

A Quarterly Review of Social Reports and Research on Social Indicators, Social Trends, and the Quality-of-Life.  
News Included of Working Group 6 on Social Indicators and Social Reporting of the International Sociological Association.  
Newsletter of the International Society for Quality-of-Life Studies

## HAS THE RECENT EPIDEMIC IN ADOLESCENT DRUG USE IN THE UNITED STATES PEAKED? SOME RECENT FINDINGS FROM THE *MONITORING THE FUTURE* STUDY

Findings regarding prevalence rates and trends in adolescent drug use from the *Monitoring the Future* (MTF) study were last extensively reviewed in the February 1997 issue of *SINET*. *Monitoring the Future* is a long-term study of American adolescents, college students, and young adults. Since 1975, the MTF study has provided some key social indicators about prevalence rates, and trends therein, in the use of various licit and illicit drugs among adolescents, teenagers, and young adults in the United States. It thus is indicative of the future in the sense that as cohorts of adolescents and youths age into adulthood many of their attitudes and usage patterns with respect to psychoactive drugs will be carried with them. The MTF study is conducted by the University of Michigan's Institute for Social Research and is supported under a series of investigator-initiated, competing research grants from the National Institute on Drug Abuse. Lloyd Johnston, Patrick O'Malley, and Jerald Bachman have been Co-Principal Investigators of the study for a number of years.

When results from the MTF study were last reviewed in *SINET*, there were a number of questions about whether the rising trends in drug use among adolescents in the United States in the mid-1990s would continue and reach the high levels that were last seen in the late-1970s. With three more years of data from the study now available, some tentative answers can be given based on a recent report from the MTF study that provides an overview of key findings.

*Monitoring the Future—National Results on Adolescent Drug Use: Overview of Key Findings, 1999.* By Lloyd D. Johnston, Ph.D., Patrick M. O'Malley, Ph.D., and Jerald G. Bachman, Ph.D. 2000. National Institute on Drug Abuse, 6001 Executive Boulevard, Bethesda, MD 20892. An electronic version of the report is available in PDF format on the Web at [www.MonitoringTheFuture.org](http://www.MonitoringTheFuture.org)

The report presents an overview of the key findings from the 1999 survey of 8th, 10th, and 12th grade students, with a particular emphasis on recent trends in the use of the various licit and illicit drugs covered by the study. It also shows trends in the levels of perceived risk and personal disapproval associated with each drug, which the MTF study has shown to be particularly important in explaining trends in use.

### Sample Design

At the core of the MTF study is a series of large, annual surveys of nationally representative samples of students in public and private secondary schools throughout the coterminous United States. Every year since 1975 a national sample of 12th graders has been surveyed; beginning in 1991, the study was expanded to include comparable national samples of 8th graders and 10th graders each year.

The 1999 sample sizes were 17,300, 13,900, and 14,100 in 8th, 10th, and 12th grades,

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# SINET

Social Indicators Network News

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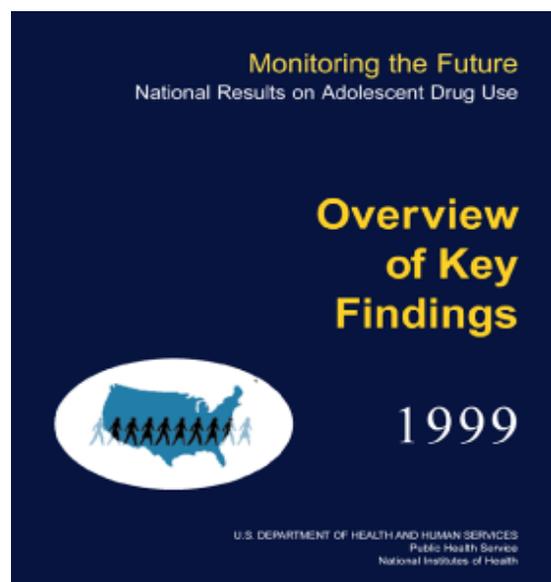
respectively. In all, about 45,000 students in 433 schools participated. Because multiple questionnaire forms are administered at each grade level, and because not all questions are contained in all forms, the numbers of cases upon which a particular statistic are based can be less than the total sample.

### Field Procedures and Measures

University of Michigan staff members administer the questionnaires to students, usually in their classrooms during a regular class period. Participation is voluntary. Questionnaires are self-completed and formatted for optical scanning. In 8th and 10th grades the questionnaires are completely anonymous, and they are confidential in 12th grade (to permit the longitudinal follow-up of a sub-sample of participants for some years after high school in a panel study).

A standard set of three questions is used to determine usage levels for the various drugs (except for cigarettes). To take LSD as an example, the MTF study asks, "On how many occasions (if any) have you used LSD ("acid")... (a)... in your lifetime?, (b)... during the past 12 months?, (c)... during the last 30 days?" Each of the three questions is answered on the same answer scale: 0 occasions, 1-2, 3-5, 6-9, 10-19, 20-39, and 40 or more occasions. For the psycho-therapeutic drugs (amphetamines, barbiturates, tranquilizers, and opiates other than heroin), respondents are instructed to include only use "... on your own—that is, without a doctor telling you to take them." For cigarettes, respondents are asked two questions about use: "Have you ever smoked cigarettes?" (for which the answer categories are "never," "once or twice," and so on); and "How frequently have you smoked cigarettes during the past 30 days?" (for which the answer categories are "not at all," "less than one cigarette per day," "one to five cigarettes per day," "about one-half pack per day," etc.) Alcohol use is measured using the three questions illustrated above for LSD. A similar set of three questions asks about the frequency of being drunk and another question asks, for the prior two-week period, "How many times have you had five or more drinks in a row?" Perceived risk is measured by a question asking, "How much do you think people risk harming themselves (physically or in other ways), if they..." "... try marijuana once or twice," for example. The answer categories are "no risk," "slight risk," "moderate risk," "great risk," and "can't say, drug unfamiliar." Disapproval is measured by the question, "Do YOU disapprove of people doing each of the following?" followed by "trying marijuana once or twice," for example. Answer categories are: "don't approve," "disapprove," "strongly disapprove," and (in 8th and 10th grades only) "can't say, drug unfamiliar."

Availability is measured by the question, "How difficult do you think it would be for



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you to get each of the following types of drugs, if you wanted some?" followed by "marijuana (pot, grass)," for example. Answer categories are: "probably impossible," "very difficult," "fairly difficult," "fairly easy," and "very easy."

**Some Key Findings**

Two figures from the report are reproduced nearby. The first figure exhibits the prevalence rates<sup>1</sup> and trends therein for any illicit drug<sup>2</sup> use, eighth, tenth, and twelfth graders. The four panels of the figure give the lifetime and annual prevalence rates for use of any illicit drug and for use of any illicit drug other than marijuana. From the four panels of the figure, it can be seen that:

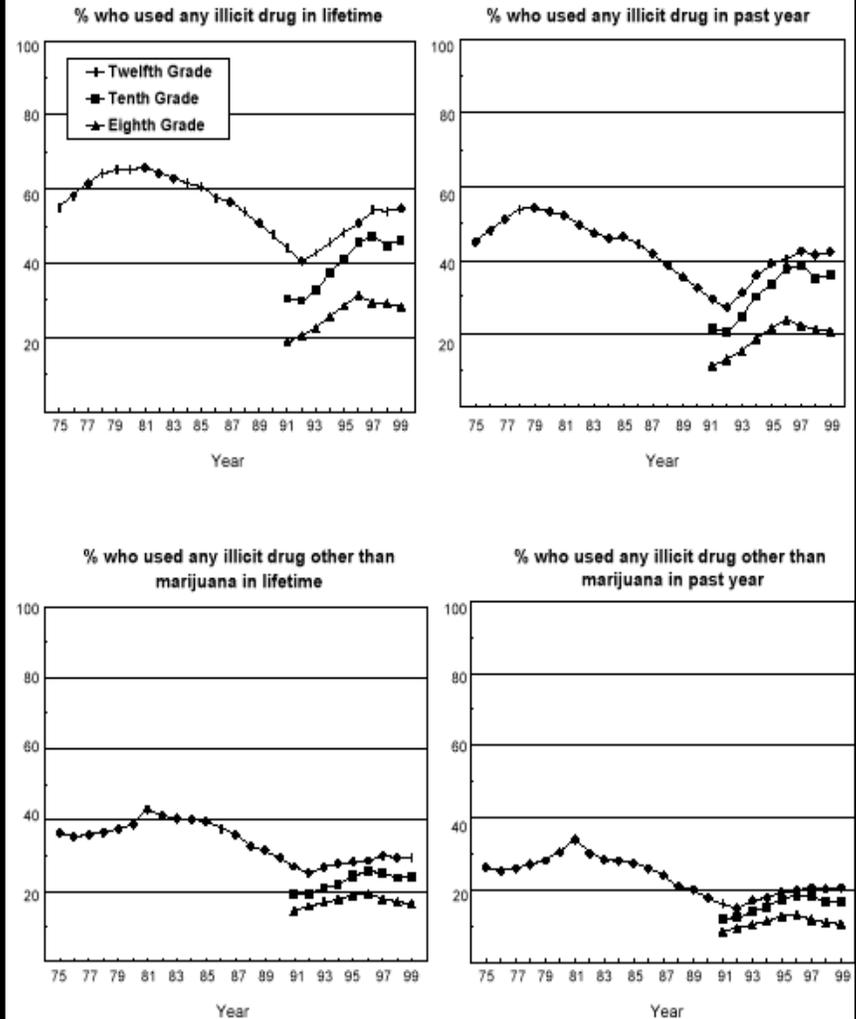
- there indeed was a sustained trends towards increasing illicit drug use among adolescents from 1991 or 1992 to 1996 or 1997;
- the illicit drug with the greatest prevalence of use continues to be marijuana;
- the trend towards increasing usage peaked in 1997 for 8<sup>th</sup> graders and declined slightly in 1998 and 1999;
- the upwards trends for the 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> graders also ended in 1997, but, after slight declines in 1998, showed slight increases in 1999 – so that the three year period 1997-1999 is essentially flat; and
- the peak levels of illicit drug usage of adolescents in the late 1990s – who constitute members of what demographers in the United States call the "echo boomers" (and termed "generation Y" in the popular press) because they are children of the "baby boomers" who were born in the high birthrate post-World War II years from 1946 to 1964 – are several percentage points lower than those of the late-1970s to early-1980s period when adolescents were from the baby boomer birth cohorts.

<sup>1</sup>Prevalence rates are the proportion or percentage of the sample reporting use of the given substance on one or more occasions in the given period—e.g., lifetime, past 12 months, or the past 30 days. The prevalence of daily use usually refers to use on 20 or more occasions in the past 30 days.

<sup>2</sup> For 12th graders only: Use of "any illicit drug" includes any use of marijuana, LSD, other hallucinogens, crack, other cocaine, or heroin, or any use of other narcotics, amphetamines, barbiturates, or tranquilizers not under a doctor's orders. For 8th and 10th graders: The use of other narcotics and barbiturates has been excluded, because these younger respondents appear to overreport use (perhaps because they include the use of nonprescription drugs in their answers).

**Table 1**

**Trends in Illicit Drug Use  
Eighth, Tenth, and Twelfth Graders**



The second figure from the report reproduced nearby focuses on trends in the annual use, risk, disapproval, and availability of marijuana for all three grades. The overall trends in annual prevalence of marijuana use shown in the upper left panel of the figure are similar to those just stated for any illicit drug use. In addition, the figure shows that:

- as perceived "great risk" in using marijuana goes down, the prevalence rates of usage go up – this inverse relationship between perceived risk and the prevalence of illicit drug use has been found generally across drug categories in the MTF study;
- the percentage of MTF respondents reporting that they disapprove of using marijuana regularly decreased in the early-1990s and then stayed at a lower level than in the 1980s; and
- the percentage saying that marijuana is "fairly easy" or "very easy" to obtain also rose in the 1990s as compared to the 1980s, although this percent has always been 80 or more for 12<sup>th</sup> graders.

The report contains figures similar to the figure for marijuana for the other categories of illicit drugs that are studied – inhalants, LSD, cocaine, crack cocaine, amphetamines, methamphetamine and ice, heroin, tranquilizers, barbiturates, club drugs (rohypnol and ecstasy), alcohol, cigarettes, and steroids. It

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also contains tables covering all drugs that contain the specific numerical values on which the figures are based.

In addition to the findings noted above, the report highlights the following key findings:

- the prevalence rates for several drugs – marijuana, amphetamines, hallucinogens taken as a class, tranquilizers, heroin, and alcohol – held steady in 1999 as compared to 1998;

- the most important increases from 1998 to 1999 were observed for two drugs – ecstasy among older students and steroid use among younger adolescent males;

- the prevalence rates of usage for three drugs – inhalant use, rohypnol, crack, and crystal methamphetamine (ice) – and, in some cases, these were continuations of longer-term declines;

- to a considerable degree, the determinants of use are often specific to the drugs and include both the *perceived risks* and the *perceived benefits* that adolescents associate with each drug;

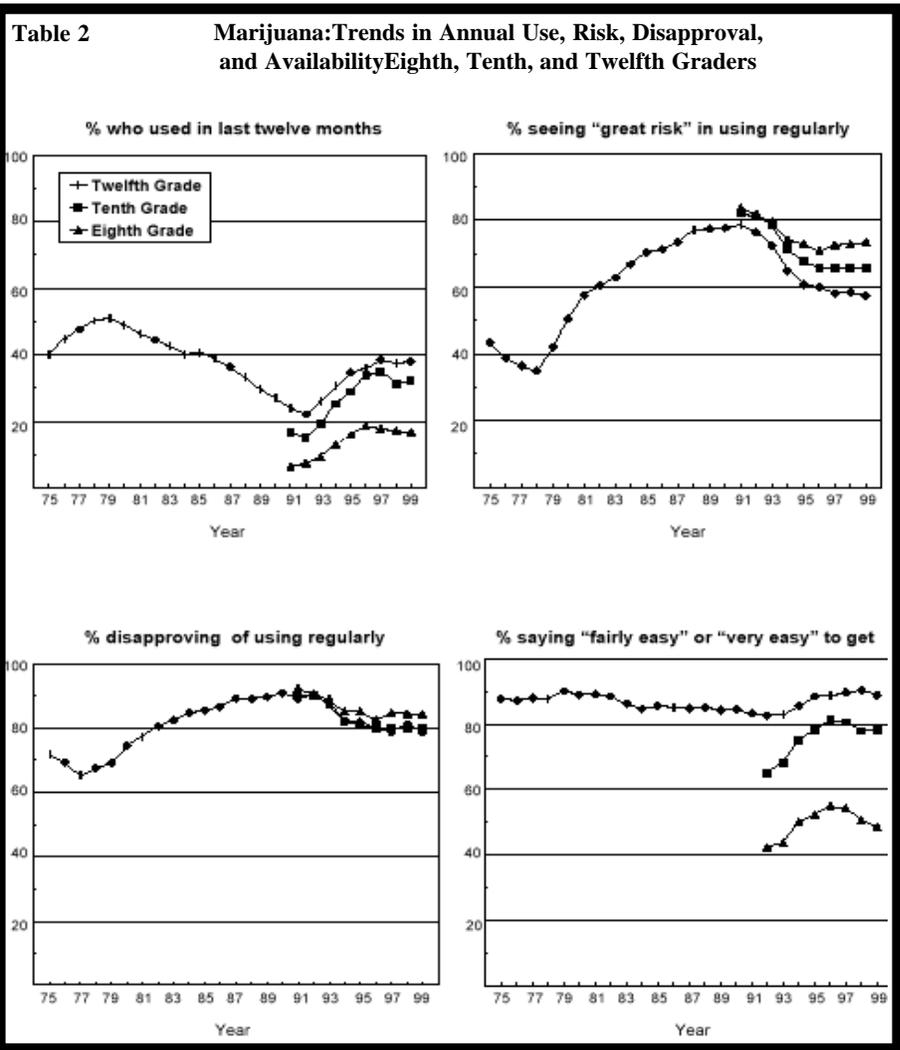
- there is a continuous flow of new drugs introduced onto the scene or being “rediscovered” by young people each year, with some “generational forgetting” of their adverse consequences in previous years or decades; and

- even for the licit drugs, cigarettes and alcohol, usage rates among young adolescents are very high – with 18% of 8<sup>th</sup> graders being current smokers and 25% of the 8<sup>th</sup> graders reporting having been drunk at least once.

One implication of these findings is that, to a considerable degree, prevention must occur drug by drug. Another is that prevention needs to target the youngest adolescents (or even pre-adolescent aged children) and be persistent throughout the teen years – in order to increase the likelihood that decreases in prevalence of usage in the early adolescent years will carry forward into the later teenage years.

**Comment**

The MTF study is one of the great success stories of the social indicators movement in the United States in the 1960s and 1970s. Since 1975, this study has provided social researchers and the public with readings on the prevalence and trends in drug use



among 12<sup>th</sup> graders. Since 1991, 8<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> graders have been added to the sample design. These additions came just in time for the study to capture an upward trend in drug use among the 10<sup>th</sup> graders in the early-1990s that was more rapid than that for 12<sup>th</sup> graders.

Should the MTF study be used as a vehicle for collecting additional data on trends in the well-being of children in the United States? A couple of possibilities: Given the “collapse of childhood” that has occurred in this post-industrial society/post-modern era, one wonders whether the study should reach back even further into the lower grades, perhaps with a 6<sup>th</sup> grade sample. That is, as various social scientists and pundits have noted, the current era is characterized by social and cultural trends (e.g., the ready availability to children of adult culture through more and more pervasive electronic media) such that an extended period of relative innocence in late childhood is more and more rare. The consequence is that many children “go from age

8 to age 18” very rapidly. This would suggest a careful consideration of whether the MTF study should begin even earlier in life. Another possible extension of the study could very well address – through the addition of a suitable battery of questions to the MTF questionnaire – the emotional well-being of children and adolescents and track changes therein. It is impossible to tell whether a continuous series on such data in the MTF study would have facilitated an “early warning” of the breakout of shootings in the middle and high schools that occurred in the late-1990s. But it definitely would be good to at least have the data to study this question.

~ Kenneth C. Land

**INTERNATIONAL SOCIO-  
LOGICAL ASSOCIATION  
WORKING GROUP 6 CON-  
FERENCE 2000  
13 to 14th October at WZB  
Berlin**

***Rich and Poor:*  
Disparities, perceptions, conse-  
quences  
Intranational and international  
perspectives**

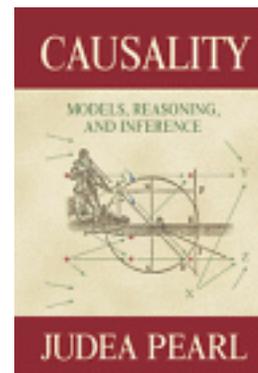
This conference is concerned with a significant societal problem, which will remain a central challenge for the new century. One of the great accomplishments of the 20<sup>th</sup> century was that poverty was overcome for large percentages of populations in modern societies. But as the problem of poverty was partially solved a new challenge arose—increasing inequality between the rich and the poor. This creates more or less severe tensions within nations as well as between nations and it may become a more serious problem in the increasingly globalized world. Social reporting can contribute to analyzing this central challenge and to the enlightenment of the public about it: What social conditions characterize the rich and the poor? What is the amount of inequality within and between countries? How are wealth and poverty perceived by people and politicians? What are the social consequences of different degrees of inequality? Questions like these will be topics at the Conference 2000. Inequality is mainly understood in terms of material welfare but contributions about immaterial dimensions accompanied by divisions between rich and poor are also welcome. The Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin fuer Sozialforschung will be the host of the conference. Therefore there are no conference fees but participants are responsible for the costs of their own travel, accomodation and meals. For further information, contact Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Glatzer,

Goethe-University, Fachbereich 3: Institut fuer Gesellschafts- und Politikanalyse, Robert Mayer Str. 5, D-60054 Frankfurt am Main, GERMANY, tel: 49 69 798 23584 or 22473; fax: 49 69 798 28026; e-mail: [glatzer@soz.uni-frankfurt.de](mailto:glatzer@soz.uni-frankfurt.de). The Board of WG-6: Wolfgang Glatzer (president),

Kenneth Land (vice-president), Alex Michalos (past-president), Ruut Veenhoven (secretary-treasurer), Additional board members: Bruce Headey, Torbjørn Moum, Ramkrishna Mukherjee, Heinz-Herbert Noll, and Joachim Vogel. WG-6 also invites new members working in the field of social indicators and social reporting. There are no membership fees direct for the WG, but we are a subgroup of ISA, and it is expected that you will become a member of the International Sociological Association (email: [isa@sis.ucm.es](mailto:isa@sis.ucm.es)).

**THE CITIZENSHIP  
STUDIES JOURNAL**

The following journal, Volume 4 of which is being published in 2000, may be of interest to social indicators/quality-of-life researchers. *Citizenship Studies* publishes internationally recognized scholarly work on contemporary issues in citizenship, human rights and democratic processes from an interdisciplinary perspective covering the fields of politics, sociology, history and cultural studies. It seeks to lead an international debate on the academic analysis of citizenship, and also aims to cross the division between internal and academic and external public debate. *Citizenship Studies* focuses on debates that move beyond conventional notions of citizenship, and treats citizenship as a strategic concept that is central in the analysis of identity, participation, empowerment, human rights and the public interest. Citizenship is analyzed in the context of contemporary processes involving globalization, theories of international relations, changes to the state and political communities, multiculturalism, gender, indigenous peoples and national reconciliation, equity, social and public policy, welfare, and the reorganization of public management. As a theoretically basic concept, citizenship provides new tools for formulating problems and providing practical analysis and advice in these fields. The journal seeks to publish papers that provide links between theory, institutions such as markets and religions, and the analysis of substantive issues. For further information, contact the Chief Editor, Bryan S. Turner, University of Cambridge, United Kingdom.



**A NEW BOOK ON  
CAUSALITY**

“And now to find out the cause of these effects” – W. Shakespeare. As QOL and social indicator researchers turn more to causal modeling and causal reasoning, they will be interested in the work of Judea Pearl, a computer science and statistics scholar and Director of the Cognitive Systems Laboratory at the University of California, Los Angeles. His most recent volume reviews approaches to causation. His approach includes mathematical tools for analyzing causal connections, statistical associations, and observations. After discussing probability, he presents a theory of inferred causation and a framework for causal modeling. Intervention in Markov models is discussed, as is “the interventional interpretation of structural equation models” which is presented in relation to causality in social science and economics. In reference to Simpson’s paradox, Pearl addresses: “Why there is no statistical test for confounding, why many think there is, and why they are almost right.”

In 1996 Pearl gave a public lecture which is included in the volume: “The Art and Science of Cause and Effect.” It closes with these words: “We still do not have a causal understanding of poverty and cancer and intolerance, and only the accumulating of data and the insight of great minds will eventually lead to such understanding.”

The volume, *Causality: Models, Reasoning and Inference*, is available from Cambridge University Press (40 West 20th Street, New York, NY 10011-4211) for \$39.95 in hardback. Pp. 384. Publication date: March, 2000.

Abbott L. Ferriss

# ISQOLS 2000



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# FACES IN SPAIN

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# INDICATORS OF ENVIRONMENTAL TRENDS OF OUR WORLD

As our universe continues to expand, so do the available indicators on the status of our world. Of the 48 indicator topics on our world in this ninth edition of Vital Signs 2000, ten are new. The ten new topics reflect our changing needs for monitoring the world. After all, bouncing in five decades from 2.5 to 6.2 billion people, our world is increasingly difficult to keep in surveillance. And everything is moving faster – our messages to each other, our business dealings through multinational corporations, our economic growth, our travel – all are moving faster. But, fortunately, indicators make monitoring an intellectual challenge, indicators of Food, Agricultural Resources, Energy, Atmospheric Trends, Economic, Transportation, Communication, Social and Military Trends.

The Worldwatch Institute Staff, headed by Lester R. Brown, President, has assembled this remarkable compilation of indicators, primarily to focus upon “environmental trends that are shaping our future.” Their objective is to alert the world “to problems and progress in the quest for a sustainable future.” The volume reflects indicators published in *The State of the World* by the Institute.



Brown, Lester R., Michael Renner, Brian Halweil, and Linda Starke, *Vital Signs 2000: The Environmental Trends that Are Shaping Our Future*. 2000. New York and London: W. W. Norton & Co., Available (\$13.00) from Worldwatch Institute, 1776 Massachusetts Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20036. Tel: 202452-1999. FAX: 202296-7365. e-mail: [wwpub@worldwatch.org](mailto:wwpub@worldwatch.org). A Worldwatch Database Disk is available (\$89.00)

New topics in this edition include pesticide trade, tourism, organic farming, groundwater pollution, ice melting, endocrine disrupters, remote sensing, wind energy employment, tuberculosis, and prison populations. Encouraging developments in environmental protection include a “growth in wind power, solar photovoltaics, and energy efficiency light bulbs.” There are other encouraging developments.

## A Growing World Population

We are adding 77 million people annually for the world to feed, compared with the 87 million we were adding in 1989. While fertility still is too high in Africa and Southeast Asia, the chief source of population increase is the lower death rate, owing to better sanitation, better food supply, and improved medical attention. Not all are getting it, though. Tuberculosis deaths reached nearly 1.9 million in 1998, and the death toll from HIV/AIDS exceeded 16.3 million in 1999. Africa was extremely hard hit. About 12.2 African women are infected with HIV and some 10 million men. Life

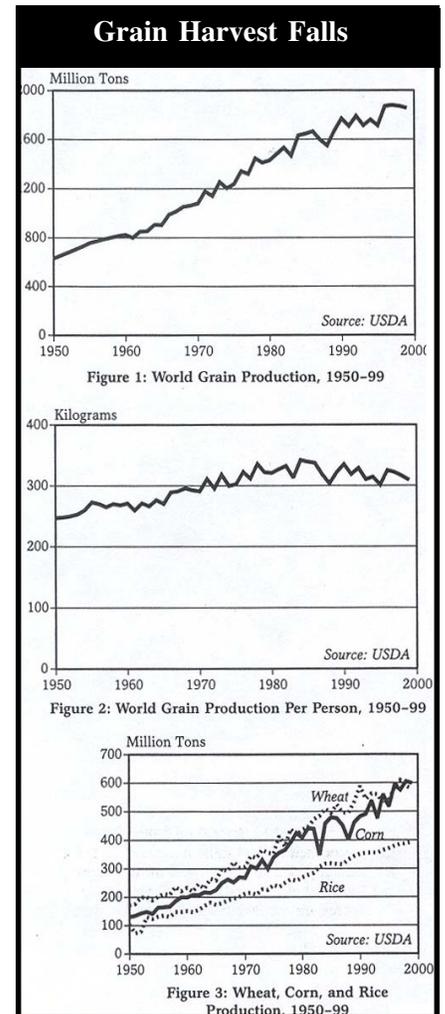
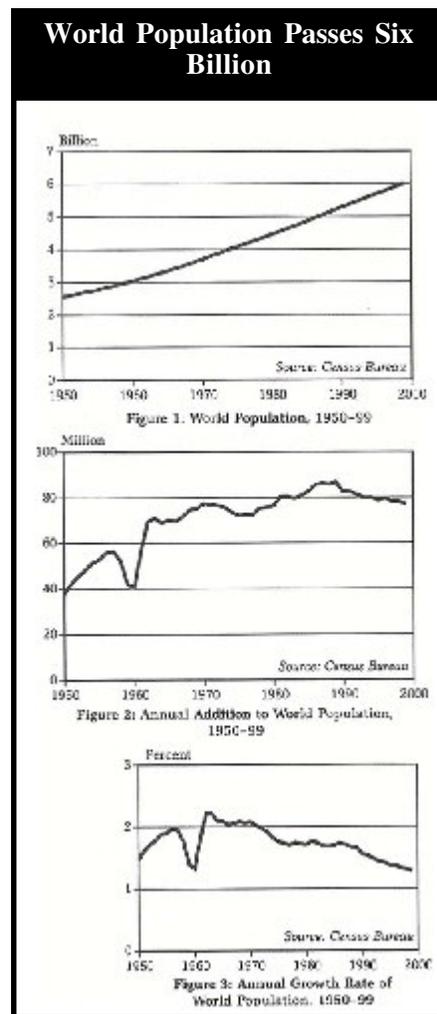
expectancy in southern Africa, which increased to 55 years in early 1990s, is expected to drop to 45 years in this decade. Annual deaths from causes related to smoking cigarettes reached 4 million in 1998 but is expected to continue rising to some 10 million by 2030. Wars, of course, create the harshest agony.

World grain production, the indicator of the food supply, fell 1 percent in 1999. Grain production per capita, a more significant indicator, has declined some 10 percent since 1984. But meat production and soybean production continue to climb. The world grain-producing soils are being depleted. Crops are not responding as readily as formerly to fertilizer. “In 1999, world grain area totaled 674 million hectares, down some 8 percent from the historical high of 743 million hectares in 1981.”

## An Expanding World Economy

The world economy continues to expand. It jumped 3 percent in 1999. The economic

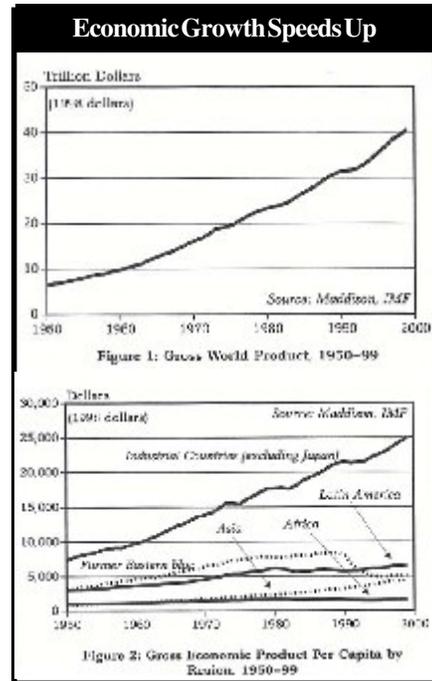
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expansion places excessive burdens on the ecosystem to provide the basic resources such as wood from the forests, fresh unpolluted water to drink, and fish from the sea to eat. Debts of developing countries are growing faster than the world economy. The developed world has agreed to cancel roughly two-thirds of the debts of poorer countries, enabling them to generate capital for development.

These are some of the trends affecting our future. Each topic is covered by a discussion of trends with references to substan-



tiating studies, by tables showing trends, and graphs. The notes to sources will be especially welcomed by serious students of world trends. Trends are individually treated, but editorial comments attempt to link interactions, such as

- population growth and women's access to family planning services;
- the rise in pollutants in the underground and water supplies, related to farming practices involving pesticides, nitrates, radioactive waste, and other chemicals, and
- shifting taxes from personal income to corporate penalties for carbon emissions, the creation of toxic waste, and pesticides, and the use of virgin raw materials rather than recycled resources. Such a shift in taxation would create funds for environmental restructuring.

### What Does It Add Up To?

The avid reader will come away from the

192-page volume wondering what it all adds up to. There is no over-riding indicator of whether we are better off in total today than we were a decade ago. A quality of life index, even if only for each world region separately, would partly fill this need. Perhaps Richard Estes for Africa and Asia, or H. H. Noll and W. Zapf for Europe, and M. Hagerty and A. C. Michalos for the U. S and Canada – perhaps they could devise summary indicators to show general trends in the quality of life. To compare with these, a general environmental index is needed as well as an index of assaults against the natural resources that limit a sustainable environment. These tasks would not be easy, but summary measures of trends would be useful and informative for the public and for policy-makers.

While education of women is mentioned as a means of reducing fertility, a special topic on this subject would be informative. The shifting age-sex distribution of the world population answers key questions on future population change: the size of on-coming generations, the balance or imbalance of the sexes, the size of the elder population who will look to the younger generation for support. These and other indicators are available in population pyramids, for the world and for regions.

The accompanying charts will help to illustrate some of the major changes that are shaping our future.

~Abbott L. Ferriss

# NEW COUNTRY AND REGION DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

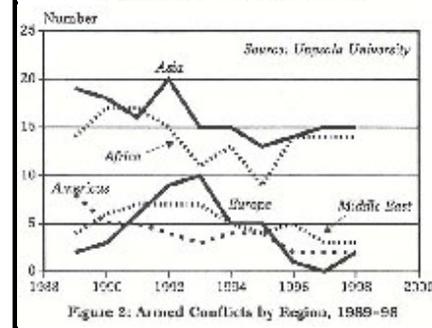
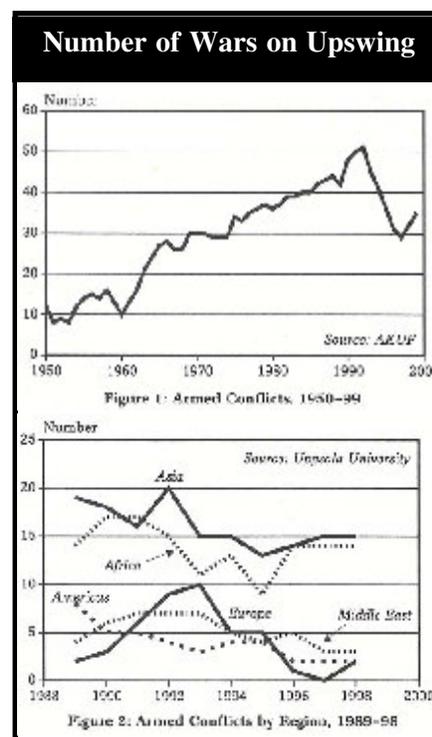
The Population Reference Bureau (1875 Connecticut Ave. NW, Suite 520, Washington, DC 20009-5728; Tel. 202 483-1100) has issued the year 2000 World Population Data Sheet which lists 21 demographic indicators by country and region. It is available in both a wall chart and a book edition (to order, phone 800-877-9881).

The annual increase in population in the developed countries (natural increase) is 0.1 percent. The less developed countries are increasing 1.7 percent annually, without China, 1.9 percent. Disparity in age distribution between the two sectors is even more striking: among developed nations 19 percent of the population is 15 years or younger but in the less developed nations the young are 34 percent of the population. Similarly, the developed world has 14 percent of its people 65 years or older while the less developed has 5 percent.

The most striking disparity, of course, is in GNP per capita: \$19,480 vs. \$1,260. The infant mortality rate in the less developed world is 63 per 1,000 live births compared with 8 in the developed countries. These and other indicators sum to an estimated world growth to 7.81 billion by 2025. In that year the developed world is expected to have 1.236 billion compared with 7.808 billion in the less developed world.

In addition to these demographic indicators, the table also includes estimates of the adult population with HIV/AIDS, the percent of married women using contraception, life expectancy at birth, the percent of the population urban, and others. The demographic indicators are listed by country and for each region.

~Abbott L. Ferriss



## THE 2001 ISQOLS CONFERENCE

### CALL FOR PARTICIPATION IN ORGANIZING TRACKS

The III Conference of the International Society of Quality of Life Studies, held at the University of Girona in Girona, Spain, July 20-22, 2000, was a tremendous success! Over 300 participants attended the conference. There were several plenary panel sessions, numerous paper sessions with many presenters, and various social occasions as well. A selection of photographs from the Girona conference is reproduced elsewhere in this issue of *SINET*. But now that the 2000 conference has been held, planning is going forth on the 2001 ISQOLS conference. M. Joseph Sirgy, Executive Director of the International Society for Quality of Life Studies, has communicated the following call for participation in organizing the 2001 Conference of the Society.

**Conference Theme:** "How to Measure Quality of Life of Different Populations in Different Settings for Different Policy Goals"

**Conference Program Co-Chairs:** Don Rahtz, Joe Sirgy, and Josh Samli

**Conference Time and Location:** Last week of November/first week of December, 2001 in Washington, D.C., (USA). We are in the process of negotiation with two hotels in Washington, DC.

**Conference Tracks:** We are planning to break down the conference tracks along five sets of tracks:

1. Unit-of-analysis tracks. We are planning to have several tracks focusing on different units of analysis, e.g., QOL indicators and models at the societal level, at the city or regional level, at the family level, and at the individual level.

2. Life domain tracks. We are planning to have several tracks that are domain-specific, e.g., QOL indicators and models of economic well-being, environmental well-being, leisure well-being, health-related well-being, community well-being, work well-being, education well-being, housing/neighborhood well-being, spiritual well-being, financial well-being, and consumer well-being.

3. Population-specific tracks. We are planning to have several tracks that are population-specific, e.g., QOL indicators and models in relation to developing economies, women, children/adolescents, mi-

norities, the disabled, the elderly, students, and specific countries.

4. Institution-specific tracks. We are planning to have several tracks that are institution-specific, e.g., media and QOL, business and QOL, government and QOL, and science/technology and QOL.

5. Methods-related tracks. We are planning several tracks in this area such as new and nontraditional measures and methods of QOL research, problems and solutions in objective measures of QOL, problems and solutions in subjective measures of QOL, and problems and solutions in cross-cultural research in QOL.

We would like to maintain ISQOLS' tradition of INCLUSION, i.e., we would like to invite you to volunteer to co-chair any of the aforementioned tracks. If you agree to do this, your name and address will be printed in the call for abstracts which will be circulated widely worldwide in academic circles, as well be published in the conference website. As a track co-chair your responsibilities will be the following: (a) Distribute the printed call for abstracts to QOL researchers that you know who may be interested in presenting their research at the 2001 ISQOLS Conference in Washington DC. (b) Publicize the call for papers and the conference website to academic and professional societies directly related to your track, by communicating with these societies and publicize the conference and your track in their societies newsletter, listserves, and journals. (c) Receive abstracts in your track and evaluate them for their appropriateness and inclusion at the conference. (d) Recommend acceptance/rejection to the conference co-chairs and pass along the recommended abstracts to the conference proceedings editor with authors' contact information. (e) Develop one panel session involving well-known scholars in your area, i.e., invite several QOL researchers in your track area to speak on a particular topic (within your track area) you think has "mass appeal." And (f) help distribute the preliminary and final conference programs to all those you think may be interested in attending the conference but are not presenters.

If you are interested in co-chairing any of the aforementioned tracks, please communicate with Joe Sirgy (sirgy@vt.edu), Don

Rahtz (dxraht@dogwood.tyler.wm.edu), or Josh Samli (jsamli@unf.edu) as soon as possible. The Conference Program Co-Chairs would like to finalize the planning of the conference tracks and have everyone signed up as soon as possible. A call for abstracts and a completed conference website then will be published. Please volunteer to help ensure a great 2001 ISQOLS conference.

### THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR QUALITY-OF-LIFE STUDIES

The International Society for Quality-of-Life Studies (ISQOLS) was formed in the mid-1990s. The objectives of ISQOLS are: 1) to stimulate interdisciplinary research in quality-of-life (QOL) studies within the managerial (policy), behavioral, social, medical, and environmental sciences; 2) to provide an organization which all academic, business, nonprofit, and government researchers who are interested in QOL studies can coordinate their efforts to advance the knowledge base and to create positive social change; and 3) to encourage closer cooperation among scholars engaged in QOL research to develop better theory, methods, measures, and intervention programs. The year 2000 membership fees are US\$35 for regular members and \$25 for students or retired persons. Prof. M. JOSEPH SIRGY (Virginia Tech and State University) is Executive Director of ISQOLS. Anyone interested in knowing more about ISQOLS should contact Prof. Sirgy at the central office: International Society for Quality-of-Life Studies, Dept. of Marketing, Pamplin College of Business, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA 24061-0236; tel.: 540-231-5110; fax: 540-231-3076; e-mail: sirgy@vt.edu. The Society's homepage on the Internet also can be accessed at "<http://www.cob.vt.edu/market/isqols/>". The homepage also contains information about the Society's 1998 Conference held December 3-6 in Williamsburg, Virginia and plans for the next conference to be held July 20-23, 2000 in Girona, Spain.



# POSITIVE PSYCHOLOGY AND THE QUALITY OF LIFE—A CONFERENCE REPORT

Prof. Martin Seligman (University of Pennsylvania) has organized a Positive Psychology Network to promote research and understanding of an optimistic, rather than a pessimistic, outlook. Factors making toward such a position are likely to activate a higher quality of life. The Gallup Organization brought together a group of social scientists to shed light on this promising area, September 9-12, 1999. "First Annual Positive Psychology Summit" is summarized in *The Gallup Review*.

Participating in the Summit were the following together with the topics each addressed: Paul H. Baltes (Pennsylvania State University), "Wisdom;" William Damon (Stanford University), "Principled Behavior: Morality, Ethics and Integrity;" Ed Diener (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign), "Subjective Well-Being;" Robert A. Emmons (University of California - Davis), "Goals, Personal Meaning, and Virtue: Three Wellsprings of a Positive Life;" Barbara L. Fredrickson (University of Michigan), "Benefits of Positive Emotions;" Cory Lee M. Keyes (Emory University), "Languishing and Flourishing: Understanding the Poles of the Positive Mental Health Axis;" Harry T. Reis (University of Rochester), "Positive Social Relationships;" Paul Rozin (University of Pennsylvania), "Vocation - Satisfying Work;" Brian Sutton-Smith (Sarasota, FL), "The Benefits of Play."

*The Gallup Review*, Volume 3, No. 1, 2000, is available from the Gallup Organization, Princeton, NJ Tel. +1-609-924-9600.

~Abbott L. Ferriss

## THE JOURNAL OF HAPPINESS STUDIES

### CALL FOR PAPERS

The *Journal of Happiness Studies* is a new international scientific quarterly on subjective appreciation of life. The editors welcome contributions from philosophy, social sciences and the life-sciences. The journal is published by Kluwer Academic. Editors are: Ruut Veenhoven (sociologist, Erasmus University Rotterdam, Netherlands), Ed Diener (psychologist, University of Illinois, USA) and Alex Michalos (philosopher, University of Northern British Columbia Canada). The first issue appeared in June 2000. The full text is available free on the publishers website: <http://www.wkap.nl/journals/johs>. The scope of the journal is described in detail in the editorial statement of that first issue. For more information, contact the editor-in-chief: Prof Ruut Veenhoven, Erasmus University Rotterdam, POB 1738, NL3000DR Netherlands, E-mail: [veenhoven@fsw.eur.nl](mailto:veenhoven@fsw.eur.nl).

### PUBLICATIONS OF THE WORLD BANK GROUP

Those interested in country data will find the extensive variety of publications of the World Bank Group worth examining. The Group has published a publication catalog for the year 2000. The catalog is organized by topic for easy reference. Some of the sections of interest to QOL researchers: agriculture and rural development; development economics; education and training; environment and pollution prevention; gender; governance, civil society and participation; health, nutrition and population; labor and income; social, cultural and poverty issues; water supply and sanitation, and others.

Of particular interest will be *World Development Indicators 2000* which is in print and on CD-ROM. Another volume consists of papers that results from a 1997 workshop: *Social Capital: A Multifaceted Perspective*. The concept is debated and an article by James Coleman is included. There is a new volume addressing the persistent problem of corruption: *Curbing Corruption: Toward a Model for Building National Integrity*. There are many others.

You can contact the World Bank publications by e-mail: [books@worldbank.org](mailto:books@worldbank.org). Or, you can phone them at 800 645-7247. By mail: The World Bank, P. O. Box 7247-7956, Philadelphia, PA 19170 USA

~Abbott L. Ferriss

### WEBSITE FOR THE EUREPORTING - PROJECT

The Eureporting - Project, which is funded by the European Commission for a three-year period, is developing the following World Wide Web site:

<http://www.zuma-mannheim.de/data/social-indicators/eureporting/index.htm>

The subproject on a "European System of Social Indicators" on the related website:

<http://www.zuma-mannheim.de/data/social-indicators/eureporting/eusi.htm>

offers a wide range of weblinks as well as literature (several search possibilities) related to social indicators and social reporting. This information is available for a list of major topics as well as a variety of European countries. In addition, the whole Working Paper Series of the EuReporting - Project is available for download in PDF - format. The website is undergoing continuous improvements. Please visit the website.

For further information or to send comments on the website, contact Dr. Heinz-Herbert Noll, Abteilungsleiter Soziale Indikatoren (Director Social Indicators Department), ZUMA, Postfach 122155, D-68072 Mannheim, Germany, Phone: +49-621-1246-241; Fax: +49-621-1246-100; e-mail: [noll@zuma-mannheim.de](mailto:noll@zuma-mannheim.de);

<http://www.zuma-mannheim.de/data/social-indicators/>

# SINET WORLD WIDE WEB HOMEPAGE

*SINET* has a homepage entry on the World Wide Web. It is located on the homepage of the Department of Sociology at Duke University and thus can be accessed by clicking on Department Publications on the address of that page, namely, <http://www.soc.duke.edu/> or by typing in the full address <http://www.soc.duke.edu/dept/sinet/index.html>. The homepage for *SINET* contains a description of the Contents of the Current Issue as well as of Previous Issues. In addition, it has Subscription Information, Editorial Information, Issue-Related Links, and a link to the homepage of ISQOLS, the International Society for Quality-of-Life Studies. The Issue-Related Links button has links to World Wide Web locations of data for the construction, study, and analysis of social and quality-of-life indicators that have been identified in previous issues of *SINET*. When you are surfing the Web, surf on into our homepage.

# SINET

Social Indicators Network News

## Subscription Information

As a service to the world-wide social indicators community, *SINET* is issued quarterly (February, May, August, November). Subscribers and network participants are invited to report news of their social indicator activity, research, policy development, etc., to the Editor for publication. Deadlines are the 20th of the month prior to each issue.

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# SINET

Social Indicators Network News

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