

## Region 10 Demographics

**Map: see images saved in “Data for 2016 RHA” - Images**

### Land Area

The West Central Public Health Partnership (WCPHP) is made up of six counties; Delta, Gunnison, Hinsdale, Montrose, Ouray and San Miguel. Also known as Region 10, these six counties make up the Central Western Slope of Colorado, stretching from the Continental Divide to the eastern border of Utah. Just over 100,000 people live in the 9,567.34 square mile report area defined for this assessment according to the five year estimates of the U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey 2010-14. The population density for this area, estimated at 10.43 persons per square mile, is less than the national average population density of 89.88 persons per square mile. Hinsdale County has the lowest population density at 0.78 persons per square mile while Delta County has the highest population density in the six county region at 26.6 persons per square mile.

“The region’s clean air and sunny year-round climate is complemented by millions of acres of public land including one national park, two national forests, state parks and other federal and state lands. Throughout the Region, rugged and varied topography creates an ever-changing landscape, with slickrock canyonlands, broad fertile valleys, high plateaus of open rangeland, and jagged, snowcapped mountains reaching over 14,000 feet.

The major urban centers of region 10 are the City of Montrose, the City of Delta, and the City of Gunnison. Gunnison is located in a high valley 60 miles east of Montrose, while Delta and Montrose are joined by a 20-mile stretch of four lane Highway 50. Scattered throughout the Region are towns with populations ranging from less than one hundred up to several thousand, a few smaller communities, and other unincorporated settlements. Two major ski resorts and several all-season resort communities are set among Colorado’s most spectacular mountains. There are three major service, supply and retail hubs with more than a dozen small farming and ranching communities.”- Region 10 Economic Assistance and Planning, Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy 2014

### County Level Descriptions:

#### Delta County:

Delta County is located in a large mountain valley at the confluence of the Uncompahgre and Gunnison rivers, just south of the Grand Mesa, one of the largest flat top mountains in the world. Delta has long been known for its agricultural roots, along with mining, land, and water development.

Delta County is the second most populous county in the region (29,2950) following the neighboring county of Montrose (40,946).<sup>1</sup> The 65 years old and over age group makes up the largest percent of the population (22%), and the four years old and younger segment makes up the smallest percent of the population (5.15%).<sup>2</sup> Delta County has a lower proportion of Hispanic or Latino residents (14.45%) than

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<sup>1</sup> State Demography Office, CO Department of Local Affairs, 2015

<sup>2</sup> US Census Bureau American Community Survey 2010-2014, 5-year estimates

the state of Colorado (20.94%) but has seen the largest increase in population among Hispanic residents from 2000-2010.<sup>3</sup>

In September of 2016 the unadjusted seasonal unemployment rate for Delta County was 4.5%, above the state rate of 2.9% during the same time period. The largest industries by employment are government, retail trade, health services, and agriculture.<sup>4</sup> 88% of Delta County residents earned a high school diploma or higher. Approximately 16% of adults live below the Federal Poverty Level (\$24,250 for a family of four), and 21% of school aged children are in poverty.<sup>5 6</sup>

While the Federal Poverty Level is one measure of economic health for a given population, the Self-Sufficiency Standard describes how much income families of various sizes and compositions need to make ends meet without public or private assistance in each county in Colorado. The Self-Sufficiency Standard is a measure of income adequacy that is based on the costs of basic needs for working families: housing, child care, food, health care, transportation, and miscellaneous items, as well as the cost of taxes and the impact of tax credits. In Delta County in 2015, a family of two adults, 1 pre-school age child, and one school age child would require an annual income of \$51,349 (see Table 1.)<sup>7</sup>

### **Gunnison County**

Located thirty miles West of the Continental Divide, Gunnison County is the fifth largest county by area in the state of Colorado with 3,239 square miles.<sup>8</sup> Surrounded by mountains, the large, wide Gunnison Basin has a rich history in ranching and agriculture.

Of the 16,145 residents in the county, approximately one third are between the ages of 18 and 34 years old.<sup>9</sup> Western State Colorado University, located in the City of Gunnison, is home to many of the county's young adult population. Over 95% of Gunnison County residents are white and 9% are of Hispanic descent.<sup>10</sup> From 2010 to 2015, the overall population of the county has grown 5%.<sup>11</sup>

In September of 2016, Gunnison County had an unemployment rate (not seasonally adjusted) of just 1.9% (State of CO 2.9%). The largest industries in the county are leisure/hospitality, followed by government, trade, transport, and utility. Gunnison County has a well educated population, 95% of residents hold a high school diploma or higher. Similar to Delta County, 16.9% of adults live below the Federal Poverty Level and 15.4% of school aged children are in poverty.<sup>12 and 13</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> US Census Bureau, 2000-2010

<https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?src=CF>

<sup>4</sup> Delta County Demographic and Economic Profile, CO Department of Local Affairs, 2014

<sup>5</sup> Colorado Health Indicators 2014

<sup>6</sup> Small Area IPE, Kids Count! 2015, SAIPE

<sup>7</sup> Self Sufficiency Standard: Colorado Report 2015, By Diana M. Pearce, PhD • June 2015

Director, Center For Women's Welfare, University Of Washington School Of Social Work

<sup>8</sup> Gunnison County, Official Website, Area Information

<sup>9</sup> State Demography Office, CO Department of Local Affairs, 2015

<sup>10</sup> US Census Bureau American Community Survey 2010-2014, 5-year estimates

<sup>11</sup> State Demography Office, CO Department of Local Affairs, 2015

<sup>12</sup> Colorado Health Indicators 2014

<sup>13</sup> Small Area IPE, Kids Count! 2015, SAIPE

## Hinsdale County

One of the most remote counties in Colorado, Hinsdale County comprises 1,124 square miles of forested mountains<sup>14</sup>. Public lands cover 95.3% of the county. The town of Lake City, the only municipality in the county, found its start in the silver and gold mining industries in 1874<sup>15</sup>.

With a 2015 population of 767, Hinsdale County is the least populous county in the state. Since the 2010 census, the population has decreased by approximately 9%. The largest segment of the population is 65 years or older.<sup>16</sup> This may be influenced by the higher rate of second home ownership in the county. Over 98% of county residents are white, while only 2.2% of the population is Hispanic ethnicity.<sup>17</sup>

In September of 2016, Hinsdale County had one of the lowest unemployment rates in the state of Colorado at 1.9% (seasonally unadjusted). Because tourism is one of the main industries in the county, the employment rate fluctuates seasonally. The highest unemployment of 2016 was at the start of the year in January 2016 at 3.6% of residents unemployed.<sup>18</sup> 95% of Hinsdale County residents have achieved a high school diploma or higher. While only 7.5% of all county residents live below the Federal Poverty Level, 26.1% of school aged children are in poverty.<sup>19 20</sup>

## Montrose County

Montrose County borders Gunnison County on its eastern edge and the state of Utah on its Western edge. This 2,220 square mile county lies in the Uncompahgre River and Paradox Valleys. Agriculture has flourished in Montrose County, most recently with the additions of wine production and sweet corn.<sup>21</sup>

Montrose County is the most populous in the region with 40,946 county residents.<sup>22</sup> The population has remained stable over the past five years. 92% of Montrose County residents are white. Montrose has the highest number of residents of Hispanic descent in the region, with just over 20% of the population identifying as Hispanic.<sup>23</sup> Montrose has a large aging population, approximately one fifth of Montrose residents are 65 years old or older.

In September of 2016, the seasonally unadjusted unemployment rate was 3.4%<sup>24</sup>. This has fallen significantly since 2010 when the September unemployment rates was 10.2%. Educational services, health care, and social assistance has the largest number of employees in the county, followed by retail trade and construction.<sup>25</sup> 87% of Montrose County residents have obtained a high school diploma or

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<sup>14</sup> WCPHP : Regional Health Assessment, 2011

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<sup>16</sup> State Demography Office, CO Department of Local Affairs, 2015

<sup>17</sup> US Census Bureau American Community Survey 2010-2014, 5-year estimates

<sup>18</sup> United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics, <https://data.bls.gov/map/MapToolServlet> Accessed October 2016.

<sup>19</sup> Colorado Health Indicators 2014

<sup>20</sup> Small Area IPE, Kids Count! 2015, SAIPE

<sup>21</sup> WCPHP: Regional Health Assessment 2011

<sup>22</sup> US Census Bureau American Community Survey 2010-2014, 5-year estimates

<sup>23</sup> ibid

<sup>24</sup> Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics Map

<sup>25</sup> US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. Industry by Sex For The Civilian Employed Population 16 Years

higher. Despite the low unemployment rate, 15% of residents live below the Federal Poverty Level, with over 21% of school aged children living in poverty.<sup>26 27</sup>

### **Ouray County**

Located in the heart of the San Juan Mountains, Ouray County is the smallest county in the region at 542 square miles. This small land area is made up of diverse landscapes with numerous peaks over 13,000 feet, the broad mesas of the Uncompahgre Plateau region, and the valley of the Uncompahgre River.<sup>28</sup>

The population of Ouray County is 4,587 and has seen slight growth (3%) since 2010.<sup>29</sup> Similar to Montrose and Hinsdale Counties, the largest segment (25%) of the population is aged 65 years and older. 92% of the residents are white and 6% are of Hispanic or Latino descent.<sup>30</sup>

In September of 2016, the seasonally unadjusted unemployment rate was 2.7%. This rate has fallen 64.5% from 7.9% in September of 2010.<sup>31</sup> Ouray County residents are employed primarily in the accommodation and food services industry, followed by the retail trade and construction industries.<sup>32</sup> In Ouray County, over 98% of resident hold a high school diploma or higher.<sup>33</sup> Ouray County has a slightly lower percentage of residents living below the Federal Poverty Level compared to the state of Colorado (9.6% vs. 11.5%). The rate of school aged children living in poverty, 12.9% follows this lower trend.<sup>34 35</sup>

### **San Miguel County**

San Miguel County encompasses a diverse landscape from the rugged San Juan Mountains in the east to the county's arid ranching communities near its Western border with Utah. Of the 1,289 square miles that encompass San Miguel County, 66% are public lands. Built on the mining boom in the 1870s, relics of that era still dot the county's landscape today.<sup>36</sup>

San Miguel is the third smallest county in Region 10 with 7,676 residents. Since 2010, the population has remained relatively stable with a little over 4% growth over the past five years.<sup>37</sup> San Miguel County has the lowest percentage of the population 65 years and older in the region, with just over 9% of residents 65 years and older.<sup>38</sup> Approximately 96.5% of the population is white and 9.5% of the

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And Over. 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

<sup>26</sup> Colorado Health Indicators 2014

<sup>27</sup> Small Area IPE, Kids Count! 2015, SAIPE

<sup>28</sup> Ouray County Government, <http://ouraycountyco.gov/101/About-Us> Accessed October 2016

<sup>29</sup> US Census Bureau American Community Survey 2010-2014, 5-year estimates

<sup>30</sup> *ibid*

<sup>31</sup> United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics, <https://data.bls.gov/map/MapToolServlet> Accessed October 2016.

<sup>32</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, 2014 County Business Patterns

<sup>33</sup> US Census Bureau American Community Survey 2010-2014, 5-year estimates

<sup>34</sup> Colorado Health Indicators 2014

<sup>35</sup> Small Area IPE, Kids Count! 2015, SAIPE

<sup>36</sup> Encyclopedia Staff. "San Miguel County." *Colorado Encyclopedia*, <http://coloradoencyclopedia.org/article/san-miguel-county>. Accessed 14 April 2017

<sup>37</sup> US Census Bureau American Community Survey 2010-2014, 5-year estimates

<sup>38</sup> *ibid*

residents are Hispanic or Latino.<sup>39</sup>

In September of 2016, the seasonally unadjusted unemployment rate for San Miguel County was 2.0%. Given the county's economic tie with the Telluride Ski Resort, it is not surprising that the unemployment rate climbs each spring (April, 2016: 5.9%) as resort employees are laid off for the close of the ski season.<sup>40</sup> The major industries in the region are accommodation and food service, retail trade, and construction. 95% of San Miguel County residents hold a high school diploma or higher degree. In San Miguel County 11.2% of residents live below the Federal Poverty Level, with 14% of school aged children (5-17 years of age) living in poverty<sup>41</sup>.

#### **Demographic Data:**

Difference in Median Household Income and Self-Sufficiency Standard

<u>County</u>	<u>Median Household Income ACS 2011-2015</u>	<u>Self Sufficiency Standard 2015</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Delta	\$42,452	\$51,349	<b>-\$8,897</b>
Gunnison	\$48,071	\$61,315	<b>-\$13,244</b>
Hinsdale	\$57,083	\$62,483	<b>-\$5,400</b>
Montrose	\$43,999	\$54,026	<b>-\$10,027</b>
Ouray	\$61,624	\$63,997	<b>-\$2,373</b>
San Miguel	\$56,047	\$64,609	<b>-\$8,562</b>

American Community Survey, 2011-2015.

#### **Population-see "Population Data for 2016 RHA)**

1. **Change 2010-2015- see map, will include chart as well**
2. **Sex- Region wide**
3. **Age Distribution**
4. **Race/Ethnicity**

#### **Economy- See "Economy Data for 2016 RHA)**

1. **Median HH Income**
2. **Self-sufficiency standard**
3. **High School Graduation**
4. **Unemployment**
5. **Poverty**
  - a. **Adults**
  - b. **Kids**

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<sup>39</sup> *ibid*

<sup>40</sup> United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics, <https://data.bls.gov/map/MapToolServlet> Accessed October 2016.

<sup>41</sup> Colorado Health Indicators 2014, Small Area IPE, Kids Count! 2015, SAIPE

**By County:** Could include community profile for Delta, Montrose and Gunnison County, created by state demography office.

**Resources:**

<http://gunnisoncounty.org/DocumentCenter/View/3071>

<https://www.nado.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/CO-Region-10-Economic-Development-District-2014.pdf>

<https://demography.dola.colorado.gov/community-profiles/>