

# The Supplemental Poverty Measure Using the American Community Survey

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# What we have produced so far

1. Research paper outlining ACS SPM methodology and results for 2014 through 2017
2. State ACS SPM estimates for 2009 through 2018
3. Public use microdata research files for 2009 through 2018 – allows for production of estimates at the state and PUMA level

\*\*\*Please use these and give us feedback\*\*\*

See <https://www.census.gov/library/working-papers/2020/demo/SEHSD-WP2020-09.html>

# Why create an ACS SPM?

Researchers throughout the country have been asking for one

ACS has a much larger sample size than CPS ASEC

Allows for the creation of state and sub-state estimates using one-year data

- Sub-national estimates by demographics as well

# The OPM vs. the SPM

	Official Poverty Measure (OPM)	Supplemental Poverty Measure (SPM)
Measurement Units	Families - individuals related by birth, marriage, or adoption Unrelated individuals	Resource units - family plus any co-resident unrelated children under age 15, foster children under age 22, and unmarried partners and their relatives Unrelated individuals

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Poverty Threshold	Three times the cost of a minimum food diet in 1963	Based on expenditures of food, clothing, shelter, and utilities (FCSU)
Threshold Adjustments	Vary by family size, composition, and age of householder	Vary by family size, composition, and tenure, with geographic adjustments for differences in housing costs
Updating Thresholds	Consumer Price Index for all Urban Consumers: all items	5-year moving average of expenditures on FCSU

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Updating Thresholds	Consumer Price Index for all Urban Consumers: all items	5-year moving average of expenditures on FCSU
Resource Measure	Gross before-tax cash income	Cash income - plus noncash benefits - minus taxes (or plus tax credits), work expenses, medical expenses, and child support paid to another household

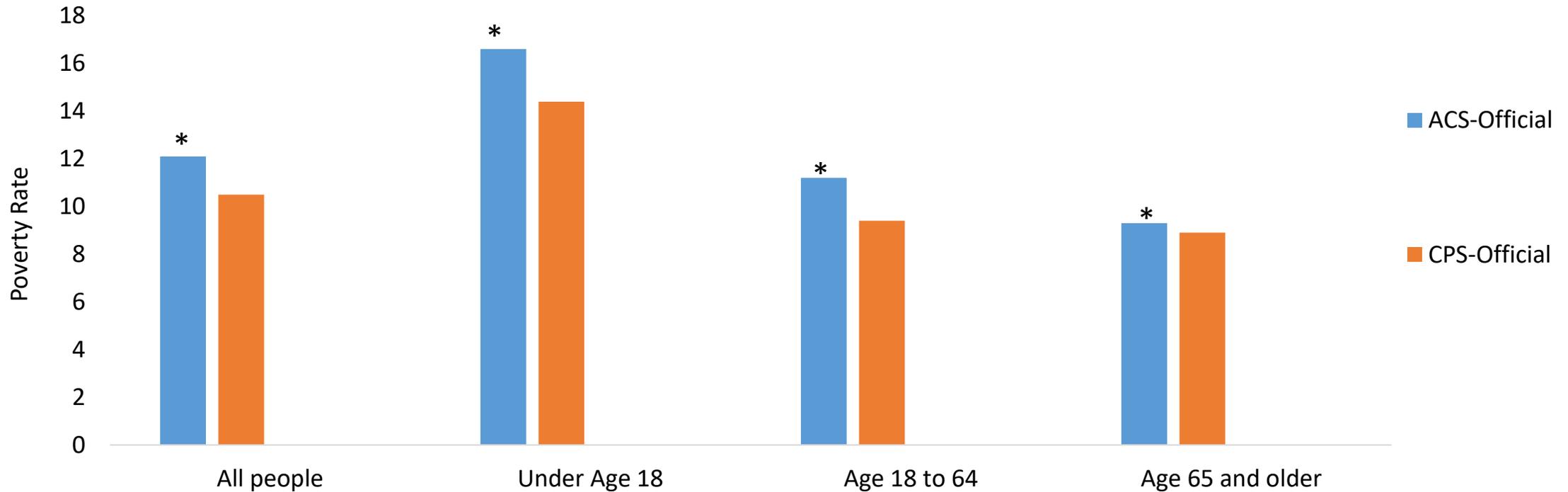
# Poverty Measurement in ACS vs. CPS ASEC

- Different reference periods
- Difference in residency rules
- Group quarters excluded in ACS (for this paper)
- Less detailed income reporting in the ACS
- Less detailed relationships among people unrelated to the householder in the ACS

# Poverty Measurement in ACS vs. CPS ASEC

	CPS ASEC		ACS		How NO's are dealt with
	Receipt/Payment	Amount	Receipt/Payment	Amount	
SNAP	YES	YES	YES	NO	Amount imputed in ACS
WIC, School lunch, and housing assistance	YES	NO	NO	NO	Receipt imputed in ACS Amount imputed in ACS and CPS ASEC
LIHEAP	YES	YES	NO	NO	Receipt and amount imputed in ACS
Taxes	NO	NO	NO	NO	Modeled using Census Bureau tax model in CPS ASEC Modeled using TAXSIM in ACS
Childcare	YES	YES	NO	NO	Whether a family pays for childcare and the amount paid are imputed in ACS
Medical expenses	YES	YES	NO	NO	Amount imputed in ACS
Child Support Paid	YES	YES	NO	NO	Not included in ACS

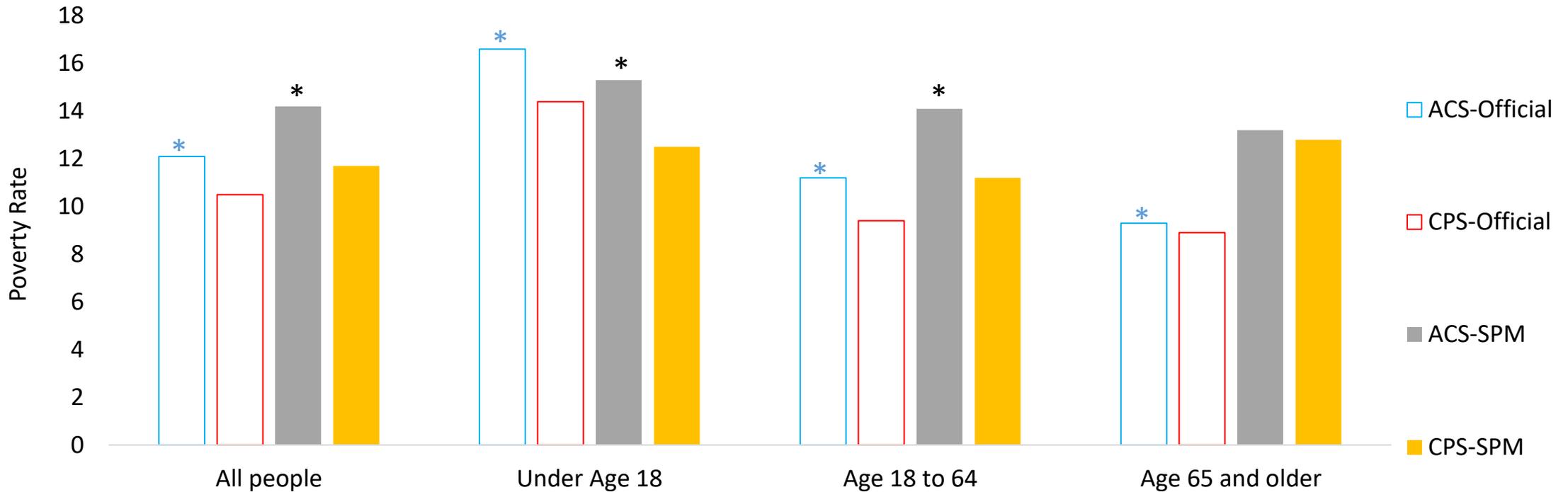
# 2019 OPM Rates: ACS vs. CPS



Note: \* signifies that the poverty rate is higher at the 90 percent confidence level.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020 Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplement and 2019 American Community Survey.

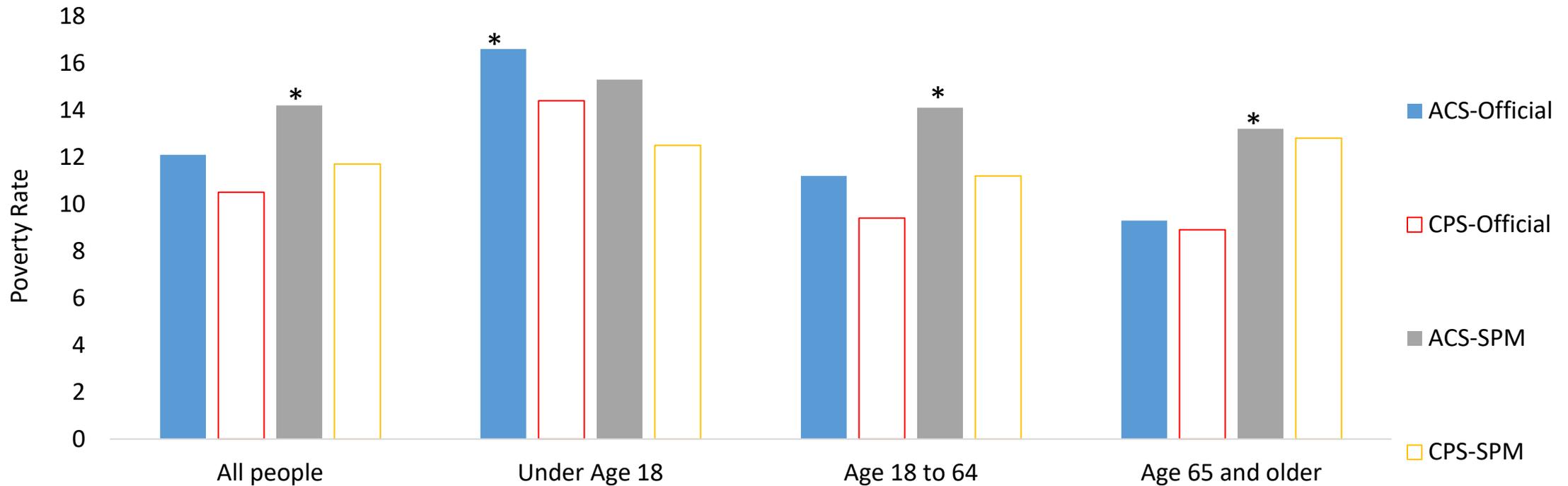
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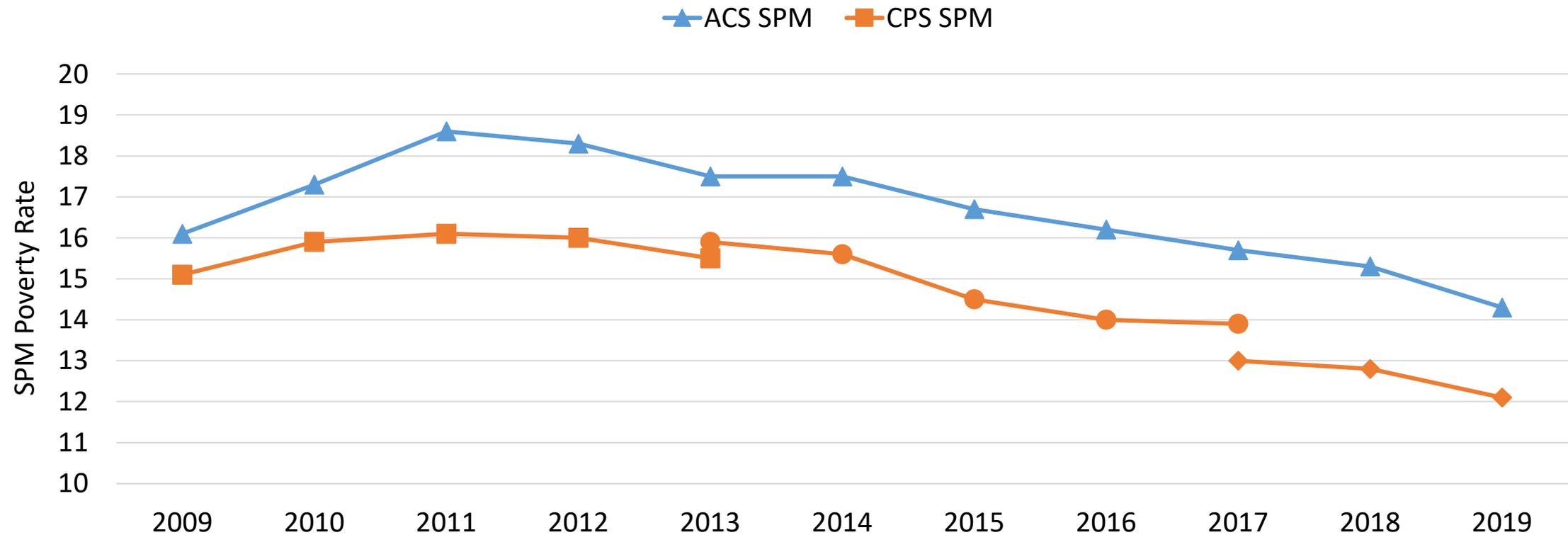
# 2019 ACS Poverty Rates: SPM vs. OPM



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Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020 Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplement and 2019 American Community

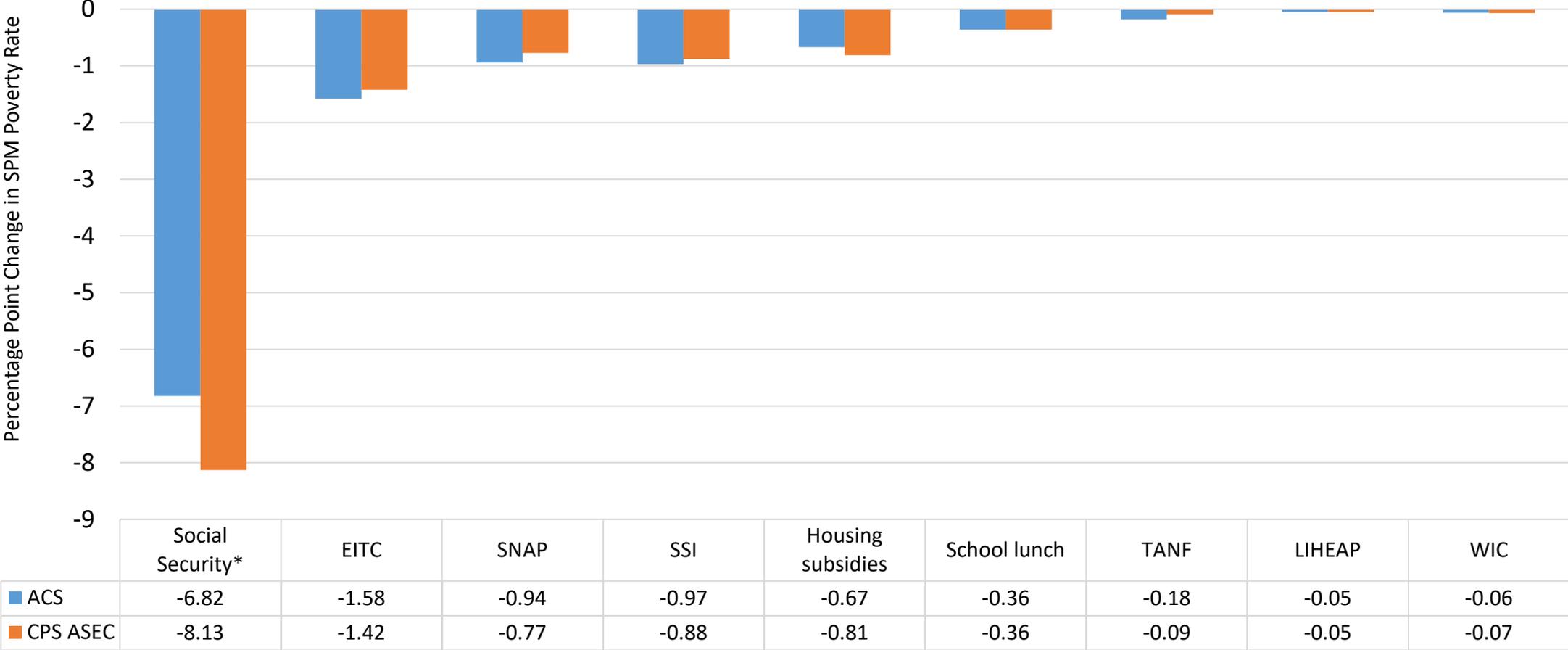
# SPM Poverty Rates Over Time



Note: The data for 2017 and beyond reflect the implementation of an updated processing system. The data for 2013 and beyond reflect the implementation of the redesigned income questions.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010-2020 Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplements and 2009-2019 American Community Surveys.

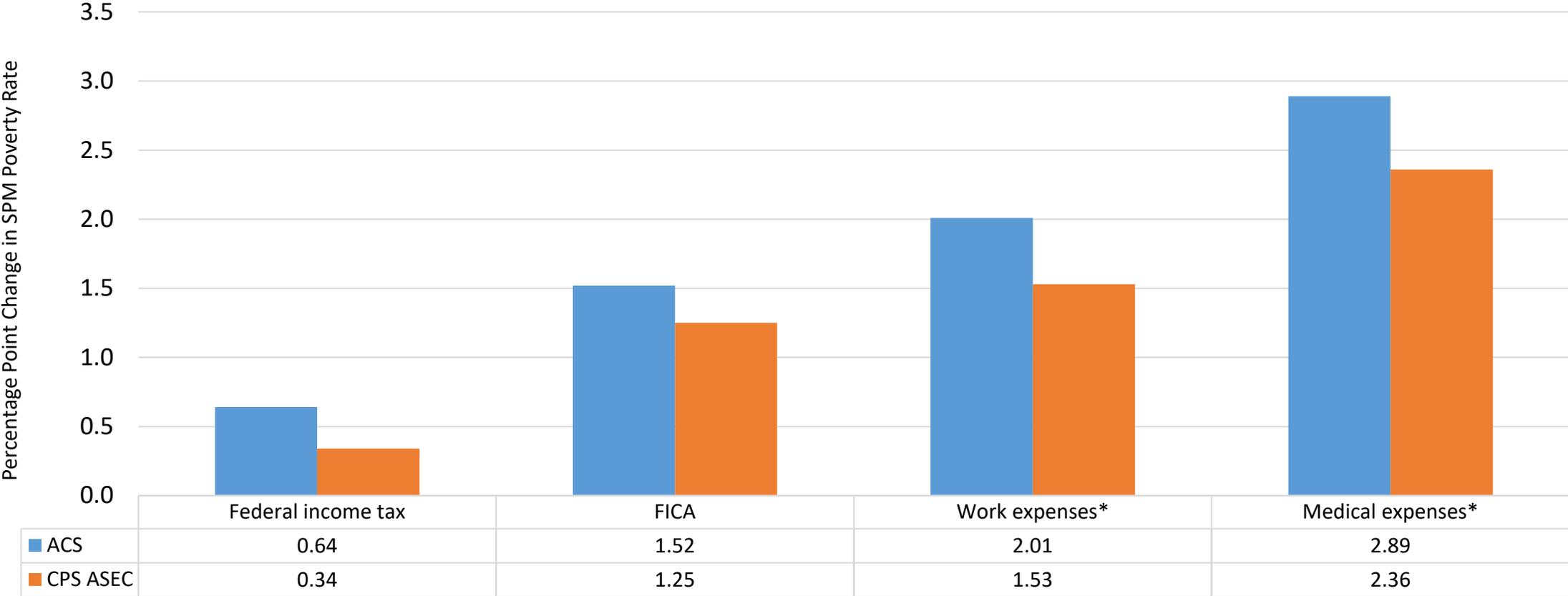
# Marginal Effects of Programs on the SPM Rate: 2019



\* Difference between ACS and CPS marginal effect is significantly different from zero at the 90 percent confidence level.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020 Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplement and 2019 American Community Survey.

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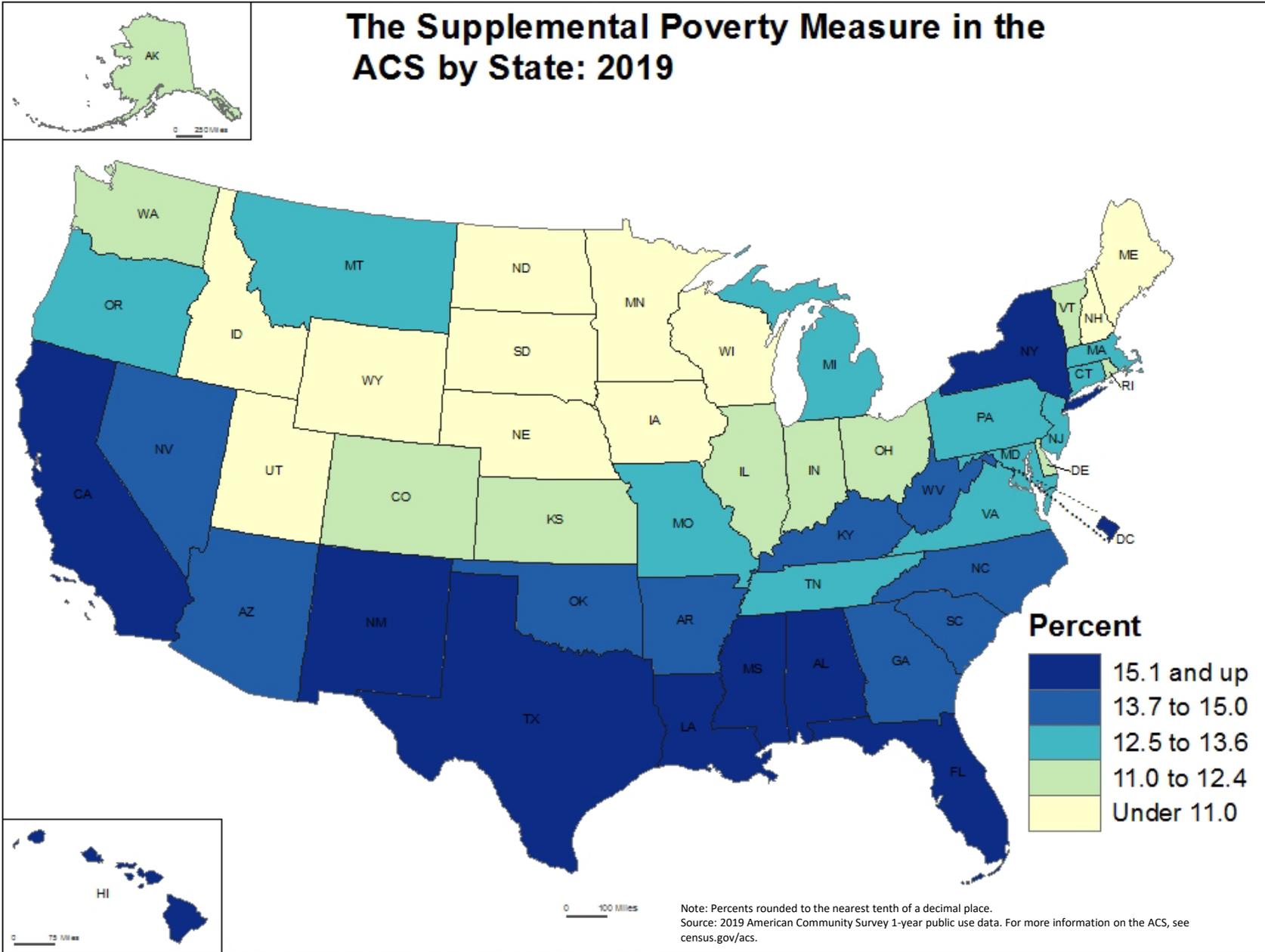
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020 Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplement and 2019 American Community Survey.

# Marginal Effects of Selected Programs by Age: 2019



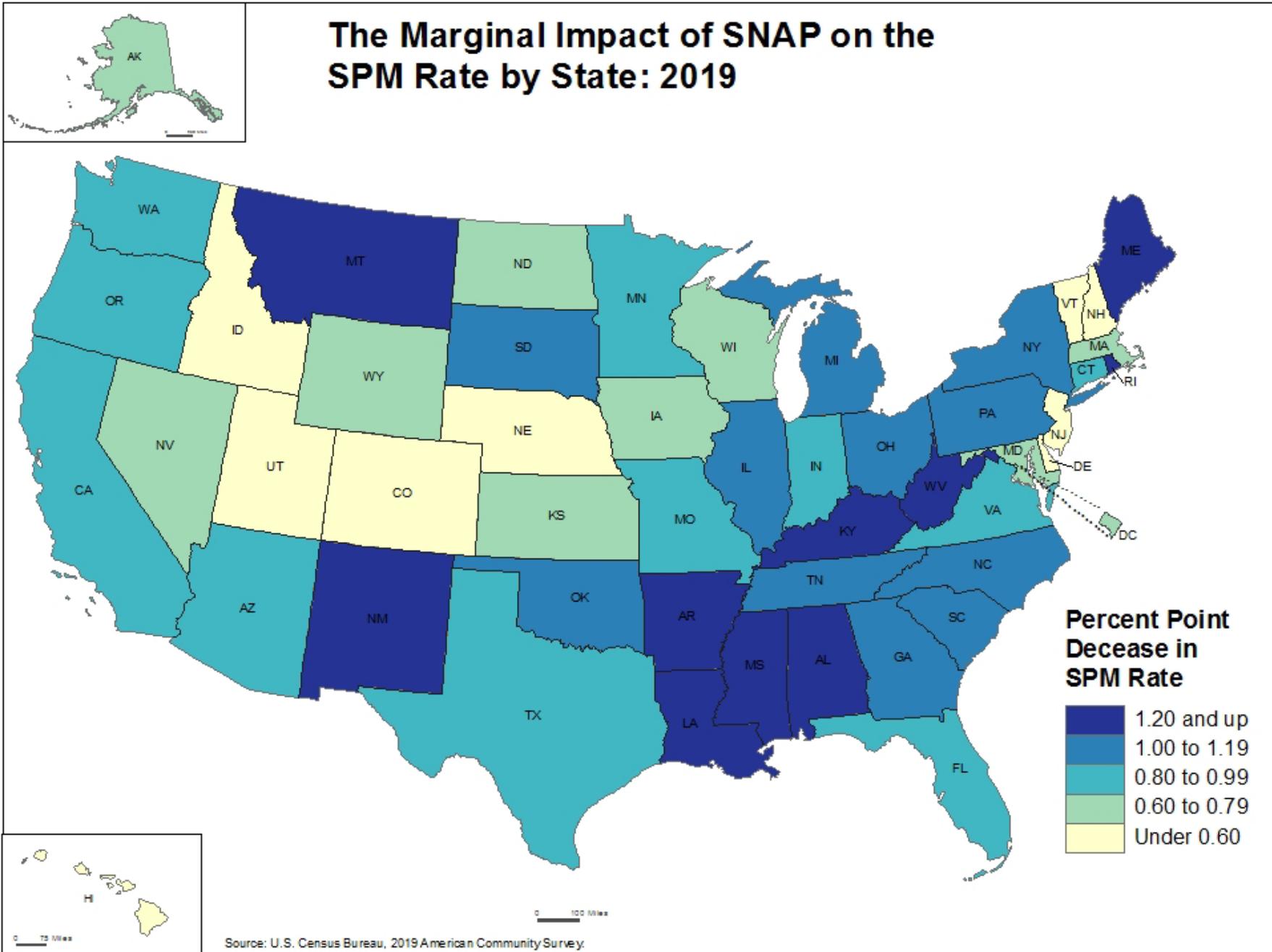
Source: U.S. Census, Bureau, 2019 American Community Survey.

# The Supplemental Poverty Measure in the ACS by State: 2019

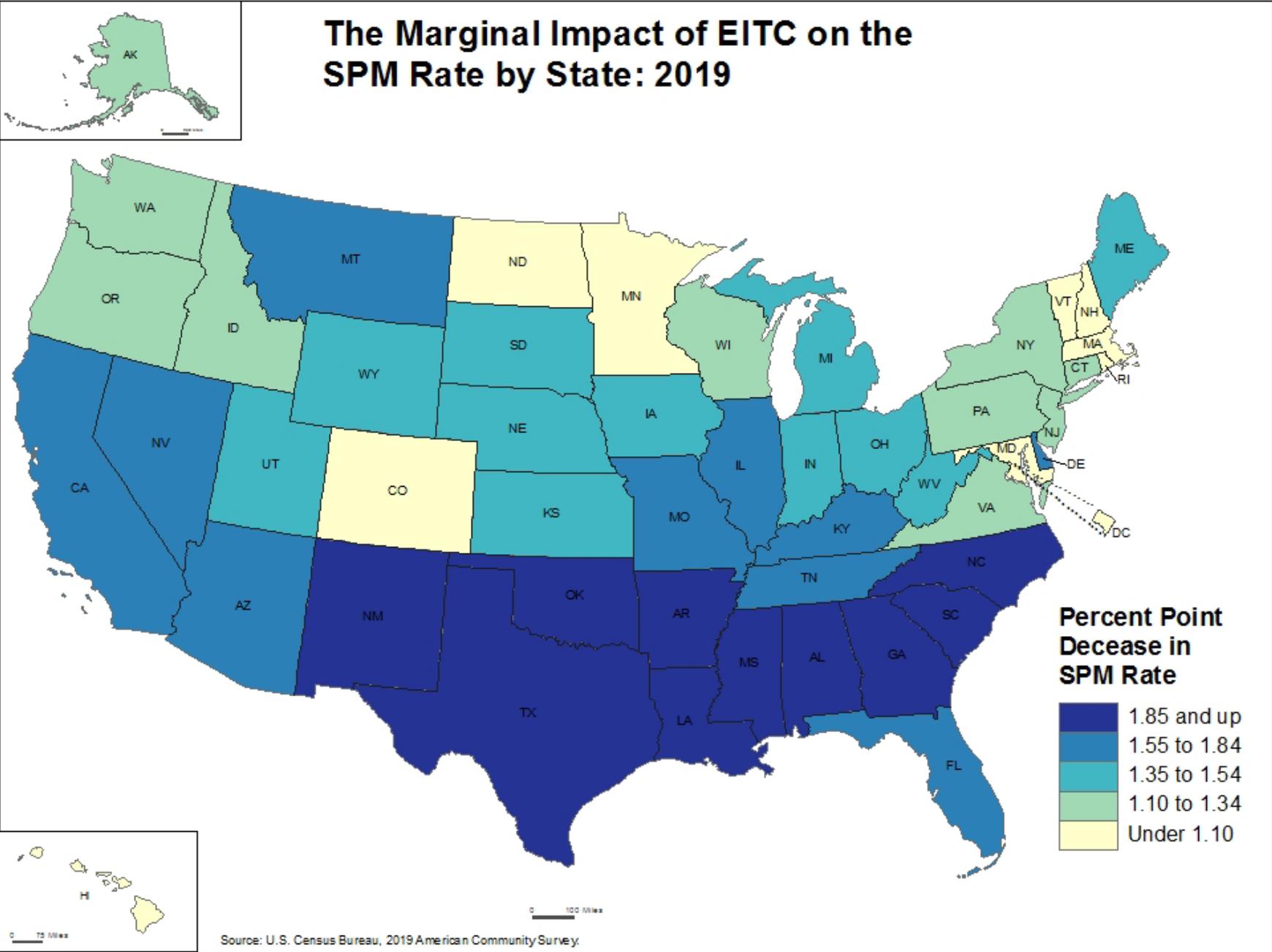


Note: Percents rounded to the nearest tenth of a decimal place.  
Source: 2019 American Community Survey 1-year public use data. For more information on the ACS, see [census.gov/acs](https://www.census.gov/acs).

# The Marginal Impact of SNAP on the SPM Rate by State: 2019

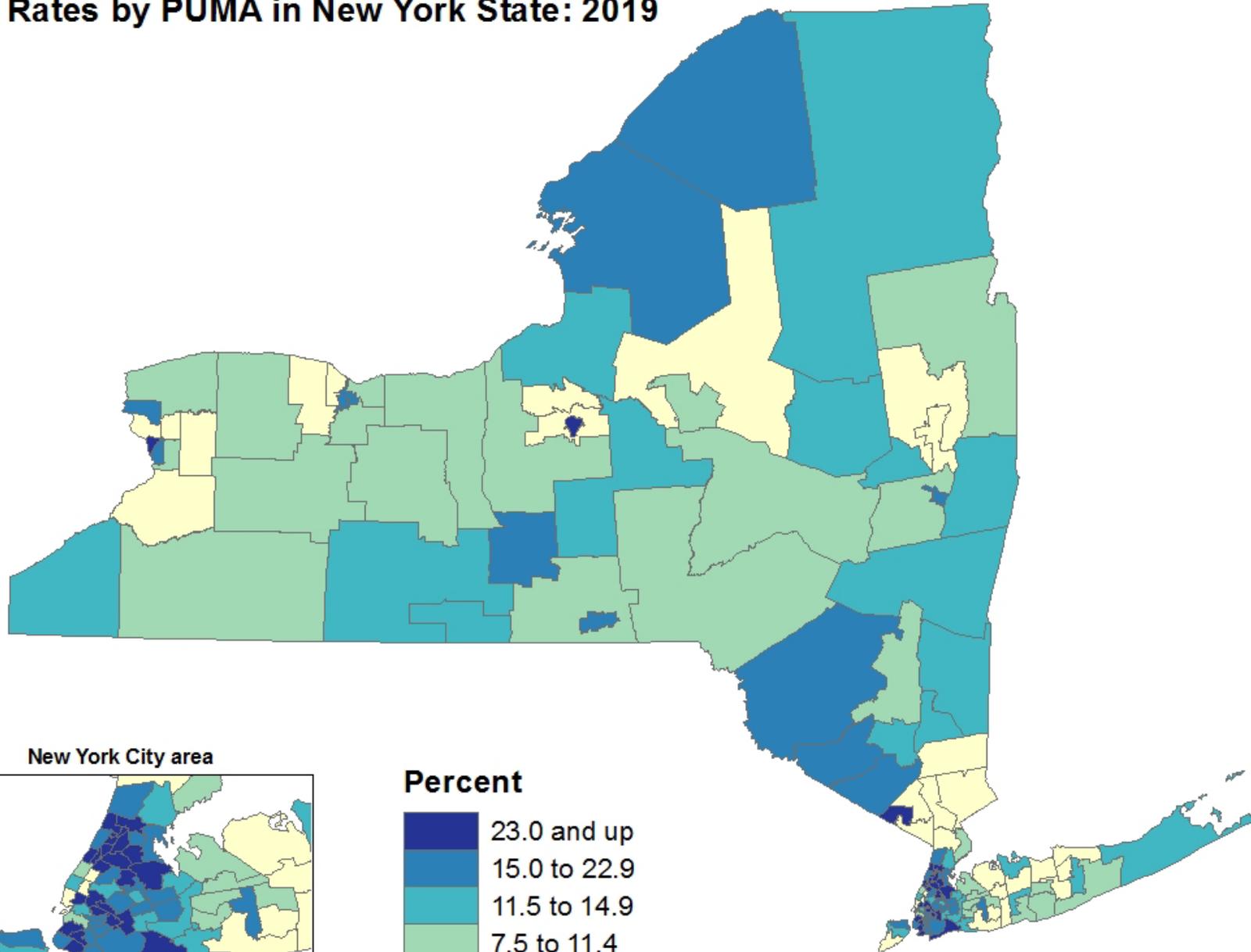


# The Marginal Impact of EITC on the SPM Rate by State: 2019

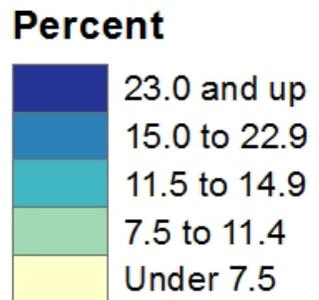
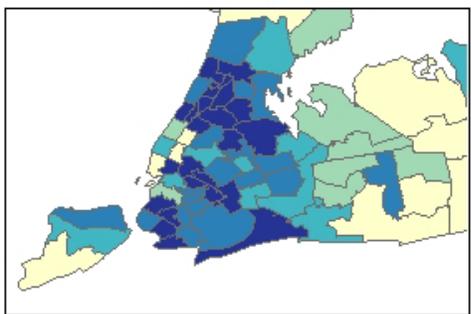




# SPM Rates by PUMA in New York State: 2019



New York City area



# Discussion and Next Steps

We have made improvements to our MOOP and childcare imputations

Seeking feedback on soon to be released UPDATED microdata research files (2009 through 2019)

Corrections for underreporting

Examine difference in OPM and SPM at the PUMA level

# Contact Information

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