

## Wyoming County Summary\*

### 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 the highest in the region.

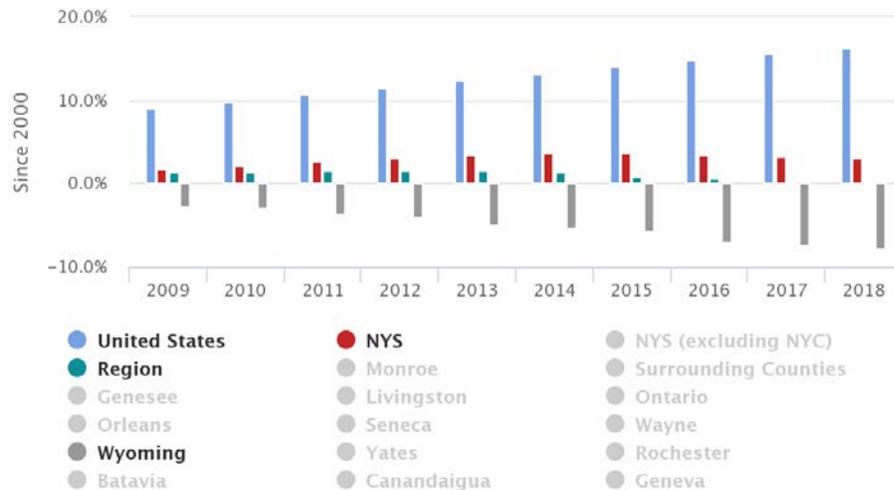
### Demographic Overview

Wyoming experienced the second greatest population decline in the region:

- From 2000 to 2018, Wyoming lost 7.8% of its total population. This is the second-largest decline in the region, and contrasts to population increases for the state (3%), nation (16.3%), and region as a whole (0.3%).
- In 2018, Wyoming was home to just over 40,000 residents, making it the third smallest county in the region. Wyoming accounted for just 3% of the region’s total population.

### Change in Total Population

Source: U.S. Census Bureau



\*Please note, the indicator information included in this summary reflects the data available at the time of its composition. Some indicator data may have since been updated on our website. Visit [actrochester.org/all-indicators](http://actrochester.org/all-indicators) for updates.

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 41% from 2000 to 2013-17, in line with the increase for the region and more than the national and statewide increases. The share of adults aged 85 and older fell by 4%; the only decrease among the regional counties.
- Over the same period, the number of residents under 20 years of age fell by 20% - the second-largest decline in the region- and the number of residents aged 20 to 39 declined by 18%, much higher than the regional drop of 5%.

Wyoming's African American population declined from 2000 to 2013-17, versus increases nationally, statewide, and for the region:

- The number of white residents declined by 6%, and the African American population declined 14%, while the Hispanic population rose by 6%, and the Asian population rose by 9%.
- In 2013-17, Wyoming was 93% white, less diverse than the region as a whole (83% white), but similar to most counties surrounding Monroe.

### **Community Vitality**

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

- In 2017, tourism revenue was \$1,142 per resident, compared to \$2,089 statewide excluding NYC, and \$1,368 for the region.
- Wyoming's rate in 2017 was higher than in any year since 2005, and was 31% higher than its rate in 2005.

Recreation spending per resident in 2017 (\$184) was higher than the region (\$76) and all regional counties except Genesee. It was on par with the state (excluding NYC). Recreation spending grew by 21% from 2005 to 2017, compared to a drop of 4% for the region.

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

- In 2018, 77% of voting-age adults were registered to vote, up 2 points since 2012. The registration rate in Wyoming was lower than the state (82%) and region (83%).
- The registration rate fell by 2 points from 2000, in contrast to small increases for the state (up 3 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. During this period, the state and region saw turnout declines of 7 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%).

Wyoming County’s share of registered library borrowers decreased by 50 points since 2000, and library visits have decreased:

- In 2017, 37% of residents of Wyoming’s county library system were registered borrowers, below the state (56%) and regional (61%) rates.
- The number of library visits decreased 24% in Wyoming, a larger decrease than for the state (8%) and region (5%).

In 2016, residents in Wyoming County gave 1.1% of their income to charitable causes, relatively stable since 2011. Wyoming’s rate was among the lowest in the region and below the state.

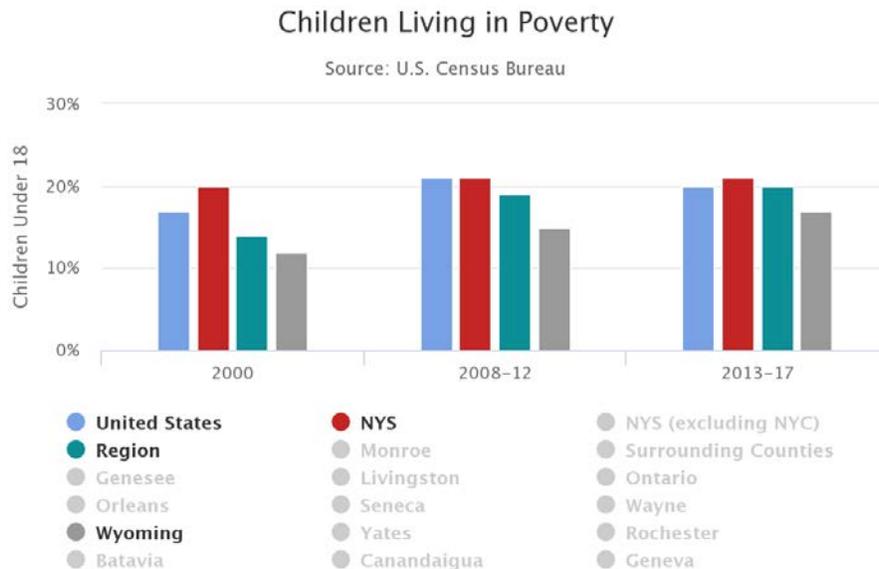
In 2013-17, Wyoming had the lowest share of households without a vehicle in the region (6%).

- Wyoming’s rate is unchanged from 2000, and was lower than the nation (9%), as well as the region and the state (excluding NYC) (both 10%).

### Children and Youth

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

- In 2013-17, 17% of children in Wyoming lived below the poverty line, compared to 20% nationally and regionally, and 21% statewide.
- From 2000 to 2013-17, the child poverty rate rose by 5 percentage points in Wyoming, a larger increase than the state (1 point), nation (3 points), and lower than the region (6 points).



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

- In 2013-17, 35% of Wyoming families were headed by a single parent, similar to the nation (34%), and below the state and region (36% and 39%, respectively).
- From 2000 to 2013-17, this rate grew by 11 points, among the greatest increases in the region, and a greater increase than the nation (5 points), state (3 points), and region (8 points).

In 2016, 79% of Wyoming mothers received prenatal care in the first trimester, higher than the nation (75%), and state (77%), but lower than the region (80%). Wyoming's rate has fluctuated since 2000, with its 2016 rate dropping 3 points.

In 2017, Wyoming's rate of babies born with low birth weight (5%) was less than the national, statewide, and regional rates (all 8%).

The rate of child abuse and neglect has decreased since 2000. The 2017 rate of 23 per 1,000 was a decline of 15% since 2000. Wyoming's rate of abuse and neglect was higher than the state (17), and the region (18).

In 2017, the rate of teen pregnancy in Wyoming was 1%, below the statewide and regional rates (both 2%). The number of teen pregnancies fell by 75% from 2000, greater than the decreases experienced by the state (71%) and the region (67%).

Wyoming had among the lowest teen birth rates in the region, and experienced a considerable decline since 2000:

- In 2017, there were 9 live births per 1,000 females 15 to 19 years old in the county, much lower than the regional (13), statewide (12), and national (19) rates.
- Teen births in Wyoming County have declined 64% since 2000.

## **Economy**

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

- In 2018, the unemployment rate in Wyoming was 4.6%, above the nation and state (both 4.1%), and region (4.2%).
- However, the unemployment rate fell by almost 5 points from its peak in 2010 – a greater decrease than the region, and 0.2 point lower than its lowest in 2000.

The total number of jobs in Wyoming decreased from 2016 to 2017, and there were significant changes in individual sectors:

- In 2017, the total number of jobs in Wyoming decreased 0.4%. In comparison, the nation, state, and region all increased their total number of jobs during this period - 1.4%, 1.4% and 0.5%, respectively.
- Since 2011, the Professional and Business Services sector increased 118%, while the Manufacturing sector declined by 26%, and Agriculture by 20%. 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.

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

- From 2001 to 2017, Wyoming's average salary grew by 11%, similar to a 10% increase for the nation and the state.
- Wyoming's average salary in 2017 was \$41,528, lower than the nation (\$55,375), and state (\$70,538).

## Education

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

- In 2017, 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 20 points from 2001, a smaller increase than the state and region.

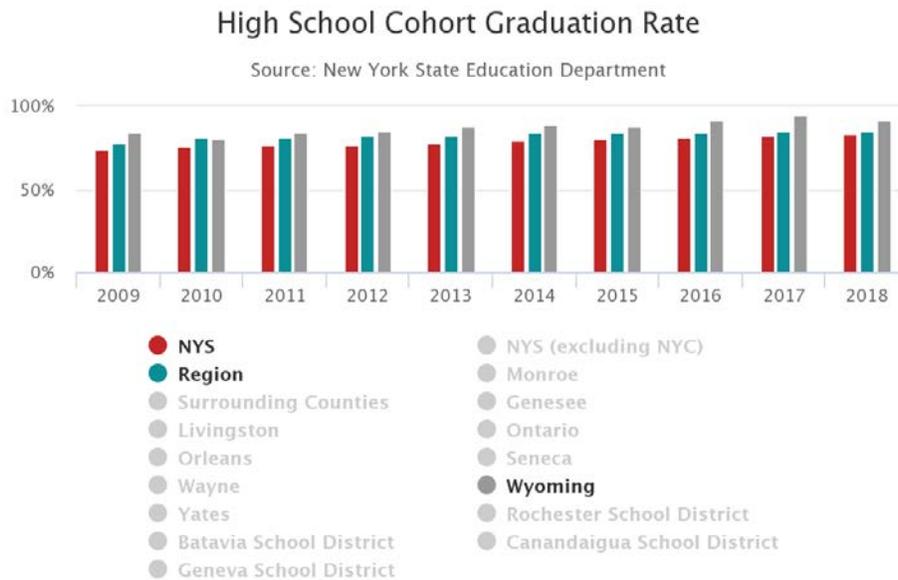
On most Common Core-aligned state tests in 2018, Wyoming students had mixed results, but were generally similar to, or better than, the state and region:

- 60% of Wyoming's 3<sup>rd</sup> graders passed the Math test, above the state (54%) and region (48%).
- 43% of 3<sup>rd</sup> graders passed the English test, on par with the region, and compared to 51% for the state.
- 52% of 8<sup>th</sup> graders passed English, above the state and region (48% and 41%, respectively).
- 48% of 8<sup>th</sup> graders passed Math, on par with the state and above the region (45%).
- We note that a substantial number of students did not take state exams in 2018 due to parent concerns about testing in schools. In our region in 2018, 19% of 3<sup>rd</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> graders in the region opted not to take the English or Math exams.

Performance on the Regents tests was above state levels:

- In 2018, 87% of Wyoming students passed the English test and 91% passed the Common Core Algebra 1 test, compared to 79% statewide for English and 70% statewide for math. Wyoming students also outperformed the region.

Wyoming's four-year high school graduation rate in 2018 was 92%, higher than for the state (83%) and region (85%), and all other regional counties.



Less adults attended college in Wyoming than their peers in the country, state and region:

- In 2013-17, 47% of residents over 25 had attended at least some college, lower than for the region (62%), state, and nation (both 60%). This rate was lowest among all regional counties.
- High school graduates made up 41% of the adult population, more than in the nation (27%), state (26%), and region (28%).

Spending per student by school districts in Wyoming is increasing:

- In 2017, districts spent on average \$22,158 per student, below the state (excluding NYC, \$23,741) and slightly below the region (\$22,208).
- However, per student spending increased by 53% from 2000 to 2017, more than statewide and regionally.

In 2017, Wyoming County spent \$14,564 per student on instructional expenses (spending directly related to a student's classroom experience), less than the region (\$15,778), and the state (\$18,604). Wyoming's instructional spending per student has increased 45% since 2000, slightly more than the region (43%), but much less than the state (60%).

### **Economic Security**

Wyoming had the second highest median household income in the region; however, like the state, region, and nation, Wyoming's median household income has been falling:

- In 2013-17, median household income in Wyoming was \$55,459, lower than the nation (\$57,652), state (\$62,765) and region (\$54,972). However, median income was higher in Wyoming than any regional county besides Ontario.
- From 2000 to 2013-17, median household income fell by 6%, less than the decrease for the nation (7%) and the region (14%), but higher than the state (2%).

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

- In 2013-17, 11% 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 every county except Ontario.
- The poverty rate rose by 3 points from 2000 to 2013-17, equal to the increase for the nation, but less than that for the region (4 points) and more than the state (no change).

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

- In 2018, just 0.7% of Wyoming residents received temporary assistance, well below the state (2.7%) and regional (2.3%) rates. Along with Yates, 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 (0.8 points) and state (0.9 points).

The rate of disengaged youth in Wyoming County was 12% for 2013-17, a higher rate than the region (6%), and all other counties except Yates.

In 2013-17, 11% of Wayne households participated in SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program), a rate lower than the region, state, and nation

## Health

In 2017, 5% of Wyoming County residents under 65 lacked health insurance, lower than the nation (10%) and state (7%) and on par with the region. The rate fell by 8 points from 2008 to 2017.

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

- In 2016, there were 753 deaths per 100,000 residents, a much higher rate than the state (624) and region (685).
- The rate fell by 11% from 2000 to 2016, a smaller decrease than the state (22%) and region (16%).

Similar to other counties in the region, Wyoming saw an increase in the rate of chlamydia infections, more than doubling from 7 per 10,000 in 2001 to 18 in 2017.

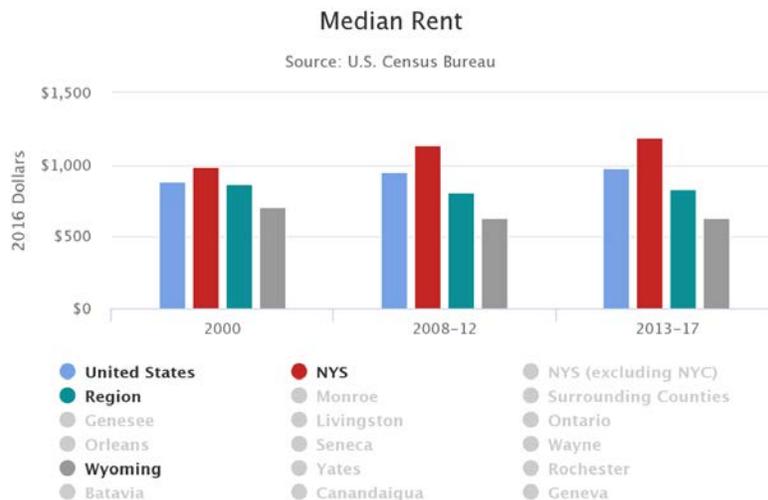
In 2017, Wyoming County reported one of the lowest rates of gonorrhea cases in the region. At 1 reported case per 10,000 residents, Wyoming's rate was much lower than the region and the state (both 17 per 10,000 residents), and relatively unchanged from 2000.

## Housing

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

- In 2013-17, the median home value in Wyoming was \$108,500, lower than the nation (\$193,500), state (\$293,000), and region (\$133,156).
- Wyoming's median home value fell by 2% from 2000 to 2013-17, similar to the region (1%), but contrasting national and statewide increases (18% and 35%, respectively), and over that period.

Median rent in Wyoming, at \$634 in 2013-17, was lower than nationally (\$982), statewide (\$1,194), and regionally (\$827). Wyoming's rent was also lower than every county in the region. Median rent fell by nearly 11% from 2000 to 2013-17, a greater decrease than for the region (4%) and in contrast to increases for the nation (11%) and the state (21%).



In 2013-17, 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 2 in 2013-17, lower than the state (4.7), nation (3.4), and region (2.4).
- The ratio increased 5% from 2000, less than increases in the state (38%), nation (26%), and region (14%). A ratio of less than 2 or 3 is considered affordable.

Rent was more affordable in Wyoming (25% of household income) in 2013-17 than in the nation (32%), state (36%), region (34%), and every other county in the region. Rent that consumes no more than 30% of household income is considered affordable.

The rate of vacant housing units was 13% in Wyoming County for 2013-17, an 8% increase from 2000 (the smallest increase of any county in the region and well below the state).

- Wyoming's vacant housing rate was similar to many other regional counties, but below the region as a whole (10%), as well as the state and nation (both also 12%).

## **Public Safety**

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

- In 2017, there were 85 serious crimes per 10,000 residents in Wyoming, much lower than the nation (275), state (182), region (214), and every other regional county. Wyoming's rate fell by 67% from 2000 to 2017, the largest decrease in the region, and a greater drop than for the nation (33%), state (41%), and region (39%).
- Similarly, Wyoming's rate of violent crime (18 per 10,000) was lower than the state (36), nation (38), and region (28). The rate fell by 31% from 2000 to 2017, a greater decrease than for the nation (25%) and in contrast to a 22% increase regionally.

Wyoming County had approximately 199 arrests per 10,000 residents in 2017. Arrests in the county saw a slight decrease of 1% from 2000 (200), and was slightly above the region (198), and greater than the state (226).

Wyoming County had an incarceration rate of approximately 12 per 10,000 residents in 2017, the second lowest in the region after Wayne (10), on par with the state, and less than the region (14). Incarcerations in Wyoming for 2017 were 15% less than in 2008.

*To learn more about our cities, counties and region, visit <https://actrochester.org/>.*