

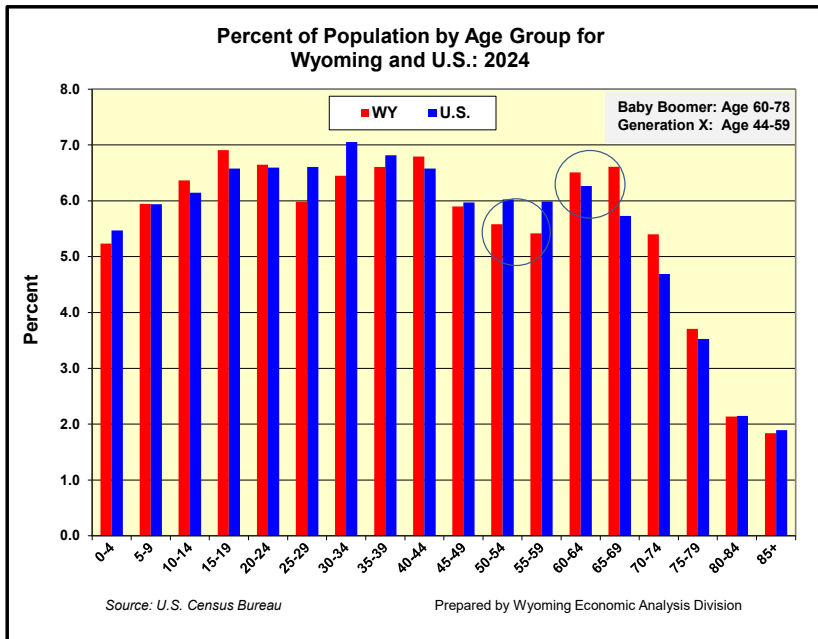
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Wyoming Faces Rapid Population Aging, Outpacing All Other States**

**CHEYENNE** – The elderly population (age 65 and over) in the state grew 3.2 percent between July 2023 and July 2024, according to U.S. Census Bureau estimates. In comparison, Wyoming’s total population only grew 0.4 percent during the year. The median age (half of the population is younger, and the other half older) rose 0.3 to 39.9 years, while it increased from 39.0 to 39.1 in the U.S. from 2023 to 2024. The new data indicate that the aging of Wyoming’s population continued to be speedy, and the pace was the most rapid in the country. “The primary reason was the impact of aging Baby Boomers (born between 1946 and 1964), but the outmigration of young people and a decline in the fertility rate also contributed to the situation,” said Dr. Wenlin Liu, Chief Economist with the State of Wyoming, Economic Analysis Division. Since the initial Baby Boomer cohort reached the age of 65 in 2011, there has been a precipitous increase in the size of the older population. With the quick aging, Wyoming’s median age increased to the 19<sup>th</sup> highest compared to other states in 2024, and eclipsed all neighboring states except Montana.



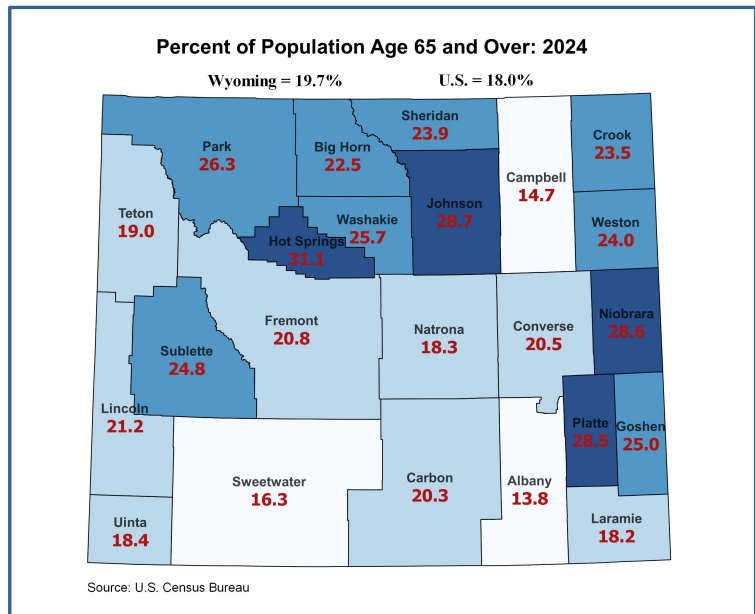
Wyoming has one of the highest proportions of the Baby Boom population (age 60-78 in 2024), and one of the lowest proportion of Generation X (age 44 to 59 in 2024) in the country. For example, the number of residents age 50-59 was 12,500 (or 16.2%) less than the age 60-69 group. “The state has been facing a labor shortage as the number of resident workers is insufficient to fill the positions vacated by retiring Baby Boomers under normal economic circumstances,” Liu commented. Wyoming’s population age 65 and older increased from 99,786 in 2020 to 115,668 in 2024, or 15.9 percent, while the population under age 18 decreased by 4.5 percent during the same period. The share of the State’s elderly population (65 and over) grew to 19.7 percent in 2024, compared to the proportion of 21.8 percent for children. “The population age 65 and older in Wyoming is expected to expand by 10.0 percent from 2024 to 2030, while the number of total residents is projected to increase less than 2.0 percent during that period.”

Wyoming’s total minority population reached 102,298 in July 2024. Minority is defined as any group other than single-race, Non-Hispanic White. The growth of minorities was 8,331 persons, or 8.9 percent between 2020 and 2024, compared with 1.9 percent increase for the State’s total population. In fact, it’s the addition of the minority population that contributed three-fourths of the state’s population growth in recent years. Hispanic was the largest minority group with 65,028 in July 2024, an increase of 10.0 percent from four years ago. The Black or African-American population increased 1.2 percent to 6,028. American Indian grew slightly, while Asian and Two-or-More Races recorded 18.5 percent and 11.4 percent, respectively. The majority, Non-Hispanic White, grew only 0.5 percent since 2020. With 17.4 percent of the State’s total population, the proportion of minorities in Wyoming was

still ranked the 6<sup>th</sup> lowest in the nation, while 42.5 percent of U.S. residents are minorities. “The demographic composition of the United States, including the state of Wyoming, is becoming increasingly diverse with respect to race and ethnicity,” said Dr. Liu.

The U.S. Census Bureau also released 2024 county population estimates by age, sex, race, and Hispanic origin. Here are some highlights:

- The Black or African-American population in Hot Springs County in 2024 was 35.7 percent higher than four years ago. Big Horn and Campbell counties also experienced around 30.0 growth rates during the period.
- The Hispanic population increased the fastest in Crook, at 63.7 percent between 2020 and 2024, followed by Lincoln (31.1%), Hot Springs (30.7%), Niobrara (29.8%), and Weston (29.5%) counties.
- Fremont County had the highest percentage minority population in 2024 at 30.1 percent, which was dominated by the American Indian population. Carbon (24.0%), Laramie (23.0%), Sweetwater (22.0%), and Teton (21.5%) counties followed, where most of the minority population was Hispanic.
- The largest county, Laramie, also had the largest minority population in 2024, including 16,557 Hispanic, 1,961 African-American, 1,389 Asian, and 2,750 Two or More Races. They made up 25.5 percent, 32.5 percent, 20.3 percent, and 23.2 percent of the state’s total Hispanic, Black, Asian, and Two or More Races population, respectively.
- Counties with the smallest proportion of minority population in 2024 were Crook (5.9%), followed by Johnson (9.0%).
- The State’s oldest county was Hot Springs. With a median age of 49.8 years, 31.1 percent of its population was 65 and over in 2024. Other counties with a higher proportion of elderly population (65 and over) were Johnson (28.7%), Niobrara (28.6%), and Platte (28.5%). These counties also tend to have the smallest proportion of children population and their median ages were all higher than 46.0 years.
- The youngest county was Albany, with a median age of 28.9 in 2024, followed by Campbell (37.0), Sweetwater (38.5), and Uinta (38.6). The median age in the state’s two largest counties, Laramie and Natrona, were 38.7 and 39.2 years each.
- Uinta and Campbell counties had the highest percentage of children (under 18 years), at 25.9 percent and 25.8 percent, each, in 2024, followed by Lincoln (24.1%), and Sweetwater (23.9%). The statewide proportion in 2024 was 21.8 percent.
- Albany and Campbell counties had the lowest percentage of population age 65 or older, 13.8 percent and 14.7 percent, each, followed by Sweetwater (16.3%) County.



Complete population figures are available online at <http://eadi.state.wy.us/pop/> or our new website at <https://ai.wyo.gov/divisions/economic-analysis/demographic-information/estimates>