

Pharmacists

This section provides a detailed analysis of the number, distribution, and selected characteristics of pharmacists currently practicing in Wyoming.

Verification Data

Overview⁴⁷

In 2007, 518 pharmacists held active licenses to practice pharmacy in Wyoming, according to the Wyoming Board of Pharmacy.⁴⁸ A list of these active licensees was used to conduct a Pharmacist Workforce Survey that gathered data on pharmacists practicing in the state through various methods including paper survey, phone survey, and website searches. This approach produced a 98% verification rate of pharmacists currently practicing in Wyoming. While this multi-mode process was ideal for obtaining basic practice information, it did not accumulate complete survey data for all practicing pharmacists in the state. **Therefore, the first part of this section presents basic information gathered through the overall verification process (N=403), while the remainder of the section presents data collected only from returned paper surveys (N=260).**

As shown in Figure 76, 403 (78%) of Wyoming's 518 licensed pharmacists are currently practicing at least part-time in Wyoming. These 403 represent 78 pharmacists per 100,000 population, slightly above the national average of 75 (see Figure 77).⁴⁹

Figure 76: Wyoming Active Pharmacists N=403

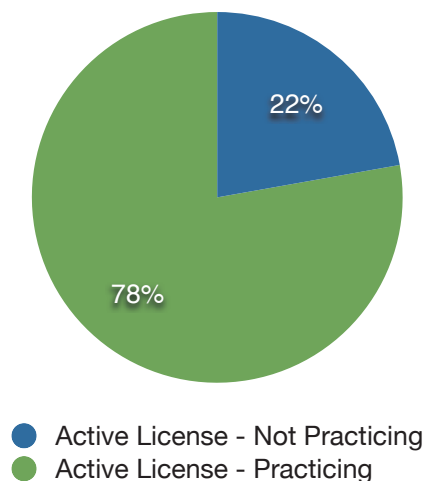
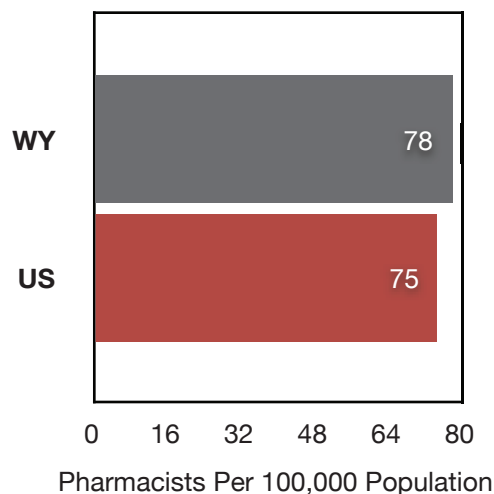


Figure 77: Wyoming Pharmacist to Population Ratio N=403



⁴⁷ The Pharmacist Overview section relies upon all collected data, including returned paper surveys, phone calls and other collection means.

⁴⁸ There are currently three pharmacists licensed in Wyoming working solely in a federal facility in Wyoming.

⁴⁹ HRSA state health workforce profiles: Wyoming. Department of Health and Human Services, Bureau of Health Professions. Retrieved November 19, 2007 from <http://bhpr.hrsa.gov/healthworkforce/reports/statesummaries/wyoming.htm>. All Wyoming population data retrieved November 19, 2007 from the U.S. Census Bureau at <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/56000.html>.

Figure 78 indicates the total number of pharmacists working in each of Wyoming's 23 counties. Laramie County has the most practicing pharmacists in the state with 81 (20% of the state total), while Niobrara County has the fewest with one (0.2% of the state total). Laramie and Natrona County pharmacists currently account for over one-third (38%) of all practicing pharmacists in the state.

Figure 78: Total Practicing Pharmacists by County N=403

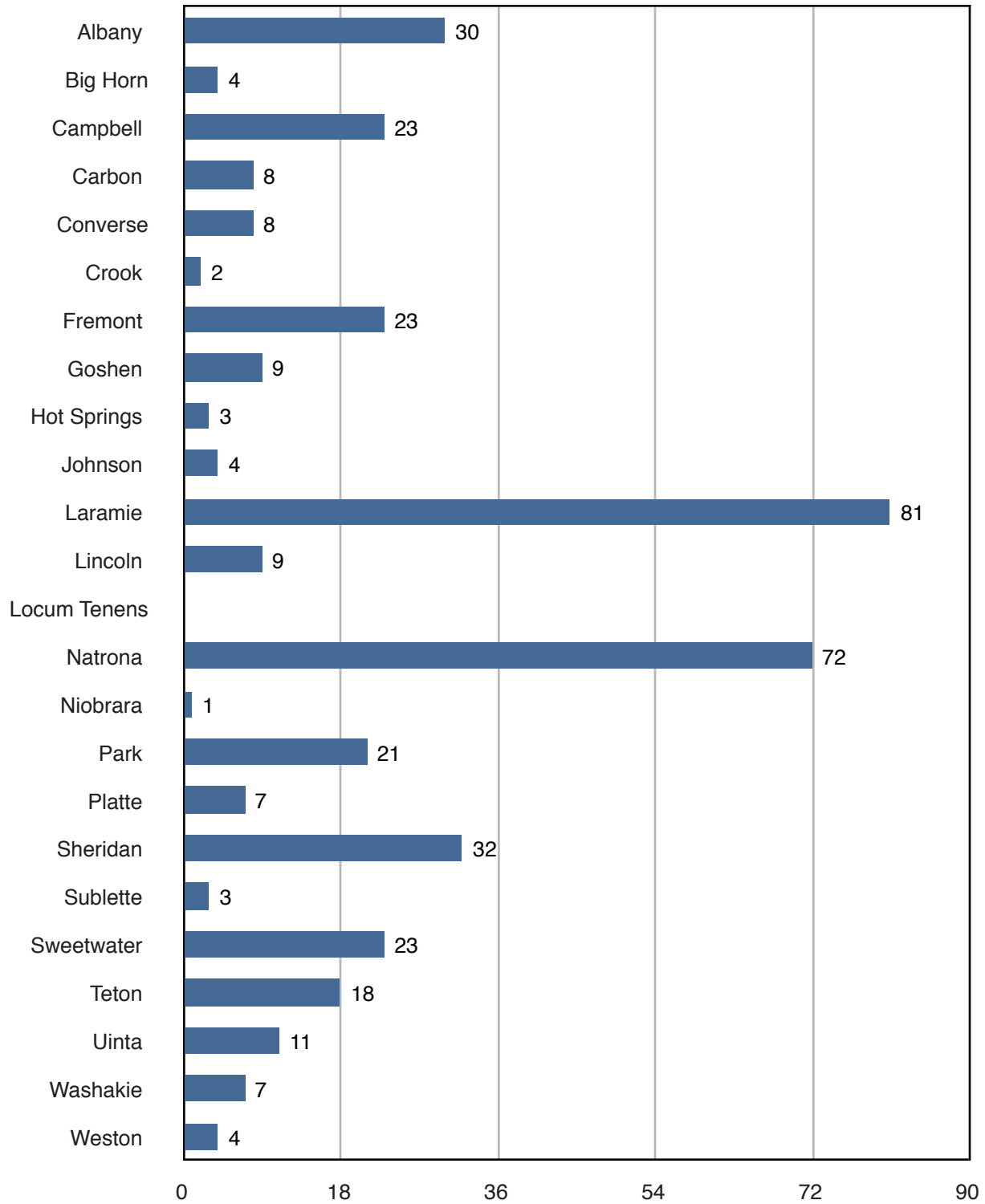
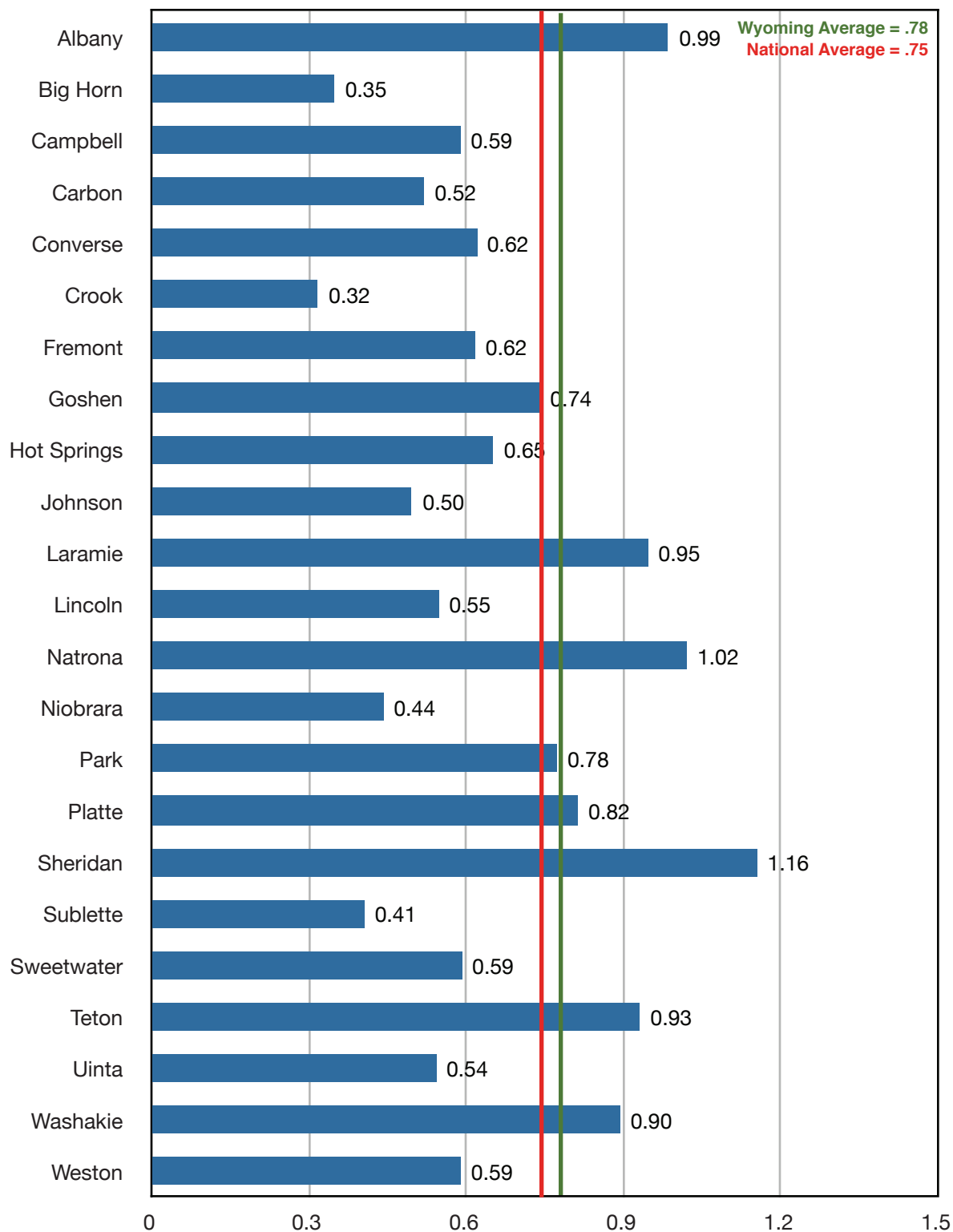


Figure 79 displays the total number of practicing pharmacists per 1,000 inhabitants in each of Wyoming's 23 counties. The state average is 0.78 pharmacists per 1,000 population, and the highest ratio is in Sheridan County with 1.16. Crook County has the lowest pharmacist-to-population ratio with 0.32.

Figure 79: Total Practicing Pharmacists Per 1,000 County Population N=403



Wyoming is a frontier state, where an estimated 515,004 people live in 97,100 square miles (5.3 persons per square mile). The United States Census Bureau has designated Laramie and Natrona Counties as Metropolitan Statistical Areas and Albany, Campbell, Fremont, Sheridan, Sweetwater, Teton, and Unita Counties as Micropolitan Statistical Areas. A Metropolitan area contains a core urban area population greater than 50,000, and a Micropolitan Statistical Area contains a core urban area population between 10,000 and 50,000. All other Wyoming counties are designated as rural. Rural refers to any area containing a population of less than 10,000. Figures 80 and 81 break down Wyoming's population by Census designation and illustrate the geographic distribution of pharmacists in the state based upon the same criteria.⁵⁰ Figure 82 displays the geographic distribution of pharmacists in Wyoming topographically.

Figure 80: Wyoming Population Distribution

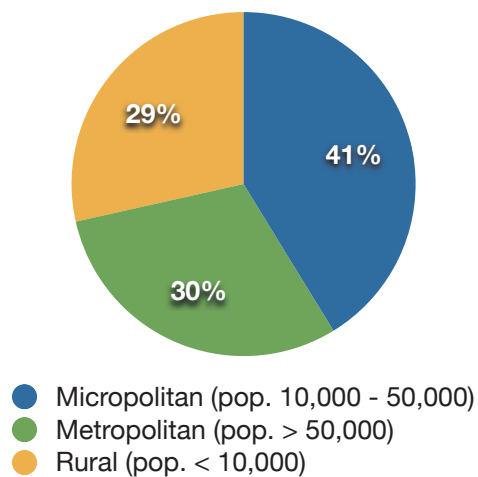
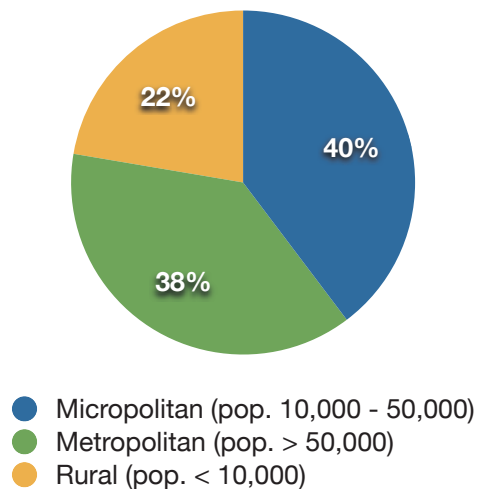
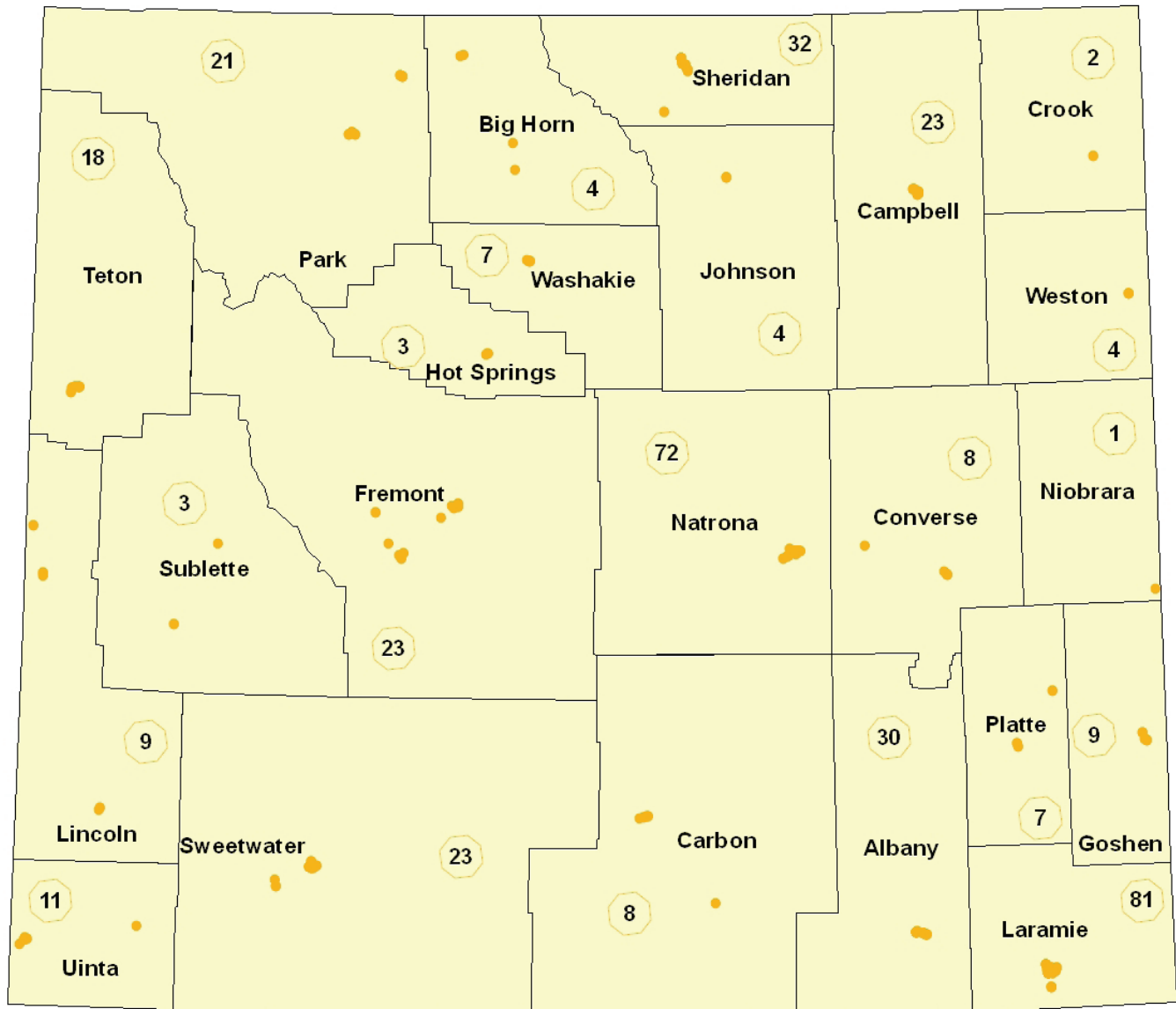


Figure 81: Wyoming Pharmacist Distribution N=403



⁵⁰ US Census Bureau designations retrieved November 21, 2007 from http://www.census.gov/population/www/estimates/metro_general/2006/List1.txt.

Figure 82: Wyoming Pharmacist Distribution Map N=403⁵¹



⁵¹ **Note:** Points on the map indicate pharmacist locations and the numbers surrounded by octagons indicate total number of pharmacists in the county.

Survey Response Data

The remainder of the pharmacist section relies upon the data collected from the returned surveys, as well as supplemental data from sources such as the Kaiser Family Foundation and the U.S. Census Bureau.

Work Status

Overall, 71% of Wyoming’s pharmacists responded to the Pharmacist Workforce Survey. As shown in Figure 83, nearly three-quarters of practicing pharmacists reported working forty-hours or more per week (71%). Figure 84 displays pharmacist work status by county, showing Laramie County as having the largest percentage of practicing pharmacists with 19%, followed by Natrona County with 17%. Table 38 provides a detailed record of the actual number of pharmacists who responded by county.

Figure 83: Pharmacist Work Status N=260

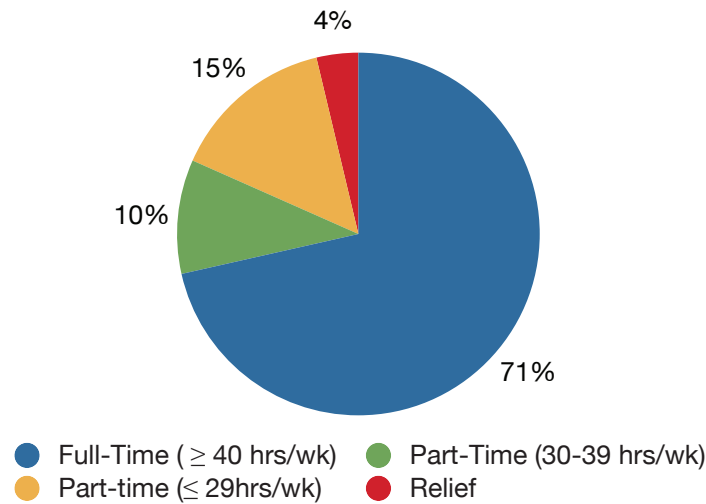


Figure 84: Pharmacist Work Status by County N=260

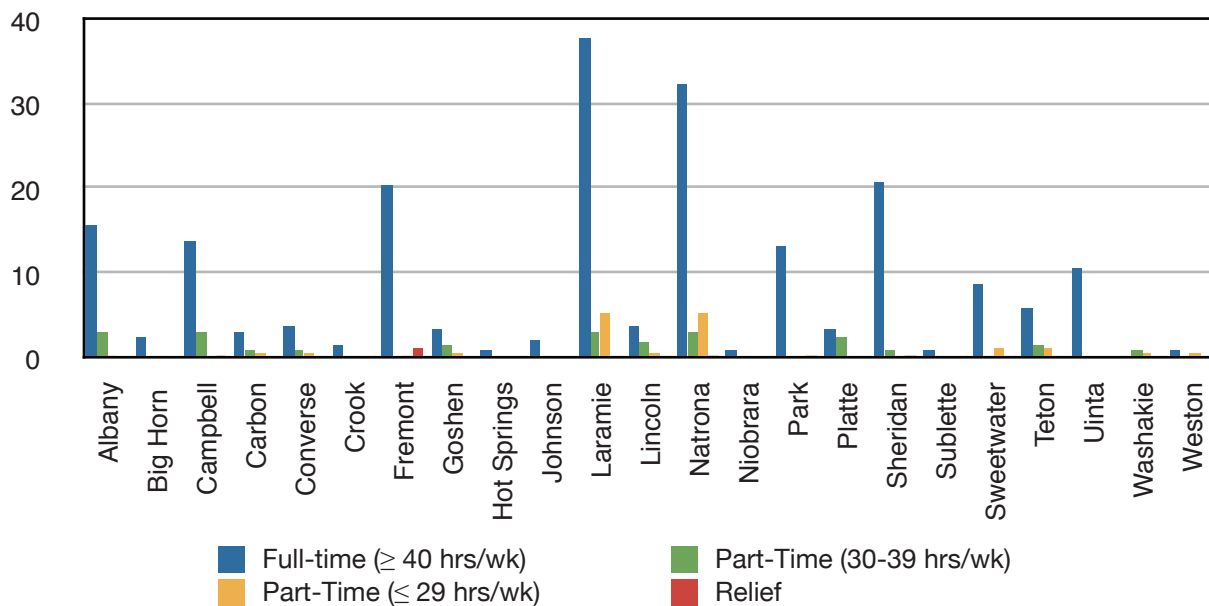


Table 38: Pharmacist Work Status by County N=260

County	Full-Time (\geq 40 hrs/wk)	Part-Time (30-39 hrs/wk)	Part-Time (\leq 29 hrs/wk)	Relief	Percentage of Verified Pharmacists	Total Number of Providers
Albany	14 (70%)	4 (20%)	2 (10%)		67%	20
Big Horn	2 (100%)				50%	2
Campbell	12 (71%)	4 (24%)		1 (6%)	74%	17
Carbon	3 (60%)	1 (20%)	1 (20%)		63%	5
Converse	3 (60%)	1 (20%)	1 (20%)		63%	5
Crook	1 (100%)				50%	1
Fremont	19 (90%)		1 (5%)	1 (5%)	91%	21
Goshen	3 (43%)	2 (29%)	1 (14%)	1 (14%)	78%	7
Hot Springs	1 (100%)				33%	1
Johnson	2 (100%)				50%	2
Laramie	35 (71%)	4 (8%)	10 (20%)		60%	49
Lincoln	3 (50%)	2 (33%)	1 (17%)		67%	6
Natrona	29 (66%)	4 (9%)	10 (23%)	1 (2%)	61%	44
Niobrara	1 (100%)				100%	1
Park	12 (86%)		1 (7%)	1 (7%)	67%	14
Platte	3 (50%)	3 (50%)			86%	6
Sheridan	19 (79%)	1 (4%)	1 (4%)	3 (13%)	75%	24
Sublette	1 (100%)				33%	1
Sweetwater	8 (73%)		3 (27%)		48%	11
Teton	5 (50%)	2 (20%)	3 (30%)		56%	10
Uinta	9 (100%)				82%	9
Washakie		1 (50%)	1 (50%)		29%	2
Weston	1 (50%)		1 (50%)		50%	2
Wyoming	186 (72%)	29 (11%)	37 (14%)	8 (3%)		260

Demographics

As shown in Figure 85, 48% of pharmacists in Wyoming are female, slightly higher than the national average of 45%.⁵² As seen in Figure 87, one-third of practicing pharmacists reported being 40 years of age or younger, while 41% reported being 51 years of age or older.

Figure 85: Pharmacist Gender N=260

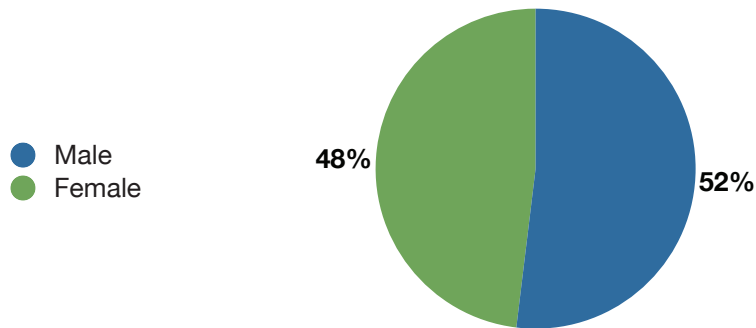


Figure 86: Pharmacist Ethnicity N=260

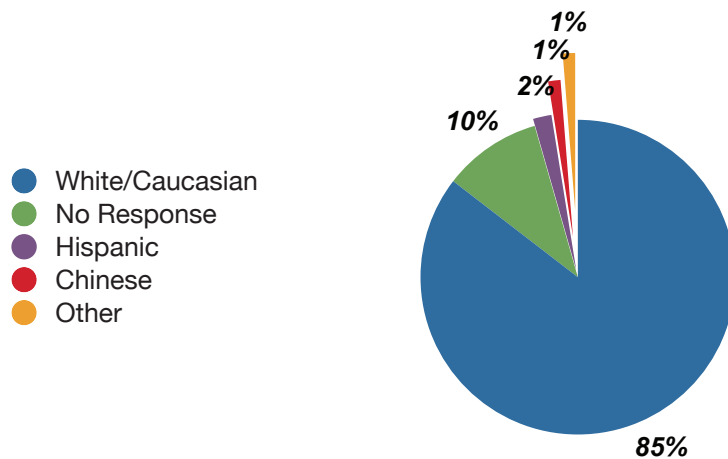
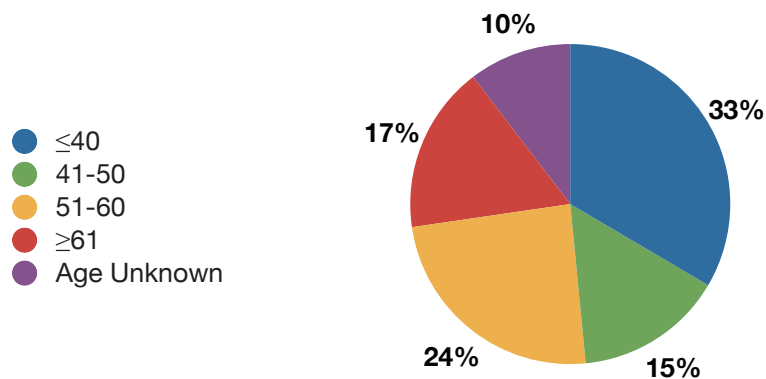


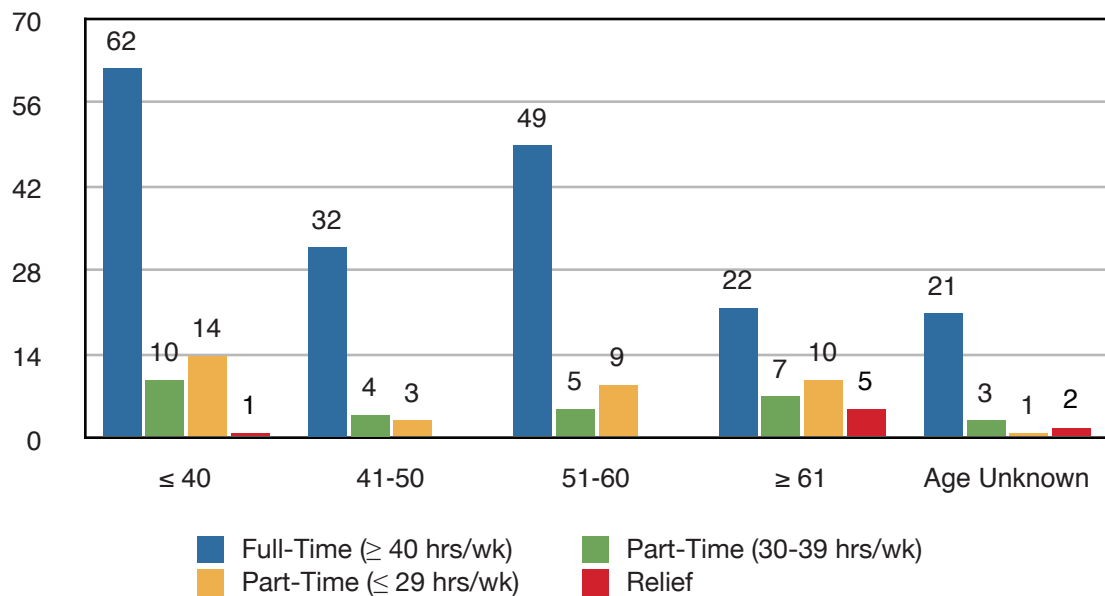
Figure 87: Pharmacist Age N=260



⁵² HRSA state health workforce profiles: Wyoming. Department of Health and Human Services, Bureau of Health Professions. Retrieved November 19, 2007 from <http://bhpr.hrsa.gov/healthworkforce/reports/statesummaries/wyoming.htm>.

Table 39: Pharmacist by Age and Gender N=260

Age Group	Female	Male	Total
≤ 40	61 (70.1%)	26 (29.9%)	87 (33.5%)
41-50	21 (53.8%)	18 (46.2%)	39 (15%)
51-60	29 (46%)	34 (54%)	63 (24.2%)
≥ 61	6 (13.6%)	38 (83.4%)	44 (16.9%)
age unknown	8 (29.6%)	19 (70.4%)	27 (10.4%)
Total	125 (48.1%)	135 (51.9%)	260

Figure 88: Pharmacist Age by Work Status N=260

Educational Background

Figure 89 displays the location of the high schools from which Wyoming pharmacists graduated: 60% of all pharmacist respondents reported graduating from a Wyoming high school, and 13% reported graduating from a high school in the Wyoming Area (i.e., a Wyoming border state)⁵³.

Figure 89: Pharmacist High School Location N=260

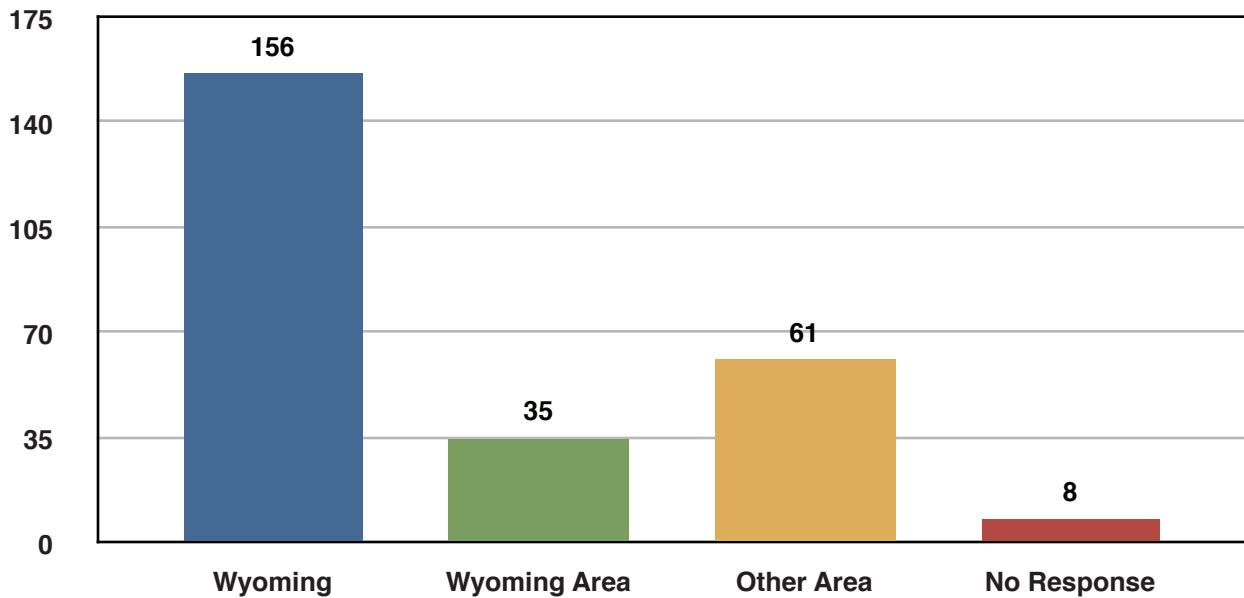


Table 40 details the education of Wyoming pharmacists by state and shows that the vast majority of Wyoming pharmacists have received their education in Wyoming: 80% of survey respondents obtained their Registered Pharmacist degree in Wyoming.

⁵³ Wyoming Area includes Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nebraska, South Dakota, and Utah.

Table 40: Self-Reported Pharmacist Higher Education by State N=260

State	Total	Basic Nursing	Other	Post Graduate	Reg. Pharmacist	Residency	Undergraduate
Total	606	1	23	14	301	10	257
Wyoming	434	1	9	6	238	2	178
Montana	18		1		8	1	8
Nebraska	17		3		6		8
Colorado	15			3	3		9
Texas	10				4	1	5
North Dakota	9				6		3
Florida	8		3	2	1		2
South Dakota	8		1		5		2
Utah	8				4		4
New York	7		2		1		4
Oklahoma	6				3		3
Wisconsin	6				3	1	2
Iowa	4				2	1	1
Idaho	4				1		3
Illinois	4						4
Minnesota	4				1		3
Pennsylvania	4				2		2
Arizona	3				1		2
California	3						3
Indiana	3			1	1		1
Michigan	3		1		1		1
Mississippi	3				1		2
New Mexico	3				1	1	1
Ohio	3			1	1	1	
Oregon	3		2		1		
Tennessee	3				1	1	1
Virginia	3				2		1
Georgia	2				1		1
Kansas	2						2
Massachusetts	2			1	1		
Louisiana	1		1				
Missouri	1					1	
South Carolina	1						1
Washington	1				1		

Language Capabilities

All pharmacists reported speaking English. Some pharmacists reported being bilingual. Figure 90 shows the language fluencies of pharmacist respondents.

Figure 90: Pharmacist Language Capabilities N=260



Openings

Table 41 reports the number of pharmacist position openings in all 23 Wyoming counties as of September 2008. The majority of the positions were full-time (59%), yet over one-third of all pharmacist openings in the state were for positions working twenty-nine hours per week or less.

Table 41: Pharmacist Position Openings N=119

County	Total	Full-Time (≥ 40 hrs/wk)	Part-Time (30-39 hrs/wk)	Part-Time (≤ 29 hrs/wk)
Albany	1			1
Big Horn	1			1
Campbell	2	2		
Carbon	2	1	1	
Converse	2	2		
Crook				
Fremont	4	3		1
Goshen				
Hot Springs	1	1		
Johnson				
Laramie	3	1		2
Lincoln				
Natrona	4	3		1
Niobrara	1	1		
Park	1			1
Platte				
Sheridan	4		1	3
Sublette	1			1
Sweetwater	1	1		
Teton	2	2		
Uinta	2	1		1
Washakie	2	2		
Weston				
Total	34	20	2	12

Pharmacy Locations

This section provides an overview of the number, distribution, and selected characteristics of pharmacy locations in Wyoming. Table 42 reports the number of pharmacies in Wyoming by city and county. Natrona County has the most pharmacies in the state with 19 (12.3% of the total), followed by Laramie County with 18 (11.7% of the total). Johnson, Niobrara, Sublette, and Weston Counties all have two pharmacies.

Table 42: Total Pharmacy Locations by City and County N=154

County	City	Number of Pharmacies
	Total All Cities	154
Albany	Laramie	13
	Subtotal	13
Big Horn	Basin	2
	Greybull	1
	Lovell	2
	Shell	
	Subtotal	5
Campbell	Gillette	8
	Wright	
	Subtotal	8
Carbon	Baggs	
	Elk Mountain	
	Hanna	
	Medicine Bow	
	Rawlins	3
	Saratoga	1
	Subtotal	4
Converse	Douglas	4
	Glenrock	1
	Subtotal	5
Crook	Hulett	
	Moorcroft	
	Sundance	2
	Subtotal	2
Fremont	Arapahoe	1
	Dubois	
	Fort Washakie	1
	Lander	4
	Riverton	6
	Subtotal	12
Goshen	Torrington	4
	Subtotal	4
Hot Springs	Thermopolis	3
	Subtotal	3
Johnson	Buffalo	2
	Kaycee	
	Subtotal	2

County	City	Number of Pharmacies
Laramie	Cheyenne	18
	FE Warren Afb	
	Pine Bluffs	
	Subtotal	18
Lincoln	Afton	3
	Alpine	
	Cokeville	
	Diamondville	
	Kemmerer	2
	Thayne	1
	Subtotal	6
Natrona	Casper	19
	Subtotal	19
Niobrara	Lusk	2
	Subtotal	2
Park	Cody	4
	Mammoth	
	Powell	3
	Yellowstone National	
	Subtotal	7
Platte	Guernsey	2
	Wheatland	2
	Subtotal	4
Sheridan	Ranchester	
	Sheridan	9
	Subtotal	9
Sublette	Big Piney	1
	Marbleton	
	Pinedale	1
	Subtotal	2
Sweetwater	Green River	2
	Point Of Rocks	
	Rock Springs	8
	Subtotal	10
Teton	Jackson	6
	Teton Village	
	Wilson	
	Subtotal	6
Uinta	Evanston	6
	Lyman	1
	Subtotal	7
Washakie	Worland	4
	Subtotal	4
Weston	Newcastle	2
	Upton	
	Subtotal	2

Pharmacies were asked to rank eight key pharmacy-related issues from 1 to 9 in order of importance, with 1 being most important and 9 being least important. Table 43 displays in order the eight issues pharmacies ranked as their number one concern. Thirty-six pharmacies ranked reimbursement as the most important issue, with the issues of third party payers and pharmacist shortages receiving the second and third highest totals of #1 rankings. Using electronic information was cited the least by pharmacies as their number one issue.

Table 43: Top Nine Issues Facing Wyoming Pharmacies N=154

Concern	#1 Issues Facing Pharmacies
Pharmacy Reimbursement	36
Third Party Payers	32
Pharmacist Shortages	25
Technology	10
Pharmacy Laws & Regulations	8
Other Manpower Shortages	6
Mail Order/Internet Competition	6
Using Electronic Information	4