

US in the WORLD

CONNECTING PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES TO ENSURE A HEALTHY PLANET

United States

Population: 267.7 million
Area: 3,618,770 sq. miles



Largest metropolitan areas in the United States (1996): New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island (N.Y., N.J., Conn., Pa.) (19,938,492), Los Angeles-Riverside-Orange County (Calif.) (15,495,155), Chicago-Gary-Kenosha (Ill., Ind., Wis.) (8,599,774), Washington-Baltimore (D.C., Md., Va., W. Va.) (7,164,519), San Francisco-Oakland-San Jose (Calif.) (6,605,428)

The World

Population: 5,840 million
Area: 51,673,874 sq. miles



Largest urban areas in the world (1995): Tokyo, Japan (27.0 million), Mexico City, Mexico (16.6 million), São Paulo, Brazil (16.5 million), New York, USA (16.3 million), Bombay, India, (15.1 million)

In little over 200 years, the United States has grown from a colonial outpost to a world power. The source and strength of this growth has been people, who come from all over the world. Thousands of immigrants enter daily through New York, California, Florida, Texas, and hundreds of other air and sea ports in pursuit of prosperity, freedom, and opportunity. As a result, the United States has become a microcosm of the world.

The United States population is growing at 0.9 percent annually. Between 1996 and 1997, about 2.5 million people were added to the U.S. population. Natural increase (the excess of births over deaths) accounted for two-thirds (about 1.6 million people) of the growth, and net immigration (the excess of people coming in over people leaving) contributed about one-third (over 800,000 people).

With a rate of natural increase of

0.6 percent, the United States is among the fastest growing of the more developed countries (MDCs), where the average rate of natural increase is barely above zero. By contrast, less developed countries (LDCs), home to four-fifths of the world's population, are growing at 1.8 percent, because rapidly falling death rates result in a greater excess of births over deaths. The world is growing at 1.5 percent annually, with 86 million people being added each year, 98 percent of whom live in LDCs.

Because of the high birth rates in LDCs, their populations are young, as the figure on page five shows, and 35 percent of LDC populations are under age 15. Even though couples today are having fewer children than their parents and grandparents, the high concentration of people in and below childbearing ages will result in continued growth in these countries for several generations.

This population momentum will increase pressure on the world's vital life support systems of air, water, land, and biodiversity. Rapid population growth in less developed countries and high levels of consumption in more developed countries are viewed as major sources of environmental stress.

Population-Environment Challenges

Although air is one of the most essential of all environmental resources, more and more people are faced with the problem of diminishing air quality. The major sources of air pollution are energy generation, industry, and transportation. Population growth and increased consumption can lead to increased levels of air pollution—a potential threat to the health of humans, forest resources, and biodiversity. Increased levels of gases in the atmosphere

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Demographic and Health Trends

- The United States is the world's third most populous country, after China and India. The U.S. population increases by 0.6 percent annually as a consequence of more births than deaths. Legal immigration contributes another 0.3 percent to annual growth, or about 800,000 people.
- While one-eighth of Americans were noncaucasian in 1900, minorities are projected to make up nearly half (47 percent) the U.S. population by 2050.
- Because of the aging of the baby boomers, the percent of the popula-

tion ages 65 and older will grow from 13 percent today to 18 percent in 2025.

- In 1950 more than half (55 percent) of Americans lived in the Northeast and Midwest. Today the number has dropped to 43 percent, as the population has shifted to the South and West.
- Sixteen percent of Americans were never covered by any kind of health insurance during 1996.

Natural Resources and Wildlife Issues

- Our rivers, lakes, and coastal waters are cleaner today than 25 years ago, yet nearly 40 percent are still too polluted to support all their designated uses.
- Contaminated fish advisories or bans were issued in 1995 for more than 1,700 water bodies—a 14 percent increase over 1994.
- Many Americans are dependent on the automobile. In 28 urban areas, the number of cars meets or exceeds road capacity. Cars have long been known to be a major source of air pollution.

■ Water is a major issue in many states in the West. California and Arizona, for example, have disagreed over the use and storage of more than 2.4 trillion gallons of water from the Colorado River.

- By 1995, over 50 percent of the original wetlands in the lower 48 states had been lost. Losses between 1985 and 1995 included 79 percent to agriculture, 6 percent to urban development and 15 percent to other types of land use.

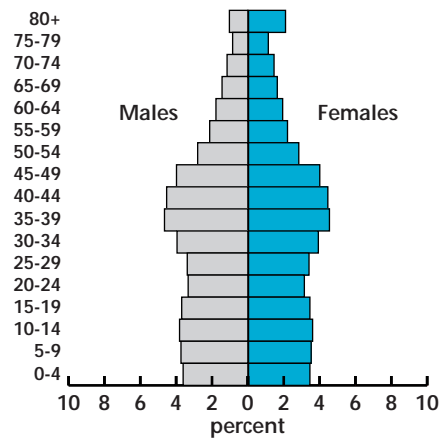
Socioeconomic Factors

- In 1997, 82 percent of Americans ages 25 and older had obtained at least a high school diploma; 48 percent had continued their education beyond high school; and 24 percent had earned at least a bachelor's degree.
- In real dollars, median household income rose 5 percent between 1976

and 1996. During that period, income distribution became more equitable.

- In 1900, just 19 percent of women were paid for their work; today, nearly 60 percent of U.S. women receive payment for their work.

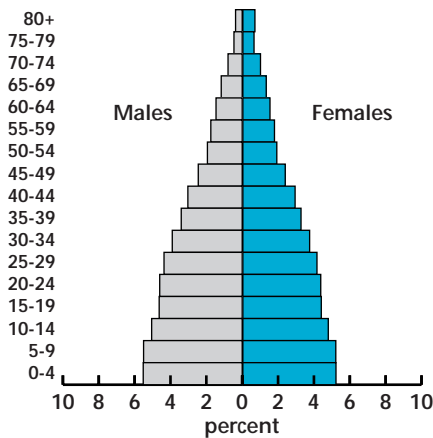
POPULATION BY AGE AND SEX



UNITED STATES FACTS

Population, 1997: 267.7 million
Projected population, 2025: 335.1 million
Annual growth rate: 0.9%
Doubling time (at current rate): 78 years
Average number of children per woman: 2.0
Infant deaths per 1,000 live births: 7.2
Life expectancy: 73 (male), 79 (female)
Persons per square mile: 76
Percent urban: 75
Endangered/threatened animals: 635 species
Endangered/threatened plants: 447 species
Percent of land protected: 10
Wetlands loss, 1780-1980: 46%
Daily water use per capita: 1,512 gallons
Water use for domestic purposes: 12%
Water use for agriculture: 35%
Water use for industry: 6%
Water use for energy production: 47%
Cropland per capita: 4.7 acres
Energy use per capita: 59.4 barrels of oil equiv.
Persons per motor vehicle: 1.3
Adults who are high school graduates: 82%
Elected officials who are women: 21%
Labor force in agriculture: 3%
Labor force in industry: 19%
Labor force in services: 78%
GDP, 1994: \$26,434 per capita

POPULATION BY AGE AND SEX



WORLD FACTS

Population, 1997: 5,840 million
Projected population, 2025: 8,036 million
Annual growth rate: 1.5%
Doubling time (at current rate): 47 years
Average number of children per woman: 3.0
Infant deaths per 1,000 live births: 59
Life expectancy: 64 (male), 68 (female)
Persons per square mile: 116
Percent urban: 43
Threatened animals: 5,205 species
Threatened plants: 33,798 species
Percent of land protected: 7
Wetlands loss, through 1980s: n.a.
Daily water use per capita: 465 gallons
Water use for domestic purposes: 8%
Water use for agriculture: 69%
Water use for industry: 23%
Cropland per capita: 0.7 acres
Energy use per capita: 9.5 barrels of oil equiv.
Persons per motor vehicle: 9
Percent of girls in secondary school: 50
Percent of boys in secondary school: 58
Women as % of national legislature: 12
Labor force in agriculture: 49%
Labor force in industry: 20%
Labor force in services: 31%
GDP per capita, 1995: US\$4,909

Demographic and Health Trends

- Each year more people are added to the world's population than ever before. In 1999 there will be 6 billion people on Earth.
- As mortality rates decline, more and more people are living longer. In the early 1970s, life expectancy was 58 years; in the late 1990s it is 64 years.
- In 1900, about 14 percent of the world's population lived in cities. By 2005, one-half of the world's people are expected to reside in urban areas.
- Thirty-three percent of the world's population is under the age of 15. By the year 2000, this group will number nearly 1.8 billion. While the percent of youth has been higher in the past, never have the numbers been so great.
- Since the late 1970s, 40 million people have been infected with HIV/AIDS. Nearly 6 million people contracted HIV in 1997, and today more than 30 million people are living with HIV/AIDS.

Natural Resources and Wildlife Issues

- Forests provide food, fuel, shelter, and wildlife habitat, yet nearly one-half of the forests that covered Earth 8,000 years ago are gone, primarily because of human activities.
- While water is one of Earth's most plentiful and essential resources, it is unevenly distributed around the world.
- Over the past century, human agricultural and industrial activities have led to the buildup of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases. Since preindustrial times, global carbon dioxide concentrations have increased almost 30 percent.
- Since 1970, the number of people fishing, the development of fishing technologies, government fishing subsidies, and the number of exploited species have all increased. In 1950, people harvested 19 million tons of fish from the oceans. By 1988 the annual catch was 88 million tons and has fluctuated around that level since. In recognition of the need to preserve the ocean's resources, 1998 has been declared the "Year of the Ocean" by President Clinton.

Socioeconomic Issues

- Worldwide, female education is increasing. Female enrollment in primary school jumped from 39 percent to 57 percent between 1980 and 1993.
- During the first half of the 1990s, spending on official development assistance fell by more than one-fourth in the face of large government deficits in donor countries and declining political support for aid.
- In 1992, the poorest half of the world's people accounted for less than 15 percent of global gross domestic product (GDP). Conversely, the 15 percent with the highest incomes accounted for over 50 percent of global GDP. The gap in real dollars between rich and poor countries has widened in recent decades.

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sphere from human activities, including carbon dioxide emissions from the burning of fossil fuels and deforestation, may alter climate on a global scale.

Water sources have been focal points of human settlement throughout history. Human impact on the flow and storage of freshwater, which makes up less than 1 percent of the world's water resources, has been growing significantly for centuries. Between 1940 and 1990, the demand for freshwater quadrupled. Water is mainly used for agriculture in most countries. In many places, demand for freshwater now exceeds supply. While most people in the United States take the availability of water for granted, some states, such as California, have experienced periods of water rationing. Conflicts resulting from water shortages could become very serious in parts of the Middle East, China, and India in years to come.

Water scarcity is closely linked to water quality. Discharge of domestic sewage and industrial wastes can pollute surface water resources, while excessive withdrawals, as well as saline intrusion in coastal areas, affect groundwater reserves. Americans assume that water from the tap is safe, although some urban areas have experienced short-term water quality crises. In certain LDCs, more than one-half of the population is without access to safe water from any source.

Earth's land area is both a habitat and a source of food for the world's people. Technology has expanded people's ability to use and change the land. With increasing population growth and improving economic conditions, human demand for food has increased, but at the same time, valuable agricultural land has been lost to sprawling cities. Some of the land that remains is at risk of irreversible degradation as people clear forests, farm on marginal land, and overcultivate exist-

ing fields. These activities can result in loss of topsoil, thus converting a renewable resource into a nonrenewable one. Today, the world is losing about 7 percent of its topsoil from potential cropland each decade. In drier parts of the world, desertification is becoming onerous as areas are dried out and essentially converted to deserts by human activities and natural processes. This phenomenon reduces resources and may put millions of lives at risk.

By increasing demands for food, fuel, shelter, and other amenities, population growth, urbanization, and consumption contribute to the loss of forests, wetlands, marine environments, and other important ecosystems. Biologists note that these ecosystems provide a habitat for millions of species of plants and animals, most of which have not even been identified. The world has perhaps 14 million different species, many of which are threatened with extinction, primarily because of habitat loss. Between 1970 and 2000, humans will probably have hastened the extinction of as many as 1 million species.

The level and form of human impact on the environment varies among MDCs and LDCs. Environmental degradation in less developed countries is more often the result of poor people struggling to acquire basic essentials, such as food, water, and fuel. In more developed countries, environmental stress frequently stems from high consumption levels and accumulation of material goods.

Environmental stress in less developed countries is likely to be more localized and may include shortages of resources such as fuel wood; pollution such as contaminated streams and indoor air pollution from wood fires; and land exhaustion caused by shortened fallow periods and overgrazing. Population pressures force large numbers of rural people to leave their homes, especially farming areas. Migrants usually

take their families to the cities or undeveloped lands in search of greater economic opportunity. Large migration to cities can make urban problems such as pollution, unemployment, and sanitation even worse. Those migrants who move to undeveloped lands and farm previously undisturbed land can also degrade or destroy wildlife habitat and water resources. Resource scarcity may lead to political unrest and famine and conflict over arable lands, oil-rich lands, or forested areas. Even though countries may make gains in technology, recycling, conservation, and resource distribution, these kinds of problems may affect their overall sustainable development.

At the other end of the spectrum, the impact of environmental stress in more developed nations is broader and more likely to have global implications. In the United States, use of pesticides and chemical fertilizers by agro-industries, while increasing food production, has also contributed to the contamination of both surface and groundwater resources (such as the Chesapeake Bay). Americans own more automobiles than any other nation in the world. These vehicles contribute to a per capita carbon dioxide emissions level that is also greater than that of any other country in the world. The average U.S. resident uses 23 times as much fossil fuel energy as the average resident of India. While people in more developed nations produce more waste per person each year, recycling programs in wealthy nations are on the rise, thus reducing the burden on landfills.

Responding to Challenges

The number of people on the planet has a direct impact on the environment and how resources are used. But the level of consumption and the ways in which natural resources are used also directly affect the health of the planet –

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locally, regionally, and globally. No matter where one lives, each person has a vested interest in maintaining the planet's well-being. Using Earth's resources sustainably involves local and national efforts—both public and private—to address issues of public health and safety as well as environmental protection and restoration. More developed countries are engaged in programs aimed at improving the quality of life for their citizens. But because Earth is a network of global systems, people in more developed countries have a stake in issues confronting the people in less developed countries as well.

Many less developed countries are unable to meet even the basic short-term needs of their populations, let alone undertake programs aimed at solving long-term environmental problems.

Foreign assistance from more developed countries is one of the ways by which less developed countries can make progress. Foreign assistance is more than economic and humanitarian aid—it also creates markets for the future and helps to stabilize the global environment. In the 1940s and 1950s, the United States was the leading donor country in terms of foreign assistance. Now, U.S. foreign assistance is at its lowest level (in constant dollars) in over 50 years and when taken as percentage of gross national product is the lowest of all major donors. Recent surveys reveal that Americans believe that foreign assistance is one of the largest parts of the federal budget. In fact, it makes up barely 1 percent. Most Americans also believe that the United States gives more assistance to poor countries than do the other rich countries. In fact, the United States contributes the smallest percentage of gross national product (GNP) of any industrialized donor country.

In the past 10 years, a series of international conferences have been con-

vened by the United Nations to address issues relating to population, biodiversity, and global climate change.

In 1992, the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (commonly called the Earth Summit) resulted in the signing of the Biodiversity Convention by 158 countries and was an important step toward reducing loss of global biodiversity.

In 1994, at the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in Cairo, Egypt, over 180 countries agreed to a 20-year program to address the challenges of global population by recognizing that voluntary family planning, secondary and higher education for girls, and health/sex education programs for teens all have important health effects and will slow population momentum. The ICPD linked population stabilization closely to development and the environment, stating that all three must be addressed in order to achieve sustainable development.

In 1997, delegates from 160 nations meeting in Kyoto, Japan, produced a protocol on climate change under which industrialized nations agreed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and facilitate projects in less developed nations that will lead to emissions reduction.

Many other examples at the local, national, and global levels also indicate that progress is being made in addressing population and environment challenges.

■ In the Rukwa region in Southwest **Tanzania**, Msanzi villagers built on their indigenous knowledge in a community-based natural resource management project to rebuild their irrigation system. They established a local water users' association, after soil erosion and increased danger of flooding threatened their productivity.

■ In Karachi, **Pakistan**, the Orangi Pilot Project (a nongovernmental orga-

nization) is a community development program that has mobilized local people to improve their own access to environmental services, health care, and employment. One outcome of the project was the introduction of low-cost sanitation. Between 1981 and 1993, sewers were installed to serve over 72,000 homes in a low-income settlement.

■ Early in the 1970s, the **United States'** Environmental Protection Agency was established to protect the nation's public health and environment by enforcing a number of major environmental statutes, such as the Clean Air Act and the Safe Drinking Water Act.

■ The National Biodiversity Institute in **Costa Rica** has developed activities to save, study, and know the country's biodiversity. These include developing an active taxonomic inventory, "bioprospecting" ventures with multinational companies and academic institutions, producing educational materials and field guides, and directing financing for management of protected areas.

■ Developing countries are taking significant steps to reduce the growth in greenhouse gas emissions. **Brazil, India, and Mexico**, for example, have dramatically increased their energy prices and have launched specific programs to improve energy efficiency, ranging from new standards to subsidies for the development of renewable energy.

■ In 1997, the environmental leaders of eight countries (Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, U.K., the United States, and Russia) signed the **1997 Declaration of the Environment Leaders of the Eight on Children's Environmental Health**. The document provides a framework for domestic, bilateral, and international efforts to

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MORE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

Demographic and Health Trends

- The more developed countries of the world (MDCs) are home to 20 percent of the world population. Deaths are nearly as frequent as births in these countries, resulting in a low rate of growth from natural increase.
- MDC women average 1.6 children during their lifetimes. The number has declined steadily since the 1950s when the average was 2.8. For every 10,000 live births in MDCs, one woman dies of childbirth or pregnancy-related causes.
- In MDCs, one child of every 111 born alive dies before the age of 1.

Natural Resources and Wildlife Issues

- The top 12 countries with most of the world's remaining large tracts of relatively undisturbed forest include three industrialized countries—Russia, Canada, and the United States. Russia and Canada alone account for 51 percent of the world's frontier forest, while the United States contributes 2 percent.

Socioeconomic Factors

- Income disparities are high within MDCs and grew during the 1980s and early 1990s. On average, the income of the richest 20 percent is seven times that of the poorest 20 percent.
- Literacy is very high in MDCs. In 1995, 1.3 percent of those over age 15 were illiterate—down from 3.4 percent in 1980.

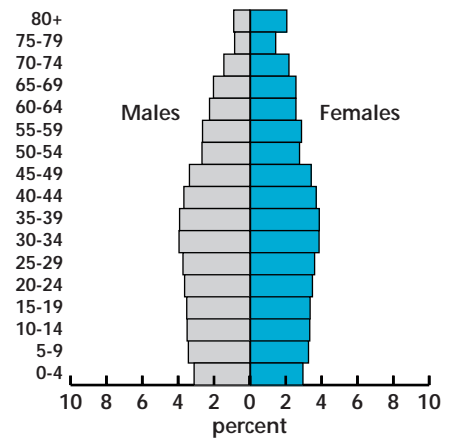
The corresponding level in the developing countries is one in 16.

- The figure (at right) shows the relative size of the population at different ages. In MDCs people under age 15 make up 20 percent of the population, and those ages 65 or over make up 14 percent. The majority of the population, therefore, is in the prime working ages.
- Seventy-four percent of the population of the MDCs resides in urban areas, up from 55 percent at mid-century.

- MDCs consume about three-quarters of the world's commercial energy, although they make up just 20 percent of its population. MDCs account for 60 percent of carbon dioxide emissions.
- Although water quality in most MDCs has improved in recent years, wastewater is still discharged without treatment in some locations.

- Public expenditures on education in MDCs are 25 times higher per capita than expenditures in LDCs.
- The world's economic activity remains dominated by the industrialized countries; they account for about 80 percent of global gross domestic product.

POPULATION BY AGE AND SEX

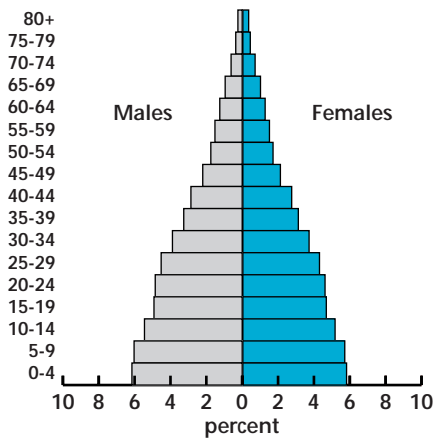


MORE DEVELOPED COUNTRY FACTS

Population, 1997:	1,175 million
Projected population, 2025:	1,226 million
Annual growth rate:	0.4%
Doubling time (at current rate):	175 years
Average number of children per woman:	1.6
Infant deaths per 1,000 live births:	9
Life expectancy:	71 (male), 78 (female)
Persons per square mile:	61
Percent urban:	74
Threatened animals:	n.a.
Threatened plants:	n.a.
Percent of land protected:	10
Wetlands loss, through 1980s:	n.a.
Daily water use per capita:	676
Water use for domestic purposes:	15%
Water use for agriculture:	37%
Water use for industry:	48%
Cropland per capita:	1.3 acres
Energy use per capita:	31.1 barrels of oil equiv.
Persons per motor vehicle:	2
Percent of girls in secondary school:	95
Percent of boys in secondary school:	92
Women as % of national legislature:	14
Labor force in agriculture:	10%
Labor force in industry:	33%
Labor force in services:	57%
GDP per capita, 1995:	US\$24,929

LESS DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

POPULATION BY AGE AND SEX



LESS DEVELOPED COUNTRY FACTS

Population, 1997: 4,666 million

Projected population, 2025: 6,810 million

Annual growth rate: 1.8%

Doubling time (at current rate): 39 years

Average number of children per woman: 3.4

Infant deaths per 1,000 live births: 64

Life expectancy: 62 (male), 65 (female)

Persons per square mile: 149

Percent urban: 36

Threatened animals: n.a.

Threatened plants: n.a.

Percent of land protected: 5

Wetlands loss, through 1980s: n.a.

Daily water use per capita: 333 gallons

Water use for domestic purposes: 6%

Water use for agriculture: 86%

Water use for industry: 8%

Cropland per capita: 0.5 acres

Energy use per capita: 3.8 barrels of oil equiv.

Persons per motor vehicle: 38

Percent of girls in secondary school: 42

Percent of boys in secondary school: 52

Women as % of national legislature: 13

Labor force in agriculture: 61%

Labor force in industry: 16%

Labor force in services: 23%

GDP per capita, 1995: US\$1,130

Demographic and Health Trends

■ Today the less developed countries (LDCs) account for 80 percent of the world's population, up from 68 percent in 1950. Ninety-eight percent of the world's population growth occurs in these countries.

■ Thirty-five percent of the population in LDCs is under age 15 (see figure at left). This large proportion of youth guarantees population growth well into the future regardless of declining birth rates.

■ Thirty-six percent of the population of LDCs now lives in urban areas. In 1950 the percent urban was

18. Better access to sanitation and clean water and a preference for smaller families usually accompany urbanization.

■ Even though 80 percent of the LDC population has access to health services, one child in every 10 dies before age 5 and one in every 15 dies before their first birthday. In addition, 32 percent of children in developing countries suffer from being underweight. For every 200 live births in developing countries, a woman dies from childbirth or pregnancy-related causes.

Natural Resources and Wildlife Issues

■ Significant amounts of forested land in LDCs were converted to other uses from 1980 to 1995. During that period the average annual loss of forest was over 51,000 square miles.

■ In LDCs, most water use is for agriculture. Water use is expected to increase along with population growth and socioeconomic development.

■ Until the middle of the 20th century, overfishing was limited to relatively few regions, including the North Atlantic, the North Pacific, and the Mediterranean Sea. In the intervening decades, fish stocks have been depleted worldwide and the contribution of fish to the food supply is projected to decline. Reductions in fish are likely to affect people in developing countries more than those in MDCs.

Socioeconomic Factors

■ Seventy-one percent of the population of LDCs have access to safe water and 40 percent have access to adequate sanitation.

■ Seventy-one percent of the adult population of LDCs is literate. The literacy rate increased from 69 percent to 79 percent for men between 1980 and 1995; for women it increased from 46 percent to 62 percent.

■ Seventy-five percent of children who attend primary school in LDCs reach the fifth grade. Eleven percent of government expenditures in LDCs are spent on education. However, enrollment drops dramatically for secondary school.

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improve the protection of children's health from environmental threats and specify concrete actions that may be taken.

- Over 100 countries have now developed **National Environmental Action Plans** (NEAPs) to help guide their thinking on environmental management. Many of these countries have established **National Councils for Sustainable Development** or similar mechanisms to bring together groups to propose policies and identify barriers to the environmental, economic, and social well-being of their countries.

- Over one-half of developing countries have adopted explicit and comprehensive **National Population Policies** as an integral part of their development plans; most of the rest say they intend to develop population policies in the near future.

- The **World Business Council for Sustainable Development**, a coalition of 125 international companies from 35 countries, offers guidance for businesses to contribute to sustainable development efforts by improving their environmental performance.

- In 1994, the **Global Environment Facility** (GEF) was established as a mechanism to provide funding for global environmental improvements. The GEF is open to universal participation and builds upon a partnership between

its implementing agencies—the UN Development Programme, the UN Environment Programme, and The World Bank. ■

US in the World is a collaborative effort of the Population Reference Bureau, the Population and Habitat Campaign of the National Audubon Society, and the Population Coalition of local Leagues of Women Voters. Its goal is to help Americans explore how shared concern for the environment links people in the United States to people in other parts of the world. This U.S.–World fact sheet is an overview of a series of fact sheets that compare demographic, social, economic, and environmental conditions in a particular state with similar information about a selected developing country. PRB's *United States Population Data Sheet*, produced to complement US in the World, includes state-by-state demographic and environmental information.

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Definitions

More developed regions, following the UN classification, comprise all of Europe and North America, plus Australia, Japan, and New Zealand. All other regions and countries are classified as **less developed**.

Doubling Time: The number of years it will take for a population to double, assuming a *constant* rate of natural increase. **Average Number of Children Per Woman:** Known as the Total Fertility Rate (TFR) or the average number of children a woman would have in her lifetime, assuming that birth rates remained constant throughout her child-bearing years. **Endangered Species:** Any species in danger of extinction throughout all, or a significant portion of its habitat. **Threatened Species:** Any species likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future throughout all, or a significant portion of its habitat. **Gross Domestic Product (GDP):** The value of all goods and services produced within a nation in a given year. **Gross State Product (GSP):** The value of all goods and services produced within a state. It is the state counterpart of the nation's GDP.

Sources

Area for states, U.S. and individual countries: National Geographic Society. *Area for world, MDCs and LDCs:* Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN.

Metropolitan areas and age and sex distribution for U.S. and states: U.S. Bureau of the Census.

Urban agglomerations and age and sex distribution for world, MDCs, LDCs, and individual countries: United Nations Population Division.

United States Facts

Population estimates and projections, annual growth rate, doubling time, persons per square mile, percent urban, and high school graduates: U.S. Bureau of the Census. *Average number of children per woman, infant deaths, life expectancy:* National Center for Health Statistics. *Endangered/threatened species:* U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. *Protected and arable land:* U.S. Department of Agriculture. *Wetlands loss:* Environmental Protection Agency. *Water use:* U.S. Geological Survey. *Energy consumption:* Energy Information Administration. *Persons per motor vehicle:* U.S. Department of Transportation Statistics. *Elected officials who are women:* Center for the American Woman and Politics, Rutgers University and Leadership Directories, Inc. *Labor force and gross state product for states:* Bureau of Economic Analysis. *Gross domestic product for United States:* The World Bank.

World and Country Facts

Population estimates and projections, average number of children per woman, infant deaths, life

expectancy, persons per square mile, percent urban and secondary school enrollment: Population Reference Bureau. *Endangered animal species:* World Conservation Monitoring Centre. *Endangered plant species, percent of land protected, wetlands loss, daily water use, and energy consumption:* World Resources Institute. *Percent with access to safe water and adequate sanitation:* UNICEF. *Cropland per capita for individual countries:* Population Action International. *Cropland per capita for world, MDCs and LDCs:* Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN. *Persons per motor vehicle:* American Automobile Manufacturers Association. *Women as percentage of national legislature for individual countries:* Inter-Parliamentary Union. *Women as percentage of national legislature for world, MDCs and LDCs:* United Nations Development Programme. *Labor force for individual countries:* International Labour Organization. *Labor force for world, MDCs and LDCs and gross domestic product:* The World Bank.

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Population Coalition of local Leagues of Women Voters, Phone: 909-625-5717; Web site: <http://popco.org>