

The Status of Children

2012



in Boulder County

The Status of Children in Boulder County has been published annually since 1995. The report summarizes quantitative indicators of the well-being of children and youth, tracks changes in those indicators over time, and identifies trends that are encouraging and those that are areas of concern. The report is produced by the Boulder County Movement for Children, an affiliate of the YWCA of Boulder County that seeks to stimulate awareness of and involvement in children's issues.

One of the primary goals of **The Status of Children** is to help inform public policy discussions and decisions that will ultimately improve the lives of our children. Trends in a wide range of topics as they relate to children are reported, including a number of issues identified by local initiatives as focus areas for improving the general health and well-being of our community: poverty and homelessness, access to high-quality, affordable child care, the educational achievement gap, obesity, mental health, substance abuse, and teen births.

The data were compiled from local, state, and federal agencies. Where possible, the indicators for Boulder County were compared to statewide indicators and to the goals identified by Healthy People 2020, a cooperative effort among government and non-government agencies that identified a wide range of public health priorities and goals for the nation.

In addition to the hard copy, this year's report can be accessed electronically on the following websites:

Boulder County Community Services:

- www.BoulderCountyCommunityServices.org

Boulder County Public Health:

- www.BoulderCountyHealth.org

YWCA of Boulder County:

- www.ywca.org

The reference document containing the statistical tables on which this report was based is available from Stephanie Greenberg (303-499-1404, research@swgreenberg.com).

Basic Facts

There are an estimated 62,695 children below age 18 in Boulder County in 2012, 20.8% of the county's total population. This represents a 6.6% decrease since 2000, when the population under age 18 was 66,837. During the same time period, Colorado's population under age 18 increased by 13.6% and represents 24.1% of the total population. Since 2001, the county's child population has changed by about 1% or less from year to year.

Of the county's children below age 18 in 2012:

- An estimated 19,286 are below age 6 (a decrease of 8.7% over 2000; statewide increase is 17.0%).
- 21,875 are ages 6 to 11 (a 5.3% decrease from 2000; statewide increase is 13.9%).
- 21,534 are ages 12 to 17 (a 4.8% decrease from 2000; statewide increase is 9.9%).

In 2022, the county's population below age 18 is projected to be 65,022, an increase of 3.7% (2,327 children) over 2012.

Between 2000 and 2011, the number of Hispanic children in Boulder County increased from 16.1% of the total population under age 18 to 23.6% (a 36% increase). During the same time period, white non-Hispanic children decreased from 76.8% to 67.2% (a 19% decrease).

Longmont experienced the highest growth in children in absolute numbers (2,774) between 2000 and 2010, and Superior experienced the highest percentage growth (48.4%). Louisville had the greatest decrease in children both in absolute numbers (963) and percentage (17.7%). (More recent counts are not available at this time.)

Population Under Age 18 in Boulder County Cities, 2000 and 2010

	2000	2010	% change 2000-2010
Boulder	14,042	13,527	-3.7%
Lafayette	6,374	6,223	-2.4%
Longmont	19,823	22,597	14.0%
Louisville	5,439	4,476	-17.7%
Superior	2,653	3,936	48.4%

TRENDS

ENCOURAGING. A number of trends in Boulder County are encouraging:

Economic Well-Being

- After increasing for two years, Boulder County's **child poverty rate** decreased in 2011.
 - The percentage of the county's **children under age 18** living in poverty decreased from a high point since 2000 of 16.3% in 2010 to 12.4% in 2011 and was lower than the statewide rate of 17.9%.
 - Among **children under age 5**, the percentage below poverty decreased from 18.2% in 2010 to 12.7% in 2011. The poverty rate for **children aged 5 to 17** also decreased, from 15.7% to 12.3%.
- The **total population poverty rate**, 14.1%, remained about the same as in 2010, when it was 14.7%.

Health

- An estimated 92.1% of the county's children under age 18 had **health insurance** in 2011, 98% had a **personal health care provider**, and more than 90% received **health or dental care when needed** in the past year.
- Both the number and rate of **teen births** in Boulder County continued to decline in 2011. For teen women aged 15 to 17 and 18 to 19, the numbers and rates were the lowest since before 1990 and were also substantially lower than statewide rates, which have also decreased.
- Boulder County's 2011 rate of **hospitalizations due to injuries** among youth aged 15 to 19 was the lowest this decade and substantially lower than the statewide rate. The rate of hospitalizations due to **motor vehicle injuries** was also lower than the 10-year average.
- The decline in the county's **death rate among teens aged 15 to 19** that began in 2006 continued in 2011. The 2011 rate was less than half the average annual rate between 2000 and 2005 and less than half the statewide rate
- The **Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS)** of the county's high school students showed decreases between 2003 and 2011 in the percentage that used tobacco or alcohol or engaged in binge drinking in the past month and in the percentage that smoked, drank, or used marijuana before age 13.

Child Care

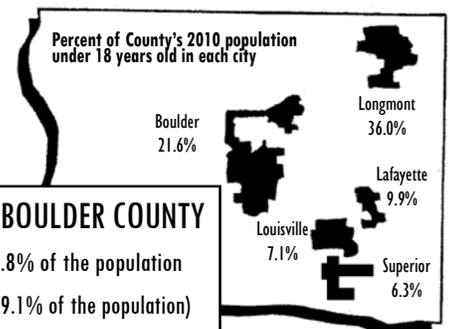
- In an effort to help families achieve financial self-sufficiency, Boulder County increased income eligibility for **Colorado Child Care Assistance Program (CCCAP)** from 185% of poverty to 225% in 2012.
- In 2012, children under age 6 were **expelled** from Boulder County licensed child care providers due to challenging behaviors at a rate of 1.9 per 1,000 enrolled children, less than half the rate in 2009, when it was 4.5 per 1,000. However, even this lower rate was more than three times higher than the expulsion rate of K-12 students in the county's public schools.

Education

- The BVSD **school dropout rate** in the 2010-11 school year, 0.4%, was the lowest since before 1990-91. St. Vrain Valley's rate, 0.8%, was the same as in the previous year, and both rates were the lowest since before 1990-91.

Safety/Protection

- Rates of both **substantiated child maltreatment** and **out-of-home placements** continued to decline in Boulder County in 2011 and were below statewide rates.
- **No automobile fatalities** involving children/youth under age 20 occurred in Boulder County in 2011.



CHILDREN UNDER 18 IN BOULDER COUNTY

2012 62,695 children make up 20.8% of the population
 2022 (projected) 65,022 children (19.1% of the population)

TRENDS

CONCERNS.

There are other trends about which our community should be concerned:

Economic Well-Being

- The decrease in the **child poverty rate** was not equally distributed among all children in the county. More than four in 10 (41.9%) of the county's **Hispanic children** under age 18 were below poverty in 2011, compared to 3.4% of **white non-Hispanic children**.
- Nearly one-third (32.7%) of St. Vrain Valley students were eligible for **free/reduced lunch** in October 2011, as were nearly 1 in 5 (18.8%) BVSD students.
- Nearly two-thirds of the 1,971 **homeless people** surveyed in Boulder County on the night of January 23, 2012 were in households with children under 18 years old. Almost 1,800 **homeless school children** were served through the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act in the county's two school districts in the 2010-11 school year.

Health

- In 2010, an estimated 26.3% of Boulder County children from birth through age 18 who were **eligible for either Medicaid or CHP+** were not enrolled in those programs, an estimated 4,745 children.
- There was a substantial gap in 2011 in **health insurance** coverage between Hispanic children and white non-Hispanic children aged 6 to 17, with 74.7% of the former having health insurance compared to 95.7% of the latter.
- There were also substantial gaps between white non-Hispanic women and Hispanic women in **timing of prenatal care** and **percentage of the county's teen births**.
- **Teen women aged 15 to 17** were less likely to receive early and adequate prenatal care than were older women.
- In 2011, as has been true in most years since 2002, two-thirds of the county's births to women aged 15 to 17 were in **Longmont**.
- In 2011, 28.8% of the county's WIC-enrolled children aged 2 to 5 were **overweight or obese**, compared to 24.2% of WIC-enrolled children statewide. The county's rates have been higher than statewide rates every year since 2006.
- Among the county's general population of children aged 2 to 14, 16.6% were **overweight or obese** in 2010-11.

- In 2011, hospitalizations due to **suicide/intentional self-harm** accounted for 31.0% of all injury hospitalizations among teens aged 15 to 19, compared to 12.1% in 2000.
- Between 2009 and 2011, 40% of all county **deaths among teens aged 15 to 19** were caused by suicide, compared to one-quarter between 2001 and 2008.
- Results of the 2011 **Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS)** of BVSD middle students and county high school students showed that more than 4 in 10 middle school students had been bullied at school, as had more than 1 in 4 high school students. One in 5 high school students intentionally self-harmed and 1 in 4 reported signs of depression, rates that have not changed since the countywide YRBS was first conducted in 2003.

Child Care

- In 2012, the **average hourly wage of child care center staff** in Boulder County ranged from \$21.00 for Directors to \$9.96 for Staff Aides. The Colorado minimum wage is currently \$7.64 an hour.
- Only 5.2% of licensed child care centers and 1.5% of licensed child care homes in Boulder County were **accredited** in 2012, continuing the trend from previous years.

Education

- In 2012, the gap in **education outcomes** between white non-Hispanic and Hispanic students and between low-income and higher-income students continued in both county school districts, in TCAP scores, TCAP median growth percentiles (to a lesser degree), school dropout rates, and high school graduation rates.

All Children Under Age 18

Economic Well-Being

The 2011 Federal Poverty Level, used to determine eligibility for Food Stamps, free and reduced price school lunches, Head Start, and other programs, was \$22,350 annually for a family of four. **Economic self-sufficiency**, the income needed for a household to meet basic expenses without public or private assistance, for a family of two adults and two children younger than teenagers in Boulder County has been estimated to range from \$67,924 to \$74,694, depending on the children's ages, at least three times higher than the federal poverty level.

The most recent federal poverty data indicate that Boulder County's **child poverty rate** decreased in 2011 compared to the year before, while the total poverty rate remained about the same. In 2011, nearly 8,000 Boulder County children under age 18 were below poverty, an estimated 12.4%. That was a noticeable decrease from 2010, when the child poverty rate was an estimated 16.3%, although it remained higher than the 2000 rate of 8.2%. Among children under age 5, the 2011 poverty rate was 12.7%, compared to 18.2% in 2010. For children aged 5 to 17, the 2011 rate was 12.3%, which was also lower than the 2010 rate of 15.7%. The county's total poverty rate was 14.1%, about the same as 2010's rate of 14.7%. Boulder County's 2011 child poverty rate was lower than the statewide rate of 17.9%.

Poverty rates in different family types also decreased. The 2011 rate in **married-couple families** with children under age 18 was 2.9%, compared to 6.6% in 2010, and the same as the 2000 poverty rate for this family type. For **female-headed families** with children under 18, the 2011 poverty rate was 29.4%, remaining higher than the 2000 rate (21.8%) but substantially lower than the rate in 2010, when it was 40.7%. Tracking poverty rates among children and families in future years will determine whether the decreases between 2010 and 2011 represent a trend.

The declines in child and family poverty rates, although encouraging, were not equally distributed among all of Boulder County's children. More than four in 10 (41.9%) of the county's **Hispanic children** under age 18 were below poverty in 2011, compared to 3.4% of **white non-Hispanic children**, more than a 12-fold difference. The poverty rate among Hispanic children has steadily increased since 2008, when it was 20.8%. The poverty rate also increased for white non-Hispanic children between 2007 and 2010, before dramatically decreasing in 2011.

A homeless survey in the Denver metro area, conducted on the night of January 23, 2012, found that nearly two-thirds (60.6%) of the 1,971 **homeless people** in Boulder County who were represented in the survey were in households with children under 18 years old.

In the 2010-11 school year, a total of 1,787 homeless children, from pre-kindergarten through 12th grade, received services in the two county school districts through the federal **McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act**, 1,024 in BVSD, representing 3.5% of all enrolled students, and 763 in St. Vrain Valley School District, 2.8% of all students.

Encouraging is the fact that after increasing substantially between 2008 and 2011, the numbers and rates of Boulder County families and children receiving publicly-funded assistance leveled off and in some cases decreased in 2012. The rates of households and children receiving **Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)** more than doubled between 2008 and 2011, from 1.6 per 1,000 households to 3.6 and from 5.8 per 1,000 children under 18 years old to 12.5. These rates decreased to 3.0 per 1,000 households and 10.8 per 1,000 children, respectively, in the first half of 2012. The rate of households receiving **Food Stamps** nearly doubled between 2008 and 2011, from 32.4 per 1,000 households to 62.1, but increased by only 4% to 64.6 between 2011 and 2012. The rate of children receiving **Family Medicaid** increased by 27% between 2008 and 2011, from 168.7 per 1,000 children to 214.2, but increased by only 4% to 222.8 between 2011 and 2012.



TRENDS

Health

According to the combined 2010-2011 results from the Colorado Child Health Survey, among children aged 1 to 14 in Boulder County:

- **97.7% had a personal health care provider. That was far higher than the Healthy People 2020 target of 63.3%.**
- **91.4% who needed health care in the previous year received it.**
- **95.0% percent who needed dental care in the previous year received it.**

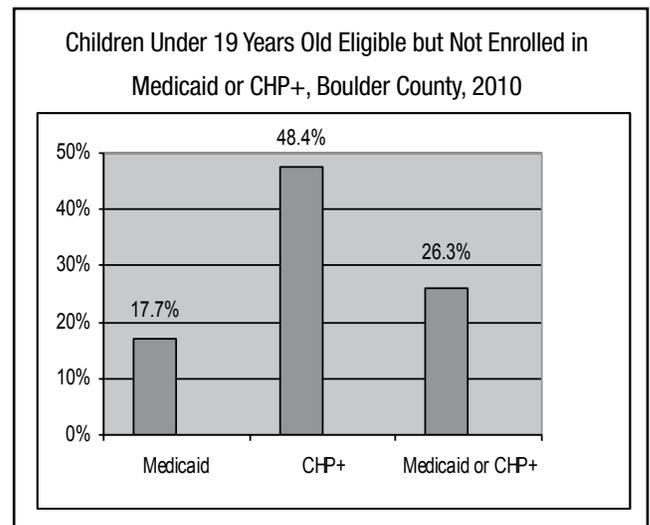
The Child Health Survey also found that 0.3% of Boulder County children aged 1 to 14 had been **exposed to tobacco smoke at home** in the previous seven days, and the same percentage had been exposed to tobacco **smoke in a car** during that time period. In Colorado, 3.6% of children in that age group had been exposed to smoke at home and 5.8% in a car.

This survey also found, based on parent reports of their child's height and weight, that 16.6% Boulder County children aged 2 to 14 were either **overweight or obese** – 11.9% were overweight and 4.7% were obese. Statewide, a total of 27.7% of children in this age group were either overweight or obese -- 13.1% were overweight and 14.6% were obese.

In 2011, the Census Bureau estimated that 92.1% of Boulder County children under age 18 had **health insurance** (public or private), slightly higher than the statewide rate of 90.6%. Among the county's children under age 6, 95.2% had health insurance, as did 90.5% of children aged 6 to 17. The statewide rates were 92.2% and 89.8% for those age groups, respectively.

However, there were substantial gaps among race-ethnic and income groups in the percentage of the county's children with health insurance. An estimated 95.7% of **white non-Hispanic children** under aged 6 to 17 had health insurance, compared to 74.7% of **Hispanic children** in that age group. White non-Hispanic and Hispanic children under age 6 had similar rates of health insurance.

A total of 13,329 Boulder County children under age 19 were enrolled in Medicaid or CHP+ in 2010. According to estimates by the Colorado Health Institute, 26.3% of Boulder County children from birth through age 18 who were **eligible for either Medicaid or CHP+ were not enrolled** in those programs, an estimated 4,745 children. Statewide, 18.7% of children who were eligible for either program were not enrolled.



Hospitalizations due to injuries for children from birth to age 14, after reaching a low point this decade in 2010 in both the county and state, increased slightly in 2011, although remaining below the rates for most years since 2000. The county rate was 109.6 per 100,000 children in that age group (a total of 57) compared to 89.0 in 2010. The statewide rate was 145.3 per 100,000. Accidents accounted for 87.7% of all injury hospitalizations for children in this age group, suicide/intentional self-harm for 8.8%, and other intentional harm for 3.5%.

Boulder County's **mortality rates** for children aged 1 to 14 were uneven but relatively stable between 2001 and 2011, while statewide rates generally declined during that period. In 2011, the Boulder County rate was 14.2 deaths per 100,000 children aged 1 to 14 (a total of 7), and the statewide rate was 14.9 deaths. The county's rates were lower than statewide rates nearly every year between 1990 and 2011.



Safety/Protection

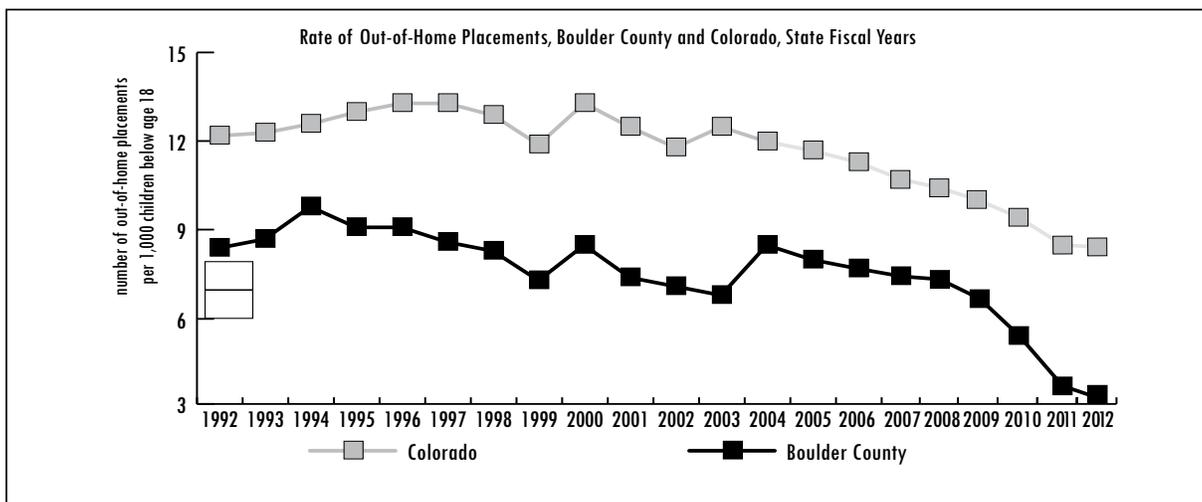
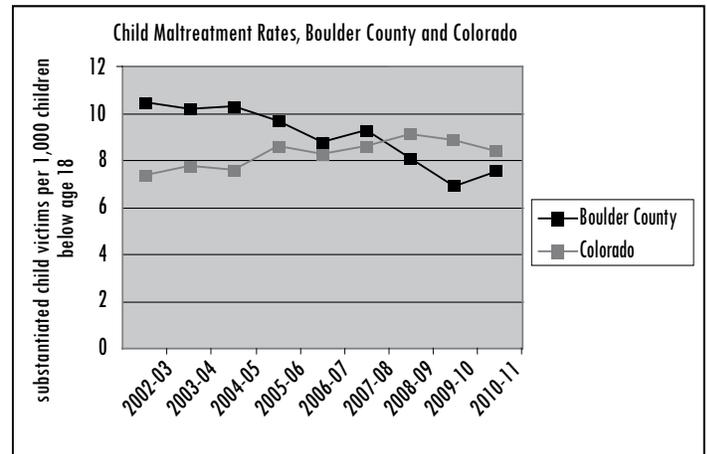
Child maltreatment rates in Boulder County declined between Federal Fiscal Year 2002-03 and 2010-11. In 2010-11, 7.6 children per 1,000 under age 18 (488 children) were substantiated victims of maltreatment, compared to 10.5 in 2002-03. Beginning in 2008-09, Boulder County rates have been lower than statewide rates (8.3 in 2010-11). *For the past three years, Boulder County's rates were below the Healthy People 2020 target rate of 8.5 child maltreatment victims per 1,000.*

Of Boulder County's 366 **substantiated cases of child abuse/neglect** in 2011, 35% were in households with domestic violence, 25% were in households with alcohol abuse, 13% were in households with illegal drug use, and 2% had methamphetamine involvement. In almost every year between 2003 and 2011, investigated households with substantiated abuse/neglect were about twice as likely to have domestic violence or alcohol use as were investigated households with unsubstantiated abuse/neglect. (A child abuse/neglect case may involve one or more than one child.)

In State Fiscal Year 2011-12, 196 children, 3.1 per 1,000 below age 18 in Boulder County, were **placed out of their homes** due to abuse, neglect, serious emotional problems, conflict with parents, or juvenile delinquency. This rate decreased since 1991-92 and especially since 2003-04, when it was 8.5 per 1,000 (a total of 541 children). Rates also declined statewide during this time period (8.5 in 2011-12). Boulder County's out-of-home placement rate was below the statewide rate every year since 1991-92.

Safehouse Progressive Alliance for Nonviolence shelter served 97 children in 2011, and **Safe Shelter of St. Vrain Valley** shelter served 94 children. Forty-one percent of the 242 women served by the Safehouse Progressive Alliance shelter were accompanied by children, as were 56% of the 124 women served by Safe Shelter of St. Vrain Valley.

For the 5th consecutive year, no **automobile fatalities** occurred among children under age 12 in Boulder County in 2011. There were also no auto fatalities in that year among adolescents aged 12 to 19.



Early Childhood: Prenatal Through Age 5

Child Care

With two-thirds of the county's children under age 6 living in families where all parents were in the labor force in 2011, quality, affordable child care is an essential family need. In 2011, the average cost of **full-time child care** ranged from \$170 a week for children aged 2 to 5 cared for in homes in Longmont to over \$300 for infants cared for in centers in Boulder and Louisville/Superior. In general, average prices were higher for center-based care, in Boulder than in other communities in the county, and for children under 2 years old, especially those under 1 year of age, than for older children.

The **Colorado Child Care Assistance Program (CCCAP)** provides a subsidy to licensed child care providers for children aged 6 weeks through 12 years old whose families receive TANF or are low income with parents engaged in work or work-related activities. Families in the low-income program are responsible for a co-pay based on their income. Effective July 1, 2012, the county increased the **income eligibility** for CCCAP from 185% of the Federal Poverty Level to 225%, in an effort to help families achieve self-sufficiency by expanding access to licensed child care.

After declining for at least two years, the number of **licensed Boulder County providers** with CCCAP contracts increased by 45%, from 124 in September 2011 to 180 a year later. Forty-four percent of the county's 412 licensed providers had CCCAP contracts in September 2012. However, an additional 14% of licensed providers indicated a willingness to accept CCCAP in a recent survey.

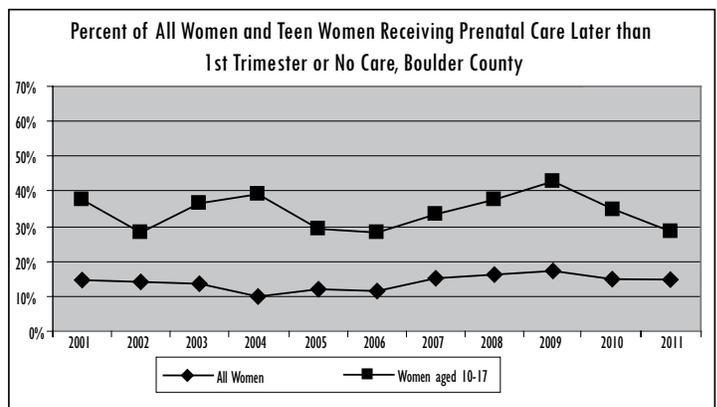
In August 2012, only a few licensed child care providers in Boulder County were **accredited** by a national child care accrediting organization. Accredited child care programs meet professionally established standards of quality. In Boulder County, 5.2% of licensed centers and 1.5% of child care homes were accredited. In the state, 3.8% of centers and 1.0% of homes were accredited. The percent of accredited centers and homes in Boulder County remained about the same between 2008 and 2012.

A 2012 survey of **child care center staff** in Boulder County found that **full-time hourly wages** were an average of \$21.00 for Directors, \$16.65 for Assistant Directors, \$13.62 for Infant Nursery Supervisors, \$14.69 for Early Childhood Teachers, \$11.18 for Assistant Early Childhood Teachers, and \$9.96 for Staff Aides. The 2012 minimum wage in Colorado is \$7.64, and the wage needed for self-sufficiency for a single adult in Boulder County in 2011 was \$11.61. The same survey found that nearly all staff received paid vacation, but only about half received retirement benefits and about a third had disability insurance.

Another survey of child care providers in Boulder County, conducted in spring 2012, found that children under age 6 in care were **expelled due to challenging behaviors** at a rate of 1.9 per 1,000 enrolled children. That rate was less than half the rate found in the first survey, conducted in 2009, when it was 4.5 per 1,000 children. However, the 2012 expulsion rate was more than three times higher than the expulsion rate of K-12 students in Boulder County's public schools.

Health

There were a total of 2,890 **live births** in Boulder County in 2011. Of these births, 27.2% were paid for by **Medicaid**, compared to 35.9% in the state. These percentages have remained stable since 2007. A similar percentage of women with live births were enrolled in **WIC**, 26.9% in Boulder County in 2011, compared to 33.0% in the state. Boulder County rates have remained about the same since 2007, while statewide rates increased from 26.5% in that year.



The percent of pregnant Boulder County women receiving **late or no prenatal** care was 14.8% in 2011, the same as in 2010, and a decrease over the previous two years (16.2% in 2008, 17.5% in 2009). Statewide rates were higher than county rates nearly every year since 1992 (20.6% in 2011). *Boulder County's 2011 rate of late or no prenatal care was well below the Healthy People 2020 goal of 22.1%.*

The percent receiving **late or no prenatal care** was almost twice as high for **Hispanic women** in Boulder County in 2011 (20%) as for **white non-Hispanic women** (12%).

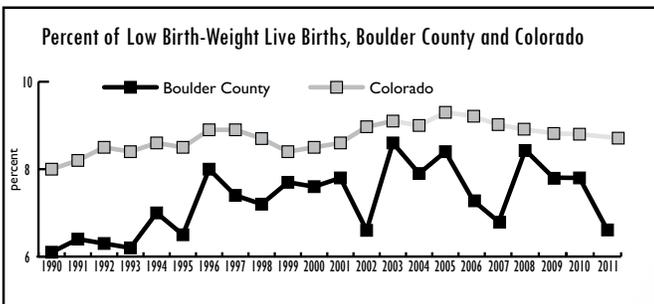
Teen women were far less likely to receive **early prenatal care** than were older women. In 2011, 28.6% of pregnant women younger than 18 received late or no prenatal care in Boulder County, nearly twice the rate for women of all ages. However that rate was lower than in the previous four years. The statewide rate was higher than the county rate nearly every year between 1993 and 2011, when it was 43.4%. *Teen rates of receiving late/no prenatal care were above the Healthy People 2020 goal for all women (22.1%) every year since 1990.*

The **Adequacy of Prenatal Care Utilization Index** is a combined measure of timing of the start of prenatal care and number of prenatal visits compared to the recommended number of visits. Nearly one in 10 (9.6%) women in Boulder County with live births in 2011 received inadequate prenatal care. The statewide rate was far higher, 15.7%. *The 2011 Boulder County rate of inadequate prenatal care was well below the Healthy People 2020 goal of 22.4%.*

One in 5 Boulder County **women below age 18** received inadequate prenatal care in 2011, more than twice the rate for all women. However, the 2011 rate was lower than the rates in the previous four years and the statewide rate (32.2% in 2011). *The percentage of Boulder County's teen women receiving inadequate prenatal care was lower than the Healthy People 2020 goal for all women, 22.4%.*

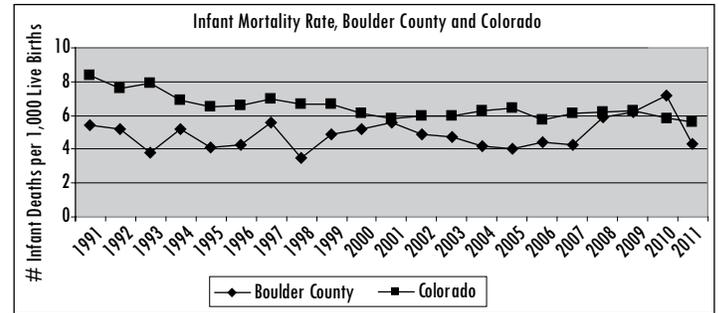
The percentage of Boulder County women who reported **smoking during pregnancy** in 2011, 4.4%, was about the same as the county's yearly average since 2000 and much lower than the statewide rate every year since 1994 (7.4% in 2011). *Smoking during pregnancy in Boulder County was higher than the Healthy People 2020 goal of 1.4%. (In 2011, there were too few teen women in Boulder County who smoked during pregnancy to report on.)*

The county's 2011 rate of **low birth-weight**, 6.6%, was among the lowest since 1995. *This rate was lower than the Healthy People 2020 target of 7.8%.* The county's rate was lower than the statewide rate every year since 1990 (8.7% in 2011).

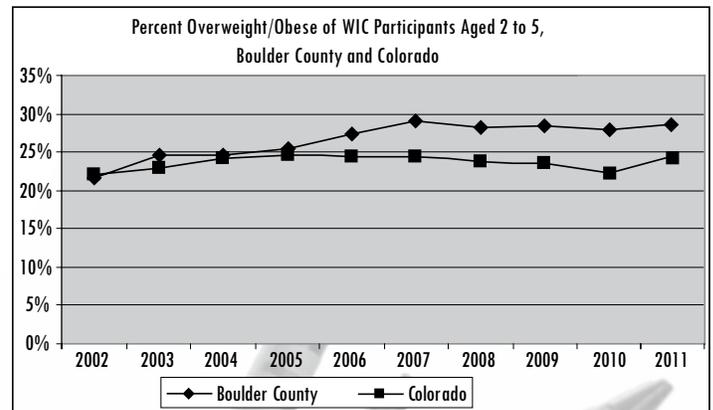


The rate of **low birth-weight** was about the same for **Hispanic women** in Boulder County (6.6% in 2011) and **white non-Hispanic women** (6.9%). The two rates have been similar since 1990.

After increasing nearly every year since 2005, Boulder County's **infant mortality rate** decreased from 7.2 deaths for every 1,000 live births in 2010 to 4.2 in 2011 (a total of 12 deaths), lower than the statewide rate of 5.6. *Both the Boulder County and state rates were lower than the Healthy People 2020 target rate of 6.0.*



Among the county's WIC-enrolled children aged 2 to 5, **obesity** rates have remained stable, about 12%, since 2006 (11.7% in 2011). **Overweight** rates have continued to climb since 2001, reaching 17.1% in 2011. A total of 28.8% were overweight or obese. Statewide rates have grown much more slowly and remained lower than Boulder County's rates in 2011 – 14.2% were overweight and 10.0% were obese, a total of 24.2% overweight or obese. *Boulder County WIC obesity rates have been higher than the Healthy People 2020 target of 9.6% for children aged 2 to 5 every year since 2003.*

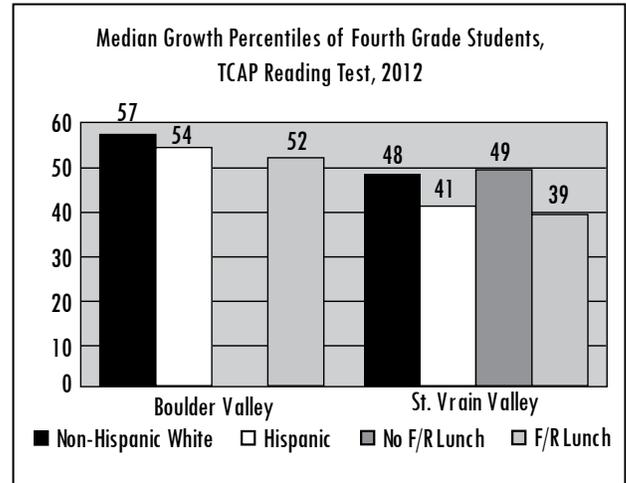
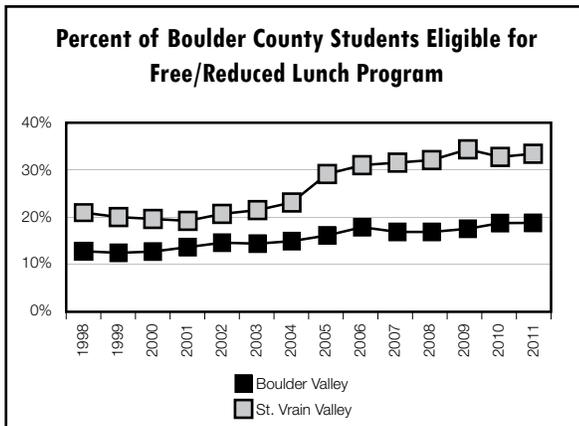


SCHOOL AGE

School-Age: 6 to 11 Years

Economic Well Being

The percentage of students eligible for the **free and reduced lunch program** based on family income ($\leq 185\%$ of poverty) increased throughout this decade, from 19.7% in St. Vrain Valley in October 2000 to 32.7% in October 2011 and from 12.7% to 18.8% in BVSD during that period. Five times as many students were eligible for **free lunch** (family income $\leq 130\%$) as were eligible for **reduced lunch** (family income $> 130\% - \leq 185\%$ of poverty). In St. Vrain Valley, 27.2% were eligible for free lunch and 5.5% for reduced lunch; in BVSD, 15.5% were eligible for free lunch and 3.0% for reduced lunch.



Median Growth Percentiles were not available in BVSD for students not eligible for free/reduced lunch.

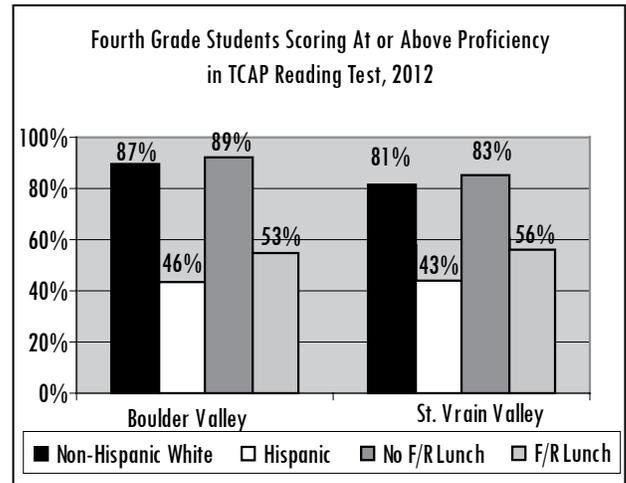
Education

In October 2011, one-quarter of children enrolled in BVSD kindergartens were in **full-day kindergarten** and three-quarters were in half-day programs. Sixty-four percent of children enrolled in St. Vrain Valley kindergartens were in full-day programs, as were two-thirds of children statewide.

In the spring of 2012, 79.1% of BVSD 4th grade students scored at or above proficiency in the **Transitional Colorado Assessment Program (TCAP) reading test**, as did 69.0% of St. Vrain Valley 4th graders, and 67.0% of 4th graders statewide. The TCAP is a temporary replacement for the CSAP, as school districts across Colorado transition to a new testing system consistent with the state's new learning standards.

The **TCAP median growth percentile** shows how much change occurred in a group of students from one year to the next compared to other students in the state who had similar TCAP scores in the first year. Median growth percentiles higher than 50 indicate that the group had higher growth than the state as a whole. Because TCAP testing begins in 3rd grade, median growth percentiles are available beginning in 4th grade. The **4th grade median growth percentile** in reading was 57 in BVSD and 46 in St. Vrain Valley in 2012.

As in previous years in both county school districts, there was a substantial **gap** in 2012 between Latino and non-Latino white students and between students who were eligible and not eligible for free/reduced lunch in the percentage scoring at/above proficiency in the 4th grade reading test. These gaps were less pronounced in the median growth percentile.



Linguistic isolation, which the Census Bureau defines as speaking English less than "very well" among people who speak a language other than English at home, creates substantial challenges for school achievement. Twenty-seven percent of children aged 5 to 17 in non-English speaking households spoke English less than "very well" in Boulder County in 2008-10. Children in Spanish-speaking households were almost twice as likely to be linguistically isolated as were children in other non-English speaking households – 30.0% compared 16.4%.

Students who have been identified as **English Language Learners (ELL)** are not fully proficient in English reading, oral skills, and/or writing, as determined by standardized testing. There were 2,422 ELL students enrolled in Boulder Valley in October 2011, 8.2% of total enrollment, about the same rate since 1999. St. Vrain had an enrollment of 5,394 ELL students in 2011, 20.1% of the district's students. The number and rate increased in St. Vrain in most years since 2000, when there were 2,572 ELL students, accounting for 13.6% of St. Vrain's students. (This information was not available for St. Vrain prior to 2000.)

ADOLESCENT

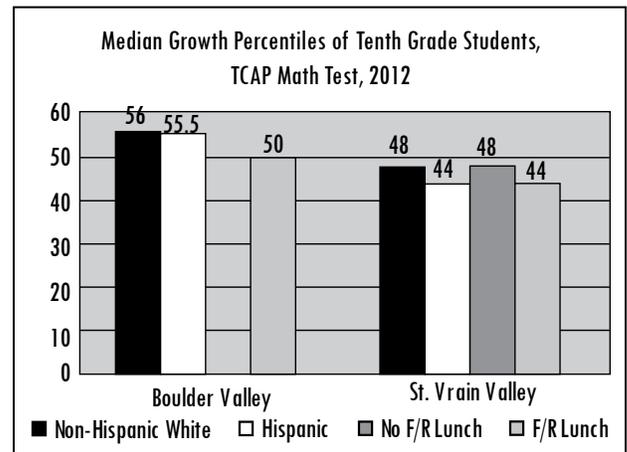
Adolescence: 12 to 18 Years

Education

In 2012, a little more than half (51.5%) of 10th grade students in BVSD scored at/above proficiency in the **TCAP math test**, as did 36.2% of St. Vrain Valley 10th graders and 32.7% of 10th graders statewide. BVSD's average improvement, its median growth percentile, on this test was higher than that of 57% of 10th graders statewide who scored similarly in 9th grade, and St. Vrain's was higher than 47% of peer students statewide.

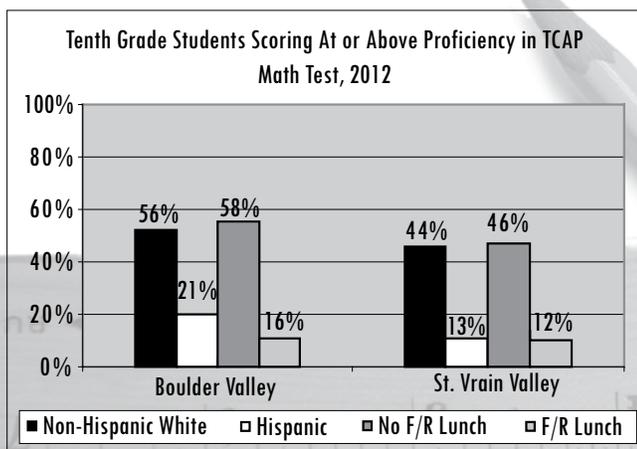
As with 4th grade reading, there were wide and persistent **gaps** in the 10th grade TCAP math test by race/ethnic group and income. In St. Vrain Valley, 43.6% of white non-Hispanic 10th graders scored at/above proficiency compared to 12.7% of Hispanic students. In BVSD, the scores were 56.2% and 20.5%, respectively. The gaps were similar between students eligible and students not eligible for free/reduced lunch.

An encouraging finding is that BVSD's 10th grade Hispanic students showed **as much average growth in TCAP math scores** compared to students statewide who scored similarly in 9th grade as did white non-Hispanic 10th graders. The scores of both groups had an average growth that was higher than that of 56% of their peers statewide. St. Vrain Valley's Hispanic 10th graders showed improvement that was higher than 44% of peer students statewide; white non-Hispanic students had improvement that was higher than 48% of peer students statewide.



BVSD Median Growth Percentiles were not available for students not eligible for free/reduced lunch.

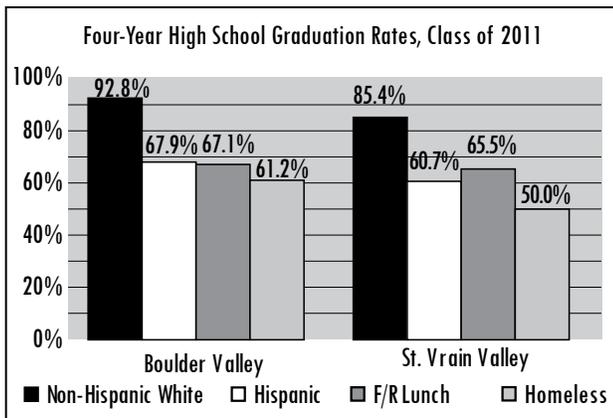
Boulder Valley's **four-year graduation rate** for the class of 2011 was 88.3%, and St. Vrain's was 78.8%. Male students graduated at lower rates than female students, 86.3% vs. 90.5% in Boulder Valley and 76.2% vs. 81.6% in St. Vrain. *The Healthy People 2020 target four-year graduation rate is 82.4%*. (Beginning in the 2009-10 school year, the Colorado Department of Education changed the method used to calculate graduation rates. The new four-year "on-time" rate cannot be compared to rates in previous years, which included graduates who took more than four years and less than four years to graduate. The new rates will generally be lower than the previous rates.)



Adolescence: 12 to 18 Years

Health

Hispanic, low-income, and homeless students had four-year graduation rates that were substantially lower than the rates for white non-Hispanic, higher income, and students with stable residence situations.



Both county school districts continued their downward trends in **school dropout rates** in the 2010-11 school year. BVSD's dropout rate, 0.4%, was the lowest since before 1990-91. St. Vrain Valley's rate, 0.8%, was the same as in 2009-10, and those two years were also the lowest since before 1990-91. However, the Hispanic dropout rate was three times higher than the white non-Hispanic rate in St. Vrain Valley (1.5% vs. 0.5%), and in BVSD, it was 7.5 times higher (1.5% vs. 0.2%).

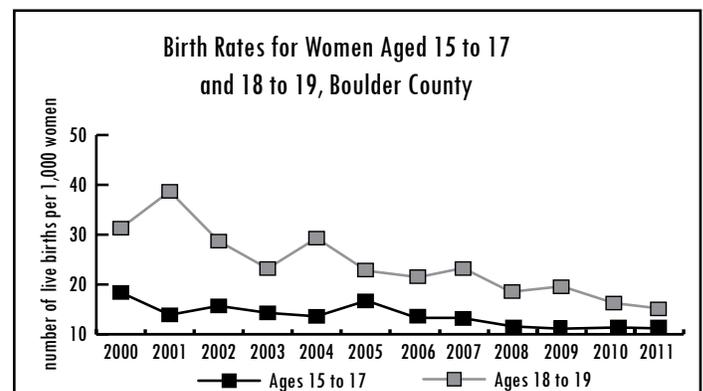
(The rates do not include adult and alternative education. Trends in dropout rates prior to 2005-06 cannot be tracked due to state legislation enacted in 2005 that defined a student as a dropout if he/she stopped attending school and the original district did not have adequate documentation that the student transferred to another educational program.)

Boulder County and the state continued their downward trends in both **numbers and rates of teen births** in 2011. Mirroring national trends, there were 34 live births to women aged 15 to 17 in Boulder County in that year, less than half the annual average of 75.8 births in the previous 10 years. The 94 births to women aged 18 and 19 was also far lower than the average of 147.3 births to this age group between 2001 and 2010.

The birth rate among **women aged 18 and 19** was 15.9 per 1,000 in 2011 in Boulder County, one-third as high as the statewide rate of 46.4. Both rates were lower than the previous year and the lowest since before 1990.

The county's birth rate to **teens aged 15 to 17** was 6.5 live births per 1,000 women in that age group in 2011, less than half the average rate between 2001 and 2010 of 14.3 and less than half the statewide rate in that age group of 14.0 in 2011.

Two-thirds of the county's births to 15 to 17 year olds were to **Hispanic women** and 30% were to **white non-Hispanic women**. Two-thirds of births to women in that age group were in **Longmont**, as in most years since 2002. One-quarter were in Boulder, 9% were in Lafayette, and none were in Louisville/Superior.



SCENARIO

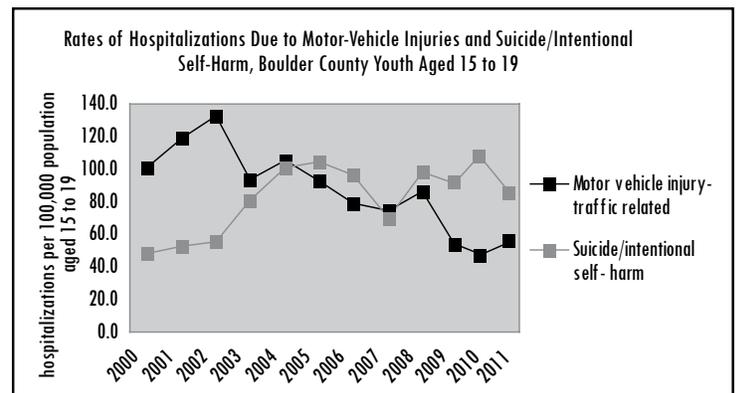
Hospitalizations due to injuries and death rates for youth aged 15 to 19 continued to be lower in 2011 than in most years this decade in both the county and the state.

The county's 2011 rate of **hospitalizations for all injuries**, 267.7 per 1,000 youth aged 15 to 19 (a total of 71), was the lowest this decade and substantially lower than the statewide rate of 408.2. The rate of **hospitalizations for motor vehicle injuries** was also lower than average, 56.6 per 1,000 in 2011, compared to the average of 87.9 in the previous 10 years and the 2011 statewide rate of 86.4. Motor vehicle injuries accounted for 21.1% of all injury hospitalizations among youth in 2011, a percentage that generally declined since 2000 as the percentage of injury hospitalizations due to **suicide/intentional self-harm** increased. Those injuries accounted for 31.0% of youth injury hospitalizations in 2011, compared to 12.1% in 2000. The rate declined between 2010 and 2011 for the first time since 2007, from 114.2 per 1,000 youth to 83.0, though remaining substantially higher than rates were 10 years ago (an average of 52.2 between 2000 and 2002).



The general decline in the county's **adolescent death rates** that began in 2006 continued through 2011, when the rate was 21.9 per 100,000 population aged 15 to 19, compared to an annual average rate of 48.2 per 100,000 between 2000 and 2005. The county's 2011 rate was less than half the statewide rate of 45.2 per 100,000 and was lower than the state's rate every year but one since 1990. *The 2011 county rate was well below the Healthy People 2020 target of 55.7 per 100,000 aged 15 to 19.*

In addition to a decline in the adolescent death rate, the pattern of **causes of adolescent deaths** changed between 2001 and 2011, beginning in about 2009. Between 2001 and 2008, 50% of the 78 deaths in that age group were caused by accidents, and three-quarters of accidental deaths were due to motor vehicle injuries; one-quarter of all deaths were caused by suicide. Between 2009 and 2011, 40% of the 20 adolescent deaths were caused by accidents, but only 25% of accidental deaths were due to motor vehicles. Forty percent of all deaths in that age group were caused by suicide.



Selected Findings from the 2003-2011 Youth Risk Behavior Surveys

Boulder County, in collaboration with Boulder Valley School District and St. Vrain Valley School District, conducted the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) in all public high schools in the county every two years between 2003 and 2011. Boulder Valley middle schools were surveyed for the first time in 2009. Findings from the 2011 surveys show that:

- Similar percentages of middle and high school students – nearly 1 in 5 – had been **electronically bullied**.
- More than 4 in 10 middle school students and more than one-quarter of high school students had been **bullied at school**.
- Similar percentages of middle and high school students – more than 1 in 7 – had seriously thought about **suicide**, although high school students were about twice as likely as middle school students to attempt suicide (6.7% versus 3.0%).
- Among high school students, there were decreases between 2003 and 2011 in the percentage that used **tobacco or alcohol** or had **engaged in binge drinking** in the past month, although **marijuana use increased**.
- There were also decreases in that time period in the percentage of high school students that smoked, drank alcohol, or used marijuana **before the age of 13**.
- Although there was some decrease between 2005 and 2011 in the percentage of high school students that believed smoking a pack a day of cigarettes or having one or two drinks a day posed a **moderate to great risk**, there was a dramatic drop in the percentage that believed smoking marijuana regularly was a moderate to great risk, from almost two-thirds in 2005 to slightly more than half in 2011.

BVSD Middle Schools

	2009	2011	2009-2011 difference statistically significant
Mental Health			
Ever been bullied at school	42.3%	42.9%	no
Ever been electronically bullied	N/A	18.6%	--
Ever seriously thought about suicide	14.9%	12.9%	no
Ever attempted suicide	3.6%	3.0%	no
Substance Use			
Ever smoked a cigarette	11.6%	9.6%	no
Smoked 1+ cigarette, past 30 days	2.7%	1.5%	yes
Ever drank alcohol (more than a few sips)	21.3%	16.0%	yes
Ever used marijuana	7.9%	5.9%	yes

Boulder County High Schools

	2003	2005	2007	2009	2011	2003-2011 difference statistically significant
Mental Health						
Harassed at school or to/from school, past year*	32.6%	34.9%	31.5%	27.9%	N/A	--
Harassed on school property, past year*	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	26.6%	--
Been electronically bullied, past year	N/A	N/A	N/A	14.5%	17.8%	--
Purposely hurt self (cutting, burning), past year	N/A	19.5%	19.2%	19.4%	20.8%	--
Felt sad, hopeless, 2 weeks or more in past year	25.8%	25.0%	27.5%	25.1%	25.0%	no
Seriously considered attempting suicide, past year	19.4%	16.9%	16.5%	13.3%	14.1%	no
Attempted suicide, past year	9.3%	7.4%	8.5%	5.6%	6.7%	yes
Substance Use						
Tobacco use, past 30 days	30.3%	29.2%	26.1%	25.6%	22.2%	yes
Smoked before age 13	14.1%	11.6%	10.4%	7.5%	6.8%	yes
Smoking a pack/day poses moderate to great risk	N/A	92.1%	91.4%	90.3%	89.5%	--
Alcohol use, past 30 days	46.2%	44.9%	43.1%	42.8%	40.4%	yes
Drank alcohol before age 13	25.5%	25.2%	23.8%	20.7%	19.0%	yes
Binge drinking, past 30 days	30.9%	27.9%	27.1%	28.0%	25.0%	yes
2 or more drinks/day poses moderate to great risk	N/A	65.2%	66.2%	61.1%	61.5%	--
Marijuana use, past 30 days	23.8%	23.8%	23.6%	24.2%	25.1%	yes
Marijuana before age 13	9.5%	8.8%	8.8%	7.4%	7.8%	yes
Smoking marijuana regularly poses moderate to great risk	N/A	64.3%	61.6%	56.2%	51.9%	--
Ever used prescription drugs without a prescription	N/A	N/A	N/A	19.4%	18.4%	--

* The question on harassment at school was changed in the 2011 YRBS, from including both school property and travel to and from school to only on school property.

Resources for Children and Families in Boulder County

BoulderCountyHelp.org -----Link to Community resources,
services & programs

Boulder County Housing & Human Services----- (303) 441-1000

Boulder County Public Health----- (303) 441-1100

Boulder Valley School District----- (303) 447-1010

Boulder Valley Women's Health Center ----- (303) 442-5160

City of Boulder Children,
Youth & Families Division ----- (303) 441-4357

Clinica Family Health Services (Lafayette)----- (303) 650-4460

Dental Aid
Boulder: ----- (303) 499-7072
Longmont: ----- (303) 682-2619
Louisville/Lafayette: ----- (303) 665-8228

Emergency Family Assistance ----- (303) 442-3042

Head Start:
Boulder County Head Start (serves BVSD area) - (303) 441-3980
Wild Plum Center Head Start (serves SVVSD area) - (303) 776-8523

Longmont Children & Youth Resources ----- (303) 774-3751

Mental Health Partners (formerly the Mental Health Center
Serving Boulder and Broomfield Counties)----- (303) 443-8500
24-Hour Crisis Line: ----- (303) 447-1665
Child/Adolescent Crisis Line (M-F, 8am-8pm): --- (303) 413-6388

OUR Center (Longmont) ----- (303) 772-5529

Parenting Place (Boulder) ----- (303) 449-0177

People's Clinic/Clinica (Boulder)----- (303) 650-4460

Safe Shelter of St. Vrain Valley
24-Hour Crisis Line:----- (303) 772-4422
Outreach:----- (303) 772-0432

Safehouse Progressive Alliance for Nonviolence, Inc.
24-Hour Crisis/Counseling Line: ----- (303) 444-2424
Outreach: ----- (303) 449-8623
Tri-City: ----- (303) 673-9000

St. Vrain Family Center ----- (303) 776-5348

St. Vrain Valley School District----- (303) 776-6200

Sister Carmen Community Center (Lafayette) ---- (303) 665-4342

Salud Family Health Center (Longmont) ----- (303) 776-3250

The Tiny Tim Center ----- (303) 776-7417

YWCA of Boulder County----- (303) 443-0419





This project was conducted by the Report Card Committee of the Boulder County Movement for Children, an affiliate of the YWCA of Boulder County: Judy Fry, Greta Maloney, Lynn Gilbert (committee chair), and Stephanie Greenberg (project director). It was supported by the Boulder County Community Services Department, Boulder County Public Health, City of Boulder Children, Youth, & Families Division, and YWCA of Boulder County. For more information, please contact Stephanie Greenberg (303-499-1404, research@swgreenberg.com).

Graphics by Boulder County Community Services Department. Printing by Boulder County Printing Services.



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empowering women**
ywca
You, Women, Children, All of us

