

ACTIVITY 2B :TEACHER HANDOUT

BACKGROUND INFORMATION FOR TEACHERS

HOW POPULATIONS AGE

“The demographic forces behind population aging are straightforward. As human societies gain the ability to control disease, death is postponed for more and more people.”

“Control of disease began with the discovery that clean water and sewage control can reduce the spread of infectious diseases. Disease control was furthered by the development of national systems of transportation, which reduced the effects of local famine, and of sanitary food-processing and storage methods. Finally, the introduction of antibiotics and immunization processes ended centuries of terror associated with diseases such as smallpox, tuberculosis, typhoid, cholera, polio, hepatitis, plague, and a host of others. In most countries, death rates went down gradually, followed some time later by a fall in the birth rate.”

Atchley, Robert C. *Social Forces and Aging*. 5th Edition. Wadsworth Publishing Company. Belmont, California. 1988, p.23.