



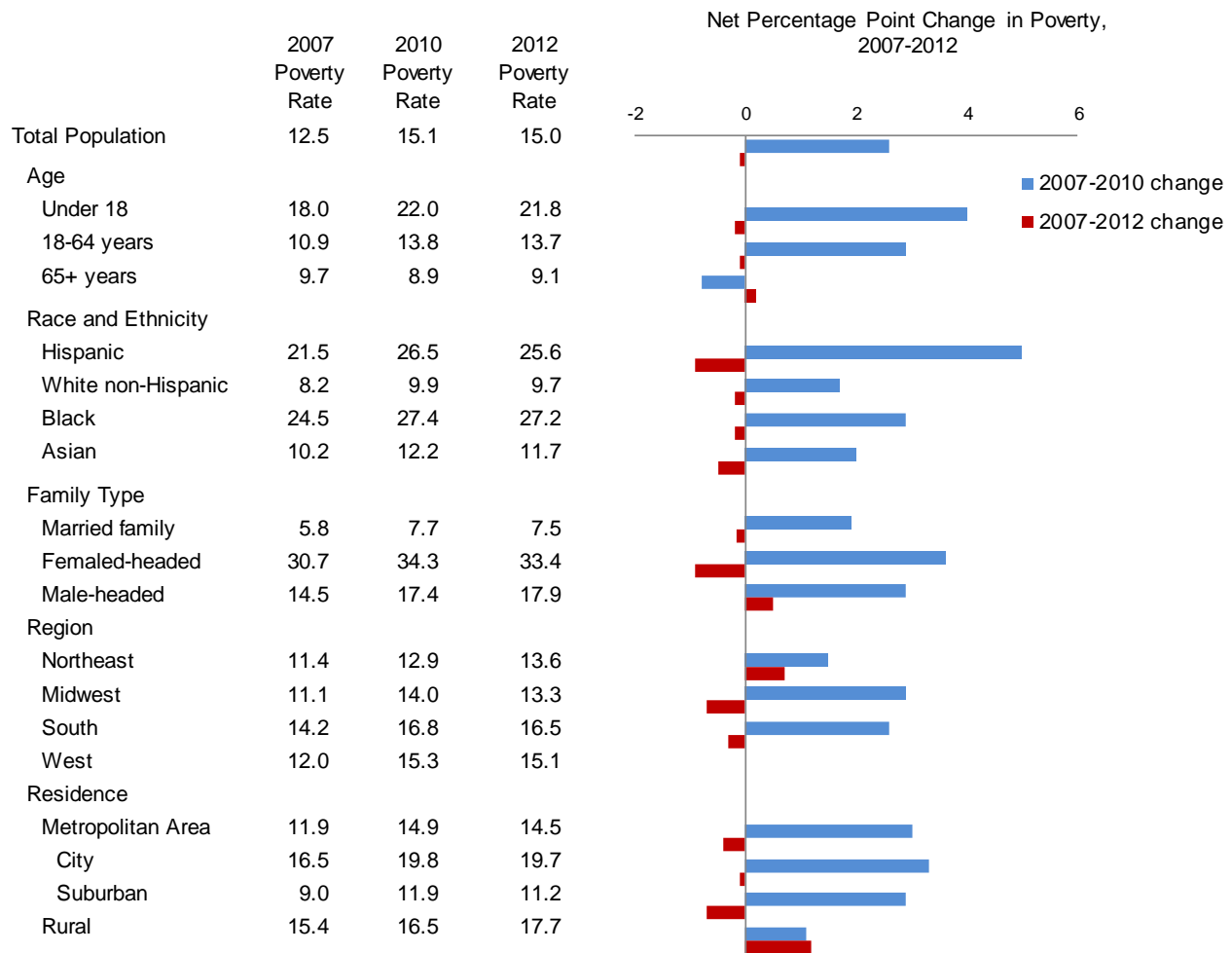
ASPE

ISSUE BRIEF

CHANGE IN POVERTY BY SELECT DEMOGRAPHIC GROUPS: 2007–2012 (September 27, 2013)

Since the Great Recession, poverty has increased overall and for most demographic groups. Nearly all of the increase in poverty occurred between 2007 and 2010 with the national rate rising from 12.5 percent to 15.1 percent, as shown by the blue bars. In 2011 and 2012 the national poverty rate leveled off, with the rate changing very little, as shown by the red bars.

Table 1. Poverty Rates for Selected Demographics, 2007, 2010 and 2012

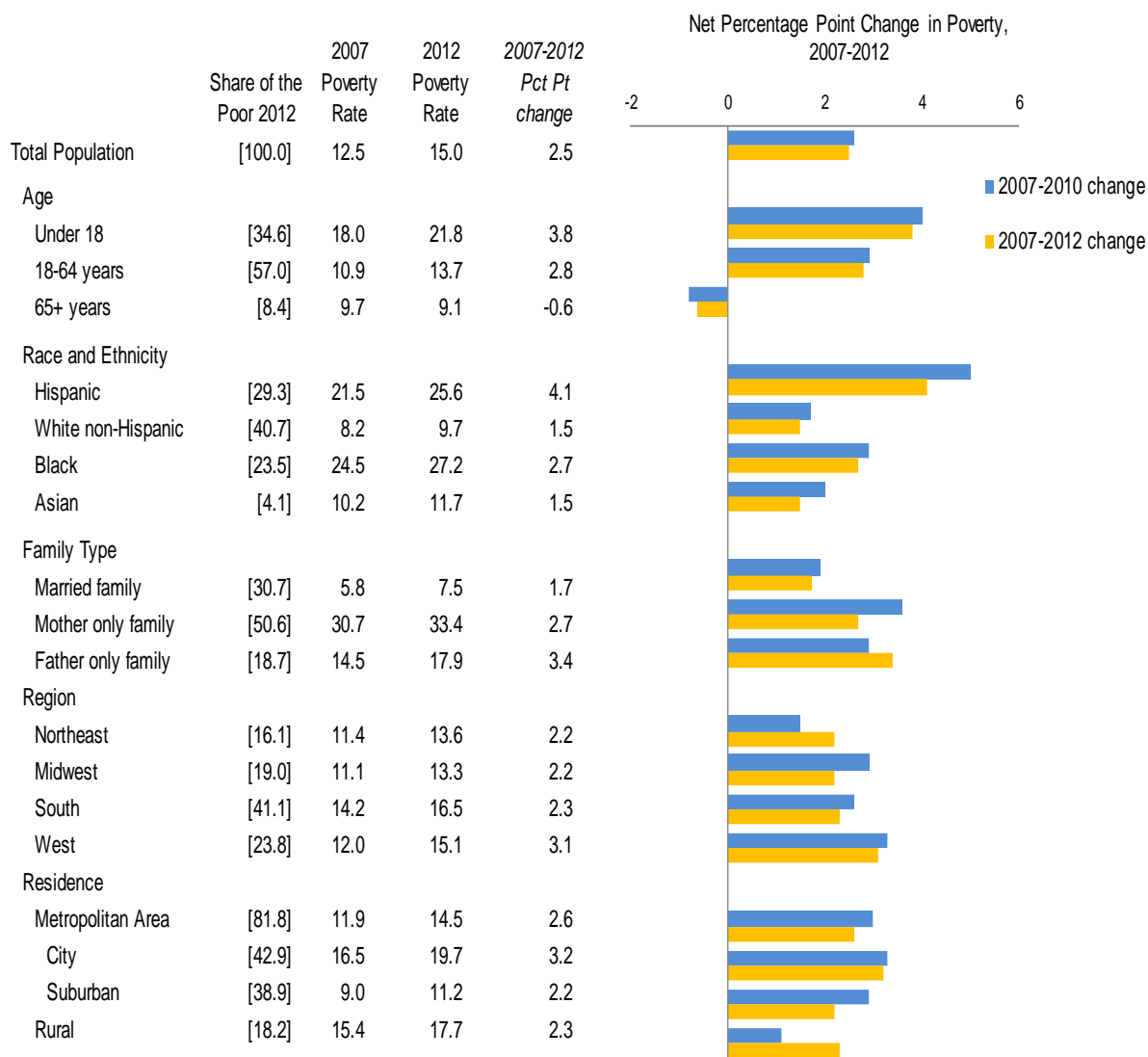


Note: White non-Hispanic refers to White alone. Black refers to Black alone and Asian refers to Asian alone. Hispanics may be any race. Family type is a count of people in families.

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplements.

Table 2 shows that since 2007, or before the official start of the Great Recession, poverty increased somewhat more for children, Hispanics, and people living in single-parent families, those living in the West, and in central cities compared to others.

Table 2. Change in the Poverty Rate from 2007 to 2012



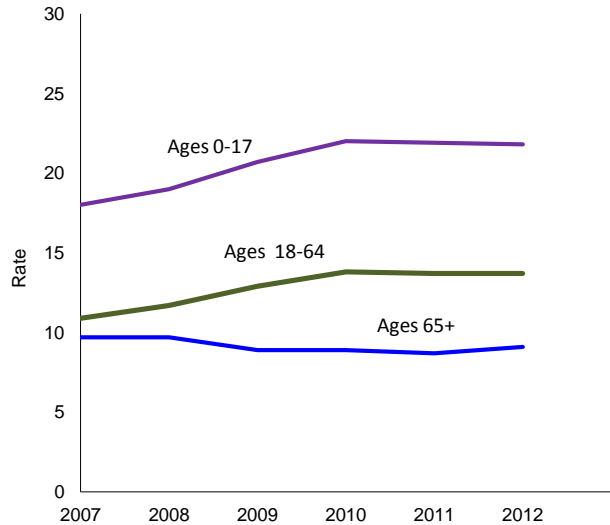
Note: White non-Hispanic refers to White alone. Black refers to Black alone and Asian refers to Asian alone. Hispanics may be any race. Family type is a count of people in families.

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplements.

Change in Poverty by Age

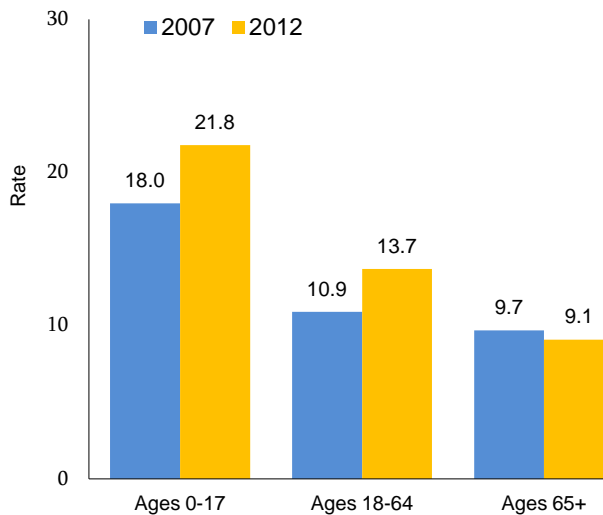
- From well before the Great Recession, children under 18 years have had higher poverty rates than working-age adults or those ages 65 and older.
- The poverty rate did not increase for those ages 65 and older over the course of the Great Recession, while it increased for both children under age 18 and adults ages 18 to 64 (3.8 and 2.8 percentage points, respectively).
- Poverty among the working age group, 18 to 64, swelled from 20.4 million to 26.5 million people, comprising 57 percent of the 46.5 people living in poverty in 2012.

Figure 1a. Poverty by Age Group: 2007–2012



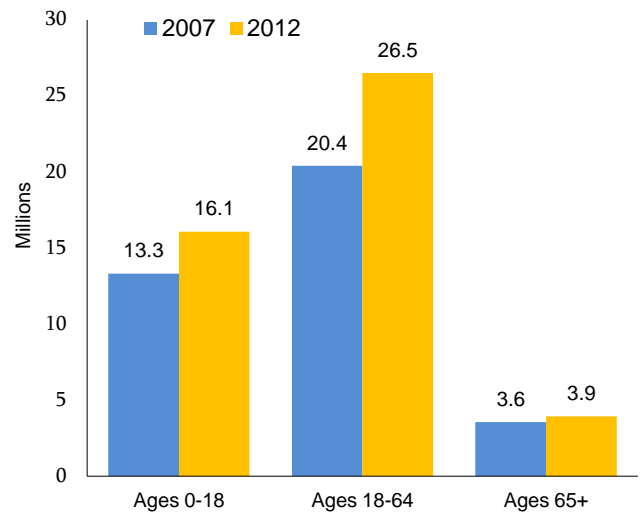
Source: U.S. Census Bureau Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplements.

Figure 1b. Poverty by Age Group, 2007 and 2012



Source: U.S. Census Bureau Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplements.

Figure 1c. Number of Poor by Age, 2007 and 2012

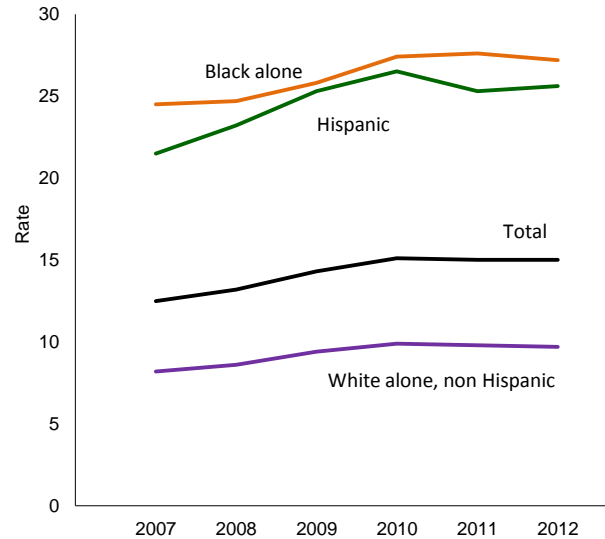


Source: U.S. Census Bureau Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplements.

Change in Poverty by Race and Ethnicity

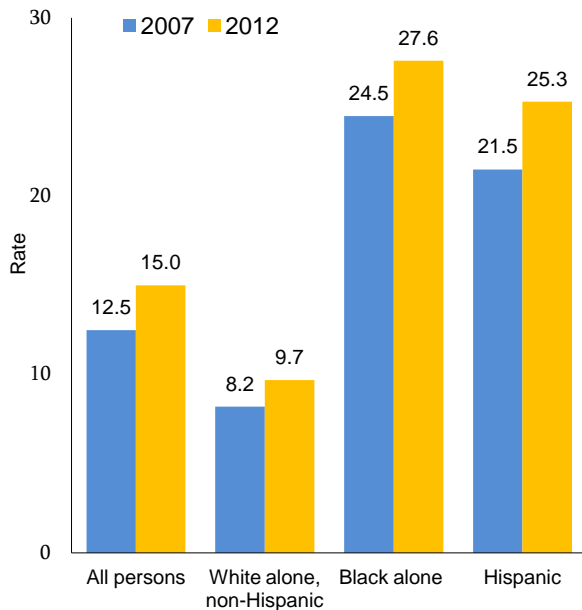
- Since 2007 poverty increased for each of the race-ethnic groups shown.
- From well before the Great Recession, the Black and Hispanic populations have had much higher poverty rates than non-Hispanic Whites.
- Hispanics experienced the steepest increase in poverty from 2007 to 2010, and a modest decline since 2010.
- For Blacks and non-Hispanic Whites, the poverty rate remained stable in 2011 and 2012.
- While non-Hispanic Whites had the lowest poverty rates among racial and ethnic groups, they constituted 19.2 million (40.7 percent) of those living in poverty in 2012.

Figure 2a. Poverty by Race and Ethnicity, 2007–2012



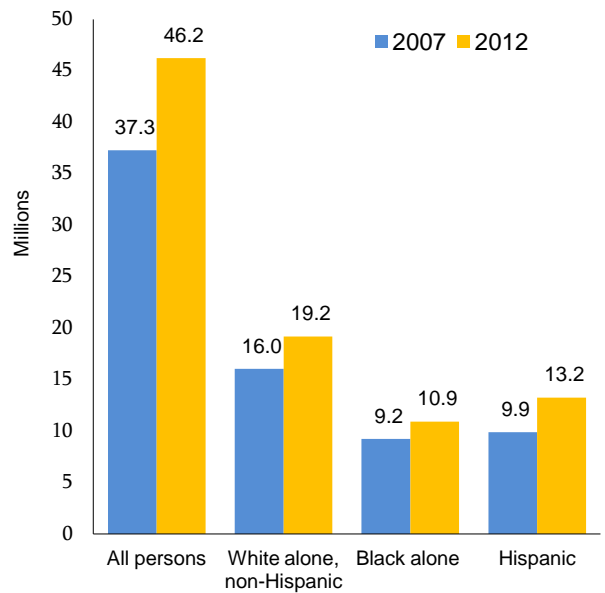
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplements.

Figure 2b. Poverty by Race and Ethnicity, 2007 and 2012



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplements.

Figure 2c. Number of Poor by Race and Ethnicity, 2007 and 2012

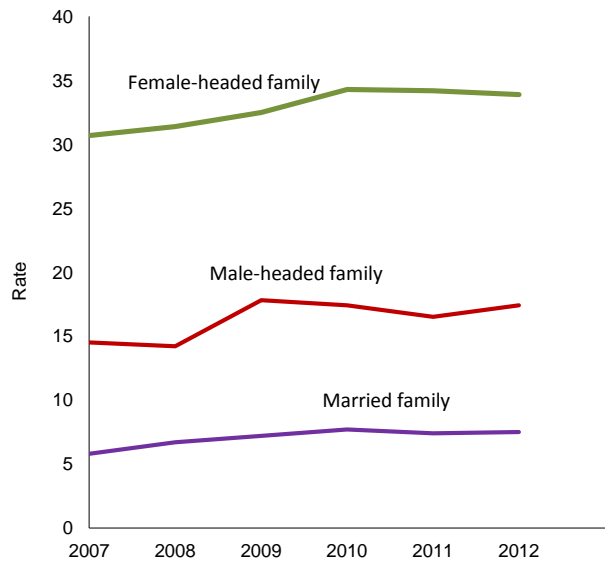


Source: U.S. Census Bureau Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplements.

Change in Poverty by Family Type

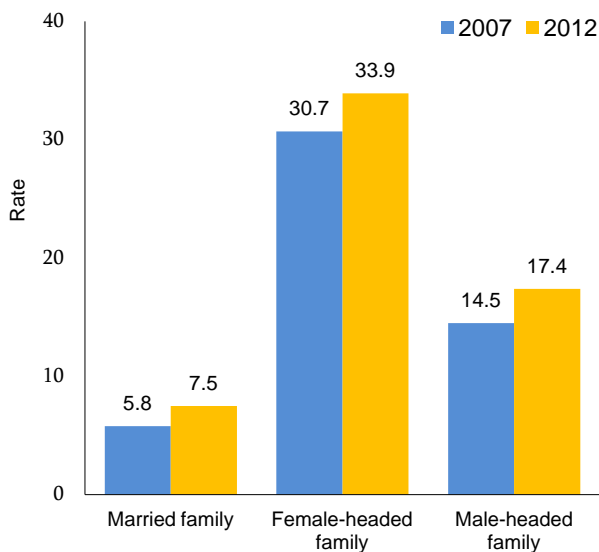
- Poverty increased over the course of the Great Recession for each of the family types shown.
- Poverty rates rose most among female-headed families, from 2007 to 2010, and were 4½ times the poverty rates for married families and double those of male-headed families in 2012.
- While people living in married families had the lowest poverty rates among the family types, a total of 14.2 million people living in poverty were in married families in 2012.

Figure 3a. Poverty by Family Type: 2007–2012



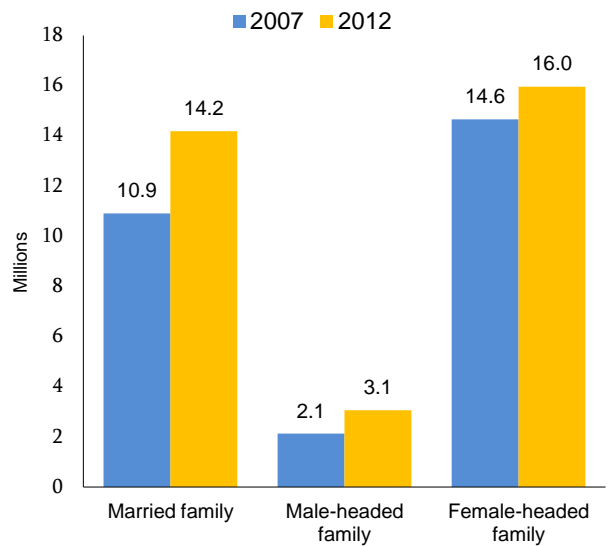
Source: U.S. Census Bureau Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplements.

Figure 3b. Poverty by Family Type, 2007 and 2012



Source: U.S. Census Bureau Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplements.

Figure 3c. Number of Poor by Family Type, 2007 and 2012

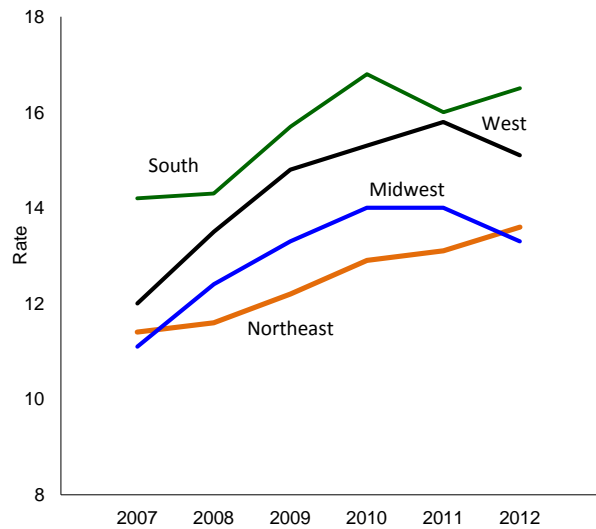


Source: U.S. Census Bureau Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplements.

Change in Poverty by Region

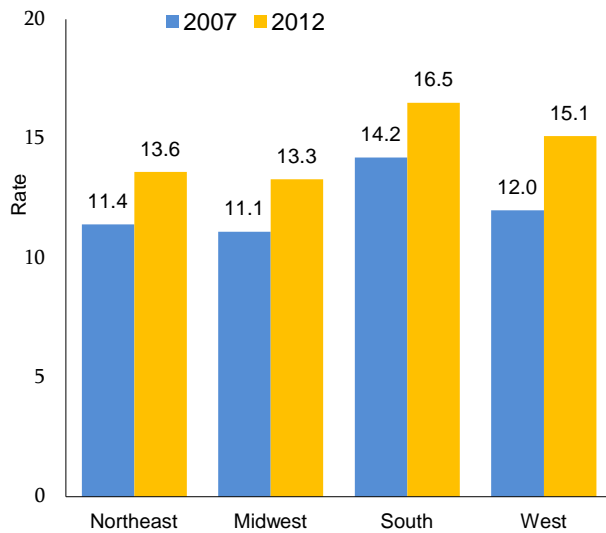
- When looking at U.S. Census Bureau defined regions of the country¹, poverty rates were highest in the South during the Great Recession and through 2012.
- Poverty rates were lowest in the Midwest and the Northeast in 2007 and 2012. While poverty rates from 2008 to 2011 remained lowest in the Northeast, in the Midwest poverty climbed more rapidly during the recession, and declined modestly since.
- In the West, poverty increased by 3.1 percentage points, the most of any region. In the Midwest and the Northeast poverty increased by 2.2 percentage points over the course of the Great Recession.
- The poor population increased by about 2.6 million in the West and about 3.6 million in the

Figure 4a. Poverty by Region, 2007–2012



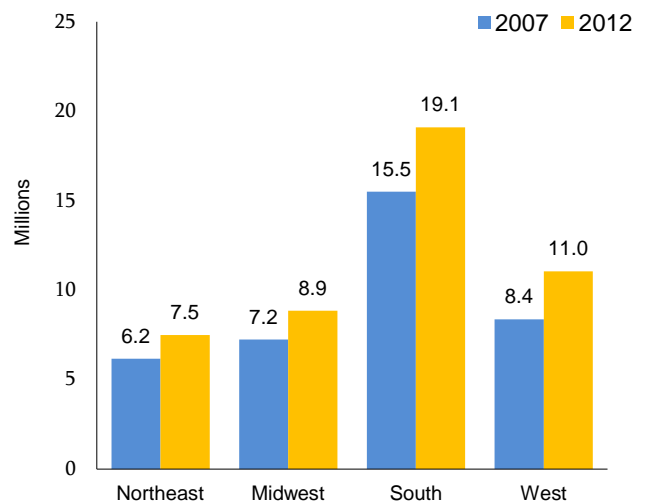
Source: U.S. Census Bureau Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplements, 2008-2013.

Figure 4b. Poverty by Region, 2007 and 2012



Source: U.S. Census Bureau Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplements, 2008 and 2013.

Figure 4c. Number of Poor by Region, 2007 and 2012



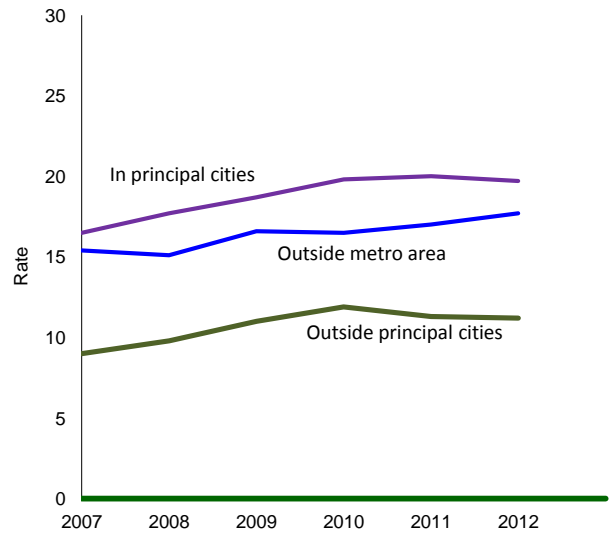
Source: U.S. Census Bureau Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplements.

¹The U.S. Census Bureau defines regions as follows: 1) the South includes AL, AR, DE, DC, FL, GA, KY, LA, MD, MI, NC, OK, SC, TN, TX, VA, and WV; 2) The Midwest includes IL, IN, IA, KS, MI, MN, MO, NE, ND, OH, SD, and WI; 3) The Northeast includes CT, ME, MA, NH, NJ, NY, PA, RI, and VT; 4) the West includes AK, AZ, CA, CO, HA, ID, MT, NV, NM, OR, UT, WA, and WY.

Change in Poverty by Residence

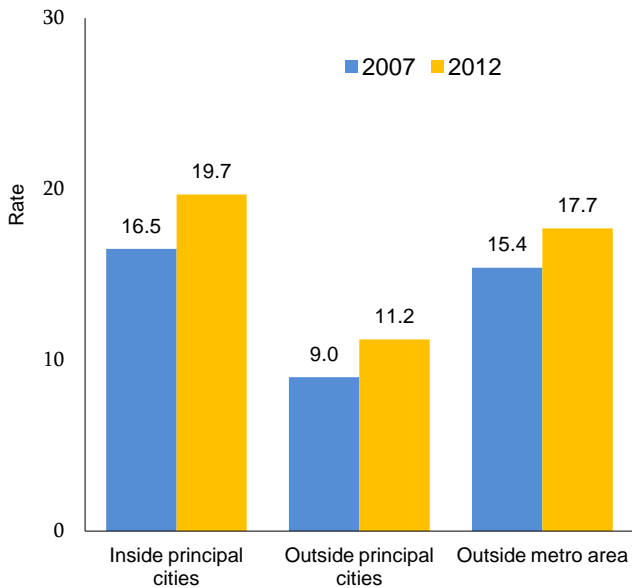
- Poverty increased in all types of residential areas, including principal cities, the metro areas outside principal cities, and non-metro or rural areas since 2007.
- Poverty was highest inside principal cities prior to and during the Great Recession. Poverty also increased most in principal cities since 2007, a 3.2 percentage point increase brought the rate to 19.7 percent in 2012.
- Since 2010, the poverty rate decreased modestly in areas outside the principal cities of metropolitan areas, but overall the number of poor residing in these areas grew by 4.2 million to 18.1 million people in 2012.
- Outside metropolitan areas, the poverty rate increased by 2.3 percentage points from 2007 to 2012.

Figure 5a. Poverty by Residence, 2007–2012



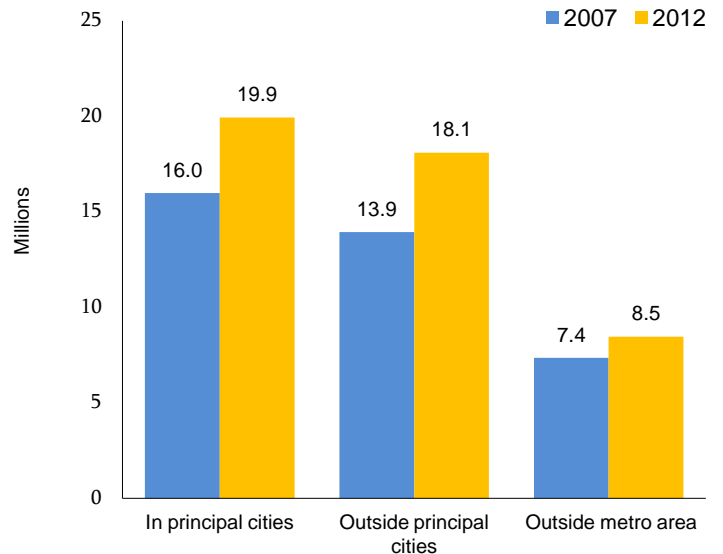
Source: U.S. Census Bureau Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplements.

Figure 5b. Poverty by Residence, 2007 and 2012



Source: U.S. Census Bureau Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplements.

Figure 5c. Number of Poor by Residence, 2007 and 2012

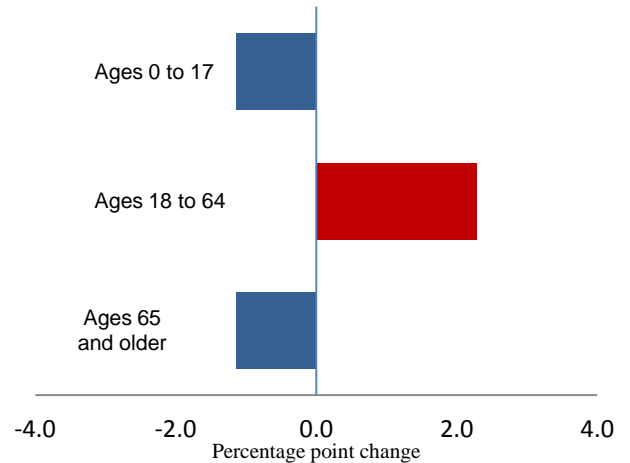


Source: U.S. Census Bureau Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplements.

Net Changes in the Composition of the Poor Population

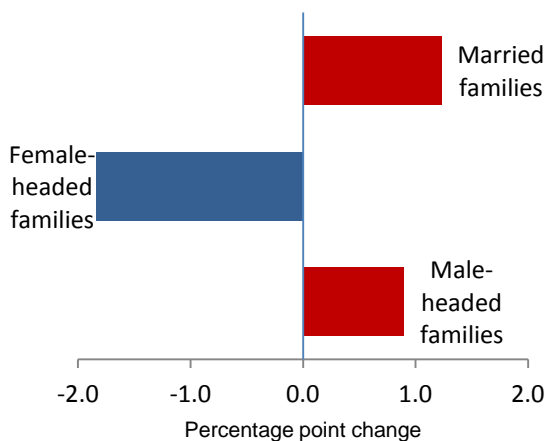
- The figures on this page show changes in the distribution of the poverty population within demographic categories from 2007 to 2012.
- Since 2007, the working age group, 18-64 years, increased its share of the poverty population by about two percentage points, from 55 percent to 57 percent.
- The share of the poor population living in married families and male-headed families both increased since 2007, though those in female-headed families still constituted the majority of the poor living in families.
- Since 2007 the share of the poor population which is Hispanic increased by about three percentage points from 26 to 29 percent of the poor.

Figure 6a. Change in the Composition of Poverty by Age, 2007 to 2012



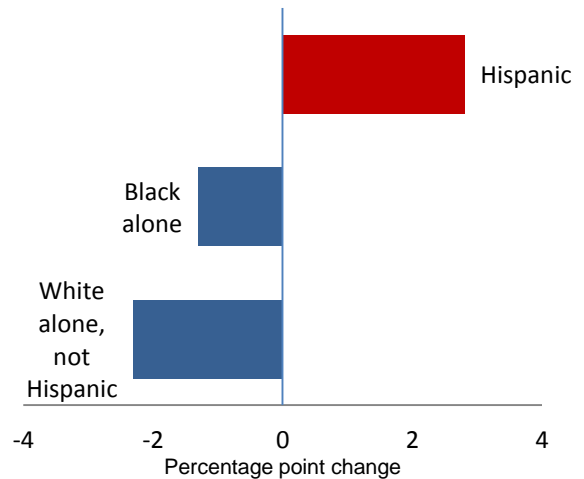
Source: U.S. Census Bureau Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplements.

Figure 6c. Change in Composition of Poverty by Family Type, 2007 to 2012



Source: U.S. Census Bureau Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplements.

Figure 6c. Change in Composition of Poverty by Race and Ethnicity, 2007 to 2012



Source: U.S. Census Bureau Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplements.