


# Colorado Budget Then & Now

*A Look Back at How State Spending Has  
Changed Over the Last 10 and 20 Years*

**December 2018**



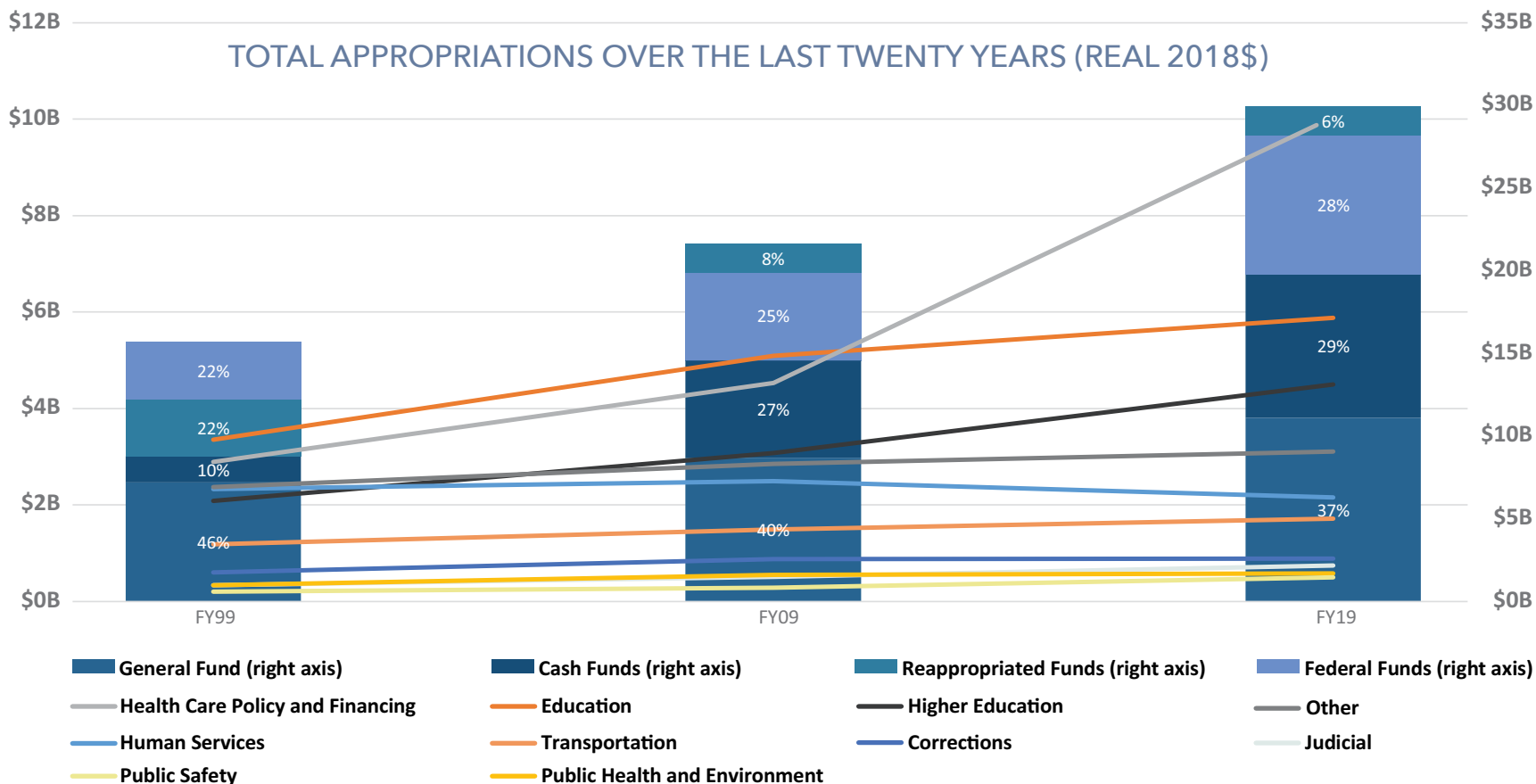
[www.commonsempolicyroundtable.org](http://www.commonsempolicyroundtable.org)



Common Sense Policy Roundtable (CSPR) is a non-profit free-enterprise think tank dedicated to the protection and promotion of Colorado's economy. Our mission is to research and promote common sense solutions for economic issues facing Colorado.

The 2018 release of *Colorado Budget: Then and Now* offers an updated "big picture" view of how spending by the state of Colorado has changed over the past 20 years. Leading into the 2019 legislative session, it is important to be aware of the history of spending and the entirety of the budget, along with a focus on singular issues. These charts should prompt more questions about the details of "Why" and help frame the perpetual debate that shapes the priorities of our state-government spending.

## HOW HAS TOTAL STATE SPENDING CHANGED?



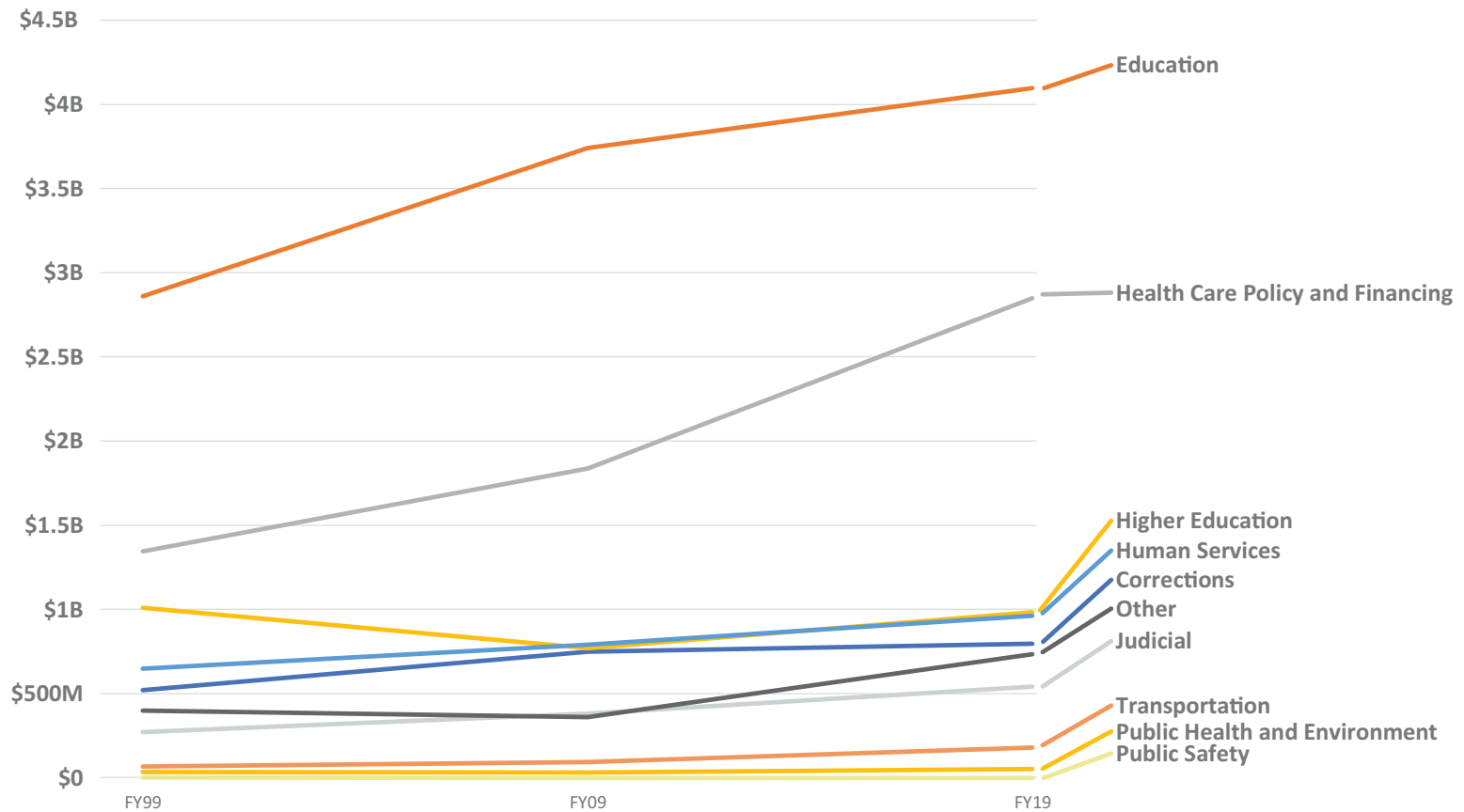
Over the past two decades, the total amount of state government spending has nearly doubled from \$15.6B to over \$30B. However, as shown, department spending and source of funding has not changed at an equal rate.

Chart index ordered largest to smallest in FY 19

Source: Colorado Joint Budget Committee Reports

## HOW HAS SPENDING FROM THE **GENERAL FUND** CHANGED?

GENERAL FUND SPENDING BY DEPARTMENT (REAL 2018\$)



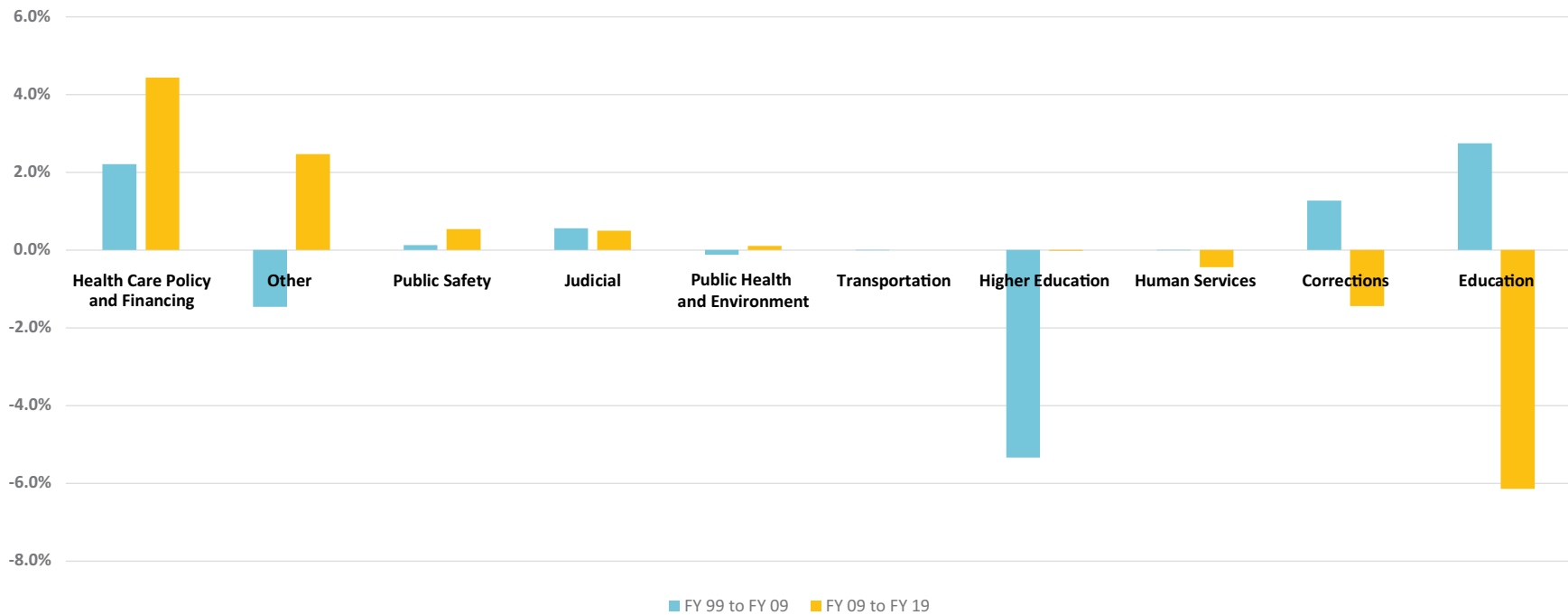
**Adjusting for inflation, the Colorado state general fund has grown from \$7.2B in 1999 to \$11.2B in FY 2019.**

Source: Colorado Joint Budget Committee Reports



## HOW HAS THE SHARE OF **GENERAL FUND** SPENDING CHANGED OVER THE PAST 20 YEARS?

THE CHANGE IN THE SHARE OF THE GENERAL FUND BY DEPARTMENT OVER PAST TWO DECADES

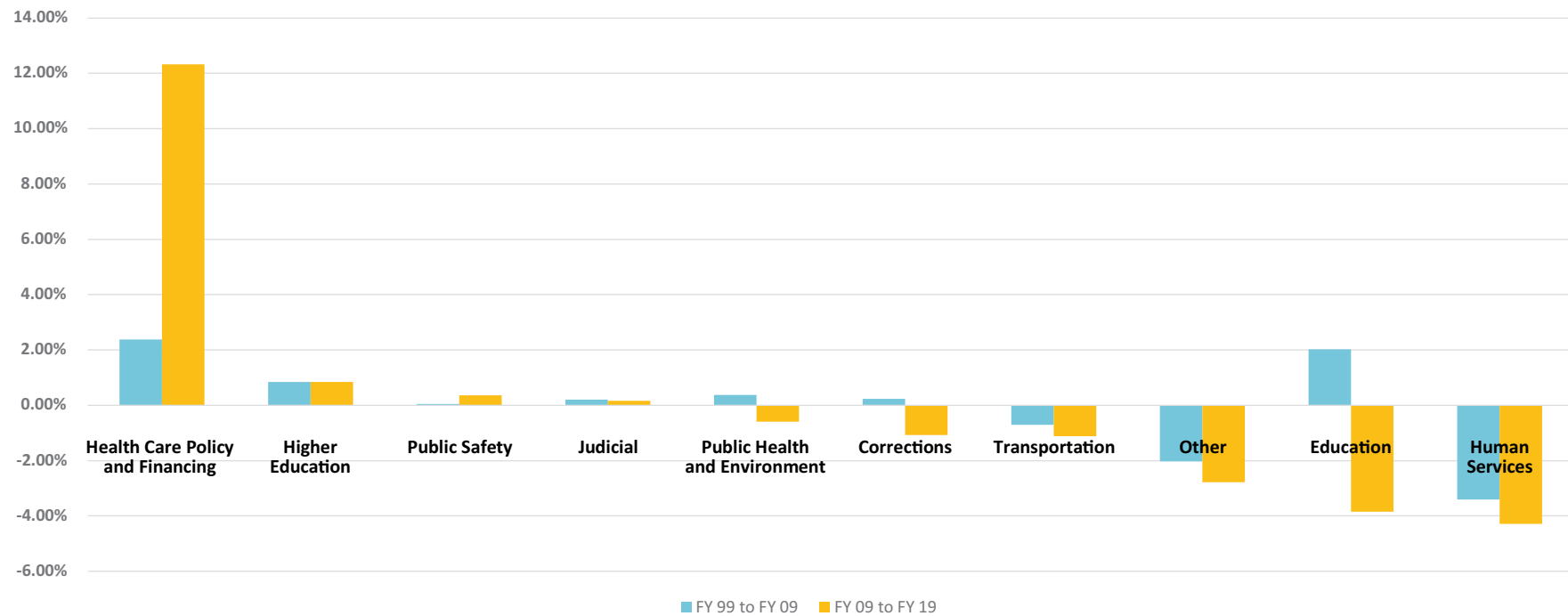


Over each of the past two decades, the relative share of general fund spending has shifted significantly for some departments.

Source: Colorado Joint Budget Committee Reports

## HOW HAS THE SHARE OF **TOTAL STATE SPENDING** CHANGED OVER THE PAST 20 YEARS?

THE CHANGE IN THE SHARE OF TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS BY DEPARTMENT OVER PAST TWO DECADES

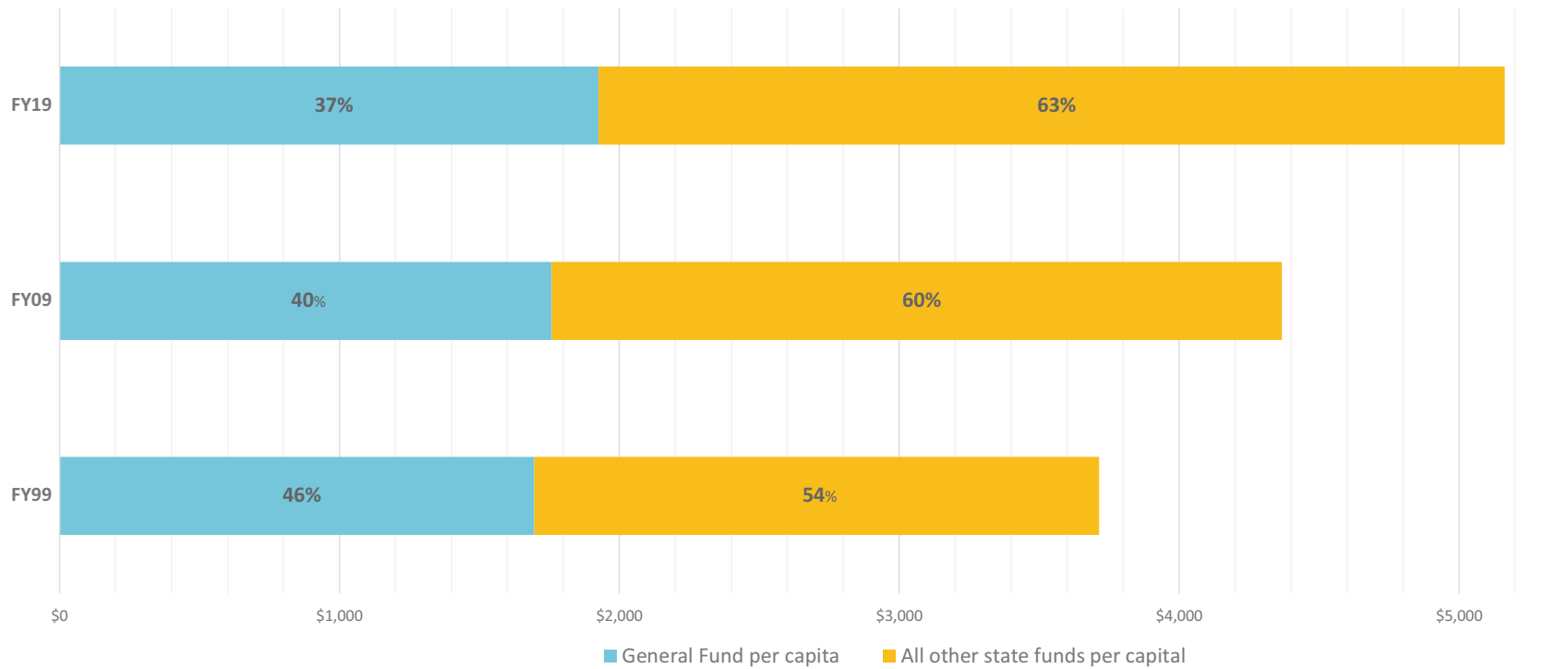


Over each of the past two decades, the relative share of total appropriations spending has shifted significantly for some departments.

Source: Colorado Joint Budget Committee Reports

## HOW MUCH HAS STATE SPENDING PER COLORADAN CHANGED OVER THE PAST 20 YEARS?

REAL 2018\$



Adjusting for inflation, the total spending per Coloradan, from both the general fund and all funds, has increased consistently over the past 20 years.

Source: Colorado Joint Budget Committee Reports and State Demography Office

