

## What the world would look like if it were just 100 people



NASA/GODDARD SPACE FLIGHT CENTER

By [Matt Rocheleau](#)

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The world is a massive place — some 7.5 billion people and counting. That’s so large, it can be hard to even wrap our brains around worldwide statistics.

But what if it were smaller — a lot smaller? A nonprofit known as [The 100 People Foundation](#) aims to frame the global population through a much more manageable lens — in other words, what it would look like if the world was made up of just 100 people.

The Globe took each of the foundation’s statistics and extrapolated them using today’s percentages, and added in some of our own. Here’s a look at the world, conveniently shrunk down.

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## Half would be male, half would be female

50 female



50 male



## The age breakdown would be

25 children and young teens



75 teens and adults (15 and over), including nine adults 65 and older



## North Americans would be vastly outnumbered

60 from Asia



16 from Africa



10 from Europe





Nine from Latin America & the Caribbean



Five from North America



## So would native English speakers

12 speak Mandarin Chinese as their first language



Six speak Spanish



Five speak English



Four speak Hindi



Four speak Arabic



69 speak other languages



## The third-most popular religion? No religion

31 Christians



24 Muslims



16 people not affiliated with a particular religion





15 Hindus



Seven Buddhists



Seven people believe in other religions



## Not everyone has access to safe drinking water...

Nine would use potentially unsafe water



## Or sanitary bathrooms...

32 would use potentially unsafe sanitation services



## Or electricity...

15 would not have electricity



## Or basic shelter...

13 would reside in slums and informal settlements



## Or clean cooking facilities...

37 would not have access to clean cooking facilities



## Or food...

11 would be undernourished, including one dying of starvation (even though 30 would be considered overweight)



## Or education...

Of the 75 teens and adults age 15 and older, 10 would not be able to read and write



Of the 61 adults age 25 and over, only six of them would have completed college



## Or wealth

11 would live on less than \$1.90 USD per day, which is considered "extreme poverty"



## A majority wouldn't be online

52 would not be internet users for various possible reasons, including lack of access, skills, and interest



## Most wouldn't be on Facebook

27 would be active Facebook users



## Few would be on Twitter

Four would be active Twitter users



## And a large group would not even have cellphone service

32 would not have cellular service (even though cellphone subscriptions would outnumber people 103 to 100)



## There would soon be more than 100 people

Although you can expect one person will die in the next year...



In that same time, you can expect two babies would be born



Note: In some cases, the figures listed on the foundation's website may differ because the ones listed above are more up to date or from a different source. Several measures above were added by the Globe and are not listed on the foundation's site. The numbers are based on various estimates and projections from reputable sources. Figures are as of either 2017 or 2016, with several exceptions. The statistics on religion, sanitation, and electricity are as of 2015; extreme poverty are as of 2013; and education are as of 2010.

**SOURCE: US Census Bureau; Central Intelligence Agency's World Factbook; United Nations Population Division; United Nations Human Settlements Programme; Barro-Lee Educational Attainment Data; United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization; Pew Research Center; GSMA Intelligence; The World Bank; The International Energy Agency; Facebook Inc.; Twitter Inc.; International Telecommunication Union; World Health Organization**

MATT ROCHELEAU, PATRICK GARVIN/GLOBE STAFF

*If you don't see a graphic on this webpage, click [here](#). Matt Rocheleau can be reached at [matthew.rocheleau@globe.com](mailto:matthew.rocheleau@globe.com). Follow him on Twitter [@mrochele](#).*

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