Webinar: How New Data Shows Us the Pathway for Ending Child Poverty

Tuesday, September 28, 2021
How New Data Shows the Pathway for Ending Child Poverty

Child Poverty Action Group & First Focus
September 2021

Megan A. Curran
Poverty Measures: US Census Bureau

**Official Measure**

The official measure uses income, such as wages and salaries, Social Security benefits, interest, dividends, pension, or other retirement income.

2016 Official Poverty Thresholds (Two Adults and Two Children)

$24,339

For 2020: $26,246

For images & more information, see US Census Bureau

**Supplemental Measure**

The SPM starts with cash income, then...

**ADDITIONS**

The SPM adds benefits from the government that are not cash but help families meet their basic needs.

- **Housing subsidies**
- **Child care expenses**
- **Expenses related to work**
- **Medical expenses**

**SUBTRACTIONS**

The SPM subtracts necessary expenses like taxes, health care, commuting costs for all workers, and child care expenses while parents work.

2016 SPM Poverty Thresholds for Renters (Two Adults and Two Children)

For 2020 (nat’l avg): $30,150

For 2020: $26,246
Child Poverty Trends: OPM vs. SPM

Access our historical SPM data back to 1967 at povertycenter.columbia.edu/historical-spm-data-reg

Image from pg. 8 of Census Bureau 2020 SPM report
SPM Child Poverty in 2020

2.2 million **fewer** children living in SPM poverty in 2020 than in 2019

*Image and data from pg. 1 of Census Bureau 2020 SPM report*
Examples of Policies Reflected in 2020 SPM Poverty:

✓ 1st two rounds of stimulus checks
✓ Expanded unemployment benefits (available in 2020)
✓ Pandemic-EBT (aggregated under SNAP or school lunch)
✓ SNAP, WIC, LIHEAP increases

Examples of Policies NOT Reflected in 2020 SPM Poverty:

X 3rd round of stimulus checks (2021)
X SNAP 15% benefit increase (2021)
X Expanded unemployment benefits (available in 2021 – e.g. $300/wk PUC)
Monthly Child Poverty Rates, US: January 2020 to August 2021

Based on: Parolin, Curran, Matsudaira, Waldfogel, and Wimer (2020)
Access all results at: https://www.povertycenter.columbia.edu/forecasting-monthly-poverty-data

Large share of EITC/CTC transfers delivered

CARES Act enacted March 27

$600 per week unemployment supplement expires

Large share of EITC/CTC transfers + stimulus checks delivered

$300 per week unemployment supplement + stimulus checks + SNAP expansions

First monthly CTC payment delivered

Without COVID relief

With COVID relief
Identifying Effects of Ongoing Relief

For Children

Anti-Poverty Policy Effects in July 2021

As the new monthly Child Tax Credit rolls-out, food hardship and child poverty drops.

The overall monthly child poverty rate fell.

15.9% JUNE 2021

11.9% JULY 2021

The CTC kept 3 million children from living in poverty in its first month alone.

The first CTC payment reduced food hardship among low-income families by approximately 30%.

2\textsuperscript{nd} CTC payment kept 3.5 million children from poverty in August

(500,000 more children than in July due to expanded coverage)

View monthly poverty rates under three scenarios: (1) pre-tax/transfer; (2) without COVID relief; or (3) with COVID relief

Find breakouts by **age** (*children; working age adults; seniors*) and **race and ethnicity** (*Asian, Black, Latino, White*)
Questions?

Keep in touch!

Megan Curran
Policy Director

povertycenter.columbia.edu

cpsp@columbia.edu

@cpsppovernty

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Jacqueline Sealey
Parent of 3
Niagara Falls, NY
MomsRising Volunteer
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Thank you for joining us!

Contact Cara Baldari at carab@firstfocus.org with follow-up questions