Exposing the Myth of Overpopulation
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“If we don’t keep abortion legal, the overpopulation problem will get worse, and our planet will become overcrowded.” Of all the social arguments for abortion, this one seems to stick in people’s minds. Why? Perhaps we’ve heard so much about overpopulation, that we assume it must be a real problem that’s getting worse. A common public school poster used to show our planet hanging in space, with people falling off the sides because it was overcrowded. Is overpopulation really a problem, or is it just a myth? The short answer is: it’s just a myth. You’re skeptical? Then allow me to make my case, and set the record straight on overpopulation once and for all.

First, we are not overcrowded. The reality is that every person in the world could be placed in a large city the size of Texas, New Mexico and Arizona, with everyone living on more than 2,100 square feet, and the rest of the world would be left for farming and preserving the world’s endangered species and national parks.

Second, we are far from a food shortage. Not only the U.S. and Canada, but Europe (the most densely populated continent) still has to pay farmers not to produce so much food.¹

Third, the current birthrate in America is less than what is needed to maintain our population level. In 1957 the average American woman in her reproductive years bore 3.7 children. Taking into account all causes of death and the increases in average life span, zero population growth requires that the average woman bear 2.1 children. Since 1972 the average women in America only bears 1.8 children. For three decades we have been below zero population growth. Every day more people die in America than are born. Any increases in population since 1972 have been due to immigration.² The sociological perils we face are not those of population explosion, but population reduction. The Population Research Institute agrees, and concluded, “Our long-term problem is not too many children, but too few children.”³

The legalization of abortion resulted in a drastic reduction of the number of children in this country. By 1980 there were 6.5 million fewer school-age children in America than just a decade earlier. This required the closing of nine-thousand elementary schools.⁴

Legalized abortion has resulted in over 46 million fewer taxpayers in America to support the elderly. “Population loss from abortion on demand is already responsible for past and future economic, employment and tax revenue losses and is eroding the solvency

¹ http://sycophants.info/overpopulation.html
² Randy Alcorn. “Pro-Life Answers to Pro-Choice Questions.” Page 150.
⁴ http://lifeanswer.com
Does that sound familiar? The imminent impact on Social Security was predicted decades ago, and it’s coming true in front of our eyes.

The imbalance of older and younger is shaping into a generation civil war. By 2025 there will be twice as many grandparents as young children. What will we do about this? I suggest that euthanasia will be the next step. If the elderly don’t step aside by euthanizing themselves, society will begin setting them aside. Today’s “Every Child a Wanted Child” will become tomorrow’s “Every Grandparent a Wanted Grandparent.” Former Surgeon General C. Everett Koop publicly stated his fear that mandatory euthanasia would eventually result from the unwillingness of the younger generation to support the elderly.

Here’s the kicker: Even if overpopulation was a problem, it would still be a bad argument for abortion! Since when did it become a morally acceptable policy to solve social problems by killing millions of people? We can’t murder people just because some liberal population control groups assert that our planet is overcrowded, just as we couldn’t kill toddlers because there are too many kids in the house. Planned Parenthood wouldn’t agree with my logic. Margaret Sanger, the founder of Planned Parenthood wrote, "The most merciful thing a large family can do for one of its infant members is to kill it.”

Suppose there is a severe overpopulation problem. Suppose it could be demonstrated that the standard of living is higher in America because 1.3 million children are killed each year. Hitler’s philosophy might have increased the standard of living—for those, that is, who were allowed to live. We must ask ourselves whether we want to live in a society where the standard of living was bought with the blood of the innocent.

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5 Roy Clinebelle, *Abortions: Alarming Socioeconomic Losses* (Stafford, Va.: American Life Lobby, n.d.)