

Financial Facts

How Does the Growth of Child Welfare Allocations Compare to Total Children Served? F 1

Colorado Counties Inc.

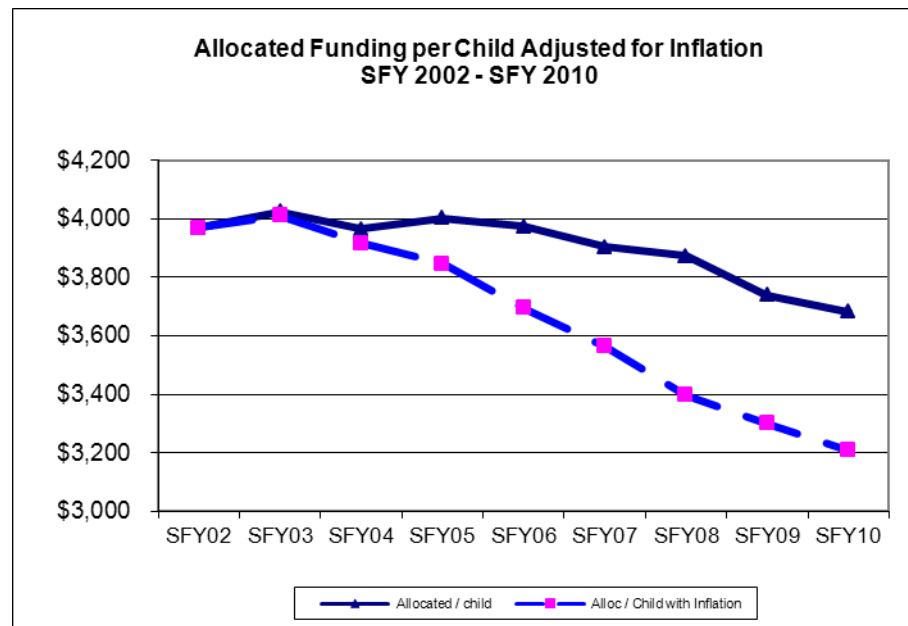
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- The number of **children served grew** from 2002 to 2010 by **31.9%**.
- Child welfare **allocations grew** from 2002 to 2010 by only **22.4%**.
- The amount of **funding per child served dropped by 7.2%** from 2002 to 2010, and by **19.2% when considering inflation**. In other words, child welfare purchasing power has not kept pace with the number of children served by child welfare.
- Colorado counties, similar to other states, have safely served more children with lower purchasing power through strategies, such as reducing out-of-home placements. Reducing out-of-home placements is a federal goal and best practice.

HOW DOES THE GROWTH OF CHILD WELFARE ALLOCATIONS COMPARE TO TOTAL CHILDREN SERVED?

From State Fiscal Year 2002 to 2010, the Child Welfare allocations grew by 22.4%. When adjusted for inflation, as measured by the Consumer Price Index, the growth was only 6.6%.

At the same time, the number of children being served through the child welfare system, as measured through TRAILS data, increased by 31.9%. As a consequence, the allocated funding per child fell by 7.2%, and the purchasing power per child, as defined by the county allocations adjusted for inflation, fell by 19.2% from \$3,970 per child to \$3,209 per child.



Sources: TRAILS data. Child Welfare Allocations.

County prepared spreadsheet on total child welfare allocations and consumer price index for the Denver – Boulder – Greeley area.

Note: *Total children served represents unduplicated count of children in new assessments and open cases (including subsidized adoption cases).