The Supplemental Poverty Measure: 2020

Current Population Reports

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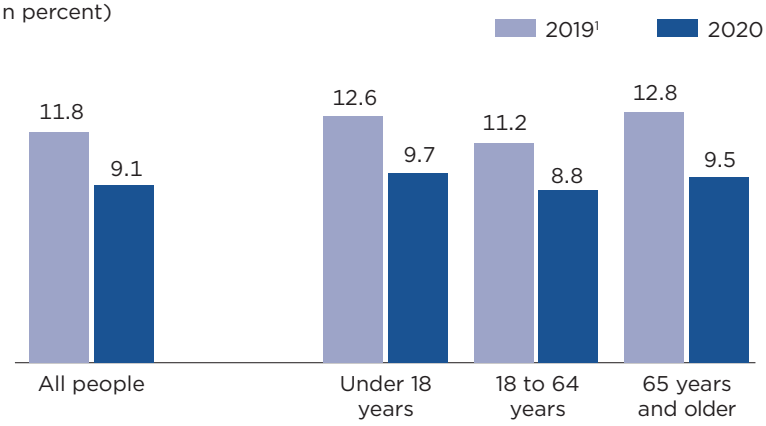
INTRODUCTION

Since the publication of the first official U.S. poverty estimates in the 1960s, 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 U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), and this report is the eleventh 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 2021 and earlier Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplements (CPS ASEC).

HIGHLIGHTS

- In 2020, the overall SPM rate was 9.1 percent. This was 2.6 percentage points lower than the 2019 SPM rate of 11.8 (Figure 1).[1, 2]
- 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 2019 and 2020 (Figures 1 and 2).
- The SPM rate for 2020 was 2.3 percentage points lower than the official poverty rate of 11.4 percent (Figure 3). This is the first time in the history of the SPM that poverty was lower using the SPM than the official poverty rate.

Figure 1.
Supplemental Poverty Measure Rates for Total Population and by Age Group: 2019 and 2020
(In percent)



[1] The data for 2019 reflect the implementation of revised Supplemental Poverty Measure methodology. More information is available in the report appendix.
Note: Information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions is available at <https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/cps/techdocs/cpsmar21.pdf>.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 2020 and 2021 Annual Social and Economic Supplements (CPS ASEC).

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

[2] SPM rate reflects methodological changes from published results in Fox (2020). More information is contained in the appendix of this report.

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- The 2020 SPM rate of 9.1 percent was the lowest rate since estimates were initially published for 2009 (Figure 4).
- There were 11 states plus the District of Columbia for which SPM rates were higher than official poverty rates, 30 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 antipoverty program, moving 26.5 million individuals out of poverty.
- Stimulus payments, enacted as part of economic relief legislation related to the COVID-19 pandemic, moved 11.7 million individuals out of poverty. Unemployment insurance benefits, also expanded during 2020, prevented 5.5 million individuals from falling into 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.[3, 4] The first section provides detailed information about changes in SPM rates from 2019 to 2020. 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.

[3] 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/cpsmar21.pdf>.

[4] The Census Bureau reviewed this data product for unauthorized disclosure of confidential information and approved the disclosure avoidance practices applied to this release: CBDRB-FY21-POP001-0206.

DATA

This report provides estimates for calendar year 2020, which coincided with the COVID-19 pandemic, the end of the economic expansion in February 2020, and the 2-month recession that began in March 2020. The data collection period for the 2021 CPS ASEC occurred about 1 year into the COVID-19 pandemic and the associated public health response. For details on the effect of COVID-19 on CPS ASEC data collection in 2021, refer to the text box

THE IMPACT OF THE CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) PANDEMIC ON THE CURRENT POPULATION SURVEY ANNUAL SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC SUPPLEMENT (CPS ASEC)

The U.S. 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. In 2020, data collection faced extraordinary circumstances due to the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic as the Census Bureau suspended in-person interviews and closed both telephone contact centers. The response rate for the CPS basic household survey was 73 percent in March 2020, about 10 percentage points lower than preceding months and the same period in 2019, which were regularly above 80 percent.

During collection of the 2021 CPS ASEC, for the safety of both interviewers and respondents, in-person interviews were only conducted when telephone interviews could not be done. In March 2021, the response rate for the CPS basic household survey improved to about 76 percent, though not quite returning to the prepandemic trend. While the response rate improved, it is important to examine how respondents differ from nonrespondents, as this difference could affect income and poverty estimates. Using administrative data, Census Bureau researchers have documented that the nonrespondents in both 2020 and 2021 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 and 2021 had relatively higher income and were more educated than nonrespondents. For more details on how these sample differences and the associated nonresponse bias impact income and official poverty estimates, refer to <www.census.gov/newsroom/blogs/research-matters/2021/09/pandemic-affect-survey-response.html>.

"The Impact of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic on the Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplement (CPS ASEC)."

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Congress passed legislation to aid individuals and families. This legislation included the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act), the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSA Act), and the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA). The CARES and CRRSA Acts provided households with additional income in the form of stimulus payments and tax credits. FFCRA authorized expansions in Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits. The SPM is a post-tax and transfer poverty measure, so it captures expansion of unemployment insurance (like the official poverty measure), but also includes stimulus payments and expansions to SNAP that are not included in the official poverty definition. As a result, in 2020, for the first time in the history of the SPM, poverty is estimated to have been lower using the SPM than using the official poverty definition.

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. In 2020, several methodological improvements were applied to both the resources and threshold estimation to the SPM. Details of those improvements are available in the report appendix. All 2019 and 2020 estimates in this report reflect implementation of the revised SPM methodology. The "Poverty Measure Concepts: Official and Supplemental" table summarizes the most important differences between the official and supplemental measures.[5]

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 well-being, conditions, and trends.

CHANGES IN SPM RATES BETWEEN 2019 AND 2020

Figure 2 shows SPM rates for 2019 and 2020.[6] In 2020, the percentage of people who were poor as estimated using the SPM was 9.1 percent, compared to 11.8 percent in 2019, a decline of 2.6 percentage points. The poverty rate declined for all groups shown in Figure 2 between 2019 and 2020.

[5] Thresholds for the SPM are produced by the BLS Division of Price and Index Number Research and presented for 2019 and 2020 in Appendix Table 3.

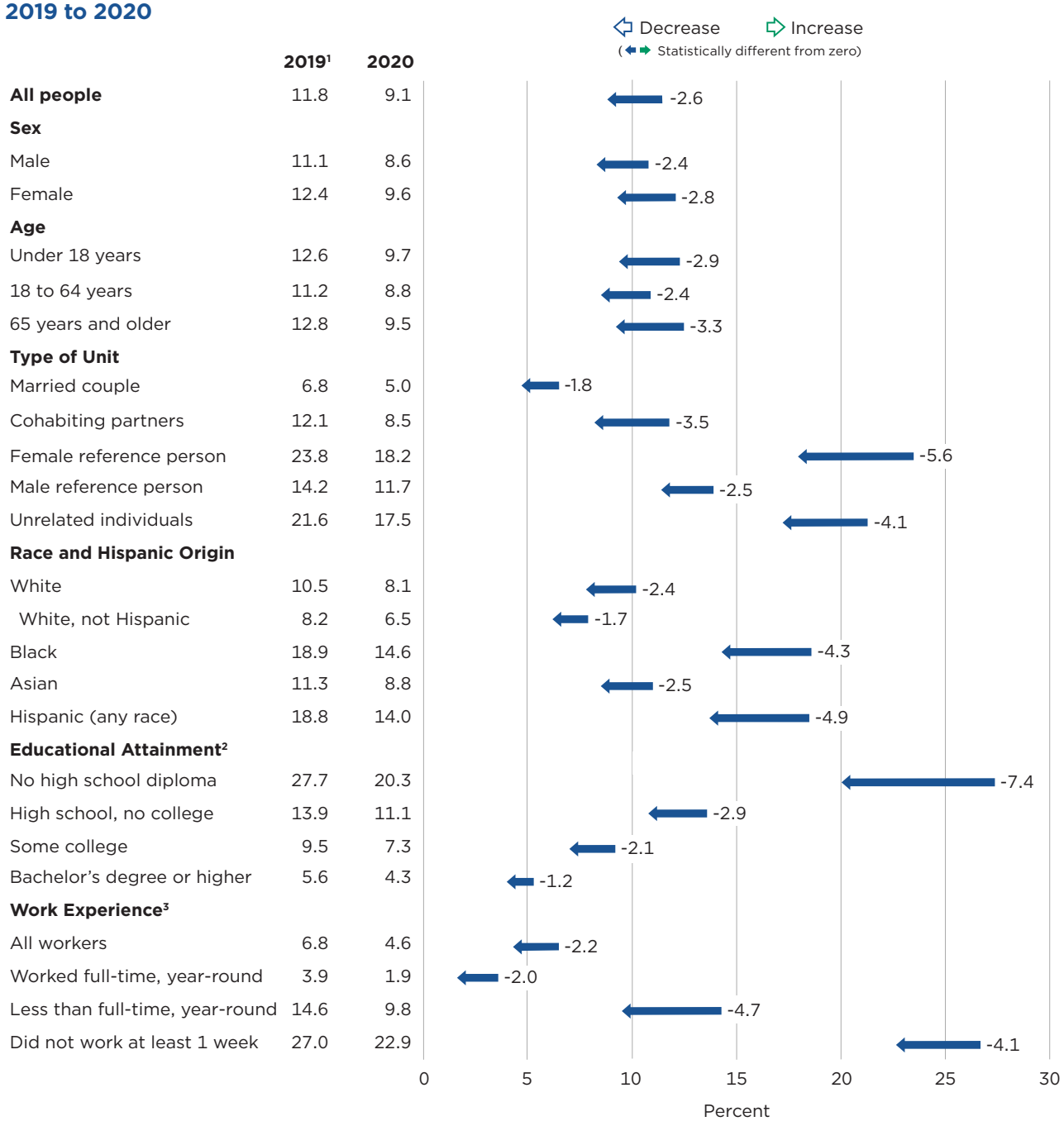
[6] Appendix Table 1 contains rates for a more extensive list of demographic groups.

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.	Five-year moving average of expenditures on FCSU, lagged 1 year.
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.

Figure 2.

Change in Percentage of People in Poverty Using the Supplemental Poverty Measure: 2019 to 2020



	2019[1]	2020	Change
All people	11.8	9.1	-2.6
Sex			
Male	11.1	8.6	-2.4
Female	12.4	9.6	-2.8
Age			
Under 18 years	12.6	9.7	-2.9
18 to 64 years	11.2	8.8	-2.4
65 years and older	12.8	9.5	-3.3
Type of Unit			
Married couple	6.8	5.0	-1.8
Cohabiting partners	12.1	8.5	-3.5
Female reference person	23.8	18.2	-5.6
Male reference person	14.2	11.7	-2.5
Unrelated individuals	21.6	17.5	-4.1
Race and Hispanic Origin			
White	10.5	8.1	-2.4
White, not Hispanic	8.2	6.5	-1.7
Black	18.9	14.6	-4.3
Asian	11.3	8.8	-2.5
Hispanic (any race)	18.8	14.0	-4.9
Educational Attainment[2]			
No high school diploma	27.7	20.3	-7.4
High school, no college	13.9	11.1	-2.9
Some college	9.5	7.3	-2.1
Bachelor's degree or higher	5.6	4.3	-1.2
Work Experience[3]			
All workers	6.8	4.6	-2.2
Worked full-time, year-round	3.9	1.9	-2.0
Less than full-time, year-round	14.6	9.8	-4.7
Did not work at least 1 week	27.0	22.9	-4.1

[1] The data for 2019 reflect the implementation of revised Supplemental Poverty Measure (SPM) methodology. More information is available in the report appendix.
[2] Population limited to individuals aged 25 and older. In 2020, the overall SPM rate for this group was 8.4 percent.
[3] Population limited to individuals aged 18 to 64. In 2020, the overall SPM rate for this group was 8.8 percent.
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. More details are available in Appendix Table 1. More information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions is avaiable at <https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/cps/techdocs/cpsmar21.pdf>.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 2020 and 2021 Annual Social and Economic Supplements (CPS ASEC).

POVERTY ESTIMATES FOR 2020: OFFICIAL AND SPM

Using the SPM definition of poverty, Figure 3 shows that 9.1 percent of people were poor, lower than the 11.4 percent using the official definition of poverty with the comparable universe.[7, 8] While the SPM rates were lower than official poverty rates for most groups, the SPM shows higher than official poverty rates for individuals 65 years and older, individuals living in a male reference unit, those with a bachelor's degree or higher, and people who worked full-time, year-round (Figure 3). Official and SPM poverty rates for Asian individuals were not statistically different.

[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 Shrider, Kollar, Chen, and Semega (2021). However, these individuals are included in the official poverty universe for this report and are assigned the official poverty status of the householder. The appendix contains more details.

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

Census Bureau estimates for the SPM are available back to 2009.[9] Since the SPM's initial production, the SPM rate has been higher than the official poverty rate. This marks the first year that the official poverty rate is higher than the SPM rate. Figures 4 and 5 present estimates for the official measure and the SPM from 2009 to 2020. The charts show two values for 2013, one using the traditional income questions comparable to estimates from 2009 to 2012, and the second using the redesigned income questions used for this report and comparable to the 2014 to 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. Finally, there are two sets for SPM rates for 2019 to reflect the revised SPM methodology.[10]

[9] SPM estimates from 1967 to 2012 are available in Fox et al. (2015).

[10] Research at BLS and the Census Bureau is ongoing to extend the methodological improvements implemented this year to historical estimates. Revised estimates and public-use datasets will be available in the future to allow for historically consistent comparisons.

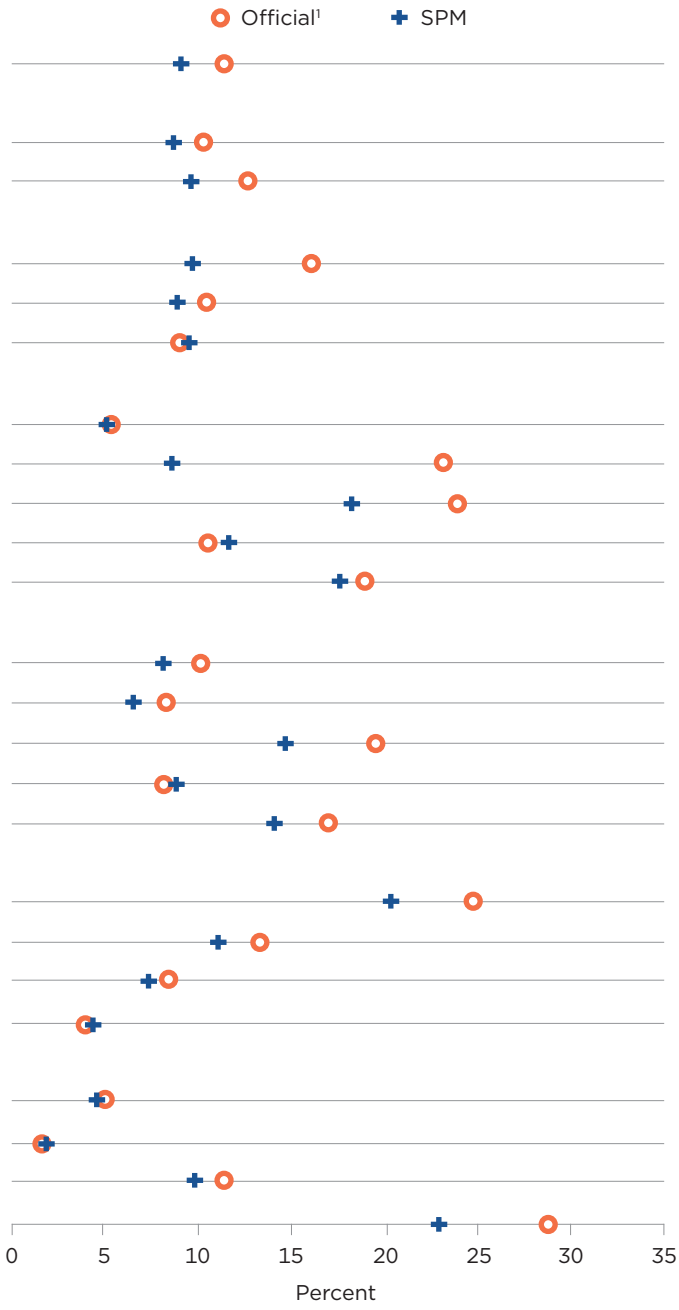
Comparisons over time should be made with caution.[11]

[11] This report provides SPM and official poverty estimates from 2009 to 2020. 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, 2020 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. More details on the adjustment used for these comparisons is available at <www.census.gov/library/stories/2019/09/us-median-household-income-not-significantly-different-from-2017.html>.

Figure 3.

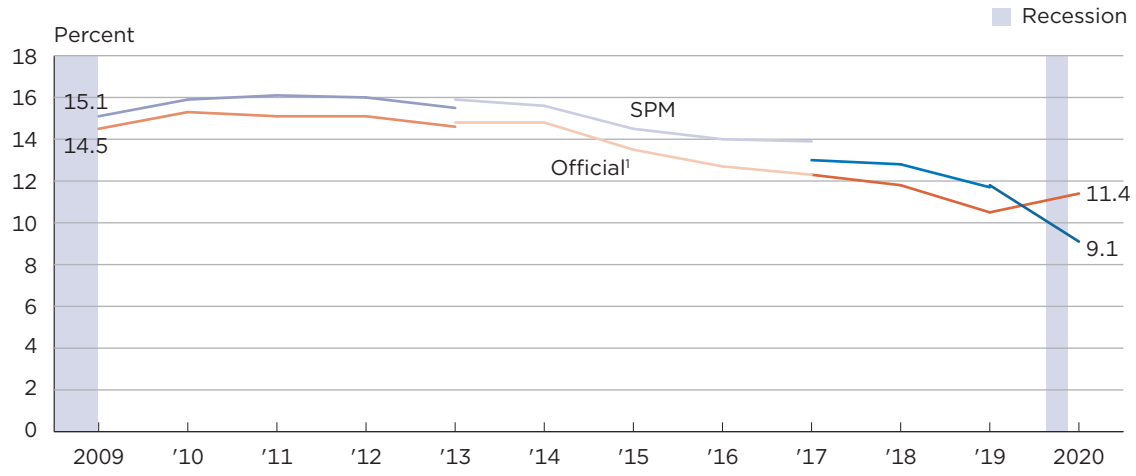
Percentage of People in Poverty by Different Poverty Measures: 2020

	Official[1]	SPM	Difference
All people	11.4	9.1	*-2.3
Sex			
Male	10.2	8.6	*-1.6
Female	12.6	9.6	*-3.0
Age			
Under 18 years	16.0	9.7	*-6.3
18 to 64 years	10.4	8.8	*-1.6
65 years and older	9.0	9.5	*0.5
Type of Unit			
Married couple	5.3	5.0	*-0.2
Cohabiting partners	23.1	8.5	*-14.5
Female reference person	23.9	18.2	*-5.7
Male reference person	10.5	11.7	*1.2
Unrelated individuals	18.9	17.5	*-1.4
Race and Hispanic Origin			
White	10.1	8.1	*-2.0
White, not Hispanic	8.2	6.5	*-1.7
Black	19.5	14.6	*-4.9
Asian	8.1	8.8	0.7
Hispanic (any race)	17.0	14.0	*-3.0
Educational Attainment[2]			
No high school diploma	24.7	20.3	*-4.4
High school, no college	13.2	11.1	*-2.1
Some college	8.4	7.3	*-1.1
Bachelor's degree or higher	4.0	4.3	*0.3
Work Experience[3]			
All workers	5.0	4.6	*-0.4
Worked full-time, year-round	1.6	1.9	*0.3
Less than full-time, year-round	11.3	9.8	*-1.5
Did not work at least 1 week	28.8	22.9	*-5.9



* 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] Population limited to individuals aged 25 and older. In 2020, the overall Supplemental Poverty Measure (SPM) rate for this group was 8.4 percent.
[3] Population limited to individuals aged 18 to 64. In 2020, the overall SPM rate for this group was 8.8 percent.
Notes: Details may not sum to totals due to rounding. More details are available in Appendix Table 2. More information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions is avaiable at <https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/cps/techdocs/cpsmar21.pdf>.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 2021 Annual Social and Economic Supplement (CPS ASEC).

Figure 4.
Poverty Rates Using the Official and Supplemental Poverty Measures: 2009 to 2020



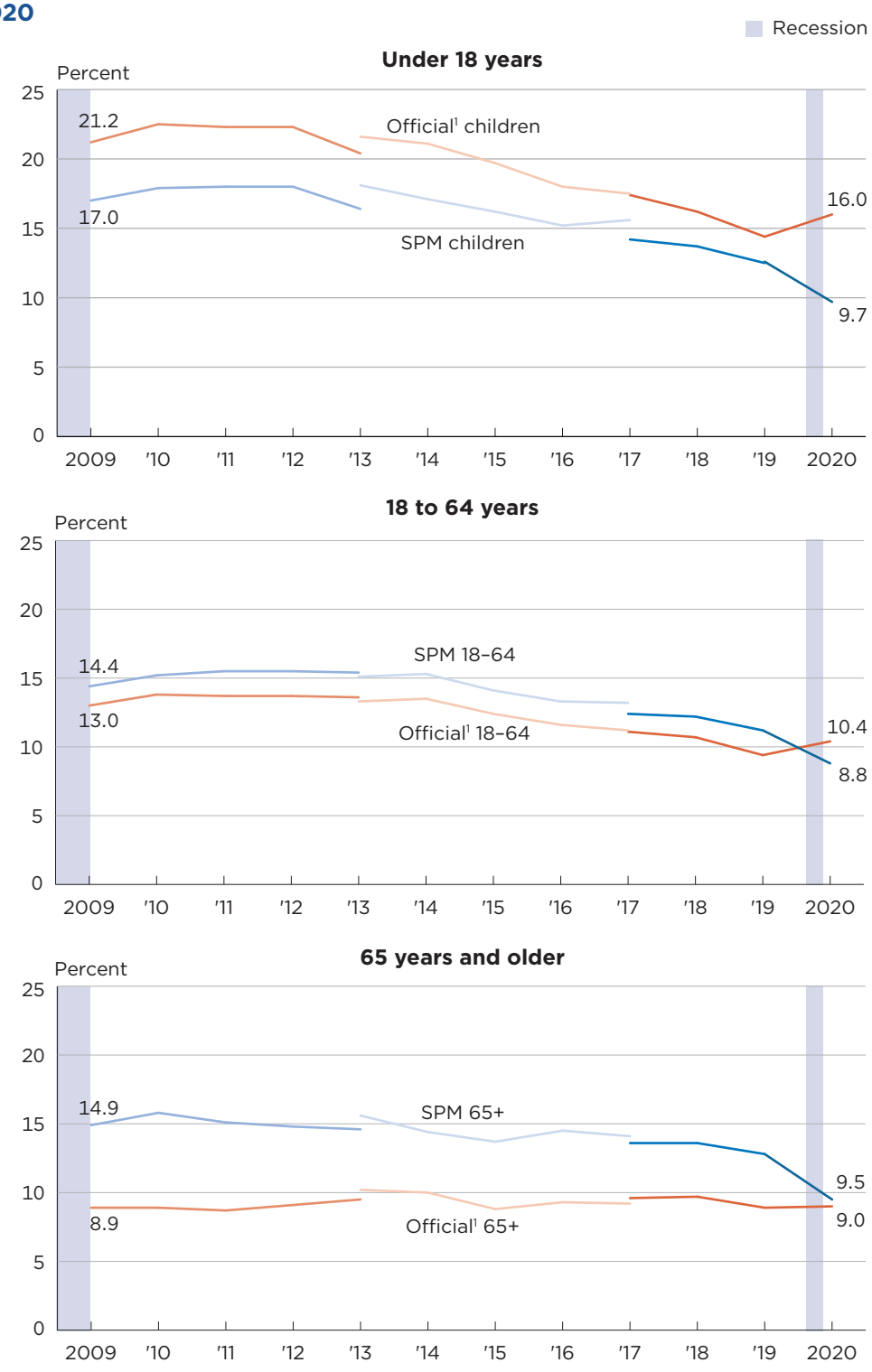
[1] Includes unrelated individuals under the age of 15.
Notes: The Supplemental Poverty Measure (SPM) estimates for 2019 and 2020 reflect the implementation of revised SPM methodology. More information is available in the report appendix. The data for 2017 and beyond reflect the implementation of an updated processing system. The data for 2013 and beyond reflect the implementation of the redesigned income questions. More information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions is available at <https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/cps/techdocs/cpsmar21.pdf>.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 2010 to 2021 Annual Social and Economic Supplements (CPS ASEC).

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 through 2019. In contrast, the 2020 SPM was 2.3 percentage points lower than the official measure. SPM rates in 2020 were at their lowest level since the first year for which the Census Bureau published SPM estimates, even after adjusting for the breaks in series.

Figure 5 shows the poverty rate using both measures for three major age groups. While the SPM rate for children declined between 2019 and 2020, the official poverty rate increased over the same period, widening the gap between the two measures from 1.8 percentage points to 6.3 percentage points. SPM rates for individuals aged 18 to 64 were also lower than official poverty rates in 2020, for the first time in the history of the SPM. The gap between official and SPM rates for individuals 65 and older declined from 3.9 percentage points in 2019 to 0.5 percentage points in 2020. Even after accounting for breaks in series, SPM rates for each major age group in 2020 were at their lowest level since 2009.

Figure 5.

Poverty Rates Using the Official and Supplemental Poverty Measures by Age Group: 2009 to 2020



[1] Includes unrelated individuals under the age of 15.
Notes: The Supplemental Poverty Measaure (SPM) estimates for 2019 and 2020 reflect the implementation of revised SPM methodology. More information is available in the report appendix. 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. More information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions is available at <https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/cps/techdocs/cpsmar21.pdf>.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 2010 to 2021 Annual Social and Economic Supplements (CPS ASEC).

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

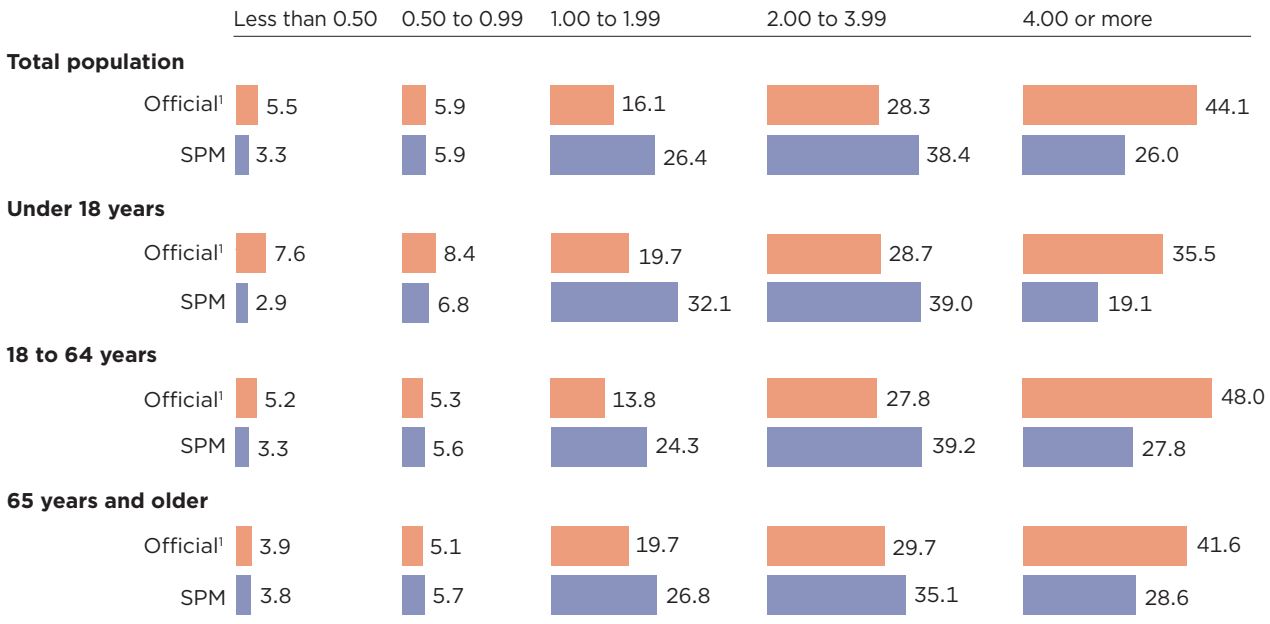
Comparing the distribution of pretax cash income with that of SPM resources also allows an examination of the effect of taxes and noncash transfers across the income/resource distribution. Figure 6 shows the percent distribution of income-to-poverty ratio categories for all people and by major age category. Dividing income by the respective poverty threshold controls income by unit size and composition. Appendix Table 4 shows the distribution of income-to-poverty ratios for various groups in 2019 and 2020.

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 tax credits/stimulus payments, 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. The share of individuals aged 65 and older with income below half their poverty threshold was not statistically different between SPM and the official measure.

Many of the noncash benefits included in the SPM, such as SNAP, Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), and school meals, as well as tax credits and stimulus payments are targeted at families with children or increase in benefit value with children. When these policies and programs are taken into account in the SPM, the share of children with income below 50 percent of their poverty thresholds is lower using the SPM definition of resources (2.9 percent) than with the official measure (7.6 percent).

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, that does not—bringing down the percentage of people with income in the highest category.

Figure 6.
Distribution of People by Income-to-Poverty Ratios: 2020
(In percent)



[1] Includes unrelated individuals under the age of 15.
Notes: Details may not sum to totals due to rounding. More information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions is available at <https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/cps/techdocs/cpsmar21.pdf>.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 2021 Annual Social and Economic Supplement (CPS ASEC).

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.

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. The share of Asians with income below half of their poverty thresholds in the SPM was not statistically different than the share below half 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.[12, 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 2018–2020 was 11.2 percent with the official measure and 11.2 percent using the SPM. The difference in these rates was not statistically significant.

While the 3-year average national SPM rate was not statistically different from the official rate, there was variation 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 gray.

The 11 states for which the SPM rates were higher than the official poverty rates were California, Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Hawaii, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, and Virginia. The SPM rate for the District of Columbia was also higher. Higher SPM rates by state may occur for many reasons. Geographic adjustments for housing costs, as well as 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 30 states for which SPM rates were lower than the official poverty rates were Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, West Virginia, and Wisconsin. 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, Connecticut, Illinois, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Vermont, Washington, and Wyoming. Details are provided in Appendix Table 5.

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

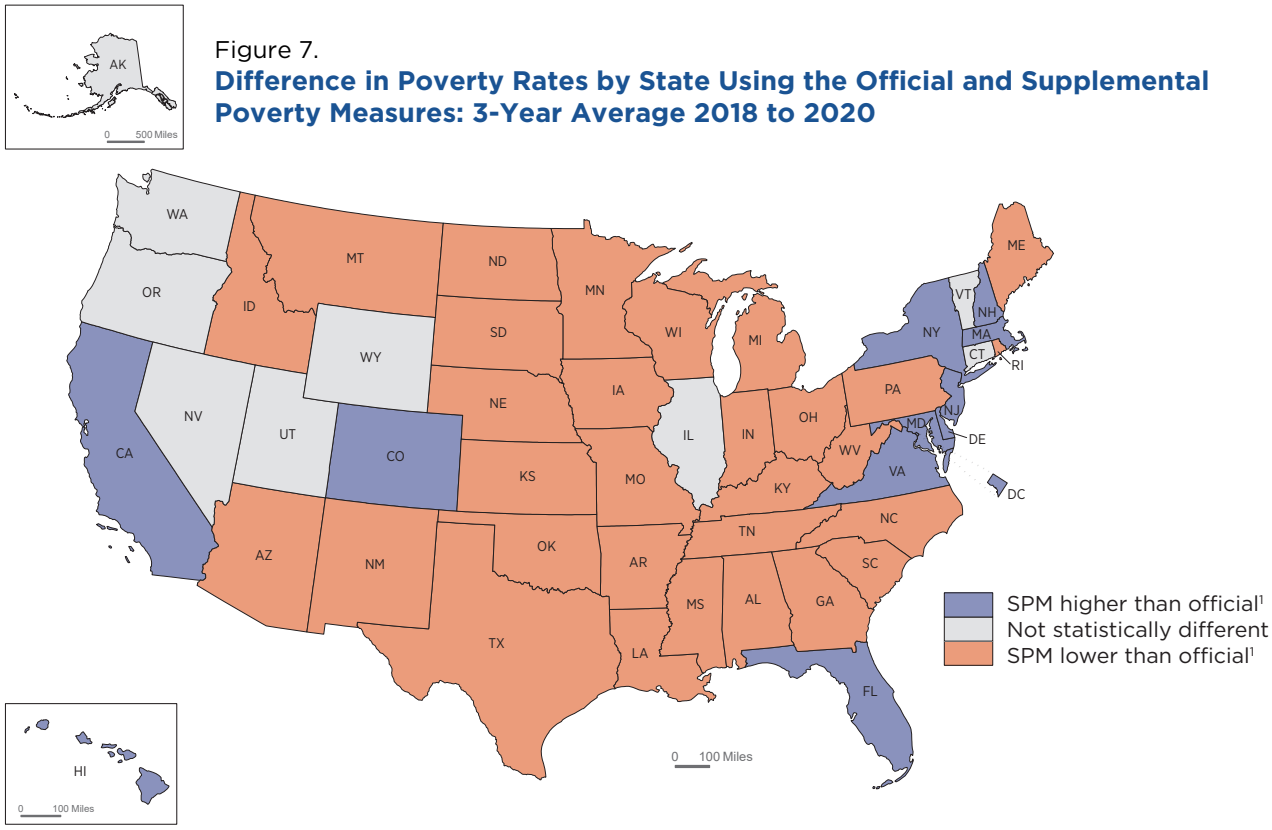
This section moves away from comparing the SPM with the official measure and looks only at the SPM. This analysis allows one to gauge the effects of taxes and transfers and other necessary expenses using the SPM as a measure of economic well-being.

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 into account taxes or noncash benefits aimed at improving the economic situation of the population. The SPM incorporates all of these elements, adding cash benefits, noncash transfers, and stimulus payments, while subtracting necessary expenses such as taxes, medical expenses, and expenses related to work. An important contribution of the SPM is that it allows us to gauge the potential magnitude

[12] 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. More information is available in Fox, Glassman, and Pacas (2020).

[13] The data for 2019 and 2020 reflect the implementation of a revised SPM methodology. The estimates for 2018 reflect the previous methodology.

Figure 7.
Difference in Poverty Rates by State Using the Official and Supplemental Poverty Measures: 3-Year Average 2018 to 2020



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Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 2019 to 2021 Annual Social and Economic Supplements (CPS ASEC).

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 2020, holding all else the same and assuming no behavioral changes. Additions and subtractions are shown for the total population and for 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 stimulus payments had the largest impacts, preventing 26.5 million and 11.7 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 2019 and 2020, 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.

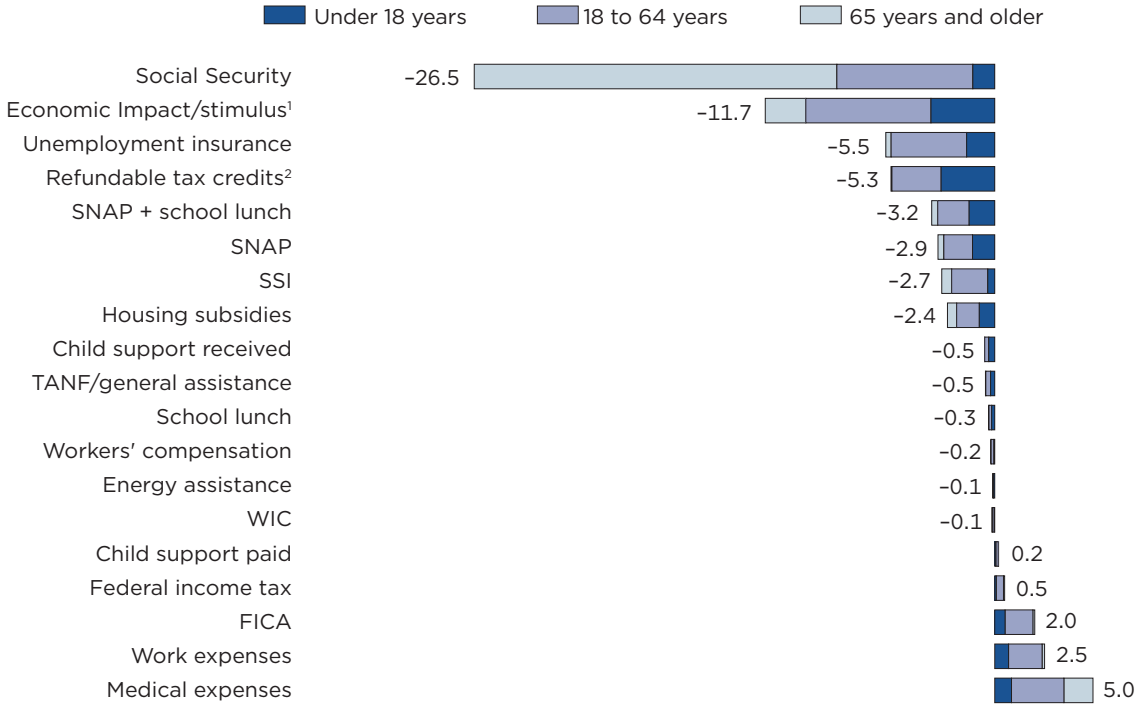
Removing one item from the calculation of SPM resources and recalculating poverty rates shows, for example, that Social Security benefits decreased the SPM rate by 8.1 percentage points, from 17.3 percent to 9.1 percent (Appendix Table 6).[14] This means that with Social Security benefits, 26.5 million fewer people were living below the poverty line (Figure 8 and Appendix Table 7). When including stimulus payments in resources, 11.7 million fewer people were 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 were higher. When subtracting medical expenses from income, the SPM rate was 1.5 percentage points higher. In numbers, 5.0 million more people were classified as poor.

In comparison to 2019, the 2020 antipoverty impacts of refundable tax credits, school lunch, and WIC all decreased (Appendix Table 7).[15] The antipoverty impacts of unemployment insurance and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)/general

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

[15] In 2020, pandemic electronic benefits transfer (P-EBT) benefits were distributed to free and reduced-price school lunch recipients. SNAP recipients had this benefit added directly to their SNAP EBT cards. Due to likely comingled reporting of P-EBT benefits as part of SNAP values, these programs are reported both jointly and separately this year. See report appendix for details.

Figure 8.
Change in Number of People in Poverty After Including Each Element: 2020
(In millions)



[1] Includes the first two rounds of stimulus payments. Additional details available in the report appendix.
[2] Refundable tax credits do not include stimulus payments.
Notes: SNAP: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program; SSI: Supplemental Security Income; TANF: Temporary Assistance for Needy Families; WIC: Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children; FICA: Federal Insurance Contributions Act. More information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions is available at <https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/cps/techdocs/cpsmar21.pdf>.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 2021 Annual Social and Economic Supplement (CPS ASEC).

assistance increased in 2020 compared with 2019. Conversely, federal income taxes, Federal Insurance Contributions Act (FICA), work expenses, and medical expenses pushed fewer individuals into poverty in 2020 than in 2019. In the absence of stimulus payments, which were authorized in 2020 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting economic disruption, the poverty rate in 2020 would have increased from 11.8 percent in 2019 to 12.7 percent in 2020.[16] Instead, poverty declined to 9.1 percent in 2020.

Appendix Tables 6 and 7 also show effects of individual elements for different age groups. In 2020, accounting for stimulus payments resulted in a 4.5 percentage-point decrease in the child poverty rate, representing 3.2 million children prevented from falling into poverty by the inclusion of these payments. 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 1.2 percentage points higher. For the group aged 65 and older, SPM rates increased by 2.7 percentage points with the inclusion of medical expense deductions from income, while Social Security benefits lowered poverty rates by 33.1 percentage points for this group, lifting 18.5 million individuals above the poverty line.

[16] Additional analysis of the effect of stimulus payments on poverty rates is available at <www.census.gov/america-counts/impact-of-stimulus>.

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. In 2020, multiple pieces of legislation (CARES Act and CRRSA Act) were passed in response to the COVID-19 pandemic that provided households with additional income in the form of stimulus payments and expanded unemployment, SNAP, and pandemic electronic benefits transfer (P-EBT) benefits. As a result, in 2020, for the first time in the history of the SPM, poverty is estimated to be lower using the SPM than using the official poverty definition.

The SPM allows us to examine the effect of taxes, noncash transfers, and necessary expenses on the population in and near 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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IN MEMORIAM

In memory of Mark Levitan, a champion of poverty measurement.

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APPENDIX

Data Challenges for 2021

The COVID-19 pandemic created challenges to data collection, as well as changes to safety-net programs included in Supplemental Poverty Measure (SPM) resources. Data collection challenges are discussed in <www.census.gov/newsroom/blogs/research-matters/2021/08/how-did-the-pandemic-affect-survey-response.html>. For calendar year 2020, several pieces of legislation were passed that affected resources available to households. The Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA); Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES); and H.R. 133—Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 all contained legislative changes to ensure households had economic security amid the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. These legislative changes included increased Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits, three rounds of Economic Impact Payment (EIP)/stimulus payments, and expanded unemployment benefits among other provisions. To fully capture these changes in the data, the 2021 Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplement (CPS ASEC) added several new questions related to receipt of stimulus and school lunch benefits.

To estimate a household's stimulus amount, the following question was added: "Since April 1, 2020, have you or anyone in your household received a 'stimulus payment,' that is the coronavirus (COVID-19) related Economic Impact Payment from the Federal Government?" However, due to the timing of EIP payments, the stimulus values reported on the survey could have included one–three rounds of EIP payments. The second round of payments began disbursement on December 28, 2020. As such, some households received one stimulus payment in calendar year 2020, while other households received two payments. Additionally, the third round of stimulus payments were disbursed during 2021 ASEC data collection. The yes/no indicators for receipt of payments were used to estimate recipiency among presumed nonfilers, but the value of EIP payments were estimated in the CPS ASEC Tax Model. The CPS ASEC Tax Model does not assume full take-up of stimulus payment receipt. Instead, it follows logical assignment of potential receipt, assigning stimulus payments to all tax units who were assumed to be filers absent stimulus payments, all tax units who received Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Social Security, or Veterans Affairs (VA) benefits (and for whom stimulus checks were sent out automatically) and all presumed nonfilers in our tax model who reported that they received a stimulus payment. Full details of the methodology for valuing stimulus payments, as well as upper and lower-bound estimates of stimulus payment values and impacts on SPM rates can be found at <www.census.gov/library/working-papers/2021/demo/SEHSD-WP2021-18.html>.

In addition to stimulus payments, school lunch programs and SNAP benefits changed during calendar year 2020. The COVID-19 pandemic resulted in nationwide transitions from in-person to virtual or hybrid schooling, with considerable variation throughout the country. The U.S. Census Bureau's traditional valuation of school lunch benefits, which assumes 179 in-person days (for free, reduced-price, and paid lunches) was not able to capture the value of benefits received by families, especially given the substantial variation in in-person school attendance across states. Additionally, states rolled out pandemic electronic benefits transfer (P-EBT) benefits to individuals who would normally receive free or reduced-price meals. For households receiving SNAP, the value of P-EBT benefits was added directly to their SNAP EBT cards. For households not receiving SNAP, but normally receiving free or reduced-price lunches, P-EBT cards were mailed to their homes or added to another benefit card such as Medicaid.

For 2020, an alternative approach to school lunch valuation was taken that accounts for state-level variation in the average number of in-person school days, as well as the possibility of receiving P-EBT benefits either directly or on their SNAP EBT card. For individuals who reported receiving SNAP benefits, the value of P-EBT is assumed to be collected in their reported SNAP value. For individuals not reporting SNAP but reporting that they normally received free or reduced-price school lunch, a value of P-EBT is added to their school lunch value. Full details of the 2020 school lunch valuation methodology can be found at <www.census.gov/library/working-papers/2021/demo/SEHSD-WP2021-20.html>.

The introduction of P-EBT benefits and distribution through SNAP EBT cards poses a measurement challenge to SNAP benefits values as well. The Food and Nutrition Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has indicated that it is unlikely a household would be able to distinguish increases in SNAP benefits due to benefit expansions authorized by FFCRA from benefit increases due to the inclusion of P-EBT benefits. In this year's report, we show the combined marginal impact of SNAP and school lunches in Figure 8, in addition to the individual impacts, as reporting of benefits across the two programs is likely commingled.

SPM HISTORY

This is the eleventh report describing the SPM that has been released by the 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.[17] 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.[18] 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 is comprised of 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 (HUD), the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), the National Center for Education Statistics, the National Center for Health Statistics, OMB, and the Social Security Administration. As discussed in the next section, in September 2020, the ITWG recommended changes to be implemented in the 2021 SPM report. Additionally in 2020, a new NAS Committee on National Statistics expert panel was convened to further evaluate and improve the SPM. Recommendations from the panel are expected in 2022.

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

[18] Federal Register notice Volume 75, Number 101, page 29513 was issued on May 26, 2010, soliciting public comments regarding specific methods and data sources in developing the SPM.

SPM Changes Implemented in 2021

Since the first publication of SPM estimates in 2011, no major changes have been made to the SPM, but research has been ongoing at the BLS and Census Bureau on potential improvements and validation of prior assumptions. In 2018, the ITWG on improving the SPM announced a process and timeline for considering changes to be made to the SPM. In September 2020, the ITWG convened to review proposals by the Census Bureau and BLS on improvements that could feasibly be implemented by September 2021. Methodological improvements were approved for the estimation of both resources and the thresholds. Below are changes to the SPM methodology that were voted on during the September 30, 2020, SPM ITWG meeting.

1. Resources
   a. Move from a national value to state-varying values for the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC).
2. Threshold
   a. Move the base of thresholds from the average between the 30th–36th percentile to 83 percent of the average of the 47th–53rd percentiles.
   b. Expand the estimation sample from all consumer units with exactly two children to all consumer units with children.
   c. Lag Consumer Expenditure Survey (CE) data used to estimate the thresholds by 1 year.
   d. Add imputed in-kind benefits to the thresholds.
   e. Telephone expenditures are no longer geographically adjusted.[19]
   f. Add home internet expenditures to thresholds.
   g. Use a composite food, clothing, shelter, and utilities (FCSU) consumer price index as opposed to the All Items, All Urban index to adjust components.

These changes have been implemented in all 2019 and 2020 estimates in this report. The combined threshold changes did not change any of the thresholds by a statistically significant amount, but did reduce the portion of the thresholds that are geographically adjusted.[20] The impact of these changes on 2019 SPM rates can be found in Appendix Table 8 in this report and in this working paper <www.census.gov/library/working-papers/2021/demo/SEHSD-WP2021-17.html>.

For more details on the research behind these changes, please refer to <www.census.gov/topics/income-poverty/supplemental-poverty-measure/library/working-papers/topics/potential-changes.html> and <www.bls.gov/pir/spmhome.htm>.

[19] Since the inception of the SPM, telephone expenditures were categorized as utilities and, therefore, included in the housing portion of the thresholds and subject to geographic adjustment. Going forward, telephone expenditures will be taken out of the shelter component and included with home internet as a separate threshold component.

[20] The portion adjusted is restricted to housing; housing is defined to include shelter and utilities. The housing share for the 2019 published thresholds included telephone in utilities, while for the 2019 reestimated thresholds utilities are limited to energy (i.e., electricity, natural gas, and other fuels) and water and related public utilities. In the 2019 reestimated thresholds, telephone joined food and clothing and the introduction of internet as the parts of the thresholds not geographically adjusted. This change has been implemented for future years.

A microdata extract with revised 2019 SPM variables is available at <www.census.gov/topics/income-poverty/supplemental-poverty-measure/data/datasets.html>. Additional extracts extending the adjustments historically will be available soon.

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, utilities, and telecommunications (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 (BLS) Division of Price and Index Number Research (BLS DPINR), using 5 years of quarterly CE interview data for all consumer units with children, lagged 1 year.[21, 22] All individuals who share expenses with others in the household are included in the consumer unit.[23] FCSU expenditures are converted to equivalized values using a three-parameter equivalence scale (refer to the "Equivalence Scales" section for more detail).

[21] For information on the CE, refer to <https://stats.bls.gov/cex/>.

[22] Changes to the threshold estimation were implemented in 2021. Refer to <www.census.gov/library/working-papers/2021/demo/SEHSD-WP2021-17.html> and <www.bls.gov/pir/spmhome.htm> for details.

[23] This includes unmarried partners and others making joint expenditure decisions. For full definition, refer to <www.bls.gov/cex/csxfaqs.htm>.

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 83 percent of the median 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. Refer to the BLS DPINR Research Experimental Poverty Measures Web page for specifics regarding the production of the SPM thresholds and related statistics.[24]

The thresholds used here include the value of all noncash benefits included in the resources. CE data used to produce the thresholds reflect the use of SNAP benefits for food since these benefits are considered equivalent to cash. However, the CE data as collected does not account for the value of in-kind benefits from other food programs, rent, and energy assistance. The value of these other in-kind benefits are imputed to the CE data using data collected in the CPS ASEC to assign recipiency of school lunch, WIC and energy assistance, CE data on rental assistance receipt, and program data on average benefit levels. This method produces thresholds that are consistent with the resource measure.[25]

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.[26] 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 = (adults)$^{0.5}$

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

All other families: scale = (adults + 0.5 * 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 0.65 to 0.75 range recommended by the NAS panel.

Geographic Adjustments

The American Community Survey (ACS) is used to adjust the housing portion of the FCSU thresholds for differences in prices across geographic areas. The geographic adjustments are based on ACS 5-year estimates of median gross rents for two-bedroom units with complete kitchen and plumbing facilities. Separate medians were estimated for each of the 260 metropolitan statistical areas large enough to be identified on the public-use version of the CPS ASEC file. For each state, a median is estimated for all nonmetropolitan areas (47 areas) and for a combination of all smaller metropolitan areas within a state (35 areas). This results in 342 adjustment factors. For details, refer to Renwick (2011).[27] The movement of telephone expenditures from the utility category to the telecommunications category reduced the share of the thresholds subject to geographic adjustment for all tenure categories.

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.[28, 29] 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.

[24] These are referred to as BLS DPINR Research Experimental Supplemental Poverty Measure (SPM) Thresholds. Additional information is available at <https://stats.bls.gov/pir/spmhome.htm>.

[25] Additional information available at <www.bls.gov/pir/spm/smp-thresholds-and-missing-data-problem-6-16.pdf>.

[26] 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.

[27] 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.

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

[29] 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.

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.[30]

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. A comparison of official poverty estimates using different methods is available at Fox (2017a). 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 reports. 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 USDA's Thrifty Food Plan. In the CPS ASEC, respondents report whether anyone in the household 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.

The FFCRA authorized states to distribute P-EBT payments to households with children who would have received free or reduced-price school lunches under the National School Lunch Act, if not for a reduction in in-person learning due to the pandemic. These temporary food benefits were provided to help cover the cost of meals children would have otherwise received at school. For SNAP recipients, the value of P-EBT was added to existing SNAP EBT cards. As such, CPS ASEC respondents who reported SNAP values likely included the value of P-EBT in their SNAP amount as expansions to SNAP values happened at the same time and respondents were likely unable (and were not asked) to separate out SNAP benefits from P-EBT benefits in their response. Due to the potential of commingled response, this report also shows the joint marginal impacts of SNAP and school lunch, as well as the individual impacts.

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.[31] 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 USDA Food and Nutrition Service, that administers the school lunch program. There is no value included for school breakfast.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which resulted in a transition from in-person to virtual schooling and disbursement of school lunch benefits for some free/reduced-price school lunch recipients via P-EBT cards, the methodology for valuing school lunch changed for 2020.[32] The revised school lunch

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

[31] 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, refer to <https://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty-guidelines>.

[32] The traditional school lunch valuation is still available on the public-use CPS ASEC file at the family level as F_MV_SL, while the new valuation is available at the SPM unit level as SPM_SCHLUNCH.

methodology for 2020 considers state-level variation in average number of in-person school days, potential reporting of P-EBT benefits in SNAP values, and responses to a new ASEC survey question regarding receipt of meals during virtual schooling.[33]

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 state-level average monthly WIC values obtained from the USDA.[34] 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.

Energy Assistance

Energy assistance typically falls into three categories. Under the federal Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) or similar state/local programs, 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 energy assistance payments are often made directly to a utility company or fuel oil vendor, many households may have difficulty reporting the precise amount of the 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 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.[35] 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

[33] The details of the revised 2020 school lunch valuation methodology can be found at <www.census.gov/library/working-papers/2021/demo/SEHSD-WP2021-20.html>.

[34] Details of changing from national average WIC benefit values to state-varying average WIC values can be found at <www.census.gov/library/working-papers/2020/demo/SEHSD-WP2020-16.html>.

[35] 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.

towards housing costs.[36] More details on this method are available in Johnson, et al. (2010). Initially, subsidies are estimated at the household level. If there is more than one SPM unit in a household, then the value of 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 instead relies on a tax calculator to simulate taxes paid. These simulations include federal and state income taxes and FICA taxes.[37] These simulations also use a statistical match to the IRS Statistics of Income public-use microdata file of tax returns.

The first two EIP are included in the CPS ASEC Tax Model and are modeled based on 2020 adjusted gross income, number of dependents under age 17, and filing status. Presumed nonfilers were assigned EIP values if they either reported receiving Social Security, SSI, or VA payments, or responded affirmatively to the new receipt of stimulus payment question asked in the 2021 CPS ASEC. This methodology assumes less than 100 percent take-up among potentially eligible recipients. Additional details, as well as sensitivity tests, are available at <www.census.gov/library/working-papers/2021/demo/SEHSD-WP2021-18.html>.

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 the 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.[38] 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.[39]

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.

[36] 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.

[37] 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.

[38] Median weekly work expenses were $46.60 for 2020 using the 2018 SIPP.

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

To account for child care expenses while parents worked, the CPS ASEC asks parents whether 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 is applied before determining poverty status.[40]

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.

[40] 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.

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 deductions 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 (refer to <www.medicare.gov/>).[41] 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.[42] 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.[43]

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

[42] 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.

[43] For more details on changes to the medical expenditures estimation, reference Edward R. Berchick 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 U.S. Census Bureau, "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: 2019 and 2020

(Numbers in thousands. Margin of error in thousands or percentage points as appropriate. People as of March of the following year. Information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions is available at <https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/cps/techdocs/cpsmar21.pdf>)

Characteristic	SPM 2020				SPM 2019[1]				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
All people	**29,805**	**766**	**9.1**	**0.2**	**38,300**	**876**	**11.8**	**0.3**	***–8,496**	***–2.6**
Sex										
Male	13,837	418	8.6	0.3	17,666	485	11.1	0.3	*–3,829	*–2.4
Female	15,968	438	9.6	0.3	20,634	498	12.4	0.3	*–4,667	*–2.8
Age										
Under 18 years	7,079	325	9.7	0.4	9,253	358	12.6	0.5	*–2,174	*–2.9
18 to 64 years	17,433	521	8.8	0.3	22,073	603	11.2	0.3	*–4,640	*–2.4
65 years and older	5,293	246	9.5	0.4	6,975	251	12.8	0.5	*–1,682	*–3.3
Type of Unit										
Married couple	9,728	457	5.0	0.2	13,479	620	6.8	0.3	*–3,751	*–1.8
Cohabiting partners	2,466	233	8.5	0.8	3,147	330	12.1	1.2	*–681	*–3.5
Female reference person	7,668	429	18.2	1.0	9,732	474	23.8	1.0	*–2,064	*–5.6
Male reference person	1,818	204	11.7	1.2	2,141	236	14.2	1.5	*–323	*–2.5
Unrelated individuals	8,125	265	17.5	0.5	9,801	319	21.6	0.6	*–1,676	*–4.1
Race[3] and Hispanic Origin										
White	20,156	587	8.1	0.2	26,029	645	10.5	0.3	*–5,872	*–2.4
White, not Hispanic	12,646	481	6.5	0.2	15,921	477	8.2	0.2	*–3,275	*–1.7
Black	6,369	348	14.6	0.8	8,144	409	18.9	1.0	*–1,775	*–4.3
Asian	1,770	200	8.8	1.0	2,257	189	11.3	0.9	*–487	*–2.5
Hispanic (any race)	8,570	436	14.0	0.7	11,437	478	18.8	0.8	*–2,867	*–4.9
Nativity										
Native-born	23,657	678	8.4	0.2	30,460	733	10.9	0.3	*–6,803	*–2.5
Foreign-born	6,148	296	13.7	0.6	7,840	322	17.5	0.7	*–1,693	*–3.7
Naturalized citizen	2,335	163	10.3	0.7	3,076	200	13.5	0.9	*–741	*–3.2
Not a citizen	3,813	243	17.2	1.0	4,764	259	21.5	1.2	*–951	*–4.3
Educational Attainment										
Total, aged 25 and older	18,866	505	8.4	0.2	24,312	547	10.9	0.2	*–5,446	*–2.5
No high school diploma	4,068	202	20.3	0.9	5,600	261	27.7	1.1	*–1,532	*–7.4
High school, no college	6,929	280	11.1	0.4	8,588	305	13.9	0.5	*–1,659	*–2.9
Some college	4,177	207	7.3	0.3	5,449	231	9.5	0.4	*–1,273	*–2.1
Bachelor's degree or higher	3,692	212	4.3	0.2	4,674	214	5.6	0.2	*–982	*–1.2
Tenure										
Owner/mortgage	5,283	344	3.9	0.2	7,035	389	5.1	0.3	*–1,752	*–1.2
Owner/no mortgage/rent-free	7,313	390	8.2	0.4	9,726	424	10.9	0.4	*–2,413	*–2.7
Renter	17,210	634	17.1	0.6	21,540	760	22.1	0.7	*–4,331	*–5.0
Residence[4]										
Inside metropolitan statistical areas	26,286	719	9.3	0.2	33,359	871	11.8	0.3	*–7,074	*–2.5
Inside principal cities	12,573	553	11.9	0.5	15,654	673	14.9	0.6	*–3,081	*–3.1
Outside principal cities	13,712	464	7.7	0.3	17,705	631	10.0	0.3	*–3,992	*–2.2
Outside metropolitan statistical areas	3,519	376	8.3	0.7	4,941	458	11.6	0.7	*–1,422	*–3.3
Region										
Northeast	4,686	337	8.5	0.6	6,341	366	11.5	0.7	*–1,655	*–3.0
Midwest	4,498	299	6.7	0.4	6,081	355	9.0	0.5	*–1,584	*–2.3
South	12,704	550	10.1	0.4	15,662	644	12.6	0.5	*–2,958	*–2.5
West	7,918	415	10.1	0.5	10,216	405	13.1	0.5	*–2,298	*–3.0

Footnotes provided at end of table.

Appendix Table 1.

Number and Percentage of People in Poverty Using the Supplemental Poverty Measure: 2019 and 2020—Con.

(Numbers in thousands. Margin of error in thousands or percentage points as appropriate. People as of March of the following year. Information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions is available at <https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/cps/techdocs/cpsmar21.pdf>)

Characteristic	SPM 2020				SPM 2019[1]				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
Health Insurance Coverage										
With private insurance	8,976	376	4.1	0.2	11,933	500	5.4	0.2	*–2,956	*–1.3
With public, no private insurance	15,290	558	18.8	0.6	19,993	534	25.8	0.6	*–4,703	*–6.9
Not insured	5,538	319	19.4	1.0	6,375	323	23.8	1.1	*–836	*–4.3
Work Experience										
Total, 18 to 64 years	17,433	521	8.8	0.3	22,073	603	11.2	0.3	*–4,640	*–2.4
All workers	7,056	275	4.6	0.2	10,491	365	6.8	0.2	*–3,435	*–2.2
Worked full-time, year-round	1,864	118	1.9	0.1	4,371	225	3.9	0.2	*–2,508	*–2.0
Less than full-time, year-round	5,192	234	9.8	0.4	6,120	255	14.6	0.5	*–928	*–4.7
Did not work at least 1 week	10,377	369	22.9	0.7	11,582	388	27.0	0.8	*–1,205	*–4.1
Disability Status[5]										
Total, 18 to 64 years	17,433	521	8.8	0.3	22,073	603	11.2	0.3	*–4,640	*–2.4
With a disability	2,562	161	17.6	1.0	3,203	164	22.2	1.1	*–641	*–4.6
With no disability	14,842	469	8.2	0.3	18,804	554	10.3	0.3	*–3,962	*–2.2

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

[1] The data for 2019 reflect the implementation of revised Supplemental Poverty Measure methodology. More information is available in the report appendix.

[2] A 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. 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] Information on metropolitan statistical areas and principal cities is available at <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 and 2021 Annual Social and Economic Supplements (CPS ASEC).

Appendix Table 2.

Number and Percentage of People in Poverty by Different Poverty Measures: 2020

(Numbers in thousands. Margin of error in thousands or percentage points as appropriate. People as of March of the following year. Information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions is available at <https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/cps/techdocs/cpsmar21.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	**326,195**	**37,314**	**891**	**11.4**	**0.3**	**29,805**	**766**	**9.1**	**0.2**	***–7,509**	***–2.3**
Sex											
Male	159,977	16,370	461	10.2	0.3	13,837	418	8.6	0.3	*–2,532	*–1.6
Female	166,219	20,944	540	12.6	0.3	15,968	438	9.6	0.3	*–4,976	*–3.0
Age											
Under 18 years	72,777	11,674	416	16.0	0.6	7,079	325	9.7	0.4	*–4,595	*–6.3
18 to 64 years	197,582	20,640	524	10.4	0.3	17,433	521	8.8	0.3	*–3,207	*–1.6
65 years and older	55,836	5,000	243	9.0	0.4	5,293	246	9.5	0.4	*293	*0.5
Type of Unit											
Married couple	193,316	10,193	508	5.3	0.3	9,728	457	5.0	0.2	*–464	*–0.2
Cohabiting partners	28,856	6,661	331	23.1	1.0	2,466	233	8.5	0.8	*–4,194	*–14.5
Female reference person	42,090	10,073	492	23.9	1.1	7,668	429	18.2	1.0	*–2,405	*–5.7
Male reference person	15,571	1,636	189	10.5	1.2	1,818	204	11.7	1.2	*182	*1.2
Unrelated individuals	46,362	8,752	265	18.9	0.5	8,125	265	17.5	0.5	*–627	*–1.4
Race[3] and Hispanic Origin											
White	248,163	25,052	666	10.1	0.3	20,156	587	8.1	0.2	*–4,896	*–2.0
White, not Hispanic	194,524	15,974	514	8.2	0.3	12,646	481	6.5	0.2	*–3,327	*–1.7
Black	43,490	8,493	416	19.5	1.0	6,369	348	14.6	0.8	*–2,124	*–4.9
Asian	20,157	1,629	173	8.1	0.8	1,770	200	8.8	1.0	141	0.7
Hispanic (any race)	61,304	10,422	474	17.0	0.8	8,570	436	14.0	0.7	*–1,852	*–3.0
Nativity											
Native-born	281,396	31,292	786	11.1	0.3	23,657	678	8.4	0.2	*–7,635	*–2.7
Foreign-born	44,799	6,022	314	13.4	0.7	6,148	296	13.7	0.6	126	0.3
Naturalized citizen	22,667	2,080	153	9.2	0.6	2,335	163	10.3	0.7	*255	*1.1
Not a citizen	22,132	3,942	260	17.8	1.1	3,813	243	17.2	1.0	–129	–0.6
Educational Attainment											
Total, aged 25 and older	224,580	21,443	540	9.5	0.2	18,866	505	8.4	0.2	*–2,578	*–1.1
No high school diploma	20,054	4,953	219	24.7	1.0	4,068	202	20.3	0.9	*–886	*–4.4
High school, no college	62,547	8,273	290	13.2	0.4	6,929	280	11.1	0.4	*–1,343	*–2.1
Some college	56,942	4,781	210	8.4	0.4	4,177	207	7.3	0.3	*–604	*–1.1
Bachelor's degree or higher	85,037	3,436	214	4.0	0.2	3,692	212	4.3	0.2	*256	*0.3
Tenure											
Owner/mortgage	136,077	5,570	336	4.1	0.2	5,283	344	3.9	0.2	–288	–0.2
Owner/no mortgage/rent-free	89,492	9,707	484	10.8	0.5	7,313	390	8.2	0.4	*–2,394	*–2.7
Renter	100,627	22,036	729	21.9	0.7	17,210	634	17.1	0.6	*–4,827	*–4.8
Residence[4]											
Inside metropolitan statistical areas	283,834	31,337	851	11.0	0.3	26,286	719	9.3	0.2	*–5,051	*–1.8
Inside principal cities	106,022	15,128	631	14.3	0.5	12,573	553	11.9	0.5	*–2,554	*–2.4
Outside principal cities	177,812	16,209	615	9.1	0.3	13,712	464	7.7	0.3	*–2,497	*–1.4
Outside metropolitan statistical areas	42,362	5,977	580	14.1	0.9	3,519	376	8.3	0.7	*–2,458	*–5.8
Region											
Northeast	54,850	5,558	340	10.1	0.6	4,686	337	8.5	0.6	*–872	*–1.6
Midwest	67,561	6,840	377	10.1	0.6	4,498	299	6.7	0.4	*–2,342	*–3.5
South	125,612	16,651	621	13.3	0.5	12,704	550	10.1	0.4	*–3,947	*–3.1
West	78,173	8,265	410	10.6	0.5	7,918	415	10.1	0.5	*–347	*–0.4

Footnotes provided at end of table.

Appendix Table 2.

Number and Percentage of People in Poverty by Different Poverty Measures: 2020—Con.

(Numbers in thousands. Margin of error in thousands or percentage points as appropriate. People as of March of the following year. Information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions is available at <https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/cps/techdocs/cpsmar21.pdf>)

Characteristic	Number[1]	Official[1]				SPM				Difference	
		Number		Percent		Number		Percent			
		Estimate	Margin of error[2] (±)	Estimate	Margin of error[2] (±)	Estimate	Margin of error[2] (±)	Esti-mate	Margin of error[2] (±)	Number	Percent
Health Insurance Coverage											
With private insurance	216,532	8,642	384	4.0	0.2	8,976	376	4.1	0.2	*335	*0.2
With public, no private insurance	81,149	22,182	628	27.3	0.6	15,290	558	18.8	0.6	*–6,892	*–8.5
Not insured	28,515	6,490	355	22.8	1.1	5,538	319	19.4	1.0	*–952	*–3.3
Work Experience											
Total, 18 to 64 years	197,582	20,640	524	10.4	0.3	17,433	521	8.8	0.3	*–3,207	*–1.6
All workers	152,246	7,593	266	5.0	0.2	7,056	275	4.6	0.2	*–537	*–0.4
Worked full-time, year-round	99,404	1,609	121	1.6	0.1	1,864	118	1.9	0.1	*255	*0.3
Less than full-time, year-round	52,842	5,984	231	11.3	0.4	5,192	234	9.8	0.4	*–792	*–1.5
Did not work at least 1 week	45,336	13,047	392	28.8	0.7	10,377	369	22.9	0.7	*–2,670	*–5.9
Disability Status[5]											
Total, 18 to 64 years	197,582	20,640	524	10.4	0.3	17,433	521	8.8	0.3	*–3,207	*–1.6
With a disability	14,559	3,643	183	25.0	1.1	2,562	161	17.6	1.0	*–1,081	*–7.4
With no disability	181,934	16,966	465	9.3	0.3	14,842	469	8.2	0.3	*–2,124	*–1.2

* 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] A 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. 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] Information on metropolitan statistical areas and principal cities is available at <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, 2021 Annual Social and Economic Supplement (CPS ASEC).

Appendix Table 3.

Two-Adult, Two-Child Poverty Thresholds: 2019 and 2020

(In nominal dollars)

Measure	2019[1]	Standard error	2020	Standard error
Official Poverty Measure				
Official poverty measure	25,926	N	26,246	N
Research Supplemental Poverty Measure				
Owners with mortgages	29,080	210	29,959	241
Owners without mortgages	24,413	344	25,222	402
Renters	29,194	179	30,150	255

N Not available.

[1] The data for 2019 reflect the implementation of revised Supplemental Poverty Measure (SPM) methodology. More information is available in the report appendix.

Source: The thresholds 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). The SPM thresholds are based on consumer unit weighted data; standard errors of the SPM thresholds are derived using replicate weights available on the Consumer Expenditure Survey (CE) data files (information regarding the estimation of standard errors based on CE replicate weights is available at <www.bls.gov/cex/pumd-getting-started-guide.htm>). The SPM thresholds and statistics are produced for research purposes only using the U.S. Consumer Expenditure Interview Survey. The thresholds are not BLS production quality. Methodological details and related research regarding the SPM thresholds are available at <https://stats.bls.gov/pir/spmhome.htm>. The thresholds and related statistics were finalized as of July 28, 2021.

Appendix Table 4.

Percentage of People by Ratio of Income/Resources to Poverty Threshold: 2019 and 2020

(Margin of error in percentage points. People as of March of the following year. Information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions is available at <https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/cps/techdocs/cpsmar21.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] (±)
2020												
OFFICIAL[2]												
All people	**5.5**	**0.2**	**5.9**	**0.2**	**7.9**	**0.2**	**8.2**	**0.2**	**28.3**	**0.4**	**44.1**	**0.4**
Age												
Under 18 years	7.6	0.4	8.4	0.4	9.8	0.4	9.9	0.4	28.7	0.7	35.5	0.6
18 to 64 years	5.2	0.2	5.3	0.2	6.8	0.2	7.0	0.2	27.8	0.4	48.0	0.5
65 years and older	3.9	0.3	5.1	0.3	9.6	0.4	10.1	0.4	29.7	0.6	41.6	0.8
Race[3] and Hispanic Origin												
White	4.8	0.2	5.3	0.2	7.3	0.2	8.0	0.2	28.2	0.4	46.4	0.5
White, not Hispanic	4.1	0.2	4.1	0.2	5.9	0.2	6.8	0.3	27.0	0.5	52.1	0.6
Black	9.9	0.7	9.7	0.7	11.3	0.8	9.9	0.7	30.7	1.0	28.5	1.1
Asian	3.8	0.6	4.3	0.7	6.2	0.8	6.1	0.8	23.3	1.4	56.3	1.5
Hispanic (any race)	7.3	0.5	9.7	0.6	12.4	0.6	12.0	0.6	32.5	0.9	26.1	0.7
SPM												
All people	**3.3**	**0.1**	**5.9**	**0.2**	**12.5**	**0.3**	**13.9**	**0.3**	**38.4**	**0.4**	**26.0**	**0.4**
Age												
Under 18 years	2.9	0.3	6.8	0.4	15.1	0.5	17.0	0.6	39.0	0.6	19.1	0.6
18 to 64 years	3.3	0.1	5.6	0.2	11.3	0.3	13.0	0.3	39.2	0.4	27.8	0.5
65 years and older	3.8	0.3	5.7	0.3	13.6	0.5	13.2	0.5	35.1	0.7	28.6	0.8
Race[3] and Hispanic Origin												
White	3.0	0.1	5.1	0.2	11.4	0.3	13.1	0.3	39.1	0.4	28.3	0.5
White, not Hispanic	2.8	0.2	3.7	0.2	8.7	0.3	11.2	0.3	40.4	0.5	33.2	0.6
Black	4.7	0.4	9.9	0.7	18.6	0.9	18.2	1.0	34.9	1.1	13.7	0.8
Asian	3.4	0.5	5.4	0.8	11.3	1.1	12.9	1.1	36.9	1.6	30.2	1.5
Hispanic (any race)	4.0	0.4	10.0	0.6	21.2	0.8	20.0	0.8	34.7	0.9	10.2	0.5
2019[4]												
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

Footnotes provided at end of table.

Appendix Table 4.

Percentage of People by Ratio of Income/Resources to Poverty Threshold: 2019 and 2020—Con.

(Margin of error in percentage points. People as of March of the following year. Information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions is available at <https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/cps/techdocs/cpsmar21.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	**4.0**	**0.2**	**7.8**	**0.2**	**14.0**	**0.3**	**12.7**	**0.3**	**36.4**	**0.4**	**25.1**	**0.4**
Age												
Under 18 years	3.5	0.3	9.1	0.5	17.9	0.6	15.0	0.5	36.3	0.7	18.1	0.5
18 to 64 years	4.0	0.2	7.2	0.3	12.6	0.3	12.2	0.3	37.3	0.5	26.7	0.5
65 years and older	4.7	0.3	8.1	0.4	13.8	0.5	11.4	0.5	33.4	0.7	28.6	0.8
Race[3] and Hispanic Origin												
White	3.6	0.2	6.9	0.2	12.7	0.3	12.4	0.3	37.1	0.5	27.4	0.5
White, not Hispanic	3.2	0.2	5.0	0.2	9.9	0.3	11.1	0.3	38.8	0.5	32.0	0.6
Black	6.2	0.6	12.7	0.8	21.0	1.1	14.6	0.8	33.0	1.2	12.6	0.7
Asian	4.5	0.6	6.8	0.8	13.3	1.2	10.8	1.1	35.2	1.5	29.4	1.4
Hispanic (any race)	4.9	0.4	13.9	0.7	22.9	0.9	16.8	0.8	31.0	1.0	10.5	0.6

[1] A 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. 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.

[4] The data for 2019 reflect the implementation of revised Supplemental Poverty Measure methodology. More information is available in the report appendix.

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

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 2020 and 2021 Annual Social and Economic Supplements (CPS ASEC).

Appendix Table 5.

Number and Percentage of People in Poverty by State: 3-Year Average of 2018–2020

(Numbers in thousands. Margin of error in thousands or percentage points as appropriate. People as of March of the following year. Information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions is available at, see <https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/cps/techdocs/cpsmar21.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	**36,525**	**536**	**11.2**	**0.2**	**36,508**	**500**	**11.2**	**0.2**	**–16**	**Z**
Alabama	712	95	14.6	2.0	588	88	12.0	1.8	*–125	*–2.6
Alaska	87	8	12.2	1.1	86	8	12.0	1.1	–1	–0.1
Arizona	822	105	11.2	1.5	767	97	10.4	1.3	*–54	*–0.7
Arkansas	432	40	14.7	1.4	336	35	11.4	1.2	*–96	*–3.3
California	4,328	190	11.0	0.5	6,041	223	15.4	0.6	*1,713	*4.4
Colorado	535	88	9.3	1.6	644	83	11.2	1.5	*109	*1.9
Connecticut	343	47	9.9	1.4	370	50	10.7	1.4	28	0.8
Delaware	80	10	8.1	1.0	95	11	9.8	1.1	*16	*1.6
District of Columbia	104	8	14.7	1.1	116	10	16.5	1.4	*13	*1.8
Florida	2,740	185	12.8	0.9	2,992	161	14.0	0.8	*252	*1.2
Georgia	1,399	145	13.4	1.4	1,264	112	12.1	1.1	*–135	*–1.3
Hawaii	131	18	9.5	1.3	166	21	12.0	1.5	*35	*2.5
Idaho	166	17	9.2	0.9	135	17	7.5	0.9	*–31	*–1.7
Illinois	1,150	103	9.2	0.8	1,195	109	9.5	0.9	46	0.4
Indiana	751	68	11.3	1.0	576	62	8.7	0.9	*–175	*–2.6
Iowa	286	48	9.1	1.5	206	37	6.6	1.2	*–79	*–2.5
Kansas	246	31	8.7	1.1	182	24	6.4	0.8	*–64	*–2.2
Kentucky	637	84	14.4	1.9	481	65	10.9	1.5	*–156	*–3.5
Louisiana	792	51	17.4	1.1	634	52	13.9	1.1	*–158	*–3.5
Maine	134	19	10.0	1.5	98	17	7.3	1.3	*–35	*–2.6
Maryland	488	65	8.1	1.1	652	71	10.8	1.2	*163	*2.7
Massachusetts	565	59	8.2	0.9	649	66	9.4	1.0	*84	*1.2
Michigan	1,044	97	10.6	1.0	865	85	8.8	0.9	*–178	*–1.8
Minnesota	415	49	7.3	0.9	332	48	5.9	0.8	*–84	*–1.5
Mississippi	549	61	18.8	2.1	422	35	14.5	1.2	*–126	*–4.3
Missouri	653	96	10.8	1.6	489	68	8.1	1.1	*–164	*–2.7
Montana	109	11	10.3	1.1	96	10	9.1	1.0	*–13	*–1.3
Nebraska	175	21	9.2	1.1	154	23	8.1	1.2	*–21	*–1.1
Nevada	373	37	12.1	1.2	357	36	11.5	1.2	–16	–0.5
New Hampshire	72	11	5.3	0.8	89	13	6.5	0.9	*17	*1.2
New Jersey	664	67	7.6	0.8	871	74	10.0	0.8	*207	*2.4
New Mexico	332	25	16.1	1.3	252	21	12.2	1.1	*–81	*–3.9
New York	2,252	125	11.8	0.7	2,549	142	13.3	0.7	*298	*1.6
North Carolina	1,379	100	13.2	1.0	1,247	101	11.9	1.0	*–131	*–1.3
North Dakota	71	8	9.5	1.1	65	8	8.6	1.1	*–7	*–0.9
Ohio	1,428	138	12.4	1.2	1,070	110	9.3	1.0	*–358	*–3.1
Oklahoma	516	61	13.2	1.5	403	52	10.3	1.3	*–113	*–2.9
Oregon	379	53	9.1	1.3	389	36	9.4	0.9	10	0.2
Pennsylvania	1,299	119	10.4	1.0	1,188	96	9.5	0.8	*–111	*–0.9
Rhode Island	92	13	8.8	1.3	65	10	6.2	1.0	*–27	*–2.6
South Carolina	704	62	13.7	1.2	620	61	12.1	1.2	*–84	*–1.6
South Dakota	94	20	10.9	2.4	73	9	8.5	1.1	*–21	*–2.4
Tennessee	863	93	12.7	1.3	729	73	10.8	1.1	*–134	*–2.0
Texas	3,718	191	12.9	0.7	3,587	193	12.5	0.7	*–132	*–0.5
Utah	231	56	7.2	1.8	228	50	7.1	1.6	–3	–0.1

Footnotes provided at end of table.

Appendix Table 5.

Number and Percentage of People in Poverty by State: 3-Year Average of 2018–2020—Con.

(Numbers in thousands. Margin of error in thousands or percentage points as appropriate. People as of March of the following year. Information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions is available at, see <https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/cps/techdocs/cpsmar21.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	8.9	1.2	51	7	8.3	1.1	–4	–0.7
Virginia	741	95	8.8	1.1	846	106	10.1	1.3	*106	*1.3
Washington	601	108	7.9	1.4	571	86	7.5	1.1	–30	–0.4
West Virginia	257	29	14.6	1.6	184	22	10.5	1.3	*–72	*–4.1
Wisconsin	480	65	8.3	1.1	393	53	6.8	0.9	*–88	*–1.5
Wyoming	54	8	9.5	1.5	50	7	8.8	1.3	–3	–0.6

* 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] A 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. MOEs shown in this table are based on standard errors calculated using replicate weights.

Notes: Details may not sum to totals due to rounding. The data for 2019 and 2020 reflect the implementation of revised Supplemental Poverty Measure methodology. More information is available in the report appendix.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 2019 to 2021 Annual Social and Economic Supplements (CPS ASEC).

Appendix Table 6.

Effect of Individual Elements on Supplemental Poverty Measure Rates: 2019 and 2020

(Margin of error in percentage points. People as of March of the following year. Information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions is available at <https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/cps/techdocs/cpsmar21.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] (±)
2020								
All people	**9.14**	**0.23**	**9.73**	**0.45**	**8.82**	**0.26**	**9.48**	**0.44**
ADDITIONS								
Social Security	-8.12	0.20	-1.53	0.17	-3.50	0.18	-33.07	0.77
Economic Impact/stimulus[2]	-3.58	0.17	-4.46	0.30	-3.23	0.17	-3.70	0.28
Unemployment insurance	-1.70	0.11	-1.97	0.22	-1.95	0.12	-0.48	0.10
Refundable tax credits[3]	-1.62	0.12	-3.75	0.30	-1.27	0.10	-0.09	0.04
SNAP[4] and school lunch	-0.98	0.09	-1.79	0.21	-0.81	0.09	-0.55	0.09
SNAP[4]	-0.89	0.08	-1.55	0.20	-0.74	0.08	-0.53	0.08
SSI[4]	-0.83	0.07	-0.49	0.11	-0.93	0.08	-0.90	0.13
Housing subsidies	-0.74	0.07	-1.08	0.16	-0.58	0.06	-0.84	0.12
Child support received	-0.16	0.03	-0.42	0.09	-0.10	0.02	-0.01	0.01
TANF/general assistance[4]	-0.14	0.03	-0.29	0.08	-0.12	0.03	-0.03	0.02
School lunch	-0.09	0.03	-0.22	0.07	-0.07	0.02	-0.01	0.02
Workers' compensation	-0.06	0.02	-0.06	0.04	-0.07	0.03	-0.02	0.02
Energy assistance	-0.04	0.02	-0.04	0.03	-0.05	0.02	-0.05	0.03
WIC[4]	-0.03	0.02	-0.09	0.05	-0.02	0.01	0.00	0.00
SUBTRACTIONS								
Child support paid	0.06	0.02	0.08	0.03	0.06	0.02	0.04	0.03
Federal income tax	0.15	0.03	0.10	0.04	0.19	0.04	0.11	0.04
FICA[4]	0.63	0.07	0.72	0.12	0.72	0.08	0.17	0.05
Work expenses	0.78	0.08	0.97	0.15	0.86	0.08	0.23	0.05
Medical expenses	1.53	0.09	1.17	0.14	1.35	0.09	2.65	0.22
2019[5]								
All people	**11.78**	**0.27**	**12.65**	**0.49**	**11.18**	**0.31**	**12.76**	**0.46**
ADDITIONS								
Social Security	-8.13	0.20	-1.99	0.21	-3.78	0.18	-32.07	0.78
Unemployment insurance	-0.16	0.04	-0.19	0.06	-0.17	0.04	-0.10	0.05
Refundable tax credits	-2.40	0.14	-5.69	0.36	-1.78	0.11	-0.21	0.06
SNAP[4] and school lunch	-1.11	0.10	-2.13	0.23	-0.87	0.09	-0.60	0.10
SNAP[4]	-0.80	0.08	-1.41	0.19	-0.65	0.08	-0.54	0.09
SSI[4]	-0.85	0.07	-0.72	0.13	-0.89	0.08	-0.87	0.12
Housing subsidies	-0.67	0.06	-0.84	0.14	-0.53	0.06	-0.95	0.13
Child support received	-0.20	0.04	-0.52	0.11	-0.14	0.03	-0.02	0.02
TANF/general assistance[4]	-0.08	0.03	-0.21	0.07	-0.06	0.02	-0.02	0.02
School lunch	-0.34	0.06	-0.80	0.13	-0.25	0.05	-0.07	0.04
Workers' compensation	-0.04	0.02	-0.02	0.02	-0.05	0.02	-0.05	0.04
Energy assistance	-0.06	0.02	-0.06	0.04	-0.05	0.02	-0.10	0.04
WIC[4]	-0.07	0.03	-0.16	0.07	-0.05	0.03	-0.01	0.01
SUBTRACTIONS								
Child support paid	0.08	0.03	0.11	0.07	0.09	0.03	0.02	0.02
Federal income tax	0.28	0.04	0.18	0.06	0.36	0.06	0.09	0.03
FICA[4]	1.21	0.11	1.77	0.22	1.26	0.11	0.29	0.07
Work expenses	1.52	0.12	2.16	0.23	1.57	0.12	0.46	0.09
Medical expenses	2.28	0.12	1.81	0.19	1.96	0.13	4.04	0.29

[1] A 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. MOEs shown in this table are based on standard errors calculated using replicate weights.

[2] Includes the first two rounds of stimulus payments. Additional details available in the report appendix.

[3] Refundable tax credits do not include stimulus payments.

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

[5] The data for 2019 reflect the implementation of revised Supplemental Poverty Measure methodology. More information is available in the report appendix.

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

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 2020 and 2021 Annual Social and Economic Supplements (CPS ASEC).

Appendix Table 7.

Effect of Individual Elements on the Number of Individuals in Poverty: 2019 and 2020

(Numbers and margin of error in thousands. People as of March of the following year. Information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions are available at <https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/cps/techdocs/cpsmar21.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] (±)
2020								
All people	29,805	766	7,079	325	17,433	521	5,293	246
ADDITIONS								
Social Security	–26,502	657	–1,115	123	–6,923	350	–18,464	435
Economic Impact/stimulus[2]	–11,684	543	–3,246	221	–6,373	328	–2,065	156
Unemployment insurance	–5,545	359	–1,430	157	–3,845	243	–270	58
Refundable tax credits[3]	–5,281	391	–2,729	220	–2,505	192	–48	20
SNAP[4] and school lunch	–3,209	301	–1,302	156	–1,601	170	–306	48
SNAP[4]	–2,888	276	–1,131	144	–1,460	158	–298	46
SSI[4]	–2,698	222	–354	80	–1,839	161	–505	71
Housing subsidies	–2,407	228	–785	119	–1,154	127	–468	67
Child support received	–514	108	–305	69	–205	43	–4	5
TANF/general assistance[4]	–472	105	–211	58	–243	60	–18	10
School lunch	–298	89	–157	48	–136	46	–5	9
Workers' compensation	–193	75	–41	27	–142	55	–10	9
Energy assistance	–142	54	–27	18	–90	42	–26	14
WIC[4]	–102	53	–66	34	–35	20	0	0
SUBTRACTIONS								
Child support paid	197	57	58	25	119	32	20	15
Federal income tax	504	95	75	30	370	74	59	24
FICA[4]	2,039	225	525	88	1,417	166	96	26
Work expenses	2,537	246	704	111	1,707	168	127	30
Medical expenses	5,002	292	854	102	2,667	186	1,482	122
2019[5]								
All people	38,300	876	9,253	358	22,073	603	6,975	251
ADDITIONS								
Social Security	–26,454	652	–1,454	153	–7,474	352	–17,525	432
Unemployment insurance	–524	119	–142	42	–329	78	–53	26
Refundable tax credits	–7,792	446	–4,161	263	–3,514	212	–117	31
SNAP[4] and school lunch	–3,600	317	–1,561	169	–1,710	171	–328	55
SNAP[4]	–2,603	267	–1,030	140	–1,280	151	–293	51
SSI[4]	–2,760	242	–529	94	–1,758	167	–473	68
Housing subsidies	–2,189	198	–614	101	–1,053	115	–522	73
Child support received	–665	132	–382	79	–271	59	–12	9
TANF/general assistance[4]	–276	83	–151	51	–112	36	–13	11
School lunch	–1,116	184	–582	94	–494	94	–39	21
Workers' compensation	–142	52	–18	13	–95	38	–30	20
Energy assistance	–189	64	–43	27	–90	38	–56	23
WIC[4]	–227	106	–120	54	–102	51	–5	7
SUBTRACTIONS								
Child support paid	273	100	79	50	181	56	13	10
Federal income tax	896	135	130	41	719	110	47	18
FICA[4]	3,929	341	1,292	157	2,479	220	158	38
Work expenses	4,935	376	1,577	168	3,109	238	249	50
Medical expenses	7,400	402	1,326	136	3,867	253	2,206	158

[1] A 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. MOEs shown in this table are based on standard errors calculated using replicate weights.

[2] Includes the first two rounds of stimulus payments. Additional details available in the report appendix.

[3] Refundable tax credits do not include stimulus payments.

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

[5] The data for 2019 reflect the implementation of revised Supplemental Poverty Measure methodology. More information is available in the report appendix.

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

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 2020 and 2021 Annual Social and Economic Supplements (CPS ASEC).

Appendix Table 8.

Comparison of 2019 Supplemental Poverty Estimates Using Production and Revised Supplemental Poverty Measure Files

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

Characteristic	SPM 2019—Revised[1]				SPM 2019—Published				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
All people	**38,300**	**876**	**11.8**	**0.3**	**38,163**	**895**	**11.7**	**0.3**	**138**	**Z**
Sex										
Male	17,666	485	11.1	0.3	17,655	489	11.1	0.3	11	Z
Female	20,634	498	12.4	0.3	20,508	508	12.4	0.3	*126	*0.1
Age										
Under 18 years	9,253	358	12.6	0.5	9,119	354	12.5	0.5	*134	*0.2
18 to 64 years	22,073	603	11.2	0.3	22,072	606	11.2	0.3	1	Z
65 years and older	6,975	251	12.8	0.5	6,972	258	12.8	0.5	3	Z
Type of Unit										
Married couple	13,479	620	6.8	0.3	13,703	625	6.9	0.3	*–224	*–0.1
Cohabiting partners	3,147	330	12.1	1.2	3,167	324	12.1	1.1	–20	–0.1
Female reference person	9,732	474	23.8	1.0	9,526	478	23.3	1.0	*207	*0.5
Male reference person	2,141	236	14.2	1.5	2,162	237	14.3	1.5	–21	–0.1
Unrelated individuals	9,801	319	21.6	0.6	9,605	320	21.2	0.6	*196	*0.4
Race[3] and Hispanic Origin										
White	26,029	645	10.5	0.3	26,089	669	10.5	0.3	–60	Z
White, not Hispanic	15,921	477	8.2	0.2	15,914	492	8.2	0.3	8	Z
Black	8,144	409	18.9	1.0	7,907	408	18.3	0.9	*237	*0.5
Asian	2,257	189	11.3	0.9	2,327	191	11.7	1.0	*–70	*–0.4
Hispanic (any race)	11,437	478	18.8	0.8	11,464	475	18.9	0.8	–27	Z
Nativity										
Native-born	30,460	733	10.9	0.3	30,238	761	10.8	0.3	*222	*0.1
Foreign-born	7,840	322	17.5	0.7	7,924	318	17.6	0.7	*–84	*–0.2
Naturalized citizen	3,076	200	13.5	0.9	3,109	197	13.7	0.9	–33	–0.1
Not a citizen	4,764	259	21.5	1.2	4,815	261	21.7	1.2	–51	–0.2
Educational Attainment										
Total, aged 25 and older	24,312	547	10.9	0.2	24,319	558	10.9	0.2	–7	Z
No high school diploma	5,600	261	27.7	1.1	5,563	267	27.5	1.1	37	0.2
High school, no college	8,588	305	13.9	0.5	8,543	319	13.9	0.5	45	0.1
Some college	5,449	231	9.5	0.4	5,472	238	9.5	0.4	–23	Z
Bachelor's degree or higher	4,674	214	5.6	0.2	4,741	219	5.7	0.3	*–67	*–0.1
Tenure										
Owner/mortgage	7,035	389	5.1	0.3	7,146	385	5.2	0.3	*–111	*–0.1
Owner/no mortgage/rent-free	9,726	424	10.9	0.4	10,057	458	11.2	0.5	*–331	*–0.4
Renter	21,540	760	22.1	0.7	20,960	765	21.5	0.7	*580	*0.6
Residence[4]										
Inside metropolitan statistical areas	33,359	871	11.8	0.3	33,426	881	11.8	0.3	–67	Z
Inside principal cities	15,654	673	14.9	0.6	15,527	672	14.8	0.6	127	0.1
Outside principal cities	17,705	631	10.0	0.3	17,898	640	10.1	0.3	*–194	*–0.1
Outside metropolitan statistical areas	4,941	458	11.6	0.7	4,737	442	11.2	0.7	*205	*0.5
Region										
Northeast	6,341	366	11.5	0.7	6,431	383	11.7	0.7	–90	–0.2
Midwest	6,081	355	9.0	0.5	5,944	347	8.8	0.5	*137	*0.2
South	15,662	644	12.6	0.5	15,466	628	12.4	0.5	*195	*0.2
West	10,216	405	13.1	0.5	10,321	402	13.2	0.5	–105	–0.1

Footnotes provided at end of table.

Appendix Table 8.

Comparison of 2019 Supplemental Poverty Estimates Using Production and Revised Supplemental Poverty Measure Files—Con.

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

Characteristic	SPM 2019—Revised[1]				SPM 2019—Published				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
Health Insurance Coverage										
With private insurance	11,933	500	5.4	0.2	12,202	491	5.5	0.2	*–269	*–0.1
With public, no private insurance	19,993	534	25.8	0.6	19,600	556	25.3	0.6	*393	*0.5
Not insured	6,375	323	23.8	1.1	6,361	322	23.7	1.1	14	0.1
Work Experience										
Total, 18 to 64 years	22,073	603	11.2	0.3	22,072	606	11.2	0.3	1	Z
All workers	10,491	365	6.8	0.2	10,599	368	6.9	0.2	*–108	*–0.1
Worked full-time, year-round	4,371	225	3.9	0.2	4,487	226	4.0	0.2	*–116	*–0.1
Less than full-time, year-round	6,120	255	14.6	0.5	6,112	256	14.6	0.5	8	Z
Did not work at least 1 week	11,582	388	27.0	0.8	11,473	390	26.8	0.8	*109	*0.3
Disability Status[5]										
Total, 18 to 64 years	22,073	603	11.2	0.3	22,072	606	11.2	0.3	1	Z
With a disability	3,203	164	22.2	1.1	3,107	168	21.5	1.2	*96	*0.7
With no disability	18,804	554	10.3	0.3	18,899	556	10.4	0.3	–95	–0.1

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

Z Rounds to zero.

[1] The data for 2019 reflect the implementation of revised Supplement Poverty Measure methodology. More information is available in the report appendix.

[2] A 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. 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] Information on metropolitan statistical areas and principal cities is available at <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).