
PREFACE

This report presents the results of a survey of Americans' views about global demographic trends and issues in the context of U.S. international economic assistance. The survey was conducted in August–September 1998 by Belden Russonello & Stewart, a public-opinion research firm in Washington, D.C., in conjunction with Ronald Hinckley of Research/Strategy/Management, and coordinated by Sally Patterson of Wagner Associates Public Affairs Consulting, Inc., a public-affairs consulting firm based in Washington, D.C., and New York, N.Y. The work was performed jointly for RAND, with funding from the David and Lucile Packard Foundation, and the Centre for Development and Population Activities (CEDPA).

The survey explored public knowledge about world population facts and trends and public views on specific issues, such as U.S. international economic assistance, family planning, and abortion. This report should be of interest to anyone concerned with what the public knows and thinks about population-related issues.

RAND's portion of this research was conducted for the *Population Matters* project within RAND's Labor and Population Program. A principal goal of *Population Matters* is to inform public and elite audiences about findings of demographic research and their implications for policy. We also hope to identify information gaps and misperceptions and determine which of these can effectively be filled by scientific information. A related report explores congressional views on population issues (*How Does Congress Approach Population and Family Planning Issues? Results of Qualitative Interviews with Legislative Directors*, RAND, MR-1048-WFHF/RF/UNFPA).

The *Population Matters* project is funded by grants from the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, the Rockefeller Foundation, and the David and Lucile Packard Foundation. For further information on the *Population Matters* project, contact:

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