

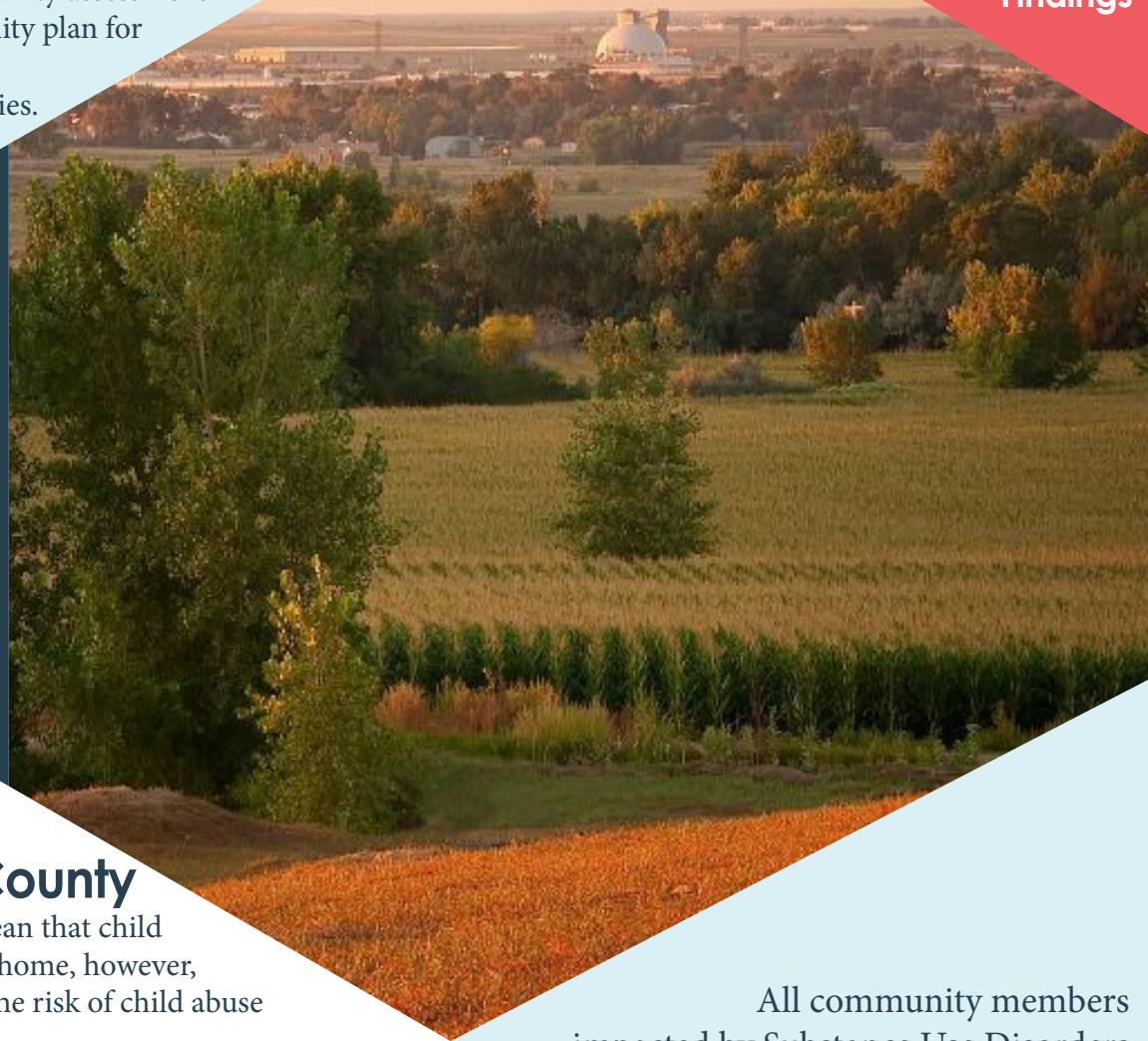


Strengthening Families Impacted By Substance Use in Our Community

Four Colorado communities are leading efforts to understand the needs and opportunities for supporting families and children impacted by substance use.

Part of these efforts include a community assessment to support the creation of a community plan for enhancing local programming and infrastructure that strengthens families.

Adams County



Substance Use and Families in Adams County

Caregiver substance use does not mean that child abuse and neglect is occurring in the home, however, caregiver substance use can elevate the risk of child abuse and neglect.

A Data Snapshot: Families in Adams County and Substance Use

- Designated as urban, with a population size of 517,421
- Percent of population younger than 18: 26%, compared to the state average of 22.2%¹
- The rate of child abuse and neglect is higher than the statewide average (9.5 per 1,000) with 12.1 children per 1,000 experiencing child abuse and neglect, as of 2018. Of these child abuse and neglect cases, 14% were substance related.^{2,3}
- The rate of substance overdose-related Emergency Department (ED) visits was 187.5 per 100,000 residents of Adams County in 2019. 17.2% of ED visits due to overdose involving all drugs were for children 14 years of age and younger. ED visits only present a portion of the story of substance misuse in the county.⁴

All community members impacted by Substance Use Disorders deserve access to non-judgmental support and services.

¹ United States Census Bureau. (2018). QuickFacts.

² Colorado Children's Campaign. (2018). 2018 Kids Count in Colorado!

³ Colorado Department of Human Services. (2018). TRAILS.

⁴ Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. (2019). Colorado Drug Overdose Dashboard.

Why Focus on Caregiver Substance Use?

Children of caregivers with problematic substance use are at higher risk for developing mental health conditions and substance use disorders, as well as experiencing child abuse and neglect. Prevention strategies should be approached from a lens of supporting both caregivers and children in order for families to access services they need to thrive.



Community Assessment Findings

A community survey was distributed to key community stakeholders in the spring of 2020 primarily through community and organizational partners of the Early Childhood Partnership of Adams County (ECPAC). There were a total of 43 respondents representing a variety of disciplines, including those working within community-based services, child welfare and mental health care services, as well as caregivers and families. The categories below represent the primary resource needs and assets as captured in the survey results.

Greatest Resource Needs

-  Recovery Supports:
Recovery Housing
-  Substance Use
Treatment:
Family-Involved
Treatment
-  Child Care:
Child Care for
Families in Crisis

Areas For Opportunity

-  Substance Use
Treatment:
Outpatient Treatment
-  Behavioral Health
Services:
Services for Families

Although survey respondents shared that behavioral health services for children and youth are some of the more available services in Adams County, we know that many families don't have access to affordable and appropriate behavioral health services.

Other Areas for Growth

- Expanded access to and alignment of comprehensive recovery services, regardless of insurance type.
- Increased access to services that support families as a whole by addressing social determinants of health and promoting protective factors.

Next Steps

With technical assistance from Illuminate Colorado, ECPAC will continue its work within the Child Maltreatment Prevention Action Team to develop a community plan aimed at addressing resources needs, opportunities, and areas for growth identified on the community assessment. To get involved with this planning process, contact Stephanie Henderson at stephanie@ecpac.org.