Boulder County TRENDS

The Community Foundation's Report on Key Indicators

Our ECONOMY is growing…
but so is our POVERTY

Education REPORT CARD:
better marks but room to improve

The HIGH COST of your morning coffee
(370 trees per month!)

Inside: LATINO TASK FORCE
Special Report

Plus 150
WAYS TO GAUGE
the State of Our Community
and BE INSPIRED

BOULDER COUNTY AT-A-GLANCE

POPULATION*: 300,383

Total **ACREAGE** in the County: **474,347**

Percent of **PRESERVED** Land in County: **68%**

Number of **HOUSEHOLDS: 118,937**

FAMILY Households: **70,519**

NON-FAMILY Households: **48,418**

MEDIAN AGE 36

RACIAL/ETHNIC Makeup

- **88%** White
- **13%** Latino (any race)
- **4%** Asian
- **0.8%** Black or African American
- **0.4%** American Indian and Alaska Native
- **4%** Some other race
- **3%** Two or more races

Percent of People Who **SPEAK A LANGUAGE** Other than English at Home: **16%**

EDUCATIONAL Attainment:

94% High school graduates

58% Bachelor's degree or higher

26% Graduate degree

2011 **MEDIAN FAMILY INCOME: $90,197**

2011 **POVERTY LEVEL** for a family of four: **$22,350**

INDIVIDUALS BELOW poverty: **14%**

Families with **KIDS BELOW** poverty: **12%**

CHILDREN BELOW poverty: **14%**

*Population data from Colorado State Demography Office

All other data from the 2011 American Community Survey

Morgan Rogers, Civic Forum Director (right) and Barbara Green, Civic Forum Associate Director (left)

The Community Foundation – inspired giving starts here.

At The Community Foundation, knowledge and data about local needs combine with the ideas of passionate community members – leading to informed and inspired investments in Boulder County and beyond. The Community Foundation is proud to have served Boulder County residents since 1991.

See page 92 for more about the work of The Community Foundation.

Contents

10 **Who Are We?**
Some places (and population groups) here are growing faster than others

16 **Our Education**
Our schools are above average and getting better, but too many kids still fall behind

28 **Our School Readiness Initiative**
We're partnering with community leaders to improve early learning for kids

36 **Latino Task Force**
Latinos here are more likely to be Colorado natives than the rest of us

44 **Our Health and Human Services**
Many adults here are fit and trim, but not everything is rosy

54 **Our Economy and Housing**
Our median income is high, but more of us are struggling to make ends meet

64 **Our Environment**
From water use to recycling rates, we're not as green as we think we are

72 **Our Arts and Culture**
Earned income is up, but gifts from individuals are down

78 **Our Civic Participation and Giving**
Many of us love this community, but not everyone feels welcome here

86 **By the Numbers**
A collection of key indicators from each chapter

92 **The Community Foundation**
Our work with donors, grants and awards, and transformational leadership

96 **Acknowledgements and Definitions**

A Letter from the President

Feast and Famine

We at The Community Foundation love Boulder County. We feel blessed to call this place home and care deeply about the quality of life here. If you're reading this, we know you do, too.

In this 8th edition of Boulder County TRENDS, we share with you data on more than 100 indicators we've been tracking across time in demographics, education, health, the economy, the environment, arts, and civic engagement and philanthropy. We celebrate our community's accomplishments, and point to areas that need our focused attention. We also suggest what you can do to get involved and make a difference in our community's future.

For now, we're happy to report that many of us here do well. We enjoy well-paying jobs in growth industries like finance and biotechnology. We stay fit by taking advantage of our ample outdoor spaces. And we send our kids to local schools that outperform state benchmarks in a number of areas.

But life here is changing. While many of us enjoy comfortable and economically stable lives, growing numbers of Boulder County residents are living in poverty. Too many kids are struggling to read at grade level – and showing up for school behind where they should be. And, as in many places, inequality here is increasing.

Even if you haven't felt the impact of these shifts in your everyday lives just yet, someone you know probably has. And you likely will in the future.

Inequality hampers our economy, reinforces generational poverty, and chips away at our sense of community, threatening us all. It's important that we act to ameliorate this threat. That's where The Community Foundation comes in.

The data contained in this report informs our community leadership efforts, the grants we make and the programs we run, helping ensure we act strategically to maximize our impact. This data pushed us to prioritize closing the school achievement gap; it also sparked the creation of our Leadership Fellows program to build a diverse core of future leaders and our Health Improvement Collaborative to improve patient care. But TRENDS isn't just for us. It also serves as a guide to our business, civic and non-profit leaders, and everyday community residents who care about what happens here. In the next two pages, we'll give you a brief snapshot of the chapters that follow.

Who We Are

The 65+ population here is forecasted to grow six times as fast as our overall population in the years ahead, hurtling us toward a 'silver tsunami' – or an unprecedented increase in the number of senior citizens living locally. This shift raises questions about the resources we have in place to accommodate our changing demographics. Another age-related trend that caught our eye is the 14-year disparity in median age between Anglos (or non-Hispanic whites) and Latinos in Boulder County. Such gaps in age can sometimes lead to gaps in understanding between different racial/ethnic groups, fomenting discord and inequality.

Our Education

Most adults living here have college degrees, making us one of the most highly educated counties in the nation. **But kids here who live in poverty and kids of color are significantly less likely to go onto higher education – and significantly more likely to live in poverty down the road.** We call this the achievement gap in Boulder County, but it's really the cumulative result of a series of opportunity gaps faced by our lower-income (and Latino) kids. All kids deserve a fair shot at success, regardless of their skin color or how much money their parents make. Giving them that shot makes sense for our community, too, as we look to train our future workforce and strengthen the civic capacity of everyone living here.

BOULDER COUNTY THIRD-GRADERS PROFICIENT IN READING

Total	83%
Non-Free and Reduced Lunch Students	90%
Free and Reduced Lunch Students	66%

Source: Colorado Department of Education

Our School Readiness Initiative – Special Report

Data tells us that one of the best ways to battle inequality is by investing in our students early, ensuring they have access to high-quality early childhood education. The good news is that, while our gaps are significant, so is the community support to close them. In the fall of 2012, St. Vrain Valley School District voters overwhelming approved Ballot Issue 3A to help backfill education cuts and improve school funding for kids. We endorsed, funded, and campaigned mightily for this mill levy, which will help maintain class size and fund additional preschool and full-day kindergarten spots for lower-income kids. We gave the same support to Boulder Valley School District in 2010 when they outlined a vision for expanding early learning opportunities for their neediest kids. We're also helping lead a cross-sector initiative on closing the achievement gap that we'll tell you more about in our special report.

Our Health and Human Services

Colorado has the lowest adult obesity rate in the country. And Boulder County has one of the lowest adult obesity rates in Colorado. Few of us smoke and many of us enjoy time for recreation, making us a comparatively healthy bunch. However, we have our challenges. A full quarter of high school students – and 15% of adults here – binge-drink, or consume five or more alcoholic beverages on one occasion in a given month. Suicide is the sixth leading cause of death here (it's 10th in the U.S.). And nearly half of lower-income and Latino residents lack health insurance. We're also concerned that the number of rapes here increased in 2011 and troubled to report that Colorado has the third highest forcible rape rate in the country.

CHILDREN IN POVERTY, 2011

Lafayette	24%
Longmont	18%
Boulder	14%

Source: American Community Survey

Our Economy and Housing

Experts forecast that Boulder County's economy should grow faster than that of the state or nation in the year ahead. Home prices are up and the number of foreclosures here is down. But not everything's rosy. **Experts warn that we may be over-dependent on importing our workforce – and that we must get better at growing our own.** We agree. Our economy is expanding, but it's also changing. We must change with it. While our wealth is exceptional, our rising poverty rate is now roughly equal to that of the state and nation.

Our Environment

Boulder County has a reputation for being green and, in some ways, it's well-deserved. We've got hundreds of miles of biking and hiking trails, we were one of the first places in the country to prioritize preserving open space, and we set an ambitious goal of honoring the Kyoto Protocol (even if we haven't achieved it yet). **That said, we produce more waste than the average American, consume more water, and emit roughly the same amount of greenhouse gases on a per capita basis.** The good news is we care; we're optimistic we'll take advantage of our ample room for improvement.

Our Arts and Culture

Boulder County is blessed to have one of the highest concentrations of artists in the country. And our local arts organizations have done a great job of increasing their earned revenue through ticket and retail sales, subscriptions, and tuition. Contributions from businesses, too, have increased. **Troublingly, however, arts contributions from individuals in Boulder County have fallen.**

Our Civic Participation and Giving

People who give of their time and treasure to help their community and fellow residents live longer, more satisfying lives, studies show. We're happy to report that most Boulder County residents will reap those benefits. However, continuing research shows that our giving as a percentage of per capita income is actually lower in Boulder County than it is in the U.S. as a whole. **Further, while many of us say we love living here, we also report feeling like our community is less open than we should be to immigrants and people of color.**

PERCENTAGE OF BOULDER COUNTY RESIDENTS WHO SAY WE'RE VERY OPEN OR OPEN TO...

Families with young children	81%
Young adults without children	68%
Gay and lesbian people	61%
Senior citizens	58%
Recent college grads	51%
Racial and ethnic minorities	45%
Immigrants from other countries	43%

Source: TCF Survey, 2013

Latino Task Force – Special Report

Boulder County's Latino community has grown significantly in recent decades – even though our leadership does not yet reflect that shift. In this edition of TRENDS, we're excited to bring you a special report on a recent research project led by the Latino Task Force that explores our diverse demographics. **Fun Fact: Latinos in Boulder County are more likely to be from Colorado originally than Anglos – and are just as likely to participate in our local workforce.**

We hope you find the information that follows not only interesting but useful. Data can be a powerful tool in understanding what's working in our community and what needs improvement. But data alone does not lead to change. The Community Foundation is committed to using the data we track to focus our work, making Boulder County an even better place to live in the years ahead. We hope you'll join us on this journey.

Josie Heath
President
The Community Foundation

Presentación de la presidenta

Abundancia y carencia

La fundación Community Foundation está comprometida íntimamente con el condado de Boulder. Es una satisfacción íntima poder llamar casa a este lugar y estar pendiente de la calidad de vida dentro de nuestra comunidad. Sabiendo que leyendo esto, usted comparte nuestros valores.

En esta octogésima edición de Boulder County TRENDS (las TENDENCIAS del condado de Boulder), compartimos con usted información sobre más de 100 indicadores que hemos obtenido a lo largo del tiempo tanto en demografía, como en enseñanza, salubridad, economía, medio ambiente, artes, compromiso cívico y filantropía. Hemos tomado en cuenta estos indicadores tanto para celebrar los acontecimientos de nuestra comunidad como para señalar aquellas áreas en las cuales debemos centrar nuestra atención. También le sugerimos su participación en lo que pueda contribuir para lograr realizar cambios en el futuro de nuestra comunidad.

Por ahora, nos satisface informarles que a muchos de nosotros nos está yendo bien. Disfrutamos de empleos bien remunerados en sectores económicos en expansión tales como finanzas y biotecnología. Aprovechamos nuestros amplios espacios al aire libre para mantenernos en buena condición física. Y también nuestros hijos tienen acceso a escuelas públicas locales que exceden niveles académicos básicos estatales en varias categorías.

Pero las circunstancias de la vida van cambiando. Mientras que muchos disfrutamos de comodidad estabilidad económica, hay un creciente número de residentes del condado de Boulder que viven en la pobreza. Hay demasiado niños que muestran dificultad en la lectura a nivel escolar – y comienzan la escuela rezagados académicamente. De la misma manera que en otros lugares, la desigualdad socio-económica aumenta y aunque usted quizás todavía no haya sentido el impacto de estos cambios en su vida cotidiana, con toda seguridad conoce usted a alguien que sí los ha sufrido y si no los verá usted en el futuro.

La desigualdad desacelera nuestra economía, fomenta la pobreza generacional y deteriora nuestras bases comunitarias, amenazándonos a todos. Es importante que actuemos para enfrentar y erradicar esta amenaza. En vista de esto, la fundación The Community Foundation es el puente para suscitar este cambio.

Los datos que en este informe impulsan nuestros esfuerzos de liderazgo dentro de nuestras comunidades: las subvenciones que financiamos y los programas que implementamos para asegurarnos de que estamos actuando de una forma estratégica y así de esta manera potenciar al máximo nuestro impacto. Esta información nos sirvió para que estableciéramos la prioridad de cerrar la existencia de la brecha en el desempeño escolar; y también dio lugar a la creación de un programa de liderazgo para incluir a la diversificación de líderes hacia el futuro. Además dio lugar a nuestra cooperativa para mejoras de salud en función de atender las necesidades del paciente. Sin embargo, TRENDS (TENDENCIAS) no sólo nos beneficia como organización sino que sirve para guiar a nuestros líderes en negocios, cívicos y en organizaciones sin fines de lucro así como a los ciudadanos de nuestra comunidad que se preocupan por lo que sucede aquí. En las siguientes dos páginas, les daremos un breve resumen de los capítulos incluidos en esta circular.

¿Quiénes somos?

Se calcula que la población de personas mayores a los 65 se multiplicará seis veces más rápido que la población general, algo que nos catapulta hacia una Avalancha de Plata – en otras palabras a un ascenso sin precedentes en la cantidad de ancianos quienes viven dentro la comunidad. Este cambio nos plantea la pregunta ¿existen los recursos necesarios para encarar este cambio demográfico? Otra tendencia relacionada con la edad que nos llamó la atención es la mediana de 14 años de diferencia que existe entre la edad de los anglosajones (blancos no hispanos) y de los latinos en el condado de Boulder. Dichas diferencias en edades podrían conducir a brechas en la comprensión entre diferentes grupos étnicos/raciales que podrían fomentar discordia y desigualdad.

Nuestra Educación

Muchos de los adultos que viven aquí tienen grados universitarios, algo que nos ha convertido en uno de los condados con mejor preparación académica en la nación. **Sin embargo para los niños que viven en pobreza y los de color, es significativamente menos probable que cursen la educación secundaria superior y es más probable que se mantengan en pobreza.** Esto es lo que llamamos brecha en el desempeño académico en el condado de Boulder, pero en realidad se trata de los resultados acumulados de una carencia de oportunidad que sufren nuestros niños (latinos) y de bajo nivel económico. Todos los niños merecen una oportunidad equitativa de aspirar al éxito, sin reparar en el color de su piel o el ingreso de sus padres. También es favorable para nuestra comunidad, brindarles esta oportunidad, al mismo tiempo que capacitar a nuestra fuerza laboral para el futuro, fortaleciendo la capacidad cívica de toda nuestra comunidad.

ESTUDIANTES DE 3ER AÑO EN LAS ESCUELAS DE BOULDER COMPETENTES EN LA LECTURA

Total	83%
Estudiantes que no califican para descuentos en el almuerzo	90%
Estudiantes que califican para almuerzos gratís o subsidios	66%

Fuente: Departamento de Educación de Colorado

Iniciativa de Preparación para la Escuela – Informe Especial

Sabemos que una de las mejores maneras de combatir la desigualdad es mediante inversiones a temprana edad en nuestros alumnos, asegurando para ellos, un acceso a la educación preescolar de alta calidad. La buena noticia es que aunque existen brechas significantes, están contrarrestadas por el fuerte apoyo comunitario para superarlas. En el otoño de 2012, los electores del Distrito Escolar de Vrain Valley aprobaron de manera contundente la iniciativa 3A en la consulta que aprobaba fondos para ayudar a subsanar los recortes educativos e incrementar la cantidad de fondos escolares dedicados a los alumnos. Apoyamos, dotando fondo y haciendo una intensiva campaña para la tarifa "fondos condado" que ayudará a conservar a un mínimo los alumnos en el salón de clase y proporcionar fondos para abrir cupo adicional para niños de bajos ingresos en los programas pre escolares y de jardín de niños con un horario de día completo. Hemos prestado el mismo apoyo al Distrito Escolar de Boulder Valley en 2010 cuando éste nos planteó un proyecto para abrir oportunidades de aprendizaje temprano a los alumnos de escasos recursos. También estamos liderando una iniciativa en conjunto con diferentes sectores de cómo cerrar las brecha en el desempeño académico misma que les comunicaremos más tarde en nuestro informe especial.

Nuestros Servicios Humanos y de Salud

Colorado cuenta con el índice más bajo de obesidad adulta del país y el condado de Boulder tiene uno de los índices de obesidad adulta más bajo de Colorado. Los residentes de Boulder no presentan mucha afición al tabaco. Gozando de mucho tiempo libre y la dedicamos a actividades recreativas, por lo cual somos un grupo relativamente saludable. No obstante, si enfrentamos desafíos. debida a que una cuarta parte de nuestros alumnos de preparatoria – y 15% de la población adulta – se sobrecargan en el abuso llegando a consumir cinco bebidas alcohólicas o más a la vez en un mes. Por otro lado se ha identificado al suicidio la sexta causa de muerte en orden de importancia en nuestro condado (se ha identificado como la décima causa de muerte en los EE.UU.). La mitad de los residentes latinos no cuentan con seguro médico. Es preocupante también que el número de violaciones aumentó en 2011 y con mucho pesar tenemos que reportar que Colorado se encuentra en tercer lugar entre los lugares con niveles más altos de violación forzada.

Nuestra Economía y Vivienda

Los expertos en la materia pronostican que el crecimiento económico del Condado de Boulder superará el nivel estatal o nacional el año que entra. El precio de la vivienda ha subido y ha disminuido la cantidad de ejecuciones hipotecarias. Sin embargo, no todo es color de rosa. **Los peritos advierten que dependemos mucho de la mano de obra importada y deberíamos esforzarnos más en desarrollar la mano de obra local.** Estamos de acuerdo con esto, nuestra economía está creciendo, pero también está cambiando y nosotros tenemos que adaptarnos a ello. Puesto que, a pesar de que contamos con una riqueza excepcional, nuestro nivel de pobreza ha aumentado hasta igualar la de nuestro estado y nación.

NIÑOS EN ESTADO DE POBREZA, 2011

Lafayette	24%
Longmont	18%
Boulder	14%

Source: American Community Survey

Nuestro Medio Ambiente

El condado de Boulder tiene fama por su perfil ecológico y, en parte, es merecida. Cuenta con acceso a centenares de millas libres para caminar, andar en bicicleta. Este perfil nos coloca en uno de los primeros, tomando la delantera a nivel nacional cuando se trata de la prioridad con respecto a la conservación de espacios al aire libre. Finalmente hemos apostado a cumplir con el Protocolo de Kyoto (aunque hasta la fecha no hemos logrado). Aunque estamos intentando todavía producimos más deshechos, consumimos más agua, y producimos aproximadamente la misma cantidad de gases de efecto invernadero que el americano promedio. La buena noticia es que si es algo que nos preocupa, y estamos muy optimistas optimismo de poder aprovechar este abanico de posibilidades para efectuar mejoras.

Nuestras Artes y Cultura

El condado de Boulder tiene la particularidad de contar con las más altas concentraciones de artistas de todo el país. No dejamos de tomar que nuestras organizaciones locales de arte han realizado una excelente labor al incrementar sus ingresos con las ventas de boletos y al menudeo, suscripciones y colegiaturas. También han aumentado las aportaciones de parte de los negocios. **Algo que nos preocupa es que las aportaciones a las artes de parte de particulares han disminuido en el condado de Boulder.**

Nuestra participación cívica y donaciones

Los estudios indican que la gente que comparte su tiempo y dinero para ayudar a su comunidad y a sus vecinos tienda a vivir más tiempo y goza de una vida más satisfactoria. Nos da mucho gusto reportar que la mayoría de los residentes del condado de Boulder debido a su generosidad disfrutan de estos beneficios. Sin embargo, según la investigación en curso arroja que al comparar nuestras donaciones con las aportaciones a nivel nacional como porcentaje de nuestro ingreso, el porcentaje en el condado de Boulder es menor al nivel nacional. **Mientras que muchos dicen que les encanta vivir aquí también mencionaron que sienten que nuestra comunidad no es tan abierta como debería de ser con relación a los inmigrantes y gente de color.**

PORCENTAJE DE RESIDENTES QUE DICEN QUE EL CONDADO DE BOULDER ES ABIERTO A...

Familias con hijos pequeños	81%
Adultos jóvenes sin hijos	68%
Personas gay o lesbianas	61%
Adultos mayores	58%
Recién egresados de la universidad	51%
Minorías étnicas	45%
Inmigrantes de otros países	43%

Fuente: TCF Survey 2013

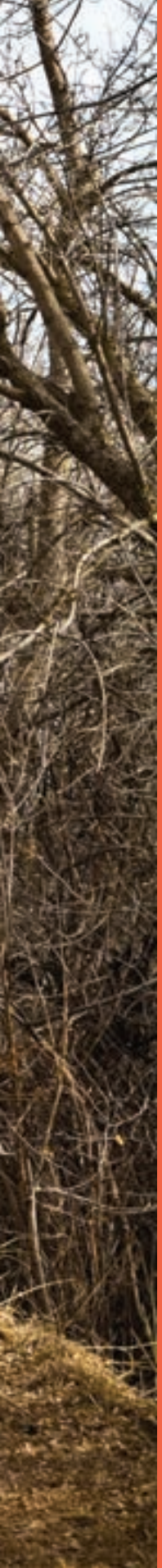
Equipo de Trabajo Latino – Reportaje Especial

La comunidad latina del condado de Boulder ha crecido de manera significante durante las últimas décadas – aunque en la faz de nuestro liderazgo todavía no se refleja este cambio. Es emocionante poder presentar en esta edición de TRENDS (TENDENCIAS), un reportaje especial sobre un reciente proyecto de investigación dirigido por el Equipo de Trabajo Latino que investiga nuestra demografía tan diversa. **Dato Curioso: es más probable que los latinos del Condado de Boulder sean nativos de Colorado que los anglosajones – y los primeros participan de igual manera que los anglosajones en nuestra fuerza laboral.**

Esperamos que la siguiente información no solo sea de su agrado pero útil. Estos datos son herramientas poderosas que no ayudan a entender lo que funciona y lo que se necesita cambiar en nuestra comunidad. Sin embargo, tenemos que recalcar que esta información por sí sola no conduce al cambio.

Nosotros como parte de la fundación Community Foundation nos comprometemos a usar los datos que hemos obtenido para enfocar y consolidar este trabajo, para convertir al condado de Boulder en un mejor lugar para hoy y mañana. Los invitamos a acompañarnos en este viaje.

Josie Heath
Presidenta
The Community Foundation



Who Are We?

We're well-educated and comparatively wealthy – but more of us are struggling economically. We're also a bit older and more diverse than we used to be.

INDICATORS IN THIS CHAPTER

Age Distribution by Ethnicity

Communities at a Glance

County and State Population

County Population Forecast

Disabled Population

Educational Attainment

Foreign Born Population

Household Makeup

Internet Connectivity

Language Spoken at home

Median Age

Median Age by Ethnicity

Mobility and Migration

Open Space

Older Adults – Population Growth and Workforce Participation

Place of Birth

Population Growth – Local, County and State

Boulder County is now home to more than 300,000 people, the Colorado State Demography Office estimates. That's about 9% bigger than we were in 2000, when our population totaled about 276,255. And it's about 44% bigger than we were in 1990,[1] when we weighed in at 208,949. So we're growing – but we're growing more slowly than we used to and more slowly than Colorado as a whole.

As our population inches up, some things remain the same. We're well educated; most of us have been fortunate enough to attend college. Many of us are relatively well-off, pulling down salaries that top the national average. And, with multiple universities nearby and a strong local market for high-skill jobs, we're a mobile crowd hailing from all over the country.

Despite these seeming constants, we're also changing. We're getting older. We're becoming more diverse. And while many of us are doing well, growing numbers of Boulder County residents are struggling to make ends meet.

Aging Gracefully

Hey – we'd never tell you that our median age of 36 is old. It's the same as Colorado's and one year under the U.S. median age of 37. But it's a bit older than we used to be (our median age was 33.4 back in 2000), reflecting the aging trend we're seeing in our community, in our country and even worldwide. While time marches on for all of us, it's marching on a little faster here.

Boulder County's 65+ population will grow 6 times as fast as our population as a whole over the next decade – and faster than the national average for that age group. While seniors make up just 10% of our population today, they're expected to comprise 20% of our numbers by 2030 as our bountiful Baby Boomers age into retirement. Nationally, the 'silver tsunami' has spurred debates around rising healthcare and pension costs. Locally, it should push us to examine what kind of resources and infrastructure we have in place to support our aging community – especially since we've historically been so young. Do we have sufficient senior-friendly housing stock? An adequate system of alternative transportation? The medical and long-term care resources we'll need down the line?

For now, our aging Baby Boomers and seniors remain an active part of our workforce and volunteer base, and a comparatively healthy bunch. Just 28% of local seniors live with a disability, compared to 37% of seniors in the U.S. Further, while poverty rates have increased significantly for other age groups in Boulder County – especially young children – they've held steady for our 65+ crowd. Perhaps helping keep poverty rates low for this group, more and more Boulder County seniors are working into their later years. **Roughly 30% of seniors here between the ages of 65 and 74 remain part of the local workforce, compared to 23% in 2000.**

Another age-related trend that stands out is the sharp differences we see across demographics. The median age for Anglos (or non-Hispanic whites) is 39, while the median age for Latinos in Boulder County is 25. Such differences can lead to a disconnect or even tension over time, some scholarship suggests, as each group fails to see itself reflected in the other.

The Denver metro area **ranked #1** in the U.S. for net migration of **young adults aged 25-34** between 2008 and 2010.

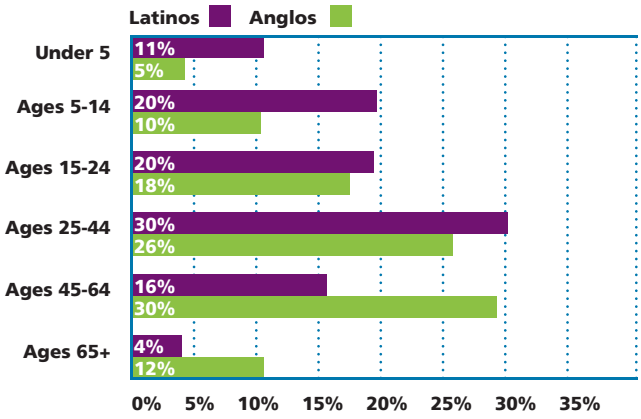
Source: Colorado State Demography Office

Boulder County Internet Connectivity, 2013	
Have Internet Access	90% Residents
Own a Smartphone	52% Residents
Own a Computer	95% Households
Spend 5-9 Hours Online Weekly	24% Residents
Spend 10-19 Hours Online Weekly	20% Residents
Spend 20+ Hours Online Weekly	22% Residents

Source: Scarborough PRIME Lingo, The Daily Camera

NOTE: Boulder County's growth rates will increase slightly in the coming years, bringing our population to a projected 350,000 by 2025, the Colorado State Demography Office forecasts. Much of this growth will be concentrated in the eastern portion of the county.

BOULDER COUNTY AGE DISTRIBUTION, 2009-2011



Source: American Community Survey

Where We Live

While we've grown about 9% since 2000, Colorado as a whole has grown nearly 20% in that time.

What keeps our growth controlled, and what makes it vary across space? Land-use laws, the cost of living, and population density are part of it. The city of Boulder, which has had minimal population growth over the past decade, has the highest population density in the county, coupled with strict land-use policies and high real estate prices (see page 60). There's more room to grow in less dense places like Longmont and Lafayette – and a greater level of affordability for a greater number of people.

Birthplace, Boulder County Residents, 2011	
Colorado	96,270
U.S., Other	166,982
Latin America	14,736
Asia	9,198
Europe	6,643
Africa	527
Oceania	294
Northern America	1,262

Source: American Community Survey

COMPONENTS OF POPULATION CHANGE, 2012

Births	2,945
Deaths	1,832
Net Migration	2,570

Source: Colorado State Demography office

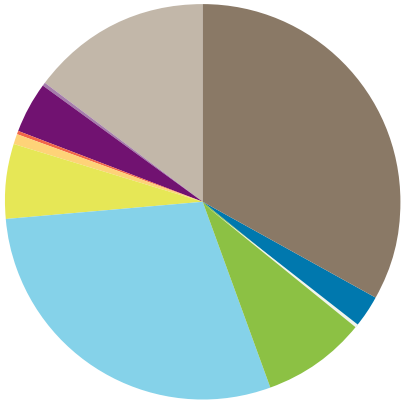
7th

Boulder County is the **seventh** most populous of Colorado's **64** counties.

FACT:

More than half of Erie's population lives in Weld County, along with a small portion of Longmont's residents. A small and currently uninhabited portion of Superior (0.5 square miles) dips into Jefferson County.

2011 BOULDER COUNTY POPULATION BY COMMUNITY AND PERCENTAGE OF CHANGE SINCE 2000

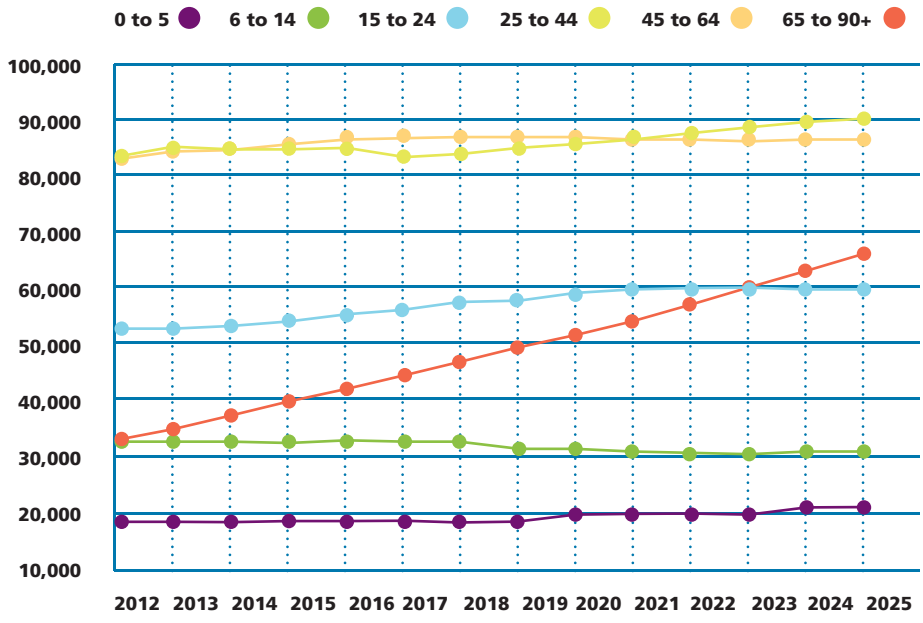


- Boulder City 99,479 | 1%
- Erie (part) 8,678 | 92%
- Jamestown 279 | -4%
- Lafayette 25,584 | 10%
- Longmont (part) 87,340 | 21%
- Louisville 18,598 | -2%
- Lyons 2,064 | 29%
- Nederland 1,459 | 4%
- Superior 12,611 | 36%
- Ward 152 | -10%
- Unincorporated Area 44,139 | -3%

TOTAL Boulder County Population 300,383 | 9%

Source: Colorado State Demography Office

BOULDER COUNTY POPULATION FORECAST BY AGE



Source: Colorado Department of Local Affairs

Demographic Diversity

One of the fastest-growing states in the U.S., Colorado's population is forecasted to reach 6.4 million by 2025 and will grow just a little bit faster than it did in the previous decade, according to the State Demography Office. As Colorado's population grows, it's becoming increasingly diverse. Roughly 30% of Coloradans identify as people of color today, up 5% from 2000. By 2040 that number will climb to 44%, with Latinos comprising 34% of our population, the State Demography Office forecasts. **Already, more than 40% of kids under the age of 18 in Colorado are from communities of color.**

While Boulder County is not yet as diverse as the state or nation, we're gaining ground. More than one in five of us identifies as something other than white non-Hispanic (or Anglo). And we're getting more diverse one birth at a time due to differing fertility rates across demographics. **One in three kids here today is a person of color.** And roughly 25% of kids under the age of 18 in Boulder County are Latino.

Growing and diverse, Latinos comprise our largest racial/ethnic group in Boulder County at roughly 40,000 people. Our Asian community, while smaller at 15,633, is growing slightly faster. Together, we are of Chinese, Japanese, Mexican, Cuban, Samoan, Cherokee, Navajo, Ghanaian, Swedish, German, Russian, Nepali, Tanzanian and American descent. More than 45,000 of us (or 16% of people over the age of 5) speak a language other than English at home. Nearly 33,000 of us (11%) were born outside of the United States. **And only one in three Boulder County residents was actually born in the state of Colorado.**

68%

Percentage of Boulder County land preserved or protected by federal, state and local authorities: **68%**

Boulder County Cities At-A-Glance, 2011

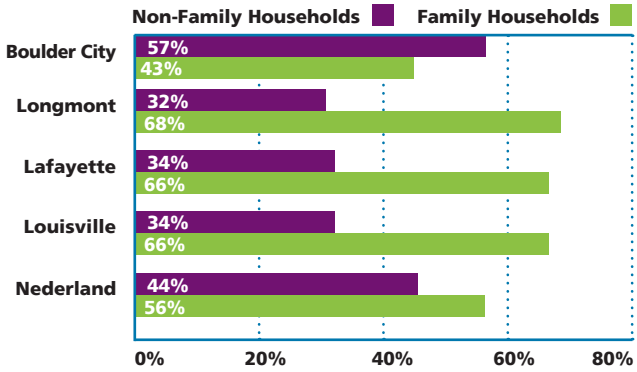
	Boulder	Longmont	Lafayette	United States	Colorado
Population*	99,479	87,423	25,584	309,231,244	5,118,126
Median Age	28	36	37	37	36
Latino	9%	25%	17%	16%	21%
Speaks a language other than English at home	15%	25%	19%	21%	17%
Median Home Value**	$496,400	$236,100	$257,700	$179,500	$235,800
Lived in the same house one year ago	64%	80%	84%	85%	81%
Lived in another county one year ago	17%	7%	8%	6%	9%
Foreign Born	11%	15%	10%	13%	10%
Births per 1,000 women aged 15-50 past 12 mo.	30	59	84	55	57
Population with a disability	7%	9%	6%	12%	10%
Population over 5 with a disability	8%	10%	6%	13%	11%
Population 65 and over with a disability	33%	32%	23%	37%	34%
Population over the age of 3 enrolled in school	42%	28%	27%	28%	28%
High School Graduate (25+)	95%	87%	93%	86%	90%
Bachelor's Degree or Higher (25+)	72%	37%	53%	28%	36%
Living Below Poverty					
Families	8%	10%	9%	11%	9%
Families with related kids under 18	14%	16%	16%	18%	15%
Individuals***	23%	13%	13%	15%	13%
Children	14%	18%	24%	21%	18%
65 +	7%	8%	2%	9%	8%

*Colorado population data from Colorado State Demography Office | **Figures are based on ACS data on the median value of all owner-occupied units. For median sales price data of single-family homes, see page 60. | ***Includes students | Source: Colorado State Demography Office, American Community Survey

Food for Thought

We're healthy (see page 45), we're well-educated, and we're also still a pretty wealthy crowd. But more and more of us each year are struggling to afford the high cost of living here. By age, young children have the highest rates of poverty in Boulder County. By ethnicity, Latinos and African Americans do. While not unique to Boulder County, poverty and inequality are increasing here – and stand to impact us all by threatening our sense of community as well as our future economic viability. The good news is we're well equipped to battle these issues if we find the will to address them deeply. They don't call us the most educated, happiest, foodiest, fittest, most livable place in the country for nothing, right?

TYPES OF HOUSEHOLDS, BOULDER COUNTY 2006-2011



Boulder County Population by Race/Ethnicity

	Boulder County			U.S.
	1990	2000	2011	2011
White	93%	89%	88%	74%
Black or African American	1%	1%	1%	13%
American Indian and Alaska Native	0.6%	0.6%	0.4%	1%
Asian	2%	3%	4%	5%
Some other race		5%	4%	5%
Two or more races	3%	2%	3%	3%
Latino – Any race	7%	11%	13%	16%

Source: American Community Survey

FACT:

More than 12% of Superior's population is Asian.

Source: American Community Survey

Making an IMPACT

The Colorado Nonprofit Association honored Boulder County IMPACT with its 2012 Colorado Collaboration Award for its sustainable and collaborative approach to serving high-risk youth and their families. IMPACT reduces duplication and improves client access to services by bringing together all of the different public agencies serving this population. Collaborating across agencies lets workers be more flexible and responsive in how they work with clients – and also more efficient and responsible. For more information, visit www.BoulderCountyIMPACT.org.

Feeling Inspired?

- **Attend a cultural event** celebrating the contributions of a different community, like the Day of the Dead in Longmont or the Asian Pacific festival in Boulder.
- **Volunteer** to bring an older adult to a local event through Circle of Care: www.circleofcareproject.org**.**
- Strike up a conversation with – or at least smile at – **someone different than you.**
- Volunteer. It's great for **networking** and getting to know a new aspect of your community.
- On a board or part of an organization? **Invite someone new** to one of your group's events.

Sources

American Community Survey, 3- and 5-year estimates
Colorado Department of Local Affairs
Boulder County, www.bouldercounty.org
Boulder County Land Statistics
Colorado State Demography Office

Endnotes

[1]Please note that 2000 and 1990 population data does not include what is now Broomfield County, which was officially consolidated in 2001.

Valerie
Pamela
Jose
Alondra

Our Education

We're above average and getting better, but our achievement gap remains pervasive and significant.

INDICATORS IN THIS CHAPTER

Advanced Placement Enrollment

Attendance

Child Care Costs

Drop-Out Rates

Educational Attainment

Education Funding

English Language Learners

Enrollment in Higher Education

Graduation Rates

Kindergarten Literacy

Median Growth Rates

People of Color in School Districts

Remedial Course Enrollment

School District Demographics

TCAP Reading, Math and Science Scores

Tuition for Higher Education

In theory, public education can be the great equalizer of people, erasing generational (dis)advantages and paving the way for class mobility, says University of Colorado Education Professor Kevin Welner. In practice, parental income is a strong predictor of how well a child will do in school – and what kind of opportunities that child will have in life. This is true both nationally and locally.

Boulder County's two school systems outperform their peers in key areas like graduation rates, test scores, and AP courses taken. But while many here thrive, too many students from disadvantaged backgrounds fall behind each year, threatening not only their futures but our community's.

"All of society is harmed when we deny opportunities to children – in terms of lost talent and in terms of the overall health of our society, economy and democracy," Welner said, adding that schools alone as currently funded are inadequate to stop the reproduction of poverty from one generation to another.

We at The Community Foundation remain convinced the 'achievement gap' is one of the most pressing challenges facing our community. When we talk about the gap, we're talking about the difference in school outcomes between low-income kids and their wealthier peers. We see a related gap between Latinos and Anglos here, driven largely by disproportionate rates of poverty coupled with language barriers (and citizenship struggles) faced by more recent arrivals. Let us be clear: **kids from low-income homes are born with every bit as much potential for success as their peers from wealthier families.** What they often lack are the **opportunities.**

"A child who is denied quality early childhood care is often the same child who doesn't have access to health and dental care, who lacks rich educational opportunities after school, who attends a poorer school, or comes from a family suffering from housing transiency," Dr. Welner explained. **"The achievement gap is a result of the accumulation of opportunity gaps."**

Two school districts serve Boulder County kids:[1] Boulder Valley and St. Vrain Valley. Both districts have seen growth lately in the total number of students they serve, the percentage and number of students of color, and the percentage and number of students qualifying for free and reduced lunch. Growth has been much more dramatic, however, in St. Vrain Valley School District, which primarily serves Longmont. Across both districts, more than a full quarter of public school students are now considered economically disadvantaged, and qualify for free or reduced lunch. The number of students falling into that category has increased 26% since 2007 (31% in St. Vrain, 18% in Boulder Valley), driven largely by our bifurcating economy and population growth in the eastern portion of the county.

Boulder County School Districts At A Glance

	2012-2013 Number of Students	Percentage Increase 2002-2012	Fall 2012 Full Time Teachers	2012 Average Salary	2012 Pupil/ Teacher Ratio	2012-2013 Free and Reduced Lunch	2012-2013 English Language Learners	Fall 2012 % Students of Color	Fall 2012 % Latino Students*
St. Vrain Valley	29,382	38%	1,643	$47,750	17.9	33%	15%	35%	28%
Boulder Valley	30,041	8%	1,711	$60,061	17.6	19%	10%	30%	17%

Source: Colorado Department of Education
*The racial/ethnic identification form changed in 2010-2011. This may have increased slightly the percentage of students identifying as Latino in certain school districts.

Starting Early

About 90% of brain development occurs before the age of five, long before children don backpacks and line up for the first day of school. Yet there are limited public supports to give kids access to quality early childhood education. Through scrimping and saving, those with more resources can manage to afford the steep tuition rates of licensed daycare. That means paying an average of about $250/week in the city of Boulder to $180/week in the city of Longmont per child for kids under the age of five. **But at a price tag of $24,000 annually[2] for families with two young kids, quality licensed care is simply out of reach for growing numbers of Boulder County residents.**

Publically funded programs like Head Start, the Colorado Preschool Program and the Colorado Child Care Assistance Program grant some low-income kids access to quality care. While valuable, however, these programs are underfunded and insufficient, serving just more than half of Boulder County children living in poverty (or near it), according to a 2012 report. **In fact, more than 900 Boulder County three- and four-year-olds in poverty go without licensed care[3] because there simply aren't enough supplemented spots – or because the limited part-time coverage offered is an unviable option for parents who work.**

Instead, local studies confirm that many low-income and Latino families here opt to leave their children with family members, friends, or neighbors (FFN). While parents rely on FFN caregivers to provide a safe environment for children in their homes, less emphasis has historically been placed on brain development or school readiness. Innovative non-profit programs like Providers Advancing School Outcomes (PASO) are working to change that. Even so, much remains to be done in early childhood care (and parenting) to prevent the achievement gap we see in schools from forming.

Full-Day K?

While our schools surpass state benchmarks in a number of areas, they lag behind in full-day kindergarten[4] attendance. Just 23% of kindergarteners attended a full-day program in Boulder Valley School District (BVSD) in 2012, up from 12% in 2008. In St. Vrain Valley School District (SVVSD), 62% of kindergarteners did, up from 49% in 2008. Right now, the state funds only part-day kindergarten; that may change if voters approve Amendment 66 in the fall of 2013, which would raise nearly $1 billion for Colorado schools through a two-tiered tax increase. BVSD currently offers full-day kindergarten at seven of its 35 elementary schools with the highest percentages of low-income students. SVVSD offers full-day kindergarten at each of its 26 elementary schools, thanks to cost-saving measures in other areas.

For those that do show up for kindergarten – which is not mandatory in our state – less than half meet prescribed literacy benchmarks in the first few weeks of school. By the end of the year, 20% remain behind, foreshadowing the gap we see in reading proficiency a few years later and in graduation rates further down the line.

Percentage of Kindergarteners in a Full-Day Program

	2012	2008
BVSD	23%	12%
SVVSD	62%	49%
Colorado	70%	54%

Source: Annie E. Casey Foundation, Kids Count Data Center

FACT:

While among the highest in CO, BVSD teacher salaries are on par with Cherry Creek and Littleton, and slightly above the national average of $58,315. Differing teacher work hours, school-year lengths and levels of educational attainment contribute to salary disparities between districts.

Source: Colorado Department of Education

Minding the Gap – Reading

Third grade is the first time we see standardized test score data for our kids – and much of it is good. Across Boulder County, about 83% of third graders are proficient or advanced readers, compared to 73% in the state as a whole, according to the Transitional Colorado Assessment Program (TCAP). **Both of our districts beat the state average for reading among middle- and upper-income kids and Anglo kids,** about 90% of whom are on target for their grade level. **Results are mixed, however, for our lower-income and Latino kids, about 66% of whom are proficient readers by third grade.** Across both of our local school districts, there were 775 third graders in the spring of 2013 who couldn't read at grade level proficiently. Fifty-eight percent of these kids live at or near poverty, qualifying for free or reduced lunch. Nearly half of them (47%) are Latino.

In SVVSD, third grade reading scores for lower-income and Latino kids have increased significantly since the 2007-2008 school year, following a statewide trend, and now surpass overall Colorado results for these groups by nearly 10 percentage points. This has been helped by the district's focus on early childhood education and reading in recent years, which has been shown to help improve school outcomes down the road. BVSD's reading scores for economically disadvantaged third graders are somewhat lower – but ticked up promisingly in the 2012-2013 school year, beating the Colorado average for this group by two percentage points. We're hopeful scores will continue to improve with the district's enthusiastic commitment to closing the achievement gap.

FACT: Schools across our county have drastically different demographics – and drastically different standardized test scores. Some schools have minimal poverty (4%), and nearly perfect (97%) reading proficiency. At other schools, nearly all students qualify for free and reduced lunch (96%), and just half read proficiently at grade level.

Source: Colorado Department of Education

Percentage of Third Graders Scoring Proficient or Advanced on TCAP* Reading**

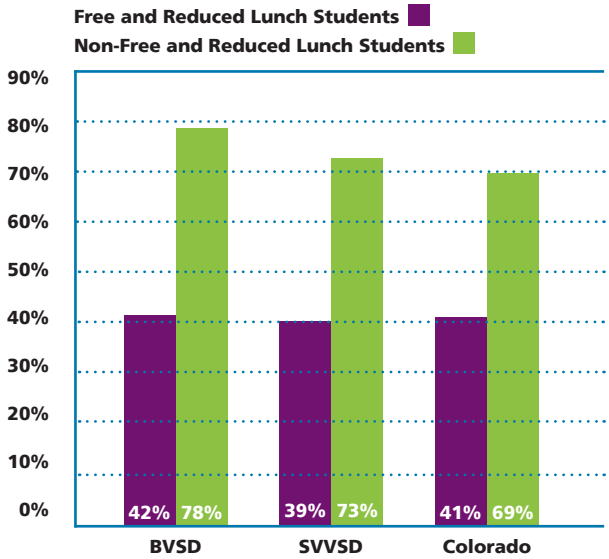
	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013
St. Vrain Valley School District						
Free and Reduced Lunch (FRL)	59%	61%	64%	69%	65%	69%
Non-FRL	82%	86%	85%	87%	88%	88%
Latino	61%	60%	64%	70%	68%	67%
Anglo	80%	84%	81%	86%	86%	87%
Total	74%	78%	77%	81%	80%	81%
Boulder Valley School District						
FRL	58%	59%	52%	57%	58%	61%
Non-FRL	92%	92%	92%	93%	90%	91%
Latino	56%	55%	53%	58%	55%	63%
Anglo	91%	91%	90%	91%	90%	90%
Total	85%	85%	83%	84%	83%	84%
Colorado						
FRL	54%	56%	53%	57%	59%	59%
Non-FRL	81%	84%	82%	85%	85%	85%
Latino	52%	55%	51%	56%	59%	58%
Anglo	81%	83%	80%	83%	84%	80%
Total	70%	73%	70%	73%	74%	73%

Source: Colorado Department of Education | *Transitional Colorado Assessment Program | **Data include a small number of results for the Spanish-language version of the test (about 10% of third graders in SVVSD, and 4% in BVSD). | Note: The racial/ethnic identification form changed in 2010-2011, which may have impacted the number of students identifying as Latino. Test results are still comparable across years.

Adding It Up – Math

When it comes to math, both of our districts show a higher percentage of proficient students across all tested grades (3-10) than Colorado as a whole. BVSD performed particularly well, beating the state average by nearly 10% for kids not eligible for free and reduced lunch. That said, there's room for improvement; throughout Boulder County, just 40% of economically disadvantaged students were proficient at math compared to 76% of middle- and upper-income kids. In general, the percentage of students meeting grade-level targets diminishes as students get older. In fact, fewer than half of all 10th graders in Boulder County scored at least 'proficient' on the 2013 TCAP math assessment.

TCAP MATH PROFICIENCY ACROSS GRADES 3-10, 2013



Source: Colorado Department of Education

FACT:

On the TCAP science test (grades 5, 8, and 10), we handily beat the state average in proficiency for our middle- and upper- income kids (73% across both districts, 64% in the state). However, just 32% of kids qualifying for free and reduced lunch scored 'proficient' in 2013 – even with BVSD's economically disadvantaged students beating their statewide peers by 5%.

Source: Colorado Department of Education

Growing Pains

For a student who is behind to catch up, he or she must gain more ground than her peers over a school year to make up the difference. If she doesn't, she will fall farther and farther behind – making it progressively harder to catch up. That's why it's important to catch students early – or prevent them from falling behind in the first place through high-quality early childhood education and extraordinary parenting.

Both of our districts (and the state as a whole) struggle with achieving sufficient 'catch up growth' – especially for our lower-income students. In fact, students qualifying for free and reduced lunch achieved slightly less than the median amount of growth in two out of three core subjects in both school districts in 2013, according to Colorado Department of Education data. **And even when our low income students achieve a year's worth of growth in a school year, they're still learning less than their middle and upper income peers, Colorado Department of Education data shows.** This is why we have historically seen the gap between low income and wealthier kids get larger as students advance through the school system. To take a closer look at how much students learn each year, check out the Colorado Growth Model, available through the Department of Education website: www.schoolview.org/ColoradoGrowthModel.asp.

Catching Up by Showing Up

So how do we help kids catch up – or prevent them from falling behind in the first place? There's no one simple silver bullet solution for complex problems like student achievement and the opportunity gap. There are, however, common sense strategies that we know make a difference. We know parents play a huge role in child development and success. **Parents who read to their kids for at least 20 minutes a day help boost their children's literacy skills significantly, studies show.** We also know more direct instructional time often translates into better student learning. That's why it's important to get kids learning before they show up for kindergarten and keep them engaged in the summer months so that they don't lose ground and regress. In a similar vein, we know kids learn best when they attend school consistently.

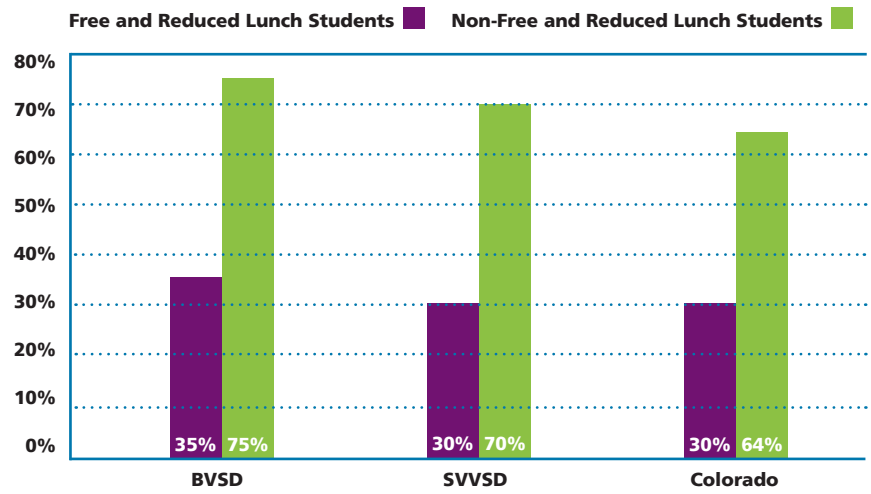
Unfortunately, the kids who are more at risk of falling behind are often the kids more likely to be absent. Student attendance is comparable in our two school districts – and both are currently working to reduce the number of days students miss and the number of students missing significant amounts of school. In the 2012-2013 school year, 39% of economically disadvantaged students at BVSD missed more than 10 days of school, compared to 28% of middle- and upper-income kids. At SVVSD, 35% of lower-income kids missed 10-plus days of school, compared to 25% of middle- and upper-income kids.

Student Absences (% of Students missing 0 to 9, 10 to 17, and 18+ school days)

	0 to 9 Days	10 to 17 Days	18-plus Days
BVSD Free and Reduced Lunch Students	61%	23%	16%
BVSD Non-Free and Reduced Lunch Students	72%	19%	9%
SVVSD Free and Reduced Lunch Students	64%	22%	13%
SVVSD Non-Free and Reduced Lunch Students	75%	18%	7%

Source: Boulder Valley and St. Vrain School Districts, 2012-2013

TCAP SCIENCE PROFICIENCY ACROSS GRADES 3-10, 2013



Source: Colorado Department of Education

PERCENTAGES OF TEACHERS OF COLOR FALL 2012

BVSD **11%**

SVVSD **8%**

PERCENTAGES OF STUDENTS OF COLOR FALL 2012

BVSD **30%**

SVVSD **35%**

NUMBER OF BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS OF COLOR FALL 2012

BVSD **0**

SVVSD **0**

Source: Colorado Department of Education

English Language Learners (% of total students)

	SVVSD	BVSD
1995	3%	7%
2005	15%	10%
2012	15%	10%

Source: Colorado Department of Education

The Graduates

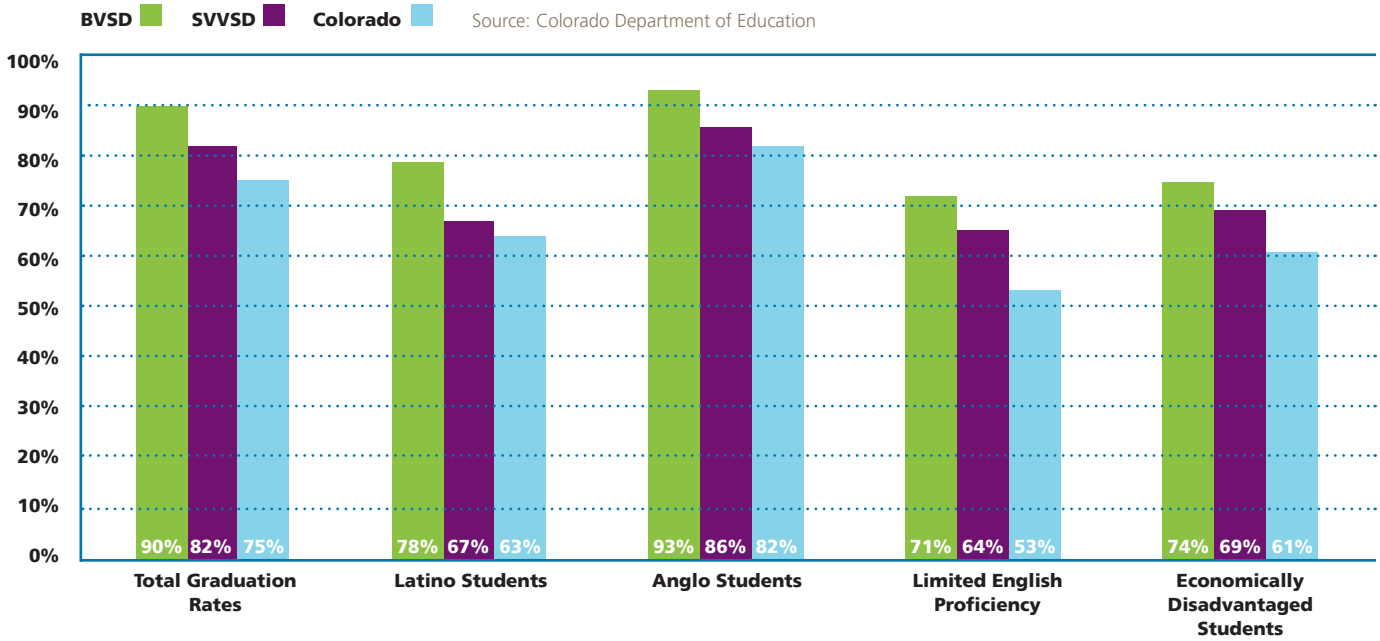
How far a child goes in school is often a strong indicator of his or her future economic stability, given the strong positive correlation between educational attainment and income. And how far a child goes in school is linked with his or her academic performance. Kids who don't read proficiently by third grade are four times more likely not to graduate with their class, according to a national study by the Annie E. Casey Foundation.

In Boulder County, our district graduation rates are higher than the state average in a number of categories. Unfortunately, on-time graduation rates for Latino and lower-income students still lag overall county numbers by about 15 percentage points (71% vs. 86%). **Both districts have made significant progress toward closing this gap, however. Since 2010, the on-time graduation rate for Latino students has increased 18 points in BVSD and 11 in SVVSD.**

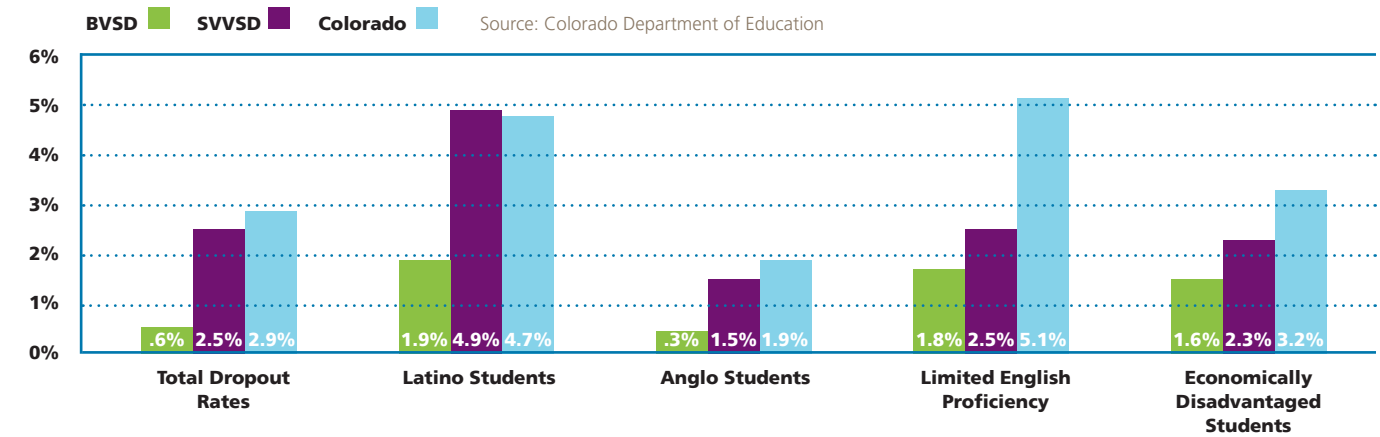
FACT: By gender, female students in Boulder County have higher graduation rates than males. In 2012, 89% of local high school females graduated on time, compared to 84% of males.

Source: Colorado Department of Education

PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS GRADUATING WITHIN FOUR YEARS OF STARTING HIGH SCHOOL, 2012 (INCLUDES ALTERNATIVE SCHOOLS)

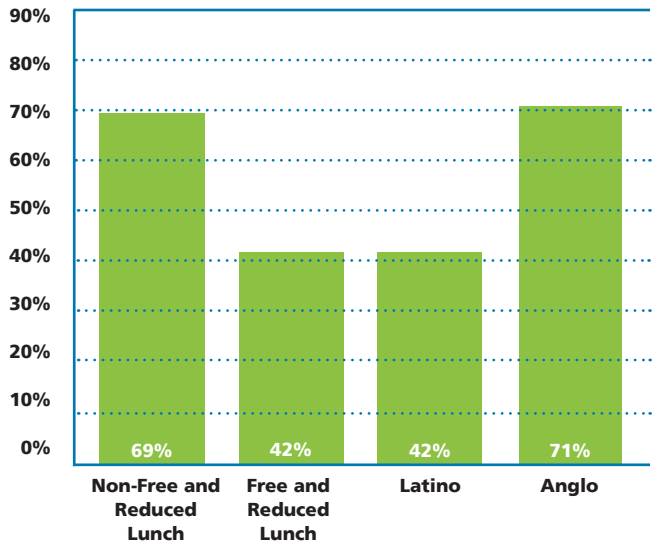


PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS WHO DROPPED OUT IN 2011-2012 (INCLUDES ALTERNATIVE SCHOOLS)



Of course, in today's economy, a high school diploma alone may not be sufficient to guarantee future economic stability – or marketability as a job candidate. **In both of our school districts, lower-income and Latino high school graduates are significantly less likely to go onto college – and about twice as likely to need remedial courses when they do,** according to data from the Colorado Department of Higher Education. In BVSD, just 43% of 2011 free and reduced lunch-eligible graduates enrolled in higher education courses that fall, compared to 75% of non-eligible students. In SVVSD, those numbers were slightly lower at about 40% and 62%, respectively. Of those students enrolled in Colorado colleges and universities, 44% of BVSD lower-income grads needed remedial coursework, compared to 19% of non-free-and-reduced-lunch grads. In SVVSD, 54% of lower-income graduates signed up for remedial courses, compared to about 29% of non-free-and-reduced-lunch grads. (The gap between Anglos and Latinos in both districts is nearly identical to the gap we see along economic lines.)

PERCENTAGE OF 2011* GRADUATES PURSUING HIGHER EDUCATION (ACROSS BOTH SCHOOL DISTRICTS)



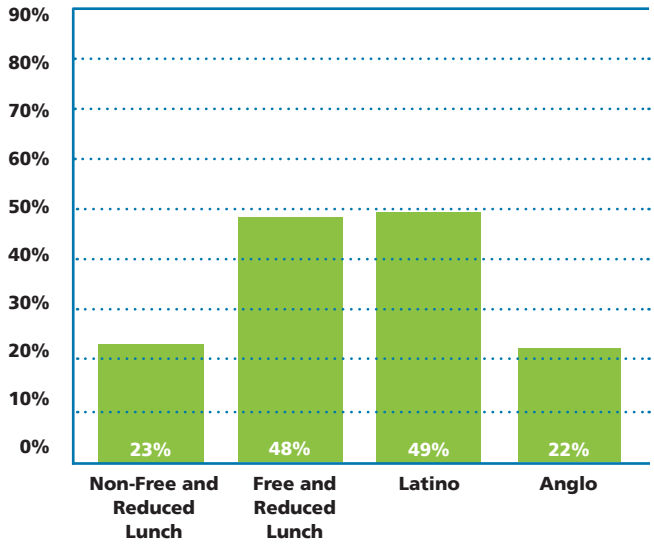
Source: Colorado Department of Higher Education
*Data is lagged, but reflects enrollment the fall after graduation

FACT:

Across both districts, just one third of 2011 graduates who are both Latino and low-income went onto higher education. Of those enrolling in Colorado institutions for college, nearly 60% needed remedial coursework.

Source: Colorado Department of Higher Education

PERCENTAGE OF 2011* GRADUATES ENROLLING IN REMEDIAL COURSES (ACROSS BOTH SCHOOL DISTRICTS)**



Source: Colorado Department of Higher Education
*Data is lagged, but reflects enrollment the fall after graduation
**Data only reflects local students enrolled in Colorado institutions of higher education

Footing the Bill

We're smart enough to know education is a sound investment. But are we as a state willing to foot the bill? **Colorado funding for elementary and secondary education is among the lowest in the country.** We ranked 46th for total spending on per pupil instruction, and 42nd in the country for state funding for education, according to public school finance data from the U.S. Census Bureau. **We also ranked near dead last (47/50) in per pupil spending relative to our income,** suggesting that we have the means to give more to our schools if we wanted to. While increased spending is no guarantee of increased success, there is a strong positive correlation nationally between education funding and results.

Not only is our elementary and secondary education spending low, our state funding for higher education is abysmal. We ranked 47th out of 50 states for our per capita support for higher education and 49th for our per capita higher education funding relative to personal income, according to a report by the State Higher Education Executive Officers. Public higher education institutions in our state have had some of the most dramatic tuition increases in the country over the last five years due to dwindling public support. Net tuition now accounts for about 70% of total education revenue to public institutions in Colorado; the U.S. average is 47%.

Closing the achievement (and opportunity) gap is not the sole responsibility of our school districts. And local residents alone can't resolve our education funding struggles. We firmly believe, however, that Boulder County parents, school officials, and residents at large can play a powerful role in improving outcomes for kids – which will ultimately improve outcomes for all of us.

Per Pupil State Finance Act Funding

	2013-2014	Year-Over-Year Change
SVVSD	$6,504	$170
BVSD	$6,546	$170

Source: Colorado Department of Education

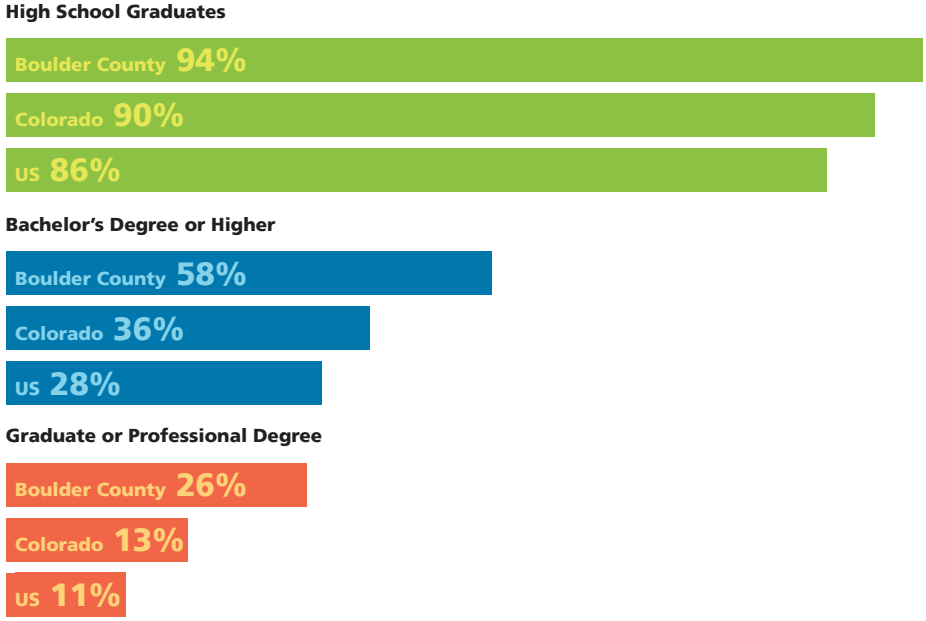
FACT: Many CO school districts augment funds with voter-approved mill levy overrides. SVVSD levied an additional $32.6 million in the 2012-2013 school year (see page 35), while BVSD levied an additional $59.7 million.

Source: Colorado Department of Education

Committing to Kids

In November 2013, Colorado voters will weigh in on Amendment 66, which would modify our statewide school funding formula to generate an additional $950 million in tax dollars for education annually. If passed, Colorado's current income tax rate would be amended from a flat 4.63% to a two-tiered tax; income up to $75,000 would be taxed at 5%, and each dollar earned above that threshold would be taxed at 5.9%.The increase translates into an additional $166.50 for a person with an annual state taxable income of $45,000 and $595 on a state taxable income of $100,000. The plan would direct more resources to districts and schools with the highest concentration of at-risk students and English language learners; it would also increase funding for full-day kindergarten, as well as preschool, gifted and talent programming, and special education.

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT, 2011



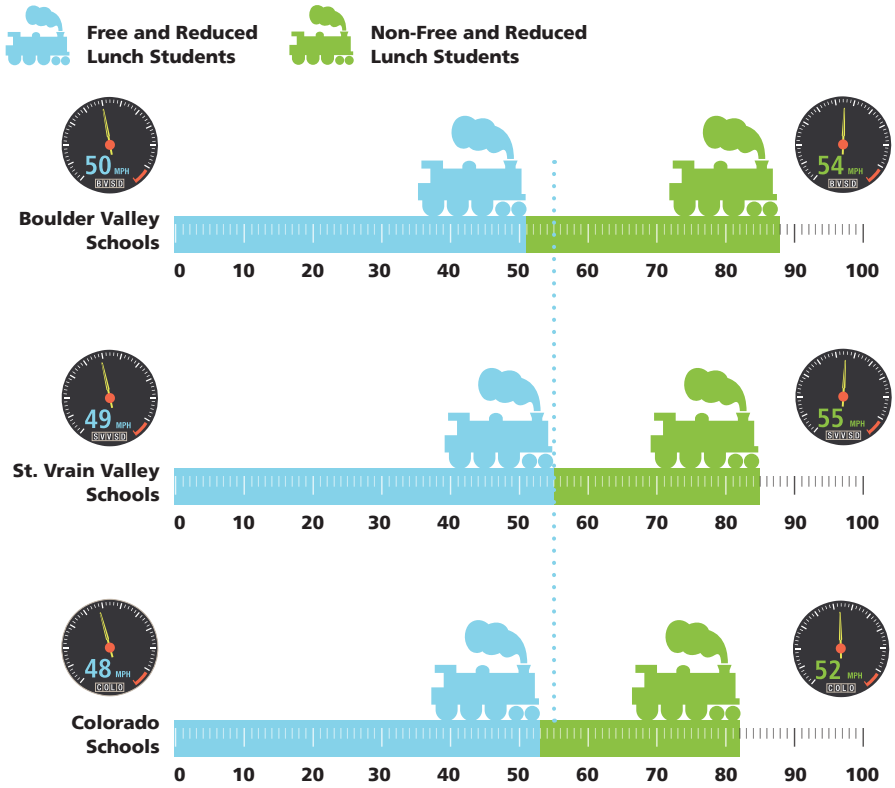
Source: American Community Survey

How Do We Track the Achievement Gap?

We track the achievement (and opportunity) gap by looking at a variety of schools-related indicators, including standardized test scores, median growth rates, graduation and drop-out rates, and the percentage of students going onto higher education. The tools we use may change over time as metrics evolve. No single indicator is an exact representation of student performance or achievement. By using multiple indicators, however, we believe we can tell a coherent story of student disparities and outcomes.

TCAP READING PROFICIENCY AND MEDIAN GROWTH RATES ACROSS GRADES 3-10, 2013*

The trains represent the percentage of students in each group reading proficiently. The speedometers represent the rate at which students in each group learn. A rate of 50 would be equal to the Colorado median for all students.



*Data include a small number of results from the Spanish-language TCAP for grades 3 and 4.
Source: Colorado Department of Education

Publically-Funded Early Childhood Options

Head Start is a federally-funded program providing center-based part- and full-day enrichment to kids from families earning up to 135% of the federal poverty guideline. Non-citizens are eligible. Boulder County Head Start is administered by the county government and serves 164 kids between the ages of three and five in Boulder and Lafayette during the school year. Half attend part-time, or 3.5 hours a day, four days a week; another 82 attend full-time, 8am to 4pm, Monday through Friday. Like its counterparts throughout the nation, sequestration cut 5.1% from our local Head Start's budget; local county funding, however, will offset those cuts so that no children lose coverage.

Wild Plum Center is the Head Start/Early Head Start provider for the Boulder County portion of the St. Vrain Valley School District – namely, Longmont. Wild Plum is federally funded but operates as a separate nonprofit; thus, the county cannot offset sequestration budget cuts, which means cutbacks in staff and the number of kids served. During the 2013-2014 school year, the center will offer part-time comprehensive preschool to 187 three- and four-year-olds. Wild Plum will also serve 72 kids ages zero to three: 48 will receive home-based

programming 1.5 hours per week, and 24 will receive full-time programming from 8am to 4pm. As a result of sequestration budget cuts, Wild Plum has lost four full-time teachers, one teacher's assistant, three part-time program aides, and 15 early childhood spots for local kids. There are usually about 100 kids on the Wild Plum waiting list.

Colorado Preschool Program is a state-funded program through which school districts provide 10 hours of preschool weekly to high-risk kids. Non-citizens are eligible. Limited spots (and hours) mean not all children in need get served. Boulder Valley currently offers free or reduced-tuition to 505 local kids, subsidized through the Colorado Preschool Program and the district's local mill levy. St. Vrain is offering free or reduced tuition to 535 local kids.

Boulder County Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) helps families earning up to 225% of the poverty threshold pay for childcare while working, searching for work, or attending school. Children must be U.S. citizens, and adult family members must possess social security cards and show proof of work or school enrollment. There are currently 1,026 children from birth to 12-years-old receiving subsidized care through CCAP, and the quality of early learning that takes place ranges wildly. The Early Childhood Council of Boulder County and the county together are seeking funding for a pilot project that would incentivize quality and capacity improvements among CCAP providers for the first time.

2011-2012 Advanced Placement Courses Completed

	Total Courses	% by Latinos	% by Anglos
BVSD	5,129	7% (359 courses)	81% (4128 courses)
SVVSD	2,170	14% (299 courses)	79% (1712 courses)

Source: Colorado Department of Education

Feeling Inspired?

- **Give** to to our School Readiness Initiative to help us work on closing the achievement (and opportunity) gap for kids in Boulder County.
- **Read** to a young person in your family, and encourage others to do the same.
- **Encourage** your work place to be **supportive of parents** so that they may attend parent-teacher meetings and other school engagement opportunities.
- **Volunteer** for an after-school or summer program that works with at-risk kids.
- **Support Amendment 66*,** which will expand early learning opportunities for kids.
- **Share** your talent! Have a knack for reading, writing, math, or science? Offer your services as a tutor or a mentor in our schools.

*The Community Foundations' Board of Trustees voted to endorse Amendment 66 in July 2013.

Sources

2012 Child Care Rates – Licensed Homes, Cost Survey Conducted by City of Boulder Department of Housing & Human Services.

Annie E. Casey Foundation Kids Count Data Center.

Boulder Valley School District, Attendance Data.

Colorado Department of Education, CSAP/TCAP Data and Results, School and District Statistics, Colorado Growth Model.

Community Need and Resource Assessment for Head Start Programs Serving Boulder County, by Stephanie W. Greenberg, PhD, February 6, 2012.

State Higher Education Executive Officers, State Higher Education Finance, FY 2012.

United States Census Bureau, Public Elementary-Secondary Education Finance Data, www.census.gov/govs/school/.

University of Colorado, Resident Undergraduate Estimated Expenses.

St. Vrain Valley School District, Attendance Data.

Endnotes

[1]Our two school districts primarily serve Boulder County but extend beyond our county's boundaries.

[2]Data is from a 2012 cost survey of licensed centers by the city of Boulder's Department of Housing & Human Services.

[3]Data on preschool coverage is from the Community Need and Resource Assessment for Head Start Programs Serving Boulder County.

[4]Data on kindergarten attendance is from the Annie E. Casey Foundation's Kids Count Data Center.

Our School Readiness Initiative

Closing the Achievement Gap Through Early Learning
Special Report to the Community

Nine children are born each day in Boulder County on average, mostly to educated, middle- and upper-class families. Their futures look bright, statistically.

Two of those infants, however, are born into poverty. They are more likely to arrive at kindergarten already behind, while also struggling to learn English.

These children are born into Boulder County's vast opportunity gap, between the majority of children who do well in school and the growing minority of kids who don't succeed.

An emerging community-wide focus on early learning aims to change that. The Community Foundation stands proudly behind these collaborative efforts.

BY CHRIS BARGE

Director, School Readiness Initiative
The Community Foundation

A Collaborative Approach

Boulder County has one of the highest graduation rates around. A full 86% of our kids graduated on time in 2012.

But the story gets more complicated when you consider that most of the students who don't graduate have grown up in poverty, and often speak a language other than English at home.

Most dropouts lack a good early foundation and are not hitting the crucial milestone of reading at grade-level by third grade. That's when most students have transitioned from learning to read, to reading to learn.

Nationally, 74% of students who fail to read proficiently by the end of third grade falter in the later grades and often drop out before earning a high school diploma, according to the Campaign for Grade-Level Reading.

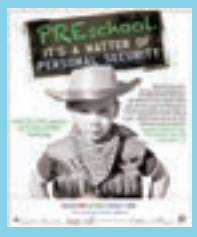
"Too many kids are not graduating high school," said Ruben Garcia, a parent of three children, who moved to Boulder from Mexico when he himself was a teenager. "How can we change this? Start early, when they go to school – preschool, kindergarten, all the way to high school. We've gotta be there. That's the only way we can change this."

School Readiness Initiative Highlights:

2008-2012
Launched and successfully completed $4 million Community Trust Initiative, which permanently doubled the grant-making endowment for Boulder County nonprofits and raised $1 million to help close the achievement gap through a School Readiness Initiative.

Summer, 2009
Granted $90,000 to PASO (Providers Advancing School Outcomes), which trains immigrant Latina day-care providers in early childhood education with the goal of bridging the achievement gap in education between Latino and Anglo students. PASO leveraged the funding to secure additional, larger grants that have helped it quadruple in size since then.

Spring, 2010
Launched "Ready. Set. Learn," a vibrant public campaign about the critical need to get our Boulder County kids into active early learning.



Fall 2010
Funded and helped lead the successful "Yes on 3A" mill levy override campaign. The override raised $23 million in additional annual funding for Boulder Valley School District and earmarked $5 million annually for expanding preschool and full-day kindergarten in low-income neighborhoods.

Special Report to the Community

Garcia wept with joy when his first and only son became the first in his family to graduate high school in 2013. He is determined that his daughters, now in elementary school, will follow their brother's example.

Parents, no matter their income, have the greatest love and concern for their children. They know their interests and individuality, as well as their family's culture and values. Therefore we aim our collective efforts at encouraging and enabling parents, families and caregivers to play their indispensable roles as co-producers of good outcomes for their children.

Dozens of organizations are hard at work locally, partnering with parents to address the needs of our county's most vulnerable young children. They include Head Start, our schools, multiple nonprofit organizations and foundations, faith communities, businesses and elected officials. These groups are also increasingly working together toward the common goal of ensuring that more of our local children arrive at school ready to learn, and are able to read at grade-level by third grade – key early indicators for success in school and in life.

At this writing, a cross-sector, county-wide taskforce was developing a Community Solutions Action Plan, outlining community-based goals and strategies aimed at improving school readiness, attendance and summer learning for young children, especially those growing up in poverty. The taskforce was utilizing a framework developed by the Campaign for

Fall 2012

Funded and provided staff support for the successful "Yes on 3A" mill levy override campaign in St. Vrain Valley School District, raising an additional $14.8 million annually. Much of the funding is being used to expand preschool offerings amidst a child poverty boom. Also, granted $50,000 to capital improvement projects at Wilderness Early Learning Center and Family Learning Center, two Boulder-based early learning facilities.

2013

Hired a full-time director for our School Readiness Initiative. Convened leaders from a variety of sectors across Boulder County to develop a "Community Solutions Action Plan" for improving early learning outcomes. Began establishing a Children's Reading Foundation to help carry out the Action Plan. Brought Ready! For Kindergarten, a parent skill-building workshop targeting 100 low-income families, to Boulder County. Endorsed and organized Boulder County Campaign for Amendment 66, which would bring full-day kindergarten to every elementary school and eliminate the preschool waiting list for families in poverty.

Special Report to the Community

Grade-Level Reading and used by more than 150 communities nationally. The Campaign is a collaborative effort by dozens of funders and nonprofit partners across the nation to ensure that more of our low-income children succeed in school and graduate prepared for college, a career, and active citizenship. The Campaign focuses on the most important predictor of school success and high school graduation – grade-level reading by the end of third grade. To learn more about where this national effort stands today, please visit www.gradelevelreading.net.

The Community Foundation supports this work as part of our School Readiness Initiative, because our leaders believe in the power of collective impact, and in the value of early learning and parent skill-building to help children one day break the cycle of poverty.

Our School Readiness Initiative began in 2008, when The Community Foundation launched a four-year fundraising campaign to double its unrestricted grant-making fund, The Community Trust, while also raising money to tackle the achievement gap – a top community issue according to this biennial TRENDS report. The campaign ended successfully in 2012, with the endowment having permanently doubled. The most impact, however, was arguably felt by the children who benefited from three nonprofit programs and two school funding ballot measures supported through our School Readiness Initiative. See our time line of highlights for more information on granting.

The Community Foundation's Trustees at the end of the fundraising campaign took stock of our area's still-persistent gaps in achievement scores and decided to create a full-time staff position dedicated to ensuring progress towards a new, ambitious goal: By 2017, the entire community would own the goal of closing the achievement gap, and the gap would close significantly.

Together with parents, providers, and our community leaders, we believe we can create more sustainable early learning opportunities for our county's youngest and most vulnerable children. At this writing, we were collaborating with county-wide stakeholders to establish a Children's Reading Foundation of Boulder County, whose charge would include ensuring that at least 90% of students in Boulder County read at grade-level by the end of third grade.

Nine more babies will be born today in Boulder County. The most vulnerable among them are counting on us to ensure a brighter future.

For a powerful, short documentary on Ruben Garcia's story, plus information about the School Readiness Initiative, including how to support this work, visit www.CommFound.org/Ready.

The Case for Early Learning

Each year, at least 775 third-graders in Boulder County read below grade-level.

Sixty percent of them are growing up in poverty. Half of them are Latino.

We know that children who don't read at grade-level by third grade often falter in the later grades and are more likely to drop out before graduating high school.

This means a heightened focus on children from birth to age eight must be a top priority for Boulder County if we want to close the achievement gap. It's the right thing to do, it's an economic necessity, and it's a strategy supported by science.

Economically, the opportunity cost is greatest with the youngest in our society. The return on investment is approximately 10% per year for every $1 invested in the education of a child, according to an analysis by Nobel Prize winning economist James Heckman.

Those returns are a result of the following benefits:

- Less need for remedial and special education classes
- Less need for police and judicial system activity
- Lower costs for prison
- Reduced public spending on health care
- Savings due to fewer people in need of social services supports
- Increased government revenues from productively employed residents

Even by age five, unprepared children can fall far behind their peers not only in understanding numbers and letters, but also in such crucial skills as perseverance and cooperation.

The science of early childhood development and its underlying neurobiology makes a compelling case for communities, families and leaders to focus more intently than ever on vulnerable young children. Early experiences hugely impact brain development, when the foundations of all the health, learning and behavior that will follow for a lifetime are being built, says Dr. Jack Shonkoff, Director of the Center on the Developing Child at Harvard University.

Settled Science: Dual Language Learners Need More Support

In addition to grappling with the stresses of poverty, many of Boulder County's struggling young learners also are being raised in monolingual, Spanish-speaking homes. Children with limited to zero English proficiency accounted for 28% of third graders who couldn't read proficiently in Boulder County in 2012. A challenge for our policy makers, then, is to find space inside limited budgets to align with the settled science, which tells us that dual language learners need four to seven years of dual language instruction before they can reasonably be expected to thrive academically in an English-only environment.

Current policies force kids to take the standardized reading test in English by fourth grade, and as early as third grade in a growing number of schools. This does not allow them enough time to score well.

This is a local and national challenge. Dual language learners represent a growing number of students in our schools. They are also disproportionately underserved and underachieving, due in large part to the language barrier to participation and access in the education system.

The growth in dual language learners comes as stronger accountability policies and more rigorous standardized tests have swept the nation and Colorado. English Language Learners are a designated "subgroup" under No Child Left Behind, and this has heightened their visibility while focusing attention on longstanding, persistent achievement gaps.

Schools across the country are voicing a new sense of awareness and urgency about meeting the needs of these students. The urgency is only increasing, as new Common Core State Standards across 46 states including Colorado call for still more rigorous engagement with academic language and learning.

Bilingual workers are increasingly sought by employers. Closing the achievement gap will require a community-wide focus on early learning that prioritizes the needs of dual language learners. In the end, we'll have a stronger workforce.

Dual Language Learners need four things, according to Grantmakers for Education:

1. They need to learn English well enough to participate fully in an academic setting. Linguistic research suggests this takes four to seven years.
2. They need help from their teachers accessing the same full curriculum as their native-English speaking peers are learning.
3. They need additional time and support in order to achieve the dual challenge of learning English while mastering the same academic content as all other students.
4. They need support in bridging cultural and language worlds.

BVSD expands early learning

Voters in 2010 passed a mill levy override that infused $23 million in additional permanent annual funding into the Boulder Valley School District, with $5 million earmarked for an early childhood initiative. The Community Foundation funded and helped lead the campaign because of Boulder Valley's increasing commitment to ensuring more kids enter kindergarten at grade level.

Since then, Boulder Valley has more than doubled its preschool offerings, expanding them to 20 of its 34 elementary schools, including the new Mapleton Early Childhood Center in Boulder. District leaders plan to continue expanding preschool offerings in east Boulder County. Of the 1,086 children ages three to five enrolled in BVSD preschool for the 2013-2014 year, 505 will attend for free or reduced fees.

Full-day kindergarten has expanded from four to all seven of Boulder Valley's low-income, "Title 1" elementary schools. And district leadership has verbally committed to moving towards full-day kindergarten for all students.

New St. Vrain Goal: 100% Preschool Access

St. Vrain Valley School District, serving mostly northern Boulder County, has an institutional commitment to early childhood education and closing the achievement gap. The district began to aggressively and systematically expand and improve its early childhood program in 2005, and has since more than quadrupled the number of low-income students served by tuition-free preschool.

The district will enroll up to 535 three- and four-year-olds on free- and reduced-lunch starting in fall of 2013, up from just 100 in 2005. And its leadership aims to increase that number to more than 700 slots for children growing up in poverty by 2017.

Today, St. Vrain offers preschool and full-day kindergarten in all 26 of its elementary schools. The district has opened its first early childhood center, in Frederick, and plans are underway for a second center in Longmont.

St. Vrain voters in 2012 approved a mill levy override that brought an additional $14.8 million annually into the schools, offsetting 75% of cuts from the prior three years. The Community Foundation gave its financial and staff support to that campaign because of the district's commitment to early childhood education for children from low-income families.

The St. Vrain Valley School Board in 2013 set an ambitious goal of 100% access to high-quality preschool for every four-year-old in St. Vrain who needs it. This is especially timely, given that the number of three- and four-year-olds in poverty there increased 72% between 2007 and 2011, from 826 to 1,417.

EMUNDO
VER
al 25
ole 11

The Latino Task Force

Special Report to the Community

Carmen Ramirez loves hearing the sounds of Spanish, Mandarin and West Indian Creole near her downtown Longmont office. She loves pushing herself outside her comfort zone – and challenging others to do the same. And she loves frequenting the tortillerias and panaderias that have cropped up locally, along with specialty supermarkets selling goodies like sweetened bean curd and chai masala.

It wasn't always this way.

Boulder County has changed significantly in the 22 years Ramirez and her husband, Ray, have lived here. When she first arrived, Ramirez went weeks without hearing Spanish. **Today, nearly one in seven of us identifies as Latino – and nearly a quarter of our kids do.** But just because our census numbers are changing doesn't mean our personal networks and institutions are.

Our increasing diversity has brought us new holidays to celebrate, new foods to sample, new perspectives to consider, and new neighbors to befriend. But as we've become more diverse, we've also become less equal. Latinos in Boulder County are nearly three times as likely to live in poverty as their Anglo peers. This disparity rankles our sense of fairness, as living in poverty can negatively affect school outcomes for kids. It can also threaten our sense of community as our different incomes lead to vastly different (and separate) life experiences.

What follows is an effort to shine a light on Boulder County's growing and diverse Latino community by highlighting the work of the Latino Task Force as well as the Boulder County Latino Age Wave project. By celebrating community strengths and highlighting needs, we hope to help foster a dialogue and challenge all of us here to widen the scope of who and what we know.

Shining a Light

Back in 1999, a group of local Latinos formed the Latino Task Force (LTF) to discuss the growing number of Latinos living in Boulder County. Their mission was to learn more about the quality of life of Latinos living here – and then work to improve it. They surveyed Latinos about what they felt they contributed to the community and what else they needed to be successful. In addition to starting a conversation about inclusivity and equity, the task force's findings and recommendations helped spark the creation of organizations like the **Longmont Multicultural Action Committee and Lafayette's Latino Advisory Board.**

A decade later, the volunteer-run organization wanted to repeat its study. Using a private research group, they evaluated secondary data, interviewed local leaders of all backgrounds, conducted focus groups with Latino residents, and surveyed 400 Latinos across the county. Their work reveals successes and challenges, striking disparities that demand attention and also a commitment to improvement that we celebrate.

FACT: Colorado's Latino population is growing roughly four times as fast as its population as a whole.

Source: Colorado State Demography Office.

Did you know...

The typical Latino in Boulder County lives with two or three other people in a family household led by a husband-wife couple earning a collective income of about $35,000 annually. He or she speaks English "very well" or exclusively, has at least a high school diploma, and is a U.S. citizen. **Interestingly, Latinos here are significantly more likely than their Anglo peers to be from Colorado originally.** About 43% of Boulder County Latinos were born in Colorado, compared to 32% of Anglos here.

Source: American Community Survey

Place of Birth, 2011

	All Boulder County	Latinos in Boulder County
Foreign Born	11%	36%
Born in other U.S. State, Territory	56%	21%
Born in Colorado	33%	43%

Source: American Community Survey

Community Strengths and Assets

When asked in the LTF survey how Latino residents have helped improve the quality of life in Boulder County, more than 60% of respondents cited economic contributions including workforce participation, paying taxes, and purchasing goods locally. "We do not complain…[and] can adapt to heat, cold, poor working conditions, put up with lack of safety equipment, and may not even get paid," one respondent answered. "We get the job done and we do the jobs no one else wants to do," said another. Focus group participants spoke of the barriers their parents, or they themselves, overcame to get to Boulder County in order to have a better life, make more money, and/or provide a better education for themselves and their children. Many leaders interviewed for the project noted the importance of Latino labor in maintaining the high quality of life we enjoy here. "At a pretty basic level," said one leader, "the jobs that a lot of Latinos have really are the underpinnings of the economy here."

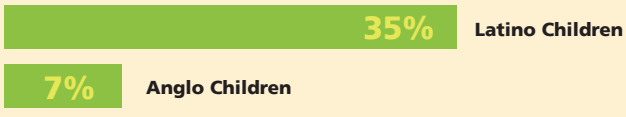
Community involvement, culture and diversity are other key Latino contributions, according to survey respondents. For some, community involvement meant actively helping neighbors and family members. For others, it meant serving in various community organizations, volunteering, and advocating for political change. Survey respondents who cited culture as a contribution referenced traits like family values, politeness, responsibility, commitment to community, and spirituality, as well as more tangible elements like food and dance. Finally, 15% of survey respondents cited as a key contribution the value of diversity, which is believed to increase creativity and lend new perspectives and resources to local discussions, organizations, and political policy-making bodies.

Did you know...

About 30% of Latinos in Boulder County – and 35% of Latino kids here – live below the federal poverty guideline, which is about $11,500 for an individual and $23,500 for a family of four.

Source: American Community Survey

BOULDER COUNTY CHILDREN LIVING IN POVERTY, 2011



Source: American Community Survey

Community Needs and Challenges

While Latino survey respondents were proud of the contributions they've made to Boulder County, they also highlighted the need for improvements related to employment, education and discrimination. Nearly a quarter of respondents said they needed more work, better jobs, and "livable wages." Other employment-related concerns included the need for improved: workplace safety; access to promotions; benefits; and employment opportunities for youth, women, and non-English speakers.

Education ranked second on the needs hierarchy, with nearly 22% of respondents suggesting Latino children and adults in Boulder County need greater access to educational resources. Common desires included access to affordable early childhood education, work-friendly learning opportunities for adults, and more encouragement for Latino students to pursue higher education. Many survey respondents and focus group participants also expressed a desire to decrease educational segregation between Latinos and non-Latinos in Boulder County. As one respondent wrote, "…our schools have become either Latino schools or non-Latino schools, so there is so much segregation and it seems that authorities keep ignoring it." While focus group participants acknowledged the challenges poverty, mobility and language barriers pose to students and also their teachers, they overwhelmingly wanted to raise expectations for and improve the quality of public education offered to Latino students here.

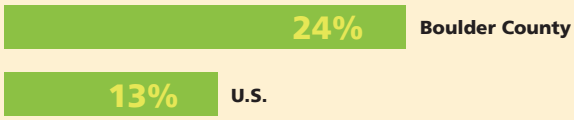
Finally, more than 21% of respondents said discrimination was a problem in Boulder County. Both the recently arrived and those who have been here for generations felt they had been subject to **negative stereotypes and "subtle but painful" discrimination based on the color of their skin, the way they spoke, or their ethnicity.** Latinos cited examples of both personal discrimination as well institutional structures that served as barriers to their full participation or that made them feel less valued or welcome – like a lack of bicultural/bilingual staff, or perceived racial profiling. Focus group participants recalled being: **shadowed in stores,** stopped repeatedly by law enforcement and **asked for identification**, refused check cashing with a Mexican driver's license, asked why he/she was shopping in a particular store, ignored altogether, **made fun of for not being able to speak English**, and not getting paid for a day's work because employers assumed they had no political or legal recourse. To help break down barriers and improve dialogue, several respondents suggested people of color and Anglos in Boulder County need more opportunities for positive interaction and dialogue. Said one, "They must have opportunities to share stories, make human connections, and in general opportunities to develop greater understanding and trust with each other."

Did you know...

Latinos in Boulder County have significantly higher rates of educational attainment than Latinos in the state or nation as a whole, with nearly a quarter of Latino adults having earned at least a bachelor's degree. Despite that, median household income for Latinos here is actually lower than it is for Latinos in Colorado or the U.S.

Source: American Community Survey (here and below)

PERCENTAGE OF LATINO ADULTS WITH AT LEAST A BACHELOR'S DEGREE, 2011



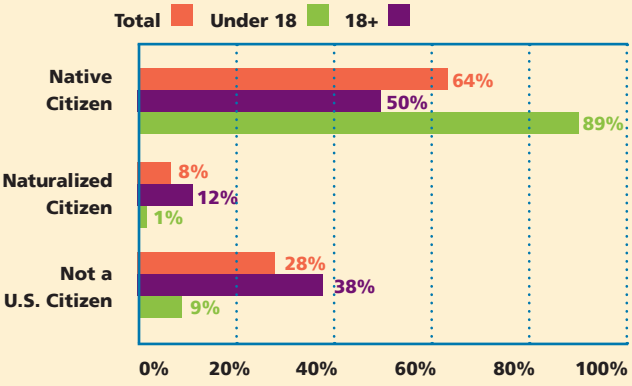
Did you know...

More than 72% of Latinos ages 16 and over in Boulder County are part of the labor force, compared to 70% of the community overall.

Citizenship Status, Boulder County Latinos, 2011				
	Total	Native	Foreign-Born Naturalized	Foreign-Born Not a U.S. Citizen*
Under 18	14,128	12,618	185	1,325
18+	25,551	12,677	3,097	9,777
Total	39,679	25,295	3,282	11,102

* Does not imply documentation status.
Source: American Community Survey

CITIZENSHIP STATUS OF BOULDER COUNTY LATINOS, 2011



Source: American Community Survey

Taking Action

The Latino Task Force has developed detailed recommendations in the areas of health, education, and the economy that it will share with government officials, business leaders, service providers, and the Latino community in the coming months. Recommendations range from urging groups to develop more culturally competent programming to better engage Latinos – to urging Latinos to seek greater representation in positions of power. Below are some examples of recommendations both to institutions and Latinos here in Boulder County.

For institutions:

- Provide culturally competent programming in the areas of health, education and career services
- Increase parity in the leadership of educational institutions
- Improve leadership equity and Latino representation on boards

For Latinos:

- Better engage Latino youth in addressing health and other disparities
- Take advantage of early childhood education opportunities
- Join civic organizations to play an active role in community leadership

Special Report to the Community

La Tercera Edad: Reaching Our Latino Elders

While Latinos make up less than 5% of Boulder County's 65+ population, our Latino senior population is expected to grow significantly in the coming decades. Launched in 2011, local participants in the Colorado Latino Age Wave project aim to get ahead of this trend by examining the demographics and needs of Latino older adults as well as the community-based assets available to them.

The project found that Latino adults have positive perceptions on aging and appreciate the wisdom that comes with age; they also have a strong desire to remain active and engaged as they get older. However, to make that possible, Latino elders need increased access to nutritious foods, healthcare, transportation, and housing, as well as better information about the supports and services available. While some organizations offering supports and services target older adults and others target Latinos, there is a lack of services and supports geared specifically toward Latino older adults. As a result, this population often slips through the cracks.

Best practices for reaching Latino elders, the Colorado Latino Age Wave found, include neighbored- and home-based programs; the *promotores* model of training older Latinos to help their peers navigate the system and access services; and intergenerational programs that engage the entire family. **In Boulder County, we're excited to report that more than a dozen organizations and agencies received a grant from the project to collaboratively design and implement a *promotores* project locally.** For more information on the project, visit www.rcfdenver.org/agewave/.

Profiles

Marietta Vigil Gonzales

New Mexico native Marietta Vigil Gonzales is fluent in three languages; has lived in Japan, Ecuador and Italy; and served as a teacher and administrator in San Francisco before moving to Boulder County in the 1990s. Avid outdoors people, she and her husband initially settled in Boulder before finding their fit in Longmont a few years later.

Gonzales has mentored students at Skyline High School, taught English through Intercambio de Comunidades, and organized Spanish-language conversation groups at the Longmont Senior Center for Latinos and Anglos alike. "I wasn't done – I wanted to give something back, and I found my place within volunteerism," she said. "It really felt like Longmont was trying to get everyone to participate, especially people of color."

Better jobs and immigration reform are key to helping the Latino community move ahead, Gonzales believes. "Number one is security in a job that pays a living wage so you can educate your kids and give your family the comforts they see around them," she said.

Nick Robles

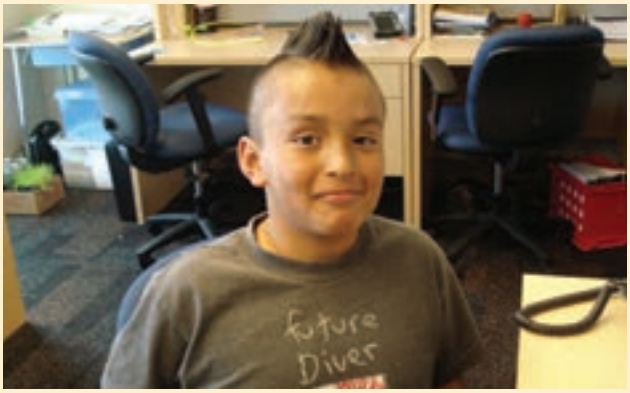
Nick Robles is a third-generation American whose father's job with IBM brought the family to Longmont in 1987. While he grew up speaking English exclusively, he learned Spanish through college and graduate school and during two years in the Dominican Republic with the Peace Corps. It was the latter that awakened in him a passion for civic activism, inspiring him to get involved with groups like the Latino Task Force when he returned home.

Robles enjoys our area's abundant sunshine and mountain views during his daily bike ride (or bus ride, weather depending) to his job as a bilingual environmental health specialist for the county. He hopes the LTF's work inspires more people to explore the diversity within our community, whether through eating new foods, learning a new language, or spending time with people of different backgrounds. "I'd also like to see the environment change to be more inclusive of Latinos taking on leadership positions," he said. "And I'd like to see the Latino community take on that responsibility, as well."

Nick also participated in The Community Foundation's Leadership Fellows program.

Feeling Inspired?

- Attend a **cross-cultural event** with people of different backgrounds and ages.
- Assess the cultural competency and **inclusiveness** of your own organization. Are you welcoming to people of varied backgrounds?
- Need help? Reach out to a **cultural broker,** or someone you know who is skilled at bridging, mediating between, or linking different groups. If you don't know someone like that, check with a community organization (like the Latino Task Force) that works with the population you're trying to engage.
- Check out the **Boulder County Latino History Project:** www.bocolatinohistory.org



Emmanuel Arellan

Math and science are fifth grader Emmanuel Arellan's favorite subjects at Columbine Elementary School in Boulder. He likes learning new things like how to multiply and divide or make accurately scaled models of the nearby parks where he likes to play. In second grade, he joined his school's chapter of the I Have a Dream Foundation. "They help me with my homework and figuring out how to achieve my goals," the 10-year-old Gunbarrel resident explained, "Like to become a good leader and to be a good man and to achieve my dreams." As for his dreams, ideally, he'd like to be a professional baseball or soccer player. As a backup, he'll go for something related to math and science.

Emmanuel shyly takes pride in earning high marks in school, doing his homework every night, and being able to speak both Spanish and English. "We play. We're nice. We're respectful, responsible, safe and hard workers," he said when asked what he'd want people to know about him and his friends. "We also do really good in school."

- Seek out and use **Latino vendors** for your next event.
- **Challenge your own biases.** What kinds of assumptions do you make about people based on skin tone, ethnicity, gender, orientation or age?
- Visit the **Latino Task Force's** website to learn more about their findings and what they do: www.latinotaskforce.org

Sandy Guidicelli

As a kid, Sandy Guidicelli and her friends would jump from rooftop to rooftop in their Bronx, NY, neighborhood. They played on asphalt-covered playgrounds (as grassy parks were scarce), and saw faces spanning a range of colors in their crowded city school. When Guidicelli moved to Colorado for a fresh start, she would drive through Boulder County every two weeks on her route delivering magazines. "I used to think, oh, I'd really love to live here," she said. "It just looked so beautiful, with so much open space, and everyone seemed so into nature."

With some elbow grease and grit, Guidicelli put herself through school while working – and then landed a job with the city of Longmont, and found a home in the city of Boulder. Here, she's found a supportive church community, ample green space for her grandchildren, and opportunities to play a leadership role in organizations she cares about. Guidicelli serves on the board of directors for Mental Health Partners, and helps lead the organization's legislative and clinical committees.

"There are so many leaders in the Latino community here who are willing to do the work," said Guidicelli, who is Puerto Rican. "We're ready to make sure the next generation has the tools they need to be successful."

Sandy also participated in The Community Foundation's Leadership Fellows program.

Sources
American Community Survey
Latino Task Force

Our Health & Human Services

We're healthy and fit, but we have our challenges – like binge-drinking, suicide, and significant numbers of uninsured kids.

INDICATORS IN THIS CHAPTER

Adult and Child Health

Child Abuse

Colorado Health Report Card

Crime Statistics

Domestic Violence

Hate Crimes

Food and Beverage Spending

Insurance Rates and Coverage

Medicaid Growth and Expansion

Medical Marijuana Business Licenses

Medicare Reimbursement

Mental Health

Obesity

Public Health Improvement Process

Substance Abuse

Suicide

Teen Pregnancy

Youth Risks and Behaviors

At his Niwot office, Dr. Eric Hernandez sees few cases of severe diabetes, lots of healthy cholesterol levels, and a high proportion of physically fit people. He also sees patients participate actively in their care by asking thoughtful questions and making informed decisions.

These are good things, and statistics show Dr. Hernandez's experience is not unusual. Boulder County is one of the healthiest places in the state and country. We have extraordinary access to recreation – and we stay fit by taking advantage of it. The majority of us here have health insurance, and few of us smoke tobacco.

There are some troubling trends, however. Every other month, a child comes into Dr. Hernandez's office looking to lose weight. While not every adolescent looking to shed pounds actually should (see page 49), child obesity is a growing concern in Colorado and the nation as a whole. Like so many other indicators, it's one that disproportionately affects low-income households.

Boulder County ranks in the top quartile for nearly two-thirds of the 30 health indicators that comprise Colorado's 2013 County Health Rankings. The vast majority of us report good mental and physical health, few of us (12%) smoke cigarettes, and most of us are active (89%) and benefit from social and emotional supports (86%). Where do we not rank so well? We have a rising rate of chlamydia (we rank in the third quartile of counties), an abundance of fast food restaurants (244 in total), and struggle with excessive drinking (15% of adults here do).

Who's Covered by Health Insurance? 2011-2012

	2011-2012
Anglos	87%
Latinos	54%
<$25K annual income	51%
$25K-$50K annual income	82%
$50K+ annual income	96%
Men	80%
Women	82%

Source: Colorado Health Information Dataset

2012 COLORADO HEALTH REPORT CARD

Healthy Beginnings	C
Healthy Children	D+
Healthy Adolescents	B
Healthy Adults	B+
Healthy Aging	B+

Source: Colorado Health Foundation

The Price of Good Health

The average yearly premium for a Colorado family with private health insurance has skyrocketed in recent years, rising from $6,797 in 2000 to close to $15,000[1] today. Premiums have grown faster than both inflation and wages during that time. What's to blame? Rising healthcare costs – which can vary widely by provider – account for about 80% of premium increases, according to a report by the Colorado Commissioner of Insurance, although there's early evidence that increases may be slowing.

With 85%[2] of our residents insured, Boulder County ranks in the top quartile of Colorado when it comes to health coverage. If we look a bit closer, however, we see sharp disparities in who has access to health care. **Nearly half of local Latinos and residents living on less than $25,000 a year lack health insurance here, echoing broader trends of inequality.**

By age, nearly 29% of Coloradans aged 19-29 are uninsured, reflecting a seven-point rise in recent years, according to the most recent Colorado Health Access Survey (CHAS). In Boulder County, 35% of residents aged 25-34 are without coverage, according to the Colorado Health Information Dataset. While healthcare industry folks often refer to this crowd as the 'young invincibles,' only 12% of young uninsured adults said they lacked coverage because they thought they didn't need it. Rather, more than three-quarters said cost was the barrier, according to CHAS.

While kids fare better when it comes to coverage, more than 5,000 children in Boulder County still lack health insurance. More than 80% of these kids are eligible for public coverage through Medicaid or Colorado's Child Health Plan Plus (CHP+) but aren't enrolled. Child poverty has increased dramatically in Boulder County and Colorado in recent years, far outpacing population growth. While officials have made strides in enrolling the rising number of kids who qualify for public programs, a lack of information and access coupled with the challenges of re-enrollment keep thousands of local kids without coverage.

How Boulder County Residents Rank Their Health

	General Population	Anglo	Latino	<$25K Income	$25K-$50K Income	$50K+ Income
Poor/Fair	12%	8%	32%	24%	20%	4%
Good/Excellent	88%	92%	68%	76%	80%	96%

Source: 2011-2012 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, CDPHE

Poor mental health days in the last month, Boulder County

	General Population	Anglo	Latino	<$25K Income	$25K-$50K Income	$50K+ Income
0	64%	64%	68%	51%	64%	69%
1-7	23%	25%	15%	26%	25%	22%
8+	13%	12%	17%	23%	11%	9%

Source: 2011-2012 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, CDPHE

Adult Health Data, 2011-2012

Risk Factor	Boulder County	Colorado
Diagnosed with diabetes	6%	7%
Current smoker	12%	18%
Currently have health insurance	81%	79%
Fecal occult blood test in past 2 years (ages 50 and over)	12%	16%
Ever had colonoscopy (ages 50 and over)	68%	67%
Had clinical breast exam and mammogram in the past 2 years (women 50 and older)	60%	63%
Ever had a Pap smear (women 18 and older)	94%	94%
Ever had asthma	13%	13%
Any leisure time physical activity	89%	83%
Ate less then one serving of vegetables daily	12%	19%
Overweight, BMI** 25.0 to 29.9	32%	36%
Obese, BMI** > 30	16%	20%

Source: 2011-2012 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, CDPHE

Child Health Data

	Boulder County	Colorado
Children 2-14 Overweight or Obese	18%	26%
Children 2-14 Underweight	11%	11%
Children 1-14 with Fair to Poor Teeth	4%	9%
Children 1-14 with Asthma	6%	8%
Children with Health Insurance	92%	91%

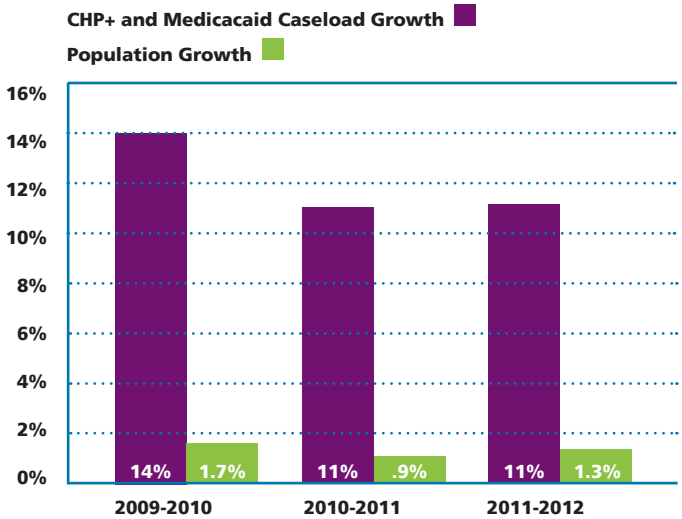
Source: Maternal and Child Health Data Set for Boulder County

Making the Grade

Each year, the Colorado Health Foundation and Colorado Health Institute issue a health "report card," assigning letter grades that reflect how Coloradans fare in five different life stages compared to peers in other states. With the notable exceptions of insurance coverage and binge-drinking, we fared well on the whole with those in adolescence and older in 2012 – and scored particularly well for the health of our 65+ crowd. For example, **we rank first in the U.S. for our percentage of adults and older adults engaging in physical activity each month** – which is unsurprising considering Colorado also has the lowest adult obesity rate at 21%. We earned significantly lower grades, however, for our younger residents. Specifically, we rank 42 out of 50 states with 9% of children not covered by either public or private insurance. We're 38 of 50 when it comes to preventative dental care for kids, with just 77% of children visiting a dentist in the past 12 months. And we rank 23 of 50 for child obesity, with 14% of kids having a body mass index in the 95th percentile.

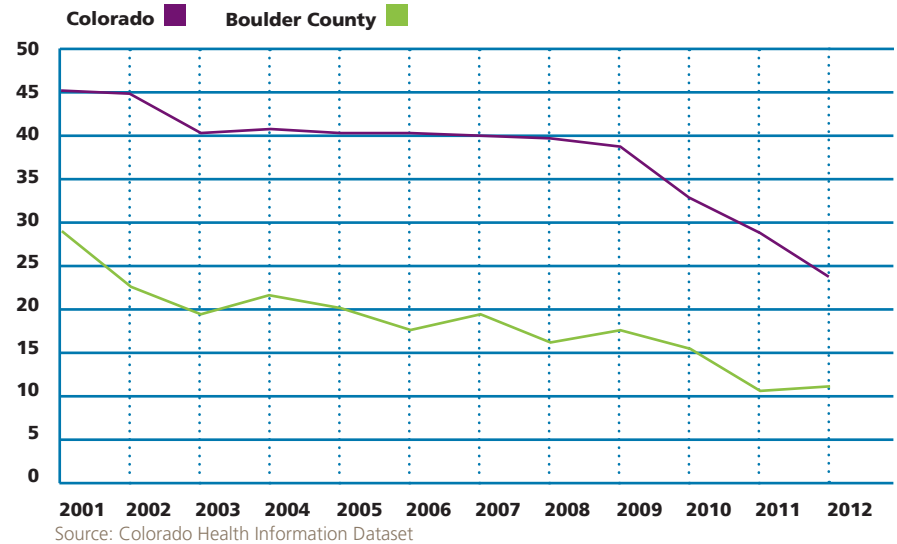
Colorado teens are having safe sex. In fact, our state ranked first in the country for the percentage of sexually active high school students who use condoms (71%), according to the report card. Unfortunately, Boulder County teens aren't staying as safe: just 57% of Boulder County high school students who had sexual intercourse in the past three months reported using a condom, according to the most recent Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS).[3] Even more troubling is the trend downward we're seeing in this area; **condom use by sexually active teens here has decreased 7 percentage points since 2005.**

COLORADO CHP+ AND MEDICAID CASELOAD VS. POPULATION GROWTH



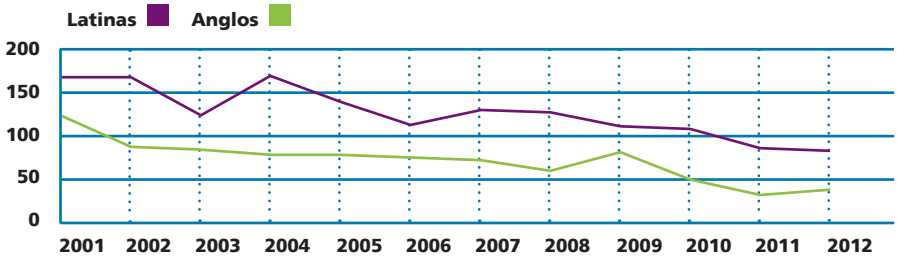
Source: Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing

PREGNANCY RATE PER 1,000 TEENAGERS AGED 15-19



Source: Colorado Health Information Dataset

NUMBER OF BIRTHS TO TEEN MOMS IN BOULDER COUNTY



Source: Colorado Health Information Dataset

Teen Pregnancy

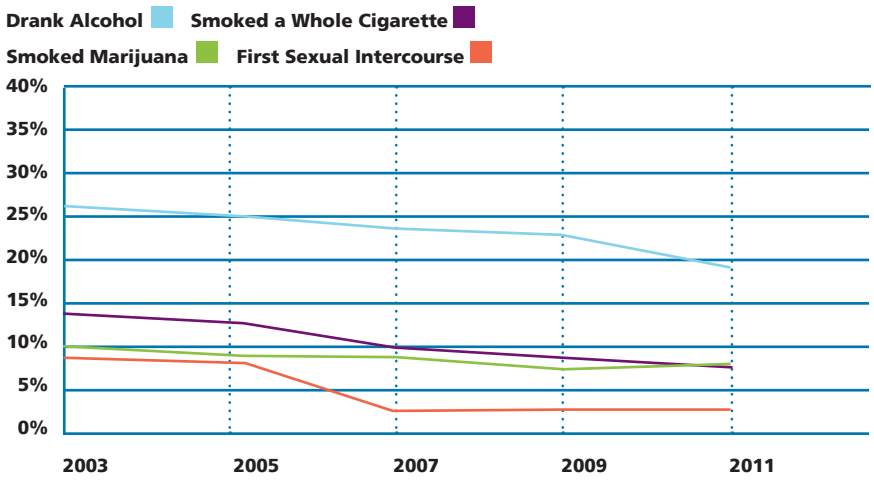
Despite falling rates of condom use among high school students, the number (and rate) of births to teenage mothers in Boulder County has nearly halved over the past decade, from 258 births in 2002 to just 137 in 2012. The teen fertility rate declined from 23.2 births per 1,000 teens in 2002 to 12 in 2012. **While the number of births to teenage Latina mothers in Boulder County has dropped significantly over the past decade, they still comprise the vast majority (64%) of teenage births here.**

Risky Business: Teenager Trends

Compared to peers across the United States, Boulder County high schoolers have some good news to report: they watch less T.V., wear bike helmets more frequently, and are less likely to ride with drivers who have been drinking, according to the most recent YRBS results. Fewer teens here reported smoking tobacco and more reported getting at least eight hours of sleep. **Teens here fared worse, however, when it came to electronic bullying, binge drinking, use of drugs like ecstasy and cocaine** – and being offered such drugs at schools. Our local high schoolers are also more likely to plan their own suicides, the survey shows. Perhaps most striking in the survey results were the sharp disparities in results by gender, ethnicity, and most notably sexual orientation. That students identifying as lesbian, gay, bisexual or questioning (LGBQ) reported dramatically higher rates of risky behaviors nearly across the board raises questions about the stigmas attached to such identities and how well we're supporting our LGBQ youth. Some eye-opening numbers from the most recent survey follow.

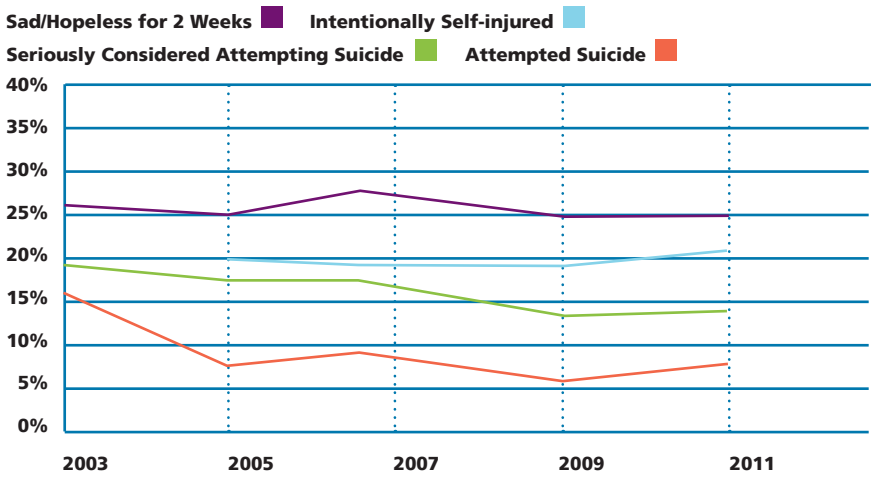
NOTE: The Youth Risk Behavior Survey is administered every other year in high schools across the county, and middle schools in the Boulder Valley School District. Results are for high school students unless otherwise noted. Please visit www.BoulderCountyYRBS.org for more information.

EARLY INITIATION: TAKING RISKS BEFORE THE AGE OF 13



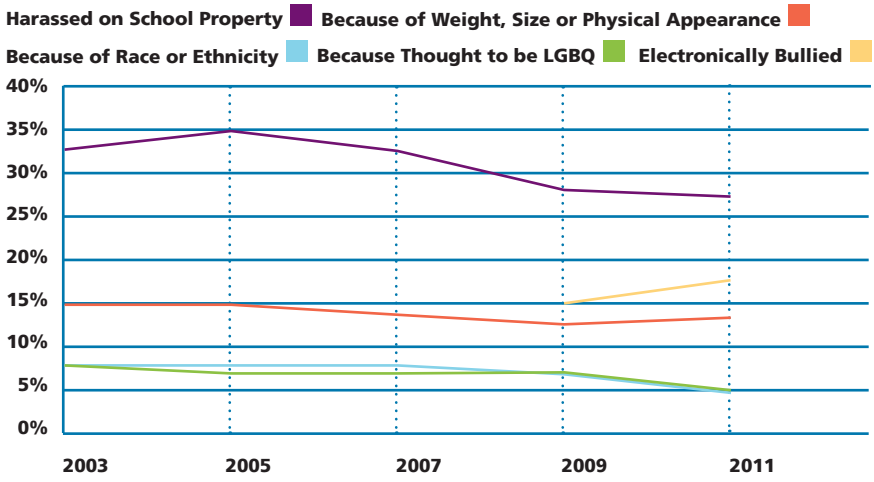
Source: Youth Risk Behavior Survey

EMOTIONAL WELLNESS IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS



Source: Youth Risk Behavior Survey

HARASSMENT IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS



Source: Youth Risk Behavior Survey

FACT:

In Boulder County, there are currently 262 adults with developmental disabilities on the waiting list to receive services, which range from behavioral health to residential and day services to assistance with transportation and employment training. Another 2,181 are already receiving care.

Source: Imagine!

FACT:

While fewer than 10% of high school females in Boulder County are overweight or obese, more than 30% think they are – and more than half of high school girls have tried to lose weight.

Source: Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2011

YRBS Local Highlights

Bullying

- More than half of LGBQ[4] students – and 27% of students overall – reported being harassed on school property in the 12 months prior to the survey.
- About 7% of Latinos and nearly 14% of other students of color reported being harassed because of their race or ethnicity, compared to less than 3% of Anglo students.
- Nearly 43% of BVSD middle school students[5] reported being bullied at school.

Emotional Health

- More than three quarters of students said they had someone to talk to when feeling sad or hopeless.
- Nearly 30% of high school females – and 61% of LGBQ students – reported intentionally injuring themselves by cutting or other means in the 12 months prior to the survey.
- More than one in eight BVSD middle school students has seriously considered attempting suicide.

Sexual Health

- About 65% of high schoolers here have never had sex, and 75% hadn't had sex in the three months prior to the survey.
- Among the roughly 25% of students currently sexually active, 28% had used drugs or alcohol prior to their last sexual encounter.
- More than 10% of Boulder County high school females and nearly a quarter of local LGBQ students reported being forced to have sexual intercourse when they didn't want to.

Alcohol and Drug Use

- One in four high school students reported binge drinking[6] in the 30 days prior to the survey. While teen binge-drinking rates have fallen a bit since 2003, they remain 3% higher in Boulder County than in the U.S. as a whole.
- Regular marijuana use has a significantly lower perception of risk among high school students (52%) than cigarettes (90%) or alcohol (62%); the perception of marijuana-related risk has dropped 12 percentage points since 2005.
- About 9% of students reported using cocaine, and nearly one in five students reported using drugs like Xanax or Ritalin without a prescription.

Safety

- Nine out of ten students reported feeling safe in their neighborhoods.
- Among the 63% of students who had driven in the 30 days before the survey, 46% reported texting while driving.
- Nearly one in 12 high school students reported driving a vehicle after drinking alcohol in the 30 days prior to the survey.

MEDICAL MARIJUANA DISPENSARIES, CULTIVATION FACILITIES, AND INFUSED PRODUCTS BUSINESSES, 2013

Boulder	67
Unincorporated Boulder County	38
Nederland	4
Lyons	3
Lafayette	2
Louisville	2
Longmont	0
Erie	0
Superior	0

Source: Local and County Medical Marijuana Licensing Authorities
Note: The local impact of Amendment 64 legalizing recreational marijuana remains unclear.

Our Public Safety

Overall levels of crime here have declined over the past decades, following a well-documented national trend. The number of hate crimes in the county, too, decreased from 2009 – although there were still five reported racially-based incidents in 2011. **Sexual violence is the notable exception to this downward trend, however; the number of rapes reported here has increased in recent years.** In fact, while Boulder County's overall violent crime rate is considerably lower than that of the U.S. as a whole, our rate of forcible rape is not. There were 81 reported cases of rape in Boulder County in 2011 – an increase of 40% from 2010.

Colorado has the sixth highest lifetime prevalence of rape in the nation,[7] according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. **Nearly one in four women here (24%) has been raped.** Annual crime statistics support this troubling finding; our state had the third highest rate of forcible rape in the country in 2011, behind only Alaska and South Dakota, according to the FBI Uniform Crime Reports.

Another growing and persistent threat to public safety is self-harm. Suicide is the 6th leading cause of death in Boulder County, with 59 local residents taking their own lives[8] in 2012. **More people here die from suicide than from breast cancer or motor vehicle accidents.** Men account for more than 70% of local suicide deaths; Anglos account for 93%. Suicide rates are consistently higher in the western and Rocky Mountain states; theories as to why that is vary. Colorado has the 8th highest suicide rate in the country. At 19.3 suicides for every 100,000 residents, Boulder County's suicide rate is roughly on par with Colorado's.

Crime in Boulder County

	2009	2010	2011
Murder/Manslaughter	7	7	4
Forcible Rape	67	57	81
Robbery	117	71	87
Aggravated Assaults	528	463	525
Burglary	1,367	1,172	1,134
Larceny/Theft	5,447	5,448	5,000
Motor Vehicle Theft	320	283	331
Total Number of Offenses	7,853	7,501	7,162

Source: FBI Uniform Crime Reporting

Reported Hate Crimes 2011 – ***Number of incidents per bias motivation***

	Race	Religion	Sexual Orientation	Ethnicity	Disability	Total
Boulder	1	1	0	0	0	2
Lafayette	1	0	0	0	0	1
Longmont	3	0	0	0	0	3

Source: FBI Hate Crime Statistics 2011

Photo: Daily Camera

Boulder County ranked **#2 on Gallup's Top 10 Well-Being Mid-Size Communities for 2012,** just behind Lincoln, NE. Colorado trailed Hawaii to claim the #2 spot for states, earning distinction for a sustained level of well-being excellence over the past five years.

Domestic Violence

Year	Charged Cases	Children Present	Child Abuse Charges
2004	1,147	580	163
2006	1,135	568	170
2008	1,229	566	165
2010	1,046	546	156

The Boulder County Domestic Violence Research Report was discontinued in 2010 due to a loss of funding.

Photo: Daily Camera

Average Annual Insurance Premiums in Colorado

	Single Coverage	Family Coverage
2010	$4,630	$13,393
2009	$4,414	$13,360
2008	$4,303	$11,952
2007	$4,164	$11,574
2006	$4,024	$11,195
2005	$3,891	$10,850
2004	$3,684	$10,228
2003	$3,684	$9,522
2002	$3,301	$8,504
2001	$3,083	$7,318
2000	$2,450	$6,797

Source: Department of Regulatory Affairs, Annual Report of the Commissioner of Insurance

Challenges to Care

While a number of providers in Boulder County accept CHP+, few accept Medicaid. Of those that do, not all are easily reached by public transportation. While Medicaid covers transportation costs for non-emergency care, not all enrollees are aware of that benefit or able to access it. Further, low-income patients are more likely to have work situations that make it difficult to attend a medical appointment during the work day.

About **45,000** Boulder County residents **lack health insurance of any kind**.

Improving Our Public Health

After hundreds of conversations with local organizations about health concerns and resources, Boulder County Public Health has developed three focus areas for the next five years: **improving mental health, reducing substance abuse, and encouraging healthy eating and active living**. The focus areas – which are tied to clear and winnable metrics – are part of the Public Health Improvement Process. Remember, while we're a pretty healthy bunch, we do have room for improvement.

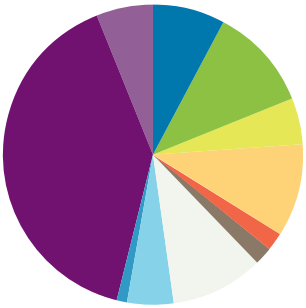
The highlights below are not exhaustive; visit www.HealthBoulderCounty.org for more details.

Mental Health: **Colorado consistently ranks as having one of the highest suicide rates in the country.** For every 100,000 people in our county, about 19 die of suicide each year. One in 15 high school students here –and nearly a full third of LGBQ students – reported attempting suicide according to the most recent Youth Risk Behavior Survey. **GOAL: Decrease the percentage of high school students who attempt suicide from roughly one in 15 to one in 20.**

Substance Abuse: **A full quarter of high school students here – and about 15% of adults – binge drink.** (And nearly one in thirteen high school students reported smoking marijuana before the age of 13.) People who start drinking early in life are five times more likely to report alcohol abuse or dependence later on. **GOAL: Lower the percentage of kids who drink before the age of 13 from 19% to less than 15%.**

Healthy Eating and Active Living: Colorado ranks 29th in the nation for childhood obesity rates (ages 10-17 years). Kids need a recommended minimum of one hour of physical activity every day to stay healthy and maintain a healthy weight. Currently 72% of Boulder County high school students report that they are engaged in vigorous exercise 3 or more times per week. **GOAL: Raise this figure to 75% by 2017.**

TOTAL BOULDER COUNTY FOOD AND BEVERAGE SPENDING



- Cereals and bakery products **$69 million**
- Meats, poultry, fish and eggs **$104 million**
- Dairy products **$48 million**
- Fruits and vegetables **$91 million**
- Sugar and other sweets **$16.6 million**
- Fats and oils **$14.5 million**
- Misc. foods **$86 million**
- Nonalcoholic beverages **$41 million**
- Packed lunches **$6.5 million**
- Food away from home **$363 million**
- Alcoholic beverages **$59 million**

Source: The 25% shift: The Benefits of Food Localization in Boulder County and How to Realize Them

Feeling Inspired?

- Ride your **bike, jog or hike** one of our many recreational trails.
- **Talk to you kids** about risky behaviors like drinking alcohol or having unprotected sex. For tips on how, check out the county's new YouTube videos: www.youtube.com/user/BCHYA
- Visit a **local farmers' market** for fresh Colorado produce.
- Ask your doctor if she or he accepts **Medicaid or CHP+.**
- **Volunteer** with **Moving to End Sexual Assault** to help stop rape in our community.

Sources

Boulder County Domestic Abuse Prevention Project

Boulder County Community Health Data, www.BoulderCountyHealthData.org

Boulder County Youth Risk Behavior Survey, www.BoulderCountyYRBS.org

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey, www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/nisvs/state_tables_71a.html

Colorado Health Information Dataset, www.chd.dphe.state.co.us/cohid/topics.aspx?q=Behavioral_Risk_Factors

Colorado Health Foundation, The Colorado Health Report Card, www.coloradohealth.org/report_card.aspx

Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing

Dartmouth Atlas of Healthcare, www.dartmouthatlas.org

Department of Regulatory Agencies, Annual Report of the Commissioner of Insurance to the Colorado General Assembly on 2011 Health Insurance Costs

Federal Bureau of Investigation, Uniform Crime Report, www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/ucr

Imagine!

The 25% Shift: The Benefits of Food Localization for Boulder County, By Michael H. Shuman / February 2012

Women's Foundation of Colorado, The Status of Women and Girls in Colorado 2013, www.wfco.org/pages/content/annual-research

Endnotes

[1]Data courtesy of Annual Report of the Commissioner of Insurance to the Colorado General Assembly on 2011 Health Insurance Costs.

[2]This estimate is based on a combination of adult and child health insurance coverage data from the Colorado Health Information Dataset and the American Community Survey.

[3]Birth control pill use is also down, from 29% in 2009 when the question was introduced to 24% in 2011. While effective at preventing pregnancy, pills do not protect against sexually transmitted diseases. Further, there is likely overlap between teens using birth control pills and teens using condoms.

[4]The county does not include 'transgendered' in its questions on sexual self-identification.

[5]St. Vrain Valley School District opts not to administer the survey to its middle school students.

[6]Binge drinking is defined as consuming five or more drinks in a short period of time.

[7]The rate for the U.S. as a whole is 18%, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Figures are based on self-reporting by women, not on crime reports.

[8]All data on suicide is per the Colorado Health Information Dataset.

Our Economy & Housing

Our Local Economy is Strong, But Growing Numbers of Boulder County Residents are Struggling.

INDICATORS IN THIS CHAPTER

Building Permits

Employment and Wages by Sector

Foreclosures

Homelessness

Housing Prices and Affordability

Household and Family Income

Income by Educational Attainment

Income by Ethnicity

Income by Gender

Job Growth

Poverty by Age, Ethnicity, and Family Type

Self-Sufficiency Standard

TANF, Food Stamps, Medicaid Applications

Venture Investments

Workforce Participation

Toya Speckman is looking to fill about 100 Boulder-area jobs at Ball Aerospace, where she works in talent acquisition. The pay is competitive. The workplace is creative and stimulating. But while high-skill, high-wage tech jobs abound in Boulder County, the workers to fill them do not.

Boulder is fast becoming a prominent tech sector hub. We're the Silicon Valley of Colorado, home to the creative class, one of the hottest cities of the future. We're also a place that has historically imported our workforce, luring in candidates with our high quality of life and low tax rate.

By doing so, we've reaped the benefits of other states' investments in education, snagging the talent we need without the full costs of their development. But, with more and more people struggling to make ends meet, even in economic recovery, is this strategy optimal or even sustainable for the future? Should we continue looking outside our community for workers, or should we work on developing our own local pipeline of talent instead?

Economic forecasters showered us with good news coming into 2013. Colorado's economy should grow faster than the nation's as a whole, according to predictions. And Boulder County's economy should grow faster than Colorado's. Helping strengthen our local economy is our high concentration of companies working in growth industry clusters including aerospace, biotechnology, clean tech, information technology, natural and organic products, outdoor products, and tourism. Our economic outlook is largely bright; however, even as our per capita income creeps back up to pre-recession levels, troubling trends like rising inequality and underemployment remain worth watching.

Boulder County Poverty Rates

	2000	2011
Individuals*	10%	14%
Families with children	7%	12%
Older adults (65+)	6%	6%
Children	8%	14%
Latino children	23%	35%
Children under 5	10%	17%

*Some undergraduate students are included in local and national individual poverty estimates. In Boulder County, about 13,000 undergrads are included.

Source: American Community Survey

Total wages in Boulder County have grown more than 25% since 2002 – rising four times as fast as our population. (In comparison, Colorado's total wages grew about two and a half times as fast as its population over that period.) Further, as of the end of 2011, Boulder County had recovered nearly all of the jobs (and income) lost in the Great Recession. **But as we've recovered, we've also changed.** Over the past decade – and since 2008 – we've added jobs in fields like healthcare and finance. We've lost jobs, however, in well-paying sectors like manufacturing and construction. (While the professional, scientific and technical sector hasn't fully recovered since 2008, it's been one of our biggest growth areas over the past decade.)

With lucrative jobs and a highly educated community, our per capita income levels in Boulder County are high. Nearly a quarter of families here earn more than $150,000 annually, compared to just 11% of families in the U.S. as a whole. And our per capital personal income is about 125% of the national average. **Our wealth is significant. As it turns out, so is our poverty.**

Boulder County Total Full- and Part-Time Jobs By Sector

Industry	2005	2011	% Total Jobs	Change 2005-2011
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	31,697	36,773	16%	16%
Government*	29,132	31,858	13%	9%
Health Care and Social Assistance	19,874	23,143	10%	16%
Retail Trade	19,568	19,870	8%	2%
Manufacturing	19,732	17,355	7%	-12%
Accommodation and Food Services	14,819	16,110	7%	9%
Real Estate and Leasing	11,640	13,512	5%	16%
Finance and Insurance	8,732	12,198	5%	40%
Other Services, Except Public Administration	11,477	11,548	5%	1%
Administrative and Waste Management Services	9,698	10,445	4%	8%
Information	10,472	10,233	4%	-2%
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	6,626	7,878	3%	19%
Construction	10,626	7,689	3%	-28%
Wholesale Trade	5,979	6,257	3%	5%
Educational Services**	4,551	5,255	2%	15%
Transportation and Warehousing	1,957	1,858	1%	-5%
Mining	1,135	1,726	1%	52%
Management of Companies and Enterprises	1,661	1,063	<1%	-36%
Farm Employment	939	904	<1%	-4%
Forestry and Fishing	311	411	<1%	32%
Utilities	269	264	<1%	-2%
Total employment	220,895	236,350	100%	7%

*Includes federal, state, and local **Private education services only

Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis

Feast and Famine

One in seven residents here lives below 100% of the federal poverty guideline[1] – or roughly $11,500 annually for an individual and $23,500 for a family of four. At 14%, our poverty rate is just slightly below the national rate of 15%. **Here's the twist: poverty is growing faster here[2] than in the nation as a whole.** The number of local people living in poverty has increased nearly 50% since 2000, to roughly 40,000 today. Further, the poverty rate does not capture the entirety of people who are struggling. The Colorado Center on Law and Policy's Self-Sufficiency Standard suggests a four-person family with one preschool-age child and one school-age child needs about $68,000 annually to cover the cost of living in Boulder County without public or private assistance. Meanwhile, **nearly one in three residents (28%) lives within 200% of the federal poverty guideline – or roughly $23,000 annually for an individual and $47,000 for a family of four.** Those who are struggling are not simply looking for handouts; data shows that 90% of the 3,500 local families receiving food stamps in 2011 had at least one member who worked.

Family Income Distribution

	Boulder County	U.S.
Less than $25,000	11%	17%
$25,000 to $49,000	15%	23%
$50,000 to $99,999	29%	34%
$100,000 to $149,000	21%	15%
$150,000 to $199,999	11%	6%
$200,000 or more	13%	6%
Median Family Income	$90,197	$62,735

Source: American Community Survey

FACT:

While Boulder County's income is comparatively high, we're not as far ahead as we used to be. In 2001, the Boulder County Metropolitan Statistical Area ranked 7th in the country for per capital personal income, with residents earning 136% of the national average. Today, we rank 13th at 125% of the national average, with metro areas like Hartford, CT, Trenton-Ewing, NJ, and Barnstable Town, MA, having passed us.

Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis

CHILDREN IN POVERTY, 2011

Boulder	14%
Longmont	18%
Lafayette	24%

Source: American Community Survey

Average Monthly Applications in Boulder County

	TANF*	Food Stamps	Medicaid
2006	84	394	319
2007	76	395	370
2008	93	480	450
2009	135	627	443
2010	135	645	378
2011	138	689	458
2012	140	868	608

*Temporary Assistance for Needy Families

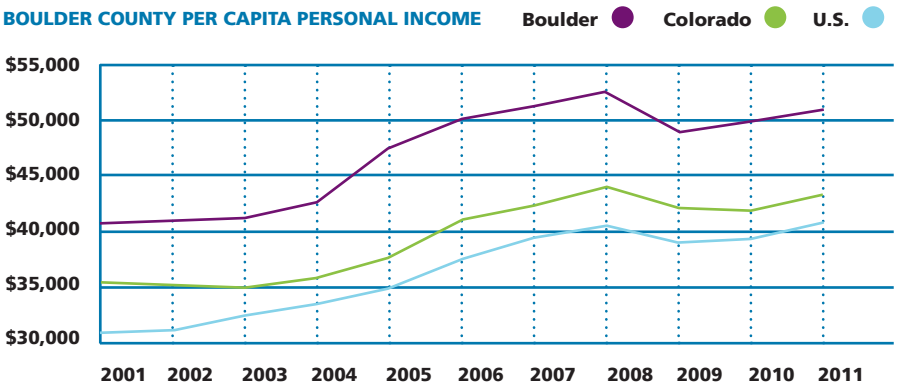
Source: Boulder County Department of Housing & Human Services

More than 70% of Boulder County residents over the age of 16 participate in the labor force, compared to fewer than 65% nationwide. But while many of us work hard, our wages vary significantly by occupation, industry and education level. Jobs in the information sector, for example, offer average annual salaries of nearly $100,000; those in food services, in contrast, pay about $17,000 annually.

The vast majority of adults here who have been fortunate enough to access higher education generally reap its rewards. Someone in Boulder County with a graduate degree earns about $63,500 – or 3.5 times as much as someone who never finished high school. Further, wages for those with college degrees of some kind have risen over the past several years, while wages for workers with the equivalent of a high school diploma or less are on a downward trajectory; **that means that the earnings gap between those with degrees and those without has expanded in recent years and is on track to widen further,** strengthening the case for investment in Colorado's education system.

FACT: Local households in the top income brackets have seen their wages rise 19% over the past 30 years, according to a study by the Colorado Center on Law and Policy. Those in the bottom fifth saw earnings grow just 1% over the same period.

BOULDER COUNTY PER CAPITA PERSONAL INCOME



Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis. *Note: Per capita personal income in Boulder County and Colorado has nearly – but not quite – returned to pre-recession levels.*

2012 Average Wages by Sector

Industry	Boulder County	Colorado
Information	$103,632	$88,502
Professional and Technical Services	$95,155	$84,065
Finance and Insurance	$79,994	$77,610
Manufacting	$76,030	$62,229
Public Administration	$56,356	$56,082
Health Care and Social Assistance	$46,757	$45,696
Construction	$45,698	$50,151
Real Estate and Leasing	$43,378	$46,939
Educational Services	$31,273	$38,653
Retail Trade	$29,081	$27,819
Arts, Entertainment and Recreation	$20,324	$31,025
Accommodation and Food Services	$17,459	$18,432

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Boulder County Median Earnings by Educational Attainment

	2006	2011	% Change
Less than high school graduate	$20,745	$18,001	-13%
High school graduate	$29,431	$26,715	-9%
Some college or associate's degree	$30,932	$33,995	+9%
Bachelor's degree	$42,158	$45,012	+7%
Graduate or professional degree	$57,577	$63,580	+10%

Source: American Community Survey

Women's Work

Interestingly, while it pays to have a college degree, for women in Boulder County it pays a little bit less here than in other places. The 57% of women here with at least a bachelor's degree earn less than the national median[3] for their level of educational attainment, despite slightly higher rates of workforce participation – and our comparatively high concentration of top female executives (see page 59). Median earnings for women with a bachelor's degree are about $5,000 lower in Boulder County than in the nation as a whole, while earnings for women with a graduate or professional degree are about $4,000 lower[4] here. Earnings for Boulder County men, in contrast, are on par with or higher than the national norm; **they're also significantly higher than earnings for women with similar levels of educational attainment.** In Colorado, full-time women workers earn about 80 cents for every dollar men earn.

FACT: While the gender wage gap between Anglo women and Anglo men has grown smaller over the past decade, **the gap between women of color and Anglo men has grown larger.**

Source: The Status of Women and Girls in Colorado, 2013

Earnings by Sex by Education, Boulder County, 2011		
Educational Attainment	**Male**	**Female**
Less than high school graduate	$21,172	$15,785
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	$30,965	$23,078
Some college or associate's degree	$40,567	$26,689
Bachelor's degree	$57,904	$34,491
Graduate or professional degree	$81,429	$48,519

Source: American Community Survey

Women's Median Earnings by Educational Attainment		
	Boulder County	**U.S.**
Less than high school graduate	$15,785	$14,774
High school graduate	$23,078	$21,854
Some college or associate's degree	$26,689	$27,649
Bachelor's degree	$34,491	$40,832
Graduate or professional degree	$48,519	$54,466

Source: American Community Survey

Higher education hasn't exactly translated into higher earnings for people of color here, either. Latinos in Boulder County are nearly twice as likely as Latinos nationally to have earned at least a bachelor's degree, with roughly a quarter having achieved that distinction. **Despite higher levels of educational attainment, Latinos here[5] actually earn less than Latinos nationally.** In contrast, Anglos here earn more than Anglos nationally, making the earnings gap between Anglos and Latinos significantly larger in Boulder County than in Colorado or the U.S. as a whole.

With local Latino households earning less than their national counterparts, it's no surprise Latinos in Boulder County are more likely to live in poverty than Latinos nationally – despite their higher levels of educational attainment. Roughly 30% of Latinos here live below 100% of the federal poverty guideline, compared to 25% of Latinos in the nation as a whole. In Boulder County, Latino kids are five times as likely as Anglo kids to live in poverty. Such disparities raise questions about the degree of equity in our community – and what we can do to create a more level playing field.

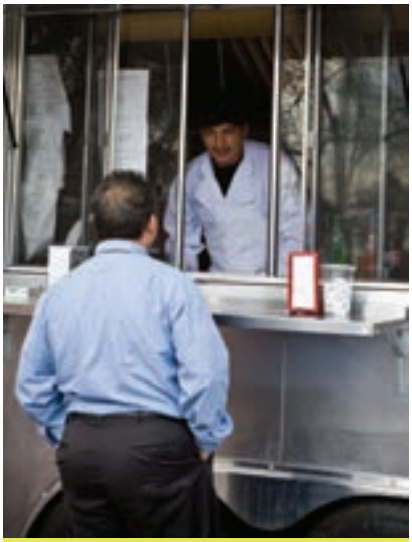
2011 Median Household Income by Ethnicity		
	Boulder County	**U.S.**
Anglo	$70,085	$56,229
Latino	$35,599	$40,843

Source: American Community Survey

Leading the Way?

Boulder County has more than twice the concentration of top female executives than the nation as a whole, according to a report by Avalanche Consulting. For every 1,000 female workers here, 17.7 qualify as executives. Nationally, that figure drops to eight top executives for every 1,000 female workers.

So the good news is we're at the top of the heap. The bad news is the heap isn't very tall. Not one metro area in the country has a higher proportion of female top executives than the overall U.S. average for men (20 male executives for every 1,000 male workers). Joining us in the top 10 are: Bridgeport, Connecticut; Akron, Ohio; Bremerton, Washington; St. Cloud, Minnesota; Hagerstown, Maryland; Reno-Sparks, Nevada; Santa Cruz, California: Montgomery, Alabama; and San Francisco, California.



Born Abroad, Strengthening our Economy

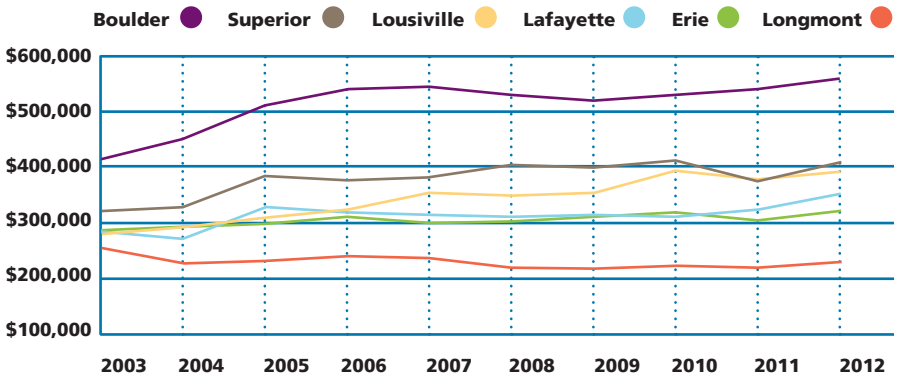
Roughly one in 10 Coloradans is foreign-born. Immigrants make up a growing part of our labor force and contribute significantly to our state's total economic output, according to the Colorado Center on Law and Policy.

- In 2011, foreign-born residents generated $42 billion of total production for Colorado's economy.
- For every 10 immigrants employed in Colorado, seven additional jobs are created.
- Immigrant workers contributed 8.5% of Colorado's gross state product.
- Immigrant labor accounted for 18% of total construction employment; 16% of the entertainment, hotel and services industry; and 8% of the manufacturing sector.
- Immigrants account for 9% of Colorado's entrepreneurs.

Seeking Shelter

Just as our economy improved last year, our housing market also got stronger. Home prices and values are considerably higher in Boulder County than in the nation as a whole. And they ticked upwards more than 5% in 2012, placing home sale values comfortably above pre-2008 levels. The city of Boulder remains by far the most expensive locale in the county for real estate, with a median single-family home sales price of $570,000 in 2012. Longmont, in contrast, remains the most affordable by about $100,000. The median price of a single-family home there in 2012 was $233,500.

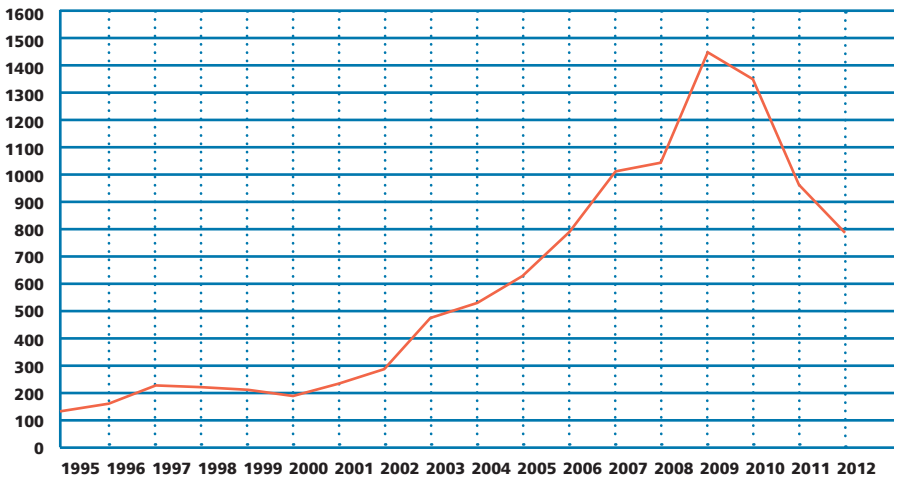
MEDIAN SINGLE-FAMILY HOME SALES PRICE



Source: Boulder Area Realtor Association
Note: Data are based in sales, and differ from median home values referenced on page 14.

And as home prices rose, foreclosures here fell, after peaking in 2009 at 1,441. A total of 793 Boulder County households lost their homes to foreclosure in 2012; this roughly represents a return to 2006 levels and an 18% decrease from 2011, thanks to significant efforts by the county to help keep families in their homes. **While this downward trend is promising, more than two Boulder County families were still displaced each day on average in 2012 because they couldn't afford to pay their mortgage.**

BOULDER COUNTY HOME FORECLOSURES



Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis

Further signaling market health, local housing starts continued to rise in 2012. About 750 new privately owned housing units were authorized in Boulder County last year, up from a recent low of 345 in 2009. Suggesting we can support this increase, **Boulder County had the highest rental-price-per-square-foot ($1.28) and the lowest vacancy rate (3.7%) in the Denver Metro Area at the end of 2012,** with an average rent of just over $1,100. With prices that high, it's no wonder 59% of Boulder County lessees spend more than 30% of their household income on rent.

NEW HOUSING UNITS AUTHORIZED IN BOULDER COUNTY

2012	749
2011	661
2010	657
2009	345
2008	1022
2007	635

Source: United States Census Bureau

FACT: The city of Boulder is **#1 in the U.S.** for high-tech startup company density.

Source: Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation

Housing Costs, 2011

	Boulder County	Boulder	Longmont	U.S.
Owner-occupied housing	64%	50%	63%	65%
Houses without a mortgage	25%	31%	23%	33%
Owners* spending 30%+ on monthly mortgage	34%	35%	34%	38%
Renters spending 30%+ on monthly rent	59%	65%	54%	53%

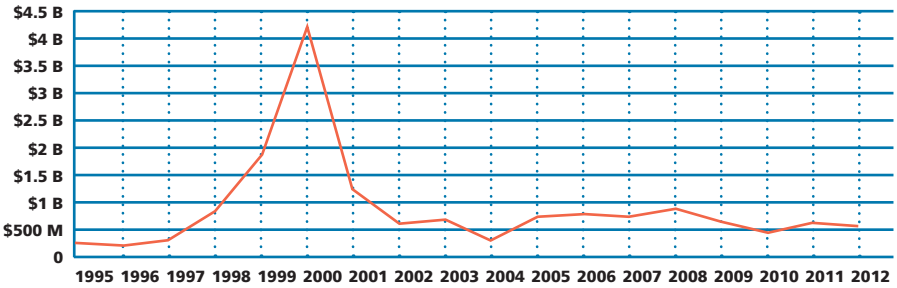
*Owners with a mortgage

Source: American Community Survey

But while some of us struggle with high rents, others here struggle to find shelter of any kind. The most recent homeless count, taken on a night in January 2013, showed 11,167 people living without housing in the Denver Metro area. **Of the 2,366 homeless people living within Boulder County at the time of the count, 89 were veterans, 103 were formerly in foster care, 32 were children, 323 were homeless due to domestic violence, and 226 reported struggling with mental illness.** As the homeless population is incredibly difficult to gauge, the number of people here living without shelter undoubtedly exceeds the number captured by the survey. In our county's two school districts, for example, roughly 1,600 students were homeless at some point during the 2011-2012 school-year, per McKinney-Vento[6] data.

With such strong economic trends, coupled with a rising number of local residents who are struggling to make ends meet here, Boulder County remains a place of burgeoning inequality. Many of us here are well-educated and well-paid. We earn more than our peers in other places, and have a strong local economy poised to grow in the year ahead. But as many of us move ahead, we leave behind a growing number of people grappling with rising rents and a loss of middle-income jobs in sectors like construction and manufacturing that pay enough to support a family. While there are no easy fixes to worldwide problems like inequality and poverty, Boulder County possesses the talent, foresight and generosity of spirit to tackle these issues head-on, as keeping our community healthy will help maintain our competitive edge.

COLORADO VENTURE CAPITAL INVESTMENTS



Source: PricewaterhouseCoopers/National Venture Capital Association MoneyTree™ Report based on data from Thomson Reuters

Photo: Ball Aerospace

Making Change

Colorado has a lot going for it when it comes to innovation. We've got one of the most educated populations in the country. We're one of the best locations for early-stage venture funding in the nation. **We're problem-solvers, generating 450 patents for every million state residents.** And organizations like Beacon Hill Institute and the Kauffman Foundation regularly count us among the most economically competitive and entrepreneurial states in the nation.

But we're slipping in certain areas, according to the Colorado Innovation Network (COIN), a public-private partnership designed to serve as a 'catalyst for innovation.' To help gauge Colorado's strength when it comes to innovation, COIN created an index to evaluate us in comparison to peer states in the areas of ideas, talent, capital and entrepreneurship. More of a collection of data than a single numerical value, the index highlights our strengths, some of which are mentioned above, as well as areas where we could improve.

Specifically, while we used to lead the nation for the percentage of 18- to 24-year-olds enrolled in higher education, we've fallen to about average. That means that although we're still able to attract highly educated workers from other places, we're not as good at growing our own. Further, we need to boost the number of students graduating with degrees in STEM subjects (science, technology, engineering, and math). In 2001, 16% of degrees granted in Colorado were in STEM fields. That figure dropped to less than 12% in 2009 and states like Massachusetts, North Carolina and Texas passed us – even as the number of jobs calling for such degrees has increased. To learn more about COIN and the index, visit www.coloradoinnovationnetwork.com.

FACT: Venture capital investments in Colorado – which peaked in 2000 with the dot-com bubble – account for just more than 2% of the national total, making us the 12th biggest venture market in the country. Silicon Valley is the largest, accounting for roughly 40%.

EFCO: Start-Ups Give Back

Boulder County is a hotbed of entrepreneurship and innovation with programs like Ignite Boulder, the Silicon Flatirons Group, Boulder Tech Week, and TechStars' mentorship program. **Helping local start-ups give back to the communities that nurtured them is the Boulder-based Entrepreneurs Foundation of Colorado (EFCO).** So far, more than 50 area companies have pledged to donate 1% of their founding equity or profits through EFCO to foster the long-term health and sustainability of Colorado. Since EFCO's 2007 inception, it has made more than $500,000 in grants to Front Range non-profits. That amount may double in the coming months with the generous gift resulting from EFCO founding member Rally Software's initial public offering. EFCO was founded by a group of local entrepreneurs, venture capitalists, lawyers, and The Community Foundation Serving Boulder County.

TBD Colorado

After pounding the pavement in a roadshow designed to engage residents in conversations about key issues, Gov. John Hickenlooper's TBD Colorado arrived at a striking (although not surprising) conclusion: **the state is on an unsustainable fiscal course.** As we bounce back from the recession, our strengthening economy will grow public coffers in the coming year or two, adding much-needed funds to core services like education, health and human services, and corrections and courts. However, General Fund spending will still fall significantly below 2007-2008 levels after accounting for inflation and population growth. In other words, the 6% increase represented in our 2013-2014 state budget won't even be enough to maintain our current level of public services, never mind return us to pre-recession levels, while demand for state services is rising.

Below are some of the key recommendations emerging from TBD Colorado, which was funded with $1.2 million in private donations:

- Expand pre-school access for low-income and at-risk kids and increase the availability of full-day kindergarten to families who want it.
- Consider changing the tax code to make it more accurately reflect our underlying (and increasingly service-based) economy; some of our fastest-growing sectors are either exempt or taxed at lower rates.
- Choose how to best fund investments in our transportation system as well as higher education.
- Consider legislation to support the expansion of home- and community-based services to Medicaid patients.
- Fund the state's merit pay system to provide meaningful incentives to employees and to reward performance, helping us hold onto talent.

Feeling Inspired?

- **Invest** in education for children and adults to expand self-sufficiency and help fill local jobs with locally educated workers.
- Give to Boulder County nonprofits working with **low-income families.** Find a list at www.cultureofgiving.org.
- Volunteer to mentor someone trying to **break the cycle of poverty** through programs like Circles: www.buildinglibablecommunities.org
- Are you a local entrepreneur? Join **EFCO** today: www.efcolorado.org.

Sources

American Community Survey, 3- and 5-year estimates

Avalanche Consulting, Inc., Top 10 Metros for Female Executives

Beacon Hill Institute 12th Annual State Competitiveness Report

Boulder Area Realtor Association, www.baraonline.com

Boulder County Public Trustee, Foreclosure Data, www.bouldercountypt.org

Bureau of Economic Analysis

Bureau of Labor Statistics

Colorado Center on Law and Policy, Immigrants Strengthen Colorado's Economy, Generating $42 billion of Activity in 2011

Colorado Department of Education, McKinney Vento Data

Colorado Innovation Network, www.coloradoinnovationnetwork.com/

Denver Metropolitan Area 2013 Homelessness Point-in-Time Study, www.mdhi.org

Kaufman Index of Entrepreneurial Activity, www.kaufman.org

National Information Center for Higher Education www.higheredinfo.org

www.beaconhill.org/Compete12/Compete2012.pdf

PricewaterhouseCoopers/National Venture Capital Association MoneyTree™ Report based on data from Thomson Reuters, www.pwcmoneytree.com

Women's Foundation of Colorado, The Status of Women and Girls in Colorado 2013, www.wfco.org/pages/content/annual-research

Endnotes

[1]Boulder County residents enrolled in undergraduate and graduate education programs account for about one-third of those living below the federal poverty guideline here.

[2]This interpretation is based on poverty rate comparisons between American Community Survey data on poverty rates for individuals and families with children in 2000 and 2011. Roughly 13,000 of 26,500 undergraduate students are counted in Boulder County's poverty figures.

[3]Data on women's wages by level of educational attainment is from the American Community Survey.

[4]Age disparities may influence earnings to some extent. The median age of women in Boulder County is about 37, compared to nearly 39 nationally. ACS data does not control for full- vs. part-time workforce participation.

[5]Data on earnings, poverty and educational attainment by ethnicity is from the American Community Survey. Age disparities may influence earnings to some extent. The median age of Latinos in Boulder County is 25, compared to 27 nationally.

[6]This count includes students living in motel rooms, shelters and transitional housing, cars and campgrounds and may include students living in trailer parks or mobile home communities depending on the condition of the accommodations and the number of persons sharing them. Mobile homes are often considered to be adequate and safe shelters, but may not be if, for example, they lack running water and/or heat or are deemed overcrowded.

Our Environment

It's not easy being... average? We're not as green as we think we are.

INDICATORS IN THIS CHAPTER

Air Quality

Commute Time

Commute Patterns

Eco Pass Usage

Energy Smart Savings

Greenhouse Gas Emissions by Source

Greenhouse Gas Emissions by Sector

Landfill Composition

Local Energy Supply by Year

Per Capita Emissions

Recycling Rates

Transportation to Work

Trash Generation

Vehicle Miles Traveled

Vehicle Ownership

Waste Disposal Fees

Waste Diversion

Water Usage

Bill LeBlanc makes 80% of his non-winter trips by bike, drives an electric car, and cools his Boulder city home exclusively with nighttime air. That's the good news. "The bad news is I fly places, for work and for pleasure," he said, which increases his carbon footprint considerably. "We minimize where we can, but we haven't given up travel. I think a lot of people here have similar stories."

Boulder County has a reputation for being green. We've got 350 miles of bike lanes and hiking trails. We've set ambitious goals for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. And we were one of the first places in the country to pass an open space tax to preserve natural habitat and control our growth.

When it comes to the environment, we've got a lot to be proud of. But we've also got challenges to overcome and room for improvement. We're living greener than some places, but we're decidedly average (or below average) in areas like recycling rates, per person trash generation, and energy composition. This prompts the question: when it comes to the environment, are we doing enough?

Nationally, the average American uses about 100 gallons of water per day. Across Boulder County, we use just a little bit more. Where does it go? About half of it stays outside for landscape irrigation, which helps explain why our water use goes up during years when rain is sparse. Unfortunately, about 50% of water used in irrigation is wasted, experts say, due to overwatering, sprinkler system misplacement, evaporation or wind.

FACT:

While 70% of the earth's surface is covered by water, only 1% is available for human use.

Source: U.S. Geological Survey

Per Capita Daily Water Use, Single-Family Residents (gallons)

	2000	2006	2012
Boulder	165	134	117
Longmont	139	126	125
Lafayette	134	113	117
Louisville	134	117	107
Pine Brook		55	73

Source: Local Water Departments, American Community Survey

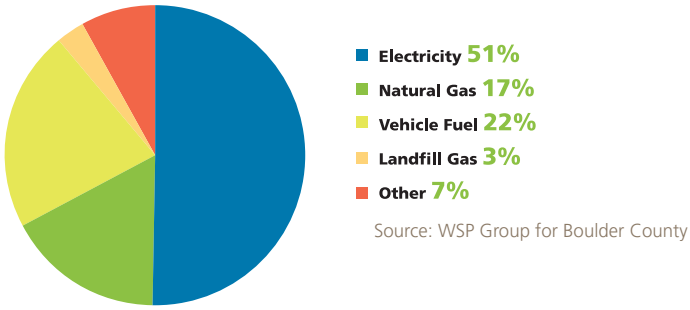
TIP:

Choose water-conserving and native plants appropriate to dry climates. Step on a patch of grass before watering your lawn; if it springs back, it doesn't need water. Use water-efficient irrigation systems and maintain them properly.

Going Green – Or Trying To

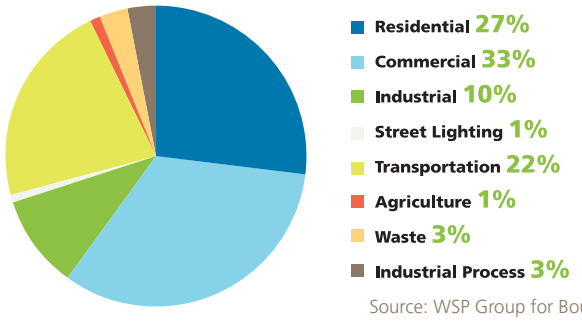
Back in 2005, the city of Boulder and Boulder County set an ambitious goal of honoring the 1997 Kyoto Protocol – even though we, as a country, did not. Locally, we committed to cutting our greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions to 7% below 1990 levels by 2012. City of Boulder residents even passed a special Climate Action Plan tax to help us get there. Did we succeed? Nope. **Our GHG emissions have actually increased in recent years, in line with the well-documented positive correlation between economic growth and increased energy use.** As things stand, the county as a whole would have to slash our emissions by about 35% to reach the Kyoto target. And the city of Boulder would have to slash GHG emissions by about 27%. What's holding us back? **Simply put, our appetite for energy is too large, and our energy sources are too carbon-intensive.** In fact, our energy is some of the most carbon-intensive in the country due to our heavy reliance on coal.

BOULDER COUNTY GHG EMISSIONS BY SOURCE, 2011



Source: WSP Group for Boulder County

BOULDER COUNTY GHG EMISSIONS BY SECTOR, 2011



Source: WSP Group for Boulder County

We've made some progress, though. Boulder city and county have taken commendable measures to cut emissions in certain places. They've raised energy efficiency standards for new construction and rental properties and offered incentives to businesses and households to trim energy use. The city of Boulder has also committed to using less carbon-intense energy sources, whether through municipalization or a re-tooled partnership with Xcel. While it may seem a small victory, our GHG emissions have grown more slowly here than they would have without these interventions.

FACT:

We've got some of the dirtiest energy in the country due to our heavy reliance on coal. The WECC Rockies region comprised of Colorado and parts of Wyoming, Kansas and South Dakota emits the most greenhouse gases per megawatt hour, according to the Environmental Protection Agency. If we could mirror the carbon intensity[1] of the Pacific Northwest's energy, our GHG output would decrease significantly – by up to 25% in the city of Boulder, estimates city Sustainability Specialist Kelly Crandall.

51%

By source, electricity accounts for about 51% of GHG emissions in Boulder County and 60% of emissions in Boulder city. Offsets help reduce our emissions by less than 2%.

Source: WSP Group for Boulder County, City of Boulder

FACT:

Locally, each of us is responsible for about 16.34 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent emissions every year, excluding air travel. **This makes us about average for the U.S.**

Source: WSP Group for Boulder County, U.S. Energy Information Administration

What Fuels Us

Coal accounted for 58% of Boulder County's energy in 2012, down from 65% in 2005 thanks largely to increases in wind power. Despite local bans on hydraulic fracturing – and associated health and environmental concerns – it's likely more or our energy will come from cleaner-burning natural gas in years ahead. The Colorado Public Utilities Commission approved an emissions reduction plan calling for Xcel Energy to retire 583 megawatts of coal-fired generation, including the coal-fired unit at Valmont Generating Plant in Boulder County, Arapahoe Plant Unit 3 and three coal-fired units at Cherokee Generating Plant in Denver. Xcel plans to replace the generation with natural gas plants at its Cherokee and Arapahoe sites.

Xcel Energy's Colorado Energy Supply

	2005	2012	2018 (projected)
Coal	65%	58%	47%
Renewables	5%	19%	24%
Natural Gas	30%	23%	29%

Source: Xcel Energy

Our Daily Commute

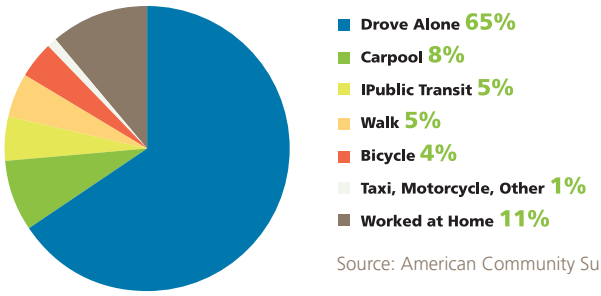
One of the biggest challenges our county transportation planners face is reducing the number of single-occupancy vehicles on our roads – especially during key commuting hours. **Across the county, roughly 65% of us drive to work alone.** While that number may seem high, it's significantly better than the state and national average of 75%. And we're making progress. More of us are carpooling, using public transit and riding our bikes than we were 10 years ago. Even more significantly, more of us are working at home (11% today vs. 6% in 2000). These choices help keep GHG emissions – nearly one-quarter of which come from vehicle travel – in check.

Our slightly below-average commute times also help. The vast majority (80%) of Boulder County residents who work do so within our county's borders, keeping our commute times comparatively low. On the flip side, 70% of people working in our county live here. The rest primarily come from Adams (9%), Jefferson (7%), and Larimer, Weld, and Denver counties.

At a more local level, the number of workers who are able to stay close to home varies by location. In the city of Boulder, which boasts the largest number of jobs in our county (and 66% labor force participation), about three quarters of residents who work do so within city boundaries. **In Longmont, where a slightly higher proportion of residents work, 44% of workforce participants stay local. Note**: Just because most Boulder residents who work stay local doesn't mean most city workers are from there. In fact, about 50,000 people commute into Boulder for jobs each day – as anyone who has traveled U.S. Route 36 during rush hour well knows.

Across the county, nearly 17% of us have commute times of less than 10 minutes. Our average daily commute to work of 22 minutes is about three minutes shorter than the U.S. average – but has increased by about a minute since 2006.

BOULDER COUNTY TRANSPORTION TO WORK, 2011



Source: American Community Survey

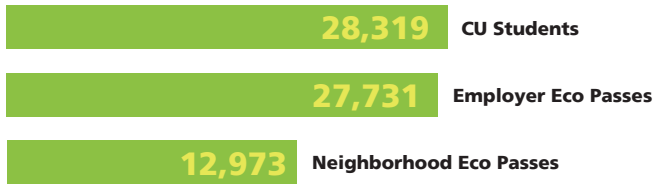
FACT: **Vehicles travel nearly 8 million miles on Boulder County roads daily,** according to the Boulder County Transportation Department, generating 3,160 metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions. Public transit use helps us avoid an additional 152,079 daily vehicle miles and 60.5 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent.

FACT: Across Boulder County, **56%** of all bus boardings are by EcoPass or College Pass holders, according to the Boulder County Transportation Department.

What Drives Us

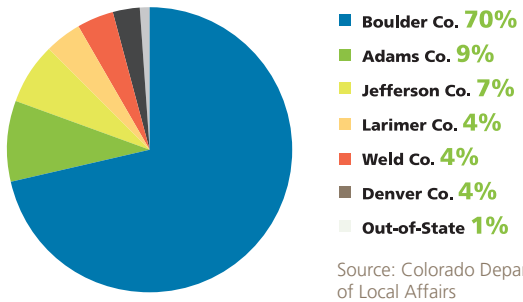
There are a few thousand more cars on the road in Boulder County than there were 10 years ago. Helping cushion that blow, per capita car ownership in the county has actually decreased since 2000. In other words, our population has grown slightly faster than the number of cars we collectively own. And here's some more good news: we prize fuel efficiency. **More than 6,360 of us drive hybrid or electric vehicles. That represents 3% of cars on the road (5% in the city of Boulder), compared to about 1% nationwide.**

ECO PASSES IN BOULDER COUNTY



Source: Boulder County Transportation Department

WHERE DO BOULDER COUNTY WORKERS LIVE?



Source: Colorado Department of Local Affairs

PERCENT OF RESIDENTS LIVING AND WORKING IN THE SAME COMMUNITY

Boulder	74%
Longmont	44%
Lyons	31%
Nederland	37%
Jamestown	26%
Louisville	25%
Gold Hill	13%
Lafayette	22%
Niwot	22%
Erie	13%
Ward	21%

Source: American Community Survey

2011 Commute Time for Workforce Not Working at Home

	Less than 10 minutes	10 to 29 minutes	30 to 59 minutes	60 or more minutes
Lyons	19%	50%	28%	3%
Boulder	20%	61%	15%	4%
Longmont	18%	51%	25%	6%
Louisville	17%	56%	23%	4%
Superior	11%	60%	25%	4%
Lafayette	11%	55%	27%	7%
Erie	7%	56%	34%	4%

Source: American Community Survey

Boulder County Motor Vehicles

	2000	2006	2012	% Change 2000-2012	Cars per capita
Boulder	62,030	57,492	61,069	-2%	0.61
Erie	3,378	5,518	6,736	99%	0.78
Jamestown	300	290	267	-11%	0.96
Lafayette	17,923	18,321	20,452	14%	0.80
Longmont	54,111	61,592	68,430	26%	0.78
Louisville	15,000	14,938	16,204	8%	0.87
Lyons	1,442	1,509	1,944	35%	0.94
Nederland	1,113	1,153	1,063	-4%	0.73
Superior	6,800	8,238	9,170	35%	0.73
Ward	139	148	112	-19%	0.74
Rural	48,818	46,606	47,428	-3%	1.07
TOTAL	228,616	215,805	232,875	2%	0.78

Source: Boulder County Motor Vehicles Division, Colorado State Demography Office

FACT: Each month, Boulder County residents use about 1.3 million single-use coffee cups made from about 370 trees. Most of these cups are not recyclable or compostable.

Source: Eco-Cycle

FACT: Through recycling, we prevented 116,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide emissions –the equivalent of taking 23,000 cars off the road for a year.

Source: Eco-Cycle

Below Average?

On a per capita basis, Boulder County residents send an average of about four pounds of waste to the landfill each day – or one pound more than the national average of 2.92 pounds. That means each of us generates about 400 additional pounds of trash per person per year than our peers across the U.S. **And we're just average when it comes to waste diversion.** Across the county, we successfully divert about 35% of our waste by composting and recycling, roughly matching the national rate. Here's the sort-of-silver living: organics – including yard debris, food scraps and paper products – make up nearly 60% of what we landfill; that means that, with some effort, we could significantly reduce what we throw away by composting it (and also cut down on the methane these organics create when buried in a landfill).

Smart Savings/EnergySmart

Since the fall of 2010, Boulder County's EnergySmart program has made thousands of businesses and homes more energy efficient. On the commercial side, EnergySmart has granted about $1.6 million in rebates to 800 individual businesses for 870 individual energy efficiency projects. Those projects are estimated to have saved 10,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (or 1.5% of total commercial emissions). Rebates range from $6 for one LED lamp to $10,000 for more dramatic revamps, with the average coming in at about $2,500. Since EnergySmart's rebates mirror those offered by Xcel, businesses often pay just 30% of the project cost. "We started out offering lower rates of coverage, but they weren't encouraging anyone," Business Sustainability Team Leader Bill Hayes said.

On the residential side, EnergySmart has worked with more than 10,000 households, saving a total of about 3 million kilowatt hours of electricity and 750,000 therms of natural gas; that equates to about 6,400 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent or 1,300 passenger vehicles taken off the road each year. The most common residential upgrade is insulation work, as it's a relatively low-cost upgrade that can have a significant impact on energy savings and comfort. Energy audits through the program are available for about $135 per home.

Initially funded through an American Recovery and Reinvestment Act grant, Energy Smart will receive funding from the county as well as the cities of Boulder and Longmont in 2014. County residents might be asked to vote on a sustainability tax to provide a dedicated funding source for the program beyond that. For more information, visit www.energysmartyes.com.

Boulder County sends to the landfill each year:

- Nearly 62 million pounds of food.
- About $900,000 worth of aluminum cans. Across the country, we toss enough aluminum every year to build 27,000 new airplanes.
- One out of every two PET plastic water and soda bottles. Each year, we bury two million pounds of valuable PET plastic in our local landfills. If each of us opted for reusable bottles instead, we could save 32,000 barrels of oil annually.
- About 120 million plastic bags. If we all chose reusable bags instead, we could save enough energy to heat 600 homes a year.

Source: Eco-Cycle

FACT: At about $24 per ton, Colorado's waste disposal fees are some of the lowest in the country. Massachusetts charges on average about five times more, creating an economic incentive to waste less.
Source: Waste Recycling News

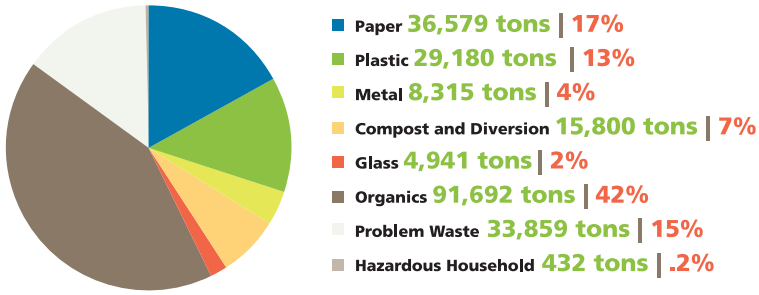
WASTE GENERATION BY SECTOR

Source: Waste Composition Study for Boulder County

(Don't) Take a Breather

The American Lung Association (ALA) gave Boulder County a grade of 'D' based on our annual number of high-ozone days, caused in part by emissions from industrial facilities, electric utilities and motor vehicle exhaust. With a total of 7 high-ozone days, we scored far better than Jefferson (23) and Larimer (14) counties, but quite a bit worse than Denver (1) and Weld (4). We earned higher marks when it came to particulate pollution, meriting a grade of 'B.'

BOULDER COUNTY SOLID WASTE COMPOSITION



Source: Waste Composition Study for Boulder County

In the Bag

Food stores in the city of Boulder have started charging shoppers 10 cents for every disposable plastic or paper bag they use at checkout. Retailers will keep 4 cents of the fee to cover costs related to complying with the new city ordinance. The remaining 6 cents will go back to Boulder to help mitigate the effects of disposable bags here.

Fairview High School's Net Zero Club, New Era Colorado and Eco-Cycle were instrumental in bringing about the ordinance, which advocates hope will prevent 21.5 million disposable bags from being used each year – generating upstream and downstream environmental benefits. Eco-Cycle estimates Boulder's plastic bag recycling rate to be about 22%. Hard to recycle, plastic bags regularly contaminate our automated recycling process, causing equipment shut-downs. They also pollute compost facilities, forcing waste processors like Western Disposal to spend time and (public) money in remediation.

FACT: Single-family residences in Boulder County divert about 50% of their waste through recycling and composting. Businesses and multi-family housing units divert about 20%.

Source: Based on data from Western Disposal

Feeling Inspired?

- **Take the bus** or carpool to work two days a week.
- **Not sure what's recyclable?** Western Disposal's free MyWestern smartphone app can help: www.westerndisposal.com/enviornmental_focus.php
- Talk to **EnergySmart** experts about improving energy efficiency in your home or business: www.energysmartyes.com.
- **Eat locally sourced whole food** whenever possible to cut down on vehicle fuel emissions. The way we grow, process, ship, market and cook our food may be contributing more than 30% of all GHG emissions, experts say.
- Try **xeriscaping** to cut down on outdoor irrigation.
- Check with the **Center for Resource Conservation** to make sure your irrigation systems are as efficient as possible and operating the way they should: www.conservationcenter.org

Sources

American Community Survey

Boulder County Motor Vehicles Division

Boulder County Sustainability Office, www.bouldercolorado.gov/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=15354&Itemid=5158

Boulder County Transportation Department

Boulder, Longmont, Lafayette, Louisville and Pine Brook water departments

Denver Regional Council of Governments, Workforce Commuting Patterns

Eco-Cycle, www.ecocycle.org/files/pdfs/ZeroWaste_betterthan_WTE_EcoCycle.pdf

Environmental Protection Agency, Emissions & Generation Resource Integrated Database, www.epa.gov/cleanenergy/documents/egridzips/eGRID2012V1_0_year09_SummaryTables.pdf

Western Disposal, diversion data

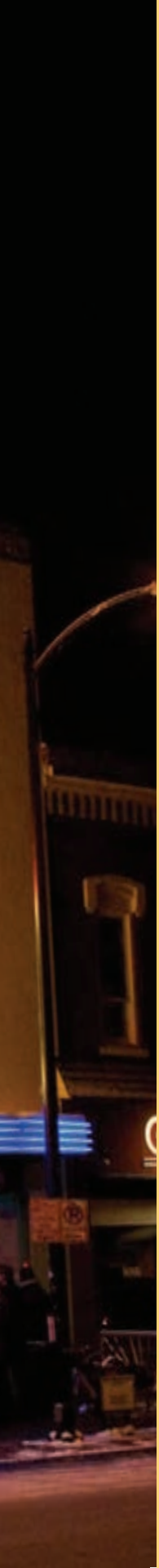
U.S. Energy Information Administration

Waste Recycling News, www.wasterecyclingnews.com/article/20120720/NEWS01/120729997/tipping-fees-vary-across-the-u-s

Endnotes

[1]We can mirror the carbon intensity of a region's energy without actually mirroring its energy sources.

Boulder
COLORADO FILM SOCIETY
BOULDER
INTERNATIONAL
FILM FESTIVAL
FEB 14 THRU 17



Our Arts & Culture

Local artists continue to inspire us – and contribute to our economy.

INDICATORS IN THIS CHAPTER

Annual Salary of Artists

Artists in the Workforce

Arts Contributions by Source

Attendance at Arts and Cultural Events

Boulder County Employment in the Arts

Classes Given by Arts Organizations

Denver Metro Employment in the Arts

Earned Income for the Arts

Economic Impact of the Arts

School Performances

Science and Cultural Facilities District Funding

Ticket Sales by Type

Total Contributions

Volunteers

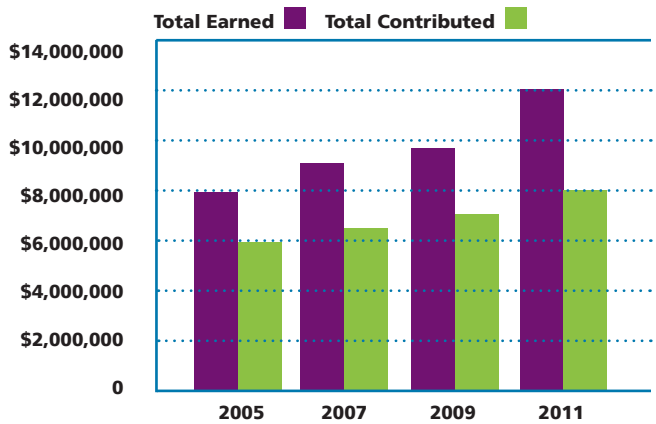
Volunteer Hours

Lyons local Catherine Bedell feels most grounded when she's flying on the edge of a trapeze. She made this discovery after attending her first aerial dance show at the age of 36. "I was mesmerized and amazed, but at the same time, it seemed like an art form that was accessible to me – accessible to different shapes and sizes and abilities," she said. So she took a class. And then another. Two years later, Frequent Flyers asked her to join their company. The change meant long days for the single mom and non-profit executive. But it also meant rediscovering her passion.

Over the past decade, investments in arts and culture have generated more than 1,500 jobs and an additional $66 million in salaries in the Denver metro area. Arts productions provide not only entertainment and cultural enrichment, but a bevy of jobs – for costume-makers and ticket-takers, facilities managers and parking attendants (and, of course, performers). They also bring in audiences who shop in our stores, dine in our restaurants and bars, and contribute to our economy.

Lucky for us, Boulder County has one of the highest concentrations of artists in the country (we rank eighth, behind cities like Santa Fe, New York, and Los Angeles), according to a recent study of data from the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey.

BOULDER COUNTY ARTS INCOME



Source: SCFD

Who Funds the Arts? We all do!

When we buy a new pair of running shoes or a Blu-ray Disc in the Denver metro area, we're supporting the arts. Since 1989, the Scientific and Cultural Facilities District (SCFD) has collected and distributed funds from a one-tenth of 1% sales and use tax to arts and cultural facilities in the seven-county Denver metro area. While the tax may seem small (one cent of every $10 purchase), those pennies add up. **In 2011, SCFD distributed $41.9 million to 310 organizations in Boulder, Broomfield, Adams, Arapahoe, Denver, Douglas and Jefferson counties.** This represents a 6.6% increase over 2010, and a near return to pre-recession levels. (SCFD distributed $42.1 million in 2007.) **Of that total, SCFD distributed $1,261,876 to 75 organizations Boulder County, with the average grant totaling just under $17,000.**

The SCFD organizes its funding recipients into three different tiers. Tier 1 groups— which include heavy-hitters like Denver Art Museum, Denver Botanic Gardens, Denver Museum of Nature and Science, Denver Zoo, and the Denver Center for the Performing Arts — receive the vast majority of funds, claiming 65.5%. The 26 groups falling into Tier 2 receive 21% of funds (Boulder County has two of these: Colorado Chautauqua Association and Colorado Music Festival). Finally, Tier 3 groups, comprised of smaller community organizations, receive 13.5% of SCFD monies. Boulder County has 73 such groups.

Voters last reaffirmed their overwhelming support for the SCFD tax in 2004. They'll have another chance to do so in November 2016, before the current funding expires in June 2018.

While the SCFD is one of the largest contributors to local arts and cultural facilities, it's not the only contributor. **Our local organizations are further strengthened by — and rely upon — gifts from Boulder County residents, foundations, and businesses. In 2011, the 75 SCFD-funded organizations in Boulder County received $8.07 million in total contributions;** that's a 15% increase from 2009, when contributions totaled $7.01 million. Gifts from individuals made up the largest chunk of that money – but decreased significantly (nearly 22%) from 2009 levels. Luckily, contributions from businesses, private foundations and the government increased over that period.

Contributions – What went up:

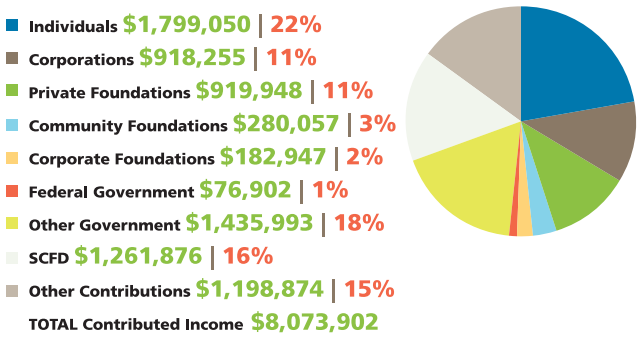
- Contributions from businesses
- Grants from private and corporate foundations
- Federal government grants
- Other government grants

Contributions – What went down:

- Gifts from individuals
- Gifts from community foundations around the Denver metro area*

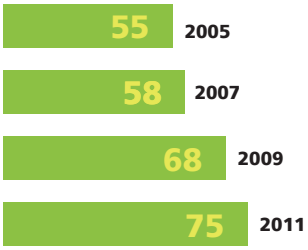
*The Community Foundation's arts grantmaking increased between 2010 and 2012.

2011 CONTRIBUTION SOURCES FOR BOULDER COUNTY ARTS ORGANIZATIONS (EXCLUDES EARNED INCOME)



Source: SCFD, above and below

BOULDER COUNTY GROUPS RECEIVING SCFD FUNDING



Earning Their Keep

While contributions and grants are a key source of income for arts and cultural organizations, earned income actually provides a larger share of arts revenue in Boulder County. Arts organizations make money from ticket sales and subscriptions, tuition for classes, facilities rentals, memberships, gift shop retail sales and more. **So when we sip that coffee at intermission, pick up tickets to see Shakespeare in the park or sweat our way through a dance class, we're also giving back.** Revenue from admissions and subscriptions for SCFD-funded organizations in Boulder County increased 26% between 2009 and 2011. Revenue from membership, tuition and retail also showed strong gains over that time. Earned income can be more predictable than grants and public funding, and therefore helps organizations be more sustainable.

Earned Income – What went up:

- Revenue from admissions and subscriptions
- Retail revenue
- Membership revenue
- Tuition revenue

Speaking of revenue, more people are earning a living (or at least part of one…) in the arts than they were two years ago. In Boulder County, full-time, part-time and contract employment with arts organizations have increased significantly since 2009. While arts employment here was on a downward trajectory in recent years, likely as a result of shrinking budgets, full-time and contract employment have now edged back up above 2005 levels; however, part-time employment still lags. More than half (55%) of Boulder County arts organization jobs are on a contract basis. Just over one-third are part-time, and the final 11% are full-time. With a total of just 1,013 workers, arts organization employment represents an important but still relatively small percentage of our overall workforce. In the Denver metro area, SCFD-funded arts organizations employed 9,354 people in 2011, paying out a total of $145 million.

Denver Metro Area Arts Employment and Payroll

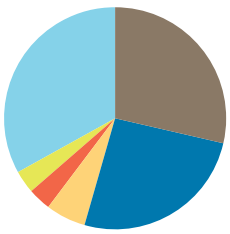
	2009	2011
Employment	8,718	9,354
Total Payroll	$131,000,000	$145,000,000

Source: SCFD

To understand the true economic impact of arts, however, we have to look beyond the number of people working directly for cultural organizations. **Total economic activity related to the arts in the Denver metro area totaled $1.76 billion in 2011, according to SCFD.** That includes operating expenses, audience spending and capital investment, and represents an 18% increase over 2009 when many organizations (and Coloradans) cut spending in the face of the recession. Denver metro arts organization operating expenses in 2011 totaled $748 million, while audience spending reached $901 million and capital expenditures accounted for another $115 million.

With an average annual salary of about $19,000 according to data from Colorado's Bureau of Economic Analysis, it's clear most artists aren't in it for the money. The same holds true, of course, for volunteers, who help fuel our arts with a steady infusion of their time and energy. **Nearly 8,000 people volunteered with Boulder County arts and cultural organizations in 2011, donating 215,687 hours of their time.** That's an average of 27 hours per volunteer! Volunteers do everything from serve as ushers at concerts to provide legal advice. Interestingly, while the number of volunteers increased 31% between 2009 and 2011, the number of hours those volunteers donated actually decreased 12%.

2011 EARNED INCOME FOR BOULDER COUNTY ARTS ORGANIZATIONS



- Admissions/Subscriptions $3,423,799 | 29%
- Tuition $3,092,147 | 26%
- Rentals $703,118 | 6%
- Memberships $392,292 | 3%
- Retail $390,542 | 3%
- Other $3,919,650 | 33%
- TOTAL $11,921,548

Source: SCFD

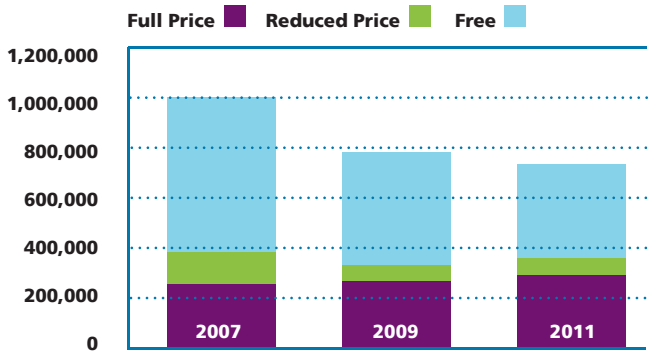
7,907 volunteers donated **215,687** hours of their time to Boulder County arts organizations in 2011.This represents an increase in the number of volunteers in 2009, but a decrease in the hours of time donated.

Source: SCFD

Ticket, Please

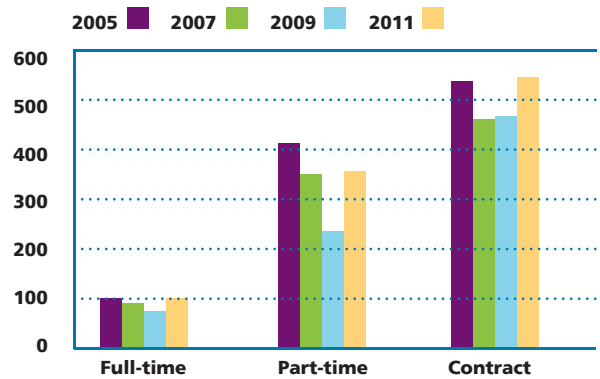
Nearly 750,000 people attended shows or exhibits at Boulder County arts and cultural organizations in 2011. Full-price ticket sales have increased steadily in recent years, rising 12% since 2007. In contrast, the number of reduced-price and free tickets either sold or given away has fallen in that time. This contraction likely reflects a little belt-tightening on the part of arts groups here. Metro-wide, 14.6 million people attended shows – 2.2 million of whom were from outside the seven-county area.

BOULDER COUNTY TICKET SALES



Source: SCFD

BOULDER COUNTY ARTS EMPLOYMENT



Source: SCFD

Arts Volunteerism in Boulder County

	2009	2011
Number of Volunteers	6,041	7,907
Total Hours Volunteered	244,965	215,687

Source: SCFD

2011 CLASSES GIVEN BY BOULDER COUNTY ARTS ORGANIZATIONS

53,316 **Student**

23,657 **Adult**

Source: SCFD

Doing Our Part

SCFD is one of the biggest contributors to arts organizations in Boulder County. While the money it gives represents a significant chunk of change, arts organizations still have to raise the vast majority (about 95%) of their annual budgets through gifts from individuals, foundations and businesses as well as earned revenue. None of these groups could survive without the generosity of local folks who go to shows, buy refreshments, and donate their time and treasure.

Feeling Inspired?

- **Attend** a Boulder County arts or cultural event or **give tickets to events as gifts.**
- **Take classes with a local arts organization.** Many dance companies also offer dance courses in their area of specialty, be it ballet or the low trapeze. Museums, too, often offer **arts camps** or classes for kids and adults alike.
- **Give** to The Community Foundation's **Arts Trust** or to an organization you care about.
- Purchase works of art and music by local artists to give as gifts – or **give someone a membership to an area museum.**
- Encourage your business to **sponsor** local cultural events and **display work by local artists.**

Sources

Colorado Business Committee for the Arts, Economic Activity Study of Metro Denver, www.cbca.org/programs/economic-activities-study

Scientific and Cultural Facilities District, scfd.org

The Atlantic Cities, www.theatlanticcities.com/arts-and-lifestyle/2011/11/most-artistic-cities-america/592

With LOVE
great a burden to bear
-MARTIN LUTHER

Our Civic Participation & Giving

We're proud of our community, and committed to making it better – but we get involved in varied ways.

INDICATORS IN THIS CHAPTER

Boulder County Nonprofits

Community Attachment

Community Information Sources

Giving Rates

Leadership Diversity

Neighborly Interactions

Openness, Aesthetics, and Social Offerings

Reasons for Giving (or Not)

Social Networking

The Community Foundation's Grantmaking

Volunteerism

Voter Registration by Political Party

Voter Turnout

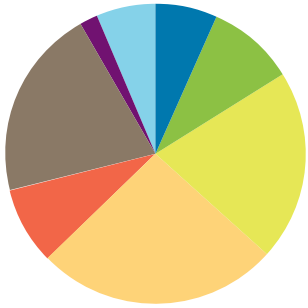
Louisville resident Glenda Russell loves the willingness of people here to think critically about the type of community they want rather than just accepting the status quo. We see this in former Boulder County Clerk Clela Rorex's decision to license same-sex marriages in 1975, and in the county's pioneering needle exchange program launched in the 1980s. We see it, too, in people's everyday friendliness, Russell says, which is "part of having an inclusive and welcoming community."

The downside to that simple friendliness, Russell says, is that it "can allow us to forget the subtle attitudes that inhabit interactions," which are tinged by our implicit biases and may be difficult to admit to and unpack. "Sometimes when everything is so wonderful and happy, it can be hard for us to recognize subtle things we would do well to take care of and think about," Russell explained.

Like Russell, The Community Foundation is proud to call Boulder County home – and committed to making it even better for our many and varied residents. And we're not alone. Surveys show Boulder County residents are a largely positive and engaged group with a healthy level of community pride. **From helping our neighbors to voting in elections to donating our time and treasure to local nonprofits, many of us engage in community-building activities regularly.** Not only is that good for us emotionally and physically, studies show it's also good for our local economy. Still, with recent survey results highlighting concerns about how open we are to our increasingly diverse population, the question remains: **are we welcoming and inclusive of all who call Boulder County home?**

FACT: People who give of their time and treasure as volunteers and donors live longer and more satisfying lives, studies show.

THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GRANTS, 2012



Americans gave nearly $252 billion to charity in 2012 through individual donations and bequests, according to the Center on Philanthropy at Indiana University. Foundations and corporations donated an additional $46 billion and $18 billion respectively, bringing the total amount donated up by 3.5% from 2011.

The Community Foundation Serving Boulder County is proud to have increased our cumulative grantmaking to more than $55 million since our 1991 inception. In 2012, we donated nearly $4 million to local, state, national, and international nonprofits working in education, health and human services, the environment and animal care, the arts, basic needs, civic participation and youth services; this represents a slight decrease from our 2011 grantmaking. Nearly 55% of our dollars stayed in Boulder County to help meet the needs and support the dreams of our friends and neighbors, representing an increase of 9% over 2010. The rest, from our donor-advised funds, went to Colorado, national and international organizations reflective of the broad spectrum of interests among our 1,300 donors.

Charitable Giving: How Boulder County Stacks Up

	Value	Rank Out of 3,115 Counties
Total Contributions	$195 million	158
Median Income	$63,526	347
Median Contribution	$2,534	1,521
Median Contribution as a Percentage of Discretionary Income	4%	2,014

Source: How America Gives report from the Chronicle of Philanthropy, released August 2012

When it comes to numbers, measuring philanthropy in Boulder County is a bit of a mixed bag. **On an absolute dollar basis, our community gives generously and significantly, reflecting our comparative wealth and good fortune.** Local folks who itemized charitable deductions gave a combined $195 million to charity in 2008, according to the 2012 "How America Gives" report by the Chronicle of Philanthropy,[1] earning us a ranking of 158th out of 3,115 counties in the U.S. **However, we slipped significantly in the rankings when considering median contributions and giving as a percentage of discretionary income.** In fact, the median contribution for Boulder County households trailed the median household contribution for the U.S. as a whole – even though our median income is significantly higher.

For example, the median itemized charitable contribution for Boulder County households was $2,534, according to the report. That's about 4% of estimated discretionary income (what households had left after paying taxes and covering housing, food and other essential expenses) and **1.9% of aggregate gross income.** In the U.S. as a whole, the typical household that itemized contributed $2,564, or 4.7% of discretionary income. And in Utah, that figure climbed to 10.6% of discretionary income, no doubt reflecting the Mormon tradition of tithing; that makes Utah the most generous in the nation by 3.5 points using that measure. Colorado ranked 19th in the nation for total giving, 24th for discretionary income, and 31st for giving as a percentage of discretionary income, with residents donating on average 4.2% of their $55,577.

FACT:

While our income has grown since 2002, our giving as a percentage of what we earn has fallen. Locally, if our giving rates returned to 2002 levels of 2.2% of aggregate gross income, we'd collectively give about $28 million more annually.

Source: Sterling-Rice Group

Giving Differently

Comparative reports on giving can challenge perceptions and raise questions about our own generosity. **Not reflected in such data, however, is our community's willingness to pay additional taxes to support charitable and public safety net programs.** For example, in 2010, we approved a five-year Temporary Human Services Safety Net (TSN) property tax to help mitigate government budget cuts in human services in a time of dramatically increasing need. The initiative has pumped $5 million annually into childcare subsidies, housing stabilization services, food and healthcare access, and early intervention programs designed to help families before they reach a state of crisis. While the TSN tax solved only part of the shortfall in funding, it has nonetheless helped local service providers focus on catching residents early, before problems escalate. The 'ounce of prevention' method has paid off: local nonprofits serving our most vulnerable residents have been able to double their caseloads, helping meet the needs of the growing number of Boulder County residents – especially families with children – struggling since the Great Recession.

PERCENTAGE OF LOCAL DONORS GIVING TO EACH CHARITABLE SUBSECTOR

Basic Needs	63%
Health and Human Services	57%
Environment/Animal Care	50%
Education	46%
Youth/Family Services	40%
Multi-Sector Foundation	32%
International	24%
Arts	17%

Source: TCF Survey, 2013

Photo: Daily Camera

Survey Says...

For several years now, The Community Foundation has conducted primary research[2] on philanthropy and volunteerism in Boulder County to better understand how and why local folks give. Since we began tracking this data in 2002, we've seen increases in people's awareness of local needs and charities as well as in their giving. This year, more than 81% of respondents to our random-digit-dialing survey reported giving to a charity, nonprofit or faith community in the last year. **Roughly 55% donated to at least one local organization, while 71% donated to at least one group outside Boulder County.**

What's important in making decisions about charitable contributions?	
You want to help your community	79%
The organization has been helpful to you or someone you know	52%
It is an organization you can trust	85%
The organization supports causes you believe in	94%
The organization provides you with a clear understanding of the services and programs the money will support	69%
The feeling it is morally the right thing to do	77%
Your religious beliefs	29%
Your family has a tradition of giving	44%

Source: TCF Survey, 2013

Why not give more to charity? (% strongly or somewhat agree)	2013
You just can't afford to give more money	71%
You volunteeer your time	53%
You just don't know enough about charities	52%
You think most charities have administrative costs that are too high	50%
No one asked you personally	41%
You already support too many charities	34%
You already give to your church	30%
Boulder County doesn't need it	11%

Source: TCF Survey, 2013

50

Median number of annual hours **donated by Boulder County volunteers: 50.**

Source: TCF Survey, 2013

When it came to volunteerism, 42% of respondents reported donating their time to a local nonprofit, government entity, or faith organization in the past year. And the vast majority of us (nearly 91%) said we've helped a neighbor, friend or relative outside of a formal organizational setting. Nationally, the Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates that about 27% of Americans volunteered in a formal capacity in 2012.

Survey Says

FIVE YEARS AGO, BOULDER COUNTY WAS...

26% **Better**

18% **Worse**

FIVE YEARS FROM NOW, BOULDER COUNTY WILL BE...

37% **Better**

21% **Worse**

Source: TCF Survey, 2013

Community Attachment

This year, we added to our primary research a series of questions on community attachment, designed to gauge how residents feel about Boulder County as a place to live. We pulled these questions from the Knight Foundation's Soul of the Community survey, conducted by Gallup in 26 sites including Boulder County in 2008, 2009 and 2010. Gallup's research during those years found a positive relationship between local growth of gross domestic product (GDP) and community attachment – which it found to be most highly correlated with social offerings, openness, and aesthetics. **In other words, the better residents' perceptions are of a community's social offerings, openness and aesthetics, the more local GDP growth that community should expect to see.**

In our 2013 survey, about three-quarters of Boulder County survey respondents said they were satisfied with this community as a place to live, proud to say they live here, and likely to recommend living here to a friend. Not surprisingly, respondents overwhelmingly gave our county high marks for the availability of outdoor recreational spaces, the beauty of the physical setting, and being a good place to raise kids. The availability of job opportunities and affordable housing, however, earned significantly lower marks.

PERCENT OF BOULDER COUNTY RESIDENTS RATING THIS COMMUNITY HIGHLY FOR...

Parks, playgrounds and trails	93%
The beauty of the physical setting	90%
Being a good place to raise kids	80%
Social community events	67%
Public schools	59%
Transportation System	57%
Meeting people and making friends	53%
How much people care about each other	51%
Arts and cultural opportunities	51%
Vibrant nightlife	42%
Job opportunities	25%
Affordable housing availability	20%

Source: TCF Survey, 2013

70%

Nearly **70%** of us **talk to our neighbors** at least several times a month; **22%** of us visit with our neighbors daily.

When it came to openness, we rated ourselves highly for being open or very open to certain groups – like families with young children, young adults without kids, and the GLBT (gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender) community. **However, fewer than half of respondents perceive Boulder County as open to racial and ethnic minorities and immigrants from other countries.** This is troubling when we consider that more than 20% of us identify as people of color – and that number is growing. **As our community becomes progressively more diverse, how do we make sure we also become more open and inclusive?**

PERCENTAGE OF BOULDER COUNTY RESIDENTS WHO SAY WE'RE VERY OPEN OR OPEN TO THE FOLLOWING GROUPS

Families with young children	81%
Young adults without children	68%
Gay and lesbian people	61%
Senior citizens	58%
Recent college grads	51%
Racial and ethnic minorities	45%
Immigrants from other countries	43%

Source: TCF Survey, 2013

The Community Foundation collects data from nonprofit organizations applying for grants. In 2012, people of color represented 23% of all staff members and 20% of all board members from reporting organizations, representing a modest increase from 2010. At the same time, 43% of nonprofits reported having no people of color on their board of trustees.

501(C)(3) ORGANIZATIONS IN BOULDER COUNTY, AS MEASURED BY ANNUAL INCOME

952	Less then $100k
263	$100k – $500k
89	$500k – $1M
102	$1M – $5M
41	$5M +

Source: TCF Survey, 2013

Who's in Charge Around Here?

Arguments abound detailing the benefits of inclusivity and diversity in leadership. Diversity can bring new perspectives, heighten creativity and push the boundaries of how we think about challenges and their solutions. Being inclusive of people of different backgrounds and viewpoints can help groups respond more dynamically to shifting demographics and reach a broader audience. Both diversity and inclusivity make business sense, as companies like Starbucks and PricewaterhouseCoopers have found. They also make sense for our elected and public leadership.

For the first time in history, we have an all-woman Board of County Commissions here. We must do more, however, to make our leadership even more representative of our increasingly diverse community. Out of 105 people serving in elected public office in Boulder County, there are just two people of color.[3] (In 2011, there was just one.) As people in public positions make policies that affect all of our community members, engaging diverse voices and opinions in that process is essential to building effective and representative government.

Change takes time and work. Through The Community Foundation's Leadership Fellows program, we're working on changing the leadership landscape in Boulder County by building networks to support a diverse cross-section of emerging leaders. While we haven't seen dramatic movement in the number of elected officials of color, **we are happy to report a slight increase in the percentage of people of color serving on volunteer advisory boards and commissions,** as well as some progress in the make-up of nonprofit staffs and boards.

FACT: In 2013, Colorado ranked first in the nation for women's representation in the state legislature, with women holding 41% of seats.

Source: National Conference of State Legislatures

Official Governmental Volunteer Advisory Boards and Commissions, 2013

Cities/Towns	Total Members	People of Color	% of Total
Boulder	110	6	5%
Erie	30	2	7%
Jamestown	0	0	0%
Lafayette	68	10	15%
Longmont	116	4	3%
Louisville	109	3	3%
Lyons	57	0	0%
Nederland	30	0	0%
Superior	51	0	0%
Ward	0	0	0%
Boulder County	199	26	13%
Total	770	51	7%

Source: Boulder County Commissioners Office Note: Data were compiled using surname identification, personal knowledge, and governmental contacts, and represent an approximation and not an absolute tally.

Voting

National voter turnout surpassed expectations in 2012. **In Boulder County, 96% of 'active voters' participated in the presidential elections in November 2012.** (Active voters are defined as folks who voted in the last general election or registered or updated their information since then.) Nearly three-quarters of us voted with mail-in ballots, compared to 67% of us in 2008. Another 10% of us voted early.

95% of mail-in ballots distributed in the 2012 election were turned in.

Boulder County Voter Registration Statistics, 2013

	Active	Inactive	Total	Percent
American Constitution	187	92	279	0.1%
Democratic	80,485	18,435	98,920	41%
Green	911	449	1,360	0.6%
Libertarian	1,653	549	2,202	0.9%
Republican	36,488	9,777	46,265	19%
Unaffiliated	65,859	28,057	93,916	39%
Total	185,583	57,359	242,942	100%

Source: Boulder County Elections Division

Voter Turnout	2008	2010	2012
Registered Voters	218,960	224,761	248,903
Active Voters	186,220	163,140	187,962
Mail-In Ballots Cast	116,235	89,941	130,252
Early Votes Cast	27,035	8,185	17,750
Polling Place Ballots Cast	29,261	29,405	32,710
Turnout of Active Voters	93%	78%	96%

Source: Boulder County Elections Division

Taking the Pulse of Nonprofits

Part of our mission at The Community Foundation is building a Culture of Giving in Boulder County. To better understand how well we're doing with that goal, we recently started tracking contributions to a group of key nonprofits in the community we hope will serve as giving bellwethers (see page 95). We've pulled longitudinal data from 990 forms that nonprofits file with the IRS, and also asked groups for more detailed data on contributions. Below are some highlights from what we've found so far among our bellwether organizations.

- After declining in 2003, private contributions to local groups appear to be going up in recent years, albeit a bit more slowly since 2008.
- Government contributions, however, have declined slightly in the past few years.
- Health and human services-focused nonprofits have seen the most significant increases in both total expenses and revenue since 2001, echoing the rise in local poverty we've seen.
- While earned income for arts organizations has increased in the past few years, private contributions decreased between 2009 and 2011.

IN THE LAST YEAR, DID YOU...

Attend a public meeting	38%
Work with neighbors to improve your community	44%
Use a social networking site to learn about volunteer opportunities or community action events?	35%
Vote in the election	91%

Source: : TCF Survey, 2013

Feeling Inspired?

- Give to The Community Foundation's **Community Trust.**
- **Donate** to or volunteer with a nonprofit that inspires you! Need an idea? Research local efforts on www.CultureofGiving.org.
- Visit with or help a **neighbor**.
- Take time to learn about our state's budget.
- **Attend** a city council or County Commissioner meeting.
- Check out a **community event**. Need ideas? Ask your local librarian!
- Learn about local issues and **vote**.
- Attend a **Social Venture Partners** training to learn how to be a good board member.
- Create an **inclusive community** by seeking out the voices of people you don't **usually hear.**
- Start reading or writing a **local community blog.**

Sources

Boulder County Elections Division, www.bouldercounty.org/elections/results/pages/default.aspx

Bureau of Labor Statistics, www.bls.gov/news.release/volun.nr0.htm

Internal Revenue Service, www.irs.gov/uac/SOI-Tax-Stats-Exempt-Organizations-Business-Master-File-Extract-%28EO-BMF%29

National Conference of State Legislatures

Reuters www.reuters.com/article/2012/06/19/us-usa-charity-idUSBRE85I05T20120619

Gallup, Inc., www.gallup.com/poll/144476/social-offerings-openness-key-community-attachment.aspx

Soul of the Community, A Project of John S. and James L. Knight Foundation in Partnership with GALLUP www.soulofthecommunity.org

Sterling-Rice Group, Philanthropy in Boulder County

The Chronicle of Philanthropy, How America Gives philanthropy.com/section/How-America-Gives/621

USA Today, www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2012/11/26/charitable-giving-increased-slightly/1728027

Women's Foundation of Colorado, 2013 Research Report on the Status of Women and Girls in Colorado

Endnotes

[1]The How America Gives report is based on tax returns of households with earnings greater than $50,000 that itemized deductions. Giving by taxpayers who itemized deductions totaled 81% of total giving in 2012, according to the Center on Philanthropy.

[2]Aspen Research Group conducted a phone survey for us using random digit dialing, calling both landlines and cell phones. Respondents were representative of the geographic and gender breakdown of Boulder County. Results were weighted to reflect other demographics, like age.

[3]Data were compiled using surname identification, personal knowledge, and governmental contacts, and represent an approximation and not an absolute tally. Data include elected officials at every level.

By the Numbers

The next few pages offer a snapshot of community indicator **highlights from each chapter.** For additional indicators and context to help interpret this data, visit the corresponding chapters listed. Please also visit our website to check out our interactive indicators map and online database of indicators: **www.commfound.org.**

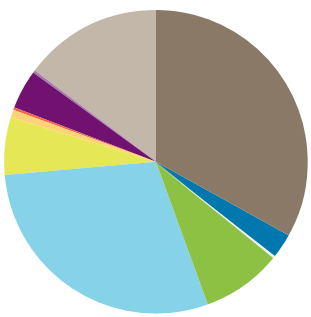
Who Are We? PAGES 10-15

Boulder County Comparison to Peer Communities, 2011

	Boulder County	Santa Cruz County, CA	Newton, MA	Madison, WI	Austin, TX	Raleigh, NC
Population	300,383*	262,396	85,334	234,286	798,719	406,153
Median Age	36	37	40	31	31	32
Latino	13%	32%	5%	7%	36%	12%
Speaks a language other than English at home	16%	31%	26%	15%	33%	18%
Median Home Value	$348,300	$561,800	$684,100	$216,800	$216,100	$206,900
Lived in the same house one year ago	77%	83%	85%	72%	73%	78%
Lived in another county one year ago	10%	7%	10%	10%	10%	9%
Foreign Born	11%	18%	20%	11%	19%	15%
Births per 1,000 women aged 15-50 in past 12 mo.	46	47	45	45	56	52
Population with a disability	7%	9%	8%	9%	8%	7%
Population over the age of 3 enrolled in school	32%	31%	33%	35%	30%	32%
High School Graduate (25+)	94%	84%	97%	95%	86%	90%
Bachelor's Degree or Higher (25+)	58%	37%	75%	53%	45%	47%
Living Below Poverty						
Families	7%	9%	5%	10%	14%	12%
Families with related kids under 18	12%	13%	6%	18%	22%	20%
Individuals	14%	15%	7%	20%	20%	17%
Children	14%	16%	6%	20%	28%	24%
65 +	6%	8%	10%	3%	9%	8%

Source: American Community Survey | *Population data for Boulder County is from the Colorado State Demography Office

2011 BOULDER COUNTY POPULATION BY COMMUNITY AND PERCENTAGE OF CHANGE SINCE 2000

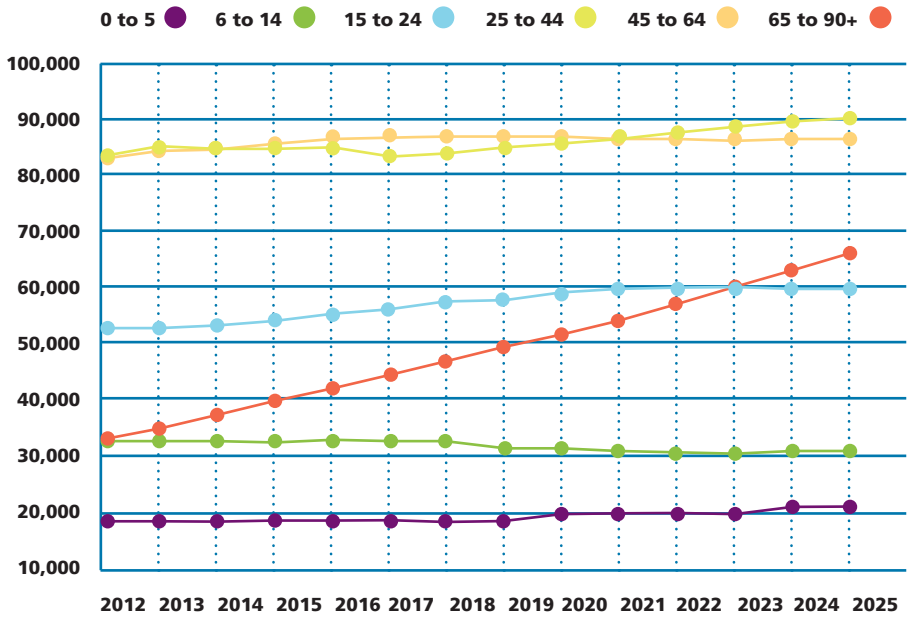


- Boulder City 99,479 | 1%
- Erie (part) 8,678 | 92%
- Jamestown 279 | -4%
- Lafayette 25,584 | 10%
- Longmont (part) 87,340 | 21%
- Louisville 18,598 | -2%
- Lyons 2,064 | 29%
- Nederland 1,459 | 4%
- Superior 12,611 | 36%
- Ward 152 | -10%
- Unincorporated Area 44,139 | -3%

TOTAL Boulder County Population 300,383 | 9%

 Source: Colorado State Demography Office

BOULDER COUNTY POPULATION FORECAST BY AGE



Source: Colorado Department of Local Affairs

Boulder County Population by Race/Ethnicity

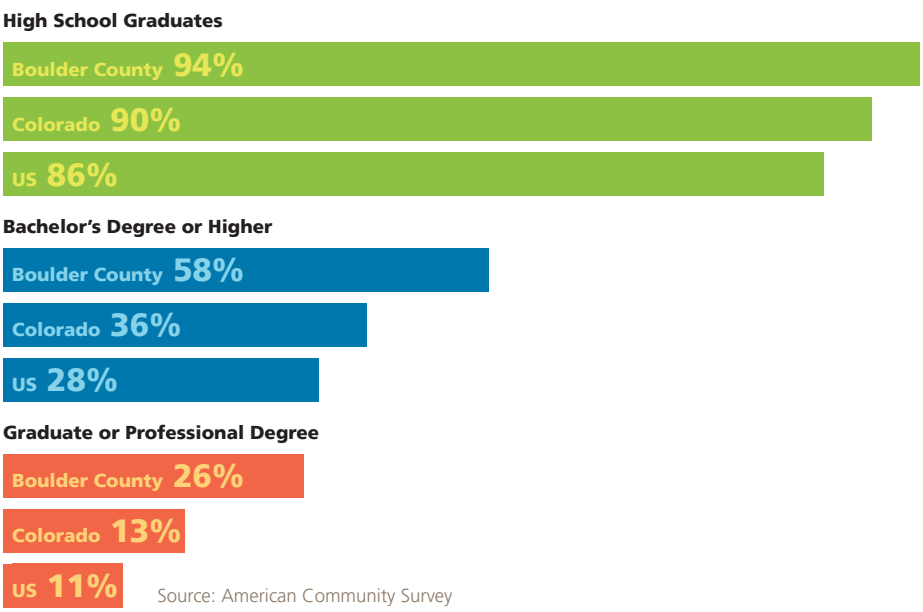
	Boulder County			U.S.
	1990	2000	2011	2011
White	93%	89%	88%	74%
Black or African American	1%	1%	1%	13%
American Indian and Alaska Native	0.6%	0.6%	0.4%	1%
Asian	2%	3%	4%	5%
Some other race		5%	4%	5%
Two or more races	3%	2%	3%	3%
Latino – Any race	7%	11%	13%	16%

Source: American Community Survey

Our Education

PAGES 16-27

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT, 2011



Source: American Community Survey

Percentage of Kindergarteners in a Full-Day Program

	2012	2008
BVSD	23%	12%
SVVSD	62%	49%
Colorado	70%	54%

Source: Annie E. Casey Foundation, Kids Count Data Center

BOULDER COUNTY THIRD-GRADERS PROFICIENT IN READING

Total	83%
Non-Free and Reduced Lunch Students	90%
Free and Reduced Lunch Students	66%

Source: Colorado Department of Education

Boulder County School Districts At A Glance

	2012-2013 Number of Students	Percentage Increase 2002-2012	Fall 2012 Full Time Teachers	2012 Average Salary	2012 Pupil/ Teacher Ratio	2012-2013 Free and Reduced Lunch	2012-2013 English Language Learners	Fall 2012 % Students of Color	Fall 2012 % Latino Students*
St. Vrain Valley	29,382	38%	1,643	$47,750	17.9	33%	15%	35%	28%
Boulder Valley	30,041	8%	1,711	$60,061	17.6	19%	10%	30%	17%

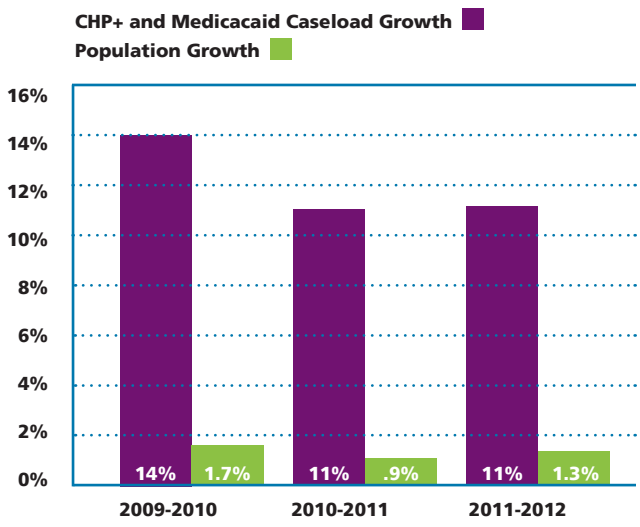
Source: Colorado Department of Education
*The racial/ethnic identification form changed in 2010-2011. This may have increased slightly the percentage of students identifying as Latino in certain school districts.

Adult Health Data, 2011-2012

Risk Factor	Boulder County	Colorado
Diagnosed with diabetes	6%	7%
Current smoker	12%	18%
Currently have health insurance	81%	79%
Fecal occult blood test in past 2 years (ages 50 and over)	12%	16%
Ever had colonoscopy (ages 50 and over)	68%	67%
Had clinical breast exam and mammogram in the past 2 years (women 50 and older)	60%	63%
Ever had a Pap smear (women 18 and older)	94%	94%
Ever had asthma	13%	13%
Any leisure time physical activity	89%	83%
Ate less then one serving of vegetables daily	12%	19%
Overweight, BMI** 25.0 to 29.9	32%	36%
Obese, BMI** > 30	16%	20%

Source: 2011-2012 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, CDPHE

COLORADO CHP+ AND MEDICAID CASELOAD VS. POPULATION GROWTH



Source: Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing

Who's Covered by Health Insurance? 2011-2012

	2011-2012
Anglos	87%
Latinos	54%
<$25K annual income	51%
$25K-$50K annual income	82%
$50K+ annual income	96%
Men	80%
Women	82%

Source: Colorado Health Information Dataset

Medicare Reimbursement Per Enrollee

	2010
Boulder County	$8,547
Greely	$8,917
Pueblo	$8,418
Denver	$9,156
Grand Junction	$6,993
Ft. Collins	$8,183
Co. Springs	$8,297

Source: The Dartmouth Atlas of Healthcare

Crime in Boulder County

	2009	2010	2011
Murder/Manslaughter	7	7	4
Forcible Rape	67	57	81
Robbery	117	71	87
Aggravated Assaults	528	463	525
Burglary	1,367	1,172	1,134
Larceny/Theft	5,447	5,448	5,000
Motor Vehicle Theft	320	283	331
Total Number of Offenses	7,853	7,501	7,162

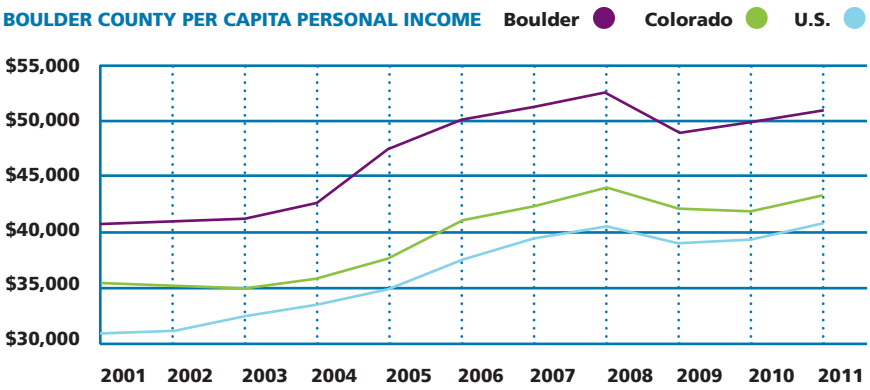
Source: FBI Uniform Crime Reporting

Emotional Wellness in the Past 12 Months, Boulder County High School Students

	2003	2005	2007	2009	2011
Sad/Hopeless for 2 weeks	26%	25%	28%	25%	25%
Intentionally Self-injured		20%	19%	19%	21%
Seriously Considered Attempting Suicide	19%	17%	17%	13%	14%
Attempted Suicide	16%	7%	9%	6%	7%

Source: Youth Risk Behavior Survey

BOULDER COUNTY PER CAPITA PERSONAL INCOME



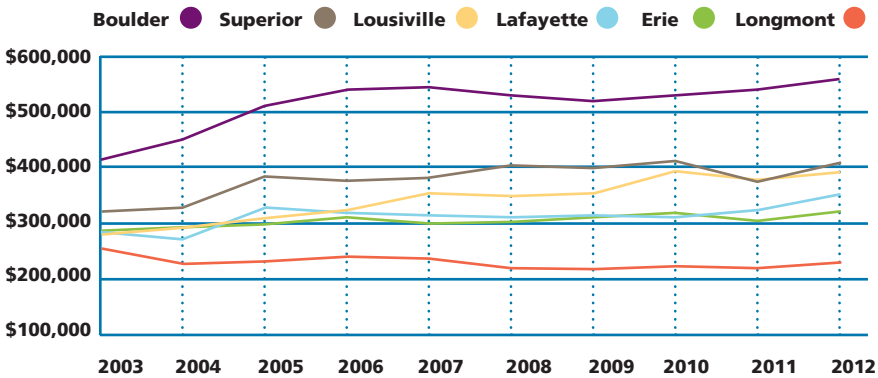
Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis. *Note: Per capita personal income in Boulder County and Colorado has nearly – but not quite – returned to pre-recession levels.*

2012 Average Wages by Sector

Industry	Boulder County	Colorado
Information	$103,632	$88,502
Professional and Technical Services	$95,155	$84,065
Finance and Insurance	$79,994	$77,610
Manufacting	$76,030	$62,229
Public Administration	$56,356	$56,082
Health Care and Social Assistance	$46,757	$45,696
Construction	$45,698	$50,151
Real Estate and Leasing	$43,378	$46,939
Educational Services	$31,273	$38,653
Retail Trade	$29,081	$27,819
Arts, Entertainment and Recreation	$20,324	$31,025
Accommodation and Food Services	$17,459	$18,432

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

MEDIAN SINGLE-FAMILY HOME PRICE



Source: Boulder Area Realtor Association *Note: Data are based in 2012 sales, and differ from median home values referenced on page 14.*

Boulder County Poverty Rates

	2000	2011
Individuals*	10%	14%
Families with children	7%	12%
Older adults (65+)	6%	6%
Children	8%	14%
Latino children	23%	35%
Children under 5	10%	17%

*Undergraduate students are included in local and national individual poverty estimates. About 13,000 of 26,500 undergraduate students are counted in Boulder County's poverty figures, representing about one third of our 40,000 individuals living below 100% of the federal poverty guideline.

Source: American Community Survey

CHILDREN IN POVERTY, 2011

Lafayette	24%
Longmont	18%
Boulder	14%

Source: American Community Survey

Our Environment

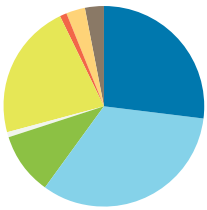
PAGES 64-71

BOULDER COUNTY GHG EMISSIONS BY SOURCE, 2011

- Electricity 51%
- Natural Gas 17%
- Vehicle Fuel 22%
- Landfill Gas 3%
- Other 7%

Source: WSP Group for Boulder County

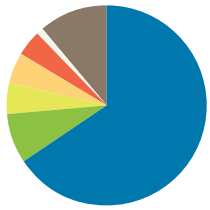
BOULDER COUNTY GHG EMISSIONS BY SECTOR, 2011



- Residential 27%
- Commercial 33%
- Industrial 10%
- Street Lighting 1%
- Transportation 22%
- Agriculture 1%
- Waste 3%
- Industrial Process 3%

Source: WSP Group for Boulder County

BOULDER COUNTY TRANSPORTION TO WORK, 2011



- Drove Alone 65%
- Carpool 8%
- IPublic Transit 5%
- Walk 5%
- Bicycle 4%
- Taxi, Motorcycle, Other 1%
- Worked at Home 11%

Source: American Community Survey

Per Capita Daily Water Use for Single-Family Home Residents (gallons)

	2000	2006	2012
Boulder	165	134	117
Longmont	139	126	125
Lafayette	134	113	117
Louisville	134	117	107
Pine Brook		55	73

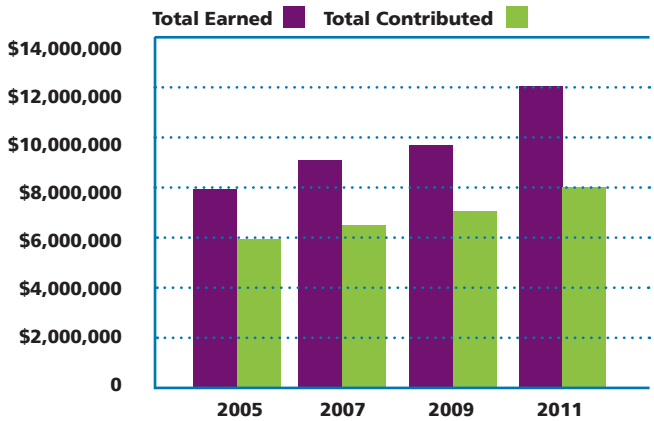
Source: Local Water Departments, American Community Survey data on average single-family household size

Our Arts & Culture

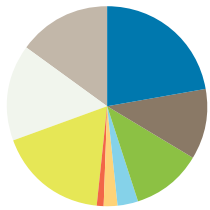
PAGES 72-77

BOULDER COUNTY ARTS INCOME

Source: SCFD

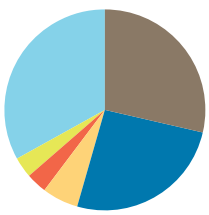


2011 CONTRIBUTION SOURCES FOR BOULDER COUNTY ARTS ORGANIZATIONS



- Individuals $1,799,050 | 22%
- Corporations $918,255 | 11%
- Private Foundations $919,948 | 11%
- Community Foundations $280,057 | 3%
- Corporate Foundations $182,947 | 2%
- Federal Government $76,902 | 1%
- Other Government $1,435,993 | 18%
- SCFD $1,261,876 | 16%
- Other Contributions $1,198,874 | 15%
- TOTAL Contributed Income $8,073,902

2011 EARNED INCOME FOR BOULDER COUNTY ARTS ORGANIZATIONS



- Admissions/Subscriptions $3,423,799 | 29%
- Tuition $3,092,147 | 26%
- Rentals $703,118 | 6%
- Memberships $392,292 | 3%
- Retail $390,542 | 3%
- Other $3,919,650 | 33%
- TOTAL $11,921,548

Source: SCFD

Total Economic Activity in Denver Metro Area, 2011

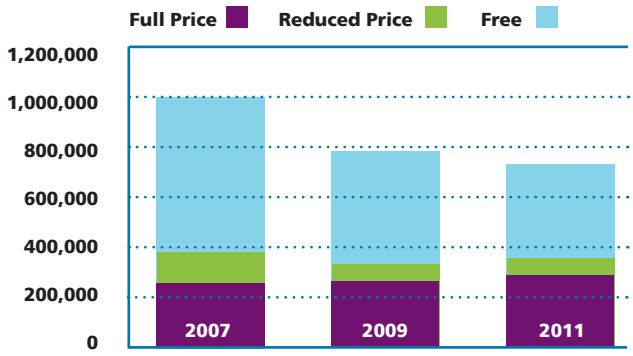
Operating Expenditures	$748 million
Audience Spending	$901 million
Capital Expenditures	$115 million

ECONOMIC IMPACT IN DENVER METRO AREA

2011 **$527 million**

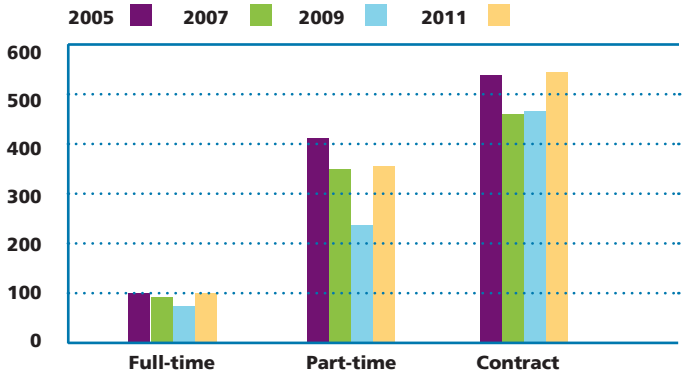
2009 **$387 million**

BOULDER COUNTY TICKET SALES



Source: SCFD

BOULDER COUNTY ARTS EMPLOYMENT



Source: SCFD

Our Civic Participation & Giving

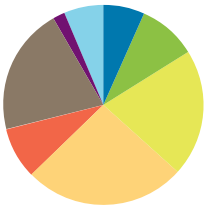
PAGES 78-85

Charitable Giving: How Boulder County Stacks Up

	Value	Rank Out of 3,115 Counties
Total Contributions	$195 million	158
Median Income	$63,526	347
Median Contribution	$2,534	1,521
Median Contribution as a Percentage of Discretionary Income	4%	2,014

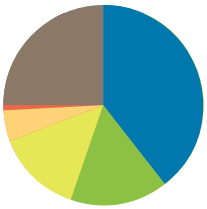
Source: How America Gives report from the Chronicle of Philanthropy, released August 2012

THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GRANTS, 2012



- Arts $266,868
- Basic Needs $372,749
- Civic $801,894
- Education $1,034,226
- Environment/Animal $326,741
- Health & Human Services $808,126
- Youth $76,704
- Other $242,476

SOURCE OF COMMUNITY INFORMATION, BOULDER COUNTY 2013



- Newspaper – printed 40%
- Website 16%
- Television 14%
- Radio 5%
- Blog 1%
- Other 25%

Source: TCF Survey, 2013

Official Governmental Volunteer Advisory Boards and Commissions, 2013

Cities/Towns	Total Members	People of Color	% of Total
Boulder	110	6	5%
Erie	30	2	7%
Jamestown	0	0	0%
Lafayette	68	10	15%
Longmont	116	4	3%
Louisville	109	3	3%
Lyons	57	0	0%
Nederland	30	0	0%
Superior	51	0	0%
Ward	0	0	0%
Boulder County	199	26	13%
Total	770	51	7%

Source: Boulder County Commissioners Office Note: Data were compiled using surname identification, personal knowledge, and governmental contacts, and represent an approximation and not an absolute tally.

PERCENTAGE OF BOULDER COUNTY RESIDENTS WHO SAY WE'RE VERY OPEN OR OPEN TO THE FOLLOWING GROUPS

Families with young children	81%
Young adults without children	68%
Gay and lesbian people	61%
Senior citizens	58%
Recent college grads	51%
Racial and ethnic minorities	45%
Immigrants from other countries	43%

Source: TCF Survey, 2013

Folks in order left to right are Justine Vigil-Tapia, Art Figel, Jennie Arbogash, Jack Walker, Penny Schwind, Benita Duran, and David Brantz.

> “I was so inspired after serving on a grants committee, and I appreciated the opportunity to work with others who envision a better and more generous Boulder County.”

The Community Foundation

Inspired Giving Starts Here

At The Community Foundation, knowledge and data about local needs combine with the ideas of passionate community members – leading to informed and inspired investments in Boulder County and beyond. The Community Foundation is proud to have served Boulder County residents since 1991, connecting resources with needs in a variety of ways – each one informed, purposeful, and inspired. Turn the page to find out how we do it.

Working with Donors

- Donor-Advised Funds are easy to set up and serve as personal tools for individuals, families, and companies to make grants to their preferred causes and organizations.
- Community Partners are local businesses who support the day-to-day work of The Community Foundation through significant financial and in-kind gifts. By supporting our operations, these companies free up our time to focus on raising money to return to the community through grants and special initiatives.
- Estate Plans are a great way to use The Community Foundation to continue supporting the organizations and causes you care about. Name us in your plans, and we will steward your legacy.
- The Community Trust and Field of Interest funds make grants in Boulder County across a variety of issue areas such as arts and culture, education, health and human services, the environment, and more. Such funds also support organizations serving our local LGBTQ community, youth, and civic engagement.
- Inspired by our work? Please consider adding your support. Give at www.commfound.org!

> “ I rely on The Community Foundation’s TRENDS Report to inform my philanthropic decisions. ”

Grants & Awards

- Together with our donors, The Community Foundation has granted more than $55 million, in Boulder County and beyond, since our inception in 1991.
- We make grants through the Community Trust, the Millennium Trust, Fifteen Forever, the Open Door Fund, and more than 200 Donor-Advised Funds.
- Thanks to our 2008-2012 Community Trust campaign, we’ve permanently doubled the amount we grant to Boulder County nonprofits through our unrestricted endowment.
- Boulder County residents actively participate in grantmaking decisions through four different grant cycles, as well as Donor-Advised Funds.
- We recognize innovative nonprofit organizations through our NOVA Award and outstanding community volunteers through our Stan Black and Pat on the Back awards.

Transformational Leadership

- The Boulder County Civic Forum tracks indicators related to the quality of life in our community and publishes this data in our biennial TRENDS report.
- The School Readiness Initiative helps Boulder County parents and leaders close the achievement gap through early learning. See our special section on pages 28-35.
- The Culture of Giving movement encourages everyone in Boulder County to make philanthropy a habit.
- The Entrepreneurs Foundation of Colorado (EFCO) helps entrepreneurs commit to pledging a portion of founding equity or a portion of annual profits to the community and establishing a culture of giving early.
- Our Leadership Development programs build networks for emerging leaders across sectors, building a pipeline for transformational and inclusive leadership in Boulder County.
- The Boulder County Health Improvement Collaborative improves the communication and collaboration between Boulder County health and human service providers for more coordinated patient care.

> “ Our company is a Community Partner, because supporting The Community Foundation’s work means supporting hundreds of Boulder County nonprofits at the same time. ”

Learn more about The Community Foundation:

- Visit us at 1123 Spruce Street, Boulder, CO, 80302
- Read about us on www.commfound.org
- Call us at 303-442-0436
- Email us at info@commfound.org
- Donate on www.commfound.org or by getting in touch using any of the above ways!

Thank you 2013 Community Partners

Community Partners are local businesses and civic leaders who are ready to play a prominent role in community philanthropy as partners with The Community Foundation – The Place for Inspired Giving. They make significant, multi-year financial commitments – or donate equivalent in-kind goods and services – to the Foundation's operations. Supporting The Community Foundation's work means Community Partners are assisting hundreds of local nonprofit organizations through one gift.

Gold Level

Brett Family Foundation
CordenPharma
Faegre Baker Daniels LLP
Google
Western Disposal Services

Silver Level

Amgen
Elevations Credit Union
Hemera Regnant, LLC
Kaiser Permanente
Jared Polis Foundation
Wells Fargo
Wells Fargo Advisors

Bronze Level

Anton Collins Mitchell LLP
Berg Hill Greenleaf & Ruscitti LLP
Broadway Animal Hospital and Pet Center
Bryan Cave
Colorado Business Bank CoBiz Financial
Colorado State Bank and Trust
Eide Bailly
EKS&H
First Western Trust Bank
Oreg Foundation
Quish & Co
Raymond James Financial Services, Jamie Dawson
Rudi's Organic Bakery
TEBO Development Co.
UBS
Walters & Hogsett Fine Jewelers

In-Kind Level

Bolderwomen
Daily Camera
Michelle Maloy Dillon Photography
RegOnline
Sterling-Rice Group
Vermilion

Thanks to the many nonprofits who shared contributions data with us, including:

Alternatives for Youth
Association for Community Living
Attention Homes
Boulder County Arts Alliance
Boulder County CareConnect
Boulder Day Nursery
Boulder Museum of Contemporary Art
Boulder Shelter for the Homeless
Clinica Family Health Services
Community Cycles
Community Food Share
Dairy Center for the Arts
Eco-Cycle, Inc.
Ed & Ruth Lehman YMCA
Emergency Family Assistance Association
El Centro Amistad
El Comité de Longmont
Family Learning Center
Friends of the Longmont Museum
Greenwood Wildlife Rehabilitation Sanctuary
Growing Gardens
Humane Society of Boulder Valley, Inc.
IHAD Foundation of Boulder County
Imagine!
Impact on Education
Inn Between of Longmont Inc.
Intercambio de Comunidades
Teaching Peace
New Era Colorado
Outreach United Resource Center
Rocky Mountain Center for Musical Arts
Sister Carmen Community Center, Inc.
Teens, Inc.
Thorne Ecological Institute
VIA Mobility Services
Wild Bear Center for Nature Discovery
YMCA of Boulder
YWCA of Boulder County

Definitions to Help Interpret the Data

This report uses a great deal of data from the American Community Survey (ACS), a nationwide survey to provide communities updated information in between decennial censuses. The most recent data available through the ACS is for 2011; thus, unless otherwise noted, data reported reflects 2011 numbers.

Slight differences between the Census and the ACS methodology may make for imperfect comparisons. The ACS collects data for all 12 months of the year, not for just a single point in time. Further, while the Census works to count every single person, the ACS is distributed to a population sample and produces estimates more at risk for statistical error. As ACS one-year updates are only available for counties/cities/towns with populations greater than 65,000 people, the bulk of the ACS data used in this report is derived from three-year estimates. Three-year estimates contain fewer sampling errors, but may not demonstrate year-to-year change as powerfully.

The terms "Latino" and "Anglo" and "of color"

In this report we use the term "Latino" to encompass people identified as "Hispanic" or "Latin" by the American Community Survey, or other similar data collecting organizations. People who identify their origin as Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino may be of any race. We use the term "Non-Hispanic white" or "Anglo" to refer to people who self-identify as white and do not claim Latino heritage. We use the term "people of color" to refer to individuals who identify as something other than Anglo.

Free and Reduced Lunch Students vs. Non-Free and Reduced Lunch Students

In certain graphs in our education chapter, we show student results by category. By 'Free and Reduced Lunch Students,' we mean those students who qualify economically to receive a free or subsidized lunch in school. By 'Non-Free and Reduced Lunch Students,' we mean those students who do not qualify for lunch subsidies of any kind. We sometimes refer to such students as middle- and upper- income kids.

Students

Since 2006, the ACS has included group quarters like dormitories or sororities and assisted living facilities in certain data tables. Students living on campus, however, are NOT counted in poverty estimates. In contrast, students living off campus have been counted in the data as individuals, including in information on poverty, household income, health care access, etc. since the start of the ACS program. Such students have also been included in decennial Census numbers.

Income vs. Wages

"Income" includes wages, salary, bonuses, self-employment income, gifts, tips, investment income, transfer payments such as social security or food stamps, pensions, rents, and interest income.

"Wages" include only payments received from an employer in an employment relationship that is reported to the State of Colorado for purposes of unemployment insurance. Wages do not include self employment income.

"Per capita income" is calculated by taking all the income earned in the county and dividing this number by the population.

The Community Foundation Board of Trustees:

Josie Heath, President
Rhonda Wallen, Chair
Chris Hazlitt, Esq., Vice-Chair
Rick G. Doty, Treasurer
David Brantz, Esq., Secretary
Lelie Allen, MBA
Linda Bachrach
Alexander E. Bracken
John Creighton
Richard Garcia
Helen Gemmill
James Graham, CPA
Randi Grassgreen, Esq.
Philip N. Hernandez
Kathy Leonard
Richard Lopez, Esq.
Jane McConnell
Jann Oldham
Rogelio Pena, Esq.
Amanda Prentiss
Diane Soucheray

Legacy gifts – such as naming your favorite nonprofit as a beneficiary in your will or retirement plan – are a simple and effective way to support the causes you care about in Boulder County and beyond. Whether your passions are with the arts, environment, or youth, you can help ensure that the important work in these areas will continue on, no matter what new issues may arise. In addition to leaving a legacy for future generations, there are often tax benefits resulting from many legacy gifts. Talk to your professional advisor or the nonprofit that you love about what estate planning options are best for you, your family, and your philanthropic goals.

The History of the Boulder County Civic Forum:

The Boulder County Civic Forum was launched in 1995 as the Boulder County Healthy Communities Initiative "to promote healthy decision-making that will sustain the environmental quality, livability and economic vitality of the Boulder County region." More than 400 community members came together to identify four visions for a healthy community, including a vision for the people, for the environment, for the economy, and for culture and society. The 50 indicators selected to measure these visions are still used today, more than 15 years later.

The Civic Forum is non-partisan and non-governmental, supported by businesses, government, foundations, individuals and The Community Foundation, of which it has been a program since 1999. Copies of the 1998, 2000, 2002, 2005, 2007, 2009, and 2011 quality of life reports are available through The Community Foundation's website: www.commfound.org.

Thank you to the guidance and wisdom of the Civic Forum's Founding Committee:

John Sackett, *Former CEO, Avista Adventist Hospital*

Michael Caplan, *Facilitation Consultant, Caplan & Company*

Mitchell Carson, *President and CEO, Longmont United Hospital*

Susan Foster, *Deputy Director, Education and Outreach, University Corporation for Atmospheric Research*

Barrie Hartman, *Journalist*

Josie Heath, *President, The Community Foundation Serving Boulder County*

Ron Secrist, *President, Boulder Community Hospital*

Cindy Schmidt, *Director, Government Affairs Office, UCAR*

Chuck Stout, *Former Executive Director, Boulder County Public Health*

John Tayer, *President and CEO, Boulder Chamber of Commerce*

Thanks for the support and wisdom of:

Josie Heath and the staff of The Community Foundation

Morgan Rogers, *Civic Forum Director, Publisher of TRENDS*

Barbara Green, *Civic Forum Associate Director, Editor-in-Chief of TRENDS*

Maegan Vallejo

Chris Barge, *Contributor*

Kara Edwards

Margaret Katz

Gretchen Minekime

Elvira Ramos

Stefan Reyes

Bruce Skelton

Jennie Arbogash, *Social Venture Partners*

Suzanne Barnes, *Spruce Street Mansion*

And the many organizations that offered their data and expertise.

Thanks to these folks in particular for their help with data:

Hank Schaller, *Aspen Media*

Jennifer Pinsonneault, *Boulder Economic Council*

Namino Glantz and Boulder County Public Health

Jonathan Dings, *Boulder Valley School District*

Tori Teague and Amber Muir, *St. Vrain Valley School District*

Pete Salas, *Boulder County*

Randy Moorman, *Eco-Cycle*

Daily Camera

Sterling-Rice Group

The Science and Facilities Cultural District

And numerous county and local public employees who shared data on everything from water use to medical marijuana licensing to greenhouse gases to hybrid cars.

A special thanks to designer:

Sweet Design

Photos generously provided by:

Michelle Maloy Dillon

New Era Colorado

Sister Carmen Community Center

Daily Camera

Boulder County CareConnect

Boulder Philharmonic Orchestra

And thank you to our generous sponsors:

Avista Adventist Hospital

Longmont United Hospital

Boulder Community Hospital

The Boulder County Commissioners

The Civic Forum's Goals are to:

- Articulate a vision for healthy Boulder County communities
- Measure progress toward that vision through a biennial Community Indicators Report and an updated website
- Inform and educate the public and decision makers about issues of interest and concern
- Identify community assets and opportunities for strategic action
- Convene dialogues and partnerships to address key issues through collaboration
- Advocate for systemic community change to create lasting solutions
- Assess the impact of these actions

SPONSORS OF BOULDER COUNTY TRENDS
The Community Foundation's Report on Key Indicators

Avista Adventist Hospital
Centura Health

Boulder Community Hospital
The Best Place to Get Better

Boulder County

LONGMONT UNITED HOSPITAL
Unique options. Extraordinary care.

BARBARA GREEN • **Civic Forum Associate Director** | **MORGAN ROGERS** • **Civic Forum Director**
The Community Foundation • 1123 Spruce Street • Boulder, Colorado 80302
303-442-0436 x115 • Fax: 303-442-1221 • Barbara@commfound.org

The Community Foundation exists to improve the quality of life in Boulder County, now and forever, and to build a culture of giving.

commfound.org