

Key Findings

- Coloradans are generous. In 2005 they gave a record \$3.8 billion in charitable gifts – a 13 percent increase over the \$3.4 billion recorded the previous year.
- Colorado ranked 5th among the 50 states in average adjusted gross income.
- While the average Coloradan gave 3.4 percent of his or her income to charity, the average American gave 3.6 percent. As a result, Colorado ranks 36th out of the 50 states in the percent of income donated to charity. The state ranked 34th the year earlier.
- If the average Coloradan had given the same amount as the average American, charitable giving in the state would have been \$243 million higher. (To put that in perspective, private and public foundation and federated fund giving in Colorado was \$246 million in the same period.)
- Coloradans earn 6 percent more than the average American, yet give 8 percent less in charitable contributions.
- Coloradans have donated 7 percent less than the national average over the last six years.
- Coloradans in the lowest income category gave a much higher percent of their income to charity than all others. Those with adjusted gross income under \$50,000 gave an impressive 5.2 percent of their income to charity – significantly more than the percentage of those in categories earning above \$50,000.
- Donors with income greater than \$200,000 increased their average charitable contribution by \$2,054 over the year before – an increase of more than 9 percent.
- Colorado ranks 7th of the 50 states in the percent of tax returns that include deductions for charitable contributions.
- The Southwest, Central and Northwest regions of Colorado led the rest of the state in charitable giving, while the Denver, Northeast and Southeast regions fell far behind the national average.
- The seven-county Denver Metropolitan region gave at levels well below both the national and state averages, and finished last among all regions. Of the seven counties, donors in Denver County were the only ones to exceed the state and national average. Denver County donors gave a total of \$385 million in itemized contributions.
- It was the \$361 million in giving by El Paso County that propelled the Central region to be the most generous among regions with large cities.
- The small town of Manassa in Conejos County, population just over 1,000, led all cities and towns in Colorado. Donors there gave 9.7 percent of their income to charity, nearly three times that of the average Coloradan.
- Among the 60 largest cities and towns in Colorado, the most generous people were those who live on the United States Air Force Academy grounds.
- The resort communities of Vail, Aspen, Snowmass Village and Avon each placed among the top five in average contributions per donor. Vail donors were the most generous in the state, averaging \$15,674 in charitable gifts.