

U.S. Diversity Visas Are Attracting Africa's Best and Brightest

by Arun Peter Lobo

Results from the 2000 Census have placed the issue of immigration front and center in U.S. public discourse. Analysts have focused primarily on the impact on this country of the large influx of Hispanics, who account for a large share of U.S. population growth. Yet new sources of immigrants have emerged in the past decade, and the impact of these new flows has not been limited to the United States.

INS data show that immigration from Africa in the 1990s climbed to 33,800 annually, more than double the level of the 1980s (see Figure 1, page 2). Though this number still represents a small fraction of U.S. immigration, it could gradually become a substantial share. And because African immigrants are disproportionately in professional, managerial, and technical (PMT) occupations—44 percent of African immigrants to the United States who declared an occupation have PMT qualifications, compared with 34 percent of all immigrants—their departure could further undermine social and economic conditions on the African continent.

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copyright reasons.

A Nigerian man in the foreground becomes a U.S. citizen. Most Africans who immigrated to the United States in the 1990s came from Nigeria.

The increased flow of Africans over the last 10 years has been fueled by two components of the Immigration Act of 1990: the introduction of the diversity visa program and an increase in employment visas.

The diversity visa program allotted visas known as "lottery" or "diversity" visas to natives

Continued on page 2

The Rise—and Fall?—of Single-Parent Families

by Bill O'Hare

Data recently released from the 2000 Census have exacerbated the misperception that the increase in single-parent families continues unabated. Census data showing that families maintained by single women increased three times as fast as married-couple families reflect trends that occurred during the first half of the 1990s; the second half of the decade has been a different story.

Over the last five years, it appears that the yearly increases in single-parent families that defined the U.S. landscape for more than 40 years have ended. The share of children born to unmarried mothers has stabilized, the divorce rate continues to fall,

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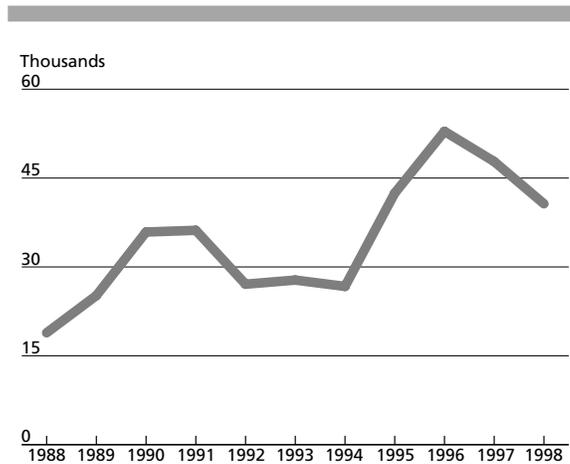
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African Brain Drain Accelerates *Continued from page 1*

FIGURE 1
African Immigrants Admitted to the United States, 1988–1998



Source: 1998 Statistical Yearbook of the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service.

of countries underrepresented in the immigration flow to the United States. These visas, which were meant to diversify immigration and therefore had minimal eligibility requirements, were used by African PMTs to immigrate to the United States. They provided a swift path of entry to African PMTs who could not qualify for a visa through close family ties with a U.S. resident. Between the 1980s and the 1990s, the flow of African PMTs doubled, from 2,900 annually to 5,800 annually, and diversity visas absorbed 55 percent of the growth (see Figure 2). Thus, the diversity visa program became the primary vehicle for the increased outflow of skilled Africans to the United States.

The increase in employment visas that was also part of the 1990 law spurred additional growth in the flow of African PMTs. The law dramatically increased the number of

employment visas, designed to attract those with needed occupational skills to the United States. Employment visas accounted for 28 percent of the growth in African PMTs. Together, increases in diversity and employment visas that came about with changes in immigration law in 1990 accounted for over 80 percent of the growth in African PMTs.

The flow of African PMTs to the United States is still relatively small, totaling just 52,000 between 1990 and 1998, or 7 percent of the overall flow of 801,000 PMTs to the United States during that period. The flow is likely to grow, however, as African PMTs naturalize.

They will then be able to use the much larger pool of family visas to bring in extended family members, many of whom—particularly spouses—are also likely to be highly skilled.

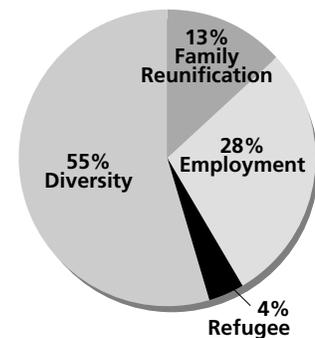
The effects of this flow on Africa may be catastrophic in light of the shortage of skills on that continent. In 1992, the *Southern African Economist* noted that Africa spent \$4 billion per year to pay 100,000 expatriate professionals who were needed to staff aid programs on the continent. A management organization in South Africa estimated in 1996 that 400,000 extra managers were needed to supervise that country's 10 million workers; the outflow of 2,300 South African managers to the United States in the 1990s accentuated that shortage.

The current turmoil in many parts of Africa pushes many PMTs to emigrate, in turn worsening conditions at home. But when long-term stability

returns, African countries could greatly benefit from the migration of their people to the United States and other Western countries, where migrants have sharpened skills and acquired new expertise. Countries such as Korea and Taiwan, which suffered huge losses of professionals in the 1970s, are now increasingly tapping the skills of their emigrant PMTs in the United States. Both countries have organized these professionals into networks that collaborate with scientists in their countries of origin; they are also increasingly successful in bringing skilled emigrants back home. If African countries are

FIGURE 2
Growth in the Flow of African PMTs to the United States, by Category of Admission

Between the 1980s and the 1990s



Note: Annual Average Increase=2,900.
Source: Author's analysis of annual immigrant tape files of the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service.

able to draw on the skills of their PMTs in the United States, the continent may one day gain from the brain drain it is experiencing. ■

Arun Peter Lobo is with the Population Division of the New York City Department of City Planning. The views expressed here do not necessarily reflect the views of the City of New York. This article was excerpted from a paper that the author presented at the annual meetings of the Population Association of America, held in March in Washington, D.C.

World Population Gap Widens

by Carl Haub

On World Population Day (July 11, 2001), it is clear that the 21st century belongs to the less developed countries, at least in terms of anticipated population growth. In 1950, the population of Asia, Africa, and Latin America and the Caribbean was about twice that of Europe and North America. By 2050, the difference in the populations of less developed countries and more developed countries could be sixfold.

The population gap will hold true despite the astonishing prevalence of HIV/AIDS in many African countries. Prevalence is highest in Botswana, at 36 percent of adults ages 15 to 49, but ranges from 10 percent to over 20 percent in Burundi, Côte d'Ivoire, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. Despite a projected decline in South Africa's population due to HIV/AIDS, Africa is still expected to add 1 billion to its population from 2001 to 2050.

In Europe, the annual number of births, now about 7.3 million, is counteracted by more than 8 million deaths. The total fertility rate—the average number of children a woman would have given prevailing birth rates—has been well below 2 children per woman for about 20 years in Western Europe. In Eastern Europe it is just 1.2, the world's lowest.

Fertility in Western European countries does seem to have "bottomed out," and small increases in recent years have been observed in a few countries. Some of the recently observed low fertility in Europe is due to a shift in the age pattern of child-bearing. When these women do decide to have children, an increase in TFRs can be expected—the

Carl Haub holds the Conrad Taeuber Chair of Population Information at PRB.

World Population Clock, 2001

	World	More Developed Countries	Less Developed Countries	Less Developed Countries (less China)
Population:	6,137,003,000	1,193,195,000	4,943,808,000	3,670,530,000
Births per:				
Year	136,482,384	13,267,914	123,214,470	103,822,446
Month	11,373,532	1,105,660	10,267,873	8,651,871
Week	2,624,661	255,152	2,369,509	1,996,586
Day	373,924	36,350	337,574	284,445
Hour	15,580	1,515	14,066	11,852
Minute	260	25	234	198
Second	4.3	0.4	3.9	3.3
Deaths per:				
Year	53,887,792	12,200,981	41,686,811	33,461,435
Month	4,490,649	1,016,748	3,473,901	2,788,453
Week	1,036,304	234,634	801,669	643,489
Day	147,638	33,427	114,210	91,675
Hour	6,152	1,393	4,759	3,820
Minute	103	23	79	64
Second	1.7	0.4	1.3	1.1
Natural Increase per:				
Year	82,594,592	1,066,933	81,527,659	70,361,011
Month	6,882,883	88,911	6,793,972	5,863,418
Week	1,588,358	20,518	1,567,840	1,353,096
Day	226,287	2,923	223,363	192,770
Hour	9,429	122	9,307	8,032
Minute	157	2	155	134
Second	2.6	0.0	2.6	2.2
Infant Deaths per:				
Year	7,637,540	99,677	7,537,864	6,928,954
Month	636,462	8,306	628,155	577,413
Week	146,876	1,917	144,959	133,249
Day	20,925	273	20,652	18,983
Hour	872	11	860	791
Minute	15	0.2	14	13
Second	0.2	0.0	0.2	0.2

Source: Population Reference Bureau, 2001 World Population Data Sheet.

UN's recently released medium-variant projections for Europe assume a modest increase in most countries—but it is difficult to anticipate how much of a rise there might be. ■

Webwise

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

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

Abortion in Central Asia

Recent evidence suggests that three former Soviet Central Asian republics—Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan—have experienced a decline in induced abortion since the dissolution of the

Soviet Union. This article profiles contraceptive use and abortion rates in all three countries, using data from UNICEF and from Demographic and Health Surveys. (www.prb.org)

Australian Immigration

More than the United States or Canada, Australia is a country of immigrants.

More than one-fifth of Australians were born overseas (23 percent), compared with 10 percent in the United States and 17 percent in Canada. And between 1945 and 2000, most of Australia's population increase came from immigration. This article reviews immigration policies and trends in Australia since World War II. (www.prb.org)

Strengthening Marriage and Families *Continued from page 1*

and the share of children living in single-parent families has stabilized and inched downward.

Historic Climb and Recent Trends

During the second half of the 20th century, the share of children living in single-parent families increased steadily. The 1960 Census reported that 9 percent of children lived in single-parent families, compared with the 28 percent reported by 2000. Among some groups and in some communities, the contemporary figure is much higher. Data from the 1990 Census show that more than half

the kids in large cities such as Atlanta, Baltimore, Detroit, New Orleans, St.

Louis, and Washington, D.C., lived in single-parent families.

Two major demographic trends can be identified as the underlying causes for the rise in single parenthood over the past several decades: the big increase in births to unmarried women and the increased rate of divorce. Today one-third of all births

occur to unmarried women. Children also become part of single-parent families through the death of a parent, but widowhood has been a relatively minor factor for the past 50 years.

The figure above shows the percentage of children living in single-parent families over the past 10 years. The early 1990s reflected the continuation of the multidecade trend. But by 1995, something started to change. Between 1996 and 1999, the percentage of children in single-parent families stabilized at 29 percent, and it appears to have edged downward to 28 percent in 2000.

This change is the product of three separate trends. Between 1996 and 2000, the share of children living with a never-married parent rose (from 10.6 percent to 11.0 percent), but this increase was outweighed by a drop (from 17.3 percent to 15.6 percent) in the share living with a divorced parent. The share living with a widowed parent remained constant, at 1.2 percent of all children.

In numerical terms, the number of children living with never-married parents increased by 400,000, but that was offset by a decline of 1 million kids living with divorced parents. The combination of these trends resulted in a smaller share of kids living with a single parent by 2000.

Public Interest and Policy Measures

Much of the public interest in the living arrangements of children stems from concern that children growing up in single-parent households have fewer resources available to them than those growing up in two-parent families. Forty-two percent of children in female-headed families were poor in 1999, compared with 8 percent of children in married-couple families.

The long-term rise in divorce and single parenting has led some policymakers to seek appropriate policy interventions to strengthen America's families. Since the mid-1990s, lawmakers have made reducing the number of single-parent families, particularly those formed when unmarried teenagers give birth, a prominent focus of federal and state welfare reform legislation. For example, the federal welfare reform law passed in 1996 rewards states for lowering out-of-wedlock births.

Congress recently acted to phase out the "marriage tax" and to increase the per child tax credit to reduce financial stress on families. President Bush's budget provides \$64 million in fiscal year 2002 to fund community and religious groups that promote fatherhood, marriage education, and conflict resolution.

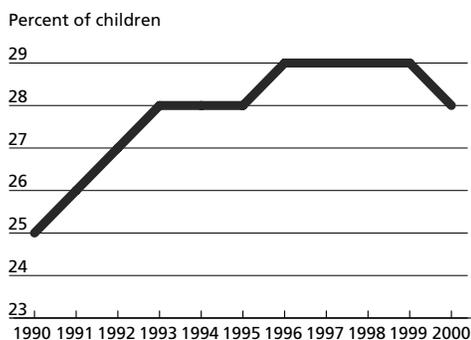
There are also changes underway at the state level. For example, the state of Louisiana allows couples to select a "covenant marriage," which makes it more difficult for couples to obtain a divorce. Oklahoma's governor last year announced a \$10 million initiative to reduce his state's divorce rate by one-third by 2010.

It is unclear whether the recent changes in the percentage of children living in single-parent families reflect a temporary lull in the upward movement or a reversal of a long-term trend. Also, it is not clear whether improvement is happening across the nation or is a product of increases in some places balanced by declines elsewhere. Decomposition of trends in various geographic areas and among different groups will help us understand the implications of the momentous national changes witnessed during the 1990s. ■

WebExtra!

For additional graphics and for the author's references, go to this article on PRB's website at: www.prb.org/pt.

Children Living in Single-Parent Families, 1990-2000



Note: Data are for related children, which means children related to the head of the household through birth, marriage, or adoption. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, March Current Population Survey for the years 1990-2000.

U.S. Public Opinion on Population Growth

The Census 2000 finding that the U.S. population has surged over the past decade disturbs 50 percent of the country, according to a new survey by the Pew Research Center for the People and the Press. Fifty-four percent of non-Hispanic whites reported feeling uneasy about the unexpectedly large increase, compared with 44 percent of blacks and 35 percent of Hispanics. While some of this concern may be due to the role played by immigration in U.S. population growth, half of the respondents agreed that immigrants “strengthen our country,” compared with 31 percent in 1994. Nearly half (49 percent) of respondents ages 18 to 29 viewed it as positive that Hispanics are now as populous as blacks, while older respondents were more likely to see black-Hispanic parity as a bad thing. Detailed information about the survey is available on the Web at: www.people-press.org/cen01rpt.htm.

Hunger in the World's Hotspots

Breaking with both traditional conservation policies and common agriculture techniques, the World Conservation Union and the Washington, D.C.-based agriculture organization Future Harvest have released a report urging the adoption of eco-agriculture. Eco-agriculture helps farmers, notably those living in or near biodiversity “hotspots” that are rich in species but are under greatest ecological threat, to grow more food while conserving habitats critical to wildlife. It encourages, rather than prohibits, taking down fences that separate nature reserves from farmland.

“The eco-agriculture approach recognizes the fact that endangered species and desperately poor humans occupy the same ground,” said Sara J. Scherr, co-author of the report. “Eco-agriculture could transform agriculture and environmental protection to save wild biodiver-

sity while also addressing the realities of human hunger and population growth.”

The report, *Common Ground, Common Future*, indicates that 45 percent of the world's 17,000 major nature reserves are already being heavily used for agriculture, and that hunger and malnutrition are pervasive among people living in at least 16 of the world's 25 key hotspots. And just as people are compelled to encroach on the reserves, the animals inside have a vital need to move beyond their enclosures. Co-author Jeffrey A. McNeely explained that many animals need the ability to migrate in order to avoid extinction because the enclosures do not contain large enough populations to maintain the species. If no more than the existing protected areas continue as wildlife habitat, between 30 percent and 50 percent of the species living in these areas will be lost.

According to the report, biodiversity hotspots are located in areas that are home to one-fourth of all the undernourished people in the developing world. And in 19 of the 25 hotspots, population is growing faster than in the world as a whole. The number of animal species, though, is shrinking.

The report contains case studies of eco-agriculture in Australia, the UK, the United States, Canada, Europe, Latin America, Africa, and Asia. It is available on the Future Harvest website: www.futureharvest.org/pdf/biodiversityen.pdf.

Racial and Ethnic Differences in Maternal Mortality

The National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, part of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, recently released highlights of a new federal study on pregnancy-related deaths in the United States. For the first time, the annual study presents separate data for Hispanic, Asian/Pacific Islander, and American Indian/Alaska Native women, who in previous studies

were grouped into an “other” category that masked differences in their health status. The data for 1991 to 1997 show that all three groups have elevated risks in pregnancy. The pregnancy-related mortality ratios (PRMRs, which indicate pregnancy-related deaths per 100,000 live births) were 12.2 for American Indian and Alaska Native women, 11.3 for Asian and Pacific Islander women, and 10.3 for Hispanic women. These ratios are significantly higher than the PRMR for non-Hispanic white women, which was 7.3. Still, black women continue to have the highest risk of all of these groups, with a PRMR of 29.6.

Noting that race and ethnicity might hide other risk factors such as poverty, author Sara Whitehead said: “We need to examine issues such as access to care, quality of care, health insurance status, language and cultural barriers to care, immigration issues, and socioeconomic status.”

The issue of *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report* with information on the study is on the Web at: www.cdc.gov/mmwr//preview/mmwrhtml/mm5018a3.htm.

Asia's Swelling Cities

A recent UN report warns that environmental degradation in rural areas of Asia might force 800 million people in the region to migrate to cities over the next 20 years. If this rapid movement occurs, it will be equivalent to setting up a new city of 150,000 people every day for the next 15 years. *The State of the Environment Report in Asia and the Pacific 2000* estimates the cost of providing water, sanitation, energy, and transport to these mushrooming urban populations at US\$10 trillion over the next 25 to 30 years.

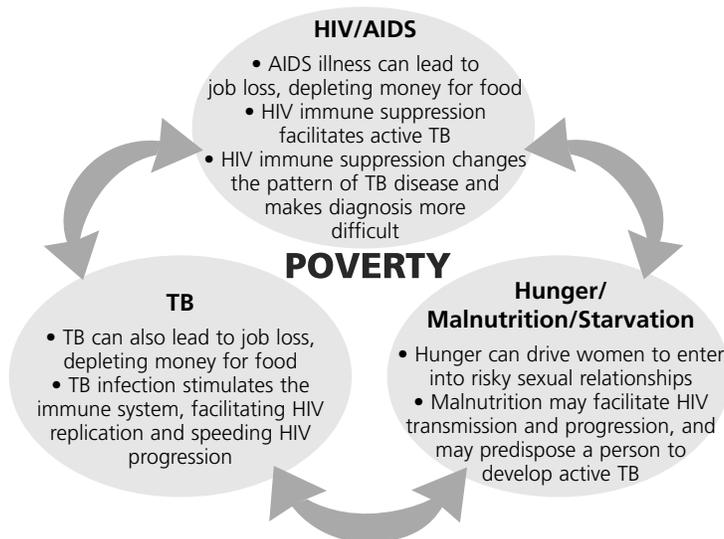
For more information, write to the Environment Section, UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, Rajchadamnern Nok Avenue, Bangkok 10200, Thailand. The report will soon be on the Web at: www.unescap.org. ■

Treating a Triple Threat in Haiti

by Daniel W. Fitzgerald and Patrice Joseph

Among Caribbean countries, Haiti has the highest prevalence rate of HIV/AIDS (5.2 percent of 15-to-49-year-olds), the highest prevalence of malnutrition (at least 30 percent of children under age 5 suffering low weight for age), and the highest incidence rate of tuberculosis (at least 250 per 100,000 people). It also has the lowest per capita gross national income, US\$460. Is there a connection? Yes. Severe poverty is central to AIDS, starvation, and TB, which all combine in destructive synergy.

Vicious Interactions: HIV/AIDS, Starvation, and TB



As vicious as the interactions are among AIDS, starvation, and TB (see figure), interventions are possible. If TB and starvation are treated, the course of HIV can be dramatically changed. With the support of the Haitian Ministry of Health, several organizations have developed interventions to pull people from the grasp of HIV/AIDS, starvation, and TB.

The nongovernmental organization Zanmi la Sante has addressed the central role of poverty in HIV/AIDS, starvation, and TB. In 1991 the organization conducted a study in which it compared TB treatment outcomes for a group of patients receiving standard TB treatment with

outcomes for a second group receiving standard treatment plus financial aid. The group receiving financial aid had improved cure rates, lower mortality, and better ability to return to work. Zanmi la Sante has since applied targeted financial aid to health interventions including TB programs, nutrition programs, provision of HIV care, and prevention of mother-to-child HIV transmission with antiretroviral therapy.

The Haitian research organization GHESKIO has pioneered integrated medical services for HIV/AIDS, starvation, and TB. Clients who come for voluntary HIV counseling and testing are also screened for active TB. People with active TB are treated, HIV-positive patients are given HIV care and TB prophylaxis, and all patients suffering from malnutrition receive nutritional support. Integration of services has improved care for all GHESKIO patients, and GHESKIO staff now train staff from other Haitian health institutions in providing HIV/AIDS, nutrition, and TB services.

The Hospital Albert Schweitzer's directly observed TB therapy (DOT) program provides a good model for developing compassionate staff. With DOT, community health workers make house calls to see that patients take their medicine regularly until they are cured. Believing that former TB patients are more likely to be sympathetic to those suffering from a disease with a social stigma, the hospital trains former TB patients to be the health workers who administer DOT. A recent study showed that 80 percent of HIV-positive patients who received DOT through the hospital's program had a successful treatment outcome, compared with 28 percent of those who did not receive DOT. While the success of DOT may be due to health care workers' observation of patients taking pills, it may also be due to patients' observation of compassionate health care providers.

Current models estimate that there are 300,000 HIV-positive people in Haiti. Unless preventative measures are taken, approximately 40 percent will develop active TB within 10 years. The interventions of Zanmi la Sante, GHESKIO, and Hospital Albert Schweitzer offer a glimmer of hope. ■

Daniel W. Fitzgerald is a researcher with Cornell University Medical College's Division of International Medicine and Infectious Diseases. Patrice Joseph is a staff member of GHESKIO.

WebExtra!

A longer version of this article appears under the HIV/AIDS topic on PRB's website at: www.prb.org.

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Contact Information

PRB, 1875 Connecticut Ave., NW,
Suite 520, Washington, DC 20009-5728
Phone: 202/483-1100

Fax: 202/328-3937

E-mail: poptoday@prb.org

Website: www.prb.org

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Numbers You Can Use

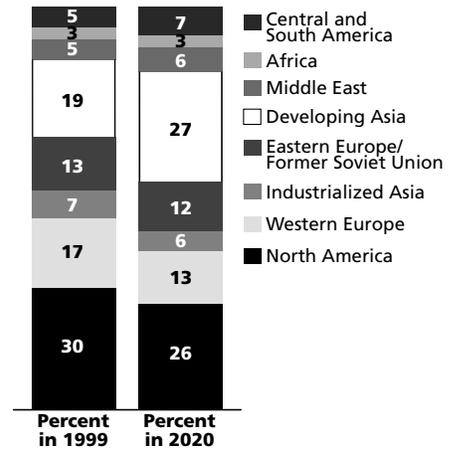
Latest data and estimates

Speaking Graphically

Regional Shares of World Energy Consumption, 1999 and 2020

The *International Energy Outlook 2001*, published by the Energy Information Administration of the U.S. Department of Energy, forecasts that world energy consumption will rise by 59 percent between 1999 and 2020, from 382 quadrillion British thermal units (Btu) to 607 quadrillion Btu.

While consumption will increase in all regions, the figure at right shows the highest growth in energy consumption over the period is expected in less developed countries, where the highest population growth is also expected (see page 3). This is especially true in the developing countries of Asia and in Central and South America, where energy demand is projected to increase by 129 percent and 123 percent, respectively. The shares of all industrialized countries in total world energy consumption are projected to decline.



Source: Energy Information Administration, *International Energy Outlook 2001* (www.eia.doe.gov/oiaf/ieo/pdf/highlights.pdf, June 11, 2001).

Estimated World Population

As of July 2001 6,137,000,000
Annual growth 83,000,000

Source: Extrapolated from the mid-2001 population on PRB's 2001 *World Population Data Sheet*.

Population of the United States

As of April 1, 2000 281,421,906

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, total resident population, Census 2000.

U.S. Vital Stats

	January–December			
	Number		Rate	
	1999	1998	1999	1998
Live births	3,965,000	3,943,000	14.5	14.6
Fertility rate	—	—	65.9	66.0
Deaths	2,396,000	2,331,000	8.8	8.6
Infant deaths	28,100	27,600	7.1	7.0
Natural increase	1,569,000	1,612,000	5.7	6.0
Marriages	2,358,000	2,256,000	8.6	8.4
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. 19 (www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr48/nvs48_19.pdf, June 12, 2001).

Spotlight Statistic

Smokers a Dwindling Share of U.S. Population

Smoking among adults continues to decrease. Since 1997, the share of the U.S. population classified as "current smokers" (those who smoked more than 100 cigarettes in their lifetime and now smoke every day or some days) has dropped nearly 2 percentage points.

Year	Current Smokers as % of Population
1997	24.7
1998	24.1
1999	23.5
2000*	23.0

*Data for 2000 are for January through June.

Source: National Center for Health Statistics, "Early Release of Selected Estimates from the National Health Interview Survey" (www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nhis/aboutER.pdf, June 8, 2001).

African Council of AIDS Service Organizations (AfrICASO)

www.africaso.org/

AfrICASO is a network of non-governmental and community-based organizations formed to strengthen the efforts of network members to reduce the transmission of HIV. Its website provides a directory of organizations involved in community-based health care, listed by country and city. Workshop and other activity reports are available as well.

International Network for the Availability of Scientific Publications (INASP)

www.inasp.org.uk/info/inasp.html

Established in 1992 by the International Council for Science, INASP is a cooperative network of partners whose mission is to enhance the flow of information within and between countries with less developed systems of communications. One area INASP focuses on is health information. Its Health Information Forum promotes international cooperation through workshops and electronic discussion, and provides information on health activities, needs, and priorities worldwide.

INASP's African Journals Online database (www.inasp.org.uk/

[ajol/index.html](http://www.inasp.org.uk/ajol/africa/index.html)) offers tables of contents and article abstracts for journals published in Africa, along with a document delivery service. The site also provides links to journals on Africa that are published in other countries at: www.inasp.org.uk/ajol/africa/index.html.

Gender Statistics (UN Economic Commission for Europe)

www.unece.org/stats/gender/

This site provides country-specific data on gender differences for both European and North American countries. Data accessible through the pull-down menu of countries cover educational attainment, employment, parliamentary membership, leading causes of death, nonmarital births and births to teens, life expectancy at birth, women's income as a percentage of men's, average age at first marriage, and a population pyramid.

Manager's Electronic Resource Center

<http://erc.msh.org/>

Produced by the nonprofit organization Management Sciences for Health, the Manager's Electronic Resource Center provides a wealth of useful resources for health professionals. Its publications cover

management topics such as human resources, finances, and quality of clinical services and are accessible in full text. A free membership allows access to the message boards. For those with limited Internet access, newsletters and Web pages are available by e-mail from the resource center.

NGO Networks for Health

www.ngonetworks.org/

NGO Networks for Health is a five-year global health project created to meet the burgeoning need for family planning, reproductive health, child survival, and HIV/AIDS information and services in less developed countries. The site includes information about the network and its five partners; details about project activities in Armenia, Nicaragua, Malawi, and Vietnam; and the network's *At a Glance* newsletter and other publications in full text. Topics covered include reproductive health, behavior change, safe motherhood, HIV/AIDS, capacity building, health networks, and monitoring and evaluation. ■

— Prepared by Zuali H. Malsawma,
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