
Answers

- 1. True.** Although the world's population is aging, children still outnumber older people as of 2008. Projections indicate, however, that in fewer than 10 years, older people will outnumber children for the first time in history.
- 2. d.** The estimated change in the total size of the world's older population between July 2007 and July 2008 was more than 10.4 million people, an average of 870,000 each month.
- 3. c.** The Caribbean, with 7.8 percent of all people aged 65 and over in 2008. Corresponding figures for other regions are Latin America, 6.4 percent; Asia (excluding Japan), 6.2 percent; and Africa, 3.3 percent.
- 4. a.** China also has the largest older population, numbering 106 million in 2008.
- 5. False.** Although industrialized nations have higher percentages of older people than do most developing countries, 62 percent of all people aged 65 and over now live in the developing countries of Africa, Asia, Latin America, the Caribbean, and Oceania.
- 6. b.** Japan, with 22 percent of its population aged 65 or over, has recently supplanted Italy as the world's oldest major country.
- 7. False.** Although the United States will age rapidly when the Baby Boomers (people born between 1946 and 1964) begin to reach age 65 after the year 2010, the percentage of the population aged 65 and over in the year 2050 is projected to be 20 percent (compared with 12 percent today).
- 8. True.** The oldest old are the fastest-growing component of many national populations. The world's growth rate for the 80-and-over population from 2007 to 2008 was 4.3 percent, while that of the world's older (65 and over) population as a whole was 2.1 percent (compared with 1.2 percent for the total [all ages] population).
- 9. c.** 82 years, up from about 52 in 1947.
- 10. True.** In some African countries (e.g., Malawi, South Africa, Zambia, and Zimbabwe) where the HIV/AIDS epidemic is particularly devastating, average life expectancy at birth is less than 45 years.
- 11. b.** Circulatory diseases (especially heart disease and stroke) typically are the leading cause of death as reported by the World Health Organization. In the United States in 2004, heart disease was the leading cause of death in the 65-and-over age group, accounting for 30 percent of all deaths. This percentage, however, has declined in recent decades (it was 44 percent in the United States in 1980).
- 12. False.** Rural-to-urban migration tends to lower the percentage of younger adults in rural areas and correspondingly raise the percentage of older residents.
- 13. d.** All of the above.
- 14. False.** Sex ratios at older ages are 90 or above in about 20 percent of the world's countries/areas. Sex ratios at older ages are 80 or below in a majority of countries/areas and 50 or below in parts of the former Soviet Union.
- 15. c.** From the late 1960s until the 1990s, labor force participation rates of older men in most developed countries were declining, whereas those for women were often increasing. More recently, activity rates for men also have begun to increase.
- 16. b.** As of 2004, 167 countries/areas of the world (74 percent) reported having some form of an old age/disability/survivors program. In many cases, program coverage is limited to certain occupational subgroups.
- 17. True.** International migration does not play a major role in the aging process of most countries, but it can be important in small populations that have experienced a combination of emigration of working-aged adults, immigration of older retirees from other countries, and/or return migration of former emigrants.
- 18. a.** The Philippines. The percentage of older people living alone in developing countries is usually much lower than that in developed countries; levels in the latter may exceed 40 percent.
- 19. False.** Older women are less likely to be literate. For example, data from China's 2000 census revealed that 26 percent of older women could read and write, compared with 66 percent of older men.
- 20. False.** Total population size in at least 11 countries is projected to decline from today's levels by at least 1 million people by 2050; in some countries (e.g., Japan, Russia, and the Ukraine) the decline has already begun. All of these nations are aging, and the combination of population aging and population decline is historically unprecedented.