Figure 4 shows the official measure (with the comparable universe) and the SPM since 2009. The SPM ranged from 0.6 to 1.6 percentage points higher than the official measure through 2019. In contrast, the 2020 SPM was 2.3 percentage points lower than the official measure. SPM rates in 2020 were at their lowest level since the first year for which the Census Bureau published SPM estimates, even after adjusting for the breaks in series.

Figure 5 shows the poverty rate using both measures for three major age groups. While the SPM rate for children declined between 2019 and 2020, the official poverty rate increased over the same period, widening the gap between the two measures from 1.8 percentage points to 6.3 percentage points. SPM rates for individuals aged 18 to 64 were also lower than official poverty rates in 2020, for the first time in the history of the SPM. The gap between official and SPM rates for individuals 65 and older declined from 3.9 percentage points in 2019 to 0.5 percentage points in 2020. Even after accounting for breaks in series, SPM rates for each major age group in 2020 were at their lowest level since 2009.