



REWIRING DOUGLAS COUNTY

ABOUT REWIRING

Rewiring is an audacious collaborative of counties working to transform child welfare. Through targeted programmatic and financial support, Rewiring will advance a system of child wellbeing that:

- Reduces the number of children and families entering the child welfare system by engaging early in ways that strengthen families;
- Improves the quality of child welfare services for children and families who need them; and
- Reshapes the flow of local, state, and ultimately national funding to ensure that the lessons of Rewiring are woven into future sustainable public funding streams that allows for replication across Colorado and nationally.

Rewiring & Douglas County

“Should you have to be in the child welfare system in order to receive timely and adequate mental health services?” asked Daniel Mekelky, Director of Human Services for Douglas County. “That is the crux of this.”

OUTCOMES OVERVIEW AND TARGETED POPULATIONS



Douglas is addressing the needs of school aged children who become child welfare involved due to becoming “beyond the control of parents.” This term means a child is experiencing severe mental health and behavioral issues which causes an inability to safely function at school and/or home.

Families struggle to get the help they need to be safe and stay together due to mental health stigma and problems accessing the proper resources and/or supports. Douglas’ Rewiring work will focus on the nine schools that had the highest number of screened child welfare referrals. The goal of this collaborative is for schools to help families access other mental health resources and types of supports provided by Rewiring funding. Ultimately, these children and families will get their needs met without the involvement of child welfare.

1 No child commits suicide in Douglas County

2 Reduction of 10% of cases resulting from Beyond Control of Parents

3 Positive outcomes demonstrate cost savings, compelling funding to move earlier



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PROOF POINTS

8

YOUTH SUICIDES IN 2018

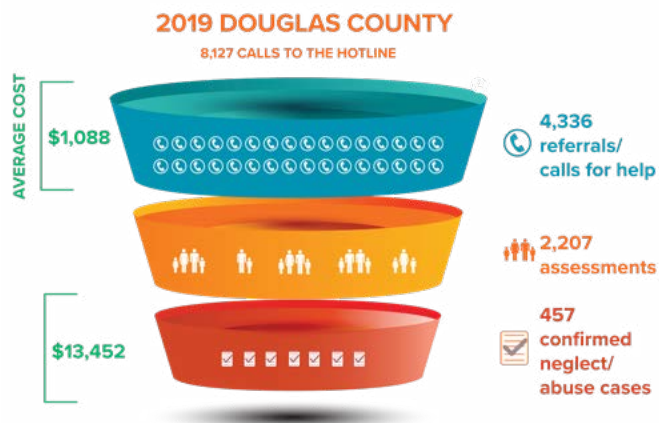
48

“BEYOND CONTROL PARENTS” CALLS RESULTED IN INVESTIGATIONS

135K

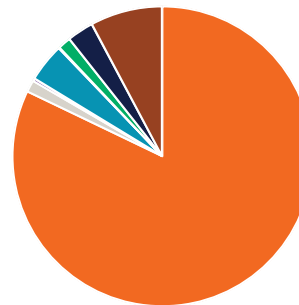
REWIRING DOLLARS INVESTED

DOUGLAS FUNNEL



DEMOGRAPHIC INFO

- Population: 342,776
- Population of children under the age of 5: 20,193
- Population of children under the age of 18: 88,978
- Population racial breakdown:



- Caucasian 89.2%
- African American 1.4%
- Alaska Native or American Indian 0.3%
- Asian 4.5%
- Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander 0.1%
- Some other Race 1.5%
- Two or more races 3.1%
- Hispanic or Latino 8.5%

OTHER INFORMATION

- The child welfare system has a \$558M budget in Colorado, with about 8,820 out-of-home foster placements last year.
- Douglas County, an early architect and designer of Rewiring, is a large suburban county located on the front range. They bring strong leadership and innovation to reduce the flow of children and families into child welfare.
- More Douglas County health info from TriCounty Health Department [here](#).

ENGAGED PARTNERS



¹Source: The Colorado Sun <https://coloradosun.com/2020/01/20/child-welfare-system-overhaul/>
²Source: Douglas County, Colorado: A Health Update from Tri-County Health Department http://www.tchd.org/DocumentCenter/View/5010/TCHD_County-FactSheet_DOUGLAS_March2018?bidId=