

# Income, Poverty, and Health Insurance Coverage: 2011

## September 2012

### Webinar Access Information

Toll free number: 888-989-4394

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# Presenters

Host	Stacy Vidal Public Information Office
Presenter	David S. Johnson, Ph.D. Chief, Social, Economic, and Housing Statistics Division

# Resources for Today's Webinar



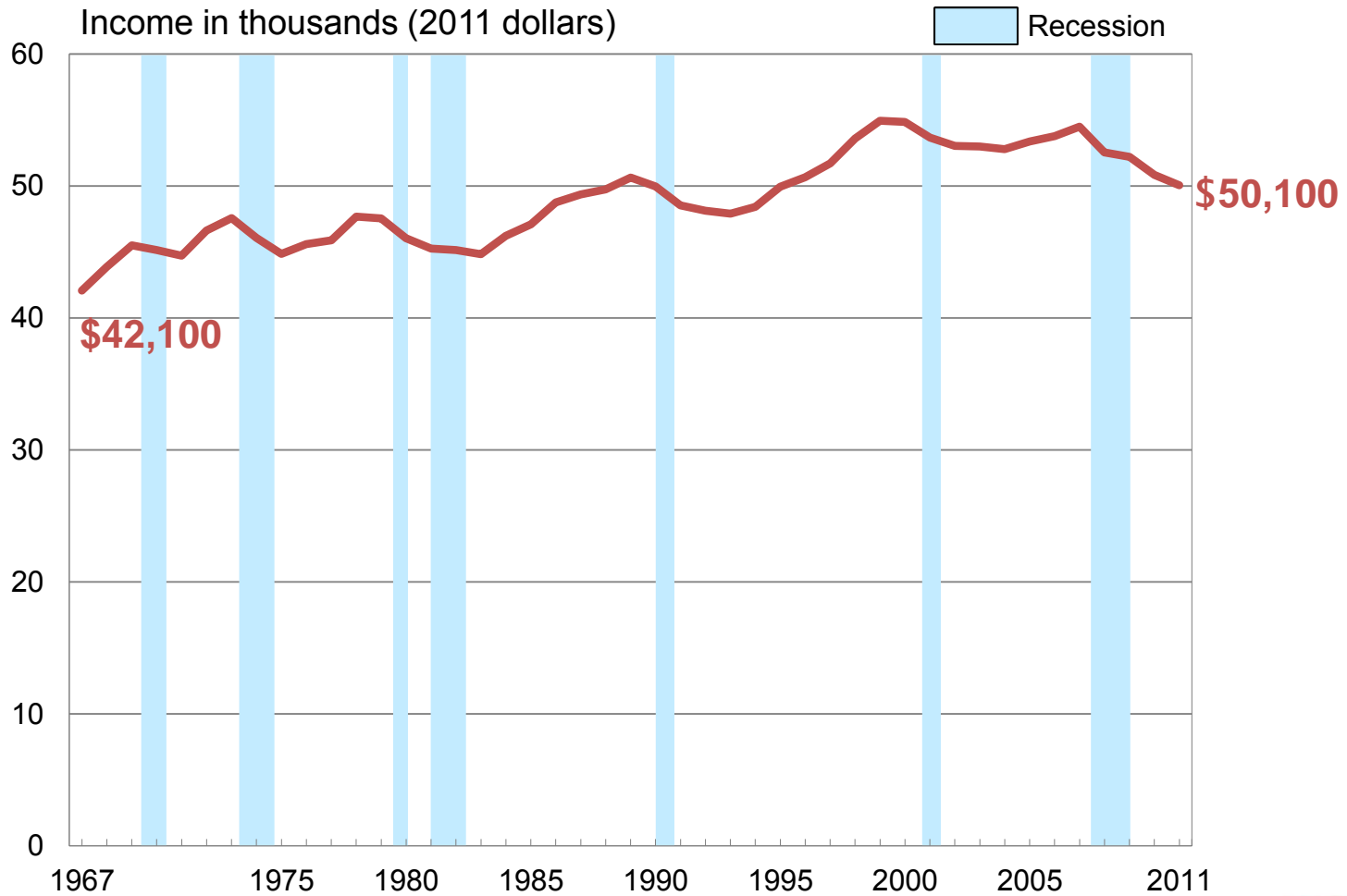
Go to [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov) and click on the slider at the top to obtain –

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

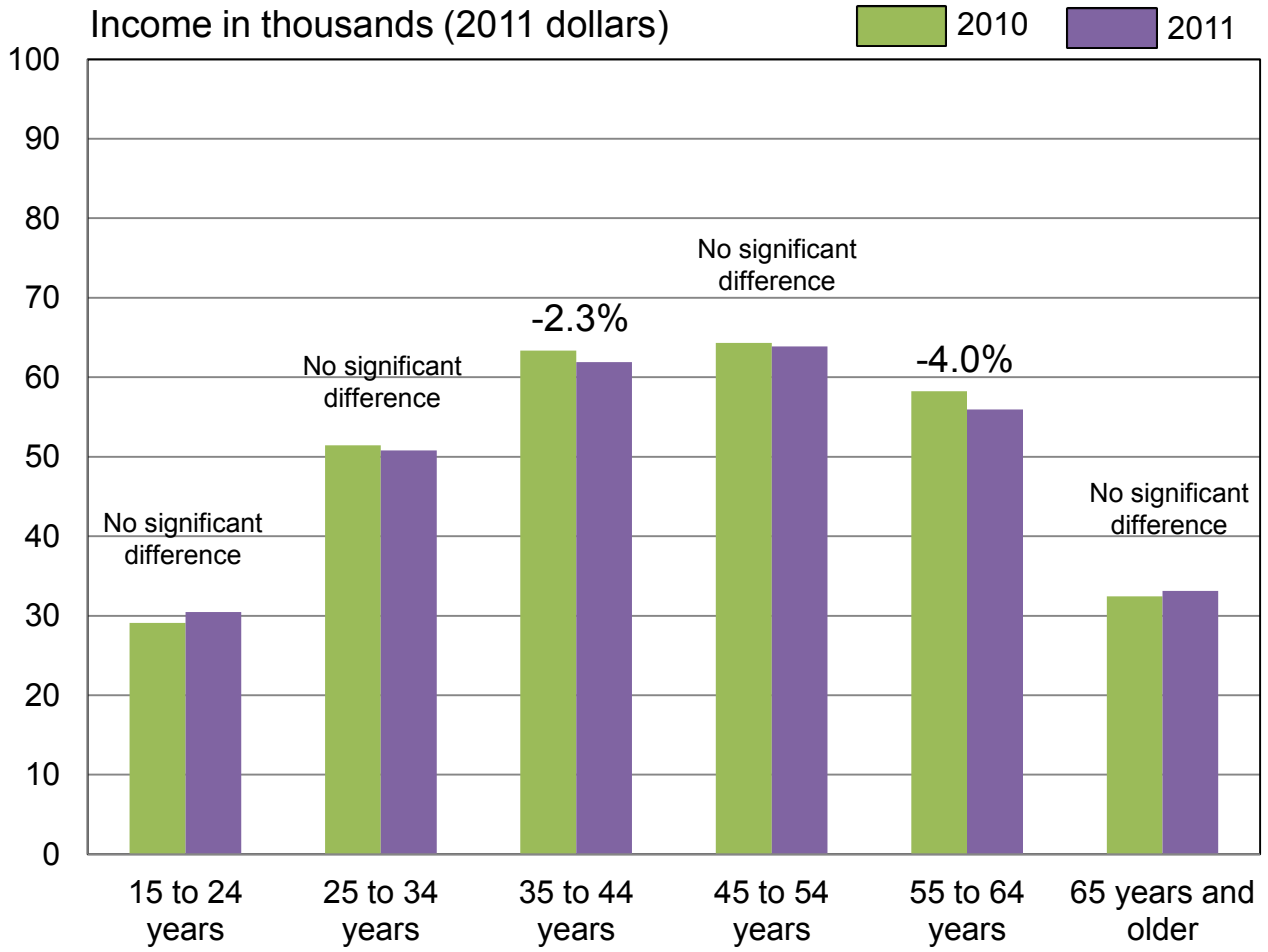
# Highlights

- Median household money income for the nation was \$50,100 in 2011, a decline of 1.5 percent from 2010, in real terms.
- The 2011 official poverty rate for the nation was 15.0 percent and there were 46.2 million people in poverty, not statistically different from last year.
- The percentage of people without health insurance coverage decreased in 2011 to 15.7 percent from 16.3 percent in 2010. The number of uninsured also decreased to 48.6 million in 2011 from 50.0 million in 2010.

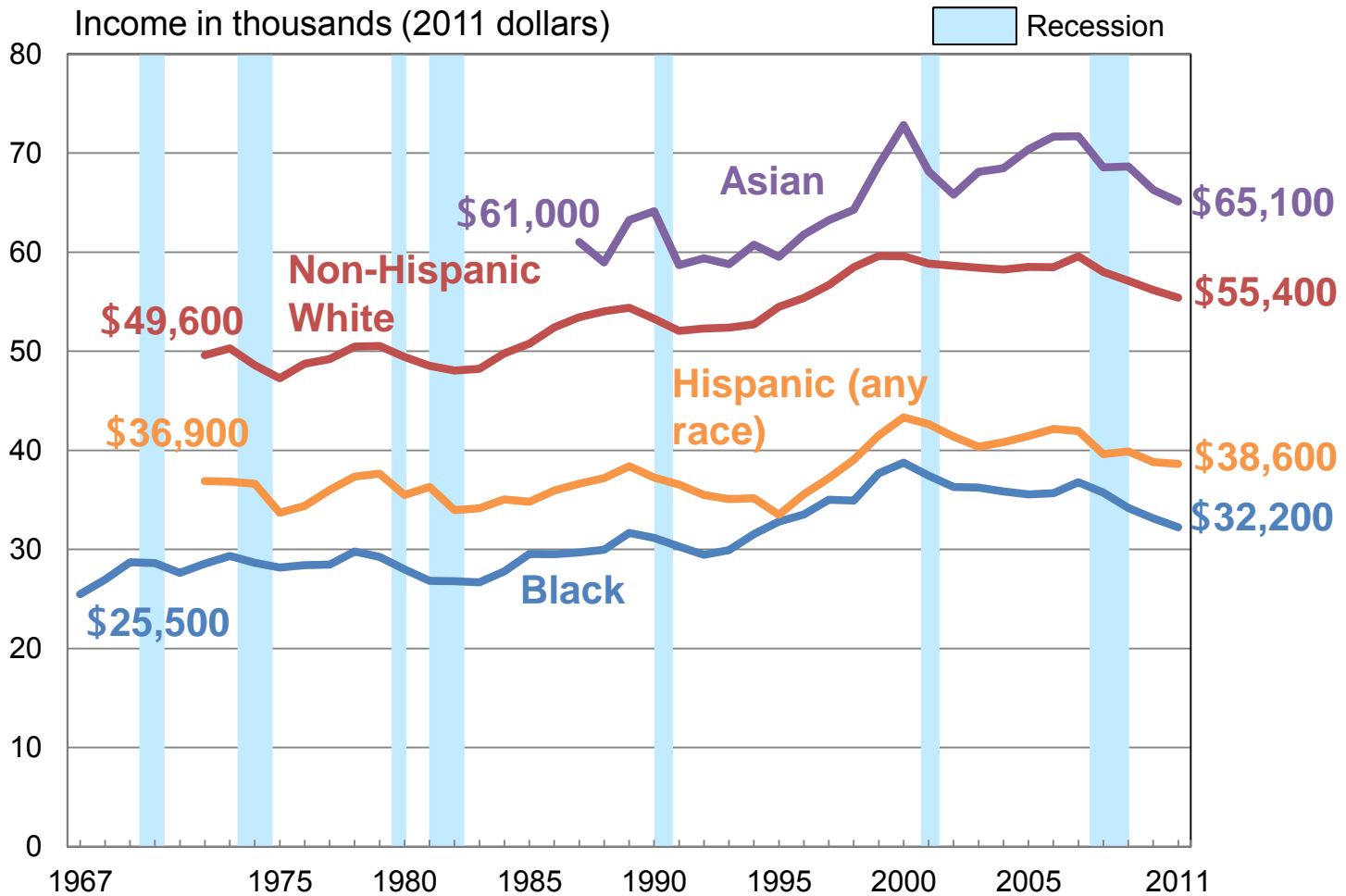
# Real Median Household Income: 1967 to 2011



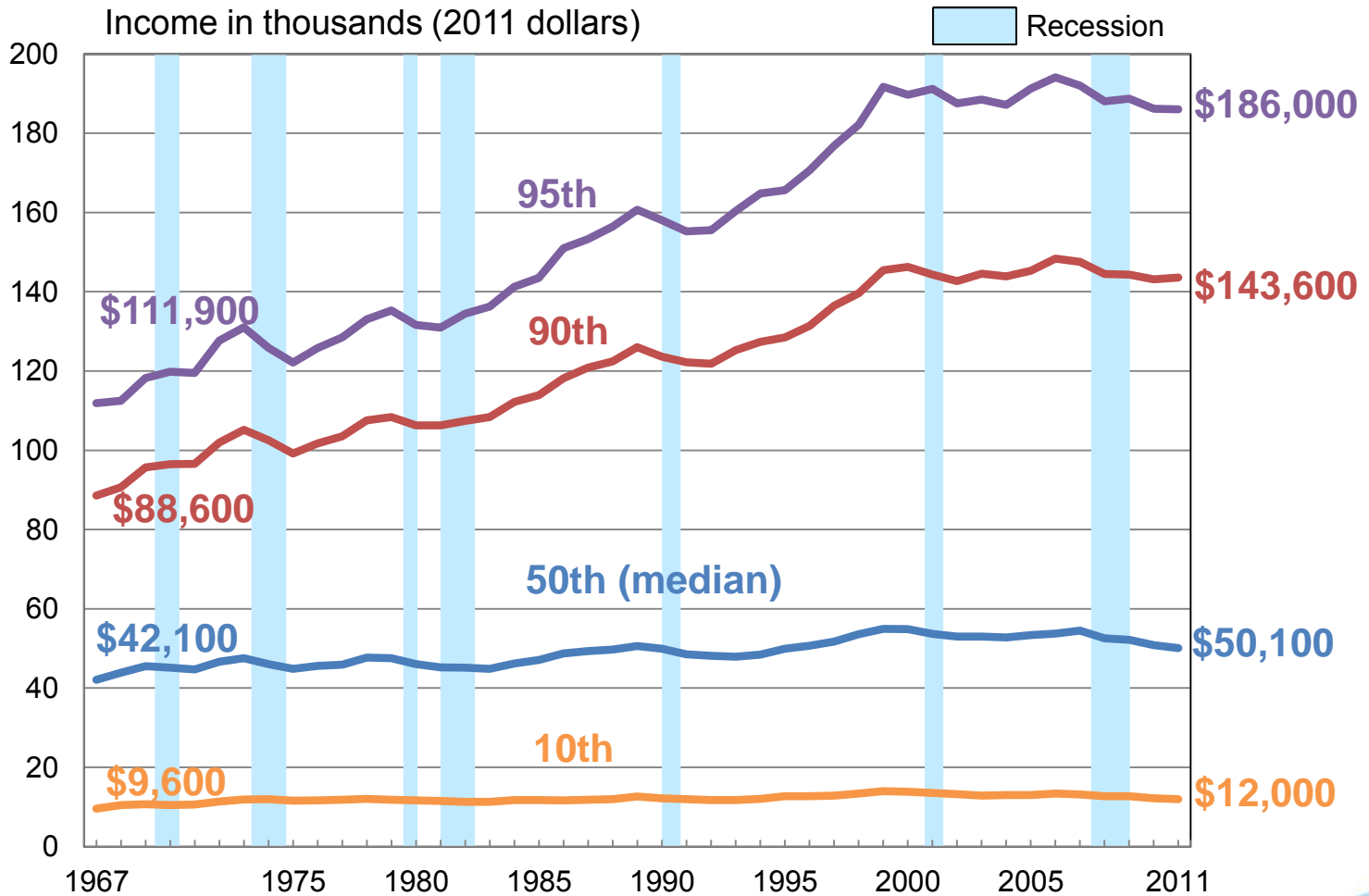
# Real Median Household Income by Age of Householder: 2010 and 2011



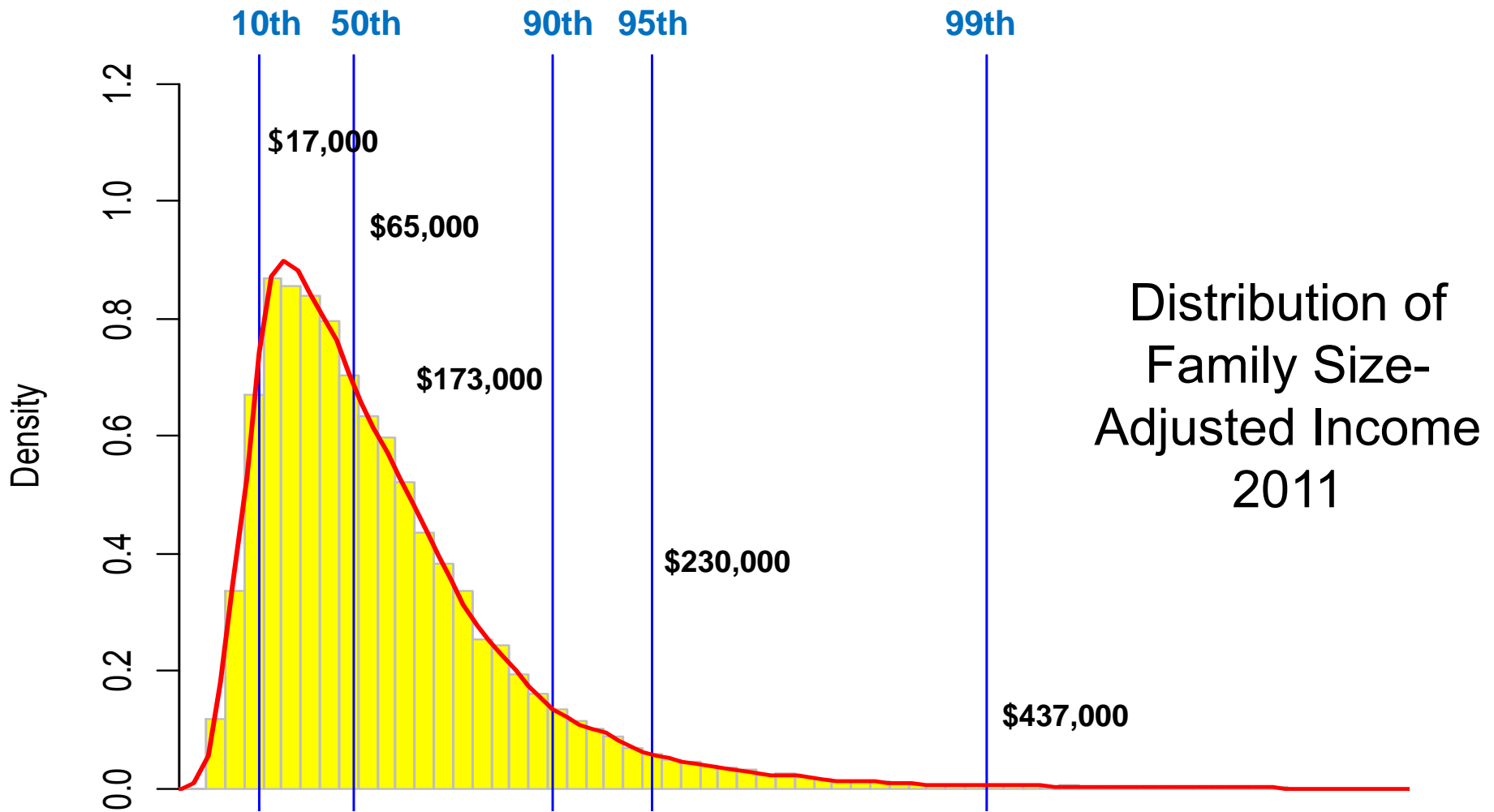
# Real Median Household Income by Race and Hispanic Origin of Householder: 1967 to 2011



# Real Household Income at Selected Percentiles: 1967 to 2011

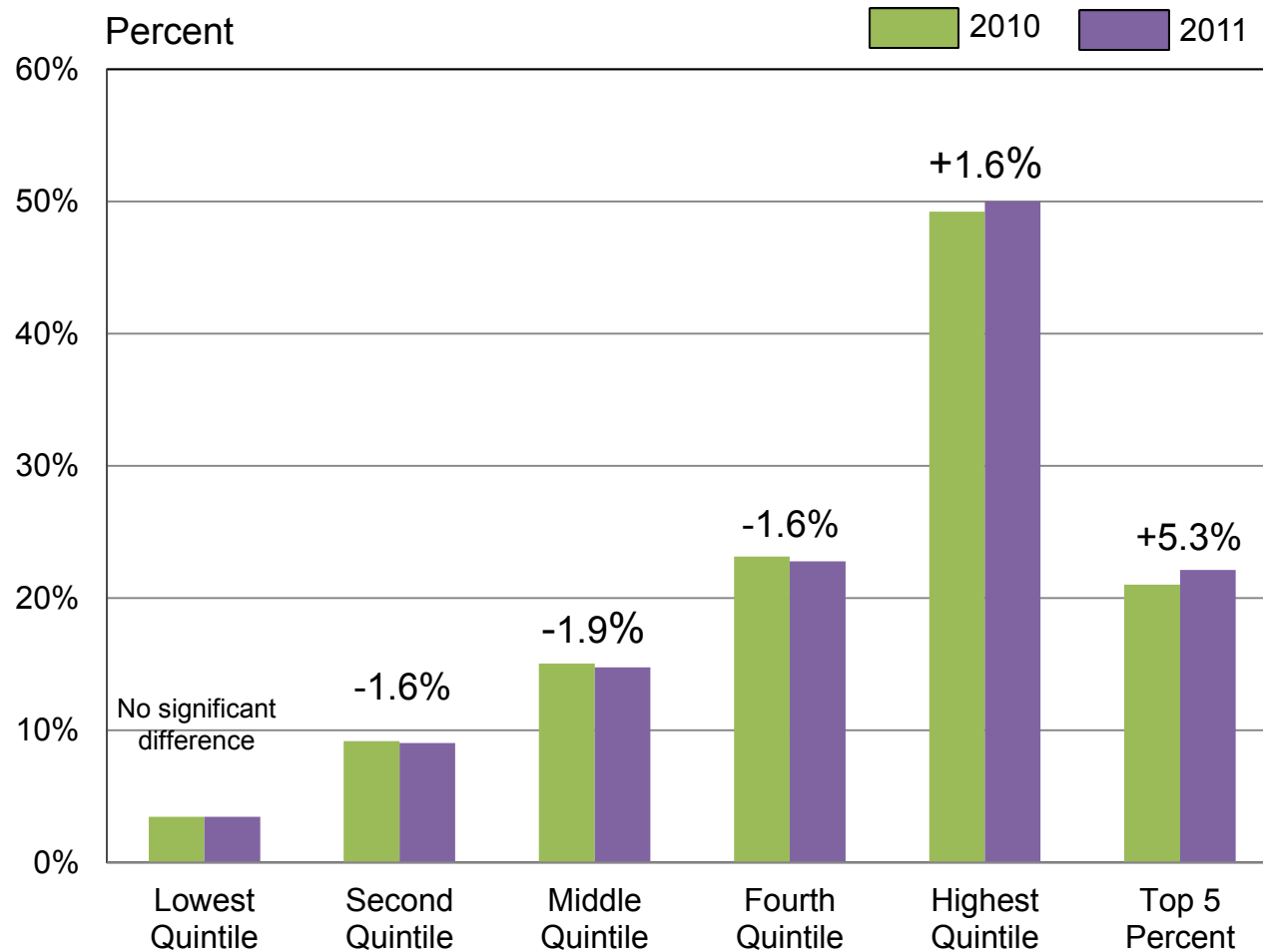




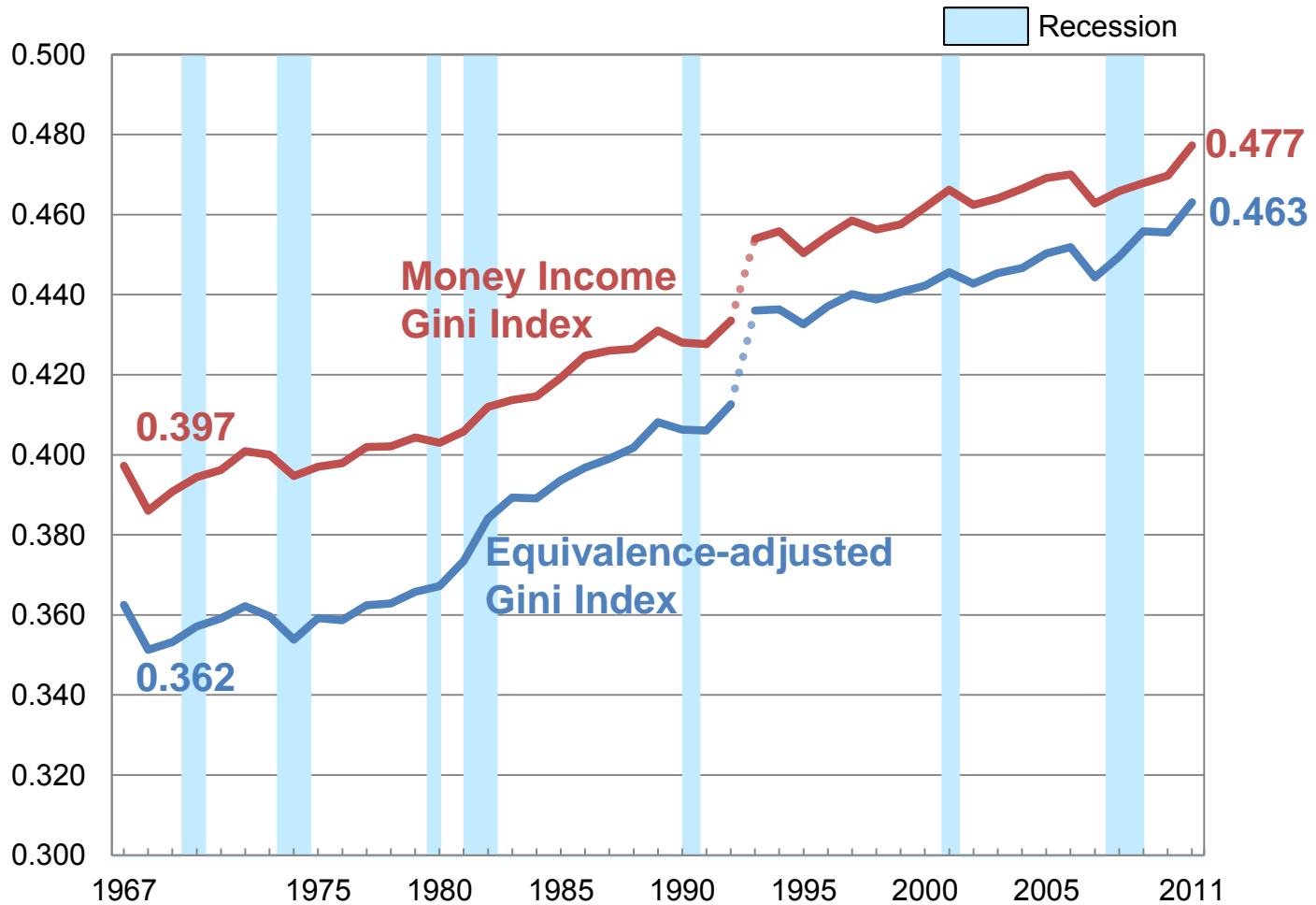


Note: To adjust your income by family size relative to a 4-person family, use the following factors:  
 Single person, multiply income by 2.2  
 Married-couple, multiply income by 1.5  
 Married-couple with one child, multiply income by 1.4

# Change in Share of Aggregate Equivalence-Adjusted Income by Quintile and Top Five Percent: 2010 and 2011



# Gini Index of Equivalence-Adjusted Income Compared to Money Income: 1967 to 2011

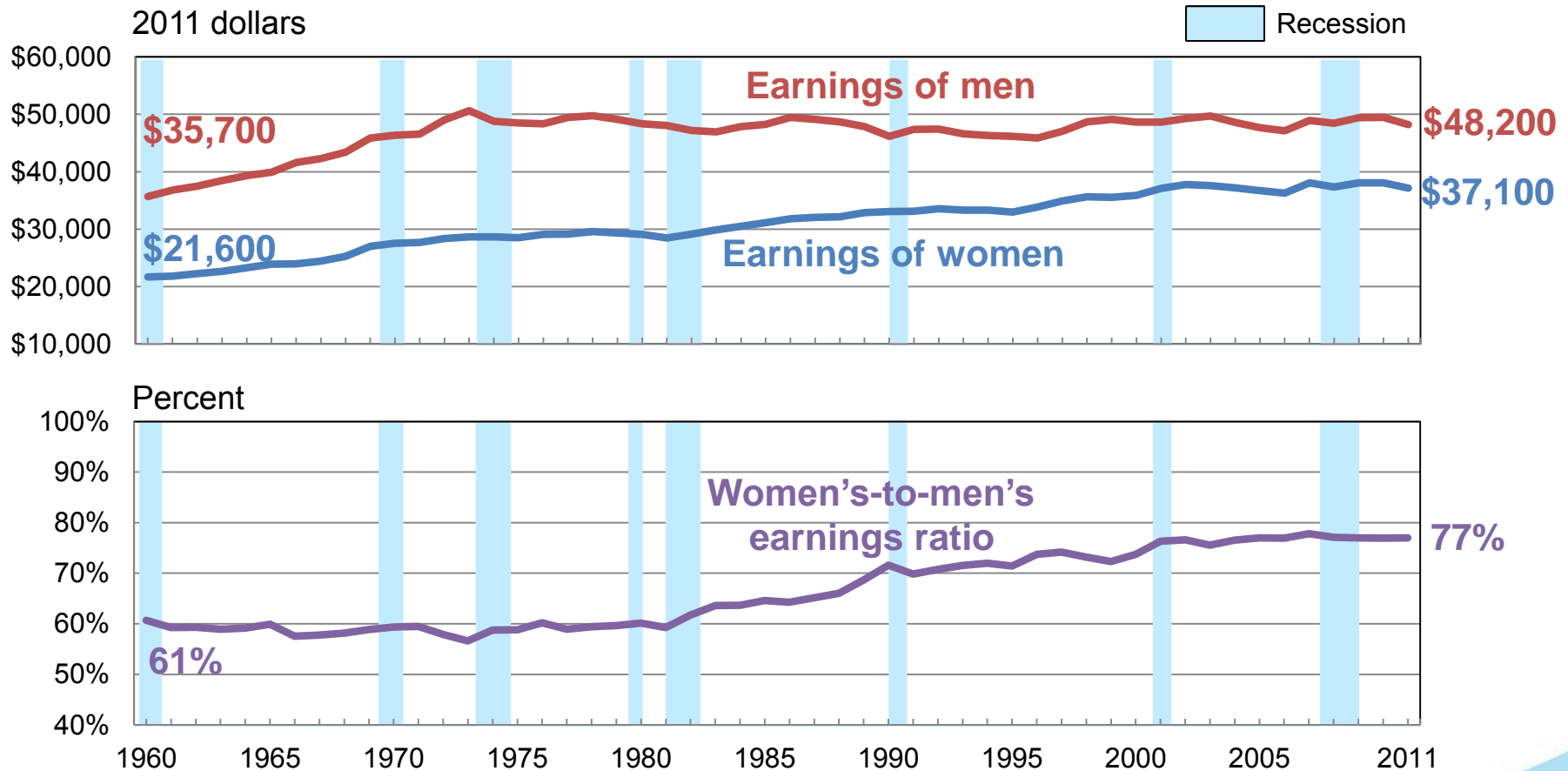


Note: Change in data collection methodology in 1993.

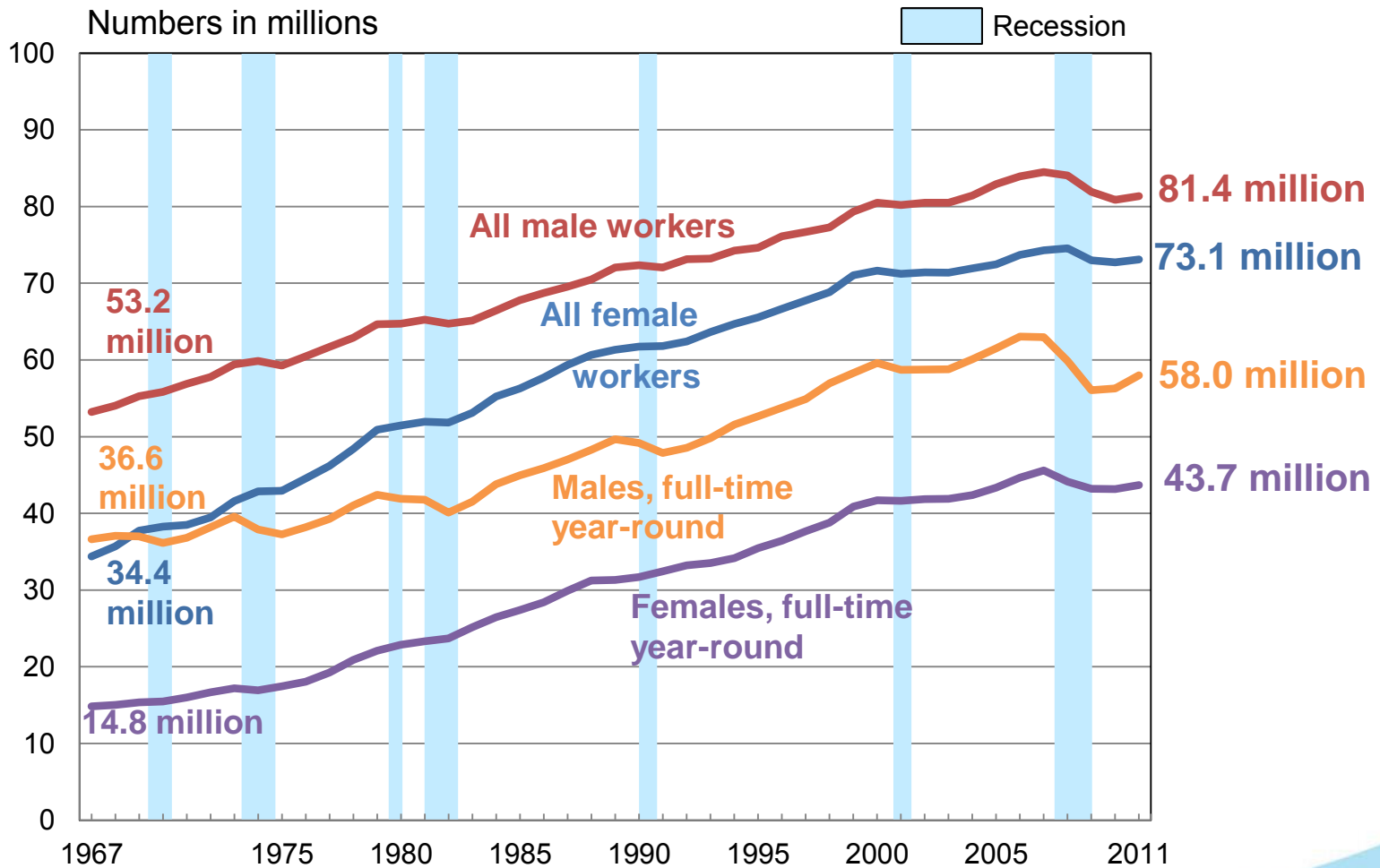
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 1968 to 2012 Annual Social and Economic Supplements.

# Real Median Earnings and Women's-to-Men's Earnings Ratio: 1960 to 2011

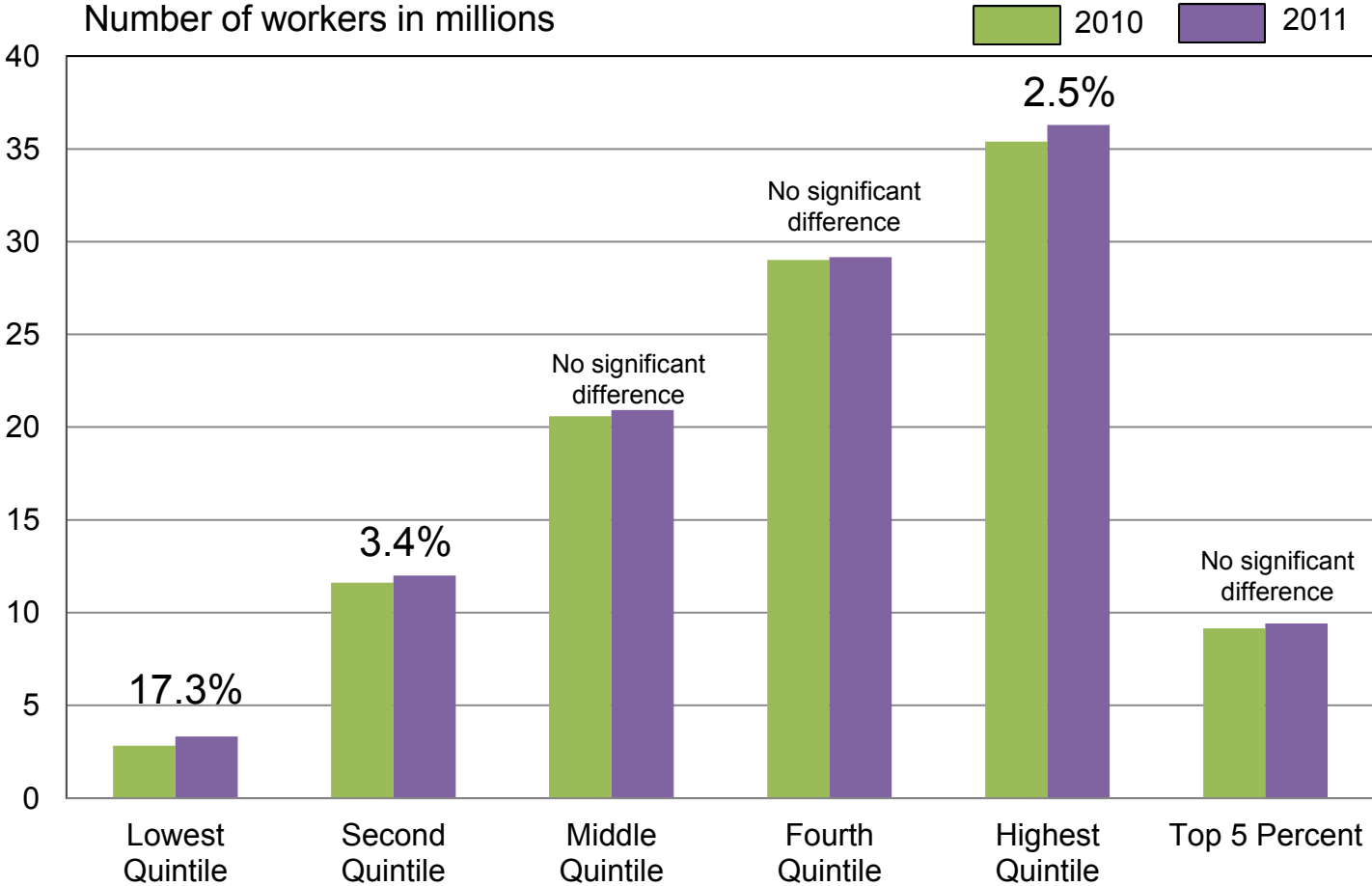
(Full-time, year-round workers)



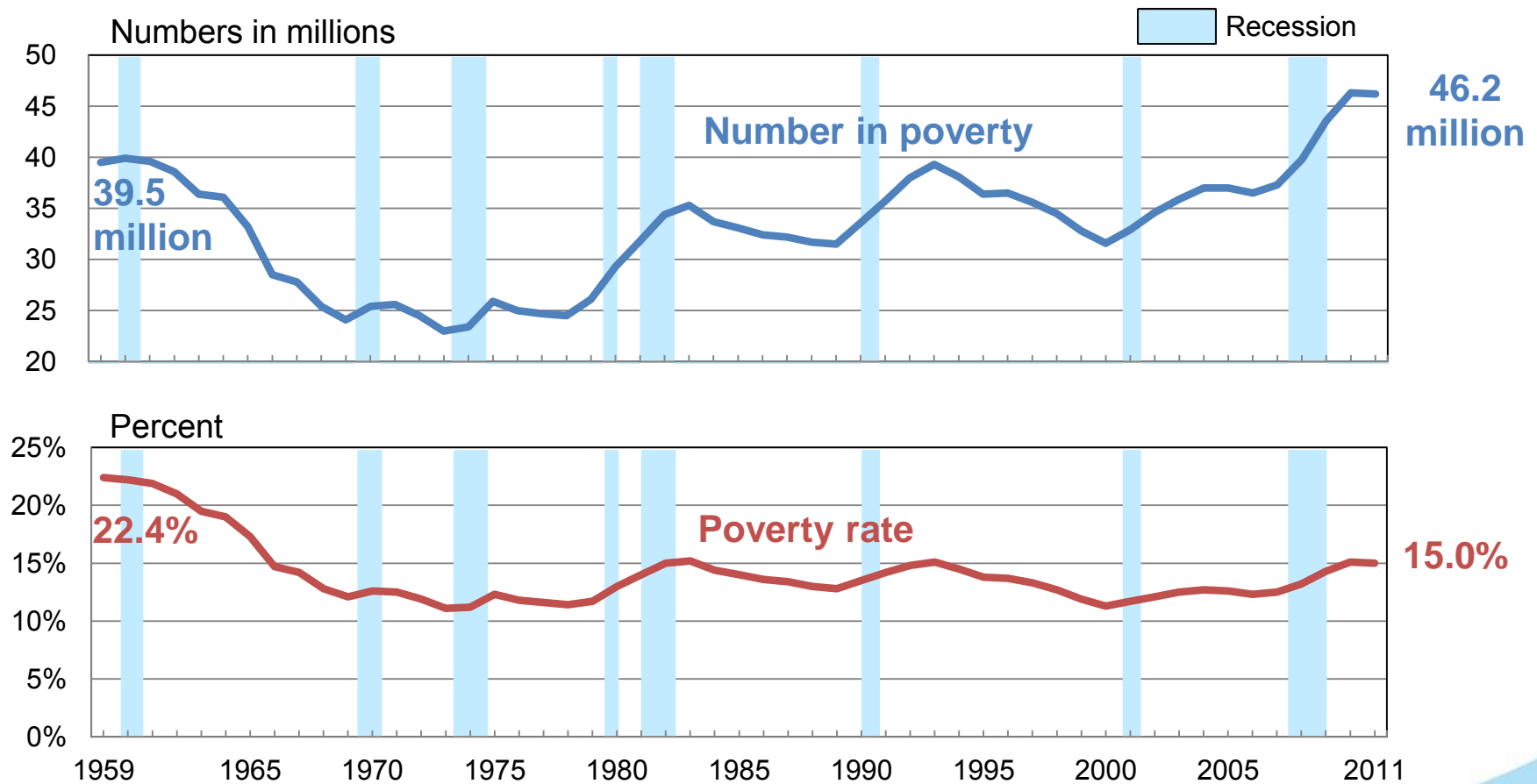
# Total and Full-Time, Year-Round Workers With Earnings by Sex: 1967 to 2011



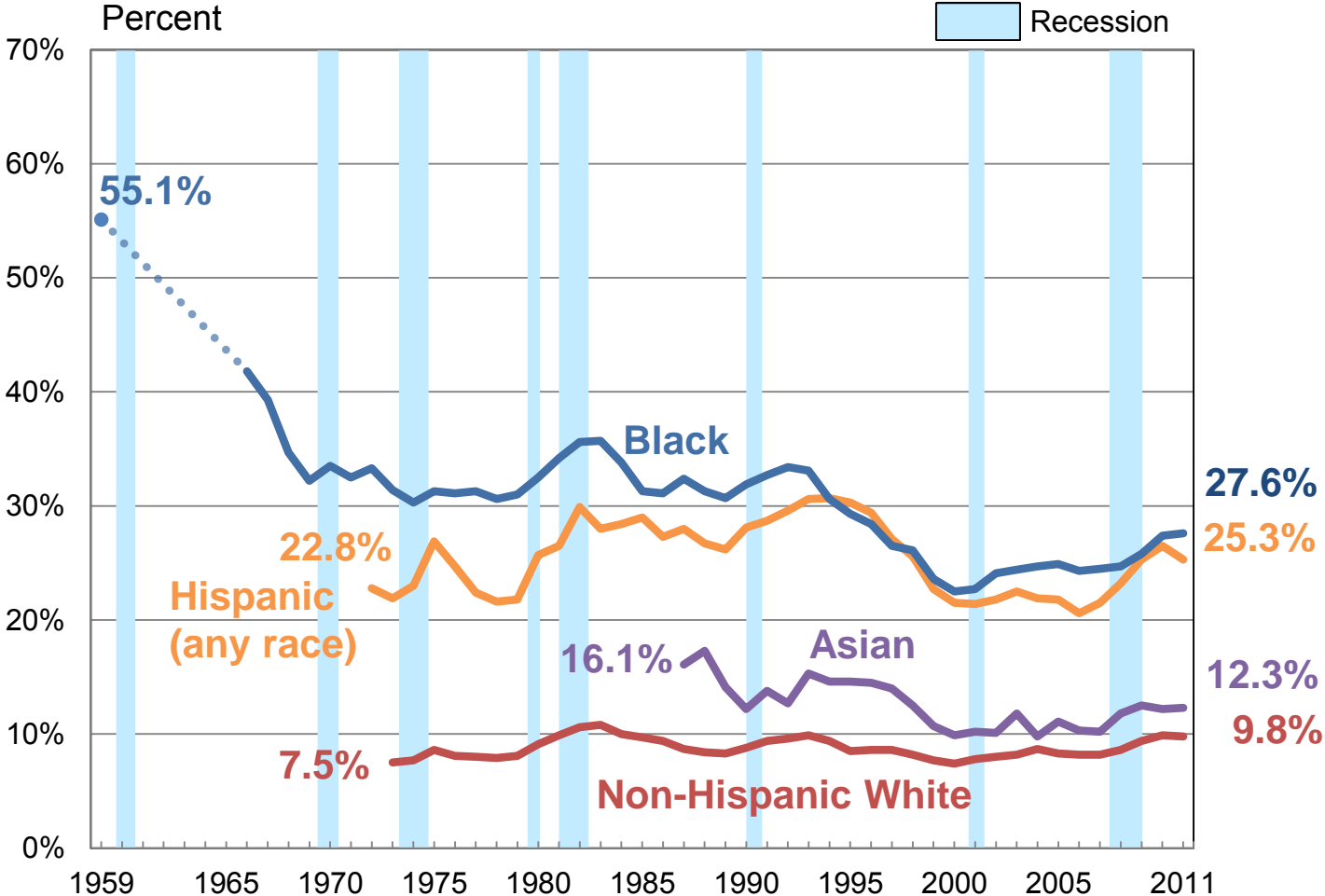
# Year-Round, Full-Time Workers by Quintile: 2010 and 2011



# Poverty Rate and Number in Poverty: 1959 to 2011



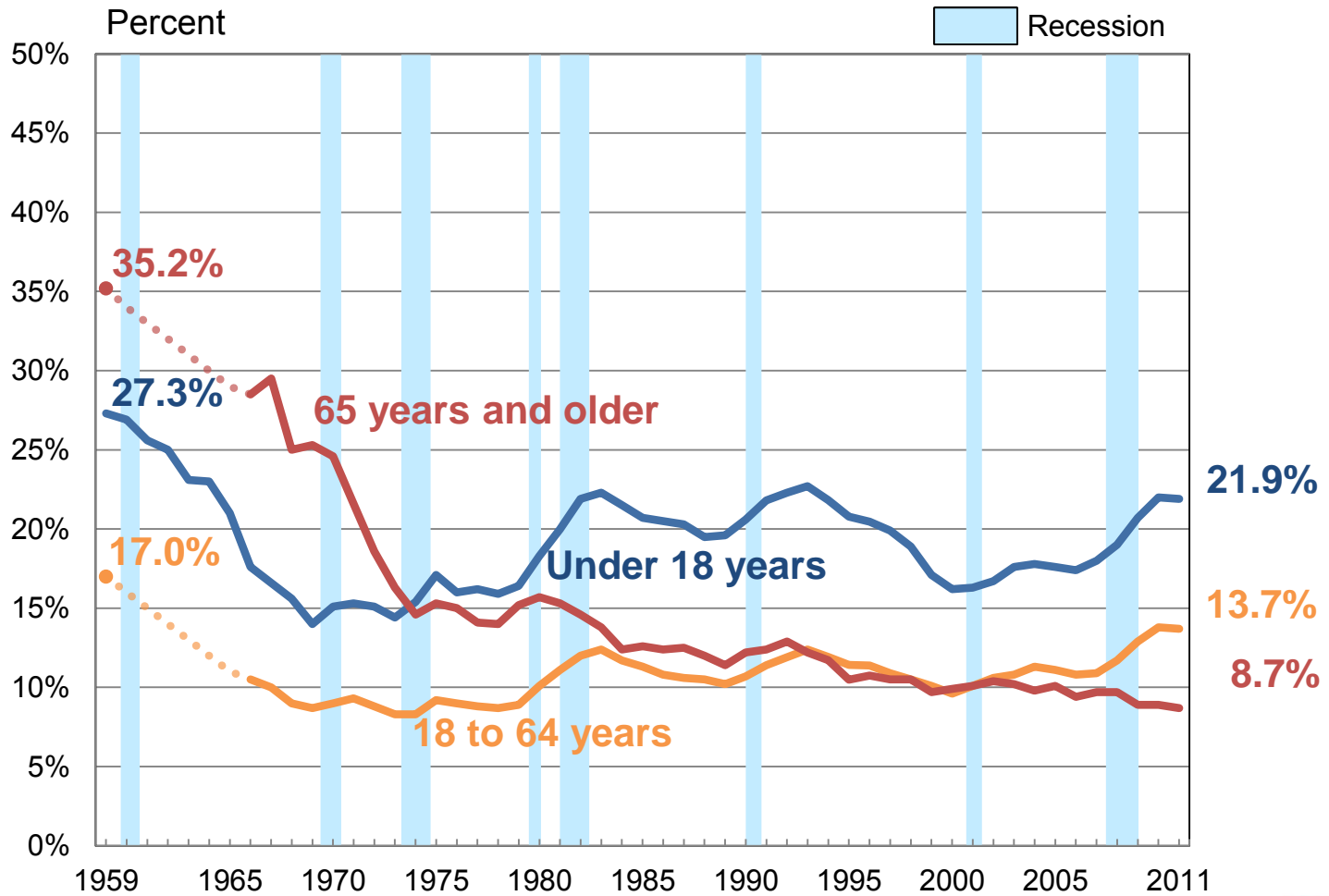
# Poverty Rates by Race and Hispanic Origin: 1959 to 2011



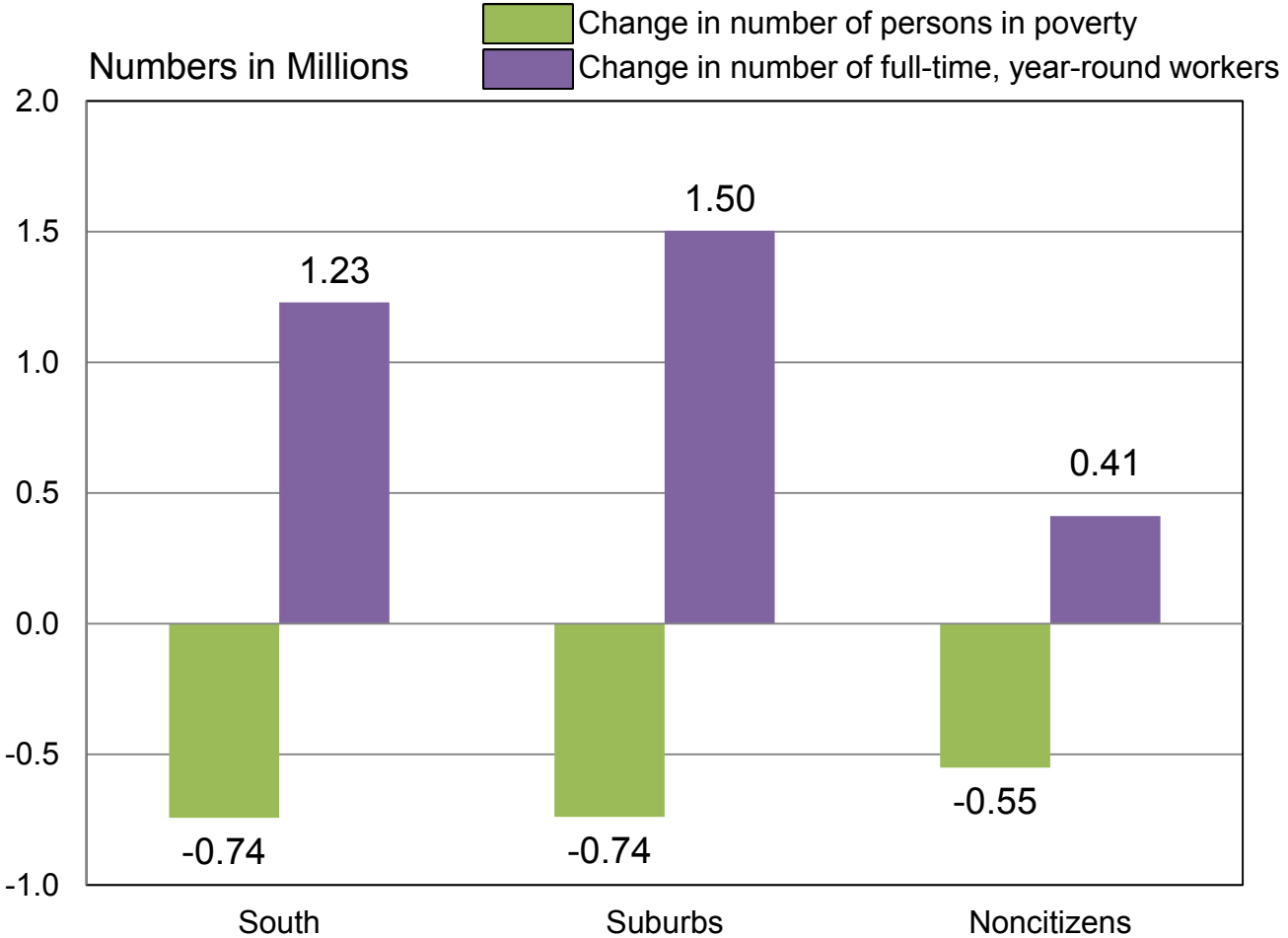
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 1960 to 2012 Annual Social and Economic Supplements.



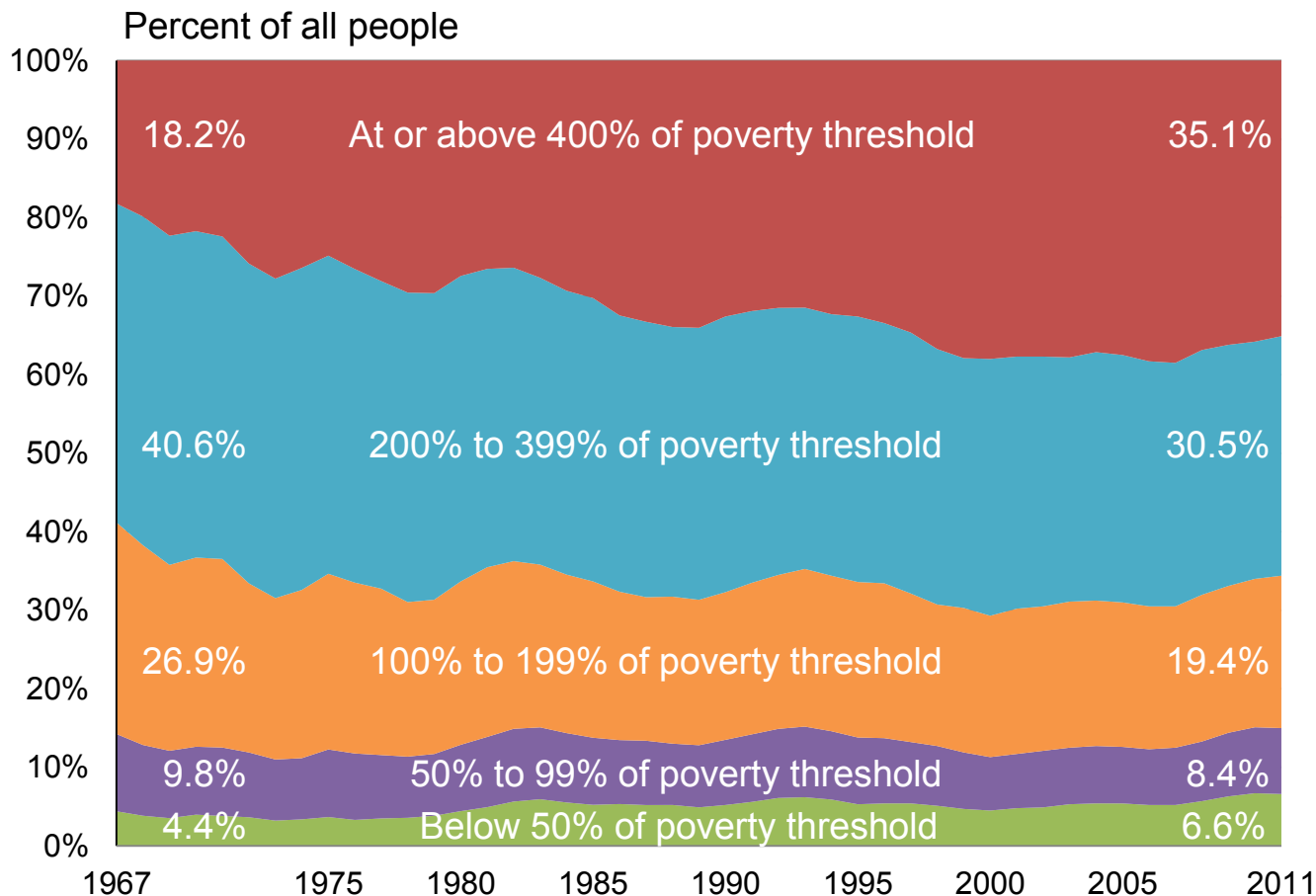
# Poverty Rates by Age: 1959 to 2011



# Change in Number of Persons in Poverty Compared to Change in Full-time, Year-Round Workers: 2010 to 2011



# People With Income Below Specified Ratio of Their Poverty Thresholds: 1967 to 2011



# Supplemental Poverty Measure (SPM)

## Observations from the Interagency Technical Working Group - March 2, 2010

- Will not replace the official poverty measure
- Will not be used for resource allocation or program eligibility
- Census Bureau and BLS responsible for improving and updating the measure
- Continued research and improvement
- Based on NAS panel 1995 recommendations

### The Research SUPPLEMENTAL POVERTY MEASURE: 2010

Issued November 2011

Consumer Income

P60-241

#### INTRODUCTION

The current official poverty measure was developed in the early 1960s, and only a few minor changes have been implemented since it was first adopted in 1969 (Orshansky, 1963, 1965a, 1965b; Fisher, 1992). This measure consists of a set of thresholds for families of different sizes and compositions that are compared to before-tax cash income to determine a family's poverty status. At the time they were developed, the official poverty thresholds represented the cost of a minimum diet multiplied by three (to allow for expenditures on other goods and services).

Concerns about the adequacy of the official measure have increased during the past decade (Ruggles, 1990), culminating in a congressional appropriation in 1990 for an independent scientific study of the concepts, measurement methods, and information needs for a poverty measure. In response, the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) established the Panel on Poverty and Family Assistance, which released its report titled *Measuring Poverty: A New Approach* in the spring of 1995, (Citro and Michael, 1995). Based on its assessment of the weaknesses of the current poverty measure, this NAS panel of experts recommended having a measure that better reflects contemporary social and economic realities and government policy. In their report, the NAS panel identified several major weaknesses of the current poverty measure.

- The current income measure does not reflect the effects of key government

policies that alter the disposable income available to families and, hence, their poverty status. Examples include payroll taxes, which reduce disposable income, and in-kind public benefit programs such as the Food Stamp Program/Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) that free up resources to spend on nonfood items.

- The current poverty thresholds do not adjust for rising levels and standards of living that have occurred since 1965. The official thresholds were approximately equal to half of median income in 1963-64. By 1992, one half median income had increased to more than 120 percent of the official threshold.
- The current measure does not take into account variation in expenses that are necessary to hold a job and to earn income—expenses that reduce disposable income. These expenses include transportation costs for getting to work and the increasing costs of child care for working families resulting from increased labor force participation of mothers.
- The current measure does not take into account variation in medical costs across population groups depending on differences in health status and insurance coverage and does not account for rising health care costs as a share of family budgets.
- The current poverty thresholds use family size adjustments that are

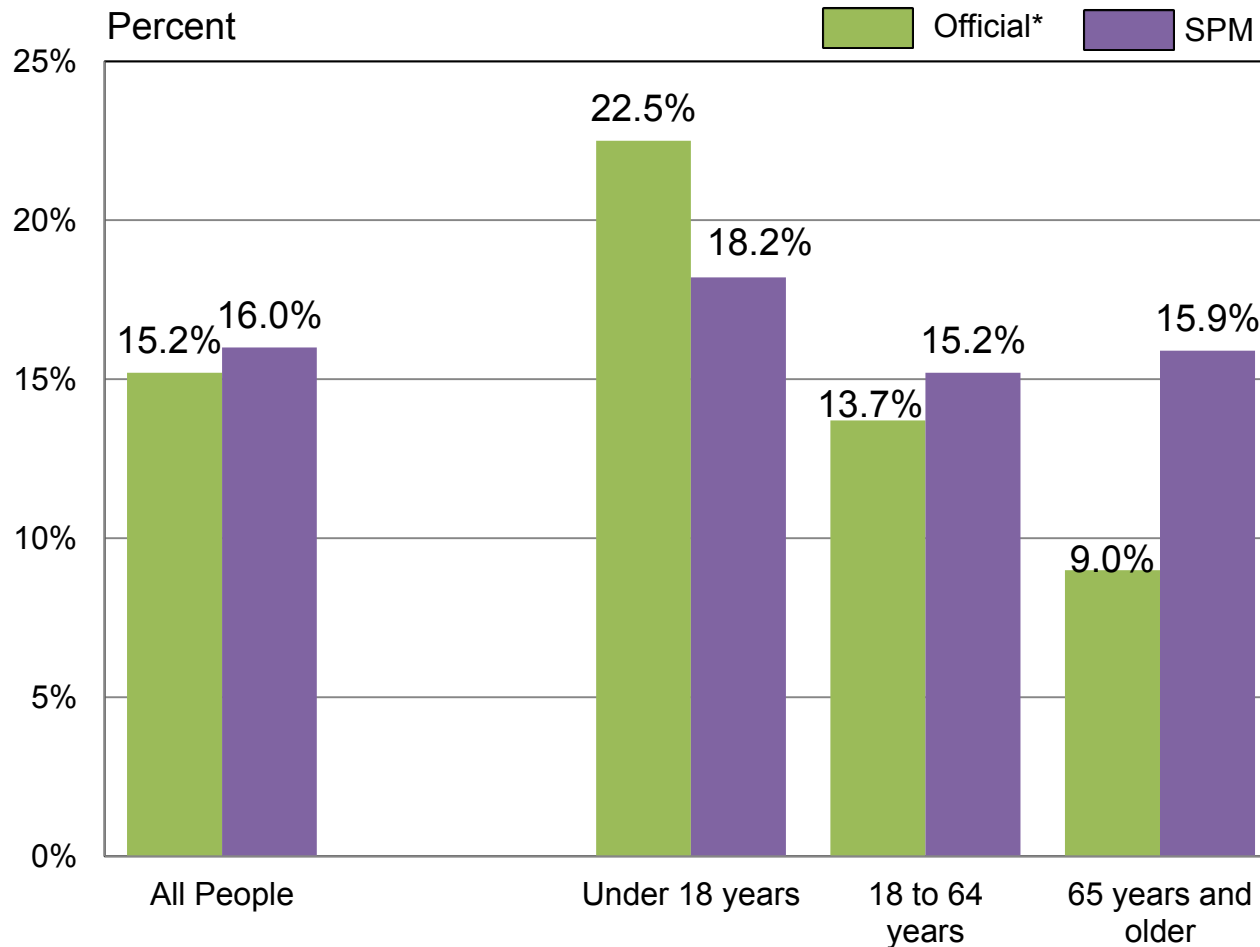
#### Current Population Reports

By Kathleen Short

United States<sup>™</sup>  
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# Comparison of SPM and Official Poverty Estimates: 2010

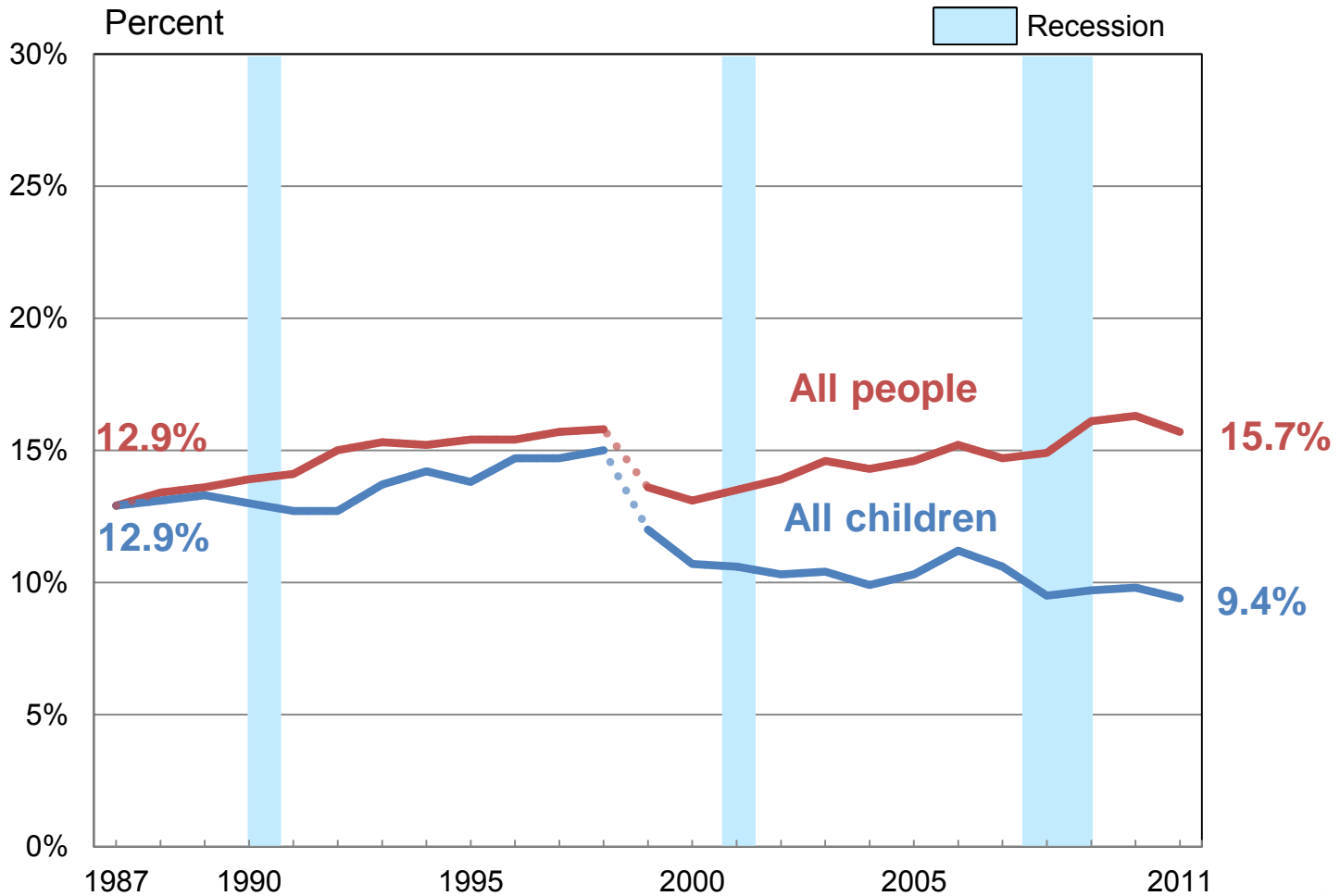


# Change in the Number of People Below Their Poverty Threshold Using Alternative Resource Measures: 2011

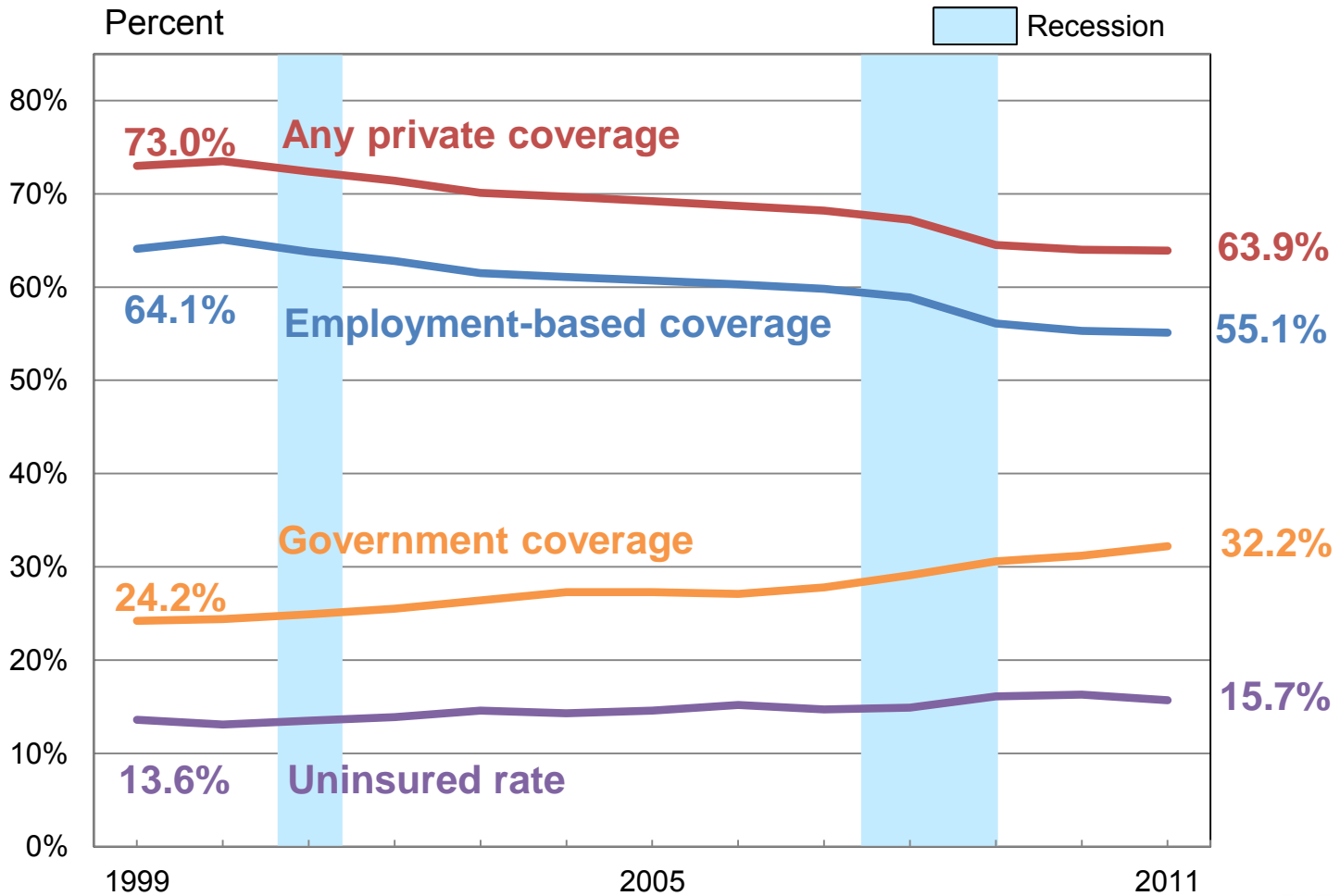
Numbers in millions

Alternative resource measures	All people	Children under 18	Adults 18 to 64	Adults 65 and older
Money income plus SNAP (food stamps)	-3.9	-1.7	-1.9	-0.3
Money income after the federal earned income tax credit	-5.7	-3.1	-2.6	-
Money income less Unemployment Insurance Benefits	+2.3	+0.6	+1.6	+0.1
Money income less Social Security income	+21.4	+1.1	+5.8	+14.5

# People Without Health Insurance Coverage: 1987 to 2011

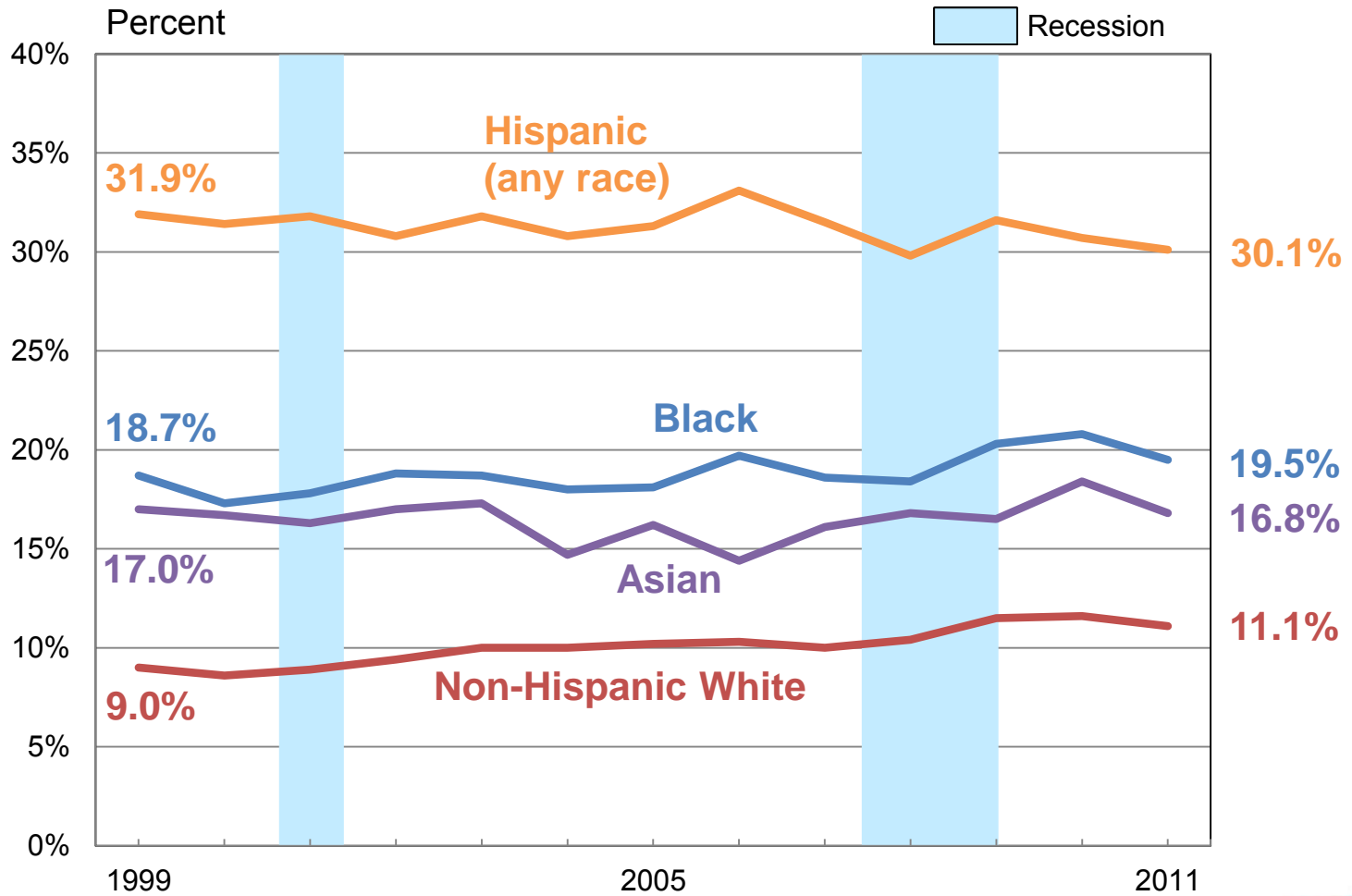


# People by Type of Health Insurance Coverage: 1999 to 2011

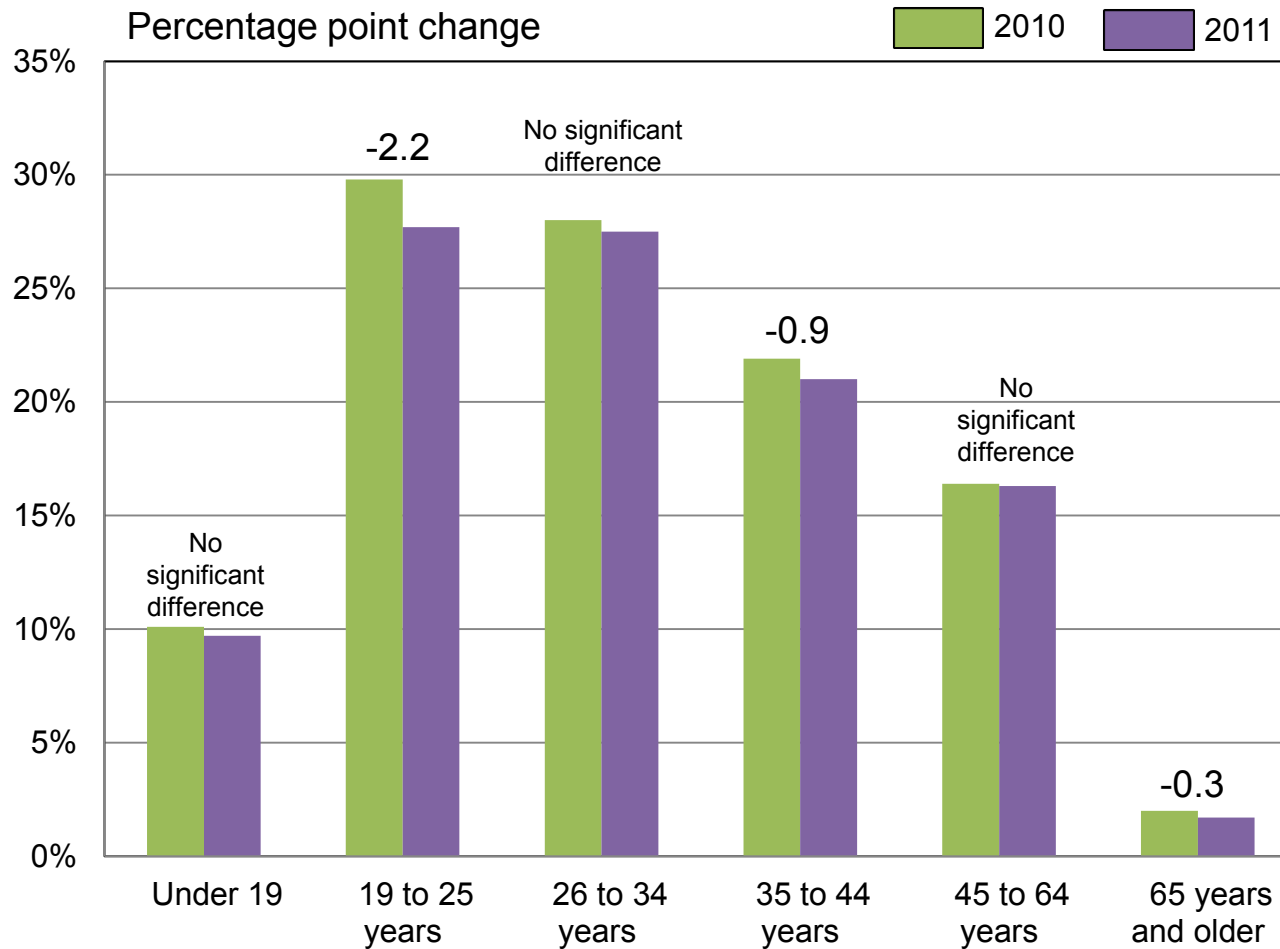




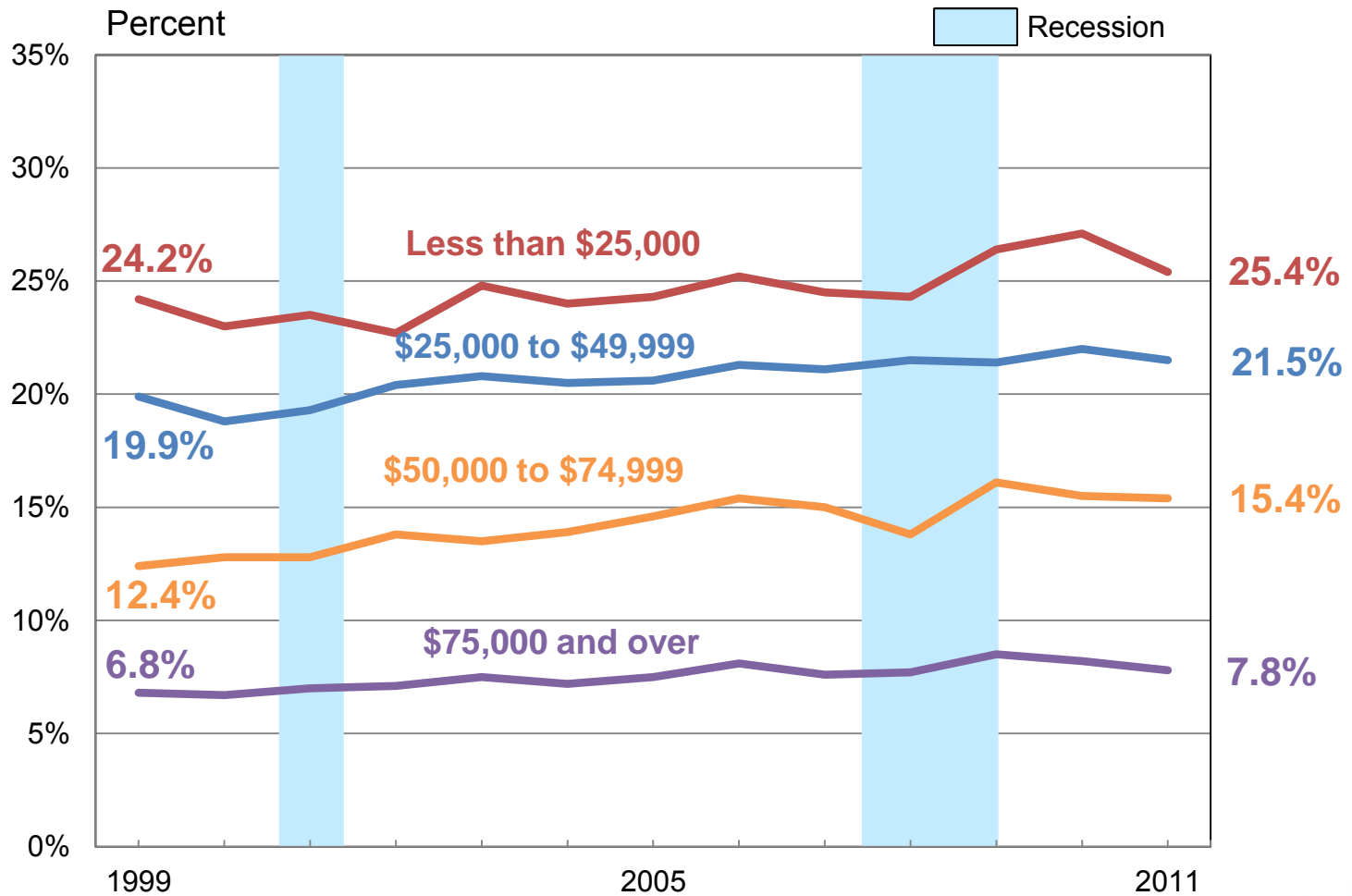
# Uninsured Rates by Race and Hispanic Origin: 1999 to 2011



# Uninsured Rates by Age: 2010 and 2011

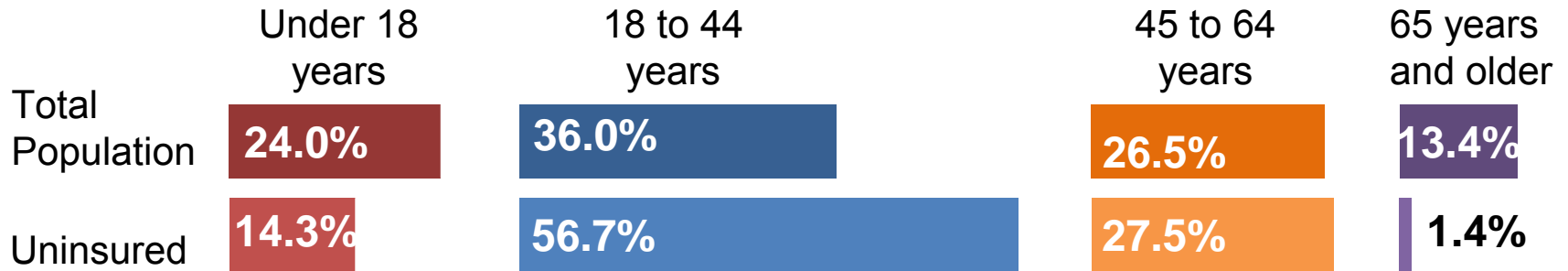


# Uninsured Rates for All People by Real Household Income: 1999 to 2011



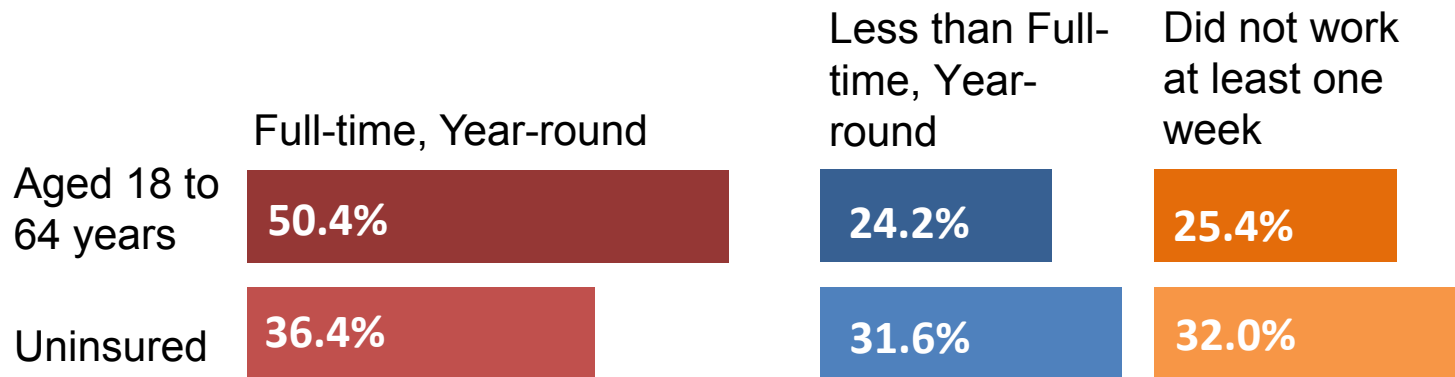
# Age Distribution of the Total Population and the Uninsured: 2011

Percent



# Distribution of Working Status of Those Aged 18 to 64 Years: 2011

Percent



# Questions?

# Upcoming Releases

## American Community Survey (ACS)

September 17	Webinar on the 2011 ACS One-Year Estimates
September 20	ACS One-Year Estimates
October 25	ACS Three-Year Estimates (2009-2011)
December 6	ACS Five-Year Estimates (2007-2011)

## Other Releases

October	Health Status, Health Insurance, and Medical Services Utilization: 2010
November 13	Supplemental Poverty Measure: 2011
December	Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates: 2011

U.S. Census Bureau  
Public Information Office  
301-763-3030

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Random Samplings

<http://blogs.census.gov>



