



# *Poverty in the United States 50-Year Trends and the Impact of Safety Net Programs and Policies*





# *Poverty in the United States 50-Year Trends and Safety Net Impacts*



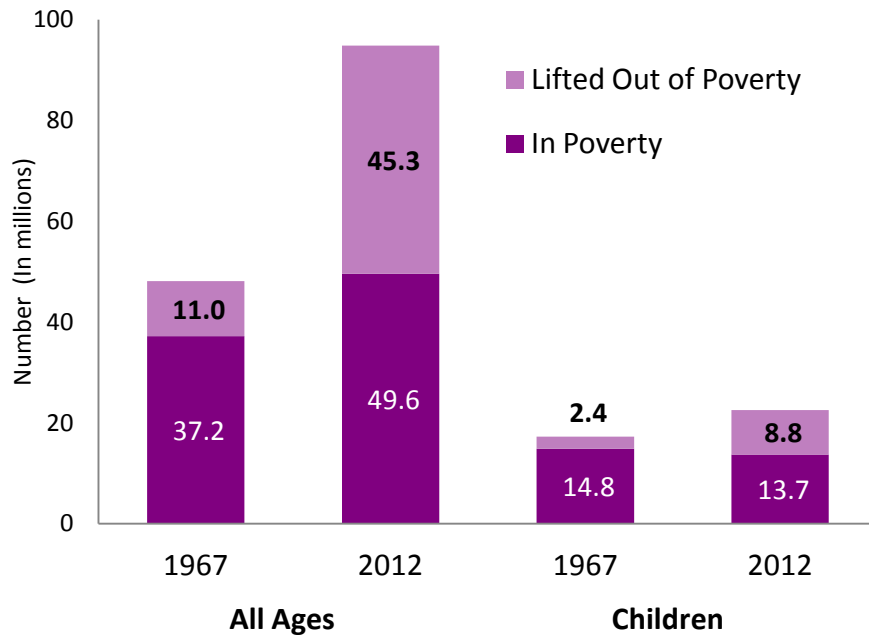
ASPE is marking the 50th Anniversary of the War on Poverty by highlighting the positive historic impact of the social safety net on poverty and well-being. Our forthcoming report shows:

- The safety net has expanded during the past 50 years to better meet the needs of America's most vulnerable individuals and families.
- The safety net alleviates poverty.
- The safety net has substantially reduced the share of the population with insufficient resources to meet basic needs.
- The safety net mitigates economic shocks and did so during Great Recession.



# Poverty in the United States 50-Year Trends and Safety Net Impacts

Number of People Lifted Out of Poverty, Alternative Poverty Measure, 1967 and 2012



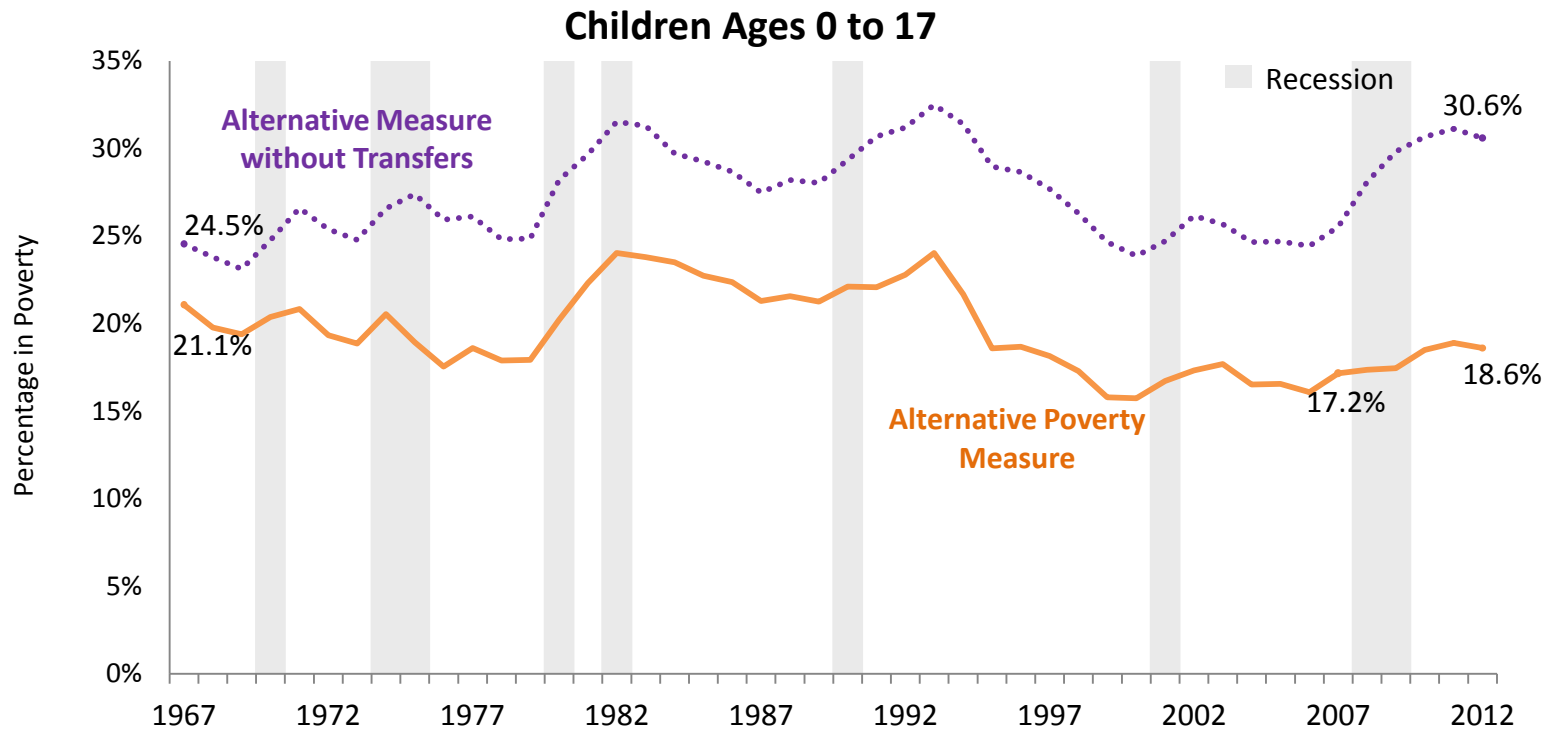
Source: Calculations by ASPE based on Fox et al. 2015. "Waging War on Poverty: Historical Trends in Poverty Using the Supplemental Poverty Measure." *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*. Vol. 34 (3).

- The safety net has a large impact
- Its positive impact on poverty reduction has grown substantially over the last 50 years
- In 2012 the safety net lifted 45.3 million children and adults out of poverty - 34.3 million more than in 1967
- In 2012 the safety net lifted 8.8 million children out of poverty - 6.4 million more than in 1967

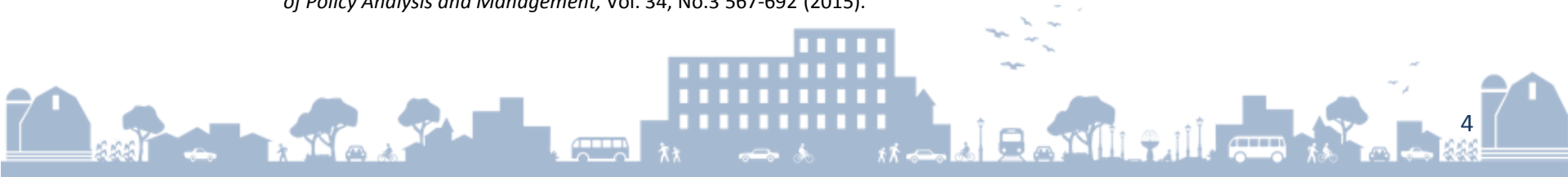


# Poverty in the United States 50-Year Trends and Safety Net Impacts

Percentage of Children in Poverty, Alternative Poverty Measure, 1967 - 2012



Source: Fox et al., "Waging War on Poverty: Historical Trends in Poverty Using the Supplemental Poverty Measure." *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*, Vol. 34, No.3 567-692 (2015).

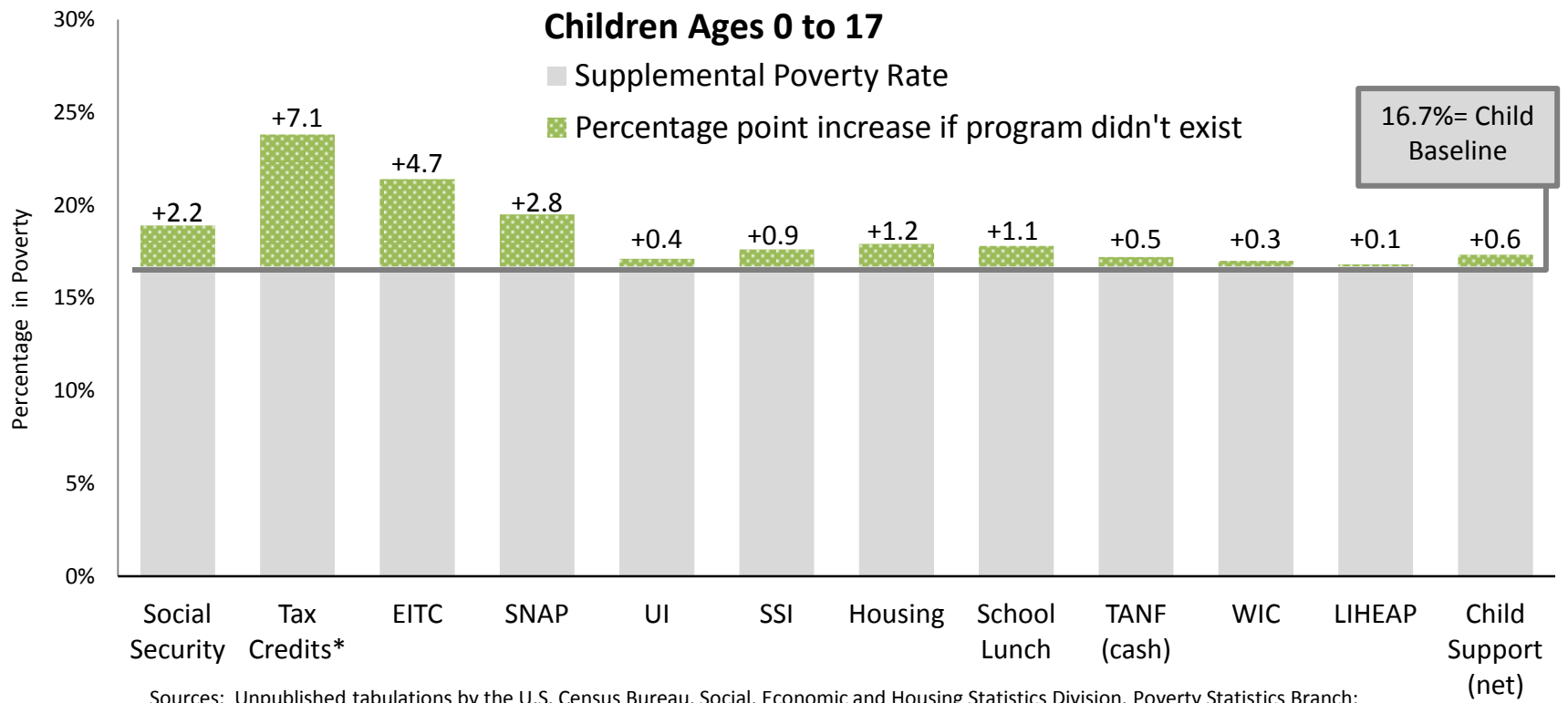




# Poverty in the United States 50-Year Trends and Safety Net Impacts



Impacts of Select Safety Net Programs on Supplemental Poverty Rate for Children, 2014



Sources: Unpublished tabulations by the U.S. Census Bureau, Social, Economic and Housing Statistics Division, Poverty Statistics Branch; Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement, 2015; U.S. Census Bureau, "Current Population Reports," P60-254.

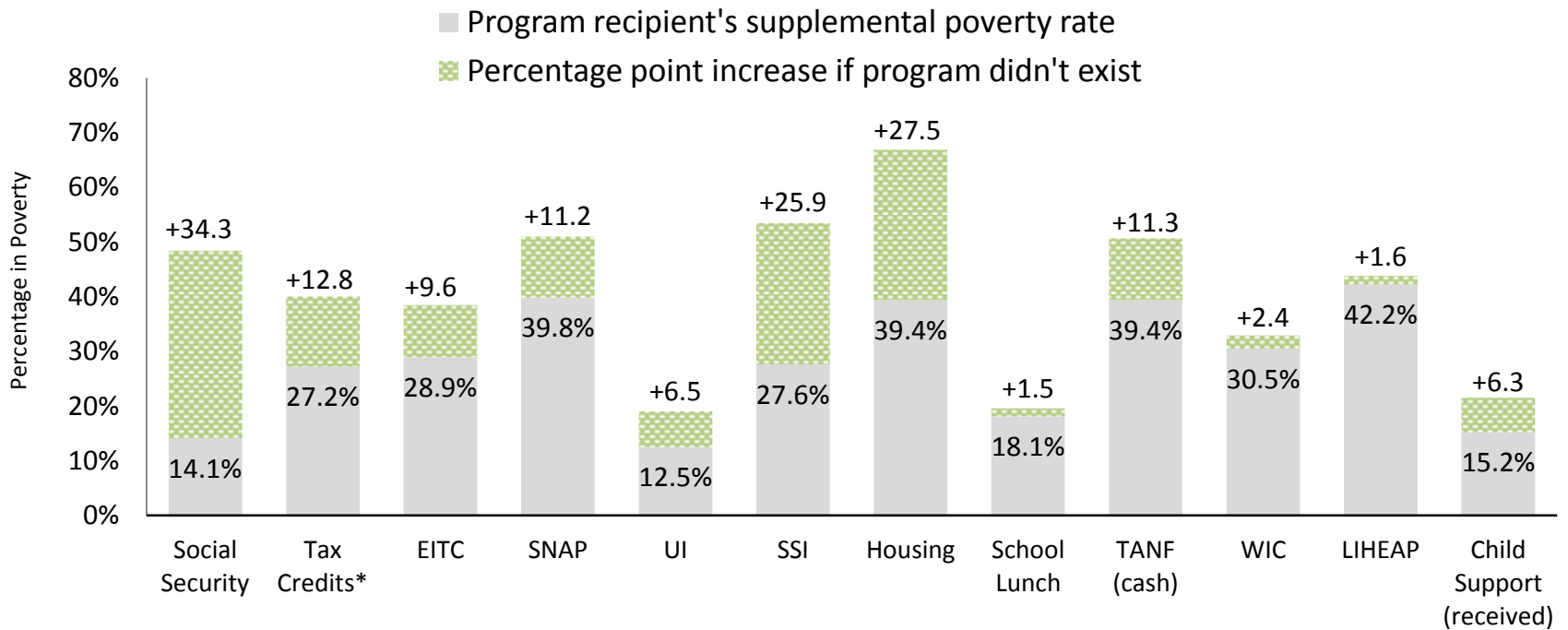




# Poverty in the United States 50-Year Trends and Safety Net Impacts



## Impacts of Select Safety Net Programs on the Supplemental Poverty Rate Among Program Recipients, 2014



Sources: Unpublished tabulations by the U.S. Census Bureau, Social, Economic and Housing Statistics Division, Poverty Statistics Branch; Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement, 2015; U.S. Census Bureau, "Current Population Reports," P60-254.





# *Poverty in the United States 50-Year Trends and Safety Net Impacts*



ASPE Report will be posted at: <https://aspe.hhs.gov/>

For further information please contact:

Charles J. Homer, MD, MPH

Deputy Assistant Secretary, Human Services Policy - ASPE/HHS  
(202) -690-7409 – [charles.homer@hhs.gov](mailto:charles.homer@hhs.gov)

John Tambornino, PhD

Office of Human Services Policy – ASPE/HHS  
(202) 690-7149 – [john.tambornino@hhs.gov](mailto:john.tambornino@hhs.gov)

Thanks!

