Section 1: **Introduction**

The Office of Research and Statistics, located in the Colorado Division of Criminal Justice, presents to the state this comprehensive picture of the criminal and juvenile justice systems. 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: twenty-six years of arrest data from all counties in the state are summarized in Section 8 of the report using data from the Colorado Bureau of Investigation.
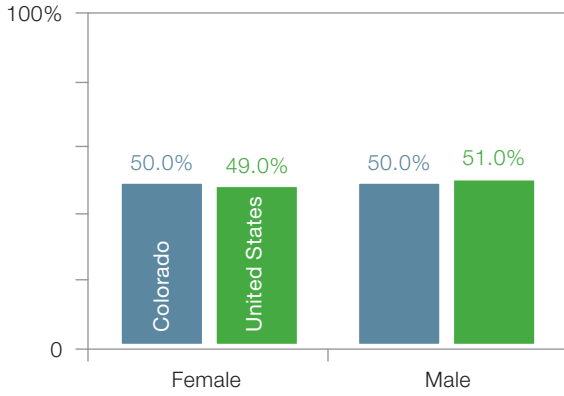
The most recent data available are presented here. Depending on the data source, the latest dates vary between 2000 and 2006.

This report attempts to assist the state as it seeks to appreciate the complexity of the crime problem and the criminal justice system response.

Colorado vs. nationwide

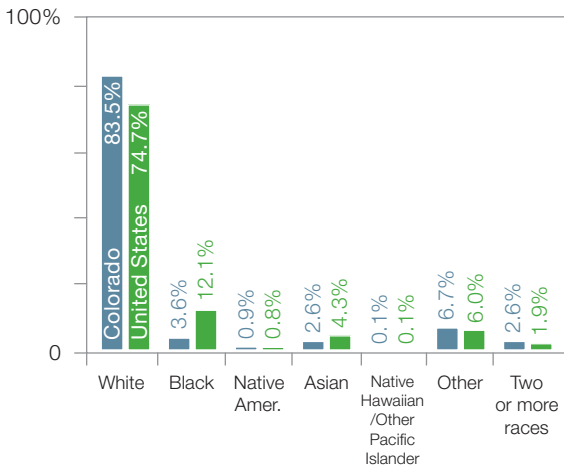It is useful to compare the information in this report with a few basic state and national reference points.

Figure 1.1. Gender: Colorado and nationwide, 2005

Source: US Census Bureau.

- Colorado ranked fourth in the nation in 2005 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.

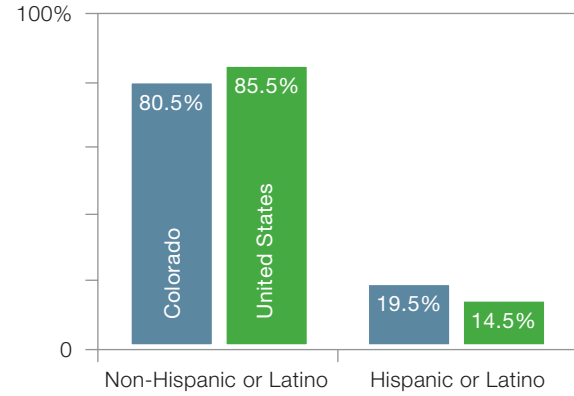Figure 1.2. Race: Colorado and nationwide, 2005

Note: These categories reflect the method used by the U.S. Census Bureau to depict race.

Source: US Census Bureau.

- Ninety-seven percent of Coloradoans associated themselves with one specific race. About two percent identified themselves with two or more races.

- Colorado ranked 22nd in the percentage of the population that was white. Maine was the highest at 96.6 percent. Hawaii was last at 24.9 percent.

- Colorado was ranked 34th for the percentage of their population that was black or African American. Washington D.C. was the highest at 56.8 percent, while Idaho was the lowest at 0.4 percent.
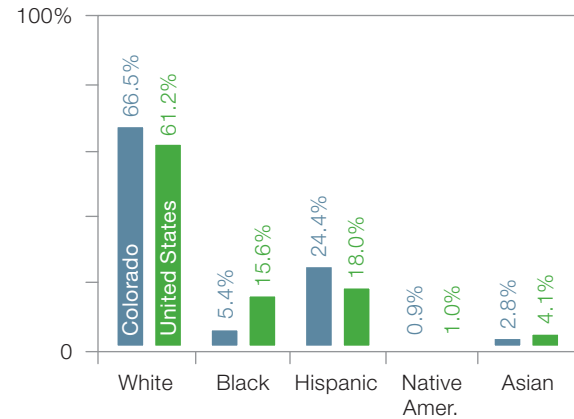
Figure 1.3. Origin: Colorado and nationwide, 2005

Source: US Census Bureau.

- Nearly one in five Coloradoans was of Hispanic or Latino origin in 2005.
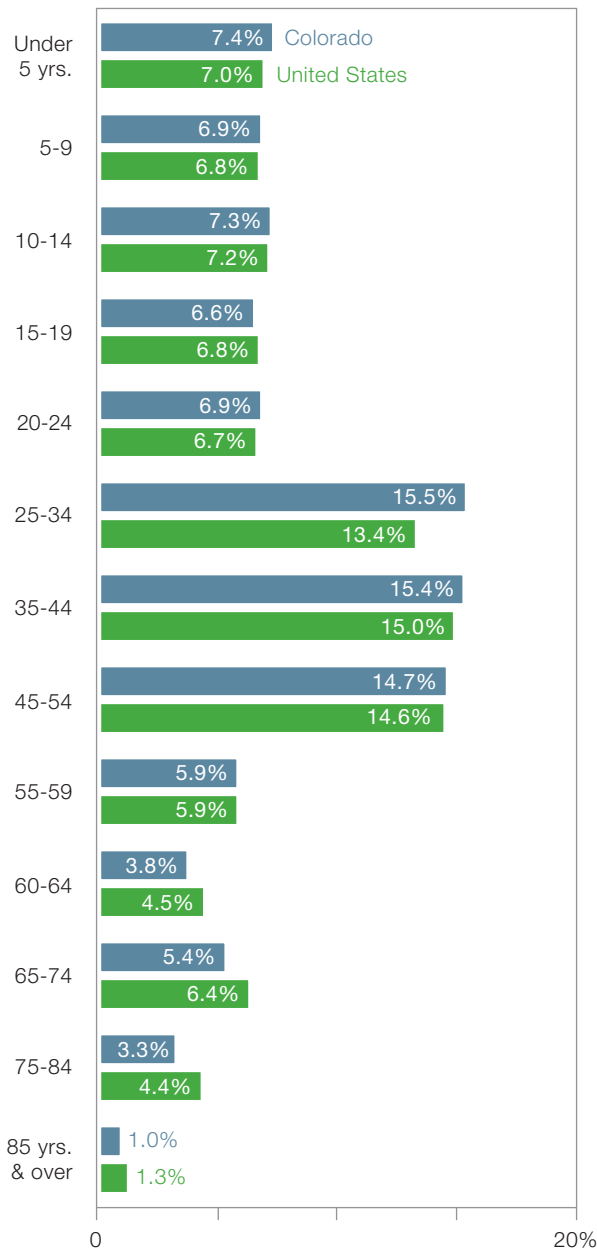
Figure 1.4. Juvenile population by race: Colorado and nationwide, 2002

Source: U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, *Juvenile Offenders and Victims: 2006 National Report* available at http://www.ojjdp.ncjrs.org/ojstatbb/nr2006/.

- In 2002, over 90 percent of Colorado's juvenile population (ages 0-17 years old) identified themselves as either white or Hispanic.

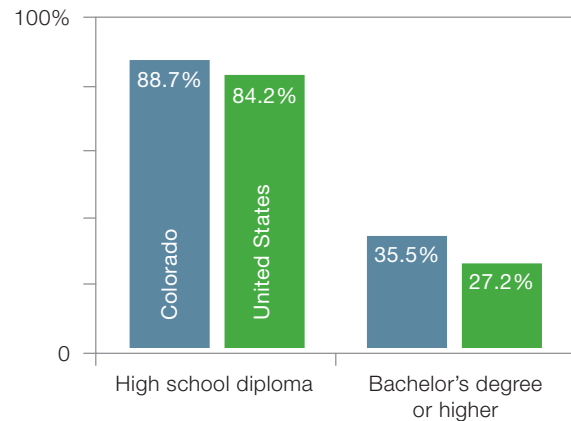Figure 1.5. Age: Colorado and nationwide, 2005

Age	Colorado	United States
Under 5 yrs.	7.4%	7.0%
5-9	6.9%	6.8%
10-14	7.3%	7.2%
15-19	6.6%	6.8%
20-24	6.9%	6.7%
25-34	15.5%	13.4%
35-44	15.4%	15.0%
45-54	14.7%	14.6%
55-59	5.9%	5.9%
60-64	3.8%	4.5%
65-74	5.4%	6.4%
75-84	3.3%	4.4%
85 yrs. & over	1.0%	1.3%

Source: US Census Bureau.

- In 2005, Colorado was higher than the national average in the percentage of the population that was under 14 years old and between ages 20 and 54.

- Colorado ranked 47th in percentage of population 65 and older. Florida was the highest at 16.6 percent. Alaska was last at 6.6 percent.

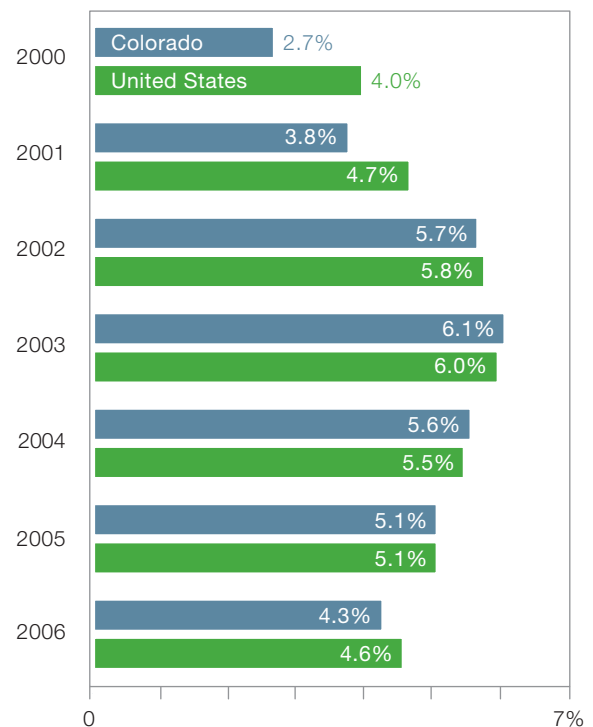- Colorado's median age is 34.7 which is younger than the national median age of 36.4.

Figure 1.6. Educational attainment: Colorado and nationwide, 2005

	Colorado	United States
High school diploma	88.7%	84.2%
Bachelor's degree or higher	35.5%	27.2%

Source: US Census Bureau.

- In 2005, Colorado ranked 3rd in the proportion of the population holding a bachelor's degree or higher degrees, behind Washington D.C. and Massachusetts.

Figure 1.7. Unemployment: Colorado and nationwide, 2000-2006

Year	Colorado	United States
2000	2.7%	4.0%
2001	3.8%	4.7%
2002	5.7%	5.8%
2003	6.1%	6.0%
2004	5.6%	5.5%
2005	5.1%	5.1%
2006	4.3%	4.6%

Note: Unemployment rates are percentages of available labor force.
Source: US Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

- In 2006, Colorado and Connecticut were ranked 23rd in average unemployment rate. Hawaii has the lowest unemployment rate of 2.4 percent, while Michigan had the highest at 6.9 percent.

- The unemployment rate in Colorado increased 59 percent from 2000 (2.7 percent) to 2006 (4.3 percent).