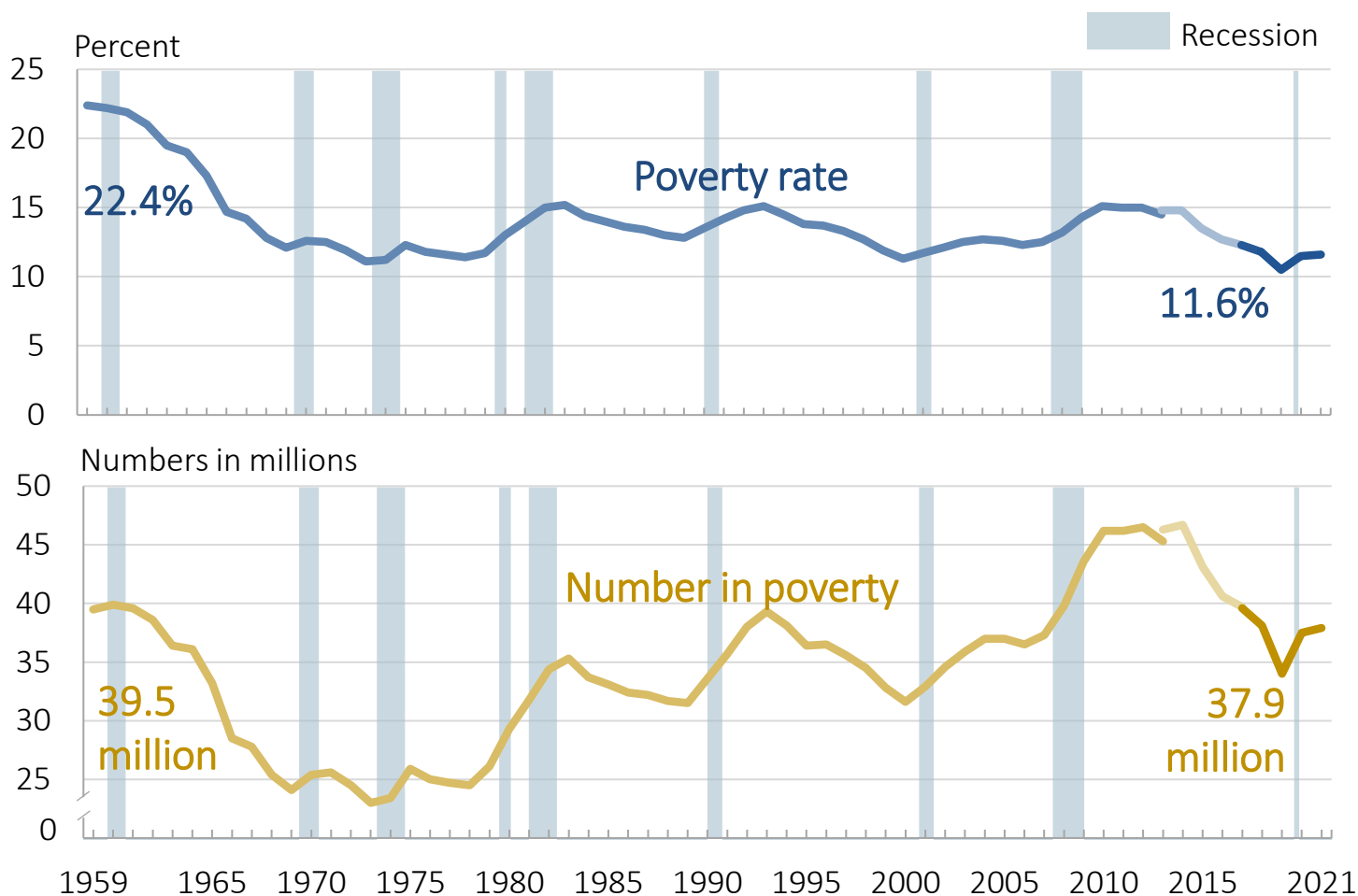


# Poverty in the United States: 2021

## **Live News Conference**

September 13, 2022

# Poverty Rate and Number in Poverty: 1959 to 2021



The official poverty rate in 2021 was 11.6 percent, with 37.9 million people in poverty. Neither the rate nor the number in poverty was significantly different from 2020.

# Poverty Rate and Number in Poverty: 1959 to 2021

(Numbers in millions, Rates in percent)

Year	Number in Poverty	Poverty Rate	Year	Number in Poverty	Poverty Rate	Year	Number in Poverty	Poverty Rate
1959	39.5	22.4	1989	31.5	12.8	2017 <sup>2</sup>	39.6	12.3
1960	39.9	22.2	1990	33.6	13.5	2018	38.1	11.8
1961	39.6	21.9	1991 <sup>13</sup>	35.7	14.2	2019	34.0	10.5
1962	38.6	21.0	1992 <sup>12</sup>	38.0	14.8	2020 <sup>1</sup>	37.5	11.5
1963	36.4	19.5	1993 <sup>11</sup>	39.3	15.1	2021	37.9	11.6
1964	36.1	19.0	1994 <sup>10</sup>	38.1	14.5		0.0	0.0
1965	33.2	17.3	1995 <sup>9</sup>	36.4	13.8		0.0	0.0
1966	28.5	14.7	1996	36.5	13.7		0.0	0.0
1967 <sup>22</sup>	27.8	14.2	1997	35.6	13.3		0.0	0.0
1968	25.4	12.8	1998	34.5	12.7		0.0	0.0
1969	24.1	12.1	1999 <sup>8</sup>	32.8	11.9		0.0	0.0
1970	25.4	12.6	2000 <sup>7</sup>	31.6	11.3		0.0	0.0
1971 <sup>21</sup>	25.6	12.5	2001	32.9	11.7		0.0	0.0
1972 <sup>20</sup>	24.5	11.9	2002	34.6	12.1		0.0	0.0
1973	23.0	11.1	2003	35.9	12.5		0.0	0.0
1974 <sup>19</sup>	23.4	11.2	2004 <sup>6</sup>	37.0	12.7		0.0	0.0
1975	25.9	12.3	2005	37.0	12.6		0.0	0.0
1976	25.0	11.8	2006	36.5	12.3		0.0	0.0
1977	24.7	11.6	2007	37.3	12.5		0.0	0.0
1978	24.5	11.4	2008	39.8	13.2		0.0	0.0
1979 <sup>18</sup>	26.1	11.7	2009	43.6	14.3		0.0	0.0
1980	29.3	13.0	2010 <sup>5</sup>	46.2	15.1		0.0	0.0
1981 <sup>17</sup>	31.8	14.0	2011	46.2	15.0		0.0	0.0
1982	34.4	15.0	2012	46.5	15.0		0.0	0.0
1983	35.3	15.2	2013 <sup>4</sup>	45.3	14.5		0.0	0.0
1984 <sup>16</sup>	33.7	14.4	2013 <sup>3</sup>	46.3	14.8		0.0	0.0
1985 <sup>15</sup>	33.1	14.0	2014	46.7	14.8		0.0	0.0
1986	32.4	13.6	2015	43.1	13.5		0.0	0.0
1987 <sup>15</sup>	32.2	13.4	2016	40.6	12.7		0.0	0.0
1988 <sup>14</sup>	31.7	13	2017	39.7	12.3		0.0	0.0

For footnotes, see last slide of Poverty section.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 1960 to 2022 Annual Social and Economic Supplements (CPS ASEC).  
More information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions is available at  
<[www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/cps/techdocs/cpsmar22.pdf](http://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/cps/techdocs/cpsmar22.pdf)>.



# Recessions

Peak month	Year	Trough month	Year
November	1948	October	1949
July	1953	May	1954
August	1957	April	1958
April	1960	February	1961
December	1969	November	1970
November	1973	March	1975
January	1980	July	1980
July	1981	November	1982
July	1990	March	1991
March	2001	November	2001
December	2007	June	2009
February	2020	April	2020

Source: National Bureau of Economic Research

<[www.nber.org/research/data/us-business-cycle-expansions-and-contractions](http://www.nber.org/research/data/us-business-cycle-expansions-and-contractions)>.

# Weighted Average Poverty Thresholds in 2021

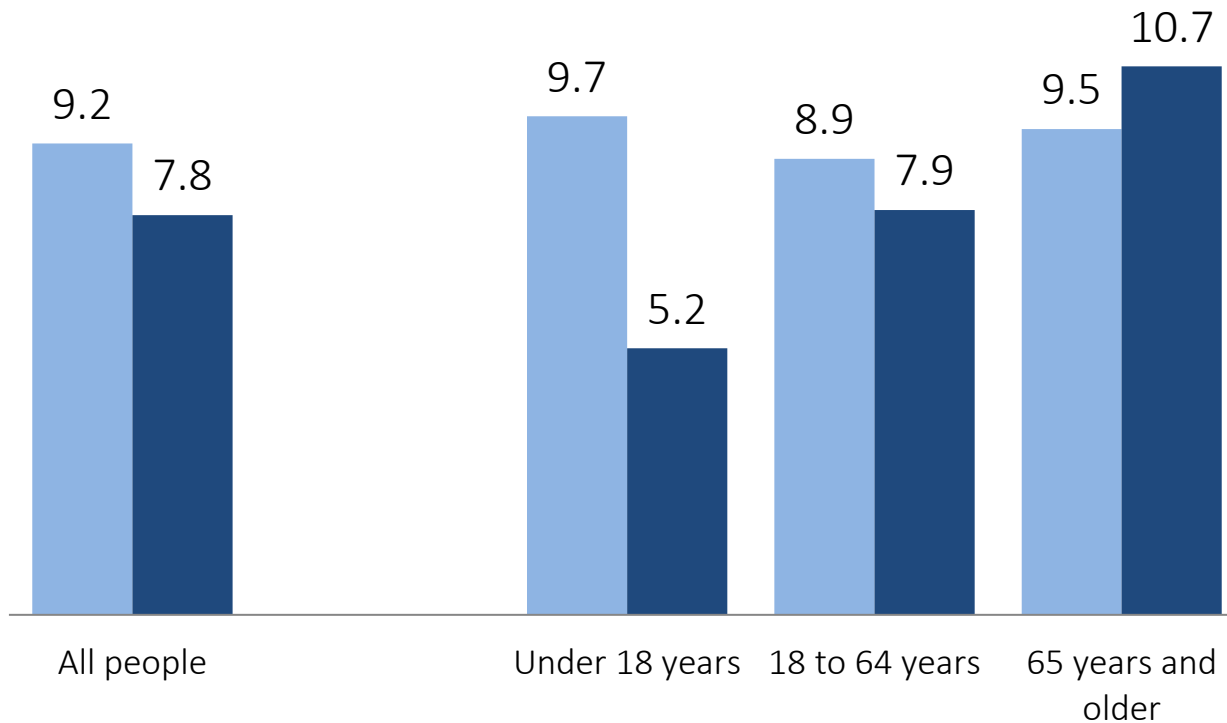
Size of family unit	Threshold
One person (unrelated individual)	13,788
Under 65 years	14,097
65 years and older	12,996
Two people	17,529
Householder under 65 years	18,231
Householder 65 years and older	16,400
Three people	21,559
Four people	27,740
Five people	32,865
Six people	37,161
Seven people	42,156
Eight people	47,093
Nine people or more	56,325

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 2022 Annual Economic Supplement.

# SPM Poverty Rates: 2020 and 2021

(In percent)

2020<sup>1</sup> 2021



The Supplemental Poverty Measure (SPM) rate in 2021 was 7.8 percent, a decrease of 1.4 percentage points from 2020.

# Comparison of SPM Poverty Estimates: 2020 and 2021

(Percent)

Characteristic	2020 <sup>1</sup>	2021
All People	9.2%	7.8%
Under 18 years	9.7%	5.2%
18 to 64 years	8.9%	7.9%
65 years and older	9.5%	10.7%

<sup>1</sup> Implementation of 2020 Census-based population controls.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 2021 and 2022 Annual Social and Economic Supplements (CPS ASEC). More information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions is available at <<https://www2.census.gov/prod/techdoc/cps/cpsmar22.pdf>>.

# Income and Poverty Estimates



**Liana E. Fox**

**Assistant Division Chief**

**Economic Characteristics**

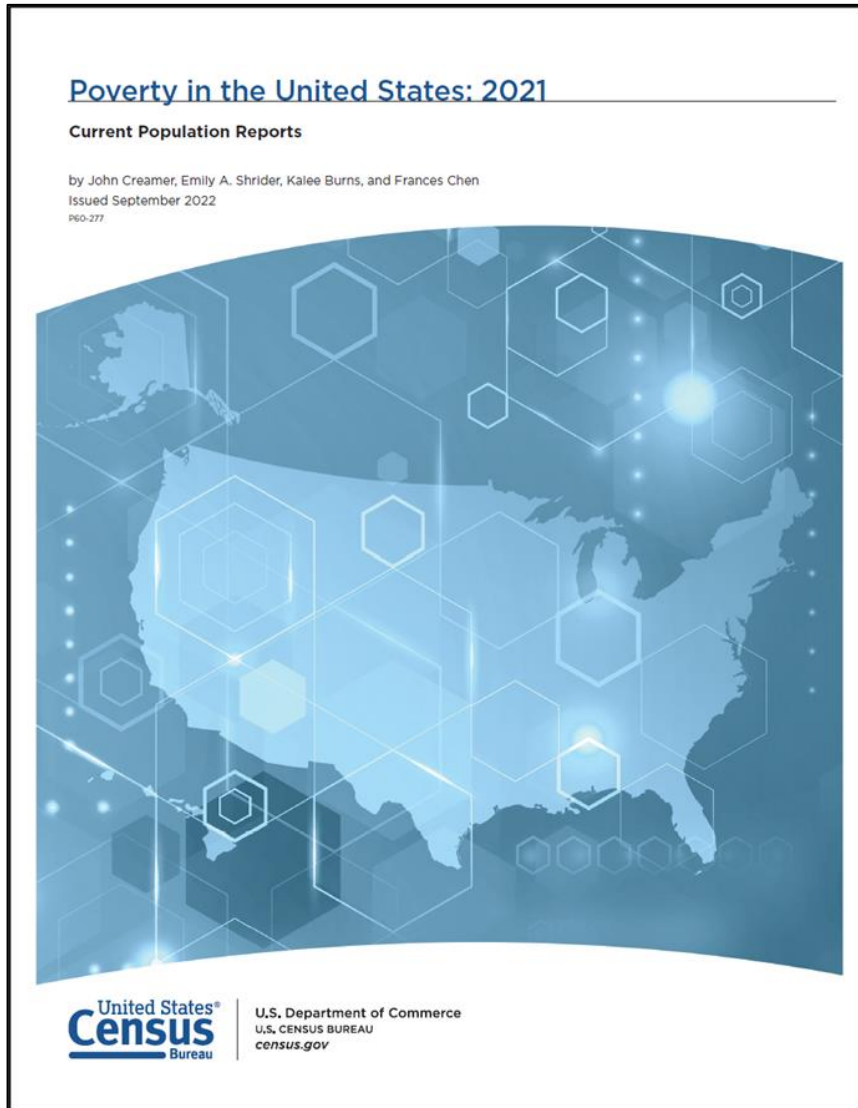
# Poverty in the United States

- This marks the first year that the Census Bureau has produced a report with the official poverty measure and the Supplemental Poverty Measure (SPM).
- The combined poverty report provides two distinct indicators of economic well-being in the United States.



# Highlights

- The official poverty rate in 2021 was 11.6 percent, with 37.9 million people in poverty.
- The SPM rate in 2021 was 7.8 percent, a decrease of 1.4 percentage points from 2020.
- The SPM rate for children was 5.2 percent in 2021, a decrease of 4.5 percentage points from 2020.
- Refundable tax credits, including the Child Tax Credit in 2021, kept 9.6 million people out of poverty.





# How the Census Bureau Measures Poverty: Official Poverty

## **INCLUDES:**

- Wages and earnings
- Social Security
- Unemployment
- Retirement
- Interest & dividends
- Public Assistance



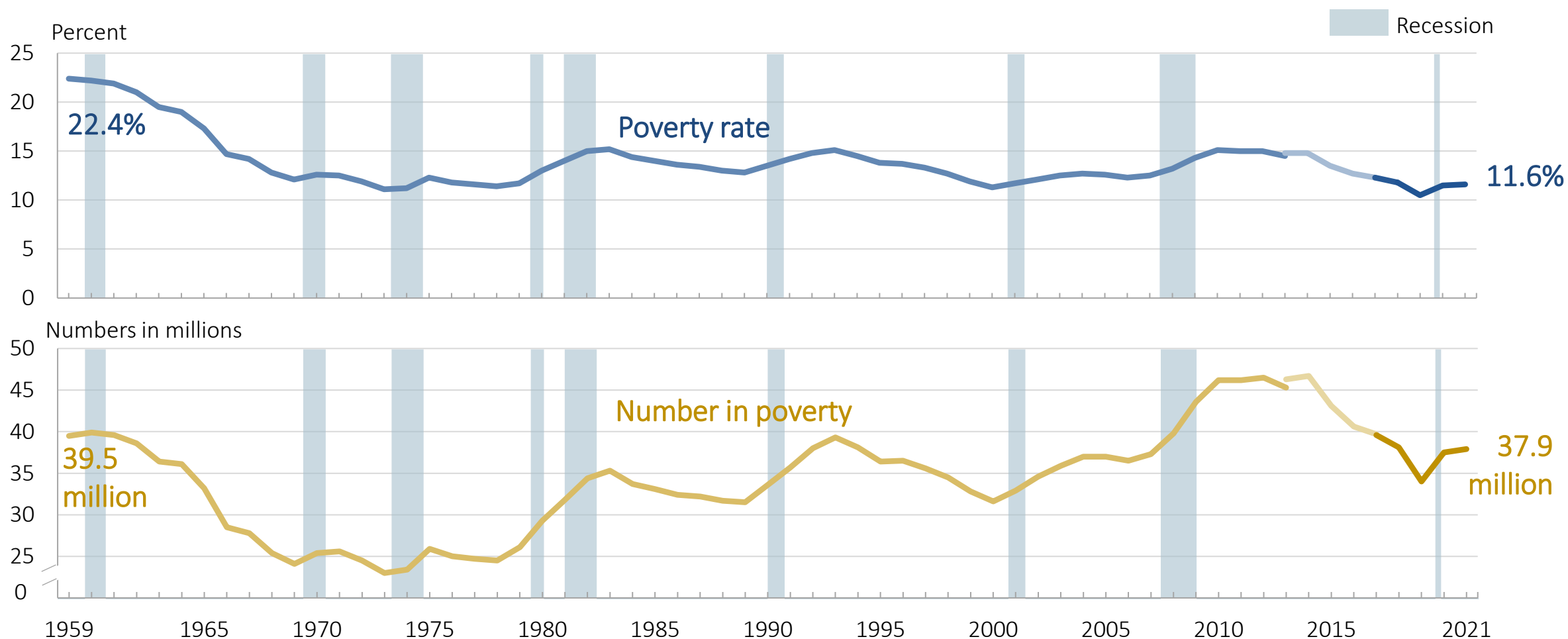
## **DOES NOT INCLUDE:**

- Taxes Paid
- Tax Credits
- Stimulus payments
- Noncash assistance (SNAP, Medicaid, etc.)

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Threshold adjusted for  
family composition

# Poverty Rate and Number in Poverty: 1959 to 2021



## Poverty Rate and Number in Poverty: 1959 to 2021

(Numbers in millions, Rates in percent)

Year	Number in Poverty	Poverty Rate	Year	Number in Poverty	Poverty Rate	Year	Number in Poverty	Poverty Rate
1959	39.5	22.4	1989	31.5	12.8	2017 <sup>2</sup>	39.6	12.3
1960	39.9	22.2	1990	33.6	13.5	2018	38.1	11.8
1961	39.6	21.9	1991 <sup>13</sup>	35.7	14.2	2019	34.0	10.5
1962	38.6	21.0	1992 <sup>12</sup>	38.0	14.8	2020 <sup>1</sup>	37.5	11.5
1963	36.4	19.5	1993 <sup>11</sup>	39.3	15.1	2021	37.9	11.6
1964	36.1	19.0	1994 <sup>10</sup>	38.1	14.5		0.0	0.0
1965	33.2	17.3	1995 <sup>9</sup>	36.4	13.8		0.0	0.0
1966	28.5	14.7	1996	36.5	13.7		0.0	0.0
1967 <sup>22</sup>	27.8	14.2	1997	35.6	13.3		0.0	0.0
1968	25.4	12.8	1998	34.5	12.7		0.0	0.0
1969	24.1	12.1	1999 <sup>8</sup>	32.8	11.9		0.0	0.0
1970	25.4	12.6	2000 <sup>7</sup>	31.6	11.3		0.0	0.0
1971 <sup>21</sup>	25.6	12.5	2001	32.9	11.7		0.0	0.0
1972 <sup>20</sup>	24.5	11.9	2002	34.6	12.1		0.0	0.0
1973	23.0	11.1	2003	35.9	12.5		0.0	0.0
1974 <sup>19</sup>	23.4	11.2	2004 <sup>6</sup>	37.0	12.7		0.0	0.0
1975	25.9	12.3	2005	37.0	12.6		0.0	0.0
1976	25.0	11.8	2006	36.5	12.3		0.0	0.0
1977	24.7	11.6	2007	37.3	12.5		0.0	0.0
1978	24.5	11.4	2008	39.8	13.2		0.0	0.0
1979 <sup>18</sup>	26.1	11.7	2009	43.6	14.3		0.0	0.0
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1982	34.4	15.0	2012	46.5	15.0		0.0	0.0
1983	35.3	15.2	2013 <sup>4</sup>	45.3	14.5		0.0	0.0
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1985 <sup>15</sup>	33.1	14.0	2014	46.7	14.8		0.0	0.0
1986	32.4	13.6	2015	43.1	13.5		0.0	0.0
1987 <sup>15</sup>	32.2	13.4	2016	40.6	12.7		0.0	0.0
1988 <sup>14</sup>	31.7	13	2017	39.7	12.3		0.0	0.0

For footnotes, see last slide of Poverty section.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 1960 to 2022 Annual Social and Economic Supplements (CPS ASEC).  
More information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions is available at  
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## Recessions

Peak month	Year	Trough month	Year
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July	1953	May	1954
August	1957	April	1958
April	1960	February	1961
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July	1990	March	1991
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Source: National Bureau of Economic Research

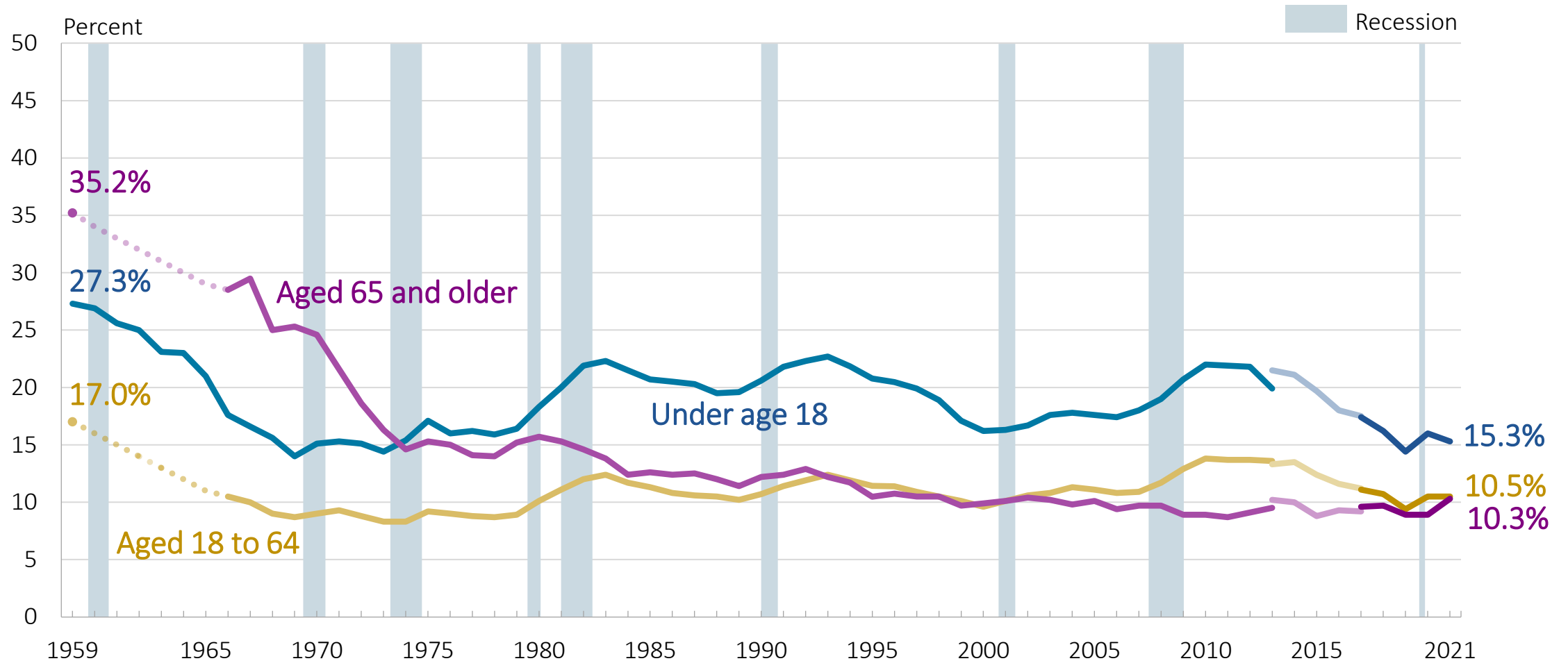
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## Weighted Average Poverty Thresholds in 2021

Size of family unit	Threshold
One person (unrelated individual)	13,788
Under 65 years	14,097
65 years and older	12,996
Two people	17,529
Householder under 65 years	18,231
Householder 65 years and older	16,400
Three people	21,559
Four people	27,740
Five people	32,865
Six people	37,161
Seven people	42,156
Eight people	47,093
Nine people or more	56,325

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 2022 Annual Economic Supplement.

# Poverty Rates by Age: 1959 to 2021



# Poverty Rates by Age: 1959 to 2021

(Percent)

Year	Under age18	Aged 18 to 64	Aged 65 and older	Year	Under age18	Aged 18 to 64	Aged 65 and older	Year	Under age18	Aged 18 to 64	Aged 65 and older
1959	27.3	17.0	35.2	1989	19.6	10.2	11.4	2017 <sup>2</sup>	17.4	11.1	9.6
1960	26.9	N	N	1990	20.6	10.7	12.2	2018	16.2	10.7	9.7
1961	25.6	N	N	1991 <sup>13</sup>	21.8	11.4	12.4	2019	14.4	9.4	8.9
1962	25.0	N	N	1992 <sup>12</sup>	22.3	11.9	12.9	2020 <sup>1</sup>	16.0	10.5	8.9
1963	23.1	N	N	1993 <sup>11</sup>	22.7	12.4	12.2	2021	15.3	10.5	10.3
1964	23.0	N	N	1994 <sup>10</sup>	21.8	11.9	11.7				
1965	21.0	N	N	1995 <sup>9</sup>	20.8	11.4	10.5				
1966	17.6	10.5	28.5	1996	20.5	11.4	10.8				
1967 <sup>22</sup>	16.6	10.0	29.5	1997	19.9	10.9	10.5				
1968	15.6	9.0	25.0	1998	18.9	10.5	10.5				
1969	14.0	8.7	25.3	1999 <sup>8</sup>	17.1	10.1	9.7				
1970	15.1	9.0	24.6	2000 <sup>7</sup>	16.2	9.6	9.9				
1971 <sup>21</sup>	15.3	9.3	21.6	2001	16.3	10.1	10.1				
1972 <sup>20</sup>	15.1	8.8	18.6	2002	16.7	10.6	10.4				
1973	14.4	8.3	16.3	2003	17.6	10.8	10.2				
1974 <sup>19</sup>	15.4	8.3	14.6	2004 <sup>6</sup>	17.8	11.3	9.8				
1975	17.1	9.2	15.3	2005	17.6	11.1	10.1				
1976	16.0	9.0	15.0	2006	17.4	10.8	9.4				
1977	16.2	8.8	14.1	2007	18.0	10.9	9.7				
1978	15.9	8.7	14.0	2008	19.0	11.7	9.7				
1979 <sup>18</sup>	16.4	8.9	15.2	2009	20.7	12.9	8.9				
1980	18.3	10.1	15.7	2010 <sup>5</sup>	22.0	13.8	8.9				
1981 <sup>17</sup>	20.0	11.1	15.3	2011	21.9	13.7	8.7				
1982	21.9	12.0	14.6	2012	21.8	13.7	9.1				
1983	22.3	12.4	13.8	2013 <sup>4</sup>	19.9	13.6	9.5				
1984 <sup>16</sup>	21.5	11.7	12.4	2013 <sup>3</sup>	21.5	13.3	10.2				
1985 <sup>15</sup>	20.7	11.3	12.6	2014	21.1	13.5	10.0				
1986	20.5	10.8	12.4	2015	19.7	12.4	8.8				
1987 <sup>14</sup>	20.3	10.6	12.5	2016	18.0	11.6	9.3				
1988 <sup>14</sup>	19.5	10.5	12.0	2017	17.5	11.2	9.2				

N Not available.

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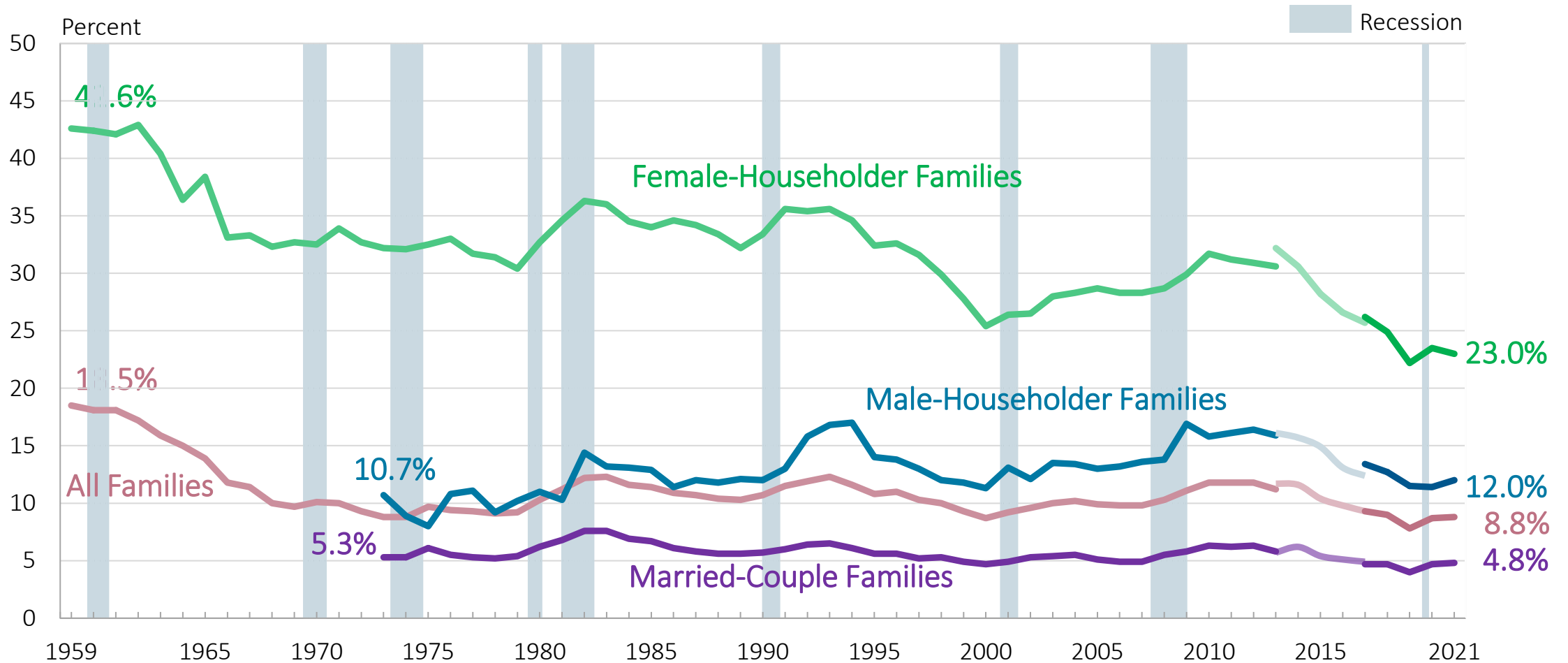
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Source: National Bureau of Economic Research  
[www.nber.org/research/data/us-business-cycle-expansions-and-contractions](http://www.nber.org/research/data/us-business-cycle-expansions-and-contractions)

# Family Poverty Rates by Type: 1959 to 2021



# Poverty Rates by Family Type: 1959 to 2021

(Percent)

Year	All Families	Married couple	Male householder, no spouse	Female householder, no spouse	Year	All Families	Married couple	Male householder, no spouse	Female householder, no spouse	Year	All Families	Married couple	Male householder, no spouse	Female householder, no spouse
1959	18.5	N	N	42.6	1989	10.3	5.6	12.1	32.2	2017 <sup>2</sup>	9.3	4.7	13.4	26.2
1960	18.1	N	N	42.4	1990	10.7	5.7	12.0	33.4	2018	9.0	4.7	12.7	24.9
1961	18.1	N	N	42.1	1991 <sup>13</sup>	11.5	6.0	13.0	35.6	2019	7.8	4.0	11.5	22.2
1962	17.2	N	N	42.9	1992 <sup>12</sup>	11.9	6.4	15.8	35.4	2020	8.7	4.7	11.4	23.5
1963	15.9	N	N	40.4	1993 <sup>11</sup>	12.3	6.5	16.8	35.6	2021 <sup>1</sup>	8.8	4.8	12.0	23.0
1964	15.0	N	N	36.4	1994 <sup>10</sup>	11.6	6.1	17.0	34.6					
1965	13.9	N	N	38.4	1995 <sup>9</sup>	10.8	5.6	14.0	32.4					
1966	11.8	N	N	33.1	1996	11.0	5.6	13.8	32.6					
1967 <sup>22</sup>	11.4	N	N	33.3	1997	10.3	5.2	13.0	31.6					
1968	10.0	N	N	32.3	1998	10.0	5.3	12.0	29.9					
1969	9.7	N	N	32.7	1999 <sup>8</sup>	9.3	4.9	11.8	27.8					
1970	10.1	N	N	32.5	2000 <sup>7</sup>	8.7	4.7	11.3	25.4					
1971 <sup>21</sup>	10.0	N	N	33.9	2001	9.2	4.9	13.1	26.4					
1972 <sup>20</sup>	9.3	N	N	32.7	2002	9.6	5.3	12.1	26.5					
1973	8.8	5.3	10.7	32.2	2003	10.0	5.4	13.5	28.0					
1974 <sup>19</sup>	8.8	5.3	8.9	32.1	2004 <sup>6</sup>	10.2	5.5	13.4	28.3					
1975	9.7	6.1	8.0	32.5	2005	9.9	5.1	13.0	28.7					
1976	9.4	5.5	10.8	33.0	2006	9.8	4.9	13.2	28.3					
1977	9.3	5.3	11.1	31.7	2007	9.8	4.9	13.6	28.3					
1978	9.1	5.2	9.2	31.4	2008	10.3	5.5	13.8	28.7					
1979 <sup>18</sup>	9.2	5.4	10.2	30.4	2009	11.1	5.8	16.9	29.9					
1980	10.3	6.2	11.0	32.7	2010 <sup>5</sup>	11.8	6.3	15.8	31.7					
1981 <sup>17</sup>	11.2	6.8	10.3	34.6	2011	11.8	6.2	16.1	31.2					
1982	12.2	7.6	14.4	36.3	2012	11.8	6.3	16.4	30.9					
1983	12.3	7.6	13.2	36.0	2013 <sup>4</sup>	11.2	5.8	15.9	30.6					
1984 <sup>16</sup>	11.6	6.9	13.1	34.5	2013 <sup>3</sup>	11.7	5.7	16.1	32.2					
1985 <sup>15</sup>	11.4	6.7	12.9	34.0	2014	11.6	6.2	15.7	30.6					
1986	10.9	6.1	11.4	34.6	2015	10.4	5.4	14.9	28.2					
1987 <sup>14</sup>	10.7	5.8	12.0	34.2	2016	9.8	5.1	13.1	26.6					
1988 <sup>14</sup>	10.4	5.6	11.8	33.4	2017	9.3	4.9	12.4	25.7					

N Not available.

Footnotes available on last slide of poverty section

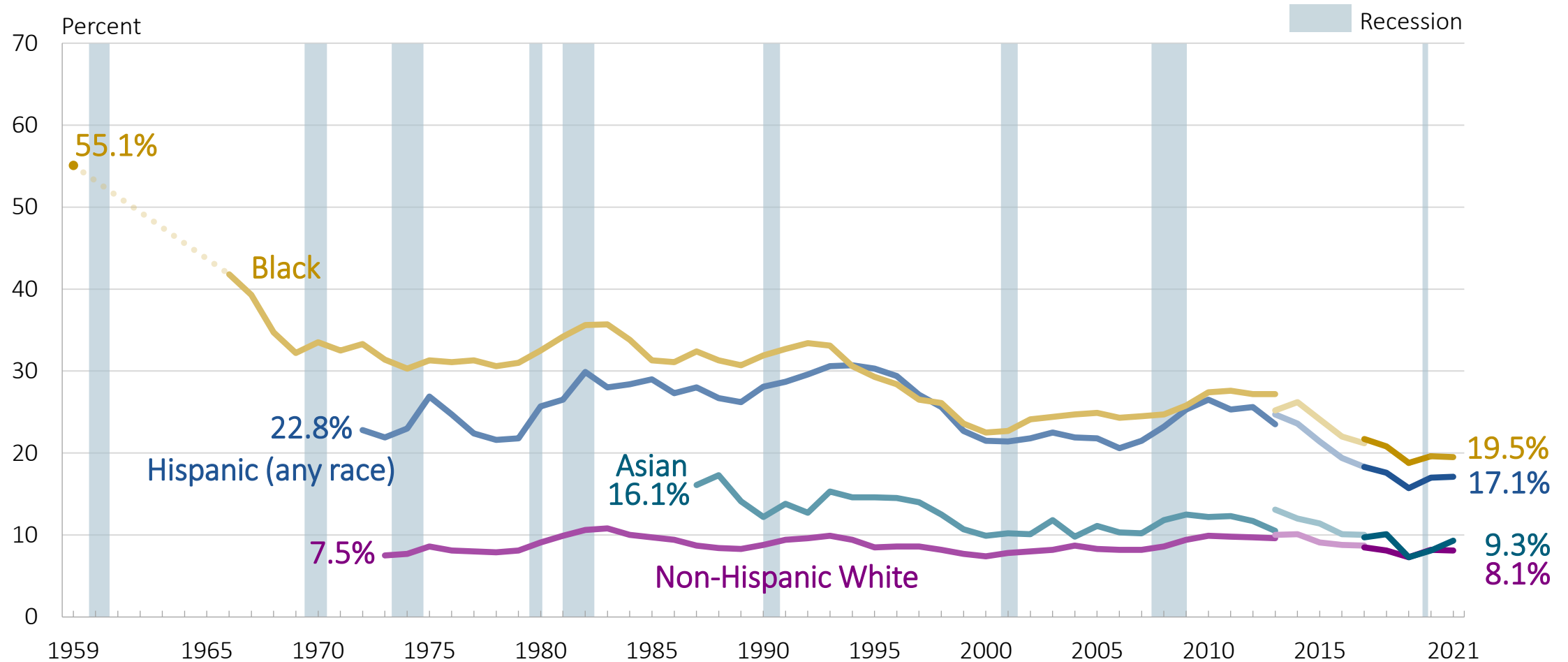
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July	1981	November	1982
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# Poverty Rates by Race and Hispanic Origin: 1959 to 2021





Poverty Rates by Race and Hispanic Origin: 1959 to 2021

(Percent)

Year	All races	White alone, not Hispanic <sup>23</sup>	White, not Hispanic <sup>24</sup>	Black alone <sup>25</sup>	Black <sup>24</sup>	Asian alone <sup>26</sup>	Asian and Pacific Islander <sup>24</sup>	Hispanic (any race) <sup>28</sup>
1959	22.4	N	N	N	55.1	N	N	N
1960	22.2	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
1961	21.9	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
1962	21.0	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
1963	19.5	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
1964	19.0	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
1965 <sup>22</sup>	17.3	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
1966	14.7	N	N	N	41.8	N	N	N
1967	14.2	N	N	N	39.3	N	N	N
1968	12.8	N	N	N	34.7	N	N	N
1969	12.1	N	N	N	32.2	N	N	N
1970	12.6	N	N	N	33.5	N	N	N
1971 <sup>21</sup>	12.5	N	N	N	32.5	N	N	N
1972 <sup>20</sup>	11.9	N	N	N	33.3	N	N	22.8
1973	11.1	N	7.5	N	31.4	N	N	21.9
1974 <sup>19</sup>	11.2	N	7.7	N	30.3	N	N	23.0
1975	12.3	N	8.6	N	31.3	N	N	26.9
1976	11.8	N	8.1	N	31.1	N	N	24.7
1977	11.6	N	8.0	N	31.3	N	N	22.4
1978	11.4	N	7.9	N	30.6	N	N	21.6
1979 <sup>18</sup>	11.7	N	8.1	N	31.0	N	N	21.8
1980	13.0	N	9.1	N	32.5	N	N	25.7
1981 <sup>17</sup>	14.0	N	9.9	N	34.2	N	N	26.5
1982	15.0	N	10.6	N	35.6	N	N	29.9
1983	15.2	N	10.8	N	35.7	N	N	28.0
1984 <sup>16</sup>	14.4	N	10.0	N	33.8	N	N	28.4
1985 <sup>15</sup>	14.0	N	9.7	N	31.3	N	N	29.0
1986	13.6	N	9.4	N	31.1	N	N	27.3
1987 <sup>14</sup>	13.4	N	8.7	N	32.4	N	16.1	28.0
1988 <sup>14</sup>	13.0	N	8.4	N	31.3	N	17.3	26.7
1989	12.8	N	8.3	N	30.7	N	14.1	26.2
1990	13.5	N	8.8	N	31.9	N	12.2	28.1
1991 <sup>13</sup>	14.2	N	9.4	N	32.7	N	13.8	28.7
1992 <sup>12</sup>	14.8	N	9.6	N	33.4	N	12.7	29.6
1993 <sup>11</sup>	15.1	N	9.9	N	33.1	N	15.3	30.6
1994 <sup>10</sup>	14.5	N	9.4	N	30.6	N	14.6	30.7
1995 <sup>9</sup>	13.8	N	8.5	N	29.3	N	14.6	30.3
1996	13.7	N	8.6	N	28.4	N	14.5	29.4
1997	13.3	N	8.6	N	26.5	N	14.0	27.1
1998	12.7	N	8.2	N	26.1	N	12.5	25.6
1999 <sup>8</sup>	11.9	N	7.7	N	23.6	N	10.7	22.7
2000 <sup>7</sup>	11.3	N	7.4	N	22.5	N	9.9	21.5
2001	11.7	N	7.8	N	22.7	N	10.2	21.4
2002	12.1	8.0	N	24.1	N	10.1	N	21.8
2003	12.5	8.2	N	24.4	N	11.8	N	22.5
2004 <sup>6</sup>	12.7	8.7	N	24.7	N	9.8	N	21.9
2005	12.6	8.3	N	24.9	N	11.1	N	21.8
2006	12.3	8.2	N	24.3	N	10.3	N	20.6
2007	12.5	8.2	N	24.5	N	10.2	N	21.5
2008	13.2	8.6	N	24.7	N	11.8	N	23.2
2009	14.3	9.4	N	25.8	N	12.5	N	25.3
2010 <sup>5</sup>	15.1	9.9	N	27.4	N	12.2	N	26.5
2011	15.0	9.8	N	27.6	N	12.3	N	25.3
2012	15.0	9.7	N	27.2	N	11.7	N	25.6
2013 <sup>4</sup>	14.5	9.6	N	27.2	N	10.5	N	23.5
2013 <sup>3</sup>	14.8	10.0	N	25.2	N	13.1	N	24.7
2014	14.8	10.1	N	26.2	N	12.0	N	23.6
2015	13.5	9.1	N	24.1	N	11.4	N	21.4
2016	12.7	8.8	N	22.0	N	10.1	N	19.4
2017	12.3	8.7	N	21.2	N	10.0	N	18.3
2017 <sup>2</sup>	12.3	8.5	N	21.7	N	9.7	N	18.3
2018	11.8	8.1	N	20.8	N	10.1	N	17.6
2019	10.5	7.3	N	18.8	N	7.3	N	15.7
2020 <sup>1</sup>	11.5	8.2	N	19.6	N	8.1	N	17.0
2021	11.6	8.1	N	19.5	N	9.3	N	17.1

N Not available.

Footnotes available on last slide of Poverty section

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 1960 to 2022 Annual Social and Economic Supplements. More information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions is available at <www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/cps/techdocs/cpsmar22.pdf>.

Recessions

Peak month	Year	Trough month	Year
November	1948	October	1949
July	1953	May	1954
August	1957	April	1958
April	1960	February	1961
December	1969	November	1970
November	1973	March	1975
January	1980	July	1980
July	1981	November	1982
July	1990	March	1991
March	2001	November	2001
December	2007	June	2009
February	2020	April	2020

Source: National Bureau of Economic Research  
www.nber.org/research/data/us-business-cycle-  
expansions-and-contractions

# Supplemental Poverty Measure (SPM)



# How the Census Bureau Measures Poverty: Supplemental Poverty Measure

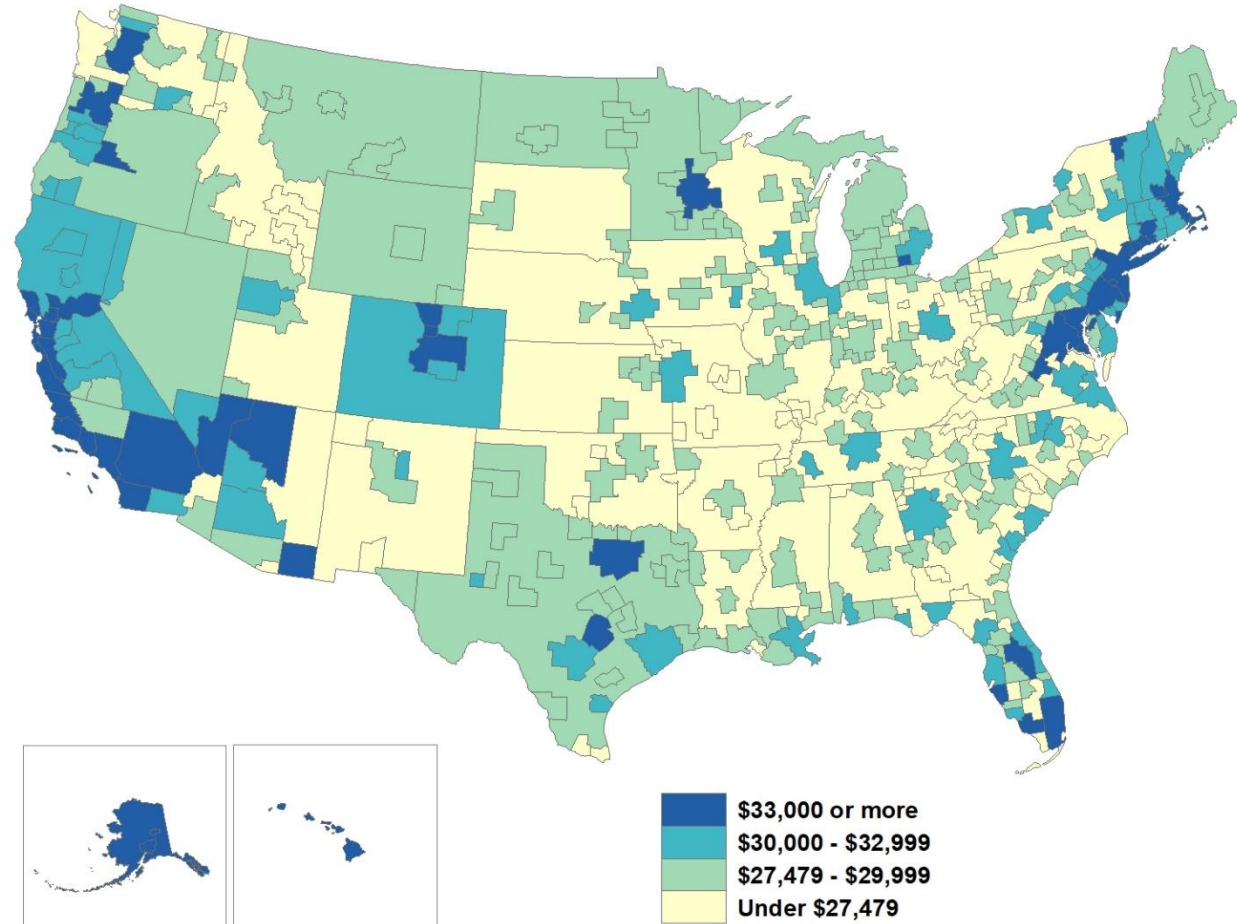
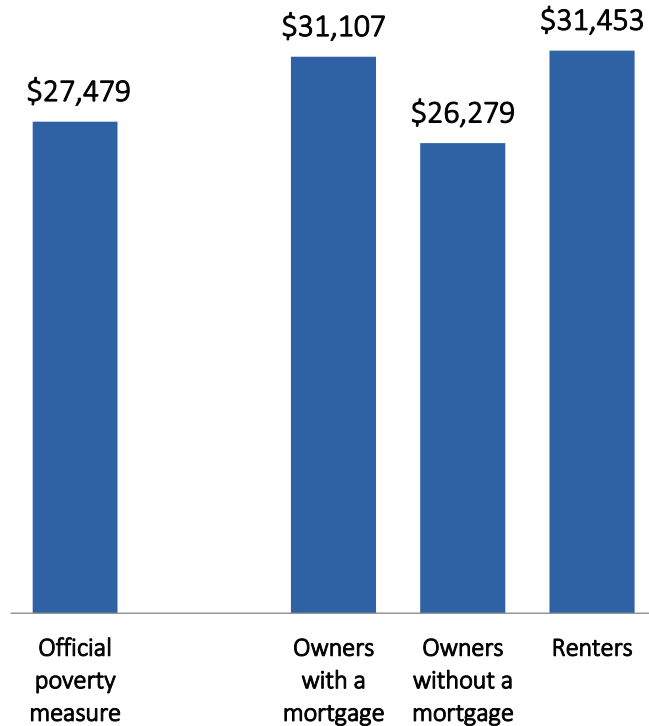


Threshold adjusted for family  
composition, housing tenure, and  
geographic variation

# Official and SPM Thresholds for Units with Two Adults and Two Children

Supplemental Poverty Measure  
Thresholds, 2021

Supplemental Poverty Measure Thresholds for Renters: 2021



# Thresholds for Two-Adult, Two-Child SPM Units by Geography: 2021

(In nominal dollars)

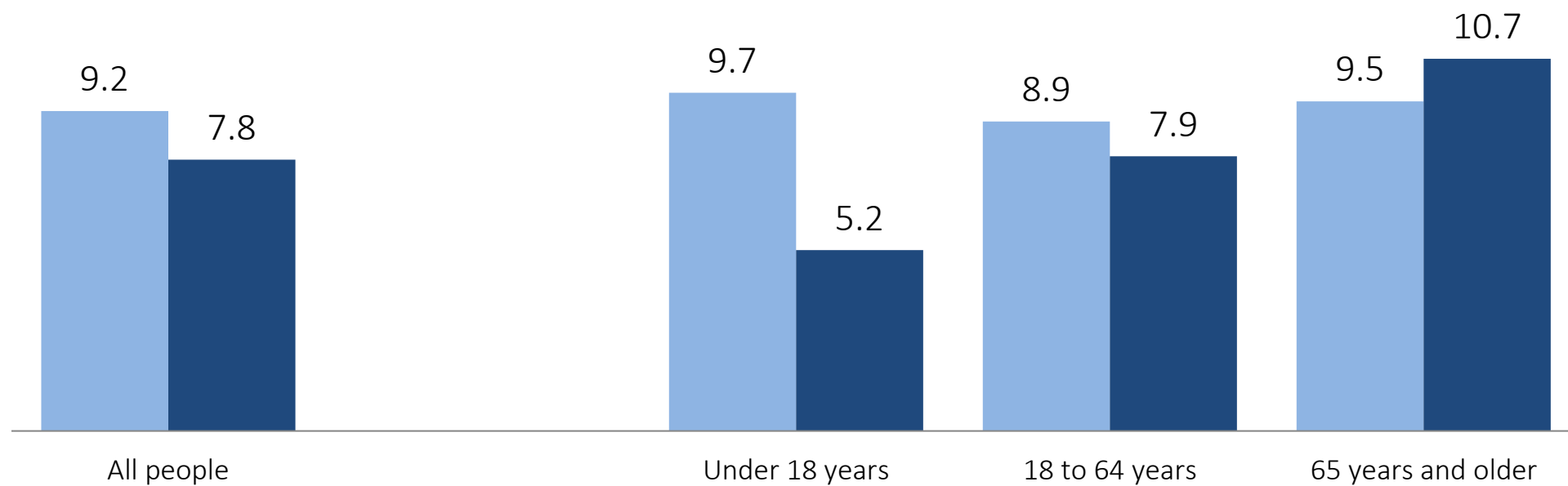
Housing Tenure	2021
Owners with Mortgage	\$31,107
Owners without Mortgage	\$26,279
Renters	\$31,453

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), <<https://stats.bls.gov/pir/spmhome.htm>>, Geographic adjustments based on housing costs from the American Community Survey 2016-2020. Thresholds for individual geographies available at <<https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/demo/tables/p60/277/pov-threshold-2021.xlsx>>.

# SPM Poverty Rates By Age: 2020 and 2021

(In percent)

2020<sup>1</sup> 2021



# Comparison of SPM Poverty Estimates: 2020 and 2021

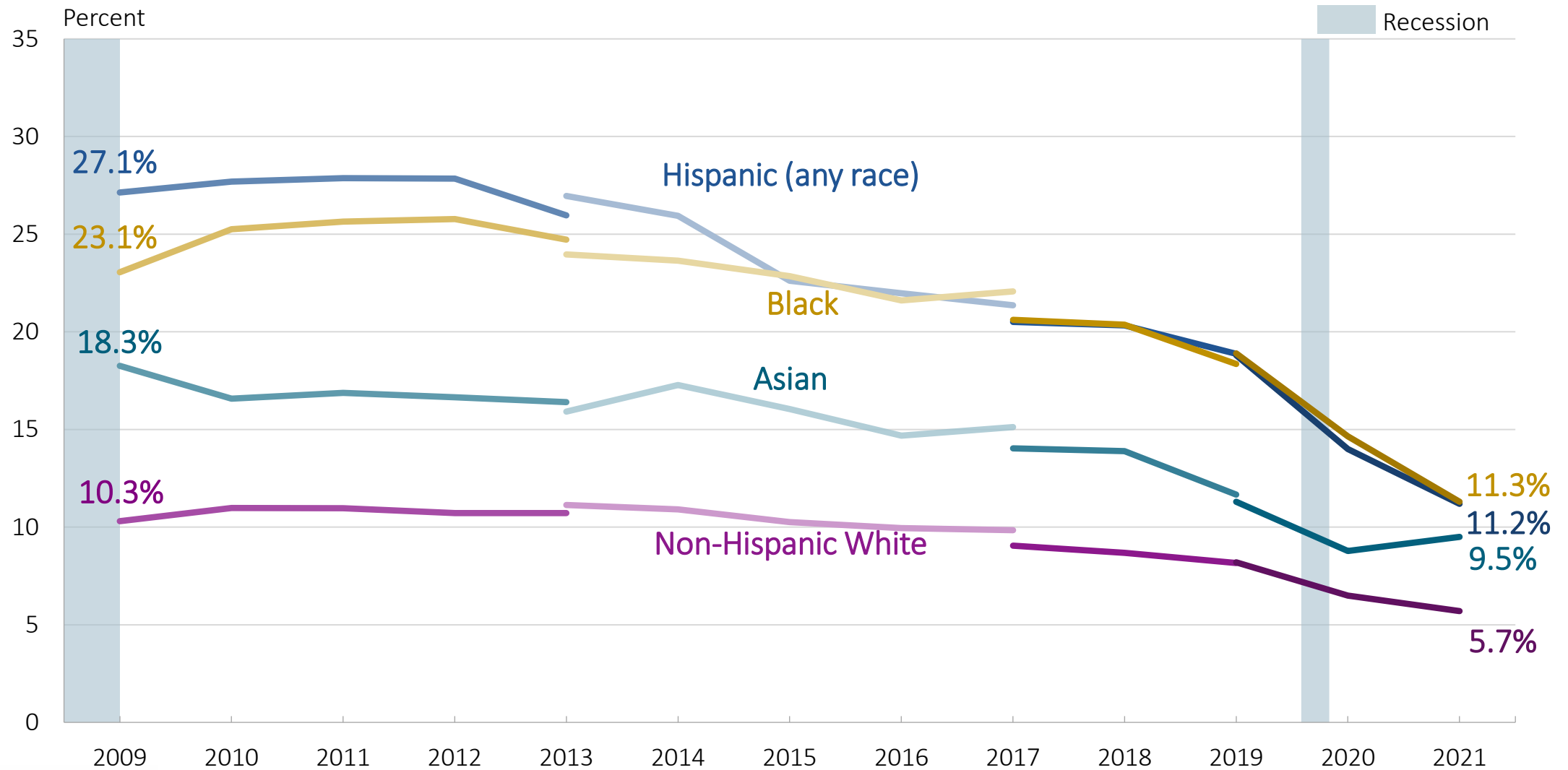
(Percent)

Characteristic	2020 <sup>1</sup>	2021
All People	9.2%	7.8%
Under 18 years	9.7%	5.2%
18 to 64 years	8.9%	7.9%
65 years and older	9.5%	10.7%

<sup>1</sup> Implementation of 2020 Census-based population controls.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 2021 and 2022 Annual Social and Economic Supplements (CPS ASEC). More information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions is available at <<https://www2.census.gov/prod/techdoc/cps/cpsmar22.pdf>>.

# SPM Rates by Race and Hispanic Origin: 2009 to 2021





# Supplemental Poverty Rates by Race and Hispanic Origin: 2009 to 2021

(in Percent)

Year	All races	White alone, not Hispanic	White, not Hispanic	Black alone	Black	Asian alone	Asian and Pacific Islander	Hispanic (any race)
2009 <sup>1</sup>	15.1	10.3	N	23.1	N	18.3	N	27.1
2010	15.9	11.0	N	25.3	N	16.6	N	27.7
2011	16.1	11.0	N	25.6	N	16.9	N	27.9
2012	16.0	10.7	N	25.8	N	16.7	N	27.8
2013 <sup>2</sup>	15.5	10.7	N	24.7	N	16.4	N	26.0
2013 <sup>3</sup>	15.9	11.1	N	24.0	N	15.9	N	27.0
2014	15.6	10.9	N	23.6	N	17.3	N	25.9
2015	14.5	10.3	N	22.8	N	16.1	N	22.6
2016	14.0	9.9	N	21.6	N	14.7	N	22.0
2017	13.9	9.8	N	22.1	N	15.1	N	21.4
2017 <sup>4</sup>	13.0	9.0	N	20.6	N	14.0	N	20.5
2018	12.8	8.7	N	20.4	N	13.9	N	20.3
2019	11.7	8.2	N	18.3	N	11.7	N	18.9
2019 <sup>5</sup>	11.8	8.2	N	18.9	N	11.3	N	18.8
2020 <sup>6</sup>	9.2	6.5	N	14.7	N	8.8	N	14.0
2021	7.8	5.7	N	11.3	N	9.5	N	11.2

N Not available.

<sup>1</sup> Implementation of 2010 Census-based population controls

<sup>2</sup>The 2014 CPS ASEC included redesigned questions for income and health insurance coverage. All of the approximately 98,000 addresses were eligible to receive the redesigned set of health insurance coverage questions. The redesigned income questions were implemented to a subsample of these 98,000 addresses using a probability split panel design. Approximately 68,000 addresses were eligible to receive a set of income questions similar to those used in the 2013 CPS ASEC and the remaining 30,000 addresses were eligible to receive the redesigned income questions. The source of these 2013 estimates is the portion of the CPS ASEC sample which received the income questions consistent with the 2013 CPS ASEC, approximately 68,000 addresses.

<sup>3</sup>The source of these 2013 estimates is the portion of the CPS ASEC sample which received the redesigned income questions, approximately 30,000 addresses.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 2010 to 2022 Annual Social and Economic Supplements (CPS ASEC). More information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions is available at <[www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/cps/techdocs/cpsmar22.pdf](http://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/cps/techdocs/cpsmar22.pdf)>.

## Recessions

Peak month	Year	Trough month	Year
December	2007	June	2009
February	2020	April	2020

Source: National Bureau of Economic Research

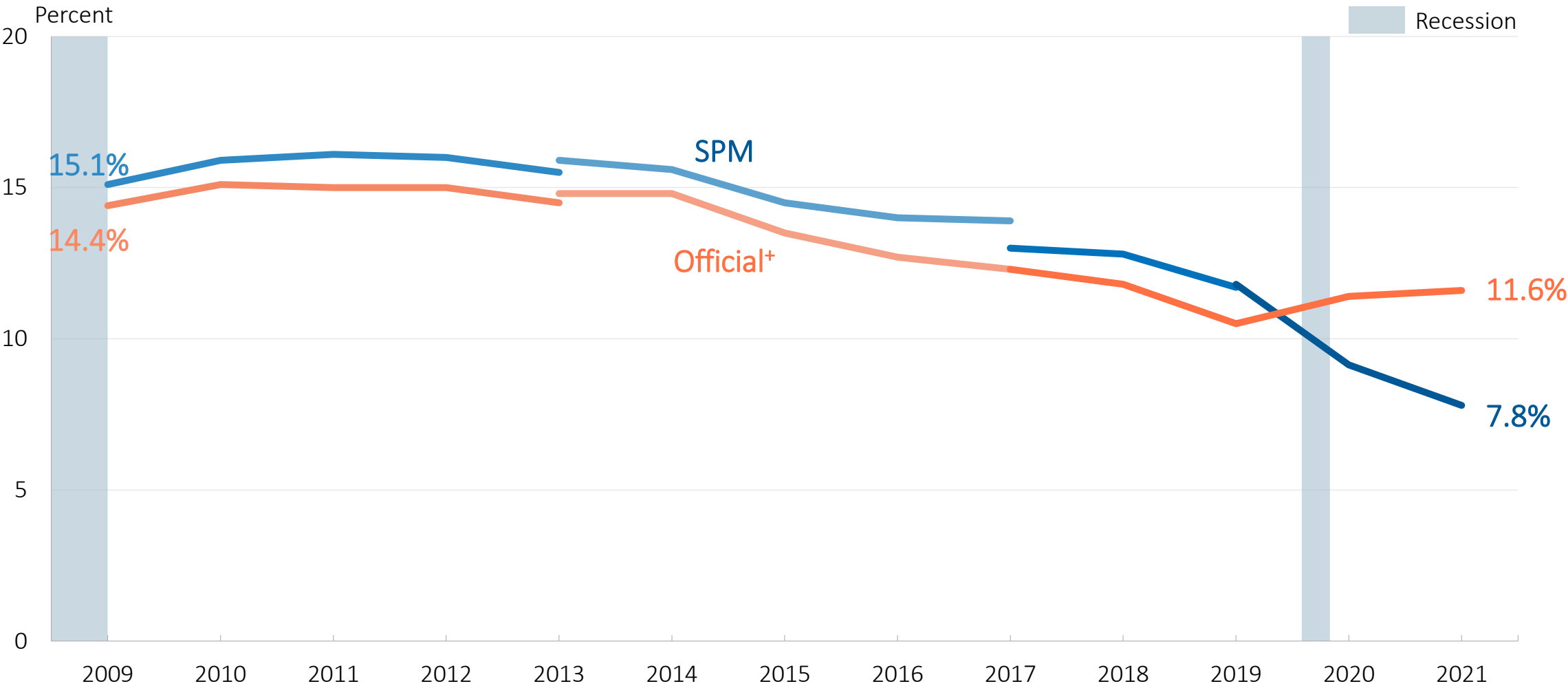
<[www.nber.org/research/data/us-business-cycle-expansions-and-contractions](http://www.nber.org/research/data/us-business-cycle-expansions-and-contractions)>

<sup>4</sup> Estimates reflect the implementation of an updated processing system and should be used to make comparisons to 2018 and subsequent years.

<sup>5</sup> Estimates for 2019 and 2020 reflect the implementation of revised SPM methodology.

<sup>6</sup> Implementation of 2020 Census-based population controls

# Poverty Rates Using Official+ and the SPM: 2009 to 2021



# Poverty Rates Using the Official<sup>†</sup> and the SPM: 2009 to 2021

(Rates in percent)

Year	Official <sup>†</sup>	Supplemental Poverty Rate
2009 <sup>1</sup>	14.4	15.1
2010	15.1	15.9
2011	15.0	16.1
2012	15.0	16.0
2013 <sup>2</sup>	14.5	15.5
2013 <sup>3</sup>	14.8	15.9
2014	14.8	15.6
2015	13.5	14.5
2016	12.7	14.0
2017	12.3	13.9
2017 <sup>4</sup>	12.3	13.0
2018	11.8	12.8
2019	10.5	11.7
2019 <sup>5</sup>	10.5	11.8
2020 <sup>6</sup>	11.5	9.2
2021	11.6	7.8

Official<sup>†</sup> Includes unrelated individuals under age 15.

## Recessions

Peak month	Year	Trough month	Year
December	2007	June	2009
February	2020	April	2020

Source: National Bureau of Economic Research

<[www.nber.org/research/data/us-business-cycle-expansions-and-contractions](http://www.nber.org/research/data/us-business-cycle-expansions-and-contractions)>

<sup>1</sup> Implementation of 2010 Census-based population controls

<sup>2</sup>The 2014 CPS ASEC included redesigned questions for income and health insurance coverage. All of the approximately 98,000 addresses were eligible to receive the redesigned set of health insurance coverage questions. The redesigned income questions were implemented to a subsample of these 98,000 addresses using a probability split panel design. Approximately 68,000 addresses were eligible to receive a set of income questions similar to those used in the 2013 CPS ASEC and the remaining 30,000 addresses were eligible to receive the redesigned income questions. The source of these 2013 estimates is the portion of the CPS ASEC sample which received the income questions consistent with the 2013 CPS ASEC, approximately 68,000 addresses.

<sup>3</sup>The source of these 2013 estimates is the portion of the CPS ASEC sample which received the redesigned income questions, approximately 30,000 addresses.

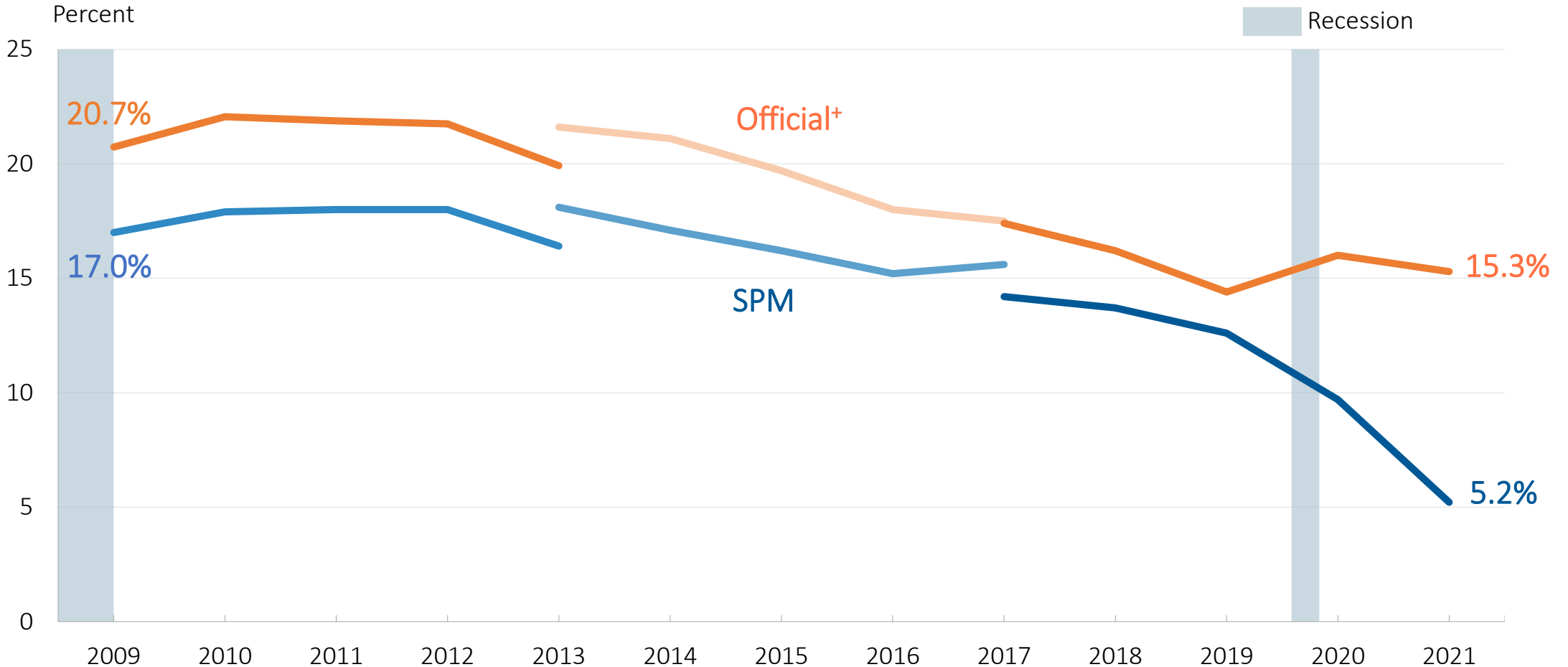
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 2010 to 2022 Annual Social and Economic Supplements (CPS ASEC). More information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions is available at <[www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/cps/techdocs/cpsmar22.pdf](http://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/cps/techdocs/cpsmar22.pdf)>.

<sup>4</sup> Estimates reflect the implementation of an updated processing system and should be used to make comparisons to 2018 and subsequent years.

<sup>5</sup> Estimates for 2019 and 2020 reflect the implementation of revised SPM methodology.

<sup>6</sup> Implementation of 2020 Census-based population controls.

# Poverty Rates for Children Using Official+ and the SPM: 2009 to 2021



# Poverty Rates for Children Using Official<sup>+</sup> and the SPM: 2009 to 2021

(Rates in percent)

Year	Official <sup>+</sup>	Supplemental Poverty Rate
2009 <sup>1</sup>	20.7	17.0
2010	22.1	17.9
2011	21.9	18.0
2012	21.7	18.0
2013 <sup>2</sup>	19.9	16.4
2013 <sup>3</sup>	21.6	18.1
2014	21.1	17.1
2015	19.7	16.2
2016	18.0	15.2
2017	17.5	15.6
2017 <sup>4</sup>	17.4	14.2
2018	16.2	13.7
2019	14.4	12.6
2019 <sup>5</sup>	14.4	12.6
2020 <sup>6</sup>	16.0	9.7
2021	15.3	5.2

<sup>+</sup>Includes unrelated individuals under age 15.

<sup>1</sup> Implementation of 2010 Census-based population controls

<sup>2</sup>The 2014 CPS ASEC included redesigned questions for income and health insurance coverage. All of the approximately 98,000 addresses were eligible to receive the redesigned set of health insurance coverage questions. The redesigned income questions were implemented to a subsample of these 98,000 addresses using a probability split panel design. Approximately 68,000 addresses were eligible to receive a set of income questions similar to those used in the 2013 CPS ASEC and the remaining 30,000 addresses were eligible to receive the redesigned income questions. The source of these 2013 estimates is the portion of the CPS ASEC sample which received the income questions consistent with the 2013 CPS ASEC, approximately 68,000 addresses.

<sup>3</sup>The source of these 2013 estimates is the portion of the CPS ASEC sample which received the redesigned income questions, approximately 30,000 addresses.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 2010 to 2022 Annual Social and Economic Supplements (CPS ASEC). More information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions is available at <[www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/cps/techdocs/cpsmar22.pdf](http://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/cps/techdocs/cpsmar22.pdf)>.

## Recessions

Peak month	Year	Trough month	Year
December	2007	June	2009
February	2020	April	2020

Source: National Bureau of Economic Research

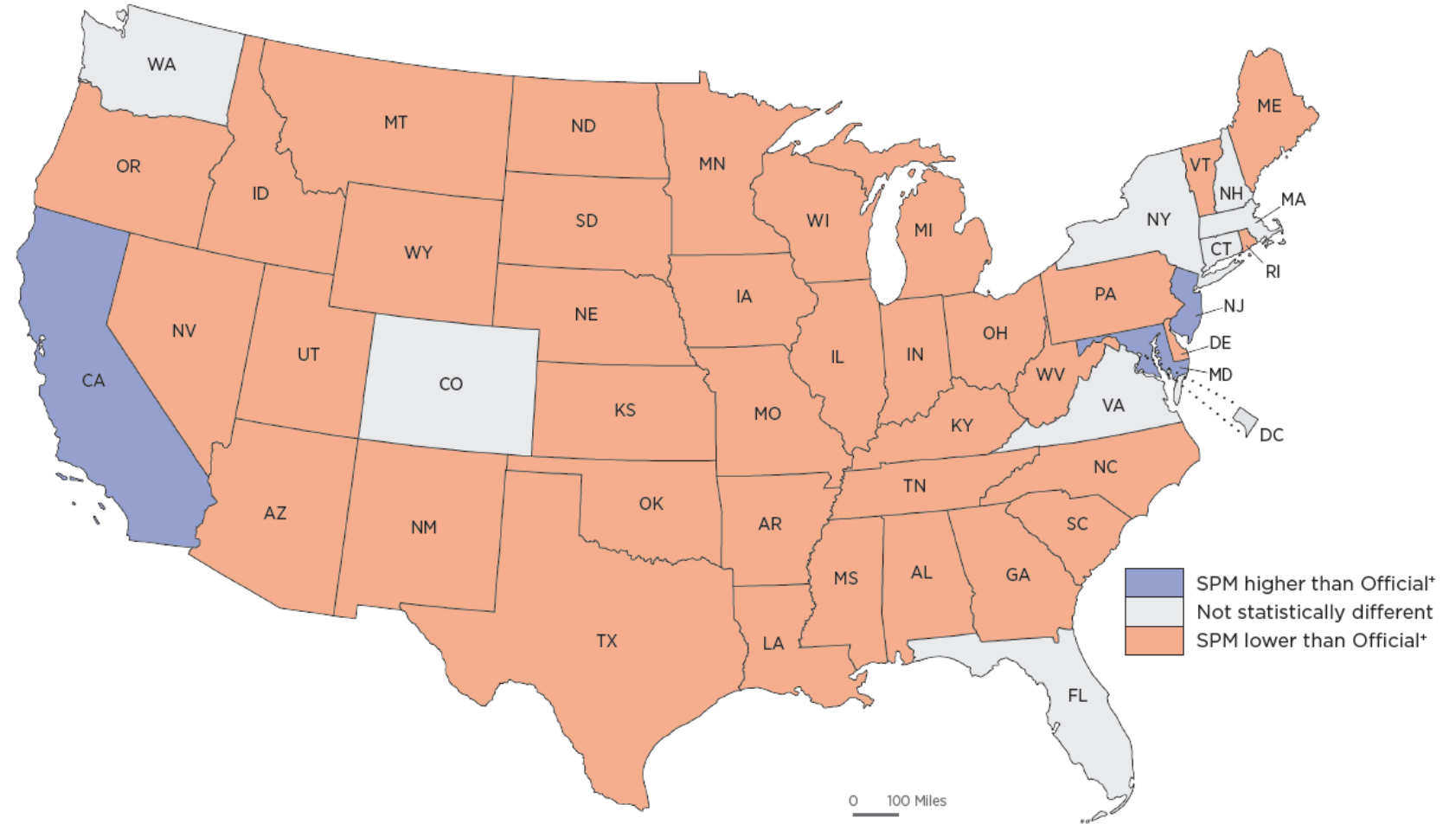
<[www.nber.org/research/data/us-business-cycle-expansions-and-contractions](http://www.nber.org/research/data/us-business-cycle-expansions-and-contractions)>

<sup>4</sup> Estimates reflect the implementation of an updated processing system and should be used to make comparisons to 2018 and subsequent years.

<sup>5</sup> Estimates for 2019 and 2020 reflect the implementation of revised SPM methodology.

<sup>6</sup> Implementation of 2020 Census-based population controls.

# Difference in Poverty Rates by State Using the Official<sup>+</sup> and the SPM: 3-Year Average 2019 to 2021



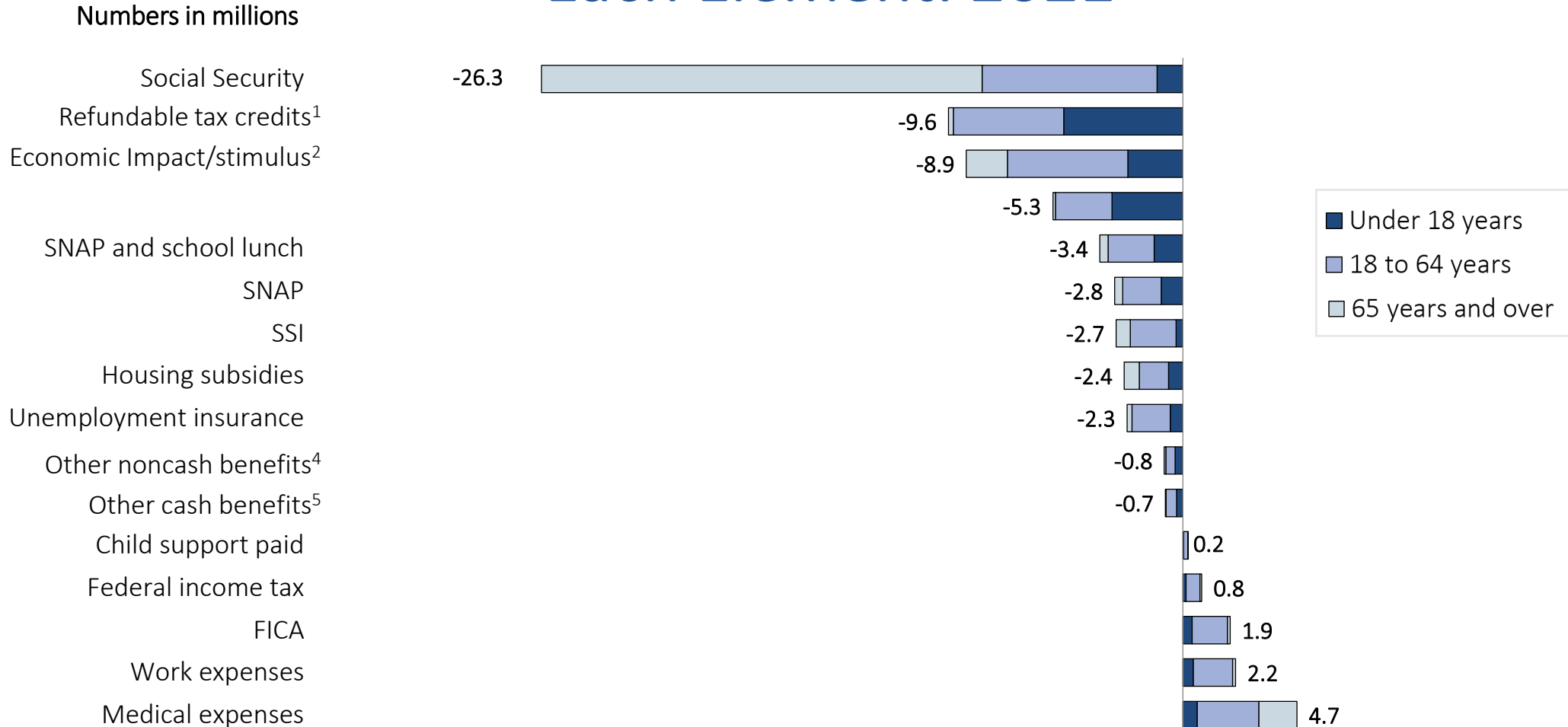
# Difference in Poverty Rates by State Using the Official<sup>+</sup> Measure and the SPM: 3-Year Average 2019 to 2021

(Rates in percent)

State	Official <sup>+</sup>	SPM	Difference		State	Official <sup>+</sup>	SPM	Difference	
<b>United States</b>	11.2	9.6	-1.6 *	SPM lower than official	Missouri	10.8	7.5	-3.3 *	SPM lower than official
Alabama	14.6	10.3	-4.3 *	SPM lower than official	Montana	10.4	8.2	-2.2 *	SPM lower than official
Alaska	11.7	9.8	-1.8 *	SPM lower than official	Nebraska	8.4	6.2	-2.2 *	SPM lower than official
Arizona	11.2	9.0	-2.2 *	SPM lower than official	Nevada	12.1	9.3	-2.7 *	SPM lower than official
Arkansas	15.1	9.7	-5.4 *	SPM lower than official	New Hampshire	5.6	5.5	-0.1	Not statistically different
California	11.0	13.2	2.1 *	SPM higher than official	New Jersey	7.4	8.1	0.7 *	SPM higher than official
Colorado	8.9	9.4	0.5	Not statistically different	New Mexico	16.7	10.6	-6.1 *	SPM lower than official
Connecticut	9.2	9.0	-0.2	Not statistically different	New York	12.3	12.1	-0.2	Not statistically different
Delaware	9.6	8.4	-1.1 *	SPM lower than official	North Carolina	12.8	9.9	-2.9 *	SPM lower than official
District of Columbia	14.5	14.6	0.1	Not statistically different	North Dakota	9.1	7.1	-1.9 *	SPM lower than official
Florida	12.5	11.9	-0.6	Not statistically different	Ohio	12.3	8.1	-4.2 *	SPM lower than official
Georgia	13.1	10.2	-2.9 *	SPM lower than official	Oklahoma	13.8	9.1	-4.7 *	SPM lower than official
Hawaii	10.1	10.5	0.4	Not statistically different	Oregon	9.0	7.0	-1.9 *	SPM lower than official
Idaho	8.5	6.0	-2.5 *	SPM lower than official	Pennsylvania	10.0	7.6	-2.4 *	SPM lower than official
Illinois	9.3	7.8	-1.5 *	SPM lower than official	Rhode Island	9.0	6.0	-3.0 *	SPM lower than official
Indiana	10.9	7.4	-3.4 *	SPM lower than official	South Carolina	14.1	10.0	-4.1 *	SPM lower than official
Iowa	9.5	6.0	-3.5 *	SPM lower than official	South Dakota	10.2	6.2	-4.0 *	SPM lower than official
Kansas	8.6	6.0	-2.6 *	SPM lower than official	Tennessee	12.2	9.1	-3.1 *	SPM lower than official
Kentucky	14.6	9.9	-4.7 *	SPM lower than official	Texas	12.9	10.4	-2.5 *	SPM lower than official
Louisiana	17.2	11.7	-5.5 *	SPM lower than official	Utah	7.5	6.5	-1.0 *	SPM lower than official
Maine	9.2	5.4	-3.8 *	SPM lower than official	Vermont	8.2	6.9	-1.3 *	SPM lower than official
Maryland	8.0	9.6	1.6 *	SPM higher than official	Virginia	8.8	8.6	-0.2	Not statistically different
Massachusetts	7.9	8.0	0.2	Not statistically different	Washington	7.6	7.0	-0.6	Not statistically different
Michigan	11.0	7.6	-3.4 *	SPM lower than official	West Virginia	15.0	9.4	-5.6 *	SPM lower than official
Minnesota	7.0	5.1	-1.9 *	SPM lower than official	Wisconsin	8.6	5.4	-3.2 *	SPM lower than official
Mississippi	18.1	11.9	-6.2 *	SPM lower than official	Wyoming	9.4	7.3	-2.1 *	SPM lower than official

Note: Official<sup>+</sup> includes unrelated individuals under age 15. All years reflect implementation of 2020 Census-based population controls. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 2020 to 2022 Annual Social and Economic Supplements (CPS ASEC). Information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions is available at <<https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/cps/techdocs/cpsmar22.pdf>>.

# Change in Number of People in Poverty After Including Each Element: 2021



<sup>1</sup> Refundable tax credits include the Earned Income Tax Credit, Child Tax Credit, and the Child and Dependent Care Credit.

<sup>2</sup> Includes the third stimulus payment.

<sup>3</sup> In 2021, the entire Child Tax Credit was refundable.

<sup>4</sup> Other noncash benefits include utility assistance, Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), and School Lunch.

<sup>5</sup> Other cash benefits include workers' compensation, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) /general assistance, and child support received.

Notes: People as of March of the following year. SNAP: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program; SSI: Supplemental Security Income; FICA: Federal Insurance Contributions Act.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 2022 Annual Social and Economic Supplement (CPS ASEC).



# Change in Number of People in Poverty After Including Each Element: 2021

(in millions)

Program	Under 18 years	18 to 64 years	65 years and over	All Ages
Social Security	-1.065	-7.183	-18.091	-26.338
Refundable tax credits	-4.893	-4.536	-0.206	-9.635
Economic Impact Payments	-2.270	-4.939	-1.690	-8.900
Refundable Child Tax Credit	-2.919	-2.315	-0.108	-5.343
SNAP and school lunch	-1.188	-1.883	-0.343	-3.415
SNAP	-0.891	-1.589	-0.325	-2.805
SSI	-0.288	-1.874	-0.585	-2.747
Housing subsidies	-0.595	-1.200	-0.616	-2.411
Unemployment insurance	-0.525	-1.569	-0.198	-2.292
Other non-cash benefits	-0.327	-0.382	-0.066	-0.775
Other cash benefits	-0.262	-0.436	-0.028	-0.726
Child support paid	0.027	0.180	0.007	0.215
Federal income tax	0.122	0.571	0.077	0.770
FICA	0.373	1.458	0.106	1.937
Work expenses	0.424	1.614	0.118	2.157
Medical expenses	0.582	2.532	1.565	4.678

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 2022 Annual Social and Economic Supplement (CPS ASEC). More information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions is available at <<https://www2.census.gov/prod/techdoc/cps/cpsmar22.pdf>>.



## For more information:

- [\*Poverty in the United States: 2021\*](#)
- Research Matters Blog
  - [What's the Difference Between the Supplemental and Official Poverty Measures?](#)
- America Counts: Stories Behind the Numbers
  - [Child Poverty Falls to Record Low 5.2% in 2021](#)
  - [Government Assistance Lifts 45.4 Million Out of Poverty in 2021](#)
- Working Papers:
  - [Effects of 2020 Census-Based Population Controls on 2020 Income, Poverty, Supplemental Poverty, and Health Insurance in the United States Estimates](#)
  - [School Lunch and P-EBT Benefit Valuation in the 2021 Supplemental Poverty Measure](#)

# Historical Poverty Footnotes

N Not available.

<sup>1</sup> Implementation of 2020 Census-based population controls.

<sup>2</sup> Estimates reflect the implementation of an updated processing system and should be used to make comparisons to 2018 and subsequent years.

<sup>3</sup> The 2014 CPS ASEC included redesigned questions for income and health insurance coverage. All of the approximately 98,000 addresses were eligible to receive the redesigned set of health insurance coverage questions. The redesigned income questions were implemented to a subsample of the 98,000 addresses using a probability split panel design. Approximately 68,000 addresses were eligible to receive a set of income questions similar to those used in the 2013 CPS ASEC, and the remaining 30,000 addresses were eligible to receive the redesigned income questions. The source of these 2013 estimates is the portion of the CPS ASEC sample that received the redesigned income questions, approximately 30,000 addresses.

<sup>4</sup> The source of these 2013 estimates is the portion of the CPS ASEC sample that received the income questions consistent with the 2013 CPS ASEC, approximately 68,000 addresses.

<sup>5</sup> Implementation of 2010 Census-based population controls.

<sup>6</sup> Data have been revised to reflect a correction to the weights in the 2005 CPS ASEC.

<sup>7</sup> Implementation of a 28,000 household expansion.

<sup>8</sup> Implementation of 2000 Census-based population controls.

<sup>9</sup> Full implementation of 1990 Census-based sample design and metropolitan definitions, 7,000 household sample reduction, and revised editing of responses on race.

<sup>10</sup> Introduction of 1990 Census sample design.

<sup>11</sup> Data collection method changed from paper and pencil to computer-assisted interviewing. In addition, the 1994 CPS ASEC was revised to allow for the coding of different income amounts on selected questionnaire items. Limits either increased or decreased in the following categories: earnings limits increased to \$999,999; social security limits increased to \$49,999; supplemental security income and public assistance limits increased to \$24,999; veterans' benefits limits increased to \$99,999; child support and alimony limits decreased to \$49,999.

<sup>12</sup> Implementation of 1990 Census population controls.

<sup>13</sup> Estimates are revised to correct for nine omitted weights from the original 1992 CPS ASEC. More information is available in "Money Income of Households, Families, and Persons in the United States: 1992" P60-184.

<sup>14</sup> Estimates reflect the implementation of a new CPS ASEC processing system and are also revised to reflect corrections to the files after publication of the 1988 advance report "Money Income and Poverty Status in the United States: 1988" P60-166.

<sup>15</sup> Full implementation of 1980 Census-based sample design.

<sup>16</sup> Implementation of Hispanic population weighting controls and introduction of 1980 Census-based sample design.

<sup>17</sup> Implemented three technical changes to the poverty definition. More information is available in "Characteristics of the Population Below the Poverty Level: 1980" P60-133.

<sup>18</sup> Implementation of 1980 Census population controls.

Questionnaire expanded to show 27 possible values from 51 possible sources of income.

<sup>19</sup> Implementation of a new CPS ASEC processing system.

Questionnaire expanded to ask 11 income questions.

<sup>20</sup> Full implementation of 1970 Census-based sample design.

<sup>21</sup> Introduction of 1970 Census sample design and population controls.

<sup>22</sup> Implementation of a new CPS ASEC processing system.

<sup>23</sup> Beginning with the 2003 CPS ASEC, respondents were allowed to choose one or more races. White alone refers to people who reported White and did not report any other race category. The use of this single-race population does not imply that it is the preferred method of presenting or analyzing the data. The Census Bureau uses a variety of approaches.

<sup>24</sup> For the year 2001 and earlier, the CPS ASEC allowed respondents to report only one race group.

<sup>25</sup> Black alone refers to people who reported Black and did not report any other race category.

<sup>26</sup> Asian alone refers to people who reported Asian and did not report any other race category.

<sup>27</sup> American Indian and Alaska Native alone refers to people who reported American Indian and Alaska Native and did not report any other race category.

<sup>28</sup> Because Hispanics may be any race, data in this report for Hispanics overlap with data for racial groups. Of those who reported only one race, being Hispanic was reported by 16.6 percent of White householders, 5.6 percent of Black householders, 2.9 percent of Asian householders, and 29.7 percent of American Indian and Alaska Native householders. Data users should exercise caution when interpreting aggregate results for the Hispanic population and for race groups because these populations consist of many distinct groups that differ in socioeconomic characteristics, culture, and recency of immigration. Data were first collected for Hispanics in 1972.

Note: Before 1979, unrelated subfamilies were included in all families. Beginning in 1979, unrelated subfamilies are excluded from all families. An unrelated subfamily is defined as a married couple family with or without children or a single parent with one or more own, never-married, children under the age of 18 living in a household and not related by birth, marriage, or adoption to the householder.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 1960 to 2022 Annual Social and Economic Supplements (CPS ASEC).