Introduction

The Early Childhood Council of the San Luis Valley, the grantee for Early Head Start in the San Luis Valley, began this Community Assessment in June 2014. The first step was to meet with its Advisory Team, representatives from all over the Valley and different agencies, to develop goals or “hopes” for the children and families that make up the diverse communities of the San Luis Valley. The EHS Policy Council also looked at potential outcomes and approved the goals.

The following pages of data are organized based on those goals that came out of those meetings. Each goal was analyzed and specific indicators were identified to best describe where these communities are at in meeting the goals.

It is our hope, at the Early Childhood Council of the San Luis Valley that these outcomes will guide our immediate goals, upcoming work, and ultimately create a future where all children are valued, healthy, and thriving in school and in life.

Thank you!

*Thank you to Roni Wisdom and Hew Hallock at the SLV Development Resources Group for access to data!*

*Thank you to our team who worked hard to craft the goals and identify indicators:*

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**Originally compiled by Kelsea Macllroy. Newly designed, composed and updated by Jennell Higgins. Revised and edited by ECCSLV Staff September 2015.**

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This report presents demographic data on the San Luis Valley in order to provide a solid foundation from which to view the indicator data included herein. The demographic data sets presented are not exhaustive, but rather are those thought to best give the reader a perspective of the overall condition of children and families in the San Luis Valley, Colorado.

The San Luis Valley is classified as its own geographic area in the south-central region of the state of Colorado. It is rural, agricultural, and separated from the rest of the state by a split in the Rocky Mountains. The Sangre de Cristo range borders the Eastern side of the SLV, the Western side is enclosed by the San Juan Mountains.

The San Luis Valley (SLV) is comprised of six counties: Alamosa, Conejos, Costilla, Mineral, Rio Grande, and Saguache. The largest city in the SLV is Alamosa in Alamosa County. The six counties of the SLV consist of 8,193 square miles. The SLV alone is larger than six other states in the United States and is just smaller than Massachusetts. The number of people per square mile is 5.6.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SLV Land Ownership (%)</th>
<th>Federal</th>
<th>Forest Service</th>
<th>BLM</th>
<th>Other Federal</th>
<th>State</th>
<th>Private</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Federal</td>
<td>45.9%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forest Service</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BLM</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>10.2%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Federal</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>43.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The San Luis Valley consists of a large portion of Federal, Forest Service, and BLM owned land. Much of the land, especially in Mineral and Saguache counties, is forested and mountainous. Costilla County is predominantly privately owned due to the Sangre de Cristo Land Grant. The grant covers 633 acres of common area, mostly wetlands, known as the Vega—it is mostly used for animal grazing.

The predominant use of land in the SLV is Rangeland and Forest. A sizable percentage is used for agriculture, the largest industry in the SLV. Alamosa and Rio Grande County have the largest percentages of urban land comprised of the cities of Alamosa (Pop. 8,780) and Monte Vista (Pop. 4,444).
Population Totals

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the 2010 population for the San Luis Valley was 46,027. Between 2000 and 2010 population in the San Luis Valley remained relatively the same.

It should be noted that the only county in the SLV to grow significantly between 1950 and 2010 was Alamosa. This is largely due to Adams State University attracting an increasing amount of students and a growing non-profit sector. (Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
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<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&quot;2000 Census&quot;</td>
<td>15,445</td>
<td>8,256</td>
<td>3,524</td>
<td>712</td>
<td>11,982</td>
<td>6,108</td>
<td>46,027</td>
<td>5.026 mil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;1990 Census&quot;</td>
<td>14,966</td>
<td>8,400</td>
<td>3,663</td>
<td>831</td>
<td>12,413</td>
<td>5,917</td>
<td>46,190</td>
<td>4.301 mil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;1950 Census&quot;</td>
<td>13,617</td>
<td>7,453</td>
<td>3,190</td>
<td>558</td>
<td>10,770</td>
<td>4,619</td>
<td>40,207</td>
<td>3.294 mil</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Population Forecast

The population forecast for the counties of the San Luis Valley shows a conservative increase in population for almost all counties, except for Mineral and Costilla. The predicted growth is perhaps based upon the growing recognition of Adams State University as a quality higher education institution as well as its successful Division II sports teams. Unlike many rural and agricultural communities, the San Luis Valley does not experience a significant loss of its young adults to larger cities. This could be due to strong community ties, the opportunity to earn a college education at home for a lower cost, or low cost of living in general.

Population Forecast by County, 2012-2020

(Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010)
Population Characteristics

Gender
This chart shows the percentage of the population who are male and female. Both the San Luis Valley and the state of Colorado have a higher percentage of males within the population. Only Costilla, Saguache, and Mineral Counties have higher percentages of males, following the state. Conejos County has the highest percentage of females with 50.4%.

Age Range
Age range data for Colorado, the San Luis Valley, and the six counties that make up the SLV is presented below. In general, the SLV has a higher population of children and older adults than the rest of Colorado. Of note is Mineral County with a very low percentage of all age groups except for 45 years old and up, which the majority of their population comes from. This is possibly due to the aging of the population, a lack of new industries, and minor influx of retirees. Also of note is the percentage of 20-24 year olds in Alamosa County, which is most likely due to Adams State University's presence.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Under 5 years old</th>
<th>5-19</th>
<th>20-24</th>
<th>25-44</th>
<th>45-64</th>
<th>65 and up</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Colorado</td>
<td>6.8%</td>
<td>20.3%</td>
<td>6.9%</td>
<td>28.4%</td>
<td>26.7%</td>
<td>10.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>San Luis Valley</td>
<td>7.1%</td>
<td>21.1%</td>
<td>6.7%</td>
<td>21.5%</td>
<td>28.8%</td>
<td>14.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alamosa</td>
<td>7.8%</td>
<td>21.7%</td>
<td>10.0%</td>
<td>23.1%</td>
<td>26.0%</td>
<td>11.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conejos</td>
<td>7.9%</td>
<td>23.4%</td>
<td>5.3%</td>
<td>21.0%</td>
<td>27.3%</td>
<td>15.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Costilla</td>
<td>5.0%</td>
<td>18.3%</td>
<td>3.9%</td>
<td>17.5%</td>
<td>32.5%</td>
<td>22.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mineral</td>
<td>2.8%</td>
<td>13.1%</td>
<td>2.9%</td>
<td>16.0%</td>
<td>42.1%</td>
<td>23.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rio Grande</td>
<td>6.6%</td>
<td>20.8%</td>
<td>5.4%</td>
<td>21.7%</td>
<td>29.2%</td>
<td>16.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saguache</td>
<td>6.9%</td>
<td>19.1%</td>
<td>5.1%</td>
<td>21.1%</td>
<td>33.2%</td>
<td>14.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Median Age
This chart indicates that the population for the entire San Luis Valley is aging. The median age in the SLV in 2010 was 42.9 years. The Median age for SLV residents exceeds the State’s by 6.8 years. Of note are the Median ages for Costilla and Mineral counties which are 49.0 and 53.1, respectively. These exceed Colorado’s median age by 12.9 and 17.0 years.
Population by Race & Hispanic Origin

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Colorado</th>
<th>San Luis Valley</th>
<th>Alamosa</th>
<th>Conejos</th>
<th>Costilla</th>
<th>Mineral</th>
<th>Rio Grande</th>
<th>Saguache</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>% White (non-Hispanic)</td>
<td>70.0</td>
<td>49.8</td>
<td>49.6</td>
<td>41.8</td>
<td>30.8</td>
<td>95.2</td>
<td>55.1</td>
<td>56.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Hispanic</td>
<td>20.7</td>
<td>47.0</td>
<td>46.0</td>
<td>56.0</td>
<td>66.0</td>
<td>2.9</td>
<td>42.4</td>
<td>40.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Other</td>
<td>9.3</td>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>4.4</td>
<td>2.2</td>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>1.9</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>3.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This chart demonstrates that the majority of the San Luis Valley population is White/non-Hispanic and Hispanic. The counties with more than half of the population from Hispanic origin are Conejos and Costilla. This trend of a relatively equal population of White/non-Hispanic and Hispanic differs from the rest of the state which is predominantly White/non-Hispanic. Other minority populations for the San Luis Valley total 3.2 percent of the population, with the largest concentration of Other Minorities in Alamosa County. Also of note is Mineral County, whose population is 95.2% White/non-Hispanic, which stands in stark contrast to the rest of the SLV.

Spanish Speaking Population

The San Luis Valley, as a whole, has a high percentage of native Spanish speakers when compared with the entire state of Colorado. Costilla County has the highest percentage with 51.3 percent, more than half of its population. Also of note is Mineral County with its very low population of Spanish speakers (1.7%).

School Population

As evidenced by the chart to the right, school enrollment numbers by county have remained relatively constant over the last four years. There are 14 school districts in the San Luis Valley; many of the school districts crossing over county lines. However, because of open enrollment, many students attend schools outside of their home district.
Education Level

Almost eighty-three percent of adults aged 25 and higher have a high school degree or diploma in the San Luis Valley. By contrast, seventeen percent do not. Twenty-one percent have a Bachelor’s Degree or higher. The percentage with Bachelor’s degrees or higher is highest in Mineral County, followed by Alamosa County. Yet, Mineral County is higher than the state average, while Alamosa falls just below. The counties with the highest percentage of adults with no high school degree or diploma are Saguache and Costilla. Costilla also has the lowest number of adults with Bachelor’s degrees or higher, coming in at 14.3% respectively.

High School Graduation Rate

Almost all counties have graduation rates higher than the state average. Their rates range from 77.4 percent to 100 percent, respectively. Of note is Mineral County’s Graduation Rate of 100 percent, this is most likely due to the small class sizes in the school and the small population as there are only 101 children between 0-19 in the County. Not far behind are Costilla with 92.9, Conejos with 89.5, and Alamosa with 77.4 percent. This is a dramatic increase from just four years ago.
Living Arrangements Profile

The percentage of households in the San Luis Valley made up of families is significantly higher than the average number of households headed by only females with children. Although this is apparent, statistics have stayed relatively constant over the past ten years in regards to female-headed households with children under the age of eighteen. Mineral County does have significantly fewer female-headed households at 2.5 percent, compared to all other counties in the San Luis Valley.

Income and Related Measures

The median household income for the San Luis Valley is $34,728, 60 percent lower than the state median income of $56,456. Costilla County has the lowest median income ($24,388) in the SLV at 43.2 percent lower than the state median. Median earnings for males working full time in the San Luis Valley ranges between $24,837 and $41,833; Costilla being the lowest, and Mineral having the highest. All are lower than the state median. As is common in most places in the United States, the median earning for females working full time in the San Luis Valley is significantly lower than for males working full time. This unfortunate reality of our society is especially detrimental for children living in households headed by a single mother (as seen above).
Per Capita Income

The per capita income for the counties of the San Luis Valley, as of 2010 was between $23,081 and $43,766. These amounts fluctuate from 54.6 percent to 103.5 percent of Colorado’s. Refer to the table below for additional details.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BEA Per Capita Income</th>
<th>% of CO per capita</th>
<th>% Change 2006-10</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alamosa</td>
<td>$32,676</td>
<td>77.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conejos</td>
<td>$23,816</td>
<td>55.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Costilla</td>
<td>$26,103</td>
<td>61.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mineral</td>
<td>$43,766</td>
<td>103.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rio Grande</td>
<td>$33,415</td>
<td>79.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saguache</td>
<td>$23,081</td>
<td>54.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLV</td>
<td>$29,627</td>
<td>70.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colorado</td>
<td>$42,295</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Source: SLV Development Resources Group Statistical Profile, 2013)

Unemployment Rate

Unemployment rates for the San Luis Valley were lower than the state average before the recession hit. After the recession began the unemployment rates grew, but not at the same rate as the rest the state. Costilla County maintained the highest rates of unemployment overall, while Mineral County’s rates dropped from 2009 to 2011. The city of Alamosa is located in Alamosa County and is the home of the only major medical center, Adams State University, and is the central retail and grocery outlet for the San Luis Valley—not surprisingly the unemployment rates are among the lowest in the SLV and are still below the state average.

Labor Force Trends Annual Average (%)

(Source: SLV Development Resources Group Statistical Profile, 2013)
Children Living in Poverty

Poverty data is presented in the demographic section of the report because it helps paint a picture of the community in general. However, poverty is also one of the most important indicators of family and child well-being, because it is a predictor of so many other conditions. Unfortunately, the poverty levels for the San Luis Valley are high.

Poverty Data of Children (%)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Colorado</th>
<th>San Luis Valley</th>
<th>Alamosa</th>
<th>Conejos</th>
<th>Costilla</th>
<th>Mineral</th>
<th>Rio Grande</th>
<th>Saguache</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Children (Under 18) in Poverty</td>
<td>16.8%</td>
<td>32.6</td>
<td>35.3</td>
<td>30.4</td>
<td>37.8</td>
<td>14.0</td>
<td>28.9</td>
<td>43.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children Receiving WIC vouchers</td>
<td>34.3%</td>
<td>49.9</td>
<td>68.8</td>
<td>43.3</td>
<td>59.0</td>
<td>6.5</td>
<td>57.4</td>
<td>64.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children Qualifying for Free or Reduced Lunch</td>
<td>41.6%</td>
<td>70.6</td>
<td>66.9</td>
<td>65.3</td>
<td>84.8</td>
<td>59.7</td>
<td>61.3</td>
<td>85.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Source: 2015 Kids Count Colorado, Colorado Children’s Campaign, data 2013-2014)

The San Luis Valley has a staggering percentage of children living in poverty; at almost double the state’s percentage. Of note are Costilla and Saguache Counties with child poverty rates of 37.8 and 43 percent, respectively. Children under the age of five are eligible to receive WIC if they live in families making less than 185% of the Federal Poverty guidelines, thus, this percentage of children receiving WIC vouchers is a strong indicator for the needs of children and families. In order to be eligible for the Free Lunch Program a family’s income must fall below 130 percent of the poverty line. To qualify for the reduced lunch program a family’s income must be between 130 and 185 percent of the poverty line. With these added indicators, a more complete picture of poverty in the San Luis Valley emerges. Just because a family falls above the poverty line, does not mean they are truly able to meet the needs of their families.

Quick Fact:

Achievement Gaps Start Early

By the time they reach age two, children from low-income families are already six months behind in their language development.
GOAL ONE: EARLY LEARNING

All Infants, toddlers and young children have access to consistent, high quality experiences

Objectives:

- Continue existing support; explore opportunities for expanding the quality and availability of programs serving infants and toddlers
- Support and expand our existing professional and workforce development system
- Implement a shared service model to support child care providers in operating their businesses more effectively and efficiently

Licensed Child Care Slots by Age

This chart shows the number of licensed child care slots by age, available in the San Luis Valley. The age groups are birth through the day before the child’s third birthday—the same age range that Early Head Start serves. This amount of 188 slots includes the 72 slots added by the Early Head Start Grant in 2010.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th># of Licensed Slots</th>
<th>Total Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0-3 years</td>
<td>188</td>
<td>1,884</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-5 years</td>
<td>1568</td>
<td>1,256</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Source: NACCRRAware Database, pulled 7/17/2014)

This bar graph shows the number of licensed care slots in comparison with the approximate population of children birth to three and three to five. It shows that for children three to five the number of licensed child care slots and the approximate population are relatively close. For children birth to three the amount of licensed care slots is tremendously lower than the approximate population, which suggests that care is not available to all the children birth to three who need it.

As you can see there are more Licensed Slots Available in comparison to the population when it comes to children ages three to five. This is due to the potential for children being able to occupy two half-day slots at multiple child care sites. For example, they may attend one center in the morning and a different center in the afternoon.

(Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010)
Colorado Preschool Program Slots Available and Used in 2013/2014

The chart on the right shows the number of Colorado Preschool Program Slots available in 2013/2014 School Year. The majority of school districts filled their CPP allotment. The districts that did not use their full allotment of CPP slots most likely did not have enough students to fill the slots (e.g., Creede, located in Mineral County). Based on this information it can be determined that many districts are serving all the children available who are aware and in need of CPP. Also, because the CPP program is full in many districts, there may be children not receiving services.
(Source: CPP Report, Mary Jo DePriest, 2014)

| 2013-14 (does not include additional ECARE positions awarded beginning 2014-15) |
|-------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| # of Slots                                      |                  |
| Alamosa                                         | 150+(3 ECARE)    |
| Centennial                                      | 10+(1 ECARE)     |
| Center                                          | 30               |
| Creede                                          | 6                |
| Del Norte                                       | 41               |
| Moffat                                          | 13               |
| Monte Vista                                     | 46               |
| Mountain Valley                                 | 11               |
| N. Conejos                                      | 61               |
| Sanford                                         | 20               |
| Sangre de Cristo                                | 17               |
| Sargent                                         | 25               |
| Sierra Grande                                   | 15               |
| S. Conejos                                      | 8                |
| **Total # of Slots**                           | **453**          |

Early Head Start Slots & Waitlist

The Early Head Start of the San Luis Valley currently serves 72 children between the ages of six weeks and three years old, as well as families. The 72 slots are spread out across four counties of the San Luis Valley in six different centers. Two centers are located in Saguache County, one in Rio Grande County, one in Alamosa County, two in Costilla County. Even with the addition of these 72 slots into these communities in 2010, the income eligible waiting list adds up to over half of the available slots. This means that in order to serve all of the children who are eligible for Early Head Start services, funding for slots would need to increase by 56%.
(Source: SLV EHS Income Eligible Waiting List, pulled Sept 2015)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Early Head Start</th>
<th>Enrolled</th>
<th>Waitlist</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>72</td>
<td>109</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Head Start Slots and Waiting List

Rocky Mountain SER Head Start is the grantee for five Head Starts in the San Luis Valley. They are located in Fort Garland, San Luis, Sanford, Conejos, and Alamosa. In the 2013-2014 school year, they had 383 slots for children with 14 children on the waiting list. RMSER will continue serving 383 children for the 2014/2015 school year.
(Source: Rocky Mountain SER Head Start, pulled 12/5/2014)
Colorado Child Care Assistance Program (CCCAP)

CCCAP is managed by the Colorado Department of Human Services, Division of Child Care and provides low income families with financial assistance to pay for part of the cost of child care. The program is funded through federal, state and county’s money. Participating child care providers are reimbursed by their county. The Federal requirement is that counties provide assistance to families who are making less than 130 percent of the federal poverty limit (FPL). Eight percent of children in the San Luis Valley are currently utilizing CCCAP funding, 10 percent higher than the state average.

| % of Children Enrolled in CCCAP |
| San Luis Valley | Colorado |
| 8 | 7 |

(Source: Colorado Early Childhood Councils by the Numbers, 2010)

SLV CCCAP Eligibility Limits

The CCCAP Eligibility limits, by county, in the San Luis Valley show that in general the limits are much higher than the federal mandate. The two exceptions are Mineral and Rio Grande, whose limits are 130% FPL. Since 2008 Costilla, Rio Grande, and Saguache counties have raised their CCCAP limits. Since the recession began in 2008 only 7 of 64 Colorado counties have increased their CCCAP eligibility rates.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Eligibility Limit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Federal</td>
<td>170% FPL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colorado</td>
<td>130% FPL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alamosa</td>
<td>185% FPL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conejos</td>
<td>225% FPL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Costilla</td>
<td>225% FPL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mineral</td>
<td>130% FPL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rio Grande</td>
<td>165% FPL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saguache</td>
<td>200% FPL</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Source: Colorado Child Care Assistance Program (CCCAP), data 2013)

Sites with Current Qualistar Ratings

The measure is the percentage of child care centers and preschools that have a current Qualistar Rating. Qualistar Ratings are valid for up to two years unless there has been a change in the Program’s Licensure. A Qualistar Rating is an indication of the level of quality in a child care site. Qualistar measures quality using a 4 star rating system; one being the lowest rating and four stars are the highest. In the San Luis Valley 34 percent of child care centers and preschools have a current Qualistar Rating. Six of the seven rated sites are in the School Readiness Program which works with preschool programs that feed into low-performing elementary schools. This program provides focused training and resources to improve the quality of the preschool and the school readiness of the children the program serves. The School Readiness Program pays for a Qualistar Rating the first and second year of the three year cycle. At this time, one family child care home has a current Qualistar Rating.

| Percent of Child Care Sites with Qualistar Rating | 34% |
| Percent of Family Child Care Homes with Qualistar Rating | 4% |

(Source: NACCRRAware Database, pulled 2014)

Child Care Centers by Quality Rating

To the left are the sites that have been rated between 2012 and 2014. Of the sites that have current Qualistar Ratings two sites have a two star rating, five sites have a three star rating, and one site has a four star rating.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Quality Rating</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Star</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Stars</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Stars</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Stars</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Source: NACCRRAware Database, pulled 2014)
Early Childhood Credentialed Professionals as of (12-31-2013)

The six counties of the San Luis Valley, all totaled, have 168 Early Childhood Professionals who have received a credential through the Colorado Office of Professional Development. When totaled based on Early Childhood Councils, the Early Childhood Council of the San Luis Valley, which covers a six county area, has the third largest number of credentialed professionals in the state. One of the main reasons for the high numbers of credentials in the San Luis Valley is the financial support and awards available through the Temple Hoyne Buell Foundation.

### Credentialed Professionals by Level: Early Childhood Council of the San Luis Valley

![Doughnut Chart]

This doughnut graph shows the breakdown of the 168 Early Childhood Credentialed Professionals in the San Luis Valley. 65 people have achieved their Level I; 22 have earned a Level II Credential; 46 have a Level III; 29 have worked for their Level IV; and 6 people have received their Level V Credential.

### Professional Early Childhood Credential-to Licensed Slot Ratio

For every ten licensed child care slots in the San Luis Valley, there is one Early Childhood Credentialed teacher. The state ratio is one licensed Early Childhood Credentialed teacher for every 99 licensed slots. The data shows that the San Luis Valley is helping to lead the way in developing an early childhood workforce that is professional and competent, providing a quality learning and care environment for young children.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>San Luis Valley</th>
<th>Colorado</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1:10</td>
<td>1:99</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Source: Colorado Early Childhood Councils by the Numbers, 2010-2014)
Child Care Center Directors & Family Child Care Providers Years of Experience

For Child Care Center Directors in the counties of the San Luis Valley 12 have over ten years’ experience, four have five to ten years’ experience and eleven have one to five years’ experience. Amongst the Family Child Care providers one has one to five years’ experience, three have five to ten years’ experience, and seventeen have over ten years of experience. The difference is most apparent in regards to one-five years’ experience when comparing Child Care Centers and Family Child Care providers.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Center</th>
<th>FCCH</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1-5 years</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-10 years</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10+ years</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Source: NACCRAware, pulled 7/17/2014)

Child Care Center Directors & Family Child Care Providers Highest Educational Achievement

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Center</th>
<th>FCCH</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>High School</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some College</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Associates Degree</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor’s Degree</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Master’s Degree</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Source: NACCRAware, pulled 7/17/2014)

Child Care Center Directors typically have a higher educational achievement than Family Child Care Providers. This is because the qualifications to be a center Director are higher than being a FCC Provider. Although this is true, it is required that center directors attend and document clock hour trainings, while FCC Providers are required to do 15 hours a year of training in several fields of Early Childhood, including at least three hours in Social-Emotional Development.
Kindergarteners in Full-Day Program

100 percent of Kindergarteners in the San Luis Valley are in a full-day kindergarten program. This has changed since 2013. This is still higher than the state average of 74.1 percent.

2014 (TCAP)
Transitional Colorado Student Assessment Program

4th Grade Students NOT Proficient in Reading

All counties had higher percentages of 4th grade students who scored non-proficient in reading on the 2014 TCAP.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Colorado</th>
<th>Alamosa</th>
<th>Conejos</th>
<th>Costilla</th>
<th>Mineral</th>
<th>Rio Grande</th>
<th>Saguache</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>33%</td>
<td>33.1</td>
<td>33.3</td>
<td>LNE</td>
<td>LNE</td>
<td>36.6</td>
<td>23.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Source: 2015 Kids Count, Colorado Children’s Campaign, data 2014)

Students Scoring Proficient or Above on the Math TCAP

Mineral county had the highest percentages of students scoring above the state average of 66.7 percent proficient or above among students in Math. Of particular note is Saguache’s score with only 39.1 percent of students scoring proficient or above in Math.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Colorado</th>
<th>Alamosa</th>
<th>Conejos</th>
<th>Costilla</th>
<th>Mineral</th>
<th>Rio Grande</th>
<th>Saguache</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>56.4%</td>
<td>48.8</td>
<td>52.7</td>
<td>42.8</td>
<td>66.7</td>
<td>43.3</td>
<td>39.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Source: 2015 Kids Count, Colorado Children’s Campaign, data 2014)
Students Scoring Proficient or Above on the Reading TCAP

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Colorado</th>
<th>Alamosa</th>
<th>Conejos</th>
<th>Costilla</th>
<th>Mineral</th>
<th>Rio Grande</th>
<th>Saguache</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>69%</td>
<td>65.5</td>
<td>67.7</td>
<td>56.1</td>
<td>85.4</td>
<td>63.2</td>
<td>60.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Source: 2015 Kids Count, Colorado Children’s Campaign, data 2014)

In Colorado, more than half of students score proficient or above in Reading. Alamosa, Conejos, and Rio Grande have similar numbers. Mineral County reports 85.4 percent of students scoring proficient or above in Reading. Both Costilla and Saguache Counties report around half of students scoring proficient or above with Costilla county having the lowest percentage of students proficient or above on the Reading TCAP.

Students Scoring Proficient or Above on the Science TCAP

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Colorado</th>
<th>Alamosa</th>
<th>Conejos</th>
<th>Costilla</th>
<th>Mineral</th>
<th>Rio Grande</th>
<th>Saguache</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>33.6%</td>
<td>25.3</td>
<td>29.3</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>37.5</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Source: 2015 Kids Count, Colorado Children’s Campaign, data 2014)

The Colorado state average for students scoring proficient or above in Science dropped in 2014. Conejos county is the lowest average with 15 percent. Alamosa County reports that one-third of students score proficient or above in Science, and Costilla and Saguache show only one-quarter of students proficient or above in Science.

Students Scoring Proficient or Above on the Writing TCAP

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Colorado</th>
<th>Alamosa</th>
<th>Conejos</th>
<th>Costilla</th>
<th>Mineral</th>
<th>Rio Grande</th>
<th>Saguache</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
<td>54.4%</td>
<td>48.7</td>
<td>52.2</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>66.7</td>
<td>47.3</td>
<td>41.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Source: 2015 Kids Count, Colorado Children’s Campaign, data 2014)

When it comes to Writing, most counties in the San Luis Valley fall close to the state average for students scoring proficient or above. Alamosa, Conejos, and Rio Grande Counties are all within ten percent of the state average, while Mineral County exceeds the state average with 66.7 percent. Of note are Costilla and Saguache Counties with only 39 and 41.2 percent of students scoring proficient or above in Writing.
Students with Special Needs

Sometimes a student comes to school not yet ready or able to fully engage in the classroom. In these cases extra services, therapy or supports are needed. This section documents those supports amongst the school population.

Preschool Children (aged Birth-3) with an IFSP during 2013-2014: **1%**
Preschool Children (aged 3-5) with an IEP during 2013-2014: **5%**

According to Kathy Mortensen, Assistant Director of Special Education at BOCES: “All 14 school districts provide Part B IDEA supports through SLV BOCES for age’s three to five. 100 percent of children with an IEP are integrated into a regular education setting. The special education related services for IDEA for children aged three to five include: Speech, Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, Early Childhood Special Education, Teacher of Visually Impaired, Teacher of Hearing Impaired, and Mobility Specialist.”

Students (aged 3-21) with an IEP as of December 1, 2013: **616**

Kathy Mortensen, Assistant Director of Special Education at SLV BOCES: “All 14 school districts provide special education supports through resource room services. The SLV has four Extended Services Elementary Classrooms for students with moderate to significant needs: three in Alamosa and one in Del Norte. There are three Middle School Extended Services Classrooms: one in Alamosa, one in North Conejos and one in Monte Vista. There are three High School Extended Services Classrooms: one in Alamosa, one in North Conejos and one in Monte Vista.”
Teaching Strategies Gold

Teaching Strategies GOLD is an online resource for teachers to document the progress of both individual children as well as groups of children. The resource is used to help teachers understand how best to support the children in their classroom. The assessment system uses nine areas of development and learning to measure “knowledge, skills, and behaviors that are most predictive of school success” (TSG report).

TS Gold is utilized in Early Head Start Kindergarten Classrooms which allows it to track children’s growth and development longitudinally. The following measurements were taken in the Fall of 2013, and again in the Spring of 2014. There is data on 1303 children, but only 1229 had enough GOLD data to be included in the report. The 1229 children included in this report are in 104 classes at 29 sites and have the following demographics. Although the measurements show fall and spring, EHS classroom benchmarks are reviewed quarterly.

Demographics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Male: 45%</th>
<th>Female: 51%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Race</td>
<td>White: 80% Black or African American: 1% American Indian or Alaska Native: 1% Some Other Race: 3%</td>
<td>White and Black or African American: 0 All Other Combinations: 2% Unknown: 14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethnicity</td>
<td>Not Spanish/Hispanic/Latino: 29% Mexican: 8% Guatemalan: 2% Spaniard: 1%</td>
<td>Unknown Hispanic: 38% Other Hispanic: 12% Unknown: 11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IFSP/IEP Status</td>
<td>Children Without IFSP: 99% Children With IFSP: 1%</td>
<td>Children Without IEP: 89% Children With IEP: 11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age or Class/Grade</td>
<td>Birth to 1 year: 1% 1 to 2 years: 2% 2 to 3 years: 2%</td>
<td>Preschool 3 class/grade: 35% Pre-K class/grade: 40% Kindergarten: 20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary Language</td>
<td>English: 88% Spanish: 11%</td>
<td>Other: 1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Strengths/Areas of Relative Success in Relation to Early Learning

- The Colorado Preschool Program slots available in the San Luis Valley are 100 percent full and serving children who have at least one risk factor. These children are receiving education that may not otherwise have been available to them.
- The Colorado Child Care Assistance Program Eligibility rates in most counties of the San Luis Valley are much higher than the federal mandate. Rates have been raised in several SLV counties since the recession began in order to assist more families.
- Of the eight sites that have current Qualistar Ratings in the San Luis Valley the average is a three star, with one site receiving 4 stars. This shows an excellent level of quality for the majority of rated sites.
- The number of credentialed professionals, as well as the ratio for the San Luis Valley of credentialed professionals to licensed child care slots is not only impressive but among some of the best in the state.
- By sending almost 100 percent of the children in the San Luis Valley to full-day kindergarten a solid base for future educational success is being created.
- Children with documented special needs in the Valley are being assisted through SLV BOCES and Blue Peaks.
- Teaching Strategies GOLD documentation provides a solid look at the social-emotional development of children in the SLV. Through implementing the Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports (PBIS), a program used primarily in the public school setting, more teachers are being educated on how to work on social and emotional growth with their students. More students are being taught healthy ways of sharing and dealing effectively with their emotions.
- The Pyramid Model and Pyramid Plus Approach are also being utilized by Early Head Start, Head Start, and Child Care Centers for social-emotional support.
GOAL ONE: EARLY LEARNING

Needs/Areas Needing Improvement in Relation to Early Learning

- Unfortunately for the parents of children in the San Luis Valley who are under 3 years old there are not enough licensed child care slots for these children. These parents must then either refrain from returning to school or entering the work force. Many desperate parents may also use child care that is unlicensed, which in some cases can be detrimental for the child as an unlicensed provider may not be properly trained in developmentally appropriate practices.

- There is a significant need for more Early Head Start funding based on the number of income eligible children on the waiting list. More money and investment into the Early Childhood Infrastructure of the SLV is necessary to meet this need.

- Unfortunately for parents who are also students in Alamosa County, the Department of Human Services for Alamosa is not able to provide CCCAP funding to them. This creates a significant financial hardship for these parents who are working to improve the lives of their children through advancing their own education.

- Only 34% of child care centers in the SLV have a current Qualistar Rating and only one family child care home has a current rating. While it would be beneficial to have more current Qualistar Rated sites, there may be a reason for so few rated sites. Of the six centers that have ratings six of them were paid for by the School Readiness Program. Without that funding it is possible that there would be only one rated program in the SLV. Therefore, it is probable that many centers and family child care providers feel that the cost of a rating is simply too high, in spite of the benefit. It is also possible that a Qualistar Rating is not the best way to judge a program’s quality in the San Luis Valley. In that case other indicators may need to be taken into account.

- The scores of 4th grade students on TCAP shows that somewhere children are not learning the skills necessary to demonstrate proficiency. Children born into poverty are more likely to start behind their wealthier peers in terms of exposure to stimulation, larger vocabularies and healthy life habits. Quality early childhood care, preschool, and kindergarten are extremely important steps in reversing this inequality. Programs like Early Head Start are especially valuable in communities like the San Luis Valley for this reason.
GOAL TWO: PARENTS & FAMILIES

Parents and families have access to, and utilize, a broad array of integrated, high quality services and supports

Objectives:

- Build on existing funding streams to leverage additional financing and investments in our early childhood system- Collaborating with the Home Visitation Programs in the Community.
- Increase the coordination and integration of programs that serve young children and their families

Parent Attendance at the 2014 Kite Fly

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Attendance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Parent Attendance at the 2014 Kite Fly</td>
<td>100*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Attendance at the 2014 Kite Fly</td>
<td>550</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Source: 2014 Kite Fly, * parent attendance approximation)

The Early Childhood Council of the San Luis Valley hosted the 2014 Kite Fly on April 23rd at the City of Alamosa Recreation Center. Child care centers, preschools, and Family Child Care Homes from all over the San Luis Valley were invited to attend. Parents were encouraged to attend as well.

Tummy to First Grade Night Attendance at Alamosa Elementary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Attendance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Head Start Families</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children’s Garden Families</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trinity Lutheran Families</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Families</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Attendance 176

(Source: Lori Smith, Principal, Alamosa Elementary, 2014)

The Alamosa Elementary Tummy to First Grade Night had a total attendance of 176. There were families in attendance from Alamosa Elementary, Headstart, Gingerbread, Children’s Garden, and Trinity Lutheran. Alamosa Elementary serves the Kindergarten to 1st Grade population for the Alamosa School District, located in the city of Alamosa, and the county of Alamosa.

Born Learning Trail Unveiling

Another event that took place this year was the unveiling of the Born Learning Trail on June 28, 2014. The Born Learning Trail is located along the paved path at Cole Park in Alamosa. The trail provides young children with an opportunity to be active while boosting gross motor, language and literacy, math, science, and social/emotional skills. The Early Childhood Council, along with Alamosa Parks and Recreation, and United Way, were able to set up signs around the park and paint activities along the walking trail. During the unveiling event, the Council also gave away lunch boxes, coloring books, and provided outdoor games and activities set up throughout the park.
Alamosa Public Library

The Alamosa Public Library has numerous different events being held over the course of the 2014 summer. One event in particular is the summer reading program that is held in June and July. The Summer Reading Program is for children and families of all ages. Children up to 4 years old have different literacy activities they may complete or choose to keep a reading log in order to win prizes. Age groups 5 & up complete reading logs for prizes and move through 5 different levels (readologist, researcher, expert, inventor and mad scientist) to complete the program.

Not only does the Alamosa Public Library offer a summer reading program, but they also host craft sessions, magic shows, storytelling, and musical engagement. All events are held on Wednesday mornings at 10:00am throughout the summer. In addition to these programs, they have also engaged in the Born Learning Trail activities by encouraging parents and children to walk the trail and participate in the learning exercises.

Nurse Family Partnership

Nurse-Family Partnership helps transform the lives of vulnerable first-time moms and their babies. Through ongoing home visits from registered nurses, low-income, first-time moms receive the care and support they need to have a healthy pregnancy, provide responsible and competent care for their children, and become more economically self-sufficient. From pregnancy until the child turns two years old, Nurse-Family Partnership Nurse Home Visitors form a much-needed, trusting relationship with the first-time moms, instilling confidence and empowering them to achieve a better life for their children – and themselves.

Results of the Program:
- 798 First-Time pregnant moms in the San Luis Valley have received visits and valuable information from NFP nurses!
- 695 infants have been born to NFP moms in the San Luis Valley and have acquired a great start on life thanks to the partnership between NFP nurses and parents!
- Since the first home visit on June 7, 2001, SLV NFP nurses have made 23,720 home visits and traveled 456,741 miles for visits with clients, all in 13 years!
- NFP families in the SLV graduate from the program at a higher rate; with 295 women completing the 2½ year program!

San Luis Valley Nurse-Family Partnership is located at 128 Market Street in Alamosa, Colorado. As of June 2014 there were twelve openings. An evidence-based community health program, Nurse-Family Partnership’s outcomes include long-term family improvements in health, education, and economic self-sufficiency. By helping to break the cycle of poverty, we play an important role in helping to improve the lives of society’s most vulnerable members, build stronger communities, and leave a positive impact on this and future generations.
Cooking Matters

Cooking Matters teaches families at risk of hunger how to get healthier, more nourishing foods for their money. Volunteer culinary and nutrition experts lead six-week cooking and nutrition courses and hour-long grocery store tours. Participants learn how to select nutritious and low-cost ingredients and prepare them in ways that are delicious and healthy.

The San Luis Valley Local Foods Coalition has been facilitating Cooking Matters courses since 2012. The instructors and volunteers are passionate about helping families improve their access to affordable, healthy, whole foods. They love educating community members about nutrition for the whole family, practical skills and strategies in the kitchen, and shopping options at local grocery stores and farmers markets. They also offer fun, hands-on classes for children, adults, and families.

La Llave

La Llave Resource Center of the San Luis Valley is located in Alamosa and has proudly served communities across the San Luis Valley of Colorado for over a decade. The many programs that La Llave offers have helped families build strong, intergenerational skills so that all members of the family can and will succeed in life.

La Llave Family Resource Center offers a variety of different programs to the people of the San Luis Valley. These program include:

- Parents as Teachers (PAT) Home Visitation Program
- Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters (HIPPY) Program
- English as a Second Language (ESL) Classes
- Health Insurance Application Assistance (CHP+ & Medicaid)
- Parenting Classes
- Early Childhood Classes
- Incredible Years Classes
- Cooking & Nutrition Classes
- Early Childhood Health Screenings
- Parent & Child Time Together
- Family Nights
- Summer Activities
- GED Classes
- Emergency Utility Help
- Conversational English
- Support for Moms & Dads
- Teen Parenting Help
- Motheread/Fatheread
- Resources, Referrals, and Advocacy
- Childcare During Most Classes
- Home Visits

SNAP-Ed

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program-Education is a research based program that assists limited-resource adults in acquiring knowledge, skills, attitudes, and changed behavior necessary for nutritionally sound diets. It also contributes to personal development and improvement of diet and nutritional well-being.
The SNAP-Ed program provides an 8-12 lesson, interactive, research based nutrition curriculum, adaptable material to meet each participant’s needs, and lessons delivered in small groups or one-on-one sessions. Participants of this program learn how to read food labels, save money on groceries, make healthy food choices, and be more active. Optional lessons are also available addressing nutrition during pregnancy, feeding a new baby, introducing solid foods, and feeding young children.

Save the Children

Since 2004, the Save the Children Foundation has operated their core programming in Colorado to help Colorado’s children succeed. Currently, Save the Children partners with ten communities in six counties, serving 1,492 children. The program builds parenting skills and student school readiness through home visitations and various resources to help children achieve a lifetime of learning.

The core programs in Colorado include:

- **Early Steps to School Success**
  The Early Steps to School Success program is designed to assist children, from birth to age 5, with language, social and emotional development; to equip parents with the skills and knowledge to successfully support their child’s growth; and to develop strong home to school connections. Ages 0–5

- **Literacy Program**
  The Literacy program provides children in elementary school with the opportunity to increase their reading achievement by supplying the tools they need to develop reading skills and the guidance and support they need to grow as readers. Ages 5–12

- **Healthy Choices**
  The Healthy Choices program aims to increase children’s information and access to regular physical activity and healthy snacks in a school environment. Ages 5–12

2013 Results:

Literacy Results:
Children in our program read an average of 57 books during the school year and more than 71% of participants showed significant reading improvement. On average, literacy improvement among program participants was equivalent to an additional 4.3 months of schooling.

National Health Results:
Children participated in an average of 30 minutes of physical activity per day and were introduced to nutritious snack options.

National Early Steps Results:
80% of 3-year-olds in our Early Steps program scored at or above the normal range for vocabulary acquisition.
San Luis Valley Human Resources Directory

The San Luis Valley Human Resources Directory is a listing of the resources available to individuals, families, and children in the entire San Luis Valley. It includes category headings, the name of the resource, and a telephone number. The directory is available through La Llave Family Resource Center and is also distributed through San Luis Valley Early Head Start. It is printed in English as well as Spanish.

San Luis Valley Family Resource Guide

This resource guide was made possible by the Early Childhood Council of the San Luis Valley, as an expansion of the Human Resources Directory developed by La Llave Family Resource Center, Inc. Work was accomplished in conjunction with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. This is not intended to be an exhaustive list of all available services. It too includes category headings, the name of the resource, and a telephone number. The directory is available through the Early Childhood Council of the San Luis Valley and is currently printed in English.

Birthing Packet from SLV Medical Center

Approximately 600 births a year take place at the San Luis Valley Regional Medical Center in Alamosa. As the only birthing center in the Valley about 95-99% of Valley births occur there, with other births being “at-home” or out of the SLV, according to Sandra Mohamed, Director of Nursing Services on the Obstetrics Floor.

When Mothers give birth at the hospital, before they leave they are sent home with a reusable bag of information, including a book on parenting and pamphlets. SLV Medical center does allow new mothers to come in and watch videos; they have also become breast feeding friendly and provide mothers with bags for milk and formula for those mothers who choose not to breast feed. The resources are as follows:

- **Giving Your Child a Bright Beginning**, from Colorado Bright Beginnings
  - Information on mother’s health
  - Baby’s health
  - Child Development
  - Challenges in Parenting
  - Safety
  - Child Care
  - Immunizations and Healthy Check-ups
- **The Creative Curriculum: Learning Games, Prenatal-12**, from Bright Beginnings
  - Developmentally Appropriate games for parents to play with their children and observe their development
- **Bright Beginnings Application**
- **Pamphlet on CHP+ (Spanish and English)**
- **Baby Safety Checklist**
- **Pamphlet on “How to Calm a Crying Baby”**

- **“Understanding Shaken Baby Syndrome: Abusive Head Trauma”**
  - Pamphlet from the National Center on Shaken Baby Syndrome
- **“Safe Sleep for Your Baby”** Pamphlet and door knob hanger “Please put me on my Back to Sleep” to reduce SIDS
- **The Mozart Effect, Music for Newborns**, Bright Beginnings
- **Animals A to Z**, David McPhail
- **Pamphlet “Reading Tips for Parents”** from the Colorado State Library
- **Pamphlet “Ten Tips on How Dad can Help with the Baby”**
- **“Newborn Screening Program—Laboratory Test that Make Sense for your Baby”** from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment.
- **“The Colorado Newborn Hearing Screening Program”** Pamphlet
- **“Working your way through the Child Care Maze”** from Qualistar Colorado
- **The New Mom’s Handbook**
Domestic Violence, Abuse, and Neglect

Unfortunately, there are some parents who are not able to provide a loving, supportive and caring environment to properly nurture their child. When this happens a variety of resources and services come into play, both for the parents and for the children. This section includes data on domestic violence, abuse and neglect rates for the San Luis Valley.

Outreach Intake Statistics: San Luis Valley Victim Response Unit

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Total Count</th>
<th>% of all Responses</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adult Domestic Violence</td>
<td>187</td>
<td>61%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Physical Abuse</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Sexual Assault</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013 DV Total</td>
<td>305</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Source: Janice Holman, San Luis Valley Victim Response Unit, 2014)

The San Luis Valley Victim Response Unit responds to all cases of domestic violence and other types of cases in which there is a victim in the Valley. To the left are the numbers for 2013. The highest number of responses by the team were for adult domestic violence calls. There were 187 DV cases in 2013, 12 for Child Physical Abuse, and 16 for child sexual assault. Compared to 2010 statistics, there were fewer victims of adult domestic violence and more child victims.

Tu Casa, Inc. 2013 Statistics

Tu Casa, Inc. is an organization in the San Luis Valley that provides services to victims of domestic violence and/or sexual assault and their families. They provide a 24-hour hotline, assistance in filing and modifying protective orders, divorce and custody paperwork, court accompaniment, assistance in accessing other social service resources, emergency shelter, gas, supplies and relocation services, individual and group counseling as well as education on domestic violence, sexual assault, healthy relationships and violence prevention.

- In 2013, Tu Casa experienced a 16% rise in the number of victims seeking assistance
- 450 new victims served
- 28 adults and 35 children used 1,030 nights of emergency shelter
- 1,420 people attended 50 educational awareness presentations and 1,115 youth were served through 67 youth education sessions.

(Source: Tu Casa, Inc. 2013 Annual Report)

Child Abuse and Neglect for the San Luis Valley

This measure is the incidence of maltreatment including physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse, and/or neglect of children younger than eighteen. For the San Luis Valley the rate is 20.7 per 1000 children. Compared to the state of Colorado, which is 8.1 per 1000 children. The SLV has a higher rate of child maltreatment.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>San Luis Valley</th>
<th>Colorado</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Child Abuse and Neglect (per 1000 children)</td>
<td>20.7</td>
<td>8.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Source: 2015 Kids Count Colorado, Colorado Children’s Campaign, data 2013)
Colorado Out-of-Home Placements

The measure of out-of-home placements for children under eighteen in the San Luis Valley is 7.2 per 1,000 children. It is the same for the state. This could be because there are fewer cases in which children need to be removed from the home, but is more than likely that counties may not prosecute and remove children in the instance of abuse.

Vulnerable Families

Many families struggle to make a healthy, safe home for themselves and their children. Several issues can exacerbate a parent’s ability to nurture their children, especially if a child becomes a parent. These families need access to a great variety of services as well in order to assist them in becoming nurturing, knowledgeable parents.

Teen Births

Having a teenage mother is one of three major risk factors, as it impacts a young mother often causing her to drop out of school, thus not being able to earn a competitive wage to support her child. Teenage parents are very much in need of extra resources to empower and guide them as they raise their children. Note the Colorado rate of 22.3 births per 1,000 female teens compared to the rest of the counties in the San Luis Valley. Of note is Rio Grande with a rate of 46.7.

Births to Single Women

In the state of Colorado 23.4 percent of all births are to single women. Alamosa, Conejos, Rio Grande, and Saguache Counties have higher rates than the state, ranging from 22.3 to 35.9 respectively. Mineral county has increased since 2012 with LNE to 60 percent.
Births to Women with Less than 12 Years Education

In the state of Colorado 13.5 percent of births are by mothers with fewer than 12 years of education. This percentage is slightly lower for Conejos County. Alamosa, Costilla, Rio Grande, and Saguache all fall above the state average with percentages between 15.6 and 25.4.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>% of Births to Women with less than 12 Years of Education</th>
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<tr>
<td>Colorado</td>
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<td>----------</td>
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<tr>
<td>13.5</td>
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(Source: 2015 Kids Count Colorado, Colorado Children’s Campaign, data 2013) LNE=Low Number of Events

Children Accessing WIC or Free or Reduced Lunch

The San Luis Valley has a staggering percentage of children living in poverty, twice the percentage of the state. Of note are Costilla and Saguache Counties with children in poverty rates of 37.8 and 43 percent, respectively. Children are eligible to receive WIC if they live in families that fall below 185 percent of the federal poverty guidelines and are under the age of five; thus, this percentage is a strong indicator for the needs of children and families. In order to be eligible for the Free Lunch Program a family’s income must be below 130 percent of the poverty line. To qualify for the reduced lunch program a family’s income must be between 130 and 185 percent of the poverty line. With these added indicators, a fuller picture of poverty in the San Luis Valley emerges. Just because a family is above the poverty line, does not mean they are truly able to meet the needs of their families.

Students served by the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Program

The measure is the percent of students served by the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Program in the 2013-2014 school year. For Colorado 24,062 students were served by the McKinney-Vento Program. In the San Luis Valley, 78 students were served in Alamosa County, 11 from Conejos, 43 from Costilla County, 37 from Rio Grande County, and 186 students from Saguache County. There was 1 student served by the Program in Mineral County as well.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Students served by the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Program</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Colorado</td>
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<tr>
<td>24,062</td>
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GOAL TWO: PARENTS AND FAMILIES

Strengths/Areas of Relative Success in Relation to Parents and Families

- When it comes to success in relation to parents and families, Alamosa Elementary has relatively good parent involvement and communication with families.
- There is a large number of non-profit resources available to the community of the San Luis Valley. Through grant money and foundations many have found a way to work towards reducing the pain and stigma of poverty in the Valley. However, simply because there is a large and varied group of resources does not mean people are accessing them. More data needs to be collected on how resources are being used by members of the community.

Needs/Areas Needing Improvement in Relation to Parents and Families

- More data needs to be collected on this outcome in order to properly evaluate its efficacy and also in order to make determinations on future action.
- Data could be collected through contacting Principals of Elementary schools early in the school year and asking them to report on their attendance rates for all Family Nights throughout the year.
- Poverty is one of the most serious issues in the San Luis Valley. Poverty itself is not always detrimental to a child, but can be viewed as a strong indicator for other types of issues.
- There is a particularly high rate of child maltreatment in the San Luis Valley. Whether this stems from poverty, unemployment or another factor, the rate for the valley is considerably higher than the state.
- A high percentage of teen births and births to Mothers with less than 12 years of education mean that children will typically have fewer resources and less supervision. A teen mother is still struggling with finishing school and growing up. Often, she will drop out of school to care for her child or to find work to support herself. Mothers with less than 12 years of education are at a disadvantage in the work force as they are only eligible for lower wage jobs, meaning they must spend more hours working away from their child to earn a living wage.
- There is also a slightly higher percent of homeless students in the San Luis Valley when compared to the state of Colorado.
GOAL THREE: CHILD HEALTH

The physical and social-emotional health of young children is improved and sustained; health development is recognized as a key factor in school success.

Objectives:
- Support existing young children’s social-emotional development programs
- Engage health providers and community members to better understand the issues facing families with young children.

Children Screened by Early Childhood Mental Health Specialists

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SLV Children 0-9 years Population</th>
<th>6,436</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Children Screened by EC Mental Health</td>
<td>3,737</td>
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</table>

The population of children 0-9 years old in the 2010 U.S. Census was 6,436. According to the Colorado Early Childhood Councils by the numbers report in 2009 there were 3,737 children screened by an Early Childhood Mental Health Specialist. That means approximately 58 percent of young children were screened; more than any other Early Childhood Council or County in Colorado.

(Source: 2010 Early Childhood Council by the Numbers, data 2009)

Number of Active, Licensed Mental Health Specialists

In the state of Colorado there are 3,463 active, licensed clinical Social Workers. In the San Luis Valley there are 15. The San Luis Valley’s population is 0.9 percent of the state’s population and has 0.4 percent of the state’s Social Workers.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th># in the State</th>
<th>3,463</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td># in the San Luis Valley</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of State Population in SLV</td>
<td>0.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of Total</td>
<td>0.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Source: 2010 Early Childhood Council by the Numbers, data 2009)
Infant and Maternal Health

Low Weight Births
The reason a baby may be born with a low birth weight is usually due to inadequate or poor maternal health or nutrition. Though many babies with low birth weight are born healthy, some babies born prematurely are more susceptible to disease, have difficulty gaining weight and maintaining body temperature, and often times have trouble nursing. In some extreme cases low birth weight can lead to death.

Early Prenatal Care

Early Prenatal Care can improve the chances of a healthy pregnancy and baby, but cost of care can be prohibitive for many women. Colorado averages about 80.8 percent of mothers receiving prenatal care. In the San Luis Valley Conejos, Costilla, Mineral, Saguache and Rio Grande Counties have percentages lower than the state average. This means that one out of the six counties in the San Luis Valley has a higher average than the state. This is astounding. Alamosa County is the only county to fall just above the state average with eighty one percent respectively.

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<th>Colorado</th>
<th>Alamosa</th>
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<th>Rio Grande</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Percent</td>
<td>80.8%</td>
<td>81.4%</td>
<td>79.8%</td>
<td>63.0%</td>
<td>60.0%</td>
<td>75.2%</td>
<td>79.4%</td>
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</table>
(Source: 2015 Kids Count Colorado, Colorado Children’s Campaign, data 2013)

Births to Women Who Smoke During Pregnancy

Smoking during pregnancy can cause low weight gain, premature birth, or birth defects. It is also bad for the mother’s health. Today in Colorado 7.1 percent of mothers smoke while pregnant compared to 8.4 percent in 2011. Only Costilla & Mineral County, have lower numbers than the state. Alamosa, Conejos, Rio Grande, and Saguache Counties range from 7.9-10.2 percent of women smoking while pregnant. Rio Grande County has the highest percent of women smoking while pregnant with 10.2 percent. Mineral & Costilla County had a Low Number of Events. You can see from the graph above the percent of births to women smoking during pregnancy has decreased from 2011 to 2013.

(Source: 2015 Kids Count Colorado, Colorado Children’s Campaign, data 2013)
Women with Inadequate Maternal Weight Gain

Inadequate Maternal weight gain is one of the main indicators of low birth weight which can lead to other significant issues for the infant. While Colorado stands at 17.8 percent of women with inadequate weight gain, the San Luis Valley ranges between 24.6 and 35.7 percent. Roughly, one-quarter to one-third of all women do not have enough maternal weight gain. Of note is Mineral County which has LNE or a low number of events. This is most likely due to a very low number of pregnancies in the county and should be considered an outlier.

![Women with Inadequate Maternal Weight Gain (%)](image)

(Source: 2014 Kids Count-Health Statistics Section, Colorado Dept. of Public Health and Environment, data 2009) LNE=Low Number of Events

Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000 live births)

The Colorado Infant Mortality rate from the 2011 Data Set is 6.1 per 1,000. We can see a slight drop in the Infant Mortality Rate for Colorado, as well as for Alamosa County in regards to the 2012 County MCH Trend Analysis. Although we would have liked to show the rates for all of the counties in the San Luis Valley this information was not available. This may be because most babies in the San Luis Valley are born at the San Luis Valley Regional Medical Center in Alamosa, regardless of where families reside.

![Infant Mortality (%)](image)

(Source: 2012 County MCH Trend Analysis, Colorado Dept. of Public and Environmental Health, data 2012)

Breastfeeding Initiation

This measure is the percent of all mothers who initiated breastfeeding with their newborns, for the period 2006-2011. The data shown are from six years of surveys of all births. Colorado’s measure is 91.1 percent. County data was only available for Alamosa, Conejos and Rio Grande. Costilla, Mineral and Saguache; all of which were regionally appropriate health statistics. Alamosa was less than the Colorado average, but equal to the Colorado goal of 87.0 percent by 2010. Rio Grande County had the highest percent in the San Luis Valley with 89.1 percent. All counties in the San Luis Valley fell slightly below the state average but were well above the goal of 87.0.

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>91.0</td>
<td>87.1</td>
<td>87.3</td>
<td>87.8*</td>
<td>87.8*</td>
<td>89.1</td>
<td>87.8*</td>
</tr>
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</table>

(Source: Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System, Colorado Health Information Dataset (CoHID), data 2006-2011) *Indicates data not available for Specific County
Health Care Access

FY 12-13 Children Ages 0-18 Enrolled in CHP+

Overall in Colorado 11.0 percent of children 0-18 were enrolled in CHP+ at one time during the 2012-2013 Fiscal Year. All counties in the San Luis Valley have more children enrolled in CHP+ compared to the state average. The only county that did not have enough data for this was Mineral County, but all other counties had twenty percent or more of their children enrolled.

(Source: 2014 Kids Count Colorado, Colorado Children’s Campaign, Data FY 2012-2013)

FY 12-13 Children Ages 0-18 Enrolled in Medicaid

When it comes to Medicaid in Colorado, 38 percent of children 0-18 were enrolled in Medicaid at one time during the 2013-2014 Fiscal Year. Every county in the San Luis Valley had more than half of their children enrolled in Medicaid. These numbers are far greater than Colorado’s average.

(Source: 2015 Kids Count Colorado, Colorado Children’s Campaign, Data FY 2013-2014)

Percent of Children Eligible for Medicaid or CHP+ but Not Enrolled

The percent of children eligible, but not enrolled, in Medicaid or CHP+ was 9 percent for the state of Colorado, based on data from 2013-2014. The San Luis Valley comes in at 15.3 percent. This means that more of the eligible children are getting access to Medicaid and CHP+ than in other communities around the state.

(Source: 2015 Kids Count Colorado, Colorado Children’s Campaign, data FY 13-14)
Percent of Children 0-18 Uninsured

The data for the percent of uninsured children in Colorado and the counties in the San Luis Valley was provided by Colorado Children’s Campaign. The San Luis Valley as a whole, meaning all the counties that make up the San Luis Valley, have more children between the ages of zero and eighteen uninsured compared to the state average.

Medicaid Expansion

Colorado Medicaid eligibility is determined on a monthly basis. If your income or circumstances change, your eligibility could change. Individuals who are not eligible for Medicaid because they are over income are referred to Connect for Health Colorado as they may benefit from financial assistance offered through the marketplace. The information provided reflects county of residence for Medicaid expansion clients including newly enrolled and any previously on a waitlist.

Child Health

Immunization Providers Linked to Colorado Immunization Information System

The measure is the percent of immunization providers in a county who were linked to the Colorado Immunization Information System as of December 2010. Providers may be individual pediatricians, pediatric practices, other physician practices, local health agencies, or community health centers that serve children. For the state of Colorado 65 percent of Immunization providers are linked. The San Luis Valley is ahead of the curve with 100 percent of all Immunization providers linked to the Immunization Information System as of December 2010.

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<tr>
<td>65</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
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(Source: Colorado Immunization Information System, December 2010 Report)
Child Deaths Ages 1-14 (per 100,000)

The measure is the rate of child deaths per 100,000 children ages 1 through 14 for 2005 through 2009. The rate can be viewed as the average rate for each of the five years. The measure for the state of Colorado is 17.7 child deaths per 100,000 children aged 1 to 14. For Alamosa County the rate is 32.8. Conejos County’s rate is 43.6 child deaths per 100,000. Costilla, Mineral and Saguache Counties had no child deaths during the time period reviewed.

The data on child deaths is higher for some of the counties because of the low amount of children who live in the counties. Over the five year period there were five child deaths in Alamosa County for the time period and four deaths in Conejos County during the same period. When all totaled the average for the San Luis Valley is less than the state rate.

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<th>Colorado</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>17.7</td>
<td>32.8</td>
<td>43.6</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>DS</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Source: 2011 County MCH Trend Analysis, Colorado Dept. of Public and Environmental Health, data 2005-2009)

DS=data suppressed for confidentiality

Creating Healthy Habits

Obesity Risk

This map is from the Colorado Children’s Campaign 2010-2012 report on Obesity Risk. The San Luis Valley is circled in red on the map. The map shows the Risk for obesity based on Census block. The San Luis Valley is among the darkest areas in the state, indicating Moderate to High Risk for Childhood Obesity. According to the legend, between 29 and 31 percent of children in the San Luis Valley are overweight or obese.

Oral Health

Caries Experience

The measure is the estimated percent of children in grade three during the 2006-2007 school year with caries history. Caries experience, represented by a missing tooth or presence of a cavity or a filling, indicates that opportunities for primary prevention may have been missed. Dental caries is the single most common chronic disease of childhood. Estimates are based on the oral health of children examined in a number of Colorado counties and the proportion of schools in each county with students eligible at varying levels for the free and reduced lunch program.

The estimate for all of Colorado is that 57.2 percent of children in grade 3 have caries experience. The estimates for Alamosa, Costilla and Saguache Counties are the same at 71.7 percent.
The estimate for Conejos County is slightly higher at 72.3 percent. Mineral County and Rio Grande County estimates are lower than the state average at just under 50 percent.

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<th>Saguache</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Estimate</td>
<td>57.2</td>
<td>71.7</td>
<td>72.3</td>
<td>71.7</td>
<td>49.8</td>
<td>49.3</td>
<td>71.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Source: 2011 County MCH Trend Analysis, Colorado Dept. of Public and Environmental Health, data 2006-2007)

Dental Sealants

The measure is the estimated percent of children in grade three during the 2006-2007 school year with a dental sealant on at least one tooth. Dental sealants are plastic coatings applied to decay-susceptible tooth surfaces (the pits and fissures). Estimates are based on the oral health of children examined in a number of Colorado counties and the proportion of schools in each county with students eligible at varying levels for the free and reduced lunch program.

The estimate for the state of Colorado is 35 percent. Alamosa, Costilla, and Saguache Counties all have the same estimate with 35.9 percent of grade three children having dental sealants. Conejos County was slightly lower with an estimated percentage of 32. Mineral and Rio Grande Counties were slightly higher with 36.9 and 38.6 percent, respectively.

[Graph showing Children in 3rd Grade with Dental Sealants]

(Source: 2011 County MCH Trend Analysis, Colorado Dept. of Public and Environmental Health, data 2006-2007)

Medicaid Dental Services

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Colorado</th>
<th>Alamosa</th>
<th>Conejos</th>
<th>Costilla</th>
<th>Mineral</th>
<th>Rio Grande</th>
<th>Saguache</th>
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<tr>
<td>Estimate</td>
<td>45.8</td>
<td>40.0</td>
<td>44.6</td>
<td>40.9</td>
<td>DS</td>
<td>41.6</td>
<td>40.7</td>
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</table>

(Source: 2011 County MCH Trend Analysis, Colorado Dept. of Public and Environmental Health, data July 2009-June 2010)

DS=data suppressed for confidentiality

The measure is the percent of children on Medicaid who received dental services at some time between July 2009 and June 2010. In Colorado, 45.8 percent of children on Medicaid received dental services. Alamosa, Costilla, Rio Grande and Saguache Counties all were around five percent lower, respectively. Conejos County’s percent was higher, closer to the state rate with 44.9 percent. Mineral County’s data was suppressed for confidentiality.
Untreated Decay

The measure is the estimated percent of children in grade three during the 2006-2007 school year with untreated tooth decay. For children, untreated decay can result in chronic pain and early tooth loss, inability to concentrate at school, absence from school, reduced self-esteem, and psychosocial problems. Estimates are based on the oral health of children examined in a number of Colorado counties and proportion of schools in each county with students eligible at varying levels for the free and reduced lunch program.

Colorado children in grade three with untreated tooth decay is estimated at 24.5. Alamosa, Costilla, and Saguache Counties all have the same estimation of 33.9 percent. Conejos County has a higher percentage of 35.5 percent. Mineral and Rio Grande again have lower estimations. Mineral County’s estimated percent of children in grade three with untreated tooth decay is 19.4 and Rio Grande County’s is 18.9 percent.

(Source: 2011 County MCH Trend Analysis, Colorado Dept. of Public and Environmental Health, data 2006-2007 School Year)
GOAL THREE: CHILD HEALTH

Strengths/Areas of Relative Success in Relation to Child Health

- A high percentage of women from all counties in the San Luis Valley received prenatal care.
- The CHP+ enrollment for the San Luis Valley is higher than the overall state enrollment, which means that children living in poverty are accessing health care.
- 100 percent of immunization providers in the SLV are linked to the Immunization Information System.
- Almost all children in the San Luis Valley have been entered into the Immunization Information System with at least two immunizations.
- LiveWell Alamosa has invested around $1.2 million dollars into the San Luis Valley community promoting healthy lifestyles and activities including weight loss, healthy eating, breast feeding, and supporting the local economy.
- The oral health estimates for Rio Grande and Mineral Counties are significantly better than the rest of the San Luis Valley. It is possible that either of these estimates may be construed, or that there is a particular dentist in either community who has a personal stake in the oral health of the children in the community.

Needs/Areas Needing Improvement in Relation to Child Health

- There are a higher percentage of babies with low birth weights in the San Luis Valley than the state of Colorado. Low birth weights indicate poor nutrition and health of the mother. Babies with low birth weights are more susceptible to illness and slowed development.
- There are a high percentage of mothers with inadequate weight gain. This again can be attributed to poor nutrition and health of the mother and can lead to low birth weight babies.
- The percent of mothers receiving prenatal care in Rio Grande County is slightly lower than in the other five counties. Roughly 1/3 of mothers do not receive prenatal care before the third trimester. This could be due to the distance from the hospital or the cost of appointments. Regardless, efforts need to be made to provide more accessible prenatal care for mother in these counties. By doing so it can be surmised that the amount of low birth weight babies and underweight or overweight mothers will be reduced if counseled regularly by a physician.
- While the percentage for breastfeeding initiation is close to the state rate, it would perhaps benefit more babies if the breastfeeding initiation rate was increased. Breastfeeding not only saves parents money, but the health benefits for the baby have been well documented when a mother’s health and nutrition are adequate.
- The San Luis Valley, based on its demographics stands at a high risk for obesity. Colorado itself has one of the highest increases in obesity. Advocating for healthier food in schools and care centers, education on nutrition and healthy choices as well as physical activity can assist in reducing that risk.