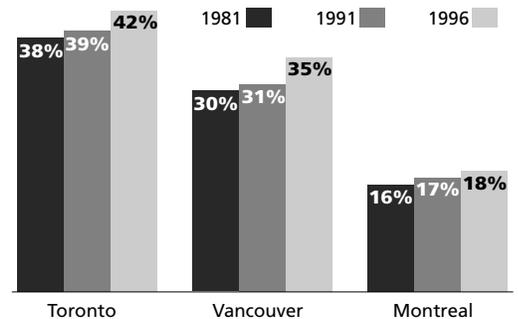


Canada's Immigration Mandate

Without twist, turn, or recount, Canada's Liberal Party handily won a new majority in parliament on Nov. 27. The party's policies, including encouraging a level of immigration twice as high as in the United States relative to population, will therefore likely continue. But the difficulty of maintaining a high level of immigration surfaced during the recent campaign, when an opposition politician's off-color remarks demonstrated that not all Canadians support extending a perpetual welcome mat. And a recent global conference on immigration revealed that some immigration analysts have reservations of their own.

The Liberals, led by Prime Minister Jean Chretien, have established an annual immigration goal equivalent to 1 percent of the population. With Canada's total population of 31 million, that percentage would translate into approximately 300,000 immigrants per year, compared with levels of around 200,000 in recent years. The Liberal Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, Elinor Caplan, last year requested funding for more immigrants but was denied by the cabinet, perhaps because the Immigration and Refugee Board is swamped: It

Foreign-Born as a Percentage of the Canadian Population in Metro Areas



Source: Citizenship and Immigration Canada.

has a backlog of 25,717 cases, and it takes more than nine months to process an applicant.

To help make her case, Caplan has stressed the need to pursue a "human capital" model of immigration, one that attracts newcomers who are good for the economy because they are well-educated and bring valuable skills. Agreeing that there are abuses of the refugee and asylum policy, Caplan is fond of saying, "We have to close the back door to open the front door wider."

Continued on page 2

What Children Learn From Divorce

by Paul R. Amato

People who experience parental divorce while growing up face an elevated risk, in adulthood, of seeing their own marriages end in divorce. Although social scientists have known about the intergenerational transmission of divorce for some time, the explanation for this phenomenon has remained elusive.

One explanation holds that children learn poor relationship skills by observing conflict between parents. Longitudinal studies show that married couples who later divorce tend to have problems communicating, are often critical of their partners, tend to respond to criticism defensively, avoid or withdraw from problem-solving discussions, and have difficulty resolving conflict. For this reason, children whose parents divorce, compared with children whose parents remain married, have fewer opportunities to

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Tougher Stance on Refugee Status Needed *Continued from page 1*

On the campaign trail, a political opponent focused not only on the doors but also on the occupants already inside. Betty Granger, a member of the Canadian Alliance party (at one time only 12 percentage points behind the Liberals in opinion polls) was running for a seat in Winnipeg. She said an influx of Asian students—an “Asian invasion”—has put pressure on the university system and prevented “our own Canadian students” from getting into university programs in Vancouver and Victoria. Although Granger dropped out of the race after making the remark, it indicates tensions are developing, especially in the cities that have absorbed most of the immigrants (see figure, page 1).

Considered Opinion

Outside the political arena, researchers are trying to take a dispassionate look at the impact of immigration on Canada. In particular, members of the International Metropolis Project are providing insights. The project brings together researchers and members of policy organizations from 20 countries to strengthen immigration policy through applied academic research. At the Fifth International Metropolis Conference, held in Vancouver Nov. 13-17, many aspects of immigration relevant to Canada came under scrutiny.

Reviewing some economic aspects, Jean-Pierre Voyer of Social Research and Demonstration Corporation in Ottawa suggested that governments of many developed countries put misplaced emphasis on skilled immigrants in the policy debate. He asked: “Why focus on skilled immigrants if there are no signs of general skill shortages in Canada?” He said that while sectoral shortages in certain industries might warrant looking to skilled immigrants in specific areas, shortages do not justify putting skills ahead of all other considerations, such as family reunification or humanitarian grounds.

Voyer noted research shows that the performance of recent immigrants in Canada is deteriorating, despite their reportedly better skills and

language facility. Don DeVoretz, an economist at Simon Fraser University in Vancouver, has found, for example, that the economically active foreign-born earned \$1,372 less in 1996 than their Canadian-born cohorts and consumed more public services than the Canadian-born.

And regardless of what’s best for Canada, illegal immigration, which all Canadians can agree to oppose, may thwart public policy. Jonas Widgren, director of the Austrian International Centre for Migration Policy Development, implied that smugglers might soon be in a position to determine immigration levels. Trafficking, Widgren said, now generates revenue equivalent to that of the international rubber trade and will soon equal the international coffee trade—a \$50 billion a year industry as measured by total global retail sales.

Half-Way Response

Caplan introduced a revamped Immigration Act in April 2000 (called the “New Immigration and Refugee Protection Act”) that would have cracked down on human smugglers and refugee claimants who are criminals. That legislation started through the legislative process but died when elections were called in October. The proposed Immigration Act, however, did not toughen rules for granting refugee status and even expanded immigration allowable under Canada’s family reunification category by increasing the age at which dependent children could be sponsored.

During the campaign, Caplan succeeded at labeling the Canadian Alliance as “anti-immigrant” after the leader of that party proposed detaining refugees and quickly returning those whose claims were denied. Now that the election has ended, maybe the Liberals will not only open the front door to immigration a little wider, but also open discussion of an issue that has elbowed its way to the fore. ■

—Allison Tarmann

WebExtra

Go to www.prb.org/pt/ on PRB’s website and click on this article for additional graphics and information.

Webwise

www.prb.org • www.ameristat.org • www.popnet.org • www.measurecommunication.org

The following were posted recently on the PRB network of websites:

Older Population

The Older Population is just one of the new topics on PRB’s U.S.-focused website, AmeriStat. Other topics include

Children, Foreign-Born Population, Labor Force & Employment, Migration, and Mortality. (www.ameristat.org)

Census 2000

To find out more about Census 2000—from the coverage improvements

achieved, to the financial and technical aspects of a two-number census, to tentative dates for the release of data by the Census Bureau—visit the newly launched Census 2000 page, accessible from the main PRB site. (www.prb.org/topics/census_2000.htm)

Pinpointing Poverty

by Kerri Rivers and Kelvin Pollard

Head Start. Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. Welfare reform.

With funding for all these programs linked to estimates of poverty published by the U.S. Census Bureau, the agency is drawing on several types of data to refine and update its numbers between censuses.

In November, the Census Bureau released 1997 estimates of income and poverty for every state and all U.S. counties, along with estimates of poverty and population for the country's 15,000 school districts. These estimates, produced by the Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates (SAIPE) program, include:

- the number and percentage of poor people (for states and counties)
- the number and percentage of poor people under age 18 (for states and counties)
- the number and percentage of poor children under age 5 (for states)
- the number and percentage of children ages 5 to 17 living in poverty in a household headed by a relative (for states, counties, and school districts)
- median household income (for states and counties)
- the number of children ages 5 to 17 in poverty (for school districts).

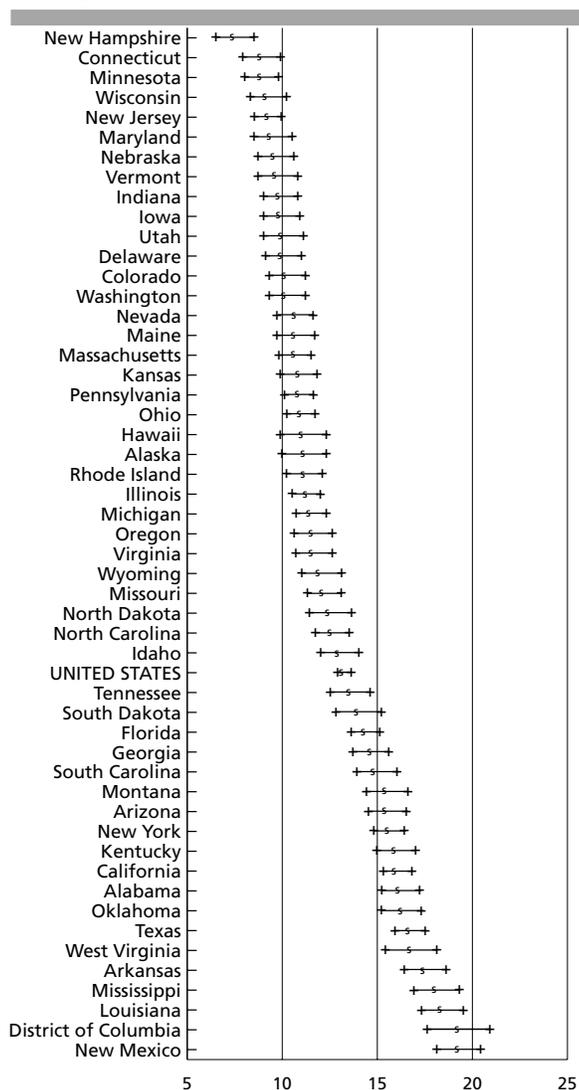
The publication of the SAIPE estimates means that there are now three "official" sources of poverty data: the decennial census, the Current

Population Survey (CPS), and SAIPE. But the SAIPE numbers are the official ones for counties and smaller jurisdictions. In fact, they are the only reliable local area poverty figures available between censuses. The Census Bureau produces state-level SAIPE estimates for every year, while county and school district estimates are done for odd-numbered years. At the state level, SAIPE estimates have another advantage: They are more accurate than state estimates based on multiyear CPS averages.

SAIPE statisticians produced their estimates for 1997 by combining results from the Current Population Survey with data from federal individual income tax returns, administrative records on food stamps, and 1990 decennial census figures. They derived school district estimates by combining 1990 census data for school districts with 1997 county poverty and population estimates.

To reduce sampling variability for the CPS estimates of income and poverty for counties, SAIPE staff compute three-year weighted averages centered on the nominal estimation year. For example, to estimate income and poverty for 1997, the SAIPE program uses weighted averages of income data from the March 1997, March 1998, and March 1999 CPS surveys. That is why the estimates for 1997 could not be derived until data from the March 1999 CPS survey became available.

Percent of People in Poverty by State, 1997



Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

The latest results, along with 90 percent confidence intervals showing their variability, appear in the figure above.

For more information on SAIPE, visit the Census Bureau's website: www.census.gov/hhes/www/saipe.html. ■

Breaking the Marriage Bond *Continued from page 1*

learn positive social skills that facilitate close relationships and strengthen later marital stability.

This explanation has never been tested directly because no prior study has had data on parents' marriages prior to divorce, as well as data on children's marital instability years later. The study of Marital Instability Over the Life Course, a project initiated in 1980 by Alan Booth, provides the needed data. In 1980, project researchers

conducted telephone interviews with a national sample of 2,034 married individuals and did follow-up interviews in 1983, 1988, 1992, and 1997. After I joined the research team in 1988, we decided to conduct interviews (in 1992 and 1997) with 691 adult children ages 19 and over from these marriages.

The current analysis was based on 335 adult children who married for the first time after the initial parent interview in 1980. Sixty-eight of these children experienced a parental divorce. We distin-

guished another 75 adult children who were exposed to high levels of marital discord while growing up but who did not experience a parental divorce. These individuals were compared with 192 adult children who experienced neither a parental divorce nor high levels of discord when their parents were married. Of the 335 adult children who had ever been married, 66 had divorced prior to 1997. An additional one-fourth of adult children who were still married had thought seriously about divorce during the previous three years.

The figure above provides an overview of the results. The percentage of married adult children who thought about divorce and the percentage of ever-married adult children who divorced is shown for three groups: those with continuously married parents who reported little discord, those with continuously married parents who reported a high level of discord, and those with divorced parents. The figure indicates that

thoughts of divorce among adult children were elevated when parents had either a discordant marriage or a marriage that ended in divorce. Divorce among adult children, however, was elevated only when parents had divorced.

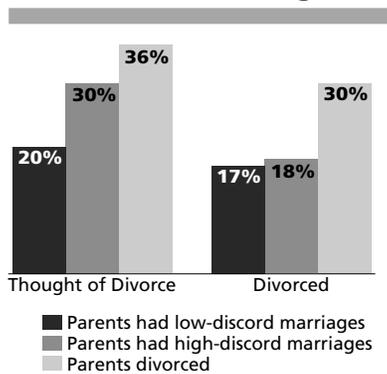
If learning poor relationship skills accounts for the intergenerational transmission of marital instability, then divorce among children should be elevated not only when their parents divorced, but also when their parents had a discordant but continuously intact marriage. Consequently, these results do not support an explanation based on relationship skills. Parental discord (in the absence of parental divorce) appeared to elevate children's thoughts of divorce, but children with discordant parents did not necessarily translate these thoughts into behavior.

Seeing that marital discord isn't the explanation, we tested an alternative theory, which assumes that children learn about marital commitment (or permanence) by observing parental models. The important mechanism, according to this perspective, is not parents' problematic interpersonal behavior, but parents' demonstration that the marital contract can be broken and that divorce can provide opportunities to seek greater happiness with new partners. These observations are likely to undermine children's commitment to lifelong marriage.

Additional analyses suggested that parental divorce was especially likely to increase divorce among adult children when parents had a mildly (rather than a highly) discordant marriage prior to divorce. This result supports a key assumption of the commitment perspective: Divorces that are preceded by relatively little marital discord should be especially likely to undermine children's commitment to lifelong marriage. In a final analysis, we found that lower levels of marital unhappiness were necessary to trigger thoughts of divorce among adult children with divorced parents than among those with happily married parents. Parental discord, in the absence of divorce, had no comparable effect. These results support a commitment perspective.

Our research suggests that it is the actual termination of the marriage, rather than the disturbed family relations that precede marital dissolution, that affects children's later marital stability, and that this transmission occurs mainly by undermining children's commitment to marital permanence. In the next wave of data, the sample of adult children who have married and divorced will have increased, making it possible to explore this phenomenon in more detail. ■

Marital Outcomes for Adult Children of Divorce or Discordant Marriages



Source: Paul R. Amato and Danelle DeBoer, "The Transmission of Divorce Across Generations: Relationship Skills or Commitment to Marriage?" *Journal of Marriage and the Family* (forthcoming).

Paul R. Amato is a professor of sociology and demography at Pennsylvania State University. The research on which this article is based was conducted with Danelle DeBoer, a graduate student in the Department of Sociology at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. This research was supported by Grant 5 R01 AG04146 from the National Institute of Aging. A full account of this study will appear in an upcoming issue of the *Journal of Marriage and the Family*. Results are reported with permission of the National Council on Family Relations.

Mormonism a New World Religion

Mormons today number an estimated 11 million people, and half live outside the United States, according to a recent article in *U.S. News & World Report* (Nov. 13, 2000). The article indicates that Mormonism in the United States has grown by 220 percent since 1970, compared with rates of around 30 percent for Southern Baptists and Roman Catholics and with negative rates for other mainstream Protestant denominations. Most Mormons live in the Western Hemisphere—the article puts the number of Mormons in the Americas at 9 million—but the movement is attracting hundreds of thousands of converts in Asia, Europe, and Africa. In addition to converts, the religion is growing because of high fertility; research by William Mosher and others (*Demography*, May 1992) on births in the United States in the late 1970s and 1980s showed a birth rate of approximately 3 children per woman for Mormons com-

pared with just under 2 children per woman for Protestants.

Fighting AIDS in Russia

To fight the fastest rise in AIDS in the world, the World Bank has agreed to lend Russia \$150 million. The money will be used for an emergency public awareness and prevention campaign, according to the *Times* of London (Nov. 18, 2000).

The *Times* reports that Russia has outstripped South Africa and India in the rate of new HIV infection, the number of cases having increased 131 percent between 1999 and 2000. As many as 1 million Russians could become HIV-infected within two years unless urgent action is taken. The disease is spread principally by drug addicts who inject themselves using contaminated needles.

What's Behind Early Puberty?

An article in the November 2000 issue of *Pediatrics* sheds some light on the early onset of puberty in

girls, a topic that recently captured attention on the cover of *Time* magazine (Oct. 30, 2000). Spanish and Belgian researchers have found that low birth weight is a factor affecting the timing of puberty in girls, the first stages of which now occur at a mean age of 10 years in the United States. Girls with normal birth weight tend to progress slowly through puberty, experiencing their first menstrual periods at a normal time and reaching a normal final height. Girls with low birth weight, however, tend to have their first periods early and reach a reduced final height.

While calling for further investigation, the researchers note that girls with low birth weight and early onset of puberty may benefit from hormone treatment to delay or slow puberty and help them achieve a normal height. The article is available on the journal's website: www.pediatrics.org/cgi/content/full/106/5/e72. ■

Announcements

Nominations for the Nordberg Award

The Population Council presents the Olivia Schieffelin Nordberg Award every two years for excellence in writing and editing in the population sciences. The award recognizes an individual for achievements in one of the following areas:

- Writing in the field of population that combines exceptional scholarship with clear exposition and imaginative presentation in a style both accessible and appealing to a broad readership
- A record of excellence in editing technical material on population to make it accessible to varied audiences, by introducing or improving clarity of style and organization and facilitating the full development of content.

Previous recipients of the award include Joel Cohen, Nancy Folbre, Eugene Grebenik, and Nathan Keyfitz.

The next award will be made in April 2001. Nominations may be submitted by individuals or organizations and should include: the name, professional or home mailing address, present occupational title, and institutional affiliation of the nominee; a brief statement of the individual's contributions in the population field; and evidence of contributions (for writers, cite one to three articles or other publications; for editors, identify sample publications).

Nominations should be mailed by March 1, 2001, to: Ethel Churchill, Director of Publications, Population Council, One Dag Hammarskjöld Plaza, New York, NY 10017.

LIS Summer 2001 Workshop

The Luxembourg Income Study (LIS) is a cooperative research project on income and economic well-being in more than 25 industrialized countries. The project is sponsored by the government of Luxembourg and by the Centre for Population, Poverty and Policy Studies in Differdange, Luxembourg.

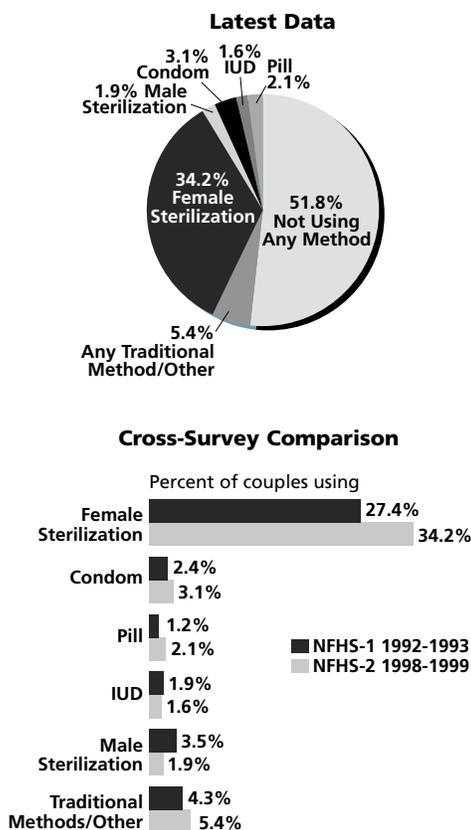
The annual LIS summer workshop introduces young scholars in the social sciences to comparative research in income distribution and social policy using the LIS database. The 2001 summer workshop will be held at Syracuse University, Syracuse, N.Y., in July, and applications are due by April 15. More information and an application are available on the LIS home page at: www.lis.ceps.lu. ■

India's Health Slowly Improves

by Carl Haub

The results of India's second National Family Health Survey (NFHS-2) are out. They show that progress is being made on many fronts but that, in general, the improvement is painfully slow.

Contraceptive Use in India, by Method*



*Contraceptive use is measured for married women ages 15 to 49.

Source: NFHS-2.

tion of children, and maternal care before and after a birth. But in NFHS-2, interviewers also collected data on women's autonomy, domestic violence, women's nutrition, and the use of iodized salt. They even measured anemia levels among women and children.

The proportion of married women using contraception was 48 percent, up from 41 percent in the first NFHS (conducted in 1992 and 1993). Most (91 percent) of this increase, however, came from an increase in female sterilization (see accompanying figures). The use of modern tem-

porary methods, such as the pill, condoms, and IUDs, rose only slightly, from 6 percent of married women in NFHS-1 to 7 percent in NFHS-2.

Progress has been made toward universal immunization of children. Whereas 30 percent of children had received no immunizations in NFHS-1, that proportion declined to 14 percent in NFHS-2. Nonetheless, one-third of children have not been fully immunized against polio and about half have not been immunized against measles. Child undernutrition remains a very serious problem. Almost one-half (47 percent) of Indian children under age 3 are underweight. Children born to mothers with a large number of children are most likely to be underweight.

NFHS-2 also measured anemia among women and children. The survey found that 74 percent of children and just over half (52 percent) of women were anemic. Anemia is a particular problem during pregnancy, as it increases the likelihood of maternal and infant death, premature delivery, and low birth weight.

AIDS has quickly become a major national concern, and NFHS-2 questioned women on their knowledge of HIV/AIDS. Six out of 10 women in India have never heard of AIDS, and the proportion varies widely by state. In Bihar, 88 percent of women had never heard of AIDS.

During 2000, the Indian government adopted a new National Population Policy, setting a goal of a two-child family norm for the year 2010 and "zero" population growth by the year 2045 (see *Population Today*, April 2000). When asked in the survey, almost three-fourths of women with two living children said they would prefer to stop childbearing at that point. This result indicates a significant shift in attitudes toward family size in the country. The NFHS-2 results also show that, if all unmet need for family planning were met, contraceptive prevalence would rise from 48 percent to 64 percent, a level observed in many developed countries.

The stage may be set for India to make more dramatic progress, but stepped-up effort at both the national and local levels is critical. ■

For More Information:

For more on the survey, see the ORC Macro website: www.macro-int.com. Three wallcharts are available from PRB: Health and Family Welfare; Women and Reproductive Health; and Welfare of Children and Youth. Wallcharts are \$4.50 each. Contact PRB's Customer Service Department: phone 800/877-9881; fax 202/328-3937; e-mail: popref@prb.org; or order online at: www.prb.org.

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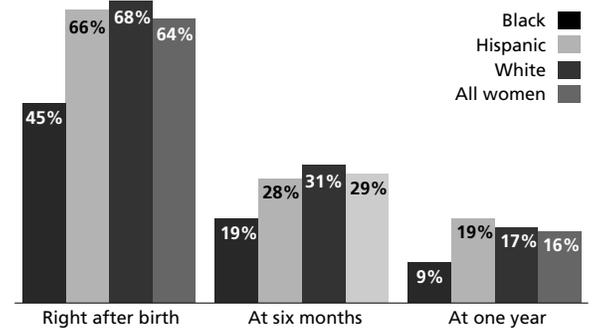
Latest data and estimates

Speaking Graphically

Breastfeeding in the United States in 1998, by Race and Ethnicity

Calling low breastfeeding rates in the United States a serious public health challenge, the U.S. Surgeon General, David Satcher, recently released the first comprehensive national framework to promote breastfeeding. The framework sets a goal of increasing the percentage of all mothers who breastfeed right after birth to 75 percent. Recommendations include giving women who return to work after childbirth access to private rooms for expressing milk.

Percent of U.S. mothers who breastfed their babies



Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Breastfed infants, compared with formula-fed infants, produce enhanced immune responses to polio, tetanus, diphtheria, and common respiratory infections. Recent research also suggests that breastfeeding reduces the risk among children of diabetes, inflammatory bowel disease, allergies and asthma, and childhood cancer.

The full text of the *Blueprint for Action on Breastfeeding* (October 2000) can be found on a new specialty section on breastfeeding on the website of the National Women's Health Information Center (www.4woman.gov) or through its toll-free telephone service at 800/994-WOMAN (or 888/220-5446).

World Population

As of Jan. 2001 6,109,000,000
Annual growth 82,000,000

Source: Extrapolated from the mid-2000 population on PRB's 2000 *World Population Data Sheet*.

Population of the United States

As of Oct. 1, 2000 276,083,000
As of Oct. 1, 1999 273,672,000

Source: From the U.S. Census Bureau, total monthly population estimates. Totals include armed forces overseas.

U.S. Vital Stats

12 Months Ending With November

	Number		Rate	
	1999	1998	1999	1998
Live births	3,938,000	3,947,000	14.4	14.6
Fertility rate	—	—	65.5	66.0
Deaths	2,366,000	2,328,000	8.7	8.6
Infant deaths	27,100	27,400	6.9	6.9
Natural increase	1,572,000	1,619,000	5.7	6.0
Marriages	2,334,000	2,248,000	8.6	8.3
Divorces	—	—	4.1	4.2

Note: Fertility rate is given per 1,000 women ages 15-44; infant deaths per 1,000 live births; other rates per 1,000 population. Number of divorces not available.

Source: National Center for Health Statistics, *National Vital Statistics Reports* 48, no. 17 (2000).

Spotlight Statistic:

Longer Life, Higher Death Rate

In 1998, 2,337,256 deaths were registered in the United States, a record high. If people are living longer, why are deaths increasing?

Year	Death Rate	Age-Adjusted Death Rate	Life Expectancy (Years at birth)
1998	864.7	471.7	76.7
1990	863.8	520.2	75.4

Source: National Center for Health Statistics, *National Vital Statistics Reports*.

Neither the absolute number of deaths nor the death rate (the number of deaths per 100,000 population, given in the table above) is a good indicator of life expectancy. The age-adjusted death rate, on the other hand, reflects improvements in life expectancy. The age-adjusted death rate eliminates the distorting effects of the aging of the population—that is, it takes into account the increasingly large segment of the population that is older and at greatest risk of death.

Here are a few websites that are useful sources of statistical data, reports, and other information on population, health, nutrition, and the environment.

Adolescent Reproductive and Sexual Health (UNESCO PROAP, Bangkok)

www.unescobkk.org/infores/arh-web
This website features a demographic profile of adolescents in Asia and the Pacific; principles, techniques, and guidelines in implementing reproductive and sexual health education; full-text publications and catalogs; and announcements of upcoming events and activities. The information on this site is based on case studies documenting experiences, lessons learned, and best practices from various country programs.

EC/UNFPA Initiative for Reproductive Health in Asia

www.asia-initiative.org/
Information about reproductive health projects in South and Southeast Asia is available on this site. The projects extend services to those who are underserved—including marginalized urban populations, rural people, and adolescents—and strengthen capacity in areas such as communication, information management, and

monitoring and evaluation. The website also offers resources (websites, institutions, and consultants), and up-to-date news and events.

Electronic Resource Guides

www.aplici.org/aplic2.html
Three new guides are available on the website of the Association of Population/Family Planning Libraries and Information Centers International (APLIC). The guides cover electronic resources on HIV/AIDS, population and reproductive health training materials, and copyright and intellectual property issues related to the use of electronic information. The guides are in PDF format and are compiled by APLIC and the UN Population Information Network (POPIN).

People & the Planet

www.peopleandplanet.net
This website is devoted to the inter-related issues of population, poverty, consumption, health, and the environment. Fourteen key topics are planned and seven are now online—human development, food and agriculture, reproductive health, coasts and oceans, renewable energy, pollution, and forests. Each topic includes an overview, facts and figures, news stories, book and film reviews, a glossary, and Web links.

Promotion of Initiatives to Eradicate Female Genital Mutilation

www.gtz.de/fgm

Available in English, French, and German, this site is located on the website of the German firm Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit GmbH, known as GTZ.

It provides information on female genital mutilation (FGM), a term for various forms of surgery performed on the external genitalia of girls in 28 African countries and in some other parts of the world. The site describes FGM-eradication projects in West Africa and in Kenya. It also contains publications that can be downloaded, offers a literature review, and provides links to related organizations and websites.

World Marriage Patterns 2000

www.undp.org/popin/wdtrends/worldmarriagepatterns2000.pdf

The UN Population Division has produced a wallchart showing, for men and women in all countries, the average mean age at marriage, the difference between these mean ages for men and women, and the percentage ever married for ages 15 to 19, 20 to 24, and 45 to 49. ■



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