

2011 Indicators Report for Boulder County Comprehensive Early Childhood System Planning

The Early Childhood Council of Boulder County

The following is a summary of selected key findings from the 2011 Indicators Report. The page number in parentheses at the end of each bullet point refers to the page number in the full report where the specific data can be found.

Community Context

- In 2010, the Census Bureau estimated that 16.6% of Boulder County's children under age 18 were below poverty, a total of 10,247, or 1 in every 6 children in the county. This rate was the highest this decade, more than double the rate of 8.2% in 2000. (pages 11-12 in full report)
- An estimated nearly one in five children under age 5 in Boulder County, 18.2%, were below poverty in 2010, almost double the rate in 2000, when it was 9.5%. Among children aged 5 to 17, the poverty rate was 15.7%, more than twice the 2000 rate of 6.9%. (pp. 11-12)

Ready Community

- In September 2011, there were 187 licensed CCCAP providers in Boulder County, a 33% decrease since February 2009. (p.19)
- CCCAP reimbursements covered an average of 85% of the price of full-time care in the county's centers and 88% in homes. CCCAP and GAP subsidies together covered an average of 96% of the price of full-time care in centers and 98% in homes in Boulder and Longmont. The largest average gap that remained after subsidies were applied was for children aged 2 to 5 cared for in centers in Louisville, \$79.10 a week. (p. 20)
- A survey of child care center staff in Boulder County in October-November 2009 found that full-time hourly wage rates varied between an average of \$22.80 for directors to \$10.08 for assistants/aides. Average inflation-adjusted wage rates in three of the five position categories increased between 2003 and 2009, one remained about the same, and one decreased. (p. 22)
- The percent of center staff receiving benefits – free/reduced cost child care, health insurance, paid vacation, and retirement -- increased for all staff categories between 2003 and 2005-06 and remained about the same between 2005-06 and 2007-08. However, there was a substantial decline in 2009 in the percent of staff receiving free/reduced cost child care and a moderate decline in the percent receiving health insurance. (p. 23)

Ready Early Care and Education

- In July 2011, there were 16,910 licensed child care/early education slots in 403 licensed facilities in Boulder County. Forty-one percent of those slots were in Boulder, 26% in Longmont, and 33% in the remainder of the county. (p. 25)
- Between June 2010 and July 2011, there was a 15.3% increase in licensed slots and a 7.5% increase in licensed facilities countywide. The largest increase in slots and facilities was in the remainder of the county outside Boulder and Longmont. (pp. 25-26)
- Few child care centers or family child care homes in Boulder County or the state were accredited by a national accrediting organization, and there were no substantial changes in Boulder County between 2008 and 2011 in the percent of accredited providers. In 2011, 7.6% of licensed centers were accredited, compared to 6.4% in the state, and 1.4% of child care homes in the county compared to 1.2% in the state were accredited. (p. 27)
- Few child care centers, 6.7%, and no family child care homes in Boulder County were rated by Qualistar during the most recent two-year rating period. Six of the eight rated centers received one of the top two ratings (3 or 4 Stars). (p. 28)

- A total of 137 early childhood professionals in Boulder County had received a Colorado Early Childhood Professional Credential by the end of SFY 2010-11. The Early Childhood Professional Credential is a tiered system of state credentialing that recognizes increasing education and experience in caring for and educating young children. (p. 29)

Ready Family

- The rate of Boulder County households receiving Food Stamps almost doubled between 2008 and the first half of 2011, from 32.2 households per 1,000 to 63.0. The rate of children receiving Food Stamps doubled between 2008 and 2010, from 59.5 children per 1,000 to 119.1. (p. 31)
- In 2008, 1.6 Boulder County households per 1,000 received TANF, more than doubling to 3.6 in the first half of 2011. The rate of children receiving TANF also more than doubled during that period, from 5.8 per 1,000 to 12.2. (p. 32)

Ready Child

- In 2009, an estimated 22.8% children aged 18 or younger (3,436 children) in Boulder County who were eligible for either Medicaid or CHP+ were not enrolled, a decrease since 2008, when the rate was 28.5%. Thirty-nine percent of children in Boulder County who were eligible for CHP+ were not enrolled, as were 16.7% of Medicaid-eligible children. Both rates were lower than in 2008. Statewide, the rates of eligible but not enrolled children also decreased between 2008 and 2009. (p. 35)
- Rates of both overweight and obesity have increased during this decade among children aged 2 to 5 participating in Boulder County's WIC program, although those rates have remained about the same during the past four years. In 2010, 12.8% were obese and 15.3% were overweight, a total of 28.1%, and a substantial increase over the 2001 rate of 21.5%. The 2010 statewide rate of overweight/obesity was lower than the Boulder County rate, 23.2%, and increased less rapidly since 2001. (pp. 36-37)
- In both county school districts in both the math and reading 2011 CSAP tests, the percent of 4th graders scoring at/above proficiency and the median growth percentile were lower for Hispanic students than for white non-Hispanic students and for students eligible for the free/reduced lunch program than for students who were not eligible. (pp. 38-42)
- Hispanic students who took the 3rd grade CSAP reading test in Spanish scored much higher than Hispanic students who took it in English. (p. 42)