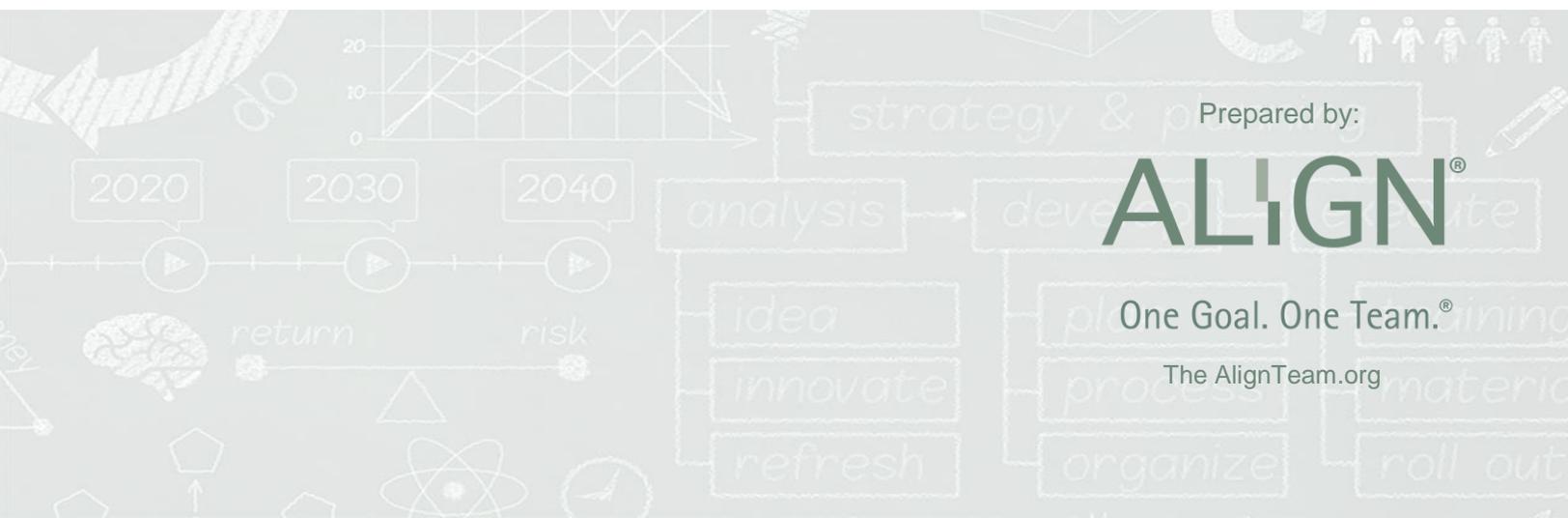


# Goshen County Community Needs Assessment



*November 2018*



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# Executive Summary

Goshen Help was originally formed to give hope and provide resources to homeless youth in Goshen County. Goshen Help filed with the Wyoming Secretary of State in 2015 and was recognized by the IRS as a 501(c)3 charitable nonprofit organization in 2017. Today, the mission of Goshen Help is to eliminate the causes of poverty by giving hope, healing, and health to individuals, families and communities through self-sufficiency initiatives in Goshen County.

As of October 1, 2018, Goshen Help is the new Community Service Block Grant (CSBG) provider for Goshen County. The purpose of CSBG is to support services and activities for individuals with low incomes that alleviate the causes and conditions of poverty in communities. The Wyoming Department of Health administers CSBG funds in Wyoming. There are 14 CSBG agencies in Wyoming that provide CSBG assistance in all 23 counties. There are three national goals of CSBG:

1. Individuals and families with low incomes are stable and achieve economic security.
2. Communities where people with low incomes live are healthy and offer economic opportunity.
3. People with low incomes are engaged and active in building opportunities in their communities.

Each CSBG provider in Wyoming is required to conduct a Community Needs Assessment every three years. The Community Needs Assessment is a systematic process for creating a profile of the needs and resources of a given community or target population. CSBG funding priorities should be based on needs and resources in the community.

Goshen Help contracted with Western States Learning Corporation, d/b/a Align, to conduct the Community Needs Assessment in Goshen County. The main contact for Goshen Help was Kyle Borger, Executive Director. Align's lead for this project was Jody Shields, Vice President.

The information contained in the Community Needs Assessment analyzes and synthesizes many types of information, including quantitative and qualitative data from multiple sources. Align collected demographic information, as well as data specific to poverty and its prevalence as related to gender, age and race/ethnicity for the service areas. Quantitative data was also collected in the areas of cost of living, income, housing, food insecurity, employment, education and health. All sources of information are noted in this report.

Qualitative data provides insights into poverty related issues by collecting people's opinions and observations. This information was collected through a combination of key informant interviews and a survey. Jody Shields met with Goshen Help Executive Director Kyle Borger and Board Members Carlos Saucedo, Lataizia Bechtel and Diane Nye to develop a list of key agencies and individuals to be included in the qualitative data collection.

Thirty-seven individuals were included in the Key Informant Interviews. The list of interviewees is included in this report. Twenty-five individuals, representing seventeen agencies, were interviewed in-person. Seven school district employees (nurses and counselors) responded to the same questions via an online survey. Five individuals were interviewed by phone representing different agencies and communities.

A Community Needs Assessment survey was distributed to various human service agencies and made available online. There was a total of 95 survey responses, collected online and on paper. Included in the survey was a section with questions specific to healthcare services for children. These questions were included based on a request by the Wyoming Department of Health. The complete survey results are contained in this report.

Following the Executive Summary and Key Findings, the report is broken into sections by topic area. Each topic area incorporates both quantitative and qualitative data.

Goshen Help and Align are extremely grateful to the multitude of people and agencies that contributed to this report. Without the information provided from agencies and thoughtful input from individuals, developing this report would not have been possible.

# Key Findings and Recommendations

## Key Findings

When interviewees were asked why they thought the poverty rate is high in Goshen County, their number one response was **the lack of job opportunities**. This is especially true for those without a college or technical degree or skilled experience. The sugar factory used to be a major employer in the county. Now it operates on a limited basis with seasonal employees on the lower end of the pay scale. There is a continued threat of closing the sugar factory. In addition, the ethanol plant closed a few years ago. Most of the jobs available to those without skilled experience or a degree are in the fast food and retail industries. Many jobs are part-time and don't offer benefits.

**Generational poverty** was also brought up several times as one of the reasons for the high poverty rate. Generational poverty is defined as a family having lived in poverty for at least two generations. Families living in this type of poverty are not equipped with the tools to move out of their situations.

In terms of strengths, interviewees often cited that people care and most people are willing to pitch in and help when someone is in need. Most of the interviewees also stated that there are a fair number of resources available in the community.

The top needs as identified in Key Informant Interviews are outlined below.

### Affordable Housing (Rentals)

Many interviewees stated that the monthly rental rates went up when the medium security prison was built several years ago. The feeling is that these rates have not come down, even though the number of people relocating to the county for jobs at the prison didn't materialize to the level anticipated. Rental rates outside of Torrington are more reasonable, whether you are living in the country or in one of the other smaller communities. However, the cost of transportation usually makes up the difference if you are commuting to work.

### Food

Several interviewees stated that many low-income families don't have enough food. They are forced to make a choice on whether to buy food or pay for other necessities such as utilities.

### Affordable Medical Services

For those with no insurance or with high deductibles, paying for even routine doctor visits can be impossible. Often times people don't visit the doctor and wait until their condition gets much worse before seeking medical help. In rural communities such as Goshen County, there aren't any options for free or sliding fee medical services.

### Transportation

Some interviewees indicated that clients they work with can't afford to put gas in their car and/or pay for car maintenance and repairs. The only public transportation available is through the Senior Center which has limited hours and services. The Senior Center offers transportation Monday through Friday from 7:15 am to 4:30 pm. There is a suggested donation of \$1 for senior, with anyone under 60 required to pay \$1 per stop. Though the Senior Center will transport anyone regardless of age, 60% of the service's riders are over the age of 60.

### Affordable Childcare

Some interviewees mentioned that obtaining affordable childcare is a challenge. There are also issues with the hours that childcare is available.

The top areas of need as identified in the Community Needs Assessment Survey mirrored what was identified in the Key Informant Interviews. Survey top areas of need:

- Finding affordable childcare
- Being employed with a livable wage
- Having enough food in the home
- Being able to pay my rent or mortgage
- Accessing medical care

## **Recommendations**

It is the responsibility of the Goshen Help Board of Directors and Executive Director to review the findings from this Community Assessment and incorporate them into their strategic priorities for allocating funding. In the past, CSBG funds were administered by another provider outside of the county. These funds were used for emergency assistance such as rent and utility payments. As Goshen Help moves to a model of helping people reach self-sufficiency, there will be some challenges. Having a complete understanding of all the resources available and coordinating services with community partners will be essential. Encourage utilization of Wyoming 211 as a referral resource, both from the user perspective as well as the agencies providing services.

Align offers these recommendations as part of the larger discussion the board and staff will have on how to strategically focus your resources to meet your mission.

1. **Overcome misconceptions and create a common understanding of poverty.** Unless you have experienced poverty, it is difficult to fully comprehend the challenges. We often hear in Wyoming that people just need to “pull themselves up by their boot straps”. Consider holding a poverty simulation in your county and invite key stakeholders including elected officials. We can offer some sources of possible grants to fund the project.

2. **Increase your knowledge about generational poverty and identify one key strategy you can focus on to begin addressing the issue.** Goshen County has the highest percentage of children in poverty among all counties in Wyoming. Consider the two-generation approach, which focuses on addressing the needs of both children and the adults.
3. **In addressing livable wages, engage Eastern Wyoming College and Goshen County Economic Development** in a discussion on how you might be able to work together to address education and skill level among those who are currently limited to entry level low wage jobs. As outlined in the Income section of this report, the difference in median earnings based on educational attainment is striking, especially for females.
4. **Work with local providers of low-income housing to fully understand their requirements and rate setting.** Contact Wyoming Housing Network to inquire about the High Plains Apartments rental rates. There may be an option to adjust rental rates based on market conditions and demand.
5. **Help build a collaborative community among the human service providers in Goshen County.** We did hear that there are meetings with some of these providers, but attendance and participation has been sparse at times. Encourage all the human service agencies to attend these meetings to share information and collaborate whenever possible. You could consider using this report as a catalyst for reigniting the group and increasing participation.

# Demographics

The population of Goshen County saw some growth from 2000 to 2010 but has remained relatively flat since 2010. After growing by 5.67% from 2000 to 2010, the county’s population grew by only 1% from 2010 to 2017. The estimated population of Goshen County in 2017 was 13,378.

## Goshen County Population by Year

2000	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
12,538	13,249	13,580	13,642	13,551	13,544	13,566	13,355	13,378

Census: 2000 & 2010  
 Annual Estimates: 2011-2017  
 US Census Bureau, American Fact Finder

## 2017 Population Estimate and 2010 Census by Gender and Age

	2017 Estimate	2010 Census	Percent change
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,378</b>	<b>13,249</b>	<b>1% increase</b>
<b>Gender:</b>			
Male	6,954	6,906	.70% increase
Female	6,424	6,343	1.28% increase
<b>Age:</b>			
Under 5 years	707	700	1% increase
5 to 19 years	2,391	2,483	3.71% decrease
20 to 44 years	3,890	3,672	5.94% increase
45 to 64 years	3,497	3,894	10.2% decrease
65 and over	2,893	2,500	15.72 % increase

US Census Bureau, American Fact Finder,

## Race

<b>Race</b>	<b>Percent</b>
White	95%
Black or African American	1.1%
American Indian and Alaska Native	1.5%
Asian	1.1%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	0.1%
Some Other Race	4.4%
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	10.5%

US Census, 2012-2016 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimate  
Survey respondents could check more than one race.

## Population – Incorporated city/towns; outside of city/town limits

	<b>2017</b>	<b>2010</b>
Total Population	13,378	13,249
Torrington	6691	6501
Lingle	463	468
LaGrange	445	448
Fort Laramie	229	230
Yoder	156	151
Live outside of city/town limits	5,394	5,451

US Census, Census 2010 and Annual Estimate of the Resident Population

Note: Eastern Wyoming College is in Torrington and Frontier School of the Bible is in LaGrange. For college students living away from their parental home while attending school in the US, the US Census counts their residence according to where they live and sleep most of the time. The Town of LaGrange indicated that there are approximately 250 residents without the Frontier School of the Bible. For the Fall 2017 semester, Eastern Wyoming College's full-time headcount for Goshen County was 424 students.

# Cost of Living

The State of Wyoming, Economic Analysis Division, produces the Wyoming Cost of Living Index (WCLI) Report biannually. The Comparative Cost of Living Index compares each county's cost of living in one period (not over time) to the statewide average. Price data for 140 consumer items are surveyed and then aggregated into six categories, which are then weighted to reflect their overall importance in the average consumer's budget. The categories and respective weights are:

Housing	48.1%
Transportation	16.5%
Food	13.4%
Recreation & Personal Care	9.5%
Medical	8.7%
Apparel	3.8%

While the overall Cost of Living in Goshen County is lower than that of Wyoming as a whole, four of the six consumer categories are higher. The statewide average is 100.

## Goshen County Cost of Living Index

All Items	Food	Housing	Apparel	Transportation	Medical	Recreation & Personal Care
<b>90</b>	104	78	106	97	104	104

The Wyoming Comparative Cost of Living Index - 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter, 2018  
Wyoming Economic Analysis Division

Additional information and data are included in this report on the following categories: Food, Housing, Transportation and Medical.

# Poverty

The percentage of people below poverty in Goshen County is 15.9%. This is the third-highest percentage among all Wyoming counties. The state’s overall percentage is 11.6%. A number of key informant interviews identified generational poverty as one of the key challenges. Generational poverty is defined as a family having lived in poverty for at least two generations.

	Percent below poverty level
All Population	15.9%
Gender:	
Male	13.5%
Female	18.4%
Age	
Under 18 years	27.6%
18 to 34 years	19.3%
35 to 64 years	12.1%
65 years and over	8.3%
Race/Ethnicity	
White alone	15.6%
Black or African American alone	0%
American Indian & Alaska Native alone	14.6%
Asian alone	0%
Native Hawaiian & Other Pacific Islander alone	-
Some other race alone	28.8%
Two or more races	12.7%
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	27.6%

US Census, American Fact Finder, Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months  
2012-2016 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimate

The US Department of Health and Human Services states that there are two slightly different versions of the federal poverty measure: poverty thresholds and poverty guidelines.

- The **poverty thresholds** are the original version of the federal poverty measure. They are updated each year by the Census Bureau. The thresholds are used mainly for statistical purposes. All official poverty population figures are calculated using the poverty thresholds, not the guidelines.
- The **poverty guidelines** are the other version of the federal poverty measure. They are issued each year in the Federal Register by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). The guidelines are a simplification of the poverty thresholds for use for administrative purposes such as determining financial eligibility for certain federal programs.

## 2018 Poverty Guidelines for the 48 Contiguous States and the District of Columbia

Persons in family/household	Poverty guideline
1	\$12,240
2	\$16,460
3	\$20,780
4	\$25,100
5	\$29,420
6	\$33,740
7	\$38,060
8	\$42,380
For families/households with more than 8 persons, add \$4,320 for each additional person.	

US Department of Health and Human Services

# Income

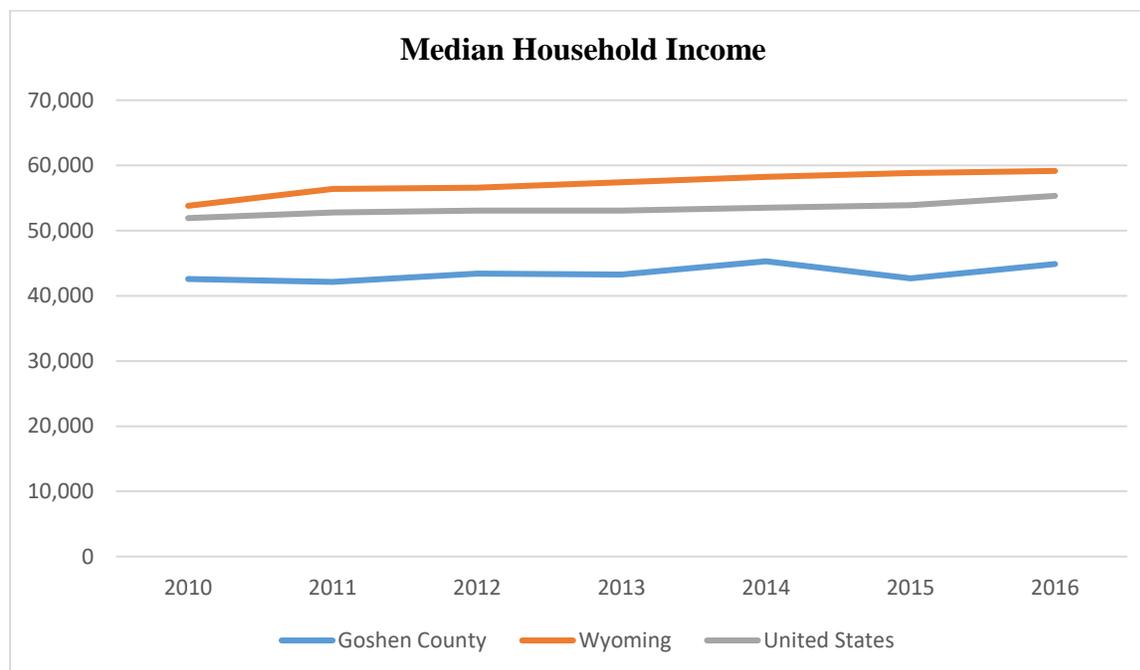
A majority (66) of the 94 respondents to the Community Needs Assessment Survey reported annual incomes below \$50,000. Eleven respondents (11.7%) reported an annual income range of less than \$10,000; 17.02% reported an income of \$10,001-\$20,000; and 13.83% reported an annual income of \$20,001-\$30,000. For all income information, see Survey section of this report.

The median household income in Goshen County is lower than both Wyoming as a whole and the United States. In addition, household incomes have risen at a slower rate compared to Wyoming and the United States. There is also a considerable gender wage gap when looking at individuals with less than a bachelor’s degree.

## Median household income

<b>Goshen County</b>	<b>\$44,883</b>
Wyoming	\$59,143
United States	\$55,322

US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimate 2012-2016



US Census, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates (2006-2010, 2007-2011, 2008-2012, 2009-2013, 2010-2014, 2011-2015, 2012-2016)

**Percent increase in median income based on the 5-Year Estimates from 2006-2010 to 2012-2016**

<b>Goshen County</b>	<b>5.38%</b>
Wyoming	9.93%
United States	6.56%

**Median Earnings by Sex and by Educational Attainment for the Population 25 years and older in Goshen County**

	<b>Total</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>
Total	\$31,648	\$37,465	\$26,060
Less than high school	\$12,803	\$16,250	\$9,135
High School graduate	\$27,165	\$30,461	\$16,641
Some college or associate degree	\$28,693	\$38,799	\$21,979
Bachelor's degree	\$41,118	\$42,633	\$36,827
Graduate or professional degree	\$60,109	\$57,026	\$60,511

US Census Bureau, American Fact Finder, 2012-2016 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

*Data are based on sample and are subject to sampling variability. Some of these categories have large margins of error.*

# Education

On the Community Needs Assessment Survey, 28.57% of the respondents are high school graduates and 26.37% have some college credit or are in college. None of the respondents had less than a high school diploma.

The Key Informant Interviewees suggested that the lack of a college degree and the lack of job prospects for those without a degree are helping drive the poverty rate in Goshen County. Some people cited the lack of high school degrees for some adults as an issue. However, Goshen County’s graduate rate is higher than the Wyoming graduation rate.

For the 2016-2017 year, the number of expected high school graduates was 144 in Goshen County. Out of this number, 123 graduated for a graduation rate of 85.4%. This compares favorably to the statewide graduation rate of 80.2%

### District Graduation Rate – 2016-17 Cohort

	Goshen County	Statewide
All Students	85.4%	80.2%
Male	81.5%	77.8%
Female	90.5%	82.8%
Lunch eligible*	71.6%	67.9%

*\*Students who qualified for free or reduced lunch*  
 Wyoming Department of Education

### Educational Attainment – 18 to 24 years (Goshen County)

	Total	Percent
<b>Population 18 to 24 years</b>	1,329	
Less than high school graduate	165	12.4%
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	456	34.3%
Some college or Associate’s degree	679	51.1%
Bachelor’s degree or higher	29	2.2%

US Census, America Fact Finder, 2012-2016 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

**Educational Attainment – 25 years and over (Goshen County)**

	Total	Percent
<b>Population 25 years and over</b>	9,463	
Less than 9 <sup>th</sup> grade	192	2.0%
9 <sup>th</sup> to 12 <sup>th</sup> grade, no diploma	602	6.4%
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	2,808	29.7%
Some college, no degree	2,729	28.8%
Associate’s degree	959	10.1%
Bachelor’s degree	1,333	14.1%
Graduate or professional degree	840	8.9%

US Census, America Fact Finder, 2012-2016 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Goshen County is fortunate to be home to Eastern Wyoming College. Founded in 1948, EWC serves 1,937 students in credit courses. In addition, the college sponsors outreach programs in Converse, Crook, Niobrara, Platte and Weston counties.

# Employment and Unemployment

Of the respondents that completed the Community Needs Assessment Survey, 56.38% are working full-time, 20.21% are working part-time, 5.97% are unemployed/job searching, 4.26% are unemployed/not job searching, and 9.57% are retired.

On the Community Needs Assessment Survey, “being employed with a livable wage” ranked second highest on the level of difficulty.

- 24.42% of the respondents indicated that it is “being employed with a livable wage is difficult for me most of the time”
- 24.42% indicated that “being employed with a livable wage is sometimes difficult for me”

*Retirees were eliminated in response results.*

On the Community Needs Assessment Survey, “finding affordable childcare” ranked number one on the level of difficulty.

- 31.5% of the respondents indicated that “finding affordable childcare is difficult for me most of the time”
- 19.76% of the respondents indicated that “finding affordable childcare is sometimes difficult for me”

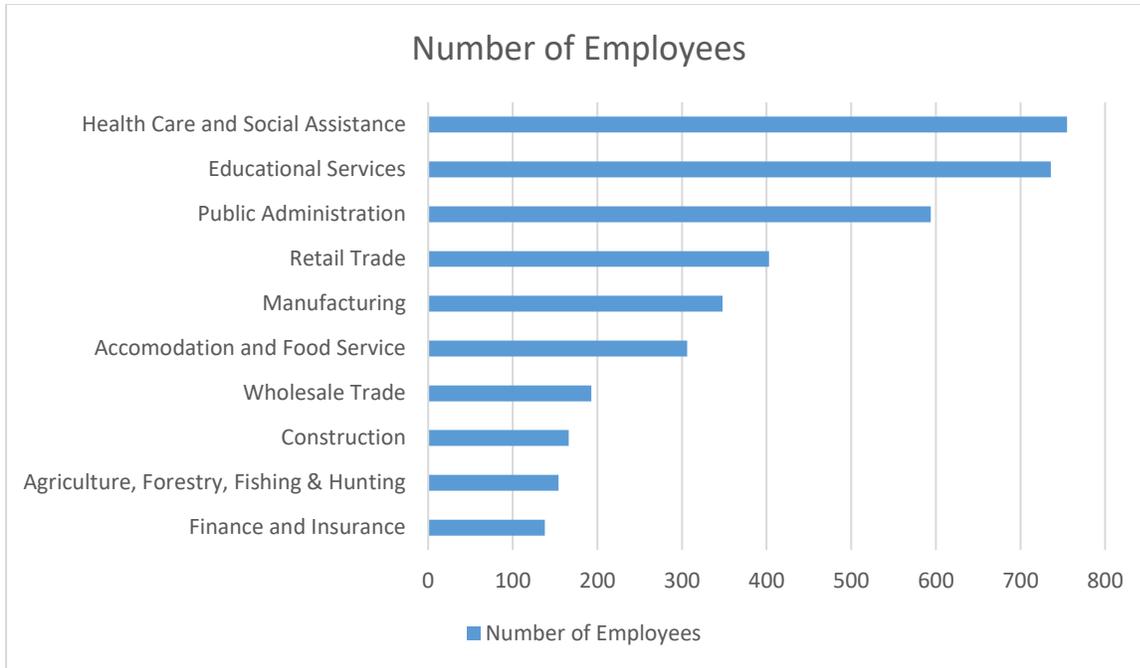
*Responses were only included for households with children.*

On the question, “What are your barriers to employment”, the top two barriers identified were:

- 18.52% of the respondents selected “pay too low to support family”
- 16.05% of the respondents selected “no childcare during work”

The Key Informant Interviews revealed that one of the biggest reasons for poverty was the lack of job opportunities, specifically for those without a college degree. They pointed to the closing of the ethanol plant and the continued threat of closing of the sugar factory as big factors. While the sugar factory is currently operated during the sugar beet campaign, the only openings currently listed on the Wyoming Workforces website are for seasonal campaign laborers with an advertised pay rate of \$10 per hour.

The industries with the highest number of employees in Goshen County are outlined in the following table.



Dept of Labor, 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter, 2017

Goshen County’s **unemployment rate** is relatively low at 3.9%, which is comparable to the statewide average of 3.8%.

	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployed Number	Unemployment Rate
Goshen County	6,658	6,399	259	3.9%
Wyoming	289,031	278,099	10,932	3.8%

Wyoming Department of Workforce Services, Research & Planning, July 2018

A quick search of Wyoming at Work, the Wyoming Department of Workforce Services’ automated job search system, found 130 job openings in Goshen County representing 150 positions. The positions ranged from entry level to those requiring advanced professional degrees and experience. Employers with the highest number of job openings at the time of this report included McDonald’s, Banner Health, State of Wyoming, Goshen County School District and Welcov Healthcare.

## Childcare

There are three different licensing categories in Wyoming:

- Child Care Center – Care provided for 16 or more children
- Family Child Care Center – Care provided in a residential or commercial structure for no more than 15 children
- Family Child Care Home – Care provided in the provider’s own home for up to 10 children

*Please note, there are staff-child ratios which are based on the ages of children.*

In Goshen County, there are a total of 21 licensed providers.

- Child Care Centers – 7
- Family Child Care Centers – 4
- Family Child Care Homes – 10

It should be noted that some of these facilities operate as preschools and have limited hours and ages of children that they accept. These facilities include a mix of private businesses and nonprofits. All of the providers are in Torrington, except for one Family Child Care Center in LaGrange which is a preschool.

Statewide Training and Resource Center (STARS)

# Housing

On the Community Needs Assessment Survey, “being able to pay my rent or mortgage” ranked fourth-highest on the level of difficulty.

- 13.10% of the respondents indicated that “being able to afford my rent or mortgage is difficult for me most of the time”
- 42.86% of the respondents indicated that “being able to afford my rent or mortgage is sometimes difficult for me”

Of those that responded, 37.89% are currently renting with an average rent of \$555.68; 51.58% are living in a home that they own. For those that have a mortgage, the average monthly payment was \$899.95. The vast majority-- 94.68%-- don’t receive any financial help with rent or house payments from a government program or agency.

Of the 95 respondents, 35 indicated at least one housing problem. When asked about specific housing problems,

- 42.86% indicated that they cannot afford to make needed repairs on their home.
- 28.57% indicated that they cannot find affordable housing to buy.
- 20% indicated that they cannot find affordable housing to rent.

Affordable housing was one of the top identified needs in the Key Informant Interviews. Most people mentioned the lack of affordable rentals in Torrington, especially rentals with more than one or two bedrooms. The rent outside of Torrington is less expensive, so many people live in the country or in one of the smaller communities. For those on the lower end of the income scale, having to commute to work poses additional costs in fuel and car expenses.

Wyoming 2-1-1 reported that of the 54 calls received from Goshen County during the past year, most needs were related to housing and utilities assistance. Forty of these calls were referred to the prior CSBG provider for Goshen County.

According to the most recent US Census American Community Survey 5-Year Estimate, the vacant housing rate in Goshen County is 10.1%. Of the 5,350 occupied housing units, 4,084 are owner-occupied and 1,266 are renter-occupied.

## Rentals

Wyoming’s Cost of Living Index (WCLI) for the second quarter of 2018 showed average rental rates for two-bedroom, unfurnished apartments in Goshen County were **\$564**, a 2.6% increase from the second quarter of 2017. Average rental rates for mobile home lots were listed at **\$195**, a 5.4% increase from the second quarter of 2017, while average rental rates for single family homes (**\$614**) and mobile homes (**\$500**) saw drops of 7.75 and 2.5%, respectively.

The average rental rates reported in the WCLI are broken down by specific types of housing, unfurnished and without utilities. These are averages and not a median. According to Senior Economist Amy Bittner of the State of Wyoming’s Economic Analysis Division, WCLI average rental rates are collected by pulling information from newspapers, online sources and real estate companies that handle rentals. Income-restricted rentals are not included in the data, nor are any housing units located outside the city limits or in rural parts of Goshen County.

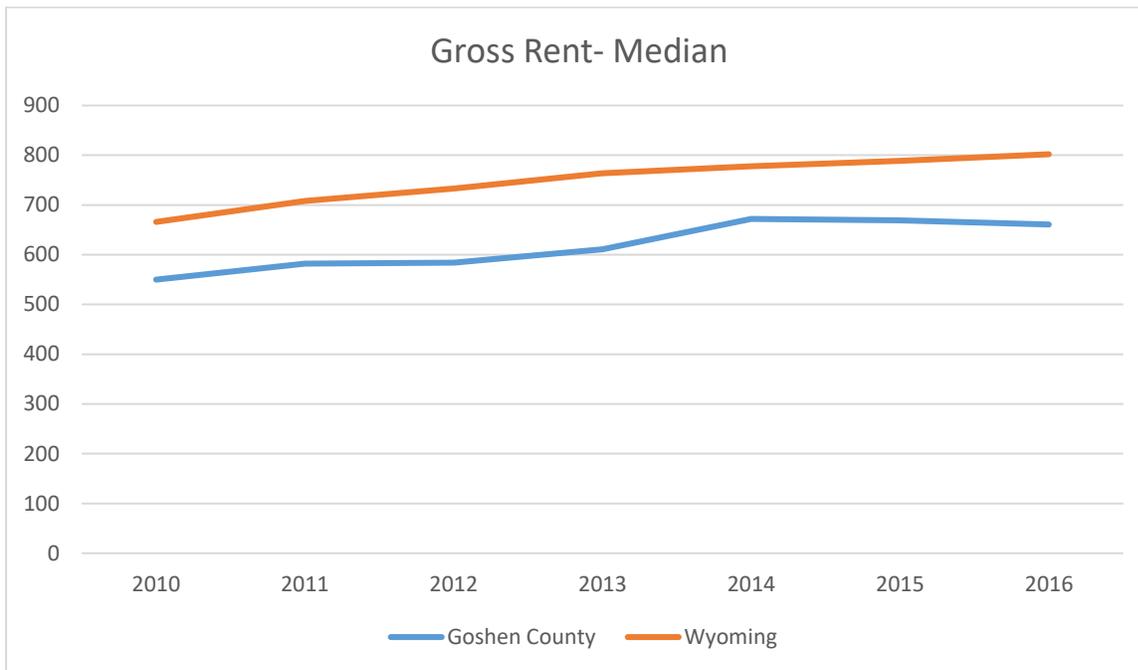
In contrast with the WCLI data, the American Community Survey (ACS) conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau listed the median gross rent from 2012-2016 at **\$661**. This discrepancy can be attributed to the fact that the median gross rent listed in the ACS includes estimated cost of utilities. In addition, the data includes all rentals regardless of type, i.e. apartment, house, mobile home, etc. and all of sizes, 1 bedroom, 2 bedrooms, etc. In addition, data from the ACS is collected through household surveys sent to a sample of housing units, with margins of error calculated with the data. Due to a small sample size, the margin of error in the ACS data can be significant, as indicated by the chart below:

**Median Gross Rent by Bedrooms for Goshen County**

	Estimate	Margin of Error
<b>Median Gross Rent</b>	\$661	+/-57
<b>1 bedroom</b>	\$460	+/-64
<b>2 bedrooms</b>	\$701	+/-51
<b>3 bedrooms</b>	\$746	+/-156
<b>4 bedrooms</b>	\$738	+/-610

US Census, American Fact Finder, 2012-2016 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimate

Households that spend more than 30% of their income on housing are termed “housing cost burdened”. If you are renting, this percentage includes utilities. According to the US Census, 2012-2016 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimate, 33.3% of renters in Goshen County would fall into the “housing cost burdened” category.



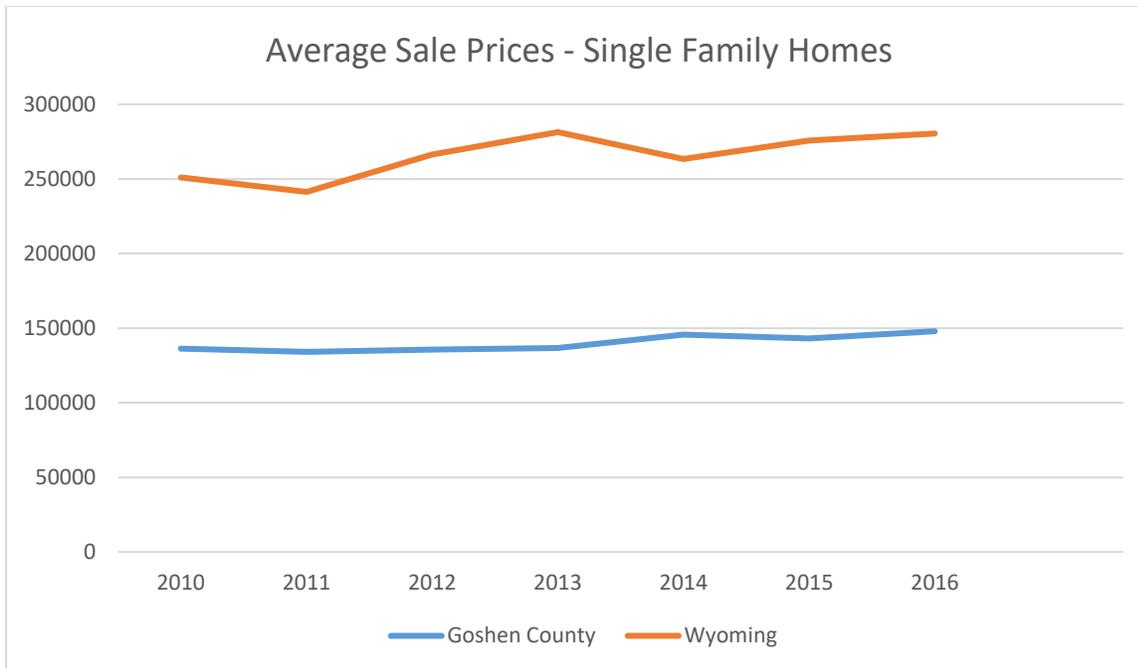
US Census, American Fact Finder, 2012-2016 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimate

The median monthly rental rate in Goshen County has seen a modest overall increase from 2010, when it was \$550. As stated previously, the median rental rate was \$661 according to the US Census Bureau. This compares favorably to the rest of Wyoming, which has seen median rental rates go up more dramatically, from \$666 in 2010 to \$802 in 2016.

There are a few options for income-restricted rental units in Goshen County. High Plains Apartments is part of the Low-Income Housing Tax Credits program, with income limits set by the County for eligibility. However, even with the income restrictions, monthly rents for 1-bedroom (\$619), 2-bedroom (\$743) and 3-bedroom (\$857) units may be priced out of reach of many applicants who meet the qualifications. According to the manager, 7 of the 32 units in the complex were vacant as of October 30, 2018. The manager indicated that one of the challenges with renting units in the complex is that there's no simple way to advertise what the restrictions are to the community. High Plains Apartments are located within a block of Eastern Wyoming College, however most full-time students are disqualified from eligibility.

Golden Manor and Bell Park Tower serve the senior population. Bell Park Towers is a 40 unit, HUD subsidized complex for individuals or their spouse at least 62 years of age that meet income requirements. Rent is based on a resident's adjusted gross income. Golden Manor provides low-income rental housing for the area's elderly population.

## Home Ownership



Wyoming Department of Revenue, 2017 Wyoming Profile, Wyoming Community Development Authority

According to the Wyoming Department of Revenue, the average sales price of existing, detached single-family homes in 2016 was \$147,890. This represents an increase of 3.4% from the previous year. Wyoming's average in 2016 was \$280,428. Wyoming has seen more fluctuation, while Goshen County has seen a modest increase overall.

According to the most recent US Census Bureau American Community Survey 5-Year Estimate, the median home value in Goshen County is \$153,000. This compares to the Wyoming median home value of \$199,900 and the United States median home value of \$184,700.

Of the 4,084 owner-occupied housing units, 2,350 of these have a mortgage. The monthly owner costs median is \$1,111. The US Census includes the sum of payment for mortgages, real estate taxes, various insurances, utilities, fuels, mobile home costs and condominium fees in the monthly owner cost calculation.

For a mortgage amount of \$153,000 for a 30-year loan at 4.7% interest rate a required annual income would be \$34,008. Note, no monthly housing expenses such as taxes and insurance are included in this figure. In addition, no liabilities such as auto loans or credit card balances are included in this figure.

As stated earlier, households that spend more than 30% of their income on housing are termed "housing cost burdened". In Goshen County, 28.2% of home owners are housing cost burdened.

# Food Insecurity

Feeding America, the nation’s largest domestic hunger-relief organization, defines food insecurity as follows:

Food insecurity refers to the USDA’s measure of lack of access to enough food for an active healthy life for all household members and limited or uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate foods. Food-insecure households are not necessarily food insecure all the time. Food insecurity may reflect a household’s need to make trade-offs between important basic needs, such as housing or medical bills, and purchasing nutritionally adequate foods.

Results from the Community Needs Assessment Survey show that “Having Enough Food in the House” ranked third in level of difficulty.

- 15.79% of the respondents indicated that “having enough food in the house is difficult for me most of the time”
- 40.00% indicated that “having enough food in the house is sometimes difficult for me”.

Having enough food in the home was one of the top needs identified in the Key Informant Interviews. Several interviewees also mentioned that the cost of food in Torrington is high. They reported having to make decisions on whether to buy food or pay their bills. While the county has a handful of convenience stores, there are just two grocery stores, both located in Torrington. The number of grocery stores has declined over the years, likely due to competition from national chains in Scottsbluff, including Wal-Mart.

Goshen County Senior Center shared their 2018 Satisfaction Survey results for congregate meals and home delivered meals. The number of surveys completed for congregate meals was 185; surveys completed for home delivered meals numbered 85. When asked “How much do you worry about having enough food to eat”, they responded as follows:

Survey	I never worry	I worry occasionally	I worry some of the time	I worry most of the time	I worry all of the time
Congregate meals	86%	11%	2%	1%	1%
Home delivered meals	71%	13%	12%	2%	0%

## Food Insecurity - Overall

Food costs in Goshen County are higher than the statewide average. Based on the Wyoming Comparative Cost of Living Index for 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2018, Goshen County’s index for food was 104, which is higher than the Statewide average of 100.

According to Feeding American, Goshen County food insecurity rate is 12.1%, or an estimated 1,630 individuals. Wyoming’s overall percentage is 12.6% or 73,830 individuals.

Of the estimated 1,630 food insecure individuals:

- 56% are below 130% poverty and qualify for SNAP, WIC, free school meals, CSFP and TEFAP.
- 8% are between 130% and 185 % poverty and qualify for WIC and reduced-price school meals.
- The remaining 35% don’t qualify for federal programs.

Feeding America, Map the Meal Gap 2018

### Food Insecurity – Children

According to Wyoming Department of Education data, 33% of the students enrolled in Goshen County School District #1 are eligible for free lunch, with an additional 12.74% eligible for reduced price lunch. Income eligibility guidelines are based on the federal income poverty guidelines and are revised annually. The eligibility criteria is 130% of the income poverty guidelines for free lunch, and 185% for reduced-price meals.

	Goshen County	State of Wyoming
Total Enrollment	1,696	92,976
Free lunch eligible	560	26,617
Free lunch eligible as % of total enrollment	33.02%	28.63%
Reduced lunch eligible	216	8,491
Reduced lunch eligible as a % of total enrollment	12.74%	8.13%
Total free and reduced eligible	776	35,108
Total free and reduced lunch eligible as % of total enrollment	45.75%	37.76%

Wyoming Department of Education, USDA National Food Lunch Program and Local Free and Reduced Lunch Eligibility

The school district provided current numbers as of Oct. 31, 2018. Current enrollment is 1,668 students with 27.22% (454) eligible for free lunch, and 11.03% (184) eligible for reduced price lunch.

The district utilizes an electronic form submitted by families to determine eligibility based on USDA data. The district does not place anyone on the free or reduced-price lunch program that has not applied. Students whose families utilize the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) or are in the state’s foster program are not required to go through the application process.

Feeding America places the Child Food Insecurity Rate in Goshen County at 19.4% in 2016, or approximately 540 children, according to its annual Map the Meal Gap project. This compares to the statewide percentage of 16.7%. The Map the Meal Gap study utilizes data from the 2001-

2016 Current Population Survey (CPS) on children under 18 years old in food insecure households. The study's authors note that after controlling for other factors, higher unemployment and poverty rates are associated with higher rates of food insecurity.

Feeding America sorts its data further by income categories, and the organization concludes that only 66% of food-insecure children in Goshen County are likely income-eligible for federal nutrition assistance programs (including the National School Lunch Program and WIC).

There are inconsistencies between the Feeding American data on child food insecurity and school district numbers. There are 776 students in the school district that are eligible for free or reduced lunch. This is higher than Feeding America's numbers on food insecure children and the percentage of food insecure children likely income-eligible for federal nutrition assistance. To fully contemplate the high level of food insecurity among children in Goshen County, readers of this report should look to the Goshen County School District as the most current and complete source of information.

### **Response to Food Insecurity**

In addition to the free and reduced-price lunch program, Goshen County School District #1 has a Friday Food Backpack program. Families that qualify for free and reduced lunch program are asked if they want to participate, and they then apply for the program at the school level. All of these applications are approved. According to the Food Services Director, the District has had 321 applicants for the program in the 2018-19 school year to date.

Students are required to return the backpacks each week to get the food. It is estimated that there are between 200-250 backpacks being filled each week. Businesses and community organizations purchase the food for the backpacks, which typically include cereal, granola bars, tuna helper, tuna and canned fruit. The amount provided is designed to provide a single solid meal. Every child in a family may receive a backpack—they are not limited to 1 per family.

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, SNAP, is the program formerly known as food stamps. Households must meet certain requirements, including resource and income limits. Households can use SNAP benefits to buy breads and cereals; fruits and vegetables; meats and dairy products. They cannot use SNAP benefits to buy items such as liquor, cigarettes, and nonfood items (pet foods, soap, paper products, household supplies). According to the US Department of Agriculture, 13,083 households in Wyoming were receiving SNAP benefits in 2016. In September of 2018, the Wyoming Department of Family Services office in Goshen County reported that there are currently 309 households receiving SNAP benefits in Goshen County.

Wyoming Food Bank of the Rockies (WFBR) is the central distribution program providing food and essentials to more than 250 hunger-relief programs in Wyoming. WFBR partnering agencies in Goshen County include Goshen Help, LaGrange Bible Missionary Church, Eastern Wyoming College, Land of Goshen Ministries, Senior Friendship Center, and St. Joseph's Children's Home.

Land of Goshen, a local nonprofit, provides commodities and emergency food assistance. Assistance requires proof of income and is based on federal poverty level. Caring and Sharing, a local nonprofit, provides food for individuals and families, which they can access every three months. The Paper Pantry, operated out of the United Methodist Church, provides products such as paper towels, feminine products, diapers and laundry soap to families in need. They limit families to one visit per month and they must complete an application.

From June 2016 to May of 2018, there was a mobile food pantry open seven different times. It was operated by the Wyoming Food Bank of the Rockies and sponsored by local organizations. Over the course of the seven times it was open, there were an average of 430 families that received food. Goshen Help has just been established as a partner agency with Wyoming Food Bank of the Rockies. They will be filling the gap left after the discontinuation of the mobile food pantry.

# Health

On the Community Needs Assessment Survey, “accessing medical care” ranked fifth on the level of difficulty.

- 18.95% of the respondents indicated that “accessing medical care is difficult for me most of the time”
- 30.53% of the respondents indicated that it “accessing medical care is sometimes difficult for me”

On the Community Needs Assessment Survey, “accessing mental health services” ranked seventh on the level of difficulty.

- 9.78% of the respondents indicated that “accessing mental health services is difficult for me most of the time”
- 17.39% of the respondents indicated that “accessing mental health services is sometimes difficult for me”

The Key Informant Interviews identified accessing affordable medical care as one of the top three needs. Although not mentioned as often, mental health services was another need identified.

The Community Needs Assessment Survey also included several questions related to children’s healthcare, part of an effort by the Wyoming Department of Health to improve healthcare services for children and adolescents. When asked about the challenges they face when bringing their children to a healthcare provider,

- 42.86% of respondents indicated that cost was a challenge
- 32.65% indicated that taking time off was a challenge
- 16.33% indicated that insurance was a challenge

More than 60% of parents reported that their children were treated at either a family practice or pediatric clinic, while 28.57% of respondents had gone to the emergency room for their children’s healthcare.

The Wyoming Facility Directory produced by the Wyoming Department of Health, listed the following health facilities as of November 1, 2018:

- **Community Hospital** - 25 bed critical access hospital
- **Banner Health Clinic** - 8 Physicians and 4 mid-levels (Physician Assistances and Nurse Practitioners).
- **Goshen Healthcare Community** - 103 bed nursing home
- **Evergreen Court** – 26 bed boarding home
- **Robin’s Nest Home Care** – home health care
- **St. Joseph’s Children’s Home** – Psychiatric Residential Treatment Center

**Peak Wellness**, a Wyoming-based nonprofit, operates a Mental Health Center in Torrington. There are private businesses in Torrington offering counseling and mental health services.

Public Health in Goshen County offers a variety of low- and no-cost services, including immunizations, STD/HIV Testing, support services for pregnant and parenting families, financial assistance for children with special health care needs, pregnancy testing, and TB Risk Assessment/Testing. The staff noted that they do not have a Nurse Practitioner on staff anymore.

A few interviewees mentioned some individuals and families have gone to the Community Action Health Center in Gering, which is a program of the Community Action Partnership of Western Nebraska. The center’s services include medical, dental, behavioral health and reproductive health services. Their website states that CAPWN Health Center submits claims to any private insurance company and Medicare, along with Medicaid from Nebraska and Wyoming. For individuals without insurance, they offer a sliding fee scale based on family size and income. While offering much needed services, one of the barriers preventing Goshen County low-income residents from utilizing the Community Action Health Center can be transportation to Gering.

## Health Insurance

While the majority of Goshen County residents have health insurance coverage, 12.7% of the residents have no coverage.

	Total #	Percent
With health insurance	11,400	87.3%
Private:	8,593	65.8%
Public:	5,058	38.8%
No health insurance	1,652	12.7%

Total population: 13,052

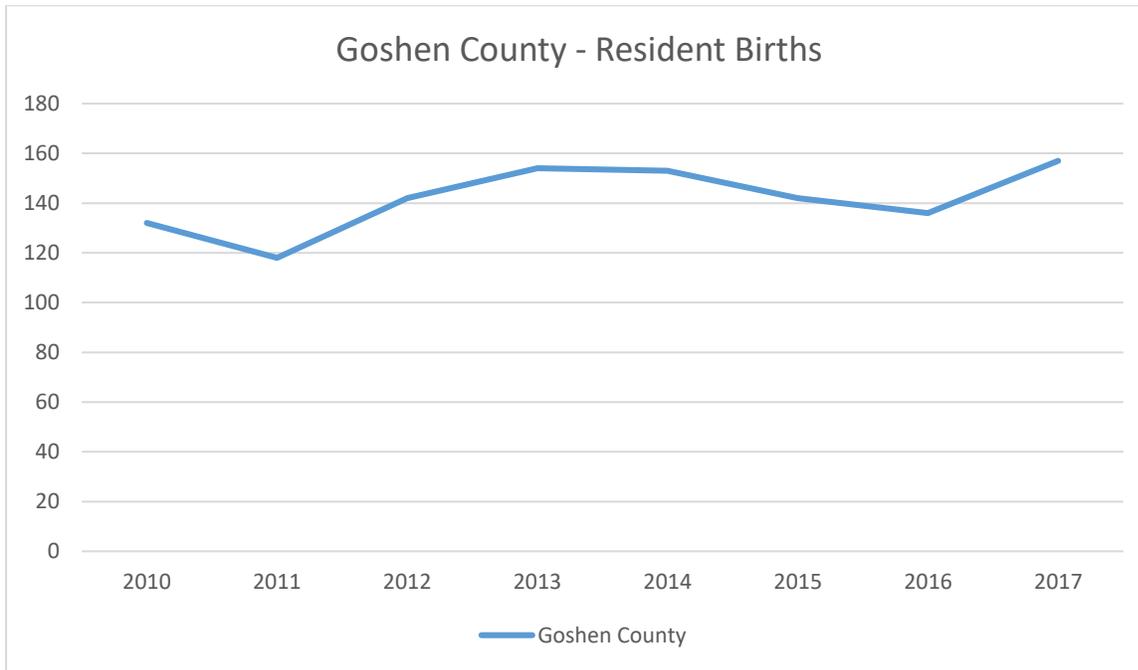
US Census Fact Finder, 2012-2016 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimate

US Census Bureau definitions:

- Private health insurance is a plan provided through an employer or union, a plan purchased by an individual from an insurance company, or TRICARE or other military health coverage.
- Public coverage includes the federal programs Medicare, Medicaid and other medical assistance programs, VA Health Care; the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP); and individual state health plans.

## Vital Statistics Data

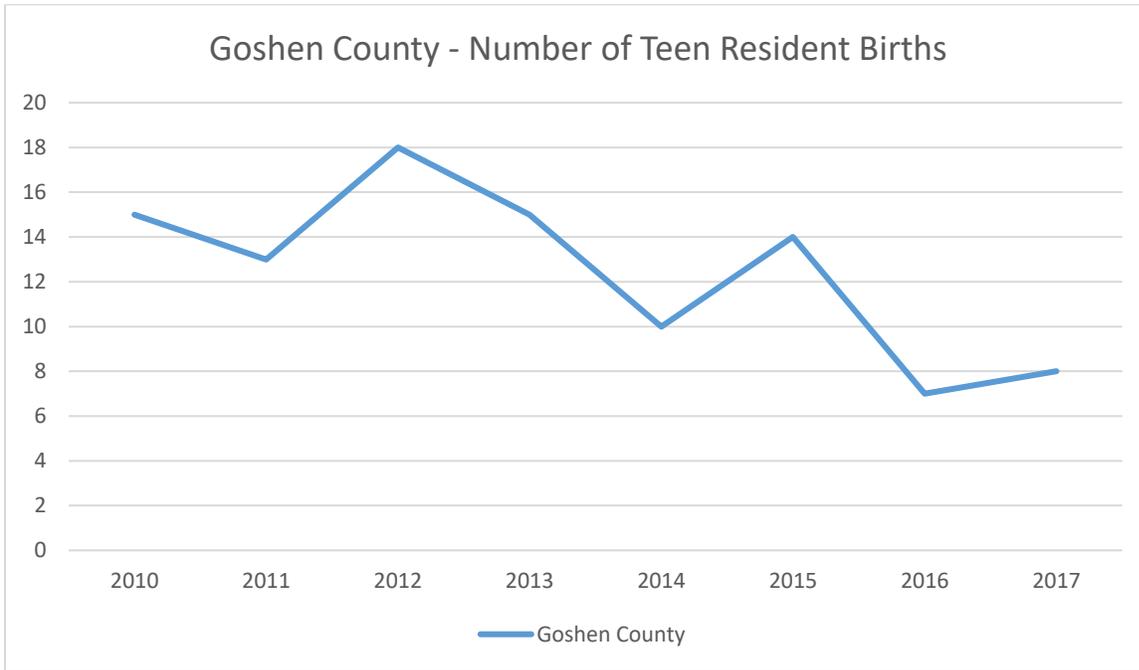
In 2017, there were a total of 157 births in Goshen County. This represents a 11.7 rate (per 1,000 population). This compares to the state rate of 11.9. When examining the place of birth for these 157, 12 took place out of county, 70 out of state and 75 in Goshen County.



Wyoming Department of Health, Vital Statistics

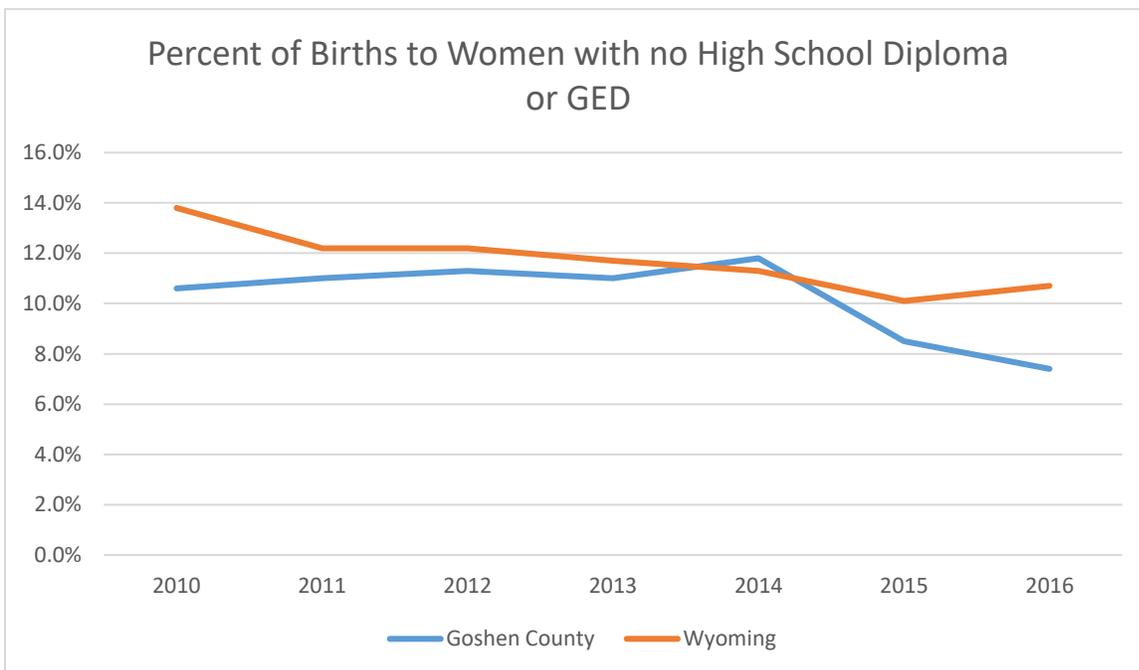
As reported in the 2018 Wyoming Kids Count Data Book, the percentage of all births for which the primary source of payment is Medicaid was 33.8% in Goshen for 2016. This compares to the statewide percentage of 32.5%. Goshen County has decreased the percentage of births where the primary source of payment was Medicaid from 55% in 2010.

Teen resident births have gone down the past couple of years. For this data, teens are age 15 to 19.



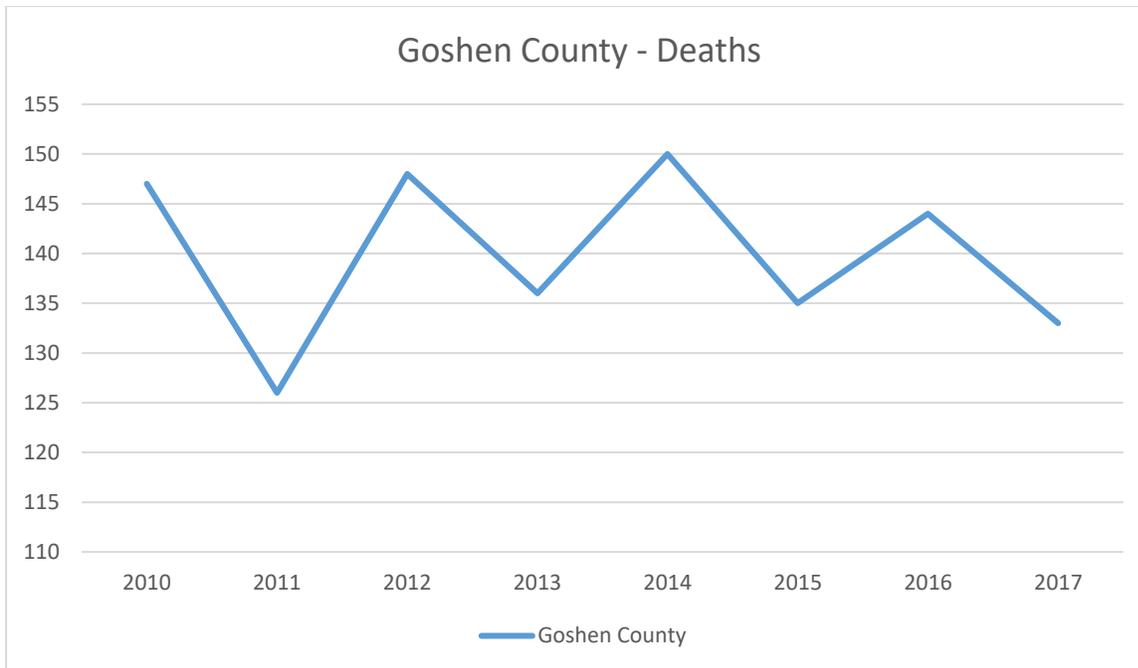
Wyoming Department of Health, Vital Statistics

The number of births to women with no high school diploma or GED has decreased the past two years.



Wyoming Department of Health, Vital Statistics

In 2017, there were 133 resident deaths in Goshen County. This represents a 994.2 rate (per 100,000 population). This compares to the state rate of 822.9



Wyoming Department of Health, Vital Statistics

In 2017, the top three causes of death in Goshen County were:

1. Major Cardiovascular
2. Cancer
3. Chronic Lower Respiratory

Wyoming Department of Health, Vital Statistics

From 2008 to 2018, the ten-year age-adjusted suicide rate in Goshen County was 12.4. The statewide rate was 23. The rates are per 100,000 population and age-adjusted to the 2000 US Standard Population. Caution should be used in the interpretation of vital statistics rates which are based on a small population or small number of events.

Wyoming Department of Health, Vital Statistics

In 2017, there were a total of 69 marriages, which is a rate of 5.2 (per 1,000 population). The state rate was 7.1 In 2017, there were a total of 42 divorces Goshen County, which is a rate of 3.1 (per 1,000 population). The state rate was 4.0.

## Wyoming Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS)

The Wyoming Department of Health’s BRFSS is an ongoing statewide telephone survey of adults. The survey’s purpose is to gather information about health behaviors and factors known to contribute to or increase the risk of chronic disease, acute illness, injury, disability and premature death. The information below is aggregated over five years, from 2011 to 2015. Tables include the prevalence estimates, and the 95% confidence intervals. The 95% confidence intervals define the margin of error for the prevalence estimate and is largely based on sample size.

Overweight or Obese - Adults with body mass index greater than or equal to 25

	Percent	95% CI
Goshen County	65.1%	59.5-70.4
Wyoming	65.4%	63.2-67.6

Tobacco use – Currently smoking or smokeless tobacco use

	Percent	95% CI
Goshen County	29.5%	24.5-35.1
Wyoming	25.5%	23.6-27.5

Seatbelt use – Adults who ride in a car reporting not always wearing a seatbelt

	Percent	95% CI
Goshen County	35.6%	30.2-41.4
Wyoming	24.8%	22.9-26.9

Unable to get needed care – Adults reporting they needed to see a doctor but couldn’t because of the cost at least one time in the past 12 months

	Percent	95% CI
Goshen County	12.9%	9.5-17.2
Wyoming	11.7%	10.2-13.3

Depression – Adults reporting to having been told they have had a depressive disorder

	Percent	95% CI
Goshen County	18.6%	15.2-22.7
Wyoming	20.9%	19.2-22.7

# Community Needs Assessment Survey

## Information about the Survey

Copies of the Community Needs Assessment Survey were sent to the following agencies for distribution.

Goshen Help	Land of Goshen Ministries
Torrington Learning Center	Goshen County Public Health
Lincoln Toddler Infant Center	Stacy Houk Family Enrichment Center
Number 34 Wraparound	

Respondents were given four choices for completing the survey:

- Complete the paper copy and return it to one of the distribution sites above
- Mail the paper copy to Align
- Call Align and complete the survey over the phone
- Complete the survey online by going to [GoshenHelp.com](http://GoshenHelp.com) and clicking on the survey link

As an incentive for completing the survey, respondents could provide their first name and phone number to be entered in a drawing for a \$100 gift card. These names and phone numbers were kept confidential and this information is not contained in this report or in the survey results.

In addition to the questions developed for the Community Needs Assessment Survey, Align was asked by the Wyoming Department of Health to include additional questions specific to healthcare services for children and adolescents as part of a data collection project. Those responses are included in this report.

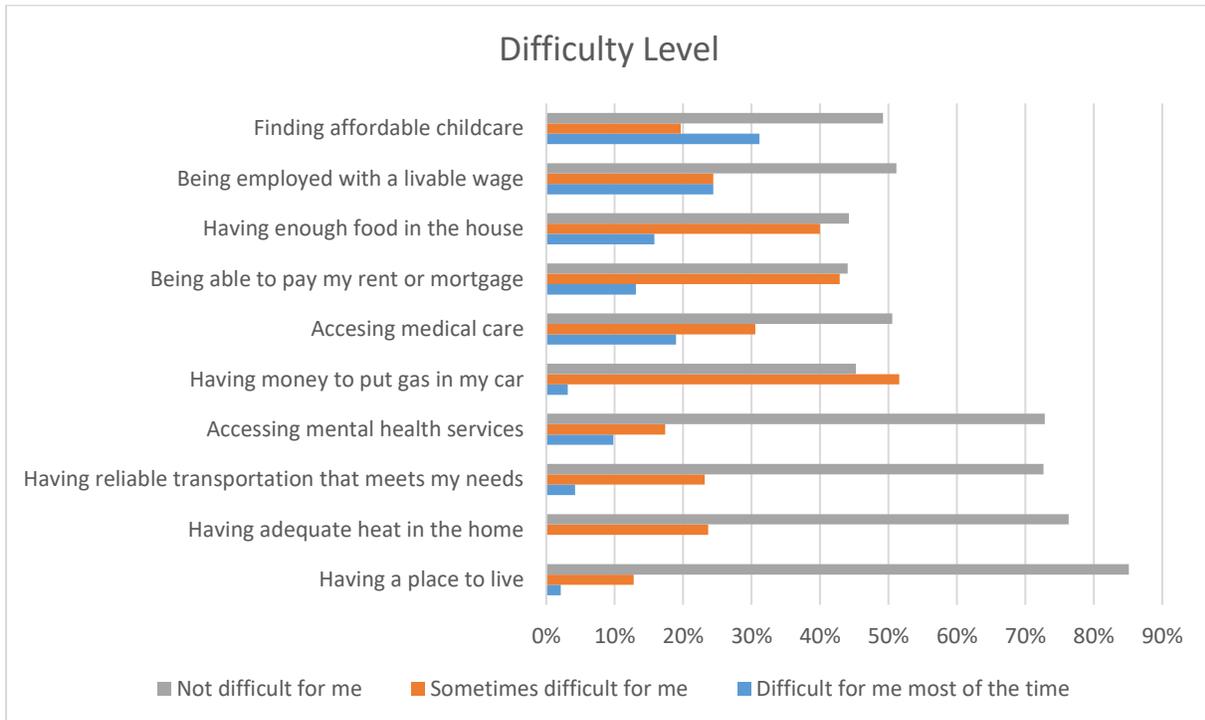
There were a total of 98 responses to the survey. Three of these had to be eliminated since these respondents did not live in Goshen County. Two of these individuals lived out-of-state and one lived in another county on the western side of Wyoming. All three of these individuals completed the online survey. Note, there were some respondents that did not indicate the town they lived in (or near), we are assuming that these individuals live in Goshen County.

68 surveys were completed online  
29 surveys were returned to one of the distribution sites  
1 survey was mailed to Align

# Survey Results

Please rate the following by putting in “x” in the appropriate column. Response choices:

- Not difficult for me
- Sometimes difficult for me
- Difficult for me most of the time



95 Answered

The same information is presented here using the following scale.

Difficult for me most of the time	3.0
Sometimes difficult for me	2.0
Not difficult for me	1.0

	Weighted Average	Total # of responses
<b>Finding affordable childcare</b>	1.82	61
<b>Being employed with a livable wage</b>	1.73	86
<b>Having enough food in the home</b>	1.72	95
<b>Being able to pay my rent or mortgage</b>	1.69	84
<b>Accessing medical care</b>	1.68	95
<b>Having money to put gas in my car</b>	1.58	95
<b>Accessing mental health services</b>	1.37	92
<b>Have reliable transportation that meets my needs</b>	1.32	95
<b>Having adequate heat in the home</b>	1.24	93
<b>Having a place to live</b>	1.17	94

The following adjustments were made to the averages and response numbers:

- *Finding affordable childcare: Eliminated all “Not difficult for me” responses from households with no children*
- *Being employed with a livable wage: Eliminated all “Not difficult for me” responses from retired households*
- *Being able to pay my rent or mortgage: Eliminated all “Not difficult for me” responses from households that owned and have paid off their homes.*

**Which best describes the place you are living currently? (Check only one)**

Answer Choices	Responses %	Response #
<b>Rental unit</b>	37.89%	36
<b>Live in home that I/we own</b>	51.58%	49
<b>Share home with family/friends/roommate</b>	3.16%	3
<b>Homeless</b>	0%	0
<b>Other (please specify)</b>	7.37%	7

95 answered

Other responses:

- Rent to own
- Trailer/mobile home
- Pay utilities for home (not rent)
- Renting from family
- Family ranch
- Just asked to leave our rental farm. We can't find anything to rent so currently soon to be homeless.
- Rent to own

**What is your montly payment for housing?**

Answer Choices	Average	Response #
<b>I rent house/apartment: My rent payment is</b>	\$555.68	40
<b>I own my home: My mortgage payment is</b>	\$899.95	37
<b>I own my home: (home paid for or indicated \$0)</b>		13
<b>Other (please specify):</b>		4

94 answered; 1 skipped

Other responses:

- Room in basement; \$400/month
- Live with family
- Pay utilities for home (not rent); \$500/month
- Share home; \$150/month

**Do you receive financial help with your rent or house payment from a government program or agency?**

Answer choices	Response %	Response #
<b>Yes</b>	5.32%	5
<b>No</b>	94.68%	89

94 answered; 1 skipped

**Do any of these housing problems apply to you? (check all that apply)**

Answer choices	Response %	Response #
<b>I cannot afford to make needed repairs on my home</b>	42.86%	15
<b>I cannot find affordable housing to buy</b>	28.57%	10
<b>I cannot find affordable housing to rent</b>	20.00%	7
<b>Bad credit makes it hard to find a place to rent</b>	14.29%	5
<b>I am at risk of eviction from home that I rent</b>	11.43%	4
<b>I am at risk of foreclosure on home that I own</b>	11.43%	4
<b>Criminal background makes it hard to rent a home</b>	2.86%	1

*35 answered; 60 skipped*

**What is your employment status?**

Answer choices	Response %	Response #
<b>Full-time</b>	56.38%	53
<b>Part-time</b>	20.21%	19
<b>Unemployed/Job searching</b>	5.97%	9
<b>Unemployed/Not searching</b>	4.26%	4
<b>Retired</b>	9.57%	9

*94 answered; 1 skipped*

**What are your barriers to employment? (Check all that apply)**

Answer choices	Response %	Response #
<b>No barriers</b>	59.26%	48
<b>Pay too low to support family</b>	18.52%	15
<b>No childcare during work</b>	16.05%	13
<b>Physical disability</b>	9.88%	8
<b>Mental disability</b>	6.17%	5
<b>No jobs for my skills</b>	2.47%	2
<b>Lack of training or experience</b>	2.47%	2
<b>No transportation</b>	1.23%	1

*81 answered; 14 skipped*

**What town do you live in (or closest town if you live in the country)?**

Responses	Response #s
<b>Torrington</b>	77
<b>Lingle</b>	5
<b>Hawk Springs</b>	2
<b>Yoder</b>	2
<b>Huntley</b>	1
<b>Veteran</b>	1
<b>Guernsey</b> <i>(did not delete this response since they could technically be closer to Guernsey but live in Goshen County)</i>	1

89 answered; 6 skipped

**Which best describes your household? (Check only one)**

Answer choices	Response %	Response #
<b>Single parent female</b>	20.21%	19
<b>Single parent male</b>	0%	0
<b>Two-parent household</b>	39.36%	37
<b>Single person</b>	10.64%	10
<b>Two adults NO children at home</b>	21.28%	20
<b>Multi-family household</b>	3.19%	3
<b>Grandparent(s) and grandchildren</b>	2.12%	2
<b>Other (please specify)</b>	3.19%	3

94 answered; 1 skipped

Other responses:

- Two adults, one adult son
- Four adults
- Two-parent with grandparent

**Including yourself, how many people live in your household?**

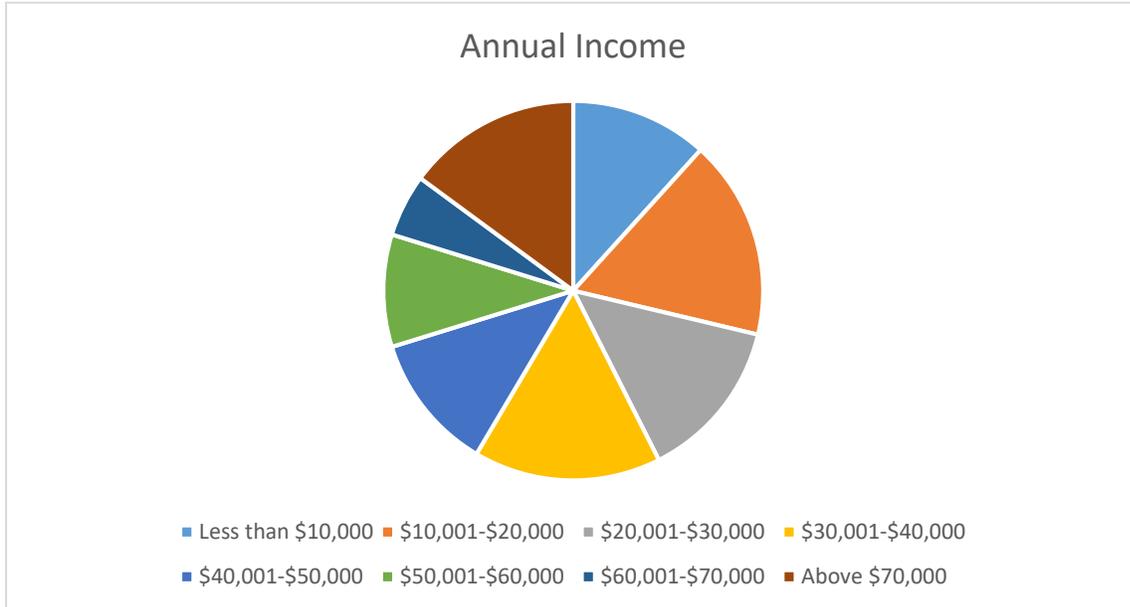
# of people in household	# of responses
<b>1 person</b>	12
<b>2 people</b>	29
<b>3 people</b>	17
<b>4 people</b>	18
<b>5 people</b>	9
<b>6 people</b>	8
<b>7 people</b>	1

*94 answered; 1 skipped*

**Including yourself, how many persons in your household are...**

Age Range	Number of respondents with at least one person in the household in this age range
<b>0 to 5 years old</b>	42
<b>6 to 17 years old</b>	34
<b>18 to 49 years old</b>	74
<b>50 to 64 years old</b>	20
<b>65 + years old</b>	12

**What is your annual income from all sources?** (Including, but not limited to: employment, self-employment, Social Security, retirement, disability, worker’s compensation, unemployment, VA benefits, alimony).



94 Answered; 1 skipped

Answer choices	Response %	Response #
<b>Less than \$10,000</b>	11.70%	11
<b>\$10,001 - \$20,000</b>	17.02%	16
<b>\$20,001 - \$30,000</b>	13.83%	13
<b>\$30,001 - \$40,000</b>	15.96%	15
<b>\$40,001 - \$50,000</b>	11.70%	11
<b>\$50,001 - \$60,000</b>	9.57%	9
<b>\$60,001 - \$70,000</b>	5.32%	5
<b>Above \$70,000</b>	14.89%	14

*To help determine how many respondents might fall below the poverty line, a rough calculation was done based on respondent answers. Because income answer choices were in ranges, it is impossible to determine exact figures. Based on these rough calculations, approximately 35% of the respondents would fall below 100% of the 2018 poverty guideline. Roughly 40% of the respondents would fall below 125% of the 2018 poverty guideline.*

### What is your gender?

Answer choices	Response %	Response #
Male	7.61%	7
Female	92.39%	85
Transgender	0%	0

92 answered; 3 skipped

### What is your age?

- The average age of respondents was 39.
- The respondents ranged in age from 20 years old to 74 years old.

91 answered; 1 skipped

### What best describes your race and ethnicity? (Check all that apply)

Answer choices	Response %	Response #
African American/Black	1.09%	1
Asian	0%	0
Caucasian or White	92.39%	85
Hispanic or Latino	3.26%	3
Bi-Racial/Multi-Racial	2.17%	2
Native American	3.26%	3
Alaska Native	0%	0
Other (specify):	1.09%	1

92 answered; 3 skipped

Other responses:

- Not given

**What is the highest level of education you have completed?**

<b>Answer choices</b>	<b>Response %</b>	<b>Response #</b>
<b>Less than high school diploma</b>	0%	0
<b>High school graduate</b>	28.57%	26
<b>GED or high school equivalency</b>	3.30%	3
<b>Vocational or trade school</b>	6.59%	6
<b>Some college (or still in college)</b>	26.37%	24
<b>Two-year college degree</b>	10.99%	10
<b>Four-year college degree</b>	14.29%	13
<b>Graduate college degree</b>	6.59%	6
<b>Other (please describe):</b>	3.30%	3

*91 answered; 4 skipped*

Other responses:

- Diploma in nursing
- Two year technical
- Junior

Per a request from the Wyoming Department of Health, the following questions were included in the survey as part of the agency’s efforts to help improve healthcare services for children and adolescents. Respondents were asked to answer these questions if they were a parent/legal guardian of a child under the age of 18. There were a total of 57 respondents for this portion of the survey.

**1. My child(ren) has seen a healthcare provider/doctor in the last 12 months.**

Answer choices	Response %	Response #
True (continue to question #2 through #6)	91.23%	52
False (skip to question #6)	8.77%	5

*57 answered*

**2. For which of the following reasons did you bring your child to a healthcare provider in the last 12 months? (select all that apply)**

Answer choices	Response %	Response #
Preventive check-up (I brought my child(ren) to see a healthcare provider when they were <u>not</u> ill or injured)	72.55%	37
Sports physical	19.61%	10
Illness	58.82%	30
Injury	17.65%	9
Developmental or behavioral concern	3.92%	2
Mental health	5.88%	3
Other (please describe): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dental cleaning</li> <li>• School physical</li> <li>• Vaccinations</li> </ul>	5.88%	3

*51 answered; 1 skipped*

**3. What challenges do you face when bringing your child(ren) to a healthcare provider? (select all that apply)**

Answer choices	Response %	Response #
Transportation	6.12%	3
Cost	42.86%	21
Insurance	16.33%	8
Taking time off from work	32.65%	16
Securing childcare for my other child(ren)	10.20%	5
Discouraged by family and/or community members	2.04%	1
Fear of judgement from healthcare provider	4.08%	2
Worry that something might be wrong (test/screening results)	6.12%	3
There isn't a doctor/provider in my community	0%	0
None/not applicable	24.49%	12
Other (please specify)	8.16%	4

49 answered; 3 skipped

Other responses:

- Medicaid WDH
- Clinics are so busy getting an appointment is really hard
- The right tests won't be done
- Over \$200 for a visit with a nurse practitioner. Who can afford that with high deductible insurance.

**4. From whom has your child(ren) gotten healthcare in the last 12 months? (select all that apply)**

Answer choices	Response %	Response #
Family practice	63.27%	31
Pediatric clinic	61.22%	30
Indian health services	0%	0
Home visiting nurse	0%	0
Telehealth services	0%	0
Emergency room	28.57%	14
Other (please describe)	8.16%	4

49 answered; 3 skipped

Other responses:

- Dentist
- Mental Health Clinic
- Quick care
- Psychologist, Neurologist

**5. Your child(ren)'s healthcare provider has talked with you about which of the following in the last 12 months? (select all that apply)**

Answer choices	Response %	Response #
Child development and behavior	65.22%	30
Immunizations	84.78%	39
Physical examination of your child	73.91%	34
Oral health (dental care)	52.17%	24
Mental health/depression	19.57%	9
Drugs, tobacco, and alcohol use	6.52%	3
Adolescent sexual and reproductive health	2.17%	1
Other (please describe)	2.17%	1

*46 responses; 6 skipped*

Other responses:

- na

**6. Are you aware of the recommendations for your child(ren)'s preventive healthcare, such as: (select all that apply)**

Answer choices	Response %	Response #
Screening for child development and behavior	79.25%	42
Immunizations	98.11%	52
Physical examination of your child	90.57%	48
Oral health (dental care)	84.91%	45
Adolescent drugs, tobacco, and alcohol use assessment	22.64%	12
Screening for mental health/depression	26.42%	14
Adolescent sexual and reproductive health	22.64%	12
Other (please describe)	0%	0

*53 answered; 4 skipped*

# Key Informant Interviews

37 Individuals:

- 25 in-person interviews
- 7 online survey (school counselors/nurses, same open-ended questions as in-person and phone interviews)
- 5 phone interviews

Community Hospital	Dana Breeden, Case Manager
Dept of Family Services/State of Wyoming	Kory Sillerud, Benefits & Eligibility Supervisor
Dept of Workforce Services/State of Wyoming	Gilbert Servantez, Workforce Center Manager
Eastern Wyoming College	Diane McQueen, Director, Adult Education Court Merrigan, Student Success Center Director
Goshen County Economic Development	Ashley Harpstreith, CEO/Executive Director Lisa Miller, Business Development Director
Goshen County Public Health	Kelly Beard, Office Manager Cindy Wright, Best Beginnings Melissa Johnson, MCH Cindy Breedlove, Secretary
Goshen County School District #1	Jean Chrostoski, Superintendent Nurses (3) <i>Online survey</i> Counselors (4) <i>Online survey</i>
Goshen County Senior Friendship Center	Linda Cockett, Executive Director
Goshen County Task Force on FV & SA	Diona Savoy-McDaniels, Director
Goshen Help	Kyle Borger, Executive Director
Kiwanis	Quinn Hunter, President
Land of Goshen	Tracy Davis, Executive Director
Number 34	Shelley Miller, Wraparound Director
Peak Wellness Center	Maggie Loghry, Goshen County Center Director
Stacey Houk Family Enrichment Center	Stephanie Fisher, Owner, Director, Therapist Christina Hauk, Director of Operations
Torrington Police Dept	Heidi Borton, Dispatcher
Town of Fort Laramie	Jennifer Lanier, community volunteer
Town of LaGrange	Kathy Stoddard, Town Clerk-Treasurer
Town of Lingle	Michele Sussex, Town Clerk-Treasurer
Town of Yoder	Sarita Hansen, Town Clerk-Treasurer
VOC Rehab/State of Wyoming	TJ Mechem, Vocation Rehabilitation Counselor
WIC	Sammie Coxbill, Clinic Supervisor
Wyoming Child & Family Development	Tonya Nepper, Lincoln Infant Toddler Center Heidi Wayland, Torrington Learning Center