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COLORADO EVALUATION
AND ACTION LAB

Colorado Lab Newsletter

July 2021

Featured in this newsletter:

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Colorado Shines Professional Development Information System



The Colorado Lab supported the Colorado Department of Human Services (CDHS) Office of Early Childhood in their rebuild of the new Professional Development Information System (PDIS) for early childhood professionals. Launched in mid-June, this new workforce registry and professional development system greatly improves the experience of early childhood teachers and providers by centralizing all the information needed to become a qualified professional and to meet state child care staff licensing requirements.

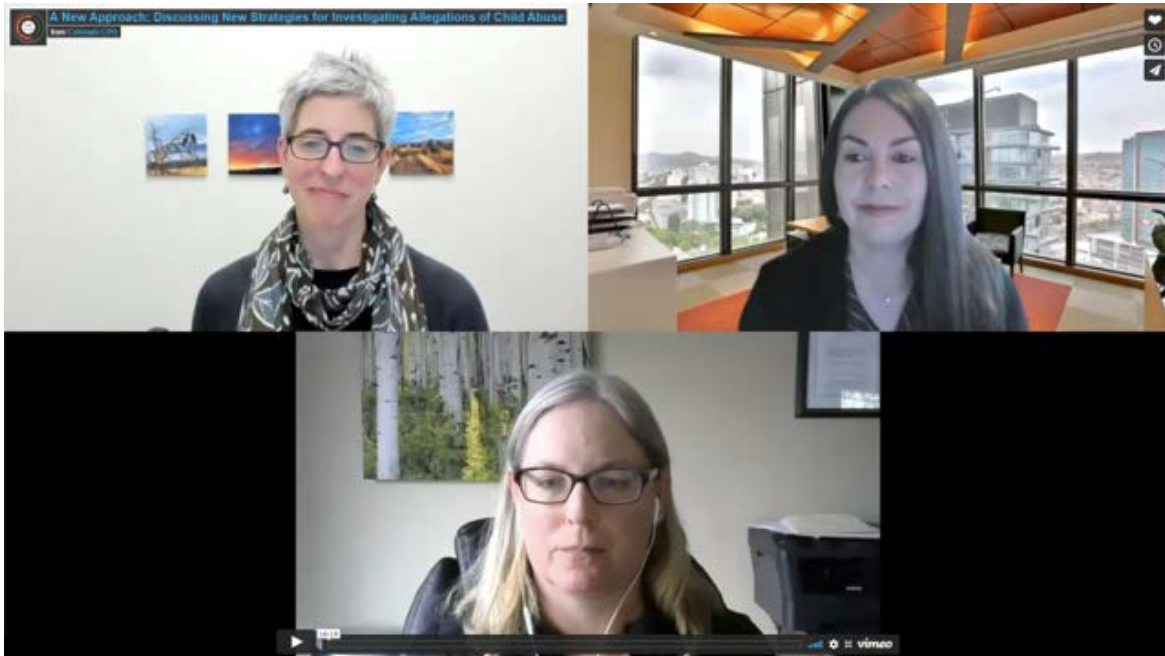
The Lab continues to support the CDHS Office of Early Childhood to leverage these data to answer critical questions that will inform the rollout of the Universal Pre-K program and other major investments designed to improve the quality and capacity of the early childhood workforce. This fall, the Colorado Lab will release the updated Early Care and Education Workforce snapshot report and data dashboard.

To learn more about Colorado Shines PDIS, contact [Dr. Whitney LeBoeuf](#).

Investigating Allegations of Child Abuse and Neglect

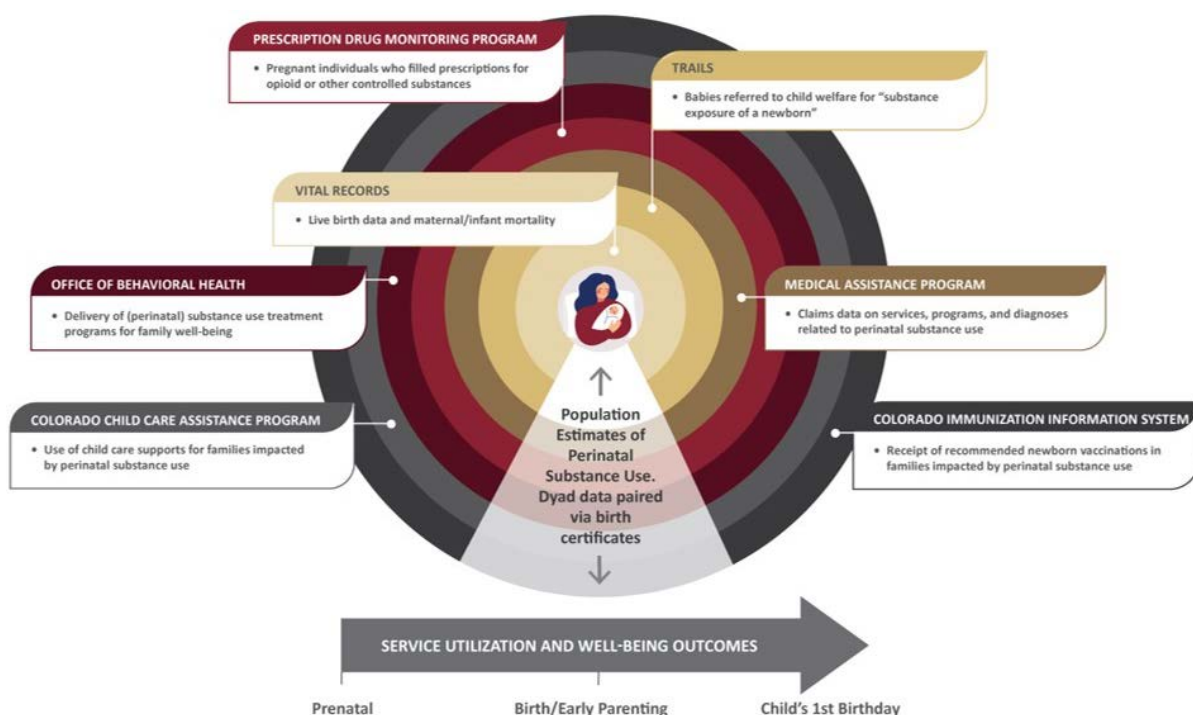
View a [brief video](#) about the Colorado Lab-supported study of a collaborative approach to investigating allegations of child abuse and neglect. Dr. Kristin Klopfenstein, Director of the Colorado Lab, and Dr. Anne DePrince of the University of Denver's Department of Psychology and the study's principal investigator, spoke with Tiffany Madrid, Director of Legislative Affairs and Policy

for Colorado's Child Protection Ombudsman to learn how a multidisciplinary team approach to investigations is associated with higher substantiation rates of abuse and/or neglect, along with additional findings.



For more information, contact [Dr. Kristin Klopfenstein](#).

2021 Legislative Review



The Colorado Lab testified to inform SB21-137, the Behavioral Health Recovery Act. Approved in the 2021 legislative session, the Act authorizes the use of data from multiple state sources to improve care for pregnant and postpartum persons with substance use disorders and their infants.

Several significant bills passed this legislative session, strengthening opportunities to improve the lives of Colorado residents across the lifespan, from prenatal care to early childhood development to adult services. The Colorado Lab worked together with state and local government agencies, legislators, the Governor's Office, research colleagues, and subject matter experts to inform this suite of legislative decision making. Partnership efforts include providing research studies and expert testimony, evaluating the effectiveness of models, and supporting the successful implementation of newly approved efforts:

- [SB21-194](#) - Maternal Health Equity: Aligns data and systems to promote equity in maternal health with a focus on racial and ethnic disparities.
- [SB21-137](#) - Perinatal Substance Use: Requires the use of data from multiple state-administered sources (see graphic) when examining issues related to pregnant and postpartum persons with substance use disorders and their infants to advance well-being.

- [HB21-1248](#) - Child Maltreatment: Updates the Colorado Children's Trust Fund Act (now called Colorado Child Abuse Prevention Trust Fund Act) to promote prevention programs designed to decrease incidences of child abuse.
- [HB21-1304](#) - Early Childhood System: Creates a new state department of early childhood to unify and strengthen Colorado's early childhood system.
- [SB21-236](#) - Early Childhood Care & Education: Improve recruitment and retention for early childhood educators; partner agency: CDHS Office of Early Childhood.
- [SB21-185](#) - Pre-K-12 & Higher Education: Expand career pathway to enter the teaching profession and strengthen educator recruitment and retention; partner agency: Colorado Department of Human Services (CDHS) Office of Early Childhood.
- [SB21-138](#) - Criminal Justice System: Approves a pilot program to study whether a comprehensive brain injury program improves outcomes for offenders with a brain injury.
- [SB21-118](#) - At-Risk Adults: Makes Colorado the first state to pilot an alternative-response model for adult protective services with the goal of providing client-centered and family-driven responses to allegations of adult mistreatment; partner agency: CDHS Office of Adult, Aging, and Disability Services.

To learn more about support provided by the Colorado Lab to the Colorado General Assembly this legislative session, contact [Dr. Courtney Everson](#).

New Projects at the Colorado Lab

Learn about new projects that are underway at the Colorado Lab and stay tuned for more information as these efforts progress.

Connecting Home Visiting Agencies and Home Child Care Providers
An innovative partnership program aims to strengthen care and learning for young children and their families by facilitating collaboration among home visiting agencies and home child care providers. Recognizing the need for continuous improvements to more seamlessly meet families where they are, the Office of Early Childhood at the Colorado Department of Human Services began this pilot program as part of the Preschool Development Grant. The Colorado Lab is conducting a case study of the pilot to explore potential benefits and improvements of bringing together these two provider groups that share the same early childhood space, but have historically not interacted.

To learn more, contact [Dr. Courtney Everson](#).

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