

Supplemental Poverty Measure: 2017

September 2018

URL: <http://www.census.gov/newsroom/press-kits/2018/income-poverty.html>

Presenter

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Highlights

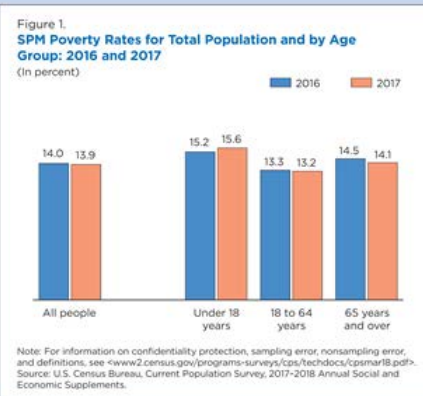
The Supplemental Poverty Measure: 2017

Current Population Reports

Liana Fox
P60-265
September 2018

INTRODUCTION

Since the publication of the first official U.S. poverty estimates, researchers and policy makers 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 eighth 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 2018 and earlier Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplements (CPS ASEC).



HIGHLIGHTS

- In 2017, the overall SPM rate was 13.9 percent. This is not statistically different from the 2016 SPM rate of 14.0 (Figure 1).
- SPM rates were not statistically different for any of the

major age categories in 2017 compared with 2016. SPM rates for children under age 18 were 15.6 percent, which is not significantly different than 15.2 percent in 2016 (Figure 1 and Figure 2).

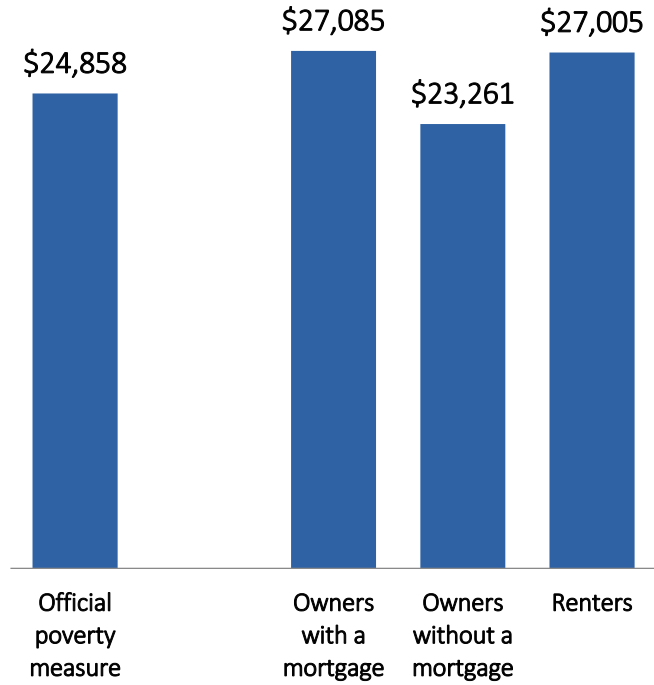
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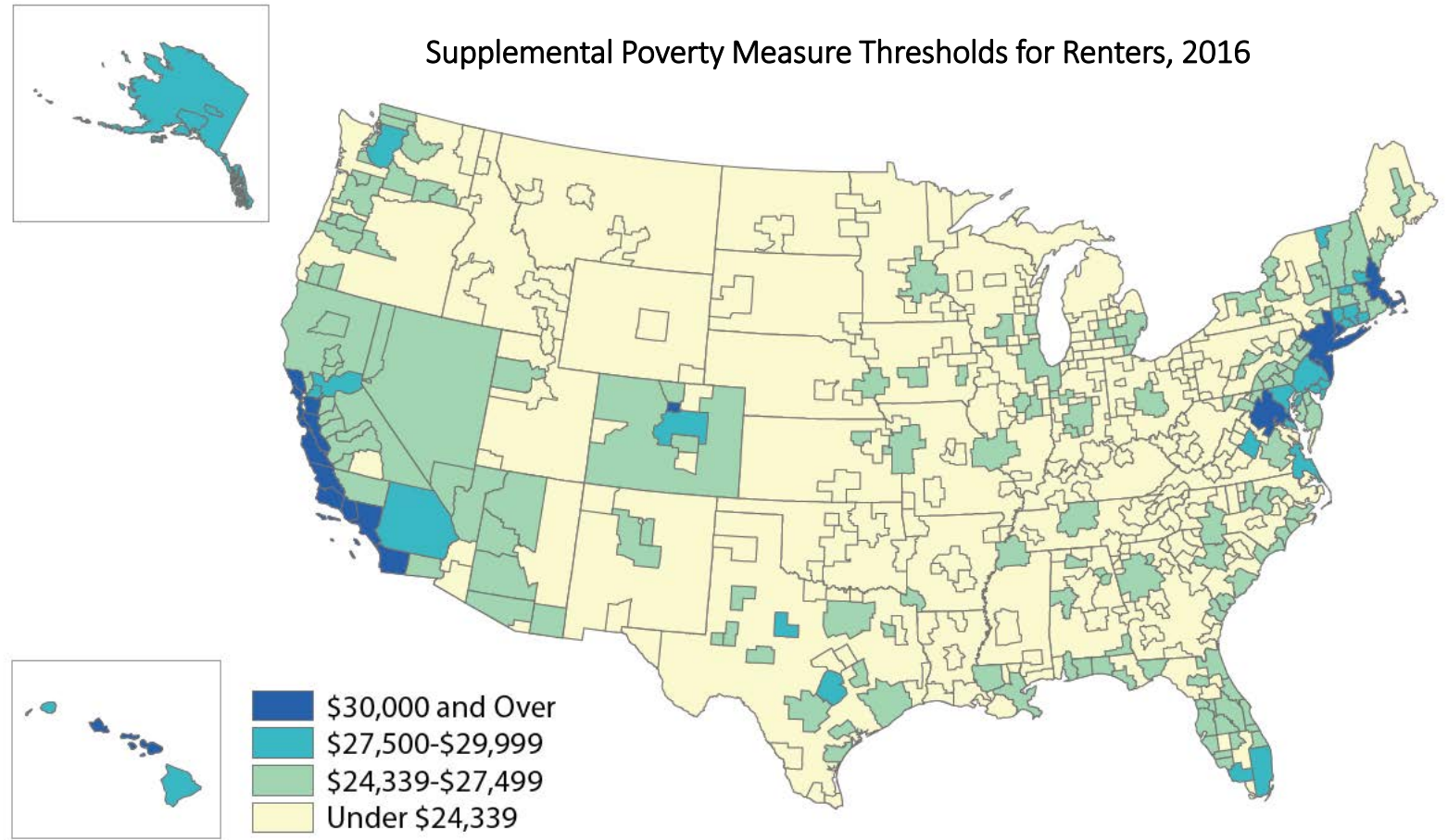
- The Supplemental Poverty Measure (SPM) rate in 2017 was 13.9 percent. This is not statistically different from the 2016 SPM rate of 14.0 percent.
- The SPM rate for 2017 was 1.6 percentage points higher than the official poverty rate of 12.3 percent.
- There were 16 states plus the District of Columbia for which SPM rates were higher than official poverty rates, 18 states with lower rates, and 16 states for which the differences were not statistically significant.

Official and SPM Thresholds for Units with Two Adults and Two Children

Supplemental Poverty Measure Thresholds, 2017

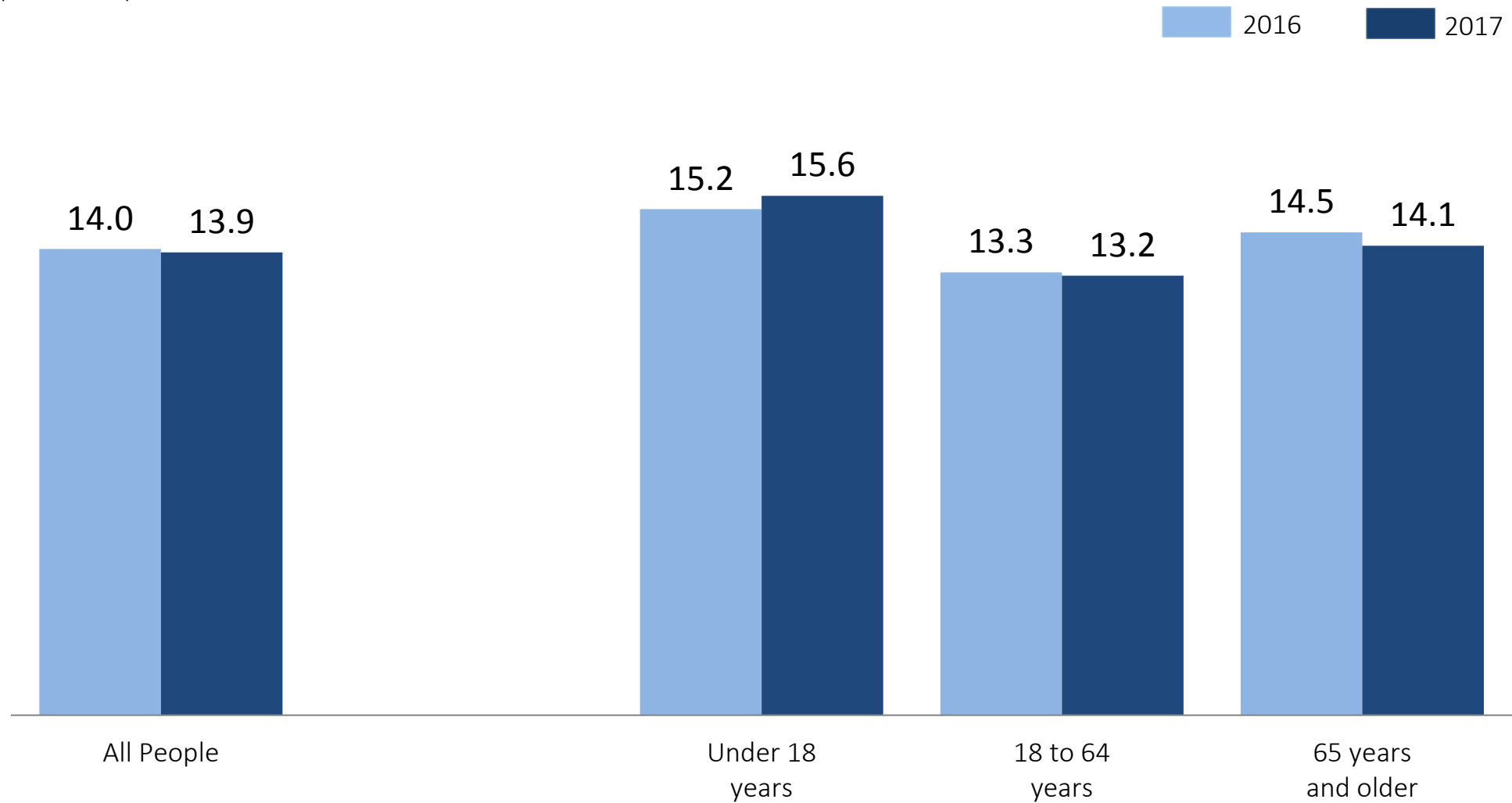


Supplemental Poverty Measure Thresholds for Renters, 2016



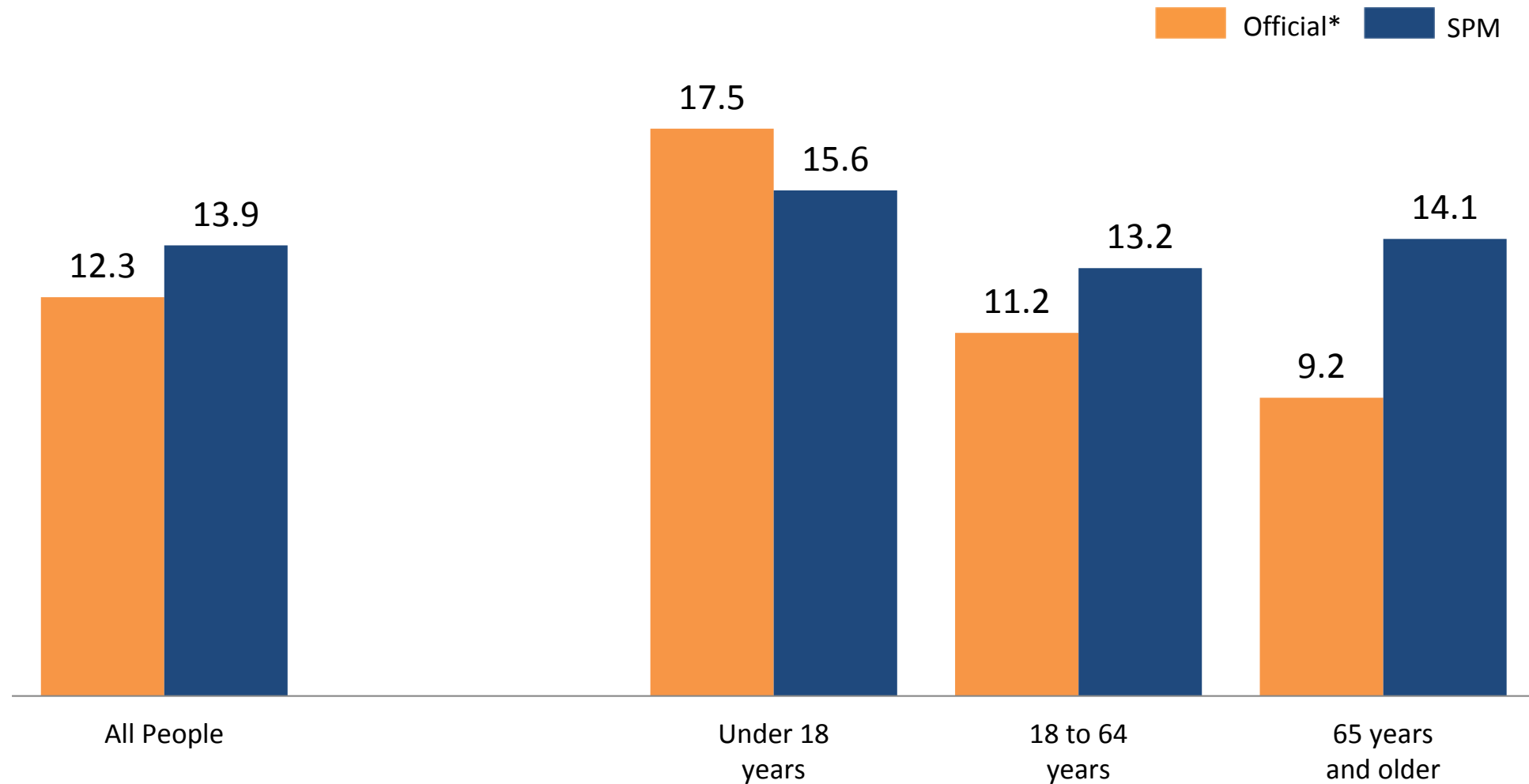
Comparison of SPM Poverty Estimates: 2016 and 2017

(In Percent)

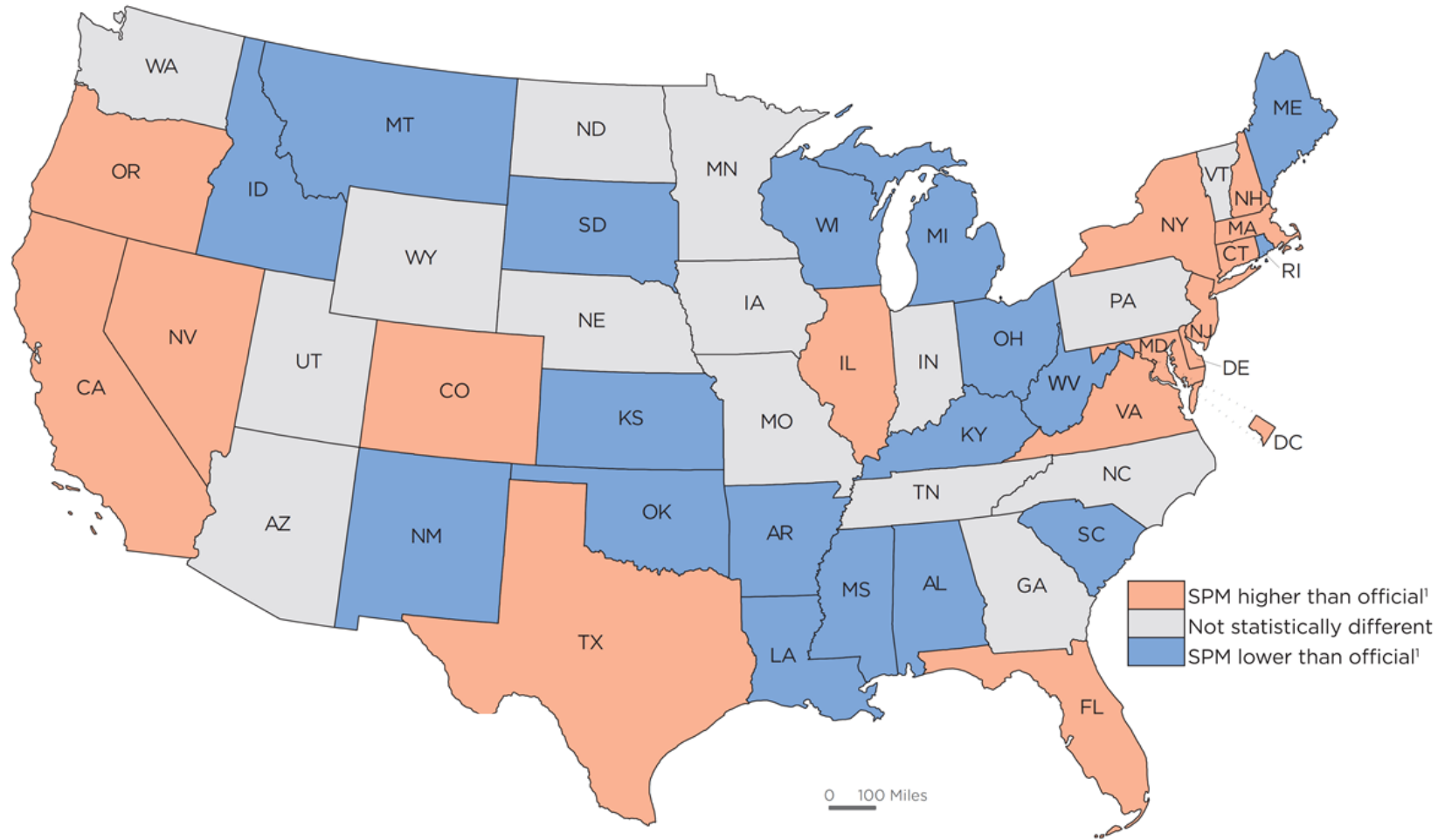


Comparison of SPM and Official Poverty Estimates: 2017

(In Percent)



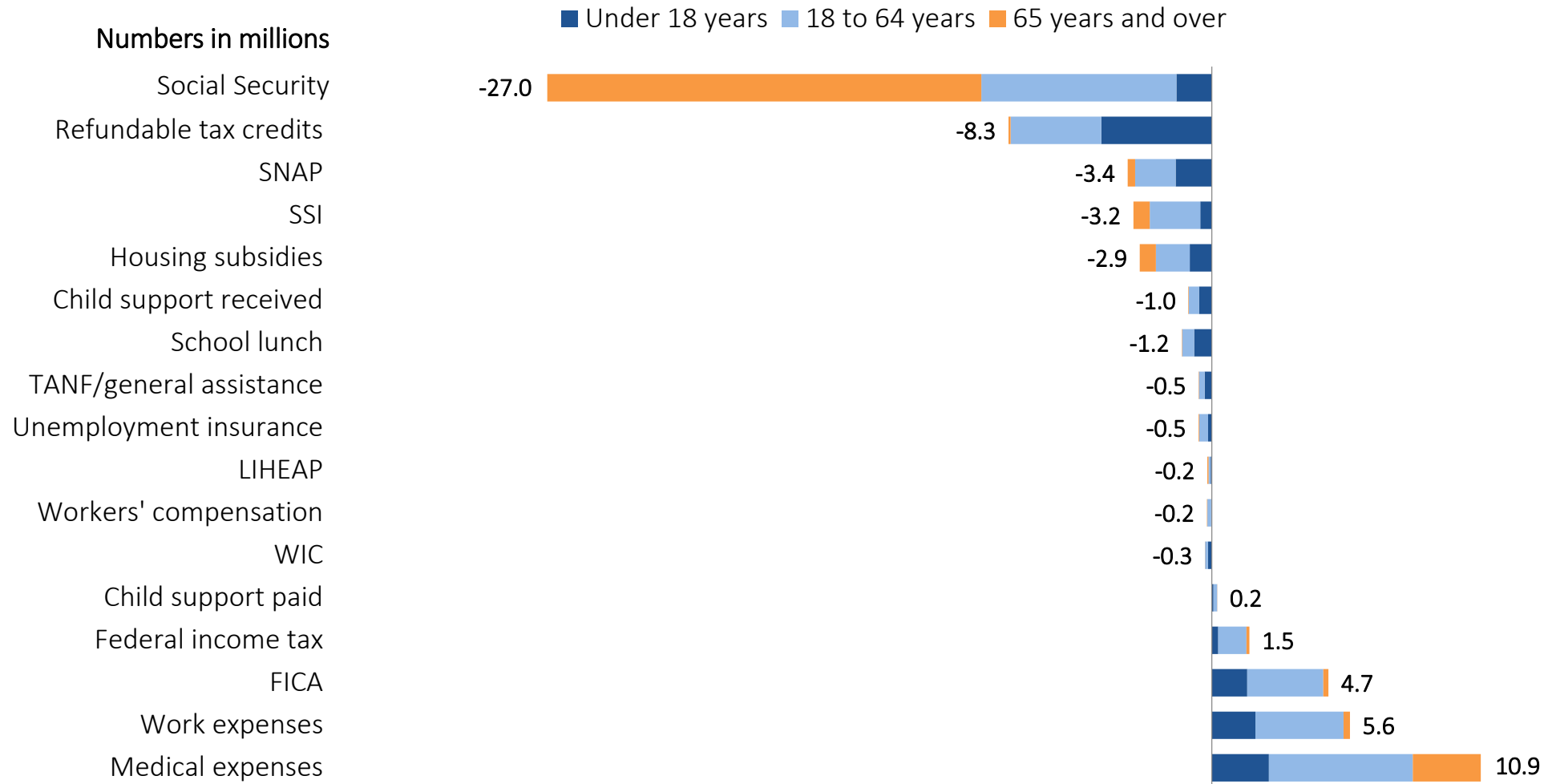
Difference in Poverty Rates by State Using the Official Measure and the SPM: 3-Year Average 2015 to 2017



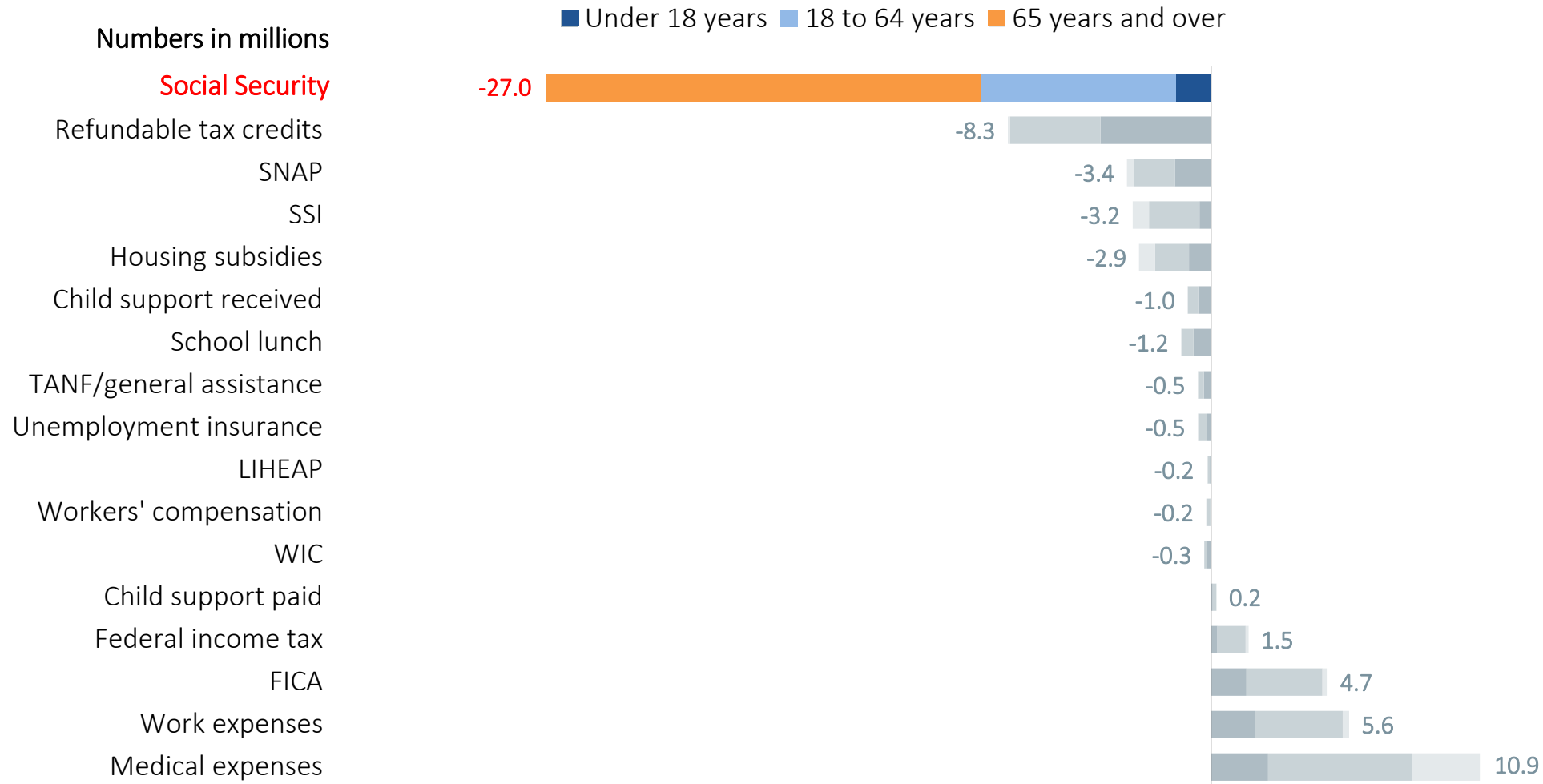
¹ Includes unrelated individuals under age 15.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 2016 to 2018 Annual Social and Economic Supplements.

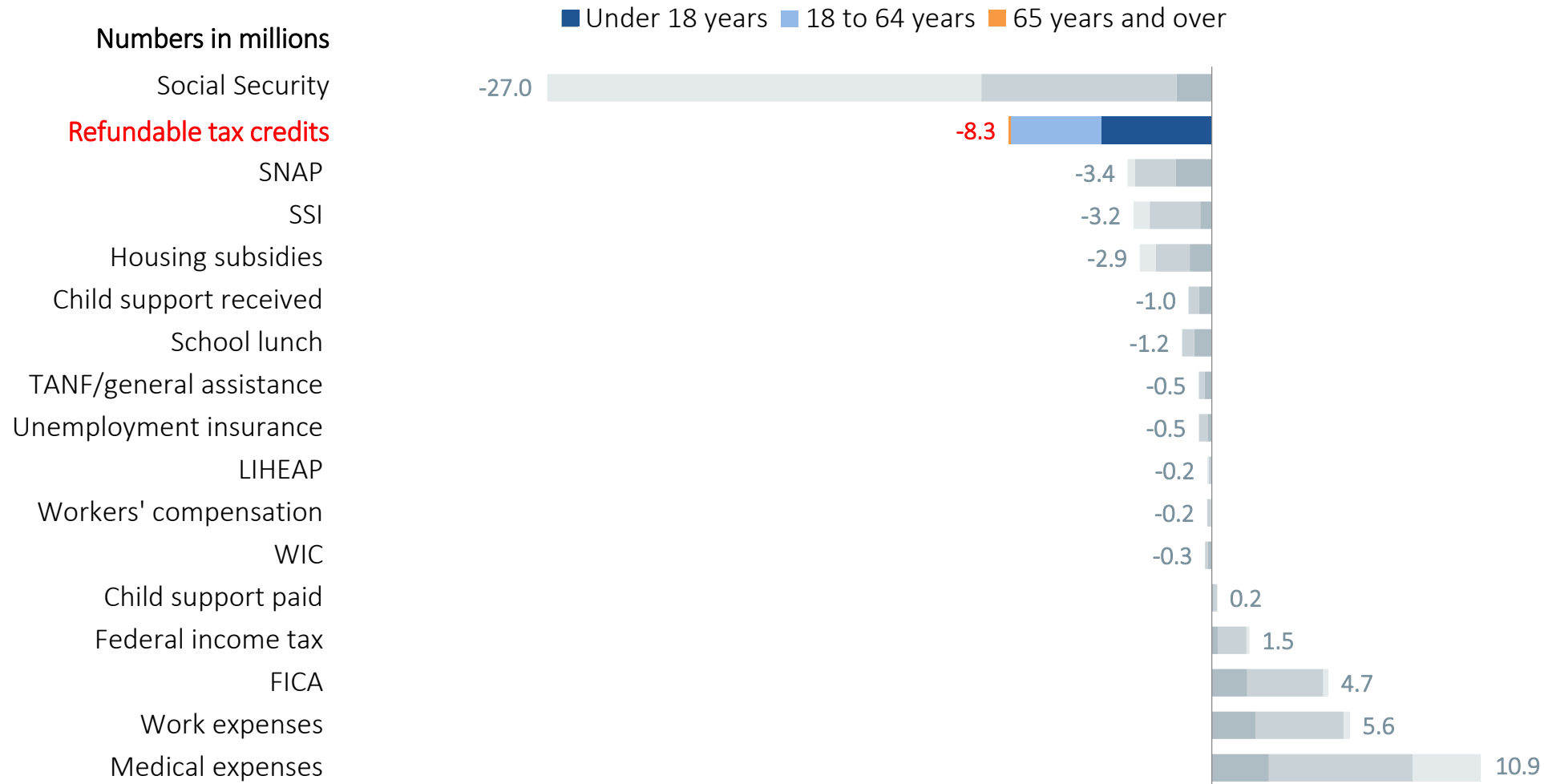
Change in Number of People in Poverty After Including Each Element: 2017



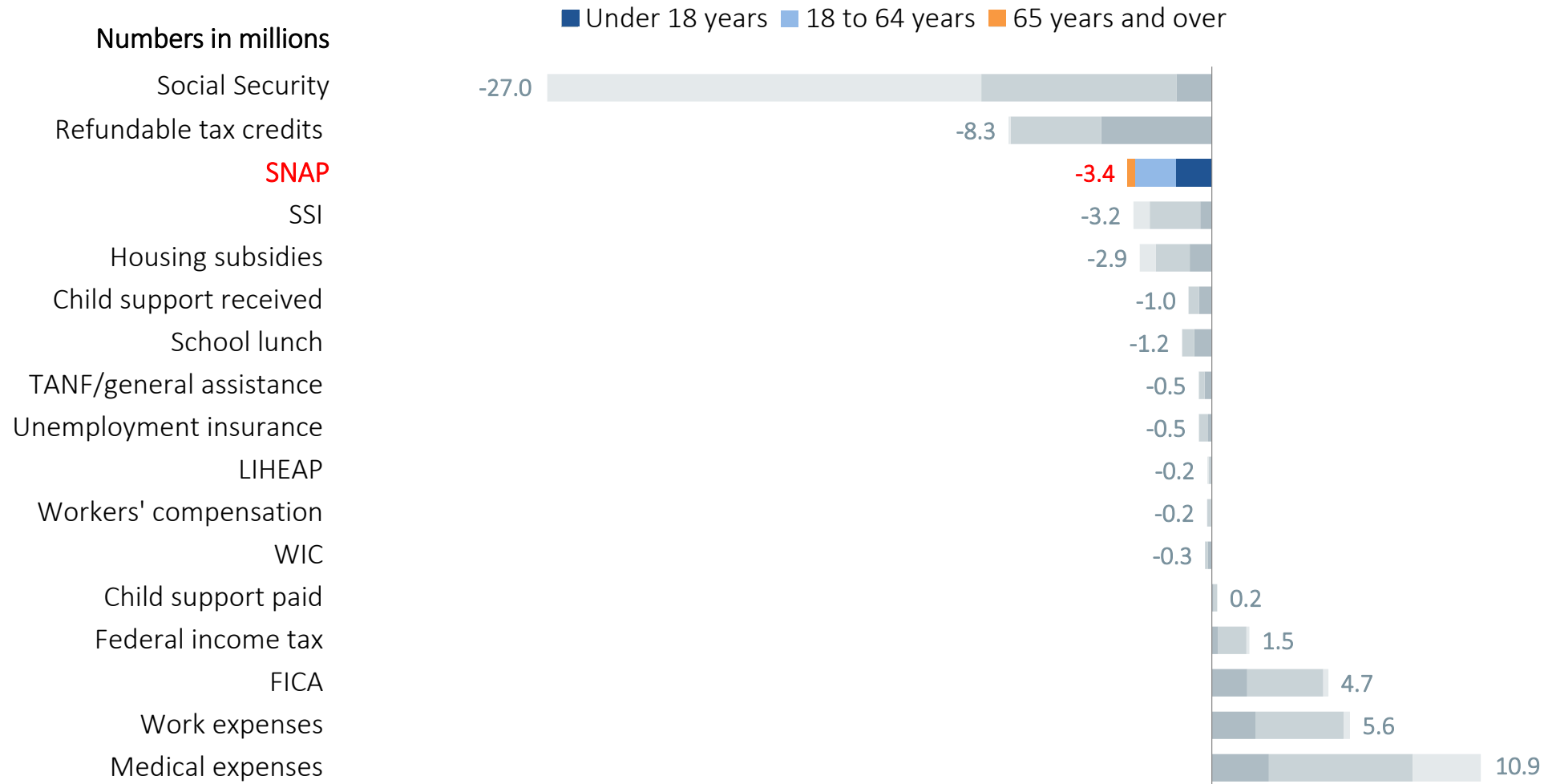
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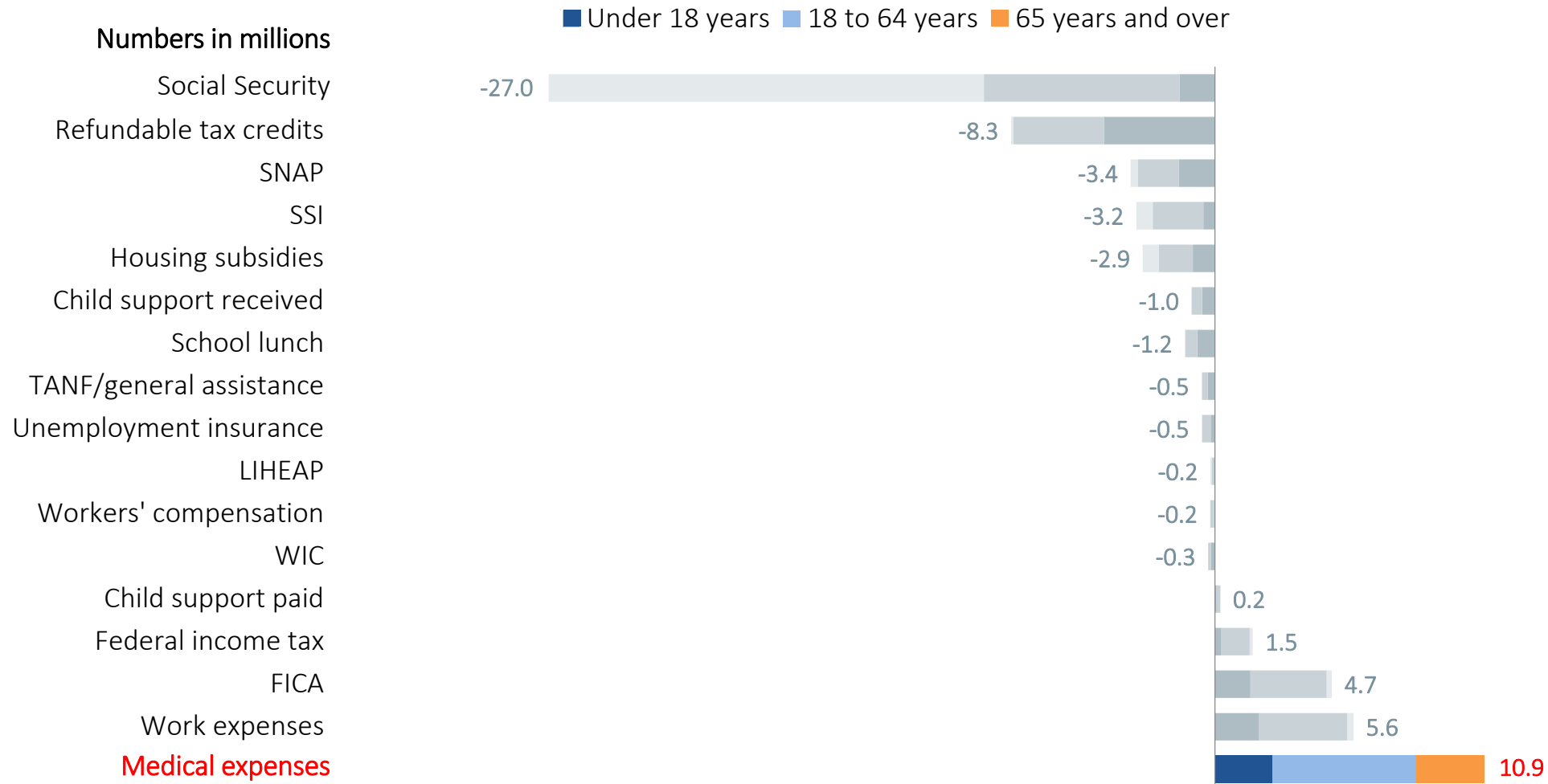
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For more information:

<<https://www.census.gov/library/publications/2018/demo/p60-265.html>>

- *The Supplemental Poverty Measure: 2017*
- SPM Poverty Thresholds
- America Counts: Stories Behind the Numbers
 - “Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Lifts 3.4 Million People Out of Poverty”

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Figure 1. SPM Poverty Rates for Total Population and by Age Group: 2016 and 2017
(In percent)

Age Group	2016 (%)	2017 (%)
All people	14.0	13.9
Under 18 years	15.2	15.6
18 to 64 years	13.3	13.2
65 years and over	14.5	14.1

Note: For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see <www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/cps/techdocs/cpsmar18.pdf>. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 2017-2018 Annual Social and Economic Supplements.

HIGHLIGHTS

- In 2017, the overall SPM rate was 13.9 percent. This is not statistically different from the 2016 SPM rate of 14.0 (Figure 1).
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Highlights

- Median household income was \$61,400 in 2017, an increase in real terms of 1.8 percent from the 2016 median of \$60,300. This is the third consecutive annual increase in median household income.
- The official poverty rate in 2017 was 12.3 percent, down 0.4 percentage points from 2016. In 2017, there were 39.7 million people in poverty, not statistically different from the number in poverty in 2016.
- The Supplemental Poverty Measure (SPM) rate in 2017 was 13.9 percent. This is not statistically different from the 2016 SPM rate of 14.0 percent.
- The percentage of people without health insurance coverage for the entire calendar year was 8.8 percent, or 28.5 million people. The uninsured rate and number of uninsured in 2017 were not statistically different from 2016.