

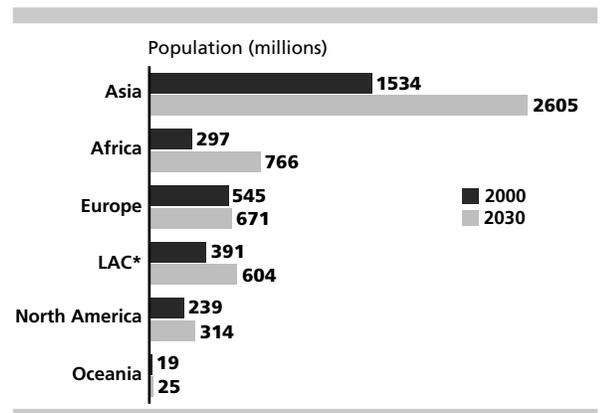
## Urbanization Takes on New Dimensions in Asia's Population Giants

by Terry McGee

For the first time, more than half of the world's population will be living in urban areas by the end of this decade. In 1999, 47 percent of the world's population (2.9 billion people) lived in urban places. By 2030, the UN projects that proportion will reach 60 percent, totaling 4.9 billion people. This explosive urban growth will be most dramatic in Asia.

More than 60 percent of the increase in the world's urban population over the next three decades will occur in Asia, particularly in China and India, but also in Pakistan, Bangladesh, the Philippines, and Vietnam. Asia will still have a lower overall urbanization rate in 2030 (53 percent) than any other region—Africa will reach 55 percent, Latin America 83 percent—but Asia's total urban population will exceed 2.6 billion in 2030, compared with 604 million in Latin America and 766 million in Africa (see figure).

**Urban Population by Region: 2000 and 2030**



\*LAC = Latin America and the Caribbean.  
Source: UN, *World Urbanization Prospects: The 1999 Revision*, 2000.

The process of urbanization in Asia has several distinctive features, a number of which stem from the massive size of the region's population:

*Continued on page 2*

## Debate Over Male Circumcision and HIV Prompts More Research

by Yvette Collymore

Scientific evidence points to an association between male circumcision and a reduced risk of HIV infection, and efforts are being mounted to provide definitive evidence of the link. The international community, however, is yet to be persuaded that the routine circumcision of men and boys should be among AIDS prevention strategies.

The initial hypothesis that male circumcision offers some protection against HIV came nearly a decade and a half ago—in the early stages of the AIDS epidemic—and scientists have since produced an array of studies and literature on the issue. With no AIDS vaccine in sight, the pressure to expand the range of virus prevention measures is building.

Several studies have drawn a correlation between high rates of HIV in some areas of sub-Saharan Africa and the tendency

*Continued on page 4*

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- **Dominance of the population giants.** Unlike any other region, Asia has five less developed countries with more than 100 million people—China, India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, and Indonesia. These countries made up 75 percent of the Asian population as of mid-2001. In 2030, they will be joined by Iran, the Philippines, and Vietnam, and together these countries will constitute 81 percent of Asia's population in 2030. The combined urban population of these eight countries will grow by more than 1 billion people in the same period, making up roughly four-fifths of the total urban increment in Asia. The dominance of the population giants in all-Asia averages can obscure developments in the region's numerous smaller countries.
- **Immense urban increments.** The sheer size of some Asian populations forces governments to cope with a large volume of urban increase in a very short period of time. This creates tremendous challenges in the provision of infrastructure, environmental management, and employment.
- **Prominence of megacities.** By 2015, 16 of the world's 24 megacities (cities with more than 10 million people) will be located in Asia, according to the UN's *World Urbanization Prospects: The 1999 Revision*. Most of these megacities will be located in the population giants. While most urbanites in Asia and elsewhere will continue to live in smaller towns and cities, the urban hierarchy of Asia will be dominated by the emergence of these larger cities. Urban development will often stretch in corridors between the main city core and secondary cities, much like the megalopolis of the eastern United States.
- **Uneven globalization.** For the past two decades, Asia has surpassed the rest of the less developed world in terms of integration into the global economy, but the develop-

ment has proceeded unevenly. A kind of two-tier urban system is likely to emerge in Asia as a result (see table). Some urban areas will be increasingly integrated into the global economy and become more international in character. These towns and cities—such as Seoul, Singapore, Taipei, and Shanghai—will have to manage the challenges and opportunities that come with rapid economic growth and change. There will also be cities with more domestically oriented economies that develop more slowly. These urban places will face greater challenges in terms of poverty and creating opportunities for economic growth. Cities such as Dhaka, Phnom Penh, and Vientiane exemplify this group.

### Asia's Two Urban Tiers: Seoul vs. Dhaka, 1998

	Seoul	Dhaka
Resident population (millions)	10.3	6.5
Annual rate of increase	-0.7%	4.2%
City product (per capita)*	US\$30,000	US\$2,801
Under-5 child mortality rate	0.6%	9.3%
Adult literacy rate	100%	60%
Households with telephone access	95%	9%

\* Adjusted for purchasing power parity.  
Source: Asian Development Bank, "Cities Data Book" ([www.citiesdatabook.org](http://www.citiesdatabook.org), accessed Aug. 8, 2001).

The massive trend toward urbanization in Asia poses considerable challenges for urban management and planning. While these challenges appear daunting, ad hoc approaches will not lead to the development of sustainable and liveable cities. The first steps to cope with the challenges of Asian urbanization are to recognize that urbanization is an integral part of development and to give strategic priority to policies for the urban sector. ■

**Terry McGee** is a professor of geography at the University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada.

## Webwise

[www.prb.org](http://www.prb.org) • [www.ameristat.org](http://www.ameristat.org) • [www.popnet.org](http://www.popnet.org) • [www.measurecommunication.org](http://www.measurecommunication.org)

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

### Pesticides: A Threat to Central America's Children

Central America uses more pesticides per capita than any other region in the world. As a result, up to 5 million agricultural workers in Central America, many of them children, are at risk

of exposure to pesticides. This is the third in a series of articles on children's environmental health published on PRB's website. ([www.prb.org](http://www.prb.org))

### Senegal's Anti-AIDS Successes

In parts of Senegal where rumors circulate that AIDS is an invention of the West or that it afflicts only unbelievers and homosexuals, Muslim religious

leaders have played an important role in preventing the spread of the disease. Their open discussions have convinced followers that AIDS really does exist and requires constant vigilance. This article details the efforts of religious leaders and of government public health officials that have helped keep Senegal's AIDS prevalence rates low. ([www.prb.org](http://www.prb.org))

# One in Five U.S. Households Struggle to Afford Rent, Mortgage Payments

by Kelvin Pollard and Mark Mather

Despite the national prosperity of the 1990s, over one-fifth of all households—and one-third of renters—lacked affordable housing during 1999–2000, according to a new Census Bureau survey.

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development considers housing “affordable” if total expenses (rent or mortgage payments, taxes, insurance, utilities, and other related payments) account for less than 30 percent of total household income. Paying 30 percent or more of income on housing may leave insufficient resources to cover other basic expenses, including food and health care costs. This analysis uses a 35 percent cutoff to indicate a lack of affordable housing, and a 50 percent threshold to indicate a severe housing burden (see figure).

According to results from the Census 2000 Supplementary Survey (C2SS), a special nationwide survey that the Census Bureau conducted last year, 21 percent (19.3 million) of households lacked affordable housing during the 12 months prior to the survey. This figure is unchanged from the 1990 Census. Moreover, more than one-tenth (11 percent) of households had a severe housing burden.

Not surprisingly, housing costs were a bigger problem for renters than for homeowners

(mainly because renters tend to have lower incomes). Among renters, 31 percent (13.1 million) of the 35 million renter households lacked affordable housing during 1999–2000; 18 percent (6.4 million) experienced a severe housing burden. By contrast, the C2SS found that, of the country’s 55.5 million owner households, just 15 percent (8.4 million) lacked affordable housing. In fact, 21 percent (11.5 million) of homeowners—mostly those who had no mortgage payments—spent less than 10 percent of their incomes on housing costs. (As was the case with all households, these figures represent no change from the 1990 Census.)

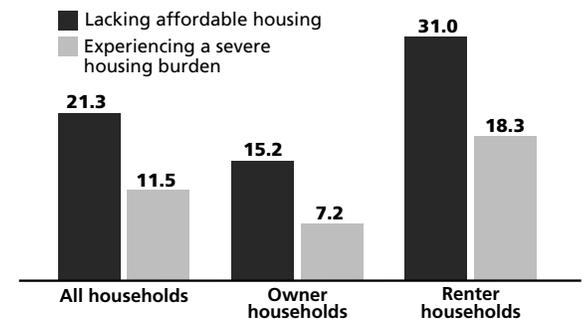
About one-third of homeowners did not pay a mortgage in 1999–2000, and these homeowners spent the smallest shares of their incomes on housing. C2SS results showed that fewer than one in 10 owners (8 percent) who did not have to meet a mortgage payment lacked affordable housing.

## Variations by State

The C2SS results also show that residents of California had the greatest overall housing burden in 1999–2000, with 29 percent of households lacking affordable housing. New York (27 percent), Nevada (26 percent), and Hawaii (also 26 percent) followed closely behind. California and New York also ranked highest in the percentage of households with a severe housing burden (16 percent

## Housing Difficulties Facing Homeowners and Renters, 1999–2000

Percent of households



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Supplementary Survey.

each). In West Virginia, one of the poorest states in the country, overall housing costs relative to income actually were much lower: About 16 percent of households lacked affordable housing, while 26 percent spent less than 10 percent on housing costs. Overall, housing was most affordable in the Midwest.

At the state level, too, homeowners fared better than renters. Among homeowners, those in California and Hawaii had the worst burdens (22 percent in each state lacked affordable housing). Renters were most likely to lack affordable housing in California and Oregon (36 percent each), but were most likely to have severe housing burdens in Louisiana and Oregon. ■

## For More Information:

The C2SS provides the first state-level data on social, economic, and housing characteristics since the 1990 Census—up to a full year before the results from the Census 2000 long form. More information about the C2SS, including confidence intervals, is available at: [www.census.gov/c2ss/www/](http://www.census.gov/c2ss/www/).

Kelvin Pollard is a PRB demographer and Mark Mather is a PRB policy analyst.

# Circumcision Study to Begin Soon in Kenya *Continued from page 1*

in those areas not to practice male circumcision (the partial or full removal of the foreskin or prepuce of the penis). The studies note, for instance, that in many of the predominately non-circumcising eastern and southern African countries, HIV infection rates among adults are extremely high. In some parts of southern Africa, the rates exceed 20 percent, with a high in Botswana of 36 percent. Yet in some West African countries where male circumcision is widespread, HIV infection rates among adults are less than 3 percent.

“There are now 40 studies that have shown that men who are not circumcised are at anywhere from a 1.8 to an 8.2-fold increased risk for HIV infection,” said Robert Bailey, professor of epidemiology and anthropology at the University of Illinois at Chicago. Still, Bailey noted, the studies to date have been mainly “observational,” not controlled experiments.

Bailey and his colleagues are preparing to take the research a step further with a rigorous study involving the Luo of western Kenya, one of a few ethnic groups in that country who do not routinely practice circumcision. The randomized controlled trial, to begin in January 2002 with funding from the U.S. National Institutes of Health and the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, should help to advance the international debate on whether male circumcision should be among measures to reduce sexually transmitted HIV.

Meanwhile, other researchers have publicly expressed their skepticism. “Based on the studies published in the scientific literature, it is incorrect to assert that circumcision prevents HIV infection,” according to an article in the *International Journal of STD & AIDS*. Robert Van Howe of the Department of Pediatrics at Marshfield Clinic in Wisconsin wrote: “Even if studies showing circumcision to be beneficial are accurate, the risk from circumcision outweighs any small benefit it may have. To depend on circumcision to protect against HIV infection in lieu of condoms, which have been shown to be efficacious, is dangerous.”

Although the correlation appears straightforward in Africa, the focus of most of the studies to date, it is not so in more developed countries. The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) points out that HIV infection rates among gay men do not vary greatly across more developed countries that have vary-

ing rates of circumcision. The examples include Japan, where few men are circumcised, and the United States, where four-fifths of men have undergone the practice. But this may be because circumcision is more apt to be effective in preventing transmission of the virus through heterosexual intercourse than through homosexual sex.

Both sides point out that circumcision itself is fraught with risks. A botched procedure can lead to anything from infection and excessive bleeding to dismemberment, and the use of unsanitary tools could actually contribute to the spread of HIV. Of even greater concern, however, is the possibility that male circumcision could encourage risky behavior if it were viewed as a protection against HIV and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs).

Bailey said that an assessment of the risks is an important part of the upcoming trial in Kenya. And Bailey noted that the research is designed to address the concerns raised by Van Howe. Young men from the city of Kisumu in western Kenya, ages 18 to 24, will be recruited for the trial over a two-year period, tested for HIV, and counseled in prevention strategies. Those who do not have HIV will be invited to participate as subjects. Half will be assigned to a circumcision group, and the others will remain uncircumcised. Researchers will follow both groups for two years, providing counseling, condoms, and tests and treatment for STIs including HIV. Bailey and his team have found that more than 70 percent of young men around Kisumu would prefer to be circumcised; at the end of two years of follow-up, subjects from both groups will be offered voluntary circumcision.

At a meeting organized by the Population Council's Horizons Project last year, an international group of researchers suggested that randomized controlled trials like the one Bailey and his colleagues are about to embark on could answer many additional important questions:

- What is the foreskin's biological role in male infection with HIV and other STIs?
- Are there differences in transmission of HIV to women by circumcised and uncircumcised men?
- Is circumcision's apparent protective effect due to culturally or religiously dictated behaviors, such as limiting the number of sexual partners and practicing postcoital washing? ■

## WebExtra!

For the author's references, see the Web version of this article. Go to [www.prb.org](http://www.prb.org) and click on "HIV/AIDS," one of four Focus Areas shown on PRB's home page.

## Global Aging Spells Shaky Financial Future

Aging and depopulation may bring about a new era of global financial instability, said an international commission on global aging, which met in Tokyo at the end of August. The commission, convened by the Washington, D.C.-based Center for Strategic and International Studies as part of its Global Aging Initiative, found that aging in the more developed countries will threaten the adequacy of global savings; the maintenance of global growth rates; the sustainability of social security and health guarantees; the ability of developed countries to finance defense, infrastructure, and education; and relations between more developed and less developed countries in the event of global financial and economic crises.

To avoid economic crisis, the commission recommended that countries should coordinate strategies to:

- Convert social protection programs such as Social Security from pay-as-you-go to market-based financing.
- Raise the age of eligibility for receiving a pension.
- Restrain mandatory retirement.
- Protect against gender and age

discrimination in hiring and in the workplace.

- Make it easier for non-native residents to achieve citizenship or permanent residency to ensure adequate labor supplies.
- Provide tax and in-kind benefits for child and elderly care.

The report issued at the meeting in Tokyo is available on the CSIS website at: [www.csis.org/press/gaitokyosummrecs.pdf](http://www.csis.org/press/gaitokyosummrecs.pdf).

## Aid for Two-Parent Families?

A surprisingly high percentage of parents are living together with their children but are not married, according to a recent study by the Public Policy Institute of California. *Unmarried Parents, Fragile Families: New Evidence from Oakland*, based on a survey of 250 unmarried-parent families living in Oakland, finds that 75 percent of the families stayed together without marrying for a year after their babies' births. These cohabiting parents may have difficulty receiving aid from programs such as Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and in-kind assistance such as food stamps, housing, and health insurance, said the study's author, Maureen Waller. Eliminating the distinction between single and two-par-

ent families when providing aid may help more of these unmarried couples stay together because it could relieve financial pressures that make them less secure about their relationships and more hesitant to marry, according to the study. The study is available on the institute's website at: [www.ppic.org/#waller\\_oakland](http://www.ppic.org/#waller_oakland).

## Women's Earnings Rise

In 2000, median weekly earnings for U.S. women working full-time were \$491, 76 percent of the \$646 median earnings for their male counterparts. The Bureau of Labor Statistics' *Highlights of Women's Earnings in 2000* notes, however, that women have improved from earning 63 percent as much as men did in 1979. The narrowing of the pay differential resulted from increases in women's inflation-adjusted earnings between 1979 and 2000; men's earnings held steady or, in the case of Hispanic men, fell. Women's share of employment in professional specialty occupations rose between 1983 (the first year for which comparable data are available) and 2000, from 47 percent to 52 percent. The highlights document is available on the bureau's website at: [www.bls.gov/pdf/cpswom2000.pdf](http://www.bls.gov/pdf/cpswom2000.pdf). ■

## Announcements

### Changes in National Mortality Statistics

Effective with recently published data for 1999, two important changes in national mortality statistics have been implemented by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS): a new cause-of-death classification and a new population standard for age-adjusting death rates. The new population standard is the estimated year 2000 population, which replaces the 1940 population standard long used by federal agencies and state health departments. The new standard changes the magnitude of age-adjusted death rates, bringing them into

closer alignment with unadjusted rates; mortality trends and group differentials tend to be similar using either standard. Additional information is available in three NCHS reports: "Deaths: Preliminary Data for 1999," *National Vital Statistics Reports (NVSr)* 49, no. 9 (June 26, 2001); "Comparability of Cause of Death Between ICD-9 and ICD-10: Preliminary Estimates," *NVSr* 48, no. 2 (May 18, 2001); and "Age Standardization of Death Rates: Implementation of the Year 2000 Standard," *NVSr* 47, no. 3 (Oct. 7, 1998). The reports are available on the NCHS website at: [www.cdc.gov/nchs/products/pubs/pubd/nvsr/nvsr.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/products/pubs/pubd/nvsr/nvsr.htm).

### Population Policy Communication Program

The Population Reference Bureau is accepting applications for the 2002-2003 Fellows Program in Population Policy Communication. The program, for developing-country researchers pursuing doctoral degrees in the United States and Canada, builds participants' skills in communicating research findings to policy audiences. The deadline for applying is Jan. 18, 2002. For information and application forms, contact Elizabeth Ransom (e-mail: [eransom@prb.org](mailto:eransom@prb.org)), or visit PRB's website: [www.prb.org](http://www.prb.org) (click on "About PRB" at the top, then on "International Programs"). ■

# Pondering the Prospects for Lower Fertility in High-Fertility Countries

by Joseph Chamie

What will future fertility be in less developed countries where fertility today remains very high and where declines have been negligible or slow? Will these countries follow the pattern of other developing countries where couples are now having smaller families? At a recent UN Population Division workshop, researchers from Africa, Asia, and Latin America met to answer these questions.

Despite a rapid transition to low fertility in a majority of less developed countries during the past four decades, 46 countries have period fertility rates exceeding five births per woman. Among these countries, 35 are in sub-Saharan Africa.

The workshop concluded that fertility rates in the majority of high-fertility countries are declining, albeit recently. Five sub-Saharan countries are progressing rapidly through the incipient stage of the fertility transition (declines of more than 0.60 children per woman per five-year period). In 20 high-fertility countries, the rate of decrease in the average number of children per woman ranges from 0.30 to 0.60 children per woman over five years, and in 10 countries fertility is declining slowly at a rate of 0.05–0.29 children per woman every five years. In 11 sub-Saharan countries with a combined population of 100 million (Sierra Leone through Somalia in the figure at right), the fertility transition remains at an initial stage.

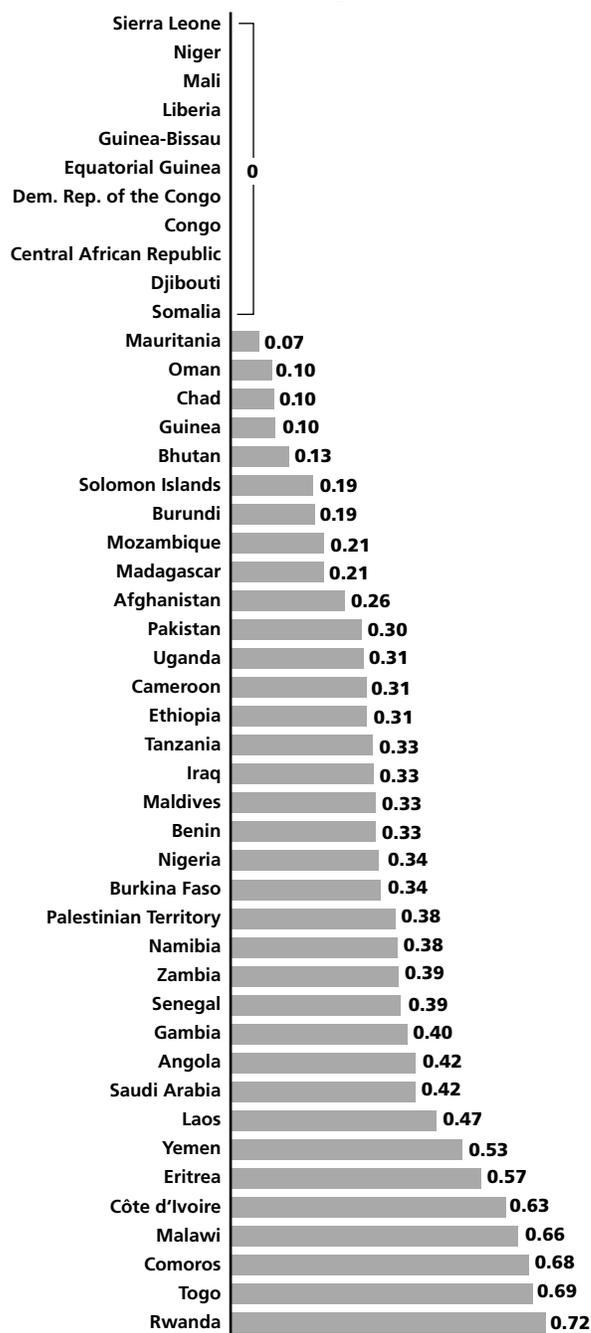
Still, the prospects for continued fertility decline in many high-fertility countries are mixed. Because observed fertility decline in some countries has been crisis driven, some of the workshop participants questioned whether the average number of children per woman in these countries would even fall below 4 by 2025. The outcome of the Population Division's deliberations provides food for thought for UN demographers, as they review future fertility assumptions for the 2002 revision of the official UN population estimates and projections. ■

## For More Information:

Background documents and other materials from the workshop are available on the website of the Population Division of the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, [www.un.org/esa/population/unpop.htm](http://www.un.org/esa/population/unpop.htm).

## Speed of Fertility Decline in High-Fertility Countries

Decline per five-year period\* in average number of children per woman



\*From maximum level to the last available estimate in the 1990s.  
Source: UN Population Division.

Joseph Chamie is director of the UN Population Division.

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# Numbers You Can Use

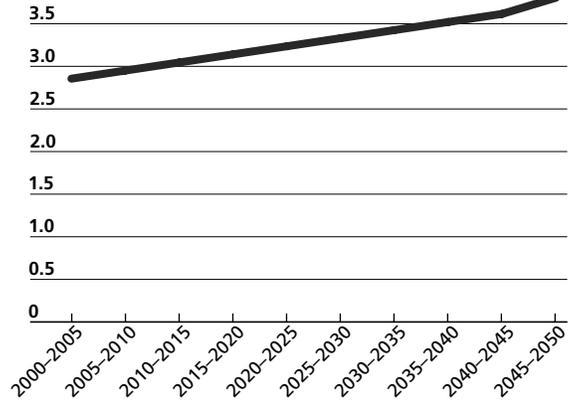
Latest data and estimates

## Speaking Graphically

### World TFR Will Continue to Rise

When is "constant fertility" not constant? The UN produces a constant fertility variant of its world population projections, along with its more commonly used high, medium, and low variants. But, surprisingly, the world total fertility rate does not remain constant over time. Why? Because when fertility is held constant for countries, high-fertility countries grow more rapidly, increasing their statistical "weight." This relationship holds an important lesson within countries as well. In India, for example, fertility ranges from 1.8 children per woman in some southern states to nearly 5 in the heavily populated northern states. If fertility in the latter declines only slowly, the national rate could cease its decline and even rise.

Total fertility rate (TFR)



Note: The total fertility rate is the average number of children per woman. Source: UN Population Division, *World Population Prospects, The 2000 Revision: Highlights* (February 2001).

## Estimated World Population

As of Oct. 2001 6,158,000,000  
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 ([www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr49/nvsr49\\_06.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr49/nvsr49_06.pdf), accessed Sept. 7, 2001).

## Spotlight Statistic

### Loneliest Places in the U.S.

Nationwide, the number of people living alone is increasing. In 2000, there were 27.2 million individuals living alone (26 percent of households), compared with 22.5 million in 1990 (25 percent of households). The proportion living alone varies substantially by state and by city. Washington, D.C., has the highest percentage of single-occupant households in the country.

State/State Equivalent	% of Households That Are Single-Occupant Households
Washington, D.C.	44%
North Dakota	29%
Rhode Island	29%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau data presented on PRB's AmeriStat website: [www.ameristat.org](http://www.ameristat.org).

### **Development Gateway (World Bank)**

[www.developmentgateway.org/](http://www.developmentgateway.org/)

The Gateway is a portal website for development issues. It provides information, resources, tools, and a common space for sharing material and ideas. The site's Country Gateways link to electronic networks operated by the public and private sector, community groups, and individuals; 12 prototype Country Gateways are now functional, with more content to be added. Other features include development news, country overviews, a searchable project database, and region- and country-specific statistics.

### **Global IDP Project (Norwegian Refugee Council)**

[www.idpproject.org](http://www.idpproject.org)

The Global IDP Project works with the UN and with nongovernmental organizations dedicated to helping internally displaced people worldwide. The project's website provides comprehensive coverage of conflict-induced displacement situations around the world through country profiles containing background information on the conflict; population figures; patterns of displace-

ment; health, nutrition, and shelter needs; patterns of return and resettlement; and international response. Links are provided to the source documents used for each situation of internal displacement.

### **globalhealth.gov (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services)**

[www.globalhealth.gov](http://www.globalhealth.gov)

Produced by the HHS Office of International & Refugee Health, this portal site addresses global health and the link between U.S. and international health issues. The health information provided includes news, events, statements and speeches, publications, country-specific information, traveler's health information, and links to related health sites.

### **Lewis Mumford Center for Comparative Urban and Regional Research (University at Albany)**

[www.albany.edu/mumford/census/](http://www.albany.edu/mumford/census/)

This site provides analysis of metropolitan racial and ethnic change from the 1990 and 2000 U.S. censuses and of how increasing diversity is experienced at the local level.

The data provided include population counts and segregation scores for the 331 metropolitan areas in the United States, as well as for the city and suburban portions of each metro area. Reports and news articles on ethnic diversity, segregation, immigration, and other topics are also provided.

### **Integrated Public Use Microdata Series (IPUMS) (Minnesota Population Center)**

[www.ipums.org/](http://www.ipums.org/)

IPUMS-USA is a national census database for 1850–1990, providing free high-precision samples, integrated microdata, and comprehensive documentation. The database will soon feature U.S. Census 2000 PUMS. IPUMS-International is a new project dedicated to collecting and distributing census data from around the world. Release of integrated database and documentation is scheduled for next year for the following countries and years: Colombia (1964–1993), France (1962–1990), Kenya (1989–1999), Mexico (1960–2000), and Vietnam (1989–1999). ■

— Prepared by Zuali H. Malsawma,  
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