

Supplemental Poverty Measure: 2018

September 2019

URL: <http://www.census.gov/newsroom/press-kits/2019/income-poverty.html>

Presenter

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Highlights

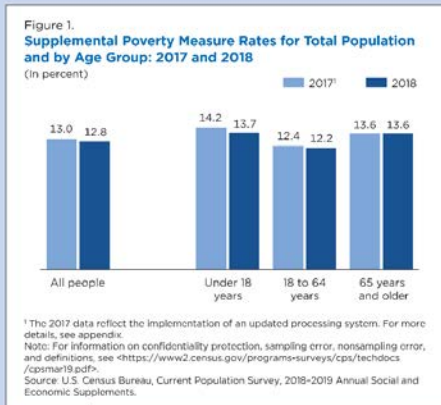
The Supplemental Poverty Measure: 2018

Current Population Reports

Liana Fox
P60-268 (RV)
October 2019

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 ninth 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 2019 and earlier Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplements (CPS ASEC).



HIGHLIGHTS

- In 2018, the overall SPM rate was 12.8 percent. This is not statistically different from the 2017 SPM rate of 13.0 (Figure 1).
- SPM rates were not statistically different for any of the

major age categories in 2018 compared with 2017. SPM rates for children under the age of 18 were 13.7 percent, which is not significantly different than 14.2 percent in 2017 (Figure 1 and Figure 2).

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- The Supplemental Poverty Measure (SPM) rate in 2018 was 12.8 percent. This is not statistically different from the 2017 SPM rate of 13.0 percent.
- The SPM rate for 2018 was 1.0 percentage points higher than the official poverty rate of 11.8 percent.
- There were 15 states plus the District of Columbia for which SPM rates were higher than official poverty rates, 24 states with lower rates, and 11 states for which the differences were not statistically significant.

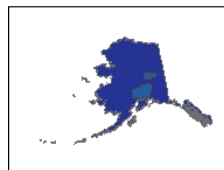
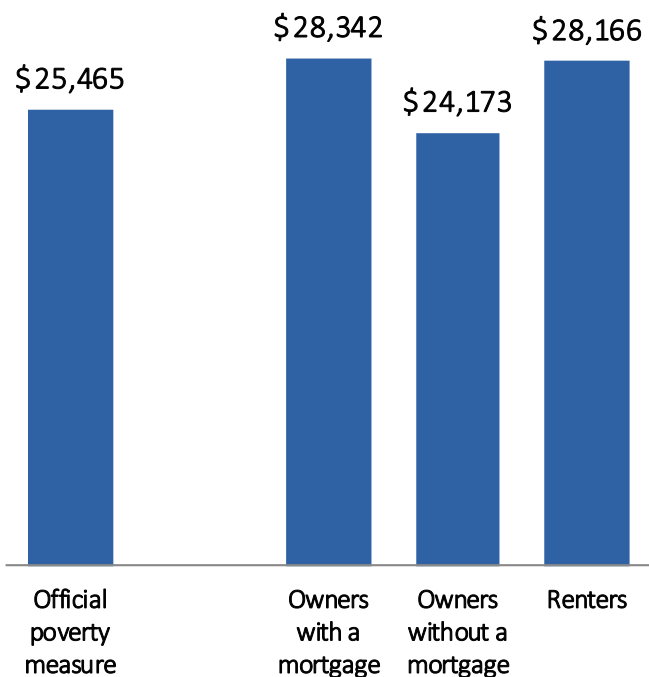
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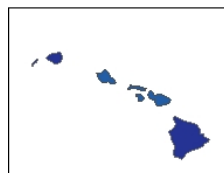
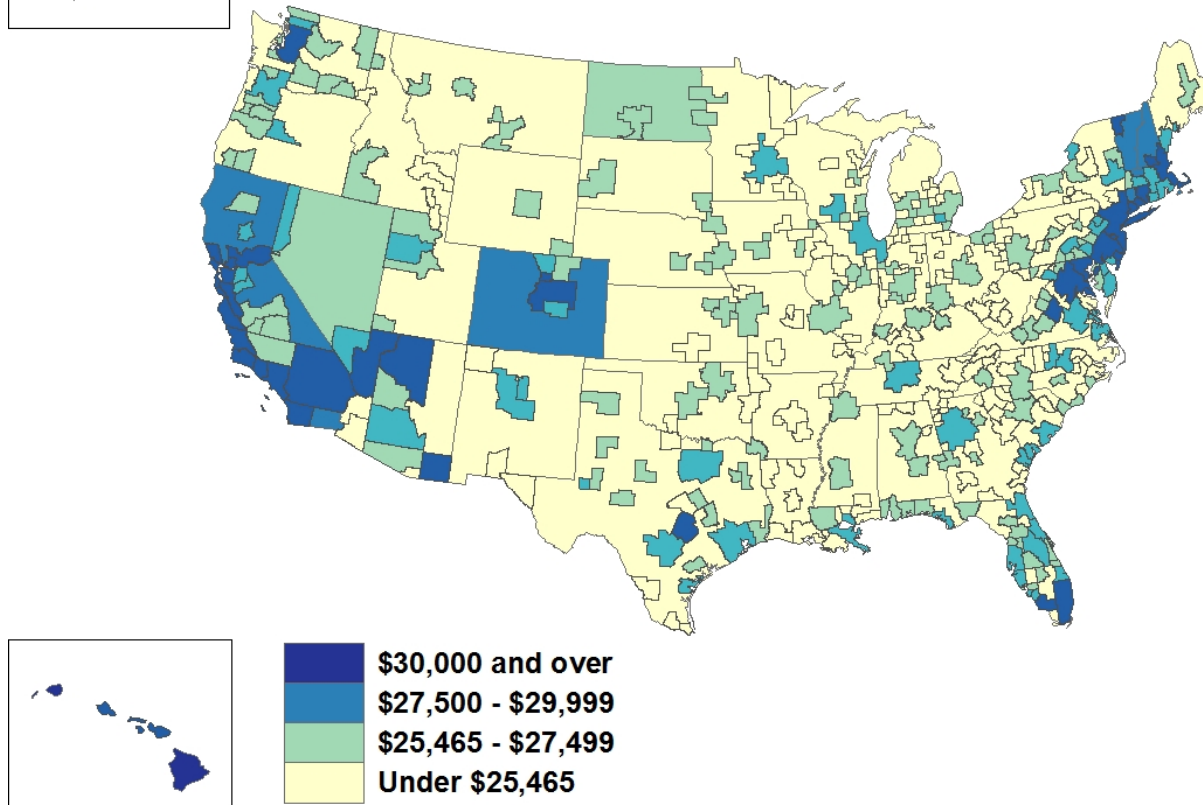
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 2018 and 2019 Annual Social and Economic Supplements.

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

Supplemental Poverty Measure Thresholds, 2018



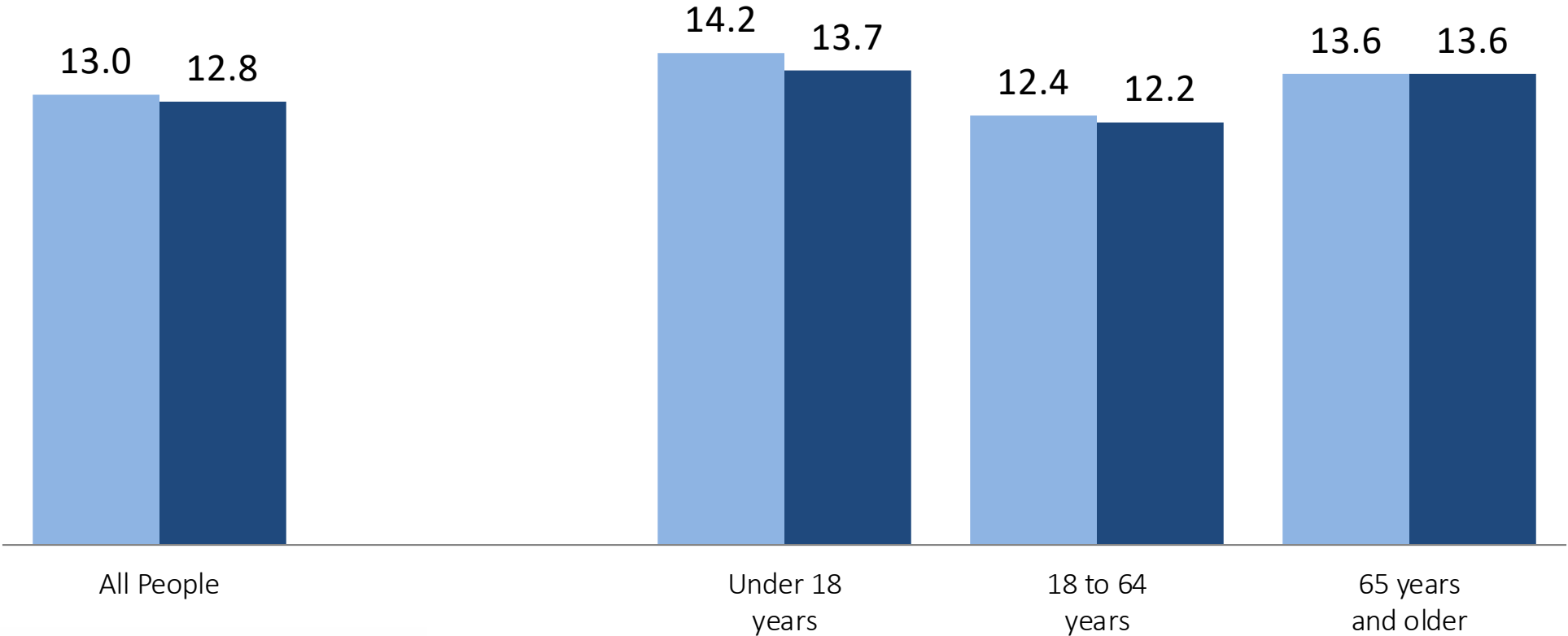
Supplemental Poverty Measure Thresholds for Renters, 2018



Comparison of SPM Poverty Estimates: 2017 and 2018

(In Percent)

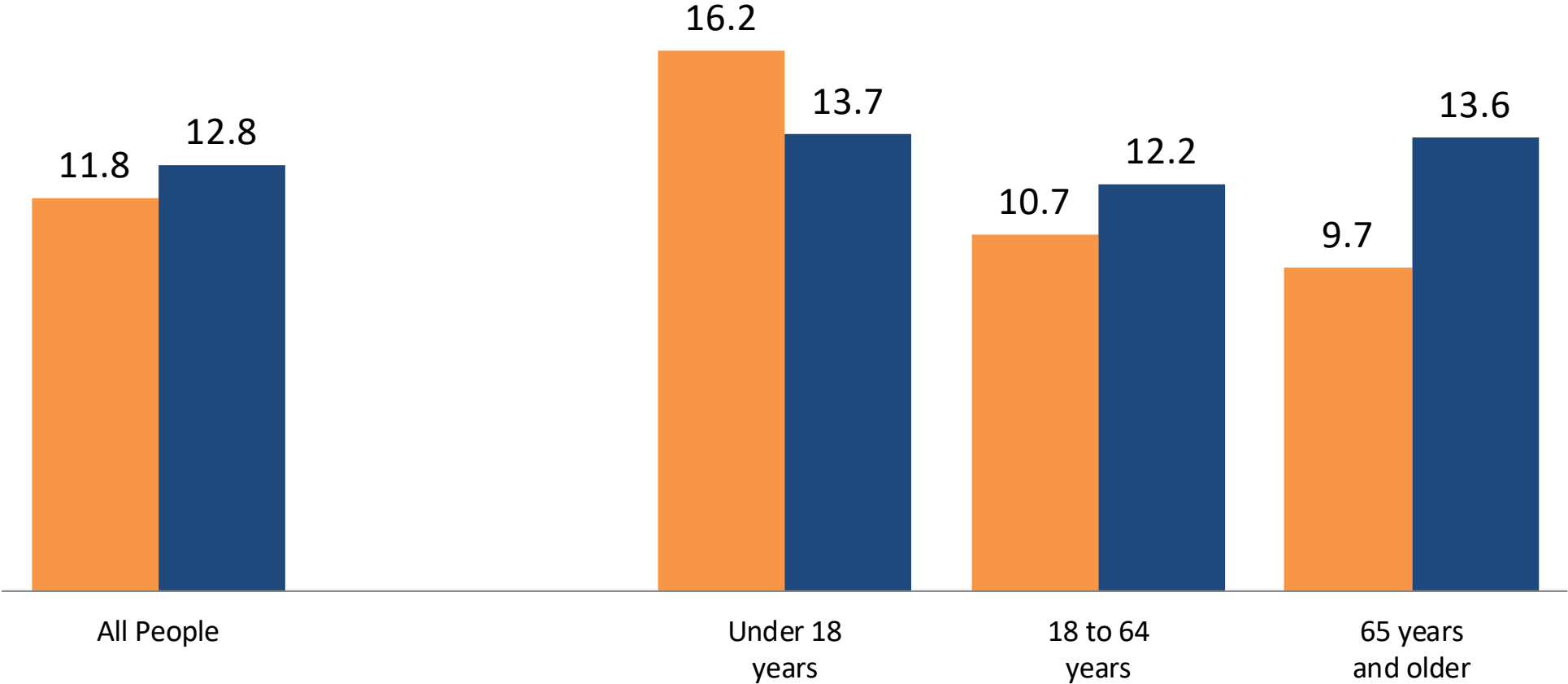
2017 2018



Comparison of SPM and Official Poverty Estimates: 2018

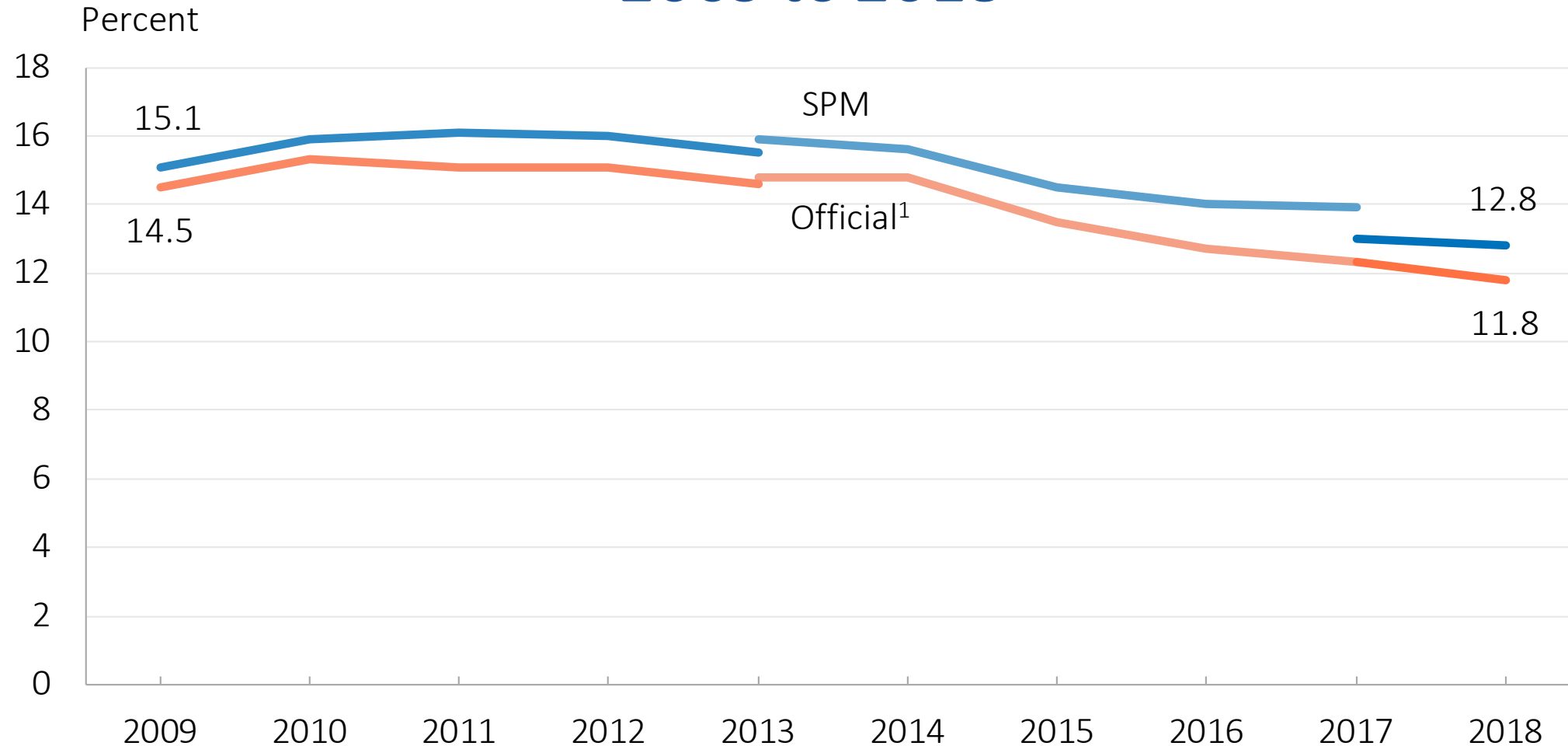
(In Percent)

Official¹ SPM



¹ Includes unrelated individuals under age 15.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 2019 Annual Social and Economic Supplement.

Poverty Rates Using the Official Measure and the SPM: 2009 to 2018

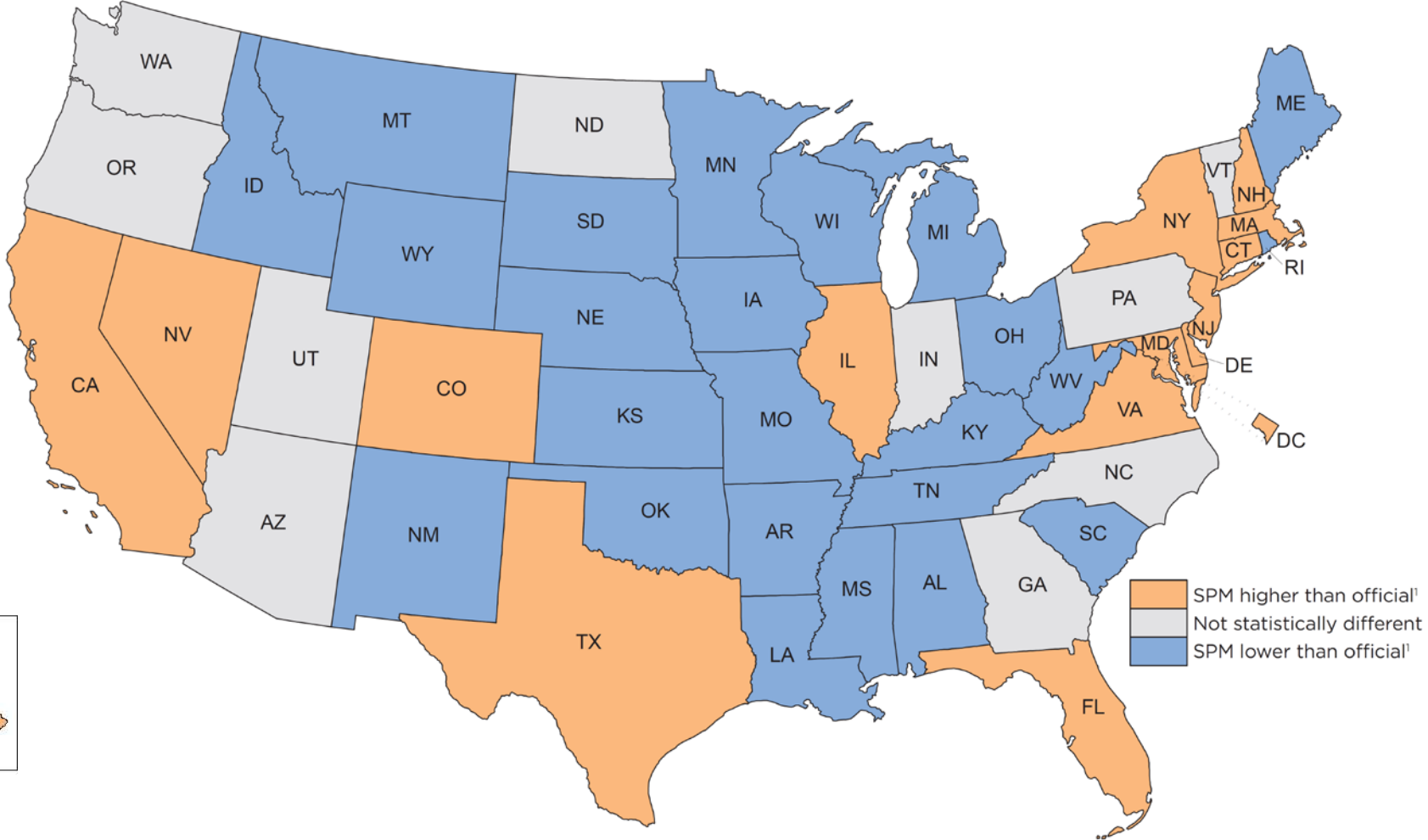


¹ Includes unrelated individuals under the age of 15.

Note: The data for 2017 and beyond reflect the implementation of an updated processing system. The data for 2013 and beyond reflect the implementation of the redesigned income questions.

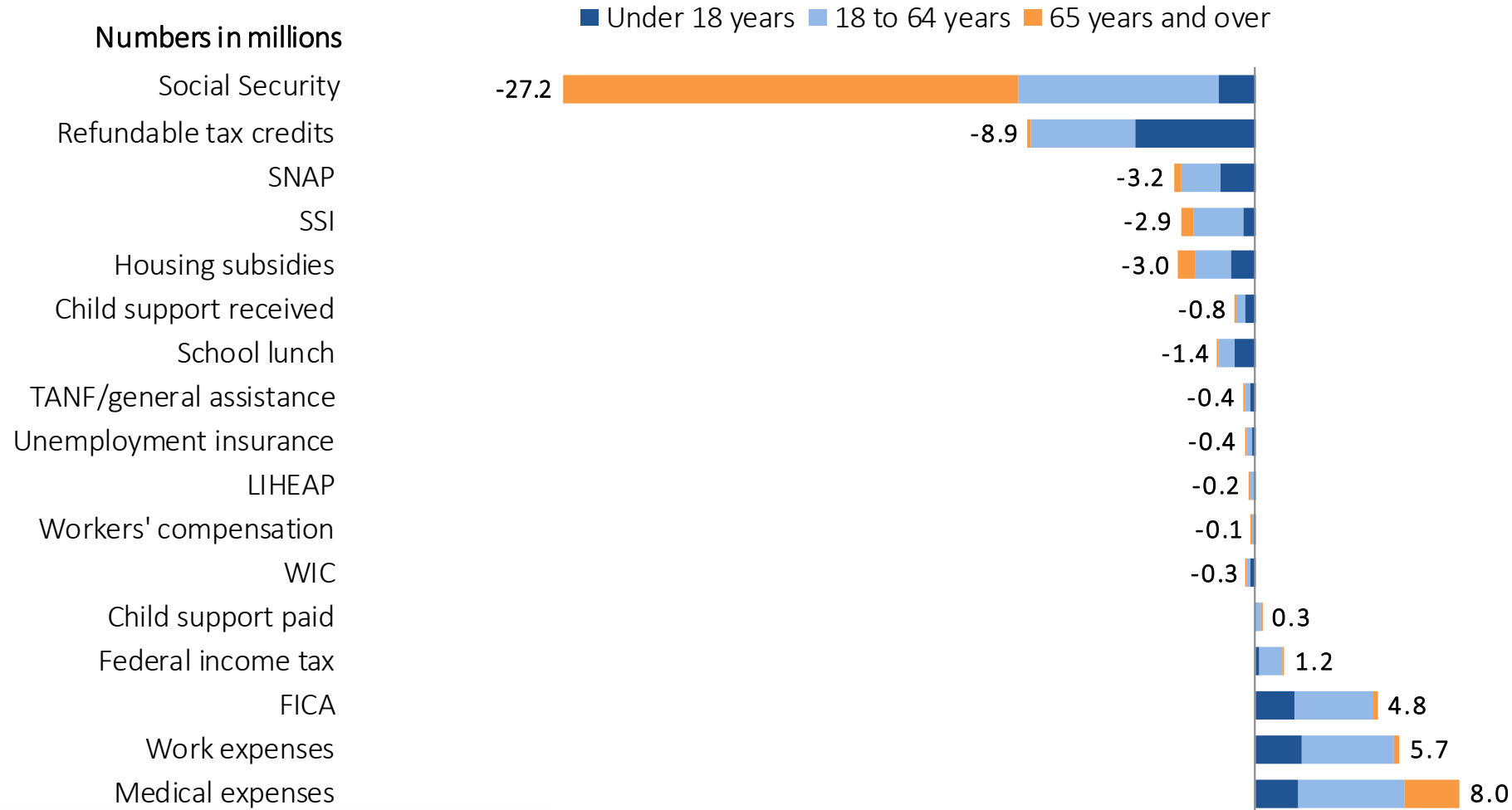
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 2010-2019 Annual Social and Economic Supplements.

Difference in Poverty Rates by State Using the Official Measure and the SPM: 3-Year Average 2016 to 2018

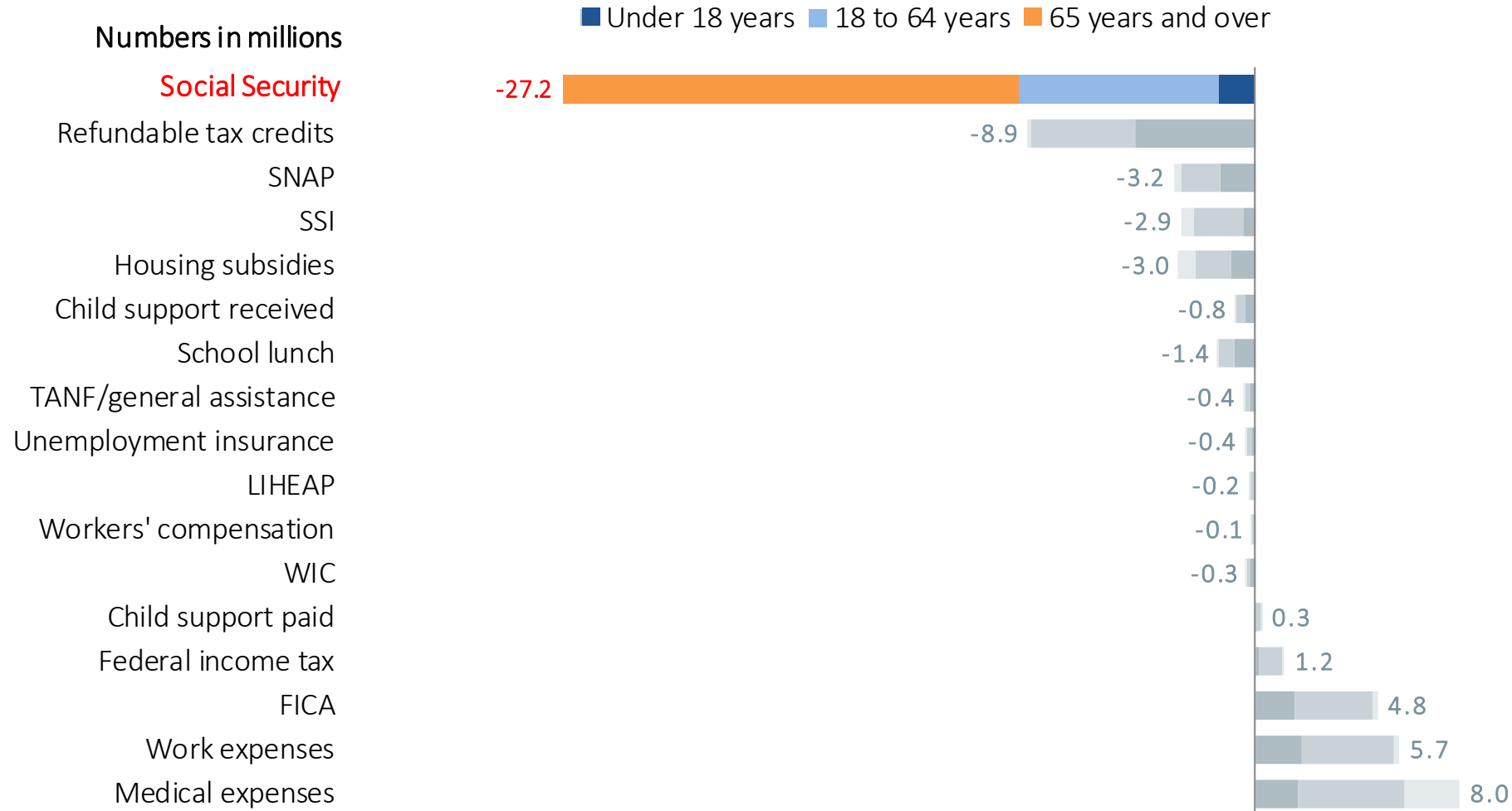


¹ Includes unrelated individuals under age 15.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 2017 to 2019 Annual Social and Economic Supplements.

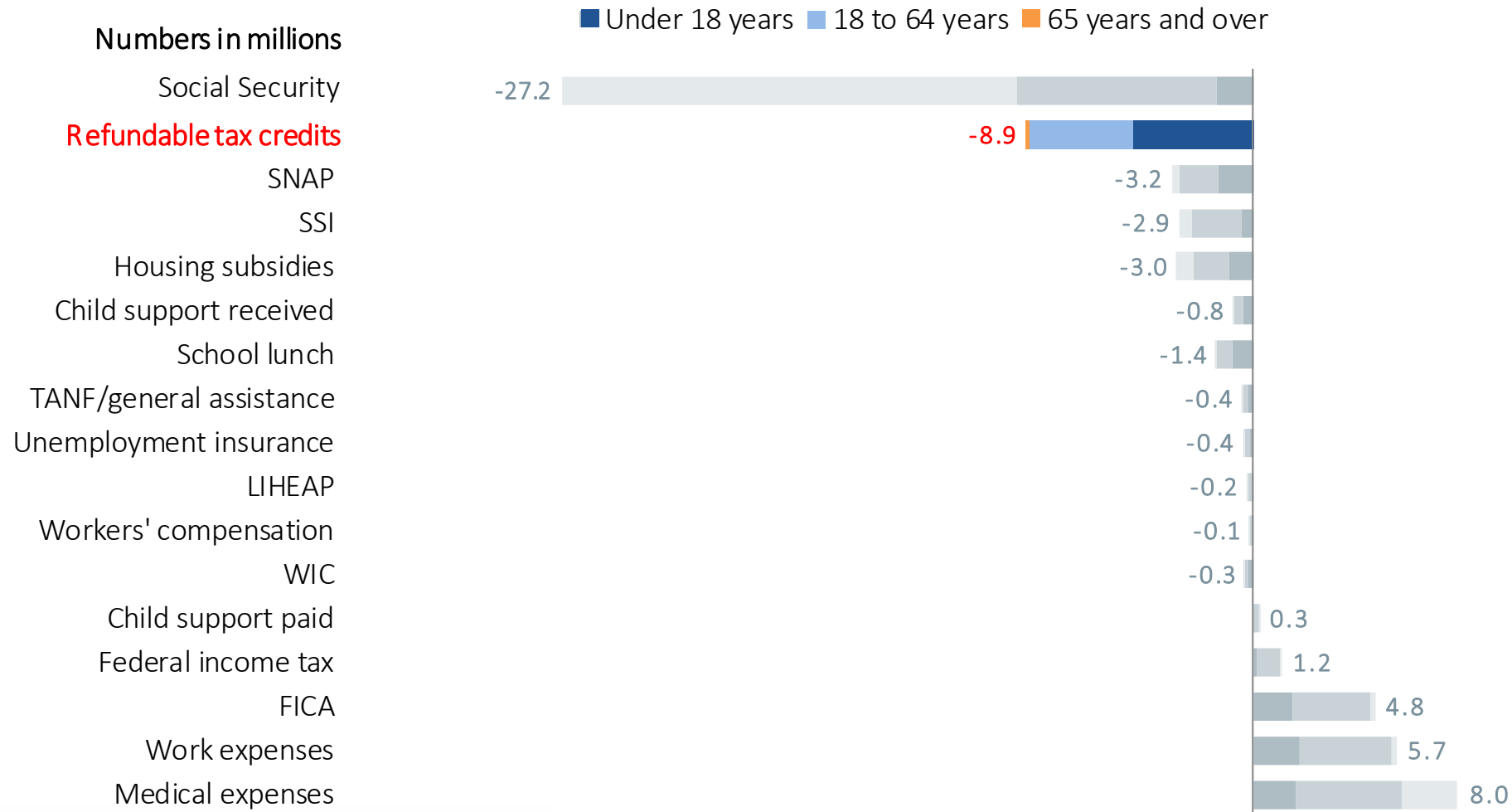
Change in Number of People in Poverty After Including Each Element: 2018



Change in Number of People in Poverty After Including Each Element: 2018



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For more information:

<https://www.census.gov/library/publications/2019/demo/p60-268.html>

- *The Supplemental Poverty Measure: 2018*
- SPM Poverty Thresholds
- America Counts: Stories Behind the Numbers
 - “Supplemental Poverty Measure Shows State-Level Impact of Food Stamps”

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Figure 1. Supplemental Poverty Measure Rates for Total Population and by Age Group: 2017 and 2018
(In percent)

| Age Group | 2017 | 2018 |
|--------------------|------|------|
| All people | 13.0 | 12.8 |
| Under 18 years | 14.2 | 13.7 |
| 18 to 64 years | 12.4 | 12.2 |
| 65 years and older | 13.6 | 13.6 |

*The 2017 data reflect the implementation of an updated processing system. For more details, see appendix.
Note: For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/cps/techdocs/cpsmar19.pdf.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 2018-2019 Annual Social and Economic Supplements.

HIGHLIGHTS

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