



# NPG 2020 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 2020 Population Fact Sheet, it is estimated that the U.S. has added more than 21 million people to that figure. By 2060, the U.S. population is projected to reach 404 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 for responsible and sound population policies today.

## **World Population:**

- ◀ The United Nations estimated world population reached 6 billion in 1999 and 7.3 billion in 2015. It is currently projected to reach 9.7 billion by 2050 and 11 billion by 2100.

## **U.S. Population Info:**

- ◀ With more than 330 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 5,400 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, Idaho, Nevada, North Carolina, Texas, Utah, and Washington.
- ◀ According to the U.S. Census Bureau, one birth currently occurs every 8 seconds in the U.S., and one death every 12 seconds. Net international migration – including immigration – will increase the population by one person every 47 seconds. *The end result is that our population is growing by 1 person every 16 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

	U.S. Census 1970	U.S. Census 1990	U.S. Census 2010	UVA Cooper Center Projections (2018) 2030
Alabama	3,444,165	4,040,587	4,779,736	5,029,833
Alaska	302,173	550,043	710,231	792,188
Arizona	1,772,482	3,665,228	6,392,017	8,238,407
Arkansas	1,923,295	2,350,725	2,915,918	3,155,798
California	19,953,134	29,760,021	37,253,956	43,751,116
Colorado	2,207,259	3,294,394	5,029,196	6,766,983
Connecticut	3,032,217	3,287,116	3,574,097	3,601,202
Delaware	548,104	666,168	897,934	1,082,192
District of Columbia	756,510	606,900	601,723	888,891
Florida	6,789,443	12,937,926	18,801,310	25,372,664
Georgia	4,589,575	6,478,216	9,687,653	11,835,126
Hawaii	769,913	1,108,229	1,360,301	1,548,831
Idaho	713,008	1,006,749	1,567,582	2,008,329
Illinois	11,113,976	11,430,602	12,830,632	12,709,901
Indiana	5,193,669	5,544,159	6,483,802	6,978,254
Iowa	2,825,041	2,776,755	3,046,355	3,317,412
Kansas	2,249,071	2,477,574	2,853,118	3,011,782
Kentucky	3,219,311	3,685,296	4,339,367	4,648,190
Louisiana	3,643,180	4,219,973	4,533,372	4,945,783
Maine	993,663	1,227,928	1,328,361	1,344,841
Maryland	3,922,399	4,781,468	5,773,552	6,553,548
Massachusetts	5,689,170	6,016,425	6,547,629	7,420,882
Michigan	8,875,083	9,295,297	9,883,640	10,068,941
Minnesota	3,805,069	4,375,099	5,303,925	6,070,551
Mississippi	2,216,912	2,573,216	2,967,297	3,003,963
Missouri	4,677,399	5,117,073	5,988,927	6,318,126
Montana	694,409	799,065	989,415	1,163,353
Nebraska	1,483,791	1,578,385	1,826,341	2,089,841
Nevada	488,738	1,201,833	2,700,551	3,591,043
New Hampshire	737,681	1,109,252	1,316,470	1,385,799
New Jersey	7,168,164	7,730,188	8,791,894	9,363,317
New Mexico	1,016,000	1,515,069	2,059,179	2,132,823
New York	18,241,266	17,990,455	19,378,102	20,638,066
North Carolina	5,082,059	6,628,637	9,535,483	11,673,849
North Dakota	617,761	638,800	672,591	923,452
Ohio	10,652,017	10,847,115	11,536,504	11,837,405
Oklahoma	2,559,253	3,145,585	3,751,351	4,253,604
Oregon	2,091,385	2,842,321	3,831,074	4,738,074
Pennsylvania	11,793,909	11,881,643	12,702,379	12,946,245
Rhode Island	949,723	1,003,464	1,052,567	1,068,663
South Carolina	2,590,516	3,486,703	4,625,364	5,792,247
South Dakota	666,257	696,004	814,180	973,361
Tennessee	3,924,164	4,877,185	6,346,105	7,395,106
Texas	11,196,730	16,986,510	25,145,561	34,738,482
Utah	1,059,273	1,722,850	2,763,885	3,786,963
Vermont	444,732	562,758	625,741	617,969
Virginia	4,648,494	6,187,358	8,001,024	9,331,666
Washington	3,409,169	4,866,692	6,724,540	8,746,493
West Virginia	1,744,237	1,793,477	1,852,994	1,746,577
Wisconsin	4,417,933	4,891,769	5,686,986	5,971,617
Wyoming	332,416	453,588	563,626	605,972
<b>Total United States</b>	<b>203,235,298</b>	<b>248,709,873</b>	<b>308,745,538</b>	<b>357,975,719</b>

## 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 2,000 acres of farmland every day.

## Energy:

- ◀ In 2010, the United States was the world's second-largest energy consumer in terms of total use.
- ◀ In 2007, America consumed about three times more energy than we did in 1950, when our population was only 150 million.
- ◀ U.S. energy is derived from: Petroleum (37%), Natural Gas (32%), Coal (11%), Nuclear Power (8%), and Renewable Sources – including Solar, Wind, Biofuels, and Hydroelectric – (11%).

## 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 Arizona, Kansas, Nebraska, and Texas) 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. Make yourself aware of this growing crisis every day by watching the news and following online stories, especially regarding problems right in your own hometown.

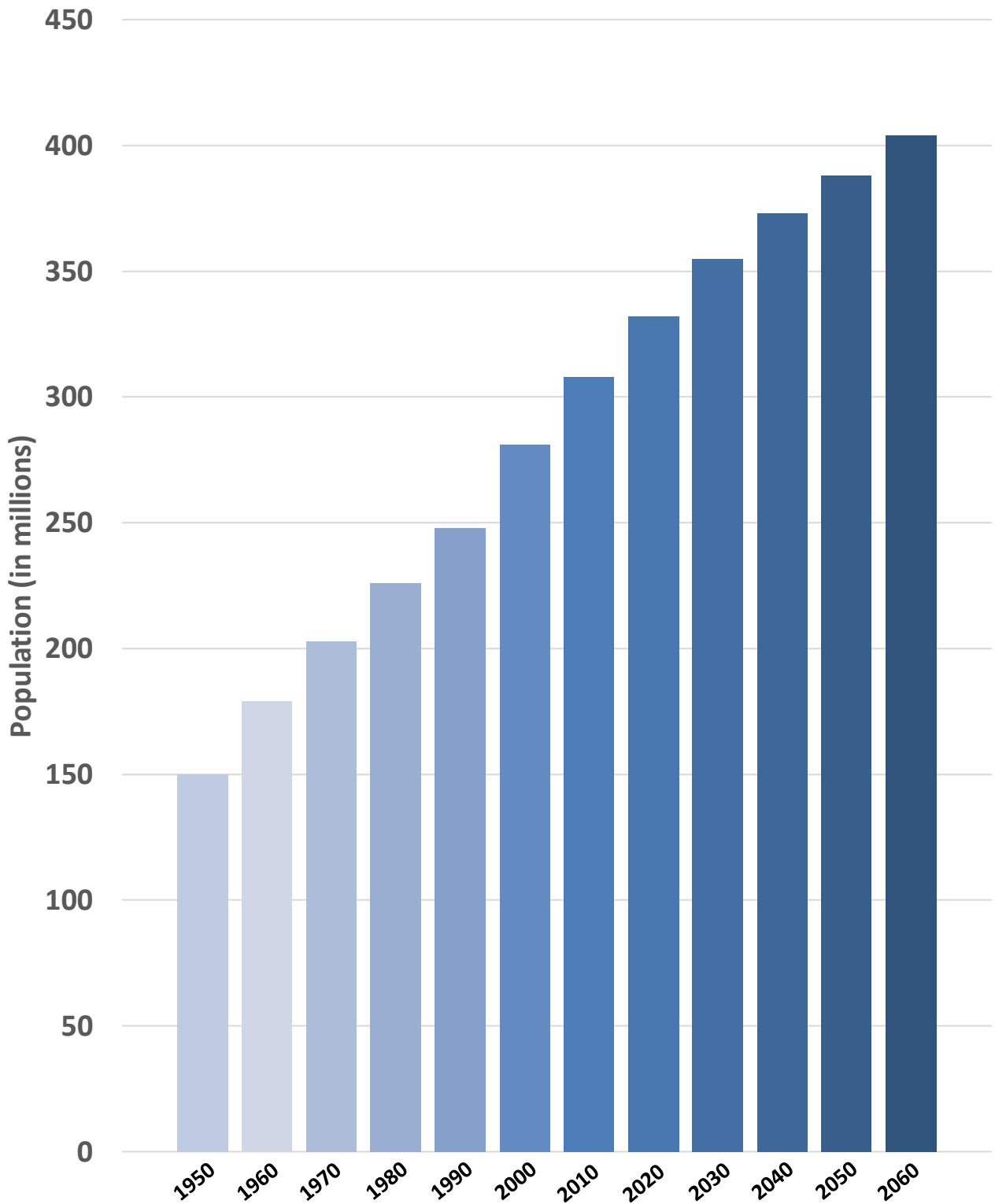
We already have *too many people* in many of our communities, contributing to critical problems such as crowded schools and hospitals, traffic gridlock, and high unemployment. Other serious damage that is not as visible includes: competing for limited fresh water, increasing demand for energy, air pollution, 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.

Negative Population Growth (NPG) is a national nonprofit membership organization founded in 1972 to educate American citizens and legislators regarding the detrimental effects of overpopulation on our environment, resources, and quality of life. NPG advocates a smaller and truly sustainable United States population, accomplished through voluntary incentives for smaller families and reduced immigration levels. For additional information about population issues, please visit our website at [www.NPG.org](http://www.NPG.org).

# UNITED STATES POPULATION 1950 - 2060



The above bar graph reflects America's population growth and projections for the years 1950 to 2060 – 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!