

Child Welfare Fact Comparison of Big 10 and Rural Counties Recurrent Child Maltreatment Rates CW 9

Colorado Counties Inc.

2-25-2011

- Repeat child maltreatment is an important measure of child safety.
- It has been suggested that balance of state counties are inconsistent and do not do a good job of protecting children once they are known to the child welfare system.
- **2010 repeat (recurrent) child maltreatment data show that on average balance of state (rural) counties have essentially the same repeat child maltreatment rates as big 10 counties.**
- Data also reveal that Colorado's balance-of-state and big 10 counties perform above the federal benchmark of **94.6%**.
- In short, regardless of county size, children who are known to the child welfare system are protected from further abuse or neglect.

DO COLORADO'S SMALL OR MEDIUM-SIZED COUNTIES HAVE HIGHER CHILD REPEAT MALTREATMENT RATES THAN THE 10 LARGEST COUNTIES?

A critical child welfare outcome is whether children that are known to the system are re-abused or have additional neglect. The Federal Government agrees and includes a measure of repeat (recurrent) maltreatment as a CFSR measure.

It has been suggested that rural or 'Balance-of-State' counties are inconsistent and consequently do not protect children very well. The following table shows a comparison of Balance-of-State (rural counties) with Big 10 counties repeat maltreatment rates for 2010.

The data reveal that there is no important difference between Balance-of-State and the big 10 counties. Both big 10 and the 54 balance of state counties performed above the federal CFSR benchmark.

Repeat Maltreatment by Big 10 County/Balance-of-State Confirmed Reports of Intra-Familial A/N Reported in 2010

County	# Founded Victims	# Repeat Maltreatment	% Without Repeat Maltreatment
Adams	2,049	125	93.9%
Arapahoe	1,489	49	96.7%
Balance of State*	2,136	116	94.6%
Boulder	398	13	96.7%
Denver	1,271	43	96.6%
El Paso	1,057	33	96.9%
Jefferson	1,231	67	94.6%
Larimer	396	5	98.7%
Mesa	359	26	92.8%
Pueblo	197	1	99.5%
Weld	476	7	98.5%
Total	11,059	485	95.6%

Source: TRAILS data.

*Note: Balance-of-State refers to Colorado's 54 small and medium-sized counties.