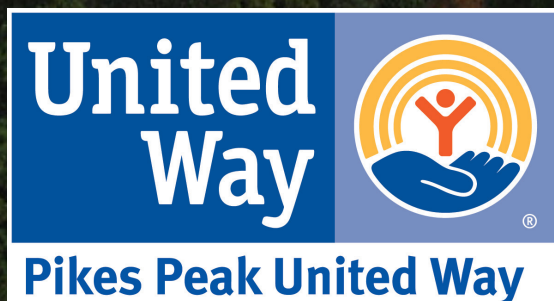


# 2016 | 2017 QUALITY OF LIFE INDICATORS

COMMISSIONED BY PIKES PEAK UNITED WAY  
PREPARED BY THE UCCS ECONOMIC FORUM

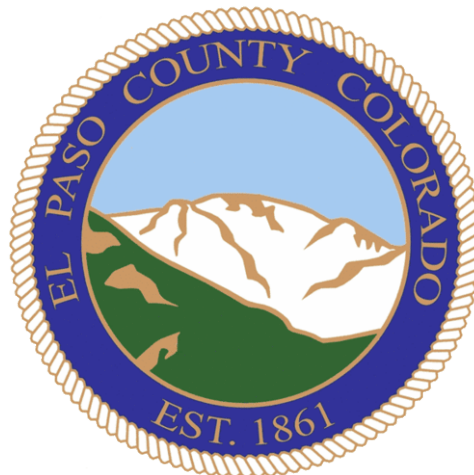


**UCCS**  
Economic Forum  
COLLEGE OF BUSINESS  
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO  
COLORADO SPRINGS

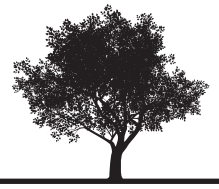




2016 | 2017 QUALITY OF LIFE INDICATORS  
SPECIAL THANKS



# 2016 | 2017 QUALITY OF LIFE INDICATORS ABOUT THE REPORT



The Quality of Life Indicators Report for the Pikes Peak region is a multidimensional status report of the key indicators of the community's vitality for all residents. The QLI's goal is to be a reliable and objective source of information over time. The Advisory Committee hopes that it will be used by elected officials, business and community leaders, nonprofit and advocacy groups and individuals to make informed fiscal and policy decisions that will effect positive change.



Economic Forum  
COLLEGE OF BUSINESS  
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO  
COLORADO SPRINGS

The Quality of Life Indicators report was prepared by The UCCS Economic Forum staff: Katya Campbell (student intern), Rebecca Wilder (data analyst), and Tatiana Bailey, Ph.D., (executive director).







# 2016 | 2017 QUALITY OF LIFE INDICATORS TABLE OF CONTENTS

ABOUT QLI.....	i
TABLE OF CONTENTS.....	ii-iii
LETTERS OF SUPPORT.....	4-5
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY.....	6-10

## DEMOGRAPHICS

Colorado Springs MSA Population.....	11
Population by Age Group.....	11
Population Trends.....	11
Population by Race.....	12
Non-Racial Demographics.....	12
Same-Sex Couples & LGBT Community.....	12
Household Composition.....	13
Components of Change.....	13
Colorado Springs MSA Voter Registration & Participation.....	14
Voter Registration & Participation.....	14
City of Colorado Springs Voter Registration & Participation.....	14

## ECONOMY

Average Weekly Wages.....	15
Real Weekly Wages.....	15
Per Capita Real GMP.....	15
Changes in Number of Employees by Industry Sector .....	16
Military Employment.....	17
Military Economic Impact.....	17
Unemployment Rates by MSA.....	18
Labor Force.....	18
Employment to Population Ratio.....	18
Per Capita Personal Income.....	19
Cost of Living.....	19
Commercial Vacancy Rates.....	20
Commercial Building Permits.....	20
Small Businesses.....	20
Foundation Giving in Colorado.....	21
Nonprofits by Category.....	21
City Rank.....	21

## HEALTH

Overweight & Obese Adult Population in El Paso County.....	22
Overweight & Obese Adolescent & Child Population in El Paso County.....	22
Body Mass Index in Relation to Disease.....	23
El Paso County Top 5 Leading Causes of Death by Age Group.....	23
Age-Adjusted Suicide Rates.....	23
Youth Suicide Rates (Ages 10-19).....	23
Total Medicaid Enrollment for the State of CO Pre-and Post-Affordable Care Act.....	24
Colorado Springs MSA Medicaid Enrollment.....	24
Medical Insurance Market Share by Payer.....	24
Residents Per Primary Care Physician.....	24

## HEALTH (CONTINUED)

Environmental Energy Sources: Electric Portfolio.....	25
Renewable Energy.....	25
Air Quality: Carbon Monoxide Parts Per Million.....	26
Air Quality: Particulate Matter.....	26
Air Quality: Ozone Trends in El Paso County.....	26
Water Quality.....	26
Examples of Forward-Thinking Community Health.....	27

## TRANSPORTATION

Population Density and Bus Routes.....	28
Commuter Mode.....	28
Average Commute Times.....	29
Transit Coverage.....	29
City Transit Score.....	29
Public Transit Operating Characteristics.....	30
Pikes Peak Area Council of Government: Moving Forward 2040.....	30
Airplane Travel.....	30

## SOCIAL WELL-BEING

Self-Sufficiency Standard.....	31
Below Federal Poverty Level.....	31
Below Federal Poverty Level by Age Group.....	31
United Way 2-1-1 Statistics.....	32
Community Service Gaps.....	32
Top 5 Zip Codes Calling for Assistance.....	32
Distribution of Aid by Need.....	32
Citizen's Option to Provide Energy (COPE).....	33
Low-Income Energy Assistance Program (LEAP).....	33
Women, Infants and Children (WIC) - Nutrition & Education.....	33
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).....	34
Care and Share Food Bank.....	34
Senior Meals.....	34
Disabled Population by Age.....	35
Disabled Home & Community-Based Service Waivers.....	35
Kids Count in Colorado: Child Well-Being Index.....	35
Local Out-of-Home Placements.....	36
Out-of-Home Placements.....	36
Grandparents Raising Grandchildren.....	36
Child Care Facilities.....	37
Colorado Child Care Assistance Program (CCCAP).....	37



# 2016 | 2017 QUALITY OF LIFE INDICATORS

## TABLE OF CONTENTS



### SAFETY

<i>Violent Crimes</i> .....	38
<i>Property Crimes</i> .....	38
<i>Homicides</i> .....	39
<i>Juvenile Arrests</i> .....	39
<i>Driving Under the Influence (DUI) Arrests</i> .....	40
<i>Jail Bookings and Rebookings</i> .....	40
<i>Jail Bookings</i> .....	40
<i>Crime Clearance Rates</i> .....	41
<i>Traffic Fatalities</i> .....	41
<i>Domestic Violence</i> .....	41
<i>Child Abuse</i> .....	42
<i>Child Fatalities</i> .....	42
<i>Adult Abuse</i> .....	42
<i>Emergency Response Time</i> .....	43

### RECREATION

<i>City of Colorado Springs - Sports Participation</i> .....	44
<i>YMCA of the Pikes Peak Region - Sports Participation</i> .....	44
<i>Olympic Sports Related Organizations</i> .....	44
<i>Park Ranking Comparisons</i> .....	45
<i>Park Acres per Capita</i> .....	45
<i>Number of Parks per Capita</i> .....	45
<i>Parks and Recreation Spending</i> .....	45
<i>Parks and Open Space</i> .....	46
<i>Bicycle Infrastructure</i> .....	46
<i>Trail Miles</i> .....	47
<i>Walking, Biking and Transit Scores</i> .....	47
<i>Parks Master Plans</i> .....	47

### LAND USE & BUILT ENVIRONMENT

<i>City of Colorado Springs Land Use</i> .....	48
<i>El Paso County Land Use</i> .....	48
<i>Teller County Land Use</i> .....	48
<i>Land Protection</i> .....	49
<i>Infrastructure</i> .....	49
<i>Stormwater Needs</i> .....	49
<i>Highway Drivability</i> .....	50
<i>Bridge Conditions</i> .....	50
<i>City Bridges</i> .....	50
<i>Waste and Recycling Initiatives</i> .....	51
<i>Recycling Resources</i> .....	51
<i>Environmental Sustainability for Pikes Peak Region</i> .....	51
<i>City of Colorado Springs Updates</i> .....	52

### HOUSING & HOMELESSNESS

<i>Housing Variety</i> .....	53
<i>Unaffordable Housing</i> .....	53
<i>Affordable Housing Waitlist</i> .....	54
<i>Affordable Housing Demographics</i> .....	54
<i>Location Affordability Index</i> .....	54
<i>Residential Building Permits (Dwelling Units)</i> .....	55
<i>Foreclosures</i> .....	55
<i>Point-in-Time Homeless Count</i> .....	56
<i>Point-in-Time Homeless Veterans Count</i> .....	56

### ARTS

<i>Nonprofit Arts Organizations</i> .....	57
<i>Nonprofit Arts Revenue</i> .....	57
<i>Arts &amp; Economic Prosperity</i> .....	57

### EDUCATION

<i>School District Enrollment &amp; Per Pupil Funding</i> .....	58
<i>Spending Per Pupil in Context</i> .....	58
<i>Early Childhood Education</i> .....	59
<i>Kindergarten Enrollment</i> .....	59
<i>Free &amp; Reduced Lunch</i> .....	59
<i>Special Education Enrollment</i> .....	60
<i>4th Grade State and National Test Scores</i> .....	60
<i>8th Grade State and National Test Scores</i> .....	61
<i>4th Grade Mathematics</i> .....	61
<i>4th Grade English Language Arts</i> .....	62
<i>10th Grade PSAT Scores</i> .....	63
<i>American College Testing (ACT)</i> .....	64
<i>High School Graduation</i> .....	64
<i>Current Enrollment</i> .....	65
<i>Financial Support of Higher Education</i> .....	65
<i>College Remedial Rates Upon High School Graduation</i> .....	65
<i>4-Year Institutions</i> .....	66
<i>2-Year Institutions</i> .....	67
<i>Educational Attainment of Ages 18-24</i> .....	67
<i>Educational Attainment of Ages 25+</i> .....	67
<i>The Digital Divide</i> .....	68
<i>Library Support</i> .....	68
<i>Library Support (continued)</i> .....	69





# COLORADO SPRINGS CITY COUNCIL LETTER OF SUPPORT



## WELCOME

from MAYOR SUTHERS

---

To the Residents and Visitors of Colorado Springs,

Our beautiful city with all of its unique features and distinctive landmarks is regularly honored, highlighted and recognized as a great place to live, raise a family, start a business and much more. As residents, we enjoy all that Colorado Springs offers. We know that maintaining our assets and preserving all that is good in our city is important, and that it takes work.

Part of the work is trying to understand our community better. For ten years Pikes Peak United Way has compiled a report card of sorts, called the Quality of Life Indicators, or QLI, which is a study to determine our condition or standing, as well as the progress we have made as a community. The Quality of Life Indicators report is a collection of data that hopes to enlighten, inform, and report to the community about the community. In this work, we seek to understand our strengths and weaknesses in the areas of health, economy and education. In each QLI report, we determine what our priorities should be to protect and enhance our quality of life.

We are a community that knows how to come together, to help our neighbors and to make life better for those in need. QLI has historically resulted in convening residents who may not already work together to unite to make change and improvements where needed. Thank you to all of the people and organizations who worked to produce the Quality of Life Indicators 2017. Let's all continue to work together to make Colorado Springs the best it can be now and for future generations!

Sincerely,

John Suthers  
Mayor of Colorado Springs



# EL PASO COUNTY COMMISSIONER LETTER OF SUPPORT



## **From the Desk of President Darryl Glenn**

### **Board of El Paso County Commissioners**

200 South Cascade Ave. Suite 100

Colorado Springs, CO 80903

Phone: 719-520-6411

DarrylGlenn@ElPasoCo.com

Dear El Paso County Residents and Visitors,

In 1954 President Dwight Eisenhower was delivering a speech to a group of worldwide church leaders when he quoted Northwestern University President Roscoe Miller on the distinction between urgent and important. Miller had said, “urgent problems are never important and important problems are never urgent.”

This idea is now commonly referred to as the *Eisenhower Principle* and it describes why the Quality of Life Indicators Report is such a valuable community resource. Thanks to those who have worked on this report, which is a lens that helps us see beyond the urgent daily challenges to focus on things that are truly important in the life of our community.

QLI gives us a snapshot of our strengths and weaknesses as well as an inventory of our values and goals. Working together we can use this information to shape our vision for the future and to ensure that we turn over to the next generation a sustainable community full of opportunity.

We have grown a lot from the dusty streets and wagon roads of old Colorado City in the 1800’s to become Colorado’s most populous County in the twenty-first century. Not at all surprising when you consider that we enjoy spectacular natural beauty and we have economic, recreational, educational, and cultural amenities and attractions and amenities that are truly to be envied. But these cannot to be taken for granted. Great communities are built and sustained by engaged citizens.

If you are not yet actively engaged in our great community, let me assure you that there are plenty of opportunities. Pikes Peak United Way at (719) 632-1543 and Leadership Pikes Peak at (719) 632-2618 can help you decide where to start.

Sincerely,

Darryl Glenn

President – Board of El Paso County Commissioners





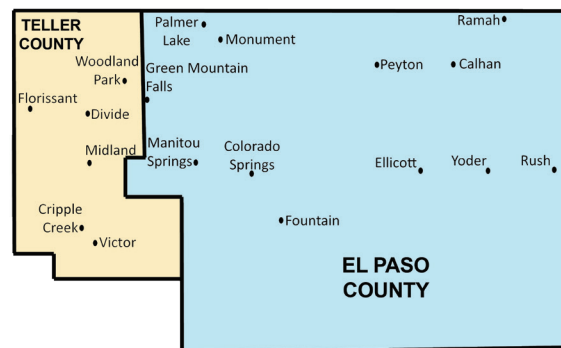
# 2016 | 2017 QUALITY OF LIFE INDICATORS EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## DEMOGRAPHICS (Pages 11-14)

The Colorado Springs MSA is different than the United States in many ways and is rapidly changing in terms of demographic composition.

- ▶ In 2015, the city of Colorado Springs, a component of El Paso County, had a population of 456,562. El Paso County (674,471) and Teller County (23,385) combined comprise the Colorado Springs MSA, with a total population of 697,856.
- ▶ Between 2005 and 2015 in the Colorado Springs MSA, population increased 22.2%, whereas the U.S. population overall increased 11.5%.
- ▶ Between 2015 and 2050, El Paso County is projected to have an increase of approximately 400,000 additional people making it one of the four fastest growing counties in Colorado.
- ▶ The median age in 2015 was 34.2 in the Colorado Springs MSA, while it was 37.8 in the U.S. indicating that our region is significantly younger than the nation.
- ▶ The two largest age cohorts in our region in 2016 were 0 to 17 and 30 to 49 years old.
- ▶ The Colorado Springs MSA 65 and over age group has increased 54.0% comparing 2005 to 2015.
- ▶ The Colorado Springs MSA Hispanic population has increased 16.7% between 2010 and 2015, while White non-Hispanics have increased 4.5% during that same time span.
- ▶ The Colorado Springs MSA had a much higher veteran population (16.9%) than the U.S. (7.6%) in 2015.

*El Paso & Teller Counties make up the Colorado Springs MSA*



## ECONOMY (Pages 15-21)

- ▶ The state and local economies are both performing well with metrics that are often more favorable than the U.S. as a whole. The Colorado Springs MSA began to see marked improvement in regional growth in 2014.
- ▶ During the last economic downturn, unemployment was at its highest in the Colorado Springs MSA in March of 2011, at 9.9% (Colorado: 9.2%, U.S.: 9.8%, not seasonally adjusted). As of October 2016, unemployment in the Colorado Springs MSA was significantly lower at 3.5% (Colorado: 3.1%; U.S.: 4.4%).
- ▶ In 2015, the average weekly wage for all industries in Colorado was \$1,042 while it was lower at \$896 in El Paso County and \$700 in Teller County.
- ▶ Between 2000 and 2015 in El Paso County, health care and social assistance saw the greatest increase in employees (up 74.1% or 15,739 jobs) followed by educational services (up 37.7% or 7,213 jobs). Manufacturing saw the greatest decline (down 53.7% or 13,533 jobs).
- ▶ In 2015, El Paso County has an overall lower employment to population ratio including the military at 51.2%, when compared to the U.S. (59.2%).
- ▶ The Colorado Springs MSA has seen a marked decrease in the percent of working-age residents (25-64) participating in the labor force. In 2005, 81.9% of 25-64 year olds participated in the labor force suggesting some degree of structural unemployment.
- ▶ In 2015, the Colorado Springs MSA had a housing affordability index score of 166, which was in line with the U.S. average affordability composite index of 164. Denver MSA's affordability index was 129 and Boulder's was 118. A higher index translates into greater affordability.

## HEALTH (Pages 22-27)

- ▶ The percentage of El Paso County residents who are obese has been increasing in the past decade. In 2013-14, 35.1% of residents were overweight and 22.9% were obese. In the U.S. overall, the overweight rate was comparable at 35%, but higher for the obese category at 29%.
- ▶ In the U.S. in 2011, 35.9% of girls and 35.0% of boys ages 5 – 17 were overweight or obese, second only to Greece and well above the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) nations, which is comprised of 35 developed countries. The OECD obesity rates were 21.4% for girls and 22.9% for boys.



# 2016 | 2017 QUALITY OF LIFE INDICATORS

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



- ▶ Suicide rates in El Paso County are higher than state or the U.S. On an age-adjusted basis per 100,000 population county rate was 21.9 in 2014. The rate in Colorado was 19.9, and in the U.S. was 13.0. The Healthy People 2020 goal is 10.2.
- ▶ The youth suicide rate (ages 10-19) in El Paso County from 2005-2014 was 9.3 per 100,000 population, which is higher than Colorado (7.9) and the U.S. (4.6).
- ▶ The implementation of the Affordable Care Act has increased Medicaid enrollment in the state of Colorado from 783,420 in September of 2013 to 1,362,329 people in August 2016 representing a 74% increase.
- ▶ In El Paso County, the percentage of uninsured has fallen from 13.9% in 2008 to 9.5% in 2014 and 7% in 2015.
- ▶ In the Colorado Springs MSA in 2015-16, there were 181,000 people enrolled in Medicaid, which is 26.0% of the total population in the MSA. This is higher than in the U.S., which had 22.6% of the population enrolled in Medicaid. The higher regional rate may be partially explained by the proportionately higher number of children as well as the lower median salaries within the region (see Economy section).
- ▶ Drake Power Plant is scheduled to be completely shut down by 2035, starting with the decommissioning of Unit 5.
- ▶ In 2015, Colorado Springs Utilities had 9.8% of the total energy load from renewable energy sources.
- ▶ Carbon monoxide and particulate matter readings in the area were well below the U.S. standard in 2015, whereas they were only slightly below the U.S. standard for ozone.
- ▶ The local CARES program, which works to reduce the use of 911 for non-acute needs, identified that approximately 18,000 calls (or 69%) were non emergent in 2012. In 2015, the program had preliminary data showing that their intervention to increase the use of local support services reduced 911 calls by 50% for the majority of 911 users.

### TRANSPORTATION (Pages 28-30)

- ▶ The national, metro average commute time to work from home in 2015 was 26.4 minutes. The Colorado Springs MSA had an average commute time of 23.4 minutes. Denver had a longer commute than the national average, at 27.7 minutes.
- ▶ In 2016, the city of Colorado Springs had a transit score of 17.8, indicating people are very car-dependent for their transportation. Scores are on a scale of 1 to 100 with scores at 50 or higher considered “good transit.” Denver’s score was 46.9.
- ▶ Local public transportation, Mountain Metro Transit (MMT) has had a decline in both revenue miles and revenue hours since 2006. However, as of 2015, Colorado Springs saw a modest increase (15.5%) in the number of MMT riders compared to 2010.
- ▶ MMT does not currently have plans to add routes. Instead, it is working to increase the frequency of all existing bus routes to 30 minutes or less by the end of 2017. Population increase and urban sprawl will likely call for increasing the number and reach of routes in the future.
- ▶ The total number of airport passengers coming through the Colorado Springs Airport declined from 881,694 in 2002 to 582,112 in 2015.
- ▶ With Frontier Airlines coming to the Colorado Springs Airport in March of 2016, the number of non-stop flights and cities have increased to 11 cities, utilizing 6 different airlines.

### SOCIAL WELL-BEING (Pages 31-37)

- ▶ In 2015 in El Paso County, the Self-Sufficiency Standard for an adult, infant and preschooler was \$57,988, while the federal poverty level for a family of three was \$20,090. The federal poverty level is calculated based on the cost of food alone and is uniform for all families of a given size across the U.S. while the Self-Sufficiency Standard is a measure of economic security based on the costs of many basic needs and is relative to a family’s geographic location.
- ▶ The percentage of the population in the Colorado Springs MSA in 2015 below the federal poverty level was 10.6% or 72,182 people. In the state of Colorado, there were 613,549 people (11.5%) and in the U.S. 46,153,077 people (14.7%) below the federal poverty level.
- ▶ In fiscal year 2015-16, Pikes Peak United Way’s referral system, 2-1-1, had 30,210 calls from clients who had family needs that they could not meet. They collaborate with hundreds of local agencies.



## 2016 | 2017 QUALITY OF LIFE INDICATORS

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### SOCIAL WELL-BEING continued (Pages 31-37)

- ▶ The top 2-1-1 unmet needs in 2015 were for rental assistance, transportation, utilities, shelter and housing, totaling 1,348 calls. These needs went unmet from lack of services within the 2-1-1 database or because a client was not eligible for a particular service.
- ▶ In 2015, a local Colorado Springs Utilities program, Project COPE (Citizens Option to Provide Energy) provided \$894,838 in utilities assistance. In El Paso County, 1.04% of households received this aid.
- ▶ In 2015-16, a federal energy program, LEAP (Low-income Energy Assistance Program) provided energy assistance to 4.0% of households in the Colorado Springs MSA. In the state of Colorado, 3.8% of households were LEAP recipients.
- ▶ Local caseloads of the federal Women, Infants, and Children nutrition and educational program (WIC) have decreased for the Colorado Springs MSA from 27,337 in 2012 to 25,241 in 2015. Eligibility for this program for pregnant and nursing women requires income at or below 185% of the federal poverty level (or \$21,775 for a single woman).
- ▶ By contrast, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formally called food stamps) caseload has increased both locally and across the U.S. Recipients must have an income at or below 130% of the federal poverty level (\$26,117 for a family of 3 in 2015). In 2015, the Colorado Springs MSA had 10.9% of households receiving SNAP benefits, up from 5.4% in 2005. The U.S. had 12.8% of households receiving SNAP up from 8.0% in 2005.
- ▶ In 2014-15, Care and Share distributed nearly 6.7 million pounds of food to El Paso and Teller Counties combined, and nearly 21.5 million pounds of food to all southern Colorado counties.
- ▶ From 2007 to 2014, child care costs for infants increased by 21% in Colorado while the median family income grew by 12%.

### SAFETY (Pages 38-43)

- ▶ According to the FBI, in the Colorado Springs MSA from 2006 to 2015, the number of violent crimes per 100,000 inhabitants decreased by 34.8%, and the number of property crimes per 100,000 inhabitants decreased by 23.7%. At the same time, the population increased by about 120,000 people.
- ▶ In 2015, the Colorado Springs MSA had 26 homicides, whereas Colorado had 176 and the U.S. had 15,696 homicides. The local homicide rate per 100,000 in 2015 was higher at 3.7 versus the state of Colorado (3.2) but was lower than the U.S. (4.9).
- ▶ Compared to various peer nations, the U.S. violent death rate in 2008 was significantly higher per 100,000 population at 6.47 (age adjusted). Japan's rate was 0.43, Canada's was 1.6, Germany's was 0.73 and Italy's was 1.1.
- ▶ DUI arrests have decreased 26.6% from 2005 to 2015 within the Colorado Springs MSA.
- ▶ In 2015, the Colorado Springs Police Department cleared 51.3% of the violent crimes and 24.3% of the property crimes. That is significantly higher than the average for U.S. cities with populations of 250,000+ where only 39.6% of violent crimes and 14.1% of property crimes were cleared.
- ▶ In 2015, the Colorado Springs MSA had a total of 53 traffic fatalities, 17 of which involved at least one driver with a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) above the legal limit. In 2014, the latest year available, the U.S. had 32,675 traffic fatalities, 9,967 of which involved a driver with a BAC above the legal limit.
- ▶ El Paso and Teller counties received 14,851 child welfare referral calls in 2015. Of these, 5,548 calls were accepted, while 9,303 were screened out.
- ▶ Child fatalities has seen a decrease in recent years with 10 fatalities in 2011 down to 2 in 2015.
- ▶ Adult Protective Services, defined as serving the disabled over 18 years of age and the elderly, has seen an increase in referrals over the past four years. In 2012, there were 910 referrals (for abuse, exploitation, neglect and other categories), compared to 2015 with 2,498 referrals. Some of this may be due to a change in reporting requirements.
- ▶ The number of calls to TESSA, a provider of services for domestic and sexual abuse victims, have averaged approximately 11,000 annual calls from 2010 to 2015.
- ▶ The number of nights of safe shelter for TESSA users have decreased from 7,722 in 2010 to 4,393 in 2015 due to lack of available beds in the community.



# 2016 | 2017 QUALITY OF LIFE INDICATORS

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



### RECREATION (Pages 44-47)

- ▶ Recreational sports participation has seen an increase, both with City of Colorado Springs Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services (up 15.5% from 2012 to 2015), as well as with the YMCA of the Pikes Peak Region (up 31.4% from 2012 to 2015).
- ▶ From 2000 to 2015, there was a 76.4% increase in parkland and open space managed by the city of Colorado Springs and El Paso County.
- ▶ The Colorado Springs community has shown strong support for local trails, voting for the 0.1% Trails, Open Space and Parks sales tax (TOPS) implemented in 1998, and in November of 2015, approving the use of \$2.1 million of excess revenue for maintenance and repair work on eight urban trails.
- ▶ In January 2016, the Governor added “16 in 2016” to the Colorado the Beautiful Initiative. This addition focuses on the completion of the 16 highest priority trail projects. The chosen projects include Ring the Peak and the 11-mile Ute Pass Regional Trail, which would complete the 62-mile loop around Pikes Peak.
- ▶ The city of Colorado Springs is home to the United States Olympic Committee headquarters and is now branded internationally as Olympic City USA. The city is home to 22 National Olympic Governing Bodies, over 50 National Sports Organizations, the Olympic Training Center, and will be home to the future U.S. Olympic Museum.

### LAND USE & BUILT ENVIRONMENT (Pages 48-52)

- ▶ Land protection within the Colorado Springs MSA has seen a significant increase in recent years from 1,040 acres of protected land in 1985 to 17,427 public and private acres protected in 2015. This is a 1,576% increase in protected land in the last 31 years.
- ▶ In 2015, the city of Colorado Springs spent \$94,022,533 on operating and capital improvement projects.
- ▶ Highways within the Colorado Springs MSA maintained by CDOT have seen some improvement in recent years. Highways with “high drivability” went from 9.1% of all highways in 2013 to 16.5% of all highways in 2016, whereas those deemed “low drivability” stayed relatively stagnant at about 16% of all highways.
- ▶ The city of Colorado Springs maintains 437 Bridges. The city has a goal for replacing or rehabilitating 4 bridges every year. As of 2014, 3% of city bridges were in poor condition, 18% were in fair condition and 79% were in good condition.
- ▶ Comparing 2007 to 2015, the Colorado Springs MSA reduced the tons of waste produced per person by 29.8%.

### HOUSING & HOMELESSNESS (Pages 53-56)

- ▶ Housing variety has seen very little change in the past ten years, with the majority (average 75%) of the population preferring single-family homes.
- ▶ In 2015, approximately 62% of all housing in the Colorado Springs MSA was owner-occupied, whereas 38% was rented.
- ▶ Unaffordable housing is defined as housing costs that expend 30% or more of total household income. In the U.S. in 2015, 32.2% of households resided in unaffordable housing. Colorado Springs MSA was slightly higher for this metric: 33.4%.
- ▶ According to a city official in 2016, the city of Colorado Springs has roughly 6,000 units considered affordable housing. To properly accommodate all families needing assistance, the city estimates an additional 8,000 more units are needed with long wait lists.
- ▶ The Colorado Springs MSA has seen an increase in residential building permits in recent years with over 5,000 issued in 2016, which is over 1,700 more permits than were issued in 2007, pre-recession.
- ▶ Foreclosures in recent years have seen a significant decrease dropping 28.1% comparing 2003 to 2015 within the Colorado Springs MSA.
- ▶ The point-in-time survey conducted in January of 2016, which estimates the number of homeless people in El Paso County measured 862 homeless people without children and 439 homeless people with children. Of all 1,301 homeless individuals, 168 were veterans.



# 2016 | 2017 QUALITY OF LIFE INDICATORS EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

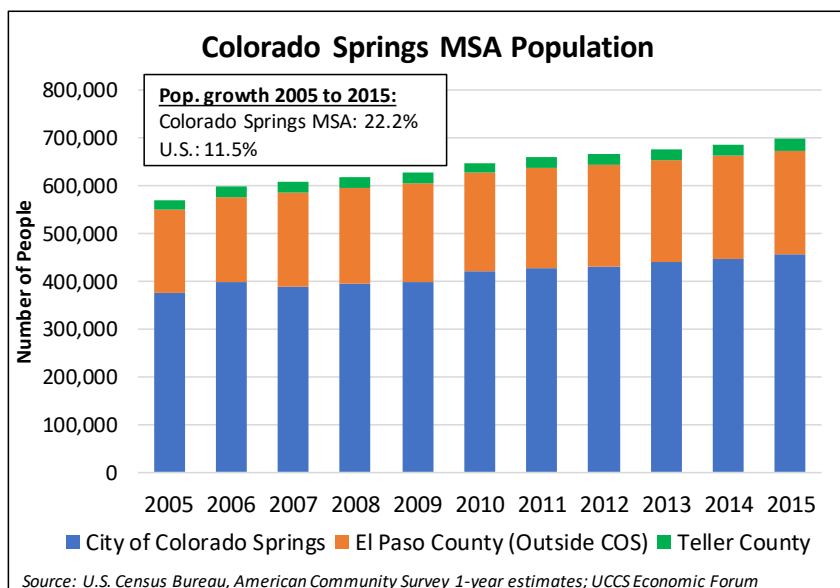
## ARTS (Page 57)

- ▶ According to the Cultural Office of the Pikes Peak Region (COPPeR) the region has just over 450 cultural entities, both nonprofit and for-profit.
- ▶ The number of nonprofit arts organizations in the Colorado Springs MSA have been relatively steady from 2008 to 2013 at 1.18 arts organizations per 10,000 population. By contrast, Fort Collins had a ratio of 1.96 in 2013.
- ▶ In terms of arts revenue, the Colorado Springs MSA was at \$377,378 per 10,000 population in 2013, which is virtually identical to the 2008 rate. By contrast, Denver had \$1.3 million in arts revenue per 10,000 population in 2013.

## EDUCATION (Pages 58-69)

- ▶ In fiscal year 2014, Colorado spent \$8,985 per pupil in elementary and secondary schools, while the U.S. average was \$11,009 per pupil.
- ▶ Many of the local, school districts have nearly doubled in the percent of their students receiving Free or Reduced Lunch (FRL) between 2001 and 2015. FRL is not necessarily correlated with changes in income level because some schools decide to subsidize meals for all students because it is administratively easier, and some schools choose to opt out.
- ▶ From 2003 to 2015, 4th and 8th grade students in Colorado outscored the nation in mathematics and language arts.
- ▶ Of the 13 states that required all high school students to take the ACT (American College Test) in 2015, Colorado and Illinois had the highest average composite score for sophomores, juniors and seniors combined (20.7).
- ▶ In 2015, 13 of the 17 school districts in the Colorado Springs MSA exceeded the state of Colorado's average high school graduation rate of 77.3%. Preliminary government data for 2015 states that the U.S. high school graduation rate was 83.2%. Nine of our local 17 school districts surpassed this national graduation rate.
- ▶ The Concurrent Enrollment Program Act, passed in 2009, allows students to be simultaneously enrolled in high school as well as in one or more postsecondary courses at an institution of higher education. These programs aim to increase college completion rates, close the attainment gap and decrease the number of high school dropouts. All districts within the Colorado Springs MSA have seen increased participation in these programs. Comparing 2014 to 2015, there was a 123% increase in participation with a total enrollment of 1,337 students in the Colorado Springs MSA enrolled concurrently in the 2014-15 school year.
- ▶ In the 2014-15 school year, 23,127 students participated in Concurrent Enrollment (CE) programs statewide. That year, 94% of districts and 84% of high schools in Colorado offered CE programs, with 93% of student passing their CE hours.
- ▶ Of the 22,853 high school graduates who matriculated to college in Colorado in the 2014-15 school year, 7,472 students were not college ready and required at least one remedial course, according to the Colorado Department of Higher Education.
- ▶ In the Colorado Springs MSA in 2015, 36.3% of the population ages 25 and over had some college or an associate degree, while in the U.S. it was 28.9% of that population. For those with a bachelor's degree or higher ages 25 and older, Colorado Springs MSA (36.5%) again had a higher percentage than the U.S. (30.6%)





## Colorado Springs MSA Population

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, the 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 in order to pursue policies that are economically and socially sustainable.

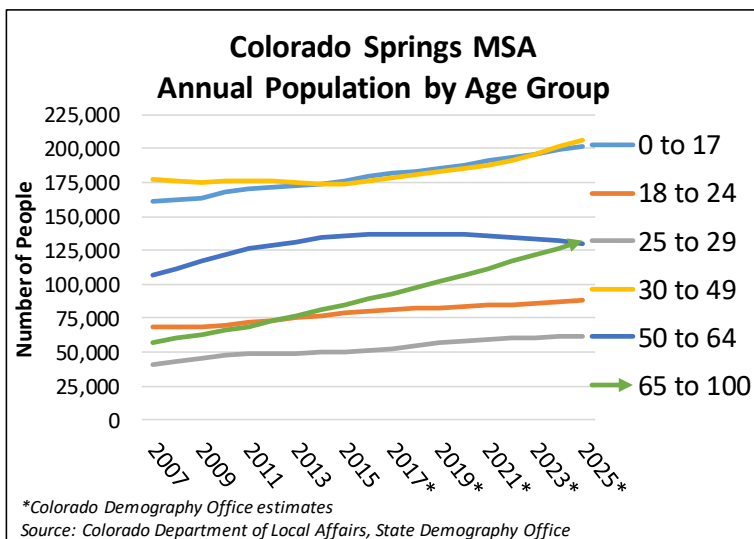
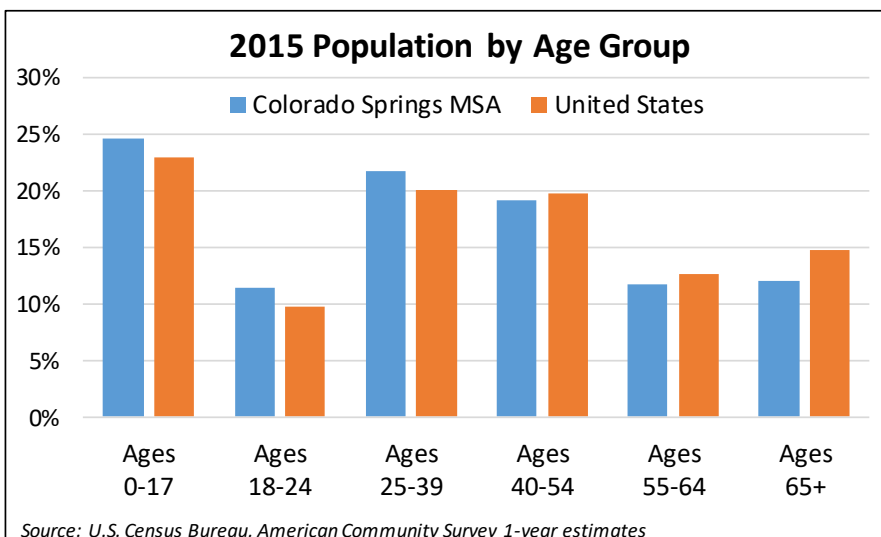
The Colorado Springs MSA has grown almost twice as fast as the U.S. since 2005. According to the State Demography Office, El Paso County is projected to have a population increase of approximately 400,000 additional people between 2015 and 2050.

## Population by Age Group

The Colorado Springs MSA is a young community. In 2015, it had a higher percentage who were 39 and under than the U.S. average, which also translates to a lower percentage in the older age groups than the U.S. average.

2015 Median Age	
Colorado Springs MSA	United States
34.2 years	37.8 years

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 1-year estimates



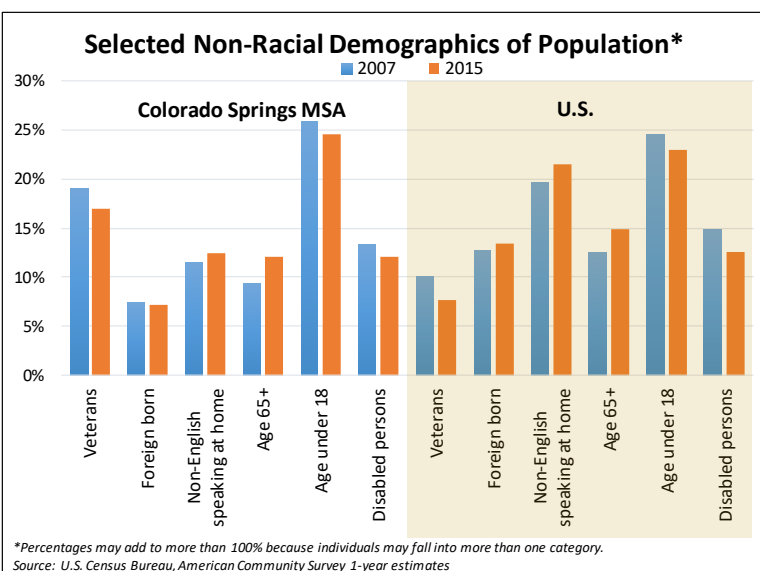
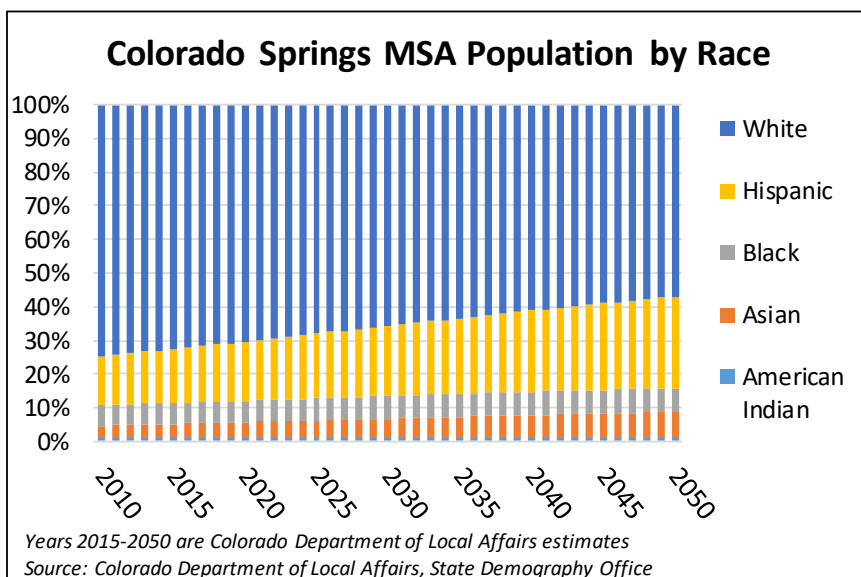
## Population Trends

According to the State Demography Office, our population is projected to get older over the course of the next 9 years. However, there is also strong 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).

## Population by Race

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 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, and indicate whether or not they are of Hispanic or Latino ethnicity. Race and ethnicity are considered separate and distinct identities.*



## Non-Racial Demographics

Community diversity does not only include those who identify as different races or ethnicities. Diversity means differences in languages spoken, immigration status, religion, beliefs, backgrounds, sexual orientation, gender, age, and social class. Since 2007, the changes the Colorado Springs MSA has experienced have been very similar to the U.S. average, with percentage of veterans, minors, and disabled persons declining while those who do not speak English at home and those ages 65 and older are increasing. Colorado Springs has differed from the U.S. on foreign born population with the U.S. increasing its percentage while Colorado Springs has seen a decline. At the same time, when the Colorado Springs MSA is compared to the U.S., Colorado Springs has a significantly higher percentage of veterans, a younger population overall (with projected increases in this population as mentioned on the previous page), fewer foreign born and fewer homes where English is not the primary spoken language.

## Same-Sex Couples and LGBT Community

With respect to same-sex couples, the table shows that the state of Colorado has a higher number of households with same-sex partnerships (6.25 per 100,000) than the U.S. (5.59), while Colorado Springs has a lower rate (4.43). This data is lagged and self-reported, so it may be underestimated. The state and the Denver MSA also have a higher percentage of the population than the U.S. that is lesbian, gay, bi-sexual or transgender (LGBT). This data is also self-reported.

Same-Sex Couples 2011-2013 Estimates*		
	Number of Same-Sex Couples	Number per 1,000 Households
<b>United States</b>	646,464	5.59
<b>Colorado</b>	12,424	6.25
<b>Colorado Springs MSA</b>	1,100	4.43

\*Data is from a self-reported survey so it may be underreported.  
Sources: Williams Institute, Census Snapshot; Gallup Daily Tracking Survey; U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 1-year estimates; UCCS Economic Forum

LGBT Adult Community % of population* January - April 2015	
<b>United States</b>	3.8%
<b>Colorado</b>	3.9%
<b>Denver MSA</b>	4.6%

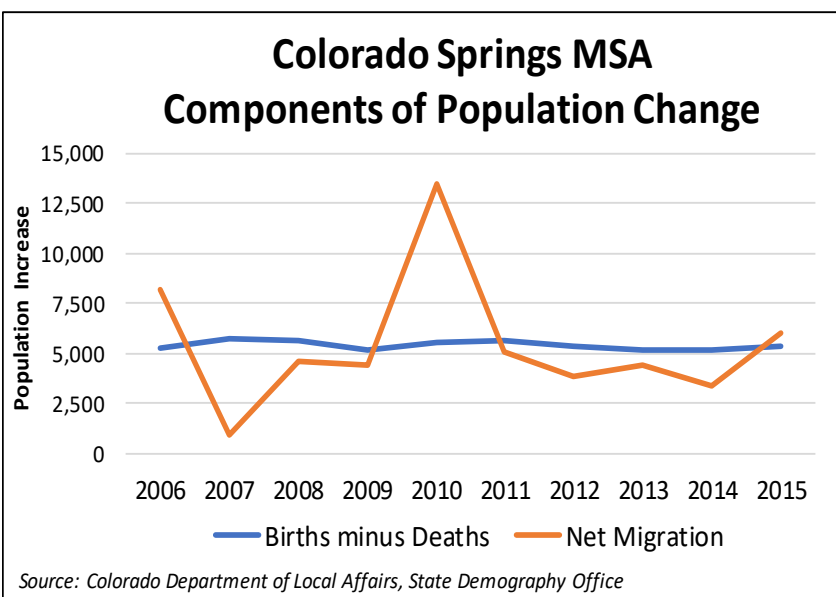
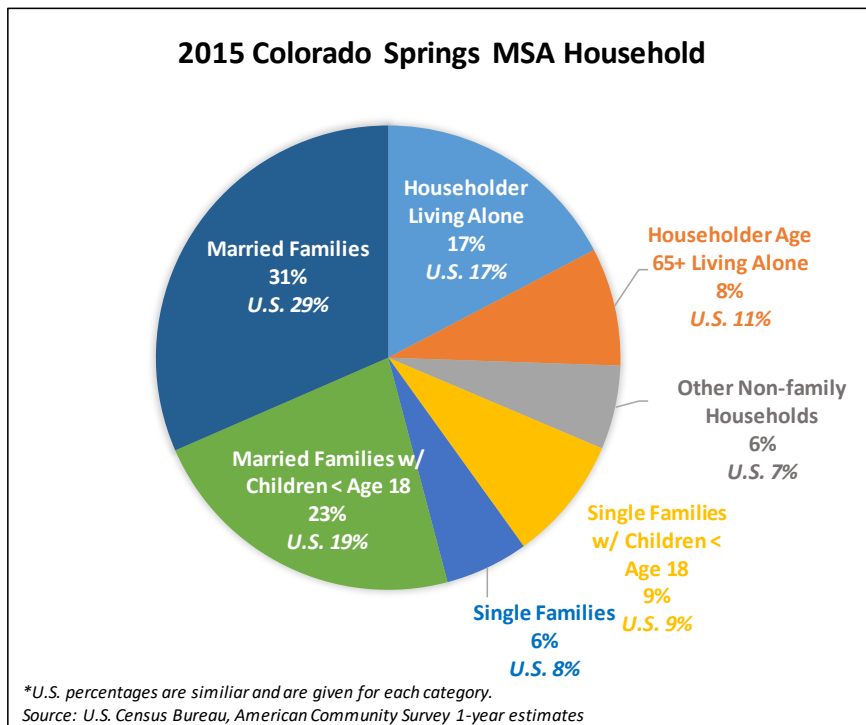
\*Data is from a self-reported survey so it may be underreported.



## Household Composition

Household composition has not changed significantly in the Colorado Springs MSA or the U.S. since 2005, and the compositions are fairly similar. Recognizing the differences within the MSA's household composition allows the community to consider ways to better support the well-being of its residents. Married family households make up the majority of our population (30%). The next largest group is married families with children under 18 years of age (23%). The corresponding U.S. percentages are also shown on the pie chart for comparative purposes.

*NOTE: "Single family" and "married family" are defined as those families without children under 18 in the home.*



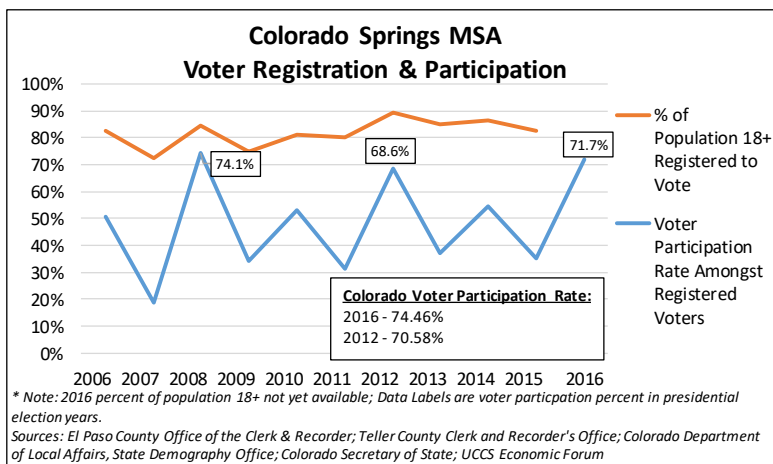
2015 Components of Population Change		
	Percent of Population Change from Births minus Deaths	Percent of Population Change from Net Migration
Colorado Springs MSA	46.9%	53.1%
Colorado	30.1%	69.9%

Source: Colorado Department of Local Affairs, State Demography Office

## Components of Change

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. 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 2007, and a significant increase in 2010 followed by a similar decrease in 2011. Military personnel are included in population numbers.

Both Colorado and the Colorado Springs MSA had more than 50% of their population change coming from in-migration, or more people moving in than those people moving out. The Colorado Springs MSA tends to be more evenly split in terms of population change from natural increase (births minus deaths: 46.9%) and from net migration (53.1%). The state of Colorado has a significantly larger proportion of population increase emanating from net migration (69.9%).



## Colorado Springs MSA Voter Registration & Participation

The Colorado Springs MSA has a significant percentage of voting age population registered to vote. Registered voter participation varies considerably as seen in the graph.

SmartAsset ranked Colorado first in the nation for its political engagement, based on voter turnout over several years, voter registration in 2014, and residents' contributions to presidential campaigns in 2008 and 2012. The Colorado Springs MSA had a 2010, 2012 and 2014 participation rate that mirrored Colorado's rates.

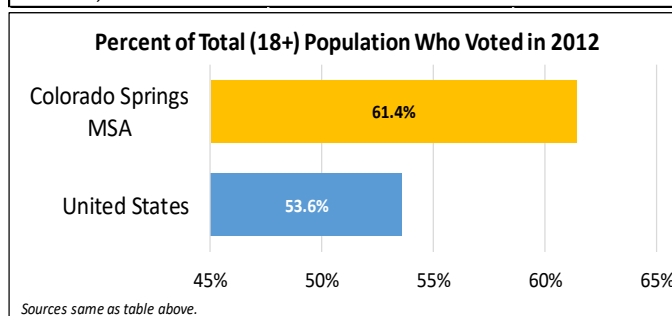
## Voter Registration & Participation

In the 2012 election, a greater percentage of the citizens of the Colorado Springs MSA were registered to vote than the percentage of the voting age nationwide, however fewer registered voters actually voted in the Colorado Springs MSA compared to the U.S.

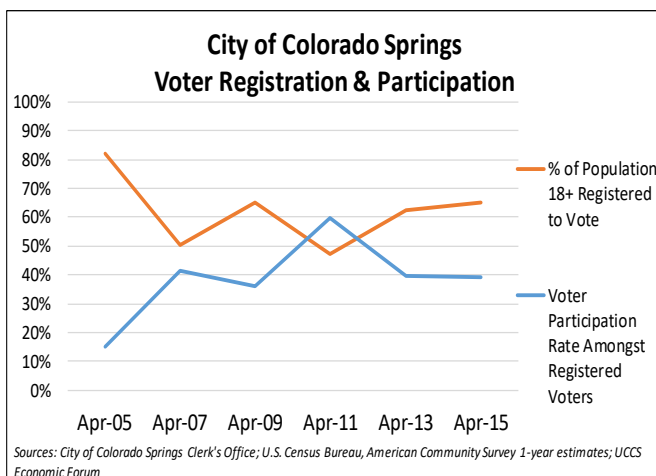
If we only look at the total percentage of population able to vote (age 18+), the proportion of the total voting age population that voted in 2012 was higher in the Colorado Springs MSA (61.4%) than in the U.S. (53.6%). This graph to the right is a different metric than the registration information above.

2012 Registration & Participation		
	% of Population 18+ Registered to Vote	Voter Participation Rate Amongst Registered Voters
<b>Colorado Springs MSA</b>	89.4%	68.6%
<b>United States</b>	63.8%	84.3%

Sources: El Paso County Office of the Clerk & Recorder; Teller County Clerk and Recorder's Office; Pew Research Center; U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 1-year estimates; UCCS Economic Forum



## City of Colorado Springs Voter Registration & Participation



Municipal elections for city specific issues take place in April, with runoffs or special elections occasionally taking place in other months (not shown on the graph). There is a tendency for greater voter registration and participation during mayoral runoff elections.

The city approved changing Colorado Springs' form of government to a mayor-council system, also referred to as "strong mayor" system, on November 2, 2010. The first vote for a mayor after this change was the April 2011 vote, which had a runoff in May 2011. A similar number of ballots were cast for mayor in 2015, which also had a runoff, however more citizens were registered to vote so there was a lower participation rate. The number of registered voters has not been keeping up with the increasing population growth in the city.

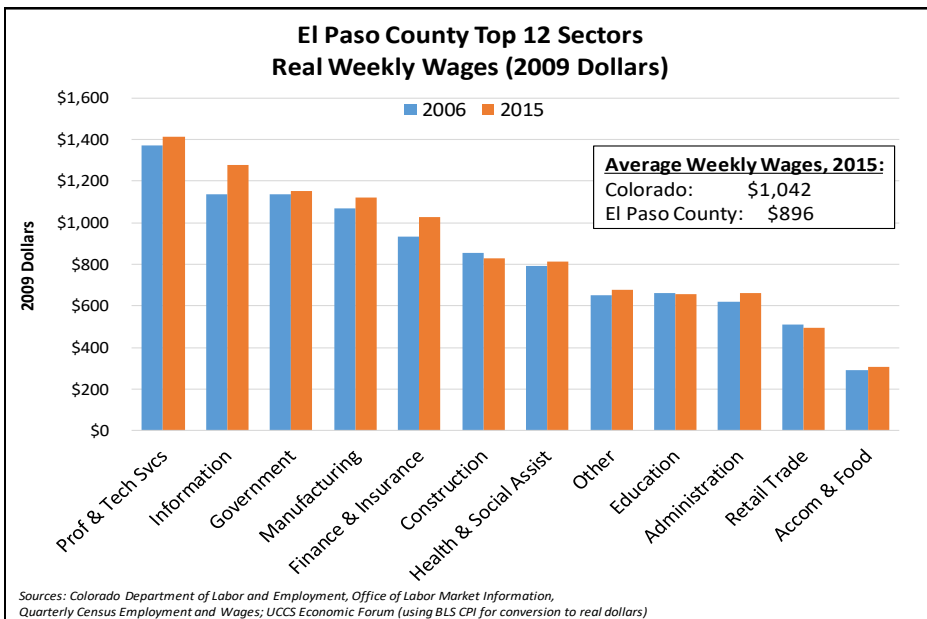


## Average Weekly Wages

The average weekly wages in El Paso County were \$146 per week lower than the state average, which translates to \$7,592 lower per year. Teller County also lags further behind the state's weekly average wage, as seen in the table on the right.

2015 Average Weekly Wages for All Industries		
Colorado	El Paso County	Teller County
\$1,042	\$896	\$700

Source: Colorado Department of Labor and Employment, Office of Labor Market Information, Quarterly Census Employment and Wages



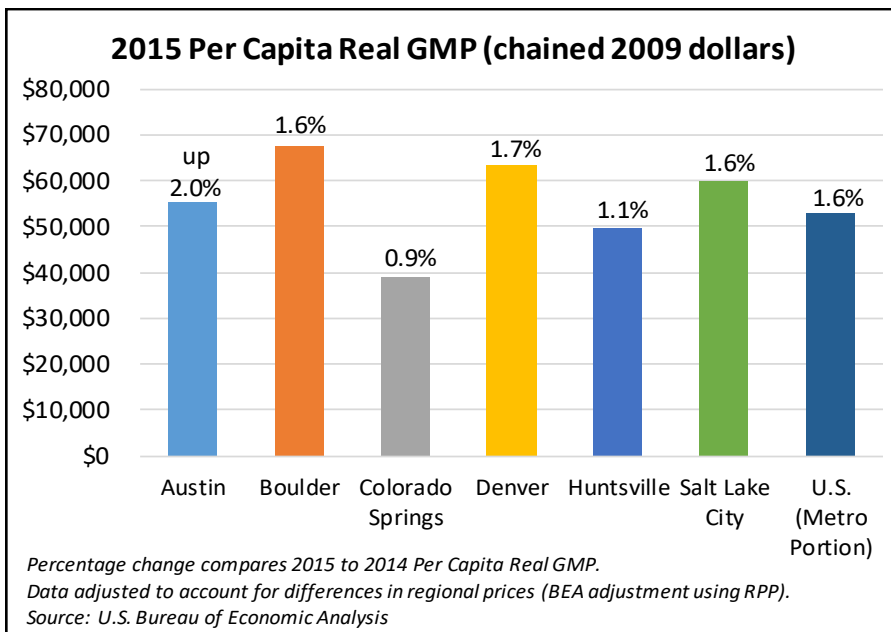
## Real Weekly Wages

While wages are lower than the state, El Paso County has seen growth in wages. Of the top 12 sectors by employment in El Paso County, nine sectors saw their average weekly wages increase from 2006 to 2015, even when adjusted for inflation.

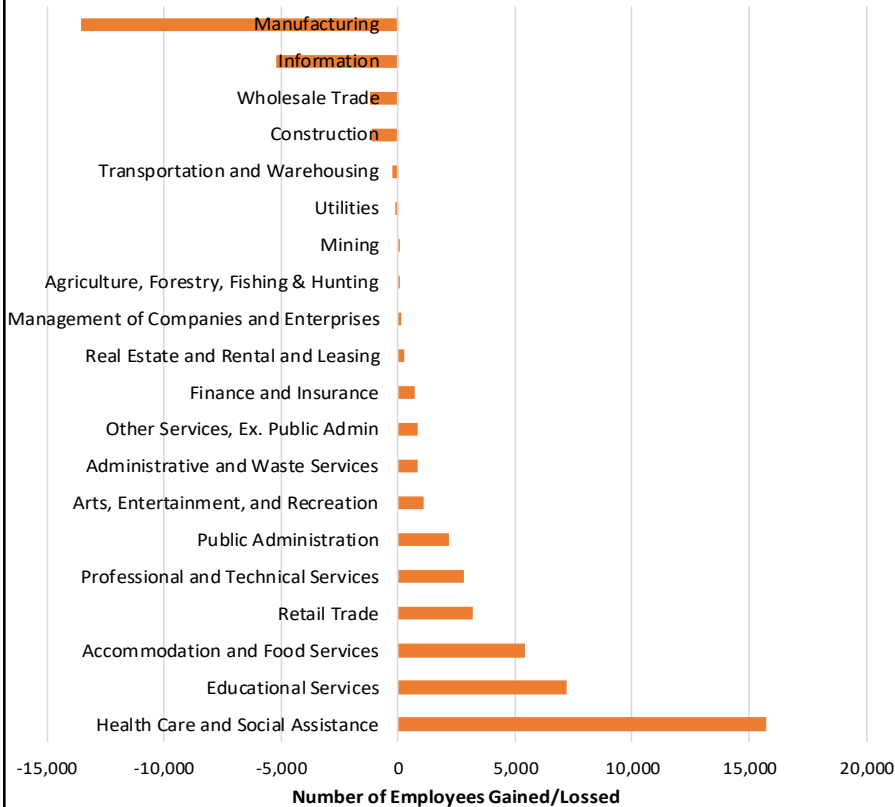
NOTE: In the graph to the left, "Other" designates other private sector service employers. Categories include: Repair & Maintenance (automotive, commercial machinery, electronic equipment, household goods); Personal & Laundry Services (hair, nail, skin care; funeral homes & cemeteries; dry cleaning; pet care except veterinary; photofinishing; parking lots); and Religious, Grantmaking, Civic Professional & Similar Organizations which make up more than 50% of this sector and include labor unions.

## Per Capita Real GMP

Gross domestic product (GDP) is one of the primary indicators used to gauge the health of the nation's economy. Gross metropolitan product (GMP) is the local equivalent measure. Between 2014 and 2015, the Colorado Springs MSA per capita real GMP grew by 0.9% when adjusted for inflation and regional price differences. These adjustments allow us to compare GMP to other metropolitan areas. It is important to remember that although our region could definitely improve in terms of GMP, our younger than average age will pull down this metric. The median age in the U.S. in 2015 was 37.8 years, whereas it was 34.2 years in the Colorado Springs MSA according to the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey.



El Paso County Change in Employees by Sector 2000 - 2015



Source: Colorado Department of Labor and Employment, Office of Labor Market Information, Quarterly Census Employment and Wages

### Changes in Number of Employees by Industry Sector

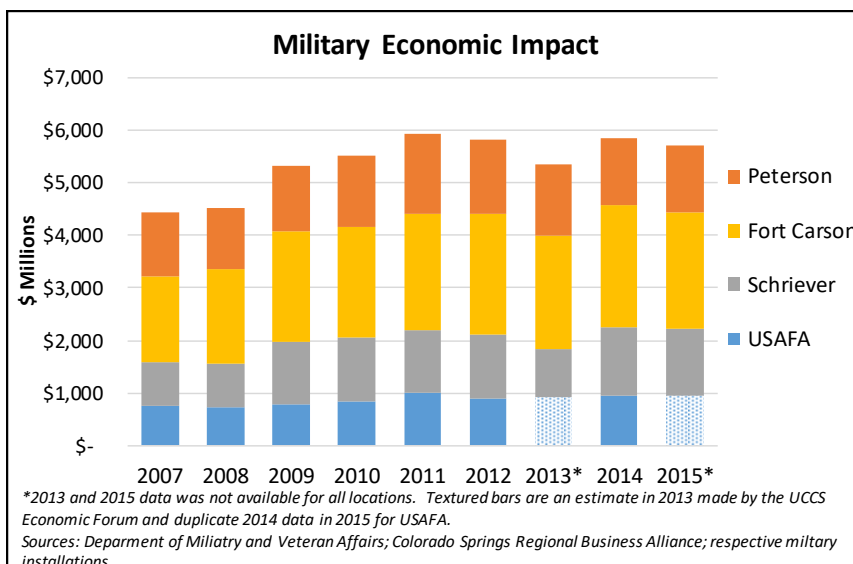
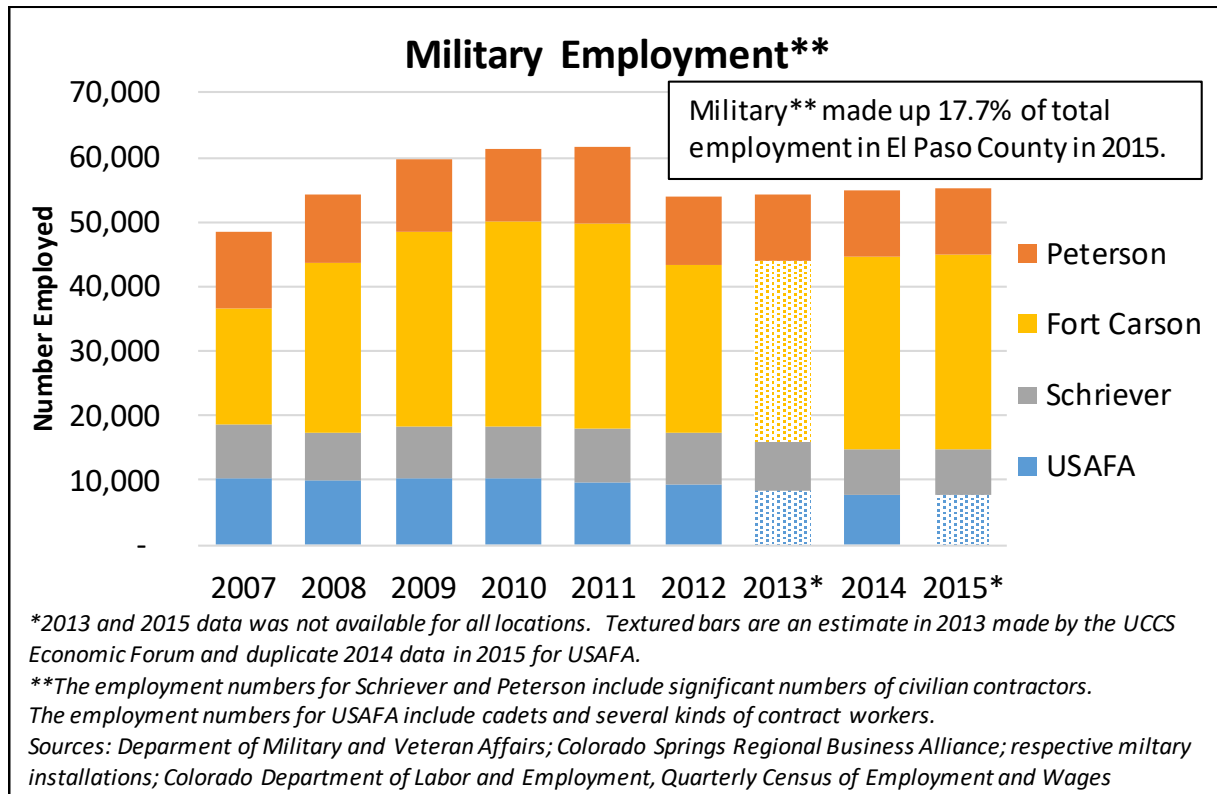
From 2014 to 2015, the Colorado Department of Labor reported that 16 of 21 industry sectors in El Paso County saw job growth. Between 2000 and 2015, significant job gains took place in health & social assistance (up 74% or 15,739 jobs), educational services (up 38% or 7,213 jobs), accommodations & food services (up 23% or 5,405 jobs), and retail trade (up 11% or 3,207 jobs). Significant job losses took place in manufacturing (down 54% or 13,533 jobs), information (down 42% or 5,191 jobs), wholesale trade (down 19% or 1,214 jobs), and construction (down 8% or 1,170 jobs).

**NOTE:** In the graph, "Other services" designates other private sector service employers. Categories include: Repair & Maintenance (automotive, commercial machinery, electronic equipment, household goods); Personal & Laundry Services (hair, nail, skin care; funeral homes & cemeteries; dry cleaning; pet care except veterinary; photofinishing; parking lots); and Religious, Grantmaking, Civic Professional & Similar Organizations which make up more than 50% of this sector and include labor unions.



## Military Employment

The military has been a part of the local economy since World War II. Approximately 55,000 military and civilian workers are employed by this sector at either the United States Air Force Academy (USAFA), Peterson, Schriever or Fort Carson. These employees made up 17.7% of the total employment in El Paso County in 2015. Although this is a significant portion of the county's total employment, it is not as high as is commonly perceived. Employment in other (non-military) sectors has continued an upward trajectory, whereas military employment as a percentage of total employment has been decreasing.

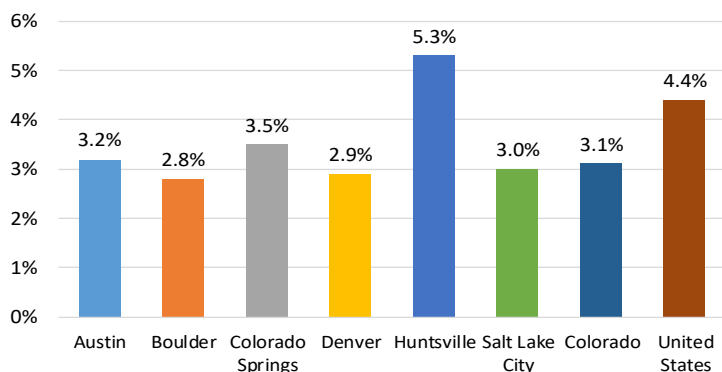


## Military Economic Impact

The full data set for 2014 showed a combined total of \$5.85 billion in economic impact from the military installations in El Paso County. In 2015, there was a slight decline from \$1.30 billion to \$1.27 billion for Schriever, \$2.31 billion to \$2.22 billion for Fort Carson, and \$1.29 billion to \$1.26 billion for Peterson. Combined, the economic impact was 2.5% lower in 2015 than in 2014, excluding the Academy data that was not available at the time of publication.



**October 2016 MSA Unemployment Rates  
(Not Seasonally Adjusted)**

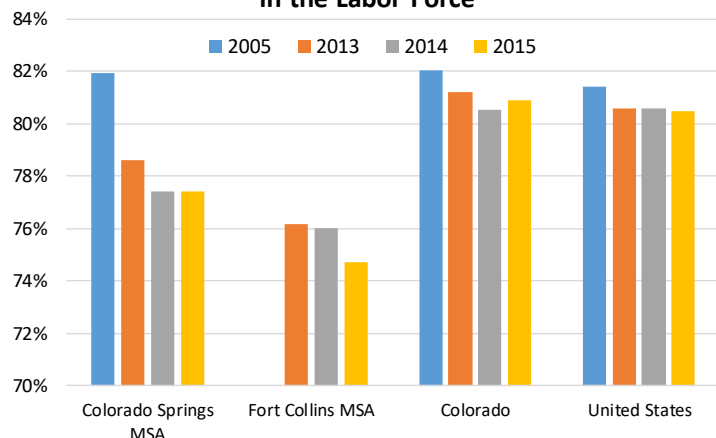


Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

### Unemployment Rates by MSA

In October 2016, the Colorado Springs MSA had an unemployment rate of 3.5%. This is a healthy rate, lower than the U.S. and Huntsville, and the same as Austin. While unemployment rates have been favorable, it is important to remember that they take into account the number of people who consider themselves part of the workforce. The low unemployment rate is partially due to hiring, but is also due to a smaller proportion of people in the labor force.

**Percentage of 25-64 Year Olds  
in the Labor Force**



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 1-year estimates

### Labor Force

Ages 25 through 64 are prime working ages. While the population in this age category has increased since 2005, the percentage of people in this age group (25-64) in the labor force has declined. People in the labor force are defined as people working or actively looking for work in the past 4 weeks.

Colorado Springs MSA does have a lower percentage of people ages 25-64 who are in the labor force as compared to Colorado and the U.S., but as the graph shows, Fort Collins is also low in this metric. It is possible that cities with a high proportion of students in postsecondary educational institutions will have a lower percentage of people in the labor force.

### Employment to Population Ratio

The employment to population ratio looks at how many workers we have engaged in the labor force compared to our population. Unfortunately, El Paso County does not do as well in this regard, which affects our gross metropolitan product. Even when our military employees are included, in 2015 we were still well below the national rate: 51.2% for El Paso County including the military versus 59.2% for U.S. civilian. This is particularly challenging when one considers that this ratio is low and has been dropping nationwide over the last several years.

### 2015 Employment to Population Ratio

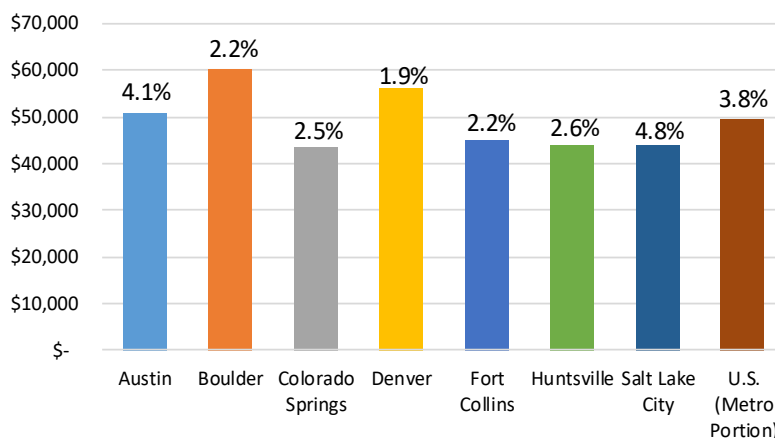
<b>El Paso County</b>	43.1%
<b>El Paso County with Military</b>	51.2%
<b>U.S. Civilian</b>	59.2%

Sources: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics; UCCS Economic Forum; Colorado Department of Local Affairs, State Demography Office; Department of Military and Veteran Affairs; Colorado Springs Regional Business Alliance; local military installation

## Per Capita Personal Income

Per capita personal income is measured by taking the total income in a region and dividing by the total population. Amounts are calculated before taxes and are not adjusted for inflation. This metric is not the “average income” for individuals since the calculation includes children and non-working individuals. Our region’s lower per capita income can partially be explained by our lower median age as well as the lower average wages discussed at the beginning of this Economy section.

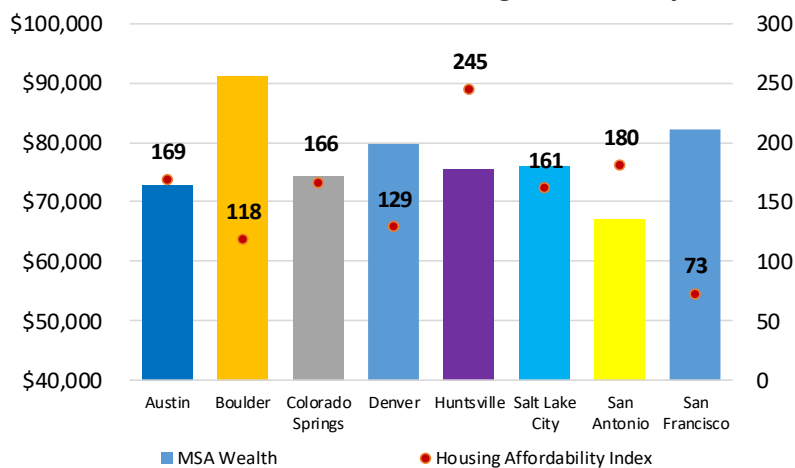
### 2015 Per Capita Personal Income



Percentage change compares 2015 to 2014 Per Capita Personal Income.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis

### 2015 Median Wealth & Housing Affordability



Higher Housing Affordability indices mean greater affordability. In 2015, U.S. median wealth was \$49,787 and the U.S. average affordability composite index was 164. Wealth is weighted by proportional population in the respective counties.

Sources: Synergos Technologies and U.S. Census Bureau; Credit Suisse and the National Association of Realtors

## Cost of Living

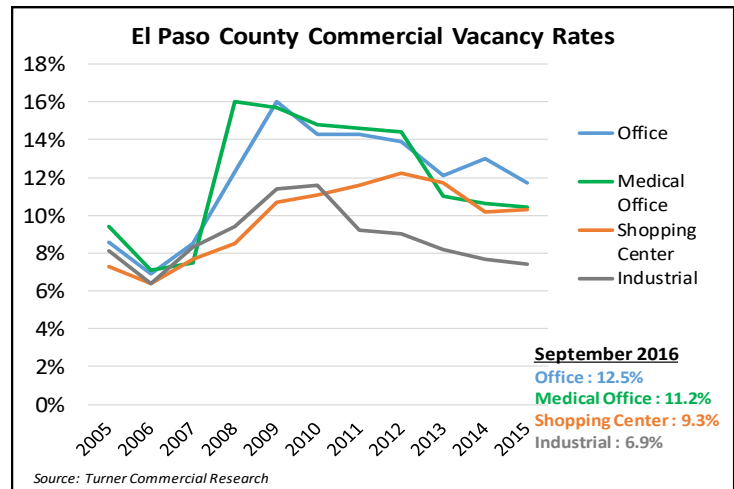
Although income is an important indicator to track, it is also relevant to track mean household wealth. Wealth represents cash, investment income, retirement accounts and truly, all assets. Wealth is what helps individuals and families decide how to invest in larger assets such as their home. Purchasing a home is often the most significant and important investment decision families make. For this reason, housing affordability in a given region can be a pivotal factor when choosing a place to settle.

Although wages may not be as high in the Colorado Springs MSA, weighted median wealth is relatively high in our region (\$74,381) and in fact, slightly higher than Austin (\$72,821) and San Antonio (\$67,118). The relatively high wealth in Colorado Springs is likely a combination of the high educational attainment level and the high number of retirees. The housing affordability indices show that Colorado Springs is quite affordable compared to the other MSAs. A higher index translates into greater affordability.



## Commercial Vacancy Rates

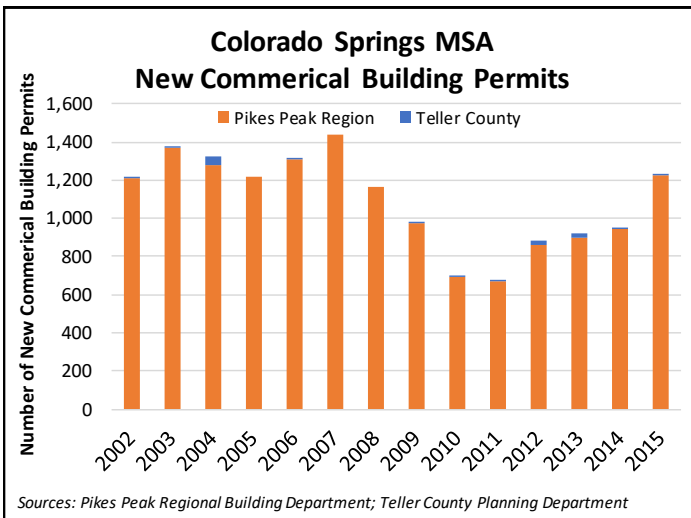
Vacancy rates are a key indicator of economic activity. Declining vacancy rates put upward pressure on lease rates. Low vacancy rates reduce location choices for businesses. The availability of adequate and affordable commercial space allows existing companies to expand and helps attract new companies to the area. This may be particularly relevant now for Colorado Springs given the quickly escalating lease rates in the Denver metropolitan area.



Rent per Square Foot 2016 Q3			
Office	Shopping Center	Industrial	Medical Office
\$10.85	\$14.20	\$7.25	\$12.11

Source: Turner Commercial Research

Commercial rental rates for 2016 Q3 are in the table. Lease rates have been increasing in every category of commercial real estate since 2013. It is important to note that these are averages across “classes,” from premium to lower-quality space.



## Commercial Building Permits

Non-residential building permits have begun to increase in the Colorado Springs MSA over the last five years.

The marked increase in commercial building permits reflects the improved economy. Unlike some other growing regions in Colorado, the Pikes Peak region still has significant land available. This means that as long as the economy continues to expand, it is likely that commercial building will continue to increase.

## Small Businesses

Small businesses are important since they are a major part of the economy across the U.S. The table demonstrates this point. The 2014 Small Business Association report with 2011 data states that across the U.S., small businesses, defined as having fewer than 500 employees, made up 99.7% of all U.S. employer firms. Approximately 49% of private sector employment emanates from small businesses.

Percent of Small Business Establishments* by Number of Employees in 2014				
	With 1-19 Employees	With 20-49 Employees	With 50-249 Employees	With 250-499 Employees
Colorado Springs MSA	84.7%	6.9%	5.8%	2.7%
Denver MSA	83.3%	7.6%	6.3%	2.7%
Fort Collins MSA	84.1%	7.7%	6.2%	2.1%
U.S. (not just MSAs)	84.8%	9.7%	5.1%	0.5%

\*Small Business Establishment is defined as having less than 500 employees.  
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Longitudinal Business Database

NOTE: The table is likely skewed toward higher levels of employment within MSAs because all employees in a given organization that is headquartered in an MSA are counted in that MSA regardless of their true physical location. This is also why the U.S. has a lower proportion of businesses in the 250-499 employee range. The U.S. counts businesses for all metropolitan and non-metropolitan areas.

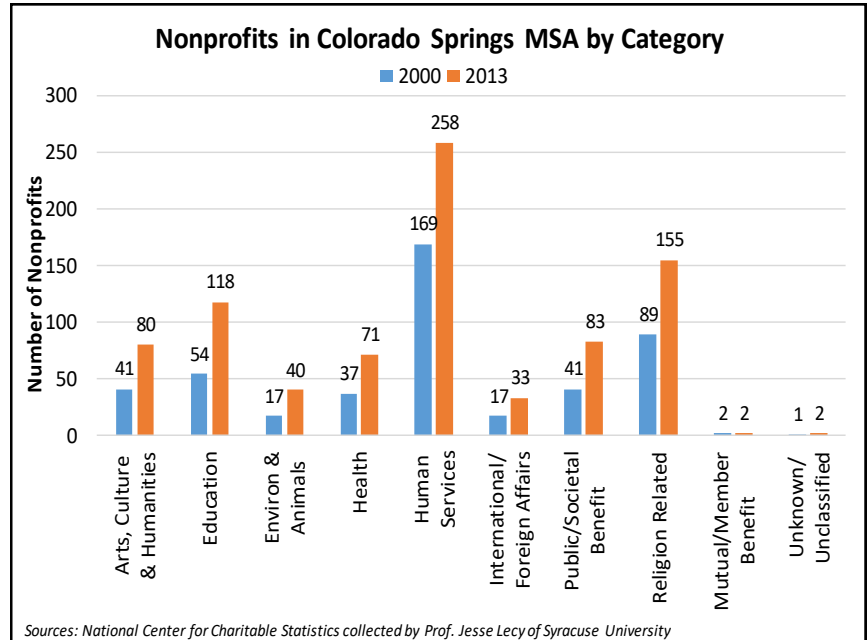


## Foundation Giving in Colorado

According to Philanthropy Southwest, in 2014 Colorado Springs ranked third in the state of Colorado for the number of grants given by foundations in the metro area. Colorado Springs foundations gave out 1,811 grants with a total giving amount of \$43,327,950. To see more details, visit [www.philanthropysouthwest.org/philanthropy-southwests-2016-giving-study](http://www.philanthropysouthwest.org/philanthropy-southwests-2016-giving-study).

## Nonprofits by Category

Nonprofits have been growing in the Colorado Springs MSA. From 2000 to 2013 (the latest data available), nonprofits in education, environment & animals, and public/societal benefits have more than doubled. There has also been significant growth (over 90%) in arts, culture & humanities, health, and international/foreign affairs. By total organizations, human services grew the most, adding 89 organizations, and religion related came in second, growing in number by 66.



City	2002 Rank	2015 Rank	2016 Rank
Albuquerque	34	180	174
Austin	19	4	2
Boise	6	33	23
<b>Co Springs</b>	<b>29th</b>	<b>98th</b>	<b>78th</b>
Denver	51	16	13
Fort Collins	49	14	8
Omaha	89	120	119
Phoenix	17	62	46
Salt Lake City	60	11	11
San Antonio	36	12	24

Source: Milken Institute's Best Performing Cities

## City Rank

Milken Institute ranks the best performing cities each year and publishes the top 200. Their criteria incorporate what will impact current and potential growth patterns including job creation, wage gains, and technology trends. In 2002, Colorado Springs was in the top 30. Since then it has dropped, but it has remained in the top 100. There are 382 measured metro areas in the U.S.

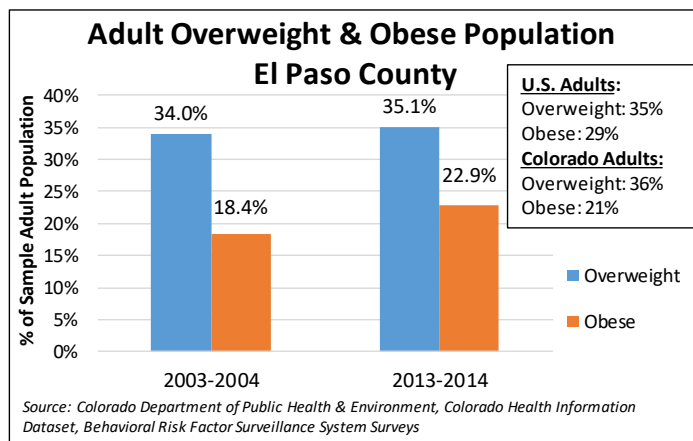
It is important to note that many of the positive, economic metrics seen in the

Colorado Springs region have been relatively recent, mostly since 2013 or 2014. It will likely take time for certain economic metrics to fully recover from the recession and surpass peer cities. Gains in wages are a good example since wages are indeed lower in El Paso County as compared to the state and the nation. However, the current, tight, local labor market makes it likely that there will be upward pressure on wages in the next 1-2 years. Wages are traditionally “sticky” and often lag behind other economic measures.

Visit [UCCSEconomicForum.com](http://UCCSEconomicForum.com) for more information on the economy.

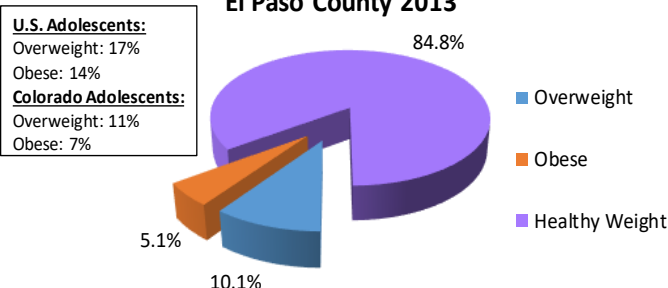
## Overweight and Obese Adult Population in El Paso County

This chart shows the percent of El Paso County residents surveyed who were overweight or obese as measured by Body Mass Index (BMI) in 2002-2004 and 2012-2014 Behavior Risk Factor Surveillance System Surveys. BMI is commonly used as a simple measure of whether a person's weight is normal for a given height.



## Adolescent Overweight & Obese Population

### El Paso County 2013

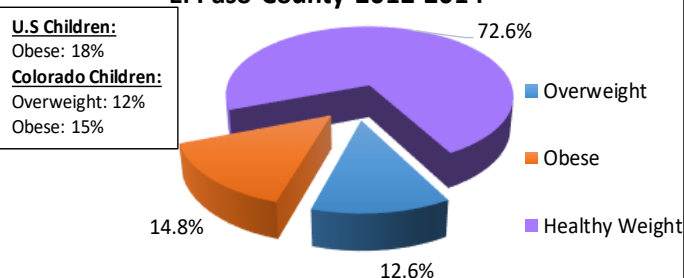


## Overweight and Obese Adolescent and Child Population in El Paso County

People who are overweight or obese are at increased risk for poor health outcomes including Type 2 diabetes, hypertension (high blood pressure) and high cholesterol. They are also more likely to have higher medical costs according to the Centers for Disease Control. As the pie chart shows, El Paso County has a slightly lower incidence of overweight and obesity for adolescents compared to Colorado, although the trend above comparing 2003-04 to 2013-14 shows that the incidence is increasing for adults, which has future implications for younger cohorts.

## Children Overweight & Obese Population

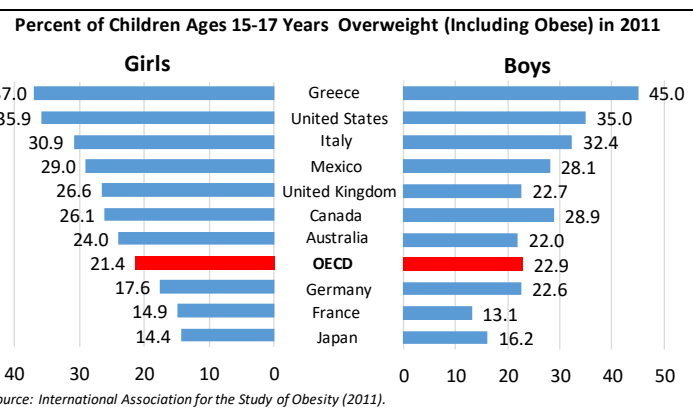
### El Paso County 2012-2014

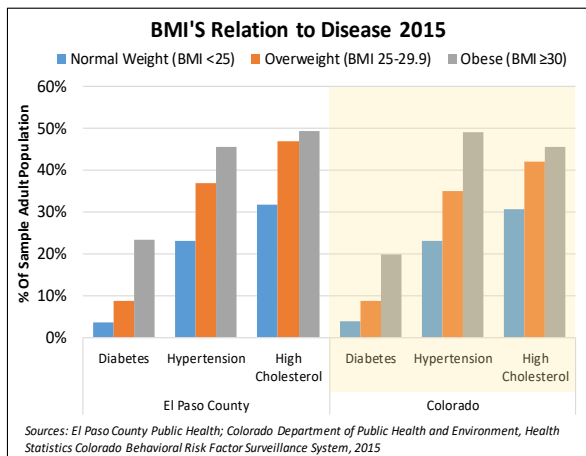


Additionally, childhood obesity has been linked to socio-economic status. Children living in households at or below 100% of the federal poverty level have the highest prevalence of childhood obesity. The number of children overweight or obese goes down as their families are more economically stable. Some of that is due to access to healthy, fresh food, which is typically more expensive, and some of that is due to educational level. Individuals with higher educational levels tend to have healthier living habits.

The last graph shows that the United States had the second highest childhood obesity rate in 2011 when compared to various peer nations. We are only second to Greece and well above the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) nations, which is comprised of 35 countries.

Children who are overweight or obese are more likely to become overweight or obese adults, which further leads to serious health conditions later in life according to the Centers for Disease Control.





## Body Mass Index in Relation to Disease

As the graph to the left shows, there is a high correlation between overweight/obesity and some of the most perilous, chronic diseases. For both El Paso County and the state of Colorado, the incidence of diabetes and hypertension is usually at least double for the obese population than it is for the normal weight population. High cholesterol is also more likely to happen for overweight and obese individuals.

The Centers for Disease Control state that approximately 75% of all health care expenditures are a result of chronic disease and are largely preventable. Given the increasing trend for children, adolescents and adults to become overweight or obese, and the high correlation between BMI and chronic disease, weight maintenance appears to be one of the most powerful tools in the quest for reducing health care costs and increasing life expectancy.

## El Paso County Top 5 Leading Causes of Death by Age Group

Examining the top leading causes of death in a community can help identify those that are preventable, such as those that are related to unhealthy lifestyles, unintentional injury, and mental health. The table shows the top five causes of death in our community by age cohort. Note that unintentional injuries include car accidents, drug overdoses, falls and other accidents.

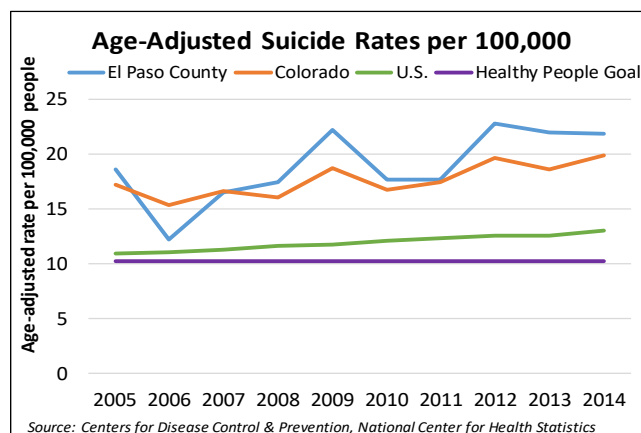
Top 5 Leading Causes of Death by Age, El Paso County 2010-2014		
<b>Age &lt;1</b> 1. Congenital Malformations & Chromosomal Abnormalities 2. SIDS (Sudden Infant Death Syndrome) 3. Length of Gestation & Fetal Malnutrition 4. Complications of Pregnancy, Labor & Delivery 5. Unintentional Injuries	<b>Ages 1-14</b> 1. Unintentional Injuries 2. Homicide/Legal Intervention 3. Congenital Malformations & Chromosomal Abnormalities 4. Malignant Neoplasms 5. Suicide	<b>Ages 15-24</b> 1. Unintentional Injuries 2. Suicide 3. Homicide/Legal Intervention 4. Malignant Neoplasms 5. Heart Disease
<b>Ages 25-44</b> 1. Unintentional Injuries 2. Suicide 3. Heart Disease 4. Malignant Neoplasms 5. Chronic Liver Disease & Cirrhosis	<b>Ages 45-64</b> 1. Malignant Neoplasms 2. Heart Disease 3. Unintentional Injuries 4. Suicide 5. Chronic Liver Disease & Cirrhosis	<b>Ages 65+</b> 1. Malignant Neoplasms 2. Heart Disease 3. Chronic Lower Respiratory Diseases 4. Cerebrovascular Diseases 5. Unintentional Injuries

Source: El Paso County Public Health

## Age-Adjusted Suicide Rates

Age-adjusting suicide rates ensure that differences within a community from year to year or from one geographic area to another are not due to differences in age distribution among the population. It is a way to ensure comparability of data.

As the graph shows, since 2007, the age adjusted suicide rates have been higher in our region than in the state.



## Youth Suicide Rates (Ages 10-19)

Unfortunately, suicide rates for children ages 10-19 are also higher in our region than in the state of Colorado and the U.S., as the table to the right shows.

Youth Suicide Rates per 100,000 Ages 10-19 in 2005-2014	
United States	4.6
Colorado	7.9
El Paso County	9.3

Source: Centers for Disease Control & Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics

### U.S. High School Students in 2013

13.6% made a suicide plan in the previous 12 months

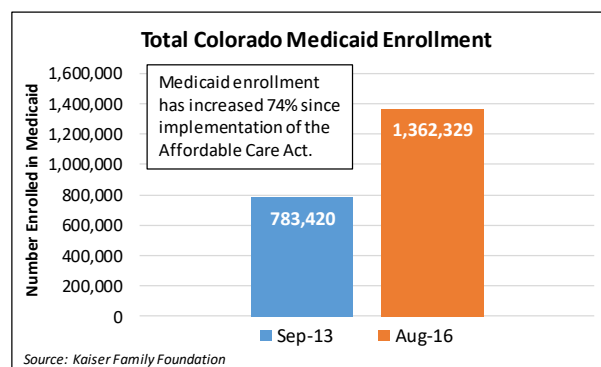
8.0% made one or more suicide attempts



## Total Medicaid Enrollment for the State of Colorado Pre and Post Affordable Care Act

Colorado expanded Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act (ACA) in 2013. From September 2013 to August 2016, an additional 579,000 people had acquired medical insurance across the state. This represents 11% of the total population of Colorado in 2016 (more than 1 in 10 people). Most of this increase was due to the expansion, but some of it was also due to an increase in the eligible population who decided to enroll (and who had not enrolled prior to the marketing of the Medicaid expansion via ACA). The costs have also been high. More people enrolled in the state than what was originally anticipated.

Expansion costs were \$1.6 billion in the first two years, but were anticipated to be \$1.2 billion (Colorado Health Institute). Conversely, some studies have also shown economic benefits mostly due to new health care jobs (Colorado Health Foundation).



## Colorado Springs MSA Medicaid Enrollment

In the Colorado Springs MSA in 2015-16, there were 181,000 people enrolled in Medicaid. This includes all adults and children who were either already enrolled in Medicaid or became enrolled via the ACA expansion. This translates to 26% of the total population or roughly 1 in 4 people.

In the U.S., 22.6% of the population is enrolled in Medicaid or approximately 1 in 5 people. This means our region has a higher percentage of Medicaid enrollees than the U.S. This may partially be explained by the proportionately higher number of children as well as the lower median salaries in the region.

## Medical Insurance Market Share by Payer

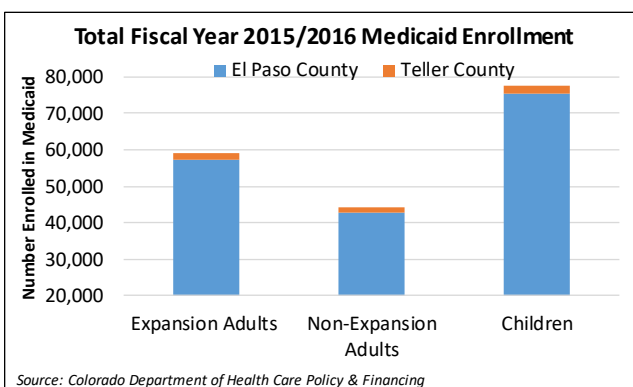
El Paso County has seen a decrease in the uninsured rate since 2008, according to the Colorado Health Institute. In 2008, before the Affordable Care Act, the uninsured rate was 13.9% of the population. As of 2014, it was 9.5% of the population (see text box).

The trend is similar across the U.S. In 2013, the percentage of people uninsured was 13%. In 2015, that percentage dropped to 9% (Kaiser Family Foundation).

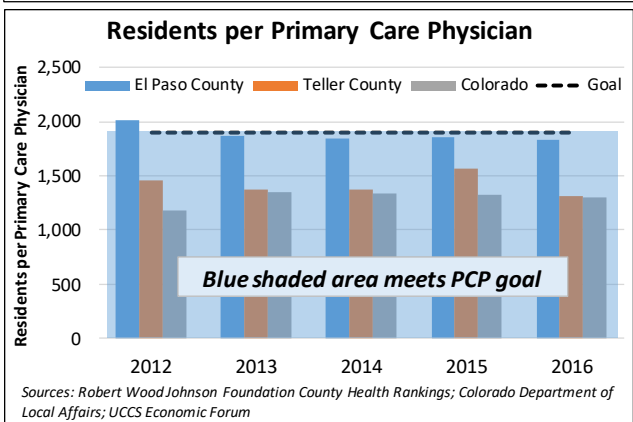
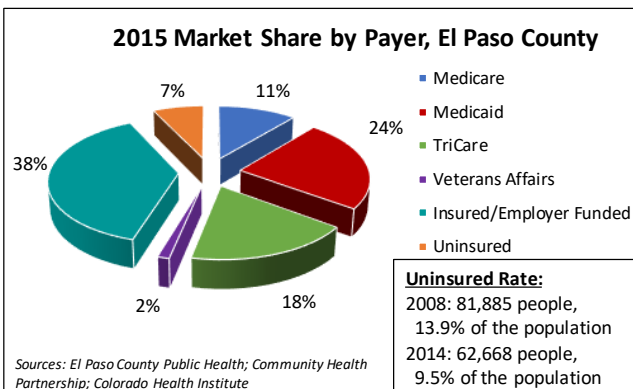
## Residents per Primary Care Physician

According to the Colorado Health Institute, El Paso County has a goal of one primary care physician for every 1,900 people within the county. As the graph to the left shows, El Paso County meets this goal. Note that Teller County and Colorado also meet this goal since they have even fewer residents per PCP.

Across the U.S. as a whole, there is an inverse relationship between specialists and generalists (primary care physicians), which is more costly primarily due to the esoteric testing implicit in specialty care.



NOTE: In 2016, the federal poverty level for an individual was \$11,880 and \$24,300 for a family of four. Visit [colorado.gov/pacific/hcpf/colorado-medicaid](http://colorado.gov/pacific/hcpf/colorado-medicaid).



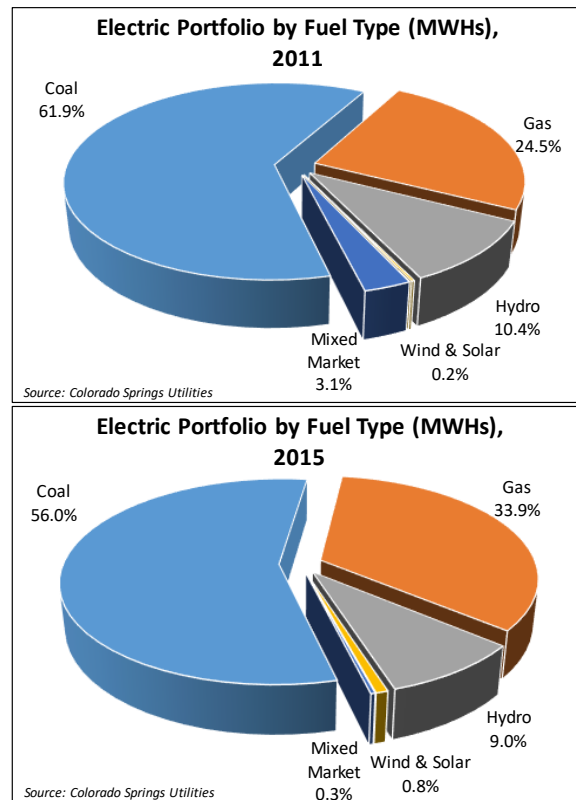
## Environmental Energy Sources: Electric Portfolio

Carbon-based emissions can pose short and long-term health challenges mostly related to respiratory illnesses such as asthma and lung cancer. These charts show Colorado Springs Utilities' electricity generation by fuel type in 2011 and 2015.

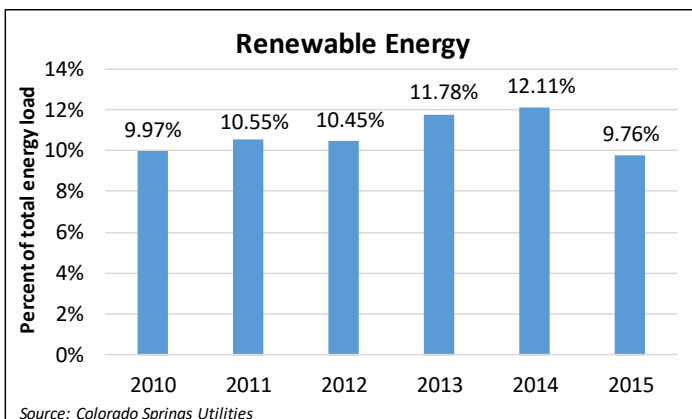
The Martin Drake Power Plant, operated by Colorado Springs Utilities, has been in operation for over 80 years. The three remaining units (Units 5, 6 and 7) provide energy to nearly one-third of the community.

While the plant has been well maintained and efforts have been made to clean the existing units to better comply with EPA regulations, it was decided to begin by decommissioning Unit 5. The Martin Drake Power Plant will be completely decommissioned no later than 2035, per the Utilities Board.

For more information on CSU area covered, visit [csu.org/CSUDocuments/mapelectric.pdf](http://csu.org/CSUDocuments/mapelectric.pdf) and [csu.org/CSUDocuments/mapng.pdf](http://csu.org/CSUDocuments/mapng.pdf).



## Renewable Energy



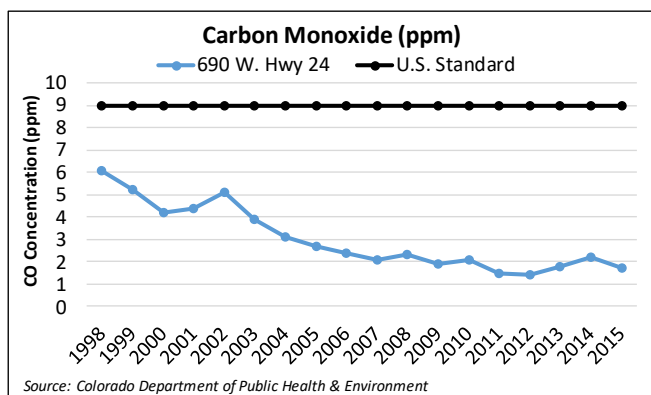
This chart shows the change in renewable energy over time.

Colorado Springs Utilities has a 20/10/20 vision for the year 2020. They strive to provide 20% renewable energy, reduce average customer cost by 10% and maintain a 20% regional cost advantage for their residents by 2020.

For the 2013-14 contract years, Colorado Springs Utilities negotiated large wind contracts based upon feedback from a few large customers with a willingness to purchase wind at a premium. When

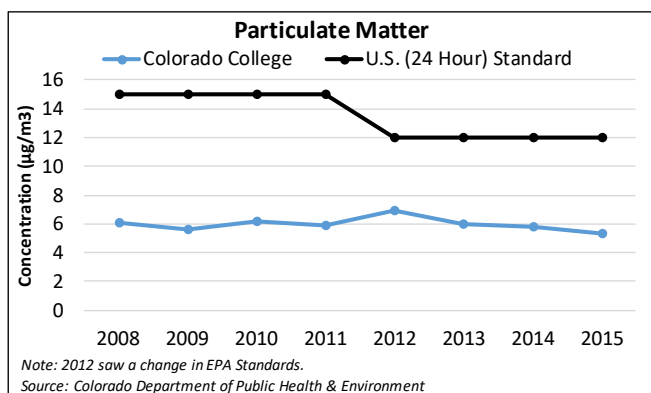
this did not materialize, Colorado Springs Utilities negotiated for a smaller contract for the 2015-16 years based on system needs.





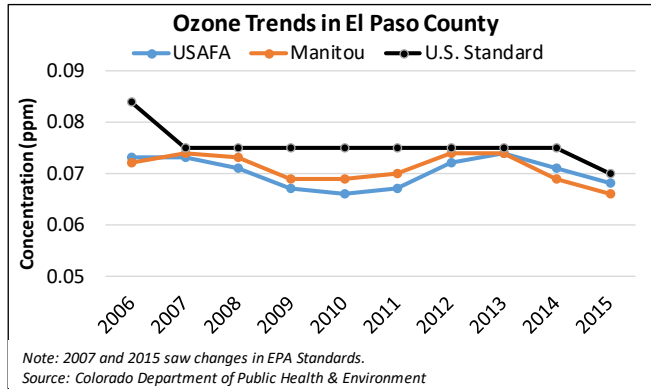
### Air Quality: Carbon Monoxide Parts Per Million

Carbon monoxide levels have been falling mostly due to tighter emission standards over the years, as well as the technology of newer cars that aim to adhere to the lower emission standards. As older cars are replaced by newer ones, this trend should continue. Population growth will likely (negatively) impact this metric, but that could also be mitigated if the region invests in a more robust public transportation system.



### Air Quality: Particulate Matter

According to the Environment Protection Agency (EPA), particulate matter is a complex mixture of extremely small particles and liquid droplets that get into the air. Once inhaled, these particles can affect the heart and lungs and cause serious health effects. The “haze” associated with pollution is due to particulate matter. As the graph shows, the U.S. standard set by the EPA changed in 2012. Even at the lower standard, our region still has relatively clean air and is well below the EPA-set standard.



### Air Quality: Ozone Trends in El Paso County

Ozone is a toxic gas not directly emitted into the air, but formed by a reaction of volatile organic compounds and nitrogen oxides in the presence of heat and sunlight. Volatile organic compounds are emitted by motor vehicles, chemical plants, refineries and other types of factories. Ozone plays an important role in the overall air quality measures.

The readings at the U.S. Air Force Academy and in Manitou show that our region is close to exceeding the U.S. standard. This is most likely due to the proximity of a coal-burning power plant to the business and residential districts.

## Water Quality

Overall, our region has good water. Some important parameters to monitor closely include arsenic (should be less than 10 µg/L), cadmium (less than 5 µg/L), lead (action level is 15 µg/L), pH (not hazardous, but aim for water that is “slightly basic”), mercury (less than 0.002 mg/L) and fluoride (less than 4.0 mg/L). The hardness of water is often a concern for citizens. There is no maximum contaminant level (MCL) for hardness, however, waters with a higher hardness value can require more soap for cleaning and have a stronger taste. Colorado Springs Utilities routinely collects samples and reports readings for 28 water quality metrics from various water sources both local and trans-mountain. **The full reports are available at: [csu.org/Pages/waterqualityreports-b.aspx](http://csu.org/Pages/waterqualityreports-b.aspx).**

It is important to note that each region has its own dynamic in terms of potential contaminants primarily from industries in or around the region.



## Examples of Forward-Thinking Community Health Interventions in Colorado Springs

### Community Assistance Referral Education Service Program (CARES)

Over time, the 911 system in the United States has been altered from an emergency line to a help line for people with non-emergent medical needs. In 2012, the Colorado Springs Fire Department (CSFD) determined that 69% of 911 calls requiring CSFD dispatch, or nearly 18,000 annual calls, were for low-acuity, non-life threatening, non-emergent health care needs. CSFD determined that client health outcomes could be improved and health care costs decreased by disrupting the status quo of “load and go” for non-emergent callers.

By creating the Community Assistance Referral Education Service (CARES) program, CSFD seeks to improve health outcomes for high utilizers of 911 and emergency department (ED) systems of care by using the concepts of community paramedicine and mobile integrated health care. The CARES intervention is a care coordination intervention; it does not provide medical care to clients. CARES navigates clients to community resources, such as housing, transportation, food, income assistance, and other programs, to keep individuals healthy rather than solely providing emergency services. The CARES intervention includes the following: 1) home visitation by a CSFD CARES provider; 2) home safety review; 3) client activation and motivational interviewing; 4) in-home medicine reconciliation; 5) connection to a primary care provider, if needed; 6) creation of a client-driven care plan with client-selected goals; and 7) sharing of information among client, providers, and payers.

Preliminary, internal data shows that 68% of CARES clients reduced their 911 calls by 50%, 58% of clients reduced their ED visits by half, and 67% of clients reduced their 30-day readmissions by half. Health outcomes and health cost data have not yet been evaluated at this time.

*NOTE: CARES demographic data year-to-date for 2015 reveals that 52.4% of clients are Medicaid, Medicare, or dually-eligible beneficiaries and that the majority live in the Southeast portion of Colorado Springs. Census data shows that approximately 25% of individuals in Southeast Colorado Springs live below the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). In addition, Southeast Colorado Springs has higher unemployment, fewer health care resources, lower performing school districts, higher rates of single-parent households, and inadequate public transportation.*

### Healthy Eating & Active Living (HEAL)

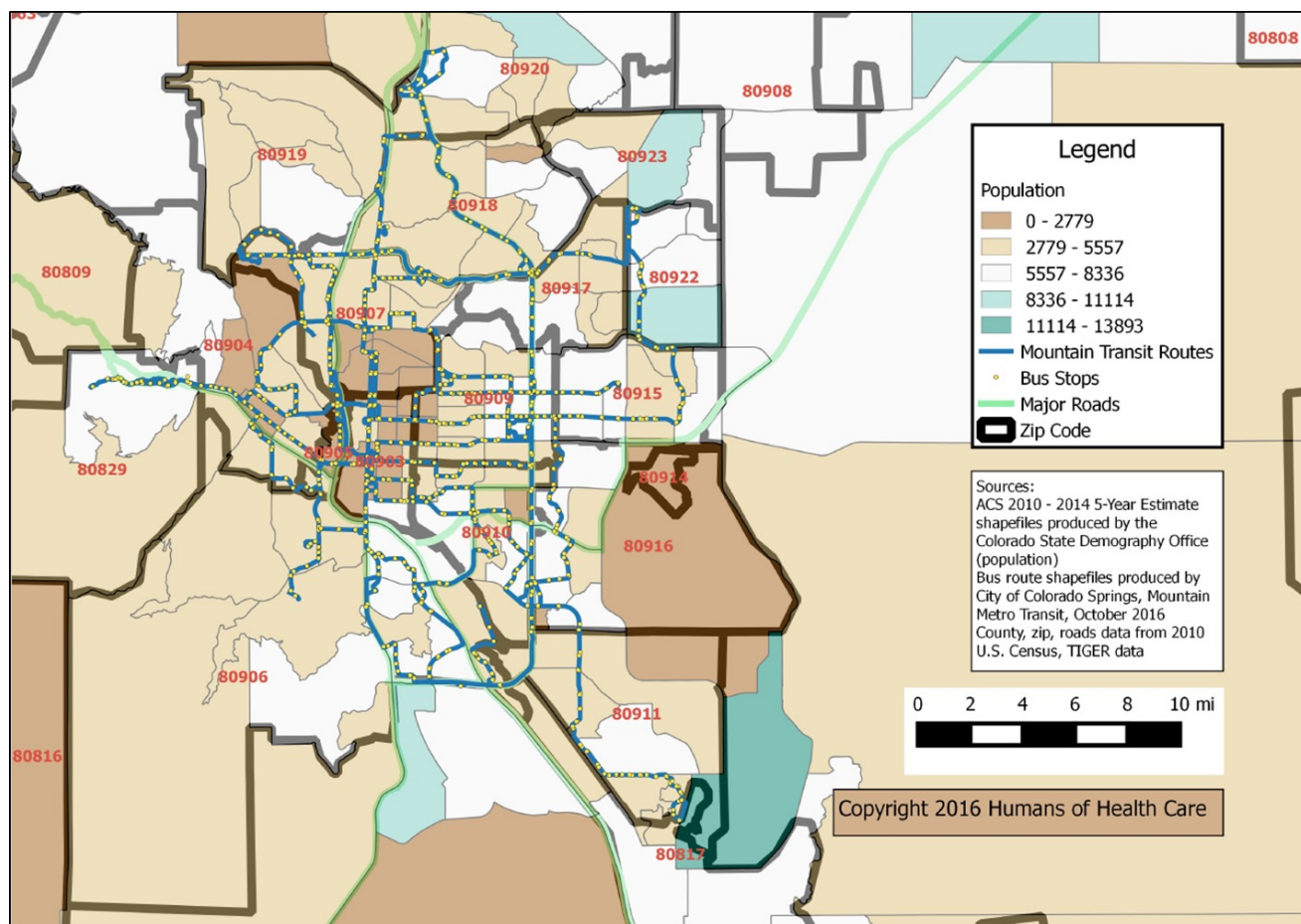
Colorado Springs is part of the 41 communities that have joined the HEAL (healthy eating and active living) Cities & Towns Campaign. HEAL is a partnership between LiveWell Colorado and the Colorado Municipal League (CML) that provides “training and technical assistance to help municipal officials adopt policies that improve access to healthy eating and active living in their communities.”

In 2016, Colorado Springs was one of eight cities designated in the “Fit Communities” category. **To learn more, visit [livewellcolorado.org/healthy-communities/heal-cities-towns-campaign/](http://livewellcolorado.org/healthy-communities/heal-cities-towns-campaign/).**

### Pikes Peak United Way 2-1-1

Pikes Peak United Way coordinates a community referral service called 2-1-1. Local residents can get information on housing and shelter, utility assistance, health care, food assistance, individual and family support, clothing, transportation and legal/consumer/public safety council. For more information, please go to the Social Well-Being section of this report.





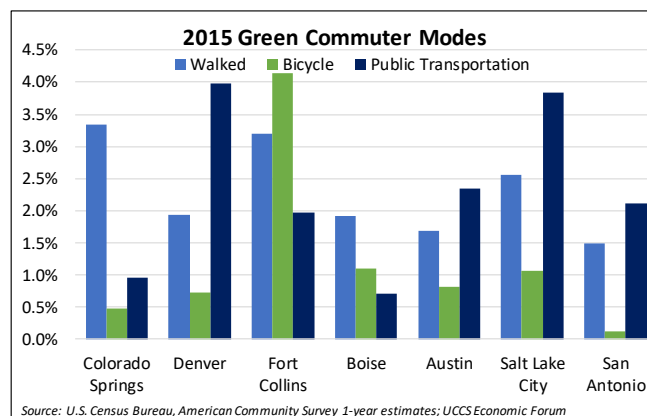
## Population Density and Bus Routes

The map above shows the population density in census tracts and zip codes around the city of Colorado Springs. Layered on top of that are the bus routes and bus stops along with the major roads. There is no light rail in the region. In the past, Mountain Metropolitan Transit had wider coverage, but funding cuts caused them to decrease their lines. At this time, Mountain Metro is focusing on increasing the frequencies of its existing routes before considering expanded services.

## Commuter Mode

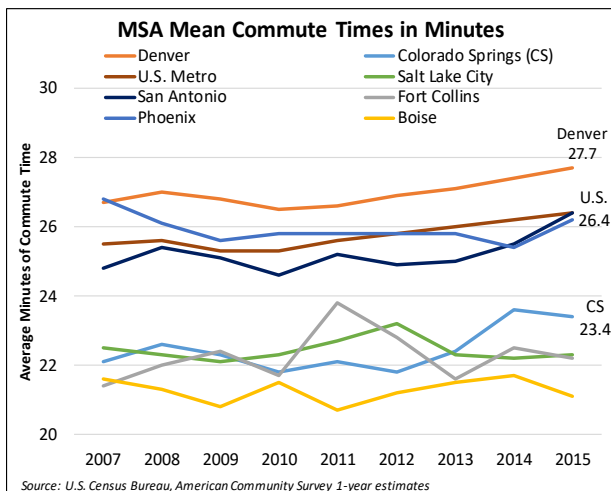
About 5% of the Colorado Springs MSA working community utilizes green modes of commuting transportation. Green modes include walking, bicycling and use of public transportation. This is significantly different than Fort Collins, where a little over 9% of their working age population utilize green modes of transportation for commuting to work.

The table below shows the percent of each MSA in 2015 that utilizes cars, trucks or vans (whether as a single occupant or via carpooling) to commute to work.



Commute Mode	Co Spgs	Denver	Fort Collins	Boise	Austin	Salt Lake City	San Antonio
Single Occupant	78.6%	77.2%	75.9%	78.4%	76.9%	74.6%	80.9%
Carpool (2+ occupants)	10.0%	7.9%	8.2%	9.7%	9.3%	11.9%	10.0%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 1-year estimates; UCCS Economic Forum



## Average Commute Times

Spending less time commuting to and from work allows residents more time to enjoy leisure and family activities. In 2015, the Colorado Springs MSA had an average commute time of 23.4 minutes which was 3 minutes less than the U.S. metro average and 4.3 minutes less than the Denver MSA. The MSAs of Boise, Salt Lake City, and Fort Collins had shorter commute times than Colorado Springs in 2015.

Percent of Workers Who Commuted Outside of Their MSA in 2015						
Colorado Springs	Denver	Fort Collins	Boise	Salt Lake City	Colorado	U.S. Metro
4.8%	5.0%	17.2%	0.6%	6.3%	8.5%	6.1%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 1-year estimates

## Transit Coverage

The number of passenger trips on public transportation in Colorado Springs falls between the numbers for Fort Collins and Omaha. In 2004, the Pikes Peak Rural Transportation Authority (PPRTA) established a new one cent tax to go towards capital improvements, on-going maintenance and transit operations. In 2007, Mountain Metropolitan Transit (MMT) added services. With the Great Recession, general funding for transit went down, causing a massive contraction of services. From 2009 to 2010, Colorado Springs saw a 17.2% decline in passenger trips. During the recovery, from 2010 to 2015, there was a 15.5% increase in passenger trips.

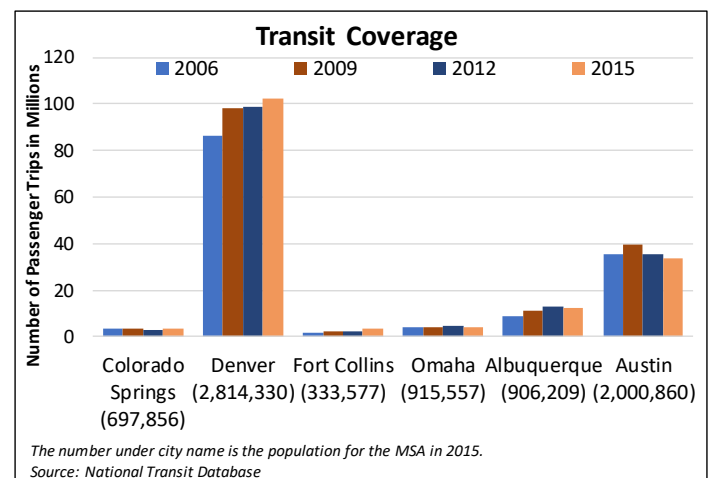
Currently there are no plans to expand transportation infrastructure. MMT is working on increasing frequency of all existing bus routes to 30 minutes or less by the end of 2017 before expanding its number of routes. As of September 18, 2016, MMT had 26 routes running 362 days a year including Memorial Day weekend, Independence Day, and Labor Day. Future population increases will mandate an increase in the geographic reach of new routes.

For more information, visit [coloradosprings.gov/departments/91](http://coloradosprings.gov/departments/91).

City Transit Score*				
Colorado Springs	Denver	Albuquerque	Austin	Phoenix
17.8	46.9	30.2	33.5	32.2

\*Boise, ID & Omaha, NE were not rated with a Transit Score. Locations with higher scores are better served by public transit. Scores are on a scale of 1 to 100 with scores of 50 or higher considered "good transit."  
Source: Walkscore.com

For more information, visit [walkscore.com/CO/Colorado\\_Springs](http://walkscore.com/CO/Colorado_Springs).



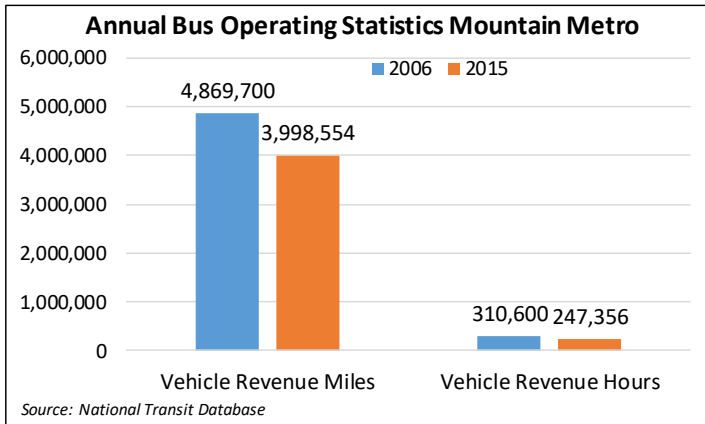
Frequency of Buses as of September 2016					
Service Days	Total Number of Routes	15 minutes	20 minutes	30 minutes	60 minutes
Weekday	26	1	1	10	14
Weekday Evening	12	0	0	0	12
Saturdays	18	0	0	4	14
Sundays & Holidays	10	0	0	0	10

Source: City of Colorado Springs, Mountain Metropolitan Transit

## City Transit Score

Walk Score® ranks over 3,000 cities in the United States, Canada, Australia and New Zealand. In 2016, 102 cities with a population over 200,000 people had an average transit score of 40. Locations with higher scores are better served by public transit. Scores are on a scale of 1 to 100, with a score of 50 or higher considered "good transit." The city of Colorado Springs had a transit score of 17.8, indicating that people are very car-dependent for their transportation.





## Public Transit Operating Characteristics

There is an obvious correlation between the number of passenger trips and the total mass transit miles and hours. A careful examination of the data shows that the more miles and hours the buses are available to carry passengers, the more passenger trips that are taken. This seems to indicate that the strategy of Mountain Metropolitan Transit to increase frequency of existing bus routes first (before adding new lines) is a good one. This is further indicated if we trend the data back to 2006.

The graph shows that provided mass transit miles and hours have both declined when comparing 2006 to 2015. Furthermore, as the transportation map at the beginning of this section shows, certain geographical areas are not served well.

## Pikes Peak Area Council of Government: Moving Forward 2040

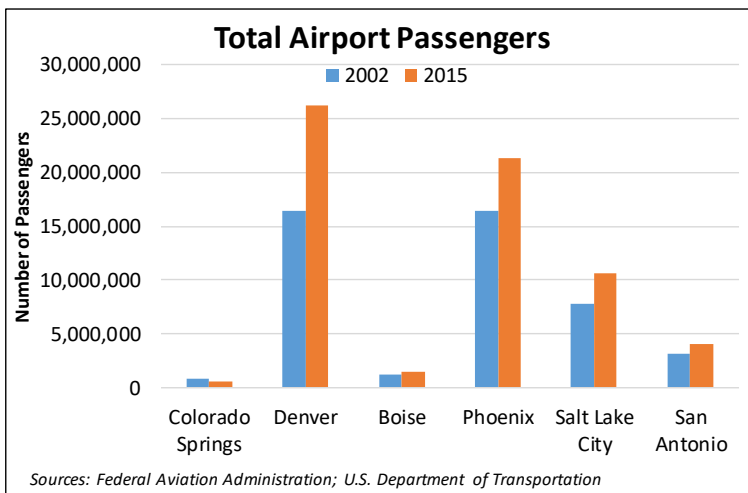
After a two year community collaboration, in November of 2015 the Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments developed the 2040 Regional Transportation Plan ("Moving Forward"). In order to receive federal funding for transportation, the PPACG as our region's designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), is in charge of maintaining a long-range (25+ year) regional transportation plan (RTP).

The purpose of the plan is to provide a foundation for decision making on public funding expenditures on all aspects of transportation.

For more information, visit [ppacg.org/transportation/long-range-plan](http://ppacg.org/transportation/long-range-plan).

## Airplane Travel

The travel and tourism industry is heavily dependent on quality air service. Companies also need convenient and efficient service in order to maximize productivity and minimize travel time. Company location and expansion decisions are impacted by local air service.

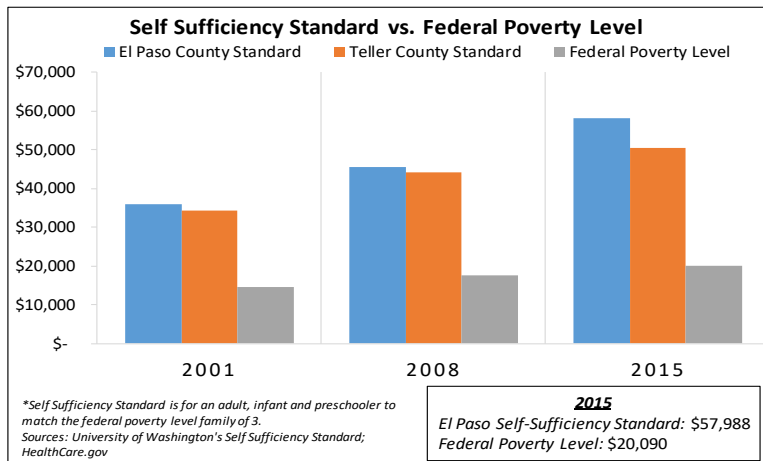


Activity at the Colorado Springs Airport has declined over the last several years while some comparison cities have seen an increase in their total number of domestic and international passengers. Much of the recent decline is due to heavy competition from price wars between the top four carriers that service Denver. As major carriers consolidate and Denver fares increase, local airport officials forecast an increase in the passengers at the Colorado Springs Airport.

### COS direct flights include:

Atlanta, Chicago, Dallas/Ft. Worth, Denver, Houston, Las Vegas, Los Angeles, Orlando, Phoenix, Seattle, and Salt Lake City

## Self-Sufficiency Standard

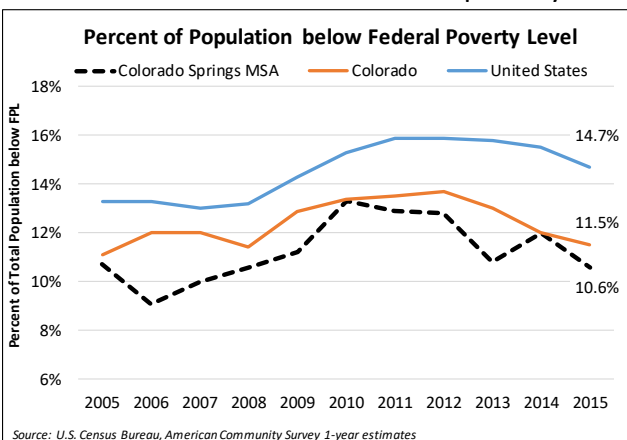


The gap between the Self-Sufficiency Standard for El Paso and Teller Counties and the federal poverty level is significant and has been growing over the last several years. The Self-Sufficiency Standard is a carefully researched tool that is a measure of economic security based on the costs of basic needs for working families: housing, child care, food, health care and transportation, as well as the cost of taxes and the impact of tax credits in relation to a family's geographic location. It does not include some services that many would consider to be necessary to communicate in

our technology-driven society, such as internet access.

The traditional measure of economic well-being is the federal poverty level, which is calculated based on the cost of food alone and is uniform for all families of a given size, regardless of where they live in the continental United States or the actual composition of the family (e.g. one adult with three children would constitute a "family of four" as would two adults with two children). It is the measure by which poverty rates and eligibility for most government benefits are determined. Despite the fact that the federal poverty level is more widely used, the Self-Sufficiency Standard is a more accurate measure of income required to cover basic needs in each county without having to rely on public or private assistance.

In 2015, the federal poverty level for a family of three, regardless of family composition or geographic location was \$20,090. Based on the Self-Sufficiency Standard, families of three in El Paso County require an income that is 289% of the federal poverty level (\$57,988).



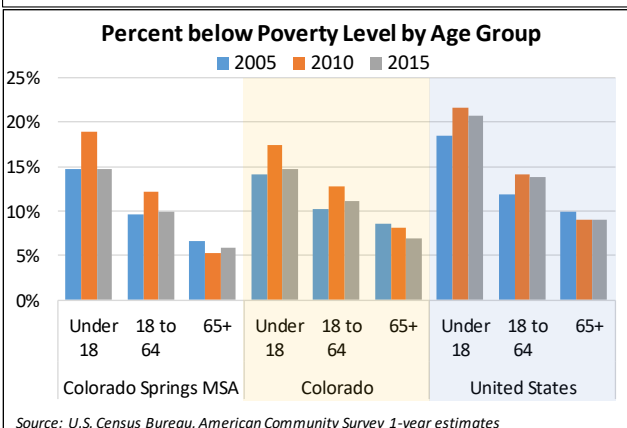
## Below Federal Poverty Level

This chart shows the percentage of the population in the Colorado Springs MSA, the state of Colorado and the United States who live below the federal poverty level.

### Total Number below Federal Poverty Level in 2015

Colorado Springs MSA	Colorado	United States
72,182	613,549	46,153,077

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 1-year estimates



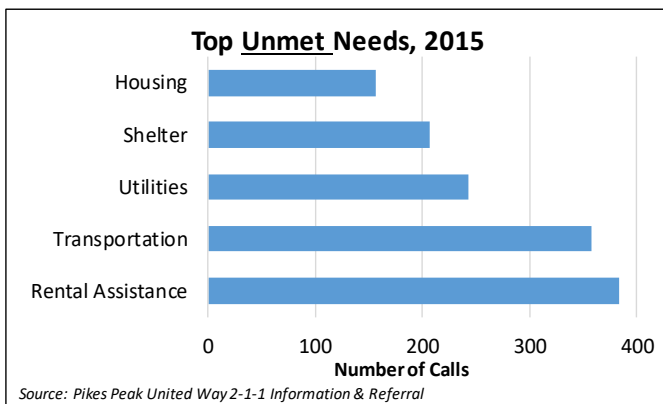
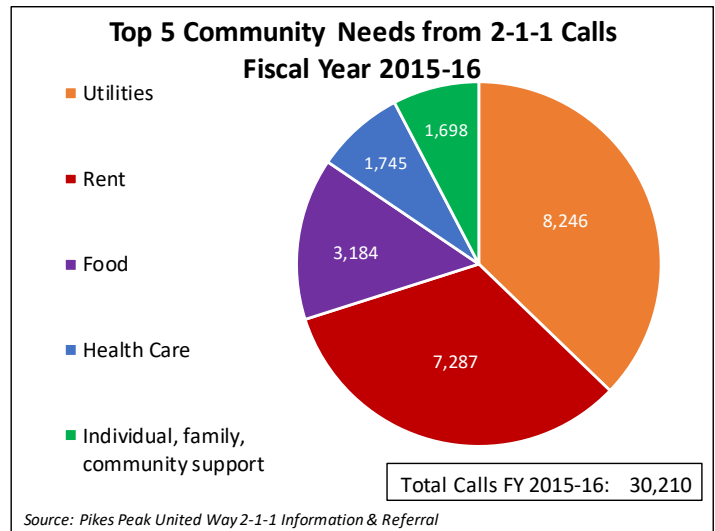
## Below Federal Poverty Level by Age Group

Poverty has been proven to have profound lifelong effects upon young children. It also impacts the stability of families and their ability to provide basic necessities. The Colorado Springs MSA and the state of Colorado are doing better than the U.S. in all age groups with respect to poverty levels.

## United Way 2-1-1 Statistics

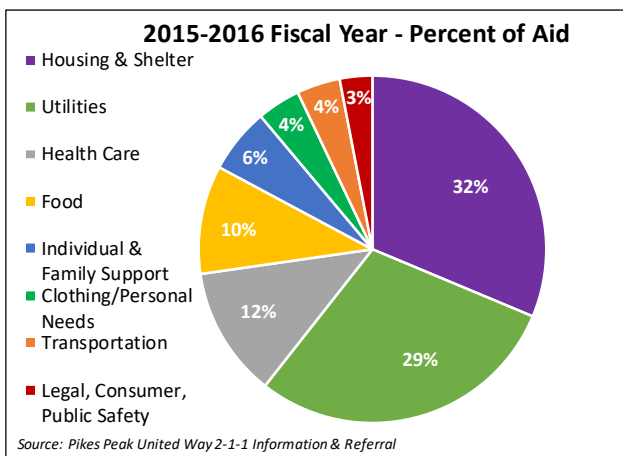
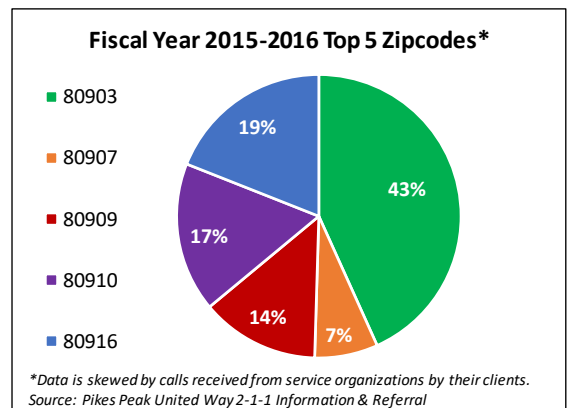
2-1-1 provides free, confidential information and referrals to various health and human services within El Paso, Teller, Cheyenne, Chaffee, Park and Lincoln Counties and the San Luis Valley. In fiscal year 2015-16, Pikes Peak United Way had 30,210 calls from clients who had family needs that they could not meet. They collaborate with hundreds of local agencies.

2-1-1 requests provide a snapshot of the community's basic needs and where assistance may be lacking. Since 2004, when 2-1-1 began, utility bill assistance has remained the top need of community members, followed by rental assistance and then food assistance (see pie chart).



## Top 5 Zip codes Calling for Assistance

This chart shows the top 5 zip codes who called Pikes Peak United Way for assistance. This may highlight areas within our community that are in need of assistance, however, the location of many service organizations in the center of the city skews this data. Four of the top five zip codes are located in the center of the city.



## Community Service Gaps

The chart to the left shows the top five needs that go unmet when clients call in to Pikes Peak United Way's 2-1-1. This could be from lack of services within the 2-1-1 database or it could mean that a client is not eligible for a particular service based on the specific agency's criteria for assistance, leaving a gap between needs and available services in this region.

## Distribution of Aid by Need

This chart shows the distribution of aid requested. As can be seen, housing, shelter, and utilities are areas where the most assistance is requested, highlighting the lack of affordable housing in our community.

Ninety-seven percent of the calls Pikes Peak United Way's 2-1-1 received were English speaking community members and 3% were Spanish speaking. Eighty-six percent of the calls were from women, and the remaining 14% were from men.

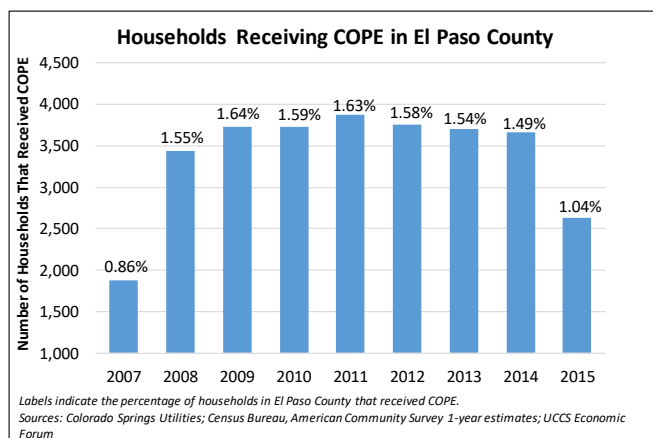


# SOCIAL WELL-BEING

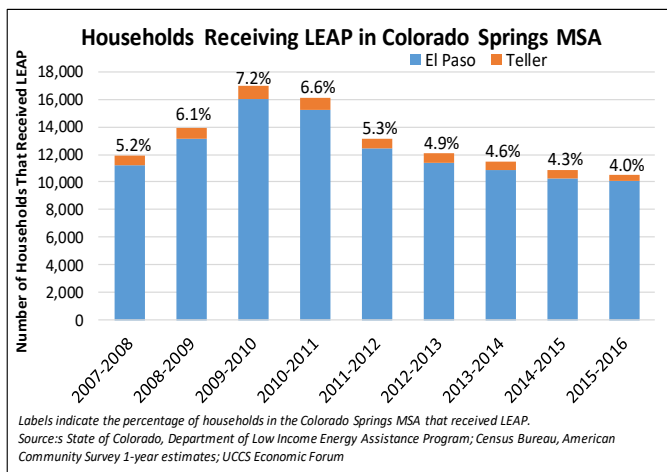
## Citizen's Option to Provide Energy (COPE)

Project COPE provides one-time utilities payment assistance to families and individuals struggling financially due to a personal crisis or emergency, regardless of income or time of year. In 2015, Project COPE provided \$894,838 in utilities assistance.

Access to adequate heating and utilities is a significant concern for many families who are struggling and programs like LEAP and COPE provide relief for many families within our community.



## Low-income Energy Assistance Program (LEAP)



This chart shows the number and percent of households in the Colorado Springs MSA that received public assistance for their utilities through the Low-income Energy Assistance Program (LEAP) during the winter season.

LEAP is a federally funded program that assists eligible low-income households with home heating costs from November 1 to April 30. It is based on income level at or below 150% of the federal poverty level, which was \$30,135 for a family of 3 in 2015.

In 2011, eligibility decreased from 185% to 150% of the federal poverty level. As a result, the number of eligible families decreased while the need for assistance did not.

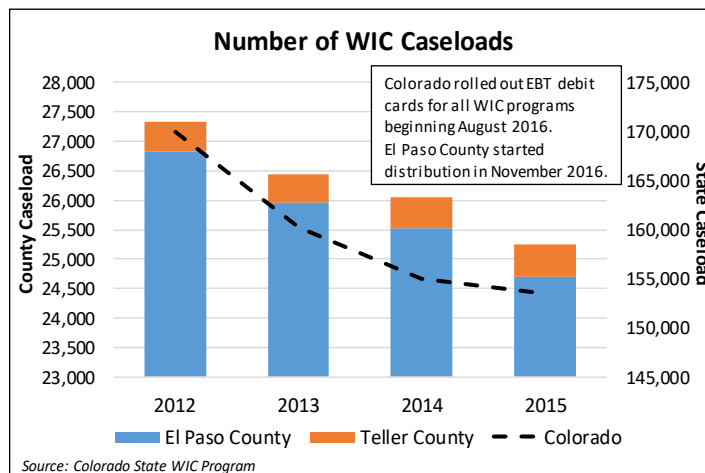
*From November 2015 to April 2016, LEAP provided assistance for 4.0% of the Colorado Springs MSA households. In the same year, 3.8% of the state of Colorado households received LEAP.*

## Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) - Nutrition and Education

This program serves low-income pregnant, breastfeeding, and non-breastfeeding postpartum women, as well as infants and children up to age five who are considered to be at nutritional risk. It provides supplemental food, health care referrals and nutrition education.

Research has shown that women who have adequate access to nutritious foods during pregnancy experience fewer premature births, have fewer low birth-weight babies, and have overall healthier pregnancies and babies.

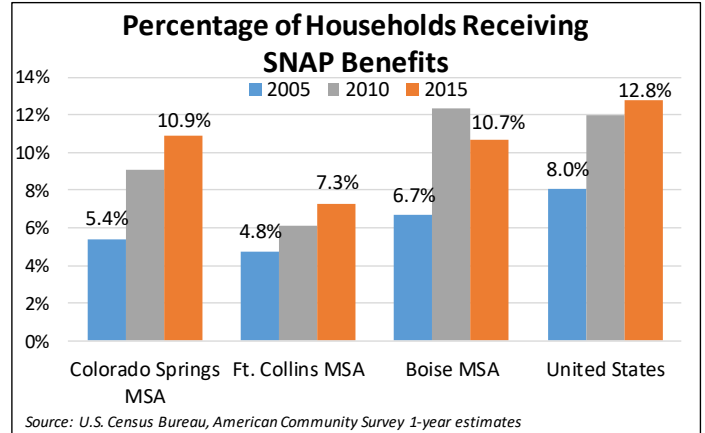
WIC eligibility is based on an income level at or below 185% of the federal poverty level (\$37,166.50 family of 3 in 2015) or being qualified for Medicaid.



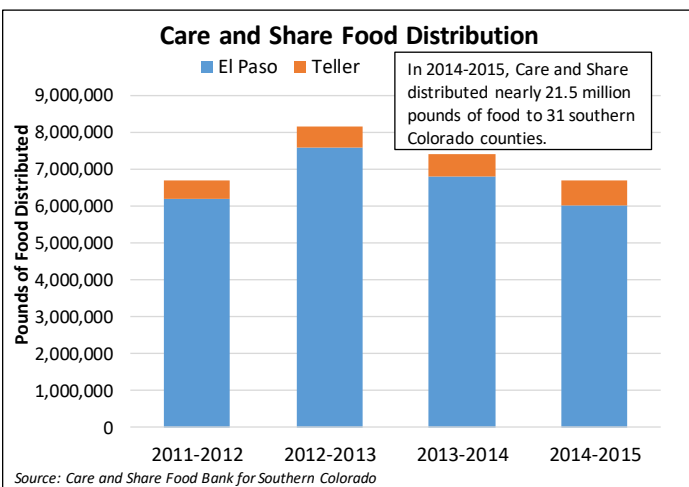
## Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is the public food assistance program, also known as food stamps. SNAP is based on a family's or individual's income. In order to qualify for SNAP, income must be at or below 130% of the federal poverty level (\$26,117 for a family of 3 in 2015).

Access to food and proper nutrition is a significant concern for many families, and programs like SNAP provide monetary assistance to meet these basic needs.



## Care and Share Food Bank



Care and Share Food Bank is a local food bank that serves all of southern Colorado through many partner agencies with food donations and food pantries.

Care and Share wants to ensure that the one in seven southern Coloradans who face hunger have access to enough healthy and nutritious food to thrive. Many families struggle to provide basic healthy options for their families and Care and Share and their many partner agencies help bridge this gap.

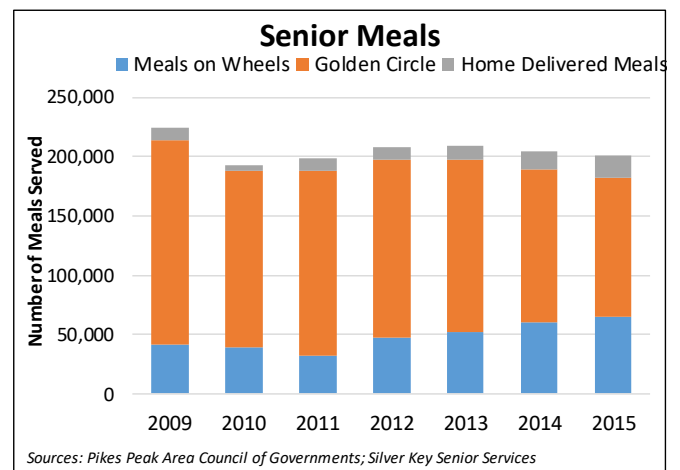


## Senior Meals

Meals on Wheels are meals delivered to seniors in their homes. These seniors may have issues getting around town for shopping, eating, etc.

Golden Circles is a program that offers group meals in various locations throughout the Colorado Springs MSA where seniors can come together for a meal.

The downward trend seen for the Meals on Wheels program between 2009-2011 is due to food quality and the transition to a new vendor. The upswing that started in 2012 is due to an increase in the senior population and increased demand with the improved quality of food.



# SOCIAL WELL-BEING

## Disabled Population by Age

Ensuring that all members of our community, including the disabled, have adequate access to education and the accommodations needed to obtain the highest level of independence allows those individuals to effectively contribute to our community. Individuals require varying types of assistance to successfully participate within the community.

## Disability Home & Community-Based Service Waivers

Home and community-based service (HCBS) waivers are state offered and partially funded by Medicaid. These waivers are given to help meet the needs of people who prefer to receive their long-term care services and other supporting services in their home or community rather than in an institutional setting.

The Resource Exchange and Rocky Mountain Options for Long Term Care both serve the Colorado Springs community and their families with a wide array of services. Both offer home and community-based services for all ages who have intellectual or development disabilities.

## Community Resources for Families

**The Resource Exchange:** [tre.org/](http://tre.org/)

**Rocky Mountain Options for Long Term Care:** [rmoltc.org/](http://rmoltc.org/)

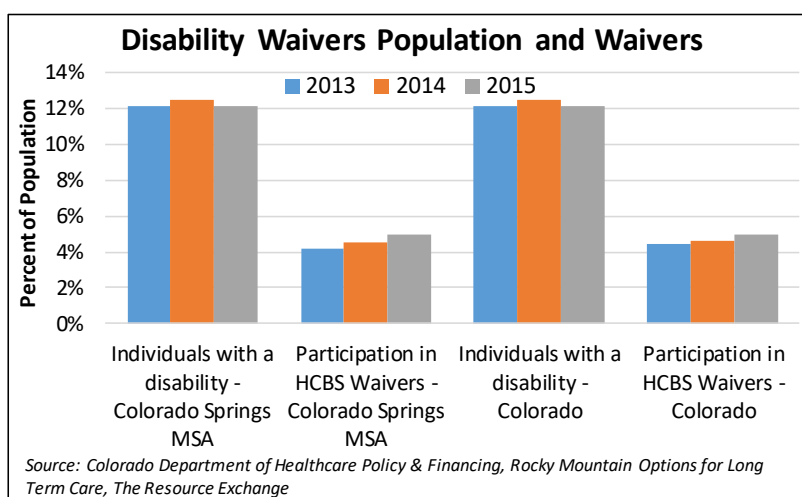
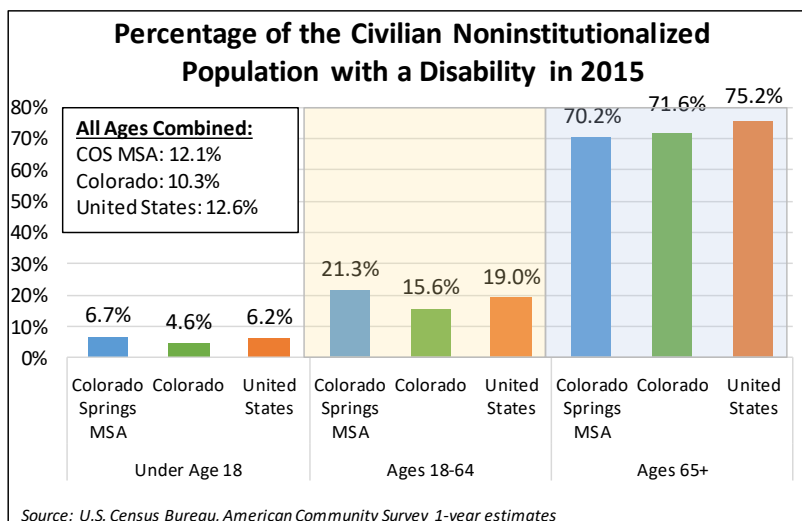
## Kids Count in Colorado: Child Well-Being Index

El Paso County has remained relatively stable in its Child Well-Being ranking among the state of Colorado's top 25 counties. Meanwhile, Teller County has declined in recent years. Colorado ranks 20th among the 50 states in 2016 in the Child Well-Being Index.

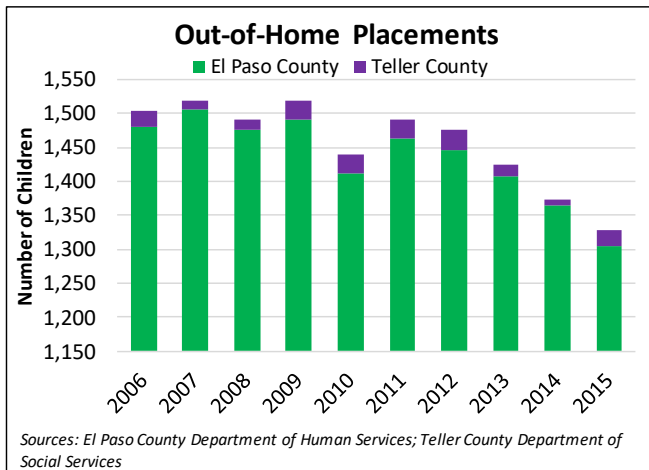
Child Well-Being Index Ranking	
County	2016
El Paso	11th
Teller	19th
Larimer	5th
Douglas	1st

Ranking out of 25 counties in Colorado.  
Source: Colorado Children's Campaign, Kids Count

**NOTE:** Kids Count only covers Colorado's 25 largest counties, which comprise approximately 90% of Colorado's children population under 18. Indicators used for ranking include 1) Health Indicators: teen birth rate, low birth weight births, infant mortality rate, uninsured children, overweight & obese children, 2) Family & Economic Indicators: single-parent families, children in poverty, births to women without a high school diploma or GED, and 3) Education Indicators: fourth-graders not proficient in reading on the CMAS assessment, high school dropout rate, teens ages 16-19 not attending school and not working. **For the KIDS COUNT in Colorado Reports, visit** [coloradokids.org/data/kidscount/archive/](http://coloradokids.org/data/kidscount/archive/)



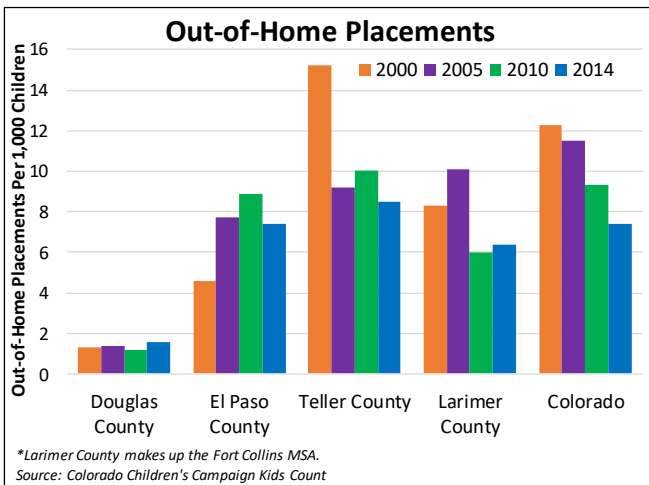




## Local Out-of-Home Placements

Out-of-home placement is defined as out-of-home care of children for any period of time to ensure their safety. This may be family foster care, kinship care, treatment foster care, or residential and group care. The goal is to reunite the children with their parents whenever possible.

While the number of welfare referral calls for child abuse or neglect have increased in recent years, the number of out-of-home placements have been decreasing since 2011.



## Out-of-Home Placements

This graph provides some context for how El Paso County and Teller County are doing compared to Larimer and Douglas Counties as well as Colorado in terms of the number of children put into out-of-home care per 1,000 children in each region.

## Grandparents Raising Grandchildren

The U.S. Census Bureau tracks grandparents who identify themselves as raising their grandchildren. These include three generation households (those that include grandparents, parents and grandchildren) and skipped-generation households (those that include grandparents and grandchildren only). From 2007 to 2015, this percentage has increased from 6.5% to 8.0% in the United States and from 4.9% to 6.2% in Colorado. Over the same time period, it has declined slightly in the Colorado Springs MSA from 6.0% to 5.2% so that the Colorado Springs MSA percentage is now lower than the state.



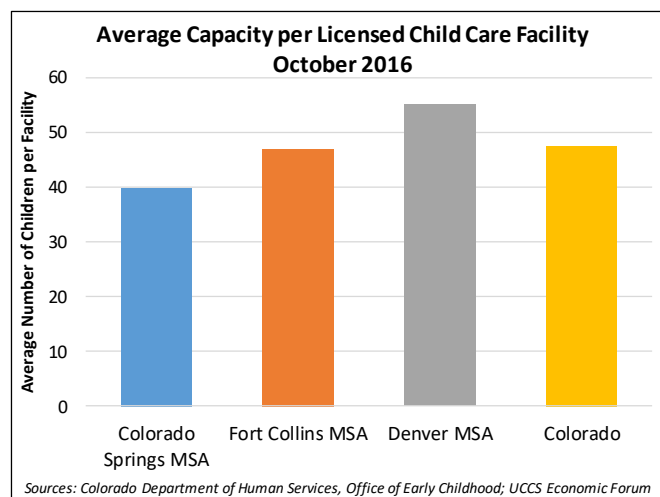
Grandparents Raising Grandkids in 2015		
	Number of Children	Percent of Children
United States	5,886,720	8.0%
Colorado	77,249	6.2%
Colorado Springs MSA	8,829	5.2%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 1-year estimates

## Child Care Facilities

Colorado child care is expensive. A report by Child Care Aware using 2014 data showed that Colorado was the fifth-least affordable in the country relative to median income for center-based infant care (\$13,154 per year or \$1,096 per month) and seventh-least affordable for center-based 4-year old care (\$9,882 per year or \$824 per month). From 2007 to 2014, child care costs for infants increased by 21% in Colorado while the median family income grew by 12%.

Because Colorado transitioned to a new tracking system in 2015, historical data is difficult to obtain. Using data from the previous Quality of Life Indicators report, Colorado Springs MSA gained about 200 licensed child care providers between 2012 and 2016. Colorado Springs MSA and Denver MSA now have a similar number of licensed child care providers relative to their population under age 12, while both MSAs are slightly behind the ratio for Colorado. When considering capacity of providers, however, Denver MSA is able to handle a higher percentage of its population in licensed child care facilities most likely because their facilities are larger than the facilities in Colorado Springs MSA (see graph).

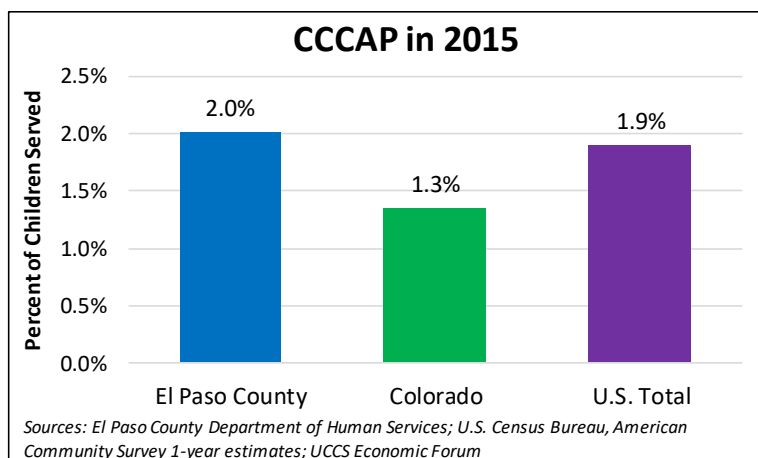


October 2016 Estimate	Colorado Springs MSA	Denver MSA	Colorado
Ratio of total population* under age 6 to licensed child care facilities	110:1	107:1	93:1
Ratio of total population* under age 12 to licensed child care facilities	174:1	170:1	154:1

\*NOTE: The above ratio includes all children, and not all children will necessarily need child care.  
Sources: Colorado Department of Human Services, Office of Early Childhood; Utah Department of Health; U.S. Census Bureau, 2015 American Community Survey 1-year estimate; UCCS Economic Forum

*In 2014, El Paso County had a monthly average of 3,064 children served via the Colorado Child Care Assistance Program (CCCAP). In a 2015 University of Denver study, El Paso County's daily CCCAP reimbursement rates for infants was \$18 below the equal access point, defined as the 75th percentile of market rate.*

## Colorado Child Care Assistance Program (CCCAP)

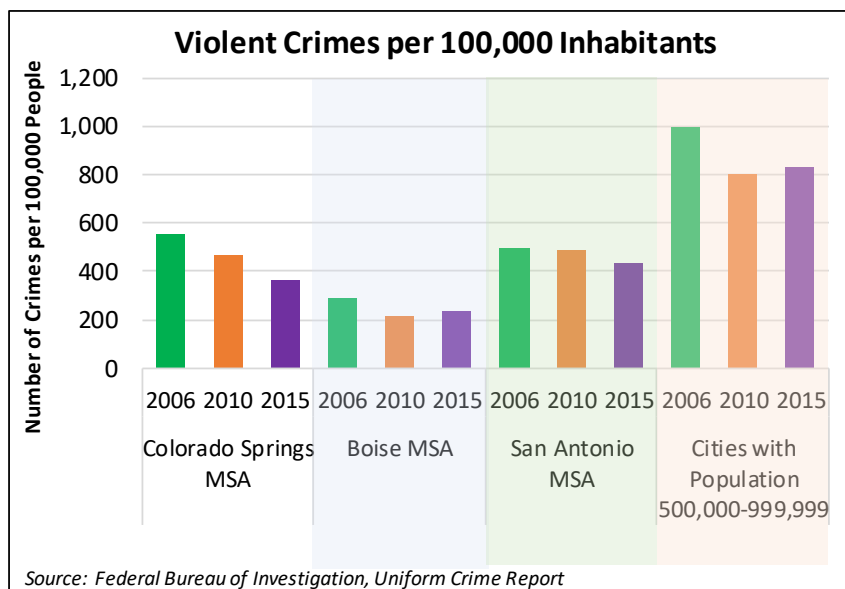


CCCAP helps low-income families who may be homeless, working, searching for work or attending school find low-income child care assistance. Families that are currently enrolled in the Colorado Works program are also eligible to utilize CCCAP services.

In El Paso County, a family of 3 cannot have income that exceeds \$2,772 a month to qualify.

**For more information, visit <http://dhs.elpasoco.com/Pages/ColoradoChildCareAssistanceProgram.aspx>.**

Lack of access to quality, affordable child care often leads to at least one household member leaving the workforce or reducing their hours to compensate for the need. When a household member exits the workforce, this significantly impacts household finances, which can have severe impact on other necessities such as the ability to pay for basic needs. Research has linked high-quality child care to improved outcomes in life for children, both educationally and socially.



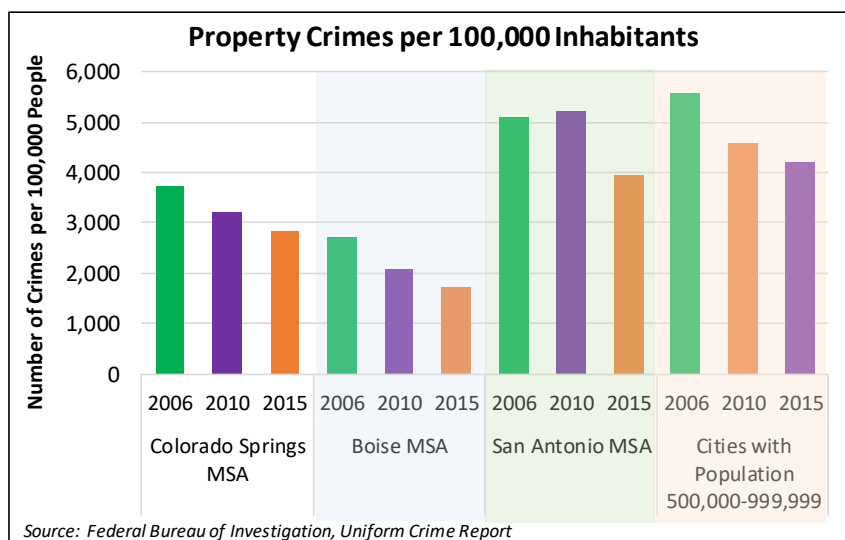
### Violent Crimes

From 2006 to 2015, the number of violent crimes per 100,000 inhabitants decreased by 34.8% in the Colorado Springs MSA even as the population increased by about 120,000 people according to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).

While the graph shows data for several MSAs and for cities similar in population to the Colorado Springs MSA, the FBI strongly cautions against simplistic comparisons (see the note below).

*NOTE: "Each year when Crime in the United States is published, some entities use reported figures to compile rankings of cities and counties. These rough rankings provide no insight into the numerous variables that mold crime in a particular town, city, county, state, or region. Consequently, they lead to simplistic and/or incomplete analyses that often create misleading perceptions adversely affecting communities and their residents. Valid assessments are possible only with careful study and analysis of the range of unique conditions affecting each local law enforcement jurisdiction. The data user is, therefore, cautioned against comparing statistical data of individual reporting units from cities, metropolitan areas, states, or colleges or universities solely on the basis of their population coverage or student enrollment."*

—Federal Bureau of Investigation



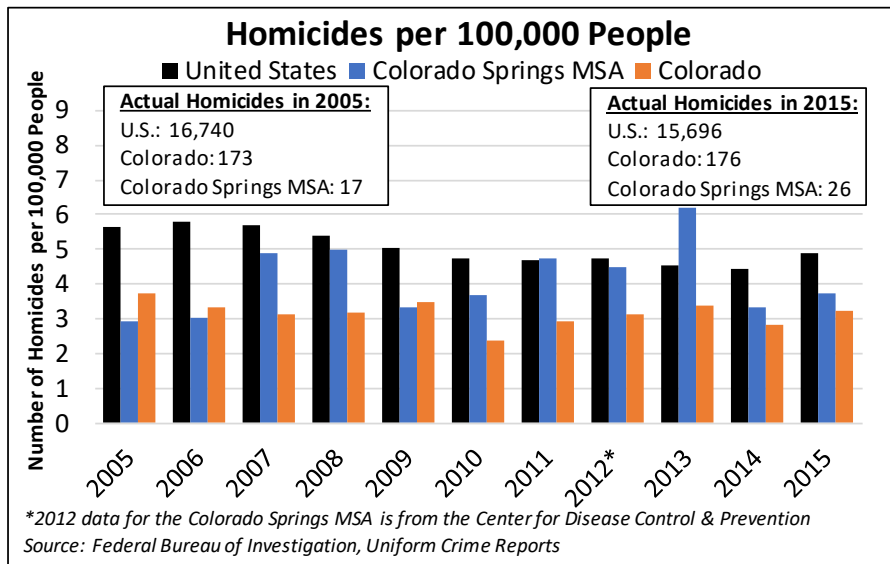
### Property Crimes

From 2006 to 2015, the number of property crimes per 100,000 inhabitants decreased by 23.7% in the Colorado Springs MSA even as the population increased by about 120,000 people according to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).

While the graph shows numbers for several MSAs and for cities with similar population to the Colorado Springs MSA, the FBI strongly cautions against simplistic comparisons (see the note above).







## Homicides

Homicides are a subcategory under violent crimes. Colorado Springs has consistently been below the U.S. average except in 2011 and 2013. Our region has had a higher homicide rate than the state since 2010. The violent death rates per 100,000 compared to other developed nations is shown in the table.

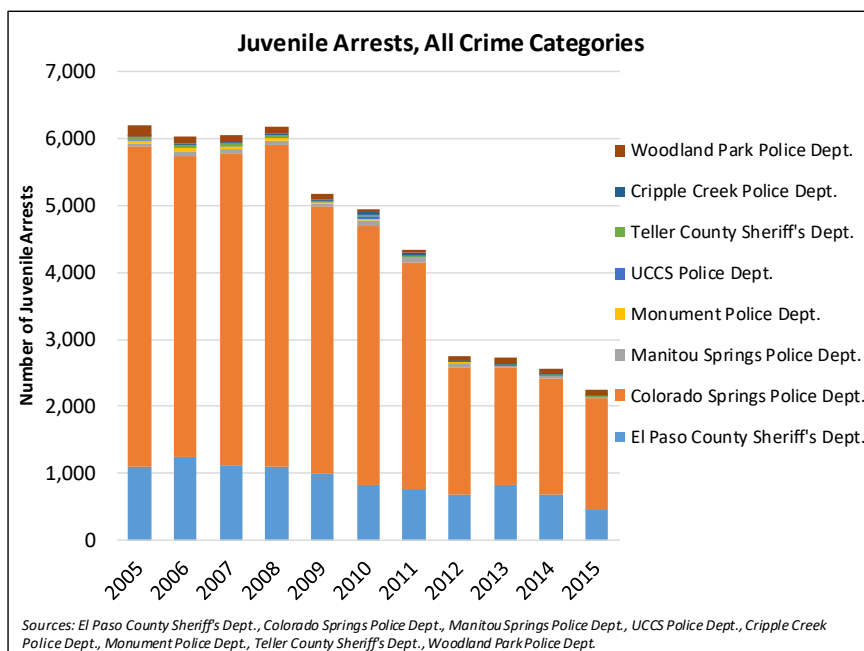
	Japan	Canada	Germany	Italy	U.S.
<b>Age-adjusted death rate due to violence per 100,000 in 2008</b>	0.43	1.6	0.73	1.1	<b>6.47</b>

Source: World Health Organization, 2008 (Inter-country data lags significantly)  
[http://sites.nationalacademies.org/DBASSE/CPOP/DBASSE\\_080393#violence](http://sites.nationalacademies.org/DBASSE/CPOP/DBASSE_080393#violence)

## Juvenile Arrests

From 2005 to 2015, the number of juvenile arrests decreased by 63.7% in the Colorado Springs MSA when data from various jurisdictions is compiled. Most of the juvenile crimes are in the more populated areas of Colorado Springs and El Paso County. The Colorado Springs Police Department reported a 65.0% decrease, from 4,778 arrests in 2005 to 1,670 arrests in 2015, while the El Paso Sheriff's Department reported a 58.8% decrease, from 1,102 arrests in 2005 to 454 arrests in 2015.

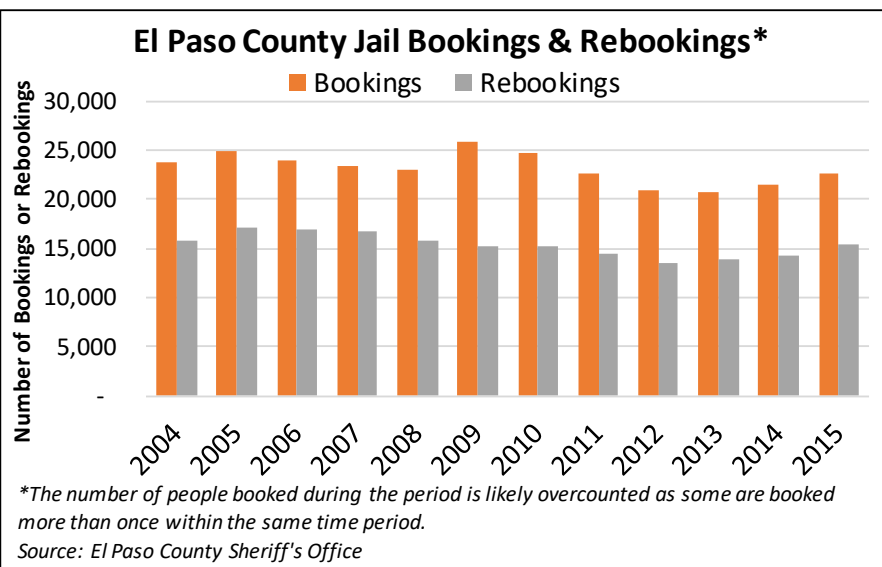
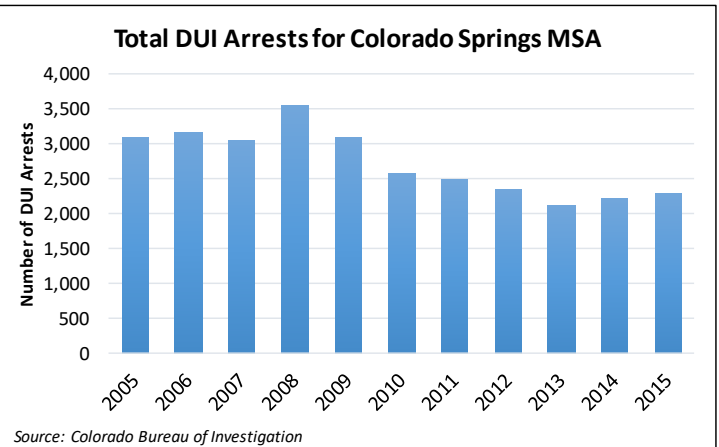
*NOTE: Data does not include the Town of Calhan, City of Fountain, Town of Green Mountain Falls, Town of Palmer Lake or the Town of Victor.*



### Driving Under the Influence (DUI) Arrests

In the last several years, the peak in DUI arrests in the Colorado Springs MSA was 3,547 in 2008. There was a steady decrease to 2,118 in 2013. The last two years saw slight increases with 2,280 DUI arrests in 2015.

*NOTE: Data was compiled from the various jurisdictions in the Colorado Springs MSA but does not include the Town of Calhan, City of Fountain, Town of Green Mountain Falls, Town of Palmer Lake or the Town of Victor.*



### Jail Bookings and Rebookings

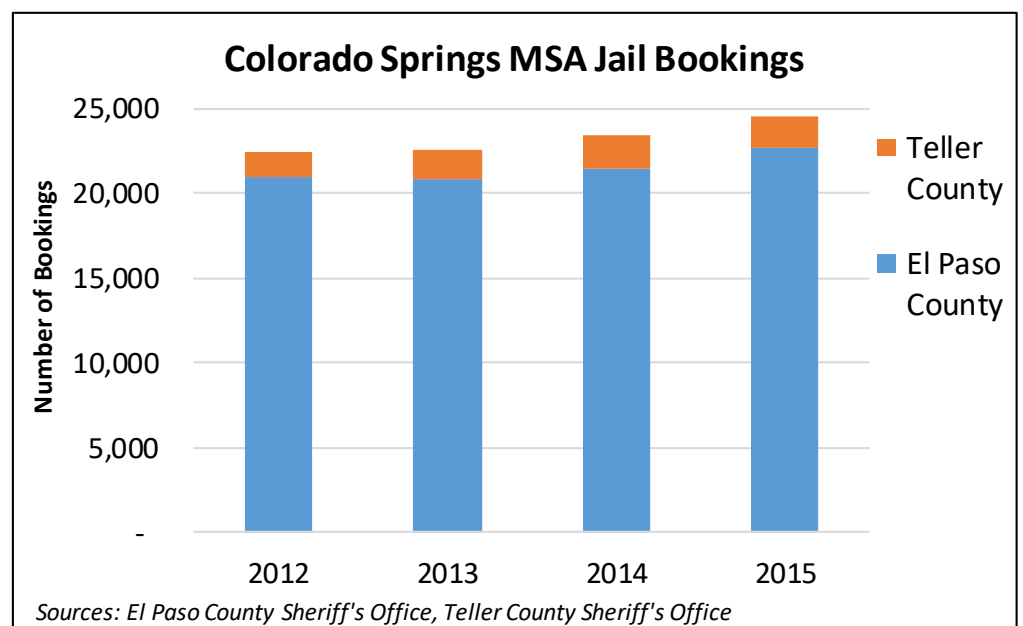
The number of bookings and rebookings in the El Paso County Jail has seen some fluctuations over the last several years, but it has stayed relatively close to the averages of 23,182 bookings and 15,378 rebookings from 2004 through 2015.

Rebookings occur when a person had at least one prior booking with the El Paso County Sheriff's Office.

### Jail Bookings

Over the last four years, there has been an increase in bookings in the Colorado Springs MSA. In 2015, the El Paso County Sheriff's Office reported an increase of 8.5%, or 1,788 additional bookings, since 2012. The Teller County Sheriff's Office reported a 15.2% increase, or 237 additional bookings, since 2012.

*NOTE: The Teller County Sheriff's Office switched to a new computer system in 2011 so they could not provide additional historical data.*



**2015 Crime Clearance Rates**

Violent Crimes	
Colorado Springs Police Department	51.3%
United States (all cities with 250,000+ populations)	39.6%
Property Crimes	
Colorado Springs Police Department	24.3%
United States (all cities with 250,000+ populations)	14.1%

Sources: Colorado Springs Police Department; Federal Bureau of Investigation, Uniform Crime Reports

**Crime Clearance Rates**

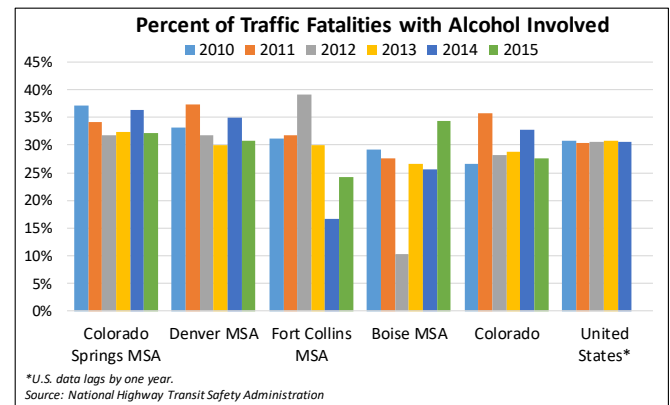
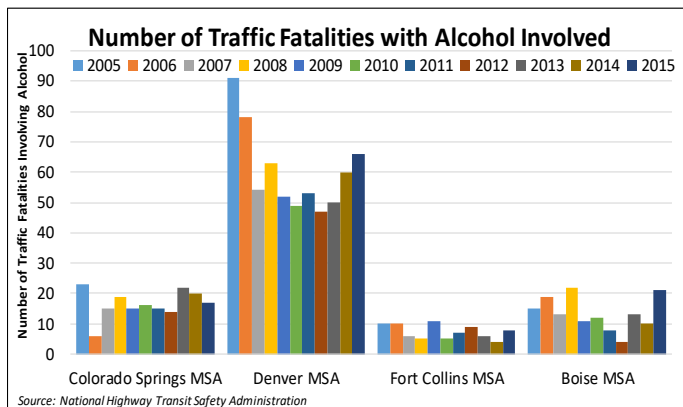
In 2015, the Colorado Springs Police Department had significantly higher crime clearance rates for both violent crimes and property crimes than the national average for cities with populations of 250,000 or greater.

Crimes are closed when the case is cleared. To learn more about how crimes are cleared, visit [ucr.fbi.gov/crime-in-the-u.s/2015/crime-in-the-u.s.-2015/offenses-known-to-law-enforcement/clearances](http://ucr.fbi.gov/crime-in-the-u.s/2015/crime-in-the-u.s.-2015/offenses-known-to-law-enforcement/clearances).

**Traffic Fatalities**

In 2014, the Colorado Springs MSA had a total of 55 traffic fatalities, 21 of which involved at least one driver with a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) above the legal limit. That same year, the United States had 32,675 traffic fatalities, 9,967 of which involved a driver with a BAC above the legal limit.

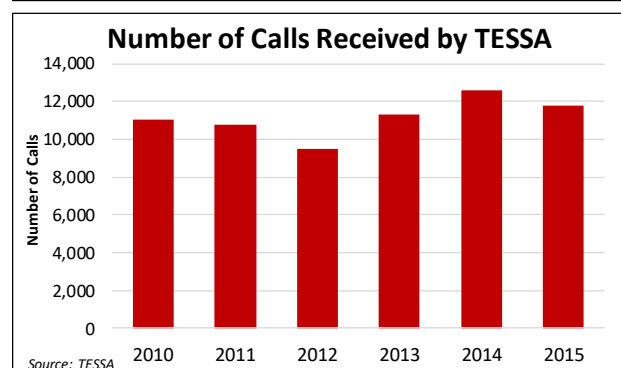
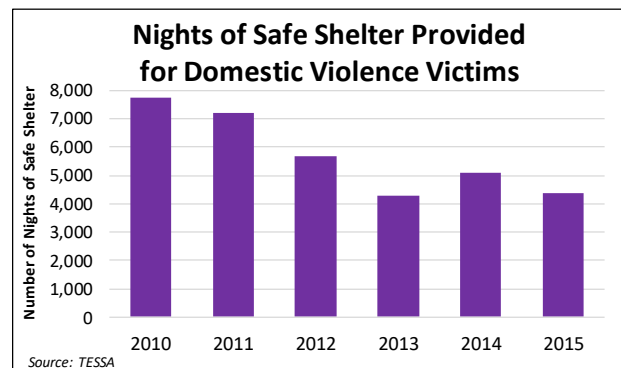
In 2015, the Colorado Springs MSA improved slightly to 53 traffic fatalities with 17 involving a drunk driver. Data for the United States lags a year.

**Domestic Violence**

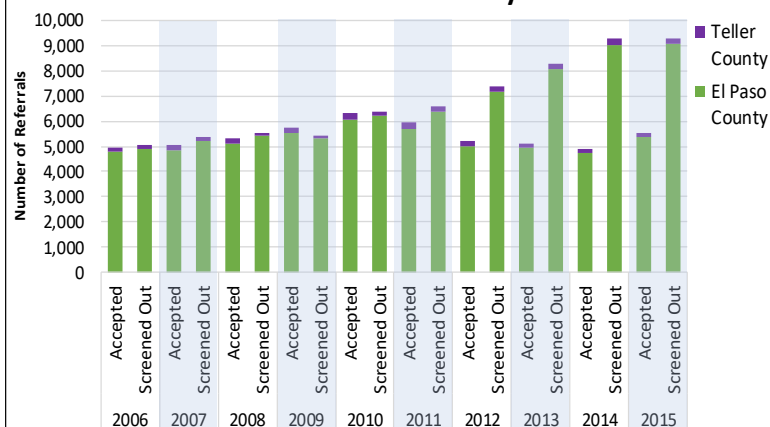
TESSA is the sole provider of services designed specifically for domestic and sexual assault victims in El Paso and Teller Counties. In 2015, TESSA served more than 10,000 victims of domestic and sexual violence through their 5 Advocacy Programs. Just one of them served approximately 5,600 victims with staff located at offices throughout the Colorado Springs MSA. TESSA also served 200 children in their Children's Program and 300 additional victims through their Clinical Program.

While the number of calls to TESSA has averaged 11,164 over the last 6 years, the number nights of safe shelter provided to domestic violence victims has declined over the same time period due to a lack of available beds in the community.

To learn more about what TESSA offers, visit [tessacs.org/](http://tessacs.org/).



Child Welfare Referrals by Year



Sources: El Paso County Department of Human Services; Teller County Department of Social Services

## Child Abuse

Child Protective Services receives calls reporting possible child abuse or neglect. These referrals are then screened to determine if cases need to be accepted for investigation by child welfare agencies or if they can be screened out, which may include a referral to other services.

While there has been an increase in the number of referrals over the last 10 years, there has also been an increase in the number being screened out. In the Colorado Springs MSA in 2015, there were 592 more referrals accepted than in 2006, an increase of 11.9%.

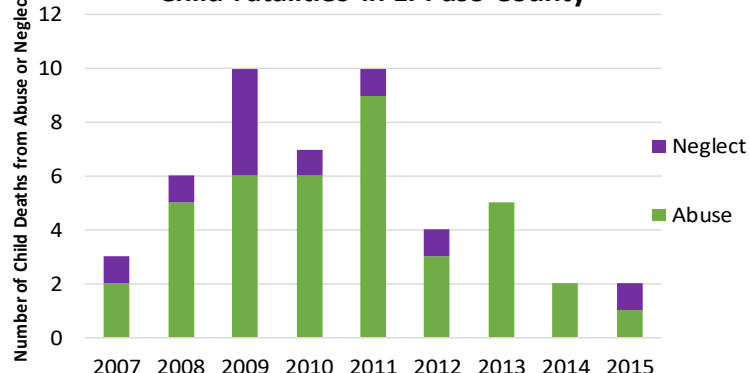
## Child Fatalities

There were 10 deaths due to abuse or neglect in El Paso County in both 2009 and 2011. In both 2014 and 2015, the number of child fatalities was 2.

From 2007 to 2015, Teller County had 5 child fatalities.

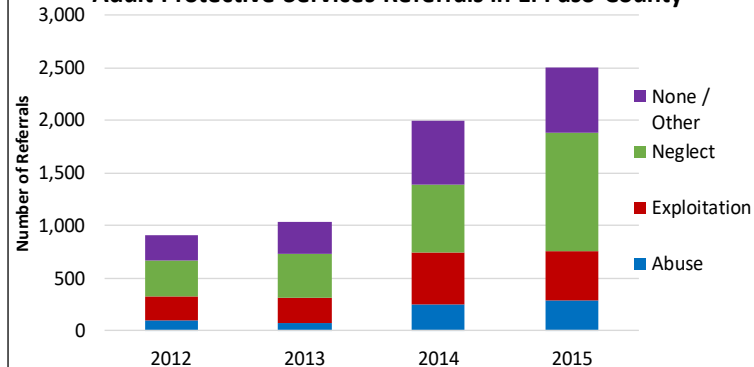
Death from abuse includes blunt force trauma, shaken babies and gunshot wounds. Death as a result of neglect may occur from asphyxia due to an unsafe sleeping environment or when young children are left unsupervised and something happens, like drowning.

Child Fatalities in El Paso County\*



\*From 2007 through 2015, Teller County had 5 child fatalities.  
Source: El Paso County Department of Human Services

Adult Protective Services Referrals in El Paso County



Source: El Paso County Department of Human Services

## Adult Abuse

Adult Protective Services (APS) responds to referrals of abuse, neglect or exploitation of at-risk adults, which includes those ages 18 or older with a disability as well as the elderly ages 70 or older.

The chart shows four categories of referrals made: abuse, exploitation, neglect (by caretaker or self), and none/other. "None/other" are reports that do not meet APS's legal definitions of abuse or requests for resources that may be referred to other services.

**NOTE:** Before 2014, Colorado did not have mandatory reporting laws for at-risk adults experiencing mistreatment. In July 2014, legislation mandated certain professionals to report mistreatment of elders 70 and older, causing the referrals to increase significantly. In July 2016, new legislation was created to expand the mandatory reporting requirements to cover adults (18 years and older) with an Intellectual and Developmental Disability (IDD).

For more information on Colorado laws as well as web-based training, visit [coloradoaps.com](http://coloradoaps.com).



### Emergency Response Time

Each organization has a different jurisdiction area and different way of defining the highest priority emergencies, which makes comparability of data challenging. Under each table, there is a list that includes the emergencies that correspond to the response time data in the table immediately above it.

Over the last few years, the Colorado Springs Police Department and the El Paso County Sheriff's Office (EPSO) have both reduced their response times even with increasing population each year. EPSO equates the reduced response time in their jurisdiction to an increase in manpower made available by the El Paso County Sheriff's Office Public Safety Tax Initiative (1A) in 2012. Response times represent the difference from the time a call entered the queue to the time the first unit arrived.

Colorado Springs Police Department Priority 1 Emergency Response Times Annual Averages in Minutes and Seconds		
<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>
13:03	12:52	12:42
Source: Colorado Springs Police Department		

**Priority 1 emergencies** are considered "imminent life threat" and 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 weapons in progress, sexual assault in progress, shooting, and stabbing.

City of Colorado Springs Fire Department Emergency Response Times Annual Averages in Minutes and Seconds		
<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>
6:26	6:29	6:45
Source: Colorado Springs Police Department		

**Fire Department responses** are for false alarms, fire, good intent, hazardous conditions, hazmat, medical, natural disasters, rescue, and service calls.

El Paso County Sheriff's Office Priority 1 Emergency Response Times Annual Averages in Minutes and Seconds		
<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>
13:20	12:48	12:42
Source: El Paso County Sheriff's Office		

**Priority 1 emergencies** are considered "high risk" and 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 check the welfare, tornado, stabbing, riot, and barricaded subject.

El Paso County Sheriff's Office Fire Emergency Response Times Annual Averages in Minutes and Seconds		
<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>
9:08	8:37	8:36
Source: El Paso County Sheriff's Office		

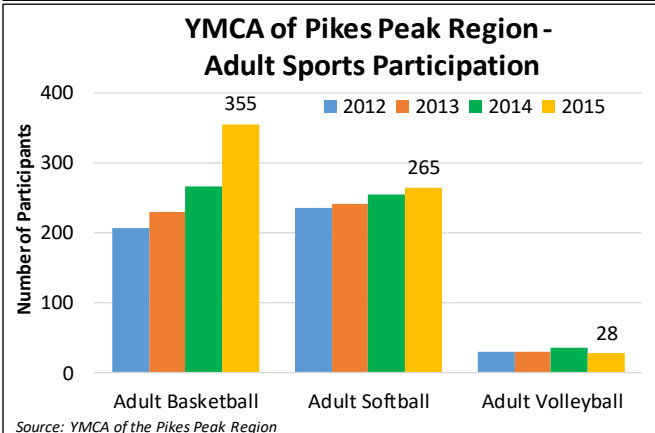
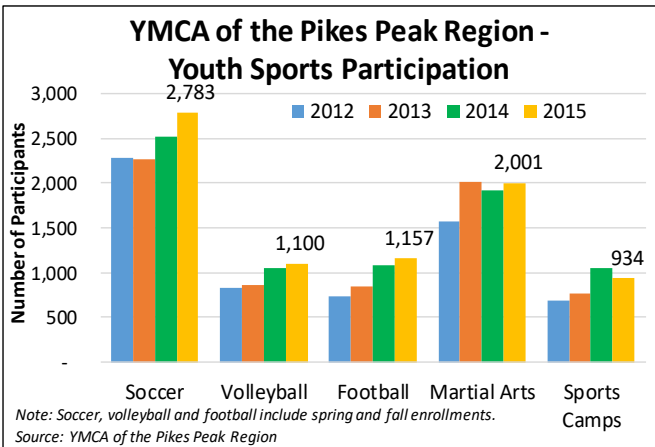
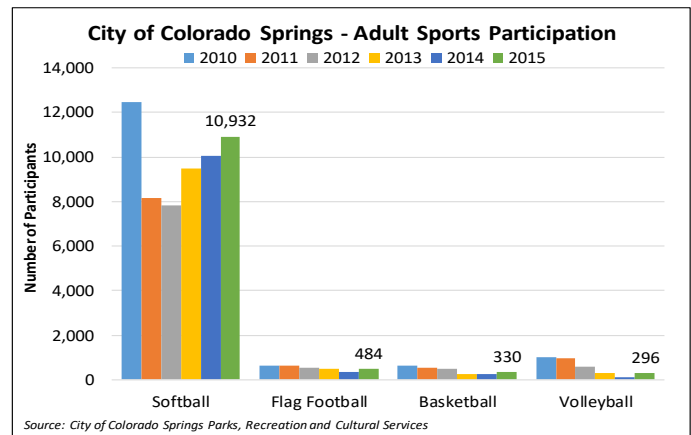
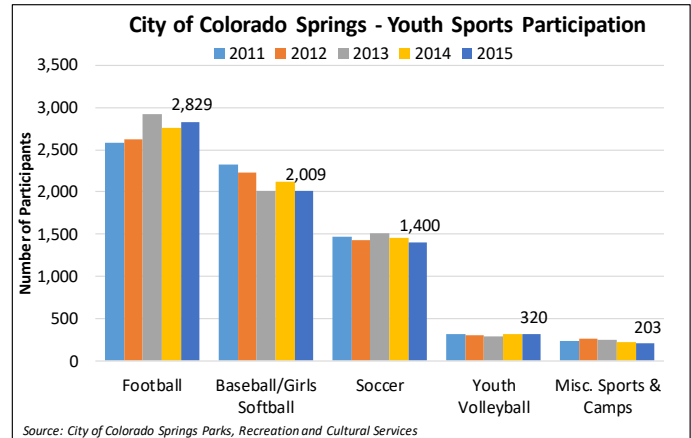
**Sheriff emergency responses** are for fire problem incident types including structure, wildland, medical, traffic accident with injury, hazmat, miscellaneous, arson, traffic accident without injury, 9E1, fire alarm, RR & ACC, rescue, rescue motorist, small outside fire, Waldo rockslide, technical and ice rescue, EOC emergency notification, and MOCOM requests.

*NOTE: The El Paso County Sheriff's Office dispatches for 23 separate fire agencies within El Paso County. The above information is a combined average of response times for all these agencies.*

## City of Colorado Springs - Sports Participation

A significant number of young people participate in the sports programs run by the city, particularly in football, baseball/softball and soccer. According to the city, these numbers are lower than levels from about ten years ago as more young people do individual activities or buddy activities. There is also competition for team sports programs from the YMCA, schools and leagues. In addition to organized sports, this region has many great outdoor options like mountain biking, road biking, hiking and rock climbing.

Many adults participate in the city's softball program while other sports programs have fewer adult participants. In recent years, facilities have improved, bringing in more tournaments and allowing more teams to be formed.



## YMCA of the Pikes Peak Region - Sports Participation

Youth participation in programs run by the YMCA of the Pikes Peak Region have generally been on the rise. Soccer and volleyball generally have more participants through the YMCA than through the city programs.

The adult basketball program run by the city has a similar number of participants to the program run by the YMCA. Since the city numbers are decreasing slightly while the YMCA numbers are increasing, it is possible that some people are changing where they play basketball.

## Olympic Sports Related Organizations

With 22 National Olympic Governing Bodies and over 50 National Sports Organizations, Colorado Springs plays a great role in training the world's Olympians. Athletes from all over the world come to Colorado Springs to train at a wide array of facilities as well as at the great outdoor obstacle courses nature provides. In the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Olympics, the U.S. brought home 46 gold, 37 silver and 38 bronze medals for a total of 121 Olympic medals. Three of the U.S. Olympic athletes live here in Colorado Springs, and another nine of the U.S. Olympic athletes live within the state of Colorado.

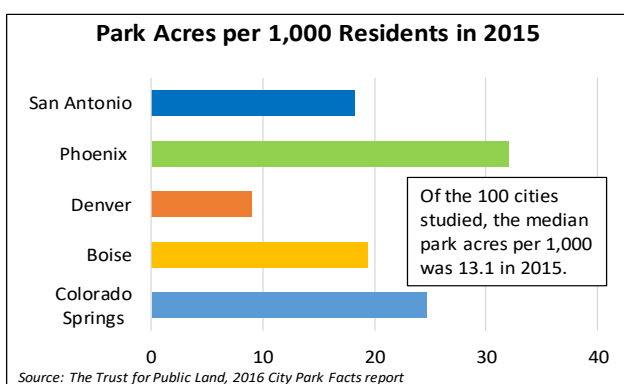
## Park Ranking Comparisons

The Trust for Public Land included “school playgrounds formally open to the public and greenways that function as parks” when ranking cities by their parks. The three categories used for ranking were park acreage, investment and amenities, and access based on population within a half-mile or 10-minute walk of a public park. For additional information, visit <http://parkscore.tpl.org/>. For the January 2017 report on Colorado Springs, visit [tpl.org/Colorado-Springs](http://tpl.org/Colorado-Springs).

City Park Ranking					
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Colorado Springs	n/a*	14	23	38	43
Denver	13	17	7	16	20
Phoenix	16	23	28	37	49
San Antonio	35	44	53	60	71
Number of Cities Ranked	40	50	60	75	100

\*The City of Colorado Springs was not included in the Trust for Public Land comparisons in 2012.  
Source: The Trust for Public Land

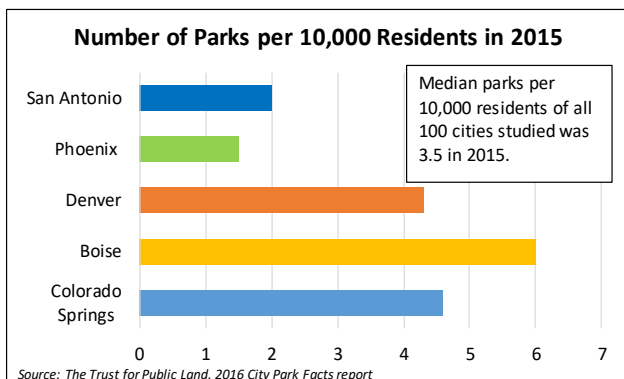
In the Trust for Public Land 2016 City Park Facts report, 70% of the population in Colorado Springs was within a 10-minute walk of a public park, and in Denver, it was 86% of the population.



## Park Acres per Capita

Colorado Springs had 24.7 park acres per 1,000 residents in 2015 according to The Trust for Public Land. This is very high when compared to the cities in the graph, including Denver, and much higher than the median of all 100 cities studied (13.1). Colorado Springs is grouped with 29 other low-density cities, which had a median of 23.3 park acres per 1,000 residents in 2015.

NOTE: “Parkland includes city, county, metro, state and federal acres within city limits” according to the report.



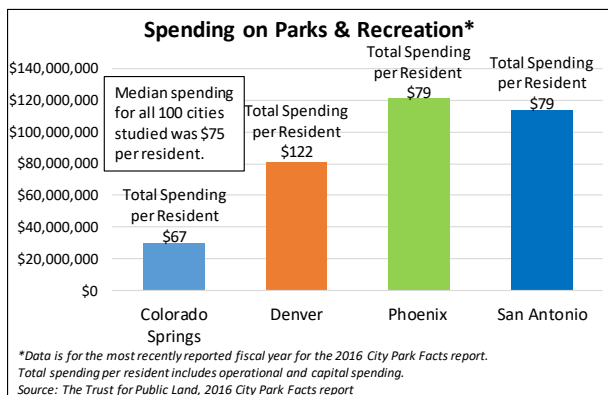
## Number of Parks per Capita

Colorado Springs did very well in parks per capita in 2015. Colorado Springs had 4.6 parks per 10,000 residents in 2015, which is higher than Denver at 4.3 and the median for all 100 cities studied at 3.5 parks per 10,000 residents.

NOTE: According to The Trust for Public Land, “parks include all city, county, metro, state and federal parkland within city limits.” This counts “school playgrounds formally open to the public and greenways that function as parks.”

## Parks and Recreation Spending

The city of Colorado Springs spends less on park and recreation support both as a total of operations and capital spending as well as per resident than the comparison cities. Colorado Springs increased its spending from the \$40 per resident reported in 2014 to the current \$67 per resident reported in 2016.



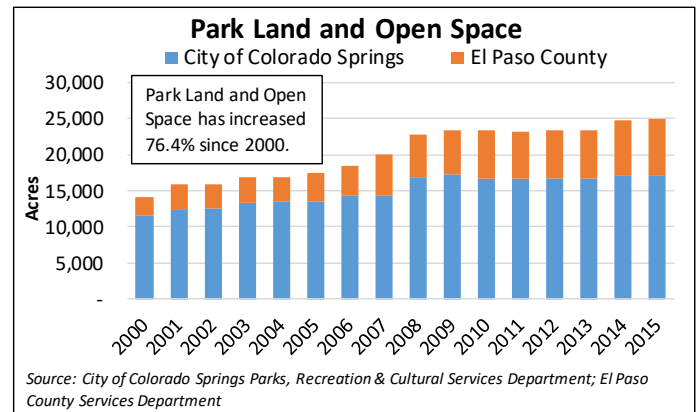
Given the great number of parks and park acres per 1,000 residents in Colorado Springs, it is likely that the total spending per resident is compromised by the geographic expanse implicit in the many outdoor offerings.

NOTE: These numbers are the most recent fiscal year reported by each city for the 2016 City Park Facts report so they may not reflect the same year of spending.



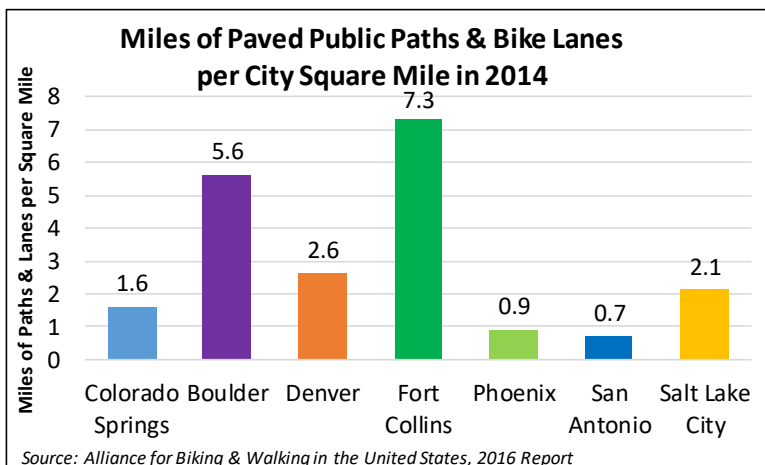
## Parks and Open Space

Together, the city of Colorado Springs and El Paso County managed 25,063 acres of parkland and open space in 2015. Teller County has additional parkland and open space not shown in the graph, which includes Mueller State Park, Dome Rock State Wildlife Area, Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument, Pike National Forest, as well as parks and lands owned by the Colorado State Land Board, Colorado Department of Natural Resources and other state entities.



## Bicycle Infrastructure

The city of Colorado Springs maintains 65 off-street bike urban trails. Compared to most peer cities, this metric is



miles and 141 miles of main trail corridors on low, although it is important to remember that this metric includes city limits only. The city recognizes the importance of ample biking infrastructure and has been prioritizing the goal of bicycle friendliness. In 2008, city staff secured \$1.45 million in competitive grant funding for bicycle transportation improvements. In 2016, the city hired a senior bicycle planner and is investing \$150,000 to update the 1990 Bicycle Master Plan.

The region in and around Colorado Springs has more than just paved paths and bike lanes to support bicycling. Examples include one of the few competitive velodromes in the United States, one of the few free ride skills courses in the state at Red Rock Canyon Open Space, the single track race course open to all riders at El Paso County's Bear Creek Park, and five BMX/skate park facilities.



## Trail Miles

The city of Colorado Springs owns and maintains over 100 miles of urban trails with another 100 plus miles planned and detailed in the city's Urban Trails Master Plan. El Paso County owns and maintains an additional 109 miles as of 2016, with the most recent addition of 4 miles of urban trail in Jones Park. The Colorado Springs community has shown strong support for local trails, voting for the 0.1% Trails, Open Space and Parks sales tax (TOPS), which was implemented in 1998, and in November of 2015, approving the use of \$2.1 million of excess revenue for maintenance and repair work on eight urban trails.

In 2015, Governor Hickenlooper unveiled the Colorado the Beautiful Initiative which includes a goal that all citizens in Colorado live within a 10-minute walk of a park, trail or vibrant green space. In January 2016, the Governor added "16 in 2016," which focuses on the completion of the 16 highest priority trail projects. The chosen projects include Ring the Peak and the 11-mile Ute Pass Regional Trail, which would complete the 62-mile loop around Pikes Peak.



## Walking, Biking and Transit Scores

Walk Score® ranks over 3,000 cities in the United States, Canada, Australia and New Zealand. In the 2016 rankings, the 141 cities that contain a population over 200,000 had an average walk score of 48 out of 100. The city of Colorado Springs had a walk score of 35, indicating that people are very car-dependent and that most errands require a car. The transit ranking only included 102 cities and the average for those cities was 40, while Colorado Springs' score was 18. The average bike score, which included 94 cities, was 52, whereas the city had a bike score of 46. **For more information visit [walkscore.com/CO/Colorado\\_Springs](http://walkscore.com/CO/Colorado_Springs).**

## Parks Master Plans

In June 2013, El Paso County published a Parks Master Plan. **To learn more visit [adm.elpasoco.com/CommunityServices/planning/Pages/MasterPlan.aspx](http://adm.elpasoco.com/CommunityServices/planning/Pages/MasterPlan.aspx).**

In September 2014, the city of Colorado Springs published a separate Park System Master Plan. This plan includes information on the Fountain Creek Watershed and plans to create a stable ecosystem as well as the development of a trail from Colorado Springs to Pueblo with recreational and educational opportunities. It contains information on creek cleanup, trails and stream-side natural areas, and the 2009 streamside guidelines.

**To learn more, visit [coloradosprings.gov/sites/default/files/parks\\_recreation\\_and\\_cultural\\_services/cos\\_masterplandocument\\_140923-view.pdf](http://coloradosprings.gov/sites/default/files/parks_recreation_and_cultural_services/cos_masterplandocument_140923-view.pdf).**

## City of Colorado Springs Land Use

The most recent land use data available for the city of Colorado Springs is from 2014. When the land use is divided into 6 categories, vacant land is the largest category at 31.2% of all land use followed by residential at 27.9%. Nearly 10% of the land is devoted to parks, trails and open spaces, demonstrating the high value our community places on recreation and outdoor life.

The city of Colorado Springs is the largest portion of the Colorado Springs Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), which is made up of El Paso and Teller Counties.

*NOTE: According to the City of Colorado Springs Comprehensive Planning Management Office, institutional land is defined as land for “public and quasi-public uses and facilities other than parks and open space, including but not limited to government buildings, utilities, educational institutions and hospitals.”*

## El Paso County Land Use

The land use in all of El Paso County in 2016 is also divided into six categories, although these are slightly different than those used in the city or in Teller County. The majority of land use is dedicated to agriculture at 42.2%. This is followed by exempt lands at 30.0%. Exempt includes military installations, religious institutions, state parks, and any other type of institution that is tax exempt.

*NOTE: El Paso County assessors must follow state mandated categories, which do not include anything owned by an HOA or certain other entities. The city of Colorado Springs does their own calculations in order to include these properties that are not part of El Paso County land use.*

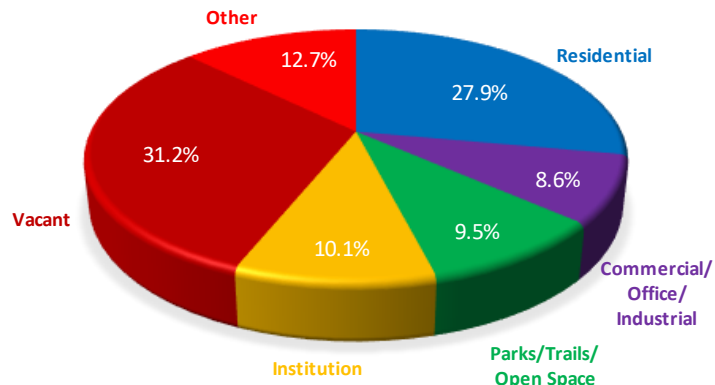
## Teller County Land Use

Teller County land use in 2016 was divided into seven categories, with nearly 75% of the land either set aside for parks, trails and open space (nearly 50%) or for agriculture (nearly 25%).

How a community dedicates and develops its land has a significant impact on environmental quality, community health, economic vitality and biodiversity. Well-balanced land use is important to an area’s long-term well-being.

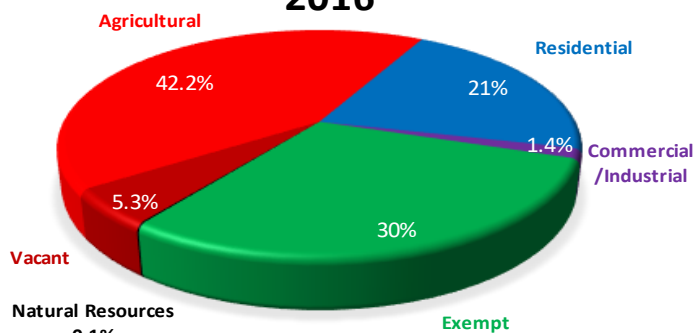
*NOTE: According to the City of Colorado Springs Comprehensive Planning Management Office, institutional land is defined as land for “public and quasi-public uses and facilities other than parks and open space, including but not limited to government buildings, utilities, educational institutions and hospitals.”*

### City of Colorado Springs Land Use 2014



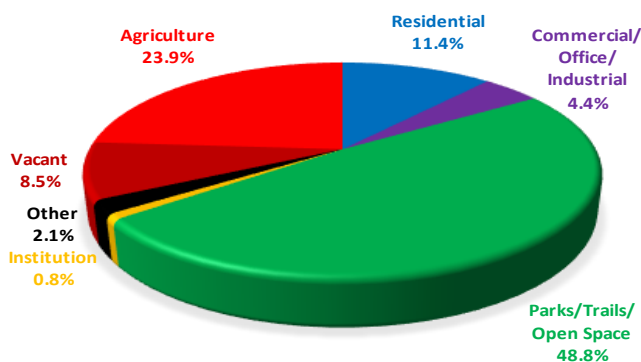
Source: City of Colorado Springs Comprehensive Planning Department

### El Paso County Land Use 2016



Source: El Paso County Assessors Office

### Teller County Land Use 2016



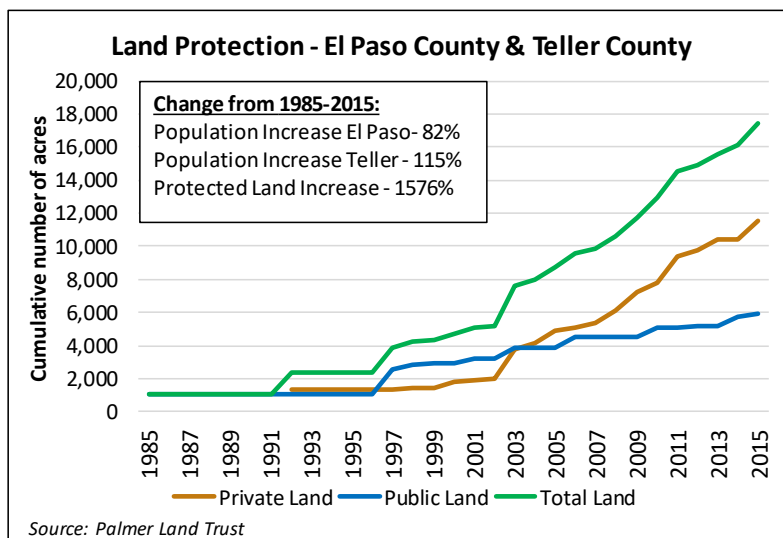
Source: Teller County Planning Department

## Land Protection

The cumulative acreage of private and public conservation easements in El Paso and Teller Counties has seen a significant increase in the last 30 years, from 1,040 acres in 1985 to 17,427 acres in 2015.

Open spaces in and around the Colorado Springs MSA serve multiple purposes. They offer outdoor recreation, great locations for outdoor events, and local agricultural hot spots for families seeking locally sourced produce and other foods. They help to drive tourism in the region. They also preserve natural habitats for animals and plant life, as well as preserving potential renewable energy sources.

Land conservation of both public and private land continues to increase, demonstrating the value the community puts on protecting land for agriculture or public use. Recent projects have focused on private lands on the southwest side of Pikes Peak and public open space within Colorado Springs. Of note is the recent success Palmer Land Trust has seen working in partnership with private landowners to preserve scenic and working lands along the historic Shelf Road, a component of the Gold Belt Tour Byway (encompassing High Park Road, Shelf Road and Phantom Canyon Road).

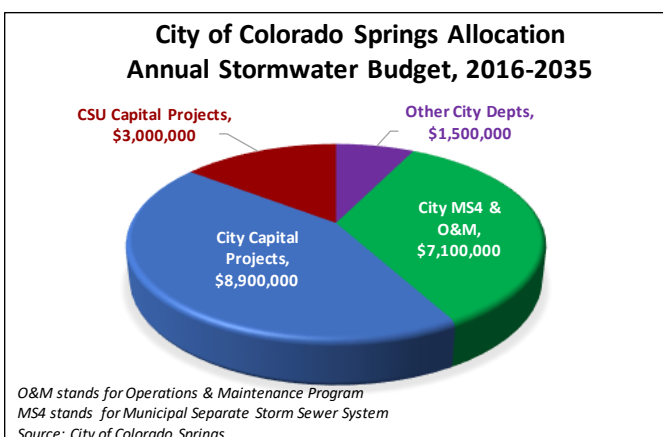


### 2015 City Infrastructure Spending

Operating & Capital Improvement Projects:  
\$94,022,533

roadway, 3,679 miles of curbs and gutters, 1,330 alleys and unimproved roadways, 249 miles of open drainage channel, and 420 miles of underground storm systems, it takes a lot of time, effort and money to maintain. The 2015 city of Colorado Springs budget for infrastructure covered stormwater, creeks, trails, parks maintenance and operations, roads, bridges and highways. Since Ballot 2C passed in November 2015, improvements have begun to our main city roadways, which will continue over the next 5 years.

To see the road improvements for 2016 due to 2C, visit [coloradosprings.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapTools/index.html?appid=6b4fd17edcc8491ab5e12ffbcf064bb9](http://coloradosprings.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapTools/index.html?appid=6b4fd17edcc8491ab5e12ffbcf064bb9). To see the 2017 road improvements, visit [coloradosprings.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapTools/index.html?appid=316620c61ff94e62892bb57cb429cace](http://coloradosprings.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapTools/index.html?appid=316620c61ff94e62892bb57cb429cace).



## Infrastructure

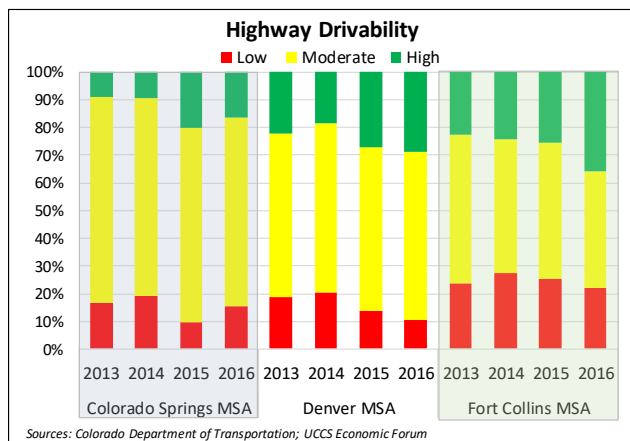
The city of Colorado Springs puts a lot of effort into building and maintaining city infrastructure for the safety and well-being of its citizens. With 5,688 lane miles of

## Stormwater Needs

Failure to address stormwater deficiency can lead to flooding and other adverse effects caused by natural disasters. The city of Colorado Springs recently debuted their 20 year Stormwater Program Implementation Plan. The annual budget for stormwater is shown in the pie chart. **To learn more, visit [coloradosprings.gov/stormwaterprojects](http://coloradosprings.gov/stormwaterprojects).**

In 2016, El Paso County dedicated \$197,794,797 and the city of Fountain dedicated \$50,000,000 to stormwater capital projects.





## Highway Drivability

As of 2013, the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) measures drivability based on how long a highway segment will have acceptable driving conditions, also called the “drivability life” of a highway. Green indicates a high drivability life of more than ten years; yellow indicates a moderate drivability life of four to ten years; and red indicates a low drivability life of less than four years.

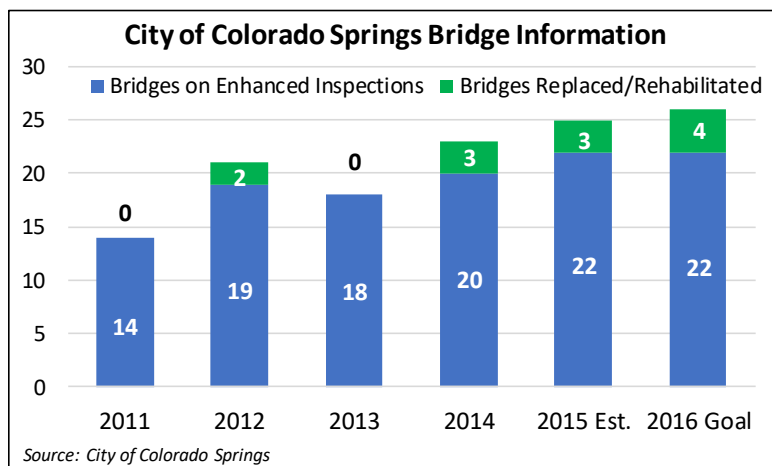
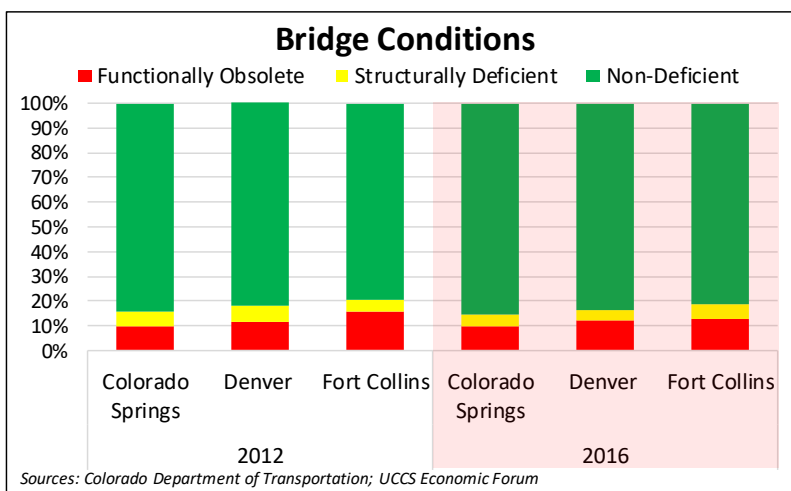
As population continues to grow, maintaining existing highways becomes increasingly important for everyday mobility.

A June 2016 report by WalletHub ranked the state of Colorado 20 out of 50 for road conditions and safety.

## Bridge Conditions

This graph compares all road bridge conditions (city, county and state owned) for the MSAs of Colorado Springs, Denver and Fort Collins. Red indicates functionally obsolete, yellow indicates structurally deficient and green indicates non-deficient bridges.

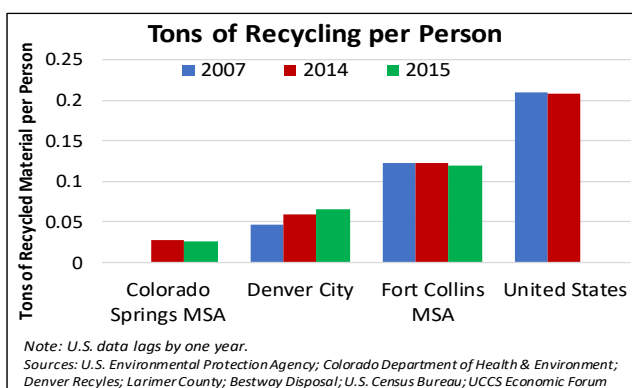
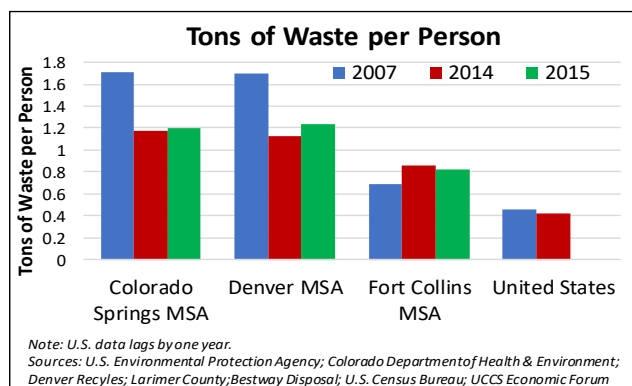
Structurally sound bridges are a key to a thriving economy and mobile work force. In 2009, Colorado passed legislation to appropriate funds every year to the repair and rehabilitation of state-funded bridges. It uses revenue from an annual bridge-safety fee on vehicle registrations. To receive this funding, bridges must be in “poor” condition, having a sufficiency rating of less than 50 out of 100 and a status of structurally deficient or functionally obsolete. As of January 31, 2015, across the state of Colorado, 72 bridges had been repaired or replaced, 19 were in construction, 3 designs were completed, 15 were in the design stage and 24 bridge projects were waiting to be scheduled using this funding.



## City Bridges

The city tracks bridge conditions on a scale from 0 to 100, inspecting major structures every 2 years and minor structures every 4 years. Based on inspections completed in 2014, 3% were in poor condition, 18% in fair condition, and 79% in good condition. The city’s goal is to rehabilitate four bridges per year in order to maintain the safety levels of the 437 city bridges.





## Waste & Recycling Initiatives

Waste can be reduced by having less to throw away or because things are reused or recycled. The United States has had decreased waste over the last several years, and both the MSAs of Colorado Springs and Denver have significantly reduced their waste per person between 2007 and 2015.

Since 2007, the Colorado Springs MSA began to recycle while the city of Denver and the Fort Collins MSA continued to recycle. In the U.S. in 2014, the recycling rate was nearly 35% while Colorado's recycling rate was 12%. In a 2016 report by the CoPIRG Foundation and Eco-Cycle, Loveland led in the cities studied with a 61% residential diversion rate\* while Denver was near last at 18%. In that same report, they found that while Denver residents want to recycle, they may not have the opportunity. When Denver is compared to nine cities with similar populations, Denver's recycling rate is the lowest (see table on this page).

*\*NOTE: "Diversion rate is defined as the percentage of waste materials diverted from traditional disposal, such as landfill or incineration, to be recycled, composted or re-used."*  
—U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

## Recycling Resources

The El Paso County Recycling Directory can be found at [coloradocentre.org/Community-SWP\\_files/EPCRecyclingDirectory.pdf](http://coloradocentre.org/Community-SWP_files/EPCRecyclingDirectory.pdf).

The Office of Sustainability resource page includes additional ideas at [coloradosprings.gov/office-sustainability/page/resources](http://coloradosprings.gov/office-sustainability/page/resources).

2016 Residential Diversion Rates	
City	Recycling Rate
Fresno, CA	71%
Seattle, WA	64%
Austin, TX	42%
Charlotte, NC*	39%
Salt Lake City, UT	38%
San Antonio, TX	30%
Washington, DC	26%
Milwaukee, WI	25%
Phoenix, AZ	20%
Denver, CO	18%
*Includes Mecklenburg County	
Source: Eco-Cycle, 2016 Report	

## Environmental Sustainability for the Pikes Peak Region

Reports were published in 2012 and 2016 to promote sustainability in our region, defining sustainability as "acting in a manner that improves our quality of life by balancing economic vitality, a healthy vibrant community, and mindful stewardship of natural resources and the environment for current and future generations." **To read these reports and learn more about environmental sustainability outcomes and goals, visit Peak Alliance for a Sustainable Future at [peakalliance.co/](http://peakalliance.co/).** On this site you can find links to the 2012 report put together by the Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments (PPACG), *Looking to our Future—Pikes Peak Region 2030*, as well as the *2016 Pikes Peak Regional Sustainability Report*.

In February 2016, the city of Colorado Springs reinstated the Office of Sustainability.

## City of Colorado Springs Updates

In March 2016, the Colorado Springs City Council adopted an Infill Chapter for their Comprehensive Plan as well as an Infill Action Plan. **To read about the supplement and recommended actions, visit [coloradosprings.gov/planning/page/infill-and-redevelopment](http://coloradosprings.gov/planning/page/infill-and-redevelopment).**

The city of Colorado Springs is updating their 15 year old plan through a “Plan COS” campaign. There are many ways citizens can share what they want Colorado Springs to be in 10 to 20 years. They will be gathering feedback into 2017 and hope to complete the new comprehensive plan by early 2018. **To learn more, visit [coloradosprings.gov/plancos](http://coloradosprings.gov/plancos), which includes a survey and [coloradosprings.gov/planning/page/plan-cos-faqs](http://coloradosprings.gov/planning/page/plan-cos-faqs) to see answers to frequently asked questions.**

Comprehensive/Master Plans	
City/Town	Online Link to Most Recent Plan
City of Colorado Springs	<a href="#">2001 Comprehensive Plan*</a>
City of Cripple Creek	<a href="#">2009 Community Master Plan</a>
City of Fountain	<a href="#">2005 Comprehensive Development Plan</a>
City of Manitou Springs	<a href="#">2012 Vision &amp; Planning Guide</a>
City of Victor	<a href="#">1992 Comprehensive Plan</a>
City of Woodland Park	<a href="#">2010 Comprehensive Plan</a>
Town of Calhan	2002 Comprehensive Plan*
Town of Green Mountain Falls	<a href="#">2007 Comprehensive Plan</a>
Town of Monument	<a href="#">2003 Master Plan/Comprehensive Plan*</a>
Town of Palmer Lake	2013 Comprehensive Plan*
El Paso County	
Overall County Plan	<a href="#">1998 El Paso County Policy Plan</a>
	<a href="#">1987 Black Forest Preservation Plan</a>
	<a href="#">1989 Ellicot Valley Comprehensive Plan</a>
	<a href="#">2006 Falcon/Peyton Small Area Master Plan</a>
	<a href="#">2001 Falcon Area Traffic Report</a>
	<a href="#">2003 Highway 94 Comprehensive Plan</a>
	<a href="#">1988 South Central Comprehensive Plan</a>
	<a href="#">1990 Southwestern Area Comprehensive Plan</a>
	<a href="#">2000 Tri-Lakes Comprehensive Plan</a>
	<a href="#">1982 Ute Pass Comprehensive Plan</a>
	<a href="#">2013 Parks Master Plan</a>
Teller County	
Overall County Plan	<a href="#">1990 Teller County Growth Management Plan</a>
	<a href="#">1996 4 Mile Regional Plan</a>
	<a href="#">2006 Divide Regional Plan</a>
	<a href="#">1998 Florissant Regional Plan</a>
	<a href="#">2004 Southeast Teller County Regional Plan</a>
	<a href="#">2013 Teller County Strategic Plan 2014-2024</a>
<p><i>*Plans are not available online or are in the process of updates. The Town of Calhan will have an updated plan in 2016 or 2017. The City of Colorado Springs began the 2-year process of updating its plan in 2016.</i></p> <p><i>Sources: Municipality and County Websites</i></p>	

# HOUSING & HOMELESSNESS

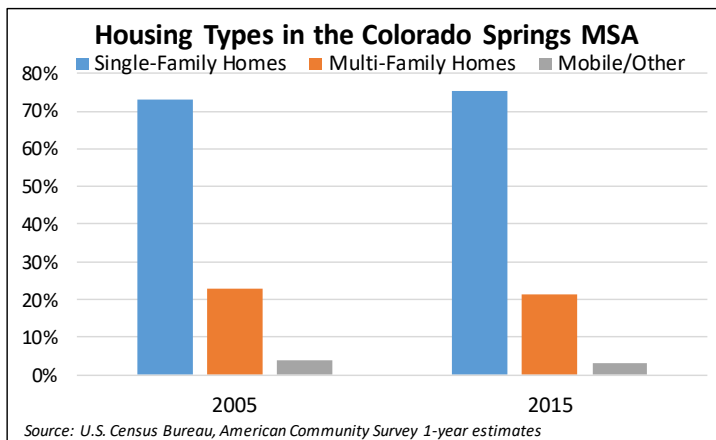
## Housing Variety

The type of housing a community prefers is significant for future development and land use. Across the country, there is a strong preference for single-family homes over other types of housing, but this is especially true in the Colorado Springs MSA compared to the Denver MSA or the U.S. Between 2005 and 2015, there has been very little change in the preferences shown by households in the Colorado Springs MSA.

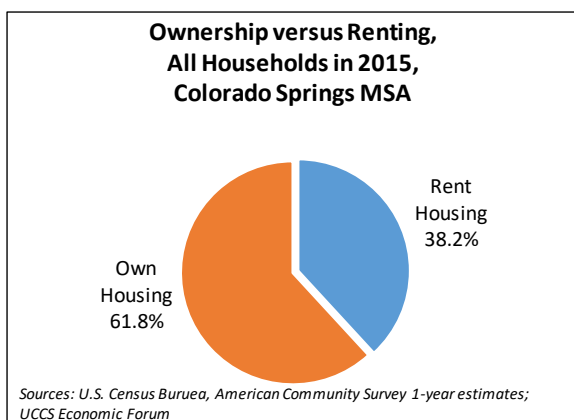
Single-family homes include both attached and detached housing. Multi-family homes include townhomes, condos and apartments. The mobile/other category includes mobile homes, trailers, boats and other alternative housing.

Housing Variety in 2015			
	Colorado Springs MSA	Denver MSA	United States
Single-Family Homes	75.3%	68.3%	68.4%
Multi-Family Homes	21.5%	29.9%	25.9%
Mobile/Other	3.0%	1.8%	5.7%

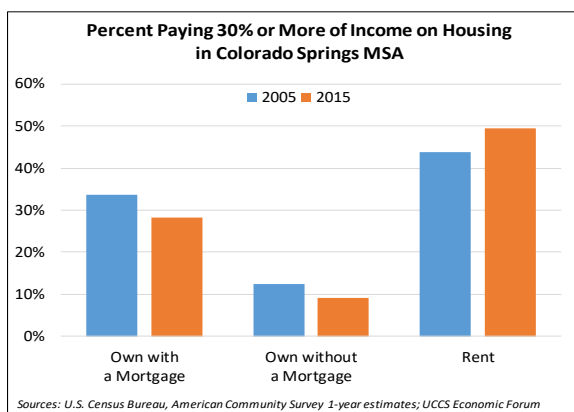
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 1-year estimates



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 1-year estimates



Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 1-year estimates; UCCS Economic Forum



Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 1-year estimates; UCCS Economic Forum

## Unaffordable Housing

Affordable housing is defined as costing less than 30% of household income. Households that are burdened with high housing costs often are forced to compromise on other household expenses such as utilities, food or insurance. They are often on the brink of becoming homeless should there be a job loss or other unanticipated financial hardship in their life.

The percentage of home owners in unaffordable housing decreased between 2005 and 2015, as seen in the first two sets of bars. This is a positive trend for homeowners who are paying 30% or more of their income on housing. Unfortunately, for the households who rent and consume at least 30% or more of their income on housing, the number in unaffordable housing rose to 49.5% in 2015 from the 2005 level of 43.8%.

Those who own their home without a mortgage still pay for things like property tax, insurance and maintenance. For those who are low income, who do not have a mortgage (see middle bars on graph), these housing costs are still onerous. The vast majority of those who own their home outright that pay 30% or more on housing make less than \$20,000 a year. It is likely that these are retired seniors on fixed (and low) incomes.

Unaffordable Housing in 2015		
	United States	Colorado Springs MSA
Number of Households	38,088,267	87,377
Percentage of Households	32.2%	33.4%

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 1-year estimates; UCCS Economic Forum

For context, the table shows the number of people in unaffordable housing in 2015 for both the U.S. and the Colorado Springs MSA. The corresponding percentages are on the second line.

**NOTE:** "Unaffordable housing" costs are 30% or more of total household income.

## Affordable Housing Waitlist

Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers and Public Housing Programs are run by the Colorado Springs Housing Authority. These federally funded programs assist tenants in paying rent and utilities on homes or apartments in the private market. Participants pay 30% of their income to their landlord and federal funds are used to pay the remaining rent. Under certain circumstances, a family may use its voucher to purchase a modest home.

December 2016 Affordable Housing Waiting Lists City of Colorado Springs					
Program	On Waiting List	Percent with Children	Percent with Disability	Percent with Elderly	Extremely Low Income
Section 8 Housing	2,080	55%	21%	7%	82%
Public Housing	2,665	52%	17%	5%	85%
<b>Total on Waiting Lists</b>	<b>4,745</b>				
<i>Source: Colorado Springs Housing Authority</i>					

July 2016 wait list numbers reflect a new waiting list system open only once a year, where qualified applicants put in an application for a computer-randomized lottery ticket. The wait time for these programs can be more than five years. Section 8 housing had 612 families left on the waiting list from the last time the program was open to new applicants, which was in October 2010. In June 2016, the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher wait list reopened and had 1,569 qualified applicants added to the waitlist.

**More Information can be found on the Colorado Springs Housing Authority's webpage: [portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/topics/housing\\_choice\\_voucher\\_program\\_section\\_8](http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/topics/housing_choice_voucher_program_section_8).**

*NOTE: Extremely low income, as defined by the Colorado Springs Housing Authority, is below 30% of area median income. The housing choice voucher program is the federal government's major program for assisting very low-income families, the elderly, and the disabled to afford decent, safe, and sanitary housing in the private market. Since housing assistance is provided on behalf of the family or individual, participants are able to find their own housing, including single-family homes, townhouses and apartments. The participant is free to choose any housing that meets the requirements of the program and is not limited to units located in subsidized housing projects. Housing choice vouchers are administered locally by public housing agencies (PHAs). The PHAs receive federal funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to administer the voucher program.*

## Affordable Housing Demographics

According to a city of Colorado Springs' official, we currently have roughly 6,000 units that are "affordable housing," but to meet the demand, there is an estimated need for at least 8,000 more units in the city.

Affordable Housing Demographics City of Colorado Springs	
Housing Program	Existing Units as of 2016 Qtr 3
Vouchers (Including Section 8)	2,332
Conventional Public Housing	707
Low-Income Housing Tax Credit Partnerships	1,481
CSHA Owned/Managed	813
Homeownership (Currently not funding any more loans)	850 (179 Active)
<b>Total Housing</b>	<b>5,512</b>
<i>Source: Colorado Springs Housing Authority</i>	

The number of current units available for occupancy by low-income residents stayed relatively constant through the first three quarters of 2016. The term "available" is used by the Colorado Springs Housing Authority to mean that the units exist, but not that they are necessarily unoccupied and available to individuals needing low-income housing. It is possible for "affordable housing" units to be occupied by individuals or families who do not qualify for low-income housing. Hence, the table to the left shows this classification as simply "existing units."

## Location Affordability Index

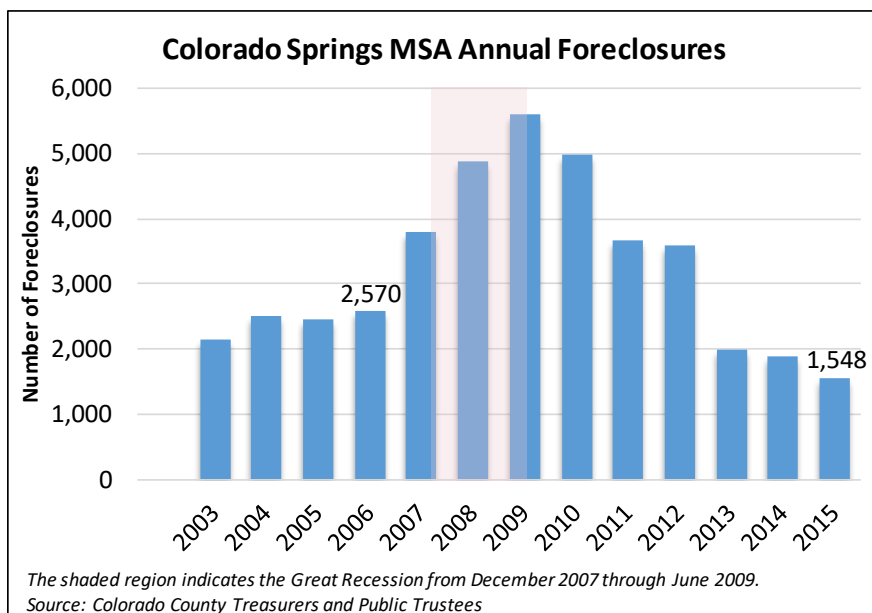
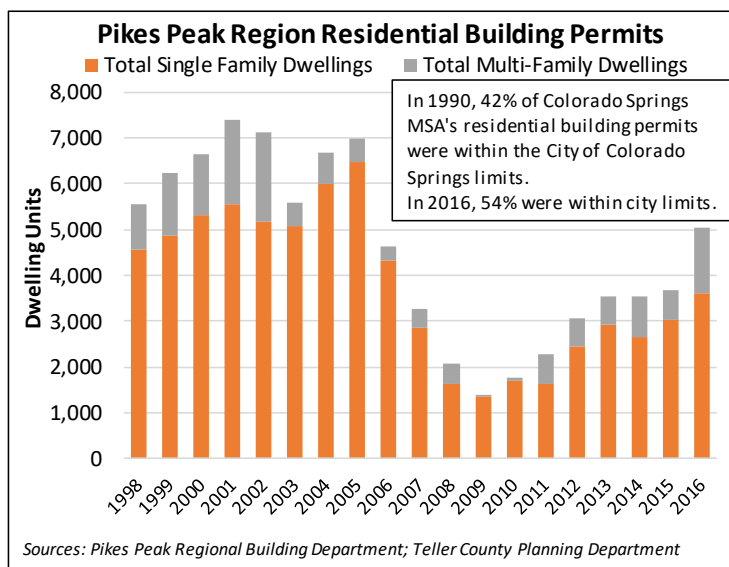
The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development with the U.S. Department of Transportation created a location affordability index that incorporates both the cost of housing and the cost of transportation. **To find out more, visit [locationaffordability.info/lai.aspx](http://locationaffordability.info/lai.aspx).**



## Residential Building Permits (Dwelling Units)

Residential building permits reflect the general demand for housing and also the type of housing that local residents prefer. If there is natural population growth and in-migration, there will be a demand for new homes; and if consumer preferences lean towards new construction, the demand may be greater. El Paso County continues to have positive population growth with an annual rate of increase in 2016 of 1.7%. Given this continued growth and the projected high growth in the next 25 years, it is likely that demand for residential building permits will continue, especially if mortgage rates stay within reach.

2006 through 2009 saw a significant decrease in permits. As the economy bounced back from the Great Recession, permits for new dwellings have seen a steady increase each year. Estimates from the UCCS Economic Forum have suggested that for the population size of Colorado Springs, roughly 4,500 building permits per year is a healthy equilibrium.



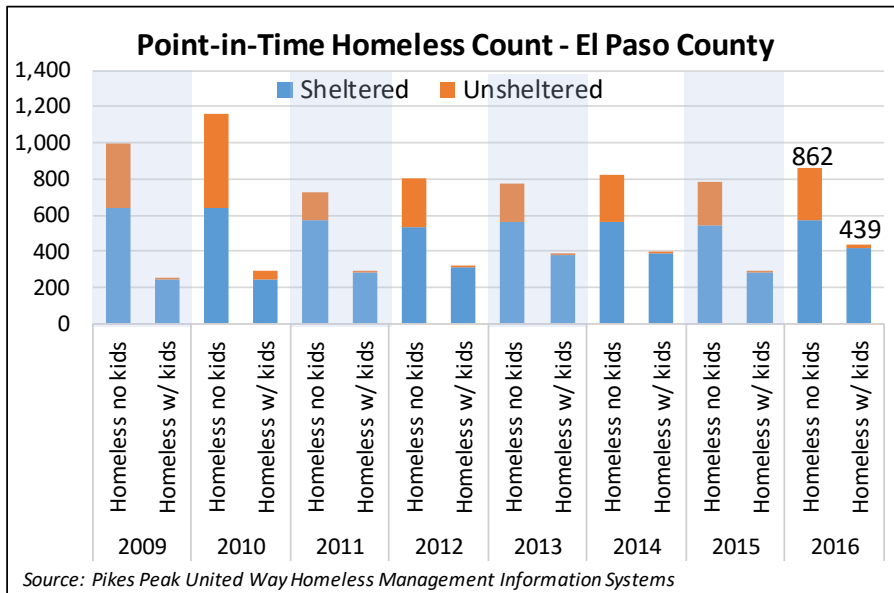
## Foreclosures

A foreclosure is a situation where a homeowner is unable to make the full principal and interest payment on his or her mortgage thereby allowing the lender (bank) to seize the property, evict the homeowner, and resell the home.

A negative indicator for the housing market is an increasing foreclosure rate. Foreclosures reflect homeowners in financial distress and are normally used by economists as a lagging indicator since they tend to peak just about the time an economic recovery commences.

The sale of a foreclosed home also affects property rates and neighborhood value, affecting the ability for other homeowners within the neighborhood to be able to sell or refinance their home. Foreclosed homes often tend to sit vacant with property left unmaintained, leading to an unattractive home effecting the entire neighborhood.

It appears that most of the correction in the market has occurred as most of the bad mortgages in the country have worked through the mortgage industry. The number of foreclosures appear to be returning to normal; in fact, levels are significantly lower now than they were pre-recession. Remaining foreclosures depend on housing values, employment, and income levels of homeowners holding a mortgage. Qualifying for a new mortgage is more stringent as a result of reforms in Dodd-Frank, making lenders more cautious than they were before the financial crisis. Price appreciation in homes will raise equity value for homeowners, which decreases the number of upside-down mortgages.



## Point-in-Time Homeless Count

This data comes from the point-in-time survey conducted every year by El Paso County. This is a one-day snapshot of homelessness completed in January that is required by the federal office of Housing and Urban Development.

The chart is divided into those who are sheltered (emergency shelters, transitional housing, etc.) and those who are unsheltered (living in cars, on the streets or in camps). It does not include individuals who are homeless but living with friends.

There are many causes and factors that influence and result in homelessness. For many, the rising costs of housing, or lack of affordable housing, is a significant factor in homelessness. For others, rising costs of medical coverage and care lead to the inability to pay for other everyday necessities, which in turn leads to homelessness. According to the National Alliance to End Homelessness, many individuals start off homeless because of major health issues that only increase with the inability to maintain a healthy living environment.

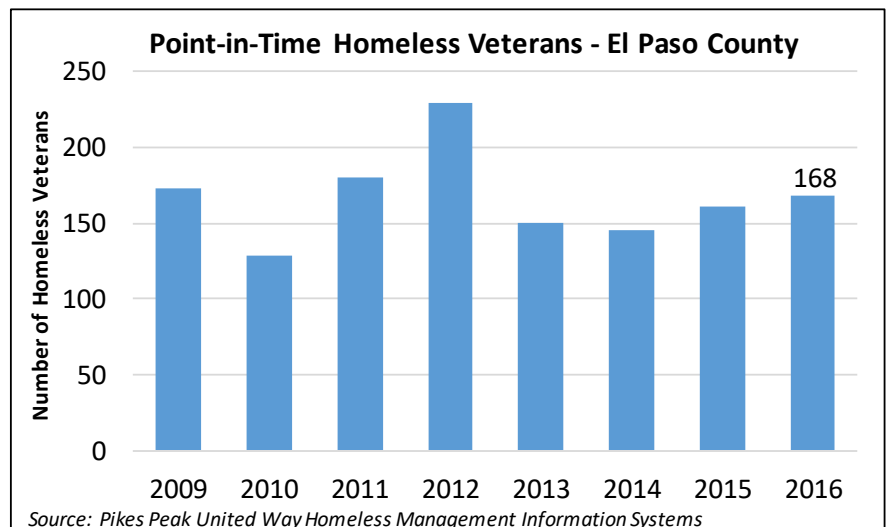
Homelessness is also a high-cost community expenditure as more people spend time in the emergency room, unable to pay their bills, with illnesses exacerbated by living on the streets. The total point-in-time count reached a peak of 1,451 individuals in 2010. The homeless count has not dropped below 1,000 since 2010.

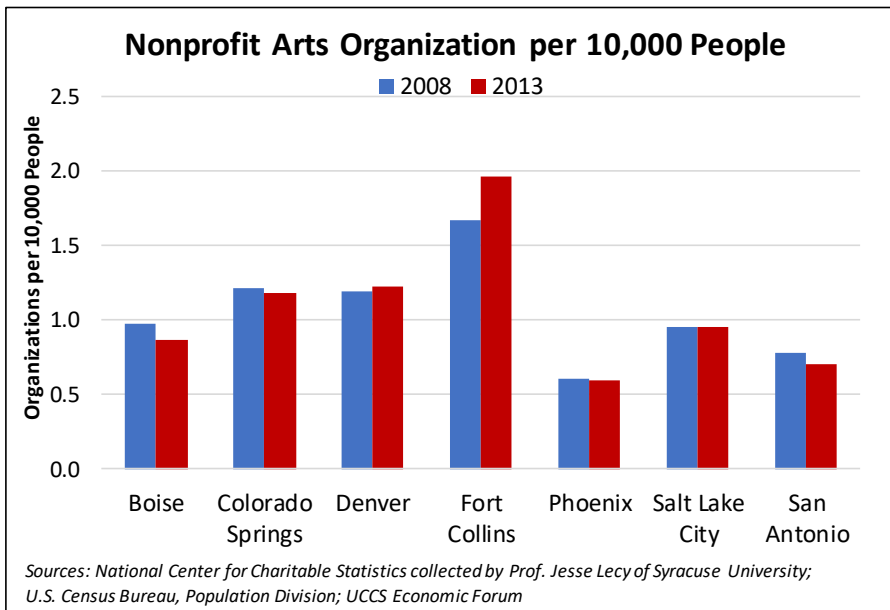
## Point-in-Time Homeless Veterans Count

This chart shows the homeless counts of veterans from the point-in-time survey conducted by El Paso County.

Homeless people suffer from higher rates of mental and physical health problems, especially veterans within our community who are already dealing with lingering effects of post-traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injuries and substance abuse.

The veteran homeless population reached a high of 230 in 2012, then decreased significantly in 2013 thanks to additional federal programs such as the Veteran Affairs Supportive Housing program and Supportive Services for Veteran Families. The number of homeless veterans has been slowly increasing since 2014.





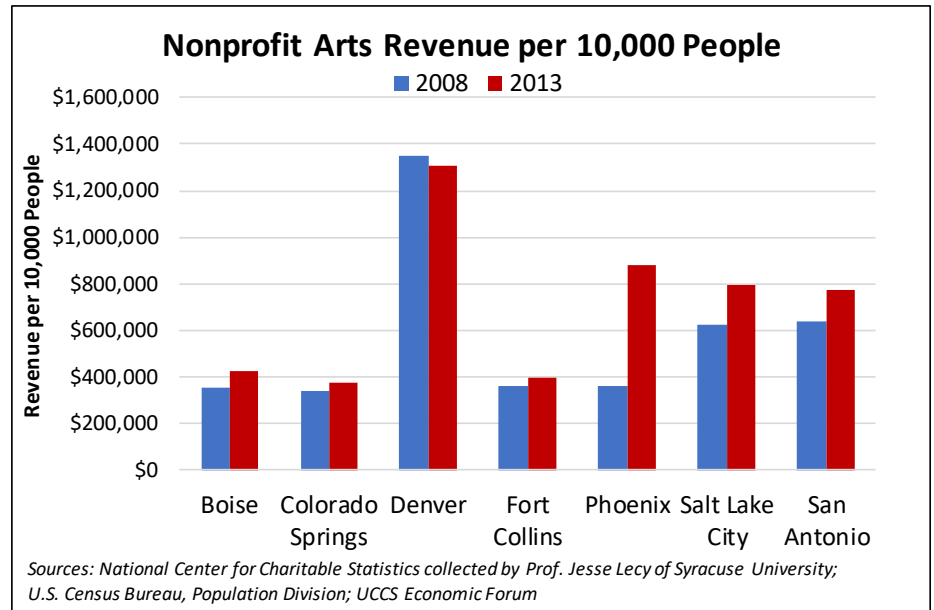
### Nonprofit Arts Organizations

Nonprofit data is not available for recent years with many of the primary sources under construction. According to the Cultural Office of the Pikes Peak Region (COPPeR) in their 2016-17 “Peak Radar Pages” publication, this region has over 450 cultural entities, both nonprofit and for-profit. The 80 nonprofit arts organizations in the Colorado Springs MSA for 2013, shown in the graph as 1.2 per 10,000 people, only include those with annual gross receipts of \$25,000 or more. Using this criteria, Fort Collins was the only MSA analyzed that saw a significant increase in nonprofit arts organizations between 2008 and 2013. It is difficult to track all small, arts organizations so this data may understate the number of arts-related organizations.

According to the Cultural Office of the Pikes Peak Region (COPPeR) in their “Peak Radar Pages” for 2016-17, this region has just over 450 cultural entities, both nonprofit and for-profit.

### Nonprofit Arts Revenue

Once again, this data only includes those nonprofit arts organizations with annual gross receipts of \$25,000 or more. While Fort Collins saw an increase in the number of organizations, Phoenix had the greatest increase in revenue per 10,000 people, and Denver consistently brings in the greatest nonprofit arts revenue per 10,000 people of the MSAs analyzed.



### Arts & Economic Prosperity

In 2012, the Cultural Office of the Pikes Peak Region (COPPeR) worked with Americans for the Arts to produce the Arts & Economic Prosperity Study (AEP4) report. At that time they found the Pikes Peak region’s nonprofit arts industry and its audience support 2,168 jobs, creating \$72 million in economic impact. The next study is underway, and the results of AEP5 will be reported publicly in June 2017. **Additional information can be found at [culturaloffice.org/resources/aep-report/](http://culturaloffice.org/resources/aep-report/).**

In 2013, 9.5% of nonprofits in the Colorado Springs MSA were arts, culture and humanities-related.

*NOTE: The number of arts employees and their wages is not included in this report because sources do not have a separate and distinct categorization for this industry.*

### 2015 - 2016 Academic Year School District Enrollment

School District	County	Pupil Enrollment	Per Pupil Funding
Edison 54 JT	El Paso	216	\$12,327
Hanover 28	El Paso	259	\$11,399
Miami-Yoder 60 JT	El Paso	291	\$10,554
Cripple Creek-Victor RE-1	Teller	357	\$9,485
Calhan RJ-1	El Paso	460	\$8,290
Peyton 23 JT	El Paso	664	\$8,027
Ellicott 22	El Paso	1,050	\$7,830
Harrison 2	El Paso	11,777	\$7,397
Manitou Springs 14	El Paso	1,492	\$7,395
Colorado Springs 11	El Paso	27,937	\$7,220
Falcon 49	El Paso	20,561	\$7,108
Woodland Park RE-2	Teller	2,498	\$7,006
Academy 20	El Paso	25,063	\$6,938
Cheyenne Mountain 12	El Paso	5,104	\$6,938
Fountain 8	El Paso	8,055	\$6,938
Lewis-Palmer 38	El Paso	6,343	\$6,938
Widefield 3	El Paso	9,435	\$6,938

Source: Colorado Department of Education

### School District Enrollment & Per Pupil Funding

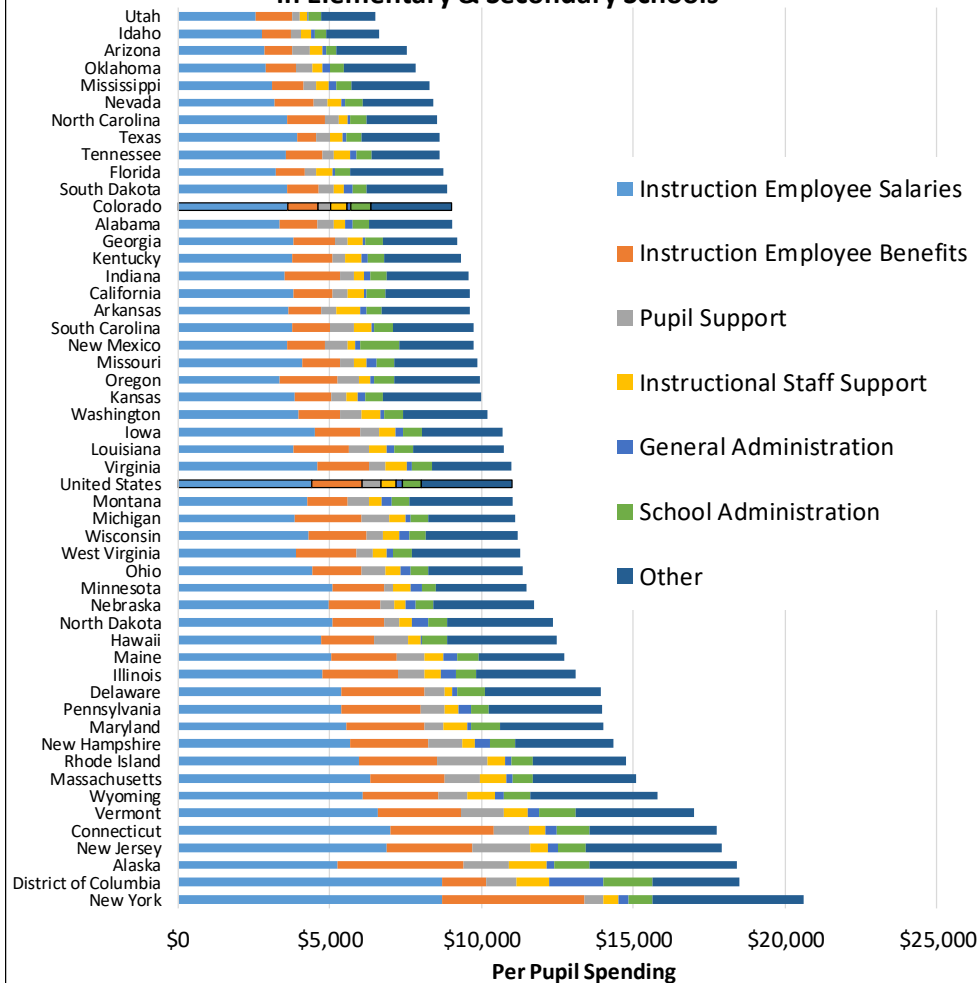
The Colorado Springs MSA includes 17 school districts (see table). Data in this section will include all 17 districts where available. Some districts have restricted data because of their small size. All K-12 district data is based on the fall enrollment count with the exception of special education students.

Per pupil funding encompasses all funds used to provide instruction.

More information is available at:

[cde.state.co.us/cdefine/generalinfo](http://cde.state.co.us/cdefine/generalinfo).

### FY 2014 Components of Education Spending in Elementary & Secondary Schools

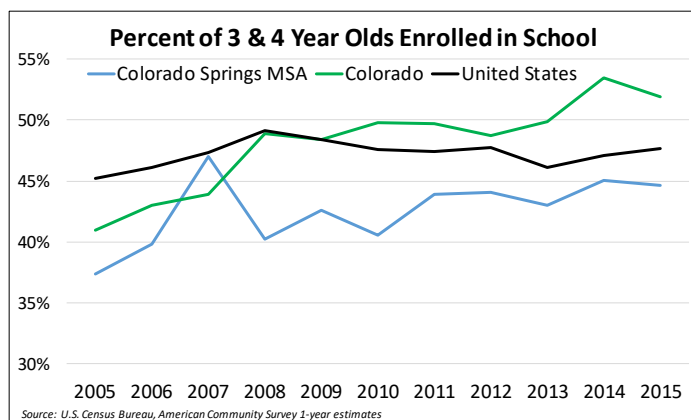


### Spending Per Pupil in Context

Generally, a little more than half of the educational spending in the United States is spent on employees related to direct instruction. Colorado and the United States are outlined on the graph. This data represents publicly funded schools and charter schools whose charters are held by governmental entities. They do not include adult education, community services and other expenditures outside of elementary and secondary programs.

*NOTE: Spending is not the same as funding which comes from state, local and federal revenue. Spending does not include capital outlays, and some states and their school districts categorize expenditures differently.*



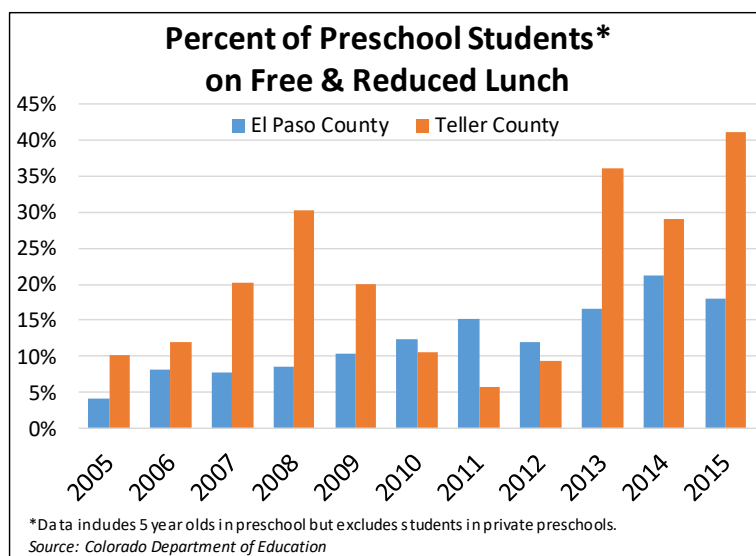


## Early Childhood Education

The earliest years of a child's development are critical for their success later in life, both in and out of school. Early experiences influence brain development in children and provide the foundation for language, problem solving, social skills, behavior and emotional health. Babies and toddlers need positive early learning experiences to cultivate social, emotional and intellectual development. This is especially true for at-risk families.

The Colorado Preschool Program (CPP) provides free, high-quality education and support services to at-risk 3 and 4 year old children to better prepare them for kindergarten and to help prevent future achievement gaps. To be eligible for the program, there must exist certain risk factors in a child's life, such as poverty, parental drug or alcohol abuse, homelessness or having a parent under the age of 18.

The Community Partnership for Child Development (CPCD) also offers assistance in their Head Start Program for children ages 3 to 5 who live in poverty or whose families are faced with challenging circumstances.

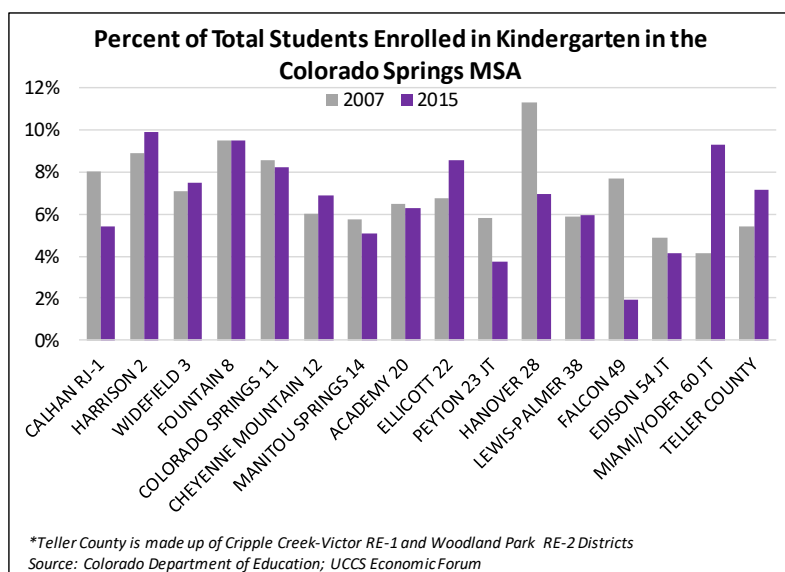


According to the 2016 Kids Count in Colorado report, between 2011 and 2013, for children in families below 200% of the federal poverty level, 38% were enrolled in a preschool program compared to 57% of children in moderate to upper-income families. While the number of children enrolled is going up, there is still a significant gap in the ability of lower-income children to access early childhood education.

## Kindergarten Enrollment

The state of Colorado does not require children to attend kindergarten in order to enter first grade, but they do require that their school districts offer some form of kindergarten schooling. The state only funds half-day kindergarten, and every district chooses how to fund full-day kindergarten, and if they will charge tuition, placing low-income families at a disadvantage. Studies have shown that children who have been introduced to the educational system prior to first grade have more successful outcomes in later years.

The graph includes both half-day and full-day kindergarteners from school districts in El Paso and Teller counties.

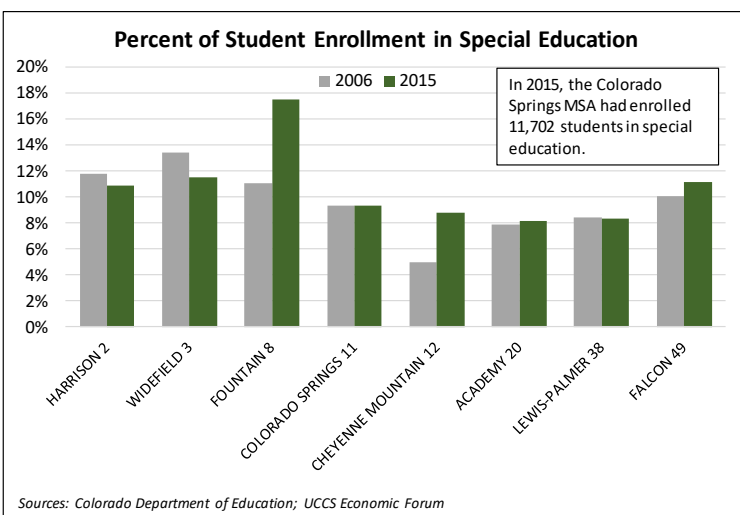
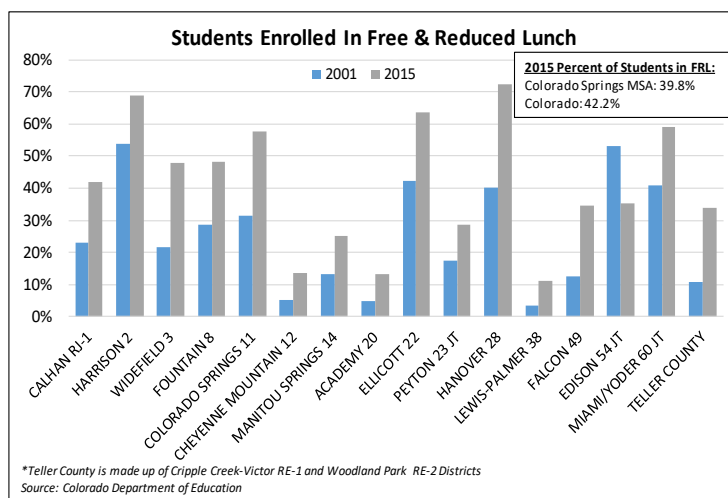


## Free & Reduced Lunch (FRL)

The National School Lunch Program provides free and reduced lunches to students who qualify (families with income at 185% of the federal poverty level or below). It operates in public and not-for-profit private schools to provide nutritionally balanced lunches, milk and after-school snacks to children every school day.

Offering free and reduced meal options to those children who qualify is a way that one financial burden can be alleviated. Over the past few years, even as the economy has improved, the number of children who enrolled in FRL has doubled in the Colorado Springs MSA. However, districts or specific schools can decide to offer FRL to all students since it can be easier to administer to an entire school. Hence, the percentage of children receiving FRL is not necessarily a proxy for gauging the income or poverty level of the student population.

The National School Lunch Program serves over 31 million children in over 100,000 schools nationwide. More than 11 million children are served with the National School Breakfast Program. For some of these children, these are the only healthy meals they have access to all day. (U.S. Department of Agriculture, [health.com/health/article/0,,20410518,00.html](http://health.com/health/article/0,,20410518,00.html))



## Special Education Enrollment

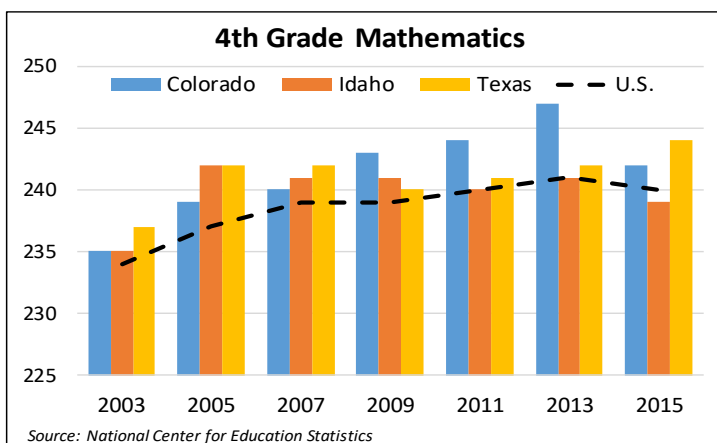
This chart depicts percent of overall student enrollment in special education based on December enrollment counts.

In 2015, over 11,700 students in the Colorado Springs MSA required specialized assistance and services based on a variety of disabilities. Ensuring that all students have access to the right education and accommodations to achieve their highest level of independence and success will allow them to more effectively contribute to the economic and social well-being of their own families and the broader community.

In 2015, approximately 9.9% of preschool through high school students in the Colorado Springs MSA were enrolled in special education, up from about 9.1% in 2006. This is still lower than the state enrollment of 10.5% of preschool through high school students enrolled in special education.

**NOTE:** Some schools did not release data due to low enrollment numbers and personal privacy.



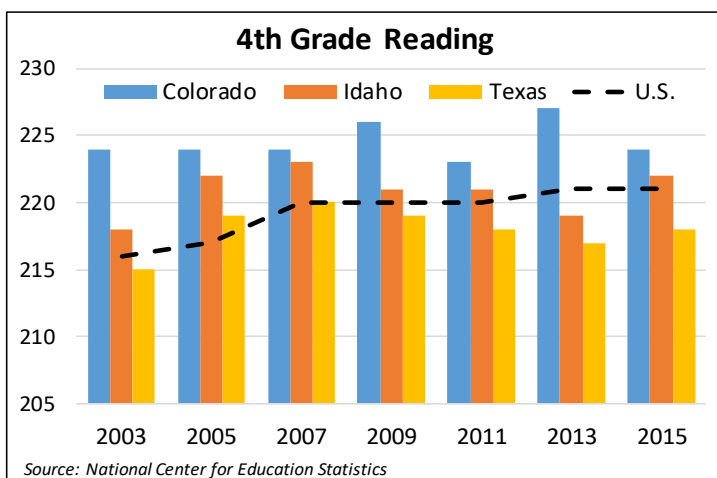


## 4th Grade State and National Test Scores

Representative samples of students in public schools in each state are tested using the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) to compile state scores. Students from both public and private schools are assessed to compile the national score. These tests allow us to compare students across the nation over time.

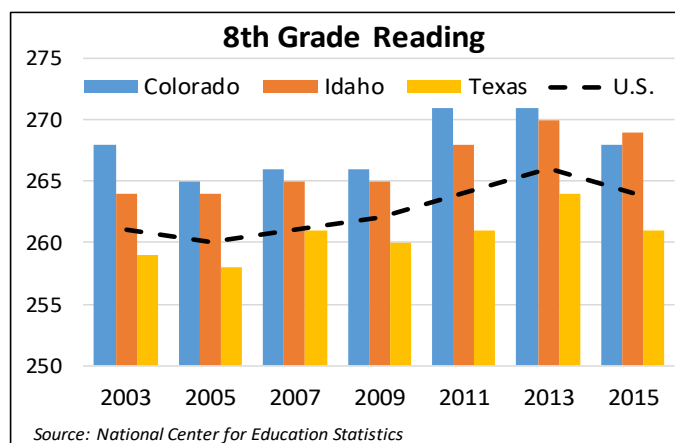
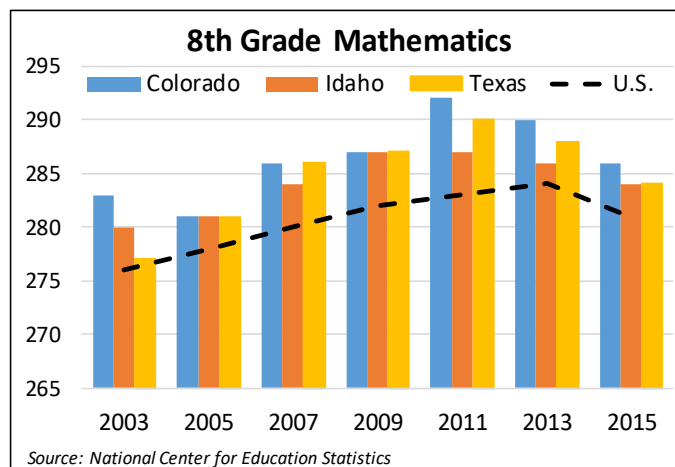
The dashed lines on the graphs show the national averages. Colorado 4th graders in public schools consistently score higher than students in public and private schools across the U.S. in both math and reading. When compared to two peer states, Idaho and Texas, Colorado scores higher in reading.

It is also important to note that for both math and reading, scores have fallen between 2013 and 2015 across Colorado public schools.

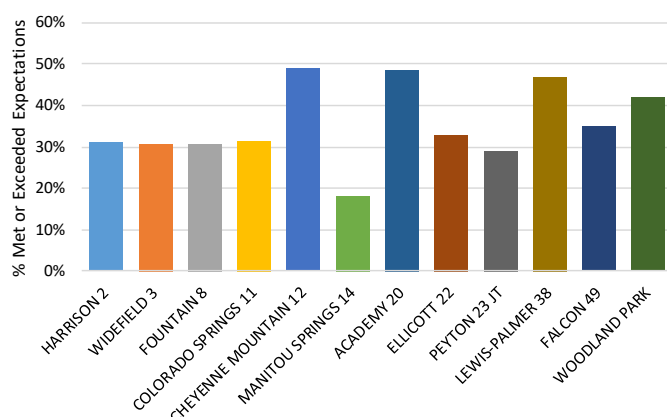


## 8th Grade State and National Test Scores

Colorado 8th graders in public schools also average consistently higher scores than the U.S. average of public and private school students. In 8th grade math skills, Colorado students outperform both Idaho and Texas. In 8th grade reading skills, Colorado students perform significantly better than Texas, but slightly worse than Idaho.





**2016 CMAS: 4th Grade Mathematics**

\* Calhan 4th grade math scores are not available.  
Source: Colorado Department of Education

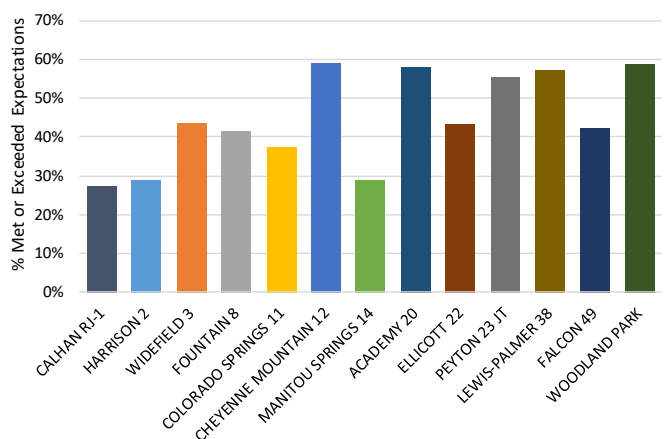
### 4th Grade Mathematics

During the 2014-15 school year, Colorado began administering the Colorado Measures of Academic Success (CMAS) in mathematics and language arts. These new computer-based assessments incorporate the Common Core State Standards. Because of these changes, a new baseline is being established so only the latest results from the 2015-16 school year are shown here for the school districts in the Colorado Springs MSA.

It is critical to remember that these tests are not the whole picture of what or how much students know and are learning in our schools.

### 4th Grade English Language Arts

Overall, 4th graders in the Colorado Springs MSA did better on English language arts than mathematics testing in the 2015-16 school year. Again, this is only the second year that the Colorado Measures of Academic Success (CMAS) has been used, and these results do not present the whole picture of student knowledge and learning.

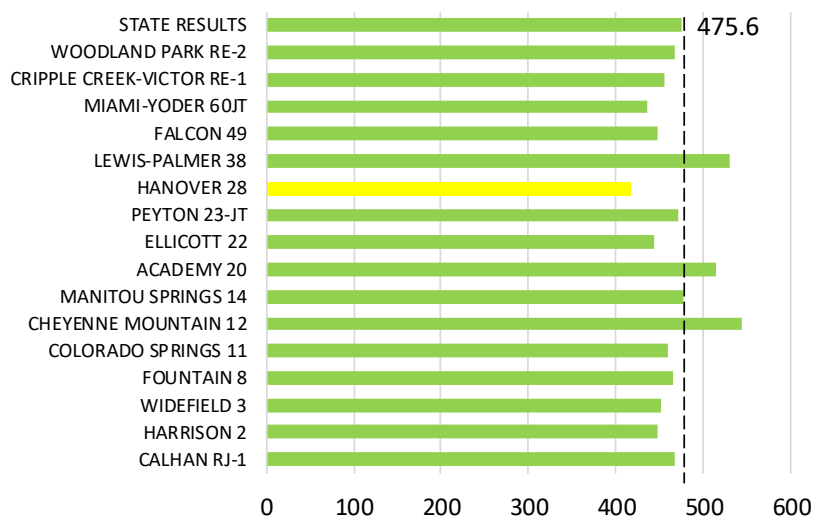
**2016 CMAS: 4th Grade English Language Arts**

Source: Colorado Department of Education





## 2016 PSAT: 10th Grade Reading and Writing



Source: Colorado Department of Education

### Graph Color Key

#### PSAT10 Reading and Writing Benchmarks

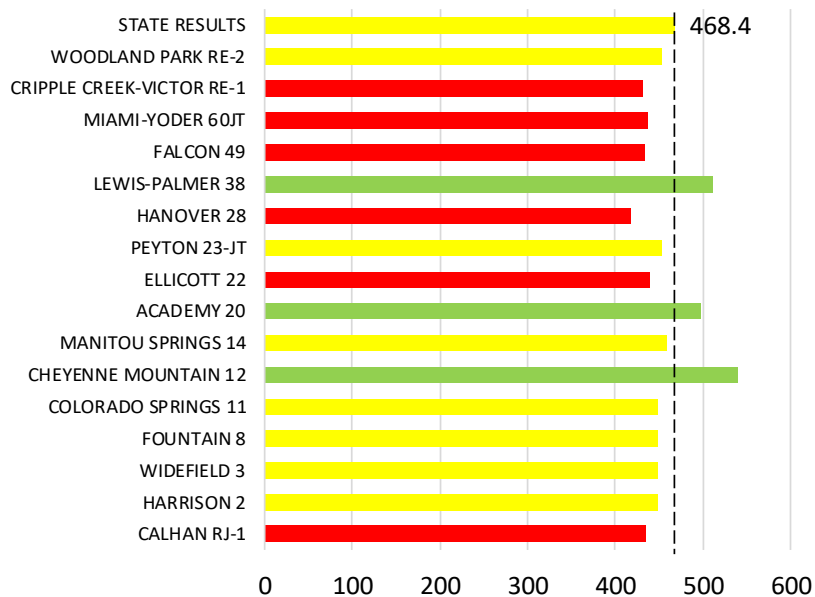
160-400	A year or more behind grade level
410-420	Approaching college/ career readiness
430-760	On track for college/ career readiness

### Graph Color Key

#### PSAT10 Mathematics Benchmarks

160-440	A year or more behind grade level
450-470	Approaching college/ career readiness
480-760	On track for college/ career readiness

## 2016 PSAT: 10th Grade Mathematics



Source: Colorado Department of Education

## 10th Grade PSAT Scores

Colorado is moving from taking the American College Test (ACT) to the SAT in 11th grade and began testing all students in 10th grade with the PSAT during the 2015-2016 school year. These tests measure the same skills in literacy and mathematics as the Colorado Measures of Academic Success (CMAS). Because 10th graders could be in different high school courses, the PSAT is a good way to assess the academic competency of this grade level.

The PSAT and SAT focus on the knowledge, skills, and comprehension that research has identified as most important for college and career readiness and success. The preliminary college and career readiness

benchmarks are designed to predict a 75% likelihood of achieving at least a C in a set of first-semester, credit-bearing college courses. The benchmarks are determined by observing how students grow from year to year and by adjusting for the average rate of progress.

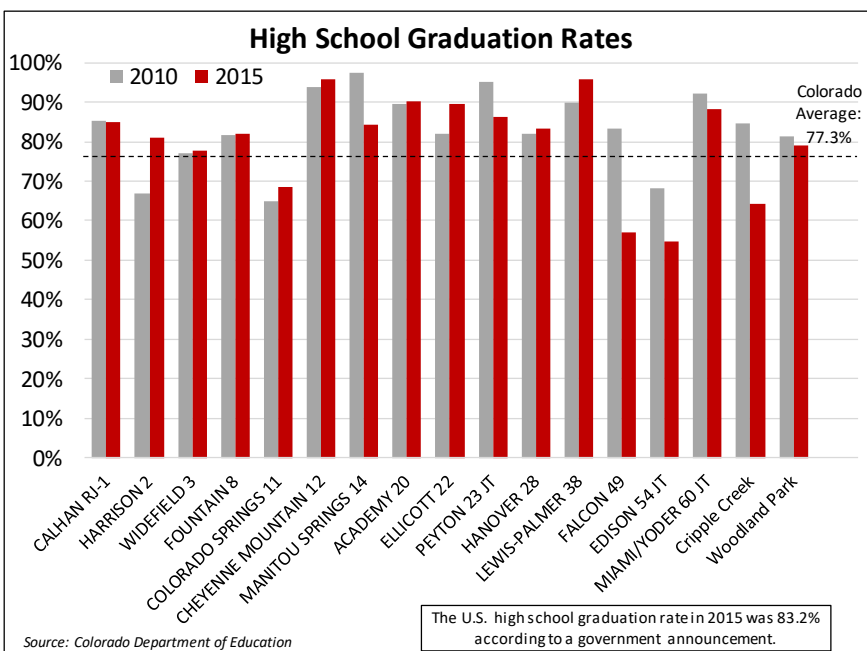
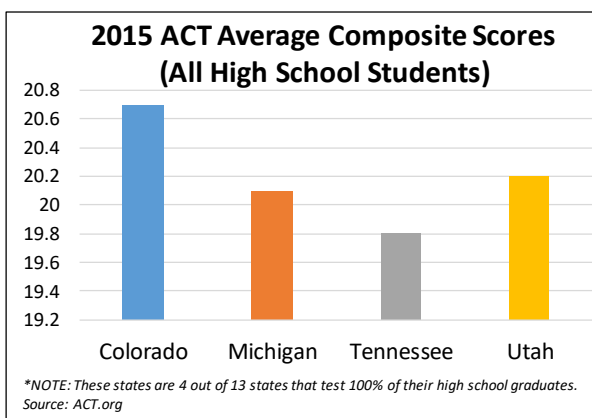
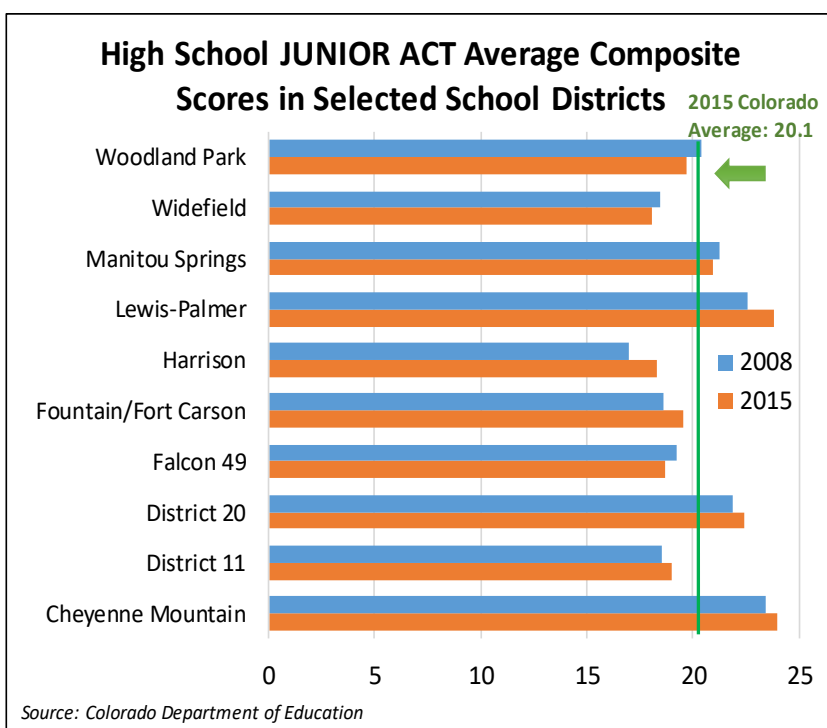
As seen in the graphs, 10th graders in the Colorado Springs MSA did better on reading and writing tests than they did in math. The first bar as well as the dashed line show the state averages. The Colorado Springs region is comparable to the state in terms of reading and writing ability as measured by the PSAT; however, our region is typically below the state average for math.

## American College Testing (ACT)

The American College Testing (ACT) is a comprehensive achievement test designed to predict how well high school graduates will do in their first year of college. A perfect score is 36 (not including the writing section).

The first graph shows average scores for the juniors (11th graders) who have been required to take the ACT in the 10 largest school districts in the Colorado Springs MSA, as well as the overall Colorado average for all juniors (20.1). Colorado creates a downward bias in ACT results by requiring all high school juniors to take the test, as indicated when comparing the required juniors' average score of 20.1 with the multi-grade score (20.7) shown in the second graph.

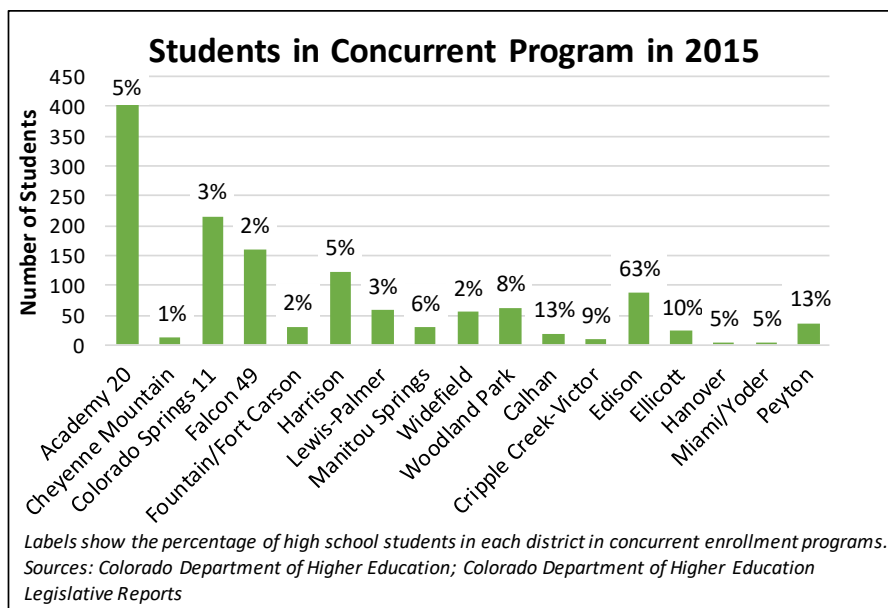
Of the 13 states that required all high school students to take the ACT in 2015, Colorado and Illinois had the highest average composite score for sophomores, juniors and seniors combined (20.7). The second graph compares Colorado to three other states around the country that also required all high school students to take the ACT in 2015.



## High School Graduation

In 2010, the formula for calculating high school graduation rates in Colorado was changed to include only those students who graduate in four years to align with calculations made in other states. From 2010 to 2015, 9 out of 17 school districts in the Colorado Springs MSA increased their graduation rates. For the districts that declined, part of the reason may be students in online programs who take longer than four years to graduate.

In 2015, 13 of the school districts had graduation rates that were higher than the state's graduation rate of 77.3%, represented by the dashed line.



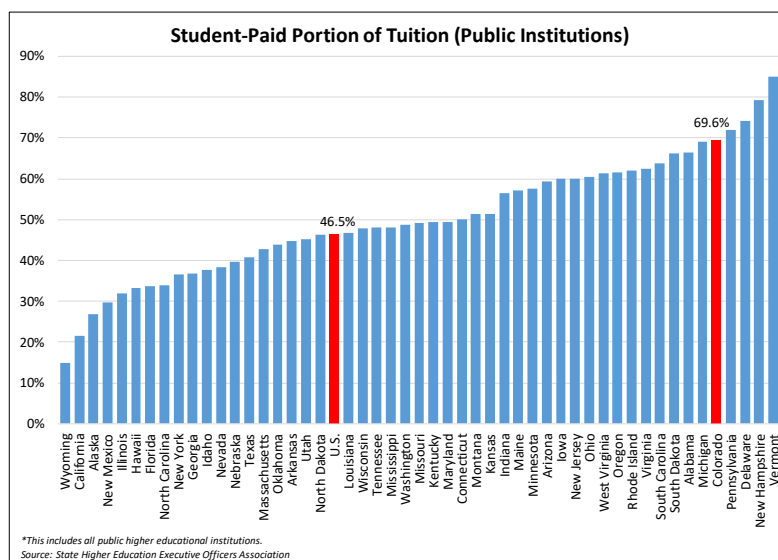
## Concurrent Enrollment

Concurrent or dual enrollment gives high school students the opportunity to earn postsecondary school credit by taking college or certificate program courses or course work related to an apprenticeship program or internship. Concurrent enrollment provides many benefits, including increased readiness for college coursework, reducing the time it takes to graduate with a postsecondary degree or certificate, reducing the cost of tuition, as well as taking away some of the early strain from adjusting to college expectations.

Participation in concurrent enrollment has seen sustained increases, with 23,127 students participating statewide and 1,337 students in the Colorado Springs MSA in the 2014-15 school year. 94% of districts and 84% of high schools in Colorado offer Concurrent Enrollment (CE) programs. Students passed 93% of their concurrent enrollment hours taken in 2014-15, up from 89% the previous year. More than 1,200 students in CE programs earned some type of postsecondary credential in 2014-15. More than half of the students who participated in Accelerating Students through Concurrent Enrollment (ASCENT) in 2014-15 were Hispanic, a minority group that is historically underrepresented in postsecondary education. CE programs have considerable diversity and closely resemble the composition of public high schools in Colorado, offering all minority groups a significant opportunity. Students in dual-enrollment programs had higher grade point averages and retention rates in college.

## Financial Support of Higher Education

For students wanting to pursue postsecondary education, funding continues to be a growing challenge. For publically-funded institutions, the bar chart to the right shows that U.S. students are paying, on average, almost half of the total costs of tuition. However, in the state of Colorado, students are paying about 70% of their total tuition costs. This has impacted many young individuals' decisions on whether to pursue higher education as seen by the stagnation in the percentage of graduating, male high school seniors who enter postsecondary education.



For more information, visit <http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2014/03/06/womens-college-enrollment-gains-leave-men-behind/>.

Seven out of 10 seniors who graduated from public and nonprofit colleges in 2015 had an average student loan debt of \$30,100.

Source: The Institute for College Access & Success

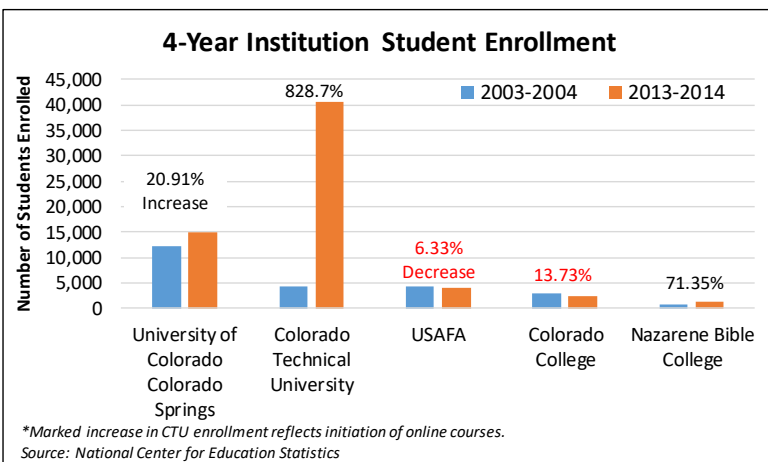
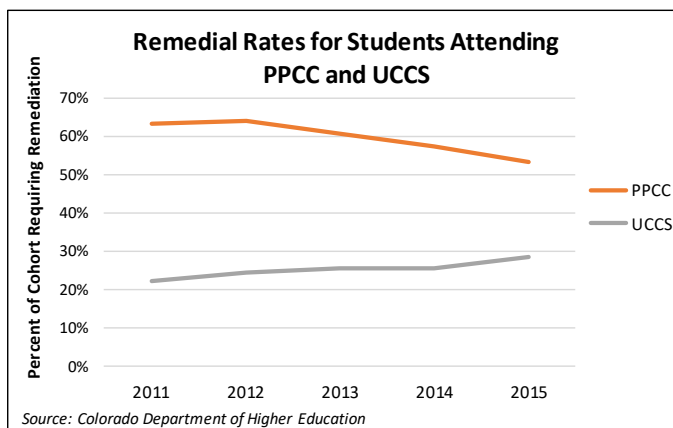
## College Remedial Rates Upon High School Graduation

The number of high school students who attend college immediately after high school has increased in the past 10 years, primarily due to an increase in women and minority students. However, many students have found themselves placed into remedial courses after placement testing. What this means is that many high school students are finding themselves academically unprepared for college coursework. This can be costly both in terms of time to graduation and total cost of college education.

### Colorado Highlights from Academic Year 2014-15:

- Overall in Colorado, the percentage of 2014 high school graduates placed into remediation in at least one subject was 35.4%, a slight increase from the previous year of 34.2%.
- Of the 22,853 high school graduates who matriculated to college in Colorado, 7,472 students were not college ready and required at least one remedial course.
- About 38.6% of college female students were not college ready compared to 31.7% of college matriculated males.
- At two-year institutions, 82% of Black, non-Hispanic students required developmental education. At four-year institutions, 52.5% Black, non-Hispanic students required developmental education.
- At two-year institutions, almost 70% of Hispanic students required developmental education. At four-year institutions, 39% of Hispanic students required developmental education.
- Of free and reduced lunch (FRL) participants, 53.4% were not college ready compared to 31.4% of non-FRL students who were not college ready.
- When examining remediation by subject, most students required remediation in mathematics.
- For the second year, remedial students had higher first year retention rates than non-remedial students at community colleges.
- At the four-year level, the retention rate for students not assigned to remediation was 76.7%, compared to 61.4% for those needing remediation.
- More than 62% of all remedial courses were completed successfully, an increase from the previous year.

Source: Colorado Department of Higher Education

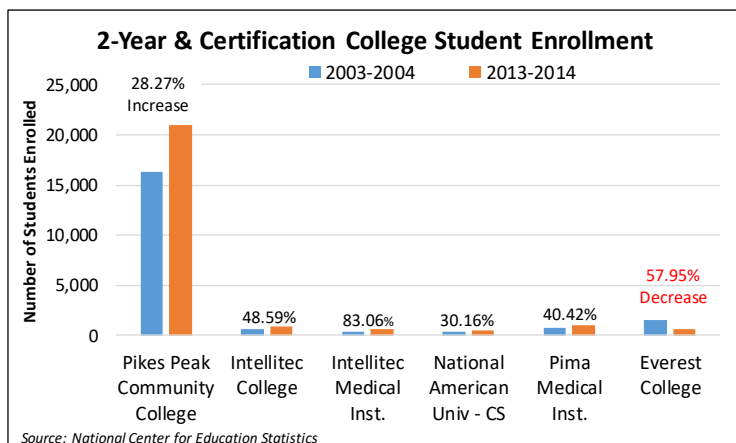


### 4-Year Institutions

Colorado Springs is home to seven four-year higher education institutes. They are University of Colorado Colorado Springs, Colorado Technical University with a strong online-course influence, the United States Air Force Academy (USAFA), Colorado College, Nazarene Bible College, University of Phoenix and Colorado Christian University.

*NOTE: University of Phoenix and Colorado Christian University did not have enrollment numbers available.*

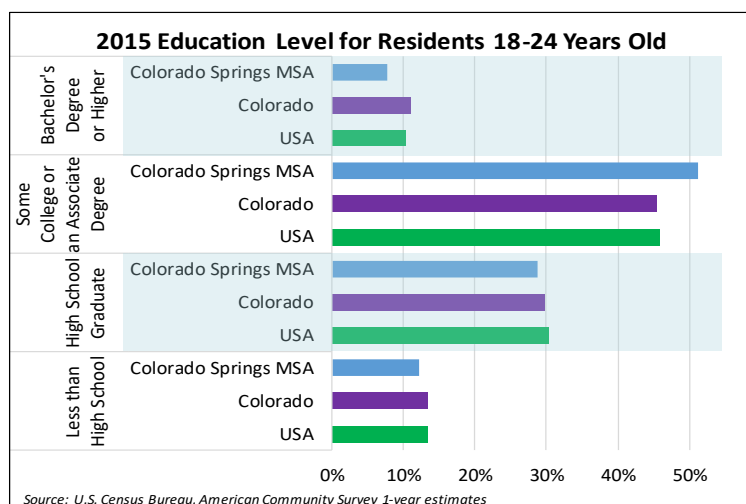




## 2-Year Institutions

Colorado Springs also offers many other options for higher education with 11 two-year higher education or job certification institutions. Pikes Peak Community College, Intellitec College, Intellitec Medical Institute, National American University—Colorado Springs, Pima Medical Institute, Everest College, CollegeAmerica, CollegeAmerica Colorado Springs South, Colorado Academy of Veterinary Technology, National American University Colorado Springs South and Remington College.

*NOTE: Enrollment data is unavailable for CollegeAmerica, CollegeAmerica Colorado Springs South, Colorado Academy of Veterinary Technology, National American University Colorado Springs South and Remington College.*



## Educational Attainment of Ages 18-24

Colorado Springs has a high proportion of its population with some college or an associate degree. In 2015, the Colorado Springs MSA had 51.3% of its 18-24 year old population with this attainment level, which is significantly higher than the state (45.6%) and the U.S. (45.8%).

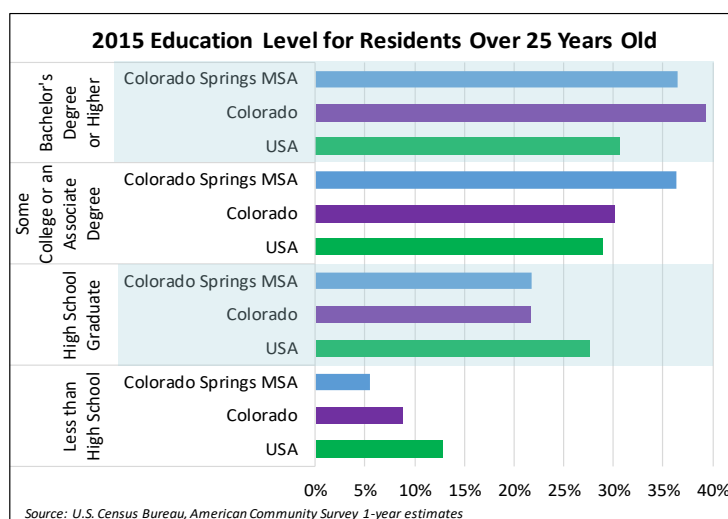
The Colorado Springs MSA offers a wide array of opportunities for higher education and certification programs, making it attractive to this age cohort while they are pursuing education.

## Educational Attainment of Ages 25+

According to some recent research, Colorado Springs is the fifth most educated city in the U.S. For ages 25 and up in 2015, the Colorado Springs MSA had 36.5% of its population attaining a bachelor's degree or higher, which is a little below the state (39.3%) but significantly higher than the U.S. (30.6%).

The higher educational attainment of a region's populace is important because well-trained individuals are necessary for business growth and therefore, overall economic growth. Seventy-four percent of jobs in the state will require some form of postsecondary education in 2020. This puts Colorado third in the nation in terms of postsecondary educational requirements.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, in 2015 Colorado was second in the nation only to Massachusetts in terms of attainment of higher education (a Bachelor's degree or above).



For more information on collaborative higher-education efforts between state agencies, go to [colorado.gov/pacific/sites/default/files/9-30-16%20Talent%20Pipeline%20Report.pdf](http://colorado.gov/pacific/sites/default/files/9-30-16%20Talent%20Pipeline%20Report.pdf).

## The Digital Divide

The first chart shows the percent of households that own a home computer in various MSAs, as well as the state of Colorado and the U.S. as a whole.

The second chart shows the percent of households that do not have home internet access of any kind.

Colorado Springs has a higher percentage of households with a home computer and a lower percentage of households without home internet access than either the state of Colorado or the U.S. as a whole.

As school assignments and applications for higher education and jobs move more and more online, those who cannot easily access online options are at a disadvantage. More online learning options are becoming available, but these also require access and understanding of digital resources.

Libraries are a great resource for those who do not have home computers and internet. They also have the added benefit of librarians who can help residents become aware of and access the many online tools available.

The Universal Service Administrative Co. (USAC) has a federally funded Lifeline Program to help eligible families obtain voice connectivity services. This benefit can lower or eliminate one monthly phone (home or wireless) or internet bill per household. **To learn more about this program, visit [usac.org/li/default.aspx](https://usac.org/li/default.aspx).**

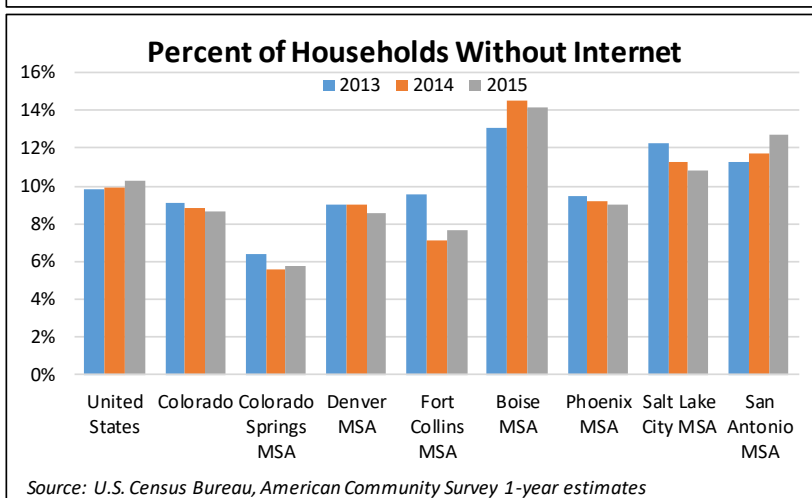
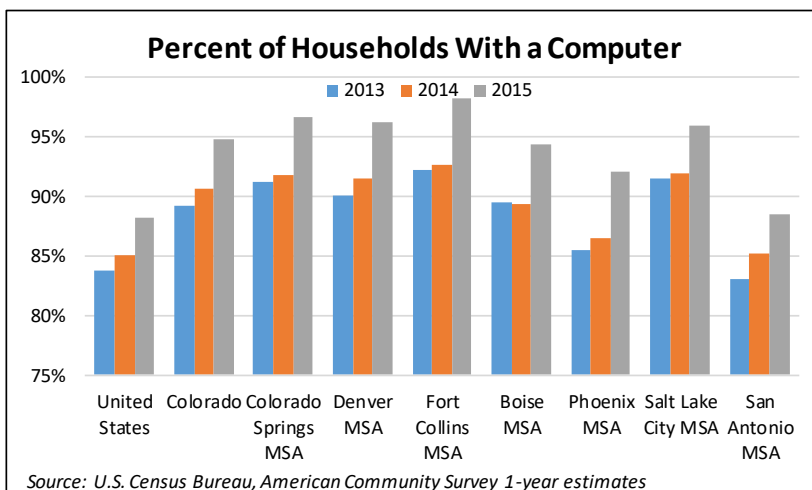
## Library Support

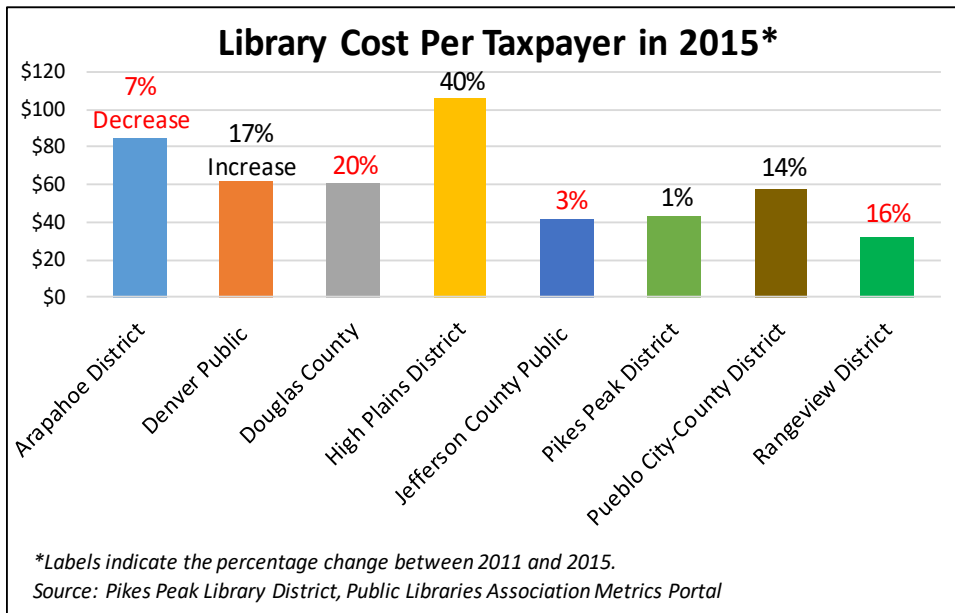
More than just a source of books and movies, libraries provide all kinds of resources for the community to utilize, including internet access; study rooms; free local classes in languages, home skills and academics; and social gathering locations for young and old alike.

The Pikes Peak Library District offers an array of services for the Colorado Springs MSA population, but those services are not necessarily free.

Between 2011 and 2015, Colorado Springs saw a 14% increase in the cost of materials and a 7% increase in population. At the same time, Greeley, Colorado saw the most significant change in the cost of materials (up 32%) and only an 8% increase in population.

The Pikes Peak Library District (PPLD) consists of 14 branches, mobile library services, and a self-serve kiosk to provide resources, programming, and outreach services to a legal service area (LSA) population of 616,089 people in 2015. Over the past five years (2011-2015), PPLD's cost per taxpayer has remained stagnant at \$43.07 per taxpayer in 2011 to \$43.68 per taxpayer in 2015, amounting to a 1% increase.





During this same time frame, the total expenditures for library materials has increased 14%, from \$3,811,247 in 2011 to \$4,424,935 in 2015.

Currently, the Library Express self-serve kiosk is the only point of PPLD service in the Powers/Constitution area, requiring constituents to travel over five miles to receive full services. If the population continues to increase and the cost per taxpayer remains the same, expansion in the Powers/Constitution area will be difficult.

According to the 2015 Public Library Data Services: Characteristics and Trends, the annual survey published by the Public Library Data Services, libraries with LSA populations over 500,000 saw an increase in population and total expenditures for library materials in 2014. In Colorado, the comparable libraries all experienced an increase in population and only one, Jefferson County Public Library, experienced a decrease in the total expenditures for library materials. Denver Public Library, High Plains Library District, and Pueblo City-County Library District all received a significant increase in the cost per taxpayer of over \$10 per taxpayer, and High Plains Library District experienced the most significant increase of \$43.43 per taxpayer.

**NOTE:** Information for this report was pulled from the Public Libraries Association Metrics Portal, which Pikes Peak Library District subscribes to. Additional reports can be obtained by contacting PPLD directly.

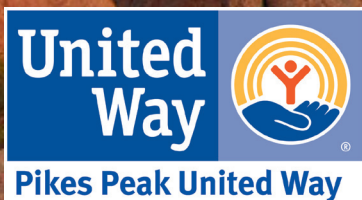




2016 | 2017

# QUALITY OF LIFE INDICATORS

**THANK YOU TO THE 2017 QUALITY OF LIFE INDICATORS STEERING COMMITTEE**



**UCCS**  
Economic Forum  
COLLEGE OF BUSINESS  
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO  
COLORADO SPRINGS

**For more information on Pikes Peak United Way, please contact:**

**Pikes Peak United Way  
518 North Nevada Avenue  
Colorado Springs, CO 80903  
719.632.1543**

**VIEW THE FULL REPORT AT [PPUNITEDWAY.ORG](http://PPUNITEDWAY.ORG)**