



**The real issue with population is not just numbers of people, although numbers matter and statistics give us quantitative insight and prevent us from making fools of ourselves. The real crux of the population question is the quality of people's lives...**

—Joel E. Cohen

## **Sprawl: Unplanned urban growth that happens outside the existing infrastructure.**

- **Areas with the least sprawl:**

1. New York, NY
2. Jersey City, NJ
3. Providence, RI
4. San Francisco, CA
5. Honolulu, HI

- **Areas with the most sprawl:**

1. Riverside-San Bernardino, CA
2. Greensboro-Winston-Salem-High Point, NC
3. Raleigh-Durham, NC
4. Atlanta, GA
5. Greenville-Spartanburg, SC

- During the past twenty years, Colorado has lost roughly 1.5 million acres of rangeland to development.
- Rangeland in Colorado is now vanishing at the rate of about 90,000 acres a year.
- The suicide rate among ranchers and farmers in the United States is now about three times higher than the national average.

- The first lawnmower was invented in 1830.
- North America's lawns occupy more land—about 32 million acres—than any other "crop," including wheat.
- 1 hour spent mowing a lawn with a gas-powered mower produces as many emissions as 50 hours spent driving an average car.
- The average American uses ten times the chemical fertilizer and pesticides on a lawn than the average farmer does on crops.
- 5 percent of U.S. air pollution in summer months is emitted by gas-powered lawn equipment.

- 1891: Year the first road was paved in the U.S.
- 2.4 million: Number of miles of paved public roads in the U.S. in 1997.
- 214,000,000: Number of motor vehicles in the U.S.
- 290,000,000: Number of people in the U.S.

- One-third of the 2,300 animal species found in the United States live in California.
- California is home to 259 endangered species, more than every state but Hawaii.
- Sprawl contributes to the imperilment of 188 of the 286 California species listed as threatened or endangered under the federal Endangered Species Act.
- Road construction, often driven by sprawl, contributes to the imperilment of 84 of the 188 species endangered by sprawl.
- California's last known grizzly bear—the official state animal and symbol—was killed around 1922.

Sources: Eric Schlosser: *Fast Food Nation*, *Grist Magazine*, *Smart Growth America*, *Southwest Gardener*, *Sympatico.ca*, *National Wildlife Federation*, *National Resources Defense Council*

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