

Table 1. Population indicators of socioeconomic disadvantage and percentage distributions of women aged 20–24, by selected socioeconomic characteristics, five developed countries, mid- to late 1990s

Measure	Sweden	France	Canada	Great Britain	United States
POPULATION INDICATORS					
% of population at <50% of median income	8.7	8.4	10.6	10.6	17.3
Income distribution					
% going to richest 20%	34.5	40.2	39.3	43.0	46.4
% going to poorest 20%	9.6	7.2	7.5	6.6	5.2
Ratio of richest to poorest	3.6	5.6	5.2	6.5	8.9
Unemployment rate					
Males 15–24	17.5	21.9	16.6	13.8	11.1
Females 15–24	16.1	30.0	13.7	10.5	9.8
Total population	8.2	11.7	8.3	6.3	4.5
% of population 16–65 functionally illiterate	7.5	u	16.6	21.8	20.7
% of population 15–19 foreign-born*	4.5	6.6	13.2	6.5	9.5
% DISTRIBUTIONS OF WOMEN 20–24					
Economic status†					
Low	u	47.0	24.6	17.3	31.2
Medium	u	37.5	33.4	62.9	35.8
High	u	15.6	42.0	19.8	33.0
School/work status‡					
In school only	39.7	34.2	9.6	7.8	11.2
In school and working	u	u	30.1	u	20.9
Working only	40.4	57.6	49.3	62.3	48.1
Neither	19.8	8.2	11.0	29.8	19.9
Educational attainment§					
Low	10.2	25.9	21.4	11.3	13.9
Medium	66.4	51.1	37.0	43.1	32.4
High	23.4	23.0	41.6	45.6	53.7
Race/ethnicity**					
White	98.1	u	87.6	93.9	67.3
Hispanic	u	u	u	u	12.8
Black	u	u	u	u	14.6
Other	1.8	u	12.4	6.1	5.3
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

*For Sweden and Great Britain, the value presented is the percentage of the total population who hold foreign citizenship. †For France, economic status is based on monthly family income: Low=less than Fr 8,000, middle=Fr 8,000–15,000, high=Fr 15,000 or more per month. For Canada, economic status is based on family income: Low=first and second quintiles, middle=third quintile, high=fourth and fifth quintiles. For Great Britain, economic status is based on parents' occupation: Low=semiskilled or unskilled, medium=skilled, high=intermediate or professional. For the United States, economic status is based on family income, as a percentage of the federal poverty level: Low=less than 149%, medium=149–299%, high=300% or more. ‡For Great Britain, "working only" denotes working for pay at least 10 hours a week. For Sweden and France, "neither" includes respondents who were in school and working. For France, "working only" includes those who were both working and in school. §For Sweden, low=nine years of public school or upper secondary technical line, medium=upper secondary or theoretical line, high=university; data are based on both men and women. For France, low=nine years of schooling or first technical qualification, medium=high school diploma, high=university or other postsecondary training. For Canada, low=less than complete secondary education, medium=complete secondary, high=any postsecondary education. For Great Britain, low=no certificate or formal qualifications, medium=O levels, high=A levels or university. For the United States, low=less than high school diploma, middle=grade 12 or high school diploma, high=any postsecondary education or training. **For Great Britain and Canada, other=nonwhite. For Sweden, other=any non-European origin. For countries other than the United States, data include both men and women. Notes: Countries are ordered according to their adolescent birthrate, from lowest to highest, in this and all tables and figures. u=unavailable. Sources: **Income distribution, unemployment and illiteracy:** United Nations Development Programme, *Human Development Report, 2000*, New York: Oxford University Press, 2000. **Race, ethnicity and immigrant status:** Sample surveys and Council of Europe, *Recent Demographic Developments in Europe, 1999*, Strasbourg, France: Council of Europe Publishing, 1999. **Educational attainment:** Data for Canada and Sweden are based on special tabulations of Family and Fertility Surveys; all others are from country case study reports (see references 23, 34 and 38).