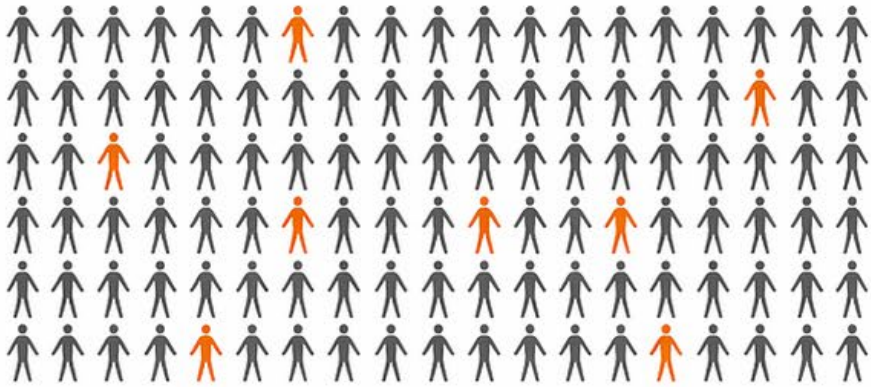


FOCUS ON POPULATION

The Good Crisis

How Population Stabilization
Can Foster a Healthy U.S. Economy



John Seager and Lee S. Polansky, Editors



Stabilizing population strengthens
communities, the economy,
and our future.

VS.

A WORLD OF CRISES

debt crisis
aging population
resource depletion
mental health crisis
gun violence
education crisis
technological disruption
Authoritarianism
labor shortages
trade tensions
corruption
disinformation

poverty
climate crisis
economic inequality
public health crisis
food insecurity
energy crisis
water scarcity
housing affordability
political polarization
biodiversity loss

nuclear threat
social unrest
fossil fuel dependence
resource depletion
racial injustice
democratic backsliding
ocean acidification
deforestation
migration crisis
extreme weather
youth disengagement
and more...

cybersecurity threats
technological disruption



Amid many crises, one approach creates lasting impact.
**Population stabilization is the foundation
for a better, safer, less-crowded world for all.**

1970: A YEAR OF CHANGE

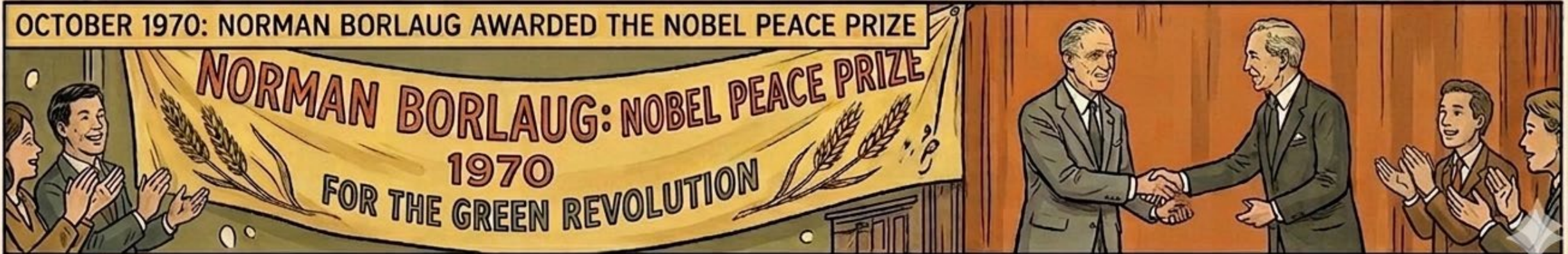
FEBRUARY 1970: PAUL EHRLICH ON THE JOHNNY CARSON SHOW



APRIL 1970: THE FIRST EARTH DAY



OCTOBER 1970: NORMAN BORLAUG AWARDED THE NOBEL PEACE PRIZE



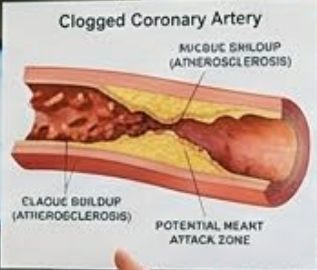
WSJ | OPINION

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FREE EXPRESSION

Paul Ehrlich's 'Population Bomb' Was Worse Than a Dud



THE SILENT CATASTROPHE:

A COMPARISON OF POVERTY-RELATED DEATHS (1968–PRESENT)
VS. HISTORY'S GREATEST CRISES

POVERTY-RELATED DEATHS (1968–2026):
~1.04 BILLION

Calculation: Averaging ~18 million deaths per year over 58 years.

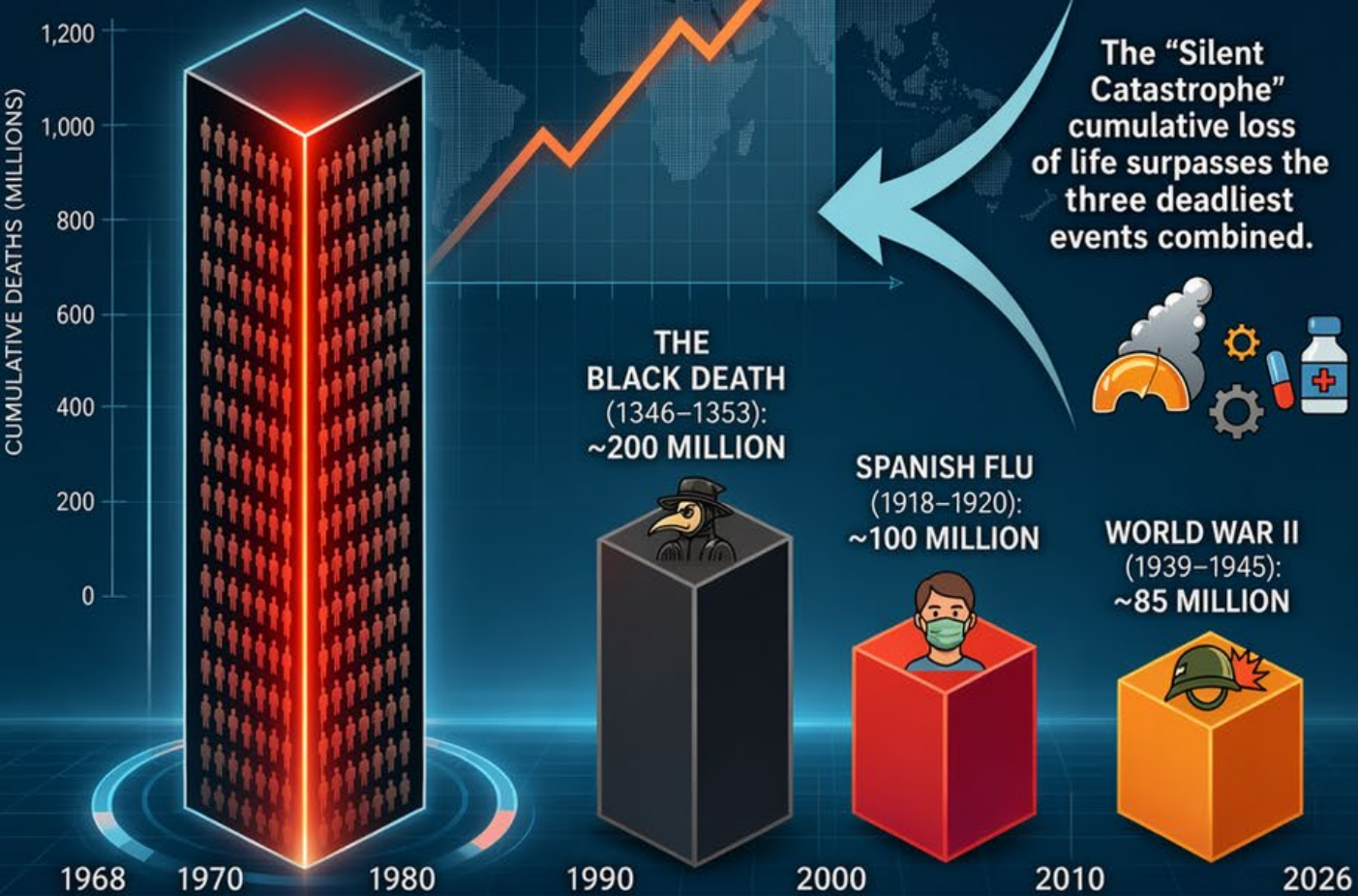
COMBINED TOP 3 HISTORICAL CATASTROPHES:
~385 MILLION
(High Estimates)

The "Silent Catastrophe" cumulative loss of life surpasses the three deadliest events combined.

THE BLACK DEATH
(1346–1353):
~200 MILLION

SPANISH FLU
(1918–1920):
~100 MILLION

WORLD WAR II
(1939–1945):
~85 MILLION



ANNUAL BREAKDOWN OF POVERTY-RELATED CAUSES



According to WHO data, roughly 1/3 of all human deaths are linked to poverty-related causes. Each year, approximately **18 million people** die from:

COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

Respiratory infections, HIV/AIDS, and Malaria.



WASH FACTORS

Lack of safe water, sanitation, and hygiene results in ~1.4 million preventable deaths annually, largely from diarrheal diseases.

MALNUTRITION

A contributing factor in nearly half of all deaths in children under five.



MATERNAL/CONDITIONS

Lack of basic healthcare access during childbirth.

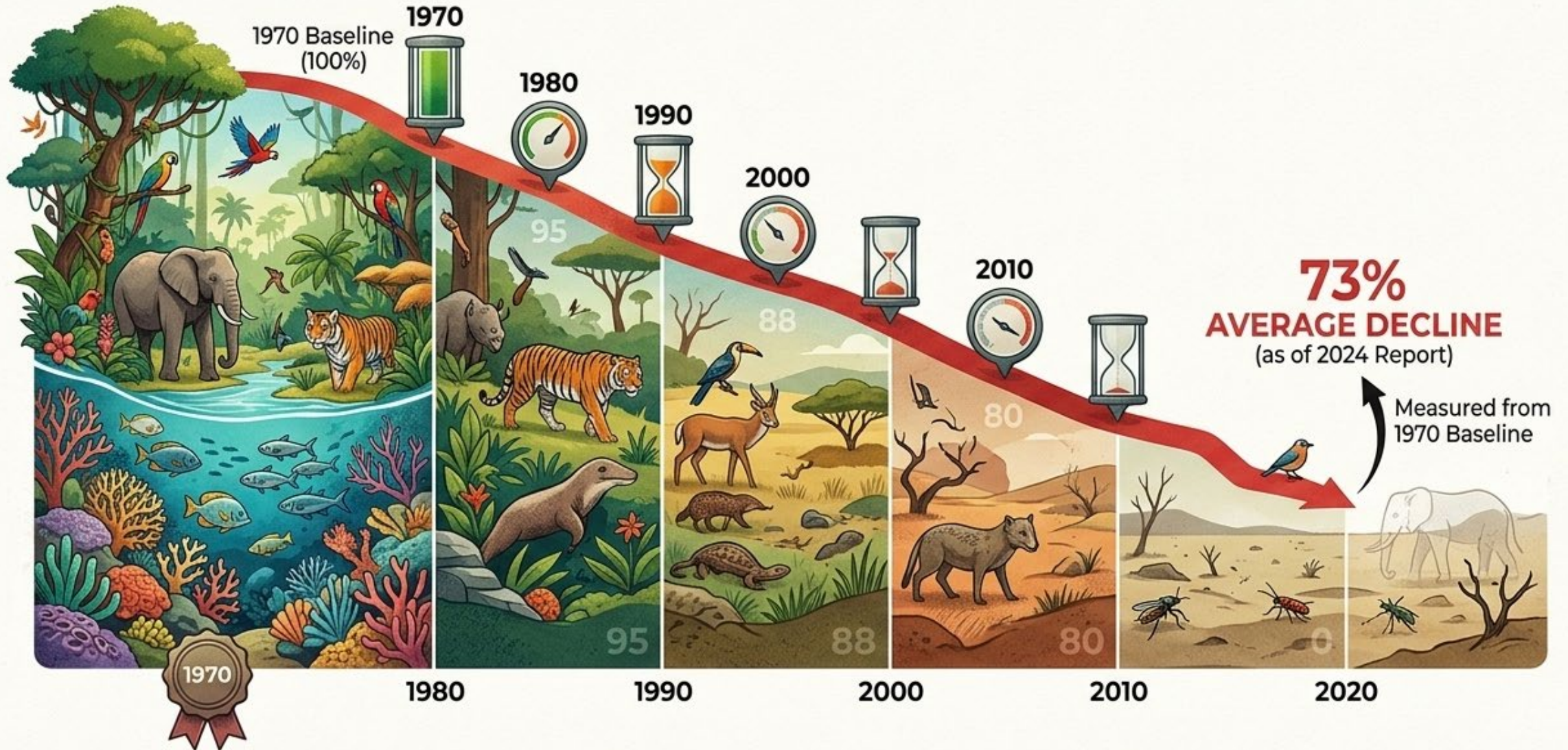
THE DEMOGRAPHIC IMPACT



- CHILDREN ARE THE PRIMARY VICTIMS:** Roughly 5 million children under the age of five die every year from preventable causes.
- THE "STRUCTURAL" NATURE:** Unlike a plague or war, these deaths are "silent" because they occur continuously and are often treated as "natural" byproduct of underdevelopment rather than active catastrophes.

1970 GLOBAL LIVING PLANET INDEX: A Living Earth (100% Baseline)

GRAPHIC ILLUSTRATION: THE GLOBAL LIVING PLANET INDEX (1970–2020)



AN ILLUSTRATED NARRATIVE OF BIODIVERSITY LOSS ACROSS THE DECADES.



**POPULATION CRISIS!
WE'RE RUNNING OUT OF PEOPLE!**



**SHOCKING SHORTAGE OF HUMANS!
EXPERTS WARN: "WE'RE RUNNING LOW ON PEOPLE!"**



**Smaller Families,
Bigger Consequences**

**The Baby Bust
Is Hurting America**

**Fewer Children Today,
Fewer Opportunities Tomorrow**

**A Shrinking
Next Generation**

**Long-Term Damage
to the Economy**

**Marriage in Decline.
Our Future at Risk.**

**Jeopardizing Our Future
Prosperity**

**A Nation That Doesn't
Reproduce Can't Thrive**

**Population Decline
Means Economic Decline**

MARRIAGE BOOT CAMPS

**The Next
Generation Gap**

**Slower Economic
Growth Ahead**

**Risk to
National Security**

**Aging Population,
Rising Burdens**

**Higher Taxes
on Fewer Workers**

**The Pension System
Won't Hold**

**Strain on Healthcare
and Social Services**

STRONGER MARRIAGES. STRONGER FUTURE.

**Fewer Workers.
Fewer Innovators.
Weaker Economy.**

**Marriage Today.
Stronger Families Tomorrow.**

**Undermining
Our National Strength**

**Kids Need Moms and Dads.
So Does the Economy.**

**An Unbalanced and
Unsustainable Future**

**Disproportionate Burden
on the Next Generation**

**Communities
Will Shrink**

**The Demographic
Time Bomb**

**Declining Consumer
Markets**

**Diminished Global
Competitiveness**

**Fewer Children
Means Fewer Taxpayers**

**Fewer People
to Build the Future**

THE CHOICES WE MAKE TODAY WILL SHAPE AMERICA TOMORROW. | INVEST IN MARRIAGE. | INVEST IN THE FUTURE.

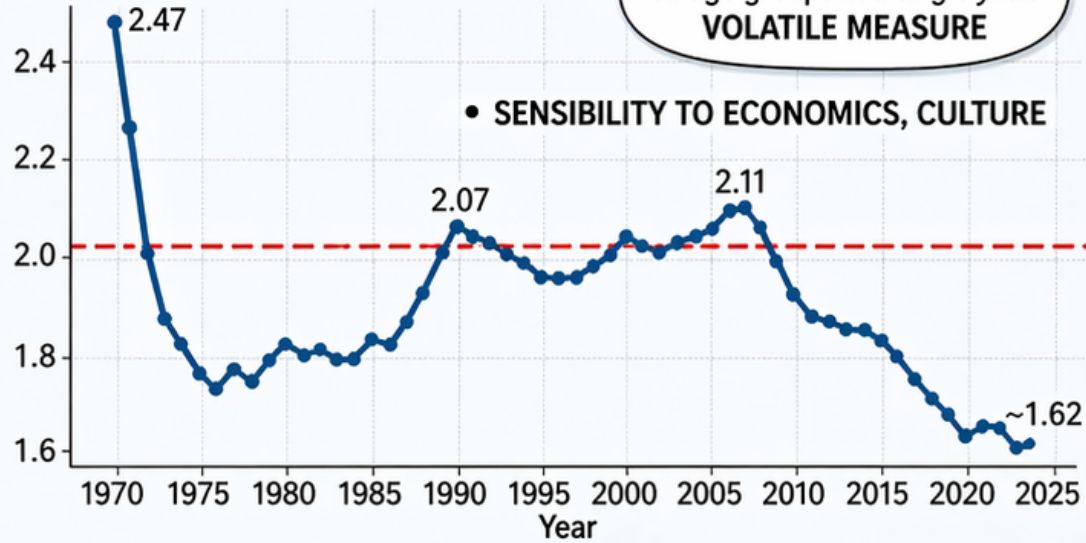
A related idea would combine several of these elements into a marriage “bootcamp” for cohabiting couples with children. Recruitment could be done through local nonprofits that work with families as well as radio, transit, and social media advertisements. The federal government has earmarked grant funds for marriage education programs in the past, including \$35 million for one initiative called Helping Every Area of Relationships Thrive (HEART).^[461]

A local church could use this type of grant to run a program that covers important topics like communication, money management, blended families, fidelity, and conflict resolution. Successful completion of the program would mean that couples are ready to walk down the aisle at a communal wedding by the end of the bootcamp. The bride and groom would also be matched with a mentor couple to help them to navigate the highs and lows of early married life.

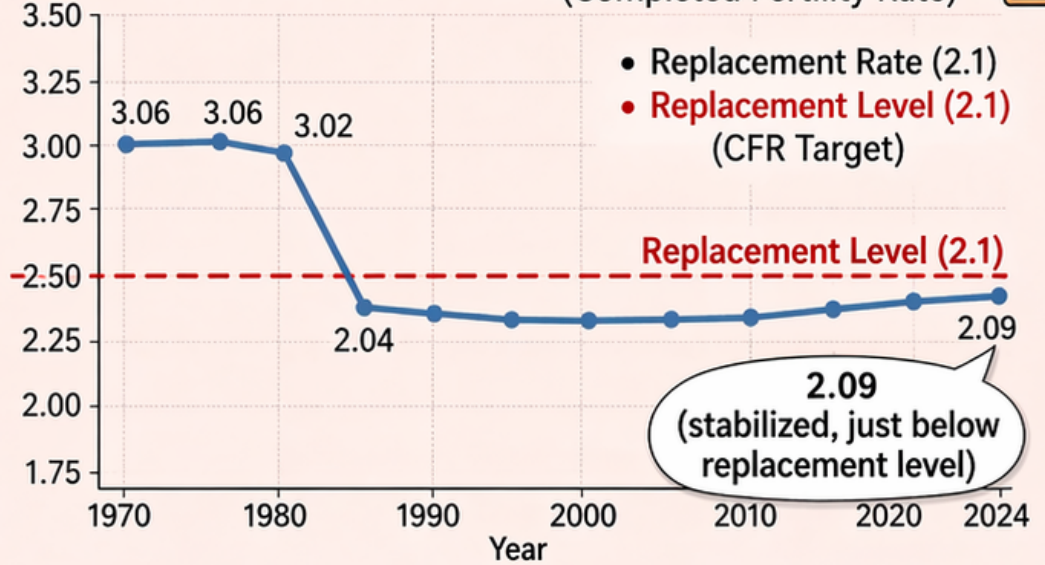
THE US FERTILITY PARADOX: POSTONEMENT OR DECLINE?



1. PERIOD-BASED TFR (Total Fertility Rate)



2. COHORT-BASED CFR (Completed Fertility Rate)



Year
1970
1990
2.1

THE "DELAY" HYPOTHESIS VS THE "DECLINE" HYPOTHESIS

THE "DELAY" HYPOTHESIS

SHIFTING GOALPOST

Age 24 → Age 32

- **AVERAGE AGE OF FIRST BIRTH:** Risen from 21 (1970) to 27+ (today)
- **BIOLOGICAL "CATCH-UP":** Women 35-44 having *more* children than previous generations
- **PREDICTION:** TFR will rise as 'postponers' reach childbearing age in their 30s-40s

TFR TO REBOUND

THE "DECLINE" HYPOTHESIS

- **ECONOMICS & CULTURE:** High housing, childcare costs reduce
- **BIOLOGICAL LIMITS:** Delaying too long can lead to involuntary childlessness
- **PREDICTION:** Postponement will limit the number of children *actually* born, leading to lower CFR

CFR TO DECLINE

SMALLER FAMILY

1990 2024 empty space

STABLE CFR (2.09) IS THE PROOF!

TFR (1.62) IS THE ALARM BELL!

THE VERDICT: INCONCLUSIVE

IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO DISTINGUISH AT THIS POINT WHETHER AMERICAN WOMEN ARE ACTUALLY HAVING FEWER CHILDREN OR WHETHER THEY ARE POSTPONING FERTILITY. We cannot know for certain until the young women currently in their 20s reach their mid-40s.

AMERICAN OPINIONS ON GLOBAL OVERPOPULATION: KEY PERCENTAGES (MARCH 2026 YOUNG GOV SURVEY)

CATEGORIES OF AMERICAN VIEWS


ALL AMERICANS



BROAD CONCERN:
The baseline view of all Americans on global population issues.



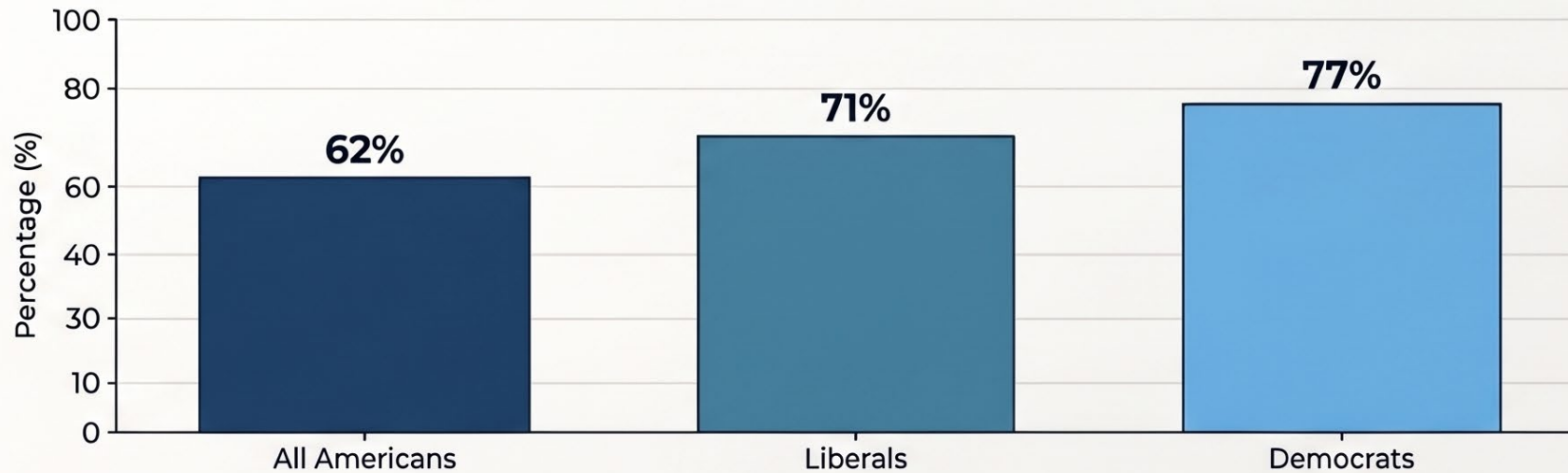
LIBERALS

ECOLOGICAL & SOCIAL JUSTICE:
Focus on environmental impact, resource allocation, and quality of life for all.



DEMOCRATS

POLITICAL POLICY FOCUS:
Specific advocacy for government-led global solutions and reproductive rights.



INFOGRAPHIC SUMMARY: THE DATA IN CONTEXT



62%

of All Americans show significant awareness of overpopulation as a major global challenge.

77%

Among Democrats, concern rises to 77%, indicating strong political support for population-focused policies.



March 2026

Among Democrats, concern rises to 77%, indicating strong political support for population-focused policies.

This data from March 2026 suggests high levels of public awareness.

The Decline of Agriculture in the U.S. Labor Force 1800–2020



Early 1800s

Most Americans worked on farms. Agriculture was the backbone of the economy.

1800s–Late 1800s

Expansion west, mechanization, and the growth of industry and railroads reduced the need for farm labor.

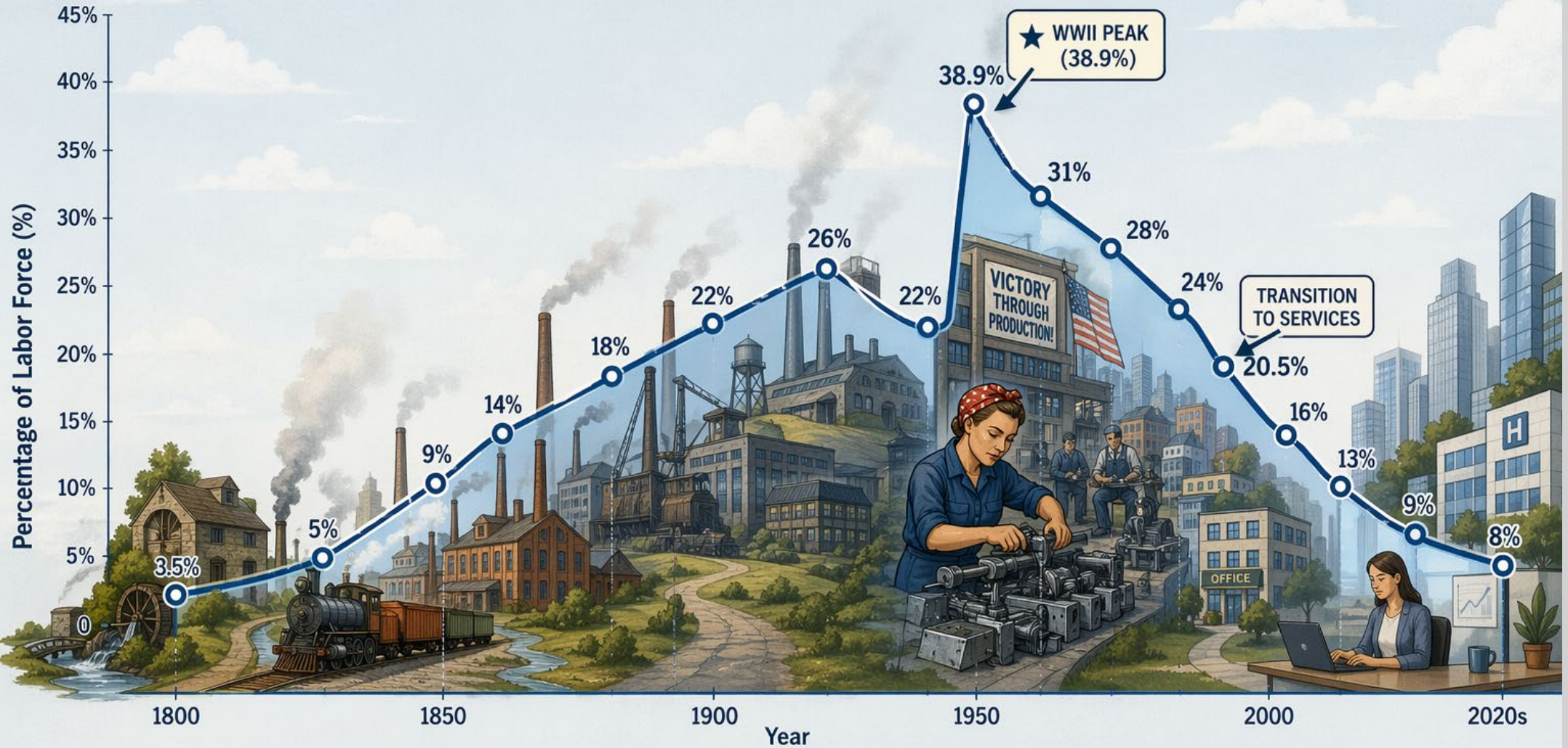
1900s–Mid 1900s

Industrialization, urbanization, and two World Wars pulled millions of workers out of agriculture.

Late 1900s–2020

Technology, larger farms, and a shift to services and knowledge work led to a very small share of agriculture in the labor force.

U.S. Manufacturing Employment as % of Total Labor Force (1800–Present)



1800s
Early industry powered by water and steam

1850s–1900s
Growth of factories, railroads, and heavy industry

Early 1900s
Industrial expansion and urbanization accelerate

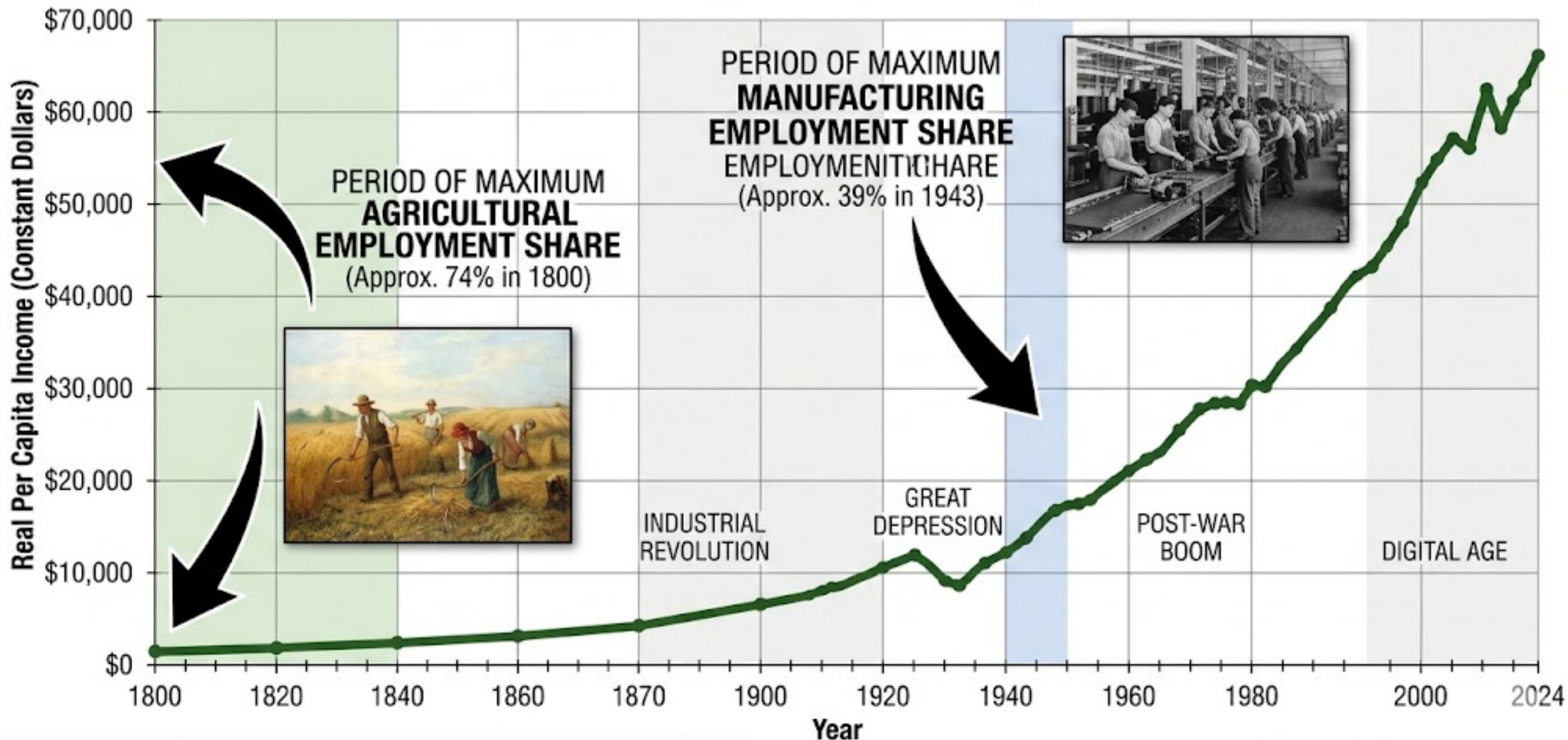
1940s
WWII mobilization leads to a surge in manufacturing jobs

1950s–1970s
Postwar production remains strong, then gradually declines

2000s–2020s
Shift toward services, technology, and a knowledge economy

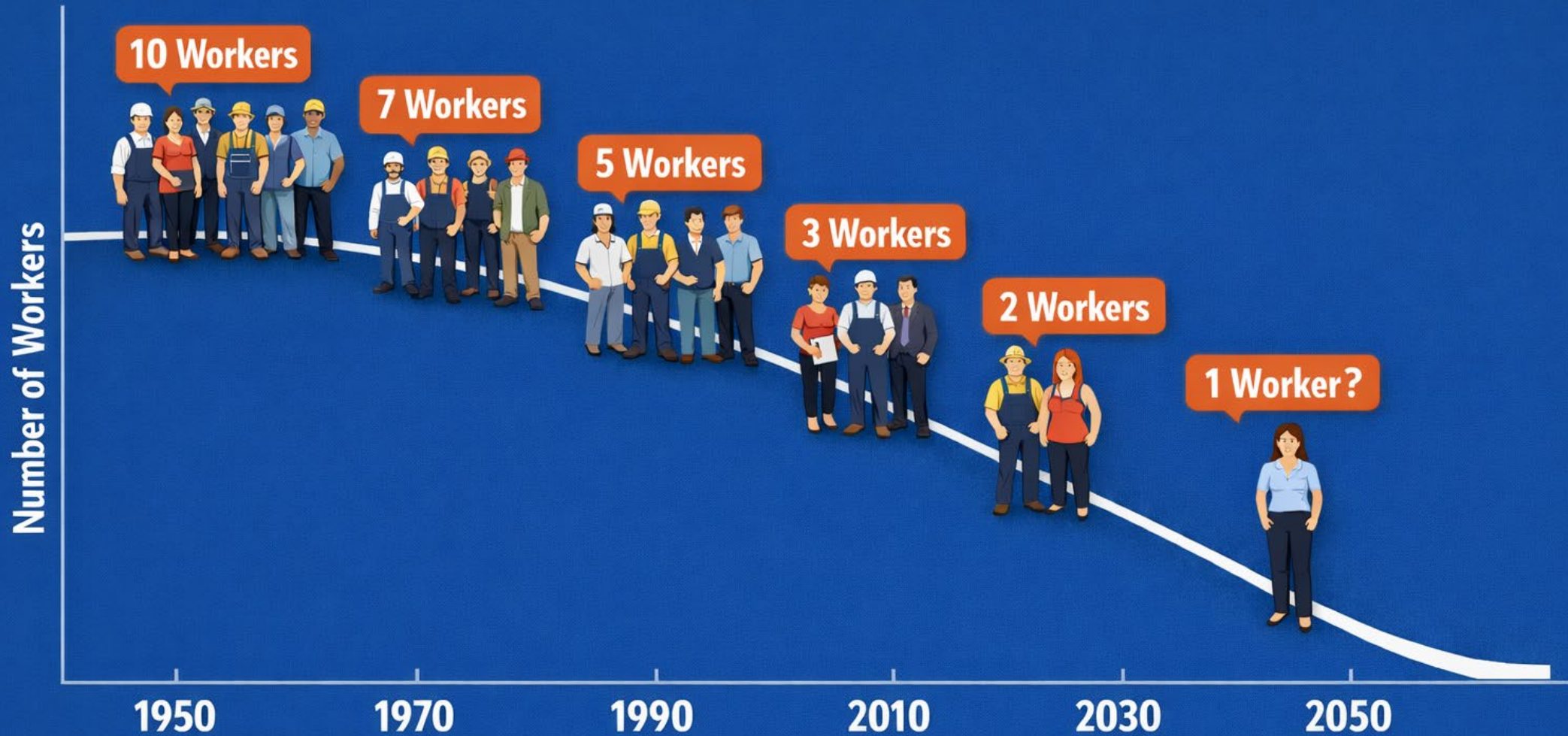
U.S. REAL PER CAPITA INCOME (1800-PRESENT) & SECTOR EMPLOYMENT PEAKS

— U.S. Real Capita Income (2012 Dollars)

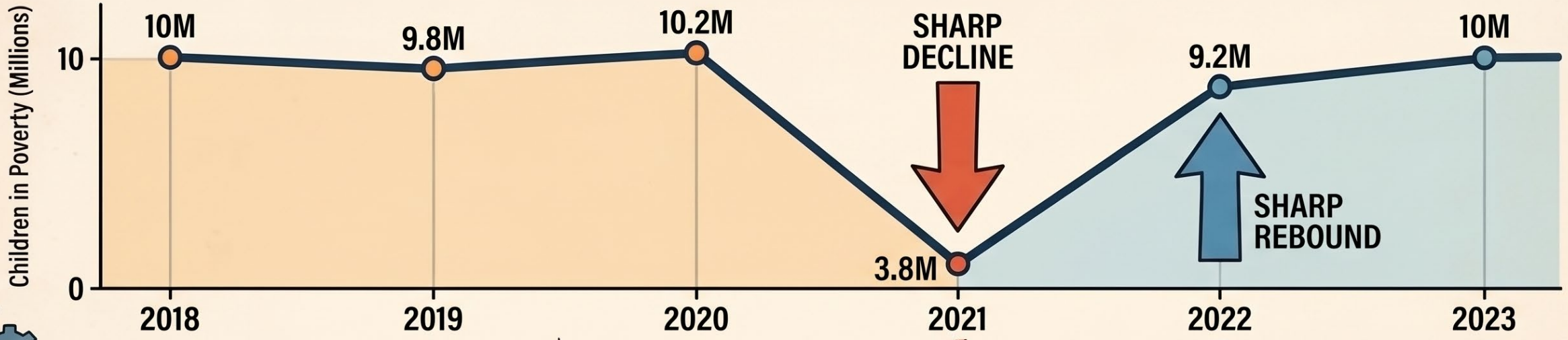


Workers Needed to Produce \$100,000 in GDP

(in Today's Dollars)



AMERICAN CHILD POVERTY TRENDS (2018-2023): THE RISE, FALL, AND REBOUND.



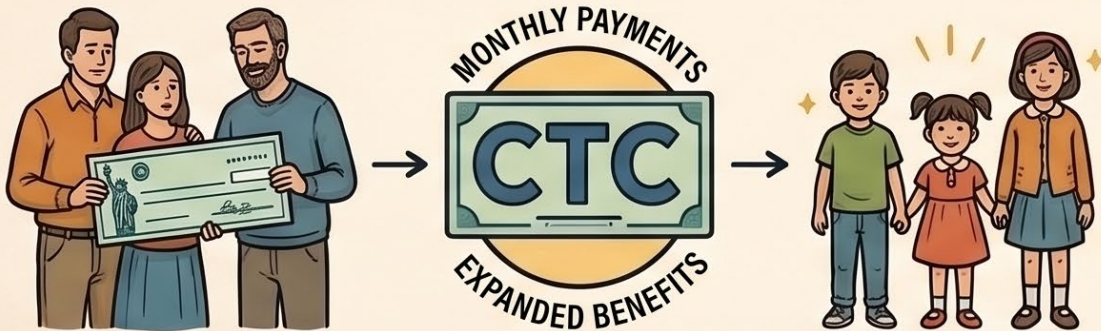
REASON FOR SHARP DECLINE (2021)

POLICY SHIFTS

SOCIOECONOMIC IMPACTS

REASON FOR SHARP REBOUND (2022)

TEMPORARY EXPANSION OF THE CHILD TAX CREDIT (CTC)



Temporary pandemic-era policy: Increased, fully-refundable, monthly payments reached more low-income families.

RECORD LOW: Reduced child poverty to illustrative 3.8 Million.

EXPIRATION OF EXPANDED CTC BENEFITS



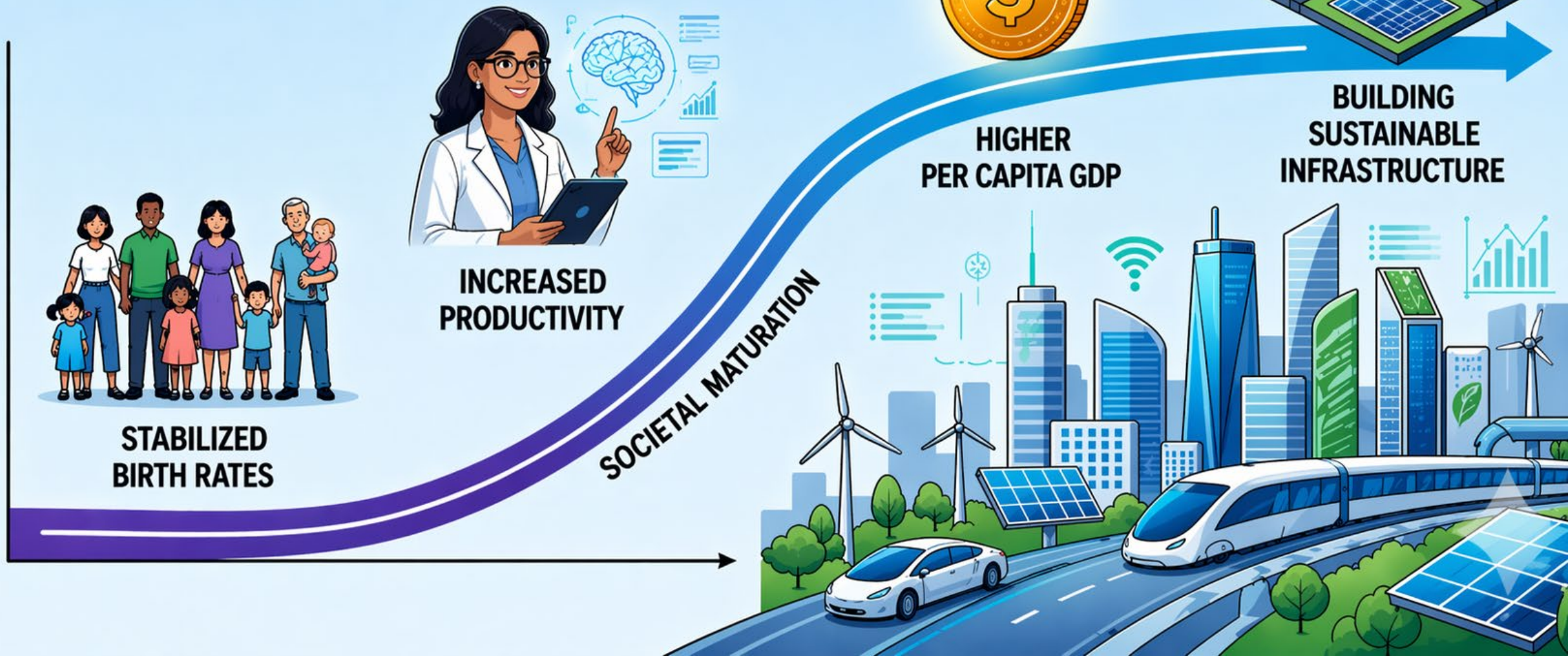
Congress did not renew the temporary policy; monthly payments ceased.

RETURN TO NORMS: Numbers more than doubled, effectively returning to pre-pandemic levels.

THE VOLATILITY OF TARGETED INTERVENTIONS: Illustrating direct correlation between specific government benefits and immediate reduction/rebound in poverty levels.

A STABILIZED SOCIETY: THE PATHWAY

NAVIGATING THE DEMOGRAPHIC & AUTOMATION PARADOX



THE SHIFT TO PER CAPITA WEALTH: CONCEPT



TRADITIONAL: TOTAL GDP GROWTH
Focus: National Output

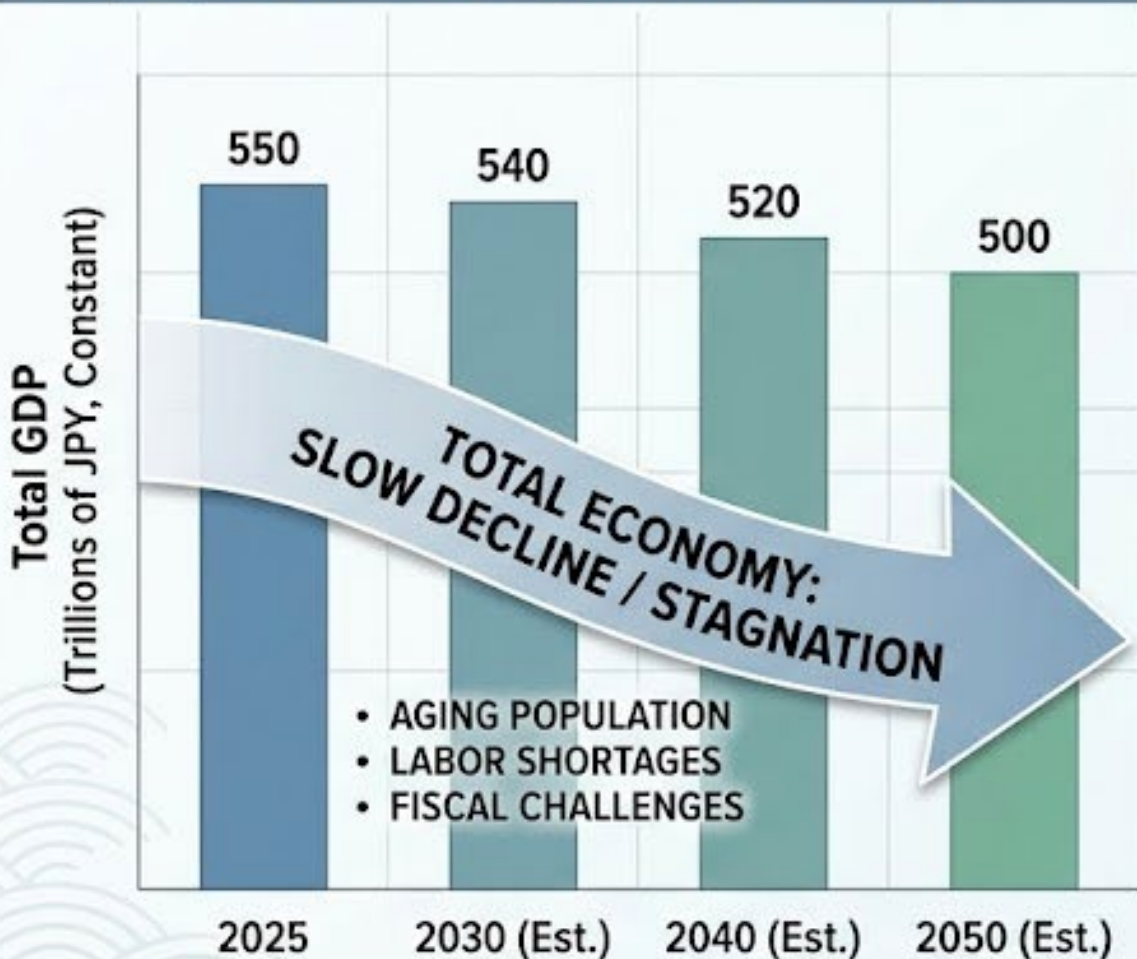


FUTURE: PER CAPITA WEALTH
Focus: Individual Standard of Living

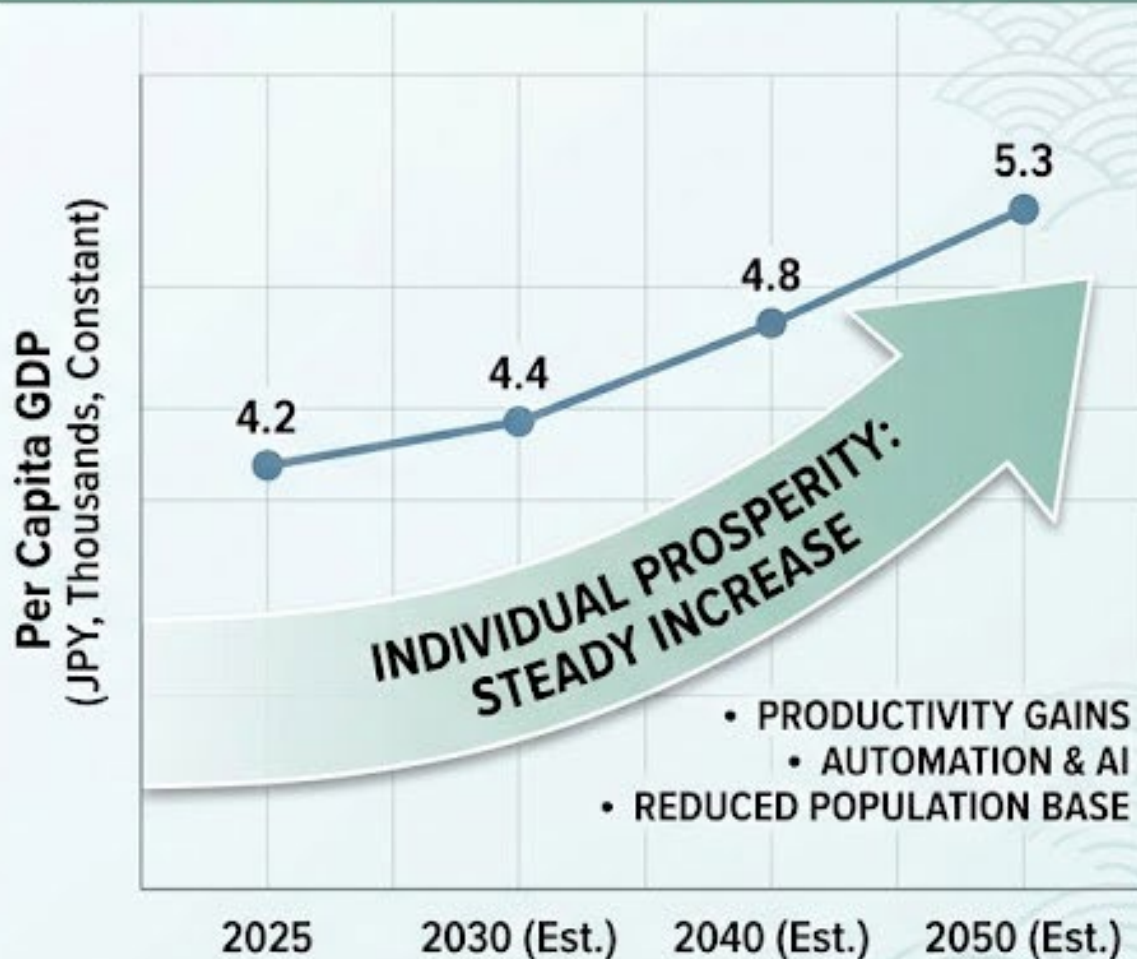
JAPAN: MULTI-DECADE PROJECTIONS (GDP vs. PER CAPITA GDP)



TOTAL GDP (PROJECTIONS)



PER CAPITA GDP (PROJECTIONS)



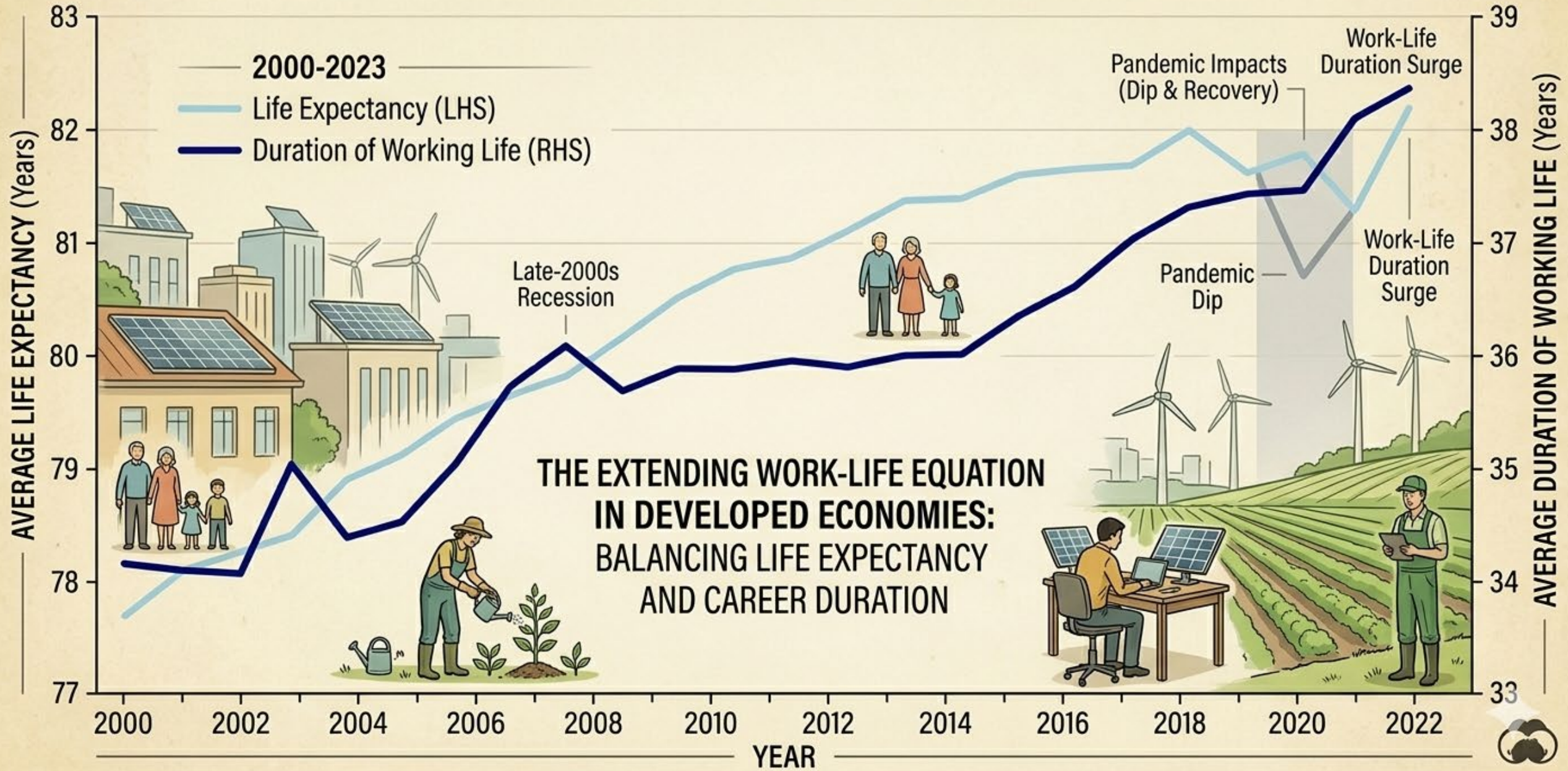
(PROJECTED - INDICATIVE TRENDS)

NOTE: PROJECTIONS ARE INDICATIVE AND SUBJECT TO REVISION. MULTIPLE SCENARIOS EXIST.

DATA SOURCES: CONCEPTUAL BASED ON COMMON ECONOMIC MODELS

*Real growth may vary from nominal.

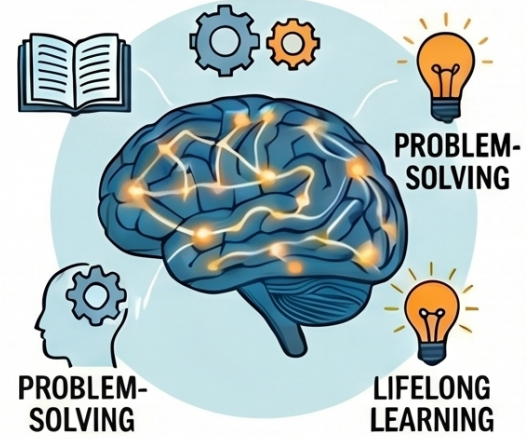
TRENDS IN DEVELOPED ECONOMIES



WORKING LONGER IN AN INFORMATION ECONOMY: A STRATEGIC & HEALTH-CENTRIC APPROACH

— Healthy Brain and Connection —

COGNITIVE PRESERVATION



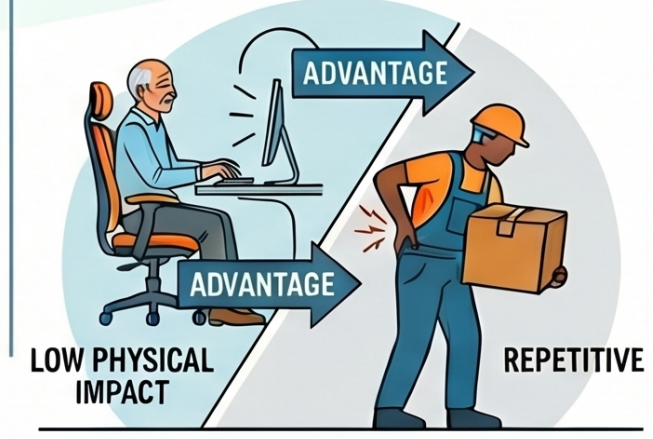
SOCIAL CONNECTIVITY



PURPOSE AND STRUCTURE



BRAIN HEALTH VS. PHYSICAL STRAIN



"While it is right to focus on the economic implications of a transition of this importance, economists should not lose sight of the fact that increasing life expects fundamentally positive development."

— GOLDMAN SACHS GLOBAL ECONOMICS ANALYST | THE PATH TO 2075



FISCAL STABILITY:
Career Longevity & High Human Capital



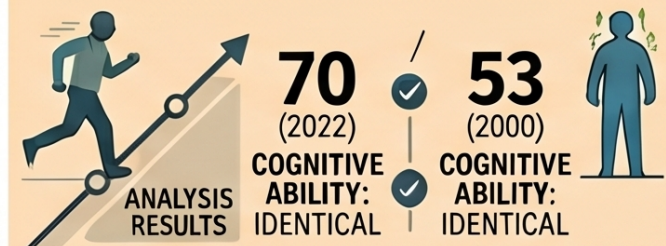
ECONOMIC RESILIENCE:
Adapting Workforce & Consumption

FUTURE-PROOFING



FUTURE-PROOFING INFRASTRUCTURE

GLOBAL AGING TRANSITIONAL JOURNEY:



70 IS THE NEW 53

INTERDEPENDENCY & CAREGIVING: Multigenerational Support



CARBON CONSUMPTION IMPACT: WORK FROM HOME

(US REMOTE WORKER, ILLUSTRATIVE 2026 DATA)

COMPARING NET IMPACT: COMMUTE SAVINGS VS. RESIDENTIAL ADDITIONS (Illustrative)

1. THE CLEAR WIN: REDUCED COMMUTE EMISSIONS



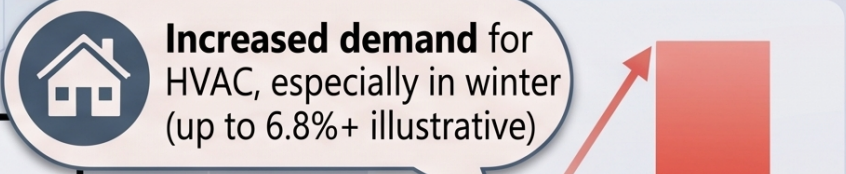
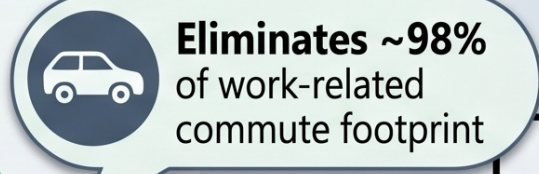
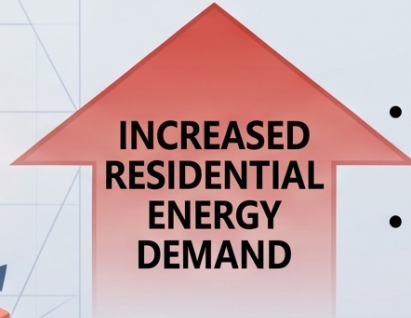
- Removes 20-40+ mile daily round-trip
- Avoids carbon-intensive single-occupancy travel
- Fully remote can reduce individual work-related footprint by up to 54% (Illustrative)



2. THE TRADE-OFF: ADDED RESIDENTIAL EMISSIONS



- Displaced emissions from central office to decentralized home
- Higher heating/cooling needs when occupied all day
- Additional energy for digital tools & data centers (Illustrative)



OVERALL NET IMPACT:
WFH IS A VALUABLE TOOL FOR CLIMATE MITIGATION, DELIVERING A **MEASURABLE CARBON REDUCTION** (e.g., ~14-15% net gain, illustrative)
EFFECTIVENESS DEPENDS ON HOME EFFICIENCY AND DAYS WORKED REMOTE.

SHIFT IN GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS IN HIGHLY DEVELOPED NATIONS: AGING POPULATIONS & INCREASING SHARE

PAST

(e.g., Early 2000s)

PAST PER CAPITA EMISSIONS:
Working-Age > Seniors
(Illustrative)



WORKING-AGE
(25-64)

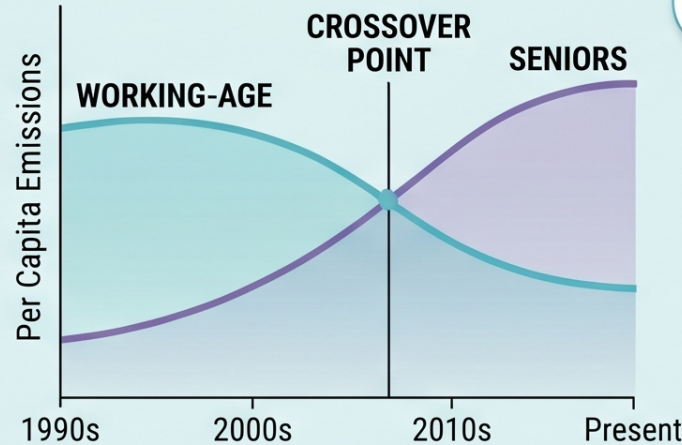
SENIORS
(65+)

PAST

(e.g., Early 2000s)

AGE-EMISSION CROSSOVER

Increased residential demand, "over-housing," and service-based consumption contribute.



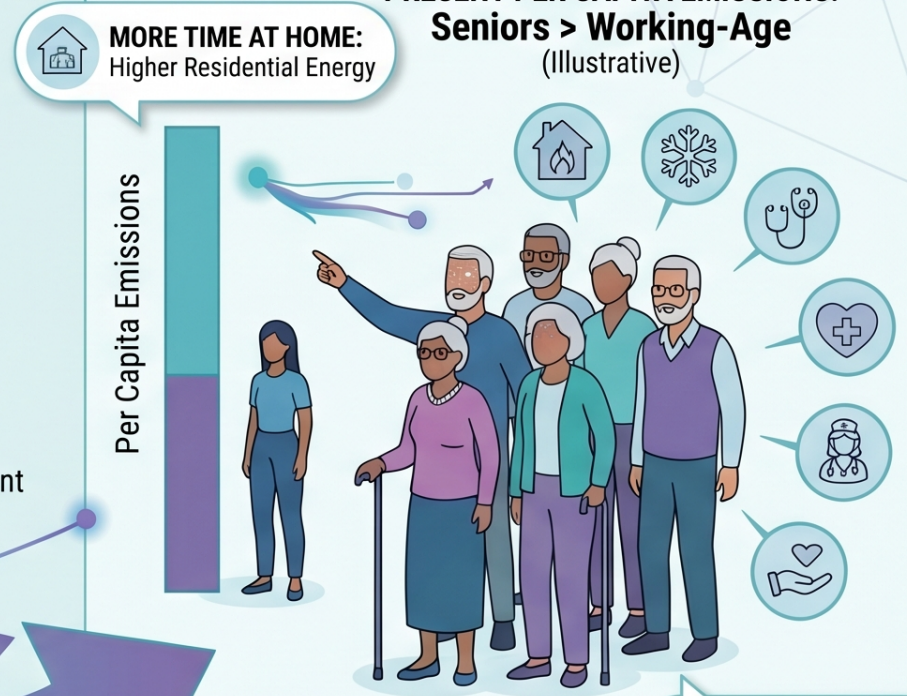
1990s 2000s 2010s Present

DEMOGRAPHIC & STRUCTURAL TRANSITION

PRESENT & FUTURE

(2020s to PRESENT)

PRESENT PER CAPITA EMISSIONS:
Seniors > Working-Age
(Illustrative)



MORE TIME AT HOME:
Higher Residential Energy

DOWNSIZING DELAYS:
Maintaining Larger Homes

PRESENT & FUTURE

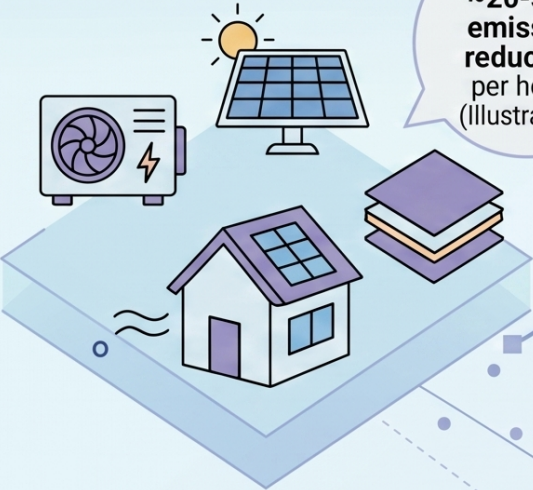
(2020s to PRESENT)



PRACTICAL APPROACHES: REDUCING THE GREENHOUSE GAS IMPACTS OF AN AGING POPULATION

1. ENERGY RETROFITTING FOR HOMES

Transition from gas furnaces; deep insulation.

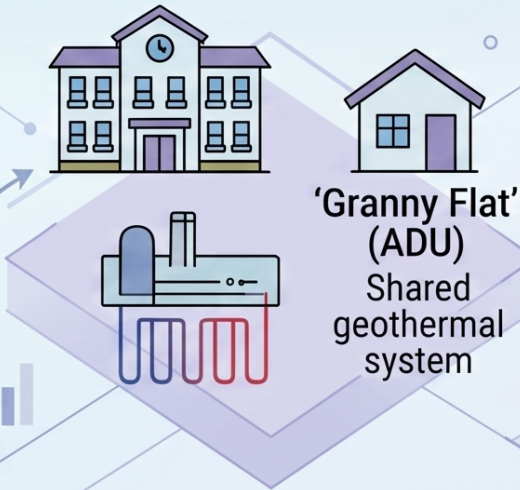


Potential ~20-30% emission reduction per home (Illustrative).

Transition from gas furnaces; deep insulation.

2. RIGHT-SIZING & ECO-COMMUNITIES

Downsizing to efficient, shared-energy spaces.



'Granny Flat' (ADU)
Shared geothermal system

Downsizing to efficient, shared-energy spaces.

3. DECARBONIZING THE CARE ECONOMY

Reduce travel with Telehealth-First models; green procurement.



Reduce travel with Telehealth-First models; green procurement.

4. URBAN DESIGN FOR ACTIVE AGING

Create walkable "15-Minute Neighborhoods"; increase urban forests.



Create walkable '15-Minute Neighborhoods'; increase urban forests.

COMBINING THESE APPROACHES LEADS TO SIGNIFICANT CLIMATE BENEFIT AND IMPROVED QUALITY OF LIFE FOR SENIORS.

DATA SOURCE: ACADEMIC STUDIES & POLICY REPORTS (Illustrative).






**YOUR CARE
AT HOME:**
A PATIENT GUIDE

HOSPITAL
CARE AT HOME

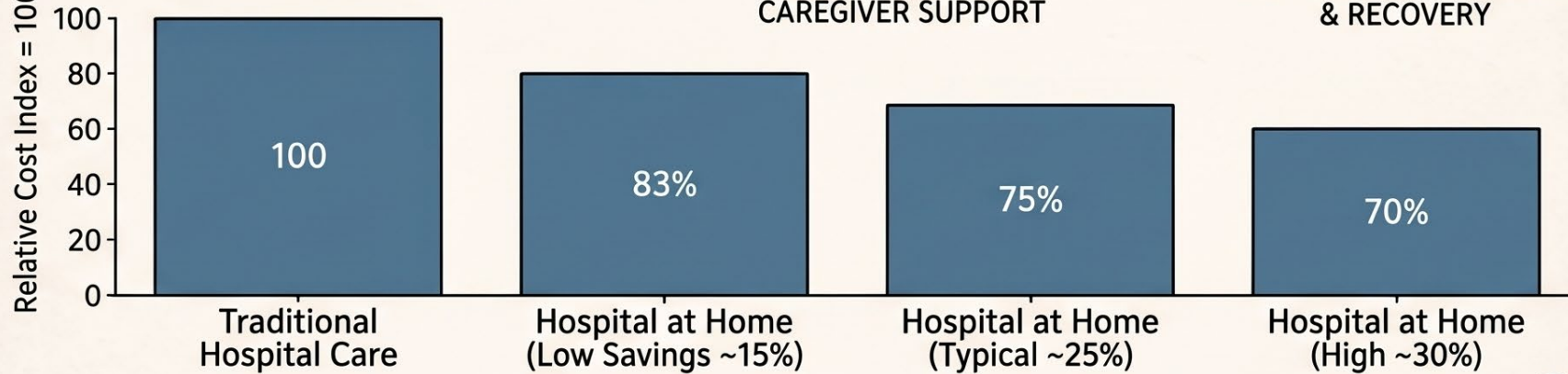
HOSPITAL
CARE AT HOME

HOSPITAL
CARE AT HOME

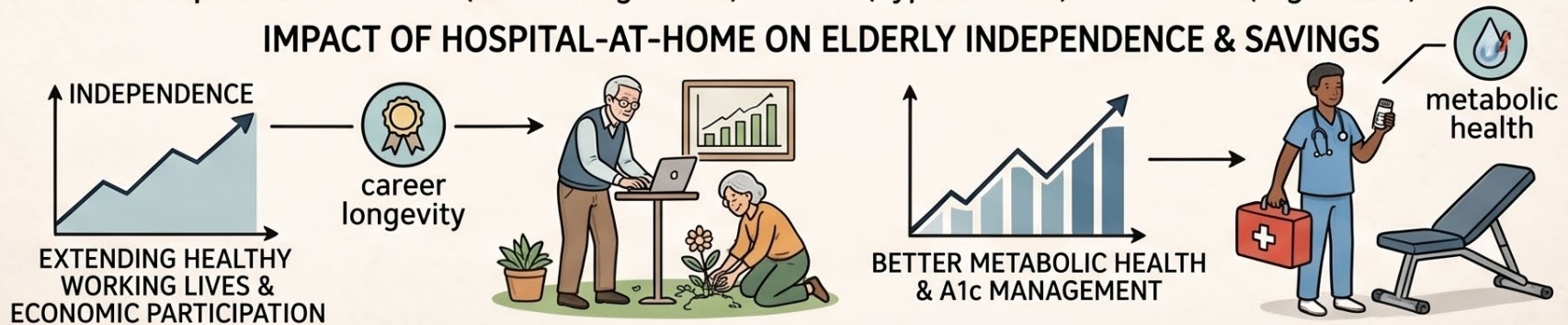


INFOGRAPHIC: UNDERSTANDING HOSPITAL-AT-HOME FOR SENIOR CARE & SAVINGS

SENIOR HOSPITAL-AT-HOME BENEFITS



IMPACT OF HOSPITAL-AT-HOME ON ELDERLY INDEPENDENCE & SAVINGS





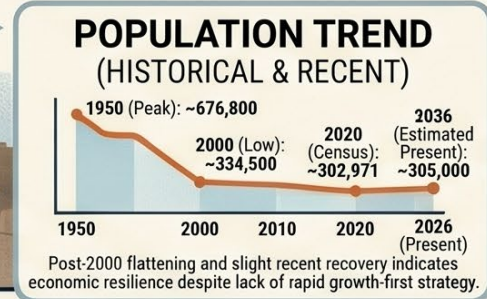
PITTSBURGH'S METAMORPHOSIS: FROM STEEL CITY TO INNOVATION HUB

1 THE INDUSTRIAL PAST (STEELED FOR GROWTH)



A GIGANTIC STEEL INDUSTRY
(Mid-20th Century)

GLOBAL ECONOMIC POWERHOUSE



TRANSITION & CHALLENGE



Deindustrialization & Job Displacement

Economic Restructuring

THE NEW FOUNDATION (EDs & MEDs)

EDUCATION & RESEARCH



LEVERAGING TOP UNIVERSITIES & MEDICAL CENTERS

HEALTHCARE & LIFE SCIENCES



DRIVER OF INNOVATION

4 DIVERSIFIED ECONOMIC GROWTH

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY & DATA SCIENCE



SOFTWARE & CLOUD COMPUTING

CLEAN ENERGY & SUSTAINABILITY



GREEN BUILDING & EFFICIENCY

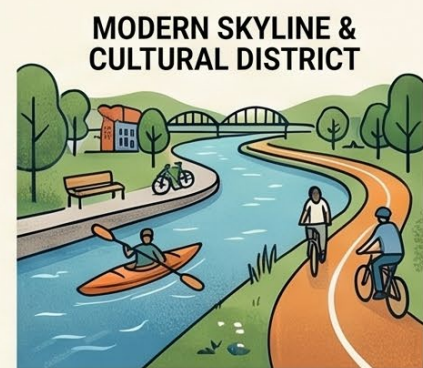
ADVANCED MANUFACTURING



SPECIALIZED PRODUCTION

**NEW JOB CREATION & INVESTMENT
RESILIENT ECOSYSTEM**

5 A VIBRANT FUTURE (SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY)



MODERN SKYLINE & CULTURAL DISTRICT



HIGH QUALITY OF LIFE



ECONOMIC RESILIENCE
(Without Growth-First focus)

SUSTAINABLE PITTSBURGH

BILBAO'S RESILIENT TRANSITION: FROM INDUSTRIAL DECLINE TO KNOWLEDGE ECONOMY (1980-PRESENT)

ERA 1: INDUSTRIAL DECLINE & CHALLENGE (1980s-1990s)

ERA 1: HEAVY INDUSTRY COLLAPSE (1980s)

TRADITIONAL UNSTABILITY ECONOMIC DEPRESSION JOB LOSS & UNCERTAINTY

EARLY TRANSITION & DIVERSIFICATION



INVESTMENT IN INFRASTRUCTURE
RETAINING LOCAL TALENT

ERA 2: STRATEGIC REBIRTH & REBALANCING (2000s-2010s)

GUGGENHEIM MUSEUM

INVESTMENT IN INFRASTRUCTURE
RETAINING LOCAL TALENT

ERA 2: INNOVATION & THE "BILBAO EFFECT"

CITY DATA HUB CONNECTIVITY NODE

KNOWLEDGE ECONOMY RISES

IGNITING INNOVATION: UNIVERSITY-INDUSTRY COLLABORATION

AMRC - ADVANCED MANUFACTURING RESEARCH CENTRE CULTURAL RENAISSANCE

RESEARCH & INNOVATION PARKS

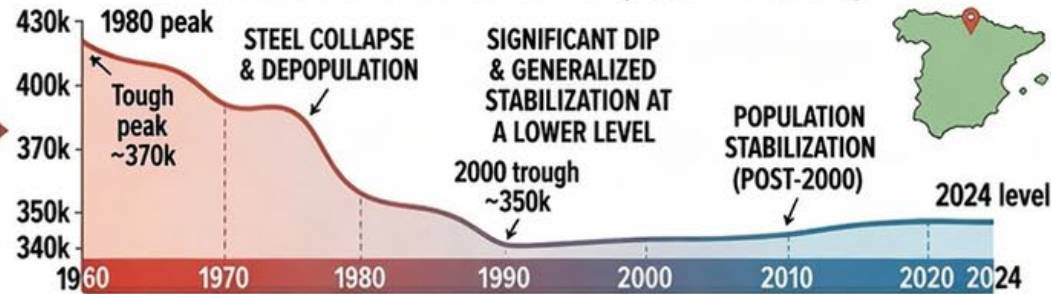
A POLLUTED NERVIÓN RIVER & URBAN DECAY



SIGNIFICANT DEPOPULATION

- RIVER POLLUTION
- URBAN BLIGHT & STRESS ON SERVICES

BILBAO POPULATION TREND (1980-PRESENT)



THE MAYOR
MUNICIPAL INNOVATION
VISIONARY LEADERSHIP



MUNICIPAL INNOVATION & LEADERSHIP

- MUNICIPAL INNOVATION
- REIMAGINING POST-INDUSTRIAL IDENTITY



ERA 3: THE PRESENT & SUSTAINABLE GROWTH (2020s-PRESENT)

A FLOURISHING PRESENT

- DIVERSIFIED INNOVATION SECTORS
- AERONAUTICS & ENERGY
- SUSTAINABLE LOGISTICS
- HIGH QUALITY OF LIFE FOR A STABLE POPULATION



EUSKADI
TECHNOLOGY
PARK



A MODEL OF
ADAPTATION
FOR EUROPE

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE: A MODEL OF URBAN RESILIENCE



GLOBAL INNOVATION
& LEADERSHIP



GLOBAL
CONNECTIVITY



CONTINUED
RESILIENT
GROWTH

INFOGRAPHIC: PROGRESS IN SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES & TRANSFORMATION

MAYOR OF SCHENECTADY (GARY McCARTHY)



KEY INITIATIVES:



SMART-CITY TECHNOLOGY

- Networked strehnnology
- Air quality sensors
- A control center



URBAN RESILIENCE

- A modern community center
- Green spaces
- A clean city river



LEGACY CITY MODERNIZATION

- Repurposed old buildings
- New housing on infill lots



GOVERNOR OF MICHIGAN (GRETCHEN WHITMER)



KEY INITIATIVES:



LAND BANK MOVEMENT

- Convert a vacant lot to a community garden and solar field



INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT

- Upgraded roads
- A new water treatment plant



ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

- Factory for clean tech
- Job training



FORMER MAYOR OF SOUTH BEND, INDIANA (PETE BUTTIGIEG)



KEY INITIATIVES:



SMART STREETS

- Redesigned roads with bike lanes, crosswalks, and landscaping



URBAN INFILL

- New mixed-use buildings
- A revitalized historic district



DATA-DRIVEN GOVERNANCE

- Digital tools for city services
- community engagement



THE CRISIS VIEW (QUANTITY)

FEWER BABIES = FEWER FUTURE TAXPAYERS.

AN AGING POPULATION IS A DRAIN ON GDP.

THE CRISIS VIEW (QUANTITY)

FEWER BABIES = FEWER FUTURE TAXPAYERS.

AN AGING POPULATION IS A DRAIN ON GDP.

SHRINKING POPULATIONS LEAD TO STAGNATION.

CONCLUSION: ECONOMIC COLLAPSE.

THE TRANSITION VIEW (QUALITY)

HIGHER-SKILLED WORKERS = MORE TAX REVENUE PER CAPITA.

THE PIVOT FROM QUANTITY TO QUALITY

THE TRANSITION VIEW (QUALITY)

HIGHER-SKILLED WORKERS = MORE TAX REVENUE PER CAPITA.

LONGER WORKING LIVES EXTEND THE PRODUCTIVE PERIOD.

“SMART SHRINKAGE” ALLOWS FOR RESOURCE EFFICIENCY.

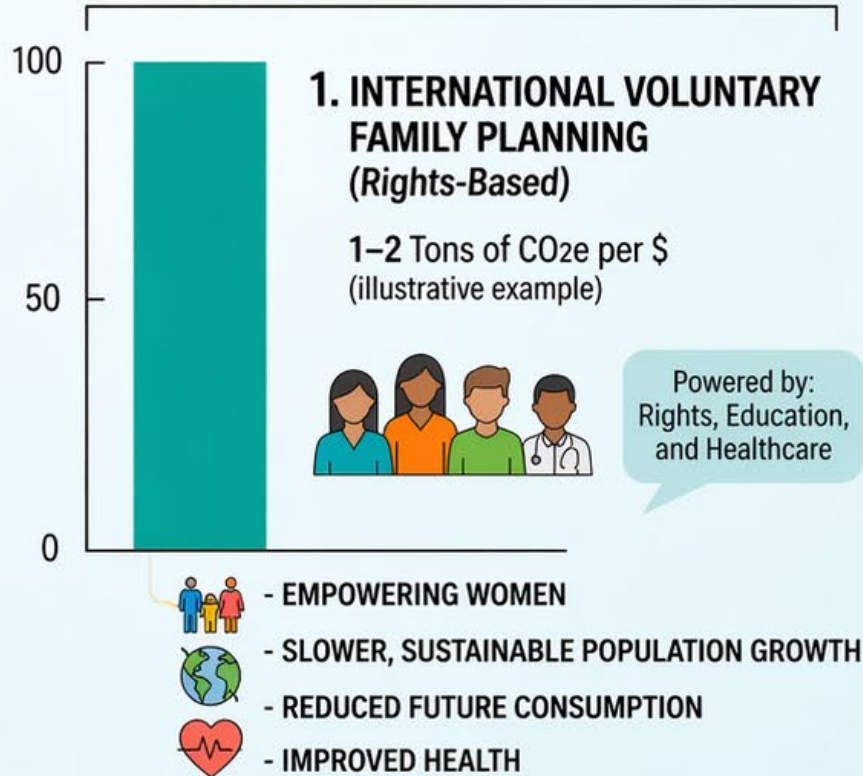
CONCLUSION: A HIGH-WEALTH, STABLE SOCIETY.

GREENHOUSE GAS REDUCTIONS: ROI COMPARISON

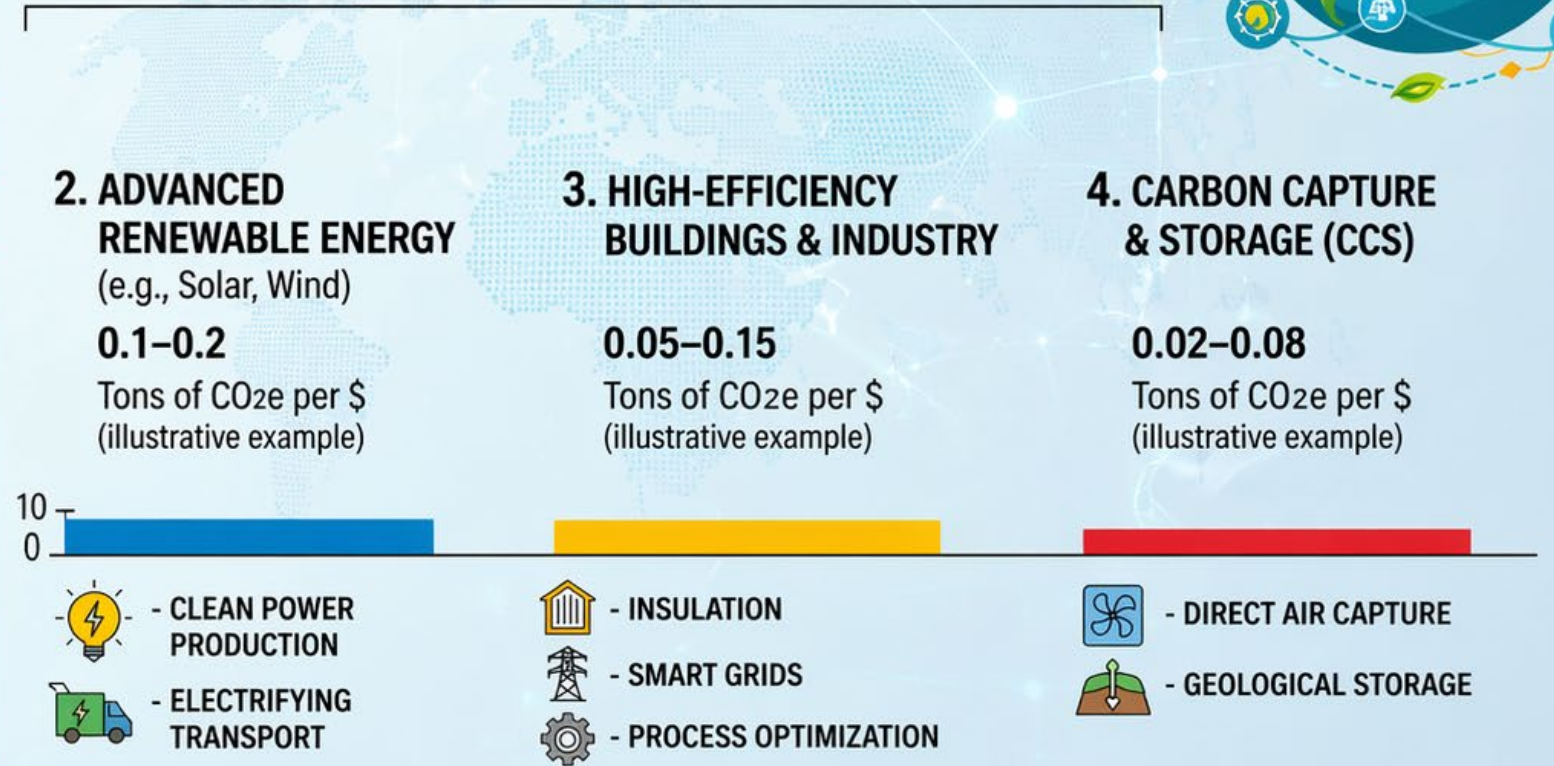
RETURN ON INVESTMENT (ROI) PER DOLLAR INVESTED in GHG Reduction (Tons of CO₂e per \$ invested)



RIGHTS-BASED, HUMAN-FOCUSED



TECHNOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS



based on user's professional perspective and illustrative data

KEY TAKEAWAYS



1. INTEGRATED SOLUTIONS NEEDED:
Both types of solutions are essential to reach net zero.

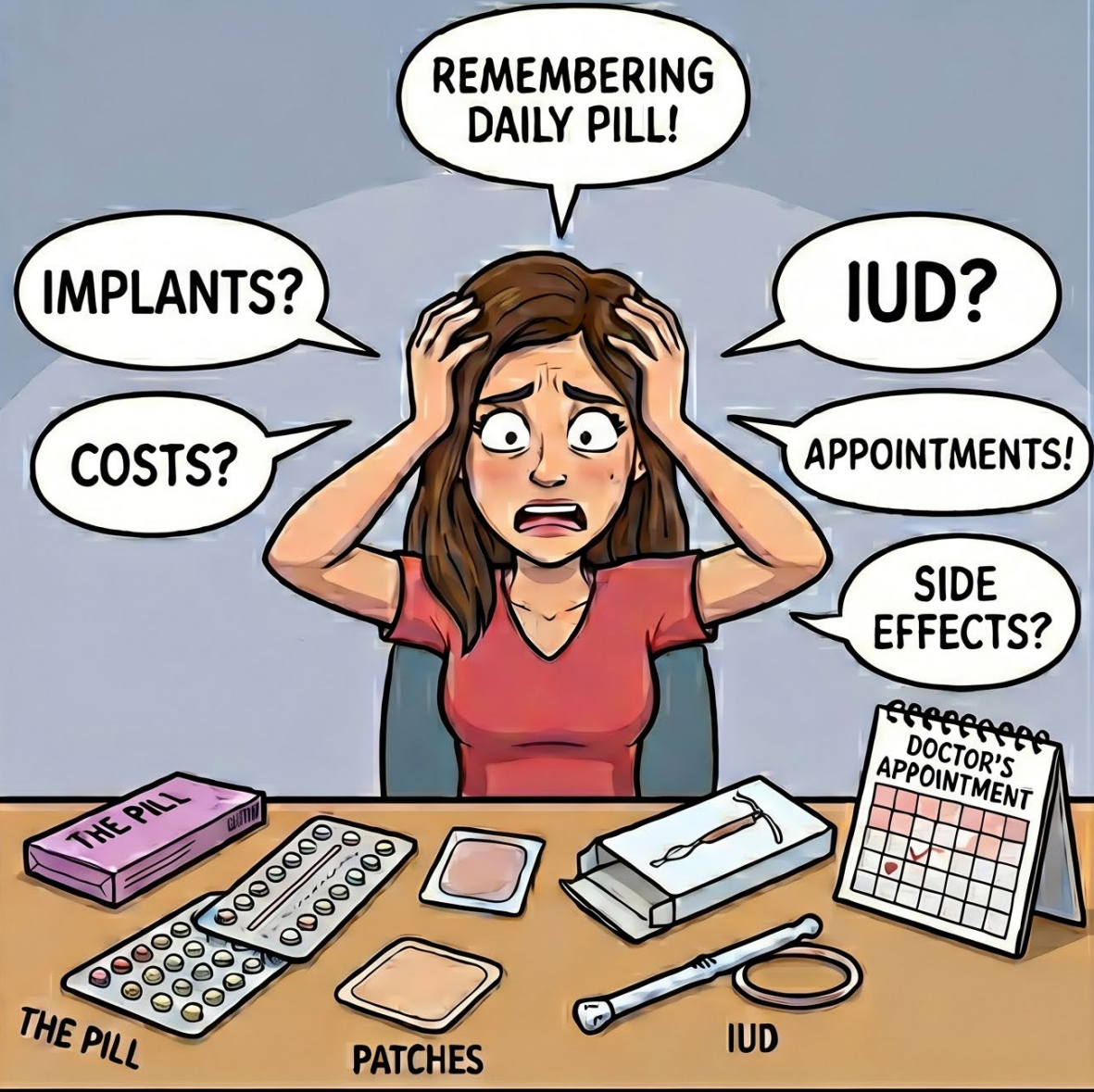


2. INVESTING IN PEOPLE IS POWERFUL:
Empowering communities can yield exceptionally high environmental ROI.



3. FAMILY PLANNING IS MORE THAN A CLIMATE TOOL: It's a fundamental human right with multiple developmental benefits.

WOMAN'S CURRENT "CONTRACEPTIVE CHECKLIST"



MAN'S CURRENT "CONTRACEPTIVE CHECKLIST"



Polling Place

VOTE

VOTING

VOTING TODAY

**REMEMBER:
Only YOU can
prevent unwanted
Presidencies!**



THANK YOU, MEMBERS OF POPULATION CONNECTION!

Our critical work on global issues is only possible because of your steadfast, unwavering support. We are deeply grateful for your partnership.

John Seager, President & CEO
john@popconnect.org

I welcome your
thoughts and comments!

