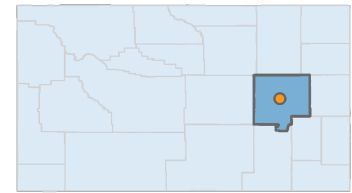


# Converse

Converse is a county in Wyoming with 2,327 residents age 65 or older. There are approximately 14 Native American residents age 55 or older. Compared to state average rates, older residents in Converse County are less likely to have a college degree and those age 85 and older are more likely to be female. The most prevalent chronic conditions among people age 65+ in Converse County are hypertension (47%), arthritis (28%), and high cholesterol (28%). They are more likely to take the health promotion step of having a regular doctor. Community resources to support healthy aging include a hospital, a nursing home, and 2 senior centers.



| <b>POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS</b>                        | <b>County rate is significantly different than State rate</b> | <b>COUNTY ESTIMATE</b> | <b>STATE ESTIMATE</b> |
|--|---|------------------------|-----------------------|
| Total population all ages                                |   | 13,842                 | 581,348               |
| Population 60 years or older as % of total population    |   | 22.4%                  | 23.3%                 |
| Total population 60 years or older                       |   | 3,103                  | 135,237               |
| Population 65 years or older as % of total population    |   | 16.8%                  | 16.4%                 |
| Total population 65 years or older                       |   | 2,327                  | 95,566                |
| % 65-74 years  |   | 62.7%                  | 61.2%                 |
| % 75-84 years  |   | 24.6%                  | 28.3%                 |
| % 85 years or older                                      |   | 12.8%                  | 10.5%                 |
| % 65+ population who are female                          |   | 48.7%                  | 51.7%                 |
| % 85+ population who are female                          | *   | 91.6%                  | 60.2%                 |
| Race and ethnicity of the population 65+                 |   |                        |                       |
| % White  |   | 96.1%                  | 95.6%                 |
| % African American                                       |   | 0.0%                   | 0.3%                  |
| % Other race(s)  |   | 3.9%                   | 4.1%                  |
| % Hispanic/Latino  |   | 4.0%                   | 4.4%                  |
| # 55+ who are Native American / Alaskan                  |   | 14                     | 2,430                 |
| Marital status of the population 65+                     |   |                        |                       |
| % married  |   | 60.9%                  | 60.7%                 |
| % divorced/separated                                     |   | 15.6%                  | 15.3%                 |
| % widowed  |   | 19.1%                  | 20.8%                 |
| % never married  |   | 4.4%                   | 3.3%                  |
| Education of the population 65+                          |   |                        |                       |
| % with less than high school education                   |   | 12.3%                  | 7.6%                  |
| % with high school or some college                       |   | 67.7%                  | 64.1%                 |
| % with college degree                                    | *   | 8.3%                   | 16.4%                 |
| % with graduate or professional degree                   |   | 11.7%                  | 11.9%                 |
| % of 65+ population who speak only English at home       |   | 94.5%                  | 95.3%                 |
| % of 65+ population who are veterans of military service |   | 21.6%                  | 22.4%                 |
| Life expectancy at birth                                 |   | 79.1                   | 78.1                  |

**HEALTHY AGING INDICATORS**BETTER / WORSE  
STATE RATECOUNTY  
ESTIMATESTATE  
ESTIMATE**COVID-19**

|  |       |         |
|--|-------|---------|
| Total COVID-19 cases March 2020 - January 2023 | 3,641 | 183,173 |
| COVID-19 mortality rate per 100,000 people     | 411.8 | 340.4   |
| % 65+ had one dose of COVID-19 vaccine         | 78.3% | 95.0%   |
| % 65+ had two doses of COVID-19 vaccine        | 69.8% | 93.5%   |
| % 65+ had bivalent booster of COVID-19 vaccine | 17.2% | 46.9%   |

**WELLNESS**

|  |       |       |
|--|-------|-------|
| % 60+ getting the recommended hours of sleep               | 64.7% | 65.9% |
| % 60+ doing any physical activity within last month        | 70.7% | 71.5% |
| % 60+ met CDC guidelines for muscle-strengthening activity | 27.4% | 27.2% |
| % 60+ met CDC guidelines for aerobic physical activity     | 57.9% | 55.7% |
| % 60+ with fair or poor health status                      | 24.5% | 19.5% |
| % 60+ with 15+ physically unhealthy days in last month     | 18.1% | 13.6% |

**FALLS**

|   |       |       |
|---|-------|-------|
| % 60+ who fell within last year                   | 28.8% | 30.8% |
| % 60+ who were injured in a fall within last year | 7.5%  | 10.7% |

**PREVENTION**

|  |       |       |
|--|-------|-------|
| % 60+ with physical exam/check-up in last year   | 83.7% | 80.5% |
| % 60+ had flu shot in last year                  | 55.6% | 53.8% |
| % 60+ had pneumonia vaccine                      | 58.6% | 59.5% |
| % 60+ had shingles vaccine                       | 29.2% | 37.9% |
| % 60+ women with a mammogram within last 2 years | 55.3% | 67.6% |
| % 60+ with colorectal cancer screening           | 54.8% | 51.9% |
| % 60+ with HIV test                              | 17.3% | 16.7% |
| % 60+ met CDC preventive health screening goals  | 24.1% | 22.9% |

**CHRONIC DISEASE**

|   |       |       |
|---|-------|-------|
| % 65+ with Alzheimer's disease or related dementias     | 7.6%  | 8.2%  |
| % 65+ with arthritis                                    | 28.0% | 27.0% |
| % 65+ with asthma                                       | 2.1%  | 2.8%  |
| % 65+ with atrial fibrillation                          | N/A   | 7.1%  |
| % 65+ with cancer (breast, colorectal, lung, prostate)  | N/A   | 7.1%  |
| % 65+ with chronic kidney disease                       | 14.0% | 15.6% |
| % 65+ with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) | 11.0% | 10.3% |
| % 65+ with diabetes                                     | 20.7% | 19.7% |
| % 65+ with high cholesterol                             | 27.8% | 25.5% |
| % 65+ with heart failure                                | 12.7% | 11.2% |
| % 65+ with hypertension                                 | 46.8% | 41.9% |
| % 65+ with ischemic heart disease                       | 22.8% | 21.1% |
| % 65+ with osteoporosis                                 | N/A   | 5.1%  |
| % 65+ with stroke                                       | N/A   | 2.2%  |

| <b>HEALTHY AGING INDICATORS</b>                               | <b>BETTER / WORSE<br/>STATE RATE</b> | <b>COUNTY<br/>ESTIMATE</b> | <b>STATE<br/>ESTIMATE</b> |
|---|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>NUTRITION &amp; DIET</b>                                   |                                      |                            |                           |
| % 60+ with 5 or more servings of fruits or vegetables per day |                                      | 18.5%                      | 15.6%                     |
| % 60+ self-reported obese                                     |                                      | 29.2%                      | 28.4%                     |
| % 60+ with cholesterol screening                              |                                      | 89.7%                      | 93.0%                     |
| <b>ORAL HEALTH</b>  |                                      |                            |                           |
| % 60+ with annual dental exam                                 |                                      | 67.6%                      | 69.4%                     |
| # of dentists per 100,000 persons (all ages)                  |                                      | 29.3                       | 52.8                      |
| % 60+ with loss of 6 or more teeth                            |                                      | 35.1%                      | 28.7%                     |
| <b>BEHAVIORAL HEALTH</b>                                      |                                      |                            |                           |
| # of drug overdose deaths (all ages)                          |                                      | 18                         | 1,225                     |
| % 60+ current smokers   |                                      | 13.3%                      | 11.1%                     |
| % 60+ ever used E-Cigarettes in last Month                    |                                      | 9.9%                       | 8.3%                      |
| % 60+ who used marijuana in last month                        |                                      | 2.1%                       | 2.4%                      |
| % 60+ excessive drinking                                      |                                      | 8.3%                       | 7.8%                      |
| % 65+ with alcohol abuse disorder                             |                                      | N/A                        | 1.3%                      |
| % 65+ with drug abuse/substance abuse disorder                |                                      | 0.8%                       | 1.1%                      |
| <b>MENTAL HEALTH</b>  |                                      |                            |                           |
| % 60+ with 15+ days poor mental health in last month          |                                      | 7.4%                       | 6.9%                      |
| % 65+ with depression   |                                      | 10.9%                      | 12.9%                     |
| % 65+ with schizophrenia & other psychotic disorder           |                                      | 0.8%                       | 0.7%                      |
| <b>LIVING WITH DISABILITY</b>                                 |                                      |                            |                           |
| % 65+ with self-reported hearing difficulty                   |                                      | 23.0%                      | 18.6%                     |
| % 65+ with self-reported vision difficulty                    |                                      | 7.7%                       | 6.1%                      |
| % 65+ with self-reported cognition difficulty                 |                                      | 4.7%                       | 6.5%                      |
| % 65+ with self-reported ambulatory difficulty                |                                      | 20.0%                      | 19.2%                     |
| % 65+ with self-reported self-care difficulty                 |                                      | 2.4%                       | 4.8%                      |
| % 65+ with self-reported independent living difficulty        |                                      | 12.5%                      | 9.4%                      |
| <b>CAREGIVING</b>   |                                      |                            |                           |
| % of grandparents raising grandchildren                       |                                      | 1.0%                       | 1.2%                      |
| % of grandparents who live with grandchildren                 |                                      | 2.5%                       | 2.5%                      |
| <b>ACCESS TO CARE</b>   |                                      |                            |                           |
| % 60+ with a regular doctor                                   |                                      | 89.9%                      | 85.7%                     |
| % 60+ who did not see a doctor when needed due to cost        |                                      | 7.2%                       | 6.4%                      |
| # of primary care providers in county                         |                                      | 41                         | 1,460                     |
| # of hospitals in county                                      |                                      | 1                          | 29                        |
| # of home health agencies in county                           |                                      | 0                          | 31                        |
| # of nursing homes in county                                  |                                      | 1                          | 35                        |
| # of community health centers in county                       |                                      | 0                          | 18                        |
| # of adult day health centers in county                       |                                      | 0                          | 10                        |
| # of hospice agencies in county                               |                                      | 0                          | 18                        |

| <b>HEALTHY AGING INDICATORS</b>                                  | <b>BETTER / WORSE<br/>STATE RATE</b> | <b>COUNTY<br/>ESTIMATE</b> | <b>STATE<br/>ESTIMATE</b> |
|--|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>COMMUNITY</b>   |                                      |                            |                           |
| Particulate matter PM2.5   |                                      | 4.37                       | N/A                       |
| Ozone  |                                      | 0.047                      | N/A                       |
| Air pollution: annual # of unhealthy days for 65+                |                                      | 4                          | N/A                       |
| Age-friendly efforts in county                                   |                                      | Not yet                    | Not yet                   |
| # of senior centers in county                                    |                                      | 2                          | 46                        |
| % 60+ who used Internet in last month                            |                                      | 69.3%                      | 73.0%                     |
| % households that have smartphone (all ages)                     |                                      | 5.8%                       | 7.2%                      |
| % households without computer (all ages)                         |                                      | 6.8%                       | 6.9%                      |
| % households with access to Broadband (all ages)                 |                                      | 80.3%                      | 85.9%                     |
| % households without access to Internet (all ages)               |                                      | 19.4%                      | 13.8%                     |
| Voter participation rate in 2020 presidential election (age 18+) |                                      | 67.5%                      | 62.7%                     |
| <b>SAFETY &amp; CRIME</b>  |                                      |                            |                           |
| Homicide rate/100,000 persons                                    |                                      | 0.0                        | 3.7                       |
| # firearm fatalities (all ages)                                  |                                      | 19                         | 625                       |
| # 60+ deaths by suicide  |                                      | 0                          | 221                       |
| <b>TRANSPORTATION</b>  |                                      |                            |                           |
| % 65+ who own a motor vehicle                                    |                                      | 98.4%                      | 94.6%                     |
| % 60+ who always drive or ride wearing a seatbelt                |                                      | 74.8%                      | 78.7%                     |
| # of fatal crashes involving adult age 60+                       |                                      | 3                          | 146                       |
| <b>HOUSING</b>   |                                      |                            |                           |
| % 65+ population who live alone                                  |                                      | 35.2%                      | 28.1%                     |
| Average household size (all ages)                                |                                      | 2.5                        | 2.4                       |
| Median house value   |                                      | \$224,900                  | \$228,000                 |
| % 60+ who own home   |                                      | 79.3%                      | 83.4%                     |
| % 60+ homeowners who have mortgage                               |                                      | 23.4%                      | 35.8%                     |
| % 65+ households(renter) who spend>35% of income on housing      | *                                    | 7.7%                       | 30.2%                     |
| % 65+ households(owner) who spend>35% of income on housing       |                                      | 9.2%                       | 16.0%                     |
| <b>ECONOMIC</b>  |                                      |                            |                           |
| % 60+ receiving food benefits in last year                       |                                      | 6.2%                       | 3.8%                      |
| % 65+ employed in last year                                      |                                      | 22.3%                      | 20.6%                     |
| % 65+ with income below the poverty line in last year            |                                      | 4.6%                       | 8.0%                      |
| 65+ median household income                                      |                                      | \$37,760                   | \$47,223                  |
| % 65+ households with annual income < \$20,000                   |                                      | 17.8%                      | 18.7%                     |
| % 65+ households with annual income \$20,000-\$49,999            |                                      | 38.6%                      | 33.9%                     |
| % 65+ households with annual income \$50,000-\$99,999            |                                      | 30.6%                      | 29.6%                     |
| % 65+ households with annual income \$100,000+                   |                                      | 12.9%                      | 17.8%                     |

## HEALTHY AGING INDICATORS

| ELDER INDEX: COST OF LIVING                     | RATIO OF COUNTY TO STATE | \$ COUNTY ESTIMATE | \$ STATE ESTIMATE |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Single, homeowner without mortgage, good health | 0.97                     | \$21,216           | \$21,936          |
| Single, renter, good health                     | 0.97                     | \$24,240           | \$25,032          |
| Couple, homeowner without mortgage, good health | 0.98                     | \$33,864           | \$34,680          |
| Couple, renter, good health                     | 0.98                     | \$36,888           | \$37,776          |

### TECHNICAL NOTES

*\*See our technical report for more detailed information on data sources, measures, and methodology. For most indicators the county and state values are estimates derived from sample data. Thus, it is possible that some of the differences between state and county estimates may be due to chance associated with population sampling. We use the terms “Better” and “Worse” to highlight differences between county and state estimates that we are confident are not due to chance. “Better” is used where a higher/lower value has positive implications for the health of older residents. “Worse” is used where a higher/lower score has negative implications for the health of older people, and when the implication is unclear, we use an \*. We balance two goals. First, we aim to report data at very local levels because we believe change is often locally driven. Second, we vowed to protect the privacy of the people providing the information reported. Thus, given the constraints of the data analyzed we used a hierarchical approach to reporting.*

### Data Sources:

- *Population Characteristics: The U.S. Census Bureau (American Community Survey 2016-2020) & Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (2020).*
- *COVID-19: Vaccine data: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC; accessed 2/15/23) & Cases/Deaths: Wyoming Department of Health (WDH; accessed 2/3/23).*
- *Wellness, Falls, Prevention: The Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS; 2011-2020).*
- *Chronic Disease: The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Select Chronic Conditions Database (2018).*
- *Nutrition/Diet, Oral Health: BRFSS (2011-2020) & Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Area Health Resources Files (AHRF; 2022).*
- *Behavioral Health, Mental Health: BRFSS (2011-2020), CMS (2018), & CDC WONDER (2016-2020).*
- *Living with Disability: ACS (2016-2020).*
- *Caregiving: ACS (2016-2020).*
- *Access to Care: BRFSS (2011-2020), CMS (2022), AgingCare (2022), Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA; 2022).*
- *Community: ACS (2016-2020), State of Wyoming (2022), & U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA, 2020).*
- *Safety & Crime: CDC WONDER (2016-2020).*
- *Transportation: ACS (2016-2020), BRFSS (2011-2020), & Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS; 2016-2020).*
- *Housing & Economic: ACS (2016-2020).*
- *Elder Index: Center for Social and Demographic Research on Aging at the University of Massachusetts Boston (2022).*

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