Country Absolute poverty rate (1960-1991)(threshold set at 40% of U.S. median household income)[REF] Relative poverty rate (1970-1997)[REF] . |- Pre-welfare Post-welfare Pre-welfare Post-welfare . |- Sweden 23.7 5.8 14.8 4.8 . |- Norway 9.2 1.7 12.4 4.0 . |- Netherlands 22.1 7.3 18.5 11.5 . |- Finland 11.9 3.7 12.4 3.1 . |- Denmark 26.4 5.9 17.4 4.8 . |- Germany 15.2 4.3 9.7 5.1 . |- Switzerland 12.5 3.8 10.9 9.1 . |- Canada 22.5 6.5 17.1 11.9 . |- France 36.1 9.8 21.8 6.1 . |- Belgium 26.8 6.0 19.5 4.1 . |- Australia 23.3 11.9 16.2 9.2 . |- United Kingdom 16.8 8.7 16.4 8.2 . |- United States 21.0 11.7 17.2 15.1 . |- Italy 30.7 14.3 19.7 9.1