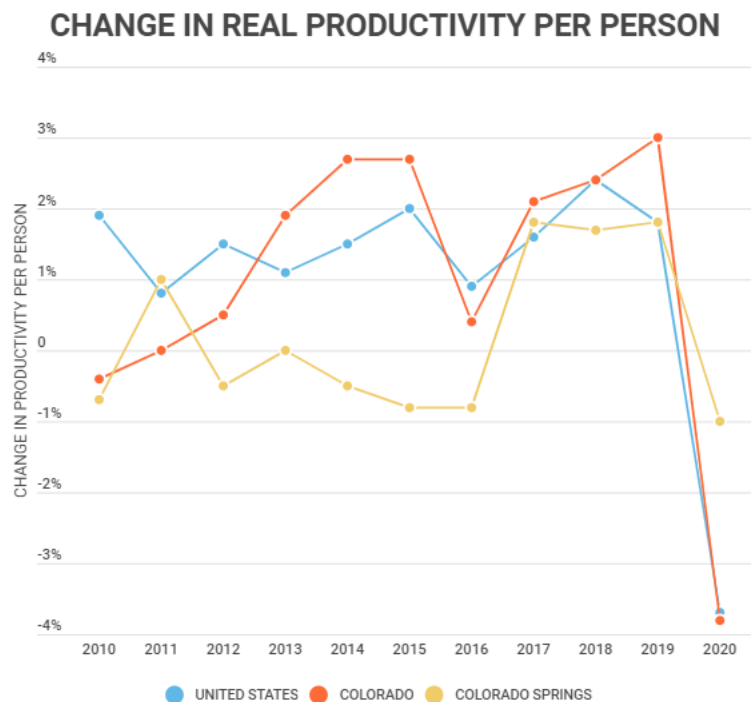
2019.¹ Over the 2010s Colorado Springs ranked 5th of 6 peer communities in per-capita productivity growth.

Why Is It Important?

GMP per capita shows how efficient members of a community are in delivering goods and services. Increasing per capita productivity creates a healthy tax base to support public services and infrastructure to keep pace with population growth. High productivity also results in higher wages, a sustainable standard of living, and wealth creation. Low productivity requires more people to achieve the same output. This drives a need for more housing, roads, schools, etc.

Potential Actions

A robust assessment of the local economy would determine how well the current tourism/military/service industry economic base can support, sustain, and improve quality of life. It is likely that significant effort will be required to grow and attract high productivity jobs to achieve high levels of economic output without the need to build significantly more infrastructure.



² Bureau of Economic Analysis

Employer Size, Growth & GDP

What Is This?

Employer size looks at the average size of an employer in terms of employee headcount. Employment growth reflects the total number of new jobs created in a given period of time.

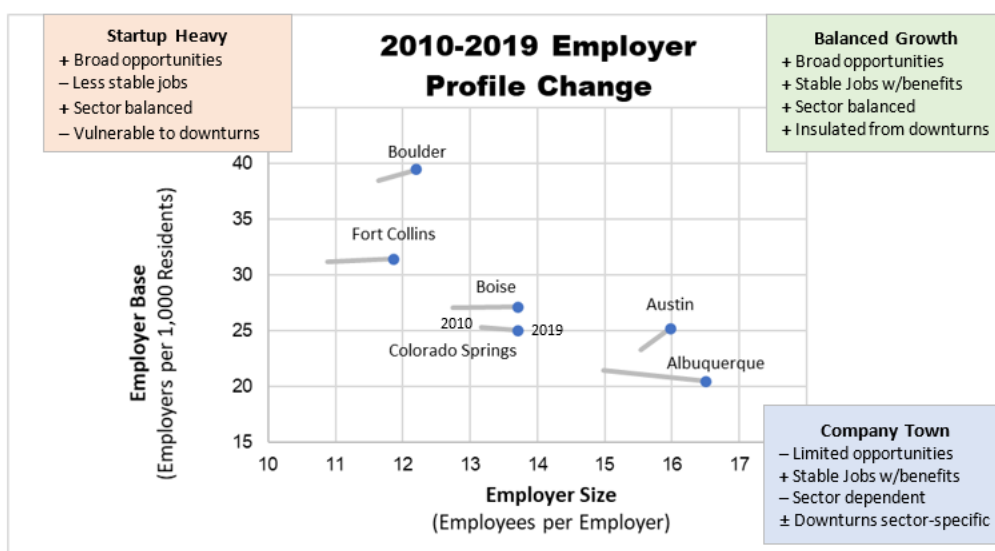
How Are We Doing?

In 2019, Colorado Springs had 18,727 employers, with 25 employers per 1,000 residents of working age.³ The number of employers in Colorado Springs grew by 13.8% over a 10-year period. That growth rate ranked 4th of 6 peer communities, exceeding that of Boulder and Albuquerque. Colorado Springs had 105 employers with at least 250 employees, up from 97 a decade earlier. Healthy growth requires growth in the overall number of employers and also the number of larger employers. Both are shown in the graph below, with total employer base on the

vertical axis and large employers on the horizontal axis. Over the past decade, Colorado Springs has seen a modest increase in average employer size. Growth in the number of employers has not quite matched the area's population growth.

Why Is It Important?

A robust economy requires a growing base of employers—providing a wide variety of jobs—anchored by a set of large employers that typically offer stable jobs with benefits and strong salaries. Coupled with employment growth, employer size can indicate if the workforce is experiencing growth or contraction. Larger employers will also typically offer higher salary ranges and benefits that small to medium companies struggle to match, thus creating higher paying jobs in the MSA. Increasing employer count would suggest a more varied employer base and growing economy. It also highlights an MSA's success in attracting new employers. A growing employer base should drive population increases through job creation.



⁴ U.S. Census Bureau

Potential Actions

Colorado Springs' growth in small-to-mid-sized employers has outpaced the national average. However, growth in large employers has only matched the national average, while other peer communities have seen greater growth. (Note: This data does not include federal government employers). Colorado Springs has done well in attracting new employers over the past 20 years and has maintained an even mix of small to large employers. However, Colorado Springs has very few nationally known large employers with significant, high paying jobs. This likely results in Colorado Springs wages being suppressed compared to that of peer communities. Attracting larger companies would be likely to drive up employee wages to keep pace with increased costs of living.

Employment & Population

What is this?

Workforce participation is the proportion of the population that is working. It provides an alternative to traditional unemployment statistics that exclude people who are neither employed nor looking for a job.

How Are We Doing?

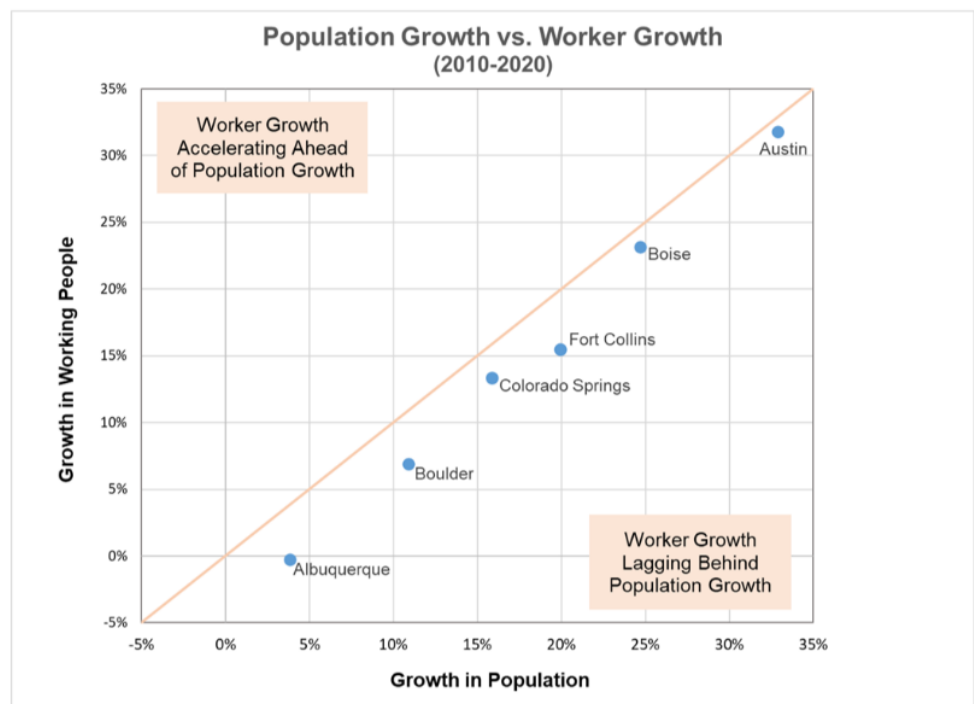
In 2020, 57.6% of the Colorado Springs population was employed, which includes active-duty military and self-employed proprietors. The proportion of the population that works grew consistently between 2012 and 2019 (from 56.7% to 59.5%) before dropping in 2020 due to COVID-19. Colorado Springs ranks 5th of 6 peer cities in terms of the employment-to-population ratio.

Over the past decade, the proportion of Colorado Springs MSA employees who are active-duty military personnel has varied from 8.7% to 10.8%. In 2020, military accounted for 9.3% of employees in the area, or 1 in 11 employed residents.⁵

Why Is It Important?

The number of people working in a community drives economic output and provides income to individuals and families to pay for housing, groceries, education, savings, healthcare, etc. A certain level of income is required to afford a reasonable standard of living. If people cannot secure employment, they may not be able to afford housing or food and in turn will have to rely on social services.

The worker population shown above includes sole-proprietor work (such as those engaged part-time in the “gig” economy). Were these workers not counted, each community would drop further below the diagonal, with population growing faster than wage and salary employment.



⁶ Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Census Bureau

Potential Actions

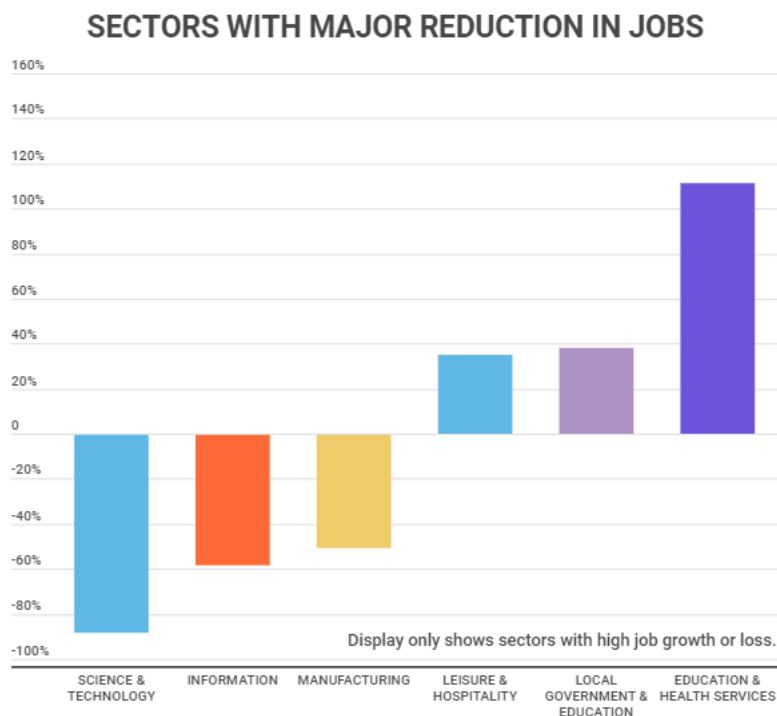
The Colorado Springs MSA would benefit from continued actions to support growth in job opportunities to maximize employment, economic output, and incomes. This would support a secure and enjoyable lifestyle for all residents and improve tax collections to fund infrastructure and regional amenities to enhance quality of life.

Employment by Industry

What Is This?

Employment by industry, reported by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, is calculated by using data collected by employers in all industry sectors in metropolitan and nonmetropolitan areas in every state and the District of Columbia.

How are we doing? Over the past two decades, we have seen substantial job increases as well as job reductions in the following sectors:



Why Is It Important?

Communities benefit financially from a healthy mix of industry. By reviewing industry employment data, economic development activities can be more focused on companies that support the culture of the community, the skillsets of the available workforce, and the geographic assets of the region.

Display above only shows sectors with high job growth or loss.

Potential Actions

The data reflects that the Colorado Springs MSA has not experienced the strong employment growth of peer MSAs in the post-recessionary period. Continuing to diversify the employment base in the Colorado Springs MSA should be a priority, with an increased focus on the attraction and retention of technology and manufacturing industries.

Income

What Is This?

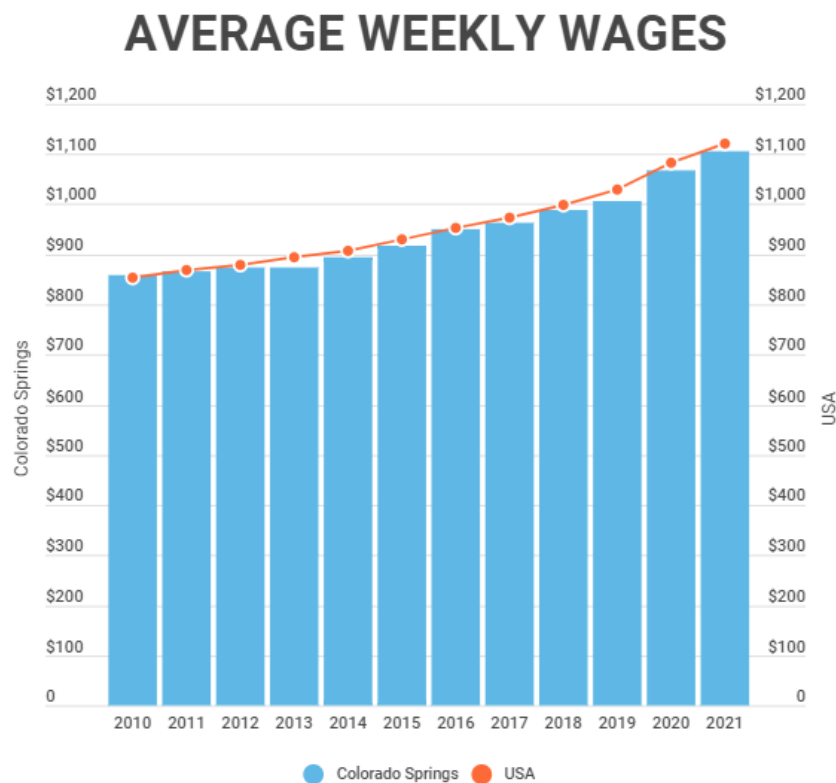
The section on Productivity considered the total value of goods and services produced by a community (gross product). This section considers the income that local people derive from that production. Per capita income is calculated by taking the total income derived in a community and dividing it by the total number of people in the community. This includes all forms of income salaries, wages, social security, pensions, interest, and dividends but it excludes capital gains. Median household income is the income of the “typical” household—that is, equal numbers of households have more and less income.

How Are We Doing?

In 2020, median household income for the Colorado Springs MSA was \$71,171.⁷ Per capita income that is, all personal income divided by all residents was \$54,166.⁸ Average individual weekly wages—job earnings of those employed by private employers—were \$1,106.⁹

Why Is It Important?

Personal income is the amount that people earn from a variety of sources, including work and investments. It is one measure of the wealth or prosperity of a community. At an individual level, income ensures the affordability of essential elements for a reasonable quality of life, including healthcare, education, and housing.

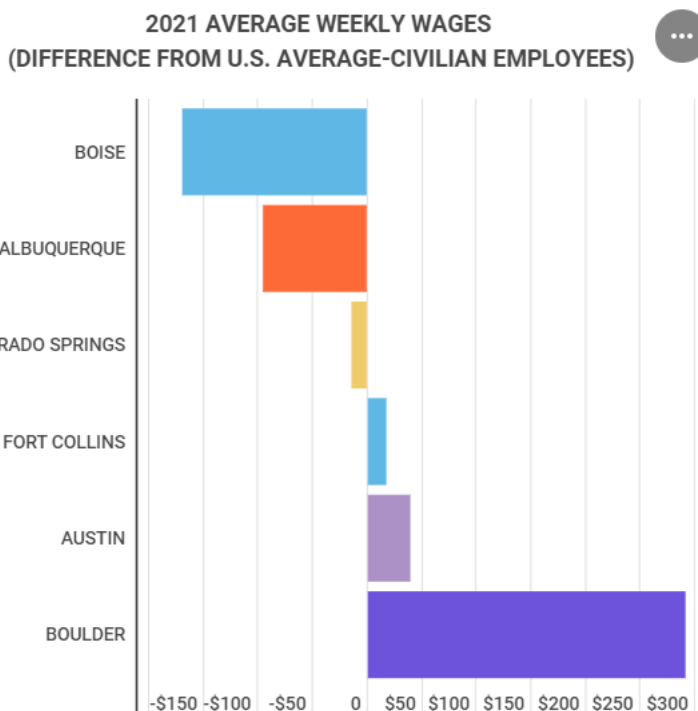


10 Bureau of Labor Statistics

In all three categories, Colorado Springs ranked 4th of 6 peer communities. Median household income ranged from as low as \$55,370 (Albuquerque) to as high as \$87,476 (Boulder). Mean per capita income ranged from as low as \$47,442 (Albuquerque) to as high as \$79,649 (Boulder).

Potential Actions

The recent growth in Colorado Springs is encouragement that it is on the right path. Efforts taken in these years should be emulated moving forward. Attracting better-paying jobs, particularly in technology and manufacturing, should be a priority for Colorado Springs, as should keeping restrictions reasonable for home-based businesses.



¹¹ Bureau of Labor Statistics

Cost of Living

What Is This?

Cost of living for a metropolitan statistical area is captured by the Regional Price Parities data collected by the Bureau of Economic Analysis. Regional price parities (RPPs) are regional price levels expressed as a percentage of the overall national price level for a given year. The price levels are determined by the average prices paid by consumers for the mix of goods and services consumed in each community. Taking the ratio of RPPs shows the difference in price levels across communities.

How Are We Doing?

Colorado Springs' cost of living, based on all household expenditures, closely matches the overall USA average. Colorado Springs has consistently been between 98% and 102% of the U.S. average.¹² Costs in Colorado Springs also have been consistently lower than the state of Colorado and significantly below Boulder during the period of time measured.

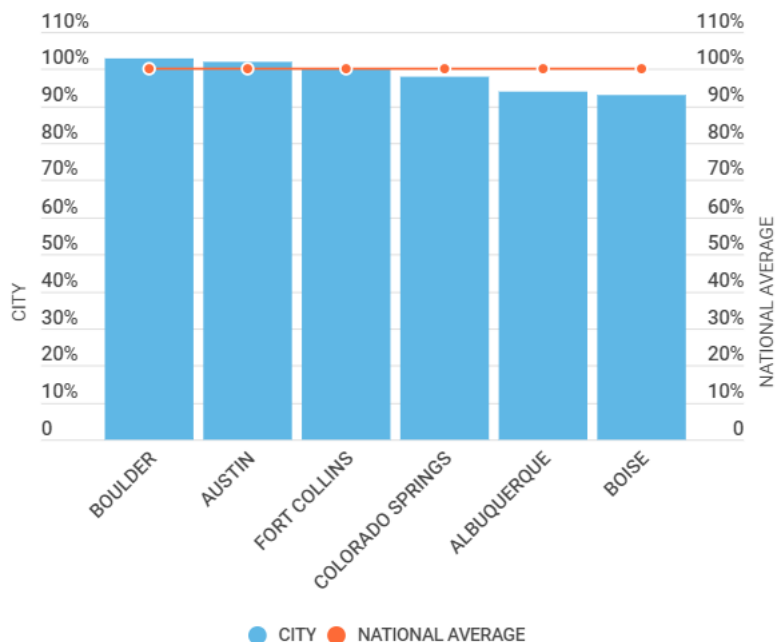
Why Is It Important?

Cost of living reflects how affordable housing, rent, utilities and other household expenses are in a community. (Note, however, that increases in housing costs tend to lag because most

homeowners' mortgages were set at the time of purchase.) A higher cost of living makes it more expensive to live in an area, while a lower cost of living reflects a community that is more affordable.

The following chart shows how the “typical” Colorado Springs resident’s income and spending changed—usually increasing—through the 2010s. Points above the diagonal show years when savings increased (or debt was reduced). Points below the diagonal show years when savings decreased (or debt increased). In 2020, as travel decreased and income uncertainty rose due to COVID-19, consumer spending declined significantly in Colorado Springs as well as nationally. In spite of job transitions, however, median personal income increased significantly during 2020, resulting in increased savings (or reduced debt) for many households.

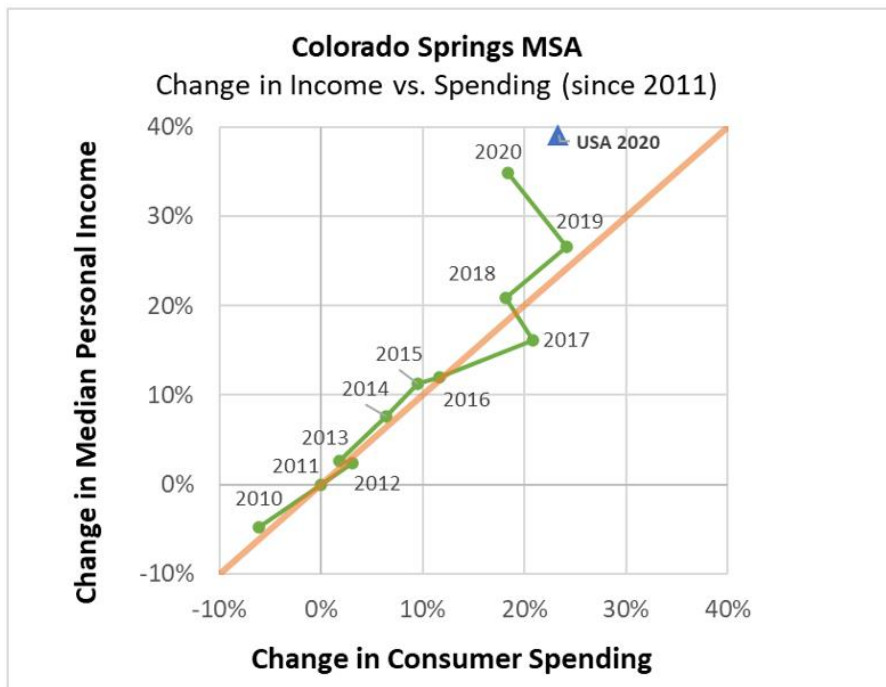
2020 HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURES
(% OF NATIONAL AVERAGE)



¹³ Bureau of Labor Statistics

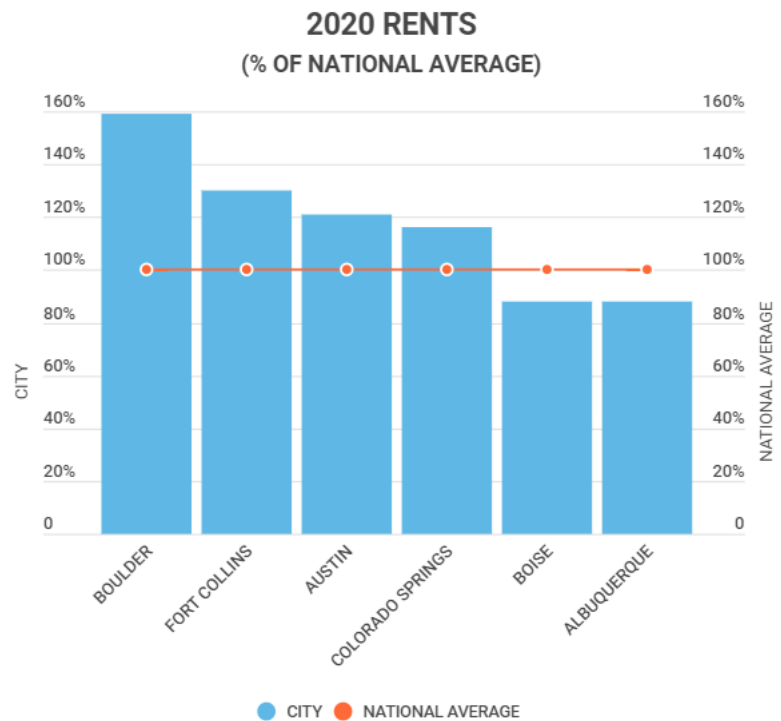
Ten years ago, Colorado Springs housing rental costs were virtually identical to the national average (101%). Regional costs increased significantly during the decade, and in 2020 rent in Colorado Springs was 16% more than the national average.

Since 2020, housing prices have continued their steep incline, with the median price of a single-family home rising to \$475,000 in March 2022, according to the Pikes Peak Association of Realtors—a 16% increase over the prior 12 months.¹⁶



Potential Actions

The HUD Office of Policy Development and Research noted that “land use policies and zoning regulations constrain the supply of affordable housing.”¹⁷ One response is the use of “by right” development to enable “timely completion of projects while also reducing regulatory expenses, thereby reducing development costs and encouraging the construction of less-expensive housing.”¹⁸ Additionally, zoning incentives can encourage development of affordable units in public transit corridors.¹⁹ Finally, the Affordable Housing Collaborative recommends the use of land trusts and community impact funds to enable private citizens, public entities, and nonprofit organizations to allocate surplus land and other resources for affordable housing, in partnership with for-profit and nonprofit developers.²⁰



References

¹ Bureau of Economic Analysis tables CAGDP9 & SAGDP9 (to control for inflation effects) and CAINC4 & SAINC1 (for per-capita calculations), accessed via <https://apps.bea.gov/iTable/iTable.cfm?reqid=70&step=1#reqid=70&step=1>, March 22, 2022. CAINC4, Community GDP data from BEA Table GCAGDP9; Selections—Table Heading: Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by County and Metropolitan Area, Table: CAGDP9, Major Area: Metropolitan Statistical Area, Statistic: All Industry Total, for selected MSAs (Levels). National and state GDP data from Table and SAGDP9N Series; Selections—Table Heading: Annual Gross Domestic Product by State, Table: SAGDP9, Classification: NAICS, Statistic: All Industry Total for United States and Colorado (Levels). Community population data for per-capita calculations from BEA Table CAINC4; Selections—Table Heading: Personal Income and Employment by County and Metropolitan Area, Table: CAINC4, Major Area: Metropolitan Statistical Area, Statistic: Population (Persons) for selected MSAs (Levels). National and state population data for per-capita calculations from BEA Table SAINC1; Selections—Table Heading: Annual Personal Income and Employment by State, Table: SAINC1/SAINC51, Table ID: SAINC1, Statistic: Population (Persons) for United States and Colorado (Levels).

² Ibid.

³ U.S. Census Bureau. Business counts from County Business Patterns datasets, complete MSA file for 2019, field “est”; from <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/cbp/data/datasets.html>. Working population from County Population by Characteristics, Vintage 2020 data, 2010-2020, field AGE16PLUS_TOT minus field AGE65PLUS_TOT, aggregated for El Paso & Teller Counties, from <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/popest/technical-documentation/research/evaluation-estimates/2020-evaluation-estimates/2010s-county-detail.html>. Sites accessed March 22, 2022.

⁴ U.S. Census Bureau. Business counts from County Business Patterns datasets, complete MSA files for 2010 and 2019, field “est”; from <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/cbp/data/datasets.html>. Working population from County Population by Characteristics, Vintage 2020 data, 2010-2020, field AGE16PLUS_TOT minus field AGE65PLUS_TOT, aggregated across MSA component counties, from <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/popest/technical-documentation/research/evaluation-estimates/2020-evaluation-estimates/2010s-county-detail.html>. Sites accessed March 22, 2022.

⁵ Bureau of Economic Analysis, Table CAEMP25, accessed via <https://apps.bea.gov/iTable/iTable.cfm?reqid=70&step=1&acrdn=6>, April 7, 2022; Selections—Table Heading: Personal Income and Employment by County and Metropolitan Area, Table: CAEMP25, Classification: NAICS, Major Area: Metropolitan Statistical Area, Statistic: Military, for Colorado Springs and peer communities (Levels), Years 2010-2020.

⁶ Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Census Bureau. Growth in number of people working from Bureau of Economic Analysis, Table CAINC30, <https://apps.bea.gov/itable/iTable.cfm?ReqID=70&step=1#panel-9>; Selections—Table Heading: Personal Income and Employment by County and Metropolitan Area, Table: CAINC30, Major Area: Metropolitan Statistical Area, Statistic: Total Employment (number of jobs) for selected

MSAs, (Levels), Years 2010 & 2020. Growth in working population from U.S. Census Bureau, Vintage 2020 data, County Population by Characteristics, 2010-2020, field AGE16PLUS_TOT minus field AGE65PLUS_TOT, aggregated across MSA component counties, from <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/popest/technical-documentation/research/evaluation-estimates/2020-evaluation-estimates/2010s-county-detail.html>, accessed March 22, 2022.

⁷ U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, Dataset ACSDP5Y2020, Table DP03, <https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=DP03&t=Income%20%28Households,%20Families,%20Individuals%29%3AIncome%20and%20Earnings&g=310XX00US10740,12420,14260,14500,17820,19740,22660&y=2020&tid=ACSDP5Y2020.DP03>, accessed March 22, 2022. Five-year estimates were used because one-year estimates were unavailable.

⁸ Bureau of Economic Analysis, Table CAINC1, accessed via <https://apps.bea.gov/iTable/iTable.cfm?reqid=70&step=1&acrdn=6>, March 22, 2022; Selections—Table Heading: Personal Income and Employment by County and Metropolitan Area, Table: CAINC1, Major Area: Metropolitan Statistical Area, Statistic: Per capita personal income (dollars) for Colorado Springs (Levels), Year 2020.

⁹ Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Employment Statistics. https://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_17820.htm#00-0000, accessed March 22, 2022. Row: All Occupations, Field: Mean Hourly Wage (multiplied by 40-hour standard work week).

¹⁰ Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Employment Statistics. Accessed from <https://www.bls.gov/oes/tables.htm>, March 22, 2022. One data set per year. For each selected MSA, use Row: All Occupations, Field: Mean Hourly Wage (multiplied by 40-hour standard work week).

¹¹ Ibid.

¹² Bureau of Economic Analysis, Table RPP, accessed <https://apps.bea.gov/iTable/iTable.cfm?reqid=70&step=1&isuri=1&acrdn=8#>, March 22, 2022; Selections—Table Heading: Real Personal Income (RPI), Regional Price Parities (RPPS), Real Personal Consumption Expenditures (RPCE), Table: RPP, Table ID: MARPP, Statistic: All Items for selected MSAs (Levels), Years: 2010-2020.

¹³ Ibid.

¹⁴ Bureau of Labor Statistics, Bureau of Economic Analysis. Consumer spending is based on national mean consumer spending from BLS Consumer Expenditure Survey, <https://www.bls.gov/cex/tables/top-line-means.htm>, accessed March 22, 2022, with local adjustments made based on BEA Regional Price Parities, accessed via <https://apps.bea.gov/iTable/iTable.cfm?reqid=70&step=1&isuri=1&acrdn=8>, March 22, 2022; Selections—Table Heading: Real Personal Income (RPI), Regional Price Parities (RPPS), Real Personal Consumption Expenditures (RPCE), Table: RPP, Table ID: MARPP, Statistic: All Items for Colorado Springs (Levels), Years: 2010-2020. Median personal income is from Bureau of Economic Analysis, Table CAINC1, accessed via

<https://apps.bea.gov/iTable/iTable.cfm?reqid=70&step=1&acrdn=6>, March 22, 2022; Selections—Table Heading: Personal Income and Employment by County and Metropolitan Area, Table: CAINC1, Major Area: Metropolitan Statistical Area, Statistic: Per capita personal income (dollars) for Colorado Springs (Levels), Years 2010-2020. Annual change percentage is computed by dividing current year amount by prior year amount, minus 100%.

¹⁵ Bureau of Economic Analysis, <https://apps.bea.gov/iTable/iTable.cfm?reqid=70&step=1&acrdn=8>, accessed, March 22, 2022; Selections—Table Heading: Real Personal Income (RPI), Regional Price Parities (RPPS), Real Personal Consumption Expenditures (RPCE), Table: RPP, Table ID: MARPP, Statistic: ‘RPPs: Services: Housing’ for selected MSAs (Levels), Years: 2010-2020.

¹⁶ Pikes Peak Association of Realtors, Average and Median Sales Prices, via <https://ppar.com/MarketTrends.aspx>, accessed April 30, 2022.

¹⁷ HUD Office of Policy Development & Research, “Regulatory Barriers and Affordable Housing Quarterly Update,” PD&R Edge, July 23, 2018, <https://www.huduser.gov/portal/pdredge/pdr-edge-featd-article-072318.html>, accessed April 7, 2022.

¹⁸ Ibid., quoting Lisa Sturtevant of the Urban Land Institute’s Terwilliger Center for Housing.

¹⁹ City of Colorado Springs, Alternative Transit Service Model Analysis, Oct. 2020. https://coloradosprings.gov/sites/default/files/alternative_transit_service_model_analysis_final_report_reduced_size.pdf, accessed April 7, 2022. See page 81 for map of proposed rapid transit corridors.

²⁰ Affordable Housing Collaborative, Affordable Housing Information Hub, Section: “What Can You Do?” <https://affordablehousingelpasoco.org/>, accessed April 7, 2022.



Peak Progress (Quality of Life Indicators)

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT REPORT

Community Engagement Summary:

What is the process by which community organizations and individuals build ongoing, permanent relationships for the purpose of applying a collective vision for the benefit of the community?

Individuals and groups may connect and engage with their community traditionally – in person or digitally, the latter of which has seen quite an increase since the onset of the pandemic. Healthy and vibrant community members seek out ways to become involved. Organizations, businesses, and agencies within a community actively seek to involve community members in their processes and support their needs. Community engagement in the Colorado Springs MSA is reflected in community members' participation in groups and as individuals in the ways listed below.

- Colorado Springs ranks 3rd of 6 peer communities for participation in membership associations.
- Pikes Peak Library District is one of the most-visited places in the Pikes Peak region and accounts for 96% of library resource circulation in the metro area.
- In 2021, 35% of Colorado Springs-area residents said they regularly attended worship services, either in person or online.
- Colorado Springs ranked 1st of 5 peer communities for total United Way volunteer hours and a close second in terms of total United Way volunteers.
- Colorado Springs' charitable giving compares favorably to peer communities, ranking 1st of 6 for charitable giving relative to income.
- Colorado Springs' creative economy supports more than 10,000 jobs that generate more than 2.7 billion dollars annually.
- 92% of Colorado Springs residents accessed at least one local source of news in 2021.



Key Indicators:

In vibrant communities, people share many different ways of creating connection—to their neighbors, to people with shared interests and values, to places of commerce, culture, recreation and learning, to fellow citizens in need, to solving community problems, and to creating opportunities. In this section, the manner in which members engage in their community, as an individual or in a group, is explored. The effects of the pandemic extended beyond the initial restrictions, transforming the way many in our community interacted and maintained connection with others and the community. With these lasting effects in mind, this section also identifies online community engagement as it emerged from necessity and has remained a popular avenue of connection.

This report explores community engagement measures in the following areas:

- I. Group Engagement
 - Neighborhood councils
 - Civic & social membership organizations
- II. Individual Engagement
 - Library usage
 - Religious service attendance
 - Voluntarism
 - Charitable giving
 - Creative vitality
 - Local news media usage
 - Engaging local government online

Neighborhood Councils

Healthy neighborhoods are at the core of regional city planning, such as [PlanCOS](#) (approved in 2019) and [Envision Woodland Park 2030](#) (adopted in 2021), and is a key consideration in county master plans, such as the [Your El Paso Plan](#) (adopted in 2021) and Teller County's [2020 Amended Growth Management Plan](#).

Engaged citizens know and talk to their neighbors and are aware of neighborhood needs and issues. Healthy neighborhoods develop structures to intentionally identify priority needs and to work together to address them. Neighborhood networks include, but are not limited to, formal homeowner's associations (HOAs), informal groups, and nonprofit organizations that work with community members to connect them to their neighborhoods.

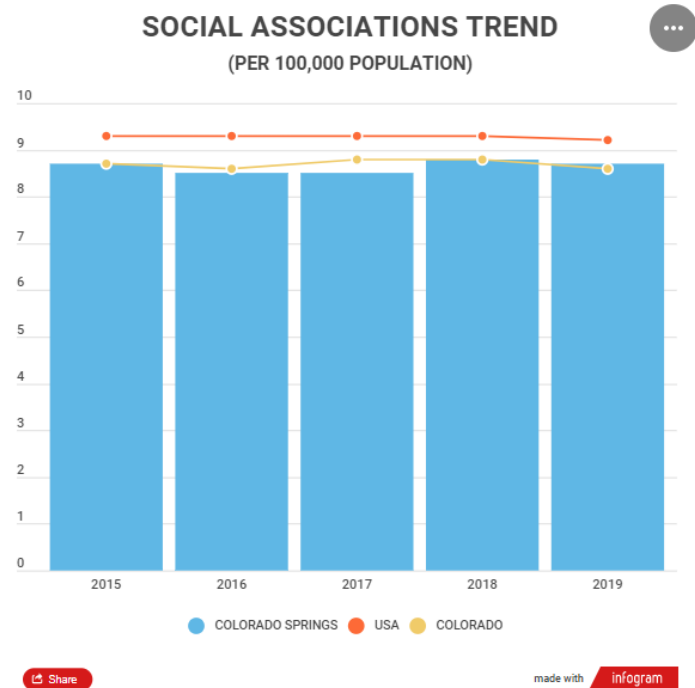
The city of Colorado Springs works with nonprofit organization [Council of Neighbors and Organizations \(CONO\)](#) to coordinate neighborhood networks, monitor the creation and progress of neighborhood plans, and train and resource neighborhood leaders.

As of September 30, 2021, CONO's registry listed 878 active neighborhood associations and HOAs in El Paso County. Of those, 660 were located within Colorado Springs city limits.¹ While CONO's database does not include Teller County, 20 HOAs with Teller addresses were recently listed in the state HOA registry,² which brings the total of known neighborhood associations in Colorado Springs MSA to 898. New registrations accounted for 4.2% of all El Paso and Teller HOA listings in the state registry.³

Social Associations

Participation in voluntary groups and membership associations is linked to a variety of positive outcomes, including increased civic participation, engagement with community problems, social trust, and personal health.^{4, 5} The Census Bureau provides an available, trackable measure of membership associations per 10,000 residents through its [County Business Patterns data](#).

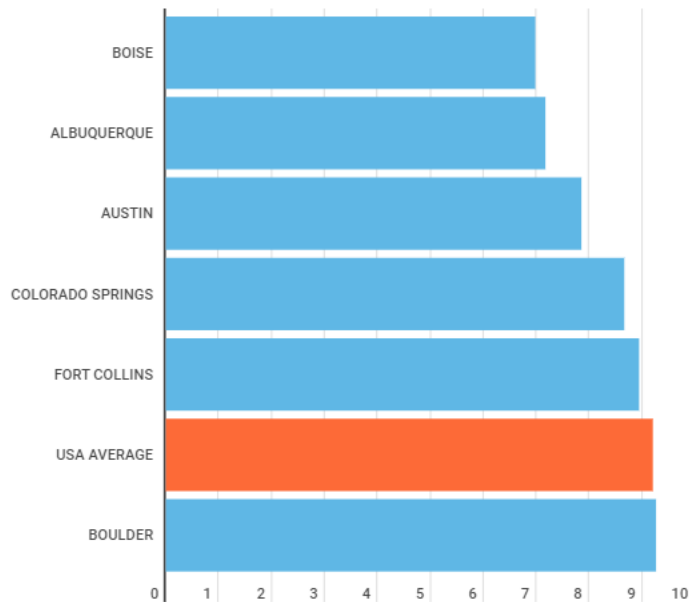
Colorado Springs residents' participation in associations closely mirrors statewide levels, although communities in the West tend to lag behind the national average.



⁶ U.S. Census Bureau, County Business Pattern tables; County Health Rankings

In 2019 Colorado Springs ranked 3rd of 6 peer communities for participation in membership associations.

SOCIAL ASSOCIATIONS VS NATIONAL AVERAGE
(PER 100,000 POPULATION, 2019)



⁷ U.S. Census Bureau

Library Usage

Libraries are welcoming public spaces that are hubs of learning, education, collaboration, workforce development, entrepreneurship, and entertainment for people of all ages, backgrounds, interests, and aspirations. More than nine in 10 adult Americans have used a library, and 63% feel that the loss of a library would have a “major” impact on their community.⁸ Library services are especially valued by families with children, people of color, the unemployed, the elderly, and those with disabilities.⁹

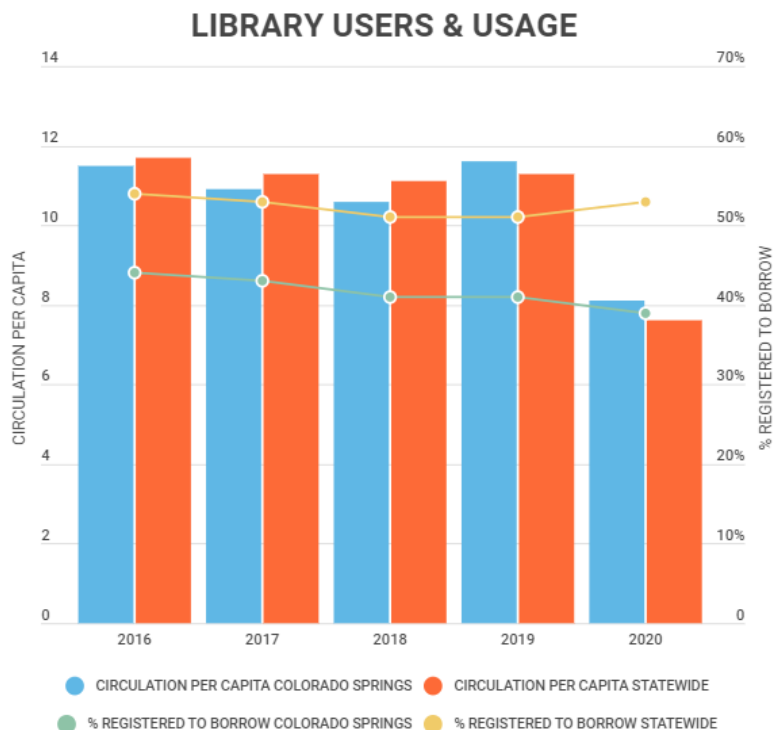
Pikes Peak Library District (PPLD) is the second-largest library system in Colorado, with 425 full- and part-time staff and almost 1,500 volunteers. PPLD is one of the most-visited places in the Pikes Peak region and accounts for 96% of library resource circulation in the metro area. Three other public library systems that also serve the community include: Security Public Library, Rampart Regional Library District (Woodland Park), and Southern Teller County School/Public Library District (Cripple Creek).

Community involvement in libraries is reflected in three measures: Circulation (resource engagement), Library Visits (physical engagement), and Registered Borrowers (percentage of people prepared to engage). In 2019, Colorado Springs libraries had recorded circulation of 8.6 million resources, or 11.6 per resident, recorded among 306,000 registered borrowers. Colorado Springs’ per-capita circulation has been close to the state average¹⁰ in recent years—just below in 2016 to 2018, and just above in 2019 and 2020. Registered users are fewer than the state

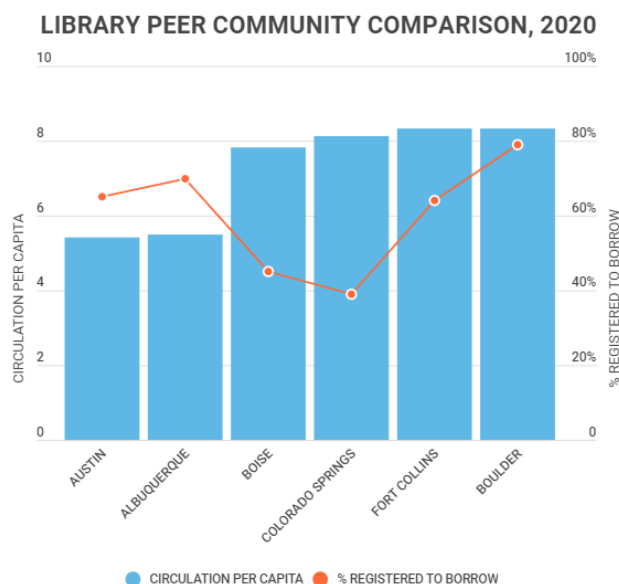
average (39% vs. 53% statewide in 2019), but the smaller proportion is made up for with greater activity.

COVID-19 had only a small effect on the proportion of registered users in Colorado Springs. It had a moderate effect on circulation, which dropped by almost a third, from 11.6 to 8.1 resources per resident. It had a large effect on library visits, which fell by two-thirds—from 4.6 per resident to 1.5. The circulation drop was mirrored statewide, although the percentage of registered borrowers in Colorado increased.

In peer communities, suburban library systems shoulder a larger relative share of library activity than in Colorado Springs.¹² Colorado Springs ranked 3rd of 6 communities in circulation per capita in 2020; it ranked 6th of 6 in terms of proportion of registered borrowers. Colorado Springs has achieved this standing even while PPLD has ranked last in community funding among the 11 largest library systems in Colorado, with local revenue per capita of \$45 in 2020.



¹¹ Library Research Service



Increased community funding (median among the 11 largest libraries is \$70 per resident) would allow PPLD to expand on its record of innovation and collaboration to reach new areas and audience segments. Recent examples of innovation include the Pikes Peak Culture Pass for PPLD cardholders, PowerPass partnerships for local school districts, and a co-location partnership with the Manitou Art Center.

¹³ Institute of Museum and Library Services, Library Research Service, Idaho Commission for Libraries, New Mexico State Library, Texas State Library & Archives Commission

Religious Service Attendance

Attendance at religious services directly reflects engagement with faith communities. Additionally, for residents of the United States and other countries, regular attendance of services is linked to increased voting in elections, increased joining of community groups and other voluntary organizations, and increased happiness.¹⁴

Elevated Insights is a Colorado Springs-based market research firm that monitors aspects of community engagement, including religious service attendance, through its annual AskCOS® syndicated tracking survey. In 2021, **35%** of Colorado Springs-area residents said they regularly attended worship services, either in person or online. That proportion was nearly unchanged from 2017, when 36% of AskCOS® respondents said they regularly attended religious services.¹⁵

Some private research companies monitor religious service attendance, but direct comparison data at the peer-community level was not freely available.

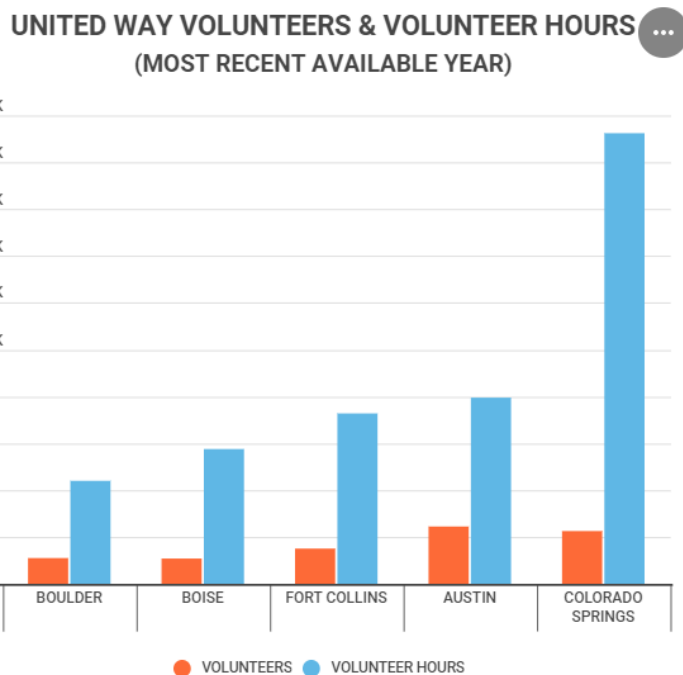
Volunteerism

Charitable organizations benefit communities in numerous ways. They...

- ...improve lives
- ...are building blocks of democracy
- ...are where Americans come together to solve problems
- ...are laboratories of leadership
- ...are promoters of civic engagement
- ...are economic engines¹⁶

Nationally, 30% of Americans volunteered their time to serve a charitable organization in 2019.¹⁷ Data for Colorado Springs MSA and peer communities has not been included in reports since 2017. At that time, based on pooled data from 2012 to 2015, 30.7% of Colorado Springs residents volunteered, which ranked 4th of 6 peer communities (ahead of Albuquerque and Austin).

United Way serves a large number of charitable organizations in every community. At a micro level, more recent comparative data is available from individual United Ways. Among five peer communities reporting volunteer data in a recent year, Colorado Springs ranked 1st of 5 peer communities for total volunteer hours and a close second in terms of total volunteers.¹⁸



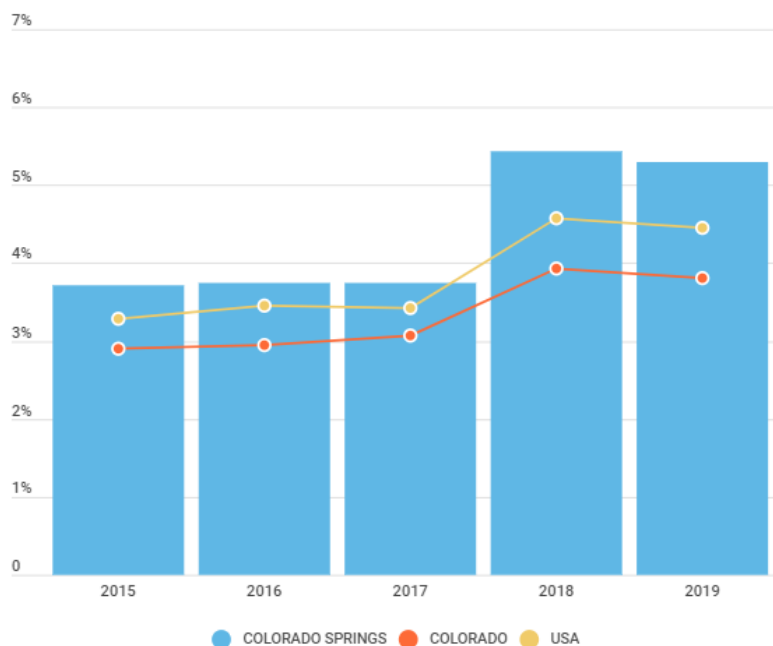
¹⁹ Pikes Peak United Way, other United Way websites

Charitable Giving

In 2019, individuals and families in the United States gave nearly \$310 billion to charitable organizations. Most of that giving (60%) came from taxpayers who itemized charitable contributions on their tax returns. Researchers analyze county-level IRS data for patterns of generosity and civic engagement.²⁰

While giving levels vary by economic conditions and changes in tax policy, Colorado Springs residents have consistently given above state and national averages. In 2019, they gave 5.3% of their adjusted gross incomes to charity.

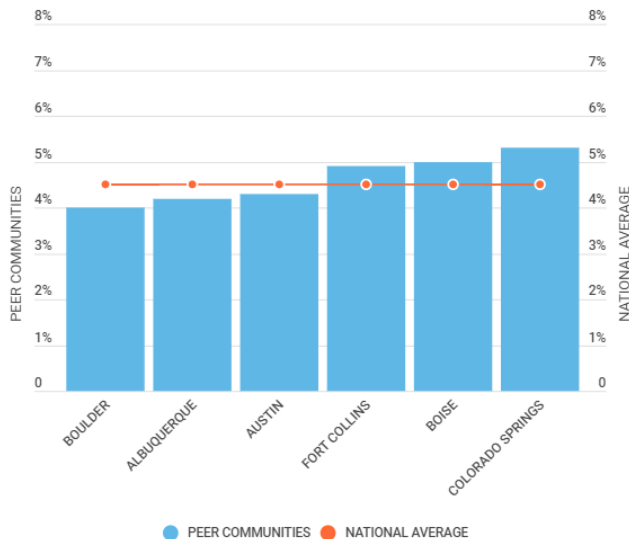
**% OF INCOME GIVEN TO CHARITABLE CAUSES
(AMONG THOSE ITEMIZING DEDUCTIONS)**



²¹ Internal Revenue Service

Colorado Springs' charitable giving also compares favorably to peer communities, ranking **1st of 6** for charitable giving relative to income.

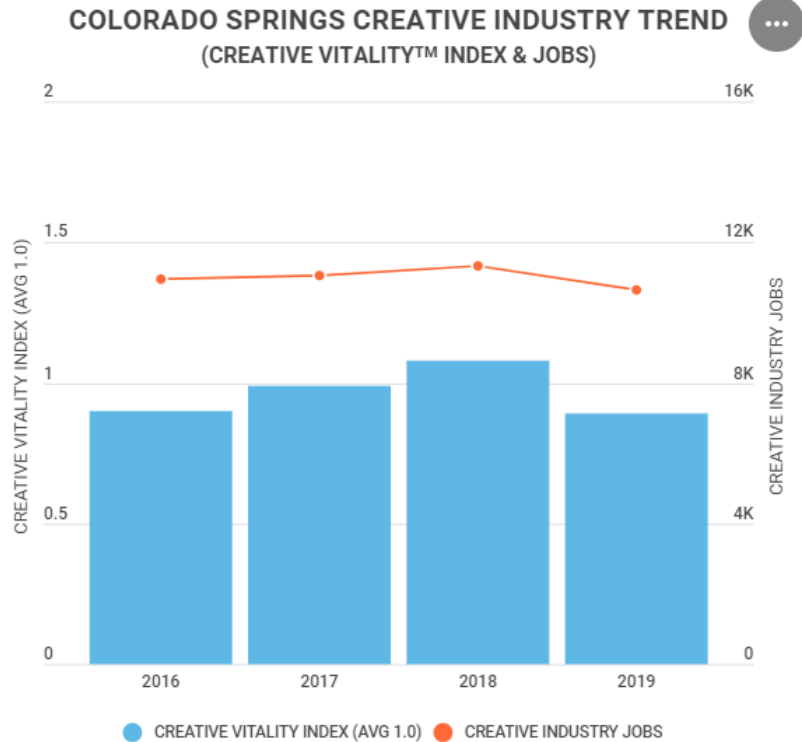
**2019 CHARITABLE GIVING VS NATIONAL AVERAGE
(% OF ADJUSTED GROSS INCOME)**



²² Internal Revenue Service

Creative Vitality

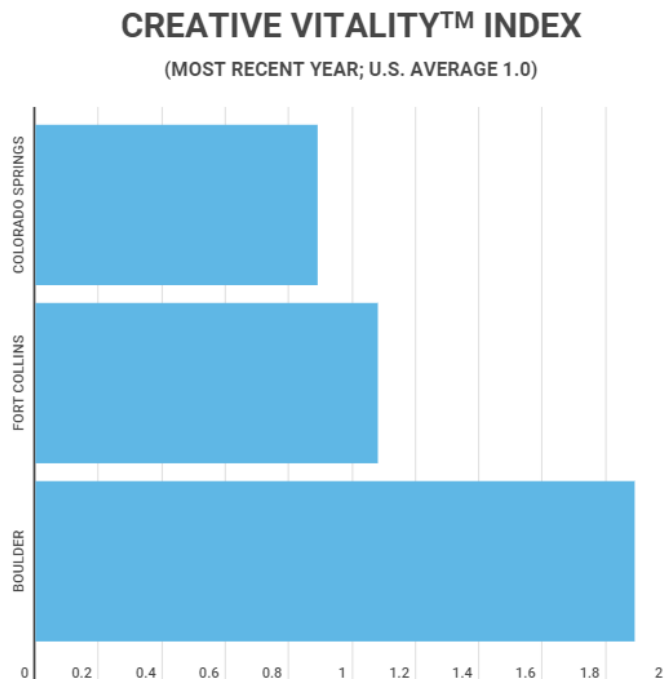
According to local development experts, “The ability to attract, retain, and support creative people and a strong creative economy are seen as markers of successful cities and countries.”²³ To measure the overall quality of a community’s creative vitality, the Western States Arts Federation (WESTAF) developed the Creative Vitality™ Index (CVI), which combines per-capita data on creative industries, occupations, and cultural nonprofit revenues into a single measure that can be compared across communities.²⁴ The city of Colorado Springs’ community development plan, PlanCOS, monitors the community’s CVI and has established a goal to see it increase.²⁵



²⁶ Western States Arts Federation, City of Colorado Springs

Colorado Springs’ creative economy supports more than 10,000 jobs that generate more than \$2.7 billion annually. In recent years, CVI values the metro areas close to the national average. In 2019, Colorado Springs’ CVI was 0.89, or 11% below the national average. Local jobs in the creative sector numbered 10,650.

Among available peer cities, Colorado Springs ranked 3rd out of 3. Both Boulder and Fort Collins were featured in 2020 by the Creative Vitality Suite on the 30 most creative small U.S. cities.

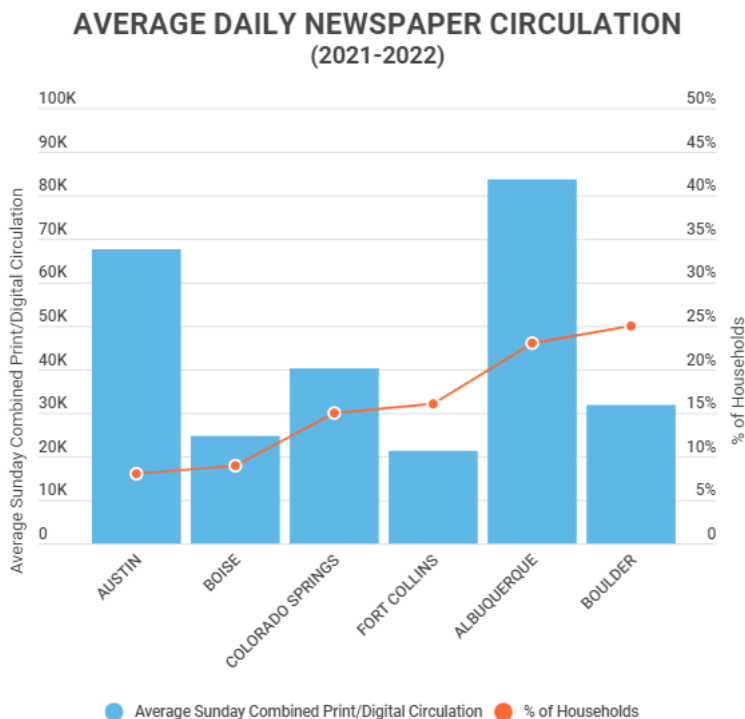


²⁷ Western States Arts Federation

Media Engagement

People who are well engaged in their community stay abreast of local news. Colorado Springs research firm Elevated Insights monitors local media usage as part of its annual AskCOS® syndicated tracking survey. In 2021, it found that 92% of Colorado Springs residents accessed at least one local source of news.²⁸

Newspapers are no longer the dominant form of media—The Gazette ranked fourth among local media sources on the 2021 AskCOS® survey—but comparative readership data is available. For the October 2021 to March 2022 audit period, The Gazette’s average Sunday circulation (print and digital combined) was 40,363, which reflected distribution to the equivalent of 15% of households in the metro area.²⁹ That ranked 4th out of 6 peer communities for circulation as a percentage of households.



³⁰ Alliance for Audited Media, U.S. Census Bureau

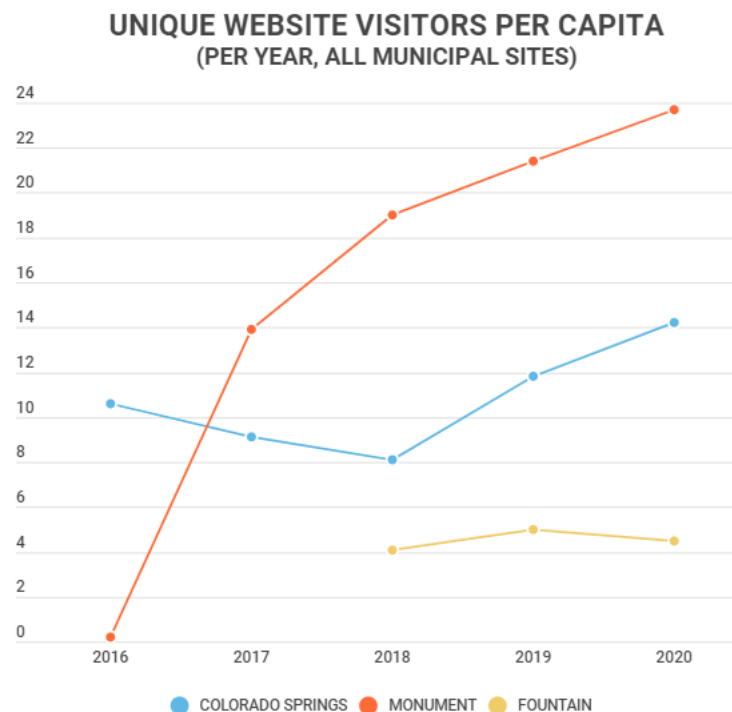
Due to re-sharing, a newspaper’s total readership is much wider than its circulation. The Gazette’s total readership during the audit period was estimated at 237,520, or 40.9% of its newspaper-defined market, which closely approximates the Census Bureau’s estimate of the 18-and-over population of the Colorado Springs MSA.³¹

Engaging Local Government Online

One indicator of citizen engagement with local government is web traffic. Municipalities and other government entities track unique site visitors³² over time. While not all visitors will be community members, relative levels of activity can be calculated by per-capita visits by dividing visits by community population.

Trend data was obtained from three Colorado Springs-area municipalities. Monument's activity from 2016 to 2020 showed a consistent upward trend; Colorado Springs' traffic over the same period showed a slight decline followed by a two-year increase. Fountain's three-year trend was relatively stable.

In 2020, across all communities, the average per-capita site visitors was 14.2.



³³ Peak Progress Community Engagement Council

Community Engagement References

¹ Council of Neighbors and Organizations: Email from CONO Executive Director Sara Vaas to Jenifer Furda, Director of Partnerships & Governmental Affairs & Military Liaison, University of Colorado, Colorado Springs, Sept. 29, 2021. CONO's registry of neighborhood associations is available online at <https://www.cscono.org/neighborhoodnetworks>, accessed May 9, 2022. Associations that wish to be registered can complete the form at https://secure.lglforms.com/form_engine/s/NB3nUlnH3XwTMpYMaZ_Dgg.

² Colorado Department of Regulatory Agencies, Division of Real Estate. File downloaded from <https://apps.colorado.gov/dre/licensing/Lookup/DownloadRoster.aspx>, "Generate List(s)" selected under "List of Licensees" heading. Accessed May 8, 2022.

³ Ibid. Of 624 active licenses with an El Paso or Teller County address, 26 were issued for the first time between May 1, 2021, and April 30, 2022.

⁴ Kwak, Novin, Shah, DV, & Holbert, Lance, "Connecting, Trusting, and Participating: The Direct and Interactive Effects of Social Associations," *Political Research Quarterly*, v.57, no. 4, December 2004. <http://citeseerx.ist.psu.edu/viewdoc/download?doi=10.1.1.408.4077&rep=rep1&type=pdf>, accessed May 5, 2022.

⁵ County Health Rankings summarized research that links participation in social association with improved health outcomes, as well as its opposite, the health costs of social isolation, at <https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/explore-health-rankings/measures-data-sources/county-health-rankings-model/health-factors/social-and-economic-factors/family-social-support/social-associations>, accessed May 5, 2022.

⁶ US Census Bureau, Community Business Pattern tables, <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/cbp/data/tables.html>, accessed May 5, 2022. See also <https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/explore-health-rankings/rankings-data-documentation>, accessed May 5, 2022. MSA data aggregated from county-level data, using total number of associations divided by estimated MSA population per County Health Rankings. Note that 2022 County Health Rankings references 2019 Census Bureau data.

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ Pew Research Center, "How Americans Value Public Libraries in Their Communities." Research report published Dec. 11, 2013. <https://www.pewresearch.org/internet/2013/12/11/libraries-in-communities/>, accessed May 4, 2022.

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ Per-capita figures are computed as total circulation, visits, or registered borrowers, divided by the sum of all residents in the service area of the library system or systems.

¹¹ Library Research Service, Public Library Annual Report Data. <https://www.lrs.org/data-tools/public-libraries/annual-statistics/>, accessed May 4, 2022.

¹² In Boise and Boulder, the largest library accounts for less than half of metro circulation. Albuquerque and Austin each has more than 20 active public library systems.

¹³ Public libraries report data using relatively standardized terms and definitions. Data can be found for most years at a single source, the Institute of Museum and Library Services, <https://www.ims.gov/search-compare/>. However, since 2020 data had not yet been posted, the following state sites were used. Library Research Service (Boulder, Colorado Springs, Fort Collins), <https://www.lrs.org/data-tools/public-libraries/annual-statistics/>; Idaho Commission for Libraries (Boise); <https://libraries.idaho.gov/idaho-library-statistics/>; New Mexico State Library (Albuquerque), https://www.nmstatelibrary.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=183&Itemid=662; Texas State Library & Archives Commission (Austin), <https://www.tsl.texas.gov/ldn/statistics>. All accessed May 4, 2022. Each source lists the county where each library system is based. Data aggregated for all libraries located in counties in the Statistical Metropolitan Area of each peer community. The number of libraries/systems by metro include: Colorado Springs 4, Boulder 6, Fort Collins 6, Boise 18, Albuquerque 23, Austin 30.

¹⁴ Pew Research Center, “Religion’s Relationship to Happiness, Civic Engagement and Health Around the World,” Jan. 31, 2019, <https://www.pewresearch.org/religion/2019/01/31/religions-relationship-to-happiness-civic-engagement-and-health-around-the-world/>, accessed May 8, 2022.

¹⁵ Elevated Insights, AskCOS® 2021 Findings Excerpt, Dec. 2, 2021, p.43. Online survey of 1,380 local residents sourced from Elevated Insights’ EIAsks® panel, social media posts, and sharing from local organizations. 2021 question: “How often do you view/participate in worship services either in person or streaming? n=1,307. 2017 question: “How often do you attend religious gatherings? (such as church, synagogue, temple, etc.)” n=1,009. Response choices for both questions: “Regularly,” “Infrequently” and “Never.” See <https://elevatedinsights.com/ask-cos-2/>, accessed May 9, 2022. Used with permission.

¹⁶ National Council of Nonprofits. Nonprofit Impact Matters: How America’s Charitable Nonprofits Strengthen Communities and Improve Lives, 2019. <https://www.nonprofitimpactmatters.org/site/assets/files/1/nonprofit-impact-matters-sept-2019-1.pdf>, accessed May 4, 2022.

¹⁷ AmeriCorps, Office of Research and Evaluation. Volunteering in America, 2021. <https://americorps.gov/newsroom/news/via>, accessed May 8, 2022. Data taken from U.S. Census Bureau’s 2019 Current Population Survey: Civic Engagement and Volunteering Supplement, based on responses from monthly surveys of 60,000 Americans. See <https://www.census.gov/data/datasets/2019/demo/cps/cps-civic.html>, accessed May 8, 2022.

¹⁸ Data was not adjusted for per-capita rates of either volunteers or volunteer hours. Colorado Springs data was provided by Pikes Peak United Way in a spreadsheet. Austin reflects summed data from two United Ways (United Way for Greater Austin and United Way of Williamson County). Boulder data refers to Foothills United Way, which served Boulder and Broomfield counties. (Broomfield is not part of the Boulder MSA.) Reporting years were fiscal 2021-2022 for Treasure Valley (Boise), fiscal 2020-2021 for Pikes Peak (Colorado Springs), Greater Austin and Boise, fiscal 2019-2020 for Larimer County (Fort Collins) and Williamson County (Austin), and 2018 for Foothills (Boulder). Foothills volunteer data is believed to be calendar 2018 as report references the 2018 Day of Caring (fiscal 2018-2019). Foothills has since folded into Mile High United Way. See https://www.unitedwayaustin.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/United-Way-ATX_2021-Impact-Report.pdf, <https://www.unitedwayaustin.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/2019-2020-Community-Impact-Report.pdf>, https://www.unitedwaytv.org/sites/unitedwaytv.org/files/2022_UW%20CommunityImpactReport_4.27.pdf, <https://uwcnm.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/Impact-Report-2021-compressed.pdf>, <https://unitedwaydenver.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/4.-Fiscal-2018-Annual-Report.pdf> and <https://uwaylc.org/2019-20-annual-report/>, all accessed May 5, 2022.

¹⁹ Ibid.

²⁰ Examples include Davis, Tyler, Lindsay, Drew and O’Leary, Brian. “How America Gives Data: Leaders and Laggards, Giving Opportunities, and More,” Philanthropy.com, Oct. 2, 2017. <https://www.philanthropy.com/article/how-america-gives-data-leaders-and-laggards-giving-opportunities-and-more/>, accessed May 5, 2022 (registration required); John, Steven. “The 25 most charitable counties in the US,” Insider, Jan. 24, 2019. <https://www.businessinsider.com/most-charitable-counties-us-income-tax-data-2019-1>, accessed May 5, 2022.

²¹ Internal Revenue Service historical data for counties and metropolitan areas accessed at <https://www.irs.gov/statistics/soi-tax-stats-county-data>, accessed May 1, 2022. Proportion of

income given charitably is calculated by dividing field 88, amount of total charitable contributions, by field 64, total adjusted gross income (AGI) of those itemizing deductions.

²² Ibid.

²³ Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Trento Centre for Local Development handbook: The Value of Culture and the Creative Industries in Local Development. 2018, p.11. <https://www.oecd.org/cfe/leed/2018-SACCI-Handbook.pdf>, accessed May 13, 2022.

²⁴ WESTAF Creative Vitality Suite, <https://cvsuite.org/help-center/creative-vitality-index/>, accessed May 13, 2022. The components of the index include the relative number of jobs within creative occupations (40%), industry sales from specific industries (40%), and arts-and-culture nonprofit revenues (20%).

²⁵ City of Colorado Springs, PlanCOS Chapter 6, “Renowned Culture Indicators.” <https://coloradosprings.gov/plancos/book/renowned-culture-indicators>, accessed May 13, 2022.

²⁶ Creative Vitality™ Index (CVI) is a product of Western States Arts Federation. Both CVI and creative industry jobs are charted; jobs are one of the weighted CVI components documented at <https://cvsuite.org/help-center/creative-vitality-index/>. Trend data for Colorado Springs MSA posted by the City of Colorado Springs at <https://coloradosprings.gov/plancos/book/renowned-culture-indicators>, accessed May 13, 2022.

²⁷ Creative Vitality™ Suite’s list of 30 most creative cities under 500,000 population (<https://cvsuite.org/cvlist-homepage/the-30-most-creative-cities/>) is undated but the accompanying blog post dated July 27, 2020, suggests CVI data was current in 2020. Boulder component data includes both 2019 and 2017 sources; Fort Collins data is undated. Ortega, Samantha, “Top 30 Most Creative Small Cities in the United States” (2020). <https://cvsuite.org/2020/05/27/top-30-most-creative-small-cities-in-the-united-states/>, accessed May 13, 2022.

²⁸ Elevated Insights, AskCOS® 2021 Findings Excerpt, Dec. 2, 2021, p.52. Online survey of 1,380 local residents sourced from Elevated Insights’ EIAsks® panel, social media posts, and sharing from local organizations. Question: “What sources do you use to stay informed on local news or local events in a typical week? (This could be reading or accessing information from news programs, apps, podcasts, social media posts, newspapers, etc.)” n=1,322. See <https://elevatedinsights.com/ask-cos-2/>, accessed May 9, 2022. Used with permission.

²⁹ Alliance for Audited Media, News media statements for most-recent available six-month period, <https://auditedmedia.com/analysis-and-training/released-reports/>, accessed May 10, 2022. Fort Collins combines circulation of the Fort Collins *Coloradoan* and the *Loveland Reporter-Herald*. Boulder combines circulation of the Boulder *Daily Camera* and Longmont *Times-Call*. The end date for the audit period was March 31, 2022, for *The Gazette*, *Albuquerque Journal*, *Idaho Statesman* and Fort Collins *Coloradoan*. It was Sept. 30, 2021, for the *Austin American-Statesman*, *Boulder Daily Camera*, Longmont *Times-Call* and *Loveland Reporter-Herald*. Used in permission. Number of households for percentage calculation sourced from U.S. Census Bureau’s American Community Survey, 2020 5-year estimates, <https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=DP03&t=Income%20%28Households,%20Families,%20Individuals%29%3AIncome%20and%20Earnings&g=310XX00US10740,12420,14260,14500,17820,19740,22660&y=2020&tid=ACSDP5Y2020.DP03>, accessed May 10, 2022.

³⁰ Ibid.

³¹ Alliance for Audited Media, News Media Statement, 6 months ended March 31, 2022. Net combined print (7-day) and online (30-day) readership in market, as calculated by Nielsen Scarborough. Used with permission.

³² “Unique site visitor” is equivalent to “unique browser,” as defined by the International Federation of Audit Bureau of Certification (IFABC) as a unique and valid identifier. Validity is typically fulfilled with an IP address plus a cookie or registration ID. See <https://www.ifabc.org/resources/metrics/website-metrics/browser-metrics>, accessed May 13, 2022.

³³ Data provided by the Peak Progress Community Engagement Council.



Peak Progress (Quality of Life Indicators)

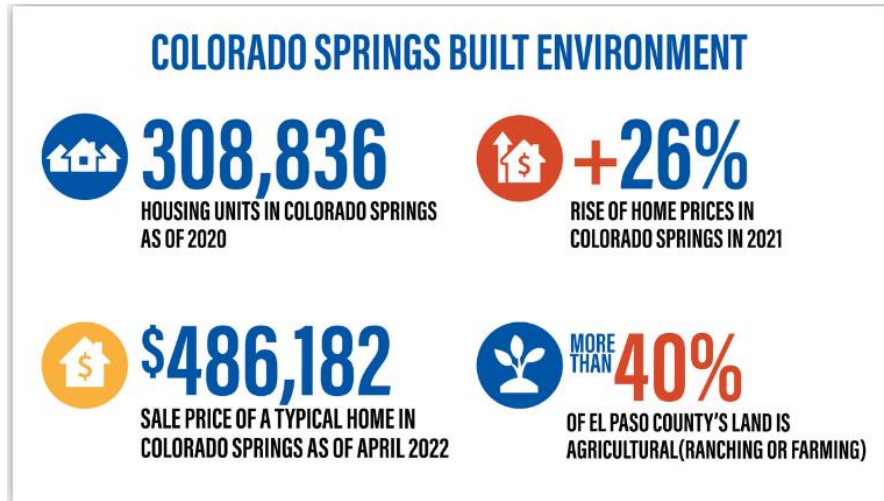
BUILT ENVIRONMENT REPORT

Built Environment Summary:

The Colorado Springs Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) includes the city of Colorado Springs, El Paso County, and Teller County, lending itself to a great variety in the structures, features, and facilities that the community members live and work in. The MSA is made up of a well-rounded group of infrastructure types which are detailed below.

This report provides measures related to status and changes in planning, land use, commercial and residential real estate, historical sites, and overall built environment in the Colorado Springs MSA.

- The Colorado Springs MSA has 105 listed historic properties.
- More than 40% of El Paso County's land is agricultural (ranching or farming), including 16% that is held by the State Land Board.
- In 2021, 1.9% of new office space was completed, while the vacancy rate rose only 1.5%. That robust demand enabled office rents to increase by 4.7%, which ranked 1st among 6 peer communities.
- The Colorado Springs MSA is experiencing increases in housing costs and decreases in inventories. As in many communities, housing costs are increasing faster than household incomes. This creates difficulty for those seeking to become first-time home buyers.
- As of 2021, Colorado Springs had 308,836 housing units.
- In 2020, single-family housing comprised 76% of all dwellings in the Pikes Peak region.
- More housing is on the way in the Pikes Peak region—the number of new housing units authorized in 2021 was 3.1% of 2020 inventory.
- In 2020, the median age of houses in Colorado Springs was 33 years.
- Effective rent per unit at the end of 2021 was \$1,347. That amount reflected an increase of 11.5% over the previous 12 months. However, Colorado Springs still ranked as the 2nd-most affordable of 6 peer communities, with rent reflecting 15.6% of the annual wages of two adults.



Key Indicators

The “built environment” of a community consists of human-made structures, including buildings, homes, and stores, as well as streets, open spaces, and other types of infrastructure. The built environment impacts how and where people work, shop, study, gather, and access services. It enables job creation and provides the basis for property taxes, which provides a large portion of local government funding.¹ The built environment changes in response to needs and opportunities. Therefore, communities plan and monitor the built environment to ensure that it fulfills its purposes.

This report provides measurements related to status and changes in planning, land use, commercial and residential real estate, and historical sites in the Colorado Springs Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA).

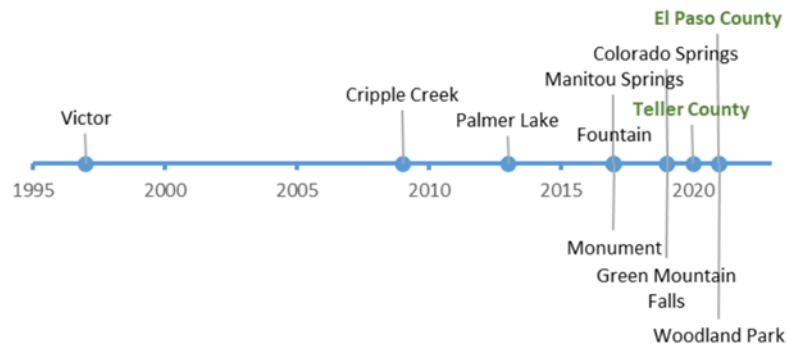
Comprehensive Planning

The Colorado General Assembly requires that all municipalities in certain categories adopt a master plan to achieve “coordinated, adjusted, and harmonious development of the municipality and its environs which will, in accordance with present and future needs, best promote the health, safety, order, convenience, prosperity, and general welfare” of citizens.²

Comprehensive plans address the built environment and related issues, including:³

- land use
- water supply and conservation
- energy
- urban design
- capital improvements
- affordable housing
- economic development
- efficiency in government
- transportation
- hazards
- environment
- parks and open space
- natural and cultural resources
- sustainability
- recreation and tourism

Timeline: Master Plan Adoption/Update



Of county, city, and statutory town jurisdictions, 11 of 13 have an accessible master plan⁴ and 8 of 13 have adopted or updated their plan in the past 5 years.

Jurisdiction	Year Adopted or Amended	Webpage/Link ⁵
El Paso County	2021	https://elpaso.hlplanning.com/pages/documents
Teller County	2020	https://www.co.teller.co.us/CDSD/Planning/CommunityPlans.aspx
City of Colorado Springs	2019	https://coloradosprings.gov/plancos/page/plancos
City of Cripple Creek	2009	http://cityofcripplecreek.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/Cripple-Creek-MasterPlan-062009-Optimized.pdf
City of Fountain	2005, amended 2017	https://www.fountaincolorado.org/UserFiles/Servers/Server_6004363/File/Planning%20&%20Zoning/Amended%202017%20Comp%20Plan.pdf
City of Manitou Springs	2017	https://www.manitouspringsgov.com/DocumentCenter/View/1263/Plan-Manitou-Community-Master-Plan-and-Hazard-Mitigation-Plan-2017-PDF
City of Woodland Park	2021	https://www.city-woodlandpark.org/DocumentCenter/View/3280/Woodland-Park-Comprehensive-Plan-2022
Town of Green Mountain Falls	2019	https://greenmountainfalls.colorado.gov/sites/greenmountainfalls/files/190628_GMF_ComprehensivePlan_print%20quality_0.pdf
Town of Monument	2017	https://www.townofmonument.org/DocumentCenter/View/681/CompPlan_2017
Town of Palmer Lake	2013	https://www.townofpalmerlake.com/sites/default/files/fileattachments/planning_commission/page/7148/comprehensive_plan.pdf
Town of Victor	1992, updated 1997	https://cityofvictor.com/downloads/PlanningCommisionResolution.pdf

Historic Sites

Recognizing historic sites reflects a concentrated effort to remember and share the legacy of those who founded and developed our community. Preserving historic buildings on the National Register of Historic Places protects the identity of the community, fosters learning, and fosters a vision to create new places of significance. Listing properties on the registry also opens opportunities for tax credits and grant funding to preserve or restore properties.

Nearly 100,000 properties nationwide have been listed on the National Register of Historic Places since its authorization in 1966. The Colorado Springs MSA has 105 listed historic properties, or 13.9 per 100,000 residents. That rate ranks 6th of 6 peer communities, four of which have at least 25 listings per 100,000 people.⁶

Of Colorado Springs' historic properties, 8.6% have been listed since 2010, which ranks 3rd of 6 peer communities for rate of recent additions.⁷

Historic Sites			
	Listings	# per 100,000 population	% Registered Since 2010
Fort Collins	109	30.2	15.6%
Boise	233	30.2	4.7%
Boulder	91	27.8	8.8%
Albuquerque	248	26.9	7.7%
Austin	443	19.3	10.8%
Colorado Springs	105	13.9	8.6%

⁸ National Park Service, U.S. Census Bureau

Below are photos of a few of the area's historic sites. A full listing is available in the Supplement on Historic Sites.



Cutler Hall, Colorado College, early 1900s

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Cutler_Hall_Colorado_College_about_1901.jpg says public domain; uploaded by user Carole Henson. See also image on CC's website:
<https://photos.coloradocollege.edu/Campus/Historic-Buildings/Cutler-Hall/n-C5pR2/i-2ppJB2R/A>



Hornbek House

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Hornbek_House_NPS.jpg public domain image can be credited to National Park Service.



Stratton's Independence Mine and Mill

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:IndependenceMine_Stone347.jpg Public domain image from the George H. Stone Collection of Colorado geological features and views, Special Collections, Tutt Library, Colorado College.



Goldfield City Hall & Firehouse

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Goldfield_City_Hall_and_Fire_Station_02.JPG Creative Commons requires credit attributed to Eric Ross, (ERoss99) no changes made.

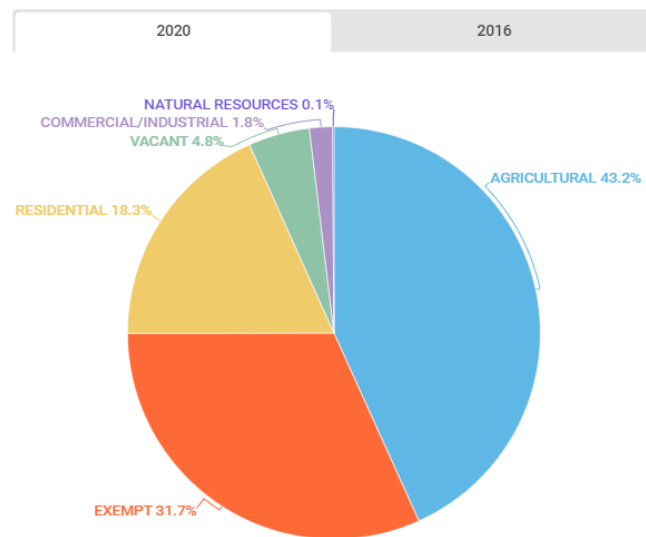
Supplement: Colorado Springs Area Registered Historic Places

Land Use

Land in El Paso and Teller counties is categorized based on how it is used. This differs from zoning, which establishes permitted uses and dimensional requirements, such as setbacks, lot coverage, and building height. Effective community planning can manage and control development, which can be measured by noting how parcels are reclassified over time.

More than 40% of El Paso County's land is agricultural (ranching or farming), including 16% that is held by the State Land Board.⁹ Recent proportions are noted in the following chart.¹⁰

EL PASO COUNTY LAND USE 2020



¹¹ El Paso County Assessor

As land is developed, it is typically reclassified from Agricultural to Vacant in anticipation of a certain kind of development. It is again reclassified into one of the developed categories when construction takes place. "Exempt" land includes military installations, religious institutions, state parks, and other tax-exempt institutions.

Commercial Real Estate

Commercial real estate is sub-categorized as office, industrial, or retail space. At the end of 2021 Colorado Springs had:

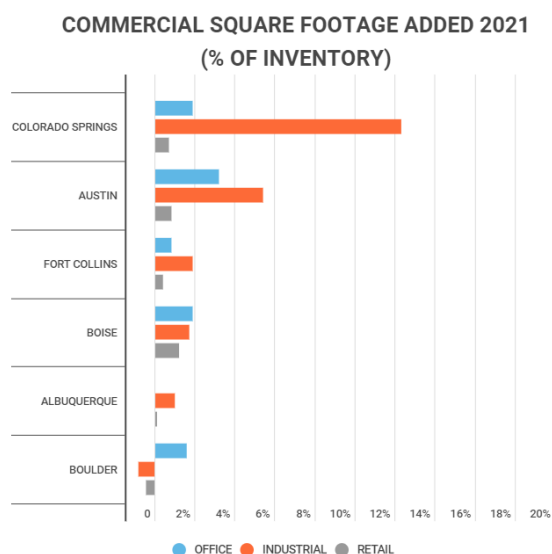
- 27.5 million sq. ft. of office space¹² (including 7.8 million of Class A/B¹³)
- 39.3 million sq. ft. of industrial space¹⁴
- 32.0 million sq. ft. of retail space¹⁵

The market for office space has experienced upheaval due to the pandemic, as many office workers transitioned to working from home. The market has seen a strong recovery and Colorado Springs has fared well compared to other regions. In 2021 1.9% of new office space was completed, while the vacancy rate rose only 1.5%. That robust demand enabled rents to increase by 4.7%, which ranked 1st among 6 peer communities.¹⁶

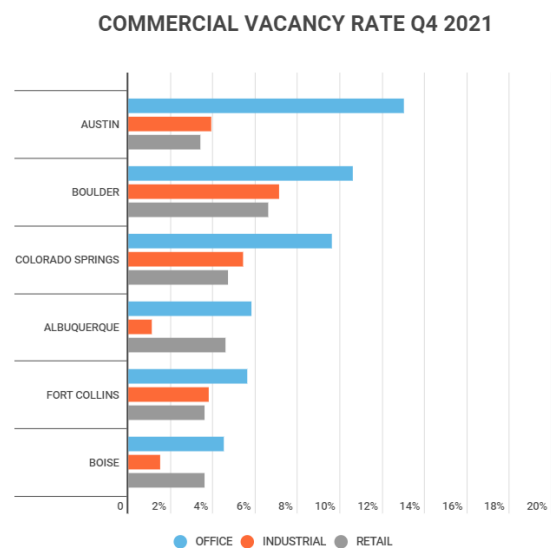
The industrial market saw a huge boost in the summer of 2021 with the opening of the Amazon distribution center adjacent to the airport. The 3.7 million square feet of new space represents more than a tenth of the community's industrial inventory, and it helped create upward of 4,000 jobs.¹⁷ The increase was by far the largest in the past five years and also outpaced peer community expansion on a percentage basis.

While new retail spots are starting to flourish, especially in Colorado Springs' north and northeast areas, much of the square footage already created is being vacated as tenants move to new builds. The strong local economy continues to attract national retailers and restaurant chains. Since most new construction requires pre-leasing, delivery, and absorption of space are on par with each other.

Early in the pandemic, nearly half a million square feet of space was vacated in the third quarter of 2020. Rents were negatively impacted, but they bounced back in 2021, increasing by 3.7%, comparable to rent growth in peer communities, which ranged from 3.1 to 4.4%.¹⁸



¹⁹ Ibid



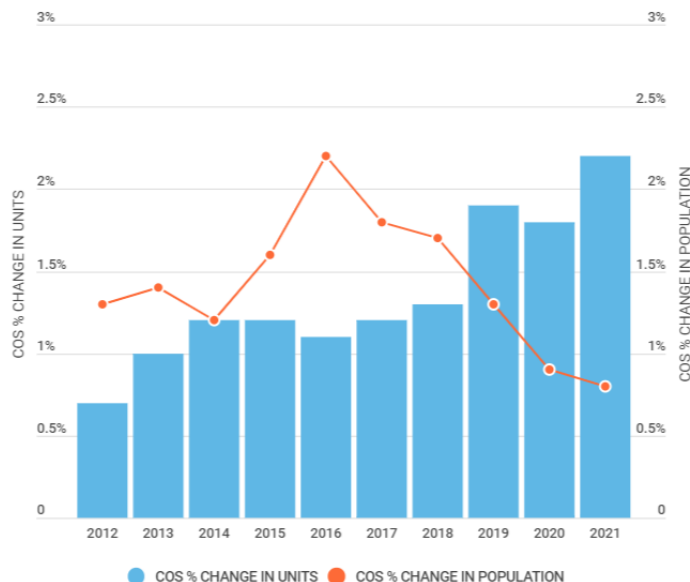
²⁰ Ibid

Residential Real Estate

Inventory

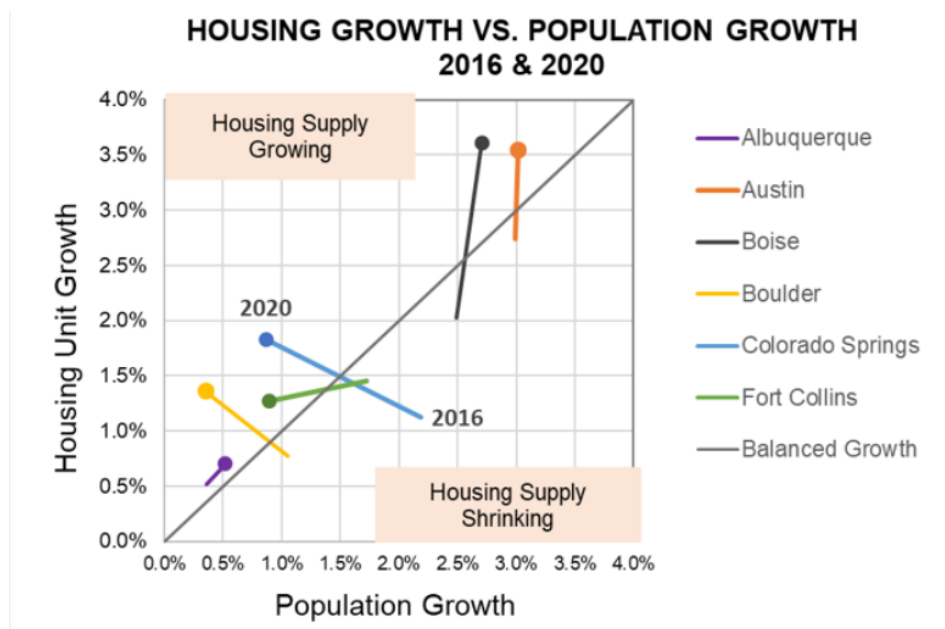
As of 2021, Colorado Springs had 308,836 housing units.²¹ Ideally, housing supply should increase in proportion to household growth. New housing construction, however, tends to vary with the economy. Following the 2008 recession, home construction in Colorado Springs lagged behind population growth in almost every year from 2010 to 2018. In 2019, the balance shifted due to increased construction and slowing population growth.²²

COLORADO SPRINGS MSA: HOUSING UNIT GROWTH VS POPULATION GROWTH



²³ U.S. Census Bureau

Peer communities experienced a similar pattern. In 2016, housing growth lagged behind population growth in all cities but Albuquerque. By 2020, however, all peer communities saw a net gain in housing growth relative to population growth.



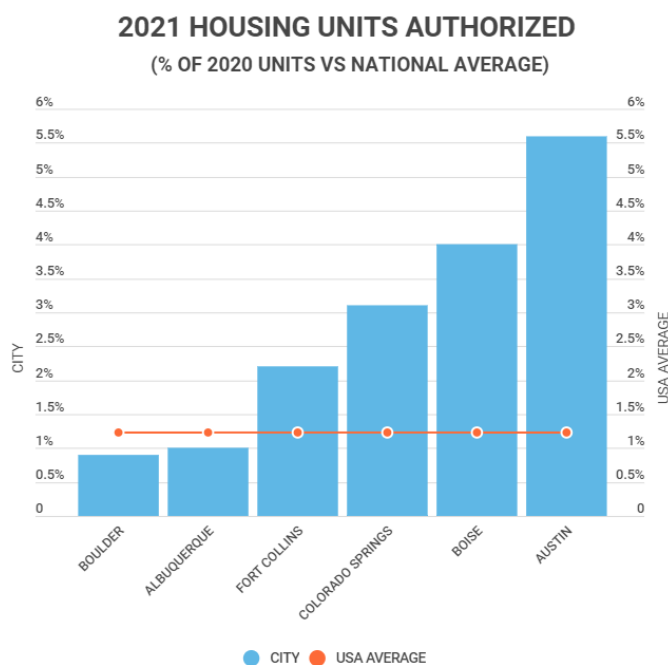
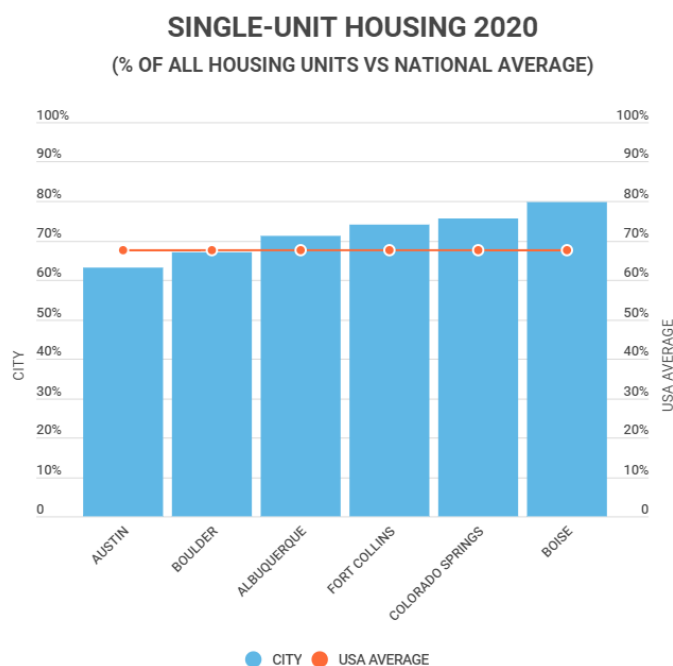
²⁴ U.S. Census Bureau

Why does housing continue to be in short supply? It takes time to regain the ground lost over several years. Additionally, investment buying has reached record levels²⁵ and Colorado has seen a recent increase in the institutional buyer market share.²⁶ Vacation properties and those under renovation are classified as “held off market”—technically vacant but unavailable to the public. Finally, in Colorado, marijuana businesses use real estate as a functional bank for profits that cannot be deposited in traditional banks.

Housing Variety

In 2020, single-family housing comprised 76% of all dwellings in the Pikes Peak region, a figure which is essentially unchanged since 2015.²⁷ That proportion is greater than the national average and 4th lowest of 5 peer communities.

COS Housing Variety	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Single unit	75%	75%	76%	75%	75%	76%
Multi-unit	22%	21%	20%	21%	22%	21%
Mobile home/Other	3%	4%	3%	4%	4%	3%



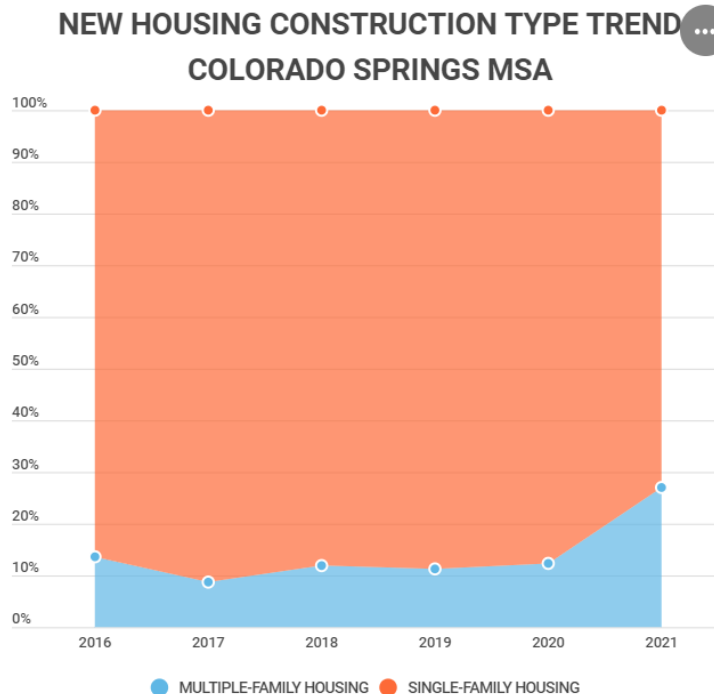
²⁸ U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey

In 2020, the median age of houses in Colorado Springs was 33 years. By comparison, the median age in Fort Collins was 30 years and in Boulder, 36 years.²⁹

Construction

More housing is on the way in the Pikes Peak region—the number of new housing units authorized in 2021 was 3.1% of 2020 inventory. That represents a large increase from pre-2020 permit rates of 2.0% or less, and it ranks 3rd among 6 peer communities.³⁰

Additionally, a quarter of the value of those permits were for multiple-unit housing—more than double the rate of the previous four years.³¹



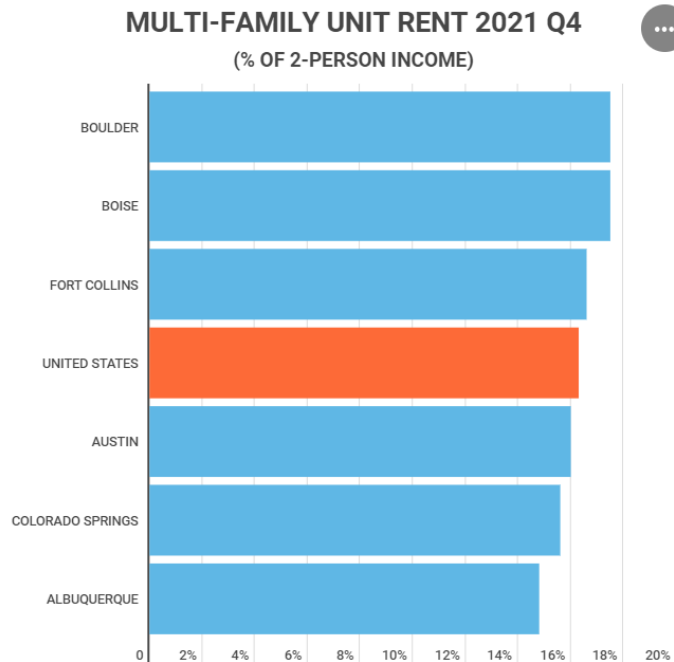
³² U.S. Census Bureau

Supply & Demand—Multi-family

In the fourth quarter of 2021, 5.8% of multi-family units in Colorado Springs MSA were vacant. That reflected a tightening of supply (down from 7.0% a year earlier). However, the vacancy rate was similar to most other peer communities.

Effective rent per unit at the end of 2021 was \$1,347. That amount reflected an increase of 11.5% over the previous 12 months. However, Colorado Springs still ranked as the 2nd-most affordable of 6 peer communities, with rent reflecting 15.6% of the annual wages of two adults.³⁴

Q4 2021	Multifamily Vacancy Rate
Fort Collins	3.8%
Boise	5.1%
Boulder	5.7%
Colorado Springs	5.8%
Albuquerque	5.8%
Austin	6.3%
United States	4.8%

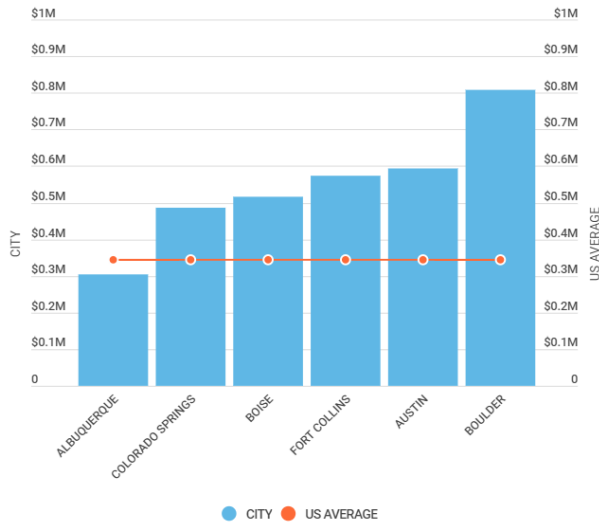


³⁵ National Association of Realtors

Supply & Demand— Single-family

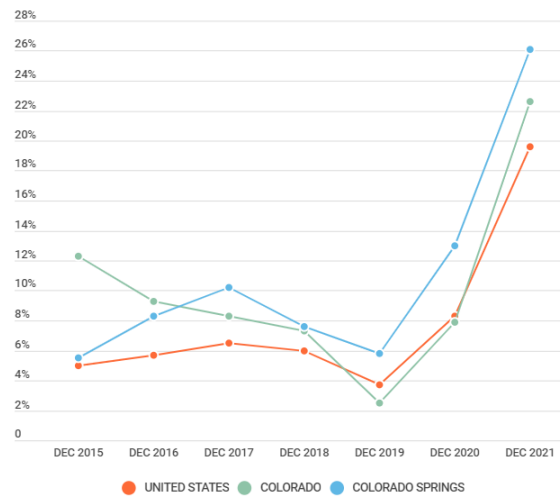
The same dynamics were true for single-family dwellings. Home prices in Colorado Springs rose 13% in 2020 and another 26% in 2021. As of April 2022, the typical home in Colorado Springs was on the market for only 13 days³⁶ (shortest time of 6 peer communities) and sold for \$486,182.³⁷

TYPICAL HOME SALES PRICE
(APRIL 2022 VS NATIONAL AVERAGE)



³⁸ Zillow

TYPICAL HOME SALES PRICE
(% CHANGE FROM PRIOR YEAR)



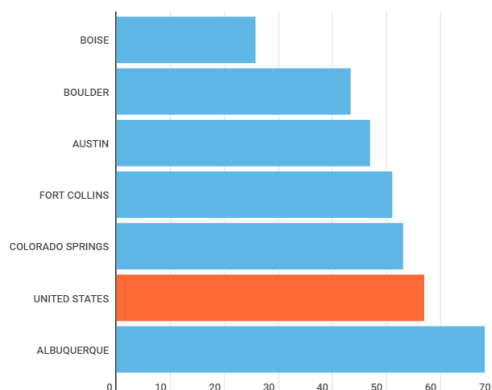
³⁸ Zillow

Affordability

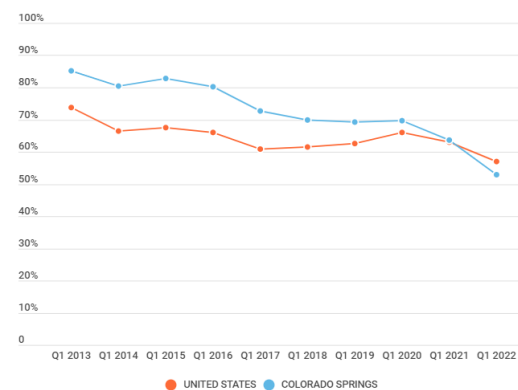
Housing in Colorado Springs and other communities has become much less affordable for both buyers and renters. Between 2016 and 2021, home prices rose by 79% in the Pikes Peak Region and rents increased by 44%, but average wages rose by only 16%.⁴⁰ As a result, the percentage of homes affordable to a family earning the local median income has dropped from more than 80% to only about half.⁴¹

However, housing in Colorado Springs is still comparatively affordable. The Pikes Peak region ranked 2nd of 6 peer communities for housing affordability.⁴²

% OF HOMES AFFORDABLE TO FAMILY WITH MEDIAN INCOME
(Q1 2022)



TREND: % OF HOMES AFFORDABLE TO FAMILY WITH MEDIAN INCOME



⁴³ National Association of Home Builders/Wells Fargo Housing Opportunity Index

Next Steps

The comprehensive plans of the area's cities and counties include policy recommendations and strategies. Some of those in Colorado Springs PlanCOS that relate to built environment include:

- Strategy VN-1.B-1: Create and implement state-of-the-art, transparent, clear and cost-effective methods to inform and involve neighborhoods and affected property owners in development applications and planning initiatives.
- Strategy VN-2.A-3: Support land use decisions and projects that provide a variety of housing types and sizes, serving a range of demographic sectors, and meeting the needs of residents and families through various life stages and income levels.
- Strategy VN-2.A-4: Allow for zoning residential bonuses that result in the provision of additional attainable housing, such as increased heights or densities.
- Strategy VN-2.A-5: Amend the City's zoning code to allow attainable housing in multi-family and commercial zoning districts in order to maximize the availability and distribution of this housing option in the city.
- Strategy VN-3.A-4: Modify City Code and create incentives to encourage redevelopment of underperforming buildings to include higher-density housing, mixed-use, civic services, gathering areas, and additional employment opportunities.
- Strategy VN-3.E-1: Focus incentives for mixed-use development within parts of the city that have been identified as priority redevelopment areas or corridors that have the potential for enhanced multimodal access and walkability.
- Strategy VN-3.E-2: Encourage vertical mixed-use design in neighborhood focal points along with neighborhood design meant to encourage a sense of community and provide a walkable environment. Vertical developments, where the various uses are "stacked" on top of each other, are typically used in areas with limited space, while larger sites allow those different components to be built next to each other—such as an apartment building adjacent to a grocery store.⁴⁴

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