# Simplifying SPM Poverty Thresholds: A Ten-Year Anchoring Approach

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May 2026

SEHSD WP-2026-09

## Abstract

Since 2022, Supplemental Poverty Measure (SPM) and official poverty measure estimates have diverged, with SPM rates increasing or being not statistically different while the official poverty rate has fallen. Research at BLS and the Census Bureau has identified the annual updating procedure of SPM poverty thresholds — for both living standards and price changes — as the primary driver of this divergence (Schild 2023; Creamer 2024, 2025). Building on this research, this paper presents a potential method to produce SPM poverty thresholds by updating the standard of living decennially and adjusting for changes in price levels. The method improves the annual updating of the existing poverty thresholds as regular updating keeps poverty thresholds modern while adjusting for prices simplifies year-to-year comparisons. The proposed anchored poverty measure uses anchored thresholds which are anchored twice across the SPM series in 2010 and 2020 with price adjustments in the intervening years using the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U). In 2024, the anchored poverty rate was 11.3 percent, 1.7 percentage points lower than the published SPM rate of 12.9 percent. In terms of the historical series, the anchored SPM shows a 26.0 percent decline (4.0 percentage points) in poverty since the Great Recession compared to a 14.4 percent decline in the SPM rate (2.2 percentage points). The divergence largely arises due to published SPM rates increasing or being not statistically different in 2023 and 2024 compared to a falling anchored SPM rate in those two years. Estimates using alternative price indices show that the CPI-U is a middle ground between different inflation assumptions. This research is part of ongoing work at the Census Bureau which studies changes and improvements to the SPM and does not represent a planned change in methodology.

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[1] This paper is released to inform interested parties of ongoing research and to encourage discussion of work in progress. Any opinions and conclusions expressed herein are those of the author and do not reflect the views of the U.S. Census Bureau. Any error or omissions are the sole responsibility of the author. All data are subject to error arising from a variety of sources, including sampling error, non-sampling error, modeling error, and any other sources of error. For further information on data collection, standards, accuracy, refer to <https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/cps/techdocs/cpsmar25.pdf.> All comparative statements in this paper have undergone statistical testing, and, unless otherwise noted, all comparisons are statistically significant at the 10 percent significance level. The Census Bureau has reviewed this data product to ensure appropriate access, use, and disclosure avoidance protection of the confidential source data used to produce this product (Data Management System (DMS) number: P-7534374, Disclosure Review Board (DRB) approval number: CBDRB-FY26-SEHSD003-059). Contact: john.creamer@census.gov.

## Introduction

Each year, the U.S. Census Bureau releases two measures of poverty: the official poverty measure and the Supplemental Poverty Measure (SPM). The two poverty measures differ in the way they count a family's resources (cash income vs. disposable income) and the way they set the value of resources a family needs to be above the poverty threshold. As a result, they serve different purposes. The official poverty measure provides a consistent measure of economic well-being from the 1960's that tracks progress compared to a set standard of living at the time (three times the minimum food budget). Meanwhile, the SPM provides a measure that allows for better understanding of the role that public policy plays in economic well-being compared to a benchmark that is updated for prices and changes in the standard of living annually.

The design of the poverty thresholds in both cases have drawn criticism. The official poverty measure has been described by some as outdated, as three times the minimum food budget in 1963 may not accurately reflect lived experience today. Meanwhile, the SPM has been criticized because the complexity of the thresholds can make year-to-year comparisons difficult to understand. With the SPM, changes in poverty rates may reflect changes in economic growth, public policy, price levels, or standards of living.

This paper outlines a potential methodology for updating SPM poverty thresholds that combines two advantages of the thresholds: the consistency provided by the official poverty measure over time to ease year-to-year comparisons and the regular updating of the standard of living in the SPM to make the poverty thresholds more relevant to current experience. The potential method anchors the standard of living captured by the threshold on 10-year increments (2010, 2020, etc.) adjusting for changes in prices in the intervening years. Two anchored SPM estimates are provided for 2019, bridging the historical time series from the Base 2010 standard of living to the Base 2020 standard. For price adjustments, the paper explores estimates using the Consumer Price Index for all Urban Consumers (CPI-U), the Chained Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (C-CPI-U), and the CPI which is limited to food, clothing, shelter, utilities, telephone and internet (FCSUti) that is used in the creation of the SPM thresholds.

The proposed anchored SPM leads to a poverty rate in 2024 of 11.3 percent, 1.7 percentage points lower than the published SPM rate of 12.9 percent. Poverty rates for the major age groups show the same phenomenon, with anchored SPM rates being lower than published SPM rates in 2024. In terms of the historical picture, the anchored SPM shows a 26.0 percent decline in poverty since the Great Recession compared to a 14.4 percent decline for the same period using the published SPM. Results using different price indices show that the CPI-U is the middle point between the FCSUti which measures more inflation and the C-CPI-U which measures less.

The paper is part of ongoing work at the Census Bureau which studies changes and improvements to the SPM. Any changes to the SPM follow an established process of change that includes rigorous outreach and discussion by the Interagency Technical Working Group on Implementing the Supplemental Poverty Measure. The paper continues by providing some background information on the SPM and the construction of thresholds. A discussion about the data source and anchoring

methods follows. Results and robustness checks are then presented with a discussion and conclusion.

## Background

The SPM was designed to be a research poverty measure that better captured the changing social safety net in economic well-being compared to the official poverty measure. The Census Bureau has produced the measure since 2011 in collaboration with the Bureau of Labor Statistics with updates to the measure envisioned on a 10-year timeline. The last major update of the SPM occurred in 2021 (with estimates beginning in 2019) and involved close collaboration between the Census Bureau and BLS on changes to resources and thresholds.

The SPM and the official poverty measure are alike in that they are both "headcount" poverty rates, defined as the proportion of a population living below a given poverty line, representing the share of individuals who cannot afford to meet their basic needs. However, the two measures differ in both how poverty is defined and the concept of poverty they are measuring. The differences in definition arise from how resources are measured. The official poverty measure captures pre-tax cash income which includes cash public assistance and Social Security. The SPM expands this definition and considers a broader range of resources including tax credits, non-cash assistance like housing subsidies, and subtracting necessary expenses like taxes paid and out-of-pocket medical expenses. In simpler terms, the resources captured by the SPM are closer to a disposable income measure.

The construction of the poverty thresholds is where the more fundamental differences in the concepts between the two measures lie. The official poverty measure captures absolute poverty by setting poverty thresholds as three times the minimum food diet in 1963 and adjusting for inflation using the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U). Official poverty estimates thus show how economic well-being has changed relative to that 1963 standard, adjusted for inflation.

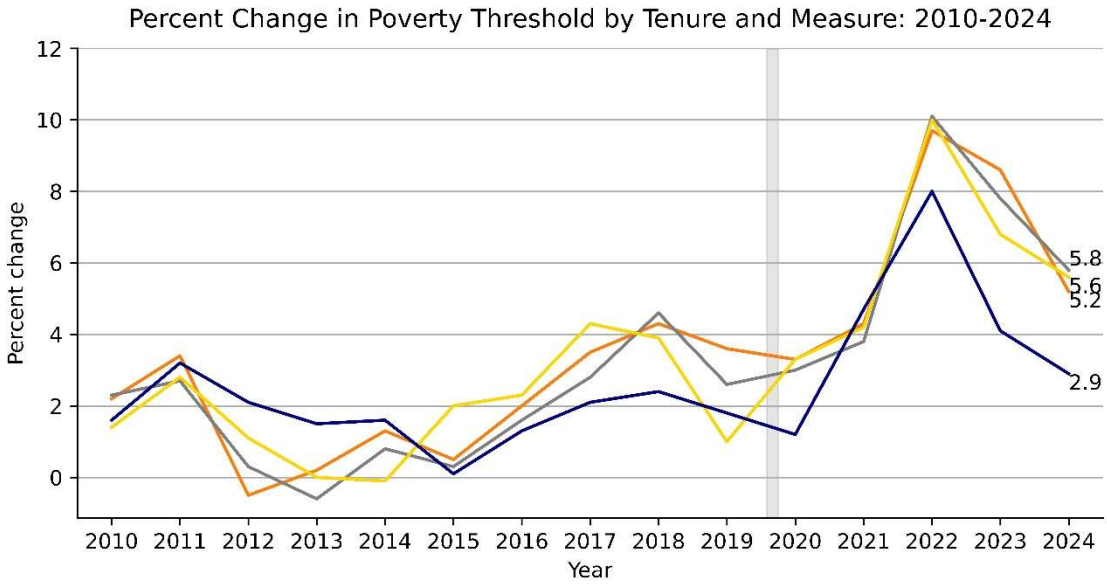
In contrast, the construction of the SPM thresholds combines aspects of an absolute poverty measure and a relative one. The thresholds in the new methodology are set based on the expenditures of a median consumer unit with children on food, clothing, shelter, utilities, telephone, and internet (FCSUti)[2]. Spending on these items can change over time, reflecting changing standards of living. To capture these changes, the thresholds are updated using five years of Consumer Expenditure Survey (CE) data, lagged for one year, to help smooth year-to-year fluctuations. Prices across this period are standardized using a price index specially designed for the SPM based on the prices of FCSUti items using the same methods as are used to produce the CPI-U. The SPM thresholds also account for geographic differences in housing costs and the housing tenure status and for receipt of in-kind benefits. This methodology represents a significant change from the old SPM methodology which estimated thresholds at a different point of the

[2] The 2021 methodology update added internet expenditures and separated telephone expenditures from utilities. This means that these two expenditures are not geographically adjusted with the share of shelter and utility expenditures.

expenditure distribution, had a smaller sample of households, and used the CPI-U rather than the FCSUti, amongst other changes.[3]

The construction of the SPM thresholds means that interpreting changes in poverty rates over time is more complicated compared to the official poverty measure. Year-to-year changes in the poverty threshold can reflect changes in household spending on FCSUti items (the relative component) and changes in price levels (the absolute component), or both. Figure 1 (Table 1) compares the changes in the SPM thresholds to the official poverty thresholds. In 2022, the elevated inflation as measured by the FCSUti price index contributed 7.2 percentage points of an approximately 10 percent increase in the SPM thresholds (Schild 2023).

*Figure 1*

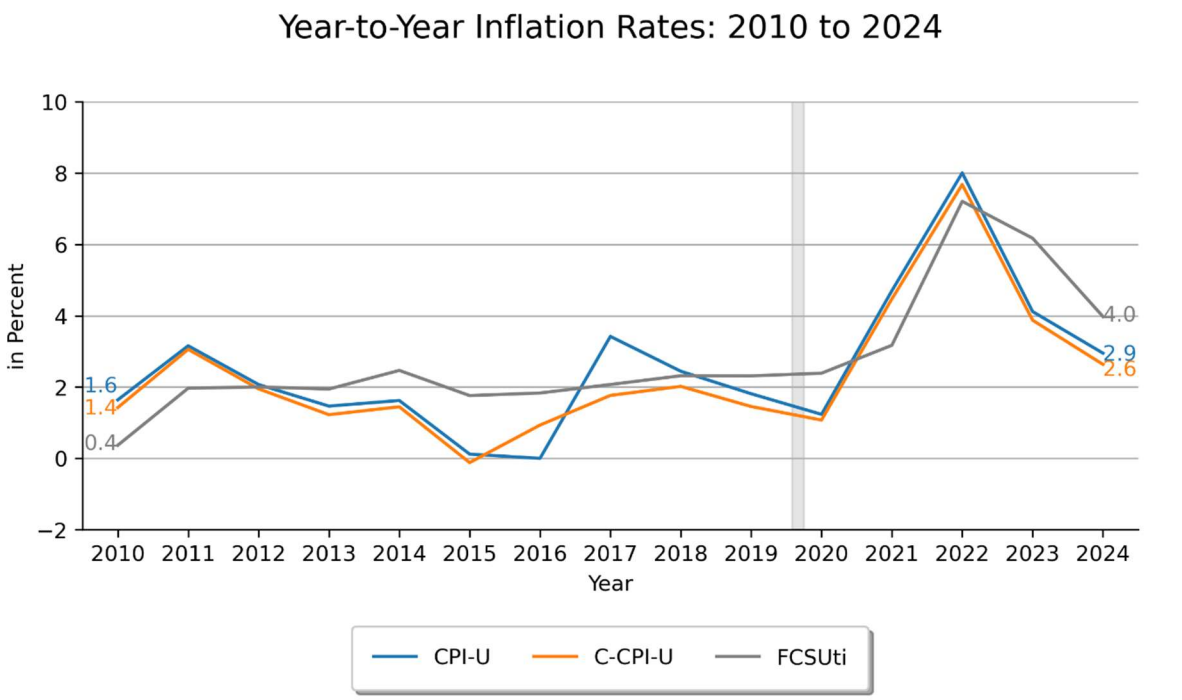



Source: Official poverty threshold created by the U.S. Census Bureau. Supplemental Poverty Measure (SPM) thresholds created by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. For more information on the construction of SPM thresholds, refer to <www.bls.gov/pir/spmhome.htm>.

Elevated inflation rates do not explain all the divergence. Figure 2 presents year-to-year changes in inflation CPI-U against the FCSUti price index and the C-CPI-U price index, a commonly used metric that is included for comparison. Inflation measured by each of the measures track each other reasonably well save for the 2013 to 2016 and the post pandemic spike inflation. Together, Figures 1 and 2 underscore the complexity of the SPM thresholds and motivate a simpler production method.

[3] Refer to Burns and Fox (2021) for more details.

*Figure 2*




Note: Estimates occur at midpoint of labeled year. Gray bars indicate recessions as defined by the National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER). Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The differing rates of changes in poverty thresholds for the two measures led to divergences in reported poverty rates. In 2022 and 2023, SPM poverty rates increased or were not statistically different while the official poverty rate fell (Shrider 2024, Shrider and Bijou 2025). Creamer (2024, 2025) highlights the role of threshold adjustment methods on this divergence, showing that anchoring the SPM thresholds in 2022 and 2023 and adjusting for inflation using the CPI-U led to the SPM rate falling in both years rather than increasing or not being statistically different.

These recent findings underscore how year-to-year changes in SPM poverty rates are complicated by the annual updating procedure of the thresholds. To help ease the complication, an anchored threshold method is proposed that updates the standard of living captured by the threshold decennially (2010, 2020, etc.) while adjusting for price changes in intervening years. The method builds off research conducted at the Census Bureau (Fox 2017) and externally (Fox et al. 2015) which explored the impact of anchoring SPM thresholds at various points in time. Less frequent updating of the standard of living captured by the threshold eases the interpretation of year-to-year changes in poverty as changes in thresholds reflect changes in prices, rather than changes in prices and expenditures. However, the fact that the standard of living is updated decennially is an advantage over the official poverty measure and helps the anchored SPM thresholds stay relevant.

## Data and Methodology

This paper uses the 2010 to 2025 Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplements (CPS ASEC) to conduct the analysis. The CPS ASEC is the primary source of income

and poverty estimates in the United States and is importantly home to the necessary survey data to produce SPM estimates annually. The survey has undergone three major changes during this time leading to breaks in series. The first, for 2013 data, represented a change to the questionnaire aimed at improving collection of income and health insurance data. The second, for 2017 data, represented a change to the data processing system to account for the survey design change implemented in the 2013 data year. The last was the major revision to the SPM methodology that included changes to resources and thresholds in the 2019 data year.

The proposed anchored SPM methodology replicates what a production series could look like if the decennial updating methodology was implemented. SPM estimates were first released by the Census Bureau in 2011 with estimates for 2009 and 2010 using the thresholds annually produced by BLS. The anchored SPM methodology sets the initial threshold for the series as the 2010 SPM threshold (Base 2010) for a two adult, two child SPM unit for each of the housing tenures in the anchored year. The Base 2010 estimates use the original SPM threshold methodology.[4] The thresholds are adjusted for inflation between the reference year and the anchored year using the CPI-U, equivalized using the three-parameter equivalence scale and geographically adjusted.[5] Notably, the geographic adjustments are based on the share of the SPM threshold that is housing (shelter plus utilities excluding telephone and internet) expenses (which varies by housing tenure) and data on median rents across the United States. Anchoring the geographic adjustments fully is difficult, because variations in metropolitan delineations across the ASEC increase the complexity of properly assigning adjustment factors. Therefore, the geographic adjustments are partially anchored, with the rent prices being allowed to fluctuate over time and the housing shares of the SPM thresholds being fixed in the anchor year. There are small changes to resources in the anchored SPM, as the "base" renters' threshold is used in the procedure to cap housing subsidies for resources each year.

Under the proposed methodology, the thresholds would have been updated when the 2020 SPM estimates were produced in September 2021. Following this procedure, the proposed anchored series anchors the poverty threshold for 2020 using the new standard of living. The threshold is adjusted backwards for inflation to 2019 to bridge the old and new series. For this paper, the updating procedure updates the poverty threshold to the 2020 threshold provided by BLS using the new SPM methodology (Base 2020) and would be in place until the 2030 estimates are released in 2031. The annual updating procedure allows for some flexibility in the definition of the thresholds in the updating period.[6] This means that new methods and data could be developed and studied to

[4] BLS produced historical SPM thresholds using the new methodology in 2023. Creamer and Burns (2024) produced SPM estimates using these thresholds. Appendix Table 1 uses this series for the Base 2010 estimates of the anchored series.

[5] For more information on the three-parameter equivalence scale, refer to: https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/supplemental-poverty-measure/datasets/spm/spm_techdoc.pdf

[6] The choice of anchor years is also arbitrary and could be applied to different years. Appendix Table 3 provides poverty estimates updating the standard of living using the original methodology threshold in 2019 rather than the 2020 threshold.

ensure that the decennial updating of the threshold leads to accurate and relevant estimates of economic well-being.

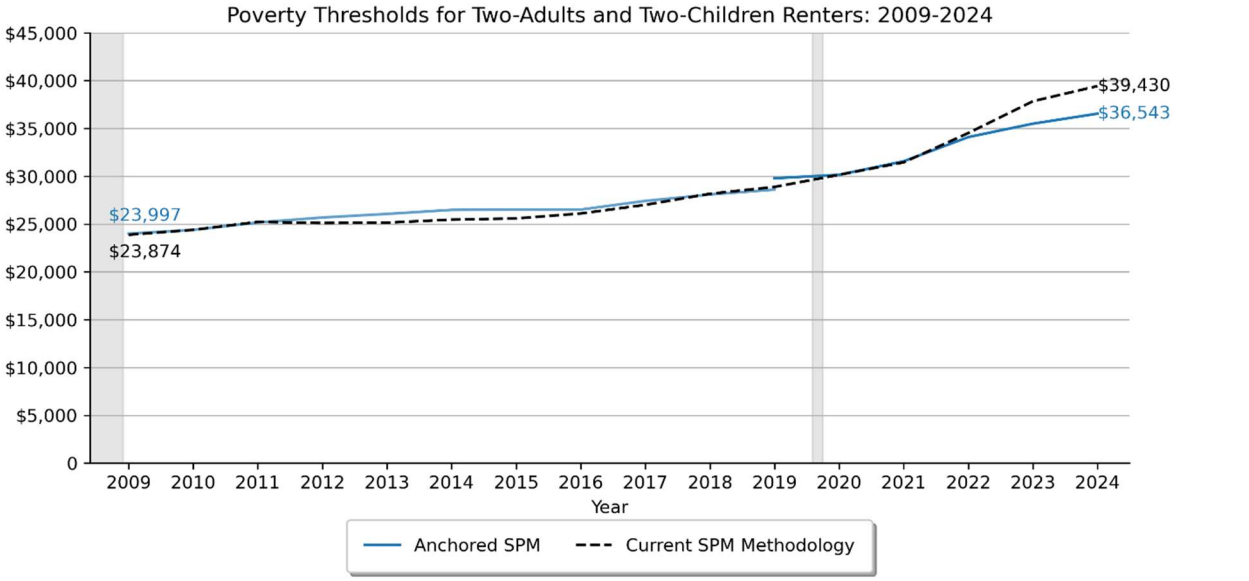
The anchor years that are used for the decennial updating of the thresholds reflect two different economic climates. In 2010, the United States was in the midst of an economic recovery after the Great Recession with an SPM rate of 15.9 percent, one of the highest in the series. Meanwhile, the poverty rate was at one of its lowest levels in 2020 at 9.2 percent. This was driven by the COVID-19 pandemic and the public policy response that included extended unemployment benefits and stimulus checks. Poverty rates will be presented for the overall population and the major age groups under the proposed methodology. Additional results also compare the impact of government assistance on poverty rates, a key benefit of the SPM, between the proposed methodology and the published SPM rates. The impact of choice of inflator will also be explored, with additional estimates using the FCSUti price index that is used for the SPM thresholds currently and the C-CPI-U provided.

## Results

Figure 3 (Table 3) presents the base poverty thresholds for a two adult, two child family who rents for the published and anchored SPM. In 2024, the published SPM threshold was $39,430 dollars, $2,887 dollars (7.9 percent) greater than the anchored threshold of $36,543. The published SPM thresholds grew by 65.2 percent from 2009 to 2024, 24.6 percent more than the increase for the anchored thresholds (52.3 percent). The absolute difference in the value of the published and anchored SPM thresholds in 2023 and 2024 was the highest across the entire series.[7]

[7] The anchored SPM thresholds for renters comprised of two-adults and two-children in 2023 and 2024 were not statistically different from each other.

*Figure 3*



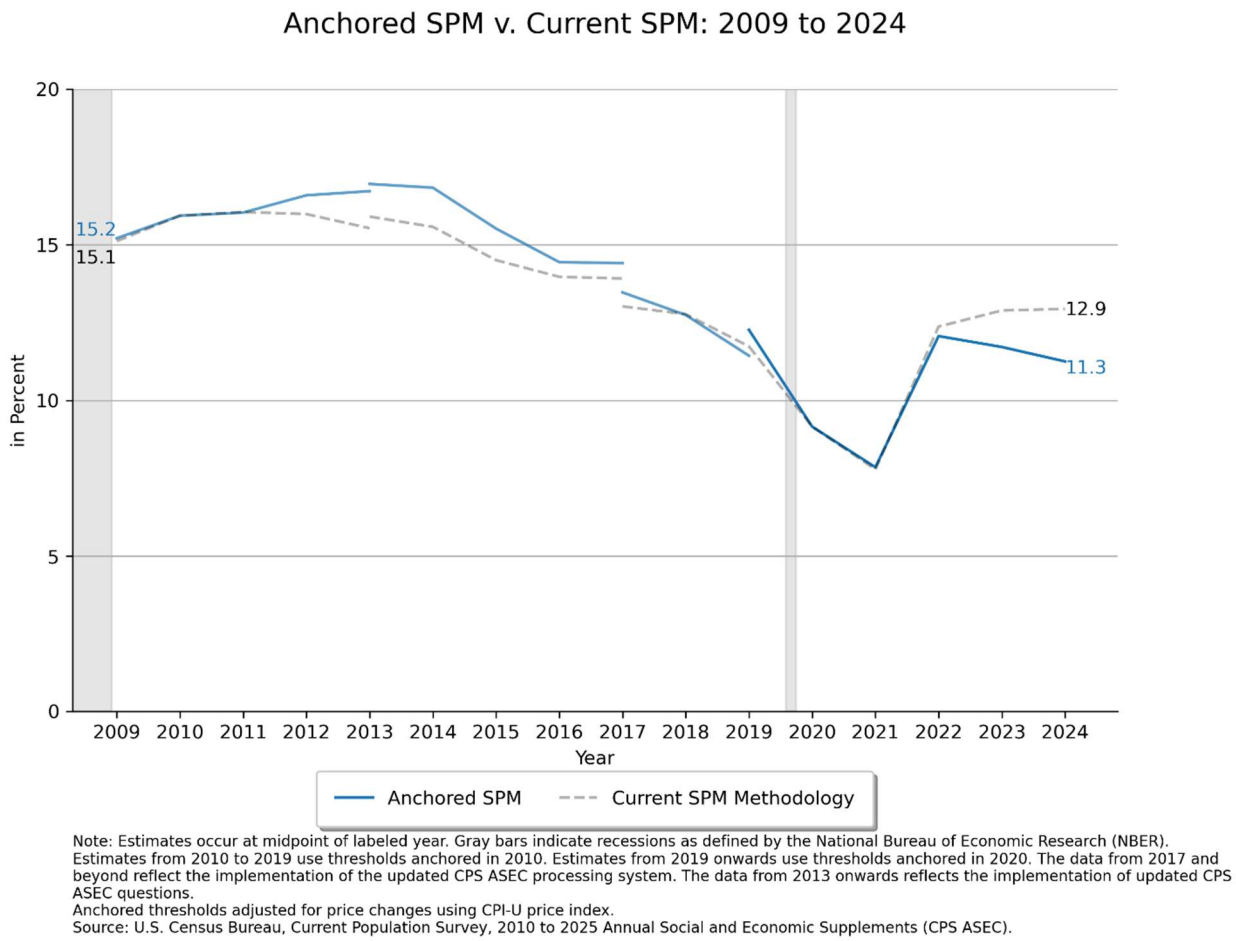

Note: Estimates occur at midpoint of labeled year. Gray bars indicate recessions as defined by the National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER). Estimates from 2010 to 2019 use thresholds anchored in 2010. Estimates from 2019 onwards use thresholds anchored in 2020. The data from 2017 and beyond reflect the implementation of the updated CPS ASEC processing system. The data from 2013 onwards reflects the implementation of updated CPS ASEC questions. Anchored thresholds adjusted for price changes using CPI-U price index.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 2010 to 2025 Annual Social and Economic Supplements (CPS ASEC).

Figure 4 (Table 4) compares the proposed anchored SPM series with the published SPM. Anchored SPM estimates from 2009 to 2019 use the anchored 2010 poverty thresholds while 2020 to 2024 use the 2020 anchored thresholds.[8] In both cases, the thresholds are adjusted for prices using the CPI-U price index. Two estimates are provided in 2019 to replicate what the potential production process would look like and allows for a comparison of the impact on the change in standard of living represented by moving from the 2010 to 2020 threshold base.[9]

Over this period, the published SPM rate fell 2.2 percentage points (14.5 percent) from 15.1 percent in 2009 to 12.9 percent in 2024. In comparison, the anchored SPM fell 4.0 percentage points (26.0 percent) to 11.3 percent in 2024. This was 1.7 percentage points lower than the published SPM rate. This difference in the poverty rates in 2024 is largely the result of how poverty rates changed post-pandemic for both measures. The anchored SPM shows poverty rates that declined or were not statistically different from 2022 while the published SPM rate increased over the same period. Overall, the combination of price adjustments and consumption changes in the basket of goods for the SPM thresholds leads to a picture of economic progress that is less positive compared to the anchored measure.

[8] Poverty estimates using the new threshold methodology for the base 2010 thresholds are provided in Appendix Table 1. The differences between the two series are not economically meaningful.
[9] Appendix Table 2 contains historical estimates the Base 2010 and Base 2020 thresholds.

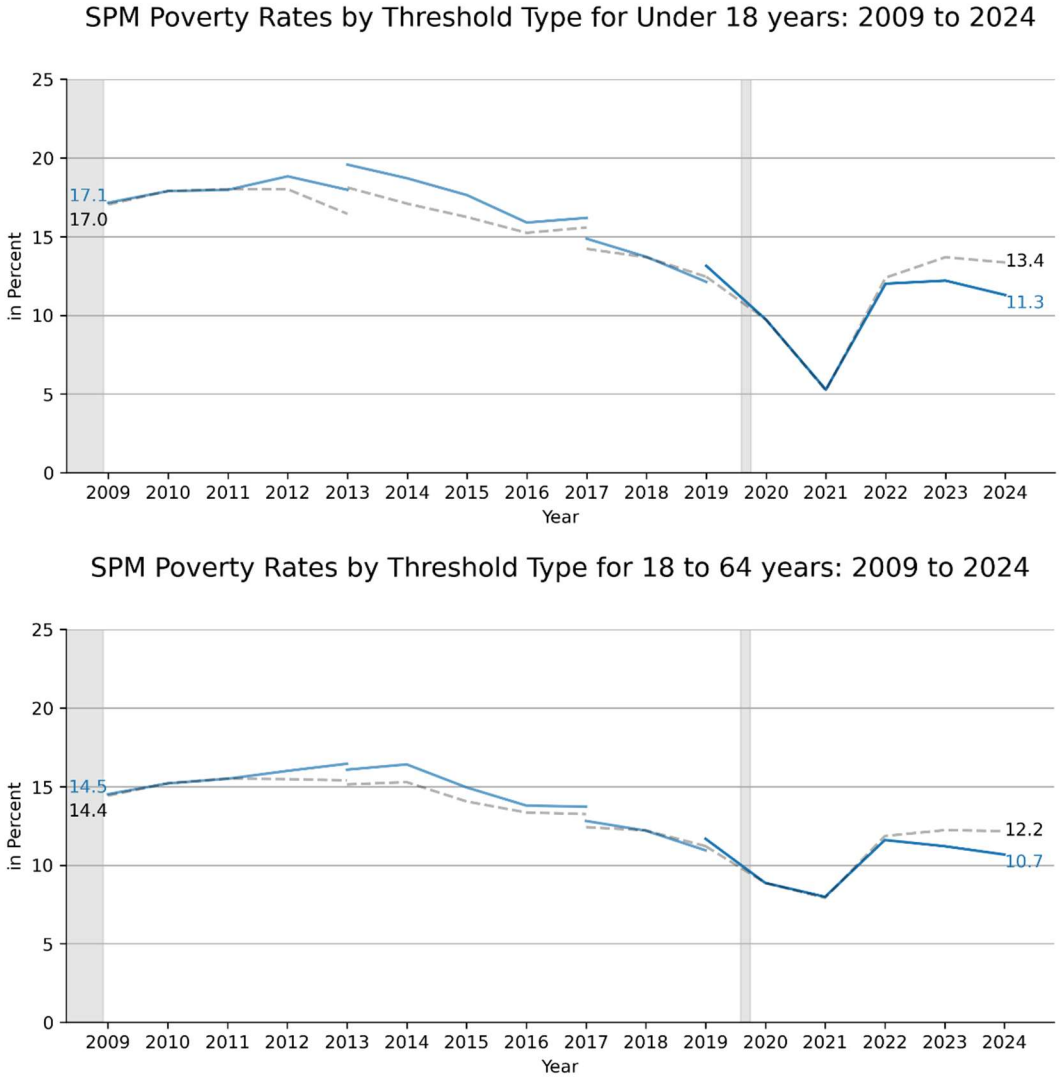
*Figure 4*

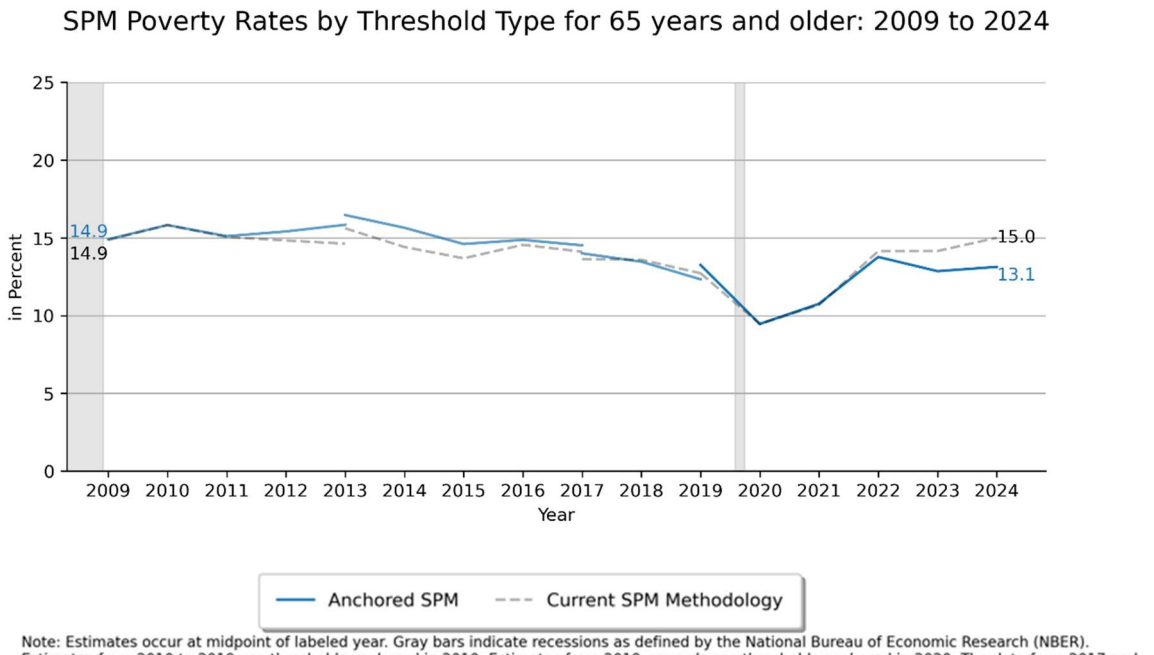



Note: Estimates occur at midpoint of labeled year. Gray bars indicate recessions as defined by the National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER). Estimates from 2010 to 2019 use thresholds anchored in 2010. Estimates from 2019 onwards use thresholds anchored in 2020. The data from 2017 and beyond reflect the implementation of the updated CPS ASEC processing system. The data from 2013 onwards reflects the implementation of updated CPS ASEC questions.
Anchored thresholds adjusted for price changes using CPI-U price index.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 2010 to 2025 Annual Social and Economic Supplements (CPS ASEC).

Figure 5 (Table 5) provides historical estimates for the three major age groups: children under age 18 years old, those aged 18-to-64 years old, and those aged 65 years and older. The difference between the published SPM and the anchored measure over time is most notable when focusing on those 65 years and older. Using the published SPM for the period shows that the 2009 SPM rate of 14.9 percent was not statistically different from the 2024 SPM rate of 15.0 percent. The anchored SPM presents a different story, showing that poverty fell during this period by 1.8 percentage points. The story is less notable for those under age 18 years and those aged 18-to-64 years, as poverty rates declined for both groups, with the anchored measures showing larger declines in poverty compared to the published SPM.

*Figure 5*


SPM Poverty Rates by Threshold Type for Under 18 years: 2009 to 2024
in Percent
Year
17.1
17.0
13.4
11.3
SPM Poverty Rates by Threshold Type for 18 to 64 years: 2009 to 2024
in Percent
Year
14.5
14.4
12.2
10.7

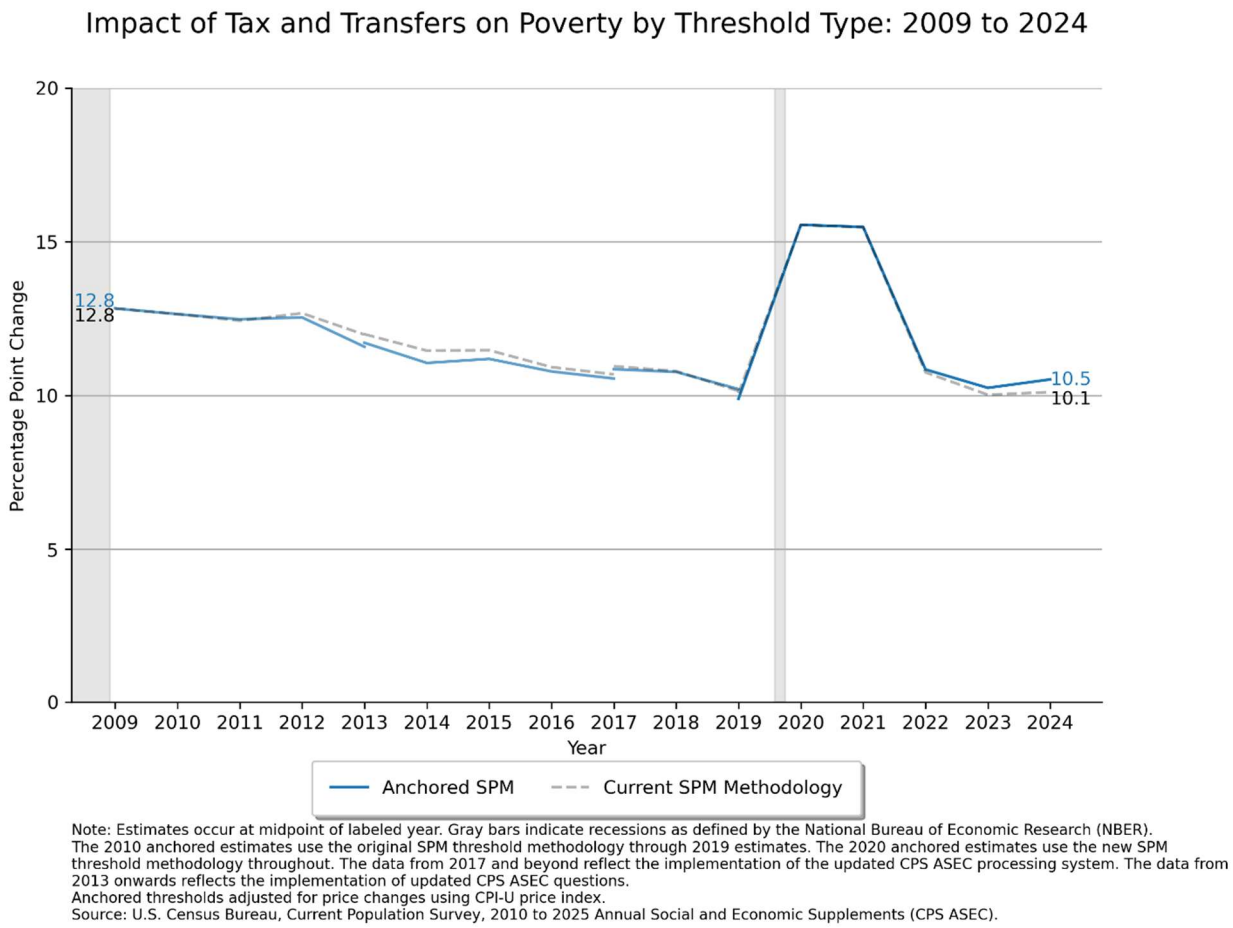



Note: Estimates occur at midpoint of labeled year. Gray bars indicate recessions as defined by the National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER). Estimates from 2010 to 2019 use thresholds anchored in 2010. Estimates from 2019 onwards use thresholds anchored in 2020. The data from 2017 and beyond reflect the implementation of the updated CPS ASEC processing system. The data from 2013 onwards reflects the implementation of updated CPS ASEC questions.
Anchored thresholds adjusted for price changes using CPI-U price index.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 2010 to 2025 Annual Social and Economic Supplements (CPS ASEC).

A key feature of the SPM is the ability to estimate the impact of key government assistance programs on poverty rates. Figure 6 (Table 6) simplifies the figure shown in the annual poverty report and presents the impact of taxes and government transfers on poverty rates for each of the methodologies.[10] In 2024, the combined impact of taxes and transfers was 10.1 percentage points using the published SPM, less than the 10.5 percentage point impact measured with the anchored SPM. This means that absent these policies, the anchored SPM rate would have been 21.8 percent. Each of the series shows that the overall impact of taxes and government transfers decreased from 2009 to 2024.

[10] Taxes and government transfers include the following: Unemployment compensation, Social Security, Supplemental Security Income, housing subsidies, school lunch, Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP), Special Supplemental Nutritional Program for Women and Children (WIC), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and other cash assistance, energy assistance, FICA taxes, Federal and state taxes and tax credits

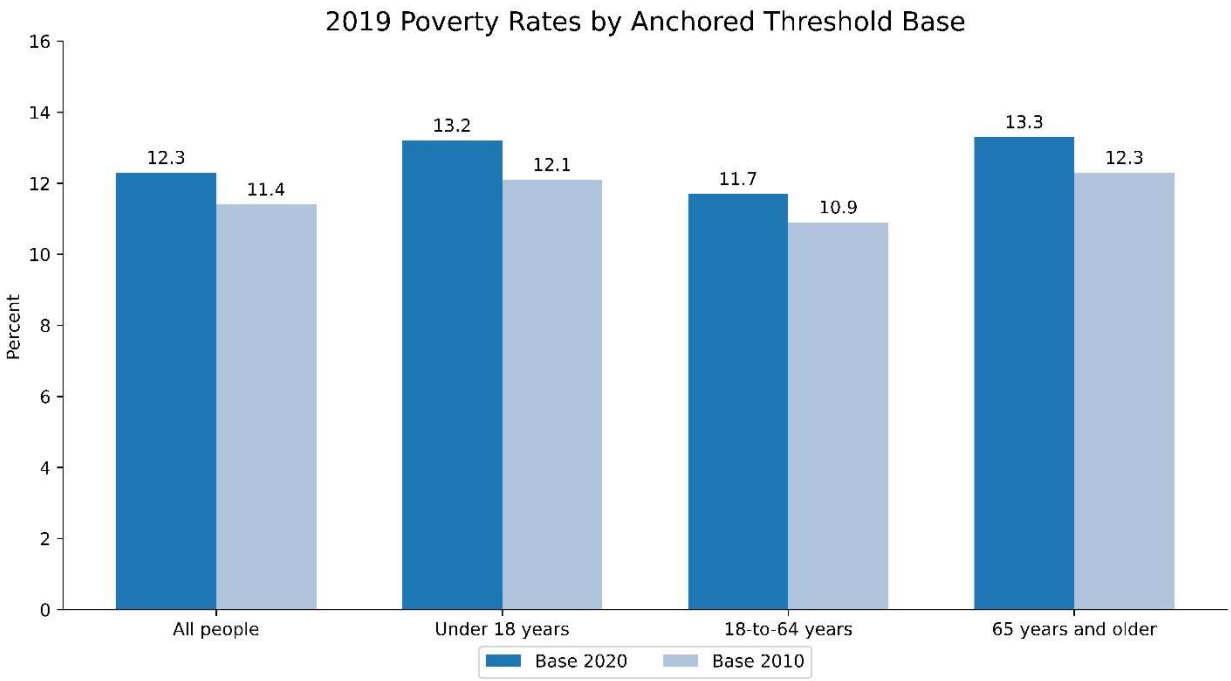
*Figure 6*




Note: Estimates occur at midpoint of labeled year. Gray bars indicate recessions as defined by the National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER).
The 2010 anchored estimates use the original SPM threshold methodology through 2019 estimates. The 2020 anchored estimates use the new SPM threshold methodology throughout. The data from 2017 and beyond reflect the implementation of the updated CPS ASEC processing system. The data from 2013 onwards reflects the implementation of updated CPS ASEC questions.
Anchored thresholds adjusted for price changes using CPI-U price index.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 2010 to 2025 Annual Social and Economic Supplements (CPS ASEC).

The proposed methodology produces two anchored SPM estimates for 2019 to bridge the historical time series from the Base 2010 standard of living to the Base 2020 standard. Figure 7 (Table 4 and Table 5) presents the impact of those changes on anchored SPM poverty rates for the overall population and for the major age groups. The rebasing of the anchored SPM threshold increased the standard poverty threshold for renters in households with two adults and two children by $1,190 in 2019. This led to an increase in poverty rates for the overall population and the major age groups. Particularly, the poverty rate for the overall population increased 0.9 percentage points from 11.4 percent to 12.3 percent.

*Figure 7*




Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 2020 Annual Social and Economic Supplement (CPS ASEC).
Base 2020 estimates use the 2020 anchored threshold. Base 2010 estimates use the 2010 anchored threshold.

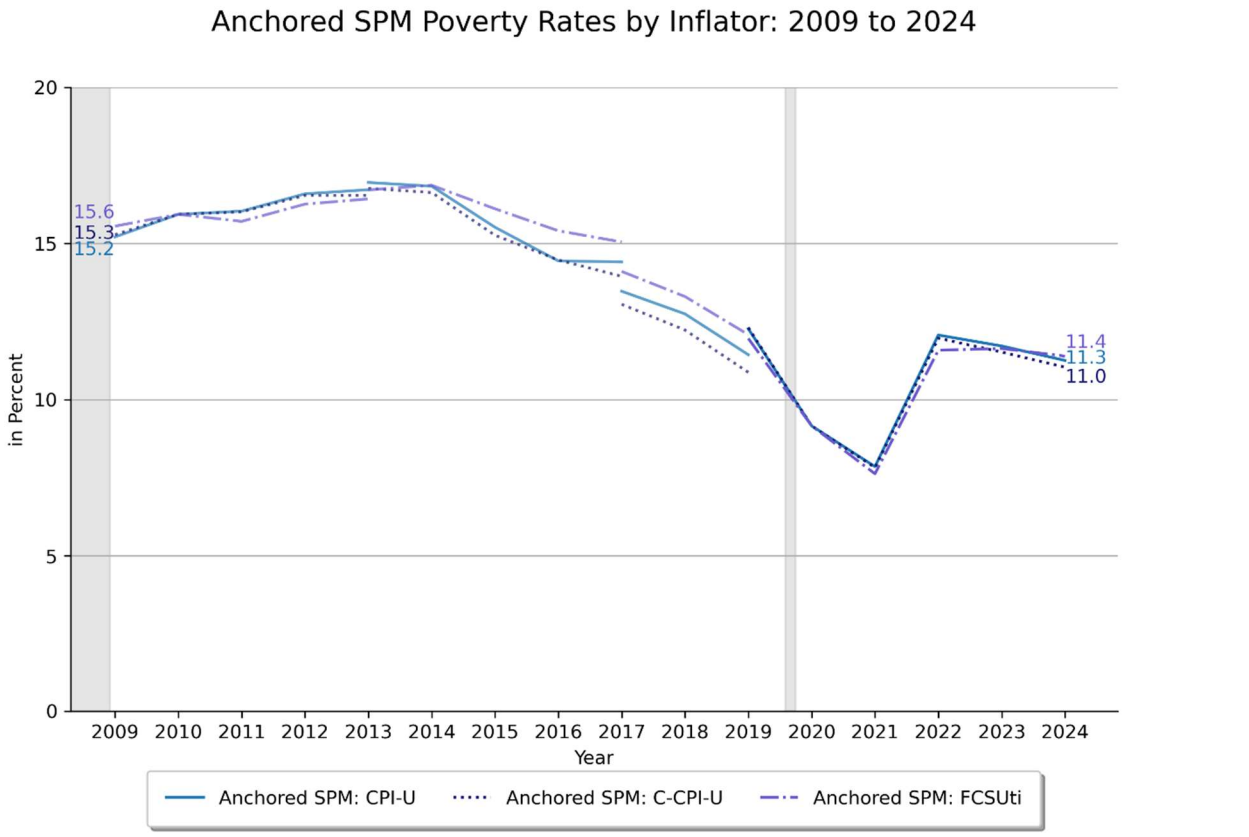
## Impacts of Price Adjustments

A topic of discussion among researchers and policymakers is whether the CPI-U accurately measures inflation for the official poverty measure as the source of year-to-year updating of the thresholds. The anchored measure faces the same concerns albeit to a smaller degree with the decennial updating schedule. Figure 8 (Table 7) explores the impact of three different inflators: the CPI-U, the C-CPI-U and the FCSUti on historical poverty rates using the anchored measure. The CPI-U and the C-CPI-U are similar price indices that differ in how they treat the substitutability of goods. The C-CPI-U assumes that higher-priced goods are substituted to lower-priced goods unlike the CPI-U, meaning that inflation measured by the C-CPI-U is lower over time. The FCSUti is created like the CPI-U but is comprised of only food, clothing, shelter, telephone, and internet expenses unlike the broader CPI-U.

The estimates show that the inflator of choice has small and statistically significant impacts at the beginning and end of the historical series. Part of this is a function of timing, as the 2010 and 2020 anchor points are close to the start and end points of the series. Differences between the inflators become more apparent from about 5 years from the anchor point and beyond. In 2019, the last year of estimates using the Base 2010 threshold, the anchored SPM estimates using the FCSUti price index was 12.1 percent. This was 0.7 percentage points higher than the anchored SPM using the CPI-U (11.4 percent), and 1.2 percentage points higher than the C-CPI-U (10.9 percent). Using the FCSUti price index translates to poverty rates falling by 22.2 percent (3.5 percentage points) in the

decade following the Great Recession compared to 28.5 percent (4.4 percentage points) using the C-CPI-U.

*Figure 8*




Note: Estimates occur at midpoint of labeled year. Gray bars indicate recessions as defined by the National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER). The 2010 anchored estimates use the original SPM threshold methodology through 2019 estimates. The 2020 anchored estimates use the new SPM threshold methodology throughout. The data from 2017 and beyond reflect the implementation of the updated CPS ASEC processing system. The data from 2013 onwards reflects the implementation of updated CPS ASEC questions.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 2010 to 2025 Annual Social and Economic Supplements (CPS ASEC).

## Discussion and Conclusion

Since 2022, the poverty rates captured by the SPM and the official poverty measure have diverged, as official poverty has fallen and SPM rates have increased or remained stable. Research at BLS and the Census Bureau suggest that the cause of this divergence is due to how the SPM thresholds are updated annually (Schild 2023; Creamer 2024,2025). Figures 1 and 2 support this conclusion, showing that year-to-year changes in the poverty thresholds are not simply the result of differences in the way inflation is measured.

Building off this conclusion, this paper introduces a potential method which changes the way the SPM thresholds are updated annually. Leaning on characteristics of an absolute poverty measure, the standard of living captured by the threshold would be updated on 10-year increments (2010, 2020, etc.). Poverty thresholds would be updated in the intervening period for inflation using an inflation measure of choice. This method provides benefits over the existing poverty measures as

regular updating of the standard of living keeps the poverty measure modern while simplifying year-to-year comparisons by adjusting only for prices.

The anchored methodology underscores how the annual updating of the current SPM thresholds is leading to a complicated picture of poverty in recent years. Much of the difference between the anchored SPM and the published SPM comes from the post-COVID-19 pandemic period, where anchored SPM poverty fell or was not statistically different in 2023 and 2024 while the published SPM increased or was not statistically different. In fact, the 1.7 percentage point difference in overall poverty measured by the two measures in 2024 was the largest difference across the time series. Post-pandemic differences are also seen for the major age groups and the impact of tax and transfers on poverty rates.

The choice of inflation metric is an important one to interpret poverty trends over time. The anchored series is no different, although the problem is less impactful than for the official poverty measure due to the regular updating of the thresholds. The results indicate that the choice of inflator is important towards the end of the cycle of a base threshold. An advantage of the CPI-U in this scenario is that poverty estimates strike a middle ground between the FCSUti price index (which measures higher inflation on the basket of goods in the threshold) and the C-CPI-U which allows for substitutability in goods. More research and discussion is necessary before making a final decision on the inflator, particularly using the research CPIs based on quintiles of income produced by BLS.

Altogether, these findings suggest that a regular 10-year updating strategy can preserve SPM historical trends, keep the value of the poverty thresholds more connected to current living standards, and reduce the year-to-year complexity of the poverty measure. This research is part of ongoing work at the Census Bureau which studies changes and improvements to the SPM and does not represent a planned change in methodology. The SPM follows a process of change set by the Interagency Working Group on the Supplemental Poverty Measure that ensures time for research on potential modifications to the measure and public outreach to garner feedback and promote transparency.

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## Tables

**Table 1:** Year-to-year Changes in Poverty Thresholds: 2010-2024

| | SPM: Renters | SPM: Owners w/ Mortgage | SPM: Owners w/o Mortgage | Official Poverty Measure |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2010 | 2.2 | 2.3 | 1.4 | 1.6 |
| 2011 | 3.4 | 2.7 | 2.8 | 3.2 |
| 2012 | -0.5 | 0.3 | 1.1 | 2.1 |
| 2013 | 0.2 | -0.6 | 0.0 | 1.5 |
| 2014 | 1.3 | 0.8 | -0.1 | 1.6 |
| 2015 | 0.5 | 0.3 | 2.0 | 0.1 |
| 2016 | 2.0 | 1.6 | 2.3 | 1.3 |
| 2017 | 3.5 | 2.8 | 4.3 | 2.1 |
| 2018 | 4.3 | 4.6 | 3.9 | 2.4 |
| 2019 | 3.6 | 2.6 | 1.0 | 1.8 |
| 2020 | 3.3 | 3.0 | 3.3 | 1.2 |
| 2021 | 4.3 | 3.8 | 4.2 | 4.7 |
| 2022 | 9.7 | 10.1 | 10.0 | 8.0 |
| 2023 | 8.6 | 7.8 | 6.8 | 4.1 |
| 2024 | 5.2 | 5.8 | 5.6 | 2.9 |

In percentage point.
Note: Thresholds are for families with two adults and two children.
Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics Division of Price Index and Numbers Research (SPM thresholds) and the U.S. Census Bureau (official poverty measure).

**Table 2.** Year-to-Year Inflation Rates 2010 to 2024 (2009=100)

| | CPI-U | | C-CPI-U | | FCSUti | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Index | Year-to-year change | Index | Year-to-year change | Index | Year-to-year change |
| 2010 | 101.6 | 1.6 | 101.4 | 1.4 | 100.4 | 0.4 |
| 2011 | 104.8 | 3.2 | 104.5 | 3.1 | 102.3 | 2.0 |
| 2012 | 107.0 | 2.1 | 106.6 | 1.9 | 104.4 | 2.0 |
| 2013 | 108.6 | 1.5 | 107.9 | 1.2 | 106.4 | 1.9 |
| 2014 | 110.3 | 1.6 | 109.4 | 1.4 | 109.0 | 2.5 |
| 2015 | 110.5 | 0.1 | 109.3 | -0.1 | 111.0 | 1.8 |
| 2016 | 110.5 | 0.0 | 110.3 | 0.9 | 113.0 | 1.8 |
| 2017 | 114.3 | 3.4 | 112.3 | 1.8 | 115.3 | 2.1 |
| 2018 | 117.0 | 2.4 | 114.5 | 2.0 | 118.0 | 2.3 |
| 2019 | 119.2 | 1.8 | 116.2 | 1.5 | 120.7 | 2.3 |
| 2020 | 120.6 | 1.2 | 117.4 | 1.1 | 123.6 | 2.4 |
| 2021 | 126.3 | 4.7 | 122.7 | 4.5 | 127.5 | 3.2 |
| 2022 | 136.4 | 8.0 | 132.1 | 7.7 | 136.7 | 7.2 |
| 2023 | 142.0 | 4.1 | 137.2 | 3.9 | 145.2 | 6.2 |
| 2024 | 146.2 | 2.9 | 140.8 | 2.6 | 150.9 | 4.0 |

In percent. Details may not sum to year-to-year rates due to rounding.

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

**Table 3:** Poverty Thresholds for Two-Adult, Two-Child Renters: 2009-2024

| | Current SPM | Anchored Threshold |
|---|---|---|
| 2009 | $23,874 | $23,997 |
| 2010 | $24,391 | $24,391 |
| 2011 | $25,222 | $25,161 |
| 2012 | $25,105 | $25,682 |
| 2013 | $25,144 | $26,058 |
| 2014 | $25,460 | $26,480 |
| 2015 | $25,583 | $26,512 |
| 2016 | $26,104 | $26,512 |
| 2017 | $27,005 | $27,418 |
| 2018 | $28,166 | $28,088 |
| 2019 | $28,881 | $28,597 |
| 2019[1] | $29,194 | $29,783 |
| 2020 | $30,150 | $30,150 |
| 2021 | $31,453 | $31,566 |
| 2022 | $34,518 | $34,093 |
| 2023 | $37,842 | $35,496 |
| 2024 | $39,430 | $36,543 |

[1] Anchored Estimates reflect implementation of Base 2020 threshold. SPM estimates reflect new threshold methodology. Estimates should be used to make comparisons to 2020 and subsequent years.
Note: 2020 anchored thresholds produced using the new SPM methodology. 2010 anchored thresholds produced using old SPM methodology. Anchored thresholds adjusted using CPI-U.
Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics Division of Price Index and Numbers Research and author's calculations

**Table 4.** Anchored and Published SPM Rates, All People: 2009-2024

| | Published SPM | MOE | Anchored SPM | MOE |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2009 | 15.1 | 0.3 | 15.2 | 0.3 |
| 2010 | 15.9 | 0.3 | 15.9 | 0.3 |
| 2011 | 16.1 | 0.3 | 16.0 | 0.3 |
| 2012 | 16.0 | 0.3 | 16.6 | 0.3 |
| 2013 | 15.5 | 0.3 | 16.7 | 0.4 |
| 2013[1] | 15.9 | 0.5 | 17.0 | 0.5 |
| 2014 | 15.6 | 0.3 | 16.8 | 0.3 |
| 2015 | 14.5 | 0.3 | 15.5 | 0.3 |
| 2016 | 14.0 | 0.3 | 14.4 | 0.2 |
| 2017 | 13.9 | 0.3 | 14.4 | 0.3 |
| 2017[2] | 13.0 | 0.3 | 13.5 | 0.3 |
| 2018 | 12.8 | 0.3 | 12.7 | 0.3 |
| 2019 | 11.7 | 0.3 | 11.4 | 0.3 |
| 2019[3] | 11.8 | 0.3 | 12.3 | 0.3 |
| 2020 | 9.2 | 0.2 | 9.2 | 0.2 |
| 2021 | 7.8 | 0.2 | 7.9 | 0.2 |
| 2022 | 12.4 | 0.3 | 12.1 | 0.3 |
| 2023 | 12.9 | 0.3 | 11.7 | 0.3 |
| 2024 | 12.9 | 0.3 | 11.3 | 0.3 |

In percent. Margins of error (MOE) generated using survey replicate weights.
[1] Estimates reflect the implementation of redesigned income questions and should be used to make comparisons to 2014 and subsequent years.
[2] Estimates reflect the implementation of an updated processing system and should be used to make comparisons to 2018 and subsequent years.
[3] Anchored Estimates reflect implementation of Base 2020 threshold. SPM estimates reflect new threshold methodology. Estimates should be used to make comparisons to 2020 and subsequent years.
Note: Anchored thresholds produced using the new SPM methodology. Thresholds adjusted for inflation using CPI-U.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 2010 to 2025 Annual Social and Economic Supplements (CPS ASEC).

**Table 5.** Anchored and Published SPM Rates, by Ages: 2009-2024

| | | Published SPM | MOE | Anchored SPM | MOE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Under 18 years* | | | | | |
| | 2009 | 17.0 | 0.5 | 17.1 | 0.5 |
| | 2010 | 17.9 | 0.5 | 17.9 | 0.5 |
| | 2011 | 18.0 | 0.5 | 18.0 | 0.5 |
| | 2012 | 18.0 | 0.5 | 18.8 | 0.5 |
| | 2013 | 16.4 | 0.5 | 18.0 | 0.5 |
| | 2013[1] | 18.1 | 0.9 | 19.6 | 0.9 |
| | 2014 | 17.1 | 0.5 | 18.7 | 0.5 |
| | 2015 | 16.2 | 0.5 | 17.6 | 0.5 |
| | 2016 | 15.2 | 0.5 | 15.9 | 0.5 |
| | 2017 | 15.6 | 0.5 | 16.2 | 0.5 |
| | 2017[2] | 14.2 | 0.5 | 14.9 | 0.5 |
| | 2018 | 13.7 | 0.5 | 13.7 | 0.5 |
| | 2019 | 12.4 | 0.5 | 12.1 | 0.5 |
| | 2019[3] | 12.6 | 0.5 | 13.2 | 0.5 |
| | 2020 | 9.7 | 0.4 | 9.7 | 0.4 |
| | 2021 | 5.2 | 0.4 | 5.3 | 0.4 |
| | 2022 | 12.4 | 0.5 | 12.0 | 0.5 |
| | 2023 | 13.7 | 0.6 | 12.2 | 0.5 |
| | 2024 | 13.4 | 0.5 | 11.3 | 0.5 |
| *18 to 64 years* | | | | | |
| | 2009 | 14.4 | 0.3 | 14.5 | 0.3 |
| | 2010 | 15.2 | 0.3 | 15.2 | 0.3 |
| | 2011 | 15.5 | 0.3 | 15.5 | 0.3 |
| | 2012 | 15.5 | 0.3 | 16.0 | 0.3 |
| | 2013 | 15.4 | 0.4 | 16.4 | 0.4 |
| | 2013[1] | 15.1 | 0.5 | 16.1 | 0.5 |
| | 2014 | 15.3 | 0.3 | 16.4 | 0.3 |
| | 2015 | 14.1 | 0.3 | 14.9 | 0.3 |
| | 2016 | 13.3 | 0.3 | 13.8 | 0.3 |
| | 2017 | 13.2 | 0.3 | 13.7 | 0.3 |
| | 2017[2] | 12.4 | 0.3 | 12.8 | 0.3 |
| | 2018 | 12.2 | 0.3 | 12.2 | 0.3 |
| | 2019 | 11.2 | 0.3 | 10.9 | 0.3 |
| | 2019[3] | 11.2 | 0.3 | 11.7 | 0.3 |
| | 2020 | 8.9 | 0.3 | 8.9 | 0.3 |
| | 2021 | 7.9 | 0.3 | 8.0 | 0.3 |
| | 2022 | 11.9 | 0.3 | 11.6 | 0.3 |
| | 2023 | 12.2 | 0.3 | 11.2 | 0.3 |
| | 2024 | 12.2 | 0.3 | 10.7 | 0.3 |
| *65 years and older* | | | | | |
| | 2009 | 14.9 | 0.6 | 14.9 | 0.6 |
| | 2010 | 15.8 | 0.6 | 15.8 | 0.6 |
| | 2011 | 15.1 | 0.5 | 15.1 | 0.5 |
| | 2012 | 14.8 | 0.5 | 15.4 | 0.5 |
| | 2013 | 14.6 | 0.6 | 15.8 | 0.6 |

**Table 5.** SPM Rates by Threshold, by Ages: 2009-2024 (cont.)

| | Published SPM | MOE | Anchored SPM | MOE |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2013[1] | 15.6 | 0.9 | 16.5 | 0.9 |
| 2014 | 14.4 | 0.5 | 15.6 | 0.5 |
| 2015 | 13.7 | 0.5 | 14.6 | 0.5 |
| 2016 | 14.5 | 0.5 | 14.9 | 0.5 |
| 2017 | 14.1 | 0.5 | 14.5 | 0.6 |
| 2017[2] | 13.6 | 0.5 | 14.0 | 0.5 |
| 2018 | 13.6 | 0.5 | 13.5 | 0.5 |
| 2019 | 12.7 | 0.5 | 12.3 | 0.5 |
| 2019[3] | 12.7 | 0.5 | 13.3 | 0.5 |
| 2020 | 9.5 | 0.4 | 9.5 | 0.4 |
| 2021 | 10.7 | 0.4 | 10.8 | 0.4 |
| 2022 | 14.1 | 0.5 | 13.8 | 0.5 |
| 2023 | 14.2 | 0.5 | 12.9 | 0.5 |
| 2024 | 15.0 | 0.5 | 13.1 | 0.5 |

In percent. Margins of error (MOE) generated using survey replicate weights.
[1] Estimates reflect the implementation of redesigned income questions and should be used to make comparisons to 2014 and subsequent years.
[2] Estimates reflect the implementation of an updated processing system and should be used to make comparisons to 2018 and subsequent years.
[3] Anchored Estimates reflect implementation of Base 2020 threshold. SPM estimates reflect new threshold methodology. Estimates should be used to make comparisons to 2020 and subsequent years.
Note: Anchored thresholds produced using the new SPM methodology. Thresholds adjusted for inflation using CPI-U.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 2010 to 2025 Annual Social and Economic Supplements (CPS ASEC).

**Table 6.** Impact of Tax and Transfers on Poverty by Threshold Type: 2009 to 2024

| (percentage point) | Published SPM | MOE | Anchored SPM | MOE |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2009 | 12.8 | 0.3 | 12.4 | 0.3 |
| 2010 | 12.6 | 0.3 | 12.3 | 0.2 |
| 2011 | 12.4 | 0.2 | 12.1 | 0.2 |
| 2012 | 12.7 | 0.2 | 12.1 | 0.2 |
| 2013 | 12.0 | 0.3 | 11.0 | 0.3 |
| 2013[1] | 12.0 | 0.4 | 11.2 | 0.4 |
| 2014 | 11.5 | 0.2 | 10.5 | 0.2 |
| 2015 | 11.5 | 0.3 | 10.6 | 0.3 |
| 2016 | 10.9 | 0.3 | 10.4 | 0.3 |
| 2017 | 10.7 | 0.2 | 10.1 | 0.2 |
| 2017[2] | 11.0 | 0.3 | 10.5 | 0.3 |
| 2018 | 10.8 | 0.3 | 10.4 | 0.2 |
| 2019 | 10.1 | 0.3 | 9.9 | 0.3 |
| 2019[3] | 10.1 | 0.3 | 10.0 | 0.3 |
| 2020 | 15.5 | 0.3 | 15.6 | 0.3 |
| 2021 | 15.5 | 0.3 | 15.5 | 0.3 |
| 2022 | 10.8 | 0.2 | 10.9 | 0.2 |
| 2023 | 10.0 | 0.3 | 10.3 | 0.3 |
| 2024 | 10.1 | 0.3 | 10.5 | 0.3 |

In percentage point. Margins of error (MOE) generated using survey replicate weights.

[1] Estimates reflect the implementation of redesigned income questions and should be used to make comparisons to 2014 and subsequent years.

[2] Estimates reflect the implementation of an updated processing system and should be used to make comparisons to 2018 and subsequent years.

[3] Anchored Estimates reflect implementation of Base 2020 threshold. SPM estimates reflect new threshold methodology. Estimates should be used to make comparisons to 2020 and subsequent years.

Note: Anchored thresholds produced using the new SPM methodology. Thresholds adjusted for inflation using CPI-U.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 2010 to 2025 Annual Social and Economic Supplements (CPS ASEC).

**Table 7.** Anchored Poverty Rates by Inflator: 2009 to 2024

| | CPI-U | MOE | C-CPI-U | MOE | FCSUti | MOE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2009 | 15.2 | 0.3 | 15.3 | 0.3 | 15.6 | 1.3 |
| 2010 | 15.9 | 0.3 | 15.9 | 0.3 | 15.9 | 0.3 |
| 2011 | 16.0 | 0.3 | 16.0 | 0.3 | 15.7 | 1.3 |
| 2012 | 16.6 | 0.3 | 16.5 | 0.3 | 16.3 | 1.4 |
| 2013 | 16.7 | 0.4 | 16.5 | 0.3 | 16.4 | 1.4 |
| 2013[1] | 17.0 | 0.5 | 16.8 | 0.5 | 16.7 | 1.4 |
| 2014 | 16.8 | 0.3 | 16.6 | 0.3 | 16.9 | 0.6 |
| 2015 | 15.5 | 0.3 | 15.3 | 0.3 | 16.1 | 1.2 |
| 2016 | 14.4 | 0.2 | 14.5 | 0.2 | 15.4 | 1.5 |
| 2017 | 14.4 | 0.3 | 13.9 | 0.3 | 15.0 | 1.4 |
| 2017[2] | 13.5 | 0.3 | 13.1 | 0.3 | 14.1 | 1.4 |
| 2018 | 12.7 | 0.3 | 12.2 | 0.3 | 13.3 | 1.0 |
| 2019 | 11.4 | 0.3 | 10.9 | 0.3 | 12.1 | 1.5 |
| 2019[3] | 12.3 | 0.3 | 12.3 | 0.3 | 12.0 | 0.9 |
| 2020 | 9.2 | 0.2 | 9.2 | 0.2 | 9.2 | 0.2 |
| 2021 | 7.9 | 0.2 | 7.8 | 0.2 | 7.6 | 0.8 |
| 2022 | 12.1 | 0.3 | 12.0 | 0.3 | 11.6 | 1.8 |
| 2023 | 11.7 | 0.3 | 11.5 | 0.3 | 11.6 | 0.8 |
| 2024 | 11.3 | 0.3 | 11.0 | 0.3 | 11.4 | 0.3 |

In percent. Margins of error (MOE) generated using survey replicate weights.

[1] Estimates reflect the implementation of redesigned income questions and should be used to make comparisons to 2014 and subsequent years.

[2] Estimates reflect the implementation of an updated processing system and should be used to make comparisons to 2018 and subsequent years.

[3] Anchored Estimates reflect implementation of Base 2020 threshold. SPM estimates reflect new threshold methodology. Estimates should be used to make comparisons to 2020 and subsequent years.

Note: Anchored thresholds produced using the new SPM methodology. Thresholds adjusted for inflation using CPI-U.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 2010 to 2025 Annual Social and Economic Supplements (CPS ASEC).

## Appendix

**Appendix Table 1.** Anchored SPM Rates by Methodology, All People: 2009-2024

| | Anchored SPM | MOE | Anchored SPM -New Method | MOE |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2009 | 15.2 | 0.3 | 15.1 | 0.3 |
| 2010 | 15.9 | 0.3 | 15.9 | 0.3 |
| 2011 | 16.0 | 0.3 | 16.0 | 0.3 |
| 2012 | 16.6 | 0.3 | 16.6 | 0.3 |
| 2013 | 16.7 | 0.4 | 16.6 | 0.3 |
| 2013[1] | 17.0 | 0.5 | 17.1 | 0.5 |
| 2014 | 16.8 | 0.3 | 16.8 | 0.3 |
| 2015 | 15.5 | 0.3 | 15.5 | 0.3 |
| 2016 | 14.4 | 0.2 | 14.5 | 0.2 |
| 2017 | 14.4 | 0.3 | 14.4 | 0.3 |
| 2017[2] | 13.5 | 0.3 | 13.5 | 0.3 |
| 2018 | 12.7 | 0.3 | 12.7 | 0.3 |
| 2019 | 11.4 | 0.3 | 11.4 | 0.3 |
| 2019[3] | 12.3 | 0.3 | 12.3 | 0.3 |
| 2020 | 9.2 | 0.2 | 9.2 | 0.2 |
| 2021 | 7.9 | 0.2 | 7.9 | 0.2 |
| 2022 | 12.1 | 0.3 | 12.1 | 0.3 |
| 2023 | 11.7 | 0.3 | 11.7 | 0.3 |
| 2024 | 11.3 | 0.3 | 11.3 | 0.3 |

In percent. Margins of error (MOE) generated using survey replicate weights.

[1] Estimates reflect the implementation of redesigned income questions and should be used to make comparisons to 2014 and subsequent years.

[2] Estimates reflect the implementation of an updated processing system and should be used to make comparisons to 2018 and subsequent years.

[3] Anchored Estimates reflect implementation of Base 2020 threshold. SPM estimates reflect new threshold methodology. Estimates should be used to make comparisons to 2020 and subsequent years.

Note: Anchored thresholds produced using the new SPM methodology. Thresholds adjusted for inflation using CPI-U.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 2010 to 2025 Annual Social and Economic Supplements (CPS ASEC).

**Appendix Table 2.** Poverty Rates using SPM and Base Anchored Thresholds: 2009 to 2024

| | Published SPM | MOE | Base 2020 | MOE | Base 2010 | MOE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2009 | 15.1 | 0.3 | 16.2 | 0.3 | 15.2 | 0.3 |
| 2010 | 15.9 | 0.3 | 16.9 | 0.3 | 15.9 | 0.3 |
| 2011 | 16.1 | 0.3 | 17.0 | 0.3 | 16.0 | 0.3 |
| 2012 | 16.0 | 0.3 | 17.6 | 0.3 | 16.6 | 0.3 |
| 2013 | 15.5 | 0.3 | 17.8 | 0.4 | 16.7 | 0.4 |
| 2013[1] | 15.9 | 0.5 | 18.1 | 0.5 | 17.0 | 0.5 |
| 2014 | 15.6 | 0.3 | 18.0 | 0.3 | 16.8 | 0.3 |
| 2015 | 14.5 | 0.3 | 16.7 | 0.3 | 15.5 | 0.3 |
| 2016 | 14.0 | 0.3 | 15.3 | 0.2 | 14.4 | 0.2 |
| 2017 | 13.9 | 0.3 | 15.4 | 0.3 | 14.4 | 0.3 |
| 2017[2] | 13.0 | 0.3 | 14.4 | 0.3 | 13.5 | 0.3 |
| 2018 | 12.8 | 0.3 | 13.7 | 0.3 | 12.7 | 0.3 |
| 2019 | 11.7 | 0.3 | - | - | 11.4 | 0.3 |
| 2019[3] | 11.8 | 0.3 | 12.3 | 0.3 | - | - |
| 2020 | 9.2 | 0.2 | 9.2 | 0.2 | 8.6 | 0.2 |
| 2021 | 7.8 | 0.2 | 7.9 | 0.2 | 7.3 | 0.2 |
| 2022 | 12.4 | 0.3 | 12.1 | 0.3 | 11.3 | 0.3 |
| 2023 | 12.9 | 0.3 | 11.7 | 0.3 | 10.9 | 0.3 |
| 2024 | 12.9 | 0.3 | 11.3 | 0.3 | 10.4 | 0.3 |

In percent. Margins of error (MOE) generated using survey replicate weights.

[1] Estimates reflect the implementation of redesigned income questions and should be used to make comparisons to 2014 and subsequent years.

[2] Estimates reflect the implementation of an updated processing system and should be used to make comparisons to 2018 and subsequent years.

[3] Anchored Estimates reflect implementation of Base 2020 threshold. SPM estimates reflect new threshold methodology. Estimates should be used to make comparisons to 2020 and subsequent years.

Note: Anchored thresholds produced using the new SPM methodology. Thresholds adjusted for inflation using CPI-U.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 2010 to 2025 Annual Social and Economic Supplements (CPS ASEC).

**Appendix Table 3.** Alternate Anchored and Published SPM Rates, All People: 2009-2024

| | | | Alternate Anchored | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Published SPM | MOE | SPM | MOE |
| 2009 | 15.1 | 0.3 | 15.2 | 0.3 |
| 2010 | 15.9 | 0.3 | 15.9 | 0.3 |
| 2011 | 16.1 | 0.3 | 16.0 | 0.3 |
| 2012 | 16.0 | 0.3 | 16.6 | 0.3 |
| 2013 | 15.5 | 0.3 | 16.7 | 0.4 |
| 2013[1] | 15.9 | 0.5 | 17.0 | 0.5 |
| 2014 | 15.6 | 0.3 | 16.8 | 0.3 |
| 2015 | 14.5 | 0.3 | 15.5 | 0.3 |
| 2016 | 14.0 | 0.3 | 14.4 | 0.2 |
| 2017 | 13.9 | 0.3 | 14.4 | 0.3 |
| 2017[2] | 13.0 | 0.3 | 13.5 | 0.3 |
| 2018 | 12.8 | 0.3 | 12.7 | 0.3 |
| 2018[3] | -- | -- | 13.1 | 0.3 |
| 2019 | 11.7 | 0.3 | 11.7 | 0.3 |
| 2019[4] | 11.8 | 0.3 | -- | -- |
| 2020 | 9.2 | 0.2 | 8.8 | 0.2 |
| 2021 | 7.8 | 0.2 | 7.5 | 0.2 |
| 2022 | 12.4 | 0.3 | 11.5 | 0.3 |
| 2023 | 12.9 | 0.3 | 11.2 | 0.3 |
| 2024 | 12.9 | 0.3 | 10.7 | 0.3 |

In percent. Margins of error (MOE) generated using survey replicate weights.

[1] Estimates reflect the implementation of redesigned income questions and should be used to make comparisons to 2014 and subsequent years.

[2] Estimates reflect the implementation of an updated processing system and should be used to make comparisons to 2018 and subsequent years.

[3] Anchored Estimates reflect implementation of Base 2019 threshold and should be used to make comparisons to 2019 and subsequent years.

[4] SPM estimates reflect new threshold methodology. Estimates should be used to make comparisons to 2020 and subsequent years.

Note: Anchored thresholds produced using the new SPM methodology. Thresholds adjusted for inflation using CPI-U.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 2010 to 2025 Annual Social and Economic Supplements (CPS ASEC).