



# POVERTY IN AMERICA

## TEACHER VERSION

**Subject Level:**

High School Sociology

**Grade Level:**

10-12

**Approx. Time Required:**

60-90 minutes

**Learning Objectives:**

- Students will be able to identify the difference between the “official” poverty measure developed in the 1960s and the “supplemental” poverty measure developed in 2011.
- Students will be able to use U.S. Census Bureau resources to identify changes in rates of poverty and analyze other poverty data.

## Activity Description

Students will explore census data, including infographics and reports, to better understand rates of poverty in the nation.

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**Suggested Grade Level:**

10-12

**Approximate Time Required:**

60-90 minutes

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**Learning Objectives:**

- Students will be able to identify the difference between the “official” poverty measure developed in the 1960s and the “supplemental” poverty measure developed in 2011.
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**Topics:**

- Poverty

**Skills Taught:**

- Comparing and contrasting data
  - Making inferences
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## Materials Required

- The student version of this activity, 18 pages (which the teacher will likely choose to print in color)
- A computer with Internet access for each student

## Activity Items

The following items are part of this activity. The items, their sources, and instructions for viewing them online appear at the end of this teacher version.

- Item 1: Measuring America — How the U.S. Census Bureau Measures Poverty
- Item 2: The Supplemental Poverty Measure, 2016
- Item 3: Income and Poverty in the United States, 2016

This activity also uses the following online tool:

- Poverty Thresholds  
[www.census.gov/data/tables/time-series/demo/income-poverty/historical-poverty-thresholds.html](http://www.census.gov/data/tables/time-series/demo/income-poverty/historical-poverty-thresholds.html)

For more information to help you introduce your students to the Census Bureau, read "[Census Bureau 101 for Students](#)." This information sheet can be printed and passed out to your students as well.

## Standards Addressed

See chart below. For more information, read "[Overview of Education Standards and Guidelines Addressed in Statistics in Schools Activities](#)."

### National Standards for High School Sociology

#### Domain 1: The Sociological Perspective and Methods of Inquiry

Assessable Competencies	Essential Concepts
1.1 Students will identify sociology as a scientific field of inquiry.	1.1.2 Hypotheses 1.1.4 Scientific study of society
1.2 Students will compare and contrast the sociological perspective and how it differs from other social sciences.	1.2.3 Sociological imagination

Domain 2: Social Structure: Culture, Institutions, and Society

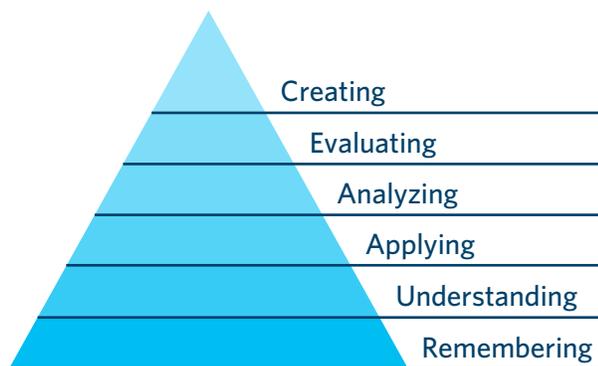
Assessable Competencies	Essential Concepts
2.3 Students will evaluate important social institutions and how they respond to social needs.	2.3.1 Social institutions such as: family, education, religion, economy, and government
2.4 Students will assess how social institutions and cultures change and evolve.	2.4.1 Shifting historical context such as: industrial revolution, urbanization, globalization, the internet age

Domain 4: Stratification and Inequality

Assessable Competencies	Essential Concepts
4.1 Students will identify common patterns of social inequality.	4.1.3 Racial and ethnic inequality
	4.1.4 Class inequality
	4.1.5 Gender inequality
4.2 Students will analyze the effects of social inequality on groups and individuals.	4.2.1 Life chances
	4.2.2 Social problems
4.3 Students will explain the relationship between social institutions and inequality.	4.3.1 Distribution of power through social institutions

## Bloom’s Taxonomy

Students will **analyze** poverty and its impact on the U.S. population.



## Teacher Notes

### Before the Activity

Students must understand the following key terms:

- **Educational attainment** – the highest level of education that a person has completed
- **Householder** – the main person, at least 15 years old, who rents or owns the housing unit
- **Poverty** – when a family’s total income cannot support that family’s basic needs
- **Poverty threshold** – a dollar amount that the Census Bureau uses to determine poverty status
- **Income deficit** – the amount in dollars that the income of a family in poverty falls below its poverty threshold; if family income is negative, the deficit equals the threshold.
- **Life chances** – a concept that links a person’s probability of receiving opportunities in life with that person’s socioeconomic status
- **Recession** – a significant decline in economic activity spread across the economy, lasting more than a few months
- **Unemployment** – as defined by the Census Bureau, refers to all civilians 16 and older who fall in all three of the following categories: were neither “at work” nor “with a job but not at work” during the week being referenced, were actively looking for work during the previous four weeks, and were available to start a job; it also includes civilians who did not work at all during the reference week, were waiting to be called back to a job from which they had been laid off, and were available for work (except for temporary illness).

Teachers should use information from this Census Bureau page

([www.census.gov/topics/income-poverty/poverty/guidance/data-sources.html](http://www.census.gov/topics/income-poverty/poverty/guidance/data-sources.html)) to explain to students the Census Bureau’s role in establishing the “official” poverty measure in the United States, specifically through the Annual Social and Economic Supplement to the Current Population Survey.

### During the Activity

Teachers should monitor students as they work.

### After the Activity

Teachers should prompt students to share with the class three things they learned from the activity.

## Extension Idea

- Teachers could ask students to research a state-level or national program — such as Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) — that has been proposed as a possible solution to poverty in the United States. Teachers could then direct students to examine this program’s effect on society in terms of health outcomes, levels of educational attainment, etc., and develop a thesis (in essay or video form) on the program’s effectiveness or failures in addressing poverty in America.

## Student Activity

Click [here](#) to download a printable version for students.

### Student Learning Objectives

- I will be able to identify the difference between the “official” poverty measure developed in the 1960s and the “supplemental” poverty measure developed in 2011.
- I will be able to use U.S. Census Bureau resources to identify changes in rates of poverty and analyze other poverty data.

### Activity Items

The following items are part of this activity and appear at the end of this student version.

- Item 1: Measuring America — How the U.S. Census Bureau Measures Poverty
- Item 2: The Supplemental Poverty Measure, 2016
- Item 3: Income and Poverty in the United States, 2016

This activity also uses the following online tool:

- Poverty Thresholds [www.census.gov/data/tables/time-series/demo/income-poverty/historical-poverty-thresholds.html](http://www.census.gov/data/tables/time-series/demo/income-poverty/historical-poverty-thresholds.html)

Use **Item 1: Measuring America — How the U.S. Census Bureau Measures Poverty** to answer question 1.

1. Describe the key similarities and differences between the “official” poverty measure developed in the 1960s and the “supplemental” poverty measure (SPM) developed in 2011.

**Student answers will vary but could include: Both measures say that people are considered poor if the resources they share in the family are not enough to meet their basic needs. However, the “official” poverty measure does not account for government assistance while the SPM does. Also, the “official” measure uses three times the cost of a minimum amount of food in 1963 in today’s prices while the SPM uses more factors of family spending (including clothing, shelter, and utilities).**

Use **Item 2: The Supplemental Poverty Measure, 2016** to answer questions 2 through 4.

2. Go to Page 22 to see Table A-2 and look at the “Percent” columns for the “official” poverty measure and the SPM. What estimated percentage of all people lived in poverty — according to each poverty measure — in 2016?

**The “official” poverty measure says 12.7 percent lived in poverty in 2016, and the SPM says 14.0 percent did.**

3. Now read the sections “Poverty Estimates for 2016: Official and SPM” and “Poverty Rates: Official and SPM” on Pages 3 through 6. What’s one major thing you learned?

**Student answers will vary.**

4. Then look at Figure 3 on Page 5. In terms of age group, how were the 2016 poverty rates according to the “official” poverty measure and the SPM different? Why do you think this was the case?

**Student answers will vary but could include: The “official” poverty rates were only higher than the SPM rates for people younger than 18.**

Use the **Poverty Thresholds** online tool to answer question 5.

5. Examine any two years of data. Looking at a particular family unit size, how do the poverty thresholds change from one year to the other?

**Student answers will vary but could include: For a family of four, the threshold more than doubled from 1980 to 2000, going from \$8,414 to \$17,603 to account for inflation over time.**

Use **Item 3: Income and Poverty in the United States, 2016** to answer questions 6 through 8.

6. Go to Page 6 to see Table 1 and look at the information in the “Characteristic” and “2016” columns. Based on these data, which groups do you think were more likely to be living in poverty in the United States in 2016? Explain.

**Student answers will vary but could include: I think female householders in nonfamily households would have been more likely to be living in poverty because they had the lowest estimated median income among types of households in 2016.**

7. Go to Page 13 to see Table 3 and look at the information in the “Characteristic” and “2016” columns (specifically “Percent”). Use the data to explain differences in poverty rates based on any three characteristics (e.g., race and Hispanic origin, sex, and educational attainment).

**Student answers will vary but could include the observations that people who work less than full time year-round, who have a disability, and who do not have a high school diploma experience higher rates of poverty.**

8. Go to Pages 12 and 14 and look at Figures 4 and 5, then explain how poverty has changed in the United States between the 1950s and 2016. (Be aware that a dotted line indicates missing data.) How do the appearance and the disappearance of a recession change the data?

**Student answers will vary but should mention that the percentage of people in poverty in 1959 vs. in 2016 has gone down while the number of people in poverty has gone up in keeping with overall population growth. Students should also mention that the overall poverty rates for the youngest and oldest age groups have gone down. In addition, students should mention that recessions tend to lead to an increase in the percentages and numbers of people in poverty.**

### Reflection Questions:

1. How is poverty defined in the United States, and which groups are most likely to experience it?

**Student answers will vary.**

2. Do you think using the poverty measure (either “official” or “supplemental”) is an adequate way to think about the realities of living in poverty?

**Student answers will vary.**

3. Reflect on what you learned in the activity, and examine the last figure of **Item 1**. Discuss which government programs alleviate poverty, and how they do so.

**Student answers will vary.**

Item 1: Measuring America — How the U.S. Census Bureau Measures Poverty

United States  
**Census**  
Bureau
MEASURING AMERICA



## How the U.S. Census Bureau Measures Poverty

The Census Bureau releases two reports every year that describe who is poor in the United States. The first report calculates the nation's official poverty measure based on cash resources. The second report focuses on the Supplemental Poverty Measure (SPM) and takes into account cash resources and noncash benefits from government programs aimed at low-income families.

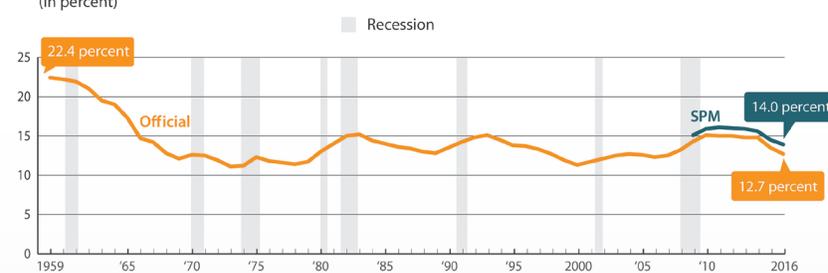
**In 2016, there were 40.6 million people in poverty based on the official poverty measure.**

### The Official Poverty Measure

The United States has an **official** measure of poverty. The current official poverty measure was developed in the early 1960s when President Lyndon Johnson declared war on poverty. This measure does not reflect the key government policies enacted since that time to help low-income individuals meet their needs.

### Poverty Rate: 1959 to 2016

(In percent)



Year	Official Poverty Rate (%)	SPM (%)
1959	22.4	-
2016	12.7	14.0

Note: The data points are placed at the midpoints of the respective years.  
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 1960 to 2017 Annual Social and Economic Supplements.

## Item 1: Measuring America — How the U.S. Census Bureau Measures Poverty (Continued)

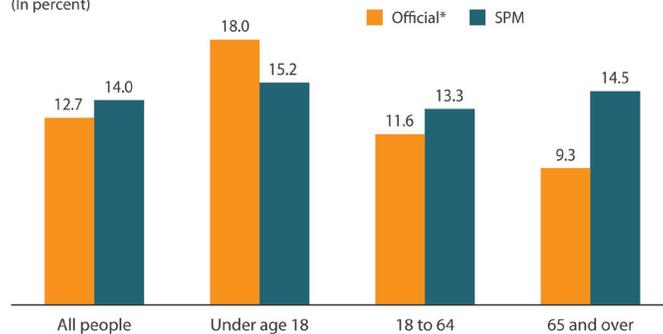
### The Supplemental Poverty Measure



The **SPM** extends the official poverty measure by taking into account government benefits and necessary expenses, like taxes, that are not in the official measure. This second estimate of poverty has been released annually by the Census Bureau since 2011. In 2016, the SPM rate was slightly higher than the official measure identifying 44.8 million people as poor. This was 14.0 percent of the population.

### Poverty Rates Using Two Measures for Total Population and by Age Group: 2016

(In percent)



\* Includes unrelated individuals under the age of 15.

Note: For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see <a href="http://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/cps/techdocs/cpsmar17.pdf">www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/cps/techdocs/cpsmar17.pdf</a>.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 2017 Annual Social and Economic Supplement.

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



### How the Two Measures Compare



Official Measure



Supplemental Measure

#### Who shares resources?

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

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



The SPM starts with the official family definition and then adds any coresident unrelated children, foster children, and unmarried partners and their relatives.



## Item 1: Measuring America — How the U.S. Census Bureau Measures Poverty (Continued)



### How do we measure needs?

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

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

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



### Are needs the same in every state?

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

**Yes**, the official poverty threshold is the same throughout the United States. In 2016, the poverty threshold for a family with two adults and two children was \$24,339.

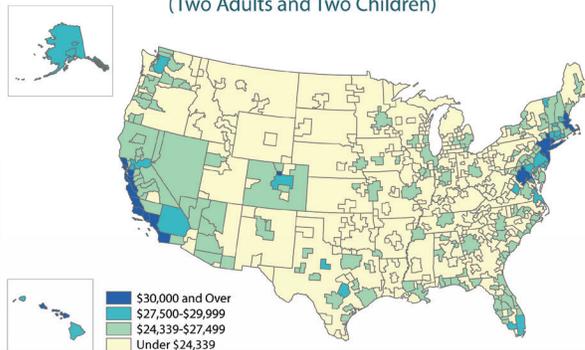
**No**, SPM thresholds vary based on several factors such as place of residence and whether it is a rental unit or purchased property or home with a mortgage. The map below shows the SPM thresholds for renters with two adults and two children in 2016.

2016 Official Poverty Thresholds (Two Adults and Two Children)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2017 Current Population Reports, P60-259.

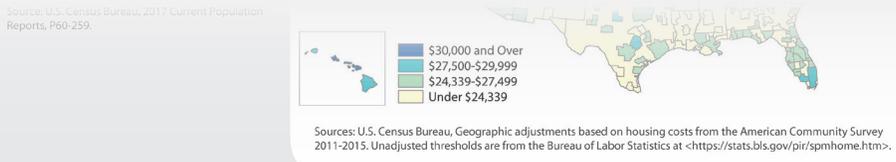
2016 SPM Poverty Thresholds for Renters (Two Adults and Two Children)



Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Geographic adjustments based on housing costs from the American Community Survey 2011-2015. Unadjusted thresholds are from the Bureau of Labor Statistics at <a href="https://stats.bls.gov/pir/spmhome.htm">https://stats.bls.gov/pir/spmhome.htm</a>.

### What resources do people have to meet their needs?

Item 1: Measuring America — How the U.S. Census Bureau Measures Poverty (Continued)



**What resources do people have to meet their needs?**

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

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

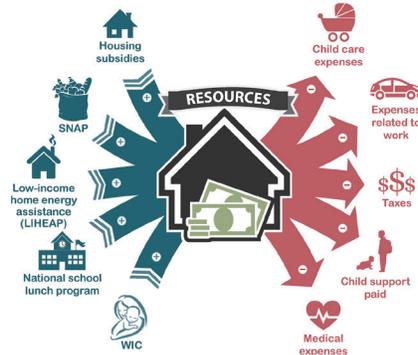


The SPM starts with cash income, then...

**ADDING BENEFITS**      **SUBTRACTING EXPENSES**

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

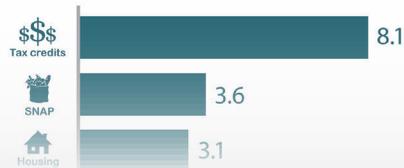
The SPM subtracts necessary expenses like taxes, health care, commuting costs for all workers, and child care expenses while parents work.



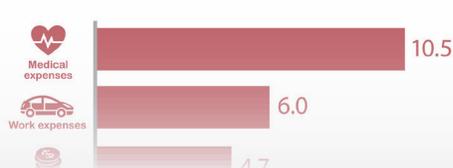
**Unlike the official measure, the SPM accounts for noncash government benefits and living expenses in determining who is in poverty.**

The SPM calculates the number of people affected by tax credits and government benefits. It also shows the effect of necessary expenses that families face, such as paying taxes, work-related costs, and medical expenses.

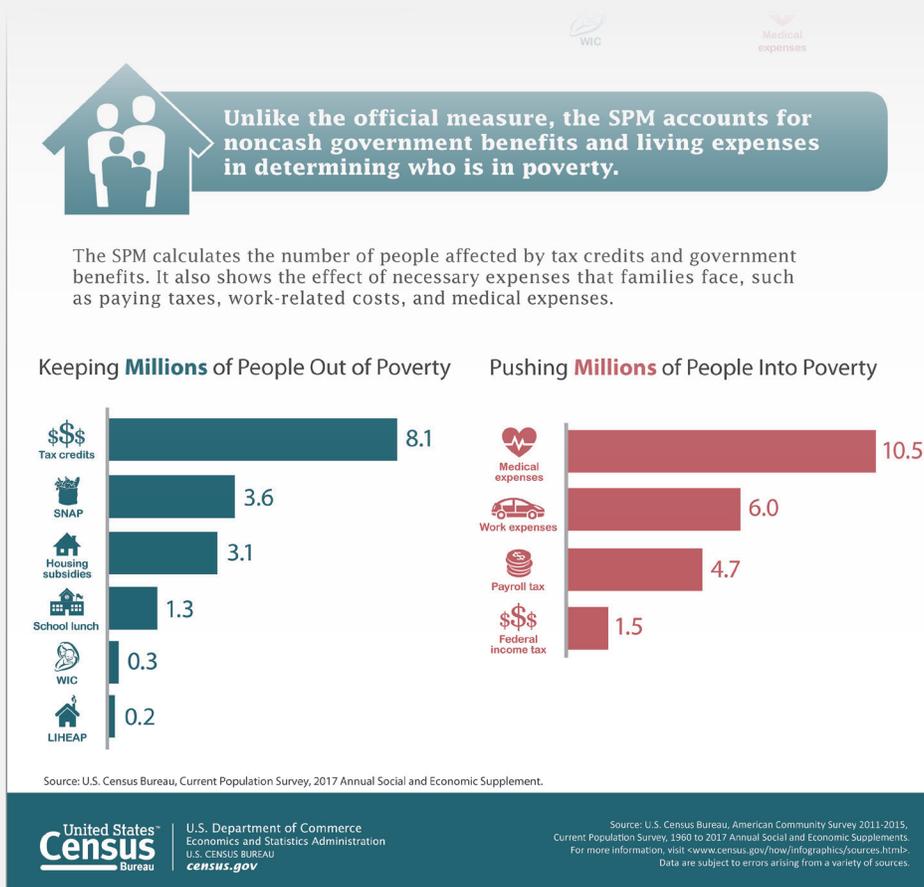
Keeping **Millions** of People Out of Poverty



Pushing **Millions** of People Into Poverty



Item 1: Measuring America — How the U.S. Census Bureau Measures Poverty (Continued)



[www.census.gov/library/visualizations/2017/demo/poverty\\_measure-how.html](http://www.census.gov/library/visualizations/2017/demo/poverty_measure-how.html)

Go to the link above to view the infographic online.

## Item 2: The Supplemental Poverty Measure, 2016

### The Supplemental Poverty Measure: 2016

#### Current Population Reports

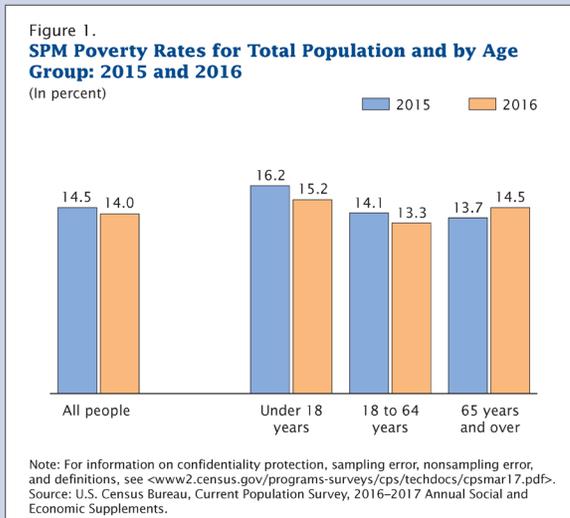
By Liana Fox  
 Revised September 2017  
 P60-261 (RV)

#### INTRODUCTION

Since the publication of the first official U.S. poverty estimates, researchers and policymakers have continued to discuss the best approach to measure income and poverty in the United States. Beginning in 2011, the U.S. Census Bureau began publishing the Supplemental Poverty Measure (SPM), which extends the official poverty measure by taking account of many of the government programs designed to assist low-income families and individuals that are not included in the official poverty measure. This is the seventh report describing the SPM released by the Census Bureau, with support from the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). This report presents updated estimates of the prevalence of poverty in the United States using the official measure and the SPM based on information collected in 2017 and earlier Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplements (CPS ASEC).

#### HIGHLIGHTS

- In 2016, the overall SPM rate was 14.0 percent. This was 0.5 percentage points lower than the 2015 SPM rate of 14.5 (Figure 1 and Figure 2).



- SPM rates were down for children under age 18 and adults aged 18 to 64. SPM rates for individuals aged 65 and older were up, from 13.7 percent in 2015 to 14.5 percent in 2016 (Figure 1 and Figure 2).
- The SPM rate for 2016 was 1.3 percentage points higher than the official poverty rate of 12.7 percent (Figure 3).
- The percentage of individuals aged 65 and older with SPM resources below half their SPM threshold increased from 4.5 percent in 2015 to 5.2 percent in 2016 (Figure 6 and Appendix Table A-4).
- There were 13 states plus the District of Columbia for which SPM rates were higher than official poverty rates, 20 states with lower rates, and 17 states for



U.S. Department of Commerce  
 Economics and Statistics Administration  
 U.S. CENSUS BUREAU  
[census.gov](http://census.gov)

## Item 2: The Supplemental Poverty Measure, 2016 (Continued)

which the differences were not statistically significant (Figure 7).

- Social Security continued to be the most important anti-poverty program, moving 26.1 million individuals out of poverty. Refundable tax credits moved 8.1 million people out of poverty (Figure 8).

This report presents updated estimates of the prevalence of poverty in the United States, overall and for selected demographic groups, using the official poverty measure and the SPM.<sup>1</sup> The first section

<sup>1</sup> 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 <www2.census.gov/library/publications/2015/demo/p60-252sa.pdf>, <www2.census.gov/library/publications/2016/demo/p60-256sa.pdf>, and <www2.census.gov/library/publications/2017/demo/p60-259sa.pdf>.

provides detailed information about changes in SPM rates from 2015 to 2016. 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. These are the same data used for the preparation of official poverty statistics and reported in Semega, Fontenot, and Kollar (2017). In the third section, individual components of the SPM are added and subtracted from resources to assess the marginal impact of taxes, transfers, and necessary expenses on poverty rates.

### BACKGROUND

After many years of research, analysis, and debate, an Interagency Technical Working Group on Developing a Supplemental Poverty Measure (ITWG) formed to review methods and data needed for poverty measurement. That 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.<sup>2</sup> The following table summarizes the most important differences between the official and supplemental measures.

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 and, as such, the SPM provides an additional macroeconomic statistic for further understanding economic conditions and trends.

<sup>2</sup> Thresholds for the SPM are produced by the BLS Division of Price and Index Number Research and presented for 2015 and 2016 in Appendix Table A-3.

Poverty Measure Concepts: Official and Supplemental		
	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 and composition, as well as geographic adjustments for differences in housing costs by tenure
Updating Thresholds	Consumer Price Index: all items	5-year moving average of expenditures on FCSU
Resource Measure	Gross before-tax cash income	Sum of cash income, plus noncash benefits that resource units can use to meet their FCSU needs, minus taxes (or plus tax credits), minus work expenses, medical expenses, and child support paid to another household

## Item 2: The Supplemental Poverty Measure, 2016 (Continued)

### Changes in SPM Rates Between 2015 and 2016

Figure 2 shows SPM rates for 2015 and 2016, calculated in a comparable way for each year.<sup>3,4</sup> In 2016, the percentage of people in poverty using the SPM was 14.0 percent compared to 14.5 percent in 2015, a statistically significant decrease. The poverty rate declined for many groups (men, children, adults aged 18–64, people living in married or cohabiting partner units, those with less than a high school diploma, all workers, and workers employed less than full-time, year-round). Individuals aged 65 and over and

<sup>3</sup> The 2015 estimates presented in this report do not match the previously published estimates reported in “The Supplemental Poverty Measure: 2015” (Renwick and Fox, 2016) due to several small changes implemented this year. To provide accurate comparisons of poverty rates using consistent methodology, these changes have all been implemented back to 2013 for estimates in this report. The details of the changes can be found in the appendix.

<sup>4</sup> Appendix Table A-1 contains rates for a more extensive list of demographic groups.

those with a high school degree, but without college education experienced an increase in poverty from 2015 to 2016. The changes in SPM rates across the 2 years were not statistically significant for any other group.

### POVERTY ESTIMATES FOR 2016: OFFICIAL AND SPM

Figure 3 shows that 14.0 percent of people were poor using the SPM definition of poverty, higher than the 12.7 percent using the official definition of poverty with the comparable universe.<sup>5,6</sup> While for most groups, SPM rates were

<sup>5</sup> Since the CPS ASEC does not ask income questions for individuals under age 15, all unrelated individuals under 15 are excluded from the universe for official poverty calculations in Semega, Fontenot, and Kollar (2017). However, these individuals are included in both the official and SPM poverty universe for this report. Beginning in this SPM report, we assign unrelated individuals under 15 the official poverty status of the householder. See the appendix for details.

<sup>6</sup> Appendix Table A-2 contains rates for a more extensive list of demographic groups.

higher than official poverty rates, the SPM shows lower poverty rates for children and individuals living in cohabiting partner units. Official and SPM poverty rates for individuals living in female reference person units, Blacks, and individuals who did not work were not statistically different. Note that poverty rates for those aged 65 and over were higher under the SPM compared with the official measure. This partially reflects that the official thresholds are set lower for units with householders in this age group, while the SPM thresholds do not vary by age.<sup>7</sup>

<sup>7</sup> For more information about the SPM and those 65 years and older, see Bridges and Gesumaria (2013).

### Item 2: The Supplemental Poverty Measure, 2016 (Continued)

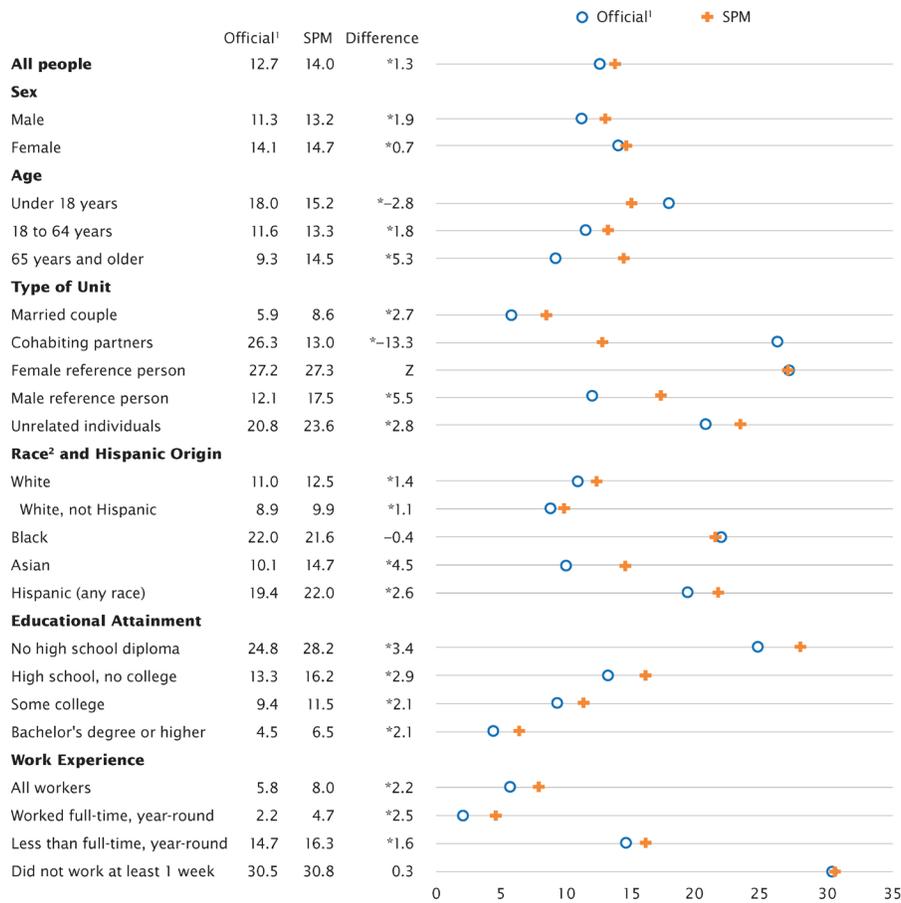
Figure 2.  
**Change in Percentage of People in Poverty Using the Supplemental Poverty Measure: 2015 to 2016**  
 (In percent)



Z Represents or rounds to zero.  
 \* An asterisk preceding an estimate indicates change is statistically different from zero at the 90 percent confidence level.  
<sup>1</sup> 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. Information on people who reported more than one race, such as White and American Indian and Alaska Native or Asian and Black or African American, is available from the 2010 Census through American FactFinder. About 2.9 percent of people reported more than one race in the 2010 Census. Data for American Indians and Alaska Natives, Native Hawaiians and Other Pacific Islanders, and those reporting two or more races are not shown separately.  
 Note: Details may not sum to totals due to rounding.  
 Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 2016–2017 Annual Social and Economic Supplements.

## Item 2: The Supplemental Poverty Measure, 2016 (Continued)

Figure 3.  
**Percentage of People in Poverty by Different Poverty Measures: 2016**  
(In percent)



Z Represents or rounds to zero.

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

<sup>1</sup> Includes unrelated individuals under the age of 15.

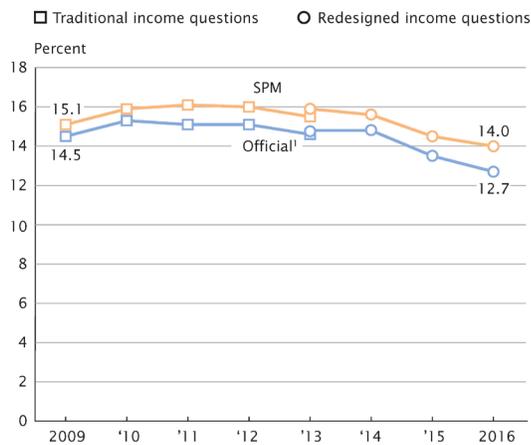
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Note: Details may not sum to totals due to rounding.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 2017 Annual Social and Economic Supplement.

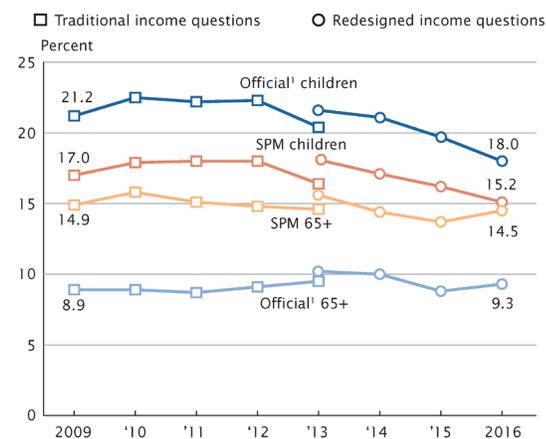
## Item 2: The Supplemental Poverty Measure, 2016 (Continued)

**Figure 4.**  
**Poverty Rates Using the Official Measure and the SPM: 2009 to 2016**



<sup>1</sup> Includes unrelated individuals under the age of 15.  
Note: The data for 2013 and beyond reflect the implementation of the redesigned income questions.  
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 2010–2017 Annual Social and Economic Supplements.

**Figure 5.**  
**Poverty Rates Using the Official Measure and the SPM for Two Age Groups: 2009 to 2016**



<sup>1</sup> Includes unrelated individuals under the age of 15.  
Note: The data for 2013 and beyond reflect the implementation of the redesigned income questions. Children are defined as individuals under age 18.  
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 2010–2017 Annual Social and Economic Supplements.

Next, we show the official measure and the SPM over the 8 years for which we have estimates (Figure 4 and Figure 5). The charts show two values for 2013, one using the traditional income questions comparable to SPM estimates from 2009–2012, and the second using the redesigned income questions used for this report and comparable to the 2014–2016 estimates presented here.<sup>8</sup> Figure 4 shows the official measure (with the comparable universe) and the SPM across 8 years.<sup>9</sup> The SPM has ranged from 0.6 to 1.3 percentage points higher than the official measure since 2009.

Figure 5 shows the poverty rate using both measures for children and for those aged 65 and over. For the first time since 2010, in 2016 there was a statistically significant increase in SPM poverty rates for one of the major age categories. This increase in poverty for individuals aged 65 and over can be seen in both the official and SPM rates, although the increase in the rate is not statistically significant in the official measure.

<sup>8</sup> See footnote 2. To maintain consistency in the series, all estimates using the redesigned income questions (2013–2015) have been revised from previously published estimates. See the appendix for a full discussion of changes implemented.

<sup>9</sup> For SPM estimates from 1967 to 2012, see Fox et al. (2015).

Item 2: The Supplemental Poverty Measure, 2016 (Continued)

Appendix Table A-2.

**Number and Percentage of People in Poverty by Different Poverty Measures: 2016**

(Numbers in thousands, margin of error in thousands or percentage points as appropriate. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see [www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/cps/techdocs/cpsmar17.pdf](http://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/cps/techdocs/cpsmar17.pdf))

Characteristic	Number** (in thou- sands)	Official**				SPM				Difference	
		Number		Percent		Number		Percent		Number	Percent
		Esti- mate	Margin of error <sup>1</sup> (±)								
<b>All people</b> . . . . .	<b>320,372</b>	<b>40,706</b>	<b>735</b>	<b>12.7</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>44,752</b>	<b>810</b>	<b>14.0</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>*4,046</b>	<b>*1.3</b>
<b>Sex</b>											
Male . . . . .	156,939	17,739	396	11.3	0.3	20,693	438	13.2	0.3	*2,954	*1.9
Female . . . . .	163,433	22,967	458	14.1	0.3	24,059	476	14.7	0.3	*1,092	*0.7
<b>Age</b>											
Under 18 years . . . . .	74,047	13,344	366	18.0	0.5	11,281	349	15.2	0.5	*-2,062	*-2.8
18 to 64 years . . . . .	197,051	22,795	473	11.6	0.2	26,303	571	13.3	0.3	*3,508	*1.8
65 years and older . . . . .	49,274	4,568	198	9.3	0.4	7,168	235	14.5	0.5	*2,600	*5.3
<b>Type of Unit</b>											
Married couple . . . . .	192,344	11,257	501	5.9	0.3	16,516	601	8.6	0.3	*5,260	*2.7
Cohabiting partners . . . . .	24,994	6,576	345	26.3	1.0	3,261	284	13.0	1.0	*-3,314	*-13.3
Female reference person . . . . .	42,758	11,647	510	27.2	1.0	11,655	498	27.3	1.0	7	Z
Male reference person . . . . .	15,030	1,814	196	12.1	1.2	2,635	258	17.5	1.6	*821	*5.5
Unrelated individuals . . . . .	45,246	9,413	324	20.8	0.6	10,685	343	23.6	0.6	*1,272	*2.8
<b>Race<sup>1</sup> and Hispanic Origin</b>											
White . . . . .	246,310	27,174	546	11.0	0.2	30,717	617	12.5	0.3	*3,543	*1.4
White, not Hispanic . . . . .	195,453	17,304	494	8.9	0.3	19,446	564	9.9	0.3	*2,142	*1.1
Black . . . . .	42,040	9,248	388	22.0	0.9	9,086	390	21.6	0.9	-162	-0.4
Asian . . . . .	18,897	1,917	176	10.1	0.9	2,774	204	14.7	1.1	*857	*4.5
Hispanic (any race) . . . . .	57,670	11,160	399	19.4	0.7	12,670	432	22.0	0.7	*1,511	*2.6
<b>Nativity</b>											
Native born . . . . .	276,518	34,079	666	12.3	0.2	35,515	728	12.8	0.3	*1,437	*0.5
Foreign born . . . . .	43,854	6,627	269	15.1	0.6	9,237	325	21.1	0.7	*2,609	*6.0
Naturalized citizen . . . . .	20,409	2,045	143	10.0	0.7	3,205	171	15.7	0.8	*1,160	*5.7
Not a citizen . . . . .	23,445	4,582	223	19.5	0.9	6,032	263	25.7	1.0	*1,449	*6.2
<b>Educational Attainment</b>											
Total aged 25 and older . . . . .	216,921	22,636	425	10.4	0.2	27,929	503	12.9	0.2	*5,293	*2.4
No high school diploma . . . . .	22,541	5,599	214	24.8	0.8	6,356	227	28.2	0.8	*757	*3.4
High school, no college . . . . .	62,512	8,309	250	13.3	0.4	10,139	317	16.2	0.5	*1,830	*2.9
Some college . . . . .	57,765	5,430	202	9.4	0.3	6,615	251	11.5	0.4	*1,184	*2.1
Bachelor's degree or higher . . . . .	74,103	3,299	167	4.5	0.2	4,819	225	6.5	0.3	*1,521	*2.1
<b>Tenure</b>											
Owner . . . . .	210,698	14,761	496	7.0	0.2	19,149	611	9.1	0.3	*4,388	*2.1
Owner/mortgage . . . . .	136,731	6,739	350	4.9	0.2	10,122	461	7.4	0.3	*3,383	*2.5
Owner/no mortgage/rent free . . . . .	77,320	8,891	399	11.5	0.5	9,825	417	12.7	0.5	*934	*1.2
Renter . . . . .	106,321	25,077	695	23.6	0.6	24,806	703	23.3	0.6	-271	-0.3
<b>Residence</b>											
Inside metropolitan statistical areas . . . . .	276,816	33,808	832	12.2	0.3	39,125	843	14.1	0.3	*5,317	*1.9
Inside principal cities . . . . .	104,295	16,598	646	15.9	0.5	18,057	669	17.3	0.5	*1,459	*1.4
Outside principal cities . . . . .	172,521	17,211	575	10.0	0.3	21,068	656	12.2	0.3	*3,858	*2.2
Outside metropolitan statistical areas <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	43,556	6,898	604	15.8	0.9	5,627	501	12.9	0.7	*-1,271	*-2.9
<b>Region</b>											
Northeast . . . . .	55,558	5,982	352	10.8	0.6	6,874	320	12.4	0.6	*892	*1.6
Midwest . . . . .	67,016	7,829	358	11.7	0.5	7,424	361	11.1	0.5	*-406	*-0.6
South . . . . .	121,325	17,056	523	14.1	0.4	17,966	616	14.8	0.5	*909	*0.7
West . . . . .	76,473	9,838	375	12.9	0.5	12,489	452	16.3	0.6	*2,650	*3.5

See footnotes at end of table.

## Item 2: The Supplemental Poverty Measure, 2016 (Continued)

Appendix Table A-2.

### Number and Percentage of People in Poverty by Different Poverty Measures: 2016—Con.

(Numbers in thousands, margin of error in thousands or percentage points as appropriate. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see [www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/cps/techdocs/cpsmar17.pdf](http://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/cps/techdocs/cpsmar17.pdf))

Characteristic	Number** (in thou- sands)	Official**				SPM				Difference	
		Number		Percent		Number		Percent		Number	Percent
		Esti- mate	Margin of error <sup>1</sup> (±)								
<b>Health Insurance Coverage</b>											
With private insurance . . . . .	216,203	11,635	421	5.4	0.2	17,898	545	8.3	0.3	*6,264	*2.9
With public, no private insurance . . . . .	76,117	22,446	553	29.5	0.6	19,646	510	25.8	0.6	*-2,799	*-3.7
Not insured . . . . .	28,052	6,626	261	23.6	0.9	7,208	268	25.7	0.9	*582	*2.1
<b>Work Experience</b>											
Total 18 to 64 years . . . . .	197,051	22,795	473	11.6	0.2	26,303	571	13.3	0.3	*3,508	*1.8
All workers . . . . .	150,904	8,743	254	5.8	0.2	12,111	361	8.0	0.2	*3,368	*2.2
Worked full-time, year-round . . . . .	107,781	2,416	131	2.2	0.1	5,099	207	4.7	0.2	*2,683	*2.5
Less than full-time, year-round . . . . .	43,123	6,327	223	14.7	0.5	7,012	258	16.3	0.6	*685	*1.6
Did not work at least 1 week . . . . .	46,148	14,052	381	30.5	0.7	14,193	395	30.8	0.7	141	0.3
<b>Disability Status<sup>3</sup></b>											
Total 18 to 64 years . . . . .	197,051	22,795	473	11.6	0.2	26,303	571	13.3	0.3	*3,508	*1.8
With a disability . . . . .	15,405	4,123	191	26.8	1.1	3,905	182	25.4	1.0	*-218	*-1.4
With no disability . . . . .	180,783	18,629	409	10.3	0.2	22,350	533	12.4	0.3	*3,720	*2.1

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

\*\* Includes unrelated individuals under the age of 15.

<sup>1</sup> The margin of error (MOE) is a measure of an estimate's variability. The larger the MOE in relation to the size of the estimate, the less reliable the estimate. This number, when added to and subtracted from the estimate, forms the 90 percent confidence interval. The MOEs shown in this table are based on standard errors calculated using replicate weights. For more information, see "Standard Errors and Their Use" at <[www2.census.gov/library/publications/2017/demo/p60-259sa.pdf](http://www2.census.gov/library/publications/2017/demo/p60-259sa.pdf)>.

<sup>2</sup> Represents or rounds to zero.

<sup>3</sup> 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. Information on people who reported more than one race, such as White and American Indian and Alaska Native or Asian and Black or African American, is available from the 2010 Census through American FactFinder. About 2.9 percent of people reported more than one race in the 2010 Census. Data for American Indians and Alaska Natives, Native Hawaiians and Other Pacific Islanders, and those reporting two or more races are not shown separately.

<sup>4</sup> The "Outside metropolitan statistical areas" category includes both micropolitan statistical areas and territory outside of metropolitan and micropolitan statistical areas. For more information, see "About Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Areas" at <[www.census.gov/population/metro/](http://www.census.gov/population/metro/)>.

<sup>5</sup> 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, 2017 Annual Social and Economic Supplement.

[www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/publications/2017/demo/p60-261.pdf](http://www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/publications/2017/demo/p60-261.pdf)

To view the PDF online, click on the link above and go to Pages 1–6, 22 and 23.

### Item 3: Income and Poverty in the United States, 2016

**Table 1.**  
**Income and Earnings Summary Measures by Selected Characteristics: 2015 and 2016**  
 (Income in 2016 dollars. Households and people as of March of the following year. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see [www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/cps/techdocs/cpsmar17.pdf](http://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/cps/techdocs/cpsmar17.pdf))

Characteristic	2015			2016			Percentage change* in real median income (2016 less 2015)	
	Number (thousands)	Median income (dollars)		Number (thousands)	Median income (dollars)		Estimate	Margin of error <sup>1</sup> (±)
		Estimate	Margin of error <sup>1</sup> (±)		Estimate	Margin of error <sup>1</sup> (±)		
<b>HOUSEHOLDS</b>								
All households	125,819	57,230	534	126,224	59,039	717	*3.2	1.56
<b>Type of Household</b>								
Family households	82,184	73,077	615	82,827	75,062	692	*2.7	1.14
Married-couple	60,251	85,696	995	60,804	87,057	695	*1.6	1.36
Female householder, no husband present	15,622	38,275	1,008	15,572	41,027	871	*7.2	3.51
Male householder, no wife present	6,310	56,567	1,615	6,452	58,051	2,172	2.6	4.34
Nonfamily households	43,635	34,232	786	43,396	35,761	467	*4.5	2.70
Female householder	23,093	29,389	832	22,858	30,572	603	*4.0	3.56
Male householder	20,542	41,278	755	20,539	41,749	701	1.1	2.34
<b>Race<sup>2</sup> and Hispanic Origin of Householder</b>								
White	99,313	60,869	635	99,400	61,858	549	*1.6	1.33
White, not Hispanic	84,445	63,745	903	84,387	65,041	839	*2.0	1.81
Black	16,539	37,364	855	16,733	39,490	1,187	*5.7	3.90
Asian	6,328	78,141	2,826	6,392	81,431	1,917	4.2	4.31
Hispanic (any race)	16,667	45,719	1,024	16,915	47,675	1,113	*4.3	3.45
<b>Age of Householder</b>								
Under 65 years	94,820	64,144	832	94,425	66,487	580	*3.7	1.62
15 to 24 years	6,361	36,564	1,350	6,238	41,655	1,145	*13.9	5.11
25 to 34 years	20,047	58,091	1,135	20,109	60,932	802	*4.9	2.55
35 to 44 years	21,222	72,319	970	21,500	74,481	1,834	*3.0	2.81
45 to 54 years	23,294	74,790	1,891	22,808	77,213	1,156	*3.2	3.05
55 to 64 years	23,896	63,596	1,489	23,770	65,239	1,309	2.6	2.87
65 years and older	30,998	39,001	781	31,799	39,823	909	2.1	2.90
<b>Nativity of Householder</b>								
Native born	107,081	57,896	565	107,192	59,781	691	*3.3	1.50
Foreign born	18,738	52,956	1,141	19,031	55,559	1,190	*4.9	3.17
Naturalized citizen	9,856	62,766	1,342	10,054	63,894	2,628	1.8	4.58
Not a citizen	8,881	45,708	1,743	8,978	48,066	1,733	5.2	5.63
<b>Region</b>								
Northeast	22,347	62,968	1,359	22,325	64,390	1,806	2.3	3.34
Midwest	27,455	57,803	1,353	27,363	58,305	1,476	0.9	3.23
South	47,822	51,821	630	48,065	53,861	1,160	*3.9	2.36
West	28,195	62,218	957	28,470	64,275	1,708	*3.3	3.04
<b>Residence<sup>3</sup></b>								
Inside metropolitan statistical areas	107,615	60,007	790	108,215	61,521	535	*2.5	1.60
Inside principal cities	42,615	52,027	654	42,652	54,834	1,187	*5.4	2.65
Outside principal cities	65,000	64,954	964	65,562	66,319	767	*2.1	1.85
Outside metropolitan statistical areas	18,204	45,221	1,562	18,009	45,830	1,013	1.3	3.50
<b>EARNINGS OF FULL-TIME, YEAR-ROUND WORKERS</b>								
Men with earnings	63,887	51,859	227	64,953	51,640	211	-0.4	0.56
Women with earnings	47,211	41,257	244	48,328	41,554	246	0.7	0.79
Female-to-male earnings ratio	X	0.796	0.0049	X	0.805	0.0052	*1.1	0.85

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

X Not applicable.

<sup>1</sup> A margin of error is a measure of an estimate's variability. The larger the margin of error 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. Margins of error shown in this table are based on standard errors calculated using replicate weights. For more information, see "Standard Errors and Their Use" at [www2.census.gov/library/publications/2017/demo/p60-259a.pdf](http://www2.census.gov/library/publications/2017/demo/p60-259a.pdf).

<sup>2</sup> 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. Information on people who reported more than one race, such as White and American Indian and Alaska Native or Asian and Black or African American, is available from the 2010 Census through American FactFinder. About 2.9 percent of people reported more than one race in the 2010 Census. Data for American Indians and Alaska Natives, Native Hawaiians and Other Pacific Islanders, and those reporting two or more races are not shown separately.

<sup>3</sup> For information on metropolitan statistical areas and principal cities, see [www.census.gov/programs-surveys/metro-micro/about/glossary.html](http://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/metro-micro/about/glossary.html).

Note: Inflation-adjusted estimates may differ slightly from other published data due to rounding.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 2016 and 2017 Annual Social and Economic Supplements.

### Item 3: Income and Poverty in the United States, 2016 (Continued)

#### POVERTY IN THE UNITED STATES

##### Highlights

- The official poverty rate in 2016 was 12.7 percent, down 0.8 percentage points from 13.5 percent in 2015 (Figure 4 and Table 3).<sup>25</sup> This is the second consecutive annual decline in poverty. Since 2014, the poverty rate has fallen 2.1 percentage points from 14.8 percent to 12.7 percent (Table B-1).
- In 2016 there were 40.6 million people in poverty, 2.5 million fewer than in 2015 and 6.0 million fewer than in 2014 (Figure 4 and Table B-1).
- The poverty rate in 2016 (12.7 percent) was not significantly higher

<sup>25</sup> The Office of Management and Budget determined the official definition of poverty in Statistical Policy Directive 14. Appendix B provides a more detailed description of how the Census Bureau calculates poverty.

than the poverty rate in 2007 (12.5 percent), the year before the most recent recession.

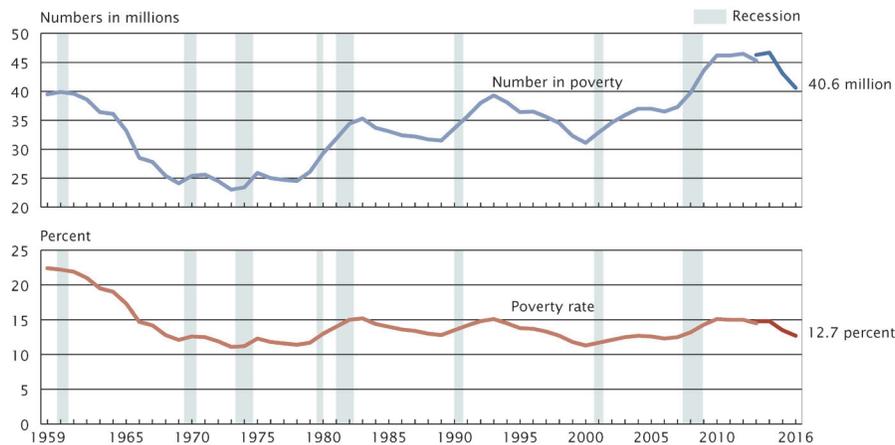
- No demographic group included in Table 3 experienced a statistically significant increase in its poverty rate between 2015 and 2016.
- For most demographic groups, the number of people in poverty decreased from 2015. Adults aged 65 and older were the only population group shown in Table 3 to experience an increase in the number of people in poverty (Table 3).
- Between 2015 and 2016, the poverty rate for children under age 18 declined from 19.7 percent to 18.0 percent. The poverty rate for adults aged 18 to 64 declined from 12.4 percent to 11.6 percent. The poverty rate for adults aged 65 and older was 9.3 percent in 2016, not statistically different from the rate in 2015 (Table 3 and Figure 5).

##### Race and Hispanic Origin

The poverty rate for non-Hispanic Whites was 8.8 percent in 2016 with 17.3 million individuals in poverty. Neither the poverty rate nor the number in poverty was statistically different from 2015. Non-Hispanic Whites accounted for 61.0 percent of the total population and 42.5 percent of the people in poverty (Table 3).

The poverty rate for Blacks decreased to 22.0 percent in 2016, down from 24.1 percent in 2015. The number of Blacks in poverty decreased to 9.2 million, down from 10.0 million. For Asians, the 2016 poverty rate and the number in poverty was 10.1 percent and 1.9 million. Neither estimate for Asians was statistically different from 2015. The poverty rate for Hispanics decreased to 19.4 percent in 2016, down from 21.4 percent in 2015. The number of Hispanics in poverty decreased to 11.1 million, down from 12.1 million.

Figure 4.  
Number in Poverty and Poverty Rate: 1959 to 2016



Note: The data for 2013 and beyond reflect the implementation of the redesigned income questions. The data points are placed at the midpoints of the respective years. For information on recessions, see Appendix A. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see <www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/cps/techdocs/cpsmar17.pdf>.  
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 1960 to 2017 Annual Social and Economic Supplements.

### Item 3: Income and Poverty in the United States, 2016 (Continued)

**Table 3. People in Poverty by Selected Characteristics: 2015 and 2016**

(Numbers in thousands, margin of error in thousands or percentage points as appropriate. People as of March of the following year. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see [www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/cps/techdocs/cpsmar17.pdf](http://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/cps/techdocs/cpsmar17.pdf))

Characteristic	2015					2016					Change in poverty (2016 less 2015) <sup>2</sup>	
	Below poverty					Below poverty					Number	Percent
	Total	Number	Margin of error <sup>1</sup> (±)	Percent	Margin of error <sup>1</sup> (±)	Total	Number	Margin of error <sup>1</sup> (±)	Percent	Margin of error <sup>1</sup> (±)		
<b>PEOPLE</b>												
<b>Total</b>	<b>318,454</b>	<b>43,123</b>	<b>926</b>	<b>13.5</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>319,911</b>	<b>40,616</b>	<b>739</b>	<b>12.7</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>*-2,507</b>	<b>*-0.8</b>
<b>Family Status</b>												
In families	258,121	29,893	844	11.6	0.3	259,863	27,762	654	10.7	0.3	*-2,132	*-0.9
Householder	82,199	8,589	243	10.4	0.3	82,854	8,081	199	9.8	0.2	*-508	*-0.7
Related children under age 18	72,558	13,952	441	19.2	0.6	72,674	12,803	370	17.6	0.5	*-1,159	*-1.6
Related children under age 6	23,459	4,923	201	21.0	0.8	23,531	4,586	180	19.5	0.8	*-337	*-1.5
In unrelated subfamilies	1,344	559	81	41.6	4.9	1,208	519	89	43.0	5.8	-40	1.4
Reference person	563	231	34	41.0	4.9	496	202	34	40.6	5.6	-29	-0.3
Children under age 18	701	321	49	45.9	5.5	622	298	57	48.0	6.6	-23	2.1
Unrelated individuals	58,988	12,671	417	21.5	0.6	58,839	12,336	365	21.0	0.5	-336	-0.5
<b>Race<sup>3</sup> and Hispanic Origin</b>												
White	245,536	28,566	705	11.6	0.3	245,985	27,113	547	11.0	0.2	*-1,453	*-0.6
White, not Hispanic	195,450	17,786	548	9.1	0.3	195,221	17,263	493	8.8	0.3	-523	-0.3
Black	41,625	10,020	416	24.1	1.0	41,962	9,234	388	22.0	0.9	*-786	*-2.1
Asian	18,241	2,078	189	11.4	1.0	18,879	1,908	175	10.1	0.9	-170	-1.3
Hispanic (any race)	56,780	12,133	444	21.4	0.8	57,556	11,137	399	19.4	0.7	*-996	*-2.0
<b>Sex</b>												
Male	156,009	19,037	470	12.2	0.3	156,677	17,685	395	11.3	0.3	*-1,351	*-0.9
Female	162,445	24,086	548	14.8	0.3	163,234	22,931	460	14.0	0.3	*-1,156	*-0.8
<b>Age</b>												
Under age 18	73,647	14,509	449	19.7	0.6	73,586	13,253	370	18.0	0.5	*-1,255	*-1.7
Aged 18 to 64	197,260	24,414	566	12.4	0.3	197,051	22,795	473	11.6	0.2	*-1,619	*-0.8
Aged 65 and older	47,547	4,201	203	8.8	0.4	49,274	4,568	198	9.3	0.4	*367	0.4
<b>Nativity</b>												
Native born	275,398	35,973	811	13.1	0.3	276,089	33,999	670	12.3	0.2	*-1,974	*-0.7
Foreign born	43,056	7,150	329	16.6	0.7	43,822	6,617	268	15.1	0.6	*-534	*-1.5
Naturalized citizen	20,084	2,255	151	11.2	0.7	20,409	2,045	143	10.0	0.7	-210	-1.2
Not a citizen	22,973	4,895	284	21.3	1.0	23,413	4,572	222	19.5	0.9	-324	*-1.8
<b>Region</b>												
Northeast	55,779	6,891	387	12.4	0.7	55,470	5,969	350	10.8	0.6	*-922	*-1.6
Midwest	67,030	7,849	377	11.7	0.6	66,897	7,809	355	11.7	0.5	-40	Z
South	119,955	18,305	604	15.3	0.5	121,166	17,028	524	14.1	0.4	*-1,276	*-1.2
West	75,690	10,079	421	13.3	0.6	76,377	9,810	373	12.8	0.5	-269	-0.5
<b>Residence<sup>4</sup></b>												
Inside metropolitan statistical areas	274,046	35,718	932	13.0	0.3	276,430	33,741	836	12.2	0.3	*-1,978	*-0.8
Inside principal cities	103,617	17,368	649	16.8	0.6	104,182	16,572	646	15.9	0.5	-796	*-0.9
Outside principal cities	170,429	18,350	695	10.8	0.4	172,248	17,169	576	10.0	0.3	*-1,182	*-0.8
Outside metropolitan statistical areas	44,408	7,405	638	16.7	0.8	43,481	6,875	599	15.8	0.9	*-530	-0.9
<b>Work Experience</b>												
Total, aged 18 to 64	197,260	24,414	566	12.4	0.3	197,051	22,795	473	11.6	0.2	*-1,619	*-0.8
All workers	150,229	9,457	297	6.3	0.2	150,904	8,743	254	5.8	0.2	*-714	*-0.5
Worked full-time, year-round	105,695	2,537	136	2.4	0.1	107,781	2,416	131	2.2	0.1	-120	-0.2
Less than full-time, year-round	44,534	6,920	263	15.5	0.6	43,123	6,327	223	14.7	0.5	*-593	*-0.9
Did not work at least 1 week	47,031	14,957	399	31.8	0.7	46,148	14,052	381	30.5	0.7	*-905	*-1.4
<b>Disability Status<sup>5</sup></b>												
Total, aged 18 to 64	197,260	24,414	566	12.4	0.3	197,051	22,795	473	11.6	0.2	*-1,619	*-0.8
With a disability	15,276	4,358	191	28.5	1.1	15,405	4,123	191	26.8	1.1	-235	*-1.8
With no disability	181,069	20,000	526	11.0	0.3	180,783	18,629	409	10.3	0.2	*-1,370	*-0.7
<b>Educational Attainment</b>												
Total, aged 25 and older	215,015	22,957	526	10.7	0.2	216,921	22,636	425	10.4	0.2	-321	-0.2
No high school diploma	23,453	6,171	240	26.3	0.8	22,541	5,599	214	24.8	0.8	*-572	*-1.5
High school, no college	62,002	8,016	277	12.9	0.4	62,512	8,309	250	13.3	0.4	293	0.4
Some college, no degree	57,660	5,550	200	9.6	0.3	57,765	5,430	202	9.4	0.3	-119	-0.2
Bachelor's degree or higher	71,900	3,221	176	4.5	0.2	74,103	3,299	167	4.5	0.2	78	Z

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

<sup>2</sup> Represents or rounds to zero.

<sup>1</sup> A margin of error is a measure of an estimate's variability. The larger the margin of error 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. Margins of error shown in this table are based on standard errors calculated using replicate weights. For more information, see "Standard Errors and Their Use" at [www2.census.gov/library/publications/2017/demo/p60-259sa.pdf](http://www2.census.gov/library/publications/2017/demo/p60-259sa.pdf).

<sup>3</sup> Details may not sum to totals because of rounding.

<sup>4</sup> 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

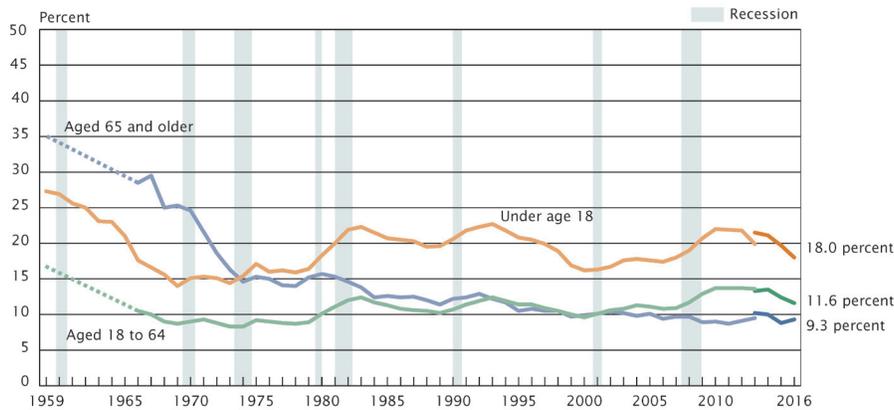
Bureau uses a variety of approaches. Information on people who reported more than one race, such as White and American Indian and Alaska Native or Asian and Black or African American, is available from the 2010 Census through American FactFinder. About 2.9 percent of people reported more than one race in the 2010 Census. Data for American Indians and Alaska Natives, Native Hawaiians and Other Pacific Islanders, and those reporting two or more races are not shown separately.

<sup>5</sup> For information on metropolitan statistical areas and principal cities, see [www.census.gov/programs-surveys/metro-micro/about/glossary.html](http://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/metro-micro/about/glossary.html).

<sup>6</sup> The sum of those with and without a disability does not equal the total because disability status is not defined for individuals in the Armed Forces. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 2016 and 2017 Annual Social and Economic Supplements.

Item 3: Income and Poverty in the United States, 2016 (Continued)

Figure 5.  
Poverty Rates by Age: 1959 to 2016



Note: The data for 2013 and beyond reflect the implementation of the redesigned income questions. The data points are placed at the midpoints of the respective years. Data for people aged 18 to 64 and aged 65 and older are not available from 1960 to 1965. For information on recessions, see Appendix A. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see <www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/cps/techdocs/cpsmar17.pdf>.  
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 1960 to 2017 Annual Social and Economic Supplements.

**Age**

Between 2015 and 2016, the poverty rate for people aged 18 to 64 decreased to 11.6 percent, down from 12.4 percent. The number of people in this age group in poverty declined to 22.8 million, down from 24.4 million. For people aged 65 and older, the 2016 poverty rate (9.3 percent) was not statistically different from 2015 while the number in poverty increased from 4.2 million to 4.6 million (Table 3 and Figure 5).

For children under age 18, 18.0 percent and 13.3 million were in poverty in 2016, down from 19.7 percent and 14.5 million in 2015. Children represented 23.0 percent of the total population and 32.6 percent of the people in poverty.

Related children are people under age 18 related to the householder by birth, marriage, or adoption who

are not themselves householders or spouses of householders.<sup>26</sup> The poverty rate and the number in poverty for related children under age 18 were 17.6 percent and 12.8 million in 2016, down from 19.2 percent and 14.0 million in 2015. For related children in married-couple families, 8.4 percent and 4.2 million were in poverty in 2016, down from 9.8 percent and 4.8 million in 2015.<sup>27</sup> For related children in families with a female householder, 42.1 percent and 7.6 million were in poverty in 2016, not

<sup>26</sup> Official poverty estimates for children are compiled in two ways—estimates for all children and estimates for related children. In 2016, estimates for related children excluded 912,000 children. About 622,000 of these children were members of unrelated subfamilies. The rest were unrelated individuals between the ages of 15 and 17, householders and spouses of householders under 18 years of age.

<sup>27</sup> For more information on related children, see detailed table POV03 “People in Families with Related Children Under 18 by Family Structure, Age, and Sex, Iterated by Income-to-Poverty Ratio and Race” at <www.census.gov/data/tables/time-series/demo/income-poverty/cps-pov/pov-03.html>.

statistically different from 2015. The 2016 poverty estimates for related children in male-householder families, 19.9 percent and 1.0 million, reflect a decline from 25.9 percent and 1.3 million in 2015.<sup>28</sup>

The poverty rate and the number in poverty for related children under age 6 were 19.5 percent and 4.6 million in 2016, down from 21.0 percent and 4.9 million in 2015. About half (49.1 percent) of related children under age 6 in families with a female householder were in poverty. This was more than four times the rate of their counterparts in married-couple families (9.5 percent).

<sup>28</sup> In the text of this report, families with a female householder with no husband present are referred to as families with a female householder. Families with a male householder with no wife present are referred to as families with a male householder.

[www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/publications/2017/demo/P60-259.pdf](http://www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/publications/2017/demo/P60-259.pdf)

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