

Appendix C: Planning Area Profile

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Introduction

The following appendix provides a deeper look at Gunnison County and community characteristics that may not have been discussed thoroughly in *Section Three: Planning Area Overview*. This profile will highlight demographics, at-risk populations, economics, employment, and housing for Gunnison County and local communities. Special jurisdictions, such as fire and sanitation districts, are not discussed in this appendix because demographic, housing, employment, and economic data are not available for these entities.

Location and Geography

Located in the mountains of west-central Colorado, Gunnison County is situated just west of the continental divide. It has a diverse landscape that features towering, rugged mountains and expansive valleys, making it a prominent destination for outdoor enthusiasts and nature lovers. Much of the county lies in the Gunnison Basin, with high mountains along the northern border and the continental divide along the eastern border. The City of Gunnison is located approximately 200 miles from Denver and 180 miles from Colorado Springs. Gunnison County has 1 school district, 2 fire protection districts, and 1 cemetery district.

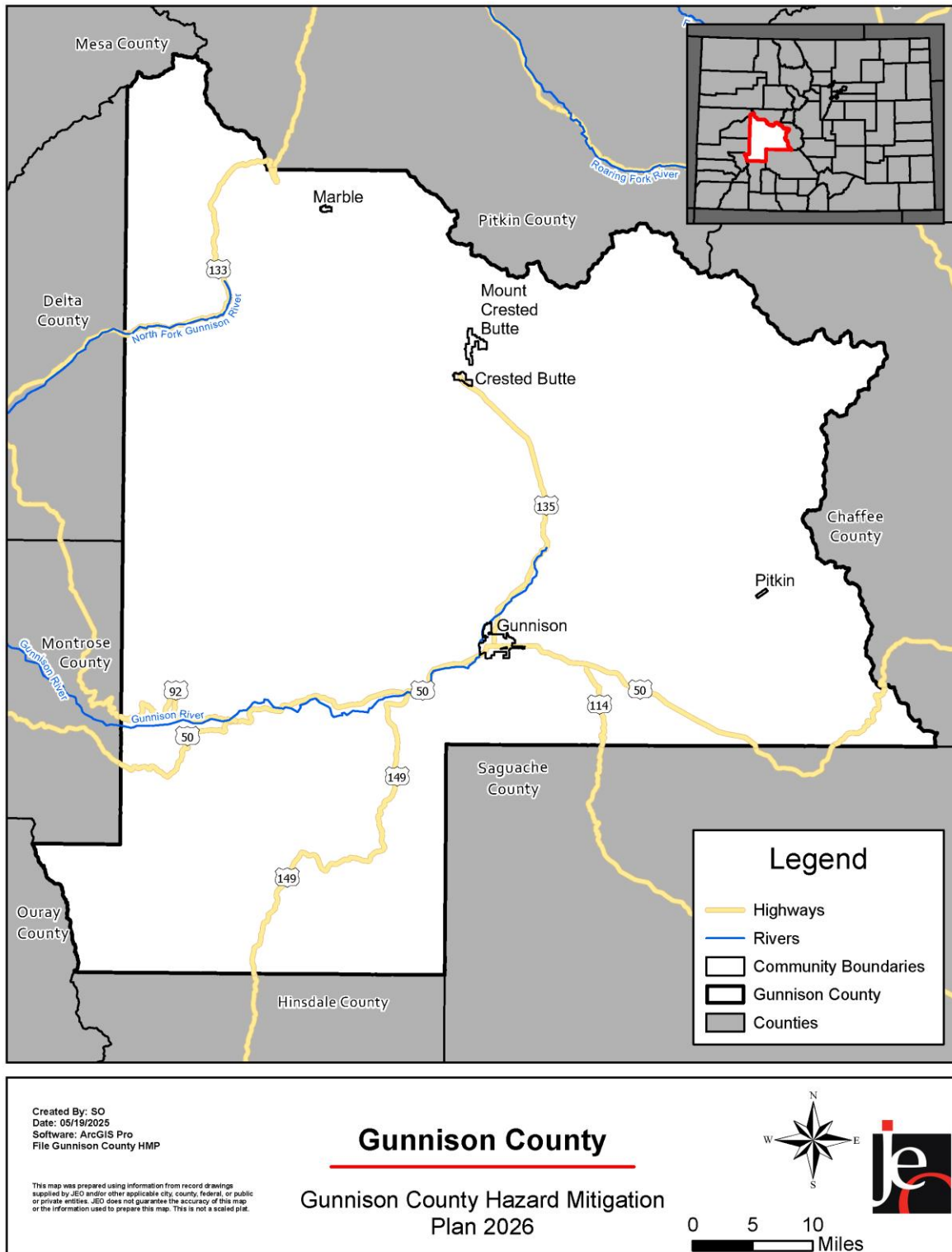
Gunnison County encompasses approximately 3,260 square miles, making it the fifth-largest County in Colorado. Additionally, Gunnison County has substantial federally owned public land. 78% of Gunnison County is federal land owned by the United States Forest Service (USFS) (58%), the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) (17%), and the Curecanti National Recreation Area (2%). The county is surrounded by Pitkin County (north), Chaffee County (east), Saguache County (southeast), Hinsdale County (south), Ouray County (southwest), Delta County (west), Montrose County (west), and Mesa County (northwest). Landowners surrounding the county are primarily the USFS, with some BLM, private, and state land.

- The City of Gunnison is located at an elevation of 7,710 feet and has a total area of 4.9 square miles.
- The Town of Crested Butte is located at an elevation of 8,865 feet and has a total area of 0.84 square miles.
- The Town of Marble is located at an elevation of 8,009 feet and has a total area of 0.36 square miles.
- The Town of Mt. Crested Butte is located at an elevation of 9,738 feet and has a total area of 2.05 square miles.
- The Town of Pitkin is located at an elevation of 9,229 feet and has a total area of .026 square miles.

The Gunnison, Taylor, and East Rivers cut through the center of the county and are renowned for fishing and recreation. The county also has large reservoirs, such as Blue Mesa, the largest in Colorado, and Taylor Park Reservoir. The climate in Gunnison County is generally cool and dry, but rainfall and temperatures vary widely with elevation. Average annual precipitation in the county is approximately 11 inches, while annual snowfall is typically 40-50 inches. Gunnison County has diverse vegetation types due to its varied elevation, climate, and topography. Vegetation ranges from alpine meadows above the tree line to sagebrush and shrubland in the valleys. Subalpine and montane forests dominate the mid-elevations, with conifers, spruce-fir, ponderosa pine, lodgepole pine, and aspen groves. Key transportation routes in the county include U.S. Highway 50 and State Highways 92, 114, 133, 135, 149, and 306. No rail lines travel through the county. The Gunnison Crested Butte Regional Airport is the only public airport in the

county. The figure below shows Gunnison County, incorporated communities, major transportation routes, major waterways, and locations within the state.

Gunnison County Planning Area



U.S. 50 Blue Mesa Reservoir Bridge Closure

On April 18th, 2024, without warning, a safety closure was put in place for the bridge on U.S. Highway 50, located west of Gunnison near Dillon Pinnacles (Middle Bridge). The Colorado Department of Transportation closed the bridge at the urging of the Federal Highway Administration and state bridge engineering experts following findings from an ongoing safety inspection that identified anomalies in the bridge. The closure was in place on U.S. 50 between County Road 26 and Red Creek. There were no direct alternative routes around the closure, and Gunnison was completely cut off from the west, impacting access to and from Montrose and Grand Junction. This closure created a significant detour for commuters between Montrose and Gunnison. The recommended detour route for traffic was via I-70 to the north or U.S. 160 to the south. The northern route was 354 miles and took approximately six hours to get from Gunnison to Montrose. The southern route was 331 miles and took nearly seven hours to get from Gunnison to Montrose. Gunnison County Public Works, in conjunction with CDOT, promptly began clearing County Road (CR) 26. CR 26 is a high mountain, native surface road that usually does not open until at least May 15th. Within a few days, CR 26 opened as a local access route for critical local travel between Gunnison and Montrose, with pilot cars operating at designated times each day. The openings were very limited but increased in frequency as improvements to the road surface were made. Travel time through the access route was approximately 30 minutes, and the entire detour added approximately one hour to the trip between Gunnison and Montrose.

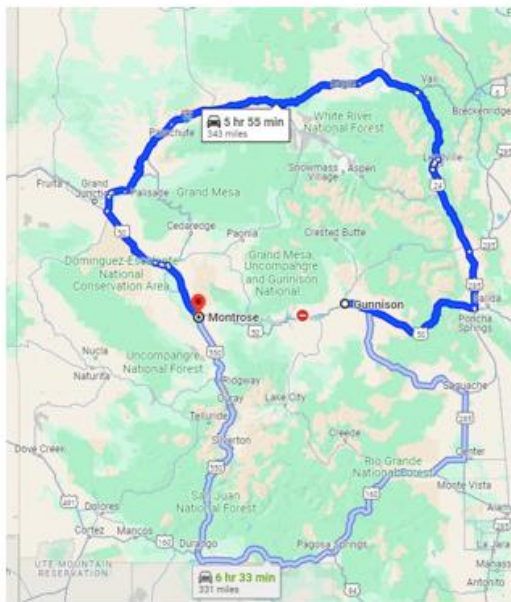
The bridge closure caused many impacts to the county, including:

- Significant public works resources for opening CR 26, as well as improvements on Kebler Pass.
- Cut off all first responders from accessing the west side of Gunnison County. This impacted fire, law enforcement, EMS, and the coroner. Mutual aid with surrounding counties was required for incidents west of the closure.
- EMS could not transfer patients to Montrose or Grand Junction. The next closest hospital for transfers was Colorado Springs (over 3 hours each way), which is a significant drain on EMS resources. Eventually, ambulances could travel over CR 26, which required approximately an extra hour of travel time each way.
- Gunnison has limited healthcare services, and patients receiving life-saving treatments, such as chemotherapy, radiation, and dialysis, do so at facilities in Montrose.
- Many critical hospital staff and vendors travel from the Montrose area to Gunnison.
- Agricultural producers could not reach summer grazing areas from the Montrose area. Transport of cattle, feed, and fertilizer was impacted.
- Significant economic impacts and loss of tourism, especially to Blue Mesa businesses.
- Students on the west side of the closure could not get to school in Gunnison.
- Impact on many businesses and organizations that have staff who travel from Montrose, or that conduct construction projects where supplies come from Montrose.
- Complex public information.

Map of Closure Area:



Map of Detour Routes:



Map of CR 26 Local Access Route:



Demographics

The U.S. Census Bureau collects specific demographic information for the county and communities. The estimated population of Gunnison County is 17,158.¹ The table below shows the population of the county and incorporated communities over time.

Population Over Time

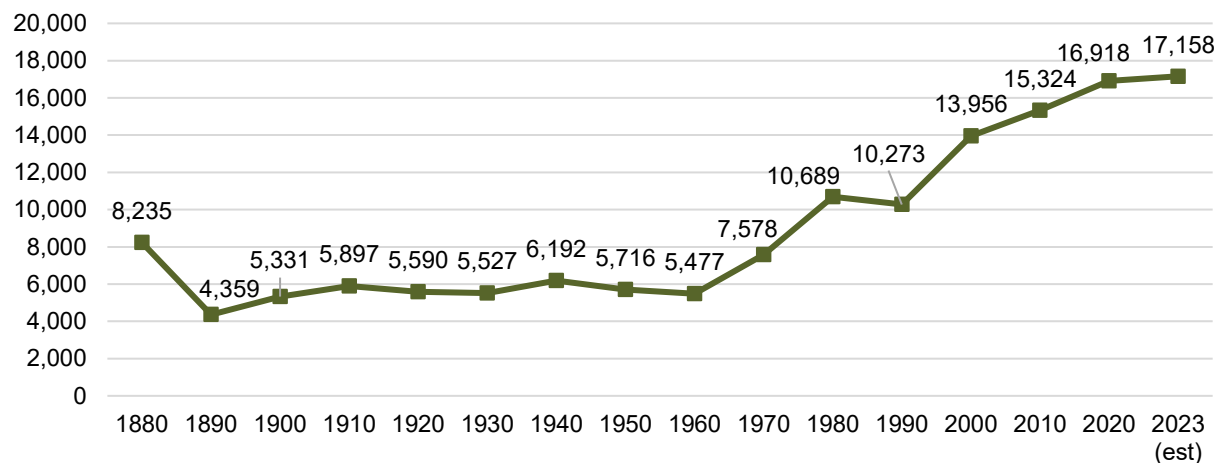
Jurisdiction	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	2020	2023*
Gunnison County	6,192	5,716	5,477	7,578	10,689	10,273	13,956	15,324	16,918
Town of Crested Butte	1,145	730	289	372	959	878	1,529	1,487	1,639
City of Gunnison	2,177	2,770	3,477	4,613	5,785	4,636	5,409	5,854	6,560

¹ United States Census Bureau. "2023 Census Bureau American Community Survey: S0101: Age and Sex." <https://data.census.gov/>.

Jurisdiction	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	2020	2023*
Town of Marble	240	8	5	13	30	64	105	131	133
Town of Mt Crested Butte	0	0	0	0	272	264	707	801	941
Town of Pitkin	156	152	94	44	59	53	124	66	72

*ACS Estimate
Source: U.S. Census Bureau^{2,3}

Gunnison County Population, 1880-2023



Source: U.S. Census Bureau^{4,5}

Community and regional vulnerability are affected by population growth or decline. Communities growing quickly may lack the resources to provide services to all community members in a reasonable timeframe, including snow removal, emergency storm shelters, repairs to damaged infrastructure, or even tracking the locations of vulnerable populations. Communities experiencing population decline may be more vulnerable to hazards due to vacant and/or dilapidated structures, an inability to properly maintain critical infrastructure, and higher unemployment levels. Communities need to monitor their population changes and ensure that potential issues are incorporated into hazard mitigation plans and other planning mechanisms. Gunnison County has grown rapidly since 1990, adding almost 7,000 residents. Gunnison County and the county's unincorporated areas have seen consistent growth recently. The City of Gunnison remains the county's largest population center.

At-risk Populations

Certain populations may be more vulnerable due to difficulties with medical issues, age extremes, and language barriers. However, outliers may be considered when discussing potentially at-risk populations.

- Outward appearance does not necessarily indicate a person is at risk.
- A hazard event will, in many cases, impact at-risk populations differently.

2 United States Census Bureau. "2020 Census Bureau Decennial Census: P1: Race." <https://data.census.gov/>.

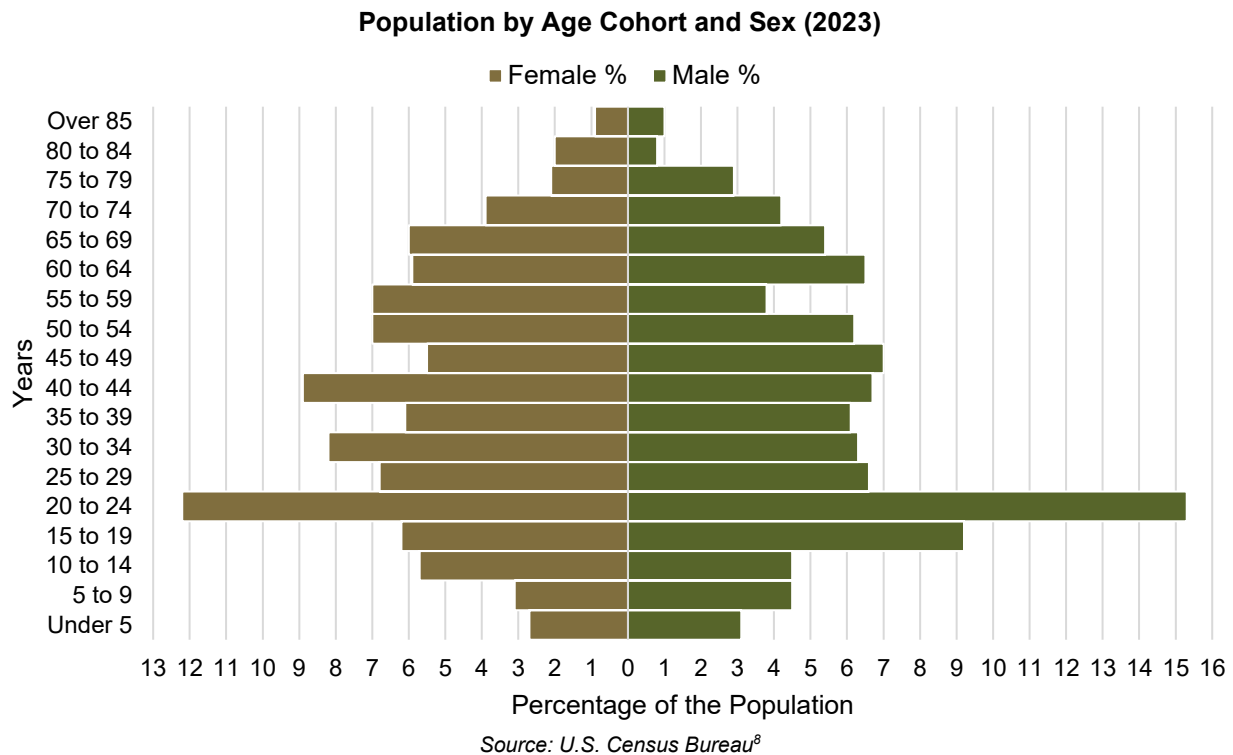
3 United States Census Bureau. "2023 Census Bureau American Community Survey: S0101: Age and Sex." <https://data.census.gov/>.

4 United States Census Bureau. "2020 Census Bureau Decennial Census: P1: Race." <https://data.census.gov/>.

5 United States Census Bureau. "2023 Census Bureau American Community Survey: S0101: Age and Sex." <https://data.census.gov/>.

The National Response Framework defines at-risk populations as "...populations whose members may have additional needs before, during, and after an incident in functional areas, including but not limited to maintaining independence, communication, transportation, supervision, and medical care."⁶

Dependent children under 20 years old are one of the most vulnerable populations to disasters.⁷ Most people in this age group cannot access independent financial resources and transportation. They lack the practical knowledge necessary to respond appropriately during a disaster. Despite this vulnerability, children are often overlooked in disaster planning because a caretaker is assumed to be present. As shown below, approximately 19% of Gunnison County's population is under 20. While this is a smaller age cohort than others in the county, children are still a key vulnerable group to address in the planning process.

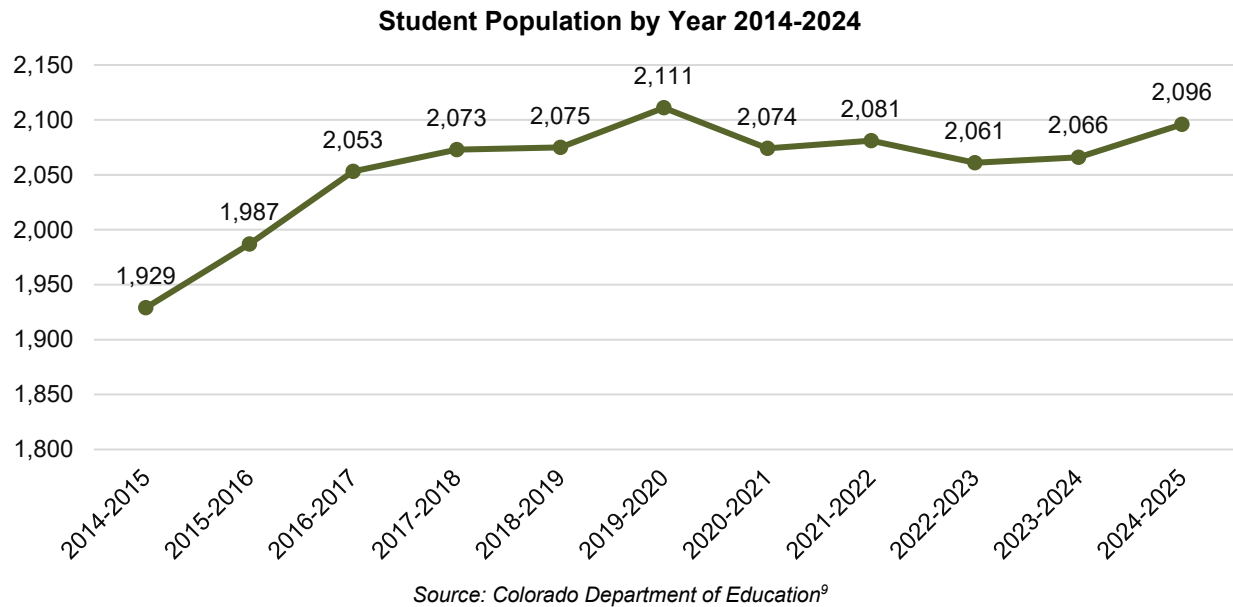


Schools house many children and adults within the county during the daytime hours of weekdays and during special events on evenings and weekends. The county has one public school district: the Gunnison School District. The table below lists the student population by year.

6 United States Department of Homeland Security. October 2019. "National Response Framework Third Edition." <https://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/117791>.

7 Flanagan, Gregory, Hallisey, Heitgerd, & Lewis. 2011. "A Social Vulnerability Index for Disaster Management." Journal of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, 8(11): Article 3.

8 United States Census Bureau. "2023 Census Bureau American Community Survey: S0101: Age and Sex." <https://data.census.gov/>.



According to the Colorado Department of Education, 33.2% of students receive free or reduced-priced school meals. This is lower than the state average of 44.8%. Additionally, 9.3% of students are in the Special Education Program, and 13% are English language learners. These students may be more vulnerable during a hazardous event than the rest of the student population.

Student Statistics, 2023-2024

Statistical Category	Gunnison School District	State of Colorado
Free/Reduced Priced Meals	33.2%	44.8%
English Language Learners	13.0%	14.0%
Special Education Students	9.3%	12.4%

Source: Colorado Department of Education^{10,11}

Like minors, seniors (age 65 and older) are often more significantly impacted by hazards and temperature extremes. During prolonged heat waves or periods of extreme cold, seniors may lack resources to address hazard conditions effectively and, as a result, may incur injury or potentially death. Prolonged power outages (whether standalone events or the result of other contributing factors) can have significant impacts on people who rely on medical devices. One study conducted by the Center for Injury Research and Policy found that increases in vulnerability related to severe winter storms (with significant snow accumulations) begin at age 55.¹² The study found that, on average, there are 11,500 injuries and 100 deaths annually related to snow removal. Men over 55 are 4.25 times more likely to experience cardiac events during snow removal. Looking at the age cohort breakdown and median age of Gunnison County, approximately 15% of the population is between 60 and 75.

⁹ Colorado Department of Education. 2024. "PK-12 Membership Trend by District."

<https://www.cde.state.co.us/cdereval/pupilcurrent>.

¹⁰ Colorado Department of Education. 2024. "PK-12 Free and Reduced Lunch Eligibility by District"

<https://www.cde.state.co.us/cdereval/pupilcurrent>.

¹¹ Colorado Department of Education. 2024. "Instructional Program by District" <https://www.cde.state.co.us/cdereval/pupilcurrent>.

¹² Center for Injury Research and Policy. January 2011. "Snow Shoveling Safety." <http://www.nationwidechildrens.org/cirp-snow-shoveling>.

Median Age in 2010 & 2023

Jurisdiction	2010 Median Age	2023 Median Age
Gunnison County	33	37
Town of Crested Butte	33.6	44.6
City of Gunnison	24.2	26.1
Town of Marble	43.8	36.5
Town of Mt Crested Butte	36	40.8
Town of Pitkin	63	35.5

Source: U.S. Census Bureau^{13, 14}

While senior populations live throughout Gunnison County, they may be more concentrated in care facilities. The table below identifies the number and location of care facilities throughout the county.

Inventory of Care Facilities

Jurisdiction	Hospitals	Hospice	Assisted Living Homes
Town of Crested Butte	0	0	0
City of Gunnison	1	1	1
Town of Marble	0	0	0
Town of Mt. Crested Butte	0	0	0
Town of Pitkin	0	0	0
Total	1	1	1

Source: Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment¹⁵

Residents who speak English as a second language may struggle with various issues before, during, and after hazard events. General vulnerabilities revolve around an inability to effectively communicate with others or to comprehend materials intended for notification and/or education about hazard events. When presented with a hazardous situation, all community members must be able to receive, decipher, and act on relevant information. An inability to understand warnings and notifications may prevent non-native English speakers from acting promptly. Gunnison County has a much lower percentage of individuals who speak English as a second language (7%) than the rest of the state (14%). Gunnison County uses Gunnison Regional Alerts to send out emergency notifications. These notifications are sent out in English and Spanish.

English as a Second Language

Jurisdiction	Percent That Speaks English as a Second Language
Gunnison County	7%
Town of Crested Butte	1.4%
City of Gunnison	9.2%
Town of Marble	3.4%
Town of Mt Crested Butte	3.7%
Town of Pitkin	3.1%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau¹⁶

13 United States Census Bureau. "2023 Census Bureau American Community Survey: S0101: Age and Sex." <https://data.census.gov/>.

14 United States Census Bureau. "2023 Census Bureau American Community Survey: S0101: Age and Sex." <https://data.census.gov/>.

15 Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. 2025. "Regulated Health Facilities". <https://cdphe.colorado.gov/find-and-compare-facilities>.

16 United States Census Bureau. "2023 Census Bureau American Community Survey: S1601: Language Spoken at Home." <https://data.census.gov/>.

Racial minorities may also face increased vulnerability, as they tend to have access to fewer financial and systemic resources that would enable them to implement hazard mitigation projects and respond to and recover from hazard events, including access to standard housing and financial stability. The tables on the next page show the racial composition of Gunnison County and the percentage of the non-white population.

County Racial Composition Trends

Race	2010	2023	2021	2023	% Change
	Number	% of Total	Number	% of Total	
White, Not Hispanic	14,156	92.4%	15,369	89.6%	-2.8%
Black	44	0.3%	187	1.1%	+0.8%
American Indian and Alaskan Native	212	1.4%	50	0.3%	-1.1%
Asian	105	0.7%	136	0.8%	+0.1%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islanders	0	0.0%	16	0.1%	+0.1%
Other Races	504	3.3%	306	1.8%	-1.5%
Two or More Races	303	2.0%	1094	6.4%	+4.4%
Total Population	15,324	-	17,158	-	-

Source: U.S. Census Bureau^{17,18}

Minority Populations

Jurisdiction	Percentage of the Population that is Non-White
Gunnison County	10.4%
Town of Crested Butte	5.7%
City of Gunnison	14.1%
Town of Marble	1.3%
Town of Mt Crested Butte	6.3%
Town of Pitkin	0.0%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau¹⁹

Housing

The U.S. Census Bureau provides information on housing units and potential vulnerability indicators, as described in the following discussion. Of the occupied housing units in Gunnison County, over 33 percent are renter-occupied. Renter-occupied housing units often do not receive many updates and retrofits needed to make them resilient to disaster impacts. Communities may consider enacting landlord outreach programs to educate property owners about threats in their area and what they can do to help reduce tenants' vulnerability in their housing units.

Owner and Renter Occupied Housing

Jurisdiction	Owner-Occupied Housing Units	Renter-Occupied Housing Units
Gunnison County	5,290 (66.9%)	2,613 (33.1%)
Town of Crested Butte	538 (53.2%)	280 (34.2%)
City of Gunnison	1,864 (65.8%)	1,626 (55.1%)

17 United States Census Bureau. "2010 Census Redistricting Data (Public Law 94-171): P1: Race." <https://data.census.gov>.

18 United States Census Bureau. "2023 Census Bureau American Community Survey: DP05: ACS Demographic and Housing Estimates." <https://data.census.gov/>.

19 United States Census Bureau. "2023 Census Bureau American Community Survey: DP05: ACS Demographic and Housing Estimates." <https://data.census.gov/>.

Jurisdiction	Owner-Occupied Housing Units	Renter-Occupied Housing Units
Town of Marble	67 (60.9%)	43 (39.1%)
Town of Mt Crested Butte	313 (71.1%)	127 (28.9%)
Town of Pitkin	39 (92.9%)	3 (7.1%)

Source: U.S. Census Bureau²⁰

Unoccupied homes may not be maintained as well as occupied housing, thereby increasing their vulnerability. During disasters like windstorms, these structures may fail, creating debris that impacts other structures and people, leading to injuries or fatalities and higher damage totals. While Gunnison County has a high vacancy rate of 36%, this is likely due to the increasing number of second homes and part-time residents.²¹ These homes are typically well-maintained; however, this high number of tourists increases vulnerability, as they may not be aware of the risks in the area.

Occupied and Vacant Housing

Jurisdiction	Occupied Housing Units	Vacant Housing Units
Gunnison County	7,903 (64%)	4,445 (36%)
Town of Crested Butte	818 (64.3%)	454 (35.7%)
City of Gunnison	2,953 (94.9%)	158 (5.1%)
Town of Marble	110 (76.9%)	33 (23.1%)
Town of Mt Crested Butte	440 (27.9%)	1,157 (72.4%)
Town of Pitkin	42 (19%)	179 (81%)

Source: U.S. Census Bureau²²

The selected characteristics examined in the table below include the lack of complete plumbing facilities, the lack of kitchen facilities, broadband internet subscription, mobile homes, and housing units with no vehicles. All of these characteristics increase the vulnerability of housing and populations to hazards.

Selected Housing Characteristic Vulnerabilities

Jurisdiction	Lacking Complete Plumbing Facilities	Lacking Complete Kitchen Facilities	Broadband Internet Subscription	No Vehicles Available	Mobile Homes
Gunnison County	0.5%	0.7%	93.3%	3%	4.8%
Town of Crested Butte	3.5%	0%	92.4%	0%	5.3%
City of Gunnison	0.2%	1.4%	95.7%	4.3%	6.2%
Town of Marble	1.8%	0.9%	79.1%	0.9%	4.9%
Town of Mt Crested Butte	0%	0%	97.5%	0%	0%
Town of Pitkin	0.0%	0.0%	92.9%	9.5%	7.7%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau^{23,24}

20 United States Census Bureau. "2023 Census Bureau American Community Survey: DP04: Selected Housing Characteristics." <https://data.census.gov/>.

21 Biondini, B. Gunnison Country Times. October 27, 2021. "Census records 41% of homes in county as 'vacant'." <https://www.gunnisontimes.com/articles/census-records-41-of-homes-in-county-as-vacant/>

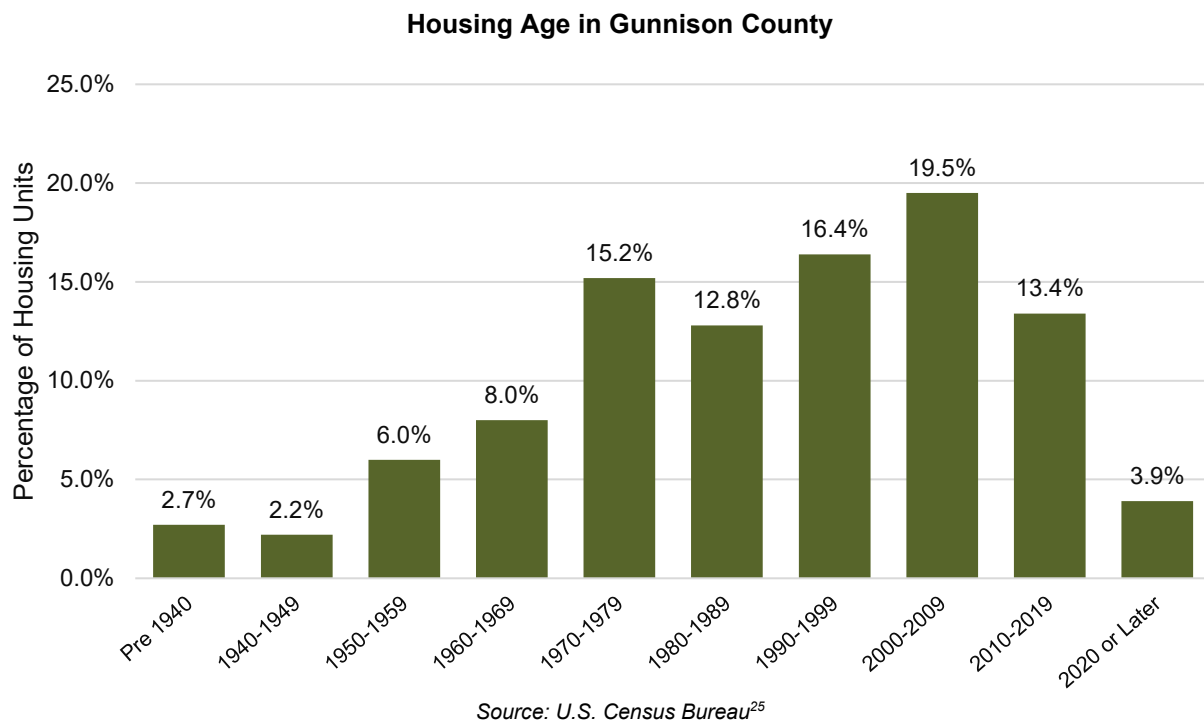
22 United States Census Bureau. "20223 Census Bureau American Community Survey: DP04: Selected Housing Characteristics." <https://data.census.gov/>.

23 United States Census Bureau. "2023 Census Bureau American Community Survey: DP04: Selected Housing Characteristics." <https://data.census.gov/>.

24 United States Census Bureau. "2023 Census Bureau American Community Survey: DP02: Selected Social Characteristics in the United States." <https://data.census.gov/>.

Approximately five percent of housing units in the county are mobile homes. The Town of Pitkin has the highest rate of mobile homes in its housing stock at 7.7 percent. Mobile homes are more likely to sustain damage during windstorms and severe winter storms. Mobile homes that are not anchored or are anchored incorrectly can be overturned by 60 mph winds. Approximately three percent of all housing units in the county lack a vehicle. Households without vehicles may have difficulty evacuating during a wildfire event and a reduced ability to access resources in times of need.

As shown in the figure on the next page, most homes in Gunnison County were built after 1970, with 19.5% built between 2000 and 2009. Housing age can indicate risk, as structures constructed before the development of state building codes and before the identification of flood-prone areas in the 1970s and 1980s may be more vulnerable. Residents living in these homes may be at higher risk of the impacts from floods, windstorms, and severe winter storms.



Homes Built Before 1970

Jurisdiction	Percentage of Homes Built Before 1970
Gunnison County	16.7%
Town of Crested Butte	18.2%
City of Gunnison	25.3%
Town of Marble	35.7%
Town of Mt Crested Butte	1.2%
Town of Pitkin	43.5%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau²⁶

25 United States Census Bureau. "2023 Census Bureau American Community Survey: DP04: Selected Housing Characteristics". <https://data.census.gov/>.

26 United States Census Bureau. "2023 Census Bureau American Community Survey: DP04: Selected Housing Characteristics". <https://data.census.gov/>.

Housing Crisis

Gunnison County's vacancies are similar to those in other Colorado mountain resort and recreation-centered communities. Because second homeowners or part-time residents occupy many of the homes labeled vacant, there is a strain on the housing available to the area's local workforce. Many community members are forced to leave the area when they cannot find adequate housing, underscoring the need for a range of housing solutions.

Employment and Economics

The U.S. Census Bureau provides information related to employment and economic indicators. Low-income and unemployed populations may lack resources to prepare for, respond to, or recover from hazard events. Residents with limited financial resources might struggle to prioritize implementing mitigation measures over more immediate needs. Further, residents with limited economic resources are more likely to live in older, more vulnerable structures. Residents below the poverty line will be more vulnerable to all hazards within Gunnison County. The table on the next page shows that about 13% of the population lives below the poverty line, the median household income is \$77,358, and the unemployment rate is slightly under four percent. The City of Gunnison has slightly lower poverty and slightly higher unemployment rates than the rest of the county.

Vulnerable Employment and Economic Characteristics

Jurisdiction	Percent of People Living Below the Poverty Line	Median Household Income	Unemployment Rate
Gunnison County	13.1%	\$77,358	3.7%
Town of Crested Butte	5.9%	\$71,923	5.4%
City of Gunnison	26%	\$55,313	5.3%
Town of Marble	1.3%	\$166,000	0.6%
Town of Mt Crested Butte	10.5%	\$93,182	0%
Town of Pitkin	3.1%	\$82,692	0%

Source: U.S Census Bureau²⁷

Social Vulnerability

FEMA's National Risk Index is a mapping tool that assesses a community's risk to natural hazards on a scale from 0 (lowest possible value) to 100 (highest possible value). The overall risk for Gunnison County is Very Low (23.67).²⁸

- **Social Vulnerability:** Social groups in Gunnison County have a Very Low (18.7) susceptibility to adverse impacts of natural hazards compared to the rest of the U.S.
- **Community Resilience:** Communities in Gunnison County have a Relatively High (63.4) ability to prepare for anticipated natural hazards, adapt to changing conditions, and withstand and recover rapidly from disruptions compared to the rest of the U.S.

²⁷ United States Census Bureau. "2023 Census Bureau American Community Survey: DP03: Selected Economic Characteristics." <https://data.census.gov/>.

²⁸ Federal Emergency Management Agency. 2023. "National Risk Index". <https://hazards.fema.gov/nri/map>.

Rural Capacity Index

The Rural Capacity Index, developed by Headwaters Economics, evaluates the local capacity of rural communities and counties nationwide. The index is based on 12 variables that relate to community capacity. There are four general categories of capacity: local government staff and expertise; institutional capacity; economic opportunity; and education and engagement. Jurisdictions lacking local capacity often have the greatest need for infrastructure investments. Based on those variables, the Rural Capacity Index gives an overall capacity rating of low, medium, or high. The following table lists the components and scores for Gunnison County and each community. Data was unavailable for the Town of Marble and the Town of Pitkin.

Rural Capacity Index

Components of the Index	City of Gunnison	Town of Crested Butte	Town of Marble	Town of Mt Crested Butte	Town of Pitkin	Gunnison County
County is Metropolitan?	No	No	N/A	No	N/A	No
Has a Head of Planning?	Yes	Yes	N/A	Yes	N/A	Yes
Government Job Gain/Loss Per 1,000 People	14	14	N/A	14	N/A	14
Has a College or University?	Yes	No	N/A	No	N/A	Yes
Drive to a City with >50,000 People (min)	>120	>120	N/A	>120	N/A	>120
Population Change (2010 to 2022):	929	4	N/A	270	N/A	2,022
Income Stability Score (0 to 100):	17	17	N/A	17	N/A	54
Families Below Poverty Level:	12%	0%	N/A	4%	N/A	5%
Households with Broadband:	96%	92%	N/A	98%	N/A	93%
People without Health Insurance:	8%	3%	N/A	5%	N/A	6%
Voter Turnout:	81%	81%	N/A	81%	N/A	81%
Adults with Higher Education:	55%	76%	N/A	81%	N/A	59%
Overall Capacity	High	Medium	N/A	Medium	N/A	High

Source: Headwaters Economics²⁹

State and Federal Areas

The following provides important state and federal areas within Gunnison County.

National Protected Areas

- Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area
- Curecanti National Recreation Area
- Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park

State Protected Areas

- Gunnison State Wildlife Area
- Miller Ranch State Wildlife Area

²⁹ Headwaters Economics. November 2025. "Rural Capacity Map". <https://headwaterseconomics.org/equity/rural-capacity-map/>.

Trails

- Continental Divide Trail

Scenic Byways

- West Elk Loop Scenic Byway
- Collegiate Peaks Scenic Byway
- Gunnison Taylor Park Loop

Historical Sites

According to the National Register of Historic Places by the National Park Service, twenty-three historic sites are located in Gunnison County. Two of the sites are in the 100-year floodplain.

Historical Sites

Site Name	Date Listed	Nearest Community	Floodplain (Y/N)
Alpine Tunnel Historic District	4/1/1996	Pitkin	No
Chance Gulch Site	12/6/2006	Gunnison	No
Crested Butte Denver and Rio Grande Railroad Depot	5/10/2001	Crested Butte	No
Crystal Mill	7/5/1985	Crystal	No
Curecanti Archeological District	8/15/1984	Gunnison	No
Edgerton House	4/1/1998	Gunnison	No
Fisher-Zugelder House and Smith Cottage	1/5/1984	Gunnison	No
Gunnison River Bridge I	10/15/2002	Gunnison	Yes
Gunnison River Bridge II	10/15/2002	Gunnison	Yes
Haxby House	4/4/1996	Marble	No
Johnson Stage Station	8/28/2017	Powderhorn	No
Marble City State Bank Building	9/17/1999	Marble	No
Marble High School	8/3/1989	Marble	No
Marble Jailhouse	11/22/2016	Marble	No
Marble Mill Site	2/7/1979	Marble	No
Marble Town Hall	8/3/1989	Marble	No
Parry, William D., House	8/3/1989	Marble	No
Rimrock School	10/12/2000	Sapinero	No
St. Paul's Church	8/3/1989	Marble	No
Town of Crested Butte	5/29/1974	Crested Butte	No
Town of Crested Butte (Boundary Increase and Boundary Decrease)	6/6/2002	Crested Butte	No
Vienna Bakery-Johnson Restaurant	1/5/2005	Gunnison	No
Webster Building	5/17/1984	Gunnison	No

Source: National Park Service³⁰

30 National Park Service. July 2025. "National Register of Historic Places NPGallery Database". <https://npgallery.nps.gov/NRHP>.