

Parental Veteran Status and Poverty among U.S. Children

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BACKGROUND

Military service can act as an important turning point

- Service members receive unique opportunities and benefits^{1,2}

Service does not alter lives equally

- Military service can “springboard” members to economic levels similar to those from more advantaged backgrounds^{3,4}

Less is known about how service can influence the outcomes of veterans’ family members

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

RQ1: Do children coresiding with a veteran parent experience odds of living in or near poverty that are different from children who are not coresiding with a veteran parent?

RQ2: Among children coresiding with a veteran parent, do the odds of living in or near poverty differ across race and Hispanic origin groups?

DATA AND METHODS

2019 Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement

- Sample: Children (under 18) coresiding with at least one parent, who are not a family reference person (or the spouse of a family reference person)
- Focal Independent Variable: at least one coresident parent is a veteran
- Dependent Variable: living in or near poverty ($\leq 150\%$ poverty level)
- Note: Children are considered Hispanic regardless of their race; for the purpose of this study White, Black, and Other children are non-Hispanic

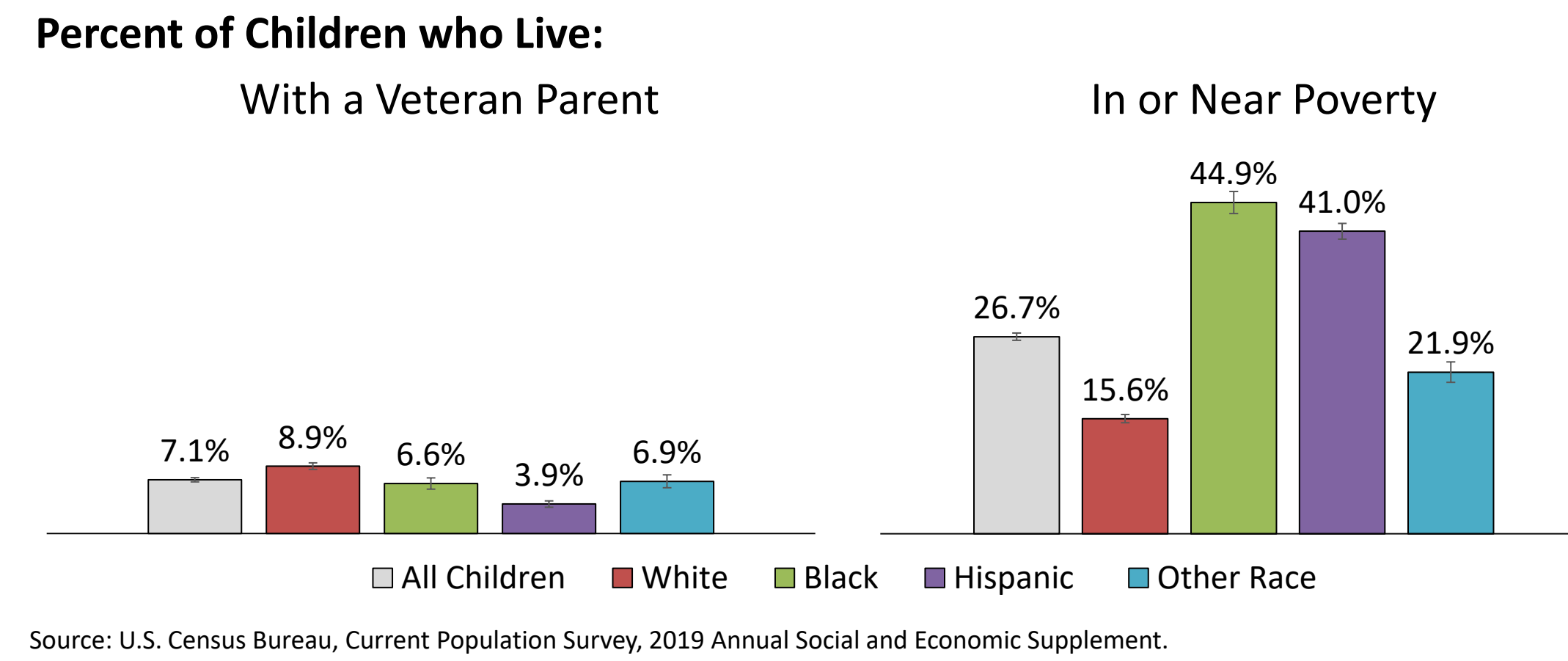
RQ1 - Logistic Regression Model

- Model controls for a range of demographic and economic characteristics

RQ2 - Interaction Terms

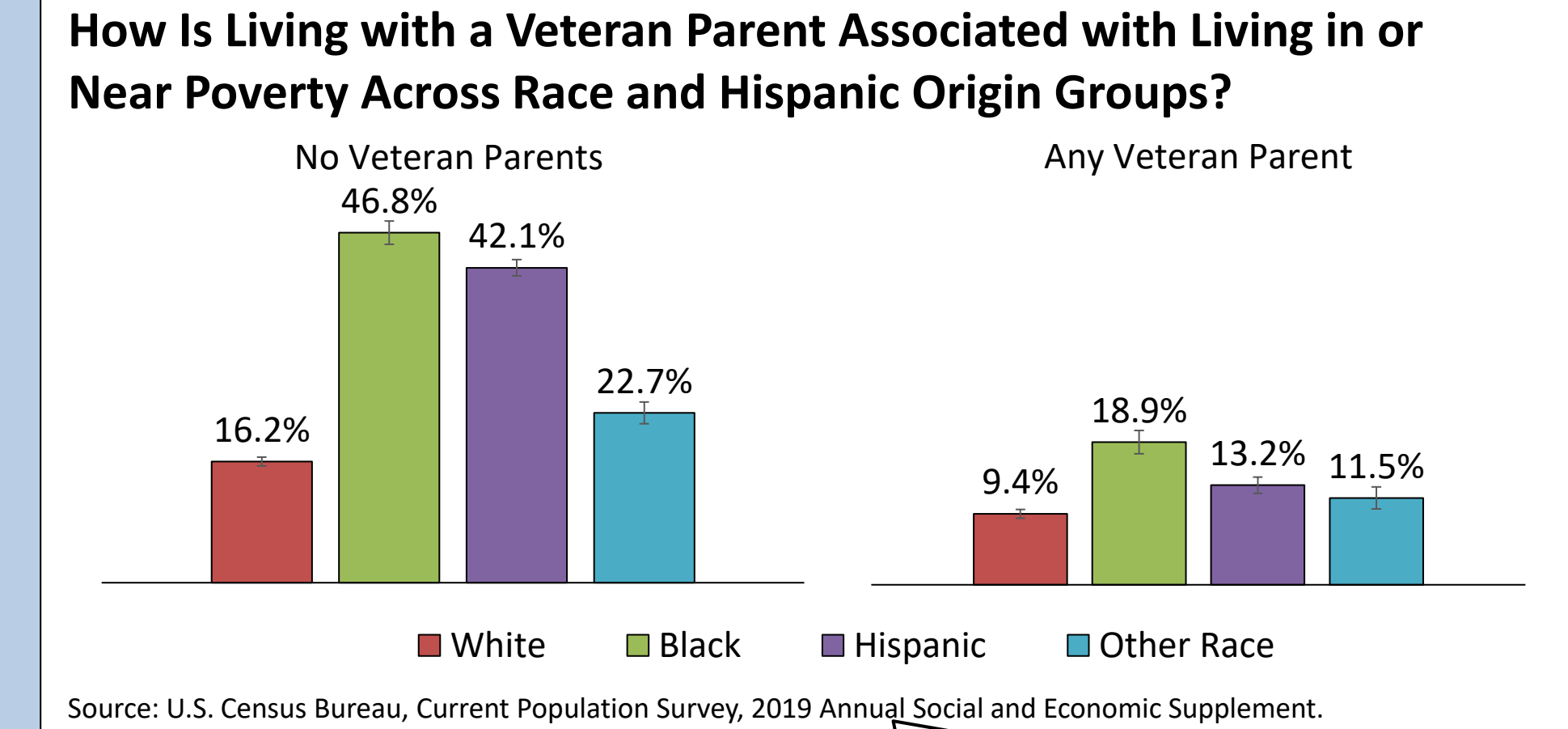
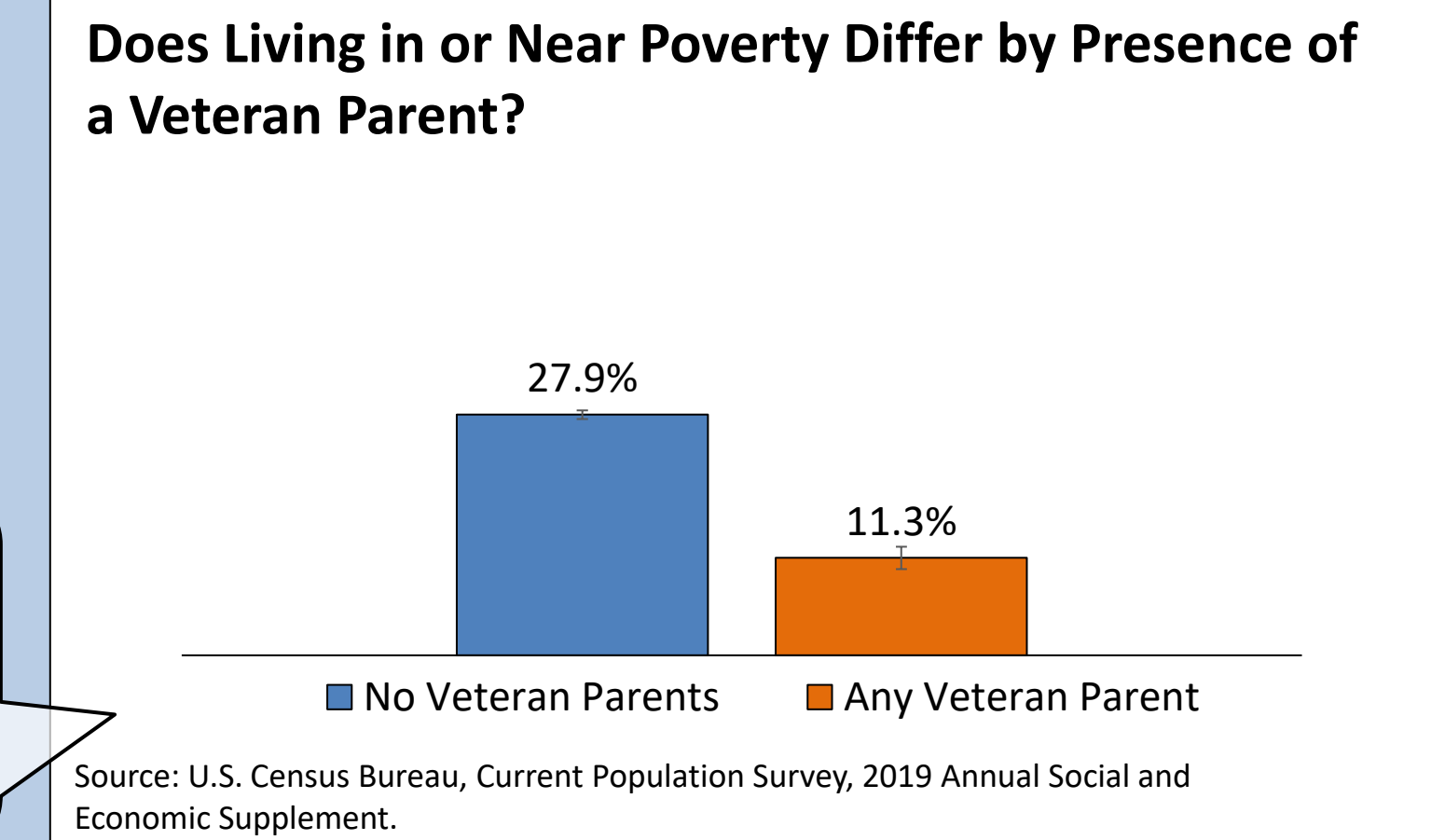
- (race and Hispanic origin)*(residence with a veteran parent)

DESCRIPTIVE RESULTS



In 2019, 7.1% of children lived with a veteran parent.
26.7% of children lived in or near poverty.

11.3% of children with a veteran parent lived in or near poverty, compared to 27.9% of those with no such parent.



Across race and Hispanic origin groups, children living with a veteran parent were less likely to live in or near poverty.

MULTIVARIATE RESULTS

Are Children with a Veteran Parent More or Less Likely to Live in or Near Poverty?

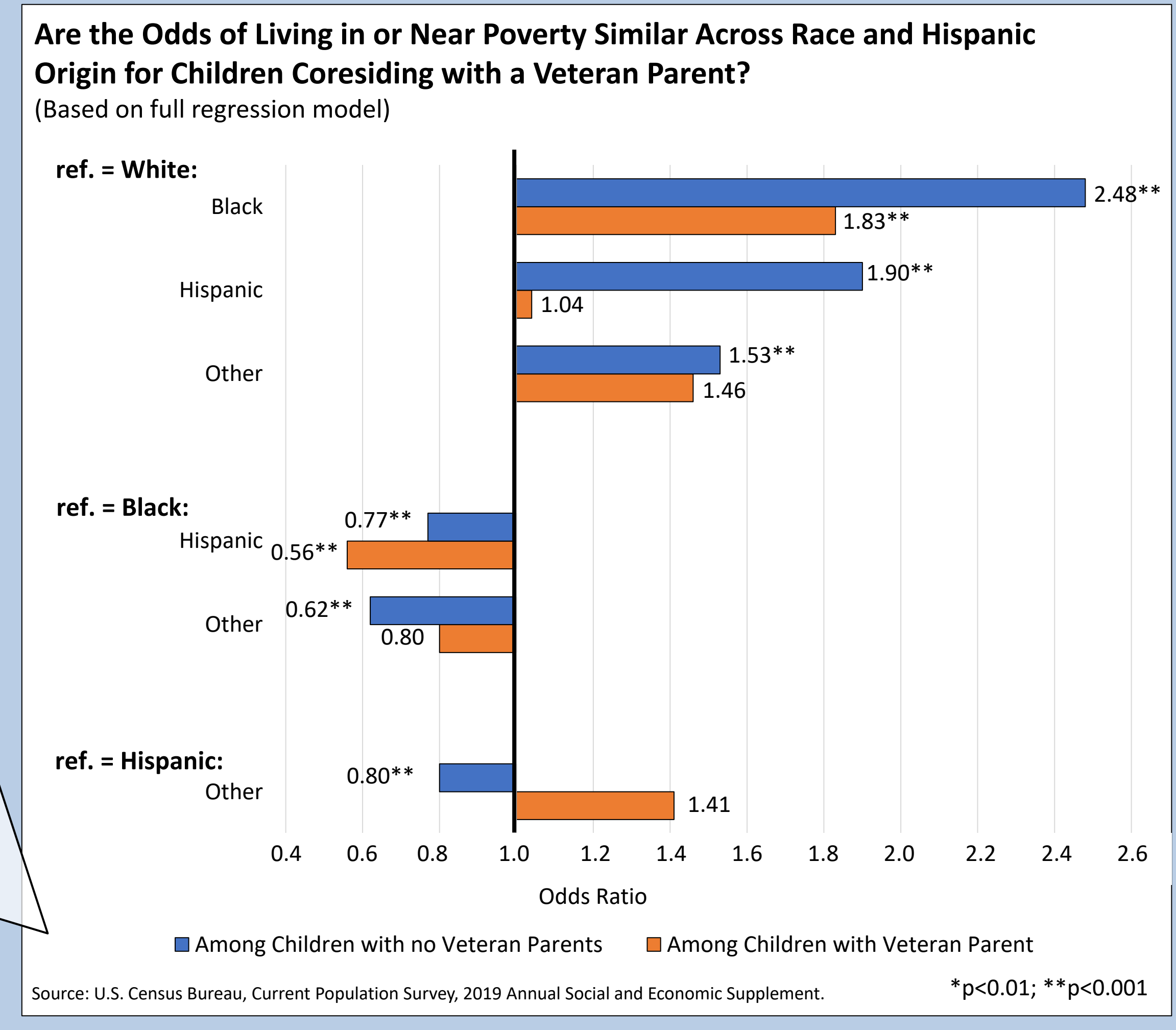
Characteristic	Odds Ratios
Parent Veteran Status (ref. = Nonveteran Parents Only)	
Any Parent Veteran	0.58** 0.69**
Race-Hispanic Origin (ref. = White)	
Black	2.43** 2.48**
Hispanic	1.86** 1.90**
Other	1.52** 1.53**
Most Educated Parent (ref. = High School or Equivalent)	
Less than High School	2.12** 2.11**
Some College	0.58** 0.58**
Bachelor's or More	0.19** 0.19**
Parent Employment Status (ref. = Only Employed Parents)	
Any Unemployed Parent	4.51** 4.52**
Marital Status of Parents (ref. = Two Parents, Married)	
Two Parents, Cohabiting	4.02** 4.02**
One Parent, Cohabiting	4.32** 4.32**
One Parent, Previously Married	3.96** 3.96**
One Parent, Never Married	4.44** 4.44**
Parent Type (ref. = Biological/Adopted Only)	
Any Step Parent	1.14* 1.14*
Age of Oldest Parent	
Region (ref. = South)	0.98** 0.98**
Northeast	1.00 1.00
Midwest	1.07 1.08
West	0.87** 0.87**
Race-Hispanic Origin & Parent Veteran Interactions	
Black*Parent Veteran	0.74
Hispanic*Parent Veteran	0.54**
Other Race*Parent Veteran	0.95

*p<0.01; **p<0.001
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 2019 Annual Social and Economic Supplement.

The regression model suggests children coresiding with a veteran parent experience odds of living in or near poverty that are 58% of those for children with no such parent.

Black children with a veteran parent were 1.8 times more likely to be in or near poverty than White children with a veteran parent.

However, among White, Hispanic, and Other children with a veteran parent, the odds of living in or near poverty did not significantly differ.



SUMMARY

RQ1: Children coresiding with a veteran parent experienced lower odds of living in or near poverty than those with no veteran parent

RQ2: Among children coresiding with a veteran parent, the odds of living in or near poverty did not significantly differ for some race and Hispanic origin groups

- Black children with a veteran parent, experienced higher odds of living in or near poverty than Hispanic and White children with a veteran parent

Findings suggest the experiences and benefits of veterans can influence the circumstances of their children

- Residing with a veteran parent appears to “springboard” children from certain groups to improved economic circumstances

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More information on confidentiality protection, methodology, sampling and nonsampling error, and definitions is available at www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/cps/techdocs/cpsmar19.pdf. Full methodological documentation is available at <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/cps/technical-documentation/methodology.html>.