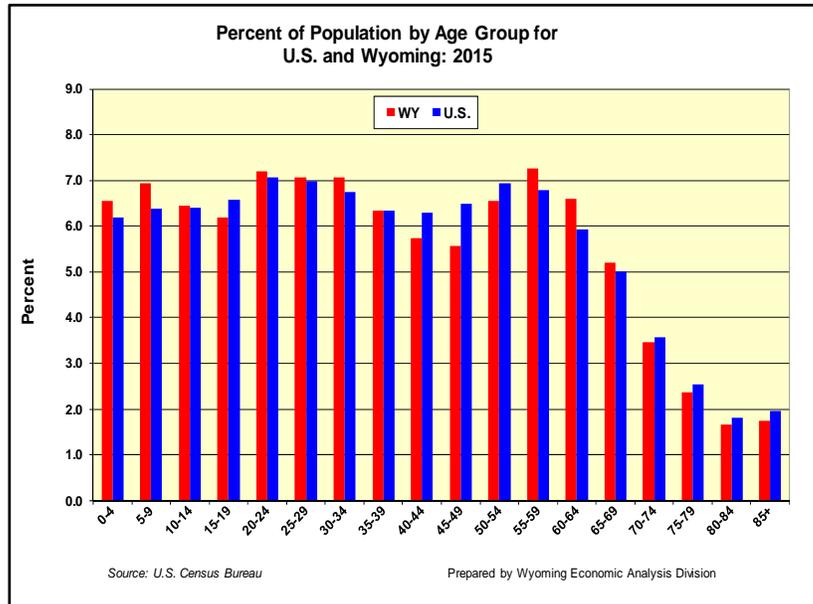




**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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### Wyoming's 65-And-Older Population Grew Rapidly

**CHEYENNE** -- Wyoming's total minority population reached 93,913 in July 2015, 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 14,747 persons, or 18.6 percent, compared with 4.0 percent increase for the State's total population. This addition in the minority population contributed nearly two-thirds of the state's population growth from 2010 to 2015. Hispanic was the largest minority group with 58,207 in July 2015, and it increased 15.9 percent during the five-year span. The Black or African-American population grew 65.8 percent during the period to 7,279. Other minority races, such as Asian and Pacific Islanders, and two-or-more races also recorded at least 23 percent or higher growth, while the majority, Non-Hispanic White, increased only 1.6 percent. With 16.0 percent of the State's total population, the proportion of minorities in Wyoming was still ranked the 9<sup>th</sup> lowest in the nation, while 38.4 percent of U.S. residents are minorities. "Both the nation and Wyoming's population continue to grow in diversity," said Dr. Wenlin Liu, chief economist.



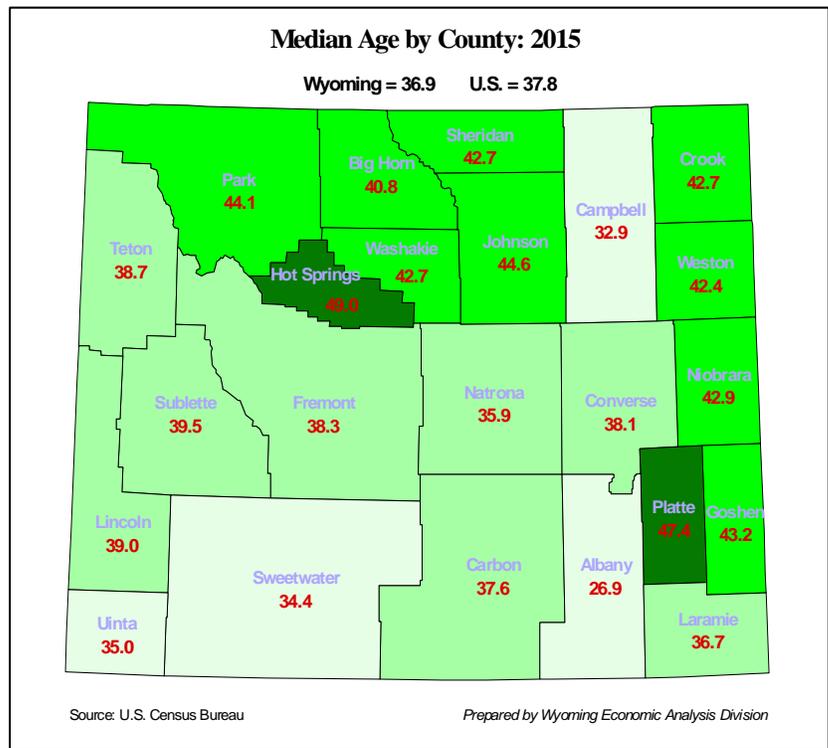
The U.S. Census Bureau also released the estimation of the 2015 population by age and sex. "The figures indicate that the aging pace of Wyoming's population has picked up and was faster than the U.S. average," said Dr. Liu. The median age (half of the population younger, and half older) rose 0.2 to 36.9 between 2014 and 2015, while it increased from 37.7 to 37.8 during the same period for the U.S. "This is not a surprise because Wyoming's downturn in the energy industry during the year resulted in thousands of layoffs and a reduction in employment. Consequently, some younger workers may have left the State, and an increasing unemployment rate also discouraged people from moving into Wyoming," said Liu. "Movers tend to be much younger than non-movers, and this is particularly true for Wyoming. Whenever the State experiences overall negative net migration (less people moved into Wyoming than residents moving out), the population aging will be faster." Total net migration was about -1,200 between July 2014 and July 2015. However, Wyoming was still ranked as the 14<sup>th</sup> youngest state in the nation in 2015.

The population under 18 years increased 2.6 percent during the five year period. The growth was particularly significant for elementary age children. Many of them are baby boomers' grandchildren. However, Wyoming's aging could continue to speed up in the coming years. The proportion of the State's elderly population (65 and over) was 14.5 percent in 2015, still lower than the U.S. level of 14.9 percent, but this cohort grew faster than that of the U.S. "Wyoming has one of the highest proportions of the baby boom population (age 51 to 69 in 2015), and one of the lowest Generation X (age 35 to 50 in 2015) proportion in the country. Together with moderate employment growth, and the rural nature of the State, Wyoming may face a labor force shortage in certain fields and faster population aging in the future," Liu said. Wyoming's population age 65 and older increased from 70,090 in 2010 to 84,699 in 2015, or 20.8 percent, higher than the U.S.' growth rate of 18.6 percent during the same period. The age 65 and over population in Wyoming is projected to reach 138,100, 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 2015. The U.S. average was 49.2 percent. Only Alaska (52.7%) and North Dakota (51.4%) had male percentages that were higher than Wyoming, while District of Columbia had the lowest percentage (47.4%). “Higher percentage of mineral extraction in their economies for these states was the main factor that contributes to the higher male population,” Liu commented. For example, 87.3 percent of jobs in mineral extraction industry in Wyoming were occupied by male workers in the third quarter of 2014.

The U.S. Census Bureau also released 2015 county population estimates by age, sex, race, and Hispanic origin. Here are some highlights:

- The Black or African American population in Park County in 2015 was five times as much as in 2010. Niobrara, Johnson, and Teton counties also experienced growth rates of over 300.0 percent, each, during the five year period.
- The Hispanic population increased the fastest in Hot Springs County, at 101.1 percent between 2010 and 2015, followed by Johnson and Niobrara counties at 48.9 and 44.2 percent, respectively.
- Fremont County had the highest percentage minority population in 2015 at 29.8 percent, dominated by the Native American, followed by Carbon (22.3%), Laramie (21.4%), and Sweetwater (20.3%) counties where most of the minority population was Hispanic.
- The largest county, Laramie, also had the largest minority population in 2015, including 14,087 Hispanic, 2,680 African American, 1,145 Asian, and 2,068 Two or More Races. They comprise 24.2 percent, 36.8 percent, 20.3 percent, and 20.9 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 2015 were Crook (6.1%), Lincoln (7.6%), and Niobrara (7.9%).
- The State’s oldest county was Hot Springs, with median age of 49.0, with 24.3 percent of its population age 65 and older in 2015. Other counties with a higher proportion of elderly population (65 and over) were Platte (23.2%), Johnson (21.5%), Goshen (21.1%), Park (20.7%), Niobrara (20.6%), and Washakie (20.3%). 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 26.9 in 2015, followed by Campbell (32.9), Sweetwater (34.4), and Uinta (35.0). The median age in the state’s two largest counties, Laramie and Natrona, were 36.7 and 35.9, respectively.
- Campbell County had the highest percentage of preschool (under 5 years) population (7.8%) in 2015, followed by Uinta (7.6%), Fremont (7.4%), and Sweetwater (7.2%) counties. The proportion was 6.6 percent Statewide in 2015.
- Campbell County had the lowest percentage of population age 65 or older, at 7.5 percent, followed by Sweetwater (10.0%), Albany (10.2%), and Uinta (11.7%) 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/>.