



COLORADO **HEALTH ACCESS** SURVEY **2019**



# Progress in Peril

RESULTS FROM THE 2019 COLORADO HEALTH ACCESS SURVEY



COLORADO **HEALTH** INSTITUTE



THE  
COLORADO  
TRUST



The Colorado Health Foundation™







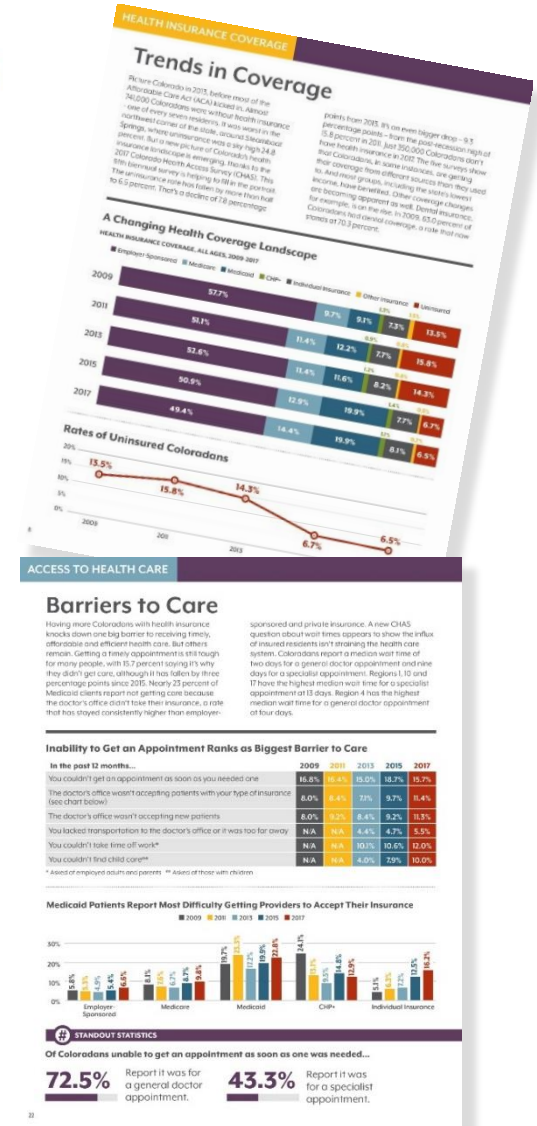
# The Stories

- **Coverage:**  
No change on the surface, but still waters run deep
- **Food, Housing, and Health:**  
The economic boom is unbalanced
- **Unfair Treatment:**  
A wake-up call for health care
- **Use of Care:**  
An upswing, with notable exceptions
- **Behavioral Health:**  
Greater awareness, even greater need
- **Affordability:**  
Warning signs of a backslide



# What is the CHAS?

- Colorado Health Access Survey
- 10,000 Households
- Fielded February – June 2019
- Topics include:
  - Access
  - Insurance
  - Use of Care
  - Affordability
  - Health Status
  - Behavioral Health
  - Social Factors





## Previous Survey Method: Random Digit Dial (RDD)

1

### Phone Call:

Surveyor randomly calls home and cell phones to conduct interview.

### Reasons for methods change:

*Federal policies, spam call flagging, increased telemarketing, and a general hesitation to answer the phone from unknown phone numbers have all reduced telephone response rates while significantly increasing cost.*

## Redesigned Survey Method: Address-Based Sample (ABS)

1

### Letter:

An initial letter with secure access code invites people to take the survey online or by phone.

2

### Postcard:

A postcard is sent reminding respondents to participate.

3

### Final Reminder:

A final letter is sent with a deadline to complete the survey.

4

### Comparison Sample:

Surveyor calls a smaller sample using the previous survey method for trending and analysis.



# Thank You to Our Sponsors

The CHAS is primarily funded by The Colorado Trust and The Colorado Health Foundation.



**THE  
COLORADO  
TRUST**

*A Health Equity Foundation*

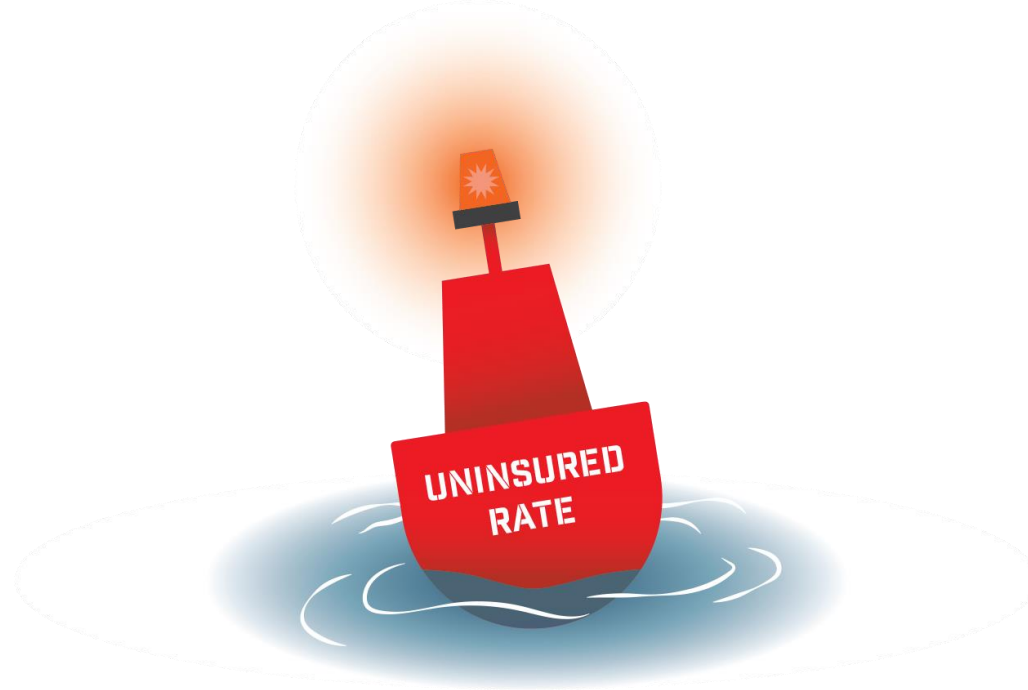


The Colorado  
Health Foundation™

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Special thanks also to the **Colorado Office of Behavioral Health** and the **Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing** for sponsorship of items on the 2019 survey.



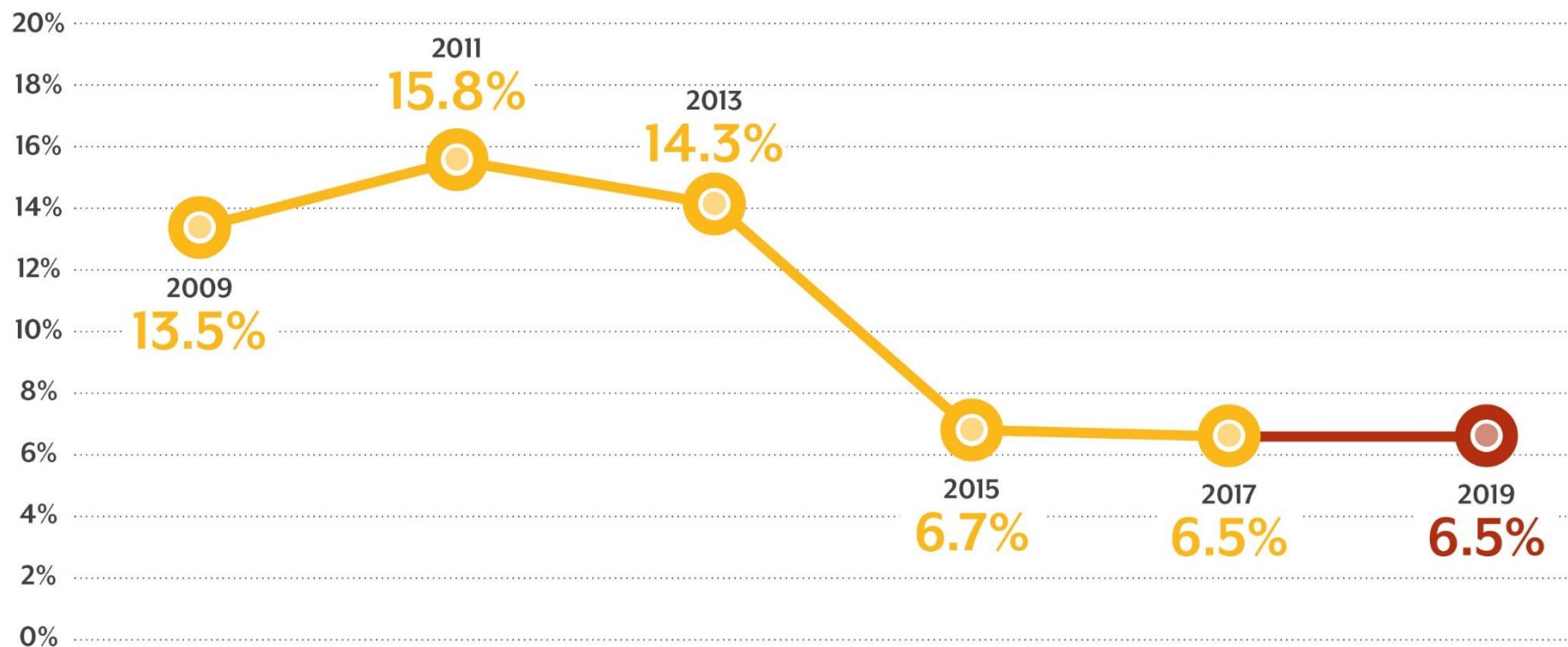


# Coverage

No Change on the Surface,  
But Still Waters Run Deep



# And Colorado's New Uninsured Rate Is . . .

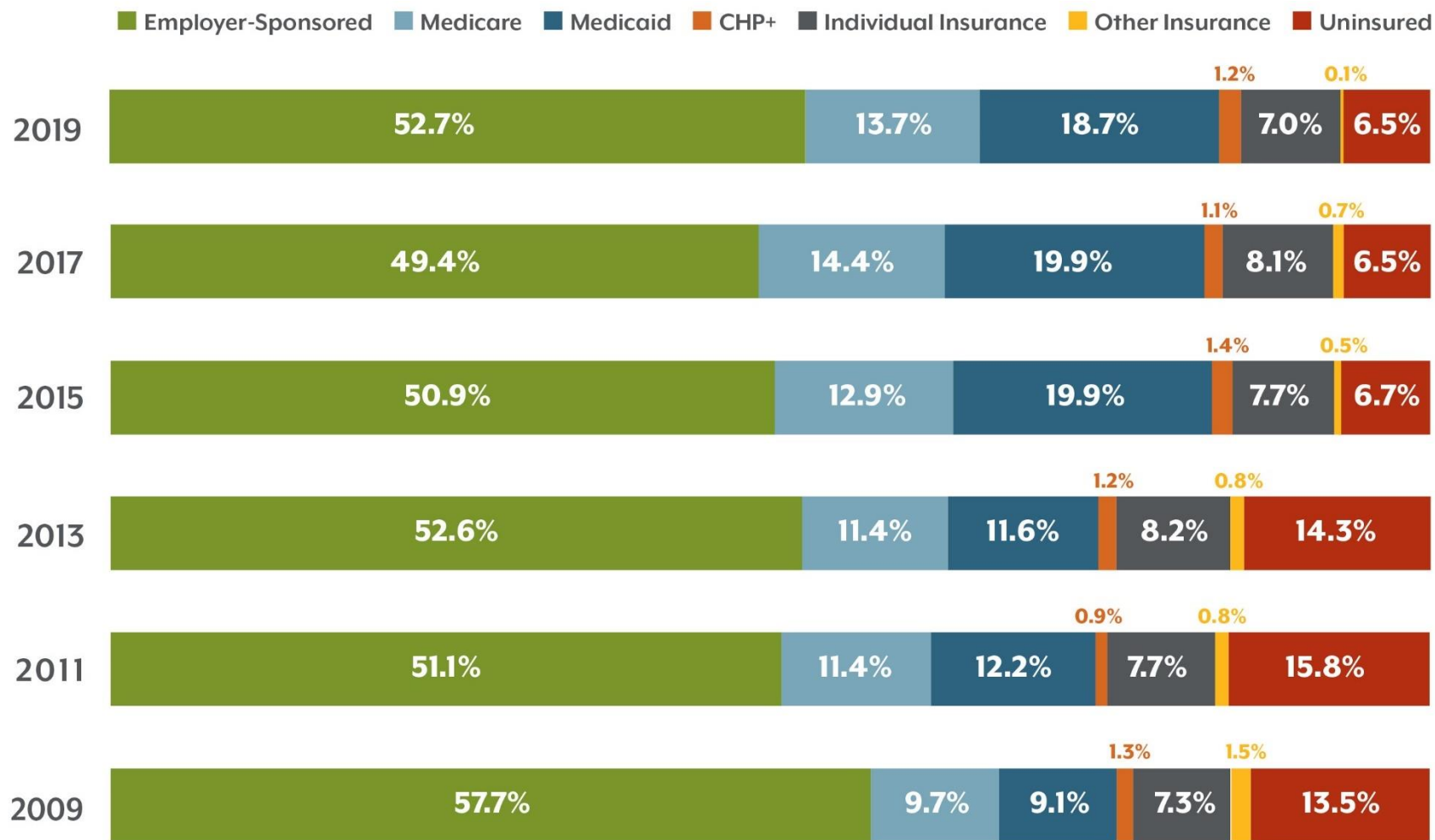


Source: 2019 Colorado Health Access Survey



# A Changing Health Coverage Landscape

## Health Insurance Coverage, All Ages, 2009-2019

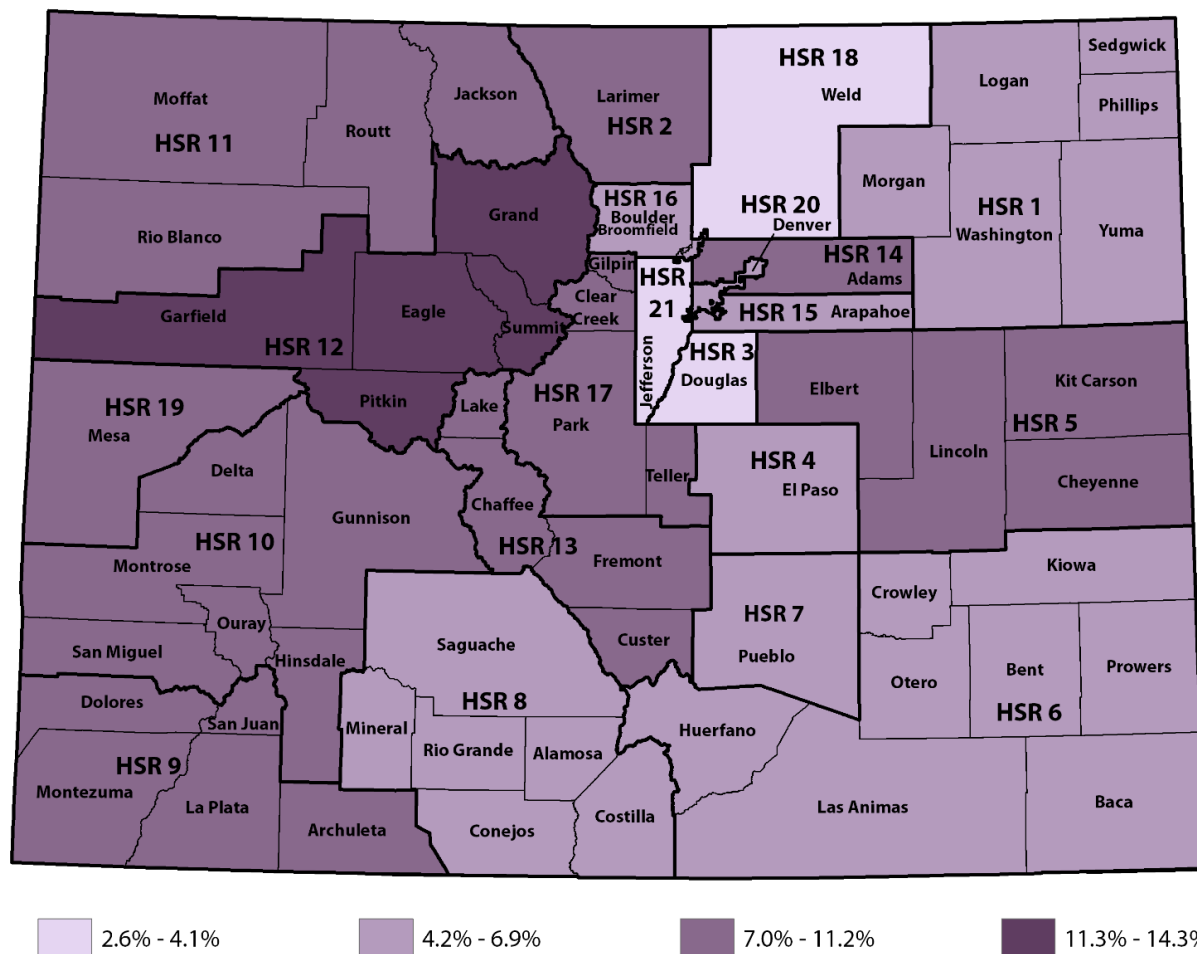


Source: 2019 Colorado Health Access Survey



## Insurance: A Familiar Pattern

## Percent Uninsured, 2019

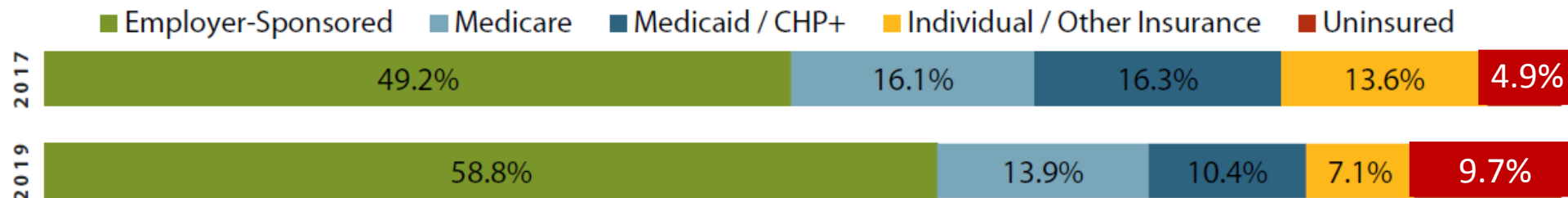


Source: 2019 Colorado Health Access Survey

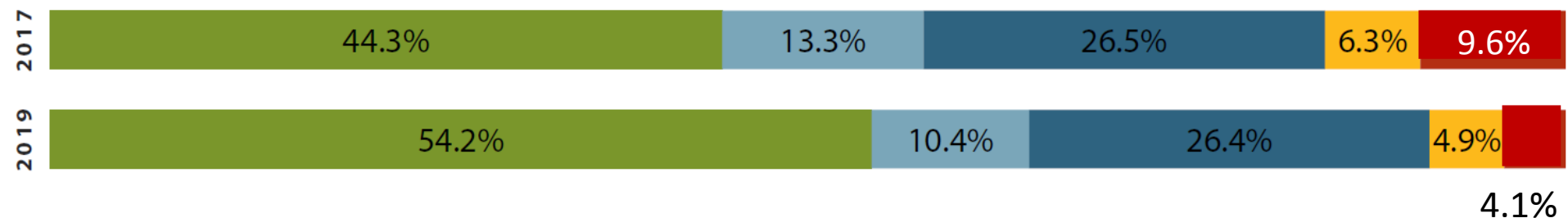


# Coverage: A Tale of Two Counties

## Larimer County

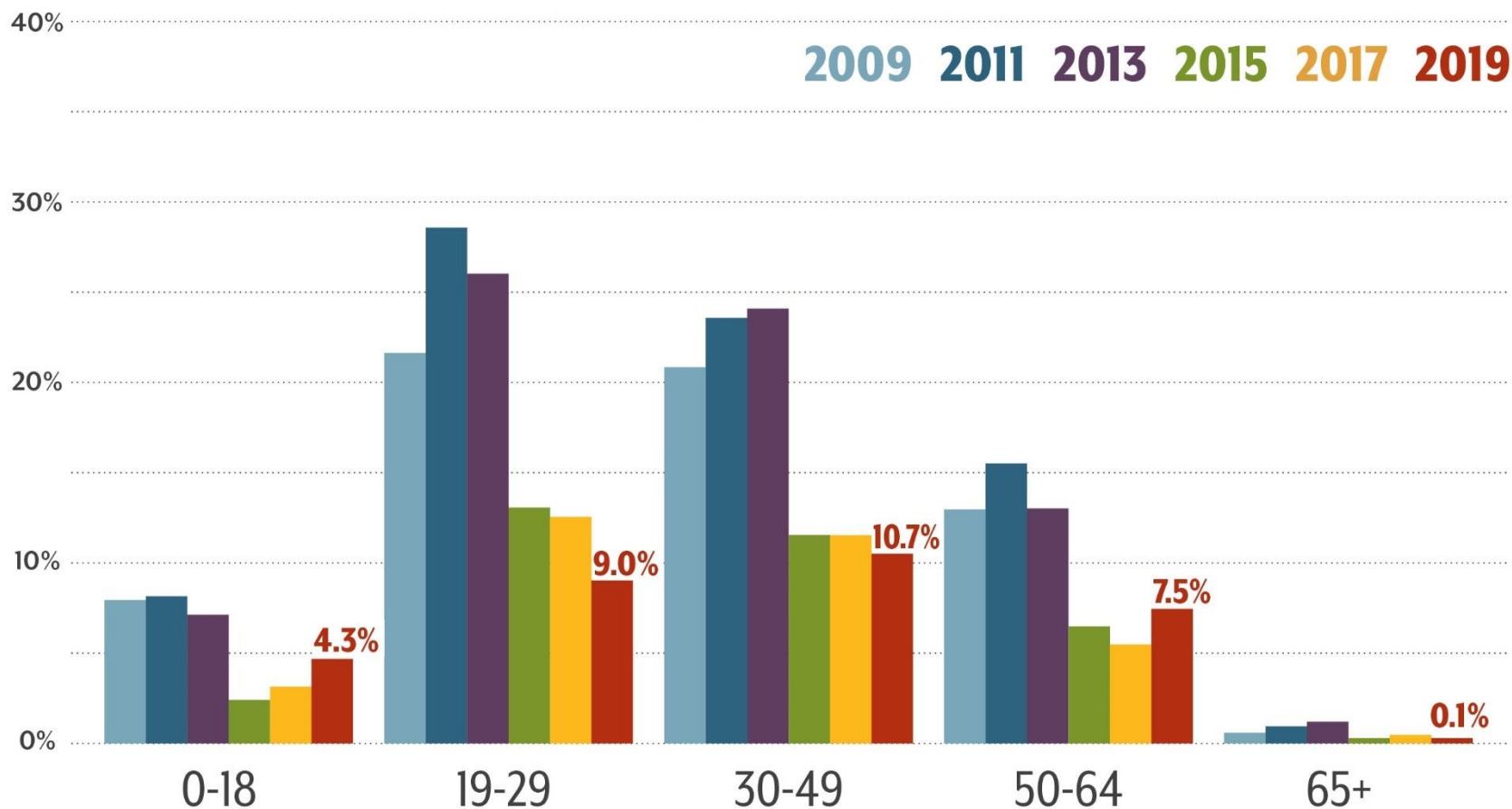


## Weld County





# Uninsured Rate by Age

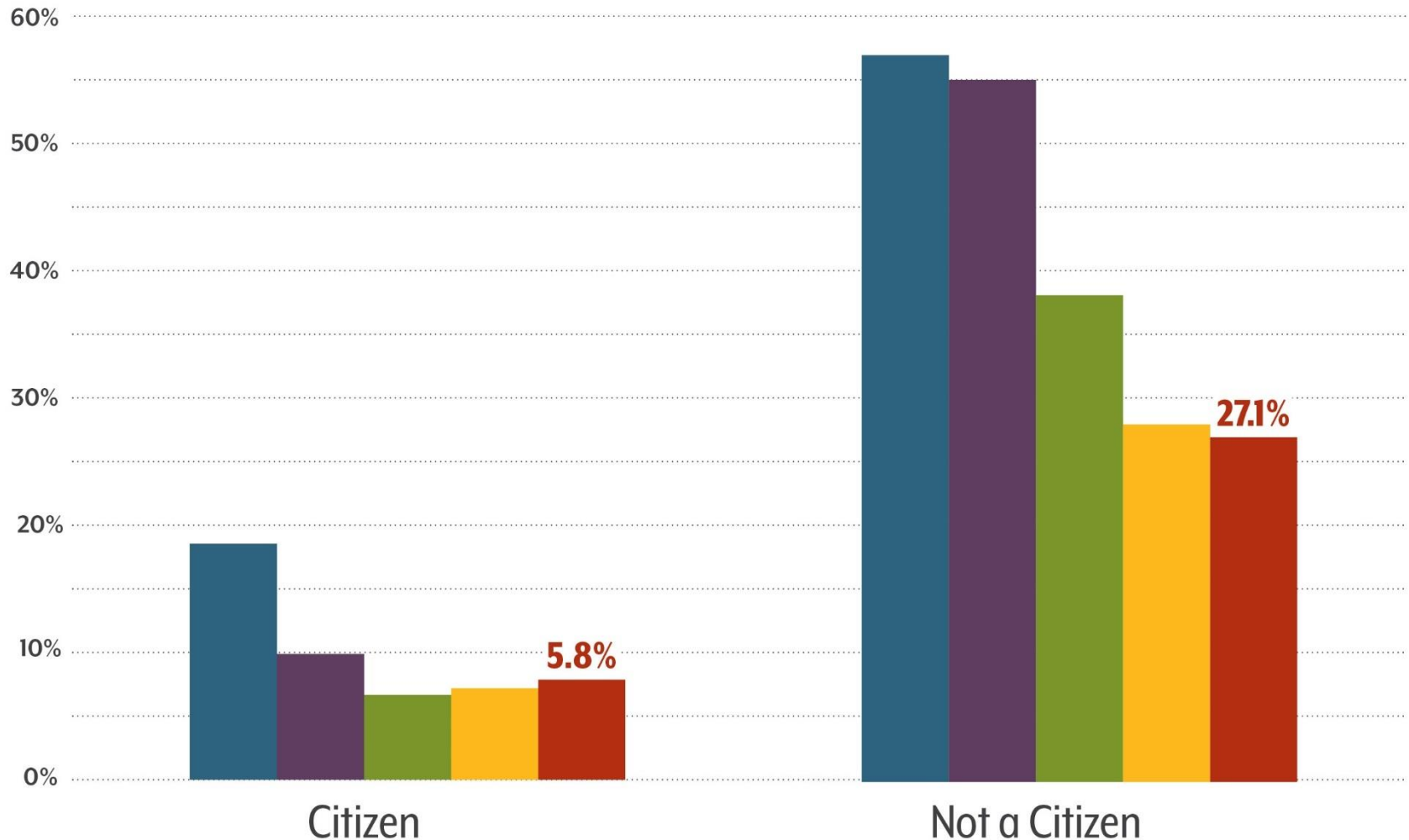


Source: 2019 Colorado Health Access Survey



# Uninsured Rate by Citizenship

2011 2013 2015 2017 2019



Source: 2019 Colorado Health Access Survey



# Churn

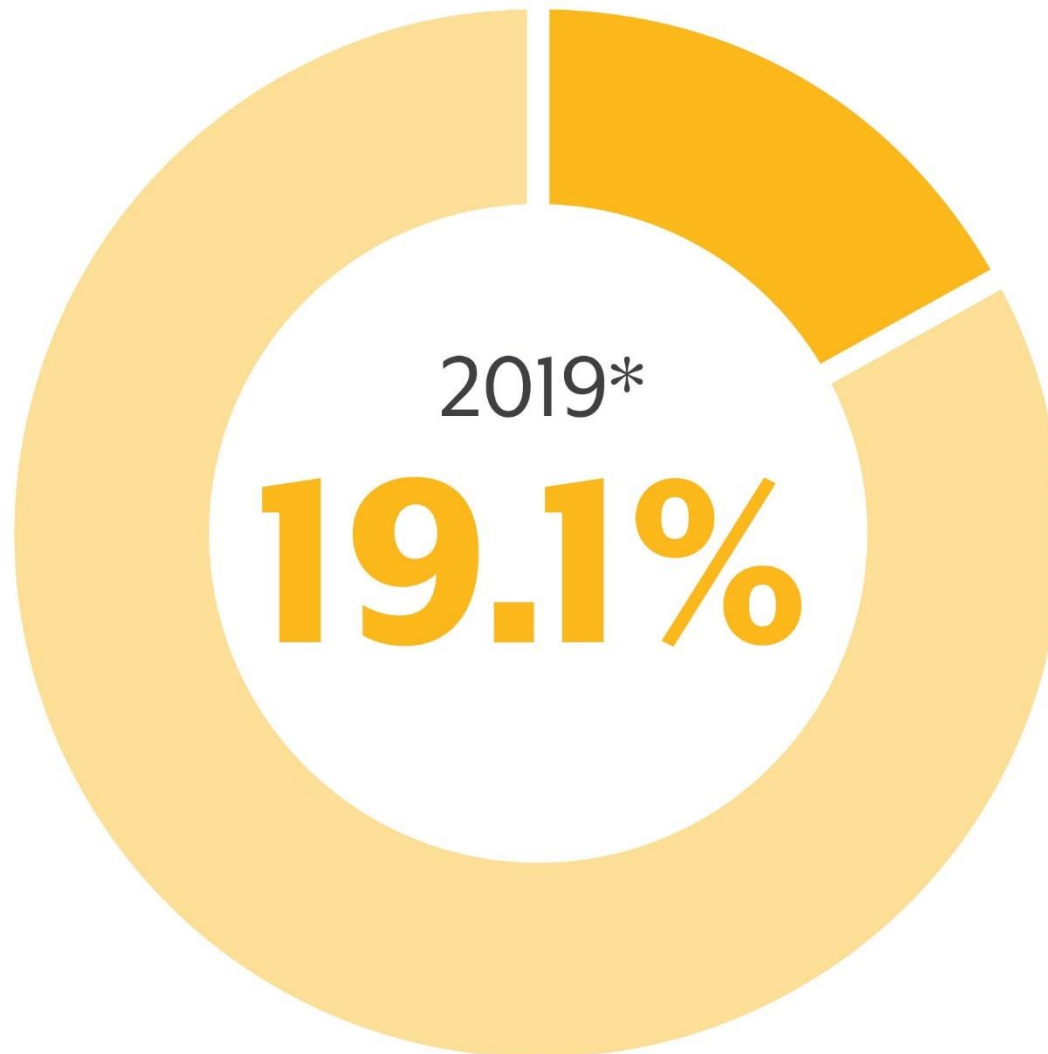
Coloradans Ages 0-64

**21.5%**

Larimer County

**17.0%**

Weld County



\* Churn definition expanded to include people who gained coverage in the past 12 months

Source: 2019 Colorado Health Access Survey



# A Note about Access to Care

## Larimer County

In the past 12 months...

	2013	2015	2017	2019
You couldn't get an appointment as soon as you needed one	14.0%	15.4%	13.8%	19.5%
The doctor's office wasn't accepting patients with your type of insurance**	6.2%	10.9%	11.5%	11.8%
The doctor's office wasn't accepting new patients	6.9%	9.1%	8.3%	8.1%

## Weld County

In the past 12 months...

	2013	2015	2017	2019
You couldn't get an appointment as soon as you needed one	22.0%	24.8%	16.2%	24.0%
The doctor's office wasn't accepting patients with your type of insurance**	11.6%	7.9%	15.5%	13.9%
The doctor's office wasn't accepting new patients	14.9%	9.2%	12.9%	10.5%

\*\* Asked of currently insured



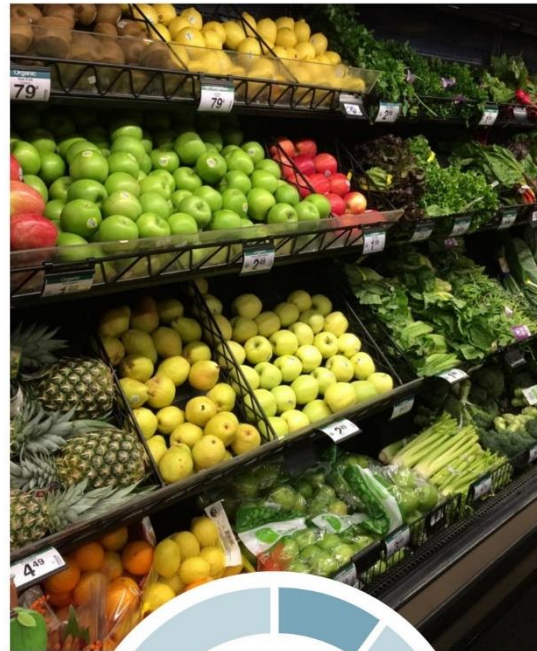
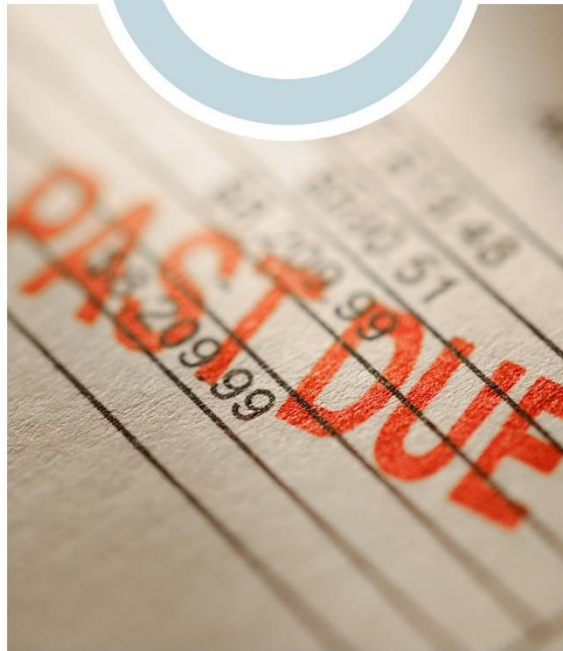


# Food, Housing, and Health

The Economic Boom is Unbalanced

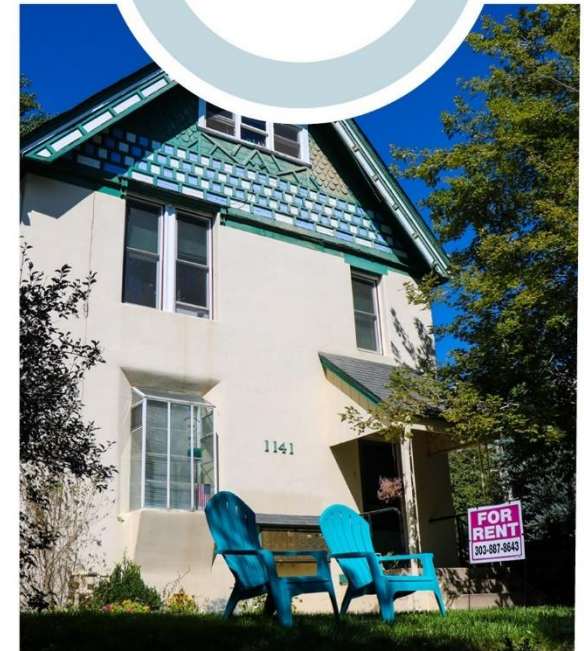


## Problems Paying Medical Bills



## Food Insecurity

## Housing Instability



Source: 2019 Colorado Health Access Survey 18

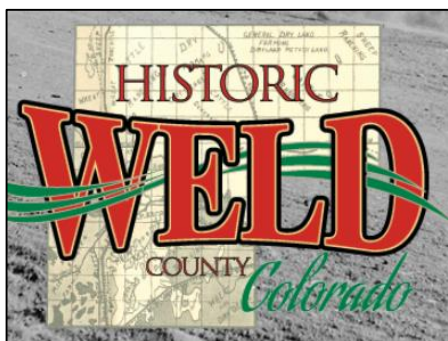


# Percentage of Respondents Who Ever Ate Less Than They Felt They Should Because There Wasn't Enough Money for Food, 2019



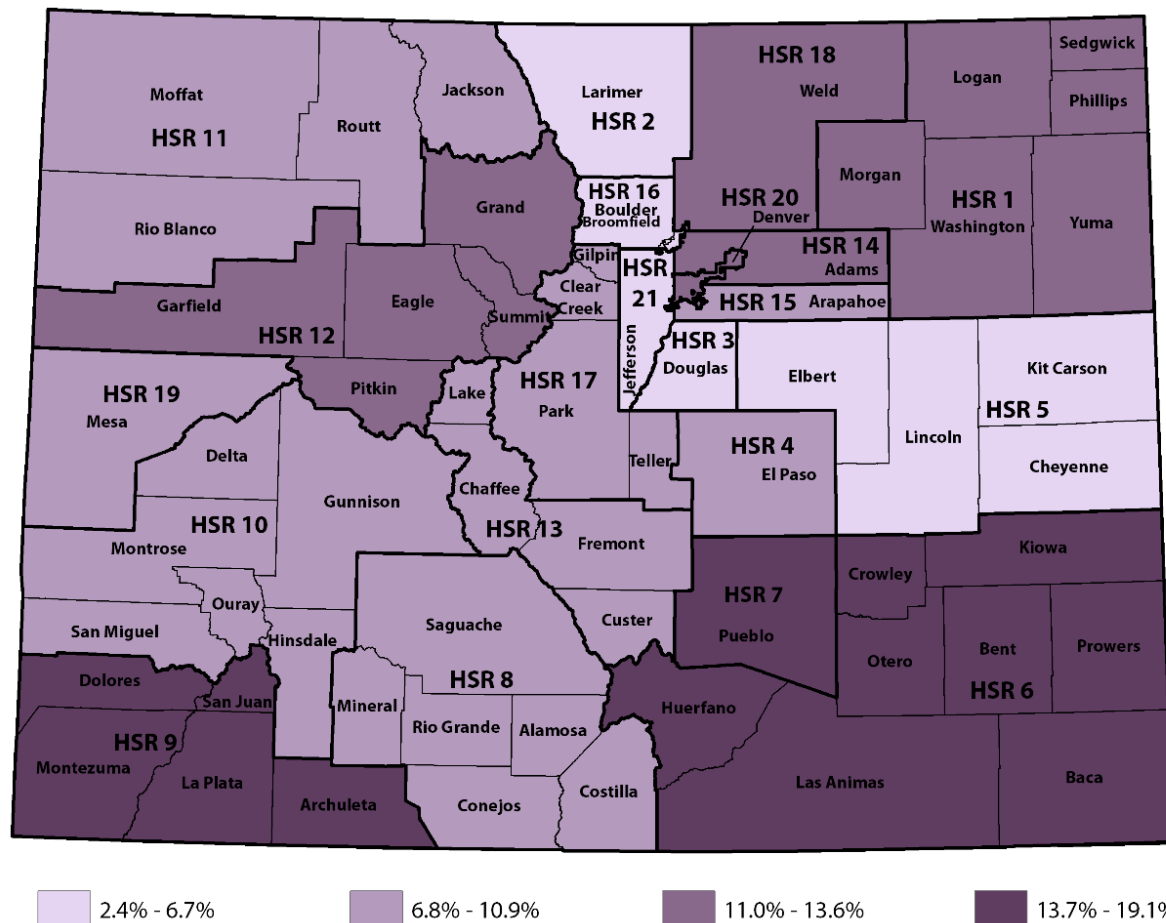
5.7%

Larimer County



13.3%

Weld County



Source: 2019 Colorado Health Access Survey



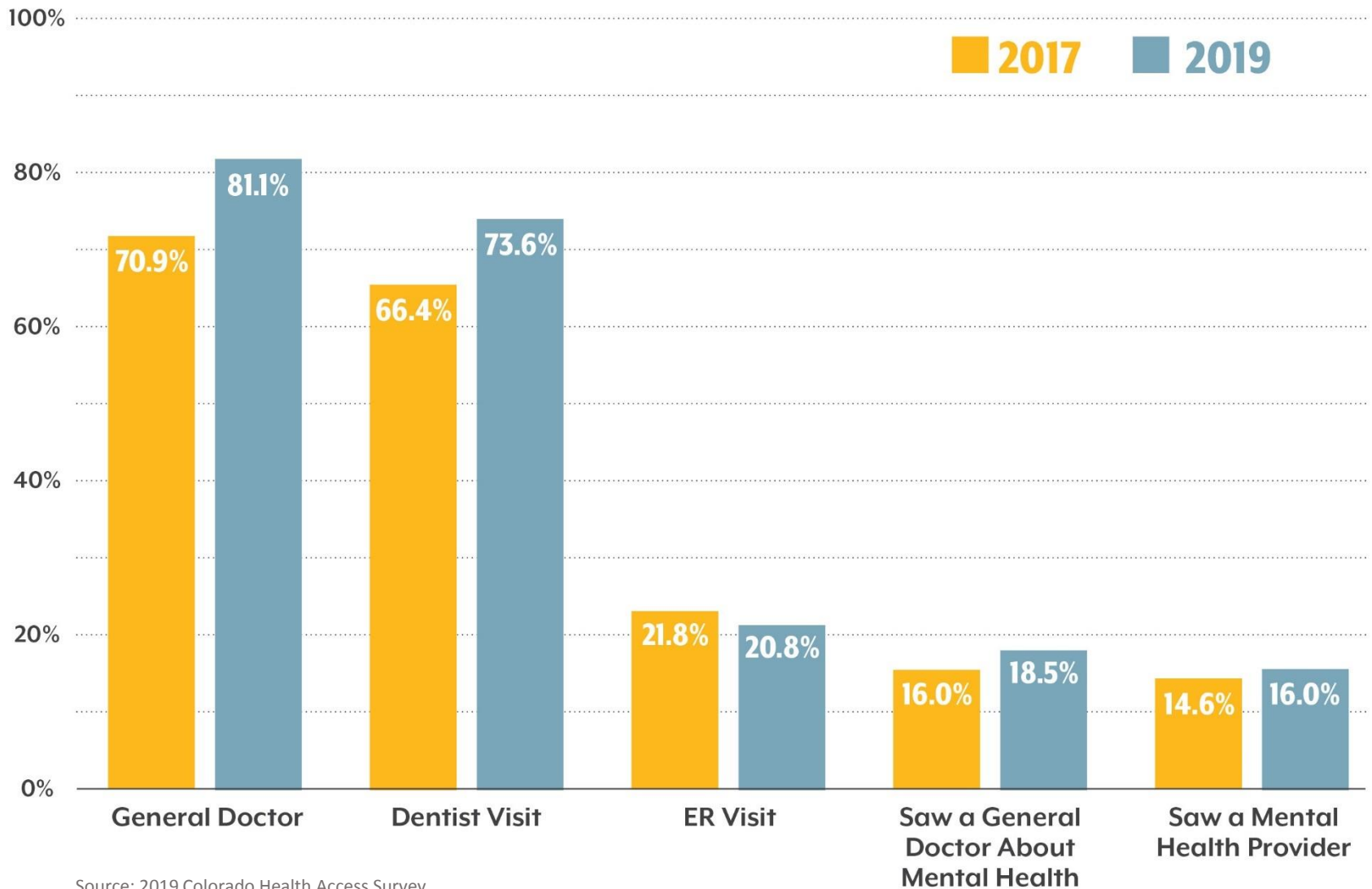


# Use of Care

## An Upswing, With Notable Exceptions



# Use of Health Care Services



Source: 2019 Colorado Health Access Survey

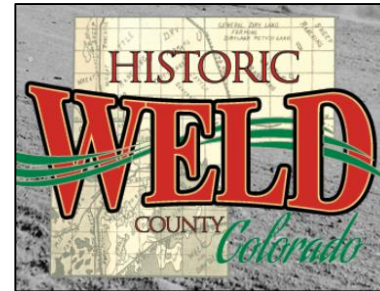


# Mental Health Care



23.4%

21.1%



12.4%

12.0%

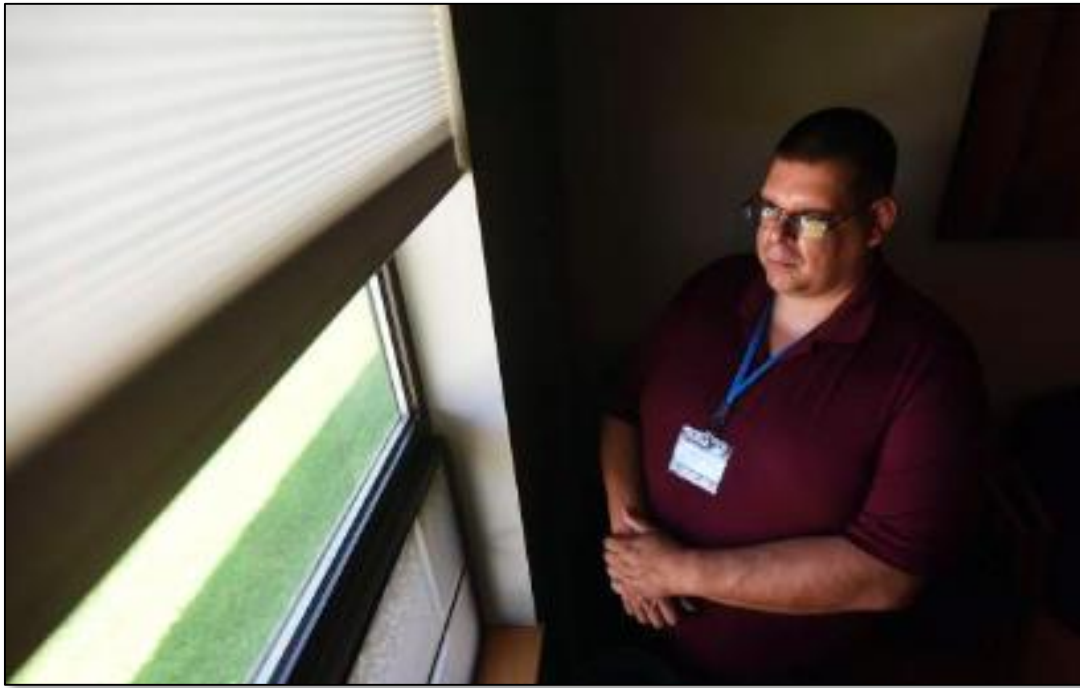
**Talked with a  
mental health provider  
about their mental health**

**Talked with a  
general doctor  
about their mental health**

Lowest HSR: 9.5%  
Highest HSR: 23.4%

Lowest HSR: 11.6%  
Highest HSR: 25.7%





*Joshua Polson, Greeley Tribune*

“When you’re in that mindset, be it depression, bipolar, addiction or something else, you don’t always trust somebody else. But you’re a lot more trusting of somebody that knows exactly what you’ve been through.”

– Raymond Martinez, North Range Behavioral Health peer recovery coach

Source: Greeley Tribune, June 30, 2018





# Behavioral Health

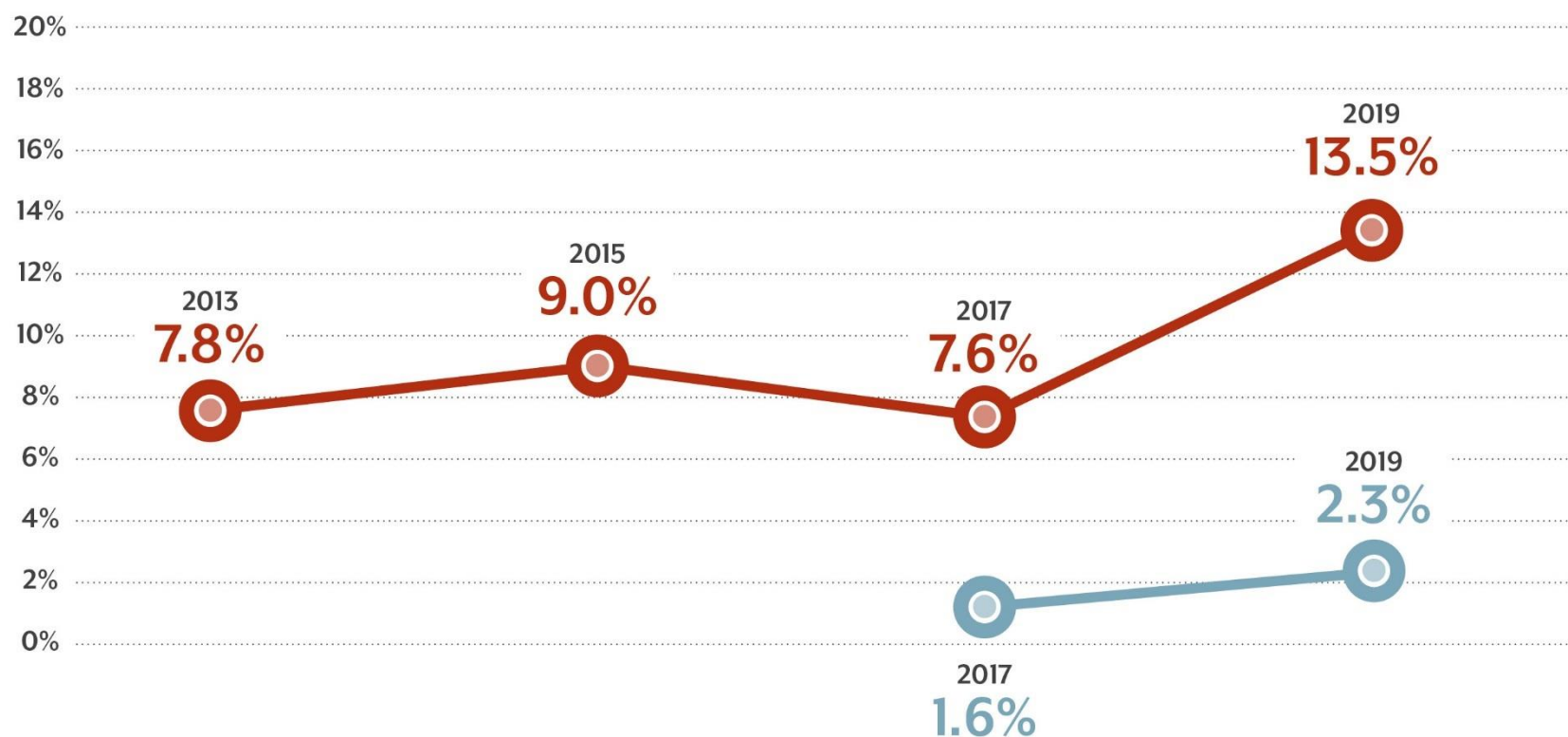
More Awareness,  
Increasing Needs



# Behavioral Health Access is Down

## Percentage of Coloradans Reporting Not Getting ...

■ Needed Mental Health Services   ■ Needed Substance Use Disorder Services





Source: 2019 Colorado Health Access Survey







# Reasons for Not Getting ...






	 Needed Mental Health Services	 Needed Substance Use Disorder Services
Cost of treatment	<b>61.1%</b> 394,185	<b>47.7%</b> 43,192
Did not feel comfortable talking about personal problems	<b>38.2%</b> 244,992	<b>72.8%</b> 64,836
Concerned about someone finding out you had a problem	<b>31.3%</b> 199,644	<b>72.4%</b> 64,754
Hard time getting an appointment	<b>43.5%</b> 269,787	<b>32.9%</b> 29,046
Did not think insurance would cover it	<b>53.8%</b> 300,234	<b>52.1%</b> 32,424

Source: 2019 Colorado Health Access Survey



# Have You, a Loved One, or a Close Friend Ever ...

Colorado Adults Ages 18+

	Been addicted to prescription painkillers or heroin	<b>11.7%</b> 486,425
	Been addicted to alcohol or drugs other than prescription painkillers or heroin	<b>25.2%</b> 1,043,661
	Even once taken any drugs by injection with a needle like heroin, cocaine, amphetamines, or steroids	<b>8.5%</b> 348,807
	Received emergency medical treatment due to drug use	<b>7.8%</b> 322,308
	Died from a prescription painkiller or heroin overdose	<b>5.0%</b> 206,291

Source: 2019 Colorado Health Access Survey

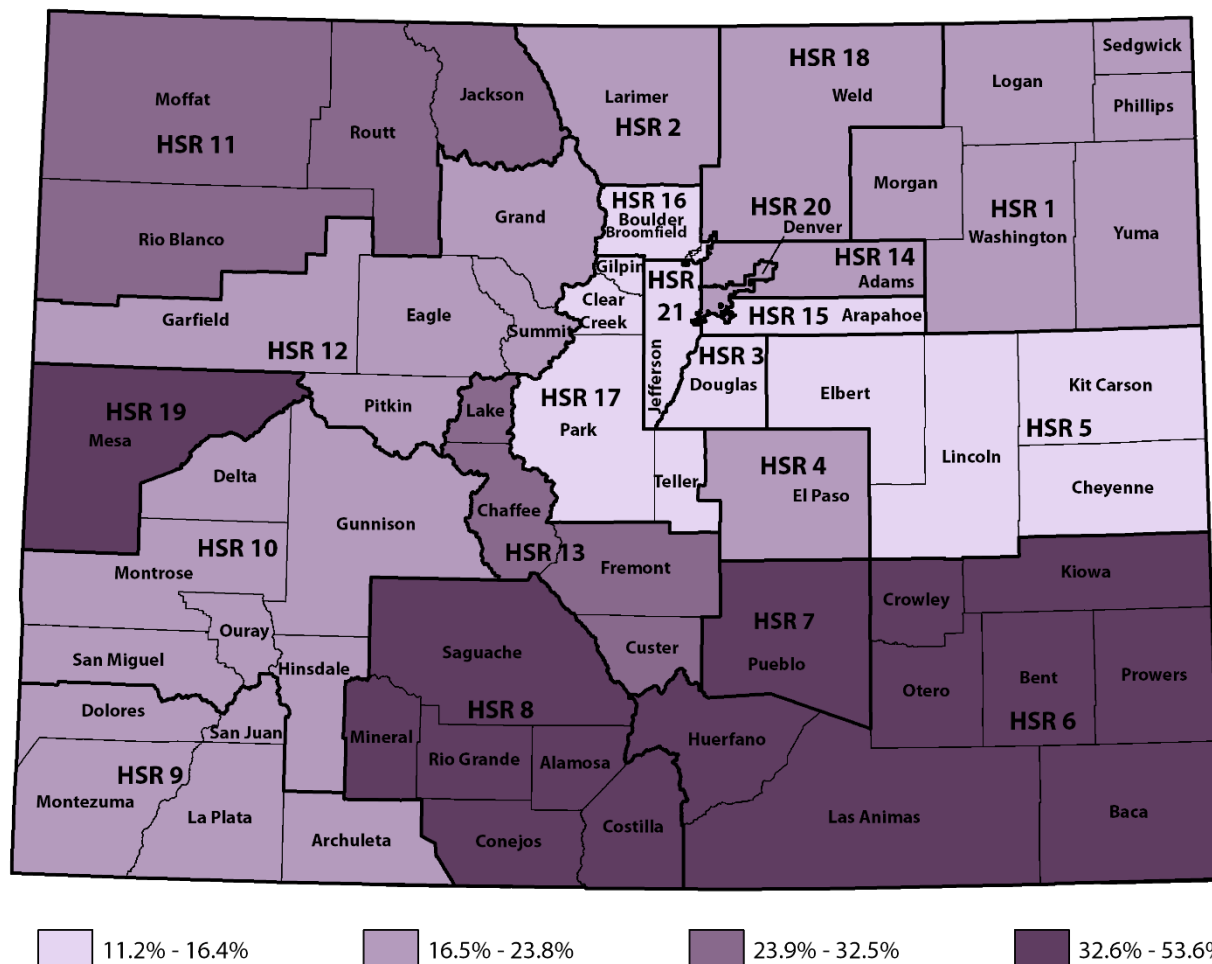


# Opioid Addiction is a Major Problem in Your Community, Self-Reported, 2019

Ages 18+



**21.3%**  
**Statewide**



Source: 2019 Colorado Health Access Survey



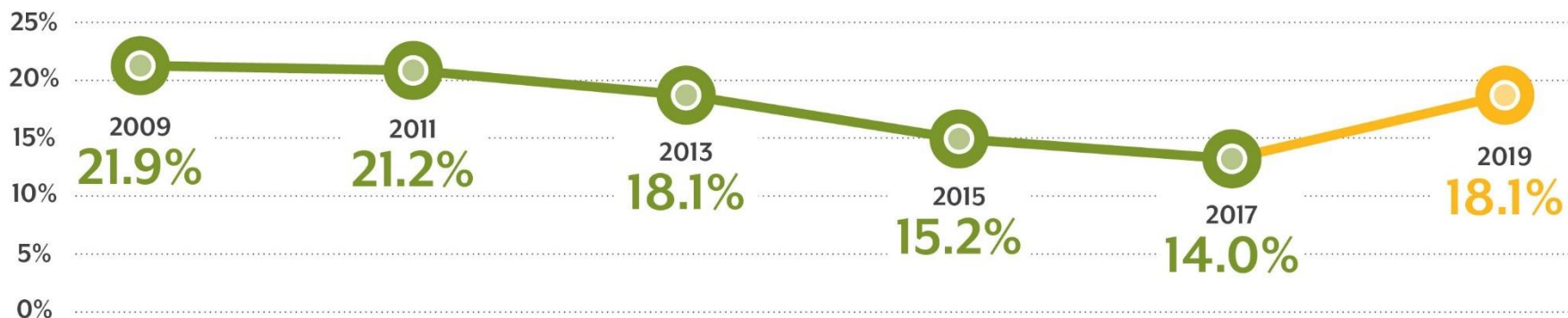


# Affordability

## Warning Signs of a Backslide



# Reported Problems Paying Medical Bills



**89.6%**

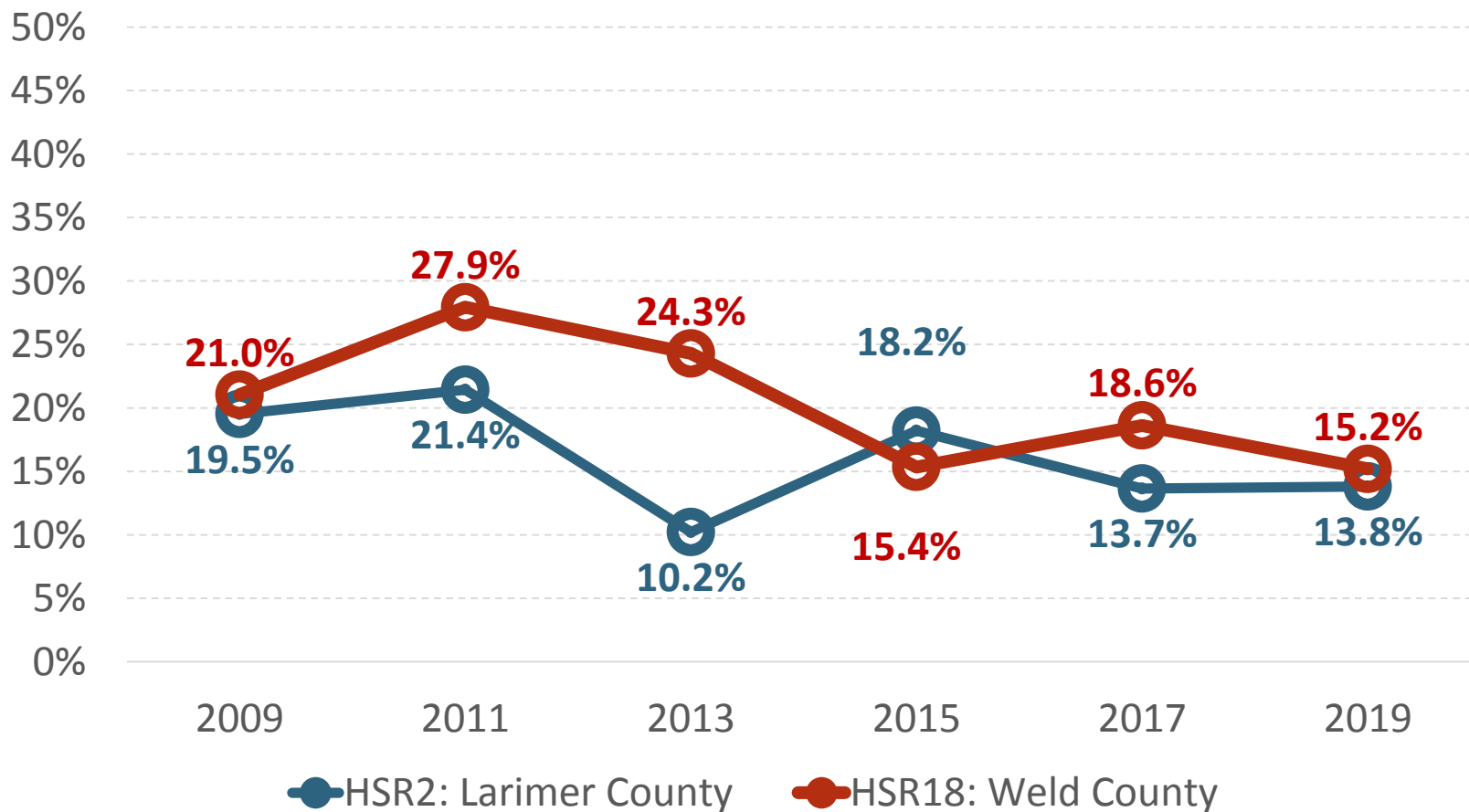
of the uninsured report  
cost as the reason for  
not being covered

Source: 2019 Colorado Health Access Survey



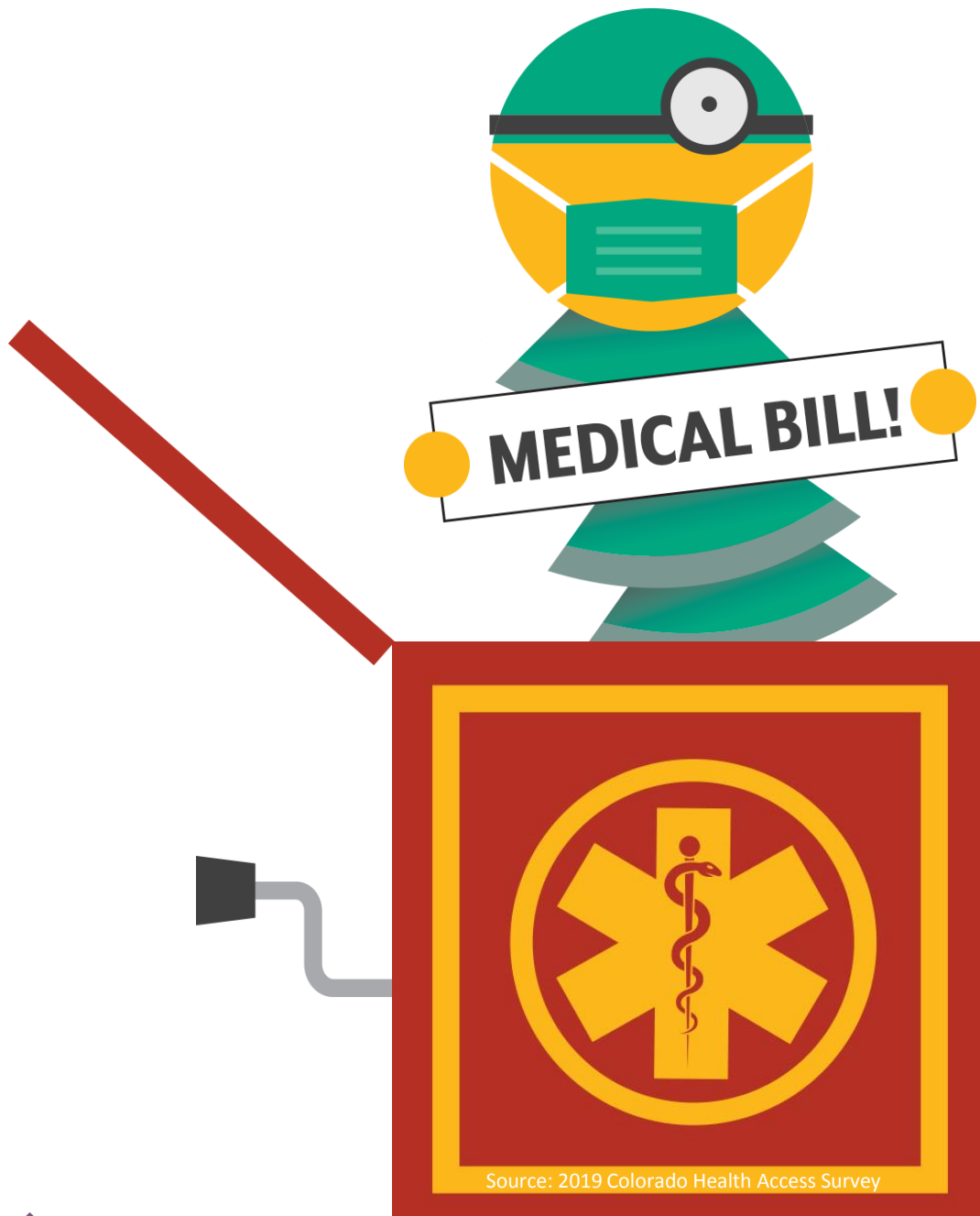
# North Colorado Bucking the Trend

Had Problems Paying Medical Bills in the Past Twelve Months



Source: Colorado Health Access Survey





**30.6%**

of Coloradans  
report having a  
surprise medical  
bill in the past  
12 months

**30.1%**

Larimer County

**27.3%**

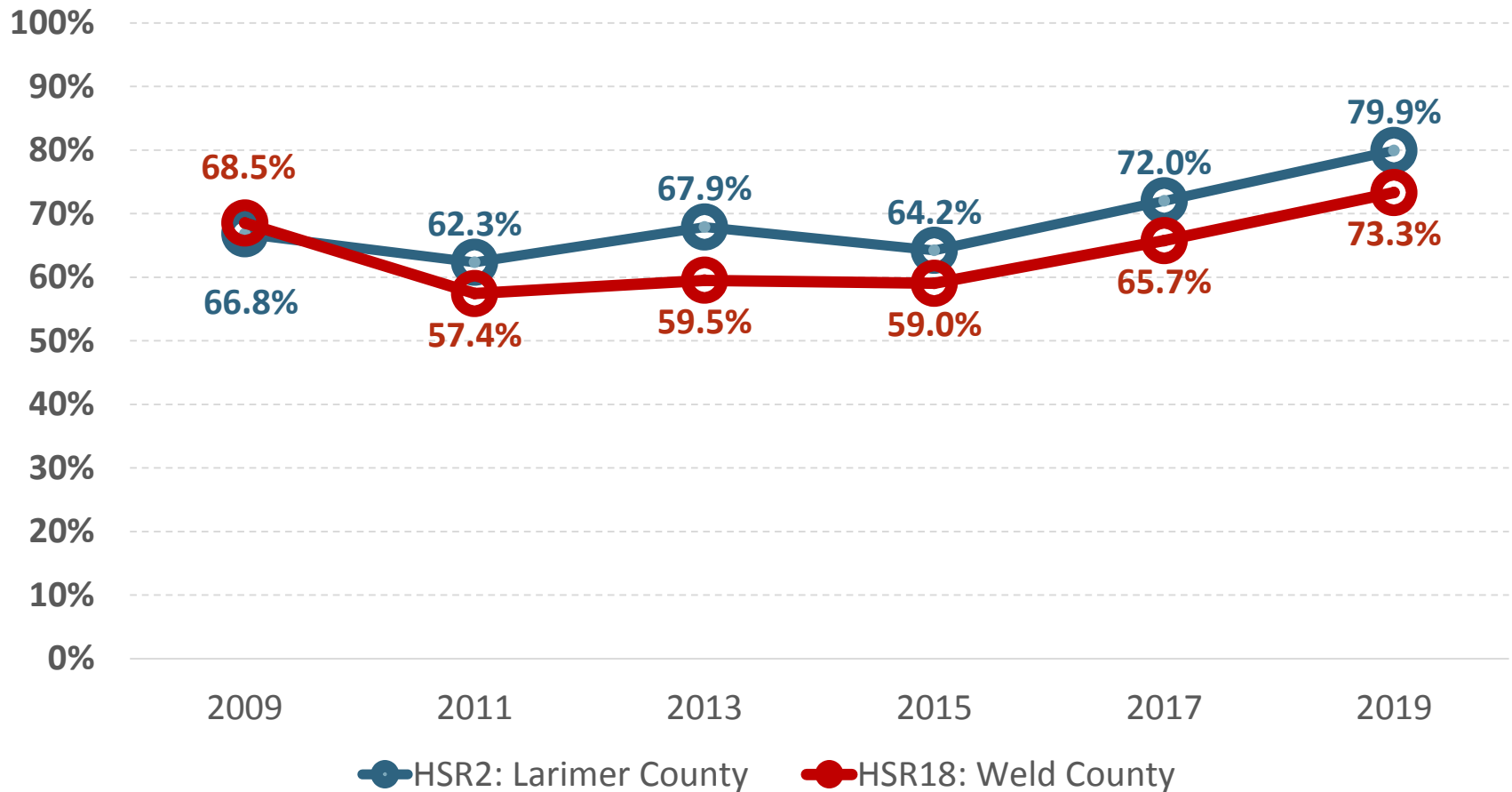
Weld County

Source: 2019 Colorado Health Access Survey



# Bonus: Dental Service Use on the Rise

Percentage Visiting a Dentist or Dental Hygienist in the Past 12 Months, 2009-2019

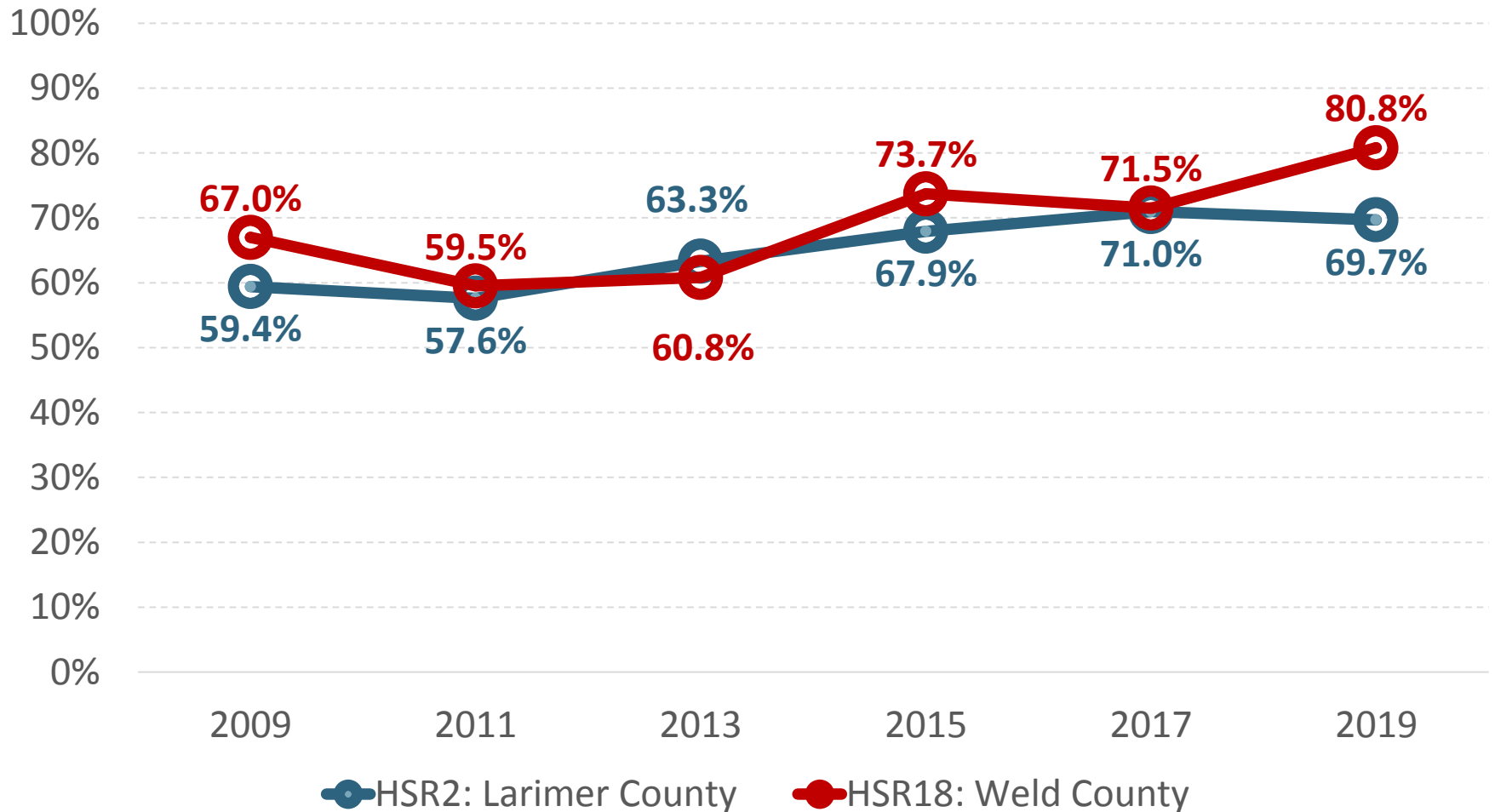


Source: Colorado Health Access Survey



# Bonus: Dental Coverage has Increased

Percentage with Dental Insurance, 2009-2019



Source: Colorado Health Access Survey

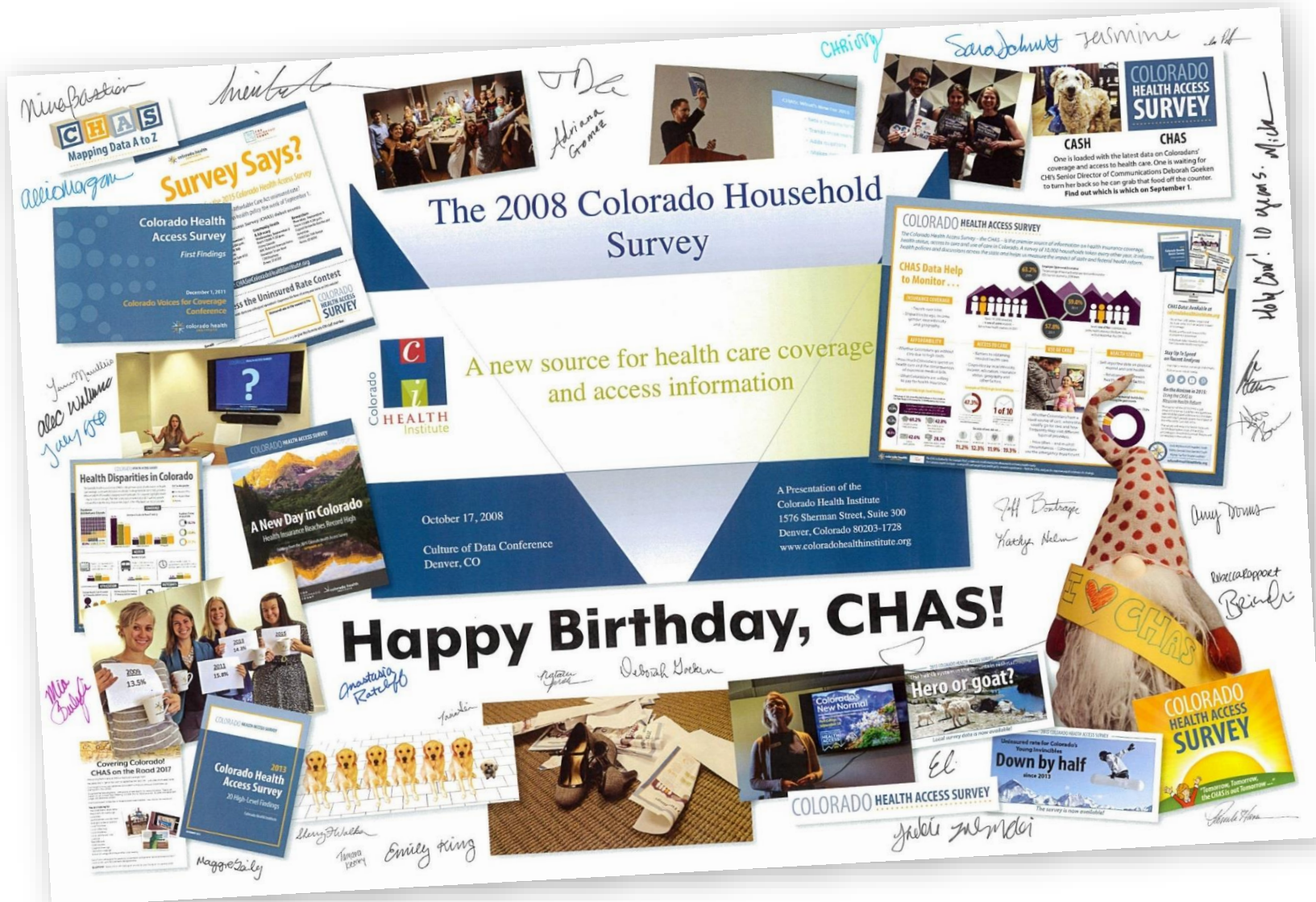


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# Happy 10th Birthday, CHAS!





Save the Date: **Dec. 5-6**

**HOT  
ISSUES  
IN HEALTH**  
**2019**







# COLORADO **HEALTH** INSTITUTE

Informing Policy. Advancing Health



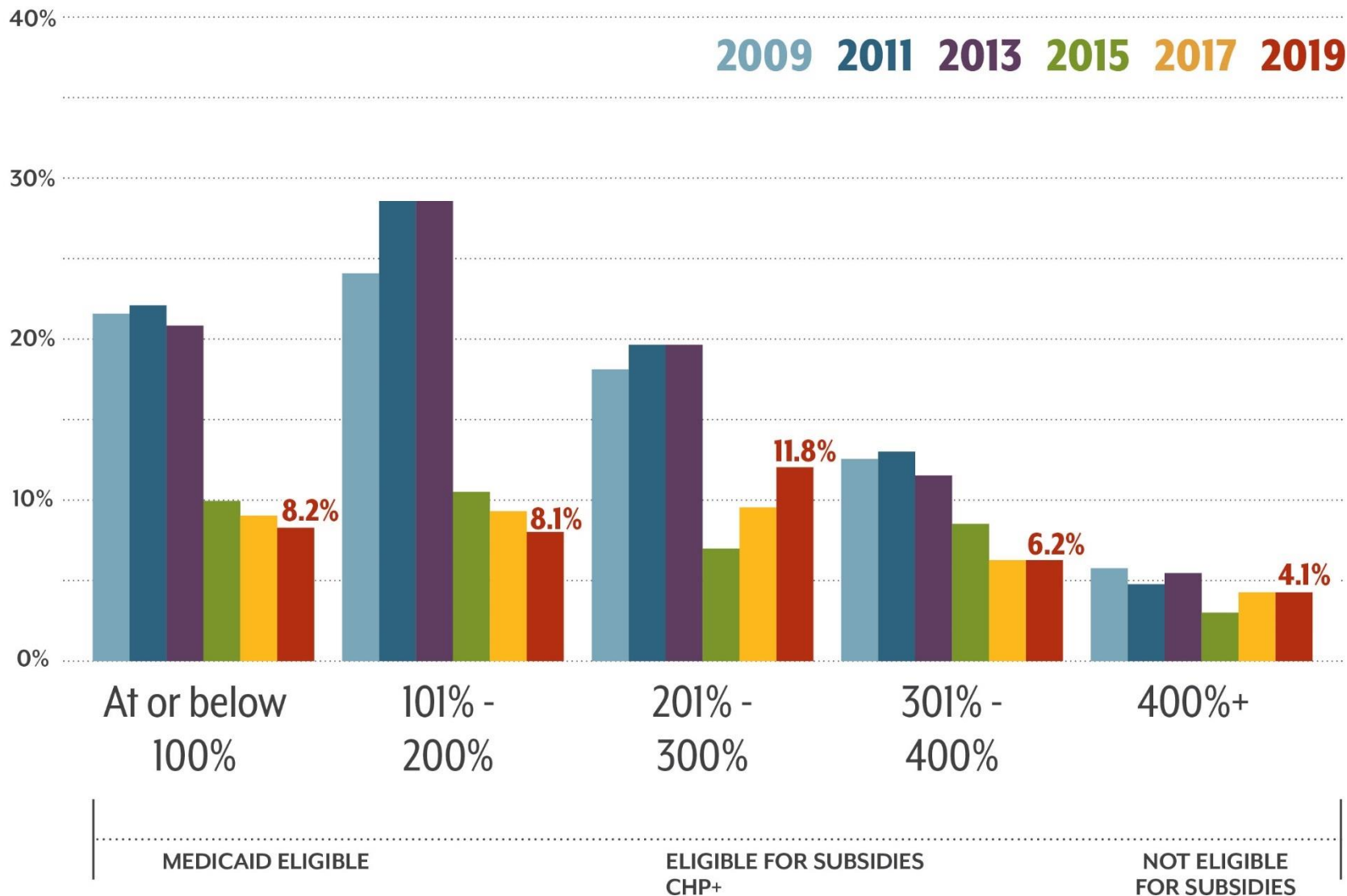
[CHAS@coloradohealthinstitute.org](mailto:CHAS@coloradohealthinstitute.org)  
[colo.health/CHAS](http://colo.health/CHAS)



# Extra Slides



# Uninsured Rate by Federal Poverty Level



Source: 2019 Colorado Health Access Survey





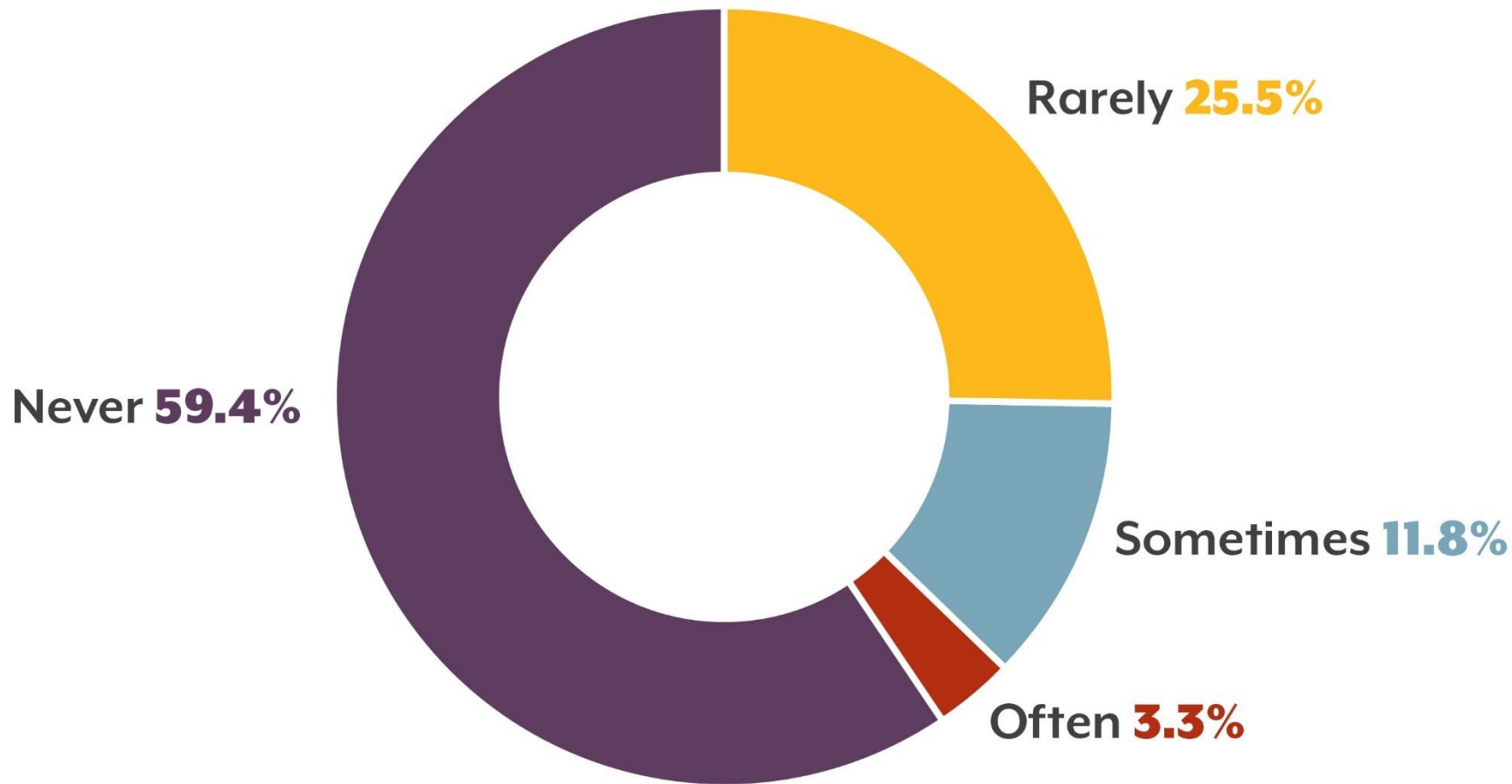
# Unfair Treatment

## A Wake-up Call for Health Care



# Colorado Adults Who Report Being Treated Unfairly When Getting Medical Care

Ages 18+



Source: 2019 Colorado Health Access Survey