In 1995, Joel E. Cohen published *How Many People Can the Earth Support?* (W.W. Norton, New York), a prize-winning study of efforts to measure sustainable human population size over the past 400 years. His book showed that both natural constraints and human choices will affect sustainability through the interactions of population, economics, the environment and culture.

Cohen is the Abby Rockefeller Mauzé Professor of Populations and the head of the Laboratory of Populations at Rockefeller University in New York. He is also the head of the Laboratory of Populations at Columbia University, where he is Professor of Populations in the Earth Institute. He holds additional appointments in Columbia's School of International and Public Affairs, Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences, and Department of Ecology, Evolution, and Environmental Biology.

Cohen was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 1989 in evolutionary and population biology and ecology; the American Philosophical Society in 1994 in professions, arts, and affairs; and the U.S. National Academy of Sciences in 1997 in applied mathematical sciences. His awards and honors include the Tyler World Prize for Environmental Achievement, Mercer Award of the Ecological Society of America, Sheps Award of the Population Association of America, Nordberg Prize of the Population Council, Soper Prize of the Pan American Health Organization, MacArthur Foundation Prize Fellow and Guggenheim Fellow.

Cohen’s research includes demography, ecology, epidemiology and the social organization of human and non-human populations, including mathematical concepts useful in these fields. Cohen holds doctoral degrees in applied mathematics (1970) and in population sciences and tropical public health (1973) from Harvard University.