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Population pyramid examples

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Keywords: population, Demographics, Visualization
See also the number of migrants for this country.
Population density for this country
Median age by country.
A youth bulge is evident for Africa, and to a lesser extent for West Asia, South Asia, Southeast Asia and Central America.
Map of countries by fertility rate (2025), according to the Population Reference Bureau
Gary Fuller (1995) described a youth bulge as a type of expansive pyramid.
Gunnar Heinsohn (2003) argues that an excess in especially young adult male population predictably leads to social unrest, war, and terrorism, as the "third and fourth sons" that find no prestigious positions in their existing societies rationalize their impetus to compete by religion or political ideology.
Heinsohn claims that most historical periods of social unrest lacking external triggers (such as rapid climatic changes or other catastrophic changes of the environment) and most genocides can be readily explained as a result of a built-up youth bulge.[10] This factor has been also used to account for the Arab Spring events and the rise of extremist populism in the 2010s.[11]
Economic recessions, such as the Great Depression of the 1930s and the late 2000s Great Recession, are also claimed to be explained in part due to a large youth population who cannot find jobs.[11]
Youth bulge can be seen as one factor among many in explaining social unrest and uprisings in society.[12]
A 2016 study finds that youth bulges increase the chances of non-ethnic civil wars, but not ethnic civil wars.[13]
A large population of adolescents entering the labor force and electorate strains at the seams of the economy and polity, which were designed for smaller populations. This creates unemployment and alienation unless new opportunities are created quickly enough - in which case a "demographic dividend" accrues because productive workers outweigh young and elderly dependents. Yet the 16-29 age range is associated with risk-taking, especially among males. In general, youth bulges in developing countries are associated with higher unemployment and, as a result, a heightened risk of violence and political instability.[14][15]
For Cincotta and Doces (2011), the transition to more mature age structures is almost a sine qua non for democratization.[16]
To reverse the effects of youth bulges, specific policies such as creating more jobs, improving family planning programs, and reducing overall infant mortality rates should be a priority.[17]
Population pyramid of Egypt in 2005. Many of those 30 and younger are educated citizens who are experiencing difficulty finding work. Nearly half of Libya's 2011 population consists of people younger than age 20. The Middle East and North Africa are currently experiencing a prominent youth bulge. "Across the Middle East, countries have experienced a pronounced increase in the size of their youth populations over recent decades, both in total numbers and as a percentage of the total population. Today, the nearly 111 million individuals aging between 15 to 29 living across the region make up nearly 27 percent of the region's population."[18]
Structural changes in service provision, especially health care, beginning in the 1960s created the conditions for a demographic explosion, which has resulted in a population consisting primarily of younger people. It is estimated that around 65% of the regional population is under the age of 25.[19]
The youth bulge in the Middle East and North Africa has been favorably compared to that of East Asia, which harnessed this human capital and saw huge economic growth in recent decades.[20]
The youth bulge has been referred to by the Middle East Youth Initiative as a demographic gift, which, if engaged, could fuel regional economic growth and development.[21]
"While the growth of the youth population imposes supply pressures on education systems and labor markets, it also means that a growing share of the overall population is made up of those considered to be of working age; and thus not dependent on the economic activity of others. In turn, this declining dependency ratio can have a positive impact on overall economic growth, creating a demographic dividend. The ability of a particular economy to harness this dividend, however, is dependent on its ability to ensure the deployment of this growing working-age population towards productive economic activity, and to create the jobs necessary for the growing labor force."[18]
New: Updated with 2024 numbers (Previous version) (In English only, for now)
AIDS estimated deaths (UNAIDS estimates)
Adolescent fertility rate (births per 1,000 women ages 15-19)
Age at first marriage, female
Age at first marriage, male
Age dependency ratio (% of working-age population)
Antiretroviral therapy coverage (% of people living with HIV)
Antiretroviral therapy coverage for PMTCT (% of pregnant women living with HIV)
Birth rate, crude (per 1,000 people)
Births attended by skilled health staff (% of total)
Children (0-14) living with HIV
Children with fever receiving antimalarial drugs (% of children under age 5 with fever)
Completeness of birth registration (%)
Completeness of death registration with cause-of-death information (%)
Diabetes prevalence (% of population ages 20 to 79)
Diarrhea treatment (% of children under 5 receiving oral rehydration and continued feeding)
Fertility rate, total (births per woman)
GNI per capita, Atlas method (current US\$)
Health expenditure per capita (current US\$)
Health expenditure per capita, PPP
Health expenditure, private (% of GDP)
Health expenditure, public (% of GDP)
Health expenditure, total (% of GDP)
Hospital beds (per 1,000 people)
Immunization, BCG (% of one-year-old children) - Tuberculosis Immunization, DPT (% of children ages 12-23 months) - Diphtheria, pertussis (whooping cough), and Tetanus Immunization, HepB3 (% of one-year-old children) - Hepatitis B Immunization, Hib3 (% of children ages 12-23 months) - Meningitis, Pneumonia, and Epiglottitis Immunization, Polio (% of one-year-old children)
Immunization, measles (% of children ages 12-23 months)
Incidence of HIV (% of uninfected population ages 15-49)
Incidence of malaria (per 1,000 population at risk)
Incidence of tuberculosis (per 100,000 people)
Labor force, female (% of total labor force)
Labor force, total
Life expectancy at birth, female (years)
Life expectancy at birth, male (years)
Life expectancy at birth, total (years)
Literacy rate, adult female (% of females ages 15 and above)
Literacy rate, adult total (% of people ages 15 and above)
Literacy rate, youth male (% of males ages 15-24)
Malaria cases reported
Mortality rate, under-5 (per 1,000)
People practicing open defecation, urban (% of urban population)
Physicians (per 1,000 people)
Population ages 65 and above (% of total)
Population growth (annual %)
Population, male (% of total)
Postnatal care coverage (% mothers)
Prevalence of HIV, female (% ages 15-24)
Prevalence of HIV, male (% ages 15-24)
Prevalence of HIV, total (% of population ages 15-49)
Prevalence of overweight (% of children under 5)
Prevalence of overweight, female (% of female adults)
Prevalence of overweight, male (% of male adults)
Prevalence of syphilis (% of women attending antenatal care)
Public spending on education, total (% of GDP)
Risk of impoverishing expenditure for surgical care (% of people at risk)
Rural population growth (annual %)
School enrollment, secondary (% gross)
School enrollment, secondary, male (% net)
Sex ratio at birth (male births per female births)
Smoking prevalence, females (% of adults)
Smoking prevalence, males (% of adults)
Suicide mortality rate (per 100,000 population)
Tuberculosis death rate (per 100,000 people)
Unemployment, total (% of total labor force)
Urban population growth (annual %)
Population pyramids can help us understand the trends in a given population with time. This OpinionFront post tells you the definition and types of population pyramids, with examples of each for better understanding.
Population Explosion! It took 123 years for the population on our planet to grow from 1 billion in 1804 to 2 billion in 1927. However, the same amount of increase lately happened in just 13 years, from 6 billion in 1999 to 7 billion in 2012. The human population has seen a sharp increase since the beginning of the Industrial Revolution in the 18th century, due to the corresponding improvements in food production, medical care, and general living conditions. However, today, each country is at a different stage of economic development, and it may or may not have the infrastructure required to give all its citizens a better life.
Population is not uniformly distributed across all countries either, with some countries having a lesser number of people spread over a large territory, and others showing the opposite trend. How then can a country's population be estimated, so it is in a better position to care for its citizens in the future? The answer lies in different types of population pyramids.
Definition
Sample Population Pyramid
A population pyramid is a graph which shows the age-sex distribution of a country's population at a given time. This diagram shows the variation of both, the male and female populations with age, which is not possible with conventional bar graphs, and results in a pyramidal structure. The country's population is shown on the X-axis, while the age is displayed on the Y-axis in 5-year groups, called 'cohorts'. Conventionally, the male population is shown on the left side of the X-axis, while the female population is on the right.
Population Pyramid Types
Expansive
This type of graph has a triangular shape, with a very wide base and pointed apex. Each age group shows a bar less wider than that of the age group before it, indicating that more people die at each higher group. The large base shows a high birth rate, which is probably due to factors like a developing economy, poverty, low levels of female education, and less awareness of birth control measures. The tapering top of the graph indicates a high death rate, meaning that the life expectancy in such a country is less. Factors like poor living conditions and the lack of proper medical facilities may be responsible for the high mortality among the elderly. Such countries have a higher population of children as compared to people of working age or older people. This results in a strain on the working-age population to support the large younger population, making them work in stressful conditions.
Examples: Such a population pyramid is a characteristic of newly developing countries such as Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Kenya, and some countries of Latin America.
Stable/Stationary
This type of population distribution shows a rectangular or squarish shape, with almost the same number of people in all age groups. There is a slight taper at the top, which is perfectly natural, due to more deaths occurring among the elderly. Such countries have a high life expectancy, where more people live to a ripe old age, due to better living conditions, medical facilities, and geriatric care.They also have a stable birth rate, as there is more awareness and incentives to use birth control measures, along with the empowerment of women. Such a pyramid shows a stable increase in the country's population with time.
Examples: Highly-developed countries such as USA, Sweden, and Netherlands, which have well-established economies, come under this type.
Constrictive
A constrictive pyramid is the opposite of an expansive pyramid, with a slight constriction in its younger age groups. There is high life expectancy and good living conditions in such a country, leading to a higher number of older people. Despite this, there is a lesser number of births taking place, which is outnumbered by the number of deaths. This indicates a graying as well as decreasing population. There is a higher number of older people than the youth in the country, which places a burden upon the working-age population to support the large number of elderly dependents. The decrease in the number of births indicates that people are choosing to have lesser children, and may also be due to increased emigration.
Examples: Developed European countries like Italy and Germany, along with countries like Japan and Australia come under this category.
The age structure of a population diagram can help a country decide the needs of its population in the future, so that it is more prepared to face them. For example, a country with an expansive pyramid can strengthen its education sector to deal with its high number of children, while another with a constrictive pyramid needs to focus more on its geriatric and medical care facilities to take better care of its older population. The audio, illustrations, photos, and videos are credited beneath the media asset, except for promotional images, which generally link to another page that contains the media credit.
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A population pyramid, also known as an age-sex pyramid, is a graphical representation of a population's age and gender structure. It's a way of visualizing the distribution of different age groups and sexes within a population, and it provides insights into population trends, including demographic transition and aging.
Population pyramids can be divided into three main types: expanding, stationary, and contracting. Expanding population pyramids have a wide base and a narrow top, indicating a high birth rate and a low death rate. This is typically seen in developing countries, where the majority of the population is young and there is a high potential for population growth. Stationary population pyramids have a uniform shape and indicate that the birth rate and death rate are in balance, which means that population growth is stable. This is often seen in developed countries where fertility rates are low and the population is aging. Contracting population pyramids have a narrow base and a wide top, indicating a low birth rate and a high death rate. This is usually seen in developed countries with aging populations. The limits of population pyramids can be seen in countries where the pyramid is contracting and a large proportion of the population is older. These countries are facing significant challenges such as increased healthcare costs, pension challenges and labor shortage, which can affect the economy. The aging population also challenges the social welfare system and the ability of the society to care for the elderly. Additionally, population pyramids can also be affected by migration and changes in the population structure. These shifts can change the demographic trends, affecting the economy and society in different ways, and countries need to adapt to these changes in order to ensure a sustainable and prosperous future.
By Lauren Boucher | March 10, 2016
A population pyramid, or age structure graph, is a simple graph that conveys the complex social narrative of a population through its shape. Demographers use these simple graphs to evaluate the extent of development for a given population - usually an individual nation - and to make predictions about the types of services that population will need e.g. schools, hospitals, homes, etc. And while every population pyramid is unique, most can be categorized into three prototypical shapes: expansive (young and growing), constrictive (elderly and shrinking), and stationary (little or no population growth). Let's take a deeper dive into the trends these three shapes reveal about a population and its needs.
Not a population pyramid pro? Read our refresher post first!
The Three Basic Shapes of Population Pyramids
Expansive
Expansive population pyramids are used to describe populations that are young and growing. They are often characterized by their typical 'pyramid' shape, which has a broad base and narrow top. Expansive population pyramids show a larger percentage of the population in the younger age cohorts, usually with each age cohort smaller in size than the one below it. These types of populations are typically representative of developing nations, whose populations often have high fertility rates and lower than average life expectancies. Constrictive
Constrictive population pyramids are used to describe populations that are elderly and shrinking. Constrictive pyramids can often look like beehives and typically have an inverted shape with the graph tapering in at the bottom. Constrictive pyramids have smaller percentages of people in the younger age cohorts and are typically characteristic of countries with higher levels of social and economic development, where access to quality education and health care is available to a large portion of the population. Stationary
Stationary, or near stationary, population pyramids are used to describe populations that are not growing. They are characterized by their rectangular shape, displaying somewhat equal percentages across age cohorts that taper off toward the top. These pyramids are often characteristic of developed nations, where birth rates are low and overall quality of life is high. Tags: AP Human Geography, population pyramid, geography, demography © Copyright Worldometers.info - All rights reserved - Disclaimer & Privacy Policy
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Population density for this country
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Science Environment
Perhaps the most fundamental of these characteristics is the age distribution of a population. Demographers commonly use population pyramids to describe both age and sex distributions of populations. A population pyramid is a bar chart or graph in which the length of each horizontal bar represents the number (or percentage) of persons in an age group; for example, the base of such a chart consists of a bar representing the youngest segment of the population, those persons less than, say, five years old. Each bar is divided into segments corresponding to the numbers (or proportions) of males and females. In most populations the proportion of older persons is much smaller than that of the younger, so the chart narrows toward the top and is more or less triangular, like the cross section of a pyramid; hence the name. Youthful populations are represented by pyramids with a broad base of young children and a narrow apex of older people, while older populations are characterized by more uniform numbers of people in the age categories. Population pyramids reveal markedly different characteristics for three nations: high fertility and rapid population growth (Mexico), low fertility and slow growth (United States), and very low fertility and negative growth (West Germany).
Contrary to a common belief, the principal factor tending to change the age distribution of a population—and, hence, the general shape of the corresponding pyramid—is not the death or mortality rates, but rather the rate of fertility. A rise or decline in mortality generally affects all age groups in some measure, and hence has only limited effects on the proportion in each age group. A change in fertility, however, affects the number of people in only a single age group—the group of age zero, the newly born. Hence a decline or increase in fertility has a highly concentrated effect at one end of the age distribution and thereby can have a major influence on the overall age structure. This means that youthful age structures correspond to highly fertile populations, typical of developing countries. The older age structures are those of low-fertility populations, such as are common in the industrialized world.
A second important structural aspect of populations is the relative numbers of males and females who compose it. Generally, slightly more males are born than females (a typical ratio would be 105 or 106 males for every 100 females). On the other hand, it is quite common for males to experience higher mortality at virtually all ages after birth. This difference is apparently of biological origin. Exceptions occur in countries such as India, where the mortality of females may be higher than that of males in childhood and at the ages of childbearing because of unequal allocation of resources within the family and the poor quality of maternal health care. The general rules that more males are born but that females experience lower mortality mean that during childhood males outnumber females of the same age, the difference decreases as the age increases, at some point in the adult life span the numbers of males and females become equal, and as higher ages are reached the number of females becomes disproportionately large. For example, in Europe and North America, among persons more than 70 years of age in 1985, the number of males for every 100 females was only about 61 to 63. (According to the Population Division of the United Nations, the figure for the Soviet Union was only 40, which may be attributable to high male mortality during World War II as well as to possible increases in male mortality during the 1980s.) The sex ratio within a population has significant implications for marriage patterns. A scarcity of males of a given age depresses the marriage rates of females in the same age group or usually those somewhat younger, and this in turn is likely to reduce their fertility. In many countries, social convention dictates a pattern in which males at marriage are slightly older than their spouses. Thus if there is a dramatic rise in fertility, such as that called the "baby boom" in the period following World War II, a "marriage squeeze" can eventually result; that is, the number of males of the socially correct age for marriage is insufficient for the number of somewhat younger females. This may lead to deferral of marriage of these women, a contraction of the age differential of marrying couples, or both. Similarly, a dramatic fertility decline in such a society is likely to lead eventually to an insufficiency of eligible females for marriage, which may lead to earlier marriage of these women, an expansion of the age gap at marriage, or both. All of these effects are slow to develop; it takes at least 20 to 25 years for even a dramatic fall or rise in fertility to affect marriage patterns in this way. The populations of all nations of the world are more or less diverse with respect to ethnicity or race. (Ethnicity here includes national, cultural, religious, linguistic, or other attributes that are perceived as characteristic of distinct groups.) Such divisions in populations often are regarded as socially important, and statistics by race and ethnic group are therefore commonly available. The categories used for such groups differ from nation to nation, however; for example, a person of Pakistani origin is considered "black" or "coloured" in the United Kingdom but would probably be classified as "white" or "Asian" in the United States. For this reason, international comparisons of ethnic and racial groups are imprecise, and this component of population structure is far less objective as a measure than are the categories of age and sex discussed above.
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