POVERTY IN THE UNITED STATES

Highlights

• The official poverty rate in 2019 was 10.5 percent, down 1.3 percentage points from 11.8 percent in 2018. This is the fifth consecutive annual decline in poverty. Since 2014, the poverty rate has fallen 4.3 percentage points, from 14.8 percent to 10.5 percent (Figure 7 and Table B-5).

• The 2019 poverty rate of 10.5 percent is the lowest rate observed since estimates were initially published in 1959 (Figure 7 and Table B-5).

• In 2019, there were 34.0 million people in poverty, approximately 4.2 million fewer than in 2018 (Figure 7 and Table B-1).

• For all demographic groups shown in Figure 8 and Table B-1, poverty rates in 2019 were either lower than or not statistically different from those in 2018.

• Between 2018 and 2019, poverty rates declined for all race and Hispanic origin groups shown in Figure 8 and Table B-1. The poverty rate for Whites decreased 1.0 percentage point to 9.1 percent. The poverty rate for Blacks decreased by 2.0 percentage points to 18.8 percent. The poverty rate for Asians decreased 2.8 percentage points to 7.3 percent.

• Between 2018 and 2019, poverty rates for people under the age of 18 decreased 1.8 percentage points, from 16.2 percent to 14.4 percent. Poverty rates decreased 1.2 percentage points for people aged 18 to 64, from 10.7 percent to 9.4 percent. The

36 The percentage point change from 2018–2019 for Blacks is not significantly different than the percentage point change for Whites, Asians, or Hispanics.

37 The percentage point change from 2018–2019 for Hispanics is not significantly different from the percentage point change for Asians.