

Beyond GDP: The Ongoing Search to Measure “Wellbeing”



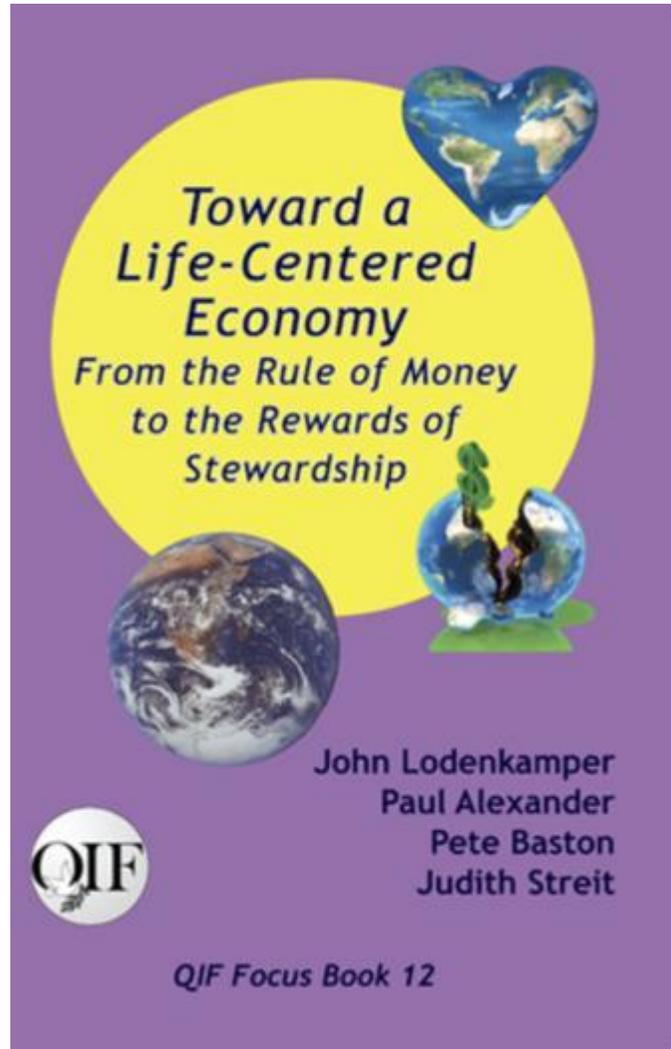
- OLLI Fall Term 2022
- Wednesdays, 1-3pm
- Sept. 14 thru Nov. 2
- Co-facilitators:

David Carlson,
EEE Forum founder
and
Paul Belanger,
EEE Forum webmaster

Promoting measures of human and ecological wellbeing (HEW) in Colorado—what's next? Session #8 Outline

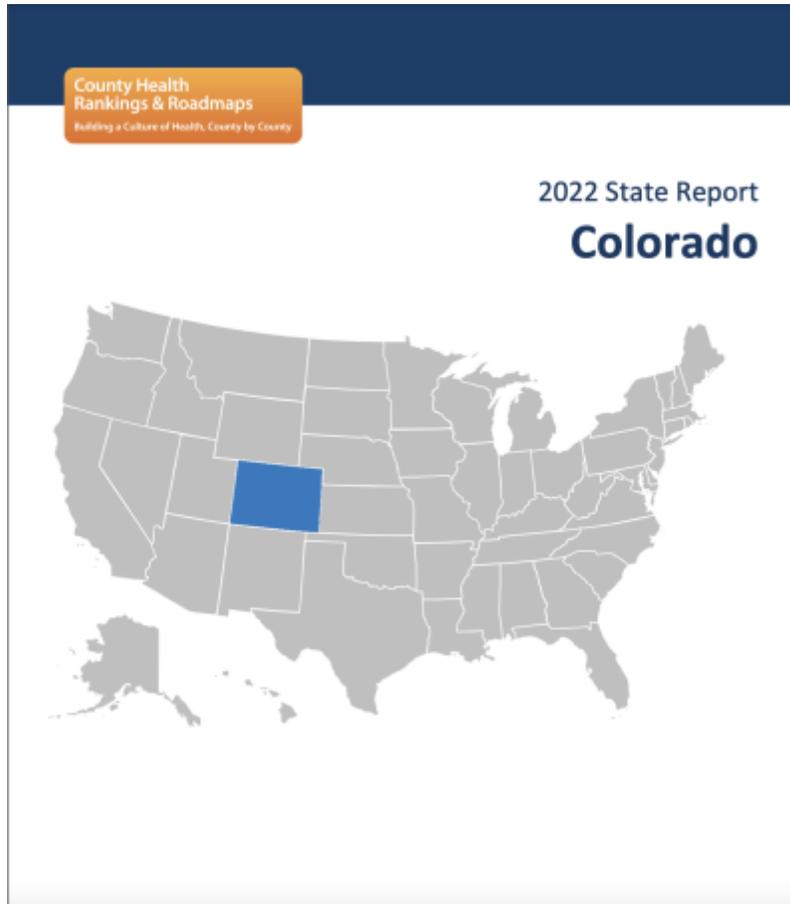
- OLLI Announcements
- Highlights from Session #7
- Guest presentation and Q&A: *see next slide*
- Brief review of Searching for Wellbeing Measures
- 5-minute break
- A Brief introduction to “Climate Grief”
- Class-driven questions & comments; closing remarks

Final Session -- Guest Presentation



John Lodenkamper

Quaker Institute for the
Future Research Group



This 12-page annual report features a common set of 35 indicators for ranking the counties in Colorado that gives equal weight to Health Outcomes and Health Factors.

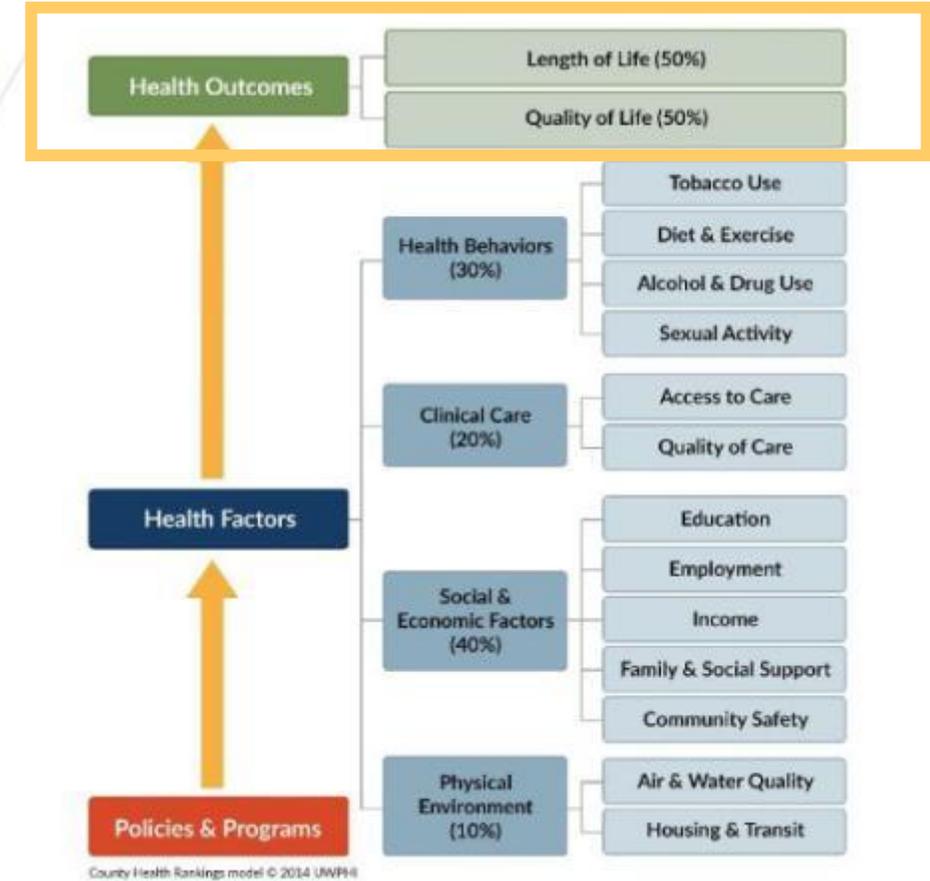
[2022 Colorado County Health Rankings Report](#)

2022 County Health Rankings for the 59 Ranked Counties in Colorado

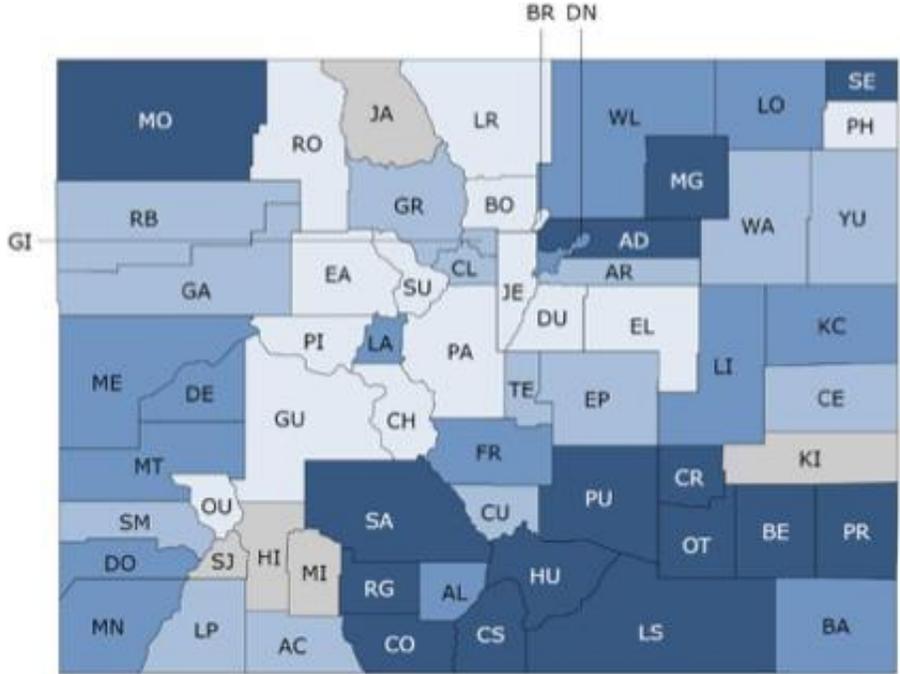
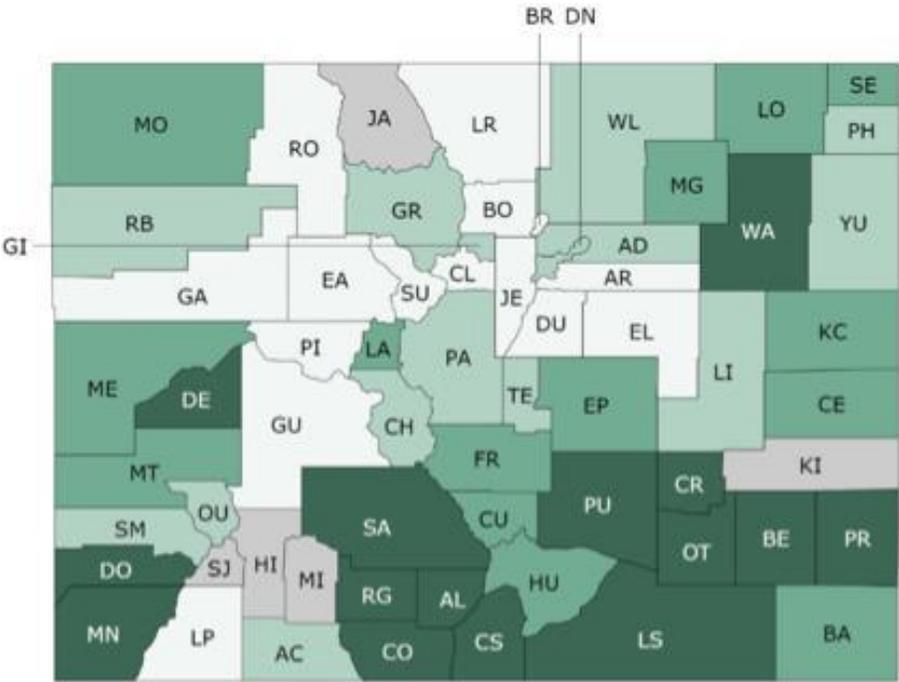
County	Health Outcomes	Health Factors	County	Health Outcomes	Health Factors	County	Health Outcomes	Health Factors	County	Health Outcomes	Health Factors	County	Health Outcomes	Health Factors
Adams	27	46	Crowley	47	57	Gunnison	7	8	Mesa	32	38	Rio Blanco	25	21
Alamosa	53	41	Custer	41	30	Hinsdale	NR	NR	Mineral	NR	NR	Rio Grande	50	50
Arapahoe	14	20	Delta	48	44	Huerfano	44	52	Moffat	43	45	Routt	6	6
Archuleta	21	26	Denver	23	34	Jackson	NR	NR	Montezuma	51	40	Saguache	57	58
Baca	39	42	Dolores	49	33	Jefferson	12	11	Montrose	31	35	San Juan	NR	NR
Bent	58	56	Douglas	1	1	Kiowa	NR	NR	Morgan	40	49	San Miguel	16	22
Boulder	4	3	Eagle	3	15	Kit Carson	36	31	Otero	59	53	Sedgwick	37	47
Broomfield	5	2	El Paso	33	24	La Plata	13	17	Ouray	19	5	Summit	8	10
Chaffee	17	13	Elbert	10	7	Lake	34	36	Park	26	12	Teller	30	16
Cheyenne	35	28	Fremont	42	43	Larimer	11	9	Phillips	29	14	Washington	45	27
Clear Creek	9	18	Garfield	15	25	Las Animas	55	55	Pitkin	2	4	Weld	18	32
Conejos	54	48	Gilpin	28	23	Lincoln	24	39	Prowers	46	51	Yuma	22	29
Costilla	56	59	Grand	20	19	Logan	38	37	Pueblo	52	54			

Note that 5 of Colorado's 64 counties are not ranked.

Conceptual Framework



Health OUTCOMES vs. Health FACTORS



Health Outcome Ranks 1 to 15 16 to 30 31 to 44 45 to 59

Health Factor Ranks 1 to 15 16 to 30 31 to 44 45 to 59

2022 County Health Rankings: National and Colorado State Values for Ranked Measures

Measure	Description	US	CO	CO	
				Minimum	Maximum
HEALTH OUTCOMES					
Premature death*	Years of potential life lost before age 75 per 100,000 population (age-adjusted).	7,300	6,300	3,100	14,200
Poor or fair health	Percentage of adults reporting fair or poor health (age-adjusted).	17%	14%	9%	28%
Poor physical health days	Average number of physically unhealthy days reported in past 30 days (age-adjusted).	3.9	3.3	2.6	5.0
Poor mental health days	Average number of mentally unhealthy days reported in past 30 days (age-adjusted).	4.5	4.0	3.5	4.8
Low birthweight*	Percentage of live births with low birthweight (< 2,500 grams).	8%	9%	7%	22%
HEALTH FACTORS					
HEALTH BEHAVIORS					
Adult smoking	Percentage of adults who are current smokers (age-adjusted).	16%	14%	10%	21%
Adult obesity	Percentage of the adult population (age 18 and older) that reports a body mass index (BMI) greater than or equal to 30 kg/m ² (age-adjusted).	32%	24%	20%	34%
Food environment index	Index of factors that contribute to a healthy food environment, from 0 (worst) to 10 (best).	7.8	8.5	1.7	9.5
Physical inactivity	Percentage of adults age 18 and over reporting no leisure-time physical activity (age-adjusted).	26%	19%	13%	31%
Access to exercise opportunities	Percentage of population with adequate access to locations for physical activity.	80%	88%	6%	100%
Excessive drinking	Percentage of adults reporting binge or heavy drinking (age-adjusted).	20%	20%	14%	24%
Alcohol-impaired driving deaths	Percentage of driving deaths with alcohol involvement.	27%	34%	0%	75%
Sexually transmitted infections	Number of newly diagnosed chlamydia cases per 100,000 population.	551.0	517.8	81.5	1,091.2
Teen births*	Number of births per 1,000 female population ages 15-19.	19	16	4	34
CLINICAL CARE					
Uninsured	Percentage of population under age 65 without health insurance.	11%	9%	4%	18%
Primary care physicians	Ratio of population to primary care physicians.	1,310:1	1,200:1	1,830:0	630:1
Dentists	Ratio of population to dentists.	1,400:1	1,210:1	3,920:0	770:1
Mental health providers	Ratio of population to mental health providers.	350:1	250:1	770:0	70:1
Preventable hospital stays*	Rate of hospital stays for ambulatory-care sensitive conditions per 100,000 Medicare enrollees.	3,767	2,337	746	5,864
Mammography screening*	Percentage of female Medicare enrollees ages 65-74 that received an annual mammography screening.	43%	40%	22%	52%
Flu vaccinations*	Percentage of fee-for-service (FFS) Medicare enrollees that had an annual flu vaccination.	48%	48%	19%	61%
SOCIAL & ECONOMIC FACTORS					
High school completion	Percentage of adults ages 25 and over with a high school diploma or equivalent.	89%	92%	79%	99%
Some college	Percentage of adults ages 25-44 with some post-secondary education.	67%	72%	21%	87%
Unemployment	Percentage of population ages 16 and older unemployed but seeking work.	8.1%	7.3%	2.3%	11.3%
Children in poverty*	Percentage of people under age 18 in poverty.	16%	11%	3%	32%
Income inequality	Ratio of household income at the 80th percentile to income at the 20th percentile.	4.9	4.4	2.6	5.7
Children in single-parent households	Percentage of children that live in a household headed by a single parent.	25%	21%	4%	44%
Social associations	Number of membership associations per 10,000 population.	9.2	8.6	0.0	31.6
Violent crime	Number of reported violent crime offenses per 100,000 population.	386	326	0	631
Injury deaths*	Number of deaths due to injury per 100,000 population.	76	83	46	164
PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT					
Air pollution - particulate matter	Average daily density of fine particulate matter in micrograms per cubic meter (PM2.5).	7.5	5.6	4.6	11.1
Drinking water violations*	Indicator of the presence of health-related drinking water violations. 'Yes' indicates the presence of a violation, 'No' indicates no violation.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Severe housing problems	Percentage of households with at least 1 of 4 housing problems: overcrowding, high housing costs, lack of kitchen facilities, or lack of plumbing facilities.	17%	16%	7%	27%
Driving alone to work*	Percentage of the workforce that drives alone to work.	75%	73%	52%	84%
Long commute - driving alone	Among workers who commute in their car alone, the percentage that commute more than 30 minutes.	37%	36%	5%	70%

*Indicates subgroup data by race and ethnicity is available; *Not available in all states

2022 County Health Rankings: 35 key indicators

Example: Teen births
(number of births per 1,000)



- U.S. vs Colorado: 19 vs 16 😊
- CO min vs. CO max: 4 😊 vs 34

Takeaway:
averages hide disparities

“Economic Security is Key to Thriving Communities”

- Economic security enables families to cover basic needs such as housing, education, childcare, food, and medical care. Each of these needs has demonstrated ties to health. However, economic security is not equally accessible to all people.
- Median household income varies by race and ethnicity across Colorado counties ranging between \$52,028 for American Indian & Alaska Native households to \$83,168 for Asian households. These income disparities demonstrate how economic security is not equally accessible to all people living in Colorado.

--from the [2022 Colorado County Health Rankings Report](#) (p. 7)

Social Progress Index component-level framework



The Social Progress Index measures how well countries and communities convert their resources into social and environmental outcomes that impact people's lives every day.

3 dimensions, 12 components, 50-60 indicators total for countries, states, and (coming soon!) cities



The scorecard highlights a country's relative strengths and relative weaknesses compared to 15 peer countries with a similar GDP per capita. Elements of the Social Progress Index are marked with a blue dot where the country performs comparatively well, a red dot where it performs relatively poorly, a yellow dot where its performance is average for its peer group, and a gray dot when there isn't sufficient data to make a judgment. Elements marked with a blue ring are areas where the country slightly over-performs while areas where the country slightly under-performs are marked with a red ring.

For information on how scorecards are calculated, please consult the [methodology report](#).

Category	score/value	rank	strength/weakness	Category	score/value	rank	strength/weakness	Category	score/value	rank	strength/weakness
Basic Human Needs	87.63	34	●	Foundations of Wellbeing	84.58	26	●	Opportunity	81.74	24	●
Nutrition and Basic Medical Care	93.22	44	●	Access to Basic Knowledge	92.72	34	●	Personal Rights	88.06	46	●
Child stunting	1.88	23	●	Equal access to quality education	2.42	77	●	Freedom of religion	3.81	38	●
Infectious diseases	78.30	33	●	Population with no schooling	0.01	28	●	Property rights for women	4.68	46	●
Maternal mortality rate	28.61	73	●	Secondary school attainment	96.00	21	●	Freedom of peaceful assembly	2.75	88	●
Child mortality rate	6.35	45	●	Primary school enrollment	99.08	48	●	Access to justice	0.94	28	●
Undernourishment	2.50	1	●	Gender parity in secondary attainment	0.00	1	●	Freedom of discussion	0.94	29	●
Diet low in fruits and vegetables	41.86	57	●				Political rights	32.00	54	●	
				Access to Information and Communications	95.88	7	●	Personal Freedom and Choice	83.23	22	●
Water and Sanitation	94.28	28	●	Alternative sources of information index	0.88	35	●	Early marriage	3.17	44	●
Unsafe water, sanitation and hygiene	14.74	23	●	Mobile telephone subscriptions	106.19	1	●	Satisfied demand for contraception	82.70	33	●
Access to improved sanitation	0.96	78	●	Internet users	90.90	23	●	Young people not in education, employment or training	13.89	50	●
Access to improved water source	1.00	61	●	Access to online governance	1.00	1	●	Vulnerable employment	3.89	8	●
Satisfaction with water quality	0.86	23	●				Perception of corruption	67.00	24	●	
				Health and Wellness	74.21	33	●	Freedom of domestic movement	0.90	19	●
Shelter	91.17	29	●	Equal access to quality healthcare	2.06	88	●	Inclusiveness	68.68	33	●
Household air pollution	0.86	22	●	Life expectancy at 60	23.46	35	●	Equal protection index	0.59	106	●
Access to electricity	100.00	1	●	Premature deaths from non-communicable diseases	277.55	54	●	Equal access index	0.80	45	●
Usage of clean fuels and technology for cooking	100.00	1	●	Access to essential health services	88.36	31	●	Power distributed by sexual orientation	2.12	29	●
Dissatisfaction with housing affordability	0.42	57	●	Satisfaction with availability of quality healthcare	0.81	20	●	Access to public services distributed by social group	3.22	40	●
							Acceptance of gays and lesbians	0.81	14	●	
Personal Safety	71.85	48	●	Environmental Quality	75.50	22	●	Discrimination and violence against minorities	6.50	102	●
Transportation related injuries	762.63	68	●	Lead exposure	62.73	30	●	Access to Advanced Education	86.98	2	●
Interpersonal violence	389.20	109	●	Particulate matter pollution	7.12	8	●	Academic freedom	0.78	69	●
Political killings and torture	0.92	43	●	Outdoor air pollution	249.64	17	●	Women with advanced education	0.83	5	●
Intimate partner violence	2.64	1	●	Species protection	86.28	63	●	Expected years of tertiary schooling	3.97	15	●
Money stolen	0.12	67	●				Citable documents	1.96	30	●	
							Quality weighted universities	1004.40	1	●	

SOCIAL PROGRESS IMPERATIVE

The 2022 Social Progress Index

- ❖ U.S. rank: 25th out of 169 countries
- ❖ Compared to other countries with a similar GDP per capita, the U. S.
- Slightly underperforms (red rings) in 2 of the 3 dimensions [column headings] and in 1 component (Water and Sanitation)
- Performs relatively poorly (large red dots in boxes) in 3 of the 12 components
- Average performance (large yellow dots) in the remaining 8 components

Available at [U.S. 2022 SPI Profile Page](#)

Highlights from the 2022 SPI Report Since 2011 . . .

- * The United States' social progress has stalled, and despite its wealth and reputation, at 25th place America is doing a poor job of delivering a good standard of living to its people.
- * The United Kingdom is one of only four countries to see a steady decline in social progress since 2011, alongside Venezuela, Libya and Syria.
- * This has been a lost decade for key emerging markets such as Brazil and Turkey where social progress has largely stagnated.
- * China and India have seen significant improvement, but both countries are held back by lack of progress on rights, inclusiveness and environmental quality.

For more highlights, see [2022 SPI Report -- news release](#).



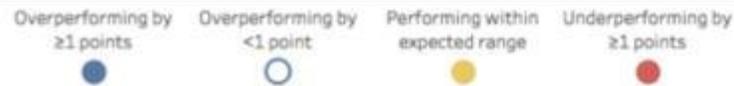
Colorado



Social Progress Index 56.01
Median Household Income \$62,520

Rank: 11/50
Rank: 12/50

Category	Score/Value	Strength/Weakness Rank	Category	Score/Value	Strength/Weakness Rank	Category	Score/Value	Strength/Weakness Rank
Basic Human Needs	58.50	20	Foundations of Wellbeing	52.78	12	Opportunity	56.90	6
Nutrition and Basic Medical Care	60.29	9	Access to Basic Knowledge	50.26	20	Personal Rights	74.79	2
Food insecurity (% households)	10.28	8	Preschool enrollment (% 3-4 yo)	50.47	10	Women in state legislatures (% leg.)	39.00	4
Maternal mortality (per 100,000)	0.20	7	High school incompleteness (% 18-24 yo)	13.71	29	Voter turnout (% pop.)	70.10	4
Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000)	5.57	16	Math proficiency (% proficient)	36.93	15	Election process (0=low; 100=high)	80.00	6
Youth preventative medical (% 12-17 yo)	75.00	39	Reading proficiency (% proficient)	38.23	9	Corruption (6=low; 30=high)	12.00	14
Youth preventative dental (% 1-17 yo)	79.90	27	Financial Literacy (0=low; 6=high)	3.13	35			
Water and Sanitation	64.27	26	Access to Info and Communications	61.28	14	Personal Freedom and Choice	53.35	19
Clean and safe water (% pop.)	95.29	28	Urban broadband access (% without)	4.00	26	Early marriage (per 1,000)	4.40	34
Water violations (0=high; 6=low)	3.00	23	Rural broadband access (% without)	53.00	38	Teenage birth rate (per 1,000)	21.90	18
Water fluoridation (% pop.)	74.00	27	Income parity in broadband	1.49	3	Public transport quality (0=low; 6=high)	3.83	13
			Computer with broadband (% pop.)	80.75	5	Like what I do every day (% pop.)	79.11	15
Shelter	50.55	41	Health and Wellness	46.39	8	Inclusiveness	55.07	18
Housing problems (% households)	34.87	32	Adult obesity rate (% pop.)	22.30	1	Gender pay gap (dollars)	0.84	5
Avail. of affordable housing (units/100)	52.31	40	Overweight youth (% 10-17 yo)	27.20	15	Employment discrim. (charges/100,000)	35.99	38
Homelessness (% pop.)	0.20	42	Life expectancy (age in years)	80.21	8	Acceptance of legal immigration (% pop.)	79.00	21
Unsheltered homeless (% homeless)	35.27	37	Cost burden of treatment (% pop.)	12.20	25	Support of same-sex marriage (% pop.)	64.00	10
			Suicide rate (per 100,000)	19.00	44	Access to disability services (% pop.)	6.39	25
			Drug overdose deaths (per 100,000)	15.40	20	Hate group concentration (per 100,000)	0.29	29
Personal Safety	59.78	22	Environmental Quality	54.32	15	Access to Advanced Education	47.72	10
Violent crime rate (per 100,000)	338.90	23	CO2 emissions (mil. met. tons/capita)	16.57	27	2- or 4-year college degree (% 25+ yo)	47.11	2
Murder rate (per 100,000)	3.70	20	Air pollution (ug/m³)	5.80	17	Advanced degree (% 25+ yo)	14.34	8
Property crime (per 100,000)	2,740.70	32	Pesticide exposures (exp./100,000)	23.67	7	College retention rate (% pop.)	77.10	25
Traffic deaths (per 100,000)	10.01	21	Renewable energy consump. (% total)	8.64	26			
Perceived safety (% pop.)	76.20	16						



Strengths and weaknesses are calculated relative to 15 states of similar median household income: Utah, Washington, Minnesota, California, Delaware, New York, Illinois, Wyoming, North Dakota, Virginia, Rhode Island, New Hampshire, Vermont, Pennsylvania, and Texas.

2018 State SPI Profile for Colorado

- ❖ CO rank: 11 out of 50 states
- ❖ Compared to 15 other states of similar Median Household Income, Colorado . . .
 - Slightly overperforms in 1 of the 3 dimensions (blue ring in box)
 - Overperforms (blue dots in box) in 1 of the 12 components
 - Underperforms (red dots in box) in 1 of the 12 components
 - Performs within the expected range (yellow dots) in the remaining 10 components.

The Social Progress Index and the 17 SDGs



“Currently, the Social Progress Index measures outcomes related to all 17 goals and reflects 131 out of 169 targets in one simple framework, which makes the implementation, visualization and actionability of the SDGs a tangible reality for social innovators all over the world.”

[The Contribution of the Social Progress Index to the 2030 Agenda](#)



**Osher Lifelong Learning Institute
University of Denver
October 2022**

**Planning to Thrive: Sustainable,
Resilient and Equitable
Communities for the 21st Century**

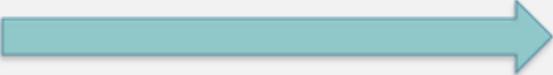
Rocky Piro, PhD, FAICP
docroc93@gmail.com



Planning to Thrive: applying an integrated holistic framework

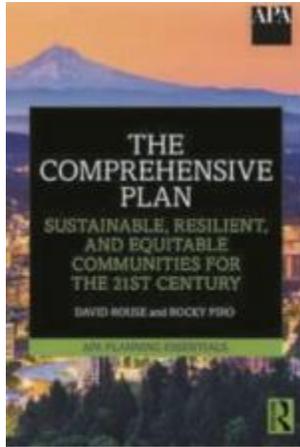
**from 20th century incrementalism
to 21st century integrated approach**

**21st century approach = integrated
systems approach
interconnected framework**

from this  to this

- recreation & tourism
- natural & cultural resources
- environment
- land use
- economic development
- affordable housing
- transportation
- parks & open space
- hazards
- capital improvements
- water supply & conservation
- efficiency in government
- energy
- sustainability
- urban design
- water





The Comprehensive Plan

Sustainable, Resilient & Equitable Communities for the 21st Century (Routledge Press: 2022)

guidance – **process (I), substance (II), implementation (III)**
framework – **create sustainable, resilient, equitable places**

- **sustainability, resilience, & equity foundational**
- **systems thinking: plan as “system of systems”**
- **authentic participation**
- **implementation focus**
- **examples from communities across US**





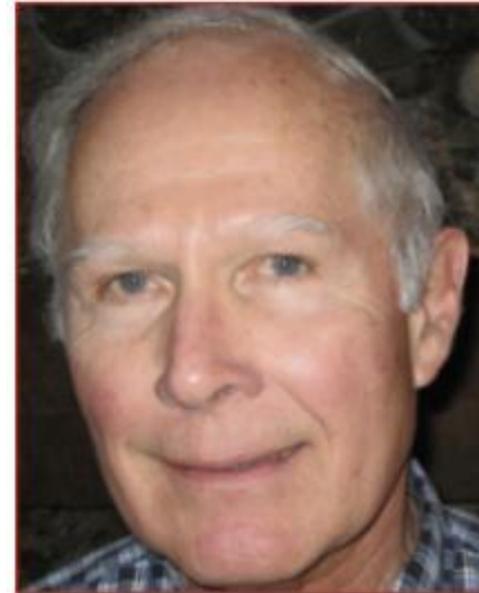
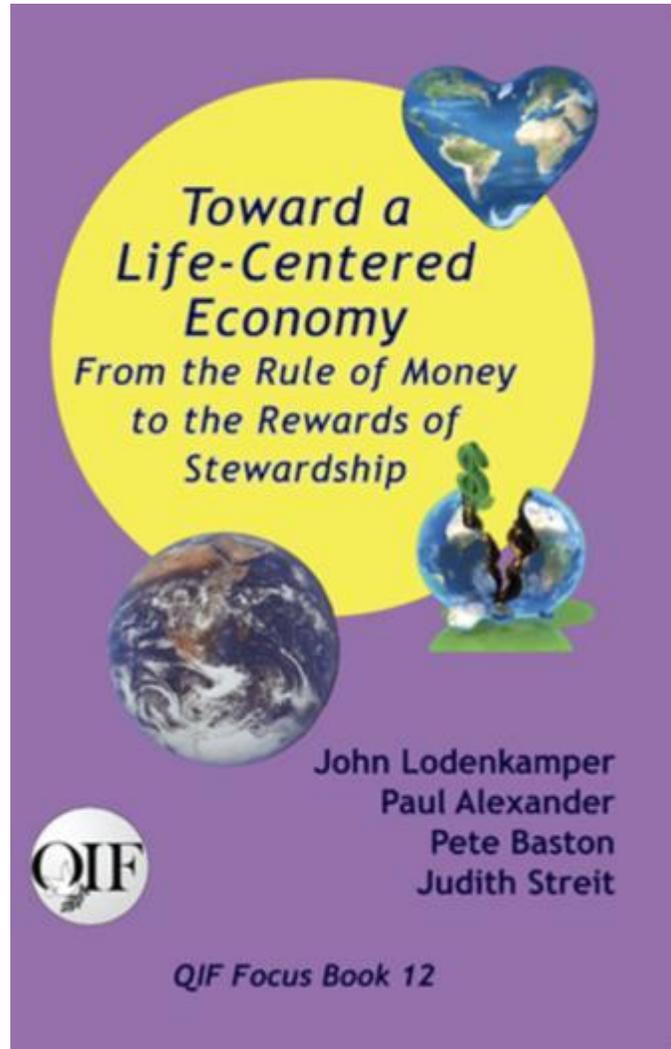
The Planning to Thrive Initiative



- launched in June 2022 – with 9 primary sponsors
- more than 20 groups & organizations participated in a 1-day symposium – sold out
- next steps – evolving into a collaborative partnership
- 2022-2023 focus – updating legislation on “housing for all” | lead partner: Conservation Colorado
- 2023-2024 – work on draft bill: *An Act for Equitable, Sustainable, and Resilient Growth*

<https://www.planningtothrivecolorado.com/>

Final Session -- Guest Presentation



John Lodenkamper

Quaker Institute for the
Future Research Group

Some Frameworks for Measuring “Wellbeing” beyond GDP

- #2 Genuine Progress Indicator: U.S., Colorado (1960-2011), Maryland
- #3 8 state frameworks: AZ, HI, MD, MN (2), NJ, OR, and VA
- #4 UN Sustainable Development Goals (2015; annual reports by region)
- #5 Millennium Development Goals (2000)
- #5 SDSN Sustainable Development reports -- U.S. (annually since 2016), Colorado (2018 & 2021), Lakewood-Denver-Aurora and Colorado Springs (2019)
- #6 Doughnut Economics (2017) and the Doughnut model – Kate Raworth
- #7 Social Progress Imperative – U.S. (annually since 2014), Colorado (2018)
- #7 County Health Rankings Report – Colorado (annually since 2010)

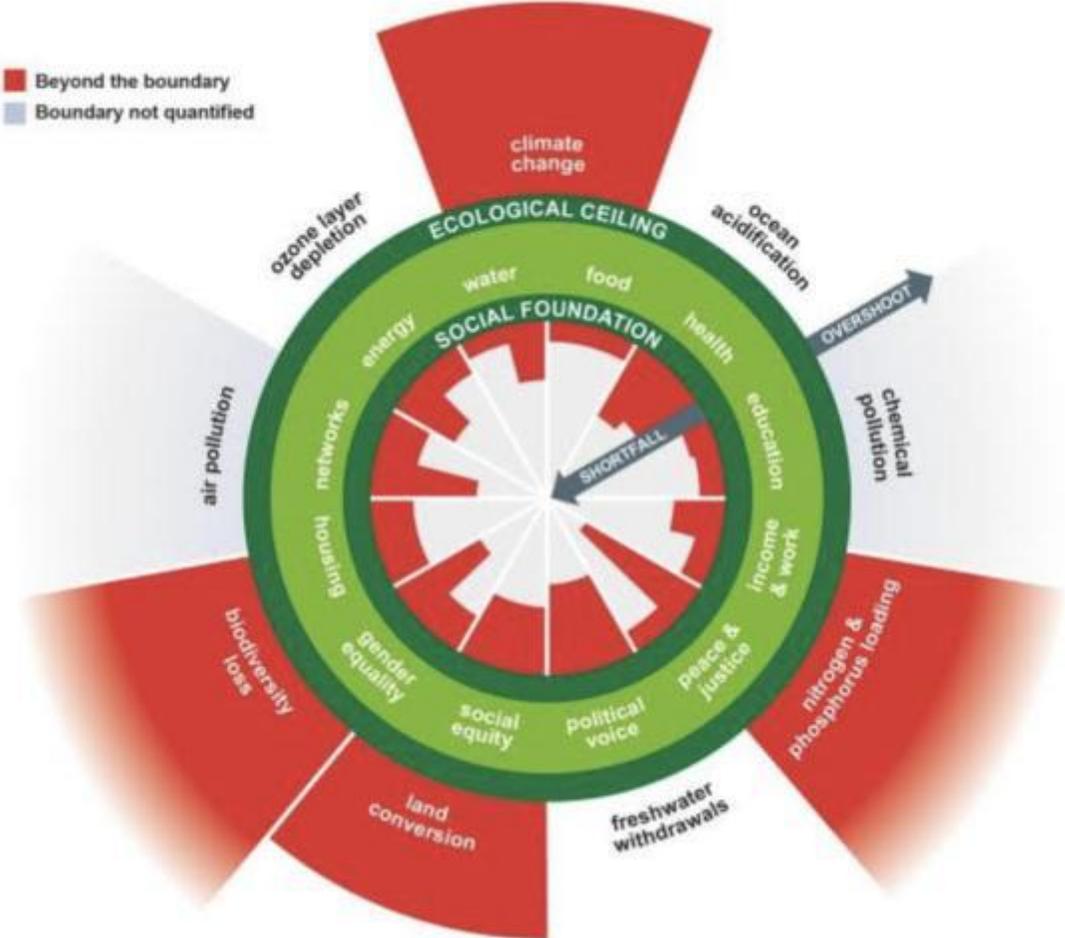
Beyond GDP – Weekly Guest Presenters

- #2 The Genuine Progress Indicator – Chris Stiffler
- #2 Spaceship Earth Economics – Alec Tsoucatos
- #3 The Wellbeing Economy Alliance (WEAll) – Paul Sutton
- #4 It's Not Your Genetic Code. It's Your Zip Code! – Sheila Davis
- #5 Food Insecurity: Post-Pandemic and Climate Change Challenges
-- Patti Iwasaki
- #6 Regenerative Economics and the SDGs – Brenna Simmons-St. Onge
- #7 Planning to Thrive: Sustainable, Resilient, and Equitable Communities for the 21st Century -- Rocky Piro
- #8 Toward a Life-Centered Economy – John Lodenkamper

Wellbeing “dashboard” for Colorado? -- Guiding Questions

- 1) *Should Colorado join other states in developing and promoting a consensus “dashboard” of 30-50 key indicators that span economic, social, and ecological dimensions of wellbeing?*
- 2) *What about convening an annual or biennial Forum and/or report to highlight trends?*
- 3) *Would a “clearinghouse” that tracks indicators from several different HEW frameworks with measures of wellbeing for Colorado be useful?*

Shortfalls and Overshoots: Kate Raworth's 'Doughnut' Model



A Brief Intro to “Climate Grief: Moving from paralysis to action”



[Dr. Jennifer Atkinson](#),
Univ. of
Washington

*The age of climate crisis is upon us, and grief and anxiety are on the rise. This podcast – **FACING IT** -- explores the emotional burden of climate change, and why despair leaves so many people unable to respond to our existential threat. **Overcoming that paralysis is the first step in moving to action**, and yet official climate strategies rarely address the emotional toll of climate grief and eco anxiety.*

Facing It: A podcast about love, loss & the natural world



Dr. Jennifer
Atkinson,
Univ. of
Washington

- *Episode 1: Facing Down Climate Grief (15:20)*
- *Episode 2: Why Climate Emotions Matter (17:08)*
- *Episode 3: Eco-Grief: Our Greatest Ally? (17:08)*
- *Episode 4: Coping with Climate Despair in Four Steps (23:18) – see next slide for steps*
 - *Solastalgia (see notes)*
- *Episode 5: Is Hope Overrated? (22:48)*
- *Episode 6: Embracing Uncertainty (20:35)*

Facing It: A podcast about love, loss & the natural world
<https://www.drjenniferatkinson.com/facing-it>

Episode 4: Coping with Climate Despair in Four Steps

Step #1: Acknowledgment – but we've been in decades of collective denial

Step #2: Talk about it – if you can name it, you can own it

Step #3: Take time – spend time outside, connect with nature

Step #4: Action – hope is not the same thing as optimism

2 things to do:

- Identify what you're good at to be effective.***
- Identify what you are passionate about, so as not to lose motivation.***

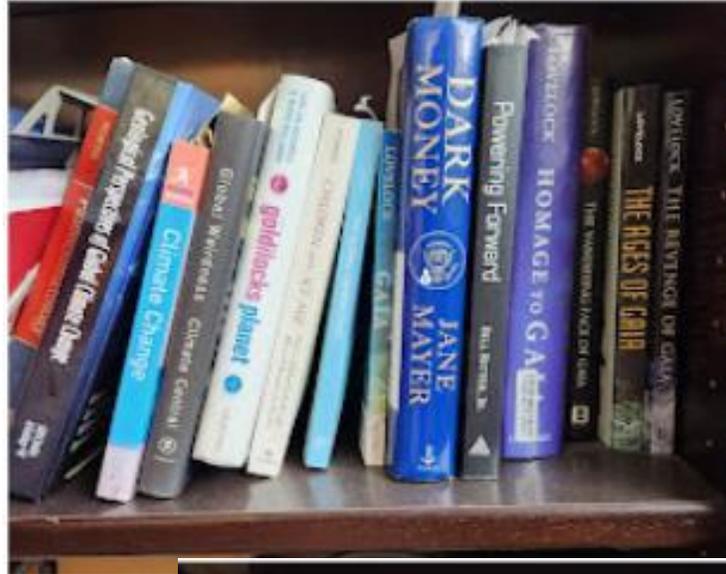
Related links

- Before class, we highly recommend listening to a brief podcast (less than 9 minutes) with Canadian public health researcher **Ashlee Cunsolo**: [Is climate change causing us to experience 'ecological grief'?](#)
- Climate change was once a bipartisan concern that was since politicized but even that is changing among conservatives.
SEE:
 - <https://yaleclimateconnections.org/2021/11/climate-conscious-conservatives-try-to-make-their-voices-heard/> and
 - <https://www.niskanencenter.org/policy/climate/>) – policy statement
 - [Can Young Republicans Override Trump's Climate Denialism?](#)
 - Now, what to do about it.

Local response model to doughnut economics

www.doughnuteconomics.org/amsterdam-portrait.pdf

No Shelf Control: buy 4 hope to read 1 (or at least skim) ?



Final comments/good-byes

- After Alec is finished, invite other comments from participants– out loud or in Chat.
- Paul – closing remarks, slides??
- David – closing remarks slides??
- OLLI – closing remarks ??