

5-16

Demography

- A branch of sociology that deals with counting people
- Demography
 - The study of size, distribution, and composition of populations
- Demography is one of the oldest sociological concerns
 - Started with Thomas Malthus
 - Malthusian Theory
 - Idea is that population will outgrow the food supply, leading to starvation and death
 - Comes from the belief that population is more like multiplication, while food production capacity grows like addition

Demographic Transition Theory

- Malthus's theory hasn't panned out
 - People started to have fewer kids
 - Food production grew much, much faster than he imagined
- Demographers have come up with a theory to explain how people have started
- Demographic transition theory
 - As the economy develops in a society, the death rate drops. Once the death rate drops and becomes stable at a new low level, the birth rate will fall off to meet it. Once this happens, the population size will be a bit more stable, and will not be growing nearly as rapidly
- Why does this happen?
 - In a pre-industrial or early industrial society, the population size is kept in check by nature – if the population gets too big, there isn't enough food to go around
 - When the society is a bit more industrialized, the death rate drops because there is food for everyone. This causes population to grow because people are still having a lot of kids
 - After awhile, the birth rate will drop off as well, because people start to realize 1) that their kids aren't dropping like flies and 2) that kids are no longer an economic advantage but are actually a drain on resources, so the fewer you have, the better you are
 - Look at chart in slides
- Demographers focus on population characteristics
- Generally focus on fertility, mortality, and migration
 - Fertility – rate of child bearing in population
 - Mortality – rate of death in an area's population
 - Migration – movement of people into or out of an area
 - Care because population influences food, environment, economy, etc.

Fertility

- The average number of children produced by women of childbearing age in a particular society
- Fecundity

- o The number of children that a woman could possibly have (based on biology)
 - These rarely line up
- Mortality
- Mortality
 - o The number of deaths in a population
 - Life expectancy
 - o The number of years the average person can expect to live
 - Life span
 - o The total number of years a person could live (longest possible life you could have)
 - Infant mortality rate
 - o The number of infants who die during the first year of life, per thousand live births
 - Why does this really matter?
 - o Infants cant really take care of themselves
 - o So it's kind of a measure of how good the society is taking care of people
 - o US does not have the lowest infant mortality rate in the world

Migration

- Immigration
 - o Migration into a country/area
- Emigration
 - o Migration out of an area
- Both emigration and immigration influence the population size
- The US has had a very unique immigration experience
 - o Most of us are here as a result of immigration
 - o It's keeping the US from having negative population growth
 - Negative population growth – when more people are dying than are being born or moving in
- Sex ratios
 - o The number of males to 100 females in an area's population
- In general, females outlives males
- More males are born than men

Age-Sex Pyramid

- Demographers use an age-sex pyramid to graphically present the age-group distribution by sex
 - o How is the population clustered by age and sex?
- Can tell you whether the population is going to grow or stay stable
- Can recognize historical events

5-21

Community and Urban Life

- The study of community and urban life is one of the oldest concerns in sociology
- Came up during the industrial revolution
- Early social thinkers were concerned with how people would adapt to different social settings, like cities

- The interest in communities and urban life developed when the Industrial Revolution led to large scale urbanization for the first time
- Urbanization
 - The agglomeration of people in cities
- Urbanization not only changes where people live, but it also changes how they live
 - How they use land
 - How they interact
 - How they make a living
- Because there were so many changes, early social thinkers wanted to understand how people would adapt to this new way of life

Early Theories

- Ferdinand Tonnies (1887)
 - Gemeinschaft and Gesellschaft
 - Gemeinschaft – life in rural villages
 - Characteristics: identification with the community, emotionalism, traditionalism, and holistic views of others
 - Gesellschaft – life in modern cities
 - Characteristics: rationality, individualism, emotional disengagement, and segmented views of others
 - These are both the ideal types, but you would never really find them
- Emile Durkheim (1893)
 - Mechanical and Organic solidarity
 - Mechanical solidarity
 - Society is held together because everyone is similar and believes the same things
 - Organic solidarity
 - Society is held together by interdependence
 - Because people cannot fend entirely for themselves, everyone has to cooperate, which creates society

Newer Theories

- First significant studies in the US came out of the University of Chicago
 - Came to be known as the “Chicago School of Sociology”
 - Main players: Robert Park, Ernest Burgess, Louis Wirth, and W. E. B. DuBois (but he wasn’t at Chicago)
 - Main focus on how people interact with the environment and each other
- They focused mainly on the idea of urban ecology
 - Ecology – the study of how plants and animals adapt to their environment
 - Urban ecology – the study of how people and cities adapt to their environment
- They also addressed the rural-urban shift
- Louis Wirth: “Urbanism as a Way of Life”
 - Cities and small towns differ in three respects: size, density, and heterogeneity