Over 50 Years: The Harvard Center for Population and Development Studies

**1960s**
- Population control; water resources; reproductive biology

**1970s**
- Population and resources; migration

**1980s**
- Health transitions in developing countries

**1990s**
- Reproductive health; common security; global burden of disease

**2000s**
- Well-being of the global poor; health in Africa

**2010s**
- Social & environmental determinants of population health; aging societies; workplace & well-being; social & family demography

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**WORLD EVENTS**
- 1964: U.S. Congress passes Economic Opportunity Act and President Johnson declares a “War on Poverty”
- 1964: Civil Rights Act passes in U.S.
- 1965: RVCE, the United Nations Children’s Fund, is awarded the Nobel Peace Prize
- 1968: First Earth Day occurs on April 22
- 1968: First UN Environment Conference is held in Stockholm, Sweden, leading to establishment of UN Environment Programme (UNEP)
- 1964: Global population reaches 3 billion
- 1968: First World Conference on Women held in Mexico City
- 1976: Tangshan Earthquake kills over 280,000 in China
- 1980: Earth Summit is held in Rio de Janeiro, attended by leaders from over 100 countries
- 1984: First World Conference on Women’s Reproductive Health
- 1987: Global population reaches 5 billion
- 1988-1997: Lincoln Chen
- 1990: First UN Conference on Population and Development is held in Cairo, attended by representatives from 179 countries and addressed by 249 speakers. The Conference had populated sustainable economic growth and sustainable development as its overall theme.
- 1996: U.S. Congress passes the Americans with Disabilities Act
- 1984: The Center is commissioned to include “Development” in its name. The Global Burden of Disease Study, a comprehensive regional and global assessment of mortality and disability, is established
- 1993: The Center Security Forum (CSF) is established as an international network of scholars and policymakers to better understand transformations of individual and transnational security. Lincoln Chen establishes David E. Bell Fellowship Program in honor of the late Center director
- 1995: A gift from the Diken Family establishes a Fellowship in Population Development Studies
- 1998: First wave of Accra Women’s Reproductive Health Study gets underway, co-led by Center Faculty Alan Hill
- 2000: UN establishes Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), eight international development goals that include eradicating poverty and hunger, and reducing child mortality
- 2005: The Indian Ocean earthquake and tsunami kills 235,000 in Indonesia, Sri Lanka, India, and Thailand
- 2004: The Center is recommissioned to include “Development” in its name. The Global Burden of Disease Study, a comprehensive regional and global assessment of mortality and disability, is established
- 2001-2005: First “Earth Day” occurs on April 22
- 2007: The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Health & Society Scholars program at Harvard moves to the Center
- 2010: Magnitude 7 earthquake hits Haiti, the poorest nation on earth, killing 310,000 people
- 2015: 195 countries commit to reducing emissions of heat-trapping gases as a result of the Paris Climate Accord. China abandons a one-child policy in favor of a two-child policy
- 2016: 10 million refugees fleeing to escape the Syrian Civil War in Europe
- 2018: Global population reaches 7.5 billion

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**POP CENTER MILESTONES**
- 1994: Roger Revelle and HPSP Dean Jack Snyder launch the Harvard Center for Population Studies
- 1994: Rosi Frisch, a geneticist who studies fertility, joins the Pop Center (and by 2014, becomes longest serving Center faculty member)
- 1994: The Center receives a $2 million dollar grant from USAID to train students from developing countries in population science
- 1996: The Center initiates a program to promote economic development in collaboration with area universities
- 2001-2005: First World of the Global Burden of Disease Study gets underway, co-led by Center Faculty Alan Hill
- 2002: First “Earth Day” occurs on April 22
- 2007: The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Health & Society Scholars program at Harvard moves to the Center
- 2010: A gift from Valerie and Jack Rowe provides support to the Bell Fellowship program
- 2012: The Center becomes one of six international sites in the EU-funded ESPACE Project to train junior researchers in Asia and Africa on social determinants of health
- 2013: The Center is funded by NIH to begin a program project called Health and Aging in Africa. Congenital Studies of MRC/ITG/Tanzania (HAALE)
- 2016: The Center’s affiliated faculty base surpasses 40
- 2015: The Sloan Fellowship on Aging and Work, a program designed to address the challenges of aging societies and labor force participation in the U.S., is launched
- 2016: Harvard University Professor of Sociology Jason Beckfield is appointed associate director of the Center
- 2017: Funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the Center introduces The Workplace and Well-being Initiative, a research project focused on developing new visions of the work-health equation
- 2018: First “Earth Day” occurs on April 22
- 2019: The Center undergoes extensive renovation with new leadership of Berkman
- 2020: First “Earth Day” occurs on April 22
- 2021: First “Earth Day” occurs on April 22

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**DIRECTORS**
- Roger Revelle 1964-1976
- William Alonso 1976-1978
- Nathan Keyfitz 1978-1980
- David Bell 1981-1988
- Lincoln Chen 1988-1997
- Michael Reich 2001-2005
- Christopher Murray 2005-2007
- Lisa F. Berkman 2007-present

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**CENTER THEMES**
- ’60s population control; water resources; reproductive biology
- ’70s population & resources; migration
- ’80s health transitions in developing countries
- ’90s reproductive health; common security; global burden of disease
- 2000s well-being of the global poor; health in Africa
- 2010s social & environmental determinants of population health; aging societies; workplace & well-being; social & family demography