

UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL

**Townsend Centre
for International
Poverty Research**



FIRST UNITED NATIONS DECADE FOR THE

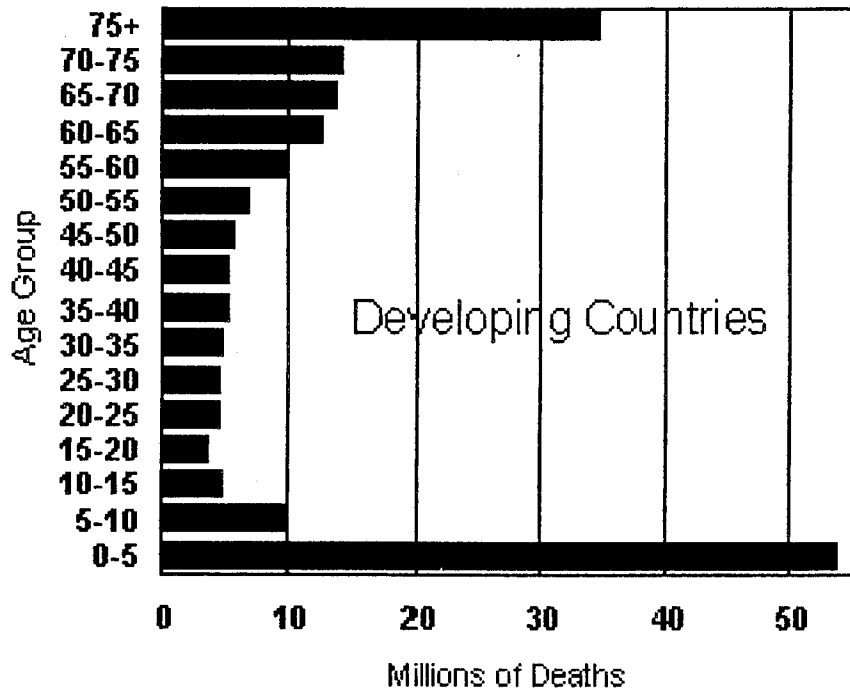
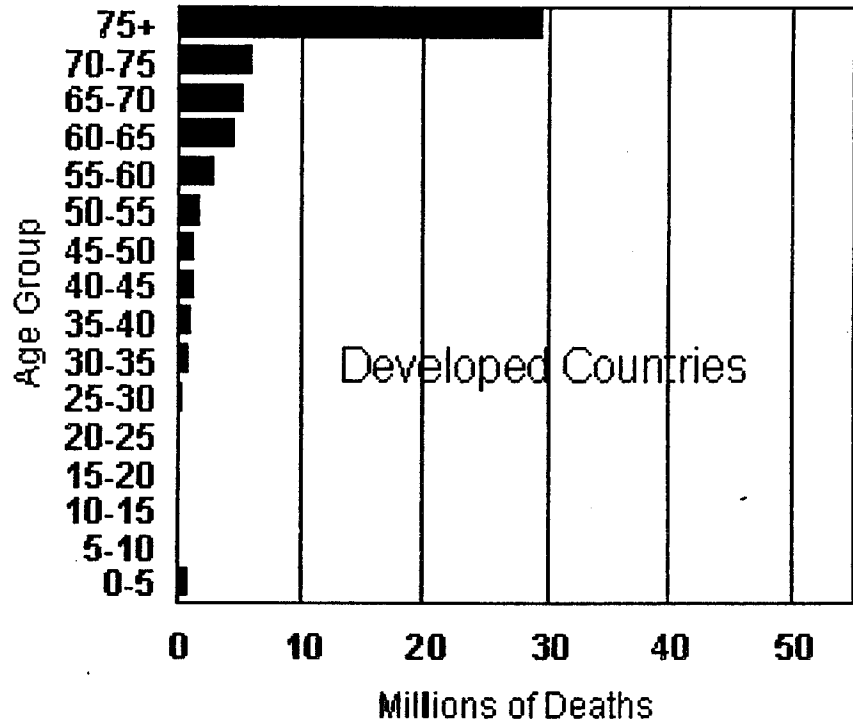
eradication of poverty

(1997-2006)

The 1998 *World Health Report* argued succinctly that

“On the unfinished agenda for health, poverty remains the main item. The priority must be to reduce it in the poorest countries of the world, and to eliminate the pockets of poverty that exist within countries. Policies directed at improving health and ensuring equity are the keys to economic growth and poverty reduction” (WHO, 1998).

Figure 1: Age at death by age group, 1990-1995



Source: Redrawn from *The State of the World Population 1998*

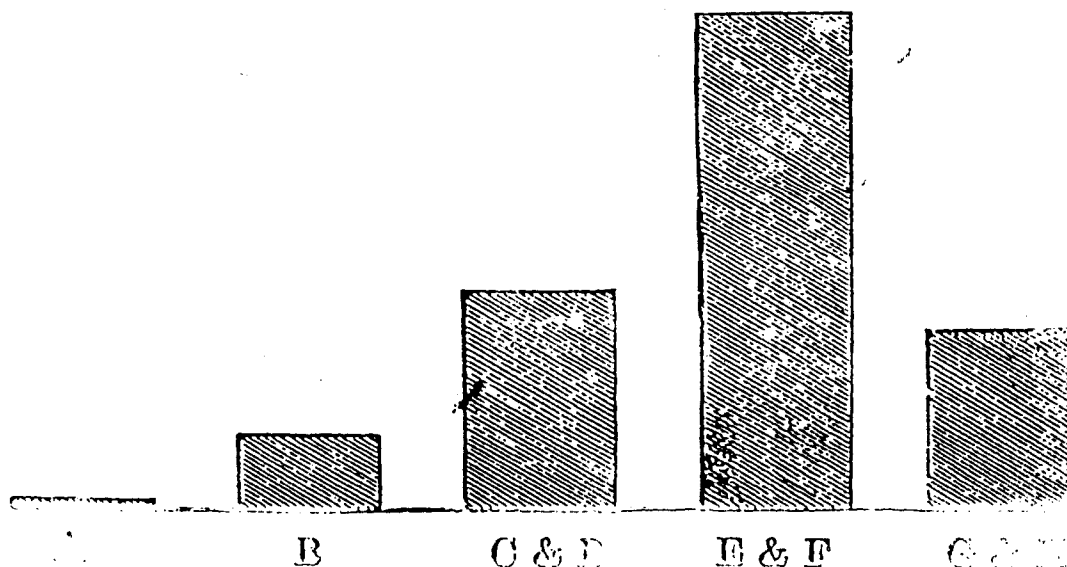
They may be stated thus :—

- A. The lowest class—occasional labourers, loafers and semi-criminals.
- B. The very poor—casual labour, hand-to-mouth existence, chronic want.
- C and D. The poor—including alike those whose earnings are small, because of irregularity of employment, and those whose work, though regular, is ill-paid.
- E and F. The regularly employed and fairly paid working class of all grades.
- G and H. Lower and upper middle class and all above this level.

The proportions of the different classes shown for all London are as follows :—

A (lowest)	37,610	or	·9 per cent.	} In poverty, 30·7 per cent.
B (very poor)	316,834	„	7·5 per cent.	
C and D (poor)	938,293	„	22·3 per cent.	
E and F (working class, com- fortable)	2,166,503	„	51·5 per cent.	} In comfort, 69·3 per cent.
G and H (middle class and above)	749,930	„	17·8 per cent.	
	<hr/>		<hr/>	
	4,209,170		100 per cent.	
Inmates of Institutions	99,830			
	<hr/>		<hr/>	
	4,309,000			

Graphically, the proportions may be shown thus :—



European Union definitions of poverty and social exclusion

The European Union (EU) definition of poverty is one of the most longstanding and widely known. First adopted by the Council of Europe in 1975, it defines those as in poverty as:

“individuals or families whose resources are so small as to exclude them from a minimum acceptable way of life in the Member State in which they live.” (EEC, 1981).

The concept of ‘resources’ was further defined as:

“goods, cash income, plus services from other private resources”.

On the 19 December 1984, the European Commission extended the definition as:

“the poor shall be taken to mean persons, families and groups of persons whose resources (material, cultural and social) are so limited as to exclude them from the minimum acceptable way of life in the Member State in which they live.” (EEC, 1985).

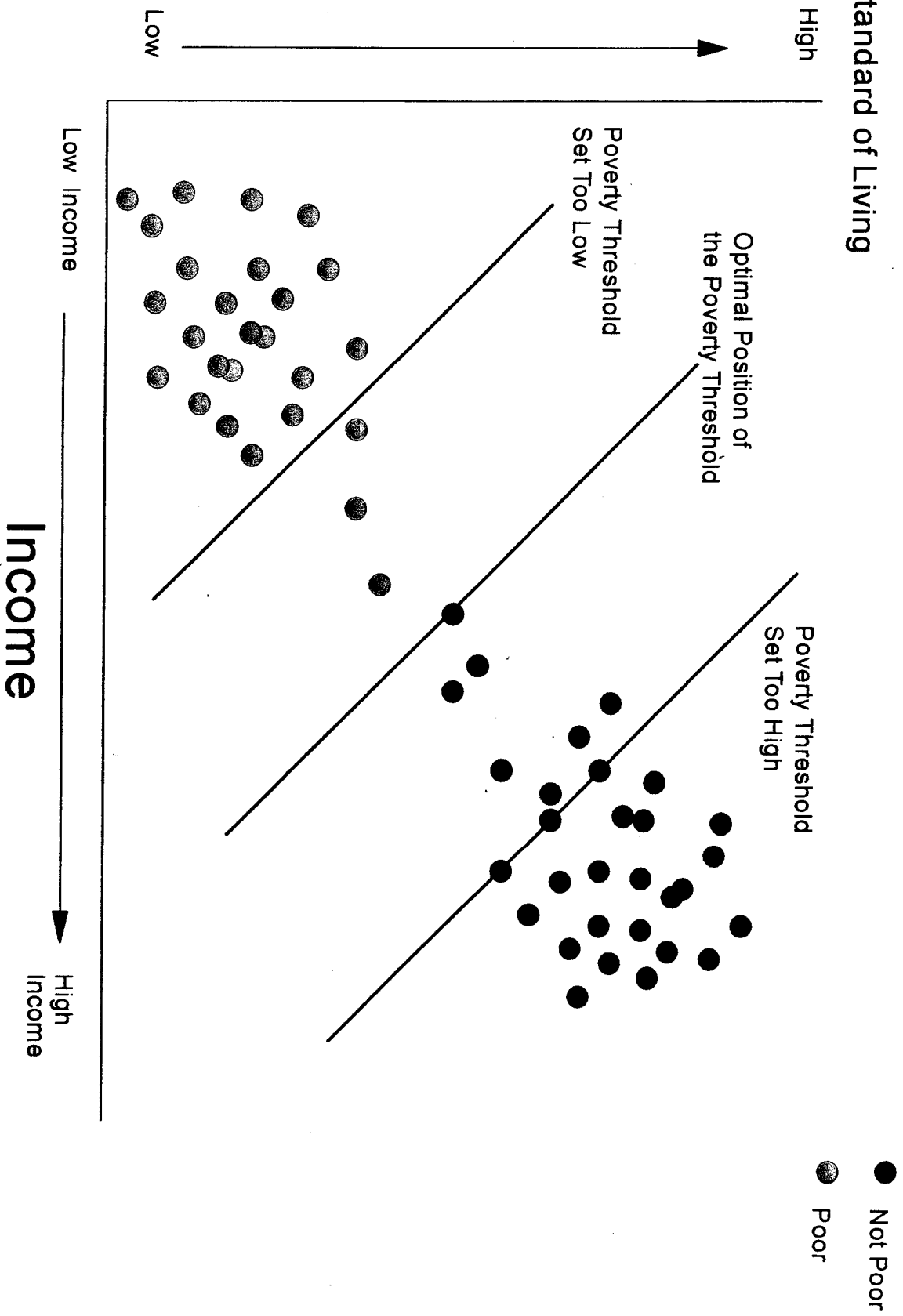
Absolute and Overall Poverty

After the World Summit on Social Development in Copenhagen in 1995, 117 countries adopted a declaration and programme of action which included commitments to eradicate "absolute" and reduce "overall" poverty.

Absolute poverty was defined as "a condition characterised by severe deprivation of basic human needs, including food, safe drinking water, sanitation facilities, health, shelter, education and information. It depends not only on income but also on access to services."

Overall poverty takes various forms, including "lack of income and productive resources to ensure sustainable livelihoods; hunger and malnutrition; ill health; limited or lack of access to education and other basic services; increased morbidity and mortality from illness; homelessness and inadequate housing; unsafe environments and social discrimination and exclusion. It is also characterised by lack of participation in decision-making and in civil, social and cultural life. It occurs in all countries: as mass poverty in many developing countries, pockets of poverty amid wealth in developed countries, loss of livelihoods as a result of economic recession, sudden poverty as a result of disaster or conflict, the poverty of low-wage workers, and the utter destitution of people who fall outside family support systems, social institutions and safety nets. (UN, 1995)

Standard of Living



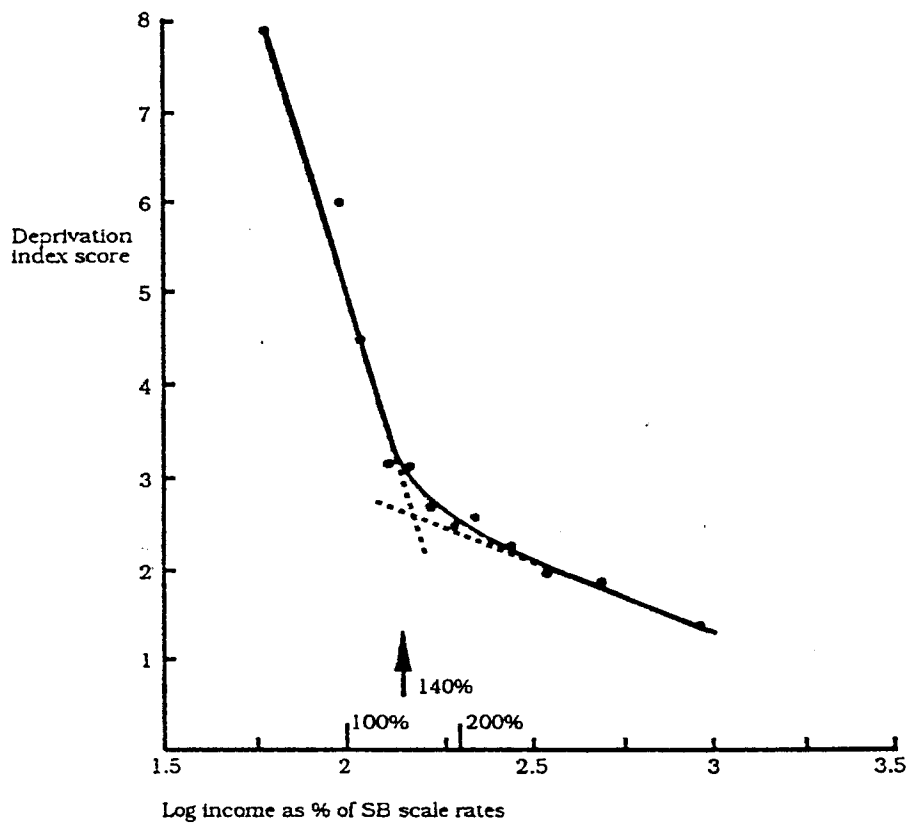
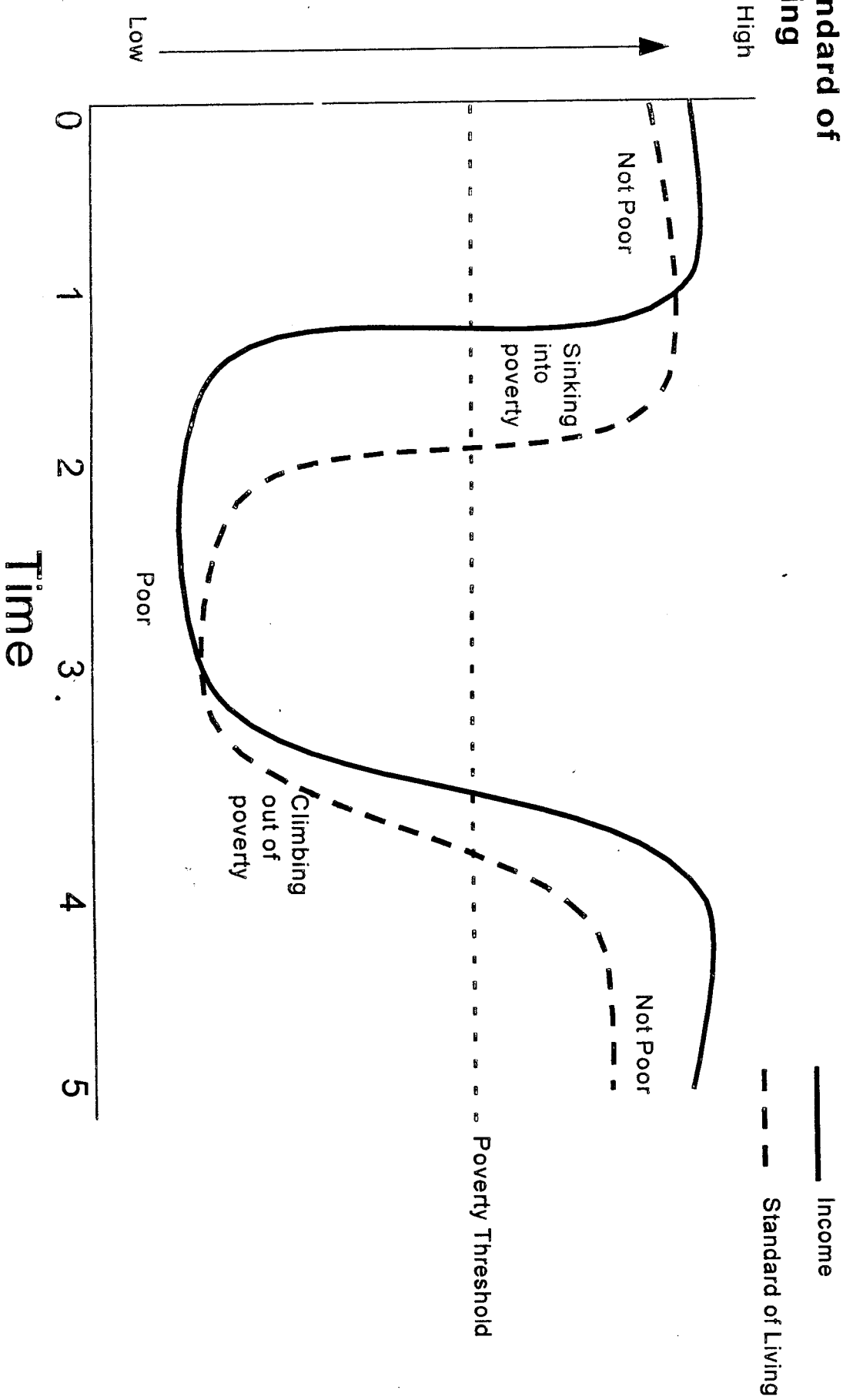
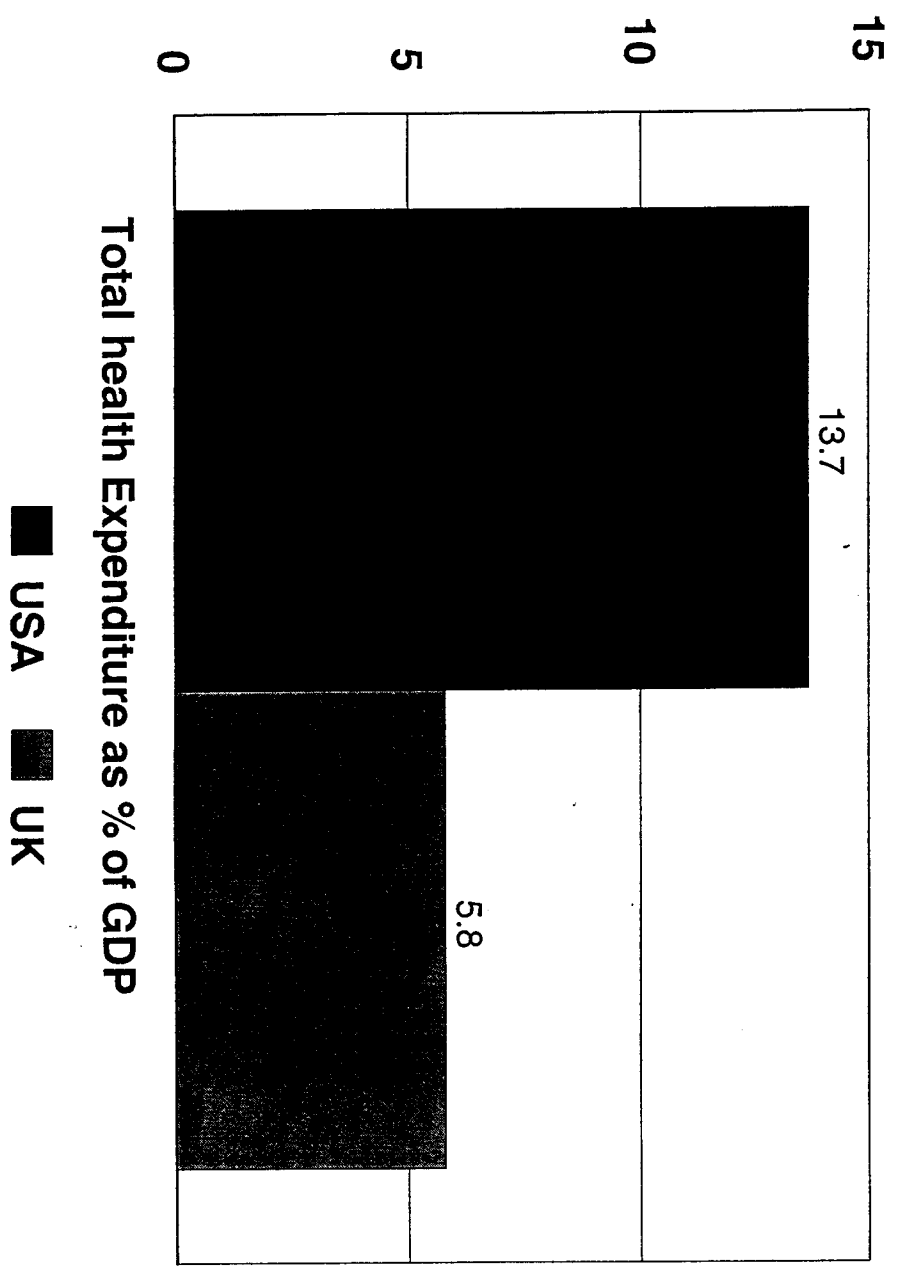


Figure 1.2 Modal Deprivation by Logarithm of Income as a Percentage of Supplementary Benefit Scale Rates.

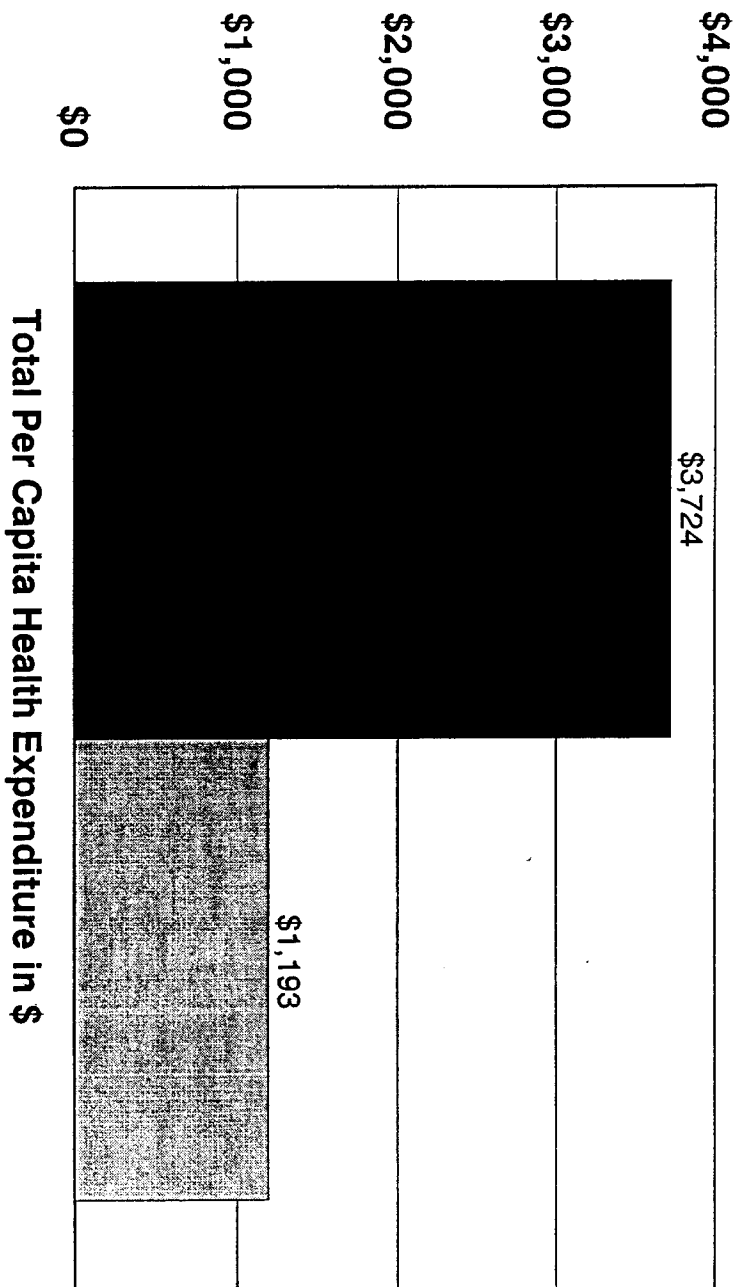
Income and Standard of Living



Total Health Expenditure as % of GDP in USA and UK in 1997

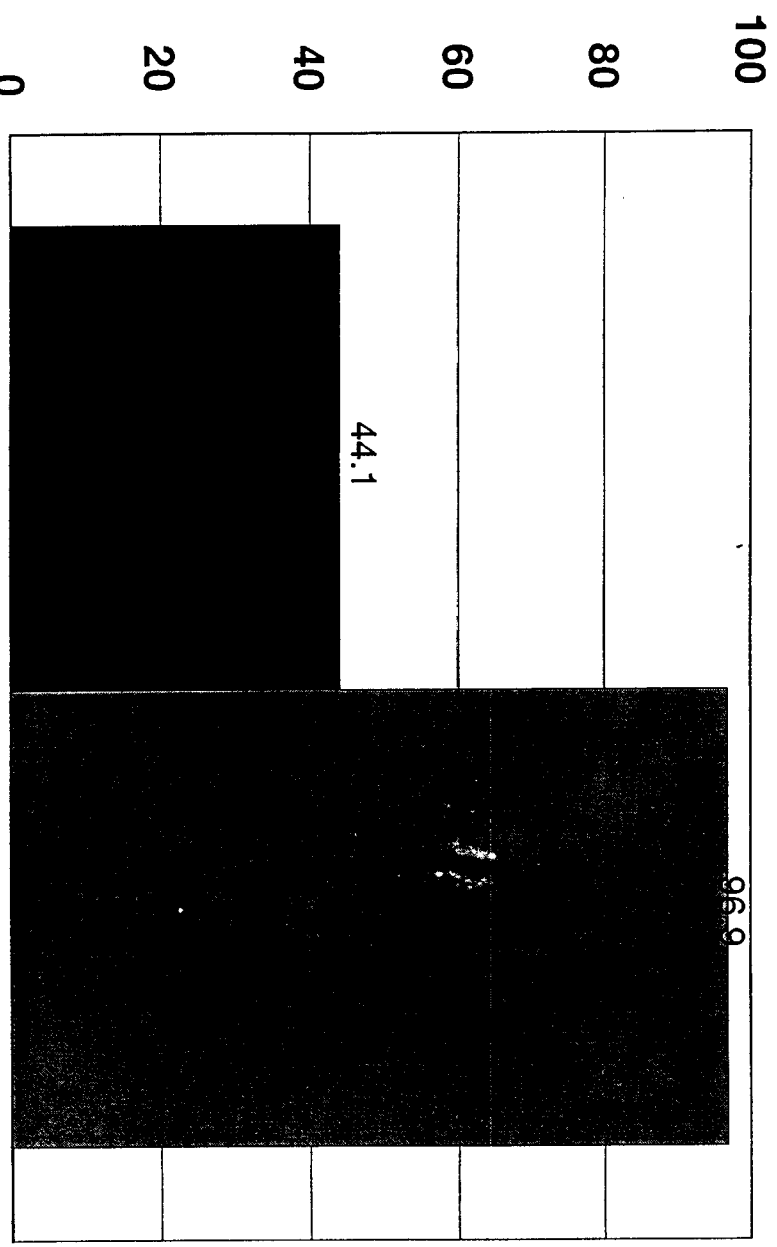


Health Expenditure in USA and UK in 1997



■ USA ■ UK

Public Expenditure as % of Total Health Expenditure in USA and UK in 1997



% Public Expenditure on Health

■ USA ■ UK

Redistribution of income through taxes and benefits

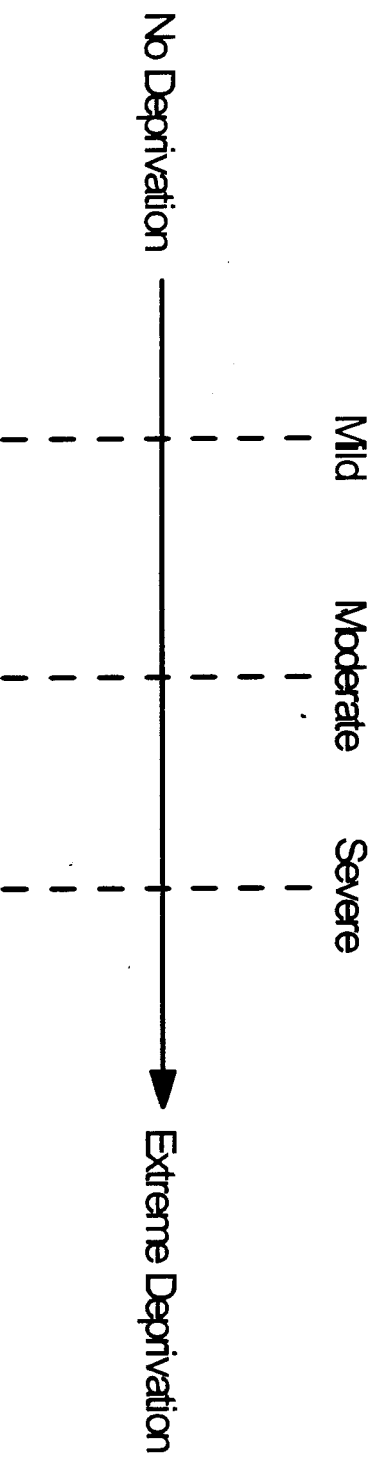
Poorest and richest 10% of households in the UK in 2000-2001

Income	Poorest 10% of Households (N=2.5 million)	Richest 10% of Households (N=2.5 million)
	£	£
Wages & Salaries	1,504	56,034
Other Income	999	24,556
Total Income	2,503	80,590
Retirement Pension	1,683	531
Income Support	746	18
Child Benefit	399	259
Housing Benefit	529	-
Other Cash Benefits	1,181	310
Total Cash Benefits	4,538	1,118
Direct Taxes (Income, Council, etc.)	228	19,881
Total Disposable Income	6,103	61,827
Indirect Taxes (VAT, etc.)	2,764	7,313
Post Tax Income	3,339	54,514
Benefits in Kind		
National Health Service	2,688	1,807
Education	2,566	708
Other Benefits in Kind	198	89
Total Benefits in Kind	5,452	2,604
Final Income	8,791	57,118

Source: recalculated from data in Economic Trends

Deprivation can therefore be conceptualised as a continuum which ranges from no deprivation through mild, moderate and severe deprivation to extreme deprivation.

Figure 3.1: Continuum of deprivation



In order to measure absolute poverty amongst children, it is necessary to define the threshold measures of severe deprivation of basic human need for:

1. food
2. safe drinking water
3. sanitation facilities
4. health
5. shelter
6. education
7. information
8. access to service

Table 2: Operational definitions of deprivation for children

Deprivation	Mild	Moderate	Severe	Extreme
Food	Bland diet of poor nutritional value	Going hungry on occasion	Malnutrition	Starvation
Safe drinking water	Not having enough water on occasion due to lack of sufficient money	No access to water in dwelling but communal piped water available within 200 meters of dwelling or less than 15 minutes walk away	Long walk to water source (more than 200 meters or longer than 15 minutes). Unsafe drinking water (e.g. open water)	No access to water
Sanitation facilities	Having to share facilities with another household	Sanitation facilities outside dwelling	No sanitation facilities in or near dwelling	No access to sanitation facilities
Health	Occasional lack of access to medical care due to insufficient money	Inadequate medical care	No immunisation against diseases. Only limited non-professional medical care available when sick	No medical care
Shelter	Dwelling in poor repair. More than 1 person per room	Few facilities in dwelling, lack of heating, structural problems. More than 3 people per room	No facilities in house, non-permanent structure, no privacy, no flooring, just one or two rooms. More than 5 persons per room	Roofless – no shelter
Education	Inadequate teaching due to lack of resources	Unable to attend secondary but can attend primary education	Child is 7 or older and has received no primary or secondary education	Prevented from learning due to persecution and prejudice
Information	Can't afford newspapers or books	No television but can afford a radio	No access to radio, television or books or newspapers	Prevented from gaining access to information by government, etc.
Basic Social Services	Health and education facilities available but occasionally of low standard	Inadequate Health and education facilities near by (e.g. less than 1 hour travel)	Limited health and education facilities more than 1 hours travel away	No access to health or education facilities

Children who suffer from *severe deprivation of basic human need* as shown in column 4 of Table 2 are living in absolute poverty as defined at the World Social Summit, ie *Absolute poverty is a condition characterised by severe deprivation of basic human needs, including food, safe drinking water, sanitation facilities, health, shelter, education and information. It depends not only on income but also on access to social services.*”

World Map of Children in Absolute Poverty



- 1 -9 %
- 10 - 19 %
- 20 - 39 %
- 40 - 59 %
- 60 - 79 %
- 80 - 100 %
- No Data
- Sea

1. Bolivia
2. Brazil
3. Colombia
4. Dominican Republic
5. Guatemala
6. Haiti
7. Nicaragua
8. Peru
9. Egypt

10. Morocco
11. Yemen
12. Cambodia
13. China
14. Indonesia
15. Philippines
16. Bangladesh
17. India
18. Nepal

19. Pakistan
20. Benin
21. Burkina Faso
22. Cameroon
23. Central African Republic
24. Chad
25. Côte d'Ivoire
26. Ethiopia
27. Ghana

28. Guinea
29. Kenya
30. Madagascar
31. Malawi
32. Mali
33. Mauritania
34. Mozambique
35. Namibia
36. Niger

37. Nigeria
38. Rwanda
39. Senegal
40. South Africa
41. Tanzania
42. Togo
43. Uganda
44. Zambia
45. Zimbabwe

SHUFFLEBOARD SIDE 1 AND BLUE CARDS

EXCLUDE CARDS 43 AND 44 (ASTERISKED), WHICH RELATE TO CHILDREN

Q5 On these cards are a number of different items which relate to our standard of living. Please would you indicate by placing the cards in the appropriate box the living standards you feel all adults should have in Britain today. BOX A is for items which you think are necessary, which all adults should be able to afford and which they should not have to do without. BOX B is for items which may be desirable but are not necessary.

GIVE CARDS 43 AND 44 RELATING TO CHILDREN(*)

Q6 Now could you do the same, this time thinking of a family with children.

	A Necessary	B Desirable	DK
33 A dishwasher	5	94	1
34 A meal in a restaurant once a month	17	82	1
35 Regular savings (of £10 a month) for 'rainy days' or retirement	67	31	2
36 A video	13	85	2
37 Enough money to keep your home in a decent state of decoration	92	7	1
38 Holidays abroad once a year	17	81	2
39 Coach/train fares to visit family/friends in other parts of the country four times a year	39	59	2
40 Insurance of contents of dwelling	88	11	1
41 Fresh fruit and vegetables every day	88	11	1
42 A home computer	5	92	3
43 *Paying for special lessons such as music, dance or sport	39	59	2
44 *Participation in out-of-school activities e.g. sports, orchestra/band, Scouts/Guides	69	29	2

One 3
 Two 3
 Three 5
 Four 4
 Five 6

Six 5
 Seven 2
 Eight to Ten 16
 More than Ten 27
 Don't know 29

SHUFFLEBOARD SIDE 2 AND CREAM CARDS

EXCLUDE CARDS 27 TO 32 (ASTERISKED), IF NO CHILDREN LIVING AT HOME

Q11 Now, could you please put the cream cards into these four boxes:

		A	B	C	D	N/A
		Have and couldn't do without	Have and could do without	Don't have but don't want	Don't have and can't afford	DK
1	Two meals a day	81	13	4	1	1
2	Meat/fish/vegn equivalent every other day	64	26	5	3	2
3	Heating to warm living areas of the home if it's cold	91	5	*	3	1
4	A dressing gown	34	50	14	1	1
5	Two pairs of all weather shoes	70	20	5	4	1
6	New, not second hand clothes	58	31	5	4	2
7	A television	57	39	1	1	2
8	A roast joint or its vegetarian equivalent once a week	47	37	9	6	1
9	Carpets in living rooms and bedrooms in the home	76	20	1	2	1
10	Telephone	62	25	5	7	1
11	Refrigerator	91	6	1	1	1
12	Indoor toilet, not shared with another household	95	3	1	*	1
13	Bath, not shared with another household	94	4	1	*	1

Table 11

Reliability analysis on the deprivation questions from Breadline Britain in the 1990's that more than 50% of the population thinks are necessary and people should be able to afford

	Corrected Item-Total Correlation	Alpha if Item Deleted
1 A damp-free home	.3672	.8726
2 An Inside Toilet (not shared with another	.0824	.8761
3 Heating to warm living areas of the home if it's cold	.4031	.8720
4 Beds for everyone in the household	.2422	.8749
5 Bath not shared with another household	.0512	.8763
6 Enough money to keep your home in a decent state of	.5735	.8673
7 Fridge	.2100	.8752
8 A warm waterproof coat	.5072	.8696
9 Two meals a day (for adults)	.2648	.8746
10 Insurance of Contents of Dwelling	.5816	.8669
11 Fresh fruit and vegetables every day	.4853	.8698
12 Carpets in living rooms and bedrooms in the home	.2701	.8743
13 Meat or fish or vegetarian equivalent every other day	.3662	.8726
14 Celebrations on special occasions such as Christmas	.4306	.8713
15 Two pairs of all-weather shoes	.5600	.8680
16 Washing machine	.2578	.8746
17 Presents for friends or family once a year	.5227	.8689
18 Regular savings of £10 a month for "rainy days" or	.5002	.8723
19 A Hobby or Leisure Activities	.4703	.8701
20 New, not second-hand clothes	.4582	.8706
21 A roast joint or its vegetarian equivalent once a week	.4566	.8705
22 Television	.1478	.8757
23 Telephone	.3746	.8729
24 An annual week's holiday away, not with relatives	.5717	.8681
25 A "best outfit" for special occasions	.5460	.8680

Extra Questions for Families with Children

1 Three meals a day for children	.2875	.8745
2 Toys for children e.g. dolls or models	.3200	.8740
3 Separate bedrooms for every child over 10 of different sexes	.2540	.8747
4 Out of school activities, e.g. sports, orchestra, Scouts	.4718	.8703
5 Leisure equipment for children e.g. sports equipment or a bicycle	.4263	.8715
6 An outing for children once a week	.5012	.8694
7 Children's friends round for tea/snack once a fortnight	.4799	.8703

Coefficient Alpha for the 32 Questions = 0.8754

The Chief Medical Officer's Ten Tips for better health

1. Don't smoke. If you can, stop. If you can't, cut down.
2. Follow a balanced diet with plenty of fruit and vegetables.
3. Keep physically active.
4. Manage stress by, for example, talking things through and making time to relax.
5. If you drink alcohol, do so in moderation.
6. Cover up in the sun, and protect children from sunburn.
7. Practise safer sex.
8. Take up cancer screening opportunities.
9. Be safe on the roads: follow the Highway Code.
10. Learn the First Aid ABC – airways, breathing and circulation.

Source: DoH (1999)

Alternative Ten Tips

1. Don't be poor. If you are poor, try not to be poor for too long.
2. Don't live in a deprived area. If you do, move.
3. Don't be disabled or have a disabled child.
4. Don't work in a stressful low-paid manual job.
5. Don't live in damp, low quality housing or be homeless.
6. Be able to afford to pay for social activities and annual holidays.
7. Don't be a lone parent.
8. Claim all benefits to which you are entitled.
9. Be able to afford to own a car.
10. Use education as an opportunity to improve your socio-economic position.

Source: Townsend Centre for International Poverty Research, University of Bristol.