

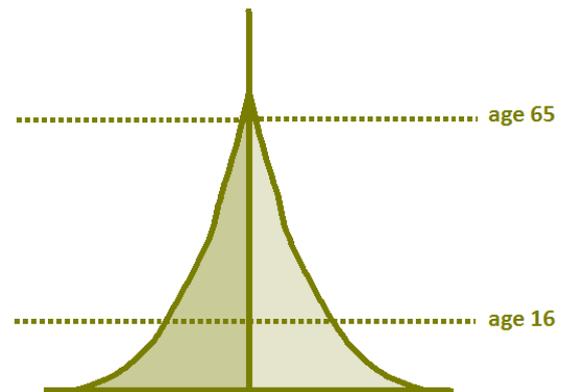
# Youthful Populations

## Definition

A youthful population occurs when the median age of a country decreases, often a result of a increasing birth rate and a stable but high death rate.

## Characteristics

- The population pyramid of a youthful population has a wide base caused by high birth rate.
- There is a rapid decline in population from ages 16 to 65.
- A narrow peak to the pyramid indicates low numbers of people aged over 65.
- Youthful populations often occur in developing countries, where women are more likely to marry earlier and access to contraception may be limited.



## Impacts

-  Large number of younger people may have the potential to create a range of new employment opportunities for themselves, secure a workforce for the future and as they enter the workforce a growing tax base.
-  There is the potential for a growing consumer based economy with more young people entering the market.
-  The population may be more likely to become early adopters of new technological developments which may have a positive benefit on the economy
-  Disproportionately large numbers of young people in any one time can put a strain on the ability of their families and governments to provide public services such as schools and health care.
-  As the young people grow up they can create subsequent 'baby booms' in the future which may present
-  It may be difficult for a nation's economy to provide the numbers of jobs necessary to employ the large numbers of young people as they enter the workforce leading to high levels of unemployment.

## Management

Some policies could reduce the impact of a youthful population:

- Increased awareness of family planning and contraceptive advice.
- Growing social and economic development which lead to families having a smaller number of children.
- Positive steps towards ensuring greater gender equality. This may allow and encourage women to gain higher levels of education and marry later—both of which tend to lead to women having a smaller number of children.

## The Dependency Ratio

This is the ratio of dependant (non-working age) to independent (working age) people in a population.

Dependency Ratio =

$$\frac{\text{Number of dependents}}{\text{Number of independents}} \times 100$$