

International Brief

World Population at a Glance: 1996 and Beyond



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The 1994 International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in Cairo focused the world's attention on the challenge facing all nations as they seek to integrate population and development policies and programs.

This brief describes trends in population growth and other key demographic indicators over the next quarter century. It summarizes the U.S. Census Bureau's latest estimates and projections of worldwide population, population growth, fertility, life expectancy, and infant mortality. The impact of AIDS mortality, trends in family planning, and the special problem of adolescent fertility also are discussed.

More detailed statistics (including data for each country), implications of demographic trends for the goals of the ICPD, and a special focus on adolescent fertility in developing countries are presented in the U.S. Census Bureau's *World Population Profile: 1996*.

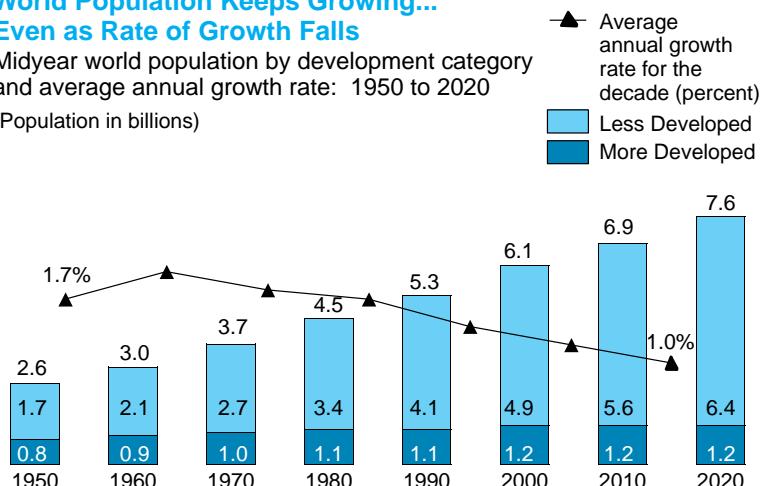
Almost 2 Billion More People in 2020

According to Census Bureau projections, world population will increase from its present level of 5.8 billion persons to almost 6.1 billion in 2000 and 7.6 billion persons by 2020.

This increase will occur despite a slowdown in the rate of growth—from the current annual rate of 1.5 percent to less than 1 percent over the next quarter century.

World Population Keeps Growing... Even as Rate of Growth Falls

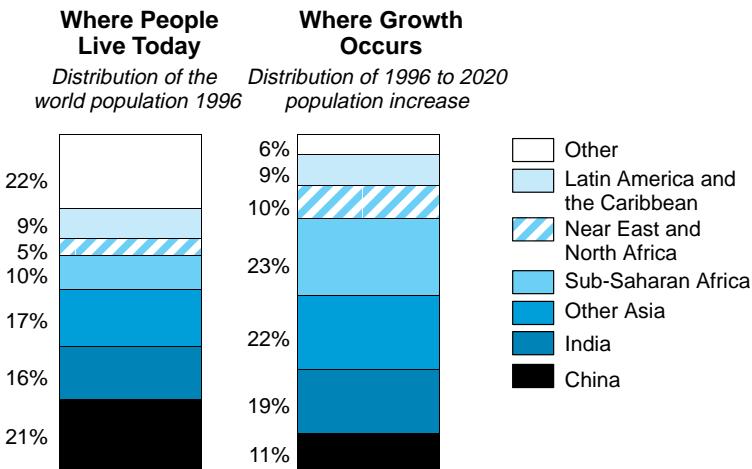
Midyear world population by development category and average annual growth rate: 1950 to 2020
(Population in billions)



Note: Figures for components may not add to total because of rounding.

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1996, *World Population Profile: 1996*, tables A-1 and A-2.

Just Two Countries—India and China—Account for Almost a Third of Population Increase



Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1996, *World Population Profile: 1996*, table A-4.

Developing Countries Account for Nearly All of Population Growth

About 95 percent of the world population increase will occur in today's less developed countries (LDC's), although they comprise about 80 percent of current population. Because of the more rapid growth in LDC's, the share of world population living in the more developed countries (MDC's) of today will fall from 20 percent today to 16 percent in 2020.

Sub-Saharan Africa and the Near East and North Africa are the fastest growing regions—their combined share of world population will increase, rising from 15 percent today to 20 percent in 2020.

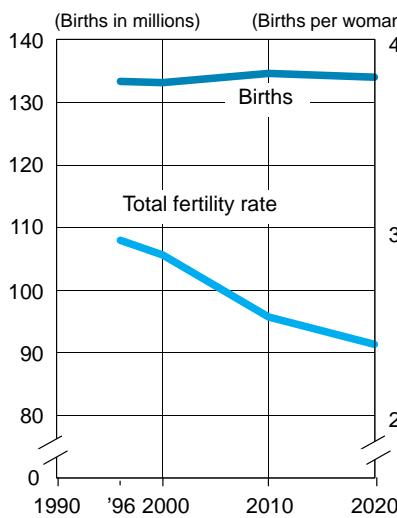
Half the World's Population Lives in Six Countries

China, India, the United States, Indonesia, Brazil, and Russia are the most populous countries in the world today, but shifts in ranks will occur over the coming 25 years as some of today's smaller high-fertility countries overtake currently larger ones. By 2020, Nigeria and Pakistan will have joined the six biggest list while Brazil and Russia will have dropped off. Although India will not overtake China in the next quarter century, it will add more people—337 million compared to China's increase of 207 million.

World Population Grows Even as Births Plateau

The equation of world population growth—births minus deaths equals increase—will result in almost 80 million more people this year. While annual births (133 million in 1996) remain at about the same level over the next 25 years, deaths will continue to rise (54 million in 1996 to 64 million in 2020) as populations age. But total population will continue to increase.

Births Steady Despite Falling Fertility



Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1996, *World Population Profile: 1996*, figure 18.

Over 130 Million Births Annually Despite Falling Fertility

For at least the next quarter century, some 132 to 135 million births will occur annually—even though, on average, women will be having fewer children.

The steady number of births despite lower fertility reflects the growing number of women

of childbearing age (15-49 years), particularly in the developing world.

Just the **increase** (119 million) in the number of women ages 15-49 in Sub-Saharan Africa is almost as large as the total number of women in these ages in the Near East and North Africa in 2020 (123 million).

As a result, the number of births in Sub-Saharan Africa will rise from 25 million in 1996 to 33 million in 2020.

The Gap in Life Expectancy Between More and Less Developed Countries Continues

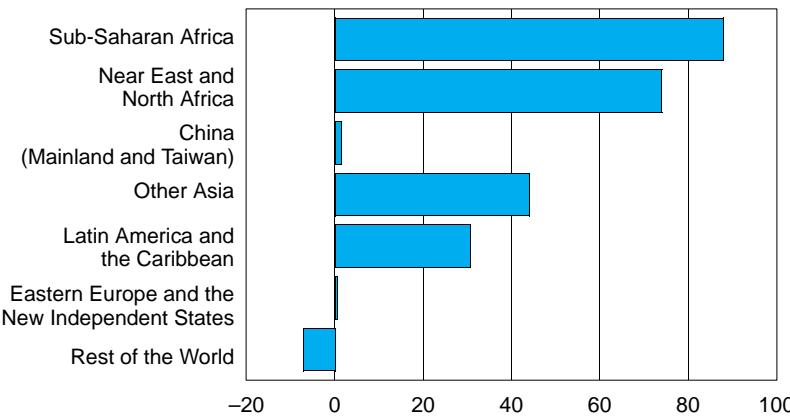
Life expectancy at birth is increasing in almost all countries. However, the gap between the more and less developed countries will probably narrow only slightly by 2020. Life expectancy in LDC's increases by 6 years to 67, while in MDC's it rises by 5 years to 79.

Eight Million Infants to Die This Year

About 15 percent of all deaths worldwide are infant deaths, with the highest proportion prevailing in Sub-Saharan Africa (26 percent of all deaths are infant deaths).

Large Increases in Numbers of Women of Childbearing Age in Most Regions

Percent change from 1996 to 2020 in number of women ages 15 to 49



Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1996, *World Population Profile: 1996*, figure 11.

Life Expectancy and Infant Mortality

	Life expectancy at birth (years)		Infant deaths per 1,000 live births	
	1996	2020	1996	2020
World	62	69	60	34
Less Developed Countries	61	67	66	37
More Developed Countries	74	79	11	6
Sub-Saharan Africa	50	55	95	62
Near East and North Africa	67	75	52	20
China (Mainland and Taiwan)	70	77	39	13
Other Asia	60	69	71	35
Latin America and the Caribbean	68	74	40	19
Eastern Europe and the New Independent States	66	73	39	22
Rest of the World	77	80	7	5

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1996, *World Population Profile: 1996*, tables A-9 and A-10.

Less developed countries, with an average infant mortality rate 6 times that of more developed countries, account for 98 percent of infant deaths in the world.

If present trends continue, the total number of infant deaths worldwide will drop by about half, to 4.5 million, by the year 2020.

Fifty Million Persons Will Die From AIDS From 1996 to 2010...

Population projections of the U.S. Bureau of the Census incorporate the mortality impact of AIDS in 23 less developed countries particularly hard hit by the AIDS pandemic—nearly 2 million additional deaths in 1996, rising to about 4.5 million in 2010. AIDS-related deaths account for about 22 percent of all deaths in these countries in 1996; 38 percent in 2010.

...Slowing but Not Halting Population Growth

Even for the 23 countries most affected by the HIV/AIDS pandemic, the total population will continue to grow, increasing at an average annual rate of 1.8 percent (between 1996 and 2010) rather than 2.3 percent. Even at the slower rate of increase, this is still faster than the rest of the developing world.

The World is Getting Older...

Between now and 2020, the median age—the midpoint that separates the younger half from the older half of the population—of world population will rise 5 years, from 26 to 31.

The elderly (65 and over) are the fastest growing segment of the population—increasing 88 percent by 2020 compared with a 28 percent increase for the rest of the population.

Even in the LDC's, the elderly are the fastest growing age group and will increase from less than 5 percent of the population today to 7.5 percent in 2020.

...and More Urban

Urban population is expected to rise from 46 to 58 percent of total population between 1996 and 2020. The most urbanized major region in the developing world is

Age Structure of World Population

(In percent)

	Children	Working age	Elderly
	0-14	15-64	65+
1996	31	62	7
2020	25	66	9

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1996, *World Population Profile: 1996*, table A-7.

Latin America and the Caribbean (already 75 percent and rising to 83 percent), while Sub-Saharan Africa will increase at the most rapid rate, growing from 31 percent urban today to 48 percent urban by the year 2020.

More Women Everywhere Are Adopting Family Planning...

Trends vary considerably around the world, but contraceptive prevalence—the percentage of married women of reproductive age using some method of contraception—has risen virtually everywhere during the past two decades.

...but Unmet Need for Family Planning is Widespread...

Despite growing contraceptive use, surveys suggest that about 20 percent of married women in LDC's are not using family planning despite a desire to limit or space their births.

This unmet need for family planning is greatest in Sub-Saharan Africa, where it exceeds 20 percent in almost all surveyed countries and is as high as 40 percent in some (Rwanda, Togo).

...Including 12 Million Adolescent Women

From 15 to 48 percent of currently married adolescent women (ages 15 to 19) in each region of the developing world classify themselves as having unmet need for contraception—3 million women in Sub-Saharan Africa, 8 million women in Asia (excluding China and Japan), Near East and North Africa, and 1 million women in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The Challenge of Teenage Pregnancy and Childbearing

The need for special attention to adolescents' reproductive health is recognized in the ICPD Program of Action. Pregnancies among adolescents are high risk—these young women are more likely than older women to suffer pregnancy-

related complications that endanger both their lives and the lives of their babies.

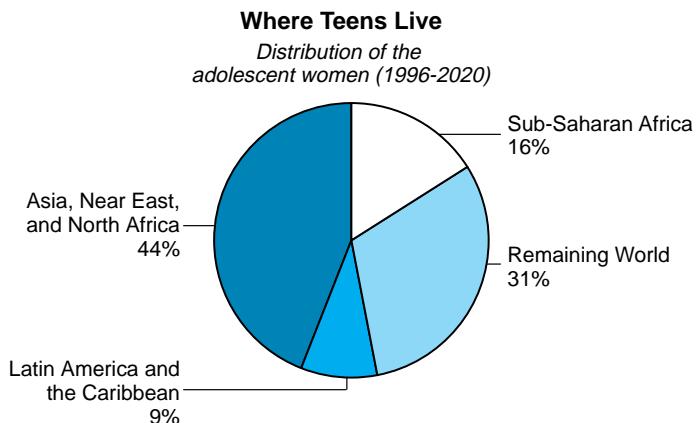
In some less developed countries, maternal mortality rates for women ages 15-19 are more than double those of women in their 20's and early 30's. Infant mortality rates for teenage births are as much as 80 percent higher than those for births to women in their 20's. And infants born to adolescent mothers face greater risks of low birth weight, prematurity, birth injuries, stillbirth, and mortality than do babies born to older women.

Because of their high rates of adolescent fertility, developing countries account for 90 percent of births to teenagers: more than 300 million babies will be born to adolescent women living in Africa, Asia, and Latin America over the next quarter of a century.

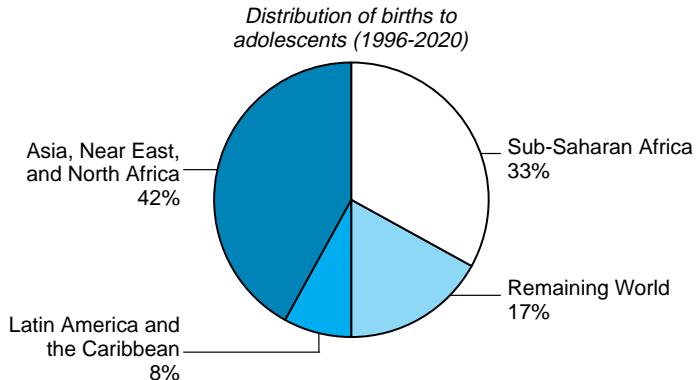
Sub-Saharan African adolescent fertility rates are generally higher than those elsewhere. The regional average rate (138 births per 1,000 women ages 15 to 19) is over twice that of the other developing regions. Many European and other more developed countries have rates under 30 births per 1,000 women, although the adolescent fertility rate in the United States (61) is almost equal to the average rate for the developing world (63).

For reasons of health, as well as the broader societal costs of early childbearing, the reproductive health of teenagers will need special attention as governments formulate their responses to the reproductive health challenges highlighted at the ICPD.

Adolescent Births in Sub-Saharan Africa Are Disproportionately High



Where Their Babies Are Born



Note: Asia, Near East, and North Africa excludes China and Japan.
The Remaining World includes North America, Europe, Japan, Oceania, and China.

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1996, *World Population Profile: 1996*, figures 49 and 50.

More Information

World Population Profile: 1996.
Series WP/96.

Trends in Adolescent Fertility and Contraceptive Use in the Developing World. IPC/95-1.

The International Programs Center (IPC) collects, assesses, and analyzes population and related statistics from all countries. Based on these data, IPC produces the

demographic estimates and projections used in this series of reports. Additional information is available from the International Programs Center, Population Division, Bureau of the Census, Washington, DC 20233-8860 (Internet e-mail: ipc@census.gov).