

Income, Poverty, and Health Insurance Coverage: 2015

September 2016

URL: http://www.census.gov/newsroom/press-kits/2016/income_poverty.html

Presenters

Host	Michael C. Cook, Sr. Chief, Public Information Office
Presenter	David G. Waddington Acting Chief, Social, Economic, and Housing Statistics Division

Resources for Today's Webinar

Go to www.census.gov and click on the slider at the top to access –

- Today's Webinar Presentation
- News Release and Supporting Tables
- Links to the Reports and Other Reference Pages
- Links to Fact Sheets

Highlights

- Median household income for the nation was \$56,500 in 2015, an increase in real terms of 5.2 percent from the 2014 median of \$53,700.
- The official poverty rate in 2015 was 13.5 percent, down 1.2 percentage points from 2014. In 2015, there were 43.1 million people in poverty, 3.5 million fewer than in 2014.
- The Supplemental Poverty Measure (SPM) rate in 2015 was 14.3 percent, 1 percentage point lower than the SPM estimate for 2014.
- The percentage of people without health insurance coverage for the entire calendar year was 9.1 percent, or 29.0 million people. This was a decrease of 1.3 percentage points from the previous year.

Income and Poverty in the United States: 2015

Current Population Reports

By Bernadette D. Proctor, Jessica L. Semega, and Melissa A. Kollar
Issued September 2016
P90-256



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Health Insurance in the United States: 2015

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The Supplemental Poverty Measure: 2015

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INTRODUCTION

This is the sixth report describing the Supplemental Poverty Measure (SPM) released by the U.S. Census Bureau, with support from the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). The SPM 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 current official poverty measure.

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the current official measure of poverty.¹ The ITWG developed a set of initial starting points to permit the Census Bureau, in cooperation with the BLS, to produce the SPM that would be released along with the official measure each year. Their suggestions included:

- The *SPM thresholds* should represent a dollar amount spent on a basic set of goods that includes food, clothing, shelter, and utilities (FCSU), and a small additional amount to allow for other needs (e.g., household supplies, personal care, nonwork-related transportation). This threshold should be calculated with 5 years of expenditure data for family units with exactly two children using Consumer Expenditure Survey (CE) data, and it should be adjusted (using a specified equivalence scale) to reflect the needs of different family types and geographic differences in housing costs. Adjustments to thresholds should be made over time to reflect real change

in expenditures on this basic bundle of goods around the 33rd percentile of the expenditure distribution. So far as possible with available data, the calculation of FCSU should include any non-cash benefits that are counted on the resource side for FCSU. This is necessary for consistency of the threshold and resource definitions.

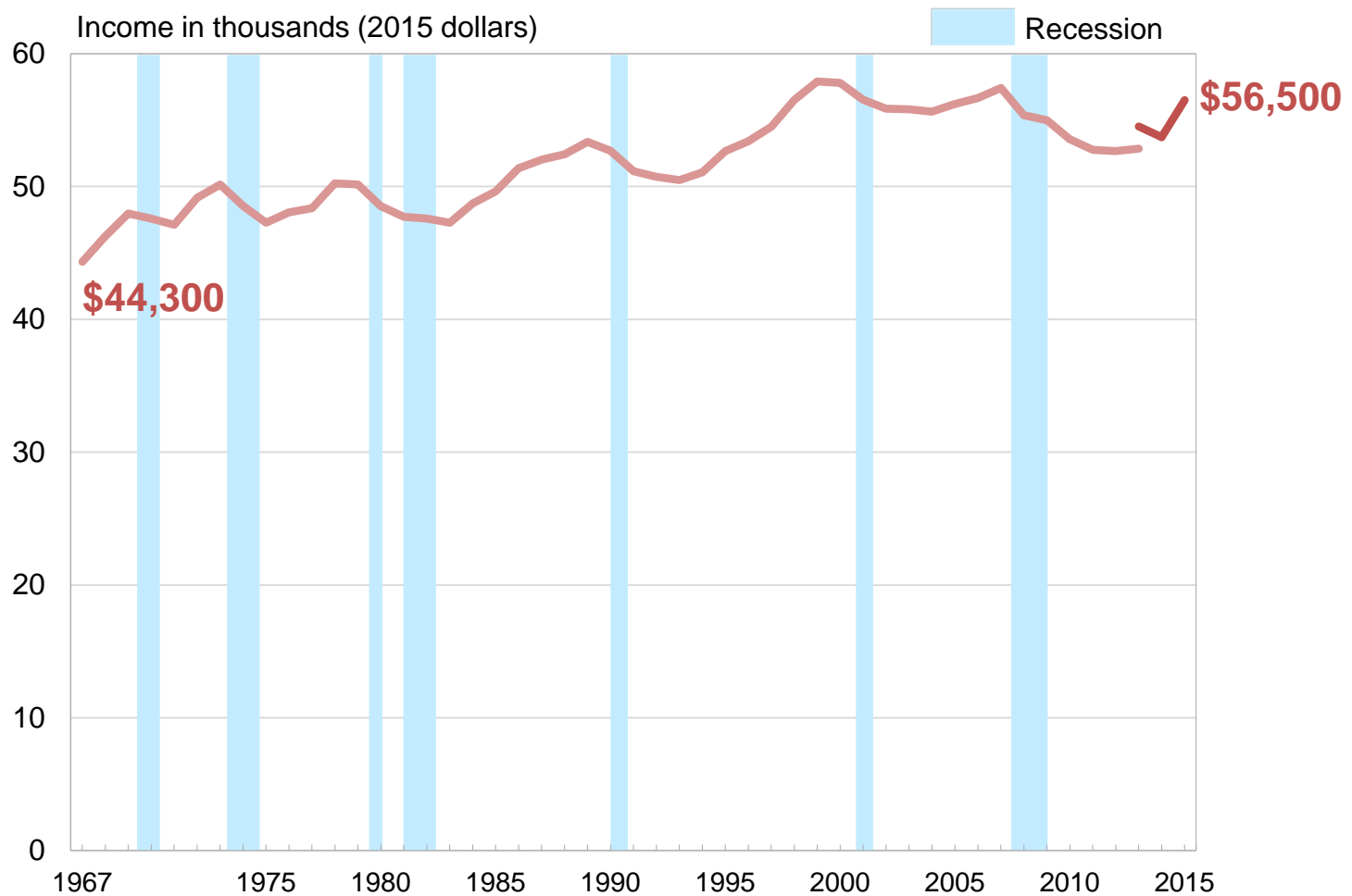
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¹ For information, see ITWG, "Observations from the Interagency Technical Working Group on Developing a Supplemental Poverty Measure," March 2010, available at <www.census.gov/hhes/poverty/methodology/supplemental/research/SPM_TWCObservations.pdf>.

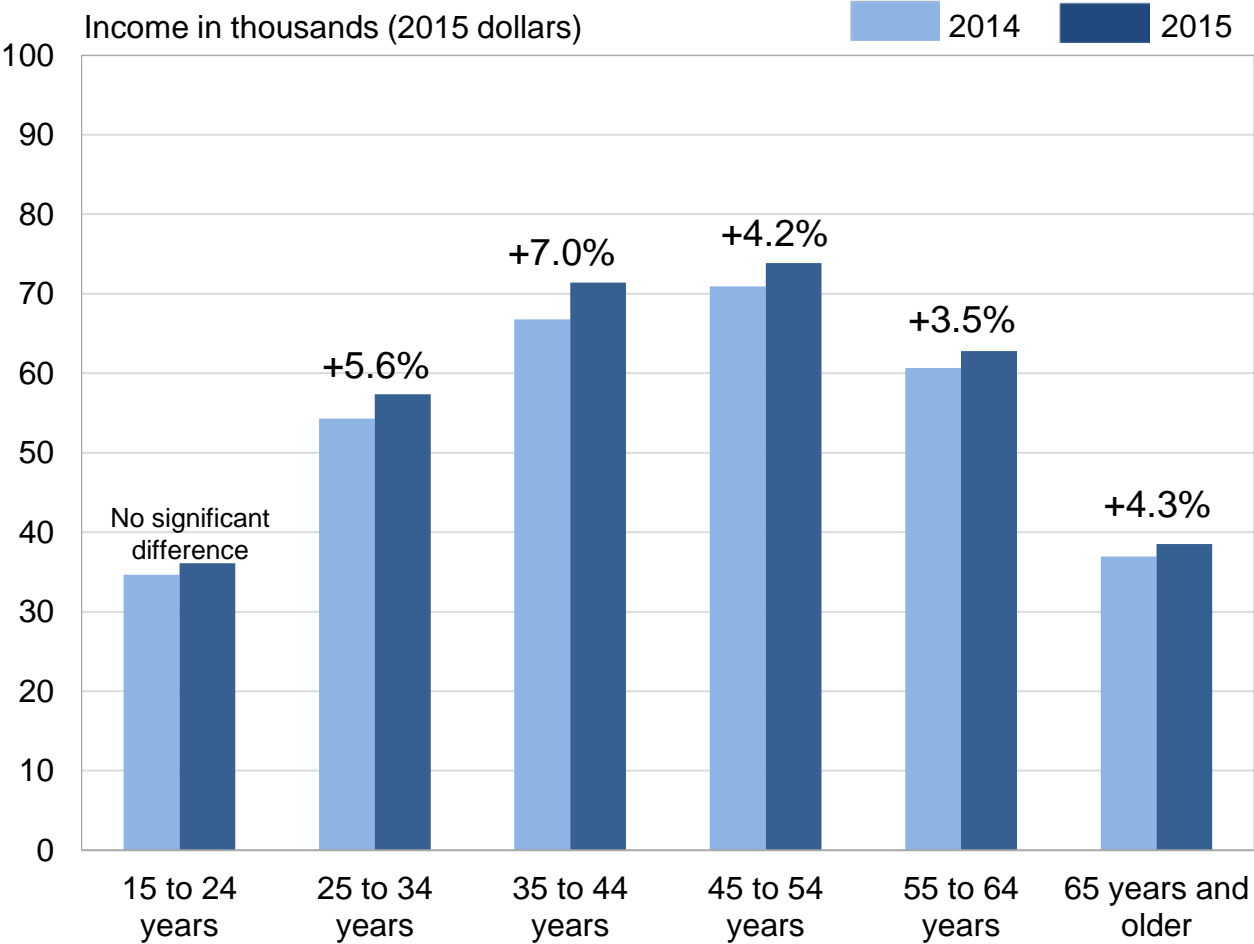
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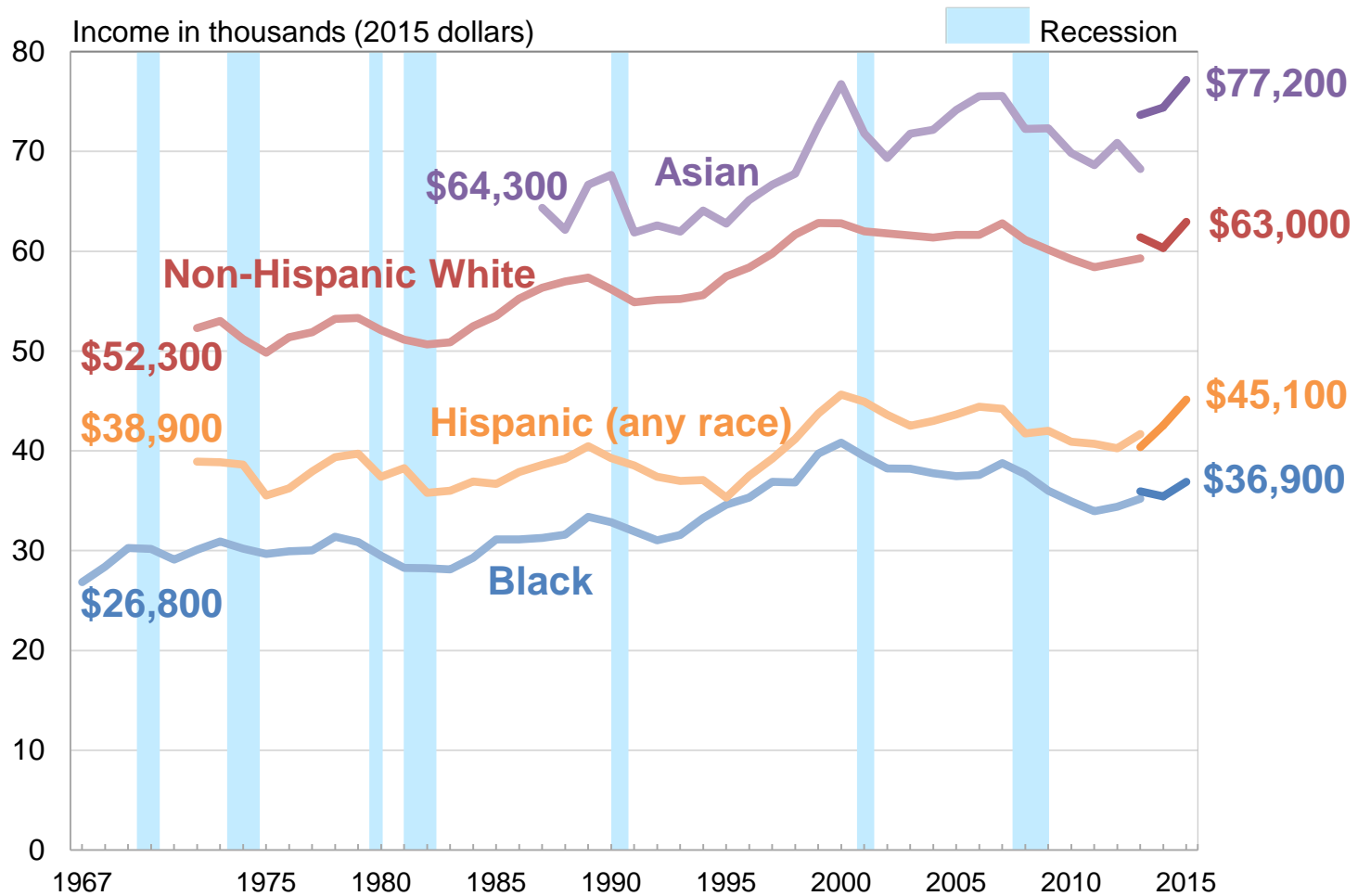
Real Median Household Income: 1967 to 2015



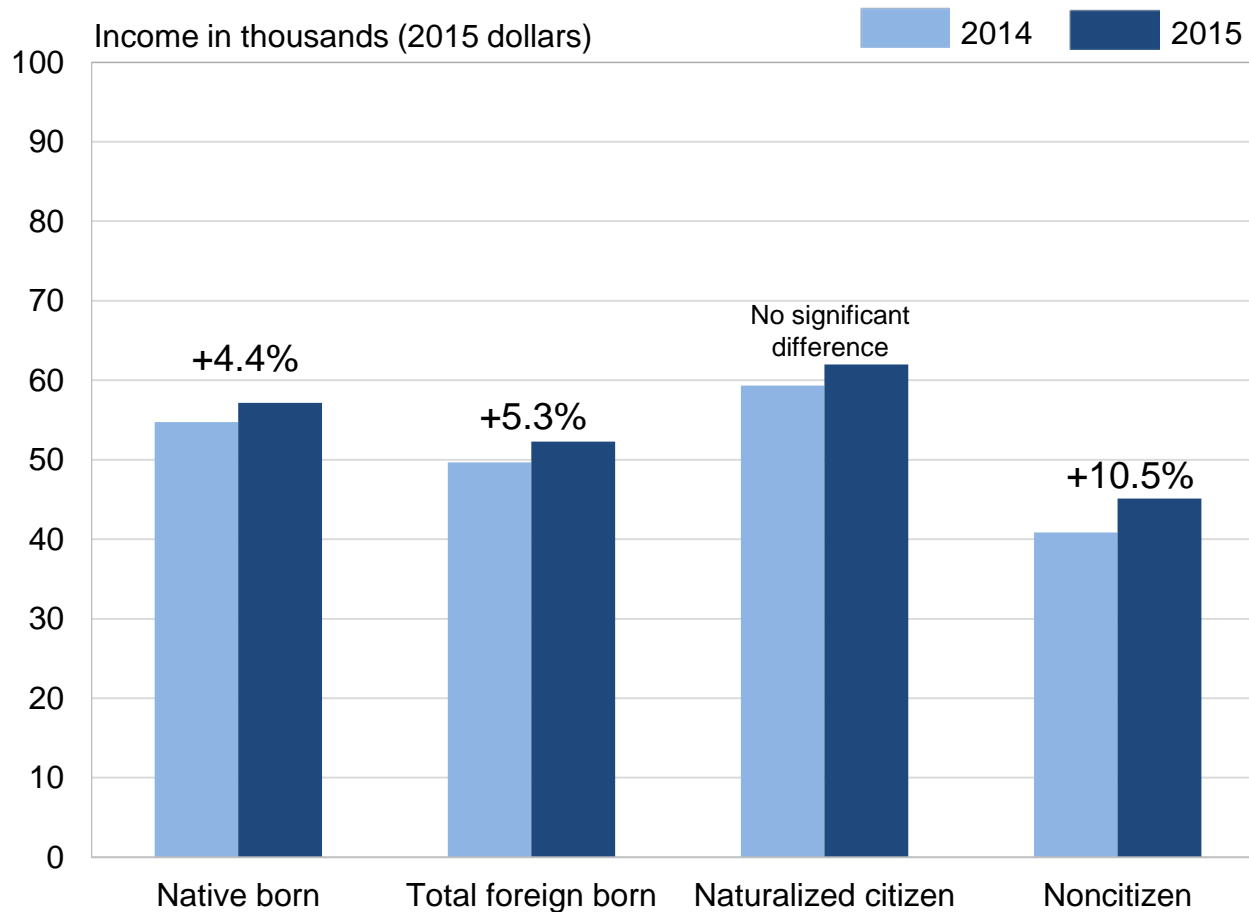
Real Median Household Income by Age of Householder: 2014 and 2015



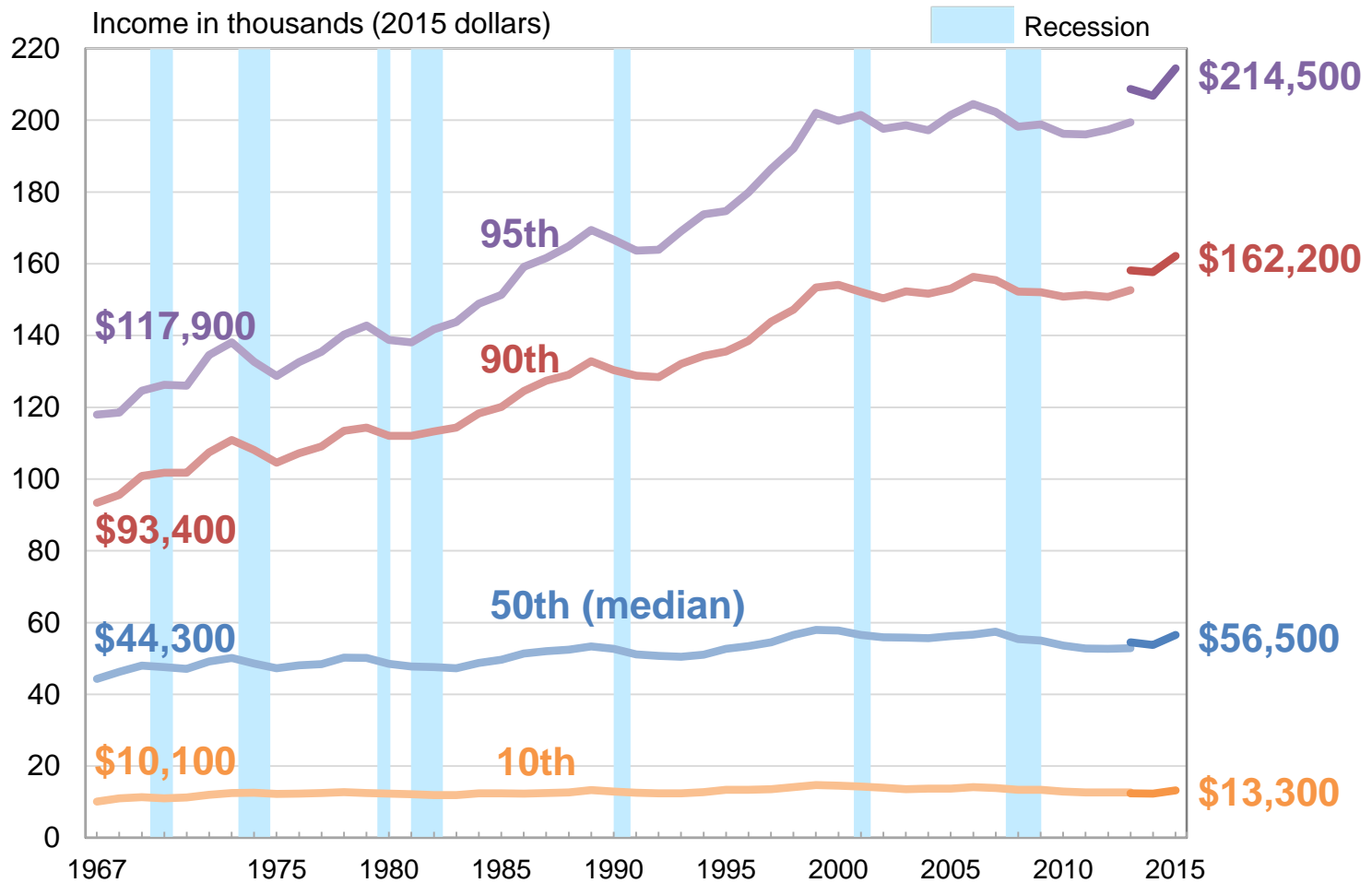
Real Median Household Income by Race and Hispanic Origin of Householder: 1967 to 2015



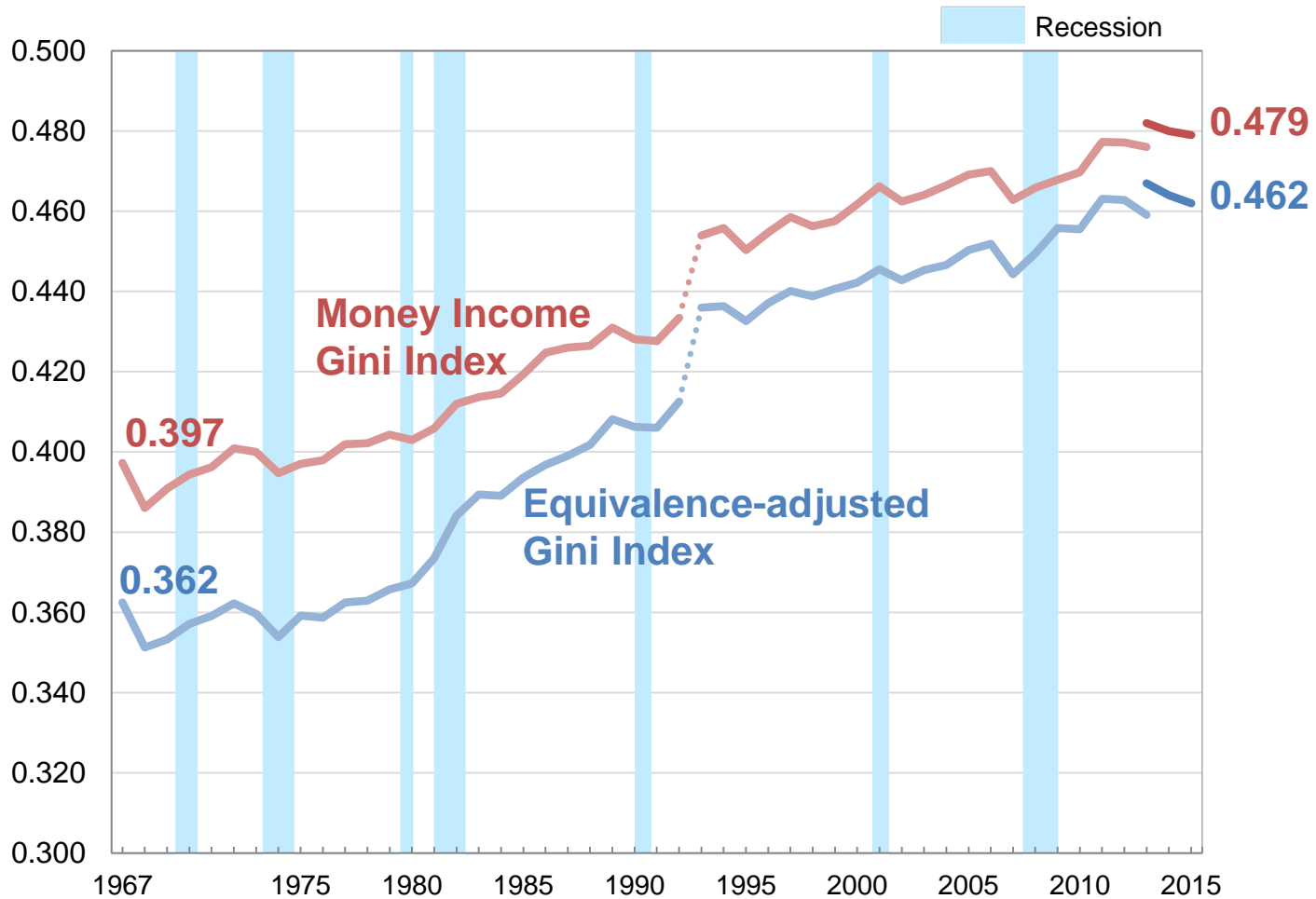
Real Median Household Income by Nativity of Householder: 2014 and 2015



Real Household Income at Selected Percentiles: 1967 to 2015

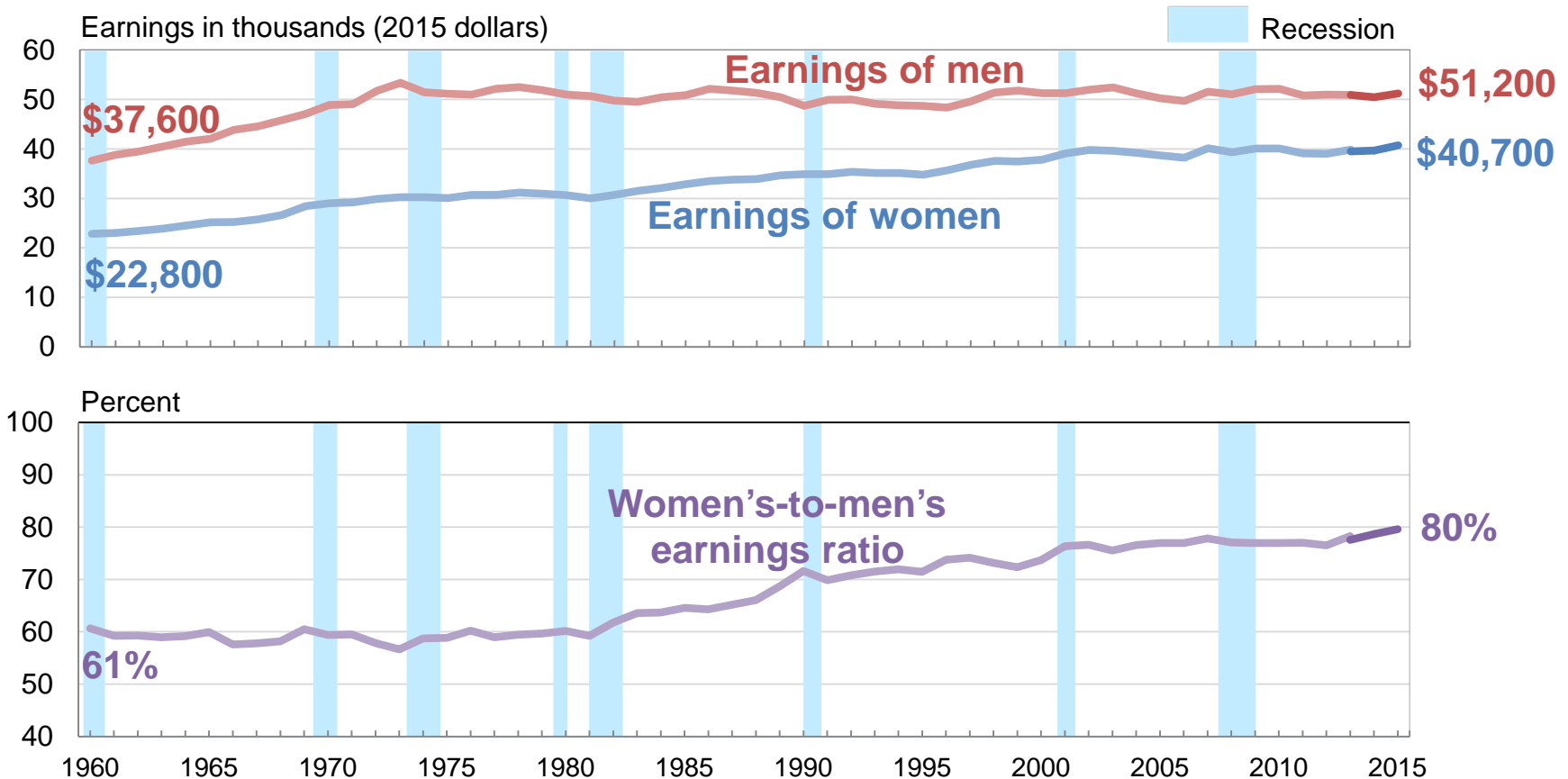


Gini Index of Money Income and Equivalence-Adjusted Income: 1967 to 2015

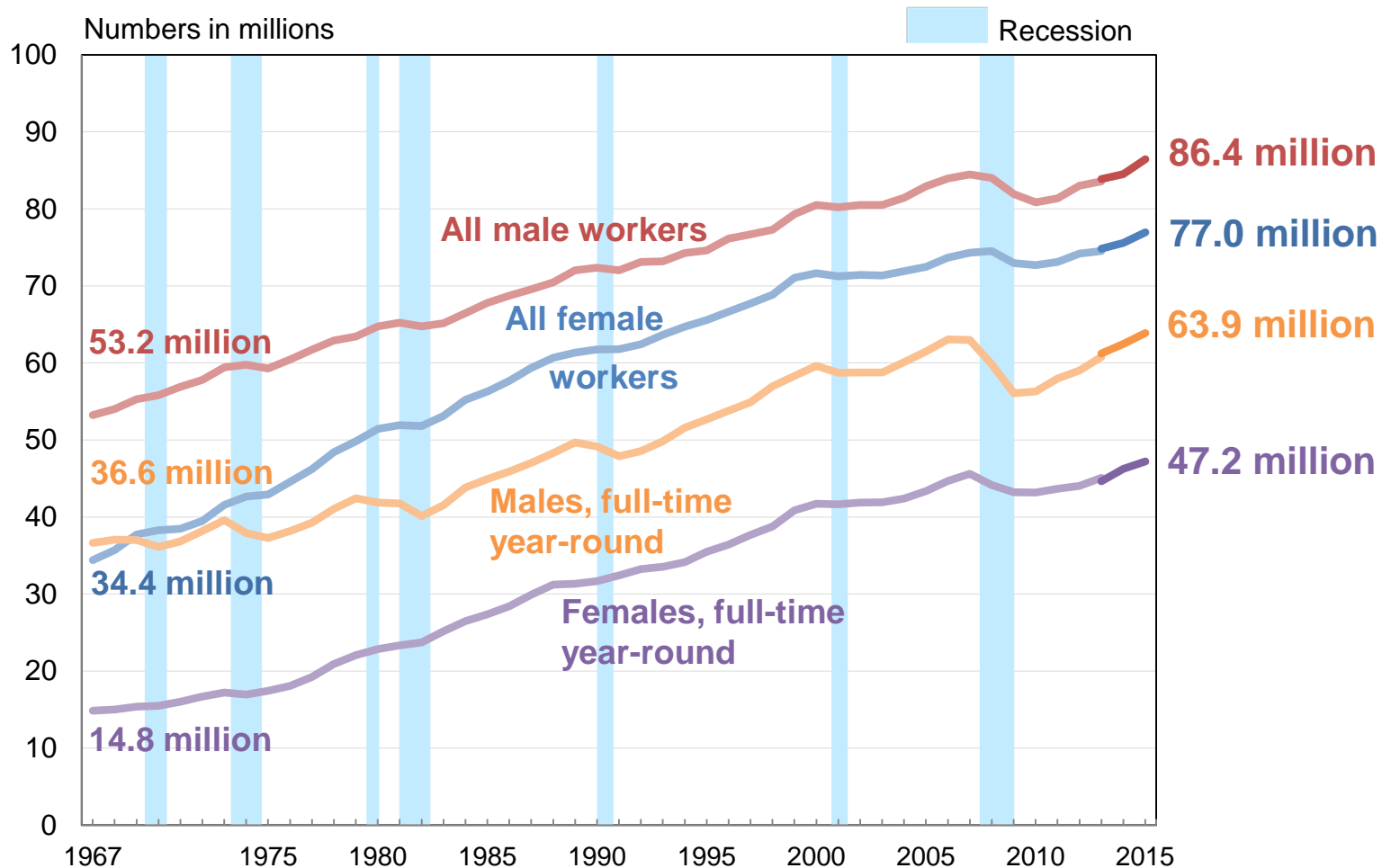


Real Median Earnings and Women's-to-Men's Earnings Ratio: 1960 to 2015

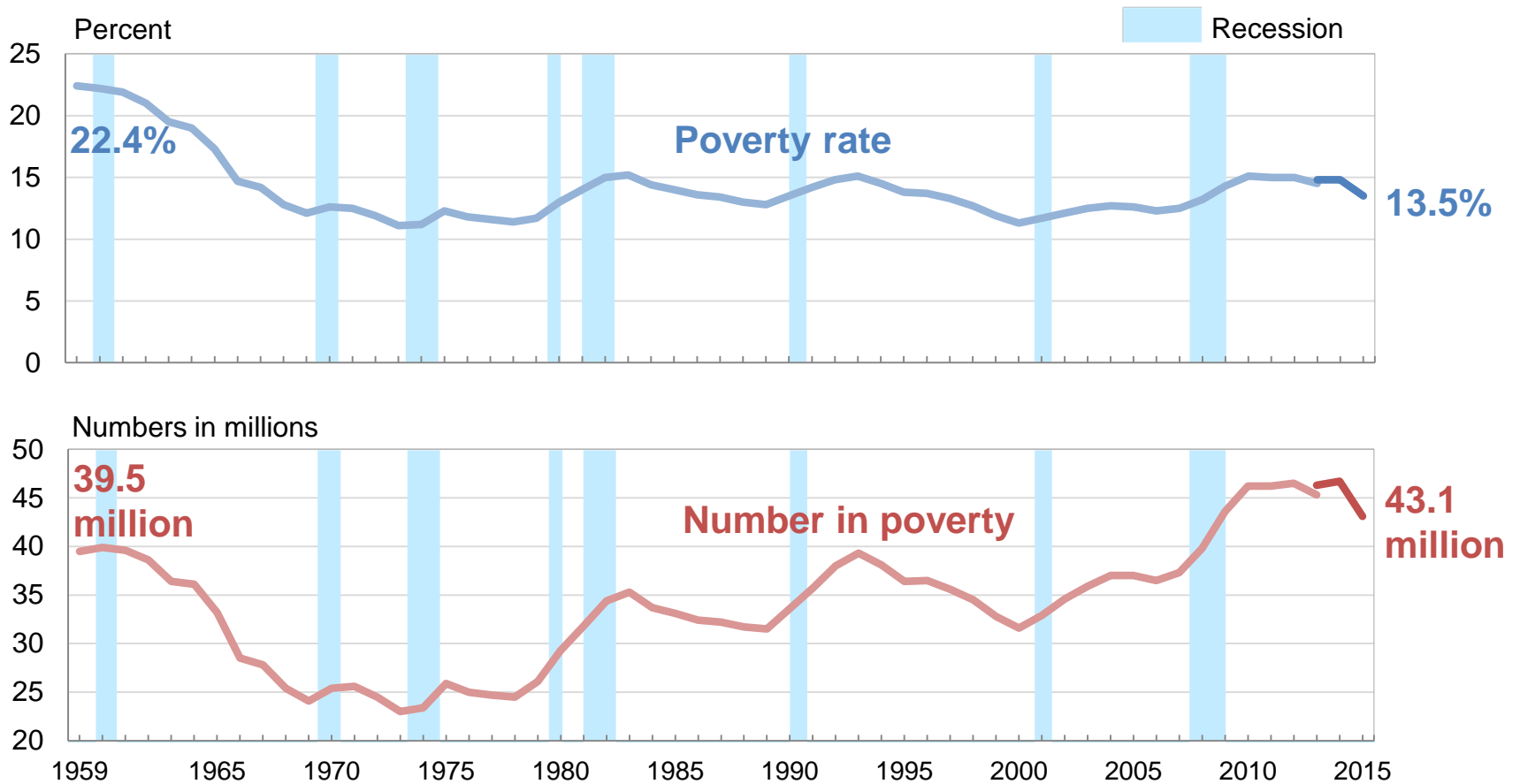
(Full-time, year-round workers, aged 15 and older)



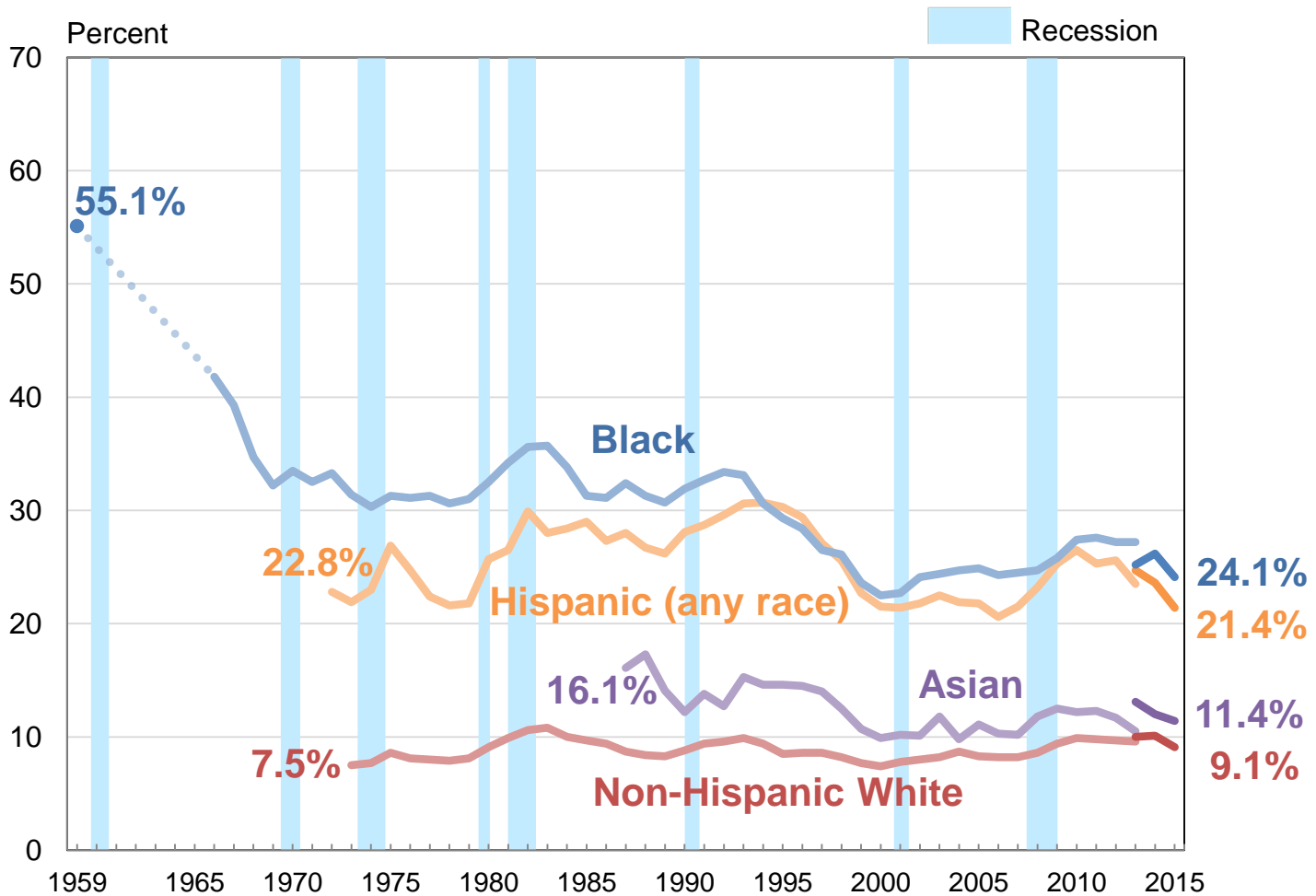
Total and Full-Time, Year-Round Workers with Earnings by Sex: 1967 to 2015



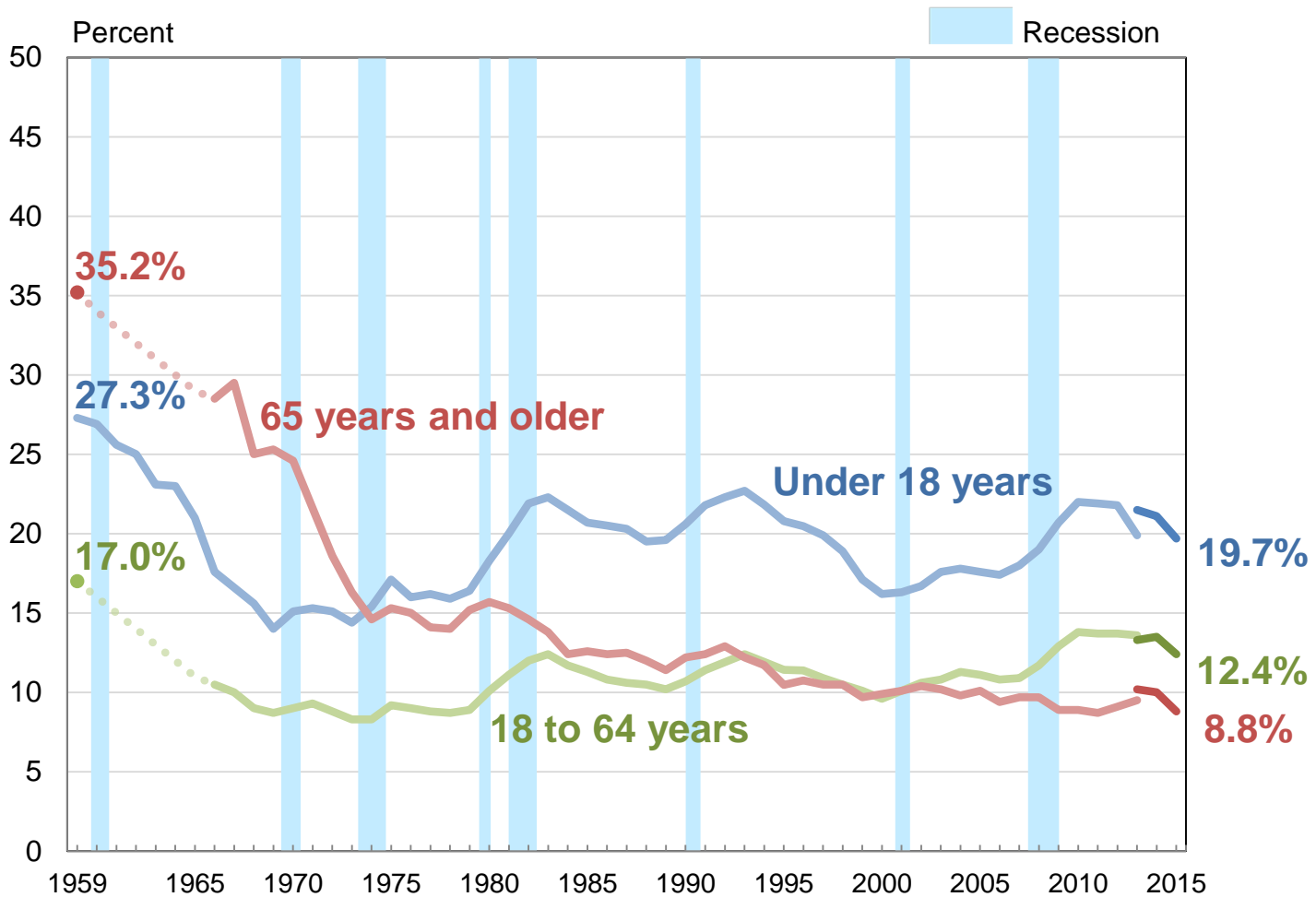
Poverty Rate and Number in Poverty: 1959 to 2015



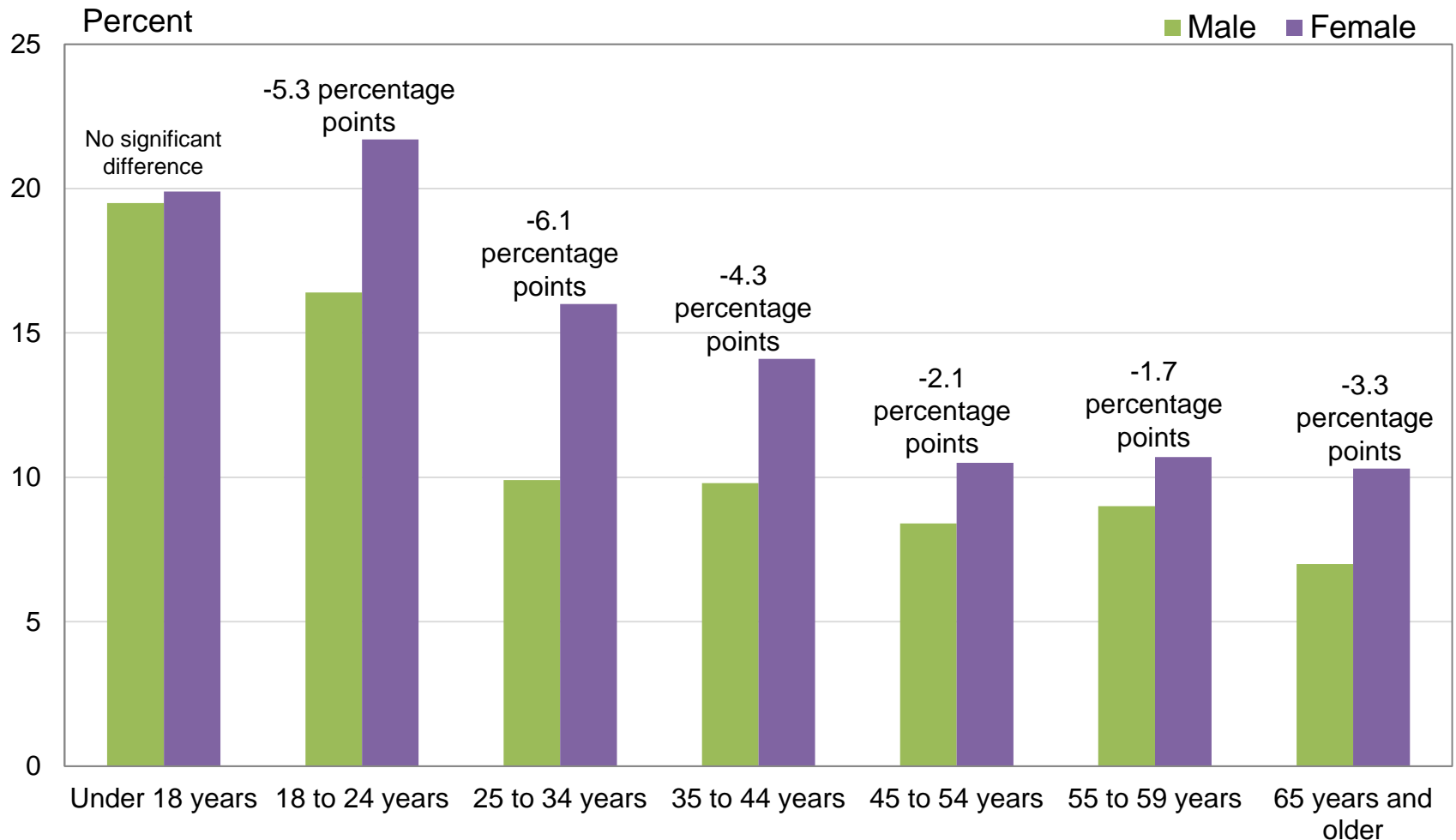
Poverty Rates by Race and Hispanic Origin: 1959 to 2015



Poverty Rates by Age: 1959 to 2015



Poverty Rates by Age and Sex: 2015



Supplemental Poverty Measure (SPM)

Observations from the Interagency Technical Working Group

- Will not replace the official poverty measure
- Will not be used for resource allocation or program eligibility
- Census Bureau and Bureau of Labor Statistics responsible for improving and updating the measure
- Continued research and improvement
- Based on National Academy of Sciences panel 1995 recommendations

The Supplemental Poverty Measure: 2015

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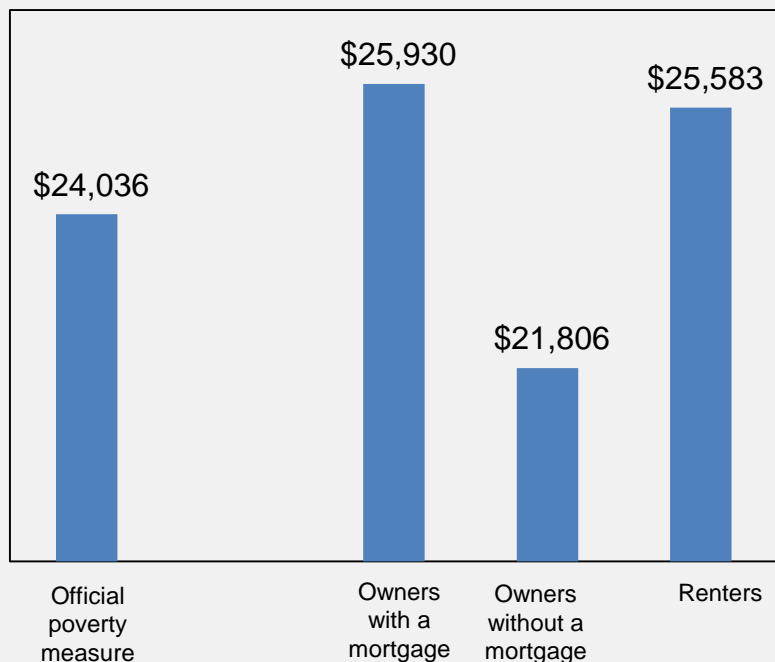
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Supplemental Poverty Measure Thresholds and Resources

Official and SPM Thresholds for Units with Two Children, Two Adults: 2015



Supplemental Poverty Measure Thresholds

Source: Official Poverty Thresholds, www.census.gov/hhes/www/poverty/data/threshld/index.html, Supplemental Poverty Measure Thresholds, Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), www.bls.gov/pir/spmhome.htm.

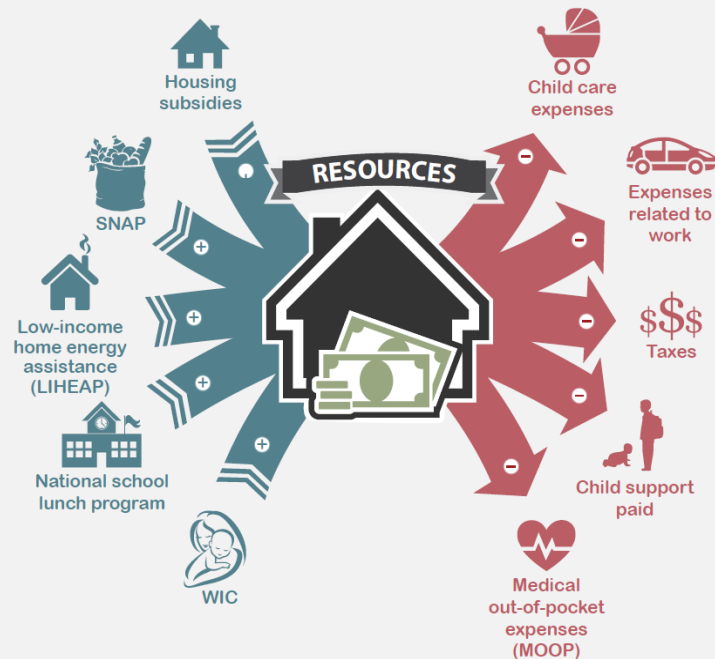
The SPM starts with cash income, then...

ADDING BENEFITS

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

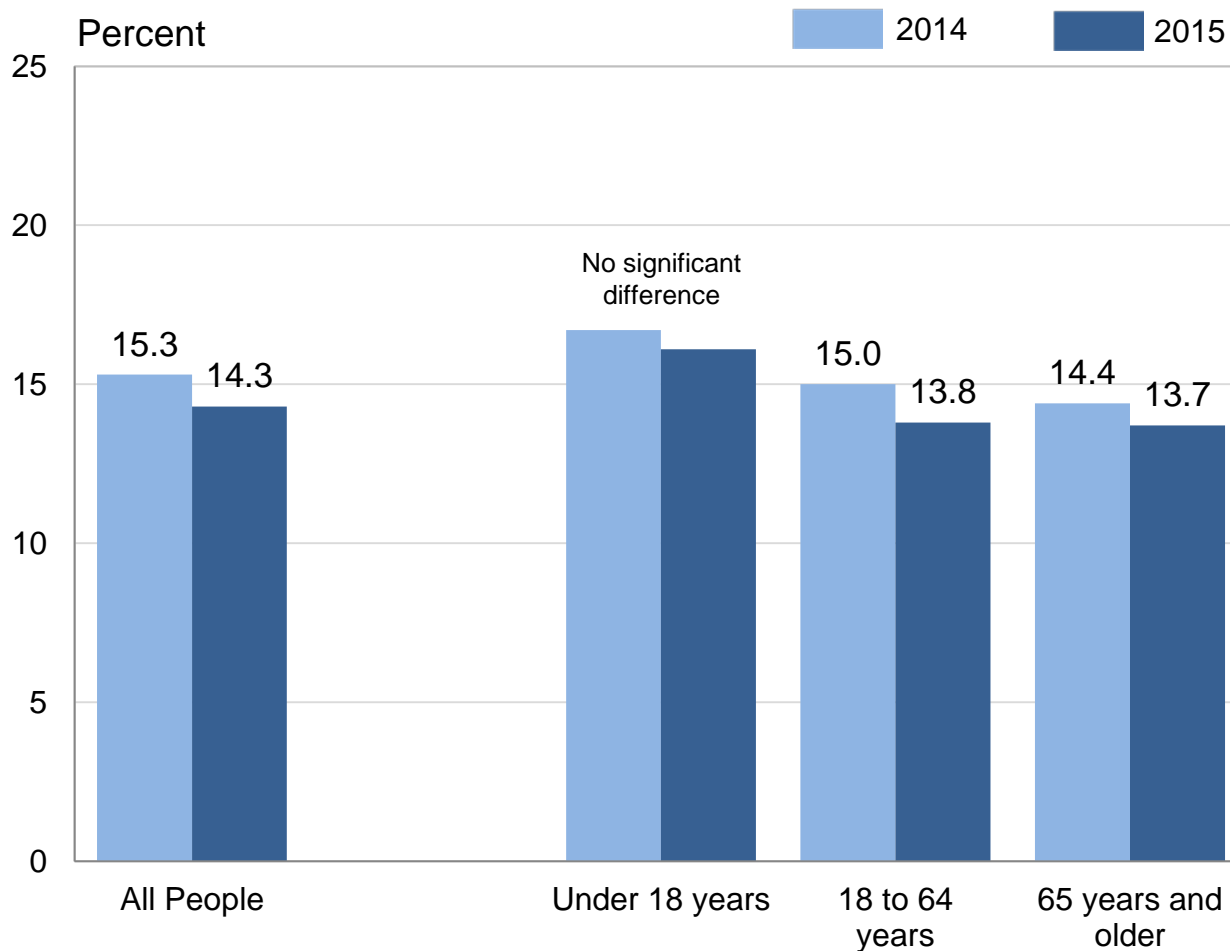
SUBTRACTING EXPENSES

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

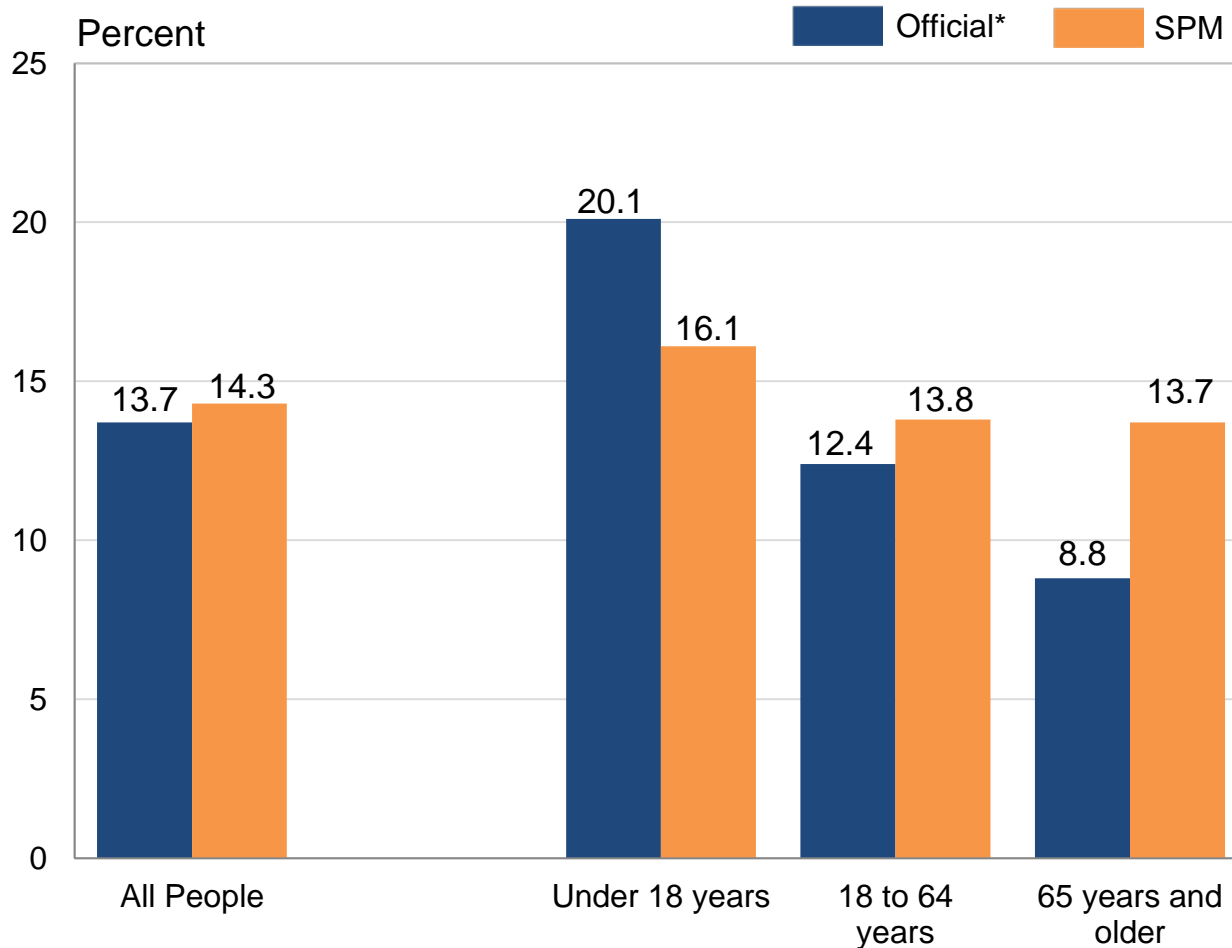


Source: U.S. Census Bureau
www.census.gov/library/infographics/poverty_measure-how.html

Comparison of SPM Poverty Estimates: 2014 and 2015

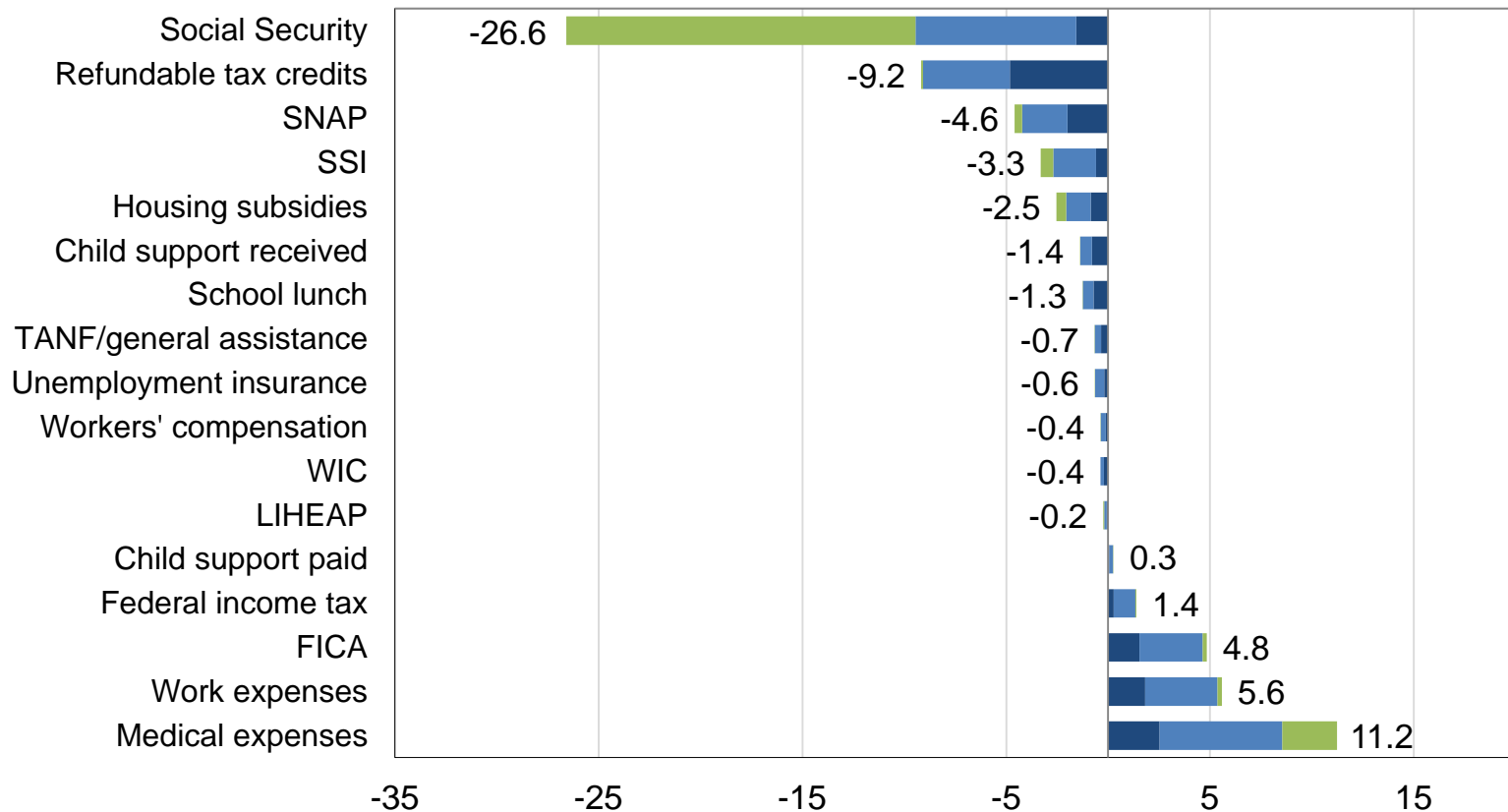


Comparison of SPM and Official Poverty Estimates: 2015



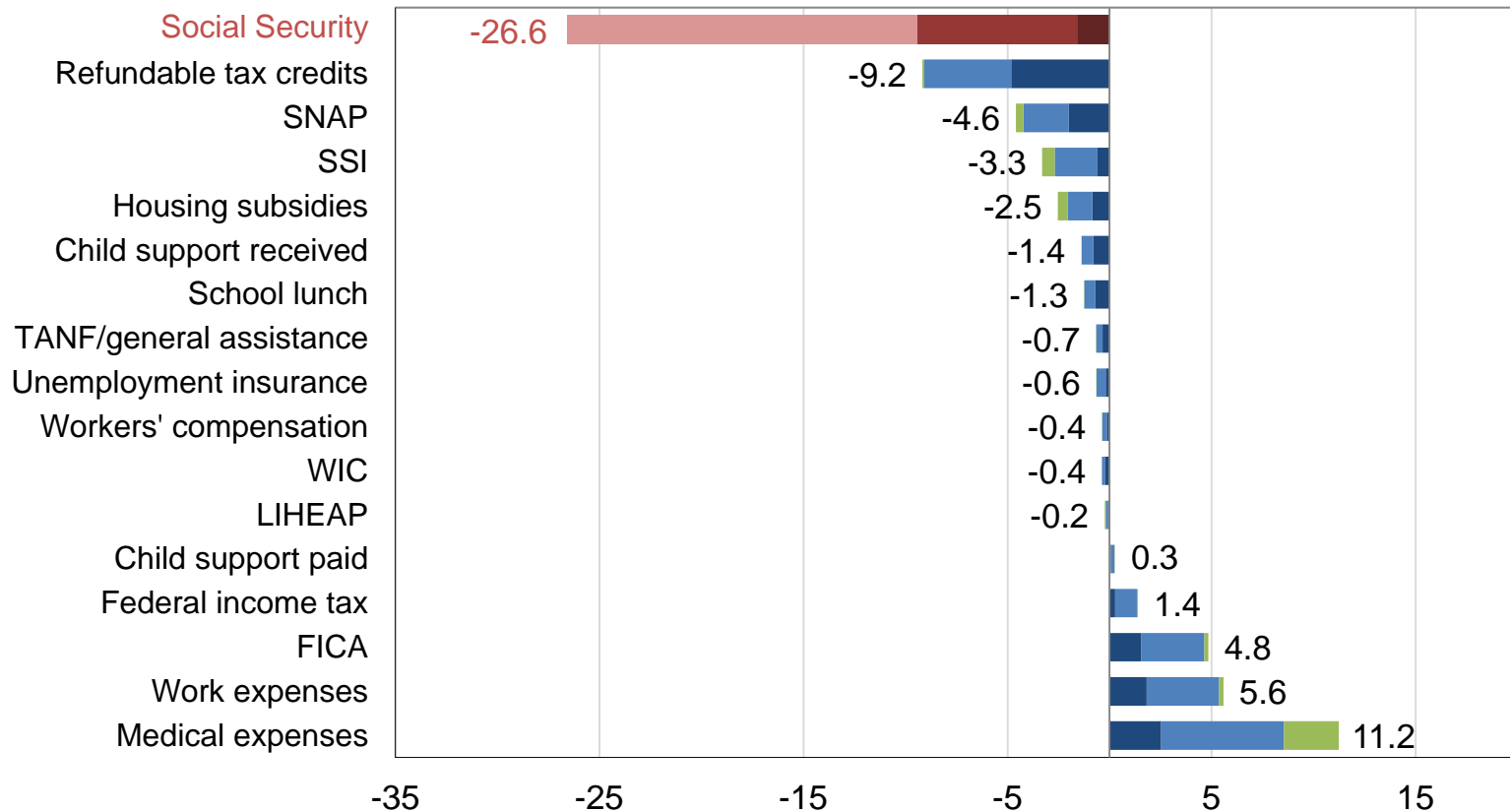
Change in Number of People in Poverty After Including Each Element: 2015 (In millions)

■ Under 18 years ■ 18 to 64 years ■ 65 years and over



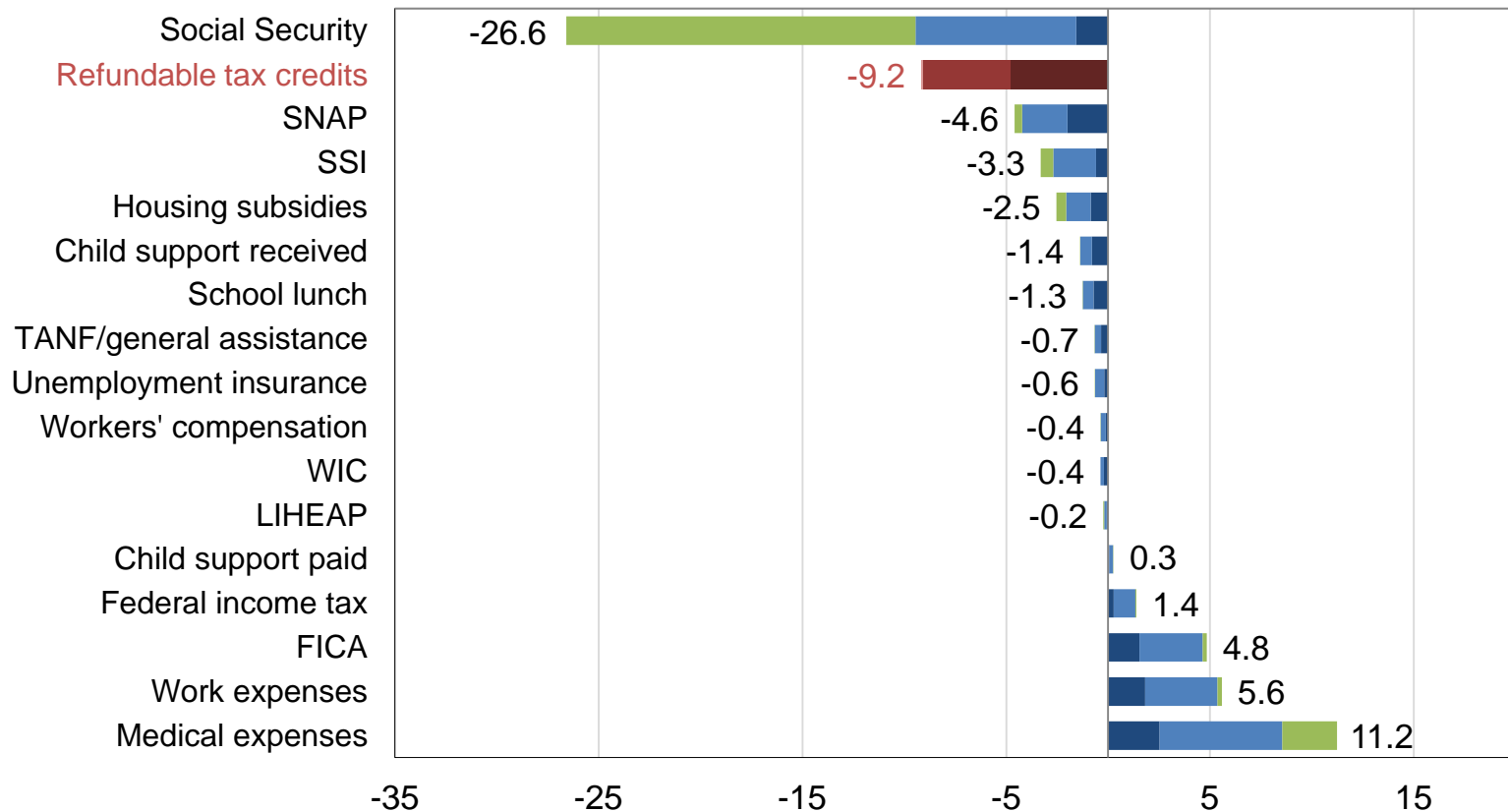
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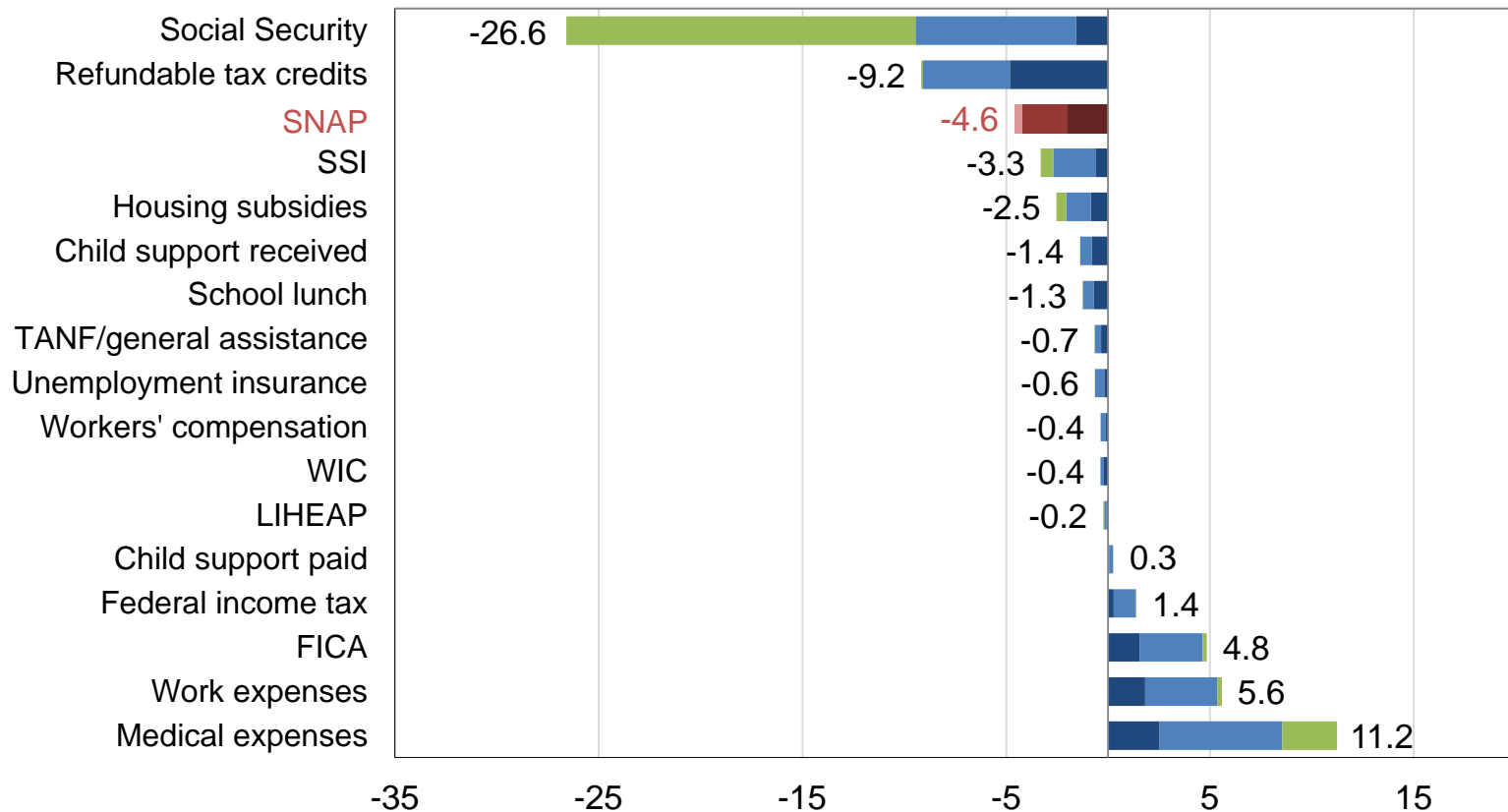
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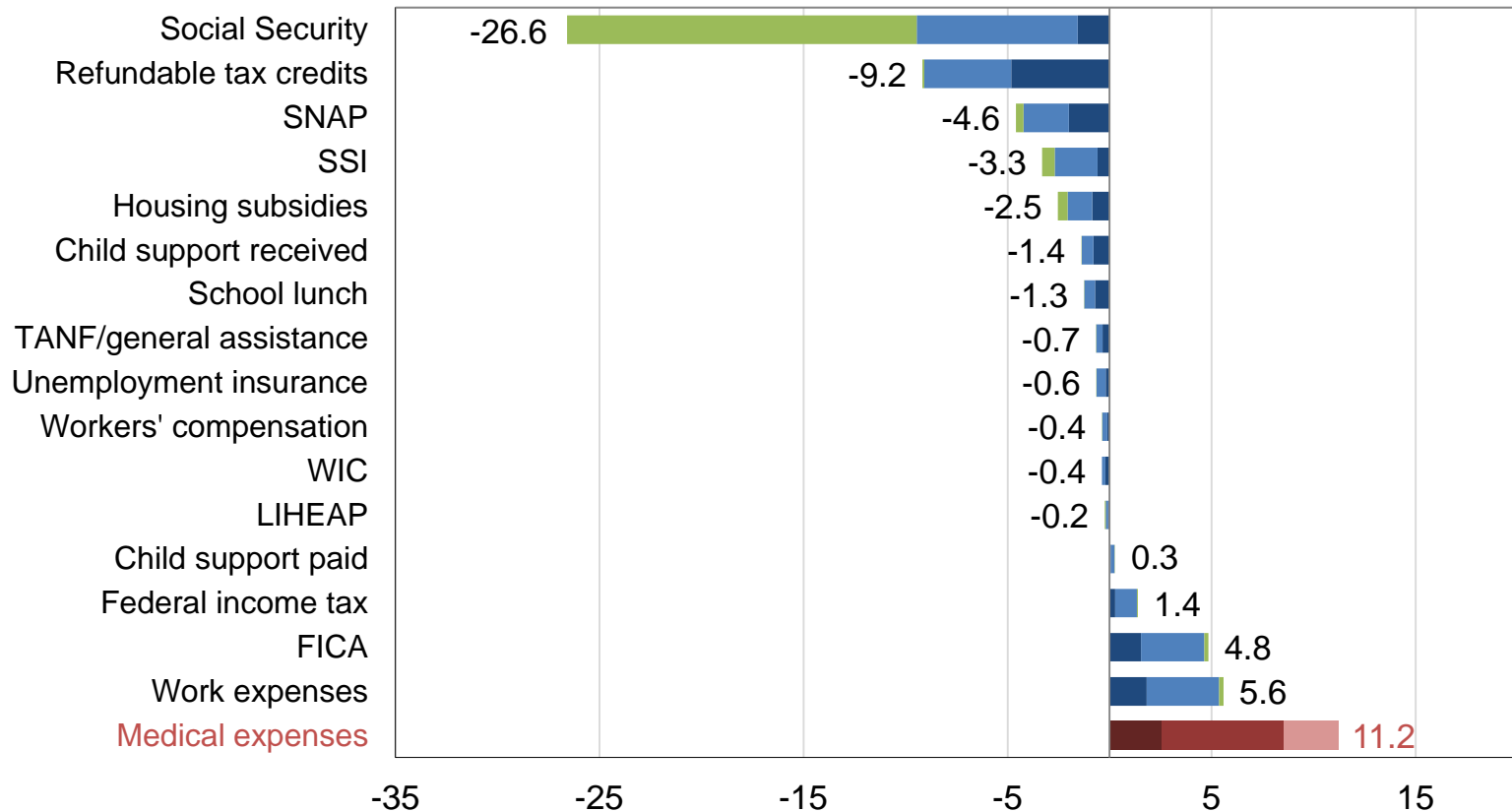
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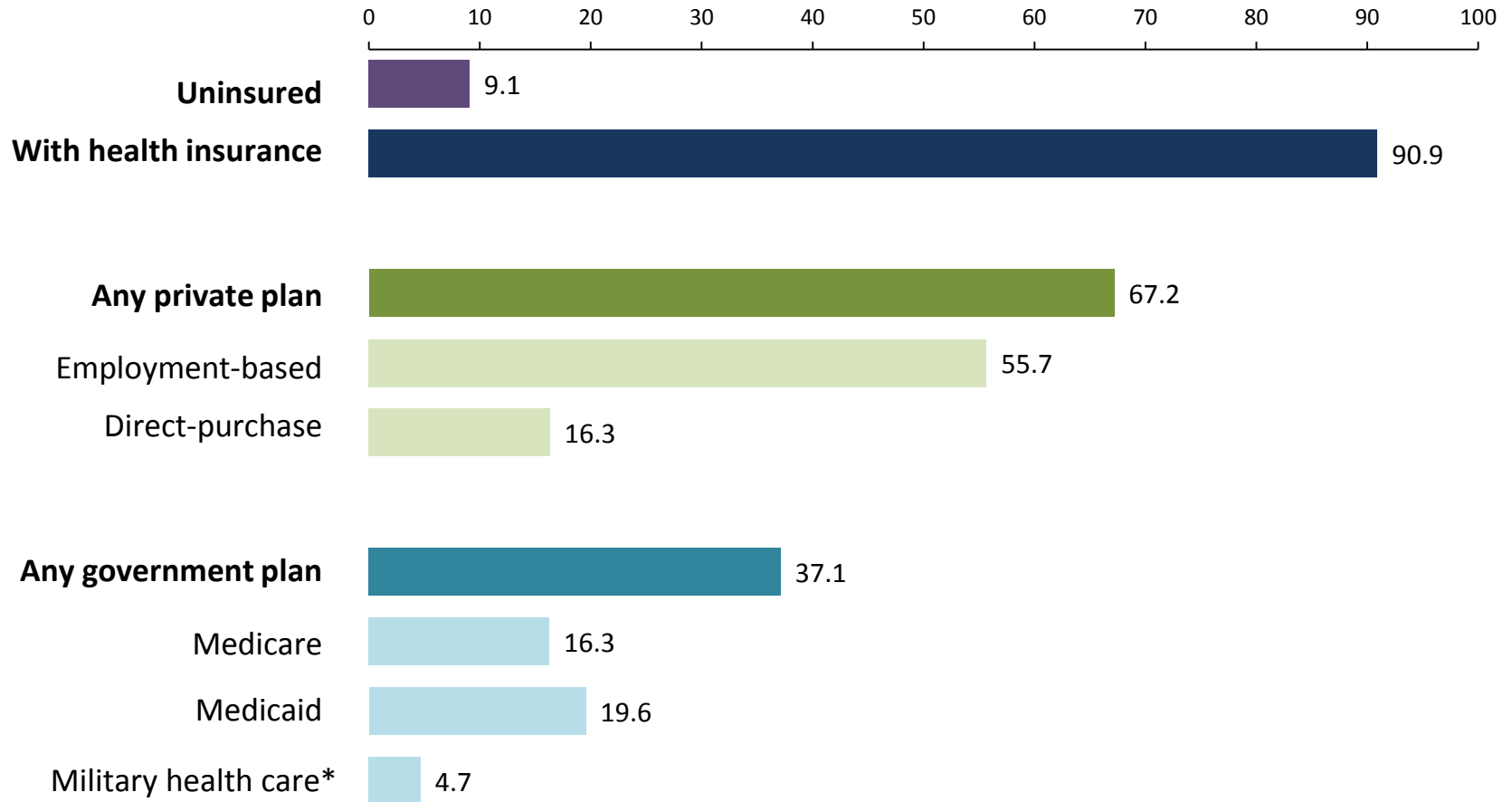
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Changes in the rate of health insurance coverage reflect:

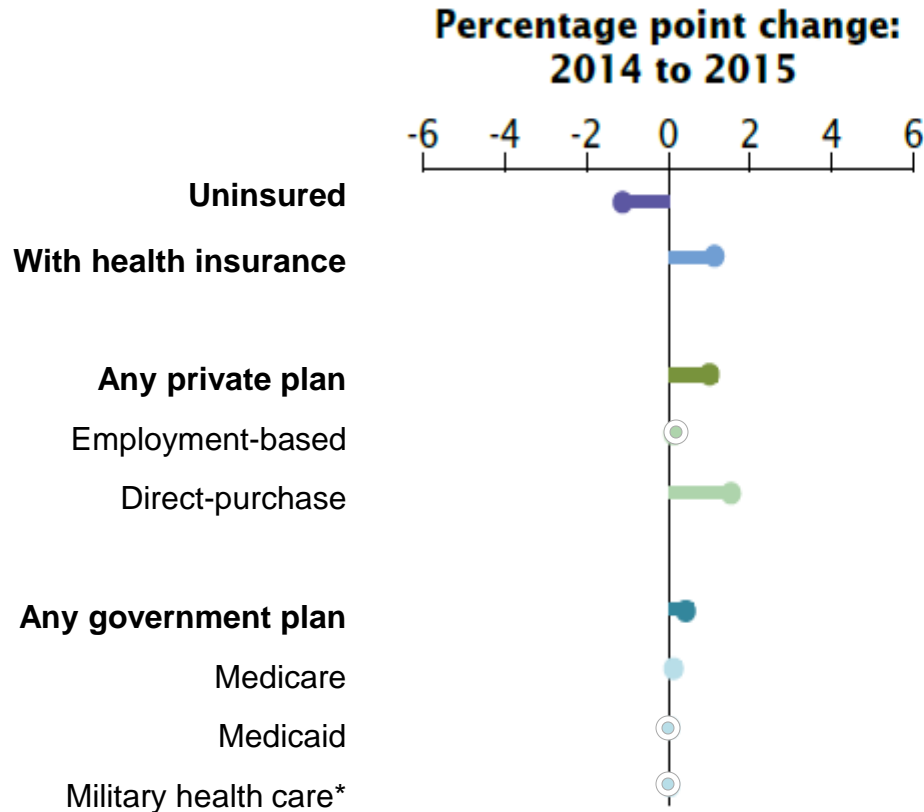
- Economic trends
- Demographic shifts
- Policy changes, such as the Affordable Care Act (ACA)

Percentage of People by Type of Health Insurance Coverage: 2015



*Military health care includes TRICARE and CHAMPVA (Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs) as well as care provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs and the military.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 2016 Annual Social and Economic Supplement.

Change in Percentage of People by Type of Health Insurance Coverage: 2014 to 2015

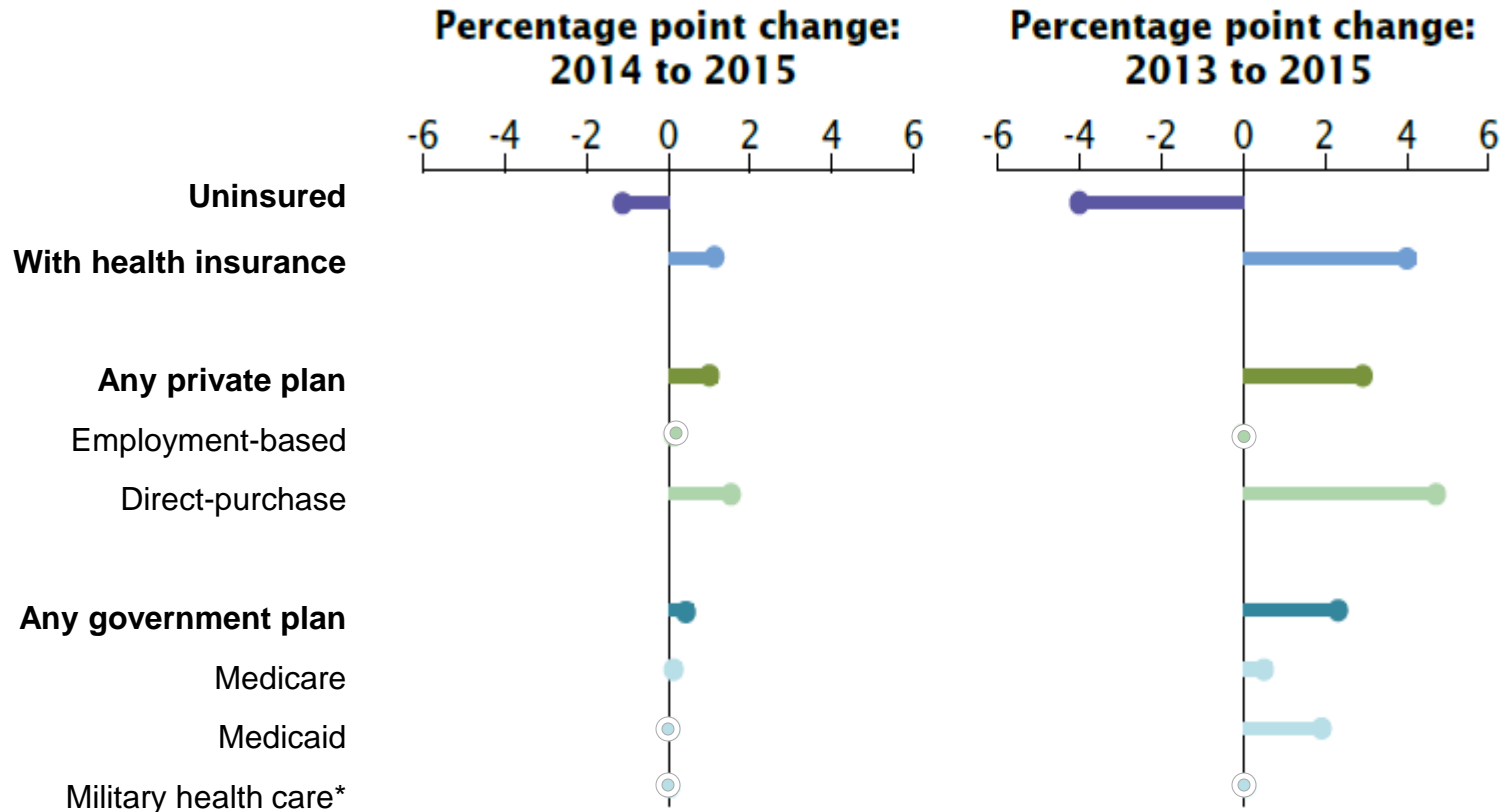


⊙ No statistical change between years.

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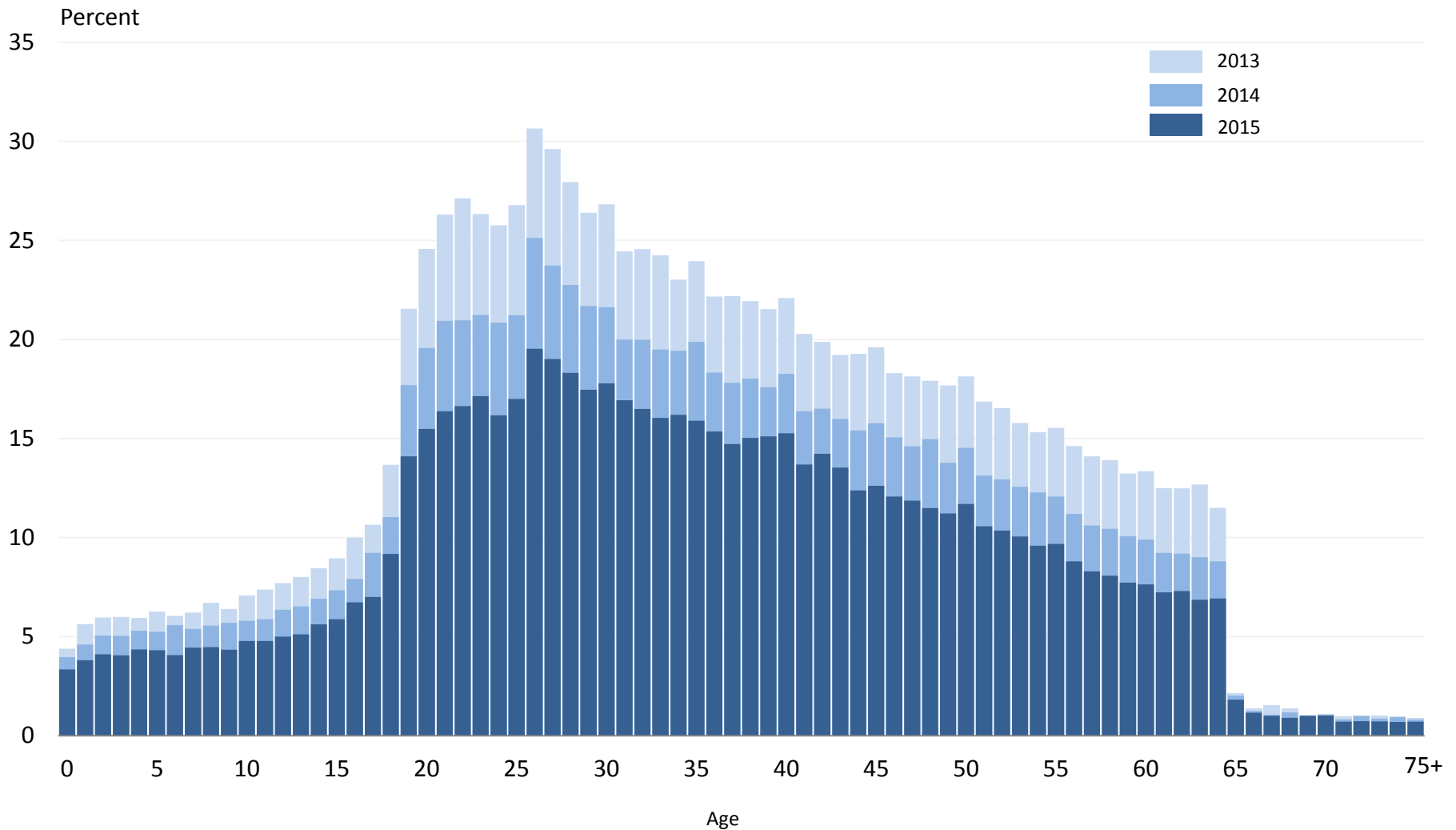


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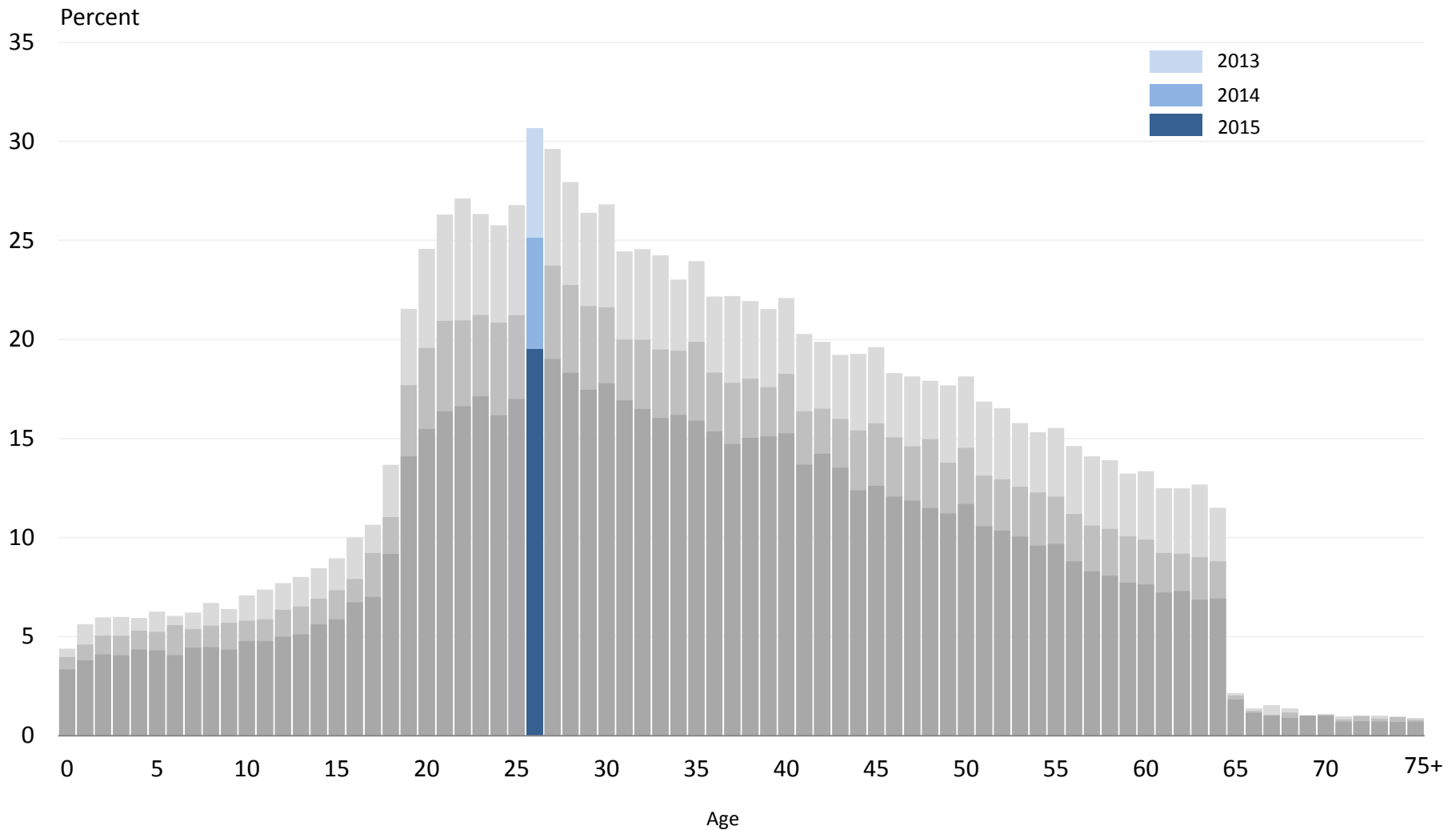
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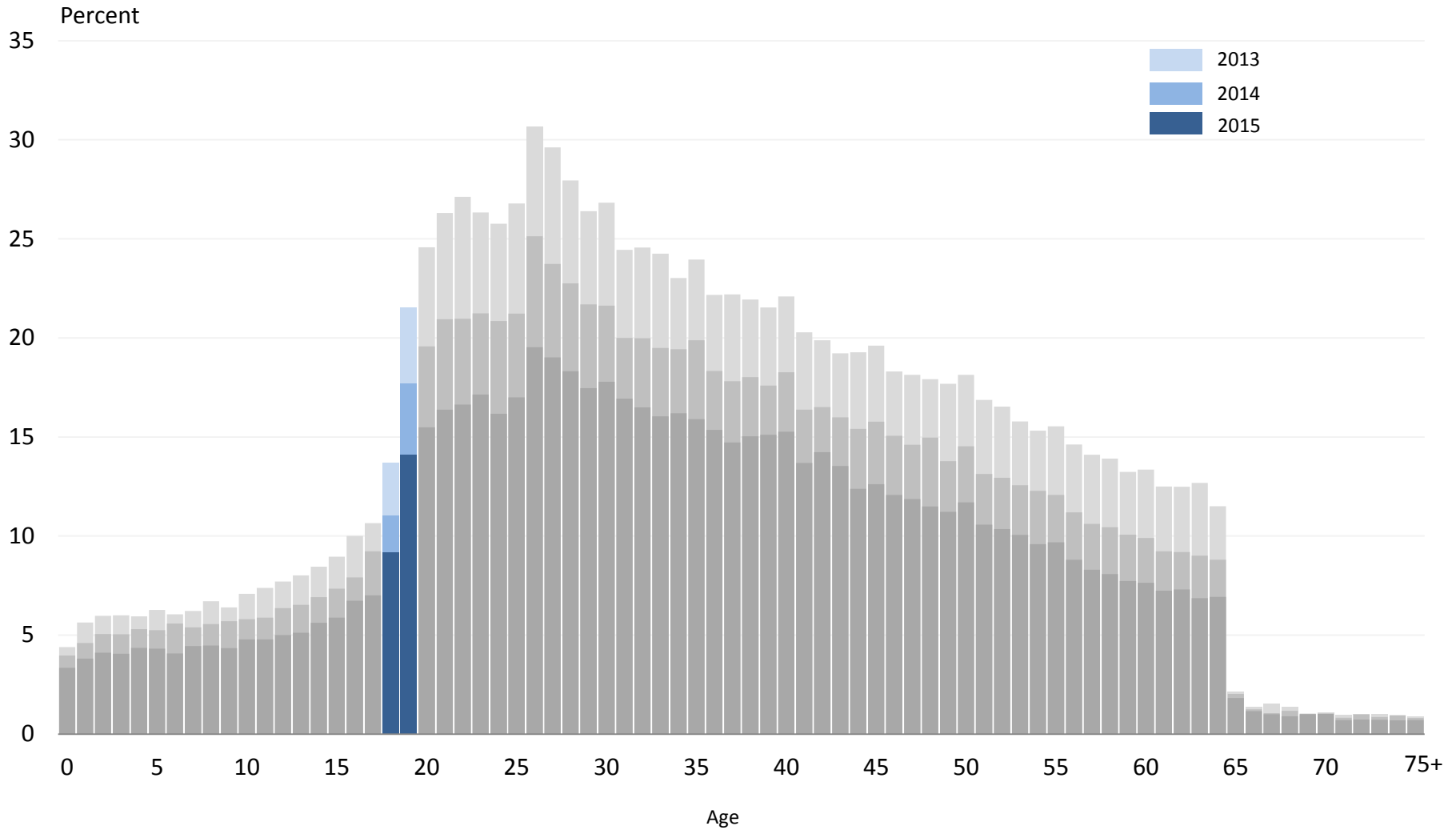
Uninsured Rate by Single Year of Age: 2013 to 2015



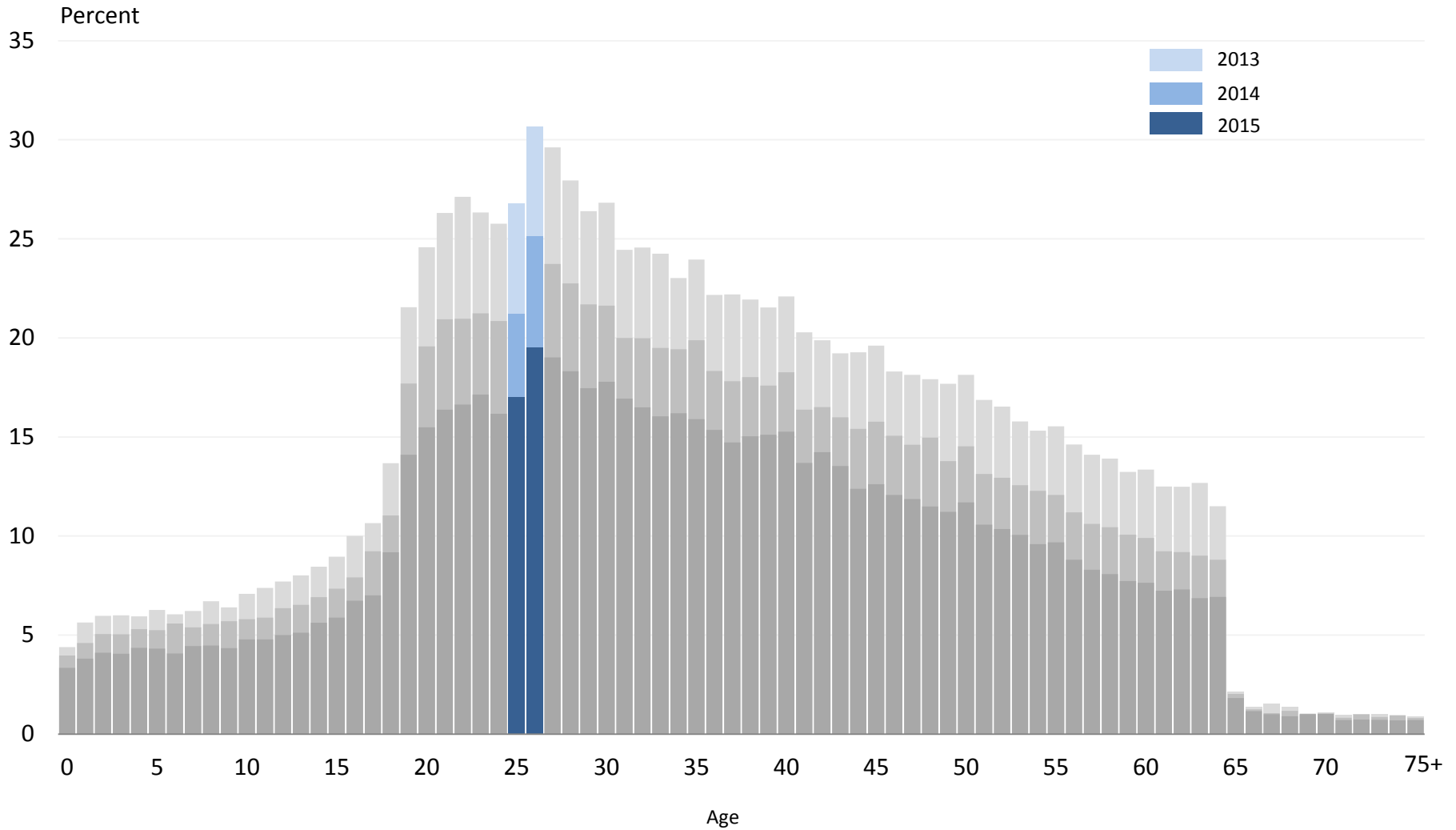
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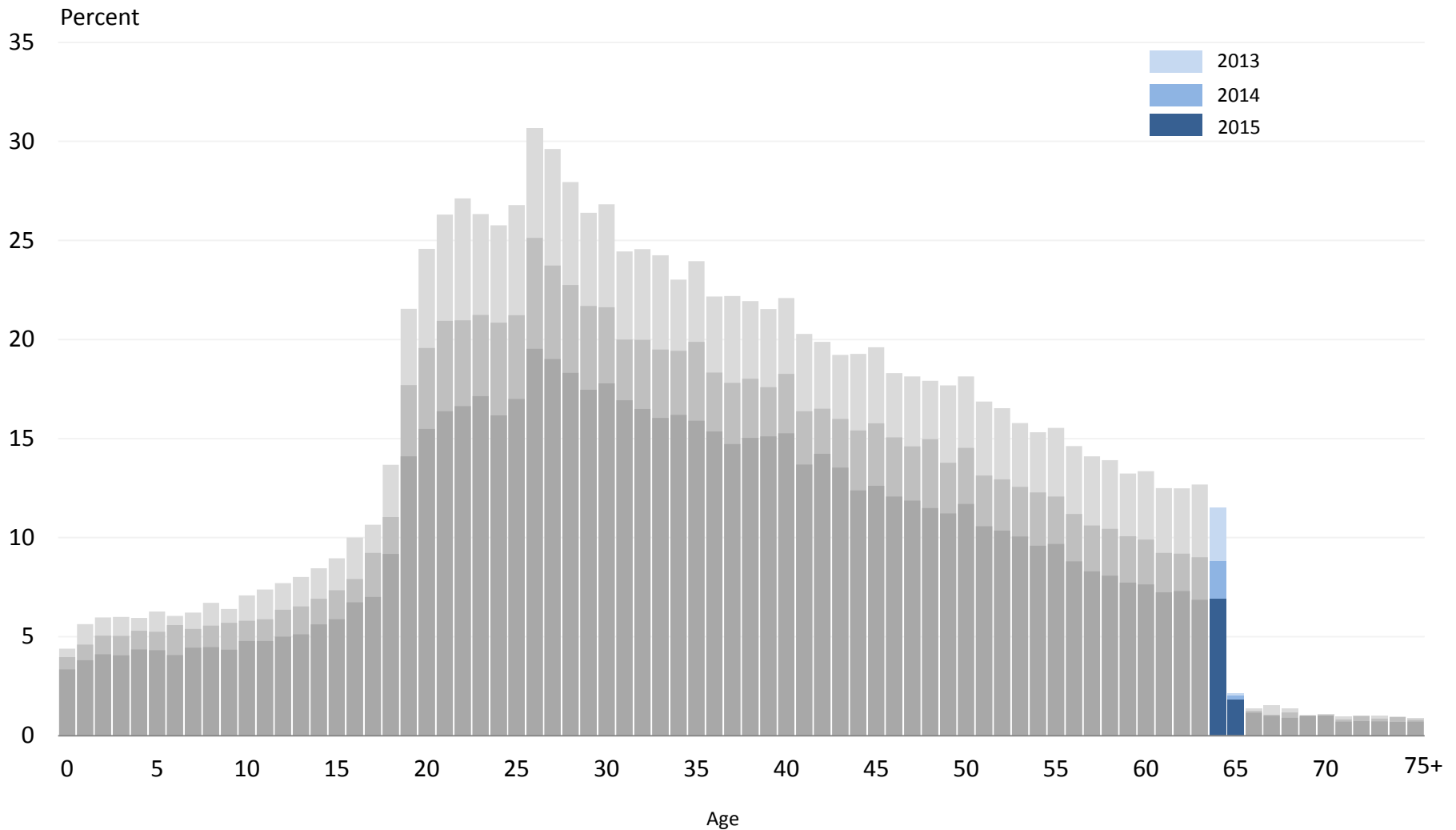
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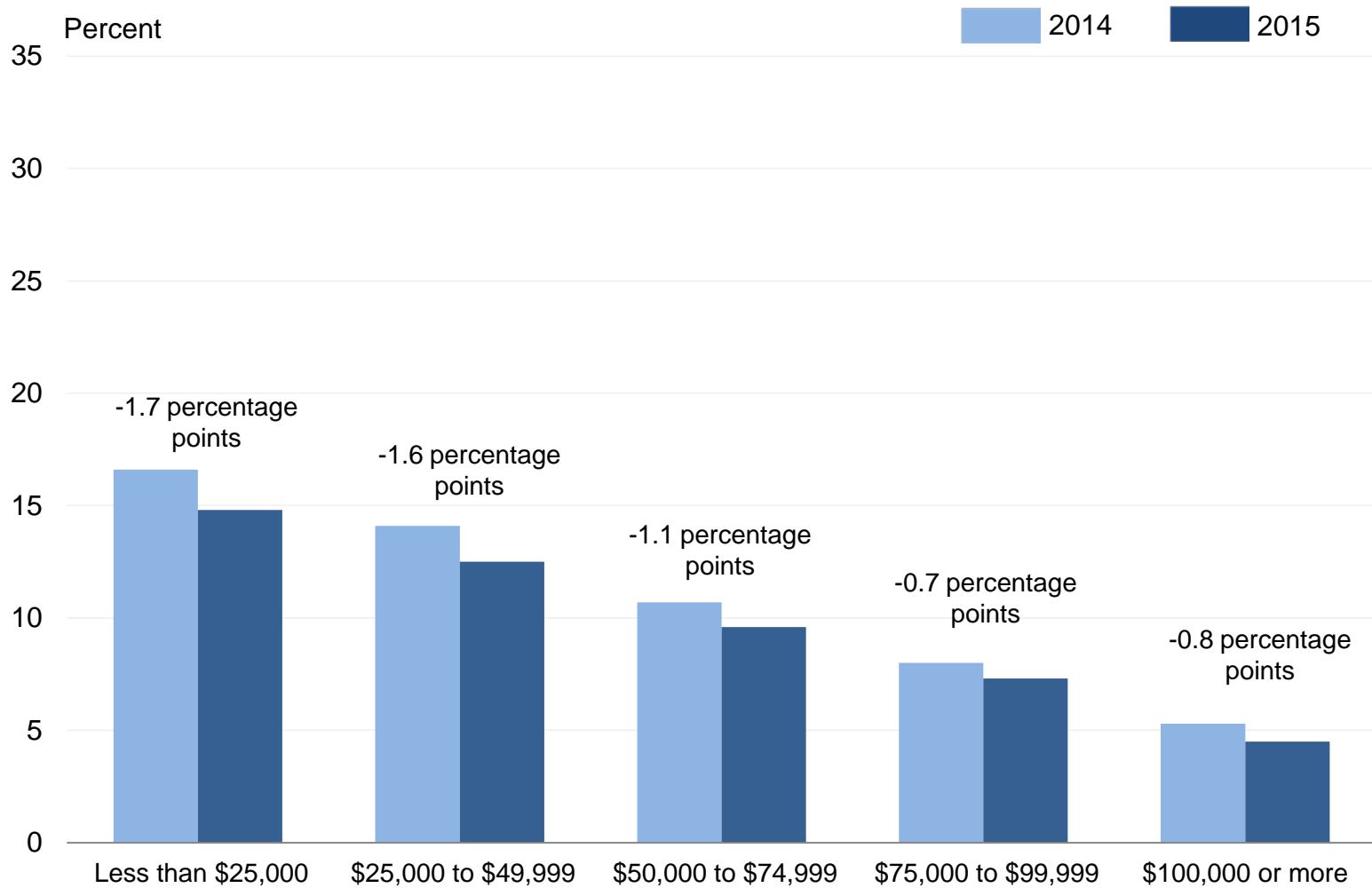
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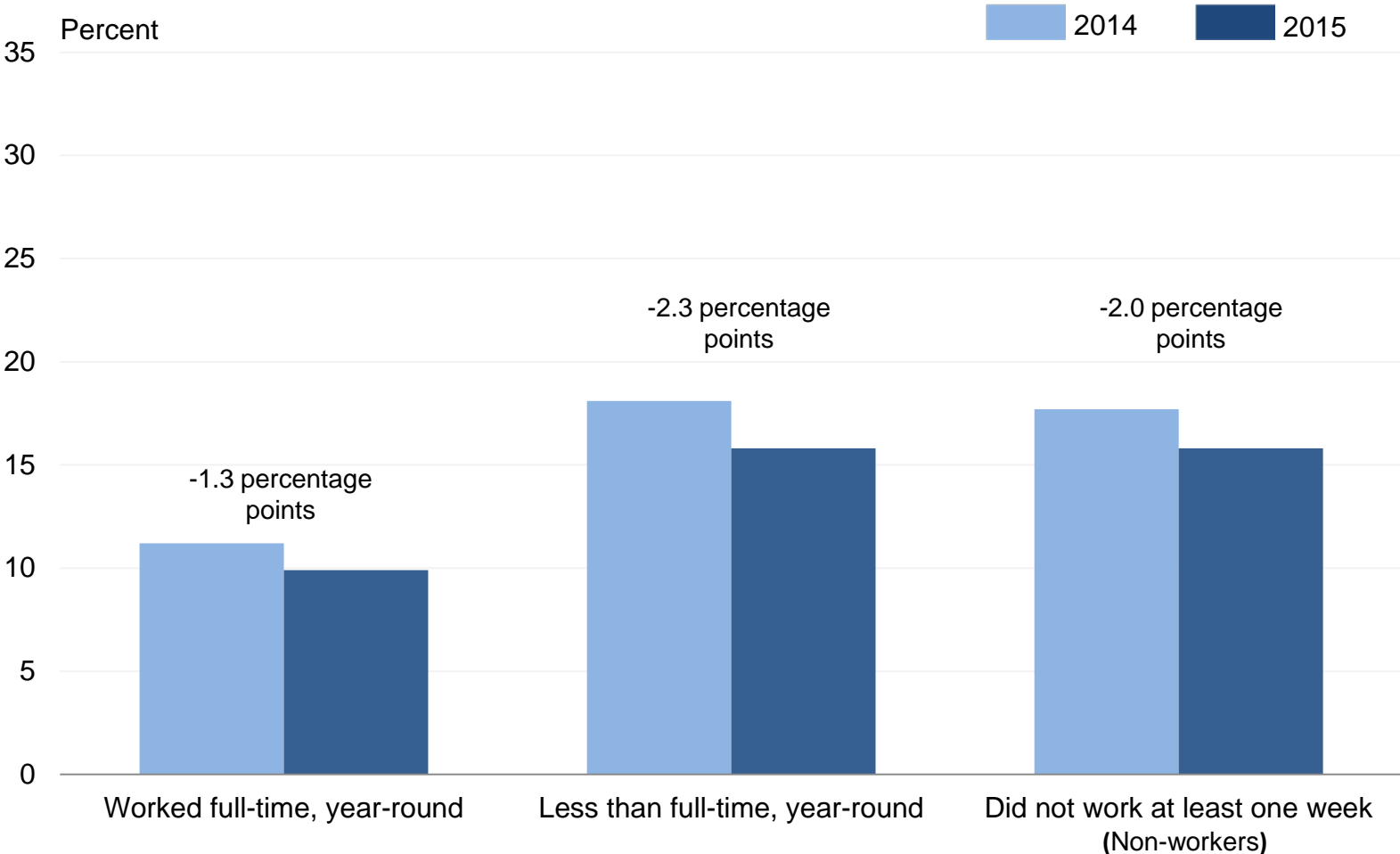
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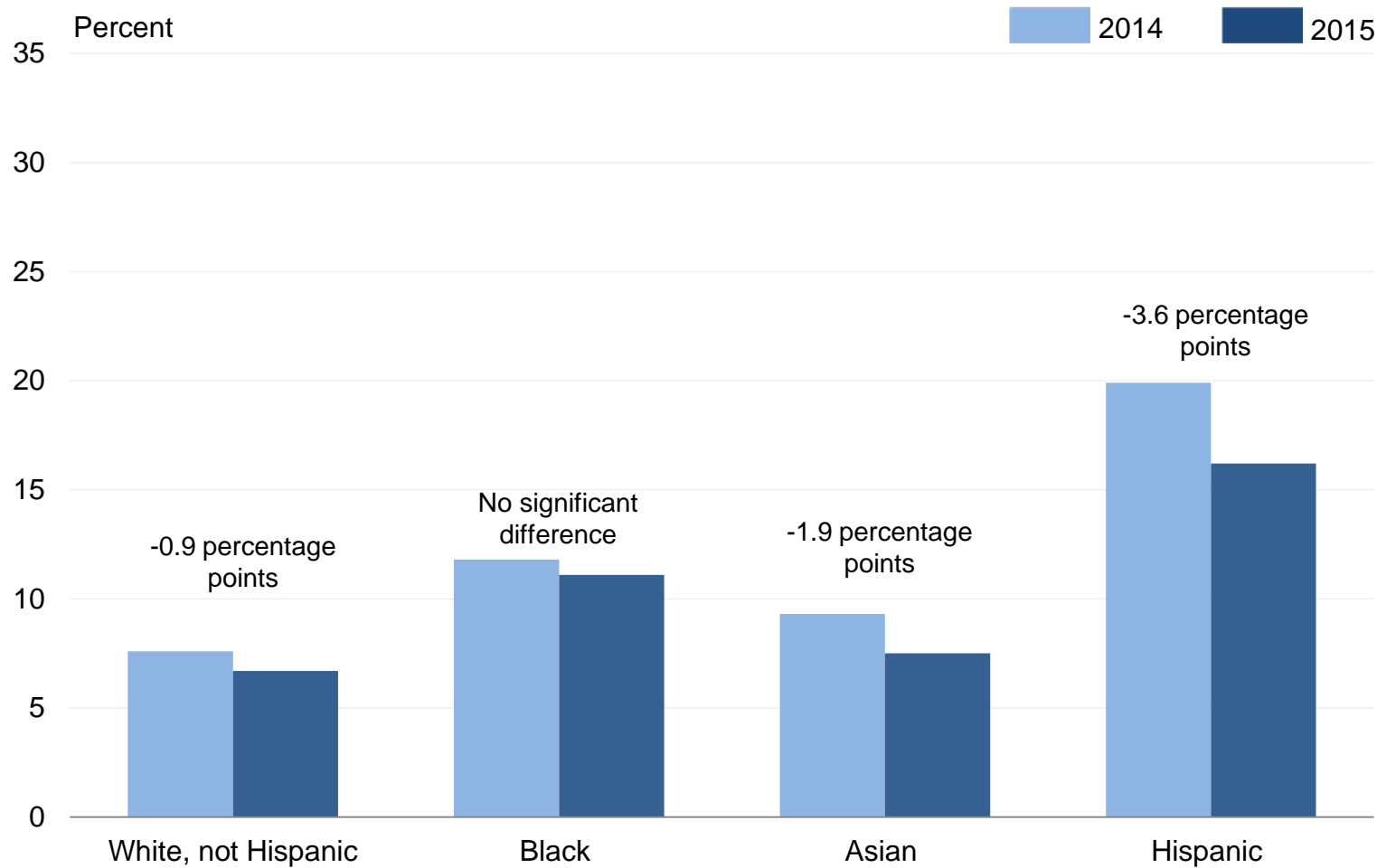
Uninsured Rate by Household Income: 2014 and 2015



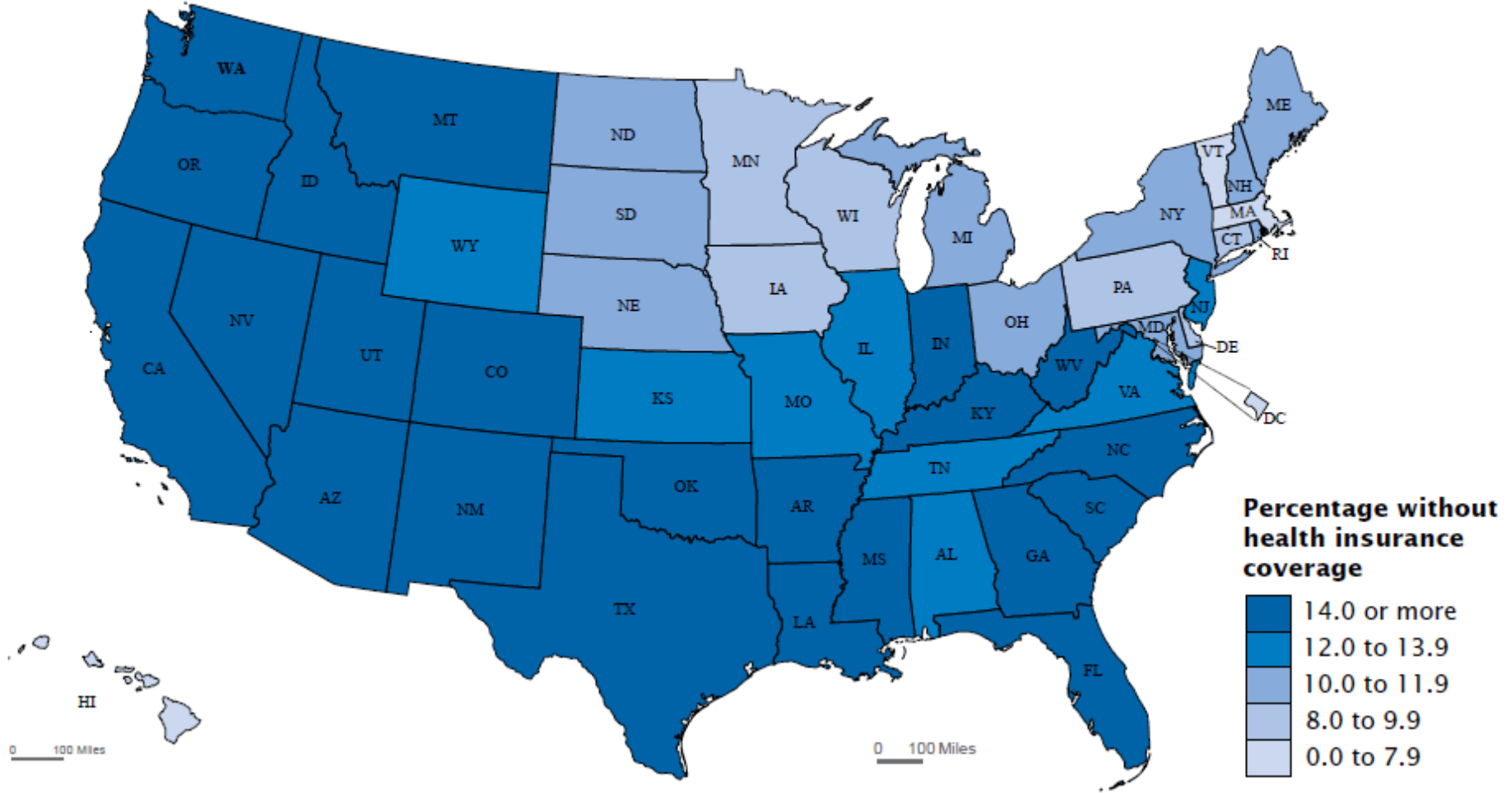
Uninsured Rate by Work Experience, Ages 19 to 64 Years: 2014 and 2015



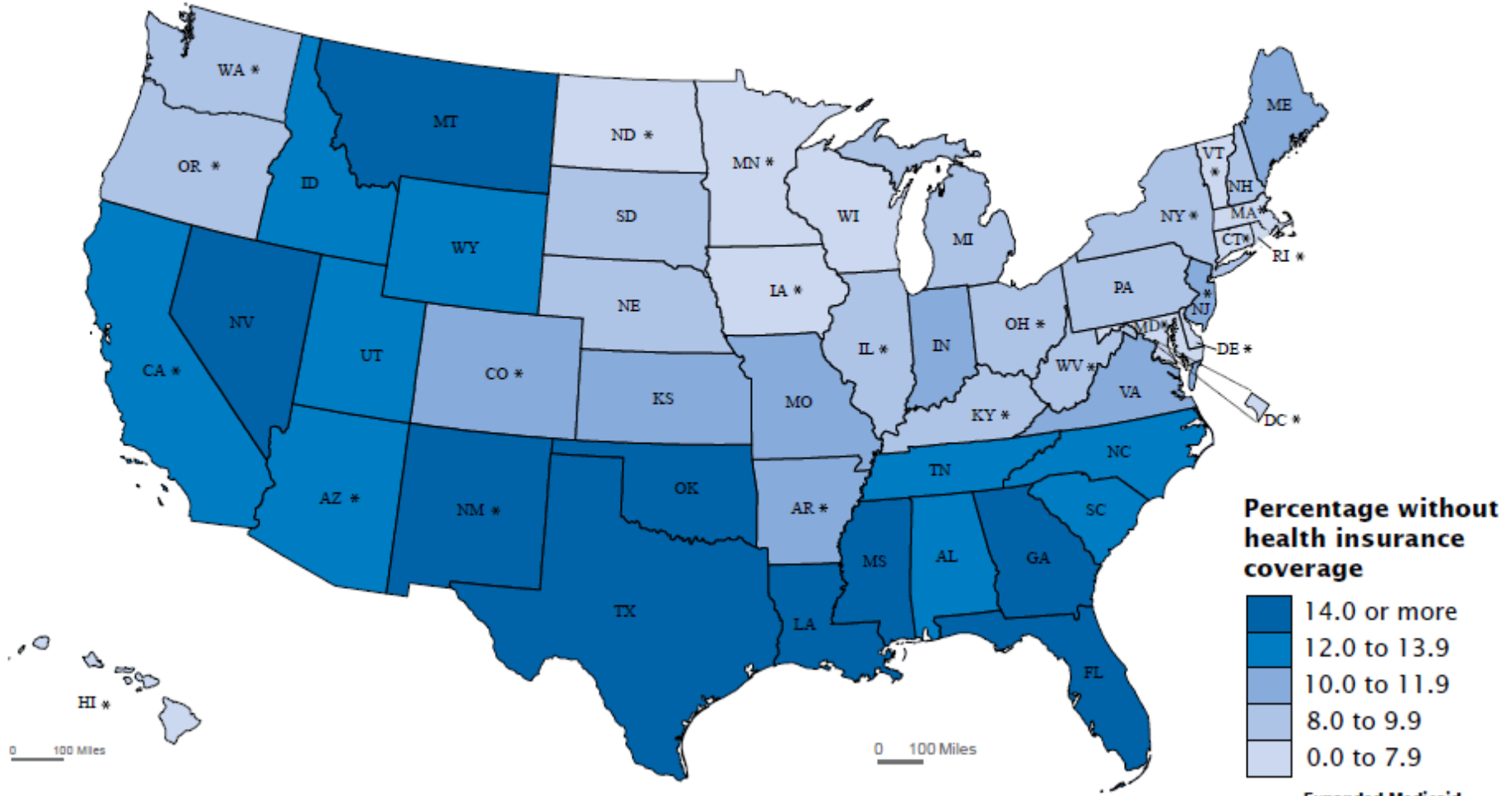
Uninsured Rate by Race and Hispanic Origin: 2014 and 2015



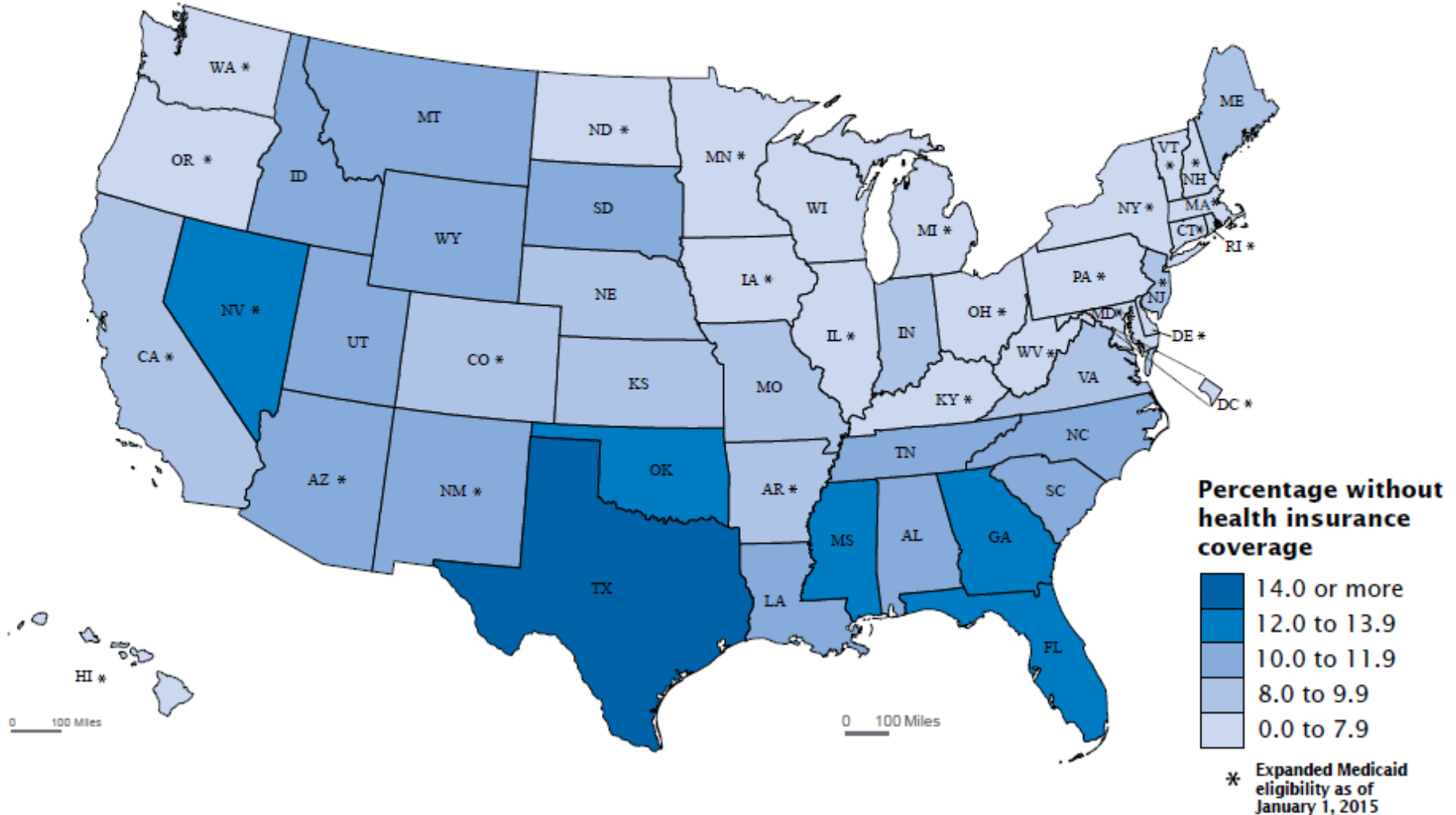
Uninsured Rate by State: 2013



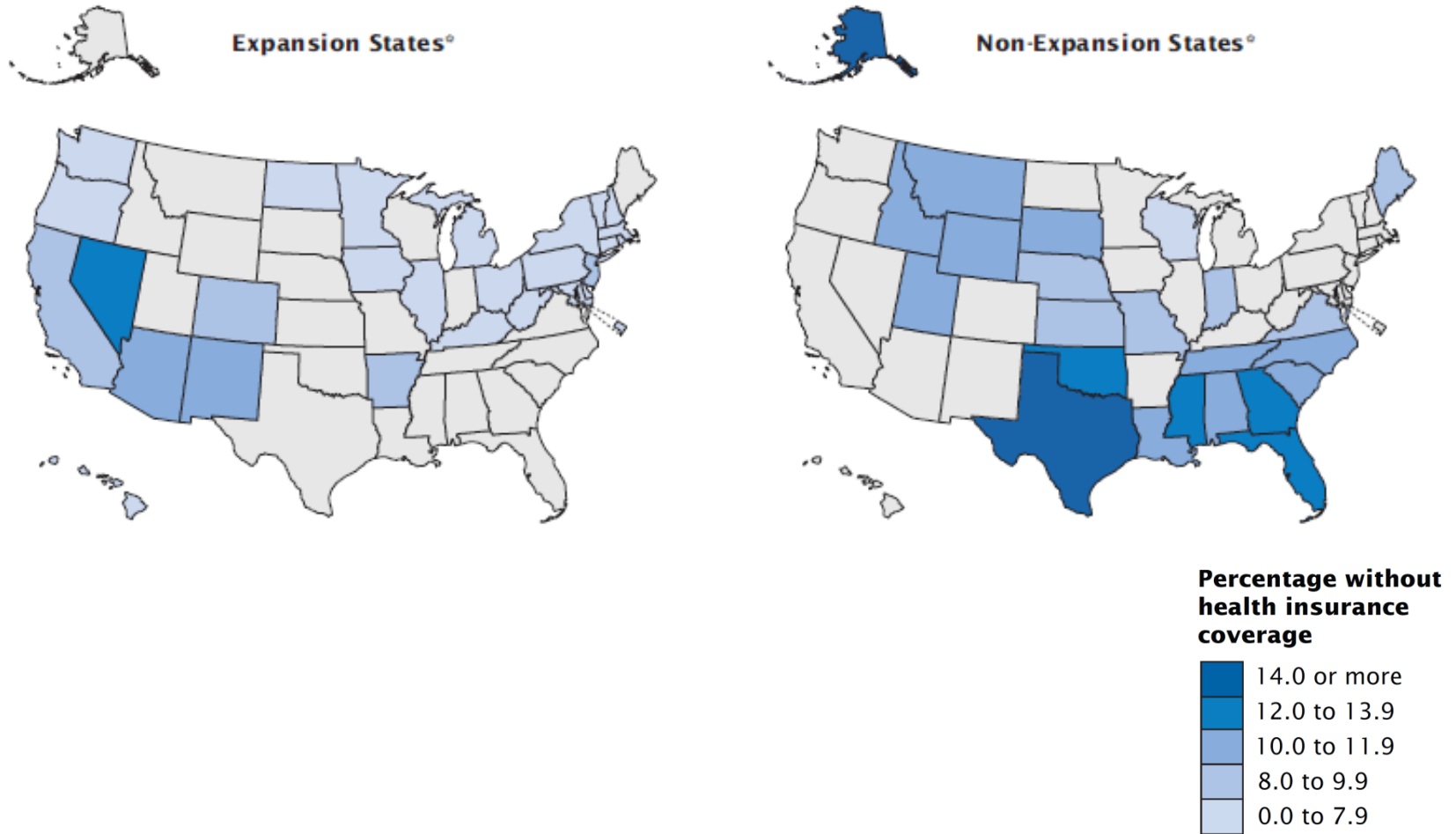
Uninsured Rate by State: 2014



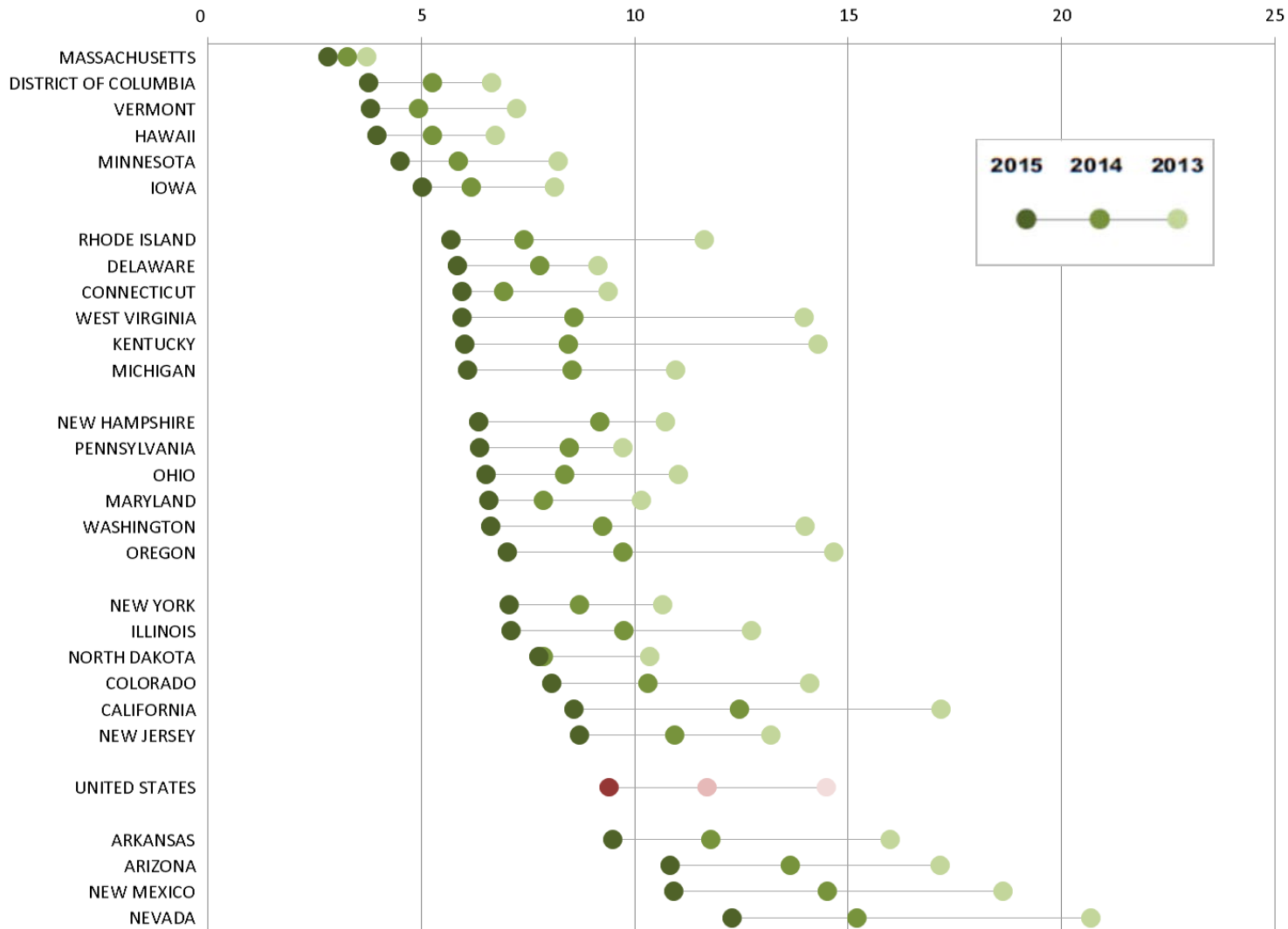
Uninsured Rate by State: 2015



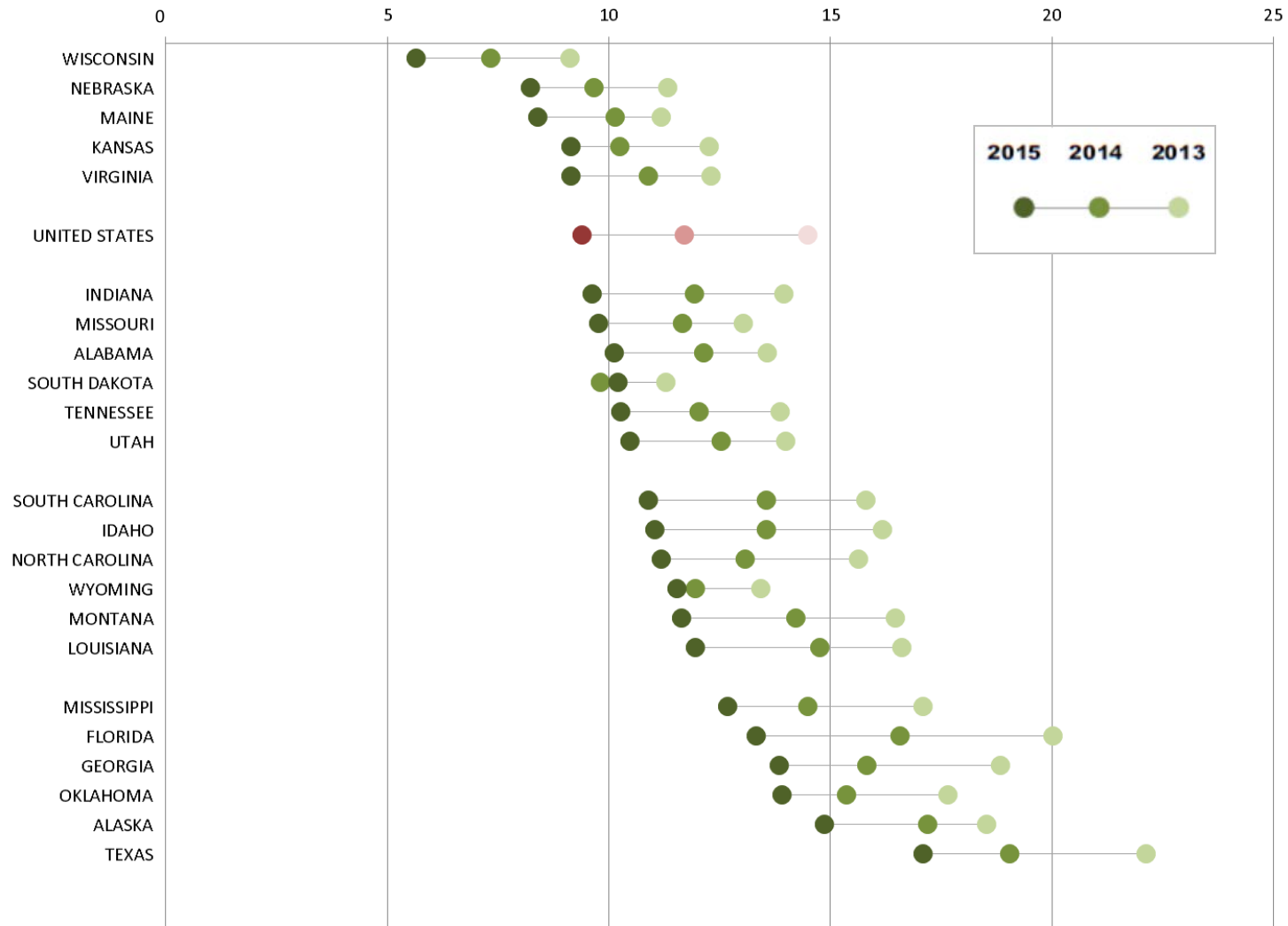
Uninsured Rate by State and Medicaid Expansion Status: 2015



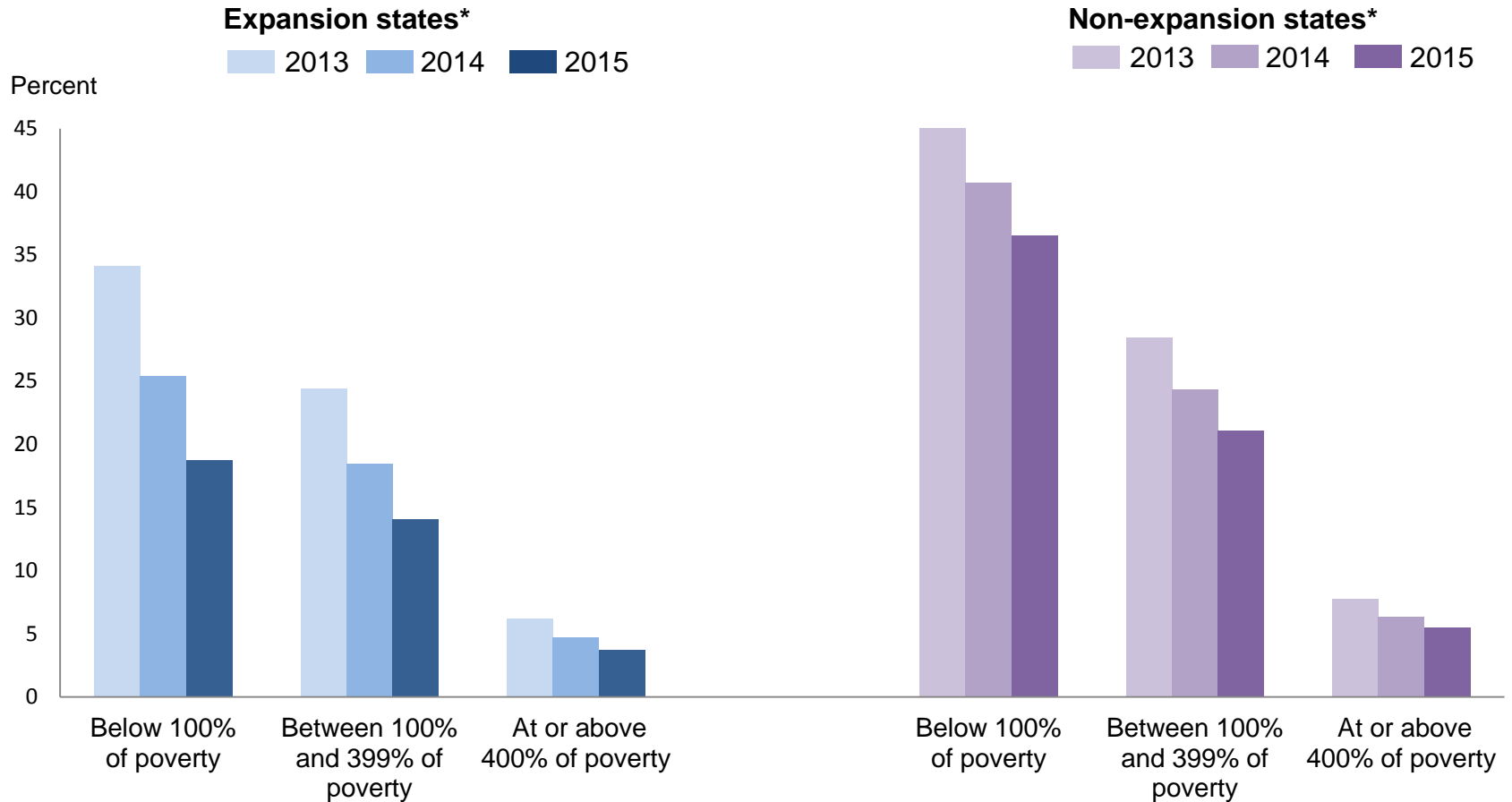
Decrease in Uninsured Rate for Expansion States: 2013 to 2015



Decrease in Uninsured Rate for Non-Expansion States: 2013 to 2015



Uninsured Rate by Poverty Status and Medicaid Expansion of State for Adults Aged 19 to 64 Years: 2013 to 2015



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Questions?

Dial-in number: 877-917-4904

Participant passcode: 4044808

Upcoming Releases

American Community Survey (ACS)

September 15 | ACS One-Year Estimates (2015)

December 8 | ACS Five-Year Estimates (2011-2015)

Other Releases

December | Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates: 2015

For additional questions, contact:

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For additional resources:

Press Kit Link | http://www.census.gov/newsroom/press-kits/2016/income_poverty.html

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Blogs Link | <http://blogs.census.gov/>