

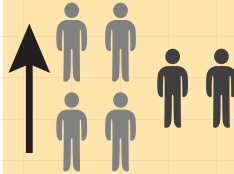
2023 CHILD WELFARE TRENDS IN COLORADO

County departments of human services administer child welfare in Colorado. Child welfare includes assessments of child safety and risk, a variety of services or referrals to services intended to promote safety, strengthen families, prevent out-of-home placement, and support family reunification, out of home care, and adoption services.

Stats from
SFY 2022

REFERRALS

113,415
REFERRALS

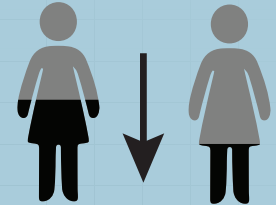


Child welfare referrals have **increased 51%** from SFY2010 to SFY2022.

The trend increased after the CO Child Abuse & Neglect Hotline became operational and public awareness campaigns were launched statewide in 2015. The temporary decrease in referrals during COVID-19 has gone back up to pre-pandemic levels.

From 2011-2020, Colorado's child population under 18 years of age grew by 14,360 or 1%. *From: Kids Count Colorado, CO DOLA, State Demography Office.*

33,972
ASSESSMENTS



In Colorado SFY2022, only **30% of all referrals** met criteria for further assessment (screened in).

Child welfare referrals that are screened in for assessment has **decreased from 51% to 30%** from SFY2010-2022. This is due in part to enhanced, team-based screening practices.

ASSESSMENTS

3,654
CASES OPENED

Cases opened represents new traditional child welfare cases being opened from assessments, closed cases re-opened as a result of an assessment, assessments connected to existing open cases, and Family Assessment Response (FAR) cases in which ongoing services are provided. Cases opened can include non-court involved cases. A finding of child abuse or neglect is not required to open a case.

9,046
INVOLVED CASES

Involved cases includes cases opened each fiscal year and holdover cases from the previous year(s). It is a better reflection of cases served.

CASES OPENED

OUT OF HOME CASES

The total number of out of home cases opened each SFY has **decreased by 38%** from SFY2010-2022.

2,217
OUT OF HOME CASES
OPENED IN SFY 2022



Of children in out of home care settings **93.2% were in a family like setting.**

The out of home case count in SFY 2022 was 4,537 and includes the out of home cases opened plus holdover cases from the previous year(s). The total SFY out of home case count has decreased 41% from SFY2010-2022.