

Evanston Child Development Center
Children's Learning Foundation



**EXPLORE LEARN
AND DISCOVER**



Early Head Start / Child Care Partnership

COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT
2023

**EVANSTON CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER
CHILDREN’S LEARNING FOUNDATION
EARLY HEAD START -CCP
2023 Community Assessment**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 2023 Community Assessment Report serves as Evanston Child Development Center’s (ECDC) Needs Assessment for the services area of Uinta County, Wyoming. This report aims to update the essential data provided in the report that will help ensure that ECDC has the most current and comprehensive information for program planning and grant writing.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW AND SERVICE AREA

Evanston Child Development Center (ECDC) directly operates an Early Head Start program. It partners with the Children’s Learning Center, serving children and families in Uinta County, Wyoming (“service area”). The 2023 Community Assessment report also explores data on neighboring counties Lincoln County and Sweetwater County.

In recent years, the population has been decreasing in Uinta County and Sweetwater County, increasing at slow rates in Lincoln County. Communities in the counties explored have small populations and are geographically dispersed. Most of the population is White and non-Hispanic; in Sweetwater County, the percentage of the Hispanic or Latino population is more significant than the statewide rate. Linguistic diversity is also greatest in Sweetwater County.

There are local areas within counties where large percentages of the population are children under age 5. The highest percentages are in Kemmerer (Lincoln County), Rock Springs (Sweetwater County), and Evanston and Bridger Valley (Uinta County). Many children live with biological, step, or adopted parents, and there are also high rates of children living with grandparents or other relatives and single-parent families.

NEEDS OF ELIGIBLE CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

The needs of children and families in ECDC’s Early Head Start service area and neighboring counties are multi-faceted. High school graduation rates trend lower than the statewide rate across approximately half of the school districts in the counties explored. High school graduation rates are also reflected in the educational attainment of the adult population, where most counties trend toward high school diploma/GED as the highest level of educational attainment. These statistics are part of a larger narrative of how well education supports each student’s growth. In communities where children have limited access to early learning opportunities, the impacts on academic achievement are compounded over time.

Health needs focus on mental health, substance abuse challenges, and barriers to accessing clinical care. Infant and maternal health factors also point to a need to support the well-being of pregnant women and infants. Health data points to concerning trends in Uinta and Sweetwater counties.

ECDC’s Early Head Start program plays a crucial role in assisting enrolled children in maintaining up-to-date preventative and primary care. Food insecurity is a challenge for families in the service area and neighboring counties. ECDC is helping to meet the health and nutrition needs of families through community partnerships.

Home value, affordability, and rental vacancy vary widely across the service area and neighboring counties.

Median home value is lowest in Uinta County. The rental cost burden is high in many communities in the counties, particularly in areas with high poverty rates. With a wide range in median household income, there are also income inequalities within counties.

Within the counties explored, individuals are employed in various occupations and industries, and most are private wage and salary workers. Labor force participation rates are consistent with the statewide rate and are substantially higher in some communities, particularly among families with young children, underscoring the need for child care. Individuals are employed in a variety of occupations and industries. The top occupations in the service area are management, business, science, and arts occupations. Unemployment rates in Uinta County have experienced some fluctuation do to the uncertainty of the stability of the job market. In Sweetwater County unemployment rates are lower than the previous year, but are steadily increasing for the same job stability reasons.

ELIGIBLE CHILDREN AND PREGNANT WOMEN

In Uinta County, an estimated 465 children under age five living in poverty are income-eligible for participation in Head Start/Early Head Start. There are an additional 920 income-eligible children in Lincoln, Sweetwater Counties. There are also an estimated 45 income-eligible pregnant women in ECDC’s Early Head Start service area, with an additional 120 eligible women in the neighboring counties. Data also illustrate the need for services for children experiencing homelessness, children with disabilities, and children living in households that receive public assistance.

AGENCIES SERVING ELIGIBLE CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

In Uinta County, ECDC’s current Early Head Start service area, child care centers, family child care centers, and family child care homes have the combined capacity to serve 610 children from birth to school age. Neighboring counties explored have an additional 1230 (908 swc) slots in child care capacity. Many programs serve school-age children. Some child care programs operate half-day or limited times per day or days per week.

Further, fewer slots are available for infants and toddlers in child care programs than for other age groups. The percentage of childcare programs that accept subsidies varies between program types and counties; overall, the rate of providers accepting subsidies is low.

Limited home-visiting programs operate in Uinta County and neighboring counties, and public pre-kindergarten is not available in these counties.

RESOURCES AVAILABLE IN THE COMMUNITY

In ECDC’s Early Head Start service area and neighboring counties, several social services resources are available to families. ECDC works to connect families with community resources to expand access to comprehensive services and partners with community providers across the service area. Challenges persist about access to health care (e.g., insurance coverage, providers that accept Medicaid, specialty care), child care for working families, and employment and education opportunities.

ECDC has internal expertise and partnerships that help it meet the unique needs of Early Head Start families in the service area. The agency is well positioned to continue providing exemplary, high-quality early learning services in Uinta County and explore expanding comprehensive services to children and families in need in neighboring counties.

FAMILY SURVEY (KEY FINDINGS)

ECDC/CLF Early Head Start Family/Community Survey

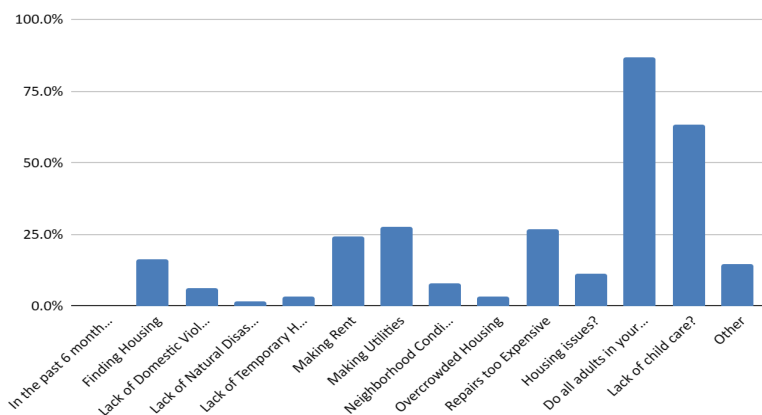
A survey was distributed to Uinta County residents in the EHS-CCP current service area. 115 English and Spanish responses were received. Refer to the Family Survey section for complete analysis. Items highlighted in red indicate areas of greater challenge, according to survey respondents:

Demographics of Respondents:

- The majority of respondents live in Evanston, have 1-3 children (82), and children under 5 (110-many have 2-3 children in each household).
- The level of adult education for High School Diploma/GED and some college (AA) is the majority of the respondents (63%) make less than 35,000-45,000 in salary which corresponds with the average per capita income of \$32,955.
- Single family households of respondents is at 43% pointing to the high rate of single parents in the community as noted in the community assessment.

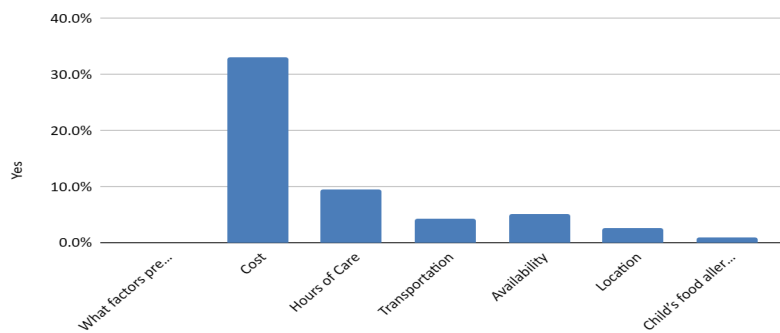
Key findings:

- The survey results show 87% of respondents with a belief there is a lack of child care that fits the needs of their working schedule. A significant number of those surveyed (25%) struggle to make rent and pay utilities.



- Families responding point out the affordability of child care prevents them from enrolling into services, flexible operation hours for work schedules (full-day, year-round services), and unable to find child care for children when sick.

What factors prevent you from using child care?



Have you had any of these childcare related problems in the past year? (select all that apply)

When asked what quality of child care & preschool services looks like, a majority of the respondents stated secure and safe environment was the most important, followed by nurturing staff, and fun activities provided for children. Survey results are in the appendix for more insight.

CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PROGRAM OVERVIEW AND SERVICE AREA

NEEDS OF ELIGIBLE CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

ELIGIBLE CHILDREN AND PREGNANT WOMEN

AGENCIES SERVING ELIGIBLE CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

RESOURCES AVAILABLE IN THE COMMUNITY

FAMILY SURVEY (KEY FINDINGS)

PURPOSE OF REPORT

PROGRAM AND SERVICE AREA OVERVIEW

Defining the Service Area

Demographics

Poverty

Household Composition and Family Characteristics

NEEDS OF ELIGIBLE CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Health

Nutrition

Social and Economic Factors Impacting Well-being

Transportation

ELIGIBLE CHILDREN AND PREGNANT WOMEN

Child Poverty and Geographic Location

Children Experiencing Homelessness

Children in Foster Care

Children with Disabilities

Children Receiving Public Assistance

Agencies Serving Eligible Children

Home Visiting

Publicly Funded Preschool

RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO THE COMMUNITY TO MEET THE NEEDS OF ELIGIBLE CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

LOOKING AHEAD

PURPOSE OF REPORT

The 2023 Community Assessment Report serves the Evanston Child Development Center (ECDC) to ensure that ECDC has the most current and comprehensive information for program strategic planning and grant writing.

Per Head Start Program Performance Standards (HSPPS), Section 1302.11¹, community assessment requirements include:

- 1) The number of eligible infants, toddlers, preschool age children, and expectant mothers, including their geographic location, race, ethnicity, and languages they speak, including:
 - a) Children experiencing homelessness in collaboration with, to the extent possible, McKinney-Vento Local Education Agency Liaisons (42 U.S.C. 11432 (6)(A));
 - b) Children in foster care;
 - c) Children with disabilities, including types of disabilities and relevant services and resources provided to these children by community agencies;
- 2) The education, health, nutrition, and social service needs of eligible children and their families, including prevalent social or economic factors that impact their well-being;
- 3) Typical work, school, and training schedules of parents with eligible children;
- 4) Other child development, child care centers, and family child care programs that serve eligible children, including home visiting, publicly funded state and local preschools, and the approximate number of eligible children served;
- 5) Resources that are available in the community to address the needs of eligible children and their families; and,
- 6) Strengths of the community.

Information in this report is organized according to the community assessment requirements noted above.

PROGRAM AND SERVICE AREA OVERVIEW

Defining the Service Area

Evanston Child Development Center (ECDC) partners with the Children’s Learning Center, serving children and families in Uinta County, Wyoming (“service area”). Through its Early Head Start program, ECDC provides center-based services to children birth to age two living in the communities of Evanston and Mountain View within Uinta County.

Uinta County is approximately 2,000 square miles and is located in the southwestern corner of Wyoming, boarding the state of Utah, south of Lincoln County, WY, and west of Sweetwater County, WY.

To inform future program development and expansion opportunities, ECDC is exploring community assessment data on neighboring counties *Lincoln County and Sweetwater County*. Where data is available in these counties outside the current service, it is noted in blue font in data tables. These counties are located in western Wyoming; together, they make up approximately 20% of the state's land area of the state. Lincoln County shares a border with Idaho, and Sweetwater County shares a border with Colorado.

ECDC's Early Head Start service area includes one federally designated Opportunity Zone (designed to increase economic development by providing investors with tax benefits) and Uinta County census tract

56041975400 (Evanston and northwest). There is also one Opportunity Zone located in the counties being explored: Sweetwater County census tract 56037970903 (west of Rock Springs and adjacent to Interstate 80).

The 2023 *Community Assessment* data on ECDC's current service area and the neighboring counties being explored will provide a picture of local needs. This picture may help identify opportunities for expanding Head Start/Early Head Start or other early learning programs.

Demographics

The total population in ECDC’s Early Head Start service area is 20,712. Population in Uinta County has been slightly sustaining in recent years until data from 2022 shows an increase, while small increases and decreases were seen in Lincoln and Sweetwater counties explored outside the current service area (Table 1).

Table 1. Population by Geographic Area and Year (-2021) ¹

| Geographic Area | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | Four-Year Trend |
|--------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|-------------------|
| <i>Lincoln County</i> | <i>19,011</i> | <i>19,274</i> | <i>19,457</i> | <i>Increasing</i> |
| <i>Sweetwater County</i> | <i>44,117</i> | <i>43,659</i> | <i>43,459</i> | <i>Decreasing</i> |
| Uinta County | 20,609 | 20,479 | 20,712 | <i>Increasing</i> |
| Wyoming | 581,836 | 581,024 | 518,803 | Decreasing |

Racial and ethnic diversity in the service area and neighboring counties compared to the state of Wyoming is described in Table 3 and Table 4. A majority of the population is White. In Sweetwater County, there are also high percentages of the population that are Hispanic or Latino.

Table 3. Percentage by Race and Geographic Area (2022) ²

| County | White | Black or African American | American Indian and Alaskan Native | Asian | Native Hawaiian & Other Pacific Islander | Some other race | Two or more races |
|--------------------------|--------------|---------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------|--|-----------------|-------------------|
| <i>Lincoln County</i> | <i>95.8%</i> | <i>0.0%</i> | <i>0.4%</i> | <i>0.3%</i> | <i>0.0%</i> | <i>0.5%</i> | <i>2.9%</i> |
| <i>Sweetwater County</i> | <i>81.4%</i> | <i>1.2%</i> | <i>1.02%</i> | <i>0.7%</i> | <i>0.2%</i> | <i>5.93%</i> | <i>2.3%</i> |
| Uinta County | 95.3% | .7% | 1.5% | 0.6% | 0.2% | 2.1% | 3.5% |
| Wyoming | 91.4% | 1.0% | 2.4 | 0.9% | 0.1% | 1.5% | 2.7% |

¹ U.S. Census Bureau QuickFacts

² <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/sweetwatercountywyoming> (lincoln county/uinta county)

Table 4. Ethnicity as a Percentage of the Population by Geographic Area 2022)³

| Geographic Area | Hispanic or Latino Origin (of any race) | Hispanic or Latino Origin: Mexican | Hispanic or Latino Origin: Puerto Rican | Hispanic or Latino Origin: Cuban | Hispanic or Latino Origin: Other |
|--------------------------|---|------------------------------------|---|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <i>Lincoln County</i> | 4.6% | 3.5% | 0.0% | 0.0% | 1.0% |
| <i>Sweetwater County</i> | 15.9% | 12.5% | 0.0% | 0.0% | 3.3% |
| Uinta County | 10.1% | 8.4% | 0.1% | 0.0% | 0.6% |
| Wyoming | 9.9% | 7.7% | 0.2% | 0.0% | 1.9% |

Linguistic diversity also varies. The greatest linguistic diversity is in Sweetwater County, where the percentage of the population speaking Spanish as their primary language is greater than the statewide percentage (Table 5).

Table 5. Percent of the Population (and Number of Individuals) by Language Spoken at Home, Age 5 and Over, by Geographic Area and (2022)⁴

| Geographic Area | English | Spanish | Other Indo European | Asian and Pacific Island | Other |
|--------------------------|----------------|--------------|---------------------|--------------------------|-----------|
| <i>Lincoln County</i> | 96% (17,478) | 3.3% (605) | 0.3%(80) | 0.2% (28) | 0.1% (13) |
| <i>Sweetwater County</i> | 90.3% (48,802) | 8.2% (3,334) | 1.3% (528) | 0.6% (253) | 0.2% (94) |
| Uinta County | 95.1% (19,101) | 4.6% (713) | 0.3% (140) | 0.4% (75) | 0.1% (11) |
| Wyoming | 93.7% | 4.8% | 0.6% | 0.5% | 0.4% |

Poverty

The poverty rates in Uinta County and Sweetwater County are high compared to the statewide rate, followed by Uinta County, as described in Table 7. While the official poverty measure focuses solely on cash income, the Supplemental Poverty Measure (SPM) provides a more comprehensive view by considering both cash and noncash resources and necessary expenses. ECDC believes the SPM is a better fit for the rural region in both counties. Poverty rates among single-parent families are significantly higher than the state average for Sweetwater and Uinta Counties.

³ <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/sweetwatercountywyoming> (lincoln county/uinta county)

⁴ <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/sweetwatercountywyoming> (lincoln county/uinta county)

Table 7. Poverty Rate by Geographic Area 2022

| Geographic Area | US Census 2022 ⁵ | Supplemental Poverty ⁶ Measure (SPM) 2020 | Estimated Poverty with combined US Census + SPM |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|--|---|
| <i>Lincoln County</i> | 5.4% | 11.5% | 8.4% |
| <i>Sweetwater County</i> | 11.7% | 9.1% | 10.4% |
| Uinta County | 10.8% | 14.1% | 12.5% |
| Wyoming | 11.4 | 24% | 17.7% |

As illustrated in Table 8 and Table 9 data from 2021 (latest), there is disparity with regard to poverty level by race and ethnicity. In Uinta County, for example, poverty rates are substantially higher among Black or African American individuals, American Indian and Alaskan Native individuals, Asian individuals, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander individuals, and individuals of two or more races than it is for White individuals. Across the counties explored, the percentage of the population living below poverty is also higher for Hispanic or Latino individuals than it is for non-Hispanic or Latino individuals.

Table 8. Number (and Percent) of Individuals Below Poverty Level by Race and Geographic Area (2021)⁷

| County | White | Black or African American | American Indian & Alaskan Native | Asian | Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander | Some other race | Two or more races |
|--------------------------|----------------|---------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------|---|-----------------|-------------------|
| <i>Lincoln County</i> | 1,082 (6.4%) | 0 (0.0%) | 6 (10.9%) | 1 (01.4%) | n/a | 14 (20.3%) | 136 (17.9%) |
| <i>Sweetwater County</i> | 2,467 (9%) | 95 (19.6%) | 81 (16.1%) | 89 (18.5%) | 0 (0.0%) | 79 (15.1%) | 151 (15.3%) |
| Uinta County | 1,026 (5.8%) | 1 (.2%) | 7 (13.5.0%) | 0 (0.0%) | n/a | 285 (57.5%) | 708 (11.1%) |
| Wyoming | 53,757 (11.6%) | 1,238 (33.93%) | 2,285 (22,6%) | 630 (13.0%) | 49 (8.6%) | 3,756 (17.7%) | 3,753 (7.9%) |

Table 9. Number (and Percent) of Individuals Below Poverty Level by Ethnicity and Geographic Area (2021)⁸

| Geographic Area | Hispanic or Latino Origin | Non-Hispanic or Latino Origin, White Alone |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|--|
| <i>Lincoln County</i> | 114 (12,2%) | 1,082 (6.1%) |
| <i>Sweetwater County</i> | 1,161 (17.1%) | 2,967 (9.0%) |
| Uinta County | 532 (27.4%) | 1,026 (5.8%) |
| Wyoming | 10,692 (19.2%) | 46,049 (9.6%) |

⁵ [U.S. Census Bureau QuickFacts: Uinta County, Wyoming](#)

⁶ [Cities in Wyoming With the Most Living in Poverty | Stacker](#)

⁷ [U.S. Census Bureau QuickFacts: Uinta County, Wyoming](#)

ECDC administrators report high costs of living in the county. Despite fewer families living below the federal poverty level, the impact of a high cost of living may present challenges for families to sustain a household budget and meet their family’s basic needs.

Child poverty is described in detail in the Eligible Children and Pregnant Women section of this report.

Household Composition and Family Characteristics

In ECDC’s service area and neighboring communities, many children live with their biological, step, or adopted parents. High percentages of children live with a grandparent(s) or other relatives, particularly in Uinta and Lincoln Counties. Within counties, rates are exceptionally high in certain zip codes (though actual numbers may be small due to small populations). The rate of children living with a foster family is lower than the statewide rate across the counties explored, though it is highest in Lincoln County. Table 10 describes the percentage of children by relationship to householder for each county in the service area.

Table 10. Percentage of Children (ages 0 to 18-years-old) by Relationship to Householder and Geographic Area (2021)⁸

| Geographic Area | Own child (biological, step, or adopted) | Grandchild | Other relatives | Foster child or other unrelated child |
|--------------------------|--|------------|-----------------|---------------------------------------|
| <i>Lincoln County</i> | 89.1% | 7.1% | 2.4% | 1.4% |
| <i>Sweetwater County</i> | 91.4% | 6.6% | 1.6% | 0.5% |
| Uinta County | 91.2% | 7.8% | 0.0% | 1.0% |
| Wyoming | 90.8% | 5.8% | 1.5% | 1.9% |

In the state of Wyoming, 25.8% of children live in single-parent families. Within Uinta County, the rate is lower. Sweetwater County has rates similar to the statewide rate, with high percentages of children in single parent families living with their mother (Table 11).

Table 11. Children in Single-Parent Families by Family Type parents and Geographic Area (2021)⁹

| Geographic Area | Single Parent | Single Mother | Single Father |
|--------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| <i>Lincoln County</i> | 17.2% | 9.2% | 8.0% |
| <i>Sweetwater County</i> | 24.5% | 40% | 12% |
| Uinta County | 16.6% | 30% | 6.4% |
| Wyoming | 25.8% | 17.1% | 8.7% |

Children served by ECDC’s Early Head Start program are often living in single-parent families. During the 2023 program year, 60% of families served were single-parent families. ECDC is providing critical, comprehensive services to single-parent families in the service area.

8 U.S. Census Bureau. (2021). American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates. Retrieved from <https://data.census.gov>

9 Kids Count Data Center. (2021)

NEEDS OF ELIGIBLE CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

The needs of children and families in the counties explored are multi-faceted and interconnected, and they are described throughout this section. Families experience many factors that impact their well being. Together with other agencies, ECDC strives to meet the needs as a community partner, serving the area’s neediest families.

Education

In Wyoming, the four-year high school graduation rate is approximately 82%. In Uinta County, graduation rates among students at Uinta County School District #1 are most challenging, particularly at Horizons Alternative School. Within school districts in the counties explored, approximately half of high schools have graduation rates above the state, while half are below, as described in Table 12. In many school districts, there are disparities in high school graduation rate; rates tend to be lower among English language learners, students with an IEP, and students eligible for free or reduced lunch.

Table 12. High School Graduation Rate by School District, School, and Student Subgroup (2021-2022)¹⁰

| | Total Students | All Students | ELL | Homeless | IEP | Eligible for Free or Reduced Lunch |
|---|----------------|--------------|-------|----------|-------|------------------------------------|
| <i>Lincoln County School District #1</i> | 48 | 93.8% | 100% | 100.0% | 90.9% | 87.5% |
| <i>Lincoln County School District #2</i> | 232 | 86.9% | 100% | 100% | 64.3% | 82.5% |
| <i>Sweetwater County School District #1</i> | 367 | 76.3% | 75% | 53.8% | 49.1% | 61.3% |
| <i>Sweetwater County School District #2</i> | 174 | 84.5% | 50% | 0% | 63% | 68.3% |
| Uinta County School District #1 | 185 | 83.3% | 66.7% | 33.3% | 89.8% | 75% |
| Uinta County School District #4 | 53 | 94.4% | 0.0% | 100.0% | 83.3% | 77.3% |
| Uinta County School District #6 | 42 | 85.7% | n/a | 100.0% | 100% | 50% |
| Wyoming | | 82.3% | 66.5% | 64.6% | 62.6% | 71.7% |

While district graduation rates have remained relatively stable in counties neighboring ECDC’s service area, data show drops in graduation rate within Uinta County. In Uinta County School District #1, graduation rate fell from 80.4% (as reported in ECDC’s *2020 Community Assessment*) to 73.5%, and in Uinta School District #4 the rate fell from 93.2% (as reported in ECDC’s *2020 Community Assessment*) to 86.8%.

High school graduation rates are also reflected in the educational attainment of the adult population, as described in Table 13. In Lincoln County and Sweetwater County, there are portions of the adult population higher than the statewide rate whose highest level of educational attainment is less than 9th grade or 9th grade to 12th grade with no diploma. More than 90% of adults in Uinta County have obtained at least a high school diploma/GED as their highest level of education, though it has the lowest rate of post-secondary educational attainment among the counties explored. Consistent with ECDC’s *2021 Community Assessment*, educational attainment is more challenging in Evanston than it is in Uinta County, as a whole.

¹⁰ Wyoming Department of Education. (2022)

Table 13. Education Attainment (Ages 25 and Over) by Geographic Area (2022)¹¹

| Geographic Area | Less Than 9th Grade ¹⁴ | 9th to 12th Grade, no diploma ¹⁵ | High school graduate /GED | Some college, no degree | Associate's degree | Bachelor's degree | Advanced degree |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|---------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| <i>Lincoln County</i> | 1.7% | 5.6% | 31.8% | 25.1% | 12.2% | 16.7% | 7.0% |
| <i>Sweetwater County</i> | 1.6% | 5.6% | 33.0% | 25.2% | 12.1% | 14.8% | 7.7% |
| Uinta County | 2.5% | 4.7% | 41.5% | 24.8% | 10.4% | 11.1% | 5.0% |
| Wyoming | 2.1% | 4.1% | 22.3% | 24.9% | 12% | 18% | 11.6% |

In ECDC’s Early Head Start program, 7.2% of families have less than a high school diploma as their highest level of educational attainment (2022) This is a decrease from PIR data reported in 2021. Further showing the dedication to helping families with education attainment.

Health¹²

Adult Health Factors and Outcomes

County Health Rankings & Roadmaps, a national program of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, ranks communities across health and wellness factors. The overall rankings in health outcomes represent how healthy counties are within the state. The healthiest county is ranked #1. The rankings are based on two types of measures: how long people live and how healthy people feel. The overall rankings in health factors represent what influences the health of a county. They are an estimate of the future health of a county compared to other counties within a state. The rankings are based on four types of measures: health behaviors, clinical care, social and economic, and physical environment factors.

According to the most recent rankings, Uinta County and Sweetwater County rank in the bottom quartile for health outcomes (Table 16).

Table 16. Health Outcomes and Health Factors Ranking (Out of 23 Counties in Wyoming) (2021)

| Geographic Area | Health Outcomes Rank | Health Factors Rank |
|--------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| <i>Lincoln County</i> | 11 | 5 |
| <i>Sweetwater County</i> | 18 | 11 |
| Uinta County | 21 | 14 |

As seen in Table 17, factors related to poor health, as well as the number of physically and mentally unhealthy days in Uinta County and Sweetwater County are generally worse than the statewide rates, while Lincoln County is more consistent with statewide rates and top U.S. performers (top 10% of best/healthiest scores nationwide).

¹¹ Wyoming Department of Education. (2022)

¹² [Uinta, Wyoming | County Health Rankings & Roadmaps 2024](#) (All Health Tables)

Table 17. Health Outcomes Data by Geographic Area

| Geographic Area | Years of Potential Life Lost (2021) | % Poor or Fair Health (2021) | Physically Unhealthy Days (2021) | Mentally Unhealthy Days (2021) |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <i>Lincoln County</i> | <i>6,000</i> | <i>15%</i> | <i>3.8</i> | <i>3.9</i> |
| <i>Sweetwater County</i> | <i>9,700</i> | <i>14%</i> | <i>3.6</i> | <i>5.2</i> |
| Uinta County | 11,000 | 14% | 3.4 | 5.0 |
| Wyoming | 8700 | 13% | 3.5 | 4.9 |
| Top U.S. Performers | 8000 | 14% | 3.3 | 4.8 |

For other health-related factors, Wyoming has high rates compared to top U.S. performers. There are wide ranges in data for some of the factors explored. For example, the rate of obesity in Lincoln County is 22%, while it is 32% in Uinta County (Table 18).

Table 18. Adult Health Factors by Geographic Area

| Geographic Area | % Smokers (2022) | % Obese (2022) | % Food Environment Index (2022) |
|--------------------------|------------------|----------------|---------------------------------|
| <i>Lincoln County</i> | <i>18%</i> | <i>22.4%</i> | <i>9%</i> |
| <i>Sweetwater County</i> | <i>18%</i> | <i>34%</i> | <i>7.9%</i> |
| Uinta County | 17% | 33% | 8.5% |
| Wyoming | 17% | 32% | 7.1% |
| Top U.S. Performers | 15% | 34% | 7.7% |

Further, Sweetwater County and Uinta County are among the counties in the state with the highest rates of suicide (Table 19). In Wyoming, the rate ranges from 25.1 per 100,000. Suicide is the 5th leading cause of death in Sweetwater County.

Table 19. Suicide Rate by County of Residence

| Geographic Area | Suicide Rate per 100,000 Population (2017-2021) | Suicide Rate per 100,000 Population (2022) | Increase/Decrease |
|--------------------------|---|--|-------------------|
| <i>Lincoln County</i> | <i>19.6</i> | <i>26.5</i> | <i>Increase</i> |
| <i>Sweetwater County</i> | <i>27.6</i> | <i>35</i> | <i>Increase</i> |
| Uinta County | 28.7 | 32 | Increase |
| Wyoming | 25.1 | 29 | Increase |
| U.S. | n/a | 14 | n/a |

Wyoming has a relatively low rate of opioid-related drug overdose deaths (16 per 100,000), much lower than the nationwide rate (27 per 100,000). Deaths involving prescription opioids remained stable from 2017 to 2021. The rate of physician-ordered opioid prescriptions is 57.1 per 100 persons in Wyoming, compared to 51.4 nationally.

Neonatal abstinence syndrome (NAS) or neonatal opioid withdrawal syndrome (NOWS) occurs when a pregnant woman uses drugs such as opioids during her pregnancy. In , the rate of NAS/NOWS in Wyoming was 4.9 per 1,000 live births (), compared to 7.0 per 1,000 nationally. ^{xxxiv}

Table 20 describes substance abuse factors including excessive drinking, alcohol impaired driving deaths, and drug overdose mortality. Wyoming has a high rate of alcohol impaired driving deaths, which is also reflected in Lincoln County and Sweetwater County data.

Table 20. Substance Use by Geographic Area

| Geographic Area | % Excessive Drinking (2021) | Alcohol Impaired Driving Deaths per 100,000 (2017-2021) | Drug Overdose Mortality Rate per 100,000 (2017-2021) |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|---|--|
| <i>Lincoln County</i> | <i>17%</i> | <i>45%</i> | <i>17</i> |
| <i>Sweetwater County</i> | <i>19%</i> | <i>21%</i> | <i>22</i> |
| Uinta County | 17% | 13% | 23 |
| Wyoming | 19% | 32% | 16 |
| Top U.S. Performers | 18% | 26% | 27 |

Further, Uinta County and Sweetwater County are part of the Rocky Mountain High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area, determined by the Office of National Drug Control Policy.^{xxxvi} ECDC administrators reflect that the corridor from Evanston to Rock Springs is particularly active for drug trafficking, as Interstate 80 crosses through the area, connecting the region with Salt Lake City.

Healthcare and Clinical Care

The rate of uninsured individuals under age 65 is high in Wyoming, and rates in Uinta County and neighboring counties are consistent with the statewide rate (12%) (Table 21). The rate of uninsured individuals has improved in all counties explored since the year prior.

Table 21. Percent of the Population that is Uninsured by Geographic Area (2021)

| Geographic Area | Population Under Age 65 | Children Under Age 19 |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| <i>Lincoln County</i> | <i>12%</i> | <i>7%</i> |
| <i>Sweetwater County</i> | <i>16%</i> | <i>11%</i> |
| Uinta County | 14% | 7% |
| Wyoming | 15% | 12% |
| Top U.S. Performers | 10% | 5% |

The ratio of primary care providers, dentists, and mental health providers to individuals in the service area and neighboring counties is described in Table 22. Data on the other counties explored illustrate the need for accessible health care resources. Ratios are most concerning in Sweetwater County, however all counties are higher than the state and U.S. ratios.

Table 22. Ratio of Health Care Providers by Geographic Area

| Geographic Area | Primary Care Provider Ratio (2023) | Dentist Ratio (2023) | Mental Health Provider Ratio (2023) |
|--------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <i>Lincoln County</i> | <i>1,390:1</i> | <i>1,800:1</i> | <i>790:1</i> |
| <i>Sweetwater County</i> | <i>2,310:1</i> | <i>1,650:1</i> | <i>390:1</i> |
| Uinta County | 1,720:1 | 1,220:1 | 280:1 |
| Wyoming | 1,430:1 | 1,440:1 | 260:1 |
| Top U.S. Performers | 1,330:1 | 1,360: | 320:1 |

Infant and Maternal Health

Prenatal Care. Child health and well being begins with adequate prenatal care. Access to adequate prenatal care is challenging in Wyoming, with over a quarter of pregnant women having inadequate prenatal care. Within the counties explored, rates have declined across the counties in recent years (Table 23).

Table 23. Percent of Women Who Received Intermediate, Inadequate, or No Prenatal Care by Geographic Area (2022)¹³

| Geographic Area | Percent of Pregnant Women | Three-Year Trend |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|
| <i>Lincoln County</i> | <i>23.1%</i> | <i>Decreasing</i> |
| <i>Sweetwater County</i> | <i>21.1%</i> | <i>Decreasing</i> |
| Uinta County | 21.1% | Decreasing |
| Wyoming | 26.3% | Stable |

Teen Pregnancy. In ECDC’s service area, the teen birth rate (age 15-19) is 26.7 per 1,000. Teen birth rate varies across the counties explored (Table 24). While teen birth rate has steadily declined during the last decade, it remains high and above the statewide rate in Sweetwater County and Uinta County.

Table 24. Teen Birth Rate (Age 15-19), per 1,000, by County of Residence (2021-2023)¹⁴

| Geographic Area | Teen Birth Rate |
|--------------------------|-----------------|
| <i>Lincoln County</i> | <i>17.3</i> |
| <i>Sweetwater County</i> | <i>26</i> |
| Uinta County | 23 |
| Wyoming | 16 |

¹³ [2022 Annual Report \(7/27/2023\) \(wyo.gov\)](https://www.wyo.gov/2022-Annual-Report-7-27-2023)

¹⁴ <https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/health-data>

Low Birth Weight and Infant Mortality. In Wyoming, 9.8% of newborns are considered low birth weight. Table 25 describes the percent of newborn babies born at a low birth weight by county. Reported data is relatively consistent with the statewide rates. Table 25 also reports infant mortality rate, which is high in Uinta County.

Table 25. Infant Health Factors by Geographic Area (2023)

| Geographic Area | Low Birth Weight (2022) | Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000 live births) (2015- 2021) |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|--|
| <i>Lincoln County</i> | <i>9.9%</i> | <i>5.0</i> |
| <i>Sweetwater County</i> | <i>10%</i> | <i>4.3</i> |
| Uinta County | 10% | 8.9 |
| Wyoming | 9% | 6 |

Child Health and Well-being

Primary and Preventative Health. In ECDC’s Early Head Start program, approximately one fifth of children are up-to-date on primary and preventative health care at enrollment. ECDC’s services help to increase those rates and there is demonstrable improvement by the end of the program year. For example, during the 2022-2023 program year, the percent of children up-to-date increased from 17% at enrollment to 29% by the end of the program year (Table 26).

Table 26. Percent of ECDC Early Head Start Children Up-to-Date on Age-Appropriate Preventive and Primary Health Care (EPSDT) (2022-2023)¹⁵

| Program Option | At Enrollment | End of Enrollment Year |
|------------------|---------------------|------------------------|
| Early Head Start | 17% (20 out of 112) | 29% (32 out of 112) |

ECDC administrators report a shortage of specialty and pediatric health providers in the service area and neighboring counties. Families may travel 2+ hours for pediatric care in Salt Lake City, Utah. Obtaining services in Utah may present barriers for families with transportation challenges or difficulty affording care outside of their local community. Other barriers to accessing pediatric care, such as lack of providers who accept Wyoming Medicaid, may continue to present challenges for families to use local health care providers to meet their families’ health needs.

Table 27 describes the percent of children 19-36 months old who are up-to-date on age-appropriate immunizations. Vaccination coverage is lowest in Lincoln County.

Table 27. Immunization Rate by Age Group and Geographic Area (2021)^{16 17}

| Geographic Area | Children 19-36 Months up to date on 4:3:1:3:3:1:4 series | County Rank |
|-----------------------|--|-------------|
| <i>Lincoln County</i> | <i>61.0%</i> | <i>16</i> |
| <i>Sweetwater</i> | <i>70%</i> | <i>5</i> |

¹⁵ ECDC Head Start PIR 2022-2023

¹⁶ 4 DTaP, 3 Polio, 1 MMR, 3 Hib, 3 Hepatitis B, 1 Varicella and 4 PCV
¹⁷ <https://health.wyo.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/2021-Uinta-County-Report-Card.pdf>

| | | |
|---------------|-----|-----|
| <i>County</i> | | |
| Uinta County | 58% | 17 |
| Wyoming | 64% | n/a |
| United States | 93% | n/a |

Child Abuse and Neglect. In Wyoming, the number of children who are confirmed by child protective services to be victims of maltreatment has been increasing in recent years (Table 28).

Table 28. Number and Rate of Children (0-18) Who Are Confirmed Victims of Maltreatment (2017-2021)¹⁸

| Geographic Area | 2017 | 2018 | 2021 | Three-Year Trend |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------|
| Wyoming | 943 children 7 per 1,000 | 1,043 children 8 per 1,000 | 886 children 8 per 1,000 | Decreasing |
| United States | 9 per 1,000 | 9 per 1,000 | 9 per 1,000 | Steady |

Food insecurity and limited access to healthy foods is most challenging in Sweetwater County and Uinta County, where rates are equal to or above the statewide rates (Table 29).

Table 29. Food Access by Geographic Area (2021)¹⁹

| Geographic Area | Food Environment Index | % Limited Access to Healthy Foods | % Food Insecurity |
|--------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------|
| <i>Lincoln County</i> | <i>8.4</i> | <i>3%</i> | <i>11%</i> |
| <i>Sweetwater County</i> | <i>7.5</i> | <i>11%</i> | <i>12%</i> |
| Uinta County | 8.5 | 10% | 10% |
| Wyoming | 7.1 | 6% | 11% |
| Top U.S. Performers | 7.7 | 8% | 10% |

There are no low-income and low access census tracts (food deserts²⁰) in Uinta County or neighboring counties, however there is one census tract with limited access based on vehicle availability. Uinta County tract 56041975400 (north Evanston, Almy, Bear River) has a relatively high number of households (108 of 2,632 total households, 4.1%) without vehicles that are also more than one-half mile from a supermarket.²¹

Further illustrating nutrition needs, there are high rates of students eligible for free or reduced-price meals in parts of the service area (2022-2023 school year). The highest rates of eligibility are in Uinta County School District #1. There are also high rates of eligible students at select elementary schools in Lincoln County School District #2, Sweetwater County School District #1, and Sweetwater County School District #2 (Table 30).

¹⁸ Kids Count Data Center. (2021). Wyoming Indicators.

¹⁹ <https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/health-data/wyoming> 2024

²⁰ Low-income census tracts where a significant number or share of residents is more than 1 mile (urban) or 10 miles (rural) from the nearest supermarket.

²¹ The Food Environment Index ranges from a scale of 0 (worst) to 10 (best) and equally weights two indicators of the food environment: limited access to healthy food and food insecurity.

Table 30. Percent of Students Eligible for Free or Reduced-Price Lunch by School District and Elementary School (2022-2023)²²

| | Percent of Students |
|---|---------------------|
| <i>Lincoln County School District #1</i> | <i>9%</i> |
| <i>Canyon Elementary</i> | <i>15%</i> |
| <i>Lincoln County School District #2</i> | <i>28%</i> |
| <i>Sweetwater County School District #1</i> | <i>63.1%</i> |
| <i>Sweetwater County School District #2</i> | <i>43%</i> |
| Uinta County School District #1 | 69% |
| Uinta County School District #4 | 18% |
| Uinta County School District #6 | 21% |
| Wyoming | 33% |

Social and Economic Factors Impacting Well-being

Home Value and Affordability

Home value and affordability vary across the service area and neighboring counties, with median home value ranging from \$224,800 in Uinta County (Table 31). Median monthly owner and renter costs vary as well. They are lower than the statewide costs in Uinta, Lincoln, and Sweetwater Counties.

Table 31. Median Home Value and Costs by Geographic Area (2022)²³

| Geographic Area | Median Home Value ³¹ | Median Owner Costs | Median Rent |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| <i>Lincoln County</i> | <i>\$283,800</i> | <i>\$1,447</i> | <i>\$740 Decrease</i> |
| <i>Sweetwater County</i> | <i>\$240,300</i> | <i>\$1,521</i> | <i>\$859 Increase</i> |
| Uinta County | \$224,800 | \$1,335 | \$790 Increase |
| Wyoming | \$320,658 | \$1,459 | \$819 Decrease |

Rental cost burden (spending a significant portion of monthly income on rent) is relatively high in Wyoming and the counties explored; approximately 30-40% of households are spending 30% or more of their monthly income on rent (Table 32). A high rental cost burden can strain a family’s finances and make it difficult to sustain stable housing and have enough income available to support other expenses (food, medical care, etc.).

Also described in Table 32, rental vacancy rate varies widely among and within counties. A low rental vacancy rate means there are fewer homes available to renters in these areas. At the county level, rental vacancy rates are lowest in Lincoln and Uinta Counties, though there are very low vacancy rates in some

²² Wyoming Department of Education. (2021). School District Enrollment and Staffing Data

²³ <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/wyoming>

communities within these counties. This aligns with ECDC administrators’ observations that a lack of affordable housing is a substantial challenge in Evanston (Uinta County) as it is, to a lesser extent, in Mountain View.

Table 32. Housing Characteristics by Geographic Area (2021) ²⁴

| Geographic Area | Rental Vacancy Rate ³³ | Households Spending 30% or More of Monthly Income on Rent ³⁴ |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| <i>Lincoln County</i> | <i>6.9%</i> | <i>42%</i> |
| <i>Sweetwater County</i> | <i>16.9%</i> | <i>35%</i> |
| Uinta County | 16.9% | 30% |
| Wyoming | 8.5% | 35.5% |

Uinta County and neighboring counties have rates of households with broadband Internet access that are equal to or above the statewide rate (Table 33). The lowest rates of access are in Lincoln and Sweetwater Counties.

Table 33. Percent of Households with Broadband Internet Connection by Geographic Area (2015-2021) ²⁵

| Geographic Area | Percent of Households |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| <i>Lincoln County</i> | <i>83%</i> |
| <i>Sweetwater County</i> | <i>84%</i> |
| Uinta County | 90% |
| Wyoming | 83% |

Income Inequalities²⁶

In the counties explored, median household income is higher than the statewide rate (Table 34). The median household income has increased in all counties significantly. Lincoln and Uinta counties were below the state average in .

Table 34. Median and Per Capita Income by Geographic Area (2022)

| Geographic Area | Median Household Income (2021) | Per Capita Income (2022) |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
| <i>Lincoln County</i> | <i>\$71,898</i> | <i>\$60,502</i> |
| <i>Sweetwater County</i> | <i>\$79,375</i> | <i>\$40,268</i> |
| Uinta County | \$78,164 | \$32,955 |
| Wyoming | \$65,204 | \$73,248 |

²⁴ U.S. Census Bureau. (2021). American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

²⁵ Kids Count Data Center. (2021). Wyoming Indicators.

²⁶ <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/wyoming>

Within counties, there is a wide range of median household income by zip code. This income inequality is further described in Table 35. A higher income inequality ratio indicates greater division between the top and bottom ends of the income spectrum. Income inequality is relatively consistent in the counties explored.

Table 35. Income Inequality by Geographic Area (2022)²⁷

| Geographic Area | 80 th percentile income | 20 th percentile income | Income Ratio ³⁶ |
|--------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| <i>Lincoln County</i> | <i>\$115,000</i> | <i>\$24,000</i> | <i>4.1</i> |
| <i>Sweetwater County</i> | <i>\$115,400</i> | <i>\$30,784</i> | <i>5.1</i> |
| Uinta County | \$115,915 | \$24,000 | 8.05 |
| Wyoming | 108,900 | \$25,700 | 4.3 |
| Top U.S. Performers | | | 3.7 |

Employment and Industry

Within the counties explored, individuals are employed in a variety of occupations and industries, and a majority of individuals are private wage and salary workers (Table 36)

Table 36. Number of Employed Individuals (Age 16+) and Percentage of the Employed Workforce by Class of Worker and Geographic Area (2021)²⁸

| Geographic Area | <i>Lincoln County</i> | <i>Sweetwater County</i> | Uinta County | Wyoming |
|--|---------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| Private wage and salary workers | <i>6,898 (75.1%)</i> | <i>16,656 (77.5%)</i> | 6,843 (73.6%) | 209,833 (72.7%) |
| Government workers | <i>1,449 (15.8%)</i> | <i>3,949 (18.4%)</i> | 1,860 (20.0%) | 58,801 (20.4%) |
| Self-employed in own not incorporated business workers | <i>811 (8.8%)</i> | <i>856 (4.0%)</i> | 552 (5.9%) | 19,024 (6.6%) |
| Unpaid family workers ³⁸ | <i>31 (0.3%)</i> | <i>26 (0.1%)</i> | 39 (0.4%) | 845 (0.3%) |
| Total | <i>9,189 (100.0%)</i> | <i>21,487 (100.0%)</i> | 9,294 (100.0%) | 288,503 (100.0%) |

Adult (age 16+) workforce participation rates are consistent with the statewide rate (Table 37). Within counties, certain communities have workforce participation rates well above the statewide rate. In some communities, for example, Afton (Lincoln County) and Rock Springs (Sweetwater County) labor force participation rates are high; these are also communities in which poverty rates are elevated. When labor force participation is high but poverty is still elevated, this may indicate that families are under employed or receive wages that are too low to provide a livable level of income.

27 [Income Inequality in Uinta County, WY \(2020RATIO056041\) | FRED | St. Louis Fed \(stlouisfed.org\)](#)

28 U.S. Census Bureau. (2021). American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Table 37. Percent of the Population in Labor Force (Age 16+) and Labor Force Participation Rate of Families with Children Under Age 6 by Geographic Area (2021)²⁹

| Geographic Area | Population Age 16+ | Living in Households with Children Under Age 6, All Parents in the Family in the Labor Force |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|--|
| <i>Afton CCD</i> | 67.1% | 54.8% |
| <i>Kemmerer East CCD</i> | 64.5% | 60.1% |
| <i>Kemmerer West CCD</i> | 65.3% | 49.8% |
| <i>Lincoln County</i> | 66.4% | 60% |
| <i>Green River North CCD</i> | 64.6% | 38.4% |
| <i>Green River South CCD</i> | 64.9% | 56.3% |
| <i>Rock Springs North CCD</i> | 71.7% | 55.4% |
| <i>Rock Springs South CCD</i> | 72.5% | 100.0% |
| <i>Wamsutter CCD</i> | 47.7% | 17.1% |
| <i>Sweetwater County</i> | 69.1% | 71% |
| Bridger Valley CCD | 66.6% | 79.0% |
| Evanston CCD | 65.4% | 64.9% |
| Uinta County | 65.8% | 74% |
| Wyoming | 66.4% | 74.2% |

Data on unemployment show rates show a stability across the Uinta and Sweetwater matching the states throughout the year. (Table 40).³⁰

Table 40. Unemployment Rate by Month and Geographic Area and Month (2022-2023)³¹

| Date | Unta County | Sweetwater County | Wyoming |
|-----------------|-------------|-------------------|---------|
| December, 2023 | 2.90% | 2.90% | 2.90% |
| November, 2023 | 3.00% | 2.80% | 3.00% |
| October, 2023 | 2.60% | 2.70% | 2.60% |
| September, 2023 | 2.60% | 2.60% | 2.60% |
| August, 2023 | 2.80% | 2.80% | 2.80% |
| July, 2023 | 2.80% | 3.10% | 2.80% |

²⁹ Defined by the U.S. Census Bureau as people who worked without pay in a business or on a farm operated by a relative.

³⁰ The unemployment rate represents the number of unemployed as a percentage of the labor force. Rates greater than the statewide rate are highlighted.

³¹ [Wyoming Unemployment Unchanged at 2.8% in March 2024 \(state.wy.us\)](https://state.wy.us)

| | | | |
|-----------------|-------|-------|-------|
| June, 2023 | 3.30% | 3.30% | 3.30% |
| May, 2023 | 2.90% | 3.00% | 2.90% |
| April, 2023 | 3.10% | 3.30% | 3.20% |
| March, 2023 | 3.80% | 4.30% | 3.80% |
| February, 2023 | 4.00% | 4.40% | 4.00% |
| January, 2023 | 4.10% | 4.90% | 4.10% |
| December, 2022 | 3.50% | 3.90% | 3.50% |
| November, 2022 | 3.40% | 3.50% | 3.40% |
| October, 2022 | 3.10% | 3.50% | 3.10% |
| September, 2022 | 3.10% | 3.30% | 3.10% |
| August, 2022 | 3.40% | 3.60% | 3.40% |
| July, 2022 | 3.40% | 3.80% | 3.40% |
| June, 2022 | 3.90% | 4.00% | 3.90% |
| May, 2022 | 3.30% | 3.50% | 3.30% |
| April, 2022 | 3.40% | 3.80% | 3.40% |
| March, 2022 | 3.90% | 4.40% | 3.90% |
| February, 2022 | 4.10% | 4.70% | 4.10% |

Transportation

The percent of the population with limited access to personal vehicles varies within the service area and neighboring counties; countywide rates are consistent with or lower than the statewide rate (Table 41). In some communities, as highlighted in the table, rates are much higher. For example, in zip code 83127 (Star Valley, Thayne), the rate is nearly 8%. Households without a vehicle (and households with one vehicle for two working parents) have to rely more heavily on alternative transportation such as sharing vehicles or limited public transportation.

Table 41. Households with No Vehicle Available by Geographic Area (2021)³²

| Geographic Area | Percent of Households with No Vehicle Available |
|--------------------------|---|
| <i>Lincoln County</i> | <i>2.6%</i> |
| <i>Sweetwater County</i> | <i>1.7%</i> |
| Uinta County | 3.4% |
| Wyoming | 3.8% |

Most residents in the Uinta County and neighboring counties drive themselves to work in their own cars (Table 42), adding to the cost of living for the area. Commute times vary within counties (Table 43). Travel time is higher than the statewide rate in Lincoln, Sweetwater, and Uinta Counties.

³² Percentages higher than the countywide rate are highlighted. Zip code level data on households with no vehicle available is provided in Appendix A7.

Table 42. Transportation to Work by Geographic Area (2021)

| Geographic Area | Car, truck, or van: drove alone | Car, truck, or van: carpooled | Public transportation | Walked | Other means | Worked from home |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------|--------|-------------|------------------|
| <i>Lincoln County</i> | 69.3% | 20.2% | 0.8% | 3.0% | 2.0% | 4.8% |
| <i>Sweetwater County</i> | 75.5% | 15.1% | 2.9% | 3.1% | 1.1% | 2.2% |
| Uinta County | 75.9% | 16.7% | 3.3% | 1.0% | 1.0% | 2.1% |
| Wyoming | 77.4% | 10.2% | 1.3% | 3.8% | 1.8% | 5.4% |

Table 43. Mean Travel Time to Work by Geographic Area (2021) ^{lxviii,45}

| Geographic Area | Mean Travel Time to Work (Minutes) |
|--------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <i>Lincoln County</i> | 27.8 |
| <i>Sweetwater County</i> | 19.6 |
| Uinta County | 22.6 |
| Wyoming | 17.9 |

ECDC administrators report that public transportation is not available in the counties explored. To help address transportation challenges of families enrolled in the Early Head Start program, ECDC provides transportation services to the center for children. The agency also provides taxi passes for families to travel and from health appointments and offers rides by Early Head Start Family Advocates.

ELIGIBLE CHILDREN AND PREGNANT WOMEN

Children must meet an age requirement to participate in Early Head Start or Head Start. The age requirement is birth to two years old (up to age 3) for Early Head Start and three to five years old for Head Start. Children are eligible to receive services if they meet one or more of the Head Start/Early Head Start eligibility requirements: their family has an income at or below the federal poverty level, the family is eligible for public assistance (e.g., TANF, SSI), the child is experiencing homelessness, the child has a disability, or the child is in foster care. Table 44 provides estimated numbers of eligible children in the service area and neighboring communities.

Table 44. Estimated Number of Children in Current Service Area and Current and Potential Service Area (Uinta & Sweetwater) Eligible for Head Start/Early Head Start⁴⁶

| Eligibility Criteria | Estimated Number of Eligible Children in Current Service Area (Uinta County) | | Estimated Number of Eligible Children in Current (Uinta County) and Potential Service Area <i>Sweetwater County</i> | |
|------------------------------------|--|---------|---|---------|
| | Age 0-3 | Age 0-5 | Age 0-3 | Age 0-5 |
| Income-eligible children | 145 | 242 | 320 | 533 |
| Income-eligible pregnant women | 125 | n/a | 94 | n/a |
| Children experiencing homelessness | >11 | >11 | >11 | >11 |

| | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------|--|-------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Children in foster care | >4 | >4 | >4 | >4 |
| Children with disabilities | <67 | <384 (including 281 children 3-5) | <167 | <781 (including 584 children 3-5) |
| Children receiving public assistance | 207 ⁴⁷ | 175 | 596 ⁴⁸ | 548 |

⁴⁶ The source for each of the data points in this table will be described throughout the report.

⁴⁷ Estimated by calculating 3/5 of the number of children birth to age 5 in foster care.

⁴⁸ Estimated by calculating 3/5 of the number of children birth to age 5 in foster care.

Child Poverty and Geographic Location

In Uinta County, there are an estimated 242 children under age living in poverty who are income-eligible for participation in Head Start/Early Head Start; this number grows to 833 when including neighboring counties. Within Uinta County, the greatest number of income-eligible children are located in Evanston. In neighboring counties, the greatest number of income-eligible children reside in Sweetwater County, particularly Rock Springs and Green River, as well as Afton, within Lincoln County (Table 45).

Table 45. Children Under Age 5 and Child Poverty by Geographic Area (2022)

| | Child Poverty Rate (0-18) | Poverty Rate for Children < Age 5 | Number of Children < Age 5 | Number of Children < Age 5 Living in Poverty |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|--|
| Lincoln County | 9.2% | 15.8% | 1,333 | 210 |
| Sweetwater County | 13.4% | 20.9% ³³ | 2,828 | 591 |
| Uinta County | 11.5% | 13% ³⁴ | 1,864 | 242 |
| Current and Potential Service Area | 12.6% | 15.7% | 990 | 833 |

According to the most recent birth data, there were 358 births in Uinta County in 2021, and 1,562 total births in the four-county area explored (Table 46). A majority of births took place in a mother's county of residence. Lincoln County has the highest percent of births that took place out of county (35.6%).

Table 46. Number of Live Births (In and Out of County) by Geographic Area (2022)³⁵

| Geographic Area | In County Births | Out of County/ State Births ³⁶ | Total Births |
|----------------------------------|------------------|---|--------------|
| <i>Lincoln County</i> | <i>70</i> | <i>139</i> | <i>209</i> |
| <i>Sweetwater County</i> | <i>370</i> | <i>79</i> | <i>449</i> |
| Uinta County | 89 | 147 | 236 |
| Current & Potential Service Area | 1,220 | 342 | 1,562 |

³³ Community Needs Assessment/Sweetwater County School District#1 Head Start

³⁴ [uinta. Wyoming | County Health Rankings & Roadmaps 2024](#)

³⁵ [2022 Annual Report \(7/27/2023\) \(wyo.gov\)](#)

³⁶ Defined as the number of births to Wyoming residents that occurred outside their county of residence, either in another Wyoming county or out of state.

While exact data on the number of pregnant women who would be income-eligible for Early Head Start is not available, the number can be estimated by applying the county poverty rate for children birth to age 5 to the number of live births annually. Therefore, there are an estimated 40 pregnant women in ECDC’s current service area, Uinta County, and an additional 180 in neighboring counties, who are income eligible to enroll in Early Head Start (Table 47).

Table 47. Estimated Number of Income-Eligible Pregnant Women by County

| Geographic Area | Total Births (2023) | Poverty Rate of Children < Age 5 | Estimated Number of Income Eligible Pregnant Women |
|------------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------------|--|
| <i>Lincoln County</i> | | | |
| <i>Sweetwater County</i> | 449 | 20.9% | 94 |
| Uinta County | 236 | 13% | 31 |
| Current and Potential Service Area | 658 | | 125 |

Children Experiencing Homelessness

A January 2021 Point-in-Time (PIT) count of persons experiencing homelessness in Wyoming identified 548 individuals experiencing homelessness. Of that, less than 10% are family households. Public school data also show over 1,700 students experiencing homelessness (), a majority of whom were living “doubled up” (with family or friends), 69.6%.^{lxxiii}

Table 48 describes the number and percent of school district enrollment for students experiencing homelessness. Within Uinta County and neighboring counties, the percent is less than 1%. The greatest numbers of homeless students are located in Sweetwater County School District #1.

Table 48. Number and Percent of District Enrollment that is Students Experiencing Homelessness (2021-2022)

| | Number of Homeless Students | % Enrollment that is Students Experiencing Homelessness |
|---|-----------------------------|---|
| <i>Lincoln County School District #1</i> | <6 | <1% |
| <i>Lincoln County School District #2</i> | <30 | <1% |
| <i>Sweetwater County School District #1</i> | <55 | <1% |
| <i>Sweetwater County School District #2</i> | <25 | <1% |
| Uinta County School District #1 | <13 | <1% |
| Uinta County School District #4 | <6 | <1% |
| Uinta County School District #6 | <2 | <1% |

During the 2022-2023 program year, ECDC served eleven Early Head Start children who experienced homelessness. Data on the number children birth to age 5 experiencing homelessness in Uinta County and neighboring counties is not publicly available. Therefore, it is estimated that there are at least eleven children under age 5 years old who are experiencing homelessness in ECDC’s current service area and neighboring counties.

Children in Foster Care³⁷

In Wyoming, the number of children in foster care has been decreasing since 2020. From 2021, the number of children in foster care decreased by approximately 11%. Most recent data show 886 children (age 0-17) in foster care in Wyoming. A majority of children placed in foster care in Wyoming is due to neglect (80.8%).

Twelve percent of children in foster care in Wyoming are less than 1-year-old. Children ages 1 to 5-years-old make up 32.5% of children in foster care. Based on this data, there are an estimated 106 children less than 1-year-old and 286 children ages 1 to 5-years-old in foster care in Wyoming.

Data on the number of children in foster care by county in Wyoming is not reported in publicly available data. During the -2022-2023 program year, ECDC served 6 children in foster care and received referrals for 5 children from a child welfare agency. In recent program years, ECDC has served multiple children in foster care, typically ranging from six to eight children per year. Currently, ECDC's PIR data for 2024 shows stats of serving 13 children in foster care.

It is estimated that there are more than 16 children in foster care, birth to age 5-years-old, who would be categorically eligible for participation in Head Start/Early Head Start in ECDC's service area and neighboring counties.

Children with Disabilities

As reported in *Wyoming Statewide Early Childhood Needs Assessment, Summer 2020*, data from the Wyoming Department of Health show that there are 197 children birth to age 2 receiving early intervention in Child Development Center regions covering Uinta County and neighboring counties, as well as 584 children receiving preschool special education services (Table 49).

Table 49. Number of Children Receiving Early Intervention (Birth up to Age 2) and Special Education (Ages 3-5) by Child Development Center Region (2020)³⁸

| Child Development Center Region | Children with an IFSP/ Receiving Early Intervention | Children with an IEP/Enrolled in Special Education | Total Number of Children with IFSP or IEP |
|---|---|--|---|
| <i>Region 5: Lincoln and Uinta Counties</i> | 67 | 281 | 348 |
| <i>Region 7: Sweetwater County</i> | 98 | 188 | 286 |
| Current and Potential Service Area | 199 | 584 | 781 |

Because data in Table 49 includes counties outside of ECDC's current service area and the counties being explored, it is estimated there are *fewer than* 781 children with disabilities who are categorically eligible for Head Start/Early Head Start.

37 <https://cwoutcomes.acf.hhs.gov/cwodatasite/pdf/wyoming.html>

38 <https://wyqualitycounts.org/> : Wyoming Early Childhood State Wide Needs Assessment

Children Receiving Public Assistance

WIC and SNAP are the most common types of public assistance utilized by ECDC Early Head Start families (Table 50).

Table 50. Number and Percent of NEICAC Head Start and Early Head Start Families That Received Federal or Other Assistance (At Enrollment, 2023)

| Program | TANF | SSI | WIC | SNAP |
|------------------|------|-----|-----|------|
| Early Head Start | 1 | 2 | 31 | 32 |

As described in Table 51, WIC enrollment is highest in Sweetwater County, though the number of recipients of WIC has been decreasing across all counties in recent years.

Table 51. WIC Enrollment by Geographic Area (2023)³⁹

| Geographic Area | Enrollment | Three-Year Trend |
|------------------------------------|------------|-------------------|
| <i>Lincoln County</i> | <i>32</i> | <i>Decreasing</i> |
| <i>Sweetwater County</i> | <i>47</i> | <i>Decreasing</i> |
| Uinta County | 45 | Decreasing |
| Current and Potential Service Area | 124 | Decreasing |

Many children birth to age 18 in the counties are living in households that receive public assistance. Rates are highest in Uinta County and Sweetwater County; all rates are less than the statewide rate (Table 52).

Table 52. Children (0-18) Living in Households that Receive Public Assistance⁵¹ **by Geographic Area (2023)**⁵²

| Geographic Area | Percent of Children |
|--------------------------|---------------------|
| <i>Lincoln County</i> | <i>9.4%</i> |
| <i>Sweetwater County</i> | <i>10.9%</i> |
| Uinta County | 8.6% |
| Wyoming | 13.4% |

Since Head Start/Early Head Start eligibility based on receipt of public assistance is limited to SSI and TANF, and SNAP, information is provided in Table 53 to serve as a proxy for estimating the number of eligible children. Based on this data, there are an estimated 175 children birth to age 5 in Uinta County, and an additional 521 children in neighboring counties, living in households that receive public assistance who are eligible for Head Start/Early Head Start services.

Table 53. Estimated Number of Children Birth to Age 5 Eligible for Head Start/Early Head Start Based on Receipt of Public Assistance by Geographic Area (2023)

³⁹ Data directly from county WIC offices.

| Geographic Area | Percent of Children Receiving Public Assistance | Number of Children Birth to Age 5 | Number of Children Receiving Public Assistance ⁵³ | Number of children <5 living in poverty (table 45) | Total Number of Children Eligible 0-5 |
|--|---|-----------------------------------|--|--|---------------------------------------|
| <i>Lincoln County</i> | <i>9.4%</i> | <i>1,333</i> | <i>75</i> | <i>50</i> | <i>115</i> |
| <i>Sweetwater County</i> | <i>11%</i> | <i>2,548</i> | <i>280</i> | <i>533</i> | <i>813</i> |
| Uinta County | 9% | 1,864 | 168 | 242 | 410 |
| Current and Potential Service Area (Uinta and Sweetwater) | | 1,333 (4,412) | 75 (522) | 50 (833) | 115 (1,223) |

ECDC serves as an important resource to single mothers who are recipients of public assistance. Through the agency’s Empowering Single Mother’s program, funded through the ECDC Department of Family Services, ECDC supports single mothers to enhance wage earnings, participate in job training, and address barriers to their families’ health, education, and employment needs. During the 2020-2021 program year, ECDC has enrolled 45 single mothers (with 89 children total), an increase from 38 women the year prior.

⁵¹ Supplemental Security Income (SSI), cash public assistance, food stamps/SNAP

⁵³ Estimated by applying the percent of children 0-18 living in households receiving public assistance to the population of children birth to age 2.

⁵⁴ Estimated by applying the percent of children 0-18 living in households receiving public assistance to the population of children age 3-5

⁵⁵ Estimated by applying the percent of children 0-18 living in households receiving public assistance to the population of children birth to age 5

Agencies Serving Eligible Children

Child Care Centers and Family Child Care Programs

In ECDC’s current Early Head Start service area, Uinta County, child care centers, family child care centers, and family child care homes have the combined capacity to serve 618 children birth to school age (capacity has reduced by 192 slots from 2021 CA). Neighboring counties explored have an additional capacity to serve 1,425 children (capacity has reduced by 903 slots from 2021 CA)(Table 54). It is of note that many programs serve school age children, and some child care programs may operate half day or limited times per day or days per week, especially the local Head Start program that is locally designed and does not offer the majority of their 65 preschool children full day service.

Table 54. Total Number of Child Care Centers, Family Child Care Centers (FCC Centers), and Family Child Care Homes (FCC Homes) and Capacity (Including School Age) by Type and Geographic Area (as of May 2021)¹

| Geographic Area | Number of Child Care Centers (Capacity) | Number of FCC Centers (Capacity) | Number of FCC Homes (Capacity) | Total Number of Program (Total Capacity) |
|-----------------|---|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| | | | | |

| | | | | |
|-----------------------------|------------|---------|----------|------------|
| <i>Lincoln County</i> | 7 (284) | 9 (134) | 8 (79) | 24 (497) |
| <i>Sweetwater County</i> | 12 (783) | 2 (27) | 11 (98) | 33 (908) |
| Uinta County | 4 (508) | 4 (60) | 6 (50) | 15 (618) |
| Proposed Service Area Total | 18 (1,291) | 6 (87) | 24 (148) | 48 (1,526) |

Appendix B1, Appendix B2, and Appendix B3 provide data tables that describe the number of Child Care Centers, Family Child Care Centers, and Family Child Care Homes, as well as the capacity of these programs, by geographic area that roll up into Table 54. Data in Appendix tables also provide the percentage of programs with licensed capacity to serve infants/toddlers and the percent that accept child care subsidies. As described in Appendix tables, fewer slots in child care programs are available for infants and toddlers than other age groups. Across Uinta County and the counties explored, approximately two-thirds of programs have some licensed capacity to serve infants and toddlers.

The percent of child care programs that accepts subsidies varies between program type and counties; overall, the rate of providers accepting subsidies is low. Through its Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five, Wyoming undertook a study of barriers to subsidy usage in the state and found the payment process, low reimbursement rates, administrative requirements (e.g., reporting) to be the primary barriers to participation for providers. The state is working to address these barriers to encourage provider participation, enhance family knowledge of subsidies, and increase access for families seeking enrollment with programs that accept child care subsidies.^{lxxxvii}

Further, the state of Wyoming does not operate a quality rating and improvement (QRIS) to measure and communicate child care program quality. As an Early Head Start program meeting Head Start Program Performance Standards (HSPPS), as well as having achieved national accreditation through the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), ECDC has taken significant steps to implement an exemplary program.

ECDC’s Evanston Child Development Center and Children’s Learning Foundation are two of only four accredited programs in Uinta County. Other accredited programs include Bridger Valley Child Development Center and Lincoln Uinta Child Development Association. There are two accredited programs in Lincoln County, Afton Child Development Center, and Kemmerer Child Development Center. There are no accredited programs in Sweetwater County.^{lxxxviii}

As described in Table 55, child care capacity in the current service area and neighboring counties is less than the total number of children birth to age 5 years old. Because child care capacity includes school age children and children of all family income levels, the actual number of slots available for young children is lower. And, as noted above, there are fewer slots available for infants and toddlers.

Table 55. Children Under Age 5 and Children Under Age 5 Living in Poverty Compared to Licensed Child Care Capacity by Zip Code

| Geographic Area | Number of Children < Age 5 ^{lxxxix} | Number of Children < Age 5 Living in Poverty ^{xc} | Licensed Child Care Capacity (including School Age) |
|-----------------|--|--|---|
|-----------------|--|--|---|

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------|------------|------------|
| 83101 (Kemmerer) | 305 | 10 | 124 |
| 83110 (Afton) | 363 | 163 | 59 |
| 83111 (Auburn) | 100 | 0 | 0 |
| 83112 (Bedford) | 21 | 0 | 0 |
| 83114 (Cokeville) | 83 | 5 | 10 |
| 83116 (Diamondville) | 49 | 24 | 0 |
| 83118 (Etna, Nordic) | 46 | 0 | 94 |
| 83119 (Fairview) | n/a | n/a | 0 |
| 83120 (Freedom) | n/a | n/a | 0 |
| 83121 (Frontier) | n/a | n/a | 0 |
| 83122 (Grover) | n/a | n/a | 0 |
| 83123 (La Barge) | 48 | 0 | 0 |
| 83124 (Opal) | 0 | n/a | 0 |
| 83126 (Smoot) | 24 | 0 | 10 |
| 83127 (Star Valley, Thayne) | 246 | 8 | 96 |
| 83128 (Alpine) | 75 | 0 | 104 |
| Lincoln County | 1,333 | 210 | 497 |
| 82322 (Bairoil) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 82336 (Wamsutter) | 16 | 0 | 0 |
| 82901 (Rock Springs) | 2,240 | 635 | 569 |
| 82902 (Rock Springs) | n/a | n/a | 0 |
| 82929 (Little America) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 82932 (Farson) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 82934 (Granger) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 82935 (Green River) | 726 | 135 | 389 |
| 82938 (McKinnon) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 82942 (Point of Rocks) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 82943 (Reliance) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 82945 (Superior) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Sweetwater County | 2,982 | 770 | 978 |

| | | | |
|---|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| 82930 (Evanston) | 1,049 | 216 | 525 |
| 82933 (Fort Bridger) | 34 | 0 | 10 |
| 82936 (Lonetree) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 82937 (Lyman, Urie) | 284 | 28 | 47 |
| 82939 (Mountain View) | 116 | 0 | 228 |
| 82944 (Robertson) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Uinta County | 1,483 | 180 | 810 |
| Current and Potential Service Area Total | 6,959 | 1160 | 3,138 |

In certain communities in the service area and neighboring counties, total child care capacity for all children at all income levels is close to the number of children birth to age 5 living in poverty alone. This can be seen in service area zip code 82902 (Rock Springs) in Sweetwater County. Data in Table 55 suggests there may be

access issues for families living in some neighborhoods. Further, without clearly defined measures of programs quality, data raises questions about the availability of *high-quality* slots to low-income children in the service area.

Additionally, a child care gap analysis conducted by the Bipartisan Policy Center, and reported in *Wyoming Statewide Early Childhood Needs Assessment, Summer 2020*, found Sweetwater County to have one of the largest gaps of all counties in Wyoming: 46.1% underserved. The child care gap is 33.6% in Lincoln County, 24.7% in Uinta County.^{xci}

Home Visiting

The Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) program coordinates home visiting services provided by local agencies to families in communities across Wyoming. Home visiting programs are listed in Table 56. Early Head Start home-based services are not provided in Uinta County or neighboring counties.

Table 56. Home Visiting Programs in ECDC’s Current and Potential Service Area (May 2021)

| Home Visiting Program | Implemented By | Eligibility Criteria | Services |
|-----------------------------|---|--|--|
| Lincoln County | | | |
| <i>Wyoming Hand in Hand</i> | <i>Lincoln County Public Health Department</i> | <i>Expectant and new families, through the child’s second birthday</i> | <i>Minimum 25 home visits by a registered nurse</i> |
| Sweetwater County | | | |
| <i>Wyoming Hand in Hand</i> | <i>Sweetwater County Public Health Department</i> | <i>Expectant and new families, through the child’s second birthday</i> | <i>Minimum 25 home visits by a registered nurse</i> |
| <i>Parents as Teachers</i> | <i>Wyoming Parents as Teachers</i> | <i>Expectant and new families, through the child’s second birthday</i> | <i>Weekly home visits for 6 weeks, followed by bi-weekly home visits</i> |

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| Uinta County | | | |
| Wyoming Hand in Hand | Uinta County Public Health Department | Expectant and new families, through the child's second birthday | Minimum 25 home visits by a registered nurse |
| Nurse Family Partnership | Uinta County Public Health Department | Expectant and new families, through the child's second birthday | Home visits, education, and ongoing support |
| Power Program | Uinta County Public Health Department | Pregnancy, labor, and post-delivery | 3-15 home visits, education, and support |
| Welcome Home Visits Program | Uinta County Public Health Department | Families with a newborn | 1-2 home visits, education, and resources |

Publicly Funded Preschool

Wyoming is one of only six states nationwide that does not provide a state publicly funded preschool program. To serve all low-income 3- and 4-year-old children in publicly funded preschool in Wyoming would require an investment of nearly \$50 million.

While Wyoming does not provide a publicly funded preschool program, local school districts may use Title I funding for early childhood education.^{xviii} In Wyoming, 20 school districts are providing pre-kindergarten services, serving 673 children. However, none of the school districts in either Uinta County or the counties explored are providing pre-kindergarten.^{xix} Sweetwater County School District #1 is a Head Start grantee, providing services to approximately 100 children ages 3 to 5 years old each program year. Sweetwater County School District's Head Start centers are located in the towns of Green River and Rock Springs.^c

RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO THE COMMUNITY TO MEET THE NEEDS OF ELIGIBLE CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

In ECDC's Early Head Start service area and neighboring counties, there are a number of social services resources available to families in addition to those offered by the grantee, and a listing of resources appears in ECDC's *2020 Community Assessment* report.

In Uinta County and neighboring counties, challenges persist with regard to access to health care (e.g., insurance coverage, providers that accept Medicaid, specialty care), child care for working families, and employment and education opportunities. Disparities are present with regard to the quality of early childhood and K-12 learning environments in the counties.

ECDC has internal expertise as well as partnerships with community agencies that help it to meet the unique needs of Early Head Start families in the service area. Coupled with the program quality and infrastructure in place at ECDC, the agency is well positioned to continue to provide exemplary, high-quality early learning services Uinta County and explore expanding those services to children and families in neighboring counties.

LOOKING AHEAD

Building on the *2020 Community Assessment*, ECDC will leverage data and key findings from the 2021 Community Assessment Data Update to improve the ability of the Head Start/Early Head Start program to meet children and families' needs and to explore opportunities for expansion. The ECDC Board, Policy

Council, staff, and parents will be provided with data from the Annual Update and be engaged in dialogue about how to use this information to establish or modify short- and long-term goals for the program.

The HSPPS requirement to annually review and update the Community Assessment provides ECDC with an opportunity to continuously reflect and improve upon data monitoring, data use, and implementation of data driven, outcomes-oriented goals. With the 2021 Annual Update providing the most up-to-date reflection of community needs, ECDC will continue its goal to provide high quality and integrated services to children and families and will explore opportunities to expand its program services.

| Summary of Data Sources | |
|---|---|
| Quantitative Data Source | Topics |
| U.S. Census; American Community Survey | Demographics, Education, Income, Healthcare/Insurance, Employment, Housing, Nutrition, Maternal and Child Health, Basic Assistance, Economics, |
| US Department of Labor; Bureau of Labor Statistics and the Wyoming Department of Workforce Services | Employment, Income and Wages, Industry, Workforce |
| Wyoming Department of Health | Behavioral Risk Factors, Health, Immunizations, Oral Health, Birth Defects, Health Workforce, Nutrition |
| U.S. Center for Disease Control | Oral Health |
| FBI Uniform Crime Reporting System | Crime and Delinquency |
| Wyoming Department of Family Services | Child Population Demographics |
| Annie E. Casey Foundation. Kids Count Data Center | Dual Language Learners, Maternal and Child Health, Child Abuse, WIC Enrollment |
| United Health Foundation | Health Rankings |
| Mental Health America | Mental Health |
| U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development | HUD and housing information |
| Community Commons | Population Density, Demographics, Education, Student Achievement, English Language Proficiency, Health, Neighborhood and Environment, Housing, Veterans, Insurance, Health Professional Shortage Areas, Immunization Data, Elderly Population Demographics, Nutrition |
| Wyoming Department of Education | Education, Student Achievement, Disabilities, English Language Learners, Economically Disadvantaged Students |
| Early Head Start Program Information Report | Head Start Demographics, Enrollment, and Services |



What is your community of residence?

| Bear River | Bridger Valley | Evanston |
|-------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| 2 | 26 | 87 |

How many adults are in your household, including yourself?

| 1 Adult | 2 Adults | 3 Adults | 4 or more Adults |
|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------------|
| 20 | 82 | 6 | 7 |

How many children are in your household under the age of 18?

| 0 Children | 1-3 Children | 4-6 Children | Over 7 Children |
|-------------------|---------------------|---------------------|------------------------|
| 14 | 85 | 14 | 2 |

Which race/ethnicity best describes you?

| Hispanic/Latino | Multi-Race | Other | White |
|------------------------|-------------------|--------------|--------------|
| 7 | 2 | 1 | 105 |

If you have children in your household, what are the ages? (check all that apply)

| under 1 year | 1-2 yrs | 3-5 yrs | 6-12 yrs | 13-18 yrs |
|---------------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|------------------|
| 13 | 42 | 55 | 55 | 25 |

What is your age?

| 18-24 | 25-40 | 41-55 | 56-65 | 65+ |
|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|------------|
| 11 | 78 | 18 | 5 | 3 |

What is your highest level of education?

| Grade 8 or less | Grade 9-12 | HS Grad/GED | Some College/ Associates | College Grad BA/BS | Graduate School | Other |
|------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|--------------|
| 1 | 1 | 31 | 45 | 23 | 13 | 1 |

What is your total household income in 2023? (include all types of income before deductions)

| under \$15,000 | \$15,000-\$25,000 | \$25,000-\$35,000 | \$35,000-\$45,000 | \$45,000-\$55,000 | \$55,000-\$65,000 | over \$65,000 |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|
| 7 | 14 | 4 | 46 | 10 | 23 | 10 |

| Are you Employed? | | What is your marital status? | |
|--------------------------|-----------|-------------------------------------|---------------|
| Yes | No | Married | Single |
| 102 | 13 | 80 | 35 |