**Ch. 13 Population and the Environment**

**Population**

[**Demography: The Study of Population**](https://image.slideserve.com/1467894/demography-the-study-of-population-l.jpg) •

\* **Fertility**: level of reproduction in a society

☆• **Demography**: scientific study of population Sociologists focus on the social factors that influence population rates and trends.

 • **Malthus’s Thesis and Marx’s Response**

☆• **Malthus**: world’s population growing more rapidly than the available food supply .

• **Marx**: there is no special relationship between world population and the supply of resources. Neo-Malthusian View stresses birth control and sensible use of resources.

☆• **Census**: enumeration, or counting of a population.

• Vital statistics: where records of births, deaths, marriages, and divorces gathered  through a registration system maintained by government.

**Elements of Demography:**

**•** **Birth rate:** number of live births per 1,000 population in a given year

• **Total fertility rate:** average number of children born alive to any woman, assuming she conforms to current fertility rates

• **Death rate:** number of deaths per 1,000 population in a given year.

• **Infant mortality rate**: number of deaths of infants under one year of age per 1,000 live births in a given year

• **Life expectancy:** median number of years a person can be expected to live under current mortality conditions

• **Growth rate: d**ifference between birth and deaths, plus the difference between immigrants and emigrants.

**World Population Patterns**  
Demographic Transition : Changes in birthrates and death rates that occur during a nation’s development, resulting in new patterns of vital statistics. **demographic transition** is a phenomenon and theory which refers to the historical shift from high [birth rates](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Birth_rate) and high [infant death rates](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Infant_mortality) in societies with minimal technology, education (especially of women) and economic development, to low birth rates and low death rates in societies with advanced technology, education and economic development, as well as the stages between these two scenarios. Although this shift has occurred in many [industrialized countries](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Developed_country), the theory and model are frequently imprecise when applied to individual countries due to specific social, political and economic factors affecting particular populations.

Pattern varies from nation to nation.

**Stage One** : In pre-industrial society, death rates and birth rates were both high, and fluctuated rapidly according to natural events, such as drought and disease, to produce a relatively constant and young population.

**Stage Two** : This stage leads to a fall in death rates and an increase in population.

**Stage Three** of the Demographic Transition Model (DTM), death rates are low and birth rates diminish, as a rule accordingly of enhanced economic conditions, an expansion in women's status and education, and access to contraception.

**The Population Explosion**  
“Population bomb”—the momentum toward a growing world population is well established.

**Population pyramid:** special type of bar chart that shows the distribution of population by gender and age. Illustrates population structure of a society.

**Migration**: the relatively permanent movement of people, with the purpose of changing their place of residence. Results from a variety of push factors for example : Economics; Bigotry ; Dislike of political regime; Desire to reunite one’s family.

**International Migration:** Changes of residence across national boundaries. Significant force in redistribution of world’s population in certain periods.

**Internal Migration** : Migratory movements within a society vary.

Traditional society: seeking fertile soil, wild game.

Industrial society: job transfers, preferable climate.

[**Social Policy and Population**](https://image.slideserve.com/1467894/social-policy-and-population-l.jpg)

• World population growth threatens earth’s ability to sustain it.

• Social policies that address population growth touch on the most sensitive aspects of people’s lives.

• Reaching global consensus on population issues difficult.

• Family planning still sparse in poverty-stricken rural areas the world over.

**Sociological Insights**

**•** **Functionalists** note best course of action may differ between community and society

• **Feminist** critics remark that population workers may ignore sociocultural influences

• **Conflict** theorists question why industrialized nations are enthusiastic about controlling the population of developing countries.

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[**The Environment**](https://image.slideserve.com/1467894/the-environment-l.jpg)

Environment people live in has noticeable effect on their health. Increases in population, together with economic development, have serious environmental consequences.

☆\* **Human ecology**: interrelationships between people and their spatial settings and physical environments. Stresses trade-offs inherent in every decision that alters the environment .

☆[**The Environment**](https://image.slideserve.com/1467894/the-environment1-l.jpg)

☆ **• Provides the resources essential for life**

**☆• Serves as a waste repository**

**☆• Houses our species**

**☆The environment provides the resources essential for life: these include air water and materials used to create shelter, transportation and needed products ; serves as a waste repository: humans produce a huge quantity and variety of waste products ; houses our species: it is our home, living space, place where we reside ,work, and play .**

* Polluting companies may relocate to countries with less stringent environmental standards;
* Industrialization that often accompanies globalization has increased pollution;
* Multinational Corporations have incentive to consider cost of natural resources .
* Less affluent nations are being forced to exploit their mineral deposits, forests, and fisheries to meet debt obligations.
* Environmental Justice. Poor people and people of color more likely to be victimized by everyday consequences of built environment.
* Legal strategy based on claims that racial minorities are subjected disproportionately to environmental hazards

**Conflict Perspective :** Growing share of human and natural resources of developing countries redistributed to core industrialized nations. Industrialized nations of North America and Europe account for 12% of population but responsible for 60% of worldwide consumption.

**Ecological modernization:** focus on alignment of environmentally favorable practices with economic self-interest through constant adaptation and restructuring .

**Macro level:** reintegrating industrial waste back into the production process.

**Micro level**: reshaping individual lifestyles.

**☆\*Air Pollution** : More than 1 billion worldwide exposed to potentially health-damaging airPeople willing to change behavior for short periods, but not long-term.

**☆\*Water Pollution :** Dumping has made many bodies of water unsafe for drinking, fishing, swimming. Basic water supply a problem in many countries.

**\*Climate Change** : an observable alteration of the global atmosphere that affects natural weather patterns over several decades or longer.

\***Global warming**: significant rise in earth’s surface temperatures that occurs when industrial gases like carbon dioxide turn planet’s atmosphere into virtual greenhouse. Kyoto Protocol; U.S. not a signatory.

**The Impact of Globalization**  
Globalization can be good and bad.

Industrialization increased pollution. Allows multinationals to reap resources of developing countries for short-term profit. Multinational corporations have incentive to carefully consider cost of natural resources.

**Environmental refugees:** people who have been displaced by rising seas, destructive storms, expanding deserts, water shortages, and high levels of toxic pollutants.

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**THE END**