



LEARN • CONNECT • ACT

www.ACTRochester.org

Wyoming County

General Overview

Formed in 1841, rural Wyoming County lies in the southwest corner of the Finger Lakes Region. Wyoming is home to a large portion of the picturesque Letchworth State Park, as well as the Attica State Prison. The county has had one of the greatest declines in population since 2000, and its tourism website boasts of being home to “more cows than people.” Wyoming’s unemployment rate is a bit higher than the state, nation, and region as a whole. However, crime rates have fallen sharply since 2000, and the county’s graduation rate is among the highest in the region.

Demographic Overview

Wyoming experienced the second greatest population decline in the region:

- From 2000 to 2016, Wyoming lost 6.1% of its total population. This is the second-largest decline in the region, and contrasts to population increases for the state (4%), nation (14.8%), and region as a whole (1.1%).
- In 2016, Wyoming was home to just under 41,000 residents, making it the third smallest county in the region. Wyoming accounted for just over 3% of the region’s total population.

Similar to other counties in the upstate region, Wyoming has experienced substantial declines in its number of youth and young adults, as well as growth in its older population:

- The number of Wyoming residents between the ages of 60 and 84 grew by 23% from 2000 to 2012-16, in line with the increase for the region and less than the national increase. The share of adults aged 85 and older fell by 2%; the only other decrease in the regional counties was in Yates.
- Over the same period, the number of residents under 20 years of age fell by 21% - the second-largest decline in the region— and the number of residents aged 20 to 39 declined by 17%, much higher than the state and regional drops of 1% and 6%, respectively.

Wyoming’s minority populations fell slightly from 2000 to 2012-16, versus much larger increases nationally, statewide, and for the region:

- The number of white residents declined by 5%, the African American population declined 5%, the Asian population decreased 14%; however, the Hispanic population rose by 3% from 2000 to 2012-16.
- In 2012-16, Wyoming was 92% white, less diverse than the region as a whole (82% white) but slightly more so than most counties surrounding Monroe.

In 2012-16, Wyoming had a smaller share of married couples with children (18%) and a larger share of married couples without children (33%) than the region, state, and nation. Wyoming's share of married couples with children dropped from 26% of total households in 2000.

Arts and Culture

Tourism revenue per resident has increased but remains below the state and region:

- In 2016, tourism revenue was \$1,060 per resident, compared to \$3,240 statewide and \$1,305 for the region.
- Wyoming's rate in 2016 was higher than in any year since 2005, and was 26% higher than its rate in 2005.

Recreation spending per resident (\$168) in 2016 was higher than the region (\$72) and all regional counties except Genesee, but below the state (\$363). Recreation spending grew by 14% from 2005 to 2016, compared to a drop of 5% for the region.

Children and Youth

The child poverty rate in Wyoming has increased since 2000 but is the fourth lowest in the region:

- In 2012-16, 17% of children in Wyoming lived below the poverty line, compared to 21% nationally and regionally, and 22% statewide.
- From 2000 to 2012-16, the child poverty rate rose by 5 percentage points in Wyoming, a larger increase than the state (2 points), nation (4 points), and lower than the region (7 points).

Wyoming's rate of single-parent families increased from 2000:

- In 2012-16, 35% of Wyoming families were headed by a single parent, on par with the nation and below the state (37%) and region (39%).
- In contrast to the rate in 2012-16, 24% of Wyoming families were headed by a single parent in 2000, the lowest in the region. From 2000 to 2012-16, the rate grew by 11 points, the greatest increase in the region, and a greater increase than the nation (6 points), state (4 points), and region (8 points).

In 2015, 83% of Wyoming mothers received prenatal care in the first trimester, higher than the nation (77%), state (76%) and the region (79%). Wyoming's rate has fluctuated since 2000, but its 2015 rate was 1 point higher than in 2000.

In 2015, Wyoming's rate of low birth weight babies (5.7%) was less than the national (8.1%), state (7.8%) and regional rates (7.6%).

The rate of child abuse and neglect has decreased slightly since 2000. The 2016 rate of 19 per 1,000 was a decline of 3% since 2000. Wyoming's rate of abuse and neglect was higher than the state (16) and similar to the region (18).

In 2015, the rate of teen pregnancy in Wyoming was 1.5%, below the regional rate (2.2%). The number of teen pregnancies fell by 72% from 2000, greater than the regional decrease (62%).

Community Engagement

Wyoming County had one of the lower voter registration rates in the region:

- In 2016, 77% of voting-age adults were registered to vote, up 2 points since 2012. The registration rate in Wyoming was lower than the state (80%) and region (82%).
- The registration rate fell by 2 points from 2000, in contrast to small increases for the state (up 2 points) and region (up 1 point).

Similar to the region and state, midterm voter turnout has been decreasing in Wyoming:

- In the 2014 midterm elections, voter turnout in Wyoming was 35%, above the state (25%) and on par with the region. Turnout was down 3 points from the 2010 midterms. The state and region saw turnout declines of 6 and 5 points respectively.
- In the 2016 presidential election, the voter turnout rate was 53%, below the region (58%) and nation (55%) but above the state (50%). This was the second lowest turnout rate of the last five presidential elections.

Wyoming County's share of registered borrowers decreased by 49 points since 2000, but library visits have increased:

- In 2016, 38% of residents of Wyoming's county library system were registered borrowers, below the state (55%) and regional (63%) rates.
- The number of library visits has increased 12% in Wyoming, a larger increase than for the state (2%) and region (7%), but still a smaller increase than for many other counties in the region.

Average charitable donations increased by 10% from 2011 to 2015 in Wyoming. This increase was lower than the state and nation (up 26% and 23% respectively over that period). In 2015, the average donation was around \$3,070, below the regional (\$4,440) and the state (\$6,950) averages.

Economy

Despite a large rebound in the unemployment rate following the Great Recession, unemployment remains above the state, nation, and region:

- In 2016, the unemployment rate in Wyoming was 5.3%, above the nation (4.9%), state (4.8%), and region (4.7%).
- The unemployment rate fell by more than 4 points from its peak in 2010 – a greater decrease than the region. However, the rate remained nearly a half point above its low of 4.8% in 2000.

The total number of jobs in Wyoming decreased from 2001 to 2016, and there were significant changes in individual sectors:

- From 2001 to 2016, the total number of jobs in Wyoming decreased 2%. In comparison, the nation, state, and region all increased their total number of jobs during this time period (17%, 18%, and 4% increases respectively).
- Over that period, the Professional and Business Services sector increased 120%, while the Manufacturing sector declined by 26%. It is important to note that the small number of overall jobs for each sector means that a large increase in the sector's employment may represent a modest increase in total jobs.

- In 2016, the largest sector was Government, accounting for 23% of all jobs in the county. Other large sectors were Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (18% of jobs), and Manufacturing (10% of jobs).

Wyoming's average salary grew at a similar pace to the state and nation, and by more than the region, but remained relatively low:

- From 2000 to 2016, Wyoming's average salary grew by 9%, compared to a 9% increase for the nation, 8% for the state, and a 3% increase for the region.
- Wyoming's average salary in 2016 was \$40,060, lower than the nation (\$52,950), state (\$67,090), and region (\$46,460).

Education

Wyoming's rate of prekindergarten participation remains far below the state and region:

- In 2016, just 32% of eligible children participated in prekindergarten programs, compared to 52% for the state and 44% for the region. Wyoming's rate was the lowest in the region.
- The rate of prekindergarten participation grew by 25 points from 2001, a smaller increase than the state and region.

On most Common Core-aligned state tests in 2017, Wyoming students had mixed results when compared to students statewide:

- 54% of Wyoming 4th graders passed the math test, above the state (43%) and region (41%).
- 35% of 3rd graders passed the English test, compared to 43% statewide and 37% for the region.
- 45% of 8th graders passed English on par with the state, but just 17% of 8th graders passed math, below the state's 22%.

Performance on the Regents tests was above state levels:

- In 2017, 91% of Wyoming students passed the English test and 93% passed the Common Core Algebra 1 test, compared to 84% statewide for English and 75% statewide for math. Wyoming students also outperformed the region.

Wyoming's four year high school graduation rate in 2017 was 94%, higher than for the state (82%) and region (85%).

In Wyoming, adults were less educated than nationally, statewide, or throughout the region:

- In 2012-16, 47% of residents over 25 had attended at least some college, lower than for the region (62%), state, and nation (both 59%). This rate was lowest among all regional counties except Orleans.
- High school graduates made up 41% of the adult population, more than in the nation (28%), state (26%), and region (28%).

Spending per student by school districts in Wyoming is increasing:

- In 2016, districts spent on average \$20,870 per student, below the state (\$23,360) and the region (\$21,160).
- Per student spending increased by 41% from 2000 to 2016, less than statewide and regionally.

Financial Self-Sufficiency

Like the state, region, and nation, Wyoming's median household income has been falling:

- In 2012-16, median household income in Wyoming was \$53,610, lower than the nation (\$55,320), state (\$60,740) and region (\$54,110). However, median income was higher in Wyoming than any regional county besides Ontario.
- From 2000 to 2012-16, median household income fell by 7%, less than the nation (down 9%) and the region (down 13%), and slightly higher than the state (down 3%).

Wyoming's poverty rate was the second lowest in the region:

- In 2012-16, 12% of Wyoming residents lived below the poverty line, compared to 14% for the region, 15% statewide, and 15% nationally. Wyoming's rate was lower than Monroe, Livingston, Orleans and Yates but equal or higher than the remaining four counties.
- The poverty rate rose by 4 points from 2000 to 2012-16, equal to the increase for the region, but greater than that for the nation (3 points) and state (no change).

Wyoming had the lowest regional rate of people receiving temporary assistance:

- In 2016, just 0.9% of Wyoming residents received temporary assistance, well below the state (2.9%) and regional (2.8%) rates. Wyoming's rate was the lowest of all of the regional counties.
- Wyoming's rate was virtually unchanged from 2001, compared to a decrease in the region (0.3 points) and state (0.7 points).

In 2016, there were 6.7 emergency meals served per resident, below the rates for the region (6.8) and state (7.4). Wyoming's rate has increased significantly since 2000 (91%), a larger increase than the state (1%) but lower than the region (119%).

Health

In 2015, 6% of Wyoming County residents under 65 lacked health insurance, lower than the nation (11%) and state (8%) and on par with the region. The rate fell by 7 points from 2008 to 2015.

Wyoming has a relatively low rate of people enrolled in Medicaid Managed Care:

- In 2016, 12% of Wyoming residents were enrolled in Medicaid Managed Care, compared to 22% statewide and 16% in the region. The rate is the lowest in the region, and has remained level since 2015.

The mortality rate in Wyoming is higher than the state and region:

- In 2015, there were 799 deaths per 100,000 residents, a much higher rate than the state (634) and region (706).
- The rate fell by 6% from 2000 to 2015, a smaller decrease than the state (21%) and region (13%).

Similar to other counties in the region, Wyoming saw an increase in the rate of chlamydia infections, more than tripling from 67 per 100,000 in 2001 to 235 in 2016.

Housing

Median home values have fallen slightly and remain lower than the state, region, and nation:

- In 2012-16, the median home value in Wyoming was \$104,200, lower than the nation (\$184,700), state (\$286,300), and region (\$130,460).
- Wyoming's median home value fell by 1% from 2000 to 2012-16, compared to increases nationally (19%) and statewide (39%) but a smaller decrease than in the region (down 2%) over that period.

Median rent in Wyoming, at \$614 in 2012-16, was lower than nationally (\$950), statewide (\$1,160), and regionally (\$800). Wyoming's rent was also lower than every county in the region. Median rent fell by nearly 12% from 2000 to 2012-16, a greater decrease than for the region (5%) and in contrast to increases for the nation (9%) and the state (20%).

In 2012-16, the homeownership rate in Wyoming was 76%, similar to nearby counties and above the regional (68%), state (54%) and national (64%) rates. The homeownership rate fell from 77% in 2000.

Housing in Wyoming was affordable for owners and renters:

- Wyoming's ratio of median home value to median income – a measure of housing affordability – was at 1.7 in 2012-16, lower than the state (3.4), nation (2.6), and region (1.9).
- The ratio increased 3% from 2000, less than increases in the state (42%), nation (24%), and region (17%).

Rent was more affordable in Wyoming (25% of household income) in 2012-16 than in the nation (32%), state (36%), region (34%), and every other county in the region.

Public Safety

Wyoming had lower crime rates, and larger drops in its crime rates, than the nation, state, and region:

- In 2016, there were 80 serious crimes per 10,000 residents in Wyoming, much lower than the nation (284), state (166), region (215), and every regional county. Wyoming's rate fell by 69% from 2000 to 2016, the largest decrease in the region and a greater drop than for the nation (31%), state (46%), and region (39%).
- Similarly, Wyoming's rate of violent crime (12 per 10,000) was lower than the state (37), nation (39), and region (26). The rate fell by 55% from 2000 to 2016, a greater decrease than for the state and nation and in contrast to a 17% increase regionally.
- In 2016, there were 68 property crimes per 10,000 residents, well below the nation (245), state (153), region (189) and every other county in the region (the next lowest was in Yates, with 122). Wyoming's rate fell by 71% from 2000 to 2016, a greater decrease than the state, nation, region, and every regional county.

In contrast to its remarkable progress in reducing crime, the rate of domestic violence victims increased 75% from 2009 to 2016, in contrast to decreases for the state (excluding NYC) and region. However, Wyoming's rate (20 victims per 10,000 residents) was still lower than the state (42) and region (52).

In 2016, Wyoming had one of the lower rates of juvenile delinquency intakes in the region. Wyoming's juvenile delinquency intakes rate of 40 per 10,000 children (ages 7-16) was below the state (45) and regional (51) rates. From 2000 to 2016, Wyoming's rate fell by 61%, a greater decline than for the region (58%) and state (53%).

Note: Data research and analysis completed by [the Center for Governmental Research](#)