Background for Identifying

WYOMING’S

GRAND CHALLENGES

Preliminary White Paper

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INTRODUCTION

The University of Wyoming Provost, Vice President for Academic Affairs and the Vice President for Research and Economic Development convened a Research Planning Council (RPC) to identify a short list of issues or opportunities a transdisciplinary research team could tackle. This report and associated executive summary provide an overview of Wyoming’s strengths and challenges according to public priorities and our state’s ranking in key sectors. Their purpose is to inform discussions at the University of Wyoming (UW) and beyond about what grand challenges UW should invest in tackling over the next five years. Specifically, we cover issues identified by public opinion, state government, and state rank. This report does not aim to identify or recommend any one particular grand challenge. This white paper is preliminary and does not provide an exhaustive review of all the problems the state faces. It merely serves as one starting point to inform the selection of grand challenges that UW should tackle with publicly engaged, trans-disciplinary research.

This report has three main sections. First, we present survey data related to Wyomingites’ opinions about problems in the State. Second, we present data on executive and legislative priorities in state government. Third, we present indicators where Wyoming ranks nationally among the top 10 and bottom 10 within nine broad topic areas: agriculture, economics, education, environment, health, infrastructure, natural resources, politics, and society.
In October 2018, the UW School of Politics, Public Affairs, and International Studies worked with WYSAC to conduct a statewide poll of voters about problems facing the state and the upcoming elections (University of Wyoming, 2019). Potential voters were asked what they thought were the most pressing issues facing Wyoming and their communities. Respondents volunteered economic issues as the number one concern facing Wyoming and their communities.

The survey also revealed that 50% of respondents thought the economy had gotten better over the past year and a plurality (38%) thought the economy of Wyoming would improve within the next couple of years; 56% agreed the state’s economy needs a diversification of offered goods and services (Election Survey, 2018).

The survey asked respondents to grade their local public schools, the state’s community colleges,
Economic Issues Number One Concern for Wyoming Communities

Percent of respondents who said ... is the most pressing issue

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>...facing Wyoming</th>
<th>...in their community</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lack of economic diversity/energy industry</td>
<td>Weak economy/lack of jobs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weak economy/lack of jobs</td>
<td>Roads/infrastructure problems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insufficient state resources/lack of tax revenue</td>
<td>Drugs/alcoholism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Availability of healthcare</td>
<td>Housing costs/availability of housing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental concerns/public land policy</td>
<td>Availability of healthcare</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Items mentioned less than 5% of the time</td>
<td>Items mentioned less than 5% of the time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32%</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6%</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26%</td>
<td>39%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

and the University’s quality of work with an A, B, C, D, or F. Of all respondents, 56% gave their local public schools an A or a B, 70% gave the state’s community colleges an A or B, and 71% gave UW’s quality of work an A or a B.

Natural Resources

A statewide poll of likely voters in 2018, organized by the Ruckelshaus Institute of Environment and Natural Resources at the University of Wyoming, focused on public opinion data on conservation issues (Freedman, 2019). The survey found likely voters in Wyoming identified the following as serious concerns in the state:

- Lack of good-paying jobs (82%)
- Loss of family farms and ranches (82%)
- Quality of public education (80%)
- Low levels of water in rivers (78%)
- Pollution of rivers, lakes, and streams (77%)
- Lack of health insurance coverage (77%)
- Availability of water for farming and ranching (76%)
- Decline in numbers of big game animals (75%)
- Loss of habitat for fish and wildlife (73%)

The survey also found Wyoming voters hunt, fish, and participate in outdoor recreational activities at higher rates than voters nationally, and the majority of voters support setting aside more funding for conservation.

A 2019 survey conducted by Colorado College polled eight western states (Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming) to identify voters’ opinions about climate, energy, outdoor recreation, water, wildlife, the role of government, trade-offs with economies, and citizen priorities. Key findings from Wyoming respondents include the following:

- 91% believe the outdoor recreation economy is important for the future of Wyoming and the Western U.S.
- 77% consider themselves an outdoor recreation enthusiast
- 76% consider themselves a conservationist
- 74% believe it is important for states to use funds to protect and restore the health of rivers, lakes, and streams
- 70% say the ability to live near, recreate on, and enjoy public lands like national forests, parks, or trails was a significant reason they live in the West
- 64% believe it is important for states to use funds to conserve wildlife corridors used by wildlife for migration
- 61% think wildfires in the West are more of a problem than ten years ago

Of the eight states surveyed, Wyoming respondents were least likely to identify climate change as a serious problem (52%, compared to the combined rate of 69%). Wyoming respondents also differed when it came to their opinions on how to use public lands—41% of Wyoming respondents preferred responsible oil and gas drilling and mining on public lands (this percentage was higher than any other state, with Montana coming in second at 30%). Fewer Wyoming respondents (65%) thought the low level of water in rivers was a serious problem, compared to the eight-state combined rate of 84%.

Conclusion

This is far from an exhaustive study of what Wyomingites believe are the grand challenges faced by the state. The challenge of most polls is they are topic-specific, making it difficult to cast a broad net to assess the hundreds of problems Wyomingites may identify. From this small sample of data, it appears Wyomingites are concerned about the state’s economy above all other problems.
EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

ENDOW

Just as Wyomingites are concerned about Wyoming’s economy, economic development is the focus of a major government project. The Economically Needed Diversity Options for Wyoming (ENDOW) initiative, announced by Governor Matt Mead in November 2016, provides a comprehensive approach to diversifying the state’s economy (ENDOW, 2017). The purpose of the ENDOW initiative is to evolve beyond the boom and bust cycle of Wyoming’s economy and to create an environment that will keep future generations living and working in Wyoming. Goals of the ENDOW initiative include adding new jobs, increasing personal income, growing the GDP, increasing the number of Wyoming
residents, and decreasing youth outmigration. To meet these broad goals, the ENDOW initiative has identified four objectives with corresponding action items:

1. Identify and capitalize on new services and technologies
2. Strengthen existing industries such as education, healthcare, infrastructure, entrepreneurial ecosystems, and state capabilities
3. Invest in emerging opportunities in the areas of natural resources, tourism and recreation, agriculture, advanced manufacturing, and knowledge and creativity
4. Enhance alignment of functions, strategies, and resources among agencies responsible for enhancing economic prosperity in Wyoming

More information about the ENDOW initiative can be found on its website: [https://www.endowyo.biz/](https://www.endowyo.biz/)

**Governor’s Priorities**

In Governor Mark Gordon’s State of the State address in January 2019 (Gordon, 2019), he identified three priorities for his administration:

1. Set Wyoming on a sustainable fiscal path and continue Wyoming’s efforts to diversify its economy
2. Ensure citizens have access to quality education
3. Provide local communities with the tools and resources needed to thrive

**Legislative Priorities**

During the 2019 Wyoming legislative session, legislators identified three primary goals for the session (Reynolds, 2019):

1. Address the state’s volatile revenue picture
2. Find reasonable solutions for healthcare and education
3. Build a stable workforce that can endure into the future

**Conclusion**

Wyoming’s public and governmental entities agree—**Wyoming’s economy is the most pressing issue facing the state today**. Education, healthcare, and investing in local communities are also top priorities for the executive and legislative bodies of Wyoming.
WHERE WYOMING RANKS NATIONALLY

In this section, we provide indicators where Wyoming ranks among the bottom 10 and top 10 in the country within nine broad topics: agriculture, economics, education, environment, health, infrastructure, natural resources, politics, and society. We classify these rankings as strengths or opportunities for Wyoming. If an indicator was not an obvious strength or opportunity, we identify the indicator as unclassified. WYSAC researchers only included data from reputable sources that were already ranked. We did not calculate any ranks; we did sort and count the data, where necessary. The number of ranked entities changed by source. Some sources included the 50 states (or less if states had missing data or were not eligible), while other sources included the District of Columbia and U.S. territories, making the number of ranked entities greater than 50.

Using these rankings may help identify the unique problems Wyoming faces. Rankings also provide a standardized and objective method for identifying remarkable indicators and issues. However, rankings are an imperfect data source, and we wish to emphasize two major caveats about using rankings to guide decisions.

First, the range between top and bottom-ranked states is often narrow. Many indicators have very little variability and at times, multiple states have the same value creating multiple ties. Wyoming may rank poorly on a particular indicator, but this does not mean Wyoming is doing much worse than the rest of the country. To highlight this phenomenon, we provide a minimum and maximum value for each indicator.

Second, for the majority of indicators, Wyoming ranked somewhere in the middle, not the top or bottom 10. These indicators are not included in this report (although an exhaustive list of all the indicators we explored can be found in the Appendix). This does not mean these indicators fail to address grand challenges or important problems. With that said, the rankings provide a starting point to identify challenges and strengths impacting Wyoming today.
Agriculture is one of the top industries in Wyoming. The 2017 Census of Agriculture shows Wyoming producers operated the largest farms and ranches in the U.S. with an average of 2,430 acres per farm, over five times the national average (USDA, 2019). This Census also shows that Wyoming agriculture has grown since 2012, as measured by both the number of farms (11,938) and the number of young producers age 35 or less (2,185). Wyoming ranked first amongst all states in wool production and sixth in agribusiness and recreational income (the latter more than doubled from 2012). Cattle and calves account for 65% of all agricultural products sold in Wyoming.

Wyoming’s agricultural production also contributes significantly to Wyoming’s economy (Taylor, Foulke, & Coupal, 2017). Wyoming’s farms and ranches account for approximately 30.4 million acres of land and $22 billion in investments in land, buildings, machinery, and equipment. Families, individuals, partnerships, and family-held corporations account for 96% of the farms and ranches in the State. In addition, Wyoming agricultural production generated a gross income of $2.1 billion in 2014. Taylor, Foulke, and Coupal (2017) estimate that the total economic impact of the agricultural industry contributes $4.2 billion to the Wyoming economy and supports an estimated 33,000 jobs directly and in support industries. Wyoming agriculture generates an estimated $77.5 million in tax revenue for state and local governments. It costs 54 cents in local government services for every $1 of revenue generated.

Challenges of the agricultural sector include political and legal decisions about land and wildlife management; tariffs, subsidies, and quotas; sustainability (Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation, 2019); commodity price cycles and volatility in the market (Funk, 2018); weather phenomenon from floods to droughts; and urban growth (Fearnehough, 2014).

When it comes to state rankings, overall, Wyoming’s agricultural sector performs well. Sheep, sugar beets, barley, beans, and farm space are Wyoming’s specialties. Wyoming ranks poorly on two specific commodities, milk cows and milk production. The Union of Concerned Scientists (2018) have a 50-state food system scorecard, ranking states on farm and food health. Wyoming ranks second for food production and fifth for reduced ecosystem impacts. However, Wyoming ranks near the bottom for farm investments (43rd) and food investments (50th).
## Key Indicators

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>RANK</th>
<th>Opportunity</th>
<th>Strength</th>
<th>Unclassified</th>
<th>*indicates a tie in ranking</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Milk Cows</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Orange</td>
<td>Blue</td>
<td>Gray</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milk Production</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>138</td>
<td>Orange</td>
<td>Blue</td>
<td>Gray</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potential Land for Crops</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>626</td>
<td>Orange</td>
<td>Blue</td>
<td>Gray</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potential Acres Irrigated for Crops</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>63,583</td>
<td>Orange</td>
<td>Blue</td>
<td>Gray</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barley</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6,426</td>
<td>Blue</td>
<td>Blue</td>
<td>Gray</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beans</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>933</td>
<td>Blue</td>
<td>Blue</td>
<td>Gray</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pinto Beans</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>717</td>
<td>Blue</td>
<td>Blue</td>
<td>Gray</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sugarbeets</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>891</td>
<td>Blue</td>
<td>Blue</td>
<td>Gray</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acres in Farms</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>17,898,743</td>
<td>Blue</td>
<td>Blue</td>
<td>Gray</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Avg. Size Farm</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2,649</td>
<td>Blue</td>
<td>Blue</td>
<td>Gray</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pasture &amp; Farm</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>3,461</td>
<td>Blue</td>
<td>Blue</td>
<td>Gray</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pasture &amp; Farm Acres</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>15,853,380</td>
<td>Blue</td>
<td>Blue</td>
<td>Gray</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pasture &amp; Farm Irrigated</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>279,849</td>
<td>Blue</td>
<td>Blue</td>
<td>Gray</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Woodland Pasture Acres</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>180,734</td>
<td>Blue</td>
<td>Blue</td>
<td>Gray</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Healthcare is the number one industry in Wyoming, employing 11.8% of Wyomingites aged 16 and older. Healthcare is followed by retail (11.1%), education (11.0%), oil/gas/mining (9.0%), hospitality (8.4%), construction (7.6%), and government (6.4%; Statistical Atlas, 2018). Compared to the rest of the U.S., Wyoming has more people employed in oil/gas/mining, agriculture, and utilities and fewer people employed in management, manufacturing, and finance/insurance (Statistical Atlas, 2018).

The Economic Summary from the Wyoming Department of Administration & Information (2019) showed that Wyoming added 2,800 jobs, improved personal income, saw an increase in housing prices, and had a total taxable sales growth of 9.1% in the fourth quarter of 2018, compared to the fourth quarter of 2017. Increases in sales occurred in most economic industries, with the fastest growth in the construction sector which experienced a year-over-year expansion of 32.5%. Despite this growth, Wyoming has a reputation for having a relatively poor business environment (measured by the private sector business birth rate and the number of patents granted per million people in a state) and lower levels of net migration, growth of the young population, and GDP growth rate (U.S. News & World Report, 2019).

The travel industry is an important sector of the Wyoming economy. The 2018 report on Wyoming travel impacts (Dean Runyan Associates, 2019) shows that spending by visitors to Wyoming was $3.8 billion in 2018, an increase of 6.8% from 2017. This equates to $10.4 million per day. In 2018, Wyoming had 8.9 million visitors, an increase of 2.2% from 2017. During 2018, travel spending in Wyoming directly supported 32,290 jobs. Local and state revenue generated by travel spending were $196 million (excluding property taxes). Without these tax revenues, each household in Wyoming would have had to pay an additional $840 in taxes to maintain current tax revenue levels (Dean Runyan Associates, 2019). Opportunities within tourism include increasing the number of visitors who come to Wyoming year-round, visit all parts of the state, and come from diverse locations representing international and minority populations (Western, 2016).

In national rankings, Wyoming ranked among the best in the country for measures related to Gross Domestic Product (GDP), employment, and poverty. On the other hand, Wyoming is ranked among the worst in the country for measures related to economic growth, the gender pay gap, TANF benefits received among families in poverty (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families), SNAP utilization (percent of total eligible population who participated in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program), children living in households that were food insecure at some point during the year, and population change.

These data suggest that Wyoming’s economic growth is moderate. Wyoming has a relatively low poverty rate, but the State is not reaching many of those who are in poverty. Wyoming’s population is decreasing and Wyoming is tied for 39th for the worst gender pay gap. The Bureau of Labor Statistics (2018) reports Wyoming is last for the gender pay gap with women earning 71.6% of what men earn.
Finally, a discussion on Wyoming’s economy would not be complete without mention of the boom-and-bust cycle that has become synonymous with Wyoming’s economy (American Heritage Center, 2010). Wyoming is rich in minerals, including oil, coal, uranium, natural gas, and soda ash. By depending heavily on these natural resources, Wyoming has been deeply affected by the national energy market. The boom-and-bust cycle of Wyoming’s economy has had a significant impact on Wyoming’s economy for generations and it continues today (American Heritage Center, 2010).

In 2013, Wenlin Liu, Principal Economist for the Wyoming Economic Analysis Division postulated, “Wyoming is probably the least diversified state in the nation when measuring employment and GDP distribution across industries in comparison with the U.S.” (slide 5).

### Key Indicators

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Opportunity</th>
<th>Strength</th>
<th>Unclassified</th>
<th>*indicates a tie in ranking</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GDP Growth</td>
<td>50*</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population Change</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>-0.2%</td>
<td>2.1%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender Pay Gap</td>
<td>39*</td>
<td>77%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TANF Received</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SNAP Utilization</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>59%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food Insecure Children</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Key Indicators

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>RANK</th>
<th>Measure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GDP per Capita</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>$66,413</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployment Rate</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teens Not in School, Not Working</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employment Growth</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parents Unemployment</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children Living in Low-Income Unemployed Households</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parent Not in Labor Force</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children in 100% Poverty</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supplemental Poverty Measure</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High Poverty Areas</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>&lt;.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Assistance</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Support</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing Cost Burden</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Owned Households</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>49%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No Vehicle</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*indicates a tie in ranking
Overall, Wyoming ranks well in education. The 2018 Quality Counts report card ranked Wyoming 7th nationally in education quality (Eakins, 2018). The charts below illustrate that Wyoming is among the best in the nation for pupil to teacher ratios; percent of people who have completed high school; associate’s degree graduation rates; public school revenue and expenditures; pass rates for GEDs and high school equivalency tests; low debt at graduation; and percent of children under age 6 whose family members read to them less than 4 days per week.

Still, Wyoming has some opportunities within education. In one study, economists analyzed expected vs. actual 6-year graduation rates in 368 U.S. colleges (Leonhardt & Chinoy, 2019). Expected rates are based on incoming student ages, race, gender, income, and test scores. The study found the University of Wyoming was among the worst 15 in terms of the gap between expected (approximately 74%) and actual (approximately 61%) graduation rates.

Wyoming is ranked among the worst in the nation for high school dropout rates, high school graduation rates among students of color, and young adults ages 18 to 24 who are enrolled in or have completed college.

Wyoming ranks 4th for percentage of the population who graduate high school (93%), but falls to 41st for the percentage of the population with a bachelor’s degree or higher (American Community Survey, 2013–2017). Wyoming excels at 4th grade test scores, but drops in rank for 8th grade test scores. The vast majority of Wyomingites graduate high school (93%), but paradoxically the State has a high dropout rate for high school students (6%). Wyoming has opportunities to maintain quality education in K-12 public schools, increase the percentage of Wyoming adults who have at least a bachelor’s degree, and improve graduation rates for Wyoming’s American Indian, Asian, and Black students.
### Key Indicators

- **Opportunity**
- **Strength**
- **Unclassified**

#### Education

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Min</th>
<th>Max</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HS Dropout Rate</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AI/AN HS Graduation Rate</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>69%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APIA HS Graduation Rate</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>67%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black HS Graduation Rate</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth Enrolled or Completed College</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>64%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th Grade Reading Scores</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th Grade Math Scores</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th Grade Science Scores</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>67%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Attendance</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pupil to Teacher Ratio</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>64%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Public School Revenue Receipts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Min</th>
<th>Max</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$19,618</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>$7,789</td>
<td>$31,230</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$16,529</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>$6,809</td>
<td>$23,894</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Public School Expenditures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Min</th>
<th>Max</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>% of Population Completed HS</td>
<td>1*</td>
<td>81%</td>
<td>92%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GED Pass Rate</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>59%</td>
<td>98%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HISSET Pass Rate</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>68%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Associate’s Degree Graduation Rate

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Min</th>
<th>Max</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$19,618</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Low Debt at College Graduation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Min</th>
<th>Max</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$22,254</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>$18,838</td>
<td>$38,510</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Children Not Read To

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Min</th>
<th>Max</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>28%</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>55%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Parent Concerns about Development

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Min</th>
<th>Max</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3%</td>
<td>9*</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Out-of-School Suspension

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Min</th>
<th>Max</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2%</td>
<td>3*</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Wyoming's Grand Challenges: Preliminary White Paper

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Minimum</th>
<th>Maximum</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Difficulty Speaking English</td>
<td>3*</td>
<td>&lt;.5% Min</td>
<td>9% Max</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teens Not in School</td>
<td>3*</td>
<td>2% Min</td>
<td>7% Max</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not HS Graduate</td>
<td>4*</td>
<td>4% Min</td>
<td>14% Max</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Educational Expenditures</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>$7,207 Min</td>
<td>$20,795 Max</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Ranks indicate relative performance compared to other states, with higher ranks indicating worse performance.
Wyoming has low air pollution, but has the highest CO2 emissions in the United States (McKim, 2017). Wyoming’s carbon dioxide emissions per person decreased 10% from 2005 to 2015, but remain seven times the national average. Wyoming’s water quality is also among the worst in the nation. The Environmental Protection Agency ranks Wyoming among the worst 10 states for toxic water, air, and overall net releases.

### Key Indicators

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>RANK</th>
<th>Min</th>
<th>Max</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Drinking Water Quality</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>1 Min</td>
<td>50 Max</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carbon Dioxide Emissions</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>10 Min</td>
<td>104 Max</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toxic Net Releases</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>34 Min</td>
<td>3,700 Max</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toxic Water Releases</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>0 Min</td>
<td>1,962 Max</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toxic Air Releases</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>1 Min</td>
<td>1,287 Max</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Risk-Screening Environmental Indicators (RSEI) Score</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>541 Min</td>
<td>104,316,119 Max</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Air Pollution**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RANK</th>
<th>Min</th>
<th>Max</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2*</td>
<td>5 Min</td>
<td>12 Max</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*indicates a tie in ranking
The United Health Foundation (2019) ranks Wyoming 24th in the nation for overall health outcomes, including behaviors, policy, clinical care, and community and environment. Wyoming’s strengths include low cancer death rate, low percentage of children in poverty, infant care, and rates of disease.

Wyoming ranks poorly among the states for having a high percentage of uninsured, a high occupational fatality rate, a low rate of primary care physicians, and a very high suicide rate. Wyoming has opportunities for growth related to screenings and immunizations, substance use, and diabetes management.

### Key Indicators

- **Opportunity**
- **Strength**
- **Unclassified**

*indicates a tie in ranking

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>RANK</th>
<th>Min</th>
<th>Max</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Occupational Deaths</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>12.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teen Suicide</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>4.7</td>
<td>35.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suicide Mortality</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>8.1</td>
<td>28.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Substance Use Disorders (Youth)</td>
<td>46*</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tobacco (Youth)</td>
<td>41*</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tobacco (Pregnancy)</td>
<td>40*</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>12.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smoking (Women)</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>28.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smokeless Tobacco</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>28.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smokeless Tobacco (Men)</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uninsured</td>
<td>44*</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>12.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Health

### Key Indicators

- **Adequate Insurance (Children)**
  - RANK: 41
  - Opportunity: 71%
  - 65% Min, 85% Max

- **Primary Care Physicians**
  - RANK: 46
  - Opportunity: 95.7 Min, 264.5 Max

- **Dedicated Provider (Seniors)**
  - RANK: 49
  - Strength: 89%
  - 88% Min, 97% Max

- **Dedicated Provider (Women)**
  - RANK: 46
  - Strength: 66%
  - 60% Min, 88% Max

- **Well-Woman**
  - RANK: 45
  - Unclassified: 59%
  - 56% Min, 78% Max

- **Cervical Cancer Screening**
  - RANK: 47
  - Opportunity: 76%
  - 75% Min, 86% Max

- **Children Immunizations**
  - RANK: 49
  - Opportunity: 63%
  - 58% Min, 85% Max

- **Immunizations (Youth)**
  - RANK: 49
  - Opportunity: -1.43
  - -1.54 Min, 1.52 Max

- **Meningococcal Vaccine**
  - RANK: 50
  - Opportunity: 61%
  - 61% Min, 95% Max

- **HPV Vaccine (Female)**
  - RANK: 50
  - Opportunity: 34%
  - 34% Min, 77% Max

- **Geriatrician Shortfall**
  - RANK: 44
  - Opportunity: 109.4
  - 23% Min, 89% Max

- **SNAP Reach**
  - RANK: 50
  - Opportunity: 28%
  - 28% Min, 100% Max

- **Baby-Friendly Facilities**
  - RANK: 48
  - Opportunity: 2%
  - 0% Min, 34% Max

- **Physical Inactivity (Seniors)**
  - RANK: 40
  - Opportunity: 64%
  - 20% Min, 37% Max

- **Health Screenings (Seniors)**
  - RANK: 48
  - Unclassified: 82%
  - 61% Min, 80% Max

- **Cervical Cancer Screening (Children)**
  - RANK: 48
  - Unclassified: 80%
  - 0% Min, 83% Max

- **Healthcare Associated Infection Policies**
  - RANK: 46
  - Unclassified: 80%
  - 76% Min, 89% Max

- **Rx Coverage (Seniors)**
  - RANK: 50
  - Unclassified: 60%
  - 60% Min, 85% Max

- **Diabetes Management**
  - RANK: 50
  - Unclassified: 15%
  - 4% Min, 25% Max

- **Low-Care Nursing Home**
  - RANK: 41
  - Unclassified: 35%
  - 29% Min, 67% Max

- **Hospice Care**
  - RANK: 47
  - Unclassified: 28%
  - 28% Min, 58% Max
### WYOMING’S GRAND CHALLENGES: PRELIMINARY WHITE PAPER

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Well-Baby</th>
<th>9*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Neonatal Mortality</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infant Deaths</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Breastfed</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Developmental Screening</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neighborhood Amenities</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protective Family Routines</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical Home (Special Needs)</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cancer Deaths</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chlamydia (Women)</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chlamydia</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salmonella</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infectious Disease</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diabetes</td>
<td>10*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Support (Seniors)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RANK</th>
<th>Well-Baby</th>
<th>9*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>RANK</td>
<td>Neighborhood Amenities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>RANK</td>
<td>Protective Family Routines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>RANK</td>
<td>Medical Home (Special Needs)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>RANK</td>
<td>Cancer Deaths</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>RANK</td>
<td>Chlamydia (Women)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>RANK</td>
<td>Chlamydia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>RANK</td>
<td>Salmonella</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>RANK</td>
<td>Infectious Disease</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>RANK</td>
<td>Diabetes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>RANK</td>
<td>Community Support (Seniors)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Well-Baby**: 95% Min 83% Max 99% Max
- **Neonatal Mortality**: 5.0 Min 2.3 Max 6.1 Max
- **Infant Deaths**: 3.9 Min 3.2 Max 8.9 Max
- **Breastfed**: 11% Min 11% Max 38% Max
- **Developmental Screening**: 11% Min 11% Max 49% Max
- **Neighborhood Amenities**: 47% Min 15% Max 58% Max
- **Protective Family Routines**: 17% Min 6% Max 22% Max
- **Medical Home (Special Needs)**: 53% Min 31% Max 57% Max
- **Cancer Deaths**: 16880% Min 15040% Max 23490% Max
- **Chlamydia (Women)**: 21% Min 5% Max 38% Max
- **Chlamydia**: 391.6 Min 260.6 Max 771.6 Max
- **Salmonella**: 1.15 Min 6.8 Max 39.8 Max
- **Infectious Disease**: -0.8 Min -1.0 Max 1.0 Max
- **Diabetes**: 0.09 Min 0.07 Max 0.15 Max
- **Community Support (Seniors)**: $1,677 Min $184 Max $3,048 Max
- **Home-Delivered Meals**: 34% Min 4% Max 38% Max
- **ICU Use**: 7% Min 5% Max 23% Max
- **Intimate Partner Violence**: 34% Min 28% Max 45% Max
- **Concentrated Disadvantage**: 6% Min 3% Max 43% Max
- **Frequent Mental Distress**: 6% Min 5% Max 12% Max

*Note: The ranking numbers and metrics are indicative of the severity or prevalence of each challenge. Lower numbers typically indicate higher severity or prevalence.*
The American Society of Civic Engineers (ASCE; 2019) analyzed the nation’s infrastructure and gave the nation a D+ on the 2017 Infrastructure Report Card. While the organization did not provide individual state grades, Wyoming faces significant infrastructure challenges. Some key facts about Wyoming’s infrastructure include the following:

- 3,127 bridges (10%) are structurally deficient
- 99 high-hazard dams
- $458 million in drinking water infrastructure needs over the next 20 years
- $500,000 of unmet needs for Wyoming’s park system
- $356 per motorist per year in costs from driving on roads in need of repair
- 8% of Wyoming’s 30,430 miles of public roads are in poor condition
- $149 million gap in estimated school capital expenditures
- $91 million in wastewater infrastructure needs over the next 20 years

The ASCE suggests states invest in critical infrastructure systems; obtain strong leadership, planning, and a clear vision for infrastructure development; and utilize new approaches, materials, and technologies to ensure infrastructure is more resilient.

Broadband coverage and speeds are an important part of infrastructure. According to BroadbandNow (2014–2019), 76% of Wyoming has broadband coverage and 27% of the population is underserved. This makes Wyoming one of the least connected states in the country, ranking 49th.

Wyoming ranks 4th for the state’s share of costs for public school construction, land, building, facilities improvement, and equipment. However, Wyoming ranks 48th for per-student spending on school facilities maintenance. Specifically, this indicator is measuring the gap between 1) the standard cost to regularly upgrade existing school facilities’ systems, components, fixtures, equipment, and finishes; systematically reduce the backlog of deferred maintenance; and alter existing facilities and 2) actual capital construction expenditures in millions. The indicator labeled “spending gap on school maintenance & operations” is measuring the per-student gap between 1) the standard cost to maintain, operate, and renew facilities so they are clean and in good working order and 2) actual maintenance and operations expenditures in millions.

### Key Indicators

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>RANK</th>
<th>Min. Value</th>
<th>Max. Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Spending Gap on School Facilities</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>-$96</td>
<td>$2,212</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spending Gap on School Maintenance &amp; Operations</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>-$281</td>
<td>$901</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Share of School Construction</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>122%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*indicates a tie in ranking
Wyoming extractive industries accounted for 20% of the State’s GDP in 2016, and jobs in the extractive industries made up 7% of statewide employment (Department of the Interior, n.d.). Wyoming leads the nation in the production of coal, with the State producing 41% of total U.S. production. Wyoming also produces large quantities of gas, oil, soda ash, and sodium bi-carbonate. In 2016, Wyoming collected $2,126,209,645 in state revenue from natural resource extraction (including both tax and non-tax revenue), much of which goes to state and local funds (Department of the Interior, n.d.).

When it comes to state rankings, Wyoming ranks well with energy production, crude oil production, natural gas production, coal production, natural gas prices, and potential for geothermal, wind, and solar energy. Wyoming has opportunities to invest in solar growth and to reduce the amount of energy consumed.

**Key Indicators**

- **Opportunity**
- **Strength**
- **Unclassified**  *indicates a tie in ranking*
Wyoming is the most Republican-leaning state in the nation and it can run 367 days on its rainy day fund, as of fiscal year 2018. Unfortunately, Wyoming ranks last in the nation for the proportion of women in the state legislature.

**Key Indicators**

- **Opportunity**: Women in Legislature
  - RANK 48
  - 16% (14% Min - 52% Max)

- **Strength**: Rainy Day Fund
  - RANK 1
  - 367 (0 Min - 367 Max)

- **Unclassified**: Party Affiliation (Net Republican Lean)
  - RANK 1
  - 51 (1 Min - 51 Max)

*indicates a tie in ranking
Wyoming is the least populated state, but ranked 10th in terms of total area (Encyclopedia Britannica, 2019). Wyoming’s rural nature provides grounds for both strengths and opportunities. Wyoming has low rates of violent crime, child abuse, and familial risk factors (such as single-parent families, children in care of grandparents, children living with neither parent, and births to unmarried mothers). On the other hand, Wyoming ranks poorly for juvenile custody rates; the rate of youth residing in juvenile detention, correctional, and/or residential facilities; the felony disenfranchisement rate (the number of people barred from voting due to a felony conviction, per 100,000 residents); and the disparity in incarceration rates for Hispanic and White residents. Wyoming has an opportunity to work toward more equity within the criminal justice system.

Key Indicators

- **Opportunity**
- **Strength**
- **Unclassified**

*indicates a tie in ranking

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Value Min</th>
<th>Value Max</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Violent Crimes</td>
<td>10*</td>
<td>121</td>
<td>829</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children as Victims of Medical Neglect</td>
<td>7*</td>
<td>&lt;.5%</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children as Victims of Physical Abuse</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>78%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single-Parent Families</td>
<td>5*</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>46%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children in Care of Grandparents</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children Living with Neither Parent</td>
<td>2*</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Births to Unmarried Mothers</td>
<td>8*</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>53%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Juvenile Detention</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>38.0</td>
<td>329.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barred from Voting Due to Felony</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>10,430</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disparity in Incarceration for Hispanics and Whites</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>4.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CONCLUSION

While the aim of this report is not to identify a particular grand challenge, we can draw broad conclusions based on the gathered data. The following are five major conclusions based on our research.

1. To fully live up to Wyoming’s state nickname—The Equality State—Wyoming could address opportunities for equity. Specifically, equity could be addressed for students of color in the education system, race disparities in the criminal justice system, women in politics, ensuring benefits reach those in poverty, closing the gender pay gap, and addressing health disparities.

2. Wyoming’s economy is a major focus for Wyomingites and the State government. Diversifying the economy (moving away from the boom-and-bust cycle), encouraging young people to stay and work in the State, and economic growth are of particular importance.

3. Wyoming’s natural resources, outdoor space, and farm/ranch land are very important to the State’s identity and economy. Decisions about the use of Wyoming’s public space certainly have implications for Wyoming’s environment and economy.

4. Consistent with the rest of the nation, Wyoming faces some significant infrastructure challenges including structurally deficient bridges, high-hazard dams, drinking and waste water infrastructure needs, road repairs, and school infrastructure needs.

5. Wyoming has an opportunity to address the State’s health challenges: occupational facilities, suicides, and substance use severely impact the health of Wyomingites. Improving access to care, insurance coverage, disease management, and increasing the utilization of screenings and immunizations would also have a significant impact on Wyomingites’ health.
ABOUT THE DATA

Sources


Gordon, M. (2019, January 9). Governor Mark Gordon’s state of the state address to the 65th Wyoming legislature. Retrieved from https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B5QDiLu63DmCiY1AwRbM3VaQljtc01YWkVYUDVfEhNWWI4/view


Taylor, Foulke, & Coupal (2017, November). The economic


Barred from Voting Due to Felony: Felony Disenfranchisement Rate

### Definitions


**Adequate Insurance (Children):** Adequate health insurance (children) (2016). Percentage of insured children aged 0 to 17 whose health plan has either no or reasonable out-of-pocket costs; offers benefits or covered services that meet their child’s needs; and allows them to see needed health care providers.


**APIA HS Graduation Rate:** Asian/Pacific Islander Averaged High School Freshman Graduation Rate (2009-2010). The average freshmen graduation rate (ACGR) is the percentage of public high school freshmen who graduate with a regular diploma within 4 years of starting 9th grade. National Center for Education Statistics. http://bit.ly/2GWsslK


**Barred from Voting Due to Felony:** Felony Disenfranchisement Rate


**Black HS Graduation Rate**: Black Average High School Freshman Graduation Rate (2009-2010). The average freshmen graduation rate (ACGR) is the percentage of public high school freshmen who graduate with a regular diploma within 4 years of starting 9th grade. National Center for Education Statistics. http://bit.ly/2GwsSik


**Cancer Deaths**: Cancer Deaths per 100,000 population, 3-year average (2014-2016). Age-adjusted number of deaths due to all causes of cancer per 100,000 population (3-year average). America's Health Rankings. http://bit.ly/2G0IhZr

**Carbon Dioxide Emissions**: Carbon Dioxide Emissions per capita (2016). Many factors contribute to variation in the amount of emissions per capita, including climate, the structure of the state economy, population density, energy sources, building standards, and explicit state policies to reduce emissions. US Energy Information Administration. http://bit.ly/2GTrYyx


**Child Support**: Female headed households receiving child support (2017). Families headed by an unmarried women (living with one or more of her own children under age 18) receiving child support payments during the previous calendar year. Annie E. Casey Foundation: Kids Count Data Center. http://bit.ly/2YOR2w0

**Children as Victims of Medical Neglect**: Children who are confirmed by child protective services as victims of maltreatment (medical neglect) (2017). Child victims are children who are subject to at least one substantiated or indicated maltreatment report for medical neglect. Rates of maltreated children are per 1,000 children under 18 years old. Annie E. Casey Foundation: Kids Count Data Center. http://bit.ly/2YNLHF5

**Children as Victims of Physical Abuse**: Children who are confirmed by child protective services as victims of maltreatment (physical abuse) (2017). Child victims are children who are subject to at least one substantiated or indicated maltreatment report for physical abuse. Rates of maltreated children are per 1,000 children under 18 years old. Annie E. Casey Foundation: Kids Count Data Center. http://bit.ly/2YNLHF5


**Chlamydia (Women)**: (2015). Number of new cases of chlamydia per 100,000 females aged 15 to 44. America's Health Rankings. http://bit.ly/2M9cCvV


**Community Support (Seniors)**: Community Support, per adult aged 60 and older living in poverty (2017). Expenditures captured by the Administration on Aging per adult aged 60 and older living in poverty. America's Health Rankings. http://bit.ly/2Mr8rR8


**Deaths**: Occupational Fatalities, fatal occupational injuries per 100,000 workers (2018). Number of fatal occupational injuries in construction, manufacturing,

Dedicated Provider (Seniors): (2018). Percentage of women aged 18 to 44 who reported having one or more people they think of as their personal doctor or health care provider. America's Health Rankings. http://bit.ly/2M6G0kS


Drinking Water Quality: (2017). The Environmental Protection Agency uses a weighted point system to track violations of the law, including contaminants and treatment. This metric measures the number of violation points against public water systems per 1,000 residents served in each state. US News. http://bit.ly/2MGdGNo


Employment Growth: Over-the-year, seasonally adjusted change in total nonfarm employment (2019). Data are counts of jobs by place of work. Data have been revised to reflect 2018 benchmarks and updated seasonal adjustment factors. Seasonally adjusted data from January 2014 are subject to revision. Some seasonally adjusted series may have been revised. U.S. Department of Labor Bureau of Labor Statistics. http://bit.ly/2GTOQeh


Food Insecure Children: Children Living in Households that were Food Insecure at Some Point During the Year (2016). Children under age 18 living in households, where in the previous 12 months, there was an uncertainty of having, or an inability to acquire, enough food for all household members because of insufficient money or other resources. Annie E. Casey Foundation: Kids Count Data Center. http://bit.ly/2GerwT

Frequent Mental Distress: (2017). Percentage of adults aged 65 and older who reported their mental health was not good 14 or more days in the past 30 days. America's Health Rankings. http://bit.ly/2GRAH4N2


Health Screenings (Seniors): (2016). Percentage of women aged 65 to 74 who reported receiving a mammogram in the past two years and the percentage of adults aged 65 to 75 who reported receiving colorectal cancer screening within the recommended time period. America’s Health Rankings. http://bit.ly/2GT1kB7


**Hospice Care:** (2016). Percentage of Medicare decedents aged 65 and older who were enrolled in hospice during the last six months of life after diagnosis of a condition with a high probability of death. America's Health Rankings. http://bit.ly/2M6Qls3

**Housing Cost Burden:** Children living in households with a high housing cost burden (2017). The share of children living in households where more than 30 percent of the monthly income was spent on rent, mortgage payments, taxes, insurance, and/or related expenses. Annie E. Casey Foundation: Kids Count Data Center. http://bit.ly/2YJEEKN

**HPV Vaccine (Female):** (2017). Percentage of females aged 13 to 17 who are up to date on all the recommended doses of human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine. America's Health Rankings. http://bit.ly/2G5lawr

**HS Dropout Rate:** Grades 9-12 dropout rate (2008). The event dropout rate is defined as the count of dropouts from a given school year divided by the count of student enrollments within the same grade span at the beginning of the same school year. National Center for Education Statistics. http://bit.ly/2GWssik

**ICU Use:** (2016). Percentage of Medicare decedents aged 65 and older spending seven or more days in the intensive care unit (ICU)/critical care unit during the last six months of life. America's Health Rankings. http://bit.ly/2M573rL

**Immunizations (Youth):** (2018). Mean z score of the percentage of adolescents aged 13 to 17 who received the recommended doses of Tdap, meningococcal and HPV vaccines. America's Health Rankings. http://bit.ly/2GVsVBD

**Infant Deaths:** (2015-2016). Number of infant deaths (before age 1) per 1,000 live births (2-year average). America's Health Rankings. http://bit.ly/2GS1bAv

**Infectious Disease:** (2018). Mean z score of the incidence of chlamydia, pertussis and Salmonella per 100,000 population. America's Health Rankings. http://bit.ly/2GScIo3


**Juvenile Custody Rate:** (2017). The number of youth placed in the juvenile justice system per 100,000 youth. The Sentencing Project. http://bit.ly/2YQD2ip

**Juvenile Detention:** Youth Residing in Juvenile Detention, Correctional, and/or Residential Facilities per 100,000 youth (2015). Persons under age 21 detained, incarcerated, or placed in residential facilities. Values include persons under age 21 who had been (1) charged with or adjudicated for an offense; (2) assigned a bed in a facility that can hold accused or convicted juvenile. Annie E. Casey Foundation: Kids Count Data Center. http://bit.ly/2YPqQBk


**Medical Home (Special Needs):** medical home for child with special health care needs (2016). Percentage of children aged 0 to 17 with special health care needs who received coordinated, ongoing, comprehensive care within a medical home, including having a personal doctor or nurse, a usual source for sick care, family-centered care, and referrals. America's Health Rankings. http://bit.ly/2GSouHS


**Neighborhood Amenities:** (2016). Percentage of children aged 0 to 17 with access to parks or playgrounds, recreation or community centers, libraries or bookmobiles, and sidewalks or walking paths. America's Health Rankings. http://bit.ly/2M5b5x

**Neonatal Mortality:** (2015-2016). Number of deaths during first 28 days of life (0 to 27 days) per 1,000 live births. America's Health Rankings. http://bit.ly/2ZF6gJ

**No Vehicle:** Children without a vehicle at home (2017). The share of children under age 18 living in households without a vehicle at the time of the interview. Vehicles include passenger cars, vans, and trucks that are kept at home and are available for use by household members. Annie E. Casey Foundation: Kids Count Data Center. http://bit.ly/2YSm5qK

**Not HS Graduate:** Educational attainment of population ages 24-34 (not a high school graduate) (2017). Annie E. Casey Foundation:
Out-of-School Suspension: Children who have been suspended from school (out-of-school) (2013-2014). Percentages are based on school enrollment. Enrollment refers to the unduplicated count of students on the rolls of the school. The unduplicated count includes students both present and absent and excludes duplicate counts of students within a specific school or students whose membership is reported by another school. An out-of-school suspension is an instance in which a child is temporarily removed from his/her regular school for at least half a day (but less than the remainder of the school year) for disciplinary purposes to another setting (e.g. home, behavior center). Annie E. Casey Foundation: Kids Count Data Center. http://bit.ly/2M6jBKs

Owned Households: (2017). The share of children under age 18 living in households that are owned with a mortgage or loan or are owned free and clear. Annie E. Casey Foundation: Kids Count Data Center. http://bit.ly/2YPt6bV


Parents Unemployment: (2017). The unemployment rate of parents is the total number of parents unemployed divided by the total number of parents in the labor force. Parents who are not working and are not looking for work are not considered to be in the labor force, and so are not included in the unemployment rate. Annie E. Casey Foundation: Kids Count Data Center. http://bit.ly/2GeFTLZ


Physical Inactivity (Seniors): (2017). Percentage of adults aged 65 and older in fair or better health who reported doing no physical activity or exercise other than their regular job in the past 30 days. America's Health Rankings. http://bit.ly/2H7ccS1


Risk-Screening Environmental Indicators (RSEI) Score: (2017). A unitless result that accounts for the size of the release, the chemical's toxicity, the fate and transport of the chemical through the environment, and the size and location of the exposed population. United States Environmental Protection Agency. http://bit.ly/2M4TIdt


Smoking (Women): (2015-2016). Percentage of women aged 18 to 44 who are smokers (reported smoking at least 100 cigarettes in their lifetime and currently smoke every or some days). America’s Health Rankings. http://bit.ly/2GVc2PX

SNAP Reach: (2017). Number of adults aged 60 and older who participate in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) per 100 adults aged 60 and older living in poverty. America's Health Rankings. http://bit.ly/2H7cCix


Spending Gap on School Facilities: Capital Construction Gap per Student (2016). 4% of CRV = standard capital constructions cost. Gap between actual capital construction expenditures in millions and actual capital construction expenditures (FY 2011-2013) divided by student population 2013. Cost to regularly upgrade existing facilities’ systems, components, fixtures, equipment, and finishes as they reach the end of their anticipated live expectancy; systematically reduce the backlog of deferred maintenance that has accumulated; and alter existing facilities to respond to changing educational requirements. 21st Century School Fund, Center for Green Schools, National Council on School Facilities. http://bit.ly/2M6ib7D


Student Attendance: Students in

Substance Use Disorders (Youth): (2018). Percentage of children aged 12 to 17 who were dependent on or abused illicit drugs or alcohol in the past year. America's Health Rankings. http://bit.ly/2M70I4y


Uninsured: (2016-2017). Percentage of the population that does not have health insurance privately, through their employer or through the government (2-year average). America's Health Rankings. http://bit.ly/2M5VsZq


Youth Enrolled or Completed College: (2017). The share of young adults ages 18 to 24 who are enrolled in college or who have completed college. Annie E. Casey Foundation: Kids Count Data Center. http://bit.ly/2YLZ3Sp

Credits

Photos from Unsplash.com and University of Wyoming Marketing and Communications Photo Database.

ICONS FROM THE NOUN PROJECT.

Special thanks to Melanie Rottweiler for her assistance.
This appendix provides an exhaustive list of all the indicators identified by WYSAC where Wyoming was not ranked in the top or bottom 10 among all states. To make this list, indicators came from reputable sources that were already ranked.

**ACT**
Percent of high school graduates tested, average composite score, and percent meeting benchmarks for English, reading, math, and science

**American Bankruptcy Institute**
Bankruptcy filings per capita
Greatest annual per capita increase in bankruptcy filings

**America’s Health Rankings**
Adolescent well-visit
Adverse childhood experiences
Alcohol consumption during pregnancy—women
All determinants (composite of four composites) (overall)
All determinants (composite of four composites) (seniors)
All determinants—children (composite)
All determinants—HWC (composite)
All Outcomes
All outcomes composite (seniors)
Arthritis management (seniors)
Behaviors—children
Behaviors—HWC (composite)
Behaviors—infants (composite score)
Behaviors—women composite
Cardiovascular deaths (overall)
Child mortality
Children in poverty (overall)
Children with health insurance
Clinical care—women
Clinical Care
Clinical care children
Clinical care composite. (Overall)
Clinical care HWC (Health of women and children?)
Clinical-care infants
Community & Environment
Community & environment Macro (seniors)
Community & Environment Total
Community & environment—children (composite)
Community & environment—HWC (composite)
Community & environment—infants (composite score)
Community & environment-Micro
Community & environment—women and children
Dental visit (seniors)
Dental visit—women
Dentists (overall)
Diabetes—women
Disparity in health status (overall)
Drug deaths (overall)
Drug deaths—women
Early death (seniors)
Excessive drinking (overall)
Excessive drinking (seniors)
Excessive drinking—women
Falls (seniors)
Flu vaccine (seniors)
Flu vaccine—women
Food insecurity (seniors)
Food insecurity—household
Frequent mental distress (overall)
Frequent physical distress (overall)
Health behaviors composite (overall)
Health behaviors composite (seniors)
Health composite (overall)
High health status (seniors)
High school graduation (overall)
High school graduation no data in
my source
Hip fractures (seniors)
Home health care workers (seniors)
Homeless family households
Hospital deaths (seniors)
Hospital readmissions (seniors)
Household smoke
HPV immunization females—no data in my source
HPV immunization males—no data in my source
Immunizations—children (overall)
Intimate partner violence—pregnancy
Low birth weight
Low birth weight (overall)
Maternal mortality
Meningococcal immunizations
Mental health providers (overall)
Missed school days
mPINC
Nursing home quality (seniors)
Obesity (overall)
Obesity (seniors)
Obesity—women
Outcomes—Children
Outcomes—HWC (composite)
(women and children)
Outcomes—infants (composite)
Outcomes—women (composite)
Overall health composite (seniors)
Overall—children
Overall—HWC (composite)
Overall—infants (composite)
Overall—women (composite)
Overweight or obese youth
Pertussis (whooping cough) (overall)
Physical inactivity (overall)
Physical inactivity—women
Policy—Children
Postpartum depression
Postpartum visit
Poverty (seniors)
Premature death (overall)
Prenatal care before 3rd trimester
Preterm birth
Preventable hospitalizations (overall)
Preventable hospitalizations (seniors)
Public health funding (overall)
Publicly-funded women's health services
Sleep position
Smoking (overall)
Smoking (seniors)
Supportive neighborhoods
Tdap immunizations (overall)
Tdap immunizations—no data in my source
Teen births
Teeth extractions (seniors)
Uninsured women
Volunteerism (seniors)
Water fluoridation—no data in my source

Annie E. Casey Foundation, Kids Count Data Center
Child and teen death rate
Child deaths (NR)
Children 6 to 17 who repeated one or more grades since starting kindergarten
Children age 6 to 12 with all available parents in the labor force
Children ages 6 to 17 who repeated one or more grades since starting kindergarten
Children ages 9 months to 35 months who receive a developmental screening
Children below 150 percent poverty
Children below 200 percent poverty
Children below 250 percent poverty
Children by household head's educational attainment (Associate Degree)
Children by household head's educational attainment (Bachelor's Degree)
Children by household head's educational attainment (Graduate Degree)
Children in extreme poverty (50 percent poverty)
Children in kinship care
Children in low-income households with a high housing cost burden
Children living in crowded housing
Children living with cohabiting domestic partners
Children not in school by poverty status
Children under age 6 who received a developmental screening
Children under age 6 with all available parents in the labor force
Children who are confirmed by child protective services as victims of maltreatment
Children who are confirmed by child protective services as victims of maltreatment (emotional abuse)
Children who are confirmed by child protective services as victims of maltreatment (neglect)
Children who are confirmed by child protective services as victims of maltreatment (other/missing maltreatment type)
Children who are confirmed by child protective services as victims of maltreatment who receive services
Children who had a parent who has ever been incarcerated
Children who have been expelled from school
Children who have been expelled from school
Children who have been suspended from school
Children who have been suspended from school (in school)
Children who have experienced two or more adverse experiences
Children who have one or more emotional, behavioral, or developmental conditions
Children who have received preventive dental care in the past year
Children who live in unsafe communities
Children who missed 11 or more days of school per year due to illness or injury
Children who missed 11 or more days of school per year due to illness or injury
Children who speak a language other than English at home
Children whose parents lack secure employment
Children whose teeth are in excellent or very good condition
Children with at least one unemployed parent
Educational attainment of population ages 24-34 (Bachelor's Degree)
Families with related children that are below poverty by family type
Families with related children that are below poverty by family type
Families with related children that are below poverty by family type
Fourth graders who are chronically absent from school (NR)
High school students not graduating on time
High school students not graduating on time
Infant mortality
Low birth-weight babies
Low-income working families with children
Median family income among households with children
Persons age 18 to 24 not attending school, not working, and no degree beyond high school
Persons age 18 to 24 not attending school, not working, and no degree beyond high school
Pre-K children not in school
Teen deaths by accident, homicide, and suicide (NR)
Teens ages 16 to 19 not attending school and not working
Unemployed teens age 16 to 19
Very low birth-weight babies
Young children not in school

Bureau of Labor Statistics
Entrepreneurship

Cato Institute
“Freedom”

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, BRFSS
Adult current smoking cigarettes
Adult current vaping (recommend against using)

Council of State Governments
Alcohol impaired fatalities per 100 million annual vehicle miles traveled
Graduation rate: percentage of students in higher education who obtain a bachelor's degree within six years
Percent of 4-year-olds enrolled in state funded pre-K
Percent of 4-year-olds in state funded pre-K, preschool special education, and Head Start
Percent of all bridges considered structurally deficient
Percent of all bridges functionally obsolete
Percent of people 25 years and over who have completed a bachelor's degree
Percent of people 25 years and over who have completed an advanced degree
Percent of state owned bridges functionally obsolete
Percent of traffic fatalities involving high blood alcohol concentration
Retention rate: percentage of first year students in higher education who enroll for second year

Gallup
Religiosity

National Center for Education Statistics
8th grade mathematics average scale scores

8th grade reading average scale scores
8th grade science average scale scores
Comparable wage index for teachers
Hispanic averaged high school freshman graduation rate
Overall averaged high school freshman graduation rate
White averaged high school freshman graduation rate

National Education Association
Average salaries of instructional staff in public schools
Average salaries of public school teachers
Federal revenue as a percentage of total revenue receipts
Local revenue as a percentage of total revenue receipts
State revenue as a percentage of total revenue receipts

The American Society of Civil Engineers, 2017 Infrastructure Report Card
Bridge Funding – the number and percentage of structurally deficient bridges and state spending on bridge capital projects.
Bridges – the number and percentage of structurally deficient bridges and state spending on bridge capital projects.
Dams – the number of high-hazard potential dams.
Dams with EAPS – the number of regulated dams with emergency action plans.
Drinking Water – drinking water infrastructure needs over 20 years.
Energy – the amount of renewable energy produced.
Hazardous Waste – the number of hazardous waste sites on the National Priorities List.
Inland Waterways – the miles of inland waterways and ranking nationally.
Levees – the miles of levees in the National Levees Database
Ports – the amount of short tons of cargo and ranking nationally.
Public Parks – the unmet needs for park systems.
Public Use Airports – the number of public use airports
Rail – the miles of freight railroads.
Road Costs – the cost per motorist of driving on roads in need of repair.
Roads – the miles of public roads and percentage in poor condition.
Transit – the number of annual unlinked passenger trips via transit
Wastewater – wastewater infrastructure needs over 20 years

U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis
Venture capital dollars invested per $1,000 of nominal state gross domestic product

U.S. Census Bureau
Growth of Young Population
Tax Burden
Top Company Headquarters per capita

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Patent Creation
Per capita federal spending

FiveThirtyEight
Popularity above “replacement senator” from FiveThirtyEight.com
The Wyoming Survey & Analysis Center at the University of Wyoming seeks to provide clear, accurate, and useful information to decision-makers through applied social research, scientific polling, information technology services, and rigorous program evaluation.

Without bias and with the highest standards of validity, WYSAC collects, manages, analyzes, and reports data through research contracts for the public and private sector in Wyoming and throughout the nation.

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