

# Poverty Dynamics: 2017–2019

## Current Population Reports

By Lewis Warren and Alexander Tettenhorst  
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### INTRODUCTION

Historically, poverty status has most often been measured over the course of a year using annual income data. However, recent events like the COVID-19 pandemic have highlighted the need for subannual poverty estimates to capture large changes in poverty between months. To examine monthly poverty dynamics, this report uses data from the U.S. Census Bureau's 2018–2020 Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP).

Unlike other Census Bureau surveys (such as the Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplement [CPS ASEC] and the American Community Survey [ACS]) that provide annual measures, the SIPP captures both income and family dynamics on a monthly basis. Additionally, the SIPP is a longitudinal survey that follows respondents over multiple calendar years, allowing for the examination of individual monthly poverty dynamics across years. The 2018–2020 SIPP files provide poverty data for reference years 2017–2019 since each SIPP interview collects income and family dynamics over the previous calendar year.

This report provides monthly, annual, episodic, and chronic poverty rates for the 2017–2019 period.<sup>1</sup> Monthly poverty rates can provide insight into changes in poverty within a year or over multiple years, while annual poverty rates provide insight into changes in

<sup>1</sup> The Census Bureau has reviewed this data product to ensure appropriate access, use, and disclosure avoidance protection of the confidential source data used to produce this product (Data Management System [DMS] number: D-0000004561, Disclosure Review Board [DRB] approval number: CBDRB-FY22-SEHSD003-025).

### WHAT IS SIPP?

The Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP) is a nationally representative panel survey administered by the U.S. Census Bureau that collects information on the short-term dynamics of employment, income, household composition, and eligibility for and participation in government assistance programs. SIPP is a leading source of information on specific topics related to economic well-being, family dynamics, education, wealth and assets, health insurance, childcare, and food security. Each SIPP panel follows individuals for several years, providing monthly data that measure changes in household and family composition and economic circumstances over time. For more information, please visit the SIPP website at <[www.census.gov/sipp](http://www.census.gov/sipp)>.

poverty over multiple years. Episodic measures utilize the longitudinal nature of SIPP to examine the share of individuals experiencing monthly poverty for at least 2 consecutive months over the 36-month reference period, while chronic poverty measures examine the share of individuals who were in poverty for each of the 36 months.

The poverty statistics used in this report are for the Official Poverty Measure and adhere to the standards specified by the Office of Management and Budget's Statistical Policy Directive 14. The Census Bureau uses a set of money income thresholds that vary by family size and composition to determine who is in poverty.

If a family's total pretax cash income is less than that family's threshold in a given reference month, then that family and every member in it are considered to be in monthly poverty. SIPP poverty thresholds are updated each reference month to account for changes in the cost of living using the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U). They do not vary geographically.

## RESULTS

Figure 1 displays monthly poverty rates for 2017-2019.<sup>2</sup> At the start of the series in January 2017, the

<sup>2</sup> Additional detail available in Appendix Table 1.

## POVERTY MEASURES USED IN THIS REPORT

**Annual poverty rate:** Percentage of individuals who were in poverty in a calendar year.

**Monthly poverty rate:** Percentage of individuals in poverty in a calendar month.

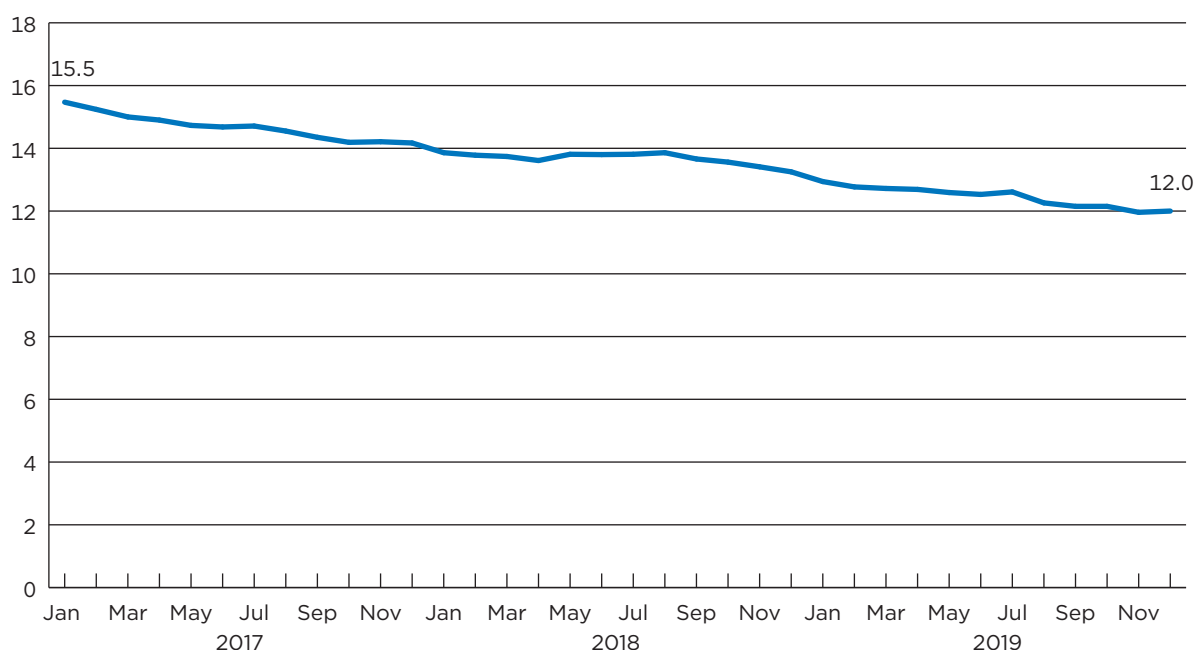
**Episodic poverty rate:** Percentage of individuals who were in monthly poverty for 2 or more consecutive months of a given period (36 months for this report).

**Chronic poverty rate:** Percentage of individuals who were in monthly poverty for every month of a given period (36 months for this report).

monthly poverty rate was 15.5 percent, and it declined 3.5 percentage points to

12.0 percent by the end of the series in December 2019.

Figure 1.  
**Monthly Poverty Rate: 2017-2019**  
(In percent)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2018-2020 Survey of Income and Program Participation.

Figure 2 displays monthly poverty rates by age group for 2017–2019.<sup>3</sup> The monthly poverty rate for children (under the age of 18) was 21.7 percent in January 2017, and declined 5.2 percent-age points to 16.4 percent by

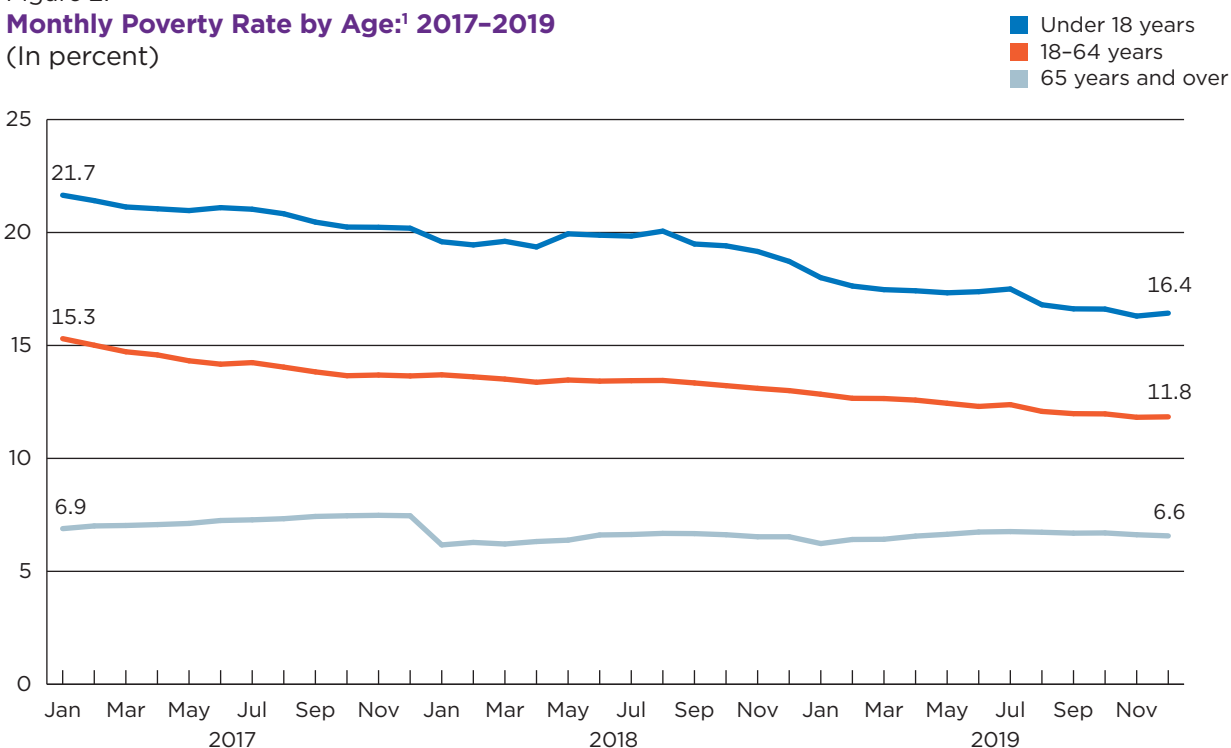
<sup>3</sup> Additional detail available in Appendix Table 1.

December 2019.<sup>4</sup> For adults aged 18–64, the monthly poverty rate in January 2017 was 15.3 percent, which declined by 3.5 percent-age points over the series to 11.8 percent. Those aged 65 and over had a monthly poverty rate of 6.9 percent in January 2017, which

<sup>4</sup> Calculated differences throughout this report may differ due to rounding.

was not statistically different from their 6.6 percent rate at the end of the series in December 2019. As these results indicate, the decline in the overall poverty rate was largely driven by declines in poverty rates for children and adults aged 18–64.

Figure 2.  
**Monthly Poverty Rate by Age:<sup>1</sup> 2017–2019**  
(In percent)



<sup>1</sup> Age as of reference month.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2018–2020 Survey of Income and Program Participation.

Figure 3 displays monthly poverty rates by race and Hispanic origin for 2017–2019.<sup>5, 6</sup> The monthly

<sup>4</sup> Federal surveys give respondents the option of reporting more than one race. Therefore, two basic ways of defining a race group are possible. A group, such as Asian, may be defined as those who reported Asian and no other race (the race-alone or single-race concept) or as those who reported Asian regardless of whether they also reported another race (the race-alone-or-in-combination concept). The body of this report (text and figures) shows data using the first approach (race alone).

<sup>5</sup> Hispanics may be any race; data in this report for Hispanics overlap data for racial groups. Data users should exercise caution when interpreting aggregate results for these groups because they consist of many distinct subgroups that differ in socioeconomic characteristics, culture, and recency of immigration.

poverty rate was 11.6 percent for non-Hispanic Whites in January 2017, and declined 3.0 percentage points to 8.6 percent in December 2019. The monthly poverty rate for Blacks declined from 24.7 percent in January 2017 to 19.8 percent in December 2019. The monthly poverty rate of Asians dropped from 13.5 percent in January 2017 to 9.4 percent in December 2019. The monthly poverty rate for the Hispanic population dropped from 22.1 percent to 18.1 percent from 2017 to 2019. Annual SIPP poverty rates are calculated for respondents with 12 monthly poverty

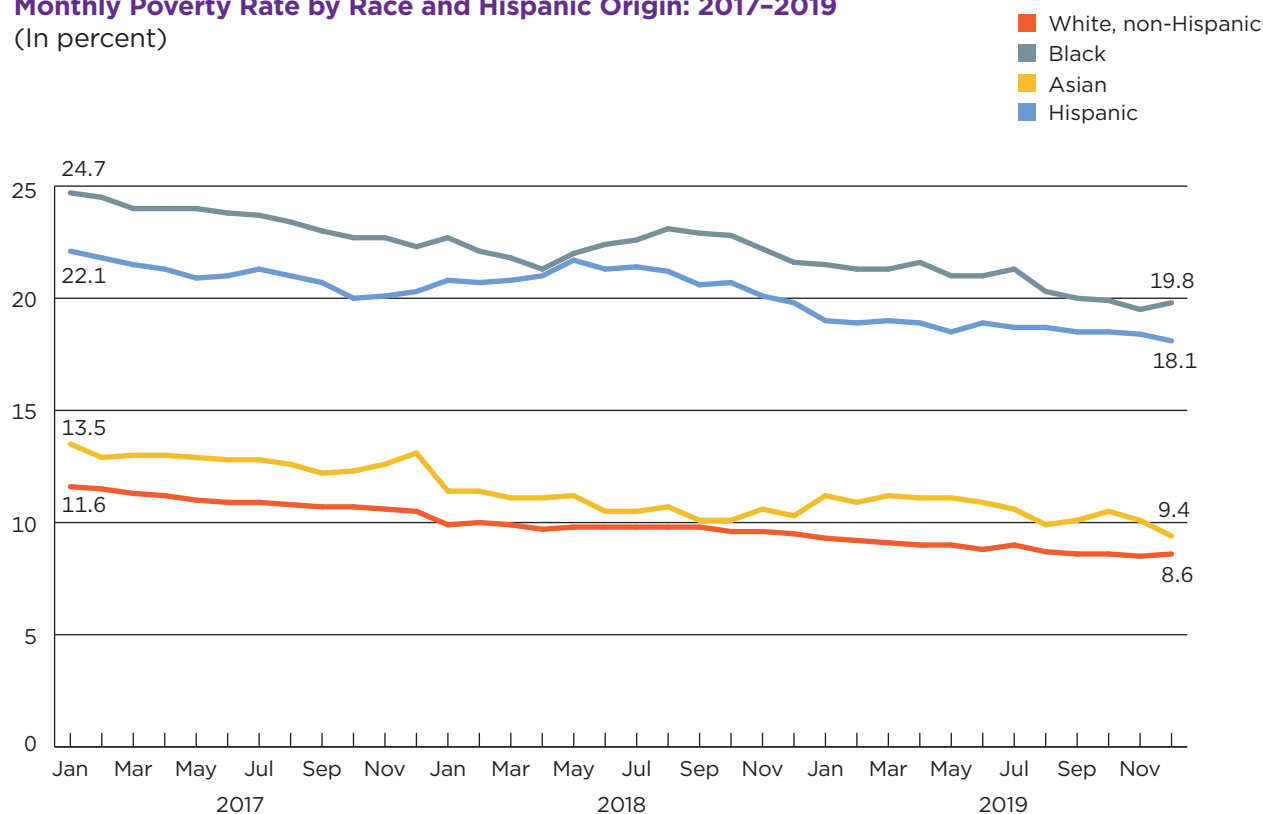
thresholds across a calendar year.<sup>7</sup> Annual poverty rates are displayed in Figure 4.<sup>8</sup> The overall annual poverty rates declined from 13.7 percent in 2017 to 12.4 percent in 2018 to 11.5 percent in 2019. The 2.3-percentage-point drop in annual poverty over the series was smaller than the 3.5-percentage-point drop in monthly poverty.

The annual poverty rate declined for most demographic groups

<sup>7</sup> Note that monthly poverty and annual poverty have different universes.

<sup>8</sup> Additional demographics available in Appendix Table 2.

Figure 3.  
**Monthly Poverty Rate by Race and Hispanic Origin: 2017–2019**  
(In percent)



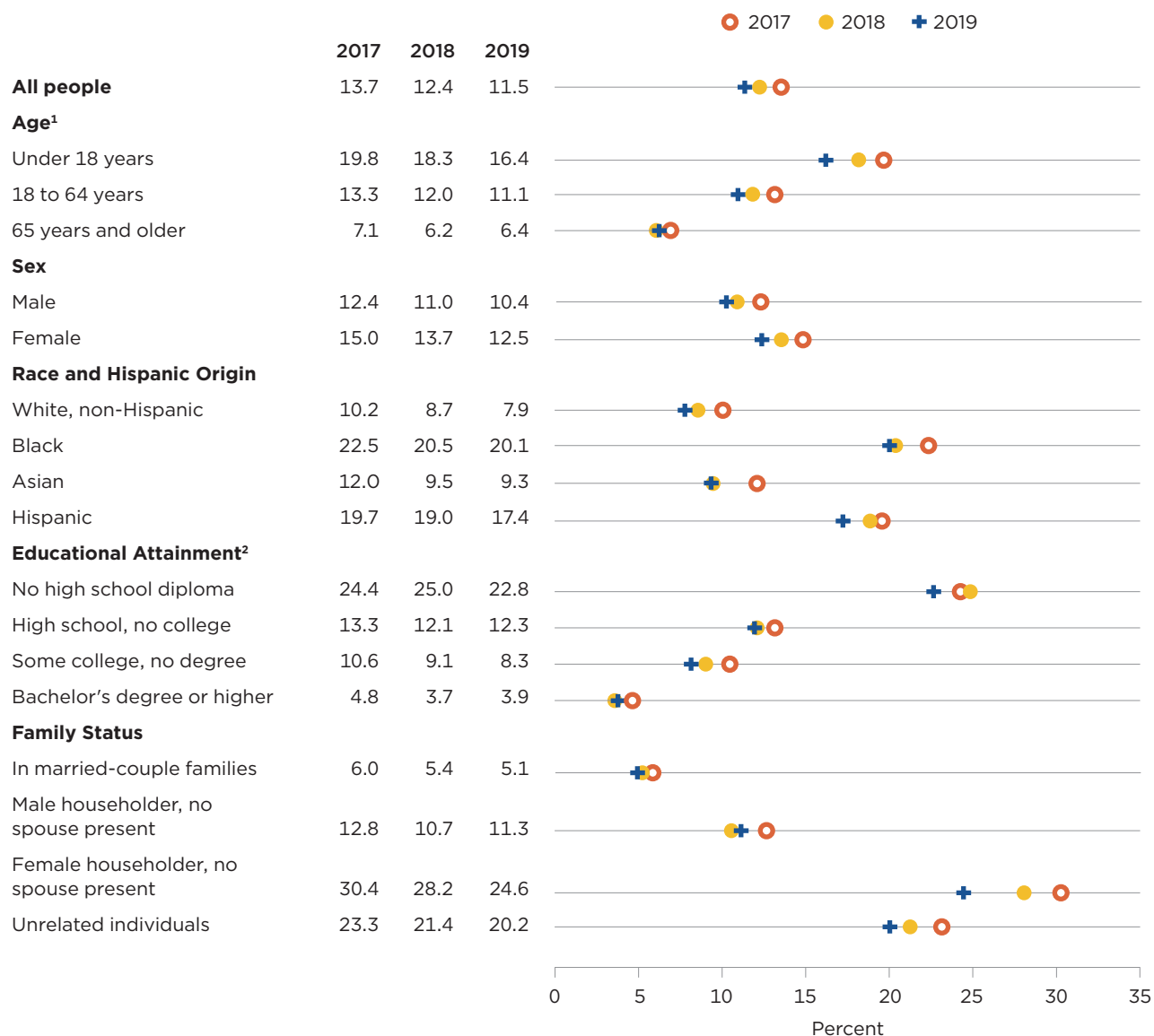
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2018–2020 Survey of Income and Program Participation.

from 2017 to 2019. The annual poverty rates for all major age categories: children, adults aged 18–64, and adults aged 65 and over all decreased from 2017 to

2019. Similarly, annual poverty rates for both men and women, as well as all race/ethnicity groups shown in Figure 4, declined from 2017 to 2019.

Looking at annual poverty rates by educational attainment for individuals aged 25 and older, annual poverty rates in 2017 were highest for individuals with no

Figure 4.  
**Annual Poverty Rates: 2017–2019**



<sup>1</sup> Age as of December of reference year.

<sup>2</sup> Data on educational attainment are limited to individuals aged 25 and older for this report.  
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2018–2020 Survey of Income and Program Participation.

high school diploma (24.4 percent) and remained the highest in 2019 (22.8 percent), but the change between 2017 and 2019 was not statistically significant. Annual poverty rates were lowest among individuals with a bachelor's degree or higher in both 2017 (4.8 percent) and 2019 (3.9 percent). Annual poverty rates decreased between 2017 and 2019 for all educational attainment groups except those without a high school diploma.

Finally, comparing poverty rates by family type, annual poverty rates for individuals in married-couple families were the lowest, declining from 6.0 percent in 2017 to 5.1 percent in 2019. Annual poverty rates also decreased between 2017 and 2019 for individuals in families with a female householder but no spouse present and unrelated individuals. There was not a statistically significant difference between the poverty rates of individuals in families with a male householder without a spouse present from 2017 to 2019.

While monthly poverty rates provide valuable insight into changes in poverty within a year, the rates themselves are not intended to provide insight into the frequency with which individuals experience poverty or the persistence of their poverty. In other words, monthly poverty rates provide insight into the share of Americans experiencing poverty in a given month, while not providing insight into the share of Americans who were in poverty for multiple months. As a longitudinal survey, SIPP can provide this insight.

Figure 5 provides estimates of episodic and chronic poverty over the 2017–2019 period.<sup>9</sup> This report defines episodic poverty as being in poverty for 2 consecutive months over the 36-month period from 2017–2019. Overall, 27.1 percent of individuals experienced an episodic poverty spell over the period, meaning that their family income was less than their poverty threshold for 2 consecutive months. This compared to 3.3 percent of individuals who experienced chronic poverty, meaning that their family income was less than their poverty threshold for all 36 months.

Children were more likely to experience both episodic and chronic poverty, with 35.1 percent of children experiencing an episodic poverty spell of at least 2 consecutive months over the period; 5.5 percent of children were in chronic poverty, meaning they were in monthly poverty all 36 months over the 2017–2019 period. Over the period, 27.6 percent of adults aged 18–64 experienced an episodic poverty spell, while 2.8 percent experienced chronic poverty. Those aged 65 and over were less likely to experience episodic poverty (15.2 percent) than other age groups during the period, however the chronic poverty rates for adults aged 18 to 64 and adults aged 65 and over were not significantly different.

Males were less likely to experience both episodic and chronic poverty than females. An estimated 25.3 percent of males and 28.7 percent of females experienced episodic poverty, and 2.6

percent of men and 3.9 percent of women experienced chronic poverty during the period.

Examining episodic and chronic poverty by race and Hispanic origin over the 2017–2019 period shows that 19.9 percent of non-Hispanic Whites experienced an episodic spell, while 2.1 percent were in chronic poverty. Blacks had higher rates of episodic and chronic poverty than all other races, with 42.4 percent experiencing an episodic spell and 6.4 percent were in chronic poverty. Of Asians, 25.2 percent experienced an episodic spell, while 1.6 percent were in chronic poverty. For Hispanics, 40.3 percent experienced an episodic spell during the period, while 5.7 percent were in chronic poverty.

Episodic and chronic poverty rates varied largely by educational attainment for individuals aged 25 and older. Individuals without a high school diploma were most likely to experience both episodic and chronic poverty during this period—47.0 percent experienced an episodic poverty spell, and 9.5 percent were in chronic poverty. Higher educated groups had lower episodic and chronic poverty rates. Those with a bachelor's degree or higher were the least likely to experience either episodic or chronic poverty, with 13.4 percent being in episodic poverty and 0.5 percent being in chronic poverty over the period.

Examining episodic and chronic poverty by family type, married-couple families were the least likely to be in episodic or chronic poverty, with 16.8 percent experiencing episodic poverty and

<sup>9</sup> Additional detail available in Appendix Table 3.

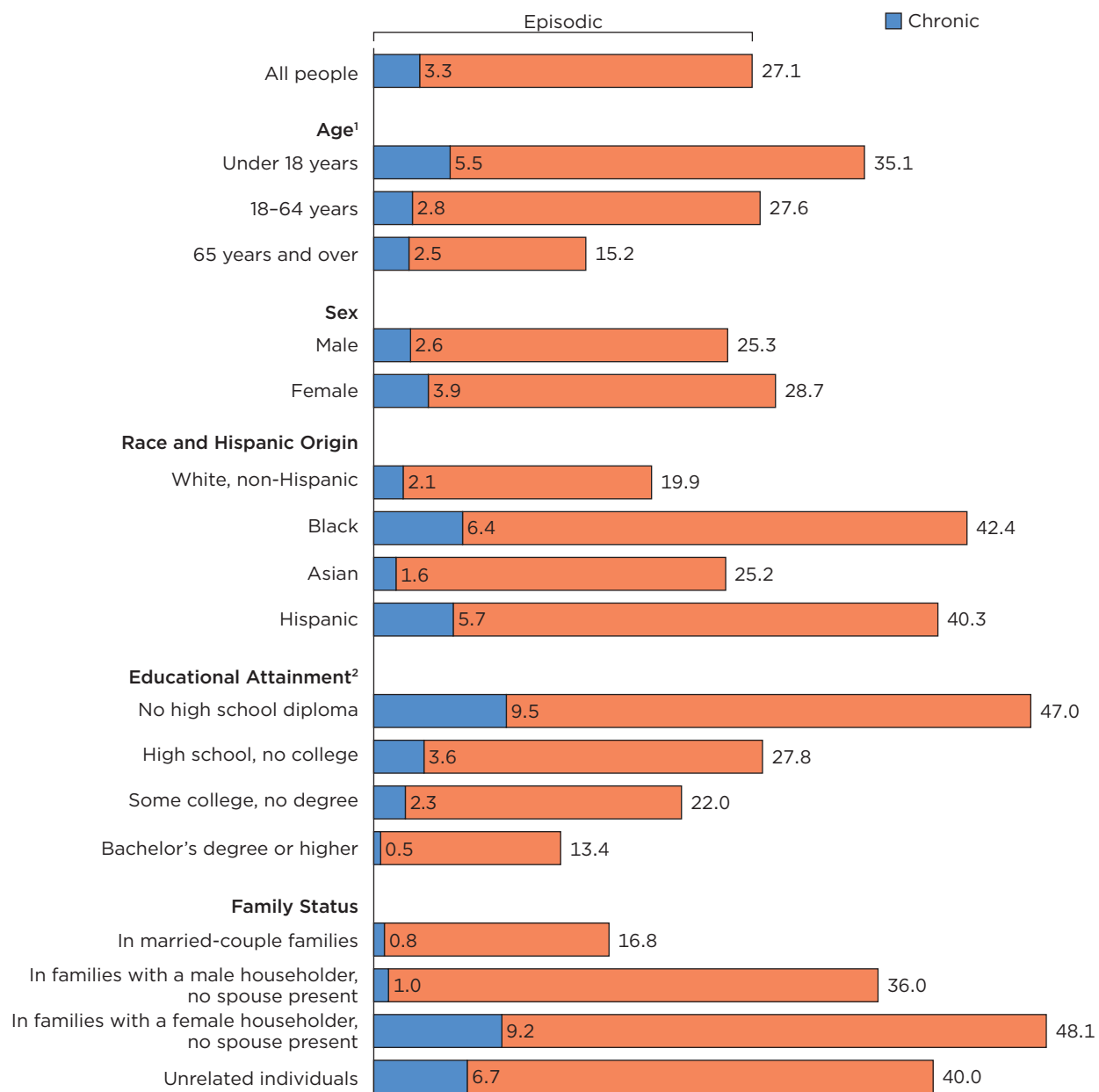
0.8 percent in chronic poverty over the period. In contrast, those in families with female householders but no spouse present were the most likely to experience episodic and chronic poverty, with

48.1 percent experiencing episodic poverty and 9.2 percent in chronic poverty over the period. For individuals in families with male householders but no spouse present, 36.0 percent were in episodic

poverty, and 1.0 percent were in chronic poverty. For unrelated individuals, 40.0 percent experienced episodic poverty, with 6.7 percent in chronic poverty over the period.

Figure 5.

### Episodic and Chronic Poverty Rates: 2017–2019



<sup>1</sup> Age as of December of 2019.

<sup>2</sup> Data on educational attainment are limited to individuals aged 25 and older for this report.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2018–2020 Survey of Income and Program Participation.

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## CONCLUSION

Monthly and annual poverty rates decreased over the 2017–2019 period, with monthly poverty rates decreasing 3.5 percentage points and annual poverty rates decreasing 2.3 percentage points (with particularly large declines in poverty rates for children). Over the 2017–2019 period, 27.1 percent of individuals were in episodic poverty, while 3.3 percent of the population was in chronic poverty. Children were more likely than other age groups to experience episodic poverty and nearly twice as likely as adults to experience chronic poverty.

Some of the largest differences in poverty were among those with different levels of education. Among adults aged 25 and older, those with no high school diploma were over three times more likely than those with a bachelor's degree to experience episodic poverty and 19 times more likely to experience chronic poverty.

## ACCURACY OF ESTIMATES

Statistics from surveys are subject to sampling and nonsampling error. All comparisons presented in this report have taken sampling error into account and are significant at the 90 percent confidence level unless otherwise noted. This means the 90 percent

confidence interval for the difference between the estimates being compared does not include zero.

Nonsampling errors in surveys may be attributed to a variety of sources such as how the survey was designed, how respondents interpret questions, how able and willing respondents are to provide correct answers, and how accurately the answers are coded and classified. To minimize these errors, the Census Bureau employs quality control procedures throughout the production process, including the overall design of surveys, wording of questions, review of the work of interviewers and coders, and the statistical review of reports.

For technical documentation and more information about SIPP data quality, please visit the SIPP website's Technical Documentation page at <[www.census.gov/programs-surveys/sipp/tech-documentation.html](http://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/sipp/tech-documentation.html)>.

## USER COMMENTS

For additional information, contact the SIPP coordination team at <[sehds.sipp.coordination.outreach.staff.list@census.gov](mailto:sehds.sipp.coordination.outreach.staff.list@census.gov)>. For further information on the content of this report, contact Lewis Warren (from the Social, Economic, and Housing Statistics

Division) at <[Lewis.H.Warren@census.gov](mailto:Lewis.H.Warren@census.gov)> or 301-763-0216, or Alexander Tettenhorst at <[Alexander.J.Tettenhorst@census.gov](mailto:Alexander.J.Tettenhorst@census.gov)> or 301-763-3828.

Refer to the following list for previous reports on poverty dynamics using the SIPP:

Mohanty, Abinash, "Monthly and Average Monthly Poverty Rates by Selected Demographic Characteristics: 2015," *Current Population Reports*, P70BR-165, U.S. Census Bureau, Washington, DC, 2019.

Mohanty, Abinash, "Dynamics of Economic Well-Being: Poverty, 2013–2016," *Current Population Reports*, P70BR-172, U.S. Census Bureau, Washington, DC, 2021.

## SUGGESTED CITATION

Warren, Lewis and Alexander Tettenhorst, "Poverty Dynamics: 2017–2019," *Current Population Reports*, P70BR-179, U.S. Census Bureau, Washington, DC, 2022.



Appendix Table 1.

**Monthly Poverty Rates, Overall and by Age: 2017-2019**

Date	Overall			Under 18 years <sup>3</sup>			18-64 years <sup>3</sup>			65 years and over <sup>3</sup>		
	Num- ber <sup>1</sup>	Percent	Mar- gin of error <sup>2</sup> (±)	Num- ber <sup>1</sup>	Percent	Mar- gin of error <sup>2</sup> (±)	Num- ber <sup>1</sup>	Percent	Mar- gin of error <sup>2</sup> (±)	Num- ber <sup>1</sup>	Percent	Mar- gin of error <sup>2</sup> (±)
January 2017 .....	318.5	15.5	0.4	72.9	21.7	0.8	196.9	15.3	0.4	48.8	6.9	0.5
February 2017 ....	318.7	15.2	0.4	72.9	21.4	0.7	196.9	15.0	0.4	48.9	7.0	0.5
March 2017 .....	318.8	15.0	0.4	72.9	21.1	0.8	196.9	14.7	0.4	49.0	7.0	0.5
April 2017 .....	319.0	14.9	0.4	72.9	21.1	0.8	196.9	14.6	0.4	49.2	7.1	0.5
May 2017 .....	319.2	14.7	0.4	72.9	21.0	0.8	197.0	14.3	0.4	49.3	7.1	0.5
June 2017 .....	319.4	14.7	0.4	72.9	21.1	0.8	197.0	14.2	0.4	49.4	7.3	0.5
July 2017 .....	319.6	14.7	0.4	73.0	21.0	0.8	197.1	14.2	0.4	49.5	7.3	0.5
August 2017 .....	319.9	14.6	0.4	73.1	20.8	0.8	197.2	14.0	0.4	49.7	7.3	0.5
September 2017 ..	320.1	14.4	0.4	73.0	20.5	0.7	197.2	13.8	0.4	49.9	7.4	0.5
October 2017 .....	320.4	14.2	0.4	73.0	20.2	0.7	197.3	13.7	0.4	50.0	7.5	0.4
November 2017 ...	320.6	14.2	0.4	73.1	20.2	0.7	197.4	13.7	0.4	50.2	7.5	0.5
December 2017 ...	320.8	14.2	0.4	73.1	20.2	0.7	197.4	13.7	0.4	50.3	7.5	0.5
January 2018 .....	321.0	13.9	0.5	72.9	19.6	1.1	197.5	13.7	0.5	50.5	6.2	0.5
February 2018 ....	321.1	13.8	0.5	72.8	19.5	1.1	197.7	13.6	0.5	50.6	6.3	0.5
March 2018 .....	321.4	13.7	0.5	72.9	19.6	1.2	197.7	13.5	0.5	50.8	6.2	0.5
April 2018 .....	321.6	13.6	0.5	72.9	19.4	1.2	197.8	13.4	0.5	50.9	6.3	0.5
May 2018 .....	321.8	13.8	0.5	72.9	19.9	1.1	197.9	13.5	0.5	51.0	6.4	0.5
June 2018 .....	322.0	13.8	0.6	73.0	19.9	1.2	197.9	13.4	0.5	51.1	6.6	0.5
July 2018 .....	322.3	13.8	0.6	73.0	19.8	1.2	198.0	13.4	0.5	51.3	6.6	0.5
August 2018 .....	322.5	13.9	0.5	73.0	20.1	1.1	198.1	13.5	0.5	51.4	6.7	0.5
September 2018 ..	322.8	13.7	0.5	73.0	19.5	1.0	198.2	13.3	0.5	51.6	6.7	0.5
October 2018 .....	323.0	13.6	0.5	73.0	19.4	1.0	198.3	13.2	0.5	51.8	6.6	0.5
November 2018 ...	323.3	13.4	0.6	73.0	19.2	1.2	198.3	13.1	0.5	51.9	6.5	0.5
December 2018 ...	323.5	13.3	0.5	73.1	18.7	1.1	198.3	13.0	0.5	52.1	6.5	0.4
January 2019 .....	322.4	12.9	0.4	72.6	18.0	1.0	197.7	12.8	0.4	52.1	6.2	0.4
February 2019 ....	322.6	12.8	0.4	72.6	17.6	1.0	197.8	12.7	0.4	52.2	6.4	0.4
March 2019 .....	322.7	12.7	0.4	72.6	17.5	1.1	197.8	12.7	0.4	52.3	6.4	0.4
April 2019 .....	322.9	12.7	0.4	72.7	17.4	1.1	197.8	12.6	0.4	52.5	6.6	0.4
May 2019 .....	323.1	12.6	0.4	72.6	17.3	1.1	197.9	12.4	0.4	52.6	6.6	0.4
June 2019 .....	323.3	12.5	0.4	72.7	17.4	1.1	197.9	12.3	0.4	52.7	6.7	0.4
July 2019 .....	323.5	12.6	0.5	72.7	17.5	1.2	198.0	12.4	0.4	52.9	6.8	0.4
August 2019 .....	323.8	12.3	0.4	72.8	16.8	1.2	197.9	12.1	0.4	53.1	6.7	0.4
September 2019 ..	324.0	12.2	0.4	72.8	16.6	1.2	197.9	12.0	0.4	53.3	6.7	0.4
October 2019 .....	324.2	12.2	0.5	72.9	16.6	1.2	197.9	12.0	0.4	53.4	6.7	0.4
November 2019 ...	324.4	12.0	0.4	72.9	16.3	1.1	198.0	11.8	0.4	53.6	6.6	0.4
December 2019 ...	324.5	12.0	0.4	72.8	16.4	1.1	198.0	11.8	0.4	53.8	6.6	0.4

<sup>1</sup> Number is the poverty universe in millions. The Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP) monthly poverty universe includes all individuals excluding children under the age of 15 that did not live with a family member aged 15 or older.

<sup>2</sup> A margin of error (MOE) is a measure of an estimate's variability. The larger the MOE in relation to the size of the estimate, the less reliable the estimate. This number, when added to and subtracted from the estimate, forms the 90 percent confidence interval.

<sup>3</sup> Age as of reference month.

Note: More information on confidentiality protection and sampling and nonsampling error is available at <[www.census.gov/programs-surveys/sipp.html](http://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/sipp.html)>.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2018-2020 Surveys of Income and Program Participation.

Appendix Table 2.

**Annual Poverty Rates: 2017–2019**

Characteristic	2017			2018			2019		
	Num- ber <sup>1</sup>	Percent	Margin of error <sup>2</sup> (±)	Num- ber <sup>1</sup>	Percent	Margin of error <sup>2</sup> (±)	Num- ber <sup>1</sup>	Percent	Margin of error <sup>2</sup> (±)
<b>All people</b> .....	<b>316.9</b>	<b>13.7</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>319.7</b>	<b>12.4</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>321.1</b>	<b>11.5</b>	<b>0.3</b>
<b>Age<sup>3</sup></b>									
Under 18 years .....	69.1	19.8	0.5	69.4	18.3	0.7	69.4	16.4	0.7
18–64 years .....	197.4	13.3	0.2	198.3	12.0	0.3	198.0	11.1	0.2
65 years and over .....	50.3	7.1	0.3	52.1	6.2	0.3	53.7	6.4	0.2
<b>Sex</b>									
Male .....	154.8	12.4	0.4	156.5	11.0	0.5	157.0	10.4	0.4
Female .....	162.1	15.0	0.4	163.3	13.7	0.6	164.1	12.5	0.6
<b>Race and Hispanic Origin<sup>4, 5</sup></b>									
White .....	243.3	12.1	0.4	244.5	10.9	0.5	245.0	9.9	0.4
White, non-Hispanic .....	192.8	10.2	0.4	192.6	8.7	0.5	191.8	7.9	0.4
Black .....	41.6	22.5	1.0	42.2	20.5	1.7	42.5	20.1	1.7
Asian .....	18.8	12.0	1.6	19.3	9.5	1.7	20.4	9.3	1.7
Hispanic .....	57.4	19.7	1.2	59.0	19.0	1.5	60.0	17.4	1.2
Not Hispanic .....	259.5	12.4	0.4	260.7	10.9	0.5	261.1	10.1	0.4
<b>Educational Attainment<sup>6</sup></b>									
No high school diploma .....	22.7	24.4	1.1	23.0	25.0	1.8	21.9	22.8	1.3
High school, no college .....	58.7	13.3	0.5	58.2	12.1	0.7	57.8	12.3	0.6
Some college, no degree .....	58.6	10.6	0.6	59.7	9.1	0.7	59.5	8.3	0.6
Bachelor's degree or higher .....	78.1	4.8	0.4	80.0	3.7	0.4	83.3	3.9	0.4
<b>Family Status</b>									
In married-couple families .....	190.6	6.0	0.4	194.4	5.4	0.5	194.0	5.1	0.4
In families with a male householder, no spouse present .....	10.5	12.8	1.9	10.8	10.7	2.4	11.3	11.3	2.3
In families with a female householder, no spouse present .....	52.3	30.4	1.3	52.2	28.2	1.7	51.4	24.6	1.8
Unrelated individuals .....	63.4	23.3	0.7	62.3	21.4	0.8	64.4	20.2	0.7

<sup>1</sup> Number is the poverty universe in millions. The Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP) annual poverty universe includes all individuals excluding children under the age of 15 that did not live with a family member aged 15 or older.

<sup>2</sup> A margin of error (MOE) is a measure of an estimate's variability. The larger the MOE in relation to the size of the estimate, the less reliable the estimate. This number, when added to and subtracted from the estimate, forms the 90 percent confidence interval.

<sup>3</sup> Age as of December of reference year.

<sup>4</sup> Federal surveys give respondents the option of reporting more than one race. Therefore, two basic ways of defining a race group are possible. A group, such as Asian, may be defined as those who reported Asian and no other race (the race-alone or single-race concept) or as those who reported Asian regardless of whether they also reported another race (the race-alone-or-in-combination concept). The body of this report (text and figures) shows data using the first approach (race alone).

<sup>5</sup> Hispanics may be any race; data in this report for Hispanics overlap data for racial groups. Data users should exercise caution when interpreting aggregate results for these groups because they consist of many distinct subgroups that differ in socioeconomic characteristics, culture, and recency of immigration.

<sup>6</sup> Data on educational attainment are limited to individuals aged 25 and older.

Note: More information on confidentiality protection and sampling and nonsampling error is available at <[www.census.gov/programs-surveys/sipp.html](http://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/sipp.html)>.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2018–2020 Survey of Income and Program Participation.

Appendix Table 3.

**Episodic and Chronic Poverty Rates: 2017–2019**

Characteristic	Episodic poverty			Chronic poverty		
	Number <sup>1</sup>	Percent	Margin of error <sup>2</sup> (±)	Number <sup>1</sup>	Percent	Margin of error <sup>2</sup> (±)
<b>All people</b> .....	<b>317.6</b>	<b>27.1</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>317.6</b>	<b>3.3</b>	<b>0.4</b>
<b>Age<sup>3</sup></b>						
Under 18 years .....	65.8	35.1	1.8	65.8	5.5	1.2
18–64 years .....	198.0	27.6	0.9	198.0	2.8	0.3
65 years and over .....	53.7	15.2	1.0	53.7	2.5	0.4
<b>Sex</b>						
Male .....	154.6	25.3	1.0	154.6	2.6	0.5
Female .....	163.0	28.7	1.0	163.0	3.9	0.5
<b>Race and Hispanic Origin<sup>4,5</sup></b>						
White .....	241.6	24.2	1.0	241.6	2.9	0.4
White, non-Hispanic .....	189.5	19.9	1.0	189.5	2.1	0.3
Black .....	42.6	42.4	3.0	42.6	6.4	1.7
Asian .....	20.6	25.2	3.8	20.6	1.6	0.9
Hispanic .....	57.4	40.3	2.6	57.4	5.7	1.3
Not Hispanic .....	259.5	24.1	0.9	259.5	2.7	0.4
<b>Educational Attainment<sup>6</sup></b>						
No high school diploma .....	23.3	47.0	2.5	23.3	9.5	1.3
High school, no college .....	56.1	27.8	1.6	56.1	3.6	0.5
Some college, no degree .....	60.4	22.0	1.2	60.4	2.3	0.4
Bachelor's degree or higher .....	82.7	13.4	1.0	82.7	0.5	0.2
<b>Family Status</b>						
In married-couple families .....	193.6	16.8	1.1	193.6	0.8	0.3
In families with a male householder, no spouse present .....	10.8	36.0	5.3	10.8	1.0	0.9
In families with a female householder, no spouse present .....	52.1	48.1	2.9	52.1	9.2	1.9
Unrelated individuals .....	61.0	40.0	1.5	61.0	6.7	0.6

<sup>1</sup> Number is the poverty universe in millions. The Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP) episodic and chronic poverty universes include all individuals excluding children under the age of 15 that did not live with a family member aged 15 or older throughout the reference period.

<sup>2</sup> A margin of error (MOE) is a measure of an estimate's variability. The larger the MOE in relation to the size of the estimate, the less reliable the estimate. This number, when added to and subtracted from the estimate, forms the 90 percent confidence interval.

<sup>3</sup> Age as of December of 2019.

<sup>4</sup> Federal surveys give respondents the option of reporting more than one race. Therefore, two basic ways of defining a race group are possible. A group, such as Asian, may be defined as those who reported Asian and no other race (the race-alone or single-race concept) or as those who reported Asian regardless of whether they also reported another race (the race-alone-or-in-combination concept). The body of this report (text and figures) shows data using the first approach (race alone).

<sup>5</sup> Hispanics may be any race; data in this report for Hispanics overlap data for racial groups. Data users should exercise caution when interpreting aggregate results for these groups because they consist of many distinct subgroups that differ in socioeconomic characteristics, culture, and recency of immigration.

<sup>6</sup> Data on educational attainment are limited to individuals aged 25 and older.

Note: More information on confidentiality protection and sampling and nonsampling error is available at <[www.census.gov/programs-surveys/sipp.html](http://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/sipp.html)>.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2018–2020 Survey of Income and Program Participation.