

FAIR

# Immigration and Population Growth in America

*Since 1990, United States population has grown by 43 million people — an unprecedented 18 percent increase.*

*In town after town throughout the U.S., communities are finding that population growth is overcrowding schools, clogging roads, swallowing up open space, taxing the environment, and raising the cost of living for all.*

## The Engine Behind Population Growth

The key to population stability is arriving at “replacement rate fertility” — a balance between births and deaths. In fact, Americans did achieve replacement rate fertility in the early 1970s. Yet our population hasn't leveled off, and it isn't expected to begin to level off any time in the next 100 years. Why? Because of the extraordinarily high rates of immigration that our national leaders have put in place. Immigration is the driving force behind U.S. population growth. It now directly adds more than one million people — the equivalent of two Denvers — to our population every year. With the children born to immigrants added in, immigration accounts for more than two-thirds of our population growth.

## The Impact of Runaway Population Growth

*Environmental devastation.* As our population grows, demands for resources increase; increased pollution, deforestation, waste, habitat destruction, and soil erosion are the result. America's environmental priorities can't be reconciled with the new infrastructure and resource consumption that

continued population growth will require. Resources like water and energy are straining under the constantly increasing demand.

*Loss of open space, forests, and farmland.* America's sprawling urban areas are encroaching on fragile coastal wetlands and paving over farmland at alarming rates. The U.S. loses three acres of farmland and open space every minute to meet the needs of an expanding population.

*Overcrowded schools.* In the last decade, school enrollments have increased by 16 percent, an increase that the U.S. Census Bureau attributes largely to the immigration influx. Department of Education officials say that by 2100, the nation's schools will have to find room for 94 million students — nearly double the current number.

*Congested highways.* If you think roads are congested now, what will it be like with tens of millions more drivers on the roads? Local governments do not have any plans to accommodate this additional traffic.



*“Population growth is the primary cause of environmental damage.”*

—Jacques Cousteau



## Where We're Headed

In 2005, U.S. population stands at about 300 million. The Census Bureau projects that if current immigration levels continue, our population will increase to 420 million by 2050. That's 120 million additional people needing schools, jobs, and housing — as well as water and other precious natural resources.

If, on the other hand, we reduce immigration to a replacement level-zero net increase, the Census Bureau projects that our population in 2050 is likely to be 336 million and the growth rate will be leveling off. That's 84 million fewer people than in the first scenario.

## The Choice is Ours

In 1972, a two-year study by a joint presidential-congressional commission with representatives of major

corporations, unions, environmental organizations, and urban, ethnic, and women's groups recommended freezing immigration at its then-current level of about 400,000 a year as part of a national population policy. Yet since then, annual immigration levels have risen dramatically to over one million today.

If we don't act, Census numbers show our future will be one of colossal soil and forest destruction, plant and animal extinction, air and water pollution, traffic congestion, overcrowded schools, and ever-increasing sprawl.

We can get our skyrocketing population under control. Please join us in our work for a sensible, sustainable immigration policy that takes into account the impact of population size on our environment and quality of life.

*The Federation for American Immigration Reform (FAIR) was founded in 1979 by environmentalists who recognized the need to incorporate immigration reform into the management of population growth in the United States.*

*With more than 198,000 members and supporters nationwide, FAIR is a national, nonprofit, public interest, membership organization of concerned citizens who share a common belief that our nation's immigration policies must be reformed to serve the environmental, social and economic needs of our country.*



**I would like to support FAIR's work to ease our skyrocketing population growth by reforming U.S. immigration policy. Enclosed is my tax-deductible contribution.**

- ☐ \$25 Member      ☐ \$250 Sponsor
- ☐ \$50 Supporting Member      ☐ \$500 Patron
- ☐ \$100 Sustaining Member      ☐ \$1,000 Benefactor
- ☐ I am already a FAIR member, but here is an additional contribution of \$\_\_\_\_\_.
- ☐ I am not interested in joining at this time, but here is a contribution of \$\_\_\_\_\_.

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**Please allow 4–6 weeks for processing and delivery of your first issue of FAIR's *Immigration Report*. Make check payable to **FAIR** or charge your contribution to your credit card.**



1666 Connecticut Avenue, NW • Suite 400 • Washington, DC 20009  
202-328-7004 • [info@fairus.org](mailto:info@fairus.org) • [www.fairus.org](http://www.fairus.org)

# Projected Population (millions)

*In the United States, immigration is the difference between a stabilizing population and a skyrocketing one.*

- Projected Population WITH Immigration
- Projected Population WITHOUT Immigration

