NWX-US DEPT OF COMMERCE
Moderator: VERONICA VAQUER
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Coordinator: Thank you for standing by. At this time all participants are in listen-only mode until the question and answer session of today's conference. At that time you can press star 1 on your phone to ask a question.

I'd like to inform all parties, today's conference is being recorded. If you have any objections, you may disconnect at this time. I would now like to turn the conference over to Michael Cook. Thank you. You may begin.

Michael Cook: Good morning and thank you for joining us. I'm Michael Cook, Chief of the Public Information Office at the U.S. Census Bureau.

Today we are releasing the latest income, poverty and health insurance findings for the nation. We'll have three presenters today to cover these topics.

Immediately after the presentations, we'll open the phone lines to answer questions from reporters. This live question and answer session is for the media only.

By the way, resources from today news conference can be found on census.gov, including the slide decks from today's presentation.

The deck will be part of the income and poverty health insurance press kit. To find the press kit, look for the information tab at the top of the Census Web page and click on Media Newsroom. The press kits are located on the left side of the Web site.

When you click on the press kits, you should find the Income, Poverty and Health Insurance Press Kit at the top. Without further delay, I'll turn it over to Dave Waddington, Chief of the Social, Economic and Housing Statistics Division. David?

David Waddington: Good morning. Thank you, Michael. Thank you for joining us today. Today we are releasing three reports, Income, Poverty and Health Insurance Coverage for the United States in 2021.

These reports are based on the data from the current population survey's Annual, Social and Economic Supplement to the CPS or CPS ASEC.

The Current Population Survey is the longest running survey conducted by the Census Bureau and is the official source of the national poverty estimate.

This year for the first time the estimates for the official poverty and the supplemental poverty measure are being released in the same report. Now let's take a look at the main findings.

Real median household income was $70,800 in 2021, not statistically different from the 2020 estimate of $71,200.

Recession, as defined by the National Bureau of Economic Research are depicted in this and all time series charts in light shading.

The official poverty rate in 2021 was 11.6% with 37.9 million people in poverty. Neither the rate nor the number in poverty was statistically different from 2020.

The supplemental poverty measure, or SPM extends the official poverty measure to include the value of non-cash benefits, stimulus payments, taxes and other necessary expenses. The SPM rate in 2021 was 7.8%. This was 1.4 percentage points lower than 2020.

The percentage of people with health insurance coverage for some or all of calendar year 2021 increased by 0.4 percentage points to 91.7.

Now let's turn to our subject matter experts to take a closer look at the findings beginning with Liana Fox, who will present the main findings from the Income and Poverty Report. And as a reminder, immediately following the presentation, we'll take your questions.

Liana Fox: Thank you, Dave. Good morning. Income and poverty statistics help us measure the economic well-being of the nation's population.

Most of the income estimates in my presentation are based on money income, which is measurable cash or money resources coming into a household. It includes wages and earnings from work as well as Social Security benefits, unemployment compensation, retirement income, interest, dividends and public assistance.

It is calculated pre-tax and therefore does not account for taxes paid or tax credits received such as the earned income tax credit, or EITC, and the child tax credit, or CTC. It also does not account for stimulus payments or non-cash assistance like SNAP, Medicaid and Medicare.

Let me begin by summarizing the main income, earnings and work experience findings. Between 2020 and 2021, real median household income was not statistically different. Income inequality as measured by the Gini Index increased 1.2%.

The number of total workers was not statistically different, but the number of full-time year-round workers increased by about 11.1 million.

The real median earnings of total workers increased 4.6% while median earnings of those who worked full-time, year round decreased 4.1%.

Now let's take a closer look at these findings. This chart shows median household income from 1967 to 2021 in real inflation adjusted dollars. This adjustment reflects a 4.7% increase in consumer prices between 2020 and 2021.

The median is the point that divides the household income distribution into halves, one-half with income above the median and the other with income below the median. Median household income was $70,800 in 2021, not statistically different than in 2020.

Now looking at income by race and Hispanic origin. Asian households had the highest median income in 2021 followed by non-Hispanic white households and Hispanic households. Black households had the lowest median income. None of these estimates were statistically different from 2020.

Although real median income did not change for all households and by race and Hispanic origin groups between 2020 and 2021 median household income declined for the following groups. Non-family households, those with a household age of 65 and older, those maintained by a native foreign person and those with a householder with some college.

The only major demographic group to experience an increase in median household income between 2020 and 2021 were householders with at least a bachelor's degree.

Using information about the distribution of household income, we can produce the Gini Index. This measures the amount that any two incomes differ on average relative to mean income. It ranges from zero to one. A value of zero means that all households have equal income and a value of one means that one household has all the income.

The Money Income Gini Index was 0.494 in 2021, an increase of 1.2% from the 2020 value of 0.488. This represents the first time the Gini Index has shown an annual increase since 2011.

The Gini Index is sensitive to changes in the upper and lower ends of the income distribution. In addition to looking at the median or 50th percentile, other points along the distribution can help explain why the Gini Index increased.

For example, at the 10th percentile, 10% of households had income at or below $15,700 in 2021. At the 90th percentile, 10% of households had income above $212,000. The changes in these percentiles can offer insight into how income and equality increased.

Income at the 10th percentile declined 4.4% between 2020 and 2021 although changes at the 50th and 90th percentiles were not statistically significant. This suggests that a decline in real income at the bottom of the distribution drove the increase in the Gini Index.

As noted earlier, these estimates are based on money income before taxes and credits. However an appendix to the report also looks at post-tax income. This analysis accounts for state and federal income and payroll taxes. It also accounts for third round stimulus payments and refundable tax credits such as EITC and CTC.

Looking at this slide, we can evaluate changes in inequality using post-tax income. Using the same measures, we see no significant changes in inequality using post-tax income between 2020 and 2021 in contrast to the higher inequality observed using pre-tax money income.

Given the progressive structure of our income tax system, it is not surprising to see less inequality using post-tax income. More details on inequality measures and post-tax income are available in the report.

These next slides switch to earnings and work experience for people aged 15 and older. Earnings are in the form of wages, salary and self-employment income. This comprised 78% of aggregate income in 2021.

Total workers include both part-time and full-time workers. A full-time year-round worker is a person who worked at least 35 hours per week and at least 50 weeks per year.

This slide shows the 2021 real median earnings of total workers and full-time year-round workers by sex. Between 2020 and 2021, the real median earnings of total workers increased 4.6% while the median earnings of those who worked full-time year round decreased 4.1%.

To explain these seemingly contradictory results, we examine the composition of workers. Here we see historical data on the number of total workers and full-time year-round workers by sex. Between 2020 and 2021 the total number of male and female workers did not change significantly. However the number of full-time year round workers increased for males by 6.1 million and for females by 5 million.

This slide shows a change in the number of workers between 2020 and 2021. The increase of 11.1 million full-time year round workers, coupled with no change in the number of total workers suggests a shift from working part-time or part year in 2020 to full-time year-round work in 2021.

Adding in the percent change in median earnings from 2021 to the year prior we see that the shift to more full-time year round work corresponded with a 4.6% increase in real median earnings among all workers. On the other hand real median earnings declined by 4.1% for those who worked full-time year round.

This may reflect inflation surpassing nominal gains and earnings as well as the addition of full-time jobs in the lower half of the earnings distribution.

Here we see historical median earnings of female and male full-time year round workers. The ratio of these estimates is called the female to male earnings ratio. It was 83.7% in 2021. This means women earned about 84% as much as their male counterparts.

The ratio for 2021 was not statistically different from 2020. The last time this ratio experienced an annual increase was in 2016. To find our full income report and additional resources, please visit our Web site.

Now let's turn our attention to poverty. The Census Bureau uses two poverty measures to describe who is poor in the United States, the official poverty measure and the supplemental poverty measure known as the SPM. This is the first time both measures have been released in the same report.

Here are the main findings from the poverty report. The official poverty rate in 2021 was 11.6% with 37.9 million people in poverty. The SPM rate in 2021 was 7.8%, down 1.4 percentage points for 2020.

The SPM rate for children was 5.2%, down 4.5 percentage points from 2020. Both the overall and child poverty rates are the lowest SPM rates on record.

Refundable tax credits, including the child tax credit, kept 9.6 million people out of poverty in 2021. We will begin by discussing the official poverty measure.

The official poverty measure, which was established by the Office of Management and Budget Statistical Policy Directive 14 is composed of money income like the income estimates from the previous slides. The components of money income are shown again here.

With this measure, the poverty threshold is adjusted for family composition but does not vary by geography. In 2021 a family with two adults and two children was classified as in poverty if their income was less than $27,479.

This slide shows the official poverty rate and number of people in poverty going back to 1959, the first year, for which we have estimates.

As you can see, the 2021 poverty rate was 11.6% with 37.9 million people in poverty. Neither of these estimates were statistically different from 2020.

This slide looks at official poverty rates by age. Between 2020 and 2021, rates decreased for individuals under age 18 to 15.3%. The poverty rate increased for those aged 65 and older to 10.3%.

In this slide, we look at official poverty rates by family type, the poverty rates for all primary family types in 2021 were not statistically different from 2020. Female householder families had the highest poverty rate at 23% while married couple families had the lowest at 4.8%.

Here we present official poverty rates for people by race and Hispanic origin. Most of these groups did not have significant changes in their official poverty rates from 2020 to 2021. The exception is for the Asian population whose poverty rate increased by 1.2 percentage points.

Of the groups in this figure, non-Hispanic white individuals had the lowest poverty rates at 8.1%. Black individuals had the highest poverty rate at 19.5%. Poverty rates for additional rates in Hispanic origin groups are available in the report.

Now let's turn to the supplemental poverty measure. In addition to resources captured by the official poverty measure, the SPM includes non-cash benefits from government assistance programs, including housing, utility and nutritional assistance programs and subtract taxes and necessary expenses such as work, childcare and medical expenses.

The SPM thresholds are produced by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Using consumer expenditure survey data. Separate thresholds are created for renters, homeowners with a mortgage and those who own their homes free and clear.

While the official poverty threshold is constant throughout the United States, the SPM adjusts for geographic differences in housing costs. This map shows those adjustments, with yellow areas having lower thresholds for renters than the official poverty threshold and blue and green areas having higher thresholds.

This slide compares SPM estimates for 2020 and 2021 for all people and by age group. The SPM rate in 2021 was 7.8%, down around 1.4 percentage points.

The SPM child poverty rate was nearly cut in half in 2021, falling from 9.7% to 5.2%. SPM rates also declined for those aged 18 to 64 to 7.9%. The SPM rate for adults aged 65 and older increased to 10.7%.

This slide shows SPM rates by race and Hispanic origin. In 2021 the SPM rate was 11.3% for Black individuals, 11.2% for Hispanic individuals and 5.7% for non-Hispanic white individuals, all representing declines from the previous year as well as the lowest SPM rates on record.

The SPM rate for Asian individuals was 9.5%, not statistically different from the [previous] year. SPM estimates can be compared to the official measure from 2009 to 2021. In 2021 the SPM was 3.8 percentage points lower than the official measure and was the lowest SPM rate on record.

The difference between the two poverty measures are especially apparent for children. In 2021 the gap between the official and SPM rates for children grew to 10.1 percentage points. This is the largest gap between the measures and the lowest SPM child poverty rate on record.

The increased difference in poverty rates for children reflects the impact of the child tax credit, which was made fully refundable for 2021.

Now let's look at the difference in poverty rates by geography. While the SPM national poverty rate was lower than the official poverty rate in 2021, that difference varies by geographic area.

This figure shows the United States divided into three categories by state. There were three states where SPM rates were higher than official. These are shaded blue. There were 38 states where the SPM was lower than official. These are shaded orange.

And finally there were nine states plus the District of Columbia where the differences in the rates were not statistically significant. These are gray. One important contribution that the SPM provides is allowing us to gauge the effectiveness of tax credits and transfers in alleviating poverty.

We can also examine the effects of necessary expenses like work and medical expenses. This figure shows how the number of people in SPM poverty changes if we add or subtract a single resource element for the overall population and by age.

Some of these elements like Social Security and unemployment insurance are included in the official poverty estimates. Others, like stimulus payments and refundable tax credits, are included only in the SPM resource measure.

Using this chart we can see that 26.3 million people were taken out of poverty by Social Security benefits. Most of these individuals were aged 65 and older and 9.6 million people were taken out of poverty by refundable tax credits. Of these, 4.9 million were children. Specifically, the child tax credit lifted 5.3 million people out of poverty in 2021.

Lastly, subtracting medical expenses increased the number of people in poverty by 4.7 million. To find our full Poverty Report and additional resources, please visit our Web site.

Next, Sharon Stern will summarize the findings for health insurance.

Sharon Stern: Thank you, Liana. Health insurance coverage is an important measure of our nation's overall well-being. Whether it's for illness, injury or preventive needs, health insurance provides greater access to medical care, protection from high unexpected costs and more economic stability.

Each year, the Census Bureau provides data on health insurance coverage. We look at who is and isn't covered and what type of insurance they have.

All of the health insurance estimates released today come from the CPS ASEC, which asks people about their health insurance coverage at any time in the previous calendar year.

Let me begin by summarizing the main findings this year. An estimated 8.3% of the population or about 27.2 million people did not have health insurance coverage at any point in 2021. The uninsured rate decreased by 0.4 percentage points or by 1.1 million people.

In 2021 most people, 91.7%, had health insurance coverage at some point during the calendar year. People are counted as insured if they had coverage at any time during 2021. Sixty-six percent of people held private coverage.

Employer based coverage was the most common sub-type, covering 54.3% of the population, while 10.2% of people purchased their coverage directly and 35.7% of people had public coverage, which includes Medicare, Medicaid, VA and CHAMPVA.

It's important to note that some people may be counted in multiple categories if they held different types of coverage during the year. The chart on the right shows the change in health insurance coverage between 2020 and 2021. The increase in the percentage of people covered by any type of health insurance was driven by a change in public coverage.

The percent of people with public coverage increased by 1.2 percentage points whereas over the same period, the percentage of people with private coverage decreased.

Among public coverage types, Medicaid coverage increased 0.9 percentage points and Medicare coverage increased by half of a percentage point. Note that the increase in Medicare was partly due to growth in the number of people aged 65 and over not a change in Medicare coverage for adults in this age range.

Changes in health coverage from year to year reflect changing economic conditions, but also demographic shifts such as population aging and policy changes at the federal and state level that affect access to care. For instance, health and coverage rates may have been affected by the 2020 economic recession and the ensuing recovery.

Additionally recent policy changes to address the public health emergency may have affected health insurance coverage. Age is strongly associated with the likelihood that a person has health insurance. This is because children under the age of 19 may qualify for certain programs such as the Children's Health Insurance Program or CHIP for which working age adults are not eligible.

In addition, most adults aged 65 and older are covered through Medicare. The uninsured rate was lowest for those aged 65 and older followed by the rate for children under age 19. The only age group with a statistically significant change was children under 19, their uninsured rate fell to 5.0%.

In addition to age, family resources may determine whether a person has health insurance coverage. Here we take a look at how family resources interact with broad age categories.

For every income to poverty group, adults are more likely to be uninsured than children. For example, 24% of adults in poverty were uninsured for all of 2021 while only 8.3% of children in poverty were uninsured. For most of the groups shown in this chart, apparent differences were not statistically significant.

Of note, the uninsured rate for children in families with incomes at or above 400% of their poverty threshold fell to 1.7% in 2021. Now let's take a look at the private coverage rate for the same age and income to poverty groups.

Both adults and children in higher income to poverty categories are more likely to be covered by private health insurance and adults and children in poverty are the least likely to have private health insurance.

There were not many changes in private coverage among these groups, except for children in the middle category. Private coverage declined to 53.4% in 2021 for these children.

We see a different story for public health insurance. Children and adults living in poverty are the most likely to have public health insurance while those in higher income to poverty categories are less likely to have public health insurance.

For most of these groups, public coverage rates increased between 2020 and 2021. Only the apparent difference for children in poverty was not statistically significant.

Under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, some states expanded Medicaid eligibility to people whose income to poverty ratio falls on a particular threshold. As of January 31, 2021, 36 states and the District of Columbia had expanded Medicaid eligibility requirements labeled here as expansion states. Fourteen states had not. They are labeled non-expansion states.

This slide focuses on health insurance coverage for children by the state's Medicaid expansion status. For children living in expansion states shown on the left, a decrease in private coverage was offset by an increase in public coverage resulting in an uninsured rate that was not statistically different between the two years.

For children living in non-expansion states shown here on the right, we see a decrease in the uninsured rate, which was 7.1% in 2021.

This slide shows health insurance...

Michael Cook: Sharon? This is Michael. Sorry for interrupting. We are having a little technical difficulty with the slides. If you could just bear with us and pause for just a moment.

Sharon Stern: Of course.

Michael Cook: I'm going to go ahead and get the slides caught up to where they need to be and I want to apologize to our listening audience. We want to make sure that you can see this information and these details in particular on the screen as they're being given by Sharon Stern.

So I appreciate everyone for their patience as we remedy this technical situation. And one moment please. And while we're waiting I will confirm for all of the listening audience that we have already posted online in our press kit the release, the graphics, the related items like blogs and America Counts stories.

And the presentation that we're actually viewing today is completely loaded in the press kit with remarks for people who want to download them and follow along that way.

All right. It looks like we're getting things set up now. All right. And here we go. I think - I don't know if you can see the screen, Sharon, where we are, coverage for adults aged 19 to 64.

Sharon Stern: Yes, absolutely. Thank you, Michael.

Michael Cook: All right.

Sharon Stern: This slide shows health insurance coverage for adults based on their state expansion status. As shown on the left the story for adults is similar to that for children in these states.

Compared to the previous year, the private coverage rate was lower. The public coverage rate was higher. And the uninsured rate was not statistically different.

For adults living in non-expansion states shown on the right, there was a decrease in the uninsured rate by 1.0 percentage points driven in part by the increase in public health insurance.

As mentioned earlier, the composition of the workforce changed between 2020 and 2021. This chart on the left shows the shift Liana mentioned earlier for our health insurance universe for adults 19 to 64. Specifically there was an increase in the number of full-time year-round workers and a decrease in the number of people working part-time or part year.

This figure shown on the right shows the uninsured rates for these work experience groups. In both years full-time year-round workers are less likely to be uninsured than other workers and non-workers.

In 2021 the uninsured rate increased to 9.1% for full-time, full year workers. For those who worked less than full-time full year, the uninsured rate decreased to 15.1%, a 6.1 percentage point difference between the two groups. Some of this difference is likely due to changes in the composition of the workforce.

More information is available in our report, supplemental tables and America Counts stories. Now I'll turn it back to David Waddington.

Michael Cook: Hey, Dave, you need to unmute.

David Waddington: Thank you, Sharon and Liana. That concludes our presentations for today. Recap the highlights. Real median household income was $70,800. The official poverty rate was 11.6%. The supplemental poverty rate decreased by 1.4 percentage points to 7.8%. And the percentage of people with health insurance coverage for some or all of the calendar year increased and went to 91.7%.

These findings reflect several factors affecting households during 2021. These include the continued response to the COVID-19 pandemic, rising inflation, just in the composition of the work force, policy changes and other macroeconomic conditions, which shaped the experiences of households in 2021

More information is available in our reports and online. Each year we release hundreds of detailed tables and historical tables, as well as several information products. Last week, we released blogs on the difference between official poverty and the SPM and how inflation affects some income estimates.

And today we released a Research Matters blog that evaluates serving non-response using administrative data. We are also releasing a number of America Counts stories that go into more detail about specific issues. These include stories on income inequality, the impact of the Child Tax Credit and government assistance on poverty, and insurance status for children and full-time year-round workers.

Lastly, I want to remind you that for the past several years the Census Bureau has been discussing a possible change in the index used for - to adjust previous years' income estimates. For the past three years, we've published alternatives in an appendix to the income report. There was also an inter-agency technical working group that made recommendations on this topic.

More information about the proposed change will be found on our Web site or in the current federal registered notice that you can see the link to on our slide here. The Census Bureau welcomes feedback and advice from our data users. And now I'll turn it back over to Michael for our question and answer session.

Michael Cook: Thanks, Dave. We'll start taking questions now. To fit in as many questions as possible, reporters can ask one question and one follow-up. Operator, can you please give instructions on how reporters can submit their questions?

Coordinator: Yes, thank you. We will now begin the question/answer session. If you'd like to ask a question, please press star one, un-mute your phone and record your name clearly. Your name is required to introduce your question.

If you need to withdraw your question, press star one - star two, sorry, to withdraw your question. Again, to ask a question press star one. Take a few moments for the questions to come through. Please stand by.

Michael Cook: While we wait for the first question for - to queue up, a reminder to check out the electronic press kit on census.gov. It contains a wealth of resources including today's news release, the full reports on income, poverty and health insurance, graphics, back sheets, several America Counts stories, blogs, working papers, today's slide deck and last, but most important, the actual data.

Today's news conference will be posted in the next 48 hours or so. I'd also like to note some major releases and events we have coming up this month. This Thursday the 2021 American Community Survey one-year estimates will be released. The embargo starts today. Check out our Web site for more details on that.

The American Community survey is the premier source for (detailed) population and housing information about our nation. And then next week we will release data on the domestic migration of older adults. Also next week we'll hold an event in Hartville, Missouri to mark it being named the Center of Population based on data from the 2020 Census.

We should be ready to begin taking questions. A note, if you're asking a question, be sure to mute your computer monitor to avoid getting any feedback. Operator, do you have our first question?

Coordinator: Yes. Our first question is from Selena Simmons-Duffin from NPR. Go ahead. Your line's open.

Michael Cook: Hi Selena.

Selena Simmons-Duffin: Hello. Hi, thanks for doing this. I'm interested in the health insurance numbers. And my understanding is that the uninsured rate is at a historic low. Can you confirm that that's true?

Michael Cook: Thanks for that question on health insurance. And I'll toss that over to Sharon Stern.

Sharon Stern: Hi. We have done the statistical tests. And it is not lower than the 2017 rate of 5%, so it is not statistically different. That said, comparisons over time, you

always need to be aware of difference in measurement and whatnot. So it's certainly among the lowest.

Michael Cook: Thanks for that Sharon. And Operator, do we have our next caller?

Coordinator: And our next question is from Tami Luhby from CNN. Go ahead. Your line's open.

Michael Cook: Hey Tami.

Tami Luhby: Good morning. Thank you for holding this. My single question is just to confirm is the SPM data when you say on record for children and such, is that since 2009 I think?

Michael Cook: Thanks for that question on the SPM. And in particular on children, looking back at 2009 and to address that question, we'll turn it over to Liana Fox. Liana?

Liana Fox: Hi, Tami. That's correct. The SPM goes back to 2009. We began publishing estimates in 2011 going back to 2009. So when we say on record, it's just this time series.

Tami Luhby: Okay. And then my second question is, to what extent did the Child Tax Credit bring down the SPM? Would you say it was fully responsible for bringing it down or in large part?

Liana Fox: It's a major contributor. So the child poverty rate fell from 9.7% to 5.2%. In the absence of the Child Tax Credit, we would've had poverty only falling from 9.7 to 9.2%. So 4 percentage points of the 4.5 percentage point decline are due directly to the Child Tax Credit.

Tami Luhby: Thank you.

Liana Fox: And we have an America Counts story today released that goes into more depth on the impact of (technical difficulty).

Tami Luhby: Thank you for publishing that.

Michael Cook: Thanks for those questions. Operator. Do we have our next caller?

Coordinator: Our next caller is Dan Burns from Rueters. Go ahead. Your line's open.

Michael Cook: Hey, Dan.

Dan Burns: Yes, I think - thank you. I think this is also for Liana. At some point you mentioned a figure of 9.6 million people lifted out of poverty under the SPM measure. Did I hear that correctly? And over what time frame was that? And what were the contributors to that?

Liana Fox: Sure. Sorry, I'll go ahead and jump in. This is Liana Fox. Thanks, Dan, for your question. So this figure shows that we were just to net out a single component. And here we're subtracting out refundable tax credits, which includes the Earned Income Tax Credit, the Child Tax Credit, and the Child and Dependent Care Credit. So, that reduces the number of people who would have fallen into poverty by 9.6 million people.

Dan Burns: And that was just in 2021 from 2020?

Liana Fox: Correct. This is just in 2021. So within 2021, the inclusion of refundable tax credits in our poverty measured decreases the number of people by 9.6 million.

Dan Burns: Thank you.

Michael Cook: Thank you. Thanks for that, Dan. Operator, do we have our next question - next caller?

Coordinator: Yes. Our next question's from Olivia Winslow from Newsday. Go ahead. Your line's open.

Olivia Winslow: Thank you.

Michael Cook: Hi Olivia.

Olivia Winslow: Hi. Thank you for taking my call. To what extent would you say these measures, the median household income are affected by - and the poverty rate are affected by the pandemic? What's the impact of the pandemic on these statistics, principally income and poverty (rate)?

Michael Cook: Thanks for that question on pandemic impact on income and poverty, Olivia. I'll turn that over to Liana Fox and also if Dave wants to chime in, he'll jump on as well. Liana.

David Waddington: Yes, I mean, I can start off on that if Liana has some more, too. I mean there's - we can't really differentiate exactly what's caused by the pandemic. There's been lots of policy changes in response to the pandemic that have driven some of these things, like Liana was talking with the Child Tax Credit and some of the changes, and the recovery activities. So it's hard for us to

differentiate exactly, to put a cause on one thing or the other. We really can't do that.

Liana Fox: I would agree with that, and I would just add we have another America Counts story (technical difficulty) the total impact of government that will be released today. So it'll include the total impact of social safety nets. But there are a lot of factors influencing the results that we see today.

Olivia Winslow: Thank you.

Michael Cook: And thank you. Operator, our next caller.

Coordinator: Again, as a reminder, please press star one on your phone. Record your name (if you have a) question. Our next question's from (Janet Whitson) from University of Massachusetts Amherst. Go ahead. Your line's open.

Michael Cook: Hi (Janet).

(Janet Whitson): Hi. Can you talk about any of the data collection challenges and measurement issues created by the pandemic and any differences between 2020 and 2021?

Michael Cook: And thanks for that. Again, a question about the pandemic and impacts, specifically on measurement (unintelligible). I'll toss that back over to David.

David Waddington: Yes, sure. I mean there's, you know, as you're aware we've talked about in the previous couple of years (of collection), the pandemic had a pretty substantial impact on our data collection during 2021 and (particularly) 2020, particularly when we shut - had the - there was the overall shut down, a lot of things, we weren't even going door-to-door at all.

So that had a pretty substantial impact on response rate. In 2021 and then this year we also had, you know, there's still some residual impacts. We had a slight recovery last year and this year back down a little bit. We do have some information in an America Counts story out there that looks at the non-response by - connected with that. And it compares - (does some) analysis using administrative records data.

I think one of the key points to make though is that there was not a substantial difference in what we saw last year to this year. So the comparisons that we're making should be pretty valid. Anything that we've seen before is comparable between the years.

(Janet Whitson):   Thank you.

Michael Cook: And thanks for that. Operator, do we have our next caller?

Coordinator: I show no further questions at this time.

Michael Cook: Okay. Before we wrap up I'd like to remind, again, and I'll come back to you, Operator, to see if we have any other callers before we wrap, just in case people want to get back in the queue. I'd like to remind everyone again about some of the major data releases and events we have coming up.

Again this Thursday the 2021 American Community Survey one-year estimates will be publicly released. Again the embargo is already underway for media. You can log on to census.gov to access the data. And next week we'll release data again on the domestic migration of older adults.

And then next week also we will be holding an event in Hartsville, Missouri to mark it being named the center of population based on data from the 2020 census. Operator, do we have any more callers?

Coordinator: Yes, we have a question from Dan Burns from Reuters. Go ahead. Your line's open.

Michael Cook: Hey Dan.

Dan Burns: Thanks for taking...

((Crosstalk))

Michael Cook: ...calling back in.

Dan Burns: Sorry to jump in but just as a follow-up to the question I had on the supplemental measure, you know, given that most of those programs expired over the course of 2021, would you expect to see a level like this replicated next year and going forward or would the supplemental rate begin to look more like the official headline (rate), do you think?

Michael Cook: Thanks for that Dan. I know that you're talking about hypothetical, but I'll turn it over to Dave Waddington to give you some sound on that.

David Waddington: I think maybe I'll let Liana respond to that. Sorry.

Liana Fox: Hi, this is Liana. So, we can't really speculate on what happens in 2022; '22's not even done yet. We haven't collected the data yet. I can say that we do look in one of the America Counts stories on the CDC and we look at what was the impact of the expansion, so not just the total impact but like if we had gone

back to the policies of 2020, what would poverty has been? So that information is out there otherwise, we'll have to wait until we get data next March to see what we expect to see.

Michael Cook: Thanks for that.

Dan Burns: Thank you.

Michael Cook: And operator, as we look to see if there's anyone else in the queue, just a quick reminder or flag for those who might be on our Web site looking for those America Counts stories that keep coming up time and time again, we are in the process of posting them and they should be posting very soon in rapid fashion.

Operator, do we have any other reporters or media on the line with questions?

Coordinator: Yes, next question's from Tami Luhby from CNN. Go ahead, your line's open.

((Crosstalk))

Tami Luhby: Hi again. Thank you for taking another one of my questions. To what extent would you say the increase in the - sorry, the ACA subsidies played in reducing the uninsured rate compared to Medicaid? It looked like based on your numbers, Medicaid clearly went up by a lot, but the ACA coverage, I don't think, was statistically different.

Michael Cook: Thanks for that line of question on health insurance, in particular the impact of the ACA coverage. For that line of question on health insurance, I'm going to turn it over to Sharon (unintelligible)...

Sharon Stern: Hello.

Michael Cook: ...related to that. Sharon?

Sharon Stern: Hello. Thank you for that question. It's true a lot of different factors can affect health insurance coverage and there was a clear indication of increased public coverage. Looking at overall our marketplace coverage, that's where I think you're talking about where we divide our direct purchase.

Oh good, thank you. Here it is on the screen. You can see it was not statistically different. If you dig down into the data as I'd be happy to help you explore the report afterwards, there may be some groups for whom there was a difference in direct purchase. But overall what we see is a clear indication regarding Medicaid and public coverage, and not statistical difference to direct purchase which is, I think, where your question lies.

Tami Luhby: Yes, thank you. I was rather inarticulate.

Michael Cook: (Thanks for that).

David Waddington: Let me just - I'll add - Michael, if I can just add one more piece of that. I think some of the policy changes we've mentioned, too, is that with the pandemic and national emergency, there were restrictions on letting people get off of Medicaid. So although we may have had more people coming on, we didn't have people going off of Medicaid. So that's something else that may contribute to that.

Michael Cook: Thanks for that everyone. Operator, are there any other callers? Any other questions? Operator, are there any other questions?

Coordinator: Yes. Our next question's from Leah Waters from Dallas Morning News. Your line's open.

Michael Cook: Hi Leah.

Leah Waters: Hi, good morning. Yes, hi. I have a question. So, I want to make sure I'm understanding this right, that the childhood poverty fell, but poverty among those 65 and older increased. And you did attribute that one of the main reasons that childhood poverty fell was because of the Child Tax Credit. Can you give us any indication for why there was an increase in poverty rates among people, 65 and older? You know, is there any is there any sort of measure or anything that you can attribute that to?

Michael Cook: Thanks for those line of questions on poverty and in particular how it impacted the 65 and older population. I'll turn that over to Liana Fox.

Liana Fox: Hi, Leah. Thanks for your question. So when we look at the 65-plus population, a larger share are on fixed incomes. And I think one thing that's very likely happening is that they're on fixed incomes that aren't keeping pace with inflation. And that's why we see an increase in their poverty rates.

Leah Waters: Great, thank you so much.

Michael Cook: All right, great. Operator any other callers?

Coordinator: I show no further questions at this time.

Michael Cook: All right. Well it looks like that's going to wrap us up, I would like to make a final note and I know that we have plugged and talked a little bit in (extent)

about the upcoming American Community Survey one-year estimates released that is going into embargo today.

And then next week's domestic migration of older adults release. And also the event in Hartville, Missouri marking the (center of pop) based on data from the 2020 Census. Finally, if there are any additional questions after today's news conference or you'd like to arrange an interview with one of our subject matter experts, please call or contact the Public Information Office at 301-763-3030 or email us at pio@census.gov.

I'd like to thank today's presenters, David Waddington, Sharon Stern and Liana Fox. I'm Michael Cook. Thank you for joining us for today's news conference on income, poverty and health insurance. Have a great rest of your day, everyone. Thank you.

David Waddington: Thank you.

Coordinator: That concludes today's conference. Thank you for participating. You may disconnect at this time.

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