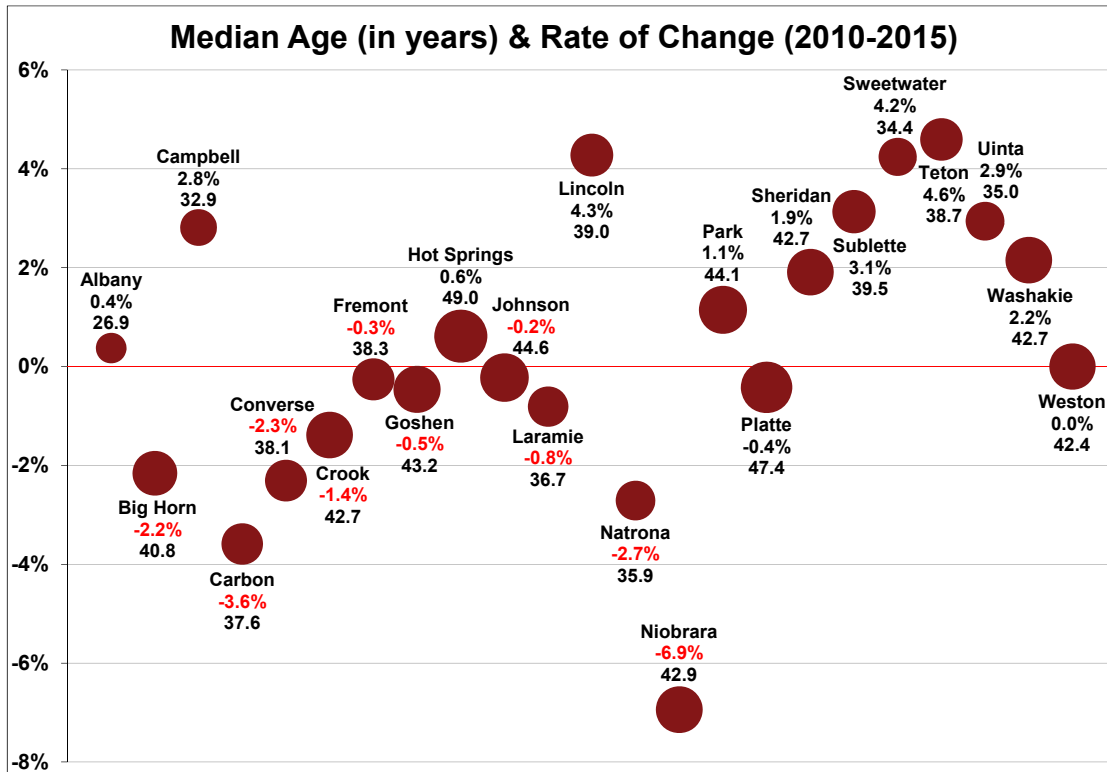


Community Builders, Inc. (CBI) is a Wyoming-based consulting firm that specializes in the development of businesses, organizations, and communities. Each monthly *CBI Focus* newsletter provides current economic data and analytical graphs for one of Wyoming's 23 counties (plus one covering the entire state). The *CBI Focus* newsletter archive, source notes, and data explanations are online at www.consultCBI.com. CBI principal consultants are Bobbe Fitzhugh and Joe Coyne. Contact CBI at 873 Esterbrook Road, Douglas, WY 82633; email Joe@consultCBI.com; or call (307) 359-1640. © 2016 Community Builders, Inc.



Median Age

The United States is an aging country. People are living longer, and the sheer size of largest American generation ever (i.e., the “Boomer” generation, those born from 1946-1964) is increasing the median age as that generation grows older. The median age is determined by the Census Bureau each year, representing the age at which half of the population is younger and half is older.



Until recently, Wyoming has followed the national demographic trend, growing older each year. However, during the last few years, Wyoming’s median age (now 36.9 years) has stabilized. Net migration (i.e., people moving into and out of Wyoming) is a big reason that the aging rate has slowed down. Many of the people moving into Wyoming are young workers; and many residents who move out are retirement age. Additionally, some counties are consistently experiencing birth rates that are much higher than the local death rate, which also reduces the local Median Age.

The chart on this page shows whether each county’s Median Age has gotten younger or older from 2010 to 2015. Thus, Albany County currently has a Median Age of 26.9 years, which is 0.4% older than it was in 2010. The size of each county’s bubble on this chart illustrates its relative Median Age. Albany County is the youngest, and so it has the smallest bubble, while Hot Springs County is the oldest (49.0 years), so it has the largest bubble.

Lincoln (4.3%), Sublette (3.1%), Sweetwater (4.2%), Teton (4.6%), and Uinta (2.9%) County have each experienced a significant increase of their Median Age from 2010 to 2015, adding one year or more to the median age.



Community Builders, Inc. (CBI) can provide you with much deeper analysis of the topics presented in this newsletter, and many others as well. We have 60+ years of experience with community and economic development. CBI provides business plans, feasibility studies, grant writing, strategic planning, facilitation, training, and other consulting services.

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Similarly, several counties each have a significantly lower Median Age than they did in 2010. Niobrara County’s Median Age has dropped from 46.1 years to 42.9 years (-6.9%). Carbon County (-3.6%) and Natrona County (-2.7%) have also lowered their 2010 Median Age by more than one year.

Hot Springs County has the highest Median Age in Wyoming (49.0 years, up from 48.7 in 2010). Platte County (47.4 years) and Johnson County (44.6 years) follow. Hot Springs, Niobrara, and Platte Counties are the only counties where the number of deaths exceeded the number of births from 2010 to 2015 (although the populations in Platte and Niobrara Counties have actually grown during that time, via in-migration).

In contrast, Sublette and Uinta Counties are examples of the aging impact felt when young workers leave the area. Both of these counties have strong natural growth rates (i.e., births vs. deaths), and yet both have smaller populations now than they did in 2010, due to out-migration.

