


7 Billionth Baby News Coverage

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GENDER
The World Welcomes 'Baby 7 Billion,' but What Does Her Future Hold?
By Emily Rauhalala Oct. 31, 2011

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Camille Galura cuddles her newborn daughter Danica Camacho while her mother receives a cake minutes after she was born in Manila, Philippines on October 31, 2011. (Photo: Dennis M. Sabanga / EPA)

According to U.N. demographers, today, Oct. 31, marks a population milestone: 7 billion. (See TIME's special report: [The World At 7 Billion](#)) Although there is some debate as to where, exactly, the 7 billionth child was born — Plan International, for one, says the title goes to India—U.N. officials bestowed the symbolic honor on Danica Mae Camacho, a girl born early this morning at a government hospital in Manila. She was welcomed to the world by her parents, Camille Dalura and Florante Camacho, a host of officials and the press. She was given a cake marked "7B Philippines" and a gift certificate for free shoes.


Of course, there's no way of knowing if Danica is, in fact, the world's 7 billionth resident; in many ways, it doesn't matter. The purpose of "7 Billion Day" is to call attention to global population growth and tiny Danica is just one, small part of the story. Still, as a symbol, she has much to say. The world's 7 billionth person was born in the Philippines, a fast-growing, Catholic-majority Southeast Asian nation. The country's fertility rate is well above the global average and access to modern contraception is low. Although birth control is legal in most parts of the country, it is oftentimes discouraged and rarely subsidized. The country's affluent minority buys pills or condoms from private clinics, but many women go without. The result: unplanned pregnancies, unsafe, clandestine abortions and relatively poor maternal health.

Sadly, the situation is similar in many parts of the world. Just over half of all women of reproductive age in the developing world live in sub-Saharan Africa, South Central Asia and Southeast Asia, shows research from the Guttmacher Institute. An estimated 70% of women in these regions have an unmet need for contraception and, perhaps unsurprisingly, these regions see a disproportionate share (66%) of unintended pregnancies and almost all (93%) of maternal deaths.

Are Danica and her "7 Billion Day" peers doomed to the same fate? Hardly. In the 1950s, the average woman gave birth to 6 kids. Today, that figure is 2.5. Economic development, the education and empowerment of women, family planning and accessible abortion are known to reduce fertility rates and improve women's health. What's missing in the Philippines and elsewhere is the political will to make reproductive rights a policy priority. Let's hope that changes soon.

The Washington Post
Democracy Dies in Darkness
John W Seager

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World
World's 'seven billionth baby' is born [+ Add to list](#)

By **Elizabeth Flock**
October 31, 2011

The world's [seven billionth](#) baby was born just before midnight Sunday in a government-run hospital in the Philippines.

GALLERY: Click the image above to view photos of the making of seven billion.

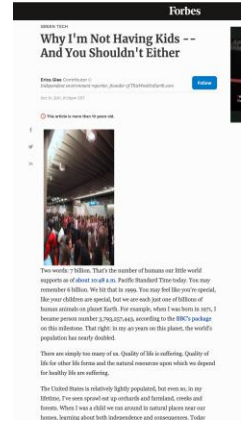
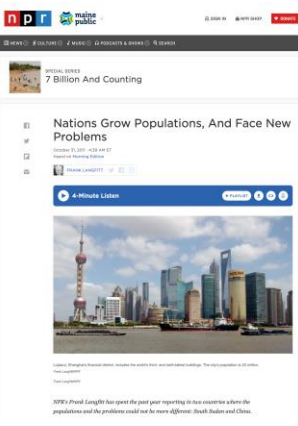
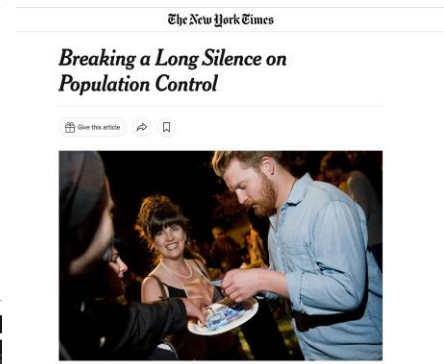
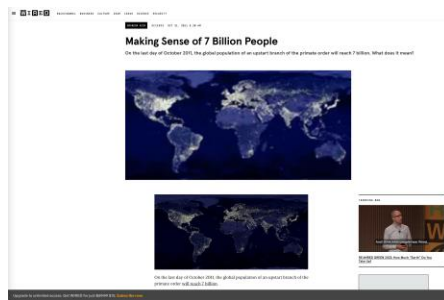
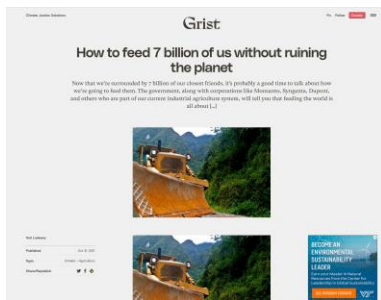
Danica May Camacho, who weighed in at 5.5 pounds, was chosen by the United Nations to symbolically represent the [global population milestone](#).

The [IftiWereMyHome.com](#) country comparison site suggests that having been born in the Philippines, the 12th most populated country, Danica will use more than 95 percent less energy and oil than an American baby, but make 92 percent less money and die more than six years sooner. The site suggests she will have some 85 percent more babies.

Of course, Danica may not *actually* be the world's seventh billion person.

The United Nations, regarded as the "gold standard" of [population projection](#), acknowledges a 1-2 percent margin of error in its calculations, meaning today's population could be 56 million higher or lower than 7 billion.

Other 7 Billion U.S. News Coverage



Major American environmental groups have dodged the subject of population control for decades, wary of getting caught up in the bruising politics of reproductive health.

Yet, virtually alone, the [Center for Biological Diversity](#) is breaking the taboo by directly tying population growth to environmental problems through efforts like giving away condoms in colorful packages depicting endangered animals. The idea is to start a debate about how overpopulation crowds out species and hastens climate change — just when the world is welcoming Baby No. 7 Billion.

"Wrap with care, save the polar bear," reads one of the packages. "Wear a condom now, save the spotted owl," says another.

Kierán Suckling, executive director of the center, a membership-based nonprofit organization in Tucson, said he had an ah ha moment a few years ago. "All the species that we save from extinction will eventually be gobbled up if the human population keeps growing,"

Tips for Getting Your Op-Ed Published

Current	Connect your piece to a current event—in this case, the 8 billion population milestone
Local	Submit locally and mention that you're a subscriber, if true
Compliant	Research specific outlet's submission guidelines
Exclusive	Only send to one outlet at a time if exclusivity required

Tips for Getting Your LTE Published

01

Respond to an article/opinion already published

02

Submit within one week of original piece

03

Check outlet's guidelines for word count

Round-up of virtual events and written communications, including:

-
- Recordings of virtual events
 - September 2022 magazine issue
 - Blog posts from World Population Day in July
 - New blog post to be posted on November 15
 - Op-ed published in *The Hill* for World Population Day
 - Press release for World Population Day
 - Press release for November 15
 - Podcast episodes featuring Hannah Evans
 - #MyPopulationNumber activity

popconnect.org/virtual-events/8-billion-milestone/