



El Paso County ECE Needs Mapping Summary Report

Prepared for

Joint Initiatives for Youth and Families

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Andrew Brodsky, Principal
Brodsky Research and Consulting
andrew@brodskyresearch.com

Introduction

Research demonstrates that high-quality child care provides lifelong benefits for children, allows parents to participate in the workforce, and strengthens local economies. Unfortunately, too few families in El Paso County have access to high quality child care. Joint Initiatives for Youth and Families (JI) hired Brodsky Research and Consulting (BRC) to conduct a mapping analysis to identify availability of child care throughout El Paso County.

Current Status of Young Children In El Paso County

El Paso County is home to nearly 50,000 children under age 5. Average income for the county is lower than for the state as a whole, with nearly one in seven young children (14 percent) in poverty. About 39% qualify for free or reduced lunch, meaning that they live under 185% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL).

Figure 1 displays the population distribution of young children in the county. Each dot represents 10 children age birth through 5. The map shows that the vast majority of children are concentrated in the Colorado Springs metropolitan area, with the greatest densities in east and southeast Colorado Springs and in the Fort Carson area.

Figure 1: Birth to 5 Population in El Paso County

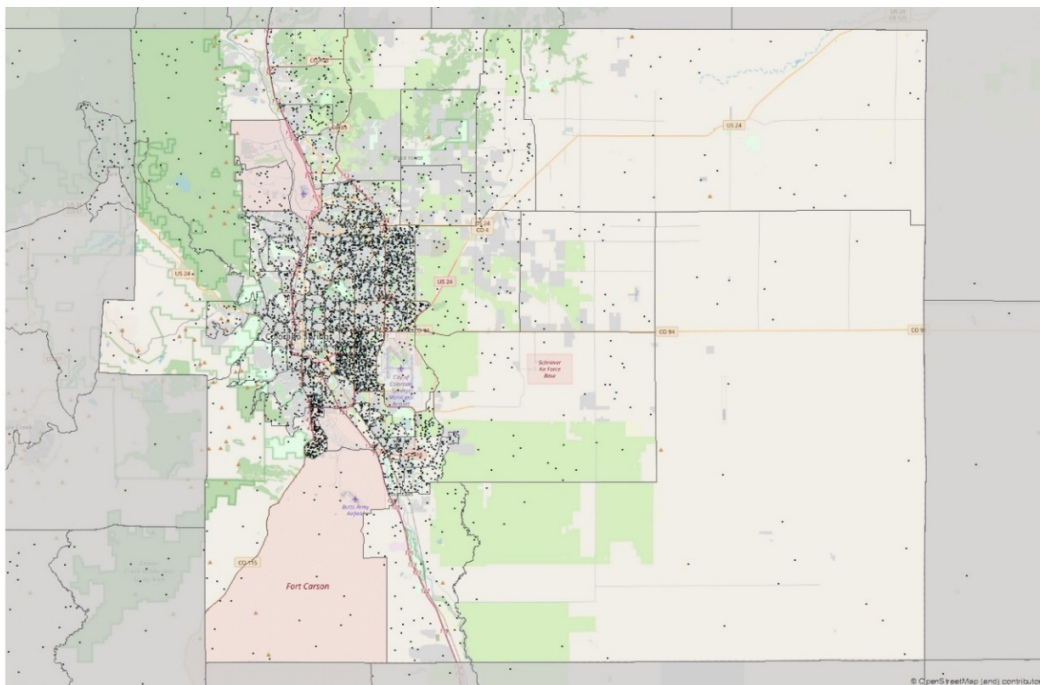
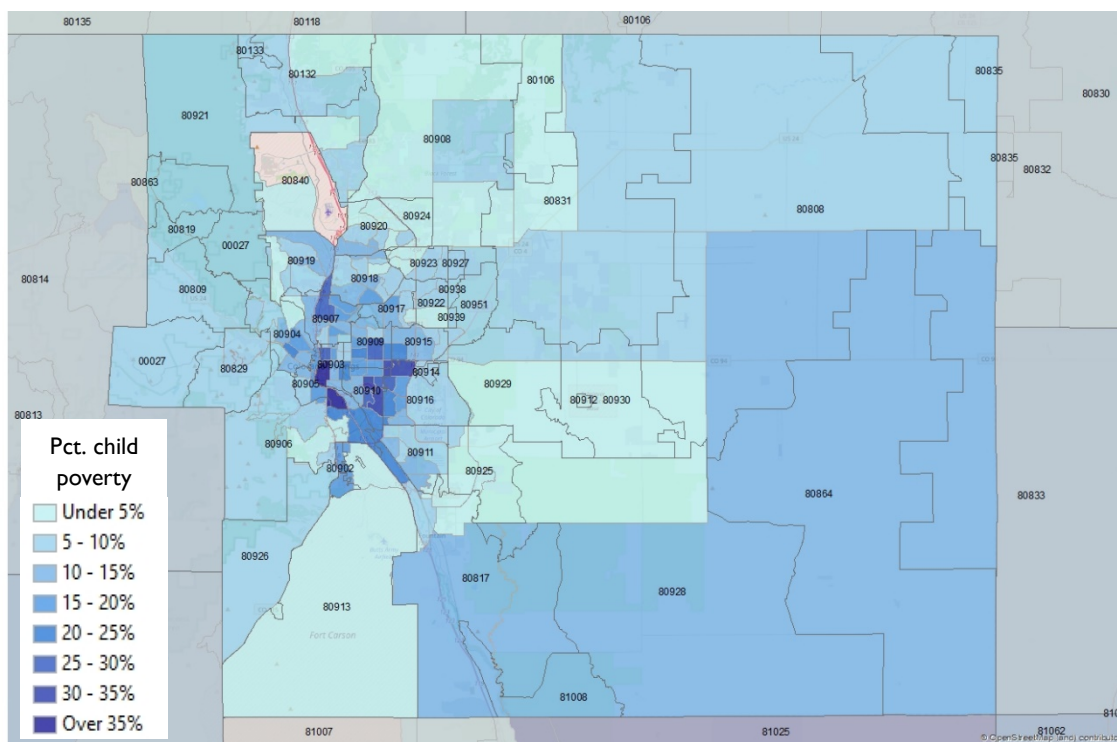


Figure 2 displays the distribution of child poverty throughout the county. Darker areas indicate higher poverty rates. The highest poverty levels are concentrated near downtown Colorado Springs and to the south and southeast of the city.

Figure 2: Poverty Rates in El Paso County



Availability of Child Care in El Paso County

Throughout the county, 436 providers supply over 15,000 licensed slots to children ages birth through 5. Previous research in Colorado has suggested that up to 70 percent of families may need child care outside the home. However, there are nearly three young children for each of these licensed slot in El Paso County, providing space for only 34% of the county's young children. This means that capacity exists only for half of children who may actually need care. Moreover, fewer than 40 percent of slots are in high-quality providers (defined as Colorado Shines level 3, 4, or 5), meaning only one in 7 children have access to a high quality slot.

Access to high-quality care is even more challenging for children in low-income families who rely on funding through the Colorado Child Care Assistance Program (CCCAP). Only 30% of the county's child care slots are in providers that accept CCCAP, and less

than half of these (40%) are in high-quality settings. This means that while approximately 19,500 children are eligible for CCCAP (in families who make less than 185% of the federal poverty guideline) only 1,901 high-quality slots are available for these children.

Table 1: Distribution of number of slots and number of providers in El Paso County by quality rating¹

Quality Shines Rating	All Providers		Providers Accepting CCCAP	
	No. Licensed Slots	No. Providers	No. Licensed Slots	No. Providers
Level 1	6,963	282	2,268	86
Level 2	2,630	67	564	16
Level 3	1,406	18	107	1
Level 4	4,647	66	1,774	24
Level 5	28	3	20	2
Total	15,674	436	4,733	129

Figure 3 displays licensed providers throughout the county, while Figure 4 displays a close-up view of the Colorado Springs area. Larger circles represent more licensed capacity, while circle color indicates quality level according to Colorado Shines. More lower-quality providers (indicated by red circles) are in the area northeast of Colorado Springs, while few providers serve the county's rural areas.

¹ Source: Monthly Provider Enrollment Report, Colorado Department of Human Services

Figure 3: Licensed Providers in El Paso County

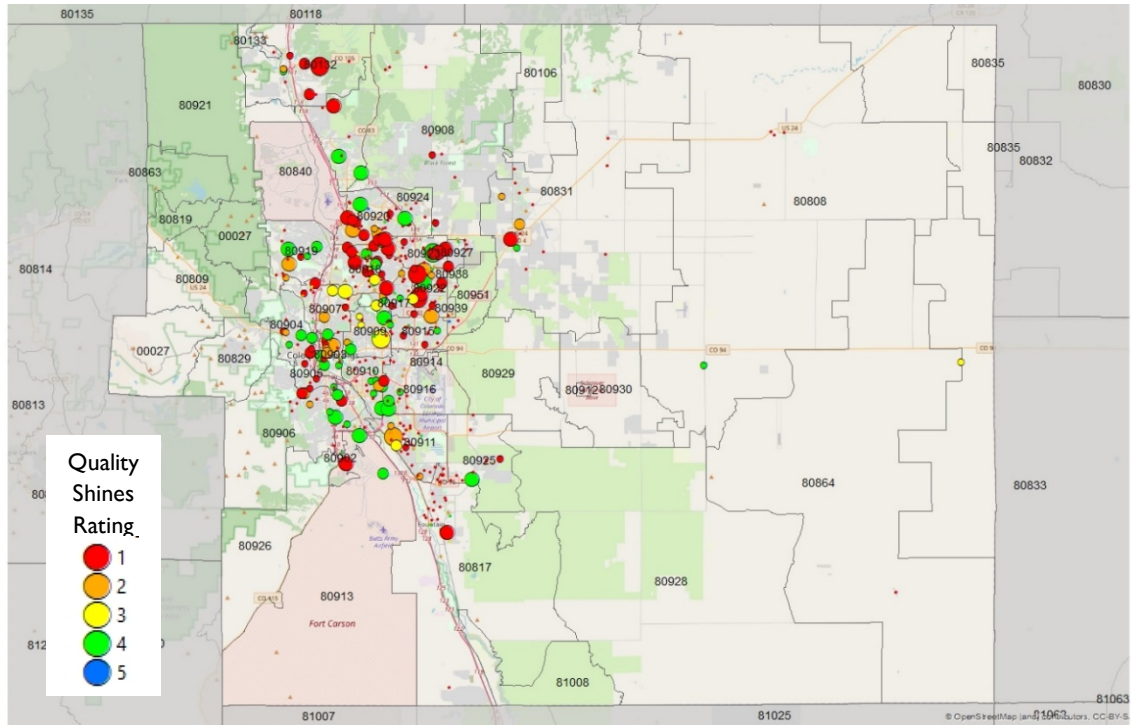
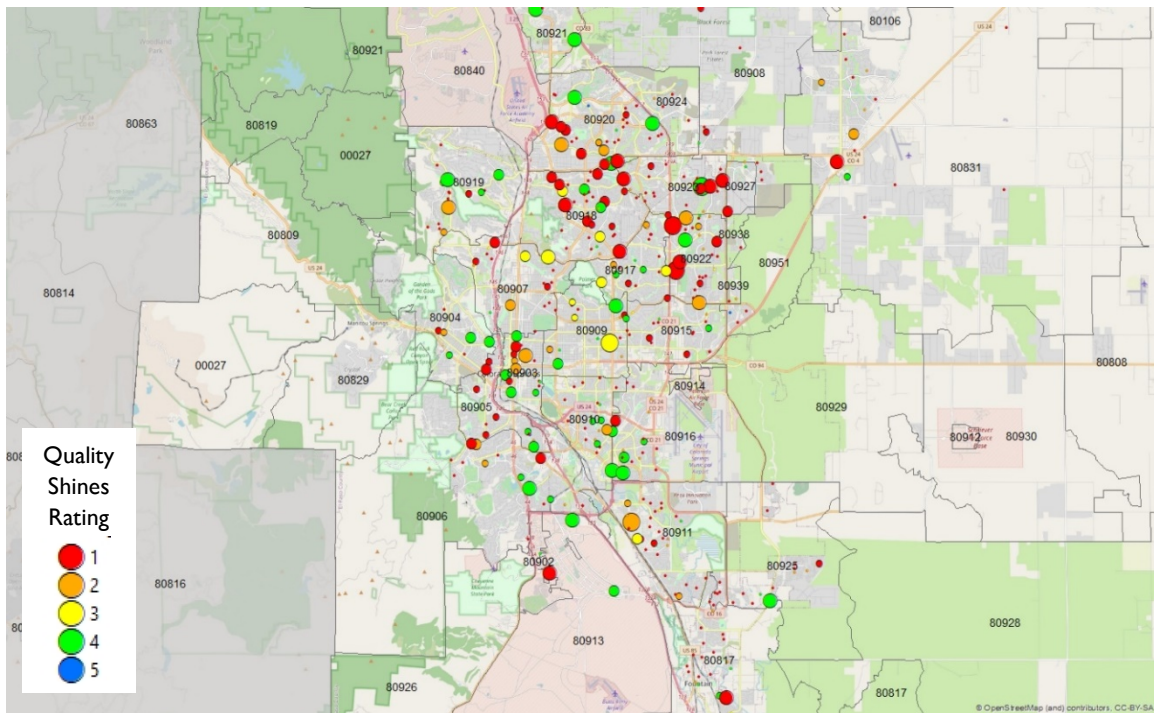


Figure 4: Licensed Providers in Colorado Springs metro area



Analysis of Need by ZIP Code

Access to quality care is unevenly distributed across the county. Three ZIP codes with have no high-quality slots at all, while four more have over 50 children per high-quality slots². These include 80133, in the extreme northern part of the county; 80829, in the area southwest of Manitou Springs; and 80924, near the Briargate neighborhood. (A complete list of data by ZIP code appears in the appendix.)

Table 2: ZIP codes with least access to quality care

ZIP Code	Population Under 5	Number of High Quality Slots	Children Under 5 Per Quality Slot
80133	147	0	N/A
80829	268	0	N/A
80924	640	0	N/A
80908	951	6	158.5
80902	1916	20	95.8
80951	531	8	66.4
80927	389	6	64.8
80132	1034	29	35.7
80817	2865	84	34.1
80831	1465	49	29.9

Table 3 displays the ZIP codes with the greatest access to quality care. These range from 1.7 to 8.1 children per high-quality slot. The areas with greatest access to quality care are primarily in the central city and northeast Colorado Springs area.

Table 3: ZIP codes with most access to quality care

ZIP Code	Population Under 5	Quality Slots	Children Under 5 Per Quality Slot
80903	622	365	1.7
80909	2210	708	3.1
80918	2575	800	3.2
80921	1159	294	3.9
80904	912	222	4.1
80916	3688	654	5.6
80919	1498	265	5.7

² All analyses incorporate only ZIP codes with more than 100 children age birth through five.

80906	2666	463	5.8
80808	373	60	6.2
80920	2919	362	8.1

Access to child care

Table 4 and 5 display the ZIP codes with the least and most access to child care, respectively (regardless of quality level). Areas with the least access to child care include 80951, east of Cimarron Hills; 80133, near Palmer Lake; and 80829, southwest of Manitou Springs.

Those areas with greatest access to child care include 80903, in downtown Colorado Springs; 80918, in northeast Colorado Springs; and 80132, in Monument.

Table 4: ZIP codes with least access to care

ZIP Code	Population Under 5	Licensed Capacity Total	Children Under 5 Per Slot
80951	531	20	26.6
80133	147	8	18.4
80829	268	15	17.9
80924	640	36	17.8
80902	1916	148	12.9
80927	389	39	10.0
80817	2865	379	7.6
80910	2734	450	6.1
80908	951	159	6.0
80925	1706	312	5.5

Table 5: ZIP codes with most access to care

ZIP Code	Population Under 5	Licensed Capacity Total	Children Under 5 Per Slot
80903	622	957	0.6
80918	2575	1953	1.3
80132	1034	608	1.7
80919	1498	787	1.9
80921	1159	502	2.3
80922	2372	1027	2.3
80920	2919	1201	2.4
80904	912	374	2.4
80909	2210	887	2.5
80907	1253	491	2.6

Conclusions

This analysis demonstrates that El Paso County is underserved by child care slots, especially high quality slots. Across the county, the number of quality slots is far less than the number of children who likely need them.

Availability of quality slots and of child care slots in general is vastly different throughout the county. In the counties with the least access, there are up to 640 children with no quality slots; while the ZIP code with the greatest access contains only 1.7 children per quality slot.

Appendix

Child Care Availability and Demographic Characteristics by ZIP Code in El Paso County

ZIP Code	Population Under 5	Child Poverty Rate (Pct.)	Children Under 5 Per Slot	Children Under 5 Per Quality Slot	Licensed Capacity	
					Total	Level 3+
80132	1034	7	1.7	35.7	608	29
80133	147	5.8	18.4	N/A	8	0
80808	373	4.5	3.8	6.2	99	60
80809	44	0	2.9	N/A	15	0
80817	2865	9.6	7.6	34.1	379	84
80829	268	3.5	17.9	N/A	15	0
80831	1465	3.2	3.2	29.9	461	49
80833	18	16.2	0.6	0.6	30	30
80864	58	7	3.9	N/A	15	0
80902	1916	17.7	12.9	95.8	148	20
80903	622	25.1	0.6	1.7	957	365
80904	912	21.8	2.4	4.1	374	222
80905	985	20.7	3.1	9.0	322	110
80906	2666	17.1	2.9	5.8	932	463
80907	1253	19.9	2.6	9.0	491	140
80908	951	0	6.0	158.5	159	6
80909	2210	25.3	2.5	3.1	887	708
80910	2734	32.4	6.1	11.7	450	234
80911	2647	10.8	3.2	14.0	839	189
80913	94	0	1.0	1.0	98	98
80915	915	10.5	4.2	17.6	216	52
80916	3688	31.6	4.8	5.6	762	654
80917	1846	12.1	3.4	8.7	545	212
80918	2575	12.2	1.3	3.2	1953	800
80919	1498	10.2	1.9	5.7	787	265
80920	2919	7.7	2.4	8.1	1201	362
80921	1159	9.3	2.3	3.9	502	294
80922	2372	5.2	2.3	12.6	1027	188
80923	2627	2.8	2.7	10.3	972	255
80924	640	1.9	17.8	N/A	36	0
80925	1706	0.8	5.5	9.6	312	178
80927	389	0	10.0	64.8	39	6
80938	27	0	4.5	N/A	6	0
80939	0		0.0	N/A	9	0

80951	531	19.1	26.6	66.4	20	8
TOTALS	46154	371	2.9	7.6	15674	6081