**Population – Key Terms**

**Age-dependency ratio**: the ratio of people in the “dependant” ages to those in the “working” ages.

**Birth rate**: the number of live births per 1000 of the population in a year (#birth/1000 people in a year)

**Carrying Capacity** – the number of people that a given environment can support indefinitely.

**Demography**: the study of population and its changes, patterns, and trends.

**Demographer** – a person who studies population data to determine growth patterns and population trends.

Main concerns of demographers are with:

* # of births & deaths in a population
* # of years that people live
* trends seen over time

**Depopulation**: where the total population of a country is declining from one year to another

**Dependency Load**: the proportion of people **under** 15 and over 65 relative to the working population between 15 and 65. (People between 15 and 65 support those who are younger and older through time, taxes, pension contributions, services….etc.)

**Infant Mortality rate**: the number of children in a country who die in the first year of life for each 1000 births. (It is commonly used as a measure of economic and social development.)

**Life expectancy**: the average lifespan, at birth, of a human being.

**Mortality Rate:** the number of deaths (also known as death rate)

**Natural increase rate**: the difference between a country’s birth rate and death rate.

**Net Migration rate**: the difference between the immigration rate and the emigration rate.

**Population Momentum** – Even when the birth rate declines, the population will continue to increase for several decades

**Population Density**: the average number of people per square kilometer in an area.

**Population pyramid**: a graphic representation of 100% of a country’s population; divides population into cohorts of gender and age.

**Population Growth Rate** is the rate at which the number of individuals in a population increases.

**Sustainable carrying capacity** (for everyone to live comfortably – not in U.S./Canadian style—with our available resources)

**Total fertility rate**: the average number of children that each woman will have in her lifetime (Worldwide, the longer a woman stays in school, the lower her total fertility rate will be.)