



The 2007 Colorado Health Report Card Fact Sheet

The Colorado Health Report Card was designed to provide the state with a benchmark for measuring progress on the state's most pressing health issues. The Foundation's vision is that Colorado becomes the healthiest state in the nation. In order to fulfill this vision, we needed a tool to help determine how healthy we are; how we compare to other states and what needs to be done to make us healthier. Developed in conjunction with the Colorado Health Institute, the Colorado Health Report Card grades the health of the state's residents.

New this Year

The Foundation believes everyone deserves a healthy start in life and the opportunity to maintain good health through all stages of life. To help show the biggest health threats for each age group, the Report Card's 40 indicators are organized into five life stages -- *Healthy Beginnings, Healthy Children, Healthy Adolescents, Healthy Adults* and *Healthy Aging*. The 2007 Report Card assigns a grade for each of these life stages to show how Coloradans fare at every stage. In addition, a new Web site and technical document, *Understanding the Numbers: Indicator Details and Promising Initiatives*, were created to provide in depth information on each of the indicators and the supporting data. The information featured in *Understanding the Numbers* is highlighted on this Web site which can be accessed at www.ColoradoHealthReportCard.org.

Behind the Grades

The data for the 2007 Report Card was compiled by the [Colorado Health Institute](http://www.coloradohealthinstitute.org) [link to www.coloradohealthinstitute.org], a nonprofit organization that is a comprehensive source of health information and analysis. The indicators were selected from nine data sources by an advisory committee [link to [advisory committee names](#)] comprised of leaders from both the health care and public health sectors.

A grade was assigned to each life stage based on Colorado's average rank for all the indicators included in that particular life stage. For example, the average rank for the seven *Healthy Children* indicators is 27.7. The letter grade of C- was assigned according to the rank/letter grade equivalency included in the Report Card.

Report Card Highlights

Colorado ranks as one of the healthiest states on a narrow group of indicators that examine only obesity rates for adults and associated health risks such as diabetes, heart disease and cardiovascular disease. The fact is that Colorado rates only average or below average on a number of other critical health indicators used to measure overall health. Examples of these indicators include:

- 18.4 percent of adults are obese. Colorado ranks **best** in the country for this indicator.
- 62.2 percent of older adults have had a flu shot during the past 12 months and have had a pneumonia vaccination. Colorado also ranks **best** in the country for this indicator.

- 80.3 percent of preschool-age children received all recommended doses of five key vaccines. Colorado ranks 28th out of 50 states for this indicator.
- 45.8 percent of children have a primary care provider AND consistently received all needed care, including one or more preventive care visits during the past 12 months. Colorado ranks 28th out of 50 states for this indicator.
- 14.1 percent of adolescents are not covered by private or public health insurance. Colorado ranks 41st out of 50 states for this indicator.

What is the Prescription for Change?

The Colorado Health Report Card is designed to help policymakers, advocacy organizations, businesses, the medical community and others focus on how best to improve health and health care in the state. The Colorado Health Foundation is committed to working with others to support programs and policies that address key concerns about Colorado's health. This year the Foundation will provide \$28 million in grants to organizations working to improve one or more of the health indicators including:

- **The Marillac Clinic**, a fully integrated and comprehensive primary care clinic offering mental health, social, dental and physical primary care to both uninsured adults and children in Mesa County.
- **The Center for African American Health**, a nonprofit organization addressing the health disparities that affect African Americans living in Metro Denver through health education, screening and disease management.
- **The Nurse Family Partnership**, a Denver-based program providing comprehensive prenatal care to low-income, first-time expectant parents.
- **LiveWell Colorado**, a collaborative effort by The Colorado Health Foundation, Kaiser Permanente and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, designed to reduce overweight and obesity rates and related chronic diseases by engaging with communities to promote healthy eating and active living and programs targeted at environmental changes.

For More Information:

Understanding the Numbers: Indicator Details and Promising Initiatives -
www.ColoradoHealth.org

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