

# Children & Youth with Special Health Care Needs Survey

## FINDINGS SUMMARY



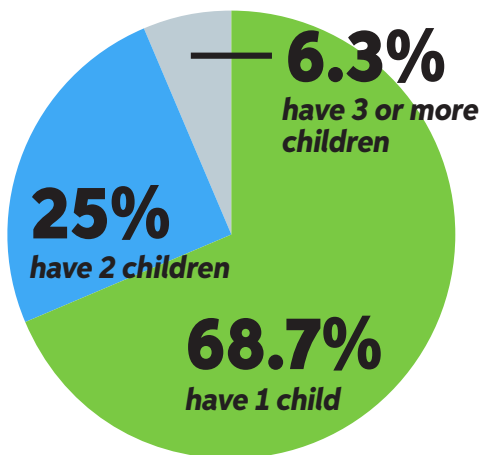
In June 2024, the Adams County Health Department (ACHD) Maternal Child Health team and Parent to Parent of Colorado (P2P-CO) surveyed families in Adams County with children and youth with special health care needs (CYSHCN). Through this survey, ACHD seeks to better understand families with CYSHCN and their challenges accessing services.

Thank you to the 80 families who responded to this survey and provided such valuable information and recommendations.

### Key Takeaways

- ⇒ There is a need for more mental health care for both parents as well as children and youth with special health care needs.
- ⇒ Many families of CYSHCN are struggling financially due to the cost of insurance, inability to afford necessities for their child because they are not covered by insurance (i.e., therapies, ceiling lifts, etc.), and housing.
- ⇒ Families struggle to find services in their native language(s).
- ⇒ People are unsure what health care services are available and how to access them.
- ⇒ Those who rely on Medicaid waivers face challenges navigating confusing processes and finding providers who provide covered services.

### Of the 80 respondents:



68.7% had one child with a special healthcare need

25% had two children

6.3% had three or more children

Over half—55%—have Medicaid for their CYSHCN either because they qualify financially or through the Medicaid buy-in program.

**55%** Have Medicaid for CYSHCN

Of those, 32.5% noted a lack of available providers for covered services, namely respite and home care services.

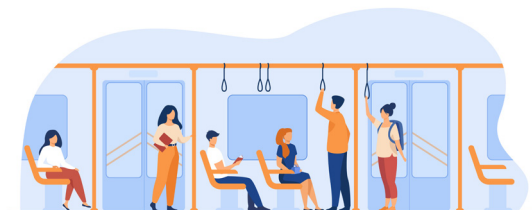
**32.5%** Note lack of providers

In total, 33.7% said they live paycheck to paycheck and are unsure if they can pay all their monthly bills.

**33.7%** Live paycheck to paycheck

### Transportation is a significant barrier to accessing services

because many of the available services in the Metro area are not located in Adams County, and families have to travel across the city to access them.



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### Recommendations

#### Mental Health Care Access

- Expand mental health care services.
- Expand the network of insurance accepted by therapists.

#### Financial & Economy Stability

- Increase tax credits for families of children and youth with special health care needs.
- Work to create more affordable insurance copays.

#### Language Access

- Create more resources in Spanish.
- Train providers to provide services to people in different languages and cultures.

#### Provider & Services Clarification

- Incentivize more providers to accept Medicaid, so there are more providers to choose from.
- Improve communications about what services are available for caregivers.

#### Medicaid Waivers

- Better communicate about what services waivers cover and the process to use them.
- Expand access to customer support.



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