The Supplemental Poverty Measure: 2019

Current Population Reports

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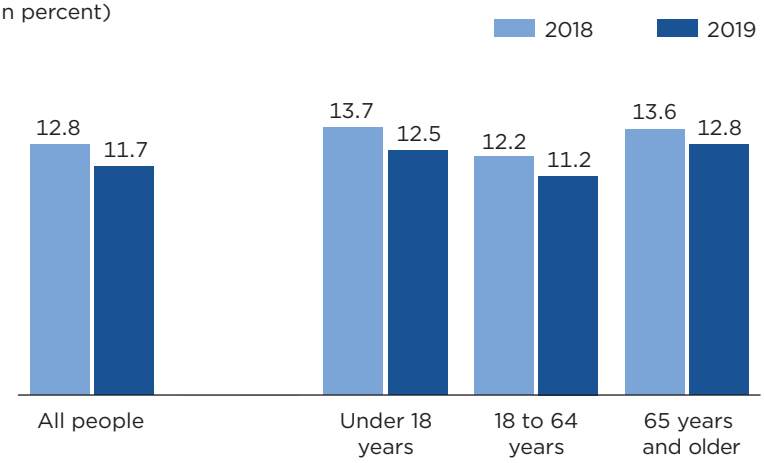
INTRODUCTION

Since the publication of the first official U.S. poverty estimates, researchers and policymakers have continued to discuss the best approach to measure income and poverty in the United States. Beginning in 2011, the U.S. Census Bureau began publishing the Supplemental Poverty Measure (SPM), which extends the official poverty measure by taking account of many of the government programs designed to assist low-income families and individuals that are not included in the official poverty measure. The SPM is produced with the support of the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), and this is the tenth in the series. This report presents estimates of the prevalence of poverty in the United States using the official measure and the SPM based on information collected in 2020 and earlier Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplements (CPS ASEC). The data collection period for the 2020 CPS ASEC coincided with the COVID-19 pandemic, the associated public health response, and the end of the economic expansion. For details on the impact of COVID-19 on CPS ASEC data collection, see the text box "The Impact of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic on the CPS ASEC."

Figure 1.
Supplemental Poverty Measure Rates for Total Population and by Age Group: 2018 and 2019
(In percent)



Note: For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see <https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/cps/techdocs/cpsmar20.pdf>.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 2019 and 2020 Annual Social and Economic Supplements (CPS ASEC).

HIGHLIGHTS

- In 2019, the overall SPM rate was 11.7 percent. This was 1.0 percentage point lower than the 2018 SPM rate of 12.8 (Figure 1).[1]

[1] Calculated differences here and throughout this report may differ due to rounding.

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- SPM rates were down for all major age categories: children under age 18, adults aged 18 to 64, and adults aged 65 and older between 2018 and 2019 (Figures 1 and 2).
- The SPM rate for 2019 was 1.3 percentage points higher than the official poverty rate of 10.5 percent (Figure 3).
- The 2019 SPM rate of 11.7 percent was the lowest rate since estimates were initially published for 2009 (Figure 4).
- There were 16 states plus the District of Columbia for which SPM rates were higher than official poverty rates, 25 states with lower rates, and 9 states for which the differences were not statistically significant (Figure 7).
- Social Security continued to be the most important anti-poverty program, moving 26.5 million individuals out of poverty. Refundable tax credits moved 7.5 million people out of poverty (Figure 8).

This report presents estimates of the prevalence of poverty in the United States, overall and for selected demographic groups, using the official poverty measure and the SPM.[2, 3] The first section provides detailed information about changes in SPM rates from 2018 to 2019. The second section presents differences between the official poverty measure and the SPM, compares the distribution of income-to-poverty threshold ratios between the two, and presents poverty rates by state. In the third section, individual components of the SPM are subtracted from resources to assess the marginal impacts of taxes, transfers, and necessary expenses on poverty rates.

BACKGROUND

After many years of research, analysis, and debate, the Interagency Technical Working Group (ITWG) on Developing a Supplemental Poverty Measure reviewed methods and data needed for poverty measurement. The group listed suggestions for a new measure that would supplement the current official measure of poverty (ITWG, 2010). The appendix to this report includes detailed descriptions of how these suggestions have been applied to the SPM.[4] The "Poverty Measure Concepts: Official and Supplemental" table summarizes the most important differences between the official and supplemental measures.

[2] The estimates in this report (which may be shown in text, figures, and tables) are based on responses from a sample of the population and may differ from actual values because of sampling variability or other factors. As a result, apparent differences between the estimates for two or more groups may not be statistically significant. All comparative statements have undergone statistical testing and are significant at the 90 percent confidence level, unless otherwise noted. Standard errors were calculated using replicate weights. Further information about the source and accuracy of the estimates is available at <https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/cps/techdocs/cpsmar20.pdf>.

[3] The Census Bureau reviewed this data product for unauthorized disclosure of confidential information and approved the disclosure avoidance practices applied to this release. CBDRB-FY20-POP001-0199.

[4] Thresholds for the SPM are produced by the BLS Division of Price and Index Number Research and presented for 2018 and 2019 in Appendix Table 3.

POVERTY MEASURE CONCEPTS: OFFICIAL AND SUPPLEMENTAL

Concept	Official Poverty Measure	Supplemental Poverty Measure
Measurement Units	Families (individuals related by birth, marriage, or adoption) or unrelated individuals	Resource units (official family definition plus any coresident unrelated children, foster children, and unmarried partners and their relatives) or unrelated individuals (who are not otherwise included in the family definition)
Poverty Threshold	Three times the cost of a minimum food diet in 1963	Based on expenditures of food, clothing, shelter, and utilities (FCSU)
Threshold Adjustments	Vary by family size, composition, and age of householder	Vary by family size, composition, and tenure, with geographic adjustments for differences in housing costs
Updating Thresholds	Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers: all items	5-year moving average of expenditures on FCSU
Resource Measure	Gross before-tax cash income	Sum of cash income, plus noncash benefits that resource units can use to meet their FCSU needs, minus taxes (or plus tax credits), work expenses, medical expenses, and child support paid to another household

The Impact of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic on the CPS ASEC

The Census Bureau administers the CPS ASEC each year between February and April by telephone and in-person interviews, with the majority of data collected in March. This year, data collection faced extraordinary circumstances. On March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared that global coronavirus cases had reached pandemic levels. As the United States began to grapple with the implications of the COVID-19 pandemic for the nation, interviewing for the March CPS began (the official start date was March 15). In order to protect the health and safety of Census Bureau staff and respondents, the survey suspended in-person interviews and closed both Computer-Assisted Telephone Interviewing (CATI) contact centers on March 20. For the rest of March and through April, the Census Bureau continued to attempt all interviews by phone. For those whose first month in the survey was March or April, the Census Bureau used vendor-provided telephone numbers associated with the sample address.

While the Census Bureau went to great lengths to complete interviews by telephone, the response rate for the CPS basic household survey was 73 percent in March 2020, about 10 percentage points lower than in preceding months and the same period in 2019, which were regularly above 80 percent. Further, as the Bureau of Labor Statistics stated in their FAQs accompanying the April 3 release of the March Employment Situation, "Response rates for households normally more likely to be interviewed in person were particularly low. The response rate for households entering the sample for their first month was over 20 percentage points lower than in recent months, and the rate for those in the fifth month was over 10 percentage points lower."

The change from conducting first interviews in person to making first contacts by telephone only is a contributing factor to the lower response rates. Further, it is likely that the characteristics of people for whom a telephone number was found may be systematically different from the people for whom the Census Bureau was unable to obtain a telephone number. While the Census Bureau creates weights designed to adjust for nonresponse and to control weighted counts to independent population estimates by age, sex, race, and Hispanic origin, the magnitude of the increase in (and differential nature of) nonresponse related to the pandemic likely reduced their efficacy.[1] Using administrative data, Census Bureau researchers have documented that the nonrespondents in 2020 are less similar to respondents than in earlier years. Of particular interest for the estimates in this report are the differences in median income and educational attainment, indicating that respondents in 2020 had relatively higher income and were more educated than nonrespondents. For more details, see <www.census.gov/newsroom/blogs/random-samplings/2020/09/pandemic-affect-survey-response.html>.

[1] For more information about the design of the survey, see Technical Paper 77, <https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/cps/methodology/CPS-Tech-Paper-77.pdf>.

The SPM does not replace the official poverty measure and is not designed to be used for program eligibility or funding distribution. The SPM is designed to provide information on aggregate levels of economic need at a national level or within large subpopulations or areas. As such, the SPM provides an additional macroeconomic statistic for further understanding economic conditions and trends.

CHANGES IN SPM RATES BETWEEN 2018 AND 2019

Figure 2 shows SPM rates for 2018 and 2019.[5] In 2019, the percentage of poor as estimated using the SPM was 11.7 percent compared to 12.8 percent in 2018, a decline of 1.0 percentage point. The poverty rate declined for most groups between 2018 and 2019. No group had an increase in poverty across the 2 years.[6]

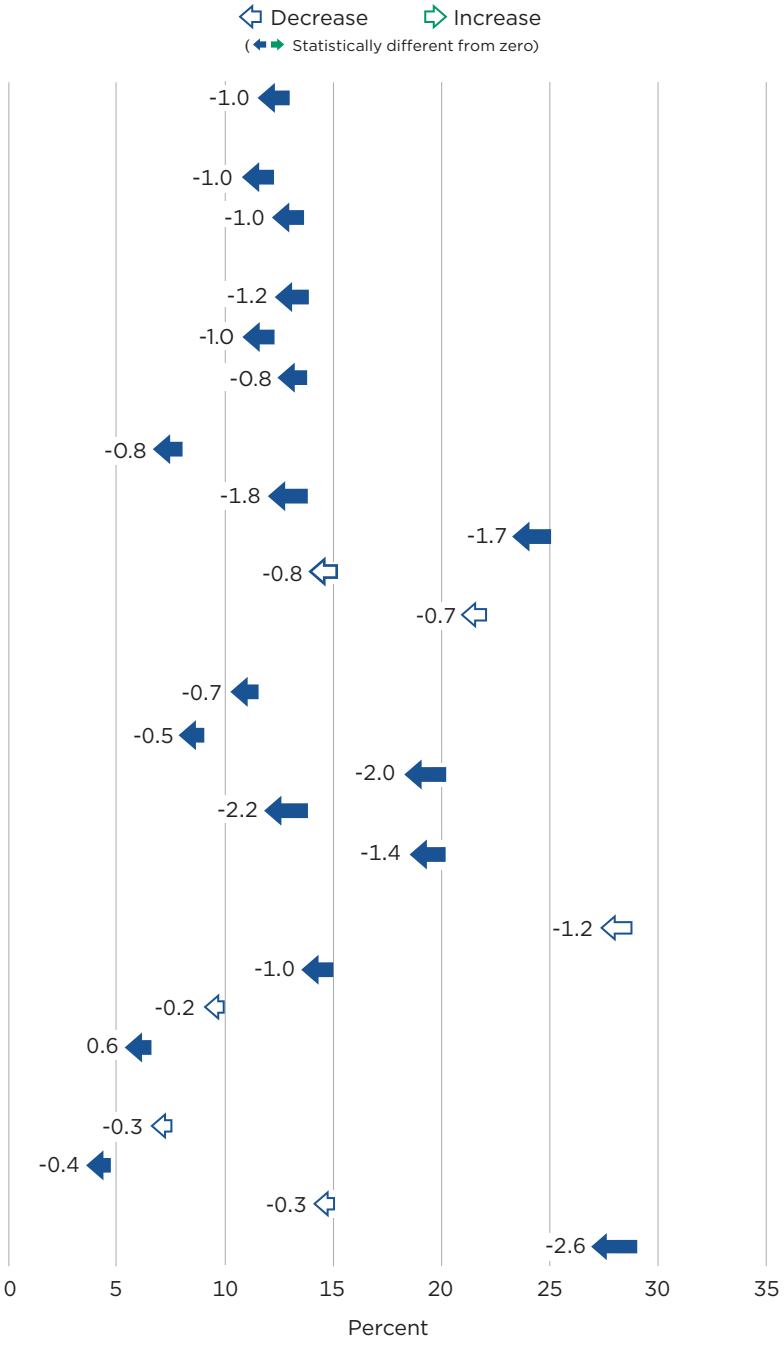
[5] Appendix Table 1 contains rates for a more extensive list of demographic groups.

[6] Changes from 2018 to 2019 were not statistically significant for individuals living in male reference person units, unrelated individuals, individuals with either no high school diploma or some college without a degree, all workers, and individuals working less than full-time, year-round.

Figure 2.

Change in Percentage of People in Poverty Using the Supplemental Poverty Measure: 2018 to 2019

	2018	2019
All people	12.8	11.7
Sex		
Male	12.1	11.1
Female	13.4	12.4
Age		
Under 18 years	13.7	12.5
18 to 64 years	12.2	11.2
65 years and older	13.6	12.8
Type of Unit		
Married couple	7.7	6.9
Cohabiting partners	13.9	12.1
Female reference person	25.0	23.3
Male reference person	15.1	14.3
Unrelated individuals	21.9	21.2
Race and Hispanic Origin		
White	11.2	10.5
White, not Hispanic	8.7	8.2
Black	20.4	18.3
Asian	13.9	11.7
Hispanic (any race)	20.3	18.9
Educational Attainment (aged 25 and older)		
No high school diploma	28.8	27.5
High school, no college	14.9	13.9
Some college	9.7	9.5
Bachelor's degree or higher	6.2	5.7
Work Experience (aged 18 to 64)		
All workers	7.2	6.9
Worked full-time, year-round	4.3	4.0
Less than full-time, year-round	14.9	14.6
Did not work at least 1 week	29.4	26.8

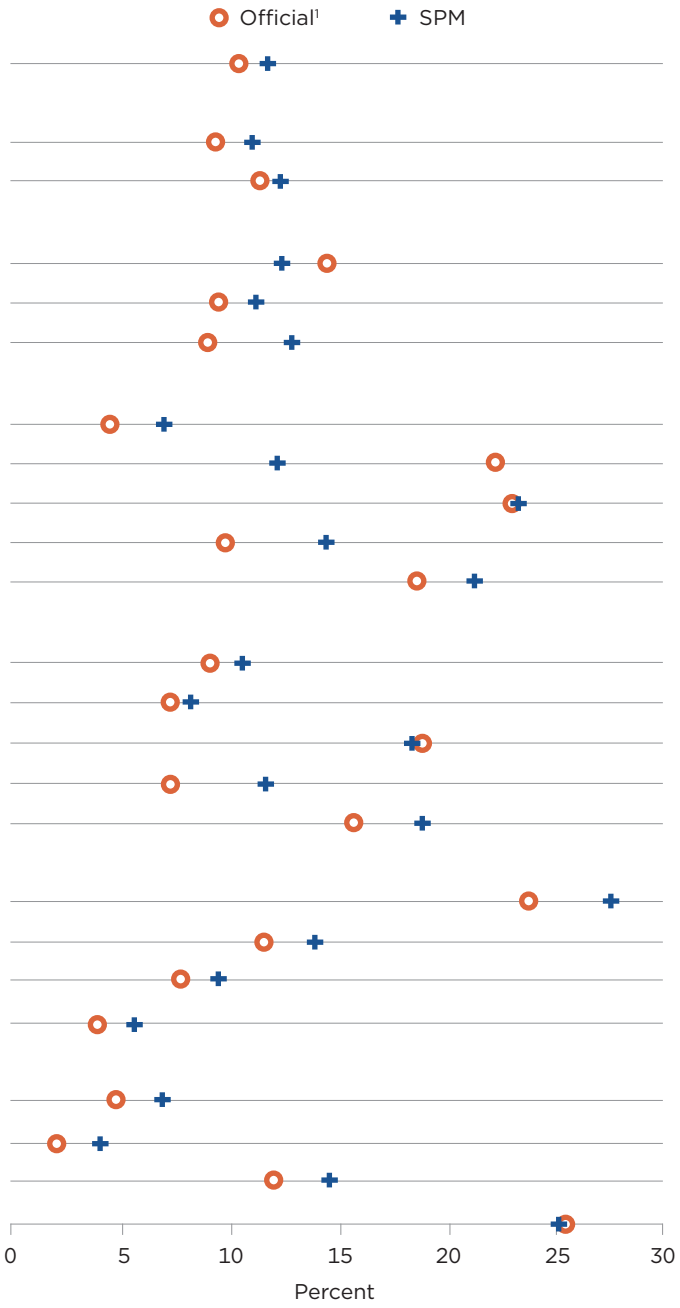


Notes: Statistically significant indicates the change is statistically different from zero at the 90 percent confidence level. Details may not sum to totals due to rounding. For more details, see Appendix Table 1. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see <https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/cps/techdocs/cpsmar20.pdf>.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 2019 and 2020 Annual Social and Economic Supplements (CPS ASEC).

Figure 3.

Percentage of People in Poverty by Different Poverty Measures: 2019

	Official[1]	SPM	Difference
All people	10.5	11.7	*1.3
Sex			
Male	9.4	11.1	*1.7
Female	11.5	12.4	*0.9
Age			
Under 18 years	14.4	12.5	*-1.9
18 to 64 years	9.4	11.2	*1.7
65 years and older	8.9	12.8	*3.9
Type of Unit			
Married couple	4.5	6.9	*2.4
Cohabiting partners	22.2	12.1	*-10.0
Female reference person	22.9	23.3	0.4
Male reference person	9.8	14.3	*4.5
Unrelated individuals	18.6	21.2	*2.6
Race and Hispanic Origin			
White	9.1	10.5	*1.4
White, not Hispanic	7.3	8.2	*0.9
Black	18.8	18.3	-0.5
Asian	7.3	11.7	*4.3
Hispanic (any race)	15.7	18.9	*3.1
Educational Attainment (aged 25 and older)			
No high school diploma	23.7	27.5	*3.8
High school, no college	11.5	13.9	*2.4
Some college	7.8	9.5	*1.7
Bachelor's degree or higher	3.9	5.7	*1.7
Work Experience (aged 18 to 64)			
All workers	4.7	6.9	*2.1
Worked full-time, year-round	2.0	4.0	*2.0
Less than full-time, year-round	12.0	14.6	*2.6
Did not work at least 1 week	26.4	26.8	0.3



* An asterisk preceding an estimate indicates change is statistically different from zero at the 90 percent confidence level.
[1] Includes unrelated individuals under the age of 15.
Note: Details may not sum to totals due to rounding. For more details, see Appendix Table 2. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see <https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/cps/techdocs/cpsmar20.pdf>.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 2020 Annual Social and Economic Supplement (CPS ASEC).

POVERTY ESTIMATES FOR 2019: OFFICIAL AND SPM

Using the SPM definition of poverty, Figure 3 shows that 11.7 percent of people were poor, higher than the 10.5 percent using the official definition of poverty with the comparable universe.[7, 8] While the SPM rates were higher than official poverty rates for most groups, the SPM shows lower than official poverty rates for children and individuals living in cohabiting partner units (Figure 3).[9] Official and SPM poverty rates for individuals living in female reference person units, the Black population, and individuals who did not work were not statistically different.

Census Bureau estimates for the SPM are available back to 2009.[10] Since the SPM's initial production, the SPM rate has been higher than the official poverty rate. Figures 4 and 5 present estimates for the official measure and the SPM from 2009 to 2019. The charts show two values for 2013, one using the traditional income questions comparable to SPM estimates from 2009, and the second using the redesigned income questions used for this report and comparable to the 2014–2017 estimates presented here. Additionally there are two sets of SPM numbers for 2017, with one set using the legacy data processing system and the other using the updated processing system. Comparisons over time should be made with caution.

Figure 4 shows the official measure (with the comparable universe) and the SPM since 2009. The SPM ranged from 0.6 to 1.6 percentage points higher than the official measure over this period. SPM rates in 2019 were at their lowest level since 2009, the first year for which the Census Bureau

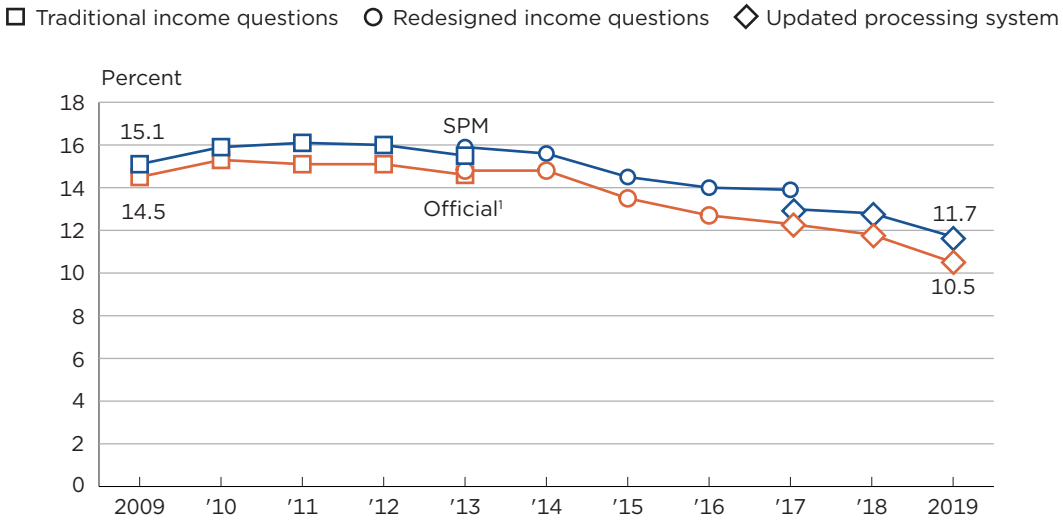
[7] Since the CPS ASEC does not ask income questions for individuals under the age of 15, all unrelated individuals under the age of 15 are excluded from the universe for official poverty calculations in Semega, Kollar, Shrider, and Creamer (2020). However, these individuals are included in the official poverty universe for this report and are assigned the official poverty status of the householder. See the appendix for details.

[8] Appendix Table 2 contains rates for a more extensive list of demographic groups.

[9] In the SPM, cohabiting partners are presumed to share resources, whereas in the official poverty measure, they are considered to be two separate resource units.

[10] For SPM estimates from 1967 to 2012, see Fox et al. (2015).

Figure 4.
Poverty Rates Using the Official and Supplemental Poverty Measures: 2009 to 2019



[1] Includes unrelated individuals under the age of 15.
Note: The data for 2017 and beyond reflect the implementation of an updated processing system. The data for 2013 and beyond reflect the implementation of the redesigned income questions. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see <https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/cps/techdocs/cpsmar20.pdf>.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 2010 to 2020 Annual Social and Economic Supplements (CPS ASEC).

published SPM estimates, even after making adjustments for the breaks in series.[11]

Figure 5 shows the poverty rate using both measures for three major age groups. In 2019, the gap between the official poverty measure and the SPM was largest for individuals aged 65 and older at 3.9 percentage points. Even after accounting for breaks in series, SPM rates for each major age group in 2019 were at their lowest level since 2009.

DISTRIBUTION OF INCOME-TO-THRESHOLD RATIOS: OFFICIAL AND SPM

Comparing the distribution of gross cash income with that of SPM resources also allows an examination of the effect of taxes and noncash transfers across the income/resource distribution. Figure 6 shows the percent distribution of income-to-threshold ratio categories for all people and by major age category. Dividing income by the respective poverty threshold controls income by unit size and composition. Appendix Table 4 shows the distribution of income-to-threshold ratios for various groups in 2018 and 2019.

Overall, the comparison shows that a smaller share of the population had incomes below half of their poverty threshold using the SPM compared to the official measure. Including targeted noncash benefits and subtracting necessary expenses reduced the percentage of the population in the lowest category for children under the age of 18 and adults aged 18 to 64. However, individuals aged 65 and older had a higher share below half of the poverty line with the SPM—4.7 percent compared with 3.7 percent with the official measure.

Many of the noncash benefits included in the SPM, such as WIC and school meals, are not targeted toward the 65 and older population. Further, many transfers received by this group are in cash, especially Social Security payments, and are captured in the official measure, as well as the SPM. Note that the percentage of the 65-and-older age group with income below half their threshold was lower than that of other age groups using the official measure (3.7 percent), while the percentage for children was higher (6.2 percent). Subtracting necessary expenses and adding noncash benefits in the SPM narrowed the differences across the three age groups.[12]

At the other end of the distribution, relative to the official measure, the SPM shows a smaller percentage of the population with income four or more times the poverty threshold relative to the official measure. The SPM resource measure subtracts taxes—compared with the official measure, which does not—bringing down the percentage of people with income in the highest category.

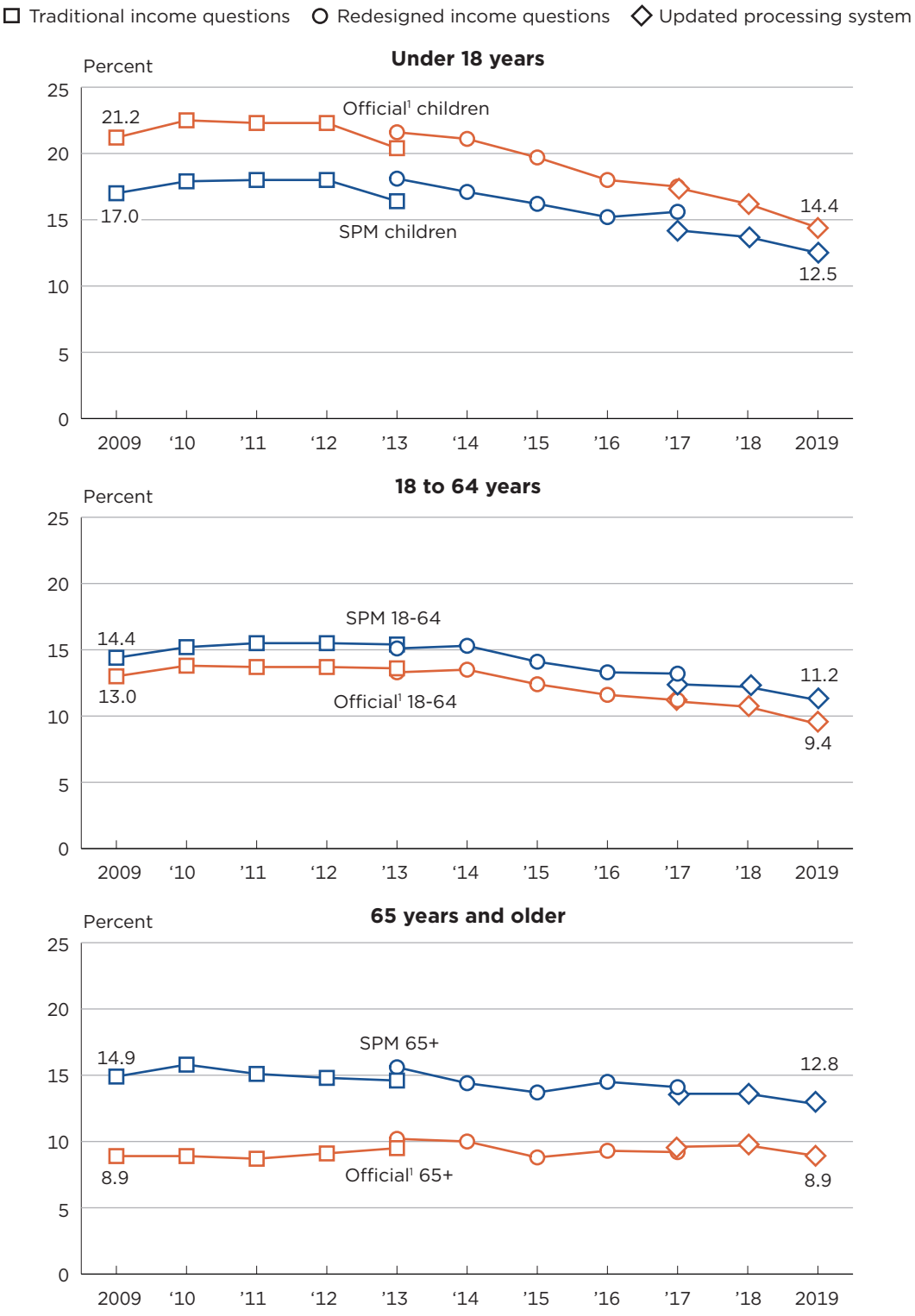
Another notable difference between the distributions using these two measures was the larger number of individuals with income-to-threshold ratios in the middle categories, 1.00 to 3.99, using the SPM. Since the effect of taxes and transfers is often to move income from the extremes of the distribution to the center of the distribution, that is, from the very bottom with targeted transfers or from the very top via taxes and other expenses, the increase in the size of these middle categories is to be expected.

[11] This report provides SPM and official poverty estimates from 2009 to 2019. However, it is important to be aware that the CPS ASEC is updated periodically to improve data quality. These improvements include changes to survey design such as sampling and survey instrument changes, as well as changes to data processing such as weighting and data imputation methods. When feasible, the Census Bureau provides data users with resources that allow them to evaluate the impact of these survey changes across years. Most recently, the 2014 CPS ASEC introduced new income questions, new relationship categories were phased in over the 2015 and 2016 CPS ASEC, and the 2019 CPS ASEC reflects the implementation of an updated data processing system. Given these changes over time, historical comparisons should be made with caution. In this report, 2019 SPM estimates are compared to published estimates for earlier years when the questionnaire and processing system changes did not result in statistically significant differences. When survey changes did have statistically significant impacts on income or poverty estimates, comparisons are made by adjusting historical published estimates to approximate the magnitude of these impacts. For more details on the adjustment used for these comparisons, see <www.census.gov/library/stories/2019/09/us-median-household-income-not-significantly-different-from-2017.html>.

[12] The range of age groups under half their official poverty measure threshold (ranging from 3.7 to 6.2 percent) is larger than the range for those under half their SPM threshold (ranging from 3.4 to 4.7 percent).

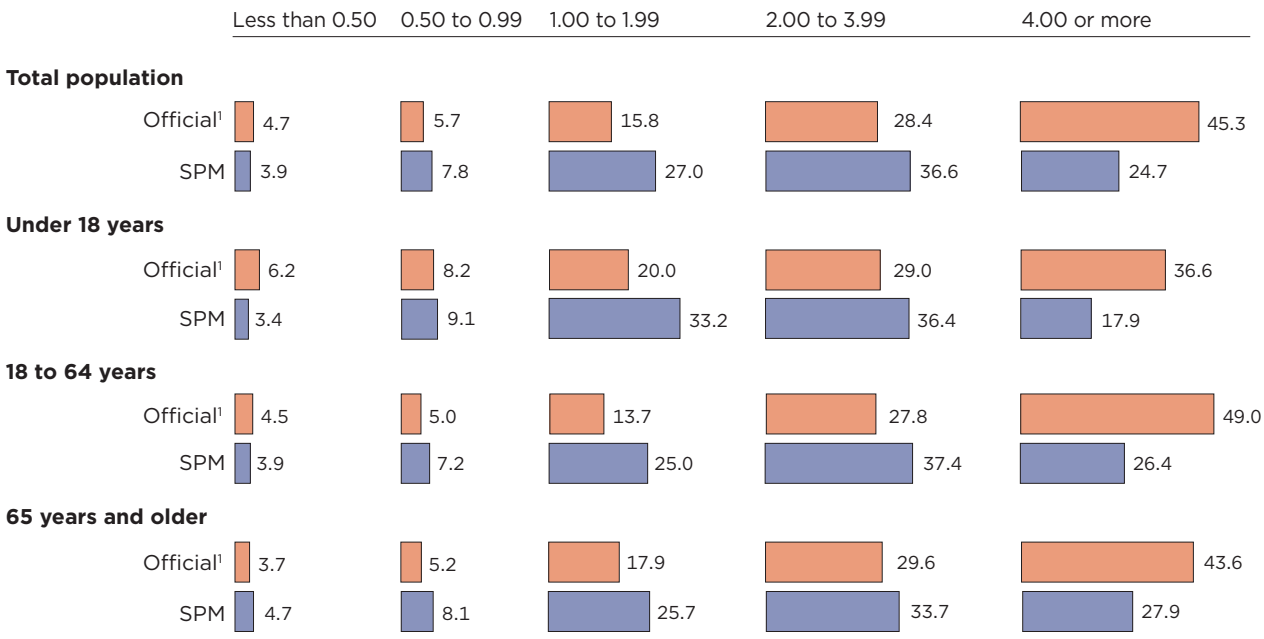
Figure 5.

Poverty Rates Using the Official and Supplemental Poverty Measures by Age Group: 2009 to 2019



[1] Includes unrelated individuals under the age of 15.
Note: The data for 2017 and beyond reflect the implementation of an updated processing system. The data for 2013 and beyond reflect the implementation of the redesigned income questions. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see <https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/cps/techdocs/cpsmar20.pdf>.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 2010 to 2020 Annual Social and Economic Supplements (CPS ASEC).

Figure 6.
Distribution of People by Income-to-Threshold Ratios: 2019
(In percent)



[1] Includes unrelated individuals under the age of 15.
Note: Details may not sum to totals due to rounding. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see <https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/cps/techdocs/cpsmar20.pdf>.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 2020 Annual Social and Economic Supplement (CPS ASEC).

Appendix Table 4 shows similar calculations by race and ethnicity. For all groups, except Asians, smaller percentages had income below half of their poverty thresholds when using the SPM compared with the official measure. Larger percentages of Asians had income below half of their poverty thresholds in the SPM than in the official measure.

POVERTY RATES BY STATE: OFFICIAL AND SPM

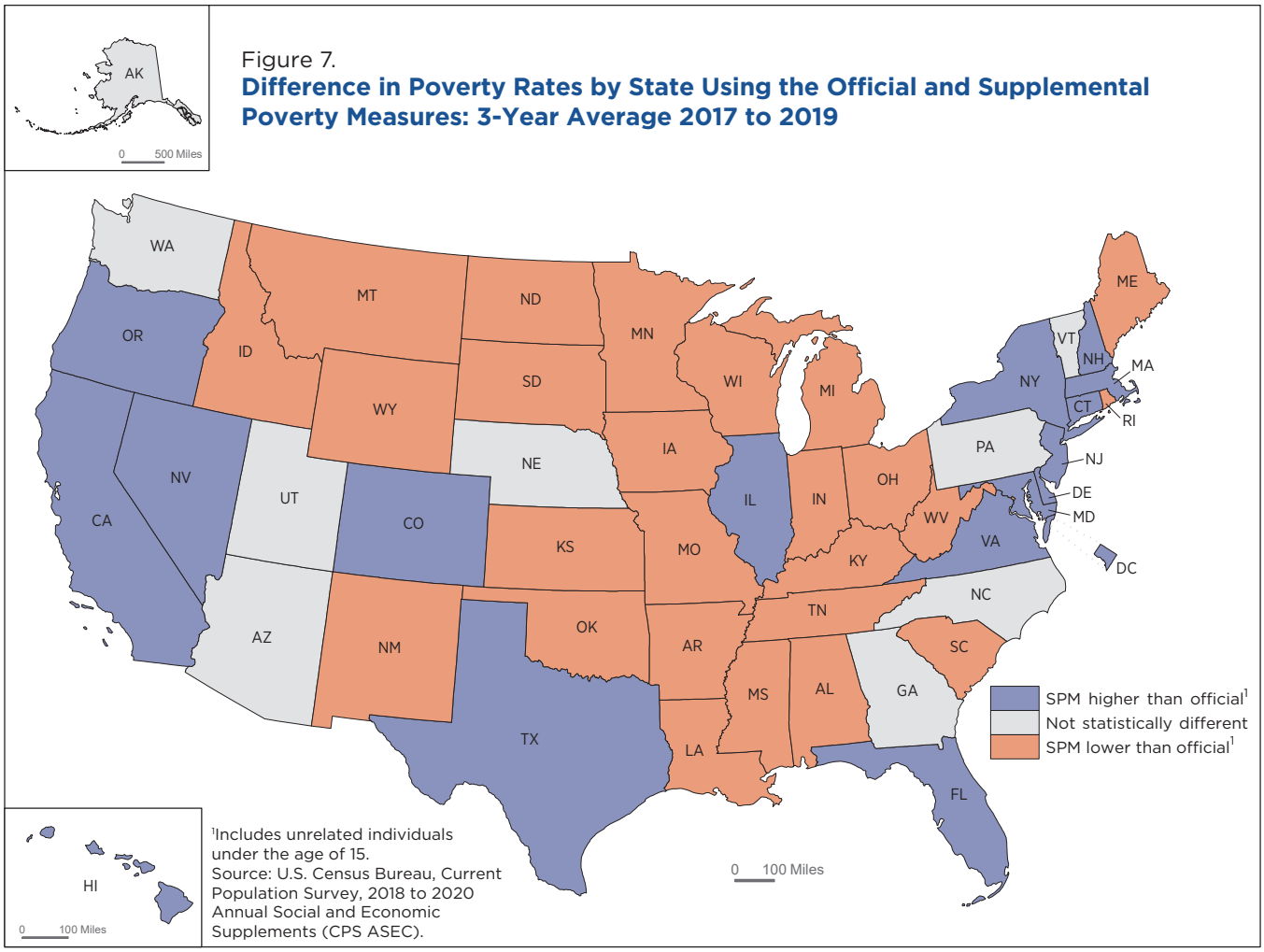
To create state-level estimates using the CPS ASEC, the Census Bureau recommends using 3-year averages for additional statistical reliability.[13] Appendix Table 5 shows 3-year averages of poverty rates by poverty measure for the United States and each state. The 3-year average poverty rate for the United States from 2017–2019 was 11.5 percent with the official measure and 12.5 percent using the SPM.

While the SPM national poverty rate was higher than the official, that difference varies by geographic area. Figure 7 shows the United States divided into three categories by state. States where the SPM rates were higher than official are shaded blue; states where SPM was lower than official are shaded orange; and states where the differences in the rates were not statistically significant are grey.

The 16 states for which the SPM rates were higher than the official poverty rates were California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Hawaii, Illinois, Maryland, Massachusetts, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Oregon, Texas, and Virginia. The SPM rate for the District of Columbia was also higher. Higher SPM rates by state may occur for many reasons. Geographic

[13] The Census Bureau recommends using the American Community Survey (ACS) for state-level poverty estimates. In 2020, a working paper detailing a methodology for implementing the SPM in the ACS, as well as research data extracts and tables for 2009–2018 were released. See Fox, Glassman, and Pacas (2020) for details.

Figure 7.
Difference in Poverty Rates by State Using the Official and Supplemental Poverty Measures: 3-Year Average 2017 to 2019



[1]Includes unrelated individuals under the age of 15.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 2018 to 2020 Annual Social and Economic Supplements (CPS ASEC).

adjustments for housing costs and/or different mixes of housing tenure may result in higher SPM thresholds. Higher nondiscretionary expenses, such as taxes or medical expenses, may also drive higher SPM rates.

The 25 states for which SPM rates were lower than the official poverty rates were Alabama, Arkansas, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, New Mexico, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming. Lower SPM rates could occur due to lower thresholds reflecting lower housing costs, a different mix of housing tenure, or more generous noncash benefits.

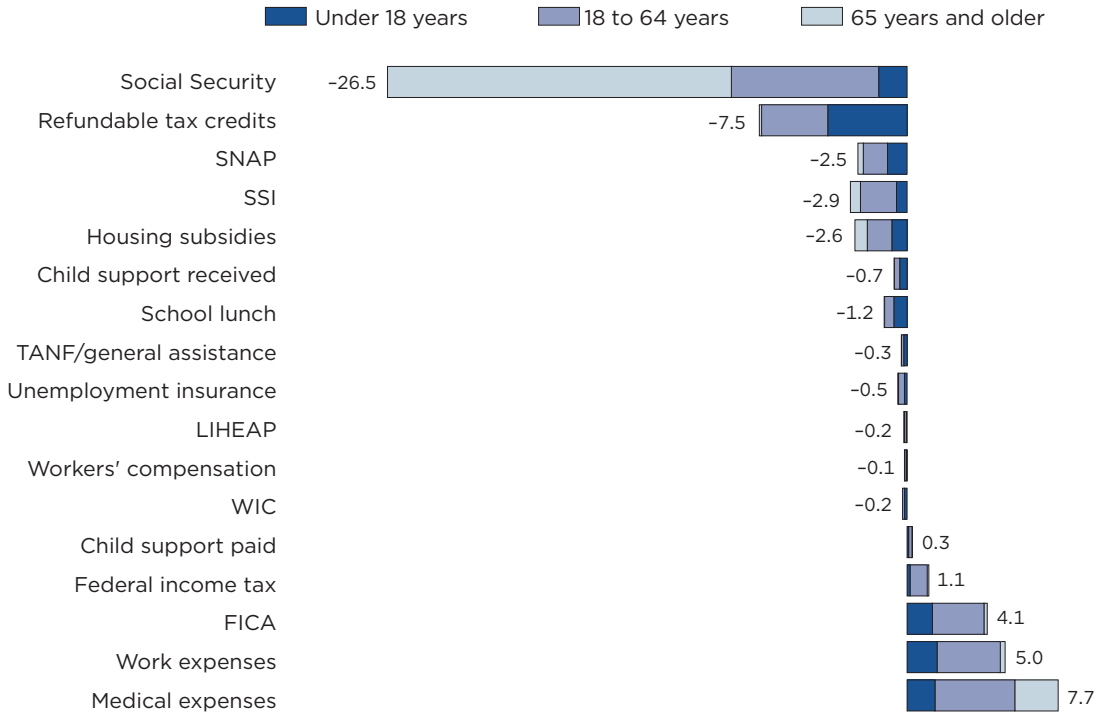
The nine states that were not statistically different under the two measures include Alaska, Arizona, Georgia, Nebraska, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Utah, Vermont, and Washington. Details are provided in Appendix Table 5.

THE SPM AND THE EFFECT OF CASH AND NONCASH TRANSFERS, TAXES, AND OTHER NONDISCRETIONARY EXPENSES

This section moves away from comparing the SPM with the official measure and looks only at the SPM. This analysis allows one to gauge the effects of taxes and transfers and other necessary expenses using the SPM as a measure of economic well-being.

Income used for estimating the official poverty measure includes cash benefits from the government (e.g., Social Security, unemployment insurance benefits, public assistance benefits, and workers' compensation benefits), but does not take account of taxes or noncash benefits aimed at improving the economic situation of the population. The SPM incorporates all of these elements, adding cash benefits and noncash transfers, while subtracting necessary expenses such as taxes,

Figure 8.
Change in Number of People in Poverty After Including Each Element: 2019
(In millions)



Note: For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see <https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/cps/techdocs/cpsmar20.pdf>.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 2020 Annual Social and Economic Supplement (CPS ASEC).

medical expenses, and expenses related to work. An important contribution of the SPM is that it allows us to gauge the potential magnitude of the effect of tax credits and transfers in alleviating poverty. We can also examine the effects of nondiscretionary expenses such as work and medical expenses.

Figure 8 shows the effect that various additions and subtractions had on the number of people who would have been considered poor in 2019, holding all else the same and assuming no behavioral changes. Additions and subtractions are shown for the total population and by three age groups. Additions shown in the figure include cash benefits, also included in the official measure, as well as noncash benefits included only in the SPM. This allows us to examine the effects of government transfers on poverty estimates. Since child support paid is subtracted from income, we also examine the effect of child support received on alleviating poverty. Child support payments received are counted as income in both the official measure and the SPM (but child support paid is only deducted in the SPM).

Figure 8 allows us to compare the effect of transfers, both cash and noncash, and nondiscretionary expenses on numbers of individuals in poverty, all else equal. Social Security transfers and refundable tax credits had the largest impacts, preventing 26.5 million and 7.5 million individuals, respectively, from falling into poverty. Medical expenses were the largest contributor to increasing the number of individuals in poverty.

Appendix Table 6 shows the effect that various additions and subtractions had on the SPM rate in 2018 and 2019, holding all else the same and assuming no behavioral changes. Appendix Table 7 shows the same set of additions and subtractions but shows the number of people affected by removing each

element from the SPM, rather than the change in the SPM rate.

Removing one item from the calculation of SPM resources and recalculating poverty rates shows, for example, that Social Security benefits decrease the SPM rate by 8.1 percentage points, from 19.9 percent to 11.7 percent (Appendix Table 6).[14] This means that with Social Security benefits, 26.5 million fewer people are living below the poverty line (Figure 8 and Appendix Table 7). When including refundable tax credits (the Earned Income Tax Credit [EITC] and the refundable portion of the child tax credit) in resources, 7.5 million fewer people are considered poor, all else constant. On the other hand, when the SPM subtracts amounts paid for child support, income and payroll taxes, work-related expenses, and medical expenses, the number and percentage in poverty are higher. When subtracting medical expenses from income, the SPM rate is 2.4 percentage points higher. In numbers, 7.7 million more people are classified as poor.

In comparison to 2018, the 2019 antipoverty impacts of refundable tax credits, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), housing subsidies, school lunch, Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)/general assistance, and Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) all decreased (Appendix Table 7).[15] Conversely, Federal Insurance Contributions Act (FICA) and work expenses pushed fewer individuals into poverty in 2019 than in 2018.

Appendix Tables 6 and 7 also show effects of individual elements for different age groups. In 2019, accounting for refundable tax credits resulted in a 5.5 percentage-point decrease in the child poverty rate, representing 4.0 million children prevented from falling into poverty by the inclusion of these credits. Subtracting medical expenses, such as contributions toward the cost of medical care and health insurance premiums, from the income of families with children resulted in a child poverty rate 1.9 percentage points higher. For the group aged 65 and older, SPM rates increased by 4.0 percentage points with the inclusion of medical expense deductions from income, while Social Security benefits lowered poverty rates by 32.1 percentage points for this group, lifting 17.5 million individuals above the poverty line.

SUMMARY

This report provides estimates of poverty using the SPM for the United States. The results illustrate differences between the official measure of poverty and a poverty measure that takes account of noncash benefits received by families and nondiscretionary expenses that they must pay. The SPM also employs a poverty threshold that is updated by the BLS with information on expenditures for food, clothing, shelter, and utilities. Results show higher poverty rates using the SPM than the official measure for most groups, with children being an exception with lower poverty rates using the SPM.

The SPM allows us to examine the effect of taxes, noncash transfers, and necessary expenses on the poor and on important groups within the population in poverty. As such, there are lower percentages of the SPM poverty populations in the very high and very low resource categories than we find using the official measure. Since noncash benefits help those in extreme poverty, there were lower percentages of individuals with resources below half the SPM threshold for most groups. In addition, the effect of benefits received from each program and taxes and other nondiscretionary expenses on SPM rates were examined.

COMMENTS

The Census Bureau welcomes the comments and advice of data and report users. If you have suggestions or comments on this report, please write to:

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[14] Details do not sum to totals due to rounding.

[15] While the count of people lifted out of SPM poverty by LIHEAP significantly declined between 2018 and 2019, the percent difference was not significant.

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APPENDIX

SPM HISTORY

This is the tenth report describing the Supplemental Poverty Measure (SPM) released by the U.S. Census Bureau, with support from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).

The SPM was developed following decades of research on poverty measurement. Concerns about the adequacy of the official measure culminated in a congressional appropriation in 1990 for an independent scientific study of the concepts, measurement methods, and information needed for a poverty measure. In response, the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) convened a Panel on Poverty and Family Assistance, which released its report, "Measuring Poverty: A New Approach," in 1995 (Citro and Michael, 1995).

The Interagency Technical Working Group (ITWG) on Developing a Supplemental Poverty Measure was formed in 2009 and charged with developing a set of initial starting points to permit the Census Bureau, in cooperation with the BLS, to produce the SPM. In 2010, this ITWG (which included representatives from the BLS, the Census Bureau, the Economics and Statistics Administration, the Council of Economic Advisers, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and the Office of Management and Budget [OMB]) issued a series of suggestions to the Census Bureau and the BLS on how to develop the SPM.[16] Their suggestions drew on the recommendations of the 1995 NAS report and the subsequent extensive research on poverty measurement. These suggestions were published in the Federal Register and the Census Bureau and the BLS reviewed comments from the public.[17] In November 2011, the Census Bureau released the first SPM report, providing SPM estimates for 2009 and 2010.

In 2016, OMB convened a new ITWG on improving the SPM to provide advice on challenges and opportunities brought before it by the Census Bureau and the BLS concerning data sources, estimation, survey production, and processing activities for development, implementation, publication, and improvement of the SPM. With OMB as chair, the SPM working group comprises career federal employees representing their respective agencies. The agencies currently represented include the Bureau of Economic Analysis, the BLS, the Council of Economic Advisors, the Census Bureau, the Economic Research Service, the Food and Nutrition Service, the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Internal Revenue Service, the National Center for Education Statistics, the National Center for Health Statistics, OMB, and the Social Security Administration.

Currently, this ITWG is reviewing potential changes to implement in 2021. Researchers at the Census Bureau and BLS have presented results showing the rationale for, and impact of, potential changes at various conferences and expert meetings. Many of these presentations and working papers can be found on the Census SPM Web site at <www.census.gov/topics/income-poverty/supplemental-poverty-measure.html>. The SPM working group will make the final decision on changes in September 2020 and any changes will be implemented in the September 2021 SPM report. In addition, the fiscal year 2020 enacted budget included an appropriation to support a new NAS expert panel to further evaluate and improve the SPM. The panel is expected to be convened by the end of calendar year 2020.

In 2019, OMB established the ITWG on Evaluating Alternative Measures of Poverty in order to evaluate possible alternative measures of poverty, including how such measures might be constructed, and whether to publish those measures along with the measures currently being published.[18] The group is chaired by OMB and includes career representatives from various federal agencies and offices. The group published a Federal

[16] See <www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/topics/income/supplemental-poverty-measure/spm-twgobservations.pdf>.

[17] Federal Register notice Vol. 75, No. 101, p. 29513 was issued on May 26, 2010, soliciting public comments regarding specific methods and data sources in developing the SPM.

[18] OMB also established a second interagency technical working group in 2019 to examine consumer inflation measures. See Appendix A in Semega, Kollar, Shrider, and Creamer (2020) for more details about the work of that group.

Register notice in February 2020 providing for 60 days of public comment, soliciting feedback on the preliminary findings and recommendations on alternative poverty measures (see <www.federalregister.gov/documents/2020/02/14/2020-02858/request-for-comment-on-considerations-for-additional-measures-of-poverty>). The group will submit a final report to the Chief Statistician of the United States that includes a set of final recommendations with regard to producing and publishing alternative measure(s), remaining research questions, proposed timelines for implementation, and other pertinent topics.

SPM METHODOLOGY

Poverty Thresholds

Consistent with the NAS panel recommendations and the suggestions of the ITWG, the SPM thresholds are based on out-of-pocket spending on a basic set of goods and services that includes food, clothing, shelter, and utilities (FCSU), and a small additional amount to allow for other needs (e.g., household supplies, personal care, nonwork-related transportation). SPM thresholds are produced by the Bureau of Labor Statistics Division of Price and Index Number Research (BLS DPINR), using 5 years of quarterly Consumer Expenditure Survey (CE) interview data for consumer units with exactly two children.[19] All individuals who share expenses with others in the household are included in the consumer unit.[20] FCSU expenditures are converted to equivalized values using a three-parameter equivalence scale (see "Equivalence Scales" section). The three-parameter equivalence scale is used to convert the estimation sample FCSU expenditures to those of a reference consumer unit composed of two adults with two children.

SPM thresholds are produced for three housing tenure groups to account for differences in housing costs. The three groups are owners with mortgages, owners without mortgages, and renters. Thresholds reflect average spending within the 30th to 36th percentile range of FCSU expenditures for the estimation sample, multiplied by 1.2 to account for additional basic needs, with adjustments for shelter and utilities for each housing group. See the BLS DPINR Research Experimental Poverty Measures Web page for specifics regarding the production of the SPM thresholds and related statistics.[21]

The ITWG recommended that adjustments to thresholds should be made over time to reflect real changes in expenditures on the basic bundle of goods and services around the 33rd percentile of the expenditure distribution. The thresholds used here include the value of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits in the measure of spending on food. As much as possible given available data, the calculation of the FCSU should include any noncash benefits that are counted on the resource side for FCSU. This is necessary for consistency of the threshold and resource definitions. Current research at the BLS is investigating the feasibility of incorporating additional noncash benefits in the threshold (for example, Garner, Gudrais, and Short, 2016).

Equivalence Scales

The ITWG guidelines state that the "three-parameter equivalence scale" is to be used to adjust SPM reference thresholds for the number of adults and children.[22] The three-parameter scale allows for a different adjustment for single parents (Betson, 1996). This scale has been used in several BLS and Census Bureau studies (Short et al., 1999; Short, 2001). The three-parameter scale is calculated in the following way:

One and two adults: scale = $(\text{adults})^{0.5}$

Single parents: scale = $(\text{adults} + 0.8 * \text{first child} + 0.5 * \text{other children})^{0.7}$

All other families: scale = $(\text{adults} + 0.5 * \text{children})^{0.7}$

In the calculation used to produce thresholds for two adults, the scale is set to 1.41. The economy of scale factor is set at 0.70 for other family types, which is within the

[19] See <https://stats.bls.gov/cex/> for information on the CE.

[20] This includes unmarried partners and others making joint expenditure decisions. For full definition, see <https://stats.bls.gov/cex/faq.htm#q3>.

[21] These are referred to as BLS DPINR Research Experimental Supplemental Poverty Measure (SPM) Thresholds. For further information, see <https://stats.bls.gov/pir/spmhome.htm>.

[22] The official measure adjusts thresholds based on family size, number of children and adults, as well as whether or not the householder is aged 65 or older.

0.65 to 0.75 range recommended by the NAS panel.

Geographic Adjustments

The American Community Survey (ACS) is used to adjust the FCSU thresholds for differences in prices across geographic areas. The geographic adjustments are based on 5-year ACS estimates of median gross rents for two-bedroom units with complete kitchen and plumbing facilities. Separate medians were estimated for each of 260 MSAs large enough to be identified on the public-use version of the Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplement (CPS ASEC) file. For each state, a median is estimated for all nonmetropolitan areas (47) and for a combination of all smaller metropolitan areas within a state (35). This results in 342 adjustment factors. For details, see Renwick (2011).[23]

Unit of Analysis

The ITWG suggested that the resource unit in the SPM include all related individuals who live at the same address, any coresident unrelated children who are cared for by the family (such as foster children), and any cohabiters and their children.[24, 25] This definition corresponds broadly with the unit of data collection (the consumer unit) that is employed for the CE data that are used to calculate poverty thresholds. They are referred to as SPM Resource Units. For all resource units that contain a set of male/female unmarried partners, the female partner's weight is used as the SPM family weight. For all other units, there is no change in family weight.[26]

Official Poverty Treatment of Unrelated Individuals Under the Age of 15

Unrelated children under the age of 15 are excluded from the official poverty measure universe but included in the SPM universe. To compare the two measures in the SPM report, unrelated individuals under the age of 15 are assigned an official poverty status to match that of the reference person of the household in which they reside. The official poverty status is not recalculated for anyone else in the household. See Fox (2017a) for a comparison of official poverty estimates using different methods. Prior to the 2016 SPM report, all unrelated children under the age of 15 were considered poor in the official poverty estimates used in the SPM report. Since these children were not asked any income questions, they were assigned income of $0 and a poverty threshold for a single-person unit.

Noncash Benefits

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

SNAP benefits (formerly known as food stamps) are designed to allow eligible low-income households to afford a nutritionally adequate diet. Households that participate in the SNAP program are assumed to devote 30 percent of their countable monthly cash income to the purchase of food, and SNAP benefits make up the remaining cost of an adequate low-cost diet. This amount is set at the level of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Thrifty Food Plan. In the CPS ASEC, respondents report if anyone in the household ever received SNAP benefits in the previous calendar year and, if so, the face value of those benefits. The annual household amount is prorated to the SPM Resource Units within each household.

National School Lunch Program

This program offers children free school lunches if family income is below 130 percent of federal poverty guidelines, reduced-price school meals if family income is between 130 and 185 percent of the federal poverty guidelines, and a subsidized school meal for all other children.[27] In the CPS ASEC, the reference person is asked how many children "usually" ate a complete lunch at school, and if so, if it was a free or reduced-price school lunch. The value of school meals is assigned based on the assumption that the children received the lunches every day during the last school year. Note that this method may overestimate the benefits received by each family. To value benefits, we obtain amounts on the cost per lunch from the U.S. Department of Agriculture

[23] Renwick, Figueroa, and Aten (2017) examined an alternative method of calculation for the geographic indexes using Regional Price Parities from the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis.

[24] Foster children up to the age of 22 are included in the new unit.

[25] The official measure of poverty uses the Census Bureau-defined family that includes all individuals residing together who are related by birth, marriage, or adoption and treats all unrelated individuals aged 15 and older independently.

[26] Appropriate weighting of these new units is an area of additional research at the Census Bureau.

[27] The poverty guidelines are issued each year by the Department of Health and Human Services. The guidelines are a simplified version of the Census Bureau's poverty thresholds used for administrative purposes—for instance, determining financial eligibility for certain federal programs. For more details and guidelines, see <https://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty-guidelines>.

Food and Nutrition Service, which administers the school lunch program. There is no value included for school breakfast.

Supplementary Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)

This program is designed to provide food assistance and nutritional screening to low-income pregnant and postpartum women and their infants and to low-income children up to the age of 5. Incomes must be at or below 185 percent of the poverty guidelines and participants must be nutritionally at-risk (having abnormal nutritional conditions, nutrition-related medical conditions, or dietary deficiencies). Benefits include supplemental foods in the form of food items or vouchers for purchases of specific food items. There are questions on current receipt of WIC in the CPS ASEC. Lacking additional information, we assume 12 months of participation and value the benefit using program information obtained from the Department of Agriculture. As with school lunch, assuming yearlong participation may overestimate the value of WIC benefits received by a given SPM unit. In these estimates, we assume that all children less than 5 years old in a household where someone reports receiving WIC are also assigned receipt of WIC. If the child is aged 0 or 1 year, then we assume that the mother also gets WIC. If there is no child in the family, but the household reference person said "yes" to the WIC question, we assume this is a pregnant woman receiving WIC.

Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)

This program provides three types of energy assistance. Under this program, states may help pay heating or cooling bills, provide allotments for low-cost weatherization, or provide assistance during energy-related emergencies. States determine eligibility and can provide assistance in various ways, including cash payments, vendor payments, two-party checks, vouchers/coupons, and payments directly to landlords. In the CPS ASEC, the question on energy assistance asks for information about the entire previous year. Many households receive both a "regular" benefit and one or more crisis or emergency benefits. Since LIHEAP payments are often made directly to a utility company or fuel oil vendor, many households may have difficulty reporting the precise amount of the LIHEAP payment made on their behalf.

Housing Assistance

Households can receive housing assistance from a plethora of federal, state, and local programs. Federal housing assistance consists of a number of programs administered primarily by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). These programs traditionally take the form of rental subsidies and mortgage-interest subsidies targeted to very-low-income renters and are either project-based (public housing) or tenant-based (vouchers). The value of housing subsidies is estimated as the difference between the "market rent" for the housing unit and the total tenant payment. The "market rent" for the household is estimated using a statistical match with HUD administrative data from the Public and Indian Housing Information Center and the Tenant Rental Assistance Certification System. For each household identified in the CPS ASEC as receiving help with rent or living in public housing, an attempt was made to match on state, core-based statistical area (CBSA), and household size.[28] The total tenant payment is estimated by applying HUD program rules to total household income reported in the CPS ASEC. Generally, participants in either public housing or tenant-based subsidy programs administered by HUD are expected to contribute the greater of one-third of their "adjusted" income or 10 percent of their gross income towards housing costs.[29] See Johnson et al. (2010) for more details on this method. Initially, subsidies are estimated at the household level. If there is more than one SPM unit in a household, then the value of

[28] HUD operates two major housing assistance programs: public housing and tenant-based or voucher programs. Previous research has found that households misreport whether they receive public housing or rental assistance in the CPS ASEC and that the value of public housing is not unambiguously worth less than the value of rental assistance (Renwick, 2017). Given these ambiguities and increasing challenges in the reporting of housing subsidy values across various types of housing assistance, beginning in the 2016 SPM report, we have eliminated the adjustment factor previously applied to public housing subsidy values.

[29] HUD regulations define "adjusted household income" as cash income, excluding income from certain sources minus numerous deductions. Three of the income exclusions can be identified from the CPS ASEC: income from the employment of children, student financial assistance, and earnings in excess of $480 for each full-time student 18 years or older. Deductions that can be modeled from the CPS ASEC include $480 for each dependent, and $400 for any elderly or disabled family member, child care, and medical expenses.

the subsidy is prorated based on the number of people in the SPM unit relative to the total number of people in the household.

Housing subsidies help families pay their rent and, as such, are added to income for the SPM. However, there is general agreement that, while the value of a housing subsidy can free up a family's income to purchase food and other basic items, it will do so only to the extent that it meets the need for shelter. Thus, the values for housing subsidies included as income are limited to the proportion of the threshold that is allocated to housing costs. The subsidy is capped at the housing portion of the appropriate threshold MINUS the total tenant payment.

Necessary Expenses Subtracted From Resources

Taxes

The NAS panel and the ITWG recommended that the calculation of family resources for poverty measurement should subtract necessary expenses that must be paid by the family. The measure subtracts federal, state, and local income taxes and Social Security payroll taxes (FICA) before assessing the ability of a family to obtain basic necessities such as FCSU. Taking account of taxes allows us to account for receipt of the federal or state Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and other tax credits. The CPS ASEC does not collect information on taxes paid, but relies on a tax calculator to simulate taxes paid. These simulations include federal and state income taxes and FICA taxes.[30] These simulations also use a statistical match to the IRS Statistics of Income public-use microdata file of tax returns.

Work-Related Expenses

Going to work and earning a wage often entails incurring expenses such as travel to work and purchase of uniforms or tools. For work-related expenses (other than child care), the NAS panel and original SPM ITWG recommended subtracting a fixed amount for each earner 18 years or older. Their calculation was based on 1987 Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP) data that collected information on work expenses in a set of supplementary questions. They calculated 85 percent of median weekly expenses—$14.42 per week worked for anyone aged 18 or older in the family in 1992. Total expenses were obtained by multiplying this fixed amount by the number of weeks respondents reported working in the year. Each person in the SIPP reports their own expenditures on work-related items in a given week. The most recent available data are used to calculate median weekly expenses.[31] The number of weeks worked, reported in the CPS ASEC, is multiplied by 85 percent of median weekly work-related expenses for each person to arrive at annual work-related expenses.[32]

Child Care Expenses

Another important part of work-related expenses is paying someone to care for children while parents work. These expenses have become important for families with young children in which both parents (or a single parent) work. To account for child care expenses while parents worked, the CPS ASEC asks parents whether or not they pay for child care and how much they spent. The amounts paid for any type of child care while parents are at work are summed over all children. The ITWG, following the recommendations of the NAS report, suggested capping the amount subtracted from income, when combined with other work-related expenses, so that these do not exceed total reported earnings of the lowest earning reference person or spouse/partner of the reference person in the family. This capping procedure

[30] Wheaton and Stevens (2016) compare the Census Bureau's tax calculator to TAXSIM and the Bakija tax model and find consistency in tax estimates across the models.

[31] Median weekly work expenses were $46.73 for 2019 using Wave 4 of the 2014 SIPP Panel.

[32] Edwards et al. (2014) examined an alternative method of valuing work-related expenses using the ACS.

is applied before determining poverty status.[33]

Child Support Paid

The NAS panel recommended that since child support received from other households is counted as income, child support paid out to those households should be deducted from the resources of those households that paid it. Without this subtraction, all child support is double counted in overall income statistics. Questions ascertaining amounts paid in child support are included in the CPS ASEC, and these reported amounts are subtracted in the estimates presented here.

Medical Expenses

The ITWG recommended subtracting medical expenses from income, following the NAS panel. The NAS panel was aware that expenditures for health care are a significant portion of a family budget and have become an increasingly larger budget item since the 1960s. These expenses include the payment of health insurance premiums plus other medically necessary items such as prescription drugs and doctor copayments that are not covered or reimbursed by insurance. Subtracting these amounts from income, like taxes and work expenses, leaves the amount of income that the family has available to purchase the basic bundle of goods.

When reporting medical expenses, respondents are asked not to report Medicare Part B premiums. Instead, Medicare Part B premiums are estimated using other information collected in the CPS ASEC. If respondents received Social Security benefits, they may have reported Medicare premiums, and the reported amount is taken. For respondents aged 65 and older who reported that their Social Security payment was after deduction, but did not report a deduction amount greater than $0, the Medicare Part B premium is set at the standard amount per month and added to income and medical expenditures. For the remaining respondents who reported being covered by Medicare, Medicare Part B premiums are simulated using the rules for income and tax filing status for people aged 65 and older (see <www.medicare.gov/>).[34] For married respondents with a "spouse present," combined reported income is used to determine the appropriate Medicare Part B premium assuming that these couples filed married, joint returns. Finally, the simulation model assumes two groups paid zero Part B premiums: (1) respondents enrolled in Medicare and Medicaid, and (2) those with a family income less than 135 percent of the federal poverty level.[35] This strategy for estimating Medicare Part B premiums largely follows the methodology developed by Caswell and Short (2011). Estimates for 2017 and beyond reflect the implementation of an updated processing system.[36]

[33] Some analysts have suggested that this cap may be inappropriate in certain cases such as if the parent is in school, looking for work, or receiving types of compensation other than earnings.

[34] We make the simplifying assumption that respondents were insured by Medicare for the entire year.

[35] The family income assumption is based on a rough estimate of eligibility and participation in at least one of the following programs: Qualified Medicare Beneficiary, Specified Low-Income Medicare Beneficiary, or Qualified Individual or Qualified Disabled and Working Individuals. We do not take into account the possibility of (state-specific) asset requirements.

[36] For more details on changes to the medical expenditures estimation, see Berchick, Edward R. and Heide M. Jackson, "Health Insurance Coverage in the 2017 CPS ASEC Research File," SEHSD Working Paper Number 2019-01, 2019, <www.census.gov/library/working-papers/2019/demo/SEHSD-WP2019-01.html> and "Updates to the Processing of Out of Pocket Medical Expenditures and Medicare Premiums," SEHSD Working Paper 2019-31, <www.census.gov/library/working-papers/2019/demo/SEHSD-WP2019-31.html>.

Appendix Table 1.

Number and Percentage of People in Poverty Using the Supplemental Poverty Measure: 2018 and 2019—Con.

(Numbers in thousands. Margin of error in thousands or percentage points as appropriate. People as of March of the following year. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see <https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/cps/techdocs/cpsmar20.pdf>)

Characteristic	SPM 2019				SPM 2018				Difference	
	Number		Percent		Number		Percent			
	Estimate	Margin of error[1] (±)	Estimate	Margin of error[1] (±)	Estimate	Margin of error[1] (±)	Estimate	Margin of error[1] (±)	Number	Percent
All people	**38,163**	**895**	**11.7**	**0.3**	**41,420**	**861**	**12.8**	**0.3**	***–3,258**	***–1.0**
Sex										
Male	17,655	489	11.1	0.3	19,269	479	12.1	0.3	*–1,614	*–1.0
Female	20,508	508	12.4	0.3	22,151	454	13.4	0.3	*–1,643	*–1.0
Age										
Under 18 years	9,119	354	12.5	0.5	10,096	381	13.7	0.5	*–977	*–1.2
18 to 64 years	22,072	606	11.2	0.3	24,151	564	12.2	0.3	*–2,079	*–1.0
65 years and older	6,972	258	12.8	0.5	7,174	250	13.6	0.5	–202	*–0.8
Type of Unit										
Married couple	13,703	625	6.9	0.3	15,043	526	7.7	0.3	*–1,340	*–0.8
Cohabiting partners	3,167	324	12.1	1.1	3,659	267	13.9	0.9	*–492	*–1.8
Female reference person	9,526	478	23.3	1.0	10,390	461	25.0	0.9	*–864	*–1.7
Male reference person	2,162	237	14.3	1.5	2,197	214	15.1	1.4	–35	–0.8
Unrelated individuals	9,605	320	21.2	0.6	10,132	329	21.9	0.6	*–527	–0.7
Race[2] and Hispanic Origin										
White	26,089	669	10.5	0.3	27,820	665	11.2	0.3	*–1,731	*–0.7
White, not Hispanic	15,914	492	8.2	0.3	16,932	522	8.7	0.3	*–1,019	*–0.5
Black	7,907	408	18.3	0.9	8,727	432	20.4	1.0	*–820	*–2.0
Asian	2,327	191	11.7	1.0	2,749	220	13.9	1.1	*–422	*–2.2
Hispanic (any race)	11,464	475	18.9	0.8	12,216	442	20.3	0.7	*–752	*–1.4
Nativity										
Native-born	30,238	761	10.8	0.3	32,540	744	11.7	0.3	*–2,302	*–0.9
Foreign-born	7,924	318	17.6	0.7	8,880	344	19.4	0.7	*–956	*–1.7
Naturalized citizen	3,109	197	13.7	0.9	3,297	193	14.8	0.8	–187	–1.1
Not a citizen	4,815	261	21.7	1.2	5,584	272	23.7	1.0	*–769	*–2.0
Educational Attainment										
Total, aged 25 and older	24,319	558	10.9	0.2	26,158	576	11.8	0.3	*–1,838	*–0.9
No high school diploma	5,563	267	27.5	1.1	6,320	241	28.8	1.0	*–757	–1.2
High school, no college	8,543	319	13.9	0.5	9,272	315	14.9	0.5	*–728	*–1.0
Some college	5,472	238	9.5	0.4	5,599	218	9.7	0.4	–127	–0.2
Bachelor's degree or higher	4,741	219	5.7	0.3	4,967	246	6.2	0.3	–226	*–0.6
Tenure										
Owner/mortgage	7,146	385	5.2	0.3	7,831	383	5.9	0.3	*–686	*–0.7
Owner/no mortgage/rent free	10,057	458	11.2	0.5	10,146	415	11.8	0.4	–89	–0.5
Renter	20,960	765	21.5	0.7	23,443	651	22.4	0.5	*–2,482	*–0.9
Residence[3]										
Inside metropolitan statistical areas	33,426	881	11.8	0.3	36,249	860	12.9	0.3	*–2,824	*–1.0
Inside principal cities	15,527	672	14.8	0.6	16,818	689	16.0	0.6	*–1,291	*–1.2
Outside principal cities	17,898	640	10.1	0.3	19,431	669	11.0	0.4	*–1,532	*–0.9
Outside metropolitan statistical areas	4,737	442	11.2	0.7	5,171	439	12.2	0.7	*–434	*–1.0
Region										
Northeast	6,431	383	11.7	0.7	6,768	339	12.2	0.6	–337	–0.6
Midwest	5,944	347	8.8	0.5	6,223	344	9.2	0.5	–279	–0.4
South	15,466	628	12.4	0.5	17,219	606	13.9	0.5	*–1,752	*–1.5
West	10,321	402	13.2	0.5	11,211	434	14.4	0.6	*–890	*–1.2

See footnotes at end of table.

Appendix Table 1.

Number and Percentage of People in Poverty Using the Supplemental Poverty Measure: 2018 and 2019—Con.

(Numbers in thousands. Margin of error in thousands or percentage points as appropriate. People as of March of the following year. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see <https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/cps/techdocs/cpsmar20.pdf>)

Characteristic	SPM 2019				SPM 2018				Difference	
	Number		Percent		Number		Percent			
	Estimate	Margin of error[1] (±)	Estimate	Margin of error[1] (±)	Estimate	Margin of error[1] (±)	Estimate	Margin of error[1] (±)	Number	Percent
Health Insurance Coverage										
With private insurance	12,202	491	5.5	0.2	12,747	456	5.9	0.2	-545	*-0.3
With public, no private insurance	19,600	556	25.3	0.6	21,805	613	27.8	0.7	*-2,205	*-2.5
Not insured	6,361	322	23.7	1.1	6,868	312	24.4	1.0	*-507	-0.7
Work Experience										
Total, 18 to 64 years	22,072	606	11.2	0.3	24,151	564	12.2	0.3	*-2,079	*-1.0
All workers	10,599	368	6.9	0.2	10,959	318	7.2	0.2	-360	-0.3
Worked full-time, year-round	4,487	226	4.0	0.2	4,847	214	4.3	0.2	*-360	*-0.4
Less than full-time, year-round	6,112	256	14.6	0.5	6,112	228	14.9	0.5	Z	-0.3
Did not work at least 1 week	11,473	390	26.8	0.8	13,191	383	29.4	0.7	*-1,718	*-2.6
Disability Status[4]										
Total, 18 to 64 years	22,072	606	11.2	0.3	24,151	564	12.2	0.3	*-2,079	*-1.0
With a disability	3,107	168	21.5	1.2	3,609	187	24.3	1.1	*-502	*-2.8
With no disability	18,899	556	10.4	0.3	20,500	497	11.3	0.3	*-1,601	*-0.9

* An asterisk preceding an estimate indicates change is statistically different from zero at the 90 percent confidence level.

Z Rounds to zero.

[1] The margin of error (MOE) is a measure of an estimate's variability. The larger the MOE in relation to the size of the estimate, the less reliable the estimate. This number, when added to and subtracted from the estimate, forms the 90 percent confidence interval. The MOEs shown in this table are based on standard errors calculated using replicate weights.

[2] Federal surveys give respondents the option of reporting more than one race. Therefore, two basic ways of defining a race group are possible. A group, such as Asian, may be defined as those who reported Asian and no other race (the race-alone or single-race concept) or as those who reported Asian regardless of whether they also reported another race (the race-alone-or-in-combination concept). This table shows data using the first approach (race alone). The use of the single-race population does not imply that it is the preferred method of presenting or analyzing data. The Census Bureau uses a variety of approaches. Data for American Indians and Alaska Natives, Native Hawaiians and Other Pacific Islanders, and those reporting two or more races are not shown separately.

[3] For the definition of metropolitan statistical areas and principal cities, see <www.census.gov/programs-surveys/metro-micro/about/glossary.html>.

[4] The sum of those with and without a disability does not equal the total because disability status is not defined for individuals in the U.S. armed forces.

Note: Details may not sum to totals due to rounding.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 2019 and 2020 Annual Social and Economic Supplements (CPS ASEC).

Appendix Table 2.

Number and Percentage of People in Poverty by Different Poverty Measures: 2019—Con.

(Numbers in thousands. Margin of error in thousands or percentage points as appropriate. People as of March of the following year. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see <https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/cps/techdocs/cpsmar20.pdf>)

Characteristic		Official[1]				SPM				Difference	
		Number		Percent		Number		Percent			
	Number[1]	Estimate	Margin of error[2] (±)	Estimate	Margin of error[2] (±)	Estimate	Margin of error[2] (±)	Estimate	Margin of error[2] (±)	Number	Percent
All people	**325,268**	**34,061**	**799**	**10.5**	**0.2**	**38,163**	**895**	**11.7**	**0.3**	***4,102**	***1.3**
Sex											
Male	159,461	15,009	433	9.4	0.3	17,655	489	11.1	0.3	*2,645	*1.7
Female	165,807	19,051	474	11.5	0.3	20,508	508	12.4	0.3	*1,457	*0.9
Age											
Under 18 years	73,151	10,542	367	14.4	0.5	9,119	354	12.5	0.5	*–1,423	*–1.9
18 to 64 years	197,475	18,660	514	9.4	0.3	22,072	606	11.2	0.3	*3,412	*1.7
65 years and older	54,642	4,858	200	8.9	0.4	6,972	258	12.8	0.5	*2,114	*3.9
Type of Unit											
Married couple	197,884	8,977	504	4.5	0.2	13,703	625	6.9	0.3	*4,726	*2.4
Cohabiting partners	26,094	5,789	375	22.2	1.2	3,167	324	12.1	1.1	*–2,622	*–10.0
Female reference person	40,891	9,378	443	22.9	1.0	9,526	478	23.3	1.0	147	0.4
Male reference person	15,079	1,484	184	9.8	1.2	2,162	237	14.3	1.5	*678	*4.5
Unrelated individuals	45,320	8,432	312	18.6	0.6	9,605	320	21.2	0.6	*1,172	*2.6
Race[3] and Hispanic Origin											
White	248,400	22,551	611	9.1	0.2	26,089	669	10.5	0.3	*3,538	*1.4
White, not Hispanic	194,858	14,179	465	7.3	0.2	15,914	492	8.2	0.3	*1,734	*0.9
Black	43,094	8,101	388	18.8	0.9	7,907	408	18.3	0.9	–194	–0.5
Asian	19,940	1,466	151	7.3	0.8	2,327	191	11.7	1.0	*862	*4.3
Hispanic (any race)	60,724	9,556	438	15.7	0.7	11,464	475	18.9	0.8	*1,907	*3.1
Nativity											
Native-born	280,361	28,412	685	10.1	0.2	30,238	761	10.8	0.3	*1,826	*0.7
Foreign-born	44,907	5,648	295	12.6	0.7	7,924	318	17.6	0.7	*2,276	*5.1
Naturalized citizen	22,750	2,039	153	9.0	0.7	3,109	197	13.7	0.9	*1,070	*4.7
Not a citizen	22,157	3,609	225	16.3	1.0	4,815	261	21.7	1.2	*1,206	*5.4
Educational Attainment											
Total, aged 25 and older	223,058	19,662	487	8.8	0.2	24,319	558	10.9	0.2	*4,657	*2.1
No high school diploma	20,208	4,796	227	23.7	1.0	5,563	267	27.5	1.1	*767	*3.8
High school, no college	61,597	7,076	263	11.5	0.4	8,543	319	13.9	0.5	*1,467	*2.4
Some college	57,552	4,490	203	7.8	0.3	5,472	238	9.5	0.4	*982	*1.7
Bachelor's degree or higher	83,701	3,300	191	3.9	0.2	4,741	219	5.7	0.3	*1,441	*1.7
Tenure											
Owner/mortgage	138,182	4,843	323	3.5	0.2	7,146	385	5.2	0.3	*2,302	*1.7
Owner/no mortgage/rent free	89,548	9,012	425	10.1	0.5	10,057	458	11.2	0.5	*1,045	*1.2
Renter	97,538	20,206	654	20.7	0.6	20,960	765	21.5	0.7	*755	*0.8
Residence[4]											
Inside metropolitan statistical areas	282,819	28,406	816	10.0	0.3	33,426	881	11.8	0.3	*5,020	*1.8
Inside principal cities	104,888	13,722	599	13.1	0.5	15,527	672	14.8	0.6	*1,806	*1.7
Outside principal cities	177,931	14,684	614	8.3	0.3	17,898	640	10.1	0.3	*3,215	*1.8
Outside metropolitan statistical areas	42,449	5,655	517	13.3	0.8	4,737	442	11.2	0.7	*–918	*–2.2
Region											
Northeast	55,159	5,181	327	9.4	0.6	6,431	383	11.7	0.7	*1,250	*2.3
Midwest	67,635	6,530	393	9.7	0.6	5,944	347	8.8	0.5	*–586	*–0.9
South	124,392	14,889	584	12.0	0.5	15,466	628	12.4	0.5	*578	*0.5
West	78,083	7,461	382	9.6	0.5	10,321	402	13.2	0.5	*2,860	*3.7

See footnotes at end of table.

Appendix Table 2.

Number and Percentage of People in Poverty by Different Poverty Measures: 2019—Con.

(Numbers in thousands. Margin of error in thousands or percentage points as appropriate. People as of March of the following year. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see <https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/cps/techdocs/cpsmar20.pdf>)

Characteristic		Official[1]				SPM				Difference	
		Number		Percent		Number		Percent			
	Number[1]	Estimate	Margin of error[2] (±)	Estimate	Margin of error[2] (±)	Estimate	Margin of error[2] (±)	Estimate	Margin of error[2] (±)	Number	Percent
Health Insurance Coverage											
With private insurance	220,848	7,792	372	3.5	0.2	12,202	491	5.5	0.2	*4,409	*2.0
With public, no private insurance	77,591	20,753	563	26.7	0.7	19,600	556	25.3	0.6	*–1,153	*–1.5
Not insured	26,830	5,515	304	20.6	1.1	6,361	322	23.7	1.1	*846	*3.2
Work Experience											
Total, 18 to 64 years	197,475	18,660	514	9.4	0.3	22,072	606	11.2	0.3	*3,412	*1.7
All workers	154,593	7,324	256	4.7	0.2	10,599	368	6.9	0.2	*3,275	*2.1
Worked full-time, year-round	112,600	2,291	146	2.0	0.1	4,487	226	4.0	0.2	*2,196	*2.0
Less than full-time, year-round	41,993	5,033	208	12.0	0.5	6,112	256	14.6	0.5	*1,079	*2.6
Did not work at least 1 week	42,882	11,337	374	26.4	0.8	11,473	390	26.8	0.8	136	0.3
Disability Status[5]											
Total, 18 to 64 years	197,475	18,660	514	9.4	0.3	22,072	606	11.2	0.3	*3,412	*1.7
With a disability	14,439	3,252	166	22.5	1.1	3,107	168	21.5	1.2	*–145	*–1.0
With no disability	182,062	15,347	465	8.4	0.3	18,899	556	10.4	0.3	*3,552	*2.0

* An asterisk preceding an estimate indicates change is statistically different from zero at the 90 percent confidence level.

[1] Includes unrelated individuals under the age of 15.

[2] The margin of error (MOE) is a measure of an estimate's variability. The larger the MOE in relation to the size of the estimate, the less reliable the estimate. This number, when added to and subtracted from the estimate, forms the 90 percent confidence interval. The MOEs shown in this table are based on standard errors calculated using replicate weights.

[3] Federal surveys give respondents the option of reporting more than one race. Therefore, two basic ways of defining a race group are possible. A group, such as Asian, may be defined as those who reported Asian and no other race (the race-alone or single-race concept) or as those who reported Asian regardless of whether they also reported another race (the race-alone-or-in-combination concept). This table shows data using the first approach (race alone). The use of the single-race population does not imply that it is the preferred method of presenting or analyzing data. The Census Bureau uses a variety of approaches. Data for American Indians and Alaska Natives, Native Hawaiians and Other Pacific Islanders, and those reporting two or more races are not shown separately.

[4] For the definition of metropolitan statistical areas and principal cities, see <www.census.gov/programs-surveys/metro-micro/about/glossary.html>.

[5] The sum of those with and without a disability does not equal the total because disability status is not defined for individuals in the U.S. armed forces.

Note: Details may not sum to totals due to rounding.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 2020 Annual Social and Economic Supplement (CPS ASEC).

Appendix Table 3.

Two-Adult, Two-Child Poverty Thresholds: 2018 and 2019

(In nominal dollars)

Measure	2018	Standard error	2019	Standard error
Official Poverty Measure				
Official poverty measure	25,465	N	25,926	N
Research Supplemental Poverty Measure				
Owners with mortgages	28,342	329	29,234	322
Owners without mortgages	24,173	424	24,980	574
Renters	28,166	253	28,881	300

N Not available.

Source: The thresholds, shares, and means were produced by Juan D. Munoz under the guidance of Thesia I. Garner. Munoz and Garner work in the Division of Price and Index Number Research, Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). These thresholds and statistics are produced for research purposes only using the U.S. Consumer Expenditure Interview Survey. The thresholds are not BLS production quality. For methodological details and related research regarding the SPM thresholds, see <https://stats.bls.gov/pir/spmhome.htm>.

Appendix Table 4.

Percentage of People by Ratio of Income/Resources to Poverty Threshold: 2018 and 2019—Con.

(Margin of error in percentage points. People as of March of the following year. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see <https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/cps/techdocs/cpsmar20.pdf>)

Characteristic	Less than 0.50	Margin of error[1] (±)	0.50 to 0.99	Margin of error[1] (±)	1.00 to 1.49	Margin of error[1] (±)	1.50 to 1.99	Margin of error[1] (±)	2.00 to 3.99	Margin of error[1] (±)	4.00 or more	Margin of error[1] (±)
2019												
OFFICIAL[2]												
All people	**4.7**	**0.2**	**5.7**	**0.2**	**7.7**	**0.2**	**8.2**	**0.2**	**28.4**	**0.4**	**45.3**	**0.5**
Age												
Under 18 years	6.2	0.4	8.2	0.4	10.3	0.5	9.8	0.4	29.0	0.6	36.6	0.7
18 to 64 years	4.5	0.2	5.0	0.2	6.4	0.2	7.4	0.2	27.8	0.4	49.0	0.5
65 years and older	3.7	0.3	5.2	0.3	8.8	0.4	9.1	0.4	29.6	0.7	43.6	0.8
Race[3] and Hispanic Origin												
White	4.1	0.2	5.0	0.2	7.1	0.2	7.8	0.2	28.3	0.5	47.7	0.5
White, not Hispanic	3.5	0.2	3.8	0.2	5.7	0.2	6.7	0.2	27.0	0.5	53.4	0.6
Black	8.2	0.6	10.6	0.7	10.8	0.7	10.5	0.8	30.4	1.2	29.5	1.1
Asian	4.1	0.6	3.2	0.6	6.0	0.8	6.3	0.9	23.7	1.5	56.7	1.6
Hispanic (any race)	6.4	0.5	9.4	0.6	12.3	0.7	12.2	0.6	32.6	1.0	27.0	0.9
SPM												
All people	**3.9**	**0.2**	**7.8**	**0.2**	**14.0**	**0.3**	**12.9**	**0.3**	**36.6**	**0.4**	**24.7**	**0.4**
Age												
Under 18 years	3.4	0.3	9.1	0.5	17.9	0.6	15.4	0.5	36.4	0.7	17.9	0.5
18 to 64 years	3.9	0.2	7.2	0.3	12.6	0.3	12.4	0.3	37.4	0.4	26.4	0.5
65 years and older	4.7	0.3	8.1	0.4	14.1	0.5	11.6	0.5	33.7	0.7	27.9	0.8
Race[3] and Hispanic Origin												
White	3.5	0.2	7.0	0.2	12.6	0.3	12.5	0.3	37.4	0.5	27.0	0.5
White, not Hispanic	3.2	0.2	5.0	0.2	9.9	0.3	11.2	0.3	39.1	0.5	31.6	0.6
Black	5.9	0.6	12.4	0.8	21.4	1.1	15.1	0.9	32.8	1.2	12.4	0.7
Asian	4.6	0.6	7.1	0.9	13.5	1.2	11.1	1.1	35.2	1.5	28.6	1.4
Hispanic (any race)	4.9	0.4	14.0	0.7	23.0	0.9	16.9	0.8	30.9	1.0	10.3	0.6
2018												
OFFICIAL[2]												
All people	**5.3**	**0.2**	**6.4**	**0.2**	**8.3**	**0.2**	**8.8**	**0.2**	**29.2**	**0.3**	**41.9**	**0.4**
Age												
Under 18 years	6.9	0.4	9.3	0.4	11.1	0.5	10.4	0.4	29.6	0.6	32.8	0.6
18 to 64 years	5.1	0.2	5.6	0.2	7.0	0.2	7.9	0.2	28.7	0.4	45.8	0.5
65 years and older	4.0	0.3	5.8	0.3	9.4	0.4	10.2	0.5	30.3	0.7	40.4	0.7
Race[3] and Hispanic Origin												
White	4.5	0.2	5.6	0.2	7.7	0.2	8.6	0.3	29.2	0.4	44.5	0.4
White, not Hispanic	3.9	0.2	4.2	0.2	6.0	0.2	7.3	0.2	28.4	0.4	50.2	0.5
Black	9.4	0.6	11.4	0.7	11.9	0.8	10.8	0.7	30.4	1.0	26.2	1.0
Asian	5.3	0.6	4.9	0.7	6.0	0.8	6.9	0.8	24.9	1.6	52.1	1.6
Hispanic (any race)	6.9	0.5	10.6	0.5	14.0	0.6	12.9	0.6	32.0	0.8	23.6	0.7

See footnotes at end of table.

Appendix Table 4.

Percentage of People by Ratio of Income/Resources to Poverty Threshold: 2018 and 2019—Con.

(Margin of error in percentage points. People as of March of the following year. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see <https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/cps/techdocs/cpsmar20.pdf>)

Characteristic	Less than 0.50	Margin of error[1] (±)	0.50 to 0.99	Margin of error[1] (±)	1.00 to 1.49	Margin of error[1] (±)	1.50 to 1.99	Margin of error[1] (±)	2.00 to 3.99	Margin of error[1] (±)	4.00 or more	Margin of error[1] (±)
SPM												
All people	**4.2**	**0.1**	**8.6**	**0.2**	**15.0**	**0.3**	**13.6**	**0.3**	**36.2**	**0.4**	**22.4**	**0.3**
Age												
Under 18 years	3.3	0.2	10.4	0.5	19.0	0.6	16.3	0.5	35.6	0.6	15.4	0.4
18 to 64 years	4.2	0.2	8.0	0.2	13.3	0.3	13.0	0.3	37.2	0.4	24.2	0.4
65 years and older	5.0	0.3	8.6	0.4	15.3	0.4	12.1	0.4	33.5	0.7	25.4	0.6
Race[3] and Hispanic Origin												
White	3.7	0.2	7.5	0.2	13.7	0.3	13.1	0.3	37.3	0.4	24.7	0.4
White, not Hispanic	3.4	0.2	5.3	0.2	10.7	0.3	11.8	0.3	39.8	0.5	29.0	0.5
Black	5.9	0.5	14.5	0.9	21.5	1.0	16.4	0.8	30.9	1.0	10.7	0.6
Asian	5.4	0.6	8.5	1.0	13.4	1.0	13.4	1.2	34.3	1.4	25.0	1.2
Hispanic (any race)	4.8	0.4	15.6	0.6	24.8	0.9	18.0	0.8	28.1	0.9	8.8	0.4

[1] The margin of error (MOE) is a measure of an estimate's variability. The larger the MOE in relation to the size of the estimate, the less reliable the estimate. This number, when added to and subtracted from the estimate, forms the 90 percent confidence interval. The MOEs shown in this table are based on standard errors calculated using replicate weights.

[2] Includes unrelated individuals under the age of 15.

[3] Federal surveys give respondents the option of reporting more than one race. Therefore, two basic ways of defining a race group are possible. A group, such as Asian, may be defined as those who reported Asian and no other race (the race-alone or single-race concept) or as those who reported Asian regardless of whether they also reported another race (the race-alone-or-in-combination concept). This table shows data using the first approach (race alone). The use of the single-race population does not imply that it is the preferred method of presenting or analyzing data. The Census Bureau uses a variety of approaches. Data for American Indians and Alaska Natives, Native Hawaiians and Other Pacific Islanders, and those reporting two or more races are not shown separately.

Note: Details may not sum to totals due to rounding.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 2019 and 2020 Annual Social and Economic Supplements (CPS ASEC).

Appendix Table 5.

Number and Percentage of People in Poverty by State Using 3-Year Average Over: 2017, 2018, and 2019—Con.

(Numbers in thousands. Margin of error in thousands or percentage points as appropriate. People as of March of the following year. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see <https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/cps/techdocs/cpsmar20.pdf>)

State	Official[1]				SPM				Difference	
	Number		Percent		Number		Percent			
	Estimate	Margin of error[2] (±)	Estimate	Margin of error[2] (±)	Estimate	Margin of error[2] (±)	Estimate	Margin of error[2] (±)	Number	Percent
United States	**37,316**	**497**	**11.5**	**0.2**	**40,553**	**562**	**12.5**	**0.2**	***3,237**	***1.0**
Alabama	715	79	14.7	1.7	635	70	13.1	1.4	*–80	*–1.6
Alaska	84	7	11.8	1.0	88	8	12.3	1.1	3	0.5
Arizona	870	122	12.1	1.7	860	113	12.0	1.6	–10	–0.1
Arkansas	437	36	15.0	1.3	366	31	12.5	1.1	*–72	*–2.4
California	4,482	182	11.4	0.5	6,745	225	17.2	0.6	*2,263	*5.8
Colorado	516	63	9.1	1.1	639	76	11.3	1.4	*124	*2.2
Connecticut	338	42	9.7	1.2	392	46	11.2	1.3	*53	*1.5
Delaware	74	10	7.6	1.0	102	11	10.5	1.2	*28	*2.9
District of Columbia	96	7	13.7	1.1	116	9	16.7	1.3	*21	*3.0
Florida	2,725	203	12.9	0.9	3,265	204	15.4	1.0	*541	*2.6
Georgia	1,383	112	13.3	1.1	1,378	115	13.3	1.1	–5	Z
Hawaii	131	16	9.4	1.2	187	19	13.4	1.4	*56	*4.0
Idaho	177	18	10.0	1.0	148	18	8.4	1.0	*–29	*–1.6
Illinois	1,302	124	10.4	1.0	1,440	124	11.4	1.0	*137	*1.1
Indiana	738	74	11.2	1.1	683	64	10.3	1.0	*–55	*–0.8
Iowa	269	39	8.7	1.3	209	37	6.7	1.2	*–60	*–1.9
Kansas	297	34	10.4	1.2	211	25	7.4	0.9	*–86	*–3.0
Kentucky	629	79	14.2	1.8	493	56	11.2	1.3	*–136	*–3.1
Louisiana	869	53	19.1	1.2	736	55	16.2	1.2	*–132	*–2.9
Maine	152	22	11.4	1.7	127	20	9.6	1.5	*–25	*–1.9
Maryland	458	59	7.6	1.0	725	72	12.0	1.2	*267	*4.4
Massachusetts	629	66	9.2	1.0	767	71	11.2	1.0	*137	*2.0
Michigan	1,059	82	10.7	0.8	967	86	9.7	0.9	*–92	*–0.9
Minnesota	419	54	7.4	1.0	368	68	6.5	1.2	*–51	*–0.9
Mississippi	559	43	19.1	1.5	446	32	15.2	1.1	*–113	*–3.9
Missouri	667	103	11.1	1.7	555	71	9.2	1.2	*–112	*–1.9
Montana	106	11	10.1	1.1	93	8	8.9	0.8	*–12	*–1.2
Nebraska	193	26	10.2	1.3	173	27	9.2	1.4	–20	–1.1
Nevada	369	35	12.1	1.1	407	38	13.4	1.2	*38	*1.3
New Hampshire	76	11	5.6	0.8	112	15	8.3	1.1	*36	*2.7
New Jersey	724	80	8.2	0.9	1,110	93	12.5	1.0	*385	*4.4
New Mexico	353	32	17.2	1.6	280	23	13.6	1.1	*–73	*–3.5
New York	2,348	125	12.1	0.7	2,797	154	14.4	0.8	*450	*2.3
North Carolina	1,418	106	13.6	1.0	1,360	108	13.1	1.0	–59	–0.6
North Dakota	75	9	10.1	1.3	70	8	9.3	1.1	*–6	*–0.8
Ohio	1,423	126	12.4	1.1	1,159	107	10.1	0.9	*–264	*–2.3
Oklahoma	478	54	12.4	1.4	414	51	10.7	1.3	*–65	*–1.7
Oregon	412	55	9.8	1.3	459	45	11.0	1.1	*47	*1.1
Pennsylvania	1,321	103	10.5	0.8	1,367	113	10.9	0.9	46	0.4
Rhode Island	102	16	9.8	1.5	77	13	7.3	1.3	*–26	*–2.4
South Carolina	727	50	14.4	1.0	661	59	13.1	1.2	*–66	*–1.3
South Dakota	91	12	10.6	1.4	80	9	9.2	1.0	*–12	*–1.4
Tennessee	813	96	12.1	1.4	736	71	11.0	1.1	*–77	*–1.2
Texas	3,601	187	12.7	0.7	3,888	214	13.7	0.7	*287	*1.0
Utah	243	51	7.6	1.6	255	50	8.0	1.6	12	0.4

See footnotes at end of table.

Appendix Table 5.

Number and Percentage of People in Poverty by State Using 3-Year Average Over: 2017, 2018, and 2019—Con.

(Numbers in thousands. Margin of error in thousands or percentage points as appropriate. People as of March of the following year. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see <https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/cps/techdocs/cpsmar20.pdf>)

State	Official[1]				SPM				Difference	
	Number		Percent		Number		Percent			
	Estimate	Margin of error[2] (±)	Estimate	Margin of error[2] (±)	Estimate	Margin of error[2] (±)	Estimate	Margin of error[2] (±)	Number	Percent
Vermont	55	7	9.0	1.1	58	7	9.4	1.1	2	0.4
Virginia	809	87	9.7	1.1	955	89	11.5	1.1	*146	*1.8
Washington	661	105	8.8	1.3	675	97	9.0	1.2	14	0.2
West Virginia	277	26	15.6	1.4	235	19	13.3	1.0	*–42	*–2.4
Wisconsin	506	53	8.7	0.9	433	60	7.5	1.0	*–73	*–1.3
Wyoming	59	9	10.5	1.6	54	8	9.5	1.4	*–6	*–1.0

* An asterisk preceding an estimate indicates change is statistically different from zero at the 90 percent confidence level.

Z Rounds to zero.

[1] Includes unrelated individuals under the age of 15.

[2] The margin of error (MOE) is a measure of an estimate's variability. The larger the MOE in relation to the size of the estimate, the less reliable the estimate. This number, when added to and subtracted from the estimate, forms the 90 percent confidence interval. The MOEs shown in this table are based on standard errors calculated using replicate weights.

Note: Details may not sum to totals due to rounding. The data for 2017 reflect the implementation of an updated processing system.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 2018 to 2020 Annual Social and Economic Supplements (CPS ASEC).

Appendix Table 6.

Effect of Individual Elements on Supplemental Poverty Measure Rates: 2018 and 2019

(Margin of error in percentage points. People as of March of the following year. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see <https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/cps/techdocs/cpsmar20.pdf>)

Element	All people		Under 18 years		18 to 64 years		65 years and older	
	Estimate	Margin of error[1] (±)	Estimate	Margin of error[1] (±)	Estimate	Margin of error[1] (±)	Estimate	Margin of error[1] (±)
2019								
All people	**11.73**	**0.27**	**12.47**	**0.49**	**11.18**	**0.31**	**12.76**	**0.47**
ADDITIONS								
Social Security	−8.13	0.20	−1.96	0.21	−3.79	0.18	−32.10	0.77
Refundable tax credits	−2.31	0.14	−5.49	0.37	−1.70	0.11	−0.21	0.06
SNAP[2]	−0.77	0.08	−1.36	0.20	−0.62	0.08	−0.51	0.09
SSI[2]	−0.88	0.07	−0.73	0.13	−0.93	0.08	−0.93	0.13
Housing subsidies	−0.81	0.07	−1.04	0.16	−0.63	0.06	−1.16	0.15
Child support received	−0.20	0.04	−0.50	0.10	−0.14	0.03	−0.02	0.02
School lunch	−0.36	0.06	−0.90	0.16	−0.24	0.04	−0.04	0.03
TANF/general assistance[2]	−0.09	0.03	−0.22	0.08	−0.06	0.02	−0.02	0.02
Unemployment insurance	−0.15	0.04	−0.18	0.05	−0.15	0.04	−0.07	0.04
LIHEAP[2]	−0.05	0.02	−0.04	0.03	−0.05	0.02	−0.08	0.03
Workers' compensation	−0.04	0.02	−0.02	0.02	−0.05	0.02	−0.04	0.03
WIC[2]	−0.07	0.03	−0.17	0.08	−0.05	0.02	0.00	0.00
SUBTRACTIONS								
Child support paid	0.08	0.03	0.11	0.07	0.08	0.03	0.02	0.02
Federal income tax	0.34	0.05	0.20	0.06	0.44	0.06	0.15	0.05
FICA[2]	1.25	0.10	1.75	0.20	1.33	0.11	0.30	0.06
Work expenses	1.53	0.10	2.08	0.22	1.62	0.12	0.45	0.08
Medical expenses	2.36	0.13	1.94	0.20	2.05	0.13	4.02	0.30
2018								
All people	**12.77**	**0.27**	**13.68**	**0.52**	**12.21**	**0.28**	**13.59**	**0.47**
ADDITIONS								
Social Security	−8.39	0.19	−1.99	0.19	−3.96	0.18	−33.90	0.67
Refundable tax credits	−2.76	0.14	−6.42	0.34	−2.07	0.11	−0.22	0.06
SNAP[2]	−0.99	0.09	−1.87	0.22	−0.77	0.07	−0.60	0.09
SSI[2]	−0.90	0.07	−0.67	0.12	−0.96	0.08	−1.00	0.14
Housing subsidies	−0.93	0.07	−1.27	0.16	−0.71	0.06	−1.26	0.15
Child support received	−0.24	0.04	−0.58	0.11	−0.17	0.03	−0.03	0.02
School lunch	−0.45	0.06	−1.08	0.16	−0.31	0.05	−0.04	0.02
TANF/general assistance[2]	−0.14	0.03	−0.29	0.08	−0.10	0.03	−0.04	0.02
Unemployment insurance	−0.12	0.03	−0.14	0.05	−0.13	0.03	−0.07	0.04
LIHEAP[2]	−0.08	0.02	−0.10	0.04	−0.07	0.02	−0.05	0.02
Workers' compensation	−0.04	0.02	−0.04	0.02	−0.04	0.02	−0.03	0.02
WIC[2]	−0.09	0.03	−0.23	0.06	−0.07	0.02	Z	Z
SUBTRACTIONS								
Child support paid	0.08	0.02	0.07	0.03	0.10	0.02	0.02	0.02
Federal income tax	0.36	0.05	0.25	0.07	0.44	0.06	0.20	0.06
FICA[2]	1.48	0.11	2.08	0.22	1.56	0.11	0.38	0.07
Work expenses	1.75	0.12	2.51	0.25	1.82	0.12	0.46	0.08
Medical expenses	2.46	0.13	2.26	0.21	2.12	0.13	4.05	0.30

Z Rounds to zero.

[1] The margin of error (MOE) is a measure of an estimate's variability. The larger the MOE in relation to the size of the estimate, the less reliable the estimate. This number, when added to and subtracted from the estimate, forms the 90 percent confidence interval. The MOEs shown in this table are based on standard errors calculated using replicate weights.

[2] SNAP: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program; SSI: Supplemental Security Income; TANF: Temporary Assistance for Needy Families; LIHEAP: Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program; WIC: Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children; FICA: Federal Insurance Contributions Act.

Note: Details may not sum to totals due to rounding.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 2019 and 2020 Annual Social and Economic Supplements (CPS ASEC).

Appendix Table 7.

Effect of Individual Elements on the Number of Individuals in Poverty: 2018 and 2019

(Numbers and margin of error in thousands. People as of March of the following year. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see <https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/cps/techdocs/cpsmar20.pdf>)

Element	All people		Under 18 years		18 to 64 years		65 years and older	
	Number	Margin of error[1] (±)	Number	Margin of error[1] (±)	Number	Margin of error[1] (±)	Number	Margin of error[1] (±)
2019								
All people	38,163	895	9,119	354	22,072	606	6,972	258
ADDITIONS								
Social Security	−26,455	645	−1,436	153	−7,479	352	−17,539	427
Refundable tax credits	−7,498	461	−4,015	267	−3,366	219	−116	32
SNAP[2]	−2,496	269	−994	143	−1,224	153	−278	50
SSI[2]	−2,875	240	−536	94	−1,829	165	−511	72
Housing subsidies	−2,647	216	−763	118	−1,252	122	−632	81
Child support received	−656	130	−365	75	−278	60	−13	9
School lunch	−1,163	184	−661	114	−480	79	−22	18
TANF/general assistance[2]	−293	92	−160	57	−124	40	−9	9
Unemployment insurance	−472	114	−133	40	−299	77	−41	22
LIHEAP[2]	−167	56	−30	19	−93	38	−45	18
Workers' compensation	−133	52	−18	13	−93	37	−23	19
WIC[2]	−229	99	−127	57	−102	48	0	0
SUBTRACTIONS								
Child support paid	259	97	79	50	167	52	13	10
Federal income tax	1,103	150	149	46	873	120	81	28
FICA[2]	4,064	313	1,284	147	2,617	213	164	34
Work expenses	4,973	341	1,521	158	3,208	229	244	46
Medical expenses	7,664	420	1,416	148	4,049	253	2,199	166
2018								
All people	41,420	861	10,096	381	24,151	564	7,174	250
ADDITIONS								
Social Security	−27,205	614	−1,471	141	−7,837	350	−17,897	361
Refundable tax credits	−8,950	448	−4,735	250	−4,098	224	−117	34
SNAP[2]	−3,210	298	−1,381	164	−1,514	145	−315	48
SSI[2]	−2,923	233	−497	86	−1,900	155	−526	75
Housing subsidies	−3,013	239	−936	120	−1,412	127	−665	80
Child support received	−789	138	−429	79	−344	67	−16	11
School lunch	−1,445	206	−800	118	−622	98	−22	11
TANF/general assistance[2]	−444	111	−216	60	−207	62	−21	11
Unemployment insurance	−399	90	−103	33	−259	61	−38	20
LIHEAP[2]	−247	61	−72	27	−147	39	−28	12
Workers' compensation	−124	49	−27	16	−79	32	−18	12
WIC[2]	−302	89	−169	48	−132	44	−2	2
SUBTRACTIONS								
Child support paid	260	67	51	21	196	47	12	12
Federal income tax	1,163	172	182	52	876	121	105	34
FICA[2]	4,813	344	1,537	165	3,077	210	200	38
Work expenses	5,686	375	1,849	186	3,591	229	245	44
Medical expenses	7,990	409	1,665	152	4,189	257	2,136	159

[1] The margin of error (MOE) is a measure of an estimate's variability. The larger the MOE in relation to the size of the estimate, the less reliable the estimate. This number, when added to and subtracted from the estimate, forms the 90 percent confidence interval. The MOEs shown in this table are based on standard errors calculated using replicate weights.

[2] SNAP: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program; SSI: Supplemental Security Income; TANF: Temporary Assistance for Needy Families; LIHEAP: Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program; WIC: Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children; FICA: Federal Insurance Contributions Act.

Note: Details may not sum to totals due to rounding.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 2019 and 2020 Annual Social and Economic Supplements (CPS ASEC).