



COLORADO CENTER
on LAW & POLICY

State of Working Colorado 2013

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Presentation to the EOPRTF

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Acknowledgement

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- The Economic Policy Institute
- The Colorado Center on Law and Policy
 - Christy Murphy, Tracey Stewart, Terry Scanlon, Elisabeth Arenales and Michelle Webster

State of Working Colorado 2013

- Annual report using data from the American Community Survey, Current Population Survey, Local Area Unemployment Statistics Survey among others.
- Data are mostly through 2012, although some data are for 2011. All data is most recent available.
- Full report:
http://www.cclponline.org/publication_library/pub/single/1279/state-of-working-colorado-2013



CO recovery outperforms nation, does not benefit all Coloradans

- Overall, economic conditions in Colorado are improving.
- Many communities in Colorado are still struggling, some have been left behind.
- Despite Colorado's relative wealth, inequality is alive and well in Colorado.

Labor market

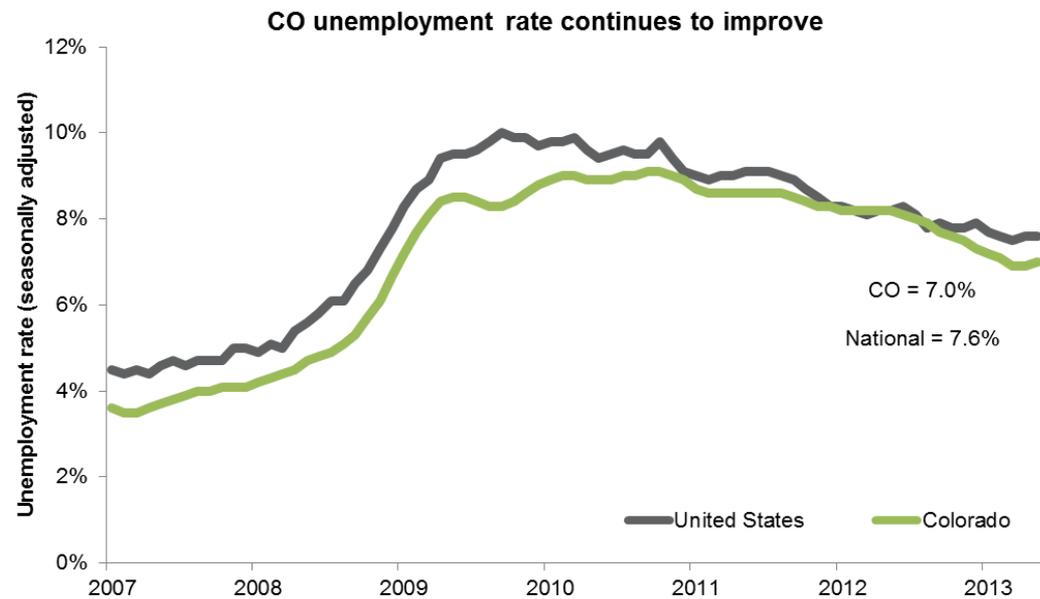
Part I





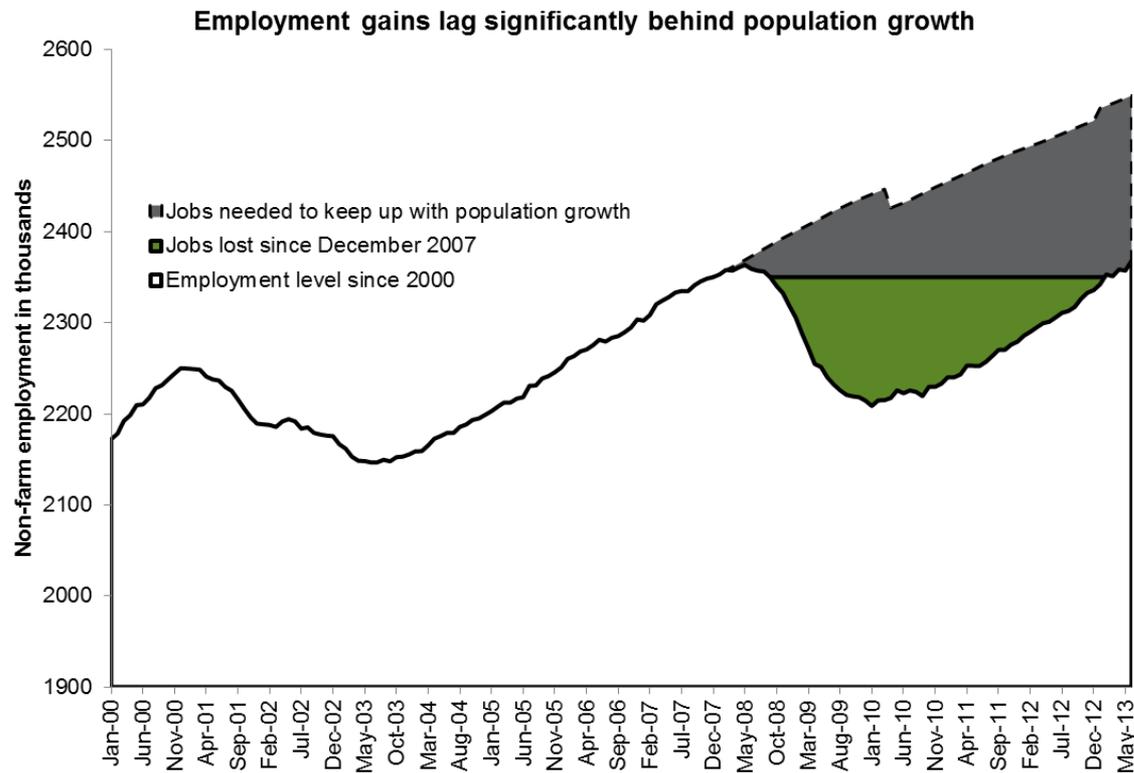
Broad economic indicators are showing improvement

- Unemployment rate has steadily decreased from its high point of nine percent set in late 2010.
- Colorado unemployment rate has largely remained below the national rate.
- The labor force has grown steadily since last summer. 20,000 more people in labor force than its previous peak, set in April 2009.
- (Nearly) all of the jobs lost in the great recession have been regained.





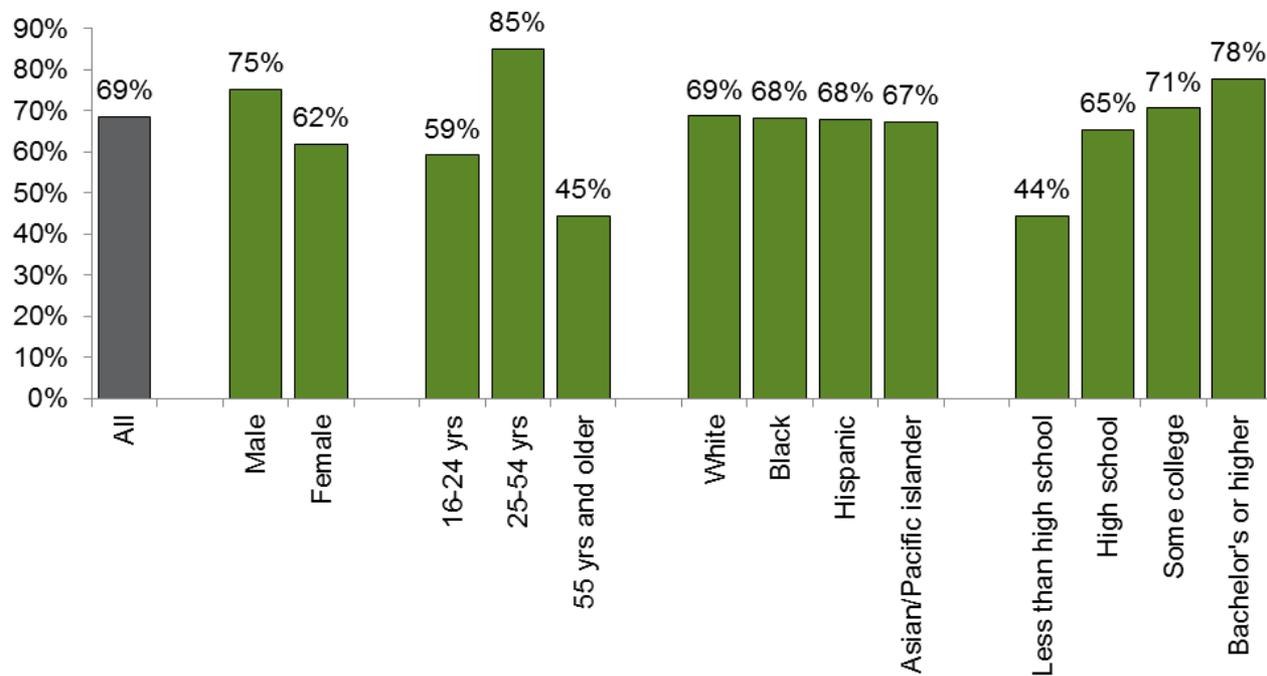
Despite improvement in the labor market, large shortfall remains





Labor force participation rates are a good proxy for labor market conditions

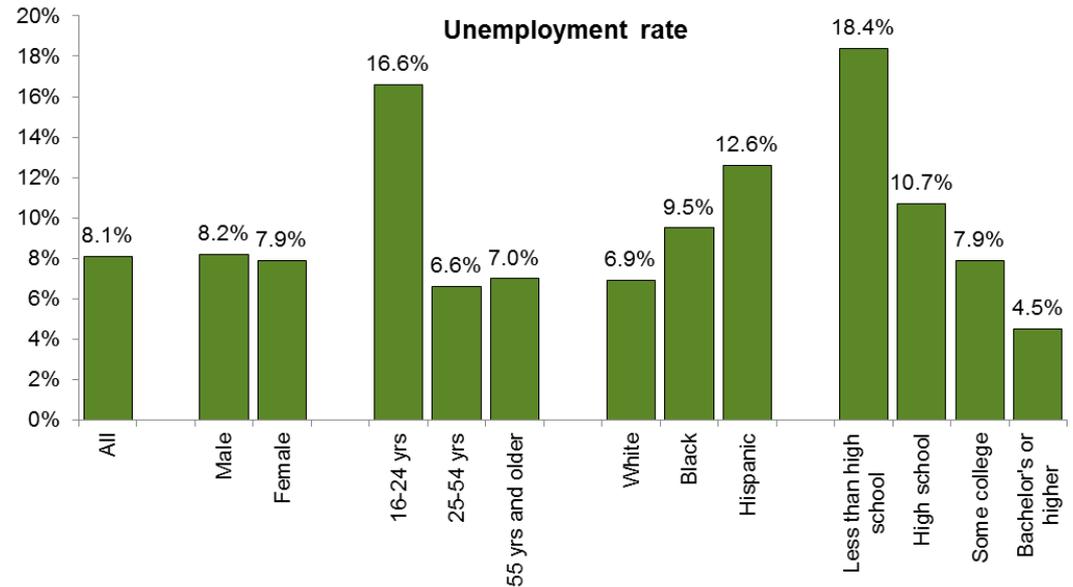
Labor force participation varies across demographic groups





Unemployment rates vary by education, race and age

- Unemployment rates are noticeably higher among minorities, the young and less-educated communities.
- Many unemployment rates doubled from 2007 to 2012.



Poverty in Colorado

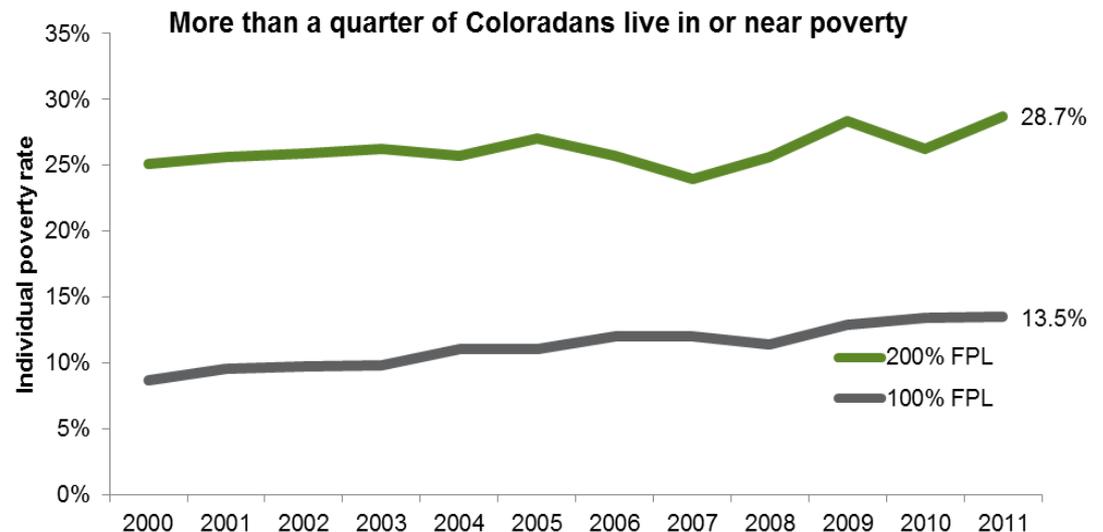
Part II





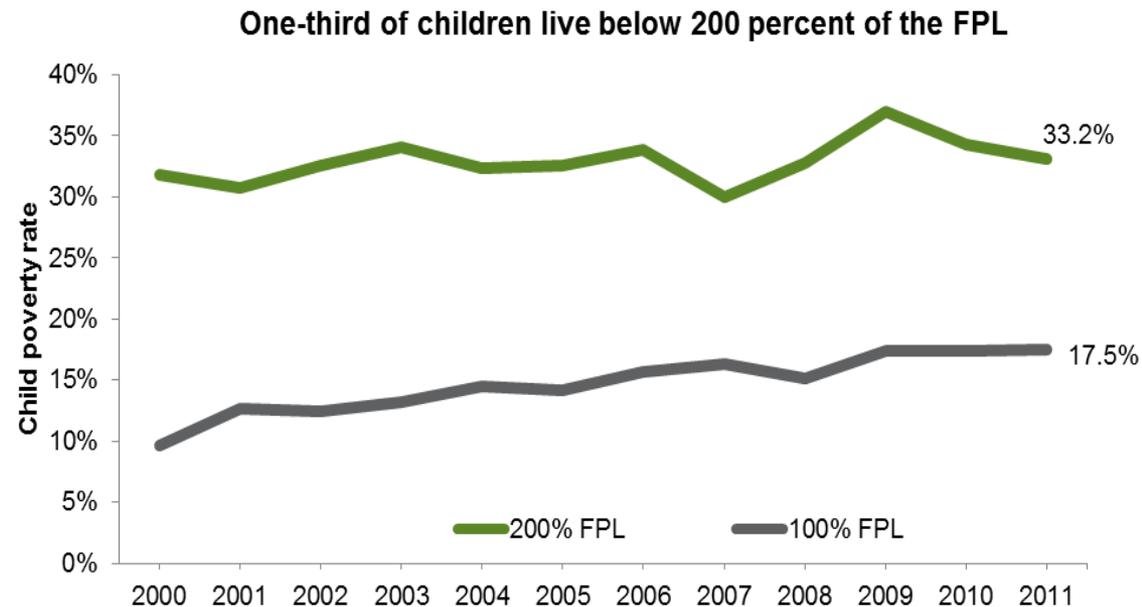
Nearly one in three Coloradans live in or near poverty

- In 2000, 8.7 percent of the Colorado population lived in poverty, in 2011 13.5 percent lived in poverty.
- 15.9 percent of Americans lived in poverty in 2011.
- 34.4 percent of Americans lived below 200 percent of the federal poverty line.



One in five Colorado children live in poverty

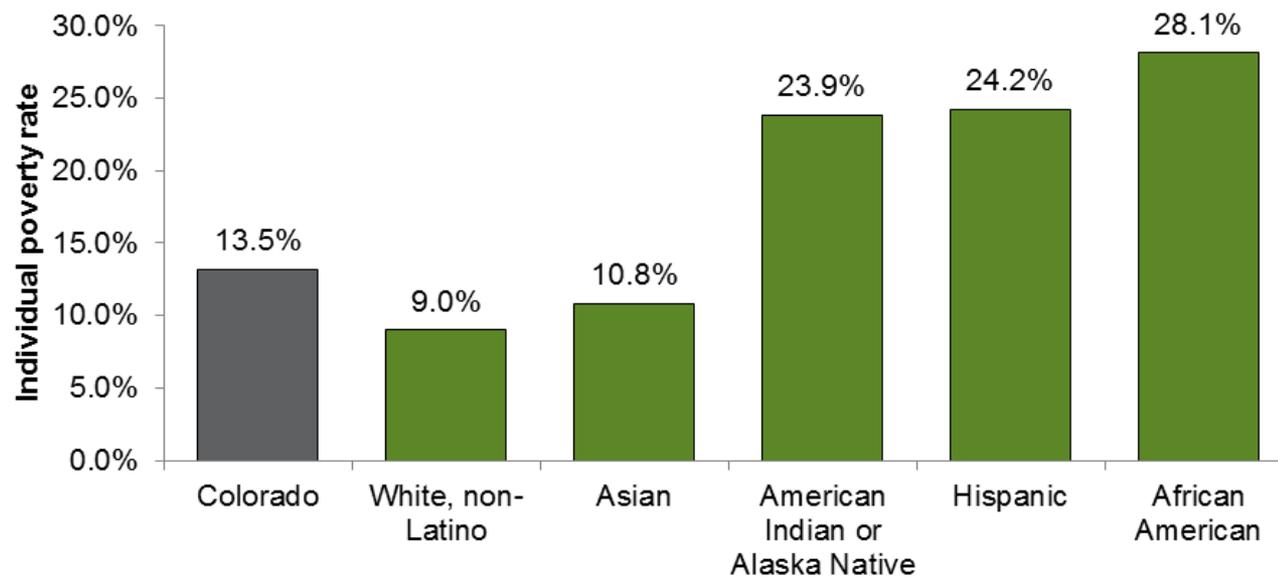
- The child poverty rate in Colorado was 9.7 percent in 2000. In 2011, nearly one in five Colorado children lived in poverty (17.5 percent).
- 22.2 percent of American children lived in poverty in 2011.
- 44.3 percent of American children lived below 200 percent of the federal poverty line in 2011.





Poverty is more prevalent among minorities

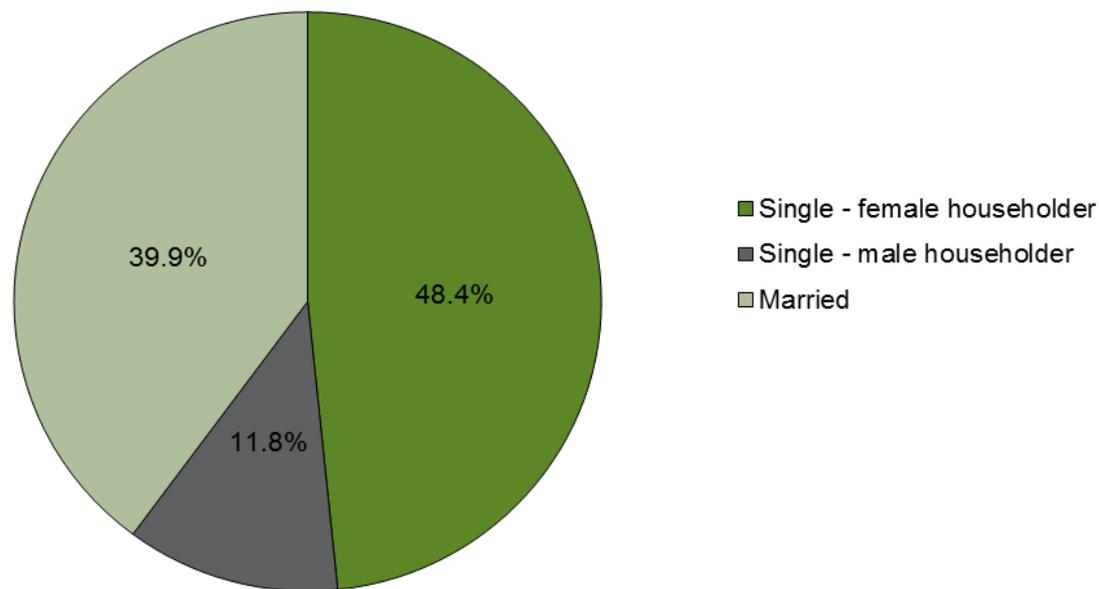
Poverty in Colorado is highest among minority groups





Nearly one in two households in poverty are single mother households

Single mothers represent nearly half of all families in poverty in Colorado



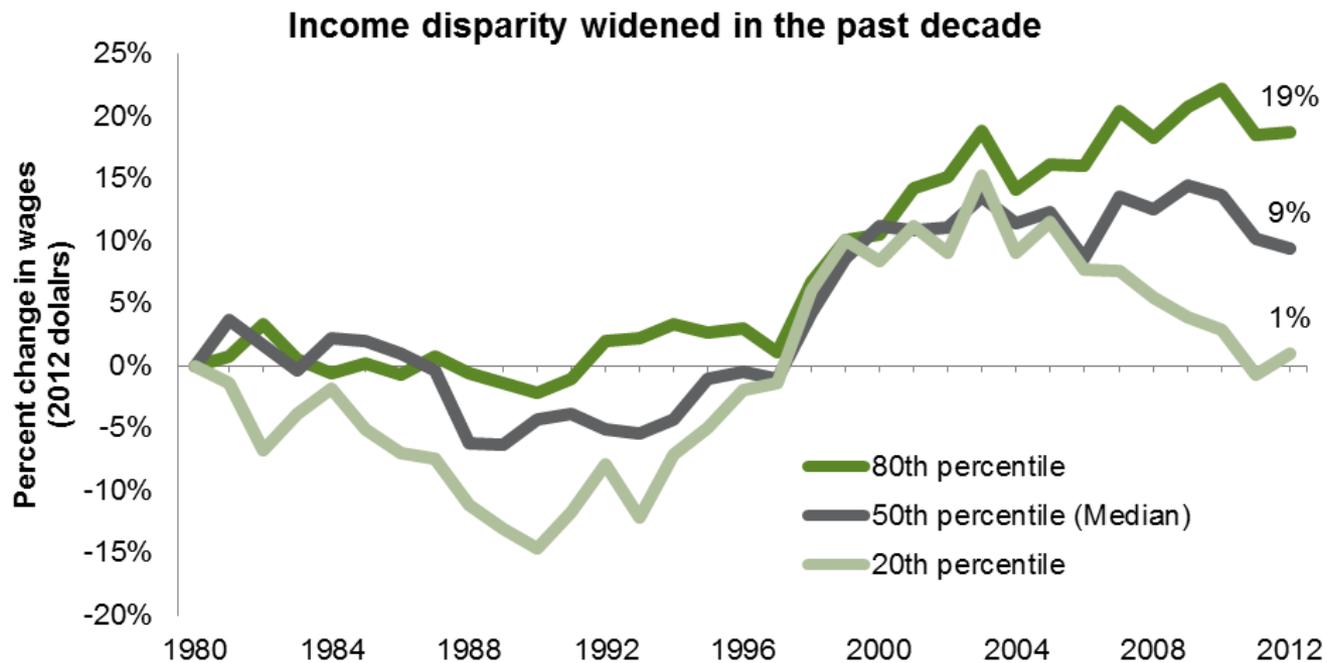
Income and economic disparity

Part III





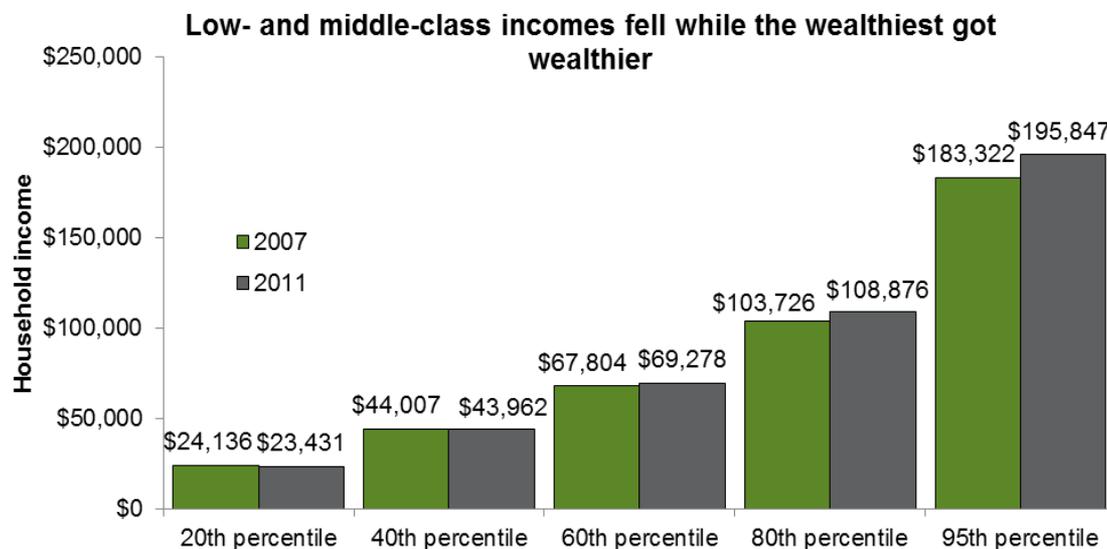
Income inequality has grown in Colorado





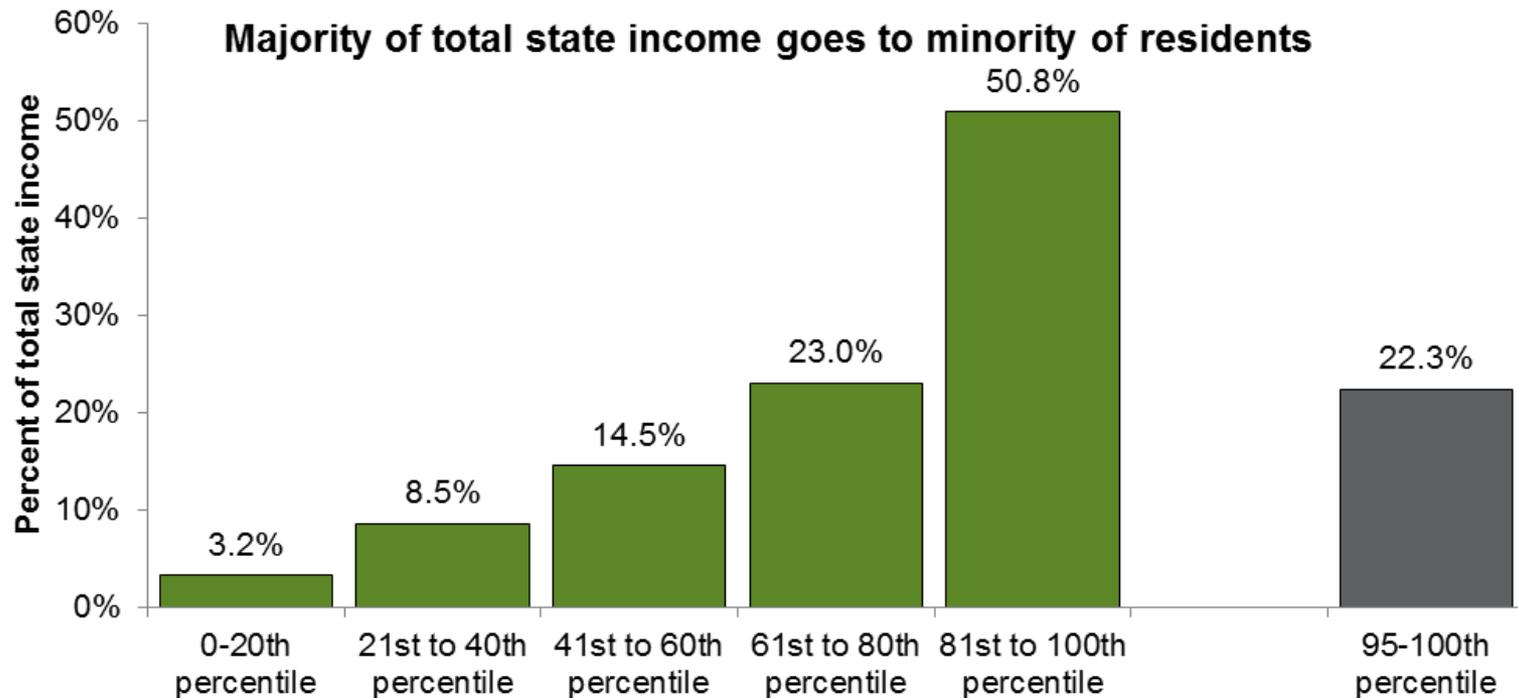
Highest earners had income increase since pre-recession level

- High-income earners have had their household incomes increase since the start of the recession.
- Low-income earners have had their household incomes decline since the start of the recession.





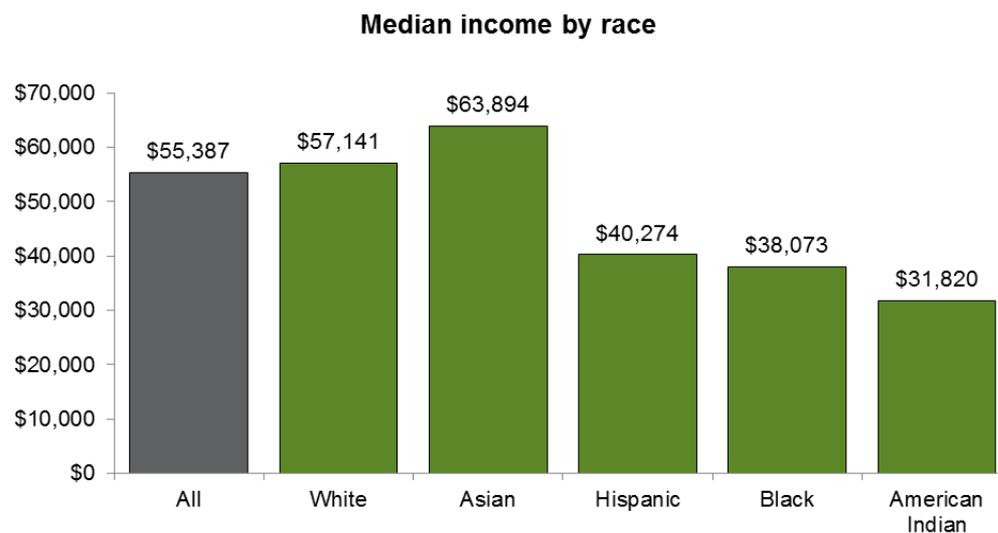
Wealth accumulates at the top in Colorado





Median income varies dramatically by race

- In 2011, the median income for black Coloradans was only 67 percent that of white Coloradans.
- In 2011, the median income for Hispanic Coloradans was only 70 percent that of white Coloradans.
- In 2011, the median income for American Indians was 57 percent of whites' income.

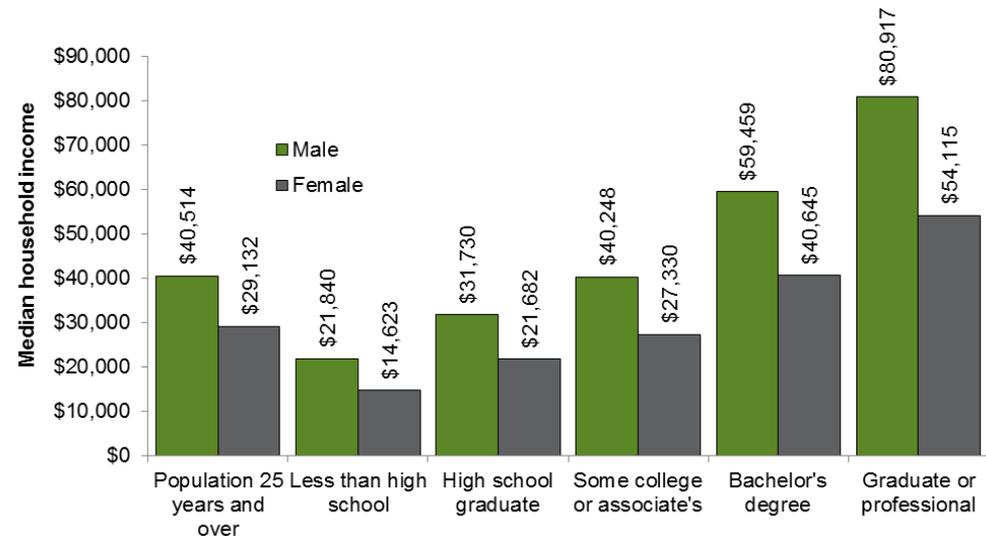




Gender pay-gap exists, even for similarly qualified workers

- Nationally, a woman with a Bachelor's degree earns only 60 percent of man with a bachelor's degree.
- In Colorado, women make only 79 percent of men across all occupations.
- Women who work in a community and social service occupation make 96 percent of what men in the same field make.
- Women who work in the legal profession make only *half* of what men in the same field make.

Gender pay gap exists regardless of education



Economic conditions vary across the state

- Median household income varies widely across state:
 Douglas County: \$101,193
 Costilla County: \$25,949
 Colorado: \$57,685
- Uninsurance rates vary from county to county:
 Adams County: 22.5 percent
 Douglas County: 8.3 percent
 Colorado: 16.9 percent

County	Poverty rate	Individuals in poverty	Percent of households receiving SNAP benefits	Number of households receiving SNAP
Colorado	13.5%	542,737	8.3%	164,571
Denver County	18.4%	91,575	10.2%	27,193
Pueblo County	18.6%	23,509	17.3%	10,734
Mesa County	11.3%	13,148	9.2%	5,523
Weld County	14.7%	28,813	8.9%	8,025
Boulder County	14.1%	34,536	2.6%	3,072
Larimer County	14.2%	35,522	6.8%	8,300
El Paso County	13.1%	64,251	9.2%	21,902
Adams County	16.5%	55,230	10.8%	16,364
Arapahoe County	12.1%	54,687	7.8%	17,450
Jefferson County	8.8%	38,489	5.5%	11,883
Douglas County	5.0%	10,687	3.1%	3,225



Conclusion

- We live in wealthy state, with a better than average labor market;
- BUT, many Coloradans are being left behind in this economic recovery.
- Poverty and unemployment rates are highest among the less educated, wages for middle- and low-earners have stagnated and women continue to lag behind men.
- This Task Force has the opportunity and responsibility to address these inequities.

Contact

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Full report:

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