Executive Director’s Statement

Dear Friends,

On behalf Denver Great Kids Head Start and the Office of Children’s Affairs I am pleased to share our 2019 - 2020 Community Assessment Report. The year 2020 has been described as “a year like no other.” As of December 2020, at least 18.5 million COVID-19 cases in the United States have been identified, and 326,000 deaths have been reported. In the State of Colorado, 318,000 cases have been reported—with Denver County recording 45,666 cases and 4,531 COVID-19 deaths (CDC, 12/2020). The number of cases and deaths is constantly accelerating—requiring daily updates and analysis of this frightening pandemic. The recent introduction of two federally approved vaccines is a positive step in curving the deadly progress of this plague. As national, state, and local vaccination implementation plans are implemented, a new challenge will enter the containment phase—the vaccine hesitancy threat and why it matters to trust in and accept the vaccine and those who deliver it.

Denver Great Kids Head Start begins its Community Assessment Report Update with a special section that is devoted to presenting COVID-19 information trends and the implications this virus has on our children, families, staff, and neighbors. The report also provides selected updates that profile the well-being of Head Start eligible children and their families. It is our intent that this report will be widely used by program planners in their design of various early childhood programs and interventions. We hope that the many lessons we’ve learned in this difficult year will strengthen our commitments, partnerships, and collaborations—and help us identify even more ways to improve upon our valued services.

Sincerely,

Al Martinez, Ph.D.
Head Start Executive Director

Special Issue Challenges

A Community Assessment serves as a central planning resource and acts as an organizational compass for leadership, staff, and community partners. Specifically, this important study helps to shed light on the quality of life of low-income-pregnant mothers, including infants, toddlers, and their families residing in Denver Great Kids Head Start’s (DGKHS) service area. The 2019 -2020 Community Assessment Update documents a year of catastrophic change—including the COVID-19 pandemic, social and civil unrests, and a divisive political election season. Individually and collectively, these challenges profoundly affected the lives of all City of Denver residents, especially the lives of its most vulnerable population.

COVID-19 Pandemic

Head Start and Early Head Start families living in poverty, for example, are impacted by the pandemic crisis irrespective of whether family members contract the disease itself or not. The negative consequence of the pandemic on poverty is multidimensional and likely to persist over a long period of time—especially in low-income Denver neighborhoods. National and local studies indicate communities of color and larger low-income communities have also seen higher COVID case rates. Through a range of “social determinants of health,” physical health in low-income neighborhoods intersects with the broader social context in which Head Start eligible families live. Many of these lower-income communities of color, for instance, have higher shares of frontline workers (e.g., fast food workers and grocery store clerks) and risk infection every day by going to jobs providing “essential” services. As the pandemic continues to bounce lower middle-class residents into unemployed, or underemployed status, low-income families are witnessing rapidly depleted community resources, and may be competing for help in areas such as, food banks, housing and financial assistance.

Inequality, Polarization, Civic Unrest

The bitterly contested 2020 election season was described as being, “a force so powerful it can push even a once-in-a-century pandemic aside”. (Source: https://time.com) The 2020 election season generated emotional and political divisiveness that spilled over into pre-election and post-election demonstrations—representing all spectrums of political allegiances and beliefs. The seat of government was often the focal point for demonstrations that pitted “Red” against “Blue” in the streets. Political polarization is often a feature at Civic Center and the State Capital open spaces. During 2020, several
issues entered the forefront of political activism. Black Lives Matter Denver, for example, successfully influenced a name change of a local neighborhood center honored after a former mayor who was also a member of the Ku Klux Klan (KKK). Employing a multi-faceted citizen engagement process, Stapleton Town Center was ultimately renamed to Central Park Town Center in August 2020. Thorny issues such as deep divisions along racial, economic and cultural lines, however, are still present in Denver—including, protests against law enforcement practices and misconduct; homelessness; a rise in unemployment; gentrification; food shortages; and multiple other stressors exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Overview

The Challenge

This has been a remarkable year in American history. In the 2019-2020 DGKHS Community Assessment Update, we will look at the past year through a multidimensional lens that recognizes four aspects of poverty that Head Start and Early Head Start families are confronted with daily in response to COVID-19—namely, resources, opportunities and choice, power and voice, and human security. As the Office of Head Start recognizes, Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) has deeply impacted Head Start and Early Head Start programs, their enrolled children and families, and their communities. This update will provide information to assist our program in strengthening and envisioning how we can meet the needs of children and families during this remarkable times.

Methodology and Format

Essentially, the Head Start Community Assessment Report Update is a compilation of factual and statistical information, that offers readers a variety of views of the strengths, challenges and circumstances low-income pregnant mothers, infants, toddlers, preschoolers, and eligible families have while living in various parts of the grantee’s service area. Objective information is presented in statistical charts, tables and references.

Community Assessment readers should be aware of the tendency to make assumptions based on past familiarity with the ever-changing communities or neighborhoods in which they live or provide services. It is critical, therefore, that program leaders look at data tables, charts, and information with “fresh eyes”. Data presented in the 2019 – 2020 HS/EHS planning process will undoubtedly challenge DGKHS program planners to use the information found in this study to “gear up for what is ahead” (Bergeron, 2020).

Orglearning2 LLC, the report’s authors, also provide an examination of existing conditions—or trends, as well as possible implications that may impact DGKHS program services. Trends and implications are organized and presented in titled text boxes next to or near cited data.

Organization

The Community Assessment Report is divided into four main sections. The first section will provide a general description of the DGKHS service delivery model, geographic service area, and a brief description of its seven delegate agencies.

The second section will be focused on COVID-19 data and its significant impact on the DGKHS’ service area.

The third section will be a basic update on the more traditional external/internal setting in which DGKHS operates. Examination of the demographic composition, the economic status, health conditions, education, and civic setting of the community will be generally presented using updated American Community Survey (ACS) data, state, county, city, and commercial sources—as well as information provided by the agency itself.

Section four looks forward, summarizing the trends and implications presented in the earlier sections. As in previous sections, no absolute prescriptions are made in this study—as the ultimate review and discussions must be held by DGKHS grantee leadership, delegate agencies, and policy council/parent committees. In keeping with Office of Head Start guidance, Head Start participants are encouraged to read and discuss areas of challenge and potential growth and improvement. We often refer to those participants as planners—the reflective visionaries who can see beyond the ambiguity and challenges of today to plan an empowering picture of tomorrow.

Given the extraordinary challenges present during the 2019 – 2020 program year—the pandemic, discriminatory policies impacting
communities of color, and gentrification that threatens the presence of Denver’s poorest neighborhoods this report is unmatched in its implications for the future of program design and services. The final analysis is meant to identify areas of concern, areas of potential growth and development, and identification of resources that might have been overlooked or underutilized by planners—and serve to assist DGKHS and its delegate agencies to achieve its ultimate goal: to provide a brighter future for the children, families, and community it serves.

Acknowledgment

The authors of this report wish to thank Dr. Al Martinez, Executive Director of Denver Great Kids Head Start and the members of his management staff for their assistance throughout the development of this project. We would also like to thank Lisa Piscopo, Fiscal Administrator, Department of Human Services, City and County of Denver, for her invaluable assistance in accessing the online study, Measuring the Impact of the COVID-19 Survey, and data contained in previous editions of Denver Great Kids Head Start Community Assessments. We also thank other sources of cutting-edge data, including the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, and Denver Public Health, for providing on time reporting of probable COVID-19 cases among Denver residents. Abbie Steiner, MS MPH, epidemiologist for Denver Public Health was especially helpful in retrieving dashboards and data that helped tell the story of COVID-19’s presence in the DGKHS service area.

DISCLAIMER

It should be remembered that the 2019 - 2020 Community Assessment Report is an analysis of the communities examined as a whole, with special attention paid to the condition of Head Start eligible children and families with federally specified low incomes—the report is not an assessment of programs, philosophies, or administration of the DGKHS grantee or its Head Start delegate agency programs.

About OrgLearning2 | LLC

OrgLearning2 | LLC is a full-service firm specializing in organizational behavior, strategies, technology, research, and innovative solutions. We work primarily with the nonprofit community in the areas of training, consultation, research and development.

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Planners

Four-Step Planning Process

Denver Great Kids Head Start leaders, staff, parents and community partners are invited to the table to collaborate in the planning process—joining in collaborative planning, goal setting, and decision-making in accordance with Head Start Program Performance Standards. A four-step process demonstrates how the use of community assessment data is used to:

1. Develop a Community Assessment protocol which will be used to analyze trends and patterns that documents the quality of life of low-income pregnant mothers, infants, toddlers, preschoolers and families residing in the grantee’s service area and are eligible for program services.
2. Share Community Assessment Report findings with program leadership to identify broad goals that can make a positive difference in the lives of eligible and enrolled children, families, residing in the service area communities.
3. Adopt SMART (specific, measurable, attainable, relevant, and timely) short-term objectives linked to expected goal outcomes.
4. Develop and finalize an annual ACTION PLAN that outlines what the grantee and its community partners will accomplish in its effort to prepare children to enter kindergarten with the social, physical, emotional, and cognitive skills and competencies necessary for continued school success.

“We’re drowning in information but starved for knowledge.”
John Naisbitt
Data and Regulations

Data

Data collected for the DGKHS Community Assessment Update covers the grantee funding cycle and includes the period between July 2019 and December 2020.

The most complete census of the United States population is conducted once every 10 years. The data collected from Census 2010 provides the best count of the population currently available for the country, states, counties, and census tracts. The American Community Survey provides estimates of yearly population changes along with additional social, demographic, and economic data.

These data sets, however, are estimates based on a sample of the population and are not as robust as the basic population data collected during the decennial census. The 2020 census data used for state and local redistricting are set to be released by March 31, 2021. The Bureau is planning to release other new census data beginning in spring 2021.

Census tracts are statistical areas defined by the U.S. Census Bureau and generally have a population between 1,200 and 8,000 people with the optimal size of 4,000 people. They are continuous areas that vary in size based on population density. Census tracts are frequently used throughout this document as the statistical unit from which demographic data are aggregated and displayed within Denver neighborhoods. Census tract data are only available in five-year estimates from the U.S. Census and are significantly less accurate than estimates for larger population areas.

Neighborhood data (aggregated from census tracts) are available using five-year averages of the data and as such are estimates. Caution should be used when interpreting the results in any detail. The data and maps provided in this document are intended to give a general impression of variation by neighborhood and not exact counts of people.

Coronavirus (COVID-19) statistics data.

About this data:
- There are various sources that are tracking and aggregating coronavirus data. The sources update at different times and may have different ways of gathering data.
- Data changes rapidly and changes may differ by source.
- The data changes might not reflect some cases still being reported. Some areas may not have data because they haven’t published their data or haven’t done so recently. Because data availability differs by source, date ranges for 14-day data may start on different dates.
- It generally includes confirmed and probable cases.
- Total counts include both confirmed and probable cases in some locations. Probable cases are identified by public health officials and use criteria developed by government (federal, state, and municipal) authorities.
- The data is constantly updated from a variety of resources around the state, nation and world. The data used in this report is the most current from the best available sources and include the U.S. Census Bureau and other reliable publications and resources.
- Authoritative sources, as attributed may differ from other sites and sources. Data describing the same phenomena may differ due to the source, method of collection, time period, aggregations, or margin of error. All sources used in the document are clearly cited.

Other Sources

The data used in this report also includes information available from federal, state, and local government, media, community agencies and programs, and reliable publications and resources. It is important to note that data describing the same phenomena may differ due to the source, method of collection, time period, aggregations or margin of error. Every effort to collect the most current, reliable data available was made during the development of this study; however, it may not be all inclusive. All data and information sources used in this report are clearly cited.

In the 2019 – 2020 Update, specific attention has been given to reporting how the coronavirus pandemic is impacting households across the United States and the State of Colorado. Data shared in this report includes a cutting-edge Household Pulse Survey that examines the impact COVID-19 pandemic has on citizens—including young children and their families living in poverty. In addition, the 2019 - 2020 DGKHS Community Assessment Update accessed pertinent data reported in COVID-19 Denver and Denver County, an online information dashboard that is updated daily by public health
epidemiologists. Denver Public Health and Environment (DPHE) also publishes Denver COVID-19 Protect Our Neighborhoods Metrics, an online state-driven system for COVID-19 case investigation and management.

In the Protect Our Neighbors phase, local public health agencies must meet certain performance measures including containing current and future surge levels of disease through regularly updated reports.

Head Start Regulations

According to the 45 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Chapter XIII, each Head Start (HS) grantee must conduct a Comprehensive Community Assessment Report within its service area at least once every five years and a Community Assessment Update, annually. The community assessment must use data that describes community strengths, needs, and resources and include, at a minimum:

(i) The number of eligible infants, toddlers, preschool age children, and expectant mothers, including their geographic location, race, ethnicity, and languages they speak, including:
   (A) Children experiencing homelessness in collaboration with, to the extent possible, McKinney-Vento Local Education Agency Liaisons (42 U.S.C. 11432 (6)(A));
   (B) Children in foster care; and
   (C) Children with disabilities, including types of disabilities and relevant services and resources provided to these children by community agencies;
(ii) The education, health, nutrition and social service needs of eligible children and their families, including prevalent social or economic factors that impact their well-being;
(iii) Typical work, school, and training schedules of parents with eligible children;
(iv) Other child development, child care centers, and family child care programs that serve eligible children, including home visiting, publicly funded state and local preschools, and the approximate number of eligible children served;
(v) Resources that are available in the community to address the needs of eligible children and their families; and,
(vi) Strengths of the community.

In addition, programs must annually review and update the community assessment to reflect any significant changes including increased availability of publicly-funded pre-kindergarten- (including an assessment of how the pre-kindergarten available in the community meets the needs of the parents and children served by the program, and whether it is offered for a full school day), rates of family and child homelessness, and significant shifts in community demographics and resources. Head Start regulations also mandate that programs consider whether the characteristics of the community allow it to include children from diverse economic backgrounds that would be supported by other funding sources, including private pay, in addition to the program’s eligible funded enrollment. Programs must not enroll children from diverse economic backgrounds if it would result in a program serving less than its eligible funded enrollment.

(Source: Head Start Program Performance Standards, Subpart 1302.11 Determining community strengths, needs and resources)
Grantee Profile

Within the City and County of Denver, Denver Great Kids Head Start (DGKHS) administers a unique network of seven community-based delegate agencies. Using a grantee–delegate model design DGKHS identifies and serves at-risk parent(s) living in the city's underserved neighborhoods. The DGKHS grantee works in collaboration with three directly funded Head Start agencies, as well as four (4) agencies that are funded by DGKHS to serve HS eligible families. The four agencies receiving city funding are also directly funded by the Office of Head Start to serve eligible pregnant mothers, and other eligible families with infants, and toddlers (Early Head Start) residing in the city.

Denver Great Kids Head Start Service Area

Denver is a city of distinct neighborhoods; its 156 square-mile area includes seventy-eight recognized neighborhoods. Each of these neighborhoods has its own cultural identity and distinct demographic characteristics. In 2019, Mayor Michael Hancock’s administration undertook an update of this initiative, Blueprint Denver, of which the final plan was approved by the City Council. Blueprint Denver: A Blueprint for an Inclusive City. The initiative advocates for the advancement of social equity by the city government to serve “individuals, families and communities in a manner that reduces or eliminates persistent institutional biases and barriers based on race, ability, gender identity and sexual orientation, age and other factors.” Blueprint Denver has particular relevance to low-income neighborhoods, as Denver strives to be a truly inclusive city composed of complete neighborhoods and great places accessible to everyone, regardless of race, age, ability or income. According to 2019 data, the U.S. Census Bureau estimates that about 17 percent, or 7,400, children residing in Denver Great Kids Head Start service area are living in families with incomes below the poverty line—well in excess of the state-wide rate of 13 percent.

Delegate Agency Profiles

According to 2019 DGKHS Community Assessment data and updated 2020 data, poverty is not distributed evenly throughout Denver’s neighborhoods. The network of seven community-based delegate agencies has ensured that services are identify eligible EHS/HS families living in concentrated areas and pockets of poverty throughout the City and County of Denver. A profile of the delegate agencies includes:


Clayton Early Learning provides national leadership to advance the field of early childhood education by researching, implementing and disseminating innovative teaching models—including EMBRACE, a mindfulness toolkit and curriculum resource. In 2019, prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, the program offered Extended Day HS Preschool, Extended Day for EHS infants and toddlers, and an enriched Home-based program for EHS and HS residing in Clayton and Montbello neighborhoods.

Denver Public Schools. DPS Head Start program is part of the school district's Early Education Department. DPS Head Start program classes are all full-day programs (6 hours, 30 minutes per day, 5 days per week). These full-day programs are made possible by blending other funds with Head Start funds. DPS Head Start programs are located throughout the City of Denver in local elementary school sites, including Whittier, Westwood, Montclair, College View, Park Hill, Montbello, Virginia Village, and Swansea neighborhoods.
Child Well-Being Index

Complete knowledge about child well-being during the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic is still being researched and observed. In addition to all of the challenges noted in the introduction of this report, 2020 was also the year of the U.S. Census—which occurs once per decade. The 2020 Census has experienced a particularly unique set of challenges from its onset, including ample time spent on the “citizen question”. [1] Simply stated, the additional question to the standard demographic questions in the Census form would ask, “Is this person a citizen of the United States?” (NYT, 2019) [2] Over the past year, the question has been a subject of “fierce public debate, inter-party feuding, and a Supreme Court litigation” (Pierce, 2019) [3] The core issue of this debate outlined by Common Cause was asking such a question would drastically lower the response rate among both immigrants and non-white residents. The consequence would include, therefore, an undercount in communities that would distort the representative power of millions of Americans in states such as Colorado. In late summer of 2019, the supreme Court case ruled that question could not be included. The final U.S. Census was released on December 15, 2020, which provides a range of estimates—low, middle and high—for the nation’s population as of April 1, 2020. [4]


Figure 1.
2019 CHILD WELL-BEING
The 2019 Child Well-Being Index remains to be an accurate portrayal of the social and systemic problems that limit opportunity for children in Denver. According to the author of the DGKHS Community Assessment, “The eleven indicators that measure differences in education, health, and community opportunities were statistically aggregated to provide a snapshot of opportunity for Denver children by neighborhood.”
COVID-19 and Colorado

On March 5, 2020, the Colorado Department of Public Health reported the first two cases of COVID-19 in the State. Both incidents had international implications—the first known case was a California skier in his 30s who traveled to Italy in February and became ill while visiting Summit County (Colorado Sun, April 9, 2020). The second case was a senior citizen from Douglas County who recently traveled on an international cruise. By the end of March 2020, coronavirus cases had escalated, prompting Governor Jared Polis' appeal for President Donald Trump to approve Colorado’s expedited request for a major disaster declaration. The request noted that Colorado, at that time, reported one of the highest rates of COVID-19 cases per capita within U.S. states (Denver Post, March 28, 2020). The approved federal declaration resulted in Colorado receiving federal money to help alleviate Colorado’s shortage of personal protective equipment, such as respirators, gowns, gloves, masks and sanitary equipment—and provide crisis counseling assistance for affected Coloradans.

During the month of March 2020, Governor Jared Polis issued a series of state of emergency declarations that included requiring essential employees in sectors such as foodservice and health care be offered paid sick leave if they displayed COVID-19 symptoms; closure of ski areas; reduction of the number employees present in physical workplaces by at least 50% in non-essential business/sectors; and notices of expanded testing for the virus in local communities (Westword, March 11, 2020). By September 2020, six months into the pandemic, Governor Polis had issued over 178 Executive Orders under his original emergency declaration. Categories under the orders included, Health Care, Elections, Taxes, Openness, Criminal Justice, Education and Child Care, Alcohol and Marijuana Sales, Mask Mandates, and Opening/Closure of Ski Resorts. Guidance was also given to local government offices, senior facilities, and all schools throughout the state regarding policies and practices to support closures and disinfecting exposed facilities.

This special section of the 2019 -2020 DGKHS Community Assessment Update will highlight how COVID-19 has and will continue to have an impact on Head Start/Early Head Start eligible children and families residing in the City and County of Denver.

First, a wide lens will be taken to discuss how the pandemic has spread throughout the metropolitan Denver area, followed by a closer
Metro Area County COVID-19 Cases Trends

- Denver Metro COVID-19 new cases identify spikes, curves and other erratic climbs/declines. For example, three major data spikes are noted—the first around April 26 –30; the second, July 28 – 29; and the third, November 16 – 21.
- On September 29th, an outlier data spike occurs in Boulder County, where a spike in the number of COVID-19 cases accelerates to 139—a trend that was not experienced in other neighboring counties.
- Broomfield County is the only regional county that appears to have "flattened" in the number of reported COVID-cases.
- According to the National CDC, SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, has an incubation period of two to 14 days. An infected person typically won’t start feeling sick or showing symptoms right away, if at all. It might take another few days to get a COVID-19 test result, or another week for severe cases to warrant hospitalization. In the meantime, the virus could spread around—possibly jumping from county to county due to its ease of transmission, delay in time of a confirmed positive test result, and the proximity of counties.
- Major spikes in reported new COVID-19 cases may correspond to certain events or activities occurring in Denver, such as, Easter religious and social events (April 12, 2020); Fourth of July Celebrations; and, Thanksgiving holidays (November 26th). In look at how various Denver neighborhoods are faring with rising numbers of cases, hospitalizations and deaths.

COVID-19 & Surrounding Counties

The following chart shows the number of people testing positive for, or determined as a probable case of, COVID-19 in each Metro county. Data is presented in a 7-day moving average for each county of newly assigned cases.

The numbers are derived from the daily numbers reported on the State COVID website. In the seven-day periods beginning on March 19, 2020, the first reported new COVID-19 cases occurred in the metropolitan area of Denver. Denver, the largest population in the regional area, consistently reports higher numbers of COVID-19 cases. Adams and Arapahoe Counties closely follows this trend; with Jefferson, Douglas, and Boulder, presenting lower numbers of cases. Broomfield County consistently reports the smallest number of reported cases.
addition to holidays and days of social gatherings, the death of George Floyd that sparked Black Lives Matter demonstrations in Denver occurred during the period of May 28th – May 30th.

Metro Area County COVID-19 Cases Implications

• Head Start planners and policy makers need to carefully monitor regional COVID-19 trends to respond to the numerous challenges posed by intra-regional travel—three of the counties surrounding Denver (Adams, Arapahoe and Jefferson Counties) are merely boundaries separated by city placards. Alliances with other Head Start program providers in surrounding communities outside of the City and County of Denver should be galvanized to address COVID-19 spikes, curves, and climbs/declines.

• Head Start policymakers and planners should continue efforts to keep essential workers and enrolled families safe and protected. New tools and resources, such as COVID-19 trackers and Colorado Dial Framework are visual methods to inform local communities about virus transmission levels. These tools and edicts are frequently revised in response to the spread of COVID-19. DGKHS may need to consider a grantee-delegate wide policy related to gathering, posting, and reviewing community edicts, warning-levels, and public health recommendations with staff and parents.

Metro Area County COVID-19 Hospitalizations and Deaths Implications

• When Head Start planners review the hospitalization and death trends it is important to consider “trigger events” like social gatherings, holiday travel, and other lapses when seemingly downward trends suddenly spike up after letting up on public health restrictions. Living in a metropolitan area means residents often move seamlessly from county to county for work, shopping, and other life-sustaining reasons.

• Travel between counties can increase the chance of getting and spreading COVID-19. The use of public transportation also increases risk of transmission, a convenience that may be a primary mode of travel for low-income residents.

• Spikes noted in hospitalization and deaths can be attributed to the proximity of the most populous counties—including Denver, Arapahoe, Adams and Jefferson counties. Head Start planners may need to consider a regional approach to supporting parents and staff who are low-wage or frontline workers traveling within highly infected COVID-19 areas.

• Until vaccinations are readily available to the local population, Denver’s low-wage workers and front-line workers will continue to suffer the worst economic and health pain of the pandemic. One of the reasons, as stated by the Brookings Institute, is

“low-wage workers have suffered disproportionate job losses is their limited ability to telework. These workers, especially those who are of color, and are also more likely to have underlying medical conditions and unfortunately then most vulnerable to hospitalization or death due to COVID-19.

• The DGKHS may need to consider methods of collecting COVID-19 positive cases of enrolled children, staff, parents, and volunteers at both the grantee and delegate agency level that can be aggregated and routinely reported to policy makers and planners—including, information related to hospitalizations and deaths. Generalized Head Start data may be useful for community and governmental officials and planners.

• Although researchers are still debating the causal pathways between poverty and poor mental health, it is clear that socioeconomic issues such as unstable housing and unemployment are connected in a complex negative cycle with poor mental health. The COVID-19 pandemic is still being reviewed by researchers in a variety of multidisciplinary fields to determine what factors will result in negative quality of life within low-income populations.

COVID-19 Denver City and County

People like to say that the coronavirus is no respecter of race, class or country, that the disease Covid-19 is mindless and will infect anybody it can.

In theory, that is true. But, in practice, in the real world, this virus behaves like others, screeching like a heat-seeking missile toward the most vulnerable in society. And this happens not because it prefers them, but because they are more exposed, more fragile and more ill.

Charles M. Blow
New York Times, April 5, 2020
As previously noted, the State of Colorado announced its first case of COVID-19 on March 5, 2020. The next day, two additional cases in Denver tested positive for the virus, however, the diagnosis made by state laboratories, remained “presumptive” as the tests were yet to be confirmed by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. According to public health reports, local public health workers conducted extensive interviews with the two Denver patients and determined if there was a known risk to the general public. The first two Denver patients, a man in his 40s and a woman in her 70s, could not provide any information about specific places where they could expose significant numbers of people after developing symptoms.

During the early days of the pandemic, simple precautionary measures were advised. The Health Department recommended Denver residents to wash their hands well, avoid touching their faces, cover coughs and sneezes, and stay home if they feel sick. If a resident needed medical care or were concerned, that they might have COVID-19, public health officials advised the person to call their doctor so the office can take precautions to avoid spreading the disease to other patients.

As of December 31, 2020, the State of Colorado has reported 333,000 cases and 4,822 deaths due to the pandemic. Denver City and County, during this same time period, reported 48,509 cases and 681 deaths. At the end of the calendar year, Governor Jared Polis announced that state health department has moved all Colorado counties—including Denver County—from “Level Red” (the highest level) restrictions to “Level Orange” restrictions starting Monday, Jan. 4. Data provided in this section covers the period between March 5, 2020 and January 1, 2021.

City and County of Denver

The dashboard above shows the number of people testing positive for, or determined as a probable case of, COVID-19 in each Denver Metro county. This dashboard shows a 7-day moving average for each county of newly assigned cases. The other dashboard that can be selected shows the weekly new case totals for each county. The dashboards of weekly totals only show the data for fully completed.
Accordiing to recent studies, COVID-19 has created a mortality shock throughout the world, that may yield a second, or even third wave of population health concerns tied to bereavement and social support reductions. For example, questions are being asked about how many people are at risk for losing a grandparent, parent, sibling, spouse, or child for each COVID-19 death? In the United States, researchers estimate that every death from COVID-19 will leave approximately nine bereaved.

Head Start staff may find parents in need of financial assistance and mental health support as an outcome of a family member being hospitalized or dying.

Information on various resources, such as the State of Colorado Burial Assistance Program, will need to be available and posted to support families. This City’s Department of Human Services, provides applications for Medicaid assistance to eligible, low-income Denver residents to help with the cost of a funeral, burial or cremation.
COVID-19 Age Implications

- COVID-19 outcomes by age group indicate two determinants relevant to Head Start—first, the population of young people between 20-29 are most likely to contract the virus, and secondly, the population under the age of nine have a lower likelihood of contracting the virus (4.6% of COVID-19 cases in Denver). According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), there is limited evidence about which underlying medical conditions in children might increase the risk for severe illness. Similar to adults, however, children with obesity, diabetes, asthma or chronic lung disease, sickle cell disease, or immunosuppression might also be at increased risk for severe illness from COVID-19.
- Children under the age of nine are 10.7% of the total Denver population; the Denver Public Health and DHHA report 4.6% of this population as having COVID-19.
COVID-19 Vaccination Implications

- Denver Health is following guidance from the Colorado Department of Health and Environment (CDPHE), and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on how to get the vaccine to people who are most at-risk of getting COVID-19 and having severe disease if they do. Scheduling is limited based on the allotment of vaccines available and in concert with State of Colorado issued guidances. More appointment options will be added as DH get additional doses of vaccine. Denver Health has a website with Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) to address common questions and concerns:

Source: https://www.denverhealth.org/patients-visitors/coronavirus
Overview

Primary Data Source—Household Pulse Survey
At the onset of the coronavirus pandemic, the U.S. Census Bureau, in collaboration with multiple federal agencies, started to produce data on the social and economic effects of coronavirus on American households. The Household Pulse Survey is an interactive tool designed to deploy quickly and efficiently, collecting data to measure household experiences during the coronavirus pandemic. The data was collected in three phases—Phase I collected information starting March 2020 and concluding July 2020; Phase 2 started in mid-August 2020 and concluded in October 2020; and Phase 3 started collection during the last week of October and concluded in late December 2020.

During the collection periods, data was disseminated in near real-time to inform federal and state response and support recovery planning efforts. Data included statistics at the national and state levels and for the 15 largest Metropolitan Statistical Areas (metro areas)—including the 12 County Denver-Aurora CO Metropolitan Statistical Area. For further information about the Household Pulse Survey, access the following U.S. Census Bureau data source:


The DGKHS Community Assessment 2020 Update has benefited enormously from the interactive mapping work of Lisa Piscopo, OCA Deputy Director, City and County of Denver, and technical work of Kelsey Murphy who is responsible for developing the Measuring the Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic Interactive Tool and its scheduled updates. The interactive tool can be viewed at the following City and County website:

https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/3f58a8fffa86474b93d2be2da124dc1a

Household Pulse Survey Keywords: Coronavirus, COVID-19, employment, health, food security, food sufficiency, education, housing, interagency, mental health, unemployment, distance learning, computer access, stimulus, economic impact payment, consumer spending, disruptions.
Community Resilience

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Neighborhood</th>
<th>1-2 risk factors</th>
<th>3 or more risk factors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lincoln Park</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>51%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun Valley</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elyria Swansea</td>
<td>59%</td>
<td>41%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar Lee *</td>
<td>62%</td>
<td>39%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cole</td>
<td>63%</td>
<td>37%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skyland</td>
<td>63%</td>
<td>37%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College View</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northeast Park Hill</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Westwood</td>
<td>67%</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Montbello</td>
<td>67%</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barnum</td>
<td>71%</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cheesman Park</td>
<td>73%</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clayton</td>
<td>74%</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jefferson Park</td>
<td>74%</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lowry</td>
<td>76%</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green Valley Ranch</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Five Points</td>
<td>81%</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Congress Park</td>
<td>81%</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Community Resilience Trends

- Determining the actual combinations of risk factors identified in the Community Resilience Map can be a pro-active exercise in supporting the health and wellness profile of DGKHS neighborhoods.
- Three or more risk factors can exacerbate the possibility of COVID-19 spread in targeted neighborhoods.
- Research continues to be conducted to determine the full economic fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic. Preliminary findings note from the Pew Research Center finds that half of adults who lost jobs due to COVID-19 are still unemployed and that financial hardship is much more severe for those who lost their job. Those facing the highest rates of financial hardship include lower-income households and Black and Hispanic households.
- The HPS provides detailed questions that include employment status; reasons for not working; pay status during time not working; and, respondents who applied and didn’t receive benefits. This interactive dashboard is available for citizen review.
- In the Measuring the Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic, Household Pulse Survey, employment questions were asked about household and respondent experience of employment. The age groups in this survey most represented by Head Start families include those respondents 18 – 24 years of age; and those 25 -39 years of age. The period of time was since March 13, 2020. The percentages of those groups reporting loss of employment income during the first week of HPS were reported as: Ages 18 -24 (66%) and Ages 25 – 39 (46%).
- Head Start working parents will continue to be in the difficult position of having to choose between their health and their paychecks—which may be severely reduced because of employer and government COVID-19 edicts. Parents may be working in low paying positions in fast food, construction, retail, hospitality and grounds keeping, and other entry-level positions.
- Research, including the U.S. Census Household Pulse Survey, has documented the concern that COVID-19 community spread is a real concern and low-income and minority populations face a higher risk of dying from the virus due to structural conditions, health inequities, and a higher prevalence of preexisting health conditions such as heart disease, asthma, and diabetes.
- The DGKHS grantee and delegate agencies may be impacted by long-term unemployment of workers who have lost work due to the COVID-19 virus. These may be families who’ve lost jobs that cause their new entry to poverty. Research refers to this type of poverty as “situational”, as opposed to generational. Poverty in this situation is a fluid rather than a static condition.
Community Resilience Implications

- DGKHS sites located in either Level 2 (1 or 2 risk factors) or Level 3 (3 or more risk factors) can assess and detail organizational/program goals and strategies to support Head Start children and families residing in identified neighborhoods.
- The COVID-19 pandemic is a disruptive change that may continue to challenge neighborhoods and the City for years to come. Representatives of DGKHS leadership, management, strategic partnerships, and collaborations should consider meeting to envision positive possibilities in the new realities.
- The loss of employment in minority low-income households presents the worst economic pain of the pandemic. Workers with the least education are reported as having suffered the most often work in classifications that are the most dangerous for COVID-19 transmission. DGKHS has initiated a new initiative with the City of Denver Office of Financial Empowerment and Protection to work with DGKHS delegate agency staff and families to access resources and tools to establish personal economic stability. During the COVID-19 pandemic, this innovative project aims to address economic barriers that push low-income and economic fragile individuals and families out of Denver.
- DGKHS programs may need to continue or start providing parents with guidance provided by federal, state and local government related to community status and alerts, mask guidance, isolation and quarantine guidelines, public health orders—including cautions regarding family gatherings.
- Multigenerational households are especially at risk for transmission of the coronavirus. DGKHS Head Start family services staff will be important resources for parents in household and workplace cleaning guidelines that may protect their families before and after work.
- The entrance of newly long-term, unemployed families who may be qualified for Head Start program services presents a new dynamic in the Head Start enrollment. In previous eras of sudden situational poverty (e.g., caused by recessions, disasters, or other sudden economic changes). Head Start governance, management and family service staff may need to re-assess their current recruitment and eligibility criteria to ensure that this new population is fairly factored and considered during the COVID-19 crisis.

Education

Adults without a High School Diploma in Denver Neighborhoods

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Neighborhood</th>
<th>Adults with no diploma</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lincoln Park</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun Valley</td>
<td>41%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elyria Swansea</td>
<td>41%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar Lee *</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cole</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skyland</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College View</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northeast Park Hill</td>
<td>15%; 20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Westwood</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Montbello</td>
<td>36%; 41%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barnum</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cheesman Park</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clayton</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jefferson Park</td>
<td>13%; 11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lowry</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green Valley Ranch</td>
<td>23%; 10%; 14%; 23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Five Points</td>
<td>9%; 10%; 5%; 5%; 6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Congress Park</td>
<td>3%; 0; 3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 11 Adults Without a High School Diploma

Adults with a high school diploma generally report better life outcomes for themselves and their children. In addition to earning more money, high school graduates tend to live longer and are less likely to fall into poverty or rely on public assistance. Source: Measuring the Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.
Education Trends

- Measuring the Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic (Household Pulse Survey) maintained by the City and County of Denver reports that the median earnings for adults over the age of 25 increases substantially with higher levels of educational attainment. In Denver, the lowest earnings are $29,312 for adults without a high school diploma. The greatest earnings are reported for adults with the highest levels of education, earning an average of $68,181 per year.

- Accordingly, the report also states, “As opportunities for college graduates have grown in recent decades, prospects for young adults without postsecondary credentials have steadily worsened. With few chances at well-paying jobs, millions give up on school and withdraw from the labor force, often leading to long-term disconnection and life-long disadvantages.” (Household Pulse Study)

- Sun Valley, Elyria Swansea, and areas of Montbello report the highest percentage (45%) of adults without high school diplomas. Additional areas within Montbello also report high levels (36%); as does the Lincoln Park neighborhood (35%); Mar Lee (35%); Barnum (33%); Westwood (33%); and, Clayton (32%). Smaller percentages are reported in areas of Cole (24%); sections of Green Valley Ranch (a range of 23% to 10%); College View (22%); and Northeast Park Hill (a range of 20% to 15%); with all other neighborhoods including Jefferson Park, Five Points, Congress Park, and Cheesman Park reporting less than 15%.

- Nationally, the poverty rate has surged over the past five months of COVID-19, with an estimate 7.8 million Americans falling into poverty. Since June 2020, poverty has risen the most for Black Americans (up 3.1 percentage points, or 1.4 million people) and for Americans of any race with high school degrees or less (up 5.1 percentage points, or 5.2 million people). These workers have experienced the largest job losses during this new recession.

- Workers in low-wage occupations who frequently do not possess a high school diploma include waiters and waitresses; fast food and counter workers; cashiers; personal health care aides; maids and housekeeping staff; cooks; janitors and cleaners; laborers; landscaping and grounds keeping workers; and general maintenance and repair workers. These workers are considered to be “essential” and nearly 55% of low-wage workers are estimated to be women who are often dependent upon having reliable childcare services. They are considered at very high risk of coronavirus infection because their jobs are critical and require them to be in regular contact with the public.

Education--Households without a Computer/Internet Access in Denver Neighborhoods

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Neighborhood</th>
<th>Percentage (n=)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lincoln Park</td>
<td>5.7% (n=210)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun Valley</td>
<td>4.6% (n=139)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elyria Swansea</td>
<td>11.6% (n=754)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar Lee *</td>
<td>4% (n=354)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cole</td>
<td>7.2% (n=493)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skyland</td>
<td>3.9% (n=167)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College View</td>
<td>2.7% (n=255)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northeast Park Hill</td>
<td>9.9% (n=728); 7.3% (n=472)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Wood</td>
<td>6% (n=289); 4.8% (n=186); .3% (n=62); 1.5% (n=157)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Montbello</td>
<td>10% (n=480); 13.7% (n=673); 11.8% (n=940); 5% (n=579)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barnum</td>
<td>5.4% (n=343)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cheesman Park</td>
<td>1.4% (n=175); .7% (n=33)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clayton</td>
<td>7.2% (n=450)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jefferson Park</td>
<td>6.9% (n=468)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lowry</td>
<td>3.5% (n=347)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green Valley Ranch</td>
<td>1.2% (n=110); 5% (n=34); 3% (n=304); 6.7% (n=532)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Five Points</td>
<td>2.1% (n=338); 3.3% (n=293); 8.7% (n=326); 8.1% (n=306)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Congress Park</td>
<td>3.6% (n=114); 1.2% (n=135)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 12 Computer and Internet Access

“One month ago, a photo of two children doing their homework outside of a Taco Bell, just to get access to the internet, made rounds across social media. The photo and other reports about the lack of Internet access have shed light on a glaring inequity in our country. As we move forward in the digital age, WiFi and technology are not luxuries anymore. These necessary tools must be included when we discuss technology and education funding.”

— Barbara Ehrenreich, Nickel and Dimed: On (Not) Getting by in America
Housing

“The home is the center of life. It is a refuge from the grind of work, the pressure of school, and the menace of the streets. We say that at home, we can ‘be ourselves’.

Everywhere else we are someone else. At home, we remove our masks.”

Matthew Desmond

A stable, safe home is such an important part of the early childhood experience. Even in “good” years, thousands of low-income parents come home to find a notice on the door that throws their lives—and the lives of the children—in turmoil. In 2020, the year of the Great Pandemic, rental housing, a common source of housing for Head Start eligible families is hanging on a thin thread of support through state and federal eviction moratoria. Governor Jared Polis has issued and re-issued several extensions on eviction during the pandemic; however, the last state edict will lapse December 31, 2020. During the development of the DGKHS Community Assessment Update, the federal government eviction order was extended to January 31, 2021—but the state has not matched at the date of this report its last order.

In Figures 14 and Table xxx, DGKHS planners and policy makers can view the city’s total number of houses (Esri)), rental properties, vacancies, and the average cost of houses in neighborhoods with Head Start services.

Housing Data Trends

- The total number of housing in each neighborhood varies with Sun Valley (475) reporting the smallest number of present housing and Five Points reporting the greatest number of housing units (21,551).
- All occupied housing units which are not owner-occupied, whether they are rented or occupied without payment of rent, are classified as renter-occupied. “No rent paid” units are separately identified in the rent tabulations.
- According to the American Housing Survey, conducted by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and the U.S. Census Bureau, the question on vacancy status includes the categories ‘rented, not yet occupied’ and ‘sold, not yet occupied’, which is used in the computation of the rental and homeowner vacancy rates.
- In certain neighborhoods, several census tracts are reported. When this occurs, the average home value is presented as a range from lowest value to the highest value.
- The range in housing value varies within Denver city neighborhoods—the highest valued housing occurs in sections of Five Points ($672,748) and Cheesman Park ($637,562).
- The lowest housing value occurs in parts of Montbello ($156,868), Westwood ($156,878), Elyria Swansea ($204,236), and Mar Lee ($207,411).
- According to RentCafe, an online tool for renters, the average size for a Denver, CO apartment is 843 square feet, but this number varies greatly depending on unit type, with cheap and luxury alternatives for houses and apartments alike. Studio
Housing and Evictions Data Implications

- The governor's office has extended several regulatory deadlines to continue to use funds under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act of 2020 or CARES Act and other state resources to support families when the state moratorium expires. Landlords can still begin eviction proceedings for renters and tenants after December 31, 2020. Head Start agencies should continue monitoring the ongoing needs of families in keeping up with their bills to stay in their homes.

- According to the Household Pulse Survey, many tenants, like Head Start eligible families, have relied on federal and state income supplements, dipped into savings, used credit cards or other loans, and received help from family and friends trying to avoid eviction. Many have moved in with family and friends or left units before facing that possibility. Mental Health stressors due to fear of eviction or potential homelessness are likely outcomes of the current housing crisis.

- Eviction throws lives in turmoil—according to Floyd Jones, Legal Administrator at Colorado Legal Services, eviction is a “scarlet letter” that brands individuals forever. In the throes of a pandemic an eviction can lead to homelessness and leave individuals and households “marked forever by the ruinous word “eviction” on credit records that limit future ability to obtain safe roofs over their heads. DGKHS grantee and delegate agencies should invite the Colorado Special Eviction Prevention Task Force to speak about the Task Force’s 14 ideas to improve housing instability challenges in Colorado and the City and County of Denver.

- It is highly possible that Denver may experience an exodus of Head Start eligible children and families even as the virus transmissibility wanes. Loss of small neighborhood and low-wage employers may force families to move to more affordable housing areas. Gentrification—the privatization of the housing market will also play a role in changing the economic diversity within the City and County of Denver. Metropolitical research has shown low-income families will typically move to the nearest outward ring of their previous address to stay close to “home”. This migration may include moving to borderline areas, such as Adams, Arapahoe and Jefferson County.

- The Household Pulse Survey indicates that many Denverites—especially those with limited or no income are severely cost burdened, yet still make rent by cutting back on other household expenses and/or relying on help from friends and family for short-term or long-term support. DGKHS collaborates with the
As the nation responds to the COVID-19 pandemic, policy makers, community residents, and leaders from all sectors are being called upon to deal with multiple needs in their communities. In addition to the health consequences of the pandemic, the economic impacts have exacerbated and further exposed gaps in meeting basic needs, including housing, transportation, and education—all of which impact overall health and well-being. Children and communities of color are among those at greatest risk from gaps that have existed for generations but are deepened by the pandemic.

**Caring for Kids in the COVID-19 Era**

**COVID-19 Health Trends**

- According to the Denver Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR), (March – October 2020) during the first seven months of the COVID-19 epidemic in Denver, the majority of adult COVID-19 cases (54.8%), hospitalizations (62.1%) and deaths (51.3%) were among persons identifying as Hispanic, more than double the proportion of Hispanic adults in the Denver community (29.3%).
- The data from the Denver MMWR shows that Hispanic persons in Denver disproportionately work in essential industries such as agriculture, construction, health care, food services, and waste management where workers might continue working while ill because of economic concerns or lack of paid medical leave.
- In Denver, Black residents make up roughly 6.8 percent of deaths and 10 percent of hospitalizations despite being 9.5 percent of the population. According to national research, oftentimes, Black communities live in these large multi-unit residential buildings that are closely confined, dense areas. These environments include a lot of neighbors coming in and out of these large buildings that could increase their exposure to COVID-19.
- According to Harvard Public Health researcher, Dr. Jose Figueroa, a second cause of transmission of the virus within Black populations, is that this segment of the population tends to use public transportation at much higher rates than other people. Figueroa further introduced another known health disparity concern—there’s a disproportionate number of Black Americans in certain facilities including prisons and nursing homes.
- COVID-19 outcomes by age group indicate two determinants relevant to Head Start—first, the population of young people between 20-29 are most likely to contract the virus, and secondly, the population under the age of nine have a lower likelihood of contracting the virus (4.6% of COVID-19 cases in Denver). According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), there is limited evidence about which underlying medical conditions in children might increase the risk for severe illness. Similar to adults, children with obesity, diabetes, asthma or chronic lung disease, sickle cell disease, or immunosuppression might also be at increased risk for severe illness from COVID-19.
- Children under the age of nine are 10.7% of the total Denver population; the Denver Public Health and DHHA report 4.6% of this population as having COVID-19.
- According to the Annie E. Casey Foundation (AECF) 2020 Kids Count Policy Report, adults with children in the household reported concerns during the COVID-19 pandemic. The survey was drawn from the U.S. Census Bureau’s Household Pulse Survey (HPS) and was conducted between the Spring and Fall of 2020. AECF’s State of Colorado reported 19% of all households being down, depressed or hopeless.
- The City and County of Denver’s HPS report Spring 2020 on Health/Mental Health can be filtered to households making less than $25,000. Interesting, during the periods between May 28th and July 14, respondents reported weekly escalating stress levels (unable to stop or control worrying more than half or nearly every day) that ranged from 35% to 52%. Additionally, during the same time periods, respondents also reported high stress levels related to feeling “nervous, anxious, or on edge” (range 38% to 60%).
- May 28th a date within that range, is an important marker because it was the day of the death of George Floyd at the hands of a police officer in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Denver protests and marches were active during this same six-week time period.
- Week eleven of the Household Pulse Survey reported that households making less than $25,000 encountered the greatest levels of despondency during the week of July.
- According to Hunger Free Colorado, a statewide nonprofit, hunger remains a top concern for almost 1 in 5 Colorado households. Though food insecurity rates have remained steady since a July 2020 survey, Colorado is seeing some reduction in child hunger.
• Of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) recipients in Colorado, almost 3 in 4 (69%) live with children, more than 1 in 4 (30%) live with an elderly or disabled resident, and almost half (43%) are members of working families.

• The Denver Post reported during the 2020 holiday season that the number of people being served by food banks and food pantries in Colorado swelled as the COVID-19 pandemic spiked during the holiday season.

• Local food banks and pantries were forced to make adjustments to their operational models as the COVID-19 virus continued to spread throughout Denver’s neighborhoods. Food banks and pantries traditionally receive donations from restaurants, a way to minimize waste—many neighborhood and large chain restaurants either closed or were operating on much smaller operating budgets.

• The Food Bank of the Rockies reported increases in monthly food operations that spiked up 59% to 80% more than last year. Since COVID-19 emerged, the Food Bank of the Rockies has been distributing more than 2 million pounds of food weekly across Colorado and Wyoming. More than 30% of the people now served report that they had never been assisted before.
Figure 14 - Population: United States, State of Colorado, City of Denver Source

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>United States</th>
<th>Colorado</th>
<th>Denver</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number</td>
<td>Percent</td>
<td>Number</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>328,739,513</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White Alone, Not Hispanic or Latino</td>
<td>1,666,780,421</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black or African American alone</td>
<td>41,369,571</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Indian and Alaska Native alone</td>
<td>2,447,316</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian alone</td>
<td>18,636,944</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Pacific Islander alone</td>
<td>628,083</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic or Latino</td>
<td>60,481,746</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two or more races</td>
<td>11,106,805</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 15 - City of Denver Population Growth Over Time Source

Figure 16 - Total Population Trends in Denver


Figure 17 - Population Over the Age of Eighteen: City of Denver Source


Figure 18 - City of Denver: Total Population of Children Under the Age of Five Source


Figure 19 - Children Under Age 5 In Poverty Denver’s Population Trends

Figure 25 - Population Children of Families Speaking a Language Other Than English

Figure 26 - Uninsured Children

Figure 27 - Medicaid

Figure 28 - City of Denver: Population Children of Immigrant Families

Figure 29 - Map of Children Living in Immigrant Family Households


Source: U.S. Census Bureau. (n.d.). American Community Survey 2019: ACS 5-Year Estimates Subject Tables, TableID: S2702

Source: Kids Count Data Center: Children from birth to 18 enrolled in Medicaid in Denver.

Source: Kids Count Data Center: Children In Immigrant families in Colorado.
Figure 30 - Age of Own Children Under 6 Years in Families and Subfamilies by Living Arrangements


Figure 31 - Employment Status of Grandparents Living with Own Grandchildren Under 18 Years

In Labor Force


Figure 32 - Not in Labor Force

Source: Denver Post

Figure 33 - Denver Crime Rate 2020:

This is the crime rate in Denver Colorado in 2020: 4.7 violent crimes per 1,000 residents. Other crime rates follow:

- Denver’s robberies rate is 6.5 crimes while burglaries rate is 5.0 crimes per 1,000 residents.
- Denver’s property crime rate is 31.1 crimes per 1,000 residents.
- Denver’s domestic violence rate is 1.9 crimes while sex assault rate is 0.4 crimes per 1,000 residents.
- Denver’s car thefts rate is 7.1 crimes per 1,000 residents while bike thefts rate is 2.0 crimes per 1,000 residents.

Source: Denver Post
Data on Social Services and Child Welfare Denver County

The mission of Colorado Department of Human Services is to design and deliver high quality human and health services that improve the safety, independence, and wellbeing of the people of Colorado. The Office of Children, Youth and Families, collects social services and child welfare data throughout the State of Colorado—including the City and County of Denver. The following information summarizes data collected at specific time periods within 2019 or 2020. Data was filtered by two age groups served by the Early Head Start and Head Start community: 0 to 2 years of age; and 3 to 5 year olds. An additional filter, ethnicity, captured reports under the top three ethnic groups: White, Black, and Hispanic children. The income level of reported families was not a filter option; therefore the children represented in this section cannot necessarily represent low-income, Head Start eligible children. Source: https://rom.socwel.ku.edu/CO_Public/Custom.aspx?page=ReportMenu

Child Population in Out-of-Home Placement by Type of Foster Care Placement

The last reported time period in this category was July 1, 2020 to September 30, 2020.

Infant and Toddler Foster Care Placement:

- Within the 0 to 2 age group, 233, or 99.1% of infants and toddlers were placed in “family-like” settings, or foster homes: 31 or 13.2% were in paid kinship care arrangements; 107 or 45.5% were in non-paid kinship care; 48 or 20.4% were in county sponsored foster care; and, 47 or 20% of infants and toddlers were in child placement agency foster care.

When filtered by the top three highest reported ethnicities:

- Black infants and toddlers (46) were most likely to be placed in non-paid, kinship foster care (27 children, or 58.7%); or, county foster placement (8 children, 17.4%); followed by child placement agency foster care placement (6 children, 13%); and, 47 or 20% of infants and toddlers were in child placement agency foster care.

- White infants and toddlers (62) were most likely to be placed in non-paid, kinship foster care placement (27 children, or 43.5%); or, county foster placement (17 children, 27.4%); followed by child placement agency foster care placement (6 children, 13%); and, 47 or 20% of infants and toddlers were in child placement agency foster care.

- Hispanic infants and toddlers (51) were most likely to be placed in non-paid, kinship foster care (27 children, or 52.9%); or, county foster placement (17 children, 33.3%); followed by child placement agency foster care placement (6 children, 13%); and, 47 or 20% of infants and toddlers were in child placement agency foster care.

Preschool Aged Foster Care Placement:

- Within the 3 to 5 age group, 90, or 92.8% of preschool aged children were placed in “family-like” settings, or foster homes: 35 or 36.1% were in non-paid kinship care arrangements; 20 or 20.6% of preschoolers were in child placement agency foster care; 19.6% or 19 preschoolers were in county foster care; and, 16.5%, or 16 children were in kinship paid arrangements. Another 5.1% or 5 children were in placements described as “Other” or “Runaway/Walkaway” placements.

When filtered by the top three highest reported ethnicities:

- Black preschoolers represent 90.5% of all out-of-home placements in a family-like setting. Of these, 6 children were most likely to be placed in non-paid, kinship foster care, or, child placement foster care (6 children, or 28.6%, respectively); followed by county foster placement (5 children, or 23.8%). Two children were classified as being paid kinship care placements (9.5%).

- White preschool children represent 86.4% of all out-of-home placements in a family-like setting. Of these children, 19 or 36.4% are reported as being in a child foster placement agency; 27% of children were placed in either non-paid kinship care (5) or paid kinship arrangements (5); and, 1 child was placed in a paid kinship care arrangement (4.5%). Two children (9.1%) were reported to be in “other” arrangements.

- Hispanic preschool children (42) represented 95.5% of all out-of-home placements. Of these 42 children, 21, or 47.7% are living in non-paid kinship homes; 10 preschoolers, or 22.7% live in paid kinship homes; 7, or 15.9% are in county foster care placements; and, 4, or 9.1% are in child placement agencies.

Data on Social Services and Child Welfare | Denver County

Reported Child Abuse or Neglect. The number and percentage of children who have been referred to the Office of Children, Youth, and Families during the report time period, January 2020 to September 2020.

- The total number of infants and toddlers (birth to two) assessed by Child Welfare during this time period was 1065. Of these, 508, or 47.7% are deemed to be substantiated; and, 548 cases (51.5%) were ruled unsubstantiated.
When filtered by the top three highest reported ethnicities:

- Within Black families, a total number of 268 cases were reviewed. Of these cases, 122 or 45.5% of child abuse or neglect reports were substantiated; and, 53% were ruled unsubstantiated.
- Within White families, a total number of 194 infant/toddler cases were reviewed. Of these cases, 85 or 43.8% of child abuse or neglect reports were substantiated; and, 105, or 54.1% or were ruled unsubstantiated.
- Within Hispanic families, a total number of 466 infant/toddler cases were reviewed. Of these cases, 237 or 50.9% of child abuse or neglect reports were substantiated; and, 228 or 48.9% were ruled unsubstantiated.

The total number of preschoolers (three to five years of age) assessed by Child Welfare during this time period was 823. Of these, 347, or 42.2% are deemed to be substantiated; and, 465 cases (56.5%) were ruled unsubstantiated.

Recurrence of Maltreatment. The following represents the number and percent of infants and toddlers who experienced repeat maltreatment within twelve months of substantiated report of abuse or neglect between January 1, 2020 and September 30, 2020.

- With Black families, the total number of infants/toddlers with a substantiated incident of maltreatment during the January 1, 2020 to September 30, 2020 was 342. Of this total number, 267 cases (78.1%) were classified as being no repeat; and, 75 cases (21.9%) were reported as recurring cases of maltreatment.
- With White families, the total number of infants/toddlers with a substantiated incident of maltreatment during the January 1, 2020 to September 30, 2020 was 274. Of this total number, 260 cases (94.9%) were classified as being no repeat; and, 14 cases (5.1%) were reported as recurring cases of maltreatment.
- With Hispanic families, the total number of infants/toddlers with a substantiated incident of maltreatment during the January 1, 2020 to September 30, 2020 was 619. Of this total number, 524 cases (84.7%) were classified as being no repeat; and, 95 cases (15.3%) were reported as recurring cases of maltreatment.

The total number of children with a substantiated incident of maltreatment in the preschool group (3 – 5 year old) during the January 1, 2020 to September 30, 2020 was 938. Of this total number, 847 cases (90.5%) were classified as being no repeat; and, 89 cases (9.5%) were reported as recurring cases of maltreatment. When filtered by the top three highest reported ethnicities:

- With Black families, the total number of preschoolers with a substantiated incident of maltreatment during the January 1, 2020 to September 30, 2020 was 201. Of this total number, 181 cases (90%) were classified as being no repeat; and, 20 cases (10%) were reported as recurring cases of maltreatment.
- With White families, the total number of preschoolers with a substantiated incident of maltreatment during the January 1, 2020 to September 30, 2020 was 178. Of this total number, 166 cases (93.3%) were classified as being no repeat; and, 12 cases (6.7%) were reported as recurring cases of maltreatment.
- With Hispanic families, the total number of preschoolers with a substantiated incident of maltreatment during the January 1, 2020 to September 30, 2020 was 463. Of this total number, 414 cases (89.4%) were classified as being no repeat; and, 49 cases (10.6%) were reported as recurring cases of maltreatment.
Community assessment data about children with disabilities must identify the types of disabilities, relevant services, and resources provided to these children by community agencies (45 CFR §1302.11(b)(1)(i)(C)). Denver Public Schools (DPS) reports the following information regarding the number of preschool age children with disabilities:

2019-20; 10,937 preschoolers with Individualized Education Program (IEP) goals in DPS

2020-21; 10,970 preschoolers with Individualized Education Program (IEP) goals in DPS

In keeping with Head Start requirements, all DGKHS Delegate Agency programs develop and implement an informed and coordinated program-wide management approach to supporting the school readiness of children with disabilities (at a minimum 10% of the agency’s enrollment) in order to ensure that all children receive the appropriate supports and services they need to succeed. Children who have delays significant enough to interfere with school success but who are not eligible for IDEA services are also prioritized for recruitment and enrollment. DGKHS provides a variety of opportunities for parents of children with disabilities to build their skills as advocates. DGKHS has a Memorandum of Understanding with Denver Public Schools for services to children with disabilities that articulates roles and responsibilities and areas for collaboration and resource sharing for eight years.
Figure 36 - 2020 Program Information Report (PIR) Grantee Data
Health Insurance

Source: Vital Statistics Program, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

Figure 37 - 2020 Program Information Report (PIR) Grantee Data
Health

Source: Vital Statistics Program, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
Figure 38 - 2020 Program Information Report (PIR) Grantee Data

Numbers of children who have been determined by a health care professional to be up-to-date on all immunizations appropriate for their age is 1,076 or 74%

- Anemia: 19
- Asthma: 30
- Hearing Difficulty: 38
- Vision Problem: 74
- High Blood Levels: 2
- Diabetes: 0

Figure 39 - 2020 Program Information Report (PIR) Grantee Data

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of children who are up-to-date on a schedule of age-appropriate preventive and primary health care, according to the relevant state’s PEPFAR schedule for well child care</td>
<td>1037</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Of those, the number diagnosed by a health care professional with a chronic condition needing medical treatment since last year’s PIR was reported.</td>
<td>231</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Of those, the number who have received or are receiving medical treatment</td>
<td>205</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of all children who are in the following weight categories according to the 2000 CDC BMI-for-age growth charts.</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Underweight (BMI less than 5th percentile for child’s age and sex)</td>
<td>282</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Healthy Weight (at or above 5th percentile and below 85th percentile for child’s age and sex)</td>
<td>753</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overweight (BMI at or above 85th percentile and below 95th percentile for child’s age and sex)</td>
<td>149</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Obese (BMI at or above 95th percentile for child’s age and sex)</td>
<td>393</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of children who were referred by the program for mental health services outside of Head Start since last year’s PIR was reported.</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Of those, the number who received mental health services since last year’s PIR was reported.</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of children enrolled in the program who have an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) indicating they have been determined eligible by the LEA to receive Special Education and related services.</td>
<td>186</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Figure 40 - 2020 Program Information Report (PIR) Grantee Data

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total number of families</td>
<td>1277</td>
<td>93%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Of those, the number of two-parent families</td>
<td>517</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Of those, the number of single-parent families</td>
<td>760</td>
<td>58%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Of the number of two-parent families, the number of families in which</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Both parent/guardians are employed</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One parent/guardian is employed</td>
<td>298</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Both parents are not working (e.g. unemployed, retired, or disabled)</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Of the number of single-parent families, the number of families in which</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The parent/guardian is employed</td>
<td>343</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The parent/guardian is not working (e.g. unemployed, retired, or disabled)</td>
<td>343</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The number of families in which</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Number of families in a member of the United States military on active duty | 5 | 0% |
| Number of families in a veteran of the United States military             | 5 | 0% |

| Total number of families receiving any cash benefits or other services under the Federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program. | 177 | 12% |
| Total number of families receiving Supplemental Security Income (SSI).   | 42   | 3%  |
| Total number of families receiving services under the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC). | 456  | 33% |

| Number of families receiving services under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly referred to as Food Stamps | 524  | 36%  |
| Of the number of two-parent families, the number of families in which     | 0    | 0%   |
| Both parent/guardians are in job training or school                       | 18   | 1%   |
| One parent/guardian is in job training or school                         | 159  | 11%  |

| The parent/guardian is not in job training or school                      | 627  | 47%  |
| Of the total number of families, the highest level of education obtained by the child’s parent(s)/guardian(s). | 0    | 0%   |
| An advanced degree or baccalaureate degree                               | 115  | 8%   |
| An associate degree, vocational school, or some college                  | 278  | 20%  |
| A high school graduate or GED                                            | 500  | 36%  |
| Less than high school graduate                                           | 300  | 21%  |

| Number of Strengths and Needs Assessments completed with families.        | 1159  | 80%  |
| Number of TFA’s in progress                                               | 418   | 32%  |
| Number of TFA’s completed                                                 | 724   | 50%  |
| Number of TFA’s declined by families                                      | 62    | 4%   |
| Number of Teacher Home Visits completed                                   | 1748  | 123% |
| Number of flavoring and Vision Screen completed                           | 1330  | 91%  |

**Citations, References and Resources**

- Measuring the Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic: [https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/3f58a8fdfa86474b93d2be2da124dc1a](https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/3f58a8fdfa86474b93d2be2da124dc1a)
- Denver COVID-19 Data Summary: [https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/50d0b677eb6495927b172d8df60b0a](https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/50d0b677eb6495927b172d8df60b0a)

- Nearly 8 million Americans have fallen into poverty since the summer: [https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/2020/12/16/poverty-rising/](https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/2020/12/16/poverty-rising/)
- Shoplifting has increased during pandemic: [https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/2020/12/10/pandemic-shoplifting-hunger/](https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/2020/12/10/pandemic-shoplifting-hunger/)


Colorado | National Low Income Housing Coalition. https://nlihc.org/housing-needs-by-state/colorado

Colorado Special Eviction Prevention Task Force Report. https://drive.google.com/file/d/1CobjEeoBb8FB8d8w3KNE5-TY_1G05RKq5E/view


Colorado coronavirus tracker: How many new cases are being reported: https://www.denverpost.com/2020/03/06/coronavirus-map-colorado

Reopening America: Low-wage workers have suffered badly from COVID. https://www.brookings.edu/research/reopening-america-low-wage-workers-have-suffered-badly-from-covid-19-so-policymakers-should-focus-on-equity/


By the Numbers: Dropping Out of High School: https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/frontline/article/by-the-numbers-dropping-out-of-high-school/


Inside the program helping students without college degrees secure jobs. https://www.nbcnews.com/now/video/inside-the-program-helping-students-without-college-degrees-secure-jobs-in-tech-98684997661

By 2020, They Said, 2 out of 3 Jobs would Need More than a High School Education. https://www.chronicle.com/newsletter/the-edge


Food insecurity on the rise as COVID-19 cases surge and economy sputters.


Tracking the reach of COVID-19 kin loss with a bereavement multiplier https://www.pnas.org/content/117/30/17695

The Denver Great Kids Head Start Community Assessment can be downloaded from the Office of Children's Affairs website:

www.denvergov.org/childrensaffairs

This report was prepared by:

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