

Chapter 9 Section 2 Notes

Problems of Rapid Population Growth – suburban sprawl, overcrowded schools, polluted rivers, and inadequate housing

- **A Shortage of Fuelwood** – in many of the poorest countries wood is the main fuel source for boiling water and cooking food. When populations grow rapidly there's not enough dead wood for fuel and so vegetation is cut down. Wood is a limited resource because trees are being cut down faster than they can grow.
- **Unsafe Water** – in places that lack **infrastructure** (*basic facilities and services that support a community- public water supply, power plants, sewer lines*), the local water supply gets used for drinking, washing, and sewage disposal which allows disease causing organisms to breed and diseases such as dysentery, typhoid, and cholera spread.
 - lack of clean water caused the 1991 cholera outbreak in Lima, Peru
 - water-borne diseases could possibly be alleviated by adequate sewage treatment plants for growing populations
- **Impacts on Land** – growing populations often live and build their housing in the same areas as are required for food production;
 - **arable land** – land that can be used to grow food
 - **urbanization** – movement of people into cities from rural areas

Suburban sprawl results in traffic jams, inadequate infrastructure, and a reduction of land for farms, ranches, and wildlife habitats

A Demographically Diverse World

- Currently the fastest growing populations are in Asia
- Least-developed countries have the highest birth rates

Managing Development and Population Growth –

- It's difficult to reduce population growth because many people have low literacy rates and limited access to health care.
- Strategies for Slowing Population Growth
 - using public advertising
 - family planning programs to decrease fertility rate
 - economic incentives
 - legal punishments

Growth is Slowing –

- Because birth rates have begun to fall, Earth's population will stabilize somewhere around 9 billion by 2300.