



Colorado's School Age Population

Neal Marquez, PhD
Forecast Demographer

**Colorado Association of
School Boards**
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COLORADO
Department of Local Affairs
State Demography Office

Colorado State Demography Office

Kate Watkins

State Demographer

Neal Marquez

Projections Demographer

Nancy Gedeon

Estimates Demographer

Greg Totten

Economist

Heather Jones

Housing Economist

Todd Bleess

GIS Developer

Adam Bickford

Data Analyst & Outreach Coordinator





Key Population Trends

- Slower population growth
- Births falling, deaths rising
 - Aging Population
- Migration key to population growth
 - Economy/Housing closely related
- Diversifying slowly



Birth Rates & School Age Population



NEWS EVENTS ABOUT US

NEWS: COLORADANS

Births in metro Denver are falling faster than much of the country. Here's what it means for the future.

Denver County experienced the second largest decline in births among the 100 most populous counties in the country from 2021 to 2022, leading to declining school enrollments and big community questions



Erica Breunlin

3:37 AM MDT on Aug 6, 2024

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FACT-CHECK: EDUCATION

Are Colorado school districts seeing declining enrollment?

Declining birth rates and increases in home-schooling and online education are reducing student numbers, experts say



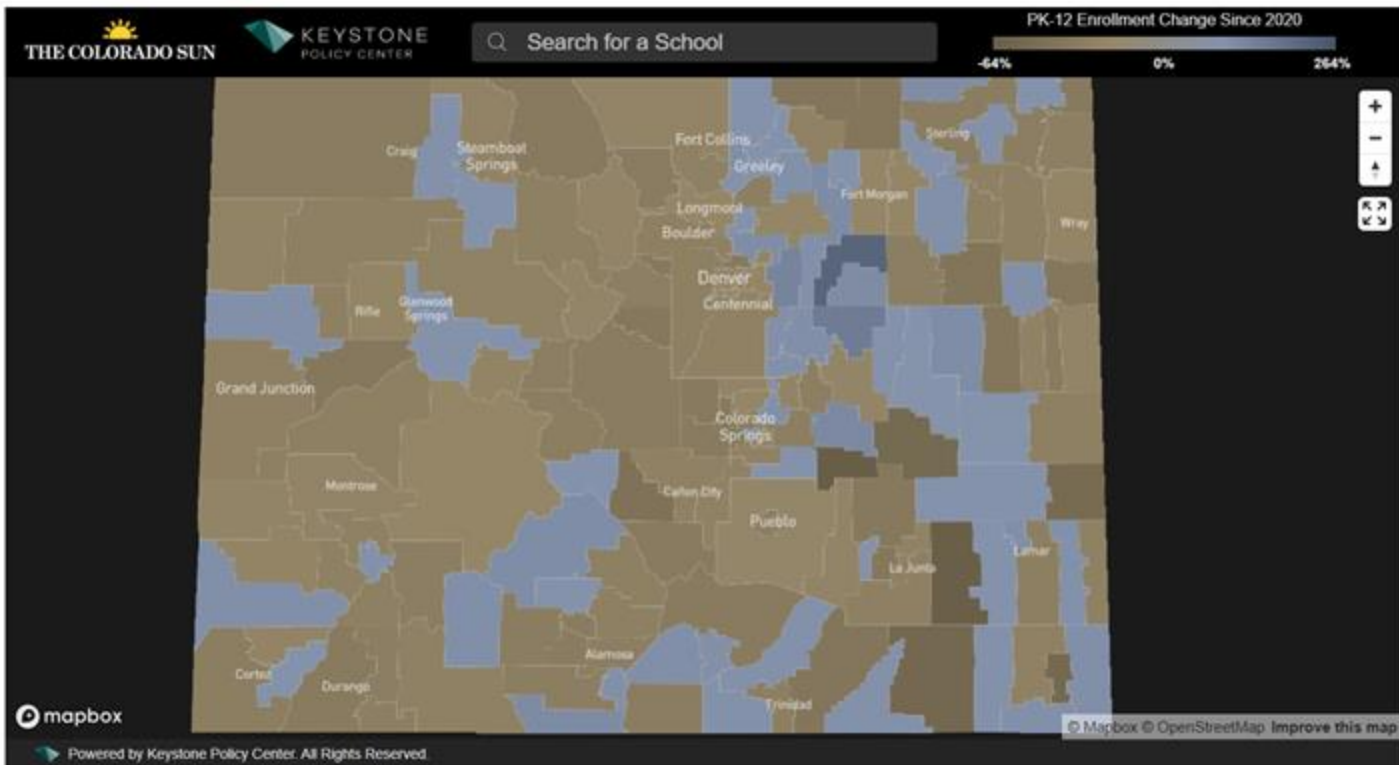
Por Jaijongkit

11:36 AM MDT on Jun 23, 2025

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Original Reporting | References | The Trust Project

School Enrollment Change



Immigration & School Enrollments



Immigration & School Enrollments

THE DENVER POST

Politics | 1.2M immigrants are gone from the US labor...



1.2M immigrants are gone from the US labor force under Trump, preliminary data shows

Experts say President Donald Trump's stepped-up immigration policies are impacting the nation's labor force.



Immigration & School Enrollments



Immigration & School Enrollments

Table 19
K-12 Public School Enrollment
Full-time equivalent (FTE) students

Region	Actual 2024-25	Percent Change	Estimated 2025-26	Percent Change	Estimated 2026-27	Percent Change	Average Growth*
Colorado Springs	125,232	1.6%	127,062	1.5%	128,820	1.4%	1.4%
Eastern Plains	24,452	-3.3%	24,507	0.2%	24,514	0.0%	0.1%
Metro Denver	473,132	0.5%	470,912	-0.5%	468,465	-0.5%	-0.5%
Mountain	23,438	-2.2%	23,166	-1.2%	22,933	-1.0%	-1.1%
Northern	91,774	-0.8%	92,119	0.4%	92,328	0.2%	0.3%
Pueblo	30,644	-2.2%	30,324	-1.0%	30,008	-1.0%	-1.0%
San Luis Valley	6,765	-1.8%	6,736	-0.4%	6,743	0.1%	-0.2%
Southwest Mountain	11,983	-8.0%	11,930	-0.4%	11,908	-0.2%	-0.3%
Western	48,523	-1.0%	47,844	-1.4%	47,162	-1.4%	-1.4%
Statewide Total	835,942	0.01%	834,598	-0.2%	832,879	-0.2%	-0.2%

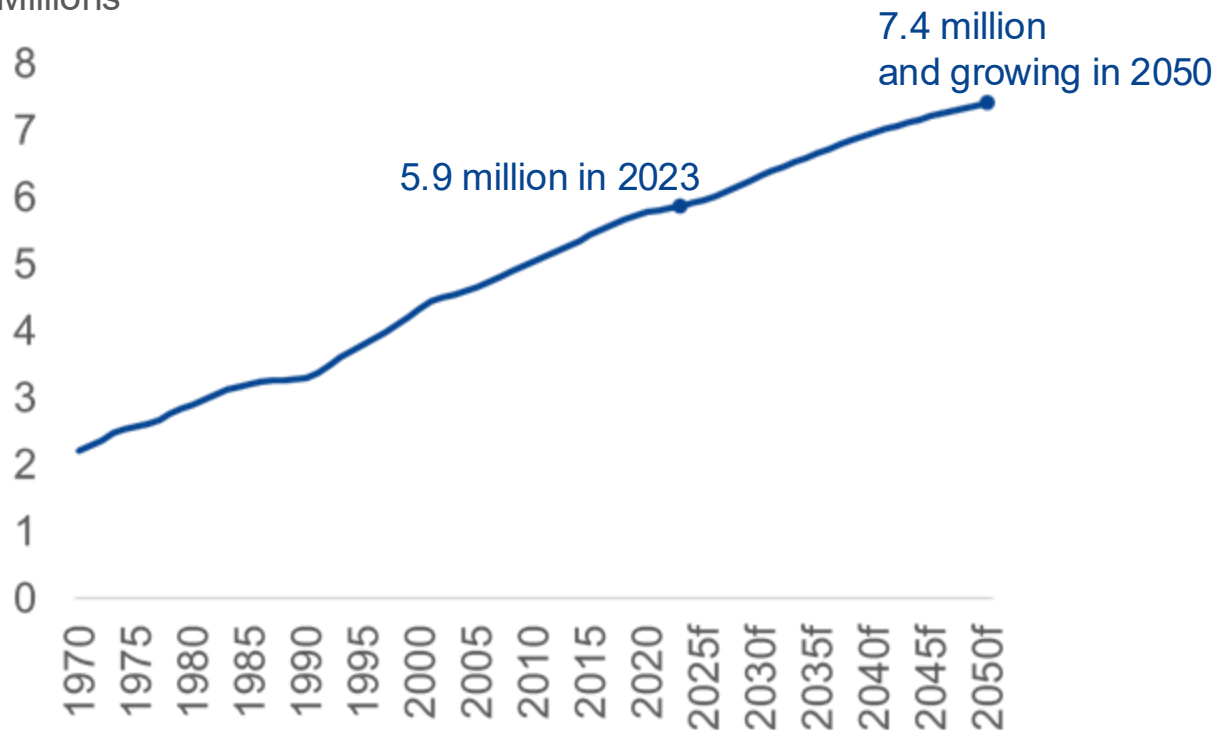
Source: Colorado Department of Education and Legislative Council Staff.

*Compound average annual growth rate between 2024-25 and 2026-27.



Colorado's Population

Millions



Average Annual Growth by Decade

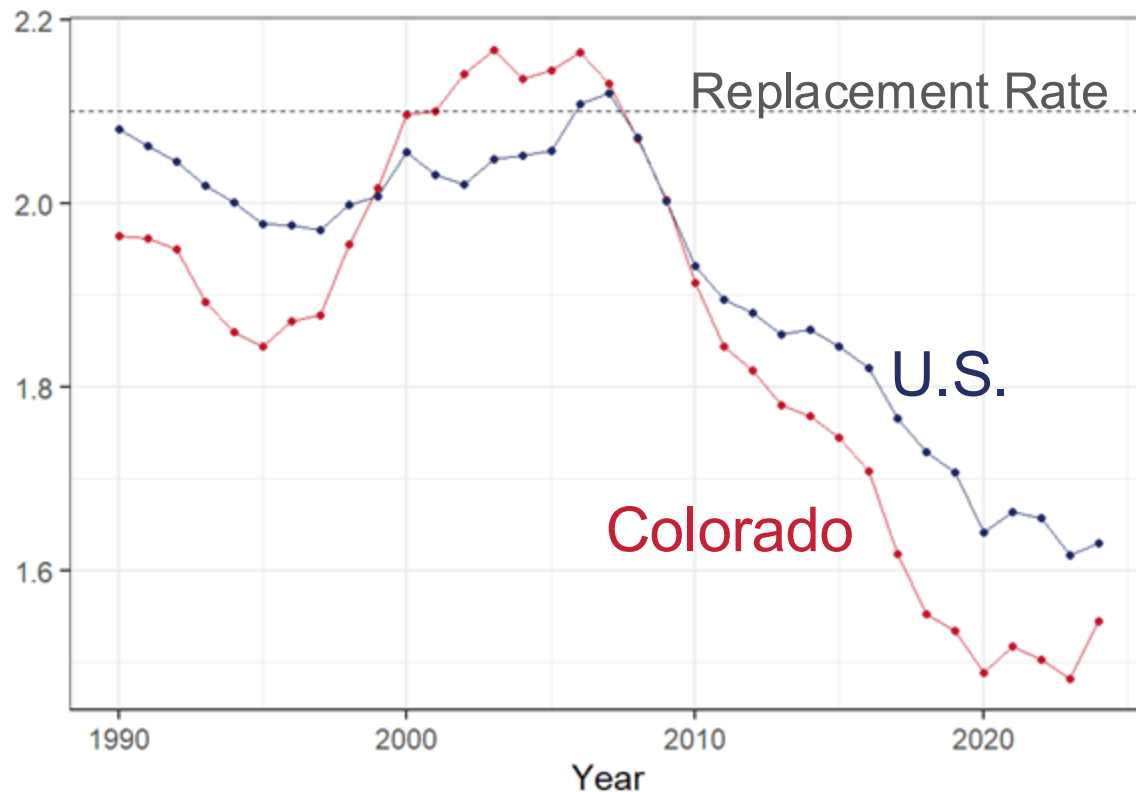
1970s	68,000	2.7%
1980s	40,000	1.3%
1990s	104,000	2.8%
2000s	71,000	1.5%
2010s	73,000	1.4%
2020s	54,000	0.9%
2030s	65,000	1.0%
2040s	45,000	0.6%



Source: State Demography Office, vintage 2023 estimates and projections.

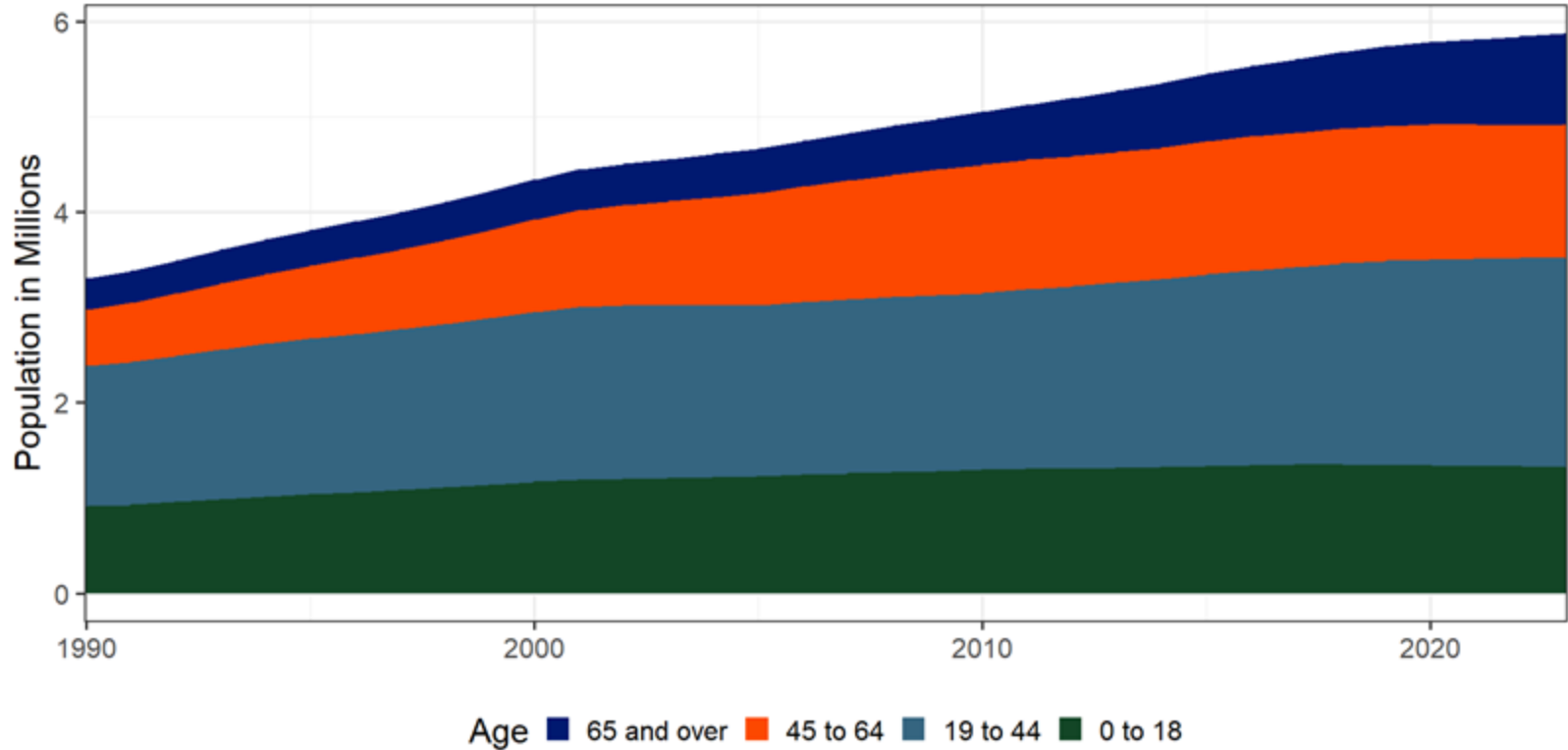
Colorado's Birth Rate

Births per Woman



Source: State Demography Office, vintage 2023 estimates and projections.

Colorado By Age

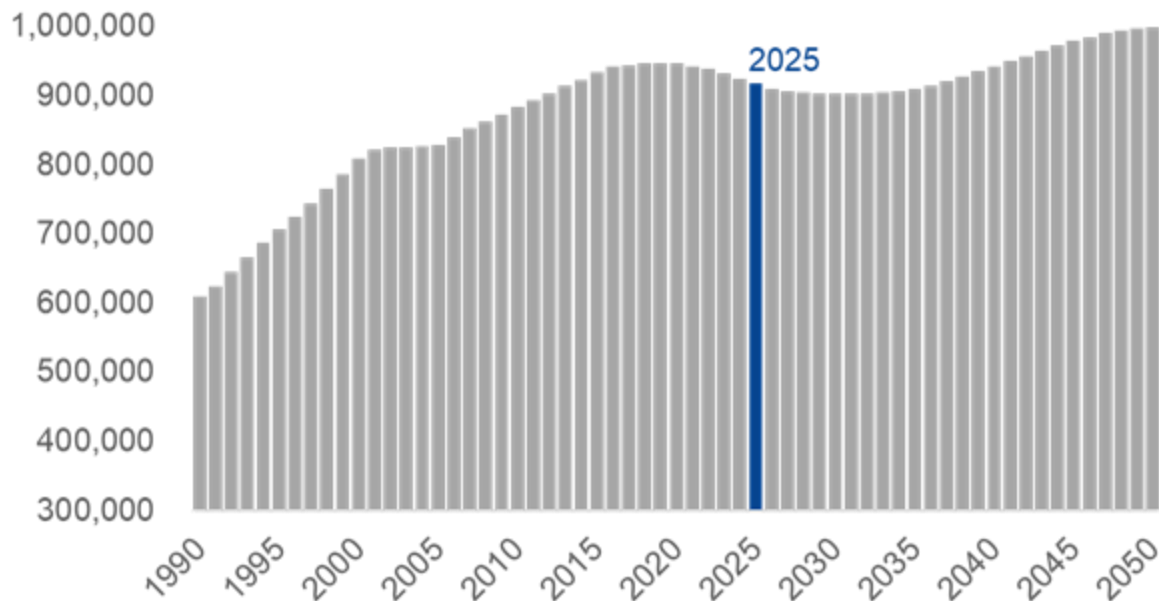


Source: State Demography Office, vintage 2023 estimates and projections.



Colorado School Age Population

Population Aged 5 to 17

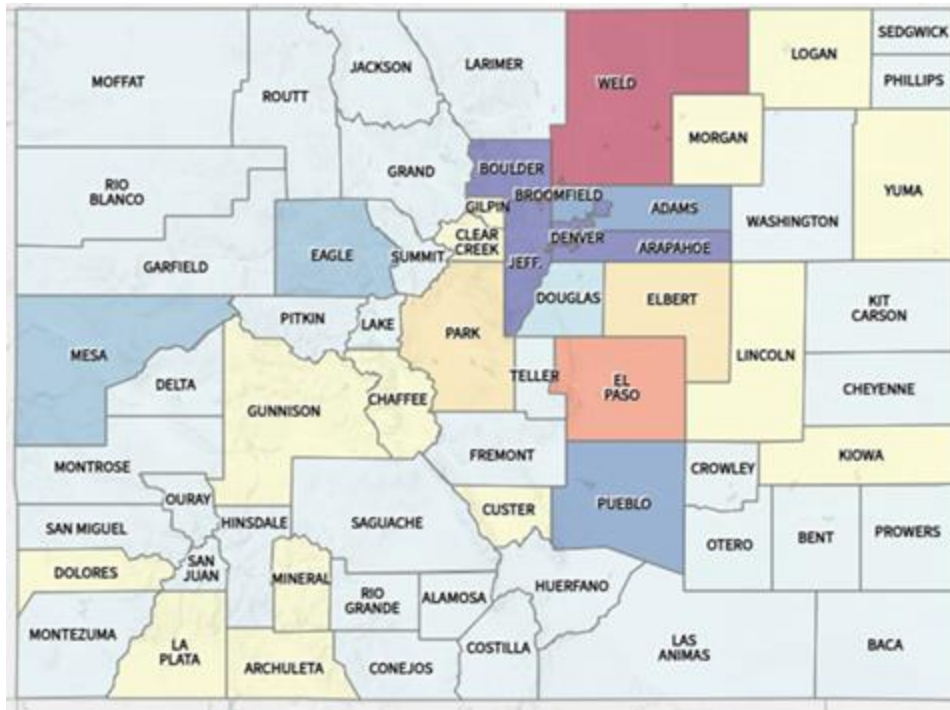


- Declines in the school age population expected to slow as migrating populations have children
- Trends differ across the state, with declines expected to continue in several areas, strong growth in others

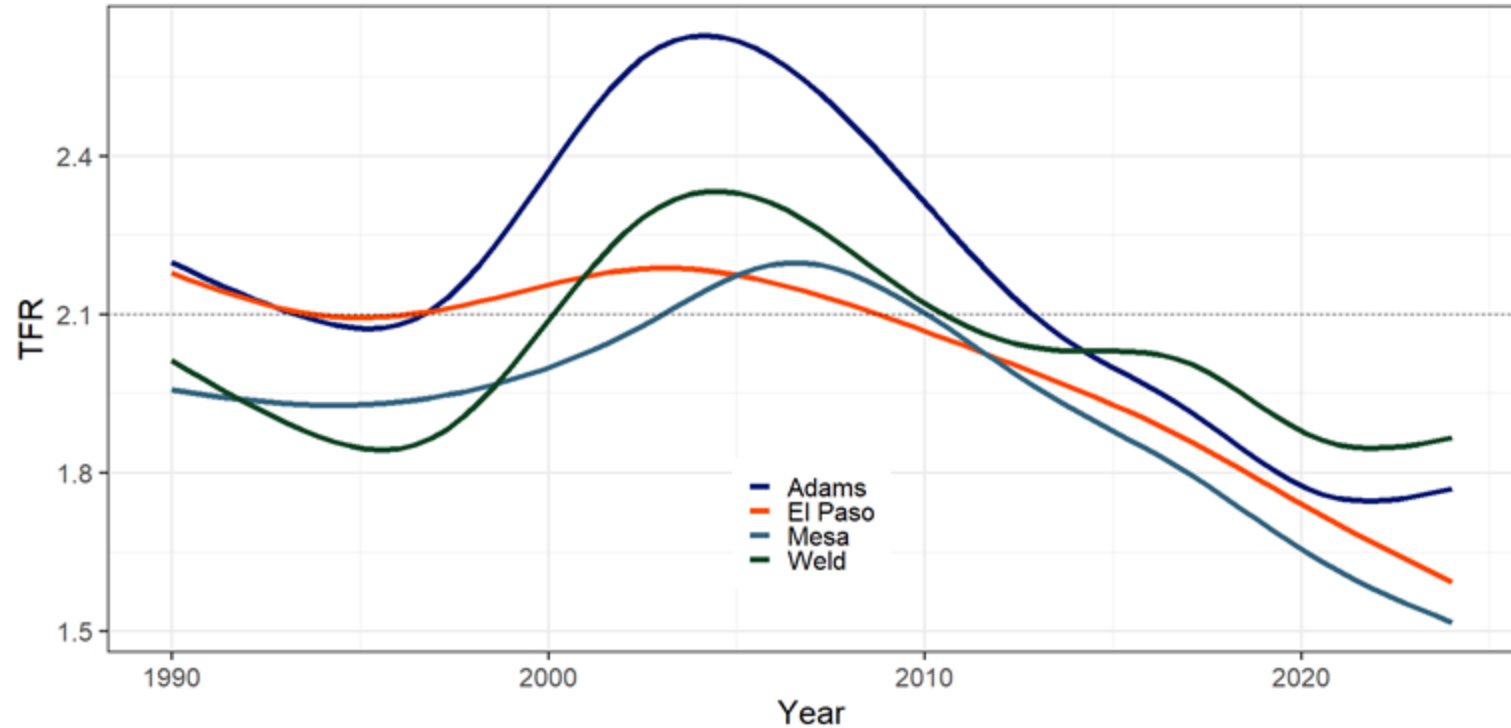


Source: State Demography Office, vintage 2023 estimates and projections; U.S. Census Bureau population projections, main series 2022-2100.

Population Aged 5 to 17, 2020 to 2030



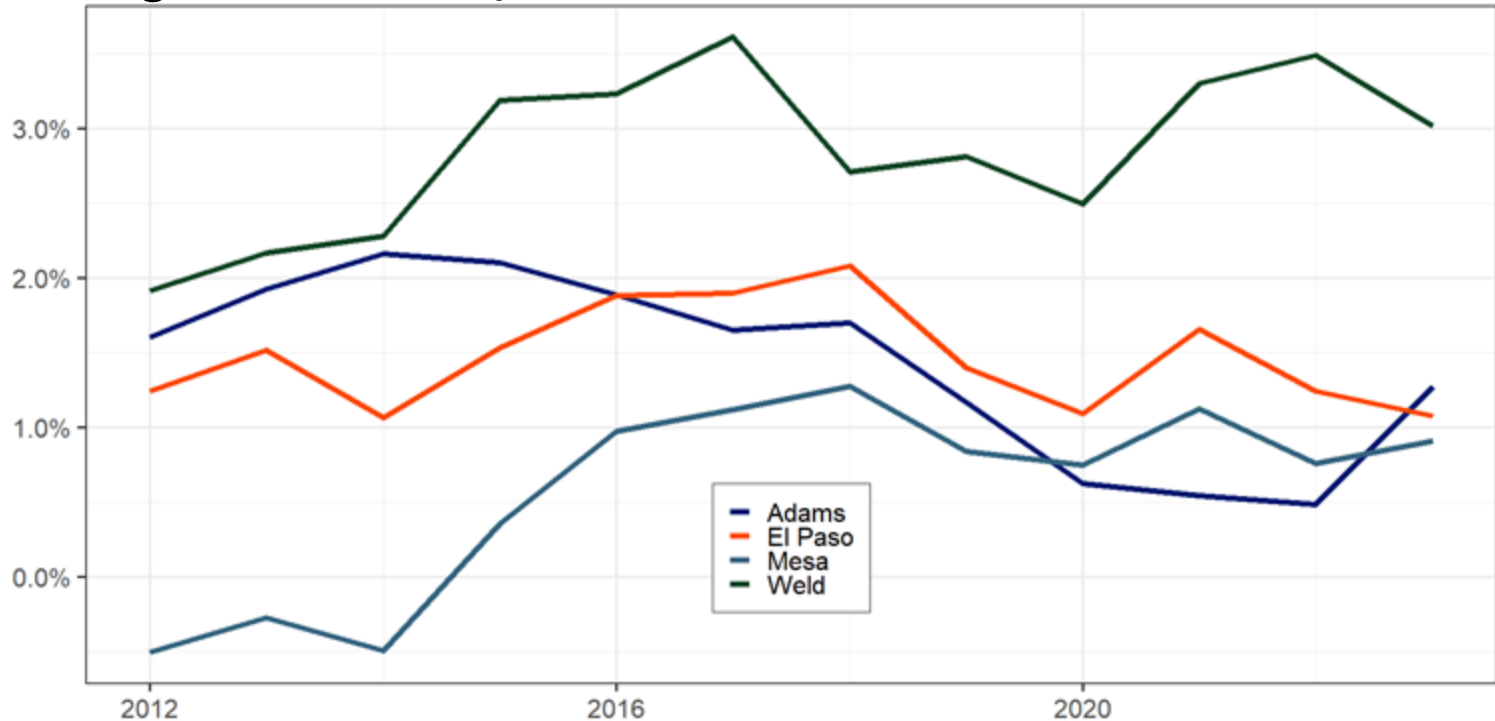
County Birth Rates



Source: State Demography Office, vintage 2023 estimates and projections

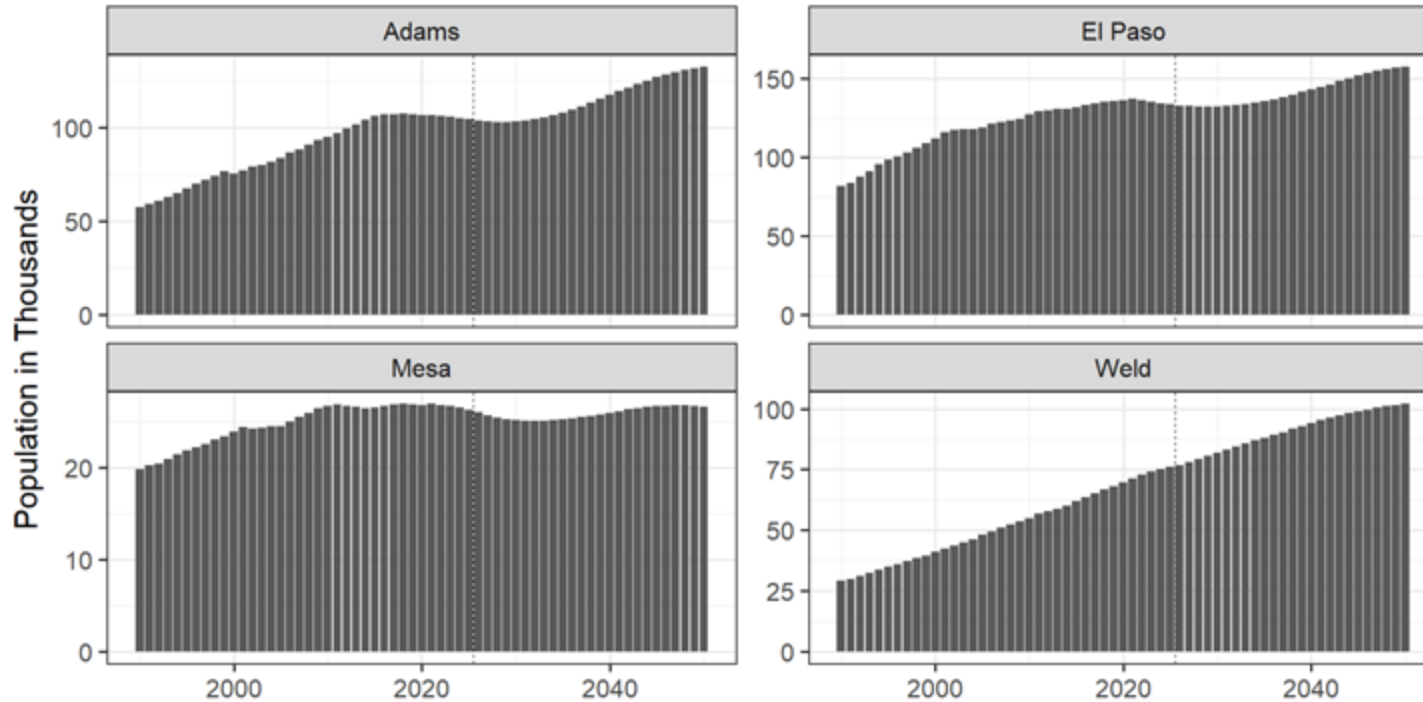
Change in Female Population

Percent Change in Female Population, 15-44



Source: State Demography Office, vintage 2023 estimates and projections

Forecasted County School Age Population

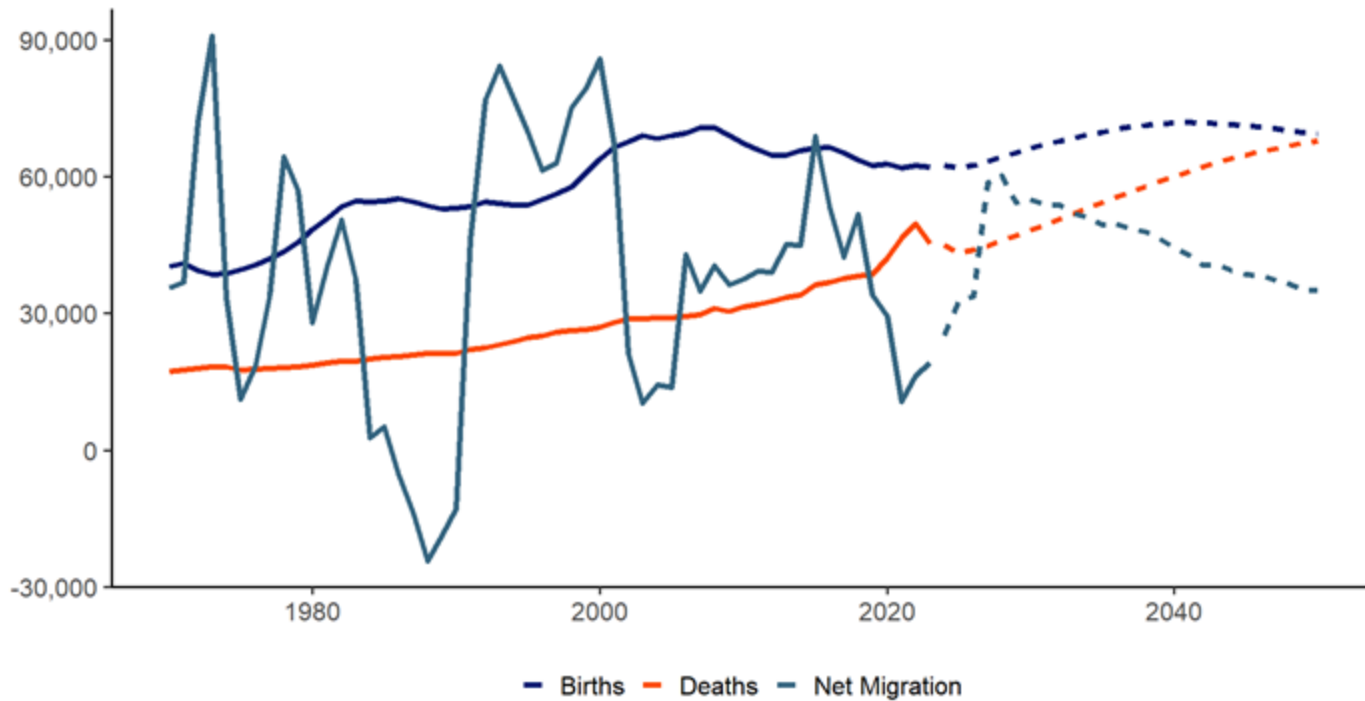


Source: State Demography Office, vintage 2023 estimates and projections

Colorado Population Components Forecasted

CO

Colorado Births, Deaths, & Migration

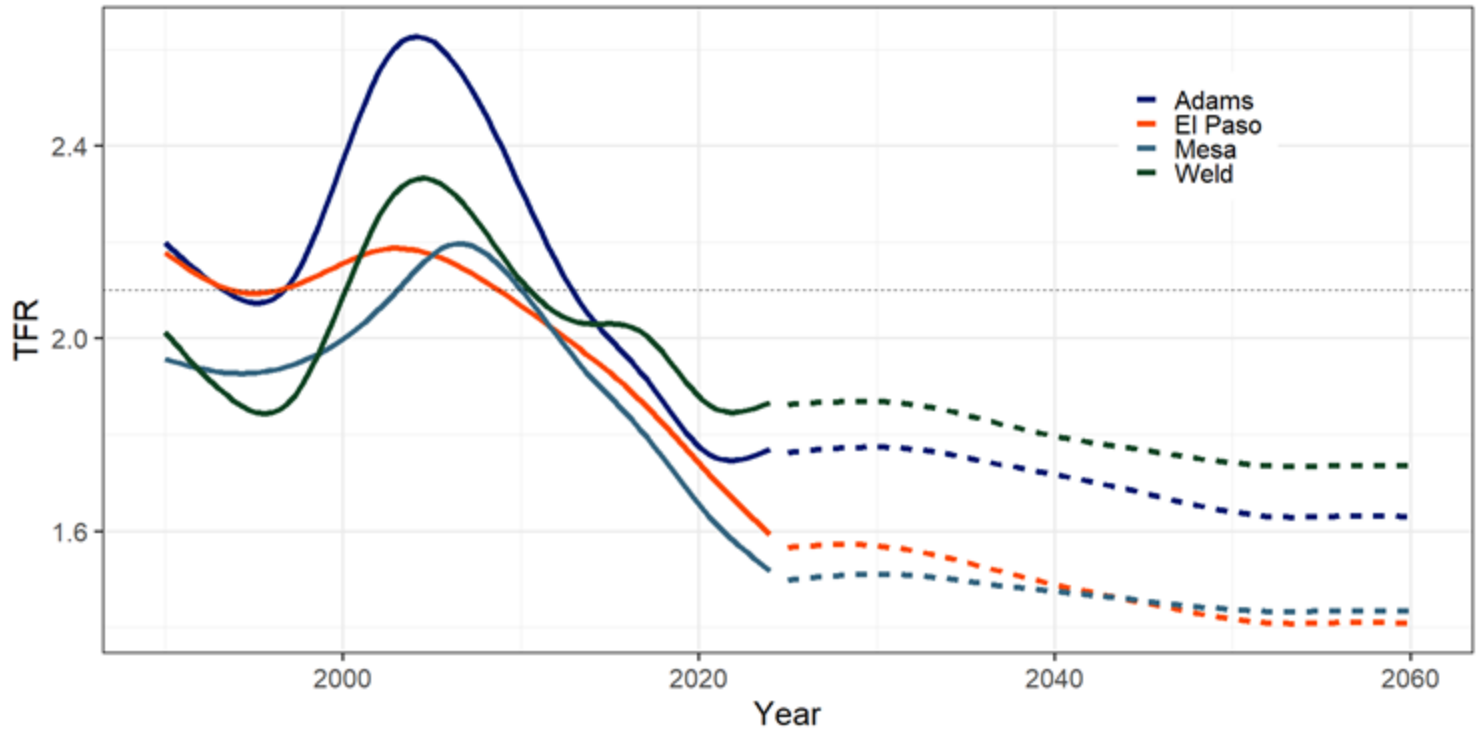


- Births expected to increase as Gen Z reaches peak fertility age and migration increases
- More deaths due to population aging
- Colorado enters natural decline in 2053 vs. the U.S. in 2032



Source: Colorado Demography Office vintage 2023 estimates and projections.
<https://demography.dola.colorado.gov/assets/html/netmighist.html>

Forecasted County Birth Rates

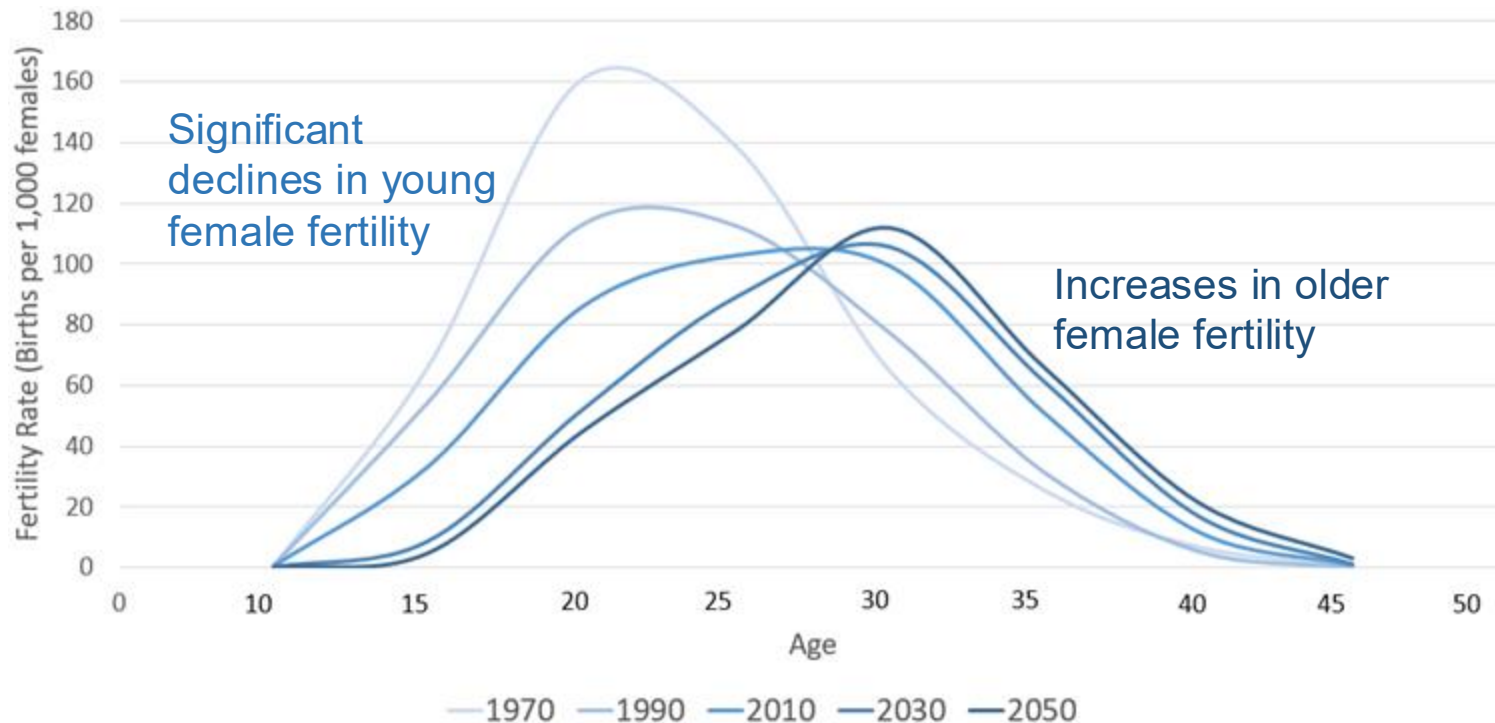


Source: State Demography Office, vintage 2023 estimates and projections

Fertility rates continue to decline

CO

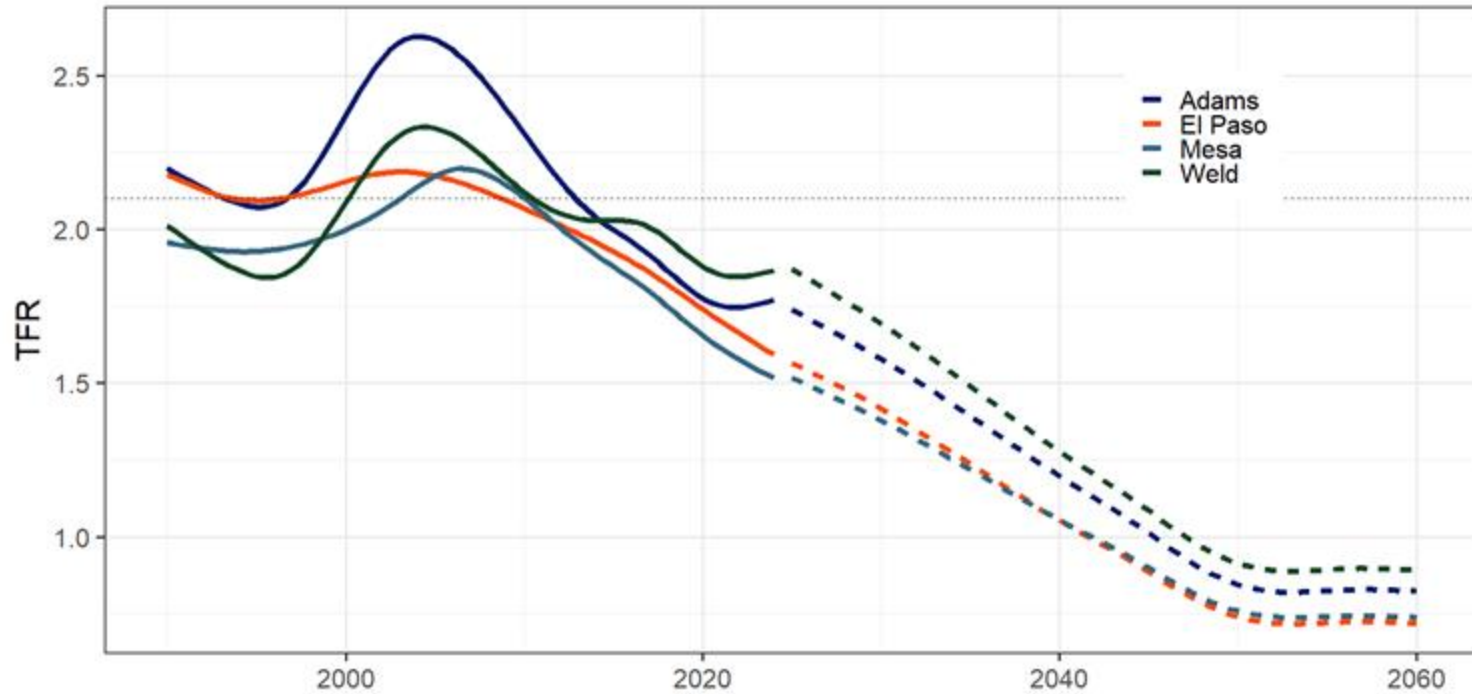
Colorado Fertility Rate by Age



Source: Colorado Demography Office vintage 2023 estimates and projections; Colorado birth estimates from Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, 2024.

Forecasted County Birth Rates

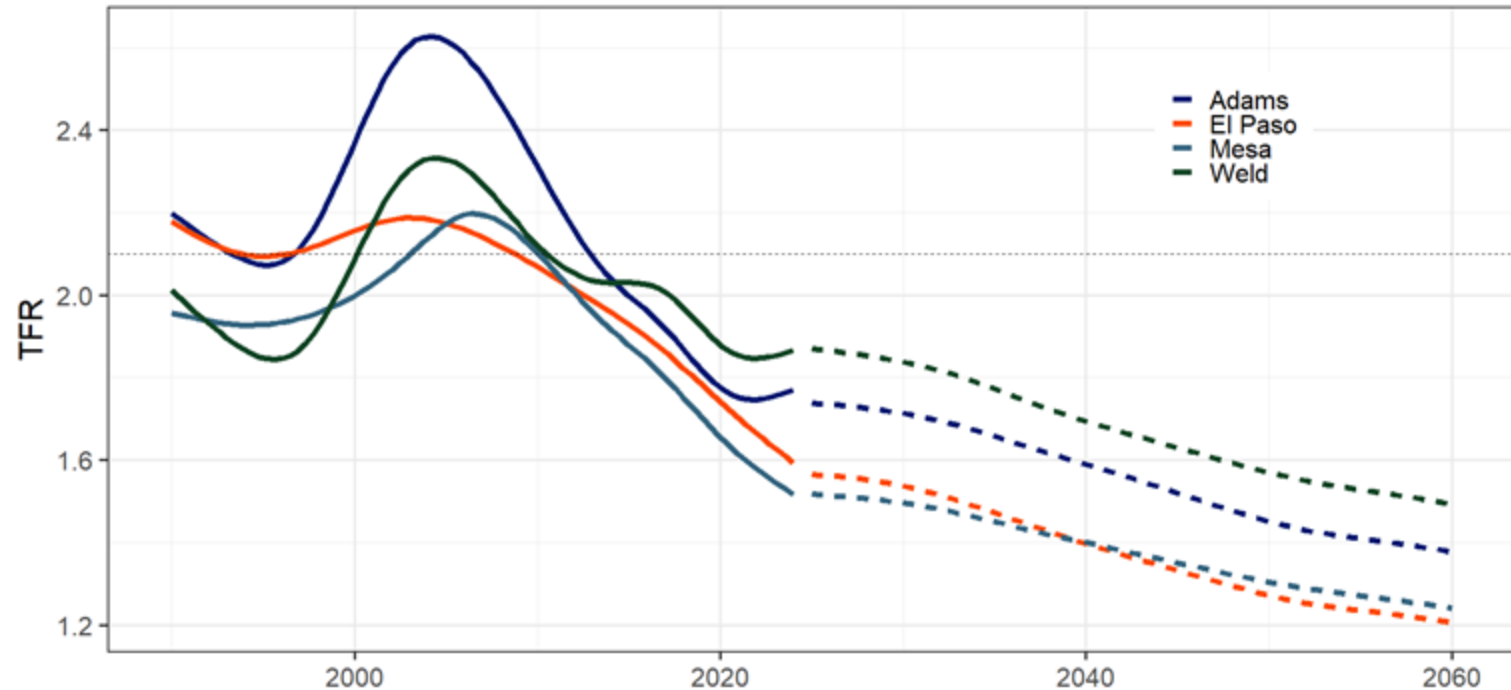
Very Low Fertility Scenario



Source: State Demography Office, vintage 2023 estimates and projections

Forecasted County Birth Rates

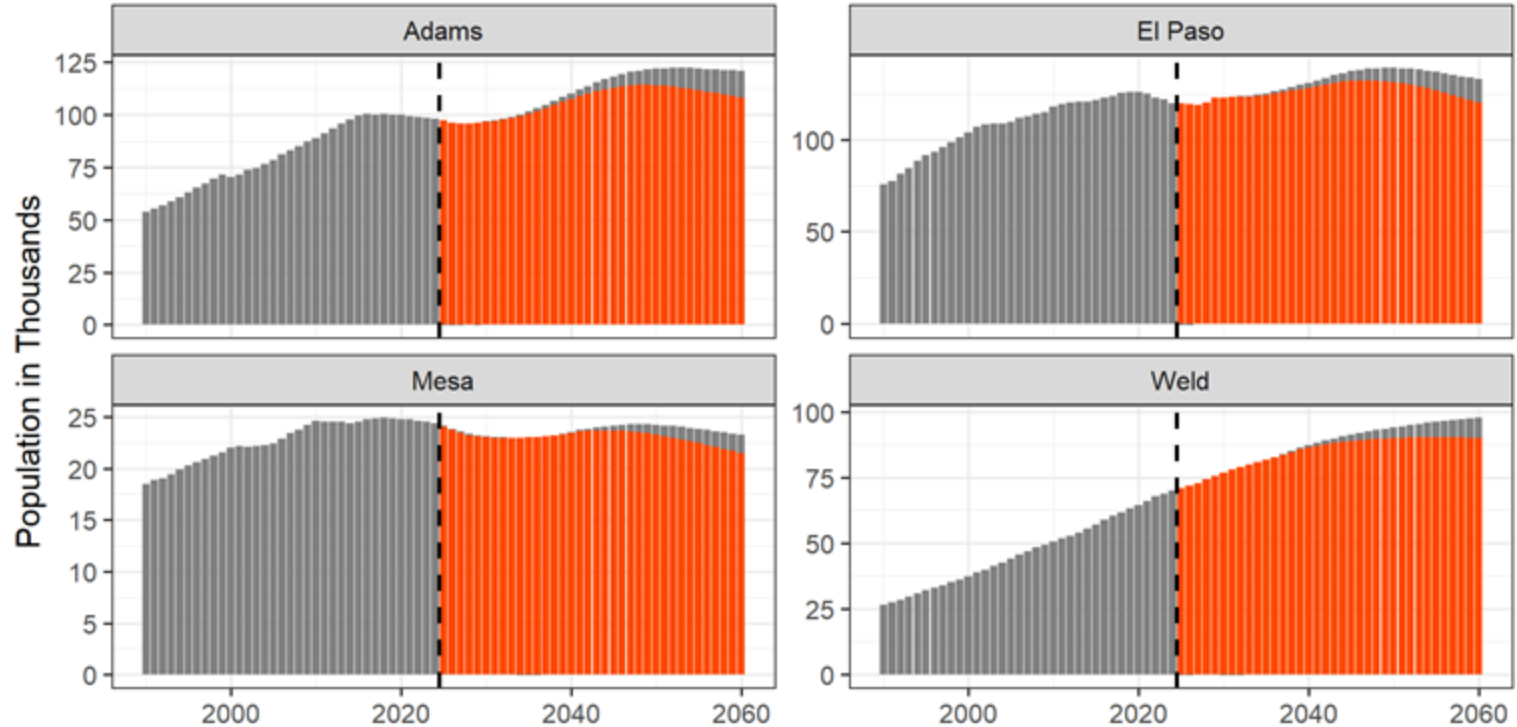
Low Fertility Scenario



Source: State Demography Office, vintage 2023 estimates and projections

Forecasted County School Age Population

Low Fertility Scenario

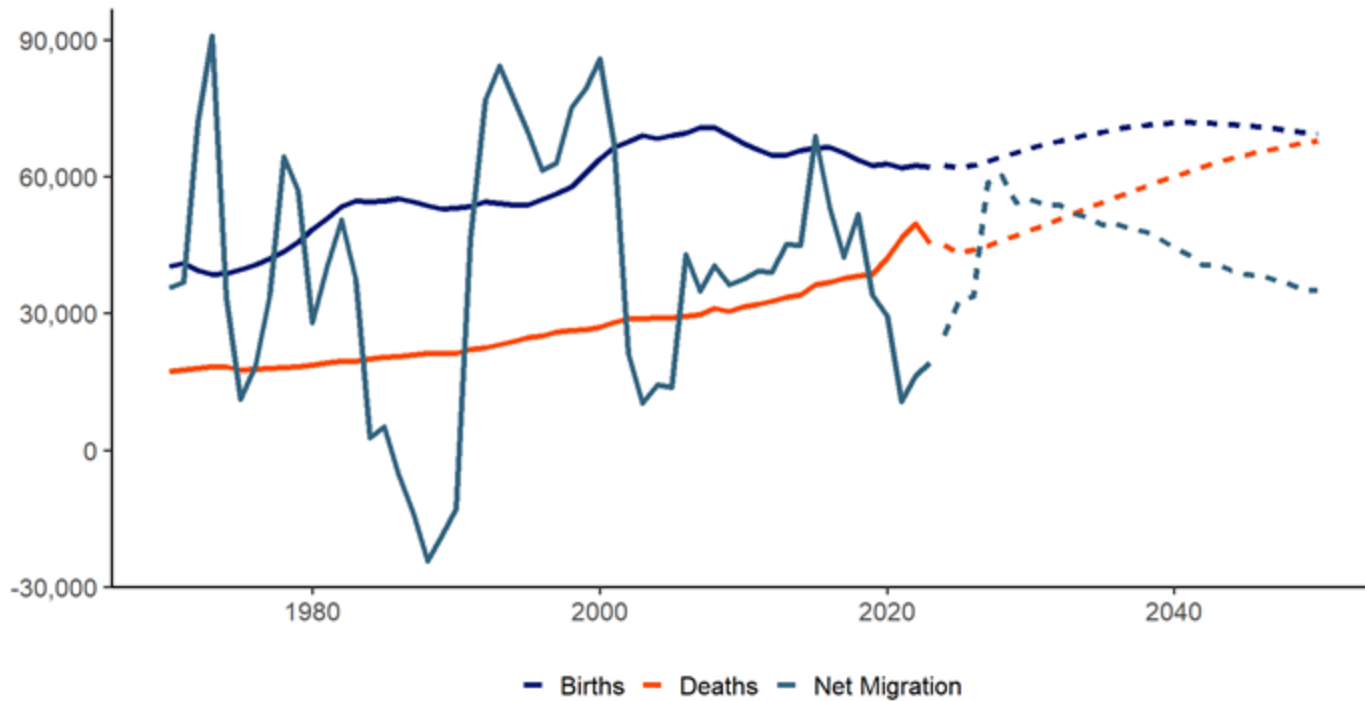


Source: State Demography Office, vintage 2023 estimates and projections

Colorado Population Components Forecasted

CO

Colorado Births, Deaths, & Migration

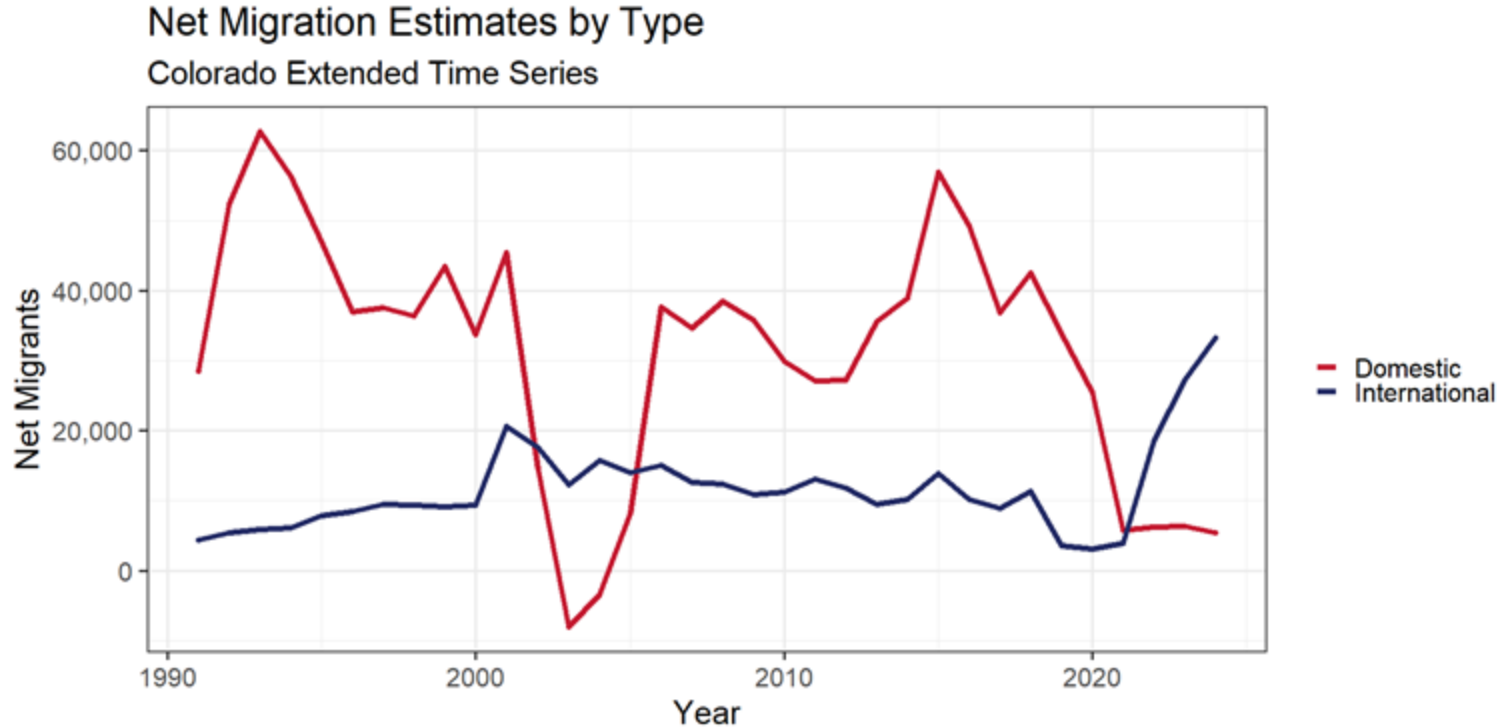


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Source: Colorado Demography Office vintage 2023 estimates and projections.
<https://demography.dola.colorado.gov/assets/html/netmighist.html>

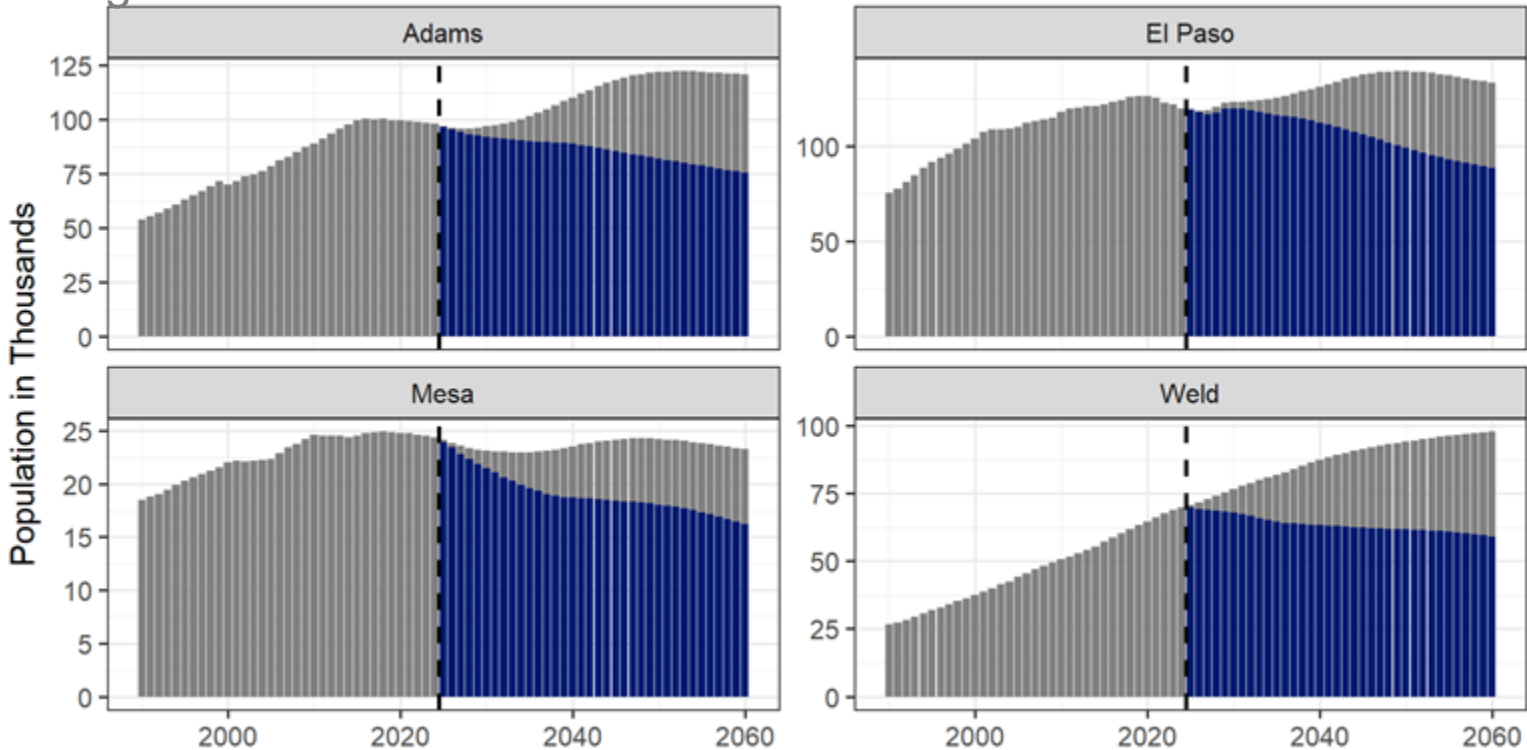
Future of Migration Uncertain



Source: State Demography Office, vintage 2023 estimates and projections

Forecasted County School Age Population

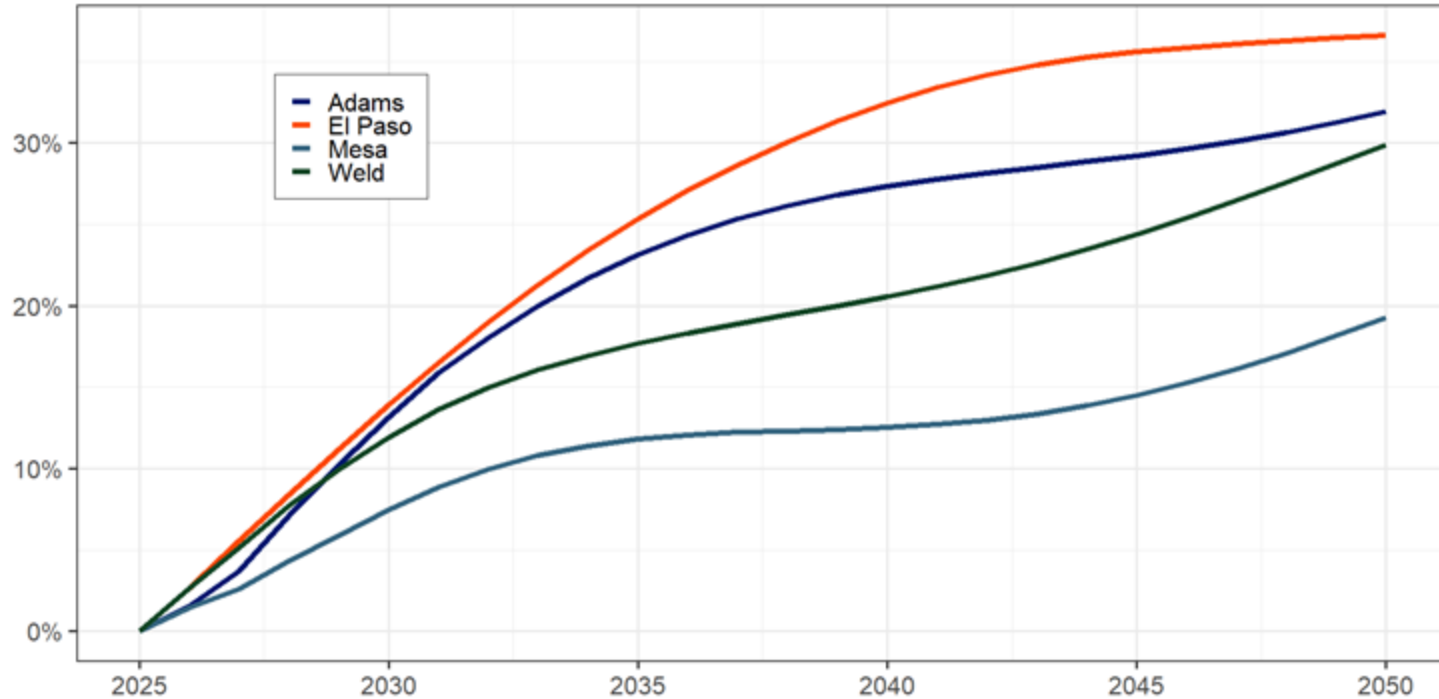
Zero Net Migration Scenario



Source: State Demography Office, vintage 2023 estimates and projections

Migration & births

Percent of births attributable to migration



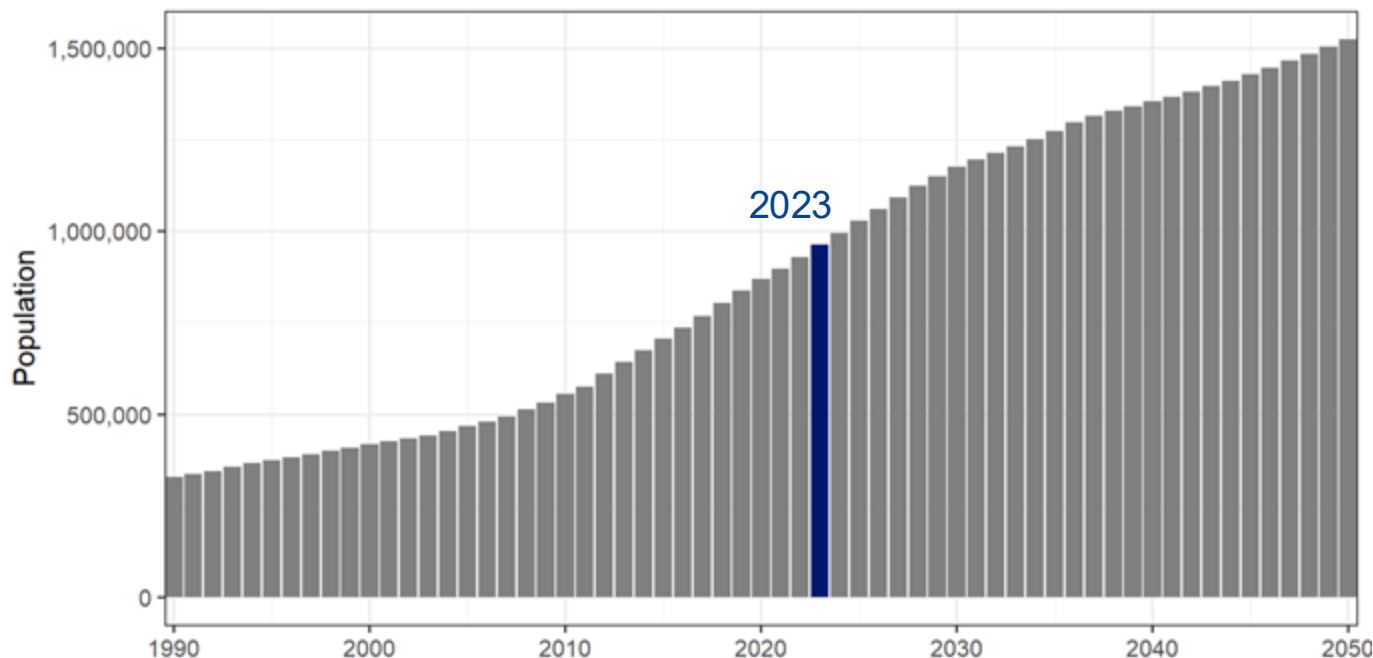
Source: State Demography Office, vintage 2023 estimates and projections

Aging



The 65+ population is the fastest growing cohort

Colorado Population Aged 65+



Health issues and need for assistance tend to increase at age 80+

Likely to contribute to budgetary pressures through Medicaid expenditures



Source: State Demography Office, vintage 2023 estimates and projections.
<https://demography.dola.colorado.gov/assets/html/population.html>

Colorado's Aging Population

REPORTS

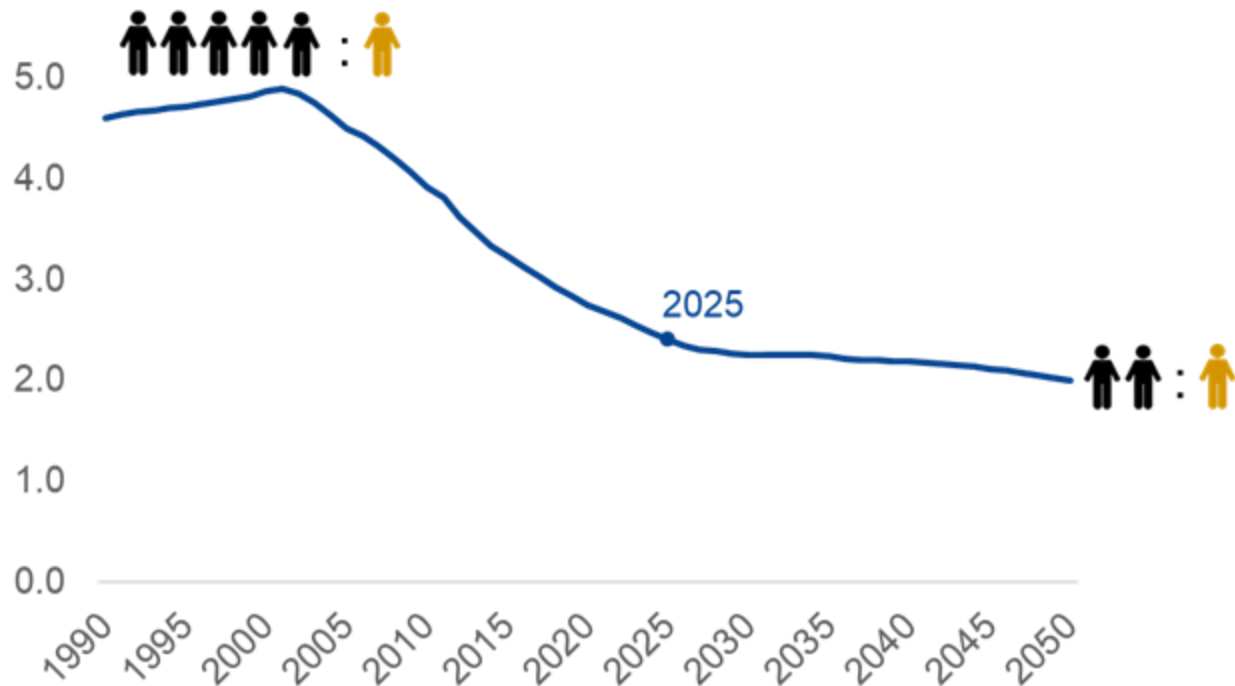
Report: The Cost of Aging in Colorado

AUGUST 5TH, 2025 COLORADO FISCAL INSTITUTE



Workers vs. Retirees in Colorado

Ratio of those Age 25 to 54 to those 65+



Economic impacts of aging will depend on several factors, including:

- Wealth, retirement saving, spending patterns
- Labor force participation among those 65+



Source: State Demography Office, vintage 2023 estimates and projections.
<https://demography.dola.colorado.gov/assets/html/population.html>

Takeaways



Data to Monitor

- > Population by age
- > Births and fertility rates
- > Net migration by age
- > New housing developments
- > Economic activity (jobs)
- > Race/Ethnicity of the population

There's no better time than now to plan for the future.



Uncertainty in the future

- > Climate and natural disaster impacts
- > Geopolitical conflict
- > Federal or state policy changes
- > Turnover in the housing stock
- > Shifting fertility preferences
- > Economic impacts

There's no better time than now to plan for the future.



Questions?

Neal Marquez

neal.marquez@state.co.us

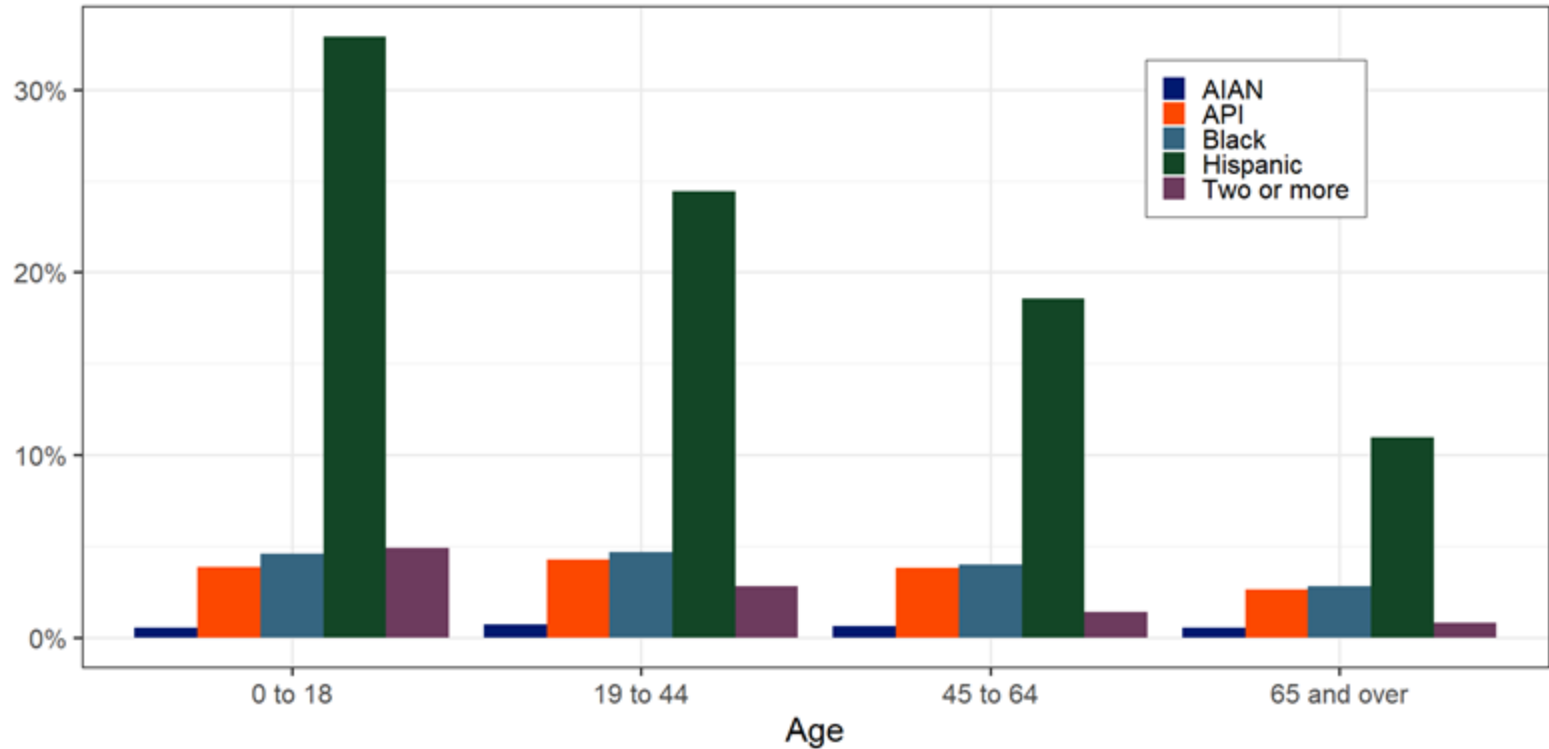
demography.dola.colorado.gov



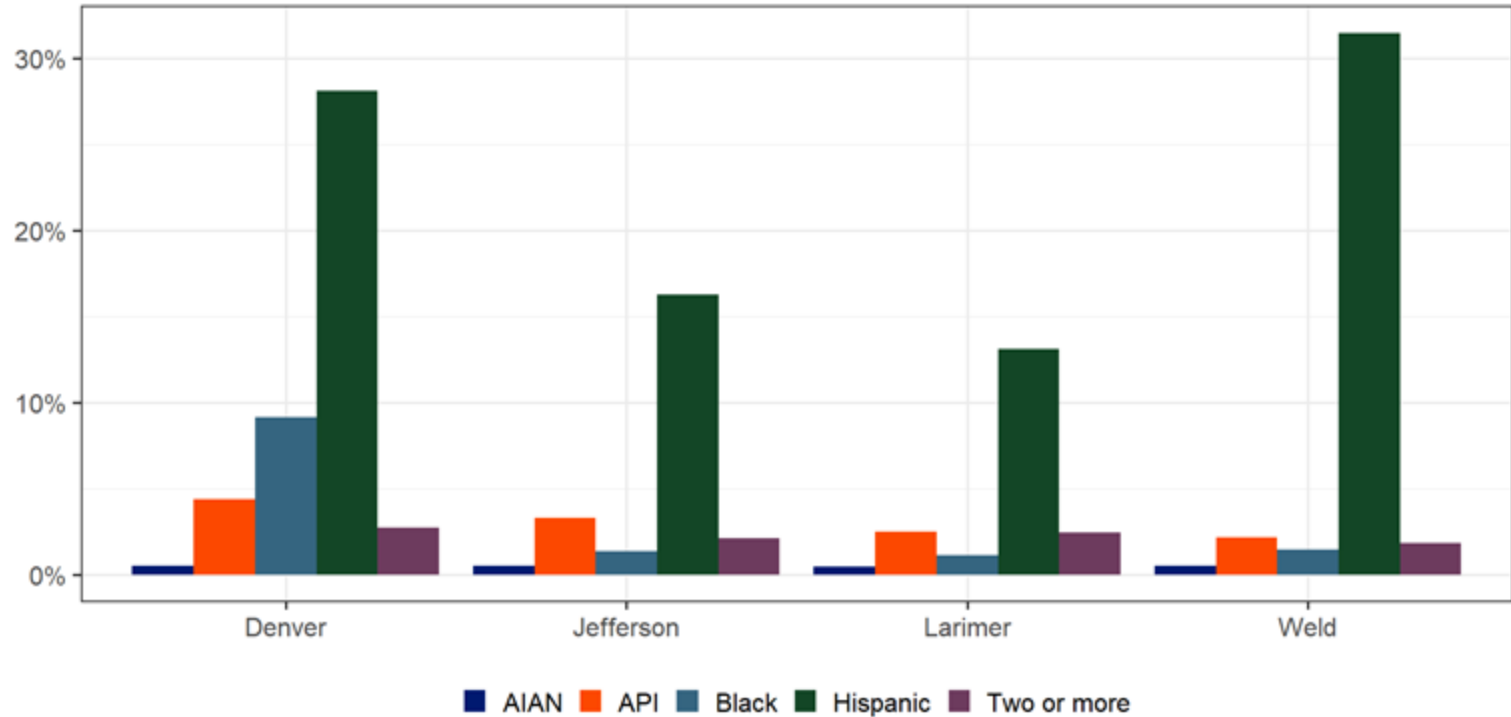
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Race, ethnicity, & age



Race & ethnicity by county



Source: State Demography Office, vintage 2023 estimates and projections.