

Special attention should be paid to biological adaptation of racial isolates of industrialized societies and migrant groups moving from one environment to another. Studies of short-term and long-term migrations by different racial groups to similar environments are desirable. The studies should include baseline studies in the original environments and comparative measurements in the new location; such measurements on the same individuals would be particularly valuable.

Careful descriptions of individual micro-environments and actual behavior need to be included in all population studies. And, before any study is chosen as an IBP project, consideration should be given to whether it would provide opportunity for international cooperation and for making international comparisons. The subcommittee anticipates that studies will focus on three areas--population genetics; adaptation to stress; and morphology, growth, and aging.

POPULATION GENETICS

Mankind possesses great diversity both within and between populations. This diversity has been the basis of both the evolutionary success and many of the present problems of the species.

It is obvious that long-term changes in the human population have occurred and that the environment of man is changing rapidly both physically and culturally. Description and explanation of the underlying processes of change are essential to understanding population dynamics. Whereas individuals succumb to critical changes in environment, populations adapt, natural selection being the principal process leading to this adaptation.

A partial listing of forces and processes entering into population dynamics follows, each of which is a problem for IBP research:

1. Mating choices and patterns, including inbreeding, outbreeding and assortative mating.
2. Fertility.
3. Fetal wastage.
4. Postnatal natural selection.
5. Fluctuation and disappearance of populations.
6. Hybridization between populations.
7. Behavior genetics.
8. Genetic drift and founder's principle.