

BIRTH COHORTS

April 27, 2009

Final Exam:
125 Kildee Hall
Monday, 2:15 p.m.

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BASIC DEMOGRAPHIC TERMS

- Demography: the study of human population
- Demographer: sociologist who studies trends in population characteristics
- Three major components
 - Fertility: the incidence of childbearing in a country's population
 - Mortality: the incidence of death in a country's population
 - Migration: the movement of people into and out of a specified territory

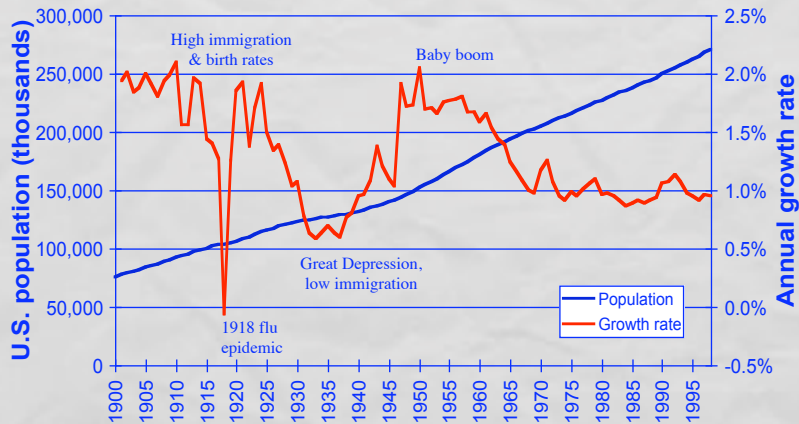
BIRTH COHORTS

- Birth cohort: set of people who were born during the same era and who face similar societal circumstances brought about by their shared position in the overall age structure of the population (p. 406)
- Birth cohorts effect everyday lives in two ways:
 - Cohort effect: phenomenon in which members of a birth cohort tend to experience a particular life event or rite of passage—puberty, marriage, childbearing, graduation, entry into the workforce, death—at roughly the same time (p. 407)
 - Period effect: phenomenon in which a historical event or major social trend contributes to the unique shape and outlook of a birth cohort (p. 407)

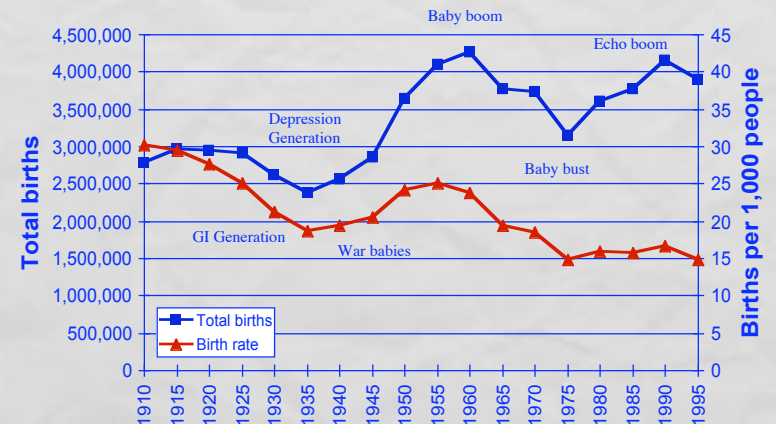


HOMER'S MOTHER AND JOE NAMATH

U.S. POPULATION & GROWTH RATES, 1900-98



TOTAL BIRTHS & BIRTH RATES IN U.S., 1910-95



SOME GENERATIONAL LABELS

- GI Generation (“Greatest Generation”): 1910-1924
- Silent Generation: 1925-1945
- Baby Boomers: 1946-1964
 - Generation Jones (1954-1964)
- Baby Busters (Gen X): 1965-1981
- Echo Boomers (Millennials, Gen Y): 1982-1994
- Generation Z (1995-)