

Community Partnership for Child  
Development  
Head Start Community Assessment

2022

# Executive Summary

Every five years, Community Partnership for Child Development (CPCD) completes a comprehensive assessment of its community demographics and resources to determine appropriate service models for young children and their families. Each interim year, CPCD updates the community assessment with new data and community trends. This information, along with the agency self-assessment and agency report card guides CPCD's program planning to ensure that the organization is meeting community needs.

This document is an updated version of the 2020 Community Assessment. It includes new demographic and economic data as well as input from community partners and CPCD staff. CPCD uses data from the US Census Bureau's 2021 one-year (1-year) American Community Survey (ACS) and the US Census Bureau's 2020 five-year (5-year) American Community Survey (ACS) as well as data from the 2021-2022 Program Information Report (PIR) in this assessment.

Because of the pandemic, data from the 2020 1-year ACS and the 2019-2020 PIR is limited and some tables and charts are missing this data. According to the Census Bureau, 21% fewer households than usual responded to the 2020 ACS survey and those that did respond were more likely to have higher incomes and higher levels of education. Therefore, the 2020 1-year ACS data was considered "experimental" and was not available below the state level. Because of these limitations, the 2020 1-year ACS data is not included in this assessment, but 2020 5-year ACS data is available. The Office of Head Start eliminated the PIR requirement for the 2019-2020 school year due to the pandemic, so, in some sections of this assessment, data is available in 2018-2019 and then again in 2020-2021. The Office of Head Start modified the PIR in 2020-2021, and in some of the health-related sections, the current data is not directly comparable to past data. These changes are noted in the sections where they apply.

## Overview of CPCD's Services

Community Partnership for Child Development (CPCD) operates Head Start and Early Head Start programs serving primarily low income children and families in El Paso County, Colorado. Head Start and Early Head Start are federally funded early childhood education programs. CPCD operates 28 Head Start/Early Head Start centers in Colorado Springs, Colorado as well as in surrounding communities including Fountain, Falcon and on the Fort Carson Army Installation. These centers provide a variety of services in addition to early childhood education including: medical, dental, and behavioral health services for children; therapy for children with special needs; nutritious snacks and meals for children; nutrition education for children and families; and extensive family services, including home visits and career-skills training. During the 2022-2023 school year, the programs are funded to serve 848 Head Start children and 207 Early Head Start children. CPCD also provides Colorado Preschool Program (CPP) services through contracts with 6 school districts in the county serving about 350 unique children (CPCD combines some slots with HS to offer extended day classrooms).

## Head Start Capacity & the Eligible Population

The capacity to serve Head Start eligible children in CPCD's service area includes CPCD's Head Start program as well as the Colorado Preschool Program (CPP), which is provided through local school districts as well as through CPCD. Because CPP eligibility requirements differ from Head Start's requirements, an estimate of the capacity for services includes some assumptions. CPP provides services primarily to 4 year olds up to 185% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). For 3 year olds it requires other eligibility factors to be present such as abuse, homelessness, or foster care placement. As a result, only about a quarter of CPP enrollment is comprised of 3 year olds. Head Start provides services to 3 and 4 year olds based on the presence of any one eligibility factor which includes family income at or below 100% of FPL. At current funding levels, Head Start in El Paso County has the capacity to serve 38% of the estimated 2,430 Head Start eligible children in the county. Since all 4 year olds and many 3 year olds at or below FPL are also eligible for CPP, it is helpful to look at the county's capacity to serve all CPP eligible children across both Head Start and CPP. The county has an estimated 6,767 CPP eligible 3 and 4 year olds, with 2,601 funded CPP slots available to serve those children. If CPP and Head Start slots are combined, the county has capacity to serve about 52% of eligible CPP children.

## Early Head Start Capacity and Need for Child Care

Early Head Start (EHS) serves primarily low income infants, toddlers and pregnant mothers. Funding levels for Early Head Start programs are typically much lower when compared to Head Start. An estimated 3,646 children are eligible for Early Head Start in El Paso County. CPCD operates the only Early Head Start program in the service area; and, during 2021-2022 was funded to serve 199 infants, toddlers and pregnant mothers. This represents a capacity to serve only 5.5% of the eligible EHS population. This data suggests a significant shortage of child care options for low income families with infants and toddlers. Although child care subsidies are available through the Colorado Child Care Assistance Program (CCCAP), the overall funding level for EHS is drastically lower than average when compared to funding for CPP and Head Start. Focus group sessions with families and community partners during the 2020 assessment confirmed this shortfall and identified a lack of affordable, quality child care in El Paso County as the number one acute issue facing families in the region. A number of parents expressed that child care costs for infants and toddlers are too high, even with CCCAP subsidies and that the locations and times when care is available do not always match with work schedules.

## Shortage of Teaching Staff

A significant barrier to meeting the need for early care and education in El Paso County is a shortage in teaching staff and related high turnover and low wages among early childhood education staff. CPCD experiences annual turnover of about 25% of its teaching staff each year. CPCD raised its wages last summer to a base of at least \$16.16 per hour for teacher assistants. These higher wages initially helped to attract new teaching staff, but CPCD continues to see workforce turnover and shortages. Also, despite a spike in unemployment at the beginning of the pandemic, unemployment has been low. El Paso County unemployment was 5.6% in 2021. With such low unemployment, the region sees high

competition for staff. A survey in December 2021 by the Early Childhood Education Association of Colorado included a number of concerns about finding and keeping child care staff. Some cited that child care agencies do not have the funds to pay staff and others mentioned staff leaving for more flexible or better paying positions with large national retail chains. CPCD has seen staff leaving for similar reasons.

## Housing, Transportation and Cost of Living

Results of the Community Assessment Focus Group sessions in 2020 and more recent data found that affordable child care, affordable housing, transportation and employment were the most acute needs experienced by low income families in El Paso County. These issues represent the structural needs of families living in poverty. Child care is needed for families to find work, and housing represents one of the biggest costs faced by low income families. When combined, rent and child care alone can cost more than \$33,000 per year for a family of 4. The 2022 federal poverty level for a family of 4 is \$27,750 per year. Even for a family making 200% of the federal poverty level (\$55,500), the cost of living in El Paso County is out of reach. It is estimated that a family of 4 would have to make \$95,345 per year to be self-sufficient in El Paso County, paying for all costs of living including child care without the need for state or federal subsidies. This amount is more than three times the federal poverty level, and represents an income level that is out of reach for many families, and is certainly out of reach for the low income families that CPCD serves.

## Strengths: Health Care Accessibility, Quality of Life

During focus group sessions in 2020, staff and families overwhelmingly expressed that the quality of life in El Paso County is very high, with outdoor recreation opportunities as well as a friendly community. The county borders the Colorado Rockies and Mueller State Park. Garden of the Gods, a National Natural Landmark, is within Colorado Springs. A number of other city parks in the area provide hiking, biking and other outdoor recreation opportunities.

Community Assessment focus groups identified hospitals and healthcare centers as the 3rd most cited strength among focus group participants. Head Start data confirms this, with over 80% of Head Start and Early Head Start children having access to health care (this percentage has been higher in the past and CPCD expects it to increase. Additional details are included in the Health Care Accessibility section). About 80% of children in Head Start and Early Head Start receive health care services through Medicaid, primarily through Peak Vista, the region's community health center. Many of the remaining children in the program are covered by Tricare, the US Department of Defense's health care program which is available to military personnel and their families. About 11% of EHS children and 12% of Head Start children in CPCD have a parent who is an active duty member of the military. The presence of five military bases in the region brings a large number of young families to El Paso County as well as a high level of military services. Health staff, community partners and parents report many safety net health care services which ensure that children and families receive the services they need.

# Table of Contents

<b>Executive Summary</b>	2
Overview of CPCD's Services	2
Head Start Capacity & the Eligible Population	3
Early Head Start Capacity and Need for Child Care	3
Shortage of Teaching Staff	3
Housing, Transportation and Cost of Living	4
Strengths: Health care accessibility, Quality of life	4
<b>Table of Contents</b>	5
<b>Methodology</b>	7
<b>Map &amp; Service Area</b>	8
Location of El Paso County within Colorado	8
El Paso County - Distribution of Head Start Eligible Children and Center Locations	9
<b>Service Area Data</b>	10
Estimating the Eligible Population	10
Head Start Compared to Colorado Preschool Program (CPP)	10
Estimated Number of Head Start Eligible Children	11
Estimated Number of Colorado Preschool Program Eligible Children	12
Estimated Number of Early Head Start Children	13
Poverty Rate	15
Foster Children	16
Percentage of Enrollment that was Foster Children	17
Homelessness	18
Disabilities and Special Needs	20
Population Estimates	24
Child care cost and Self Sufficiency	24
Birth Rates	25
Racial and Ethnic Characteristics	26
Language Spoken	28
Educational Attainment	30
Other Economic Data	31
Median Family Income	31
Unemployment Rate	32
Employment and Industry Sectors	33
Housing	35
Transportation	36

Food Insecurity	37
Health	38
Infant Mortality	39
Health Care Accessibility	40
Diagnosed Health Issues	40
Asthma	41
Body Weight	41
Mental Health	42
Typical Schedule of Families	43
Focus Group Results	44
Community Needs	44
Strengths	45
Barriers to Receiving Services	46

# Methodology

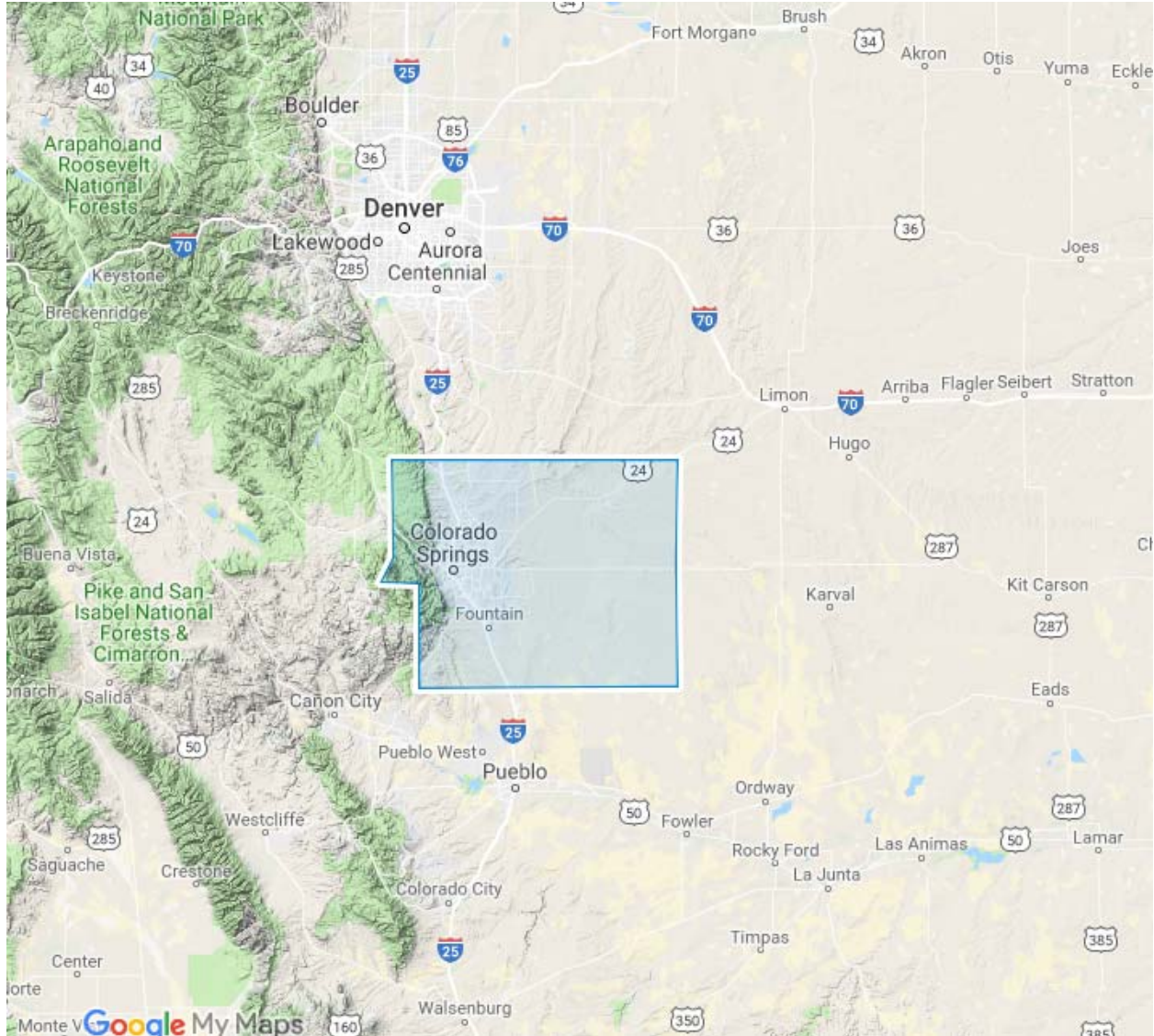
In the last two months of 2022, CPCD updated its 2020 Community Assessment with new data.

Data sources used include:

- US Census
  - 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021: ACS 1-Year or 5-year Estimates Subject Tables
    - S1701 Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months
    - S1702 Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months of Families
    - S1901 Income in the Past 12 Months
    - B17001A - I Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months By Sex By Age By Race
    - S0101 Age and Sex
    - S1601 Language Spoken at Home
    - S1501 Educational Attainment
    - S1903 Median Income in the Past 12 Months
    - S2403 Industry by Sex for the Civilian Employed Population 16 Years and Over
    - B25058 Median Contract Rent
- Colorado Department of Education
  - Pupil Membership Data: <https://www.cde.state.co.us/cdereval/pupilcurrent>
  - Special Education Data: [http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped/sped\\_data](http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped/sped_data)
  - Homeless Education Data: [https://www.cde.state.co.us/studentsupport/homeless\\_data](https://www.cde.state.co.us/studentsupport/homeless_data)
- Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment:
  - Vital Statistics Program: <https://cdphe.colorado.gov/center-for-health-and-environmental-data/registries-and-vital-statistics/vital-statistics-program>
- El Paso County Department of Human Services Information Request
- U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics
- Colorado Office of Early Childhood and Child Care Aware Fact Sheet
- Head Start Enterprise System data:
  - Aggregated Program Information Reports:
    - Head Start and Early Head Start
    - State Level Head Start and Early Head Start
    - National Level Head Start and Early Head Start
- Head Start/Early Head Start parent survey/focus group (2019-2020)
- Colorado Early Childhood Workforce Survey 2017
- Kids County 2021 County Data Fact Sheet
- 2021 Kids Count in Colorado
- Pikes Peak United Way Quality of Life Indicators

# Map & Service Area

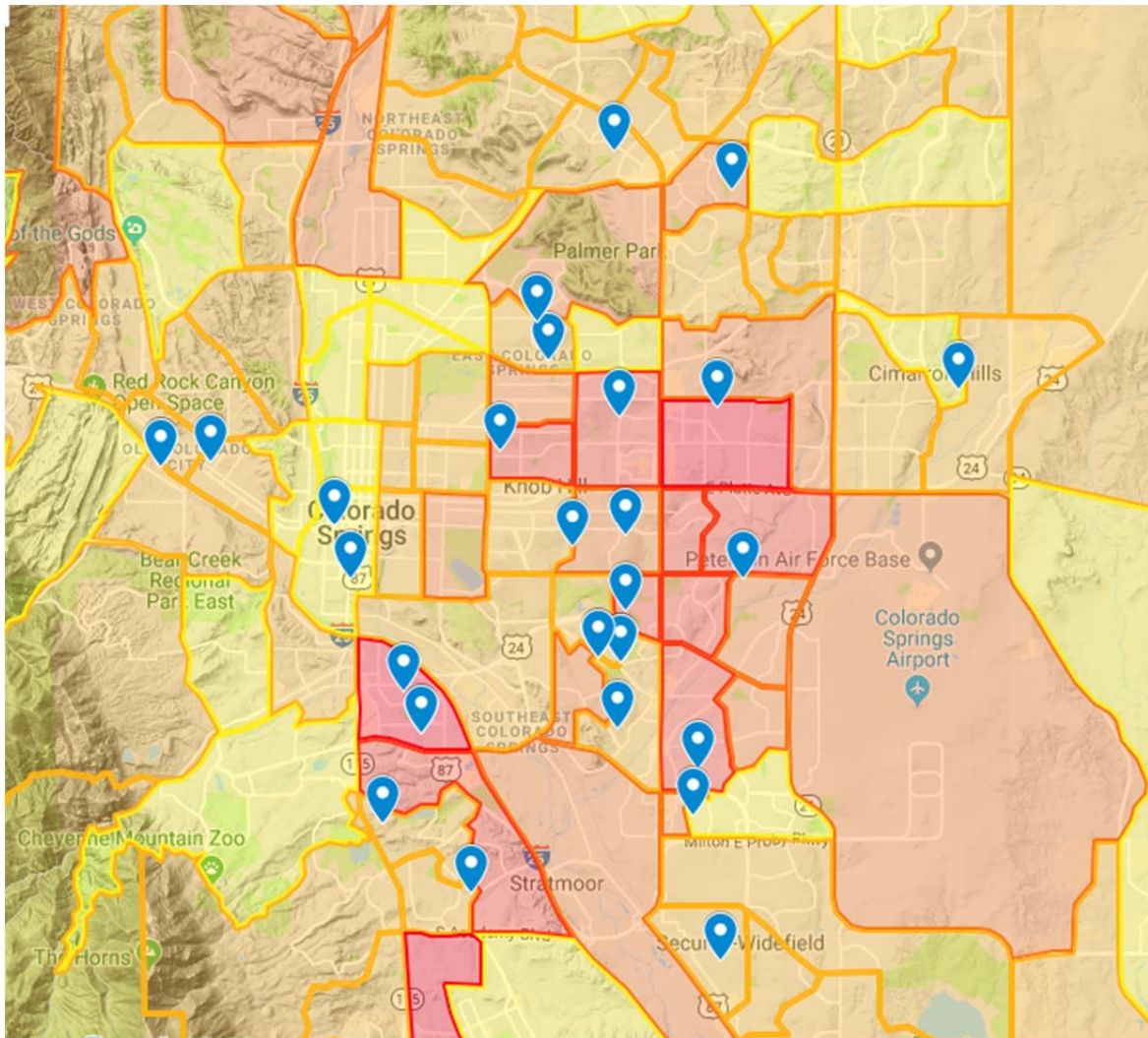
## Location of El Paso County within Colorado



CPCD is located in and provides services in El Paso County, Colorado, which is approximately 60 miles south of Denver. The county includes both urban and rural areas, creating diverse service needs in the areas of health care, transportation, housing, and early care and education. The county is large, encompassing 2,126 square miles. This size has contributed to its rapid population change over the decade. The largest concentration of people live in Colorado Springs (66%) and the remaining live in smaller cities—Security, Widefield, Fountain, and Manitou Springs—or in rural communities. According to 2021 U.S. Census Bureau estimates, El Paso County’s total population is 737,867. The county is home to approximately 45,290 children under age 5, and of this group, about 6,076 live at or below poverty.



## El Paso County - distribution of Head Start eligible children and center locations



The map above shows the service area of Head Start and Early Head Start (this map was not updated in 2022). The map is color coded by Census Tract and shows the number of Head Start eligible children. Blue markers indicate Head Start center locations. An interactive version of this map is available at the following link. <https://drive.google.com/open?id=1wHAIeVVAkkF22nF15g5GIHctfgSXnUlk&usp=sharing> It contains demographic information as well as poverty rates, and number of children under age 5 by Census Tract.

# Service Area Data

## Estimating the Eligible Population

The following sections estimate the number of children eligible for Head Start, Early Head Start and the Colorado Preschool Program. These estimates include population and poverty statistics and foster care and special needs data. The sections also include child care costs and self-sufficiency standards to demonstrate the cost of living for low-income families.

### Head Start Compared to Colorado Preschool Program (CPP)

El Paso County has two publicly funded early childhood education programs serving low income children in a center-based setting: the Colorado Preschool Program (CPP) and Head Start. CPP is operated through local school districts using state funding and Head Start is operated by CPCD using federal funding. Six (6) out of 15 school districts in El Paso County contract some or all of their CPP slots through CPCD. Though both programs target a similar population of preschool age children, their eligibility criteria differ. Head Start has fewer eligibility factors and may qualify a child as eligible for services if any one eligibility factors is present. CPP has more eligibility factors, but the program prioritizes services to 4 year old children by qualifying them with only one eligibility factor while 3 year olds must have three eligibility factors. Because of the differences in eligibility factors, it is difficult to directly compare the total capacity for services and the total eligible population for both programs combined. The populations that are eligible for both programs overlap, but it is impossible to determine the extent of overlap. All 4 year olds who qualify for Head Start will likely also qualify for CPP, however the reverse is not true. Three year olds who qualify for Head Start may not qualify for CPP. Below is a table illustrating eligibility factors between the two programs.

Eligibility Criteria	Head Start (any one factor qualifies an age eligible child, 3 or 4 years old)	CPP eligibility factors (one must be present for a 4 year old, three for a 3 year old)
Income below poverty	✓	✓ <sup>1</sup>
Foster care	✓	✓
Receipt of public assistance	✓	
Homelessness	✓	✓
Free/Reduced school lunch		✓
Abuse in the home/of the child		✓
Drug abuse in the home		✓
Parent under the age of 18		✓
Frequent relocation of family		✓

<sup>1</sup> Though income below the federal poverty line is not explicitly stated as a qualifying factor for CPP, it is implied. A child whose family income is below the federal poverty level will also qualify for free/reduced school lunch.

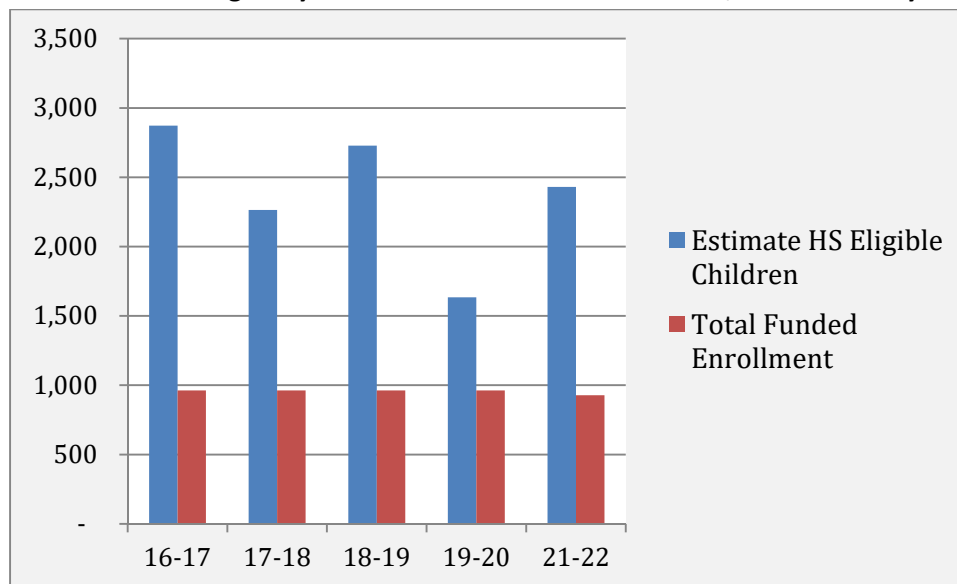
Poor social skills of the child		✓
Child in need of language development		✓

CPP eligibility requirements take income into account, but it is only one of many eligibility factors. Most children in CPP are living at or below 185% of the FPL while Head Start enrolls children at or below 100% of the poverty level. It should be noted that local school districts may prioritize eligibility factors to fit the specific needs in their communities.

### Estimated Number of Head Start Eligible Children

The US Census Bureau’s 1-year American Community Survey (ACS) produces an annual estimate of the number of children under age 5 living in poverty. This represents the best overall estimate of the total number of children eligible for Head Start (HS) in El Paso County, as most children in HS are eligible for services under this category. When using 100% of the federal poverty level as a gauge, the number of children estimated to be eligible for Head Start has dropped from 2,872 in 2016 to 2,430 in 2021 a decline of 15.4%. During the same time period, the number of families in El Paso County with children under age 5 living in poverty declined from 13.6% to 7.7%. This decline may attribute to the over decline in Head Start eligible children. Although the number of children eligible for Head Start has declined over the past 5 years, the most recent estimates show an increase in the number of children eligible for Head Start from 2019-2020 to 2021-2022. In 2022, CPCD’s Head Start program had the capacity to serve about 38% of the eligible population when only considering the number of children living in poverty. Some of these children may also be served by CPP. The chart and table below compare the Head Start eligible population to total Head Start funded enrollment from 2016-2017 to 2021-2022.

**Head Start Eligibility vs. Head Start Funded Enrollment, El Paso County**



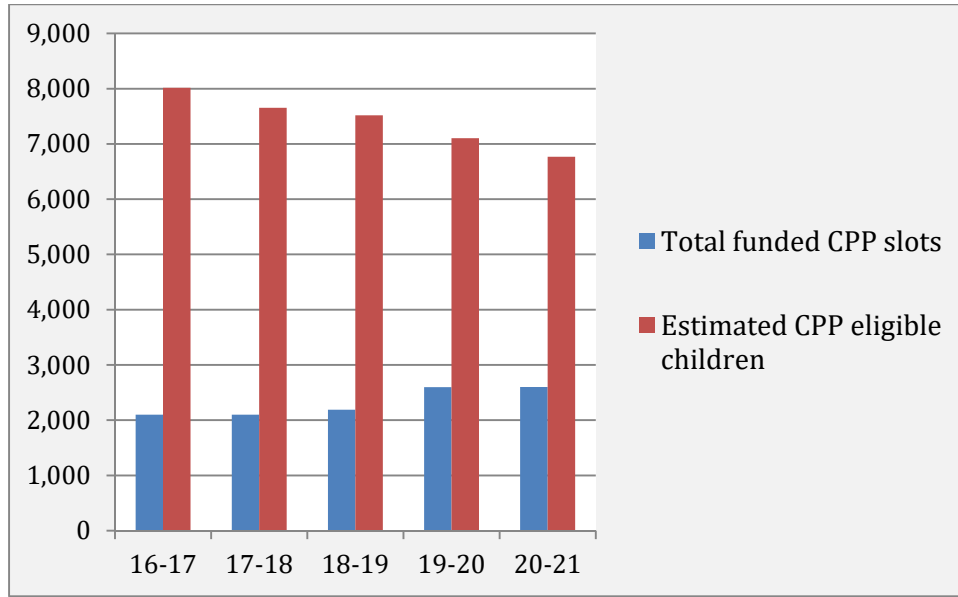
CPCD Head Start	16-17	17-18	18-19	19-20	21-22*
Estimate HS Eligible Children	2,872	2,264	2,728	1,634	2,430
Total Funded Enrollment	962	962	962	962	928
Percentage of Population Served	33%	42%	35%	59%	38%
Children Under Age 5	46,840	45,511	47,384	46,391	44,855

\*2020 1-year ACS data is not available to compare with enrollment from the 2020-2021 school year.

## Estimated Number of Colorado Preschool Program Eligible Children

An estimate of the number of CPP-eligible children in El Paso County is derived using the percentage of children who qualify for free and reduced school lunch in each school district and applying that percentage to the estimated number of 3 and 4 year olds in each school district. This methodology is similar to that used in the Colorado Preschool Program 2020 Legislature Report; the vast majority of children in CPP are qualified for services using the free and reduced school lunch eligibility factor. In the 20-21 school year, 6,767 children were potentially eligible for CPP. About half (approximately 3,384) of these would be 4-year olds, and would be fully eligible for CPP with one qualifying factor. The other half would be 3-year olds who require three or more eligibility factors to qualify for CPP. An estimated 2,430 of these CPP-eligible children are also eligible for Head Start services. This is because all children who are income eligible for Head Start are also income eligible for free and reduced school lunch. The following graph displays the estimated number of CPP eligible 3 and 4 year old children in all of El Paso County's school districts. CPP in El Paso County has the capacity to serve about 76.9% of all estimated eligible 4 year old children. If 3 year olds are included then this capacity drops to 38.4% of all eligible children. If Head Start capacity is included in this figure, then the two programs combined have the capacity to serve about 52% of the CPP eligible population, regardless of age.

**CPP Eligibility vs. CPP Funded Enrollment, El Paso County**



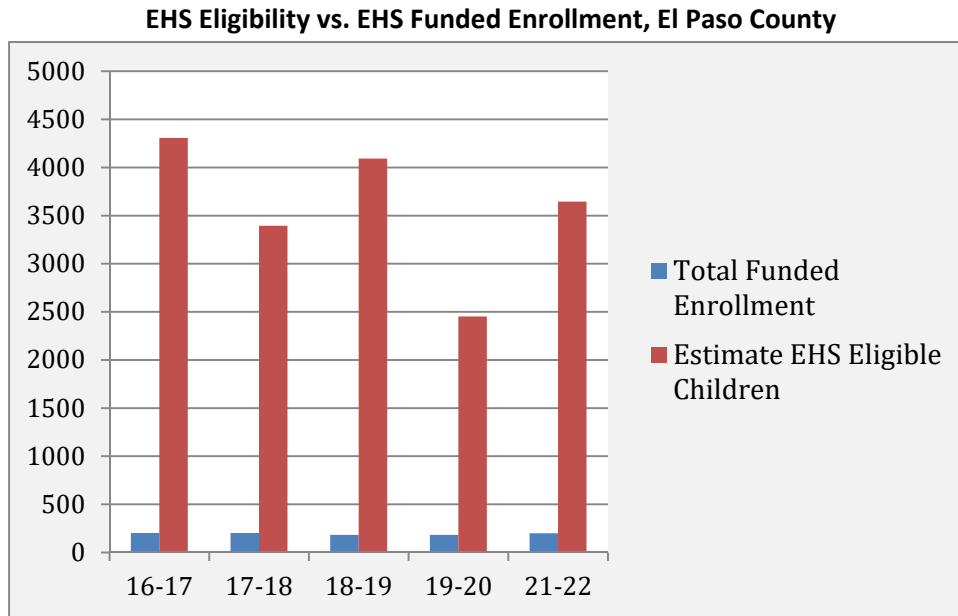
El Paso County	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Total children under 5	46,084	45,511	47,384	46,391	47,163
% of children eligible for school lunch K12	19.00%	18.20%	17.80%	% varies by district	% varies by district
Estimated 3 & 4 year olds eligible for school lunch	8,017	7,653	7,517	7,103	6,767
Colorado Preschool Program in El Paso County	16-17	17-18	18-19	19-20	20-21
Total funded CPP slots	2,099	2,099	2,188	2,597	2,601
Estimated CPP eligible children	8,017	7,653	7,517	7,103	6,767
Percentage served	26.18%	27.43%	29.11%	36.56%	38.44%

Note: This table uses 5-year ACS data.

### Estimated Number of Early Head Start Children

The same methodology used to estimate the Head Start eligible population is used to estimate the Early Head Start eligible population. The ACS produces an estimate of the number of children under age 5 living in poverty. Based on this data an estimated 3,646 children are eligible for EHS in El Paso County in 2021, down from a high of 4,308 in 2016. In 2021, CPCD EHS was funded to serve 199 infants, toddlers and pregnant mothers. If all slots were used to serve eligible infants and toddlers, then CPCD EHS had the capacity to serve 5.5% of eligible infants and toddlers in El Paso County. Reaching such a low percentage of the eligible population demonstrates a lack of EHS services for infants and toddlers in the county. A need for services was expressed by Head Start/Early Head Start parents, staff and other community partners in CPCD’s Community Assessment focus group sessions in 2020. It was the most

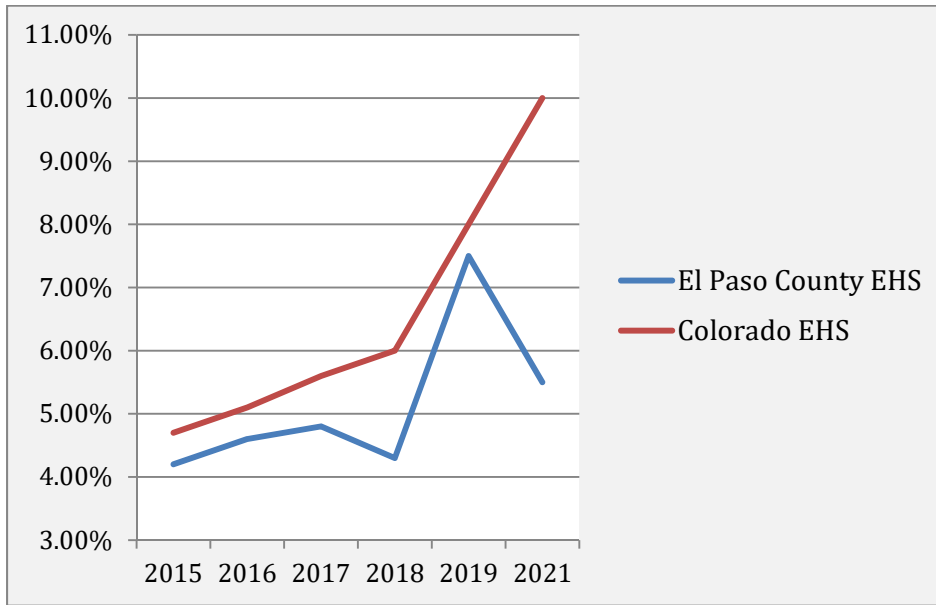
cited acute need in all focus groups, and was particularly expressed as a need by EHS parents and teachers. The chart and table below compares the estimated number of EHS eligible children to the capacity for EHS services in El Paso County.



CPCD Early Head Start	16-17	17-18	18-19	19-20	21-22
Total Funded Enrollment	203	203	183	183	199
Estimate EHS Eligible Children	4,308	3,395	4,093	2,452	3,646
Percentage of Population Served	4.7%	6.0%	4.5%	7.5%	5.5%

All of Colorado EHS programs combined have the capacity to serve 10% of the estimated eligible EHS population in the state, up from a low of 4.7% in 2015. Prior to this past year, El Paso County’s capacity to serve the eligible EHS population was similar to the capacity on a state-wide level. But, this past year, El Paso County’s capacity has dropped, indicating that other agencies may be serving more of the eligible EHS population than CPCD.

**Funded EHS Enrollment as a Percentage of Estimated Eligible EHS Children**

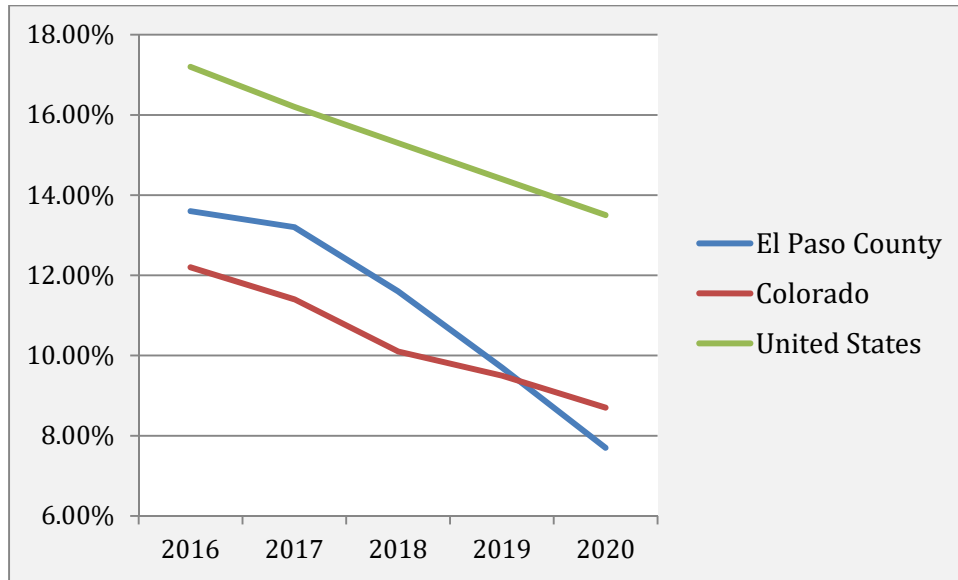


Funded Enrollment as a percentage of estimated eligible children	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2021
El Paso County EHS	4.20%	4.60%	4.80%	4.30%	7.50%	5.50%
Colorado EHS	4.70%	5.10%	5.60%	6.00%	8.00%	10.00%

### Poverty Rate

Since 2016, the poverty rate for families with children under age 5 in El Paso County has declined. The rate reached a low of 7.7% in the 2020 5-year ACS estimate. This decline follows state and national trends in the poverty rate. Five year averages put El Paso County’s poverty rate of 7.7% lower than the state and national rates of 8.7% and 13.5% respectively.

**Poverty Rate of Families with Children under Age 5, ACS – 5-Year Estimates**



Poverty Rate for Families	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
El Paso County	13.60%	13.20%	11.60%	9.70%	7.70%
Colorado	12.20%	11.40%	10.10%	9.50%	8.70%
United States	17.20%	16.20%	15.30%	14.40%	13.50%

## Foster Children

Age-eligible children who are in foster care are categorically eligible for Head Start and Early Head Start services. The Colorado Department of Human Services reports the number of foster care children by age group and by county for each year. Through mid-November 2022, 217 children ages 0 to 5 were in foster care in El Paso County. This is down from an 8-year high of 703 foster children in 2018. CPCD HS/EHS increased the total number of foster care children served in its program from 47 in 2015-2016 to a high of 73 in 2018-2019 and then served 55 in 2021-2022.

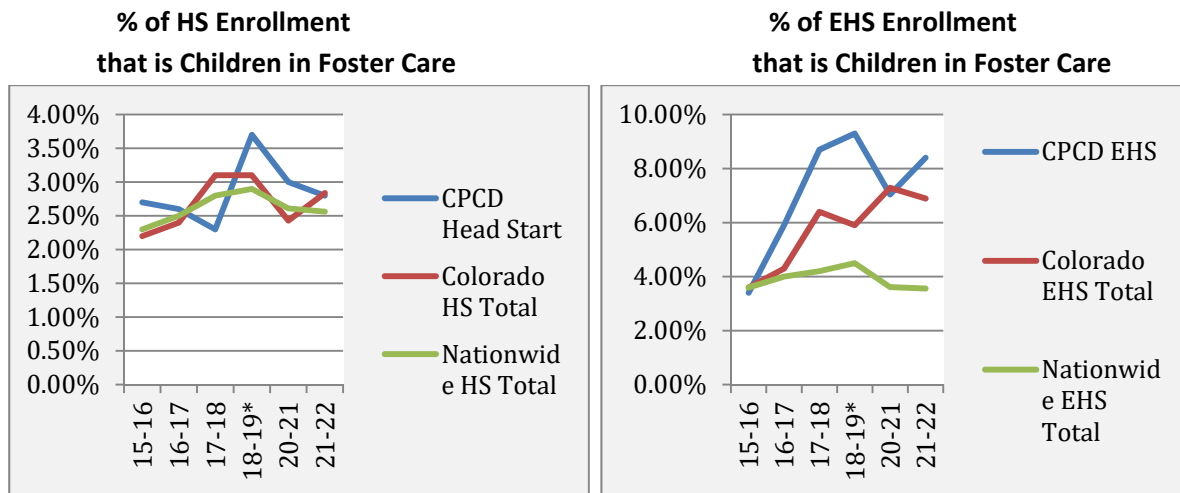
El Paso County - Children in out-of-home (OOH) placement anytime during the report period	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
0-2	388	441	487	385	194	190	142
3-5	192	188	216	188	165	149	75
<b>Total</b>	<b>580</b>	<b>629</b>	<b>703</b>	<b>573</b>	<b>359</b>	<b>339</b>	<b>217</b>



CPCD children served who were in foster care - PIR	15-16	16-17	17-18	18-19	19-20	20-21	21-22
Early Head Start	13	21	29	29	16	21	27
Head Start	34	33	29	44	28	26	28
<b>Total</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>55</b>

### Percentage of Enrollment that was foster children

Approximately 2-3% of the children that CPCD serves in Head Start are in foster care. This percentage is in line with state and national percentages. Over 8% of the children CPCD serves in Early Head Start are in foster care. This percentage is similar to the percentage of children in foster care served in Early Head Start at the state level (6.89%) and greater than the percentage of children in foster care served in Early Head Start at the national level (3.56%). The graphs and table below illustrate the percentage of enrollment in Head Start and Early Head Start that is foster care children.



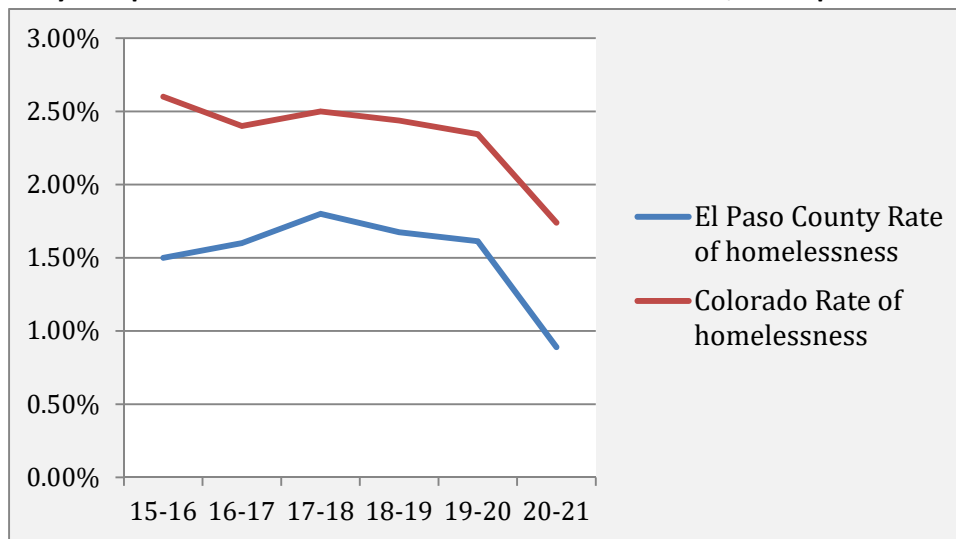
Foster Care Children Served - Percent - PIR	15-16	16-17	17-18	18-19*	20-21	21-22
CPCD Head Start	2.70%	2.60%	2.30%	3.70%	3.00%	2.80%
Colorado HS Total	2.20%	2.40%	3.10%	3.10%	2.43%	2.84%
Nationwide HS Total	2.30%	2.50%	2.80%	2.90%	2.61%	2.56%
CPCD EHS	3.40%	5.90%	8.70%	9.30%	7.04%	8.40%
Colorado EHS Total	3.60%	4.30%	6.40%	5.90%	7.29%	6.89%
Nationwide EHS Total	3.60%	4.00%	4.20%	4.50%	3.61%	3.56%

\*19-20 data not available, PIR not created for 2019-2020.

## Homelessness

School districts identify children experiencing homelessness within their schools and report total numbers to the Colorado Department of Education. El Paso County school districts identified 1,048 homeless pre-k through 12th grade children in the 2020-2021 school year, which represents 0.89% of all children enrolled in county school districts. This is down from a high of 2,142 homeless children in county school districts in the 2017-2018 school year representing 1.8% of enrolled children. El Paso County follows a similar trend to the state of Colorado with the percentage of children experiencing homelessness. Both the state and the county saw decreases during the 2020-2021 school year. These decreases may have been related to the overall decline in student enrollment during the pandemic.

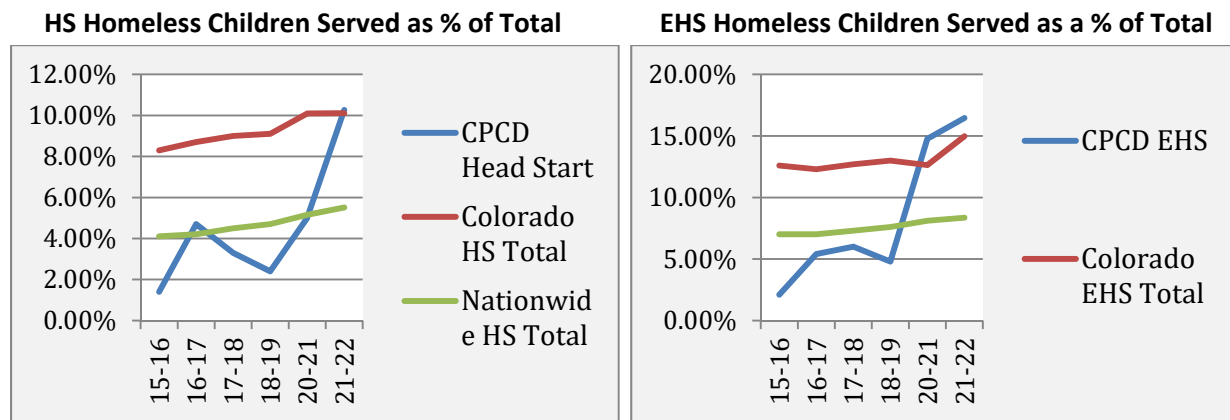
**El Paso County Compared to State of Colorado Rate of Homelessness, CO Department of Education**



El Paso County	15-16	16-17	17-18	18-19	19-20	20-21
Total Enrollment Pre-K - 12	118,707	120,128	120,776	121,192	122,783	118,023
Homeless Children Enrolled Pre-K - 12	1,768	1,911	2,142	2,029	1,981	1,048
Rate of Homelessness	1.50%	1.60%	1.80%	1.67%	1.61%	0.89%
Colorado	15-16	16-17	17-18	18-19	19-20	20-21
Rate of Homelessness	2.60%	2.40%	2.50%	2.44%	2.35%	1.74%
Number of homeless students	23,954	21,943	23,089	22,217	21,416	15,374
Total students CO	899,112	905,018	910,280	911,536	913,223	883,199

If the most recent homelessness rate among school district-enrolled children is applied to the population under age 5 (44,855 in 2021 1-year ACS), than an estimated 400 children under age 5 are experiencing homelessness in El Paso County. Homeless children are enrolled in CPCD Head Start and

Early Head Start at a greater rate than they are in school districts in the county. In the 21-22 program year CPCD served 100 homeless children in Head Start and 53 in Early Head Start representing 5.0% and 14.77% of enrollment respectively. The percentage of HS and EHS homeless children that CPCD served is greater than state and national averages. The number of homeless children that CPCD served more than tripled from 2018-2019 to 2021-2022. This may be due to how CPCD determines whether a family is homeless. The 2022 Pikes Peak Continuum of Care Point in Time Homeless Count only identified 283 homeless children (under age 18) in the county. The criteria for identifying homeless children in this survey differs from that of school districts and Head Start, and only counts families with children in homeless shelters or those who are unsheltered (living on the streets.) It does not include the broader McKinney-Vento Act’s definition of homelessness which is used by Head Start.



HS Homeless Children Served - Percent - PIR	15-16	16-17	17-18	18-19*	20-21	21-22
CPCD Head Start	1.40%	4.70%	3.30%	2.40%	5.00%	10.27%
Colorado HS Total	8.30%	8.70%	9.00%	9.10%	10.09%	10.11%
Nationwide HS Total	4.10%	4.20%	4.50%	4.70%	5.16%	5.51%
EHS Homeless Children Served - Percent - PIR	15-16	16-17	17-18	18-19	20-21	21-22
CPCD EHS	2.10%	5.40%	6.00%	4.80%	14.77%	16.46%
Colorado EHS Total	12.60%	12.30%	12.70%	13.00%	12.63%	14.97%
Nationwide EHS Total	7.00%	7.00%	7.30%	7.60%	8.11%	8.35%
Homeless Children Served	15-16	16-17	17-18	18-19	20-21	21-22
CPCD HS Homeless Children Served	18	58	41	28	43	100
CPCD EHS Homeless Children Served	8	19	20	15	44	53

\*19-20 data not available, PIR not created for 2019-2020.

## Disabilities and Special Needs

The Colorado Department of Education collects data about disabled children for 8 school districts in El Paso County. These school districts identified 929 preschool age children with a disability in the 2020-21 school year. This amount is down by over 20% since 2019-2020 when the pandemic started. During the 2021-22 school year, The Resource Exchange (TRE), which provides disabilities services to infants and toddlers in El Paso County, supported 1,591 infants and toddlers with diagnosed disabilities or at risk for a developmental delay and eligible for early intervention services. CPCD served 138 children ages 3 to 5 and 44 infants and toddlers with a disability in the same year; therefore, CPCD served just 5.5% of the total potential population of 2,520 children (the combined amount from the Department of Education and TRE, but some overlap likely exists).

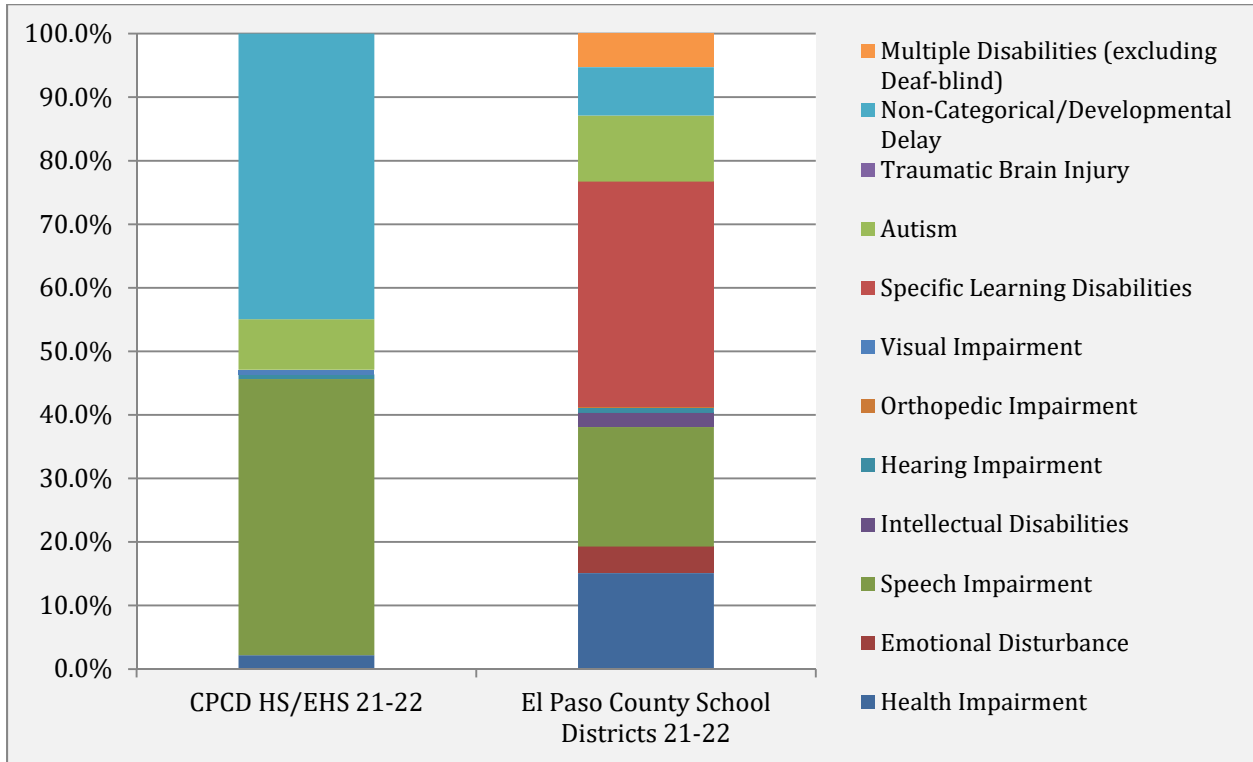
CPCD Head Start/Early Head Start	15-16	16-17	17-18	18-19*	20-21	21-22
IEP	138	150	169	185	132	138
IFSP	37	44	46	35	32	44
Total	175	194	215	220	164	182

\*19-20 data not available, PIR not created for 2020.

Preschool age children with disability in El Paso County school districts	17-18	18-19	19-20	20-21	21-22
El Paso 2, Harrison	149	137	144	115	98
El Paso 3, Widefield	190	176	161	123	143
El Paso 8, Fountain	187	206	199	160	163
El Paso 11, Colorado Springs	237	267	243	184	193
El Paso 12, Cheyenne Mountain	51	58	58	32	30
El Paso 20, Academy	161	142	153	100	120
El Paso 38, Lewis-Palmer	33	41	44	35	30
El Paso 49, Falcon	189	179	180	142	152
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,197</b>	<b>1,206</b>	<b>1,182</b>	<b>891</b>	<b>929</b>

The graph and tables below compare disabilities by type between CPCD Head Start children and El Paso School District children in reporting school districts. The school district data includes all children from pre-k to 12th grade. Head Start children are primarily diagnosed with either a speech impairment or non-categorical/developmental delay, while the range of children’s disabilities reported by school districts is much broader.

**CPCD Disability by Type Compared to El Paso County Disability by Type**



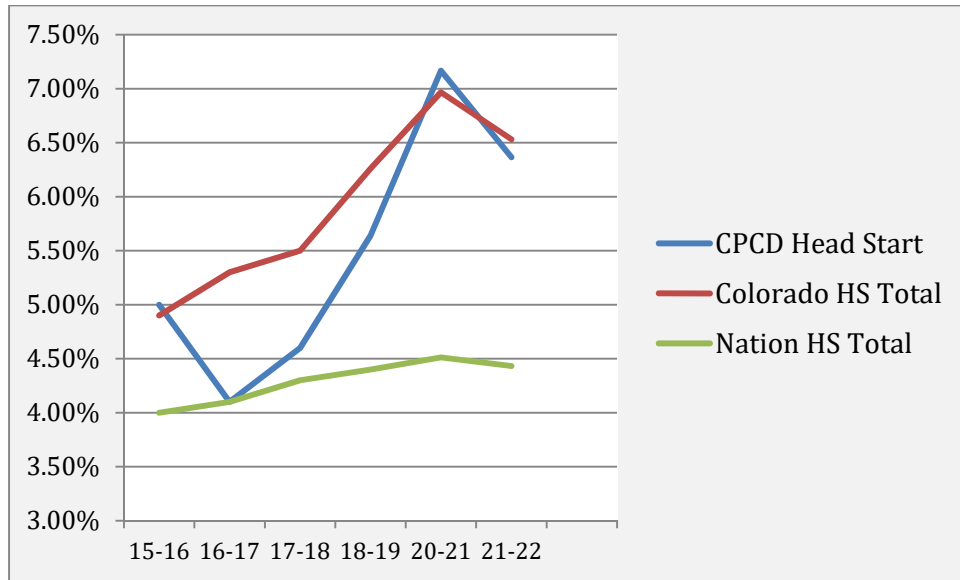
School District disabilities – all ages	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022
Intellectual Disability	259	265	285
Serious Emotional Disability	576	538	540
Specific Learning Disability	4,600	4,460	4,568
Hearing Impairment, including Deafness	139	108	102
Visual Impairment, including Blindness	0	0	0
Speech or Language Impairment	2,617	2,395	2,422
Multiple Disabilities	680	665	678
Developmental Delay	1022	931	981
Autism Spectrum Disorders	1243	1,227	1,337
Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)	0	0	0
Orthopedic Impairment	41	20	17
Other Health Impairment	1,687	1,797	1,942

CPCD Head Start/Early Head Start	15-16	16-17	17-18	18-19*	20-21	21-22
Health Impairment	1	2	1	0	2	3
Emotional Disturbance	0	0	0	0	0	0
Speech Impairment	73	84	101	113	62	60
Intellectual Disabilities	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hearing Impairment	0	2	4	1	0	1
Orthopedic Impairment	0	2	0	0	1	0
Visual Impairment	0	0	0	0	0	1
Specific Learning Disabilities	0	0	0	0	0	0
Autism	1	7	5	4	5	11
Traumatic Brain Injury	0	1	1	0	0	0
Non-Categorical/Developmental Delay	62	51	57	67	62	62
Multiple Disabilities (excluding Deaf-blind)	1	1	0	0	0	0
Deaf-blind	0	0	0	0	0	0

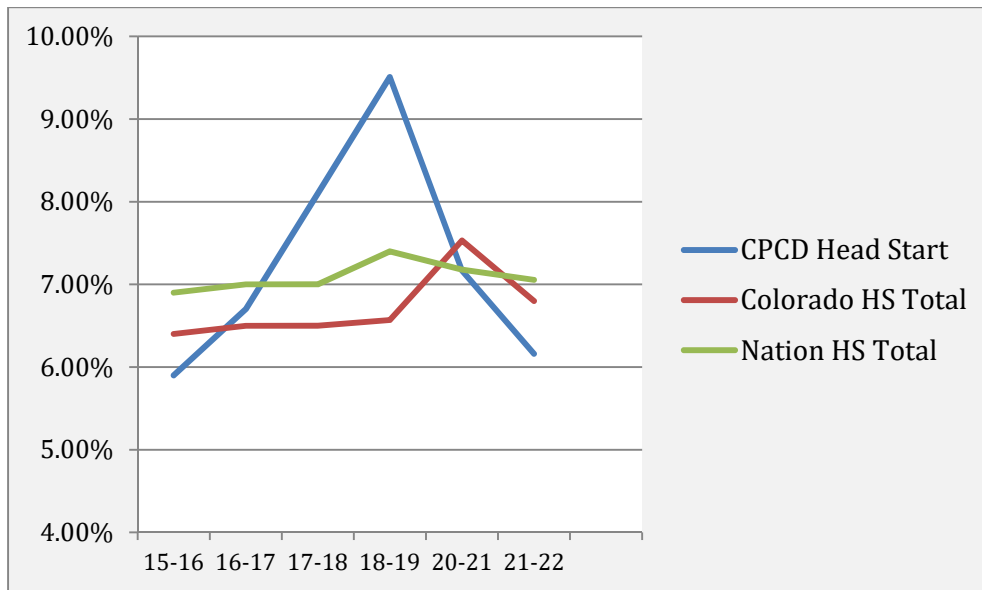
\*19-20 data not available, PIR not created for 2020.

Most of the disabilities that CPCD sees fall within non-categorical/developmental delay or speech impairment. When compared to state percentages, the percentage of children with a non-categorical/developmental delay that CPCD serves follows a similar trend. After a drop in 2016-2017, the percentage has increased each year. The percentage of children with a speech delay that CPCD serves has changed from year to year and does not follow closely with state or national trends.

**Percentage of CPCD Children with a Non-Categorical/Developmental Delay Compared to State and National Percentages**



**Percentage of CPCD Children with a Speech Delay Compared to State and National Percentages**



Non-Categorical/Developmental Delay - %	15-16	16-17	17-18	18-19	20-21	21-22
CPCD Head Start	5.00%	4.10%	4.60%	5.64%	7.17%	6.37%
Colorado HS Total	4.90%	5.30%	5.50%	6.26%	6.97%	6.53%
Nation HS Total	4.00%	4.10%	4.30%	4.40%	4.51%	4.43%
Speech Delay - %	15-16	16-17	17-18	18-19	20-21	21-22
CPCD Head Start	5.90%	6.70%	8.10%	9.51%	7.17%	6.16%
Colorado HS Total	6.40%	6.50%	6.50%	6.57%	7.53%	6.80%
Nation HS Total	6.90%	7.00%	7.00%	7.40%	7.18%	7.05%

## Population Estimates

Using the U.S. Census Bureau's 5-year ACS data, El Paso County's population has grown from 655,024 in 2015 to 710,499 in 2020, an increase of 8.5% or 55,475. Over this same time period Colorado's population grew by only 4.2%. In El Paso County, the percentage of the population of children under age 5 declined from 7.0% in 2015 to 6.6% in 2020. The overall growth in the population has offset the decline in the percentage of the population under age 5, causing an overall increase in the population under age 5 from 45,851 in 2015 to 46,893 in 2020. Poverty rates for families with children under age 5 have declined from 14.7% in 2015 to 7.7% in 2020, leading to fewer children eligible for HS and EHS. Note: this section uses 5-year ACS data, which is useful for showing trends in data, some of the earlier sections in this assessment use 1-year ACS data (which accounts for small differences in population totals).

**El Paso County Population Changes from 2013-2019, Using ACS 5-year Estimates**

El Paso County	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Population:	655,024	665,171	674,826	688,153	698,974	710,499
Percentage of population under 5:	7.00%	7.00%	6.90%	6.80%	6.75%	6.60%
Estimated population under 5:	45,851	46,561	46,562	46,962	47,167	46,893
Poverty rate for families with children under 5:	14.70%	13.60%	13.20%	11.60%	9.70%	7.70%
Estimated HS eligible	3,251	2,919	2,847	2,857	1,634	2,430
Estimated EHS eligible	4,876	4,379	4,270	4,286	2,452	3,646

## Child Care Cost and Self Sufficiency

According to the Colorado Office of Early Childhood and Child Care Aware, in 2020, center-based child care for an infant in Colorado costs an average of \$15,881 annually or \$1,323 per month. The cost of center-based child care for a four year old child is \$11,911 annually or \$933 per month. Child Care



Aware does not have updated child care cost data for Colorado (Colorado is the only state without updated data in the 2021 report as of December 2022), but child care costs have likely increased since 2020. The cost of child care for an infant as a percentage of median family income is 20% (using the 2021 1-year ACS median income of \$79,427). For families that make less than median income the cost of child care is often out of reach without subsidies. A low-wage worker earning about \$15 per hour would pay approximately 50% of his or her annual salary to pay for infant child care. A two parent family with one infant child and income at 200% of the 2021 federal poverty level would pay over 25% of their annual income toward child care. The same family at 200% of poverty and paying median rent for El Paso County would spend 61% of their annual income toward housing and child care. In all scenarios in the chart below, families living in poverty do not have the wages to cover child care and rent costs.

2020/2021 Annual Costs	Infant center-based	Infant home-based	Infant + Preschool center-based	Infant + Preschool home-based
Child care*	\$15,881	\$10,587	\$27,792	\$20,115
Housing (median rent)**	\$18,000	\$18,000	\$18,000	\$18,000
Housing and child care total	\$33,881	\$28,587	\$45,792	\$38,115
FPL - 4 person family (2022)	\$27,750	\$27,750	\$27,750	\$27,750
shortfall/surplus	(\$6,131)	(\$1,107)	(\$18,042)	(\$10,365)
200% of FPL - 4 person family	\$55,500	\$55,500	\$55,500	\$55,500
shortfall/surplus	\$21,619	\$26,913	\$9,708	\$17,385

\*CO Office of Early Childhood and Child Care Aware fact sheet.

\*\*Colorado Springs Metro Area Apartment Vacancy and Rent Study from the University of Denver's Daniels College of Business and Denver-based Colorado Economic & Management Associates

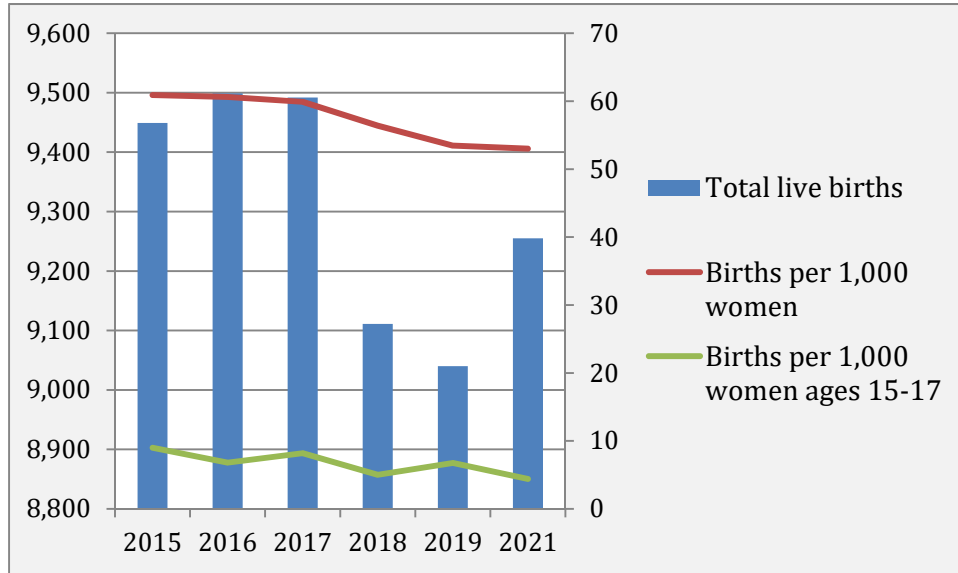
The Colorado Child Care Assistance Program (CCCAP) provides child care subsidies to families who earn up to 185% of the federal poverty level. Parents are expected to cover a portion of the cost, which may still be out of reach for many families because the cost of living in El Paso County is so high. The Self-Sufficiency Standard published by the Colorado Center on Law and Policy in 2022 estimates that a two parent family in El Paso County with one preschooler and one school-age child would need to earn \$95,345 to be self-sufficient. The self-sufficiency income is 3.4 times higher than the poverty rate for a family of 4. This indicates a significant gap between wages and affordability for working families in El Paso County. This self-sufficiency calculation is based off of cost of living in the county, and accounts for a family setting aside a small amount every month for savings.

## Birth Rates

The total number of live births declined between 2015 and 2019 and increased in 2021. Despite declining live births for several years, El Paso County has still seen an increase in the number of children

under age 5 because of movement into the county. The birth rate for teens ages 15-17 has remained below 10 per 1,000 since at least 2014.

**Total Live Births in El Paso County, Total Births per 1,000 Women,  
Total Births per 1,000 Women Ages 15-17**



ACS-1 year data not available for 2020.

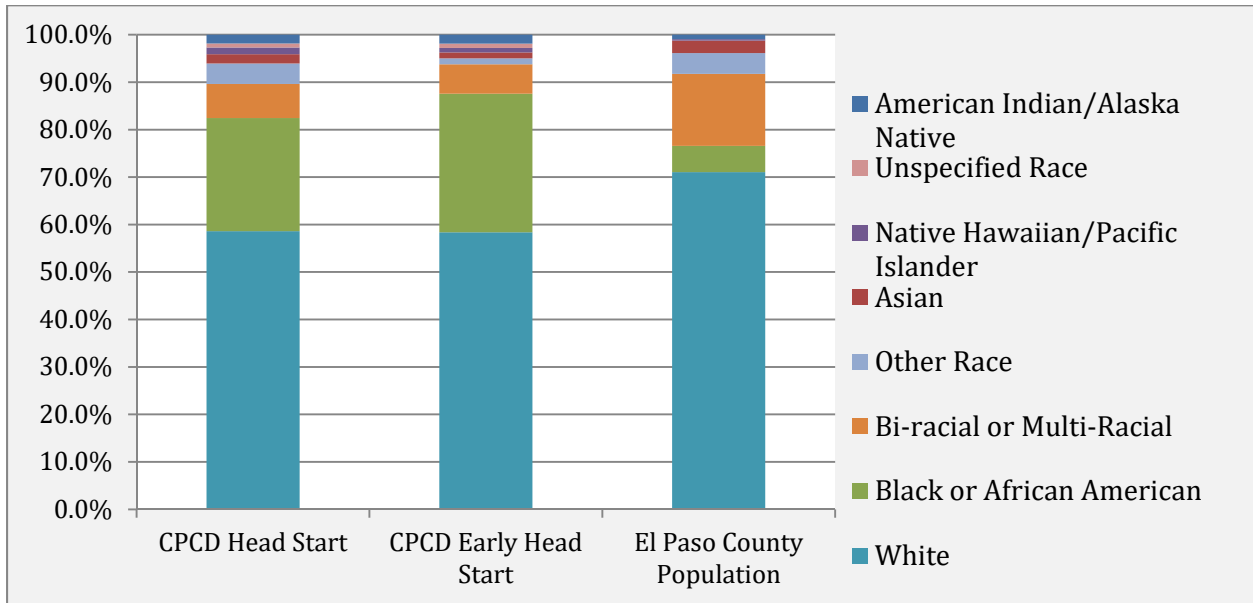
El Paso County - live births	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020*	2021
Total live births	9,449	9,499	9,492	9,111	9,040	9,179	9,255
Total women 15 and over	155,248	156,685	158,553	161,463	169,124		174,686
Births per 1,000 women	60.9	60.6	59.9	56.4	53.5		53.0
Births per 1,000 women ages 15-17	9	6.8	8.2	5	6.7		4.4

\*ACS-1 year data not available for 2020.

## Racial and Ethnic Characteristics

CPCD serves a more diverse group of children than El Paso County’s general population. The largest racial group among CPCD’s enrolled children is white with 59% of Head Start children and 58% of Early Head Start children identifying as white. El Paso County’s largest racial group is also white, but with 71% of the population identifying as white. The graph and table below compare the racial distribution of children in CPCD’s programs compared to the population in El Paso County.

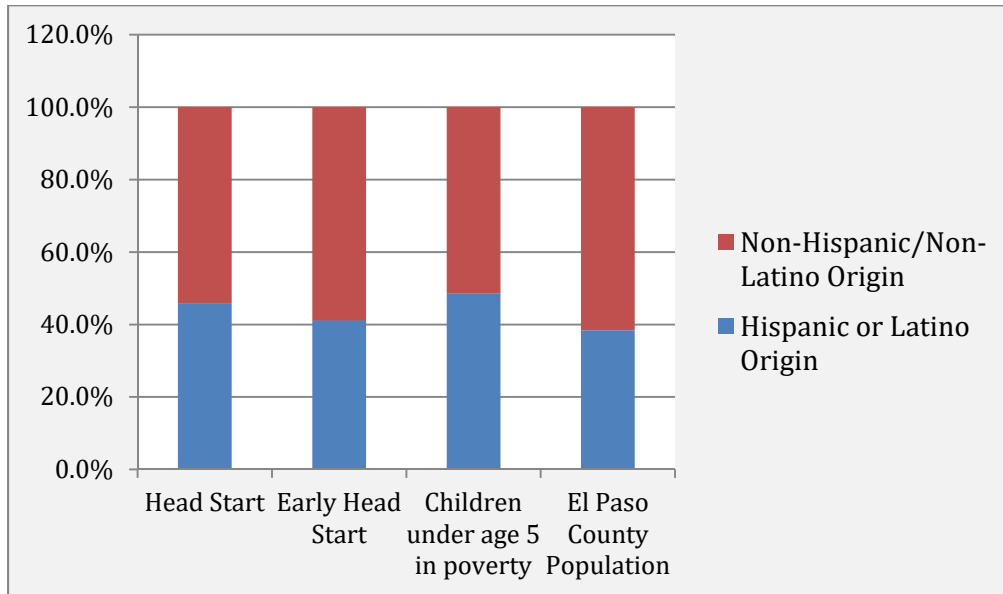
**Distribution of Race among Children Enrolled in CPCD and El Paso County’s General Population**



	CPCD Head Start	CPCD Early Head Start	El Paso County Population
American Indian/Alaska Native	1.8%	1.9%	0.9%
Asian	2.0%	1.2%	2.6%
Black or African American	23.8%	29.2%	5.5%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	1.4%	0.9%	0.3%
White	58.6%	58.4%	71.0%
Bi-racial or Multi-Racial	7.2%	6.2%	15.2%
Other Race	4.3%	1.2%	4.4%
Unspecified Race	0.8%	0.9%	0.0%

CPCD also serves a greater percentage of children identifying with a Hispanic/Latino ethnicity than El Paso County’s general population. Over 40% children enrolled in CPCD’s Head Start (45.7%) and Early Head Start (41%) identify as Hispanic/Latino. The graph and table below compare the ethnic origin of children in CPCD’s programs compared to the population in El Paso County.

**Ethnicity of Children Enrolled in CPCD, Children Under 5 Living in Poverty in El Paso County, and El Paso County's General Population**

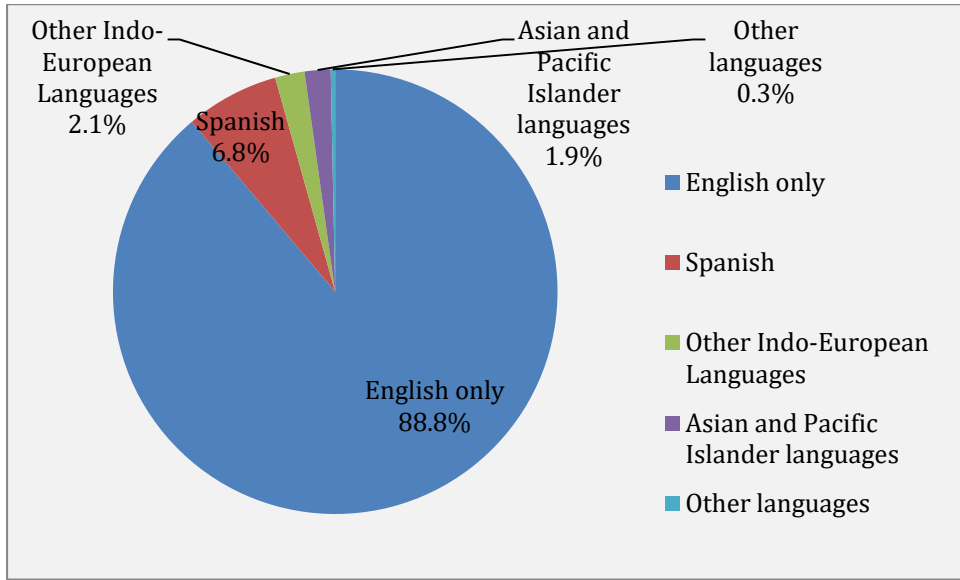


	CPCD		El Paso County	
	Head Start	Early Head Start	Children under age 5 in poverty	El Paso County Population
Hispanic or Latino Origin	45.7%	41.0%	48.5%	38.4%
Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino Origin	54.3%	59.0%	51.5%	61.6%

## Language Spoken

Total number of Spanish speakers in El Paso County increased by about 3,000 (6.8%) from 2015 to 2021. Over the same time period the total population grew by about 12%. Spanish speakers make up 6.8% of the population, making them the second largest language group.

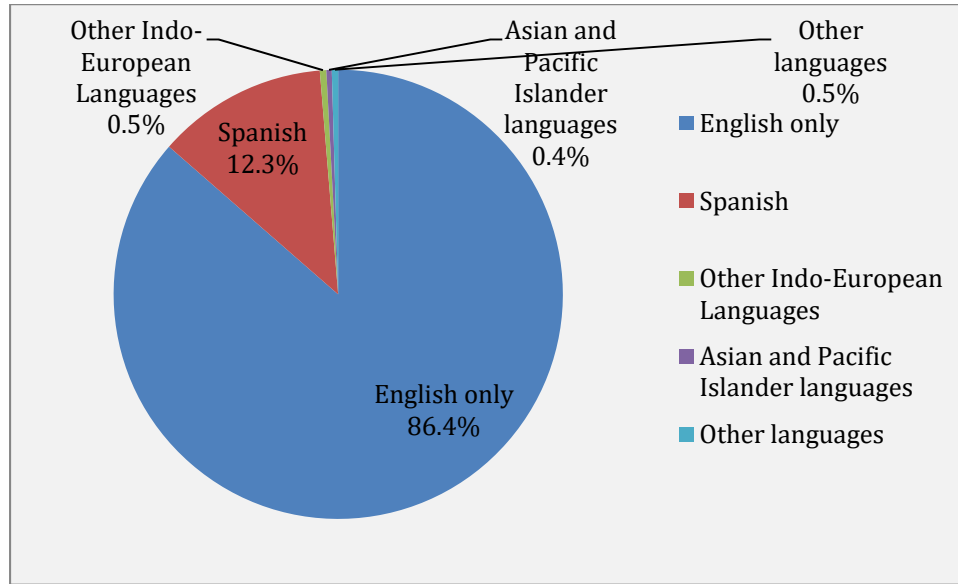
**Percentage of Population in El Paso County Over Age 5 by Language Spoken**



Language Spoken	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2021
Population 5 years and over	609,044	618,639	628,302	641,191	673,561	697,577
English only	537,136	545,234	554,764	564,656	596,078	615,271
Spanish	44,184	45,526	45,610	48,966	47,753	47,175
Other Indo-European Languages	13,800	13,547	13,459	13,452	13,881	14,806
Asian and Pacific Islander languages	11,899	11,731	11,800	11,739	11,851	13,096
Other languages	2,025	2,601	2,669	2,378	3,998	2,229

As seen in the chart below, CPCD serves a larger percentage of Spanish speaking students than the percentage of Spanish speaking people over age 5 in El Paso County (12% of CPCD’s students are Spanish speaking and 6.8% of El Paso County’s population over age 5 is Spanish speaking).

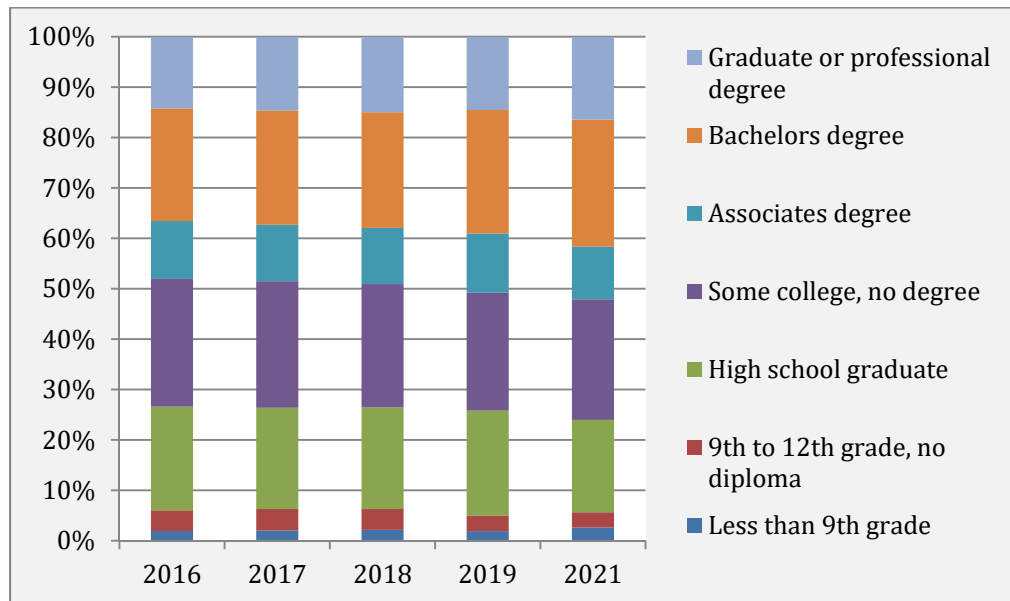
**Percentage of CPCD Students Served in 2021 by Language Spoken**



## Educational Attainment

The education attainment of adults in El Paso County has increased slightly since 2016, with 73% of the population pursuing education levels beyond high school in 2016 compared to 76% in 2021. About 25% of the population now has a bachelor's degree, and 16% has a graduate degree or higher, compared to 22% and 14% respectively in 2016.

**Distribution of Educational Attainment by Adults over 25 in El Paso County (by Percentage)**



	2016	2017	2018	2019	2021
Less than 9th grade	2%	2%	2%	2%	3%
9th to 12th grade, no diploma	4%	4%	4%	3%	3%
High school graduate	21%	20%	20%	21%	18%
Some college, no degree	25%	25%	24%	23%	24%
Associates degree	11%	11%	11%	12%	10%
Bachelor's degree	22%	23%	23%	25%	25%
Graduate or professional degree	14%	15%	15%	15%	16%

Among Head Start parents the percentage of parents with more than a high school diploma or GED has gone down from 63% in 2016 to 38% in 2021. Some parents' information may not have been captured in ChildPlus 2021, which would help to explain the decrease.

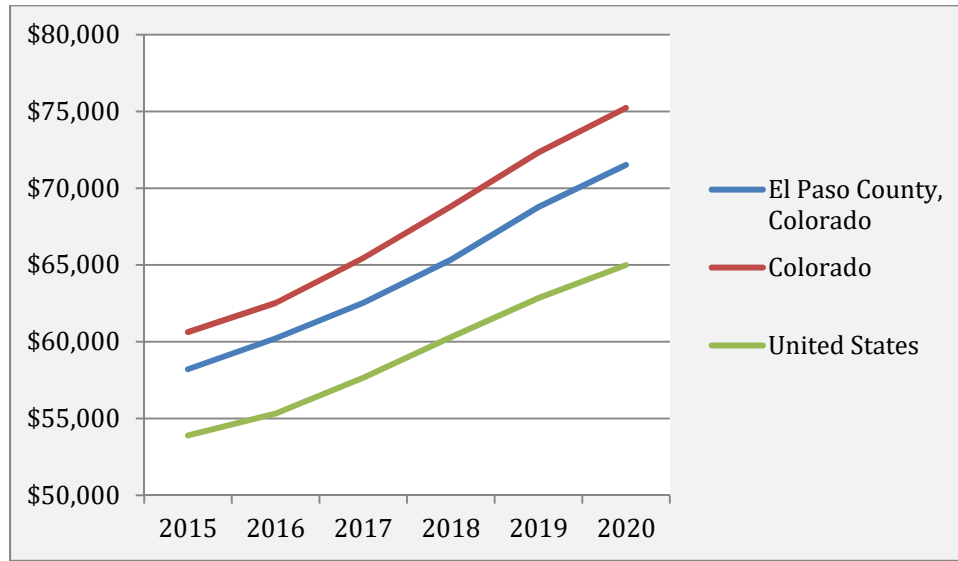
CPCD Parents	2016		2021	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Less than HS graduate	73	5%	161	16%
HS graduate or GED	491	32%	451	45%
Associates or some college	907	59%	184	18%
Bachelors or advanced degree	55	4%	204	20%

## Other Economic Data

### Median Family Income

In 2021, median family income in El Paso County was \$71,517, up 23% since 2015 (using 2020 5-year ACS data). Over this same time period median family income in the state grew by 24% and across the nation it grew by 21%. The overall trend in median income for the county, state, and nation is similar. The self-sufficiency wage for a family of four in the county is \$95,345 in 2022. By definition half of families make less than the median family income, indicating that a high percentage of families are likely making less than the self-sufficiency wage.

**Median Family Income (inflation-adjusted dollars)  
5-Year ACS Census Data**



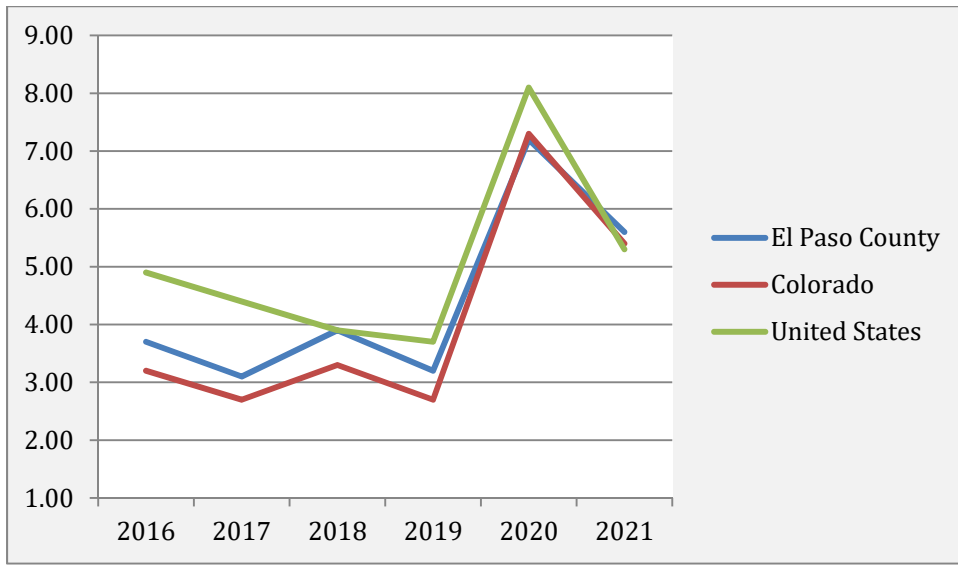
Median Family Income	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
El Paso County, Colorado	\$ 58,206	\$ 60,219	\$ 62,535	\$ 65,334	\$ 68,779	\$ 71,517
Colorado	\$ 60,629	\$ 62,520	\$ 65,458	\$ 68,811	\$ 72,331	\$ 75,231
United States	\$ 53,889	\$ 55,322	\$ 57,652	\$ 60,293	\$ 62,843	\$ 64,994

## Unemployment Rate

In 2021, the unemployment rate in El Paso County was 5.6% (U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics). The beginning of 2021 had higher unemployment rates due to the pandemic, and by the end of the year, monthly unemployment was 3.8%. When unemployment rates are low, typically more jobs are available for parents with children enrolled in CPCD. But, other economic data such as inflation and rising child care and housing costs indicate that the low-paying positions that are often available to parents are not raising them out of poverty.



**Unemployment Rate in El Paso County, Colorado, and the U.S.**



Unemployment, %	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
El Paso County	3.7	3.1	3.9	3.2	7.2	5.6
Colorado	3.2	2.7	3.3	2.7	7.3	5.4
United States	4.9	4.4	3.9	3.7	8.1	5.3

Unemployment rates are often an indicator of CPCD’s ability to attract and maintain its workforce. When unemployment is high, CPCD typically has fewer open positions and can easily attract candidates. Despite higher unemployment the past two years, CPCD has struggled to maintain its workforce. The turnover rate is 25%, which means that CPCD is often recruiting and interviewing to fill positions. To address its staffing needs, CPCD raised its minimum hourly wage to \$16.16 per hour in the summer of 2022.

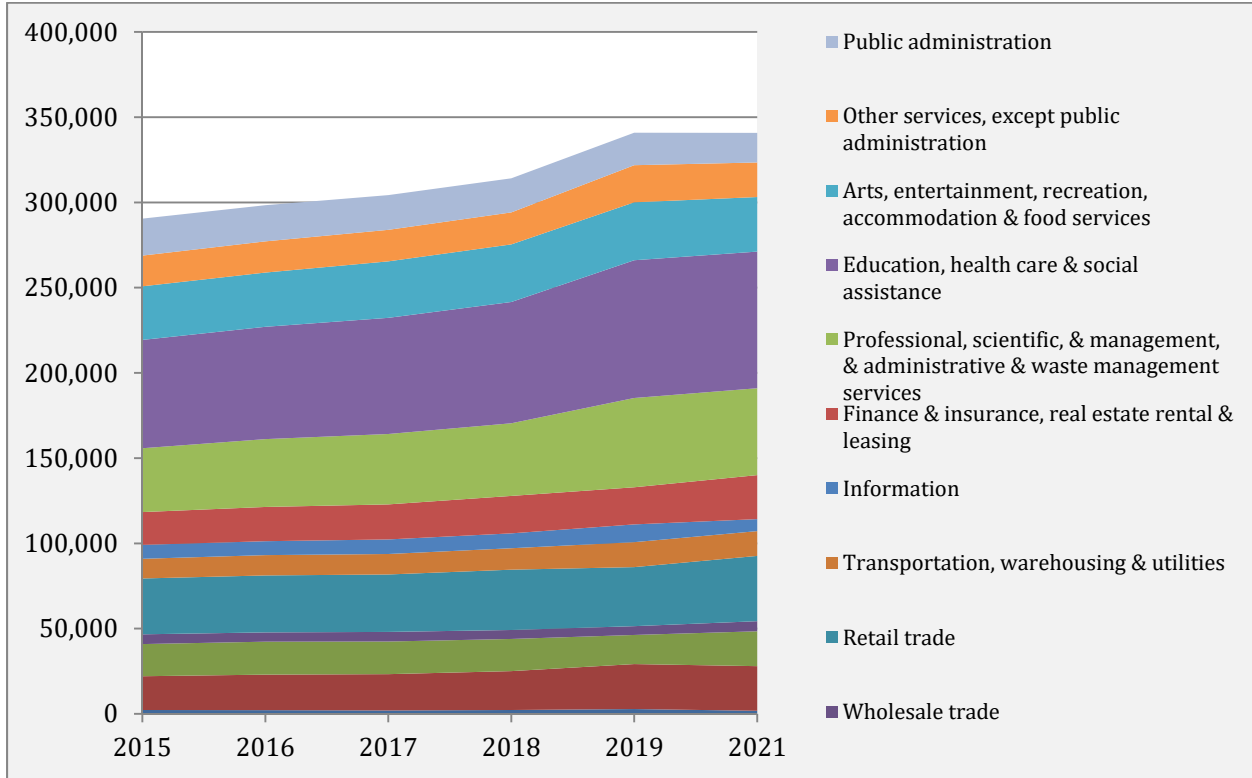
Other early care and education providers in the state and the country are facing similar workforce shortages. According to the Center for American Progress, which cites U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the child care sector lost 88,000 jobs from February 2020 to July 2022. Most of these jobs were lost because child care sites are operating at reduced capacity or with vacancies. A survey in December 2021 by the Early Childhood Education Association of Colorado included a number of concerns about finding and keeping child care staff. Some cited that they do not have the funds to pay staff and others mentioned staff leaving for more flexible or better paying positions with large national retail chains.

### Employment and Industry Sectors

El Paso County’s civilian employed population age 16 and over has grown by 17% from 290,448 in 2015 to 340,796 in 2021. The labor sectors that have seen the most growth are: *professional, scientific, & management, & administrative & waste management services* at 36%; *finance & insurance and real estate & leasing* at 34%; and *construction* at 32%. The labor sectors that declined over the same time

period are: *Agriculture, forestry, fishing, hunting, & mining* -21%; *public administration* -20%; and *information* -14%.

**El Paso County Employment Age 16 and Over by Industry Sector**



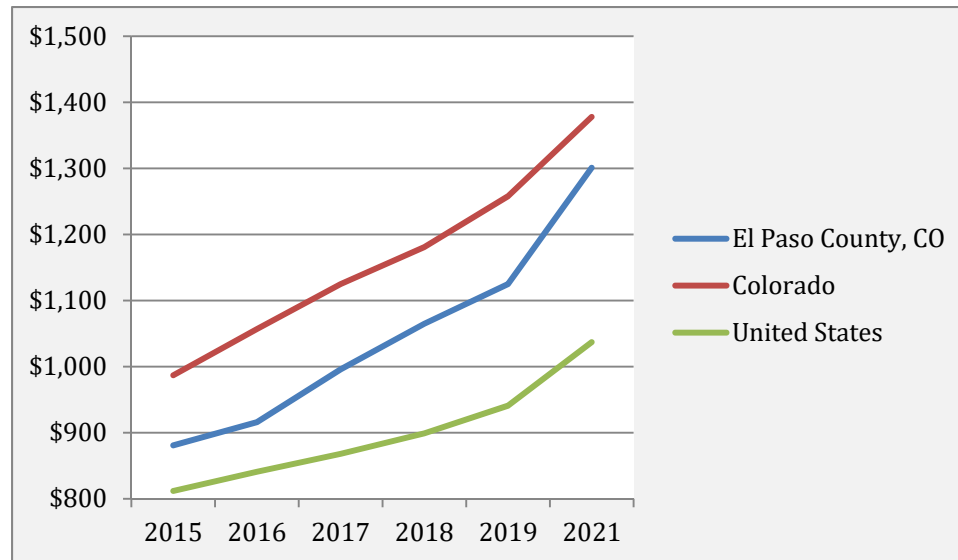
Industry	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2021
Agriculture, forestry, fishing, hunting, & mining	2,206	2,112	1,926	2,243	2,764	1,736
Construction	19,805	20,887	21,356	22,778	26,419	26,224
Manufacturing	18,885	19,281	19,106	18,924	17,120	20,437
Wholesale trade	5,758	5,531	5,631	5,254	5,131	5,978
Retail trade	32,778	33,394	33,687	35,352	34,593	38,261
Transportation, warehousing & utilities	11,477	11,872	12,032	12,565	14,709	14,507
Information	8,197	8,191	8,567	8,775	10,347	7,084
Finance & insurance, real estate rental & leasing	19,232	20,057	20,558	21,919	21,814	25,811
Professional, scientific, & management, & administrative & waste management services	37,461	39,804	41,303	42,665	52,380	50,968
Education, health care & social assistance	63,578	65,907	68,096	71,124	80,812	80,168
Arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation & food services	31,444	31,825	33,165	33,760	34,006	31,992

Other services, except public administration	17,958	18,317	18,539	18,757	21,773	20,257
Public administration	21,669	21,156	20,323	19,986	19,025	17,373

## Housing

During the last community assessment, affordable housing was cited as the 2nd most acute need in focus group sessions with HS and EHS families, staff and community partners. Since 2015, median rent in El Paso County has increased by 39%, compared to just 24% nationwide.

**Median Rent in El Paso County, Colorado, and the U.S.**

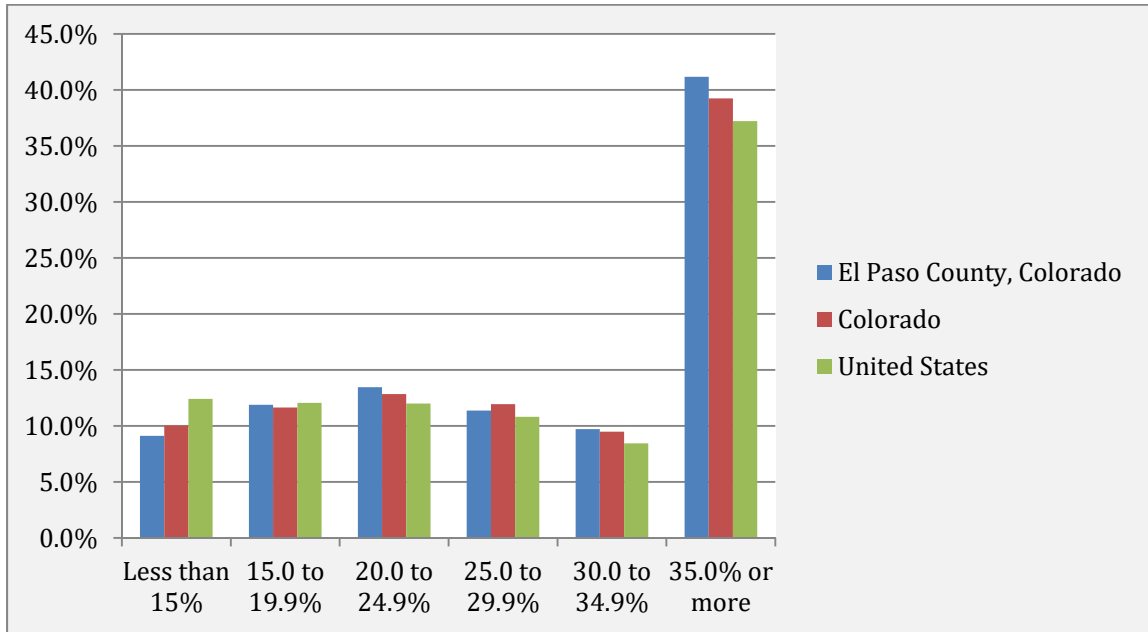


Median Rent	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2021
El Paso County, CO	\$ 881	\$ 916	\$ 996	\$ 1,065	\$ 1,125	\$ 1,301
Colorado	\$ 987	\$ 1,057	\$ 1,125	\$ 1,181	\$ 1,258	\$ 1,378
United States	\$ 812	\$ 841	\$ 868	\$ 899	\$ 941	\$ 1,037

The graph and table below illustrate rent as a percentage of income. 41.2% of households in El Paso County pay 35% or more of their monthly income toward rent. These households are “rent overburdened” meaning their housing cost is so high that it threatens the ability of the household to pay for other expenses such as health care, child care and food. Another 9.7% of households pay between 30% to 34.9% of their income toward rent. Combined, 50.9% of households in the county pay 30% or more of their income toward rent compared to 48.7% in the state and 45.6% across the nation. A high percentage of households in the county, state and nation are rent overburdened, which indicates that the cost of living is not keeping up with wages and salaries. Assuming rent at \$1,000 per month (which is less than the median rent for the county) a family would have to make more than \$34,000 per year to not be considered rent overburdened (paying more than 35% of income toward rent) and more than

\$40,000 per year to pay less than 30% of their income toward rent. The federal poverty line for a family of 4 is \$27,500 for 2022.

**Gross Rent as a Percentage of Household Income**



2020 5-year ACS; Rent as a percentage of Income	Less than 15%	15.0 to 19.9%	20.0 to 24.9%	25.0 to 29.9%	30.0 to 34.9%	35.0% or more
El Paso County, Colorado	9.1%	11.9%	13.5%	11.4%	9.7%	41.2%
Colorado	10.0%	11.6%	12.8%	11.9%	9.5%	39.2%
United States	12.4%	12.1%	12.0%	10.8%	8.4%	37.2%

Note: 7.0% (U.S.) 4.8% (Colorado) and 3.3% (El Paso County) of rents are "Not Computed" as a percentage of income.

## Transportation

During focus groups for the last community assessment, Head Start/Early Head Start families cited transportation as the third most common need in El Paso County. The bus system, operated by Mountain Metropolitan Transit, is known for not having enough routes to provide quality transportation services to individuals and families without vehicles. In the Pikes Peak United Way's 2022 Quality of Life Indicators report, Colorado Springs received 19 out of 100 for its Transit Score. This score "is an indicator of access of a city's transit system—that is, usefulness of the transit routes. Transit usefulness measures how well an area is served through public transit...which considers distance to stops, route frequency, and service mode (e.g., bus, train)." This low score is likely due to the low number of bus routes, especially in evenings and on the weekend, and long travel times. Many parents noted these types of concerns during a past focus group. One Early Head Start parent shared that she had a 2 hour commute

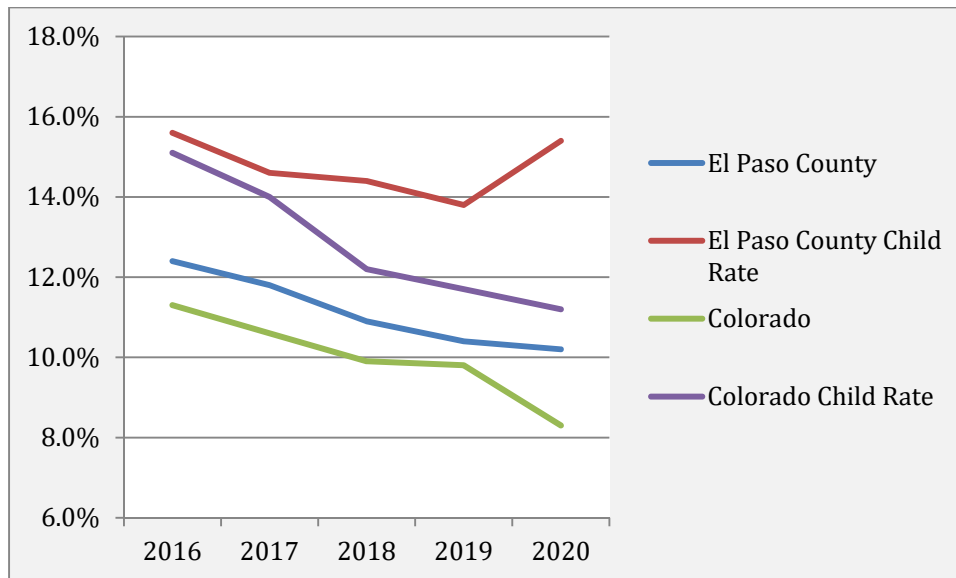
to pick up and drop off of her child and multiple bus transfers. The 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan produced by the Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments identified gaps in transportation services in the region. Expansion of bus services is critical for low income families, particularly as commute times in the county were up 7.3% since 2010 to 23.4 minutes in 2018. Many of the long term planning reports for the region cite budgetary constraints in providing expanded services, and the most recent Fare Study in 2018 recommended a 14% fare hike in single ride tickets, and it also recommended fare cuts in monthly passes.

In the 2022-2023 school year, CPCD provides bus transportation for about 30-40 Head Start children daily. This represents only about 2-3% of children enrolled in Head Start. In the past CPCD transported more children, but many parents opted out of transportation services the past two school years.

## Food Insecurity

According to Feeding America, 15% of children in El Paso County are food insecure. This is about 4% higher than Colorado’s rate of food insecurity. The food insecurity rate considers cost of living and household/family economic data from a wide range of data sources. Food insecure households are those that must make choices between buying food and paying other essential bills such as health care, housing and utilities. The average cost per meal in El Paso County increased 9.1% from \$3.17 per meal in 2016 to \$3.46 in 2020. Over the same time period the average cost per meal in Colorado increased 5.3%.

**Food Insecurity Rates in El Paso County and Colorado**



Food Insecurity Rate	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
El Paso County	12.4%	11.8%	10.9%	10.4%	10.2%
El Paso County Child Rate	15.6%	14.6%	14.4%	13.8%	15.4%
Colorado	11.3%	10.6%	9.9%	9.8%	8.3%
Colorado Child Rate	15.1%	14.0%	12.2%	11.7%	11.2%

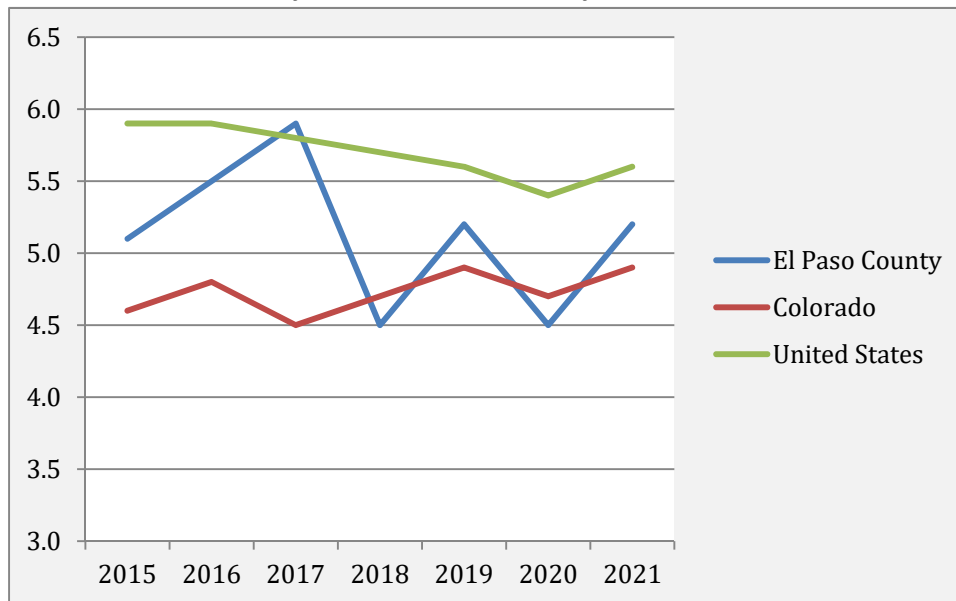
Average meal cost, \$	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
El Paso County	3.02	3.17	3.22	3.30	3.35	3.46
Colorado	3.09	3.19	3.24	3.29	3.35	3.36

## Health

### Infant Mortality

Infant mortality is down from a high of 5.9 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2017 to just 5.2 deaths in 2021. El Paso County’s rate is higher than Colorado’s, but lower than the nation’s. The infant mortality rate is an important overall health indicator, since a variety of factors affect it from nutrition to access to prenatal care, income levels and education levels.

**Infant Mortality Rates in El Paso County, Colorado and the U.S.**

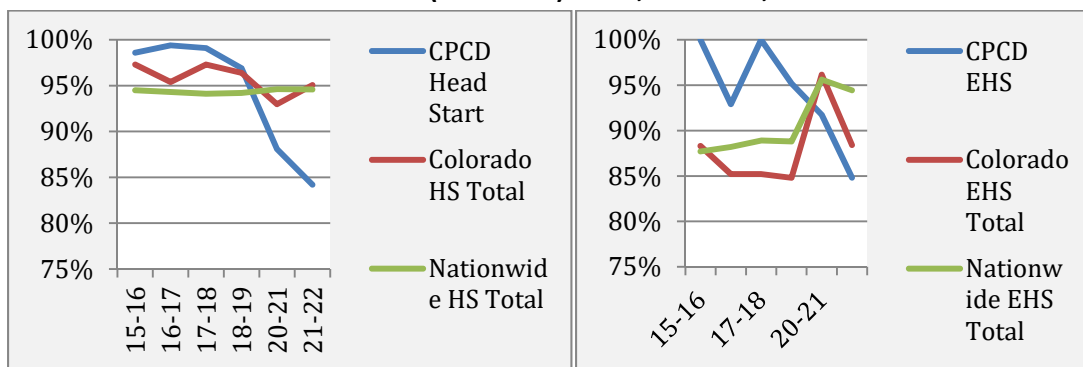


Infant mortality rates (per 1,000 live births)	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
El Paso County	5.1	5.5	5.9	4.5	5.2	4.5	5.2
Colorado	4.6	4.8	4.5	4.7	4.9	4.7	4.9
United States	5.9	5.9	5.8	5.7	5.6	5.4	5.6

## Health Care Accessibility

According to CPCD’s 21-22 PIR, 84.19% of Head Start children and 84.81% of Early Head Start children had health insurance that provided them access to health care. These percentages are lower than Colorado’s and the nation’s. Typically CPCD has higher rates than the state and nation. The lower rates may be due to the pandemic and its impact on CPCD’s families’ willingness to visit a doctor, a shortage of CPCD nurses (nurses typically follow-up with families that do not have access to health care), and also due to gaps in CPCD’s reporting in ChildPlus. CPCD’s nursing staff is now fully staffed and CPCD is working to ensure its capturing and inputting correct health data in ChildPlus during the 2022-2023 school year. The charts below include data from the medical insurance section in the 21-22 PIR.

**Access to Health Care (Insurance) CPCD, Colorado, and Nation**



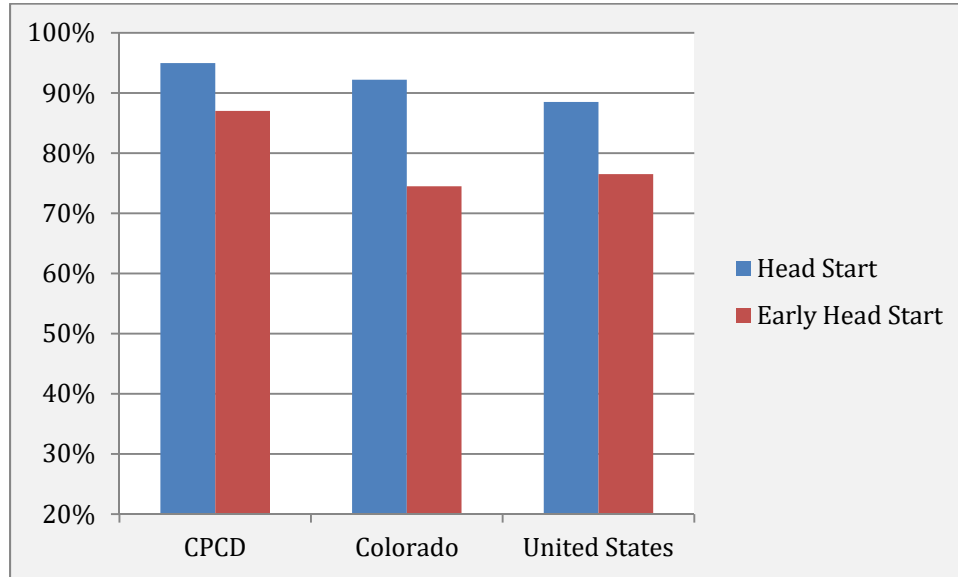
Children Continuous Accessible Health Care (at End of Enrollment Year) - Percent - PIR	15-16	16-17	17-18	18-19	20-21	21-22
CPCD Head Start	98.60%	99.40%	99.10%	96.90%	88.09%	84.19%
Colorado HS Total	97.30%	95.40%	97.30%	96.40%	92.98%	95.07%
Nationwide HS Total	94.50%	94.30%	94.10%	94.20%	94.62%	94.57%
CPCD EHS	100.00%	92.90%	100.00%	95.20%	91.75%	84.81%
Colorado EHS Total	88.30%	85.20%	85.20%	84.80%	96.17%	88.42%
Nationwide EHS Total	87.70%	88.20%	88.90%	88.80%	95.61%	94.43%

During focus groups for the last Community Assessment, health care tied for third in the category of community strengths. Staff mentioned that Medicaid and TriCare (health care service provider for

military families) cover almost all children enrolled in Head Start/Early Head Start. Despite these high levels of access, the Community Health Improvement Plan for El Paso County continues to identify health care accessibility as an ongoing area of focus.

Continuous access to dental care is higher among CPCD HS/EHS children when compared to state and national levels. CPCD is also working to ensure that it is reporting dental information correctly in ChildPlus during the 2022-2023 school year.

**Percentage of Children with Accessible Dental Care: CPCD, CO, and U.S.**



21-22 Children Continuous Accessible Dental Care (at End of Enrollment Year)	Head Start	Early Head Start
CPCD	94.97%	87.03%
Colorado	92.22%	74.50%
United States	88.52%	76.51%

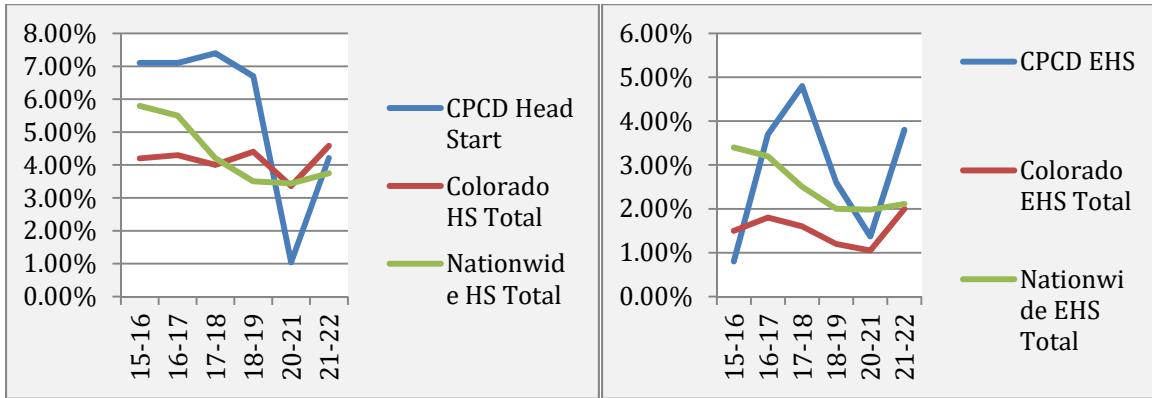
## Diagnosed Health Issues

### Asthma

The rate of asthma among CPCD children is similar to state and national percentages. During the 2021-2022 program year, 4.21% of CPCD Head Start and 3.8% of CPCD Early Head Start children were diagnosed with asthma. Reasons for asthma include allergies, a high rate of premature infants in the program, smoking in the home (14% of El Paso County adults smoke, though this is consistent with state wide trends), and orthopneumovirus among infants and children in the program.



**Percentage of Children with Asthma: CPCD, CO, and the U.S.**



Asthma - Percent - PIR	15-16	16-17	17-18	18-19	20-21	21-22
CPCD Head Start	7.10%	7.10%	7.40%	6.70%	1.04%	4.21%
Colorado HS Total	4.20%	4.30%	4.00%	4.40%	3.36%	4.58%
Nationwide HS Total	5.80%	5.50%	4.20%	3.50%	3.44%	3.75%
CPCD EHS	0.80%	3.70%	4.80%	2.60%	1.37%	3.80%
Colorado EHS Total	1.50%	1.80%	1.60%	1.20%	1.05%	2.00%
Nationwide EHS Total	3.40%	3.20%	2.50%	2.00%	1.98%	2.11%

**Body Weight**

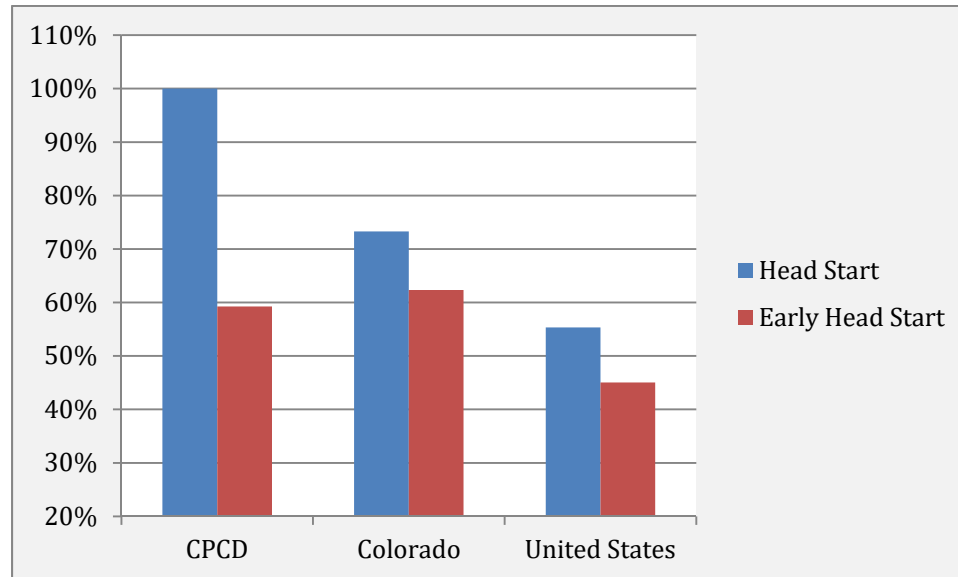
CPCD Head Start children had a lower rate of enrolled children with a healthy weight when compared to state and nationwide percentages. CPCD Head Start also had a lower rate of enrolled children that were underweight when compared to state and nationwide percentages. A close examination of the PIR from the past two years suggests that suggests that the lower percentages may be due to gaps in reporting in ChildPlus. As noted earlier, CPCD is working to ensure that health and nutrition staff is capturing and reporting data correctly in ChildPlus during the 2022-2023 school year.

Healthy Weight (at Enrollment ) - Percent - PIR	15-16	16-17	17-18	18-19	20-21	21-22
CPCD Head Start	66.10%	65.30%	69.80%	69.90%	34.91%	35.01%
Colorado HS Total	66.00%	66.00%	65.10%	66.20%	56.69%	58.08%
Nationwide HS Total	63.50%	62.70%	62.30%	61.40%	57.15%	58.65%
Underweight (at Enrollment ) - Percent - PIR	15-16	16-17	17-18	18-19	20-21	21-22
CPCD Head Start	8.00%	9.50%	6.30%	8.40%	3.70%	3.59%
Colorado HS Total	5.80%	5.10%	6.10%	6.30%	5.74%	6.45%
Nationwide HS Total	4.80%	5.10%	5.10%	5.20%	5.05%	5.86%

## Mental Health

During the 2021-2022 school year, 100% of CPCD Head Start and 59% of CPCD Early Head Start classrooms received mental health consultation. The percentage of CPCD Head Start classroom is higher than state and national percentages. The percentage of Early Head Start classrooms is less than state percentages but more than national percentages. CPCD has seen an increase in challenging behaviors in the past two school years.

**Percentage of Classrooms Receiving Mental Health Consultation: CPCD, CO, and U.S.**



The new PIR changed the mental health data section and historical data before 2020-2021 is not comparable to current data.

## Typical Schedule of Families

Over 70% of CPCD Head Start and Early Head Start families have at least one parent in the workforce. This percentage is similar to past years when about 65% of parents had one or more parent working. The PIR changed its approach to parent employment data in 2021-2022, so it is no longer possible to make a direct comparison to past data.

Community Partnership For Child Development PIR Totals	2016	2017	2018	2019	2021*	2022
All parents working	311	366	351	344	731	842
One of two parents working	440	399	397	378	N/A	N/A
No parents working	416	389	397	382	302	311

<b>Community Partnership For Child Development PIR Totals</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>
All parents working	26.60%	31.70%	30.70%	31.20%	N/A	71.36%
One of two parents working	37.70%	34.60%	34.70%	34.20%	N/A	N/A
No parents working	35.60%	33.70%	34.70%	34.60%	N/A	25.92%
<b>A parent in training/school</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>
CPCD Head Start	20.70%	22.40%	16.10%	17.20%	21.10%	18.75%
Colorado Head Start	28.10%	24.90%	24.00%	24.70%	24.00%	17.59%

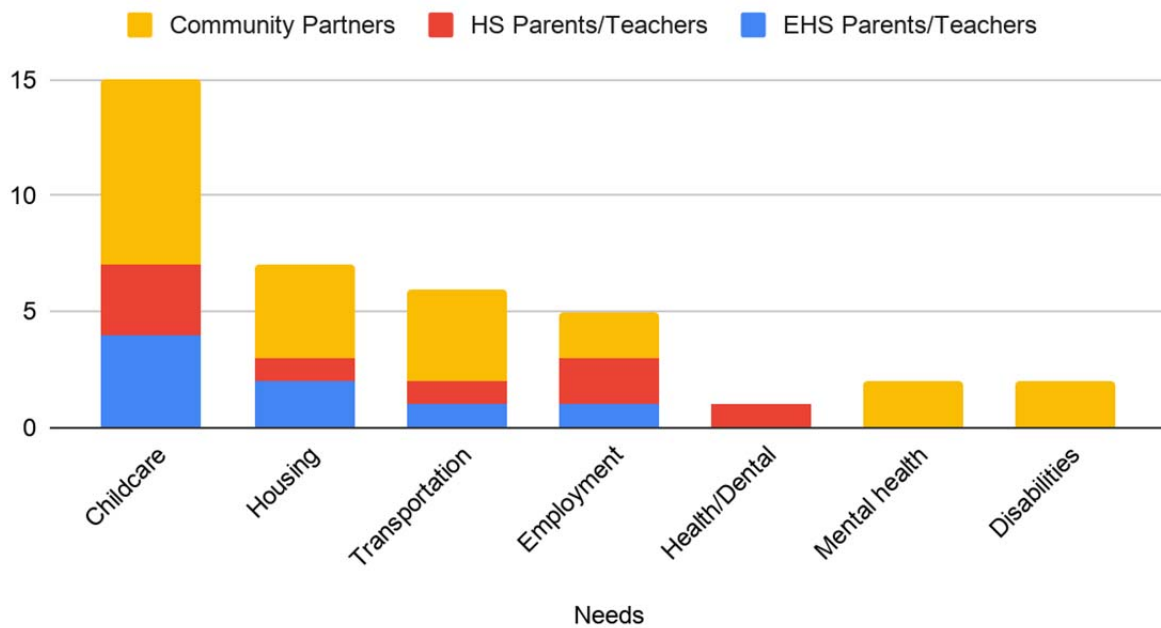
\*The new PIR (starting in 2021) captures different data about working parents, and the data is no longer broken out by "all parents working" or "one parents working" and instead the categories are combined.

# Focus Group Results

Focus group results are from the 2020 Community Assessment.

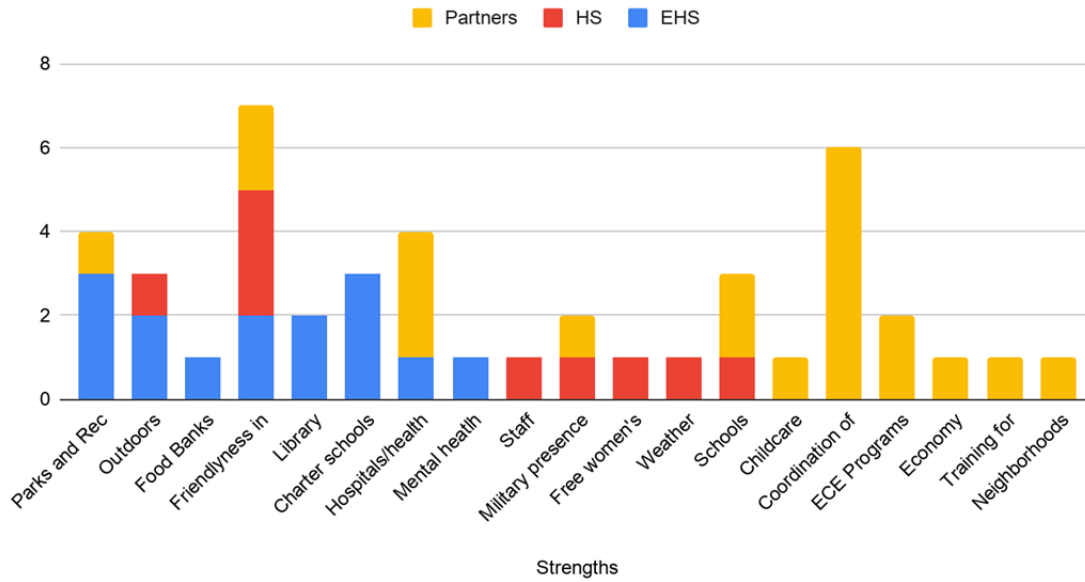
## Community Needs

### Focus Group results - community needs



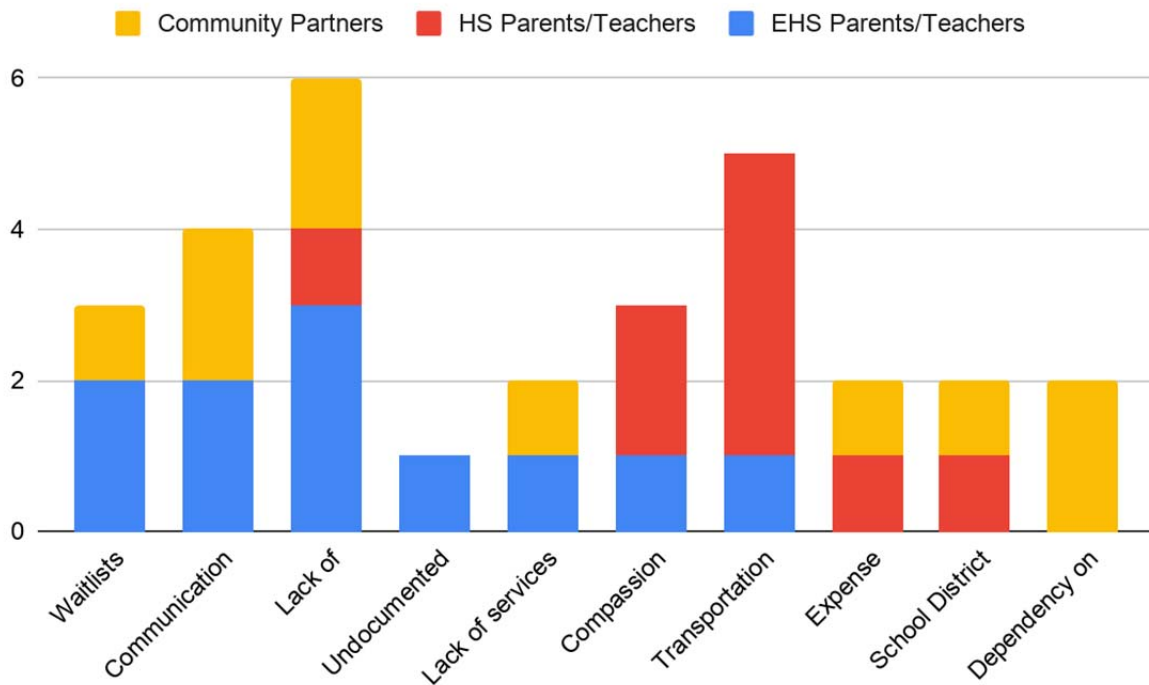
Community/Family Needs	EHS Parents/Teachers	HS Parents/Teachers	Community Partners	Total
Childcare	4	3	8	15
Housing	2	1	4	7
Transportation	1	1	4	6
Employment	1	2	2	5
Health/Dental		1		1
Mental health			2	2
Disabilities			2	2

## EHS, HS and Partners



Strengths	EHS Parents & Teachers	HS Parents & Teachers	Community Partners	Total
Parks and Rec	3		1	4
Outdoors	2	1		3
Food Banks	1			1
Friendliness in community	2	3	2	7
Library	2			2
Charter schools		3		3
Hospitals/health care & accessibility	1		3	4
Mental health	1			1
Staff		1		1
Military presence		1	1	2
Free women's clinic		1		1
Weather		1		1
Schools		1	2	3
Childcare			1	1
Coordination of services			6	6
ECE Programs funding			2	2
Economy			1	1
Training for services staff			1	1
Neighborhoods			1	1

## Barriers to Receiving Services



Barriers to receiving services	EHS Parents & Teachers	HS Parents & Teachers	Community Partners	Total
Waitlists	2		1	3
Communication between services	2		2	4
Lack of referrals, advertising of social services, eligibility	3	1	2	6
Undocumented families scared to ask for help	1			1
Lack of services	1		1	2
Compassion Fatigue of social services staff/Unwelcoming environments	1	2		3
Transportation	1	4		5
Expense		1	1	2
School District boundaries		1	1	2
Dependency on military services			2	2