

Section 1: Introduction



The Colorado Division of Criminal Justice's Office of Research and Statistics presents to the state this comprehensive picture of the criminal justice system. Relying heavily on graphics and a non-technical format it brings together a wide variety of data from multiple sources, including DCJ's own databases, the Colorado Bureau of Investigation, the Colorado Judicial Branch, the Department of Corrections, and the Division of Youth Corrections.

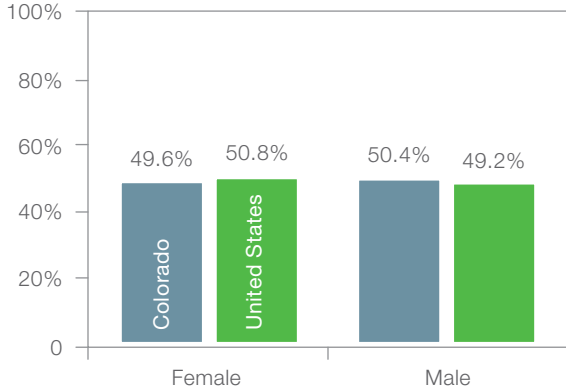
A local perspective on crime and justice is provided with the inclusion of homicide information from Denver, Aurora and Colorado Springs. Also, twenty-three years of arrest data from all counties in the state are summarized using data from the Colorado Bureau of Investigation.

The most recent data available are presented here. Depending on the data source, the latest dates vary between 2000 and 2004.

Because this report analyzes many rich data sources and is presented with the use of graphics and short descriptions, it should be of interest to the general public, elected government officials and criminal justice practitioners. The report attempts to assist the state as it seeks to appreciate the complexity of the crime problem and the criminal justice system response.

It is useful to compare the information that follows with a few basic state and national reference points.

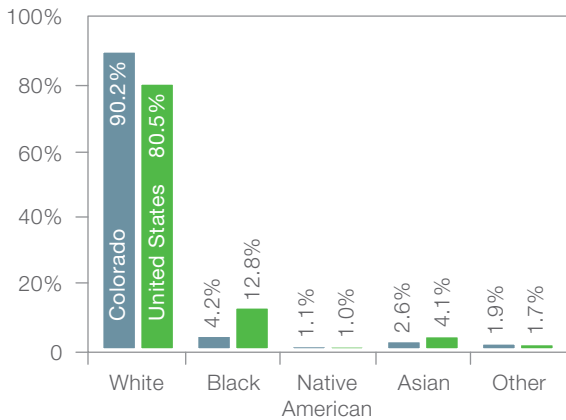
Figure 1.1. Gender: Colorado and nationwide, 2003



Source: US Census Bureau.

- Colorado ranked third in the nation in 2003 in the ratio of males to females. Alaska had the highest male to female ratio. The District of Columbia had the lowest male to female ratio.

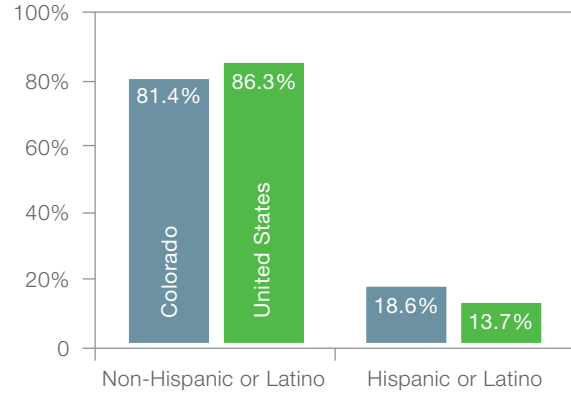
Figure 1.2. Race: Colorado and nationwide, 2003



Source: US Census Bureau.

- These categories reflect the method used by the U.S. Census Bureau to depict race.
- Colorado ranked 24th in percentage of population that was white. Maine was the highest at 96.9 percent. Hawaii was last at 24.3 percent.

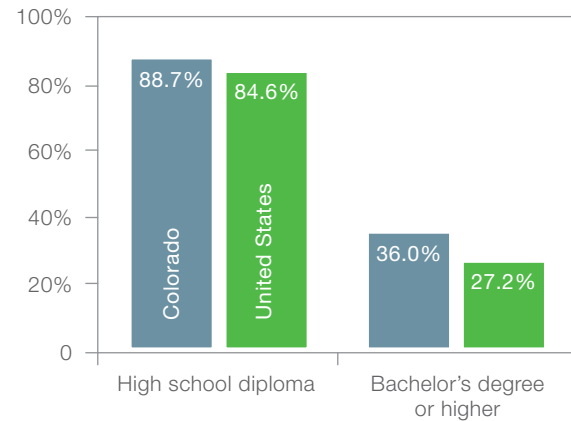
Figure 1.3. Origin: Colorado and nationwide, 2003



Source: US Census Bureau.

- Nearly one in 5 Coloradans was of Hispanic or Latino origin.
- Colorado ranked 6th in percentage of population that was Hispanic. New Mexico was first with 42.1 percent. West Virginia and Maine were tied for last at 0.7 percent.

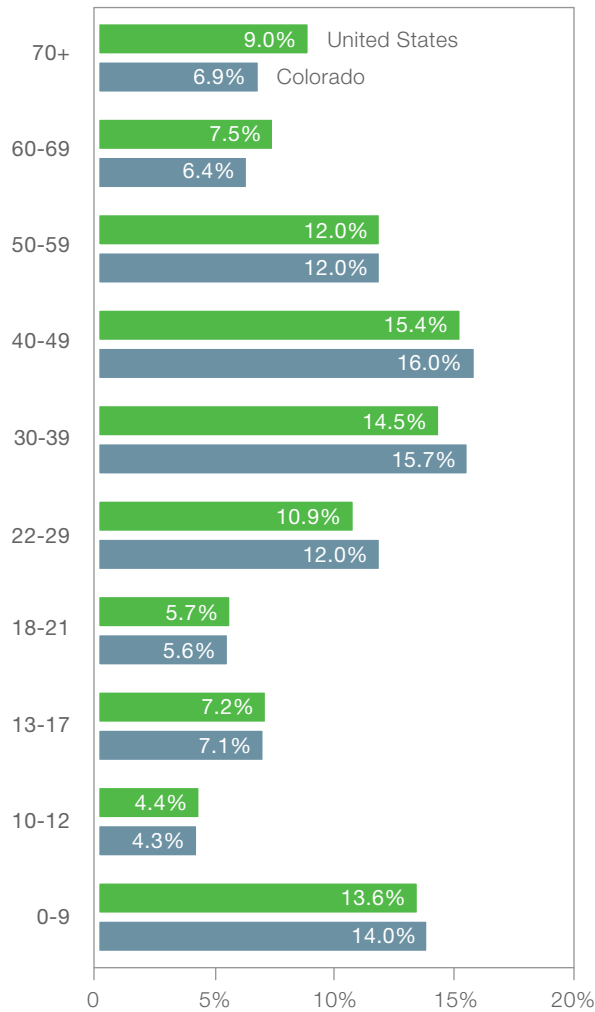
Figure 1.4. Educational attainment: Colorado and nationwide, 2003



Source: US Census Bureau.

- Colorado ranked 4th in the proportion of the population holding a bachelor's degree or higher degrees behind Washington D.C., Massachusetts, and Maryland.

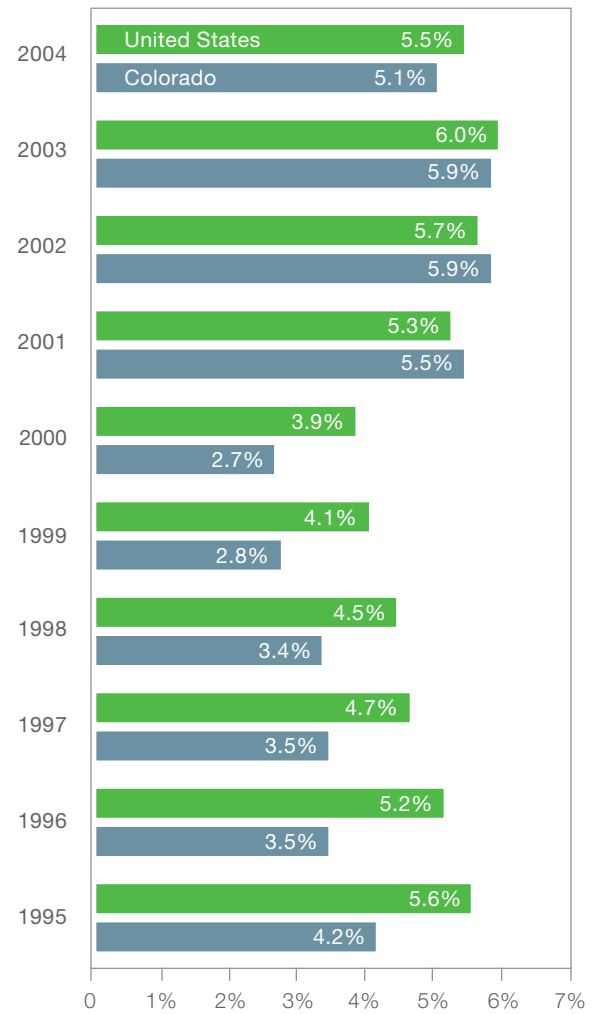
Figure 1.5. Age: Colorado and nationwide, 2003



Source: US Census Bureau.

- Colorado was higher than the national average in the percentage of the population that was between age 22 and 49.
- Colorado ranked 48th in percentage of population 65 and older. Florida was the highest at 17.1 percent. Alaska was last at 5.7 percent.

Figure 1.6. Unemployment: Colorado and nationwide, 2003



Source: US Census Bureau.

- In 2003, Colorado ranked 33rd in average unemployment rate, Oregon was 1st with an unemployment rate of 8.2 percent, South Dakota was last with an unemployment rate of 3.6 percent.
- Unemployment rates are percentages of available labor force.

CJ

CO

04

Section 1