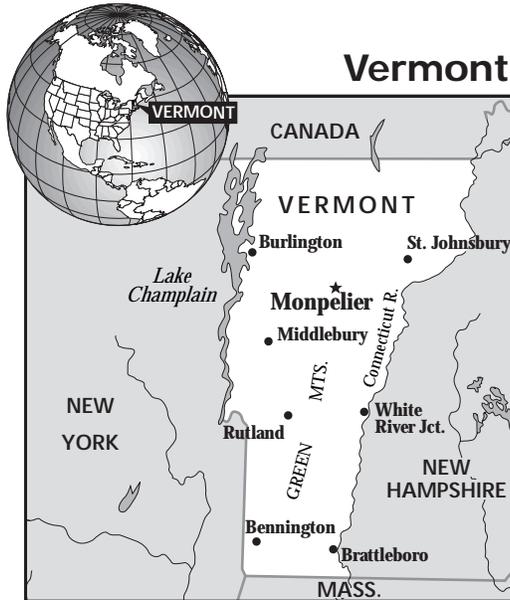


# US in the WORLD

CONNECTING PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES TO ENSURE A HEALTHY PLANET



## Vermont



Comparison at same scale

**Vermont**  
Area: 9,614 sq. miles  
Population: 0.6 million

**Haiti**  
Area: 10,714 sq. miles  
Population: 6.6 million

**Largest metropolitan area by population (1996):**  
Burlington (162,776)

## Haiti



**Largest urban areas by population (1995):** Port-au-Prince (1,425,594), Cap-Haïtien (100,638)

Vermont and Haiti were both born of tumultuous revolutions and rugged individualism, but today each faces realities distinctly different from their common historical legacies.

Vermont formed an independent republic in the late 1700s with its own money, taxation, and army. Haiti won its independence from colonial France after a 12-year revolution, gaining acclaim in 1804 as the world's first slave-free black nation.

But while Vermont enjoyed a stable political history after becoming a U.S. state in 1791, Haiti was challenged by political upheaval, dictatorships, and military coups. Haiti's only peaceful democratic election occurred in 1996 when President Jean-Bertrand Aristide stepped aside to permit René Prével to assume the presidency.

Due to its rugged terrain, limited agricultural soils, and harsh winters,

Vermont remained rural and relatively poor for much of its history. Even today, it has the least amount of heavy industry of any state. The lack of industrialization and the bucolic landscape, once a liability, is now an asset. Today, Vermont enjoys relative prosperity as companies and individuals move there, attracted by its high quality of life.

Haiti was once known as the Pearl of the Antilles for its lush vegetation and wooded marshes. Today, Haiti's environment lies in stark contrast to its past. Widespread soil erosion fills rivers and reservoirs with silt, reducing hydroelectric, transport, and irrigation capacity. Pollution and waterborne diseases increase human disease and mortality. Haiti's inability to meet the needs of its people combines with other factors to cause people to leave its shores in increasing numbers, in search of a better life elsewhere.

A burgeoning population exacerbates these difficulties. With a population growth of 1.4 percent from 1996 to 1997, compared with Vermont's 0.4 percent, Haiti's land and resources are under increasing human pressure. Though geographically about the same size as Vermont, Haiti's population density is 620 people per square mile, nearly ten times as great as Vermont's. Haiti's growing population has helped contribute to widespread deforestation and ensuing soil erosion as steep mountainous land is cleared for agricultural and charcoal production. Today, forests cover less than 1 percent of total land area.

Some 85 percent of Vermont was also cleared to create small hill farms. Widespread soil erosion, combined with the availability of better farmland in the Midwest, eventually led to the abandonment of many of Vermont's

*continued on back page*

# VERMONT

## Demographic and Health Trends

- Vermont's population grew slightly less than 5 percent in the 1990s—below the national rate but more than any other New England state except New Hampshire. One of the country's smallest states, it has grown by 26,000 people since 1990.
- Vermont is one of the few states in the Northeast that has gained rather than lost persons to other states in recent years. However, about two-thirds of Vermont's population growth in the 1990s has been the result of an excess of births over deaths.

- Every one of Vermont's 14 counties has grown since 1990, with the areas along Lake Champlain in the Northwest accelerating above the rest. Rural Grand Isle County grew the fastest; 17 percent since 1990.
- Sprawl development is causing rural population to grow at a faster rate than urban population. For example, Burlington and Rutland, the state's two largest cities, lost population in the 1990s, but population grew in the surrounding rural areas.

## Natural Resources and Wildlife Issues

- Vermont's forests and lakes suffer the effects of acid rainfall and snow, most of which come from airborne pollutants originating outside the state. Though the 1990 amendments to the federal Clean Air Act helped to reduce sulfate emissions from coal-fired electric generation plants, nitrogen oxide emissions increased, negating any measurable reduction in acid rain.
- Since colonial times, Vermont has lost about 35 percent of its wetlands—one of the nation's lower per-

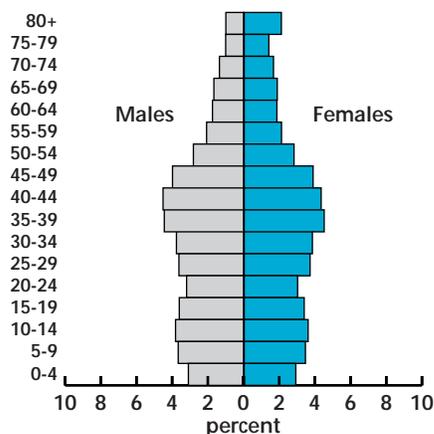
centage losses. Estimates from Vermont's Department of Environmental Conservation indicate that 466 acres of wetlands were destroyed or impaired between 1990 and 1997. These losses have mostly been in the Lake Champlain basin, particularly in fast-growing Chittenden County.

- Among Vermont's seven endangered and threatened species are the bald eagle, the American peregrine falcon, the Puritan tiger beetle, and the Jesup's milk-vetch plant.
- Vermont enjoys one of the nation's lowest poverty rates. From 1994 to 1996, an average of 10.1 percent of Vermonters were poor, compared with 14 percent of all Americans. Median household income in the state averaged about \$35,000 over this period, roughly the same as the national average.

## Socioeconomic Factors

- Vermont's economy has boomed since the 1960s, the result of tourism and high-tech growth. Tourism generated \$2.2 billion in 1995, roughly one-sixth of the state's total gross state product.

## POPULATION BY AGE AND SEX

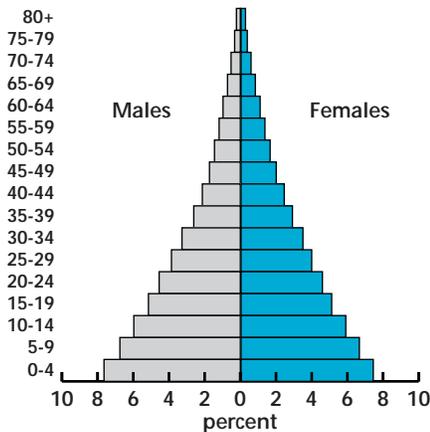


## VERMONT FACTS

- Population, 1997: 0.6 million
- Projected population, 2025: 0.7 million
- Annual growth rate: 0.4%
- Doubling time (at current rate): 175 years
- Average number of children per woman: 1.8
- Infant deaths per 1,000 live births: 6.0
- Life expectancy: 73 (male), 80 (female)
- Persons per square mile: 64
- Percent urban: 32
- Endangered/threatened animals: 5 species
- Endangered/threatened plants: 2 species
- Percent of land protected: 4
- Wetlands loss, 1780-1980: 35%
- Daily water use per capita: 966 gallons
- Water use for domestic purposes: 16%
- Water use for agriculture: 2%
- Water use for industry: 2%
- Water use for energy production: 80%
- Cropland per capita: 1.7 acres
- Energy use per capita: 44.2 barrels of oil equiv.
- Persons per motor vehicle: 1.2
- Adults who are high school graduates: 87%
- Elected officials who are women: 31%
- Labor force in agriculture: 4%
- Labor force in industry: 20%
- Labor force in services: 76%
- Gross State Product, 1994: \$22,874 per capita

# HAITI

## POPULATION BY AGE AND SEX



## HAITI FACTS

Population, 1997: 6.6 million

Projected population, 2025: 9.8 million

Annual growth rate: 1.4%

Doubling time (at current rate): 50 years

Average number of children per woman: 4.8

Infant deaths per 1,000 live births: 48

Life expectancy: 48 (male), 52 (female)

Persons per square mile: 620

Percent urban: 32

Threatened animals: 24 species

Threatened plants: 28 species

Percent of land protected: 0.3

Wetlands loss, through 1980s: n.a.

Percent with access to safe water: 28

Percent with adequate sanitation: 24

Daily water use per capita: 5 gallons

Water use for domestic purposes: 24%

Water use for agriculture: 68%

Water use for industry: 8%

Cropland per capita: 0.3 acres

Energy use per capita: 0.2 barrels of oil equiv.

Persons per motor vehicle: 122

Percent of girls in secondary school: 21

Percent of boys in secondary school: 22

Women as % of national legislature: 3

Labor force in agriculture: 68%

Labor force in industry: 9%

Labor force in services: 23%

GDP per capita, 1995: US\$284

## Demographic and Health Trends

■ In Haiti, women on average have 4.8 children. Though an important decline from 5.4 children two decades earlier, this is a much higher number than women in other Caribbean countries, where the average is 2.7 children.

■ This high fertility has produced a population with very large proportions in the youngest ages. Forty-three percent of Haitians are under age 15.

■ As these large numbers of youth move into their childbearing years,

Haiti's population will continue to grow well into the 21st century.

■ Haitian women are much more likely to die from causes related to pregnancy and childbirth than are other mothers in the region. For every 100 births, one Haitian mother dies.

■ Haiti's children are more than twice as likely to be underweight than children from the rest of the Caribbean and Latin America.

## Natural Resources and Wildlife Issues

■ From 1950 to 1990, Haiti's forest cover fell from 26 percent of the country to less than 1 percent. Trees and shrubs cut for use as traditional fuel such as firewood and charcoal account for 86 percent of total fuel consumption in Haiti.

■ Deforestation exacerbates soil erosion as farmers cultivate overused small plots on steep mountainsides in order to feed their families.

■ Haiti suffers from inadequate sewage treatment, which results in widespread waterborne diseases. This situation is particularly menacing to the population living in rural areas because they have less access than urban dwellers to safe water or adequate sanitation.

## Socioeconomic Factors

■ Less than one-half of primary school children reach the fifth grade, compared with 73 percent for the rest of the Caribbean and Latin America. The number of people enrolled in secondary school is less than one-quarter of those in the secondary school ages.

■ The literacy rate is less than 50 percent (48 percent for men and 42 percent for women). This rate is 36 percentage points below the average for the Caribbean and Latin America.

■ Most of Haiti's population works in subsistence farming and agriculture. The main crops are coffee, sugar cane, and cocoa.

■ Haiti has one of the lowest gross national products in the world, with 37 percent being comprised of financial assistance in the form of loans or grants.

*continued from page 1*

farms. Today, forests have replaced much of Vermont's previously cleared land, and now cover about 80 percent of the land area. While Vermont's population growth pressures are much smaller than Haiti's, a high growth rate between the 1960s and 1980s helped fragment forestland and the remaining farmland. Currently, sprawl development threatens the state's traditional landscape of compact towns and villages surrounded by open countryside.

Most Vermonters work in service, manufacturing, or tourism industries. Some 66 percent of all Haitians, by contrast, remain small subsistence farmers eking out a marginal living in rural regions. Even with the majority of the population engaged in farming, declining productivity of the land due to unsustainable farming practices, combined with its growing population, has taken Haiti from food self-sufficiency 30 years ago to today, when it now spends \$100 million annually on rice imports alone.

These prevailing conditions have created disparate migration patterns. About one-third of Vermont's population growth in the 1990s was due to in-migration as people relocated to the state. By contrast, one in five Haitians are leaving their homeland for other countries.

## Responding to Challenges

Vermonters pride themselves on their efforts to preserve the environment and their traditional New England landscape. The state's Agency of Natural Resources estimates that 35 percent of potential municipal solid waste was recycled or re-used in 1994. This is nearly double the 1989 rate of 19 percent.

Yet despite progress, considerable challenges remain. Pollutants from agricultural and residential runoff pose significant threats to Lake Champlain's ecosystem, the 120-mile long lake that forms Vermont's western border. In response, Vermont and New York, along with five federal agencies, developed the Lake Champlain Basin Program, devoting more than \$18 million to demonstration projects and public education plans to improve the lake's water quality. Other challenges for Vermont include acid rain and snow that compromise water bodies and forests, clear-cutting of forests in some parts of the state, and sprawl develop-

ment that destroys farmland and fragments forests.

Haiti's environmental problems present greater challenges. By the early 1990s, the U.S. Agency for International Development had distributed 50 million trees in order to stabilize Haiti's

**P**eople in Vermont and Haiti, along with all other living creatures, need clean and healthy air, water, and land, and a stable climate. But as people strive to meet these fundamental needs and improve their lives, they make demands on Earth's resources—and leave footprints. No species demands as much and leaves as many footprints as humans do. The number of people on the planet has a direct impact on the environment and how resources are used. But the level of consumption and the ways in which natural resources are used also directly affect the health of the planet—locally, regionally, globally.

No matter where one lives, the activities of *all* humans will ultimately determine the well-being of *all* humans.

soil erosion. Similarly, CARE's Grand-Anse project aims to improve the well-being of 37,000 farm families in Haiti's Northwest and Grand-Anse departments by helping them preserve and protect their lands and increase production. In addition, the U.S. Peace Corps supports the work of 33 volunteers in Haiti. ■

**DEFINITIONS:** **Doubling Time:** The number of years it will take for a population to double, assuming a *constant* rate of natural increase. **Average Number of Children Per Woman:** Known as the Total Fertility Rate (TFR) or the average number of children a woman would have in her lifetime, assuming that birth rates remained constant throughout her childbearing years. **Endangered Species:** Any species in danger of extinction throughout all, or a significant portion of its habitat. **Threatened Species:** Any species likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future throughout all, or a significant portion of its habitat. **Gross Domestic Product (GDP):** The value of all goods and services produced within a nation in a given year. **Gross State Product (GSP):** The value of all goods and services produced within a state. It is the state counterpart of the nation's GDP.

**SOURCES:** Major sources are International Labour Organization; National Center for Health Statistics; UNICEF; U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis; U.S. Department of Agriculture; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; U.S. Geological Survey; The World Conservation Union (IUCN); and World Resources Institute. For a complete list of sources, contact PRB.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:** In 1998, the Population Reference Bureau (PRB) produced the *US in the World* fact sheet series in collaboration with the Population and Habitat Campaign of the National Audubon Society and the Population Coalition of local Leagues of Women Voters. The *US in the World* project, funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development and the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, is designed to help Americans explore how a shared concern for the environment links us to people of the world.

## FACT SHEETS PRODUCED BY:

**PRB** Population Reference Bureau, 1875 Connecticut Ave., NW, Suite 520, Washington, DC 20009; Phone: 202-483-1100; Fax: 202-328-3937; Web site: <http://www.prb.org>

**National Audubon Society, Population and Habitat Campaign;** Phone: 303-442-2600; Web site: <http://www.earthnet.net/~popnet>

**Population Coalition of local Leagues of Women Voters;** Phone: 909-625-5717; Web site: <http://popca.org>