

2023

Children's Hospital Colorado

Annual Community Benefit Report



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Children's Hospital
Colorado

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Executive Summary

When it was founded in 1908 in Denver, Children's Hospital Colorado (Children's Colorado) set out to be a leader in providing the best healthcare outcomes for children. That calling has consistently made us one of top children's hospitals in the nation. Our modern-day mission is to improve the health of children through the provision of high-quality coordinated programs of patient care, education, research, and advocacy. In addition to providing the best possible care for kids who need it, we also work hard to keep kids out of the hospital. Through medical research and advocacy efforts, we are working towards a world where kids are safer and healthier and will one day have less need for a hospital.

As a not-for-profit hospital, Children's Colorado is proud to provide investments that respond to community needs and serve our community. Children's Colorado provides more healthcare services to children covered by Colorado Medicaid than any other provider. In 2023, the health insurance coverage-mix among our patient population in the Denver Metro area included 50.5% of patients covered by Medicaid, 42.6% commercial insurance, 2.9% TRICARE, 2.1% CHP+, and 1.9% all other (including Medicare, cash-pay, uninsured, indigent care, etc.).

In 2023, the Children's Colorado system of care had 19,507 inpatient admissions, 664,734 outpatient visits and 192,851 emergency and urgent care visits. Children's Colorado's operating margin in 2023 was 0.3%; in 2022 it was 4.81%; in 2021 it was 6.1%; and in 2020 it was 2.8% (inclusive of federal provider relief funds recognized in 2020, 2021, and 2022 as a result of the COVID public health emergency).

Children's Colorado submits its Schedule H 990 as a hospital system inclusive of all facilities¹. Children's Colorado strives to apply a uniform, consistent approach to our high-quality approach to care across the whole system of care. Accordingly, there are many leaders, staff, and other resources serving the entire system, rather than allocated to location-specific resources. This integrated system of care allows Children's Colorado to leverage system resources to ensure consistent approaches and cost efficiencies to support the delivery of patient-centered and equitable healthcare to over 276,000 children each year. Consequently, this means that not all costs or investments can be disaggregated down to the level of brick-and-mortar location.

In 2023, Children's Colorado provided Community Benefit of \$459,733,289

- **Financial Assistance** \$366,392,029. The Children's Charity Care program provides financial assistance for patients who are uninsured or underinsured and demonstrate financial need. Financial assistance also covers unreimbursed costs for patients enrolled in Medicaid, Child Health Plan Plus (CHP+) and other government programs.
- **Community Health Improvement** \$22,307,789. Includes activities addressing CHNA priorities, parent education, community health screening, health navigation, and advocacy for improving child health.
- **Health Profession Education** \$31,364,147. Includes graduate education for medical residents and fellows, nursing students and continuing professional education for other health professionals such as community pediatricians, community emergency medical providers.

¹ Pursuant to state requirements, we also prepare a *pro forma* Schedule H 990 covering Children's Hospital Colorado, Colorado Springs.

- **Research \$27,745,226.** Includes laboratory science and applied research related to providing the best care for children.
- **Subsidized Health Services \$11,369,577.** Covers unreimbursed costs for operating pediatric specialties that meet community need, such as behavioral health.
- **Cash and in-Kind Contributions \$564,525.** Includes cash and in-kind donations to community non-profit organizations, donations of meeting space and donations of health and safety educational materials, and service on community boards and coalitions addressing community health.

In 2023, Children's Colorado provided Community Building of \$1,178,438.

Major community benefit investments in calendar year 2023 included:

- Expanding capacity to treat children and youth with behavioral health needs, an area of extreme and persistent need in Colorado.
- Providing free and discounted healthcare services.
- Provision of [school nurse consultation](#) to more than 350 schools and childcares across the state and publishing an [online resource hub](#) with condition-specific guidance and care plans accessible to school nurses across Colorado.
- Advocating to advance health equity and reduce health disparities.
- Addressing [social determinants of health](#) through community health navigation, Resource Connect, and Healthy Roots Food Clinic.
- Advocating for expansion of health navigators in healthcare systems across the state.
- Supporting the [Black Health Initiative](#), which centers community voices and experiences to improve African American patient and family experiences and health outcomes.
- Funding extensive [injury prevention](#) work including [car seats](#) and [safe sleep](#).
- Providing oral health care to uninsured children through the [school-based dental center](#).
- Offering [health professional education](#) for community-based healthcare providers and students. This includes graduate education for medical residents and fellows as well as for nursing students. This also includes continuing professional education for other health professionals such as community pediatricians and community emergency medical providers.
- Funding ongoing [pediatric medical research](#) to facilitate cures to childhood diseases and equip the next generation of healthcare providers with the skills needed to expand pediatric access to care.
- Operating [Partners for Children's Mental Health](#), a cross-system resource, training, evaluation, and implementation hub in order to bring communities together to increase access to high-quality youth behavioral health services in Colorado.

More details on these community investments can be found throughout the report that follows.

Investment Activity	Description of 2023 Activities
	Financial Assistance
	<p>The Children’s Charity Care program provides financial assistance for patients who are uninsured or underinsured and demonstrate financial need. Financial assistance also covers unreimbursed costs for patients enrolled in Medicaid, Child Health Plan Plus (CHP+) and other government programs.</p>
	Community Health Improvement
	<p>Includes activities addressing CHNA priorities, parent education, community health screening, health navigation, and advocacy for improving child health.</p>
Partners for Children’s Mental Health	<p>Partners for Children’s Mental Health (PCMH) is a community-facing center established by Children’s Hospital Colorado and the University of Colorado School of Medicine to improve youth mental health in Colorado. PCMH operates as a training, evaluation and implementation center. We focus on “high-impact” settings – particularly schools and primary care offices – to reach trusted adults who interact with at-risk kids.</p> <p>PCMH trained 345 school professionals on Dialectical Behavior Training² (DBT) and added 19 short videos to support the learning experiences. PCMH also partnered with a subject matter expert to update the DBT series. The new series is offered with three different focuses - elementary, middle school, and high school. The updates aim to help participants seamlessly integrate DBT skills into their typical lesson plans. Guided by the Colorado education standards, we have created examples lesson plans that infuse these practices easily into various lesson plans. A comprehensive user guide was also created to support deeper learning. These updates were then piloted with a 7-member expert panel comprised of school community members from administration to direct care.</p> <p>PCMH also provided Zero Suicide³ training to primary care providers in 2023, reaching 232 medical professionals (1,088 contact hours). PCMH also provided over 20 hours of training through cohorts in partnership with Colorado ECHO.</p> <p>PCMH offered five Question, Persuade Refer⁴ (QPR) trainings. Sixty-eight community members attended a QPR training. About 4% of community training participants were from rural or frontier counties. QPR attendees demonstrated an increase in knowledge after attending the training across all measures.</p> <p>During Mental Health Awareness Month in May 2023, we launched a digital marketing campaign, “Here to Help,” to raise awareness of our program and drive interest. In partnership with our youth committee members, we produced three videos that underscore the importance of providers serving as a “trusted adult” role for youth. Watch the videos: video 1, video 2, video 3.</p> <p>We distributed these videos through ads on LinkedIn, Reddit and Zemanta, targeting primary care providers and clinic staff. In less than two months, the ads drove nearly 13,300 clicks on our content, and 10 form fills from individuals interested in learning more.</p>

² Rizvi, S. L., Bitran, A. M., Oshin, L. A., Yin, Q., & Ruork, A. K. (2024). The State of the Science: Dialectical Behavior Therapy. *Behavior Therapy*.

³ Kenny, J., Kelsay, K., Bunik, M., Xiong, S., Millar, A., & Talmi, A. (2023). Addressing Adolescent Suicidality in Pediatric Primary Care. *Journal of Developmental & Behavioral Pediatrics*, 44(8), e527-e535.

⁴ Quinnett, P. G. (2023). The certified QPR pathfinder training program: a description of a novel public health gatekeeper training program to mitigate suicidal ideation and suicide deaths. *Journal of Prevention*, 44(6), 813-824.

	<p>Through this campaign, we have also been able to test messaging and identify themes that drive more of our audiences to action (e.g. mentioning Zero Suicide and support from the AAP and AFSP).</p> <p>During Mental Health Awareness Month, we also wrote articles to be published in the American Association of Pediatrics (AAP) Colorado monthly newsletter and Pediatric Care Network (PCN) monthly newsletter. The AAP article was republished in several other newsletters, including the Office of Suicide Prevention, and reposted on the PCMH website.</p> <p>To enhance our other recruitment efforts, we also designed a new program flyer and distributed through PCMH and partner newsletters.</p> <p>We continued to disseminate our quarterly newsletter focused on youth suicide prevention in primary care: The Quarterly Dose. The metrics for this newsletter remain high at about 40% open rate (higher than industry average of 21.7%) and 10% click rate (significantly higher than industry average of 2.5%).</p> <p>PCMH's youth engagement work was revamped to create the Youth Council on Mental Health (YCMH). The new structure was built for youth, by youth. Over 43 Colorado youth applied to participate in the YCMH. The council holds 22 Colorado youth and two boards; Community Action Team and the Program Innovation Team. These boards meet monthly to discuss mental health initiatives in schools and youth-led resource development (social media guide for teens).</p>
Pediatric Mental Health Institute (PMHI): Community Outreach & Education	<p>Children's Colorado is stepping up as a trusted community resource to help fill the gaps in Colorado's public systems. Our experts present at lunch-and-learns for community providers, school districts, schools, community-based organizations and community events. We also provide interviews for media outlets, magazines, newspapers, radio, and social media.</p> <p>In 2023, PMHI provided mental health educational and access information at 31 community-based events.</p>
Disease & Condition Specific Community Health Education	<p>Children's Colorado plays an important role in creating content on various health topics accessible to the general public. The Children's Colorado digital content team developed and/or promoted health education for parents and the community-at-large via www.childrenscolorado.org and on our social media channels throughout 2022⁵.</p> <p>See <i>Appendix A</i> for a comprehensive list of topics with links.</p> <p>Just Ask Children's is a collection of free programs and tools that improve access to health care services and educate parents on the fundamentals of keeping children safe and well. This is offered through an email newsletter, web content, social media and paid media offering parenting tips and advice on key health topics. Examples of 2023 topics included: Internet safety, fitness and nutrition, safe sleep, neurodivergency, mental health resources, body positivity, loneliness, head injuries, germs and respiratory illnesses. In 2023, there were more than 14.4 million people reached through this medium.</p>
School Health Program	<p>In 2023, Children's Colorado's team of 33 School Nurse Consultants (SNCs) served over 250 school and childcare sites touching 62,000 children's lives in the Denver Metro area:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7 School districts

⁵ Gill, H. K., Gill, N., & Young, S. D. (2013). Online technologies for health information and education: a literature review. *Journal of Consumer Health on the Internet*, 17(2), 139-150.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 30 Charter schools • 40 School district before and after school care sites • 18 Private schools • 80 Child care centers <p>Children with unmet health needs have a difficult time engaging in education. The school nurse supports student success by providing health care through assessment, intervention, and follow-up for all children within the school setting⁶. The school nurse addresses the physical, mental, emotional, and social health needs of students and supports their achievement in the learning process⁷. Schools are often the first place to detect trouble at home, including neglect and abuse. Connecting children and their families with needed resources has increased as children are back to in-person learning.</p> <p>Children’s Colorado leads the Colorado Alliance for School Health. The Alliance is comprised of 20 education and healthcare partners working together to create sustainable systems that result in health equity among all Colorado public school students⁸. Members include the Behavioral Health Administration, Colorado Association of School Boards, Colorado Association of School Executives, Colorado Behavioral Healthcare Council, Colorado Chapter - American Academy of Pediatrics, Colorado Children’s Campaign, Colorado Dental Association, Colorado Department of Education, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, Colorado Education Association, Colorado Rural Schools Alliance, Colorado School Counselor Association, Colorado School Medicaid Consortium, Colorado Society of School Psychologists, Delta Dental of Colorado Foundation, Every Child Pediatrics, Kaiser Permanente, Partners for Children’s Mental Health, and the Youth Healthcare Alliance.</p>
After Hours Telephone Triage Program	<p>The After Hours Telephone Care program⁹ was developed in 1988 based on pediatrician-identified need to provide health care information and care advice when the office is closed as well as supporting the physician to promote a better work/life balance. As has been reported by several pediatricians, this program has been a huge help in extending their work years as a pediatrician. As occurs for some large clinics, this program also allows the families to access health care when their physician is not available by phone or in the office. Families in the community receive significant benefits from this program through access to timely, helpful advice concerning their child’s illness or injury.</p> <p>In 2023, we answered 59,945 calls to our After Hours Telephone Care program.</p>
ParentSmart Hotline	<p>Children’s Colorado’s ParentSmart Hotline¹⁰ provides parents and caregivers 24/7 access to experienced pediatric nurse who can provide telephone triage and in-depth information on what may be ailing their child¹¹.</p> <p>In 2023, we answered 34,590 calls to our ParentSmart hotline.</p>

⁶ SN Practice in the US (higherlogicdownload.s3.amazonaws.com)

⁷ Allison, M. A., Attisha, E., Lerner, M., De Pinto, C. D., Beers, N. S., Gibson, E. J., ... & Weiss-Harrison, A. (2019). The link between school attendance and good health. *Pediatrics*, 143(2).

⁸ Increase the proportion of schools with policies and practices that promote health and safety – EH-D01 - Healthy People 2030 | health.gov

⁹ Poole, S., Ambardekar, E., Gablehouse, B., Joslyn, L., Jaramillo, S., Hegarty, T., ... & Todd, J. (2022). Office “Phone First” Systems Reduce Emergency Department/Urgent Care Utilization by Medicaid-Enrolled Children. *Academic Pediatrics*, 22(4), 606-613.

¹⁰ Poole, S., Ambardekar, E., Gablehouse, B., Joslyn, L., Jaramillo, S., Hegarty, T., ... & Todd, J. (2022). Office “Phone First” Systems Reduce Emergency Department/Urgent Care Utilization by Medicaid-Enrolled Children. *Academic Pediatrics*, 22(4), 606-613.

Family Aid Administration	Family Aid serves to reduce barriers to health care utilization by addressing social determinants of health ¹² . Examples of areas of support are food/groceries, gas cards, bus passess, hotel, etc.
Transportation Vouchers	Transportation assistance ¹³ is provided to families following a financial needs assessment that determines they are not eligible for transportation assistance through any other program, like Medicaid-funded transportation or insurance reimbursement. Transportation provided is to accommodate access to care, barriers to discharge and the safety of the child. In 2023, we provided 2,890 rides.
Family Health Navigation	The health navigation team ¹⁴ plays a critical role in addressing social determinants of health for patients and families in a variety of inpatient and outpatient settings, addressing needs such as housing, food, benefits, transportation, etc. The family navigation team provided resource support to more than 8,300 unique patients in 2023.
In-home and community Asthma Education & Outreach	<p>The community-based asthma programs in the Breathing Institute within Children’s Colorado focus on reducing emergency department visits and inpatient admissions among asthma patients by improving families’ ability to appropriately manage their children’s asthma at home. Research shows that the incidence of asthma and outcomes for children with asthma are related to the environments in which they live, their social determinants of health, and their ability to make healthy choices.¹⁵ To assist with all of these, Just Keep Breathing and AsthmaCOMP work with families in the home and school settings, respectively.</p> <p>AsthmaCOMP has demonstrated significant improvement in clinical asthma outcomes including improved school attendance rates, reduced frequency of asthma symptoms and decreased ER/Urgent Care visits for asthma. The program has also helped train school nurses to become certified asthma educators. In the 2023 school year, this team completed 295 visits with students in 20 elementary schools. Of these students, 79.2% are insured by Medicaid or other public health insurance program, 5.9% had no insurance and 93.8% identify as Black, Indigenous, or other people of color, and almost one in four have a caregiver who is Spanish speaking only. The team also communicated with the families and health care providers supporting our circle of support.</p> <p>Just Keep Breathing* utilizes four community health navigators who provide asthma management education in the home setting. The program focuses on improving care for pediatric patients with high-risk asthma in Metro Denver; this year they were able to serve families in rural communities using telehealth. The navigators conduct multiple home visits with each family, focusing on tailored health education, care coordination, barrier identification and navigation, and environmental assessment and remediation. They have conducted home visits with hundreds of children and have demonstrated improved asthma control, improved medication device technique, and reduced emergency department and inpatient utilization for asthma. In 2023, 325 eligible patients were <i>approached</i>, 71 patients <i>were active</i> in the program, and the team completed 143 home visits either virtually or in-person.</p>
Community Health	The Community Health Navigation team ² plays a critical role in addressing social determinants of health for patients and families in a variety of primary care settings, addressing needs such as housing, food, benefits, transportation, etc. The community

¹² [Health Care Access and Quality - Healthy People 2030 | health.gov](#)

¹³ [Reduce the proportion of people who can't get medical care when they need it — AHS-04 - Healthy People 2030 | health.gov](#)

¹⁴ Rosenthal, E. L., Brownstein, J. N., Rush, C. H., Hirsch, G. R., Willaert, A. M., Scott, J. R., ... & Fox, D. J. (2010). Community health workers: part of the solution. *Health Affairs*, 29(7), 1338-1342.

¹⁵ [1] Federico, M. J., McFarlane II, A. E., Szefer, S. J., & Abrams, E. M. (2020). The impact of social determinants of health on children with asthma. *The Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology: In Practice*, 8(6), 1808-1814.

health navigation team provided resource support to more than 5,360 unique patients in 2023.

[Resource Connect](#)¹⁶ is a physical suite of offices in the Children’s Colorado Health Pavilion where we host a dozen community-based organizations who help us respond to the social needs of our patient families and provide wraparound care and support. Resource Connect comprehensively addresses social needs, including food security, energy assistance, and eligibility for public benefits, legal services¹⁷, community resource navigation and more. The services provided through Resource Connect promote equitable access to the resources that all families, including families of color and families with low incomes, need to improve their comprehensive picture of health and well-being. In 2023, Children’s Colorado providers and other team members referred 2,077 families to Resource Connect. Of those referrals, 681 referrals were for the Healthy Roots Food Clinic; 357 referrals were for assistance with public benefits; 232 referrals for legal services; 77 for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program; 166 for housing assistance; and 165 for energy assistance.

In 2023, the [Healthy Roots Food Clinic](#)¹⁸ received 681 referrals from primary care clinics¹⁹ in our Health Pavilion and served 4,248 people (2,165 children and 2,083 adults). Most of these referrals came from social needs screening within our Health Pavilion’s primary care clinics which provides comprehensive, team-based, family-centered primary care in a medical home model to more than 12,000 children annually from birth to 18 years, regardless of their ability to pay. Additionally, our [Healthy Roots Garden](#) produced over 1,230 pounds of fresh produce that was distributed in our food clinic.

In 2023, [Injury Prevention](#)²⁰ completed 550 car seat and booster seat checks, providing 406 child restraints to families in need. We provided car seat education with the support of in-person and virtual interpreters in 13 languages this year. We provided training and certification for 31 Child Passenger Safety Technicians (CPST) from Children’s Hospital Colorado and surrounding community partners including law enforcement, healthcare, fire rescue, DHS workers, and more. In October, we trained 11 CPST’s in our community to work with adaptive car seats for children with medical needs. Our safe sleep program provided 100 families with a Pack ‘n Play crib for infants under 2 years of age who needed a safe sleep space. We attended two large events to focus on bike safety, including an Afghan refugee event and Aurora’s Santa in the Park event. At those and a few smaller events, we distributed 292 bike helmets, along with fitting information. Our National Injury Prevention Day event provided home safety equipment to over 200 families in 2023.

As part of our [Black Health Initiative \(BHI\)](#), the Kindred Mamas Program aims to help mothers navigate the healthcare system and reduce infant mortality rates among Black families in several zip codes surrounding our hospital on Anschutz Medical Campus in Aurora. In 2023, we supported 16 new mentors and paired them with 9 new mentees.

Borne out of the crucial need to have community members’ experiences inform how healthcare providers address issues of healthy equity in healthcare settings, BHI partnered with the Center for Advancing Professional Excellence (CAPE) within the University of

¹⁶ DeCamp, L. R., Yousuf, S., Peters, C., Cruze, E., & Kutchman, E. (2024). Assessing strengths, challenges, and Equity Via pragmatic evaluation of a Social Care Program. *Academic Pediatrics*, 24(1), 23-32.

¹⁷ Murillo, S. N., Rosenthal, A., Fenick, A. M., & Keene, D. (2022). The impact of a pediatric medical-legal partnership on pediatric providers: a qualitative study. *Academic Pediatrics*, 22(3), 447-453.

¹⁸ [Eliminate very low food security in children — NWS-02 - Healthy People 2030 | health.gov](#)

¹⁹ Barnidge E, Krupsky K, LaBarge G, Arthur J. Food Insecurity Screening in Pediatric Clinical Settings: A Caregivers' Perspective. *Matern Child Health J.* 2020 Jan;24(1):101-109. doi: 10.1007/s10995-019-02785-6. PMID: 31494801.

²⁰ [Reduce the rate of deaths in children and adolescents aged 1 to 19 years — MICH-03 - Healthy People 2030 | health.gov](#)

	<p>Colorado School of Medicine to develop provider trainings that immerse providers in simulated scenarios developed by community members. These trainings are an effort to shine a light on the challenges that African American women face in clinical settings and bridge the gaps that can result in negative patient experiences and poor patient outcomes. By engaging providers in practice-based simulated visits, providers are immersed in situations that increase their appreciation for the needs of their patients, while building their skills around how to meaningfully address their patients' needs in a culturally responsive manner²¹. In 2023, we trained 53 providers (MD's, PhD's, PA's, APN's, MSW's, and medical residents), and 63 community advocates (BS, BA, RN, MSN, MS, MPH).</p> <p>In 2023, our oral health outreach²² program provided preventive oral health services to children in various school settings²³ outside of a traditional dental clinic. Through collaborative efforts with Aurora Public Schools, 15 school dental screening events occurred, with a focus on schools in north Aurora. Over 700 students (preschool to 3rd grade) received a dental screening and 235 students were identified as having dental needs, of which approximately 20% were urgent (rampant decay, pain, systemic infection). Every student screened was provided with an oral hygiene kit (i.e., toothbrush, toothpaste, floss, etc.) and those with dental needs were referred for care. In addition to schools, the oral health outreach program also promotes services within the medical primary care setting. Monthly lectures to over 40 medical and APP students and residents on oral health and quarterly Cavity Free at Three certifications continued to commence, with 39 medical staff (medical providers and residents, nurses, and medical assistants) fulfilling their certification requirement. Over 2,200 children at the Children's Colorado Child Health Clinic and Special Care Clinic received dental screenings.</p>
Social Care Network	We subscribe to Find Help, a web-based resource hub that connects people to community programs that offer free or reduced-cost social services. This service is integrated in our electronic medical record and it is also accessible to the general public on our website .
Bug Watch Publication	The Bug Watch 2.0 publication, led by the Department of Epidemiology, provides vital information to community providers to visualize and assess what organisms are prevalent in the community and to help make better clinical decisions when treating patients. Data within the Bug Watch 2.0 dashboard is updated weekly during the respiratory season (usually October-April) and every two weeks during the non-respiratory months. In 2023, there were 859 community providers who received the weekly or biweekly distribution.
Milk Depot-Donation & Outreach Center	We are a milk donation and outreach center in collaboration with the Mothers' Milk Bank, a program of Rocky Mountain Children's Health Foundation. The donation and outreach center collects donated human milk as a community service, provide human milk to babies whose own mothers cannot supply the milk to meet their baby's needs. In 2023, there were 27 donations serving 23 mothers/infants.
Burn Unit Educational	Burn Camp ²⁴ is a medical specialty rehabilitative camp program for burn survivors 8-18 and their families. Supported by a licensed medical and psychosocial staff, campers

²¹ Vora, Samreen MD, MHAM, FACEP; Dahlen, Brittany MSN, RN, NPD-BC, CPN, CCRN-K; Adler, Mark MD, FSSH; Kessler, David O. MD, MSc, FSSH; Jones, V. Faye MD, PhD, MSPH; Kimble, Shelita MEd, CHSOS; Calhoun, Aaron MD, FSSH. Recommendations and Guidelines for the Use of Simulation to Address Structural Racism and Implicit Bias. *Simulation in Healthcare: The Journal of the Society for Simulation in Healthcare* 16(4):p 275-284, August 2021. | DOI: 10.1097/SIH.0000000000000591

²² Increase the proportion of low-income youth who have a preventive dental visit — OH-09 - Healthy People 2030 | [health.gov](#)

²³ Chou, R., Bougatsos, C., Griffin, J., Selph, S. S., Ahmed, A., Fu, R., ... & Schwarz, E. (2023). Screening, referral, behavioral counseling, and preventive interventions for oral health in children and adolescents aged 5 to 17 years: a systematic review for the US Preventive Services Task Force. *JAMA*, 330(17), 1674-1686.

²⁴ Maslow, G. R., & Lobato, D. (2010). Summer camps for children with burn injuries: a literature review. *Journal of Burn Care & Research*, 31(5), 740-749.

Outreach & National Camp	<p>reprocess the traumatic pathways caused by a burn injury in an outdoor setting. The program addresses social skill development, body image, challenging negative/limiting beliefs, appropriate risk-taking, and overcoming challenges in a supportive community. Campers are encouraged to translate these experiences into life-long formative skills and build bridges to future successes.</p> <p>In 2023, we served 121 campers across three camp programs; Winter Burn Camp, Family Burn Camp, and Summer Burn Camp. The Children's Hospital Colorado Burn Camps Program is an American Camp Association accredited suite of programs structured to meet the rehabilitative and psychosocial needs of children who have sustained a burn injury. Our Burn Camps Program is made available free of charge to any child who sustains a burn injury. Summer Burn Camp is offered to all children who received their care at Children's Colorado, as well as one of four referring burn units.</p>
Family Health Library	<p>The Family Health Library's²⁵ purpose is to provide consumer information in the broad areas of parenting, child development and medical illness in children. The Library serves the families of in-patients, out-patients, and library patrons across the country through Inter-Library Loans. Subjects emphasized by the Family Health Library are: medical illnesses and conditions; genetic conditions; parenting; child development; disabilities and how medical conditions affect the child's learning and education. During 2023, the library served a total of 6192 hospital patrons and 69 patrons through Inter-Library Loan.</p>
Health Access & Safety Net	<p>The Health Access and Safety Net Program works to expand the number of underinsured²⁶ (and uninsured) children and families who can be served by Children's Hospital Colorado and other pediatric providers in Colorado, while also improving the benefits they have access to, improving equity of coverage between private and public insurance. The Program also works to improve equity, quality, and access in the child and youth behavioral health care system²⁷, and assesses and escalates major eligibility, coverage, and access-to-care challenges encountered by families. The Program engages at the levels of: systems, coalitions of community and patient advocacy organizations, and individual patient-family access. The Program also provides technical and other assistance to independent community pediatric primary care practices on issues of Medicaid system comprehension, benefits navigation, and general access to care. The Program functions as a bridge between the State and Children's Colorado on State-specific efforts/initiatives, particularly those undertaken in the Medicaid, Children's Health Insurance Program, the Colorado Hospital Discounted Care Program, the Colorado Indigent Care Program (CICP), and overarching Colorado behavioral health delivery system reforms.</p>
Population Health: Improve Access to Healthcare Services	<p>Leaders within the division of Community Health & Advocacy are responsible for the creation and operation of a community based, partner-driven network of care. This network both expands access to traditional pediatric healthcare and expands access to non-traditional care that addresses a child's total picture of health, the social determinants of health²⁸. Operating a community based, partner-driven network of care requires identifying partners that will engage in a transformative system of care, one that allows a pediatric specialty hospital to work with community based partners to generate improved health for all kids in a targeted region, despite never being patients or having limited interactions with that hospital. The network must support improvements in the delivery of traditional healthcare services, like the number of immunizations, well-child</p>

²⁵ Increase the health literacy of the population – HC/HIT-R01 - Healthy People 2030 | health.gov

²⁶ Increase the proportion of people with health insurance – AHS-01 - Healthy People 2030 | health.gov

²⁷ Increase the ability of primary care and behavioral health professionals to provide more high-quality care to patients who need it – AHS-R01 - Healthy People 2030 | health.gov

²⁸ Reduce the proportion of people living in poverty – SDOH-01 - Healthy People 2030 | health.gov

	visits ²⁹ , oral health screenings and behavioral health interventions. And the network must also support improvements in social conditions impacting health such as increased attendance at school, increased access to nutritional food and sustained access to stable housing. Work is done to ensure the network supports the many components of a child's health by recruiting and supporting a robust array of community based partners that may range from schools to childcare centers to churches and food pantries. The division is responsible for directing hospital resources to support the creation and operation of the community based network.
Child Health Improvement: Social & Environ. Determinants of Health	<p>The Government Affairs department serves as the primary contact with officials on all public policy issues on behalf of child health. This includes, but is not limited to, written communication, public testimony, or any other form of endorsement or opposition. As a not-for-profit entity, Children's Hospital Colorado does not engage in partisan activities. At the state level in 2023, Children's Hospital Colorado coordinated testimony from 28 experts on pending legislation at committee hearings, and actively tracked 176 bills. We activated our grassroots network on multiple child health policy topics, generating hundreds of messages to state and federal lawmakers on youth mental health. Children's Colorado's 2023 legislative priorities are attached for background, and the bills noted below can be included for community benefit purposes.</p> <p>Top priority bills relevant to community benefit included advocating for youth mental health. We established a new Children, Youth and Families Mental Health Coalition in January 2022 and as of December 2023, we had 80 individuals and organizational representatives of diverse interests represented including schools, treatment providers, child abuse prevention advocates, mental health policy experts and more. Major community health priorities included a bill to increase access to mental health services³⁰ for children under age 21 who are insured by Medicaid without the requirement for a mental health diagnosis. This expands access to integrated care and provides care to children and youth in need who may otherwise have barriers to access. We worked on two proposals this year to establish eating disorder prevention programs at the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment and a bill to increase access to treatment for individuals with disordered eating by prohibiting health plans and Medicaid from utilizing body mass index to determine access to treatment. Additionally, we led an effort to support additional investments in community-based residential treatment capacity for children and youth with complex mental health needs³¹ and to require hospitals and counties to report to the state the number of patients with mental health conditions who were boarding or staying for extended periods of time beyond clinical need due to lack of intensive community-based treatment options.</p> <p>We worked closely with other child health advocates on House Bill 1300 to require Medicaid to seek federal authorization to extend Medicaid continuous eligibility for children from birth to age three³². The bill also sets up a study of how the Medicaid program can better address health-related social needs. Additionally, we worked with lawmakers to provide funding for counties to process appeals in cases when families lose their Medicaid eligibility due to an error - all of these policy strategies were greatly needed to preserve stable access-to-care for children as a result of the end of the federal public health emergency.</p> <p>In our health-related social needs portfolio, we led a coalition to expand access to community health workers, where research has shown that access to community health</p>

²⁹ [Increase the proportion of children and adolescents who receive care in a medical home — MICH-19 - Healthy People 2030 | health.gov](#)

³⁰ [Increase the proportion of adolescents with depression who get treatment — MHMD-06 - Healthy People 2030 | health.gov](#)

³¹ [Increase the proportion of children and adolescents who get appropriate treatment for behavior problems — EMC-D05 - Healthy People 2030 | health.gov](#)

³² [Increase the proportion of people with health insurance — AHS-01 - Healthy People 2030 | health.gov](#)

	workers can improve patient health outcomes, address health disparities ³³ and reduce healthcare costs while also expanding and diversifying the healthcare workforce. The legislation will enable community health workers to be paid for their care by Colorado Medicaid. We also worked on a number of proposals related to housing stability and nutrition, two of the most commonly identified needs among our patient population when we use our psychosocial screener.
Community Benefit Operations (Evaluation)	This represents our team who manages our community benefit operations, including data gathering, data entry, HCBA reporting, IRS Form 990 Schedule H reporting, the triennial Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA), the triennial Community Health Implementation Strategy (CHIS), annual CHIS reports/updates, plans and facilitates annual community engagement meetings, oversees evaluation plans for community health programs, etc.
Cash and In-Kind Contributions for Community Benefit	For a list of organizations Children's Hospital Colorado supported in 2023 with cash and/or in-kind support, see <i>Appendix C</i> .
Health Professions Education	
Includes graduate education for medical residents and fellows, nursing students and continuing professional education for other health professionals such as community pediatricians, community emergency medical providers.	
Part of our mission is to improve the health of children, and as an academic medical center Children's Colorado offers a broad spectrum of training, education and certification programs aimed at developing, strengthening, and sustaining knowledge and expertise in the pediatric medical field. We offer a wide variety of advanced training and learning opportunities for future healthcare professionals and today's clinicians ²⁰ . Health profession education addresses regional and national workforce needs, serves to increase access to healthcare and improve health outcomes ²¹ .	
Medical Library	The on-site clinical and research library maintains selective and authoritative print and electronic collections supporting the mission and programs of CHCO. It provides access to resources at both its physical location and electronically and maintains complete records of holdings in accessible formats. In 2023, they served 537 people.
Graduate Medical Education (GME)	<p>Annually, approximately 14,000 pediatric residents are trained in Children's Hospitals Graduate Medical Education (CHGME) across the United States, accounting for 50% of the total number of pediatric residents trained.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children's Hospital Colorado is currently home to more than 286 pediatric medical residents and 16 pediatric dental residents. Federal CHGME funding falls far below our institutional financial support and we backfill the needs at triple the amount currently funded by the federal government. • From 2016-2024, 64% of our pediatric medical residents continued practicing in Colorado after program completion. Upon completion of training, many of these providers care for children throughout the broader Rocky Mountain region³⁴ as well, where there are no other pediatric training programs.

³³ Reduce the proportion of people living in poverty – SDOH-01 - Healthy People 2030 | health.gov

³⁴ N. Douthit, S. Kiv, T. Dwolatzky, S. Biswas, Exposing some important barriers to health care access in the rural USA, Public Health, Volume 129, Issue 6, 2015, Pages 611-620, ISSN 0033-3506, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.puhe.2015.04.001>.

Allied Health Professions	<p>We provide internships and clinical experiences for students learning in the following health professions: Pharmacy, Respiratory Therapists (we hosted 56 students in 2023), Physical Therapy, Child Life Specialists (10 students in 2023), Audiology and others.</p> <p>Some health colleges and universities we partnered with in 2023 includes Pickens Technical College, Pima Medical Institute, Pueblo Community College, Regis University, University of Colorado, Metropolitan State College of Denver, American Public University, Erikson, Mills College, Washington University, University of Utah, Edgewood and College of Charleston, and St Louis University.</p>
Nursing Students and Learners	We provided clinical experiences and internships for 817 nursing students (programs that lead to a registered nurse license) in 2023. We also provided clinical experiences and internships for 332 advanced practice nursing students (graduate level: NP, DPT).
Certified Nursing Assistants (CNA)	In 2023, we hosted 72 Certified Nursing Assistant students for clinical rotations.
Interprofessional Preceptor Training	The Interprofessional Preceptor training program provides professional development for clinical team members who orient hires and students. The instructional program is a blended format of Cornerstone computer training modules and in-person training. The content focuses on effective clinical teaching strategies and the roles and responsibilities of effective preceptors.
Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Community Education	As a Level One Trauma Center, we also have an emphasis on education and outreach. The Children's Colorado Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Outreach Education team provides education to first responders, hospital providers, and other medical facilities across a seven-state region. Across the region many of the first responders they train live in rural communities. The team uses evidence-based research and guidelines from the hospital, oftentimes changing the way EMS teams respond to situations to achieve improved pediatric outcomes. In 2023, the team conducted 46 educational events covering all four quadrants of the state and reached 2,640 EMS providers.
Clinical Outreach & Education - Community Healthcare Providers	We provided 6,322 community-based medical professionals with more than 7,700 hours of training during 211 classes/events.
Professional Development-Community Healthcare Providers	We provided 6,322 community-based medical professionals with more than 7,700 hours of training during 211 classes/events
Subsidized Health Services	
Covers unreimbursed costs for operating pediatric specialties that meet community need, such as behavioral health.	
Research	

2023 marked another year of impressive growth and accomplishments for [child health research](#)³⁵ teams. Our child health researchers earned a top spot as national leaders in NIH research funding in 2023, published by [Blue Ridge Institute for Medical Research](#). The rankings place the University of Colorado's Department of Pediatrics as the second highest NIH-funded pediatric department in the country. In addition, overall funding for all CU and Children's Hospital Colorado's child health research teams increased nearly \$7.8 million from the previous fiscal year, coming in at more than \$156.8 million in 2023.

Here's a look at some of the highlights: \$156.8M+ in funding to Children's Colorado and University of Colorado in FY2023; 521 unique child health principal investigators with externally sponsored funding; and, #2 NIH-funded pediatrics department (Source: Blue Ridge Institute for Medical Research).

Cash and In-Kind Contributions

Includes cash and in-kind donations to community non-profit organizations, donations of meeting space and donations of health and safety educational materials, and service on community boards and coalitions addressing community health.

See *Appendix B* for a list of community-based organizations that Children's Hospital Colorado leaders serve in-kind.

Community-Building Activities

Economic Development	Participation in county- and city-level governmental organizations and educational institutions addressing economic growth for under-resourced communities.
Environmental Improvements	Children's sustainability programs include waste management, recycling, conservation (energy and water), alternative transportation, and green purchasing. Landfill diversion activities focus on recycling materials that otherwise would end up in a landfill. Examples include scrap metal, pallets, kitchen grease, and cardboard.
Coalition Building	In-kind participation in coalitions addressing SDoH.
Workforce Development	<p>The Medical Career Collaborative (MC2) program propels high school students towards careers in healthcare through hands on experiences and professional development opportunities. Applicants are selected in the spring of their sophomore high school year by a committee with great emphasis placed on selecting a diverse group of students from a range of backgrounds and high schools in the Denver metro area. Increasing diversity and providing opportunity to underrepresented populations in the health professions has become identified as paramount to the nation's need to eliminate inequities in the quality and availability of health care for underserved populations.³⁶</p> <p>In the 2022-2023 academic year, MC2 served 130 high school students (68 juniors and 62 seniors) from 49 high schools. 94% of graduates plan to attend a 2- or 4-year college and 91% of graduates declared a health or pre-health major. Ninety-seven percent of MC2 participants are students of color; 42% Hispanic/Latino, 23% Black/African American, 15% Asian/Pacific Islander, 14% multi-racial, 3% Middle Eastern, 3% White/Caucasian, and 0% American Indian/Alaskan Native.</p>

³⁵ <https://www.childrenscolorado.org/research-innovation/research-area/>

³⁶ Danner, O. K., Lokko, C., Mobley, F., Dansby, M., Maze, M., Williams, E., ... & Childs, E. (2017). Hospital-based, multidisciplinary, youth mentoring and medical exposure program positively influences and reinforces health care career choice: "the reach one each one program early experience". *The American Journal of Surgery*, 213(4), 611-616.

Workforce Development	Project SEARCH is a school-to transition work program for students with significant disabilities ³⁷ . The program provides employment and education opportunities which span a full academic year. Students complete 4-day work weeks for 15 weeks, and rotate worksites throughout the hospital. The goal of Project Search is that the participants leave the program employment ready and gain successful employment at the host site's business or elsewhere in the community. In 2023, we supported 8 students.
Leadership Development and Training Community Members	In 2023, we established Youth Mental Health Action Day at the Capitol, training 115 new advocates in partnership with the Colorado Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics and the Colorado Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Society. Attendees included pediatricians, nurses, social workers and other health professionals. The advocacy training day at the Capitol successfully equipped participants with the skills and knowledge needed to effectively champion youth mental health policy priorities. Attendees engaged in strategic discussions, role-playing exercises, and legislative meetings, resulting in a unified push for critical policy changes and a strengthened network of advocates committed to enhancing mental health support for young people.
In-Kind Service	See <i>Appendix B</i> for a list of community-based organizations that Children's Hospital Colorado leaders serve in-kind.

³⁷ Wehman, P., Schall, C., McDonough, J., Molinelli, A., Riehle, E., Ham, W., & Thiss, W. R. (2013). Project SEARCH for youth with autism spectrum disorders: Increasing competitive employment on transition from high school. *Journal of Positive Behavior Interventions*, 15(3), 144-155.

Appendix A

Disease & Condition Specific Community Health Education

Community Health Education and Resources – new or revised in 2023 - by Category:

- Ongoing COVID-19 Updates and Resources
- [Youth Mental Health Crisis Resources](#)
- Respiratory season preparation and execution
 - [Pediatric Respiratory Readiness Toolkit](#)
 - Content updates across various webpages
 - RSV vaccines expert interviews and content additions
- [School nurse toolkit](#)
- Pediatric conditions
 - [RSV](#) condition page
 - [Bronchiolitis](#) condition page
 - [Pneumonia](#) condition page
 - [Influenza](#) condition page
 - [Tonsillitis](#) condition page
 - [Sinusitis](#) condition page
 - [Ear infection](#) condition page
 - [Fetal hydrops](#) condition page
 - [Neuroblastoma](#) condition page
- Specialty-specific resources
 - [Dual Organ Transplant Program page \(new\)](#)
 - [Cochlear Implant Program page \(new\)](#)
 - [DaVinci Robot services page \(new\)](#)
 - [Update to IUD procedure page](#)
 - [Precision Medicine Institute Webpage](#)
- Health literacy and medical animation video review and publishing
 - Gastroschisis video – [English](#) and [Spanish](#)
 - [Hearing Loss](#) and [Cochlear Implants](#) video
 - [Fertility Preservation Options for Females](#) video
 - [Placing an NG Tube](#) video
 - [Giving Feeds with an NG Tube](#) video
 - [Checking Placement of an NG Tube](#) video
 - [Venting a G-Tube](#) – Spanish
 - [Cleaning and Dressing a G-Tube](#) – Spanish
 - [Giving Feeds with a G-Tube](#) – Spanish
 - [Spine Program: Breathing Exercises After Spine Surgery](#)
 - [Spine Program: What to Expect from Physical Therapy After Spine Surgery](#)
 - MDI with Spacer – [Spanish](#) & [English](#) versions
 - NEW Halo Goes to the Dentist – [Spanish](#)
 - Respiclick – [Spanish](#) & [English](#) versions
 - Redihaler – [Spanish](#) & [English](#) versions
 - Respimat – [Spanish](#) & [English](#) versions

- [Managing Your Child's Pain After Surgery](#) – English
 - Diaphragmatic Breathing – [English](#) & [Spanish](#)
- Sports Medicine Partner Articles
 - Tournament Nutrition
 - [Hyper Hydration](#)
 - [Concussion Prevention](#) (Dispelling Myths & Updated Guidelines)
 - [Stretching a newly injured muscle](#)
 - [Chocolate Milk for Nutriution Recovery](#)
 - [Are Supplements Safe](#) article
 - Mental Health in Sports – Mimi Babcock-Renadin
 - Why It's Important to See a Pediatric Sports Medicine Physician

Community health stories in the media:

- <https://abcnews.go.com/Health/flu-strep-children/story?id=96363570>
- <https://www.npr.org/2023/02/15/1155521908/eating-disorder-obesity-guidance-risk-weight-loss>
- <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/new-peanut-allergy-patch-viaskin-breakthrough-treatment/>
- <https://edition.cnn.com/2023/05/25/health/prediabetes-dementia-link-wellness/index.html>
- <https://www.consumerreports.org/health/sunscreens/when-can-babies-wear-sunscreen-a1131350765/>
- <https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2023/08/21/1194677541/pfizers-rsv-vaccine-to-protect-babies-gets-greenlight-from-fda>
- <https://kdvr.com/news/local/researchers-release-new-concussion-protocols-as-fall-sports-are-underway/>
- <https://themessenger.com/health/buying-kids-trampoline-injury-risk-fractures>
- <https://www.washingtonpost.com/health/2023/07/17/first-rsv-antibody-treatment-protect-all-infants-approved-us/>
- <https://www.cbsnews.com/colorado/news/car-seats-colorado-children-properly-restrain-data-safety/>
- <https://www.romper.com/life/seasonal-allergies>
- <https://www.romper.com/parenting/ear-infection-children>

Appendix B

In-Kind Contributions

Community-based organizations that Children's Hospital Colorado leaders provided in-kind service in 2023

A Precious Child	Public Health in the Rockies Conference
Adams County Health Department	Reach Out and Read Colorado
Adams State University	Resident Leadership Council
Anchor Center for Blind Children	Rocky Mountain Public Media
Arapahoe Community College - HIT Program	Ronald McDonald House
Aurora @ Home	Swim Across America - Denver
Aurora Chamber of Commerce	University of Colorado Clinical Education
Aurora Health Alliance	Advisory Committee
Aurora Public Schools	Vital Hearts
BCIVIC	Youth for Child Mental Health
Boettcher Foundation	Youth Healthcare Alliance
Boys and Girls Club of Metro Denver	
Brent's Place	
Broomfield County Health Department	
Broomfield FISH	
Center for Health Progress	
Children's Hospital Association	
City and County of Denver Racial Equity Council	
Colorado Access	
Colorado Business Committee for the Arts	
Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment	
Colorado Health Information Management Association	
Colorado Nurses Association	
Colorado Nursing Leaders Association	
Colorado School Medicaid Consortium	
Colorado State Patrol	
Colorado State University	
Colorado Womens Chamber of Commerce	
Denver Art Museum	
Denver Metro EDC Board of Governors	
Denver Public Schools	
Emergency Medical Services Assoc. of Colorado	
Executives Partnering to Invest in Children	
Food Bank of the Rockies	
Jefferson County Public Health Department	
Latino Community Foundation of Colorado	
Mapleton School District, School-Based Health Center Community Advisory Council	
Metro Caring	
National Board for Respiratory Care	
National Child Passenger Safety Board (National Safety Council)	
Papua New Guinea Tribal Foundation	
Pediatric Experience Collaborative	