NPG 2016 POPULATION FACT SHEET

Introduction to Students: Why Population Matters to You

From the moment you are born, you become a key participant in shaping the population dynamics of our country. Throughout your life, you will hopefully share in America's rich opportunities and help make our nation a better place to live. You will also compete for your individual portion of our country's limited resources.

Each step of the way, you will put your own personal imprint on our nation. And you will interact with hundreds of millions of fellow citizens who, like you, will be looking to enjoy a decent quality of life and pursue the American Dream.

The results of the 2010 U.S. Census found that America's population stood at 308.7 million people as of April 1, 2010. As you read this 2016 Population Fact Sheet, it is estimated that the U.S. has added over 14 million people to that figure. By mid-century, the U.S. population is projected to reach 400 million – a number that will create a far different quality of life than we all currently enjoy. This growth is unsustainable in the long term.

The information below is provided to stimulate discussion about population growth and to help you understand the dangers of our ever-increasing population.

Remember, you are part of the generation that has much to gain by advocating responsible and sound population policies today.

World Population:

◄ The United Nations estimated world population reached 6 billion in 1999 and 7.3 billon in 2015. It is currently projected to reach 9.7 billion by 2050 and 11.2 billion by 2100.

U.S. Population Info:

◄ With 323 million people, the United States ranks as the third most populated country in the world behind China and India.

◄ America's population increased by 27.3 million people between 2000 and 2010 – one of the largest increases in any decade in our nation's history. We are adding a city roughly the size of Chicago to our population every year. Currently, we add about 5,700 new people to the United States each day.

◄ The fastest growing states in the U.S. in the past 10 years include: Arizona, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Nevada, North Carolina, South Carolina, Texas, and Utah.

◄ According to the U.S. Census Bureau, one birth currently occurs every 8 seconds in the U.S., and one death every 11 seconds. Net international migration – including immigration – will increase the population by one person every 27 seconds. *The end result is that our population is growing by 1 person every 15 seconds.*

Environment and Habitat:

◄ Despite making strides to protect our fragile environment in recent years, evidence exists that the impact of population growth is negating many environmental victories.

◄ U.S. coastal areas have the highest population density in the country, and continued development puts coastal habitats at even greater risk.

◄ Numerous fish and wildlife species and their habitats (in areas such as the Great Lakes Basin, the Everglades, and the Chesapeake Bay), face serious threats.

◄ Increased population greatly contributes to climate change.

POPULATION BY STATE 1970-2010

	1970	1990	2010	*U.S. Census Bureau Projections (2005) 2030	*UVA Cooper Center Projections (2013) 2030
Alabama	3,444,165	4,040,587	4,779,736	4,874,243	5,332,383
Alaska	302,173	550,043	710,231	867,674	909,351
Arizona	1,772,482	3,665,228	6,392,017	10,712,397	8,778,792
Arkansas	1,923,295	2,350,725	2,915,918	3,240,208	3,312,022
California	19,953,134	29,760,021	37,253,956	46,444,861	45,984,332
Colorado	2,207,259	3,294,394	5,029,196	5,792,357	6,409,771
Connecticut	3,032,217	3,287,116	3,574,097	3,688,630	3,857,679
Delaware	548,104	666,168	897,934	1,012,658	1,092,562
District of Columbia	756,510	606,900	601,723	433,414	573,240
Florida	6,789,443	12,937,926	18,801,310	28,685,769	24,662,590
Georgia	4,589,575	6,478,216	9,687,653	12,017,838	12,415,730
Hawaii	769,913	1,108,229	1,360,301	1,466,046	1,612,574
Idaho	713,008	1,006,749	1,567,582	1,969,624	1,969,343
Illinois	11,113,976	11,430,602	12,830,632	13,432,892	13,669,506
Indiana	5,193,669	5,544,159	6,483,802	6,810,108	7,095,730
Iowa	2,825,041	2,776,755	3,046,355	2,955,172	3,112,586
Kansas	2,249,071	2,477,574	2,853,118	2,940,084	3,156,962
Kentucky	3,219,311	3,685,296	4,339,367	4,554,998	4,757,927
Louisiana	3,643,180	4,219,973	4,533,372	4,802,633	4,718,136
Maine	993,663	1,227,928	1,328,361	1,411,097	1,453,823
Maryland	3,922,399	4,781,468	5,773,552	7,022,251	6,763,178
Massachusetts	5,689,170	6,016,425	6,547,629	7,012,009	7,037,976
Michigan	8,875,083	9,295,297	9,883,640	10,694,172	10,225,304
Minnesota	3,805,069	4,375,099	5,303,925	6,306,130	6,079,331
Mississippi	2,216,912	2,573,216	2,967,297	3,092,410	3,242,016
Missouri	4,677,399	5,117,073	5,988,927	6,430,173	6,656,421
Montana	694,409	799,065	989,415	1,044,898	1,116,625
Nebraska	1,483,791	1,578,385	1,826,341	1,820,247	1,983,249
Nevada	488,738	1,201,833	2,700,551	4,282,102	3,939,244
New Hampshire	737,681	1,109,252	1,316,470	1,646,471	1,569,218
New Jersey	7,168,164	7,730,188	8,791,894	9,802,440	9,674,480
New Mexico	1,016,000	1,515,069	2,059,179	2,099,708	2,545,270
New York	18,241,266	17,990,455	19,378,102	19,477,429	20,446,062
North Carolina	5,082,059	6,628,637	9,535,483	12,227,739	11,886,768
North Dakota	617,761	638,800	672,591	606,566	680,998
Ohio	10,652,017	10,847,115	11,536,504	11,550,528	11,944,153
Oklahoma	2,559,253	3,145,585	3,751,351	3,913,251	4,205,487
Oregon	2,091,385	2,842,321	3,831,074	4,833,918	4,597,030
Pennsylvania	11,793,909	11,881,643	12,702,379	12,768,184	13,167,735
Rhode Island	949,723	1,003,464	1,052,567	1,152,941	1,114,914
South Carolina	2,590,516	3,486,703	4,625,364	5,148,569	5,587,991
South Dakota	666,257	696,004	814,180	800,462	890,125
Tennessee	3,924,164	4,877,185	6,346,105	7,380,634	7,463,025
Texas	11,196,730	16,986,510	25,145,561	33,317,744	32,194,206
Utah	1,059,273	1,722,850	2,763,885	3,485,367	3,606,802
Vermont	444,732	562,758	625,741	711,867	696,975
Virginia	4,648,494	6,187,358	8,001,024	9,825,019	9,701,508
Washington	3,409,169	4,866,692	6,724,540	8,624,801	8,393,113
West Virginia	1,744,237	1,793,477	1,852,994	1,719,959	1,775,932
Wisconsin	4,417,933	4,891,769	5,686,986	6,150,764	6,296,359
Wyoming	332,416	453,588	563,626	522,979	621,916
Total United States	**203,235,298**	**248,709,873**	**308,745,538**	**363,584,435**	**360,978,449**

Farmland:

◄ One acre of natural habitat or farmland is converted to developed space or highway for each person added to the U.S. population. We are losing our most fertile and productive land as urban sprawl brings new houses, roads, malls, and office buildings.

◄ America is losing nearly 50 acres of farmland every hour.

Energy:

◄ In 2010, the United States was the second-largest energy consumer in terms of total use.

◄ In 2007, America consumed nearly three times more energy than we did in 1950, when our population was only 150 million.

◄ U.S. energy is derived from: Petroleum (36%), Natural Gas (27%), Coal (19%), Nuclear Power (8%), and Renewable Sources (10%).

Water:

Water is essential for all life – human, animal, and plant. It's needed to run businesses, farms, and factories. Much of America's water supplies are contained in large underground aquifers. As our nation's population grows, so does the demand for water. According to the U.S. Geological Survey, in 2010:

◄ Drier states (such as Oklahoma, Kansas, and Arizona) used much higher amounts of groundwater than other states.

◄ The states with the highest use of groundwater – California and Texas – also have the two largest populations in the U.S.

◄ Irrigation accounted for 38% of all freshwater withdrawals in the nation.

Future water supplies are among the most worrisome issues as our population grows. Droughts are frequent, and population growth in the western U.S. is causing new problems as cities and states compete for dwindling water resources.

What You Can Do to Protect Your Future

There is a huge price to pay if America continues to let our population numbers spin out of control. You are made aware of this growing crisis every day via TV, the Internet, and problems right in your own home town.
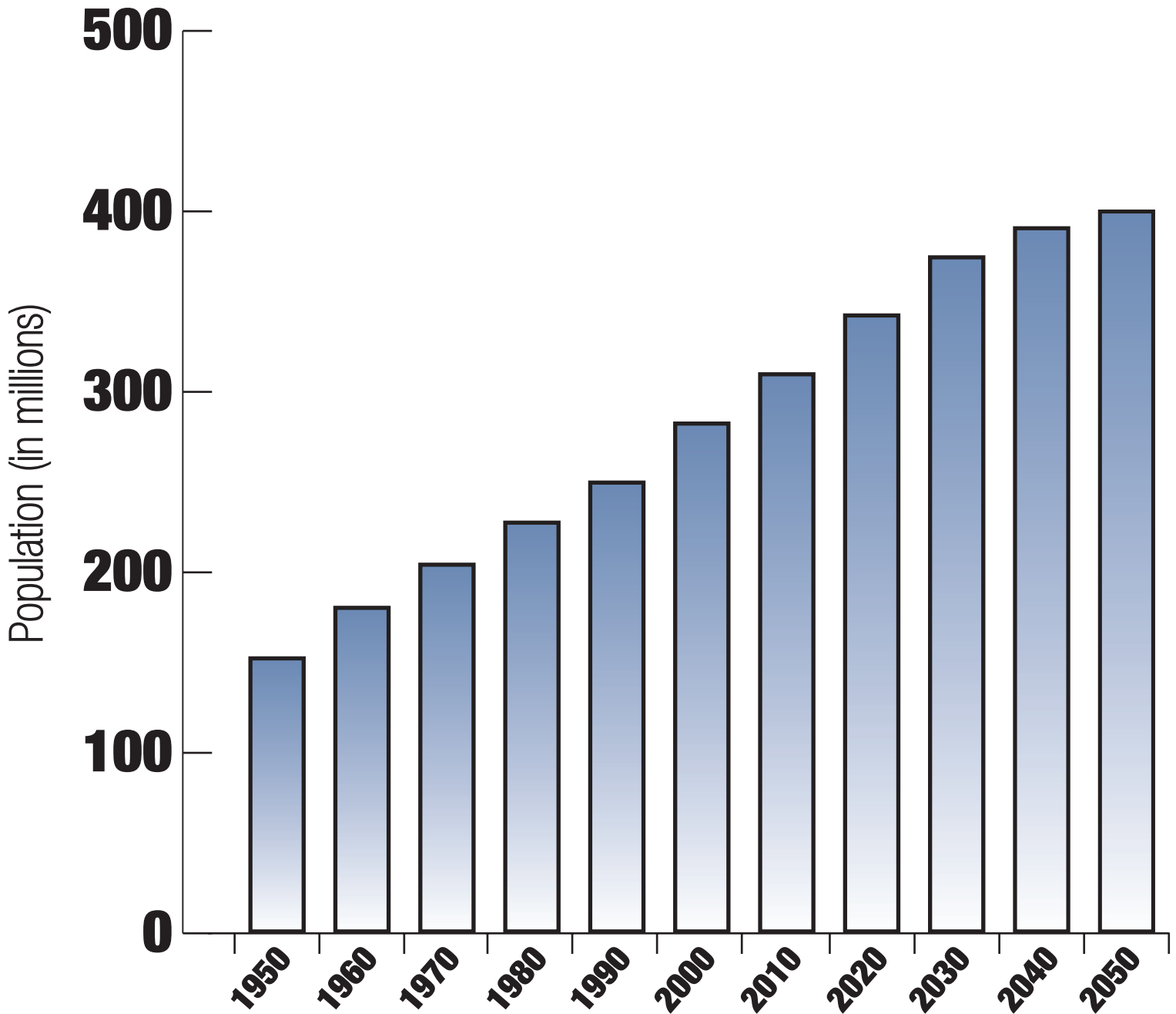
We already have *too many people* in many of our communities, contributing to critical problems such as crowded schools and hospitals, traffic gridlock, and high unemployment. Other serious damage that is not as visible includes: competing for limited fresh water, increasing demand for energy, air pollution, the loss of open space, forest and farmland depletion, and destruction of America's fragile environment.

It is vitally important that our government leaders – on the federal, state, and local levels – take steps to halt and reverse today's soaring population growth and help restore our population to a sustainable size.

As part of the generation that has everything to lose if our nation continues to ignore our population problems, it is important that you speak up and get involved. America's future depends on your demand for responsible and sound population policies that shape a more livable nation.

UNITED STATES POPULATION
1950-2050

Population (in millions)

500
400
300
200
100
0

1950 1960 1970 1980 1990 2000 2010 2020 2030 2040 2050

The above bar graph reflects America's population growth and projections for the years 1950 to 2050 — a time period that encompasses an era when the grandparents of most of today's students were born all the way through to the years when they will themselves become grandparents!