
Gateways to Achievement

A County-Level Perspective on
Adult Education, the Bell Policy Center's
Cycle of Opportunity and Their Impact on
Academic Achievement



The Cycle of Opportunity





*Colorado: The State of Opportunity Report
(2002)*

*Colorado: The State of Opportunity Budget
Report (2003)*

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Bell Policy Center

The Eight Gateways

- A Healthy Birth 
- A Safe and Stimulating Early Childhood 
- Building a Solid Base for Literacy 
- Establishing a Healthy Lifestyle in Childhood and Adolescence 

The Eight Gateways (continued)

- Leaving High School with a Diploma and the Skills to Succeed



- Access to Education and Training for Adults



- A Healthy Adult Life



- Earning a Decent Living and Building Wealth



Overall Findings

From the 2002 Report:

- “...Public policy in Colorado should focus on opportunity....effective government action is critical to addressing many of these issues.”

From the 2003 Report:

- “Colorado is not investing enough to help individuals and families gain a foothold or advance on the Cycle of Opportunity....”

Gateways to Achievement

Adult Educational Attainment

Getting Families into the Cycle of Opportunity

Colorado Student Assessment Program (CSAP)

- ✓ Third grade reading scores
- ✓ Predictors of success in school

Gateways to Achievement

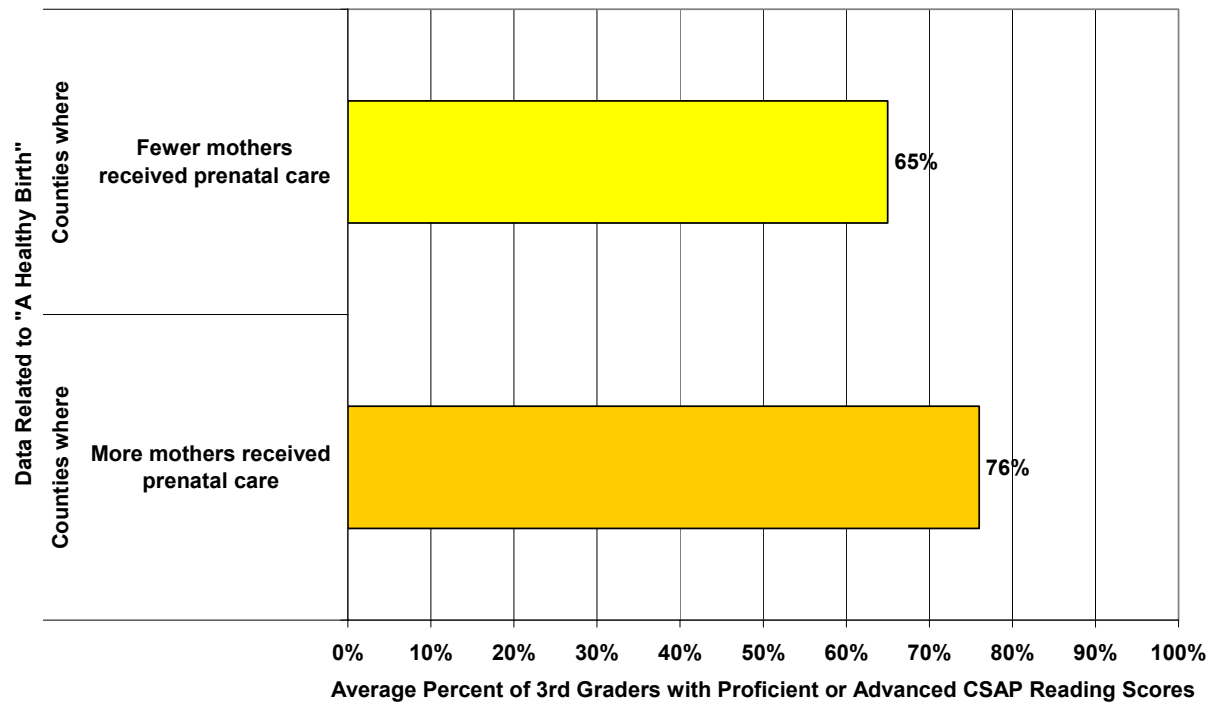


A Healthy Birth



Prenatal Care

Chart 1: Providing Gateway 1 - A Healthy Birth
Average for Proficient or Advanced 3rd Grade Reading CSAP Scores



A Safe and Stimulating Early Childhood

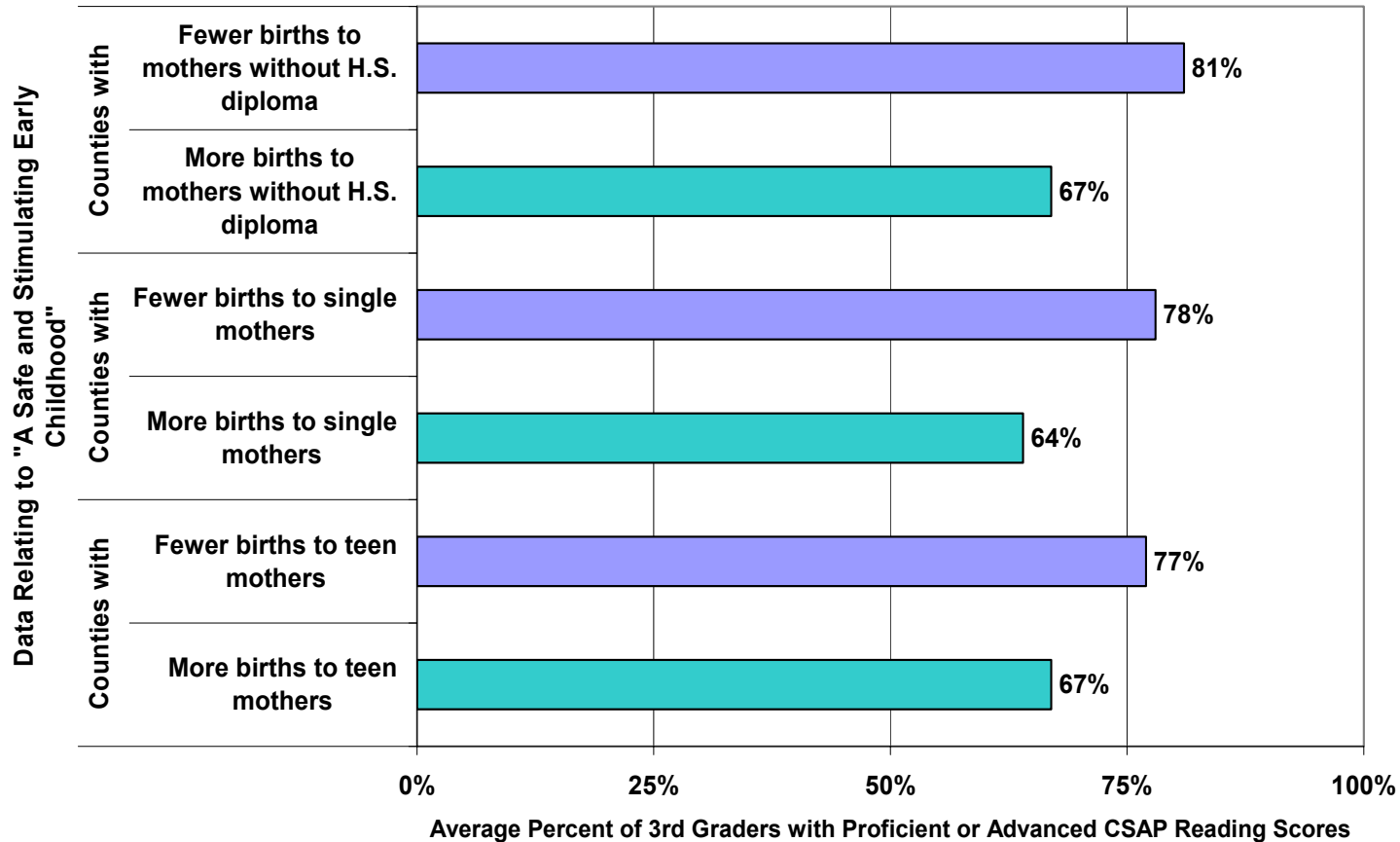


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Chart 2: Providing Gateway 2 - A Safe and Stimulating Early Childhood Average for Proficient and Advanced 3rd Grade Reading CSAP Scores

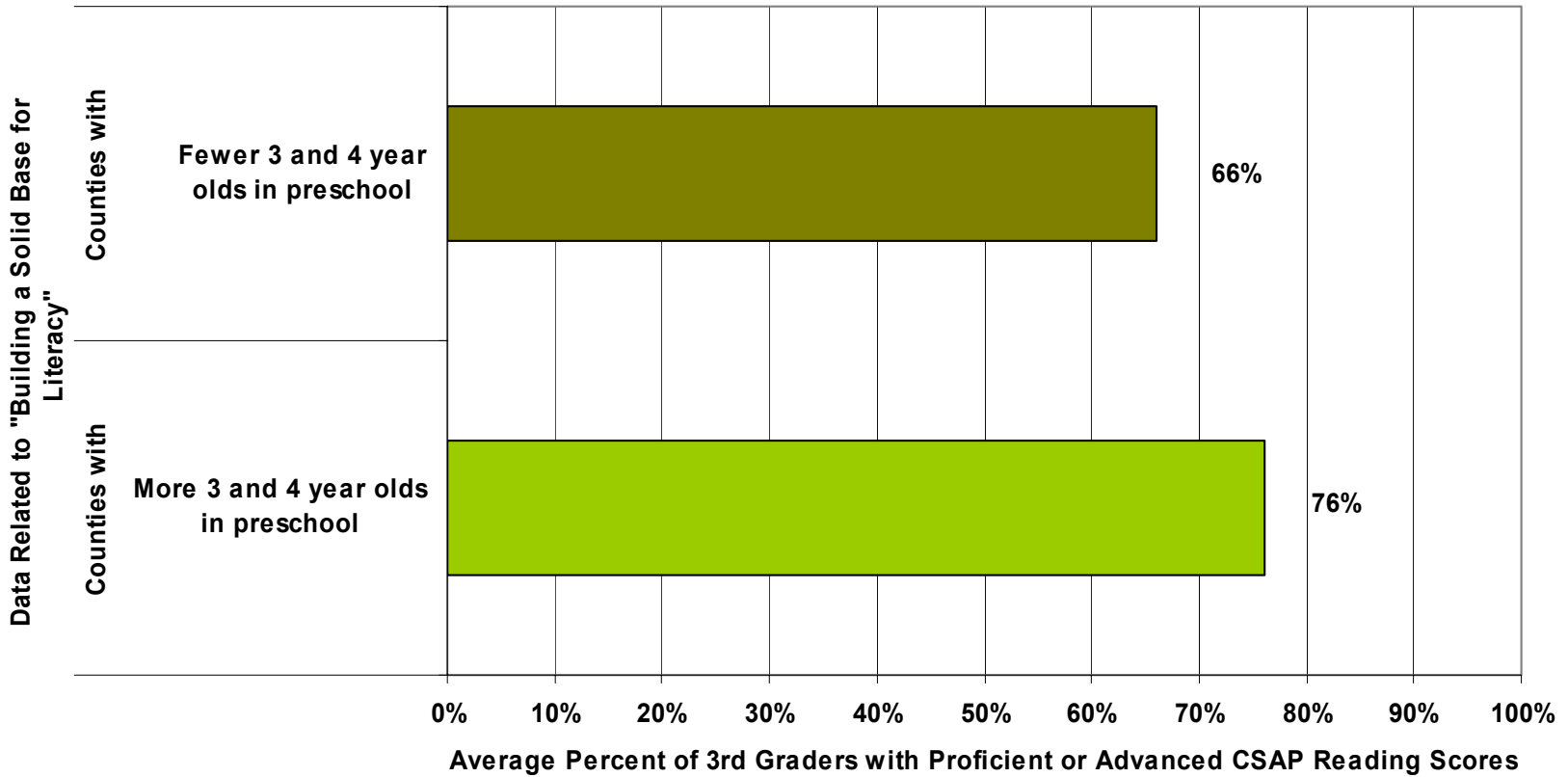


Building a Solid Base for Literacy

Counties with more 3 and 4 year-olds enrolled in preschool have a higher average of children earning proficient or advanced scores on third grade CSAP reading tests.



Chart 3: Providing Gateway 3 - Building a Solid Base for Literacy
Average for Proficient or Advanced 3rd Grade Reading CSAP Scores



Establishing a Healthy Lifestyle in Childhood and Adolescence

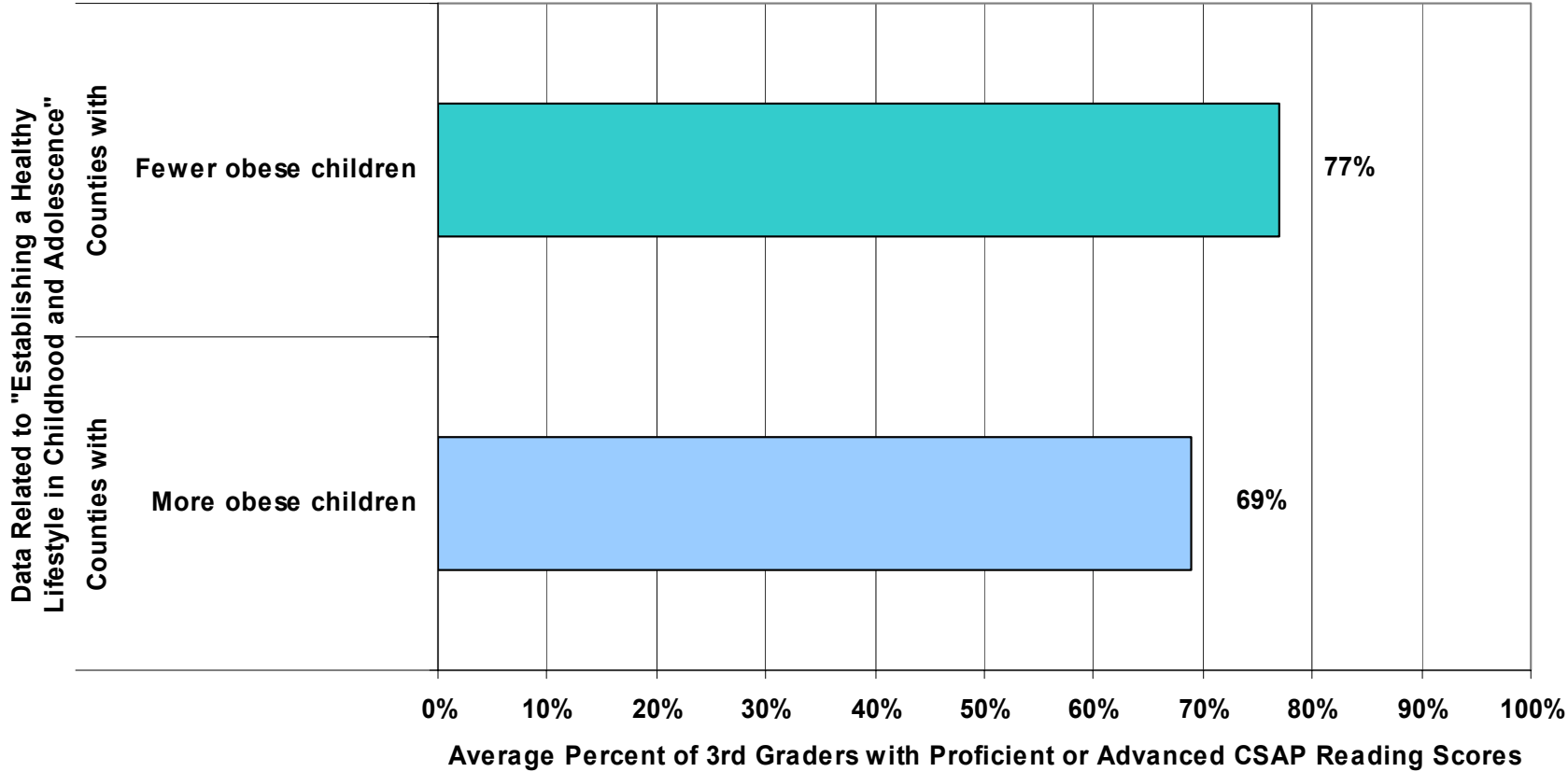


Establishing a Healthy Lifestyle in Childhood and Adolescence

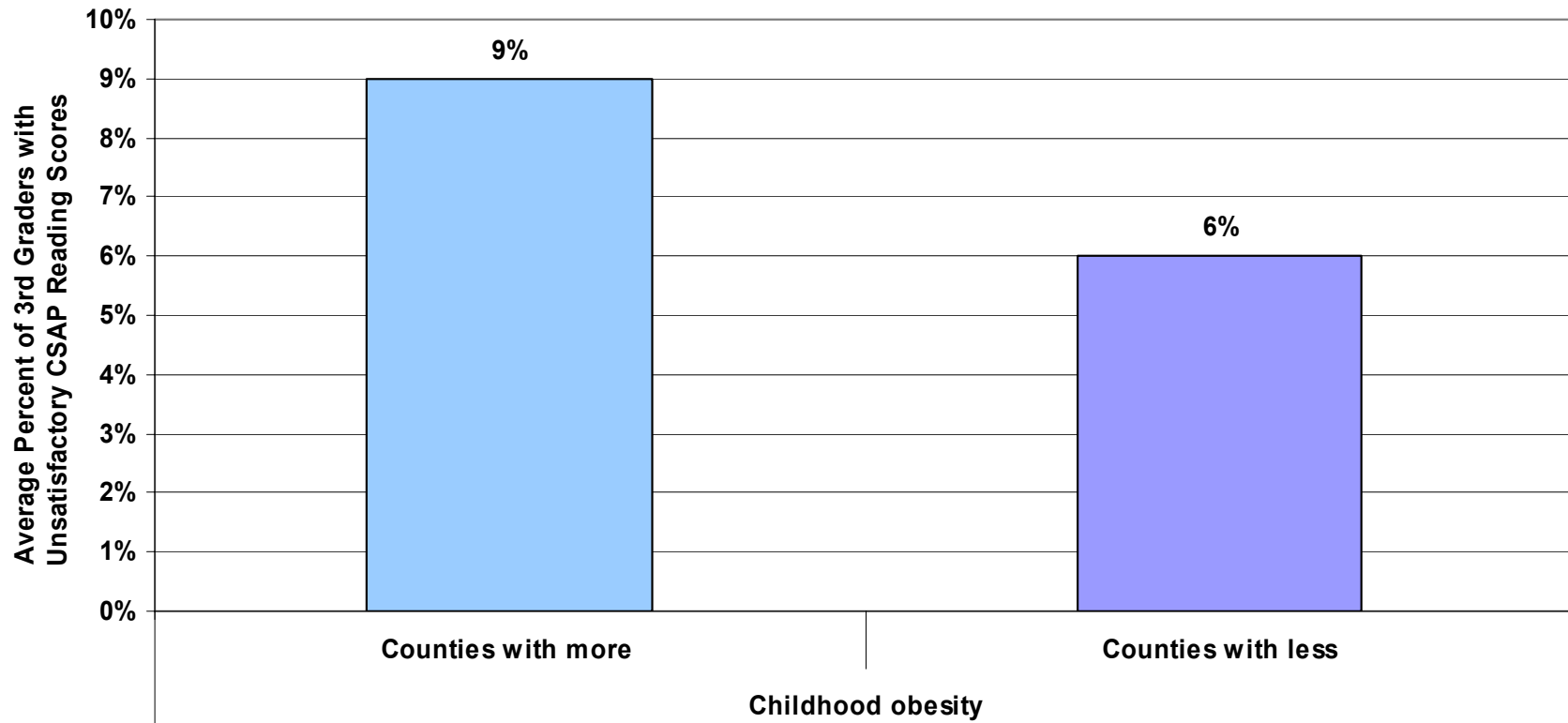
In counties with higher obesity rates, fewer third grade children have proficient or advanced CSAP reading scores.



**Chart 4: Providing Gateway 4 -
Establishing a Healthy Lifestyle in Childhood and Adolescence
Average for Proficient or Advanced 3rd Grade Reading CSAP Scores**

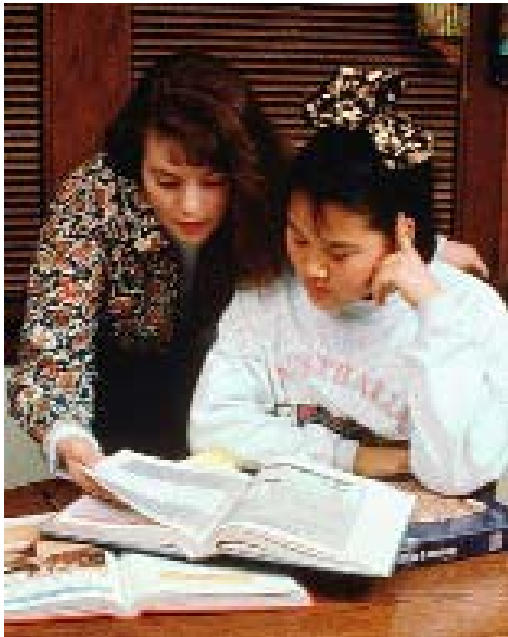


**Chart 5: Failing to Provide Gateway 4 -
Establishing a Healthy Lifestyle in Childhood and Adolescence
Averages for Unsatisfactory 3rd Grade CSAP Reading Scores**



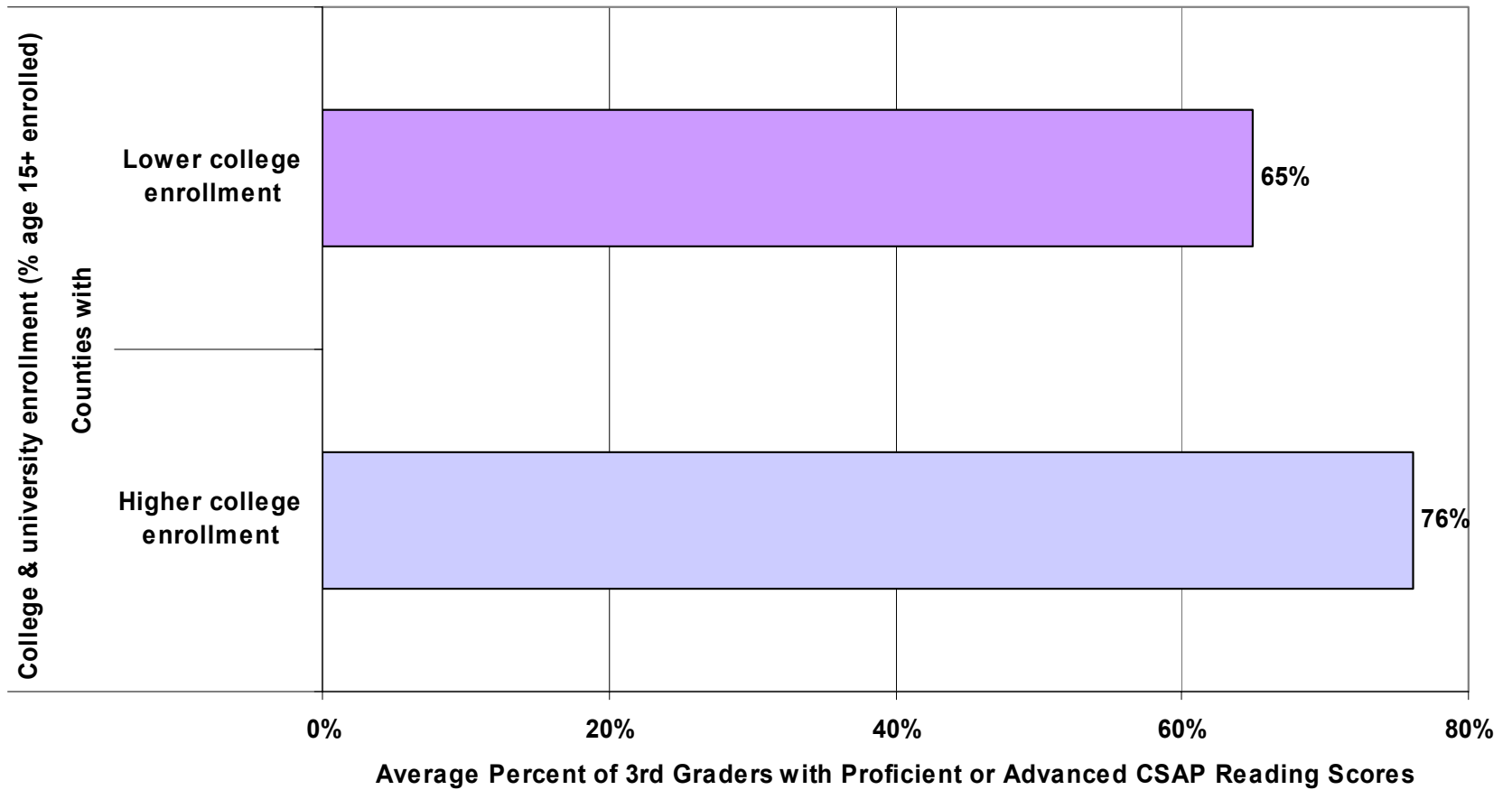
Data Related to "Establishing a Healthy Lifestyle in Childhood and Adolescence"

Leaving High School with a Diploma ...



Counties with lower high school graduation rates are also twice as likely to have unsatisfactory third grade CSAP reading scores as counties with higher graduation rates.

Chart 6: Providing Gateway 6 - Access to Education and Training for Adults
Average for Proficient or Advanced 3rd Grade Reading CSAP Scores



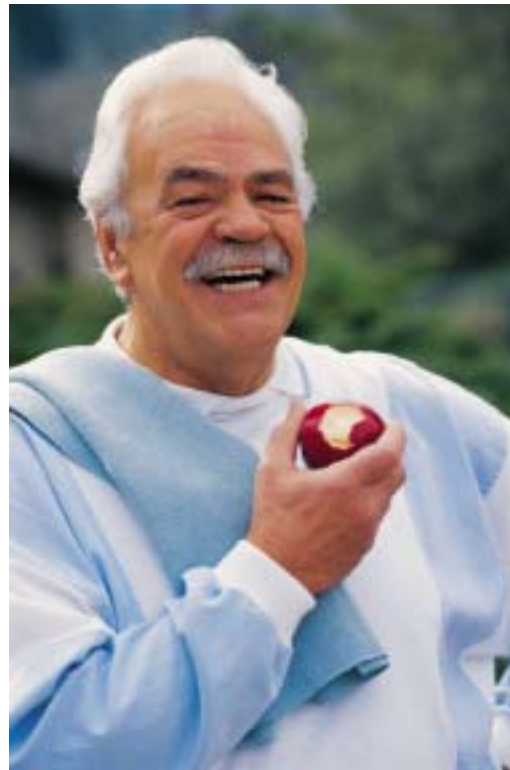
Access to Education and Training for Adults

Two of the 50 states do
not fund adult basic
education/literacy:

- Colorado
- Wyoming



A Healthy Adult Life



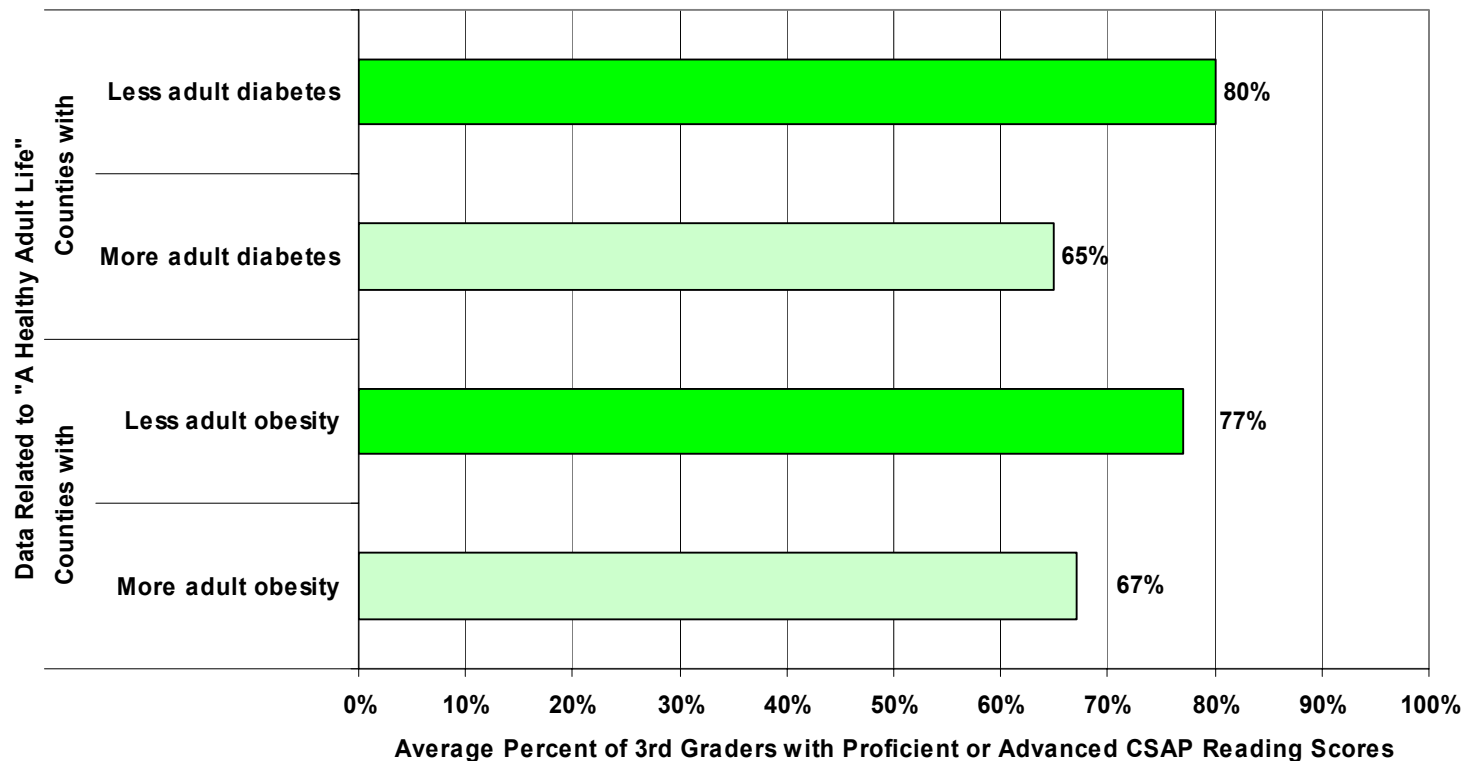
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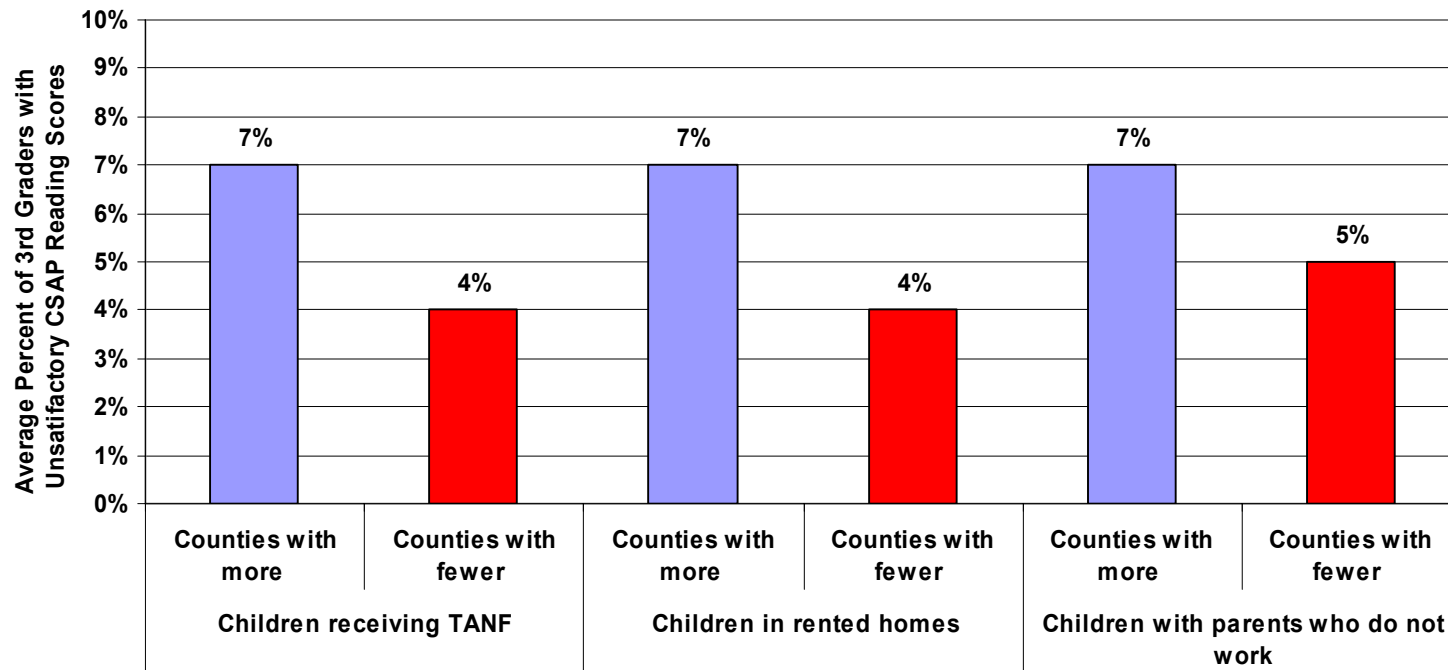
A Healthy Adult Life

Chart 7: Providing Gateway 7 - A Healthy Adult Life
Average for Proficient or Advanced 3rd Grade Reading CSAP Scores



Earning a Decent Living ...

Chart 8: Failing to Provide Gateway 8 -
Earning a Decent Living and Building Wealth
Average for Unsatisfactory 3rd Grade CSAP Reading Scores



Data Related to "Earning a Decent Living and Building Wealth"

Gateways to Achievement

- ✓ When the adults in children's lives are better-educated, children are more likely to have opportunities to succeed in life.
- ✓ Where adult educational attainment is higher, children tend to have an edge on every gateway to opportunity.

Current Programs

- ✓ Approximately 15,000 Colorado adults are served annually by AEFLA programs.
- ✓ 35-40 programs in the State depend on federal funds to deliver services in adult basic skills and family literacy.

A Vision for the Future

- ✓ Promote family literacy & adult education as strategies to close the achievement gap.
- ✓ Address lack of English and basic skills preventing many parents from participating fully in children's schools.
- ✓ Fund 2nd chance and adult high school programs for all ages in every region of the state.

A Vision ... (continued)

- ✓ Invest in community programs serving:
 - Under-educated adults and
 - Non-English-speaking immigrant populations.

- ✓ Provide incentives for workplace literacy programs in Colorado business & industry.

A Vision ... (continued)

- ✓ Allocate state funds to implement the Colorado Family Literacy Education Act.
- ✓ Contribute state maintenance-of-effort funding for the federally-funded AEFLA program.