



Christian Voices for Life
Weekly Pro-Life
Education
Prayer
Action

Declining Populations - a Threat to Economy



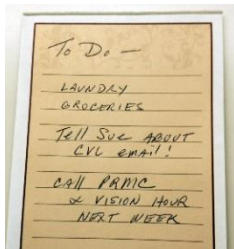
Education: A healthy replacement fertility rate is 2.1 (child/ woman in her lifetime, or births/1000 women divided by 1000). The current global fertility rate is now about 2.4, but is predicted to fall below 1.7 by the year 2100. Researchers found that “continued trends in female educational attainment and access to contraception will hasten declines in fertility and slow population growth.” (1, 2) 23 countries are expected to see more than a 50% decline in population – which will create an economic crisis. Some countries have already initiated incentives for women to have more children. (2) The Organization for Economic Co-

operation and Development (OECD) has warned that there won’t be enough people working to pay the pensions of retirees at the current retirement age. In a 2018 paper, OECD argued that “in 1980, there were 20 people aged 65 and older for every 100 people of working age (that is, aged between 20 and 64). By 2015, this number had increased... to 28 people aged 65 or over for every 100 of working age. Project forward another 35 years, the ratio will be 53 to 100 in 2050 based on UN mortality projections (United Nations 2017)... This is because we are living longer and having fewer children.” (3) What about the U.S.? In 2019, the US total fertility rate was a record low of 1.705. This rate has been consistently below replacement rate since 2007, and generally below replacement rate since 1971. (4)

1. [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(20\)30677-2/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(20)30677-2/fulltext)
2. <https://www.liveaction.org/news/fertility-rate-economic-crisis/>
3. <https://voxeu.org/article/effect-population-ageing-pensions>
4. <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/vsrr/vsrr-8-508.pdf>



Prayer: Please, Lord, guide every family to value each child as a precious gift from you. Have mercy on couples who wish to have children but are unable to do so. Please put an end to international programs pushing contraception and abortion on third world nations. Help our world to develop according to your plan and your will, rather than seeking to improve conditions based on our own ideas of artificially preventing conception and ending the lives of preborn children. Help us all come to understand and accept your beautiful plan for sexuality, preserving sexual relations for married couples.



Action: If you hear someone say that contraception and/or abortion are necessary to limit population, explain that increased contraception and education for women have already led to a very real threat of under-population, with fertility rates dropping below replacement level in many countries, including the U.S. Every child is a gift from God, unique and irreplaceable.

****Photo Scavenger Hunt Fundraiser!** Gather a family team to find and photograph the items on a list and compete for a prize! The event is **Sunday Nov 1, from 10 am to 5 pm**. Funds help pro-life youth get to rallies in Austin and Washington. Click [here](#) for details and to register.