Quality of Life Indicators for the Pikes Peak Region:
Child and Family

University of Colorado School of Medicine, Colorado Springs Branch
http://www.ppunitedway.org

Household

Household Composition

Households in the MSA reflect differences in family composition, and recognizing these differences helps us understand how to support the well-being of residents.

The highest percentage of households in the MSA are married couples with children under the age of 18. Single living alone and singles with children also make up significant percentages of the population. (Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019 American Community Survey)

Child and Family

Child Abuse and Neglect

Child Abuse in El Paso County

Real Calls

The first chart shows the number of child abuse and neglect referrals received by the El Paso County Department of Human Services. A child abuse referral is any report taken regarding child maltreatment and includes reports of abuse or neglect by who are beyond the control of their parents or a danger to the community.

The second chart shows number of fatalities due to child abuse or neglect. Deaths are from abuse and neglect from 2004 to 2017. In 2018, the number of deaths due to child abuse and neglect was 1.

Child Fatalities Due to Abuse or Neglect

Child Care

Child Care Accreditation

How are we doing?
The chart shows a decrease in available child care, even while the area’s under-5 population grew by 13,941 from 2008-2011. This may be due to changes in the administration of the federal Child Care Assistance Program, as well as a growing need for flexible hour child care, lessening employment, and an inability to pay for child care.

For more information on unmet need, see page 47.

Child Care Number of Child Care Providers

Out-of-Home Placements

Out-of-Home Placements

The second chart compares the number of households in which grandparents identify themselves as raising their grandchildren in three MSA’s: Colorado Springs, Denver, and Ft. Collins. These may include three-generation households (those that include grandparents, parents and grandchildren) and blended generation households (those that include grandparents and grandchildren only).

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren

For more information on poverty’s impact on children, see page 58.

Child Poverty

Poverty by Age Group

Poverty rates for children have fluctuated over the years, but remain consistently below the national average. In 2018, the poverty rate for children under 18 in Colorado Springs was 11.6 percent, compared to the national rate of 12.9 percent. (Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019 American Community Survey)

Child Poverty Rate

Department of Human Services

Out-of-Home Placements

Out-of-Home Placements

The first chart shows the number of children in out-of-home placement in El Paso County, and is referred to as foster care.

Why is this important?
The number of children in foster care has been steadily declining over the past several years. In 2018, the number of children in foster care was 1,300, down from 1,500 in 2011.

How are we doing?
The number of children in out-of-home placements has been steadily declining over the past several years. In 2018, the number of children in out-of-home placements was 1,300, down from 1,500 in 2011.
Quality of Life Indicators for the Pikes Peak Region: Colorado Springs MSA Demographics

University of Colorado School of Medicine, Colorado Springs Branch

http://www.ppunitedway.org

Location and Transportation

Residential Density

Population

Colorado Springs MSA Population

Population demographics

Population growth at all levels has a significant impact on our quality of life. Planning for growth or lack of growth is critical as we adjust to changing times and economic factors.

With more than 660,000 people in our region, our MSA remains the fastest growing in the state, up 22 percent from 1990 to 2010. Population growth is higher than any of our comparison MSAs, or the nation, whose population increased over this same period by less than 10 percent. Births have grown modestly but consistently, outnumbering deaths, and net migration continues to be positive (more people move here than move away). The greatest growth in South El Paso and Teller counties has occurred outside of incorporated cities and towns.

Colorado Springs MSA Population by Age

In 2022, the age of our population is evenly distributed. The interesting point is illustrated in the graph below, which shows how we got to where we are today and how we are trending toward the future.

Colorado Springs MSA Change in Age Composition of Population

Diversity

Colorado Springs MSA Population by Ethnicity

Selected non-racial demographics of current population

Population diversity has evolved over the years to meet more than merely race and ethnicity. Diversity means differences and similarities including social class, religion, gender and sexuality, age, immigration status, values, lifestyles, backgrounds, preferences and behaviors. There are hundreds of variations in individuals that demonstrate the array of people within a community. This chart shows some of the area’s diverse characteristics.

Importance of Acceptance of Differences

Our population is getting older, just as it is in Colorado and the United States. In 2002, 12 percent of our population was 60 years or older. In 2013, 16 percent of our population was 60 or older. Young workers, categorized as 20 to 44 years old, have declined from 31 percent of the region’s population in 2000 to about 37 percent. The percent of school-aged children has also decreased.

The first chart shows responses to the Community and QL Survey question, "How important do you believe it is to have a community that is accepting of differences in race, ethnicity, religious preference and gender orientation?" In 2011, 77 percent of residents surveyed responded that community acceptance of diversity is very important, between 2 percent and 13 percent responded that it was somewhat important, and less than 5 percent responded that it was not very important or they didn’t know.

Why is this important? A diverse community not only allows for a more interesting population and enticing environment in which to live but also creates a stimulating environment where community benefit can exist in numerous ways. For example, diversity creates a competitive marketplace. Florida’s diversity promotes economic growth, technology and innovation as a “creative class” which collaborates generates new ideas and technologies that stimulate growth and development.

Effect of Change in Race and Ethnicity

With the increase in the population of the Hispanic/Latino community, it has become more important to understand the importance of acceptance of differences and diversity.


diversity development
Quality of Life Indicators for the Pikes Peak Region:

Health Statistics

University of Colorado School of Medicine, Colorado Springs Branch

http://www.ppunitedway.org

Life and Death

This chart shows the life expectancy by sex and race for the Pikes Peak Region, as well as the United States. Life expectancy is a key indicator of overall health and well-being. In 2015, the life expectancy for females was 81.8 years, and for males, it was 75.7 years. The difference between the two is 6.1 years, which is a significant gap. The life expectancy for females is higher than that of males, indicating a longer average lifespan for women.

Access and Disability

This chart shows the number of primary care providers per 1,000 people in the Pikes Peak region, as well as the United States. The chart indicates that the number of primary care providers is higher in the United States than in the Pikes Peak region. The data suggests that there may be a need for more primary care providers in the Pikes Peak region to meet the healthcare needs of the population.

Suicide and Mental Health

The first chart compares the average 2007-2015 suicide rates per 100,000 people for the Colorado Springs MSA, Denver-Aurora MSA, Colorado, and the United States. The rate in the Colorado Springs MSA is slightly lower than the state rate and lower than the national rate. The second chart compares the suicide rates for specific age groups. The rates are highest among those aged 15-19, with 10.5 suicides per 100,000 people. The rates are lowest among those aged 65-74.

Life expectancy by sex and race:
Quality of Life Indicators for the Pikes Peak Region: Poverty, Housing, Food, and Human Services

University of Colorado School of Medicine, Colorado Springs Branch

1 http://www.ppunitedway.org

Poverty

Poverty by Age Group

- The pink chart shows the total number of people in poverty by age in the Pikes Peak Region from 2000 to 2013. The data is derived from the U.S. Census Bureau and represents the number of people living below the poverty line.

- Why is this important?
- Poverty has a significant impact on health outcomes. Children living in poverty are at risk of poor health, developmental delays, and educational challenges.

Human Services

- United Way 2-1-1 Information and Referral Statistics

- The second chart shows the top five needs reported by individuals calling 2-1-1 in the Pikes Peak Region.

Food Assistance

- Food Stamps/Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

- The chart shows the average monthly number of participants in the Food Stamps program in the Pikes Peak Region.

Housing

- Housing Cost Burden

- The chart shows the percentage of households in the Pikes Peak Region that are spending more than 30% of their income on housing.

- Affordable Housing Waitlist

- The table shows the number of people enrolled in the Affordable Housing program from 2012 to 2013.

- Golden Circle and Meals on Wheels Seniors Program

- The chart shows the number of senior meals served by the Golden Circle program in the Pikes Peak Region.