

The Human Population and Its Impact

Michael Brodskiy

Instructor: Mrs. Stansbury

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1. As of January 2020, the population is 7.8 billion
2. As the human population grows, so does the global total human ecological footprint
3. Cultural Carrying Capacity — Total number of people who could live in reasonable freedom and comfort indefinitely, without decreasing the ability of the Earth to sustain future generations
4. Fertility Rate — Number of children born to a woman during her lifetime
5. Replacement-Level Fertility — Average number of children a couple must produce to replace themselves
 - Approximately 2.1 in developed countries
 - up to 2.5 in developing countries
6. Total Fertility Rate (TFR) — Average number of children born to women in a population
 - Between 1955 and 2012, the global TFR dropped from 5 to 2.4
 - To eventually halt population growth, the global TFR will have to drop to 2.1
7. Several Factors Affect Birth Rates and Fertility Rates:
 - Children as part of the labor force
 - Cost of raising and educating children
 - Availability of private and public pension
 - Urbanization
 - Educational and employment opportunities for women
 - Average age of a woman at marriage
 - Availability of legal abortions

- Availability of reliable birth control methods
 - Religious beliefs, traditions, and cultural norms
8. Life Expectancy — Average length of life
 9. Infant Mortality Rate — Number of live births that die in the first year
 10. High infant mortality rate indicates:
 - Insufficient food
 - Poor nutrition
 - High incidence of infectious disease
 11. Migration — The movement of people into and out of specific geographic areas
 - Causes:
 - Economic improvement
 - Religious and political freedom
 - Wars
 12. Age structure categories
 - Prereproductive Ages (0-14)
 - Reproductive Ages (15-44)
 - Postreproductive Ages (45 and older)
 13. Seniors are the fastest-growing age group
 14. Demographic Transition — As countries become more industrialized:
 - First death rates decline
 - Then birth rates decline
 15. Four Stages:
 - (a) Preindustrial
 - (b) Transitional
 - (c) Industrial
 - (d) Postindustrial
 16. Factors that decrease total fertility rates:
 - Education
 - Paying jobs
 - Ability to control fertility