In 2017, child protection agencies across the U.S. received 4.1 million referrals—calls for investigation—involving 7.5 million children. 674,000 of these children were found to be victims of abuse and/or neglect. Children under the age of five are particularly vulnerable; 84% of maltreatment fatalities were children under the age of five, half of these were babies under age one.

**Economic burden of child maltreatment:**
$484 billion to $2 trillion per year in the U.S.

**WHO IS AT RISK?**
Young parents with low education, low income, and young children are most at risk for involvement in the child welfare system.

In 2018, Boulder County received 5,217 child welfare referrals.

**15% increase** in one year

1,073 children in Boulder County were involved in “HIGH RISK” cases, where abuse or neglect had occurred.

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*Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Broomfield, Denver, Douglas, El Paso, Jefferson, Larimer, Mesa, Pueblo, Weld*
PREVENTION IS THE FUTURE OF CHILD AND FAMILY WELL-BEING

Investing in prevention strengthens families and protects children - in Colorado, 66,000 children are born every year and for 45% of those births, costs are paid by Medicaid. Every $1 invested in prevention for at-risk families and early childhood supports provides between $6 and $12 in return to the community. It also helps avoid crisis spending down the road and boosts health and well-being of families for multiple generations.

FOCUS ON PREVENTION

- Improve health and well-being for every child from BIRTH to AGE 5
- Provide WRAPAROUND supports for children and families most at risk
- Leverage available funding for PREVENTION

Boulder County is investing in a prevention-focused wraparound family support response to child welfare referrals, and our high risk cases are declining.

FOCUS ON PREVENTION

- Promote HEALTHY BIRTHS and family formation
- Increase access to prenatal care, quality child care, housing, primary care, and PREVENTION SUPPORTS
- Build a universal HOME VISITATION program with common screening and risk mitigation

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