

Affirmative Action Alternative Put to the Test in Texas

One by one, through the courts or through referenda, states like Texas, California, Florida, and Washington have invalidated race-based admissions to colleges and universities. In the place of affirmative action plans, some of these states have introduced “x percent” plans, which entitle students graduating at the top of their high school classes to attend the public college or university of their choice. Although the new plans have received considerable media attention, little social science research has focused on their effectiveness, versus that of affirmative action, in maintaining campus diversity.

Because Texas was the first state to institute a percentage-based plan, a team of researchers led by Marta Tienda of Princeton University in collaboration with Kevin Leicht of the University of Iowa, Kim Lloyd of Princeton University, and Teresa Sullivan of the University of Texas at Austin is analyzing that state’s top 10 percent law, passed in 1997.



Students protest the end of affirmative action at UCLA campus rally in 1996. California has adopted a top 4 percent plan.

The team chose as research sites 12 public and eight private colleges and universities that vary in the selectivity of their admissions. Using student records on applications, admits, and enrollees at these schools, the team sought

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Shotgun Weddings a Sign of the Times in Japan

by Haruna Kashiwase

When it comes to creating a family, many young Japanese are dispensing with tradition. No longer compelled to live by their parents’ mores, many are staying single longer and conceiving children before getting married. A recent report by the Japanese Ministry of Health, Labor, and Welfare sheds light on these trends with an analysis of contemporary marriage patterns and with birth statistics for 2000.

According to the report, the median age at first marriage for women increased from 25 in 1975 to 27 in 2000, and its increase is accelerating. It took 15 years (from 1977 to 1992) for the median age to rise from 25 to 26, but it took just eight years to rise again, to 27 in 2000. Not surprisingly, with their marriages occurring later, Japanese women are having their first babies later. The average age for becoming a mother was 26 in 1975, and 28 in 2000.

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Landmarks

Allan Bakke, a white man, sued the University of California because he believed racial quotas had blocked his admission to the U.C. Davis Medical School. The case, decided in 1978, held, in effect, that while numerical quotas, such as the one that had been used in admissions to the U.C. Davis, were unconstitutional except as remediation for the effects of immediate past discrimination. Institutions might consider race as a “plus factor,” according to the ruling, “one element in a range of factors” to achieve diversity in the student body.

Cheryl Hopwood, a white woman who applied to and was rejected by the University of Texas School of Law, sued the school on the grounds that she was rejected solely on the basis of race. The 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled in her favor in 1996, and the *Hopwood* case ended affirmative action at all Texas state universities.

These two seemingly contradictory rulings continue to stir controversy as subsequent cases rely on them for legal precedent. On May 14, 2002, the 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals upheld the constitutionality of the University of Michigan Law School’s use of affirmative action in admissions, describing its use as “narrowly tailored” to achieve the educational benefits that come from a diverse student body. The court called the Michigan law school’s policy “virtually indistinguishable” from the Harvard University admissions plan cited as a model by the Supreme Court in the Bakke case. The May 14 decision reversed an earlier decision by a federal district court judge, which, like *Hopwood*, stated that the law does not permit colleges and universities to use race in admissions. To settle these and other pending legal challenges, many experts predict the U.S. Supreme Court will soon revisit the use of race in admissions.

answers to two questions: “How did the change in college admissions criteria affect the racial and ethnic composition of students admitted and enrolled at each institution?” and “What is the net impact of these changes on the chances that individuals would be admitted under different admissions criteria?” They began by analyzing records from the University of Texas at Austin, the largest university in the state, and from Texas A&M University, the state’s land-grant institution (formerly Texas Agricultural and Mechanical College).

Methods

First, the team examined changes under the two admissions plans in the relative percentage of applicants, admits, and enrollees at each school by race, gender, test scores, high school rank, and “feeder school” status (feeder schools are high schools that provide substantial proportions of Austin’s and A&M’s incoming freshman classes). Then the investigators modeled the probabilities of admission and enrollment for minorities relative to whites under both plans.

Findings

The preliminary findings reveal some interesting patterns:

- **Applications.** There has been a slight decline in the percentage of applications from Hispanics at both schools and in the percentage of applications from African Americans at A&M since 1997.

- **Admissions.** The composition of incoming freshman classes under the top 10 percent law has shifted. There are relatively fewer African American and fewer Hispanic admits at both schools, with Asians benefiting at Austin and whites benefiting at A&M. But the results for the composition of each freshman class do not reflect the relative chances of admission for individual students who apply. Controlling for factors such as test scores, high school rank, and feeder school status, minorities’ chances of being admitted to Austin rose slightly; at A&M, the chances of admission for minority students fell under the top 10 percent law.

- **Enrollees.** After *Hopwood* (see box), the percentage of enrollees who are Asian rose at Austin and the percentage of enrollees who are Hispanic dropped at both schools but more so at A&M. These numbers appear to follow directly from the relative changes in the admissions pools at each institution. Yet the aggregate enrollment figures mask significant changes in the probability that individual students from different groups will enroll—especially at Austin, where outreach activities by administrators and officers have been especially visible. These probabilities rose sharply after *Hopwood*, suggesting that fewer minority students were admitted but a greater percentage of those who were admitted actually enrolled.

Context

In interpreting their findings, Leicht and colleagues note several complicating factors. The two universities have launched outreach campaigns to recruit students from underrepresented groups, campaigns that began shortly after implementation of the top 10 percent law and that include offers of generous scholarships and attention to the neediest of prospective new students.

Leicht also acknowledged that findings to date are tied to the institutions studied. Beyond other University of Texas branches, Leicht believes that admission and enrollment patterns may differ at private schools such as Southern Methodist University, Texas Christian University, and Trinity University, which are also part of the researchers’ data collection. According to Leicht, admissions directors on these campuses say they have seen changes in the types of people who apply to their institutions, even though these schools are not required to follow the top 10 percent law.

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Population Growth Continues to Hinder Nepal's Economic Progress

by Timothy Heleniak

Wedged between the world's two population billionaires, China and India, Nepal is struggling with its own population pressures. The country's 23 million people, most of whom make their living from farming, have nearly run out of land to cultivate, while their numbers continue to grow; poverty, the highest outside of Africa, persists; and internal conflict is draining already scarce resources.

Nepal's 10th population census, conducted in June 2001, produced a population

count of 23,214,681. That number marked an increase of 5 million since the previous census in 1991 and an average annual growth rate of 2.3 percent. According to the census, 86 percent of this growing population lives in rural areas, and 82 percent of the economically active population works in agriculture, fishing, or forestry.

Because one-third of the country consists of mountains or hills, little additional land is available to tend. The share of land being cultivated rose from 17 percent in 1974 to 30 percent in 1998, and the remain-

Photo removed for copyright reasons.

A merchant selling goods in the central market area in Kathmandu.

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Hispanic Admissions, Enrollment Decline *Continued from page 2*

Further Study

Leicht expects more answers to emerge in later phases of the research. Besides being extended to 18 other colleges and universities, the research will examine additional combinations of student characteristics, such as white students of low socioeconomic status from rural backgrounds relative to black students of low socioeconomic status from urban backgrounds. The researchers will also assess actual classroom performance of different pools of students admitted under different regimes.

So far, evidence on performance refutes early critics of the top 10 percent law, who claimed that the top 10 percent of a low-performing high school would be less prepared academically compared with the top 10 percent from a suburban high school that offered many advanced placement classes. Leicht said: "Research shows that people who are motivated enough to perform well among the pool of students that they're in are tougher and are more likely to be successful than people who perform less well in more advantageous pools. And from the early results

coming back from the Austin campus in particular ... the 'top 10 percenters' seem to be doing at least as well as the students that they admitted under their prior admissions plan."

Asked to speculate on which trends might hold up across all campuses by the time the research has been completed and that might require a policy response, Leicht replied: "I suspect that part of what we'll see across the campuses is declines in Hispanic admissions and enrollment. The decline might not appear to be any more than 2 percent or 3 percent, but it's 2 percent or 3 percent from a very large base. It will involve thousands of students." ■

—Allison Tarmann

For More Information:

This article is based on "Before and After *Hopwood*: The Elimination of Affirmative Action and Minority Student Enrollments," a paper by Kevin Leicht, Marta Tienda, Kim Lloyd, and Teresa Sullivan presented at the Population Association of America's annual meeting in Atlanta, May 9-11, 2002. For copies of the paper or more information on the research, which is sponsored by the Ford Foundation, contact Kevin Leicht by e-mail at Kevin-leicht@uiowa.edu. Or visit the research project website: www.texastop10.princeton.edu.

Pop Icons Legitimize Premarital Pregnancy *Continued from page 1*

Many Japanese women, though, are conceiving before marrying. Of the 569,000 first births recorded by the ministry for 2000, 26 percent were to women who had become pregnant before marrying. This figure marks a doubling from 13 percent in 1980. But the rise has been

even more rapid among younger women. In 2000, 58 percent of first-born babies delivered to women ages 20 to 24 were conceived before marriage, compared with 20 percent in 1980. Among first births to teen mothers, 82 percent were conceived out of wedlock (see figure and table).

The pregnancy-before-marriage phenomenon gained prominence when a teen pop singer, Namie Amuro, announced her marriage and three-month pregnancy in 1997. Many young actresses have followed, and as a result the mass media created the term *dekichatta kekkon* (loosely translated as “gotta marry”) to describe marriage due to pregnancy.

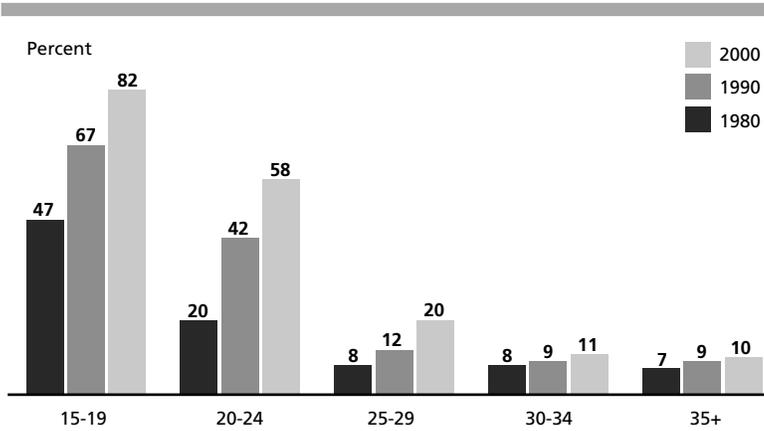
According to an article that appeared last year in the *Asahi Shimbun's* weekly *AERA*, shotgun marriages in Japan fit into one of two categories. The first is among teens who do not use contraceptives and get pregnant. The other is people in their twenties or thirties who intentionally do not use contraceptives so as to have a reason to get married. Machiko Yanagishita, a demographer at Josai International University in Japan, believes that young Japanese often cannot find a good reason, or the right timing, to get married, probably because they have less parental or social pressure to do so. “Pregnancy would be a ‘legitimate’ reason for them to consider marriage seriously,” she said. ■

For More Information:

The summary report “Birth: Special Survey of Vital Statistics,” only available in Japanese, can be accessed at the ministry’s website: [www.mhlw.go.jp/toukei/saikin/hw/jinkou/tokusyusyo-4/index.html](http://www.mhlw.go.jp/toukei/saikin/hw/jinkou/tokusyusyusyo-4/index.html).

Haruna Kashiwase is the population information assistant at PRB.

First-Born Babies Conceived out of Wedlock, by Mother's Age, Japan



Source: Japanese Ministry of Health, Labor, and Welfare.

First-Born Babies Conceived out of Wedlock, Japan

Year	First-Born Babies Conceived Before Marriage	All First-Born Babies	% of First-Born Babies Conceived Before Marriage
1980	83,000	660,000	13
1990	109,000	522,000	21
2000	150,000	569,000	26

Source: Japanese Ministry of Health, Labor, and Welfare.

Webwise

www.prb.org • www.ameristat.org • www.popnet.org • www.measurecommunication.org

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

African Mayors Help Lead a Broad Response to HIV/AIDS

With the support of the United Nations and other public and private sector partners, the Alliance of Mayors and Municipal Leaders on HIV/AIDS in Africa has emerged to translate the vision for an all-inclusive, community-focused approach to HIV/AIDS into concrete actions. Formed in 1998, the alliance is working to limit the spread of HIV/AIDS and reduce the social and economic impact of the epidemic on communities in and around major towns and cities in Burkina Faso, Côte

d'Ivoire, Mali, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, and Uganda. This article examines the efforts of the alliance and possibilities for replicating its activities in other countries and regions. (www.prb.org)

Healthy Mothers and Healthy Newborns: The Vital Link

Every year, 4 million babies are still-born, and 4 million newborns die before they reach the first month of life. While there have been significant declines in infant and child mortality in the developing world in recent decades, there has been little progress in reducing the death rate for mothers and newborns. This policy brief, produced by Save the Chil-

dren and PRB, outlines measures that policymakers can take to improve women’s health and nutrition and save a significant percentage of their newborns as well. (www.prb.org)

Government Spending in an Older America

The population of the United States is getting older, and older people receive more in public benefits than they pay each year in taxes. How should our public finance system be changed to deal with this new demographic situation? Authors Ronald Lee and John Haaga explore this and other questions in the latest issue of *PRB Reports on America*. (www.prb.org)

Brazilians Urged to Sport the National Colors

A Brazilian condom manufacturer is hoping to translate World Cup enthusiasm and timing into increased product sales and safer sex. DKT Brazil has launched the Prudence Fiesta condom in the country's primary national colors, yellow and green, and promoted it in numerous soccer publications with the slogan: "Wear the little yellow and green shirt to protect yourself and make a goal." (Condoms in Brazil are popularly referred to as "little shirts.") The World Cup games are broadcast late at night in Brazil.

The Prudence Fiesta is available in three-packs that cost about 90 cents.



In a subsequent promotion, DKT will collaborate with Warner Lambert, the manufacturer of the chewing gum Trident, to distribute samples of new strawberry-flavored Trident gum and DKT's Prudence Fiesta condoms in major cities throughout the country. The distribution sites will include bars, nightclubs, schools (for 16- and 17-year-olds), and universities. This ad campaign, with the slogan "Trident protects your teeth and your life," will last 25 days and coincide with Valentine's Day (June 12) in Brazil.

DKT, the same company that in 1998 launched sales of the Reality female condom in Brazil, supports the work of several nongovernmental organizations dedicated to AIDS prevention. The company operates in countries that have large

proportions of poor in their populations—including Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, and the Philippines.

Refugees in Limbo

While the number of uprooted people worldwide increased in 2001 to the highest level since 1995, the United States and some Western European countries tightened restrictions on admitting refugees and asylum seekers. Moreover, Western countries' contributions to international organizations that repatriate refugees lagged, diminishing the chances that people who have found sanctuary in other countries—including 4.5 million Afghans—will be able to return home. These findings appear in the U.S. Committee for Refugees' newly released *World Refugee Survey 2002*.

Conflicts such as the war in Afghanistan helped propel the number of uprooted people in 2001 to 37.4 million, refugees accounting for 14.9 million and internally displaced people (IDPs) 22.5 million, according to the survey. Afghans were the largest group of uprooted people (5.5 million), followed by Sudanese (4.4 million) and Palestinians (4.1 million). Refugees and IDPs from four African countries—Sudan, Angola, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Burundi—made up nearly one-fourth of all uprooted people.

At the same time, the war on terrorism caused host countries to crack down on refugees and asylum seekers. The United States suspended its refugee resettlement program and admitted fewer refugees in 2001 than in any year since 1987. The United Kingdom and Germany passed antiterrorism laws that restricted the rights of refugees inside their borders, and Denmark drafted tough asylum regulations (which passed at the end of May 2002).

Repatriation of 1.2 million Afghans, which the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) had planned to carry out in 2002, may have to be scaled back. The UNHCR announced it was \$100

million short on funds because of insufficient international contributions. The report is available on the website of the U.S. Committee for Refugees: www.refugees.org.

Unregistered Births

A new report from UNICEF indicates that, in 2000, 50 million babies were deprived of official identities, recognized names, and nationalities because they were not registered at birth. Sub-Saharan Africa has the highest percentage of unregistered births (71 percent), followed by South Asia (63 percent). Because South Asian countries have very large populations, they account for 40 percent of the world's unregistered births. Unregistered children tend to be born to single mothers or to have parents who are refugees or internally displaced people, ethnic minorities, illiterate, or of different nationalities.

According to *Birth Registration—Right from the Start*, "These children have no birth certificate, the 'membership card' for society that should open the door to a whole range of other rights including education and health care, participation and protection."

Without proof of age, such children are subject to age-related abuse and exploitation, including military recruitment and involvement in armed conflict, child labor, and early marriage.

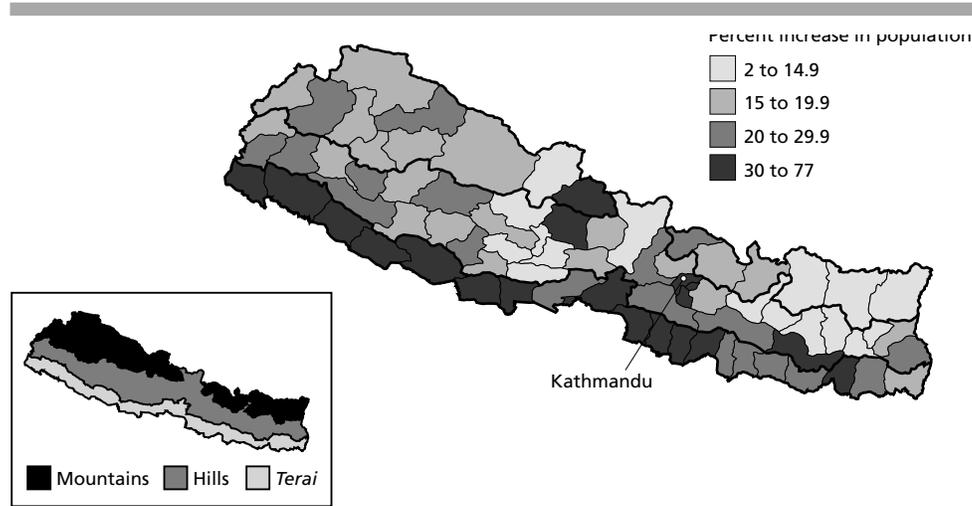
Development efforts also suffer from the lack of a registration system, the report says. Without registration systems, many people are overlooked in social development planning and budgeting. And countries without birth registration systems cannot be sure of their birth rate or death rate.

The report calls for free registration at birth for all children as recognized under the Convention on the Rights of the Child and reinforced at the recent UN General Assembly Special Session on Children.

The report is available on the UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre website: www.unicef-icdc.org/publications/. ■

42 Percent of Nepalese Live in Poverty *Continued from page 3*

Population Growth in Nepal by District, 1991–2001



Source: Central Bureau of Statistics, Nepal.

Population Growth in Nepal by Region, 1991–2001

Region	1991	2001	% Increase 1991–2001
Mountain	1,443,130	1,690,263	17.1
Hill	8,417,889	10,271,506	22.0
Terai	8,628,078	11,252,912	30.4

Source: Central Bureau of Statistics, Nepal.

ing areas that could be added consist mostly of slopes and marginal lands that are environmentally sensitive and less productive.

With population growth exceeding growth in agricultural production for the past three decades, poverty has become a fixture. Nepal is the poorest country in the world outside of Africa: With an annual gross national income per capita in 1999 of US\$220, it ranked 164th out of 173 countries for which data were available. Even when income figures are adjusted to reflect the local cost of living, Nepal rises to only 134th out of 158 countries, higher only than neighboring

Bhutan and the poorest African countries. The poverty rate in the country has remained at the same level for as long as it has been measured. According to the first Multi-Purpose Household Budget Survey in 1984-1985, 42 percent of the population was poor, and the most recent Nepal Living Standards Survey, conducted in 1995-1996, matched that percentage, although the methodologies may not be strictly comparable.

To combat poverty, the country has implemented a series of five-year economic development plans, the ninth of which ends this year. The current plan has made population management a central development goal, setting objectives of moving toward a two-child family norm and bringing fertility to replacement level—the level at which a couple has only enough children to replace themselves, or about two children per couple—within 20 years. The 2001 Demographic and Health Survey showed that the current total fertility rate or average number of children per woman is 4.1. In March, Nepal's parliament legalized abortion to reduce mater-

nal mortality. The maternal mortality ratio, 830 per 100,000 live births, is the fourth highest in the world outside of Africa.

Beyond promoting smaller families, the government has been redistributing poor, landless people to less densely populated areas of the *terai*, or plains (the lowest of the three topographical bands shown in the accompanying map). The *terai* contain the majority of the country's arable land.

Since the advent of malaria-control measures in the 1950s, the *terai* have been the major region of population growth due to migration from the hill and mountain regions (see table). Outside of the *terai*, the fastest growing region in the country has been the capital city of Kathmandu, whose population exceeded 1 million people for the first time in the 2001 census.

Yet government efforts to address population and to promote overall economic development have come under threat. Since 1996, Maoist rebels have been trying to overthrow Nepal's multiparty democracy and constitutional monarchy to establish a totalitarian communist republic. They have attempted to exploit the young and the poor in remote rural regions, and the violent clashes between them and the government have severely crippled the tourism industry, one of Nepal's major sources of foreign currency.

With a young population—42 percent of people were under age 15 in 1991—the country will continue to grow rapidly. Even if past fertility declines continue, the Ministry of Population and Environment still projects that the population will reach 32 million by 2016. In light of that increase, the prospects for economic growth and political stability appear fragile. ■

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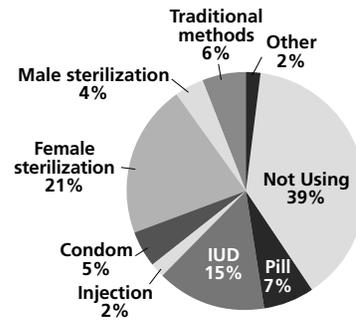
Latest data and estimates

Speaking Graphically

Contraceptive Use Worldwide, Late 1990s

The latest data on contraception show that sterilization is the method most widely used by married couples worldwide. If male and female sterilization are combined, the method accounts for one-fourth of total use (see figure at right). The next most used method is the intrauterine device (IUD).

The birth control pill, which many people view as synonymous with modern contraception, comes in third. And condom use, even in the era of AIDS, is far down the list, especially in sub-Saharan Africa, where only 1 percent of couples use it as a primary method.



Note: Use is measured as the percentage of women in union relying on each device or procedure as their primary method of birth control. Total exceeds 100% due to rounding.
Source: Population Reference Bureau, *Family Planning Worldwide, 2002 Data Sheet*.

World Population

As of July 2002 6,221,000,000
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 June 1, 2002 287,170,119

Source: U.S. Census Bureau (www.census.gov).

U.S. Vital Stats

12 Months Ending With September

	Number		Rate	
	2001	2000	2001	2000
Live births	4,030,000	4,025,000	14.5	14.7
Fertility rate	—	—	67.0	67.0
Deaths	2,406,000	2,423,000	8.7	8.8
Infant deaths	26,400	27,800	6.5	6.9
Natural increase	1,624,000	1,602,000	5.8	5.9
Marriages	2,344,000	2,398,000	8.5	8.7
Divorces	—	—	4.0	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 50*, no. 8 (www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr50/nvsr50_08.pdf, accessed June 6, 2002).

Spotlight Statistic

Poverty in the United States, 1999

Number 34 million people
Percent 12.4 percent of the U.S. population

Note: These recently released figures come from Census 2000, which asked respondents about their income in the previous year. The poverty level is based on money income and does not include noncash benefits such as food stamps.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 long form data, presented on PRB's AmeriStat website: www.ameristat.org. See website for more information on how poverty is defined and for poverty by state, county, and city.

WebSittings

Your Guide to Virtual Resources

Many reference reports in print are also on the Web in full-text or excerpted. The August/September 2001 issue of *Population Today* listed useful ones to bookmark; here the list continues.

Aging

- *Population Ageing 2002* (United Nations Population Division) www.un.org/esa/population/publications/ageing/Graph.pdf

Cities

- *The State of the World's Cities 2001* (UN - Habitat) www.unchs.org/Istanbul+5/statereport.htm

Environment

- *2000 IUCN Red List of Threatened Species* (International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources) www.redlist.org/
- *The State of World Population 2001—Footprints and Milestones: Population and Environmental Change* (UNFPA) www.unfpa.org/swp/swpmain.htm
- *The State of Food Insecurity in the World 2001* (Food and

Agriculture Organization of the United Nations) www.fao.org/docrep/003/y1500e/y1500e00.htm

- *World Population Monitoring, 2001: Population, Environment and Development* (United Nations Population Division) www.un.org/esa/population/publications/wpm/wpm2001.pdf

Health

- *Health, United States, 2001 With Urban and Rural Health Chartbook* (NCHS) www.cdc.gov/nchs/hus.htm
- *The World Health Report 2001: Mental Health: New Understanding, New Hope* (WHO) www.who.int/whr/2001/main/en/index.htm

Socioeconomic Trends

- *Statistical Abstract of the United States 2001* (U.S. Census Bureau) www.census.gov/prod/2002pubs/01statab/stat-ab01.html
- *World Development Report 2002: Building Institutions for Markets* (World Bank) http://econ.worldbank.org/wdr/structured_doc.php?sp=2391&st=&scd=2394

Women/Children

- *2002 Women of Our World* (Population Reference Bureau) www.prb.org
- *The State of the World's Children 2002* (UNICEF) www.unicef.org/pubsgen/sowc02/
- *State of the World's Newborns* (Save the Children) www.savethechildren.org/mothers/newborns/
- *State of the World's Mothers* (Save the Children) www.savethechildren.org/mothers/sowm02/index.shtml
- *The Women's Health Data Book: A Profile of Women's Health in the United States* (3rd ed.) (Jacobs Institute of Women's Health) www.jiwh.org/databook.htm ■

www.popnet.org

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