

8.1.2 Objectives

- Describe the management of human population by pro-natalist and anti-natalist policies using named examples
- Outline the use of population pyramids
- Describe DTM

Direct Policies in Managing Human Population

Facts about direct policies

- Population and migration policies are used to directly manage human population growth.
- These policies may be pro-natalist (encouraging higher birth rates), anti-natalist (reducing fertility), or focused on regulating immigration and emigration.
- Policy design and implementation may draw on cultural, religious, economic, social, and political factors.
- Such policies are often introduced to achieve specific goals, including expanding the labour force or limiting population growth.
- National population policies are formal government interventions aimed at influencing population size or structure.

Facts about direct policies

- Pro-natalist policies seek to raise birth rates, while anti-natalist policies aim to lower fertility levels.
- The effectiveness of population policies varies according to national context and implementation strategies.
- In many low- and middle-income countries (LICs and MICs), such as The Gambia, governments have implemented programmes to reduce birth rates.
- The success of these initiatives depends on comprehensive family planning approaches, adequate funding, and consultation with local communities.
- Coercive birth control measures have generally been less effective.

Facts about direct policies

- In high-income countries (HICs), pro-natalist strategies often involve financial incentives and social support for families and children.
- Countries facing population decline are increasingly adopting more direct pro-natalist measures.
- Migration policies are widely used to manage population change where pro- or anti-natalist policies alone are insufficient.
- In 2017, there were approximately 260 million international migrants, an increase of 85 million (49%) since 2000.
- Migration is primarily driven by economic and social factors, including employment opportunities, higher wages, and improved access to healthcare and education.
- Political instability and conflict have become increasingly important drivers of migration.

Facts about direct policies

- UN Sustainable Development Goal 10.7 calls for safe, orderly, regular, and well-managed migration.
- The United Nations states that, when supported by effective policies, migration can promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth.
- Migration generally has positive impacts on both origin and destination countries.
- Migrants are typically of working age and can help reduce old-age dependency ratios in host countries.
- Globally, most governments aim to maintain current levels of migration.

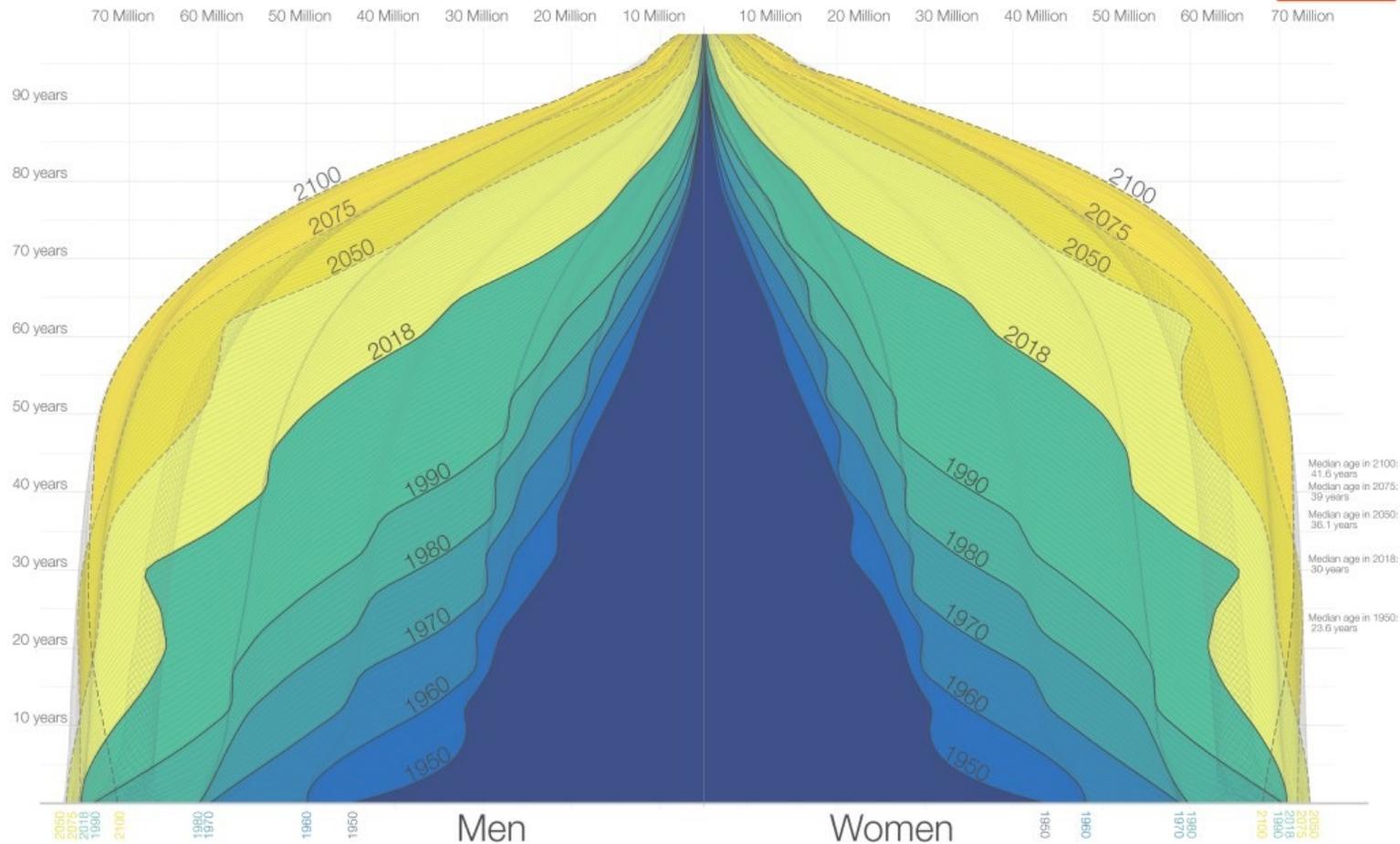
Facts about direct policies

- Europe has the highest proportion of countries seeking to increase immigration (approximately 32%), followed by Asia (10%).
- Asia also has the largest proportion of countries attempting to reduce immigration (23%), followed by Africa (13%).
- More than two-thirds of governments cite meeting labour demands in specific economic sectors as the main driver of migration policy.
- Countries such as the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia rely heavily on migrant labour, particularly in agriculture and other forms of manual work.
- Migrants often remit a significant share of their income to families in their countries of origin, supporting household incomes and national economies.

Population Pyramids

The Demography of the World Population from 1950 to 2100

Shown is the age distribution of the world population – by sex – from 1950 to 2018 and the UN Population Division's projection until 2100.

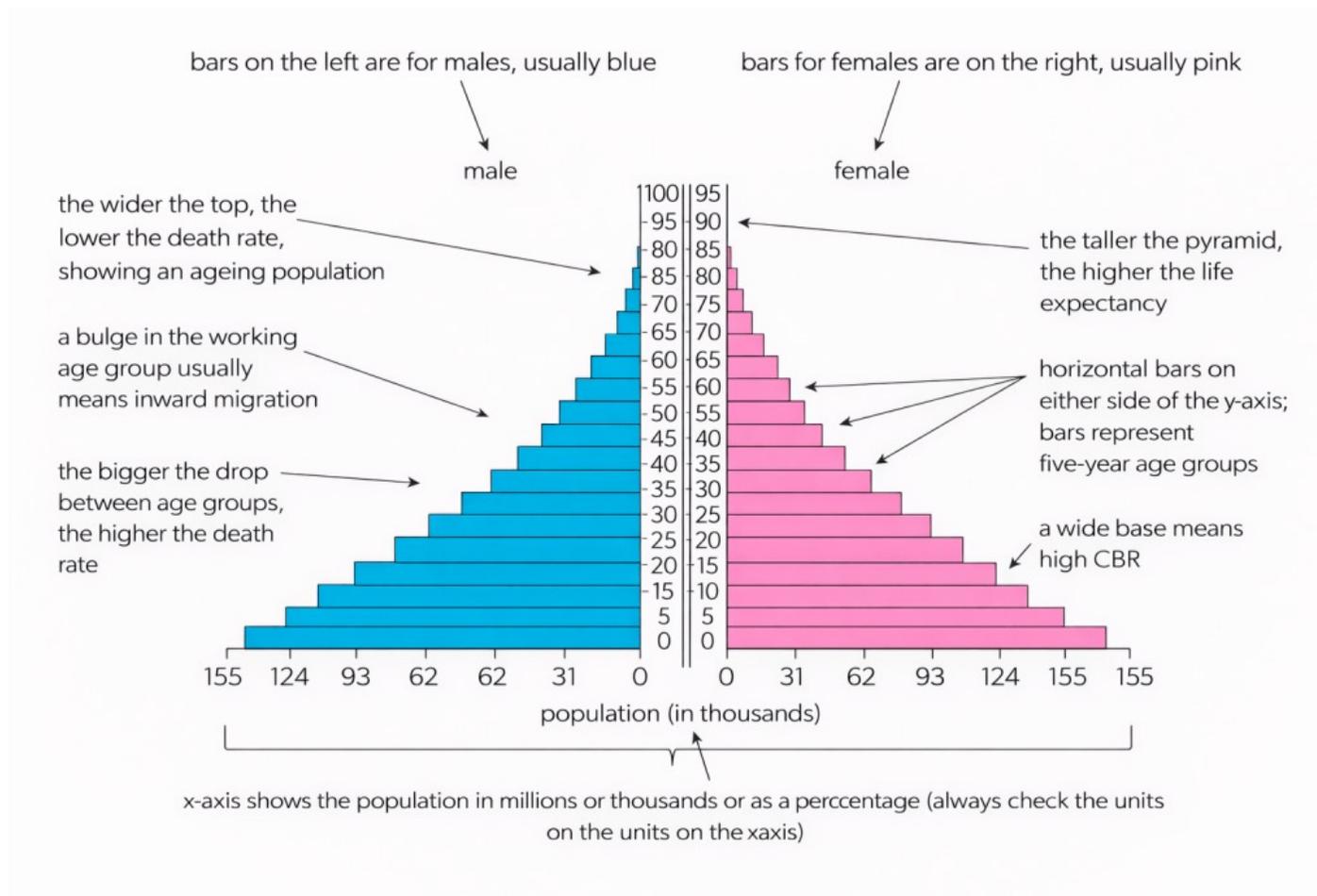


Data source: United Nations Population Division – World Population Prospects 2017; Medium Variant.

The data visualization is available at [OurWorldinData.org](https://ourworldindata.org), where you find more research on how the world is changing and why.

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How to read it?



Key informations that can be obtained from population pyramids are:

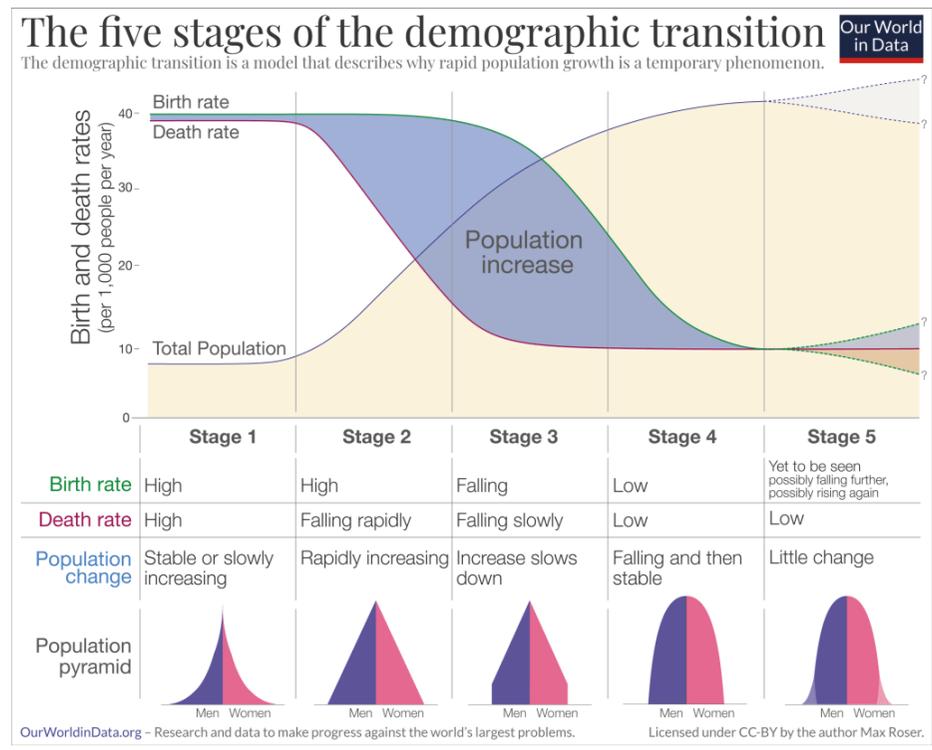
- A broad base signifies a high birth rate
- Narrowing base (where the number or proportion of 0–4-year-olds is smaller than that of 5–9-year-olds) indicates a declining birth rate.
- Vertical or near-vertical sides are indicative of a low death rate
- Concave slopes reflect a high death rate
- Bulges within the slopes may reflect periods of baby booms or elevated rates of immigration or in-migration;
 - For example, a large number of males aged 20–35 may represent economic migrants seeking employment, while a high number of elderly, typically female, residents may indicate populations concentrated in retirement areas.
- Notches or “slices” in the slope suggest emigration, out-migration, or age- or gender-specific mortality resulting from epidemics or periods of conflict.
- The total population, or the percentage of the total population within each age cohort, is displayed alongside each bar.

Activity

- Read the case studies aboutr Singapore and Russia on post 8.1.2
- Download the activity sheet
- Complete all

DTM

Task: Make a table to summarise the 5 stages and provide examples of countries for each stage when possible



DTM Stages

Stage	Name	Birth Rate	Death Rate	Population Change	Key Features / Examples
Stage 1	High and Variable	High and fluctuating	High and fluctuating	Very slow or unstable growth	No modern countries; some isolated tribes; UK until ~1750
Stage 2	Early Expanding	High	Rapidly falling	Very rapid growth	Improved healthcare, sanitation, and food supply; Afghanistan, Sudan; UK by ~1850
Stage 3	Late Expanding	Falling	Low	Growth slows	Family planning, urbanisation, education; Brazil, Argentina; UK ~1950
Stage 4	Low and Variable	Low	Low	Stable or slow growth	Most developed countries, including the UK
Stage 5	Declining	Very low (below death rate)	Low	Population decline	Ageing population; Japan, Sweden

Category	Reasons
High Birth Rates	
High Death Rates	
Low Birth Rates	
Low Death Rates	

Reasons for Birth and Death Rates

In your group, state reasons for each of the indicators

Category	Reasons
High Birth Rates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children needed for farm and manual labour • Support parents in old age • Continue family name • Social status and prestige • High infant mortality leads to replacement children
High Death Rates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of clean water • Food shortages • Poor sanitation and hygiene • Overcrowding • Infectious diseases • Poverty and limited healthcare
Low Birth Rates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children are expensive • Government pensions and healthcare • More women in education and careers • Widespread contraception • Lower infant mortality
Low Death Rates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clean water supply • Reliable food supply • Improved sanitation and hygiene • Better healthcare and vaccinations • Higher standards of living

Reasons for Birth and Death Rates