

## P O P U L A T I O N

## T O D A Y

*News, numbers, and analysis*Greater Dependence on Cars Leads  
to More Pollution in World's Cities

By WIN CARTY

People are not willing to give up their cars to stop air pollution and potential health hazards, according to a recent multiurban study on public attitudes toward urban air pollution. The study, *Household Transportation Use and Urban Air Pollution*, was prepared by the Population Reference Bureau, funded by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation and the U.S. Agency for International Development, and researched by experts in Bangkok, Mexico City, and Washington.

"The world's cities are clearly on the road to greatly increased car dependence and car pollution," noted Roger-Mark De Souza, the author of the report and PRB's coordinator of population and environment programs. "Cars are becoming cheaper, people richer, and urban populations larger. In recent years, urban design has increasingly favored car use."



*Rising household incomes have increased car ownership in urban areas.*

The World Health Organization estimates that up to 700,000 premature deaths per year worldwide could be prevented in developing countries if three pollutants—suspended particulate matter, carbon monoxide, and lead—were brought down to safer levels.

The World Bank estimates the number of motor vehicles worldwide could grow from 580 million in 1990 to 816 million by 2010. Roughly 90 percent of future world population growth is expected to take place in cities, where cars are

concentrated. Mexico City and Bangkok, for example, already hold 50 percent of their respective nations' automobiles.

The report notes that cars are some of the worst air polluters. The transportation sector, dominated by motor vehicles, contributes an estimated

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## More Pollution

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30 percent of all greenhouse gas emissions. When car dependence increases, fuel consumption rises exponentially because of growing road congestion, fuel-inefficient vehicles, and poorly maintained vehicles and roads.

Globally, transportation consumes 20 percent of all energy produced. Demand is growing in all countries. Importantly, energy consumption in low- and middle-income countries, now one-third that of the industrialized world, is expected to match demand in rich countries by 2015.

Researchers from the Institute for Population and Social Research at Mahidol University in Thailand, the Center for Demographic and Urban Studies at the Colegio de Mexico in Mexico, and ICF Kaiser International in the United States carried out extensive research and focus-group discussions. Their findings include:

- In the three polluted capitals, residents “perceived some relationship between health problems and air pollution. Yet all appeared willing to accept this impact in the absence of evidence showing that it is a major threat.”
- Educated people tend to be greater polluters than less educated people.
- “Male-headed households engage in more polluting behavior than female-headed households.”
- Growing numbers of households in urban areas, changing household structures, and increasing household incomes have all led to the rise in the number of cars on the road.

## A Glimpse at the Cities Included in the Study

	Mexico City <sup>1</sup>	Bangkok <sup>2</sup>	Washington, D.C. <sup>3</sup>
Population 1995	16,562,000	6,547,000	3,685,000
Growth rate 1995-2000	1.81	1.96	1.27
Average household size	4.7	4.5	2.3

<sup>1</sup> Metropolitan area    <sup>2</sup> City proper    <sup>3</sup> Urban agglomeration

Source: Population 1995 and growth rate 1995-2000: United Nations, *World Urbanization Prospects, 1996 Revision* (New York: UN, 1998); average household size: UN Centre for Human Settlements, *An Urbanizing World* (New York: UN, 1996) and U.S. Census Bureau, *Statistical Abstract of the United States 1998* (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Commerce, 1998).

■ In these capitals, many citizens ignore the health hazards and the economic costs of rising energy use. Driving to work is increasingly more difficult. The average car in Bangkok is estimated to spend the equivalent of 44 days a year stuck in traffic. Yet 300 to 400 more cars are being added to Bangkok streets every day.

“Given the choice between car-pooling and driving alone,” admitted one high-income focus-group participant from Washington, D.C., “I’d rather drive alone and pollute the air.” A middle-income focus-group participant in Bangkok viewed his car use as a drop in the bucket: “We look for convenience. So we buy a car. We know that when our car is added, the traffic will increase ... but the traffic would be already congested if our car hadn’t been added.”

The report makes three policy recommendations:

- 1) Combine improvements in the public transportation system with regulations and incentives to encourage walking, cycling, and telecommuting.

- 2) Tailor policies by socioeconomic group and gender to combat specific polluting behavior.
- 3) Educate the public about the impact of transportation choices, particularly on air pollution, and encourage community involvement in education efforts.

According to the researchers, however, “attitudes of individualism and consumerism constrained action that could help to reduce urban air pollution.” ■

For more information:

*Household Transportation Use and Urban Air Pollution*, by Roger-Mark De Souza, is available on PRB’s Web site (<http://www.prb.org>). For printed copies, \$5 each, contact PRB, phone 202/483-1100; fax: 202/328-3937; or e-mail: [prborders@prb.org](mailto:prborders@prb.org).

*Win Carty is PRB’s senior journalist.*

## PRB Internship and Fellowship Programs

PRB is accepting applications for internship and fellowship programs for the 2000-2001 year. The summer internship is open to undergraduate or graduate students interested in international or U.S. population trends. Fellowships in international programs and do-

mestic policy are open to college graduates who have demonstrated interests in one of these areas. Also, candidates for the international programs fellowship must have foreign language skills, and education or work experience related to population, communication, or public health. Resumes

must be postmarked no later than Feb. 1, 2000, for the internship and no later than March 1, 2000, for the fellowships. For more information, contact Kelvin Pollard (e-mail: [kelvinp@prb.org](mailto:kelvinp@prb.org)) or visit the PRB Web site: <http://www.prb.org/inside/jobinfo.htm#interninfo>.

# Support Growing for Eradicating Female Genital Cutting

**F**emale genital cutting (FGC) is practiced in many countries, but it is most prevalent in Africa. Between 100 million and 180 million women have undergone FGC, and some 600 girls are at risk every day. FGC has serious health effects, including hemorrhage, shock, pain, and various infections, that can significantly damage a girl's lifetime health. It is also a serious human rights violation.

In 1993, the Women in Development office of the U.S. Agency for International Development was designated as USAID's coordinator for FGC issues, and in 1994, the Intra-Agency Working Group on FGC was formed to coordinate USAID activities. In June 1999, this working group held a symposium to explore with USAID staff ways of incorporating into USAID programs activities to eradicate FGC.

The following case study from Kenya was one of the presentations at the symposium.

## Educating Kenyan Women

A project conducted jointly by PATH and Maendeleo Ya Wanawake Organization (MYWO), a women's nongovernmental organization in Kenya, is showing remarkable success in involving girls in alternative rites of passage. By promoting alternative rituals that meet many of the same needs as traditional circumcision ceremonies, the project is enabling a growing number of girls and their families to choose not to undergo genital cutting.

Before developing alternative rituals, PATH and MYWO did re-

search to understand why FGC is practiced. Religious, personal (hygiene and aesthetics), and societal beliefs contribute to the practice; these beliefs have to do with maintaining virginity, upholding family honor, and controlling women's sexuality. Moreover, communities have a range of enforcement mechanisms to ensure that the majority comply: fear of punishment from God, men's unwillingness to marry uncircumcised women, and insistence that even women from other tribes get circumcised when they marry in.

The research found that the cutting ceremony meets important individual and community needs. Circumcision is a significant rite of passage during which girls receive important recognition. For fathers, it is an opportunity to display their wealth and status; for mothers, it is a chance to receive gifts and be honored for years of giving to others. In addition, it is a social occasion during which family and friends enjoy feasting and celebration.

Knowing this, project implementers sought to develop an alternative coming-of-age ceremony by working with mothers in families hesitant about traditional practices but unable to withstand the social pressure favoring FGC. MYWO identified three people who wanted to participate in the alternative ritual, and they recruited others who were already convinced that FGC is harmful.

Circumcision With Words  
The alternative coming-of-age ceremony consisted of collecting the



## Kenya's Alternative Rite of Passage Course Content

- Self-esteem: coping with criticism
- Responsibility for own decision
- Dating and courtship
- Coping with peer pressure
- Personal hygiene
- Marriage
- Pregnancy and STD/AIDS prevention
- Contraception
- FGC, early marriage, and gender empowerment, including rights of the girl child
- Respect for community
- Respect for elders.

traditional wisdom that was imparted to girls when they were circumcised, developing a program that took account of those messages (see box), and conducting a five-day seclusion period to teach the girls those messages. The seclusion period culminated in a one-day celebration including feasting and gift-giving. Once they participated in this alternative rite, the girls and families became a support group for others contemplating this decision; they were also the core group recruiting others to take this step.

The "circumcision with words" ceremony has grown rapidly, from 79 girls in 1996 to 1,136 girls in 1998. Begun in one district, it is now being implemented in four districts, and demand is growing in other districts as well. Alternative rites of passage are gaining community acceptance and are endorsed both by community elders and by the Kenya Medical Association. None of the girls who participated in alternative ceremonies was circumcised later. Significant media coverage helped raise awareness and interest. A formal evaluation is in process, but the Ministry of Health is already planning to replicate the effort at the national level pending funding. ■

For more information:

A summary of the symposium is available on the MEASURE *Communication* Web site, <http://www.measurecommunication.org>. A full report on the symposium will be posted on the site in the near future.

# Shrinking Societies Favor Procreation

By MARY MEDERIOS KENT

**H**ungary, Sweden, and Japan are among a growing number of countries concerned that their fertility rates have sunk too low. Low birth rates and unprecedented improvements in life expectancy have brought these countries

rapidly expanding retirement-age populations and a shrinking labor force available to support their elderly citizens. In 1999, people ages 65 and older make up 15 percent or more of the populations of 19 countries; 14 country populations already

are experiencing natural decrease (see table), and many more will start to decline early in the 21st century.

Many policymakers see an obvious solution to this predicament: Increase the number of children. A measure with this objective would likely be popular, since surveys in Western Europe suggest that couples have a latent desire for more children. Western Europeans say they want two children, even though they have only about 1.4. Japanese women, who also have an average of 1.4 children, say they want 2.6 children.

During the past 25 years, concerned countries have created policies that might encourage more childbearing by easing the opportunity costs of raising children. Paid maternity and paternity leave—in some cases until a child is two or three years of age—free child care, tax breaks for large families, family housing allowances, and even cash paid to parents for raising a child are all ways that governments have tried to ease the burden of having children. These policies generally do not have targets—a three-child average, for example—and often are presented as antipoverty, prowoman, or profamily measures rather than as ways to increase birth rates. But such policies can influence fertility because they affect the socioeconomic setting in which childbearing decisions are made.

## Hungary

Hungary indirectly promoted more births by leaving in place, and in some cases augmenting, wartime labor policies. Hungarian women entered the labor force in large numbers during the 1950s and 1960s, prompted by the need for workers to rebuild the country after World War II and by a socialist ideology favoring equal participation in the labor force by men and women. The government created an extensive network of child-care centers to enable women to work outside the home. In addition, the government enacted a generous maternity leave policy for mothers. Beginning in 1967, working mothers were entitled to leave and a child-rearing allowance (equal to about 40 percent of the average woman's salary) to care for children younger than 30 months old if they did not use pub-

## Declining or Barely Growing Populations

Country	Population 1999 (thousands)	Rate of Natural Increase	Population Change 1999-2010 (thousands)	Total Fertility Rate <sup>1</sup>	Population Age 65+ (%)	Govt. View of Fertility Level <sup>2</sup>
Bulgaria	8,188	-0.6	-498	1.1	16	L
Latvia	2,430	-0.6	-145	1.1	14	L
Ukraine	49,910	-0.6	-2,475	1.3	14	L
Russia	146,519	-0.5	-1,795	1.2	13	L
Belarus	10,167	-0.4	-139	1.3	13	S
Hungary	10,076	-0.4	-399	1.3	15	L
Estonia	1,441	-0.4	-71	1.2	14	L
Czech Repub.	10,284	-0.2	9	1.2	14	S
Romania	22,460	-0.1	-1,211	1.3	13	L
Lithuania	3,700	-0.1	26	1.4	13	S
Germany	81,950	-0.1	-204	1.3	16	L
Sweden	8,856	-0.1	152	1.5	17	S
Slovenia	1,978	-0.1	29	1.2	13	L
Italy	57,717	-0.0	-222	1.2	17	S
Greece	10,539	0.0	75	1.3	16	L
Austria	8,087	0.0	-39	1.3	15	S
Spain	39,418	0.0	381	1.2	16	S
Poland	38,674	0.1	1,511	1.5	12	S
Croatia	4,600	0.1	34	1.7	12	L
Moldova	4,284	0.1	152	1.7	9	S
Slovakia	5,401	0.1	-2	1.4	11	S
Portugal	9,992	0.1	-109	1.5	15	L
Belgium	10,225	0.1	103	1.5	16	S
Denmark	5,325	0.1	126	1.7	15	S
Finland	5,170	0.2	86	1.7	15	S
U.K.	59,364	0.2	1,436	1.7	16	S
Yugoslavia	10,646	0.2	514	1.7	13	S
Japan	126,745	0.2	878	1.4	16	L
Switzerland	7,119	0.3	472	1.5	15	L
Norway	4,462	0.3	186	1.8	16	S

<sup>1</sup> Total fertility rate is the average number of children a woman would bear if she experienced the prevailing age-specific fertility rates throughout her childbearing years.

<sup>2</sup> L = too low; S = satisfactory.

Source: PRB, 1999 World Population Data Sheet.

lic day care. The benefits increased with the number of young children in the home. The paid leave was later extended until the child reached age 3, and expanded to include fathers in some circumstances.

The 1980s brought another type of maternity leave benefit. While on leave, women could receive up to 75 percent of their previous salaries, pension benefits, and a guaranteed job on their return to the work force. This second type of benefit was popular with higher-income women, while the flat-rate, nontaxed child allowance was more popular with lower-income women. Analysts believe the maternity leave benefits and child allowances encouraged more Hungarian couples to have a second child and kept the fertility rate from falling further. Nevertheless, Hungary's total fertility rate (1.3 children per woman) is too low to stave off eventual population decline.

#### Sweden

Sweden was an early experimenter with implicitly pronatalist policies. Successive changes in Sweden's maternity leave laws and family welfare benefits in the 1970s and 1980s encouraged childbearing and childrearing. By 1989, Swedish women were granted 15 months of maternity leave at 90 percent of their previous salaries and were guaranteed a job (primarily in government) when they returned to work. Swedish men were the first to have legal rights to take paternal leave, as part of a general climate that emphasized greater male participation in childrearing. Swedish parents were also granted extra leave days to attend school events with their children. Local governments expanded child-care centers and preschools. By 1993, 31 percent of children younger than 3, and 61 percent of children ages 3 to 6, attended child-care centers. These figures compare with 14 percent of children under 3 and 22 percent of children ages 3 to 6 in day care in 1977.

By the early 1990s, Sweden had the most generous family welfare benefits in the world. Although it is difficult to measure direct effects, these policies are considered responsible for a marked increase in Swedish fertility in the late 1980s.

Sweden's total fertility rate rose from 1.7 around 1980 to 2.1 by 1990. One aspect of Sweden's policy encouraged women to have a second child soon after their first. If their children were born fewer than 30 months apart, mothers could maximize the percentage of the earnings they received while on maternity leave. This "speed premium" created a small, temporary baby boom.

Demographers find it difficult to measure the effects of Sweden's policies because economic conditions, unemployment rates, and many other factors also enter into couples' child-bearing decisions. Fertility increased in the 1980s when generous family benefits were introduced, and when the economy was robust. In the 1990s, when the economy turned sour and a new conservative, budget-cutting government scaled back many family benefits, fertility fell back to the levels of the 1970s. It is difficult to know which factors had the greatest effect on fertility, but it is clear that resources available to families have affected Swedish fertility during the past 25 years (see figure).

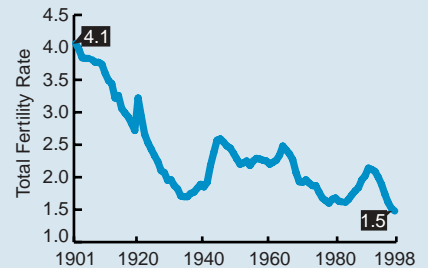
#### Japan

In Japan, where the population is expected to decline after 2007, policymakers have only recently instituted policies that can be considered pronatalist, although the government maintains there is no pronatalist policy.

Both national and local governments are implementing measures that make it easier for couples to combine childrearing and employment. These measures include increasing the number of child-care facilities, especially for children under age 2; keeping child-care centers open past 6 p.m., so that parents can work later; and expanding after-school facilities and various child support programs, centers, and community activities. The government also provides subsidies for childbirth, maternity leave, and a child allowance. But according to Japanese demographer Machiko Yanagishita, these policies are "too little and too indirect to actually encourage couples to have more children."

As we enter the next century, a growing number of countries will have near-zero growth or will decline

### Sweden's Roller Coaster Fertility, 1901-1998



Sources: Jean-Paul Sardon, *Population* 45, no. 6 (1990): 947-56; *Statistical Yearbook of Sweden* (various issues); PRB estimate (1998).

in size. Experience in Europe, Japan, and other countries suggests that governments can encourage people to have more children, but at a high price and not enough to affect long-term trends. ■

For more information:

Britta Hoem and Jan M. Hoem, *Stockholm Research Reports in Demography*, nos. 115 and 123, and Livia Sz. Olah, *Stockholm Research Reports in Demography*, no. 130, available online at <http://www.suda.su.se/filelist.html>, on Oct. 30, 1999.

Mary Mederios Kent is the editor of PRB's *Population Bulletin*.

#### WEBWISE

The following publications were recently posted at [www.prb.org](http://www.prb.org):

- **Breastfeeding Patterns in the Developing World.** This wallchart offers information on breastfeeding patterns, child survival, and reproductive health information for more than 90 developing countries. It also highlights the benefits of breastfeeding, the lactational amenorrhea method, and breastfeeding and HIV/AIDS.
- Full text versions of the *1999 World Population Data Sheet* and several *Population Bulletins* have been added.

[www.prb.org](http://www.prb.org)

# POPULATION UPDATE

## Estimated U.S. Population:

As of Sept. 1, 1999	273,651,000
As of Sept. 1, 1998	271,078,000

Latest data available from the U.S. Census Bureau, total monthly population estimates. Totals include armed forces overseas.

## Estimated World Population:

As of Dec. 1999	6,017,000,000
Annual growth	84,000,000

Extrapolated from the mid-1999 population on PRB's 1999 World Population Data Sheet.

## Latest Provisional Statistics for the United States: December 1998

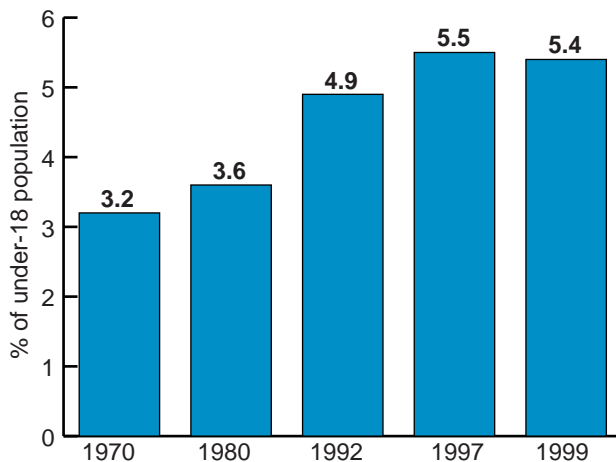
	12 months ending with December			
	Number		Rate	
	1998	1997	1998	1997
Live births .....	3,946,000	3,882,000	14.6	14.5
Fertility rate .....	—	—	66.0	65.0
Deaths .....	2,331,000	2,294,000	8.6	8.6
Infant deaths .....	27,600	27,000	7.0	7.0
Natural increase .....	1,615,000	1,588,000	6.0	5.9
Marriages .....	2,244,000	2,384,000	8.3	8.9
Divorces .....	1,135,000	1,163,000	4.2	4.3

Note: Fertility rate is given per 1,000 women ages 15-44; infant deaths per 1,000 live births; other rates per 1,000 population.

Source: National Center for Health Statistics, *National Vital Statistics Reports*, vol. 47, no. 21 (1999).

# SPEAKING GRAPHICALLY

## U.S. Children Living With Their Grandparents



Source: PRB analysis of March 1999 CPS data; and U.S. Census Bureau, "Coresident Grandparents and Grandchildren," by Ken Bryson and Lynne M. Casper, *Current Population Reports* P23-198 (May 1999).

*Parenting of grandchildren by grandparents increased substantially over the past three decades. This trend is a cause for concern because children living in homes maintained by their grandparents are more likely to live in poverty than are children in traditional family households. The number of children under 18 living with their grandparents increased from 2.2 million in 1970 (3.2 percent of kids under 18) to 3.9 million in 1997 (5.5 percent of the under-18 population). Data from the March 1999 Current Population Survey indicate that this percentage may have leveled off; children living in grandparent-maintained households this past March accounted for 5.4 percent of children under 18. The leveling off may be associated with declining birth rates among teenagers and reductions in poverty.*

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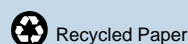
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\* Educators, students, and seniors should send supporting documentation.



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- Long-range UN population projections released (Nov. p. 8)
- Shrinking societies favor procreation (Dec. p. 4)
- UN says population will increase 3 billion by 2050 (May p. 8)
- Worlds apart: contrasting growth rates in more and less developed countries (June p. 3)

## NEWS AND RESOURCES

Fighting fat in the U.S.

Outbreaks of West Nile-like encephalitis and meningitis have captured public attention recently, but the epidemic most Americans are fighting is obesity. Research by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention shows that obesity, defined as being more than 30 percent above ideal body weight, increased from 12 percent in 1991 to 17.9 percent in 1998. The epidemic now affects every segment of society, and more than two-thirds of American adults are trying to lose weight or keep from gaining weight.

To help, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) will soon release an interactive, Internet-based Healthy Eating Index. The index will allow people to enter information about their diet—what they eat, and how much—and receive a nutrition score. By comparing their scores for successive visits, they will be able to grade their diets and track changes over time. The index will be launched in early January, and will be located on the Web site of the USDA's Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion: <http://www.usda.gov/cnpp>. (The CDC research, which was published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, (JAMA) appears on the JAMA Web site: <http://jama.ama-assn.org/issues/v282n16/toc.html>.)

Zimbabwe proposes AIDS tax

Zimbabwe, struggling with one of the world's worst AIDS crises, will soon do something that no country has done before: levy an income tax to help pay for AIDS-related health care costs. AIDS has stricken approximately 25 percent of the country's population.

The tax on individuals and corporations will be deducted automatically from paychecks. Zimbabwe's finance minister projects the tax will raise \$26.6 million annually, or 16 percent of the country's health budget.

A UNAIDS official quoted in the article praised the development as a signal that African countries aren't relying solely on donors. But critics fear the tax will break an already burdened population. Annual inflation is 69 percent, and the country is waging an unpopular military intervention in Congo. *Business Day* of South Africa reported on Nov. 11 that trade unions have threatened to strike if the government does not drop the tax, which would take effect in January.

### PRB Policy Seminars

PRB hosts monthly noontime seminars on demographic trends and policy issues at our Washington, D.C., office. The PRB policy seminars are free and open to the public. To receive regular notices of upcoming seminars, contact PRB at 202/483-1100; fax: 202/328-3937; e-mail: [popref@prb.org](mailto:popref@prb.org). Or visit PRB's Web site at <http://www.prb.org>.

### Americans' big wheels

If it seems that sport utility vehicles (SUVs) are everywhere you look, there's a reason. According to U.S. Census Bureau data, registrations of SUVs nearly doubled between 1992 and 1997, and tripled since 1987. The Census Bureau estimates SUVs totaled 13.8 million in 1997, compared with 7.1 million in 1992.

Two vehicles in the SUV category led the growth. Minivans, which numbered 9.8 million in 1997, increased 61 percent; pickup trucks, of which there were 36.2 million on the road in 1997, increased by 8 percent.

The popularity of the vehicles varied by state. In Wyoming, the number of registered pickup trucks translated into one for every two licensed drivers. Colorado had one SUV per seven licensed drivers.

More information is accessible on the Census

Bureau's Web site: <http://www.census.gov/econ/www/viusmain.html>.

### LIS summer 2000 workshop

The Luxembourg Income Study (LIS) is a cooperative research project on income and economic well-being in more than 25 industrialized countries. The project is sponsored by the government of Luxembourg and by the Centre for Population, Poverty and Policy Studies in Differdange, Luxembourg.

The annual LIS summer workshop introduces pre- and post-doctoral scholars to comparative research in income distribution and social policy using the LIS database. The 2000 summer workshop will be held in July, and applications are due by May 1. More information and an application are available on the project Web site: <http://lissy.ceps.lu/index.htm>.

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