



COLORADO HEALTH INSTITUTE



ANNUAL REPORT **2025**

coloradohealthinstitute.org

The Colorado Health Institute is a nonprofit, mission-driven public health institute. Our work is built around three strategic pillars:



We answer
critical
questions.



We make
sense of
complex
issues.



We support
others to reach
actionable
solutions.

OUR VISION

All people have what they need to be healthy.

OUR MISSION

CHI strengthens communities and systems with trusted analysis and collaborative solutions to improve health.



To Our Community,

For the Colorado Health Institute, 2025 was a year that demanded steadiness, and we were not alone in feeling it. Across the country, public health faced unprecedented challenges. Funding streams shifted. Health policy debates grew more contentious. Through it all, CHI remained what we have always been: a nonpartisan steward of the data and analysis that communities need to make informed decisions about health.

When clarity is scarce, it becomes essential. This year, we saw why CHI's role matters. Communities turned to us for credible information they could trust. Partners relied on us to cut through complexity. Policymakers and advocates looked to us for data that could inform their work.

Our response was to do what we do best: answer critical questions, make sense of complex issues, and support others to reach actionable solutions. We fielded the 2025 Colorado Health Access Survey, giving Coloradans a platform to share their experiences with health coverage, access to care, and the factors that shape well-being. We deepened partnerships that center equity and lift communities too often overlooked. We facilitated difficult conversations and created space for collaborative problem-solving.

The work you'll see in this report reflects CHI's commitment to being your reliable partner. From analyzing the impacts of federal policy to advancing public health data infrastructure and workforce capacity, from supporting primary care payment reform to expanding organizations' capacity to collect, understand, and use data, each project embodies our values of accessibility, collaboration, and integrity.

As we move through 2026, CHI's purpose is clear. We will continue stewarding the data that communities depend on. We will maintain the transparency and accessibility that build trust. We will create spaces where people can grapple with complexity and find common ground. Because sustaining trusted systems, especially in uncertain times, is not just meaningful work, it's essential work.

CHI is here. Please call us to talk about how we can work together to improve health for everyone.



Sara Schmitt,
President and CEO

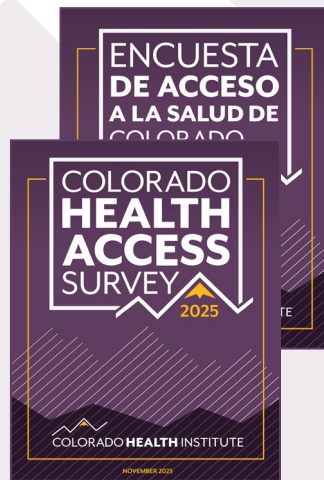
2025 COLORADO HEALTH ACCESS SURVEY

A Crucial State Resource

The Colorado Health Access Survey is a statewide resource that helps communities, researchers, and policymakers understand the health and social factors affecting Coloradans. The data help leaders at all levels determine where to focus resources and understand the impacts of policy decisions.

The 2025 CHAS arrived at a pivotal moment — coming on the heels of the pandemic and ahead of expected cuts to health and social benefits driven by tight state budgets and federal policy changes. The survey results set an important baseline to measure the effects of these changes.

While the CHAS has been a critical resource for Colorado since it was launched in 2009, the value of having reliable, state-level data came into sharp focus in 2025 as many federal data sources became less available and complete. CHI remains committed to stewarding this important data source and is grateful to the sponsors whose financial support makes the CHAS possible.



What Makes the CHAS Special

- ▶ Data trends back to 2009.
- ▶ Responsive to community needs and emerging issues.
- ▶ Free and publicly available data in a variety of formats.
- ▶ Data are weighted to be representative of all Coloradans or specific communities within Colorado.

CHAS Tools available at colo.health/CHAS25



Survey results and CHAS briefs



Interactive Data Dashboard



Data workbooks



Fact sheets



Questionnaire



Public use file and data dictionary



Research file data dictionary and application



Sampling Methodology



Methods and Terminology

CHAS Facts

2025 Survey in the Field

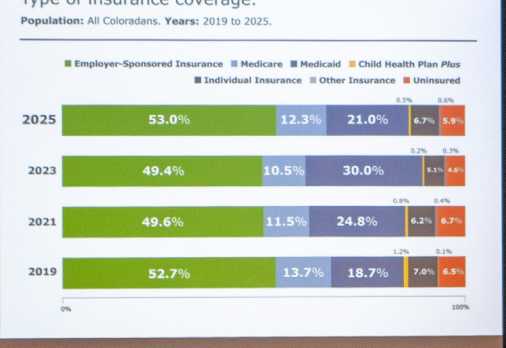
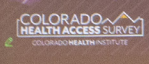
February 2025

July 2025

10,922 Coloradans completed the survey, either online or by telephone

The CHAS is offered and delivered in English and Spanish

public health emergency shifted Colorado's insurance landscape.



400+

People participated in the November 2025 launch event, either online or in person at History Colorado.



28

Data requests responded to in 2025, including:

- The Weld Trust
- Provecho Collective
- Adaptive Adventures
- Colorado Community Health Network
- Broomfield Public Health and Environment
- Adams County Health Department
- Kiwanis Club of Anthem Ranch

CHAS in the Community

Since the November launch, CHI has released CHAS data and analysis in a variety of formats.

CHI team members have delivered **customized data presentations** to community groups and organizations throughout the state and responded to **data requests** from a long list of partners.

We will continue releasing topical reports, responding to data requests, and delivering community presentations throughout 2026. If you are interested in how CHI and CHAS data can support your work, contact Suman Mathur at mathurs@coloradohealthinstitute.org.

CHAS TOPICS

Child Care
Reproductive Health
Affordability
Transportation
Culturally Responsive Care
Mental Health
Long COVID
Telemedicine
Dismissive Treatment
Digital Equity
Behavioral Health
Care Coordination
Loneliness
Oral Health
Climate
Insurance Coverage

“The CHAS is the gold standard for information about the health of Coloradans.”

Vincent Plymell, former Assistant Commissioner for Communications and Outreach, Colorado Division of Insurance



Our Work

From reframing how Coloradans talk about mental health to helping state leaders drive population health policy, CHI's work in 2025 was defined by strong partnerships and a commitment to translating data into action. Whether building tools that put data in the hands of communities, evaluating programs that help people bridge differences, or developing the next generation of public health leaders, our work this year reflected what we do best: asking the hard questions, making sense of complex issues, and supporting others to reach actionable solutions.

Let's Talk/Hablemos Colorado

Mental health affects us all, but talking about it doesn't always come easy, especially for communities that face added barriers to care and support. CHI partnered with the Metro Denver Partnership for Health to refresh the Let's Talk Colorado and Hablemos Colorado campaign, updating both websites with culturally relevant content, new videos, and community-tested messaging designed to resonate with Hispanic/Latino, Black, LGBTQ+, and Medicaid-eligible Coloradans.

By centering community voices in the redesign process, the revamped letstalkco.org and hablemosco.org make it easier for people across the metro Denver region to find support, start conversations, and know they're not alone.



Milbank Fellows Program

The Milbank Fellows Program is a 10-month leadership program that brings together senior state legislators and executive branch officials from across the country to deepen their knowledge of population health and sharpen their ability to drive policy change. CHI partnered with the Milbank Memorial Fund to develop curriculum content and design and lead the program evaluation, tracking whether fellows grow in their leadership capacity, build meaningful cross-partisan connections, and ultimately take action to improve health in their states.

CHI also provides evaluation support to the Milbank Memorial Fund's Emerging Leaders Program. In following fellows and these emerging leaders through graduation and beyond, CHI's evaluation helps ensure each cohort is diverse, engaged, and positioned to make a lasting impact on the policies and systems that shape community health.



Technical Assistance and Training for Health Departments

Through a partnership with Trailhead Institute and the National Network of Public Health Institutes, CHI served as a regional technical assistance hub for public health departments receiving funding through the Public Health Infrastructure Grant (PHIG), a federal program supporting states and localities in strengthening their infrastructure, data systems, and workforce. In 2025, CHI provided hands-on support to Region 8 grantees, including Denver's Department of Public Health and Environment and the Utah Department of Health and Human Services, on topics ranging from data governance and communications to strategic planning and equity.

CHI also hosted a monthly information exchange that brought Region 8 grantees together to share knowledge and navigate complex federal reporting requirements, turning a compliance challenge into an opportunity for peer learning.



Nine

Webinars

1,869

Webinar Attendees

Topics Discussed:

- 2025 Health Preview
- School-Based Care
- CHAS Data for Changing Times
- Building Bridges for Better Health
- Climate, Insurance, and Health
- Gays, Theys, and LPHAs
- Health IT in Colorado
- Assessing the Special Session and Impact of Federal Budget Cuts
- Colorado Health Access Survey Launch

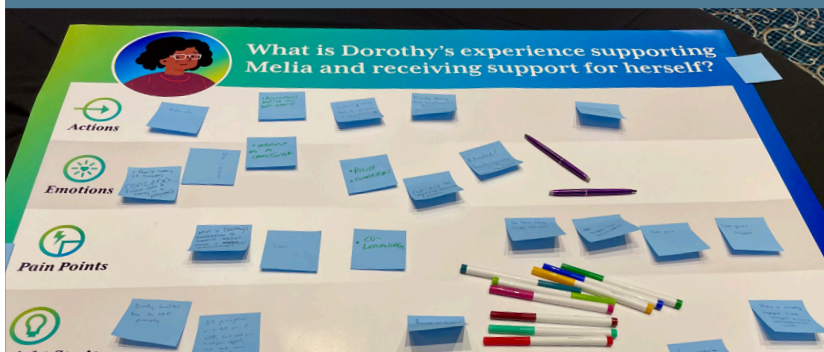
 Watch the Webinars at colo.health/webinar

PRESENTATION

Public Health in the Rockies

Journey Mapping

At the 2025 Public Health in Rockies conference, CHI facilitated an interactive workshop to teach participants about human-centered design through journey mapping. Journey mapping brings people together to design and improve processes, workflows, and systems that put people at the center of their care. Participants learned about the methodology and practiced their skills with use case scenarios focused on chronic disease prevention and management.



Social Media Followers

 5,250  1,977  1,837

Colorado Equity Compass Equity Data Training

The Colorado Equity Compass is a statewide tool designed to help communities understand and act on health equity data. In 2025, CHI served as the lead data partner, refreshing the Equity Data Navigator platform with updated metrics and developing a local data repository to give communities access to place-based insights on the social determinants of health.



► coequitycompass.org

CHI also led the Data Use Learning Collaborative, supporting eight organizations in building their capacity to understand and apply equity data, and contributed to the evaluation work that tracks the Equity Compass' impact across Colorado.

Metro Denver Community-Clinical Linkages Network

CHI continued to advance chronic disease prevention and management efforts as the backbone hub for the Metro Denver Community-Clinical Linkages Network. In 2025, the network grew to eight organizations, including Federally Qualified Health Centers, community-based organizations, a local public health agency, and a pharmacy, all focused on serving communities that face a disproportionate burden of chronic disease.



CHI provided training and technical assistance to build referral pathways across these organizations, improving access to evidence-based programs and community resources like the Diabetes Prevention Program. The network's growth and early successes made a strong case for continued investment, and the Board of Health approved funding to keep expanding the network through June 2028.

“Partnering with the Colorado Health Institute’s research and analysis team added technical and clinical rigor to [our] Population Health Assessment.”

Claire Peters, Director of Population Health, Colorado Access

Belonging Colorado Evaluation

Belonging Colorado is a statewide initiative working to bring people together across lines of difference and make Colorado a model for welcoming, connected communities. CHI serves as the learning and evaluation partner for the initiative, developing a comprehensive evaluation plan that tracks progress across place-based grantees, leadership networks, and social entrepreneur programs launched in 2025.



► colo.health/BelongingCO

Using a rigorous mixed-methods approach, CHI is helping Belonging Colorado understand not just what outcomes are being achieved, but how. Together we are building the evidence base for what works when it comes to bridging divides and fostering belonging across the state.

Leading Into the Future

The Denver Business Journal recognized Karam Ahmad, Managing Director of Partnerships and Development, as one of its 40 Under 40 for 2025. The annual award honors distinguished young professionals in the Denver area who are considered the region's next generation of business leaders.



ACC Phase III Stakeholder Engagement

Colorado's Medicaid delivery system



COLORADO
Department of Health Care
Policy & Financing

was on the cusp of a major transition, and ensuring that the communities it serves had a voice in shaping it was essential. From 2022 through the July 2025 launch of Phase III of the Accountable Care Collaborative, CHI partnered with the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing to lead stakeholder engagement and communications. These sessions reached more than 5,600 stakeholders across 135 meetings and captured over 500 written comments from community members.

CHI synthesized that input into three formal reports and developed tailored communication materials for providers and members. This work helped ensure that the people most affected by Colorado's Medicaid system were informed, heard, and prepared for what came next.

CALPHO Data Modernization

Colorado's local public health agencies want to keep pace with emerging



► colo.health/PHDataMod

technologies, but their capacity to do so looks very different depending on whether they serve a large urban county or a small rural community. CHI partnered with the Colorado Association of Local Public Health Officials to conduct a statewide capacity assessment that takes that full range of needs into account. The work was grounded in interviews and conversations with public health partners from across the state.

The resulting report gives every local public health agency a practical roadmap for participating in data modernization, with recommendations spanning strategy, technology, and people. No agency will be left behind as Colorado builds the infrastructure needed to meet future health challenges.

Top Viewed Pages at

coloradohealthinstitute.org

ANALYSIS

Federal Funding at Risk

An interactive graphic and analysis that shows where federal cuts would hit hardest in Colorado's state budget. colo.health/fedcuts

CHAS BRIEF

Gen Z Mental Health

Today's young Coloradans are reporting more mental health challenges as they enter adulthood than previous generations.

colo.health/GenZ-MH

CHAS BRIEF

Nine Things to Know About Health Insurance Coverage in Colorado

New data from the Colorado Health Access Survey shows who is insured in Colorado and who might be affected by upcoming policy changes.

colo.health/92Know

CHAS BRIEF

Medicaid and the Uninsured

Congress is proposing to cut federal spending on Medicaid. The Colorado Health Access Survey shows the consequences of cutting the program for Coloradans who use it. colo.health/4iK6izA

CHAS BRIEF

Individual Market

Individual market enrollees faced higher barriers to care. colo.health/individualmarket

CHI is Ready to Work With You

Learn more about our services at
coloradohealthinstitute.org/services

or contact **Karam Ahmad**,
Managing Director of Partnerships and Development.



1999 Broadway, Suite 600 • Denver, CO 80202 • 303.831.4200
coloradohealthinstitute.org

