



# 2018 Fact Sheet

Child and Adult Protection Services (CAPS) in the Arapahoe County Department of Human Services provides protective services to children and at-risk adults and seniors following allegations of abuse or neglect. CAPS also provides services to teens with serious conflict and behavioral concerns, and other services that help to create strong and effective families.

## Calls to Hotline

Our county crisis hotline at 303-636-1750 and statewide hotline at 1-844-CO-4-KIDS receives calls from community members and mandatory reporters with concerns about the safety and wellbeing of children, youth and at-risk adults, as well as questions about community resources, support services and issues not related to abuse and neglect.

**2018**

**27,565  
Calls to Hotline**

## Referrals

Any calls alleging suspected abuse and neglect of a child or at-risk adult, or a youth beyond-control of their parents are generated into referrals. Our hotline workers use enhanced screening for every referral, asking questions to gather as much information as possible about each alleged victim, family and circumstances.

**13,681 Child Protection  
Referrals Received**

**2,570 Adult Protection  
Referrals Received**

## Screening

Every referral is screened through a RED Team (Review, Evaluate and Direct) by a group of highly trained caseworkers, supervisors and managers. We also review the statewide Human Services database for any prior child welfare history as well as the Colorado and Denver Courts databases to determine if there is criminal history that may aid in the decision of whether the referral meets the legal criteria to be assigned for an assessment. Any referrals that do not meet criteria as defined by law are screened out, but the families may be connected with community-based prevention services for additional support.

**897 Child Protection  
Referrals to Prevention  
Services - FIRST  
(Shiloh House and TCHD,  
Jan – Mid Nov)**

**251 Adult  
Protection Referrals to  
Prevention Services -  
FIRST**

## Assessments

When a referral is assigned, a social caseworker will visit the home and meet with the alleged victim and family to assess safety concerns. Families who are assessed at a low-to-moderate risk level may be offered a variety of community-based intervention services designed to help the family safely and adequately care for their children or adult in the home, without ongoing involvement of the County Department of Human Services.

**4,769 Child  
Protection and 587  
Adult Protection  
Referrals Assigned  
for Assessment**

## Cases

Families who are assessed at a moderate-to high-risk level may be deemed in need of longer-term services to ensure safety for their children or at-risk adult family member, which may require court involvement, or to aid a family with a youth who is beyond their control or involved with delinquency court. The County can open a case for direct services from our permanency teams until safety concerns are resolved.

**On any given day 2,500+  
children with open cases  
or assessments, and  
172+ at-risk adults with  
open cases.**

**\*Approx. 8.3% of those served  
in Child Protection move into  
permanency**

2018



**85% of children involved remained safely at home or in the home of their relatives or kin.**

**607 children served in foster, group or residential facility at any time in the year.**

**539 children served in relative care at any time during the year.**

**93 Youth were Adopted**



### Level of Care

In child welfare, our main goal is to help keep families together and children safely at home with their parents or guardians. However, if an assessment finds there is an immediate safety concern in the home that places a child at imminent risk, a child may be removed from the home for his/her own protection and placed by court order in temporary out-of-home care. This could include a certified foster home, licensed group home or treatment facility, or placement with the child's relatives or kin (individuals in close relationship to the child.) To ensure the child's safety, the relatives or kin must first pass a state and federal background check before a child is placed in their care. When children are placed in to out-of-home care, it is in their best interest to reunify them with their families as quickly as can be done safely, so as to decrease trauma.

### Adoption

If concerns for a child's safety and wellbeing cannot be resolved, alternative permanency may be achieved when a child is legally free to be adopted by a 'forever family.'

## Arapahoe County Children and Families At a Glance

Statistics from the U.S. Census Bureau's 2017 American Community Survey

**1 in almost 4** Arapahoe County citizens is a child

There are about **146,279** children under age 18 in the county.

Approximately **1 in 10** Arapahoe County children lives in poverty.

**9%** of children live below the federal poverty level

\*U.S. Census Bureau, Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates (SAIPE)



Median household income in Arapahoe County (2017) is **\$69,553** compared to **\$57,652** nationally.



School Enrollment  
Children 3 to 17 years in households:

About **116,743** enrolled

About **11,455** not enrolled in school

**92%** of persons in Arapahoe County are high school graduates compared to **87%** nationally.

**41.6%** of persons in Arapahoe County have a bachelors degree or higher compared to **30.9%** nationally.

The average number of persons per household in Arapahoe County is **2.64**

**6.3%** of people under 65 in Arapahoe County have a disability.

### Arapahoe County Department of Human Services - Child and Adult Protection Services

14980 East Alameda Drive, Aurora, CO 80012 | Main Office: 303-636-1589

Report Abuse or Neglect of Children and At-Risk Adults: 303-636-1750 or 1-844-CO-4-KIDS

Email: [humanservices@arapahoegov.com](mailto:humanservices@arapahoegov.com) | [www.arapahoegov.com](http://www.arapahoegov.com)



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COLORADO'S FIRST