

Income, Poverty, Income Inequality and Program Participation Data

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U.S. Census Bureau

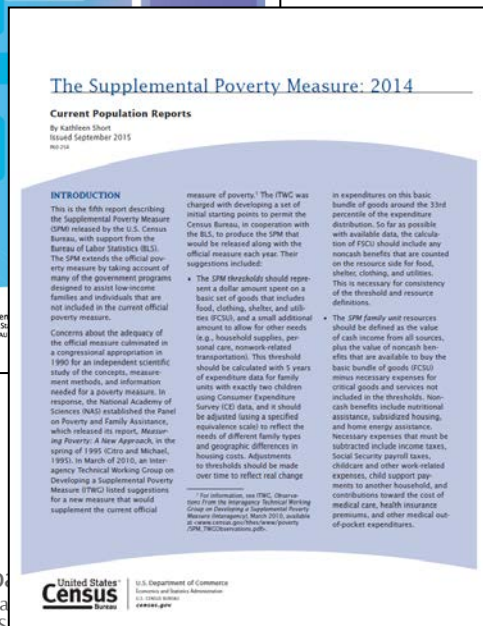
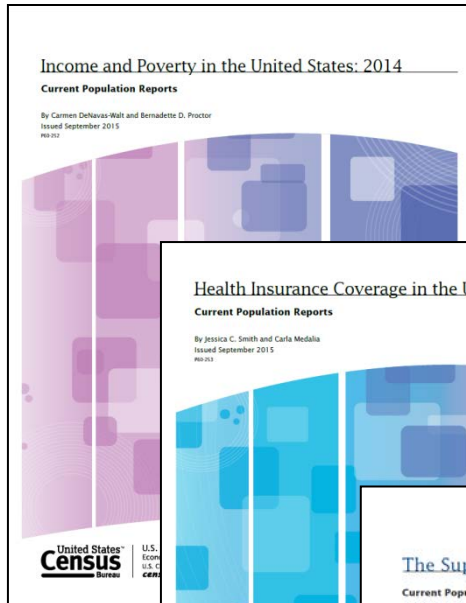
Presentation for the NASI pre-conference workshop

January 27, 2016

Official Income, Poverty and Health Insurance Estimates for 2014 released in September 2015

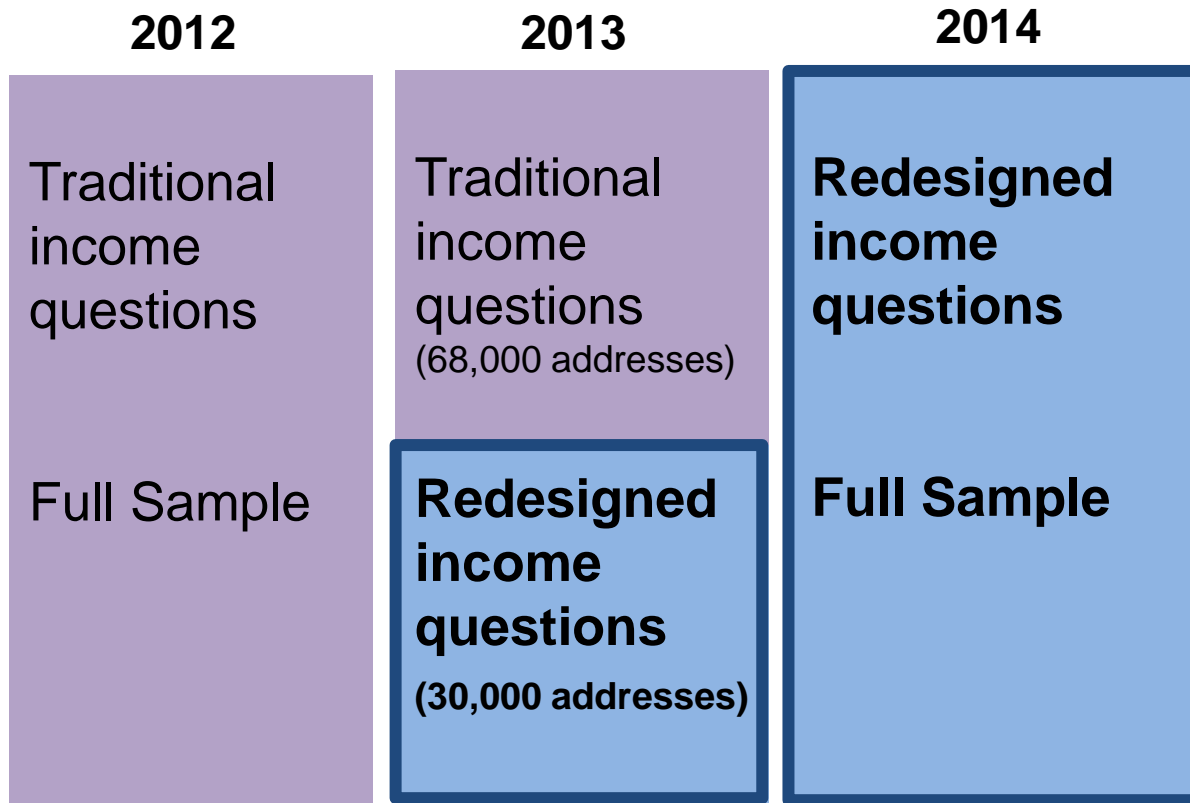
Highlights

- Median household money income for the nation \$53,700 in 2014, not statistically different from 2013, in real terms.
- The official poverty rate for the nation was 14.8 percent. There were 46.7 million people in poverty. No change.
- The Supplemental Poverty Measure (SPM) rate was 15.3 percent. No change.
- The percentage of people without health insurance coverage for the entire calendar year was 10.4 percent, or 33.0 million people. This was a decrease of 2.9 percentage points from the previous year.



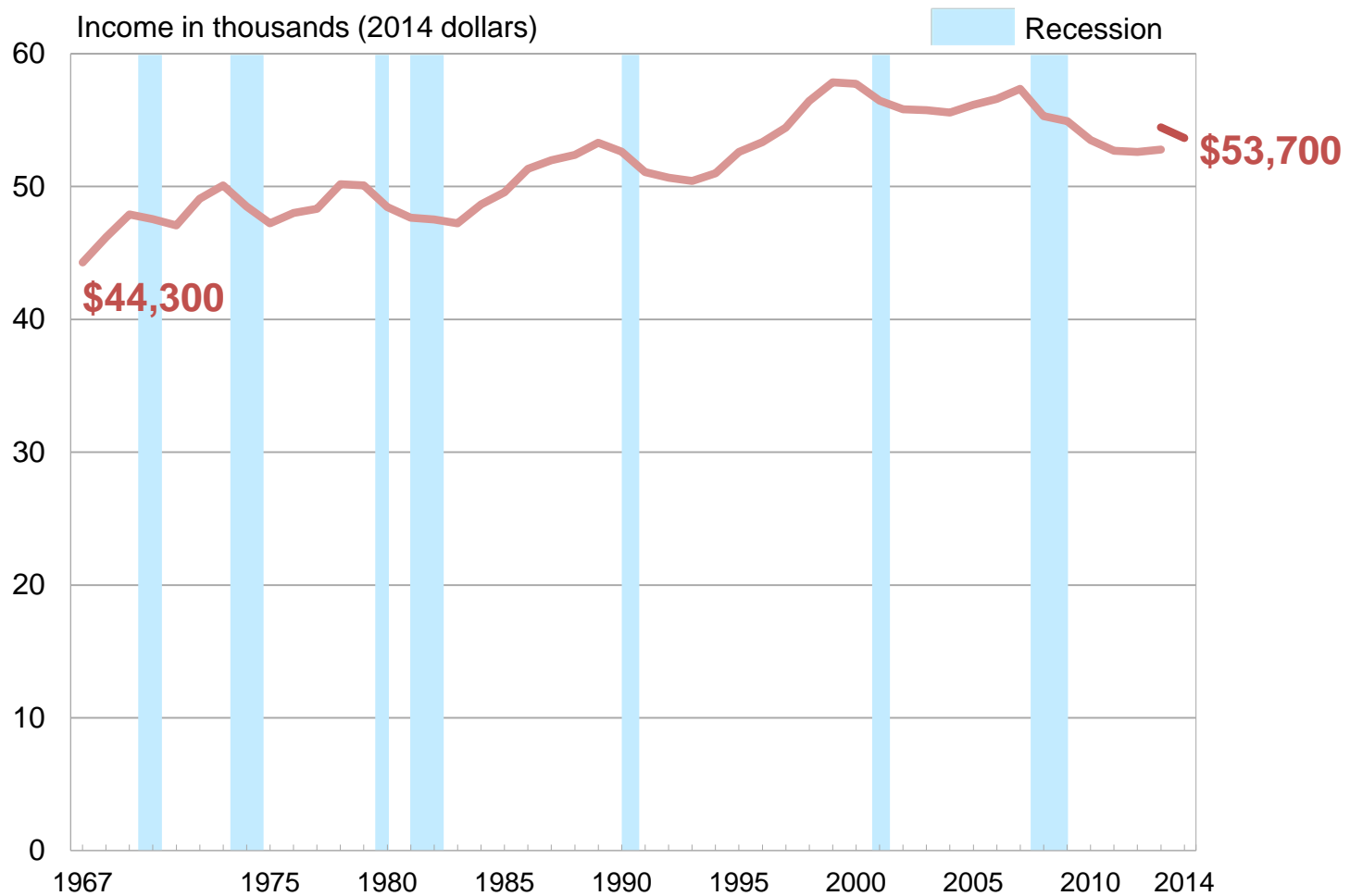
September 2015 Release

Income and Poverty Estimates

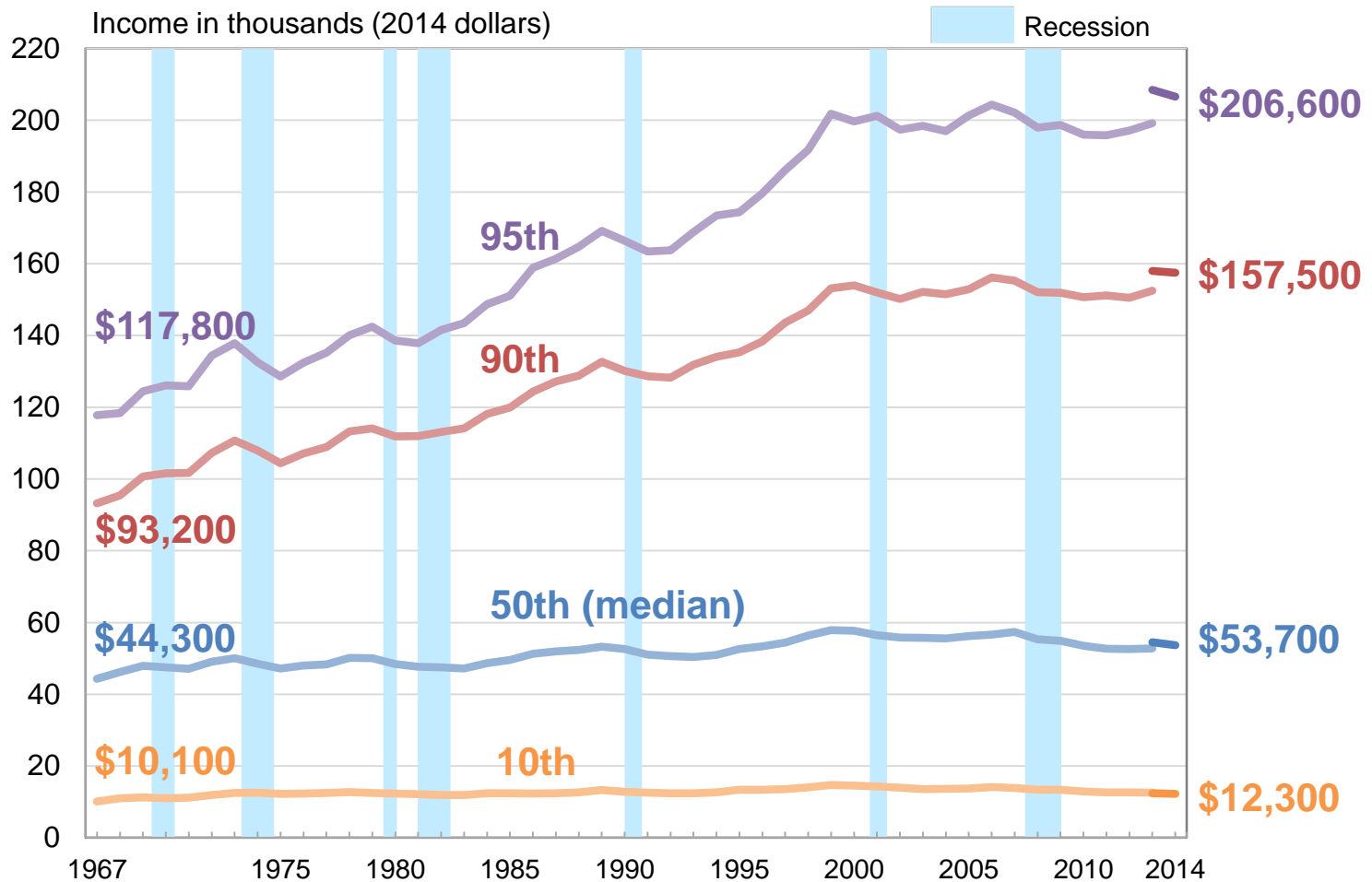


- All 2013 estimates in the report will be based on the redesign set of questions
- Preserved continuity between the years
 - Consistent questions
 - Used the same processing system

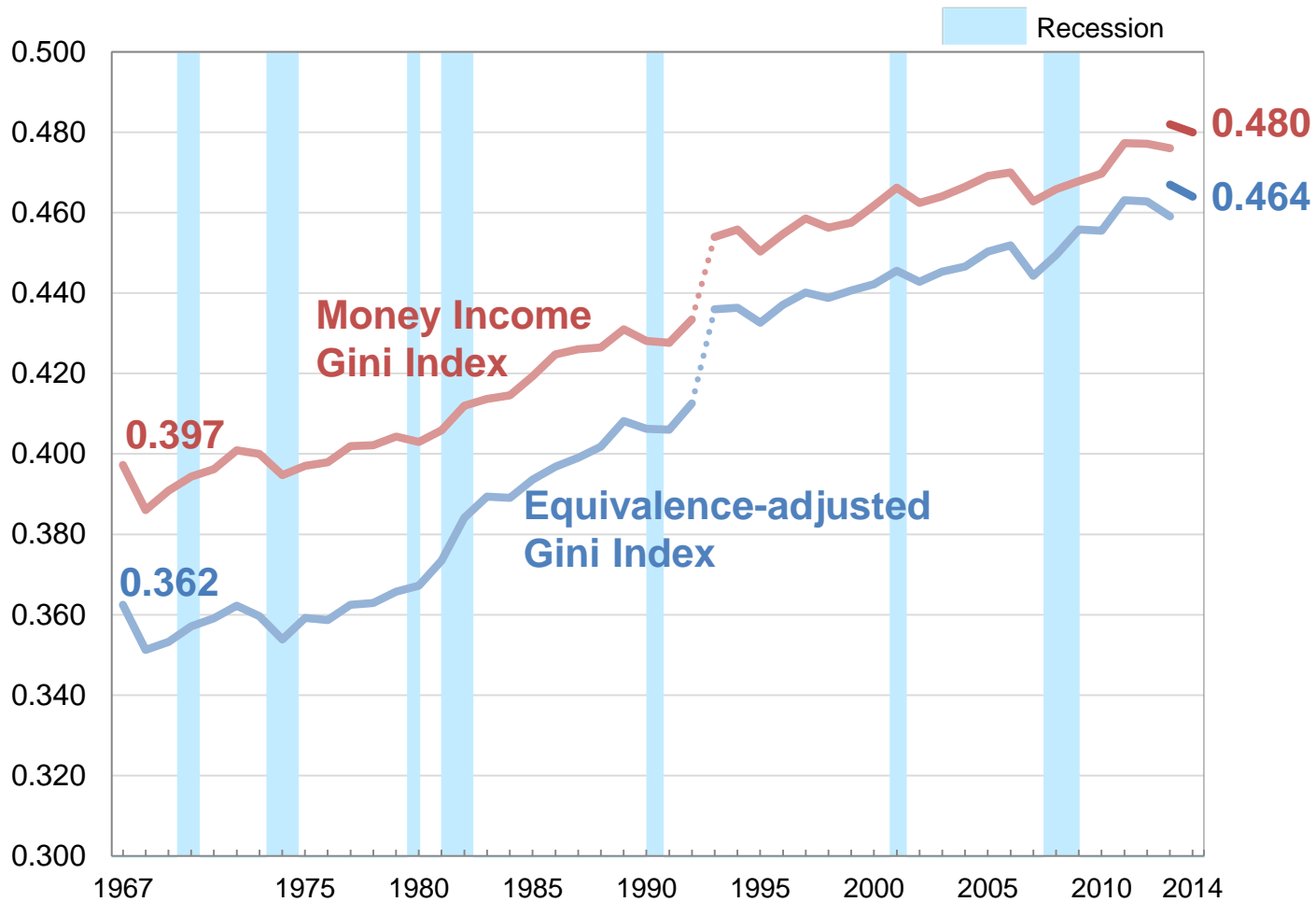
Real Median Household Income: 1967 to 2014



Real Household Income at Selected Percentiles: 1967 to 2014

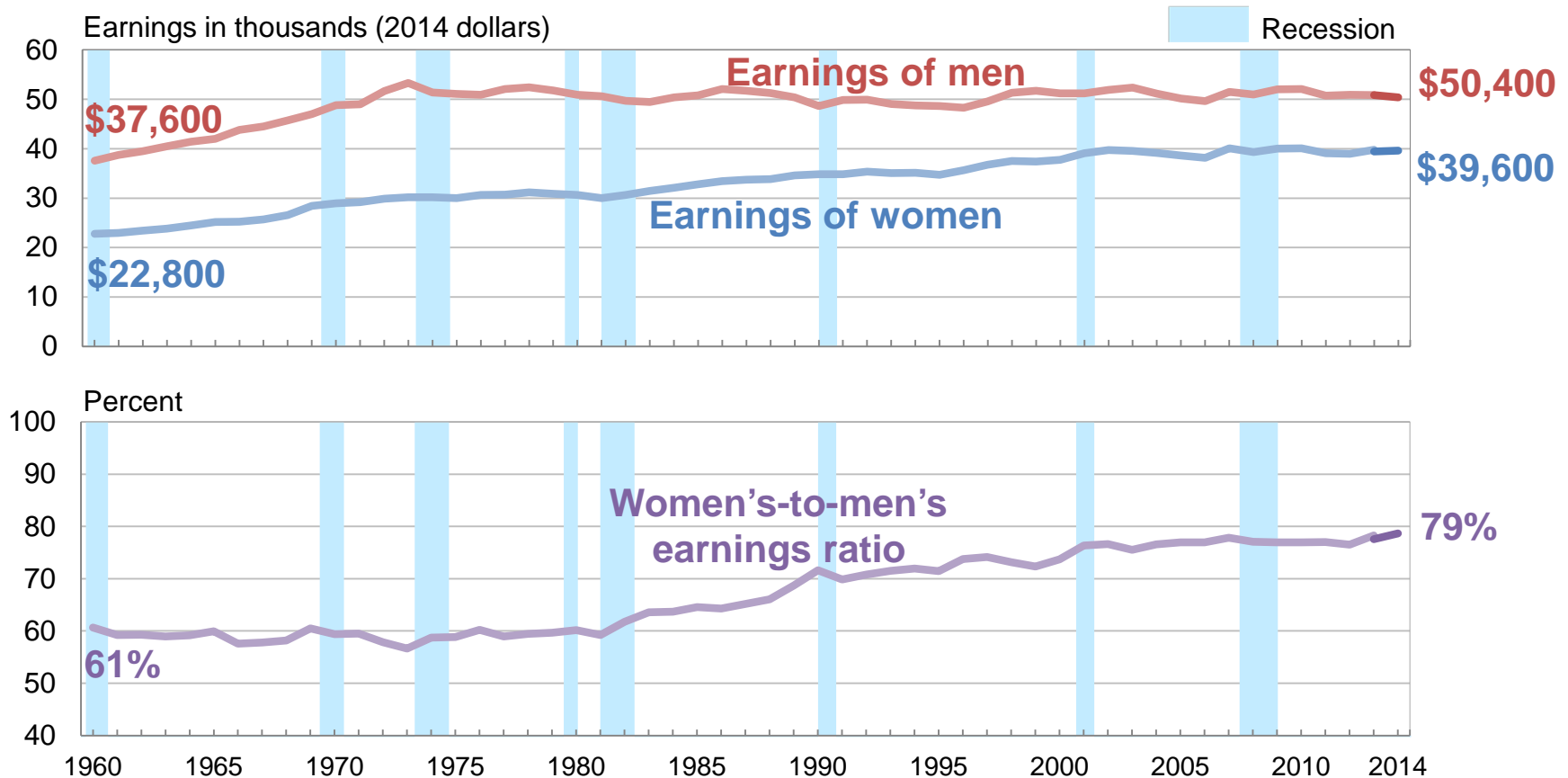


Gini Index of Money Income and Equivalence-Adjusted Income: 1967 to 2014

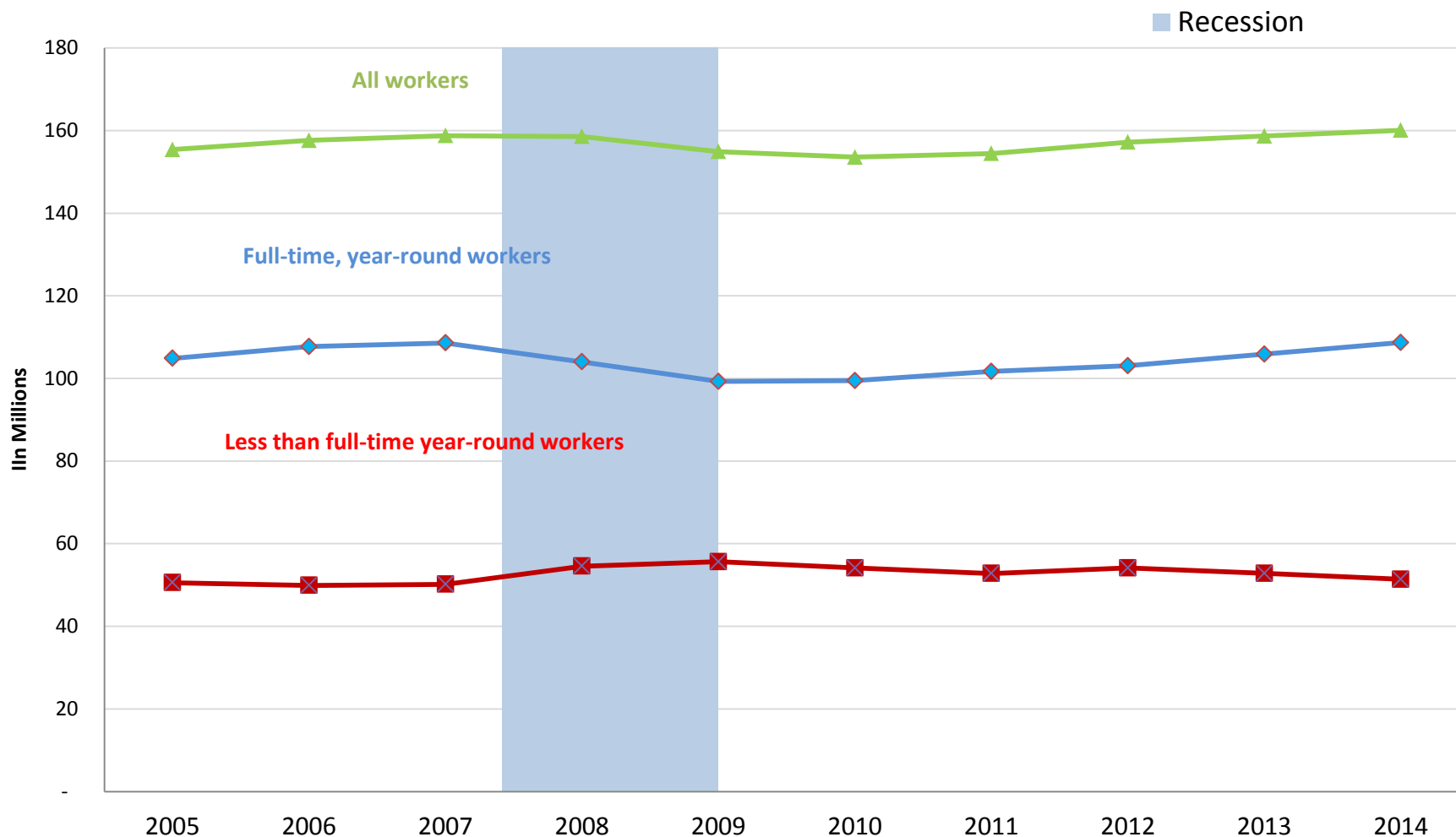


Real Median Earnings and Women's-to-Men's Earnings Ratio: 1960 to 2014

(Full-time, year-round workers)

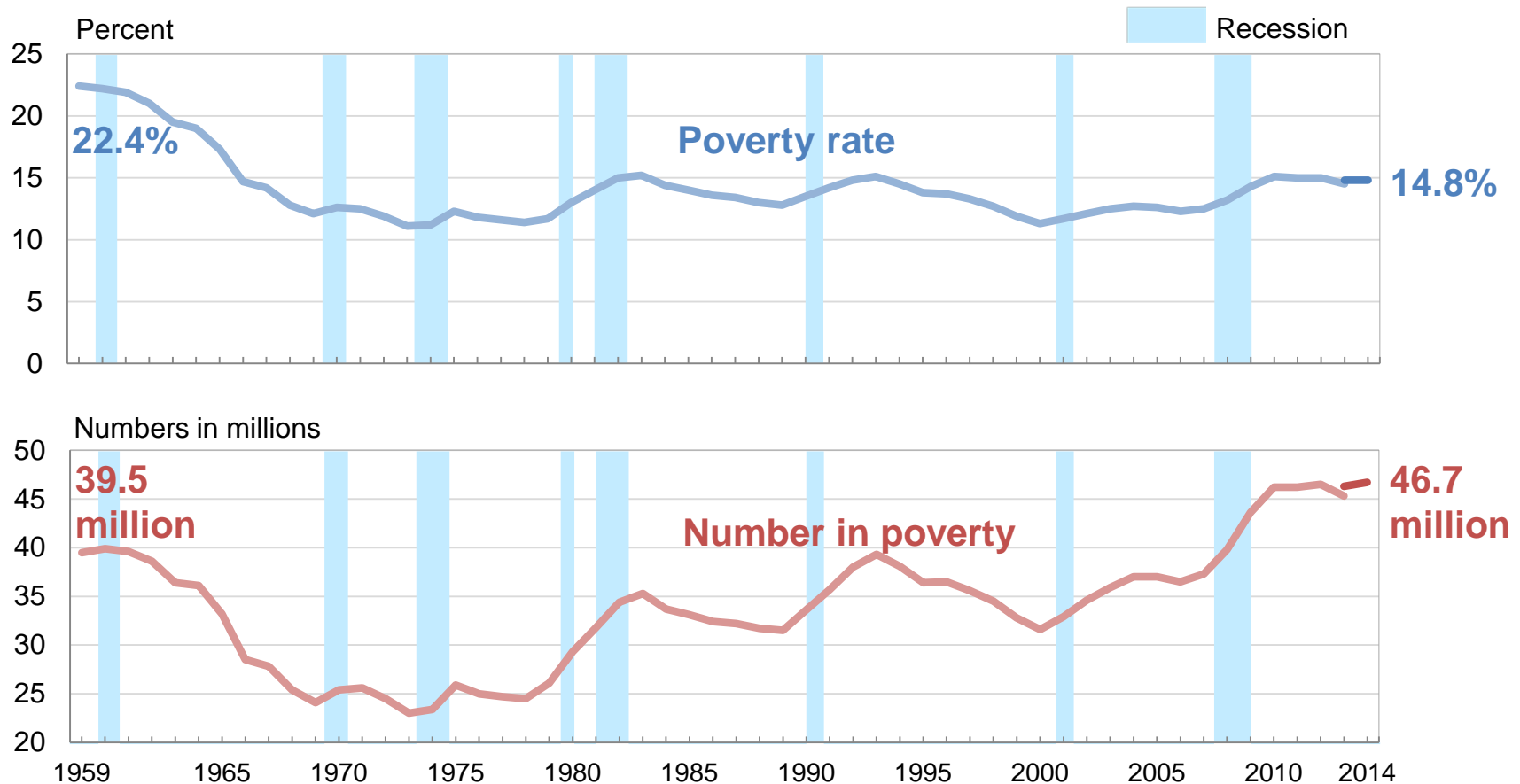


Millions of Workers by Work Experience: 2005-2014

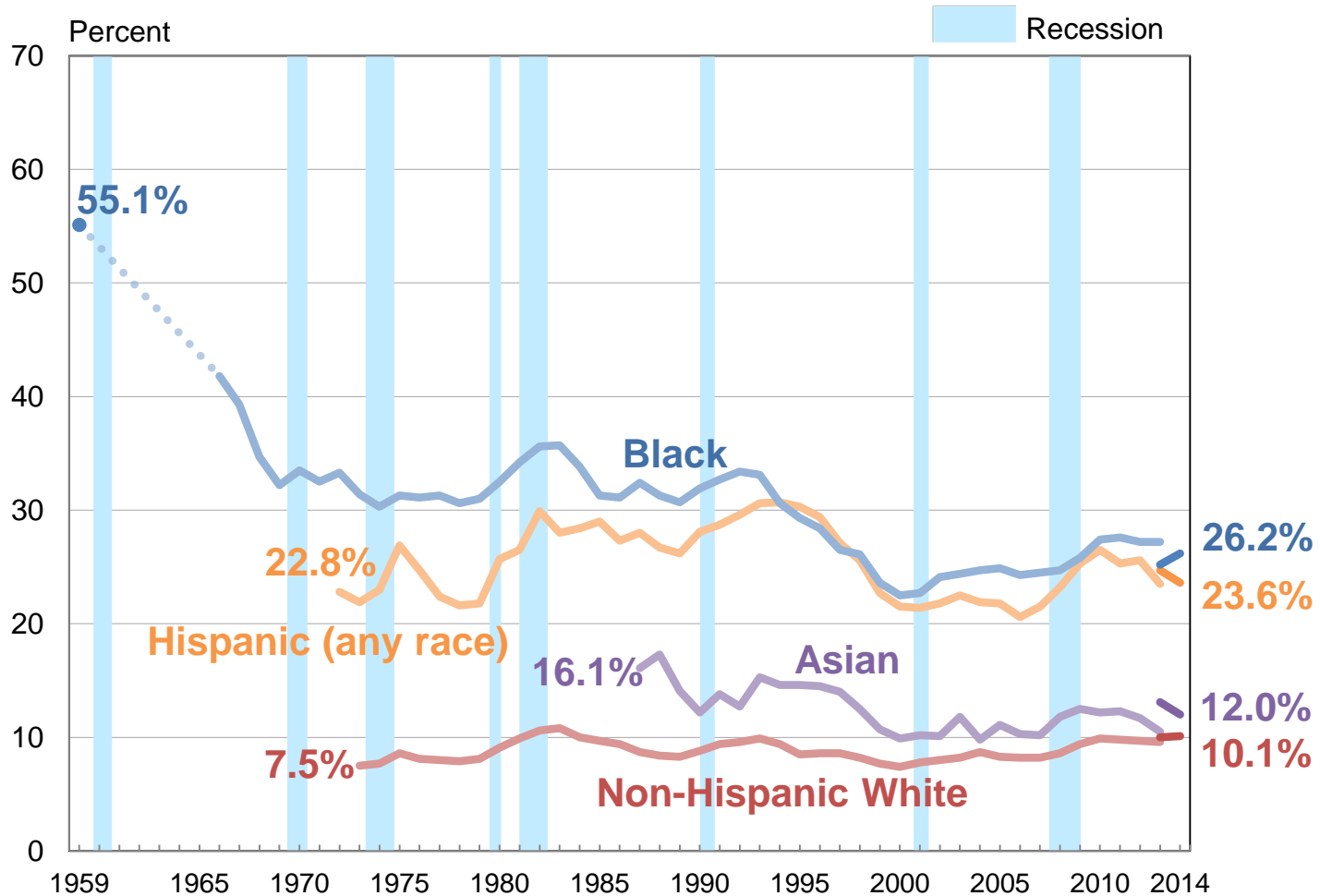


Source: Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplements: 2006-2015

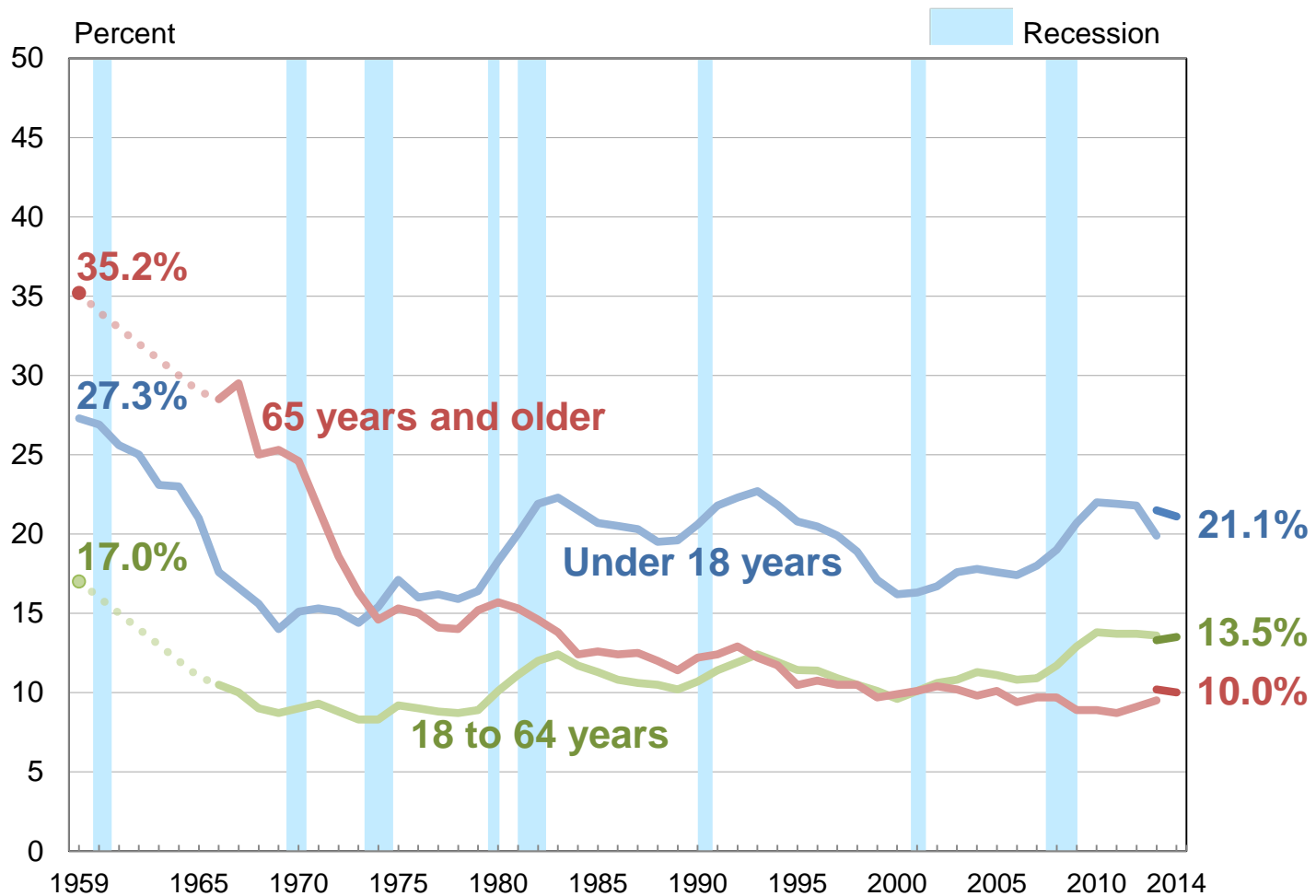
National Poverty Rate and Number in Poverty: 1959 to 2014



Poverty Rates by Race and Hispanic Origin: 1959 to 2014



Poverty Rates by Age: 1959 to 2014



Poverty: The History of a Measure



President Lyndon Johnson declares War on Poverty, January 1964.



The Office of Economic Opportunity adopts Mollie Orshansky's poverty thresholds as a working definition of poverty for statistical planning, May 1965.



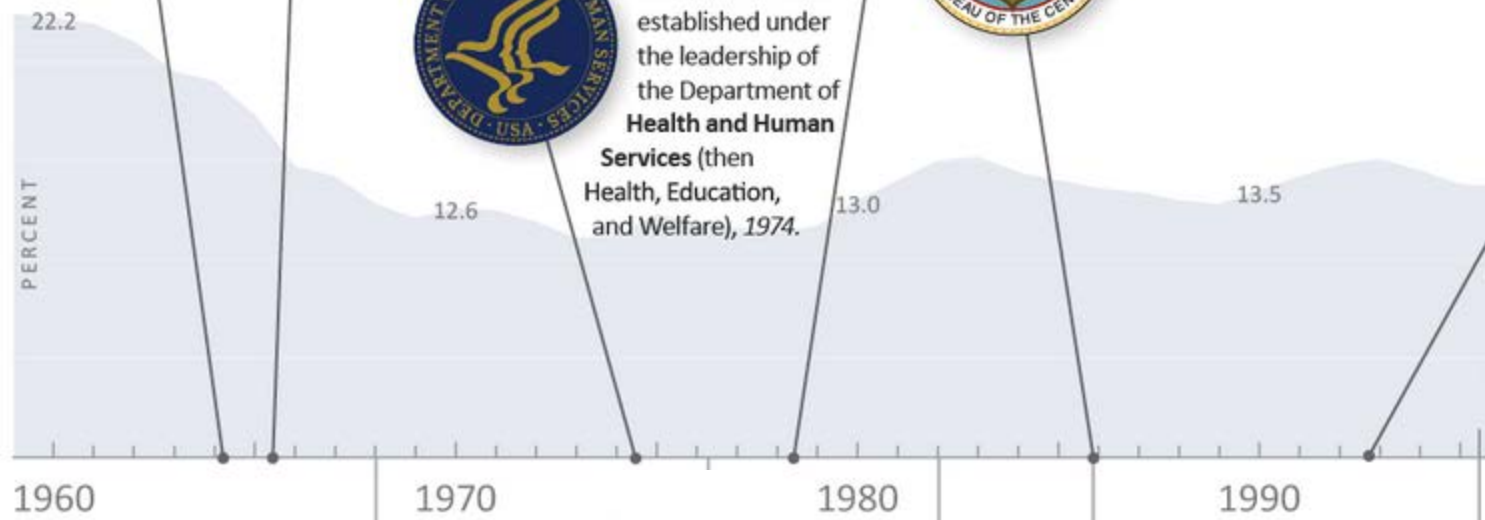
Office Of Management and Budget issues Statistical Policy Directive No. 14 specifying the **definition of poverty** for statistical purposes, May 1978.



An Interagency Poverty Studies Task Force is established under the leadership of the Department of Health and Human Services (then Health, Education, and Welfare), 1974.



The Census Bureau holds a conference in Williamsburg, Virginia, on the measurement of noncash benefits, December 1985.

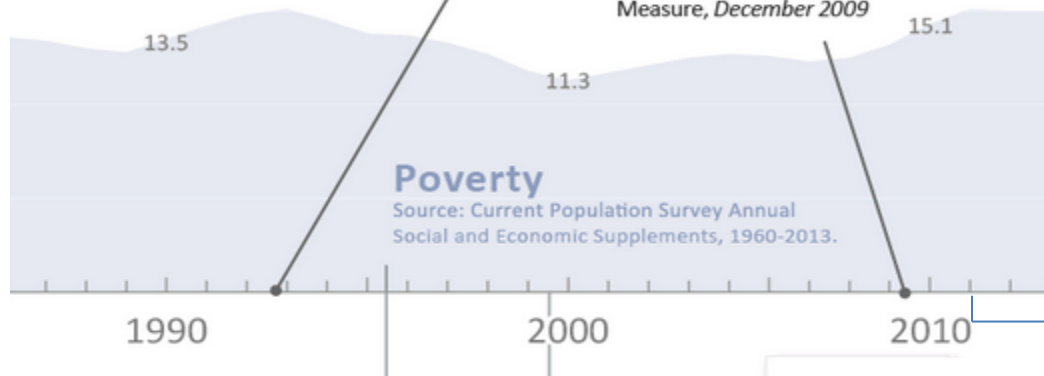


First Census Bureau Report on Poverty: 1967



National Academy of Sciences convenes a panel of experts to conduct a study of statistical issues in the measurement and understanding of poverty, June 1992.

An **Interagency Technical Working Group on Developing a Supplemental Poverty Measure** is formed by Commerce Under Secretary Rebecca Blank and Office of Management and Budget Chief Statistician Katherine Wallman and charged with developing a set of initial starting points to permit the U.S. Census Bureau, in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics, to produce a Supplemental Poverty Measure, December 2009



Poverty

Source: Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplements, 1960-2013.

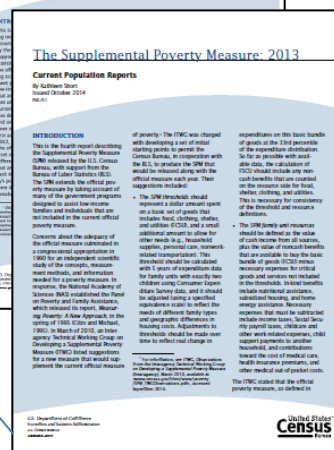


The Panel on Poverty and Family Assistance publishes a report proposing a new approach to measuring poverty.

Constance F. Citro and Robert T. Mik (editors), *Measuring Poverty: A New Approach*, Washington, D.C., National Academy Press, 1995.

The Census Bureau issues the first report on experimental poverty measures responding to the NAS report.

Kathleen Short, Thesia Garner, David Johnson, and Patricia Doyle, *Experimental Poverty Measures: 1990 to 1997*, U.S. Census Press, 1997.



Criticisms of the Official Poverty Measure

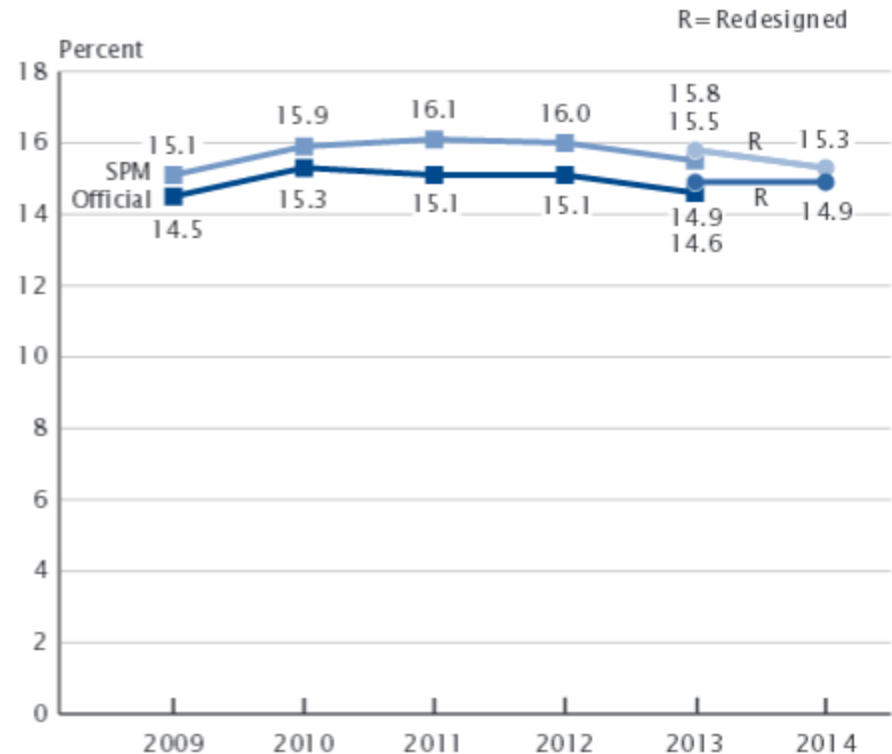
- The official measure does not account for:
 - Provision of in-kind benefits
 - Necessary expenses (taxes, health care, work)
 - Changes in family or household structure
 - Higher standards and levels of living since 1965
 - Geographic price differences among regions

Supplemental Poverty Measure (SPM)

Observations from the Interagency Technical Working Group (ITWG) - March 2, 2010

- Will not replace the official poverty measure
- Will not be used for resource allocation or program eligibility
- Census Bureau and BLS responsible for improving and updating the measure
- Continued research and improvement
- Based on National Academy of Sciences expert panel recommendations in *Measuring Poverty: A New Approach* (Citro and Michael, 1995)

Figure 4.
Poverty Rates Using the Official Measure and the SPM: 2009 to 2014



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 2010–2015 Annual Social and Economic Supplements.

For both measures, individuals are considered poor if the resources they share with others in the household are not enough to meet basic needs.



But the two measures are very different.



Official Measure



Supplemental Measure



Official Measure



Supplemental Measure

Who shares resources?

The two measures make different assumptions about who shares resources. The SPM assumes that more people in a household share resources with one another.

The official measure of poverty assumes that all individuals residing together who are related by birth, marriage, or adoption share income.



The SPM starts with the family and then adds some unrelated people such as foster children and unmarried partners.



How do we measure needs?

The **poverty threshold**, or **poverty line**, is the minimum level of resources that are adequate to meet basic needs.

The official measure uses three times the cost of a minimum **food** diet in 1963 in today's prices.



The SPM uses information about what people spend today for basic needs—**food**, **clothing**, **shelter**, and **utilities**.



Official Measure



Supplemental Measure

Are needs the same in New York and Mississippi?

Poverty thresholds for both measures are adjusted to reflect the needs of families of different types and sizes. Only the SPM thresholds take account of geographic differences in housing costs.

Yes, the official poverty threshold is the same throughout the United States. In 2012, the poverty threshold for a family with two adults and two children was \$23,283*.

No, SPM thresholds vary based on several factors such as place of residence and whether it is a rental unit or purchased property or home with a mortgage. The map below shows the SPM thresholds for renters with two adults and two children in 2012.

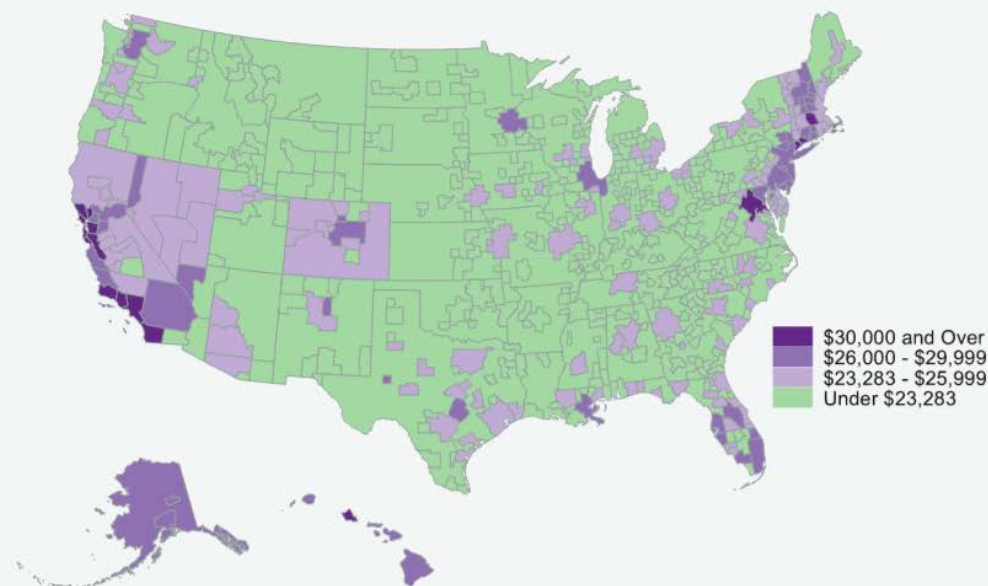
2012 Official Poverty Thresholds
(Two Adults and Two Children)



Source: DeNavas-Walt, Carmen, Bernadette D. Proctor, and Jessica C. Smith. Income, Poverty, and Health Insurance Coverage in the United States: 2012. U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Reports, P60-245, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington DC, September 2013.

*Revised since first release on Jan. 7, 2014. Original number was \$22,283.

2012 SPM Poverty Thresholds for Renters
(Two Adults and Two Children)



Sources: Geographic adjustments based on housing costs from the American Community Survey 2007-2011. Base thresholds are from the Bureau of Labor Statistics <www.bls.gov/pir/spm/spm_thresholds_2012.htm>.

What resources do people have to meet their needs?

What we count as available resources differs between the two poverty measures.

The official measure uses cash income, such as wages and salaries, Social Security benefits, interest, dividends, pension or other retirement income.



The SPM starts with cash income, then...

ADDING BENEFITS

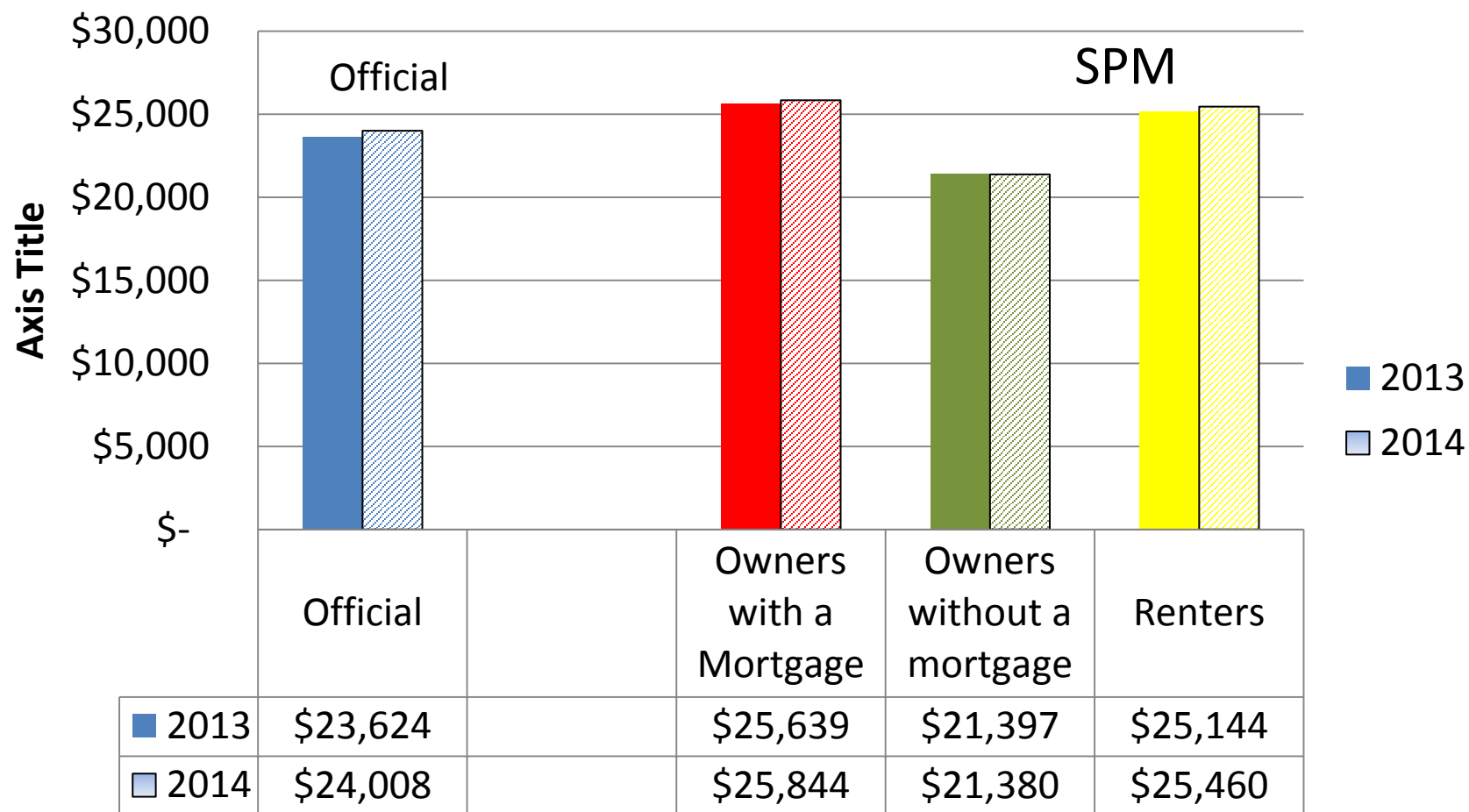
The SPM adds benefits from the government that are not cash but help families meet their basic needs.

SUBTRACTING EXPENSES

The SPM subtracts necessary expenses like taxes, health care, commuting costs for all workers, and child care expenses while parents work.

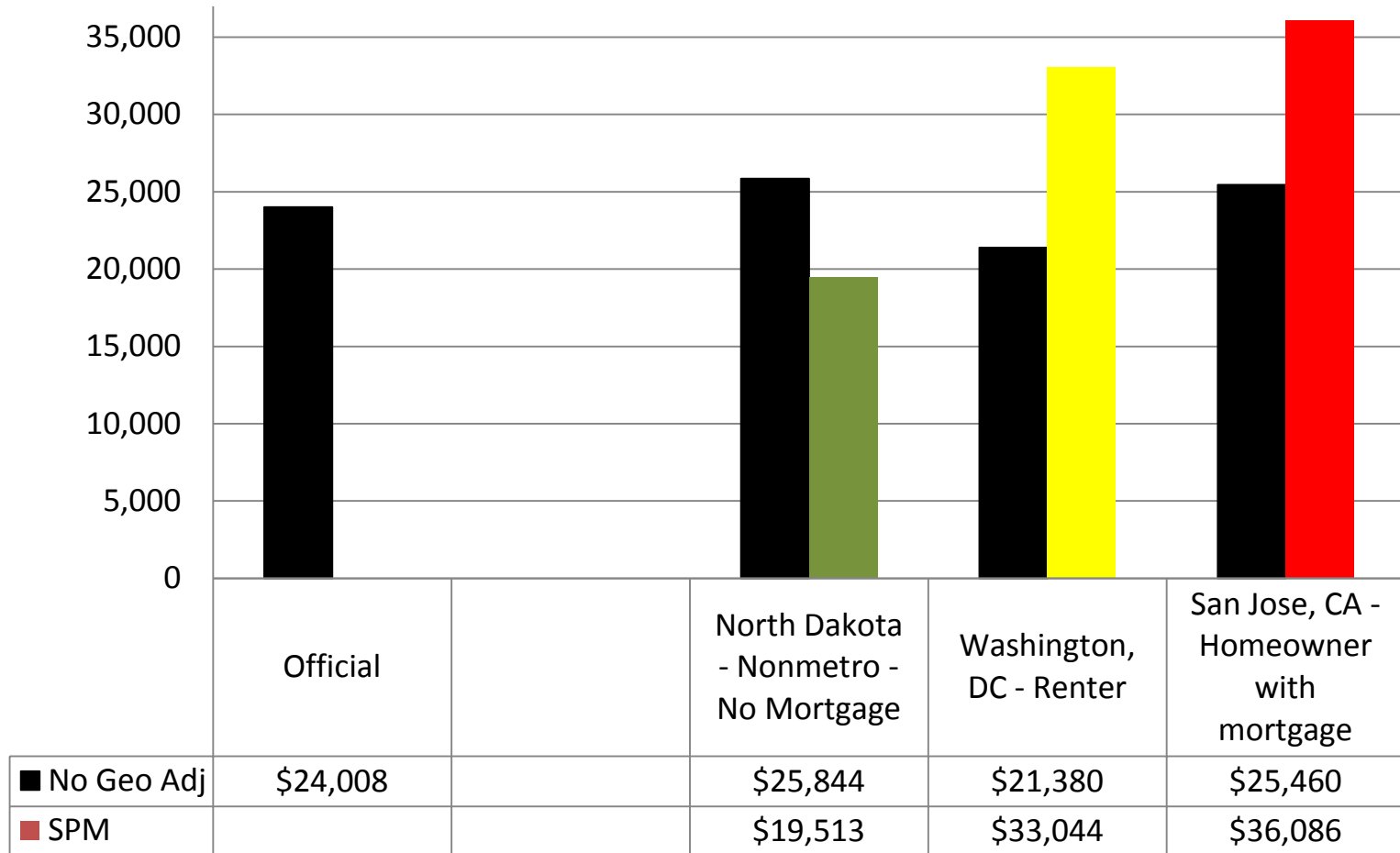


Official and SPM Thresholds: 2013 and 2014

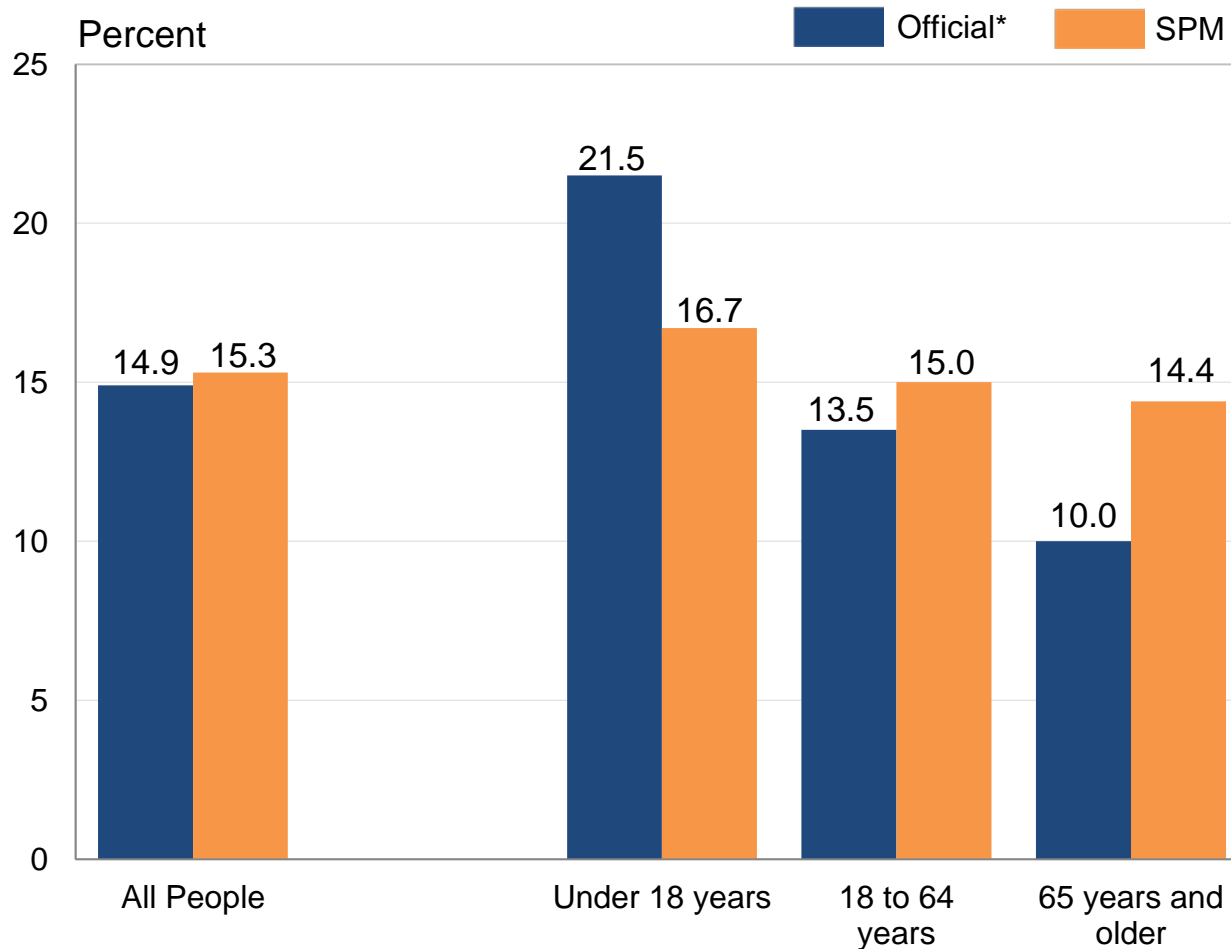


Official and Research SPM Thresholds for Two Adult, Two Child Units with Geographic Adjustments: 2014

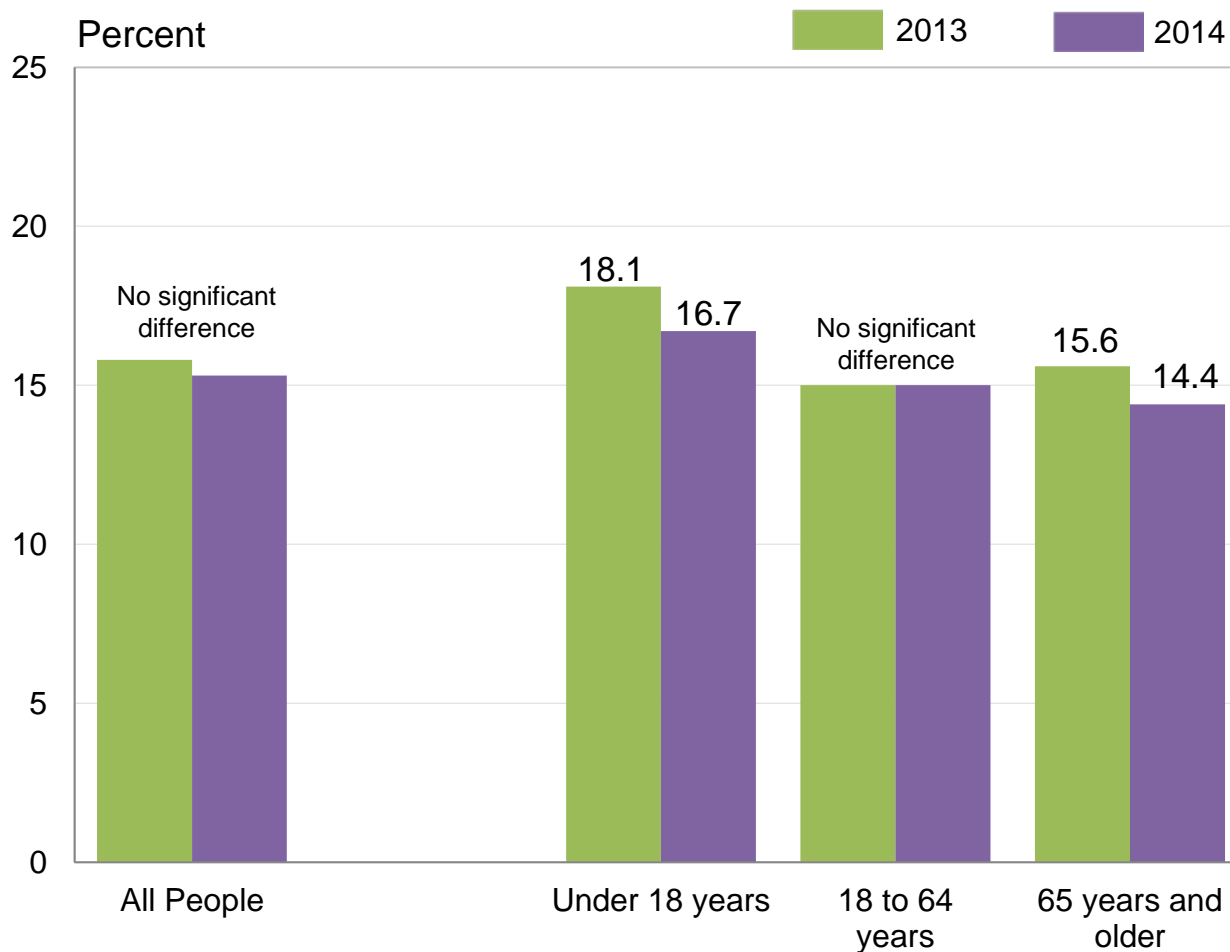
Supplemental Poverty Thresholds



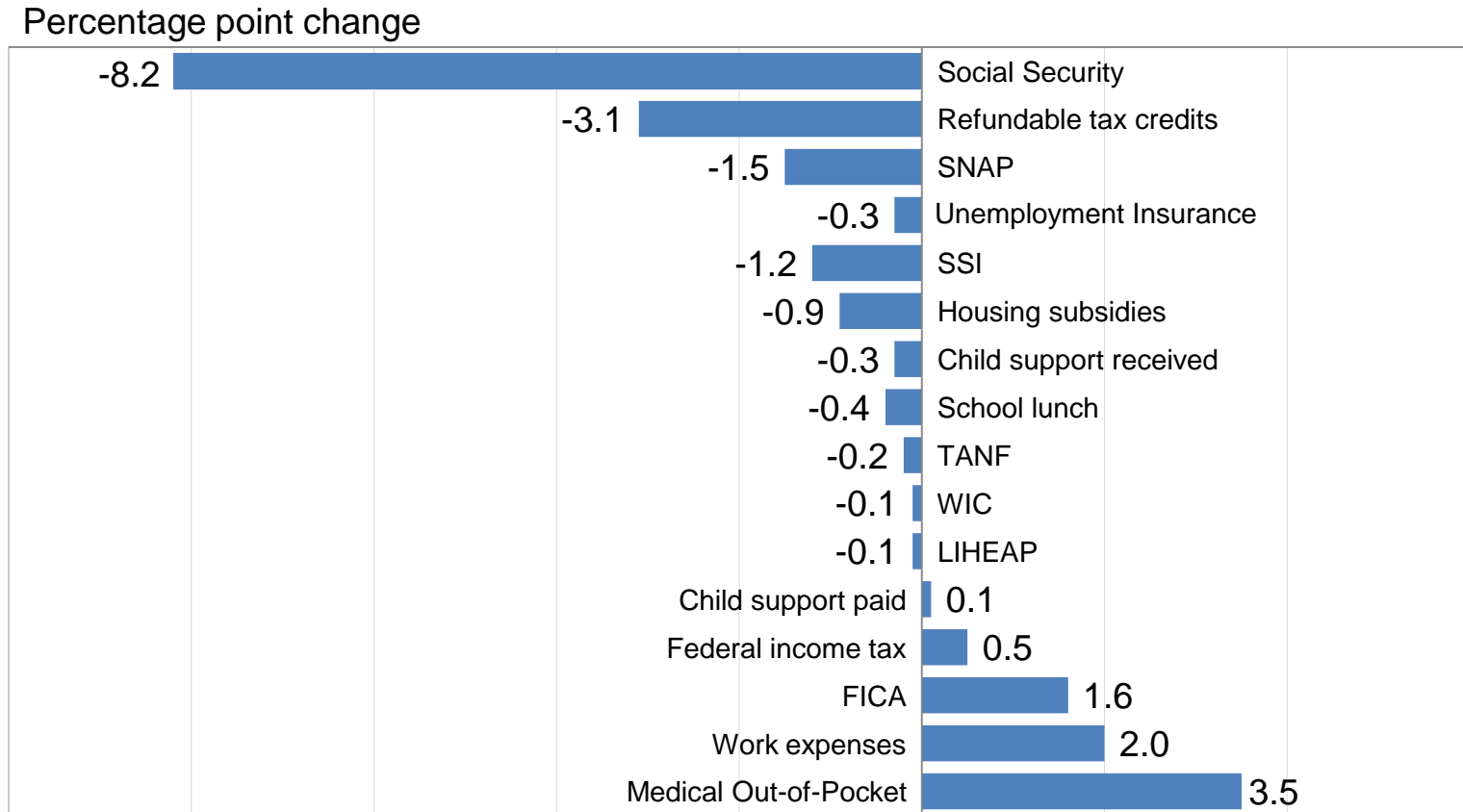
Comparison of SPM and Official Poverty Estimates: 2014



Comparison of SPM Poverty Estimates: 2013 and 2014

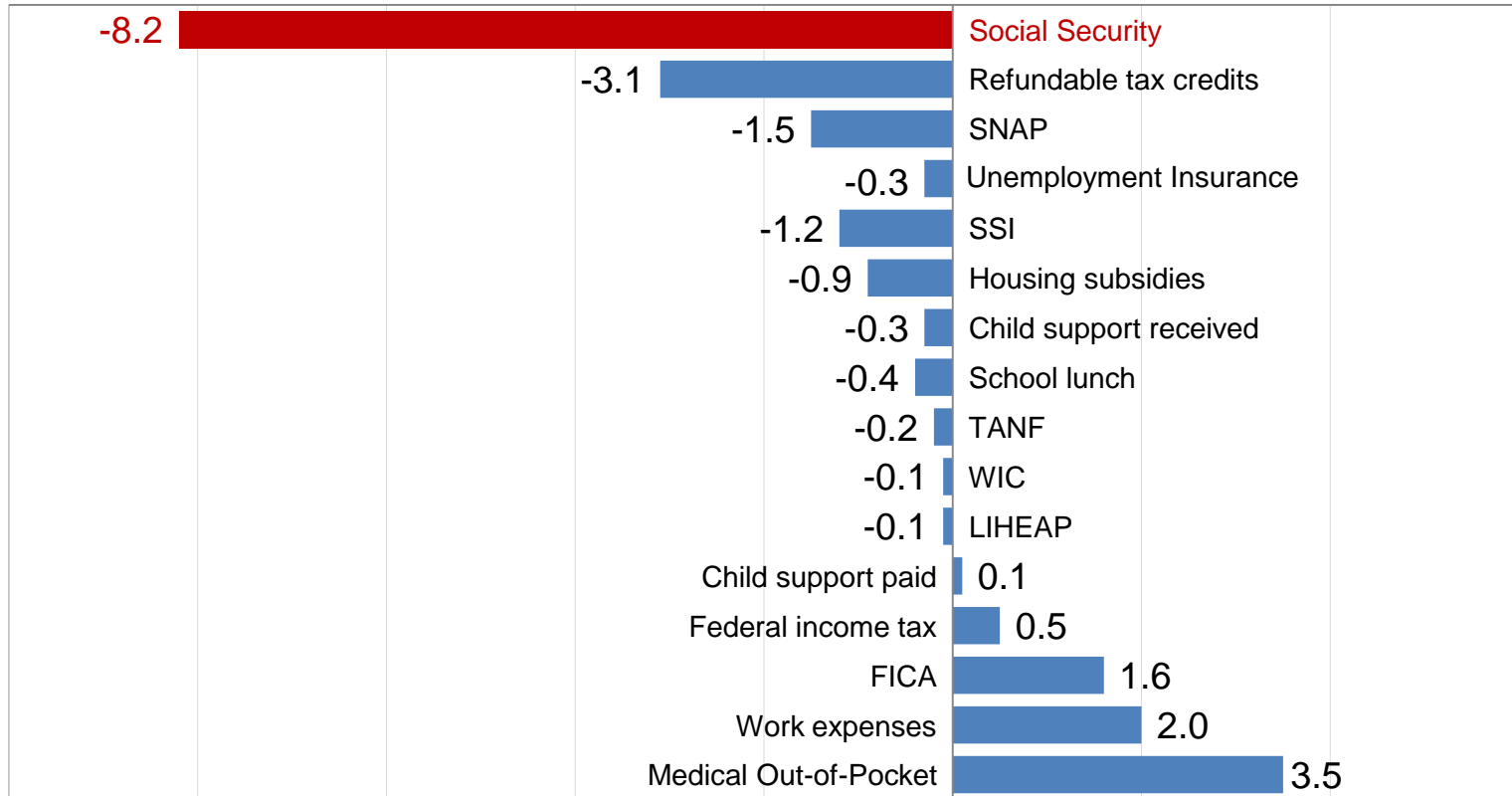


Difference in SPM Rate After Including Each Element: 2014

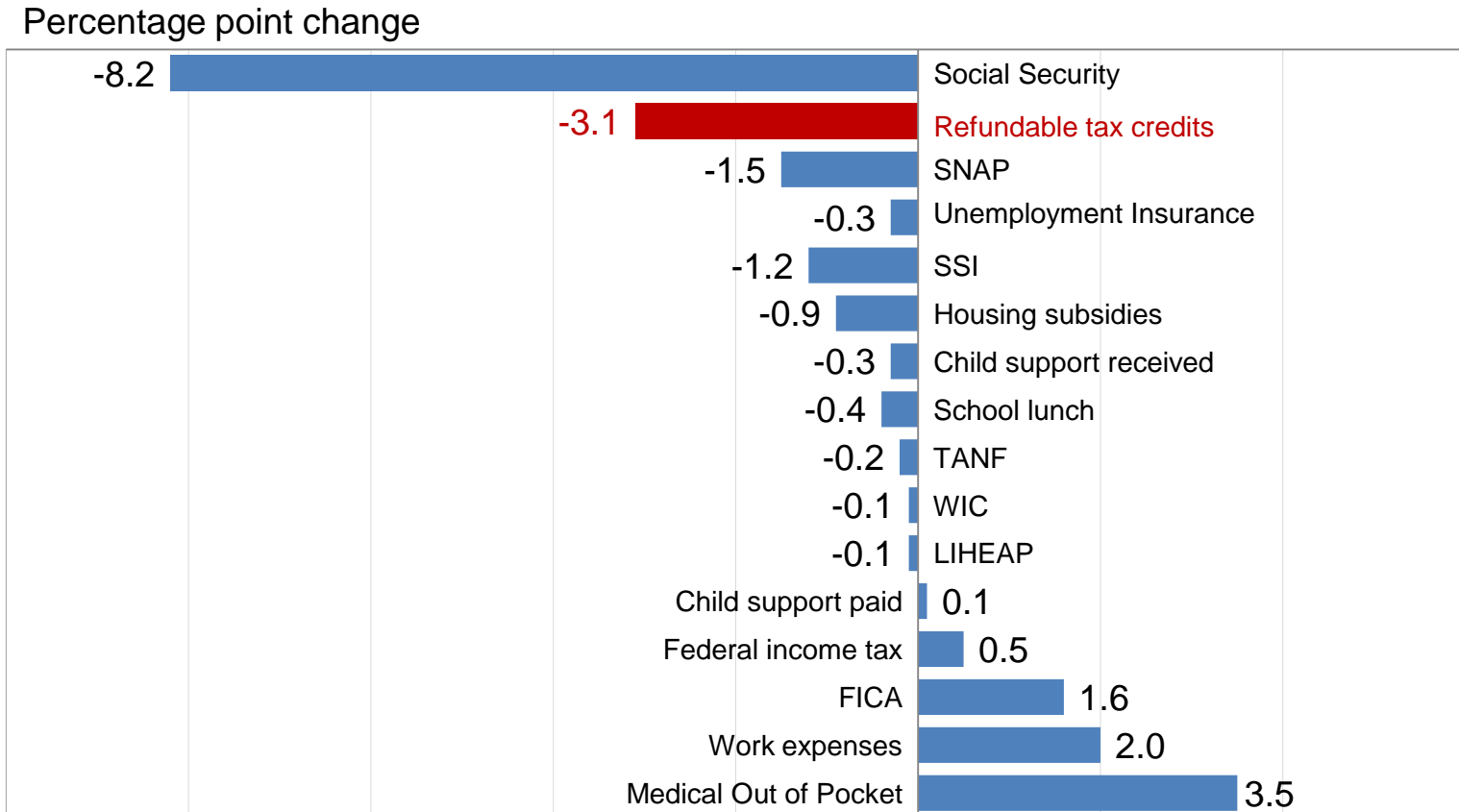


Difference in SPM Rate After Including Each Element: 2014

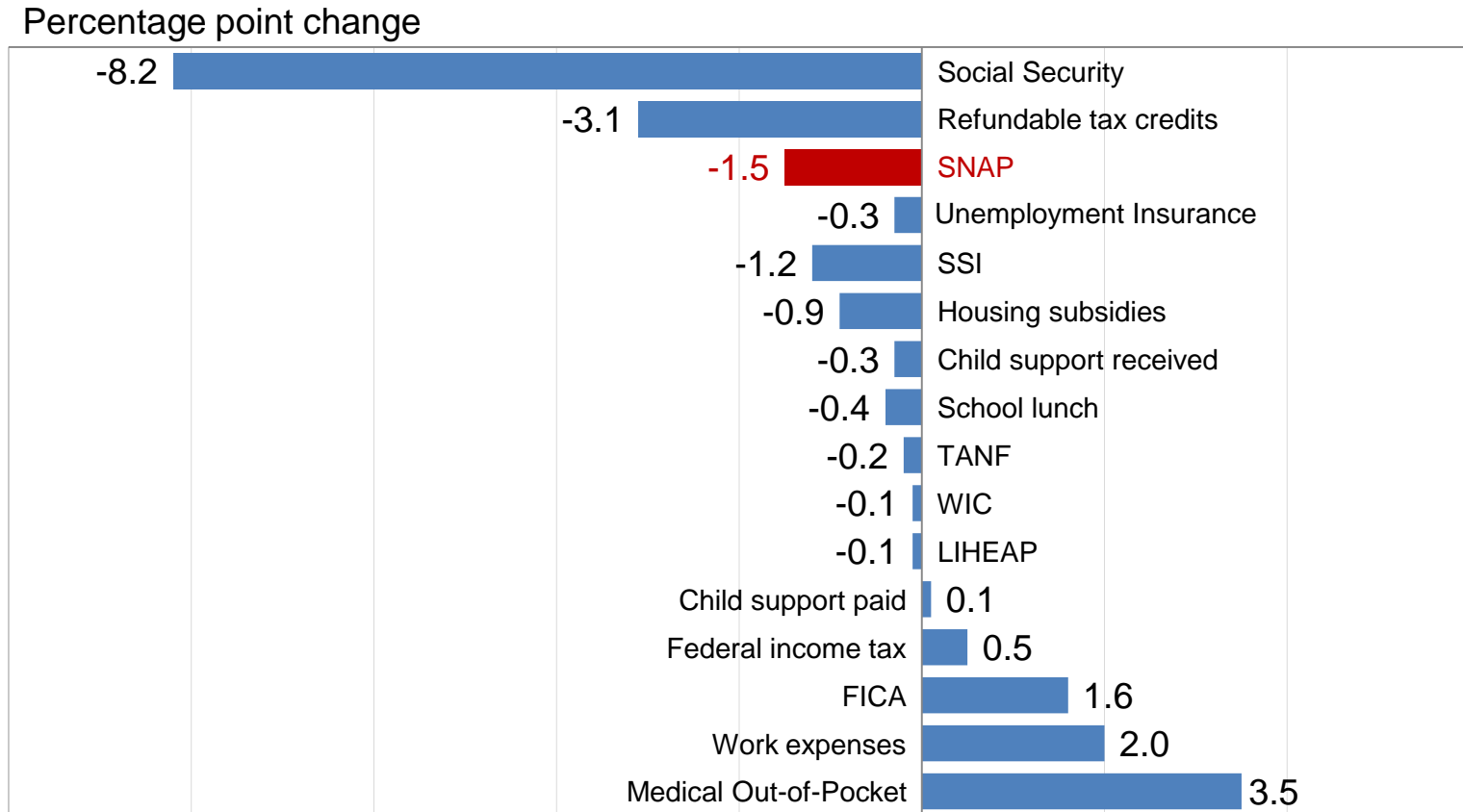
Percentage point change



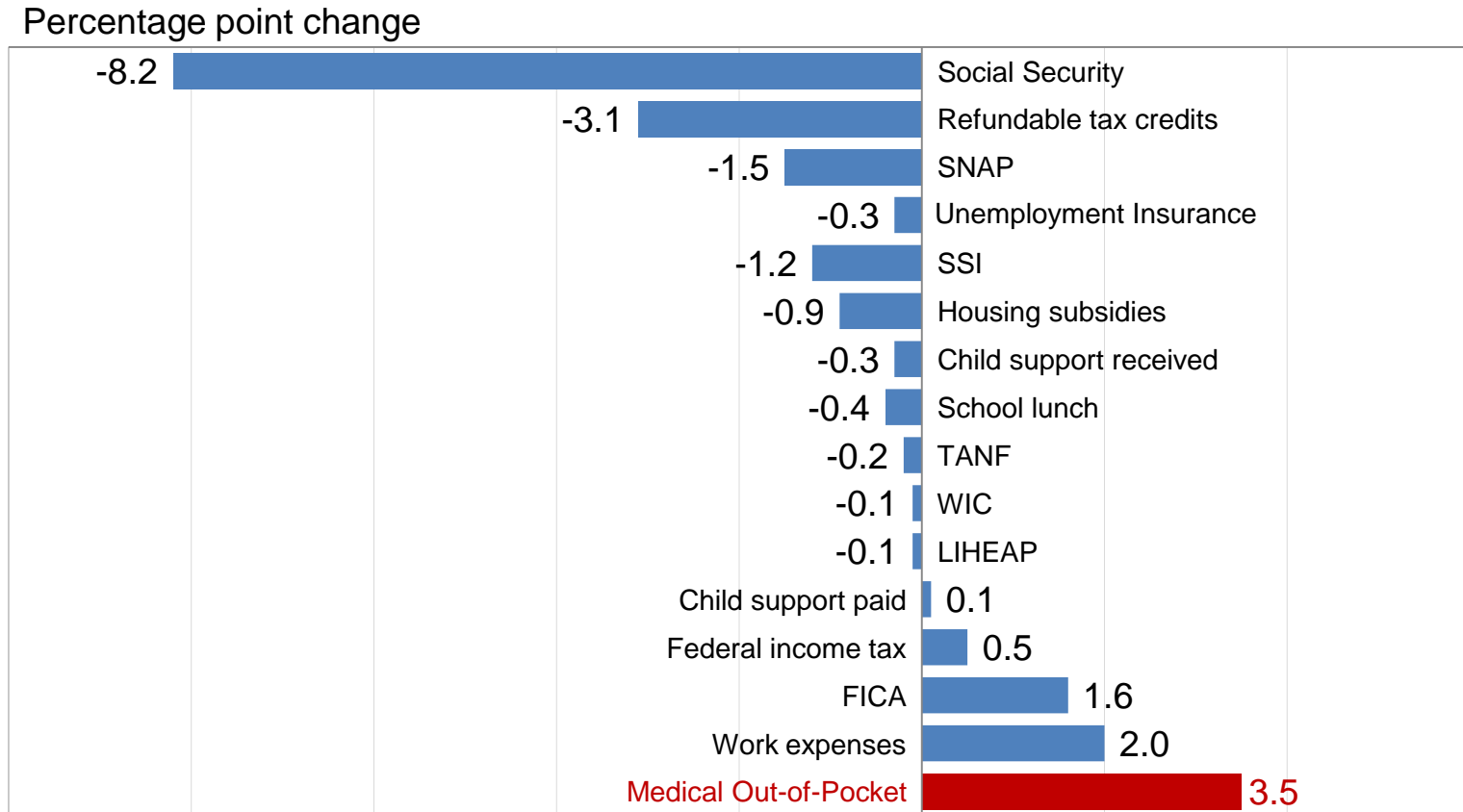
Difference in SPM Rate After Including Each Element: 2014



Difference in SPM Rate After Including Each Element: 2014



Difference in SPM Rate After Including Each Element: 2014



Health Insurance Coverage in the United States: 2014

Current Population Reports

By Jessica C. Smith and Carla Medalia
Issued September 2015
P60-253



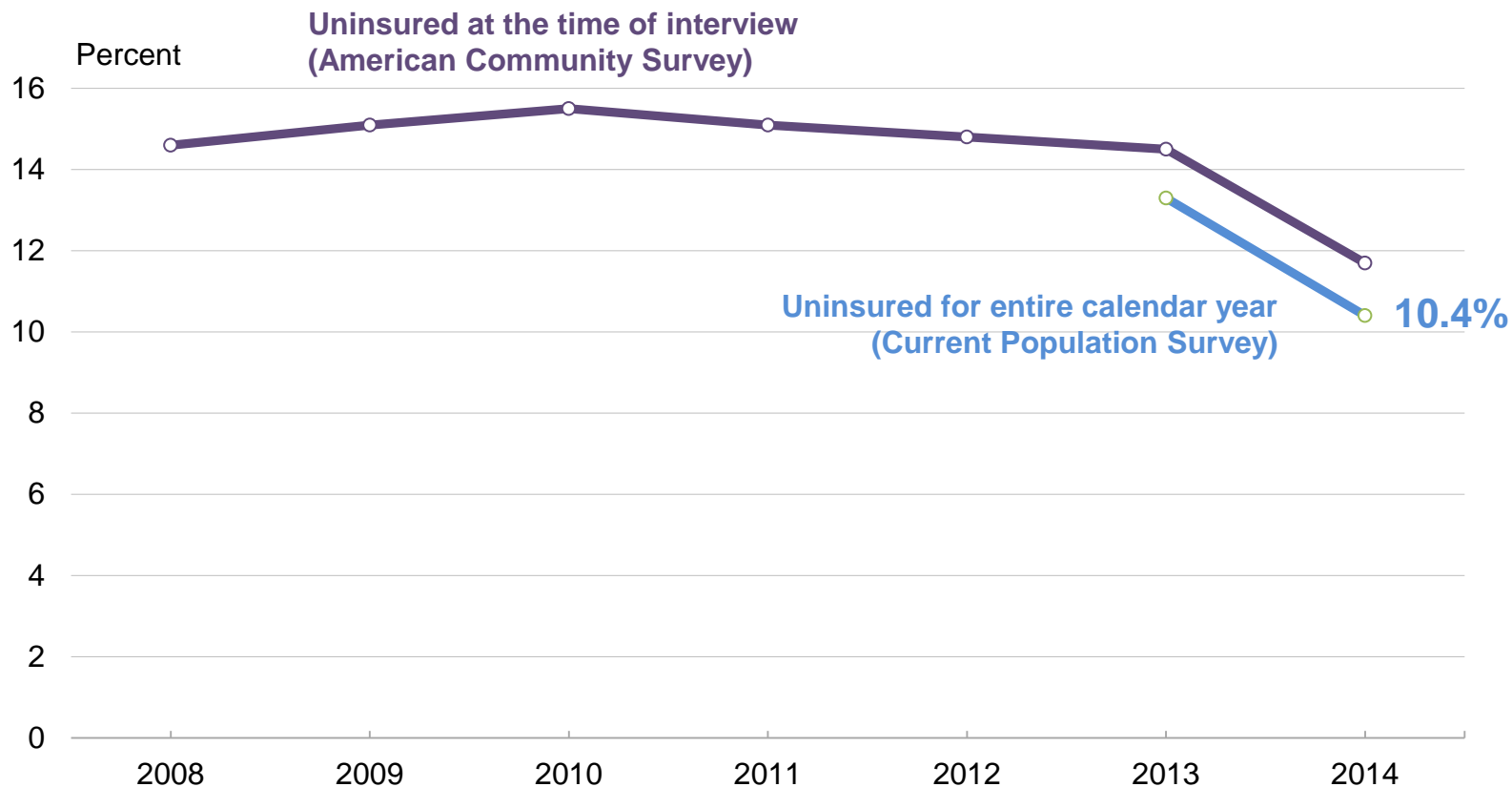
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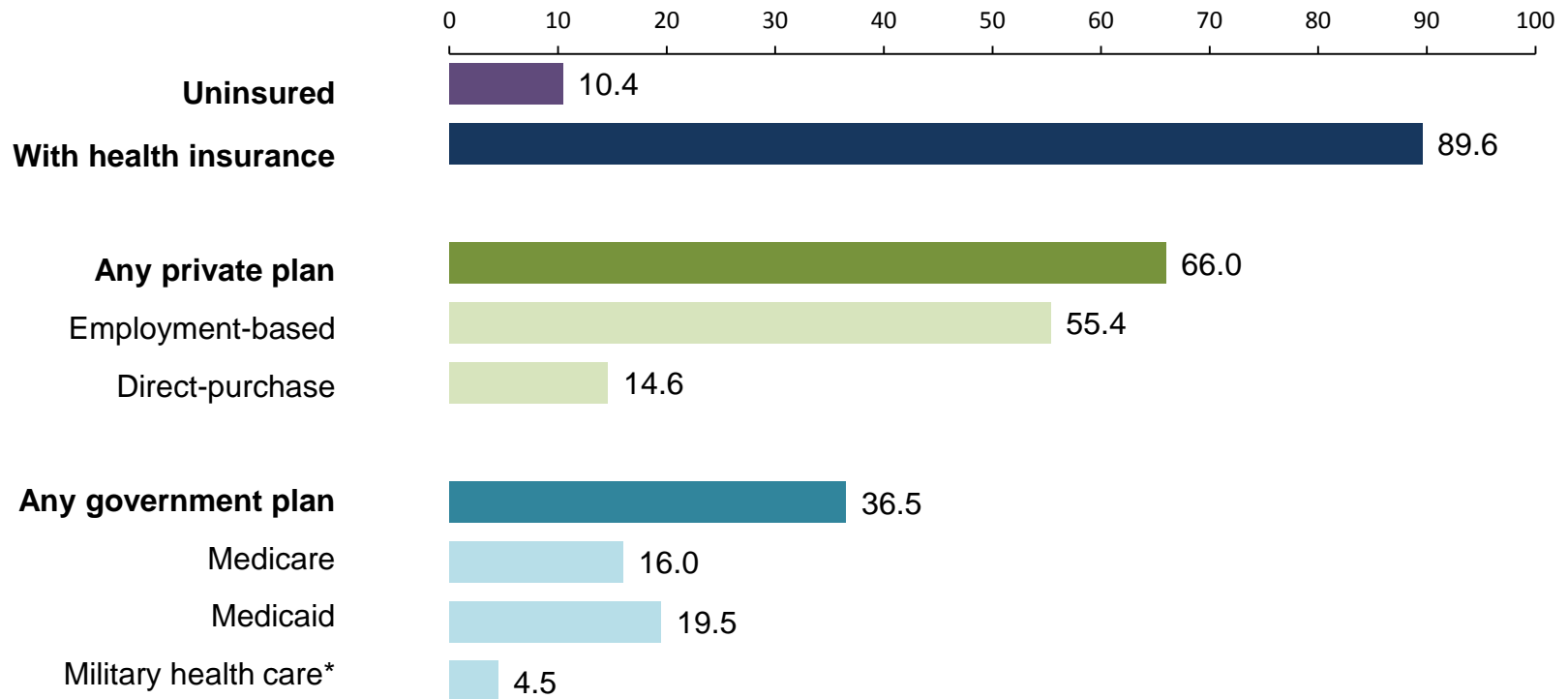
Changes in the rate of health insurance coverage reflect:

- Economic trends
- Demographic shifts
- Policy changes, such as the Affordable Care Act (ACA)

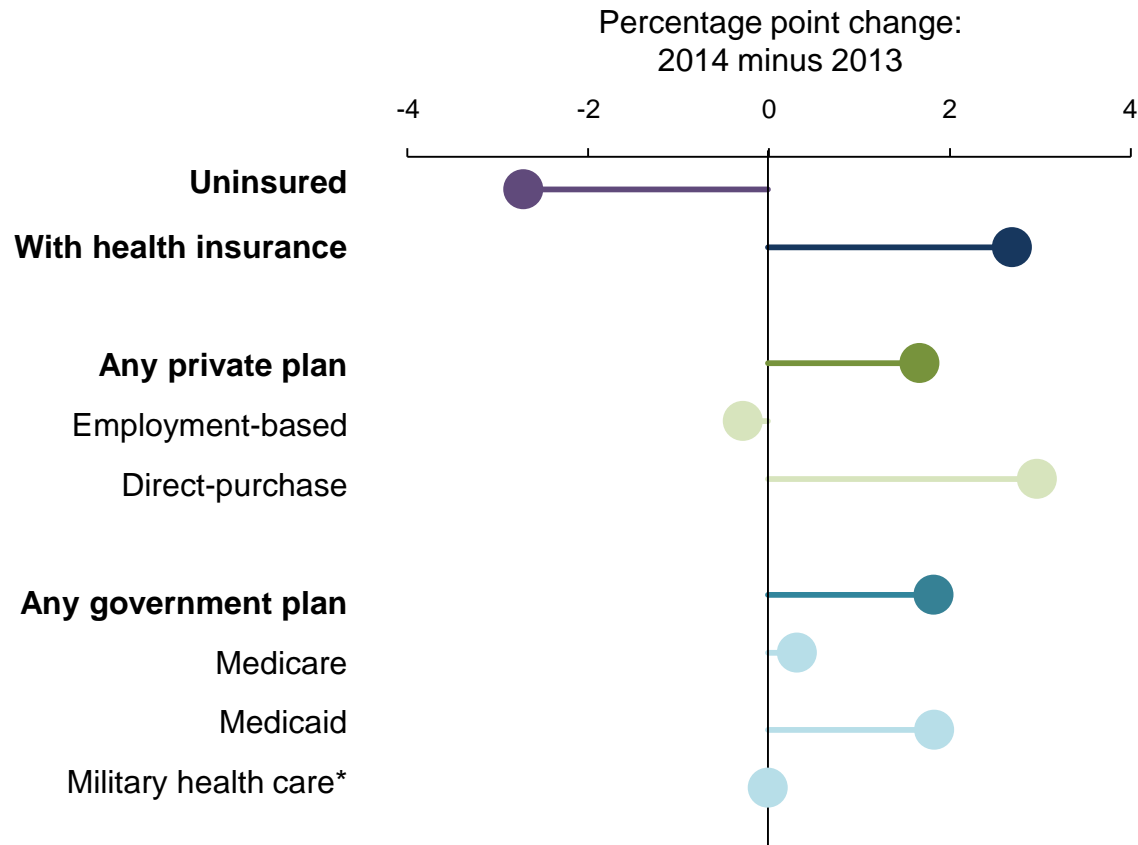
Uninsured Rate: 2008 to 2014



Percentage of People by Type of Health Insurance Coverage: 2014



Change in Percentage of People by Type of Health Insurance Coverage: 2013 to 2014

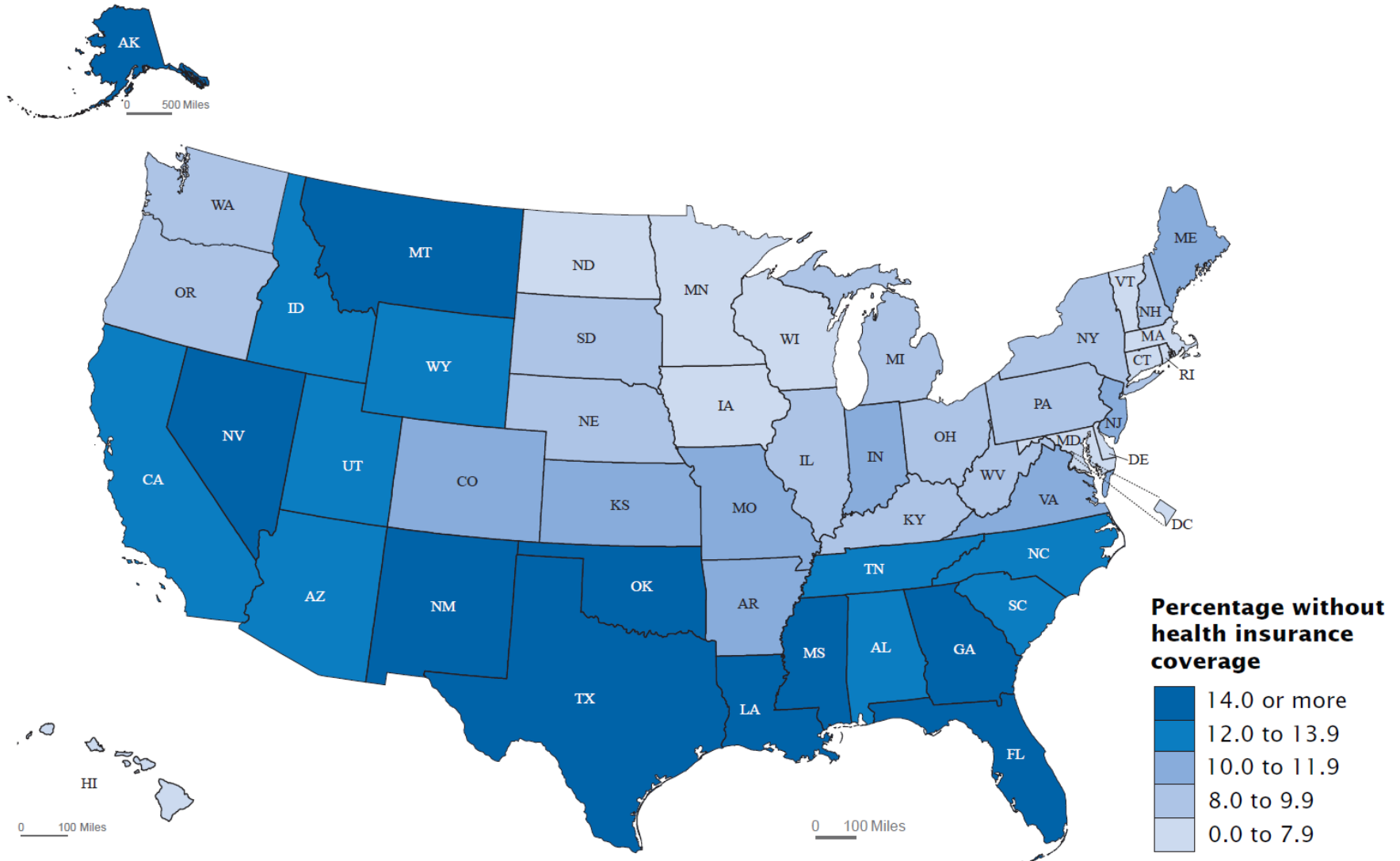


Note: Between 2013 and 2014, there was not a statistically significant change in the percentage of people covered by employment-based health insurance or military health care.

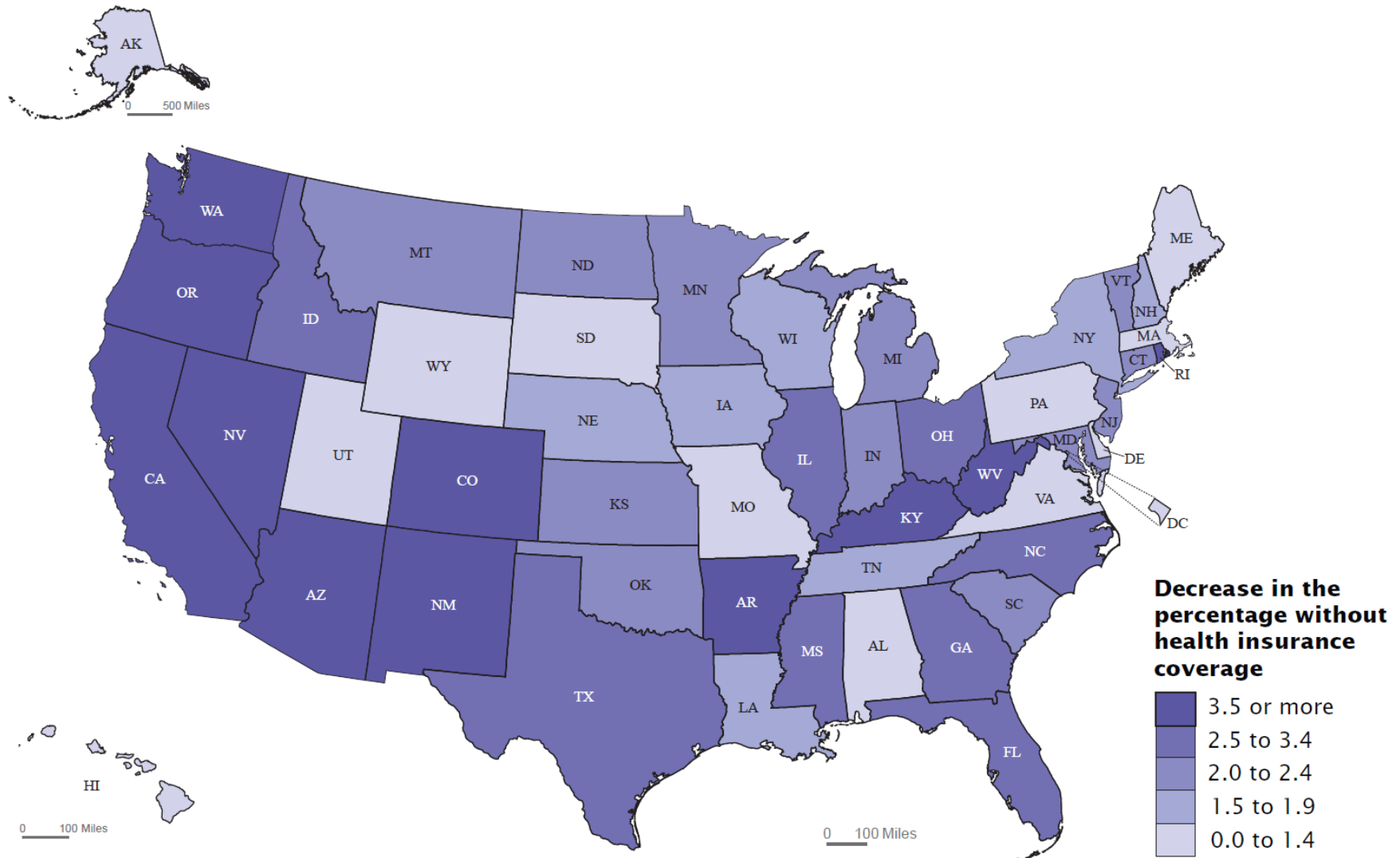
*Military health care includes TRICARE and CHAMPVA (Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs) as well as care provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs and the military.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 2014 and 2015 Annual Social and Economic Supplements.

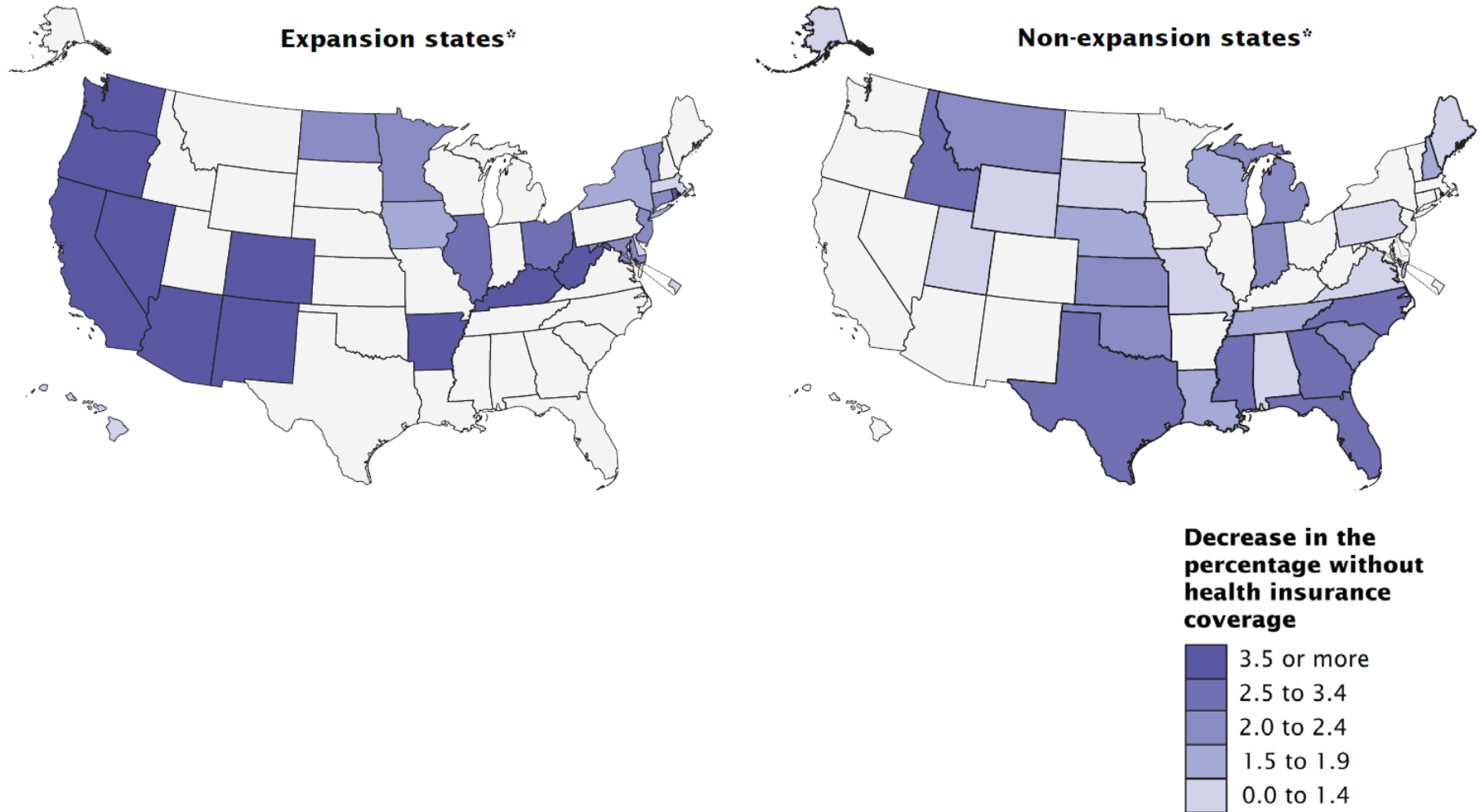
Uninsured Rate by State: 2014



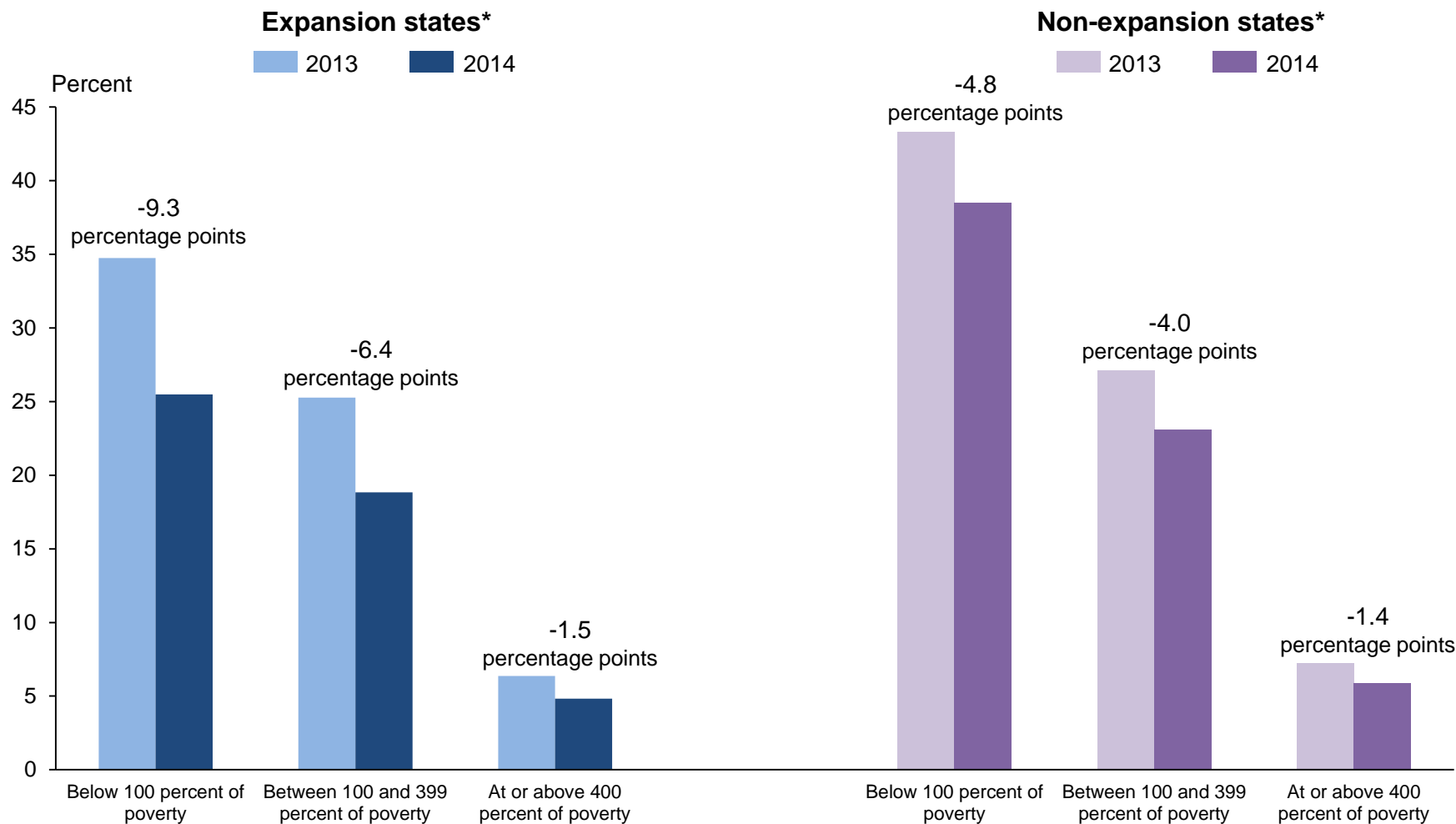
Decrease in Uninsured Rate by State: 2013 to 2014



Decrease in Uninsured Rate by State and Medicaid Expansion Status: 2013 to 2014

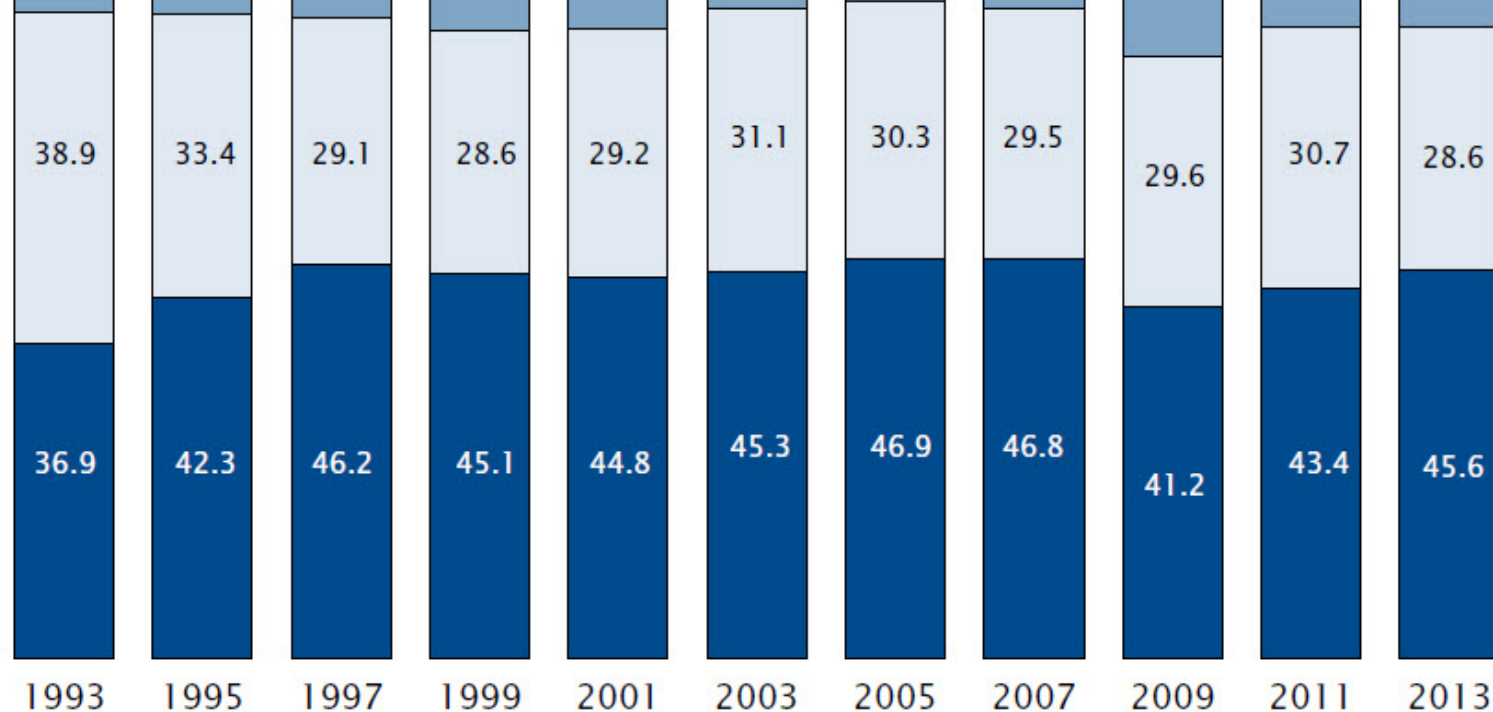


Uninsured Rate by Poverty Status and Medicaid Expansion of State for Adults Aged 19 to 64 Years: 2013 and 2014



Program Participation

- Child support
- Means-tested programs
 - SNAP(Food Stamps), Housing Assistance, Free/Reduced Price School Lunch and Breakfast, Medicaid, SSI, TANF, LIHEAP and WIC
- Social Insurance programs
 - Medicare, Social Security, Unemployment Compensation Insurance and Veteran's Benefits
 - Primarily from SIPP but also from ACS and CPS
 - Subject to considerable underreporting
- Tax Credits – EITC, Child Tax Credit, Child Care Tax Credit – modeled, not based on survey responses

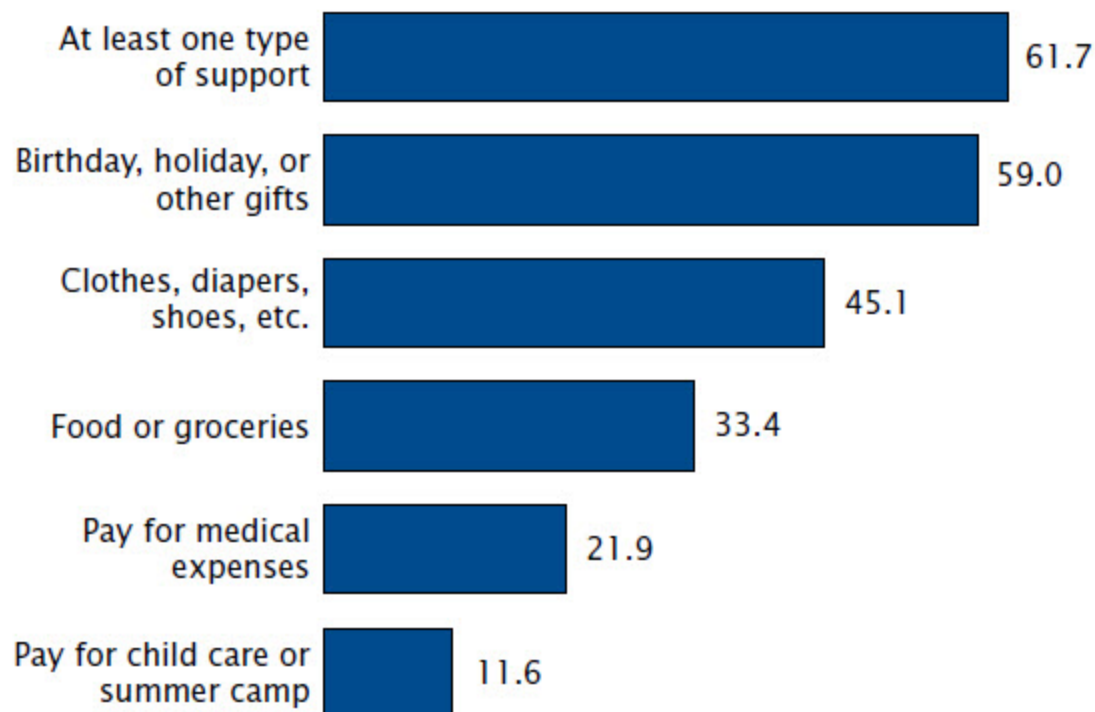


For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see <www.census.gov/prod/techdoc/cps/cpsmar14.pdf>.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, April 1994 to 2014.

Noncash Support Received by Custodial Parents: 2014

(In percent)

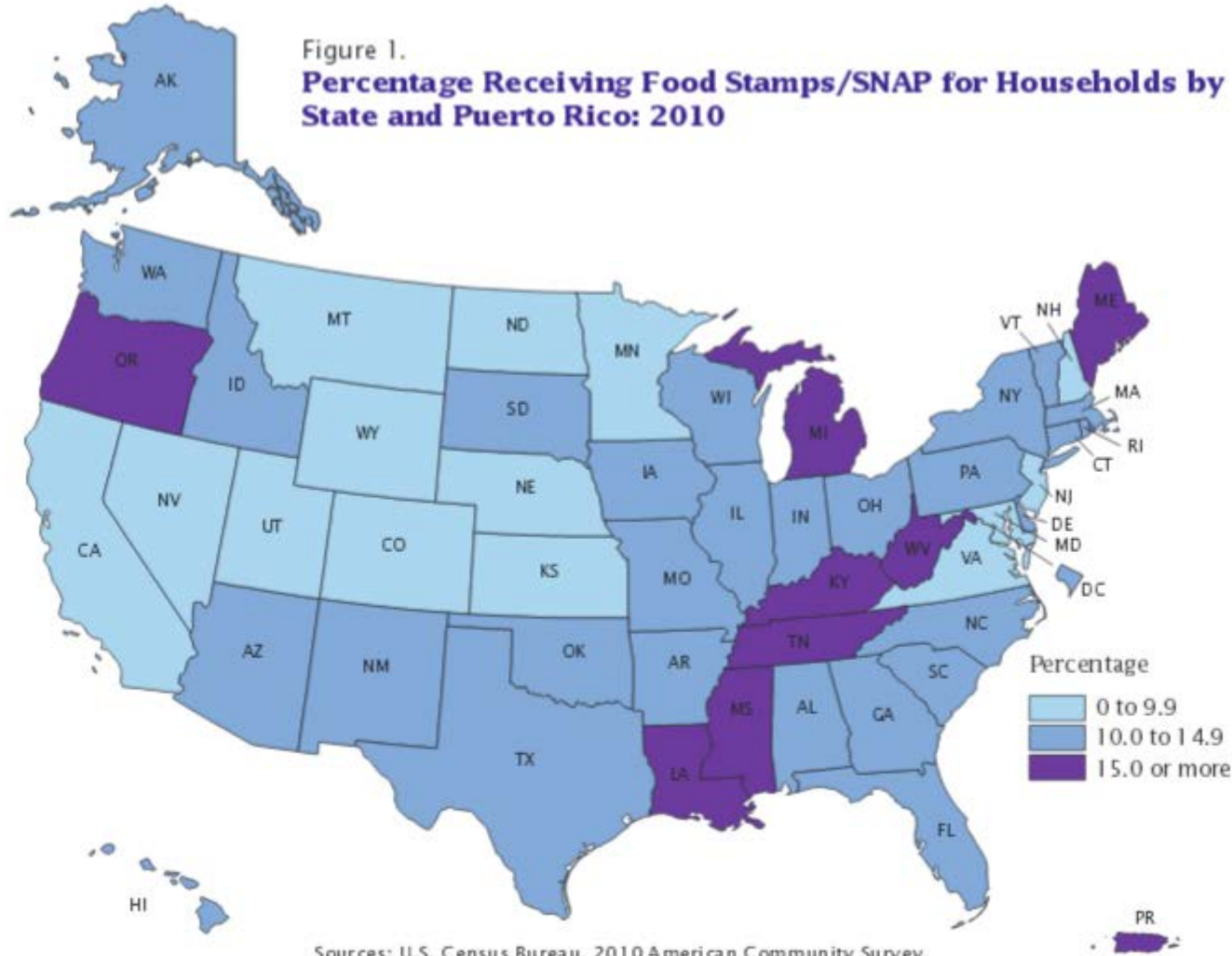


Note: Total exceeds 100 percent because respondents could list more than one type. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see <www.census.gov/prod/techdoc/cps/cpsmar14.pdf>.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, April 2014.

Figure 1.

Percentage Receiving Food Stamps/SNAP for Households by State and Puerto Rico: 2010



Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 American Community Survey,
2010 Puerto Rico Community Survey.

Sources of Income, Poverty, Income Inequality and Program Participation Estimates

Current Population Survey

- Official poverty statistics per OMB Directive 14
- National estimates with long time series – poverty back to 1959
- Extensive historical and detailed tables on the Internet
- Microdata/Table Creator

American Community Survey – 2005 to present

- Subject Briefs
- American FactFinder – 1 year vs 5 year estimates
- Data Ferrett/Micro data

Survey of Income and Program Participation – longitudinal estimates

- Reports
- Table packages
- Microdata

Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates

- Model-based estimates for every school district
- Input data includes number of recipients for each country from 1981 to present

Decennial Data – long form for income and poverty 1959-1999

Poverty: 2009 and 2010

American Community Survey Briefs

Issued October 2011

ACS BRIEFS

INTRODUCTION

Poverty estimates represent an important indicator of economic well being. This report, using income and household relationship data from the 1-year 2009 and 2010 American Community Surveys (ACS), compares poverty rates for the nation, states, and large metropolitan statistical areas. The report also summarizes the distributions of income-to-poverty ratios for states and the District of Columbia.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Nationally, the poverty rate increased from 14.3 percent in the 2009 ACS to 15.3 percent in the 2010 ACS. The number of people in poverty increased from 42.9 million to 46.2 million during the same time period.
- Thirty-two states experienced an increase in the number and percentage of people in poverty between 2009 and 2010. For 20 states, this was the second consecutive annual increase.¹
- No state had a statistically significant decline in either the number of people in poverty or the poverty rate between 2009 and 2010.
- The percent of people with income below 125 percent of their poverty threshold increased from 18.9 percent in 2009 to 20.1 percent in 2010. During the same time period, the percentage of people with income below 50 percent of

¹ Bishaw and Macartney, *Poverty: 2008 and 2009*, American Community Survey, U.S. Census Bureau, September 2010.



Areas With Concentrated Poverty: 2006–2010

American Community Survey Briefs

Issued December 2011

ACSB/10-17

By
Alemayehu Bishaw

People living in poverty tend to be clustered in certain neighborhoods rather than being evenly distributed across geographic areas. Measuring this concentration of poverty is important because researchers have found that living in areas with many other poor people places burdens on low-income families beyond what the families' own individual circumstances would dictate. Many argue that this concentration of poverty results in higher crime rates, underperforming public schools, poor housing and health conditions, as well as limited access to private services and job opportunities.¹ In recognition of these burdens, some government programs target resources to communities with concentrated poverty. Many of these programs use the Census Bureau's definition of "poverty areas" (census tracts with poverty rates of 20 percent or more).²

Using the 5-year poverty rate estimates from the American Community Survey (ACS), this report analyzes demographic and socioeconomic characteristics of census tracts by categorizing the tracts into four categories based on their

poverty rate levels.³ Category I includes census tracts with poverty rates less than

Child Poverty in the United States 2009 and 2010: Selected Race Groups and Hispanic Origin

American Community Survey Briefs

Issued November 2011

ACSB/10-05

By
Suzanne Macartney

INTRODUCTION

Poverty is a critical indicator of the well-being of our nation's children. Changes in child poverty rates over time can provide an evaluation of a particular antipoverty initiative and help to identify people and groups whose most basic economic needs remain unmet. Children who live in poverty, especially young children, are more likely than their peers to have cognitive and behavioral difficulties, to complete fewer years of education, and, as they grow up, to experience more years of unemployment.¹

HIGHLIGHTS FROM ACS 2010²

- More than one in five children in the United States (15.75 million) lived in poverty in 2010.
- More than 1.1 million children were added to the poverty population between the 2009 ACS and the 2010 ACS.
- The 2010 ACS child poverty rate (21.6 percent) is the highest since the survey began in 2001.
- Children from all race groups were added to the poverty population since the 2009 ACS, including children reported as White (507,000), Black (259,000), Some Other Race (99,000), and children of Two or More Races (160,000).
- In the 2010 ACS, White and Asian children had poverty rates below the U.S. average. Other race groups had higher rates, including Black children (38.2 percent) and children identified with Two or More Races (22.7 percent). Poverty for Hispanic children was 32.3 percent.
- The number and percentage of children in poverty increased in 27 states from the 2009 ACS to the 2010 ACS. In no state did the number or percent of children in poverty decrease.
- Ten states had child poverty rates estimated at 25.0 percent or higher while only New Hampshire had a child

¹ See for example, *The Enduring Challenge of Concentrated Poverty in America: Case Studies from Communities across the U.S.A.*, A joint Project of the Community Affairs Offices of the Federal Reserve System and the Metropolitan Policy Program at the Brookings Institution. (Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland, 2008).

² For example, the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act in Section 103(a) allows Basic State Grant projects whose activities or products target poverty areas to receive as much as 90 percent in federal support and the New Market Tax Credit (NMTC) program, enacted in December 2000 as part of the Community Renewal Tax Relief Act, defines eligibility as projects in census tracts

³ Duncan, G., and Brooks-Gunn, J. (Eds.). 1997.

Household Income: 2013

American Community Survey Briefs

By Amanda Noss
Issued September 2014
ACSBR/13-02

INTRODUCTION

This report presents data on median household income at the national and state levels based on the 2012 and 2013 American Community Surveys (ACS). Estimates from the 2013 ACS show a significant increase in median household income at the national level and for many states.¹ Some 2013 ACS metropolitan area income estimates are also discussed throughout this report.² The ACS provides detailed estimates of demographic, social, economic, and housing characteristics for states, congressional districts, counties, places, and other localities every year. A description of the ACS is provided in the text box "What Is the American Community Survey?"

In the 2013 ACS, information on income was collected between January and December 2013, and people were asked about income for the previous 12 months (the income reference period). This yielded a total income time span covering 23 months (January 2012 to November 2013). Therefore, adjacent ACS years have income reference months in common and comparisons of 2013 economic conditions with those in 2012 will not be precise.³

¹ The medians from this report were calculated from the microdata and household distributions using 2012 dollars, inflation adjusting previous year published estimates using the CPI-U-RS will not match exactly to the estimates in this report.

² The text of this report discusses data for the United States, including the 10 states and the District of Columbia. Data for the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, collected with the Puerto Rico Community Survey, are shown in Table 1, Table 2, Figure 1, and Figure 2.

³ For a discussion of this and related issues, see Howard Hooper,

"Measuring Population Change Using the American Community Survey," Applied Demography in the 21st Century, Steven H. Mordock and David A. Swanson, Springer Netherlands, 2008.

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Household income is the total income of the household, including the income of all people 15 years and older in the household, whether or not they are related to the householder.

Median: The median household income is the income level below which half of the households have a lower income and half have a higher income.

Gini index: A measure of income inequality. The Gini index varies between zero and one. A value of one indicates perfect inequality where only one household has any income. A value of zero indicates perfect equality, where all households have equal income.

MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME

Real median household income in the United States showed between the 2012 and 2013 ACS years was \$51,915, and household income was \$51,915.

⁴ All income was in 2012 dollars.

The Geographic Concentration of High-Income Households: 2007-2011

American Community Survey Briefs

By Charles Adam Bee
Issued February 2013
ACSBR/11-01

Two questions present themselves when considering the geographic concentration of high-income households. First, where do most high-income households live? Second, where are the highest concentrations of high-income households? This brief answers the first question by estimating the number of high-income households in each area. This brief answers the second question by presenting estimates of the proportions of households that are among the top 5 percent.

This brief is based on data from the American Community Survey pooled across survey years 2007 through 2011, referring to income received from January 2006 to November 2011.¹ During this period, the top 5 percent of households received at least \$191,469 per year.²

Figure 1 depicts the number of high-income households in each county, while Figure 2 maps the number of all households in each county. These figures illustrate that, like the general population, most high-income households lived in high-population counties, especially along the coasts.³

We are interested not only in where most high-income households lived, but also in which places had the highest concentrations of high-income households. Figure 3 illustrates the proportion of households within each county that were among the top 5

¹ All income data are adjusted for inflation to 2011 dollars.

² Source: 2007-2011 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates. See Table 1 (Income: Household Income Quintile Upper Limits).

³ The correlation between the number of high-income households in each county and the number of other households was 0.66.

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Household Income Inequality Within U.S. Counties: 2006-2010

American Community Survey Briefs

Issued February 2012

ACSBR/10-1A

By Adam Noss

Since 1967, U.S. household income inequality has grown 18 percent. Nearly half of that growth occurred during the 1980s. More recently, the growth in income inequality has tapered off.¹ Levels of inequality vary across the country. This report presents measures of household income inequality for counties in the United States, based on data pooled from 5 years (2006 to 2010) of American Community Survey (ACS) data.²

The ACS surveys households in each month from January to December. It asks about income received during the previous 12 months. Each year's survey covers 23 months, from January of the previous year to November of the survey year. In total, the 5-year ACS used in this report covers the 71-month period from January 2005 through November 2010. Pooling data allows more accurate measurement of inequality in less populous counties.

Figure 1 illustrates each county's level of income inequality, as measured by the Gini index. The 5-year 2006-2010 Gini index for the United States as a whole was 0.467. County-level Gini indexes ranged from 0.645 to 0.207.

The South had a disproportionately large number of counties with high income

Household income: Includes pre-tax money income of the householder and all other people 15 years and older in the household, whether or not they are related to the householder.

Gini index: Summary measure of income inequality. The Gini index varies between zero and one. A value of one indicates perfect inequality where only one household has any income. A value of zero indicates perfect equality, where all households have equal income.

inequality, while counties in the Midwest had lower levels of income inequality.³ Specifically, 32 percent of the 1,423 counties in the South had Gini indexes ranking among the top fifth of all 3,143 U.S. counties. By contrast, 31 percent of the 1,055 counties in the Midwest had Gini indexes in the bottom fifth (Table 1).

Table 2 shows that the more unequal counties were also more populous. Thirty-four percent of Americans lived

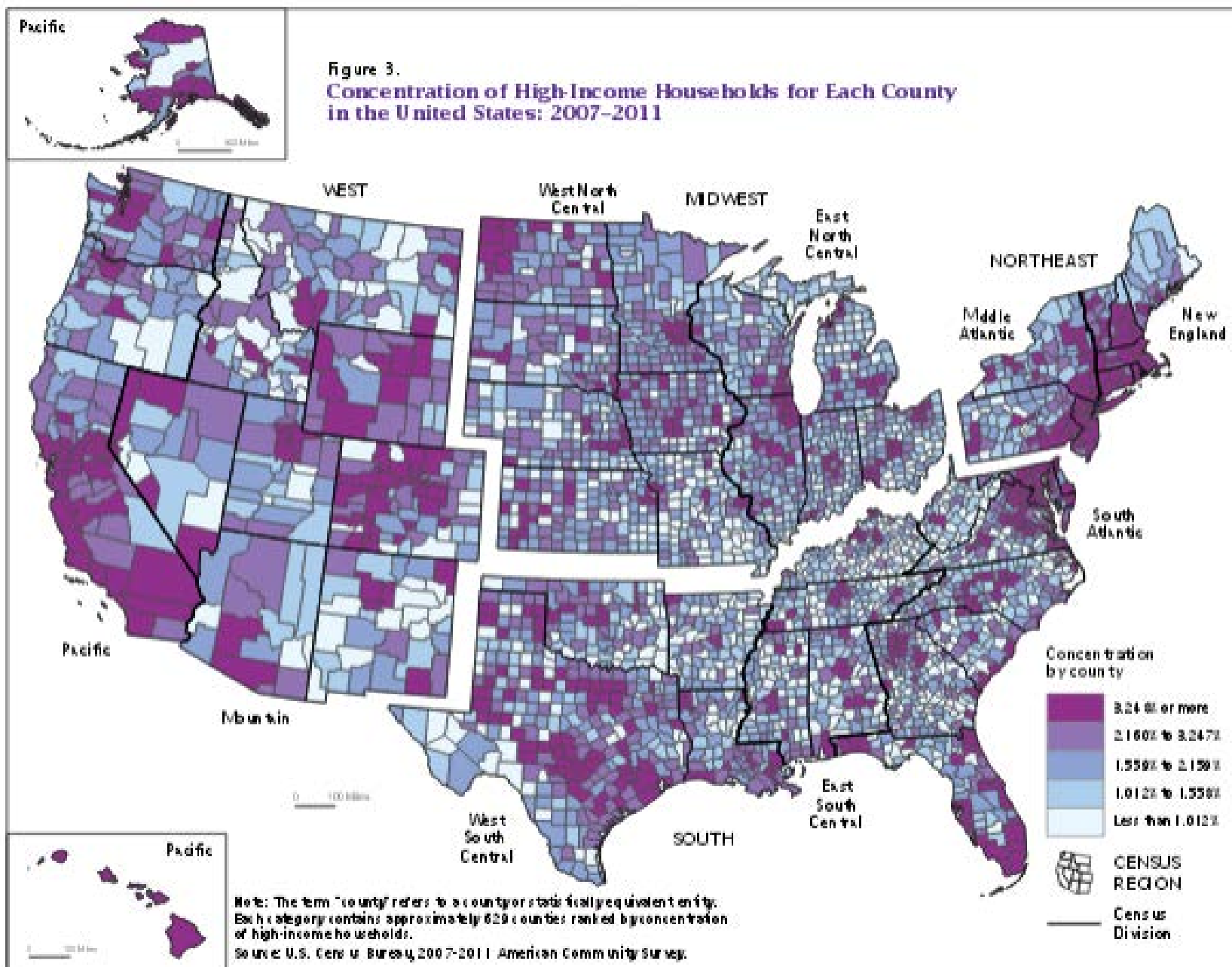
¹ The South region includes Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, the District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and West Virginia. The Midwest consists of Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin. The West region includes Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming. The Northeast includes Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Vermont.

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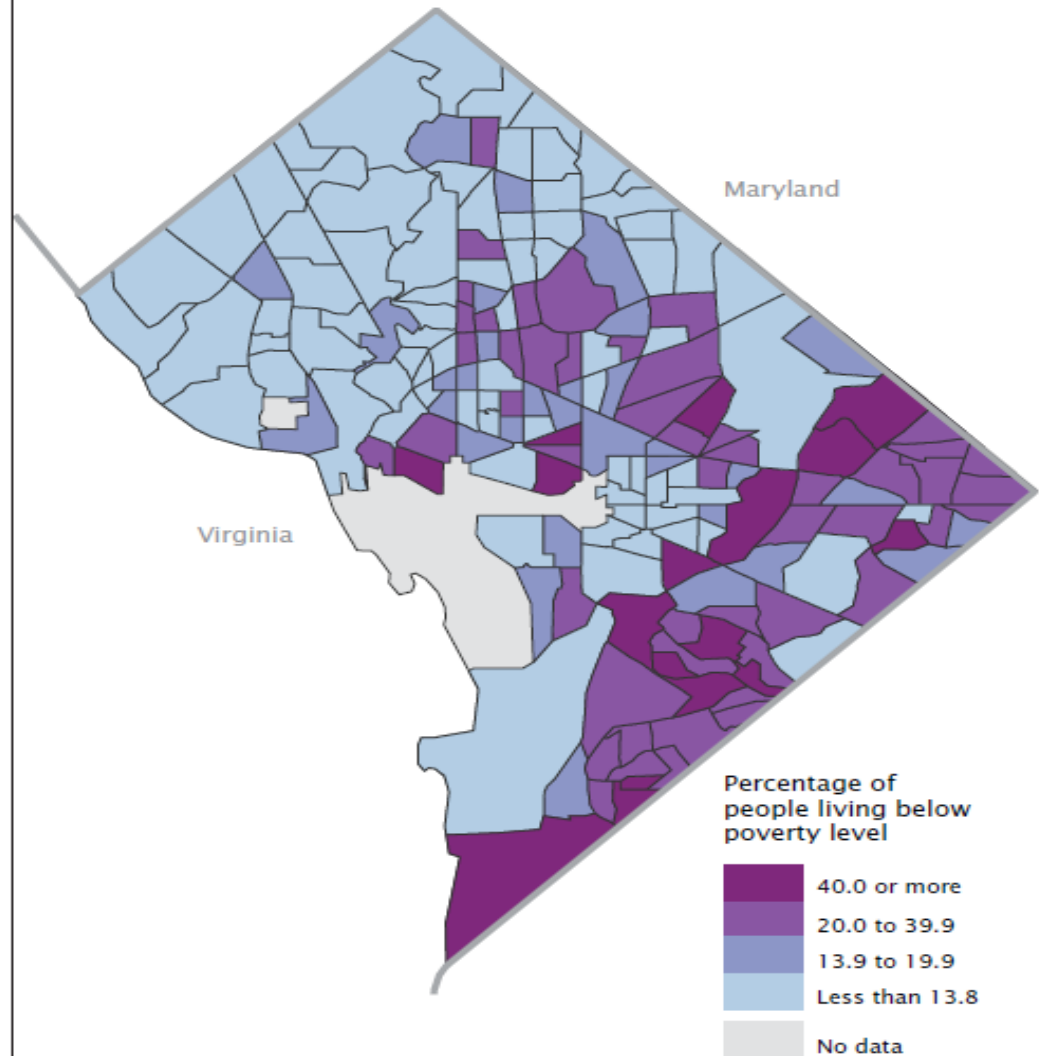
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Concentration of Poverty

Figure 3.
Percentage of People in Poverty in the Past 12 Months for the District of Columbia by Census Tract: 2006–2010



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006–2010 American Community Survey. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/acs/www.



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Poverty and Income

- [General Economic Characteristics \(2013 ACS, DP03\)](#)

Age, Race, Sex and Education

- [Selected Social Characteristics \(2013 ACS, DP02\)](#)
- [Educational Attainment \(2013 ACS, S1501\)](#)

American Community Survey (ACS)

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Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS) Documentation



The American Community Survey (ACS) Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS) files are a set of untabulated records about individual people or housing units. The Census Bureau produces the PUMS files so that data users can create custom tables that are not available through pretabulated (or summary) ACS data products.

Summary products, such as the tables and profiles accessible via American FactFinder (AFF), show data that have already been tabulated for specific geographic areas.

PUMS files, in contrast, include population and housing unit records with individual response information such as relationship, sex, educational attainment, and employment status.

Confidentiality of PUMS

The [confidentiality of ACS respondents](#) is protected through a variety of means, ensuring that it is impossible to identify individuals who provide any response, yet making sure the results are still useful. The PUMS records do not contain names, addresses, or any information that can identify a specific housing unit, group quarter, or person.

Why Use PUMS?

PUMS files are perfect for people, such as students, who are looking for greater accessibility to inexpensive data for research projects. Social scientists often use the PUMS for regression analysis and modeling applications.

What's Available and How Can I Access PUMS?

The Census Bureau produces ACS 1-year, 3-year, and 5-year PUMS files. The 3-year and 5-year PUMS files are multiyear combinations of the 1-year PUMS file with appropriate adjustments to the weights and inflation adjustment factors. The PUMS files are accessible via [American FactFinder](#), the Census Bureau's [FTP site](#), and [DataFerrett](#). Statistical software is needed to use the PUMS files from American FactFinder and the FTP site.

Need Help with PUMS?

Learn more about PUMS in the Compass Products [What PUMS Data Users Need to Know](#) handbook and [Introduction to the PUMS](#) training presentation. You can also learn more about creating ACS custom tables using DataFerrett by viewing [Part 1](#) and [Part 2](#) of our new videos.

Geographic Areas Available

Region, Division, State, and Public Use Microdata Areas (PUMAs) are the only geographic areas identified in the ACS PUMS. Of these, [Public Use Microdata Areas \(PUMAs\)](#) are the most detailed geographic areas available.

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INTRODUCTION

This report presents data on poverty based on information collected in the Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP). The report describes patterns of poverty using measures with different time horizons and provides a dynamic view of the duration of poverty spells and the frequency of transitions into and out of poverty. It further examines how

Once a year, the CPS ASEC measures the percentage of people whose annual family money income falls below their official poverty threshold but does not address how poverty varies across shorter or longer time periods or how an individual's poverty status changes over time. Compared with the official annual poverty rate, longitudinal research finds poverty rates vary by the time period examined—

Current
Population
Reports

By
Robin J. Anderson

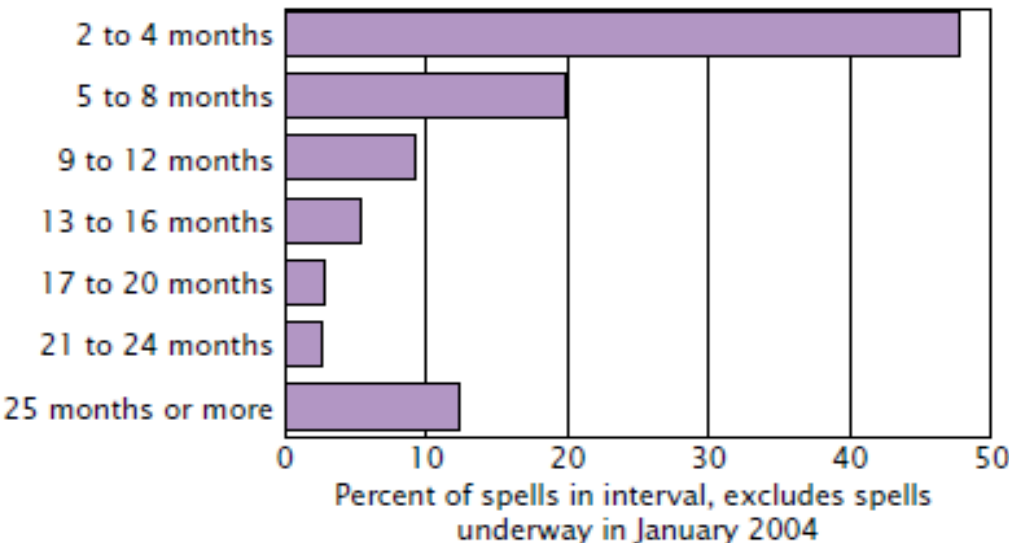
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p. 34–37. Ann Huff Stevens,
Falling Back In: Measuring
r Over Multiple Spells,"
ces 34 (1999), pp. 557–588.

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omics and Statistics Administration
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Figure 9.
Duration of Poverty Spells: 2004–2006



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation, 2004 Panel.
For information on confidentiality protection and sampling and nonsampling error,
see <<http://www.census.gov/sipp/source.html>>.

Dynamics of Economic Well-Being: Participation in Government Programs, 2009–2012: Who Gets Assistance?

Household Economic Studies

By Shelley K. Irving and Tracy A. Loveless

Issued May 2015

H0141

This report focuses on the participation and characteristics of people who received benefits from any of the following means-tested assistance programs:¹

- Medicaid
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)²
- Housing Assistance
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
- General Assistance (GA)

The data come from the 2008 Panel of the Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP) during years 2009 through 2012.³ The SIPP survey, which means that, unlike period

surveys, such as the Current Population Survey (CPS), the SIPP follows the same people over time.⁴ This longitudinal quality allows examination of the SIPP sample from two perspectives.

First, it is possible to observe the same people over a span of time. The number of months within a period of time when individuals received benefits from one or more means-tested assistance programs can be examined, and entry and exit activity for each program can be measured. For example, the number, timing, and duration of people moving into and out of a particular situation within a time period can be studied, such as the length of time an individual continuously receives program benefits.

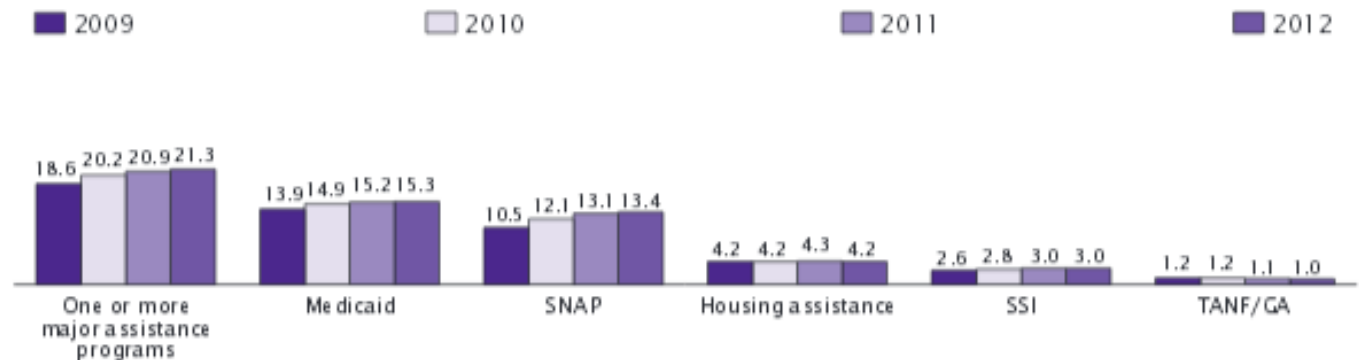
¹ Means-tested programs are those that require income of an individual or family to fall below specific levels to qualify for benefits. There may be additional criteria to receive these programs, which provide cash and eligible individuals and families.

² The Food Stamp Program was renamed the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) in 2008.

³ The 2008 Panel followed the same individuals monthly from May 2008 to November 2012. The data collected from February 2009 through April 2012 is 2008 SIPP. The population represented (the population of noninstitutionalized civilian living in a sample of households) is divided into four rotation groups. Each month, one of the four rotation groups is interviewed (the interview period). Interview procedures, interview waves, or rotation the SIPP User Guide at www.census.gov/content/sipp/sipp/methodology/SIPP_US2008_Guide_Cha

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Figure 1.
Average Monthly Participation Rates for Major Means-Tested Programs: 2009–2012
(Percentage of noninstitutionalized civilian population)



Dynamics of Economic Well-Being: Fluctuations in the U.S. Income Distribution, 2004–2007

Household Economic Studies

Issued March 2011

P70-124

Between 2004 and 2007, the (real) median household income in the United States increased 3.2 percent, as measured by data available from the Current Population Survey's (CPS) Annual Social and Economic Supplement (ASEC). This statistic compares a cross-section of households in 2004 with another cross-section of households in 2007, but does not provide a picture of what happened to the same households over time. Medians, like those available from the CPS-ASEC, can conceal fluctuations in annual household income. In order to examine changes in the annual (real) income of the same households between 2004 and 2007, this report uses the longitudinal data available from the 2004 panel of the Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP) (Text Box: Household Income).¹

Income quintiles were constructed for 2004 and 2007 using data collected in the 2004 SIPP panel (Text Box: Constructing Income Quintiles). Longitudinal data make it possible to identify and analyze factors that may contribute to an increase or a decrease in household income (Text Box: What Makes the SIPP a Longitudinal Survey?).²

Household Income

The SIPP collects more detailed data than any other national survey on general income sources and amounts; program eligibility, access and participation; transfer income; and in-kind benefits. Monthly income data is collected from individuals aged 15 years and older on wages and salaries, cash benefits from social insurance and welfare programs, and returns from property, assets, and holdings. This individual-level data is aggregated up to the household level to produce monthly total household income, which is in turn aggregated up to the calendar year level to produce annual total household income. A complete description of the type and sources of income collected in the 2004 SIPP panel is available through the SIPP homepage at <www.sipp.census.gov/sipp/core_content/2004/2004.html>.

Current Population Reports

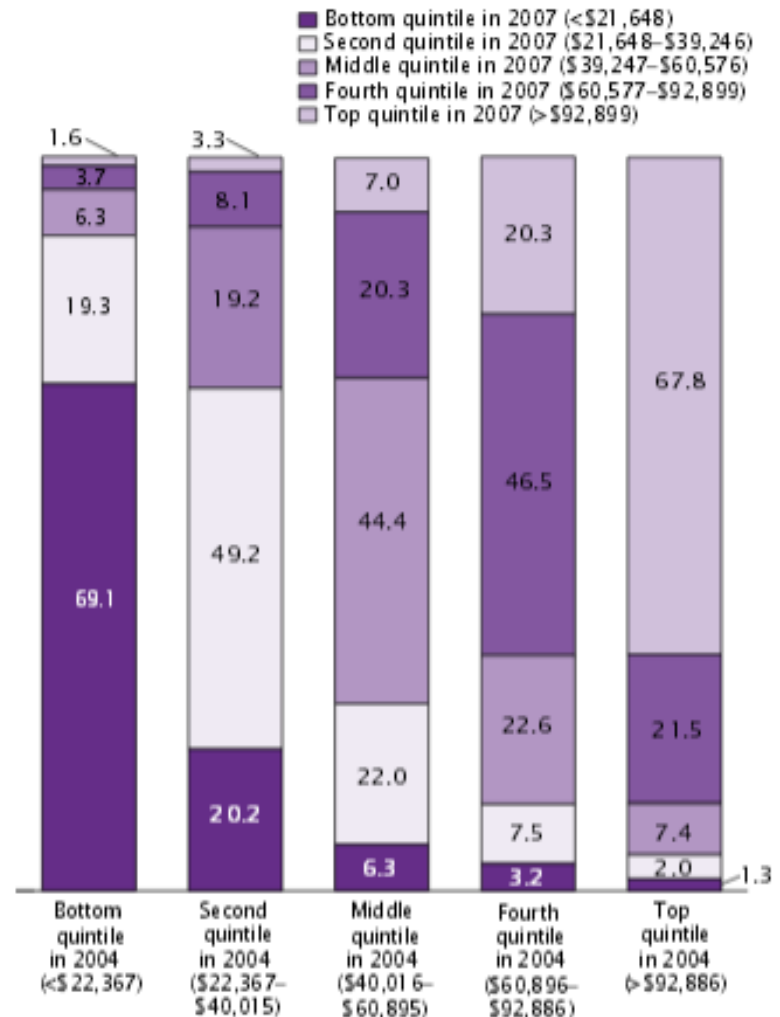
By
John J. Hirsanick
and
Katherine C. Giefer

P70-112, U.S. Census Bureau, November 2007; and Dynamics of Economic Well-Being: Movements in the U.S. Income Distribution, 1995–1999; Current Population Reports, P70-95, U.S. Census Bureau, July 2004. This report focuses on household income rather than family or individual income. Several notable studies that have similarly used household income to investigate mobility are: D'Ambrosio, D., "Household Characteristics and the Distribution of Income in Italy," *Review of Income and Wealth*, Series 47, No. 1, 2001, pp. 43–64; and Jarvis, S. and S. P. Jenkins, "Low Income Dynamics in 1990s Britain," *Fiscal Studies*, 1997, Vol. 18, No. 2, pp. 123–42.

¹ The data for this report were collected between February 2004 and January 2008 from households interviewed in all 12 waves of the 2004 SIPP panel. The population represented (that is, the population universe) is the civilian noninstitutionalized population living in the United States. See the "Source of Data" section for more details. All income amounts are adjusted to reflect 2007 dollars, unless indicated otherwise.

² This report is an update of "Dynamics of Economic Well-Being: Fluctuations in the U.S. Income Distribution, 2001–2003," *Current Population Reports*,

Figure 2.
Percent Distribution of Households by Income Quintile: 2004 and 2007



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation, 2004 Panel. For information on sampling and nonsampling error, see <[www.census.gov/sipp/source/5&A04_W1toW12\(S&A-9\).pdf](http://www.census.gov/sipp/source/5&A04_W1toW12(S&A-9).pdf)>.

Survey of Income and Program Participation

About this Survey

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Quarterly and Mean Monthly Personal, Family and Household Income by Selected Characteristics



2013

Table 1A: Personal, Family and Household Income by Selected Characteristics

- [1st Quarter](#)

Table 1B: Mean Monthly Personal, Family and Household Income by Selected Characteristics

- [1st Quarter](#)

2012

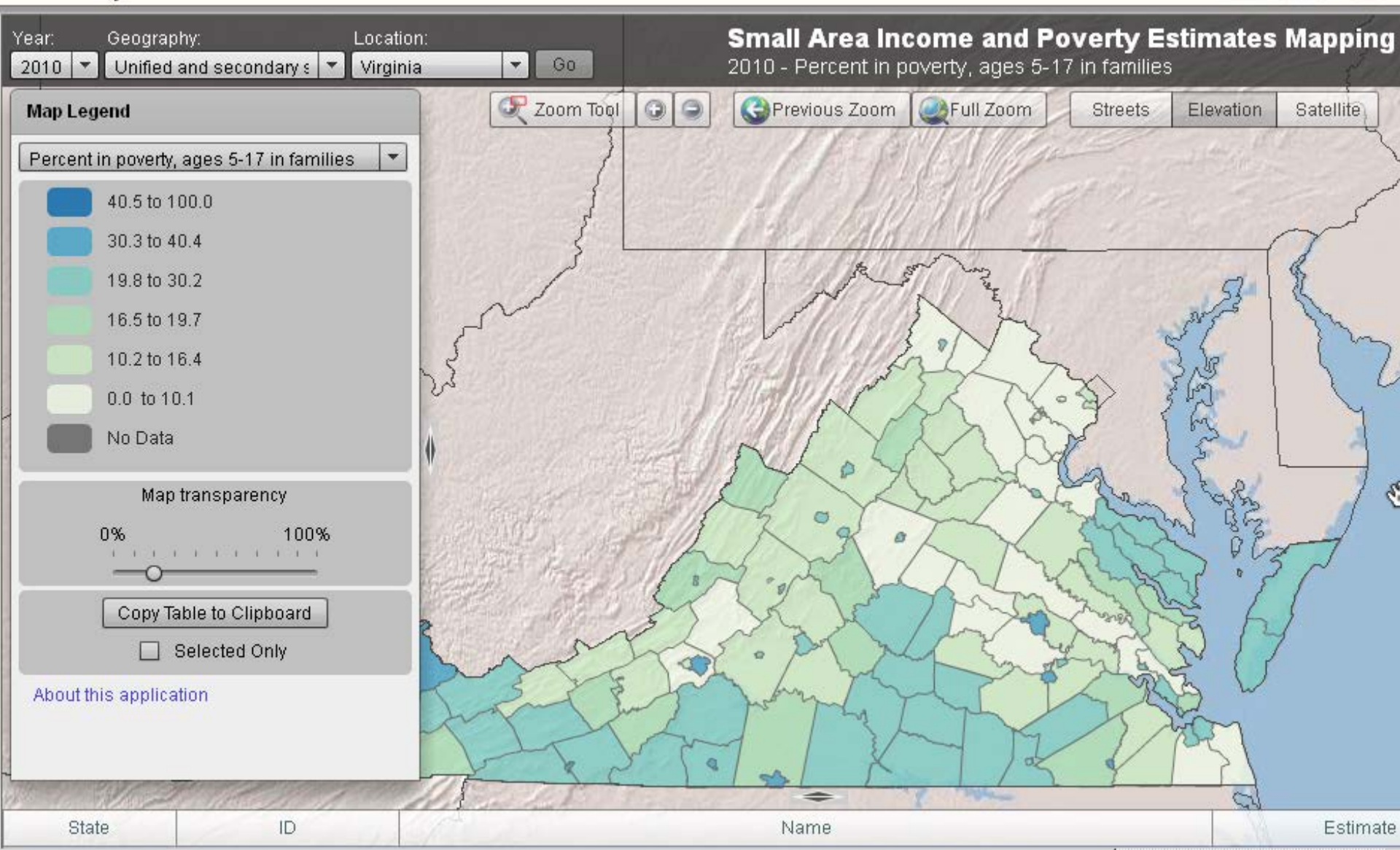
Table 1A: Personal, Family and Household Income by Selected Characteristics

- [1st Quarter](#)
- [2nd Quarter](#)
- [3rd Quarter](#)
- [4th Quarter](#)
- [Annual](#)

Table 1B: Mean Monthly Personal, Family and Household Income by Selected Characteristics

- [1st Quarter](#)
- [2nd Quarter](#)

Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates (SAIPE)



Decennial Census

- Income estimates – states, counties, msa's
 - Median household/family income
 - Per Capita Income
 - Income inequality measures 1990, 2000
- Poverty estimates for 1959-1999
 - <http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/poverty/data/census/Poverty-Rates-by-County-1960-2010.xlsm>

Data Access Tools

- [Census.gov](https://www.census.gov)
- [American FactFinder](#)
- [Table Creator](#)
- [Data Ferrett](#)
- [SAIPE – Small Area Income and Poverty Ests.](#)
- [Decennial Poverty Rates](#)

Income

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- [Guidance about Sources](#)
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- [Consumer Price Index \(CPI-U-RS\)](#)

Income Main

The Census Bureau reports income from several major household surveys and programs. Each of these surveys number of households included (sample size), and the methodology used to collect and process the data. See [Guidance about Sources](#) to access data from specific surveys.

Latest Releases

Income and Poverty in the United States: 2014 (P60-252)

- [Report »](#) [PDF - 3.0M]
- [Press Release »](#)
- [Detailed Tables »](#)
- [Historical Tables »](#)
- [Source and Accuracy »](#) [PDF - 1.4M]
- [2014 CPS ASEC Split Panel Test »](#) [DOC - 42k]

[Note on National Income and Poverty Estimates for Calendar Year 2013](#)

[Expert Meeting on Income, Poverty, and Health Insurance](#)

Income, Earnings, and Poverty from the American Community Survey

- [Household Income: 2013](#) (ACSB/13-02) [PDF - 925k]
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Household Income Inequality Within U.S. Counties: 2006-2010

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[Effect of Benefits and Taxes on Income and Poverty: 2008](#)

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- [Definitions](#)
- [Poverty Data Sources](#)
- [Microdata Access](#)
- [Poverty Thresholds](#)

Poverty Main

The Census Bureau reports poverty data from several major household surveys and programs. The Annual Social and Economic Supplement (ASEC) provides official national poverty estimates. The American Community Survey (ACS) provides single and multi-year estimates for smaller areas. The Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP) provides longitudinal estimates. The Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates (SAIPE) program provides model-based poverty estimates for counties and school districts. See [Sources](#) to determine which survey or program meets your specific needs.

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[Income and Poverty in the United States: 2014](#) (P60-252)

[Note on National Income and Poverty Estimates for Calendar Year 2013](#)

[Supplemental Poverty Measure: 2014](#) (P60-254) [PDF - 1.4M]

[Note on National Income and Poverty Estimates for Calendar Year 2013](#)

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[Poverty Rates by County: 1980-2010](#) [XLSM - 6M]

[Dynamics of Economic Well-Being: Poverty 2009-2012](#)

[Poverty: 2012 and 2013](#) (ACSBR/13-01) [PDF - 508k]

[Changes in Areas With Concentrated Poverty: 2000 to 2010](#)

[Living in Near Poverty in the United States: 1986-2012](#) (P60-248)

[How Census Measures Poverty Infographic](#) [Source: U.S. Census Bureau]

[The History of a Measure Infographic](#) [Source: U.S. Census Bureau]

Tables of NAS-based Experimental Poverty Estimates: [2013](#)

Poverty - Experimental Measures

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- [National Academy of Science \(NAS\) Report](#)
- [Supplemental Poverty Measure Overview](#)
- [NAS-Based Poverty Measures Overview](#)
- [Microdata access](#)
- [Latest Research](#)
- [Supplemental Poverty Measure Thresholds](#)

Poverty - Experimental Measures

Since the development of the current official poverty measure in the 1960's by Mollie Orshansky there have been a series of studies and reviews measure. These studies produced a large number of technical working papers and reports, including a National Academy of Sciences (NAS) 1995 measurement issues that are still being discussed by researchers and policy makers today.

For many years, the Census Bureau has estimated a number of experimental poverty measures based on recommendations of the 1995 NAS report.

An Interagency Technical Working Group on Developing a Supplemental Poverty Measure was formed in 2009 and charged with developing a set cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics, to produce a Supplemental Poverty Measure. The Supplemental Poverty Measure will not replace determine eligibility for government programs. Instead, the Supplemental Poverty Measure is designed as an experimental poverty measure that be different from the official poverty measure.

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[Supplemental Poverty Measure Thresholds: 2014](#) [XLSX - 116k]

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[Poverty Thresholds for Two-Adult-Two-Child Family Following NAS Recommendations: 1999-2014](#) [XLS - 38k]

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[Tables of NAS-based Experimental Poverty Estimates: 2013](#)

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[How Census Measures Poverty Infographic](#) [Source: U.S. Census Bureau]

[The History of a Measure Infographic](#) [Source: U.S. Census Bureau]

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Poverty and Income

- [General Economic Characteristics \(2013 ACS, DP03\)](#)

Age, Race, Sex and Education

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Current Population Survey (CPS)

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CPS Table Creator

Table Criteria:

Data Options

Get Count of:

Persons - All

Number of Years: Latest Year:

2012

- ☐ One Table Showing Multi-Year Averages
☒ Separate Table For Each Year

Census 2010 Weights

Define Your Table

Statistics

Customized Formatting

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All States All Sexes All Races All Origins All Nativities Full/Part Time

All Worker Stat

The CPS Table Creator gives you the ability to create customized tables from the Current Population Social and Economic Supplement.

- Complete the form to the left and press the "Get Table" button at the top or bottom of the form to create a table.
- To create a table, you must make one or more selections in the **Define Your Table** section. For example, you may use the default selections or enter alternate selections to customize the table to meet your needs.
- For help in getting started, see the [detailed examples](#) of completing the form to create a table.

Disclaimer:

While tabulations may be conceptually the same as published estimates, in many cases they will differ from published estimates because the Table Creator uses the CPS public use file. The CPS public use file does not contain the detailed income information, topcodes several categories of income, and suppresses some geographies in order to protect survey confidentiality.

* This tool is best viewed with normal font settings and in the Firefox web browser.





Poverty Thresholds

[Help](#)

Poverty Threshold Options

Pre-Set Poverty Threshold Choices:

- ☒ Official Poverty Thresholds
- ☐ Three-Parameter Thresholds
- ☐ CE-based Thresholds
- ☐ CE-based Thresholds with Medical Out-of-Pocket

Relative Poverty Scale Choices:

- ☐ OECD Equivalence Scale (1)
- ☐ OECD Equivalence Scale (2)

Price Adjustment Options

☒ CPI-U

☐ CPI-U-RS

Geographic Price Difference Adjustment

☒ No

☐ Yes

Income Base for Relative Poverty

Thresholds ☒ Median Income

☐ Mean Income

Income-to-Poverty Ratio Percent Cutoff or
Relative Poverty Thresholds Income
Percent Cutoff

%

Poverty Thresholds

Income Definition

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Select a pre-defined income definition or "Customize" your own by checking the income components you desire. Income format for Household Income - Alternative will be the one selected in section 6, Customized Formatting.

- Money Income
- Market Income
- Post-Social Insurance Income
- Disposable Income
- NAS Income
- NAS Income minus Medical Out-of-Pocket Expenses
- Customize your own income definition**

Selected Cash Market Income Sources

- ☐ 1. Earnings (wages, salaries, and self-employment income)
- ☐ 2. Interest income
- ☐ 3. Dividend income
- ☐ 4. Rents, royalties, estate, and trust income
- ☐ 5. Non-government retirement pensions and annuities
- ☐ 6. Non-government survivor pensions and annuities
- ☐ 7. Non-government disability pensions and annuities
- ☐ 8. Realized capital gains (losses)

This tool is best viewed with Mozilla Firefox and in the Firefox web browser.

+ Government Nonmeans-tested Cash Income Sources

+ Government Means-tested Cash Income Sources

+ Taxes Deducted from Income

Customized Formatting

Poverty Thresholds

Income Definition

[Help](#)

Select a pre-defined income definition or "Customize" your own by checking the income components you desire. Income format for Household Income - Alternative will be the one selected in section 6, Customized Formatting.

- Money Income
- Market Income
- Post-Social Insurance Income
- Disposable Income
- NAS Income
- NAS Income minus Medical Out-of-Pocket Expenses
- Customize your own income definition**

• To create a table, you must make one or more selections in the **Define Your Table** section.

+ Selected Cash Market Income Sources

+ Government Nonmeans-tested Cash Income Sources

+ Government Means-tested Cash Income Sources

+ Taxes Deducted from Income

+ Educational Benefits

- Government Means-tested Noncash Benefits

- ☐ 26. SNAP - formerly Food Stamps
- ☐ 27. Free and reduced-price school lunches
- ☐ 28. Low-income energy assistance
- ☐ 29a. Public housing and rent subsidies AHS-based Estimates
- ☐ 29b. Public housing and rent subsidies FMR-based Estimates
- ☐ 30. Fungible value of Medicaid

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Resource Links:

- Poverty
 - <http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/poverty/>
- Experimental Poverty Measures:
 - <http://www.census.gov/hhes/povmeas/index.html>
- Income and income inequality
 - <http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/income/index.html>
- Table Creator
 - <http://www.census.gov/cps/data/cpstablecreator.html>

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(301) 763 5133