

Impact of COVID-19 Assistance on Poverty in the United States

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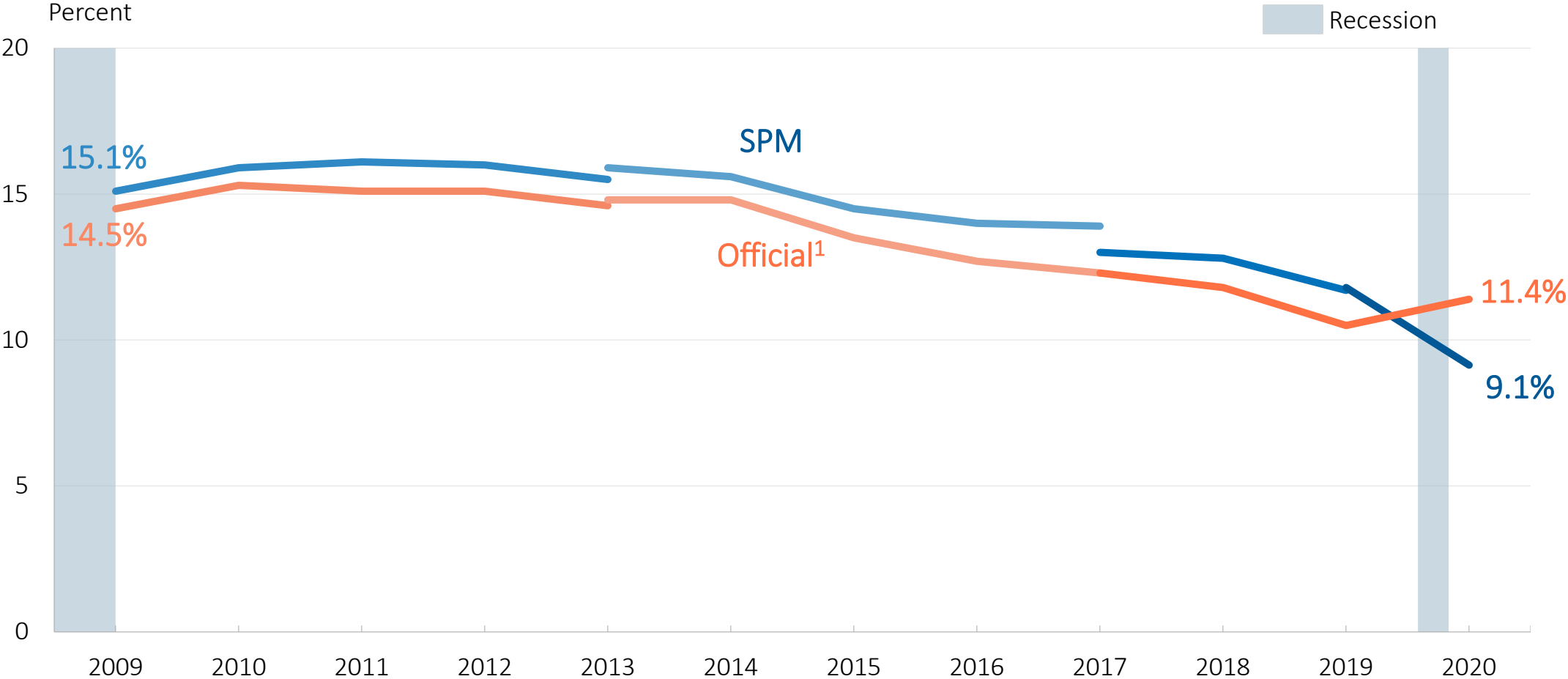
COVID-19 Relief Benefits in 2020

- Two rounds of economic stimulus payments totaling \$400 billion
- Expanded nutritional assistance benefits (Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program, Pandemic EBT)
- Expanded unemployment insurance benefits

Two Poverty Measures in the United States

- Official Poverty Measure
 - Money Income
 - Pre-tax, no in-kind benefits
 - Family unit (related by birth, marriage, and adoption)
 - No geographic adjustments to thresholds
- Supplemental Poverty Measure
 - Disposable Income
 - Post-tax, post-transfer
 - Resource-sharing unit includes cohabiting partners and foster children
 - Geographically-adjusted thresholds

Poverty Rates Using the Official and Supplemental Poverty Measures: 2009 to 2020

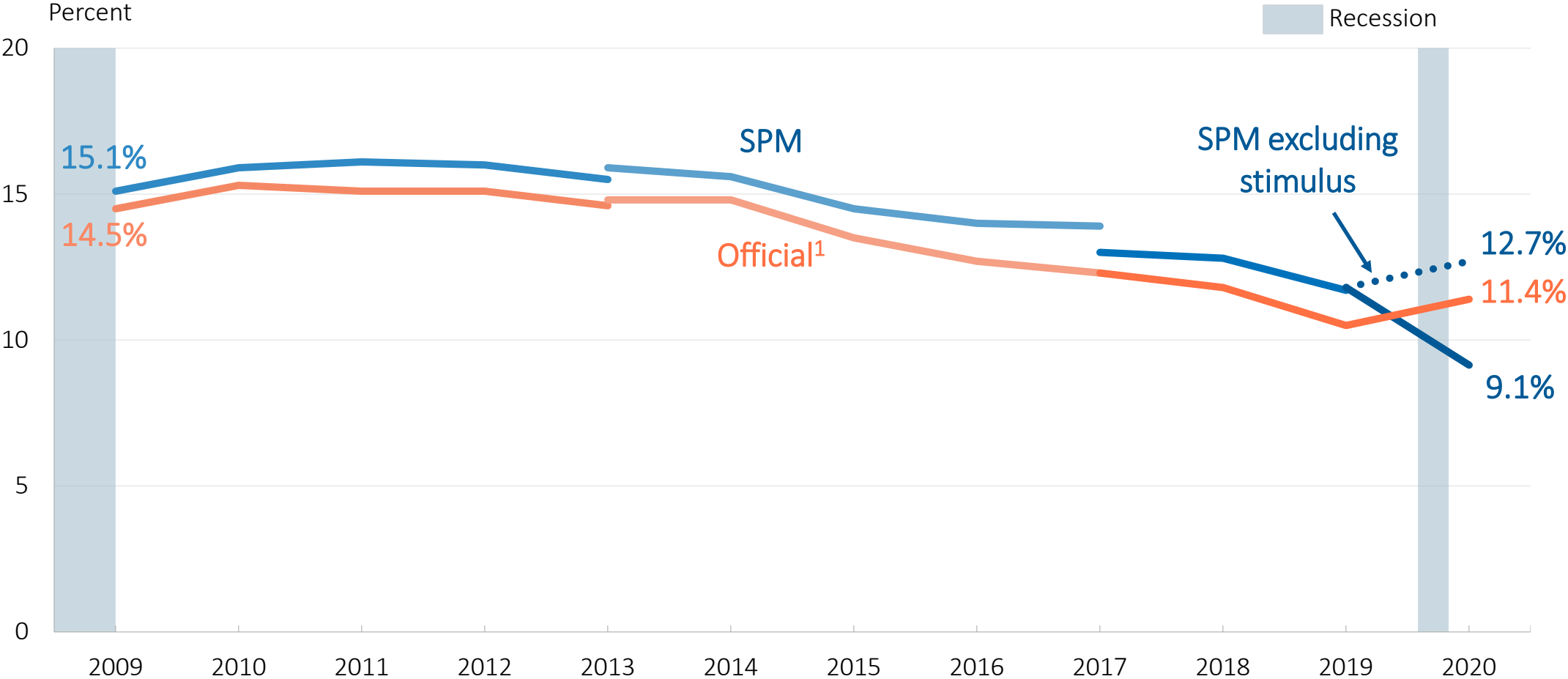


¹ Includes unrelated individuals under the age of 15.

Note: The SPM estimates for 2019 and 2020 reflect the implementation of revised SPM methodology. 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, Current Population Survey, 2010 to 2021 Annual Social and Economic Supplements (CPS ASEC).

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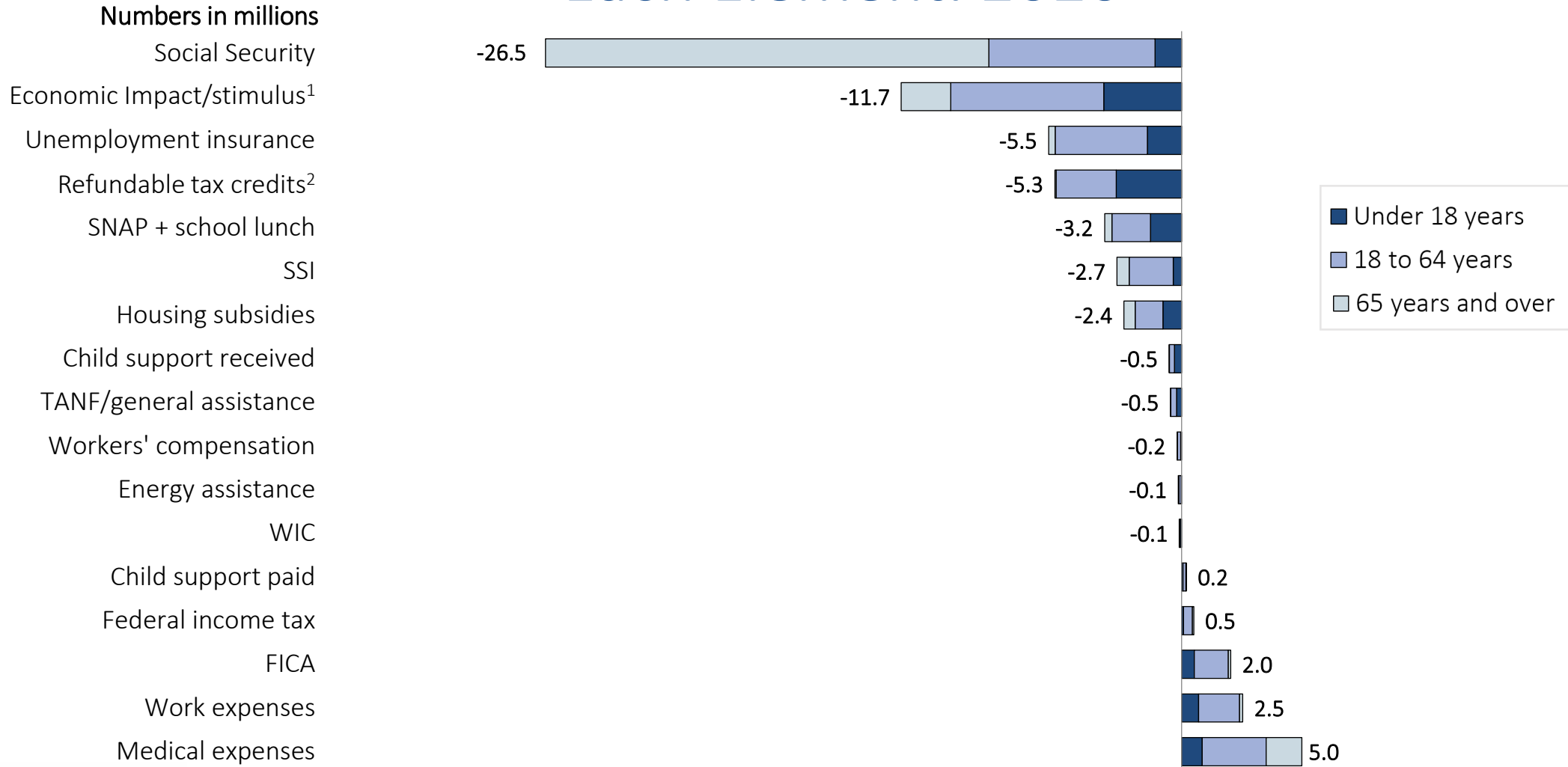


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Change in Number of People in Poverty After Including Each Element: 2020



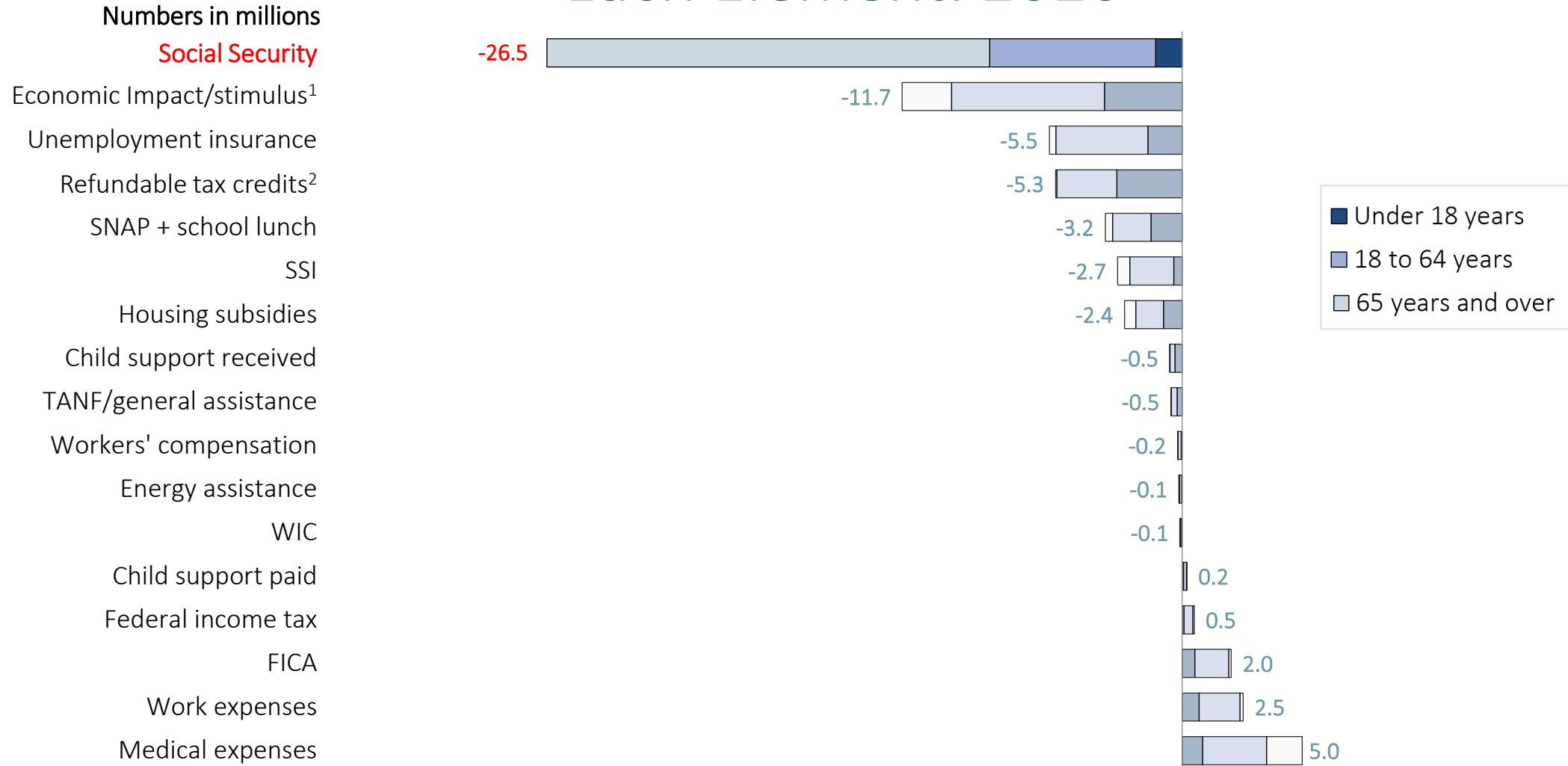
¹ Includes the first two rounds of stimulus payments.

² Refundable tax credits do not include stimulus payments.

Notes: SNAP: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program; SSI: Supplemental Security Income; TANF: Temporary Assistance for Needy Families; WIC: Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children; FICA: Federal Insurance Contributions Act.

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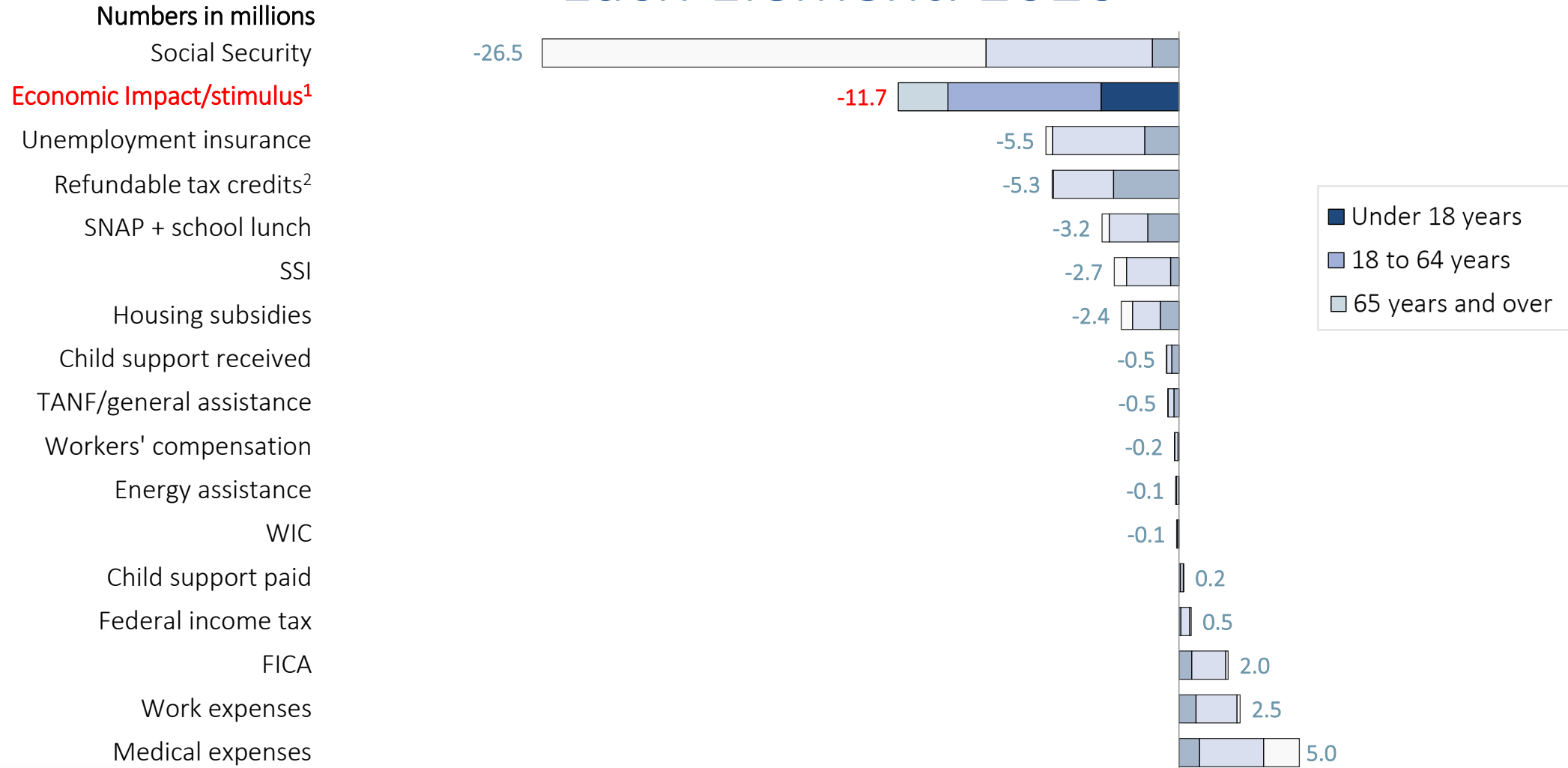
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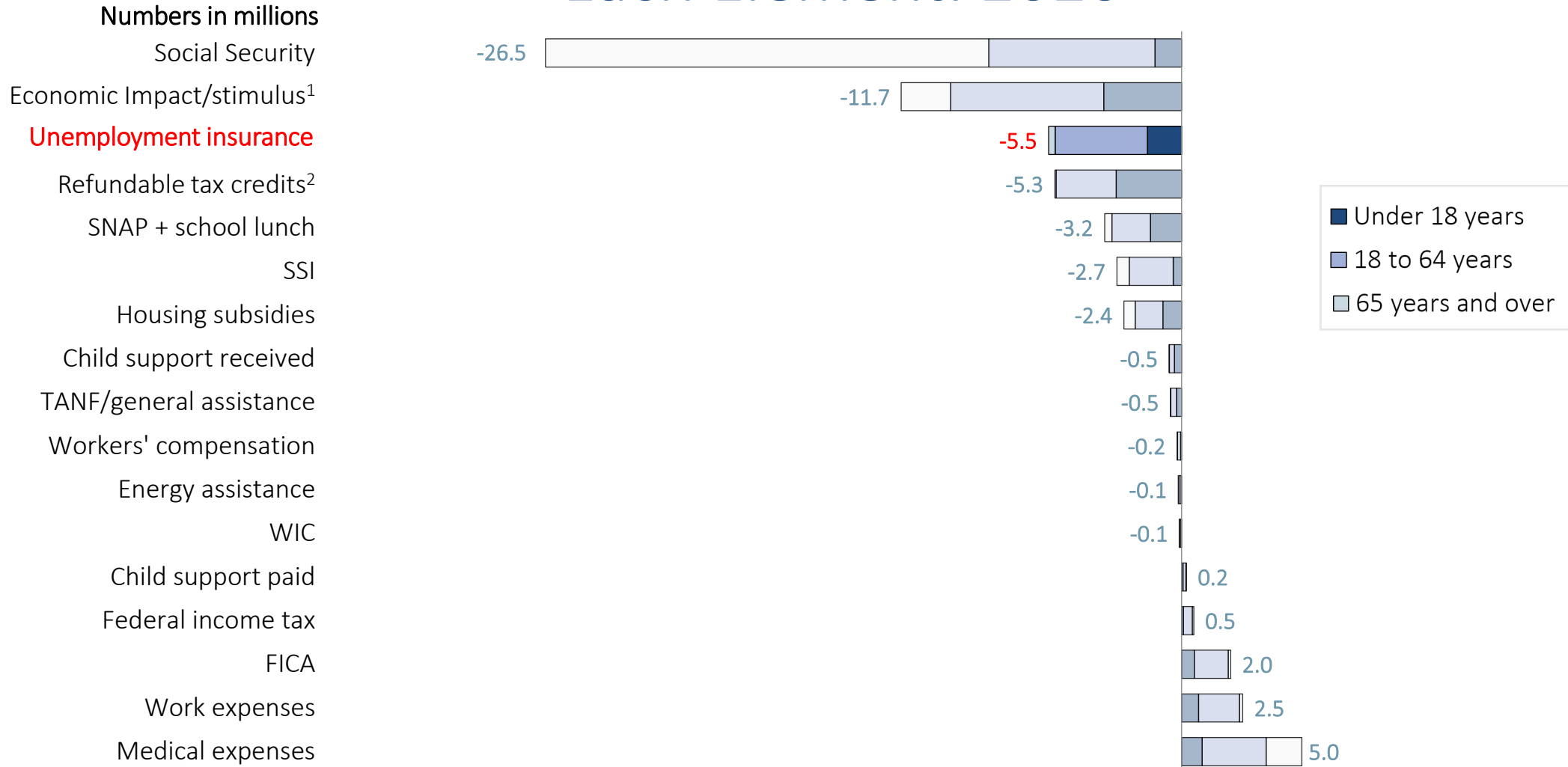
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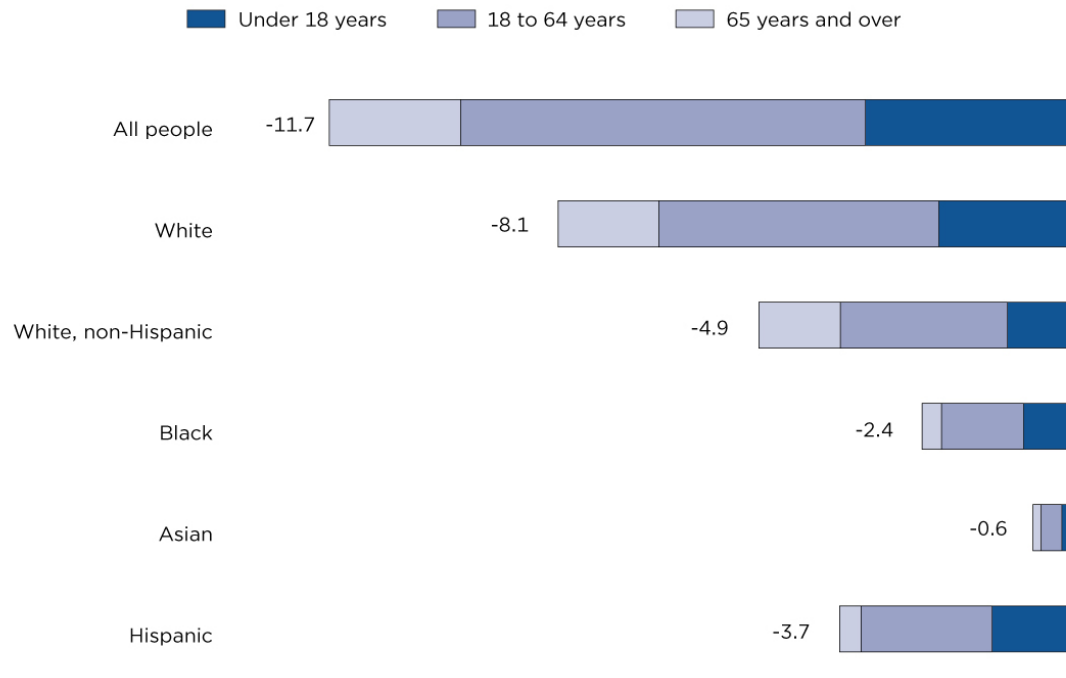
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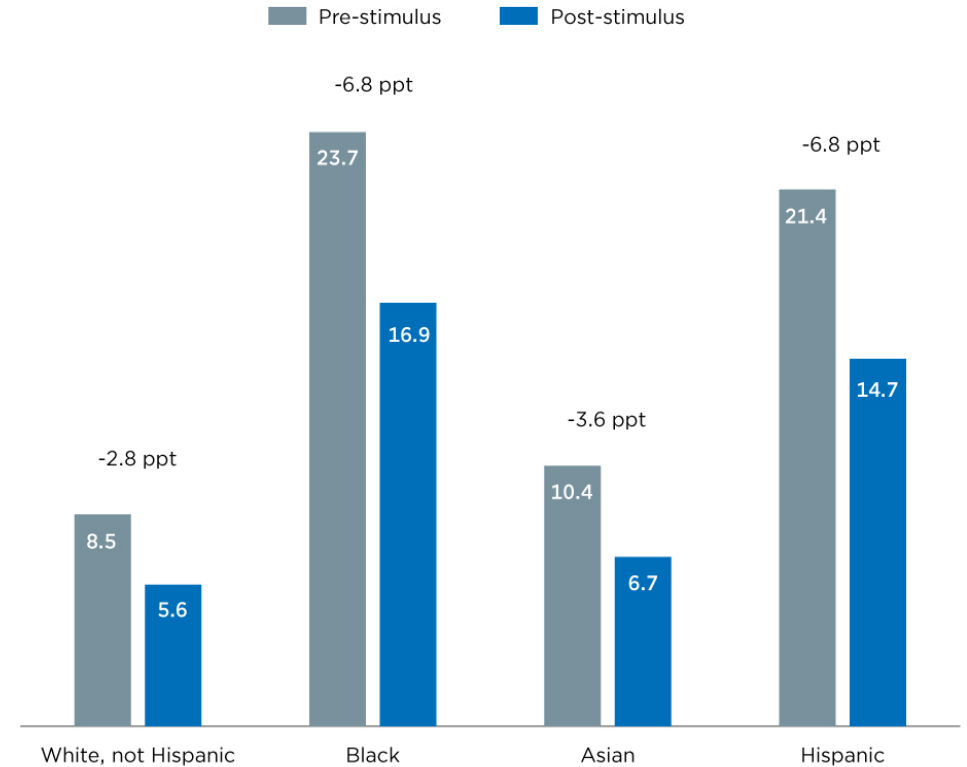
Impact of Stimulus Payments on SPM Rates

Change in Number of People in Poverty After Stimulus Payments: 2020
(In millions)



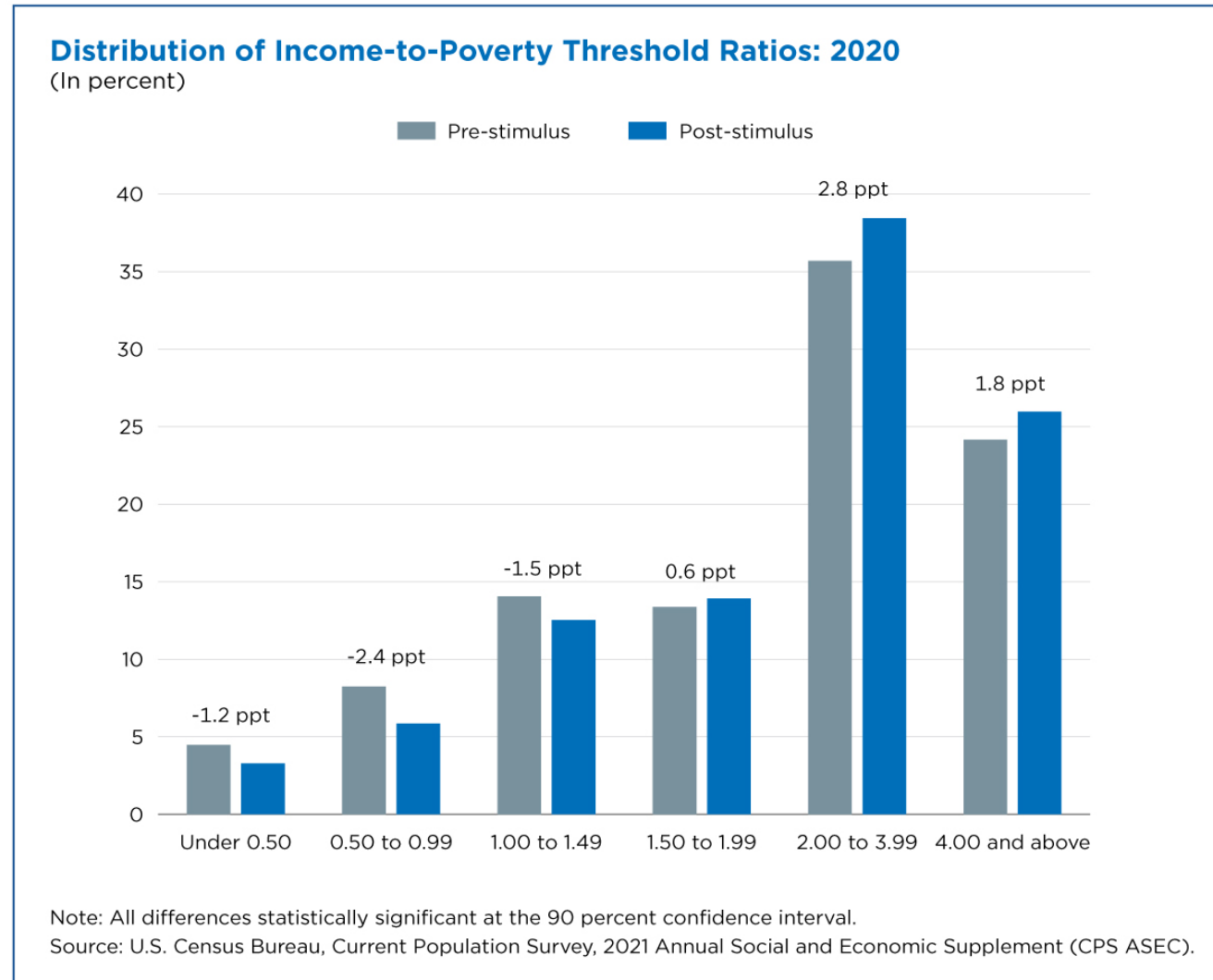
Note: Includes the first two rounds of stimulus payments. Additional details available at www.census.gov/library/publications/2021/demo/p60-275.html.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 2021 Annual Social and Economic Supplement (CPS ASEC).

Impact of Stimulus on Child Poverty Rates by Race and Hispanic Origin: 2020
(In percent)



Note: All differences statistically significant at the 90 percent confidence interval.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 2021 Annual Social and Economic Supplement (CPS ASEC).

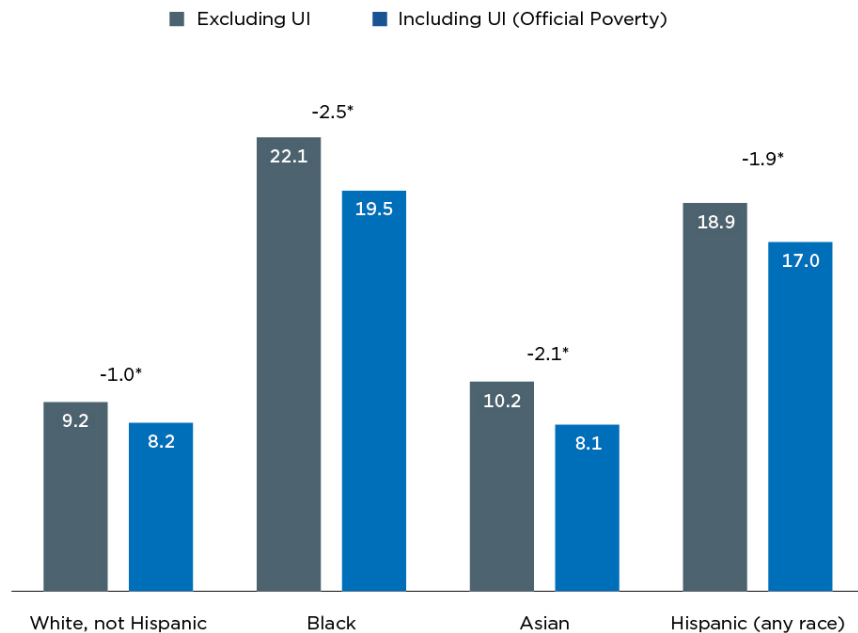
Impact of Stimulus Payments on Income-to-Poverty Ratios



Impact of Unemployment Insurance on Official Poverty Rates

Impact of Unemployment Insurance (UI) on the Official Poverty Rate by Race and Hispanic Origin: 2020

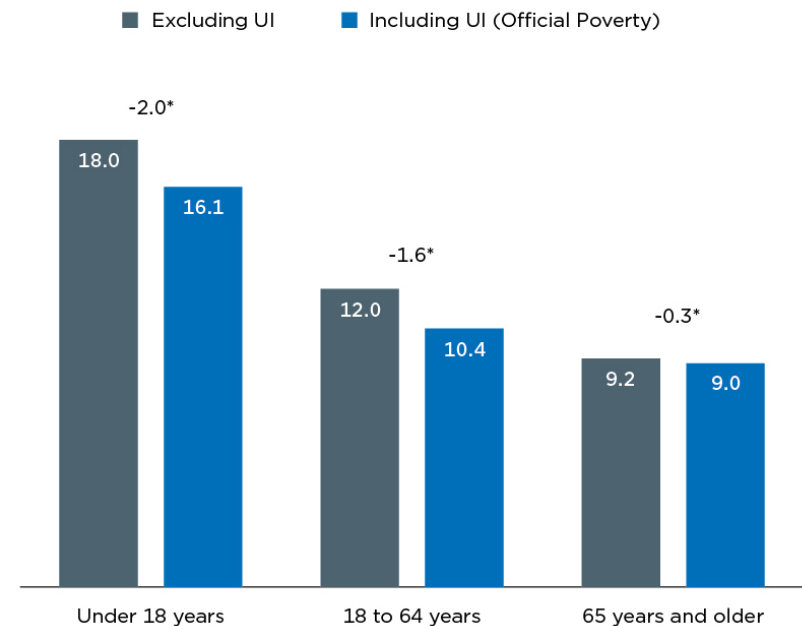
(In percent. Population as of March of the following year)



* Indicates that the change is statistically different from zero at the 90 percent confidence level.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 2021 Annual Social and Economic Supplement (CPS ASEC).

Impact of Unemployment Insurance (UI) on the Official Poverty Rate by Age: 2020

(In percent. Population as of March of the following year)



* Indicates that the change is statistically different from zero at the 90 percent confidence level.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 2021 Annual Social and Economic Supplement (CPS ASEC).

Contact

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The Impact of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic on the CPS ASEC

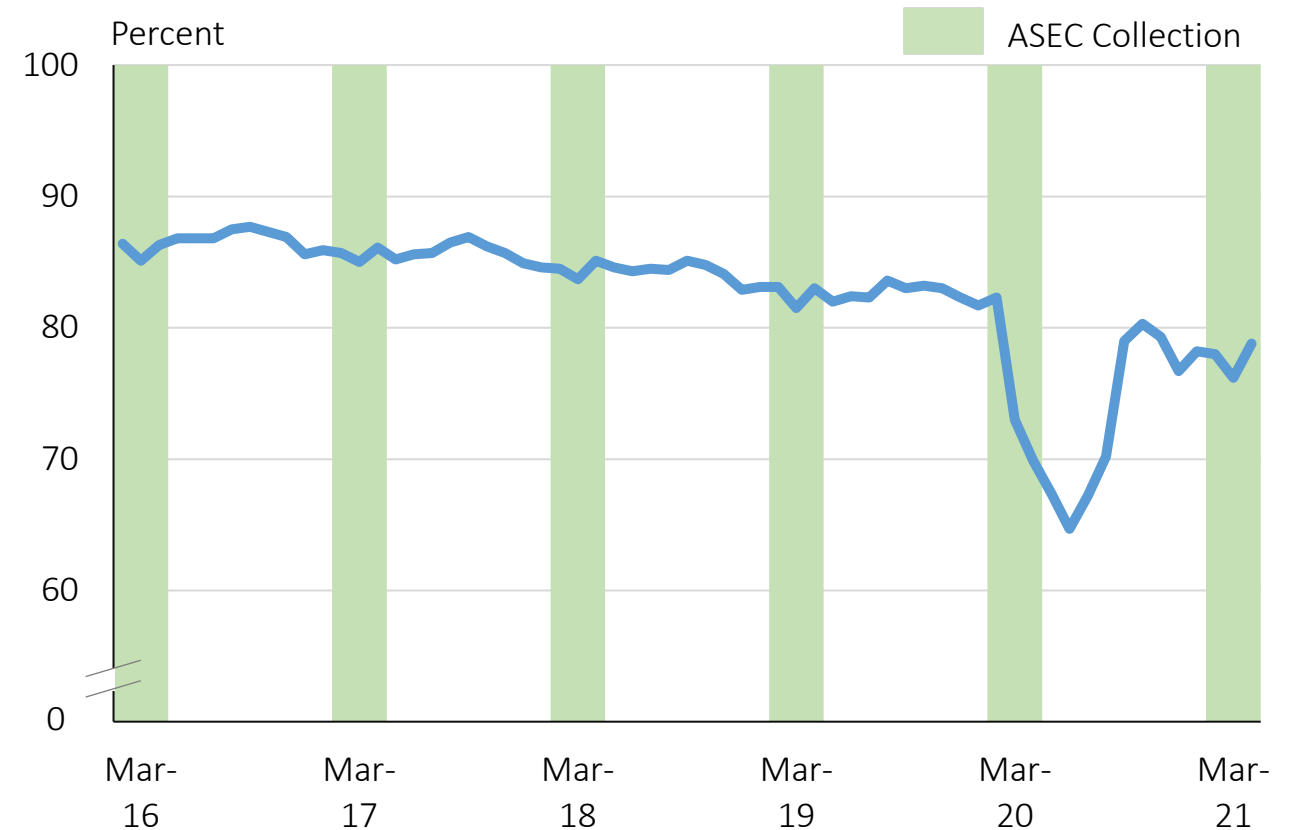
Research Matters

“How Did the Pandemic Affect Survey Response: Using Administrative Data to Evaluate Nonresponse in the 2021 Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplement”

Working Papers

- “Coronavirus Infects Surveys, Too: Nonresponse Bias During the Pandemic in the CPS ASEC” (SEHSD-WP2020-10)
- “The Influence of COVID-19-related Data Collection Changes on Measuring Health Insurance Coverage in the 2020 CPS ASEC” (SEHSD-WP2020-13)

Monthly Current Population Survey Household Response Rates



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics. Office of Survey Methods and Research.
<<https://www.bls.gov/osmr/response-rates/household-survey-response-rates.htm>>

Highlights: SPM 2020

The Supplemental Poverty Measure: 2020

Current Population Reports

By Liana E. Fox and Kalee Burns
September 2021
P60-275

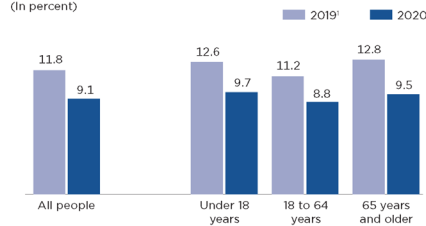
INTRODUCTION

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

Figure 1.
Supplemental Poverty Measure Rates for Total Population and by Age Group: 2019 and 2020
(In percent)



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>.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 2020 and 2021 Annual Social and Economic Supplements (CPS ASEC).

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

¹ 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.

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.

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- The Supplemental Poverty Measure (SPM) rate in 2020 was 9.1 percent. This was 2.6 percentage points lower than 2019 and the lowest rate since estimates were initially published for 2009.
- The SPM rate for 2020 was 2.3 percentage points lower than the official poverty rate of 11.4 percent.
- Stimulus payments, enacted as part of economic relief legislation related to the COVID-19 pandemic, moved 11.7 million people out of poverty. Unemployment insurance benefits, also expanded during 2020, prevented 5.5 million people from falling into poverty.