

News from the Wyoming Department of Health

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Wyoming's Favorite Baby Names Announced

According to the Wyoming Department of Health's Vital Statistics Services Program, the number one boys name in Wyoming for the second year in a row is Liam while Sophia topped the state's list for girls.

Wyatt, Carter, Hunter and Mason/Noah followed Liam on the popularity list for boys in 2013. For girls, Sophia was followed by Emma, Harper, Olivia and Paisley.

"When you look at the national list provided by the Social Security Administration, you can see Wyoming shares some common names with the rest of the country," said Jim McBride, Vital Statistics Services Program manager with the Wyoming Department of Health. "We also have a few popular boys and girls names that vary from the national choices." Top names for boys nationally were Noah, Liam, Jacob, Mason and William. Sophia, Emma, Olivia, Isabella and Ava led the girls' list.

"The number of births is up again this year for Wyoming," McBride said. "Our office recorded 7,617 births to Wyoming resident mothers during 2013, which reflects a slight increase from 7,576 in 2012 and 7,339 in 2011.

In Wyoming, the average age of a mom giving birth for the first time has increased from 24 in 2003 to 25 in 2013. The rate of first births for women ages 35-39 has also increased in Wyoming over the last decade from 6.3 per 1,000 women to 7.5 per 1,000 women.

McBride said changing national and state trends show women are giving birth at an older age. "The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention tell us the trends are changing as a result of societal changes and advances in medicine. They also acknowledge implications for increased chances for chromosomal problems and fertility issues," he said.

The Vital Statistics Services Program promotes and protects the health of Wyoming by serving as the official custodian of all vital records in the state and by disseminating health information in support of health and social planning efforts. More Wyoming statistics and information about the program can be found online at http://www.health.wyo.gov/rfhd/vital_records/index.html.