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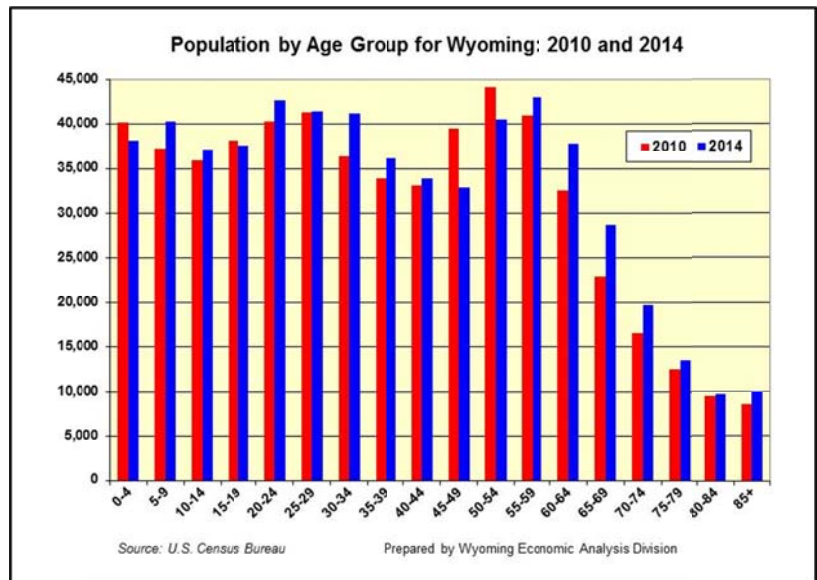
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, June 26, 2015

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The Changing Face of Wyoming Residents

CHEYENNE -- Wyoming's total minority population reached 92,865 in July 2014, 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 13,711 persons, or 17.3 percent, compared with 3.6 percent increase for the State's total population. This addition in the minority population contributed over two-thirds of the state's population growth from 2010 to 2014. Hispanic was the largest minority group with 57,065 in July 2014, and it increased 13.6 percent during the four-year span. The Black or African American population nearly doubled during the period to 8,098. Other minority races, such as Asian and Pacific Islanders, and two-or-more races also recorded at least 17 percent or higher growth, while the majority, Non-Hispanic White, increased only 1.4 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 37.9 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 2014 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 2014, while it increased from 37.2 to 37.7 during the same period for the U.S. "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 residents moving out), the population aging will be lessened." Total net in-migration was about 7,200 between April 2010 and July 2014.

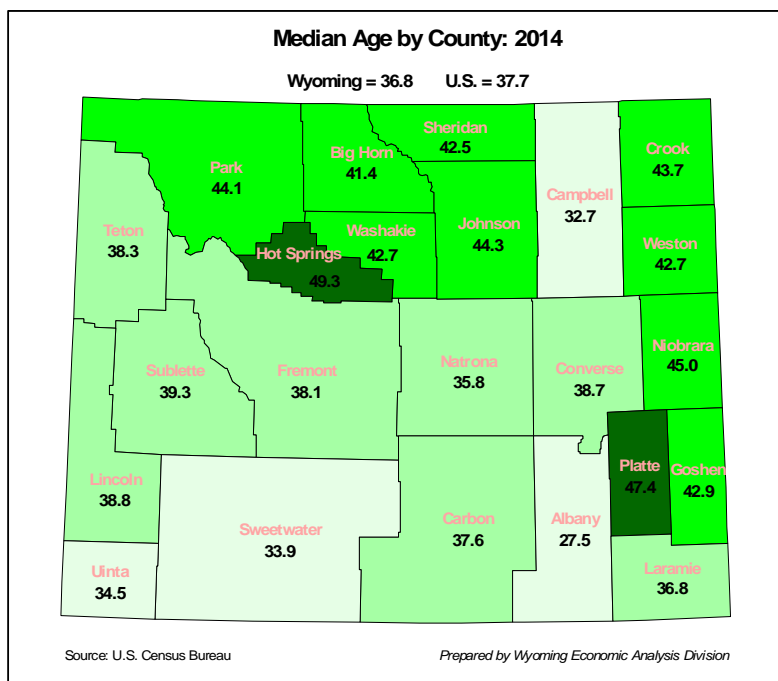
The population under 18 years has increased 2.2 percent during the four year period. The growth was particularly significant for elementary age children. Many of them are baby boomers' grandchildren. However, Wyoming's aging could speed up in the coming years. The proportion of the State's elderly population (65 and over) was 14.0 percent in 2014, still lower than the U.S. level of 14.5 percent, but it grew faster than the national rate. "Wyoming has one of the highest proportions of the baby boom population (age 50 to 68 in 2014), and one of the lowest Generation X (age 34 to 49 in 2014) 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 81,641 in 2014, or 16.5 percent, higher than the U.S.' growth rate of 14.8 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.

With 51.0 percent male population, Wyoming is one of 10 states where majority of the population was male in 2014. The U.S. average was 49.2 percent. Only Alaska (52.6%) and North Dakota (51.3%) had male percentages that were higher than

Wyoming, while District of Columbia had the lowest percentage (47.4%). “Higher proportion of mineral extraction activities in their economies for these states was the main factor that contributes to the higher male population,” Liu commented. For example, 87.6 percent of jobs in mineral extraction industry in Wyoming were occupied by male workers in the second quarter of 2014.

The U.S. Census Bureau also released 2014 county population estimates by age, sex, race, and Hispanic origin. The data shows the following highlights:

- The Black or African American population in Teton County in 2014 was seven times as much as in 2010. Park, Niobrara, Johnson, Lincoln, and Crook counties also experienced growth rates of over 300.0 percent, each, during the four year period.
- The Hispanic population increased the fastest in Hot Springs County, at 83.8 percent between 2010 and 2014, followed by Johnson and Weston counties at 48.6 and 41.2 percent, respectively.
- Fremont County had the highest percentage minority population in 2014 at 29.7 percent, dominated by the Native American, followed by Carbon (21.9%), Laramie (21.3%), Sweetwater (20.3%), and Teton (19.1%) counties where the vast majority of the minority population was Hispanic.
- The largest county, Laramie, also had the largest minority population in 2014, including 13,745 Hispanic, 2,947 Black, 1,095 Asian, and 1,962 Two or More Races. They comprise of 24.1 percent, 36.4 percent, 20.3 percent, and 20.8 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 2014 were Crook (5.9%), Niobrara (7.3%), and Lincoln (7.4%).
- The State’s oldest county was Hot Springs, with median age of 49.3, with 23.6 percent of its population age 65 and older, and 3.0 percent of population age 85 and over in 2014. Other counties with a higher proportion of elderly population (65 and over) were Platte (22.7%), Niobrara (21.2%), Johnson (20.6%), Goshen (20.5%), Park (20.1%), and Washakie (20.1%). These counties tend to have the smallest proportion of children population and their median ages were all higher than 42.5 years.
- The youngest county was Albany, with median age of 27.5 in 2014, followed by Campbell (32.7), Sweetwater (33.9), and Uinta (34.5). The median age in the state’s two largest counties, Laramie and Natrona, were 36.8 and 35.8, respectively.
- Campbell County had the highest percentage of preschool (under 5 years) population (8.0%) in 2014, followed by Uinta (7.6%), Fremont (7.5%), and Sweetwater (7.3%) counties. The proportion was 6.5 percent Statewide in 2014.



- Campbell County had the lowest percentage of population age 65 or older, at 7.1 percent, followed by Sweetwater (9.5%), Albany (9.8%), and Uinta (11.0%) counties.

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