Human Population Growth Rates: Mexico

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According to a demographic graph found at indexmundi.com the population rates in Mexico have been on a steady decline over the past 12 years (indexmundi.com, 2012). In looking into this further, a report from economist.com states that population rates in Mexico have actually been steadily declining for almost 40 years. This drastic change in population rates is primarily due to a reversal in national policies that had been focused on building the population, and an increase in the use of contraceptives (economist.com, 2012). Although the population has steadily been declining there was enough concern about the continued Mexican population explosion that back in 1990 it warranted a comment from the Catholic Pope John Paul, who spoke against further birth control as Mexico continued to take a more aggressive stance in population control. (Haberman, 1990) Because of the decline in births in Mexico, its fertility rate has declined as women are no longer having as many children. According to indexmundi.com the statistics for the Mexican fertility rate has dropped from 2.7 in 2000 to just under 2.3 in 2012. (indexmundi.com, 2012).

Next looking at Mexican migrations, according to the American Immigration Council Mexican migration into the United States has actually decreased dramatically from .53% in 2006 to just .09 in 2010. In addition, more Mexicans that have successfully migrated to the United States are staying instead of returning to Mexico, and of those that do decide to return to Mexico fewer and fewer of those are choosing to return to the United States. (Immigration Policy Center, 2011). While the overall migration numbers of Mexicans to and from Mexico are being reported as drastically down, I also find it interesting that earlier in the year in an article in The Washington Post it was stated that Mexican migration from the United States to Mexico is now actually larger than the reverse (The Washington Post, 2012). So not only are fewer Mexicans that have migrated to the United States leaving, those that do decide to leave are beginning to outnumber Mexicans that want to migrate into the United States.

According to index mundi, Mexico death rates were on a decline from 2000 (approximately 5.05) to 2003 (approximately 4.96 ), and then had a drastic decrease from 2003 to 2004 (down to approximately 4.7). However, since 2004 the death rate in Mexico has been steadily increasing and is back near 4.9. (indexmundi.com, 2012). While these numbers are believable, they paint a picture that may not be completely accurate as 12 years really is not that long of a time period historically speaking. A more accurate death rate would be for a much longer period such as is available on tradingeconomics.com where it shows a death rate of 10+ back in 1967 and then a steady decline down to below 5 and into the 4.x range (Tradingeconomics.com, 2012). Given this information, while tradingeconomics.com does show a small increase in the death rate recently, because of the extremely long time period covered, it does not appear to be as drastic as the indexmundi.com information.

Finally there is the infant mortality rate, which according to indexmundi.com has been steadily on the decline over the past 12 years from almost 27 per 1000 in the year 2000 to under 17 per 1000 estimated for 2012. So while the population of Mexico is affected by lower birth rates, and lower fertility rates, because more of those births are surviving, and the death rate has been dramatically reduced, the population of Mexico should continue to grow.

It will also be interesting to see if the current migration trend will continue to decrease in regards to immigration to the United States, or are we just experiencing a lull in immigration due to the recession that the United States has been experiencing for the past few years. If our economy improves will the immigration rates (legal or illegal) go back up to the levels that they were previously at, only time will tell.

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