

# Dynamics of Economic Well-Being: Poverty, 2009–2011

## *Household Economic Studies*

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### INTRODUCTION

This report presents data on poverty based on information collected in the Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP). The report describes patterns of poverty using measures with different time horizons and provides a dynamic view of the duration of poverty spells and the frequency of transitions into and out of poverty. It further examines how poverty dynamics vary across demographic groups. The report focuses on data collected in the 2008 Panel of the SIPP over the period of January 2009 to December 2011 and, where appropriate, makes comparisons to data collected for January 2005 to December 2007 in the 2004 SIPP Panel. See Text Box 1 for a detailed discussion of data sources and reference periods covered in this report.

The SIPP allows policy makers, academic researchers, and the general public to paint a more detailed portrait of poverty than the one provided by the official annual poverty estimate. The official annual poverty rate, based on the Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplement (CPS ASEC), captures a snapshot of well-being at a single time period. Once a year, the CPS ASEC measures the percentage of people whose annual family money income falls below their official poverty threshold but does not address how poverty varies across shorter or longer time periods or how an individual's poverty status may change over time.<sup>1</sup> Compared with the official annual poverty rate, longitudinal research finds poverty rates vary by the

<sup>1</sup> See Source of Data on page 14 for a discussion of the differences in annual poverty rates across the SIPP and CPS ASEC.

time period examined—a small fraction of people are in poverty for more than 1 year, while a larger percentage of people experience poverty for shorter time periods.<sup>2</sup>

The SIPP interviews a representative sample of U.S. households every 4 months. The population represented (the population universe) is the civilian noninstitutionalized population of the United States. Core content of the SIPP identifies demographic characteristics, labor force participation, government program participation, and various income sources for members of sampled households.

Poverty statistics presented in this report adhere to the standards specified by the Office of Management and Budget's Statistical Policy Directive 14. The Census Bureau uses a set of money income thresholds that vary by family size and composition to determine

<sup>2</sup> Examples of previous longitudinal studies on poverty include: Robin J. Anderson, "Dynamics of Economic Well-Being: Poverty, 2004–2006," *Current Population Reports*, Series P70-123, U.S. Census Bureau, Washington, DC, 2011. Stephanie R. Cellini, Signe-Mary McKernan, and Caroline Ratcliffe, "The Dynamics of Poverty in the United States: A Review of Data, Methods, and Findings," *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management* 27 (2008), pp. 577–605. John Iceland, "Dynamics of Economic Well-Being: Poverty, 1996–1999," *Current Population Reports*, Series P70-91, U.S. Census Bureau, Washington, DC, 2003. Mary Naifeh, "Dynamics of Economic Well-Being, Poverty, 1993–94: Trap Door? Revolving Door? Or Both?," *Current Population Reports*, Series P70-63, U.S. Census Bureau, Washington, DC, 1998. Signe-Mary McKernan and Caroline Ratcliffe, "Transition Events in the Dynamics of Poverty, Urban Institute Research Report," 2002, <[www.urban.org/url.cfm?ID=410575](http://www.urban.org/url.cfm?ID=410575)>. Mary Jo Bane and David Ellwood, "Slipping Into and Out of Poverty: The Dynamics of Spells," *Journal of Human Resources* 21 (1986), pp. 1–23. Ann Huff Stevens, "The Dynamics of Poverty Spells: Updating Bane and Ellwood," *AEA Papers and Proceedings* 84 (1994), pp. 34–37. Ann Huff Stevens, "Climbing Out of Poverty, Falling Back In: Measuring the Persistence of Poverty Over Multiple Spells," *Journal of Human Resources* 34 (1999), pp. 557–88.

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Text Box 1.

**DATA AVAILABILITY ACROSS THE 2004 AND 2008 SIPP PANELS**

The Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP) is designed as a series of longitudinal panels. Within a panel, the same individuals are surveyed every 4 months, with panels lasting from two and a half to five years. The data collected at each 4-month interval within a panel is referred to as a wave. Data from the SIPP can be used cross-sectionally by looking at individual reference months within a single wave, or longitudinally by following individuals as they are interviewed in successive waves across the panel.

The 2008 SIPP Panel collected data over the course of 16 waves, covering 67 reference months from May 2008 to November 2013. The data in this report include 44 months of data collected through Waves 1 to 11 of the 2008 Panel covering calendar years 2008 to 2011. Since the first reference month of the 2008 Panel was May 2008, calendar year estimates are not available for that year, although estimates of monthly poverty rates are available for months May to December in 2008.<sup>1</sup>

Data from the 2008 Panel are compared with the 2004 Panel, which collected data over the course of 12 waves covering 51 reference months from October 2003 to December 2007.<sup>2</sup> In this report, comparisons are made across the last three calendar years covered by the 2004 Panel, 2005 to 2007, in order to minimize the gap in data coverage across the 2004 and 2008 Panels.<sup>3</sup> The previous report in this series (P70-123, Dynamics of Economic Well-Being 2004–2006) provides estimates for calendar years 2004 to 2006 covered by the 2004 Panel.

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<sup>1</sup> Calendar months May, June, and July of 2008 are missing for some rotation groups in the 2008 Panel. For cross-sectional estimates in these calendar months, monthly weights were inflated to adjust for missing rotation groups.

<sup>2</sup> In Wave 9 of the 2004 SIPP Panel, the survey sample was cut by a 53 percent sample reduction; sampling weights adjust for this reduction.

<sup>3</sup> Calendar months October, November, and December of 2007 are missing for some rotation groups in the 2004 Panel. For cross-sectional estimates in these calendar months, monthly weights were inflated to adjust for missing rotation groups. For longitudinal estimates covering these calendar months, a carry forward imputation method was applied.

who is in poverty. If a family's total income is less than that family's threshold, then that family and every individual in it are considered to be in poverty. The poverty thresholds do not vary geographically. They are updated annually to reflect changes in the cost of living using the Consumer Price Index (CPI-U).<sup>3</sup>

Since SIPP respondents are interviewed throughout the year and asked about their income for the previous 4 months individually, each month's poverty status is determined by comparing monthly income to the appropriate monthly poverty threshold. Monthly thresholds are calculated by multiplying the base-year annual poverty thresholds by an inflation factor relevant to the reference month and then dividing the calculated annual threshold by 12.

This report discusses poverty rate estimates for different time periods, measures the length of time people remain poor, and follows the movement of people into and out of poverty. The poverty measures discussed include monthly, annual, episodic, and chronic poverty rates. To capture changes in poverty status over time, the report examines poverty entry rates, poverty exit rates, and the duration of poverty spells. See Text Box 2 for a more detailed description of each measure used in this report.

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<sup>3</sup> For additional information on how the Census Bureau measures poverty see <[www.census.gov/hhes/www/poverty/about/overview/measure.html](http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/poverty/about/overview/measure.html)>.

Text Box 2.

**POVERTY MEASURES USED IN THIS REPORT**

Monthly Poverty Rate	Percent in poverty in a given month using monthly income and a monthly threshold.
Episodic Poverty Rate	Percent in poverty for 2 or more consecutive months.
Chronic Poverty Rate	Percent in poverty every month of a given reference period. Chronic poverty over an annual period includes individuals who have been in poverty for all 12 months, while chronic poverty over the panel refers to individuals in poverty all 36 months of the 3-year period.
Annual Poverty Rate	Percent in poverty in a calendar year. Each individual's annual poverty status is calculated by comparing the sum of monthly family income over the year to the sum of monthly poverty thresholds for the year. <sup>1</sup>
Length of Poverty Spell	Number of months in poverty. The minimum spell length is 2 months and spells are separated by 2 or more months of not being in poverty. Individuals can have more than one spell. Spells underway in the first interview month of the panel are excluded.
Poverty Entry	Based on annual poverty measures, people who were not in poverty in the first year of the panel but in poverty in a subsequent year.
Poverty Exit	Based on annual poverty measures, people who were in poverty in the first year of the panel but not in poverty in a subsequent year.

<sup>1</sup> The annual poverty rate estimates in the SIPP differ from official poverty estimates based on the CPS ASEC. See Source of Data on page 14 for a discussion of the differences in annual poverty rates across the SIPP and CPS ASEC.

**HIGHLIGHTS**

- Over the 36-month period from January 2009 to December 2011, 31.6 percent of the U.S. population was in poverty for at least 2 months, an increase from 27.1 percent over the period of 2005 to 2007.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>4</sup> The estimates in this report (which may be shown in text, figures, or tables) are based on responses from a sample of the population and may differ from the actual values because of sampling variability or other factors. As a result, apparent differences between the estimates for two or more groups may not be statistically significant. All comparative statements have undergone statistical testing and are significant at the 90 percent confidence level unless otherwise noted.

- The percentage of people in poverty all 36 months from 2009 to 2011 was 3.5 percent, an increase from 3.0 percent over the period of 2005 to 2007.
- By 2011, 5.4 percent of people who were not in poverty in 2009 had entered poverty.
- Of individuals in poverty in 2009, 12.6 million (35.4 percent) were not in poverty in 2011, but approximately half of those who exited poverty continued to have income less than 150 percent of their poverty threshold.
- For individuals experiencing a poverty spell lasting 2 or more consecutive months from 2009 to 2011, an estimated 44.0 percent of poverty spells ended within 4 months, while 15.2 percent of spells lasted more than 2 years.
- From 2009 to 2011, the median length of a given poverty spell was 6.6 months, up from a median length of 5.7 months over the period of 2005 to 2007.

## RESULTS

### Poverty Rate Comparisons: 2005 to 2007 vs. 2009 to 2011

Figure 1 reports episodic poverty rates, annual poverty rates, and chronic poverty rates from the 2004 and 2008 Panels. This report uses SIPP data from the 2004 Panel covering January 2005 to December 2007, a period of economic expansion that ended in December 2007.<sup>5</sup> The 2008 SIPP Panel captures the last 6 months of the economic recession (January to

June 2009) and 30 months of the subsequent economic expansion.

Over the period of the 2004 SIPP Panel, the 2005 annual poverty rate of 10.9 percent was not statistically different from the 2006 annual poverty rate of 10.4 percent. However, the annual poverty rate rose 0.9 percentage points from 2006 to 2007, to a rate of 11.3 percent in 2007.<sup>6</sup> Comparing estimates across the 2004 and 2008 SIPP Panels, annual poverty rates increased from 11.3 percent in 2007 to 13.2 percent in 2009. Individuals aged 65 and over were the only demographic group shown in Tables A-1 and A-2 to experience a decrease

in annual poverty rates from 2007 to 2009.<sup>7,8</sup> Over the course of the 2008 Panel, the overall annual poverty rate was unchanged from calendar years 2009 to 2010, and from 2010 to 2011. However, the 2011 annual poverty rate of 14.0 percent was higher than the 2009 annual poverty rate of 13.2 percent.

From January 2009 to December 2011, the percentage of people

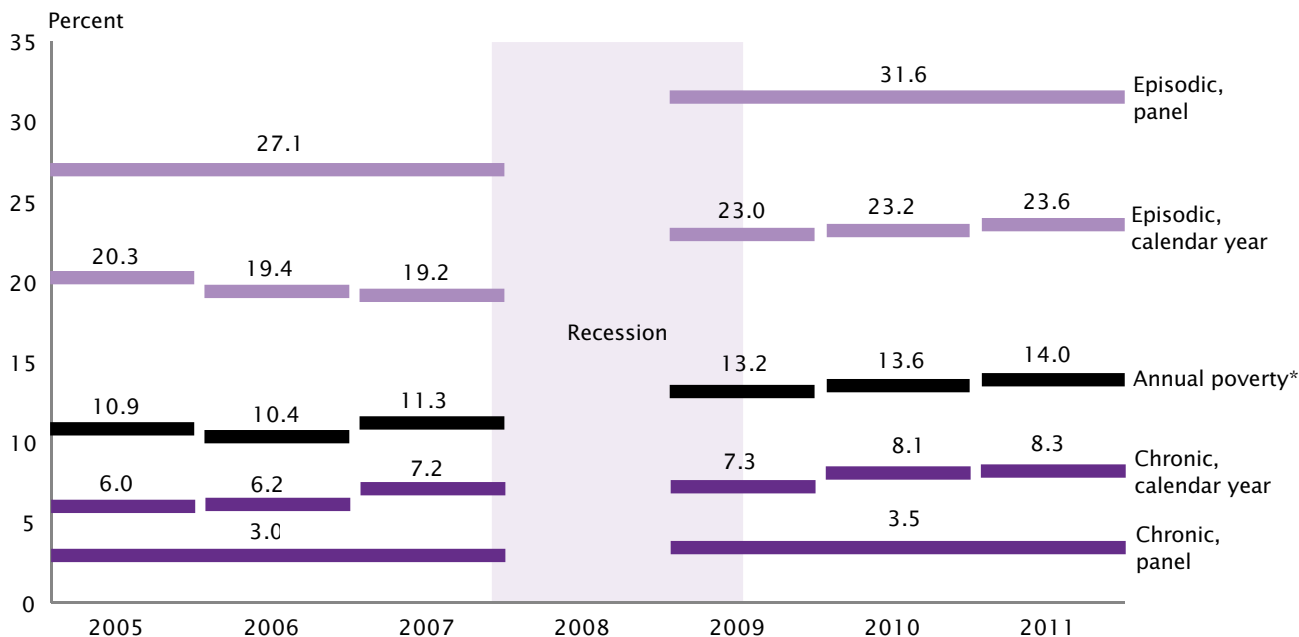
<sup>5</sup> Recessions are defined by the National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER). A trough occurred in November 2001, a peak in December 2007, and another trough in June 2009. For more information see <[www.nber.org/cycles/cyclesmain.html](http://www.nber.org/cycles/cyclesmain.html)>.

<sup>6</sup> The 2005 annual poverty rate of 10.9 percent was not statistically different from the 2007 annual poverty rate of 11.3 percent.

<sup>7</sup> The 2009 annual poverty rate for Blacks (24.2 percent) and individuals in male-householder families (14.9 percent) were not statistically different from 2007 annual poverty rates.

<sup>8</sup> Cross-panel comparisons of poverty measures for people 65 and over should be done with caution due to changes in the collection and processing of social security income. See Limitations on page 15 for details of this change.

Figure 1.  
Selected Poverty Rates: 2005 to 2011



\* Since the first reference month of the 2008 Panel was May 2008, calendar year estimates are not available for 2008.

Note: Panel and yearly estimates are based on different samples. The 3-year panel estimates include only respondents in the panel for 36 months whereas calendar year estimates include respondents in sample for 12 months. The numbers of respondents in each sample are as follows: 25,371 in the 2004 3-year panel, 48,937 in the 2008 3-year panel, 76,953 in 2005, 34,372 in 2006, 34,489 in 2007, 73,695 in 2009, 67,452 in 2010, and 62,841 in 2011. Calendar months October, November, and December of 2007 are missing for some rotation groups in the 2004 Panel. For longitudinal estimates covering these calendar months, a carry forward imputation method was applied.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation, 2004 and 2008 Panel. For information on confidentiality protection and sampling and nonsampling error, see <[www.census.gov/sipp/source.html](http://www.census.gov/sipp/source.html)>.

experiencing a poverty spell (e.g., poor for at least 2 months) was 31.6 percent, up 4.5 percentage points from the rate of 27.1 percent over 2005 to 2007. Individuals aged 65 and over and individuals in female-householder families were the only demographic groups shown in Tables A-3 and A-4 who did not experience an increase in episodic poverty rates in the 2008 Panel.<sup>9, 10</sup>

Similarly, the percentage of people in poverty for all 36 months increased to 3.5 percent over the period of 2009 to 2011 (Table A-6) compared to 3.0 percent over 2005 to 2007 (Table A-5). Individuals

<sup>9</sup> Female householders refer to female householders, no husband present; male householders refer to male householders, no wife present.

<sup>10</sup> The episodic poverty rate for the elderly and people in female-householder families in the 2004 Panel was not statistically different from rates in the 2008 Panel. The 2004 Panel episodic poverty rates can be found in Table A-3.

aged 65 and older were the only demographic group to experience a decrease in their chronic poverty rate (from 3.3 percent to 2.3 percent).<sup>11</sup>

### Monthly Poverty Rates: January 2005 to December 2011

Figure 2 summarizes monthly and annual poverty rates from the 2004 and 2008 Panels and illustrates that monthly poverty rates exceeded annual poverty rates for each month in both the 2004 and 2008 Panels. Monthly poverty rates, like episodic poverty rates, are higher than annual poverty rates because people are more likely to experience short-term income shortfalls than longer-term deficits. A

<sup>11</sup> There was no significant difference in 2004 and 2008 Panel chronic poverty rates for Blacks, Hispanics, non-Hispanics, individuals in female-householder families, individuals in male-householder families, or unrelated individuals.

family could be in poverty for a few months (based on monthly poverty thresholds and monthly family income) but have an annual income higher than their corresponding annual poverty threshold. From the last month of the 2004 Panel (December 2007) to the first month of the 2008 Panel (May 2008), the monthly poverty rate increased by 3.5 percentage points, from 13.2 percent in December 2007 to 16.7 percent in May 2008.<sup>12</sup>

<sup>12</sup> The increase in monthly poverty rates across the last month of the 2004 Panel (December 2007) and first month of the 2008 Panel (May 2008) may be due to both real changes in the economy as well as the SIPP survey design. Discontinuity in poverty rates across successive SIPP panels is well documented, characterized by Wave 1 poverty rates that are generally at least two percentage points higher than the poverty rate in the final wave of the preceding panel, with appreciable reductions in poverty rates from Wave 1 to Wave 2. (Czajka, Mabli, and Cody, 2008).

Figure 2.  
Monthly and Annual Poverty Rates: 2005 to 2011



\* Since the first reference month of the 2008 Panel was May 2008, calendar year estimates are not available for 2008.

Note: Monthly and yearly estimates are based on different samples. Monthly estimates include all respondents in the sample for that month whereas calendar year estimates include only respondents in sample for all 12 months. Calendar months October, November, and December of 2007 as well as May, June, and July of 2008 are missing for some rotation groups in the 2004 and 2008 Panels. For cross-sectional estimates in these calendar months, monthly weights were inflated to adjust for missing rotation groups. For longitudinal estimates covering these calendar months, a carry forward imputation method was applied.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation, 2004 and 2008 Panel. For information on confidentiality protection and sampling and nonsampling error, see [www.census.gov/sipp/source.html](http://www.census.gov/sipp/source.html).

### Episodic Poverty Rates, 2008 Panel by Selected Characteristics

Over the 36 months from 2009 to 2011, 31.6 percent of individuals experienced a poverty spell lasting 2 or more months, an increase of 4.5 percentage points over the episodic poverty rate of 27.1 percent from 2005 to 2007 (Tables A-3 and A-4 in the Appendix).

Non-Hispanic Whites had a lower episodic poverty rate (25.4 percent) than Blacks and Hispanics, while Blacks had a lower episodic poverty

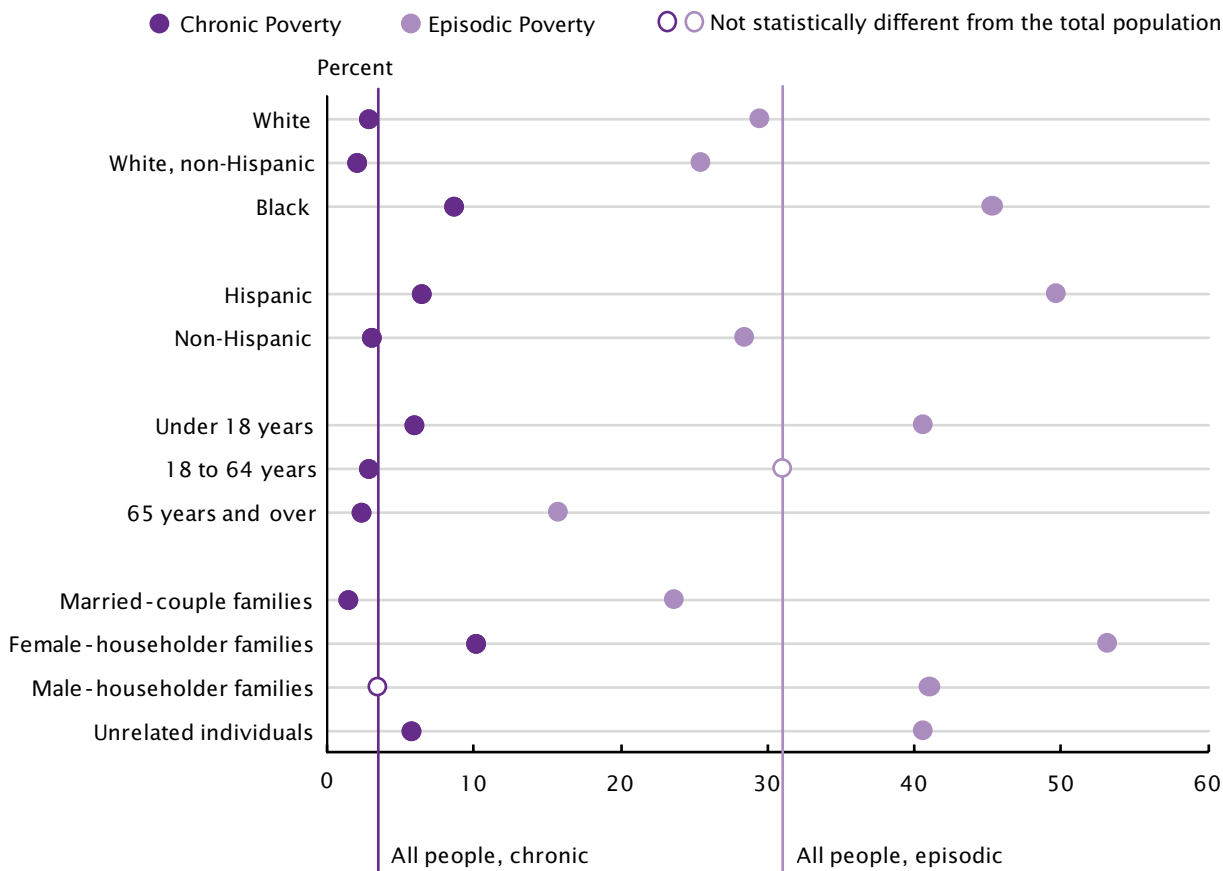
rate (45.3 percent) than Hispanics (49.6 percent).<sup>13</sup> (See Figure 3.)

<sup>13</sup> Federal surveys, including the SIPP 2008 Panel, give respondents the option of reporting more than one race. These data can be shown in two ways: (1) as mutually exclusive from other race groups, which may be denoted by "alone" or (2) not mutually exclusive with other race groups, denoted by "alone or in combination with other race groups." The figures, tables, and text in this report show race using the first method. Because Hispanics may be of any race, data for Hispanics are not mutually exclusive with race. Data users should exercise caution when interpreting aggregate results for these groups because they consist of many distinct subgroups that differ in socioeconomic characteristics, culture, and recency of immigration.

The episodic poverty rate for children under 18 years old (40.6 percent) was higher than the episodic poverty rates for adults. In turn, adults 65 years and over had a lower episodic poverty rate (15.7 percent) than adults 18 to 64 years old (31.0 percent).

The episodic poverty rate for people in female-householder families (53.1 percent) exceeded the episodic poverty rates for people in other types of families. People in married-couple families had the lowest episodic poverty rate (23.6

Figure 3.  
**Chronic and Episodic Poverty by Selected Characteristics: 2009 to 2011**



Note: Federal surveys, including the SIPP 2008 Panel, give respondents the option of reporting more than one race. These data can be shown in two ways: (1) as mutually exclusive from other race groups, which may be denoted by "alone" or (2) not mutually exclusive with other race groups, denoted by "alone or in combination with other race groups." This figure shows race using the first method. Because Hispanics may be of any race, data for Hispanics are not mutually exclusive with race. Female householders refer to female householders, no husband present; male householders refer to male householders, no wife present.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation, 2008 Panel. For information on confidentiality protection and sampling and nonsampling error, see <[www.census.gov/sipp/source.html](http://www.census.gov/sipp/source.html)>.



percent) across all family types. The episodic poverty rate for unrelated individuals (40.6 percent) was not statistically different from the episodic poverty rate for people in male-householder families.

### **Calendar Year Episodic Poverty Rates, 2009 to 2011 by Selected Characteristics**

In order to evaluate year-to-year changes in economic conditions, it is also useful to compare how many individuals experienced a poverty spell over the course of a calendar year (calendar year episodic poverty rates). We find that calendar year measures of episodic poverty are lower than estimates over the course of the entire panel. Approximately 23.0 percent of people were in poverty 2 or more months within the 2009 calendar year, not statistically different from 2010 or 2011 episodic poverty rates. The only demographic groups in Table A-4 to experience significant changes in calendar year episodic poverty rates over the course of the 2008 Panel were non-Hispanics and adults aged 18 to 64. The 12-month episodic poverty rate for non-Hispanics increased from 20.1 percent in 2009 to 20.8 percent in 2011, while the rate for adults aged 18 to 64 increased from 22.0 percent in 2009 to 22.8 percent in 2011 (Table A-4 in the Appendix).

The annual episodic poverty rate increased by 3.9 percentage points from 2007 to 2009 (from 19.2 to 23.0 percent). Individuals aged 65 and over were the only demographic group listed in Tables A-3 and A-4 who did not experience an increase in their episodic poverty rate from 2007 to 2009.

### **Chronic Poverty Rates, 2008 Panel by Selected Characteristics**

Over the 36 months from 2009 to 2011, 3.5 percent of individuals were in poverty every month, an increase of 0.5 percentage points over the chronic poverty rate of 3.0 percent from 2005 to 2007 (Tables A-5 and A-6 in the Appendix).

As with episodic poverty rates, between 2009 to 2011, children had a higher chronic poverty rate (5.9 percent) than adults and the chronic poverty rate for non-Hispanic Whites (2.0 percent) was lower than the chronic poverty rates for Hispanics and Blacks. Additionally, the chronic poverty rate for adults aged 18 to 64 (2.8 percent) was higher than the rate for adults 65 years and over (2.3 percent). However, unlike the trend with episodic poverty, Blacks had a higher chronic poverty rate (8.6 percent) than Hispanics (6.4 percent).

By family type, chronic poverty rates exhibited a pattern similar to episodic poverty rates. The chronic poverty rate for people in female-householder families (10.1 percent) was higher than the chronic poverty rates for people in other types of families, while people in married-couple families had the lowest chronic poverty rate (1.4 percent). (See Figure 3.)

### **Calendar Year Chronic Poverty Rates, 2009 to 2011 by Selected Characteristics**

Unlike episodic poverty rates, chronic poverty rates measured over a calendar year are higher than chronic poverty rates measured over the entire 3-year panel. When measuring chronic poverty over a calendar year period, 7.3 percent of individuals were in poverty each month of 2009, increasing to 8.1 percent in 2010, with

2011 chronic poverty rates not statistically different from 2010.

The 2009 chronic poverty rate of 7.3 percent was not statistically different from the 2007 chronic poverty rate. Non-Hispanic Whites experienced increases in their chronic poverty rate from 2007 to 2009, from 4.1 percent to 4.7 percent, while individuals aged 65 and over experienced a decline in their chronic poverty rate from 2007 to 2009, from 5.9 percent to 3.9 percent. No other demographic groups listed in Tables A-5 and A-6 experienced significant changes across their 2007 and 2009 calendar year chronic poverty measures.

### **Poverty Entries and Exits**

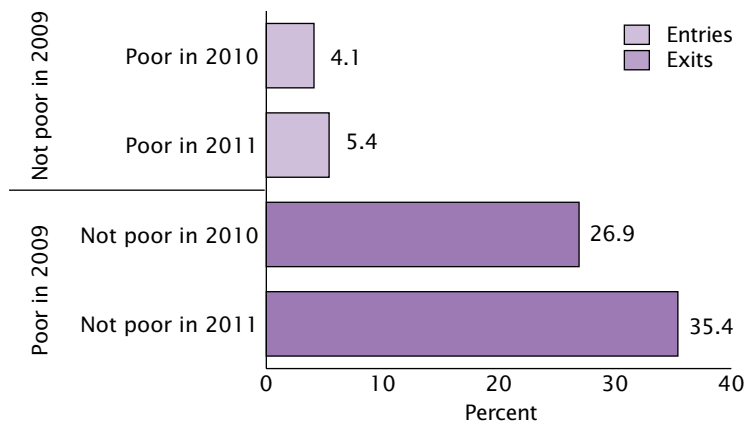
Tables A-8 and A-10 summarize poverty entries and exits from 2009 to 2010 and from 2009 to 2011. From 2009 to 2011, the number of people who exited poverty (12.6 million) was not statistically different from the number of people who entered poverty.<sup>14</sup> Of people not poor in 2009, 5.4 percent were poor in 2011 (Table A-8). Of people in poverty in 2009, 35.4 percent were not poor in 2011 (Table A-10).<sup>15</sup>

While this data show considerable movement into and out of poverty, some individuals moving out of poverty continue to have family income near poverty. Of the

<sup>14</sup> More people entered poverty over the period of 2009 to 2011 (13.5 million) than entered poverty from 2005 to 2007 (10.2 million). More people also exited poverty over the period of 2009 to 2011 (12.6 million) than over the period of 2005 to 2007 (9.4 million). The 2004 Panel poverty exits are available from Table A-9 and 2004 Panel entries are from Table A-7.

<sup>15</sup> Entry rates use the people not in poverty in 2009 as the base (247.5 million people) and exit rates use people in poverty in 2009 as the base (35.6 million people). Even if the number of people who entered poverty were the same as the number of people who exited poverty, entry rates would be smaller than exit rates because the base, or the denominator, for poverty entry rates was much larger than the base for exit rates.

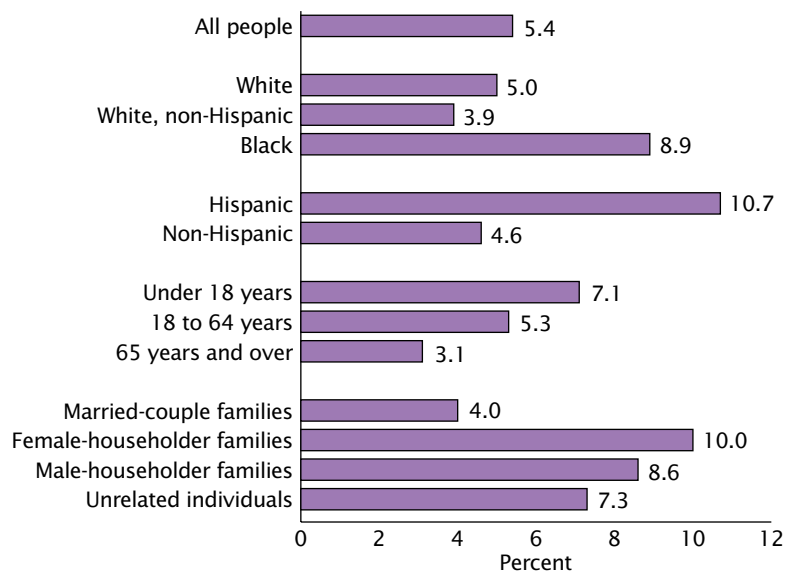
Figure 4.  
**Poverty Entries and Exits: 2009 to 2011**



Note: Entry rates use the people not in poverty in 2009 as the base (247.5 million people) and exit rates use people in poverty in 2009 as the base (35.6 million people). Even if the number of people who entered poverty were the same as the number of people who exited poverty, entry rates would be smaller than exit rates because the base, or the denominator, for poverty entry rates was much larger than the base for exit rates.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation, 2008 Panel. For information on confidentiality protection and sampling and nonsampling error, see <[www.census.gov/sipp/source.html](http://www.census.gov/sipp/source.html)>.

Figure 5.  
**Poverty Entry Rates: People Not in Poverty in 2009 but in Poverty in 2011 by Selected Characteristics**



Note: Federal surveys, including the SIPP 2008 Panel, give respondents the option of reporting more than one race. These data can be shown in two ways: (1) as mutually exclusive from other race groups, which may be denoted by "alone" or (2) not mutually exclusive with other race groups, denoted by "alone or in combination with other race groups." This figure shows race using the first method. Because Hispanics may be of any race, data for Hispanics are not mutually exclusive with race. Female householders refer to female householders, no husband present; male householders refer to male householders, no wife present.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation, 2008 Panel. For information on confidentiality protection and sampling and nonsampling error, see <[www.census.gov/sipp/source.html](http://www.census.gov/sipp/source.html)>.

12.6 million people who exited poverty between 2009 and 2011, approximately half (6.2 million) had income below 150 percent of their poverty threshold in 2009 to a level between 100 and 150 percent of their poverty threshold in 2011. (Tables A-11 and A-12 in the Appendix show the income to poverty ratio for 2009 compared with 2010 and 2011, respectively.)

### Poverty Entries by Selected Characteristics

Non-Hispanic Whites had a lower poverty entry rate (3.9 percent) between 2009 and 2011 than Blacks or Hispanics, while Blacks had a lower entry rate than Hispanics (8.9 percent and 10.7 percent, respectively). Children had a higher poverty entry rate (7.1 percent) than adults; while adults aged 18 to 64 had a higher entry rate (5.3 percent) than those aged 65 and over (3.1 percent). People in female-householder families also had a higher poverty entry rate (10.0 percent) than those in married-couple families (4.0 percent)<sup>16</sup> (Table A-8 in the Appendix).

The 2009 to 2011 poverty entry rate of 5.4 percent was higher than the entry rate of 4.2 percent over the period of 2005 to 2007 (Tables A-7 and A-8 in the Appendix).

<sup>16</sup> The poverty entry rate for people in male-householder families was not statistically different from the poverty entry rate of people in female-householder families.



## Poverty Exits by Selected Characteristics

Consistent with their lower poverty entry rate, non-Hispanic Whites had a higher poverty exit rate (40.7 percent) than Blacks from 2009 to 2011. However, unlike entry rates, Hispanics had a higher poverty exit rate than Blacks (35.8 and 22.7 percent, respectively), and there was no statistical difference in the poverty exit rate between non-Hispanic Whites and Hispanics. Children had a lower poverty exit rate (29.6 percent) than adults aged 18 to 64 (39.7 percent) but there was no statistical difference in exit rates for children and adults aged 65 and over. People in female-householder families had a lower exit rate (25.2 percent) than people in married-couple families (44.3 percent)<sup>17</sup> (Table A-10 in the Appendix).

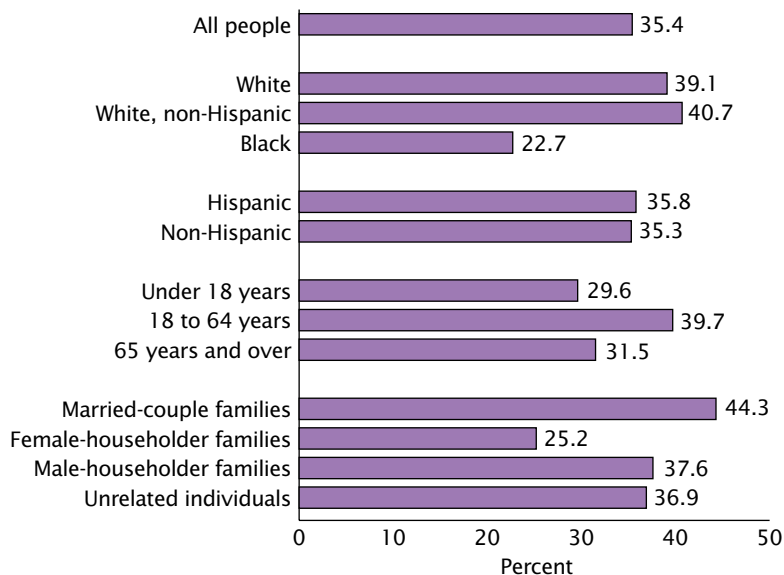
The 2009 to 2011 poverty exit rate of 35.4 percent was not statistically different from the 2005 to 2007 poverty exit rate. Additionally, poverty exit rates across 2005 to 2007 and 2009 to 2011 did not significantly change for any of the demographic groups shown in Tables A-9 and A-10.

## Net Change in Poverty Entries and Exits by Selected Characteristics

Between 2009 and 2011, there was no significant difference in

<sup>17</sup> The exit rate for people in married-couple families (44.3 percent) was not statistically different from the exit rate for people in male-householder families.

Figure 6.  
**Poverty Exit Rates: People in Poverty in 2009 but Not in Poverty in 2011 by Selected Characteristics**



Note: Federal surveys, including the SIPP 2008 Panel, give respondents the option of reporting more than one race. These data can be shown in two ways: (1) as mutually exclusive from other race groups, which may be denoted by "alone" or (2) not mutually exclusive with other race groups, denoted by "alone or in combination with other race groups." This figure shows race using the first method. Because Hispanics may be of any race, data for Hispanics are not mutually exclusive with race. Female householders refer to female householders, no husband present; male householders refer to male householders, no wife present.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation, 2008 Panel. For information on confidentiality protection and sampling and nonsampling error, see <[www.census.gov/sipp/source.html](http://www.census.gov/sipp/source.html)>.

the number of people who exited or entered poverty over the 3-year period. However, there were some significant differences by demographic groups, with approximately 561,000 more Blacks, 337,000 more elderly, 1.1 million more individuals in married-couple families, and 280,000 more individuals in male-householder families entering poverty than exiting poverty

over the 2009 to 2011 period. Among other demographic groups, the number of people who exited poverty was not significantly different from the number of people who entered poverty from 2009 to 2011. (Estimates of the number of people entering poverty are in Table A-8 while estimates of the number of people exiting poverty are in Table A-10.)

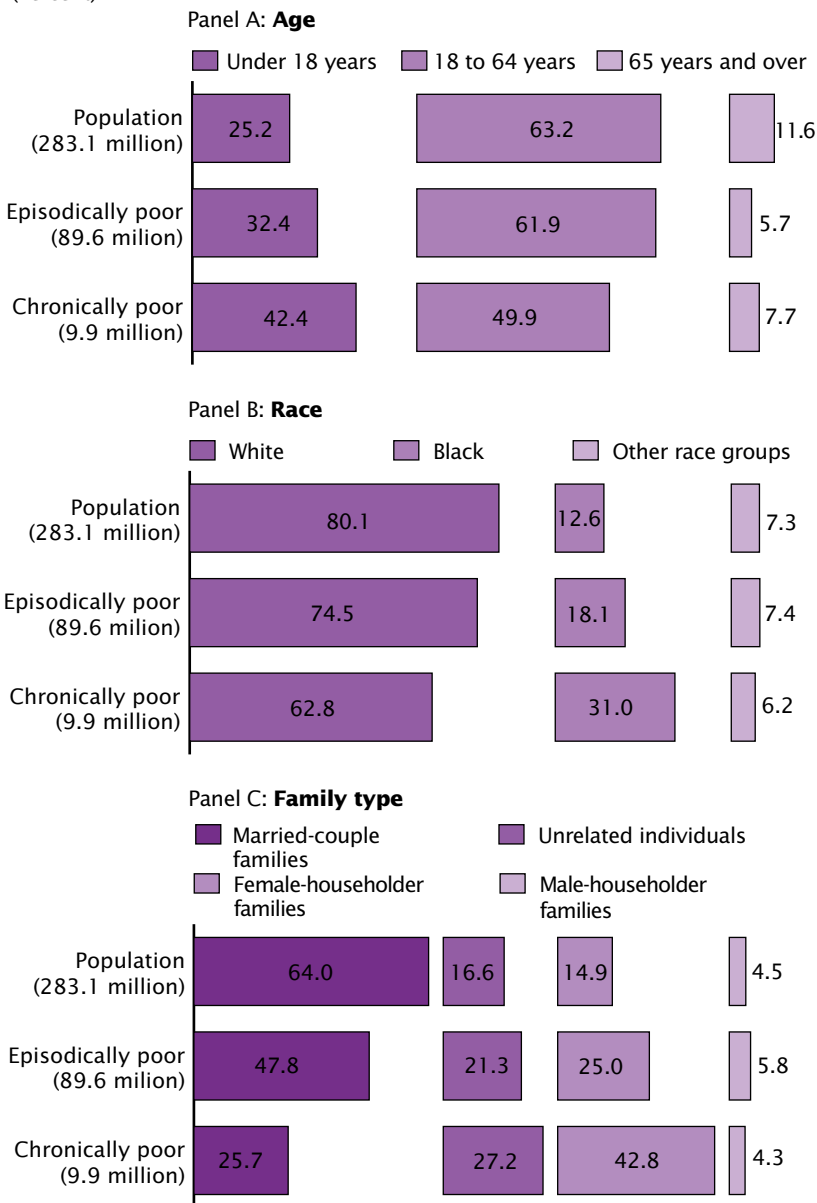
## The Distribution of People by Poverty Status

Figure 7 compares the population experiencing either chronic or episodic poverty over the 2009 to 2011 period to the total population.<sup>18</sup> While children made up 25.2 percent of the total population, they represented 32.4 percent of those who were poor for at least 2 months, and 42.4 percent of those who were poor for the entire 36-month period from 2009 to 2011. Similarly, Blacks were 12.6 percent of the entire population, 18.1 percent of the population poor for at least 2 months, and 31.0 percent of the chronically poor. People in female-householder families composed 14.9 percent of the population, 25.0 percent of those with at least 2 months in poverty, and 42.8 percent of the chronically poor. People in married-couple families made up 64.0 percent of the total population, 47.8 percent of the population with at least 2 months in poverty, and 25.7 percent of the chronically poor.

Between the 2004 Panel and the 2008 Panel, the distribution of the episodically poor who were White alone increased from 72.9 percent from 2005 to 2007 to 74.5 percent from 2009 to 2011. The percentage of the episodically poor that were in male-householder families also increased over the previous panel, from 4.7 percent to 5.8 percent. The proportion of the episodically poor decreased from the 2004 to 2008 Panel among adults 65 years and over (dropping from 7.2 percent to 5.7 percent) and individuals in female-householder families (dropping from 26.8 percent to 25.0 percent). The percentage of

<sup>18</sup> The population excluded people not in the poverty universe. Calculations derived from estimates in Tables A-4 and A-6.

Figure 7.  
**The Distribution of People by Poverty Status, and Selected Characteristics: 2009 to 2011**  
(Percent)



Note: The poverty universe excludes unrelated children under 15 years old. Federal surveys, including the SIPP 2008 Panel, give respondents the option of reporting more than one race. These data can be shown in two ways: (1) as mutually exclusive from other race groups, which may be denoted by "alone" or (2) not mutually exclusive with other race groups, denoted by "alone or in combination with other race groups." This figure shows race using the first method. Because Hispanics may be of any race, data for Hispanics are not mutually exclusive with race. Female householders refer to female householders, no husband present; male householders refer to male householders, no wife present.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation, 2008 Panel. For information on confidentiality protection and sampling and nonsampling error, see <[www.census.gov/sipp/source.html](http://www.census.gov/sipp/source.html)>.

the chronically poor who were White, non-Hispanic increased from the 2004 to 2008 Panel, from 33.1 to 38.3 percent, while the percentage of the chronically poor who were adults 65 years and over fell from 12.5 percent in 2005 to 2007 to 7.7 percent in 2009 to 2011.<sup>19</sup> (Estimates of the population experiencing episodic poverty are available in Tables A-3 and A-4 while estimates of the population experiencing chronic poverty are in Tables A-5 and A-6.)

### The Percentage of People in Poverty in January and February 2009 Who Were Poor All 36 Months from 2009 to 2011

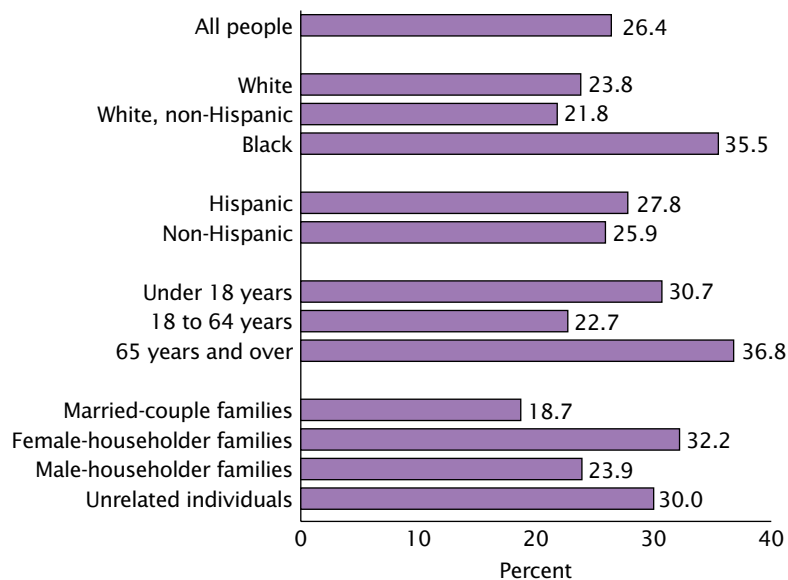
Figure 8 presents people who were in poverty all 36 months from 2009 to 2011 as a proportion of people who were in poverty in January and February of 2009. Approximately 26.4 percent of the people in poverty for the first 2 months of 2009 remained in poverty for the entire 3-year period (Table A-14 in Appendix).

Blacks who were in poverty for the first 2 months of 2009 were more likely to remain in poverty all 36 months (35.5 percent) than non-Hispanic Whites and Hispanics (21.8 and 27.8 percent, respectively).

Although the elderly had lower chronic poverty rates than adults and children over the course of 2009 to 2011, adults aged 65 and over who were in poverty at the beginning of 2009 were more likely than children or adults aged 18 to 64 to remain in poverty for the entire 3 years. Approximately 36.8 percent of elderly adults in poverty

<sup>19</sup> There were no significant differences in the episodic or chronically poor distributions for other age, race, or family groups across the 2004 and 2008 Panels. The 2004 Panel calculations are derived from estimates in Tables A-3 and A-5.

Figure 8.  
**People in Poverty in January and February 2009 Who Were in Poverty for All 36 Months by Selected Characteristics: 2009 to 2011**



Note: Federal surveys, including the SIPP 2008 Panel, give respondents the option of reporting more than one race. These data can be shown in two ways: (1) as mutually exclusive from other race groups, which may be denoted by "alone" or (2) not mutually exclusive with other race groups, denoted by "alone or in combination with other race groups." This figure shows race using the first method. Because Hispanics may be of any race, data for Hispanics are not mutually exclusive with race. Female householders refer to female householders, no husband present; male householders refer to male householders, no wife present.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation, 2008 Panel. For information on confidentiality protection and sampling and nonsampling error, see <[www.census.gov/sipp/source.html](http://www.census.gov/sipp/source.html)>.

in January and February 2009 were poor in all 36 months, while the comparable rates for children and working-age adults were 30.7 percent and 22.7 percent, respectively.

Approximately 32.2 percent of people in female-householder families in poverty the first 2 months of 2009 continued to be in poverty all 36 months.<sup>20</sup> In contrast, 18.7 percent of people in married-couple families in poverty in both January and February 2009 remained in poverty for all 36 months. The percentage of people

<sup>20</sup> The percentage of unrelated individuals in poverty the first 2 months of 2009 and remaining in poverty all 36 months was not statistically different from the percentage for people in female-householder families or male-householder families.

in male-householder families remaining in poverty was not statistically different from the percentage of people in married-couple families.

Comparing 2005 to 2007 with 2009 to 2011, the percentage of people who were in a poverty spell at the beginning of the period and remained poor for the entire 36 months were not statistically different. Additionally, there were no significant changes across the 2004 to 2008 Panel by any of the demographic groups shown in Tables A-13 or A-14.

## Duration and Median Length of Poverty Spells

Figure 9 shows the distribution of poverty spell lengths for the total population over the course of 2009 to 2011.<sup>21</sup> Similar to trends in episodic and chronic poverty rates, the distribution of spell lengths indicates that most individuals experience relatively short spells of poverty.

Over the period from 2009 to 2011, approximately 44.0 percent of poverty spells lasted between 2 and 4 months, 18.7 percent of spells lasted between 5 and 8 months, and 9.4 percent of spells lasted between 9 and 12 months.<sup>22</sup> Cumulatively, 72.1 percent of all spells lasted 1 year or less, while 15.2 percent of all poverty spells continued for more than 2 years.<sup>23</sup>

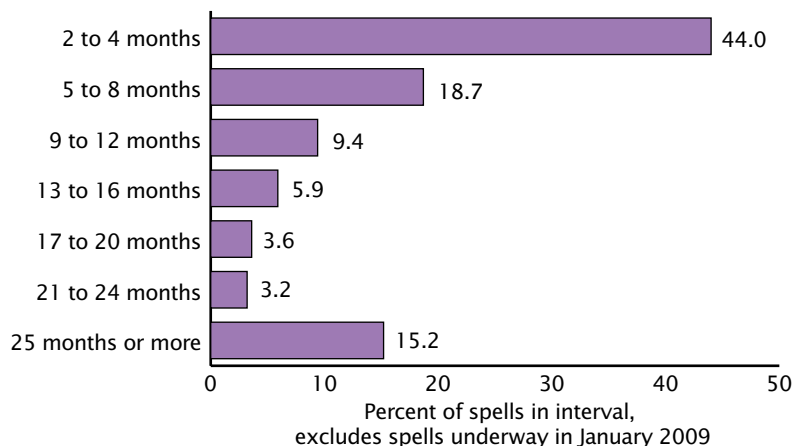
The proportion of spells over the 2009 to 2011 period lasting 17 to 20 months (3.6 percent) is greater than the proportion of spells lasting 17 to 20 months over the 2005 to 2007 period (2.1 percent). All other distributions were not statistically

<sup>21</sup> See Text Box 2 for the definition of a poverty spell. An individual is counted more than once if he or she had multiple spells. Analysis excludes spells beginning on or before January 2009 (left-censored spells) but includes spells ending on or after December 2011 (right-censored spells). See Limitations on page 15 for a more detailed explanation of censored spells.

<sup>22</sup> The percentage of spells lasting 17 to 20 months (3.6 percent) was not statistically different from the percentage of spells lasting 21 to 24 months.

<sup>23</sup> If spells underway in January 2009 (left-censored spells) are included in the analysis, the distribution shifts to the right: 37.1 (+/- 1.5) percent of spells lasted 2 to 4 months, 17.6 (+/- 1.1) percent lasted between 5 and 8 months, 8.7 (+/- 0.9) percent lasted between 9 and 12 months, and 23.6 (+/- 1.4) percent of spells continued more than 24 months. There is no significant difference from including left-censored spells in the frequency of spells lasting 5 to 8 months and 9 to 12 months.

Figure 9.  
**Duration of Poverty Spells: 2009 to 2011**



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation, 2008 Panel. For information on confidentiality protection and sampling and nonsampling error, see <[www.census.gov/sipp/source.html](http://www.census.gov/sipp/source.html)>.

different across the 2004 and 2008 Panel (Table A-15 in Appendix).

Figure 10 presents median spell lengths by demographic characteristics measured at the beginning of each spell.<sup>24</sup> Median poverty spell length is the point in the distribution at which half of all spells are shorter and half of all spells are longer. From 2009 to 2011, the median length of a poverty spell for the overall population was 6.6 months<sup>25</sup> (Table A-16 in Appendix).

The median spell length for non-Hispanic Whites (6.0 months) was shorter than the median spell lengths for Blacks (8.5 months).

<sup>24</sup> Due to changes in the estimation of survival rates, estimates of median spell length presented in this report are not comparable with estimates of median spell length reported in previous P70 Dynamics of Economic Well-Being series. See Limitations on page 15 for details of this change.

<sup>25</sup> If spells underway in January 2009 (left-censored spells) were included in the analysis then the median spell length was 8.3 (+/-0.2) months.

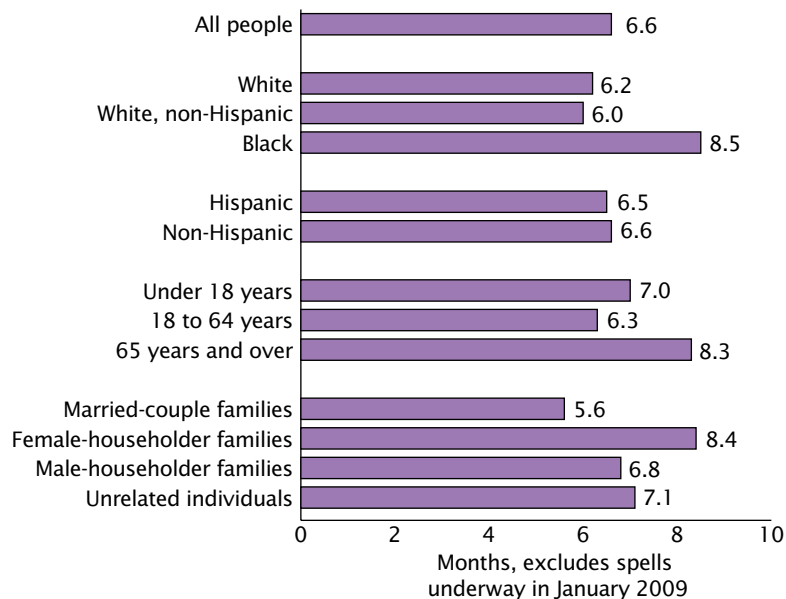
However, in contrast with trends shown in episodic and chronic poverty rates, there was no significant difference in spell lengths between non-Hispanic Whites and Hispanics.

Individuals in married-couple households had shorter poverty spells (5.6 months) than individuals in female-householder families and unrelated individuals (8.4 and 7.1 months, respectively). Spell durations for individuals in female-householder families were not statistically different from the median spell length reported for individuals in male-householder families.<sup>26</sup>

Although adults aged 65 years and over had lower episodic and chronic poverty rates than children under age 18 and adults aged 18 to 64, adults aged 65 and over had longer poverty spells (8.3

<sup>26</sup> Median spell durations for individuals in male-householder families were not statistically different from unrelated individuals or individuals in married-couple families.

Figure 10.  
**Median Poverty Spells by Selected Characteristics:  
 2009 to 2011**



Note: Due to changes in the estimation of survival rates, estimates of median spell length presented in this report are not comparable with estimates of median spell length reported in previous P70 Dynamics of Economic Well-Being series. See Limitations on page 15 for details of this change.

Note: Federal surveys, including the SIPP 2008 Panel, give respondents the option of reporting more than one race. These data can be shown in two ways: (1) as mutually exclusive from other race groups, which may be denoted by "alone" or (2) not mutually exclusive with other race groups, denoted by "alone or in combination with other race groups." This figure shows race using the first method. Because Hispanics may be of any race, data for Hispanics are not mutually exclusive with race. Female householders refer to female householders, no husband present; male householders refer to male householders, no wife present.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation, 2008 Panel. For information on confidentiality protection and sampling and nonsampling error, see <[www.census.gov/sipp/source.html](http://www.census.gov/sipp/source.html)>.

months) than children (7.0 months) and adults aged 18 to 64 (6.3 months).<sup>27</sup>

Median poverty spell lengths increased for the overall population from the 2004 Panel to the 2008 Panel from 5.7 to 6.6 months. Durations also increased for non-Hispanic Whites (from 5.1 to 6.0 months), for non-Hispanics

(from 5.4 months to 6.6 months), for adults aged 18 to 64 (from 5.4 to 6.3 months), and for unrelated individuals (from 6.2 to 7.1 months). For all other demographic groups, median spell lengths over the period of 2009 to 2011 were not statistically different from those measured over 2005 to 2007 (Table A-16 in Appendix).

### SUMMARY

A comparison of poverty rates measured at varying intervals provides

a complex picture of poverty. For most people who entered poverty, it was a transitory state rather than a permanent state and most poverty spells were short. During the 36 months from January 2009 to December 2011, 31.6 percent of people experienced at least 1 poverty spell lasting at least 2 months. Over the same period, 3.5 percent of people had a poverty spell that lasted the full 3 years. Approximately 44.0 percent of all spells ended by 4 months. Although most poverty spells were short, 15.2 percent of poverty spells lasted more than 2 years.<sup>28</sup> Further, among people categorized as in a poverty spell at the beginning of 2009, 26.4 percent of people continued in poverty for the entire period from 2009 to 2011.

The SIPP allows us to look at demographic differences in poverty risk for shorter and longer time periods. All measures in this report show that individuals in female-householder families had higher poverty rates than those in married-couple families. However, the pattern of poverty by race/Hispanic origin and age varied depending on the measure used.

Annual measures of poverty from 2009 to 2011 show no significant differences in annual poverty rates for Hispanics and Blacks. However, over the period from 2009 to 2011, Hispanics were more likely than Blacks to enter poverty, but also more likely than Blacks to exit poverty. This evidence of more frequent slipping in and out

<sup>28</sup> This report does not address whether people have multiple spells of poverty and does not account for re-entry into poverty. See Ann Huff Stevens, "Climbing Out of Poverty, Falling Back In: Measuring the Persistence of Poverty Over Multiple Spells," *Journal of Human Resources*, 34 (1999), pp. 557-88.



of poverty for Hispanics over the period of 2009 to 2011 is also illustrated by their higher episodic poverty rate in comparison with other race and ethnicity groups.

While CPS ASEC annual poverty rates have generally shown a decline in elderly poverty rates since the 1960s, the SIPP data provide a more complex picture of the dynamics of poverty for adults 65 years and over.<sup>29</sup> Similar to the findings from the CPS ASEC, adults 65 years and over in the 2008 SIPP Panel were less likely than children or adults aged 18 to 64 to be in poverty when measured using annual, episodic, or chronic measures. However, the 2008 SIPP Panel illustrates that once the elderly entered poverty, their poverty exit rates were not statistically different than those for children, and their median spell durations of 8.3 months were longer than median spell lengths for both children and working-age adults.

SIPP data from the 2004 Panel paint a picture of poverty for a period which coincided with the economic expansion that started in November 2001 and ended in December 2007. From 2005 to 2007, the episodic poverty rate declined from 20.3 percent in 2005 to 19.2 percent in 2007 and annual poverty rates in 2006 and 2007 were not statistically different from their 2005 value of 10.9 percent.<sup>30</sup> However, the expansion period of 2005 to 2007 did show increases in calendar year chronic poverty

rates, increasing from 6.0 percent in 2005 to 7.2 percent in 2007.

Data captured in the 2008 SIPP Panel covers the last 6 month of the most recent economic recession and 30 months of the subsequent economic expansion. The annual poverty rate increased from 11.3 percent in 2007 to 13.2 percent in 2009, and rose over the course of the 2008 Panel to a rate of 14.0 percent in 2011.<sup>31</sup> Chronic poverty similarly increased over the course of the two panels, from a rate of 3.0 percent from 2005 to 2007 to 3.5 percent from 2009 to 2011. The episodic poverty rate also increased across panels, from 27.1 percent over the period of 2005 to 2007 to a rate of 31.6 percent over the period of 2009 to 2011. A higher percentage of individuals entered poverty during the 2008 Panel (5.4 percent) compared with the 2004 Panel (4.2 percent), although there was no difference in the percent of individuals who exited poverty between the two panels. Similarly, our comparison of spell characteristics in the two panels shows that the median length of poverty spells increased from 5.7 months in the 2004 Panel to 6.6 months in the 2008 Panel.

### SOURCE OF DATA

The population represented (the population universe) in the 2004 and 2008 Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP) Panels is the civilian noninstitutionalized population living in the United States. The SIPP is a longitudinal survey conducted at 4-month intervals. The data in this report reference January 2005 through December 2007 and January 2009 through December 2011. For the 2004 SIPP Panel, approximately

<sup>31</sup> The 2010 annual poverty rate of 13.6 percent was not statistically different from the 2009 rate of 13.2 percent or the 2011 rate of 14.0 percent.

62,700 housing units were in sample for the first wave. Of the 51,400 eligible units, 43,700 were interviewed.<sup>32</sup> For the 2008 SIPP Panel, approximately 65,500 housing units were in sample for the first wave. Of the 52,000 eligible units, 42,000 were interviewed.<sup>33</sup> The institutionalized population, which is excluded from the population universe, is composed primarily of the population in correctional institutions and nursing homes (98.1 percent of the 4.0 million institutionalized people in the 2010 Census).<sup>34</sup>

### DIFFERENCES ACROSS THE SIPP AND CPS ASEC

The annual poverty rate estimates in the SIPP differ from official poverty estimates based on the CPS ASEC. In general, SIPP estimates of annual poverty are lower than official poverty estimates calculated using the CPS ASEC.

In the CPS ASEC, poverty status is based on responses to income questions referring to the previous calendar year and poverty thresholds are based on family composition in the interview month (February, March, or April). In the SIPP, family composition and poverty thresholds may vary during the reference period and income data is collected at shorter intervals, therefore reducing the potential for respondent recall error. In addition to collecting income data at shorter intervals, the SIPP was designed to provide more comprehensive reporting of income sources, such as transfer programs, that may be

<sup>32</sup> Source and Accuracy Statement for SIPP 2004 Panel Wave 1 to Wave 12 (core) Public Use Files. <[www.census.gov/sipp/sourceac/S&A04\\_W1toW12\(S&A-9\).pdf](http://www.census.gov/sipp/sourceac/S&A04_W1toW12(S&A-9).pdf)>.

<sup>33</sup> Source and Accuracy Statement for SIPP 2008 Panel: Wave 1 to Wave 11 (core) Public Use Files. <[www.census.gov/sipp/sourceac/S&A08\\_W1toW11\(S&A-16\).pdf](http://www.census.gov/sipp/sourceac/S&A08_W1toW11(S&A-16).pdf)>.

<sup>34</sup> Group Quarters Population by Sex, Age, and Type of Group Quarters: 2010. 2010 Census Summary File 1, QT-P13.

<sup>29</sup> The CPS annual poverty rate for adults 65 and over declined from 28.5 percent in 1966 to 8.7 percent in 2011. From Carmen DeNavas-Walt, Bernadette D. Proctor, and Jessica C. Smith, "Income, Poverty and Health Insurance Coverage in the United States: 2011," *Current Population Reports: Series P60-243*, U.S. Census Bureau, Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office.

<sup>30</sup> The 2007 annual poverty rate of 11.3 percent was higher than the 2006 annual poverty rate of 10.4 percent.



received on an irregular or part-year basis.

Additionally, the CPS reporting unit is the person, but the sample covers housing units; whoever happens to be living at the address at the time of the interview is in sample. When residents of a CPS housing unit move, they are not followed as in the SIPP; instead, the new housing residents become sample members.<sup>35</sup>

## ACCURACY OF ESTIMATES

Statistics from surveys are subject to sampling and nonsampling error. All comparisons presented in this report have taken sampling error into account and are significant at the 90 percent confidence level unless otherwise noted. This means the 90 percent confidence interval for the difference between the estimates being compared does not include zero. Nonsampling errors in surveys may be attributed to a variety of sources, such as how the survey is designed, how respondents interpret questions, how able and willing respondents are to provide correct answers, and how accurately the answers are coded and classified. The Census Bureau employs quality control procedures

<sup>35</sup> For additional information on how the SIPP compares to the CPS ASEC, see "Comparison of SIPP with Other Surveys," <[www.census.gov/sipp/vs.html](http://www.census.gov/sipp/vs.html)>, accessed November 2011. John L. Czajka and Gabrielle Denmead, "Income Data for Policy Analysis: A Comparative Assessment of Eight Surveys," Washington, DC: Mathematica Policy Research, December 2008. Kathleen Short, Martina Shea, David Johnson, and Thesia I. Garner, "Poverty-Measurement Research Using the Consumer Expenditure Survey and the Survey of Income and Program Participation," *American Economic Review*, Vol. 88, May 1998, pp. 352-356. John Coder and Lydia Scoon-Rogers, "Evaluating the Quality of Income Data Collected in the Annual Supplement to the March Current Population Survey and the Survey of Income and Program Participation," SIPP Working Paper 215, July 1996. Robertson Williams, "Measuring Poverty with the SIPP and CPS," SIPP Working Paper 45, June 1988.

throughout the production process, including the overall design of surveys, the wording of questions, review of the work of interviewers and coders, and the statistical review of reports, to minimize these errors. The SIPP weighting procedure uses ratio estimation, whereby sample estimates are adjusted to independent estimates of the national population by age, race, sex, and Hispanic origin. This weighting partially corrects for bias due to undercoverage, but biases may still be present when people who are missed by the survey differ from those interviewed in ways other than age, race, sex, and Hispanic origin. How this weighting procedure affects other variables in the survey is not precisely known. All of these considerations affect comparisons across different surveys or data sources.

For further information on statistical standards and the computation and use of standard errors, go to <[www.census.gov/sipp/sourceac/S&A08\\_W1toW11\(S&A-16\).pdf](http://www.census.gov/sipp/sourceac/S&A08_W1toW11(S&A-16).pdf)> (2008 Panel) and <[www.census.gov/sipp/sourceac/S&A04\\_W1toW12\(S&A-9\).pdf](http://www.census.gov/sipp/sourceac/S&A04_W1toW12(S&A-9).pdf)> (2004 Panel) or contact Ashley M. Westra of the Census Bureau's Demographic Statistical Methods Division at <[ashley.m.westra@census.gov](mailto:ashley.m.westra@census.gov)>. For more information about the content of the report, contact Ashley N. Edwards of the Poverty Statistics Branch, at <[ashley.edwards@census.gov](mailto:ashley.edwards@census.gov)> or 301-763-2458. Additional information on the SIPP can be found at the following Web sites: <[www.census.gov/sipp/](http://www.census.gov/sipp/)> (main SIPP Web site), <[www.census.gov/sipp/workpaper/wp230.pdf](http://www.census.gov/sipp/workpaper/wp230.pdf)> (SIPP Quality Profile), and <[www.census.gov/sipp/usrguide.html](http://www.census.gov/sipp/usrguide.html)> (SIPP Users' Guide).

## LIMITATIONS

### Nonsampling Errors

All surveys have potential sampling and nonsampling error. Additionally, longitudinal surveys may have both seam and attrition biases. Seam bias occurs when respondents report the same status of monthly variables within waves. If seam bias is present then monthly variables are more likely to change during on-seam months (months of different waves) than off-seam months (months within the same wave). Attrition bias may occur if respondents leaving the survey are systematically different from those who stay in the survey. The household weighted sample loss rate in the 2008 SIPP Panel was 19.2 percent in Wave 1 and 42.7 percent in Wave 11.<sup>36</sup> The Census Bureau uses a combination of weighting and imputation methods to reduce the bias of nonresponse on three levels (household, person, and item nonresponse levels) in the SIPP. The effectiveness of those procedures remains a matter of ongoing research.<sup>37</sup>

### Replicate Weights

This report is the first in the P70 Dynamics of Economic Well-Being series where standard errors and confidence intervals were calculated using the Successive Difference Replication (SRD) method

<sup>36</sup> Source and Accuracy Statement for the SIPP 2008 Panel: Wave 1 to Wave 11 (core) Public Use Files. <[www.census.gov/sipp/sourceac/S&A08\\_W1toW11\(S&A-16\).pdf](http://www.census.gov/sipp/sourceac/S&A08_W1toW11(S&A-16).pdf)>.

<sup>37</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation User's Guide, update, pp. 6-2-6-5, 2008, <[www.census.gov/sipp/usrguide/chap6rev2008.pdf](http://www.census.gov/sipp/usrguide/chap6rev2008.pdf)>.

documented by Fay and Train (1995).<sup>38</sup> This method involves the computation of a set of replicate weights which account for the complex survey design of the SIPP and provides more accurate variance estimates.<sup>39</sup> This report uses the SRD method for all estimates from the 2004 and 2008 Panel; therefore, confidence intervals for estimates from the 2004 Panel will vary from those previously published in P70-123, “Dynamics of Economic Well-Being 2004–2006.”

Previous reports in the P70 Dynamics of Economic Well-Being series calculated standard error estimates using a Generalized Variance Function (GVF) approach. Under this approach, generalized variance parameters were used in formulas provided in the source and accuracy statement to estimate standard errors.

### Longitudinal Editing and Longitudinal Analysis

This report measures monthly, annual, and 3-year poverty rates over the period from January 2005 to December 2007 and January 2009 to December 2011. For each time period, analyses include only respondents with a valid weight and who are within the poverty universe for the entirety of a given reference period.<sup>40</sup> The poverty universe excludes unrelated children 14 years old or younger.

This report has certain sample restrictions and makes certain

<sup>38</sup> See Robert E. Fay and George F. Train. “Aspects of Survey and Model-Based Postcensal Estimation of Income and Poverty Characteristics for States and Counties,” Proceedings of the Section on Government Statistics, American Statistical Association, Alexandria, VA 1995, pp. 154–159.

<sup>39</sup> See Kirk M. Wolter, (1985), *Introduction to Variance Estimation*. New York: Springer-Verlag.

<sup>40</sup> For more details see the Source and Accuracy Statements: <[www.census.gov/sipp/sourceac/S&A08\\_W1toW11\(S&A-16\).pdf](http://www.census.gov/sipp/sourceac/S&A08_W1toW11(S&A-16).pdf)> and <[www.census.gov/sipp/sourceac/S&A08\\_PLA\\_W1toW8\(S&A-15\).pdf](http://www.census.gov/sipp/sourceac/S&A08_PLA_W1toW8(S&A-15).pdf)>.

assumptions about the stability of demographic characteristics within a SIPP Panel. In both the 2004 and 2008 Panel, reported demographic characteristics were used, even if they varied from initial reports. A small number of observations had varying sex, race, and Hispanic-origin characteristics across the panel. Of those individuals in the poverty universe with a valid interview status for all 36 months of the reference period, less than 1 percent of all observations had race, sex, or Hispanic-origin reports that varied across waves in either the 2004 or 2008 Panel. Using weighted estimates in the 2008 Panel, 2.4 million people had race vary by wave; about 597,000 people had sex vary by wave; and 1.4 million people had Hispanic origin vary by wave. Estimates in this report hold demographic characteristics constant to the value reported at the beginning of the relevant time period.

### Censoring and Spell Analysis

Text Box 2 describes the definition of poverty spells used in this report. Poverty spells may be left or right-censored. An individual’s poverty spell may be in progress before January 2009 (left-censored) or in progress in December 2011 (right-censored). This analysis used the life table method in the SAS software to include right-censored spells in the estimates of median spell lengths and the duration of poverty spells. The life table method assumes right-censored spells are censored at the midpoint of each interval and the effective sample size of each interval includes only half of the right-censored spells included in the interval. The analysis in this report excludes left-censored spells, since the start time for these spells cannot be determined and few statistical programs and methods have

been developed to correct for left censoring.<sup>41</sup> Approximately 28.4 percent of poverty spells were left-censored over the 2009 to 2011 period, while 29.5 percent of spells occurring over the period of 2005 to 2007 were left-censored. By excluding left-censored spells, systematic bias may be introduced into the median spell and duration analyses.<sup>42</sup>

The conditional probability of exiting a spell in a month is calculated as

$$h(t) = \frac{d_t}{T_t}$$

where  $d_t$  is the number of poverty spells ending in month  $t$  and  $T_t$  is the number of spells that were in progress at the beginning of month  $t$  minus half of the spells that were right censored in the month. The survival rate in month  $t$  is then calculated as

$$\hat{S}(t) = \prod_{k=1}^{t-1} (1 - h_k)$$

where  $\hat{S}(t)$  is equal to the probability of a poverty spell lasting to month  $t$  or beyond. Previous reports in the P70 Dynamics of Economic Well-Being series defined the survivor rate as

$$\hat{S}(t) = \prod_{k=1}^t (1 - h_k)$$

where  $\hat{S}(t)$  was equal to the probability of a poverty spell lasting longer than month  $t$ . This change in the calculation and interpretation of

<sup>41</sup> See Paul D Allison, *Survival Analysis Using the SAS System: A Practical Guide*, Cary, NC: SAS Inc, 1995, pp. 292.

<sup>42</sup> A variety of papers discuss how left censoring may bias duration analysis and suggest potential corrections. Guang Guo, “Event History Analysis and Left-Truncated Data,” in P. Marsden (Ed.), *Sociological Methodology*, Vol. 23, San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 1993, pp. 217–242. David W. Hosmer and Stanley Lemeshow, *Applied Survival Analysis: Regression Modeling of Time to Event Data*, New York: Wiley, 1999. John Iceland, “The Dynamics of Poverty Spells and Issues of Left Censoring,” PCS Research Report Series: No. 97-378, 1997.

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survival rates alters the calculation of median poverty spell length, defined as

$$\hat{M} = t + \frac{S(t) - \frac{1}{2}}{S(t) - S(t+1)}$$

such that  $S(t)$  is greater than or equal to 50 percent and  $S(t+1)$  is less than 50 percent. This change in the calculation of survival rate can be interpreted as calculating median spell length including the first month in poverty, while previous estimates of median spell length in the P70 Dynamics of Economic Well-Being series were calculated after a spell had already lasted one month. Given these differences, estimates of median spell length presented in this report are not comparable with estimates of median spell length reported in previous P70 Dynamics of Economic Well-Being series. This change does not impact estimates of the frequencies of spell durations, which are calculated consistently with previous reports in the

P70 Dynamics of Economic Well-Being series.

### **Changes in the Reporting and Processing of Social Security Income in the 2004 Panel**

The U.S. Census Bureau changed the way it collected and edited social security income between the 2001 and 2004 SIPP Panels. In the 2004 Panel, the instrument was supposed to collect Medicare Part B premium amounts so that they could be added to net social security income to calculate gross social security income. However, there were errors in both the instrument and the processing of social security data in the 2004 Panel.

In order to correct for the instrument errors, the social security data were re-edited to randomly assign a fixed Medicare Part B premium amount to respondents in the universe (65 years and over or disabled). The allocation rule was implemented for each wave independent of the prior wave response. This resulted in some

individuals being allocated a Part B premium in one wave but not necessarily being allocated a premium amount in subsequent waves. Over the duration of the 2004 SIPP Panel, monthly social security amounts for some individuals, families, and households may fluctuate by the fixed dollar amount of the Medicare Part B premium.<sup>43</sup>

### **SUGGESTED CITATION**

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<sup>43</sup> From SIPP 2004 Panel General Income User Note 10, <[www.census.gov/sipp/core\\_content/core\\_notes/2004General\\_Income.html](http://www.census.gov/sipp/core_content/core_notes/2004General_Income.html)>.

**APPENDIX**

Table A-1.

**Annual Poverty by Selected Characteristics: 2005 to 2007**

(Numbers in thousands)

Characteristic	2005 <sup>1</sup>			2006 <sup>1</sup>			2007 <sup>1</sup>								
	In poverty using annual income and threshold			In poverty using annual income and threshold			In poverty using annual income and threshold								
	Total	Number	90 percent C.I. <sup>2</sup> (±)	Percent	90 percent C.I. <sup>2</sup> (±)	Percent	90 percent C.I. <sup>2</sup> (±)	Percent	90 percent C.I. <sup>2</sup> (±)						
<b>All people</b> .....	285,073	30,949	964	10.9	0.3	287,299	29,941	1,370	10.4	0.5	291,826	33,036	1,650	11.3	0.6
<b>Race and Hispanic Origin</b>															
White <sup>3</sup> .....	229,484	20,417	869	8.9	0.4	231,210	19,798	1,106	8.6	0.5	234,012	22,077	1,339	9.4	0.6
White, non-Hispanic <sup>4</sup> .....	192,264	13,100	622	6.8	0.3	192,755	12,330	822	6.4	0.4	193,662	13,421	902	6.9	0.5
Black <sup>3</sup> .....	35,751	8,084	457	22.6	1.3	35,828	7,560	682	21.1	1.9	36,635	8,198	675	22.4	1.8
Hispanic <sup>4</sup> .....	40,269	7,841	554	19.5	1.4	41,733	7,997	701	19.2	1.7	43,701	9,139	947	20.9	2.2
Non-Hispanic .....	244,804	23,108	761	9.4	0.3	245,566	21,944	1,147	8.9	0.5	248,124	23,898	1,259	9.6	0.5
<b>Age</b>															
Under 18 years .....	72,432	12,011	498	16.6	0.7	72,373	11,575	715	16.0	1.0	72,686	12,597	841	17.3	1.2
18 to 64 years .....	179,194	16,637	581	9.3	0.3	181,298	15,965	742	8.8	0.4	184,466	17,861	916	9.7	0.5
65 years and over .....	33,447	2,300	165	6.9	0.5	33,628	2,401	234	7.1	0.7	34,675	2,578	251	7.4	0.7
<b>Family Status</b>															
In married-couple families .....	184,694	9,886	751	5.4	0.4	186,228	9,560	971	5.1	0.5	189,252	10,915	1,077	5.8	0.6
In families with a female householder, no husband present .....	42,804	12,235	660	28.6	1.4	42,781	11,644	789	27.2	1.7	43,010	12,170	1,002	28.3	2.1
In families with a male householder, no wife present .....	11,981	1,398	229	11.7	1.8	11,849	1,182	272	10.0	2.2	11,995	1,750	347	14.6	2.8
Unrelated individuals .....	45,594	7,429	333	16.3	0.7	46,442	7,555	460	16.3	1.0	47,568	8,201	509	17.2	1.1

<sup>1</sup> Panel and yearly estimates are based on different samples. The 3-year panel estimates include only respondents in the panel for 36 months whereas calendar year estimates include respondents in sample for 12 months. The numbers of respondents in each sample are as follows: 25,371 in the 3-year panel, 76,953 in 2005, 34,372 in 2006, and 34,489 in 2007. In Wave 9 of the 2004 SIPP Panel, the survey sample was cut by a 53 percent sample reduction; sampling weights adjust for this reduction. Calendar months October, November, and December of 2007 are missing for some rotation groups in the 2004 Panel. For longitudinal estimates covering these calendar months, a carry forward imputation method was applied. This report uses the Successive Difference Replication method for all estimates from the 2004 and 2008 Panel; therefore, confidence intervals for estimates from the 2004 Panel will vary from those previously published in P70-123, "Dynamics of Economic Well-Being 2004-2006."

<sup>2</sup> A 90 percent confidence interval (C.I.) is a measure of an estimate's variability. The larger the confidence interval in relation to the size of the estimate, the less reliable the estimate.

<sup>3</sup> Federal surveys, including the SIPP 2004 and 2008 Panel, give respondents the option of reporting more than one race. These data can be shown in two ways: (1) as mutually exclusive from other race groups, which may be denoted by "alone" or (2) not mutually exclusive with other race groups, denoted by "alone or in combination with other race groups." The figures, tables, and text in this report show race using the first method.

<sup>4</sup> Hispanics may be any race, data in this report for Hispanics overlap data for racial groups. Data users should exercise caution when interpreting aggregate results for these groups because they consist of many distinct subgroups that differ in socioeconomic characteristics, culture, and recency of immigration.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation, 2004 Panel. For information on confidentiality protection and sampling and nonsampling error, see <www.census.gov/sipp/source.html>.

Table A-2.

**Annual Poverty by Selected Characteristics: 2009 to 2011**

(Numbers in thousands)

Characteristic	2009 <sup>1</sup>				2010 <sup>1</sup>				2011 <sup>1</sup>					
	In poverty using annual income and threshold			Total	In poverty using annual income and threshold			Total	In poverty using annual income and threshold			Total		
	Number	percent C.I. <sup>2</sup> (±)	Percent		90 percent C.I. <sup>2</sup> (±)	Percent	90 percent C.I. <sup>2</sup> (±)		Number	percent C.I. <sup>2</sup> (±)	Percent		90 percent C.I. <sup>2</sup> (±)	
<b>All people</b> .....	294,345	1,168	13.2	0.4	297,531	40,559	1,315	13.6	0.4	299,909	42,028	1,388	14.0	0.5
<b>Race and Hispanic Origin</b>														
White <sup>3</sup> .....	235,386	979	11.4	0.4	237,150	27,466	1,086	11.6	0.5	238,411	28,414	1,205	11.9	0.5
White, non-Hispanic <sup>4</sup> .....	193,810	772	8.8	0.4	194,507	17,527	801	9.0	0.4	194,464	18,144	868	9.3	0.4
Black <sup>3</sup> .....	37,160	8,992	24.2	1.5	37,765	9,721	577	25.7	1.5	38,243	10,072	622	26.3	1.6
Hispanic <sup>4</sup> .....	45,668	11,042	24.2	1.4	47,088	11,393	698	24.2	1.5	48,453	11,747	793	24.2	1.6
Non-Hispanic.....	248,676	27,754	11.2	0.4	250,443	29,166	1,072	11.6	0.4	251,456	30,280	1,097	12.0	0.4
<b>Age</b>														
Under 18 years.....	72,839	14,712	20.2	0.8	73,430	15,430	640	21.0	0.9	73,427	15,559	657	21.2	0.9
18 to 64 years.....	185,279	21,914	11.8	0.4	187,251	22,874	773	12.2	0.4	188,552	23,883	878	12.7	0.5
65 years and over.....	36,227	2,170	6.0	0.5	36,850	2,255	191	6.1	0.5	37,931	2,586	197	6.8	0.5
<b>Family Status</b>														
In married-couple families.....	185,951	13,366	7.2	0.4	188,226	14,097	918	7.5	0.5	189,070	14,999	952	7.9	0.5
In families with a female householder, no husband present.....	44,555	13,938	31.3	1.5	45,064	14,344	738	31.8	1.6	45,964	14,812	785	32.2	1.5
In families with a male householder, no wife present.....	13,764	2,056	14.9	2.0	14,186	2,277	298	16.0	2.0	14,395	2,291	314	15.9	2.0
Unrelated individuals.....	50,075	9,436	18.8	0.7	50,055	9,842	401	19.7	0.8	50,480	9,925	429	19.7	0.8

<sup>1</sup> Panel and yearly estimates are based on different samples. The 3-year panel estimates include only respondents in the panel for 36 months whereas calendar year estimates include respondents in sample for 12 months. The numbers of respondents in each sample are as follows: 48,937 in the 3-year panel, 73,695 in 2009, 67,452 in 2010, and 62,841 in 2011.

<sup>2</sup> A 90 percent confidence interval (C.I.) is a measure of an estimate's variability. The larger the confidence interval in relation to the size of the estimate, the less reliable the estimate.

<sup>3</sup> Federal surveys, including the SIPP 2004 and 2008 Panel, give respondents the option of reporting more than one race. These data can be shown in two ways: (1) as mutually exclusive from other race groups, which may be denoted by "alone" or (2) not mutually exclusive with other race groups, denoted by "alone or in combination with other race groups." The figures, tables, and text in this report show race using the first method.

<sup>4</sup> Hispanics may be any race, data in this report for Hispanics overlap data for racial groups. Data users should exercise caution when interpreting aggregate results for these groups because they consist of many distinct subgroups that differ in socioeconomic characteristics, culture, and recency of immigration.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation, 2008 Panel. For information on confidentiality protection and sampling and nonsampling error, see <www.census.gov/sipp/source.html>.



Table A-3.

**People in Poverty 2 or More Months by Selected Characteristics: 2005 to 2007**

(Numbers in thousands)

Characteristic	3-year panel (2005 to 2007) <sup>1</sup>			2005 <sup>1</sup>			2006 <sup>1</sup>			2007 <sup>1</sup>		
	People in poverty 2 or more months			People in poverty 2 or more months			People in poverty 2 or more months			People in poverty 2 or more months		
	Num-ber	Per-cent	90 per-cent C.I. <sup>2</sup>	Num-ber	Per-cent	90 per-cent C.I. <sup>2</sup>	Num-ber	Per-cent	90 per-cent C.I. <sup>2</sup>	Num-ber	Per-cent	90 per-cent C.I. <sup>2</sup>
<b>All people</b> . . . . .	<b>266,942</b>	<b>27.1</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>285,073</b>	<b>20.3</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>287,299</b>	<b>19.4</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>291,826</b>	<b>18.36</b>	<b>0.6</b>
<b>Race and Hispanic Origin</b>												
White <sup>3</sup> . . . . .	215,709	24.4	0.8	229,484	18.0	0.5	231,210	17.1	0.6	234,012	15.61	0.7
White, non-Hispanic <sup>4</sup> . . . . .	183,379	21.0	0.9	192,264	15.2	0.5	192,755	14.1	0.6	193,662	11.50	0.6
Black <sup>3</sup> . . . . .	33,231	42.0	2.6	35,751	33.6	1.6	35,828	33.2	2.2	36,635	32.0	2.2
Hispanic <sup>4</sup> . . . . .	34,968	931	2.6	40,269	636	1.6	41,733	901	2.2	43,701	1,007	2.3
Non-Hispanic . . . . .	231,973	1,886	0.8	244,804	1,062	0.4	245,566	1,580	0.6	248,124	1,498	0.6
<b>Age</b>												
Under 18 years . . . . .	66,497	1,012	1.4	72,432	19,973	623	72,373	19,211	874	72,686	19,556	1.2
18 to 64 years . . . . .	169,758	44,060	0.7	179,194	34,003	767	181,298	32,688	1,057	184,466	32,460	0.6
65 years and over . . . . .	30,686	5,177	1.2	33,447	3,805	220	33,628	3,926	304	34,675	3,869	0.8
<b>Family Status</b>												
In married-couple families . . . . .	178,467	34,384	1.767	184,694	24,339	1,038	186,228	22,847	1,293	189,252	22,750	0.7
In families with a female householder, no husband present . . . . .	38,212	19,355	1,042	42,804	17,584	761	42,781	17,478	981	43,010	17,185	1.9
In families with a male householder, no wife present . . . . .	9,799	3,417	482	11,981	2,906	321	11,849	2,544	386	11,995	2,937	3.4
Unrelated individuals . . . . .	40,464	15,147	670	45,594	12,952	416	46,442	12,955	587	47,568	13,013	607

<sup>1</sup> Panel and yearly estimates are based on different samples. The 3-year panel estimates include only respondents in the panel for 36 months whereas calendar year estimates include respondents in sample for 12 months. The numbers of respondents in each sample are as follows: 25,371 in the 3-year panel, 76,953 in 2005, 34,372 in 2006, and 34,489 in 2007. In Wave 9 of the 2004 SIPP Panel, the survey sample was cut by a 53 percent sample reduction; sampling weights adjust for this reduction. Calendar months October, November, and December of 2007 are missing for some rotation groups in the 2004 Panel. For longitudinal estimates covering these calendar months, a carry forward imputation method was applied. This report uses the Successive Difference Replication method for all estimates from the 2004 and 2008 Panel; therefore, confidence intervals for estimates from the 2004 Panel will vary from those previously published in P-70-123, "Dynamics of Economic Well-Being 2004-2006."

<sup>2</sup> A 90 percent confidence interval (C.I.) is a measure of an estimate's variability. The larger the confidence interval in relation to the size of the estimate, the less reliable the estimate.

<sup>3</sup> Federal surveys, including the SIPP 2004 and 2008 Panel, give respondents the option of reporting more than one race. These data can be shown in two ways: (1) as mutually exclusive from other race groups, which may be denoted by "alone" or (2) not mutually exclusive with other race groups, denoted by "alone or in combination with other race groups." The figures, tables, and text in this report show race using the first method.

<sup>4</sup> Hispanics may be any race, data in this report for Hispanics overlap data for racial groups. Data users should exercise caution when interpreting aggregate results for these groups because they consist of many distinct subgroups that differ in socioeconomic characteristics, culture, and recency of immigration.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation, 2004 Panel. For information on confidentiality protection and sampling and nonsampling error, see <[www.census.gov/sipp/source.html](http://www.census.gov/sipp/source.html)>.



Table A-4.

**People in Poverty 2 or More Months by Selected Characteristics: 2009 to 2011**

(Numbers in thousands)

Characteristic	3-year panel (2009 to 2011) <sup>1</sup>			2009 <sup>1</sup>			2010 <sup>1</sup>			2011 <sup>1</sup>									
	People in poverty 2 or more months			People in poverty 2 or more months			People in poverty 2 or more months			People in poverty 2 or more months									
	Total	Num-ber	Per-cent C.I. <sup>2</sup>	90 per-cent C.I. <sup>2</sup>	Per-cent	90 per-cent C.I. <sup>2</sup>	Total	Num-ber	Per-cent C.I. <sup>2</sup>	90 per-cent C.I. <sup>2</sup>	Per-cent	90 per-cent C.I. <sup>2</sup>							
<b>All people</b> . . . . .	<b>283,065</b>	<b>1,809</b>	<b>31.6</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>294,345</b>	<b>67,763</b>	<b>1,330</b>	<b>23.0</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>297,531</b>	<b>69,072</b>	<b>1,549</b>	<b>23.2</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>299,909</b>	<b>70,862</b>	<b>1,621</b>	<b>23.6</b>	<b>0.5</b>
<b>Race and Hispanic Origin</b>																			
White <sup>3</sup> . . . . .	226,611	66,697	1,670	0.7	235,386	49,320	1,181	21.0	0.5	237,150	49,814	1,381	21.0	0.6	238,411	51,152	1,336	21.5	0.6
White, non-Hispanic <sup>4</sup> . . . . .	187,449	47,587	1,372	0.7	193,810	33,483	971	17.3	0.5	194,507	33,902	1,071	17.4	0.6	194,464	34,625	1,096	17.8	0.6
Black <sup>3</sup> . . . . .	35,718	16,182	732	2.0	37,160	13,262	564	35.7	1.5	37,765	13,585	648	36.0	1.7	38,243	13,837	674	36.2	1.7
Hispanic <sup>4</sup> . . . . .	42,786	21,210	866	1.9	45,668	17,818	806	39.0	1.7	47,088	17,941	885	38.1	1.8	48,453	18,540	823	38.3	1.7
Non-Hispanic . . . . .	240,279	68,345	1,590	0.7	248,676	49,945	1,171	20.1	0.5	250,443	51,131	1,226	20.4	0.5	251,456	52,322	1,379	20.8	0.5
<b>Age</b>																			
Under 18 years . . . . .	71,350	28,974	805	1.1	72,839	23,054	658	31.7	0.9	73,430	23,563	711	32.1	1.0	73,427	23,714	757	32.3	1.0
18 to 64 years . . . . .	178,961	55,439	1,224	0.7	185,279	40,838	862	22.0	0.5	187,251	41,730	990	22.3	0.5	188,552	42,975	1,046	22.8	0.6
65 years and over . . . . .	32,753	5,142	289	0.9	36,227	3,871	208	10.7	0.6	36,850	3,779	230	10.3	0.6	37,931	4,173	245	11.0	0.6
<b>Family Status</b>																			
In married-couple families . . . . .	181,112	42,824	1,431	0.8	185,951	28,511	1,038	15.3	0.5	188,226	29,168	1,200	15.5	0.6	189,070	30,508	1,204	16.1	0.6
In families with a female householder, no husband present . . . . .	42,183	22,400	834	1.8	44,555	19,408	677	43.6	1.4	45,064	20,104	795	44.6	1.7	45,964	20,339	828	44.3	1.6
In families with a male householder, no wife present . . . . .	12,762	5,232	491	3.0	13,764	4,167	392	30.3	2.4	14,186	3,988	357	28.1	2.3	14,395	4,108	413	28.5	2.5
Unrelated individuals . . . . .	47,007	19,099	587	1.2	50,075	15,677	398	31.3	0.8	50,055	15,812	450	31.6	0.8	50,480	15,906	444	31.5	0.9

<sup>1</sup> Panel and yearly estimates are based on different samples. The 3-year panel estimates include only respondents in the panel for 36 months whereas calendar year estimates include respondents in sample for 12 months. The numbers of respondents in each sample are as follows: 48,937 in the 3-year panel, 73,695 in 2009, 67,452 in 2010, and 62,841 in 2011.

<sup>2</sup> A 90 percent confidence interval (C.I.) is a measure of an estimate's variability. The larger the confidence interval in relation to the size of the estimate, the less reliable the estimate.

<sup>3</sup> Federal surveys, including the SIPP 2004 and 2008 Panel, give respondents the option of reporting more than one race. These data can be shown in two ways: (1) as mutually exclusive from other race groups, which may be denoted by "alone" or (2) not mutually exclusive with other race groups, denoted by "alone or in combination with other race groups." The figures, tables, and text in this report show race using the first method.

<sup>4</sup> Hispanics may be any race, data in this report for Hispanics overlap data for racial groups. Data users should exercise caution when interpreting aggregate results for these groups because they consist of many distinct subgroups that differ in socioeconomic characteristics, culture, and recency of immigration.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation, 2008 Panel. For information on confidentiality protection and sampling and nonsampling error, see <www.census.gov/sipp/source.html>.

Table A-5.  
**People in Poverty All Months by Selected Characteristics: 2005 to 2007**  
(Numbers in thousands)

Characteristic	3-year panel (2005 to 2007) <sup>1</sup>			2005 <sup>1</sup>			2006 <sup>1</sup>			2007 <sup>1</sup>									
	People in poverty all 36 months			People in poverty all 12 months			People in poverty all 12 months			People in poverty all 12 months									
	Total	Num-ber	Per-cent	90 C.I. <sup>2</sup>	Per-cent	90 C.I. <sup>2</sup>	Total	Num-ber	Per-cent	90 C.I. <sup>2</sup>	Total	Num-ber	Per-cent	90 C.I. <sup>2</sup>					
<b>All people</b> . . . . .	266,942	8,074	3.0	0.3	285,073	17,010	709	6.0	0.2	287,299	17,909	1,060	6.2	0.4	291,826	20,906	1,302	7.2	0.4
<b>Race and Hispanic Origin</b>																			
White <sup>3</sup> . . . . .	215,709	4,604	2.1	0.3	229,484	10,639	627	4.6	0.3	231,210	11,570	860	5.0	0.4	234,012	13,327	1,012	5.7	0.4
White, non-Hispanic <sup>4</sup> . . . . .	183,379	2,673	3.42	0.2	192,264	6,739	451	3.5	0.2	192,755	6,986	597	3.6	0.3	193,662	8,015	690	4.1	0.4
Black <sup>3</sup> . . . . .	33,231	2,851	4.36	1.3	35,751	4,947	366	13.8	1.0	35,828	4,971	522	13.9	1.5	36,635	5,804	597	15.8	1.6
Hispanic <sup>4</sup> . . . . .	34,968	1,969	4.42	1.3	40,269	4,150	373	10.3	0.9	41,733	4,824	598	11.6	1.4	43,701	5,573	704	12.8	1.6
Non-Hispanic . . . . .	231,973	6,104	2.6	0.3	244,804	12,860	540	5.3	0.2	245,566	13,085	858	5.3	0.4	248,124	15,332	1,040	6.2	0.4
<b>Age</b>																			
Under 18 years . . . . .	66,497	3,254	4.9	0.8	72,432	6,605	391	9.1	0.5	72,373	7,195	606	9.9	0.8	72,686	8,019	705	11.0	1.0
18 to 64 years . . . . .	169,758	3,808	2.2	0.3	179,194	8,780	412	4.9	0.2	181,298	8,976	551	5.0	0.3	184,466	10,833	720	5.9	0.4
65 years and over . . . . .	30,686	1,012	3.3	0.6	33,447	1,625	133	4.9	0.4	33,628	1,737	203	5.2	0.6	34,675	2,053	224	5.9	0.6
<b>Family Status</b>																			
In married-couple families . . . . .	178,467	1,775	4.96	1.0	184,694	4,461	509	2.4	0.3	186,228	4,767	686	2.6	0.4	189,252	5,927	795	3.1	0.4
In families with a female householder, no husband present . . . . .	38,212	3,641	5.65	1.4	42,804	7,237	538	16.9	1.2	42,781	7,528	666	17.6	1.5	43,010	8,520	871	19.8	1.9
In families with a male householder, no wife present . . . . .	9,799	264	2.7	1.8	11,981	730	171	6.1	1.4	11,849	635	200	5.4	1.6	11,995	860	279	7.2	2.3
Unrelated individuals . . . . .	40,464	2,393	5.9	0.7	45,594	4,581	238	10.0	0.5	46,442	4,979	387	10.7	0.8	47,568	5,598	418	11.8	0.9

<sup>1</sup> Panel and yearly estimates are based on different samples. The 3-year panel estimates include only respondents in the panel for 36 months whereas calendar year estimates include respondents in sample for 12 months. The numbers of respondents in each sample are as follows: 25,371 in the 3-year panel, 76,953 in 2005, 34,372 in 2006, and 34,489 in 2007. In Wave 9 of the 2004 SIPP Panel, the survey sample was cut by a 53 percent sample reduction; sampling weights adjust for this reduction. Calendar months October, November, and December of 2007 are missing for some rotation groups in the 2004 Panel. For longitudinal estimates covering these calendar months, a carry forward imputation method was applied. This report uses the Successive Difference Replication method for all estimates from the 2004 and 2008 Panel; therefore, confidence intervals for estimates from the 2004 Panel will vary from those previously published in P70-123, "Dynamics of Economic Well-Being 2004-2006."

<sup>2</sup> A 90 percent confidence interval (C.I.) is a measure of an estimate's variability. The larger the confidence interval in relation to the size of the estimate, the less reliable the estimate.

<sup>3</sup> Federal surveys, including the SIPP 2004 and 2008 Panel, give respondents the option of reporting more than one race. These data can be shown in two ways: (1) as mutually exclusive from other race groups, which may be denoted by "alone" or (2) not mutually exclusive with other race groups, denoted by "alone or in combination with other race groups." The figures, tables, and text in this report show race using the first method.

<sup>4</sup> Hispanics may be any race, data in this report for Hispanics overlap data for racial groups. Data users should exercise caution when interpreting aggregate results for these groups because they consist of many distinct subgroups that differ in socioeconomic characteristics, culture, and recency of immigration.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation, 2004 Panel. For information on confidentiality protection and sampling and nonsampling error, see <[www.census.gov/sipp/source.html](http://www.census.gov/sipp/source.html)>.

Table A-6.

**People in Poverty All Months by Selected Characteristics: 2009 to 2011**

(Numbers in thousands)

Characteristic	3-year panel (2009 to 2011) <sup>1</sup>			2009 <sup>1</sup>			2010 <sup>1</sup>			2011 <sup>1</sup>				
	People in poverty all 36 months			People in poverty all 12 months			People in poverty all 12 months			People in poverty all 12 months				
	Num-ber	Per-cent C.I. <sup>2</sup>	90 per-cent C.I. <sup>2</sup> (±)	Num-ber	Per-cent	90 per-cent C.I. <sup>2</sup> (±)	Total	Num-ber	Per-cent	90 per-cent C.I. <sup>2</sup> (±)	Total	Num-ber	Per-cent	90 per-cent C.I. <sup>2</sup> (±)
<b>All people</b> . . . . .	<b>9,922</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>21,351</b>	<b>7.3</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>297,531</b>	<b>24,001</b>	<b>8.1</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>299,909</b>	<b>24,829</b>	<b>8.3</b>	<b>0.3</b>
<b>Race and Hispanic Origin</b>														
White <sup>3</sup> . . . . .	6,235	2.8	0.3	14,645	6.2	0.3	235,386	15,684	6.6	0.3	238,411	16,157	6.8	0.4
White, non-Hispanic <sup>4</sup> . . . . .	3,796	2.0	0.2	9,117	4.7	0.3	193,810	9,613	4.9	0.3	194,464	10,096	5.2	0.3
Black <sup>3</sup> . . . . .	3,078	8.6	1.3	5,151	13.9	1.1	37,160	6,212	16.4	1.2	38,243	6,526	17.1	1.4
Hispanic <sup>4</sup> . . . . .	418	6.4	1.0	6,289	13.8	1.2	45,668	7,110	15.1	1.3	48,453	6,961	14.4	1.3
Non-Hispanic . . . . .	7,162	3.0	0.3	15,061	6.1	0.3	248,676	16,891	6.7	0.3	251,456	17,867	7.1	0.3
<b>Age</b>														
Under 18 years . . . . .	4,210	5.9	0.6	8,368	11.5	0.7	73,430	9,424	12.8	0.7	73,427	9,467	12.9	0.7
18 to 64 years . . . . .	4,950	2.8	0.2	11,558	6.2	0.2	187,251	12,985	6.9	0.3	188,552	13,493	7.2	0.3
65 years and over . . . . .	762	2.3	0.4	1,424	3.9	0.4	36,850	1,592	4.3	0.4	37,931	1,869	4.9	0.4
<b>Family Status</b>														
In married-couple families . . . . .	2,546	1.4	0.2	6,035	3.2	0.3	188,226	7,028	3.7	0.3	189,070	8,012	4.2	0.4
In families with a female householder, no husband present . . . . .	4,247	10.1	1.2	8,583	19.3	1.1	45,064	9,230	20.5	1.4	45,964	9,274	20.2	1.4
In families with a male householder, no wife present . . . . .	430	3.4	1.1	905	6.6	1.3	14,186	1,311	9.2	1.5	14,395	1,252	8.7	1.7
Unrelated individuals . . . . .	2,700	5.7	0.5	5,828	11.6	0.5	50,075	6,432	12.8	0.6	50,480	6,291	12.5	0.6

<sup>1</sup> Panel and yearly estimates are based on different samples. The 3-year panel estimates include only respondents in the panel for 36 months whereas calendar year estimates include respondents in sample for 12 months. The numbers of respondents in each sample are as follows: 48,937 in the 3-year panel, 73,695 in 2009, 67,452 in 2010, and 62,841 in 2011.

<sup>2</sup> A 90 percent confidence interval (C.I.) is a measure of an estimate's variability. The larger the confidence interval in relation to the size of the estimate, the less reliable the estimate.

<sup>3</sup> Federal surveys, including the SIPP 2004 and 2008 Panel, give respondents the option of reporting more than one race. These data can be shown in two ways: (1) as mutually exclusive from other race groups, which may be denoted by "alone" or (2) not mutually exclusive with other race groups, denoted by "alone or in combination with other race groups." The figures, tables, and text in this report show race using the first method.

<sup>4</sup> Hispanics may be any race, data in this report for Hispanics overlap data for racial groups. Data users should exercise caution when interpreting aggregate results for these groups because they consist of many distinct subgroups that differ in socioeconomic characteristics, culture, and recency of immigration.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation, 2008 Panel. For information on confidentiality protection and sampling and nonsampling error, see <www.census.gov/sipp/source.html>.

Table A-7.

**Poverty Entries: People Not in Poverty in 2005 by Poverty Status in 2006 and 2007**

(Numbers in thousands)

Characteristic	Not in poverty in 2005 <sup>1</sup>	In poverty in 2006 <sup>1</sup>				In poverty in 2007 <sup>1</sup>			
		Number	90 percent C.I. <sup>2</sup> (±)	Percent	90 percent C.I. <sup>2</sup> (±)	Number	90 percent C.I. <sup>2</sup> (±)	Percent	90 percent C.I. <sup>2</sup> (±)
<b>All people</b> . . . . .	<b>240,333</b>	<b>6,477</b>	<b>705</b>	<b>2.7</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>10,205</b>	<b>976</b>	<b>4.2</b>	<b>0.4</b>
<b>Race and Hispanic Origin</b>									
White <sup>3</sup> . . . . .	198,229	4,705	575	2.4	0.3	7,386	833	3.7	0.4
White, non-Hispanic <sup>4</sup> . . . . .	172,302	3,370	472	2.0	0.3	5,148	671	3.0	0.4
Black <sup>3</sup> . . . . .	26,134	1,164	265	4.5	1.0	1,984	435	7.6	1.6
Hispanic <sup>4</sup> . . . . .	28,271	1,465	318	5.2	1.1	2,365	477	8.4	1.6
Non-Hispanic . . . . .	212,061	5,012	603	2.4	0.3	7,840	829	3.7	0.4
<b>Age</b>									
Under 18 years . . . . .	56,395	1,797	320	3.2	0.6	3,280	456	5.8	0.8
18 to 64 years . . . . .	155,442	4,157	449	2.7	0.3	6,154	575	4.0	0.4
65 years and over . . . . .	28,496	523	134	1.8	0.5	771	155	2.7	0.5
<b>Family Status</b>									
In married-couple families . . . . .	169,950	2,887	500	1.7	0.3	5,043	726	3.0	0.4
In families with a female householder, no husband present . . . . .	27,550	1,487	326	5.4	1.1	2,373	423	8.6	1.4
In families with a male householder, no wife present . . . . .	8,932	482	209	5.4	2.3	850	270	9.5	2.9
Unrelated individuals . . . . .	33,900	1,620	232	4.8	0.7	1,939	253	5.7	0.7

<sup>1</sup> Uses panel weight. Panel and yearly estimates are based on different samples. The 3-year panel estimates include only respondents in the panel for 36 months whereas calendar year estimates include respondents in sample for 12 months. The numbers of respondents in each sample are as follows: 25,371 in the 3-year panel, 76,953 in 2005, 34,372 in 2006, and 34,489 in 2007. In Wave 9 of the 2004 SIPP Panel, the survey sample was cut by a 53 percent sample reduction; sampling weights adjust for this reduction. Calendar months October, November, and December of 2007 are missing for some rotation groups in the 2004 Panel. For longitudinal estimates covering these calendar months, a carry forward imputation method was applied.

<sup>2</sup> A 90 percent confidence interval (C.I.) is a measure of an estimate's variability. The larger the confidence interval in relation to the size of the estimate, the less reliable the estimate.

<sup>3</sup> Federal surveys, including the SIPP 2004 and 2008 Panel, give respondents the option of reporting more than one race. These data can be shown in two ways: (1) as mutually exclusive from other race groups, which may be denoted by "alone" or (2) not mutually exclusive with other race groups, denoted by "alone or in combination with other race groups." The figures, tables, and text in this report show race using the first method.

<sup>4</sup> Hispanics may be any race, data in this report for Hispanics overlap data for racial groups. Data users should exercise caution when interpreting aggregate results for these groups because they consist of many distinct subgroups that differ in socioeconomic characteristics, culture, and recency of immigration.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation, 2004 Panel. For information on confidentiality protection and sampling and nonsampling error, see <[www.census.gov/sipp/source.html](http://www.census.gov/sipp/source.html)>.

Table A-8.

**Poverty Entries: People Not in Poverty in 2009 by Poverty Status in 2010 and 2011**

(Numbers in thousands)

Characteristic	Not in poverty in 2009 <sup>1</sup>	In poverty in 2010 <sup>1</sup>				In poverty in 2011 <sup>1</sup>			
		Number	90 percent C.I. <sup>2</sup> (±)	Percent	90 percent C.I. <sup>2</sup> (±)	Number	90 percent C.I. <sup>2</sup> (±)	Percent	90 percent C.I. <sup>2</sup> (±)
<b>All people</b> . . . . .	<b>247,466</b>	<b>10,095</b>	<b>780</b>	<b>4.1</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>13,479</b>	<b>845</b>	<b>5.4</b>	<b>0.3</b>
<b>Race and Hispanic Origin</b>									
White <sup>3</sup> . . . . .	202,065	7,283	631	3.6	0.3	10,030	733	5.0	0.4
White, non-Hispanic <sup>4</sup> . . . . .	171,561	5,188	463	3.0	0.3	6,765	579	3.9	0.3
Black <sup>3</sup> . . . . .	27,459	2,124	362	7.7	1.3	2,436	308	8.9	1.1
Hispanic <sup>4</sup> . . . . .	33,141	2,349	438	7.1	1.3	3,535	466	10.7	1.4
Non-Hispanic . . . . .	214,325	7,745	607	3.6	0.3	9,944	688	4.6	0.3
<b>Age</b>									
Under 18 years . . . . .	57,969	3,249	399	5.6	0.7	4,133	417	7.1	0.7
18 to 64 years . . . . .	158,746	6,210	447	3.9	0.3	8,379	538	5.3	0.3
65 years and over . . . . .	30,751	635	108	2.1	0.3	967	118	3.1	0.4
<b>Family Status</b>									
In married-couple families . . . . .	168,367	5,134	565	3.0	0.3	6,774	684	4.0	0.4
In families with a female householder, no husband present . . . . .	29,503	2,266	359	7.7	1.2	2,939	391	10.0	1.3
In families with a male householder, no wife present . . . . .	10,996	733	203	6.7	1.8	945	196	8.6	1.7
Unrelated individuals . . . . .	38,600	1,962	194	5.1	0.5	2,820	248	7.3	0.6

<sup>1</sup> Uses panel weight. Panel and yearly estimates are based on different samples. The 3-year panel estimates include only respondents in the panel for 36 months whereas calendar year estimates include respondents in sample for 12 months. The numbers of respondents in each sample are as follows: 48,937 in the 3-year panel, 73,695 in 2009, 67,452 in 2010, and 62,841 in 2011.

<sup>2</sup> A 90 percent confidence interval (C.I.) is a measure of an estimate's variability. The larger the confidence interval in relation to the size of the estimate, the less reliable the estimate.

<sup>3</sup> Federal surveys, including the SIPP 2004 and 2008 Panel, give respondents the option of reporting more than one race. These data can be shown in two ways: (1) as mutually exclusive from other race groups, which may be denoted by "alone" or (2) not mutually exclusive with other race groups, denoted by "alone or in combination with other race groups." The figures, tables, and text in this report show race using the first method.

<sup>4</sup> Hispanics may be any race, data in this report for Hispanics overlap data for racial groups. Data users should exercise caution when interpreting aggregate results for these groups because they consist of many distinct subgroups that differ in socioeconomic characteristics, culture, and recency of immigration.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation, 2008 Panel. For information on confidentiality protection and sampling and nonsampling error, see <[www.census.gov/sipp/source.html](http://www.census.gov/sipp/source.html)>.

Table A-9.

**Poverty Exits: People in Poverty in 2005 by Poverty Status in 2006 and 2007**

(Numbers in thousands)

Characteristic	In poverty in 2005 <sup>1</sup>	Not in poverty in 2006 <sup>1</sup>				Not in poverty in 2007 <sup>1</sup>			
		Number	90 percent C.I. <sup>2</sup> (±)	Percent	90 percent C.I. <sup>2</sup> (±)	Number	90 percent C.I. <sup>2</sup> (±)	Percent	90 percent C.I. <sup>2</sup> (±)
<b>All people</b> . . . . .	<b>26,609</b>	<b>7,800</b>	<b>794</b>	<b>29.3</b>	<b>2.6</b>	<b>9,433</b>	<b>1,016</b>	<b>35.4</b>	<b>3.2</b>
<b>Race and Hispanic Origin</b>									
White <sup>3</sup> . . . . .	17,479	5,861	692	33.5	3.0	6,708	893	38.4	3.9
White, non-Hispanic <sup>4</sup> . . . . .	11,077	4,057	550	36.6	3.8	4,812	708	43.4	4.6
Black <sup>3</sup> . . . . .	7,097	1,354	412	19.1	5.6	1,793	409	25.3	5.0
Hispanic <sup>4</sup> . . . . .	6,697	1,923	405	28.7	5.0	2,028	470	30.3	6.1
Non-Hispanic . . . . .	19,912	5,876	695	29.5	3.1	7,404	844	37.2	3.6
<b>Age</b>									
Under 18 years . . . . .	10,102	2,461	359	24.4	3.2	3,092	510	30.6	4.5
18 to 64 years . . . . .	14,316	4,799	521	33.5	3.0	5,691	603	39.8	3.3
65 years and over . . . . .	2,190	540	128	24.6	4.8	650	131	29.7	4.9
<b>Family Status</b>									
In married-couple families . . . . .	8,517	3,059	576	35.9	5.1	3,467	691	40.7	5.9
In families with a female householder, no husband present . . . . .	10,662	2,364	448	22.2	3.9	3,147	511	29.5	4.3
In families with a male householder, no wife present . . . . .	867	306	172	35.3	16.2	338	179	39.0	16.5
Unrelated individuals . . . . .	6,564	2,071	314	31.5	3.5	2,480	342	37.8	3.7

<sup>1</sup> Uses panel weight. Panel and yearly estimates are based on different samples. The 3-year panel estimates include only respondents in the panel for 36 months whereas calendar year estimates include respondents in sample for 12 months. The numbers of respondents in each sample are as follows: 25,371 in the 3-year panel, 76,953 in 2005, 34,372 in 2006, and 34,489 in 2007. In Wave 9 of the 2004 SIPP Panel, the survey sample was cut by a 53 percent sample reduction; sampling weights adjust for this reduction. Calendar months October, November, and December of 2007 are missing for some rotation groups in the 2004 Panel. For longitudinal estimates covering these calendar months, a carry forward imputation method was applied.

<sup>2</sup> A 90 percent confidence interval (C.I.) is a measure of an estimate's variability. The larger the confidence interval in relation to the size of the estimate, the less reliable the estimate.

<sup>3</sup> Federal surveys, including the SIPP 2004 and 2008 Panel, give respondents the option of reporting more than one race. These data can be shown in two ways: (1) as mutually exclusive from other race groups, which may be denoted by "alone" or (2) not mutually exclusive with other race groups, denoted by "alone or in combination with other race groups." The figures, tables, and text in this report show race using the first method.

<sup>4</sup> Hispanics may be any race, data in this report for Hispanics overlap data for racial groups. Data users should exercise caution when interpreting aggregate results for these groups because they consist of many distinct subgroups that differ in socioeconomic characteristics, culture, and recency of immigration.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation, 2004 Panel. For information on confidentiality protection and sampling and nonsampling error, see <[www.census.gov/sipp/source.html](http://www.census.gov/sipp/source.html)>.



Table A-10.

**Poverty Exits: People in Poverty in 2009 by Poverty Status in 2010 and 2011**

(Numbers in thousands)

Characteristic	In poverty in 2009 <sup>1</sup>	Not in poverty in 2010 <sup>1</sup>				Not in poverty in 2011 <sup>1</sup>			
		Number	90 percent C.I. <sup>2</sup> (±)	Percent	90 percent C.I. <sup>2</sup> (±)	Number	90 percent C.I. <sup>2</sup> (±)	Percent	90 percent C.I. <sup>2</sup> (±)
<b>All people</b> . . . . .	<b>35,598</b>	<b>9,576</b>	<b>757</b>	<b>26.9</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>12,613</b>	<b>857</b>	<b>35.4</b>	<b>1.9</b>
<b>Race and Hispanic Origin</b>									
White <sup>3</sup> . . . . .	24,546	6,993	677	28.5	2.2	9,601	812	39.1	2.6
White, non-Hispanic <sup>4</sup> . . . . .	15,888	5,134	487	32.3	2.5	6,464	578	40.7	2.7
Black <sup>3</sup> . . . . .	8,259	1,570	287	19.0	3.2	1,875	312	22.7	3.3
Hispanic <sup>4</sup> . . . . .	9,645	2,180	390	22.6	3.5	3,450	517	35.8	4.5
Non-Hispanic . . . . .	25,954	7,396	589	28.5	1.8	9,163	673	35.3	2.0
<b>Age</b>									
Under 18 years . . . . .	13,381	2,936	376	21.9	2.5	3,960	414	29.6	2.5
18 to 64 years . . . . .	20,215	6,162	455	30.5	1.9	8,023	536	39.7	2.0
65 years and over . . . . .	2,002	478	105	23.9	4.4	630	106	31.5	4.1
<b>Family Status</b>									
In married-couple families . . . . .	12,745	4,245	540	33.3	3.4	5,652	680	44.3	4.0
In families with a female householder, no husband present . . . . .	12,680	2,614	427	20.6	3.0	3,193	434	25.2	2.8
In families with a male householder, no wife present . . . . .	1,766	448	128	25.4	6.4	665	182	37.6	7.7
Unrelated individuals . . . . .	8,407	2,270	209	27.0	2.2	3,103	287	36.9	2.8

<sup>1</sup> Uses panel weight. Panel and yearly estimates are based on different samples. The 3-year panel estimates include only respondents in the panel for 36 months whereas calendar year estimates include respondents in sample for 12 months. The numbers of respondents in each sample are as follows: 48,937 in the 3-year panel, 73,695 in 2009, 67,452 in 2010, and 62,841 in 2011.

<sup>2</sup> A 90 percent confidence interval (C.I.) is a measure of an estimate's variability. The larger the confidence interval in relation to the size of the estimate, the less reliable the estimate.

<sup>3</sup> Federal surveys, including the SIPP 2004 and 2008 Panel, give respondents the option of reporting more than one race. These data can be shown in two ways: (1) as mutually exclusive from other race groups, which may be denoted by "alone" or (2) not mutually exclusive with other race groups, denoted by "alone or in combination with other race groups." The figures, tables, and text in this report show race using the first method.

<sup>4</sup> Hispanics may be any race, data in this report for Hispanics overlap data for racial groups. Data users should exercise caution when interpreting aggregate results for these groups because they consist of many distinct subgroups that differ in socioeconomic characteristics, culture, and recency of immigration.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation, 2008 Panel. For information on confidentiality protection and sampling and nonsampling error, see <[www.census.gov/sipp/source.html](http://www.census.gov/sipp/source.html)>.

Table A-11.

**Poverty Entries and Exits: 2009 Income-to-Poverty Ratio by 2010 Income-to-Poverty Ratio**

(Numbers in thousands)

2009 income-to-poverty threshold <sup>1</sup>	2010 income-to-poverty threshold <sup>1</sup>								
	Total	Less than 100 percent of the poverty threshold		100 percent or more of the poverty threshold				More than 150 percent of the poverty threshold	
		Number	90 percent C.I. <sup>2</sup> (±)	Number	90 percent C.I. <sup>2</sup> (±)	Number	90 percent C.I. <sup>2</sup> (±)	Number	90 percent C.I. <sup>2</sup> (±)
<b>Total</b> .....	<b>283,065</b>	<b>36,117</b>	<b>1,262</b>	<b>246,948</b>	<b>1,369</b>	<b>29,449</b>	<b>1,331</b>	<b>217,499</b>	<b>1,661</b>
Less than 100 percent of the poverty thresholds.....	35,598	26,022	1,100	9,576	757	5,880	643	3,697	410
100 percent or more of the poverty threshold .....	247,466	10,095	780	237,372	1,471	23,569	1,090	213,802	1,699
100 to 150 percent of the poverty threshold .....	27,700	5,657	576	22,043	1,131	14,186	905	7,857	618
More than 150 percent of the poverty threshold.....	219,766	4,438	467	215,329	1,717	9,383	699	205,945	1,768

<sup>1</sup> Uses panel weight. Panel and yearly estimates are based on different samples. The 3-year panel estimates include only respondents in the panel for 36 months whereas calendar year estimates include respondents in sample for 12 months. The numbers of respondents in each sample are as follows: 48,937 in the 3-year panel, 73,695 in 2009, 67,452 in 2010, and 62,841 in 2011.

<sup>2</sup> A 90 percent confidence interval (C.I.) is a measure of an estimate's variability. The larger the confidence interval in relation to the size of the estimate, the less reliable the estimate.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation, 2008 Panel. For information on confidentiality protection and sampling and nonsampling error, see <[www.census.gov/sipp/source.html](http://www.census.gov/sipp/source.html)>.

Table A-12.

**Poverty Entries and Exits: 2009 Income-to-Poverty Ratio by 2011 Income-to-Poverty Ratio**

(Numbers in thousands)

2009 income-to-poverty threshold <sup>1</sup>	2011 income-to-poverty threshold <sup>1</sup>								
	Total	Less than 100 percent of the poverty threshold		100 percent or more of the poverty threshold				More than 150 percent of the poverty threshold	
		Number	90 percent C.I. <sup>2</sup> (±)	Number	90 percent C.I. <sup>2</sup> (±)	Number	90 percent C.I. <sup>2</sup> (±)	Number	90 percent C.I. <sup>2</sup> (±)
<b>Total</b> .....	<b>283,065</b>	<b>36,465</b>	<b>1,332</b>	<b>246,600</b>	<b>1,400</b>	<b>29,678</b>	<b>1,170</b>	<b>216,922</b>	<b>1,680</b>
Less than 100 percent of the poverty thresholds.....	35,598	22,986	1,053	12,613	857	6,248	588	6,365	561
100 percent or more of the poverty threshold.....	247,466	13,479	845	233,987	1,491	23,430	1,022	210,557	1,696
100 to 150 percent of the poverty threshold.....	27,700	6,432	644	21,268	1,061	11,501	692	9,767	780
More than 150 percent of the poverty threshold.....	219,766	7,047	605	212,719	1,721	11,929	755	200,790	1,763

<sup>1</sup> Uses panel weight. Panel and yearly estimates are based on different samples. The 3-year panel estimates include only respondents in the panel for 36 months whereas calendar year estimates include respondents in sample for 12 months. The numbers of respondents in each sample are as follows: 48,937 in the 3-year panel, 73,695 in 2009, 67,452 in 2010, and 62,841 in 2011.

<sup>2</sup> A 90 percent confidence interval (C.I.) is a measure of an estimate's variability. The larger the confidence interval in relation to the size of the estimate, the less reliable the estimate.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation, 2008 Panel. For information on confidentiality protection and sampling and nonsampling error, see <[www.census.gov/sipp/source.html](http://www.census.gov/sipp/source.html)>.

Table A-13.

## People in Poverty All 36 Months as a Percentage of Those in Poverty the First 2 Months by Selected Characteristics: 2005 to 2007

(Numbers in thousands)

Characteristic	People in poverty in January and February 2005 <sup>1</sup>					
	Total		People in poverty all 36 months, 2005 to 2007			
	Number	90 percent C.I. <sup>2</sup> (±)	Number	90 percent C.I. <sup>2</sup> (±)	Percent	90 percent C.I. <sup>2</sup> (±)
<b>All people</b> .....	<b>30,780</b>	<b>1,403</b>	<b>8,074</b>	<b>882</b>	<b>26.2</b>	<b>2.5</b>
<b>Race and Hispanic Origin</b>						
White <sup>3</sup> .....	20,829	1,242	4,604	616	22.1	2.7
White, non-Hispanic <sup>4</sup> .....	14,074	995	2,673	342	19.0	2.5
Black <sup>3</sup> .....	7,608	808	2,851	436	37.5	4.7
Hispanic <sup>4</sup> .....	7,112	740	1,969	442	27.7	5.3
Non-Hispanic.....	23,668	1,252	6,104	662	25.8	2.5
<b>Age</b>						
Under 18 years.....	11,106	736	3,254	517	29.3	4.0
18 to 64 years.....	17,234	834	3,808	428	22.1	2.3
65 years and over.....	2,439	261	1,012	173	41.5	5.4
<b>Family Status</b>						
In married-couple families.....	11,097	1,027	1,775	496	16.0	3.8
In families with a female householder, no husband present.....	10,863	899	3,641	565	33.5	4.5
In families with a male householder, no wife present ..	1,299	327	264	179	20.3	12.3
Unrelated individuals.....	7,521	510	2,393	265	31.8	3.1

<sup>1</sup> Uses panel weight. Panel and yearly estimates are based on different samples. The 3-year panel estimates include only respondents in the panel for 36 months whereas calendar year estimates include respondents in sample for 12 months. The numbers of respondents in each sample are as follows: 25,371 in the 3-year panel, 76,953 in 2005, 34,372 in 2006, and 34,489 in 2007. In Wave 9 of the 2004 SIPP Panel, the survey sample was cut by a 53 percent sample reduction; sampling weights adjust for this reduction. Calendar months October, November, and December of 2007 are missing for some rotation groups in the 2004 Panel. For longitudinal estimates covering these calendar months, a carry forward imputation method was applied.

<sup>2</sup> A 90 percent confidence interval (C.I.) is a measure of an estimate's variability. The larger the confidence interval in relation to the size of the estimate, the less reliable the estimate.

<sup>3</sup> Federal surveys, including the SIPP 2004 and 2008 Panel, give respondents the option of reporting more than one race. These data can be shown in two ways: (1) as mutually exclusive from other race groups, which may be denoted by "alone" or (2) not mutually exclusive with other race groups, denoted by "alone or in combination with other race groups." The figures, tables, and text in this report show race using the first method.

<sup>4</sup> Hispanics may be any race, data in this report for Hispanics overlap data for racial groups. Data users should exercise caution when interpreting aggregate results for these groups because they consist of many distinct subgroups that differ in socioeconomic characteristics, culture, and recency of immigration.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation, 2004 Panel. For information on confidentiality protection and sampling and nonsampling error, see <[www.census.gov/sipp/source.html](http://www.census.gov/sipp/source.html)>.

Table A-14.

## People in Poverty All 36 Months as a Percentage of Those in Poverty the First 2 Months by Selected Characteristics: 2009 to 2011

(Numbers in thousands)

Characteristic	People in poverty in January and February 2009 <sup>1</sup>					
	Total		People in poverty all 36 months, 2009 to 2011			
	Number	90 percent C.I. <sup>2</sup> (±)	Number	90 percent C.I. <sup>2</sup> (±)	Percent	90 percent C.I. <sup>2</sup> (±)
<b>All people</b> .....	<b>37,588</b>	<b>1,374</b>	<b>9,922</b>	<b>760</b>	<b>26.4</b>	<b>1.7</b>
<b>Race and Hispanic Origin</b>						
White <sup>3</sup> .....	26,222	1,160	6,235	622	23.8	2.0
White, non-Hispanic <sup>4</sup> .....	17,399	911	3,796	428	21.8	2.1
Black <sup>3</sup> .....	8,684	655	3,078	461	35.5	4.3
Hispanic <sup>4</sup> .....	9,936	691	2,759	418	27.8	3.7
Non-Hispanic.....	27,653	1,188	7,162	611	25.9	1.8
<b>Age</b>						
Under 18 years.....	13,728	708	4,210	443	30.7	2.7
18 to 64 years.....	21,790	836	4,950	404	22.7	1.5
65 years and over.....	2,071	192	762	122	36.8	4.4
<b>Family Status</b>						
In married-couple families.....	13,591	879	2,546	429	18.7	2.8
In families with a female householder, no husband present.....	13,192	791	4,247	504	32.2	3.3
In families with a male householder, no wife present.....	1,801	282	430	144	23.9	6.9
Unrelated individuals.....	9,004	469	2,700	246	30.0	2.2

<sup>1</sup> Uses panel weight. Panel and yearly estimates are based on different samples. The 3-year panel estimates include only respondents in the panel for 36 months whereas calendar year estimates include respondents in sample for 12 months. The numbers of respondents in each sample are as follows: 48,937 in the 3-year panel, 73,695 in 2009, 67,452 in 2010, and 62,841 in 2011.

<sup>2</sup> A 90 percent confidence interval (C.I.) is a measure of an estimate's variability. The larger the confidence interval in relation to the size of the estimate, the less reliable the estimate.

<sup>3</sup> Federal surveys, including the SIPP 2004 and 2008 Panel, give respondents the option of reporting more than one race. These data can be shown in two ways: (1) as mutually exclusive from other race groups, which may be denoted by "alone" or (2) not mutually exclusive with other race groups, denoted by "alone or in combination with other race groups." The figures, tables, and text in this report show race using the first method.

<sup>4</sup> Hispanics may be any race, data in this report for Hispanics overlap data for racial groups. Data users should exercise caution when interpreting aggregate results for these groups because they consist of many distinct subgroups that differ in socioeconomic characteristics, culture, and recency of immigration.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation, 2008 Panel. For information on confidentiality protection and sampling and nonsampling error, see <[www.census.gov/sipp/source.html](http://www.census.gov/sipp/source.html)>.

Table A-15.

**The Duration of Poverty Spells Across 2005 to 2007 and 2009 to 2011**

Spell characteristic	2005 to 2007 <sup>1</sup> (Excludes spells underway in January 2005)		2009 to 2011 (Excludes spells underway in January 2009)	
	Estimate	90 percent C.I. <sup>2</sup> (±)	Estimate	90 percent C.I. <sup>2</sup> (±)
<b>Percent of spells in interval</b>				
2 to 4 months. . . . .	47.0	2.5	44.0	1.6
5 to 8 months. . . . .	18.0	2.0	18.7	1.3
9 to 12 months. . . . .	9.1	1.5	9.4	1.0
13 to 16 months. . . . .	4.6	1.2	5.9	1.0
17 to 20 months. . . . .	2.1	0.9	3.6	0.8
21 to 24 months . . . . .	1.9	1.1	3.2	0.9
25 or more months . . . . .	17.4	2.1	15.2	1.4
Median spell length (in months) <sup>3</sup> . . . . .	5.7	0.6	6.6	0.5

<sup>1</sup> Calendar months October, November, and December of 2007 are missing for some rotation groups in the 2004 Panel. For longitudinal estimates covering these calendar months, a carry forward imputation method was applied.

<sup>2</sup> A 90 percent confidence interval (C.I.) is a measure of an estimate's variability. The larger the confidence interval in relation to the size of the estimate, the less reliable the estimate.

<sup>3</sup> Due to changes in the estimation of survival rates, estimates of median spell length presented in this report are not comparable with estimates of median spell length reported in previous P70 Dynamics of Economic Well-Being series. See Limitations on page 15 for details of this change.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation, 2004 and 2008 Panel. For information on confidentiality protection and sampling and nonsampling error, see <[www.census.gov/sipp/source.html](http://www.census.gov/sipp/source.html)>.

Table A-16.

## Median Length of Poverty Spells by Selected Characteristics: 2005 to 2007 and 2009 to 2011

(In months)

Characteristic	2005 to 2007 <sup>1</sup> (Excluding spells underway in January 2005)		2009 to 2011 (Excluding spells underway in January 2009)	
	Median spell length (months) <sup>2</sup>	90 percent C.I. <sup>3</sup> (±)	Median spell length (months) <sup>2</sup>	90 percent C.I. <sup>3</sup> (±)
<b>All people</b> .....	<b>5.7</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>6.6</b>	<b>0.5</b>
<b>Race and Hispanic Origin</b>				
White <sup>4</sup> .....	5.6	0.6	6.2	0.5
White, non-Hispanic <sup>5</sup> .....	5.1	0.5	6.0	0.6
Black <sup>4</sup> .....	6.6	2.0	8.5	0.5
Hispanic <sup>5</sup> .....	7.0	1.7	6.5	0.8
Non-Hispanic .....	5.4	0.6	6.6	0.6
<b>Age</b>				
Under 18 years .....	6.0	1.3	7.0	0.9
18 to 64 years .....	5.4	0.5	6.3	0.5
65 years and over .....	8.2	0.6	8.3	0.3
<b>Family Status</b>				
In married-couple families .....	4.9	0.3	5.6	0.7
In families with a female householder, no husband present .....	7.3	1.3	8.4	0.4
In families with a male householder, no wife present ..	5.8	3.0	6.8	2.9
Unrelated individuals .....	6.2	0.8	7.1	1.0

<sup>1</sup> Calendar months October, November, and December of 2007 are missing for some rotation groups in the 2004 Panel. For longitudinal estimates covering these calendar months, a carry forward imputation method was applied.

<sup>2</sup> Due to changes in the estimation of survival rates, estimates of median spell length presented in this report are not comparable with estimates of median spell length reported in previous P70 Dynamics of Economic Well-Being series. See Limitations on page 15 for details of this change.

<sup>3</sup> A 90 percent confidence interval (C.I.) is a measure of an estimate's variability. The larger the confidence interval in relation to the size of the estimate, the less reliable the estimate.

<sup>4</sup> Federal surveys, including the SIPP 2004 and 2008 Panel, give respondents the option of reporting more than one race. These data can be shown in two ways: (1) as mutually exclusive from other race groups, which may be denoted by "alone" or (2) not mutually exclusive with other race groups, denoted by "alone or in combination with other race groups." The figures, tables, and text in this report show race using the first method.

<sup>5</sup> Hispanics may be any race, data in this report for Hispanics overlap data for racial groups. Data users should exercise caution when interpreting aggregate results for these groups because they consist of many distinct subgroups that differ in socioeconomic characteristics, culture, and recency of immigration.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation, 2004 and 2008 Panel. For information on confidentiality protection and sampling and nonsampling error, see <[www.census.gov/sipp/source.html](http://www.census.gov/sipp/source.html)>.