



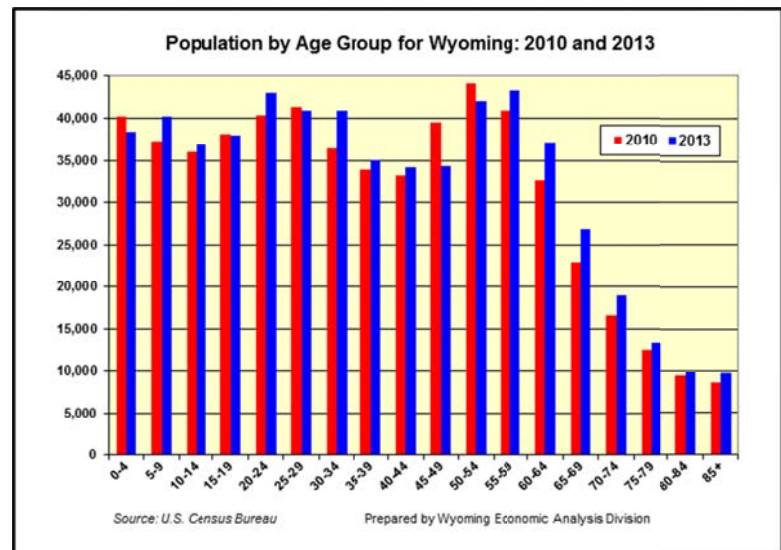
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The Changing Face of Wyoming's Population

CHEYENNE -- Wyoming's total minority population reached 92,598 in July 2013, according to estimates just released by the U.S. Census Bureau. Minority is defined as any group other than single-race, Non-Hispanic White. The growth of minorities since 2010 was 13,444 persons, or 17.0 percent, compared with 3.4 percent overall increase for the State's total population. In addition, the minority population contributed over two-thirds of the state's population growth from 2010 to 2013. Hispanic was the largest minority group with 56,363 in July 2013, and it increased 12.2 percent during the three-year span. The Black or African American population more than doubled during the period to 9,182. Other minority races, such as Asian and Pacific Islanders, and two-or-races also recorded at least 15 percent or higher growth, while the majority, Non-Hispanic White, increased only 1.2 percent. With 15.9 percent of the State's total population, the proportion of minorities in Wyoming was still ranked the 9th lowest in the nation, while 37.4 percent of U.S. residents are minorities. "Both the nation and Wyoming's population continues to grow in diversity," said Dr. Wenlin Liu, principal economist.

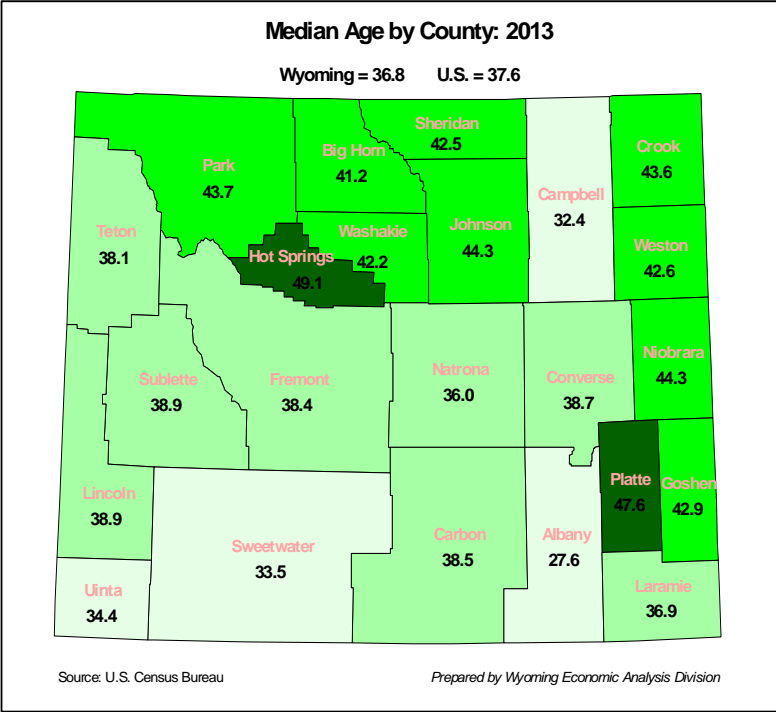


The U.S. Census Bureau also released the estimation of the 2013 population by age and sex. "The figures indicate that the aging trend of Wyoming's population has been slower than the U.S. average," said Dr. Liu. The median age (half of the population younger, and half older) kept at 36.8 between 2010 and 2013, while it increased from 37.2 in 2010 to 37.6 in 2013 for the U.S. Particularly, the State's median age has been declining since 2011. "This is not a surprise because Wyoming's recovery in the energy and construction industries in recent years has been drawing younger workers into the State. It has also kept many of Wyoming's youth from leaving the State due to the declining unemployment rate," said Liu. "Movers tend to be much younger than non-movers, and this is particularly true for Wyoming. Whenever the State experiences an overall positive net migration (more people moved into Wyoming than moving out), the population aging will be lessened." Total net in-migration was about 9,000 between July 2011 and July 2013.

The population under 18 years has increased 1.7 percent during the three year period. The growth was particularly significant for elementary age children. Many of them are baby boomers' grandchildren. However, Wyoming's aging could speed up in the coming years. The proportion of the State's elderly population (65 and over) was 13.5 percent in 2013, still lower than the U.S. level of 14.1 percent, but it grew faster than the national rate. "Wyoming has one of the highest proportions of the early baby boom population, and one of the lowest Generation X (age 35 to 49 in 2013) proportion in the country. Together with moderate employment growth, and the rural nature of the State, Wyoming may face a labor force shortage and a faster population aging in the future," Liu said. Wyoming's population age 65 and older increased from 70,090 in 2010 to 78,689 in 2013, or 12.3 percent, higher than the U.S.' growth rate of 10.9 percent during the same period. The age 65 and over population in Wyoming is projected to reach 137,400, or over one-fifth of the state's total residents by 2030 when all baby boomers will be in this age group.

The U.S. Census Bureau also released 2013 county population estimates by age, sex, race, and Hispanic origin. The data shows the following highlights:

- The Black or African American population nearly doubled in Teton County from 2012 to 2013. Big Horn, Park, Platte, Uinta, and Washakie counties also experienced growth rates of over 50.0 percent, each, during the year.
- The Hispanic population increased the fastest in Niobrara County, at 27.1 percent between 2012 and 2013, followed by Hot Springs and Crook counties at 22.4 and 12.1, respectively.
- Fremont County had the highest percentage minority population in 2013 at 29.5 percent, dominated by the Native American, followed by Carbon (21.8%), Laramie (21.2%), Sweetwater (20.4%), and Teton (19.3%) counties where the vast majority of the minority population was Hispanic.
- The largest county, Laramie, also had the largest number of Hispanics (13,491), Black (3,052), and Asian (1,102) in 2013. They comprise of 23.9 percent, 33.2 percent, and 21.6 percent of the state’s total Hispanic, Black, and Asian population, respectively.
- Statewide, the proportion of minority population increased from 14.0 percent in 2010 to 15.9 percent in 2013, while the percentage of Hispanic population grew from 8.9 percent to 9.7 percent during the same period.
- Counties with the smallest proportion of minority population in 2013 were Crook (6.2%), Niobrara (7.0%), Lincoln (7.6%), and Weston (7.8%).
- The State’s oldest county was Hot Springs, with median age of 49.1, with 23.0 percent of its population age 65 and older, and 3.0 percent of population age 85 and over in 2013. Other counties with a higher proportion of elderly population (65 and over) were Platte (21.9%), Niobrara (20.3%), Johnson (20.2%), Goshen (19.7%), Park (19.2%), and Washakie (19.2%). These counties tend to have the smallest proportion of children population and their median ages were all higher than 42.0 years.
- The youngest county was Albany, with median age of 27.6 in 2013, followed by Campbell (32.4), Sweetwater (33.5), and Uinta (34.4). The median age in the state’s two largest counties, Laramie and Natrona, were 36.9 and 36.0.
- Campbell County had the highest percentage of preschool (under 5 years) population (8.2%) in 2013, followed by Sweetwater (7.6%), Uinta (7.6%), and Fremont (7.5%) counties.
- Campbell County had the lowest percentage of population age 65 or older, at 6.7 percent, followed by Sweetwater (9.0%), Albany (9.5%), and Uinta (10.0%) counties.



Complete population figures are available online at <http://eadiv.state.wy.us/> or the U.S. Census Bureau’s website at <http://www.census.gov/>.