

POLICY PREVIEW WEBINAR

HEALTH & ECONOMIC SECURITY

COLORADO CHILDREN'S CAMPAIGN

FOR EVERY KID. FOR 40 YEARS.



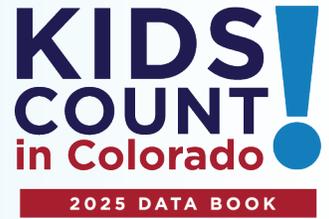


Riley Kitts
Chief Policy & Research Officer

COLORADO CHILDREN'S CAMPAIGN



FOR EVERY KID. FOR 40 YEARS.



Vision

A Colorado where all children thrive.

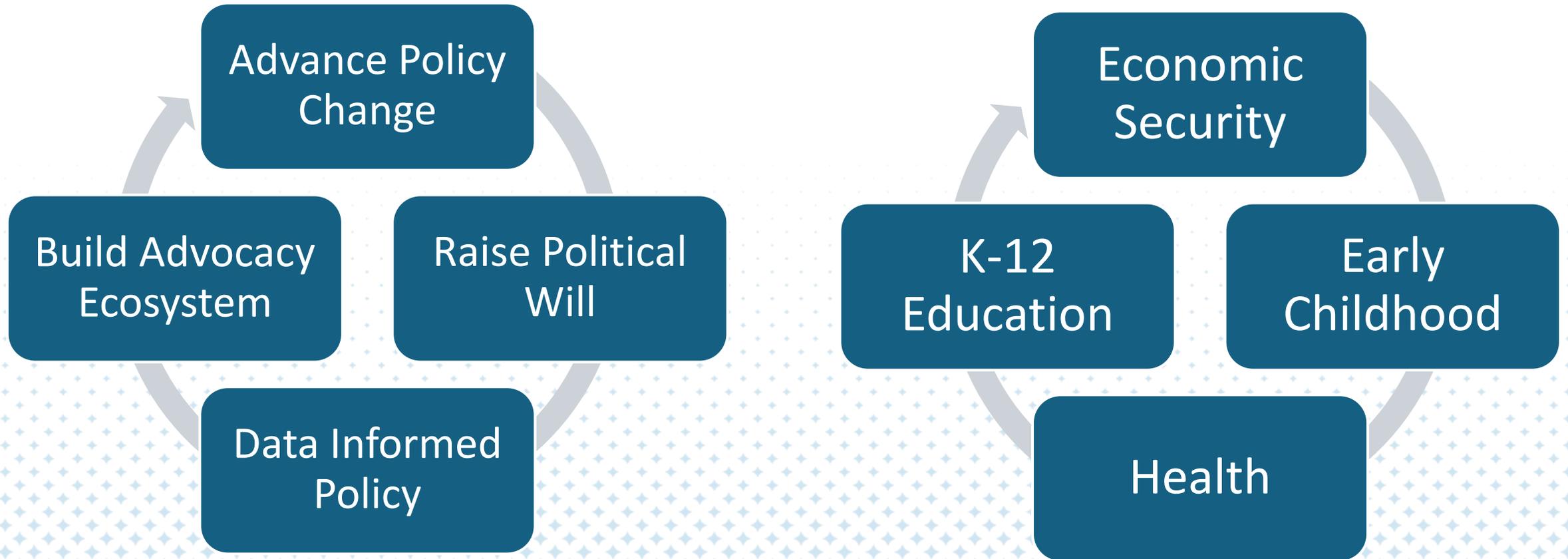
Mission

We create opportunity for every child in Colorado by catalyzing innovative policy, research, and advocacy solutions.

COLORADO CHILDREN'S CAMPAIGN



FOR EVERY KID. FOR 40 YEARS.





Sarah Barnes
*Vice President
of Policy*



Toni Sarge
*Director of
Health Policy*

Props LL & MM passed!



Federal Impacts

- **Government Shutdown affecting SNAP and Head Start**
- **Thousands of children risk losing Medicaid coverage**
- **Federal costs shift to states and weaken programs like Medicaid, SNAP, TANF, and CCCAP**
- **Rising premiums and uncompensated care threaten market stability**
- **Shifting federal response to student civil rights and Special Education services**

Federal Impacts

One Big Beautiful Bill (H.R. 1) Timeline: 2025-2027

July 4, 2025

Immigration and Nutrition:

Non-citizens such as refugees, asylees, and victims of sex trafficking no longer eligible for SNAP

Nutrition:

Increased work requirements for ABAWDs and restricted ability for states to waive work requirements

Jan. 1, 2026

Immigration, Marketplaces and Medicaid:

Lawful Permanent Residents no longer eligible for PTCs during the 5-year waiting period for Medicaid / CHIP

Dec. 31, 2026

Medicaid:

Medicaid work requirements take effect and Medicaid expansion population required to renew eligibility every 6 months



Dec. 31, 2025

ACA Marketplaces:

Enhanced Premium Tax Credits Expire

Oct. 1, 2026

Immigration and Medicaid:

Non-citizens such as refugees, asylees, and victims of sex trafficking no longer eligible for Medicaid

Medicaid:

Federal funding for emergency Medicaid decreases

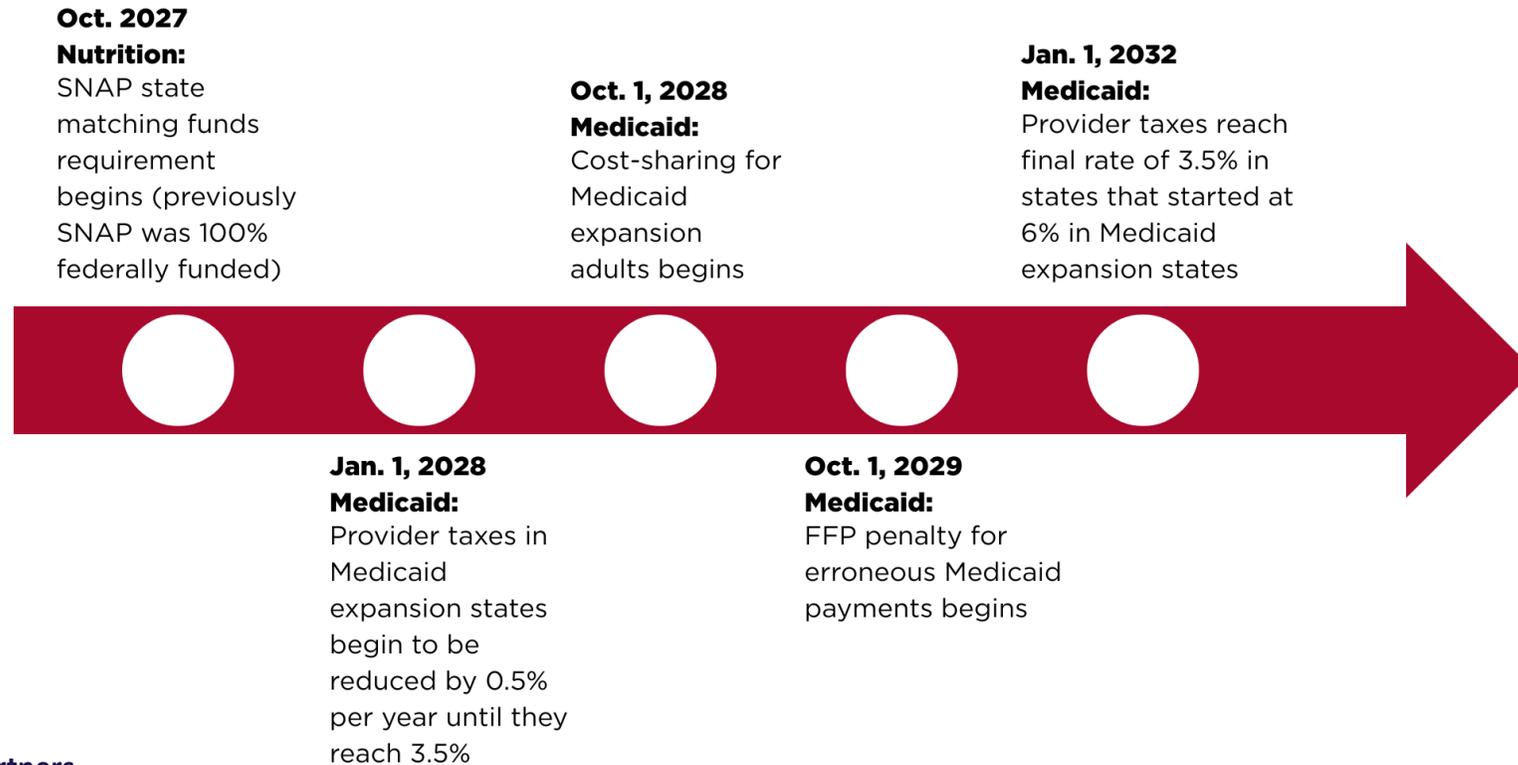
Nutrition:

States' SNAP administrative cost sharing increases from 50% to 75%

Source: Impact Health Policy Partners

Federal Impacts

One Big Beautiful Bill (H.R. 1) Timeline: 2027-2032



Source: Impact Health Policy Partners

Special Session Highlights

- **Addressed a ~\$750 million budget shortfall triggered by HR 1**
- **Raised new revenue by ending tax breaks and tapping reserves**
- **Stabilized health insurance & school lunches**
 - **Flexibility for SNAP**
- **Revisited AI regulations**

“Our state budget is more than numbers – it reflects our values. State funding makes it possible for children to go to school, see a doctor when they need to, and grow up healthy and supported. Colorado urgently needs to find smart, targeted ways to raise revenue so our children and communities have what they need to thrive.”

~Heather Tritten, President & CEO

State Budget Pressures

- **Over \$1B cut in the 2025 regular session**
- **Additional \$750M cut in the August special session responding to HR 1**
- **Children's programs largely protected through prioritization of education, health, and early childhood.**
 - **Further protection will be crucial in 2026**

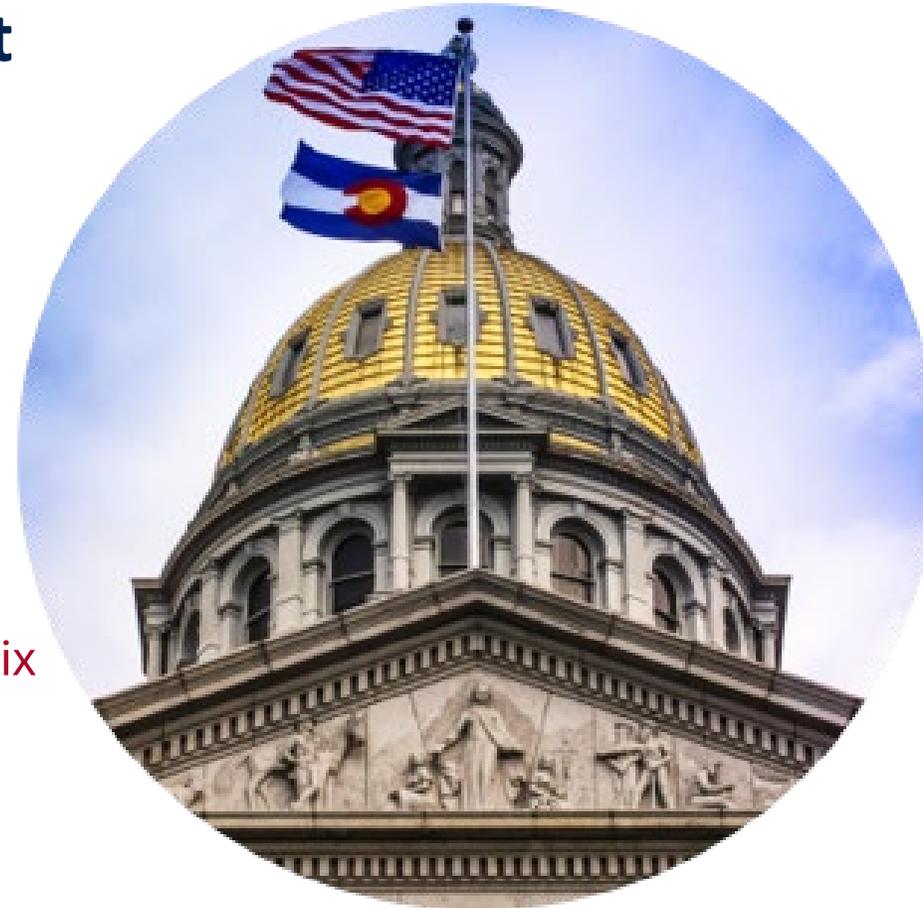


Governor's Budget

- **FY 2026-27 proposed budget released Oct. 31st**
- **Tough year facing another \$1B in cuts**
- **Children's programs remain a priority**

“With another round of painful cuts looming and federal changes threatening essential supports, we can’t wait for someone else to fix this. Colorado must lead. We must protect what works, find bold solutions, and build a stronger, more equitable future for every child.”

~Heather Tritten, President & CEO



Challenges Ahead

- **Deeper cuts coming as HR 1's impacts grow, especially to SNAP and Medicaid**
- **TABOR, constitutional limits, and outdated administration restrict flexibility**
- **Risks to other programs like TANF, CCCAP, and K–12 funding**

What We Will Do About It

- **Modernize the safety net to secure children's financial stability.**
- **Guarantee affordable, high-quality health care for every child and family.**
- **Make early childhood care affordable, accessible, and effective.**
- **Fund schools and protect students with special needs.**



What We Will Do About It

- **Modernize the safety net to secure children's financial stability.**
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October was 'Kids in Focus' Month

- **RELEASED Oct. 7** - Child Care Affordability
- **RELEASED Oct. 14** – Child Homelessness
- **RELEASED Oct. 21** – Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)



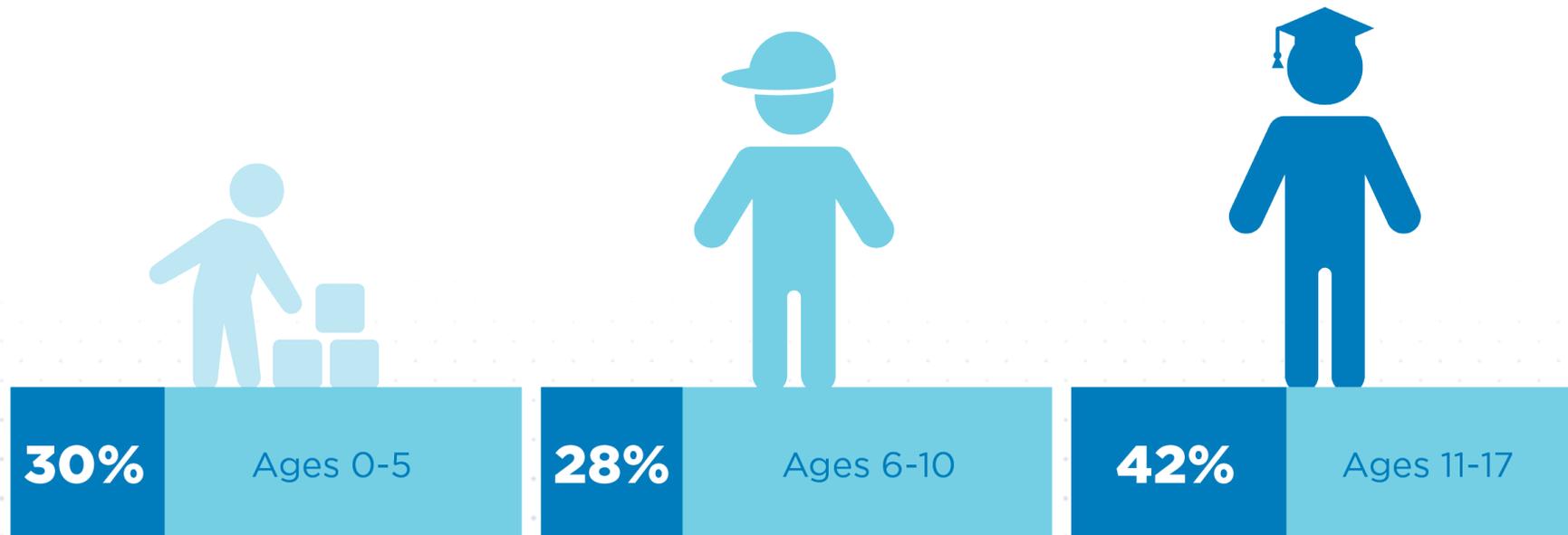
Demographics



Who Are Colorado's Kids?

In 2023...

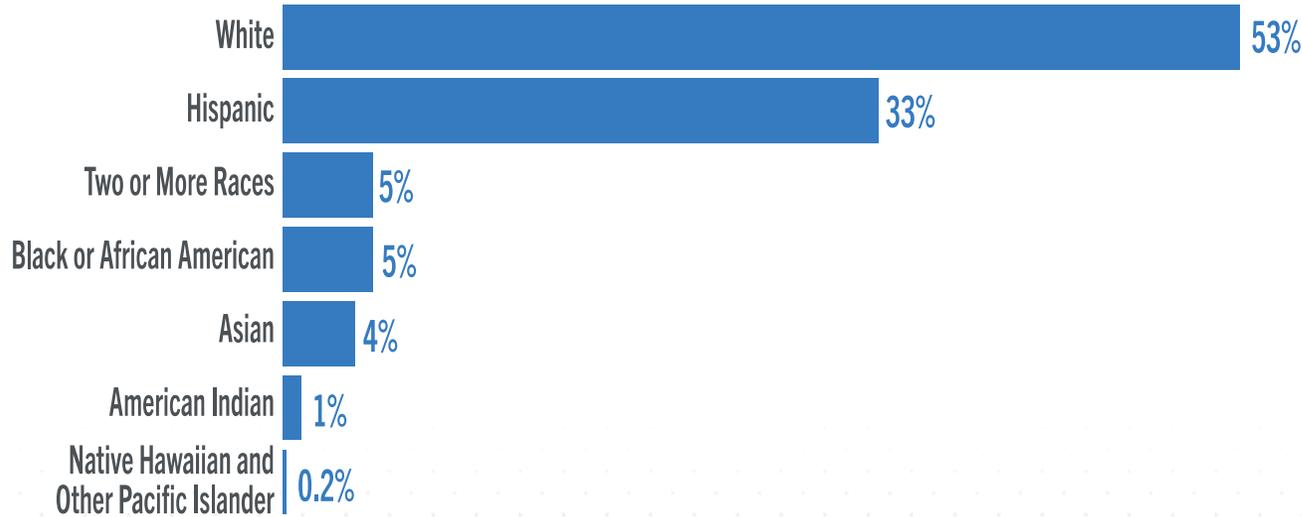
There were about **1.2 million** children living in Colorado. Roughly one in five Coloradans (21%) were under age 18.



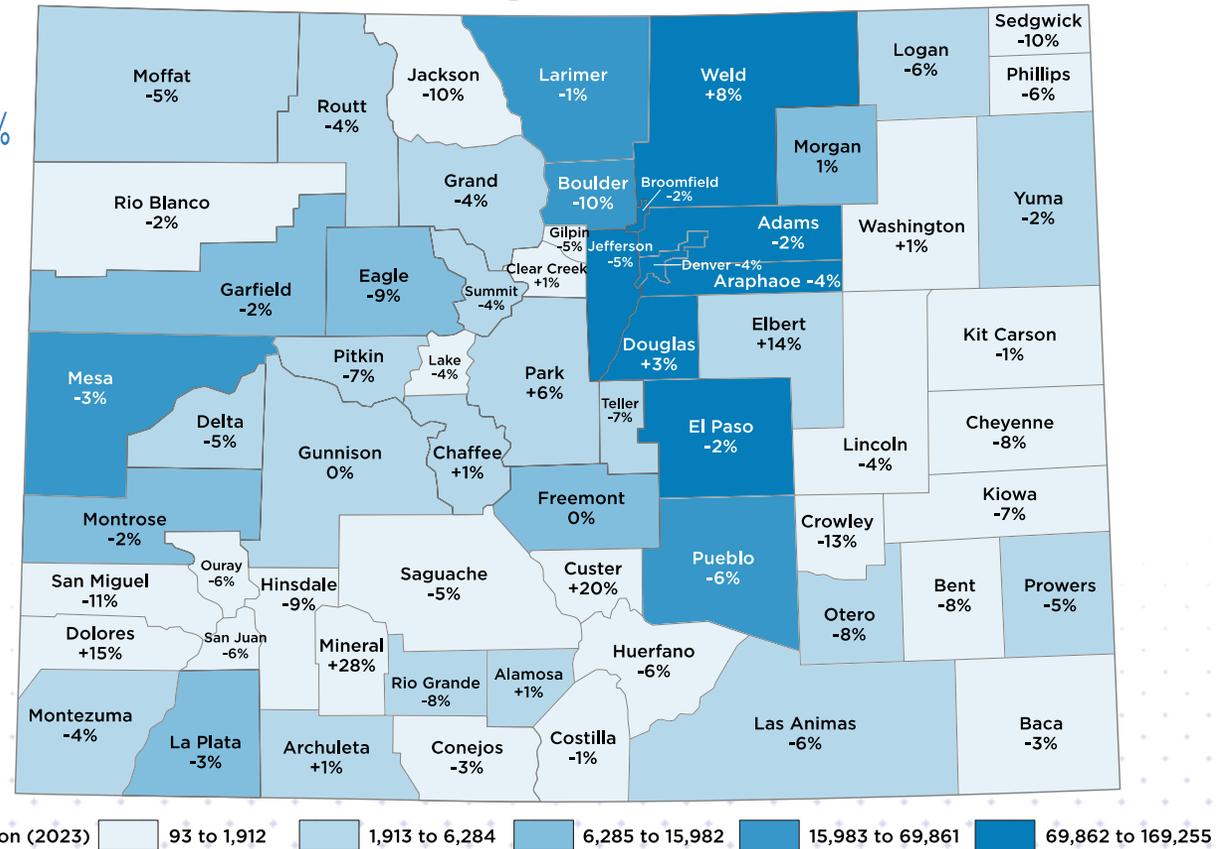
Source: Colorado Department of Local Affairs

Demographics

Children by Race and Ethnicity, 2023



Child Population in 2023 Change Since 2019



Source: Colorado Department of Local Affairs

Economic Security



Economic Security



Nearly 30% of families with children experienced financial hardship.

Children Living in Poverty, 2023

**One in nine children
were living in poverty**

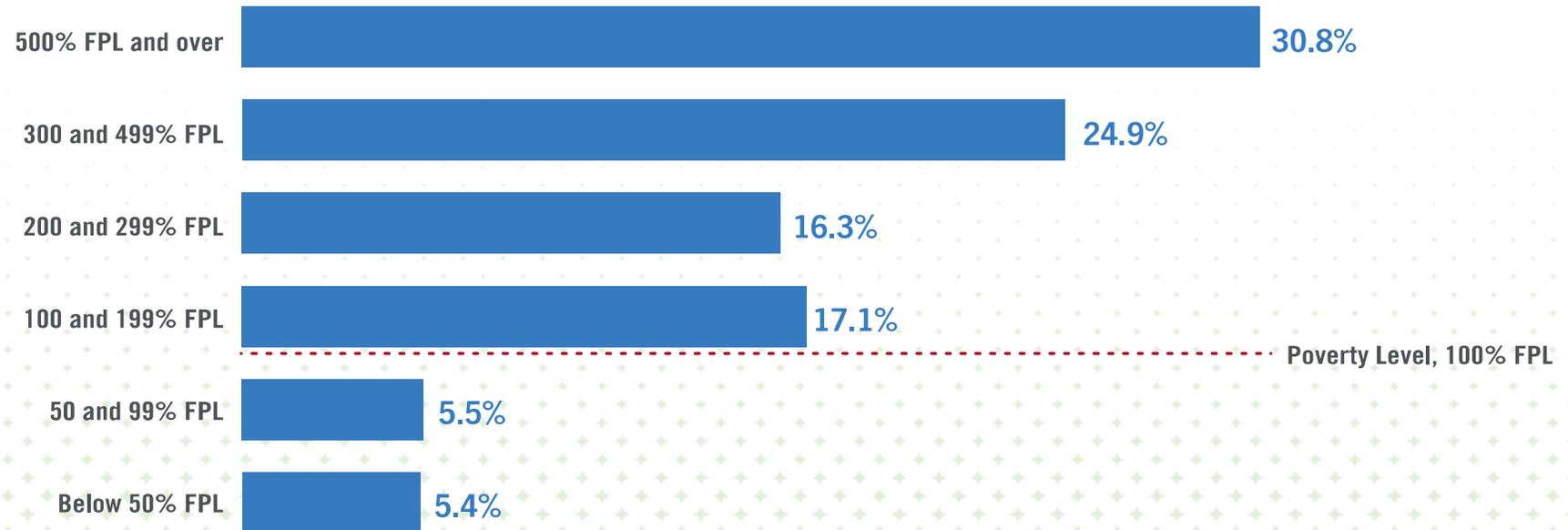
(An income of **\$30,000**
or less for a family of four
in 2023)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey

Nearly 30% of children live in households with incomes below 200% FPL.

Children Under 18 by Income Bracket, 2019-23



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey

Economic Security

The average Colorado family of four needed \$93,000 a year to make ends meet in 2023.

Average Household Survival Budget for a Colorado family with two parents, one infant, and one toddler, 2023:

\$93,048

Household Survival Budget

Above 300% FPL

Percent of Federal Poverty Level

\$46.52

Necessary Household Hourly Wage

2023 STATEWIDE AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD SURVIVAL BUDGET:

Expense	Monthly Cost
Rent & Utilities	\$1,424
Child Care	\$1,717
Food	\$1,396
Transportation	\$960
Health Care	\$699
Technology	\$116
Miscellaneous	\$631
Tax	\$811
Annual Total	\$93,048

HOUSEHOLD SURVIVAL BUDGETS RANGED FROM \$125,940 IN SUMMIT COUNTY TO \$67,692 IN BENT COUNTY. THE MOST EXPENSIVE COUNTIES FOR A FAMILY OF FOUR WERE:

1. Summit: \$125,940

2. Pitkin: \$124,224

3. Eagle: \$123,600

Source: United Ways of Colorado

**Nearly 30% of households with children
were experiencing financial hardship.**

HOUSEHOLDS WITH CHILDREN EXPERIENCING
FINANCIAL HARDSHIP, 2023



Source: United Ways of Colorado

Economic Security



65,000 children

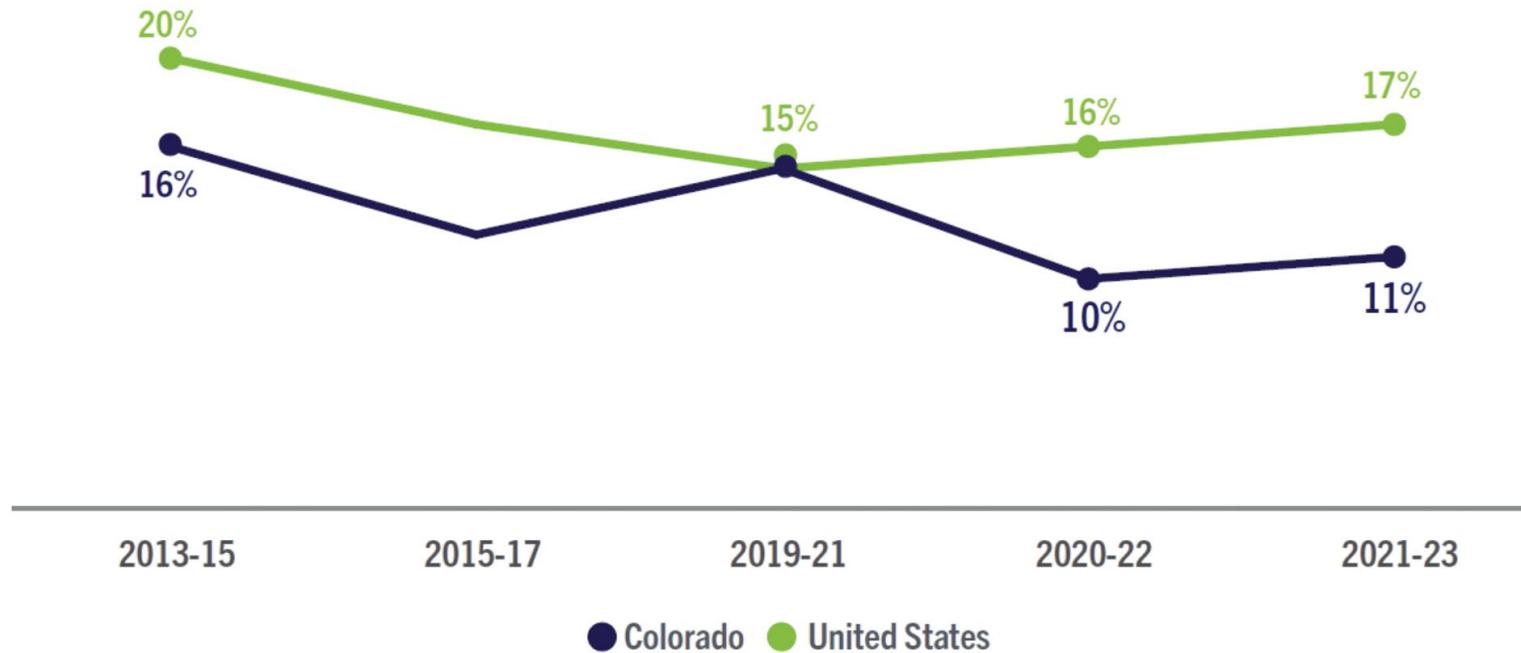
Lived in Deep Poverty
50% FPL or less, 2019-23

47,003 children

Received TANF Basic Cash Assistance
2023



About 1 in 10 children faced food insecurity.



Source: Population Reference Bureau Analysis of Current Population Survey

Economic Security

Federal Impacts on Families' Economic Security

- **Ripple effects across the safety net**
- **Big impacts to SNAP & Medicaid**
- **CCCAP & TANF also affected**



Economic Security

Government Shutdown: Colorado Response

- **Funding to food banks**
- **SNAP Food Benefits**
- **WIC Benefits**



Economic Security

Governor's Proposed FY26-27 Budget

- Changes to the safety net: SNAP and TANF



Economic Security

Modernize the Safety Net for Colorado Families

- **Maximize spending directly on families**
- **Examine administrative costs**
- **Preserve benefits to the greatest extent possible**



Economic Security

Strengthen TANF to Deliver Results for Families in Deep Poverty

- **Prioritize dollars to families in deep poverty**
- **Invest in evidence-based strategies**
- **Tie spending to measurable outcomes**
- **Examine administrative spending**



Economic Security

Protect Tax Credits for Families

Family Affordability Tax Credit (FATC)

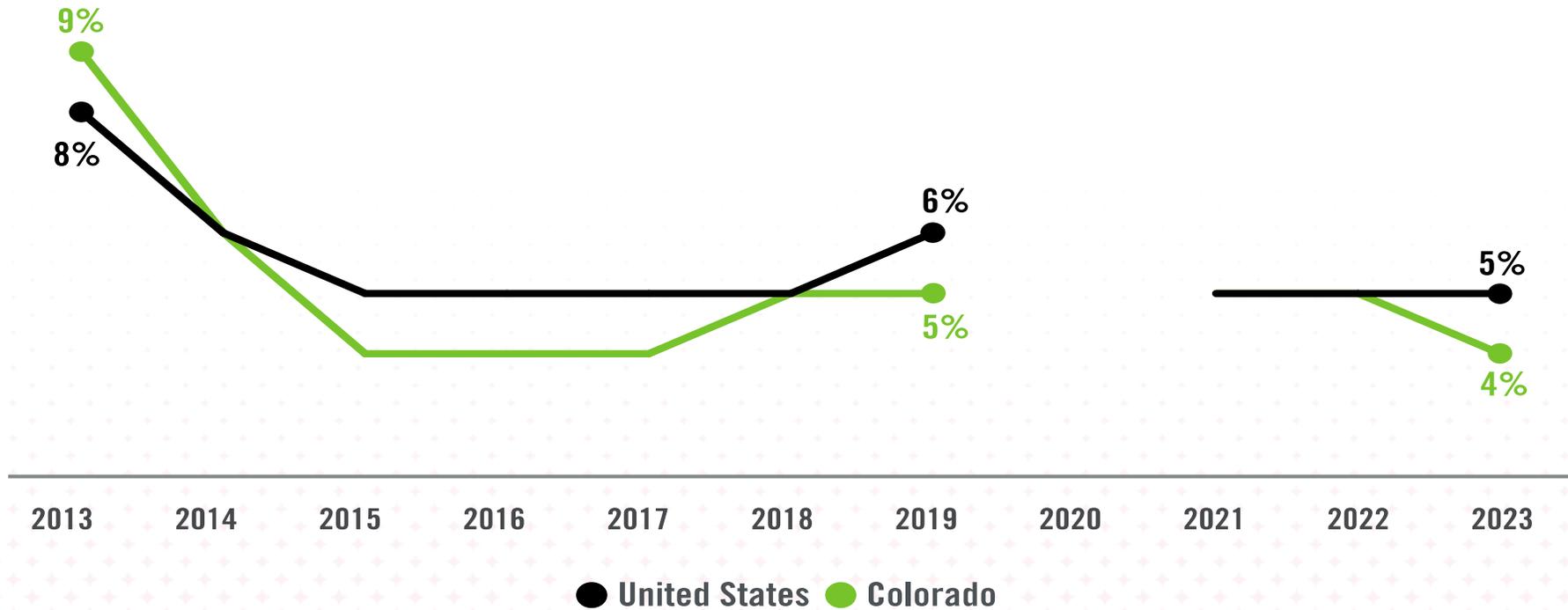
- **Most impactful credit to reduce child poverty**
- **Finding creative solutions to get this credit to families**



Health



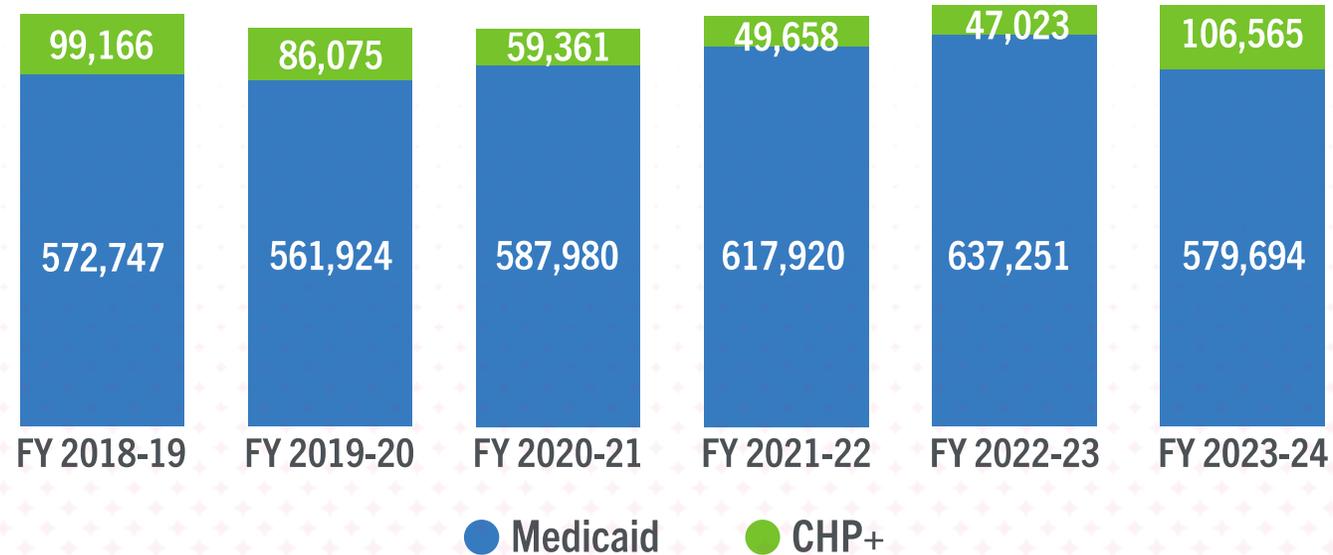
Children Under 19 Without Health Insurance, 2013-23



Source: Colorado Department of Health Care Policy & Financing

More children were covered by CHP+.

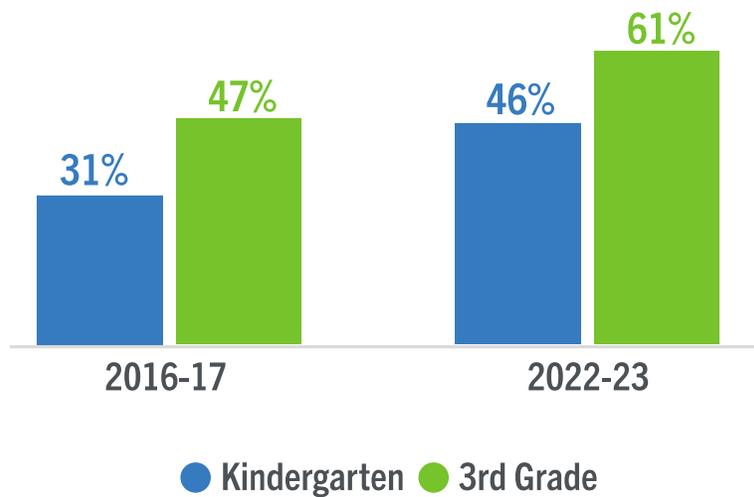
Children Enrolled in Medicaid & CHP+, 2018-24



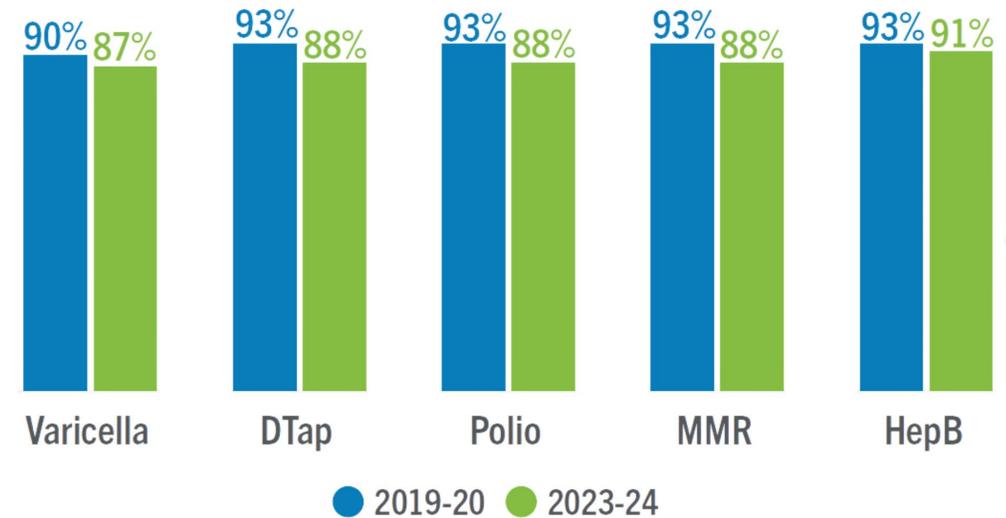
Source: Colorado Department of Health Care Policy & Financing

Colorado can improve in other key measures of health.

Students With Tooth Decay, 2016-23



Kindergartners Who Were Fully Immunized, 2019-24



Source: Colorado Department of Health Care Policy & Financing

Government Shutdown: Health Updates



Federal Health Landscape & HR1

- **Medicaid Changes**

- Eligibility changes – certain immigrant and refugee populations (NEW in CO)
- Eligibility redetermination frequency increased to every 6 months (NEW in CO)
- Work Requirements (New in CO)
- And many more....



Governor's Proposed FY26-27 Budget

Medicaid sustainability & working to protect children and families to mitigate harm



Affordable health care for every child and family

- **Addressing affordability for families in the private insurance market**
 - **Reinsurance**
 - **Premium Subsidies**
 - **OmniSalud**



Protecting Public Health Insurance



- **Preserve access to Medicaid for all children, regardless of documentation status**
 - **Cover All Coloradans**

Keep Kids Healthy with Vaccine Access

- **Bolstering access to vaccines**
- **Vaccines for Children (Medicaid)**
- **Vaccine Coverage under Private Plans**



Questions?

Next Webinar

Join us next week to discuss Early Childhood and K-12!

Nov. 13

**K-12 Education & Early
Childhood Preview**



Get Involved!

Join our KIDSFLASH Newsletter



Follow the Campaign on Social!



Submit an Action Alert - Example



Tell Congress: Invest in Child Care!

Child care in Colorado is more expensive than almost anywhere in the country. The average cost of [infant care is more than \\$20,000 annually](#) - almost half the median income of a single parent family. Toddler care is not much less.

But funding for programs that help working families access child care is at risk – and if we lose it, Colorado won't be able to fill in the gaps.

In September, Congress will vote on whether or not to fully appropriate funding for federal early childhood care and education programs. These programs bring \$250 million to Colorado each year.

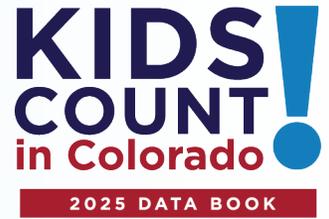
Federal funding for programs like Head Start, the Child Care Development Fund (CCDF), and Child Care Development Block Grants (CCDBG) provides tens of thousands of Colorado families a safe, nurturing place for children to be while their parents work or go to school. Without this funding, families in Colorado will have an even more difficult time accessing and affording child care.

Many of these programs offer so much more than care, supporting the health, educational, and social needs of babies, toddlers, and young children.

Tell your representatives today: Federal investment in child care is key to a prosperous, healthy future – for our children and for our economy.

Take action today!

Please Reach Out!



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