

Annual



Report 2020

In 2017, Pueblo Communities that Care (CTC) analyzed local-level data to prioritize risk and protective factors to address in the community: Academic Failure in Late Elementary School (risk factor) and Opportunities for Prosocial Involvement in the Community (protective factor). In 2018, CTC chose evidence-based strategies to address each of these risk and protective factors. To mitigate academic failure, CTC is working to increase accessibility, affordability, and availability of quality childcare (strategy); to increase prosocial opportunities in the community, CTC is working to make community spaces safe and healthier for young people (strategy). In 2019, the coalition successfully implemented the first year of the strategies' action plans.

In 2020, implementation continued with the strategy teams completing more than 60 activities, and each team completing one of their objectives. In addition, the coalition received a mini-grant from the Colorado Trust to fund a new community mural, assisted in applying for several grants with the City to improve walkability, and completed the grant application for the next five years of CTC funding from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. While the coalition had many

accomplishments this year, it cannot go unrecognized that 2020 was a challenging year. Between the passing of community leader Cheryl Reid and navigating a global pandemic, capacity and priorities constantly shifted. Though the Pueblo community will continue to deal with the impacts of 2020 for years to come, 2020 has proved that we are resilient. #PuebloStrong

Looking forward into 2021, this coalition will continue to strive, through collaborative efforts, to empower youth with opportunities to become healthy, educated, and responsible citizens.

This 2020 annual report highlights efforts and accomplishments of all CTC workgroups.



Community Spaces Strategy Team



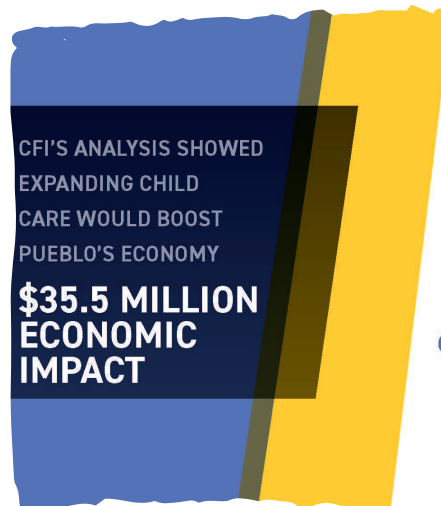
Given that transportation was identified as a barrier by young people in accessing community spaces, strategy team members funded free buses for all Kindergarteners through 12th graders. This multiagency effort was possible by a collaboration between Pueblo Transit, Colorado Youth Detention Continuum, Department of Human Services, and First Presbyterian Church. See CTC strategy team members at the press conference pictured left.

- Team members created a heat map to visualize areas of high crime in relation to where youth want to go (as indicated by the youth focus groups). The team is planning on targeting safety interventions around hot spots in 2021.
- Team members created a workgroup specifically about My Pueblo Card—a program to incentivize youth to participate in prosocial opportunities by rewarding them with local discounts. The workgroup secured funding for the program and is currently working with Digital Hart Media to create the platform to debut in May 2021.
- Team members surveyed over 60 young people to identify their barriers on biking, boarding, and scooting places in Pueblo—checkout a highlight of the data by scanning the QR code. A major identified barrier was lack of equipment to support biking to City Park. To reduce this barrier, the team partnered with the City to write a community change grant for bike parking near the pool.



Quality Childcare Strategy Team

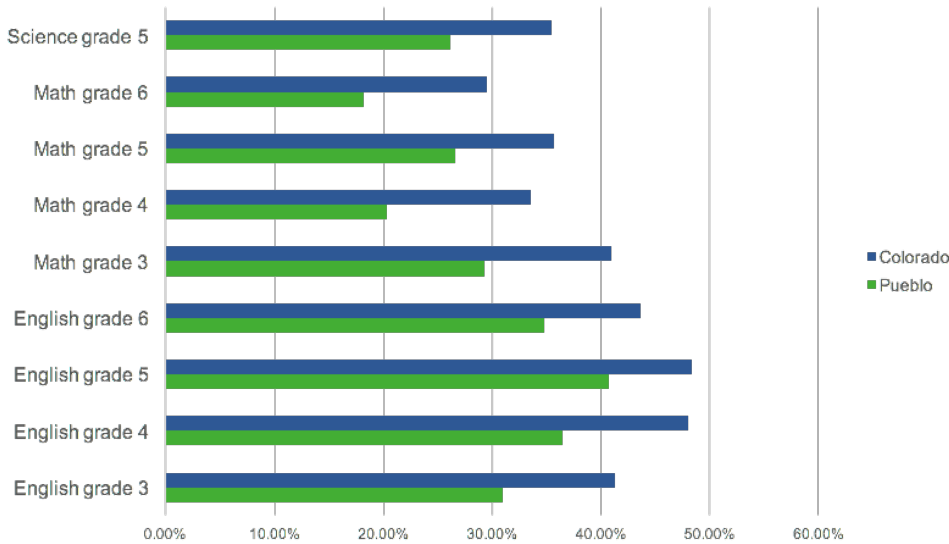
- Team members create a county-wide map of all licensed childcare providers. Uniquely, the map has several other pieces of information (like what age slots are at the facility, participation in the food program, and curriculum that providers implement) to help parents choose the right fit for them.
- The team contracted with the Colorado Fiscal Institute to research how free childcare would impact Pueblo's economy. The team has shared this crucial information with PEDCO and local elected officials in an effort to recruit more early childhood champions—see an excerpt from the report. The team is planning a No Small Matter documentary showing on January 27 at 9AM via Zoom to further promote early childhood to policy makers.



- The economic boost of more parents having access to child care would create as many as 200 jobs in Pueblo County.
- Free or affordable child care would reduce the poverty rate for single-parent households from 46% to 32%. Two-parent households would see their poverty rate fall from 16% to 10%.
- Some of the jobs that pay the lowest wages—like housekeepers and desk clerks—are overwhelmingly filled by women.

Data Workgroup

Academic Success, 2019

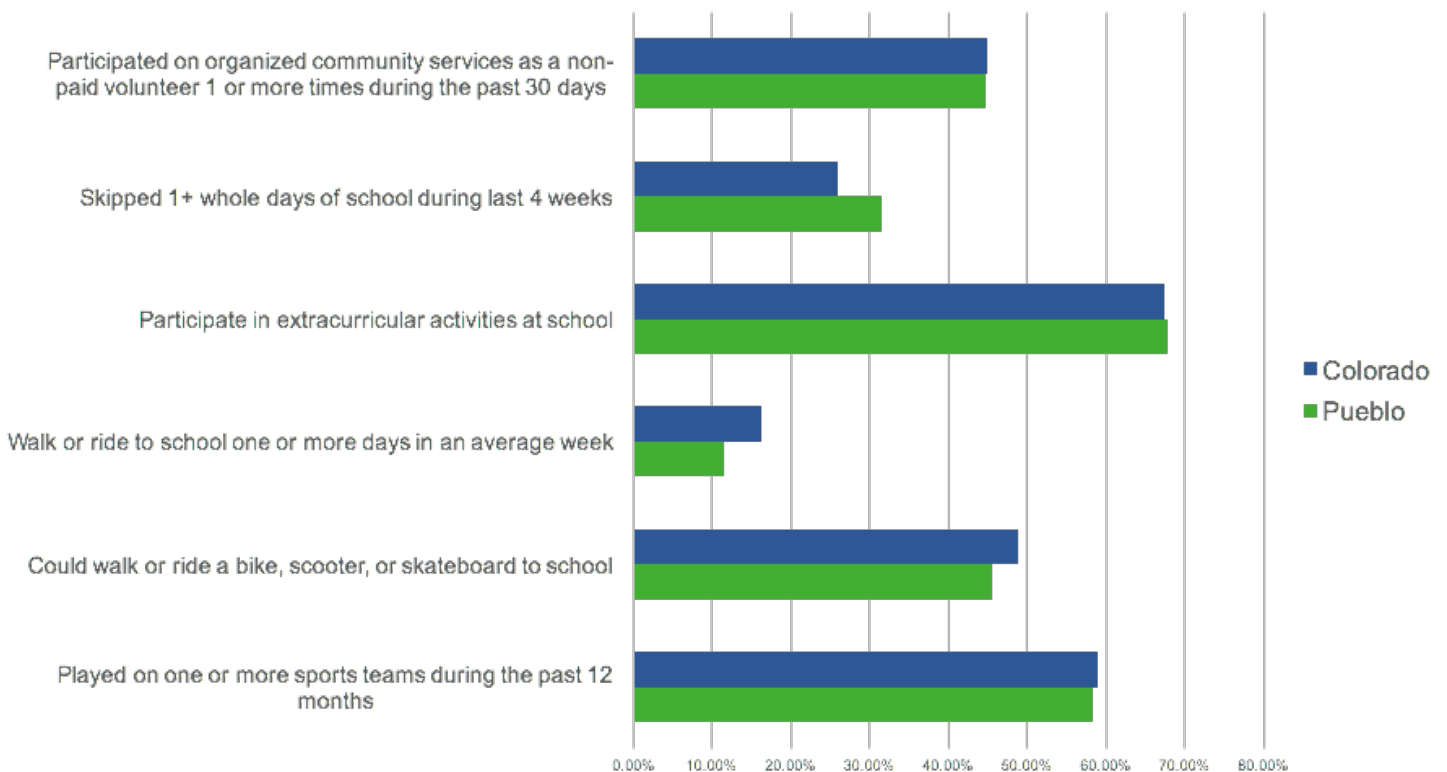


- Workgroup members analyzed 2019 Healthy Kids Colorado Survey data and updated CTC's long-term metrics for the strategies and risk/protective factors.

- The workgroup provided guidance to each strategy team on their SMART goals to ensure that CTC's strategies can be appropriately evaluated.

- The workgroup worked with the School of Public Health to perform additional analyses on the HKCS data so that Pueblo can see how youth behaviors change with more than one risk factor present.

Prosocial Opportunities, 2019



Party Planning Committee



- The committee created a system, secured funding, and solidified partnerships with the Pueblo Police Department to implement positive ticketing with youth, called We Saw That awards. Pictured to the left is a school resource officer giving an award to a middle schooler for having positive attitude and making a good decision.

- The committee hosted a virtual recognition summer celebration to thank coalition members for their hard work and provide some fun during COVID. Pictured at the right are some socially distanced coalition members participating in the summer fun.



- In 2019, the coalition nominated their peers for recognition categories. Outstanding CTC member was awarded to Angie Shehorn, Best promoter of CTC was awarded to Becky Medina, and Community builder was awarded to Cheryl Reid. Congratulations to the 2019 award winners!



Outreach & Youth Involvement Workgroup

- Members worked with a local artist and high school graduates to co-design and paint a community mural to recognize young people and celebrate their resiliency. The mural has all D60, D70, and online high school mascots, a growing flower, a 2020 history book, and a megaphone that yells Pueblo Strong.

- In June, the workgroup brought on three more youth advisers. Youth advisers (Bella, Luciana, Jacelynn, Daniel, and Joseph) have created their own social media accounts. Pueblo Youth Voices is youth-led and workgroup owned and operated.

