



Child and Adult Protection Services

Leading programs and facts

Child and Adult Protection Services (CAPS) provides protective services to children and both at-risk and older adults following allegations of abuse or neglect. CAPS also provides services to teens with serious conflict and behavioral concerns and other services that help to create strong and effective families.

2021



Calls to Hotline

Our county hotline at 303-636-1750 and statewide hotline at 1-844-CO-4-KIDS receives calls from community members and mandatory reporters with concerns about the safety and well-being of children, youth and at-risk adults, as well as questions about community resources, support services and issues not related to abuse and neglect.

24,272
Calls to Hotline



Referrals

Any calls to the hotline alleging suspected abuse and neglect of a child or at-risk adult, or a youth beyond-control of their parents, are generated into referrals. Our hotline workers use enhanced screening for every referral, asking questions to gather as much information as possible about each alleged victim, family and circumstances.

12,646 child protection referrals received

3,061 adult protection referrals received



Screening

Every referral is screened through a group of highly trained caseworkers, supervisors and managers. We also review the statewide human services databases for any prior child and adult protection involvement as well as the Colorado and Denver court databases to determine if there is criminal history. What we find may aid in the decision of whether the referral meets the legal criteria to be assigned for an assessment. Any referrals that do not meet criteria as defined by law are screened out, but the families may be connected with our prevention services for additional support.

1,449 child and adult protection referrals to the Community Development and Prevention program



Assessments

When a referral is assigned, a social caseworker will visit the home and meet with the alleged victim and family to assess safety concerns. Families who are assessed at a low-to-moderate risk level may be offered a variety of community-based intervention services designed to help the family safely and adequately care for their children or adult in the home, without ongoing involvement of human services.

5,077 child protection and **611** adult protection referrals assigned for assessment

**Approximately 9.2% of those served in child protection assessments are transferred to the permanency team*



Cases

Families who are assessed at a moderate-to high-risk level may be deemed in need of longer-term services to ensure safety for their children or at-risk adult family member, which may require court involvement, or to aid a family with a youth who is beyond their control or involved with delinquency court. The county can open a case for direct services from our permanency teams until safety concerns are resolved.

On any given day there are **2,767** children (1,275 families) with open cases or assessments and **141** at-risk adults with open cases



Level of Care

In child protection, our main goal is to help keep families together and children safely at home with their parents or guardians. However, if an assessment finds there is an immediate safety concern in the home that places a child at imminent risk, a child may be removed from the home for his/her own protection and placed by court order in temporary out-of-home care. This could include a certified foster home, licensed group home or treatment facility, or placement with the child’s relatives or kin (individuals in close relationship to the child.) To ensure the child’s safety, the relatives or kin must first pass a state and federal background check before a child is placed in their care. When children are placed in to out-of-home care, it is in their best interest to reunify them with their families as quickly as can be done safely, so as to decrease trauma.

80.8% of children involved remained safely at home or in the home of their relatives or kin

461 children were served in foster, group or congregate care

527 children were served in relative care.



Adoption

If concerns for a child’s safety and well-being cannot be resolved, alternative permanency may be achieved when a child is legally free to be adopted by a ‘forever family.’

85 children and youth were adopted



Arapahoe County Children and Families At a Glance

Statistics from the 2020 U.S. Census Bureau*



1 in almost **4** County citizens is a child.

There are about **147,086** children under age 18 in the County.



8.4% of children in Arapahoe County live in poverty.

**U.S. Census Bureau, Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates (SAIPE)*



Median household income in the County (2020) is **\$80,291** compared to **\$64,994** nationally.



Percentage of people in the County:

- under age **5** is **6.1%**
- under age **18** is **23.3%**
- age **65** and older is **13.5%**



92% of persons in the County are high school graduates or higher compared to **89%** nationally.

43% of persons in the County have a bachelor’s degree or higher compared to **33%** nationally.



The number of persons per household in the County is **2.66**.

6.7% of people under **65** in the County have a disability.



ARAPAHOE COUNTY
HUMAN SERVICES