

New Index Tracks Children's Well-Being

by Paola Scommegna

Is the well-being of America's children good and getting better, or bad and getting worse?

Duke University sociologist and demographer Kenneth Land and colleagues answered that question in relative terms with a new Index of Child and Youth Well-Being, which charts the annual change in indicators of the life conditions of children and youth, and reports the results as a single number.

The researchers selected 28 national-level indicators from two sources: *America's Children: Key National Indicators of Well Being*, published annually by the Federal Interagency Forum on Child and Family Statistics (1999, 2000), and *Trends in the Well-Being of America's Children and Youth*, compiled by Child Trends and the Urban Institute and published by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (2000).

As a framework for their choices, Land and his colleagues used the seven areas of social life ("domains") that quality-of-life researchers consider essential components of well-being (see table

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School achievement is included in the index.

on page 2). The change within each domain was calculated, and scores from the seven domains were combined to produce a single-number index.

"There are literally dozens of data series and indicators of various aspects of child and family well-being, but no well-accepted overall measure," noted Land.

Much the same way the Consumer Price Index (CPI) tracks the price fluctuations of a

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Warm Welcome, Cool Welcome: Mapping Receptivity Toward Immigrants in the U.S.

by Gordon F. De Jong and Quynh-Giang Tran

The dramatic increase in the minority population of the United States due to immigration has been a major story emerging from the 2000 Census. The story has focused on the numbers of immigrants and the places where they settle. While the largest number of immigrants have concentrated in a handful of large gateway cities—Los Angeles, New York, San Francisco, Chicago, Dallas, Houston, Washington, D.C.-Baltimore, and Miami—some of the highest rates of minority population growth have been in smaller and geographically dispersed metropolitan areas such as Charlotte, N.C.

But what about the attitudes of native-born citizens toward immigrants? How receptive are U.S. residents to these newcomers?

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Obesity Linked to Dip in Children's Health Continued from page 1

Social Indicators on Which Index Is Based

Domains of Well-Being	Indicators Used*
Material Well-Being	Median family income, parental unemployment, poverty, health insurance, single-parent households
Health	Health insurance, obesity (ages 6 to 17), low birth weight, infant mortality rate, mortality rate (ages 1 to 19), activity limitations, parent reported rates of very good or excellent health, teenage pregnancy (ages 10 to 17)
Safety, Behavioral Concerns	Victimization (ages 12 to 17), crime (ages 12 to 17), smoking (Grade 12), drinking (Grade 12), drugs (Grade 12), teenage pregnancy (ages 10 to 17)
Educational Attainment	School achievement, reading and math test scores (averaged for ages 9, 13, and 17)
Place in Community and Educational Attainment	Enrollment in preschool (ages 3 to 4), graduation rates from high school (ages 18 to 24) and college (ages 25 to 29), voting (ages 18 to 20), youth not working and not in school (ages 16 to 19).
Social Relationships	Single-parent households, residential mobility
Emotional/Spiritual Well-Being	Suicide rate (ages 10 to 19), religious service attendance and spiritual attitude (Grade 12)

*Some indicators appear in more than one domain; indicators cover children ages 0 to 17 unless otherwise indicated in parentheses.
Source: Kenneth C. Land.

standard set or "market basket" of goods and services typically purchased by consumers, the Index of Child and Youth Well-Being measures change in a variety of areas of social life.

No individual consumer will buy all the goods in the average market basket in an individual year, but the CPI gives consumers "a general idea of what to expect in the market place," Land explained. In the same way, no one child or family faces all the social conditions measured by the new index; rather, it is a signal of overall trends.

Compiling the index exposed the limitations of existing time-series data in several areas. Land and his colleagues found no direct measure of emotional and spiritual well-being, and therefore chose several indirect indicators: suicide rates and high school seniors' rates of religious service attendance and ranking of the importance of religion in their lives. Because the area of social relationships was also without direct measures, the researchers chose the prevalence of single-parent households as a measure of family relationships, and the rate of residential moves (known to be disruptive to children's friendships) to represent peer relationships.

Given these and other limitations described in the report of the research findings, Land suggested that the index should be used cautiously, "interpreted as indicative of overall trends." More experience with the behavior of the index

over time as well as improvements in it are required before it can be given the credence of long-standing indexes such as the CPI, he said.

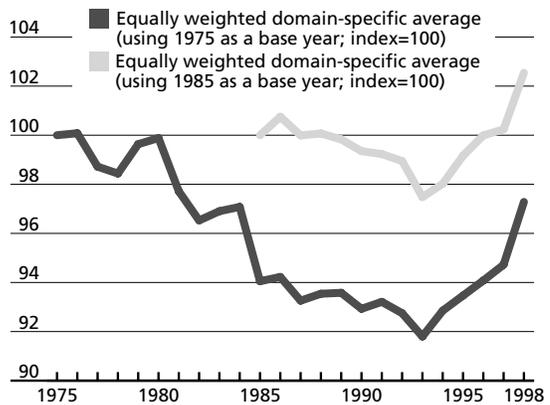
Findings

How are America's children and youth faring? The answer depends on several factors.

Choice of indicators. The *place in community* domain saw the "largest and most steady increase," reflecting increases in college and day-care enrollment as well as in teen employment. The *material well-being* domain fluctuated with the economy but reached a level in 1998 that was somewhat higher than in 1975. The *safety/behavior concerns* domain also fluctuated a great deal, reflecting trends in teenage childbearing; criminal behavior; and the use of cigarettes, alcohol, and illegal drugs. The *health* domain index declined beginning in the mid-1980s, pulled down by increases in the share of both overweight children and low birth-weight newborns.

Year chosen for comparison. Overall, child well-being in 1998 was slightly better than in 1985 but slightly worse than in 1975. The researchers estimate that overall well-being was 2 percent to 3 percent lower in 1998 than in 1975, but 1 percent to 2 percent higher in 1998 than in 1985 (see figure). Using either 1975 or

Average of Domain-Specific Indices of Child Well-Being, 1975-1998



Source: Kenneth C. Land.

1985 as the base year, they found that conditions of life for U.S. children and youth "deteriorated fairly steadily" for the latter half of the 1980s, reaching low points between 1992 and 1994. An upturn began in 1994 that continued through 1998.

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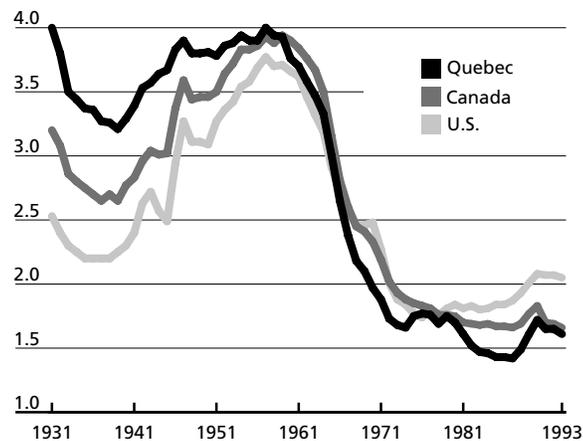
Quebec's Alternative to Pronatalism

by Catherine Krull

For centuries, fertility was seen as central to the survival of Quebec's distinct French-Canadian culture. The province's political elite and its clergy successfully promoted relatively high fertility rates to overcome subordination to English-Canada. As the figure at right shows, however, between 1961 and 1971, Quebec's fertility rate plummeted. Since then, two kinds of government intervention to make parenthood more attractive have been tried, but experience has shown that pronatalism is no longer the means to ensure a (distinctive) francophone Quebec.

In a population engineering effort unprecedented in North America, the Quebec government in 1988 implemented three programs to boost fertility: allowances for newborns that, after amendments, paid women C\$500 for a first birth, C\$1,000 for a second, and C\$8,000 for a third and each subsequent birth (one Canadian dollar equals 63 U.S. cents); a family allowance for all children under 18 years; and an additional allowance for children under age 6.

Total Fertility Rates for Quebec, Canada, and the United States, 1931-1993



Sources: Statistics Canada and the U.S. National Center for Health Statistics.

Moreover, with the birth of a third or subsequent child, parents received 27 weeks of paid

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Putting Well-Being in Context *Continued from page 2*

The economy. All the domain-specific indices except health saw “sustained and substantial gains” between 1993 and 1998, coinciding with the “long-term economic expansion of the mid-to-late-1990s,” according to the report. Past economic recessions led to downturns in several domains. “With the economic recession that evidently is occurring in 2001, we can anticipate some deterioration or at least no improvement in many indicators of child well-being for the duration of the economic slowdown,” said Land.

Well-being by race. The index showed that the well-being gap between black and white children and youth grew 20 percent between 1985 and 1998. This growth reflects the increasing share of black children in single-parent families and their resulting low income levels. Black children’s low suicide rates and high religious attendance, compared with those of

white children, acted as a “well-being advantage,” keeping the gap from growing even larger.

Benchmark. Using the best national level ever recorded for each indicator—for example, lowest mortality and highest college enrollment rates—the researchers calculated that the index could improve 23 percent from its level in 1975. Compared with the best levels recorded internationally, the index could rise 38 percent higher than in 1975. Land called these “tough yardsticks” that “give us an idea of how much these conditions can be improved.” ■

For More Information:

Kenneth C. Land, Vicki L. Lamb, and Sarah Kahler Mustillo, “Child and Youth Well-Being in the United States, 1975-1998: Some Findings From a New Index,” forthcoming in *Social Indicators Research*.

Federal Interagency Forum on Child and Family Statistics, *America's Children: Key National Indicators of Well-Being, 1999 and 2000*. Available on the Web at: www.childstats.gov/otherpub.asp.

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, *Trends in the Well-Being of America's Children and Youth, 2000*. Available on the Web at: <http://aspe.hhs.gov/hsp/00trends/>.

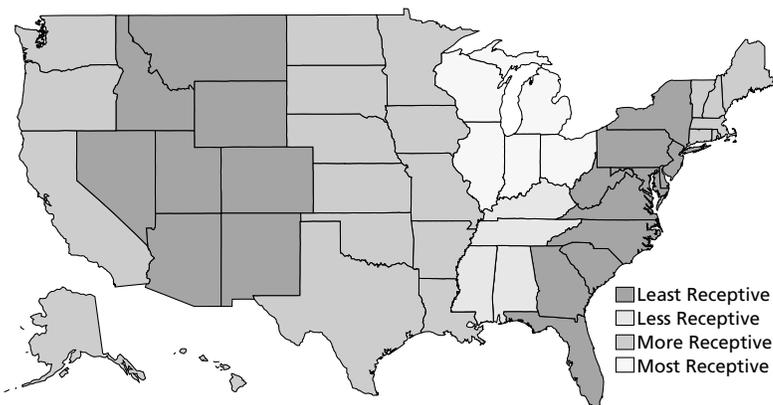
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Receptivity Toward Immigrants, by Area

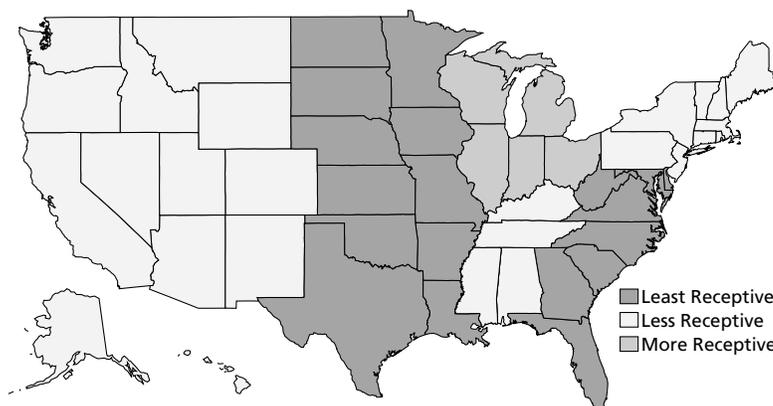
20 Major Metropolitan Areas



Smaller Metropolitan Areas



Nonmetropolitan Areas



Large Metropolitan Areas

Among native-born citizens living in 20 major metropolitan areas, those in Atlanta, Baltimore, Detroit, Miami, Minneapolis, Philadelphia, Phoenix, Seattle, and Washington, D.C., were the most receptive toward immigrants (top map). Respondents living in Chicago, New York, Pittsburgh, and St. Louis also reported generally warm and welcoming attitudes. On the other hand, native-born Americans living in Dallas, San Diego, San Francisco, and Tampa, Fla., expressed the least receptive attitudes toward immigrants, while citizens of Boston, Houston, and Los Angeles had generally cool attitudes toward immigrants.

This pattern shows that, with the notable exception of Phoenix, American citizens living in metropolitan areas close to the U.S.-Mexico border reported less receptive attitudes toward immigrants. All of the big California and Texas metropolitan areas have large and increasing Hispanic and Asian populations. With a similarly large and growing Hispanic population, Phoenix is an interesting anomaly.

Another anomaly is the stark difference in receptivity toward immigrants among Floridians residing in Miami and Tampa. Native-born citizens in Miami reported warm and those in Tampa cool attitudes toward immigrants. Historic differences in the region of origin and the socioeconomic composition of immigrants may help explain the contrasting receptivity toward immigrants by residents of these fairly close cities; Miami has a large Cuban community, which includes business and professional immigrants, and retirees of European origin, while Tampa draws more immigrants from Mexico and from Central American countries.

Smaller Metropolitan Areas

The middle map shows that native-born citizens in the industrial Midwest (East North Central division) expressed the greatest receptivity toward immigrants. This pattern is congruent with the positive attitudes toward immigrants expressed by residents in the large metropolitan areas of this region—Chicago, Detroit, Minneapolis, and St. Louis. Furthermore, Americans in smaller metropolitan areas in both the West North Central and West South Central agricultural divisions, in the Pacific division, and in New England all reported generally warm attitudes toward immigrants. This pattern for the smaller metropolitan areas contrasts with the more nega-

Source: Authors' analysis of GSS data.

And how does receptivity toward immigrants differ across the country? The maps on this page, which draw on data from the 1994 General Social Survey (see box), illustrate the differences in the warmth of the welcome extended to immigrants across U.S. census divisions and metropolitan areas.

tive attitudes toward immigrants in the large California and Texas metropolitan cities, and in Boston. Immigrant population growth, while rapid in some smaller metropolitan areas, has been relatively recent and constitutes a smaller proportion of a city's population than for many of the large metropolitan areas. Residents of smaller metropolitan areas in the Middle Atlantic, South Atlantic, and Mountain divisions reported the least receptivity toward immigrants.

Nonmetropolitan Areas

Receptivity of nonmetropolitan Americans toward immigrants was decidedly cooler (bottom map). Only nonmetropolitan residents of the industrial Midwest expressed generally positive attitudes toward immigrants, while residents of the South Atlantic and those of the West South Central and West North Central agricultural divisions reported the least receptive attitudes toward immigrants. Although recent labor shortages in some agriculture-related industries have drawn immigrants to some small towns and rural areas that have little previous experience with immigrant populations, a generally less receptive attitude toward immigrants is prevalent among nonmetropolitan Americans all across the country.

Just as 2000 Census data show diversity in immigrants' settlement patterns across the country, the data presented here demonstrate that there are more and less receptive areas for immigrants, based on the attitudes of native-born citizens. For potential immigrants, this information sends a signal about where assimilation to the United States may be easier or more difficult. In general, metropolitan area citizens have a more receptive and nonmetropolitan area citizens a less receptive attitude toward immigrants, and those in the industrial Midwest have a more receptive attitude toward immigrants than those in the South Atlantic division and in the large metropolitan areas of California and Texas.

Researchers have suggested several possible explanations for the diverse attitudes toward immigrants, the dominant one being regional variations in economic conditions. Receptivity toward immigrants becomes decidedly cooler as unemployment rates of U.S. citizens increase and warmer when unemployment rates fall. Rising unemployment among citizens triggers eco-

Data and Methods

The data are from the National Opinion Research Center's 1994 General Social Survey, a representative sample of the adult population in the United States. Proprietary geocoding information permitted the identification of the major metropolitan area and census division in which each respondent lived. Factor analysis was used to derive four dimensions of receptivity toward immigrants: immigrant impacts on society, immigrants as hardworking, illegal immigrants' privileges, and English-only policies. Standardized scale scores were summed across the four dimensions to produce a summary measure of receptivity toward immigrants. The sample used was 1,361 native-born U.S. citizens.

nomie insecurity, and labor market competition engenders nativism. Another explanation is the perception by citizens that illegal immigrants are a drain on local and state public resources, a perception that helped drive the passage of Proposition 187 in California. "Prop 187," passed in late 1994, cut off some health and social services, including access to public education, to illegal immigrants and their children. The initiative was put on hold by a federal court, but its passage generated a national immigration debate and major legislation in Congress.

In contrast, the cultural affinity explanation suggests that a warmer welcome of immigrants may stem from large concentrations of immigrants of similar origin in certain metropolitan areas or regions. And a consistent finding is a more positive attitude toward immigrants in areas with a higher mean level of educational attainment for the native population.

Policymakers regularly use legislative and financial incentives and disincentives to regulate the size of immigration flows and the occupational skills of immigrants. But policymakers infrequently address the receptivity of U.S. citizens toward immigrants—attitudes that may be critical not only to the economic productivity of immigrants in their jobs, but also to their assimilation into the life of local communities and to their ability to adapt to the social norms and civil order expectations of U.S. society. Given that the 1994 General Social Survey was conducted well into the recovery from the 1991-1992 recession, the data here probably represent a relatively high point for the receptivity scale. ■

Gordon F. De Jong is distinguished professor of sociology and demography and director of the graduate program in demography at the Pennsylvania State University. **Quynh-Giang Tran** is a Ph.D. candidate in sociology and demography at the Pennsylvania State University.

leave, plus 15 weeks of federal maternity benefits. Families with two or more children under age 18 qualified for a C\$7,000 interest-free loan to help purchase a first home. Overall, Quebec families received almost C\$4 billion annually in direct and income tax assistance from the provincial and federal governments.

Reactions to these forms of direct financial assistance varied. Noninterventionists argued that fertility decisions were individual, not governmental, responsibilities. Some even charged that the pronatalists had invented a fertility crisis to advance the nationalist agenda. One scathing critique by feminist professor Heather Maroney of the University of Carleton charged that Quebec's pronatal policies marginalized women, reducing them to objects of demographic policy.

Social interventionists supported government action, not through pronatalist intervention, but through social policies to improve female equity and assist families. Of particular importance were policies to decrease tensions between employment and family responsibilities.

These critiques coincided with a growing awareness that Quebec's incentive policies were not producing the expected birth increases. Although there was an initial increase in the late 1980s in the total fertility rate from 1.49 children per woman in 1988 to 1.72 in 1990, after 1990 total births decreased, and families with three or more children remained uncommon. Overall, policies favoring third and subsequent children were viewed increasingly as contrary to the needs of most families.

In 1997 Quebec switched its approach to strengthening families. It created the Ministry of Family and Children's Services and gave it a budget of C\$500 million. The Ministry was to:

- Establish a standard child allowance program for low-income families, wherein the amount of allowances would depend on the number of dependent children under age 18, on family type (single-parent, two-parent), and on income (a threshold of C\$15,332 for single-parent families; C\$21,825 for two-parent families).
- Offer a maternity/parental leave plan that would pay more during and after pregnancy.
- Provide a network of government-regulated, highly subsidized (C\$5 per day) day-care facilities offering a quality educational program to children from birth to kindergarten

age. (Presently, Quebec is the only province to have universal subsidized day care. Ten innovative pilot projects have also recently been launched that offer evening and 24-hour day-care service, seven days a week.)

But even the new family assistance policies have shortcomings. A recent study indicates that 72 percent of Quebec families are worse off under the new family assistance program than under the earlier pronatal one, despite government promises that 95 percent of families would benefit from the new policies.

While the previous pronatal program provided universal assistance, the new initiatives provide targeted assistance aimed almost exclusively at low-income working families (those with a net income between C\$10,000 and C\$25,000). Families with a net income of less than C\$10,000 benefit only marginally, since their increase in family assistance is offset by a reduction of a similar amount in social assistance. (Canada offers both family assistance, supporting the needs of children and adults within families, and social assistance, which spans health, employment, and general social welfare.) Families with a net income of C\$25,000 or higher now receive less family assistance; the money once spent on them is now allocated to low-income working families. And due to budget constraints, the parental leave plan has yet to be realized.

In terms of the universal C\$5-a-day day-care program, there are not enough regulated day-care spaces to keep up with demand. Consequently, Quebec day-care centers now have long waiting lists and one of the highest ratios of children to day-care workers in Canada.

Although the new policies promote work, they inadvertently limit women's choices by offering more assistance to families with employed mothers than to families with stay-at-home mothers (through universal C\$5-a-day day care and through cutbacks in social assistance).

Clearly, promoting higher fertility has not been effective for the past half-century. Like many other modern societies, Quebec faces a low birth rate and an aging population. The Quebec government cannot convince women to bear more children than they desire. The Quebec government has found and will continue to find other means to protect the distinctiveness of its society, including reassessing family assistance programs. ■

WebExtra!

For additional graphics and for the author's references, see the Web version of this article. Go to www.prb.org and click on "Fertility," one of the topics on PRB's home page.

Modest Response to Mifepristone in U.S.

In September 2000, when the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved the use of the drug mifepristone for nonsurgical abortions, abortion rights advocates and foes believed the FDA's action would make abortion more readily available. Yet a study by the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation released this fall indicates that the availability of mifepristone has not greatly increased the number of physicians providing abortions.

The study shows that, since September 2000, 6 percent of all gynecologists and 1 percent of general practice physicians have administered mifepristone to provide nonsurgical abortions. (In comparison, 27 percent of gynecologists performed surgical abortions within the last five years, and 1 percent of general practice physicians surveyed said they currently perform surgical abortions.) Among gynecologists who perform surgical abortions, a higher percentage—12 percent—have used mifepristone.

Forty percent of gynecologists and 37 percent of general practice physicians said they do not offer mifepristone because they personally oppose abortion. Among those who do not offer the drug for other reasons, the most common reason is that patients do not ask for it.

The study is available on the Kaiser Family website at: www.kff.org/content/2001/3170/.

Fuel Inefficiency

Miles per gallon estimates for 2002 passenger vehicles, contained in a *Fuel Economy Guide* recently released by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), indicate that more than 94 percent of new model cars and trucks get less than 30 miles per gallon. This puts their average fuel economy below that of 2001 cars. The top-scoring cars in the "cleanest vehicles overall" category were the Honda Accord, the Honda Insight, the Nissan Sentra, and the Toyota Prius. The *Fuel*

Economy Guide is available on the Web at: www.fueleconomy.gov. Emission data are also online at: www.epa.gov/greenvehicles.

Mainstreaming Mental Health

One quarter of all people will be affected by mental or brain disorders at some point in their lives, says a new report by the World Health Organization (WHO). Some 450 million people suffer from these disorders, which rank among the leading causes of disease and disability worldwide. Depressive disorders alone, according to the report, are expected to rank as the second leading cause of the global disease burden by 2020.

The report urges governments to integrate mental health care into primary health care and into the general health care system, where mental disorders can be prevented or successfully treated affordably. It notes, however, that this challenge will require a dramatic change in policy: Currently, 33 percent of countries allocate less than 1 percent of their total health budgets to mental health, and there is only one psychiatrist per 100,000 people in more than half of all countries. For information on ordering the *World Health Report 2001—Mental Health*, visit the WHO website at: www.who.int/whr/2001/main/en/order.htm#USA. Or write to the WHO at 1211 Geneva 27, Switzerland; fax: 41-22-791-4870; e-mail: whr@who.int.

Measuring the Well-Being of Nations

According to a new report, *The Wellbeing of Nations*, 37 countries are close to striking a good balance between a healthy population and a healthy environment. But to fully achieve this goal, these countries must step up their environmental efforts.

The report ranks 180 countries by measuring human development and environmental conservation. This new measurement approach, developed with the support of Canada's Interna-

tional Development Research Centre (IDRC) and the World Conservation Union (IUCN), gives equal weight to people and the environment and covers a wider range of concerns than yardsticks such as the Gross Domestic Product, the Human Development Index, or the Environmental Sustainability Index.

The author, Robert Prescott-Allen, combines 36 indicators of health, population, wealth, education, communication, freedom, peace, crime, and equity into a Human Wellbeing Index; and 51 indicators of land health, protected areas, water quality, water supply, global atmosphere, air quality, species diversity, energy use, and resource pressures into an Ecosystem Wellbeing Index. The two indexes are then combined into a Wellbeing/Stress Index that measures how much human well-being each country obtains for the amount of stress it places on the environment.

Most people's efforts to improve their lot overexploit the environment, the author points out, but conflict between people and the environment can be avoided. Austria and Belgium, for example, have similar standards of living, but Austria imposes less ecosystem stress. Latvia causes less environmental damage for its living standard than Estonia, as does Ecuador compared with Colombia, or Indonesia with China. The difference, Prescott-Allen maintains, is a matter of choice. "The opportunity and capacity to make sound decisions about goals and how to achieve them is crucial," he said, noting that "most countries with a high ratio of human well-being to ecosystem stress also have high levels of freedom, good governance, and education—essential conditions for sound decisionmaking."

The report is published by IDRC and Island Press in cooperation with IUCN. For more on the report, go to www.iucn.org/info_and_news/press/wonback.doc. To view the country rankings, go to www.iucn.org/info_and_news/press/wonrank.doc. ■

Response to Hunger Tests New Priorities

Over the last five years, the number of hungry people worldwide has fallen by 8 million per year. Good news—except that the goal of the 1996 World Food Summit was to reduce that number by 20 million people per year in order to halve world hunger by 2015.

The UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), realizing that the 2015 goal could not be met without renewed effort, called late last year for a “World Food Summit: Five Years Later” to

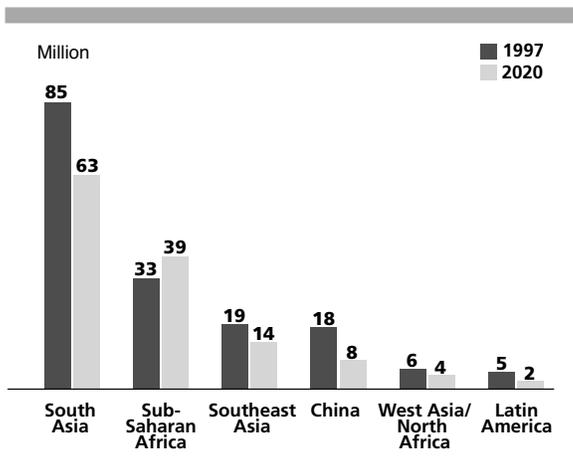
(IFPRI) in Bonn this year demonstrated that there is less optimism than there is a growing recognition that the problem can and should be dealt with. Nearly 900 agriculture ministers, directors of private voluntary organizations, and agribusiness leaders attending the Bonn conference were polled on the prospects for achieving food security for all by 2020. Asked whether it will be achieved, 12 percent said yes, and 85 percent said no; asked whether food security can be achieved, 48 percent of attendees said yes, and 49 percent said no.

“At the end of the day, political will emerged as probably the key constraint . . . the political will to put food security on the top of the agenda and then to follow through with appropriate resources, investments, and policies,” said Rajul Pandya-Lorch, 2020 Vision coordinator at IFPRI and conference organizer.

To mobilize political will, IFPRI presented in Bonn the results of its *2020 Global Food Outlook*. The report documents the progress that has been made but casts doubt on the ability of the world community to achieve the goal of the 1996 World Food Summit without swift and extensive investment and action. The proportion of children under the age of 5 who suffer from malnutrition fell from 45 percent in the late 1960s to 31 percent in the late 1990s, but because of population growth, the number of malnourished children has fallen much less sharply, from 187 million to 167 million.

And sub-Saharan Africa, where the total fertility rate of 5.6 (the average number of children per woman) is higher than for any other region, has made no progress at all. In fact, sub-Saharan Africa is the only region where hunger among

Malnourished Children by Region, 1997 and 2020



Source: Rosegrant et al., *2020 Global Food Outlook* (Washington, DC: IFPRI, 2001).

be held in November 2001 to see how to put hunger back on the policy agenda. But why, as this year’s summit gets underway in Rome, should there be any optimism that another global gathering will go beyond rhetoric and make a difference?

A pre-summit conference hosted by the International Food Policy Research Institute

Webwise

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

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

A New Take on Climate Change: The Sky Trust Initiative

In a recent interview with PRB, the chairman of Americans for Equitable Climate Solutions (also known as the Sky Trust Initiative), Rafe Pomerance, described his strategy for establishing a domestic emissions trading program to control carbon emissions in the United States. (www.prb.org)

Abandoning Female Genital Cutting: Prevalence, Attitudes, and Efforts to End the Practice

Over the past 20 years, female genital cutting (FGC), a traditional practice that involves cutting or altering the female genitalia as a rite of passage or for other sociocultural reasons, has been increasingly recognized as a health and human rights issue among governments, the international community, and professional health organizations. Strong efforts are now

being made on the international, national, and community levels to end the practice. This report sheds light on FGC, using recent Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) data (and special tabulations of these data) from nine countries: Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Egypt, Eritrea, Kenya, Mali, Sudan, Tanzania, and Yemen. (www.measurecommunication.org)

children under age 5 has grown since 1970, from 18 million to 33 million.

Mark Rosegrant, the report's lead author, used IFPRI's International Model for Policy Analysis of Agricultural Commodities and Trade (IMPACT) to project the consequences for all world regions of staying the current course (see figure) and also of increasing investment in agricultural and rural development. Rosegrant believes 39 million children in sub-Saharan Africa will be hungry in 2020 with no change in present spending; with greater investment (of between US\$76 billion and US\$183 billion) in roads, irrigation, clean water, education, and agricultural research, the number of hungry children in sub-Saharan Africa could be reduced to 22 million.

In discussing these numbers and what specific actions to take to improve them, participants made these observations and recommendations, which highlight the complexity of a seemingly straightforward problem:

■ **Why focus on agriculture and rural development to reduce hunger, instead of focusing on poverty?** Clare Short, secretary of state for international development in the UK, questioned focusing on poverty alleviation instead of on food security. Most of the participants (62 percent) felt that both approaches should be taken simultaneously. There was consensus that investing in agricultural development and growth not only boosts food production but also provides opportunities for generating income and creating employment, particularly in the areas where food insecurity is now entrenched, which is in the marginal or less favored lands. Studies by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) show 75 percent of extreme poverty occurs in rural areas where the principal economy is agriculture, and more than half of the world's extremely poor people depend for their livelihoods mainly on farming or farm labor.

■ **What are the challenges in providing aid to agriculture?** To date, according to IFPRI, gains in production have come about primarily through expansion of the land area devoted to growing crops and through more intensive cultivation. But land is limited, especially in Asia, due to urbanization and degradation. Growth rates for cereal crop yields in most of the world have been decreasing since the early 1980s. And water is increasingly scarce. More intensive cultivation will take much more money for fertil-

izer, better seeds, better training, drip irrigation (which applies water very slowly and reduces water loss), and the like.

■ **How can agriculture-led development assistance be improved?** The prime minister of Uganda, Apolo Nsibambi, stressed that less developed countries must design **national food policies** that assign no less than 5 percent of the recurrent and development budget to the Ministry of Agriculture; invest in water for production so that farming does not depend on weather alone; and eliminate insecurity of land tenure by carrying out land reform. Several participants cited the need for **a change in the policies of industrialized countries** that protect and subsidize domestic agriculture. World Bank data show these policies cost poor countries that are pursuing agriculture-led growth more than US\$40 billion per year in lost income. Short and others advocated **better measures of hunger and poverty**. Short said that "undernourishment," used by the FAO, is a measure of how much food is available nationwide, rather than of the number of people who lack the means to obtain food. Household income and assessments of whether children's weight and height are appropriate for their ages would be more precise measures, according to experts.

The World Bank has reported that the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on U.S. targets have already worsened the plight of the poor and the hungry in less developed countries. Reflecting on the impact of those events and of the global campaign against terrorism on prospects for reducing hunger, Pandya-Lorch said: "While we need to immediately tackle the situation resulting from the September 11 tragedy, in the long term, we will need to redirect our attention to the fundamental issues of poverty, hunger, and vulnerability." ■

—Allison Tarmann

Note: At press time, the November summit had been postponed indefinitely.

For More Information:

Mark W. Rosegrant, Michael S. Paisner, Siet Meijer, and Julie Witcover, *2020 Global Food Outlook: Trends, Alternatives, and Choices* (Washington, DC: IFPRI, 2001).

Mark W. Rosegrant, Michael S. Paisner, Siet Meijer, and Julie Witcover, *Global Food Projections to 2020: Emerging Trends and Alternative Futures* (Washington, DC: IFPRI, 2001).

"Sustainable Food Security for All by 2020," Summary Conference Papers. Available on the Web at: www.ifpri.org/2020conference/summaries.asp.

IFAD, *Rural Poverty Report 2001—The Challenge of Ending Rural Poverty* (Rome: International Fund for Agricultural Development, 2001).

Censuses and Surveys

- 2001 Census Results Mixed for India's Women and Girls (May/June)
- U.S. Population up 13 Percent (Feb./March)
- U.S. Public Opinion on Population Growth (July)

Education

- Charter Schools Catching On (Aug./Sept.)
- Record-High U.S. Educational Attainment (Feb./March)

Environment

- Declaring War on POPs (Feb./March)
- Excessive Consumption vs. Population Growth (May/June)
- Fuel Inefficiency (Nov./Dec.)
- Is Bottled Better? (Aug./Sept.)
- Measuring the Well-Being of Nations (Nov./Dec.)
- Regional Shares of World Energy Consumption, 1999 and 2020 (July)

Family Planning/Reproductive Health

- Breastfeeding in the United States in 1998, by Race and Ethnicity (Jan.)
- Cervical Cancer: A Regional Threat (Feb./March)
- Contraceptive Shortages Loom in Less Developed Countries (Aug./Sept.)
- Europeans Pledge to Fill 'Decency Gap' (April)
- Modest Response to Mifepristone (Nov./Dec.)
- Morning-After Pill May Become Available Over the Counter in the U.S. (April)
- Pregnant Women and Newborns at Risk (Nov./Dec.)
- Rating Women's Sexual and Reproductive Health (May/June)

Fertility

- Low Fertility Not Politically Sustainable (Aug./Sept.)
- Pondering the Prospects for Lower Fertility in High-Fertility Countries (Oct.)
- Quebec's Alternative to Pronatalism (Nov./Dec.)
- World Population Gap Widens (July)
- World TFR Will Continue to Rise (Oct.)

Gender

- Around the Globe, Women Outlive Men (Aug./Sept.)
- 2001 Census Results Mixed for India's Women and Girls (May/June)
- Changes in Child Care Could Reduce Job Options for Eastern German Mothers (April)
- Gender Difference in Life Expectancy at Birth, United States, Selected Years, 1900-1999 (Aug./Sept.)
- Shortage of Women in China Tied to Trafficking (April)
- Women's Earnings Rise (Oct.)

Health

- Americans Living Longer, Not Necessarily Healthier, Lives (Feb./March)
- Childhood Asthma a Growing Epidemic in the U.S. (May/June)
- Emerging Trends in Disability (Aug./Sept.)
- India's Health Slowly Improves (Jan.)
- Mainstreaming Mental Health (Nov./Dec.)
- Smokers a Dwindling Share of U.S. Population (July)

HIV/AIDS

- Canada Reverses Ban on Immigrants With HIV (Aug./Sept.)
- Debate Over Male Circumcision and HIV Prompts More Research (Oct.)
- Fighting AIDS in Russia (Jan.)
- New Estimates of HIV/AIDS' Impact on Life Expectancy in Nine African Countries, 2000-2005 (April)
- Treating a Triple Threat in Haiti (July)

Income/Poverty

- Gross National Income, Selected Countries (May/June)
- Hunger in the World's Hotspots (July)
- Less Developed Countries Hunger for Technology (Aug./Sept.)
- Median Net Worth of U.S. Households, by Race and Ethnicity (April)
- One in Five U.S. Households Struggle to Afford Rent, Mortgage Payments (Oct.)
- Pinpointing Poverty (Jan.)
- Response to Hunger Tests New Priorities (Nov./Dec.)

Marriage/Family

- Aid for Two-Parent Families? (Oct.)
- Domestic Partner Benefits Won't Break the Bank (April)
- Has Welfare Reform Reduced Nonmarital Births? (Feb./March)
- Loneliest Places in the U.S. (Oct.)
- Mass Weddings in Iran (April)
- The Rise—and Fall?—of Single-Parent Families (July)
- Unmarried Partnerships (Aug./Sept.)
- What Children Learn From Divorce (Jan.)

Migration

- Afghanistan Is 2nd Largest Source of Refugees (Nov./Dec.)
- Canada's Immigration Mandate (Jan.)
- Final Peace in the Middle East Hinges on Refugee Population (April)
- Migration to the South Brings U.S. Blacks Full Circle (May/June)
- Russia's Modest Migration Gains Unlikely to Stop Population Decline (May/June)
- Shrinking Russia Pins Hopes on Return Migration (April)
- U.S. Diversity Visas Are Attracting Africa's Best and Brightest (July)

- Warm Welcome, Cool Welcome (Nov./Dec.)

Mortality

- Around the Globe, Women Outlive Men (Aug./Sept.)
- Gender Difference in Life Expectancy at Birth, United States, Selected Years, 1900-1999 (Aug./Sept.)
- Longer Life, Higher Death Rate (Jan.)
- New Estimates of HIV/AIDS' Impact on Life Expectancy in Nine African Countries, 2000-2005 (April)
- Racial and Ethnic Differences in Maternal Mortality (July)

Older Population

- The Five 'Oldest' Countries in 2050 (May/June)
- Global Aging Spells Shaky Financial Future (Oct.)
- Older People, Smarter Houses (May/June)

Policy

- A Demographic Perspective on Replacing the Electoral College (Feb./March)
- Reinventing USAID? (May/June)
- Voter Disparities Widespread in U.S. (Aug./Sept.)

Race/Ethnicity/Religion

- Breastfeeding in the United States in 1998, by Race and Ethnicity (Jan.)
- Median Net Worth of U.S. Households, by Race and Ethnicity (April)
- More Than Ethnicity Behind Fiji's Unrest (Feb./March)
- Mormonism a New World Religion (Jan.)
- Racial and Ethnic Differences in Maternal Mortality (July)
- Tinderbox in Northern Nigeria (Feb./March)

Urbanization

- Asia's Swelling Cities (July)
- New U.S. Metro Area Standards (Feb./March)
- Urbanization Takes on New Dimensions in Asia's Population Giants (Oct.)

Youth

- Childhood Asthma (May/June)
- New Index Tracks Children's Well-Being (Nov./Dec.)
- Promoting Abstinence Among Teens (Feb./March)
- Teen Births Down in the United States (May/June)
- What Children Learn From Divorce (Jan.)
- What's Behind Early Puberty? (Jan.)
- Youth Population Exploding in California (Feb./March) ■

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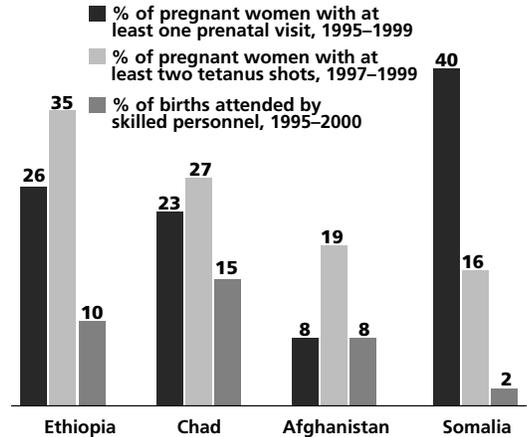
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Speaking Graphically

Pregnant Women and Newborns at Risk

Each year, according to data from the World Health Organization, some 4 million babies die before they reach the age of one month, and 4 million more are stillborn. These deaths account for 40 percent of all deaths of children under age 5. Save the Children's recently published *State of the World's Newborns* indicates that, while there has been a marked reduction in under-5 mortality over the last 20 years, there has been little change in newborn mortality. Focusing on saving newborn lives, says the report, will lead to additional gains in child survival. In addition, it says major strides can be made simply by putting existing solutions into general practice. These solutions include proper nutrition and hygiene, tetanus shots, prenatal check-ups for pregnant women, and skilled health care workers assisting with delivery. The figure above shows four countries that rank among the lowest internationally in providing these solutions.



Source: Save the Children, *State of the World's Newborns* (accessed online at www.savethechildren.org/mothers/newborns_report.html, on Oct. 15, 2001).

World Population

As of Nov. 2001 6,165,000,000
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

12 Months Ending With December

	Number		Rate	
	2000	1999	2000	1999
Live births	4,063,000	3,965,000	14.8	14.5
Fertility rate	—	—	67.6	65.9
Deaths	2,404,000	2,396,000	8.7	8.8
Infant deaths	27,200	28,100	6.7	7.1
Natural increase	1,659,000	1,569,000	6.1	5.7
Marriages	2,329,000	2,358,000	8.5	8.6
Divorces	—	—	4.1	4.1

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* 49, no. 6 (accessed online at www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr49/nvsr49_06.pdf, on Oct. 17, 2001).

Spotlight Statistic

Afghanistan Is 2nd Largest Source of Refugees

The table at right shows the two places that, as of Dec. 31, 2000, had produced the greatest numbers of refugees and asylum seekers in the world. Recent events have surely added to Afghanistan's total: The U.S. Committee for Refugees reported that, for five weeks following the terrorist incidents of Sept. 11, 2001, approximately 1,000 people per day left for neighboring Pakistan and Iran.

Territory/Country	Refugees and Asylum Seekers
Palestinian	4 million
Afghanistan	3.6 million

Source: U.S. Committee for Refugees, *World Refugee Survey 2001* and from asylum data (accessed online at www.refugees.org/world/statistics/wrs01_table4.htm, on Oct. 15, 2001).

Childinfo.org (UNICEF)

<http://childinfo.org/index2.htm>

This website provides information collected from UNICEF's assessment of the situation of children worldwide during the past decade. Topics covered include child survival and health, nutrition, maternal health, water and sanitation, education, and child rights. Several databases providing country-specific statistics are included, as are data from the country-specific Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys.

KIDS COUNT Census Data (Annie E. Casey Foundation)

www.aecf.org/kidscount/census/

KIDS COUNT, a project of the Annie E. Casey Foundation, has just expanded its interactive, online database of 2000 Census data. The KIDS COUNT Census site offers summary profiles of data on age and sex, race, Hispanic origin, and living arrangements for the country and for individual states, counties, congressional districts, cities, and metropolitan areas. Users of the database can create rankings of states, counties, and other regions on all available indicators. Users can also create custom rankings for

particular regions of interest. Raw data are available to import into spreadsheets.

Epidemiological Fact Sheets on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS/WHO)

www.who.int/emc-hiv/fact_sheets/All_countries.html

These fact sheets, compiled by the Joint UN Programme on HIV/AIDS and the World Health Organization, contain the most recent country-specific data on the prevalence and incidence of HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted infections, along with a short assessment of the country's epidemiological situation.

International Labour Organization (ILO)

www.ilo.org

The ILO is a UN agency that promotes social justice and human and labor rights. Its website provides information on labor standards and workers' rights, employment and labor market policies, social protection, and social dialog. Available at the site is the Labour Statistics Database (<http://laborsta.ilo.org>), which contains annual time-series

labor statistics for countries, and the International Labour Migration Database (www.ilo.org/public/english/protection/migrant/ilmdb/index.htm), which provides country-specific trend data on labor migrants.

The Population-Environment Research Network

www.populationenvironmentresearch.org

The Population-Environment Research Network is a nonprofit, academic, Web-based information source on current population and environment research worldwide, sponsored by the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population and by the International Human Dimensions Programme on Global Change. The website provides an online research database, a cyber seminar series, highlights of new material, upcoming events and opportunities, and links to related sites. ■

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