

Income, Poverty, and Health Insurance: 2018

September 2019

URL: http://www.census.gov/newsroom/press-kits/2019/income_poverty.html

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Income and Poverty in the United States: 2018

Current Population Reports

By Jessica Semega, Melissa Kollar, John Creamer and Abinash Mohanty
Issued September 2019
P60-266



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The Supplemental Poverty Measure: 2018

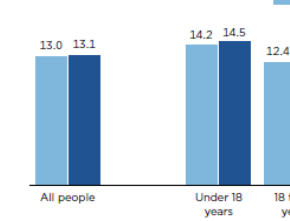
Current Population Reports

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INTRODUCTION

Since the publication of the first official U.S. poverty estimates, 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. This is the ninth report describing the SPM, released by the Census Bureau, with support from the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). This report presents updated estimates of the prevalence of poverty in the United States using the official measure and the SPM based on information collected in 2019 and earlier Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplements (CPS ASEC).

Figure 1.
Supplemental Poverty Measure Rates for
and by Age Group: 2017 and 2018
(In percent)



¹ The 2017 data reflect the implementation of an updated poverty threshold. For details, see appendix.
Note: For information on confidentiality protection, sampling and definitions, see <<https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/cpsmar18.pdf>>.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 2019 Economic Supplements.

HIGHLIGHTS

- In 2018, the overall SPM rate was 13.1 percent. This is not statistically different from the 2017 SPM rate of 13.0 (Figure 1).
- SPM rates were not statistically different for any of the

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Health Insurance Coverage in the United States: 2018

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Figure 1.
Supplemental Poverty
and by Age Group: 2018
(In percent)



¹ The 2017 data reflect the implementation details; see appendix. Note: For information on confounding and definitions, see https://www.census.gov/cps/mar19.pdf. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplements.

HIGHLIGHTS

- In 2018, the overall SPM rate was 13.1 percent. This is statistically different from the SPM rate of 13.0 (Figure 1).
- SPM rates were not statistically different for any of the major racial and ethnic groups.

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- Data are based on the Current Population Survey's Annual Social and Economic Supplement (CPS ASEC) from March 2019.
- CPS ASEC is the official source of national poverty estimates.
- Official poverty estimates are calculated in accordance with OMB Statistical Policy Directive 14.

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- Includes data from the Current Population Survey's Annual Social and Economic Supplement (CPS ASEC) and the American Community Survey (ACS).
- ACS is the recommended source for smaller populations and levels of geography.

Important CPS ASEC Survey Updates

The CPS ASEC has undergone a redesign of the questionnaire and data processing system.

Questionnaire design changes incorporated over the period of 2014 to 2016:

- Updated income and means-tested benefit questions
- Redesigned health insurance questions
- Expanded family relationship categories

Important CPS ASEC Survey Updates

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Data processing changes reflected for the first time this year:

- Improvements to how income data is edited and imputed
- More comprehensive and consistent treatment of families
- Expanded data on health insurance coverage and sources

Important Reminders for Today's Presentations

In today's presentations:

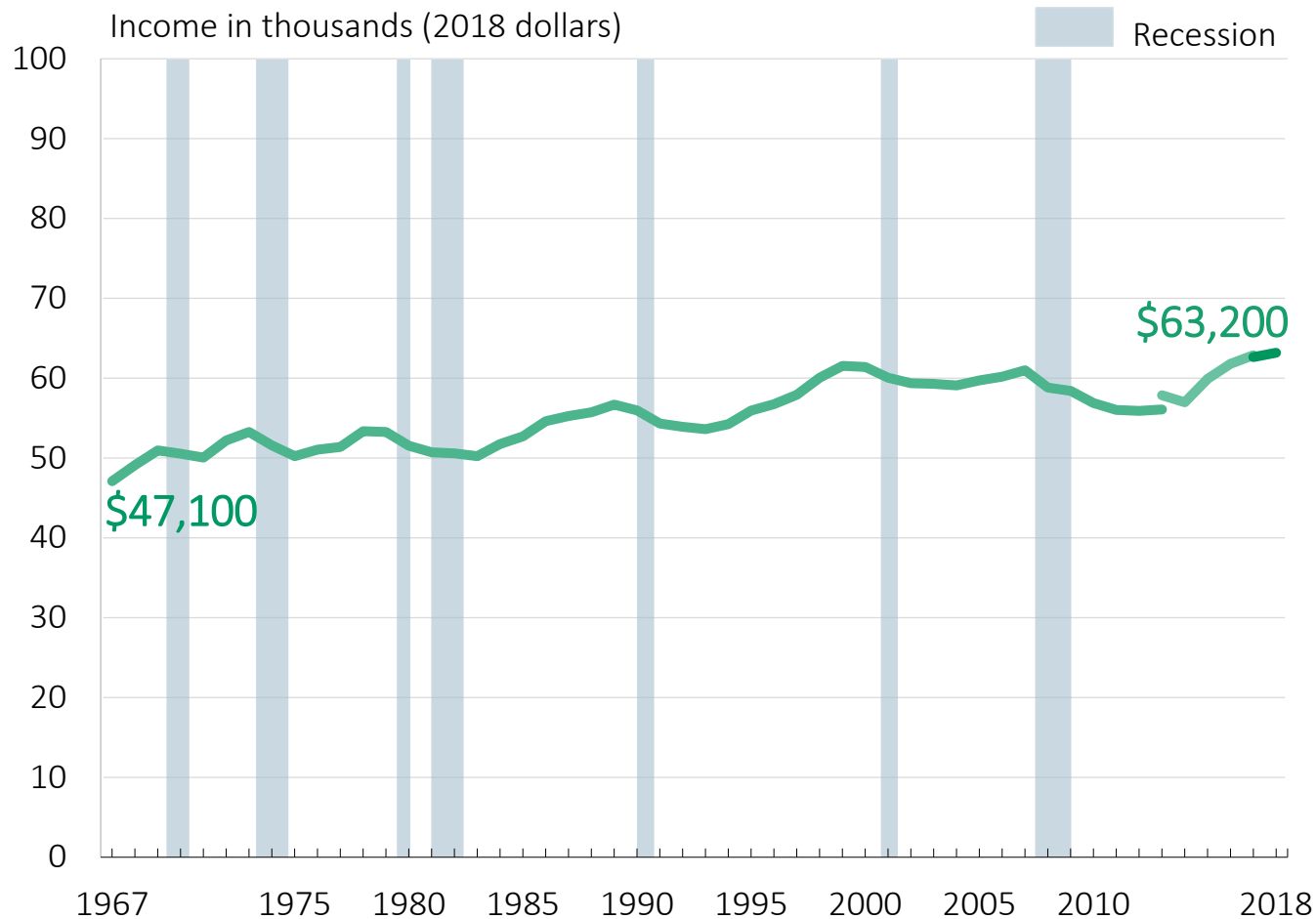
- Estimates for 2017 and 2018 reflect the updated processing system.
- 2017 estimates may differ from those published last year.



For more information:

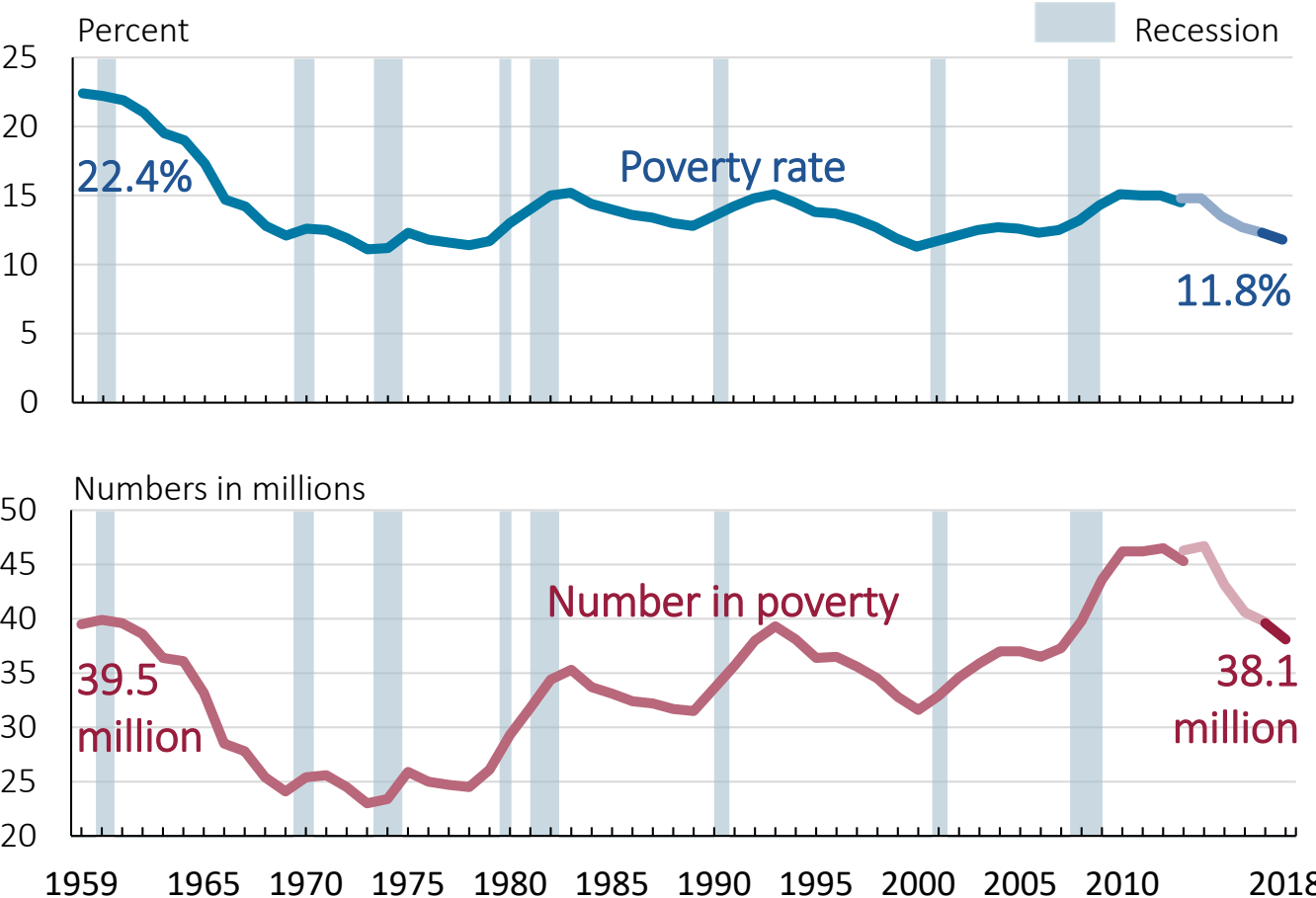
- CPS ASEC Redesign & Processing Changes website:
<https://census.gov/data/datasets/time-series/demo/income-poverty/cps-asec-design.html>
- Pre-release webinar on improvements to the CPS ASEC and implications for estimates:
<https://www.census.gov/data/academy/webinars.html>

Real Median Household Income: 1967 to 2018



Median household income was \$63,200 in 2018, not statistically different from the 2017 median, following three consecutive years of annual increases.

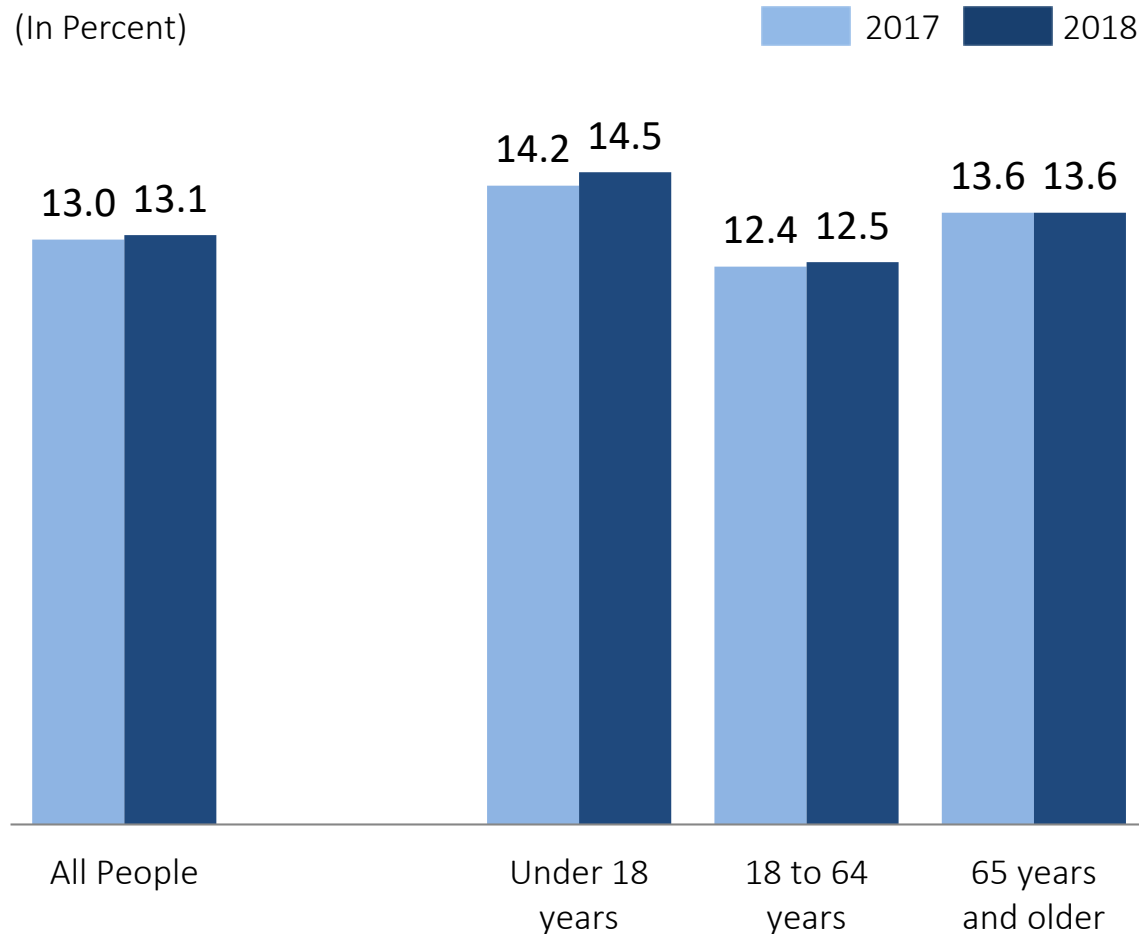
Poverty Rate and Number in Poverty: 1959 to 2018



The official poverty rate in 2018 was 11.8 percent, down 0.5 percentage points from 2017. In 2018, there were 38.1 million people in poverty, a decrease of 1.4 million people from 2017.

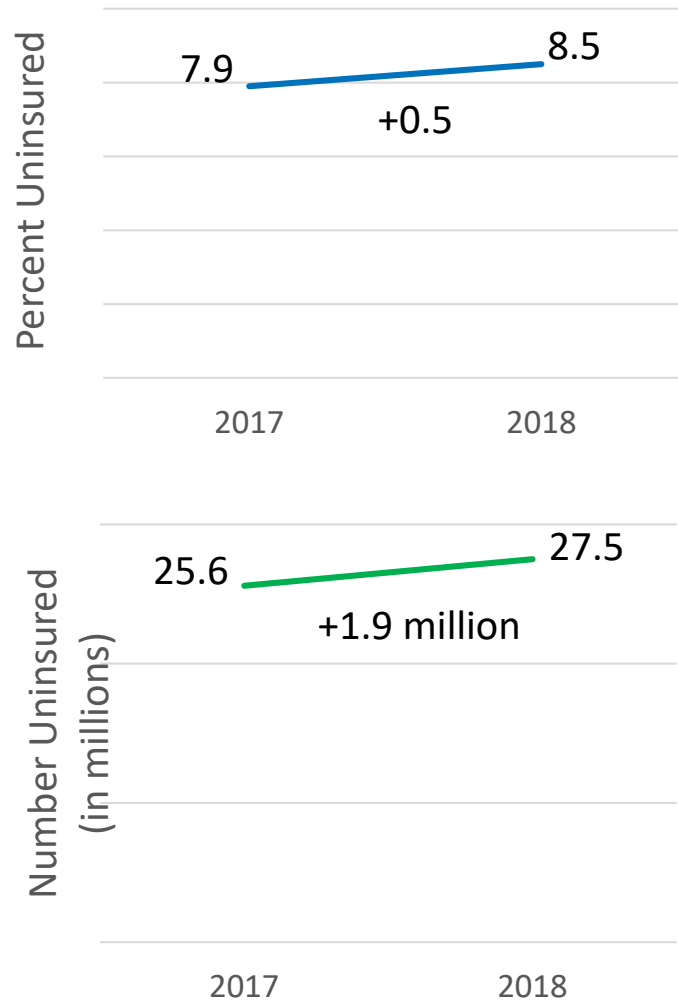
Comparison of SPM Poverty Estimates: 2017 and 2018

(In Percent)



The Supplemental Poverty Measure (SPM) rate in 2018 was 13.1 percent. This is not statistically different from the 2017 SPM rate of 13.0 percent.

Health Insurance Coverage: 2017 and 2018



The percentage of people without health insurance coverage for the entire calendar year was 8.5 percent, a 0.5 percentage-point increase from 2017. In 2018, 27.5 million people did not have health insurance coverage, an increase of 1.9 million people.

[INTRO VIDEOS & PRESENTATIONS FOR EACH SUBJECT AREA]

Highlights

- Median household income was \$63,200 in 2018, not statistically different from the 2017 median.
- The official poverty rate in 2018 was 11.8 percent, down 0.5 percentage points from 2017. In 2018, there were 38.1 million people in poverty, 1.4 million people less than the number in poverty in 2017.
- The Supplemental Poverty Measure (SPM) rate in 2018 was 13.1 percent. This is not statistically different from the 2017 SPM rate of 13.0 percent.
- The percentage of people without health insurance coverage for the entire calendar year was 8.5 percent, a 0.5 percentage-point increase from 2017. In 2018, 27.5 million people did not have health insurance coverage, an increase of 1.9 million people.