Population Growth, Urbanization & HIV/AIDS

ANTH 313
Nearly All Future Population Growth Will Be in the World’s Less Developed Countries.

Developed countries as a whole will experience little or no population growth in this century, and much of that growth will be from immigration from less developed countries. The world’s poorest countries will see the growth. In 1950, 1.7 billion people lived in less developed countries—about two-thirds of the world total; by 2050, the population of less developed countries will number over 8 billion, or 86 percent of world population. In 1950, only about 200 million of the population of the less developed countries resided in countries now defined as “least developed” by the United Nations, but that population is projected to rise to nearly 2 billion by 2050. Those countries have especially low incomes, high economic vulnerability, and poor human development indicators.

World population by region

- **Northern America**
  - 1800: 0.7%
  - 1900: 5.0%
  - 2000: 5.2%
  - 2050: 4.8%

- **Europe**
  - 1800: 20.8%
  - 1900: 24.7%
  - 2000: 11.9%
  - 2050: 7.2%

- **Asia**
  - 1800: 64.9%
  - 1900: 57.4%
  - 2000: 60.5%
  - 2050: 57.3%

- **Latin America and the Caribbean**
  - 1800: 2.5%
  - 1900: 4.5%
  - 2000: 8.5%
  - 2050: 8.4%

- **Africa**
  - 1800: 10.9%
  - 1900: 8.1%
  - 2000: 13.4%
  - 2050: 21.7%

- **Oceania**
  - 1800: 0.2%
  - 1900: 0.4%
  - 2000: 0.5%
  - 2050: 0.5%
Population Growth Rates

Average Annual Population Growth Rate, 1997 – 2015

Projection based on 1980–97 fertility rates and 1997 age-sex structure of populations

- Less than 0.0%
- 0.0% – 0.5%
- 0.6% – 1.0%
- 1.1% – 2.0%
- More than 2.0%
- No data
FIGURE 1: Africa’s Projected Population Growth, 2010-2050

Source: Created using data from UN Population Division 2011
Population growth

- Population growth rate in Africa is 2.5% per year, compared with 1.7% per year in lesser developed countries as whole.
- Africa’s population projected to grow from 705 million in 2005 to 1.3 billion by 2025.
- Why are African growth rates the highest in world and possibly the highest in human history?
- Sub-Saharan Africa’s population problems are not abstract demographic problems amenable to a technological fix like family planning.
- Population trends are the result of individual responses to political and economic forces that are both historical and current.
Population growth

• Gordon discusses 3 views on issue of rapid population growth in Africa.

1. *Family planning and education* are needed to lower birth rates, slow urban growth, ease population pressure on land.

2. *Economic development* is solution to high rates of population growth b/c poverty & weak economies are root causes of high fertility.

3. Emphasis on *viewing population growth as problem* and birth control as solution *blames women for Africa’s development problems.*
Population Growth

- In reality a number of factors are at work.
- Traditional African **cultural values:**
  - Children are highly desired
  - One’s duty is to procreate to continue the lineage.
- Influence of **Christianity**
  - children are a blessing from God.
  - pro-natal policies of Catholicism.
- High **infant mortality rates** have also worked to ensure high fertility rates –women had more babies assuming some will not survive.
- This is true across developing world, not only in Africa.
Population growth

- During colonial era, introducing **basic medical care** reduced infant mortality.
- **Missionary emphasis on monogamy** subverted traditional population regulation mechanisms (postpartum abstinence & prolonged breastfeeding) thereby inducing **larger** families. –
- Economically, children contribute valuable **labor** – on both rural & urban areas.
- Children regarded by parents as **social security** for old age.
Family planning

- Only beginning in the 1970s did African governments begin expressing concern over population growth rates & request assistance with family planning.
- Attitudes changed dramatically in 1980s & 1990s, when many governments began expressing support for family planning as part of broader policy aimed at improving maternal and child health.
- Recognition that improving status of women – especially through educating girls – will be key if family planning is to achieve goal of lowering fertility levels.
Urban growth

- Growth rate of African cities (4.8% year) is even higher than overall population growth rate.
- Percentage of population living in urban areas has doubled since 1965 – from 14% to 30%.
- Urban growth is result of natural increase plus migration of rural dwellers to cities & towns.
- By 2025, 54% of Africans will live in cities.
- As Gordon notes urban living conditions, especially for new residents, can be unhealthy:
  - Lack of access to clean water
  - Air pollution
  - Raw sewage & garbage
FIGURE 2.1. Most Population Growth in the Next Thirty Years Will Be in Urban Areas

Sub-Saharan Africa Urban & Rural Population Growth Trends (Millions)

- Urban population increment 2000–2030 = 367
- Rural population increment 2000–2030 = 141

Source: UN-World Urbanization Prospects, 2003
Urban growth

- Within individual countries, most growth will be in 1 or 2 major cities
  - Will exacerbate uneven distribution of population & resources.
- Development patterns have encouraged high fertility & migration to cities:
  - people flock to urban areas since that is where resources are concentrated.
- Urban population policies tend to focus either on:
  - discouraging migration to cities.
  - improving living conditions in cities.
- In actuality these two approaches work against each other.
Other issues

- Africa’s population, like that of rest of world, is getting older.
- Regional differences exist though.
- Continent’s governments are ill equipped to handle growing number of older people.
- Percentage of people aged over 65 grew to 3.6% in 2010 from 3.3 % in 2000.
- A long-term phenomenon, having steadily grown over last 40 years, and it will accelerate in coming years.
Population & Climate Change Hotspots

- Many countries experiencing twin challenges of high rates of population growth & negative consequences of climate change.
- Countries that are experiencing high rates of population growth, high projected declines in agricultural production, & low resilience to climate change are considered to be population & climate change hotspots.
- All 15 "hotspot" countries in Africa are in sub-Saharan Africa & 4 of these countries (Burkina Faso, Djibouti, Malawi, Somalia) are also currently experiencing water stress or scarcity.
HIV/AIDS

• Gordon claims to identify a number of reasons for high prevalence rates in Africa:
  1. High frequency of sex outside marriage.
  2. High level of STDs.
  3. Low incidence of condom use.
  4. Shame/stigma associated with positive status.
  5. Widespread refusal to acknowledge/discuss high prevalence of extramarital sex.
  7. Obstruction by religious establishments
  8. Witchcraft beliefs encourage fatalistic view.
Set against the awesome, harsh landscapes of South Africa, Yesterday is an eloquent, unsentimental film that quietly builds an overwhelming emotional force. The film's title protagonist is a 30-year-old mother who lives in Rooihoek, a remote village in South Africa's Zululand. Yesterday's life is not easy; there's little money, no modern conveniences, and her husband is away in Johannesburg working as a miner. But she possesses a sunny nature, and takes great joy in her seven-year-old daughter Beauty (Lihle Mvelase). The precarious balance of Yesterday's life is threatened when she is diagnosed with AIDS, and must journey afar to learn about and confront her illness. Yesterday's primary driving force for survival is her daughter, who is a year away from starting school. Yesterday herself never had the chance to go to school, and as she faces her affliction she sets her sights on a single goal: to be with Beauty on her first day of class, along with all the other proud mothers of Rooihoek.