

Gateways to Achievement

A County-Level Perspective on
Adult Educational Attainment,
the Cycle of Opportunity and
Their Impact on Academic Achievement

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Colorado Department of Education
Center for At-Risk Education
Colorado Literacy Research Initiative

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Gateways to Achievement

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The Bell Policy Center's *Colorado: The State of Opportunity Report* (2002) offers a hopeful vision of a "Cycle of Opportunity" for every resident of Colorado. Each of the state's residents would find a "gateway" into this cycle and have the opportunity to achieve their full economic, social, and personal potential. The Cycle of Opportunity is self-sustaining. Once a family is in the cycle, it is likely to stay in, improving the prospects for its children and its children's children and lessening the drain on society from people caught in a dependency cycle.

There are eight "Gateways" into this positive cycle:

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

These Gateways are crucial points in life when people can move from a Cycle of Dependency to a Cycle of Opportunity and are points where well-conceived government and social programs can make a substantial difference to individuals and families.

This study, sponsored by the Colorado Department of Education's Center for At-Risk Education, utilized available data to examine the relationships between adult educational attainment, these Gateways, and academic achievement of students. Academic achievement is represented by third-grade Colorado Student Assessment Program (CSAP) reading scores. These scores are a predictor of success in school, an important element of the Cycle of Opportunity model. This report identifies variables at all stages of life that have an impact on academic achievement and demonstrates that school curricula and interventions are not the only factors influencing student test scores. Improving the situation of the adults in children's lives,

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particularly by improving adult educational attainment, also can have a big impact on academic achievement.

County-level data were obtained to represent each of the eight Gateways. T-tests were conducted to assess the statistical significance of differences in mean CSAP reading scores of “have” and “have not” counties for each of the Gateway variables. For each variable, the counties were divided at the median into two groups. One group is Colorado counties with data greater than or equal to the median for that variable and the second group is counties with data less than the median for that variable. Then the average percentage of third-graders achieving “proficient” or “advanced” CSAP reading scores—or “unsatisfactory” CSAP reading scores—is compared for the two groups of counties.

This analysis suggests that the Bell Policy Center’s Cycle of Opportunity—particularly its eight Gateways—is a useful conceptual model for examining factors that influence the academic achievement of Colorado students. The findings of this analysis indicate to policy-makers where and what types of programs are most effective in improving lives so that limited public resources can be used more effectively. The results demonstrate that adult basic education is an important gateway into the “Cycle of Opportunity” and should be made widely available in our state. Following is a presentation of this study’s findings. For a fuller discussion of the research background for the model, refer to the Bell Policy Center’s full report: *Colorado: The State of Opportunity Report* (2002).

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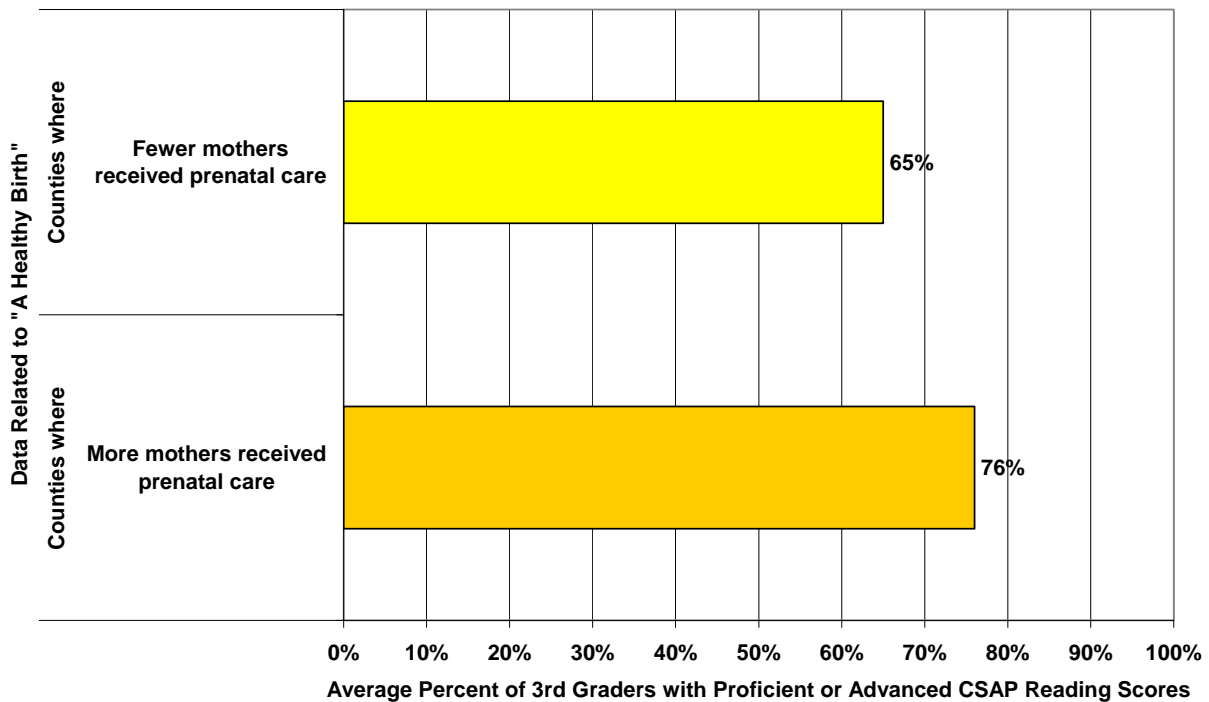
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gateway 1 A Healthy Birth

The Cycle of Opportunity has many entry points, but conceptually it makes sense to begin this analysis at the beginning of life. Children born healthy have a better chance to succeed in all the steps ahead to create a full and satisfying adult life. Mothers who receive prenatal care learn about the importance of their own diet and lifestyle choices to the health and development of their babies. These mothers in prenatal care also have doctors monitoring their babies and ready to intervene if necessary to provide the healthiest pregnancy outcomes possible. Prenatal care has a significant relationship with third-grade CSAP reading test scores, as seen in Chart 1.



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



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- In counties where women were more likely to receive early prenatal care, 11% more third graders achieved proficient or advanced CSAP reading scores than in counties where prenatal care was less common.

gateway 2

A Safe and Stimulating Early Childhood

Research has confirmed that early childhood development is critical to future health and happiness. Rapid brain development occurs during the first years of life, a period when environment can have a profound effect on future emotional and physical health. Parents in healthy and secure situations are more likely to be able to provide a nurturing and stimulating environment for their infants and young children. Such conditions permit children to fully develop the skills and cognitive abilities they will need to take them successfully through school and into productive adulthood.

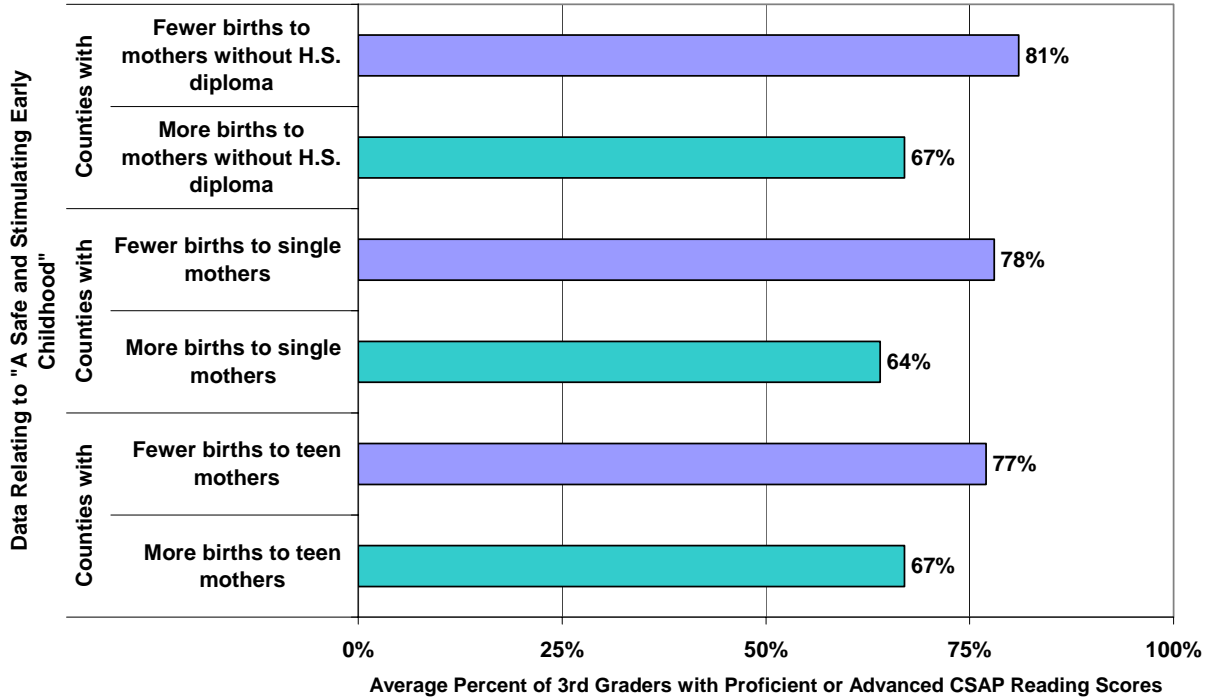


The circumstances of mothers are related to the academic achievement of children. Counties with fewer births to mothers in difficult circumstances had higher percentages of third-graders earning proficient or advanced CSAP reading scores. Three specific variables examined were births to mothers without high school diplomas, births to single mothers, and births to teen mothers. Mothers in these situations may lack the means and/or the knowledge to provide all that small children need to prepare for school success. (See Chart 2 and Chart 3.)

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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

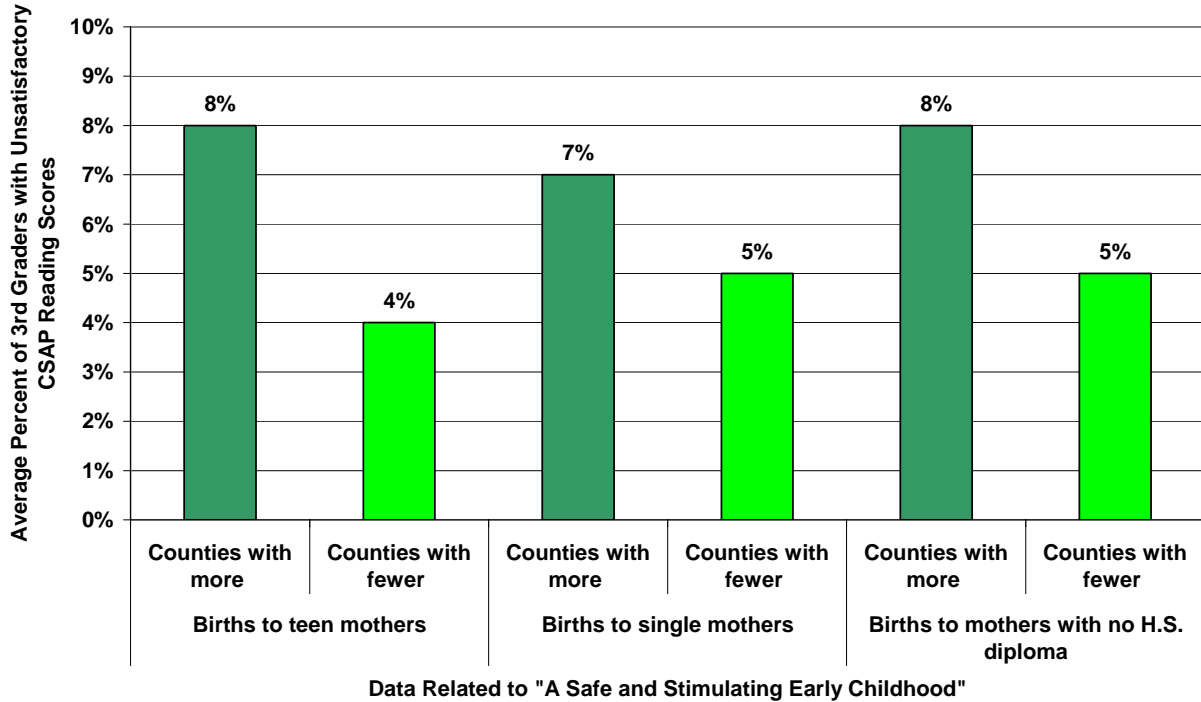


- In counties where fewer children were born to teen mothers, 10% more third-graders scored proficient or advanced on the CSAP reading test than in counties with more births to teen mothers.
- In counties where fewer children were born to single mothers, 14% more third-graders excelled in reading than in counties with more births to single mothers.
- In counties where fewer children were born to mothers without high school diplomas, 14% more third-graders scored well on reading than in counties with more births to mothers without diplomas.

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**Chart 3: Failing to Provide Gateway 2 - A Safe and Stimulating Early Childhood
Average Percent of 3rd Graders with Unsatisfactory CSAP Reading Scores**



- Counties with more births to teen mothers, single mothers, and mothers with no high school diploma were more likely to have third-graders who scored at the unsatisfactory level on reading.

gateway 3 Building a Solid Base for Literacy

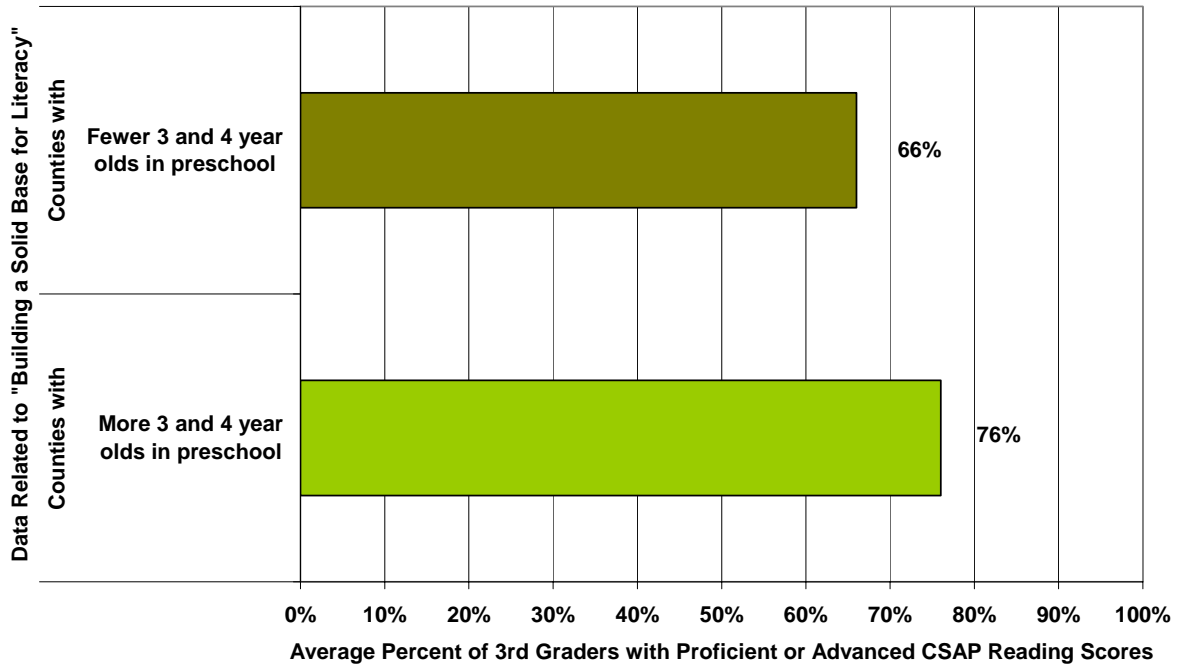
To take full advantage of formal schooling, children should arrive ready for kindergarten. Preschool provides educational and social preparation for school. The importance of preschool can be seen in Chart 4, which illustrates that counties with more 3 and 4 year-olds enrolled in pre-school have a higher average of children earning proficient or advanced scores on third-grade CSAP reading tests than the counties with fewer children in preschool.



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Chart 4: Providing Gateway 3 - Building a Solid Base for Literacy
Average for Proficient or Advanced 3rd Grade Reading CSAP Scores



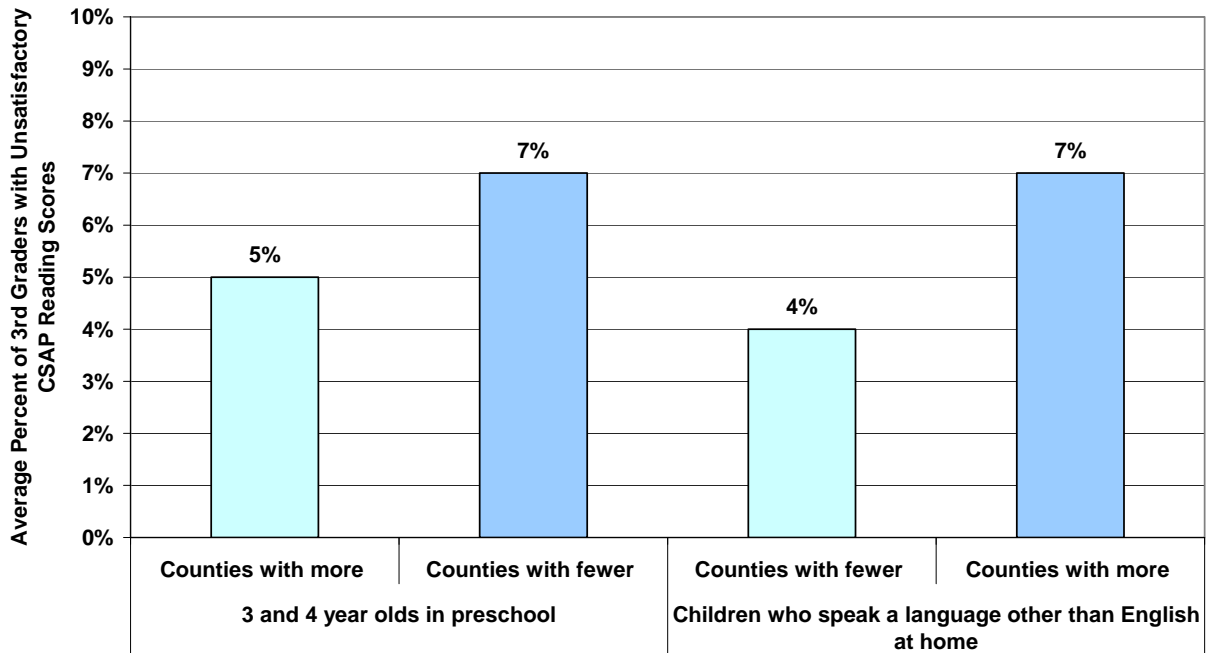
- In counties with lower preschool enrollment rates, 10% fewer third-graders scored well in reading than in counties with higher preschool enrollments.

School readiness impacts academic achievement. (See Chart 5.) Lower preschool enrollment rates mean more children arrive at elementary school without the experience that enables them to succeed academically. Speaking a language other than English at home may also create difficulties for students that make learning in their elementary years more difficult.

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Chart 5: Failing to Provide Gateway 3 - Building a Solid Base for Literacy
Average Percent of 3rd Graders with Unsatisfactory CSAP Reading Scores



Data Related to "Building a Solid Base for Literacy"

- Unsatisfactory third-grade reading scores were more likely in counties with low preschool enrollment rates.
- Counties in which children were more likely to speak a language other than English at home also had more third-graders with unsatisfactory reading scores.

gateway 4

Establishing a Healthy Lifestyle in Childhood and Adolescence

Good health allows adults to be productive. The groundwork for good health is laid early in life. Unfortunately, too many children and adolescents in Colorado do not have healthy lifestyles, a fact

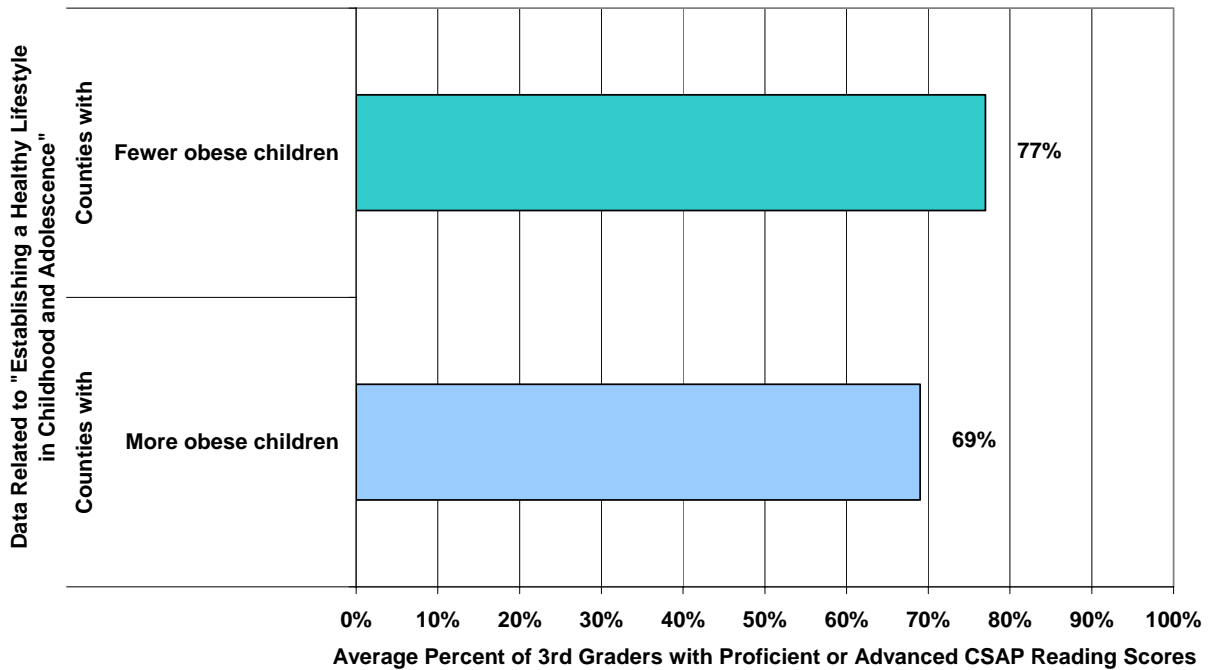


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reflected in childhood obesity rates. In counties with higher childhood obesity rates, fewer third-grade children achieve proficient or advanced CSAP reading scores, as shown in Chart 6. These counties have more children with unsatisfactory scores. (See Chart 7.)

**Chart 6: Providing Gateway 4 -
Establishing a Healthy Lifestyle in Childhood and Adolescence
Average for Proficient or Advanced 3rd Grade Reading CSAP Scores**

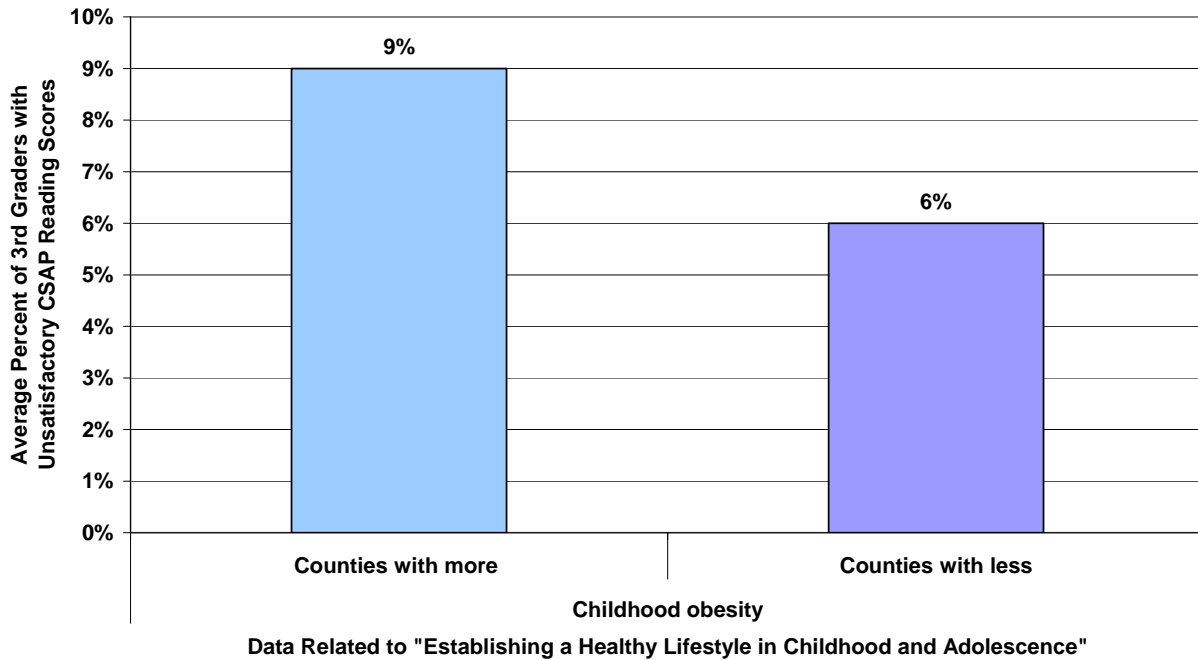


- Counties in which children were more likely to be obese averaged 8% fewer third-graders excelling in reading than counties with lower rates of childhood obesity.

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**Chart 7: Failing to Provide Gateway 4 -
Establishing a Healthy Lifestyle in Childhood and Adolescence
Averages for Unsatisfactory 3rd Grade CSAP Reading Scores**



- Counties where children are more likely to be obese are also more likely to have unsatisfactory third-grade reading scores.

gateway 5

Leaving High School with a Diploma and the Skills to Succeed

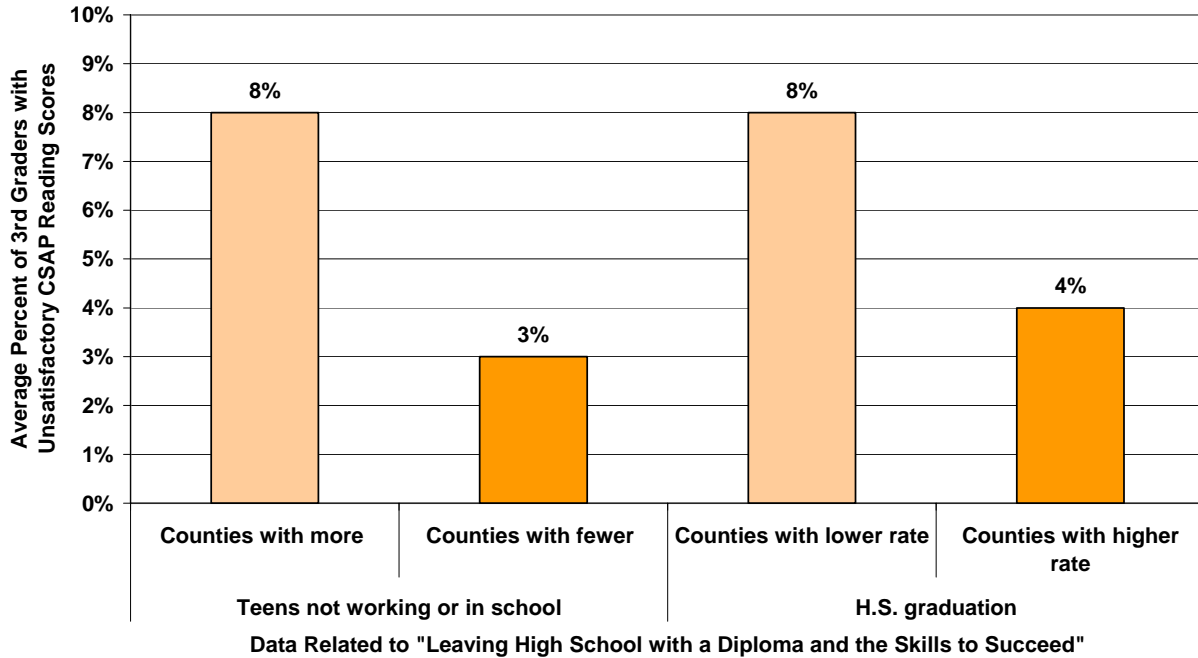
Educational attainment is an important Gateway to opportunity. It opens the door to employment opportunities and gives people the resources to support themselves and their families. High school graduation is preparation for a productive adult life. (See Chart 8.)



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Chart 8: Failing to Provide Gateway 5 - Leaving High School with a Diploma and the Skills to Succeed
Average Percent of 3rd Graders with Unsatisfactory CSAP Reading Scores



- Counties with more idle teens – teens not enrolled in school and not working – are twice as likely to have unsatisfactory third-grade reading CSAP scores as counties with fewer idle teens.
- 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.

gateway 6

Access to Education and Training for Adults

A high school diploma alone is no longer a sufficient educational credential to ensure career and economic success in adult life. Increasingly, a college degree is necessary to attain a self-

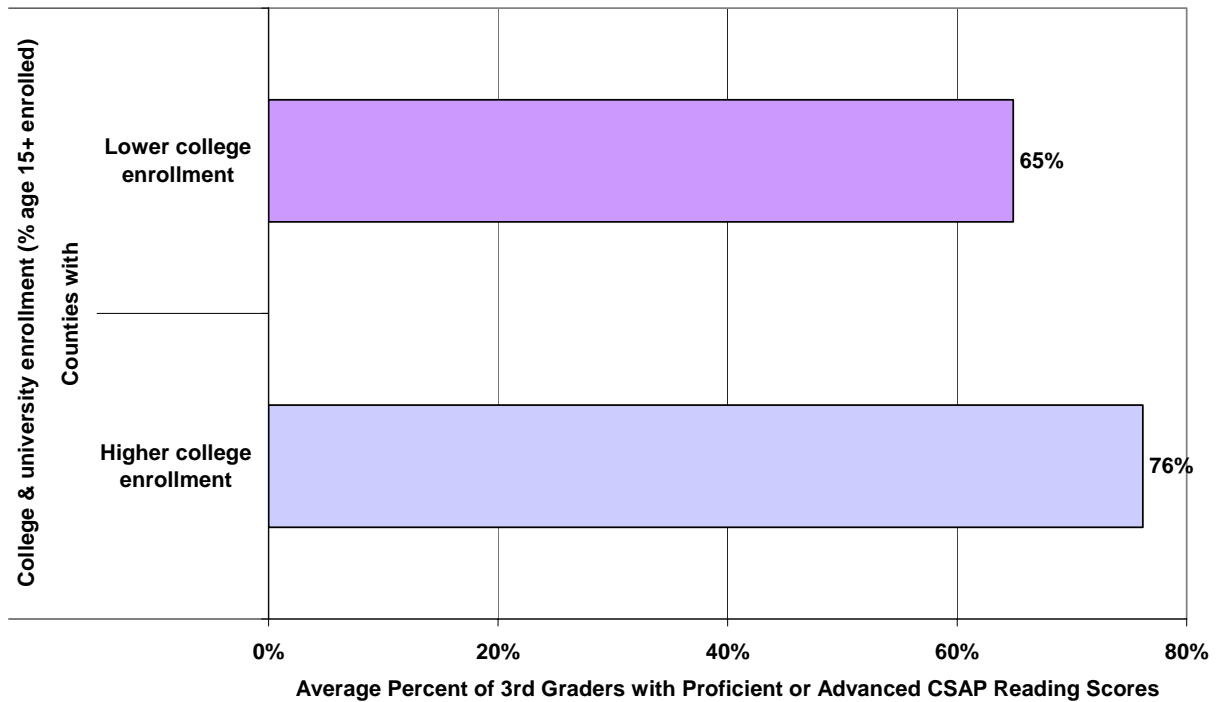


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sufficient lifestyle with a well-paying job and home ownership. While distance learning is becoming an increasingly viable option, the logistics of earning such a degree are often determined by the proximity of an institution of higher education. (See Charts 9 and 10.)

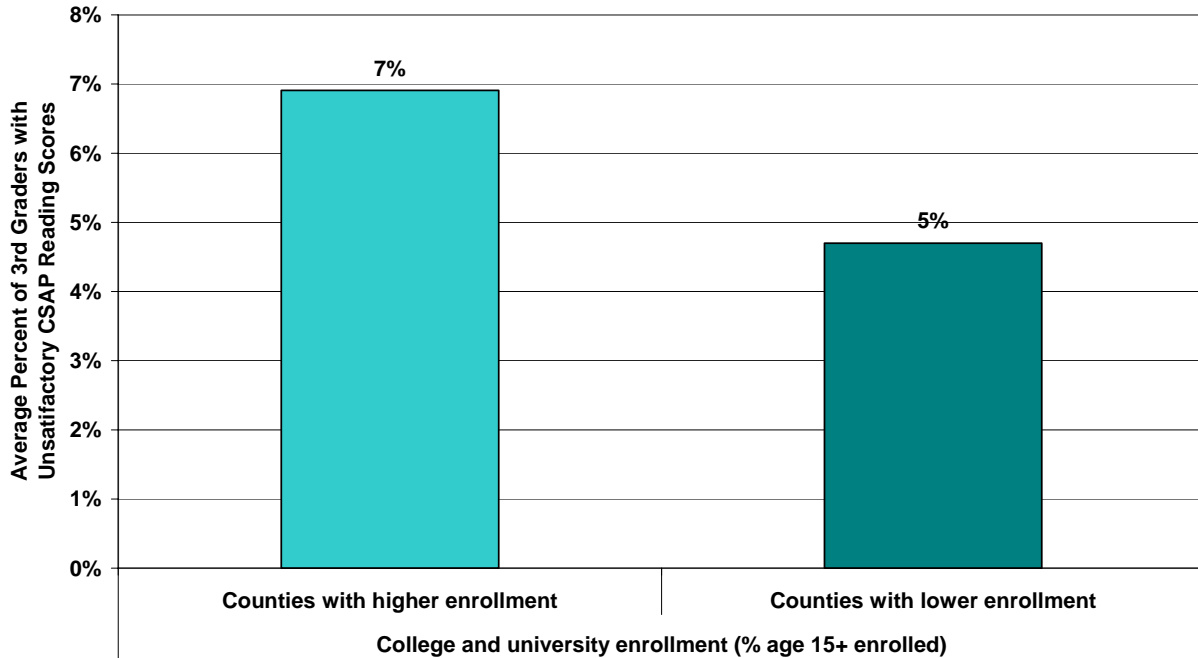
Chart 9: Providing Gateway 6 - Access to Education and Training for Adults
Average for Proficient or Advanced 3rd Grade Reading CSAP Scores



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Chart 10:
Failing to Provide Gateway 6 - Access to Education & Training for Adults
Average Percent of 3rd Graders with Unsatisfactory CSAP Reading Scores



- Proficient or advanced third-grade reading scores were more likely in counties with higher college/university enrollment rates.
- Curiously, however, counties with higher college/university enrollment rates also tended to have more third-graders with unsatisfactory reading scores.

The first finding suggests that access to educational institutions improves the odds that parents will be better-educated and, thereby, that their children will tend to do better in school. While the second finding seems to contradict the first, it may indicate that the state’s higher education institutions are located where they are most needed—where the gap between the educational “haves” and “have nots” is most extreme.

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gateway 7

A Healthy Adult Life

The health of adults affects all of their family members. Healthy parents can more easily provide for themselves and create a prosperous, safe, and stimulating environment for their children.

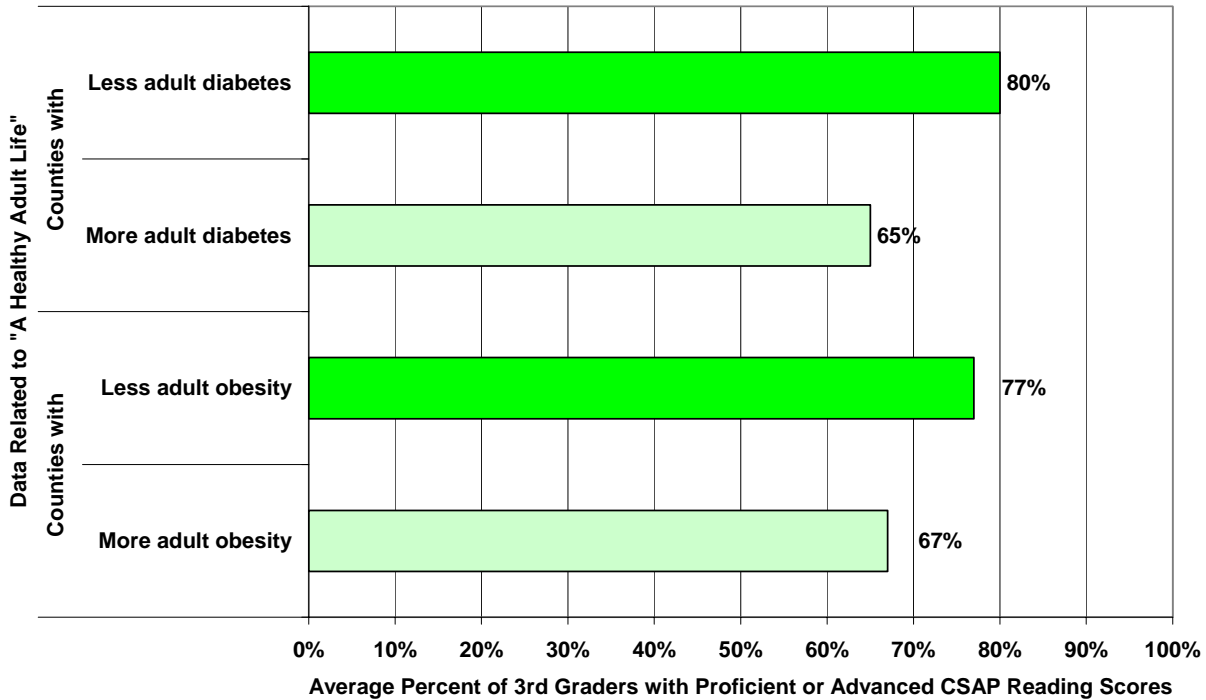


Obesity and diabetes rates are both indicators of the health of the adult population. That these rates are also related to student achievement is clear. (See Chart 11.) Many of the factors discussed in the “Cycle of Opportunity” model contribute to this situation. Lack of education is a deterrent to people learning about healthy lifestyle choices. Failure to establish healthy habits in childhood and adolescence often leads to adult health problems. Poverty may lead to lack of access to medical care and/or poor diet.

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Chart 11: Providing Gateway 7 - A Healthy Adult Life
Average for Proficient or Advanced 3rd Grade Reading CSAP Scores



- In counties where adults are more likely to be obese, 10% fewer third-graders score proficient or advanced in reading than in counties with lower rates of adult obesity.
- Counties where adult diabetes is more prevalent average 15% fewer third-graders reading well than counties where the incidence of diabetes is lower among adults.

gateway 8 Earning a Decent Living and Building Wealth

Poverty blocks many gateways to the “Cycle of Opportunity”. There is a great deal of county-level data available for this Gateway and six variables prove to impact academic achievement, as indicated by CSAP reading scores.



(See Chart 12.) Low household income affects all family members. Parents

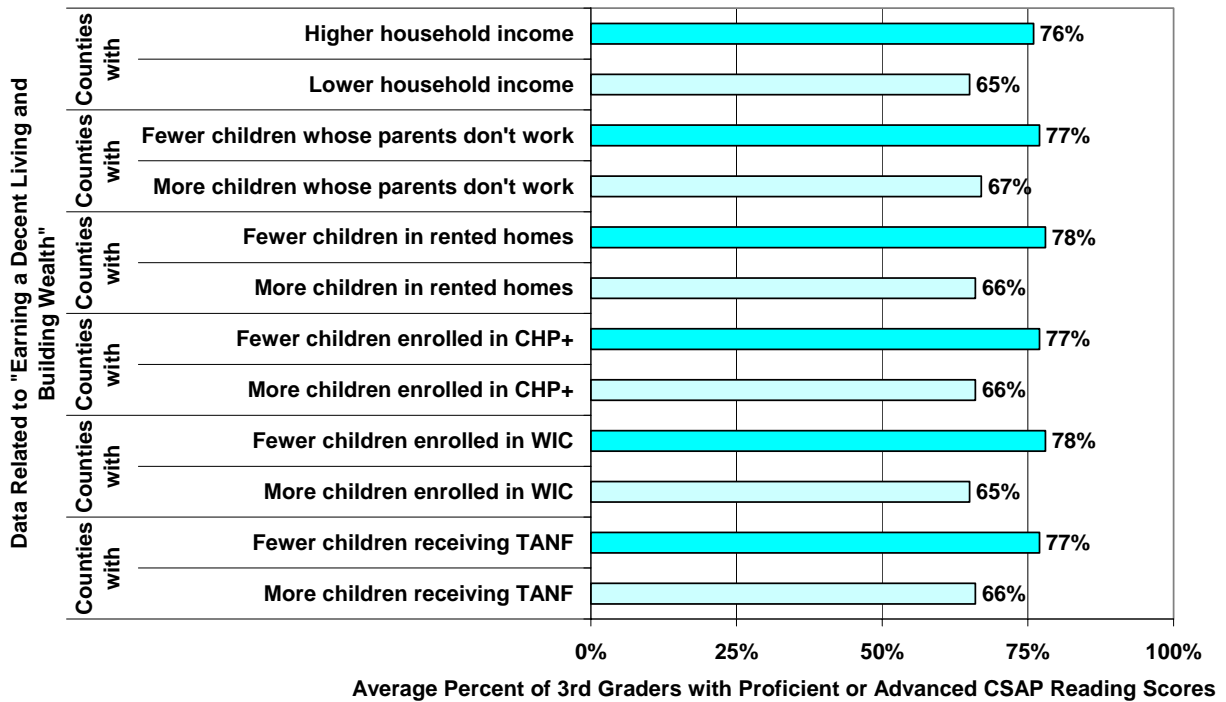
not in the labor force are unlikely to earn a good living and build wealth for the future. Renting

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rather than owning a home means that families do not have the opportunity to build equity in a home and create wealth for future generations to rely on. Child Health Plan Plus (CHP+), Women Infants and Children Supplemental Nutrition (WIC), and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) are all programs to benefit children in poor families. The health insurance and proper nutrition made available through these programs may enable today's beneficiaries to find their way into the Cycle of Opportunity, but the current high rates of participants in these programs correspond to lower rates of success on third-grade CSAP reading tests.

**Chart 12: Providing Gateway 8 - Earning a Decent Living and Building Wealth
Average for Proficient or Advanced 3rd Grade Reading CSAP Scores**



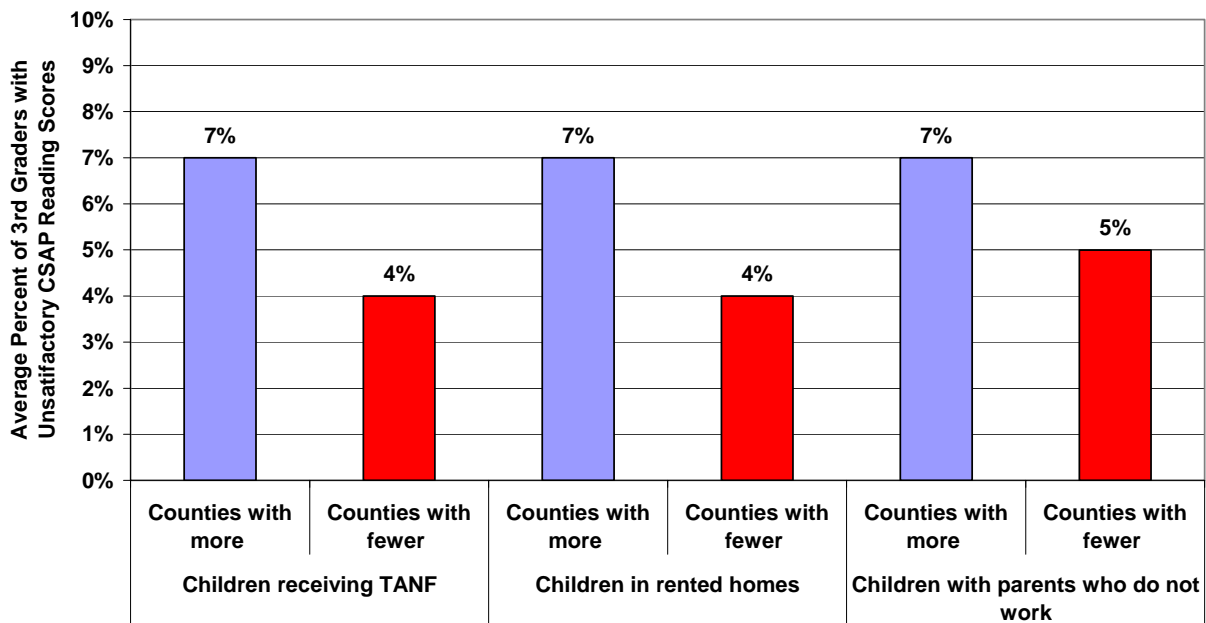
- Counties with lower median household incomes had 11% fewer third-graders scoring well on reading than their counterparts in richer counties.

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- In counties whose children were more likely to have parents in the labor force, 10% more third-graders excelled in reading than in counties where fewer children have parents in the labor force.
- Counties with higher rates of participation in CHP+, WIC, and TANF programs had 11%-13% fewer third-graders reading at the proficient or advanced level.
- In counties where more children live in rented homes, 12% fewer third-graders achieved acceptable reading scores than in counties where fewer children live in rented homes.

Chart 13: 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"

Compared to other counties, unsatisfactory reading scores were much more common among third-graders from counties with more children in families:

- receiving TANF,
- renting rather than owning homes, and
- without parents in the labor force. (See Chart 13.)

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the ultimate gateway

Adult Education

The gateways to opportunity identified in the Bell Policy Center’s model provide many predictors of academic achievement, as measured by third-grade CSAP reading scores; however, one ultimate gateway is missing—the educational attainment level of adults in the community. The educational success of each generation of Coloradans is influenced by the lessons and example of adults who play many different roles in their young lives, such as:



- parents, grandparents, and other family members;
- teachers, day care providers, and other caregivers; and
- adult leaders of youth organizations (e.g., Scouts, Camp Fire, Boys & Girls Clubs)

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:

- Because their mothers are more likely to have received prenatal care, children in better-educated communities are likelier to be born healthy.
- When women defer childbearing until they themselves are adults, complete their own education, and marry, their children enjoy a safer and more stimulating early childhood.
- Where adults are better educated, a child is more likely to attend preschool, building a more solid base for literacy.
- Children from better-educated counties are less likely to be obese because they are more likely to learn about proper nutrition and exercise and to have access and the means to buy healthy food, establishing a healthier lifestyle in childhood and adolescence.
- Children are less likely to become “idle teens”—neither being in school nor working—if they reside in better-educated communities. (See Table 1.)

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Table 1. Gateways into the Cycle of Opportunity for Children

Gateway/Data	Counties by percent of adults without high school diploma (median = 16%)	Mean for Gateway	t	Significance of t
Gateway 1: A Healthy Birth				
Percent of mothers receiving prenatal care	Median or above	74.7%	-2.638	.001
	Below median	80.9%		
Gateway 2: A Safe & Stimulating Early Childhood				
Births (per 1,000) to teen mothers	Median or above	32.4	3.717	.001
	Below median	14.4		
Births (per 100) to single mothers	Median or above	31.8	5.190	.000
	Below median	21.8		
Births (per 100) to women without high school diplomas	Median or above	26.3	4.977	.000
	Below median	14.4		
Gateway 3: Building a Solid Base for Literacy				
Percent ages 3 & 4 enrolled in preschool	Median or above	44.4	-2.955	.005
	Below median	53.3		
Gateway 4: Establishing a Healthy Lifestyle in Childhood & Adolescence				
Percent of children who are obese	Median or above	11.5	3.176	.003
	Below median	7.9		
Gateway 5: Leaving High School with a Diploma and the Skills to Succeed				
Percent of teenagers who are “idle” (i.e., not in school & not employed)	Median or above	9.7	3.766	.000
	Below median	5.9		

When the adults in children’s lives are better-educated, children are more likely to have opportunities to succeed as they enter adulthood. Where adult educational attainment is higher, there is wider access to educational opportunities, better public health, and more economic prosperity.

- Well-educated adults are likelier to live in counties with at least one college or university.
- Obesity and diabetes are less common where adults are better-educated.
- Where adult educational attainment is higher, families tend to have jobs and higher incomes and to reside in homes that they own, making them less dependent on social service programs. (See Table 2.)

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Table 2. Gateways into the Cycle of Opportunity for Adults

Gateway/Data	Counties by percent of adults without high school diploma (median = 16%)	Mean for Gateway	t	Significance of t
Gateway 6: Access to Education & Training for Adults				
Percent of counties with at least one college or university	Median or above Below median	40.6 45.4	n/a	n/a
Gateway 7: A Healthy Adult Life				
Percent of adults who are obese	Median or above Below median	16.8 12.6	3.079	.004
Percent of adults with diabetes	Median or above Below median	5.5 2.9	2.694	.011
Gateway 8: Earning a Decent Living & Building Wealth				
Median household income	Median or above Below median	\$31,667 \$46,094	-6.134	.000
Percent of children with parents not in labor force	Median or above Below median	9.5 4.9	5.145	.000
Children under 5 (per 100) receiving WIC	Median or above Below median	36.4 14.1	5.686	.000
Children (per 1,000) receiving TANF	Median or above Below median	27.0 9.1	4.720	.000
Children under 19 (per 100) receiving CHP+	Median or above Below median	7.0 4.5	2.606	.012
Percent of households with children renter-occupied	Median or above Below median	32.4 28.2	2.255	.028

It is not merely by example that better-educated adults encourage children to do better in school. Adults who enjoy educational success themselves are more likely to confer upon their own children, and other children in their communities, a myriad of social, economic, and even health advantages that improve children’s chances of educational success.

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Conclusion

The Gateways model explained in the Bell Policy Center’s Cycle of Opportunity provides a framework for analyzing factors that keep people from success in school and work and the consequent difficulties in providing a healthy, safe, and stimulating upbringing for children. Utilizing that framework, this study demonstrates that adult basic education is an important gateway into the “Cycle of Opportunity,” and that opportunities to improve the literacy skills of adults should be made widely available in our state.

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appendix 1 | Sources and Definitions of Data

CSAP Data

2003 CSAP Grade 3 Reading (English Version) Performance Levels - District and School Results

Copied and calculated at the county level from data downloaded 3/01/2004 from
<http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdeassess/csap/2003/G3R0803SD.xls>

Gateway 1: A Healthy Birth

Births to women receiving early prenatal care

DEFINITION

Births for which prenatal care was initiated in the first trimester of pregnancy per 100 live births.

DATA SOURCE

Health Statistics Section, Colorado Department of Health and Environment

This data was downloaded from the Annie E. Casey Foundations CLIKS: County-City-Community Level Information on Kids web site at <http://www.aecf.org/cgi-bin/cliiks.cgi>
This is cliks_CO_indicator8.

Gateway 2: A Safe & Stimulating Early Childhood

Births to women with no high school diploma

DEFINITION

Births to mothers who have less than 12 years of education per 100 live births.

DATA SOURCE

Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, Health Statistics Section.

This data was downloaded from the Annie E. Casey Foundations CLIKS: County-City-Community Level Information on Kids web site at <http://www.aecf.org/cgi-bin/cliiks.cgi>
This is cliks_CO_indicator14.

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Teen births (rate per 1,000)

DEFINITION

Lives births to girls ages 15-17 per 1,000 Colorado female teens of that age (age-specific fertility rate).

DATA SOURCE

Health Statistics Section, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

This data was downloaded from the Annie E. Casey Foundations CLIKS: County-City-Community Level Information on Kids web site at <http://www.aecf.org/cgi-bin/cliiks.cgi>
This is cliks_CO_indicator4.

Births to single women

DEFINITION

Births to unmarried women per 100 live births.

DATA SOURCE

Health Statistics Section, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

This data was downloaded from the Annie E. Casey Foundations CLIKS: County-City-Community Level Information on Kids web site at <http://www.aecf.org/cgi-bin/cliiks.cgi>
This is cliks_CO_indicator5.

Gateway 3: Building a Solid Base for Literacy

Percent of Population Ages 3 and 4 who are Enrolled in School 2000

Census 2000 data downloaded from the Annie E. Casey Foundation's KIDS COUNT Census Data Online site at <http://www.aecf.org/kidscount/census/> This is variable v7602000.

Children ages 5 to 17 who speak a language other than English at home 2000

Census 2000 data downloaded from the Annie E. Casey Foundation's KIDS COUNT Census Data Online site at <http://www.aecf.org/kidscount/census/> This is variable v8722000.

Gateway 4: Establishing a Healthy Lifestyle in Childhood and Adolescence

Percent of Children Who are Obese

The measure is the percent of WIC participants ages 2-5 who are obese, for the year 2002.

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From Colorado Maternal and Child Health database, February 2004 release, accessed 3/5/04 at
<http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/ps/mch/mchadmin/mchdatasets2004/adams.pdf>

Gateway 5: Leaving High School with a Diploma and the Skills to Succeed

High school graduation rate

DEFINITION

The high school graduation rate is based on the number of students enrolled in 9th grade four years prior. The rate includes students who transferred into, and excludes students who transferred out of, the graduating class. The membership base of a school can be adjusted for a student reported as a dropout during the prior school year if the school has documentation that the student entered an education program subsequently.

DATA SOURCE

Colorado Department of Education, Research and Evaluation Unit.

This data was downloaded from the Annie E. Casey Foundations CLIKS: County-City-Community Level Information on Kids web site at <http://www.aecf.org/cgi-bin/cliiks.cgi>. This is cliiks_CO_indicator30.

Idle teens (not in school, not working)

DEFINITION

Number of teens age 16-19 who are not enrolled in school and not working per 100 teens age 16-19.

DATA SOURCE

Census 2000.

This data was downloaded from the Annie E. Casey Foundations CLIKS: County-City-Community Level Information on Kids web site at <http://www.aecf.org/cgi-bin/cliiks.cgi>. This is cliiks_CO_indicator40.

Gateway 6: Access to Education and Training for Adults

Percent of population age 15+ enrolled in college or graduate school

Figured from Colorado Demography Office statistics: Educational Enrollment, Colorado and Counties 2000 accessed at

<http://dola.colorado.gov/demog/Census/GeoComparisons/EDUCATIONco.pdf>

Public 4-year, 2-year schools, vocational and technical schools information from

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Colorado Higher Education Directory at <http://www.state.co.us/cche/direct/higher.html> accessed
[3/4/2004](#)

Gateway 7: A Healthy Adult Life

Obesity

Data from Colorado Health Information Behavioral Risk Factor Statistics searchable database at
<http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/scripts/htmsql.exe/cohid/brfssfrm3.hsml> accessed 3/3/04

Obesity: 2000-2001 answers to question "Based on body mass index, are you obese? (obese=BMI
30.0 or higher) "

Not all counties have data because the sample sizes for rural areas of Colorado are generally too
small to produce reliable estimates.

BRFSS measures are self-reported and are subject to several sources of error. For example,
prevalence estimates only capture those with diagnosed conditions. In addition, recall bias --
trouble remembering information such as when blood pressure was last checked -- may distort
estimates.

Diabetes

Data from Colorado Health Information Behavioral Risk Factor Statistics searchable database at
<http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/scripts/htmsql.exe/cohid/brfssfrm2.hsml> accessed 3/3/2004.

Diabetes: 2000-2001 answers to question "Have you ever been told by a doctor that you have
diabetes? (exclude gestational diabetes)

Not all counties have data because the sample sizes for rural areas of Colorado are generally too
small to produce reliable estimates.

BRFSS measures are self-reported and are subject to several sources of error. For example,
prevalence estimates only capture those with diagnosed conditions. In addition, recall bias --
trouble remembering information such as when blood pressure was last checked -- may distort
estimates.

Some of the data in the Colorado Health Information Behavioral Risk Factor Statistics
searchable database at <http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/> is reached by combining smaller counties
into Planning and Management Regions (PMRs). Rates are calculated for the region. Where a
PMR rate is the only one available for a particular county, that is the rate used in this study.
PMR1, PMR9, PMR 10, PMR 12, PMR 13, PMR 5+6 are regions for which BRFSS statistics are
calculated.

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Gateway 8: Earning a Decent Living and Building Wealth

Median Household Income

DEFINITION

An estimate of the median household income. The Census Bureau creates this estimate based on administrative data derived from tax returns, counts of food stamp participants, data for the Bureau of Economic Analysis, decennial census estimates, intercensal population estimates, and the March Current Population Survey (CPS).

DATA SOURCE

US Bureau of the Census, Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates
<http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/saibe.html>

This data was downloaded from the Annie E. Casey Foundations CLIKS: County-City-Community Level Information on Kids web site at <http://www.aecf.org/cgi-bin/cliiks.cgi>. This is cliiks_CO_indicator53.

Children receiving TANF (rate per 1,000)

DEFINITION

Number of children enrolled in Temporary Assistance to Needy Families per 1,000 children under age 18.

DATA SOURCE

Colorado Department of Human Services

FOOTNOTE TANF replaced AFDC in mid-1997.

This data was downloaded from the Annie E. Casey Foundations CLIKS: County-City-Community Level Information on Kids web site at <http://www.aecf.org/cgi-bin/cliiks.cgi>. This is cliiks_CO_indicator11.

Children under 5 enrolled in WIC

DEFINITION

Number of infants and children under age 5 receiving services from the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children. The rate is the monthly average number of children served by WIC per 100 children less than 5 years of age.

DATA SOURCE

Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment.

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FOOTNOTE

Note that some county WIC programs provide services to children from other counties. Gilpin, Hinsdale and Mineral counties do not have a WIC program and are served by neighboring counties. Children in Conejos, Costilla, Denver, Mesa, Rio Grande and Weld counties are served both by WIC and the Commodities Supplemental Food Program, with relatively few being served by WIC.

This data was downloaded from the Annie E. Casey Foundations CLIKS: County-City-Community Level Information on Kids web site at <http://www.aecf.org/cgi-bin/cliiks.cgi>. This is cliks_CO_indicator12.

Children enrolled in CHP+

DEFINITION

Number of children enrolled in Child Health Plan Plus (CHP+) per 100 children under age 19.

DATA SOURCE

Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing.

FOOTNOTE

CHP+ began in 1997.

This data was downloaded from the Annie E. Casey Foundations CLIKS: County-City-Community Level Information on Kids web site at <http://www.aecf.org/cgi-bin/cliiks.cgi>. This is cliks_CO_indicator13.

Percent of Own Children Under Age 18 With No Parents in the Labor Force 2000

Census 2000 data downloaded from the Annie E. Casey Foundation's KIDS COUNT

Census Data Online site at <http://www.aecf.org/kidscount/census/> This is variable vb012000.

Percent of Households With Children that are Renter Occupied 2000

Census 2000 data downloaded from the Annie E. Casey Foundation's KIDS COUNT

Census Data Online site at <http://www.aecf.org/kidscount/census/> This is variable va852000.

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appendix 2

Variables, Numbers of Cases, Mean, T-tests, and Statistical Significance

Table 2-1: Variables Related to Proficient or Advanced 3rd Grade CSAP Reading Scores

Variable		N	Mean	t	Significance
Births to women receiving early prenatal care	>= .80	30	0.764	2.276	0.027
	< .80	29	0.6545		
Births to mothers with no H.S. diploma	>= .18	30	0.672	-4.49	0
	< .18	24	0.8112		
Births to single women	>=.27	30	0.639	-3.156	0.003
	<.27	29	0.7838		
Teen births	>= 24	25	0.6676	-2.05	0.048
	<24	21	0.771		
Children ages 3 and 4 who are enrolled in school	>= 47	31	0.759	2.13	0.038
	< 47	28	0.6561		
Children who are obese	>= 10	18	0.6933	-2.127	0.043
	< 10	14	0.7686		
Obesity	>= .15	27	0.6652	-2.089	0.042
	< .15	21	0.7733		
Diabetes	>= .04	27	0.647	-3.104	0.004
	<.04	21	0.7967		
Median household income	>= 34768	31	0.7603	2.183	0.033
	< 34768	28	0.6546		
Children under 18 with no parents in the labor force	>= 6	37	0.6719	-2.043	0.047
	<6	22	0.7745		
Households with children that are renter occupied	>= 30	33	0.6576	-2.477	0.016
	< 30	26	0.7769		
Children enrolled in CHP+	>= .05	31	0.659	-2.299	0.026
	< .05	28	0.7668		
Children under 5 enrolled in WIC	>= .22	30	0.6457	-2.81	0.007
	< .22	29	0.7769		
Children receiving TANF	>= 10	33	0.6648	-2.109	0.04
	< 10	26	0.7677		

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Table 2-2: Variables Related to Unsatisfactory 3rd Grade Reading CSAP Scores

Variable		N	Mean	t	Signifi- cance
Births to mothers with no H.S. diploma	>= .18	30	0.0757	2.594	0.012
	< .18	24	0.0479		
Births to single women	>=.27	30	0.0707	2.199	0.032
	<.27	29	0.0469		
Teen births	>= 24	25	0.0832	3.286	0.002
	<24	21	0.0448		
Children ages 3 and 4 who are enrolled in school	>= 47	31	0.0477	-2.173	0.034
	< 47	28	0.0714		
Children ages 5-17 who speak a language other than English at home	>= 277	32	0.0731	2.924	0.005
	< 277	27	0.0422		
Children who are obese	>= 10	18	0.0872	2.244	0.032
	< 10	14	0.06		
Teen fertility	>= 24	28	0.0804	3.493	0.001
	< 24	25	0.0436		
High school graduation	>= .84	32	0.0422	-3.541	0.001
	< .84	27	0.0789		
Idle teens (not in school, not working)	>= .08	35	0.0763	4.236	0
	< .08	24	0.0338		
Households with children that are renter occupied	>= 30	33	0.0703	2.375	0.021
	< 30	26	0.0446		
Children receiving TANF	>= 10	33	0.0703	2.428	0.018
	< 10	26	0.0446		

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appendix 3 County Data

County	Gateway 1	Gateway 2			Gateway 3		Gateway 4
	Births to women receiving early prenatal care 2001	Births to women with no high school diploma 2001	Teen births (rate per 1,000) 2001	Births to Single Women 2001	Percent of Population Ages 3 and 4 who are Enrolled in School 2000	Children ages 5 to 17 who speak a language other than English at home 2000	Percent of Children Who are Obese 2002
MEDIAN	80.00%	27.00%	24	27.00%	47.00%	277	10.00%
Adams	76.70%	26.30%	33.2	28.60%	44.30%	15,878	9.40%
Alamosa	74.10%	21.80%	28.4	32.60%	38.10%	803	10.10%
Arapahoe	80.60%	18.20%	19.7	22.00%	53.60%	14,379	9.20%
Archuleta	58.30%	23.10%	24.2	25.90%	39.30%	97	N/A
Baca	75.00%	31.30%	25.4	18.80%	64.60%	48	N/A
Bent	67.60%	32.40%	86.6	44.10%	60.30%	94	13.90%
Boulder	85.10%	16.40%	13.9	17.40%	62.40%	7,272	9.00%
Broomfield*							
Chaffee	86.10%	15.90%	19	27.20%	61.60%	129	6.00%
Cheyenne	81.80%	LNE	0	27.30%	52.70%	52	N/A
Clear Creek	95.20%	5.70%	0	15.20%	55.30%	68	N/A
Conejos	69.90%	12.40%	16.7	30.10%	34.50%	362	N/A
Costilla	71.40%	38.10%	42.9	42.90%	40.80%	341	N/A
Crowley	58.80%	8.80%	LNE	35.30%	46.50%	75	N/A
Custer	80.80%	15.40%	LNE	46.20%	21.50%	14	N/A
Delta	81.30%	28.60%	31	28.30%	42.10%	577	8.60%
Denver	68.60%	38.00%	63.4	32.80%	48.90%	28,800	N/A
Dolores	68.40%	LNE	0	26.30%	19.50%	13	N/A
Douglas	95.10%	2.30%	5	5.10%	60.10%	1,983	6.80%
Eagle	71.70%	31.10%	22.8	18.90%	54.60%	1,828	10.70%
El Paso	79.10%	14.20%	21.7	25.60%	45.20%	8,399	5.80%
Elbert	89.40%	5.90%	12.5	12.70%	59.20%	194	N/A
Fremont	81.10%	18.40%	24.5	34.80%	39.70%	382	8.00%
Garfield	60.70%	37.00%	31.9	27.40%	40.40%	1,432	6.00%
Gilpin	95.30%	LNE	0	18.60%	54.00%	9	N/A
Grand	82.00%	8.10%	LNE	24.20%	46.70%	131	N/A
Gunnison	92.30%	6.10%	LNE	16.00%	69.20%	99	10.10%
Hinsdale	87.50%	LNE	LNE	LNE	44.40%	3	N/A
Huerfano	80.00%	16.50%	26.1	35.30%	57.20%	93	10.00%
Jackson	81.80%	LNE	LNE	13.60%	63.60%	18	N/A
Jefferson	88.00%	12.40%	12.2	18.40%	57.80%	7,832	10.00%
Kiowa	70.00%	LNE	LNE	40.00%	35.30%	9	N/A
Kit Carson	79.80%	18.00%	LNE	25.80%	40.90%	284	4.80%

*In 2001, Broomfield city, CO, was first designated a county. Prior to the change, the city had been divided among three counties – Adams, Boulder, and Jefferson.

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County	Gateway 1	Gateway 2			Gateway 3		Gateway 4
	Births to women receiving early prenatal care 2001	Births to women with no high school diploma 2001	Teen births (rate per 1,000) 2001	Births to Single Women 2001	Percent of Population Ages 3 and 4 who are Enrolled in School 2000	Children ages 5 to 17 who speak a language other than English at home 2000	Percent of Children Who are Obese 2002
MEDIAN	80.00%	27.00%	24	27.00%	47.00%	277	10.00%
La Plata	61.90%	10.80%	6.8	30.90%	52.00%	521	11.20%
Lake	64.60%	41.70%	74.3	31.90%	42.00%	439	10.70%
Larimer	80.60%	12.40%	18.7	21.80%	51.70%	3,342	6.30%
Las Animas	81.00%	16.50%	25.1	35.40%	40.00%	277	16.50%
Lincoln	84.20%	24.60%	LNE	31.60%	50.70%	74	N/A
Logan	76.80%	16.60%	25.2	32.40%	55.60%	297	9.70%
Mesa	84.90%	23.50%	21.8	20.40%	45.30%	1,541	N/A
Mineral	60.00%	LNE	0	LNE	64.70%	3	N/A
Moffat	82.90%	25.30%	12.1	28.60%	63.10%	198	7.30%
Montezuma	59.90%	18.60%	27.3	38.80%	33.10%	483	10.40%
Montrose	66.70%	28.40%	28.8	27.10%	32.00%	870	9.70%
Morgan	70.80%	42.90%	42.7	35.90%	29.30%	1,806	12.80%
Otero	78.50%	24.80%	40	43.70%	32.80%	522	9.40%
Ouray	73.00%	LNE	LNE	16.20%	43.60%	29	N/A
Park	86.70%	8.50%	9.7	18.20%	58.30%	91	N/A
Phillips	77.40%	26.40%	31.3	18.90%	54.60%	143	N/A
Pitkin	84.80%	11.60%	16.3	22.60%	73.30%	182	N/A
Prowers	64.90%	38.90%	52.9	24.80%	42.40%	764	15.60%
Pueblo	79.20%	26.80%	35.2	43.90%	38.50%	2,230	10.10%
Rio Blanco	81.80%	15.20%	18.6	25.80%	22.70%	57	N/A
Rio Grande	77.30%	22.20%	31.5	38.10%	55.70%	571	N/A
Routt	93.70%	9.40%	LNE	18.80%	66.30%	141	N/A
Saguache	64.50%	40.90%	53.7	31.20%	43.80%	475	13.50%
San Juan	LNE	LNE	0	LNE	77.80%	5	N/A
San Miguel	75.60%	17.90%	LNE	17.90%	66.00%	76	N/A
Sedgwick	90.90%	12.10%	0	24.20%	53.20%	55	N/A
Summit	80.50%	16.70%	26.3	20.10%	46.00%	473	N/A
Teller	80.90%	7.60%	LNE	22.90%	59.20%	121	3.90%
Washington	76.90%	23.10%	LNE	33.30%	38.30%	66	N/A
Weld	68.60%	32.00%	38.1	26.50%	38.40%	8,147	22.20%
Yuma	87.00%	35.00%	12.2	26.00%	46.00%	295	15.30%
COLORADO	78.50%	21.60%	25.3	24.90%	49.80%	115,992	8.70%

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County	Gateway 5		Gateway 6			Gateway 7**	
	High school graduation rate 2001	Idle teens (not in school, not working) 2000	Has Public 4-year college or University	Has Public 2-year college	Percent of population age 15+ enrolled in college or graduate school	Obesity 2000-2001	Diabetes 2000-2001
MEDIAN	84.00%	8.00%				15.00%	4.00%
Adams	82.60%	14.60%	no	no	5.69%	18.20%	6.30%
Alamosa	79.00%	11.70%	yes	yes	16.78%		
Arapahoe	87.70%	7.80%	no	yes	7.25%	14.30%	5.50%
Archuleta	95.40%	10.70%	no	no	1.78%	12.40%	2.70%
Baca	88.90%	4.30%	no	no	3.07%	16.70%	4.10%
Bent	93.70%	10.80%	no	no	4.78%	16.70%	4.10%
Boulder	86.80%	5.10%	yes	no	15.14%	8.20%	2.50%
Broomfield*							
Chaffee	93.00%	10.80%	no	no	3.70%	13.50%	1.60%
Cheyenne	87.20%	7.70%	no	no	2.96%	16.70%	4.10%
Clear Creek	76.30%	4.70%	no	no	3.94%		
Conejos	84.10%	7.30%	no	no	5.15%		
Costilla	75.90%	18.40%	no	no	3.43%		
Crowley	80.00%	10.40%	no	no	7.90%	16.70%	4.10%
Custer	100.00%	6.30%	no	no	2.20%	15.00%	3.00%
Delta	86.70%	11.50%	no	no	2.40%	14.50%	5.40%
Denver	64.50%	16.90%	yes	yes	8.49%	12.70%	4.70%
Dolores	100.00%	6.80%	no	no	2.17%	12.40%	2.70%
Douglas	93.60%	3.90%	no	yes	6.83%	11.60%	3.90%
Eagle	76.20%	14.20%	no	yes	4.88%	8.30%	0.00%
El Paso	79.90%	8.70%	yes	yes	8.49%	18.50%	3.20%
Elbert	86.60%	5.50%	no	no	4.37%	16.70%	4.10%
Fremont	83.30%	10.10%	no	yes	4.74%	19.70%	4.30%
Garfield	82.30%	8.20%	no	yes	4.93%	10.30%	7.00%
Gilpin	89.20%	0.00%	no	no	5.34%		
Grand	89.40%	4.90%	no	no	2.94%	8.30%	0.00%
Gunnison	86.30%	2.10%	yes	no	21.49%	14.50%	5.40%
Hinsdale	80.00%	0.00%	no	no	2.43%	14.50%	5.40%
Huerfano	75.90%	9.50%	no	no	3.88%		
Jackson	95.70%	7.10%	no	no	2.06%	8.30%	0.00%
Jefferson	77.80%	6.50%	yes	yes	7.44%	12.30%	3.10%
Kiowa	100.00%	0.80%	no	no	3.78%	16.70%	4.10%
Kit Carson	92.60%	3.40%	no	no	3.25%	16.70%	4.10%

*In 2001, Broomfield city, CO, was first designated a county. Prior to the change, the city had been divided among three counties - Adams, Boulder, and Jefferson.

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County	Gateway 5		Gateway 6			Gateway 7**	
	High school graduation rate 2001	Idle teens (not in school, not working) 2000	Has Public 4-year college or University	Has Public 2-year college	Percent of population age 15+ enrolled in college or graduate school	Obesity 2000-2001	Diabetes 2000-2001
MEDIAN	84.00%	8.00%				15.00%	4.00%
La Plata	64.10%	6.50%	yes	yes	13.15%	12.40%	2.70%
Lake	64.10%	10.90%	no	yes	6.66%	4.70%	1.80%
Larimer	86.70%	4.70%	yes	no	15.54%	14.00%	2.90%
Las Animas	76.60%	13.40%	no	yes	7.26%		
Lincoln	78.00%	7.60%	no	no	3.37%	16.70%	4.10%
Logan	84.60%	6.30%	no	yes	7.88%	28.40%	4.60%
Mesa	66.50%	11.20%	yes	no	6.31%	20.20%	2.90%
Mineral	62.50%	0.00%	no	no	3.64%		
Moffat	78.10%	16.70%	no	yes	4.89%		
Montezuma	64.30%	10.00%	no	yes	3.91%	12.40%	2.70%
Montrose	69.50%	10.00%	no	no	1.90%	14.50%	5.40%
Morgan	74.90%	9.90%	no	yes	3.92%	29.20%	3.10%
Otero	81.60%	11.80%	no	yes	6.05%	16.70%	4.10%
Ouray	88.90%	1.20%	no	no	1.84%	14.50%	5.40%
Park	93.10%	4.40%	no	no	3.69%	20.60%	2.90%
Phillips	83.80%	1.70%	no	no	3.33%	10.90%	15.70%
Pitkin	96.20%	8.50%	no	yes	5.14%	8.30%	0.00%
Prowers	78.40%	12.50%	no	yes	5.49%	16.70%	4.10%
Pueblo	84.40%	11.90%	yes	yes	7.25%	15.90%	9.00%
Rio Blanco	93.70%	9.00%	no	yes	8.12%		
Rio Grande	80.20%	10.80%	no	no	5.22%		
Routt	87.50%	4.10%	no	yes	6.31%	8.30%	0.00%
Saguache	70.50%	11.20%	no	no	3.64%		
San Juan	81.80%	0.00%	no	no	2.95%	12.40%	2.70%
San Miguel	92.30%	8.40%	no	no	3.22%	14.50%	5.40%
Sedgwick	97.30%	4.50%	no	no	3.07%	24.30%	6.80%
Summit	79.90%	7.50%	no	yes	5.25%	8.30%	0.00%
Teller	84.30%	8.80%	no	no	3.90%	2.90%	0.70%
Washington	90.90%	2.60%	no	no	2.99%	10.20%	20.50%
Weld	78.60%	8.70%	yes	yes	11.23%	22.90%	5.20%
Yuma	90.20%	2.50%	no	no	2.96%	16.80%	0.70%
COLORADO	80.50%	9.20%				14.70%	4.40%

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Gateways to Achievement

A County-Level Perspective on Adult Educational Attainment, the Cycle of Opportunity and Their Impact on Academic Achievement

Gateway 8

County	Median Household Income 1999	Children receiving TANF (rate per 1,000) 2001	Children under 5 enrolled in WIC 2001	Children enrolled in CHP+ 2001	Percent of Own Children Under Age 18 With No Parents in the Labor Force 2000	Percent of Households With Children that are Renter Occupied 2000
MEDIAN	\$34,768	10	22.00%	5.00%	6.00%	30.00%
Adams	\$45,595	10	20.10%	2.80%	10.70%	30.20%
Alamosa	\$29,220	41.9	61.60%	8.70%	8.50%	36.30%
Arapahoe	\$53,107	10.4	21.10%	1.80%	6.50%	27.50%
Archuleta	\$35,949	7.9	17.60%	6.00%	3.70%	27.10%
Baca	\$28,592	26.1	53.60%	7.50%	6.60%	30.90%
Bent	\$27,258	30.6	52.50%	3.20%	7.50%	37.30%
Boulder	\$56,091	7	15.80%	1.50%	5.20%	25.40%
Broomfield*						
Chaffee	\$34,159	8.1	24.50%	6.70%	6.40%	32.50%
Cheyenne	\$37,003	2	106.60%	7.90%	7.00%	24.80%
Clear Creek	\$52,386	3.6	13.10%	2.30%	6.70%	21.30%
Conejos	\$24,058	41.7	19.30%	15.70%	11.40%	25.50%
Costilla	\$20,116	70.2	9.50%	13.90%	25.50%	24.20%
Crowley	\$25,968	81.8	39.10%	9.90%	13.20%	30.10%
Custer	\$34,768	8.4	8.40%	6.90%	10.40%	29.60%
Delta	\$31,422	20.7	25.50%	5.80%	8.20%	29.40%
Denver	\$39,093	42.5	5.60%	4.40%	17.40%	44.50%
Dolores	\$31,046	29.4	26.90%	7.10%	4.20%	32.60%
Douglas	\$87,335	0.5	2.20%	0.50%	2.00%	8.50%
Eagle	\$58,146	1.3	15.40%	0.50%	5.30%	26.60%
El Paso	\$45,638	20	23.40%	1.60%	5.80%	35.10%
Elbert	\$63,241	3.4	3.70%	1.40%	2.70%	10.50%
Fremont	\$33,077	21.8	36.70%	6.00%	6.00%	28.70%
Garfield	\$46,048	10	20.10%	2.60%	6.70%	36.10%
Gilpin	\$51,030	9.4	0.00%	2.20%	0.50%	15.80%
Grand	\$44,831	7.7	10.20%	4.30%	4.90%	30.80%
Gunnison	\$35,648	7.2	21.20%	2.80%	3.80%	28.30%
Hinsdale	\$34,884	24.4	0.00%	4.80%	0.00%	46.10%
Huerfano	\$24,915	43	37.70%	8.00%	12.30%	38.10%
Jackson	\$31,223	22.8	34.10%	6.60%	3.60%	43.20%
Jefferson	\$57,044	8.5	13.50%	1.60%	4.50%	24.10%
Kiowa	\$31,840	14.6	31.00%	6.60%	2.80%	32.60%
Kit Carson	\$33,972	10.1	30.90%	11.10%	7.50%	29.50%

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MEDIAN	\$34,768	10	22.00%	5.00%	6.00%	30.00%
La Plata	\$39,313	9.7	18.70%	4.60%	5.00%	24.70%
Lake	\$36,515	4.4	38.30%	5.00%	8.90%	31.50%
Larimer	\$47,709	11.1	12.90%	3.20%	4.60%	25.60%
Las Animas	\$27,140	53.9	42.70%	7.50%	13.60%	37.20%
Lincoln	\$31,337	6.6	40.50%	4.10%	4.40%	32.50%
Logan	\$33,389	13	31.70%	4.20%	8.50%	34.10%
Mesa	\$35,676	18.6	7.40%	6.50%	6.20%	30.50%
Mineral	\$34,243	26.6	0.00%	15.80%	11.50%	26.70%
Moffat	\$41,654	9.1	21.60%	5.50%	5.00%	28.20%
Montezuma	\$31,898	27.4	27.80%	5.60%	7.00%	28.10%
Montrose	\$34,644	16.9	36.80%	6.30%	6.60%	29.50%
Morgan	\$33,945	25.9	37.10%	4.50%	9.60%	34.60%
Otero	\$28,276	37.7	54.60%	6.70%	13.80%	37.90%
Ouray	\$41,911	4.9	9.20%	3.60%	7.20%	29.60%
Park	\$51,831	2	8.00%	2.10%	1.40%	13.50%
Phillips	\$33,144	2	35.10%	5.30%	6.20%	26.40%
Pitkin	\$58,082	1.5	5.40%	0.90%	5.70%	26.20%
Prowers	\$29,668	37.9	39.60%	11.80%	9.40%	38.00%
Pueblo	\$31,789	23.5	38.70%	3.00%	11.80%	34.90%
Rio Blanco	\$38,904	7.2	24.90%	4.60%	3.30%	33.40%
Rio Grande	\$30,353	47.6	24.40%	12.10%	13.30%	35.50%
Routt	\$50,439	0.9	4.80%	3.10%	3.60%	22.00%
Saguache	\$24,119	45.4	72.50%	11.10%	11.60%	38.00%
San Juan	\$29,207	11.3	28.60%	20.50%	4.20%	47.80%
San Miguel	\$46,133	3.2	14.60%	3.30%	4.90%	42.50%
Sedgwick	\$28,887	5.5	30.70%	4.60%	5.30%	32.50%
Summit	\$52,259	1.9	10.60%	1.30%	3.60%	27.30%
Teller	\$49,848	7.3	16.10%	2.70%	4.90%	19.90%
Washington	\$32,279	9.5	17.60%	4.10%	5.70%	30.20%
Weld	\$39,983	9.5	4.50%	3.40%	8.60%	28.80%
Yuma	\$32,980	11.7	38.80%	5.30%	6.10%	32.90%
COLORADO	\$45,557	15.9	16.70%	2.90%	7.60%	29.40%

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