

# RICH AND POOR

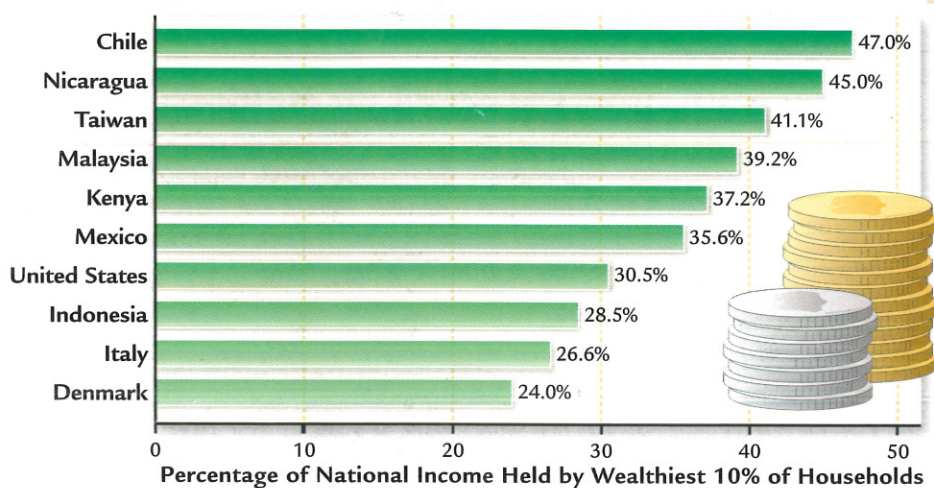
When people cannot afford basic human needs, such as food and housing, they are living in **poverty**. Poverty has different meanings in different parts of the world.

- ▶ **Absolute poverty** is poverty that threatens a person's life. In global terms, this is a household earning less than the equivalent of US\$1 a day. Disease, hunger, and child labor plague people living in absolute poverty.
- ▶ **Relative poverty** is having fewer resources than others in a community or country. Countries define their national poverty lines differently.
- ▶ In the United States, a person living in poverty earns less than \$9,645 a year, or \$26 a day. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, more than 35 million Americans live below the U.S. poverty line.

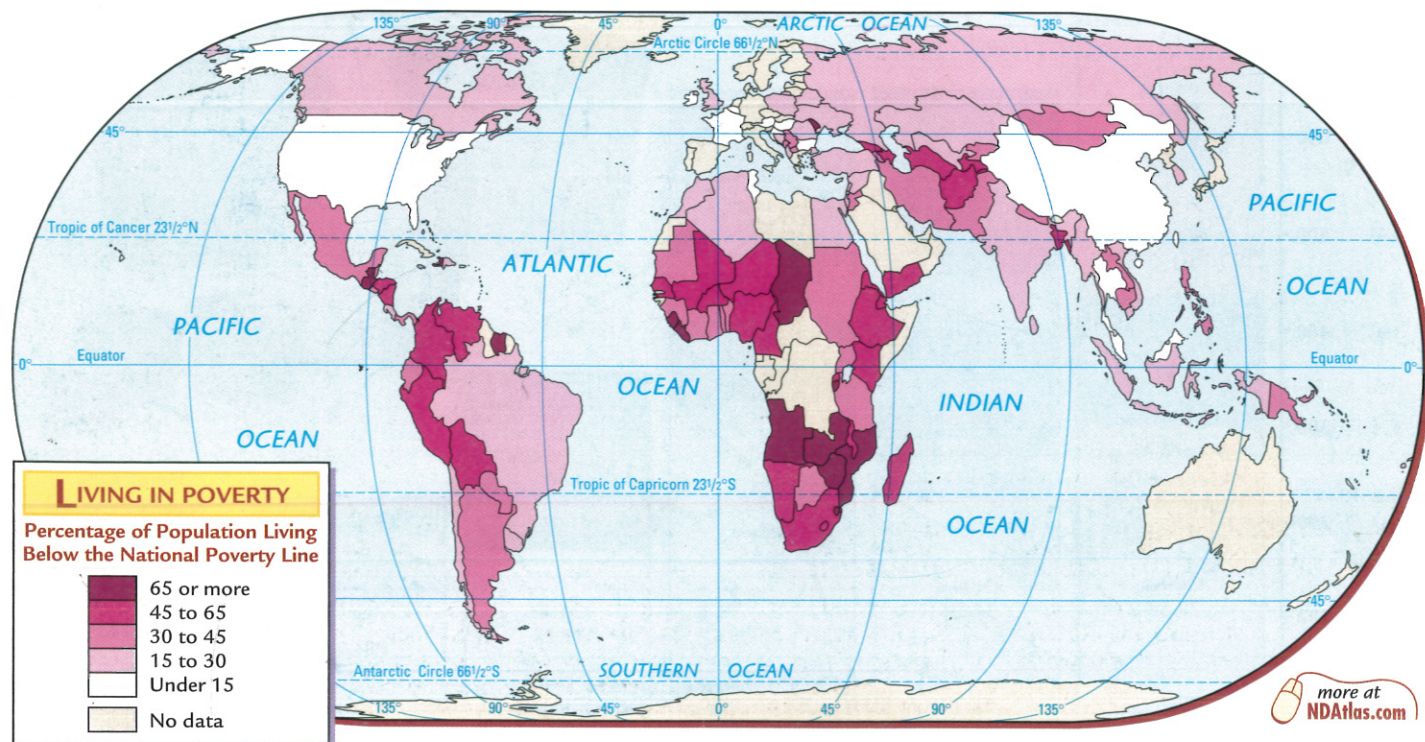


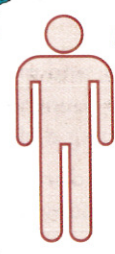
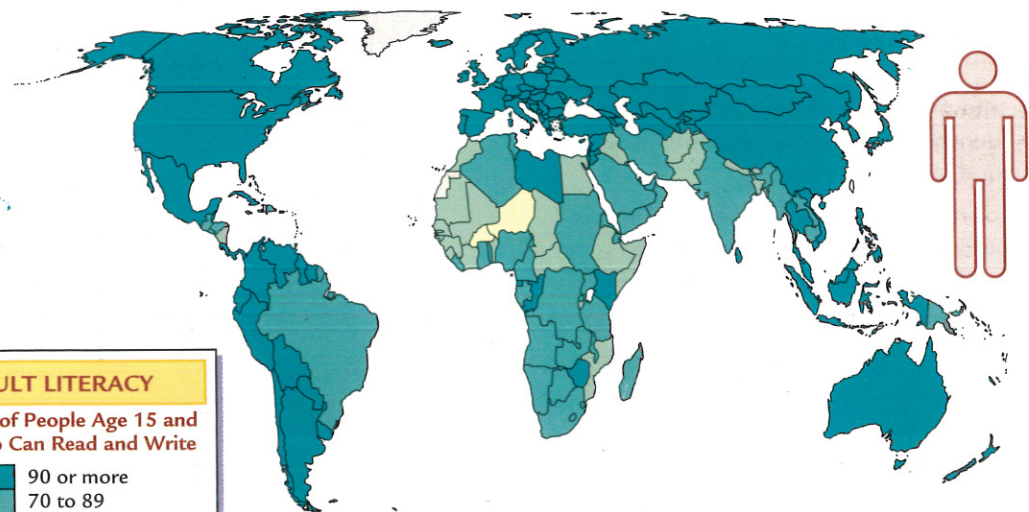
In Buenos Aires, Argentina, this shantytown is home to 20,000 poverty-stricken residents. It is separated by railroad tracks from the city's wealthiest neighborhood, visible in the background.

## CONCENTRATION OF WEALTH



In many countries the largest portion of wealth is controlled by a small portion of the population. This **disparity of income** can lead to social unrest.





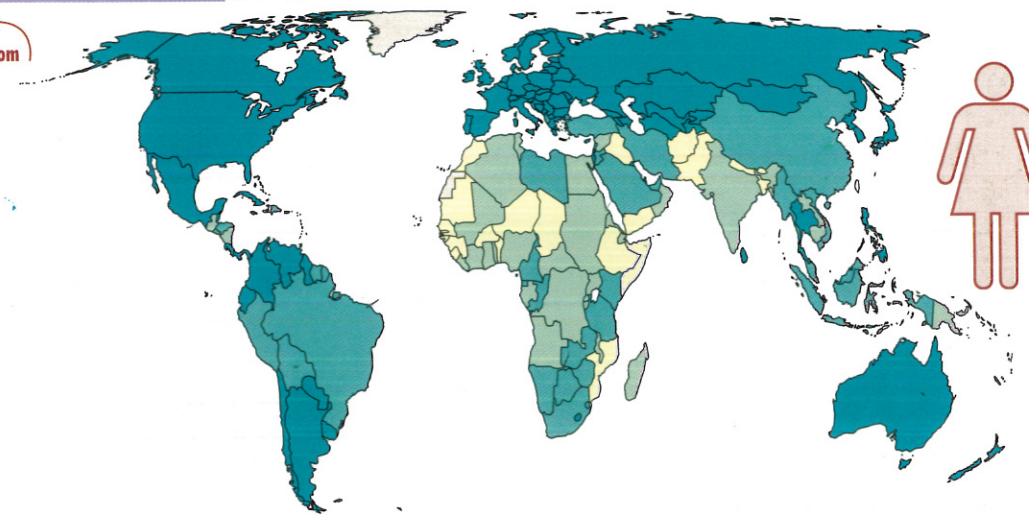
### MALE LITERACY

In many impoverished areas, boys go to school while girls stay home to do chores and watch their younger siblings.

**ADULT LITERACY**  
 Percentage of People Age 15 and Older Who Can Read and Write

- 90 or more
- 70 to 89
- 40 to 69
- Under 40
- No data

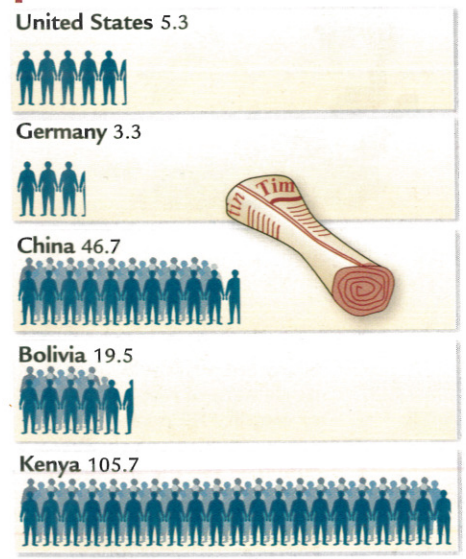
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### FEMALE LITERACY

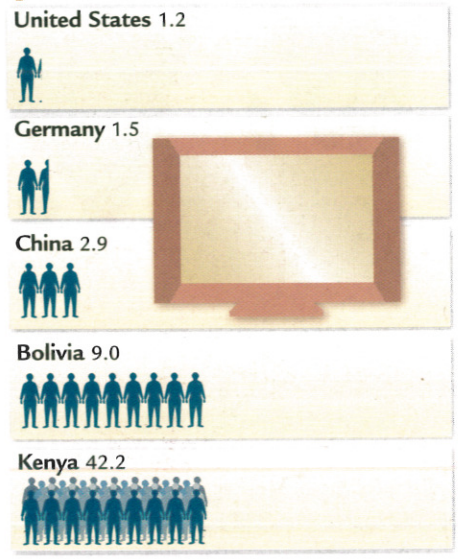
In some cultures, religion prohibits girls from attending school. Compare the Female Literacy map with the religion map on page 42.

### PEOPLE PER NEWSPAPER



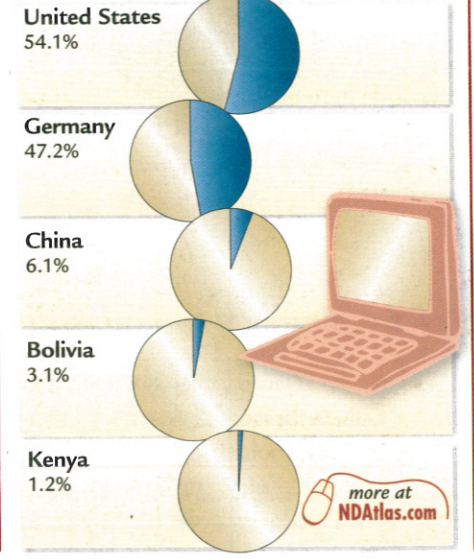
The proportion of newspapers to people is more an indicator of literacy than of wealth. However, a population's level of education can affect its wealth.

### PEOPLE PER TELEVISION



The proportion of televisions to people is a strong indicator of wealth. While many homes in the United States have a television in nearly every room, some countries do not have a television in most communities.

### INTERNET USERS



As our world continues to become more technologically sophisticated, access to information is increasingly vital to economic prosperity.

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