

# WYOMING COUNTS KIDS

DATA BOOK  
2022



**A publication of the Wyoming Community Foundation**

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH  
The Wyoming Survey & Analysis Center at the University of Wyoming

Lena Dechert, B.A., B.S., Senior Project Coordinator  
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# GREETINGS FROM THE FIRST LADY



It is such an honor to kick off the release of the 2022 Wyoming Counts Kids! Having access to accurate and reliable information is incredibly important as parents, advocates and policy makers form decisions going forward. Wyoming is full of innovative thinkers and those ready to create Wyoming solutions to Wyoming challenges.

If the past two years have taught me anything, it's that flexibility is just as important as planning and preparation. Data shows that 1 in 6 kids and 1 in 8 adults in Wyoming are hungry and the need increases every single day. That's not okay with me! I have also found that if there is a hungry child, there is a hungry family, senior, or veteran who isn't far away.

There are grassroots efforts in every Wyoming county dedicated to reducing childhood hunger and combating food insecurity. Instead of reinventing the wheel, Wyoming Hunger Initiative works to prevent food insecurity by increasing awareness and support for the work of local anti-hunger organizations statewide through innovative programs that connect like-minded organizations.

Included in this Data Book is family structure, income levels and the percentage of citizens who fall below the poverty line. Wyoming Hunger Initiative is committed to serving every Wyoming county, because we know hunger does not discriminate.

The additional demand on food pantries statewide requires solutions! Solving food insecurity is something we can do right now and it is something we have an obligation to do as it is an investment in our children. If we can create a better tomorrow for our next generation of leaders, we are setting ourselves up for success.

The data and research provided by this document provides incredible information about the great state that we call home. Food insecurity is a problem that can be solved, together!


Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jennie Gordon".

Jennie Gordon



# COMMITTED TO TAKING CARE OF OTHERS DURING TOUGH TIMES



“ ...our people’s resiliency, determination... and community spirit. ”

The impacts of COVID-19 over the past two years have challenged Wyoming in numerous areas. Wyomingites have responded in many ways that show their commitment to taking care of others, especially in tough times. These include the introduction of new safety net programs and maintenance of long-effective programs. Taken together, these programs illustrate Wyoming’s resiliency, determination when challenged, and community spirit.



## ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

COVID-19 did nothing to stop the state's declining revenue from oil, gas, and mineral extraction.<sup>1</sup> To address the decline, in March 2022, a collaborative comprised of the University of Wyoming and Wyoming community colleges launched the Wyoming Outdoor Recreation, Tourism, and Hospitality (WORTH) Initiative. This initiative aims to grow the state's second largest industry, leisure and hospitality,<sup>2</sup> which is also the state's industry with the narrowest wage gap. In leisure and hospitality, women make \$0.88 for every dollar a man makes (statewide, women make \$0.69 for every dollar a man makes).<sup>3</sup> Additionally, women make up 44% of the industry's full-time, year-round workers.<sup>4</sup>



LEISURE & HOSPITALITY HAS  
THE NARROWEST WAGE GAP,  
WITH WOMEN MAKING UP

**44%**

**OF FULL-TIME, YEAR-  
ROUND WORKERS**

## CHILD AND MATERNAL HEALTH

During the pandemic, the 2020 Families First Coronavirus Response Act granted a temporary extension of postpartum Medicaid coverage to Wyoming mothers.<sup>5</sup> The program extended coverage from 60 days to a full year for new mothers after the birth of a child. Though the Medicaid extension has ended for now, Wyoming can and should leverage federal funds to extend postpartum coverage within the next five years.



## HEALTHCARE

One challenge Wyoming has yet to overcome is ensuring women, children, and families have access to healthcare. During the 2021 Special Session of the Wyoming Legislature, the House passed a bill to expand Medicaid, a positive step toward providing healthcare coverage for all Wyomingites.<sup>6</sup> Ultimately, the Senate defeated the bill; however, another opportunity to expand access will likely occur in the 2023 session.<sup>7</sup>



# 1 DEMOGRAPHICS



According to the 2020 U.S. Census, Wyoming remains the least populous state in the nation.<sup>8</sup> Wyoming's population peaked in 2015 with more than 586,000 Wyomingites. The state's population has since decreased by about 4,000 people, to about 582,000.<sup>9</sup> Consistently over the last 20 years, women have made up 49% of the population, and men the other 51%.<sup>10</sup>

Wyoming's population has grown older over the last decade. Between 2011 and 2020, the age category with the greatest increase was those 75 years or older (8,669 more people), and the age category with the greatest decrease was those under 5 years (5,802 fewer children).<sup>11</sup> Consequently, the median age in Wyoming has risen from 36.9 years in 2011 to 38.0 years in 2020.<sup>12</sup>

Over the last five years, Wyoming's Hispanic population has grown by about 17% (8,600 people).<sup>13</sup> The state's population of American Indian/Alaska Natives, Asians, and those claiming two or more races has also increased by 10% (1,541), 32% (1,545), and 32% (3,208), respectively.<sup>14</sup>

Most of Wyoming (17 of 23 counties) meets the definition of frontier; meaning most Wyomingites (47%) live in counties with fewer than six people per square mile (the average is 5.9).<sup>15</sup> Excluding Cheyenne and Casper (which have populations greater than 69,000 and 59,000 respectively), the rest of Wyoming's population resides in rural areas.<sup>16,17</sup>

In 2019, 88% of Wyoming households reported having an internet subscription compared to 79% in 2015.<sup>18</sup> The percentage of households with a computer also increased, from 90% in 2015 to 95% in 2019.<sup>19</sup>

**2020 WYOMING POPULATION:**

**582,328**

**MEDIAN AGE: 38**

## IN 2019, WYOMING HOUSEHOLDS

**88%**

**HAVE INTERNET  
SUBSCRIPTIONS**

**95%**

**HAVE  
COMPUTERS**

“ According to the 2020 U.S. Census, Wyoming remains the least populous state in the nation. ”

## PERCENTAGE OF WYOMING POPULATION BY AGE

	2011		2020		Number +/-
	Number	%	Number	%	
Under 5 Years	39,587	7.0%	33,785	5.8%	-5,802 ↘
5 to 9	38,188	6.7%	36,987	6.4%	-1,201 ↘
10 to 14	36,145	6.4%	39,600	6.8%	3,455 ↗
15 to 19	36,905	6.5%	37,004	6.4%	99 ↗
20 to 44	186,966	32.9%	189,925	32.6%	2,959 ↗
45 to 74	198,407	35.0%	205,065	35.2%	6,658 ↗
75+	31,293	5.5%	39,962	6.9%	8,669 ↗

U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division

## A NOTE ON RACE & ETHNICITY

Race and ethnicity are closely related concepts, with important differences. Physical characteristics like skin tone, eye color, and facial features often dictate a person's race.<sup>20</sup> The U.S. Census Bureau identifies five primary races: American Indian/Alaska Native, Asian, Black, Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander, and White.<sup>21</sup> Ethnicity, however, describes a person's cultural background and social identity. Rather than being assigned to a person based on their physical characteristics, an individual chooses how they identify ethnically, often based on how they grew up. Food, music, religion, and traditions, for example, may all play a role in how one identifies ethnically.<sup>22</sup> For example, a person who identifies as White and is of Mexican heritage may identify ethnically as Hispanic and racially as White.

## POPULATION BY COUNTY

### Total population

	2011	2020	+/-
<b>Wyoming</b>	<b>567,491</b>	<b>582,328</b>	<b>14,837 ↗</b>
Albany	36,873	38,950	2,077 ↗
Big Horn	11,723	11,575	-148 ↘
Campbell	46,570	46,676	106 ↗
Carbon	15,842	14,711	-1,131 ↘
Converse	13,739	13,804	65 ↗
Crook	7,117	7,593	476 ↗
Fremont	40,525	39,317	-1,208 ↘
Goshen	13,575	13,235	-340 ↘
Hot Springs	4,806	4,425	-381 ↘
Johnson	8,650	8,588	-62 ↘
Laramie	92,610	100,595	7,985 ↗
Lincoln	18,021	20,253	2,232 ↗
Natrona	76,431	80,815	4,384 ↗
Niobrara	2,485	2,275	-210 ↘
Park	28,462	29,331	869 ↗
Platte	8,695	8,578	-117 ↘
Sheridan	29,257	30,863	1,606 ↗
Sublette	10,194	9,856	-338 ↘
Sweetwater	44,000	42,673	-1,327 ↘
Teton	21,422	23,497	2,075 ↗
Uinta	20,901	20,215	-686 ↘
Washakie	8,451	7,760	-691 ↘
Weston	7,142	6,743	-399 ↘

U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division

## POPULATION, CHILDREN & ADULTS

*Number of children (0 to 17) and adults*

	CHILDREN, 17 & UNDER				ADULTS, 18 & OLDER		
	2011	2020	+/-		2011	2020	+/-
<b>Wyoming</b>	<b>135,420</b>	<b>133,091</b>	<b>-2,329 ↘</b>		<b>432,071</b>	<b>449,237</b>	<b>17,166 ↗</b>
Albany	6,057	6,150	93 ↗		30,816	32,800	1,984 ↗
Big Horn	3,014	2,822	-192 ↘		8,709	8,753	44 ↗
Campbell	13,088	12,539	-549 ↘		33,482	34,137	655 ↗
Carbon	3,690	3,298	-392 ↘		12,152	11,413	-739 ↘
Converse	3,427	3,341	-86 ↘		10,312	10,463	151 ↗
Crook	1,687	1,857	170 ↗		5,430	5,736	306 ↗
Fremont	10,362	9,913	-449 ↘		30,163	29,404	-759 ↘
Goshen	2,711	2,575	-136 ↘		10,864	10,660	-204 ↘
Hot Springs	954	949	-5 ↘		3,852	3,476	-376 ↘
Johnson	1,927	1,816	-111 ↘		6,723	6,772	49 ↗
Laramie	22,335	22,903	568 ↗		70,275	77,692	7,417 ↗
Lincoln	4,970	5,264	294 ↗		13,051	14,989	1,938 ↗
Natrona	18,125	19,332	1,207 ↗		58,306	61,483	3,177 ↗
Niobrara	454	408	-46 ↘		2,031	1,867	-164 ↘
Park	5,943	5,969	26 ↗		22,519	23,362	843 ↗
Platte	1,743	1,768	25 ↗		6,952	6,810	-142 ↘
Sheridan	6,457	6,405	-52 ↘		22,800	24,458	1,658 ↗
Sublette	2,446	2,104	-342 ↘		7,748	7,752	4 ↗
Sweetwater	11,890	10,843	-1,047 ↘		32,110	31,830	-280 ↘
Teton	4,160	4,161	1 ↗		17,262	19,336	2,074 ↗
Uinta	6,267	5,608	-659 ↘		14,634	14,607	-27 ↘
Washakie	2,143	1,706	-437 ↘		6,308	6,054	-254 ↘
Weston	1,570	1,360	-210 ↘		5,572	5,383	-189 ↘

U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division

## POPULATION, CHILDREN

Number of children (Under 5 years, 5 to 17)

	UNDER 5 YEARS			5 TO 17 YEARS		
	2011	2020	+/-	2011	2020	+/-
<b>Wyoming</b>	<b>39,587</b>	<b>33,785</b>	<b>-5,802 ↘</b>	<b>95,833</b>	<b>99,306</b>	<b>3,473 ↗</b>
Albany	2,012	1,723	-289 ↘	4,045	4,427	382 ↗
Big Horn	773	632	-141 ↘	2,241	2,190	-51 ↘
Campbell	4,010	3,244	-766 ↘	9,078	9,295	217 ↗
Carbon	1,088	888	-200 ↘	2,602	2,410	-192 ↘
Converse	952	841	-111 ↘	2,475	2,500	25 ↗
Crook	505	505	0 =	1,182	1,352	170 ↗
Fremont	3,150	2,537	-613 ↘	7,212	7,376	164 ↗
Goshen	726	649	-77 ↘	1,985	1,926	-59 ↘
Hot Springs	270	224	-46 ↘	684	725	41 ↗
Johnson	563	393	-170 ↘	1,364	1,423	59 ↗
Laramie	6,640	6,073	-567 ↘	15,695	16,830	1,135 ↗
Lincoln	1,362	1,252	-110 ↘	3,608	4,012	404 ↗
Natrona	5,325	5,050	-275 ↘	12,800	14,282	1,482 ↗
Niobrara	101	130	29 ↗	353	278	-75 ↘
Park	1,626	1,461	-165 ↘	4,317	4,508	191 ↗
Platte	426	455	29 ↗	1,317	1,313	-4 ↘
Sheridan	1,812	1,529	-283 ↘	4,645	4,876	231 ↗
Sublette	699	464	-235 ↘	1,747	1,640	-107 ↘
Sweetwater	3,544	2,620	-924 ↘	8,346	8,223	-123 ↘
Teton	1,334	1,107	-227 ↘	2,826	3,054	228 ↗
Uinta	1,714	1,303	-411 ↘	4,553	4,305	-248 ↘
Washakie	545	384	-161 ↘	1,598	1,322	-276 ↘
Weston	410	321	-89 ↘	1,160	1,039	-121 ↘

U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division

## POPULATION, YOUNG ADULTS

*Number of young adults (18 to 24)*

	2011		2020		
	Number	% all adults	Number	% all adults	Number +/-
<b>Wyoming</b>	<b>56,318</b>	<b>13.0%</b>	<b>52,578</b>	<b>11.7%</b>	<b>-3,740 ↘</b>
Albany	10,906	35.4%	10,568	32.2%	-338 ↘
Big Horn	854	9.8%	824	9.4%	-30 ↘
Campbell	4,322	12.9%	3,778	11.1%	-544 ↘
Carbon	1,259	10.4%	1,117	9.8%	-142 ↘
Converse	1,065	10.3%	967	9.2%	-98 ↘
Crook	475	8.7%	433	7.5%	-42 ↘
Fremont	3,504	11.6%	3,011	10.2%	-493 ↘
Goshen	1,407	13.0%	1,217	11.4%	-190 ↘
Hot Springs	309	8.0%	254	7.3%	-55 ↘
Johnson	503	7.5%	481	7.1%	-22 ↘
Laramie	8,844	12.6%	8,887	11.4%	43 ↗
Lincoln	1,173	9.0%	1,315	8.8%	142 ↗
Natrona	7,242	12.4%	6,267	10.2%	-975 ↘
Niobrara	161	7.9%	166	8.9%	5 ↗
Park	2,439	10.8%	2,007	8.6%	-432 ↘
Platte	559	8.0%	512	7.5%	-47 ↘
Sheridan	2,332	10.2%	2,400	9.8%	68 ↗
Sublette	717	9.3%	625	8.1%	-92 ↘
Sweetwater	4,174	13.0%	3,785	11.9%	-389 ↘
Teton	1,460	8.5%	1,527	7.9%	67 ↗
Uinta	1,595	10.9%	1,521	10.4%	-74 ↘
Washakie	509	8.1%	518	8.6%	9 ↗
Weston	509	9.1%	398	7.4%	-111 ↘

U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division



## WHAT ARE COMMUNITY RESILIENCE ESTIMATES?

In 2020, the U.S. Census Bureau released the 2019 community resilience estimates (CREs) to document how *at-risk* communities are to the health, social, and economic stressors associated with the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>23</sup> Although the 2019 CREs reflect specifically on community resilience to stressors caused by the pandemic, stakeholders can use CREs to assess community resilience to different emergencies like natural disasters, disease outbreaks, or other large-scale emergencies.<sup>24</sup>

The U.S. Census Bureau generates CREs for every community in the U.S. by modeling estimates based on 10 individual and household risk factors related to resilience assessed in the American Community Survey (ACS) and age, sex, and race/ethnicity data from the Population Estimates Program.<sup>25</sup> Below we list the 10 characteristics assessed from the ACS.

---

### *Risk Factors for Households*

- A household income-to-poverty ratio that falls below 130% of the federal poverty level (i.e., income less than 1.3 times the poverty level)
- No one or only one person in the household between the ages of 18 and 64
- Households with unit-level crowding – more than .75 persons per room
- No household member over the age of 16 with a high school diploma or one or more households with limited English proficiency
- No household access to a vehicle
- No household member employed full-time, year-round (excluding households in which all members are 65 or older)
- No household access to broadband internet<sup>26</sup>

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### *Risk Factors for Individuals*

- Living with at least one serious disability
- No health insurance
- 65 years old or older

## COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

*Number and percentage of community residents living with risk factors in 2019*

	LOW RISK: 0 RISK FACTORS		MEDIUM RISK: 1-2 RISK FACTORS		HIGH RISK: ≥ 3 RISK FACTORS	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Wyoming	210,485	36.9%	257,210	45.1%	102,578	18.0%
Albany	14,352	39.1%	16,744	45.6%	5,656	15.4%
Big Horn	3,330	28.4%	5,767	49.1%	2,641	22.5%
Campbell	20,210	43.9%	19,578	42.5%	6,258	13.6%
Carbon	4,245	29.9%	6,777	47.7%	3,183	22.4%
Converse	4,729	34.3%	6,781	49.2%	2,275	16.5%
Crook	3,099	40.9%	3,033	40.0%	1,448	19.1%
Fremont	10,532	27.3%	18,179	47.1%	9,930	25.7%
Goshen	4,341	35.8%	5,036	41.5%	2,748	22.7%
Hot Springs	1,098	25.0%	2,035	46.3%	1,261	28.7%
Johnson	2,550	30.3%	4,551	54.1%	1,314	15.6%
Laramie	42,103	42.5%	40,694	41.1%	16,167	16.3%
Lincoln	6,105	30.8%	10,638	53.7%	3,070	15.5%
Natrona	29,786	37.7%	35,593	45.1%	13,567	17.2%
Niobrara	551	26.3%	984	47.0%	561	26.8%
Park	9,516	33.0%	13,272	46.0%	6,069	21.0%
Platte	2,082	25.0%	4,701	56.4%	1,550	18.6%
Sheridan	12,094	40.4%	13,242	44.3%	4,571	15.3%
Sublette	3,333	34.0%	4,329	44.1%	2,151	21.9%
Sweetwater	16,977	40.5%	17,781	42.5%	7,130	17.0%
Teton	7,250	31.0%	11,567	49.5%	4,573	19.6%
Uinta	7,744	38.4%	9,346	46.3%	3,093	15.3%
Washakie	2,601	33.6%	3,215	41.6%	1,922	24.8%
Weston	1,857	27.9%	3,367	50.5%	1,440	21.6%

The estimates provide the number and percentage of community residents living with 0 risk factors (low risk), 1-2 risk factors (medium risk), and 3 or more risk factors (high risk).<sup>27</sup>

U.S. Census Bureau, Community Resilience Estimates

## PERCENTAGE OF WYOMING POPULATION BY RACE & ETHNICITY

2011

	TOTAL POPULATION		HISPANIC		NOT HISPANIC	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
American Indian/Alaska Native	14,833	2.6%	2,905	19.6%	11,928	80.4%
Asian	4,849	0.9%	353	7.3%	4,496	92.7%
Black	5,457	1.0%	748	13.7%	4,709	86.3%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	493	0.1%	142	28.8%	351	71.2%
Two or more	10,133	1.8%	1,760	17.4%	8,373	82.6%
White	531,726	93.7%	45,691	8.6%	486,035	91.4%
TOTAL	567,491		51,599		515,892	

2020

	TOTAL POPULATION		HISPANIC		NOT HISPANIC	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
American Indian/Alaska Native	16,374	2.8%	4,185	25.6%	12,189	74.4%
Asian	6,394	1.1%	525	8.2%	5,869	91.8%
Black	7,083	1.2%	1,055	14.9%	6,028	85.1%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	617	0.1%	209	33.9%	408	66.1%
Two or more	13,341	2.3%	2,574	19.3%	10,767	80.7%
White	538,519	92.5%	51,731	9.6%	486,788	90.4%
TOTAL	582,328		60,279		522,049	

U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division

## 2

## FAMILY STRUCTURE



“ The structure of a child’s family has a substantial impact on the way that child develops through adolescence and adulthood. ”

The first relationships a child forms are to parents and other close family members. The structure of a child’s family has a substantial impact on the way that child develops through adolescence and adulthood.<sup>28</sup> Of Wyoming’s 149,353 family households in 2020, 42% (62,804) included children under 18.<sup>29</sup>

In 2020, approximately 28,200 households were led by single parents, with about 9,700 of these headed by men and 18,500 headed by women.<sup>30,31</sup> These numbers represent a 5% decrease over the number of single-parent households in 2018 (29,788). Between 2018 and 2020, the number of single-father households decreased 12% (from 11,004).<sup>32</sup>

Of Wyoming children living in families with income below the federal poverty threshold, 62% live in single-parent homes.<sup>33</sup> This threshold equates to a single parent with two children living on less than \$23,030 annually.<sup>34</sup>

Between 2011 and 2020, Wyoming experienced a decrease in grandparent-led households with children under 18. Over this period, the number of grandparent-led households dropped from 5,314 to 4,307.<sup>35</sup>

# 28,200

HOUSEHOLDS ARE LED BY  
SINGLE PARENTS

# 62%

OF CHILDREN  
IN POVERTY

LIVE IN SINGLE-FAMILY HOMES

## CHILDREN BY FAMILY TYPE

*Percentage of all related children in married couple and single-parent homes*

	MARRIED COUPLE				SINGLE PARENT		
	2011	2020	+/-		2011	2020	+/-
<b>Wyoming</b>	<b>73.1%</b>	<b>74.9%</b>	<b>↗</b>		<b>26.9%</b>	<b>25.1%</b>	<b>↘</b>
Albany	74.6%	83.9%	↗		25.4%	16.1%	↘
Big Horn	83.5%	79.7%	↘		16.5%	20.3%	↗
Campbell	73.8%	77.6%	↗		26.2%	22.4%	↘
Carbon	73.3%	68.4%	↘		26.7%	31.6%	↗
Converse	75.5%	75.1%	↘		24.5%	24.9%	↗
Crook	77.6%	91.9%	↗		22.4%	8.1%	↘
Fremont	62.6%	61.2%	↘		37.4%	38.8%	↗
Goshen	69.2%	69.2%	=		30.8%	30.8%	=
Hot Springs	84.0%	80.1%	↘		16.0%	19.9%	↗
Johnson	85.8%	81.6%	↘		14.2%	18.4%	↗
Laramie	67.3%	74.0%	↗		32.7%	26.0%	↘
Lincoln	81.0%	87.2%	↗		19.0%	12.8%	↘
Natrona	70.3%	69.4%	↘		29.7%	30.6%	↗
Niobrara	82.4%	80.2%	↘		17.6%	19.8%	↗
Park	76.2%	79.6%	↗		23.8%	20.4%	↘
Platte	61.9%	83.2%	↗		38.1%	16.8%	↘
Sheridan	68.5%	75.5%	↗		31.5%	24.5%	↘
Sublette	83.4%	81.7%	↘		16.6%	18.3%	↗
Sweetwater	75.9%	75.3%	↘		24.1%	24.7%	↗
Teton	85.8%	68.1%	↘		14.2%	31.9%	↗
Uinta	82.1%	81.3%	↘		17.9%	18.7%	↗
Washakie	79.6%	78.6%	↘		20.4%	21.4%	↗
Weston	74.3%	75.8%	↗		25.7%	24.2%	↘

American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates

## SINGLE-FATHER & SINGLE-MOTHER FAMILIES

*Percentage of all related children in single-parent homes*

	SINGLE FATHER				SINGLE MOTHER		
	2011	2020	+/-		2011	2020	+/-
<b>Wyoming</b>	<b>29.4%</b>	<b>31.1%</b>	<b>↗</b>		<b>70.6%</b>	<b>68.9%</b>	<b>↘</b>
Albany	36.8%	20.7%	↘		63.2%	79.3%	↗
Big Horn	34.9%	19.7%	↘		65.1%	80.3%	↗
Campbell	25.1%	37.3%	↗		74.9%	62.7%	↘
Carbon	25.4%	17.2%	↘		74.6%	82.8%	↗
Converse	28.0%	24.5%	↘		72.0%	75.5%	↗
Crook	4.5%	57.3%	↗		95.5%	42.7%	↘
Fremont	31.5%	36.0%	↗		68.5%	64.0%	↘
Goshen	32.2%	46.3%	↗		67.8%	53.7%	↘
Hot Springs	11.8%	3.8%	↘		88.2%	96.3%	↗
Johnson	47.5%	44.8%	↘		52.5%	55.2%	↗
Laramie	29.9%	26.6%	↘		70.1%	73.4%	↗
Lincoln	25.9%	43.1%	↗		74.1%	56.9%	↘
Natrona	25.8%	24.6%	↘		74.2%	75.4%	↗
Niobrara	12.2%	35.6%	↗		87.8%	64.4%	↘
Park	14.3%	47.2%	↗		85.7%	52.8%	↘
Platte	9.8%	53.2%	↗		90.2%	46.8%	↘
Sheridan	35.8%	35.1%	↘		64.2%	64.9%	↗
Sublette	41.0%	45.0%	↗		59.0%	55.0%	↘
Sweetwater	34.2%	30.2%	↘		65.8%	69.8%	↗
Teton	57.8%	29.2%	↘		42.2%	70.8%	↗
Uinta	23.9%	37.8%	↗		76.1%	62.2%	↘
Washakie	53.2%	22.4%	↘		46.8%	77.6%	↗
Weston	49.0%	48.8%	↘		51.0%	51.2%	↗

American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates

## BIRTHS TO TEENS

*Number of live births to mothers (15 to 19) per 1,000 live births (5-year average)*

	2011-2015	2016-2020	+/-
<b>Wyoming</b>	<b>31.1</b>	<b>26.9</b>	↘
Albany	11.6	8.4	↘
Big Horn	20.4	15.5	↘
Campbell	41.4	34.5	↘
Carbon	40.6	38.7	↘
Converse	38.8	28.5	↘
Crook	33.6	27.2	↘
Fremont	52.3	46.4	↘
Goshen	29.7	17.6	↘
Hot Springs	19.0	24.2	↗
Johnson	14.1	15.6	↗
Laramie	33.8	29.7	↘
Lincoln	25.0	17.3	↘
Natrona	36.2	36.3	↗
Niobrara	31.1	28.3	↘
Park	19.0	14.9	↘
Platte	25.6	21.9	↘
Sheridan	24.9	21.6	↘
Sublette	19.5	15.7	↘
Sweetwater	36.1	29.5	↘
Teton	13.2	9.3	↘
Uinta	32.6	29.4	↘
Washakie	28.8	21.2	↘
Weston	37.1	24.9	↘

Wyoming Department of Health, Wyoming Vital Statistics



## 3

## INCOME &amp; POVERTY

IN 2020, WYOMING  
WOMEN EARNED

**\$0.69**

FOR EVERY \$1.00  
A MAN EARNED

every dollar a Wyoming man earns.<sup>37</sup> Only Teton County demonstrates wage equality, with women making about \$1.03 for every dollar a man earns.<sup>38</sup>

COVID-19 has negatively impacted Wyoming's economy. The Wyoming Department of Administration and Information, Economic Analysis Division identified 2020 as the worst year for Wyoming's economic growth since 1986.<sup>39</sup> In 2020, Wyoming's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) shrank by more than 8% (the third steepest decline in the U.S.).<sup>40</sup> Since 2015, more than 8,000 Wyomingites have left the civilian labor force.

In 2020, 11% of all Wyomingites—or 61,000 people, 15,500 of them children—were living in poverty, compared to 13% of people nationally.<sup>42,43</sup> Of these children, 62% (9,640) lived in single-

In 2020, the median annual income for men in Wyoming was \$58,120 and for women, it was \$40,139.<sup>36</sup> This means that Wyoming women earn about \$0.69 for

parent homes (85% with single mothers and 15% with single fathers).<sup>44</sup> The federal government establishes the poverty threshold by calculating the minimum amount of annual income a family needs to pay for essentials like housing, utilities, and food. This calculation does not include healthcare as a necessity nor is it adjusted on a state-by-state basis.<sup>45</sup>

State and federal safety net programs help about 13,000 children in Wyoming climb out of poverty each year.<sup>46</sup> These programs include the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Social Security, the Earned Income Tax Credit, and the Child Tax Credit. Together, these programs cut the poverty rate by more than half in Wyoming.<sup>47</sup>

Food insecurity for Wyoming children has been trending downward in recent years.<sup>48</sup> In 2019, 14% (19,370) of children in Wyoming experienced food insecurity.<sup>49</sup> Feeding America, the largest hunger-relief and food recovery organization in the U.S., projected that food insecurity in Wyoming could have been as high as 16% in 2021 because of COVID-19.<sup>50</sup>

## MEDIAN ANNUAL INCOME & WAGE GAP

*Median annual income for full-time men and women*

	2016			2020			
	Men	Women	Gap (cents)	Men	Women	Gap (cents)	+/-
<b>Wyoming</b>	<b>\$53,881</b>	<b>\$36,574</b>	32	<b>\$58,120</b>	<b>\$40,139</b>	31	↘
Albany	41,966	33,288	21	49,314	40,645	18	↘
Big Horn	49,494	29,721	40	51,107	38,293	25	↘
Campbell	71,486	39,847	44	69,744	42,259	39	↘
Carbon	56,812	37,950	33	62,623	34,588	45	↗
Converse	60,962	32,536	47	66,419	36,913	44	↘
Crook	61,581	31,200	49	66,568	43,814	34	↘
Fremont	47,389	34,495	27	48,892	39,097	20	↘
Goshen	41,870	34,620	17	47,135	34,225	27	↗
Hot Springs	45,586	40,820	10	49,803	38,074	24	↗
Johnson	51,214	42,723	17	57,585	34,885	39	↗
Laramie	50,620	39,329	22	56,609	41,860	26	↗
Lincoln	60,600	33,585	45	65,496	38,076	42	↘
Natrona	53,448	35,893	33	58,487	40,119	31	↘
Niobrara	38,826	33,333	14	45,208	36,154	20	↗
Park	50,643	35,458	30	54,254	36,972	32	↗
Platte	54,769	32,037	42	49,097	30,170	39	↘
Sheridan	51,305	38,061	26	55,549	38,021	32	↗
Sublette	68,425	42,800	37	75,286	44,063	41	↗
Sweetwater	66,898	36,746	45	70,554	44,753	37	↘
Teton	52,255	43,222	17	52,756	54,242	-3	↘
Uinta	54,525	29,934	45	65,496	33,402	49	↗
Washakie	47,264	33,399	29	50,679	34,936	31	↗
Weston	60,964	32,420	47	62,710	32,273	49	↗

Note: The wage gap is the number of cents a woman earns for every dollar a man earns, based on median annual income for full-time workers. Income is 2016 and 2020 inflation-adjusted dollars.

American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates

## FAMILIES IN POVERTY

*Percentage of related children in families living below the poverty line*

	2011	2020	+/-
<b>Wyoming</b>	<b>13.0%</b>	<b>11.8%</b>	↘
Albany	17.9%	10.5%	↘
Big Horn	11.7%	12.9%	↗
Campbell	8.2%	14.6%	↗
Carbon	11.8%	19.7%	↗
Converse	10.2%	12.7%	↗
Crook	12.4%	0.7%	↘
Fremont	21.0%	19.1%	↘
Goshen	27.2%	14.0%	↘
Hot Springs	20.3%	15.1%	↘
Johnson	2.2%	20.9%	↗
Laramie	12.9%	10.3%	↘
Lincoln	13.7%	6.8%	↘
Natrona	10.0%	10.0%	=
Niobrara	22.7%	27.3%	↗
Park	15.0%	7.9%	↘
Platte	25.0%	14.9%	↘
Sheridan	7.3%	8.2%	↗
Sublette	5.2%	14.1%	↗
Sweetwater	13.3%	14.4%	↗
Teton	17.9%	3.4%	↘
Uinta	11.7%	9.5%	↘
Washakie	9.2%	13.4%	↗
Weston	21.1%	14.4%	↘

American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates

## FAMILIES IN POVERTY BY FAMILY TYPE

*Percentage of related children in families living below the poverty line*

	MARRIED COUPLE				SINGLE PARENT		
	2011	2020	+/-		2011	2020	+/-
<b>Wyoming</b>	<b>7.0%</b>	<b>6.0%</b>	↘		<b>29.5%</b>	<b>29.3%</b>	↘
Albany	8.2%	6.1%	↘		46.2%	33.4%	↘
Big Horn	6.9%	9.3%	↗		36.4%	27.4%	↘
Campbell	1.7%	11.5%	↗		26.7%	25.3%	↘
Carbon	10.7%	9.8%	↘		14.7%	41.1%	↗
Converse	7.7%	1.6%	↘		18.0%	46.2%	↗
Crook	7.2%	0.7%	↘		30.1%	0.0%	↘
Fremont	11.8%	8.8%	↘		36.2%	35.4%	↘
Goshen	27.7%	0.8%	↘		25.9%	43.7%	↗
Hot Springs	13.9%	15.6%	↗		54.2%	13.1%	↘
Johnson	1.0%	22.4%	↗		9.3%	14.1%	↗
Laramie	5.5%	3.1%	↘		28.1%	30.9%	↗
Lincoln	6.8%	4.0%	↘		42.9%	25.8%	↘
Natrona	4.5%	3.0%	↘		22.9%	25.9%	↗
Niobrara	20.3%	24.8%	↗		34.1%	37.6%	↗
Park	8.7%	6.2%	↘		35.2%	14.4%	↘
Platte	6.3%	17.0%	↗		55.3%	4.3%	↘
Sheridan	1.6%	2.1%	↗		19.6%	26.8%	↗
Sublette	4.4%	7.8%	↗		9.4%	42.1%	↗
Sweetwater	6.2%	8.4%	↗		35.5%	32.6%	↘
Teton	17.2%	0.0%	↘		22.0%	10.5%	↘
Uinta	8.2%	2.1%	↘		27.8%	41.7%	↗
Washakie	6.1%	9.5%	↗		21.0%	27.9%	↗
Weston	9.3%	16.7%	↗		55.2%	7.1%	↘

American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates

## SINGLE-FATHER & SINGLE-MOTHER FAMILIES IN POVERTY

*Percentage of single families in poverty that are ... households*

	SINGLE FATHER				SINGLE MOTHER		
	2011	2020	+/-		2011	2020	+/-
<b>Wyoming</b>	<b>13.6%</b>	<b>14.2%</b>	<b>↗</b>		<b>36.2%</b>	<b>36.1%</b>	<b>↘</b>
Albany	35.3%	12.6%	↘		52.5%	38.8%	↘
Big Horn	25.7%	5.0%	↘		42.1%	32.9%	↘
Campbell	2.0%	1.2%	↘		35.0%	39.6%	↗
Carbon	0.0%	9.5%	↗		19.7%	47.7%	↗
Converse	0.0%	29.1%	↗		25.0%	51.7%	↗
Crook	0.0%	0.0%	=		31.5%	0.0%	↘
Fremont	22.9%	28.0%	↗		42.4%	39.5%	↘
Goshen	9.2%	47.3%	↗		33.8%	40.6%	↗
Hot Springs	0.0%	0.0%	=		61.4%	13.6%	↘
Johnson	11.4%	15.3%	↗		7.4%	13.0%	↗
Laramie	11.2%	11.3%	↗		35.4%	38.0%	↗
Lincoln	0.0%	11.6%	↗		58.0%	36.6%	↘
Natrona	9.2%	13.0%	↗		27.7%	30.1%	↗
Niobrara	0.0%	58.3%	↗		38.9%	26.2%	↘
Park	8.5%	2.1%	↘		39.6%	25.4%	↘
Platte	32.4%	0.0%	↘		57.8%	9.1%	↘
Sheridan	0.7%	4.8%	↗		30.2%	38.7%	↗
Sublette	10.8%	0.0%	↘		8.4%	76.7%	↗
Sweetwater	27.3%	15.4%	↘		39.8%	40.1%	↗
Teton	0.0%	0.0%	=		52.1%	14.8%	↘
Uinta	0.0%	39.0%	↗		36.5%	43.3%	↗
Washakie	33.9%	0.0%	↘		6.3%	35.9%	↗
Weston	51.9%	14.5%	↘		58.4%	0.0%	↘

American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates

## WOMEN, INFANT, & CHILDREN (WIC) ENROLLMENT

*Percentage of mothers enrolled in WIC at the time of child's birth*

	2011	2020	+/-
<b>Wyoming</b>	<b>34.3%</b>	<b>22.4%</b>	↘
Albany	38.4%	20.4%	↘
Big Horn	43.0%	27.5%	↘
Campbell	29.5%	24.6%	↘
Carbon	39.7%	20.0%	↘
Converse	25.1%	19.7%	↘
Crook	34.4%	12.8%	↘
Fremont	46.2%	27.8%	↘
Goshen	52.5%	29.6%	↘
Hot Springs	36.5%	31.7%	↘
Johnson	20.4%	17.3%	↘
Laramie	39.2%	26.5%	↘
Lincoln	21.1%	10.2%	↘
Natrona	34.0%	21.1%	↘
Niobrara	52.4%	*	
Park	28.6%	19.8%	↘
Platte	40.5%	18.2%	↘
Sheridan	35.3%	17.6%	↘
Sublette	14.3%	10.9%	↘
Sweetwater	24.7%	27.6%	↗
Teton	27.0%	7.8%	↘
Uinta	38.0%	24.9%	↘
Washakie	38.1%	26.6%	↘
Weston	38.5%	24.6%	↘

Note: A "\*" indicates that too few sample observations were available to compute an estimate.

Wyoming Department of Health, Wyoming Vital Statistics

## SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SNAP)

*Percentage of Wyomingites receiving SNAP or other public assistance*

	2011	2020	+/-
<b>Wyoming</b>	5.8%	5.9%	↗
Albany	5.2%	3.9%	↘
Big Horn	5.3%	5.6%	↗
Campbell	4.0%	5.6%	↗
Carbon	6.3%	6.4%	↗
Converse	6.1%	5.7%	↘
Crook	6.0%	0.8%	↘
Fremont	11.8%	9.6%	↘
Goshen	9.5%	10.1%	↗
Hot Springs	7.7%	9.2%	↗
Johnson	2.7%	0.6%	↘
Laramie	6.5%	6.7%	↗
Lincoln	4.5%	4.1%	↘
Natrona	5.7%	7.3%	↗
Niobrara	10.4%	8.1%	↘
Park	4.7%	3.8%	↘
Platte	7.3%	5.9%	↘
Sheridan	4.0%	5.2%	↗
Sublette	1.6%	1.5%	↘
Sweetwater	4.5%	6.4%	↗
Teton	1.7%	1.9%	↗
Uinta	7.8%	8.1%	↗
Washakie	6.4%	2.5%	↘
Weston	4.9%	6.0%	↗

American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates





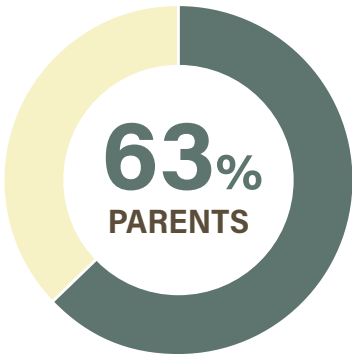
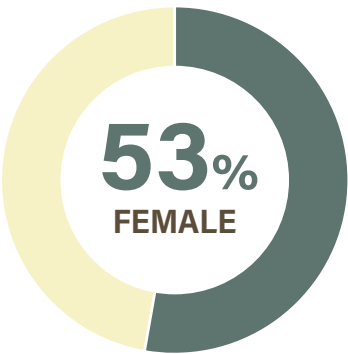
# A CLOSER LOOK AT WYOMING'S LOW-WAGE WORKERS

## WYOMING'S LOW-WAGE WORKERS

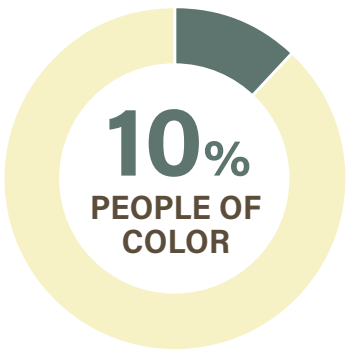
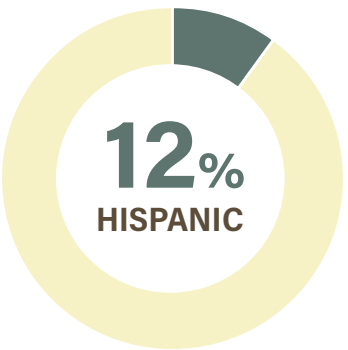
More than 175,000 Wyomingites work full-time in the Equality State.<sup>51</sup> Most are paid a living wage; however, approximately 43,750 Wyomingites, or more than one-quarter of the full-time work force, are low-wage earners, meaning they earn less than \$15 per hour.<sup>52</sup> Even raising the minimum wage to \$12 per hour would directly impact the lives of these Wyoming workers and their families.<sup>53</sup>

In 2018, the Economic Policy Institute ranked Wyoming among the top five income-unequal states in the U.S., with Teton County leading the list as the most unequal county in the nation.<sup>54</sup> The wealthiest 1% of people in Wyoming make 31 times more than all other earners in the state.<sup>55</sup> According to the Wyoming Cost of Living Index, Wyoming's cost of living continues to rise across the state.<sup>56</sup>

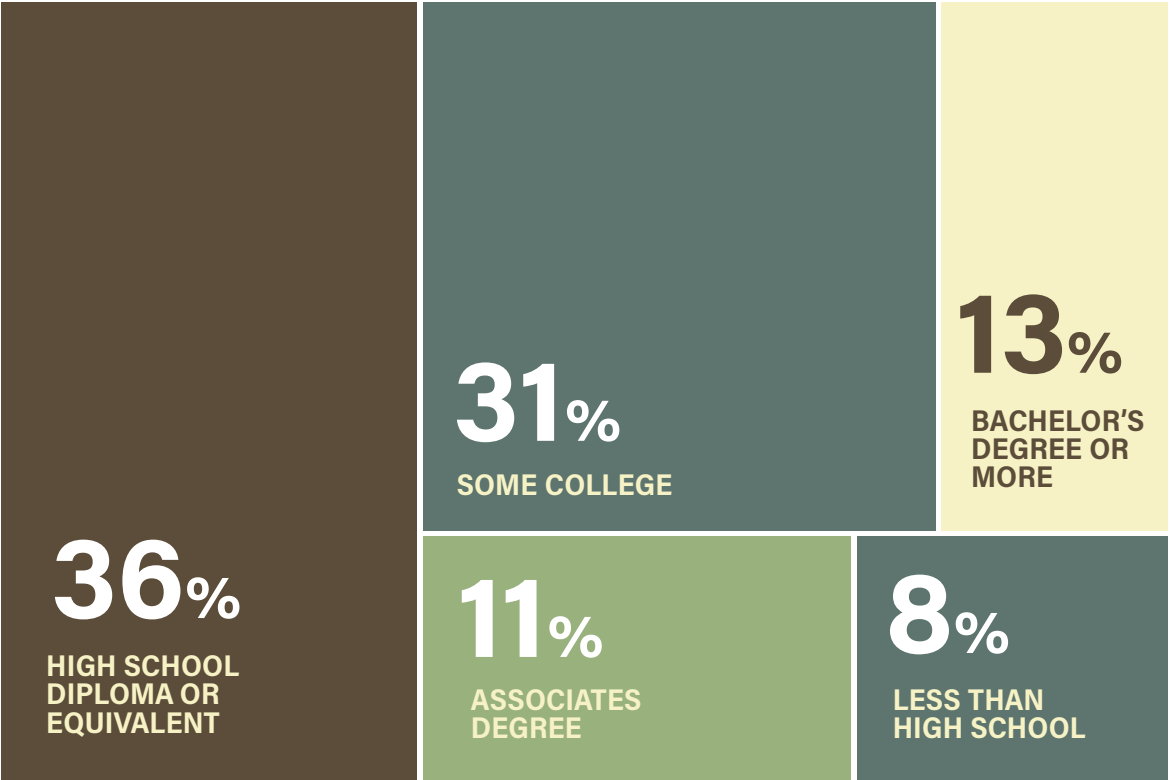
# OF LOW-WAGE WORKERS...



35% OF THESE PARENTS  
HAVE ONE OR MORE  
CHILDREN UNDER AGE 5



MOST HAVE A HIGH SCHOOL  
DIPLOMA OR HIGHER



## WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF A MINIMUM WAGE?

President Roosevelt signed the federal minimum wage into law as part of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938.<sup>57</sup> At that time, in the throes of the Great Depression, the stated purpose was simple: to keep America's workers out of poverty and stimulate the economy by increasing consumer purchasing power.<sup>58</sup>

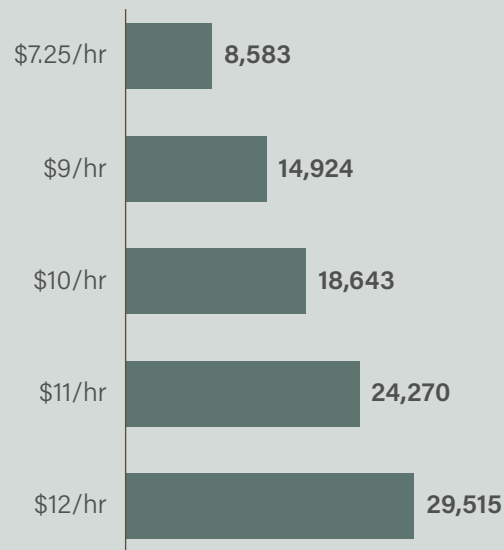
In the intervening 84 years, there have been many arguments about the purpose of a minimum wage. It should provide a base rate of fair pay. It should be sufficient to provide for a person's basic needs: namely, food, shelter, clothing, education, and healthcare.<sup>59</sup> And most recently, it should be a living wage, an amount that allows an adult with one dependent to have a comfortable standard of living.<sup>60</sup> The minimum wage was never intended to serve as a starter wage or a wage solely for those who have the benefit of a supplementary income. Yet, the current minimum wages of \$5.15 in Wyoming and of \$7.25 for federal work are so low as to encourage that belief.

## WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF RAISING THE MINIMUM WAGE?

The federal minimum wage has not increased since 2009, and Wyoming's minimum wage of \$5.15 per hour ties with Georgia's minimum wage for the lowest in the country.<sup>61</sup> For workers earning minimum wage, this failure to account for inflation and to keep up with economic growth means an inability to afford the cost of living.<sup>62</sup> Raising the minimum wage would not only bring more Wyomingites closer to earning a living wage,<sup>63</sup> but the economic and societal benefits resulting in the "Equality State" would include the following:

- Increased spending power for families to foster economic growth in Wyoming;<sup>64, 65</sup>
- Reduced taxpayer spending on public assistance programs in Wyoming;<sup>66, 67</sup>
- Higher worker morale and productivity;<sup>68, 69</sup>
- Reduced economic inequality for people of color, especially women.<sup>70</sup>

### NUMBER OF WYOMINGITES WHO WOULD BENEFIT FROM AN INCREASED MINIMUM WAGE



## CALL TO ACTION

1

Increase the tipped minimum wage from \$2.13 per hour to \$6.85 per hour.

2

Raise the Wyoming minimum wage (currently \$5.15 an hour) to \$12 per hour.

3

Learn what your county's livable wage is by exploring the self sufficiency calculator for Wyoming at <https://wywf.org/self-sufficiency-calculator/>.

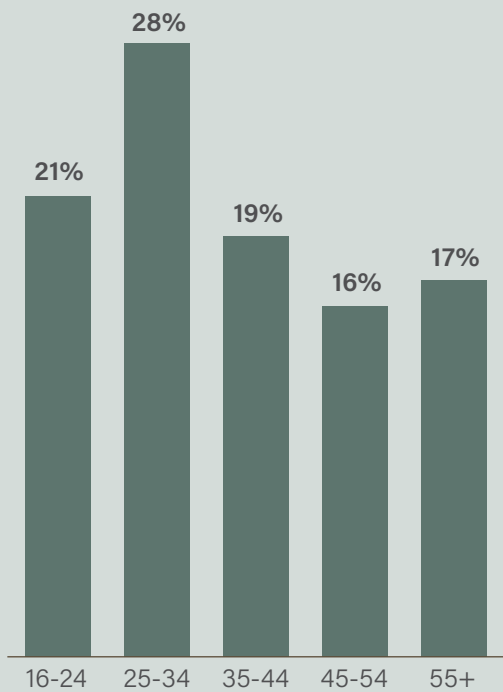
FEMALE LOW-WAGE WORKERS ARE  
SLIGHTLY OLDER THAN MALE  
LOW-WAGE WORKERS

MEDIAN AGE  
**37** yrs  
WOMEN

MEDIAN AGE  
**33** yrs  
MEN

“ Wyoming’s minimum wage  
[in 2022] ties with Georgia’s  
minimum wage for the  
lowest in the country. ”

MORE THAN HALF (52%) OF LOW-WAGE  
WORKERS ARE ABOVE THE AGE OF 35



Source: WYSAC analysis of IPUMS USA microdata 2019 5-year estimates





## 4

CHILD & MATERNAL  
HEALTH

For more than 20 years, Wyoming has supported mothers and their children in starting and staying healthy. In 2020, Wyoming continued its downward trend in births to women with less than a high school education (down from 16% in 2000 to 9% in 2020),<sup>71</sup> the teen birth rate (down from 42 per 1,000 births in 2000 to 18 per 1,000 births in 2020),<sup>72</sup> and the percentage of women in Wyoming who smoked during pregnancy (down from 21% in 2000 to 12% in 2020).<sup>73</sup>

In other areas of child and maternal health, Wyoming still has room for improvement. In 2020, one out of every five women (24%) received less than adequate prenatal care,<sup>74</sup> and the percentage of babies born weighing less than 5.8 pounds (considered low-birth weight babies) increased to 10% (up from 8% in 2011).<sup>75</sup> An additional concern is the rising rate of maternal mortality seen across the United States, including Wyoming. In 2019, Wyoming's maternal mortality rate rose to 34.8 deaths per 100,000 live births<sup>76</sup>—up from 24.6 deaths per 100,000 live births in 2018.<sup>77</sup> To aid in combating this rise, the Wyoming Department of Health

collaborated with the Utah Department of Health in 2019 to establish a cross-state maternal mortality review committee.<sup>78</sup> The purpose of the committee is to use data to better understand the causes behind maternal deaths and make recommendations to prevent similar deaths in the future.<sup>79</sup>

**In 2020**

BIRTHS TO WOMEN WITH  
**LESS THAN A HIGH  
SCHOOL EDUCATION**  
AND **BIRTHS TO TEENS**  
CONTINUED TO DECREASE

**1 in 5**

WOMEN RECEIVED  
**LESS THAN ADEQUATE**  
PRENATAL CARE IN 2020

## TOTAL BIRTHS

*Number of live births*

	2011	2020	+/-
<b>Wyoming</b>	<b>7,339</b>	<b>6,134</b>	↓
Albany	414	329	↓
Big Horn	135	102	↓
Campbell	755	597	↓
Carbon	184	145	↓
Converse	195	152	↓
Crook	90	109	↑
Fremont	593	428	↓
Goshen	118	125	↑
Hot Springs	52	41	↓
Johnson	93	75	↓
Laramie	1,246	1,114	↓
Lincoln	247	216	↓
Natrona	981	902	↓
Niobrara	21	25	↑
Park	311	273	↓
Platte	84	77	↓
Sheridan	346	313	↓
Sublette	126	92	↓
Sweetwater	647	460	↓
Teton	226	206	↓
Uinta	300	217	↓
Washakie	97	79	↓
Weston	78	57	↓

Wyoming Department of Health, Wyoming Vital Statistics

## BIRTHS TO UNMARRIED MOTHERS

*Percentage of all births*

	2011	2020	+/-
<b>Wyoming</b>	<b>34.5%</b>	<b>34.1%</b>	↘
Albany	24.9%	26.7%	↗
Big Horn	31.1%	33.3%	↗
Campbell	37.4%	39.0%	↗
Carbon	33.7%	35.9%	↗
Converse	29.2%	28.3%	↘
Crook	18.9%	11.0%	↘
Fremont	51.9%	54.2%	↗
Goshen	42.4%	45.6%	↗
Hot Springs	25.0%	26.8%	↗
Johnson	26.9%	21.3%	↘
Laramie	36.2%	31.4%	↘
Lincoln	14.2%	22.7%	↗
Natrona	40.2%	39.9%	↘
Niobrara	33.3%	24.0%	↘
Park	24.8%	26.0%	↗
Platte	38.1%	32.5%	↘
Sheridan	30.6%	30.4%	↘
Sublette	23.8%	16.3%	↘
Sweetwater	34.2%	40.4%	↗
Teton	26.1%	21.8%	↘
Uinta	31.0%	30.0%	↘
Washakie	40.2%	34.2%	↘
Weston	37.2%	36.8%	↘

Wyoming Department of Health, Wyoming Vital Statistics



## C-SECTION BIRTHS

*Percentage of all births delivered via cesarean section*

	2011	2020	+/-
<b>Wyoming</b>	<b>27.0%</b>	<b>26.4%</b>	↘
Albany	25.8%	22.2%	↘
Big Horn	25.9%	19.6%	↘
Campbell	24.6%	22.4%	↘
Carbon	39.7%	28.3%	↘
Converse	32.3%	36.8%	↗
Crook	16.7%	21.1%	↗
Fremont	28.5%	27.8%	↘
Goshen	21.2%	15.2%	↘
Hot Springs	40.4%	34.1%	↘
Johnson	34.4%	36.0%	↗
Laramie	23.6%	27.4%	↗
Lincoln	29.2%	24.1%	↘
Natrona	24.1%	30.3%	↗
Niobrara	*	32.0%	
Park	32.2%	28.2%	↘
Platte	35.7%	26.0%	↘
Sheridan	27.7%	26.5%	↘
Sublette	26.2%	26.1%	↘
Sweetwater	29.2%	22.2%	↘
Teton	31.0%	27.7%	↘
Uinta	23.0%	22.6%	↘
Washakie	39.2%	31.6%	↘
Weston	32.1%	28.1%	↘

Note: An \* indicates counties where there were fewer than five c-section births.

Wyoming Department of Health, Wyoming Vital Statistics

## PRE-TERM DELIVERIES

*Of all births, percentage of babies born before 37 weeks gestation*

	2011	2020	+/-
<b>Wyoming</b>	<b>9.9%</b>	<b>10.1%</b>	↗
Albany	11.1%	11.2%	↗
Big Horn	5.9%	7.8%	↗
Campbell	10.1%	11.6%	↗
Carbon	4.9%	13.8%	↗
Converse	8.2%	9.2%	↗
Crook	10.0%	15.6%	↗
Fremont	13.2%	10.7%	↘
Goshen	9.3%	8.8%	↘
Hot Springs	*	14.6%	
Johnson	19.4%	13.3%	↘
Laramie	10.4%	8.2%	↘
Lincoln	6.1%	8.3%	↗
Natrona	9.4%	11.0%	↗
Niobrara	*	*	
Park	10.9%	7.3%	↘
Platte	8.3%	14.3%	↗
Sheridan	9.0%	8.9%	↘
Sublette	7.9%	*	
Sweetwater	11.9%	11.3%	↘
Teton	6.2%	10.2%	↗
Uinta	7.7%	8.8%	↗
Washakie	9.3%	8.9%	↘
Weston	10.3%	15.8%	↗

Note: An "\*" indicates counties where there were fewer than five pre-term deliveries.

Wyoming Department of Health, Wyoming Vital Statistics

## RISKY BIRTH OUTCOMES: LESS THAN ADEQUATE CARE

*Of all births, percentage of mothers who received less than adequate prenatal care*

	2011	2020	+/-
<b>Wyoming</b>	<b>26.4%</b>	<b>24.0%</b>	↘
Albany	16.9%	20.1%	↗
Big Horn	33.3%	33.3%	=
Campbell	22.1%	17.6%	↘
Carbon	27.7%	23.4%	↘
Converse	21.5%	22.4%	↗
Crook	21.1%	20.2%	↘
Fremont	22.6%	30.8%	↗
Goshen	27.1%	25.6%	↘
Hot Springs	21.2%	36.6%	↗
Johnson	26.9%	6.7%	↘
Laramie	28.7%	22.1%	↘
Lincoln	26.3%	30.6%	↗
Natrona	39.0%	30.7%	↘
Niobrara	*	56.0%	
Park	24.1%	20.1%	↘
Platte	23.8%	28.6%	↗
Sheridan	30.6%	11.8%	↘
Sublette	38.1%	31.5%	↘
Sweetwater	19.8%	21.5%	↗
Teton	26.1%	23.8%	↘
Uinta	21.0%	23.5%	↗
Washakie	33.0%	41.8%	↗
Weston	6.4%	28.1%	↗

Note: An "\*" indicates counties where fewer than five mothers reported receiving less than adequate prenatal care.

Wyoming Department of Health, Wyoming Vital Statistics

## RISKY BIRTH OUTCOMES: SMOKED DURING PREGNANCY

*Of all births, percentage of mothers who smoked during pregnancy*

	2011	2020	+/-
<b>Wyoming</b>	17.4%	12.0%	↓
Albany	7.0%	7.6%	↑
Big Horn	11.1%	8.8%	↓
Campbell	21.5%	15.7%	↓
Carbon	16.3%	11.7%	↓
Converse	19.5%	13.2%	↓
Crook	17.8%	15.6%	↓
Fremont	21.4%	16.8%	↓
Goshen	15.3%	11.2%	↓
Hot Springs	26.9%	24.4%	↓
Johnson	11.8%	12.0%	↑
Laramie	16.6%	9.6%	↓
Lincoln	8.9%	4.6%	↓
Natrona	24.0%	14.1%	↓
Niobrara	14.3%	*	
Park	15.8%	10.6%	↓
Platte	23.8%	13.0%	↓
Sheridan	21.1%	11.2%	↓
Sublette	14.3%	6.5%	↓
Sweetwater	17.3%	13.9%	↓
Teton	2.2%	*	
Uinta	14.0%	13.8%	↓
Washakie	15.5%	11.4%	↓
Weston	24.4%	24.6%	↑

Note: An "\*" indicates counties where fewer than five mothers reported smoking during pregnancy.

Wyoming Department of Health, Wyoming Vital Statistics

## RISKY BIRTH OUTCOMES: LOW BIRTH-WEIGHT

*Of all births, percentage of babies who weighed less than five pounds, eight ounces at birth*

	2011	2020	+/-
<b>Wyoming</b>	8.0%	9.7%	↗
Albany	9.2%	11.6%	↗
Big Horn	5.9%	6.9%	↗
Campbell	8.5%	9.2%	↗
Carbon	5.4%	11.7%	↗
Converse	5.1%	10.5%	↗
Crook	10.0%	11.9%	↗
Fremont	8.8%	7.7%	↘
Goshen	6.8%	8.8%	↗
Hot Springs	*	*	
Johnson	10.8%	10.7%	↘
Laramie	9.2%	11.3%	↗
Lincoln	7.3%	6.5%	↘
Natrona	6.9%	9.8%	↗
Niobrara	*	*	
Park	10.0%	8.1%	↘
Platte	*	10.4%	
Sheridan	7.5%	8.3%	↗
Sublette	8.7%	8.7%	=
Sweetwater	9.4%	10.9%	↗
Teton	4.9%	9.7%	↗
Uinta	7.3%	8.3%	↗
Washakie	6.2%	*	
Weston	*	12.3%	

Note: An "\*" indicates counties where there were fewer than five babies born weighing less than 5.8 pounds.

Wyoming Department of Health, Wyoming Vital Statistics

## INFANT MORTALITY

5-year average of deaths of live-born infants under one year, per 1,000 live births

	2011-2015	2016-2020	+/-
<i>Wyoming</i>	5.6	5.4	↘
Albany	4.9	3.9	↘
Big Horn	8.3	*	
Campbell	7.3	4.7	↘
Carbon	5.9	7.9	↗
Converse	*	*	
Crook	10.0	*	
Fremont	4.7	4.8	↗
Goshen	7.1	*	
Hot Springs	*	*	
Johnson	*	*	
Laramie	4.8	5.7	↗
Lincoln	*	6.1	
Natrona	6.4	8.6	↗
Niobrara	*	*	
Park	*	*	
Platte	11.3	*	
Sheridan	9.1	3.8	↘
Sublette	*	*	
Sweetwater	4.4	4.2	↘
Teton	5.6	*	
Uinta	5.8	7.9	↗
Washakie	*	*	
Weston	*	*	

Note: An "\*" indicates counties where the 5-year average infant mortality rate was too low to report.

Wyoming Department of Health, Wyoming Vital Statistics

## OUT OF COUNTY BIRTHS

*Of all births, percentage of babies born outside the county they reside*

	2011	2020	+/-
<b>Wyoming</b>	<b>22.0%</b>	<b>23.0%</b>	<b>↗</b>
Albany	22.9%	11.2%	↘
Big Horn	*	99.0%	
Campbell	6.0%	4.0%	↘
Carbon	44.6%	60.0%	↗
Converse	41.0%	38.2%	↘
Crook	*	94.5%	
Fremont	7.6%	16.4%	↗
Goshen	41.5%	52.0%	↗
Hot Springs	32.7%	26.8%	↘
Johnson	65.6%	48.0%	↘
Laramie	8.3%	8.3%	=
Lincoln	50.2%	50.9%	↗
Natrona	5.0%	5.9%	↗
Niobrara	*	96.0%	
Park	10.6%	6.6%	↘
Platte	41.7%	75.3%	↗
Sheridan	7.5%	12.8%	↗
Sublette	*	100.0%	
Sweetwater	27.8%	20.4%	↘
Teton	7.5%	7.3%	↘
Uinta	35.0%	52.5%	↗
Washakie	45.4%	64.6%	↗
Weston	*	98.2%	

Note: An "\*" indicates counties in which fewer than five babies were born outside of it to mothers who resided in the county at the time of the baby's birth.

Wyoming Department of Health, Wyoming Vital Statistics



**WYOMING  
WOMEN'S  
FOUNDATION**



# ✓ BENEFITS OF PERMANENTLY EXTENDING POSTPARTUM MEDICAID COVERAGE

We know if new moms are well cared for and healthy, their babies are likely to be well cared for and healthy, too. As Wyomingites, we value our ability to foster the health and well-being of children and moms. Unfortunately, many mothers fall through the cracks – unable to access healthcare that would benefit their new babies and themselves. Lack of access to healthcare can lead to costly outcomes. Expanding postpartum Medicaid coverage could prevent these outcomes and positively impact the well-being and health of Wyoming's children, not only today but for the long term.

## The Maternal Mortality Rate in Wyoming is on the Rise

The loss of a mother is devastating for families and communities alike, and, sadly, maternal mortality is on the rise in Wyoming.<sup>80</sup> Maternal mortality is the death of a woman during pregnancy, delivery, or up to one year after giving birth from problems caused by pregnancy or delivery.<sup>81</sup>

**1 in 5**

MATERNAL DEATHS  
OCCUR 1 TO 6 WEEKS  
POSTPARTUM.<sup>82</sup>

**1 in 10**

MATERNAL DEATHS  
OCCUR BETWEEN  
6 WEEKS TO 1 YEAR  
POSTPARTUM.<sup>83</sup>

**3 in 5**

PREGNANCY-  
RELATED  
DEATHS ARE  
PREVENTABLE.<sup>84</sup>

**41%**  INCREASE IN  
MORTALITY

In 2019, Wyoming's maternal mortality rate was 34.8 per 100,000 live births<sup>85</sup> — an increase of 42% from 2018 when the rate was 24.6 per 100,000 live births.<sup>86</sup>

### DEATHS HIGHER FOR American Indian/Alaska Native & Black women

Pregnancy-related deaths per 100,000 live births in the U.S. are much higher for American Indian/Alaska Native and Black women (32.5 and 42.8, respectively) than for White women (13.0).<sup>87</sup>

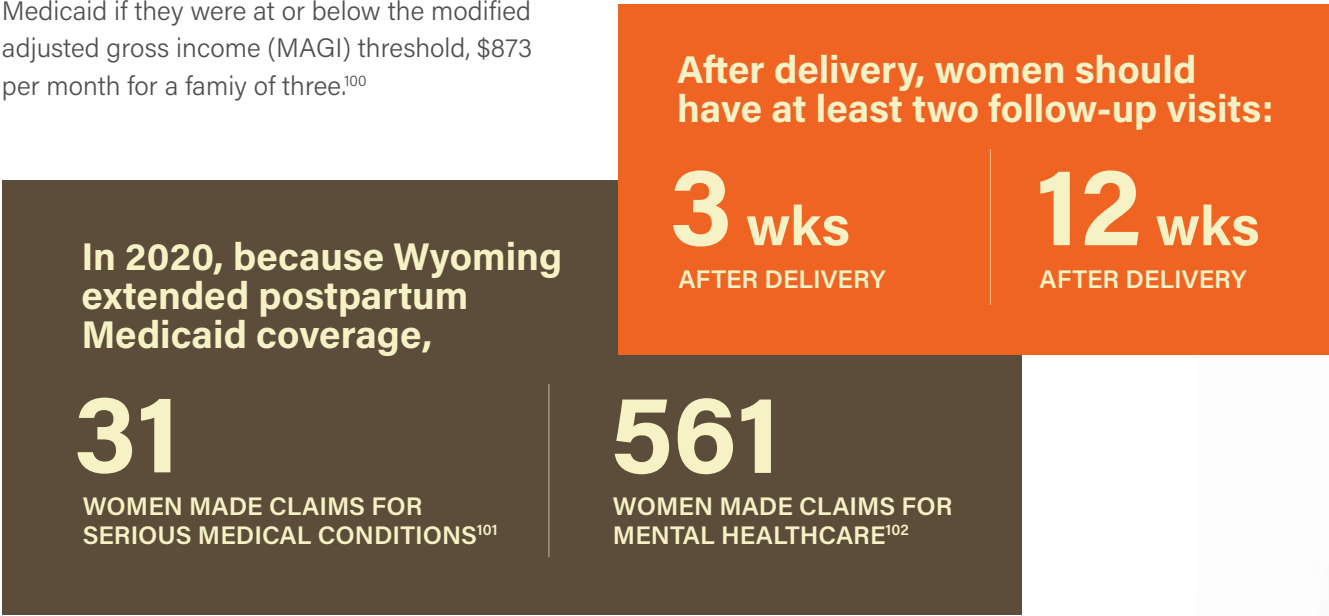
# Access to Quality Postpartum Care Can Reduce Maternal Morbidity and Mortality

Maternal postpartum health risks include preeclampsia, blood loss, gestational diabetes, stroke, heart disease, and death (mortality).<sup>88</sup> Experts agree the first step in preventing maternal morbidity and mortality is ensuring women have access to quality postpartum care for at least one year following delivery.<sup>89</sup> This care can give healthcare providers an opportunity to evaluate a new mother’s physical, social, and psychological well-being<sup>90</sup> and give new mothers a chance to discuss many topics with their healthcare provider such as family planning, breastfeeding, nutrition,<sup>91</sup> and postpartum depression.<sup>92</sup> Yet, by 12 weeks postpartum, many Wyoming mothers no longer qualify for Medicaid coverage.<sup>93</sup>

The Wyoming Department of Health recommends that women have at least two follow-up visits with their doctor within three months of giving birth.<sup>94</sup> The first visit should occur within three weeks of giving birth, and the second should occur 12 weeks after delivery.<sup>95</sup>

# Temporary Extension of Postpartum Medicaid has Saved Wyoming Lives and Should be Made Permanent

Wyoming Medicaid uses state and federal funding to provide health insurance coverage to Wyomingites who meet certain criteria. Criteria for pregnant women differ from other adults.<sup>96</sup> Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, Medicaid covered mothers for two months (60 days) after delivery and their newborn infants until their first birthday.<sup>97</sup> In response to the pandemic, the 2020 Families First Coronavirus Response Act temporarily extended postpartum Medicaid benefits to mothers for one year.<sup>98</sup> That is, instead of 60 days of coverage, new mothers could now receive benefits for 12 months. At the end of the year, children remained eligible for Medicaid if their household incomes were at or below 154% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL),<sup>99</sup> and mothers with children under 18 remained eligible for Medicaid if they were at or below the modified adjusted gross income (MAGI) threshold, \$873 per month for a family of three.<sup>100</sup>



The FPL is a threshold below which a family's income is not enough to cover basic needs. The cost of basic needs is set at the expense of a "minimum food diet" in 1963 adjusted for inflation and family size.<sup>103</sup>

Permanently extending postpartum Medicaid coverage to one year postpartum will improve health outcomes for Wyoming women and children. The American Rescue Plan Act encourages states to continue this coverage beyond the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>104</sup> States that extended postpartum Medicaid coverage saw 6.7 fewer maternal deaths per 100,000 live births<sup>105</sup> Yet, Wyoming is one of 16 states that has not done so.<sup>106</sup> Not only will extending postpartum Medicaid coverage to one full year save lives, it will also save Wyoming money.<sup>107</sup>

**1**

**Wellness visits will increase, reducing the need to treat high-cost, preventable medical conditions.<sup>108</sup>**

**2**

**Costly visits to the emergency department will be reduced.<sup>109</sup>**

**3**

**Healthcare workers will have more opportunities to provide family planning education to help reduce the number of unintended pregnancies.<sup>110</sup>**



## 5 HEALTHCARE



Growing evidence shows that when children have healthcare coverage, they are not only more likely to get care, but they are also more likely to have improved outcomes in health and in other important areas of life.<sup>111</sup>

“ In 2020, nearly 9% of Wyoming’s children, 18 and younger, did not have health insurance. ”

In 2020, nearly 9% of Wyoming’s children, 18 and younger, did not have health insurance.<sup>112</sup> Although this percentage is lower than the percentage for Wyoming adults (12%), it still means approximately 12,500 children in Wyoming are less likely to enjoy good health.<sup>113</sup> Some of these children are uninsured because their family’s income exceeds the threshold for Wyoming’s Kid Care Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP), but it is not high enough to cover the cost of other health insurance. Expanding Medicaid in Wyoming would help alleviate this cost for an estimated 24,000 people.<sup>114</sup>

Between 2019 and 2020, CHIP enrollment numbers in Wyoming fell by 13% (from 7,038 to 6,129).<sup>115</sup> This decrease is likely the result of families qualifying for Medicaid under the 2020 Families First Coronavirus Response Act and utilizing Medicaid instead of CHIP.<sup>116</sup>



## CHILDREN WITHOUT HEALTH INSURANCE

*Percentage of children not covered by a health insurance plan that provides "comprehensive health coverage"*

2020		ALL CHILDREN	UNDER 6 YEARS	6 TO 18 YEARS
	Wyoming	8.9%	7.8%	9.3%
	Albany	3.6%	1.6%	4.4%
	Big Horn	4.1%	2.6%	4.7%
	Campbell	11.9%	15.6%	10.0%
	Carbon	11.5%	11.3%	11.6%
	Converse	4.6%	7.2%	3.5%
	Crook	7.9%	9.2%	7.3%
	Fremont	18.2%	16.4%	18.9%
	Goshen	10.2%	9.2%	10.6%
	Hot Springs	13.0%	12.2%	13.5%
	Johnson	12.3%	12.3%	12.3%
	Laramie	5.2%	4.3%	5.6%
	Lincoln	12.1%	10.4%	12.9%
	Natrona	7.0%	4.3%	8.2%
	Niobrara	6.6%	0.0%	8.5%
	Park	10.0%	10.9%	9.6%
	Platte	1.8%	0.0%	2.4%
	Sheridan	8.0%	0.0%	10.7%
	Sublette	17.6%	10.9%	20.5%
	Sweetwater	9.7%	12.3%	8.6%
	Teton	9.8%	7.9%	10.5%
	Uinta	7.4%	1.0%	10.0%
	Washakie	6.7%	3.2%	7.9%
	Weston	13.0%	7.1%	15.5%

American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates

## MEDICAID BIRTHS

*Percentage of all births for which the primary source of payment was Medicaid*

	2011	2020	+/-
<b>Wyoming</b>	<b>37.0%</b>	<b>29.9%</b>	↘
Albany	33.8%	25.5%	↘
Big Horn	48.1%	31.4%	↘
Campbell	31.8%	31.5%	↘
Carbon	51.1%	30.3%	↘
Converse	32.8%	24.3%	↘
Crook	27.8%	13.8%	↘
Fremont	61.6%	48.8%	↘
Goshen	45.8%	36.0%	↘
Hot Springs	40.4%	43.9%	↗
Johnson	34.4%	25.3%	↘
Laramie	34.3%	25.7%	↘
Lincoln	32.8%	18.5%	↘
Natrona	40.5%	34.9%	↘
Niobrara	47.6%	24.0%	↘
Park	39.2%	26.0%	↘
Platte	38.1%	32.5%	↘
Sheridan	36.4%	24.9%	↘
Sublette	27.0%	21.7%	↘
Sweetwater	23.2%	32.6%	↗
Teton	25.7%	16.0%	↘
Uinta	35.7%	32.3%	↘
Washakie	43.3%	38.0%	↘
Weston	37.2%	28.1%	↘

Wyoming Department of Health, Wyoming Vital Statistics



# 6 EDUCATION



Wyoming's Pre-K students in 2021 were far more diverse than Wyoming's adult population in 2020.

Education Week, an independent news organization that covers K-12 education, annually grades each state on its education of public-school children. In 2021, Wyoming received a grade of B- (the national average is C).<sup>117</sup> Thirteen factors comprise the grade, such as the percentage of 3- and 4-year-olds in preschool, K-12 proficiency in math and reading, and high school graduation rate.<sup>118</sup>

Wyoming educated 91,992 public school students during the 2021-2022 academic year, a 1% increase over enrollment a decade earlier, during the 2012-2013 academic year.<sup>119</sup> The statewide graduation rate for the 2020-2021 school year was 83%, up from 79% in the 2011-2012 school year.<sup>120</sup> Asian students

had the highest graduation rate at 93%, followed by White students at 85%.<sup>121</sup> Graduation rates for American Indian/Alaska Native and Black students had also increased since 2011-2012 (50% to 53% and 67% to 80%, respectively).<sup>122</sup>

Wyoming's Pre-K students in 2021 were far more diverse than Wyoming's adult population in 2020. For example, students with Hispanic or Latino ethnicity account for 20% of Wyoming preschoolers but only 10% of Wyoming adults. Schools see four times as many American Indian/Alaska Native preschoolers as they see American Indian/Alaska Native adults in Wyoming. This diversity illustrates the changing face of Wyoming.



In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, on March 20, 2020, Governor Mark Gordon ordered statewide closure of all public spaces, including all public schools.<sup>123</sup> Schools remained closed until the fall of 2020, contingent upon increased sanitation measures and face coverings being worn if social distancing could not be maintained.<sup>124</sup> This order

impacted enrollment at the University of Wyoming. The University's enrollment for the fall 2021 semester (11,479) was the lowest since 1999.<sup>125</sup> The order may have impacted public school enrollment, too, which fell by 2% between the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 school years.

**RACE/ETHNICITY OF WYOMING PRE-K STUDENTS AND ADULTS, 2021**

	% CHILDREN ENROLLED IN PRE-K <sup>126</sup>	% ADULTS (18+) <sup>2127,3128</sup>
American Indian/Alaska Native	7.1%	2.0%
Asian	0.2%	0.9%
Black	1.5%	0.8%
Hispanic or Latino	20.1%	10.2%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0.0%	0.1%
Two or More Races	5.2%	4.1%
White	65.9%	81.4%



## RACE & ETHNICITY OF K-12 STUDENTS ARE CHANGING

*Number and percentage of Wyoming school population*

	2011-12 SCHOOL YEAR		2021-22 SCHOOL YEAR		Number +/-
	Number	%	Number	%	
American Indian/Alaska Native	2,963	3.3%	2,917	3.2%	-46 students ↘
Asian	765	0.8%	624	0.7%	-141 ↘
Black	1,024	1.1%	839	0.9%	-185 ↘
Hispanic	11,696	12.9%	13,206	14.4%	1,510 ↗
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	178	0.2%	142	0.2%	-36 ↘
Two or More Races	1,477	1.6%	3,283	3.6%	1,806 ↗
White	72,890	80.1%	70,981	77.2%	-1,909 ↘
TOTAL	90,993	100.0%	91,992	100.0%	999 ↗

Wyoming Department of Education

## ON-TIME GRADUATION RATE BY RACE

*Percentage of high school students graduating within four years*

	2011-12 SCHOOL YEAR	2020-21 SCHOOL YEAR	+/-
	%	%	
American Indian/Alaska Native	50.0%	52.9%	2.9% ↗
Asian Alone	84.9%	93.0%	8.1% ↗
Black	67.1%	80.0%	12.9% ↗
Hispanic	66.7%	78.3%	11.6% ↗
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	100.0%	75.0%	-25.0% ↘
Two or More Races	74.2%	76.6%	2.4% ↗
White	81.7%	84.5%	2.8% ↗
TOTAL	78.9%	82.5%	3.6% ↗

Wyoming Department of Education

## UNDER-EDUCATED MOTHERS

*Percentage of mothers who did not have at least a high school diploma at the time of birth*

	2011	2020	+/-
<b>Wyoming</b>	<b>12.2%</b>	<b>9.1%</b>	↘
Albany	6.3%	3.0%	↘
Big Horn	17.0%	7.8%	↘
Campbell	13.2%	9.2%	↘
Carbon	16.3%	11.7%	↘
Converse	9.7%	9.2%	↘
Crook	7.8%	8.3%	↗
Fremont	17.5%	17.1%	↘
Goshen	11.0%	12.8%	↗
Hot Springs	9.6%	*	
Johnson	12.9%	*	
Laramie	10.6%	8.3%	↘
Lincoln	7.7%	4.2%	↘
Natrona	12.3%	11.0%	↘
Niobrara	*	20.0%	
Park	7.4%	4.0%	↘
Platte	19.0%	11.7%	↘
Sheridan	8.4%	8.3%	↘
Sublette	7.9%	*	
Sweetwater	16.1%	12.6%	↘
Teton	17.3%	6.8%	↘
Uinta	11.3%	7.4%	↘
Washakie	21.6%	7.6%	↘
Weston	*	*	

An "\*" indicates counties where fewer than five children were born to mothers with less than a high school diploma

Wyoming Department of Health, Wyoming Vital Statistics

## ON-TIME GRADUATION RATE

Percentage of high school students graduating within four years

	2011-2012	2020-2021	+/-		2011-2012	2020-2021	+/-
Wyoming	78.9%	82.5%	↗	Lincoln #1	75.5%	94.7%	↗
Albany #1	85.3%	85.8%	↗	Lincoln #2	86.8%	84.2%	↘
Big Horn #1	83.1%	76.1%	↘	Natrona #1	74.1%	80.3%	↗
Big Horn #2	92.2%	89.7%	↘	Niobrara #1	45.1%	63.7%	↗
Big Horn #3	97.4%	92.9%	↘	Park #1	82.5%	94.2%	↗
Big Horn #4	90.0%	87.0%	↘	Park #6	87.1%	86.9%	↘
Campbell #1	81.1%	84.0%	↗	Park #16	83.3%	88.9%	↗
Carbon #1	71.9%	78.7%	↗	Platte #1	81.6%	80.0%	↘
Carbon #2	91.7%	91.9%	↗	Platte #2	72.2%	92.3%	↗
Converse #1	83.0%	87.6%	↗	Sheridan #1	90.4%	76.2%	↘
Converse #2	80.3%	94.0%	↗	Sheridan #2	85.4%	85.8%	↗
Crook #1	94.6%	87.2%	↘	Sheridan #3	75.0%	100.0%	↗
Fremont #1	86.2%	85.7%	↘	Sublette #1	91.0%	94.1%	↗
Fremont #2	76.9%	87.5%	↗	Sublette #9	84.8%	95.0%	↗
Fremont #6	93.5%	92.3%	↘	Sweetwater #1	78.2%	75.5%	↘
Fremont #14	40.0%	57.1%	↗	Sweetwater #2	85.2%	89.5%	↗
Fremont #21	11.1%	41.7%	↗	Teton #1	81.4%	97.6%	↗
Fremont #24	83.9%	91.7%	↗	Uinta #1	76.4%	81.4%	↗
Fremont #25	73.5%	66.5%	↘	Uinta #4	87.1%	92.5%	↗
Fremont #38	26.3%	17.7%	↘	Uinta #6	81.0%	90.5%	↗
Goshen #1	81.2%	84.3%	↗	Washakie #1	86.2%	80.2%	↘
Hot Springs #1	89.5%	87.8%	↘	Washakie #2	100.0%	100.0%	=
Johnson #1	86.2%	87.6%	↗	Weston #1	83.3%	90.2%	↗
Laramie #1	71.5%	80.3%	↗	Weston #7	83.3%	94.7%	↗
Laramie #2	87.5%	89.0%	↗				

Wyoming Department of Education

## ENGLISH/LANGUAGE ARTS PROFICIENCY

*Percentage of 4th grade students proficient or advanced in English and language arts*

	2020-2021
Wyoming	48.7%
Albany #1	51.0%
Big Horn #1	65.1%
Big Horn #2	52.1%
Big Horn #3	58.3%
Big Horn #4	55.6%
Campbell #1	44.9%
Carbon #1	42.7%
Carbon #2	36.6%
Converse #1	49.5%
Converse #2	28.8%
Crook #1	47.8%
Fremont #1	51.6%
Fremont #2	6.7%
Fremont #6	71.4%
Fremont #14	17.2%
Fremont #21	55.6%
Fremont #24	48.9%
Fremont #25	5.3%
Fremont #38	37.5%
Goshen #1	49.2%
Hot Springs #1	67.7%
Johnson #1	52.3%
Laramie #1	46.5%
Laramie #2	41.9%

	2020-2021
Lincoln #1	66.0%
Lincoln #2	63.8%
Natrona #1	44.2%
Niobrara #1	37.0%
Park #1	60.8%
Park #6	52.6%
Park #16	58.6%
Platte #1	44.3%
Platte #2	25.9%
Sheridan #1	55.6%
Sheridan #2	62.1%
Sheridan #3	66.7%
Sublette #1	61.7%
Sublette #9	30.8%
Sweetwater #1	44.5%
Sweetwater #2	61.6%
Teton #1	55.1%
Uinta #1	52.6%
Uinta #4	41.2%
Uinta #6	51.1%
Washakie #1	52.0%
Washakie #2	71.4%
Weston #1	43.1%
Weston #7	45.5%

Wyoming Department of Education



## SUPPORTING STUDENT PARENTS DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND BEYOND

Wyomingites strongly value life-long learning, whether pursuing a college degree, learning a trade, or developing specialized skills. They know learning is an investment in the future. Many Wyomingites who were planning to attend college in the fall of 2021, at the height of the COVID 19 pandemic, however, delayed their plans to start college, enrolled in schools closer to home, took fewer classes, or withdrew from school completely. While the pandemic impacted all students to some degree, students who were also parents (student parents) were particularly hard hit.

Results from the US Census Bureau's Household Pulse Survey (COVID-19), which collected data from Wyoming residents in September 2021, indicate the following:

33,262 Wyoming households included one or more people planning on attending university, community college, trade school, or some other occupational school (such as cosmetology or culinary arts school) in the fall of 2021. Of these, 12,186 households did not include student parents, and 21,076 households included student parents.

### IN STUDENT PARENT HOUSEHOLDS:



**24%** included children under age 5



**55%** included school-age (age 5 to 11)



**33%**

vs.



**21%**

of **student parent households** reported canceling plans to attend school or taking fewer classes.

of **households that did not include student parents** reported canceling plans to attend school or taking fewer classes.



**46%**

reported it **somewhat** or **very difficult** to pay for typical household expenses like food, rent, car payments, medical expenses, or student loans.



**51%**

reported they **sometimes** or **often** did not have enough to eat.



**STUDENT PARENTS WHO CANCELED PLANS TO ATTEND SCHOOL OR TOOK FEWER CLASSES GAVE MANY REASONS FOR CHANGING THEIR PLANS:**



**19%**

changed their plans to care for someone whose care arrangements were disrupted



**44%**

changed their plans because they were unable to pay for classes



**19%**

changed their plans because of changes to their financial aid

## CALL TO ACTION

We must help ensure all Wyoming's students, but especially Wyoming's student parents—who bore the important responsibility of caring for their families during a global pandemic—have the support they need to pursue their education.

**1**

**INVEST IN STUDENT PARENTS:** The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) provides federal funds to “deliver immediate economic relief” to Americans impacted by the pandemic.<sup>129</sup> Schools should distribute ARPA funds to student parents who are struggling to cover their living expenses (food, rent or mortgage, car payments, medical expenses, and student loans).

**2**

**COLLECT DATA ON THE STATUS OF STUDENT PARENTS:** All Wyoming institutions of higher education should collect data on parenting status to better understand the additional challenges faced by their students who are also parenting young children.

## Community Care Sites – An Innovative Solution

Teton County Commissioner Natalia Macker has proposed a plan that would provide affordable child care options for parents, especially women, who want to further their education or return to work. If implemented, this plan would also support the growth of a high quality and sustainable early education workforce by providing students in early education programs with opportunities to gain practical skills. Macker's plan proposes locating child care facilities in Wyoming's community colleges and agricultural extension offices across the state.



## MATH PROFICIENCY

*Percentage of 4th grade students proficient or advanced in math*

	2020-2021
<i>Wyoming</i>	49.8%
Albany #1	49.5%
Big Horn #1	60.5%
Big Horn #2	57.8%
Big Horn #3	66.7%
Big Horn #4	44.4%
Campbell #1	49.2%
Carbon #1	43.9%
Carbon #2	41.5%
Converse #1	57.1%
Converse #2	44.1%
Crook #1	58.9%
Fremont #1	46.3%
Fremont #2	≤ 5.0%
Fremont #6	71.4%
Fremont #14	≤ 5.0%
Fremont #21	59.3%
Fremont #24	50.4%
Fremont #25	≤ 5.0%
Fremont #38	41.7%
Goshen #1	42.2%
Hot Springs #1	64.7%
Johnson #1	56.8%
Laramie #1	41.6%
Laramie #2	52.9%

	2020-2021
Lincoln #1	80.0%
Lincoln #2	65.1%
Natrona #1	42.8%
Niobrara #1	25.0%
Park #1	69.4%
Park #6	47.4%
Park #16	55.9%
Platte #1	45.9%
Platte #2	18.5%
Sheridan #1	58.6%
Sheridan #2	75.8%
Sheridan #3	66.7%
Sublette #1	80.3%
Sublette #9	53.9%
Sweetwater #1	47.0%
Sweetwater #2	62.8%
Teton #1	54.2%
Uinta #1	52.6%
Uinta #4	43.3%
Uinta #6	53.2%
Washakie #1	55.8%
Washakie #2	71.4%
Weston #1	47.1%
Weston #7	63.6%

Wyoming Department of Education



## CHILDREN WITH A DISABILITY BY AGE GROUP

*Of all children, percentage living with a long-lasting physical, mental, or emotional condition*

	2020			
	UNDER 5 YEARS		5 TO 17	
	Number	%	Number	%
Wyoming	175	0.5%	4,972	5.0%
Albany	0	0.0%	135	3.1%
Big Horn	0	0.0%	122	5.4%
Campbell	0	0.0%	328	3.5%
Carbon	0	0.0%	93	3.7%
Converse	0	0.0%	55	2.2%
Crook	0	0.0%	38	2.9%
Fremont	3	0.1%	279	3.8%
Goshen	19	2.2%	136	7.5%
Hot Springs	0	0.0%	15	2.5%
Johnson	0	0.0%	76	5.9%
Laramie	26	0.4%	1,140	6.8%
Lincoln	6	0.4%	180	4.6%
Natrona	48	0.9%	876	6.3%
Niobrara	0	0.0%	29	7.0%
Park	0	0.0%	163	3.6%
Platte	0	0.0%	93	8.2%
Sheridan	0	0.0%	85	1.7%
Sublette	0	0.0%	89	5.2%
Sweetwater	63	2.2%	440	5.2%
Teton	0	0.0%	54	1.7%
Uinta	0	0.0%	450	10.3%
Washakie	0	0.0%	55	4.0%
Weston	10	2.9%	41	4.1%

Reported disabilities include hearing difficulty, vision difficulty, cognitive difficulty, ambulatory difficulty, self-care difficulty, and independent living difficulty

American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates

## CHILD CARE FACILITIES

*Capacity and number of licensed child care facilities*

	2017		2021			
	Child Care Facilities	Child Care Capacity	Child Care Facilities	Child Care Capacity	Facilities +/-	Capacity +/-
<b>Wyoming</b>	<b>697</b>	<b>21,029</b>	<b>608</b>	<b>21,492</b>	<b>-89 ↘</b>	<b>463 ↗</b>
Albany	36	1,299	32	1,237	-4 ↘	-62 ↘
Big Horn	18	616	13	243	-5 ↘	-373 ↘
Campbell	62	1,617	48	1,753	-14 ↘	136 ↗
Carbon	16	283	19	620	3 ↗	337 ↗
Converse	21	417	18	450	-3 ↘	33 ↗
Crook	7	197	7	229	0 =	32 ↗
Fremont	53	1,194	39	967	-14 ↘	-227 ↘
Goshen	20	470	23	563	3 ↗	93 ↗
Hot Springs	12	175	10	201	-2 ↘	26 ↗
Johnson	14	472	12	523	-2 ↘	51 ↗
Laramie	101	3,922	97	4,121	-4 ↘	199 ↗
Lincoln	27	590	29	669	2 ↗	79 ↗
Natrona	105	3,642	86	3,867	-19 ↘	225 ↗
Niobrara	3	74	1	49	-2 ↘	-25 ↘
Park	39	1,061	36	991	-3 ↘	-70 ↘
Platte	9	230	7	238	-2 ↘	8 ↗
Sheridan	32	1,178	29	1,172	-3 ↘	-6 ↘
Sublette	11	306	9	321	-2 ↘	15 ↗
Sweetwater	36	948	33	988	-3 ↘	40 ↗
Teton	30	860	25	922	-5 ↘	62 ↗
Uinta	26	959	19	855	-7 ↘	-104 ↘
Washakie	12	259	8	264	-4 ↘	5 ↗
Weston	7	260	8	249	1 ↗	-11 ↘

Wyoming Department of Family Services, Early Childhood Program

## PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS

*Number of preschool programs in Wyoming*

	2012-2013	2021-2022	+/-
<b>Wyoming</b>	21	44	23 ↗
Albany	2	4	2 ↗
Big Horn	2	3	1 ↗
Campbell	1	2	1 ↗
Carbon	0	1	1 ↗
Converse	0	0	NO CHANGE
Crook	0	0	NO CHANGE
Fremont	4	7	3 ↗
Goshen	0	0	NO CHANGE
Hot Springs	0	1	1 ↗
Johnson	0	0	NO CHANGE
Laramie	0	11	11 ↗
Lincoln	0	1	1 ↗
Natrona	12	9	-3 ↘
Niobrara	0	1	1 ↗
Park	0	1	1 ↗
Platte	0	2	2 ↗
Sheridan	0	0	NO CHANGE
Sublette	0	0	NO CHANGE
Sweetwater	0	0	NO CHANGE
Teton	0	0	NO CHANGE
Uinta	0	0	NO CHANGE
Washakie	0	1	1 ↗
Weston	0	0	NO CHANGE

Wyoming Department of Family Services, Early Childhood Program

# CHILDCARE IN WYOMING

## AFFORDABILITY AND AVAILABILITY

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For many families in Wyoming, lack of accessible childcare is a barrier to parental employment<sup>130</sup> – especially for mothers. When childcare is available, it can lead to greater financial stability for families and overall economic growth for communities.<sup>131</sup> Lack of childcare can force parents to choose between going to work and staying home.<sup>132</sup> Even when childcare is affordable, many Wyoming communities do not have the capacity to serve all the children who need care.<sup>133</sup>

### AFFORDABILITY: THE COST OF CHILDCARE IN WYOMING

According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, for childcare to be affordable for poor and low-income families—families living at or below 200% of the federal poverty level (FPL)—the cost should not exceed 7% of their household income.<sup>134</sup> This means that for a family of four with a household income of \$55,500, they should pay less than \$3,885 per year in childcare.<sup>135</sup>

The FPL is a threshold below which a family's income is not enough to cover basic needs. The cost of basic needs is set at the expense of a “minimum food diet” in 1963, adjusted for inflation and family size.<sup>136</sup> Although used as a threshold, the FPL is an imperfect measure: it is outdated—having been set in 1963, nor does it take into account expenses like health insurance, childcare, and income taxes.<sup>137</sup> Also, although it recognizes higher living expenses for households in Alaska and Hawaii, it does not recognize geographic differences in the cost of living in other parts of the US.<sup>138</sup> That is, the poverty threshold is the same for households in California or New York as it is for households in Wyoming.<sup>139</sup>



In Wyoming, the median cost of full-time care for one infant and one preschooler was \$1,418 per month in 2020.<sup>140</sup> Without assistance, a single mother living at 100% of FPL would spend 78% of her household income on childcare for one infant and one preschooler.<sup>141</sup> Even at 200% of FPL, this single mother would spend 37% of her household income on childcare.<sup>142</sup> The Department of Family Services (DFS) has temporarily raised subsidies to 75% of the cost of childcare, but many families do not have access to providers who accept the subsidies or do not know these subsidies are available to them.

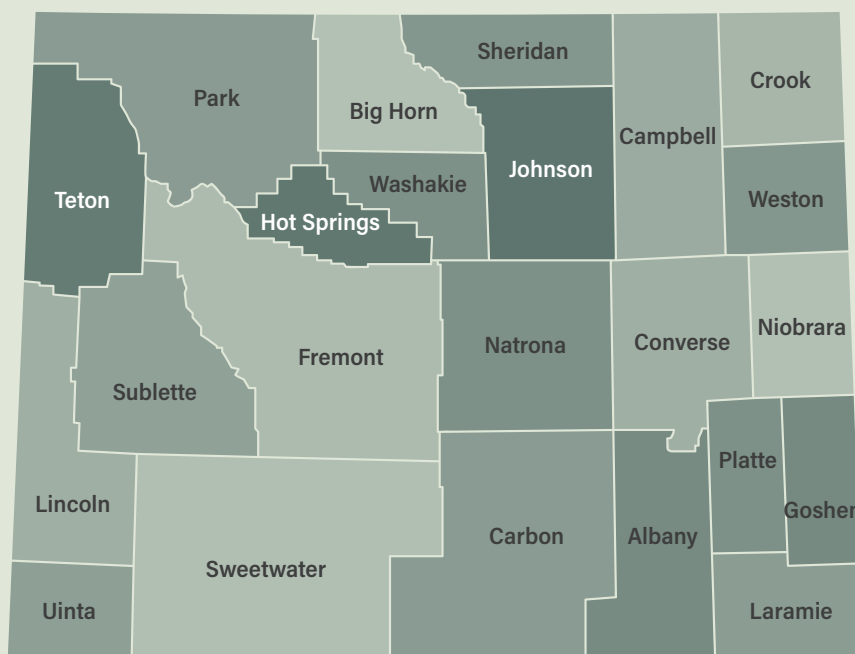
## AVAILABILITY: WYOMING'S CHILDCARE DESERTS

In rural and small communities, available childcare options are often few and far between.<sup>143</sup> In Wyoming, more than one-third (34%) of families live in childcare deserts.<sup>144</sup> A childcare desert is a census tract with at least 50 children under the age of five that has either of the following:

- 1** No licensed childcare providers OR
- 2** More than three times as many children under the age of five as licensed care slots.<sup>145</sup>

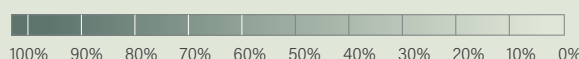
Parents working nontraditional hours—early mornings, evenings, overnight, or weekends—have even fewer options.<sup>146</sup> According to the DFS Childcare Information website ([www.findchildcarewy.org](http://www.findchildcarewy.org)), only 13 of the state's 610 licensed providers offer weekend care.<sup>147</sup>

### PERCENTAGE OF CHILD CARE CAPACITY NEEDS EACH WYOMING COUNTY CAN MEET



Source: U.S. Census Bureau & WYSAC analysis of the DFS January 2022 Active Provider List.

WYOMING SURVEY & ANALYSIS CENTER



## WHAT YOU CAN DO:

- 1** Support the Targeted Early Childhood Workforce Program funded by the American Rescue Plan Act. This program, managed by the Wyoming Department of Workforce Services, provides training opportunities and scholarships to students pursuing degrees in early childhood education and offers sign-on and retention incentives to childcare staff.<sup>148</sup>
- 2** Support higher wages for childcare workers, which helps keep good childcare workers. The median hourly wage for childcare workers in Wyoming is \$11.22.<sup>149</sup> To learn more about the cost of childcare and the hourly wage required to be self-sufficient in every Wyoming county, check out the Wyoming Self Sufficiency calculator, <https://wywf.org/self-sufficiency-calculator/>.
- 3** Encourage policy makers to increase the childcare subsidy. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Wyoming used federal funds to temporarily increase childcare subsidies (rates are set to return to pre-pandemic levels by 2024).<sup>150</sup>
- 4** Educate Wyoming parents about financial assistance programs. An estimated 14,870 children are eligible for childcare subsidies<sup>151</sup> although only 1 in 5 subsidy-eligible children receive childcare assistance.<sup>152</sup> More information about childcare financial assistance in Wyoming is available at <https://dfs.wyo.gov/services/family-services/child-care/>.
- 5** Advocate to make permanent DFS subsidies that help families cover up to 75% of their childcare costs.
- 6** Provide support to childcare providers who want to accept subsidies. Currently, only 63% of licensed providers in Wyoming accept subsidies.<sup>153</sup> Many childcare providers are interested in accepting subsidies but find the process complicated and overwhelming.<sup>154</sup>





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# ABOUT THE DATA

## SOURCES

**American Community Survey (ACS).** The American Community Survey (ACS) is a nationwide continuous survey that collects demographic, housing, social, and economic data. The U.S. Census Bureau randomly selects a sample of addresses to receive the survey in the mail. The ACS provides 1-Year and 5-Year estimates (data collected over 12 months and 60 months, respectively). The Census Bureau advises that although 5-Year estimates are the least current, they are the most accurate. Annual (1-Year) estimates are only provided for geographic areas with populations of 65,000 or greater.

**IPUMS USA.** IPUMS USA collects, preserves, integrates, and enhances U.S. census microdata. Data includes decennial censuses from 1790 to 2020 and ACS data from 2000 to the present.

**U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division.** Each year, the U.S. Census Bureau produces and publishes estimates of its resident population for the nation, states, counties, state/county equivalents, and Puerto Rico. The resident population includes all people currently residing in the United States. With each annual release of population estimates, the Population Estimates Program revises and updates the entire time series of estimates from April 1, 2010 to July 1 of the current year, which is referred to as the vintage year. The term “vintage” denotes an entire time series created with a consistent population starting point and methodology. The release of a new vintage of estimates supersedes any previous series and incorporates the most up-to-date input data and methodological improvements.

**Wyoming Department of Education.** The Wyoming Department of Education collects and reports data on student assessments and graduation rates in Wyoming.

**Wyoming Department of Health, Vital Statistics Services.** Wyoming Vital Statistics Services collects and reports data on births, birth outcomes, and deaths in Wyoming.

**Household Pulse Survey (COVID-19).** The U.S. Census Bureau administers the Household Pulse Survey (COVID-19) to study how the pandemic has affected households across the country. The survey gathers information on many topics including child care, employment, finances, food security, and health. The U.S. Census Bureau randomly selects U.S. households to

participate in the survey and fielded the first survey in April 2020.

## DEMOGRAPHICS

**Total population:** SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, July 1, 2011 population estimate and July 1, 2020 population estimate.

**Total population by race and ethnicity:** SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, July 1, 2011 population estimate and July 1, 2020 population estimate.

**Total population by county.** SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, July 1, 2011 population estimate and July 1, 2020 population estimate.

**Total adult population, 18 and older:** SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, July 1, 2011 population estimate and July 1, 2020 population estimate.

**Total child population, 0 to 17:** SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, July 1, 2011 population estimate and July 1, 2020 population estimate.

**Total population, 5 and younger:** SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, July 1, 2011 population estimate and July 1, 2020 population estimate.

**Total population, 5 to 17:** SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, July 1, 2011 population estimate and July 1, 2020 population estimate.

**Total young adult population, 18 to 24:** SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, July 1, 2011 population estimate and July 1, 2020 population estimate.

**Community Resilience:** SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, Community Resilience Estimates, 2019.

## FAMILY STRUCTURE

### **Related children living in married couple families:**

Of all related children under 18 living in households, the percentage who are living with a married couple to whom they are related by birth, marriage, or adoption. A married couple can be two individuals involved in a formal or common-law marriage, including same-sex couples. SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, ACS 2011 and 2020 5-Year Estimates.

**Related children living in single-parent families:** Of

all related children under 18 living in households, the percentage who are living with a single parent to whom they are related by birth, marriage, or adoption. The single parent can be a grandparent, aunt, uncle, sibling, cousin, etc. SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, ACS 2011 and 2020 5-Year Estimates.

**Related children living in single-father families:** Of all related children under 18 living in households, the percentage who are living with a single father to whom they are related by birth, marriage, or adoption. The single father can be a father, grandfather, uncle, brother, cousin, etc. SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, ACS 2011 and 2020 5-Year Estimates.

**Related children living in single-mother families:** Of all related children under 18 living in households, the percentage who are living with a single mother to whom they are related by birth, marriage, or adoption. The single mother can be a mother, grandmother, aunt, sister, cousin, etc. SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, ACS 2011 and 2020 5-Year Estimates.

**Births to teens:** A 5-year average of all births to mothers who are between 15 and 19. The number of births to teens younger than 15 is reported nationally; however, the number of births to Wyoming mothers younger than 15 is too small to report. SOURCE: Wyoming Department of Health, Vital Statistics Services, 2011-2015 and 2016-2020.

## INCOME & POVERTY

**Annual income men:** Median earnings in the past 12 months (in 2020 inflation-adjusted dollars) for full-time, year-round civilian employed males, 16 years and older. Full-time workers are persons who typically worked 35 hours or more per week for 50 to 52 weeks in the past 12 months. SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, ACS 2016 and 2020 5-Year Estimates.

**Annual income women:** Median earnings in the past 12 months (in 2020 inflation-adjusted dollars) for full-time, year-round civilian employed females, 16 years and older. Full-time workers are persons who typically worked 35 hours or more per week for 50 to 52 weeks in the past 12 months. SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, ACS 2016 and 2020 5-Year Estimates.

**Wage ratio:** The percentage obtained by dividing women's median earnings by men's median earnings. SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, ACS 2016 and 2020 5-Year Estimates.

**Wage gap:** The difference in earnings between men and women calculated by subtracting the wage ratio from 1. SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, ACS 2016 and 2020

5-Year Estimates.

**Related children living in poverty:** Of all related children under 18 living in households, the percentage who are living with a householder to whom they are related by birth, marriage, or adoption and in which the household's total family income is below the appropriate poverty threshold. The appropriate poverty threshold is determined by family size, number of children, and age of the householder (in one- and two-person families). SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, ACS 2011 and 2020 5-Year Estimates.

**Related children in single-parent families living in poverty:** Of all related children under 18 living in households, the percentage who are living with a single parent to whom they are related by birth, marriage, or adoption and in which the household's total family income is below the appropriate poverty threshold. The appropriate poverty threshold is dependent on family size, number of children, and age of the householder (in one- and two-person families). SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, ACS 2011 and 2020 5-Year Estimates.

**Related children in married couple families living in poverty:** Of all related children under 18 living in households, the percentage who are living with a married couple to whom they are related by birth, marriage, or adoption in which the household's total family income is below the appropriate poverty threshold. The appropriate poverty threshold is dependent on family size, number of children, and age of the householder. A married couple can be two individuals involved in a formal or common-law marriage, including same-sex couples. SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, ACS 2011 and 2020 5-Year Estimates.

**Related children in single-father families living in poverty:** Of all related children under 18 living in households, the percentage who are living with a single father to whom they are related by birth, marriage, or adoption and in which the household's total family income is below the appropriate poverty threshold. The appropriate poverty threshold is dependent on family size, number of children, and age of the householder (in one- and two-person families). SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, ACS 2011 and 2020 5-Year Estimates.

**Related children in single-mother families living in poverty:** Of all related children under 18 living in households, the percentage who are living with a single mother to whom they are related by birth, marriage, or adoption and in which the household's total family income is below the appropriate poverty threshold. The appropriate poverty threshold is dependent on family size, number of children, and age of the householder (in

one- and two-person families). SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, ACS 2011 and 2020 5-Year Estimates.

**Women, Infants, and Children (WIC):** Of all births, the percentage to mothers who self-reported enrollment in Women, Infants and Children (WIC). WIC is a supplemental nutrition program that provides grants to the states for supplemental food, healthcare referrals, and nutrition education for low-income pregnant, breastfeeding, and non-breastfeeding postpartum women, and for infants and children, 0 to 5, who are found to be at nutritional risk. SOURCE: Wyoming Department of Health, Vital Statistics Services, 2011 and 2020.

**Food Stamps/Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP):** Percentage of all households receiving benefits from the Food Stamp Program or the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) in the past 12 months. SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, ACS 2011 and 2020 5-Year Estimates.

## CHILD AND MATERNAL HEALTH

**Total number of live births:** SOURCE: Wyoming Department of Health, Vital Statistics Services, 2011 and 2020.

**Births to unmarried mothers:** Of all births, the percentage to mothers who are unmarried. SOURCE: Wyoming Department of Health, Vital Statistics Services, 2011 and 2020.

**Cesarean birth:** Of all births, the percentage who are delivered via cesarean section. SOURCE: Wyoming Department of Health, Vital Statistics Services, 2011 and 2020.

**Preterm birth:** Of all births, the percentage who are born before 37 weeks gestation. SOURCE: Wyoming Department of Health, Vital Statistics Services, 2011 and 2020.

**Mothers who received less than adequate prenatal care:** Of all births, the percentage to mothers who self-report receiving less than 80% of prenatal visits recommended by the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG), beginning in the 4th month of pregnancy. SOURCE: Wyoming Department of Health, Vital Statistics Services, 2011 and 2020.

**Mothers who smoked during pregnancy:** Of all births, the percentage of mothers who self-report smoking at least one cigarette during their pregnancy. SOURCE: Wyoming Department of Health, Vital Statistics Services, 2011 and 2020.

**Low birth-weight babies:** Of all births, percentage who weigh less than 5 pounds 8 ounces at birth. SOURCE: Wyoming Department of Health, Vital Statistics Services,

2011 and 2020.

**Infant mortality-rate:** A 5-year average of deaths of live born infants under 1 year, per 1,000 live births. SOURCE: Wyoming Department of Health, Vital Statistics Services, 2011-2015 and 2016-2020.

**Out-of-county births:** Of all births to resident mothers, the percentage who gave birth out of the county. SOURCE: Wyoming Department of Health, Vital Statistics Services, 2011 and 2020.

## HEALTHCARE

**Comprehensive Coverage:** Health insurance that covers basic healthcare needs. This definition excludes single-service plans such as accident, disability, dental, vision, or prescription medicine plans.

**Children without health insurance, 0 to 18:** Of all children, 0 to 18, the percentage who are not covered by a health insurance plan that provides "comprehensive health coverage." Long-term care, life, vision, dental, and disability insurance are not considered "comprehensive health coverage." Children whose only health coverage is provided by the Indian Health Service (IHS) are considered uninsured. SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, ACS 2020 5-Year Estimates.

**Children without health insurance, 0 to 5:** Of all children, 0 to 5, the percentage who are not covered by a health insurance plan that provides "comprehensive health coverage." Long-term care, life, vision, dental, and disability insurance are not considered "comprehensive health coverage." Children whose only health coverage is provided by IHS are considered uninsured. SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, ACS 2020 5-Year Estimates.

**Children without health insurance, 6 to 18:** Of all children, 6 to 18, the percentage who are not covered by a health insurance plan that provides "comprehensive health coverage." Long-term care, life, vision, dental, and disability insurance are not considered "comprehensive health coverage." Children whose only health coverage is provided by IHS are considered uninsured. SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, ACS 2020 5-Year Estimates.

**Births in which the primary source of payment was Medicaid:** Of all births, the percentage for which the primary source of payment was Medicaid. SOURCE: Wyoming Department of Health, Vital Statistics Services, 2011 and 2020.

## EDUCATION

**Race and ethnicity of K-12 population:** State fall enrollment by ethnicity and gender for Wyoming K-12 population. SOURCE: Wyoming Department of



Education, 2012-2013 and 2021-2022.

**Births to mothers with less than a high school**

**education:** Of all births, the percentage to mothers who do not have at least a high school education. SOURCE: Wyoming Department of Health, Vital Statistics Services, 2011 and 2020.

**Students graduating on-time:** The number of on-time graduates divided by the number of expected on-time graduates. Expected on-time graduates include all students promoted from eighth grade to ninth grade and students who transferred into the Wyoming public school system in any high school grade (grades 9 to 12). Students are not counted in a school's graduation rate if they exit before the end of their four years of expected high school enrollment because they transferred to a home school curriculum or any other diploma-granting high school, moved out of the country, or died. Students counted as not graduating on-time may have dropped out, left school to participate in a non-high school diploma-granting educational or trade program (including GED), or attended high school for four full years without graduating (may still be seeking a diploma in five or six years). SOURCE: Wyoming Department of Education, 2011-2012 and 2020-2021.

**Graduation rate by race:** Percentage of Wyoming students graduating high school in four years (on-time), by race. SOURCE: Wyoming Department of Education, 2011-2012 and 2020-2021.

**Fourth graders with proficient or advanced English language arts:** The percentage of fourth grade students who demonstrated an adequate (proficient) or thorough (advanced) ability to independently read and comprehend a variety of literary and informational texts of moderate to high (proficient) or high (advanced) complexity. SOURCE: Wyoming Department of Education, 2020-2021.

**Fourth graders with proficient or advanced math:** The percentage of fourth grade students who demonstrated an adequate (proficient) or thorough (advanced) ability to make sense of problems and persevere in solving them, reason abstractly and quantitatively, construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others, model with mathematics, use appropriate tools strategically, attend to precision, look for and make use of structure, and look for and express regularity in repeated reasoning. SOURCE: Wyoming Department of Education, 2020-2021.

**Children living with a disability.** Of all children, the percentage living with a long-lasting physical, mental, or emotional condition. This condition can make it difficult for a person to engage in activities such as

walking, climbing stairs, dressing, bathing, learning, or remembering. This condition can also impede a person's ability to go outside the home alone or to work at a job or business. SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, ACS 2020 5-Year Estimates.

**Child Care Capacity.** The combined maximum number of child care slots allowed in a child care center at any one time. SOURCE: Wyoming Department of Family Services, Early Childhood Program, 2017 and 2021.

**Child Care Facilities.** The number of child care centers, family child care centers, and family child care homes currently licensed by the Wyoming Department of Family Services. SOURCE: Wyoming Department of Family Services, Early Childhood Program, 2017 and 2021.

**Preschool Programs.** Educational programs for children, ages 3 to 5. SOURCE: Wyoming Department of Education 2012-2013 and 2021-2022.

## METHODOLOGY

### *Supporting Student Parents*

WYSAC analyzed data from Week 38 of the Household Pulse Survey (COVID-19) collected from September 15, 2021 to September 27, 2021.

**Identifying Students:** WYSAC considered responses to be from or about students when one or more household member planned to take classes at a college, university, community college, trade school, or other occupational school in the fall of 2021.

**Identifying Student Parents:** WYSAC considered responses to be from or about student parents when one or more household member planned to take classes from a college, university, community college, trade school, or other occupational school in the fall of 2021 and at least one member of the household was under the age of 18.

**Limitations:** The Household Pulse Survey (COVID-19) collects data about American households, meaning most survey questions are about the respondent's household and not the individual respondent.

### *Child Care Capacity*

WYSAC calculated child care capacity by summing the capacity of every licensed child care facility in each county. We divided the number of capacity by the number of children age 0-5 in each county.

### *Wyoming's Low Wage Workers*

WYSAC analyzed of IPUMS USA microdata 2019 5-year estimates.

**Identifying Low-Wage Workers.** WYSAC defined low-

wage workers as civilian, non-institutionalized people, ages 16 and older, who worked for wages for 35 hours per week or more for at least 50 weeks in the previous 12 months and who earned less than \$15.00/hr.

### **Extending Postpartum Medicaid**

WYSAC analyzed Wyoming Department of Health data on postpartum Medicaid coverage for women with Medicaid coverage who gave birth between January 1, 2020 and December 31, 2020.

**Medicaid for Pregnant Women:** Wyoming Medicaid provides health coverage for pregnant women for up to 60 days postpartum. To be eligible, a woman must be pregnant, have income at or below 154% of the federal poverty level, be a U.S. citizen or lawfully present in the U.S., and be a Wyoming resident.

**Medicaid for Parent and Caretaker Relatives:** The Parent and Caretaker Relative Program provides health coverage for parents and caretaker relatives who provide a home and day-to-day care of a child under the age of 18. To be eligible, the parent or caretaker relative of a Medicaid-eligible child under the age of 18 must have a modified adjusted gross income at or below program guidelines, be a U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident who has lived in the U.S. for at least five years, and reside in Wyoming.

**The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA):** The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) extended postpartum Medicaid benefits during the COVID-19 public health emergency.

### **A NOTE ON SMALL NUMBERS**

WYSAC calculated some data in the Wyoming Counts Kids Data Book from the entire population of Wyoming. For example, WYSAC used data on every birth to a Wyoming mother to calculate the percentage of low birth-weight babies. Other data included in the Counts Kids data book come from nationwide surveys (e.g., the ACS). These surveys do not collect data from every single person in the state. Instead, a smaller number of Wyomingites (a sample) are randomly chosen to represent the entire state. On these surveys, data are collected from some people in a group but not all people in a group. We show this data in the book as an estimated value. Statisticians use a statistic, called the margin of error, to describe how precise the estimate is. The margin of error shows the possible range of values expected to contain the true value for the entire population.

To illustrate, let's say we want to know how many children in single-parent families live below the poverty level. It would cost too much money and take too much time to ask every single-parent about their family's

income, so instead, the ACS asks a random sample of Wyoming single parents. By doing this, they estimated that 10,406 Wyoming children in single-parent families live below the poverty level. Because that number is an estimate based on responses from a sample of Wyoming single parents, the ACS calculated a margin of error (+/- 1,074). This means that we can be confident that the true number of children in single-parent families living below the poverty level is somewhere between 9,332 (10,406 -1,074) and 11,480 (10,406 + 1,074).

The accuracy of the estimate is, in part, dependent on the number of people from the total population included in the sample. Given the rural nature of Wyoming, the margin of error can be very large for Wyoming counties. Continuing with the above example, the estimated number of children in single-parent families living below the poverty level for Albany County is 338 and the margin of error is +/- 213. This means that we can be confident the true number of children in single-parent families living below the poverty level is between 125 and 551.

In sparsely populated states like Wyoming, estimates can vary widely from year to year. Readers should take care when comparing estimates between counties or over time.



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