

Extreme Cases

To this point, we have reviewed key concepts and processes related to three key human experiences: birth, death, and migration. We have also identified countries with highest and lowest rates related to these human experiences (see Table 15.5). We now consider each country listed in Table 15.5.

United Arab Emirates

The most noticeable feature of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) population pyramid is that, with the exception of

those 19 and under, males outnumber females in all age categories. This is because about 80 percent of the 5 million people who live in UAE are not citizens of the country. They are people who migrated to UAE in search of work. About 25 percent of UAE's population is from surrounding Arab countries and the Persian country, Iran. About 50 percent is from South Asian countries, most notably India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh. There are also significant numbers from the Philippines and Sri Lanka. The large influx of labor explains why the UAE is the highest positive net migration rate in the world.

TABLE 15.5 Key Demographic Indicators for Extreme Cases and the United States

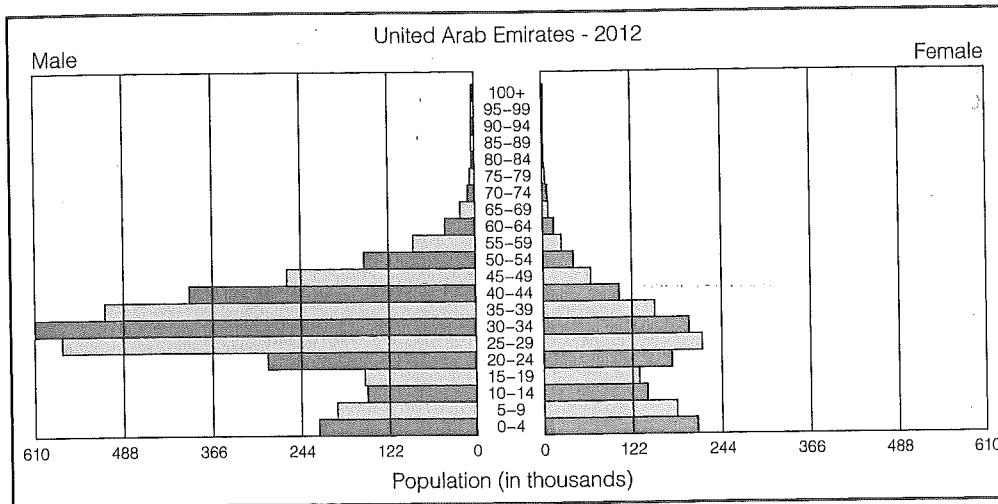
This table includes countries we have named in this chapter as extreme cases; that is, they have a birth, death, and migration rate that is particularly high or low. In the pages that follow we consider some reasons why each country named in this table is an extreme case.

	Highest	Lowest	United States
Crude Birth Rate	Niger 51.4 per 1,000	Japan 7.3 per 1,000	14 per 1,000
Teen Birth Rate	Niger 199 per 1,000	South Korea 1.2 per 1,000	41 per 1,000
Fertility Rate Average # children per female	Niger 7.7	China 1.15	2.1
Crude Death Rate	Angola 23.4 per 1,000	United Arab Emirates 2 per 1,000	8 per 1,000
Infant Mortality Rate	Angola 175.9 per 1,000	Sweden 2.7 per 1,000	6.0 per 1,000
Maternal Mortality	Sierra Leone 2,000 per 100,000 live births	Sweden 5 per 100,000 live births	17 per 100,000 live births
Migration Rate	United Arab Emirates +22 per 1,000	Jordan -14.3 per 1,000	+4 per 1,000 residents
Population Growth Rate	Zimbabwe 4.3%	Bulgaria -0.78%	1.1%
Male to Female Sex Ratio	United Arab Emirates 219 males per 100 females	Russia 86 males per 100 females	97 males per 100 females
Life Expectancy (at birth)	Japan 82.3	Angola 38.7	78.4
% of population 14 and under	Niger 49.6%	Japan 13.1%	20.1%
% of population 65 and older	Japan 22.9%	United Arab Emirates .9 %	13.1%
Median Age	Japan 44.8 years	Niger 15.2 years	36.9 years
% working in agriculture	Niger 90%	Sweden 1.1%	1.6%

Source: Data from U.S. Bureau of the Census 2011, U.S. Central Intelligence Agency 2011.

Student Activity: Ask students to select any country in the world not covered in the extreme cases section of this chapter. Create a population pyramid and data table covering the indicators in listed in Table 15.5. The data for this table can be obtained from World Factbook (www.cia.gov/

library/publications/the-world-factbook/) the pyramid can be created by going to the Census Bureau website (www.census.gov/population/international/data/idb/informationGateway.php).



United Arab Emirates

- Lowest percentage of population 65 and over: 0.9%
- Lowest crude death rate: 2 per 1,000
- Highest male to female sex ratio: 219 males per 100 females
- Highest net migration: +22 per 1,000

Source: Data from U.S. Census Bureau (2012)

The UAE, with the third highest per capita income in the world, needs people to work in petroleum and natural gas sectors, which account for 80 percent of the country's wealth. In addition, UAE has a number of ambitious construction and tourism-oriented projects under way: The country is building the world's tallest building, a world-class international airport, the largest artificial islands in the world,

Dubailand (which will be twice the size of Disney Land), the Dubai Sports City, and Dubai Mall, billed as the world's largest mall. The population pyramid suggests that when migrants' work life ends or when jobs end, they leave UAE to return home. The crude death rate and the percentage of the population 65 and older are low because the large migrant population remains young due to turnover and constant flux.



U.S. Bureau of the Census

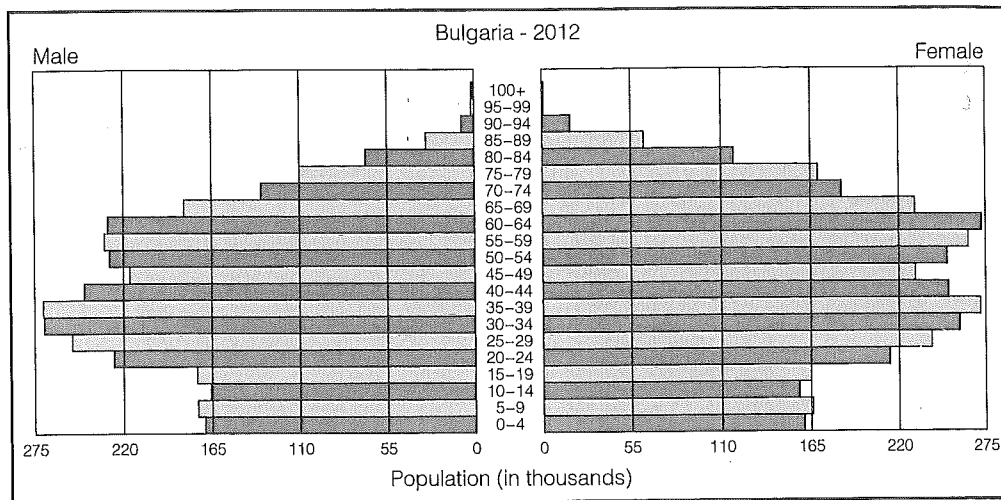
The city of Dubai in the UAE has been labeled the richest city in the world. It has built many attractions for tourists. Migrants from outside the country work in the hotels, restaurants, and tourist destinations.

Bulgaria

Study the population pyramid for Bulgaria. Can you determine the year that Bulgaria's population began its decline? The age 0- to 19-year-old cohorts are dramatically smaller than most of the older cohorts. So the question becomes what happened 20 years ago, in the late 1980s and early 1990s? Bulgaria, being part of Eastern Europe, was under Soviet Union control from 1946 until 1989, the year the Berlin Wall fell and the Soviet Union collapsed. After Bulgaria held its first elections, it embarked on the long, hard transition of moving away from a communist government and centrally planned economy to a political democracy and market economy. In the process, Bulgarians experienced inflation, unemployment, corruption, and crime.

Recall that population decline occurs when the birth rate is lower than the death rate and when more people leave the country than enter it. The collapse of the Soviet Union allowed Bulgarians the opportunity to emigrate. In addition, hard economic times and stresses associated with dramatic economic and political change contributed to the low birth rate and total fertility. Finally, Bulgaria joined the European Union in 2007, which likely opened up further opportunities for people to emigrate.

overurbanization A situation in which urban misery—poverty, unemployment, housing shortages, insufficient infrastructure—is exacerbated by an influx of unskilled, illiterate, and poverty-stricken rural migrants who have been pushed into cities out of desperation.



Bulgaria

Lowest growth rate: $-.78$

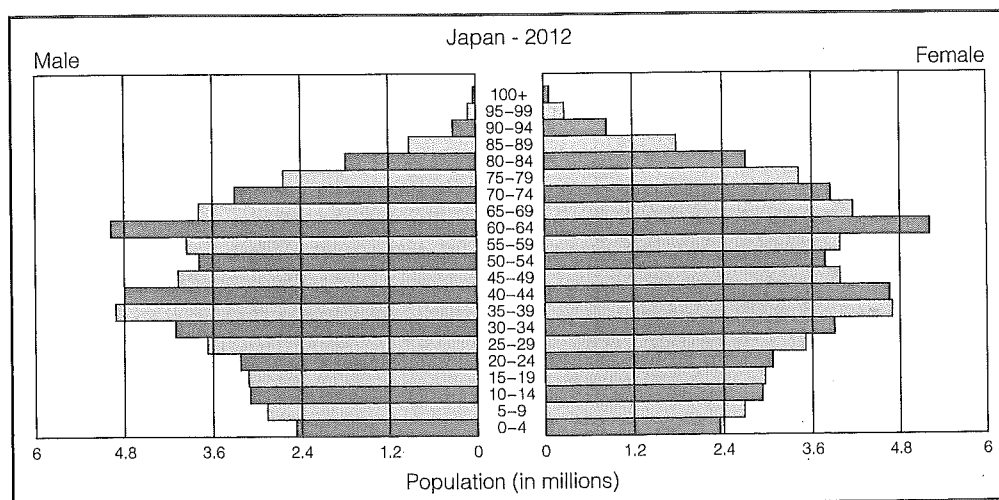
Source: Data from U.S. Census Bureau (2012)

Japan

What about the population pyramid tells you that Japan has the highest median age, the greatest percentage of people age 65 and older, the highest life expectancy at birth, the lowest percentage of people 14 and under, and the lowest crude birth rate? Perhaps one of the most striking features is that the number of 80- to 84-year-olds (4.3 million) is almost as large as the number of children aged 4 and under (4.9 million). In addition, each of the cohorts that make up the 35- to 74-year-old tiers are larger in size than any of the 19 and under cohorts. We should

not be surprised that Japan's average life expectancy and median age are the highest in the world.

We can explain Japan's situation by noting that it is in stage 4 of the demographic transition. But we might also note that Japan is a stressful place for men, women, and children. Men must work long hours at companies where the expectation is that the jobs comes first and family life should not interfere. Women are expected to quit their jobs when they have children, and children must participate in the competitive examination system. These factors, along with the high cost of raising children, contribute to the low birth rate.



Japan

Highest median age: 44.8

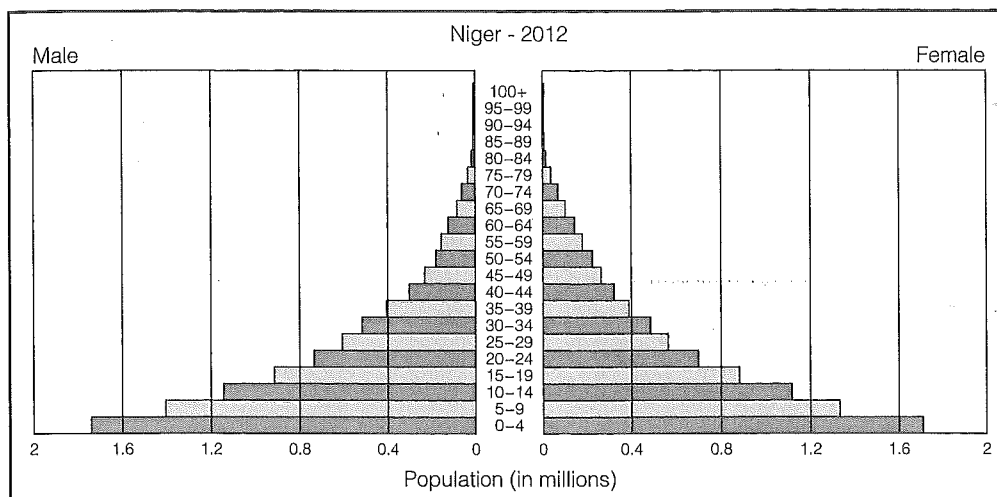
Highest percentage of population age 65 and over: 22.9%

Highest life expectancy at birth: 82.3

Lowest percentage of population age 14 and under: 13.1%

Lowest crude birth rate: 7.3 per 1,000

Source: Data from U.S. Census Bureau (2012)



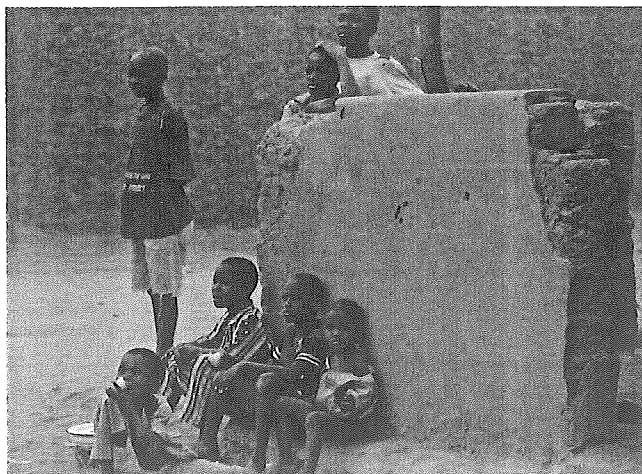
Niger

- Lowest median age: 15.2
- Highest percentage of population age 14 and under: 49.6%
- Highest crude birth rate: 51.5 per 1,000
- Highest percentage working in agriculture: 90%
- Highest fertility rate: 7.7
- Highest teen birth rate: 199 per 1,000

Source: Data from U.S. Census Bureau (2012)

Niger

Niger is the extreme case for six important demographic characteristics. How are these characteristics reflected in the population pyramid? The most distinguishing feature of this pyramid is the sheer length of the bars for the 0 to 4 age groups and the fact that the number of people in each older cohort declines with advancing age. The pyramid shows little evidence that life expectancy is increasing as the size of the older age cohorts contracts with each tier. When population pyramids look like this—wide base and a sharp incline—we know death rates are high, the population is young, and life is tough. What is it about Niger that makes life so tough?



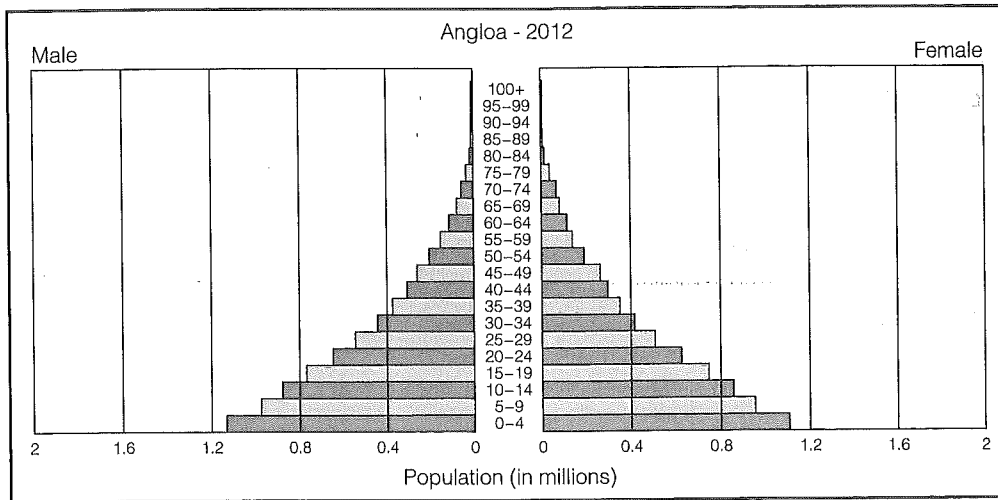
This photo of children who live in Niger gives some sense of the harsh environment of this landlocked country.

For one, Niger is a landlocked West African country, with over 80 percent of its territory within the Sahara desert. The remaining 20 percent of its territory is threatened by cyclical drought and desertification. The two most recent extreme weather events occurred in 2005, when drought and locust infestation created food shortages affecting 2.5 million people, and in 2010, when record heat waves affected crops and caused 1.5 million people to face famine and starvation. The fact that 90 percent of the labor force works in the agricultural sector suggests that the economy is subsistence-oriented.

Niger is also a former colony of France. France's interest in the territory began around 1900, but it encountered resistance from Nigerian people and did not fully gain control of the country until 1922. Niger gained independence in 1960. Niger contains some of the world's largest uranium deposits, although a drop in world demand for this mineral has hurt the economy. The country has a number of resources such as oil, gold, and coal, which could fuel economic growth if exploited in a way that benefits the people and not a small political elite.

Angola

Angola is the extreme case with regard to the crude death rate, infant mortality, and life expectancy. The shape of the pyramid with a wide base and steep "steps" from one age cohort to the next tells us that this is the case. Why is life so harsh? Angola was a Portuguese territory for about 400 years until 1975, when it gained independence. The country has fertile land and was considered the breadbasket of southern Africa. After gaining independence, the country



Angola

- Highest crude death rate: 23.4 per 1,000
- Highest infant mortality: 175 per 1,000
- Lowest life expectancy: 38.7 years

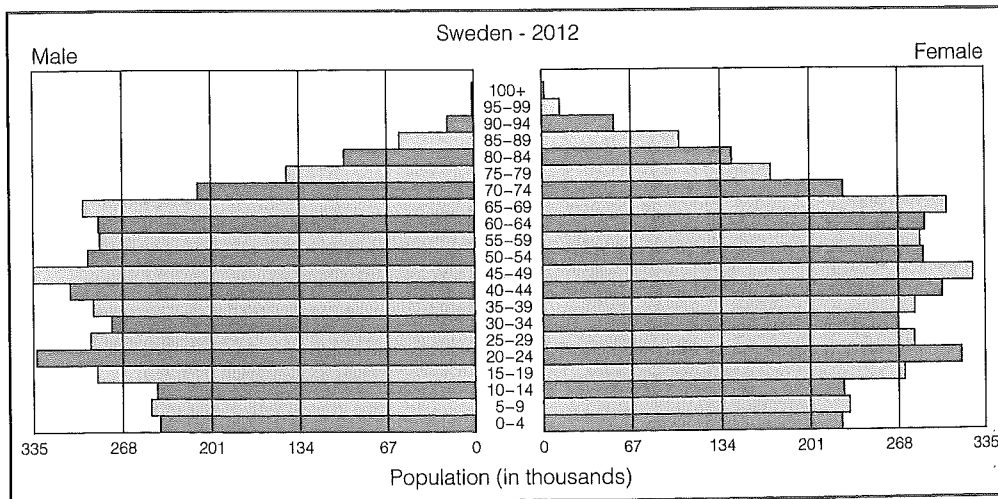
Source: Data from U.S. Census Bureau (2012)

experienced civil war for the next 27 years, until 2002, when a settlement was reached among the warring parties. The fertile land was destroyed and littered with landmines. Millions left the countryside for the cities or left the country altogether. In recent years, Angola has had some successes. As many as 4 million displaced people have returned to Angola. Agricultural production is increasing. It received a \$5 billion loan from China to rebuild its infrastructure to be paid back in oil. Currently, diamonds and oil derived from exports account for 60 percent of Angola's economy. The problem is that, to date, only a small

percentage of the population has benefited from the gains (BBC News 2011).

Sweden

Sweden stands out for having the lowest infant and maternal mortality rates in the world. It also has the lowest percentage of the population employed in the agricultural sector, one indicator that parents do not need to produce laborers to do farm work. The shape of the population pyramid for Sweden indicates that the country is in stage 4 of the demographic



Sweden

- Lowest infant mortality: 2.7 per 1,000
- Lowest maternal mortality: 5 per 100,000
- Lowest percentage of population working in agriculture: 1.1%

Source: Data from U.S. Census Bureau (2012)

transition. It is easy to see that life expectancy is high given the length of the bars for each age cohort. Given that length of the bars for those 14 and under is so much shorter than for the 29- to 49-year-old cohorts, it is clear that the birth rate is low for women. But what accounts for Sweden's spectacularly low maternal and infant mortality? One answer is that this country (along with other Scandinavian countries, including the Netherlands and Norway) has a long history of collaboration between "physicians and highly competent, locally available midwives" (Högberg 2004). The midwives are involved in the care of mother and child during and after pregnancy and birth. In addition, Sweden has a national health care database that tracks treatment and health outcomes that allow the country to make health care policy based on best practices. It is also a country that has a long-standing tradition of providing quality care to rural and low-income communities (Högberg 2004).

Sierra Leone

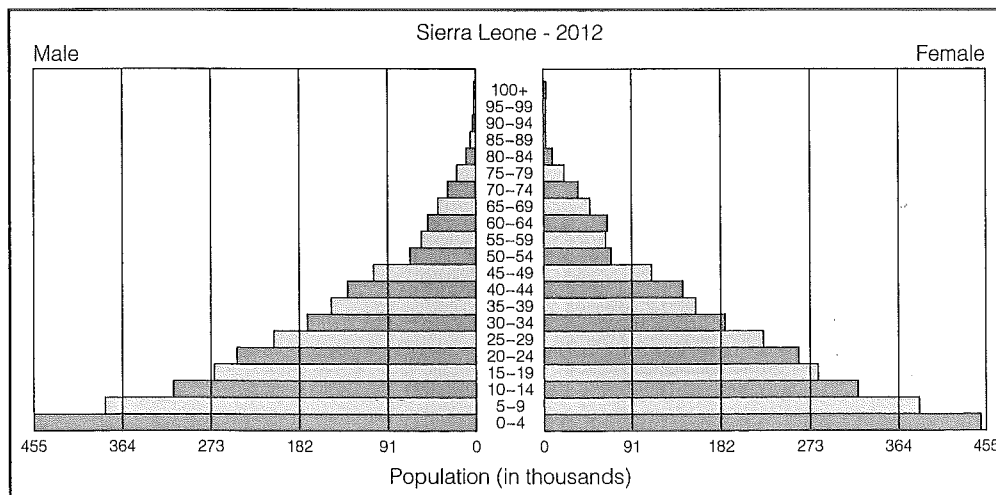
Sierra Leone has the highest maternal mortality rate in the world. Amnesty International has called this situation grave and has labeled it a human rights emergency. According to Amnesty International (2009), "thousands of women bleed to death after giving birth. Most die in their homes. Some die on the way to hospital, in taxis, on motorbikes, or on foot. In Sierra Leone, less than half of deliveries are attended by a skilled birth attendant and less than one in five are carried out in health facilities."

This situation exists because most women are too poor to afford health care. In Sierra Leone, women are held in low status and face discrimination. Girls are forced to marry, are denied access to education, and are victims of sexual violence. Women's health care needs are ignored,

not just by the government but also by the communities and families in which they live (Amnesty International 2009). The irony is that Sierra Leone is a mineral-rich country, yet its people live in poverty. Sierra Leone is rich in mineral resources including diamonds, titanium, bauxite, gold, and rutile. Sierra Leone is a former colony of Britain and gained independence in 1961. Control of the country's resources fueled a decade-long civil war from 1991 until 2001, in which just about the entire population was displaced. The horrific atrocities of this civil war have been documented and include amputations and systematic abuses of women too horrific to mention here (Ben-Ari and Harsch 2005).

South Korea

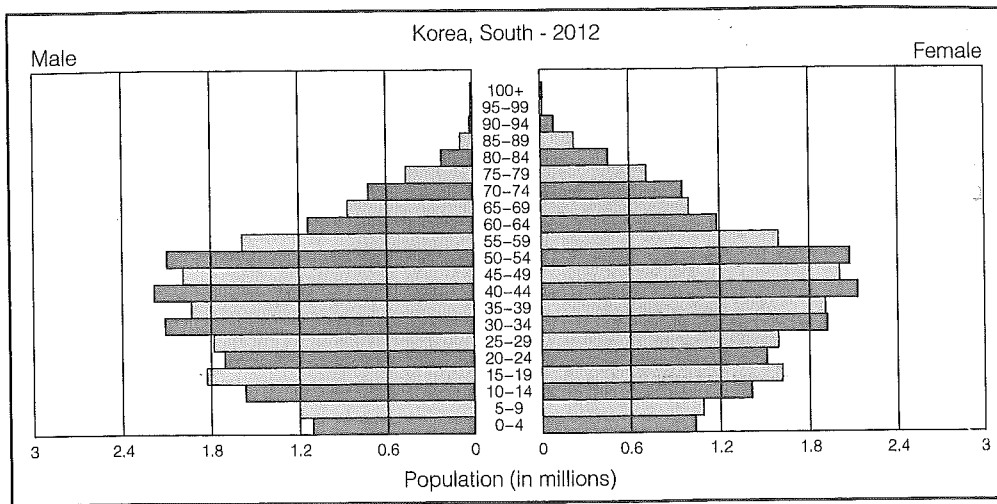
South Korea is an extreme case with regard to its teen birth rate—the number of babies born each year for every 1,000 teens. Korea's rate is 1.2 babies born per 1,000 teens. To put this rate in perspective, consider that the rate is 41 per 1,000 in the United States. We can see by the shape of South Korea's population pyramid that its overall birth rate is extremely low. Simply look at the length of the 0 to 4 age cohort relative to age cohorts of women in their reproductive years. But why do teens, in particular, have such a low rate? There are several possible explanations: Korean society, influenced by Confucian beliefs, places a high value on chastity, and there is a stigma attached to being a single mother. On the other hand, the low teen birth rate is not the same as the pregnancy rate. It could be that Korean teens do get pregnant, but many get abortions. By one estimate, there are about 30 abortions each year for every 1,000 women between ages of 15 and 44. However, there is no way to determine the contribution teens make to the abortion rate (Sangwon 2010).



Sierra Leone

Highest maternal mortality: 2,000 per 100,000

Source: Data from U.S. Census Bureau (2012)



South Korea

Lowest teen birth rate: 1.2 per 1,000

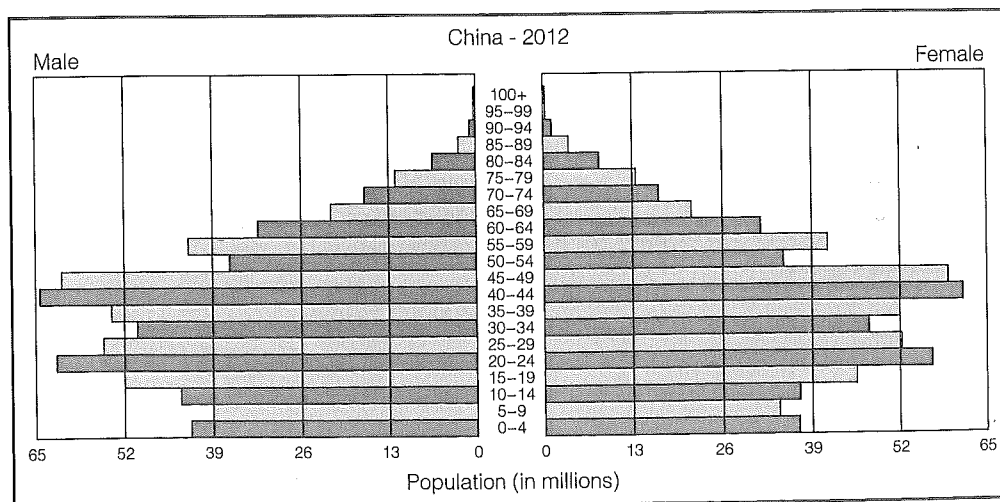
Source: Data from U.S. Census Bureau (2012)

China

China has the largest population in the world but it also has the lowest fertility rate. On average, women have 1.1 children. In 1979, the government announced the one-child family planning policy. The population that is 31 years and younger was born after that policy went into effect. Except for the 20- to 24-year-old age cohort, the lengths of the bars since that announcement are shorter than the cohorts that preceded it. The 20 to 24 age cohort is likely so large because the size of their parents' cohorts—those who are now 37 to 49 years of age—was so large. Even if couples only had one child, so many couples had a child that it still created a large cohort. You might wonder why the 50 to 54 age cohort is small relative to the 45- to 49- and 55- to 59-year-old cohorts. In 1960 and 1961, China experienced natural disaster and famine. The death rate, including infant mortality, was high.

Russia

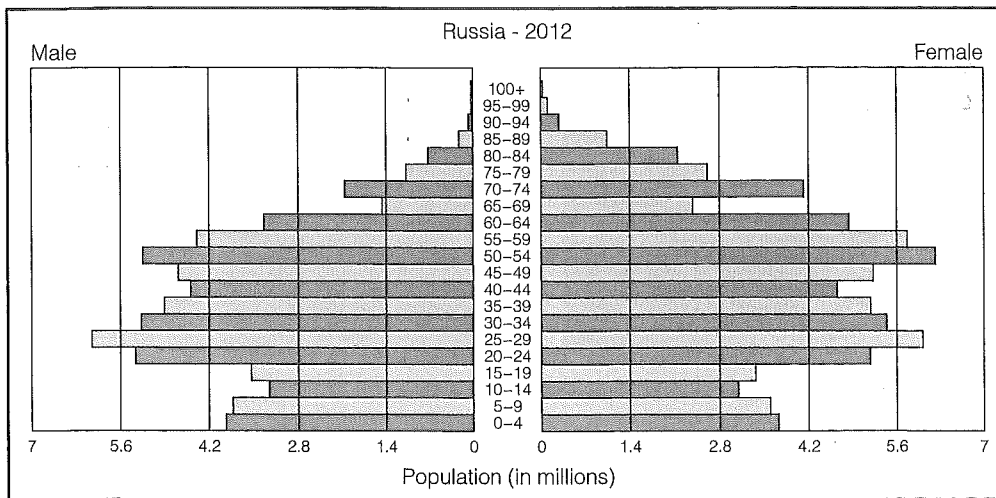
If you look closely at Russia's population pyramid on the next page, you can see that males outnumber females until age 25 to 29. At that point, the number of females always exceeds males, with greatest differences for age cohorts 50 to 84 (U.S. Bureau of the Census 2011). The life expectancy of the average Russian male is 60 years, compared to the average Russian female who lives to age 73. According to one estimate, an 18-year-old Russian male has a 50 percent chance of dying before reaching retirement age, compared to a 90 percent chance for an 18-year-old male living in the United States. To date, the best explanation relates to high levels of alcohol consumption and tobacco use among men in Russia, which increased dramatically after the breakup of the Soviet Union. The transition from a centrally planned economy to a market-oriented one has been especially difficult for men (Wong 2009).



China

Lowest total fertility rate: 1.1 per woman

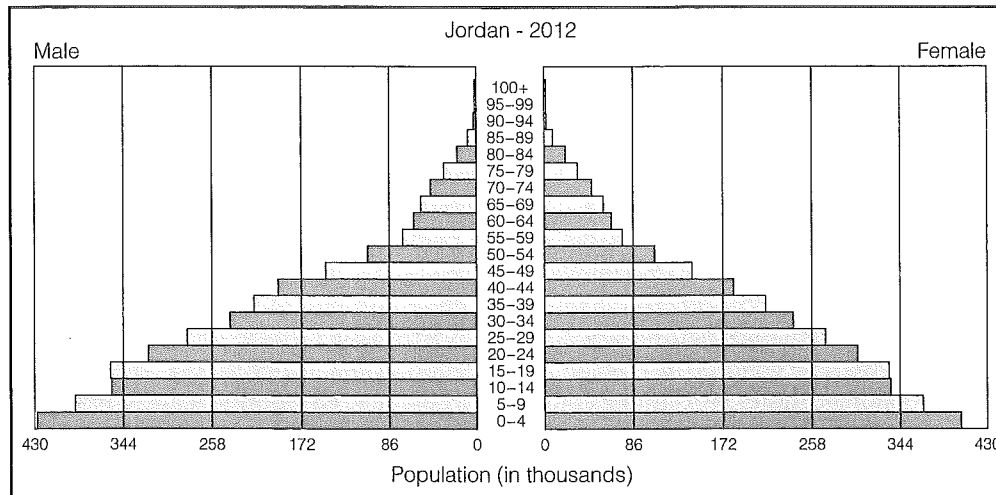
Source: Data from U.S. Census Bureau (2012)



Russia

Lowest male to female sex ratio: 86.3 males per 1,000 females

Source: Data from U.S. Census Bureau (2012)



Jordan

Lowest net migration: -14.3 per 1,000

Source: Data from U.S. Census Bureau (2012)

Jordan

Jordan has the lowest net migration rate. It is a negative number, which means that more people move out of the country each year than move in—14.3 more move out for every 1,000 residents than move in. The effects of out-migration are not so easy to see just by looking at the pyramid. You will notice, however, that many young people are of working age. It is important to point out that an estimated 1.9 million Palestinian refugees from 1948 and 1967 wars and their descendants live in Jordan. About 350,000 still live in refugee camps. In the past 20 years or so, the Jordan government has refused to offer citizenship and it has revoked citizenship of some Palestinians in an effort to prevent Israel from pushing Palestinians out of the West Bank, Gaza, and Israel proper. Because of their precarious status and lack of

economic opportunity, many Palestinians living in Jordan migrate out each year in search of employment in surrounding countries such as the UAE (*Jerusalem Post* 2010).

Online Poll

Which of the following events has had the greatest impact on you in the past year?

- A death in the family
- A birth
- A move from one community to another
- No such event has occurred

To see how other students responded to these questions, go to www.cengagebrain.com.