

Proof It Works

Public Investments Reduce Colorado Child Poverty



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

We fight their fight so they can focus on being kids.

Releasing New Reports Every October To...

Build Evidence to Inform Policy

Pull together the best available research and information to inform conversations at the capital.

Address Research Gaps in Colorado

Provide data and research on key issues often missed in key conversations.

Help Kids Focus on Being Kids

Arm advocates and decision-makers with the best information to improve the lives of Colorado's kids.



Demographics

Colorado is home to over 1.2 million kids.



Ages 0 to 5

380,800

31%



Ages 6 to 12

491,600

39%



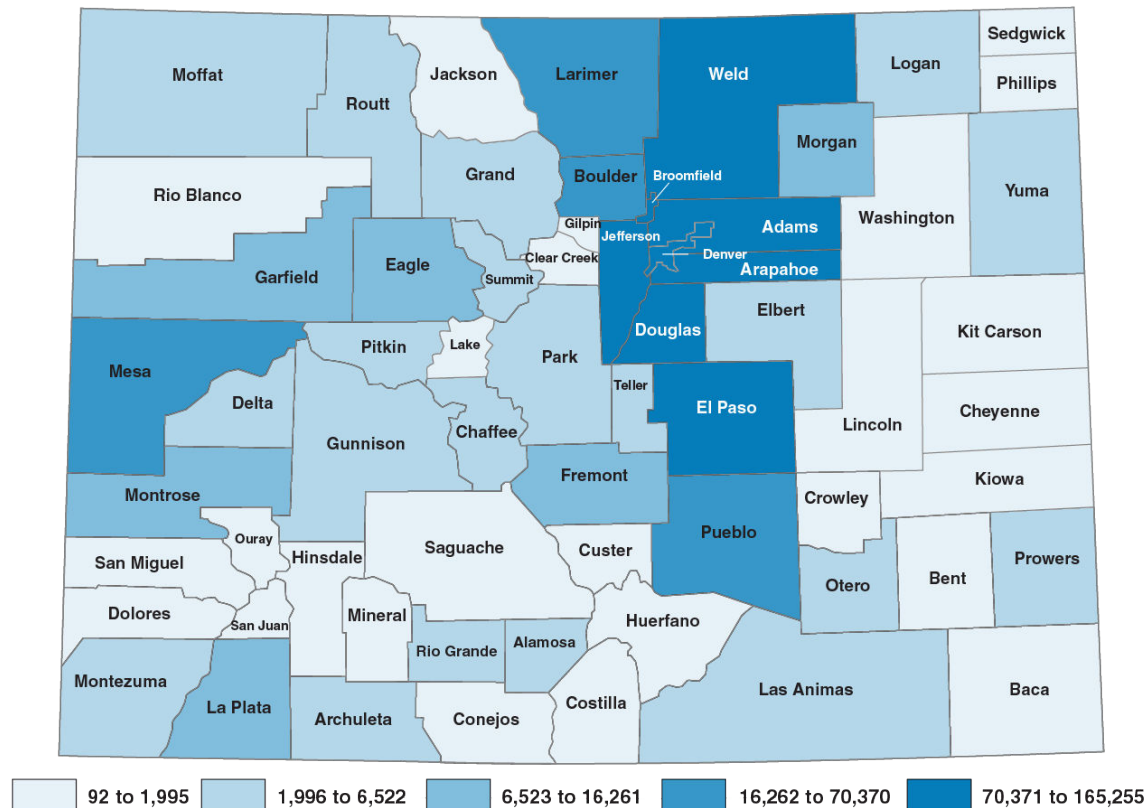
Ages 13 to 17

373,700

30%

Demographics

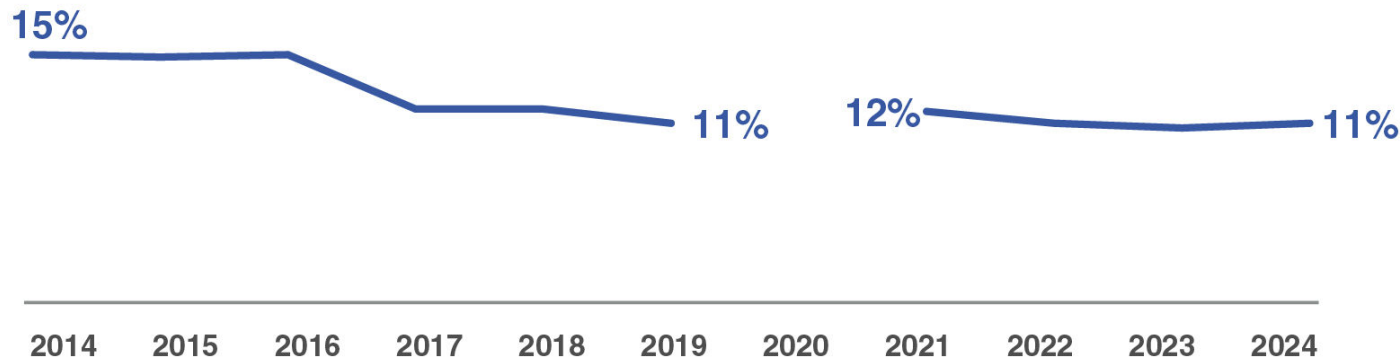
Child Population, 2024



Demographics

About 1 in 9 Colorado kids experience poverty.

Child Poverty Rate, 2014-2024



\$31,200

Federal Poverty Level
Family of Four (2024)

Introducing The COPM

The Colorado Poverty Measure (COPM) provides a new, more specific measure of child poverty.



Why we invested
in this measure



How we went
about it



Our hopes for how it
will be used

Introducing The COPM

DIFFERENT MEASURES OF POVERTY

MEASURE	METHODOLOGY	BEST USE	SOURCE
Official Poverty Measure (OPM)	Triples the cost of food in 1963 and adjusts for inflation	Trends over time	U.S. Census Bureau
Supplemental Poverty Measure (SPM)	Establishes higher cost of living and includes federal programs and taxes in calculation of income	More accurate estimate of child poverty rates	U.S. Census Bureau
Colorado Poverty Measure (COPM)	Establishes the most exact available cost of living across counties and includes state and federal programs and taxes in calculation of income	Most accurate measure of child poverty in Colorado, accounting for impact of state anti-poverty programs	Center on Poverty and Social Policy, Columbia University & Gary Community Ventures

Introducing The COPM



Step 1

**Begin with Census
survey data**

2022–2024 American
Community Survey
data

Step 2

**Draw on
additional
detailed survey
data**

Current Population
Survey adds
benefits & expenses

Step 3

**Tailor the
measure to
Colorado**

State rules and
administrative data
refine benefit
estimates

Step 4

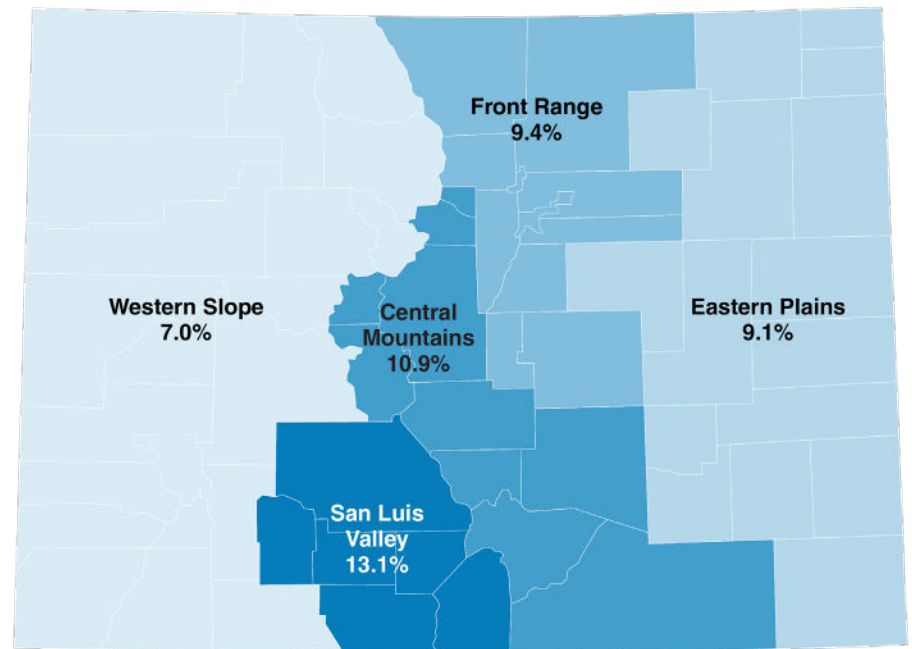
**Compare family
resources with
need**

Resources after
taxes and expenses
vs. Colorado
poverty thresholds

Child Poverty Rate

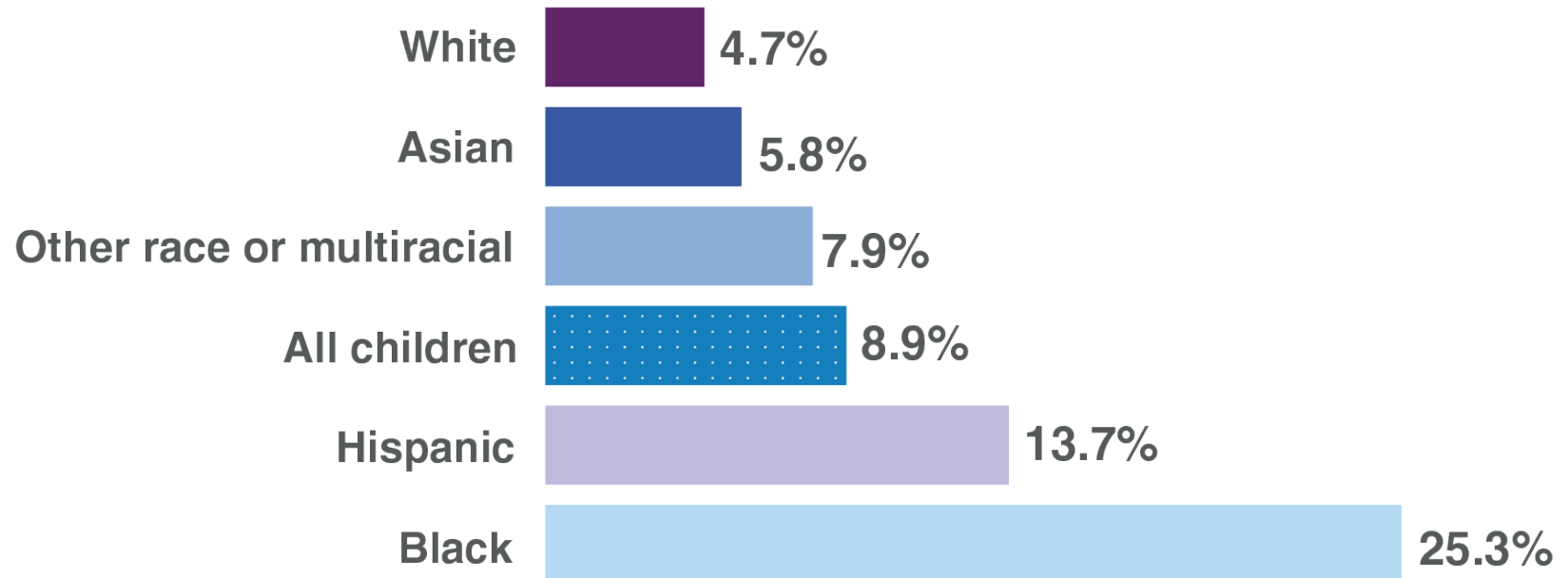
Colorado child poverty rate by region, 2022-2024

9%
107,200 children
Colorado Child Poverty Rate



Child Poverty Rate

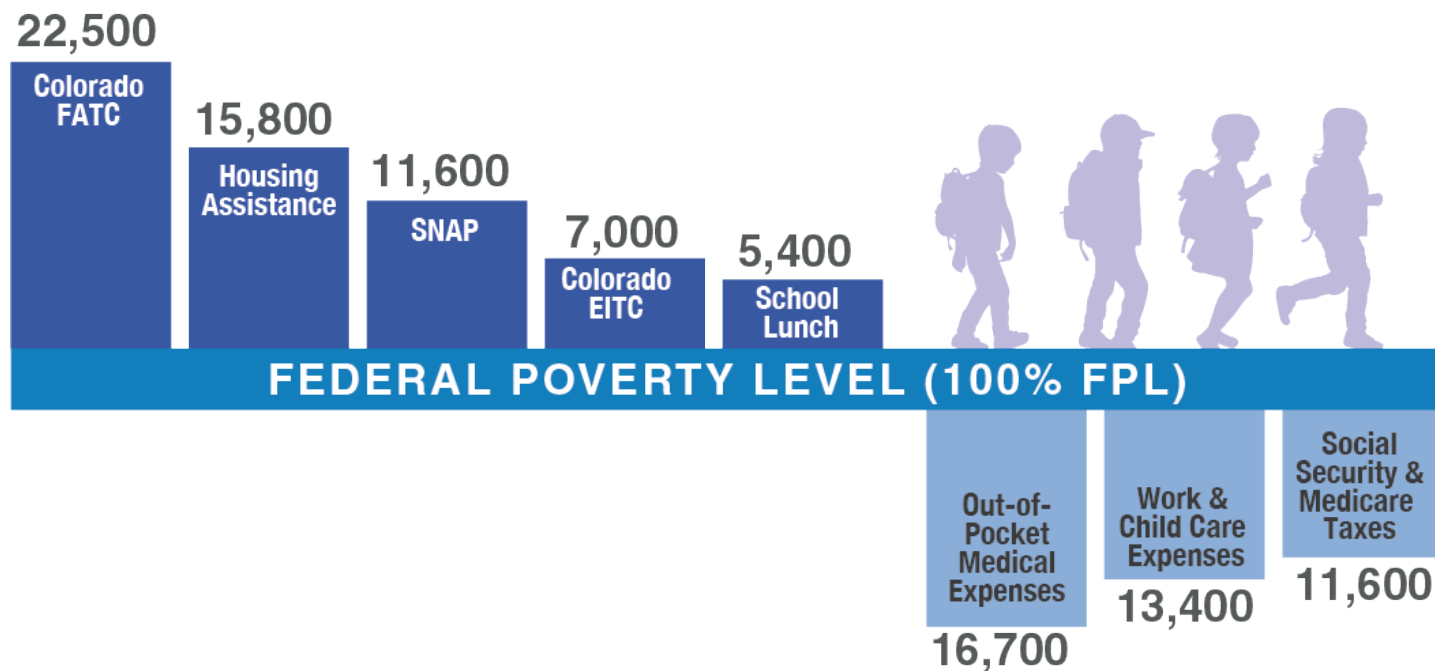
Colorado child poverty rate by race and ethnicity, 2024



Colorado policies and tax credits lift thousands of children out of poverty.

Colorado children lifted out of poverty by public investment, 2024

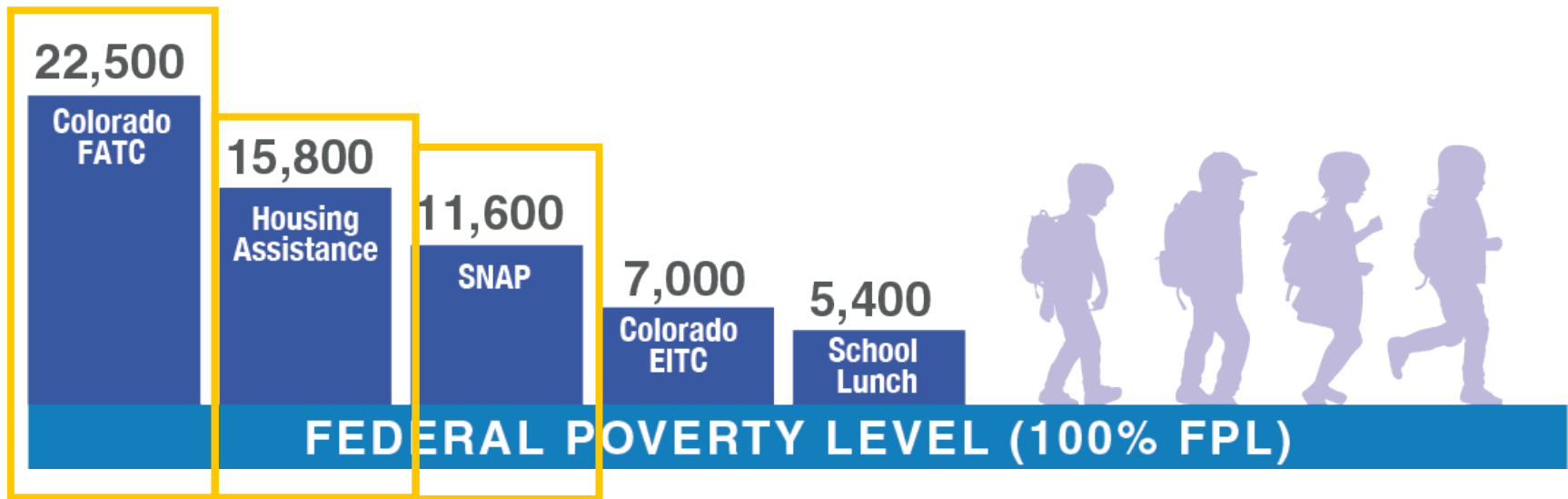
Colorado children pushed into poverty by expense, 2024



Note: Data are not mutually exclusive. The same child can be counted multiple times across programs and tax credits.
Source: Center on Poverty and Social Policy, Columbia University; Gary Community Ventures

Colorado policies and tax credits lift thousands of children out of poverty.

Colorado children lifted out of poverty by public investment, 2024



Note: Data are not mutually exclusive. The same child can be counted multiple times across programs and tax credits.

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Colorado policies and tax credits lift thousands of children out of poverty.

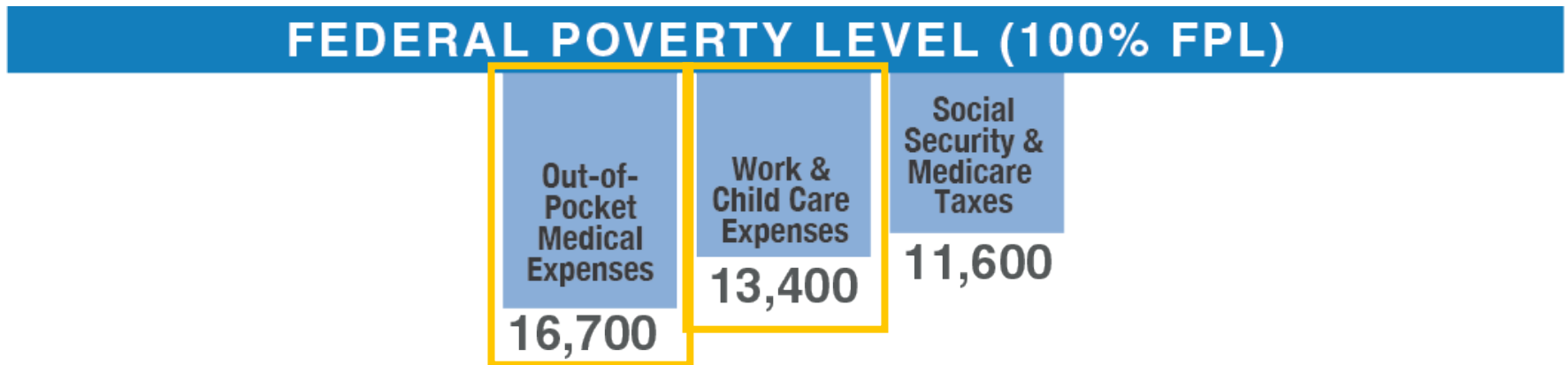
CHILDREN LIFTED OUT OF POVERTY BY PUBLIC INVESTMENT, 2024

PUBLIC PROGRAM / TAX CREDIT	CHILDREN LIFTED OUT OF POVERTY
Colorado FATC	22,500
Housing assistance	15,800
SNAP	11,600
Colorado EITC	7,000
School lunch	5,400
WIC	2,200
Colorado Child Tax Credit (CTC)	1,700
TANF	1,400

Note: Data are not mutually exclusive. The same child can be counted multiple times across programs and tax credits.
Source: Center on Poverty and Social Policy, Columbia University and Gary Community Ventures

Out-of-pocket medical expenses push nearly 17,000 children into poverty.

Colorado children pushed into poverty by expense, 2024



Note: Data are not mutually exclusive. The same child can be counted multiple times across multiple expenses.
Source: Center on Poverty and Social Policy, Columbia University; Gary Community Ventures

Threats to Benefits



**FATC projected to be at
least partially
unavailable**



**H.R. 1 making
funding a challenge**

The Path Forward

- 1 **Protect** and strengthen evidence-based programs that reduce child poverty.
- 2 **Identify** fiscal reforms to enable adequate public investments for children.
- 3 **Ensure** evidence-based programs are administered effectively and efficiently.
- 4 **Use** the COPM to simulate and track policy impacts.
- 5 **Invest** in a modern, accessible benefits delivery system.

Email Jill Hawley at jhawley@garycommunity.org to request a new COPM policy or analysis.

Coming Up Later This Month...

**Colorado Can Read: Building The Nation's
Next Literacy Success Story**

Released October 6

**Too Far From Care: Closing The Gap
in Colorado's Pediatric Access**

Thursday, October 22 @ 9:30 a.m.

Out now!



Questions?



Please Reach Out!

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