



Pikes Peak Area
Council of Governments
Communities Working Together

MILITARY IMPACT PLANNING

Alliance
for Kids

El Paso County's Early Childhood Council

Economic Impact of Child Care and Early Education in the Pikes Peak Region



About the Children of the Pikes Peak Region

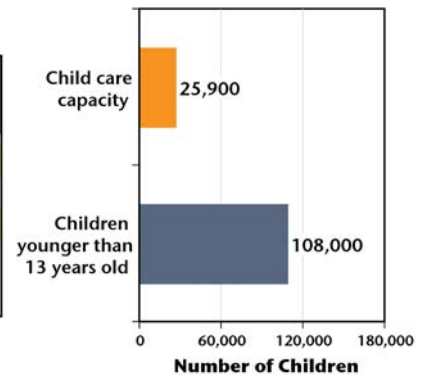
“Want to see what America’s business, military, government, and non-profit leadership will look like in a generation or two? Visit an early child care center! And you’ll see not only the future, but the importance of investing today in that future. Access to quality, affordable early child care and education pays huge dividends by helping children get ready for success in school and in life. Our military families make incredible sacrifices. With 70% of them living off-post as our neighbors, it’s critically important we as a community provide the child care services they deserve.”

JD Dallager,
President and CEO,
Pikes Peak United Way



Child Care Provider Capacity by County

	El Paso County Provider Capacity	Pueblo County Provider Capacity
Child Care Centers	10,700 children	1,900 children
Licensed Home Care Facilities	3,400 children	1,500 children
Preschool Programs	2,600 children	1,500 children
Afterschool Programs	4,300 children	N/A
Total	21,000 children	4,900 children

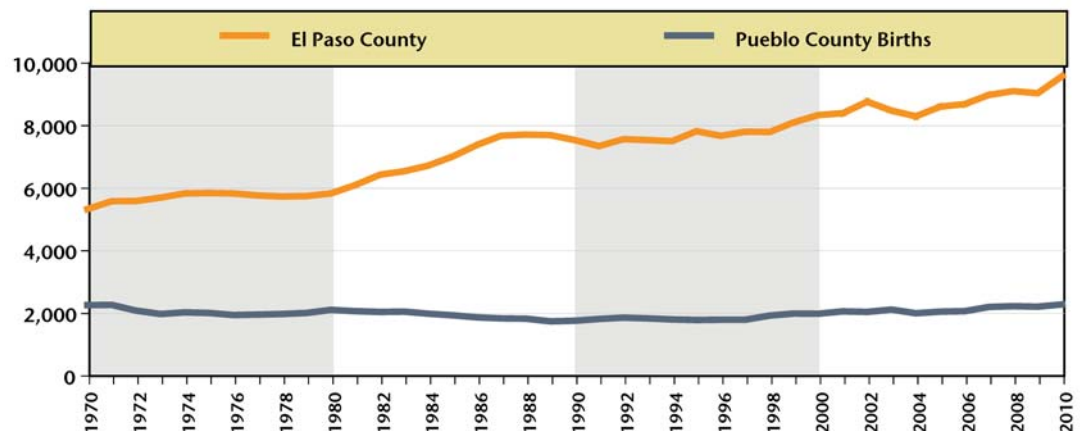


Fort Carson Region Demographics, 2007

Fort Carson Region, 2007	Fort Carson	Colorado Springs	Fountain	Security-Widefield
Child Population by Age:				
Under 5 years	1,688	27,150	1,535	2,377
5 years - 12 years	2,034	42,603	2,409	3,730
Population of children under 13	3,722	69,753	3,945	6,107
Percent of households with children under 13:	75%	26%	39%	37%

Fort Carson Region, 2007 (continued)	City of Pueblo	Pueblo West	Canon City	Fort Carson Region Totals
Child Population by Age:				
Under 5 years	6,979	1,644	955	42,328
5 years - 12 years	10,999	2,576	1,700	66,051
Population of children under 13	17,978	4,220	2,654	108,379
Percent of households with children under 13:	25%	31%	22%	27%

Number of Births in El Paso County and Number of Births in Pueblo County, 2007



Source: Colorado State Demographer.



By enabling the region's parents to work, the child care industry generates \$292 million for the Pikes Peak economy. This represents the after-tax income gained by workers who would otherwise leave the workforce or reduce their hours if they did not have child care available.

In addition, the economy gains \$121 million through the operations of child care centers and family child care homes.

If child care were not available in the region:

- In 60% of households, at least one household member would exit the workforce or reduce their hours.
- The average household would lose \$27,000 per year in earnings.

Total Economic Impact: \$413 million

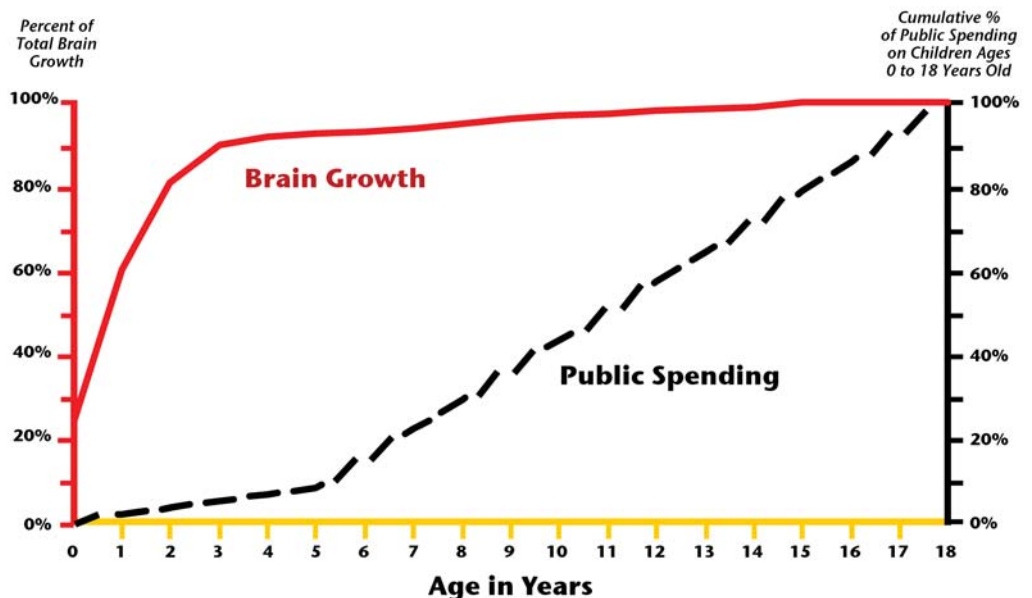
Benefits of Quality Care:

The human capacity to develop and change is greatest from birth to five years old when the brain is most malleable and able to change in response to education and stimulation. However, public investment in education is lowest in early childhood, creating a mismatch between the investments made and the opportunity for improvement. As a result, there is a great demand for expensive remedial programs to address learning and behavior problems in later years when change is far more difficult to achieve.

Advances in neuroscience and in understanding human development have made it possible to suggest strategies that can promote healthy brain development. Public policy makers, business and community leaders, caregivers and others can apply this new knowledge to a broad range of programs and services for children. Implementing simple strategies so that children become successful early learners eliminates the need for expensive downstream remediation.

Percent of Public Spending vs. Brain Development by Age of Children

Source: Unpublished chart by Lynn Karoly et al., Rand Corporation, April 1997. Public expenditures (in constant 1992 dollars) on children aged 0 to 5 are for early childhood development, welfare programs and health care; expenditures on children aged 6 to 18 are for education, criminal justice, youth employment and other programs.



The growth of the Fort Carson Army Post will bring new children into the region, many of whom will need child care, and many of whom will benefit from early learning programs.

Giving these children the opportunities they need for growth and development—especially during times of stress related to deployment of their parents—is critical.

- Number of Fort Carson children, age 10 years and younger as of year-end 2009 = 12,000:
 - Infants = 29%
 - Toddlers/preschool age = 22%
 - Ages 5 to 10 = 49%
- Peak in number of Fort Carson children:
 - 12,700 at year-end 2011
 - 12,400 in early 2013
- 75% of family households living on-post have children under the age of 13.

Quality early childhood development is a military priority:

A recent study — “Ready, Willing and Unable to Serve” — determined that 75% of young adults are not qualified to join the military primarily because they do not meet minimal educational and physical/fitness requirements or because they have committed criminal activities.

“Our recommendation to state and federal policy makers is to ensure that America’s children have access to high-quality early education ... A strong commitment today to high-quality early education will keep America strong and safe tomorrow.”

On-post facilities do not have enough spaces to care for all of the Fort Carson children who need child care and early learning environments. Although Fort Carson is expanding its facilities, many children will continue to receive care off the Post. About 70% of Fort Carson families with children live off-post.

“Many Fort Carson families live off-post and benefit from services provided in the community. Access to quality, affordable early care and education allows our Soldiers and spouses to work with peace of mind that their children are receiving needed care, particularly while their parent(s) serve in harm’s way. We are grateful for the wonderful community we live in that works with us daily to ensure our kids have the care and nurturing they need...”

Col. Robert McLaughlin, Fort Carson Garrison Commander

How can the Pikes Peak region improve early learning opportunities?

- Increase the number of new quality family child care homes in the region (up to 50 per year for two years).
- Encourage and support National Association of Family Child Care (NAFCC) and National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) accreditation (with an objective of 25% of centers accredited by 2016).
- Expand provider training, including those who serve children with special needs and children of military members affected by transitions and deployments.
- Engage state leaders, local governments, and private businesses to improve access to quality, affordable care. Examples (from the Colorado Children’s Campaign) include:
 - State tax credits for private business investments in early care and education.
 - HR assistance in helping employees find quality care (by linking to local resource and referral services).
 - Offering child care subsidies for employees (including military subsidies).
 - Offering flexible work schedules.
 - Subsidies and employer donations to support care centers and homes (including “sponsoring” classrooms).