

Population Dynamics

Factors That Affect Population Growth

Limiting Factor: A factor that limits the growth of a population

Density-Dependent Factor: A factor that is influenced by population density, having a greater impact as the population density increases

Density-Independent Factor: A factor that influences population regulation, regardless of population density

Competition: An interaction in which both competing populations lose access to some resources

Interspecific Competition: Competition between members of the same population for resources

Intraspecific Competition: Competition between members of different species

Allee Effect: A density-dependent phenomenon that occurs when a population cannot survive or fails to reproduce enough to offset mortality once the population density is too low

Minimum Viable Population Size: The smallest population size that is likely to survive both predictable and unpredictable environmental variation; note that it is only a prediction