



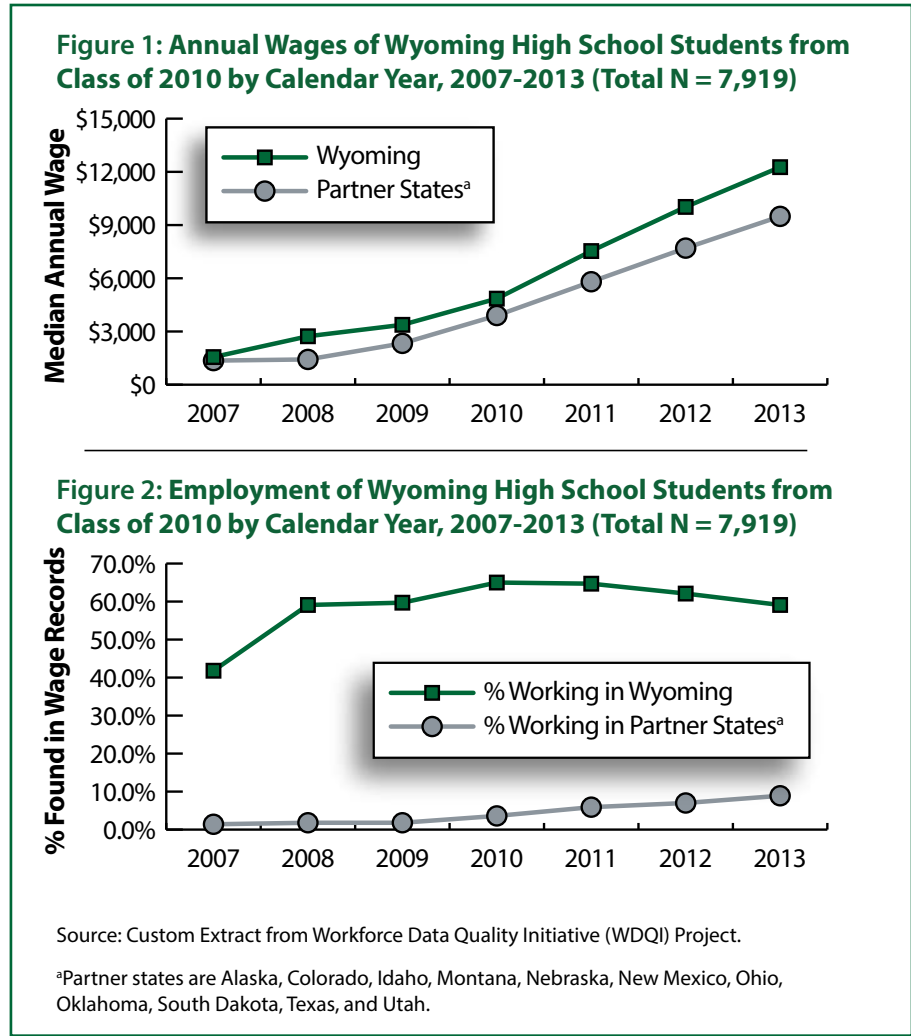
WE CONNECT, PART 1: WYOMING HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS' EARNINGS AND POSTSECONDARY ENROLLMENT

RESEARCH & PLANNING • WYOMING DEPARTMENT OF WORKFORCE SERVICES
http://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/education_we_connect.htm

by: Michael Moore, Editor

What happens to students after they leave Wyoming high schools is a question of importance to educators and policymakers alike. Some high school students go on to attend Wyoming colleges or the University of Wyoming, while others leave the state to obtain a postsecondary education. Some move directly into the labor market, while others drop out of the labor market for a variety of reasons, such as starting a family. This new series of publications from the Research & Planning (R&P) section of the Wyoming Department of Workforce Services offers a snapshot of what students earn during and after high school (see Figure 1), where they work (see Figure 2), and how many students are enrolled in a postsecondary program in Wyoming and surrounding states (see Figure 3, page 2).

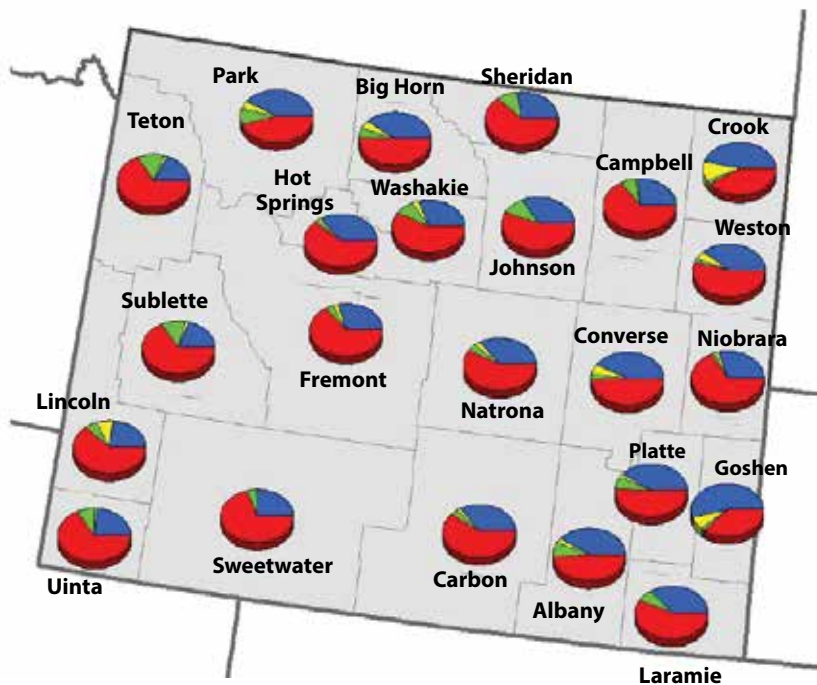
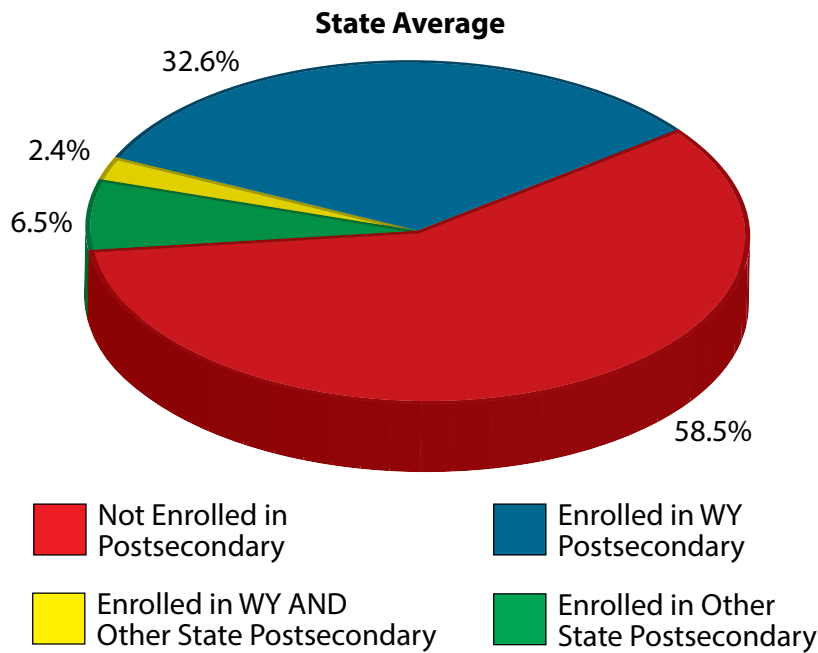
The information presented in this series comes from data collected during the administration of public programs in Wyoming, selected states, and the nation. This publication is the first in a series from the Workforce



Data Quality Initiative (WDQI) grant and includes data from the Wyoming Department of Education (WDE), the National Student Clearinghouse (NSC), the Wyoming Department of Workforce Services, and the Wyoming Department of Transportation. This publication also uses administrative records from the Unemployment Insurance (UI) systems of other states.

Future publications will incorporate data from the Wyoming Community College Commission, the University of Wyoming, Workforce Investment Act trainees, Hathaway Scholarship awardees, and other education and workforce training programs. The publications can be found online at http://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/education_we_connect.htm.

Figure 3: Postsecondary Enrollment Status of Wyoming High School Students from Class of 2010 by County, Fall 2010



Source: Custom Extract from Workforce Data Quality Initiative (WDQI) Project.

**Class of 2010:
Postsecondary Enrollment**

As an example, this publication focuses on the *Class of 2010: Wyoming high school students who were expected to graduate at the end of the 2009/10 school year, whether they graduated or not.* Figure 3 and Table 1 (see page 3) show postsecondary enrollment for the 7,919 students in Wyoming’s Class of 2010 from 2007 to 2013. In 2010, 41.5% of the students of the Class of 2010 were enrolled in a postsecondary program – 32.6% in Wyoming, 6.5% in another state, and 2.4% in both Wyoming and another state. The remaining 58.5% of the Class of 2010 were not enrolled in any postsecondary program in 2010.

The paths that Wyoming high school students take vary by county. Figure 3 shows postsecondary enrollment for high school students from the Class of 2010 in fall 2010. In Albany County, for example, 41.3% of all high school students from the Class of 2010 were enrolled in a postsecondary institution in Wyoming in 2010, 7.1% were enrolled in another state, 2.6% were enrolled in both Wyoming and

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Table 1: Postsecondary Enrollment of Wyoming High School Students from Class of 2010 by Calendar Year, 2007-2013 (Total N = 7,919)

Enrollment	Data Type	Year						
		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Total Enrolled	N	109	591	1,232	3,287	3,275	2,803	2,518
	%	1.4	7.5	15.6	41.5	41.4	35.4	31.8
Postsecondary Wyoming	N	107	580	1,189	2,583	2,478	1,997	1,698
	%	1.4	7.3	15.0	32.6	31.3	25.2	21.4
Postsecondary WY & Another State	N			20	193	127	155	72
	%			0.3	2.4	1.6	2.0	0.9
Postsecondary Any Other State	N		11	23	511	670	651	748
	%		0.1	0.3	6.5	8.5	8.2	9.4
Not Enrolled	N	7,810	7,328	6,687	4,632	4,644	5,116	5,401
	%	98.6	92.5	84.4	58.5	58.6	64.6	68.2

Source: Custom Extract from Workforce Data Quality Initiative (WDQI) Project.

Enrollment source: National Student Clearinghouse.

*Black cells indicate data that are not discloseable due to confidentiality.

another state, and 51.0% were not enrolled. By comparison, in Sweetwater County, 25.2% were enrolled in Wyoming, 5.2% were enrolled in another state, and 69.0% were not enrolled.

Class of 2010: Employment and Wages

Through data-sharing agreements with Labor Market Information offices in 11 other states (*partner states*¹) R&P is able to track the Class of 2010 over time. As shown in Table 2 (see page 4), 5,151 individuals from the Class of 2010 (65.0%) were found working in Wyoming in

2010, compared to 288 individuals (3.6%) who were found working in partner states. By 2013, the number of individuals from the Class of 2010 found working in Wyoming dropped to 4,677 (59.1% of the total), while the number found working in partner states more than doubled to 704 (8.9% of the total).

As shown in Table 2 (see page 4) and illustrated in Figure 1 (see page 1), the median annual wage for those who went to work in other states was consistently lower than the median annual wage for those who worked in Wyoming. By 2013 — three years after the expected

1 Partner states are Alaska, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas, and Utah.

year of graduation for the Class of 2010 — the median annual wage for those working in Wyoming was \$12,265, compared to \$9,490 for those working in partner states. This seems to indicate that individuals who leave Wyoming shortly after high school completion are not leaving for higher wages but for other reasons, perhaps moving with family or to pursue further education.

Future Publications

Forthcoming publications in this series will focus on the wages that students forego in order to pursue a postsecondary education, employment and earnings for students with special needs, labor market outcomes, and the location of postsecondary training and education pursued by Wyoming high school graduates.

Table 2: Employment and Wages of Wyoming High School Students from Class of 2010 by Calendar Year, 2007-2013 (Total N = 7,919)

Source Description	Data Description	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Wyoming Wage Records	Number with Wages	3,314	4,680	4,727	5,151	5,127	4,920	4,677
	Percent with Wages	41.8	59.1	59.7	65.0	64.7	62.1	59.1
	Median Annual Wage	\$1,557	\$2,730	\$3,376	\$4,852	\$7,535	\$10,023	\$12,265
	Mean Annual Wage	\$2,304	\$3,632	\$4,446	\$6,570	\$10,361	\$13,341	\$16,000
Partner States Wage Records	Number with Wages	107	145	141	288	469	553	704
	Percent with Wages	1.4	1.8	1.8	3.6	5.9	7.0	8.9
	Median Annual Wage	\$1,358	\$1,424	\$2,330	\$3,900	\$5,805	\$7,700	\$9,490
	Mean Annual Wage	\$3,246	\$2,754	\$5,096	\$6,502	\$8,832	\$11,616	\$13,140

Source: Custom Extract from Workforce Data Quality Initiative (WDQI) Project.

Partner states = Alaska, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas, and Utah.

In this series:

WE Connect, Part 1: Wyoming High School Students' Earnings and Postsecondary Enrollment

WE Connect, Part 2: Opportunity Costs of Pursuing a Postsecondary Education in Wyoming

WE Connect, Part 3: Graduation and Work Experience for Students with Special Needs

WE Connect, Part 4: Turnover Rate and Labor Market Outcomes for Wyoming High School Students

WE Connect, Part 5: Wyoming High School Students' Postsecondary Enrollment and Awards

