

**San Luis Valley  
Community Needs Assessment  
2021 - 2023**

**San Luis Valley Community Action Agency**

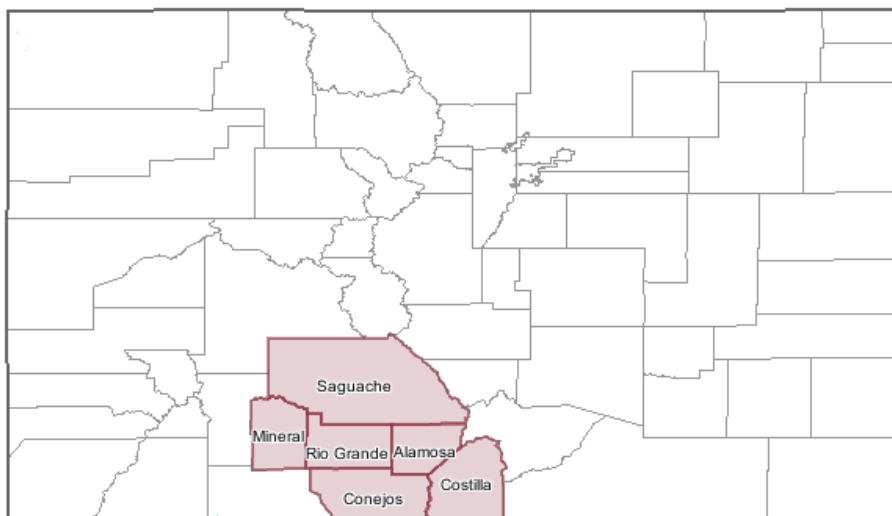


**2021 - 2023**

# Community Profile Data For the San Luis Valley<sup>1</sup>

Overview of the current community conditions for the following areas (see map below):

- Alamosa County, Colorado
- Conejos County, Colorado
- Costilla County, Colorado
- Mineral County, Colorado
- Rio Grande County, Colorado
- Saguache County, Colorado



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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.communityactioncna.org/>; ; community needs assessment online tool, prepared 8/05/20  
San Luis Valley Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies, SLV Development Resources Group

## The San Luis Valley – our Story

The San Luis Valley in south-central Colorado is located about midway between Denver and Albuquerque, the largest alpine valley in North America. The vast, flat surface of the valley floor at 7,500 feet is bordered on the east by the sharply rising Sangre de Cristo Mountains, which ascend to 14,000-foot peaks and to the west by the more gradually rising foothills and 12,000-foot peaks of the San Juans, which mark the Continental Divide. The Sangre de Cristos – Spanish for “blood of Christ” - are so-named for their rose hue at sunset.

Both ranges join near Poncha Pass at the north end of this valley forming a ring of mountains, while the open end to the south slopes gradually downward after crossing the New Mexico state line. The great open space of the desert plain and the rugged snow-capped peaks of the Sangre de Cristos in spring resemble a veritable “altiplano” of the Rockies. This is also home to the Great Sand Dunes, which are the tallest dunes in North America and of the Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve.

Boundaries of the San Luis Valley region are represented by the six counties of Alamosa, Conejos, Costilla, Mineral, Rio Grande, and Saguache, each maintaining a separate identity but economically interdependent. About 122 miles long from north to south, and about 74 miles across, this covers an area of 8,193 square miles; larger than the state of Massachusetts, but with a combined 2018 population of 46,964 (only 5.6 persons per square mile).

Within its borders, the Valley harbors great diversity of natural and cultural settings. Landscape on the Valley floor changes dramatically with the presence of water. From its headwaters in the San Juans to the Texas coast, the Rio Grande is the nation's second longest river and the lifeblood of the Valley's agriculture and development in general. Canals and ditches from the Rio Grande and the Conejos River as its major tributary, supply one of the state's most important farming areas, famous for its potatoes, beer barley, alfalfa, and other crops.

Vegetation and cottonwood forests line these and lesser river courses across the Valley in contrast to the dominant tracts of greasewood and other desert plants. The state's most extensive system of wetlands is also found here, which supports a variety of wildlife and wildlife areas, including the famous stopover place for crane migration between Idaho and the Bosque del Apache in New Mexico.

The rise in elevation substantially changes the landscape as marked by a succession of plant and tree species shown on the schematic cross-section of the Valley. This begins with sage, followed by pinon-juniper, ponderosa pine, mixed conifer, aspen, extensive stands of Engelmann spruce, and alpine tundra on the peaks.

Streams, lakes, and reservoirs are found higher up and on the flats as well. Several million acres of public land affords a variety of recreational opportunity, wildlife habitat, and protected wilderness areas with hiking trails.

A true sense of place captured by the Valley's natural setting is further enhanced by its depth of history, art, culture, and people as described later. Population is diverse, with 47 percent of Hispanic origin and 28.9 percent Spanish-speakers, many of whom are descendants of the early settlers.

Alamosa County: The City of Alamosa serves as the regional hub with the Valley's largest hospital, airport, motels, business services, railroad and trucking terminals, industrial parks, federal and state government offices, and regional shopping. Adams State University and Trinidad State Junior College are also located in Alamosa. Major attractions include the Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve, San Luis and Rio Grande Railroad passenger line, Zapata Falls, San Luis Lakes State Park, Alamosa National Wildlife Refuge, Colorado Gators alligator farm, and Cattails Golf Course. Alamosa County is home to four utility scale solar plants, generating over 85 MW of electricity.

Conejos County: Major attractions include the Cumbres and Toltec Scenic Railroad that travel a narrow gauge track from Antonito to Chama, New Mexico, Mormon Pioneer Days, Jack Dempsey Museum, Platoro and La Jara reservoirs, Colorado's oldest church in Conejos, and the Los Caminos Antiguos Byway. The Conejos County Hospital is located in La Jara. Perlite mined in New Mexico and processed in Antonito is shipped by rail. Small farms and ranches with hay, sheep, and cattle are a visible part of the economy. Second homes are being built in Conejos Canyon, and Antonito is a gateway to New Mexico via US 285.

Costilla County: Major attractions include museums in Fort Garland and Colorado's oldest town in San Luis, Stations of the Cross and the Shrine of All Saints, annual Santa Ana and Santiago celebration each July, a bronze foundry, artist colony in Jaroso, and the Los Caminos Antiguos Scenic and Historic Byway. Notable fishing areas include Sanchez, Smith, and Mountain Home reservoirs, and Culebra Creek. The county also contains the Valley's largest tracts of private lands including the Blanca-Trinchera ranch, which focus on hunting and real estate, and the 70,000-acre La Sierra tract which was originally a Spanish land grant. Small villages and farms are notable near San Luis, with larger farms in Jaroso and the Fort Garland area. San Luis is about 40 miles from Taos, New Mexico.

Mineral County: Creede has art and sporting goods shops, the famous Creede Repertory Theatre, and airport. Wolf Creek Ski Area, located on Wolf Creek Pass, is in Mineral County. Guest ranches are located on CO 149, and many second homes are being built. Other attractions include a mining museum, ghost towns, North Clear Creek Falls, gold medal fishing on the Rio Grande, and access to the Rio Grande headwaters streams, lakes, and reservoirs in neighboring Hinsdale County. Creede is about 40 miles from Lake City on the Silver Thread Byway covering some of the most beautiful scenery in Colorado.

Rio Grande: Rio Grande is the largest potato and barley-producing county in the state. Monte Vista is known as the Valley's agribusiness center but also has a tourist information center, regional shopping, the Colorado State Veterans Center at Homelake, and an attractive main street. Del Norte serves as a gateway for tourists and has an expanded Rio Grande Hospital. South Fork is the fastest growing town, with extensive second home construction, tourism, a new golf course, and is the start of the Silver Thread Byway. Major attractions include Rio Grande County Museum, Beaver Reservoir, Big Meadows, gold medal fishing, and backcountry trails. It is also the closest town to Wolf Creek Ski Area, and gateway via US 160 to Pagosa Springs and Durango.

Saguache County: Saguache is the largest county spanning both mountain ranges, with many back roads and trails to high lakes and remote areas. Center is a busy potato processing, shipping and warehousing center of activity with San Luis Central Railroad providing freight service. It also has agricultural treatment facilities supporting a potato processing plant, and farmworker housing. The Crestone/Baca community lies at the foot of the most rugged part of the Sangre de Cristos, and has the greatest diversity of ancestry in the Valley including the Haidakhandi Ashram and Mountain Zen Center. It also has many second homes and hosts Colorado College classes. The courthouse is located in the town of Saguache, which has a museum and serves as a gateway to Gunnison via CO 114 and Poncha Springs via US 285. Valley View and Mineral Hot Springs are located off US 285 near Villa Grove. The Baca Ranch became the Baca National Wildlife Refuge as part of the designation of the Great Sand Dunes as a national park.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The San Luis Valley Community Action Agency Mission:

To create partnerships with non-profit organization and local governments to foster stronger communications resulting in better use of resources; and to provide support to non-profit organizations and local governments whose missions are to assist and empower low-income and at-risk persons living in the San Luis Valley.

The San Luis Valley Community Action Agency has collected information through their community partners, including the sub-recipients of the CSBG program. As with all of Colorado, the San Luis Valley has been impacted by COVID-19. Although COVID-19 has increased the number of people that need assistance due to shut downs and social distancing, the primary needs of the San Luis Valley have remained the same.

The primary needs of the six counties, which includes Alamosa County, Conejos County, Costilla County, Mineral County, Rio Grande County, and Sagauche County are:

### Access to Transportation

- Cost of Fuel
- Cost of car repairs/maintaining
- Lack of any major public transportation

### Affordable Housing

- Cost of Utilities
- Costs of deposits
- Need for weatherization
- Need of repairs

### Emergency Services

- Risk of eviction
- Risk of foreclosure
- Risk of utility shut-off
- Risk of homelessness
- Risk of harm to individuals (domestic violence)

### Health Care

- Cost of Health Care
- Insurance costs and/or lack of benefits
- Prescription Costs

- Lack of resources to treat mental health, alcohol, or drug abuse

#### Nutrition

- Lack of income to buy food
- Lack of transportation to get to grocery store
- Educating clients to budget their SNAP allotment along with a limited income to meet food needs throughout the month.
- Lack of nutrition education
- Seniors may be eligible for lesser SNAP allotments therefore educating them on other potential resources within the community

**Commented [NVB1]:** SNAP is a supplemental program so the intent is not to provide for the entire month. Could potentially be worded as " Educating clients to budget their SNAP allotment along with a limited income to meet food needs throughout the month. "

The size of SLV also gives rise to a slight misconception about the cost of living, with many believing it is cheaper than other areas. However, not having sufficient population to support competing businesses can result in higher prices for is cheaper for them to travel to Pueblo to visit the dentist because of this dynamic. The isolated nature of SLV also results in higher transportation costs for goods brought in to the valley, making some products more expensive than nearby metropolitan areas. For example, regular gas prices in Alamosa, roughly 8% higher than nearby Pueblo and about 15% higher than Denver. The impact of these higher costs is amplified in an area like SLV given the relatively to household income. The valley's heavy reliance on these relatively lower paying industries, and on retiree income from savings and federal government payments is a key reason why the median household income in SLV is 43% lower than the state average, and 35% lower than the national average. This contributes to the high poverty rates and affordable housing issues experienced in SLV, and reduces the amount of discretionary expenditure for most households.

As seen in the tables presented below, the San Luis Valley is above the average Colorado population in poverty, and below the average Colorado population in median income and housing values.

## EVALUATION OF PAST PERFORMANCE

Surveys were sent out by a sub recipient of SLV Community Action Agency. The survey asked about Congregate Meals, Transportation, Home Delivered Meals, Caregivers, and Other registered consumers:

Congregate Meals survey questions were:

1. Have the services received helped you to maintain or improve your independence?
2. If you needed a ride, how easy was it to get transportation?
3. If you needed assistance, did someone provide you with information or refer to you places to learn about financial, social, or health services that are available or tell you how to get the help you need?
4. How satisfied are you with the opportunities you have to spend time with other people and the meal site?

The answers received:

Congregate Meals Responses								
Number of Respondents	128	Positive	Not Positive	Neither Agree or Disagree	Not Valid	% Positive	Standard	Met Standard
Question 1 Responses		111	12	5	0	90.24%	80%	Yes
Question 2 Responses		41	11	76	0	78.85%	90%	No
Question 3 Responses		53	18	57	0	74.65%	90%	No
Question 4 Responses		120	6	2	0	95.24%	90%	Yes

This survey showed that transportation and referral services are still needed.

Home Delivered Meals survey questions were:

1. Have the services that you have received through the home delivered meals program helped you to maintain or improve your independence?
2. If you needed assistance, did someone provide you with information or refer to you places to learn about financial, social, or health services that are available or tell you how to get the help you need?

The answers received:

Home Delivered Meal Responses								
Number of Respondents	100	Positive	Not Positive	Neither Agree or Disagree	Not Valid	% Positive	Standard	Met Standard
Question 1 Responses		96	2	2	0	97.96%	80%	Yes
Question 2 Responses		53	18	29	0	74.65%	90%	No

Once again referral services need improvement.

Caregiver Program survey questions were:

1. Has to service received through the Caregiver program helped you feel supported and increased your feelings of being able to care for your loved one?

Caregiver Program Responses								
Number of Respondents	7	Positive	Not Positive	Neither Agree or Disagree	Not Valid	% Positive	Standard	Met Standard
Question 1 Responses		9	0	0	-2	100.00%	80%	Yes



Transportation survey questions were:

1. Have the services that you have received through the transportation program helped you to maintain or improve your independence?
2. Was transportation available for you to be able to access necessary services within your community when you needed them?

Transportation Responses								
Number of Respondents	7	Positive	Not Positive	Neither Agree or Disagree	Not Valid	% Positive	Standard	Met Standard
Question 1 Responses		7	0	0	0	100.00%	80%	Yes
Question 2 Responses		7	0	0	0	100.00%	90%	Yes

All Other Registered Consumer survey questions were:

1. Have the services received helped you to maintain or improve your independence?

All Other Registered Consumers								
Number of Respondents	22	Positive	Not Positive	Neither Agree or Disagree	Not Valid	% Positive	Standard	Met Standard
Question 1 Responses		22	0	0	0	100.00%	80%	Yes

If the funds from CSBG had not been received, the senior community participating in meals on wheels would not have received meal delivery on Fridays. There would have been no human contact from Thursday noon until Monday noon and would have limited their nutritional health. Some would not have had an entire meal for 3 full days; with this funding many were able to stay in their own homes instead of being admitted into nursing facilities.

The homeless population would have been severely deprived of emergency services through the shelter such as rental assistance, utility assistance, educational assistance and nutrition.

Domestic violence assistance would have been negatively affected as they provide a large amount of emergency services for phone cards, gas, safe houses and hotel rooms for those trying to flee.

## BASIC COUNTY STATISTICS

The population base and trends of an area determine the needs for housing, schools, roads and other services. The age, income, race and ethnicity, and population of a community are all vital in planning for service provision. The table below shows the Basic Statistics for each county within the San Luis Valley Community Action Agency area.

	Alamosa County	Conejos County	Costilla County	Mineral County	Rio Grande County	Saguache County	Colorado
Population (2018)	16,181	8,138	3,810	775	11,220	6,840	5,694,311
Population Change (2010 to 2018)	707	(144)	278	70	(781)	696	643,979
Total Employment	10,510	2,716	1,335	754	5,657	2,668	3,389,198
Median Household Income	\$39,191	\$34,746	\$30,593	\$61,058	\$38,639	\$34,410	\$68,811
Median House Value	\$157,500	\$117,600	\$113,200	\$293,600	\$161,300	\$149,500	\$313,600
% of Population with Incomes lower the Poverty	23.70%	22.40%	30.10%	12.00%	17.10%	17.70%	10.90%

Source: State Demography Office

## **POPULATION PROFILE**

### Population Profile: Population Change

Population change within the 6 county report area from 2010-2019 is shown in the table below. During the nine year period, total population estimates for the report area increased from 47,990 persons in 2010 to 49,201 persons in 2019. The greatest growth occurred in Alamosa County, Colorado, which experienced an increase of 718 increase in population, whereas Rio Grande County, Colorado, experienced a -511 change in population. The population is particularly concentrated in just two cities in SLV, with nearly 20% of the entire population based in the City of Alamosa, and a further 9% is in the City of Monte Vista (the main city in Rio Grande County). Total population growth has remained relatively flat over recent years with average annual population growth rate of just 0.1% from 2010 to 2019. The split across

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the counties has remained consistent, although Alamosa has seen the largest absolute increase in population. While population growth has been relatively stagnant, the composition of the population has been changing. The proportion of the population under 29 years of age is expected to continue to decline from 41% in 2010 to 39% in 2025 while the proportion of the population over the age of 60 is expected to increase from 22% in 2010 to 28% in 2025. This aging has driven the median age of SLV up to 38.9, which is one to two years older than the state and national averages.

Annual Estimates of the Resident Population for Counties in Colorado: April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2019										
Geographic Area	Population Estimate (as of July 1)									
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
<b>Colorado</b>	<b>5,047,349</b>	<b>5,121,108</b>	<b>5,192,647</b>	<b>5,269,035</b>	<b>5,350,101</b>	<b>5,450,623</b>	<b>5,539,215</b>	<b>5,611,885</b>	<b>5,691,287</b>	<b>5,758,736</b>
Alamosa County	15,515	15,709	15,680	15,787	15,803	15,894	16,053	16,108	16,248	16,233
Conejos County	8,312	8,290	8,248	8,199	8,230	8,065	8,050	8,139	8,181	8,205
Costilla County	3,529	3,641	3,603	3,541	3,561	3,576	3,693	3,756	3,812	3,887
Mineral County	704	711	719	732	704	744	756	753	772	769
Rio Grande County	13,794	13,423	13,171	13,126	12,934	12,939	13,144	13,088	13,183	13,283
Saguache County	6,136	6,188	6,333	6,242	6,198	6,253	6,412	6,633	6,840	6,824

Note: The estimates are based on the 2010 Census and reflect changes to the April 1, 2010 population due to the Count Question Resolution program and geographic program revisions. All geographic boundaries for the 2019 population estimates are as of January 1, 2019. For population estimates methodology statements, see <http://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/popest/technical-documentation/methodology.html>.

**Suggested Citation:**

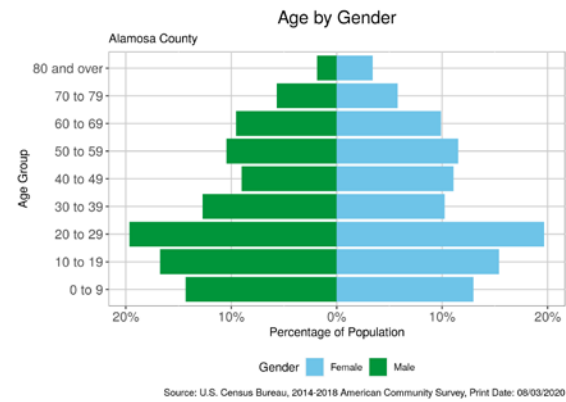
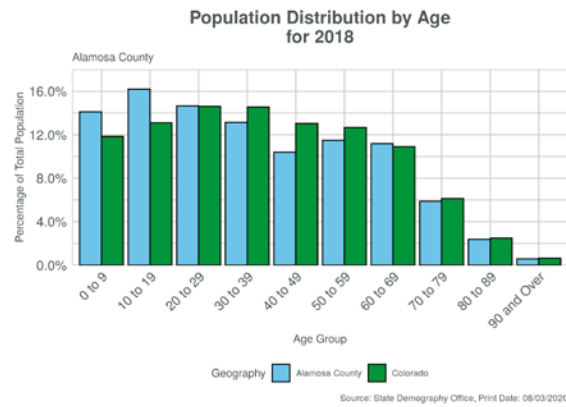
**Annual Estimates of the Resident Population for Counties in Colorado: April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2019 (CO-EST2019-ANNRES-08)**

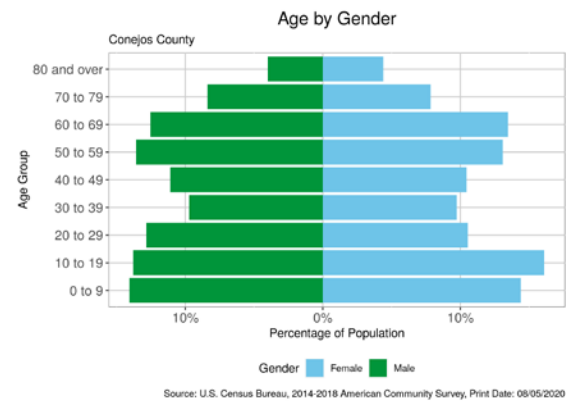
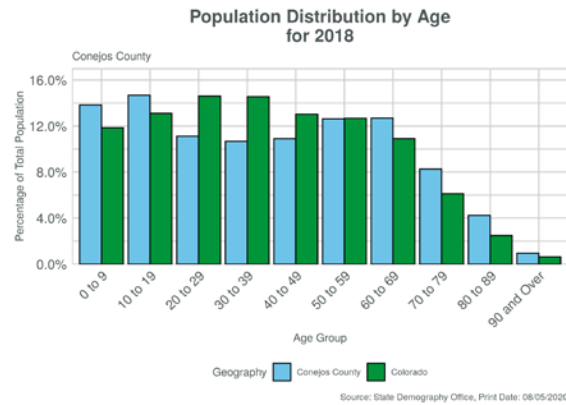
**Source:** U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division

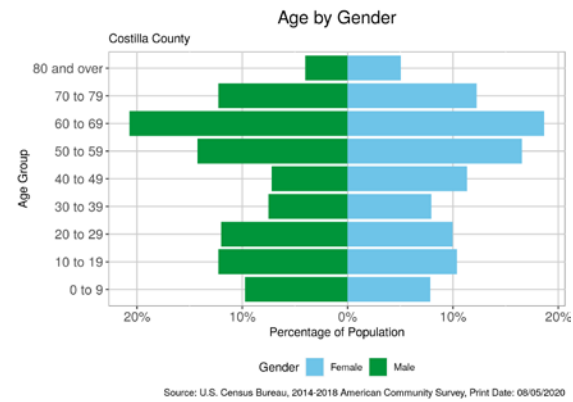
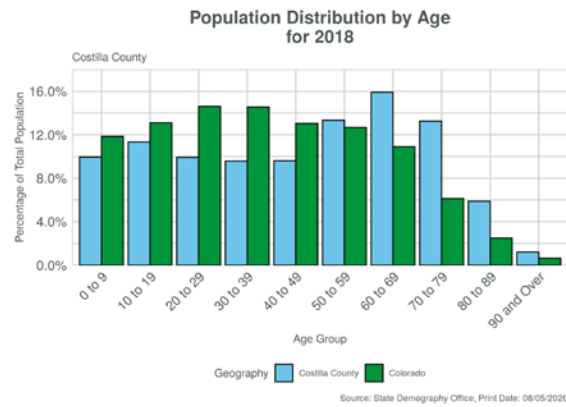
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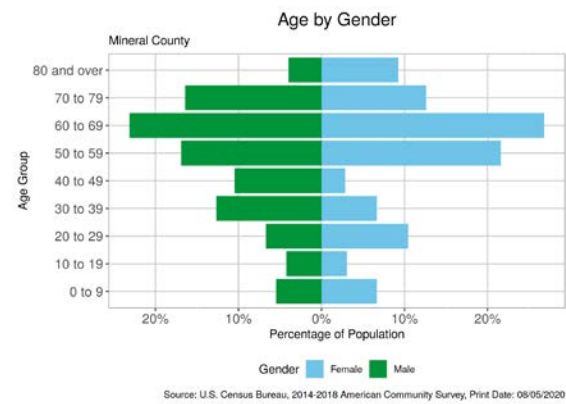
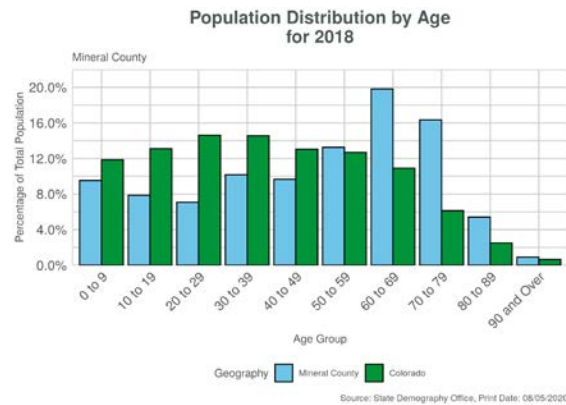
## Population Profile: Age and Gender Demographics

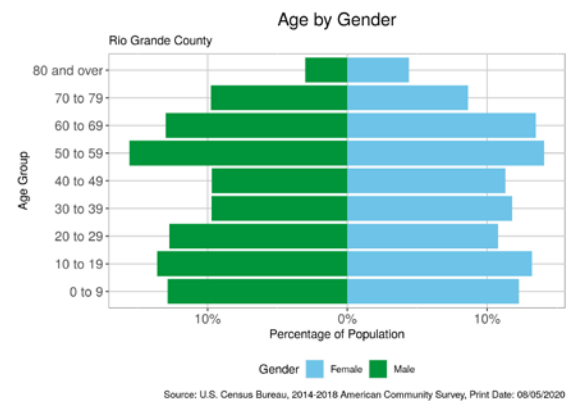
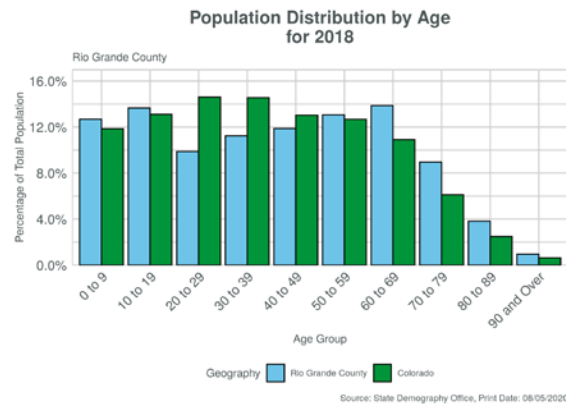
Population by age is reported in the tables below. Every community has a different age profile and is aging differently.



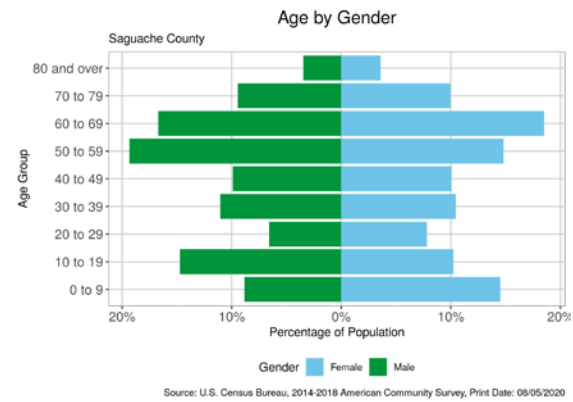
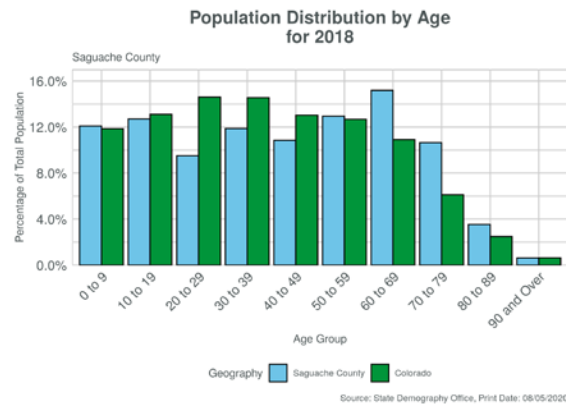




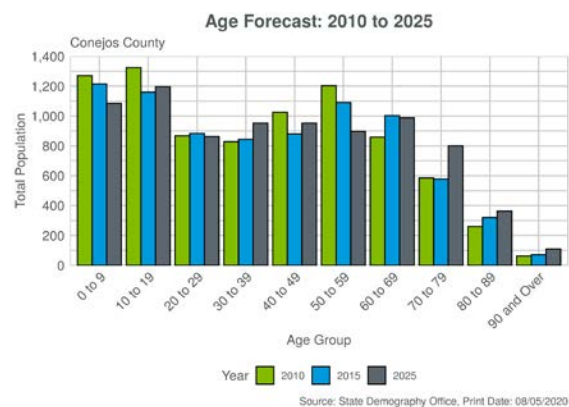
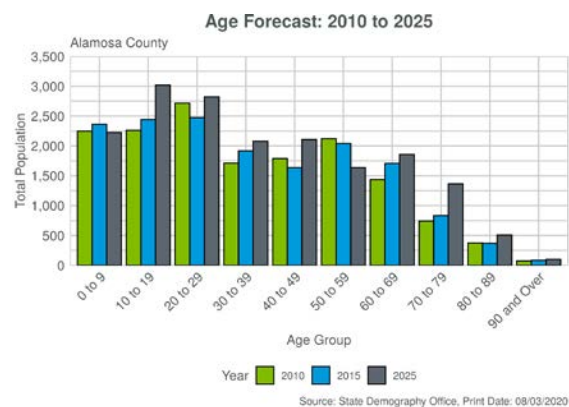


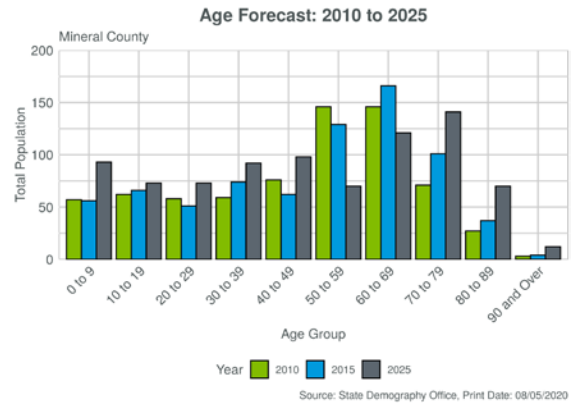
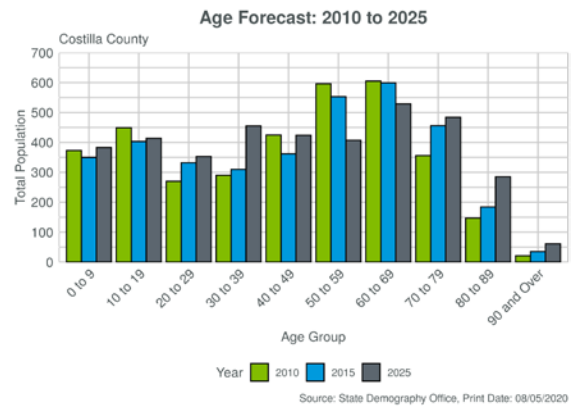


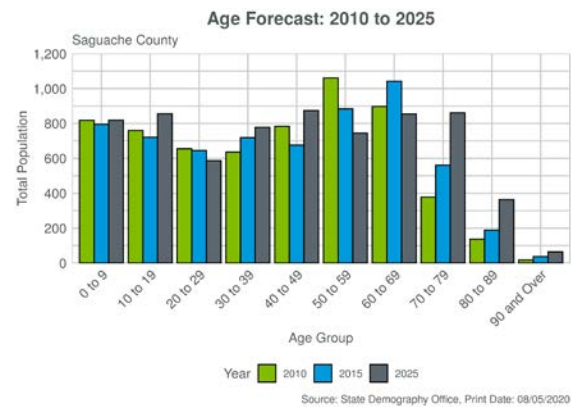
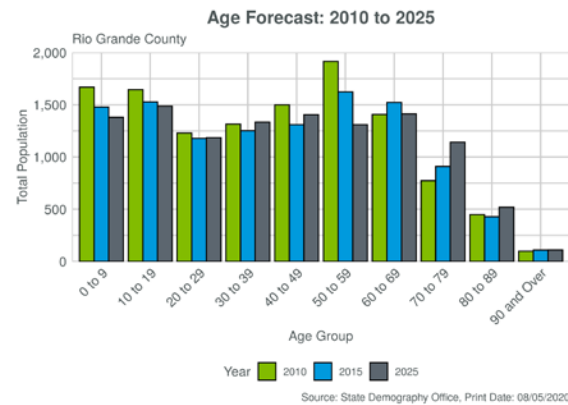




The changing age distribution of the population of the San Luis Valley for the period from 2010 through 2025 is shown here. The changes in proportion of different groups can highlight the need for future planning and service provision. Many areas have a larger share of older adults, indicating the need to evaluate housing, transportation and other needs of the senior population.







### Population Profile: Race Demographics

Population by race within the 6 county report area is shown in the table below.

<b>Race 2018</b>	<b>Alamosa County</b>	<b>Conejos County</b>	<b>Costilla County</b>	<b>Mineral County</b>	<b>Rio Grande County</b>	<b>Saguache County</b>	<b>Colorado</b>
Hispanic	45.90%	53.00%	62.60%	9.60%	44.50%	36.60%	21.4%
Non-Hispanic	54.10%	47.00%	37.40%	90.40%	55.50%	63.4%	78.6%
Non-Hispanic White	48.30%	44.00%	33.00%	86.80%	52.20%	58.5%	68.3%
Non-Hispanic Black	0.80%	0.40%	0.50%	1.90%	0.40%	0.0%	3.9%
Non-Hispanic Native American/Alaska Native	1.90%	1.30%	0.50%	0.00%	1.90%	2.4%	0.5%
Non-Hispanic Asian	0.90%	0.10%	1.50%	0.60%	0.20%	0.0%	3.1%
Non-Hispanic Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0.30%	0.20%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.0%	0.1%
Non-Hispanic Other	0.40%	0.30%	0.00%	0.00%	0.20%	0.0%	0.2%
Non-Hispanic, Two Races	1.50%	0.60%	2.0%	1.10%	0.60%	2.5%	2.4%
Total Population	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%

Source: [U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014-2018](#)

**Population Profile: Poverty, 2017**

2017 poverty estimates show a total of 45,259 persons living below the poverty rate in the six county area.

**Poverty Estimate by County**

Geographic Area	Total for whom Poverty Status Can be Determined	Individuals below 50% of poverty level	Individuals between 50% and 99% of poverty level	Individuals between 100% and 124% of poverty level	Individuals between 125% and 149% of poverty level	Individuals between 150% and 184% of poverty level	Individuals between 185% and 199% of poverty level	Individuals at 200% and over of the poverty level
	Estimate	Estimate	Estimate	Estimate	Estimate	Estimate	Estimate	Estimate
Colorado	5,316,870	273,229	338,914	211,341	204,249	305,478	131,669	3,851,990
Alamosa County	15,248	1,582	2,657	890	1,447	942	609	7,121
Conejos County	8,105	367	1,342	653	710	512	372	4,149
Costilla County	3,628	295	778	339	306	207	148	1,555
Mineral County	834	32	68	26	42	40	74	552
Rio Grande County	11,129	798	1,220	406	633	894	362	6,816
Saguache County	6,315	294	1,033	722	576	652	311	2,727

Source: [US Census Bureau Table: C17002 American Community Survey 5-year Estimates 2013-2017](#)

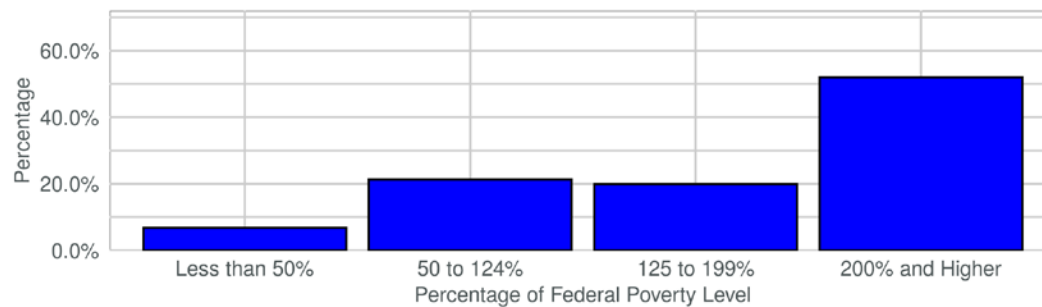
Population Profile: Poverty by Race, 2018

	ALAMOSA COUNTY			CONEJOS COUNTY			COSTILLA COUNTY		
	Total	Total #	Total %	Total	Total #	Total %	Total	Total #	Total %
	Population	Poverty	Poverty	Population	Poverty	Poverty	Population	Poverty	Poverty
White	7,458	1,265	17.00%	3,561	552	15.50%	1,217	372	30.57%
Hispanic or Latino	7,015	2,225	31.70%	4,298	1,212	28.20%	2,307	691	29.95%
Black or African American	159	62	39.00%	36	23	63.89%	17	17	100.00%
American Indian	519	53	10.20%	207	28	13.53%	80	24	30.00%
Asian	128	55	43.00%	10	2	20.00%	55	-	0.00%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	57	-	0.00%	16	-	0.00%	-	-	0.00%
Some other race	574	240	41.80%	390	121	31.03%	80	19	23.75%
Two or more races	526	106	20.20%	134	17	12.69%	112	14	12.50%
	MINERAL COUNTY			RIO GRANDE COUNTY			SAGUACHE COUNTY		
	Total	Total #	Total %	Total	Total #	Total %	Total	Total #	Total %
	Population	Poverty	Poverty	Population	Poverty	Poverty	Population	Poverty	Poverty
White	714	64	8.96%	5,801	761	13.12%	3,773	535	14.18%
Hispanic or Latino	79	19	24.05%	4,871	1,052	21.60%	2,355	451	19.15%
Black or African American	18	18	100.00%	98	60	61.22%	-	-	0.00%
American Indian	9	9	100.00%	301	55	18.27%	169	56	33.14%
Asian	5	-	0.00%	24	19	79.17%	-	-	0.00%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	-	-	0.00%	8	-	0.00%	-	-	0.00%
Some other race	44	7	15.91%	316	45	14.24%	149	54	36.24%
Two or more races	19	-	0.00%	220	82	37.27%	205	118	57.56%

Source: US Census Bureau Table: S1701 American Community Survey 5-year Estimates 2018

**Population by Federal Poverty Level,  
San Luis Valley Community Action Agency**

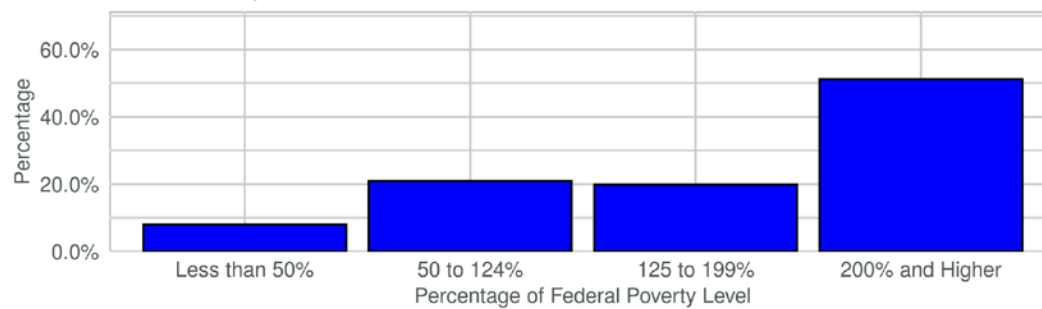
San Luis Valley Community Action Agency



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014-2018 American Community Survey,  
Table Number B17024, Print Date: 07/30/2020

**Population by Federal Poverty Level,  
San Luis Valley Community Action Agency**

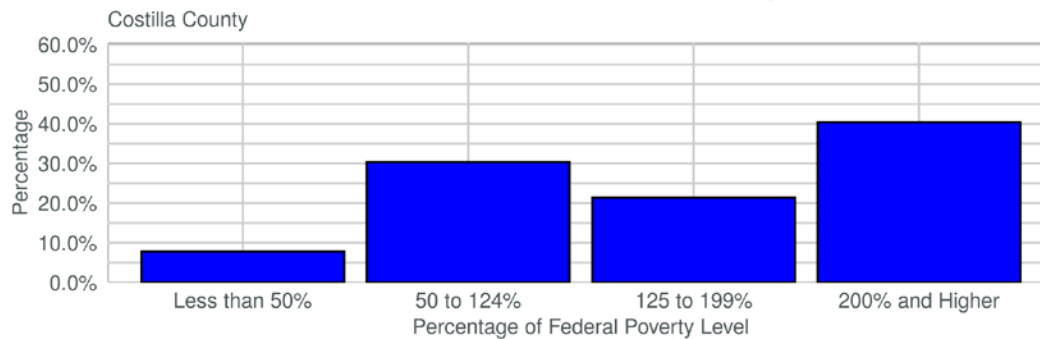
Alamosa County



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014-2018 American Community Survey,  
Table Number B17024, Print Date: 07/30/2020

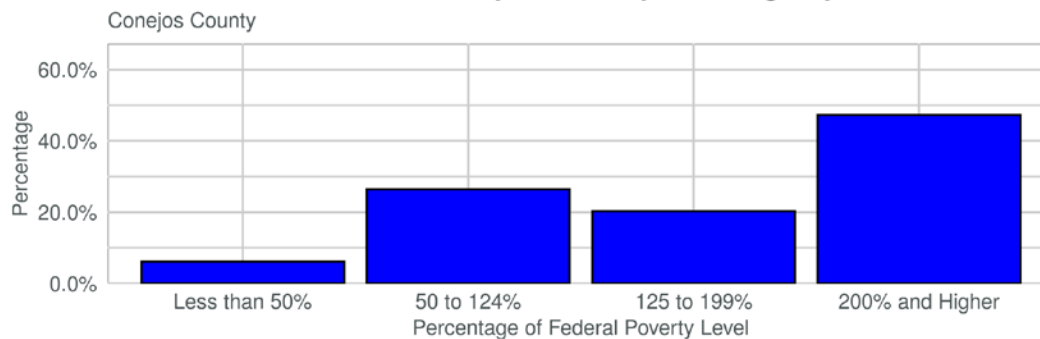


**Population by Federal Poverty Level,  
San Luis Valley Community Action Agency**



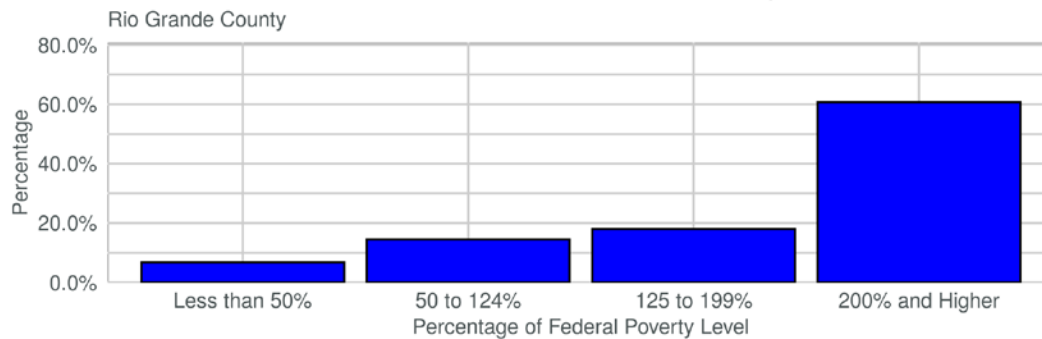
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014-2018 American Community Survey,  
Table Number B17024, Print Date: 07/30/2020

**Population by Federal Poverty Level,  
San Luis Valley Community Action Agency**



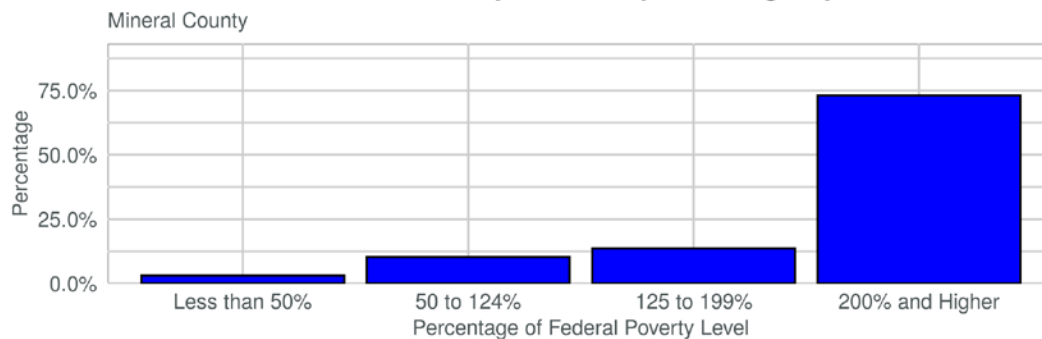
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014-2018 American Community Survey,  
Table Number B17024, Print Date: 07/30/2020

**Population by Federal Poverty Level,  
San Luis Valley Community Action Agency**



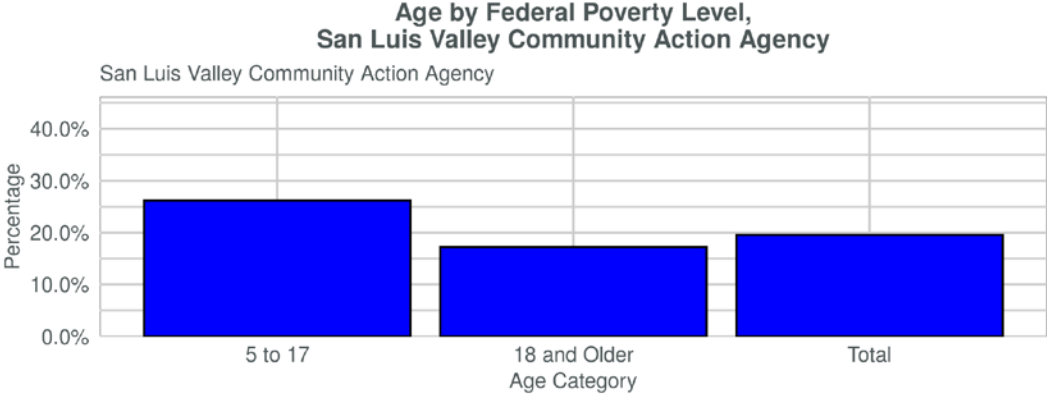
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014-2018 American Community Survey,  
Table Number B17024, Print Date: 07/30/2020

**Population by Federal Poverty Level,  
San Luis Valley Community Action Agency**



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014-2018 American Community Survey,  
Table Number B17024, Print Date: 07/30/2020

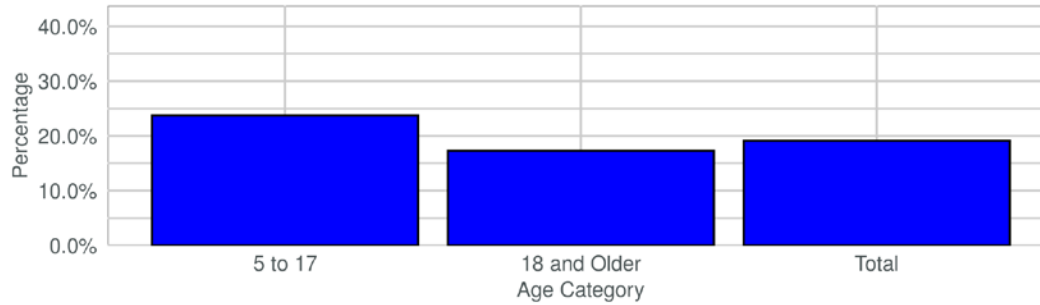
Population Profile: Age by Federal Poverty Level



Source: U.S. Census Bureau Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates (SAIPE)  
, Print Date: 07/30/2020

**Age by Federal Poverty Level,  
San Luis Valley Community Action Agency**

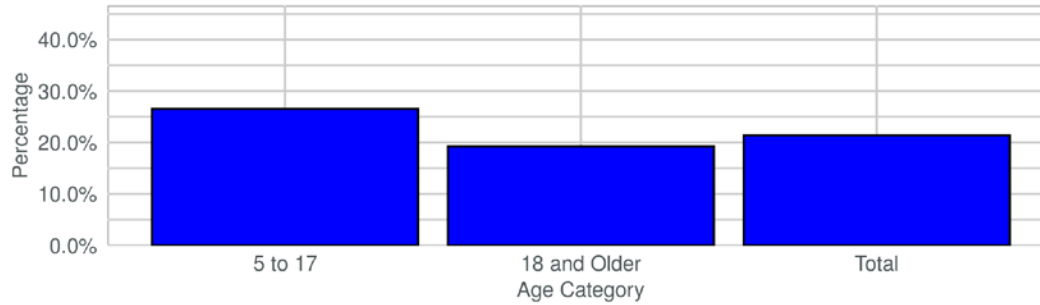
Alamosa County



Source: U.S. Census Bureau Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates (SAIPE)  
, Print Date: 07/30/2020

**Age by Federal Poverty Level,  
San Luis Valley Community Action Agency**

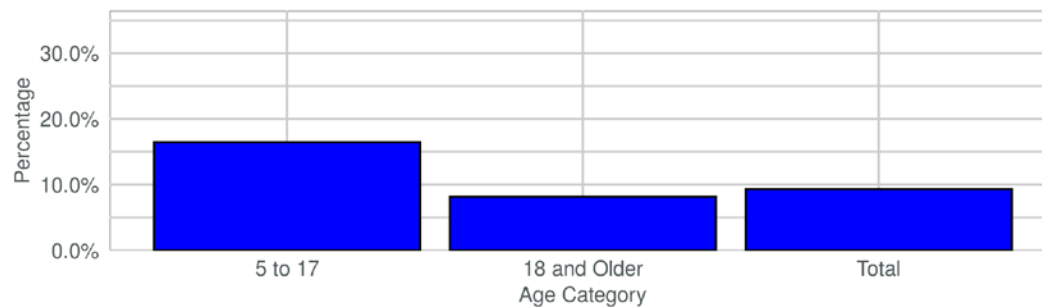
Conejos County



Source: U.S. Census Bureau Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates (SAIPE)  
, Print Date: 07/30/2020

**Age by Federal Poverty Level,  
San Luis Valley Community Action Agency**

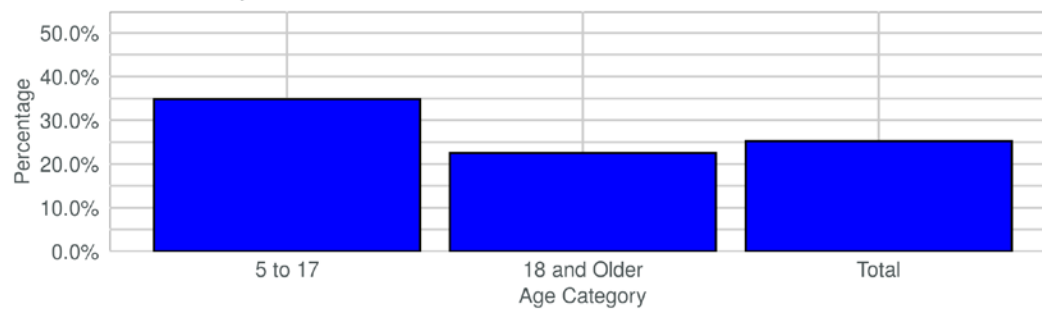
Mineral County



Source: U.S. Census Bureau Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates (SAIPE)  
, Print Date: 07/30/2020

**Age by Federal Poverty Level,  
San Luis Valley Community Action Agency**

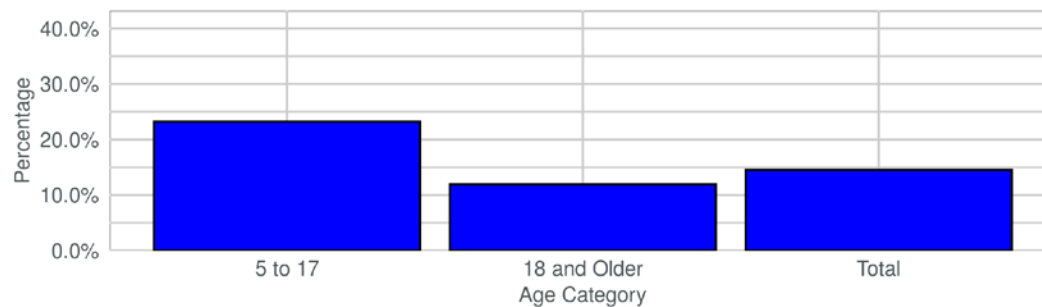
Costilla County



Source: U.S. Census Bureau Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates (SAIPE)  
, Print Date: 07/30/2020

**Age by Federal Poverty Level,  
San Luis Valley Community Action Agency**

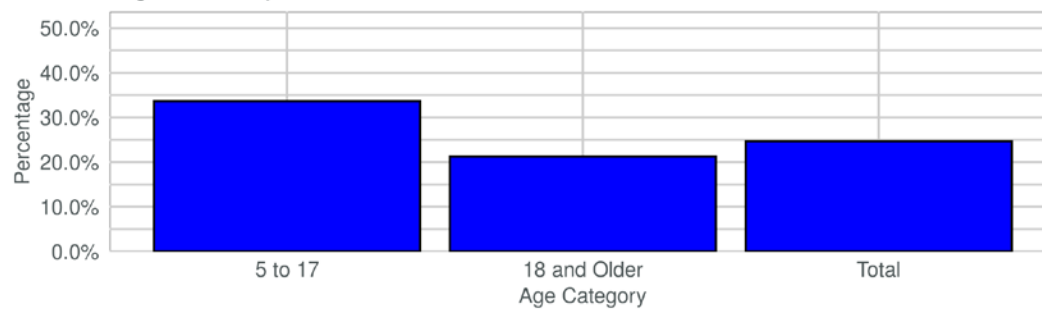
Rio Grande County



Source: U.S. Census Bureau Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates (SAIPE)  
, Print Date: 07/30/2020

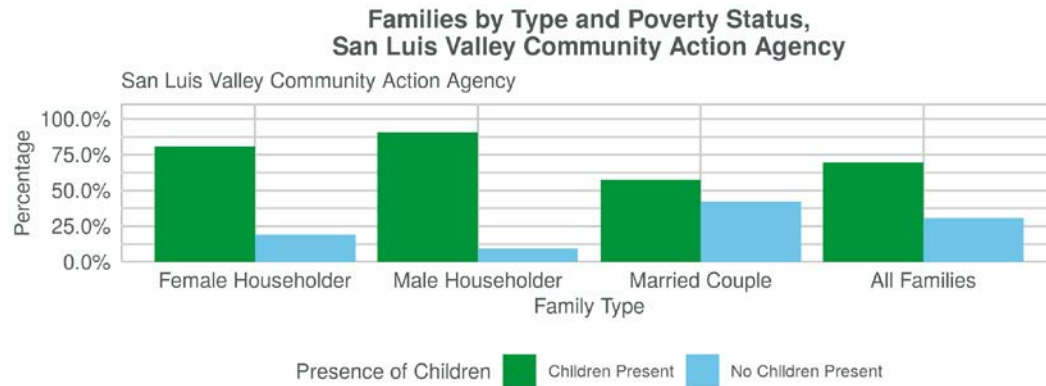
**Age by Federal Poverty Level,  
San Luis Valley Community Action Agency**

Saguache County

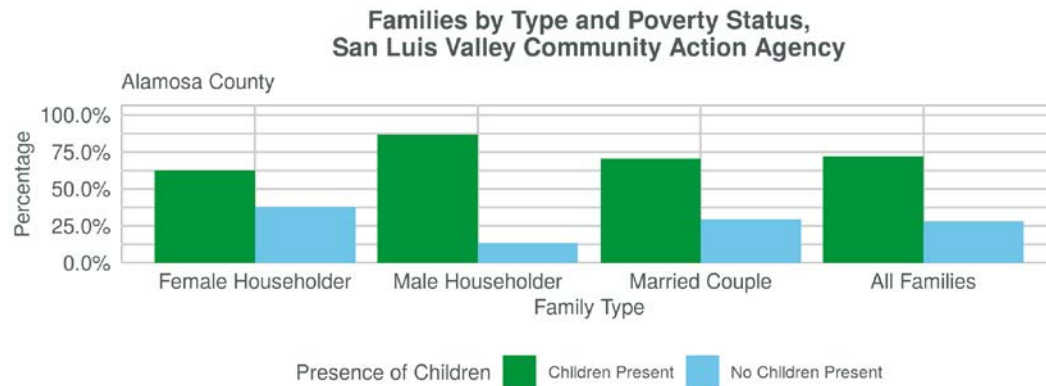


Source: U.S. Census Bureau Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates (SAIPE)  
, Print Date: 07/30/2020

Population Profile: Households in Poverty by Family Type

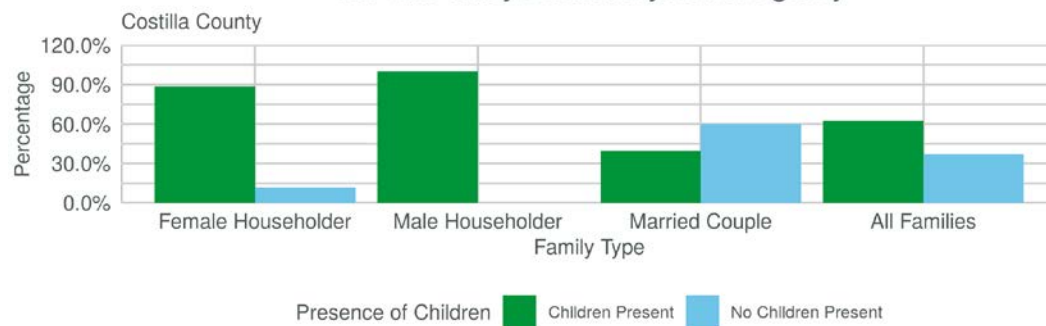


Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014-2018 American Community Survey,  
Table Number B17010, Print Date: 07/30/2020



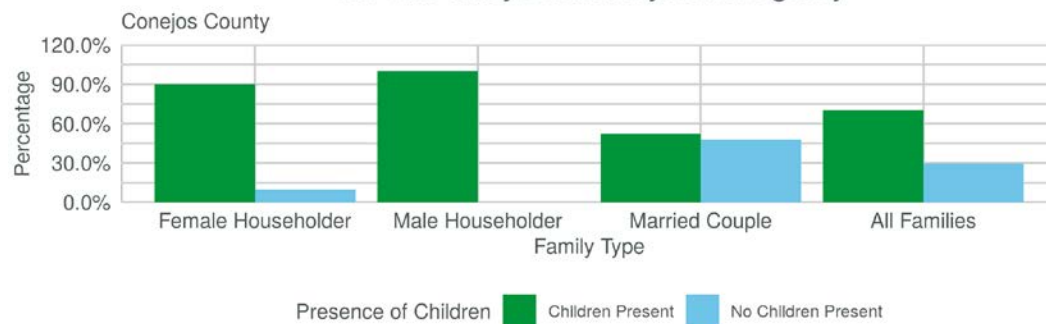
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014-2018 American Community Survey,  
Table Number B17010, Print Date: 07/30/2020

### Families by Type and Poverty Status, San Luis Valley Community Action Agency



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014-2018 American Community Survey,  
Table Number B17010, Print Date: 07/30/2020

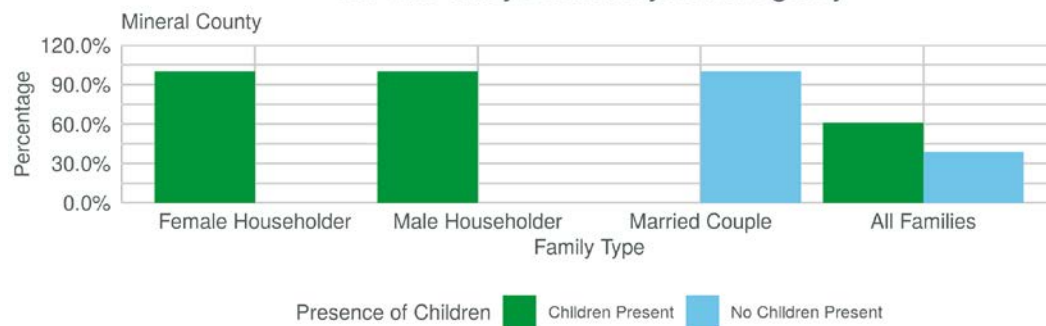
### Families by Type and Poverty Status, San Luis Valley Community Action Agency



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014-2018 American Community Survey,  
Table Number B17010, Print Date: 07/30/2020

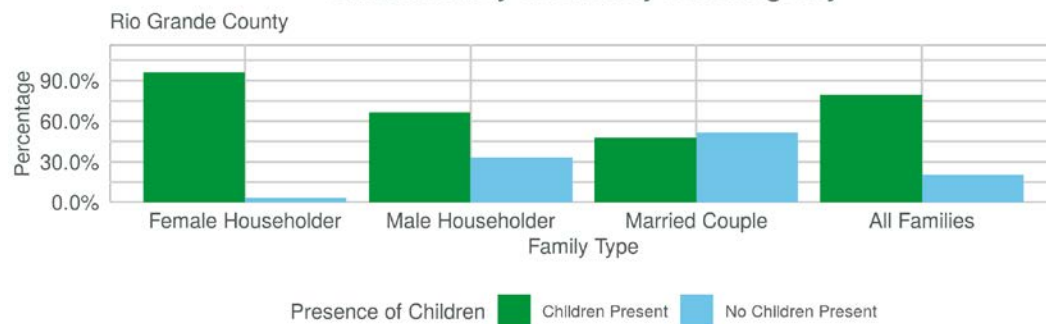


### Families by Type and Poverty Status, San Luis Valley Community Action Agency



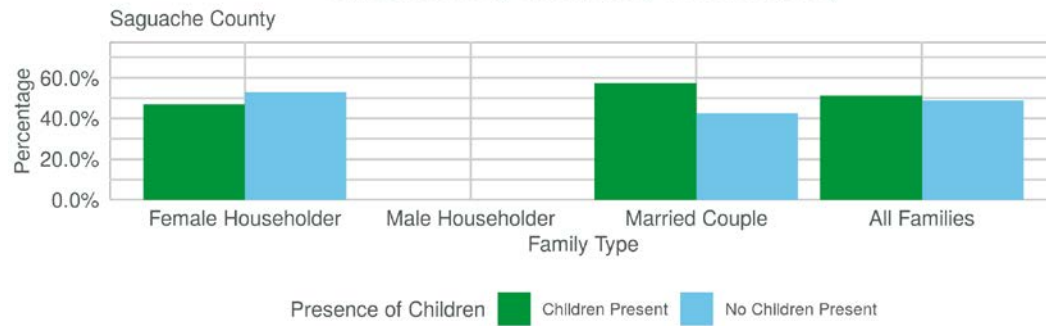
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014-2018 American Community Survey,  
Table Number B17010, Print Date: 07/30/2020

### Families by Type and Poverty Status, San Luis Valley Community Action Agency



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014-2018 American Community Survey,  
Table Number B17010, Print Date: 07/30/2020

# **Families by Type and Poverty Status, San Luis Valley Community Action Agency**



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014-2018 American Community Survey,  
Table Number B17010, Print Date: 07/30/2020

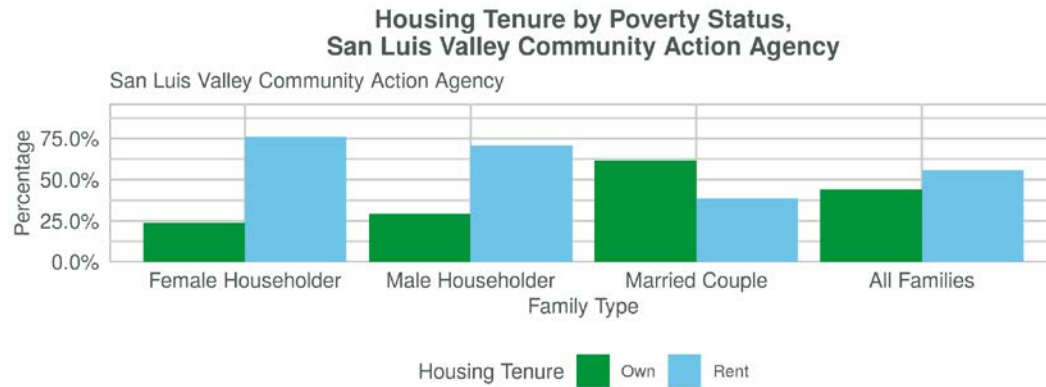
Population Profile: Percent of Children under 18 in Poverty

**Percent of Children under 18 in Poverty**

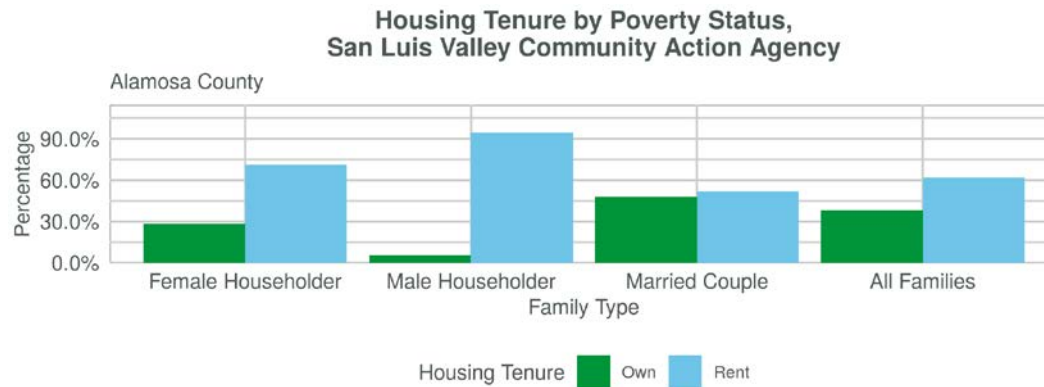
FIPS	Geographic Area	Percent	Margin of Error (+/-)
000	Colorado	14.54%	0.38%
003	Alamosa County	33.81%	8.81%
021	Conejos County	26.99%	7.69%
023	Costilla County	49.92%	11.88%
079	Mineral County	17.07%	19.51%
105	Rio Grande County	24.07%	9.94%
109	Saguache County	27.18%	9.01%

Source: US Census Bureau Table S1701 American Community Survey 5-Year

## Population Profile: Housing Tenure by Poverty Status



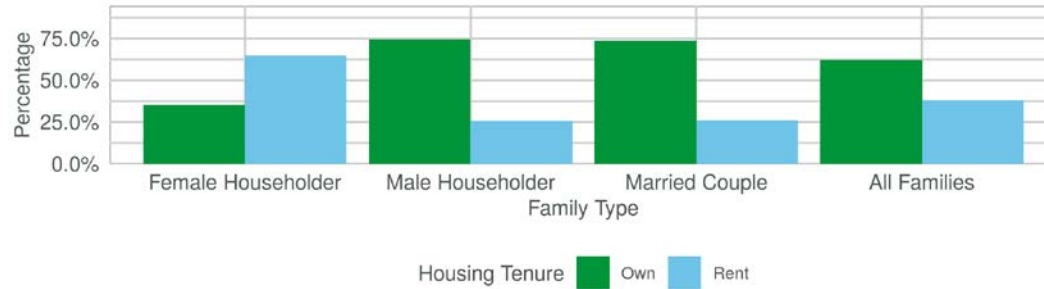
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014-2018 American Community Survey,  
Table Number B17010, Print Date: 07/30/2020



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014-2018 American Community Survey,  
Table Number B17010, Print Date: 07/30/2020

### Housing Tenure by Poverty Status, San Luis Valley Community Action Agency

Conejos County



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014-2018 American Community Survey,  
Table Number B17010, Print Date: 07/30/2020

### Housing Tenure by Poverty Status, San Luis Valley Community Action Agency

Costilla County



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014-2018 American Community Survey,  
Table Number B17010, Print Date: 07/30/2020

### Housing Tenure by Poverty Status, San Luis Valley Community Action Agency



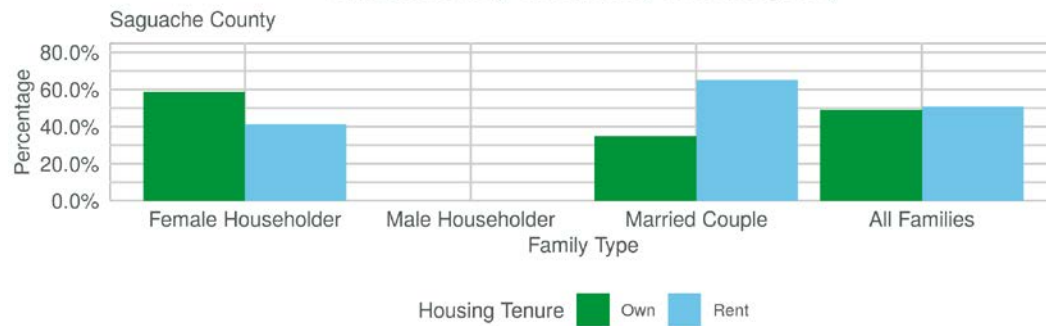
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014-2018 American Community Survey,  
Table Number B17010, Print Date: 07/30/2020

### Housing Tenure by Poverty Status, San Luis Valley Community Action Agency



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014-2018 American Community Survey,  
Table Number B17010, Print Date: 07/30/2020

### Housing Tenure by Poverty Status, San Luis Valley Community Action Agency

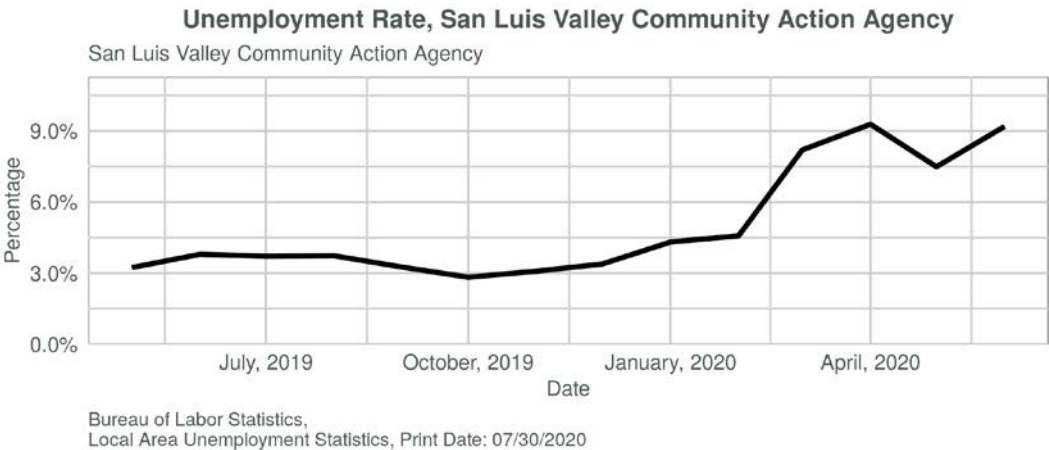


Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014-2018 American Community Survey,  
Table Number B17010, Print Date: 07/30/2020

# Employment

## Employment: Current Unemployment

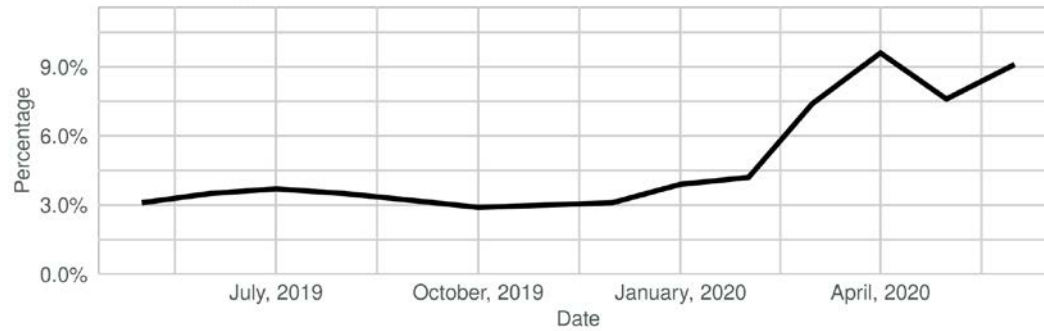
Labor force, employment, and unemployment data for each county in the 6 county report area is provided in tables below.





### Unemployment Rate, San Luis Valley Community Action Agency

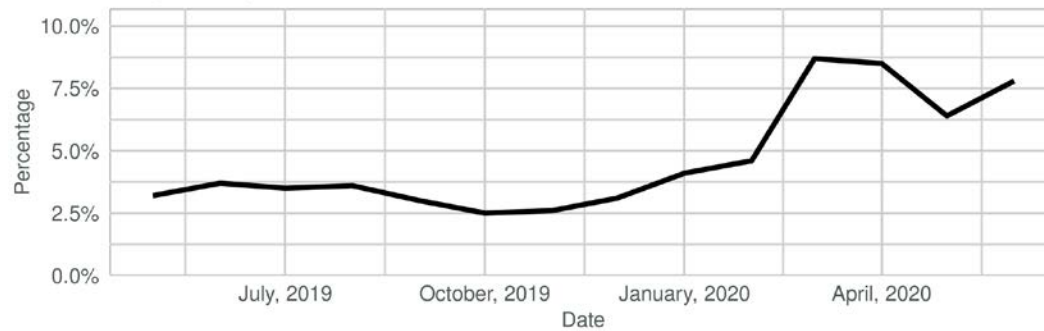
Alamosa County



Bureau of Labor Statistics,  
Local Area Unemployment Statistics, Print Date: 07/30/2020

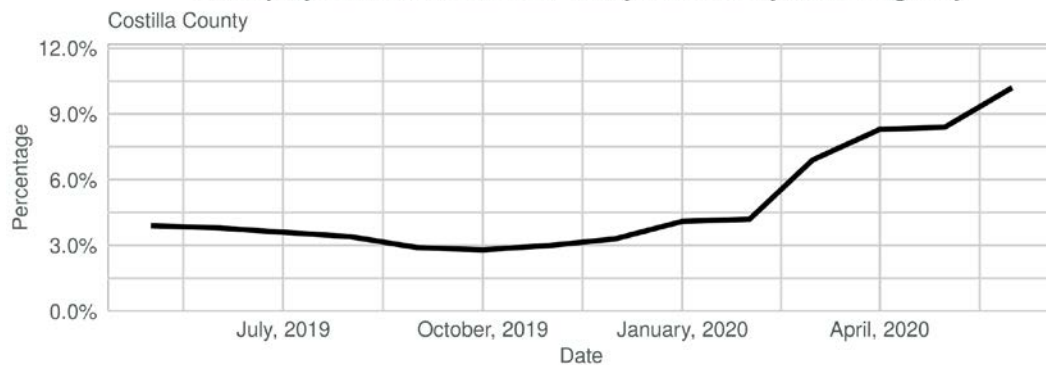
### Unemployment Rate, San Luis Valley Community Action Agency

Conejos County



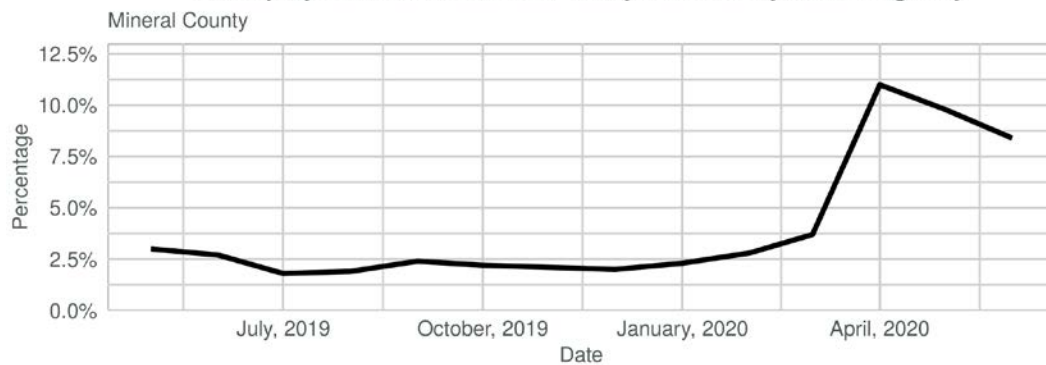
Bureau of Labor Statistics,  
Local Area Unemployment Statistics, Print Date: 07/30/2020

### Unemployment Rate, San Luis Valley Community Action Agency



Bureau of Labor Statistics,  
Local Area Unemployment Statistics, Print Date: 07/30/2020

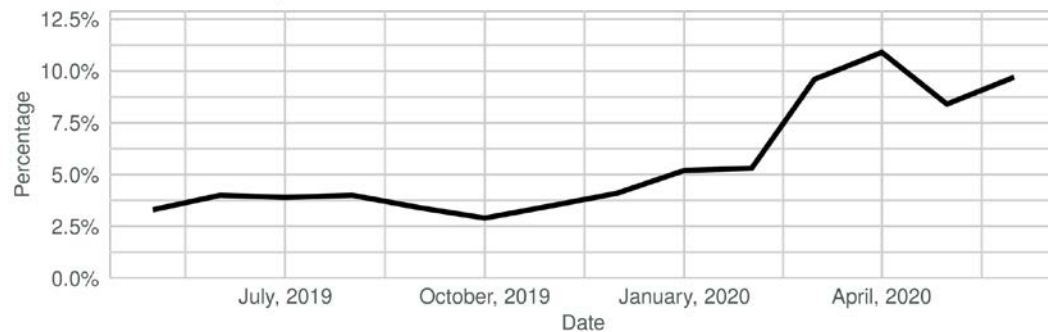
### Unemployment Rate, San Luis Valley Community Action Agency



Bureau of Labor Statistics,  
Local Area Unemployment Statistics, Print Date: 07/30/2020

### Unemployment Rate, San Luis Valley Community Action Agency

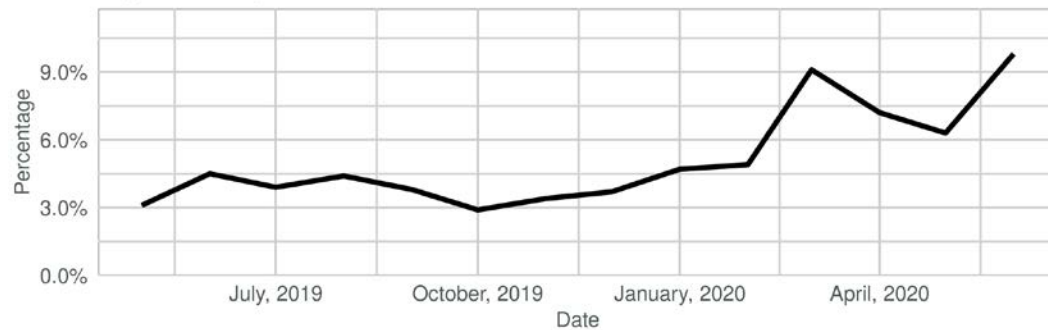
Rio Grande County



Bureau of Labor Statistics,  
Local Area Unemployment Statistics, Print Date: 07/30/2020

### Unemployment Rate, San Luis Valley Community Action Agency

Saguache County



Bureau of Labor Statistics,  
Local Area Unemployment Statistics, Print Date: 07/30/2020

### Employment: Household Income

Median annual household incomes in the 6 county report area are shown in the table below. According to the U.S. Census, Median Annual Household Incomes ranged from a low of \$29,000 in Costilla County, Colorado to a high of \$50,385 in Mineral County, Colorado in 2017.

**Median Annual Household Income, 2017**

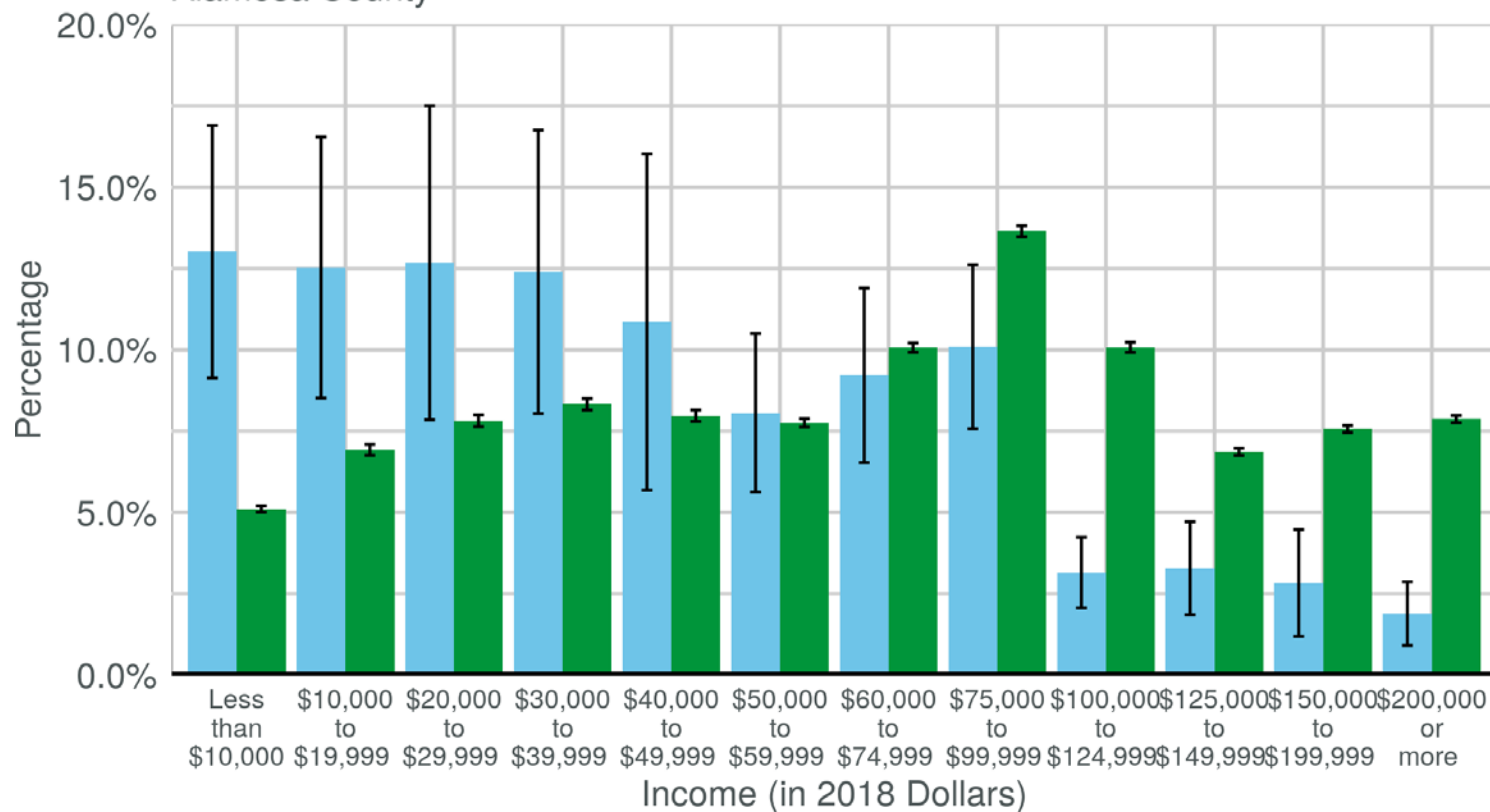
Geographic Area	Median Household Income (\$)
Alamosa County, Colorado	36,315
Conejos County, Colorado	35,657
Costilla County, Colorado	29,000
Mineral County, Colorado	50,385
Rio Grande County, Colorado	38,534
Saguache County, Colorado	34,765
Colorado	65,458

Source: *US Census Bureau Table: B19013 2013-2017 American Community Survey 5-year Estimates*

The household income distribution plot compares each of the six counties to the statewide household incomes. Household income comes primarily from earnings at work, but government transfer payments such as Social Security and unearned income from dividends, interest and rent are also included. Income and education levels are highly correlated; areas that have lower educational attainment than the state will typically have lower household incomes.

## Household Income Distribution

Alamosa County

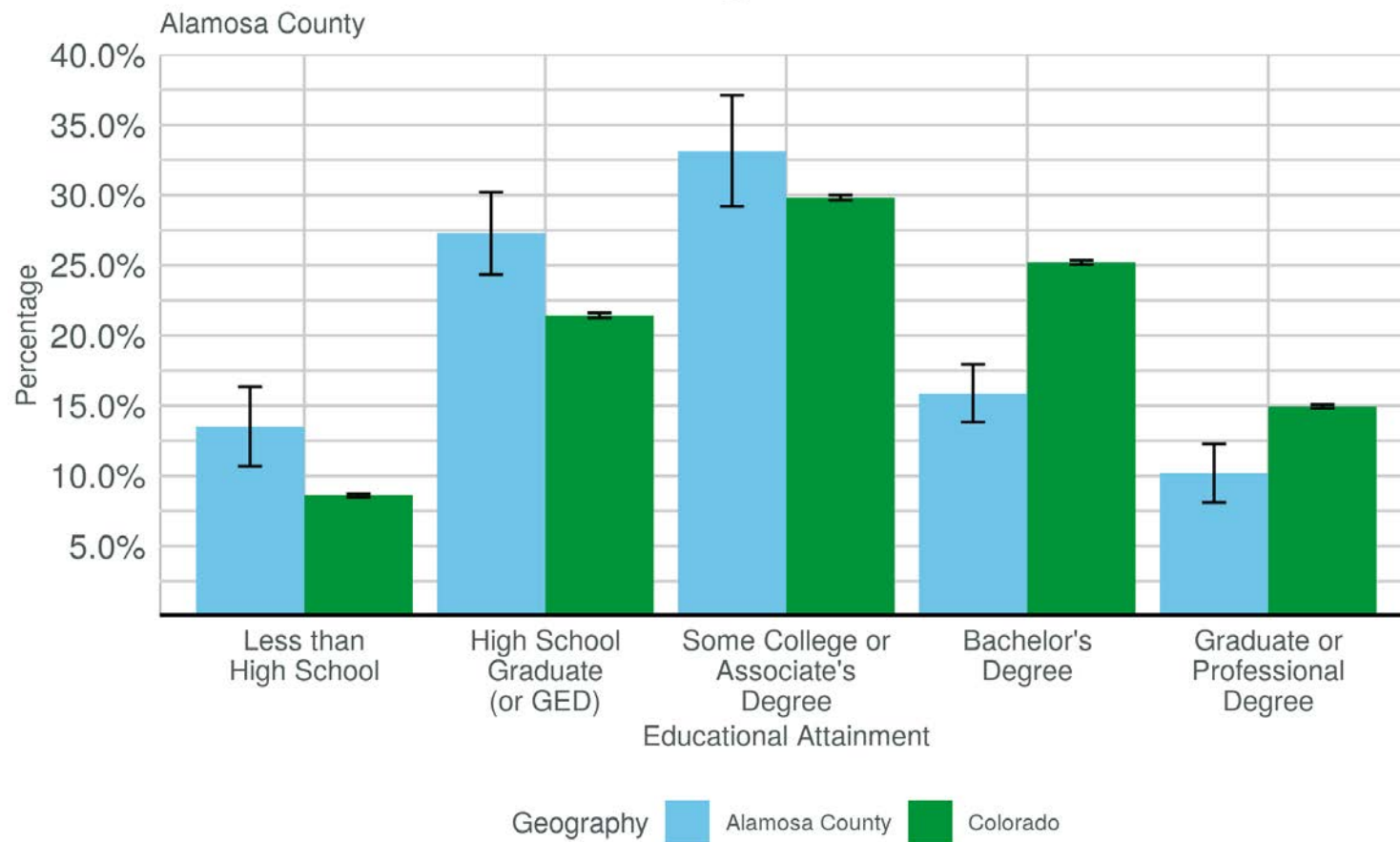


Geography ■ Alamosa County ■ Colorado

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014-2018 American Community Survey, Print Date: 08/03/2020

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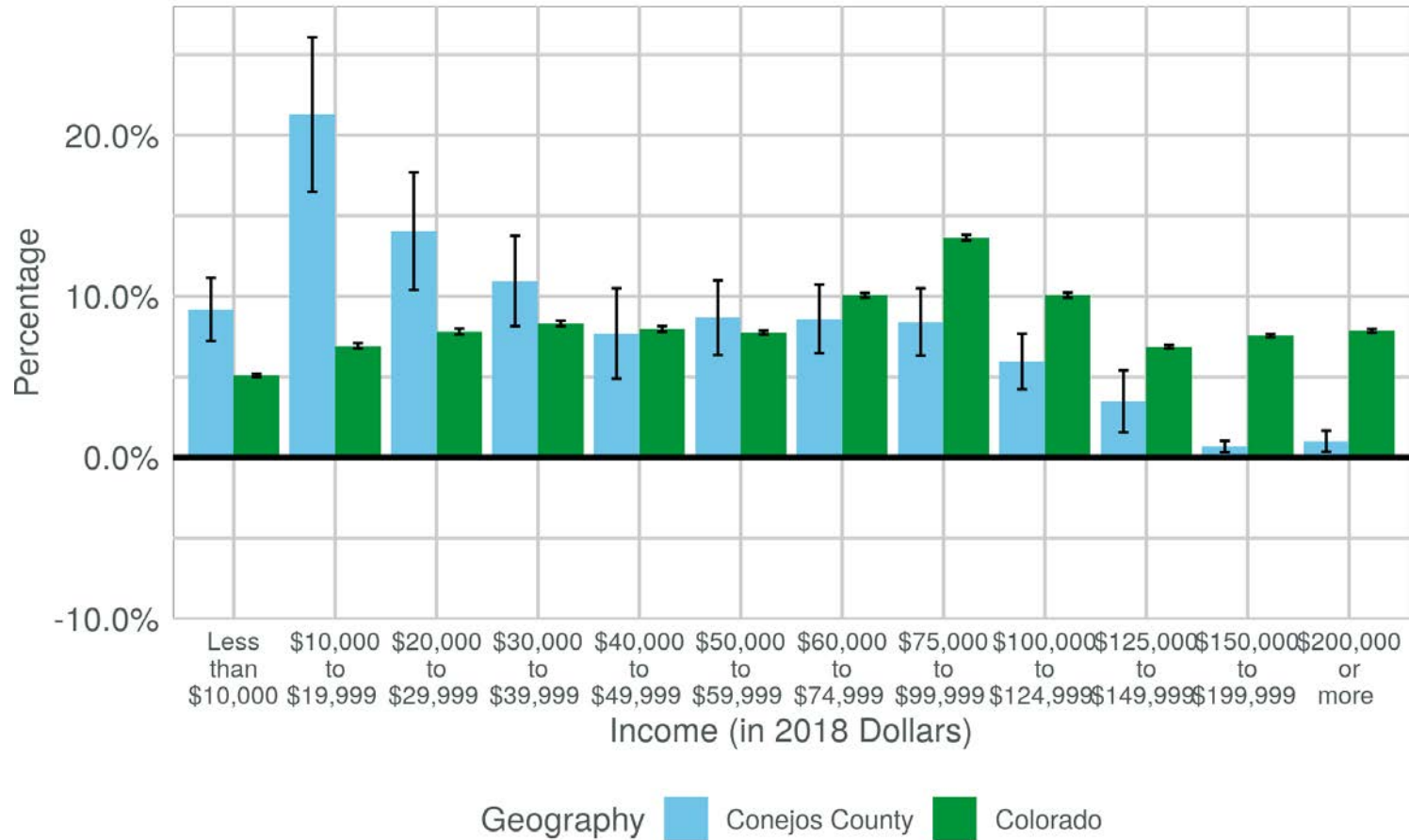
## Educational Attainment, Persons Age 25 and Older



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014-2018 American Community Survey, Print Date: 08/03/2020

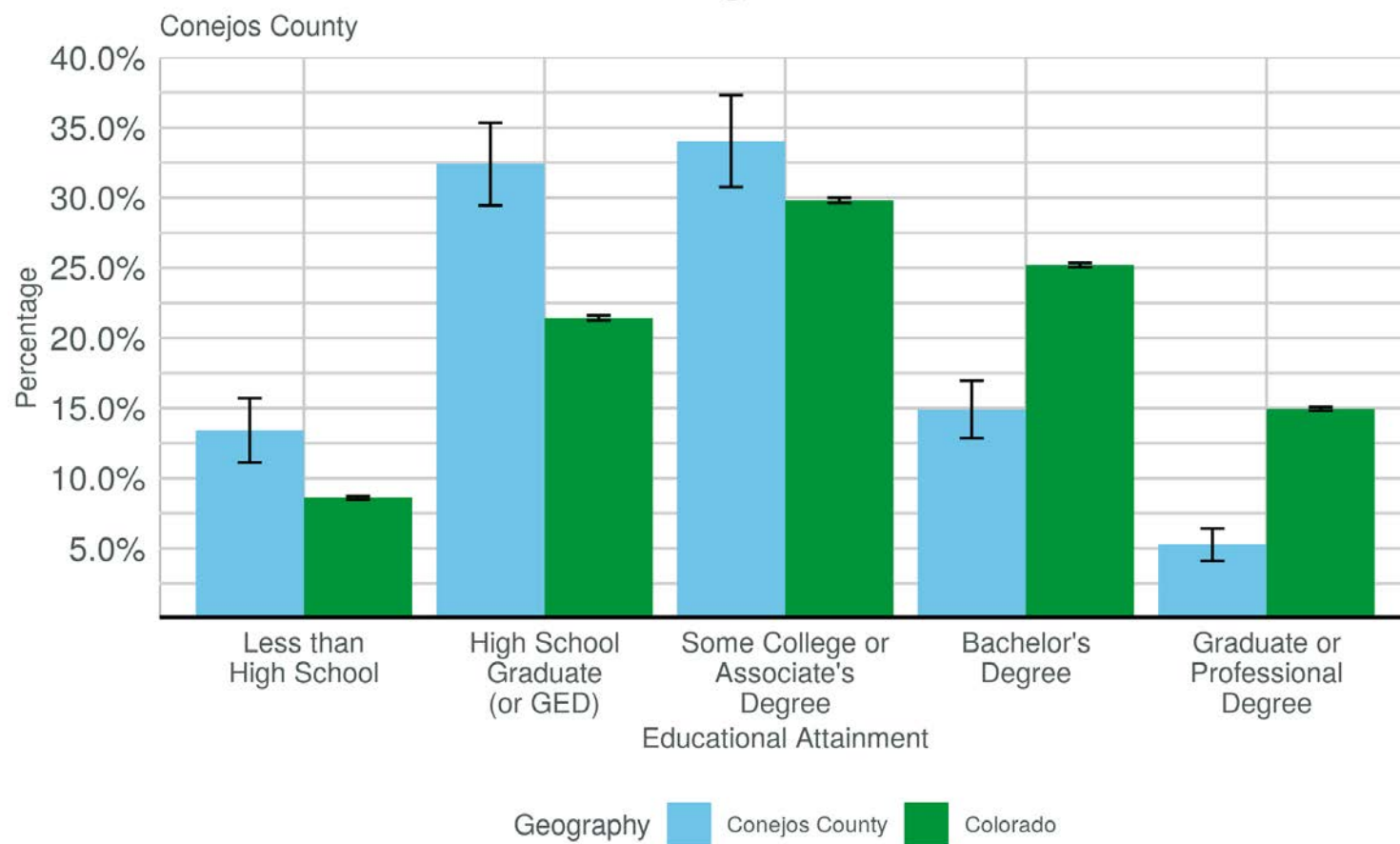
# Household Income Distribution

Conejos County



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014-2018 American Community Survey, Print Date: 08/05/2020

## Educational Attainment, Persons Age 25 and Older

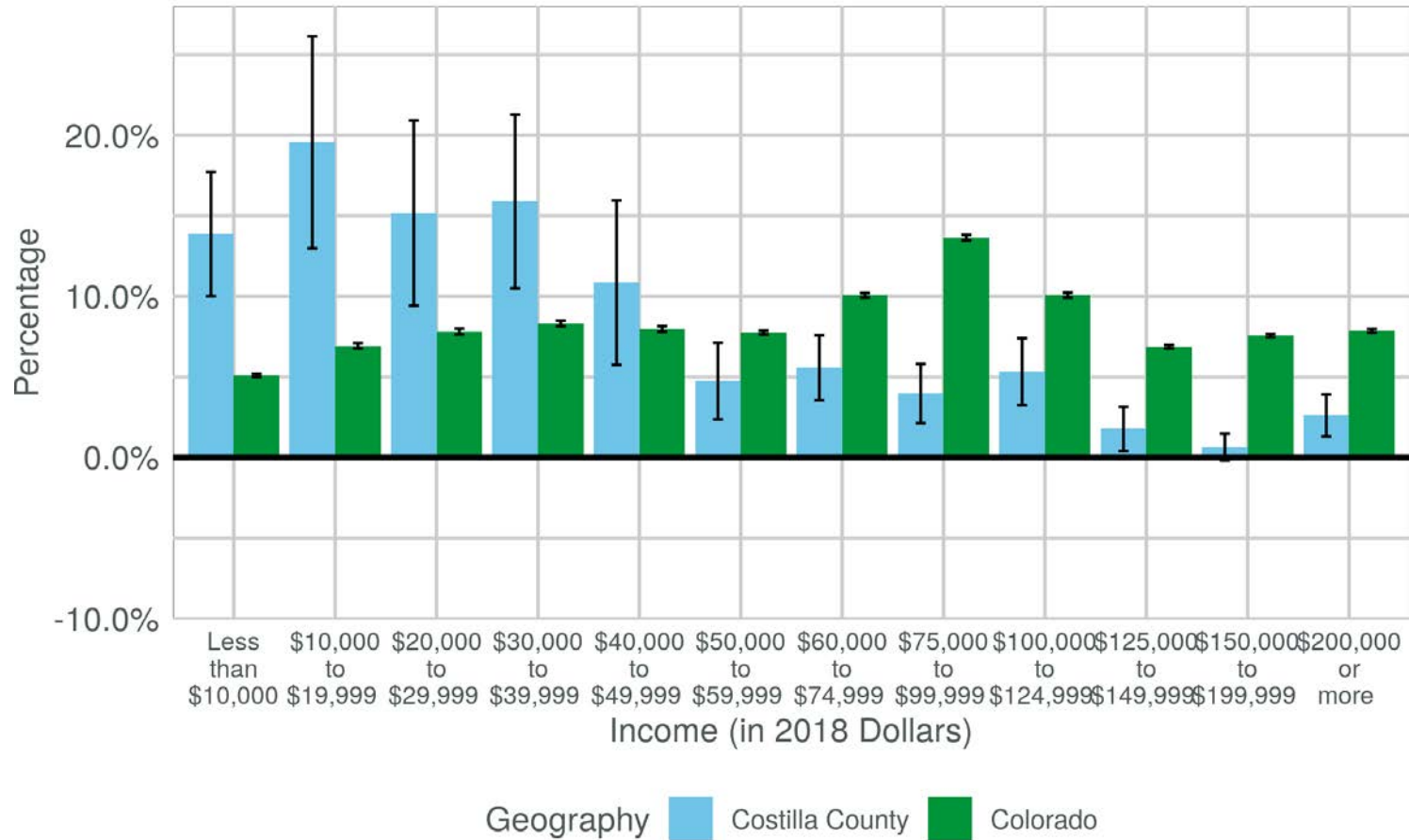


Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014-2018 American Community Survey, Print Date: 08/05/2020



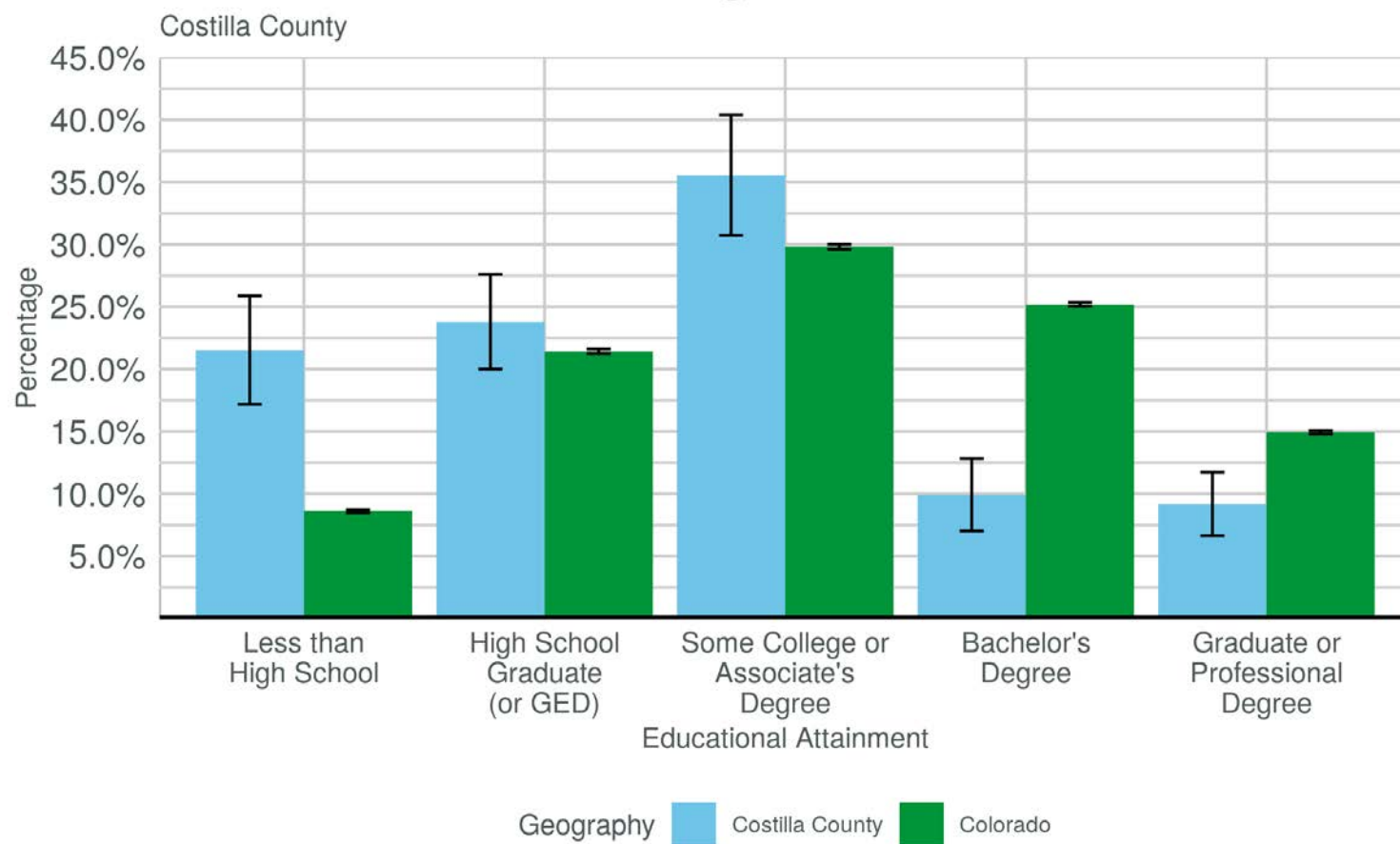
## Household Income Distribution

Costilla County



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014-2018 American Community Survey, Print Date: 08/05/2020

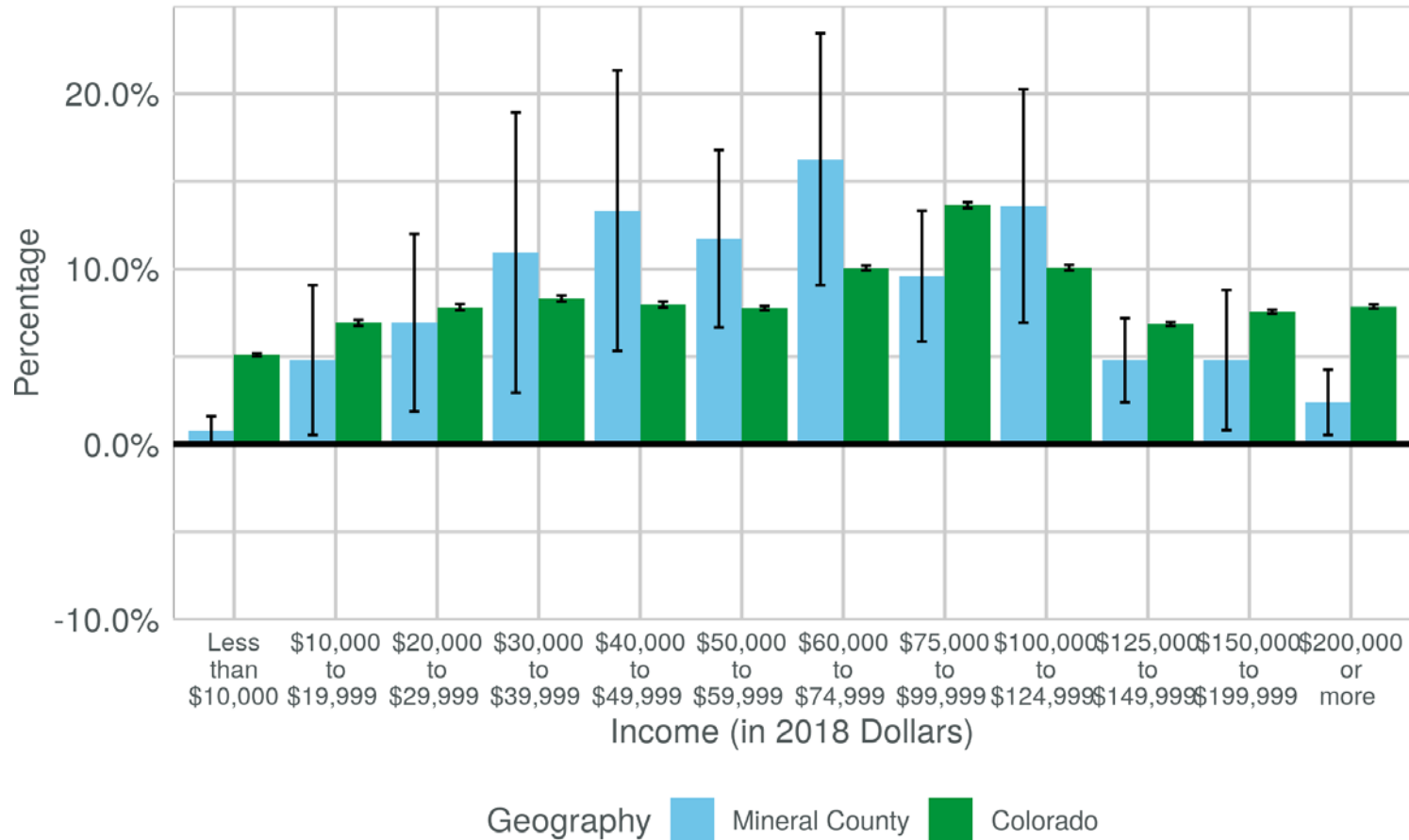
## Educational Attainment, Persons Age 25 and Older



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014-2018 American Community Survey, Print Date: 08/05/2020

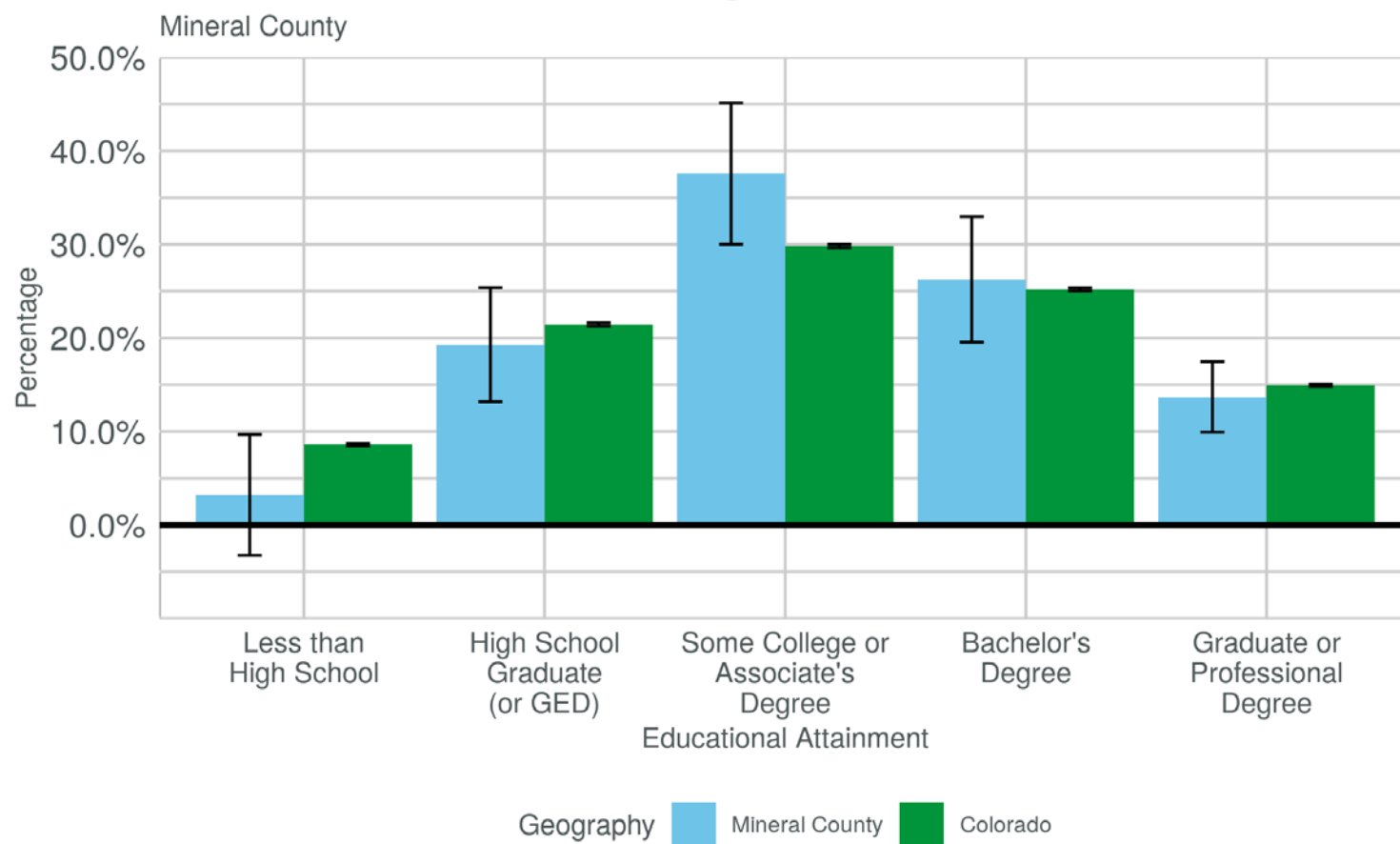
# Household Income Distribution

Mineral County



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014-2018 American Community Survey, Print Date: 08/05/2020

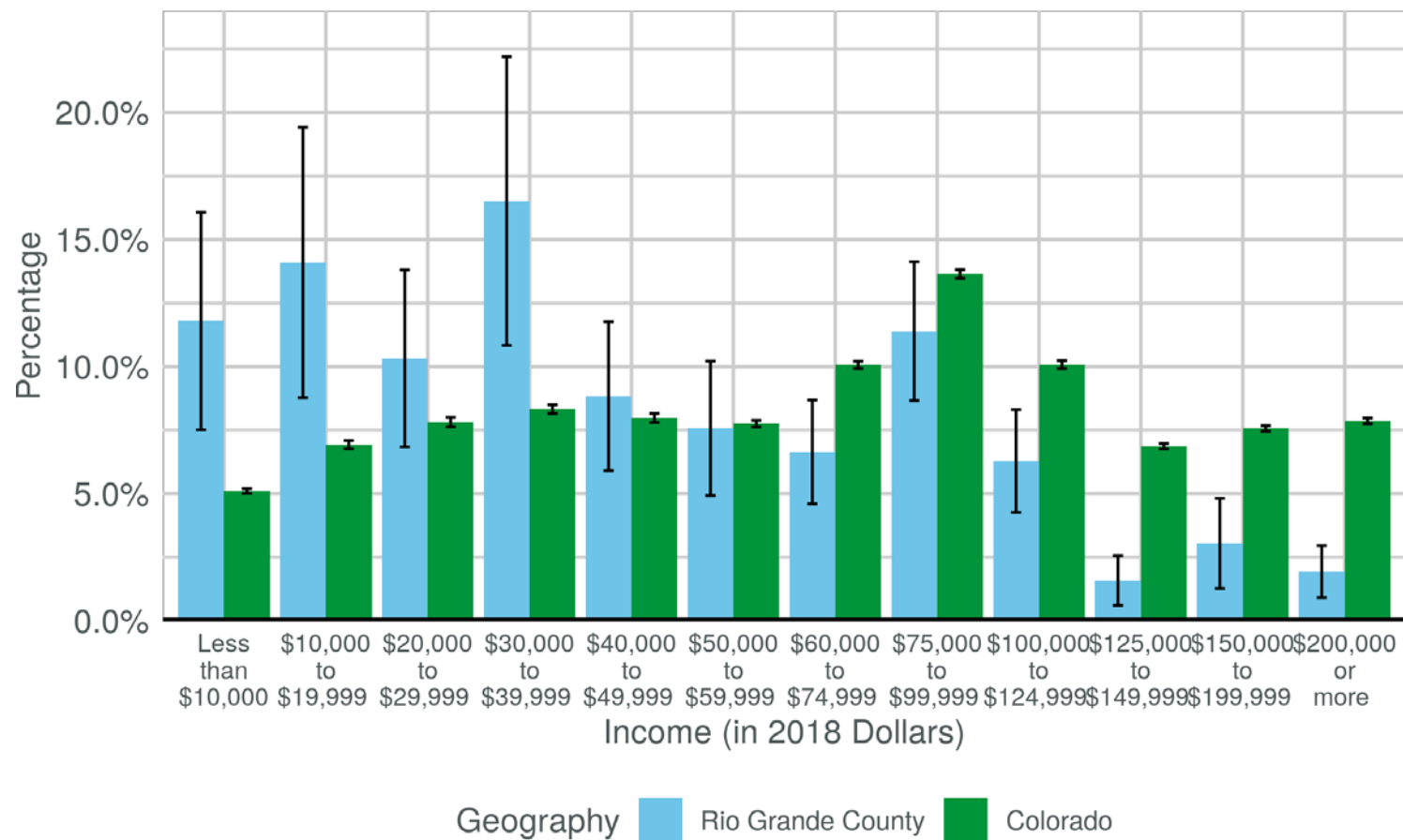
## Educational Attainment, Persons Age 25 and Older



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014-2018 American Community Survey, Print Date: 08/05/2020

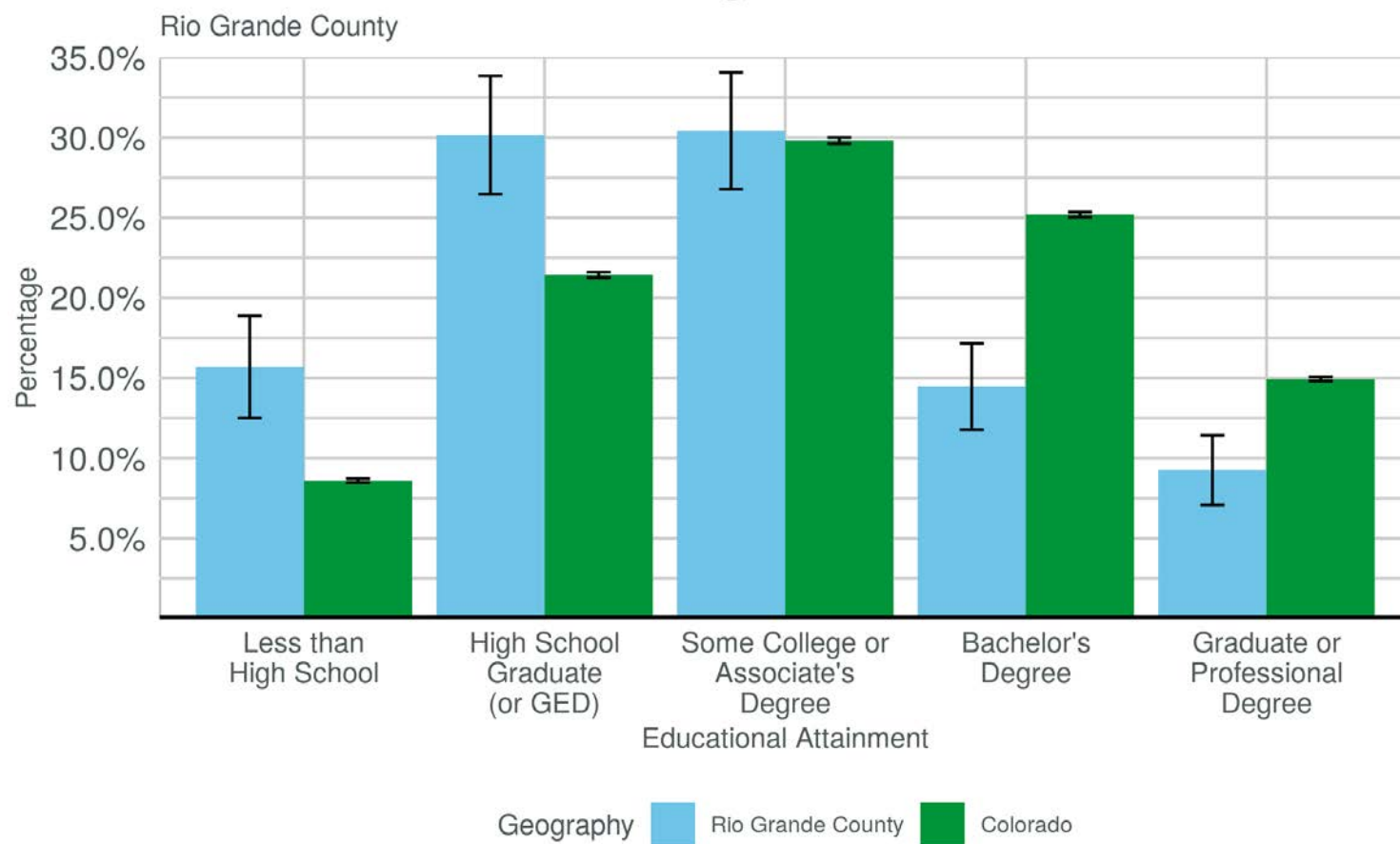
## Household Income Distribution

Rio Grande County



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014-2018 American Community Survey, Print Date: 08/05/2020

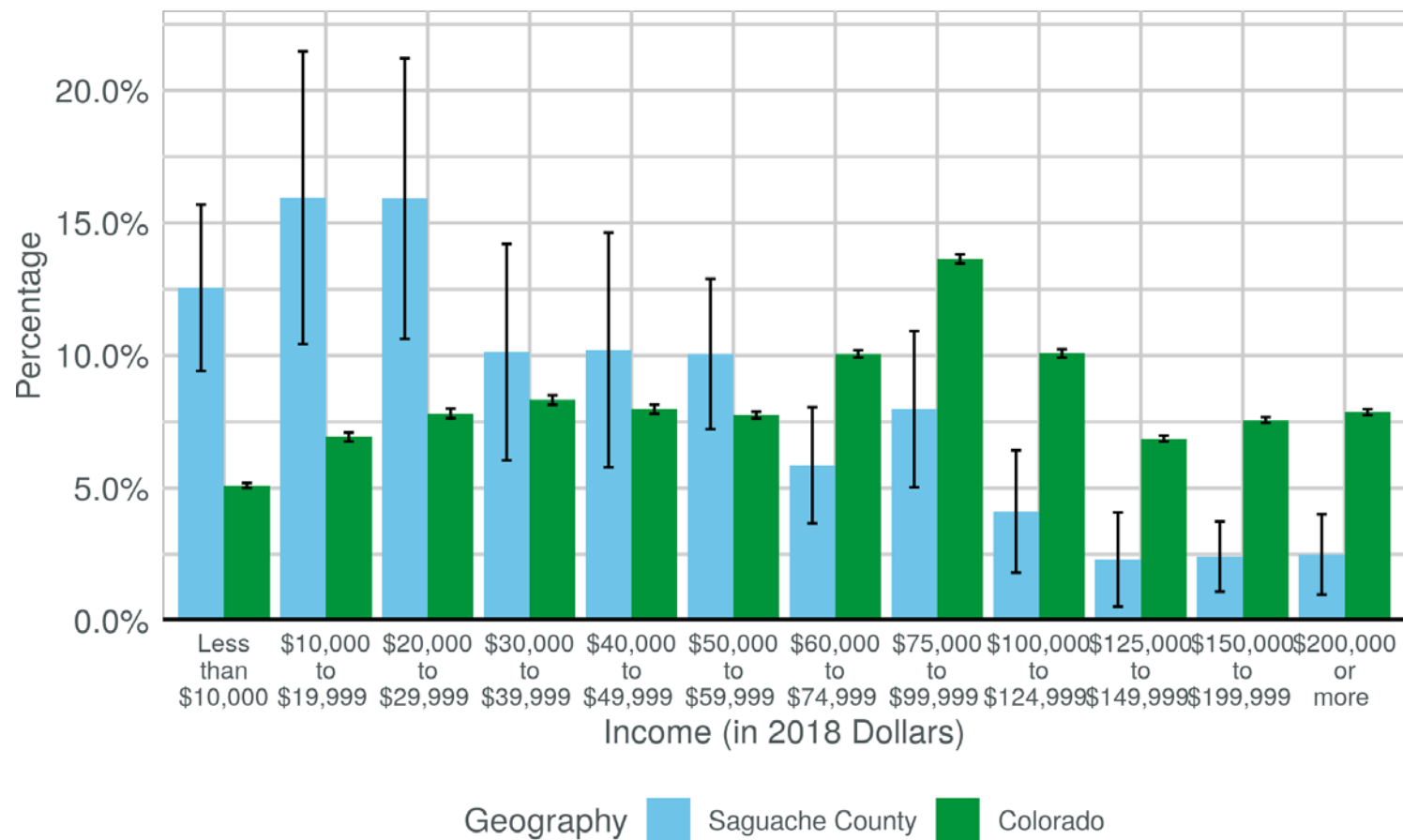
## Educational Attainment, Persons Age 25 and Older



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014-2018 American Community Survey, Print Date: 08/05/2020

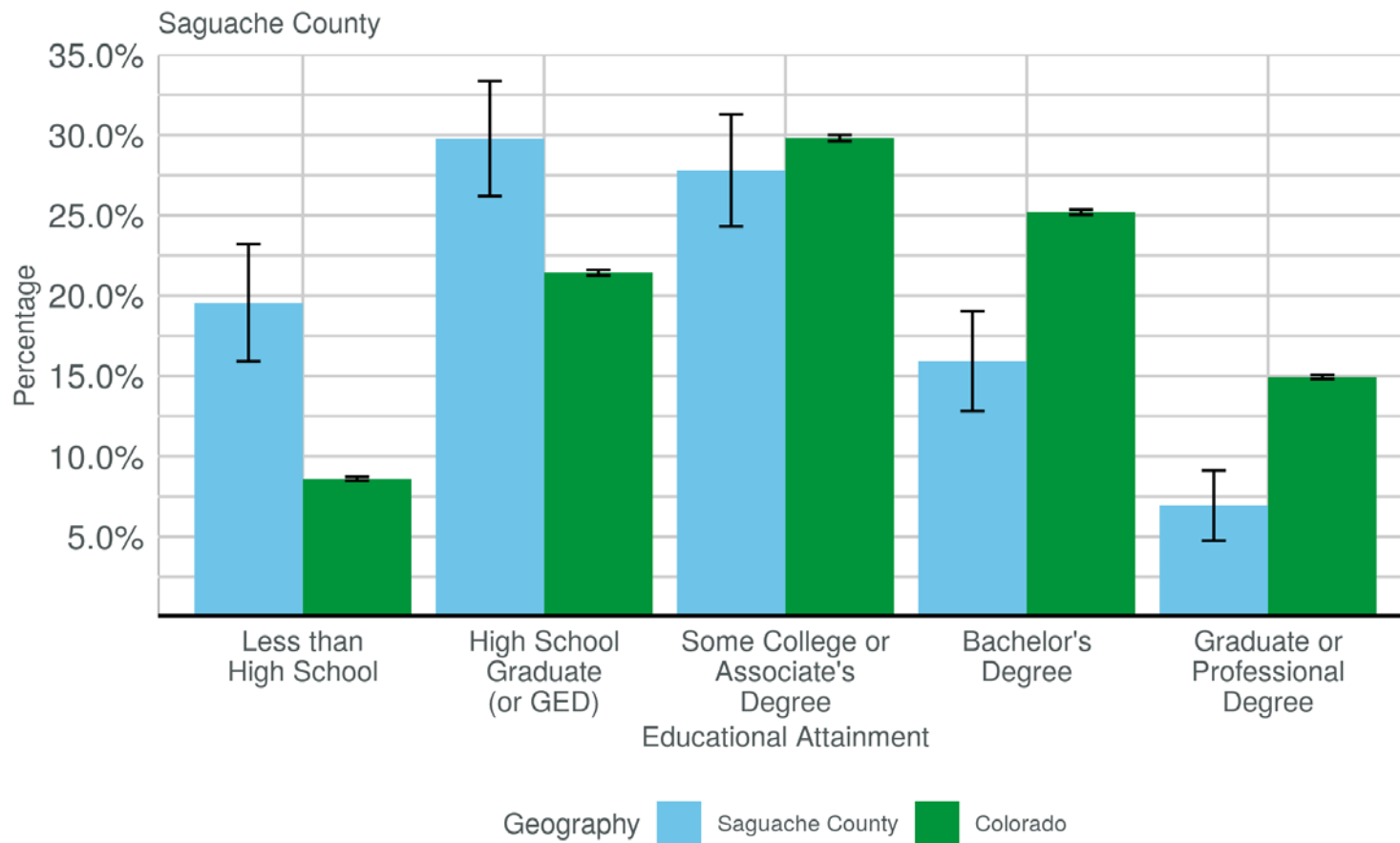
## Household Income Distribution

Saguache County



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014-2018 American Community Survey, Print Date: 08/05/2020

## Educational Attainment, Persons Age 25 and Older

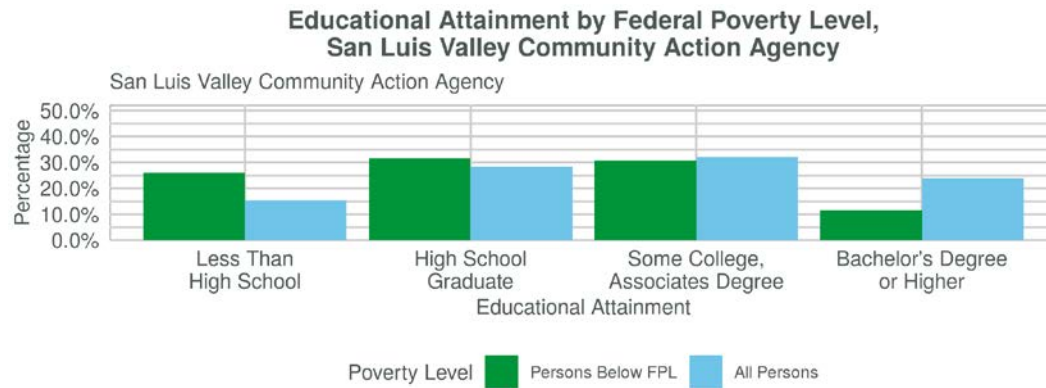


Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014-2018 American Community Survey, Print Date: 08/05/2020

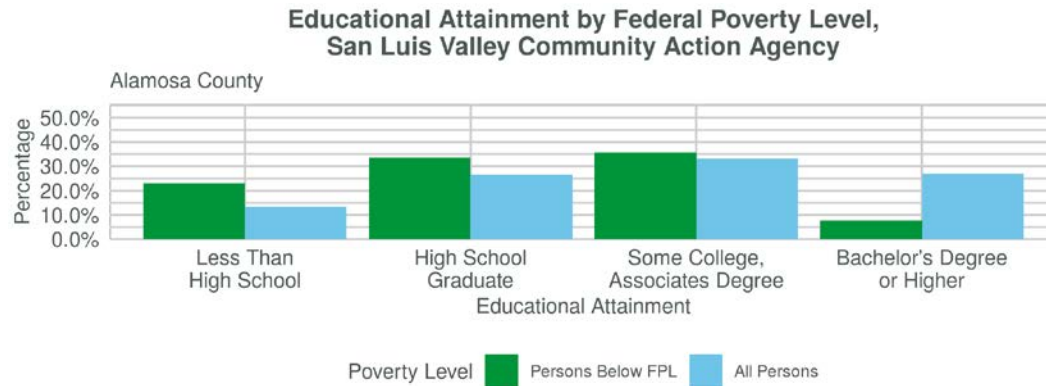


### Employment: Education by Federal Poverty Level

The tables shown below show the Education Attainment between all persons and persons below the Federal Poverty Level.

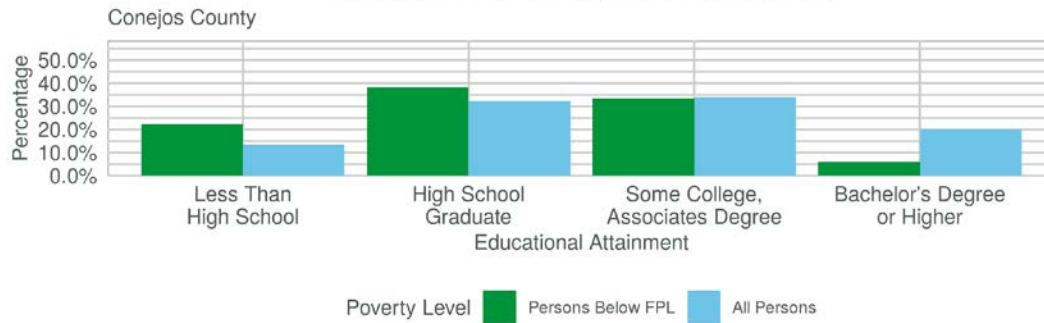


Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014-2018 American Community Survey,  
Table Number B17003, Print Date: 07/30/2020



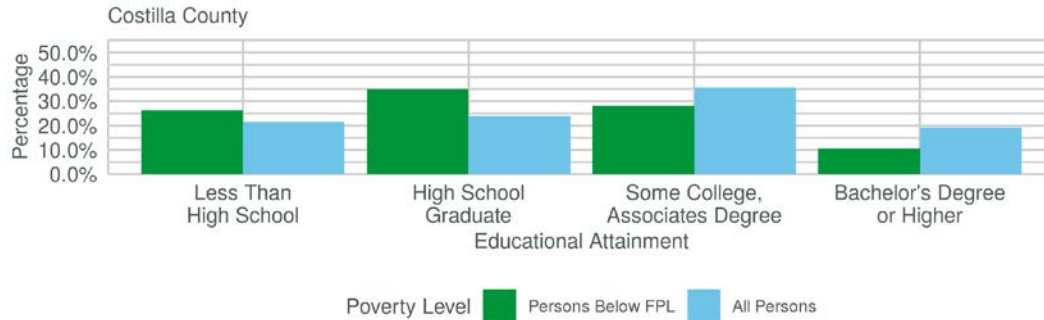
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014-2018 American Community Survey,  
Table Number B17003, Print Date: 07/30/2020

### Educational Attainment by Federal Poverty Level, San Luis Valley Community Action Agency



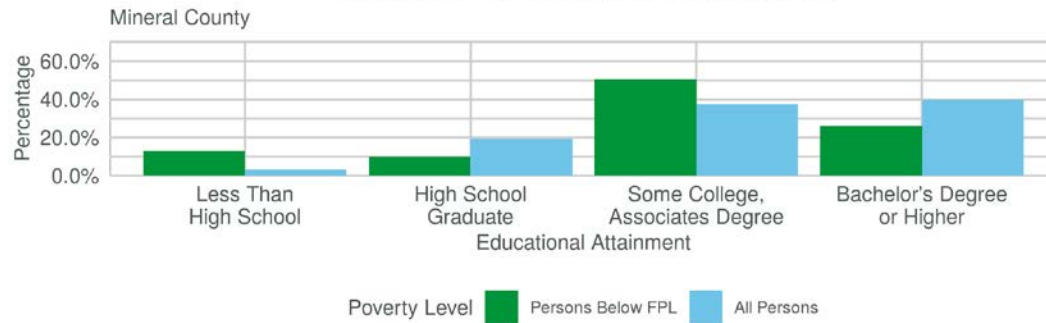
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014-2018 American Community Survey,  
Table Number B17003, Print Date: 07/30/2020

### Educational Attainment by Federal Poverty Level, San Luis Valley Community Action Agency



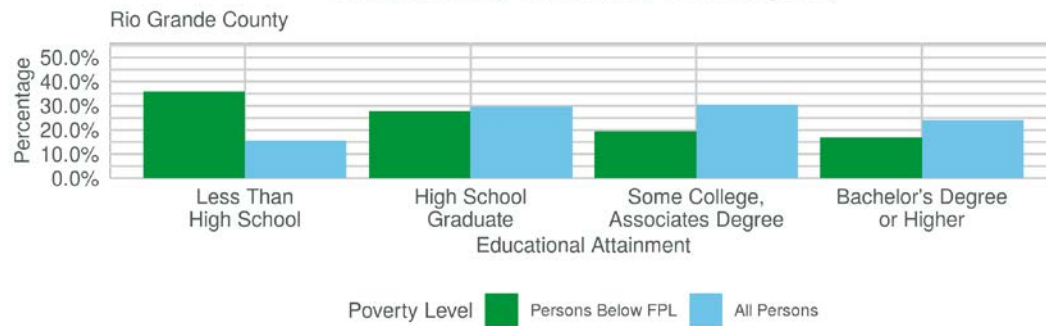
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014-2018 American Community Survey,  
Table Number B17003, Print Date: 07/30/2020

### Educational Attainment by Federal Poverty Level, San Luis Valley Community Action Agency



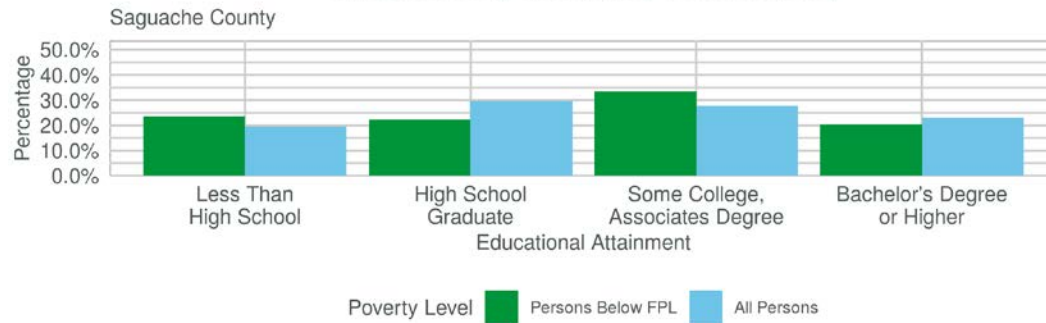
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014-2018 American Community Survey,  
Table Number B17003, Print Date: 07/30/2020

### Educational Attainment by Federal Poverty Level, San Luis Valley Community Action Agency



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014-2018 American Community Survey,  
Table Number B17003, Print Date: 07/30/2020

### Educational Attainment by Federal Poverty Level, San Luis Valley Community Action Agency



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014-2018 American Community Survey,  
Table Number B17003, Print Date: 07/30/2020

### Employment: Average Weekly Wage

The charts below show the average weekly wage in each of the six counties. They range from \$723 in Alamosa County to a low of \$557 in Costilla County, as compared with the Colorado average of \$1,124.



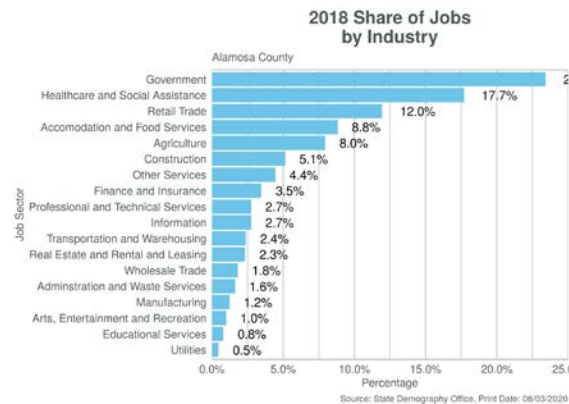




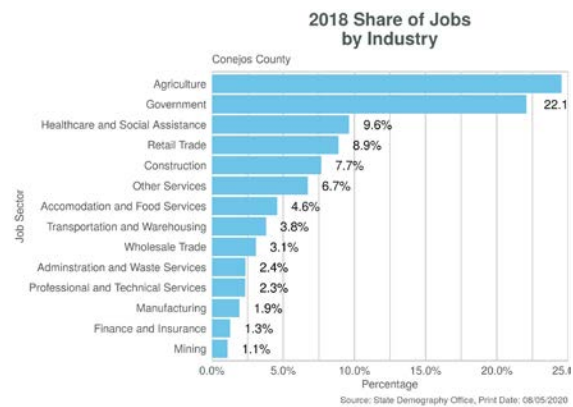
### Employment: Jobs by Industry

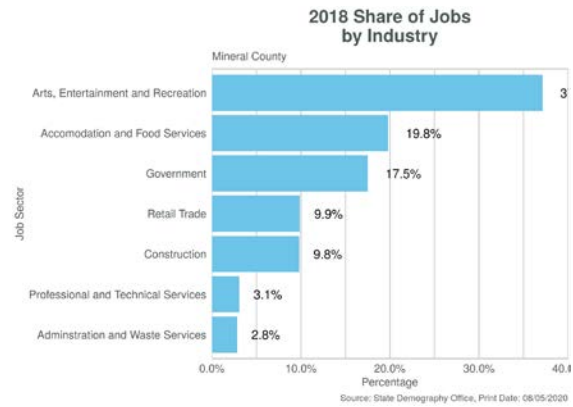
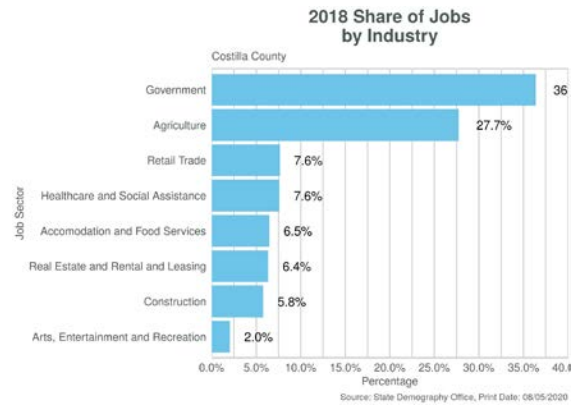
Identifying the industries which drive growth and change in a community is a vital part of understanding community dynamics. Growth in jobs results in growth in residents from migration to a community. Identifying the trends of growth and decline of jobs and the types of jobs available within the community is important.

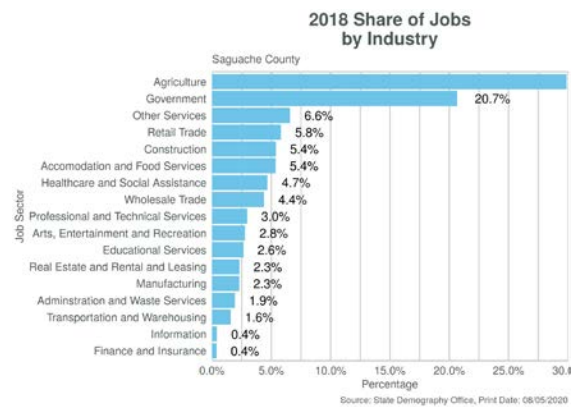
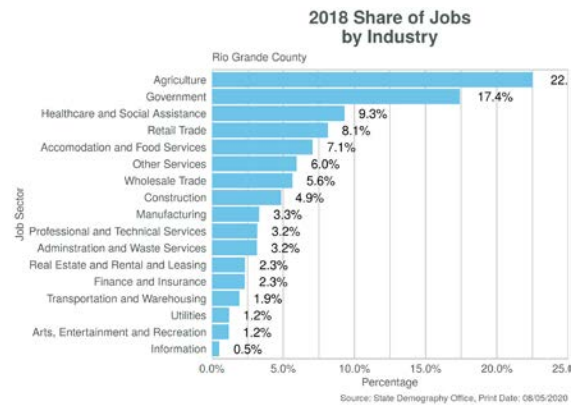
The relative rank of high-paying sectors, such as mining, information and financial and insurance services versus mid-range jobs (e.g. construction, health care and government) and lower-paying industries such as retail trade and accommodation and food services, will have an impact on a county's overall economic health. The tables below show the share of jobs by industry in each of the six counties in the San Luis Valley. Alamosa County and Costilla County's major industry is government, whereas Conejos, Rio Grande, and Sagauche County's major industry is Agriculture. Mineral County is heavy into the Arts community.











## Housing

### Housing: Housing Statistics

The next several tables provide an overview of the housing stock in the six counties of the San Luis Valley. Median home values and median gross rents are often considerably lower than current market prices as the values are computed from a 5-year average that runs through 2018. The number of people per household can offer insights as to the composition of the households.

Alamosa County 2018	
Housing Type	Value
Total Housing Units	7,032
Occupied Housing Units	6,249
Vacant Housing Units	783
Vacancy Rate	11.1%
Total Population	16,181
Household Population	15,316
Group Quarters Population	865
Persons per Household	2.45

**Note:**

Source: State Demography Office, Print Date: 08/03/2020

Conejos County 2018	
Housing Type	Value
Total Housing Units	4,429
Occupied Housing Units	3,071
Vacant Housing Units	1,358
Vacancy Rate	30.7%
Total Population	8,138
Household Population	8,102
Group Quarters Population	36
Persons per Household	2.64

**Note:**

Source: State Demography Office, Print Date: 08/05/2020

Costilla County 2018

Housing Type	Value
Total Housing Units	2,721
Occupied Housing Units	1,676
Vacant Housing Units	1,045
Vacancy Rate	38.4%
Total Population	3,810
Household Population	3,810
Group Quarters Population	0
Persons per Household	2.27

*Note:*

Source: State Demography Office, Print Date: 08/05/2020

Mineral County 2018

Housing Type	Value
Total Housing Units	1,287
Occupied Housing Units	387
Vacant Housing Units	900
Vacancy Rate	69.9%
Total Population	775
Household Population	775
Group Quarters Population	0
Persons per Household	2

*Note:*

Source: State Demography Office, Print Date: 08/05/2020

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Rio Grande County 2018

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Housing Type	Value
Total Housing Units	6,802
Occupied Housing Units	4,468
Vacant Housing Units	2,334
Vacancy Rate	34.3%
Total Population	11,220
Household Population	11,022
Group Quarters Population	198
Persons per Household	2.47

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*Note:*

Source: State Demography Office, Print Date: 08/05/2020

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Saguache County 2018

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Housing Type	Value
Total Housing Units	4,170
Occupied Housing Units	2,965
Vacant Housing Units	1,205
Vacancy Rate	28.9%
Total Population	6,840
Household Population	6,822
Group Quarters Population	18
Persons per Household	2.3

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Lower median household income has implications for the rate of poverty in the area, and SLV population growth is forecast to outpace job growth which has implications for unemployment. These two trends also have broader implications for housing – especially housing affordability and a need for increased supply. Housing costs that exceed 30% of household income have historically been viewed as an indicator of a housing affordability problem, which is particularly the case for households in the lowest income brackets.

#### Comparative Housing Values

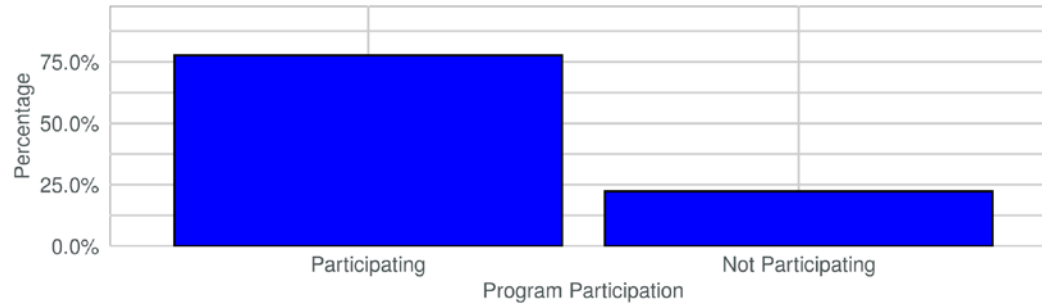
	Alamosa County	Conejos County	Costilla County	Mineral County	Rio Grande County	Saguache County	Colorado
Median Value of Owner-Occupied Households	\$157,500	\$117,600	\$113,200	\$293,600	\$161,300	\$149,500	\$313,600
Percentage of Owner Occupied Households paying 30% or more of income on housing	23.40%	24.50%	25.50%	19.80%	23.70%	24.70%	22.80%
Percentage of Owner Occupied Households paying 30-49% of income on housing	14.20%	12.50%	11.90%	11.40%	13.10%	13.90%	14.00%
Percentage of Owner Occupied Households paying 50% of income on housing	9.20%	12.00%	13.60%	8.40%	10.60%	10.80%	8.80%
Median Gross Rent of Rental Households	\$ 657	\$ 533	\$ 612	\$ 819	\$ 588	\$ 635	\$1,196
Percentage of Rental Households paying 30% or more of income on housing	39.90%	34.70%	45.20%	19.00%	41.70%	39.80%	48.50%
Percentage of Rental Households paying 30-49% of income on housing	23.10%	20.70%	25.10%	9.50%	22.80%	19.00%	25.40%
Percentage of Rental Households paying 0% or more of income on housing	16.80%	14.00%	20.10%	9.50%	18.90%	20.80%	23.10%
<i>Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014-2018 American Community Survey</i>							

## Nutrition

### Nutrition: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

#### **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), San Luis Valley Community Action Agency**

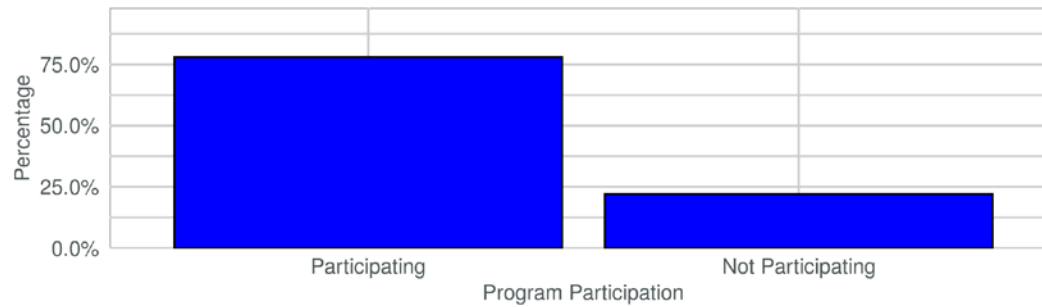
San Luis Valley Community Action Agency



Source: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Participation,  
Hunger Free Colorado, Print Date: 07/30/2020

#### **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), San Luis Valley Community Action Agency**

Alamosa County

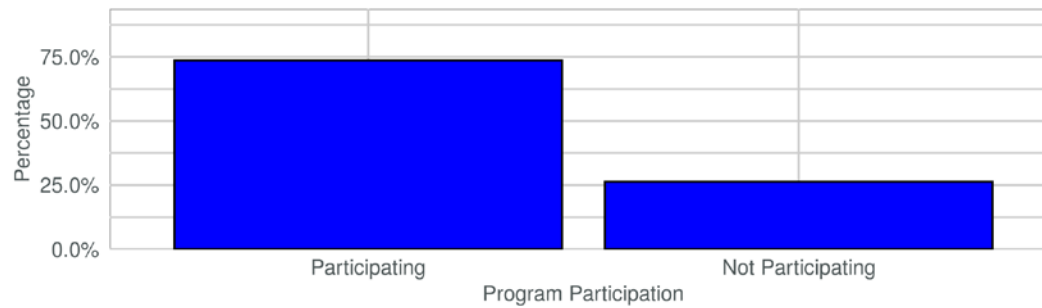


Source: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Participation,  
Hunger Free Colorado, Print Date: 07/30/2020



### Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), San Luis Valley Community Action Agency

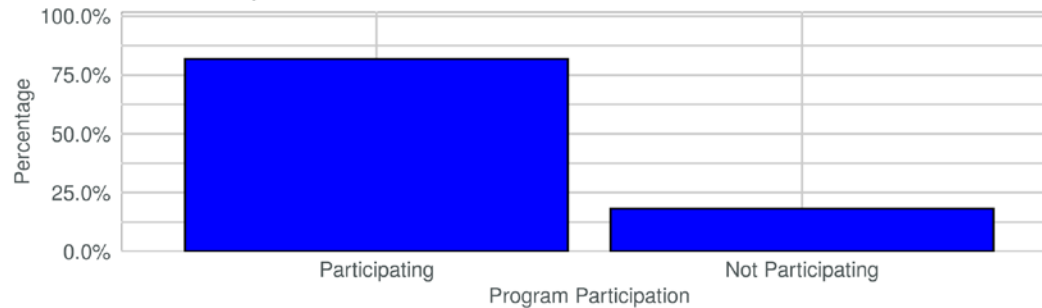
Conejos County



Source: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Participation,  
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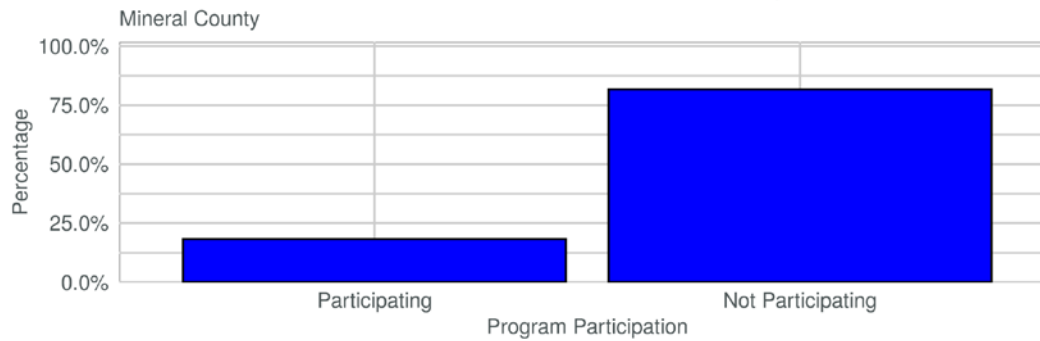
### Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), San Luis Valley Community Action Agency

Costilla County



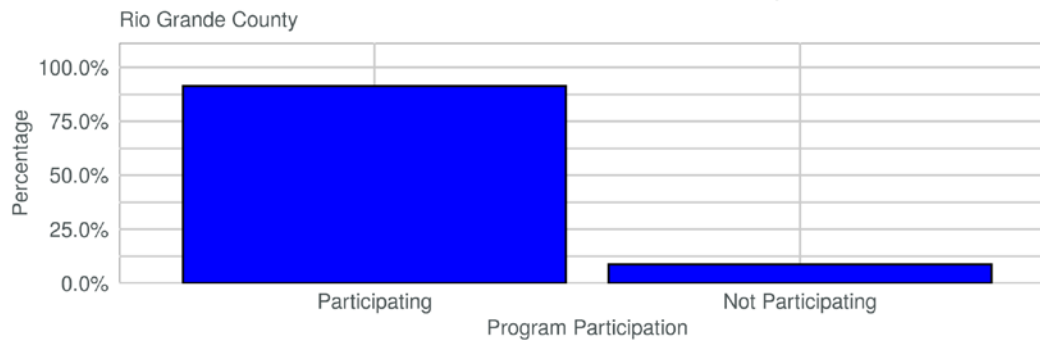
Source: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Participation,  
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**Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP),  
San Luis Valley Community Action Agency**



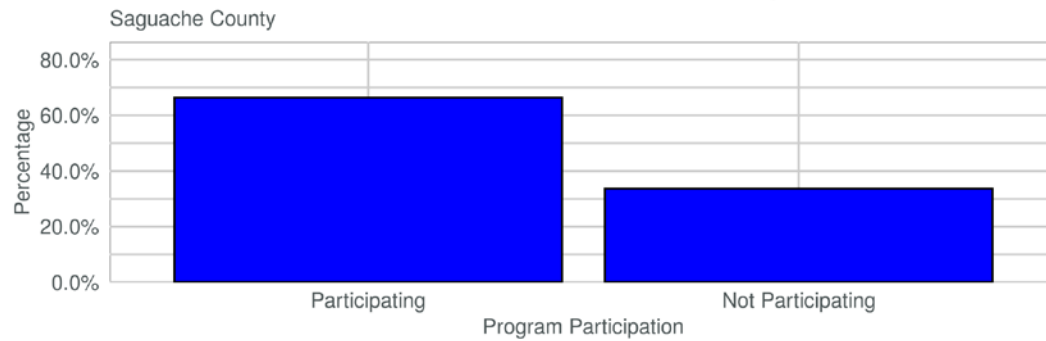
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Hunger Free Colorado, Print Date: 07/30/2020

**Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP),  
San Luis Valley Community Action Agency**



Source: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Participation,  
Hunger Free Colorado, Print Date: 07/30/2020

**Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP),  
San Luis Valley Community Action Agency**



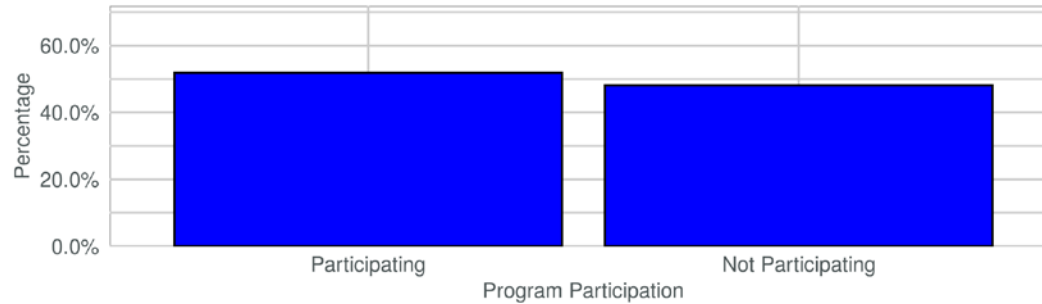
Source: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Participation,  
Hunger Free Colorado, Print Date: 07/30/2020

Nutrition: Women, Infants and Children (WIC)

The tables below show the participation in the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program in the six counties of the San Luis Valley.

**Women, Infants and Children (WIC),  
San Luis Valley Community Action Agency**

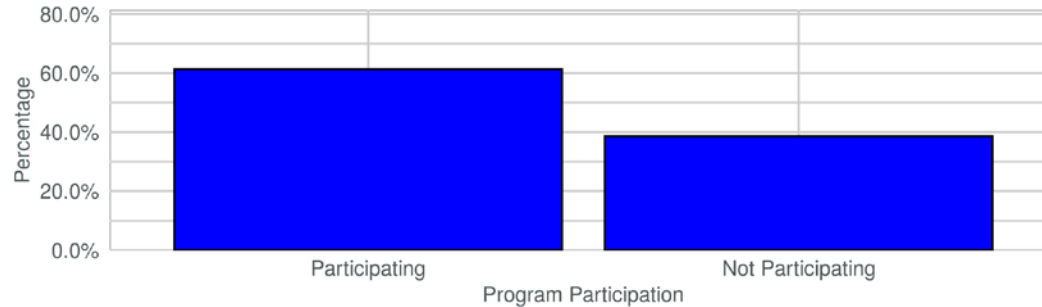
San Luis Valley Community Action Agency



Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Program,  
Annie E. Casey Foundation Kids Count Data Center, Print Date: 07/30/2020

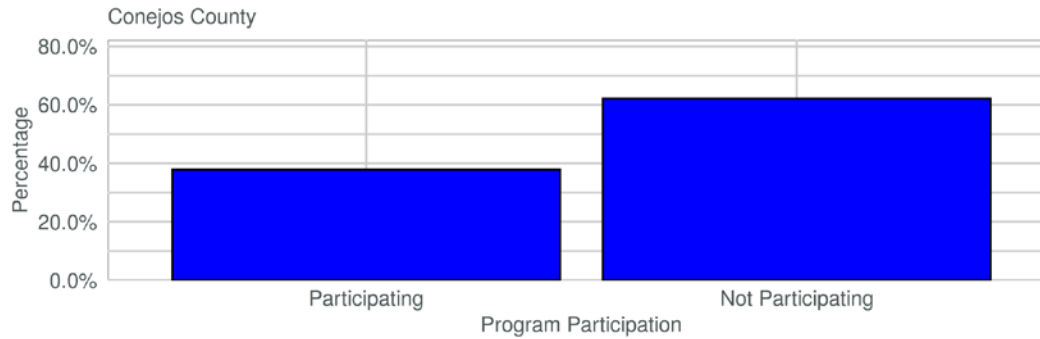
**Women, Infants and Children (WIC),  
San Luis Valley Community Action Agency**

Alamosa County



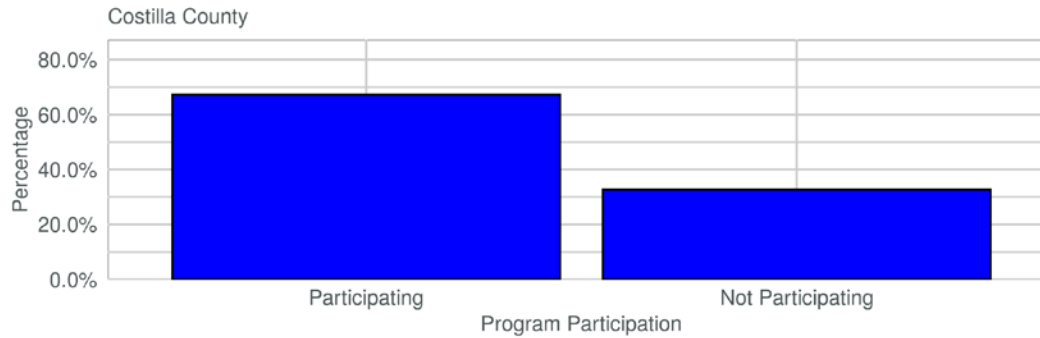
Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Program,  
Annie E. Casey Foundation Kids Count Data Center, Print Date: 07/30/2020

**Women, Infants and Children (WIC),  
San Luis Valley Community Action Agency**



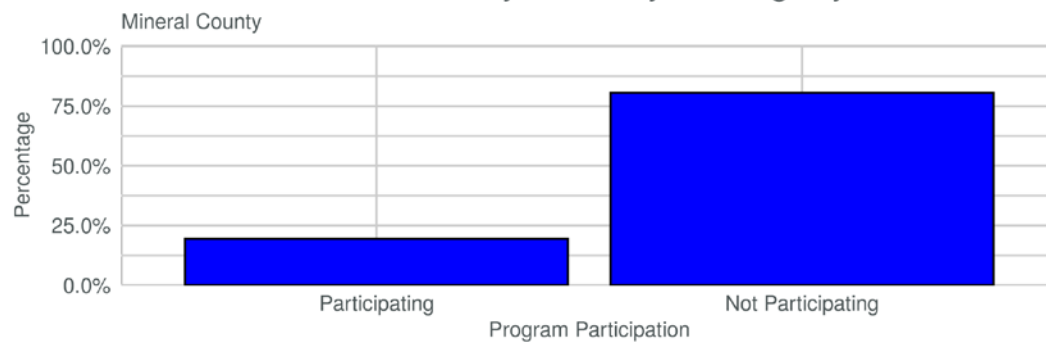
Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Program,  
Annie E. Casey Foundation Kids Count Data Center, Print Date: 07/30/2020

**Women, Infants and Children (WIC),  
San Luis Valley Community Action Agency**



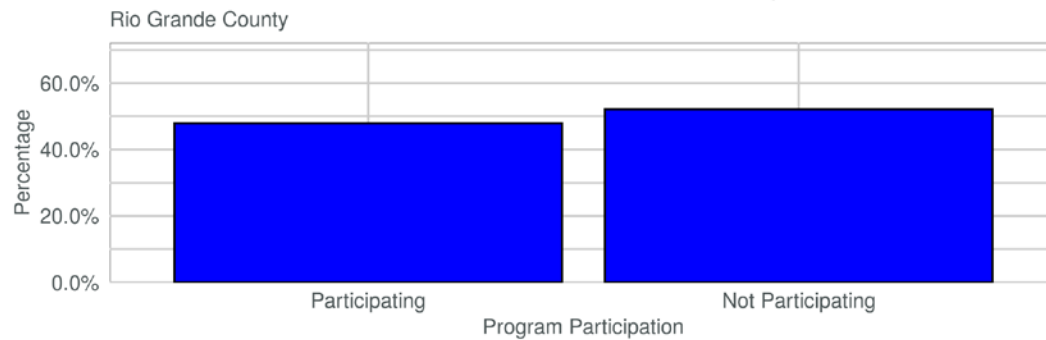
Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Program,  
Annie E. Casey Foundation Kids Count Data Center, Print Date: 07/30/2020

**Women, Infants and Children (WIC),  
San Luis Valley Community Action Agency**



Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Program,  
Annie E. Casey Foundation Kids Count Data Center, Print Date: 07/30/2020

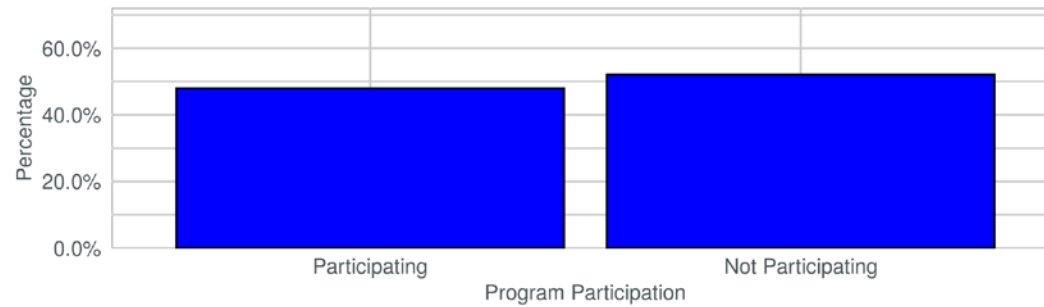
**Women, Infants and Children (WIC),  
San Luis Valley Community Action Agency**



Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Program,  
Annie E. Casey Foundation Kids Count Data Center, Print Date: 07/30/2020

**Women, Infants and Children (WIC),  
San Luis Valley Community Action Agency**

Saguache County



Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Program,  
Annie E. Casey Foundation Kids Count Data Center, Print Date: 07/30/2020

# Health Care

## Health: Insured Population

The table below shows the number and percentage of insured individuals in the six counties of the San Luis Valley. They range from 93.41% insured in Mineral County to 80.38% insured in Saguache County, as compared to the Colorado average of 90.58%.

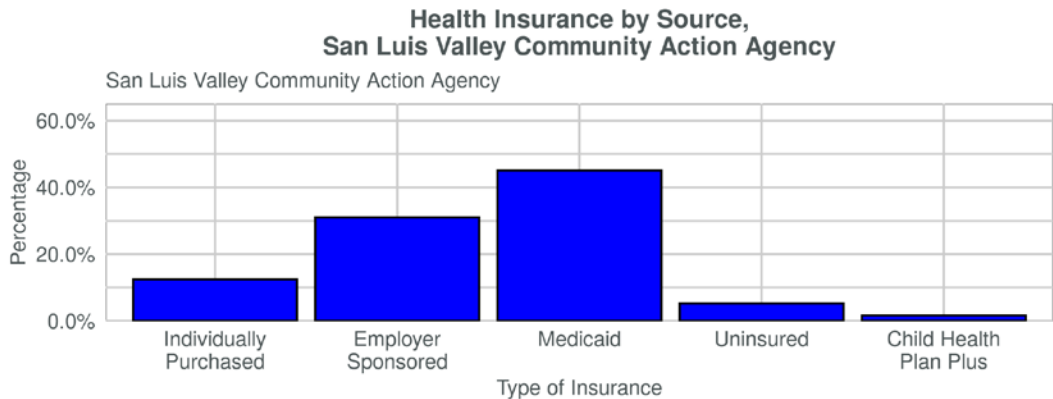
Geographic Area	Total	Insured	Percent Insured
	Estimate	Estimate	Estimate
Colorado	5,344,703	4,841,392	90.58%
Alamosa County	15,903	13,789	86.71%
Conejos County	8,109	6,959	85.82%
Costilla County	3,628	3,087	85.09%
Mineral County	834	779	93.41%
Rio Grande County	11,236	9,742	86.70%
Saguache County	6,320	5,080	80.38%

Source: US Census Bureau Table S2701 2013-2017 American Community Survey 5-year Estimates



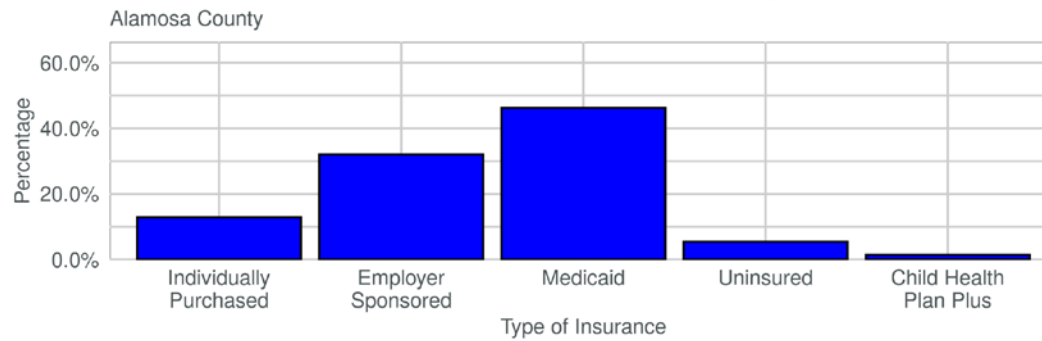
Health: Health Insurance by Source

The following tables show the health insurance by source for the six counties in the San Luis Valley.



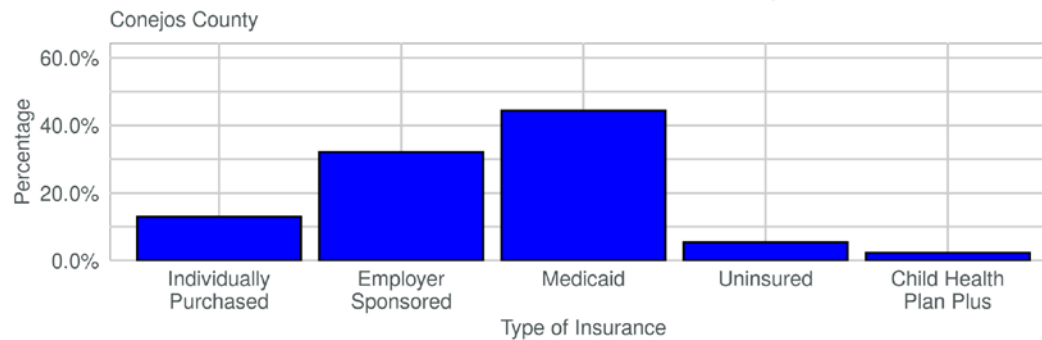
Health Insurance by Source,  
Colorado Health Institute, Print Date: 07/30/2020

### Health Insurance by Source, San Luis Valley Community Action Agency



Health Insurance by Source,  
Colorado Health Institute, Print Date: 07/30/2020

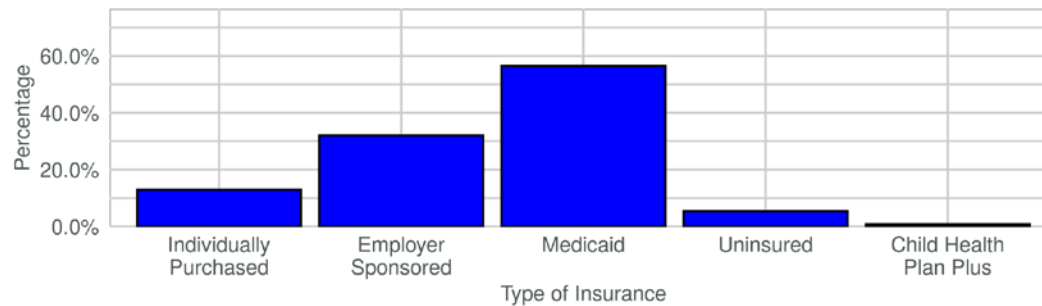
### Health Insurance by Source, San Luis Valley Community Action Agency



Health Insurance by Source,  
Colorado Health Institute, Print Date: 07/30/2020

### Health Insurance by Source, San Luis Valley Community Action Agency

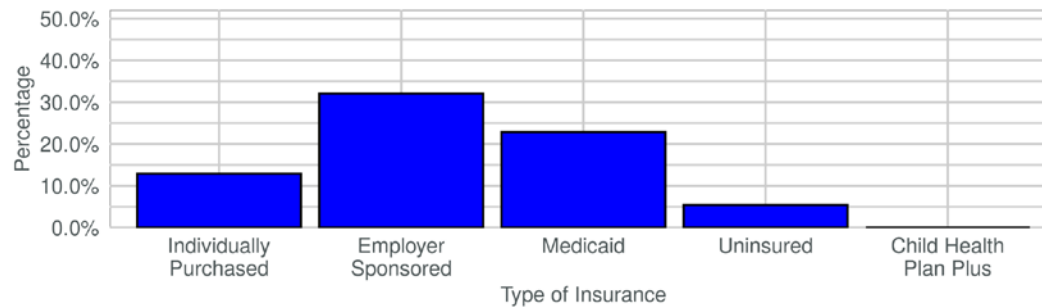
Costilla County



Health Insurance by Source,  
Colorado Health Institute, Print Date: 07/30/2020

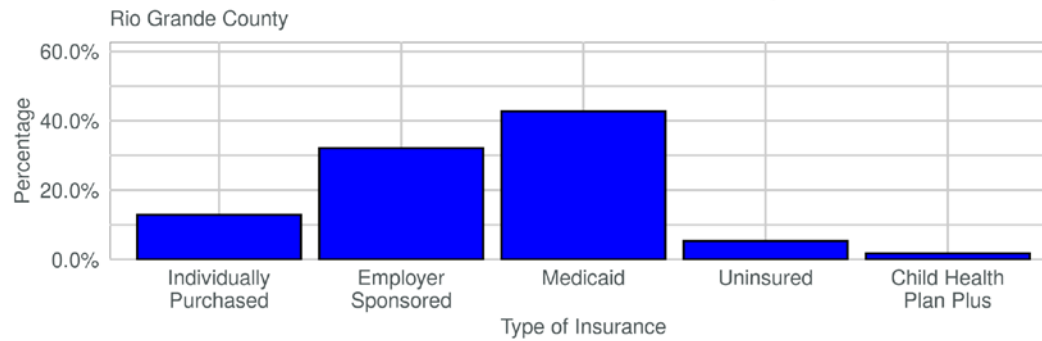
### Health Insurance by Source, San Luis Valley Community Action Agency

Mineral County



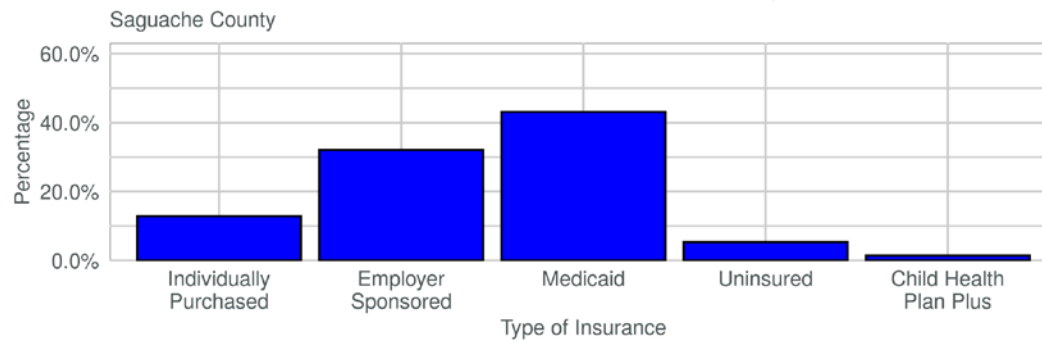
Health Insurance by Source,  
Colorado Health Institute, Print Date: 07/30/2020

### Health Insurance by Source, San Luis Valley Community Action Agency



Health Insurance by Source,  
Colorado Health Institute, Print Date: 07/30/2020

### Health Insurance by Source, San Luis Valley Community Action Agency



Health Insurance by Source,  
Colorado Health Institute, Print Date: 07/30/2020

### Health Care Facilities

The San Luis Valley has three hospitals and 83 beds, considered an adequate number for the Valley. The SLV Health's Regional Medical Center in Alamosa is the largest and has access to the most up-to-date diagnostic services. The combination of all its services, functions, and management responsibilities for related health care activities may advance SLV Health as the Valley's largest employer.

Rio Grande Hospital in Del Norte is designated as a level 4 trauma center to meet needs in the western valley area. Conejos County Hospital south of La Jara is operated by SLV Health, and shares a critical access status.

#### **Hospitals, Clinics and Other Healthcare Services and Providers, 2019**

<b>Hospitals</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>	<b>Licensed beds</b>	<b>Staff</b>
<b>San Luis Valley Health Regional Medical Center</b>	Alamosa	San Luis Valley Health	49	734
<b>Rio Grande Hospital</b>	Del Norte	Rio Grande Hospital	17	90
<b>Conejos County Hospital</b>	La Jara	San Luis Valley Health	17	87

There are 19 clinics in various locations throughout the region. Valley Wide Health Services (VWHS), a federally qualified health clinic, and the San Luis Valley Comprehensive Mental Health Center have regional coverage. Combined employment for the hospital and clinics is 1,438.

<b>Medical Clinics</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>	<b>Providers</b>	<b>Staff</b>
<b>RMC Clinic - Allergy, Audiology, Cardiology, ENT, General Surgery, Pediatrics, Women's Health</b>	Alamosa	San Luis Valley Health	35 <sup>2</sup>	140 <sup>2</sup>
<b>San Luis Valley Health Stuart Ave. Clinic - Acupuncture, Behavioral Health, Chiropractic, Diabetes Foundation, Family Practice, Internal Medicine, Occupational Medicine, Orthopedics, Physical Medicine.</b>	Alamosa	San Luis Valley Health	35 <sup>2</sup>	140 <sup>2</sup>

<b>Alamosa Family Medical Center</b>	Alamosa	Valley-Wide Health Systems		
<b>Sierra Blanca Medical Center</b>	Alamosa	Valley-Wide Health Systems		
<b>Convenient Care Community Clinic</b>	Alamosa	Valley-Wide Health Systems		
<b>VA Outpatient Clinic</b>	Alamosa	VA Eastern Colorado Health Care Systems		
<b>Guadalupe Health Center</b>	Antonito	Valley-Wide Health Systems		
<b>Antonito Clinic - Family practice</b>	Antonito	San Luis Valley Health	2	19 <sup>3</sup>
<b>Cesar E. Chavez Family Medical Center</b>	Center	Valley-Wide Health Systems		
<b>Creede Family Practice</b>	Creede	Rio Grande Hospital	1	3
<b>Rio Grande Hospital Clinic</b>	Del Norte	Rio Grande Hospital	8	7
<b>La Jara Clinic</b>	La Jara	San Luis Valley Health	6	19 <sup>3</sup>
<b>Moffat Family Health Center</b>	Moffat	Valley-Wide Health Systems		
<b>Monte Vista Medical Clinic</b>	Monte Vista	Rio Grande Hospital	2	3
<b>Monte Vista Medical Clinic - Family practice, chiropractic</b>	Monte Vista	San Luis Valley Health	2	6
<b>Edward M. Kennedy Health Clinic</b>	Monte Vista	Valley-Wide Health Systems		
<b>Saguache Clinic - Family practice</b>	Saguache	Salida Family Medicine		
<b>San Luis Health Center</b>	San Luis	Valley-Wide Health Systems		
<b>South Fork Clinic</b>	South Fork	Rio Grande Hospital	1	2

While the Valley is fortunate to have three hospitals, in most cases they are not equipped to handle specialized problems such as severe head traumas and tumors, invasive heart/cardiovascular procedures, difficult obstetrical concerns, neonatal services, and severe trauma in general. These patients are transported to Denver, Albuquerque, and other larger cities by ambulance or aircraft.

### San Luis Valley Ambulance Services, 2019

Provider	Area Served	Square Miles	Number of Units
<b>Alamosa County Ambulance Emergency Services</b>	Alamosa, Hooper, Mosca, and rural areas	743	3
<b>Conejos County Ambulance</b>	Antonito, La Jara, Manassa, Romeo, Sanford, and rural areas	1,287	3
<b>Costilla County Ambulance</b>	Blanca/Ft. Garland, and rural areas	1,230	1

<b>Mineral County Ambulance Service</b>	Creede and rural Mineral County (excl. area from South Fork to Wolf Creek Pass)	720	2
<b>Monte Vista Ambulance Service</b>	Monte Vista and surrounding area approx. 8 miles north, 6 miles east, 2 miles south, and 5 miles west	220	3
<b>Del Norte Ambulance</b>	Del Norte and surrounding area west to Embargo Creek and east 5 miles.	250	3
<b>South Fork Ambulance Service</b>	South Fork, Wolf Creek Pass, La Garita Park, Elwood Pass	400	2
<b>Center Ambulance Service</b>	Center and surrounding area approx. 8 miles west, 6 miles south, and 10 miles North	400	2
<b>Baca Grande Property Owners Assn. Ambulance</b>	Baca Subdivision, Crestone, and Moffat	528	2
<b>Saguache County Ambulance</b>	Saguache and surrounding area incl. Bonanza, Villa Grove, Poncha Pass, Cochetopa Pass, and south 14 miles	1,400	2
<b>Eagle Air Med</b>	All three area hospitals. Helicopter service flies patients to Denver. Base operation in Alamosa and Del Norte		
<b>St. Anthony's Center, Denver (Flight for Life)</b>	San Luis Valley Regional Medical Center. Emergency Helicopter Service to St. Anthony's.		
<b>Source: Information provided by San Luis Valley Regional EMS/Trauma Advisory Council.</b>			

Of the 18 dental service providers in the Valley, ten are located in Alamosa, four in Rio Grande, and the four remaining are located in Conejos, Costilla, and Saguache. Eye care services are available only in Alamosa and Rio Grande, and of the nine pharmacies, six are in Alamosa. Of the remaining three, one is in Conejos County and two are in Rio Grande. Chiropractic, massage, and acupuncture specialists are noted to have higher rate per 1,000 populations, and there are many more alternative medical practices in Crestone and Moffat which are not listed.

Other medical service providers include audiology (two); foot care (two); physical, occupational, and speech therapy (six); and alcohol and drug addiction (three). A total of ten health equipment providers are also listed, eight of which are in Alamosa.

## Transportation<sup>2</sup>

### Public Transportation

There is limited public transportation for residents of the San Luis Valley. The majority of them are for short term needs (taxi) or specific demographic (seniors, veterans). The taxi service will travel between SLV communities but the cost is prohibitive for anything than occasional trips. Bustang Line offers bus service into and out of Alamosa daily to Gunnison, Pueblo, or Denver with stops in-between. Boutique Airlines offers daily flights between Alamosa and Denver.

#### Public Transportation

##### Transit and Human Service Providers and Related Agencies, 2013

<u>Category/Organization</u>	<u>Location</u>
<u>General Public - Local and Region</u>	
Little Stinkers Taxi Service	Alamosa
<u>General Public - Intercity Bus</u>	
Bustang	Alamosa
<u>General Public - Railroad</u>	
San Luis & Rio Grande Railroad – freight and excursion trains	Alamosa
<u>General Public - Airlines</u>	
Boutique Airlines	
<u>Client-Based Transit Providers</u>	
Alamosa Senior Citizens	Alamosa
Antonito Senior Center	Antonito
Blue Peaks Developmental Services	Alamosa
Conejos County Long - Term Care Unit	La Jara

<sup>2</sup> San Luis Valley Development Resources Group 2019 CEDS



Costilla County Senior Citizens Club	San Luis
Northerners Senior Citizens	La Jara
Red Willow/SLV Transportation	Alamosa
SLV Comprehensive Mental Health Center	Alamosa
Tri-county Seniors	Monte Vista
Valley Wide Health Services	Alamosa
Veterans Transportation	Alamosa
Source: <b>San Luis Valley Development Resources Group, CEDS, January 2019.</b>	

### Transit Planning

Interest in providing transit services throughout the region has been prominent at least since the planning process for the 2035 San Luis Valley Regional Transportation Plan began in 2006. That interest led to a series of transit and human service provider meetings guided by the Transit Unit to identify potential participants and interest in a cooperative approach. From an economic development perspective, public transit can be seen as playing an important role for workforce development by providing affordable service for job commuters, college students, and trainees; improved connections to tourist destinations; and greater mobility in general for shopping, medical visits, recreation, and other spending activity. While there seems to be a strong consensus supportive of transit services, two previous attempts in the region, in the mid-1990s and again in 2008-2009, failed. Much of the cause for failure was due to the dollar for-dollar match requirements for Federal Transit Act grants and the need for consistent subsidization.

Based on information from the local transit providers, approximately 154,000 annual trips are being provided. Based on this, a reasonable level of need can be estimated for the area. Nearly 90 percent of the need is not being met. This is not to say that transportation providers are not doing everything in their power to provide the highest levels of service possible. However, given the constraints of funding and other extraneous factors, it is impossible to meet all the need that could possibly exist in any area.

The potential demand for the San Luis Valley is as follows:

- > Elderly transit need is 87,100 annual trips
- > Disabled need is 12,270 annual trips
- > General public need is 58,140 annual trips

The total non-program total transit demand is 157,500 annual trips. This amount would be desired by the elderly, mobility-limited, and general public if a very high level of transit service could be provided.