

NATRONA COUNTY

CHAPTER ONE

DEMOGRAPHIC AND ECONOMIC TRENDS

1.1 LOCATION

Natrona County, Wyoming is situated in east central Wyoming (Figure 1-1). The county seat of Casper is located about 50 miles west of Douglas, Wyoming and approximately 178 miles northwest of Cheyenne.

1.2 POPULATION SIZE AND GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION

The resident population of Natrona County included 66,533 residents in April 2000 (Table 1-1). Almost 84 percent of the county population was concentrated in the communities of Casper, Mills, Evansville, and Bar Nunn. Almost one percent of the resident population was situated in the incorporated communities of Midwest and Edgerton.

The remaining population resided in various parts of the unincorporated area of Natrona County. The unincorporated area includes several smaller concentrations of residents who live in the vicinity of various unincorporated communities such as Powder River, Waltman, and Hiland.

1.3 RECENT POPULATION GROWTH

Available natural growth and driver license surrender data for Natrona County provides some insights concerning recent population growth. The number of births and deaths in Natrona County that occurred from May 2000 through December 2005 represents a net increase of 2,135 persons (Table 1-2).

Available driver's license surrender data, which provides a general indication of in and out-migration, suggests a net migration of approximately 1,497 new residents into Natrona County from May 2000 through December 2005 (Table 1-3). It is important to note that this data does not reflect the in or out-migration of persons less than 16 years of age. Consequently, actual net migration to Natrona County represents a greater number of incoming residents.

Available driver's license surrender data for 2005 indicates that more recent migration into Natrona County primarily includes persons in the 36-45 and 26-35 year old age groups.

Bar Nunn	936	1.4
Casper	49,739	74.8
Edgerton	169	0.3
Evansville	2,255	3.4
Midwest	408	0.6
Mills	2,632	4.0
Unincorporated Area	10,394	15.6
Natrona County	66,533	100.0

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000.

<i>Year</i>	<i>Births</i>	<i>Deaths</i>	<i>Natural Growth</i>
2000 ^(a)	903	567	336
2001	895	593	302
2002	897	616	281
2003	967	577	390
2004	942	543	399
2005 ^(b)	1151	724	427
Total	5,755	3,620	2,135

Notes: a) 2000 natural growth data includes births and deaths from May through December 2000 in order to correlate the data with U.S. Census estimates of April 2000; b) 2005 data estimated by Wyoming Department of Health.

Source: Wyoming Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics, 2006.



Wyoming Workforce Child Care Needs Assessment

Regional Location Natrona County

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Figure 1-1

<i>Year</i>	<i>Natural Growth</i>	<i>Net Migration</i>	<i>Population</i>
2000 ^(a)			66,533
2000 ^(b)	336	-82	66,787
2001	302	235	67,324
2002	281	290	67,895
2003	390	360	68,645
2004	399	257	69,301
2005 ^(c)	427	437	70,165
Total		1,497	

Notes: a)Population from April 2000 Census; b) 2000 natural growth data includes births and deaths from May through December 2000 in order to correlate the data with U.S. Census estimates of April 2000; c) 2005 data estimated by Pedersen Planning Consultants, 2006.

Source: Wyoming Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics, 2006.

Secondarily, the 46-55 year old age group also contributed significantly to recent in-migration. Recent residents of Natrona County apparently represent a cross-section of workers from the primary working age population and their dependents that are drawn by regional job opportunities, as well as the community services and amenities that are afforded by a larger Wyoming community.

1.4 AGE CHARACTERISTICS

The age characteristics of the Natrona County population in April 2000 provide some general insight to the size of the 0 to 12 year old age group that could potentially require some form of child care. In April 2000, children from 0 to 12 years of age included approximately 11,972 persons, or almost 18 percent of the total county population (Table 1-4 and Figure 1-2).

The age distribution of the county population also indicates some other trends important to the community. The primary working age population, which includes persons between 25 and 54 years of age, represented about 43 percent of the total population (Table 1-4). The size of the working age population is generally comparable to many Wyoming communities.

The age distribution of the county population also indicates some other trends important to the community. The primary working age population, which includes persons between 25 and 54 years of age, represented about 43 percent of the total population (Table 1-4). The size of the working age population is generally comparable to many Wyoming communities.

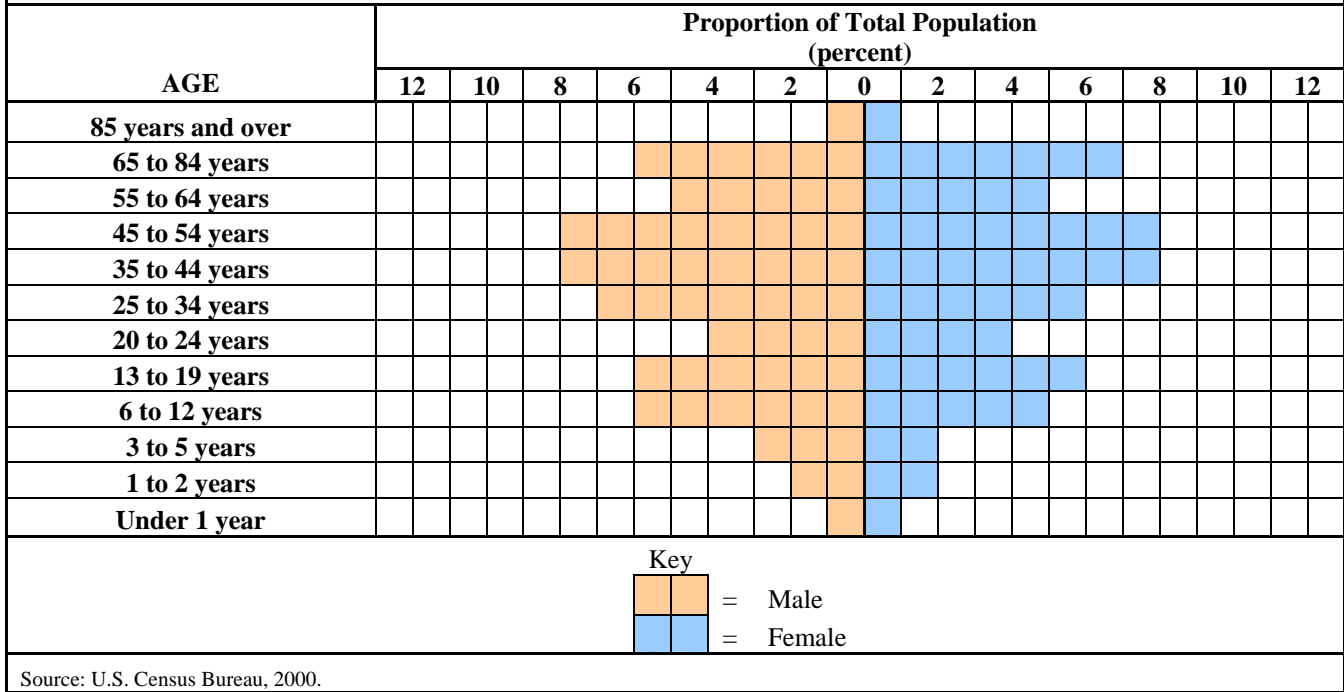
The age distribution of the county population also indicates some other trends important to the community. The primary working age population, which includes persons between 25 and 54 years of age, represented about 43 percent of the total population (Table 1-4). The size of the working age population is generally comparable to many Wyoming communities.

<i>Age Group</i>	<i>Population</i>
Under 1 year	808
1 to 2 years	1,722
3 to 5 years	2,666
6 to 12 years	6,776
13 to 19 years	7,583
20 to 24 years	4,464
25 to 34 years	8,033
35 to 44 years	10,529
45 to 54 years	9,794
55 to 64 years	5,734
65 to 84 years	7,585
85 years and over	839
Total	66,533

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000.

Residents nearing or in their retirement years, who are over 54 years of age, comprised 21 percent of the total resident population (Figure 1-2). The size of this age group is generally comparable to the proportion found in many Wyoming communities.

**FIGURE 1-2
AGE CHARACTERISTICS
NATRONA COUNTY, WYOMING
APRIL 2000**



1.5 FAMILY AND HOUSEHOLD CHARACTERISTICS

In April 2000, there were 26,819 households within Natrona County. About 66 percent of these households were family households, or households with children. Approximately seven percent of the households (1,995 households) included single mothers, i.e., with no husband present, residing with children under 18 years of age (U.S. Census Bureau, 2000).

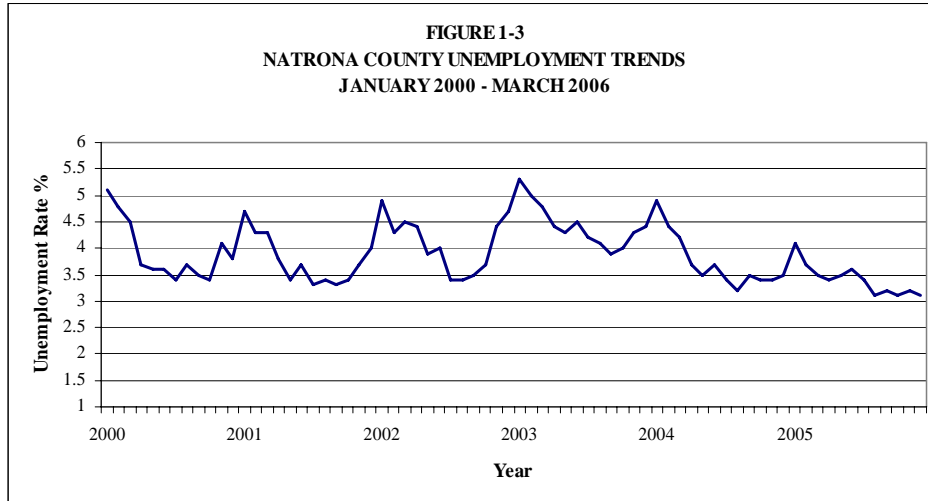
The average household size in Natrona County was 2.42 persons. The average size of families (households with children under 18 years of age) was 2.95 persons.

1.6 WORKFORCE TRENDS

1.6.1 Employed Workforce

In June 2006, the workforce of Natrona County included 41,424 persons who were 16 years of age or older. About 40,216 residents of the county were employed at that time (Wyoming Department of Employment, 2006).

Unemployment rates in Natrona County between 2000 and 2005 (Figure 1-3) ranged between 3.1 in October and December 2005 and 5.3 percent in January 2003 (Wyoming Department of Employment, Research and Planning Division, 2005). Lower unemployment rates occurred from the months of May through October when unemployment generally ranged between 4.1 and 4.5 percent. Higher unemployment rates were particularly evident between in 1Q 2000 and 2003.



Source: Wyoming Department of Employment, Research and Planning Division, 2005.

An economy that is characterized by an unemployment rate of three percent or less is generally considered to be “fully employed” as those persons, who wish to work, are actively working in the local economy (U.S. Census Bureau). While the Natrona County economy regularly experiences seasonal increases in employment during the spring, summer and fall months, it is apparent that the employed workforce of Natrona County could support expanded private and public investments.

1.6.2 Primary Sources of Employment

In 2004, the Natrona County economy included 48,655 full and part-time jobs that were associated with the private and public sectors of the economy (Table 1-5). The predominant sources of employment included:

- Retail trade;
- Government;
- Health care and social assistance services; and,
- Mining.

Casper is an important retail center in Wyoming that serves many Wyoming communities. In 2004, almost 13 percent of the total full and part-time employment included jobs in retail trade.

Government jobs accounted for about 12 percent of total full and part-time employment in 2004. This employment included jobs for various federal, state, county and municipal agencies.

Almost 12 percent of total full and part-time employment represented jobs associated with private health care and social assistance services. The extent of employment in these services indicates the importance of the Wyoming Medical Center and various medical services to the local economy.

The mining industry general includes those working oil and gas production, as well as coal or uranium mining. In view of the recent acceleration of natural gas development in Wyoming, most of this employment probably represented jobs associated with natural gas exploration and production. In 2004, mining employment comprised almost nine percent of total full and part-time employment in the county economy.

**TABLE 1-5
TOTAL FULL AND PART-TIME EMPLOYMENT
NATRONA COUNTY, WYOMING
2001 - 2004**

<i>Employment Sector</i>		<i>2001</i>	<i>2002</i>	<i>2003</i>	<i>2004</i>
		<i>Number of Jobs</i>			
Wage and Salary Employment		35,937	36,100	36,838	38,289
Proprietors' Employment		9,199	9,438	9,903	10,366
	Farm Proprietors	284	288	281	281
	Nonfarm Proprietors	8,915	9,150	9,622	10,085
TOTAL FULL AND PART-TIME JOBS		45,136	45,538	46,741	48,655
Farm		447	455	438	440
Private Employment		39,051	39,394	40,585	42,452
	Forestry, Fishing, Related Activities, and Other	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
	Mining	3,404	3,017	3,602	4,269
	Utilities	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
	Construction	2,997	3,237	3,423	3,407
	Manufacturing	1,789	1,714	1,734	1,789
	Wholesale Trade	2,553	2,626	2,438	2,649
	Retail Trade	5,836	6,064	6,051	6,287
	Transportation and Warehousing	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
	Information	691	647	614	674
	Finance and Insurance	1,608	1,685	1,750	1,772
	Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	1,832	1,920	2,008	2,124
	Professional and Technical Services	2,212	2,161	2,158	2,265
	Management of Companies and Enterprises	41	50	27	85
	Administrative and Waste Services	2,488	2,519	2,680	2,423
	Educational Services	307	319	365	392
	Health Care and Social Assistance	5,186	5,242	5,370	5,618
	Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	785	819	861	941
	Accommodation and Food Services	2,997	3,007	3,167	3,348
	Other Services, Except Public Administration	2,613	2,688	2,712	2,763
Government and Government Enterprises		5,638	5,689	5,718	5,763
	Federal, civilian	639	653	691	701
	Military	383	379	379	389
	State Government	752	767	749	733
	Local Government	3,864	3,890	3,899	3,940
TOTAL FARM, PRIVATE AND GOVERNMENT EMPLOYMENT		45,136	45,538	46,741	48,655
Note: (D) - Not shown to avoid disclosure of confidential information, but the estimates for this item are included in the total number of jobs.					
Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Economic Information System, 2006.					

1.7 INDUSTRY TRENDS

With continued expansion of natural gas development in Wyoming, Natrona County is sustaining and expanding its capacity to support ongoing and planned natural gas exploration and production. The economy is also experiencing some expansion of commercial retail facilities to support anticipated increases in regional consumer and business expenditures.

The availability of developable properties in various light industrial and business parks, in the vicinity of Casper, will facilitate the future recruitment of companies that serve the natural gas industry, or are involved in retail trade.

1.7.1 Manufacturing

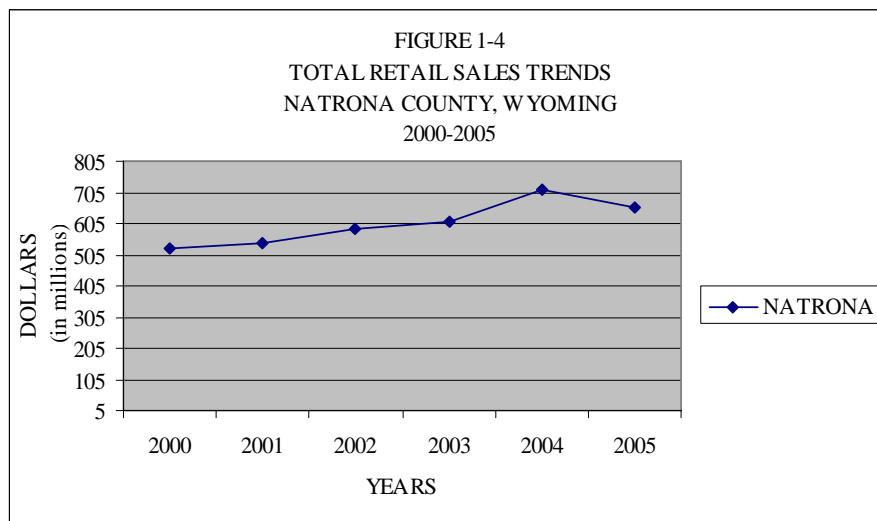
PolyPipe, a national manufacturer of pipe, is in the midst of establishing a new manufacturing plant in the Cole Creek Industrial Park in Evansville. PolyPipe will initially manufacture three lines of pipe that will support the construction of oil and gas gathering, as well as gas distribution systems. The company will initially employ about 25 persons (Casper Star-Tribune, 2006).

It is anticipated that other manufacturers of materials, equipment and supplies could likely be attracted to Natrona County. Manufacturers that produce products for the natural gas industry probably represent the most promising opportunities for future recruitment.

During the next decade, it is expected that three smaller manufacturing operations will establish operations in Natrona County. It is anticipated that each of the operations will employ from 20 to 40 personnel.

1.7.2 Retail Trade

Between 2000 and 2005, retail sales rose in Natrona County from roughly \$526 million to about \$711 million in 2004, but fell somewhat in 2005 (Figure 1-4). The growth in retail sales between 2000 and 2004 reflected increased retail expenditures in all general merchandise categories (Table 1-6). The more significant types of increased retail expenditures included building materials and hardware, home furnishings, as well as auto dealer and gas services.



Source: Wyoming Department of Revenue, 2005.

**TABLE 1-6
RETAIL SALES TRENDS
NATRONA COUNTY, WYOMING
2000 - 2004**

<i>Merchandise Group</i>	<i>Total Retail Sales</i>					<i>Percent Change</i>
	<i>2000</i>	<i>2001</i>	<i>2002</i>	<i>2003</i>	<i>2004</i>	
Building Material & Hardware	48,242,942	49,864,344	63,042,228	70,277,846	94,633,068	96
General Merchandise	114,270,056	126,987,268	142,648,445	149,518,569	155,866,866	36
Food Stores	100,872,114	88,017,356	79,022,144	78,590,032	105,976,139	5
Auto Dealer and Gas Services	52,412,752	59,714,894	61,164,216	58,763,584	86,142,306	64
Apparel and Accessory	16,830,612	19,782,842	20,221,656	20,518,906	24,488,875	46
Home Furnishings	24,782,748	24,426,592	30,022,960	30,584,842	40,901,536	65
Restaurants	72,330,484	76,105,662	79,285,090	83,026,870	89,282,100	23
Miscellaneous Retail	96,399,060	98,668,652	110,665,899	118,598,359	113,757,851	18
Total Retail Trade	526,140,768	543,567,610	586,072,638	609,879,009	711,048,740	35

Source: Wyoming Department of Revenue, 2005.

Future growth of retail trade in Natrona County will be generated primarily from anticipated expansions in manufacturing and retail trade, incoming personnel working for various oil and gas companies, and related dependents. Wal-Mart Stores, for example, has already envisioned its capture of additional retail sales through the recent establishment of a new Supercenter on the west side of Casper in August 2006. The new store employs about 260 persons.

The extent of growth in future retail trade will depend largely upon the quality of services provided, the availability of workers, as well as the type and cost of merchandise that is carried by local merchants. The availability of workers to support commercial retail expansions is expected to be the greatest challenge.

1.8 WORKER COMMUTER PATTERNS

In April 2000, approximately 93 percent of the employed workforce in Natrona County commuted to jobs inside of Natrona County. Almost two percent did not commute to work (Table 1-7). Consequently, the employed workforce of Natrona County has a limited dependence upon jobs outside of the county economy.

Almost three percent of the employed workforce traveled to jobs in Converse, Campbell, Carbon, Fremont and Platte counties. About two percent commuted to other locations within and outside of Wyoming.

Other Census data indicates that 1,062 residents worked at home in 2000 (U.S. Census Bureau, 2000).

**TABLE 1-7
NATRONA COUNTY
WORKER COMMUTER PATTERNS
BY COUNTY OF WORKPLACE
APRIL 2000**

<i>Location of Work Place</i>	<i>Number of Workers</i>	<i>Proportion of Employed Workforce (percent)</i>
Natrona	31,031	93.4
Converse	375	1.1
Campbell	210	0.6
Carbon	123	0.4
Fremont	73	0.2
Platte	67	0.2
Other Locations	740	2.2
Total Commuting Workers	32,619	98.2
Non-Commuting workers	594	1.8
Total	33,213	100.0

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2003.

1.9 COST OF LIVING

The cost of living in Natrona County is very comparable to average statewide consumer costs. During 4Q 2005, available cost-of-living index data indicates that consumer costs in Natrona County were comparable or close to the statewide average. Recreation and personal care costs were somewhat higher while medical costs were somewhat lower (Table 1-8).

TABLE 1-8 WYOMING COMPARATIVE COST OF LIVING INDEX FOURTH QUARTER 2005 (STATEWIDE AVERAGE - 100)							
County	<i>Index Number by Category</i>						
	<i>All Items</i>	<i>Food</i>	<i>Housing</i>	<i>Apparel</i>	<i>Transportation</i>	<i>Medical</i>	<i>Recreation & Personal Care</i>
Teton	139	104	173	127	105	111	108
Sublette	112	102	118	125	101	99	114
Sheridan	105	109	103	129	98	109	105
Campbell	104	103	108	98	101	95	102
Lincoln-Afton	103	94	107	101	101	103	106
Laramie	103	109	108	86	98	99	93
Albany	102	90	107	103	100	101	99
Sweetwater	102	99	104	95	101	104	98
Johnson	100	108	95	136	100	91	98
Natrona	98	99	96	100	100	95	103
Carbon	96	103	91	90	101	105	100
Park	95	100	90	101	100	103	99
Fremont	94	92	89	90	102	101	104
Converse	93	95	88	87	100	98	104
Uinta	93	93	90	94	99	93	94
Hot-Springs	91	108	76	121	101	103	96
Lincoln-Kemmerer	90	89	83	100	100	88	111
Crook	90	92	81	112	101	94	100
Platte	90	100	78	105	99	106	101
Big Horn	89	96	77	118	100	99	102
Niobrara	89	94	78	109	102	101	94
Washakie	88	95	73	115	100	101	106
Goshen	88	91	78	93	99	104	96
Natrona	86	87	76	92	100	102	99

Source: State of Wyoming, Department of Administration and Information, Economic Analysis Division, 2006.

NATRONA COUNTY

CHAPTER TWO

AVAILABLE CHILD CARE SERVICES

2.1 GENERAL

Title 14, Chapter 4, of the Wyoming Statutes requires child care facilities in Wyoming to be certified by the Wyoming Department of Family Services. At the same time, Title 14 also recognizes and exempts various types of child care facilities.

2.1.1 Licensed Facilities

There are three different types of licensed child care facilities in Wyoming:

1. A family child care home (FCCH) is a home of a child care provider that is used concurrently to provide child care for part of a day for 3 to 10 children.
2. A family child care center (FCCC) is a facility used to provide child care for 3 to 15 children, for part of a day, in a residential or commercial structure.
3. A child care center (CCC) is a facility used for part of a day to provide child care for 16 or more children (Wyoming Department of Family Services, 2005).

In addition to the three types of facilities described above, some child care centers (CCC) and family child care centers (FCCC) provide services in more than one facility. These child care facilities are identified as a multiple location facility child care center (MLFCCC) and a multiple location facility family child care center (MLFFCCC).

Licensed child care facilities are required to operate under the administrative rules of the Wyoming Department of Family Services. The administrative rules are outlined in Chapters 1 through 12 of the Wyoming Department of Family Service administrative rules for certification of child care facilities.

2.1.2 Exempt Facilities

There are several possible exemptions to the licensing of a child care operation. However, an individual may claim no more than one of the following possible exemptions:

1. The care of a child is made by a legal parent or legal relative.
2. Child care is occasionally provided by a neighbor or friend of the child's parents.
3. Parents cooperatively exchange child care.
4. Child care is provided by a person employed who comes to the home of a child's parents or guardian.
5. Child care services within a facility are provided to not more than two unrelated children.
6. Child care facilities that are supervised by the State of Wyoming, local government, a school district, agency or other political subdivision.
7. Child care facilities that provide care to the children of only one immediate family unit (Wyoming Department of Family Services, 2005).

If two or more of the preceding potential exemptions pertain to a particular child care operation, then the facility must be licensed by the Wyoming Department of Family Services.

2.1.3 Illegal Facilities

These child care facilities, which are privately operated by local residents, provide child care to more than two unrelated children. Further, they have no license to operate from the Wyoming Department of Family Services.

Any non-exempt child care facility that operates without certification from the Wyoming Department of Family Services is operating illegally. These facilities can be fined between \$50 and \$200 per day for each day that it operates without certification (Wyoming Department of Family Services, 2005).

2.2 CHILD CARE IN NATRONA COUNTY, WYOMING

2.2.1 Type and Location of Facilities

2.2.1.1 Licensed Child Care Facilities

About 150 child care facilities were operating in Natrona County in 2Q 2006; 127 of these facilities were licensed child care facilities (Table 2-1). The licensed child care facilities comprised 75 family child care homes, 25 child care centers and 27 family child care centers.

The majority of the licensed facilities were located in Casper. Four additional facilities were situated in Evansville; another four facilities were based in Mills. One facility was located in Midwest.

2.2.1.2 Exempt Child Care Facilities

Twenty-three facilities provided exempt child care programs during the second quarter of 2006 (Table 2-1). Seventeen of the exempt facilities operated from K-12 public schools.

2.2.1.3 Illegal Child Care Facilities

When the Wyoming Department of Family Services (WDFS) becomes aware of a potential illegal operation, the regional licensing representative typically visits the facility and informs the operator of applicable Wyoming State statutes and related administrative rules associated with the certification of child care facilities. The licenser provides the operator with appropriate forms and other related information to become licensed, and tries to assist those operators who are sincerely interested in becoming licensed.

Natrona County's WDFS licenser receives a few complaints of potential illegal facilities from time to time. In September of 2006, two complaints were received but after three unsuccessful attempts to locate and verify each of those complaints, both cases were closed. Should she have been successful in making contact with the potentially illegal child care provider and found that, indeed, they were illegal, she would have worked with them to comply with child care licensing laws (Busch, 2006).

TABLE 2-1 (Five pages)
CAPACITY, ENROLLMENT, AND HOURS OF OPERATION
CHILD CARE FACILITIES
NATRONA COUNTY, WYOMING
SECOND QUARTER 2006

No.	Location/Facility	Hours of Operation Mon through Fri except holidays unless specified otherwise	a) WDFS Type	a)WDFS Capacity	Total Enrollment	Infants Birth to 12 months	Toddler 12 to 36 months	Preschool 3 to 5 years	School Age 6 to 12 years
Bar Nunn									
1	Bar Nunn Elem. School, PK-6	8-8:50 am; 3:30-4:30 pm	Exempt	NP	18	0	0	18	0
Bar Nunn Subtotals				0	18	0	0	18	0
Casper									
2	Above and Beyond Home Daycare	8:00 pm-10:00 am	FCCH	10	10	0	3	4	3
3	Alicia's Day Care	6:00 am-6:00 pm	FCCH	8	11	0	3	7	1
4	Almost Home Day Care	6:30 am-3 pm	FCCH	8	4	0	0	2	2
5	Angie's Daycare	7:30 am-5:30 pm	FCCH	8	7	2	2	2	1
6	Annie's Child Care	7:00 am-5:30 pm	FCCH	6	3	0	1	1	1
7	Appletree Learning Center	6:30 am-6:30 pm	CCC	75	60	12	24	22	2
8	Atlana's House Daycare	7:30 am-5:30 pm	FCCH	10	3	2	1	0	0
9	Barbara's Infant Care	7:00 am-5:30 pm	FCCH	7	2	1	1	0	0
10	Benita's Daycare	6:30 am-6:00 pm	FCCH	10	14	1	2	8	3
11	Bonnie Ward Child Care	7:30 am-5:30 pm	FCCH	10	7	2	2	3	0
12	Boys & Girls Club of Central Wyoming	3:00-8:00 pm	Exempt	NP	240	0	0	0	240
13	Bright Beginnings Learning Center	6:30 am-6:30 pm	CCC	30	23	5	7	11	0
14	Busy Bear Child Care	7:30 am-5:30 pm	FCCH	8	7	1	2	4	0
15	Candi Land	7:00 am-5:30 pm	FCCH	8	6	2	1	2	1
16	Cardenas' Day Care	7:00 am-6:00 pm	FCCC	12	17	0	6	10	1
17	Casper Classical Academy, 6-8	7:15-7:45 am, 2:48-4 pm	Exempt	NP	5	0	0	0	5
18	Casper College ECLC	6:30 am-6:30 pm	Exempt	NP	56	10	23	23	0
19	Casper Family YMCA	6:30-8:30 am; 3:30-6 pm; 7:30 am-5:30 pm	MLFCCC	72	159	4	4	17	134
20	Centennial Jr. High School, 6-8	N/A (before & after school)	Exempt	NP	0	0	0	0	N/A
21	Child Development Ctr of Natrona Cty	9-11:30 am; 12:30-3:30 pm	MLFCCC	187	295	0	0	295	0
22	Child Development Center of Natrona County #2	9-11:30 am, 12:30-3 pm	MLFCCC	36	52	0	0	52	0
23	Children of the Rainbow	7:00 am-4:30 pm	FCCH	8	4	0	2	2	0
24	College Heights Community Center Child Care	7:30 am-5:30 pm	CCC	29	10	2	2	6	0
25	Comfy Cozy Child	7:30 am-5:45 pm	FCCH	10	10	0	3	7	0
26	Corey Kid Connection	7:30 am-5:30 pm	FCCH	8	6	1	1	4	0
27	Cortney's Home Daycare	7:00 am-6:00 pm	FCCH	8	5	1	2	1	1
28	Daffodil Darlings' Daycare	7:00 am-4:30 pm	FCCH	8	17	2	4	5	6
29	Dawn's Day Care	7:00 am-5:00 pm	FCCH	8	6	1	5	0	0
30	Dean Morgan Jr. High School, 6-8	N/A (before & after school)	Exempt	NP	0	0	0	0	N/A
31	Deborah's Funtime Day Care	9:00 am-3:00 pm	FCCH	8	2	0	1	0	1
32	DeLany's Darlings	6:00 am-6:00 pm	FCCH	7	6	2	2	1	1
33	Dolores' Child Care Home	7:00 am-5:30 pm	FCCH	8	9	0	5	4	0
34	Dotties Daycare	7:30 am-5:30 pm	FCCH	8	4	1	1	1	1
35	First Christian Early Childhood School	9:00 am-12:00 pm	CCC	55	40	0	10	30	0
36	First Presbyterian Early Childhood Sch	9:00 am-12:00 pm	CCC	55	49	0	16	33	0

**TABLE 2-1 (continued)
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CHILD CARE FACILITIES
NATRONA COUNTY, WYOMING
SECOND QUARTER 2006**

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Casper (continued)									
37	Giggles and Wiggles	7:00 am-5:30 pm	CCC	42	40	0	0	20	20
38	God's Little Angels Daycare	7:30 am-5:00 pm	FCCH	10	10	1	5	4	0
39	Grandma and Papas Daycare	MTThF 4:30 am-8:30 pm Sat 5:30 am-8:30 pm	FCCH	10	10	0	1	6	3
40	Grandma Ronda's Daycare	5:30 am-6:00 pm	FCCH	10	11	2	3	4	2
41	Grandma's Infant Care	12:00 am-12:00 am	FCCH	8	26	9	13	4	0
42	Granny's Kids Day Care	6:00 am-6:00 pm	FCCH	8	8	1	4	3	0
43	Grant Elem. School, PK-5	3:30-4:30 pm	Exempt	NP	25	0	0	0	25
44	Great Beginnings Preschool	6:00 am-5:30 pm	FCCH	8	5	0	3	2	0
45	Griffith Day Care	6:00 am-6:00 pm	FCCH	10	12	0	4	5	3
46	Hatfield Day Care	7:30 am-5:30 pm	FCCH	8	16	0	3	7	6
47	Heather's Day Care	7:00 am-5:30 pm	FCCH	10	6	0	3	2	1
48	Home Sweet Home Child Care	5:30 am-5:30 pm	FCCC	15	15	0	3	6	6
49	Hugs and Cuddles Daycare	7:00 am-6:00 pm	FCCH	8	5	0	1	3	1
50	In Loving Arms	7:30 am-5:30 pm	FCCH	10	20	0	8	8	4
51	Jeannie's House	7:45 am-5:15 pm	FCCH	10	11	1	5	4	1
52	Jenn's Daycare	7:00 am-5:30 pm	FCCH	10	10	0	4	2	4
53	Julie's Child Care Home	7:30 am-5:30 pm	FCCH	8	10	1	6	3	0
54	Kati's Christian Day Care	7:00 am-5:30 pm	FCCH	N/A	4	0	0	4	0
55	Kid's Club	7:30 am-5:30 pm	FCCC	15	11	1	4	6	0
56	Kids Works	MTWThF 7:30 am-8 pm Sat 9 am-8 pm; Sun 12-5 pm	CCC	110	110	0	30	70	10
57	Laini Bug Day Care	7:30 am-5:30 pm	FCCH	8	11	0	3	5	3
58	Laurie's Inn	6:00 am-6:00 pm	FCCH	10	10	1	3	6	0
59	Leaps and Bounds I	7:00 am-6:00 pm	MLFCCC	17	10	0	0	10	0
60	Leaps and Bounds II	7:30 am-6:00 pm	MLFCCC	15	10	0	0	0	10
61	Learning Junction	7:00 am-6:00 pm	CCC	103	65	8	26	31	0
62	Leigh Ann's Little Ones	7:00 am-5:30 pm	FCCH	10	7	1	5	1	0
63	Lil MikiZoo	7:30 am-5:30 pm	FCCH	10	4	0	4	0	0
64	Lil Rascals	7:30 am-5:30 pm	FCCH	10	7	2	3	2	0
65	Lil Tots	7:30 am-6:00 pm	FCCH	10	11	0	3	3	5
66	Linda's Kids	6:00 am-6:00 pm	FCCC	15	8	2	4	2	0
67	Little Angels Daycare	7:00 am-5:30 pm	FCCH	10	10	0	4	4	2
68	Little Beginnings	MTWThFSatSun 7:00 am-12:00 am	FCCH	10	8	0	1	7	0
69	Little People's Play House	7:30 am-5:30 pm	FCCC	15	21	7	2	9	3
70	Little Sweet Peas	7:30 am-5:30 pm	FCCH	8	6	1	1	3	1
71	Lou Ann's Daycare	7:00 am-5:30 pm	FCCH	10	11	0	3	6	2
72	Love A Lot	6:00 am-6:00 pm	FCCH	7	7	0	3	4	0
73	Making a Difference Day Care	6:00 am-6:00 pm	FCCH	10	10	0	5	3	2

TABLE 2-1 (continued)
CAPACITY, ENROLLMENT, AND HOURS OF OPERATION
CHILD CARE FACILITIES
NATRONA COUNTY, WYOMING
SECOND QUARTER 2006

No.	Location/Facility	Hours of Operation Mon through Fri except holidays unless specified otherwise	a) WDFS Type	a)WDFS Capacity	Total Enrollment	Infants Birth to 12 months	Toddler 12 to 36 months	Preschool 3 to 5 years	School Age 6 to 12 years
Casper (continued)									
74	Manor Heights Elem. School, K-6	MWThF 8:10-8:50 am	Exempt	NP	30	0	0	0	30
75	Maxwell Day Care	5:30 am-9:00 pm	FCCH	10	25	1	6	7	11
76	McKinley Elem. School, K-6	3-7:00 pm	Exempt	NP	0	0	0	0	N/A
77	Mecca Day Care	7:30 am-5:30 pm	FCCH	10	5	0	4	1	0
78	Mimi's House Day Care	5:30 am-6:00 pm	FCCC	15	13	0	5	5	3
79	Montessori School of Casper	8:00 am-5:30 pm	CCC	29	28	0	0	24	4
80	Morning Star Child Care & Preschool	7:30 am-5:30 pm	FCCH	9	8	0	2	4	2
81	Moosing Around Daycare	7:30 am-5:30 pm	FCCC	13	12	2	5	5	0
82	Mount Hope Lutheran Preschool	8-11:30 am	CCC	34	18	0	0	18	0
83	Mountain View Elem. School, K-6	3:30-5:00 pm	Exempt	NP	80	0	0	0	80
84	Natrona County Early Head Start - Life Steps Campus	7:00 am-5:00 pm	MLFCCC	30	9	4	5	0	0
85	Natrona County Early Head Start II	8:00 am-4:00 pm	MLFCCC	30	29	10	12	7	0
86	Natrona County Head Start	7:30 am-1:30 pm	CCC	127	161	0	0	161	0
87	Neighborhood Child Learning Center	6:30 am-6:00 pm	CCC	62	57	4	16	25	12
88	Next Generation Learning Center	5:30 am-8:00 pm	Exempt	NP	100	10	30	30	30
89	North Casper Head Start	8:30-11:30 am	CCC	24	20	0	0	20	0
90	North Casper Elem. School, K-5	3:20-4:15 pm	Exempt	NP	100	0	0	0	100
91	Nurturing & Knowledge Home Child Care	7:45 am-5:15 pm	FCCH	8	5	0	2	2	1
92	Oregon Trail Elem. School, K-6	N/A (before school)	Exempt	NP	0	0	0	0	N/A
93	Our Place Child Care	5:30 am-10:00 pm	FCCH	10	10	2	4	2	2
94	Our Savior's Lutheran Preschool	7:30 am-6:00 pm	CCC	65	70	0	8	54	8
95	Pam's Child Care	7:00 am-5:30 pm	FCCH	10	9	0	3	4	2
96	Paradise Valley Christian School	8-11 am, 12-3 pm	CCC	18	34	0	0	30	4
97	Paradise Valley Elem. School, K-6	7:50-8:30 am, 3:30-7:00 pm	Exempt	NP	75	0	0	0	75
98	Pineview Elem. School, K-6	8-8:30 am, 3:30-4:30 pm	Exempt	NP	35	0	0	0	35
99	Prince of Peace Preschool	Multi sessions, times vary	CCC	49	96	0	0	96	0
100	Quality Child Caring Center II	6:30 am-6:00 pm	CCC	60	52	4	14	22	12
101	Rachael's Lil Tots Daycare	6:30 am-5:30 pm	FCCH	10	9	1	4	4	0
102	Rosie Cose Child Care	7:30 am-5:30 pm	FCCC	8	6	0	2	4	0
103	Rosie's Day Care	6:00 am-6:00 pm	FCCC	15	10	2	4	1	3
104	Sagewood School	8:00 am-4:00 pm	Exempt	NP	0	0	0	0	0
105	Saint Anthony's Preschool	8:00 am-4:30 pm	CCC	19	38	0	0	38	0
106	Saint Mark's Day School	9:00 am-6:00 pm	CCC	75	50	0	12	38	0
107	Sam's Daycare	7:30 am-5:30 pm	FCCH	6	4	0	1	3	0
108	Sara's Day Care	7:00 am-5:30 pm	FCCC	15	14	2	6	4	2
109	School Kids R Us, LLC	7 am-5:30 pm	FCCH	10	28	0	0	0	28
110	Shepherd of the Hills Child Development Center	9-11:30 am, 12:30-3 pm	CCC	45	30	0	0	30	0
111	Side By Side Child Care	7:00 am-5:00 pm	FCCC	15	13	2	2	8	1
112	Silly Goose Preschool/Day Care	7:00 am-5:00 pm	FCCH	8	8	0	2	3	3

TABLE 2-1 (continued)
CAPACITY, ENROLLMENT, AND HOURS OF OPERATION
CHILD CARE FACILITIES
NATRONA COUNTY, WYOMING
SECOND QUARTER 2006

No.	Location/Facility	Hours of Operation Mon through Fri except holidays unless specified otherwise	a) WDFS Type	a)WDFS Capacity	Total Enrollment	Infants Birth to 12 months	Toddler 12 to 36 months	Preschool 3 to 5 years	School Age 6 to 12 years
Casper (continued)									
113	Southridge Elem. School, K-6	6:30-8 am, 3:30-6 pm	Exempt	NP	7	0	1	1	5
114	Stephanie's Day Care	7:30 am-5:30 pm	FCCH	8	11	0	4	4	3
115	Sunshine Corner	7:00 am-5:30 pm	CCC	52	50	2	14	22	12
116	Sylvia's Sweet Tots	7:00 am-6:00 pm	FCCC	14	14	0	6	4	4
117	Tandi's Tiny Tots	7:30 am-5:15 pm	FCCH	8	11	1	4	4	2
118	Tater Tots Day Care	7:30 am-5:30 pm	FCCH	7	7	2	2	2	1
119	The Other Mom	4:30 am-5:00 pm	FCCH	8	10	1	3	3	3
120	Tickle Time Daycare	7:30 am-5:30 pm	FCCH	8	7	2	5	0	0
121	Tina's Toys-N-Tots	7:00 am-5:30 pm	FCCC	15	16	0	3	6	7
122	Tiny Creations	7:00 am-8:00 pm	FCCH	8	12	2	2	4	4
123	Tiny Tots Day Care	Multi sessions, times vary	FCCH	8	6	1	1	2	2
124	TLC The Learning Center	7:30 am-5:30 pm	FCCH	8	8	0	1	6	1
125	University Park Elem. School, K-5	8:30-8:50 am	Exempt	NP	50	0	0	0	50
126	Unnamed Family Child Care Home #1	7:45 am-5:30 pm	FCCH	8	8	0	4	3	1
127	Vicki's Child Care	MThFSatSun, 12 am-12 am	FCCC	15	17	0	3	10	4
128	Vicky's Daycare	6:30 am-6:00 pm	FCCH	10	18	1	6	8	3
129	Wee Care	6:45 am-5:30 pm	FCCH	10	8	1	6	1	0
130	Wee Care Day Care	12:00 am-12:00 am	FCCH	8	5	0	2	2	1
131	Wee Ponder	7:00 am-6:00 pm	FCCC	15	14	2	3	8	1
132	Wee Tykes Kid Care	7:00 am-5:00 pm	FCCH	10	5	0	1	3	1
133	Wendy's Child Care Home	5:30 am-10:00 pm	FCCH	10	11	0	2	2	7
134	Westwood Elem. School, PK-6	3:30-7:00 pm	Exempt	NP	0	0	0	0	N/A
135	Wiggles and Giggles	7:00 am-5:30 pm	FCCH	7	12	0	6	4	2
136	Willard Elem. School, K-5	3:30-5:30 pm	Exempt	NP	18	0	0	0	18
137	Wyoming Athletic Club Kyds Court	8:00 am-5:00 pm	FCCC	14	14	4	5	5	0
138	YMCA Southridge	6:30-9 am, 3-6:30 pm	MLFCCC	17	16	0	0	4	12
139	Your First Steps - A Child's Learning Center	7:00 am-6:00 pm	CCC	40	38	4	9	16	9
Casper Subtotals				2,460	3,414	157	548	1,590	1,119
Evansville									
140	Debbie's Care Center	6:30 am-6:00 pm	CCC	36	45	4	16	10	15
141	Evansville Christian Day Care	7:00 am-5:30 pm	CCC	61	30	3	9	10	8
142	Evansville Elem. School, PK-6	3:30-7:00 pm	Exempt	NP	60	0	0	40	20
143	Quality child Caring Center I	6:30 am-6:00 pm	CCC	78	62	8	13	17	24
144	Shirley's Child Care Home	7:00 am-6:00 pm	FCCH	6	3	0	0	2	1
Evansville Subtotals				181	200	15	38	79	68
Midwest									
145	Midwest School	8:00 am-4:00 pm	Exempt	NP	0	0	0	0	0
Midwest Subtotals				0	0	0	0	0	0

TABLE 2-1 (continued)
CAPACITY, ENROLLMENT, AND HOURS OF OPERATION
CHILD CARE FACILITIES
NATRONA COUNTY, WYOMING
SECOND QUARTER 2006

No.	Location/Facility	Hours of Operation Mon through Fri except holidays unless specified otherwise	a) WDFS Type	a)WDFS Capacity	Total Enrollment	Infants Birth to 12 months	Toddler 12 to 36 months	Preschool 3 to 5 years	School Age 6 to 12 years
Mills									
146	Chip 'N Dale Day Care	7:30 am-5:00 pm	FCCC	6	5	0	2	2	1
147	Friends Forever	7:30 am-5:30 pm	FCCC	10	1	1	0	0	0
148	Kids World	7:30 am-5:30 pm	FCCC	10	12	1	2	5	4
149	Mills Elem. School, K-6	7:30-8:30 am, 3:30-4:30 pm	Exempt	NP	0	0	0	0	N/A
150	Teddie's Leaping Day Care	6:00 am-6:00 pm	FCCH	5	5	0	1	3	1
Mills Subtotals				31	23	2	5	10	6
NATRONA COUNTY TOTALS				2,672	3,655	174	591	1,697	1,193
Notes: a) DFS-State of Wyoming, Department of Family Services. CCC-Childcare Center; FCCC-Family Childcare Center; MLFCCC-Multi Location Family Child Care Center; FCCH-Family Child Care Home. NP - Not Applicable. N/A - Not Available.									
Sources: Children and Nutrition Services (CNS), 2006; Pedersen Planning Consultants, 2006.									

2.2.2 Available Child Care Services and Enrollment

2.2.2.1 Available Services

Licensed and exempt child care facilities in Natrona County provide child care for four age groups. These include:

1. infant care for children ranging from birth to 12 months of age;
2. toddlers between 1 and 3 years of age;
3. preschool for children from 3 through 5 years of age;
4. school age children from 6 through 12 years of age.

A total of 3,655 children were enrolled in licensed and exempt child care facilities in Natrona County during the second quarter of 2006 (Table 2-1). Approximately 2,812 children were enrolled in licensed facilities during this time period. More than 843 children were enrolled in exempt facilities,

2.2.2.2 Infant Care

There were 174 infants enrolled in child care facilities in Natrona County in the second quarter of 2006 (Table 2-1). Infant enrollment represented almost five percent of total child care enrollment in Natrona County.

2.2.2.3 Toddler Care

In the second quarter of 2006, 591 toddlers were enrolled in child care facilities in Natrona County (Table 2-1). Toddlers represented about 16 percent of the total child care enrollment in Natrona County.

2.2.2.4 Preschool Care

The preschool age group represented more than 46 percent of the total child care enrollment in Natrona County in 2Q 2006. The 1,697 preschoolers enrolled represented the largest enrollment of the four child care age groups (Table 2-1).

2.2.2.5 School Age Care

Licensed and exempt child care facilities in Natrona County provided school age care for more than 1,193 children from 6 through 12 years of age (Table 2-1). School age care represented almost 33 percent of the total child care enrollment of children in child care facilities in Natrona County, the second highest enrollment of the four child care age groups.

Various before and after school programs are offered at some public schools in Natrona County. For example, Bar Nunn Elementary School offered a before and after school homework program for the 2005-2006 school year that was attended by approximately 18 children in pre-kindergarten to grade 6 (Russell, 2006).

Boys and Girls Club of Central Wyoming provides before and after school care at those public schools where school age care is offered. At Paradise Valley Elementary School in Casper, for example, Boys and Girls Club provided care for some 75 children in Kindergarten to grade 6 (Larson, 2006). Casper Family YMCA, Boys and Girls Club, and many other private child care providers, provide transportation for school age children from the public school to the child care facility after school each school day.

The number of school age children in Table 2-1 represents the average number of children who normally participate in before and after school programs on any given school day. While the duration of child care may be for only a short time period, these programs provide an important form of child care during hours of the day when children are often left unsupervised.

Summer school classes are offered for several weeks in the summer. Enrollment sizes and the length of these classes vary. For example, Evansville Elementary School provided summer school in 2006 for about 35 children in grades 1 to 5 for a four to six week period (Soper, 2006). The enrollment numbers for summer school are not included in Table 2-1.

2.2.3 Authorized Facility Capacity

The facility capacity authorized by the Wyoming Department of Family Services (WDFS) is the number of children that can be served at any given time of the day. Because many parents use child care services on a part-time or hourly basis for selected days of the week, licensed child care facilities in Natrona County provide service to a greater number of children.

In 2Q 2006, for example, the cumulative facility capacity of licensed child care facilities in Natrona County suggested a maximum enrollment of up to 2,672 children. Yet, the actual enrollment included more than 2,812 children in licensed facilities. Consequently, licensed child care facilities in 2Q 2006 legally served an enrollment of more than five percent over the authorized capacity

2.2.4 Hours of Operation

Child care facilities in Natrona County typically operate Monday through Friday. Child care facilities typically operate for about 10 to 12 hours during any weekday. Variable opening times are offered by child care providers that range from 4:30 to 7:45 am. Child care providers typically close their facilities between 4:30 and 8 pm (Table 2-1).

Two family child care homes in Casper offer 24-hour child care. About a dozen other child care facilities offer extended hours for 13 to 18 hours per day. Two family child care homes and one child care center in Casper are open on Saturdays. One of these facilities is also open for a 5-hour period on Sundays. The availability of child care for extended hours and weekend days enables some parents the opportunity to work at jobs during later nighttime hours and weekend time periods.

Child care centers, such as Child Development Center of Natrona County, Prince of Peace Preschool, and North Casper Head Start, provide structured preschool classes. These classes are typically offered in multiple sessions on specific days of the week. Each session typically extends for about 2.5 hours.

Many public schools in Natrona County provide child care for short time periods before and after school. A morning program, for example, is open for 30-minutes up to an hour before the start of school. After school homework/study/tutor programs typically extend for one to two hours.

Other exempt providers are open during times that primarily accommodate school age children. Boys and Girls Club of Central Wyoming, for example, will keep its facility open from 3 pm until 8 pm. Children are fed dinner.

2.2.5 Planned Child Care Facilities

One new family child care home with a capacity of ten children opened in August of 2006. Two other family child care homes, with capacities of eight children, opened their doors in September of 2006. Although other pending applications are being processed, it is premature to assume that these applications will result in the establishment of additional child care facilities (Busch, 2006).

During the period from July to September 2006, six family child care homes with a total capacity of 58 children closed. All of these facilities closed as a result of the owners' acceptance of a job with better pay (Busch, 2006)

2.2.6 Cost of Child Care Services

2.2.6.1 General

The average costs of child care services in Natrona County are presented in Table 2-2. It should be noted that average daily care costs provide only a general picture of child care costs. The cost of child care services are sometimes discounted as some child care operators offer discounted rates for clients who bring more than one child to the child care facility. Most child care providers will

TABLE 2-2 AVERAGE DAILY CHILD CARE COSTS NATRONA COUNTY, WYOMING SECOND QUARTER 2006 (in dollars)				
	Infants Birth to 12 months	Toddler 12 to 36 months	Preschool 3 to 5 years	School Age 6 to 12 years
Natrona County	20.64	19.52	18.48	18.00
Casper	20.72	19.60	18.72	18.08
Evansville	20.64	19.36	17.36	17.36
Mills	18.56	16.40	15.44	15.84
<small>Source: Children and Nutrition Services (CNS), 2006; Pedersen Planning Consultants, 2006.</small>				

also offer discounted weekly and monthly rates. In addition, some parents use child care services for only a few hours of the day and/or selected days of the week.

Child care costs in Natrona County vary from \$15.44 to \$20.72 per day, and are largely dependent upon the age of children brought to a child care facility (Table 2-2). Rates in Casper and Evansville are about \$2 per day higher than rates charged by child care providers in Mills. Variable staff:child ratios required by the Wyoming Department of Family Services significantly influence the cost of delivering child care services. Consequently, variable child care rates reflect the differences in required staffing, as well as other direct operational costs.

2.2.6.2 Infant Care

Infant care costs average \$20.64 per day in Natrona County (Table 2-2). This rate is higher than the rate of care for other child age groups. Higher costs primarily reflect higher required staff-child ratios, a lower maximum allowable group size, an increased level of responsibility, and other direct operating costs. Daily infant care costs in Casper and Evansville are comparable and about \$2 per day higher than infant care costs in Mills.

2.2.6.3 Toddler Care

Average daily costs for toddler care in Natrona County is \$19.52 per day, about a \$1.00 per day less than the cost for infant care (Table 2-2). Staff:child ratios for toddler care are somewhat less than those required for infants. Maximum allowable group sizes are also larger, particularly for toddlers between 24 and 36 months of age. Toddler care costs in Casper and Evansville are about \$3.00 per day higher than the cost of toddler care in Mills.

2.2.6.4 Preschool Care

The average cost of child care for preschool children is \$18.48 per day, somewhat lower than child care rates for infants and toddlers (Table 2-2). Staff-child ratios are considerably lower for both 3-year olds, as well as children that are 4 and 5 years of age. In addition, allowable maximum group sizes increase considerably. Preschool care costs in Casper and Evansville are \$2 to \$3 per day higher than in Mills.

2.2.6.5 School Age Care

School age children, between 6 and 12 years of age, are brought to some child care facilities for after-school care. These costs vary during the course of the year because of changing needs.

In the summer months, children on vacation from school may come to a child care facility on one or more days of the week. The average cost for the care of school age children in Natrona County is \$18.00 per day (Table 2-2). The rate for school age care is typically lower than any of the other age groups. Casper and Evansville average daily cost for school age care is somewhat higher than the average daily cost in Mills.

There is no cost to school age children that participate in after school activities at public schools. Other exempt facilities may charge a nominal annual membership fee or dues. However, parents may incur some charges for child supplies and transportation.

NATRONA COUNTY

CHAPTER THREE

ANTICIPATED CHILD CARE DEMAND

3.1 INTRODUCTION

The quantification of anticipated child care demands provides some insight concerning potential child care needs. Chapter Three presents anticipated demands for infant, toddler, preschool and school age care. Overall child care demands for the county are also correlated with child care enrollments in July 2006 to calculate the extent of unmet child care needs.

The general methodology used to calculate anticipated child care demands is described more fully in the Introduction section of the overall report.

3.2 RESIDENT POPULATION OF NATRONA COUNTY

The resident population of Natrona County included an estimated 70,165 residents in 2005 (see Chapter One). During the next decade, the availability of developable properties in various light industrial and business parks in the vicinity of Casper is expected to attract the establishment of some manufacturers that serve the natural gas industry, as well as companies that are involved in retail trade.

The application of these assumptions suggests that annual population growth rates will range between roughly 1.0 and 1.2 percent during the next decade. This anticipated growth could boost the size of the county's resident population to about 78,727 persons in 2016 (Table 3-1).

3.3 FUTURE CHILD CARE DEMAND

3.3.1 Low End of the Anticipated Demand Range

The low end of the anticipated demand range suggests a growing demand for child care services in Natrona County. It is anticipated that these demands will include, at least, 3,696 Natrona County children in 2007. By 2016, these demands are expected to gradually rise to about 4,059 children between 0 and 12 years of age (Table 3-2).

<i>Year</i>	<i>Population (persons)</i>	<i>Estimated Rate of Growth (percent)</i>
April 2000 Census	66,533	
2001	67,324	1.19
2002	67,895	0.85
2003	68,645	1.10
2004	69,301	0.96
2005 Base Year	70,165	1.25
2006	70,891	1.03
2007	71,677	1.11
2008	72,478	1.12
2009	73,322	1.16
2010	74,093	1.05
2011	74,849	1.02
2012	75,694	1.13
2013	76,435	0.98
2014	77,237	1.05
2015	77,978	0.96
2016	78,727	0.96

Source: Pedersen Planning Consultants, 2006.

3.3.2 High End of the Anticipated Demand Range

The high end of the demand range represents 5,653 Natrona County children in 2007 and 6,209 children in 2016 (Table 3-3). While the size of the anticipated child care age population is considerably higher, the high end of the demand range is strongly influenced by:

1. the lack of affordability to roughly 36 percent of Natrona County households, and,
2. the intention or desire of some Natrona County parents, i.e., 20 percent, to provide infant, toddler and school age care for their own children at home, or obtain those services from families or friends.
3. the desire of all parents to seek preschool care even if their children are cared for at home.

Consequently, the potential demand for child care services represents almost 44 percent of the anticipated child care population from 0 through 12 years of age.

<i>Year</i>	<i>Anticipated Low-End Demand (children)</i>
2006	3,655
2007	3,696
2008	3,737
2009	3,780
2010	3,821
2011	3,860
2012	3,903
2013	3,941
2014	3,983
2015	4,020
2016	4,059

Source: Pedersen Planning Consultants, 2006.

<i>Year</i>	<i>Anticipated Child Care Population</i>	<i>(-) Children Receiving Other Means of Child Care</i>	<i>(-) Suppressed Demand Due to Affordability</i>	<i>(=) High-End Child Care Demand</i>
2006	12,757	2,527	4,638	5,592
2007	12,897	2,556	4,688	5,653
2008	13,041	2,583	4,741	5,717
2009	13,193	2,614	4,797	5,782
2010	13,333	2,641	4,846	5,846
2011	13,468	2,669	4,895	5,904
2012	13,620	2,698	4,952	5,970
2013	13,753	2,725	5,000	6,028
2014	13,898	2,754	5,053	6,091
2015	14,032	2,779	5,101	6,152
2016	14,167	2,807	5,151	6,209

Source: Pedersen Planning Consultants, 2006.

3.3.3 Types of Services

The greatest demand for child care services appears to be for school age children between 6 and 12 years of age. The demands for this age group are considerably more than the demands for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers because, on a comparative basis, it includes a much larger segment of the total county population (Table 3-4).

**TABLE 3-4
ANTICIPATED CHILD CARE DEMAND
NATRONA COUNTY, WYOMING
2006 - 2016**

Year	Infant Child Care (birth to 12 months)		Toddler Child Care (12 to 36 months)		Preschool Child Care (3 to 5 years)		School Age Child Care (6 to 12 years)		Net Child Care Demand	
	Low End	High End	Low End	High End	Low End	High End	Low End	High End	Low End	High End
2006	174	329	591	700	1,697	1,808	1,193	2,755	3,655	5,592
2007	176	332	598	708	1,716	1,828	1,206	2,785	3,696	5,653
2008	178	336	604	716	1,735	1,848	1,220	2,817	3,737	5,717
2009	180	339	611	724	1,755	1,870	1,234	2,849	3,780	5,782
2010	182	344	618	732	1,774	1,890	1,247	2,880	3,821	5,846
2011	184	347	624	739	1,792	1,909	1,260	2,909	3,860	5,904
2012	186	351	631	748	1,812	1,930	1,274	2,941	3,903	5,970
2013	188	354	637	755	1,830	1,949	1,286	2,970	3,941	6,028
2014	190	358	644	762	1,849	1,970	1,300	3,001	3,983	6,091
2015	191	362	650	770	1,867	1,989	1,312	3,031	4,020	6,152
2016	193	364	656	778	1,885	2,008	1,325	3,059	4,059	6,209

Source: Pedersen Planning Consultants, 2006.

Child care demands for the 6 to 12 year old group are probably the most difficult to discern. Older children generally have more skills, abilities and experience that enable them to be more self-sufficient in the absence of their parents. Many children in this age are also involved in various organized after-school activities such as sports, girl scouts, and 4-H. Those children not participating in various after-school programs need some adult supervision to monitor, at least, the type and location of their after-school activities, as well as other children whom they may choose to spend time with.

Substantive demand is also evident for preschool children, or children from three through five years of age. Increased demand is also anticipated for toddler and infant care, but these demands are considerably less than those expected for preschool care.

3.3.4 Correlation of Anticipated Demand Range with Existing Facility Enrollment

The correlation of the anticipated child care demand range with 2006 facility enrollment (Table 3-5) provides insights to the extent of potential unmet child care needs in Natrona County between 2007 and 2016. Potential unmet needs represent the number of children which, as of 2006, could not be served unless additional private and/or public investments are made for the expansion of existing facilities or the development of new child care facilities.

This correlation reveals that there is insufficient facility capacity in Natrona County to support anticipated future child care needs. If the potential demand in 2016 conservatively falls near a midpoint of the low and high ends of the anticipated unmet demand range (approximately 1,479 children), it can be concluded that the potential child care demands in Natrona County warrant the development of, at least, the following facilities by 2016:

- six child care centers in the vicinity of Casper that each have an enrollment of, at least, 200 children;
- about ten family child care centers in Casper, Mills and Evansville that each would accommodate 15 children; and,
- 13 family child care homes that each serve about 10 children.

**TABLE 3-5
ANTICIPATED UNMET CHILD CARE DEMAND
NATRONA COUNTY, WYOMING
2006 - 2016**

<i>Year</i>	<i>2006 Enrollment</i>	<i>Net Childcare Demand</i>		<i>Unmet Demand</i>	
		<i>Low End</i>	<i>High End</i>	<i>Low End</i>	<i>High End</i>
2006	3,655	3,655	5,592	0	1,937
2007	3,655	3,696	5,653	41	1,998
2008	3,655	3,737	5,717	82	2,062
2009	3,655	3,780	5,782	125	2,127
2010	3,655	3,821	5,846	166	2,191
2011	3,655	3,860	5,904	205	2,249
2012	3,655	3,903	5,970	248	2,315
2013	3,655	3,941	6,028	286	2,373
2014	3,655	3,983	6,091	328	2,436
2015	3,655	4,020	6,152	365	2,497
2016	3,655	4,059	6,209	404	2,554

Source: Pedersen Planning Consultants, 2006.

NATRONA COUNTY

CHAPTER FOUR

ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE OF EXPANDED CHILD CARE SERVICES

4.1 GENERAL

The potential expansion of existing facilities and the development of new child care facilities in Natrona County can generate significant economic benefits to the local economy. Potential employment in the child care industry creates new jobs and increased personal income for child care workers. The delivery of child care services also generates revenues to small business proprietors and other child care service providers.

Employment, personal income, and service revenues generated by the child care industry represent direct economic impacts. The direct economic impact of the child care industry in 2006, as well as the potential impact of the industry in 2016, is discussed more fully in sections 4.2 through 4.4.

The child care industry also generates indirect economic impacts upon other industries that serve the child care industry, e.g., retail trade, in the Wyoming economy. These industries provide goods and services that child care providers purchase to deliver child care services.

Employment and income that are created in the child care industry and other industries serving the child care industry further generate personal expenditures in other industries of the Wyoming economy. These expenditures also create more jobs and income. These economic impacts are referred to as induced economic impacts.

The methodology used to calculate the anticipated amount of direct employment, personal income generation and child care service revenues is summarized in the Introduction section of the overall report. The indirect and induced impacts associated with the child care industry in 2006, as well as the potential impact of the industry in 2016, are presented on a statewide basis in the Executive Summary.

4.2 DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACTS

4.2.1 Anticipated Direct Employment

The analysis of potential direct employment considers and identifies the anticipated number of child care jobs that would be needed to address future child care demands. Anticipated staff requirements include those jobs needed to support the operation of child care centers, family child care centers, and family child care homes.

The estimated amount of direct employment that could be derived from anticipated child care demands in Natrona County could generate the development of 378-680 child care jobs in 2007. The anticipated number of jobs annually required, between 2007 and 2016, is expected to gradually increase with growing demands for child care services. By 2016, the number of child care jobs is expected to rise to roughly 415-746 jobs (Table 4-1).

**TABLE 4-1
ANTICIPATED CHILD CARE STAFF REQUIREMENTS
NATRONA COUNTY, WYOMING
2006 - 2016**

Year	Teachers		Assistant Teachers		Classroom Aides		Full Time Directors		Net Staff Demand	
	Low End	High End	Low End	High End	Low End	High End	Low End	High End	Low End	High End
2006	227	324	91	130	42	194	13	20	373	668
2007	230	330	92	132	43	198	13	20	378	680
2008	233	333	93	133	43	200	13	20	382	686
2009	233	338	93	135	44	203	13	21	383	697
2010	239	339	95	136	44	203	13	21	391	699
2011	240	344	96	137	45	206	14	21	395	708
2012	243	348	97	139	45	209	14	21	399	717
2013	245	353	98	141	46	212	14	21	403	727
2014	246	354	98	142	46	212	14	22	404	730
2015	251	359	100	143	47	215	14	22	412	739
2016	252	362	101	145	47	217	15	22	415	746

Notes: Cumulative staff requirements include those needed to support child care centers, family child care centers, and family child care homes.

Source: Pedersen Planning Consultants, 2006.

4.2.2 Anticipated Personal Income Generation

The anticipated personal income generation that is expected from direct employment in Natrona County's child care industry is presented in Table 4-2 and Table 4-3. The information presented in these statistical tables provides a range of potential income generation. Both low mean and high mean income data from 2Q 2006 were applied to the anticipated child care staff demand range to calculate the amount of potential wages that would be generated from the variable staff requirements.

**TABLE 4-2
ANTICIPATED PERSONAL INCOME GENERATION
FROM LOW MEAN ANNUAL WAGES
NATRONA COUNTY, WYOMING
2006 - 2016
(dollars)**

Year	Teachers		Assistant Teachers		Classroom Aides		Directors		Net Staff Demand	
	Low End	High End	Low End	High End	Low End	High End	Low End	High End	Low End	High End
2006	2,724,241	3,888,343	1,443,071	2,061,530	637,728	2,945,696	338,589	512,460	5,143,629	9,408,029
2007	2,760,244	3,960,350	1,458,929	2,093,245	652,912	3,006,432	338,589	521,611	5,210,674	9,581,638
2008	2,796,247	3,996,353	1,474,787	2,109,103	652,912	3,036,800	338,589	521,611	5,262,535	9,663,867
2009	2,796,247	4,056,358	1,474,787	2,140,819	668,096	3,082,352	347,741	530,762	5,286,870	9,810,291
2010	2,868,253	4,068,359	1,506,502	2,156,677	668,096	3,082,352	347,741	530,762	5,390,592	9,838,150
2011	2,880,254	4,128,365	1,522,360	2,172,535	683,280	3,127,904	356,892	539,913	5,442,786	9,968,717
2012	2,916,258	4,176,369	1,538,218	2,204,251	683,280	3,173,456	356,892	549,064	5,494,647	10,103,140
2013	2,940,260	4,236,374	1,554,076	2,235,967	698,464	3,219,008	356,892	549,064	5,549,691	10,240,413
2014	2,952,261	4,248,375	1,554,076	2,251,825	698,464	3,219,008	366,043	558,215	5,570,844	10,277,423
2015	3,012,266	4,308,381	1,585,792	2,267,683	713,648	3,264,560	366,043	567,366	5,677,749	10,407,989
2016	3,024,267	4,344,384	1,601,650	2,299,398	713,648	3,294,928	375,194	567,366	5,714,759	10,506,076

Source: Pedersen Planning Consultants, 2006.

TABLE 4-3
ANTICIPATED PERSONAL INCOME GENERATION
FROM HIGH MEAN ANNUAL WAGES
NATRONA COUNTY, WYOMING
2006 - 2016
(dollars)

<i>Year</i>	<i>Teachers</i>		<i>Assistant Teachers</i>		<i>Classroom Aides</i>		<i>Directors</i>		<i>Net Staff Demand</i>	
	<i>Low End</i>	<i>High End</i>	<i>Low End</i>	<i>High End</i>	<i>Low End</i>	<i>High End</i>	<i>Low End</i>	<i>High End</i>	<i>Low End</i>	<i>High End</i>
2006	3,327,895	4,749,947	1,567,238	2,238,912	637,728	2,945,696	385,403	583,313	5,918,265	10,517,868
2007	3,371,876	4,837,909	1,584,461	2,273,357	652,912	3,006,432	385,403	593,729	5,994,652	10,711,427
2008	3,415,857	4,881,890	1,601,683	2,290,579	652,912	3,036,800	385,403	593,729	6,055,855	10,802,998
2009	3,415,857	4,955,192	1,601,683	2,325,024	668,096	3,082,352	395,820	604,146	6,081,456	10,966,713
2010	3,503,819	4,969,852	1,636,128	2,342,246	668,096	3,082,352	395,820	604,146	6,203,862	10,998,596
2011	3,518,479	5,043,154	1,653,350	2,359,469	683,280	3,127,904	406,236	614,562	6,261,345	11,145,088
2012	3,562,460	5,101,795	1,670,573	2,393,914	683,280	3,173,456	406,236	624,978	6,322,549	11,294,143
2013	3,591,781	5,175,096	1,687,795	2,428,358	698,464	3,219,008	406,236	624,978	6,384,276	11,447,441
2014	3,606,441	5,189,757	1,687,795	2,445,581	698,464	3,219,008	416,652	635,395	6,409,353	11,489,740
2015	3,679,743	5,263,058	1,722,240	2,462,803	713,648	3,264,560	416,652	645,811	6,532,283	11,636,233
2016	3,694,403	5,307,039	1,739,462	2,497,248	713,648	3,294,928	427,068	645,811	6,574,582	11,745,026

Source: Pedersen Planning Consultants, 2006.

The anticipated personal income generation derived from low mean annual wages would generate annual personal incomes ranging from almost \$5.2 million to \$9.6 million in 2007. By 2016, it is expected that personal income generation would rise from \$5.7 to \$10.5 million per year (Table 4-2).

When anticipated direct employment is applied to high mean annual wages, potential income generation in 2007 would range between roughly \$6.0 million to almost \$10.7 million per year. The annual personal income generation in 2016 would range between roughly \$6.6 million and \$11.7 million (Table 4-3).

The mid points of the low and high mean annual wages in 2016 suggest that annual personal income generation will increase between \$8.1 and \$9.2 million during the next decade.

4.2.3 Child Care Service Revenues

In 2006, the child care industry of Natrona County earned approximately \$10.3 million in revenues that were derived from the delivery of child care services. Should the industry address the anticipated child care demands in 2016, child care service revenues are expected to rise to roughly \$13.5 million in 2016 (Table 4-4).

TABLE 4-4 ANTICIPATED CHILD CARE SERVICE REVENUES NATRONA COUNTY 2006 and 2016 (In Dollars)		
<i>Child Care Group</i>	<i>2006</i>	<i>2016</i>
Infants (0 to 12 months)	875,394	1,401,134
Toddlers (1 to 3 years)	2,811,978	3,411,486
Preschool (3 to 5 years)	5,096,091	5,845,340
School Age (6 to 12 years)	1,530,023	2,811,240
TOTAL COUNTY REVENUES	10,313,486	13,469,199
Source: Pedersen Planning Consultants, 2006.		

4.3 INDIRECT AND INDUCED ECONOMIC BENEFITS

The indirect and induced impacts associated with the child care industry in 2006, as well as the potential impact of the industry in 2016, are presented on a statewide basis in the Executive Summary of this report.

4.4 EMPLOYEE RETENTION AND RECRUITMENT

An Employer Survey associated with the Wyoming Workforce Child Care Needs Assessment was distributed to employers throughout the state of Wyoming in June 2006. Nineteen percent of the employer representatives from Natrona County, which responded to the Employer Survey between June and August 2006, reported that the availability of child care facilities had not hampered their company's ability to recruit employees. Twelve percent of the employer representatives also indicated that the availability of child care facilities had also hampered their ability to retain good employees (Appendix A).

The expansion and development of new child care facilities in Natrona County would only improve the future recruitment of company employees of both larger community employers and small businesses in Natrona County. When the capacity of existing facilities is sufficient to meet future child care demands, employers can identify available child care facilities as a community asset to those individuals they desire to hire.

Expanded child care facilities would also influence the future retention of company and small business employees. The availability of a greater number of child care facilities would reduce the loss of employees that otherwise might be lost to the unavailability of child care facilities.