

Wyoming

A profile of its children

Understanding the facts about children in Wyoming illustrates why smart, proven investments in Wyoming's children and youth are critical to protecting Wyoming's competitive edge in a global marketplace.



"Success in manufacturing and business today isn't about widgets and conveyor belts. Success is driven by employees who have the brain power to make independent decisions and solve problems. Research shows that 90% of a child's brain develops in the first 5 years of life. So in order to have the skilled workforce our nation needs, we - all of us - must invest in high quality early childhood programs. To do something less puts our economy at risk." -

Children in Wyomingⁱ

- 138,323 children (under the age of 18) live in the state;
- 17,000 children (13%) live in poverty (about \$24,008 or less for a family of four);
- 8,000 children (6%) live in extreme poverty (about \$12,004 or less for a family of four);
- 27 percent of children live in a household with only one parent.
- 62 percent of all children under age six have all available parents in the labor force.

Early Childhoodⁱⁱ

- Approximately 1,514 children participate in the federally-funded Head Start program; However;
- Only 8 percent of 3-year-olds and 11 percent of 4-year-olds were enrolled in Head Start or a special education preschool program. There is no state-funded pre-kindergarten program;

School Readinessⁱⁱⁱ

- Math:
 - 52 percent of fourth graders are below grade level in math;
 - 65 percent of eighth graders are below grade level in math.
- Reading:
 - 59 percent of fourth graders are reading below grade level;
 - 64 percent of eighth graders are reading below grade level.

Graduation Rates^{iv}

- 23 percent of high school students do not graduate on time with a high school diploma,
- Only 22 percent of high school graduates met the ACT College Readiness Benchmarks in all four core areas: English, Reading, Mathematics, and Science.^v
- By 2020, 65 percent of jobs in Wyoming will require a postsecondary education; only 58 percent of working age adults currently have that level of education.^{vi}

ⁱ Annie E. Casey Foundation. (2014). KIDS COUNT data center. Baltimore, MD: Author. Retrieved on October 22, 2015, Retrieved from: <http://datacenter.kidscount.org>

ⁱⁱ Barnett, W.S., Carolan, M.E., Fitzgerald, J., & Squires, J.H. (2015). The state of preschool- 2014. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University for Early Education Research; Retrieved from <http://nieer.org/sites/nieer/files/yearbook2014.pdf>

ⁱⁱⁱ National Center on Education Statistics (2015). The Nation's Report Card. National Center for Education Statistics, Institute of Education Sciences, U.S. Department of Education, Washington, D.C. Retrieved from <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/states/>

^{iv} U.S. Department of Education (2014, April). Public high school 4-year adjusted cohort graduation rate (ACGR) for the United States, the 50 states and the District of Columbia: School years 2010-11 to 2012-13. National Center for Education Statistics, Institute of Education Sciences. Retrieved from: http://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/data/actr2010-11_to_2012-13.asp

^v ACT Inc. (2015). The Condition of College and Career Readiness in Wyoming. Iowa City, IA: Author. Retrieved from: <http://www.act.org/newsroom/data/2015/states/pdf/Wyoming.pdf>.

^{vi} One hundred percent of Wyoming's graduating class took the ACT in 2015.

^{vii} Camevale, A.P., Smith, N., & Strohl, J. (2013). Recovery: Projections of jobs and education requirements through 2020. Washington, DC: Georgetown Public Policy Institute. Retrieved on October 22, 2015 from https://cew.georgetown.edu/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/Recovery2020.SR_Web_.pdf