

Table 8.2 Female representation in the national legislatures of some liberal democracies, 1993 and 2012

Women provide an increasing, but still minority, share of parliamentary representatives. Higher rates of female representation are associated with proportional representation.

	Electoral system	Female representation (%)	
		1993	2012
Sweden	List PR	40	45
Norway	List PR	39	40
Netherlands	List PR	31	39
Germany	MMP	26	33
New Zealand	MMP	29	32
Australia	AV	8	25
Canada	SMP	18	25
United Kingdom	SMP	18	22
Italy	List PR	15	21
France	Two-round system	6	19
USA	SMP	11	17
Ireland	STV	2	15

Note: In bicameral assemblies, the figure shown is for the lower house. AV – alternative vote; List PR – list proportional representation; MMP – mixed member proportional; SMP – single-member plurality; STV – single transferable vote. See Chapter 11.

Source: IPU (2012).