poverty rate for people aged 65 and older decreased by 0.9 percentage points, from 9.7 percent to 8.9 percent (Figure 8 and Table B-1).  

Race and Hispanic Origin  
The poverty rate for non-Hispanic Whites was 7.3 percent in 2019, with 14.2 million individuals in poverty, down from 8.1 percent and 15.7 million in 2018. The poverty rate for non-Hispanic Whites was lower than the poverty rates for the Black and Hispanic populations, but was not statistically different from the poverty rate for Asians in 2019 (Figure 8 and Table B-1).

The poverty rate for Blacks was 18.8 percent in 2019, with 8.1 million individuals in poverty, down from 20.8 percent and 8.9 million in 2018. Of the racial groups shown in Figure 8 and Table B-1, Blacks had the highest poverty rate. After adjusting for the impact of the CPS ASEC survey redesign and processing changes, the Black poverty rate was the lowest since 1959, the first year for which poverty estimates were published.

In 2019, the poverty rate for Hispanics was 15.7 percent, with 9.5 million individuals in poverty, a decrease from 17.6 percent and 10.5 million in 2018. The 2019 Hispanic poverty rate of 15.7 percent reflects the lowest poverty rate for this population since estimates were first produced in 1972.  

For Asians, the 2019 poverty rate and the number in poverty were 7.3 percent and 1.5 million, respectively, a decrease from 10.1 percent and 2.0 million in 2018. For Asians, the 2019 poverty rate of 7.3 percent is the lowest observed since estimates were first produced for this population in 2002. Looking at poverty more closely, there are disparities in the distribution of poverty among the different race groups. In 2019, non-Hispanic Whites accounted for 59.9 percent of the total population and 41.6 percent of the people in poverty. Blacks accounted for 13.2 percent of the total population and 23.8 percent of the people in poverty. Hispanics accounted for 18.7 percent of the total population and 28.1 percent of the people in poverty. Asians accounted for 6.1 percent of the total population and 4.3 percent of the people in poverty.  

Sex  
In 2019, the poverty rate for males was 9.4 percent, a decrease from 10.6 percent in 2018. The 2019 poverty rate for females was 11.5 percent, down from 12.9 percent in 2018 (Figure 8 and Table B-1).

The poverty rate in 2019 for women aged 18 to 64 was 10.8 percent, while the poverty rate for men aged 18 to 64 was 8.1 percent. The 2019 poverty rate for women aged 65 and older was 10.3 percent, while the poverty rate for men aged 65 and older was 7.2 percent. For people under the age of 18, the poverty rate for girls (14.5 percent) and the poverty rate for boys (14.4 percent) were not statistically different (Figure 10).  

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Footnotes:

38 The percentage-point change from 2018–2019 for 16- to 64-year-olds is not statistically different from the percentage-point change for those under 18 years or for those aged 65 and older.

39 Caution should be used when comparing Hispanic estimates over time since independent population control totals for people of Hispanic origin were not used before 1985.

40 Caution should be used when comparing single-year Asian estimates over time due to the small sample size of the Asian population and the fact that the CPS ASEC does not use separate population controls for weighting the Asian sample to national totals.

41 The 2019 poverty rate for women aged 18 to 64 and women aged 65 and older were not statistically different.

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Figure 10.  
Poverty Rates by Age and Sex: 2019  
(In percent. Population as of March of the following year)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Male</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Under age 18</td>
<td>14.5</td>
<td>14.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aged 18 to 64</td>
<td>10.8</td>
<td>8.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aged 65 and older</td>
<td>10.3</td>
<td>7.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see <https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/cps/techdocs/cpsmar20.pdf>.  