INTRODUCTION
Since the publication of the first official U.S. poverty estimates in the 1960s, researchers and policymakers have continued to discuss the best approach to measure income and poverty in the United States. Beginning in 2011, the U.S. Census Bureau began publishing the Supplemental Poverty Measure (SPM), which extends the official poverty measure by taking account of many of the government programs designed to assist low-income families and individuals that are not included in the official poverty measure. The SPM is produced with the support of the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), and this report is the eleventh in the series. This report presents estimates of the prevalence of poverty in the United States using the official measure and the SPM based on information collected in 2021 and earlier Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplements (CPS ASEC).

HIGHLIGHTS
• In 2020, the overall SPM rate was 9.1 percent. This was 2.6 percentage points lower than the 2019 SPM rate of 11.8 (Figure 1).1, 2
• SPM rates were down for all major age categories: children under age 18, adults aged 18 to 64, and adults aged 65 and older between 2019 and 2020 (Figures 1 and 2).
• The SPM rate for 2020 was 2.3 percentage points lower than the official poverty rate of 11.4 percent (Figure 3). This is the first time in the history of the SPM that poverty was lower using the SPM than the official poverty rate.

1 The data for 2019 reflect the implementation of revised Supplemental Poverty Measure methodology. More information is available in the report appendix.
Note: Information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions is available at <https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/cps/techdocs/cpsmar21.pdf>.

2 Calculated differences here and throughout this report may differ due to rounding.
2 SPM rate reflects methodological changes from published results in Fox (2020). More information is contained in the appendix of this report.