

Populations in Transition

Definitions

Crude birth rate: (number of births/total population) X 1000

Crude death rate: (number of deaths/total population) X 1000

Life expectancy: average number of years at birth a person can expect to live.

Infant mortality rate: number of babies that die before 1 year old / 1000 live births/year.

Child mortality rate: number of children that die before 5 years old / 1000 live births/year.

Patterns in MEDCs

Low birth rates due to:

- * Low infant & child mortality rates
- * Women remaining in education longer
- * Increased gender equality in the workplace has attracted more women to establish careers before having children.
- * Cost of children has reduced the size of families.
- * Family planning education & contraception availability.

Death rates increasing as these countries experience ageing populations, diet & lifestyle are leading to increased heart conditions.



Patterns in LEDCs

High birth rates due to:

- * Lack of access to contraception & family planning services.
- * Higher infant mortality rates.
- * Lack of state pensions means elderly rely on children for care.

Falling death rates due to:

- * Improvements in health care
- * Better diet - more calories & wider range of food (nutrients)
- * Improved sanitation and water supplies

sample page

Population Pyramids

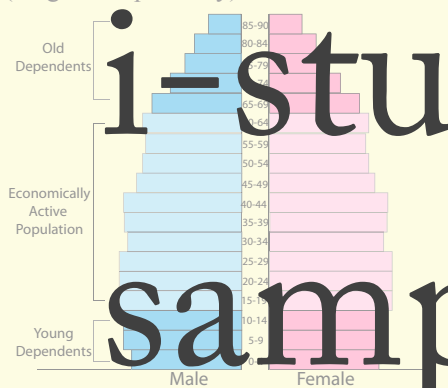
These display the age and sex make up of a population & give a good indication as to the birth & death rates. They also display the proportions of dependent & economically active sections of the population.

MEDC Population Pyramid

Narrow base (low birth rate)

Steep side (low infant & child mortality rates)

Tall (long life expectancy)



LEDC Population Pyramid

Wide base (high birth rate)

Sloping sides (higher infant & child mortality rates, impact of AIDS)

Short (low life expectancy)

