Dynamics of Economic Well-Being: Poverty, 2004–2006

Household Economic Studies

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By
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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 first 36 months of the 2004 Panel of the SIPP (covering January 2004 to December 2006), and where appropriate, makes comparisons to data collected for January 2001 to December 2003 in the 2001 SIPP Panel.[1]

The SIPP and other longitudinal surveys allow 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 changes over time. Compared with the official annual poverty rate, longitudinal research finds poverty rates vary by the 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.[2]

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 the demographic characteristics,

[1] The 2004 Panel of the SIPP consisted of 48 interview months (in 12 waves) and was collected from February 2004 to January 2008. The data in this report include 36 months from the first 10 waves of the 2004 Panel collected from February 2004 to May 2007. These data are compared to 36 months of data from the 2001 Panel collected from February 2001 to January 2004 in 9 waves. The first 10 waves of the 2004 Panel, reference months January 2004 to December 2006, were used instead of January 2005 to December 2007 to include as much information prior to a 53 percent sample cut in the ninth wave. Tables A-17 and A-18 show selected 3-year estimates (2004 to 2006) and 4-year estimates (2004 to 2007).

[2] Examples of previous longitudinal studies on poverty include: 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, <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. 557–588.

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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 Office of Management and Budget's Statistical Policy Directive 14. The U.S. Census Bureau uses a set of money income thresholds that vary by family size and composition to determine 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 to allow for changes in the cost of living using the Consumer Price Index (CPI-U).

Since SIPP respondents are interviewed throughout the year and asked about their income for the previous 4 months individually, each month's income is compared 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, episodic, annual, 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 the text box for a more detailed description of each measure used in this report.

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 the panel used, from January 2004 to December 2006 or from January 2001 to December 2003.
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.*
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 1 spell. Spells underway in the first interview month of the panel are excluded.
Poverty Entry	Based on the 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 the annual poverty measure, people who were in poverty in the first year of the panel but not in poverty in a subsequent year.

* The annual poverty rate estimates in the SIPP differ from official poverty estimates based on 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). The SIPP family composition may vary during the reference period.

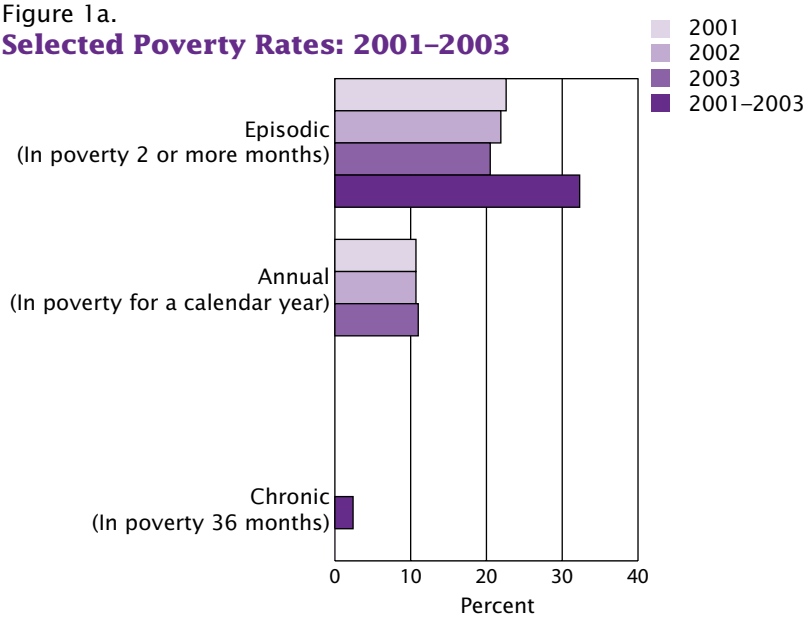
HIGHLIGHTS

- In the 36 month period from January 2004 to December 2006, 28.9 percent of the U.S. population were in poverty for at least 2 months while 2.8 percent were in poverty for the entire period.[3]
- Among the people in poverty in January and February 2004, 23.1 percent remained in poverty throughout the next 34 months.
- Of the people in poverty in 2004, 11.7 million (41.6 percent) were not in poverty in 2006 but more than half of those who exited poverty continued to have income less than 150 percent of their poverty threshold.
- By 2006, 4.2 percent of people who were not in poverty in 2004 had entered poverty.

[3] The estimates in this report (which may be shown in text, figures, and 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 2 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.

- For those in poverty for 2 or more consecutive months from 2004 to 2006, the median length of a poverty spell was 4.5 months. Almost half of all spells (47.7 percent) ended within 4 months while 12.4 percent of spells lasted more than 24 months.
- Non-Hispanic Whites had a lower episodic poverty rate (22.6 percent) and a shorter median poverty spell length (4.0 months) than Hispanics and Blacks.[4] Blacks had a higher chronic poverty rate (8.4 percent) than Hispanics (4.5 percent) and non-Hispanic Whites (1.4 percent).[5]
- Children under 18 years had a higher episodic poverty rate (36.4 percent) and a higher chronic poverty rate (4.8 percent) than adults. The median length of a poverty spell for children under 18 years (5.2 months) was longer than the median length of a poverty spell for adults 18 to 64 years (4.2 months) but shorter than the median spell length of adults 65 years and over (6.7 months).
- People in female-householder families had a higher episodic poverty rate (51.8 percent), higher chronic poverty rate

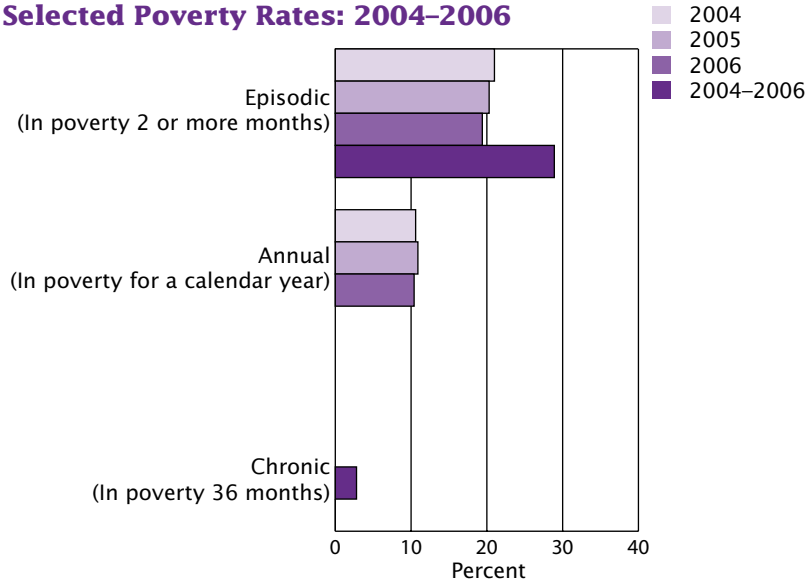
Figure 1a.
Selected Poverty Rates: 2001–2003



Note: Panel (2001 to 2003) and yearly estimates contain different samples. Calendar year estimates include people in the sample for 12 months whereas panel estimates include people in the sample for 36 months. The total number of respondents in each sample are as follows: 47,246 in the 3-year panel; 61,527 in 2001; 57,203 in 2002; and 57,903 in 2003.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation, 2001 Panel. For information on confidentiality protection and sampling and nonsampling error, see <http://www.census.gov/sipp/source.html>.

Figure 1b.
Selected Poverty Rates: 2004–2006



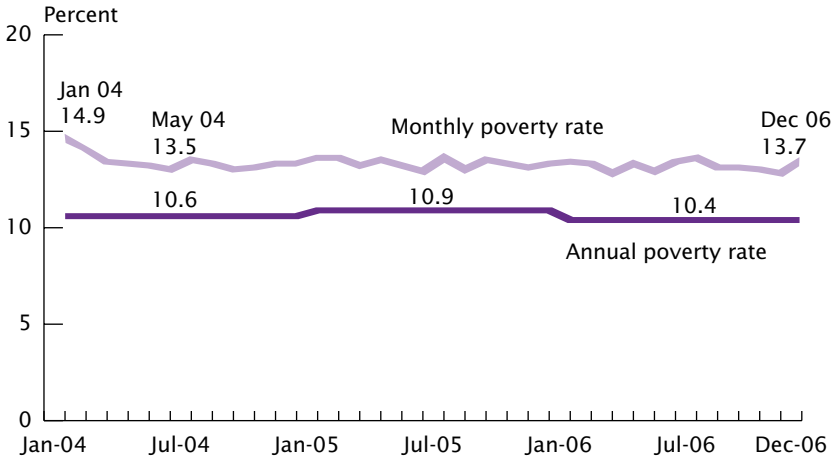
Note: Panel (2004 to 2006) and yearly estimates contain different samples. Calendar year estimates include people in the sample for 12 months whereas panel estimates include people in the sample for 36 months. The total number of respondents in each sample are as follows: 27,840 in the 3-year panel; 86,128 in 2004; 76,953 in 2005; and 34,372 in 2006. In wave 9 of the SIPP 2004 Panel there was a 53 percent sample reduction.

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

[4] Federal surveys, including the SIPP 2004 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. The SIPP 2001 Panel did not allow respondents to report more than one race. Additionally, because 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.

[5] Black and Hispanic episodic poverty rates and median spell lengths were not statistically different.

Figure 2.
Monthly and Annual Poverty Rates: 2004-2006



Note: Monthly and yearly estimates contain different samples. Monthly estimates include only respondents in the sample for one month whereas calendar year estimates include people in the sample for 12 months.

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

(9.7 percent), and longer median poverty spell (6.4 months) than people in married-couple families.[6]

- The percentage of people in poverty for 2 or more months declined from 32.3 percent in the 2001 Panel to 28.9 percent in the first 36 months of the 2004 Panel.
- The percentage of people in poverty in all 36 months increased from 2.4 percent in the 2001 Panel to 2.8 percent in the first 3 years of the 2004 Panel.

RESULTS

Poverty Rate Comparisons: 2001–2003 vs. 2004–2006

Figures 1a and 1b show episodic poverty rates, annual poverty rates and chronic poverty rates from the 2001 and 2004 Panels. Annual poverty rates for the 3 years of the 2001 Panel (2001, 2002, and 2003) were not statistically different from each other. The 2004 annual poverty rate (10.6 percent) was not significantly different from the 2005 and 2006 rates but the decrease in the annual poverty rate between 2005 (10.9 percent) and 2006 (10.4 percent) was significant.

From January 2004 to December 2006, the percentage of people experiencing a poverty spell (e.g., poor for at least 2 months) was 28.9 percent, down from 32.3 percent during the 36 months of the 2001 Panel.
The percentage of people in poverty for all 36 months of the panel increased from 2.4 percent in the 2001 Panel to 2.8 percent in the 2004 Panel.

Monthly Poverty Rates

Figure 2 summarizes monthly and annual poverty rates for the 2004 Panel and shows that monthly poverty rates exceeded the annual poverty rates. For example, the May 2004 monthly poverty rate (13.5 percent) exceeded the 2004 annual poverty rate (10.6 percent). 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 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.

Poverty Entries and Exits

Table 1 summarizes the poverty entries and exits from 2004 to 2005 and from 2004 to 2006. Between 2004 and 2005, the number of people who exited poverty (8.8 million people) was not statistically different from the number of people who entered poverty. From 2004 to 2006, 11.7 million people exited poverty while 10.1 million people entered poverty.[7] Of people in poverty in 2004, 31.4 percent were not poor in 2005 and 41.6 percent were not poor in 2006 (Table A-14). Of people not poor in 2004, 3.5 percent were poor in 2005 and 4.2 percent were poor in 2006 (Table A-12).[8]

[6] Female householders refer to female householders, no husband present; male householders refer to male householders, no wife present.

[7] Exits from poverty from 2001 to 2002 (9.1 million) and from 2001 to 2003 (11.3 million) were not significantly different from exits from poverty occurring between 2004 and 2005 (8.8 million) and 2004 and 2006 (11.7 million), respectively. Entries into poverty from 2001 to 2002 (7.5 million) were lower than entries between 2004 and 2005 (8.4 million), whereas entries into poverty from 2001 to 2003 (10.4 million) were not statistically different from entries from 2004 to 2006 (10.1 million). The 2001 Panel poverty exits are from Table A-13 and 2001 Panel entries are from Table A-11.

[8] Entry rates use the people not in poverty in 2004 as the base (243 million people) and exit rates use people in poverty in 2004 as the base (28.1 million people). Even if the number of people who entered poverty was 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.

Table 1.

Poverty Entries and Exits: 2004–2006

Poverty entries Poverty exits

(Numbers in thousands)

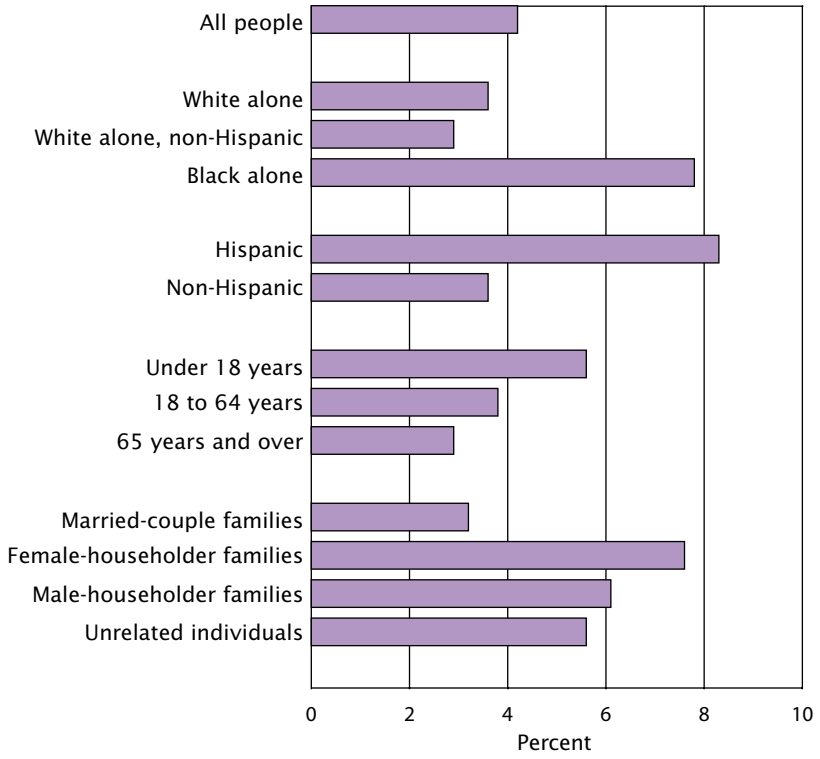
2004	Total	2005				2006			
		In poverty		Not in poverty		In poverty		Not in poverty	
		Number	90 percent C.I. [1] (+/-)	Number	90 percent C.I. [1] (+/-)	Number	90 percent C.I. [1] (+/-)	Number	90 percent C.I. [1] (+/-)
In poverty	28,068	19,268	786	8,798	544	16,403	730	11,665	622
Not in poverty	242,847	8,416	532	234,430	569	10,095	581	232,751	614

[1] 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, 2004 Panel. For information on confidentiality protection and sampling and nonsampling error, see <http://www.census.gov/sipp/source.html>.

Figure 3.

Poverty Entry Rates: People Not in Poverty in 2004 but in Poverty in 2006 by Selected Characteristics



Note: Federal surveys, including the SIPP 2004 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 have no husband present and male householders have no wife present.

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

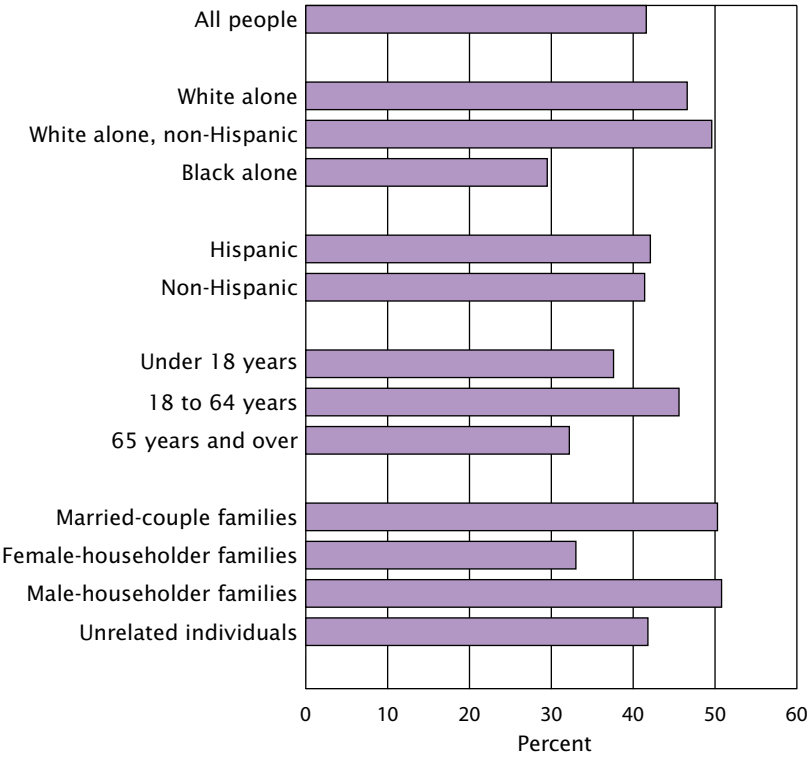
While these data show considerable movement into and out of poverty, some individuals moving out of poverty continued to have family income near poverty. Of the 11.7 million people who exited poverty between 2004 and 2006, over half (6.3 million) had income below 150 percent of their poverty threshold. In addition to the 10.1 million people who entered poverty between 2004 and 2006, another 8.6 million people had income decline from above 150 percent of their poverty threshold in 2004 to a level between 100 and 150 percent of their poverty threshold in 2006. (Tables A-15 and A-16 show the income to poverty ratio for 2004 compared to 2005 and 2006, respectively.)

Poverty Entries

Non-Hispanic Whites had a lower poverty entry rate (2.9 percent) than Blacks and Hispanics. Children had a higher poverty entry rate (5.6 percent) than adults. People in female-householder families also had a higher poverty entry rate (7.6 percent) than those in married-couple families (3.2 percent).[9]

[9] The poverty entry rate for Blacks (7.8 percent) was not statistically different from the poverty entry rate for Hispanics. The poverty entry for people in male-householder families (6.1 percent) was also not statistically different from the poverty entry rate of unrelated individuals or of people in female-householder families.

Figure 4.
Poverty Exit Rates: People in Poverty in 2004 but Not in Poverty in 2006 by Selected Characteristics



Note: Federal surveys, including the SIPP 2004 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 have no husband present and male householders have no wife present.

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

The 2004 to 2006 poverty entry rate was lower than the entry rate from 2001 to 2003 for people in female-householder families (9.0 to 7.6 percent) and for non-Hispanic Whites (3.3 to 2.9 percent).[10] The 2004 Panel poverty entry rates for other demographic groups were not statistically different from their respective 2001 Panel entry rates. (Table A-11 shows 2001 entries and Table A-12 shows 2004 entries.)

Poverty Exits

Consistent with their lower entry rate, non-Hispanic Whites had a higher poverty exit rate (49.6 percent) than Blacks and Hispanics from 2004 to 2006. Blacks had a lower poverty exit rate (29.5 percent) than Hispanics (42.1 percent). Children had a poverty exit rate (37.6 percent) lower than 18- to 64-year-old adults (45.8 percent) but not statistically different from adults age 65 and over (32.2 percent). People in female-householder families (33.0 percent) had a lower exit rate than people in married-couple families (50.3 percent).[11]

The poverty exit rate increased for unrelated individuals from 36.1 percent in the 2001 Panel to 41.8 percent in the 2004 Panel. Exit rates did not significantly change for any other group. (Table A-13 shows 2001 rates and Table A-14 shows 2004 rates.)

Between 2004 and 2006, for the total population, 1.6 million more people exited poverty than the number of people who entered poverty but poverty exits did not exceed poverty entries for all demographic groups. Approximately 900,000 more people in married-couple families entered poverty (5.4 million) than exited poverty (4.5 million). Among the other demographic groups, the number of people who exited poverty exceeded or was not significantly different from the number of people who entered poverty from 2004 to 2006. (Estimates of the number of people entering poverty are in Table A-12 while estimates of the number exiting poverty are in Table A-14.)

Episodic Poverty Rates

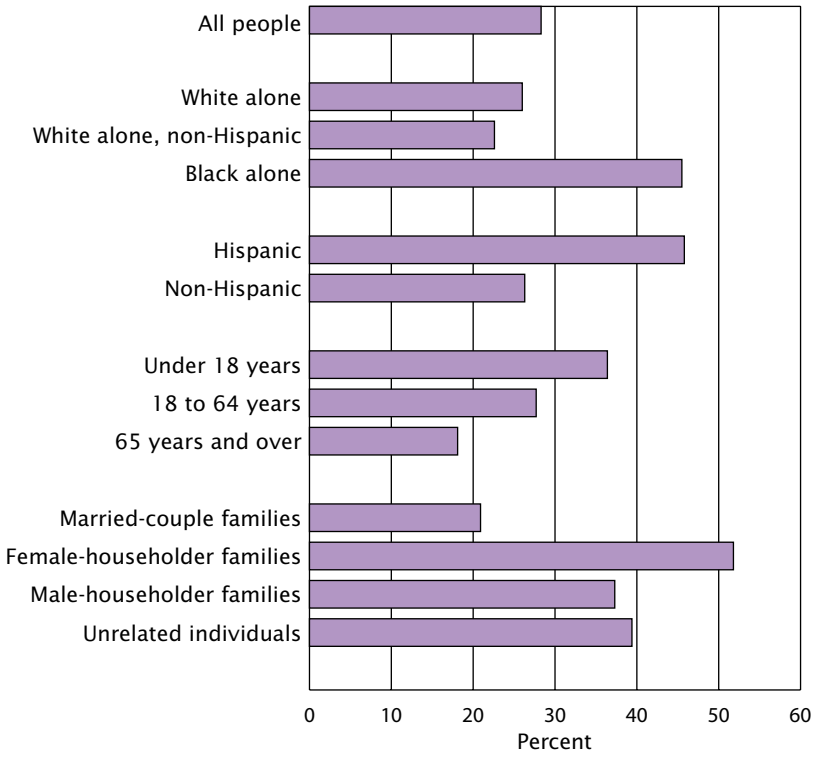
From 2004 to 2006, non-Hispanic Whites had a lower episodic poverty rate (22.6 percent) than Blacks (45.5 percent) and Hispanics (45.8 percent). Black and Hispanic episodic poverty rates were not statistically different from each other.

The episodic poverty rate for children under 18 years (36.4 percent) was higher than the episodic poverty rates for adults. Adults

[10] Cross-panel comparisons in poverty measures of people 65 and over should be done with caution due to changes in collection and processing of social security income. A note at the end of this report discusses the changes in poverty measures for adults 65 and over between the 2001 and 2004 Panels.

[11] The exit rate for people in married-couple families (50.3 percent) was not statistically different from the exit rate for people in male-householder families (50.8 percent).

Figure 5.
Episodic Poverty (People in Poverty for 2 or More Months) by Selected Characteristics: 2004–2006



Note: Federal surveys, including the SIPP 2004 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 have no husband present and male householders have no wife present.

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

65 years and over had a lower episodic poverty rate (18.1 percent) than adults aged 18 to 64 (27.7 percent).

The episodic poverty rate for people in female-householder families (51.8 percent) exceeded the episodic poverty rates for people in other types of families. People in married-couple families had the lowest episodic poverty rate (20.9 percent). The episodic poverty rate for unrelated individuals (39.4 percent) was not statistically different from the episodic poverty rate for people in male-householder families (37.3 percent).

Most of the demographic groups examined had a lower episodic poverty rate in the 2004 Panel than in the 2001 Panel. [12]

[12] The episodic poverty rate for people in male-householder families in the 2001 Panel was not statistically different from the rate in the 2004 Panel. The 2001 Panel episodic poverty rates can be found in Table A-1.

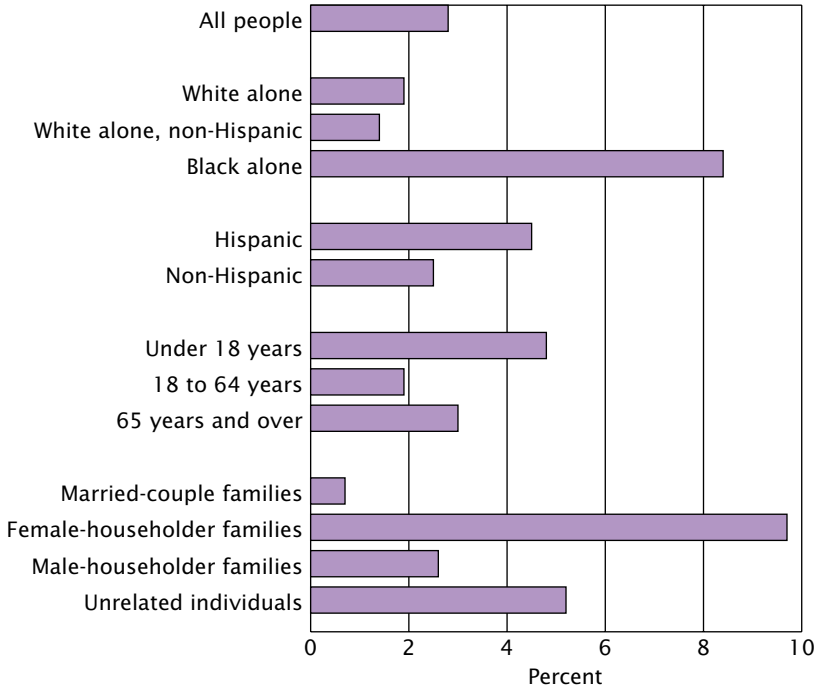
Chronic Poverty Rates

As was the case with episodic poverty rates, children had a higher chronic poverty rate (4.8 percent) than adults and the chronic poverty rate for non-Hispanic Whites (1.4 percent) was lower than the chronic poverty rates for Hispanics and Blacks. On the other hand, unlike the patterns found in episodic poverty rates, the chronic poverty rate for adults 18 to 64 (1.9 percent) was lower than the rate for adults 65 years and over (3.0 percent) and Blacks had a higher chronic poverty rate (8.4 percent) than Hispanics (4.5 percent).

By family type, chronic poverty rates exhibited a pattern similar to the pattern for episodic poverty rates. The chronic poverty rate for people in female-householder families (9.7 percent) was higher than the chronic poverty rates for people in other types of families. People in married-couple families had the lowest chronic poverty rate (0.7 percent).

In contrast to the general pattern of declining episodic poverty rates from the 2001 Panel to the 2004 Panel, chronic poverty rates for some groups increased. (Estimates from the 2001 Panel can be found in Table A-3.) The chronic poverty rate for Blacks increased from 6.6 percent to 8.4 percent; the chronic poverty rate for children increased from 3.2 percent to 4.8 percent; the chronic poverty rate for people in female-householder families increased from 6.8 percent to 9.7 percent; and the chronic poverty rate for people in male-householder families increased from 1.1 percent to 2.6 percent. Chronic poverty rates for Hispanics, non-Hispanic Whites, adults 18 to 64, and people

Figure 6.
Chronic Poverty (People in Poverty All 36 Months) by Selected Characteristics: 2004–2006



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

in married-couple families did not change significantly.[13]

The Distribution of People by Poverty Status

Figure 7 compares the population experiencing either chronic or episodic poverty to the total population.[14] While children made up about 26 percent of the total population, they represented approximately 33 percent of those who were poor at least 2 months and about 45 percent of those who were poor for the entire 36 months. Similarly, Blacks were 12.5 percent of the entire population, 19.6 percent of the population with at least 1 poverty spell, and 37.6 percent of the chronically poor. People in female-householder families were 14.4 percent of the population, 25.8 percent of those with a poverty spell, and almost 50 percent of the chronically poor.

On the other hand, the percentage of the chronically poor population that was 65 years and over (11.8 percent) was not statistically different than the percentage of the total population that was 65 years and over. People in married-couple families made up 65.9 percent of the total population but 47.7 percent of the population with at least 1 poverty spell, and 17.0 percent of the chronically poor.

Between the 2001 Panel and the 2004 Panel, the percentage of the chronically poor who were children increased from 35.6 percent to 44.9 percent.[15] On the other hand, the percentage of the chronically poor who were adults 65 years and over fell from 17.7 percent to 11.8 percent.[16]

The Risk of Chronic Poverty

Figure 8 presents the people who were in poverty all 36 months from 2004 to 2006 as a proportion of people who were in poverty in January and February 2004. About 23 percent of the people in poverty for the first 2 months of the 2004 Panel were in poverty for the entire 3-year period.

Blacks in poverty for the first 2 months of the 2004 Panel were more likely to be poor all 36 months than non-Hispanic Whites and Hispanics. The percentage of

[13] From 2001 to 2003, the chronic poverty rate was 1.3 percent for White non-Hispanics, 3.8 percent for Hispanics, 1.8 percent for adults 18 to 64 years old, and 0.6 percent for people in married-couple families (Table A-3). The chronic poverty rate for unrelated individuals declined from 6.2 percent to 5.2 percent from the 2001 to 2004 Panel (Tables A-3 and A-4). Cross-panel comparisons in the poverty rates of people aged 65 and over should be done with caution due to changes in collection and processing of social security income data. A note at the end of this report discusses the changes in poverty measures for adults 65 years and over between the 2001 and 2004 Panels.

[14] The population excluded people not in the poverty universe. Calculations derived from estimates in Tables A-2 and A-4.

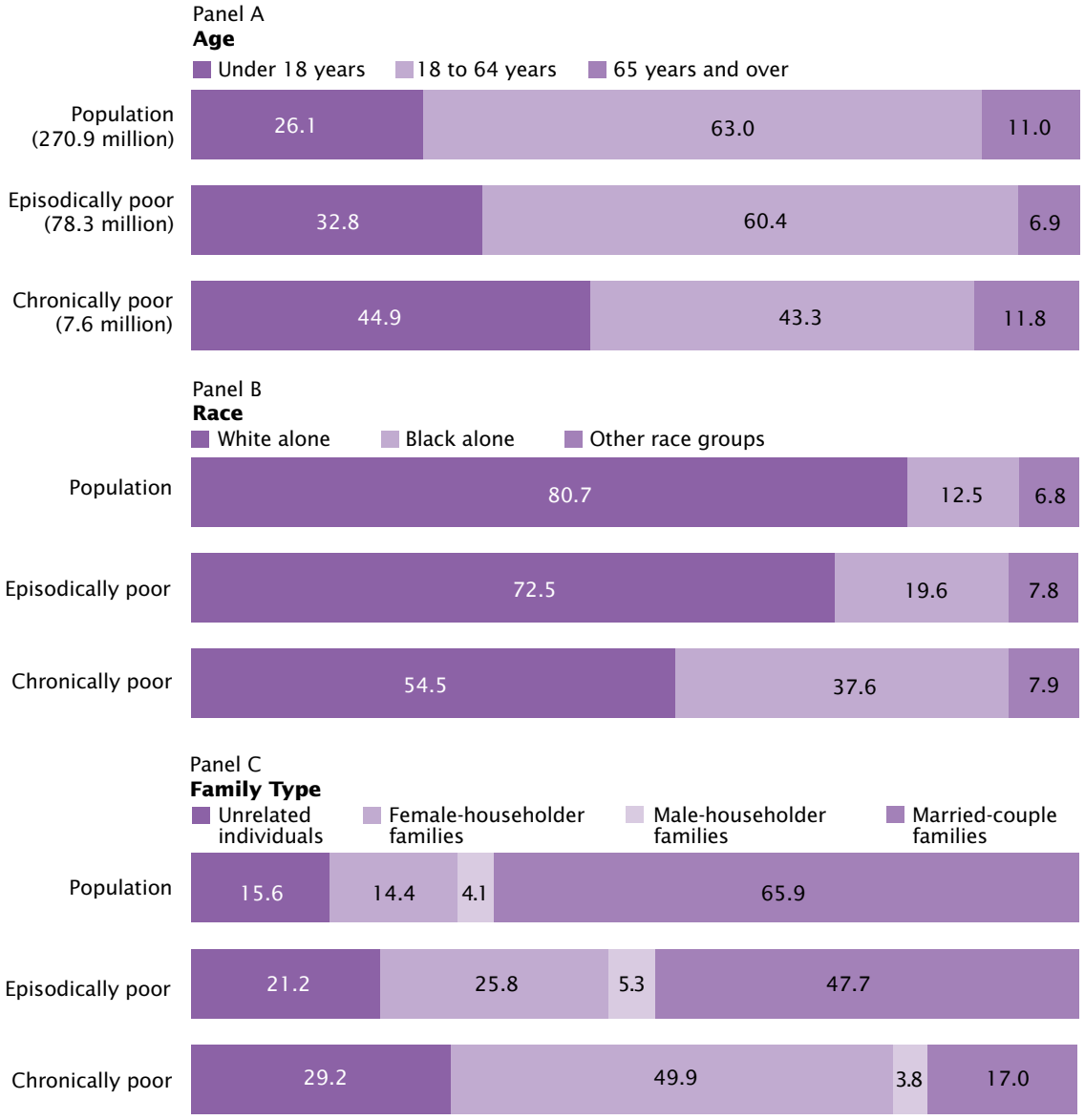
[15] The percent of the episodically poor population who were children in the 2004 Panel (32.8 percent) was not statistically different from the 2001 Panel (33.2 percent). The 2001 Panel calculations are derived from estimates in Tables A-1 and A-3.

[16] The decline in the proportion of the chronically poor population 65 years and over (and increase in the proportion that were children) may be partially attributed to changes in the SIPP instrument. Cross-panel comparisons in the poverty rates of people 65 and over should be done with caution due to changes in collection and processing of social security income data. A note at the end of this report discusses the changes in poverty measures for adults 65 years and over between the 2001 and 2004 Panels.

Figure 7.

Distribution of People by Poverty Status, and Selected Characteristics: 2004–2006

(Percent)

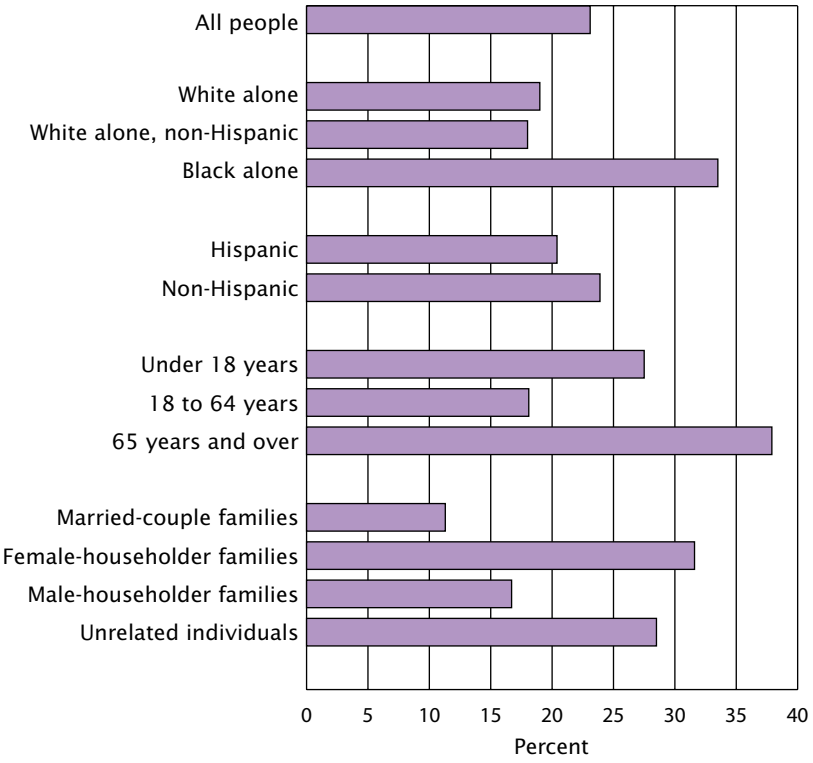


Note: The poverty universe excludes unrelated children under 15 years old. Federal surveys, including the SIPP 2004 Panel, give respondents the option of reporting more than one race. These data can be shown in two ways (1) as mutually exclusive from other race groups, which may be denoted by "alone" 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 have no husband present and male householders have no wife present.

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

Figure 8.

People in Poverty in January and February 2004 Who Were in Poverty All 36 Months by Selected Characteristics: 2004–2006



Note: Federal surveys, including the SIPP 2004 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 have no husband present and male householders have no wife present.

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

Hispanics in poverty in January and February 2004 who remained in poverty throughout the entire 3-year period was not statistically different from the same estimate for non-Hispanic Whites.

While children had the highest chronic poverty rate, adults 65 and over in poverty at the beginning of the 2004 Panel were the most likely to remain in poverty for the entire 3 years. About 38 percent of elderly adults in poverty in January and February 2004 were poor in all 36 months while the comparable rates for children and working-age adults were 27.5 percent and 18.1 percent, respectively.

About 30 percent of people in female-householder families and unrelated individuals in poverty the first 2 months of the 2004 Panel were poor all 36 months.[17]

In contrast, about 11.3 percent of people in married-couple families in poverty in both January and February 2004 remained in poverty for all 36 months. The percentage of people in male-householder families remaining in poverty was not statistically different from the percentage for people in married-couple families.

Comparing the 2001 Panel with the 2004 Panel, the percentage of people in a poverty spell at the beginning of the panel and poor for the subsequent 34 months increased from 20.0 percent to 23.1 percent. This percentage increased for children, Blacks, and people in female-householder families. (The 2001 Panel rates can be found in Table A-5.) No other groups had this rate increase from the 2001 Panel to 2004 Panel.

Duration and Median Length of Poverty Spells

Figure 9 shows the distribution of poverty spell lengths for the total population.[18] Like the comparison between episodic and chronic poverty rates, the distribution of spells shows that most movements into poverty were short. Almost half of all spells (47.7 percent) lasted 4 months, 19.9 percent of spells lasted between 5 and 8 months, and 9.2 percent of spells lasted between 9 and 12 months.[19] Cumulatively, a little over 75 percent of all spells lasted less than 1 year while 12.4 percent of all

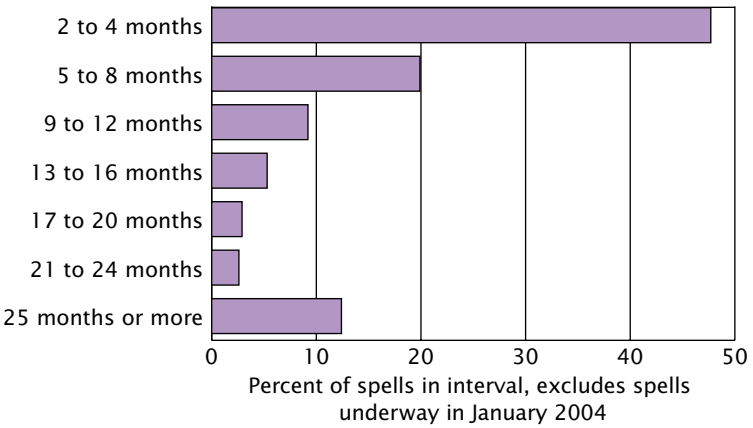
[17] The estimate for people in female-householder families was not statistically different from the estimate for unrelated individuals.

[18] See the text box on page 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 2004 (left-censored spells) but includes spells ending on or after December 2006 (right-censored spells). See the Limitations on page 13 for a more detailed explanation of censored spells.

[19] The percentage of spells lasting 9 to 12 months (9.2 percent) was not statistically different from the percentage of spells lasting 25 or more months (12.4 percent).

Figure 9.

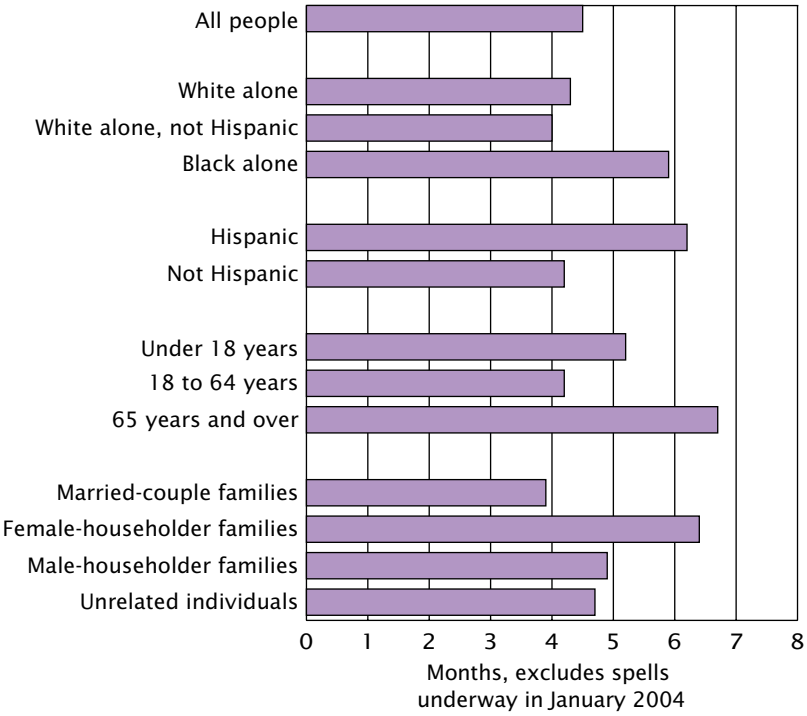
Duration of Poverty Spells: 2004–2006



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

Figure 10.

Median Length of Poverty Spells by Selected Characteristics: 2004–2006



Note: Federal surveys, including the SIPP 2004 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 have no husband present and male householders have no wife present.

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

poverty spells continued more than 2 years.[20]

Figure 10 presents median spell lengths by demographic characteristics measured at the beginning of each spell. 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. For 2004 to 2006, consistent with the estimate that almost half of all poverty spells lasted less than 4 months, the median length of a poverty spell for the overall population was 4.5 months.[21]

Generally, the same groups that had higher episodic and chronic poverty rates had longer poverty spells. The length of poverty spells for different age groups followed a different pattern. Adults 65 years and over had a longer median poverty spell (6.7 months) than children (5.2 months) or adults 18 to 64 years old (4.2 months). In contrast, children had higher chronic and episodic poverty rates than adults.

The median spell length for non-Hispanic Whites (4.0 months) was shorter than median spell lengths for Hispanics and Blacks (6.2 months and 5.9 months, respectively). Black and Hispanic poverty spell lengths were not statistically different from each other. [22] People in female-householder families had a longer median spell length (6.4 months) than people in other types of families. People in

[20] If spells underway in January 2004 (left-censored spells) are included in the analysis, the distribution shifts to the right: 40.9 (+/- 1.2) percent of spells ended by 4 months, 18.6 (+/- 0.9) percent lasted between 5 and 8 months, 9.1 (+/-0.7) percent lasted between 9 and 12 months, and 19.5 (+/- 0.9) percent of spells continued more than 24 months.

[21] If spells underway in January 2004 (left-censored spells) were included in the analysis then the median spell was 6.3 (+/- 0.2) months.

[22] Even after including left-censored spells, which included people in chronic poverty, the median poverty spell for Blacks (7.7 +/-0.6 months) was not statistically different from the median poverty spell for Hispanics.

married-couple families had a shorter median spell length than other family types.[23]

The median spell length increased for the overall population from 4.3 to 4.5 months from the 2001 Panel to the 2004 Panel. It also increased for children from 4.4 months to 5.2 months and for Hispanics from 4.8 months to 6.2 months. It declined for unrelated individuals from 5.2 months to 4.7 months. For all other demographic groups, median spell lengths in the first 36-month period of 2004 Panel were not different from those measured in the 2001 Panel. (Estimates of spell lengths for the 2001 Panel can be found in Table A-7.)[24]

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 2004 to December 2006, 28.9 percent of people experienced at least 1 poverty spell lasting at least 2 months (episodic poverty). About 2.8 percent of people had a poverty spell which lasted the full time period (chronic poverty). Almost half of all spells ended by 4 months. However, among the people categorized as in a poverty spell at the beginning of the 2004 Panel, almost 25 percent of people continued in poverty for the entire 36 months studied. Most poverty spells were short, but 12.4 percent poverty spells lasted more than 2 years.[25]

The SIPP allows us to look at demographic differences in poverty risk for shorter and longer time periods. The pattern of poverty by race and Hispanic origin and age varied depending on the measure used. The episodic poverty rate for Blacks was not statistically different from the episodic poverty rate for Hispanics, but Blacks had a lower poverty exit rate and a higher chronic poverty rate than Hispanics.

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.[26] Adults 65 years and over were least likely to be in poverty, but once poor, they were as likely to remain in poverty as children under 18 years, the age group most at risk to be in poverty. (The elderly were least likely to be poor for 2 or more months, but their poverty exit rate was not statistically different from that for children.)

All measures in this report show that people in female-householder families were more likely to be in poverty than people in married-couple families. People in female-householder families also had longer poverty spells and those experiencing a poverty spell at the beginning of the 2004 Panel were the most likely to remain in poverty for the entire period.

SIPP data from the 2001 and the 2004 Panels paint a picture of poverty for the period which coincided with the economic expansion that started in November 2001 and ended in December 2007.[27] Over this period, the episodic poverty rate declined for almost all demographic groups but the chronic poverty rate increased for the overall population and for several subpopulations. The median length of a poverty spell increased for the overall population and for children and Hispanics.

SOURCE OF DATA

The population represented (the population universe) in the 2001 and 2004 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 2001 through December 2003 and January 2004 to December 2006. For the 2001 SIPP panel, approximately 50,500 housing units were in the sample for the first wave. Of the 40,500 eligible units, 35,000 were interviewed. For the 2004 SIPP panel, approximately 62,700 housing units were in sample for the first wave. Of the 51,400 eligible units, 43,700 were interviewed. The institutionalized population, which is excluded from the population universe, is composed primarily of the population in correctional institutions and nursing homes

[23] The median poverty spell length for unrelated individuals was also not statistically different from the median length of poverty spells for people in male-householder families (4.9 months).

[24] The spell lengths for people in male-householder families were not calculated from 2001 to 2003 and therefore were not compared across panels. Cross-panel comparisons in poverty measures of people 65 years and over should be done with caution due to changes in collection and processing of social security income. A note at the end of this report discusses changes in the poverty measures for adults 65 and over between the 2001 and 2004 Panels.

[25] 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. 557–588.

[26] The CPS annual poverty rate for adults 65 and over declined from 28.5 percent in 1965 to 9.7 percent in 2008. From Carmen DeNavas-Walt, Bernadette D. Proctor, and Jessica C. Smith, "Income, Poverty and Health Insurance Coverage in the United States: 2008," *Current Population Reports*, Series P60-236, U.S. Census Bureau, Washington, DC.

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

(91.0 percent of the 4.1 million institutionalized people in Census 2000).

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 U.S. Census Bureau employs quality control procedures 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 <http://www.census.gov/sipp/sourceac/S&A04_1toW12(S&A-10).pdf > (2004 Panel) and <http://www.census.gov/sipp/sourceac/S&A01_20060323_Long(S&A-3).pdf > (2001 Panel) or contact Sarah Tekansik of the Census Bureau's Demographic Statistical Methods Division at <sarah.tekansik@census.gov> or 301-763-1860. For more information about the content of this report, contact Robin J. Anderson, Poverty Statistics Branch, at <robin.j.anderson@census.gov> or 301-763-5996. Additional information on the SIPP can be found at the following Web sites: <www.sipp.census.gov/sipp/> (main SIPP Web site), <http://www.census.gov/sipp/workpapr/wp230.pdf > (SIPP Quality Profile), and <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. The seam phenomenon 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 in 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 sample loss rate in the 2004 SIPP was 15 percent in wave 1 and 37 percent in wave 12. In the SIPP, 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). The effectiveness of those procedures remains a matter of ongoing research.[28]

Longitudinal Editing and Longitudinal Analysis

In the 2001 Panel, selected demographic and household characteristics from early waves were used in the entire panel.[29] In the 2004 Panel, reported characteristics were used, even if they varied from initial reports. A small number of observations had varying sex, race, and Hispanic origin across the panel. Of those people in the 3-year panel with a valid interview status in the poverty universe for all 36 months, less than 1 percent of all observations had race, sex, or Hispanic origin that varied across waves. Using weighted estimates, 2.3 million people had race vary by wave; about 300,000 people had sex vary by wave; and 1.6 million people had Hispanic origin vary by wave.

This report has certain sample restrictions and makes certain assumptions about the stability of demographic characteristics across the panel. The analyses in this report measure poverty across calendar years 2001 to 2006 and from 3-year periods from January 2001 to December 2003 and January 2004 to December 2006. For each time period, analyses include only respondents with a valid weight and who are within the poverty universe for the entire period.[30] The poverty universe excludes unrelated children 14 years

[28] U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation Users' Guide, update, pp. 6-2–6-5, 2008, <http://www.census.gov/sipp/usrguide/chap6rev2008.pdf>.

[29] U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation Users' Guide, update, p. 4-19, 2009, <http://www.census.gov/sipp/usrguide/chap4rev2009.pdf>.

[30] For more details, see the Source and Accuracy Statements: <http://www.census.gov/sipp/sourceac/S&A04_W1toW12(S&A-10).pdf> and <http://www.census.gov/sipp/sourceac/S&A01_20060323_Long(S&A-3).pdf>.

or younger. Demographic characteristics are held constant to values reported at the beginning of the relevant time period.

Censoring and Spell Analysis

The text box on page 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 2004 (left-censored) or in progress in December 2006 (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.[31] Approximately 28 percent of poverty spells were left-censored. By excluding left-censored spells, systematic bias may be introduced into the median spell and duration analyses.[32]

[31] See Paul D Allison, *Survival Analysis Using the SAS System: A Practical Guide*, Cary, N.C: SAS Inc, 1995, p. 292.

[32] 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, Jossey-Bass, San Francisco, CA,1993, pp. 217–242. David W. Hosmer and Stanley Lemeshow, *Applied Survival Analysis: Regression Modeling of Time to Event Data*, Wiley, New York, 1999. John Iceland, "The Dynamics of Poverty Spells and Issues of Left Censoring," PCS Research Report, Series: No. 97-378, 1997.

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

The Census Bureau changed the way it collected and edited social security income between the 2001 and 2004 SIPP Panels. Users should use caution when comparing 2001 and 2004 poverty rates for adults 65 years and over. For most social security recipients (those 65 and over or disabled), Medicare Part B premiums are deducted by the Social Security Administration from their monthly payments. In the 2001 Panel, SIPP collected social security amounts net of Medicare Part B premiums but did not adjust social security income to obtain an estimate of gross social security income. In the 2004 Panel, the instrument was designed 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 preceding or subsequent waves. Over the 48-month 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.[33]

USER COMMENTS

The U.S. Census Bureau welcomes comments and advice of data and report users. If you have any suggestions or comments on income and poverty data, please write to:

Charles T. Nelson,
Assistant Division Chief,
Economic Characteristics,
Housing and Household
Economic Statistics Division,
U.S. Census Bureau,
Washington, DC 20233-8500

or send e-mail to
<charles.t.nelson@census.gov>.

SUGGESTED CITATION

Anderson, Robin J., "Dynamics of Economic Well-being: Poverty, 2004–2006." *Current Population Reports*, P70-123, U.S. Census Bureau, Washington, DC, 2011.

[33] From the SIPP 2004 Panel General Income User Note 10, see <http://www.census.gov/sipp/core_content/core_notes/2004General_Income.html>.

APPENDIX

Table A-1.

People in Poverty 2 or More Months by Selected Characteristics: 2001–2003

(Numbers in thousands)

Characteristic	3-year panel (2001–2003) [1]					2001 [1]					2002 [1]					2003 [1]				
		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			
		Number		Percent			Number		Percent			Number		Percent			Number		Percent	
	Total	Estimate	90 percent C.I. [2] (+/-)	Estimate	90 percent C.I. [2] (+/-)	Total	Estimate	90 percent C.I. [2] (+/-)	Estimate	90 percent C.I. [2] (+/-)	Total	Estimate	90 percent C.I. [2] (+/-)	Estimate	90 percent C.I. [2] (+/-)	Total	Estimate	90 percent C.I. [2] (+/-)	Estimate	90 percent C.I. [2] (+/-)
All people	**264,555**	**85,497**	**1,139**	**32.3**	**0.5**	**273,967**	**61,971**	**932**	**22.6**	**0.4**	**275,789**	**60,285**	**1,052**	**21.9**	**0.4**	**280,421**	**57,476**	**1,002**	**20.5**	**0.4**
Race and Hispanic Origin																				
White [3]	216,399	63,457	1,059	29.3	0.5	224,549	44,876	835	20.0	0.4	225,500	43,177	937	19.1	0.4	229,271	41,433	891	18.1	0.4
White, non-Hispanic [4]	187,249	49,300	975	26.3	0.5	193,274	33,462	744	17.3	0.4	193,202	32,116	832	16.6	0.4	194,637	30,388	786	15.6	0.4
Black [3]	33,661	16,978	476	50.4	1.4	34,754	13,504	382	38.9	1.1	35,232	13,292	441	37.7	1.3	35,931	12,521	439	34.8	1.2
Hispanic [4]	31,934	15,608	456	48.9	1.7	34,338	12,539	431	36.5	1.4	35,641	12,391	443	34.8	1.4	37,963	12,350	480	32.5	1.4
Non-Hispanic	232,621	69,889	1,089	30.0	0.5	239,629	49,432	865	20.6	0.4	240,148	47,895	973	19.9	0.4	242,457	45,126	920	18.6	0.4
Age																				
Under 18 years	69,971	28,428	785	40.6	0.9	71,434	21,459	615	30.0	0.8	71,394	20,921	691	29.3	0.9	71,477	20,297	658	28.4	0.8
18 to 64 years	165,299	50,144	981	30.3	0.6	170,139	35,015	758	20.6	0.4	172,106	34,407	856	20.0	0.5	176,147	32,597	809	18.5	0.4
65 years and over	29,285	6,925	409	23.6	1.2	32,394	5,496	324	17.0	0.9	32,289	4,957	350	15.4	1.0	32,797	4,582	325	14.0	0.9
Family status																				
In married-couple families	175,883	42,254	922	24.0	0.5	179,538	26,220	672	14.6	0.4	180,833	25,885	760	14.3	0.4	183,835	25,038	723	13.6	0.4
In families with a female householder, no husband present	37,715	21,348	693	56.6	1.3	39,445	18,267	572	46.3	1.1	40,516	17,791	643	43.9	1.2	42,232	17,440	615	41.3	1.2
In families with a male householder, no wife present	10,726	4,333	325	40.4	2.4	11,813	2,928	238	24.8	1.8	10,961	2,757	262	25.2	2.1	11,346	2,610	246	23.0	1.9
Unrelated individuals	40,231	17,562	634	43.7	1.2	43,171	14,556	515	33.7	1.0	43,479	13,852	572	31.9	1.1	43,008	12,388	524	28.8	1.1

[1] Panel and yearly estimates are based on different samples. The 3-year panel estimates include only respondents in the panel for 9 waves, whereas calendar year estimates include respondents in the sample for 12 months. The total number of respondents in each sample are as follows: 47,246 in the 3-year panel; 61,527 in 2001; 57,203 in 2002; and 57,903 in 2003.

[2] 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.

[3] Federal surveys, including the SIPP 2004 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. The SIPP 2001 Panel did not allow respondents to report more than one race.

[4] 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, 2001 Panel. For information on confidentiality protection and sampling and nonsampling error, see <http://www.census.gov/sipp/source.html>.

Table A-2.

People in Poverty 2 or More Months by Selected Characteristics: 2004–2006

(Numbers in thousands)

Characteristic	3-year panel (2004–2006) [1]					2004 [1]					2005 [1]					2006 [1]				
		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			
		Number		Percent			Number		Percent			Number		Percent			Number		Percent	
	Total	Estimate	90 percent C.I. [2] (+/-)	Estimate	90 percent C.I. [2] (+/-)	Total	Estimate	90 percent C.I. [2] (+/-)	Estimate	90 percent C.I. [2] (+/-)	Total	Number	90 percent C.I. [2] (+/-)	Percent	90 percent C.I. [2] (+/-)	Total	Number	90 percent C.I. [2] (+/-)	Percent	90 percent C.I. [2] (+/-)
All people	**270,914**	**78,348**	**1,361**	**28.9**	**0.5**	**281,963**	**59,203**	**749**	**21.0**	**0.3**	**285,073**	**57,780**	**807**	**20.3**	**0.3**	**287,299**	**55,824**	**1,162**	**19.4**	**0.4**
Race and Hispanic Origin																				
White alone [3]	218,713	56,837	1,232	26.0	0.6	227,517	42,141	660	18.5	0.3	229,484	41,197	710	18.0	0.3	231,210	39,479	1,017	17.1	0.4
White alone, non-Hispanic [4]	185,708	41,945	1,100	22.6	0.6	191,669	29,985	573	15.6	0.3	192,263	29,182	614	15.2	0.3	192,755	27,142	867	14.1	0.4
Black alone [3]	33,773	15,373	617	45.5	1.7	35,325	12,458	331	35.3	0.9	35,751	12,027	357	33.6	0.9	35,828	11,883	531	33.2	1.4
Hispanic [4]	36,043	16,491	665	45.8	1.7	38,776	13,254	410	34.2	1.0	40,269	13,075	453	32.5	1.1	41,733	13,346	624	32.0	1.4
Non-Hispanic	234,871	61,858	1,268	26.3	0.5	243,187	45,949	683	18.9	0.3	244,804	44,705	733	18.3	0.3	245,566	42,478	1,048	17.3	0.4
Age																				
Under 18 years	70,579	25,684	895	36.4	1.1	71,948	20,076	479	27.9	0.6	72,432	19,973	518	27.6	0.6	72,373	19,211	742	26.5	0.9
18 to 64 years	170,610	47,286	1,152	27.7	0.6	176,821	35,024	612	19.8	0.3	179,194	34,003	656	19.0	0.4	181,298	32,688	940	18.0	0.5
65 years and over	29,725	5,378	428	18.1	1.3	33,193	4,103	224	12.4	0.6	33,447	3,805	234	11.4	0.7	33,628	3,926	346	11.7	1.0
Family status																				
In married-couple families	178,576	37,355	1,050	20.9	0.6	182,750	24,350	523	13.3	0.3	184,694	24,339	567	13.2	0.3	186,228	22,847	803	12.3	0.4
In families with a female householder, no husband present	39,035	20,218	804	51.8	1.5	41,933	17,628	451	42.0	0.8	42,804	17,584	489	41.1	0.9	42,781	17,478	711	40.9	1.3
In families with a male householder, no wife present	11,068	4,129	376	37.3	2.7	12,059	3,371	203	28.0	1.4	11,981	2,906	205	24.3	1.5	11,849	2,544	280	21.5	2.1
Unrelated individuals	42,235	16,647	735	39.4	1.4	45,221	13,854	403	30.6	0.8	45,594	12,952	424	28.4	0.8	46,442	12,955	618	27.9	1.2

[1] Panel and yearly estimates are based on different samples. The 3-year panel estimates include only respondents in the panel for 10 waves, whereas calendar year estimates include respondents in the sample for 12 months. The numbers of respondents in each sample are as follows: 27,840 in the 3 year panel; 86,128 in 2004; 76,953 in 2005; and 34,372 in 2006. In wave 9 of the SIPP 2004 Panel, a 53 percent sample reduction was made. However, the calendar year weight for 2006 and the 3-year panel weight correct for that sample reduction.

[2] 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.

[3] Federal surveys, including the SIPP 2004 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.

[4] 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 <http://www.census.gov/sipp/source.html>.

Table A-3.

People in Poverty All 36 Months by Selected Characteristics: 2001–2003

(Numbers in thousands)

Characteristic	3-year panel (2001–2003)				
		People in poverty all 36 months			
		Number		Percent	
	Total	Estimate	90 percent C.I. [1] (+/-)	Estimate	90 percent C.I. [1] (+/-)
All people	**264,555**	**6,250**	**389**	**2.4**	**0.1**
Race and Hispanic Origin					
White [2]	216,399	3,576	296	1.7	0.1
White, non-Hispanic [3]	187,249	2,502	248	1.3	0.1
Black [2]	33,661	2,226	234	6.6	0.7
Hispanic [3]	31,934	1,210	173	3.8	0.5
Non-Hispanic	232,621	5,040	350	2.2	0.2
Age					
Under 18 years	69,971	2,227	234	3.2	0.3
18 to 64 years	165,299	2,915	268	1.8	0.2
65 years and over	29,285	1,108	166	3.8	0.6
Family status					
In married-couple families	175,883	1,097	165	0.6	0.1
In families with a female householder, no husband present	37,715	2,558	251	6.8	0.6
In families with a male householder, no wife present	10,726	118	54	1.1	0.5
Unrelated individuals	40,231	2,477	247	6.2	0.6

[1] 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.

[2] Federal surveys, including the SIPP 2004 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. The SIPP 2001 Panel did not allow respondents to report more than one race.

[3] 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, 2001 Panel. For information on confidentiality protection and sampling and nonsampling error, see <http://www.census.gov/sipp/source.html>.

Table A-4.

People in Poverty All 36 Months by Selected Characteristics: 2004–2006

(Numbers in thousands)

Characteristic	3-year panel (2004–2006)				
		People in poverty all 36 months			
		Number		Percent	
	Total	Estimate	90 percent C.I. [1] (+/-)	Estimate	90 percent C.I. [1] (+/-)
All people	**270,914**	**7,554**	**505**	**2.8**	**0.2**
Race and Hispanic Origin					
White alone [2]	218,713	4,116	375	1.9	0.2
White alone, non-Hispanic [3]	185,708	2,590	299	1.4	0.2
Black alone [2]	33,773	2,838	317	8.4	0.9
Hispanic [3]	36,043	1,619	252	4.5	0.7
Non-Hispanic	234,871	5,935	449	2.5	0.2
Age					
Under 18 years	70,579	3,388	341	4.8	0.5
18 to 64 years	170,610	3,273	335	1.9	0.2
65 years and over	29,725	893	176	3.0	0.6
Family status					
In married-couple families	178,576	1,283	211	0.7	0.1
In families with a female householder, no husband present	39,035	3,772	360	9.7	0.9
In families with a male householder, no wife present	11,068	290	100	2.6	0.9
Unrelated individuals	42,235	2,209	276	5.2	0.6

[1] 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.

[2] Federal surveys, including the SIPP 2004 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.

[3] 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 <http://www.census.gov/sipp/source.html>.

Table A-5.

People in Poverty in All 36 Months as a Percentage of Those in Poverty the First 2 Months by Selected Characteristics: 2001–2003

(Numbers in thousands)

Characteristic	People in poverty in January and February 2001 [1]					
	Total		People in poverty all 36 months, 2001–2003			
	Number		Number		Percent	
	Estimate	90 percent C.I. [2] (+/-)	Estimate	90 percent C.I. [2] (+/-)	Estimate	90 percent C.I. [2] (+/-)
All people	**31,296**	**883**	**6,250**	**389**	**20.0**	**1.1**
Race and Hispanic Origin						
White [3]	21,471	732	3,576	296	16.7	1.3
White, non-Hispanic [4]	15,515	622	2,502	248	16.1	1.5
Black [3]	7,824	451	2,226	234	28.4	2.6
Hispanic [4]	6,620	483	1,210	173	18.3	2.8
Non-Hispanic	24,675	784	5,040	350	20.4	1.3
Age						
Under 18 years	11,371	532	2,227	234	19.6	1.9
18 to 64 years	16,993	651	2,915	268	17.2	1.4
65 years and over	2,931	270	1,108	166	37.8	4.5
Family status						
In married-couple families	10,999	524	1,097	165	10.0	1.4
In families with a female householder, no husband present	11,126	527	2,558	251	23.0	2.0
In families with a male householder, no wife present	1,121	167	118	54	10.5	4.6
Unrelated individuals	8,050	448	2,477	247	30.8	2.6

[1] Uses panel weight.

[2] 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.

[3] Federal surveys, including the SIPP 2004 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. The SIPP 2001 Panel did not allow respondents to report more than one race.

[4] 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, 2001 Panel. For information on confidentiality protection and sampling and nonsampling error, see <http://www.census.gov/sipp/source.html>.

Table A-6.

People in Poverty in All 36 Months as a Percentage of Those in Poverty in the First 2 Months by Selected Characteristics: 2004–2006

(Numbers in thousands)

Characteristic	People in poverty in January and February 2004 [1]					
	Total		People in poverty all 36 months, 2004–2006			
	Number		Number		Percent	
	Estimate	90 percent C.I. [2] (+/-)	Estimate	90 percent C.I [2] (+/-)	Estimate	90 percent C.I. [2] (+/-)
All people	**32,747**	**1,068**	**7,554**	**505**	**23.1**	**1.4**
Race and Hispanic Origin						
White alone [3]	21,659	869	4,116	375	19.0	1.6
White alone, non-Hispanic [4]	14,417	709	2,590	299	18.0	1.9
Black alone [3]	8,485	566	2,838	317	33.4	3.1
Hispanic [4]	7,918	566	1,619	252	20.4	2.9
Non-Hispanic	24,829	930	5,935	449	23.9	1.6
Age						
Under 18 years	12,331	655	3,388	341	27.5	2.4
18 to 64 years	18,060	793	3,273	335	18.1	1.7
65 years and over	2,356	286	893	176	37.9	5.9
Family status						
In married-couple families	11,311	628	1,283	211	11.3	1.8
In families with a female householder, no husband present	11,936	645	3,772	360	31.6	2.5
In families with a male householder, no wife present	1,738	246	290	100	16.7	5.3
Unrelated individuals	7,762	520	2,209	276	28.5	3.0

[1] Uses panel weight.

[2] 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.

[3] Federal surveys, including the SIPP 2004 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.

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

Table A-7.

Median Length of Poverty Spells by Selected Characteristics: 2001–2003

(In months, excluding spells underway in January 2001)

Characteristic	Median spell length (months)	90 percent C.I. [1] (+/-)
All people	**4.3**	**0.2**
Race and Hispanic Origin		
White [2]	4.0	0.2
White, not Hispanic [3]	3.9	0.2
Black [2]	6.0	0.4
Hispanic [3]	4.8	0.4
Not Hispanic	4.1	0.1
Age		
Under 18 years	4.4	0.3
18 to 64 years	4.1	0.2
65 years and over	5.8	0.5
Family status		
In married-couple families	3.9	0.1
In families with a female householder, no husband present	5.8	0.6
Unrelated individuals	5.2	0.3

[1] 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.

[2] Federal surveys, including the SIPP 2004 Panel, give respondents the option of reporting more than one race. These data can be shown to 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. The SIPP 2001 Panel did not allow respondents to report more than one race.

[3] 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, 2001 Panel. For information on confidentiality protection and sampling and nonsampling error, see <http://www.census.gov/sipp/source.html>.

Table A-8.

Median Length of Poverty Spells by Selected Characteristics: 2004–2006

(In months, excluding spells underway in January 2004)

Characteristic	Median spell length (months)	90 percent C.I. [1] (+/-)
All people	**4.5**	**0.2**
Race and Hispanic Origin		
White alone [2]	4.3	0.2
White alone, non-Hispanic [3]	4.0	0.2
Black alone [2]	5.9	0.5
Hispanic [3]	6.2	0.5
Non-Hispanic	4.2	0.2
Age		
Under 18 years	5.2	0.3
18 to 64 years	4.2	0.2
65 years and over	6.7	0.8
Family status		
In married-couple families	3.9	0.2
In families with a female householder, no husband present	6.4	0.4
In families with a male householder, no wife present	4.9	0.8
Unrelated individuals	4.7	0.4

[1] 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.

[2] Federal surveys, including the SIPP 2004 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. The SIPP 2001 Panel did not allow respondents to report more than one race.

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

Table A-9.

Annual Poverty by Selected Characteristics: 2001–2003

(Numbers in thousands)

Characteristic	2001 [1]					2002 [1]					2003 [1]				
		In poverty using annual income and threshold					In poverty using annual income and threshold					In poverty using annual income and threshold			
		Number		Percent			Number		Percent			Number		Percent	
	Total	Estimate	90 percent C.I. [2] (+/-)	Estimate	90 percent C.I. [2] (+/-)	Total	Estimate	90 percent C.I. [2] (+/-)	Estimate	90 percent C.I. [2] (+/-)	Total	Estimate	90 percent C.I. [2] (+/-)	Estimate	90 percent C.I. [2] (+/-)
All people	**273,967**	**29,441**	**706**	**10.7**	**0.3**	**275,789**	**29,636**	**805**	**10.7**	**0.3**	**280,421**	**30,781**	**790**	**11.0**	**0.3**
Race and Hispanic Origin															
White [3]	224,549	19,456	589	8.7	0.3	225,500	19,323	667	8.6	0.3	229,271	20,426	660	8.9	0.3
White, non-Hispanic [4]	193,274	13,784	502	7.1	0.3	193,202	13,283	561	6.9	0.3	194,637	14,123	557	7.3	0.3
Black [3]	34,754	8,141	391	23.4	1.0	35,232	8,414	452	23.9	1.1	35,931	8,457	437	23.5	1.1
Hispanic [4]	34,338	6,307	346	18.4	0.9	35,641	6,658	404	18.7	1.0	37,963	7,037	400	18.5	1.0
Non-Hispanic	239,629	23,134	636	9.7	0.3	240,148	22,978	721	9.6	0.3	242,457	23,743	706	9.8	0.3
Age															
Under 18 years	71,434	11,400	460	16.0	0.6	71,394	11,620	527	16.3	0.7	71,477	11,583	508	16.2	0.7
18 to 64 years	170,139	15,107	524	8.9	0.3	172,106	15,261	599	8.9	0.3	176,147	16,138	593	9.2	0.3
65 years and over	32,394	2,934	238	9.1	0.7	32,289	2,755	262	8.5	0.8	32,797	3,059	266	9.3	0.8
Family status															
In married-couple families	179,538	9,323	418	5.2	0.2	180,833	9,494	479	5.2	0.3	183,835	9,974	473	5.4	0.3
In families with a female householder, no husband present	39,445	11,296	458	28.6	1.0	40,516	11,358	522	28.0	1.1	42,232	11,718	511	27.7	1.1
In families with a male householder, no wife present	11,813	1,128	148	9.5	1.2	10,961	1,111	167	10.1	1.4	11,346	1,240	170	10.9	1.4
Unrelated individuals	43,171	7,694	381	17.8	0.8	43,479	7,674	432	17.6	0.9	43,008	7,848	422	18.2	0.9

[1] Panel and yearly estimates contain different samples. Three-year panel estimates include only respondents in the panel for 9 waves whereas calendar year estimates include people in sample for 12 months. The total number of respondents in each sample are as follows: 47,246 in the 3-year panel; 61,527 in 2001; 57,203 in 2002; and 57,903 in 2003.

[2] 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.

[3] Federal surveys, including the SIPP 2004 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. The SIPP 2001 Panel did not allow respondents to report more than one race.

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Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation, 2001 Panel. For information on confidentiality protection and sampling and nonsampling error, see <http://www.census.gov/sipp/source.html>.

Table A-10.

Annual Poverty by Selected Characteristics: 2004–2006

(Numbers in thousands)

Characteristic	2004 [1]					2005 [1]					2006 [1]				
		In poverty using annual income and threshold					In poverty using annual income and threshold					In poverty using annual income and threshold			
		Number		Percent			Number		Percent			Number		Percent	
	Total	Estimate	90 percent C.I. [2] (+/-)	Estimate	90 percent C.I. [2] (+/-)	Total	Estimate	90 percent C.I. [2] (+/-)	Estimate	90 percent C.I. [2] (+/-)	Total	Estimate	90 percent C.I. [2] (+/-)	Estimate	90 percent C.I. [2] (+/-)
All people	**281,963**	**30,012**	**573**	**10.6**	**0.2**	**285,073**	**30,949**	**630**	**10.9**	**0.2**	**287,299**	**29,941**	**905**	**10.4**	**0.3**
Race and Hispanic Origin															
White alone [3]	227,517	19,626	474	8.6	0.2	229,484	20,417	524	8.9	0.2	231,210	19,798	753	8.6	0.3
White alone, non-Hispanic [4]	191,669	12,973	391	6.8	0.2	192,263	13,100	426	6.8	0.2	192,755	12,330	603	6.4	0.3
Black alone [3]	35,325	7,981	283	22.6	0.8	35,751	8,084	309	22.6	0.8	35,828	7,560	450	21.1	1.2
Hispanic [4]	38,776	7,269	327	18.7	0.8	40,269	7,841	373	19.5	0.9	41,733	7,997	515	19.2	1.2
Non-Hispanic	243,187	22,743	507	9.4	0.2	244,804	23,108	554	9.4	0.2	245,566	21,944	789	8.9	0.3
Age															
Under 18 years	71,948	11,646	372	16.2	0.5	72,432	12,011	409	16.6	0.5	72,373	11,575	586	16.0	0.8
18 to 64 years	176,821	16,109	433	9.1	0.2	179,194	16,637	476	9.3	0.3	181,298	15,965	681	8.8	0.4
65 years and over	33,193	2,258	167	6.8	0.5	33,447	2,300	182	6.9	0.5	33,628	2,401	272	7.1	0.8
Family status															
In married-couple families	182,750	9,324	334	5.1	0.2	184,694	9,886	372	5.4	0.2	186,228	9,560	534	5.1	0.3
In families with a female householder, no husband present	41,933	11,759	373	28.0	0.8	42,804	12,235	412	28.6	0.8	42,781	11,644	587	27.2	1.2
In families with a male householder, no wife present	12,059	1,432	133	11.9	1.0	11,981	1,398	143	11.7	1.1	11,849	1,182	191	10.0	1.5
Unrelated individuals	45,221	7,497	301	16.6	0.6	45,594	7,429	325	16.3	0.7	46,442	7,555	477	16.3	1.0

[1] Panel and yearly estimates are based on different samples. Three-year panel estimates include only respondents in the panel for 10 waves, whereas calendar year estimates include people in sample for 12 months. The total number of respondents in each sample are as follows: 27,840 in the 3-year panel; 86,128 in 2004; 76,953 in 2005; and 34,372 in 2006. In wave 9 of the SIPP 2004 Panel, a 53 percent sample reduction was made. However, the calendar year weight for 2006 and the 3-year panel weight correct for that sample reduction.

[2] 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.

[3] Federal surveys, including the SIPP 2004 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.

[4] 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 <http://www.census.gov/sipp/source.html>.

Table A-11.

Poverty Entries: People Not in Poverty in 2001 by Poverty Status in 2002 and 2003

(Numbers in thousands)

Characteristic	Not in poverty in 2001	In poverty in 2002				In poverty in 2003			
		Number		Percent		Number		Percent	
		Estimate	90 percent C.I. [1] (+/-)	Estimate	90 percent C.I. [1] (+/-)	Estimate	90 percent C.I. [1] (+/-)	Estimate	90 percent C.I. [1] (+/-)
All people	**236,624**	**7,451**	**424**	**3.1**	**0.2**	**10,354**	**496**	**4.4**	**0.2**
Race and Hispanic Origin									
White [2]	198,043	5,520	366	2.8	0.2	7,577	427	3.8	0.2
White, non-Hispanic [3]	174,304	3,955	311	2.3	0.2	5,815	376	3.3	0.2
Black [2]	25,858	1,512	194	5.8	0.7	2,125	228	8.2	0.9
Hispanic [3]	26,001	1,681	235	6.5	0.9	1,935	251	7.4	1.0
Non-Hispanic	210,623	5,770	374	2.7	0.2	8,418	449	4.0	0.2
Age									
Under 18 years	59,135	2,624	254	4.4	0.4	3,329	286	5.6	0.5
18 to 64 years	150,834	4,205	321	2.8	0.2	6,031	382	4.0	0.3
65 years and over	26,655	622	124	2.3	0.5	994	157	3.7	0.6
Family status									
In married-couple families	166,760	3,657	299	2.2	0.2	5,283	358	3.2	0.2
In families with a female householder, no husband present	26,917	1,905	217	7.1	0.8	2,432	245	9.0	0.9
In families with a male householder, no wife present	9,708	359	95	3.7	1.0	632	125	6.5	1.2
Unrelated individuals	33,240	1,530	195	4.6	0.6	2,007	223	6.0	0.7

[1] 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.

[2] Federal surveys, including the SIPP 2004 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. The SIPP 2001 Panel did not allow respondents to report more than one race.

[3] 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, 2001 Panel. For information on confidentiality protection and sampling and nonsampling error, see <http://www.census.gov/sipp/source.html>.

Table A-12.

Poverty Entries: People Not in Poverty in 2004 by Poverty Status in 2005 and 2006

(Numbers in thousands)

Characteristic	Not in poverty in 2004	In poverty in 2005				In poverty in 2006			
		Number		Percent		Number		Percent	
		Estimate	90 percent C.I. [1] (+/-)	Estimate	90 percent C.I. [1] (+/-)	Estimate	90 percent C.I. [1] (+/-)	Estimate	90 percent C.I. [1] (+/-)
All people	**242,846**	**8,416**	**532**	**3.5**	**0.2**	**10,095**	**581**	**4.2**	**0.2**
Race and Hispanic Origin									
White Alone [2]	200,505	6,053	453	3.0	0.2	7,312	497	3.6	0.2
White Alone, non-Hispanic [3]	174,013	4,021	371	2.3	0.2	5,115	418	2.9	0.2
Black Alone [2]	26,246	1,771	254	6.7	0.9	2,059	272	7.8	1.0
Hispanic [3]	28,925	2,191	291	7.6	1.0	2,401	304	8.3	1.0
Non-Hispanic	213,921	6,226	460	2.9	0.2	7,694	509	3.6	0.2
Age									
Under 18 years	59,459	3,010	322	5.1	0.5	3,331	338	5.6	0.6
18 to 64 years	155,718	4,847	407	3.1	0.3	5,955	450	3.8	0.3
65 years and over	27,669	559	139	2.0	0.5	809	168	2.9	0.6
Family status									
In married-couple families	169,673	4,325	385	2.5	0.2	5,373	428	3.2	0.3
In families with a female householder, no husband present	28,155	2,130	271	7.6	0.9	2,144	272	7.6	0.9
In families with a male householder, no wife present	9,641	393	117	4.1	1.2	589	143	6.1	1.4
Unrelated individuals	35,377	1,569	233	4.4	0.6	1,989	262	5.6	0.7

[1] 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.

[2] Federal surveys, including the SIPP 2004 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. The SIPP 2001 Panel did not allow respondents to report more than one race.

[3] 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 <http://www.census.gov/sipp/source.html>.

Table A-13.

Poverty Exits: People in Poverty in 2001 by Poverty Status in 2002 and 2003

(Numbers in thousands)

Characteristic	In poverty in 2001	Not in poverty in 2002				Not in poverty in 2003			
		Number		Percent		Number		Percent	
		Estimate	90 percent C.I. [1] (+/-)	Estimate	90 percent C.I. [1] (+/-)	Estimate	90 percent C.I. [1] (+/-)	Estimate	90 percent C.I. [1] (+/-)
All people	**27,930**	**9,054**	**465**	**32.4**	**1.4**	**11,325**	**517**	**40.5**	**1.5**
Race and Hispanic Origin									
White [2]	18,356	6,636	400	36.1	1.8	8,268	445	45.0	1.8
White, non-Hispanic [3]	12,945	4,938	347	38.1	2.1	6,000	381	46.4	2.2
Black [2]	7,804	1,829	212	23.4	2.4	2,324	237	29.8	2.6
Hispanic [3]	5,932	1,916	250	32.3	3.6	2,425	278	40.9	3.8
Non-Hispanic	21,998	7,138	415	32.4	1.6	8,900	461	40.5	1.7
Age									
Under 18 years	10,836	3,198	280	29.5	2.2	4,051	315	37.4	2.3
18 to 64 years	14,464	5,085	352	35.2	2.0	6,465	395	44.7	2.1
65 years and over	2,630	771	138	29.3	4.4	810	142	30.8	4.5
Family status									
In married-couple families	9,123	3,777	304	41.4	2.6	4,609	335	50.5	2.6
In families with a female householder, no husband present	10,798	2,838	264	26.3	2.1	3,714	302	34.4	2.3
In families with a male householder, no wife present	1,018	389	98	38.3	7.6	476	109	46.8	7.8
Unrelated individuals	6,991	2,049	225	29.3	2.7	2,526	249	36.1	2.9

[1] 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.

[2] Federal surveys, including the SIPP 2004 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. The SIPP 2001 Panel did not allow respondents to report more than one race.

[3] 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, 2001 Panel. For information on confidentiality protection and sampling and nonsampling error, see <http://www.census.gov/sipp/source.html>.

Table A-14.

Poverty Exits: People in Poverty in 2004 by Poverty Status in 2005 and 2006

(Numbers in thousands)

Characteristic	In poverty in 2004	Not in poverty in 2005				Not in poverty in 2006			
		Number		Percent		Number		Percent	
		Estimate	90 percent C.I. [1] (+/-)	Estimate	90 percent C.I. [1] (+/-)	Estimate	90 percent C.I. [1] (+/-)	Estimate	90 percent C.I. [1] (+/-)
All people	**28,068**	**8,799**	**544**	**31.4**	**1.6**	**11,665**	**622**	**41.6**	**1.7**
Race and Hispanic Origin									
White alone [2]	18,207	6,154	457	33.8	2.1	8,486	534	46.6	2.2
White alone, non-Hispanic [3]	11,695	4,278	383	36.6	2.6	5,803	444	49.6	2.7
Black alone [2]	7,528	1,885	261	25.0	3.1	2,224	283	29.5	3.2
Hispanic [3]	7,118	2,143	288	30.1	3.5	2,995	337	42.1	3.7
Non-Hispanic	20,950	6,656	475	31.8	1.9	8,669	540	41.4	2.0
Age									
Under 18 years	11,120	3,246	334	29.2	2.5	4,186	379	37.6	2.7
18 to 64 years	14,892	5,120	418	34.4	2.3	6,817	480	45.8	2.4
65 years and over	2,055	434	123	21.1	5.3	662	152	32.2	6.1
Family status									
In married-couple families	8,903	3,518	348	39.5	3.1	4,477	391	50.3	3.1
In families with a female householder, no husband present	10,880	2,566	297	23.6	2.4	3,596	351	33.0	2.7
In families with male householder, no wife present	1,427	711	157	49.8	7.8	726	159	50.8	7.8
Unrelated individuals	6,858	2,004	263	29.2	3.2	2,866	314	41.8	3.5

[1] 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.

[2] Federal surveys, including the SIPP 2004 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. The SIPP 2001 Panel did not allow respondents to report more than one race.

[3] 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 <http://www.census.gov/sipp/source.html>.

Table A-15.

Poverty Entries and Exits: 2004 Income-to-Poverty Ratio by 2005 Income-to-Poverty Ratio

(Numbers in thousands)

2004 income-to-poverty ratio	2005 income-to-poverty ratio								
		Less than 100 percent of the poverty threshold		100 percent or more of the poverty threshold					
						100 to 150 percent of the poverty threshold		More than 150 percent of the poverty threshold	
	Total	Number	90 percent C.I. [1] (+/-)	Number	90 percent C.I. [1] (+/-)	Number	90 percent C.I. [1] (+/-)	Number	90 percent C.I. [1] (+/-)
Total	**270,914**	**27,864**	**927**	**243,229**	**916**	**25,196**	**887**	**218,033**	**901**
Less than 100 percent of the poverty threshold	28,068	19,268	786	8,798	544	5,235	422	3,563	350
100 percent or more of the poverty threshold	242,847	8,416	532	234,430	569	19,960	799	214,470	953
100 to 150 percent of the poverty threshold	25,740	4,754	403	20,986	817	12,205	636	8,781	543
More than 150 percent of the poverty threshold	217,107	3,662	354	213,444	967	7,755	511	205,689	1,062

[1] 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, 2004 Panel. For information on confidentiality protection and sampling and nonsampling error, see <http://www.census.gov/sipp/source.html>.

Table A-16.

Poverty Entries and Exits: 2004 Income-to-Poverty Ratio by 2006 Income-to-Poverty Ratio

(Numbers in thousands)

2004 income-to-poverty ratio	2006 income-to-poverty ratio								
		Less than 100 percent of the poverty threshold		100 percent or more of the poverty threshold					
						100 to 150 percent of the poverty threshold		More than 150 percent of the poverty threshold	
	Total	Number	90 percent C.I. [1] (+/-)	Number	90 percent C.I. [1] (+/-)	Number	90 percent C.I. [1] (+/-)	Number	90 percent C.I. [1] (+/-)
Total	**270,914**	**26,498**	**907**	**244,416**	**893**	**24,548**	**877**	**219,868**	**872**
Less than 100 percent of the poverty threshold	28,068	16,403	730	11,665	622	6,270	461	5,395	429
100 percent or more of the poverty threshold	242,847	10,095	581	232,751	614	18,278	767	214,473	952
100 to 150 percent of the poverty threshold	25,740	4,856	407	20,884	816	9,713	570	11,171	609
More than 150 percent of the poverty threshold	217,107	5,239	423	211,867	987	8,565	537	203,302	1,088

[1] 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, 2004 Panel. For information on confidentiality protection and sampling and nonsampling error, see <http://www.census.gov/sipp/source.html>.

Table A-17.

People in Poverty Across the 3-year and 4-year Periods of the SIPP 2004 Panel

(Numbers in thousands)

Period	Total	People in poverty for period			
		Number		Percent	
		Estimate	90 percent C.I. [2] (+/-)	Estimate	90 percent C.I. [2] (+/-)
3-year panel (2004–2006)					
Poor at least 2 months	270,914	78,348	1,361	28.9	0.5
Poor every month	270,914	7,554	505	2.8	0.2
4-year panel (2004–2007) [1, 3]					
Poor at least 2 months	267,212	84,460	1,686	31.6	0.6
Poor every month	266,819	5,832	469	2.2	0.2
2004 [1]					
Poor at least 2 months	281,963	59,203	749	21.0	0.3
Annual poverty rate	281,963	30,012	573	10.6	0.2
2005 [1]					
Poor at least 2 months	285,073	57,780	807	20.3	0.3
Annual poverty rate	285,073	30,949	630	10.9	0.2
2006 [1]					
Poor at least 2 months	287,299	55,824	1,162	19.4	0.4
Annual poverty rate	287,299	29,941	905	10.4	0.3
2007 [1, 4]					
Poor at least 2 months	291,617	57,191	4,921	19.6	1.5
Annual poverty rate	291,617	32,034	3,701	11.0	1.2

[1] Panel and yearly estimates are based on different samples. The 3- and 4-year panel estimates include only respondents in the panel for 10 and 12 waves, respectively, whereas annual estimates include people in the sample for the calendar year. The total number of respondents in each sample are as follows: 27,840 in the 3-year panel; 25,916 in the 4-year panel; 86,128 in 2004; 76,953 in 2005; 34,372 in 2006; and 34,489 in 2007. In wave 9 of the SIPP 2004 Panel, a 53 percent sample reduction was made. However, the calendar year weights for 2006 and 2007 and the 3- and 4-year panel weights correct for this. The 4-year and 2007 estimates use the carry forward imputation method to account for months October, November, December 2007 being missing for some of the rotation groups. When the carry forward imputation method was unreliable, rotations groups were excluded. See notes 3 and 4 for more details.

[2] 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.

[3] The 4-year panel estimates of being in poverty for at least 2 months exclude rotation group 3 and estimates are weighted up by 4/3 to represent the underlying SIPP population. The respective "a" and "b" parameters used to create the standard errors were also inflated by a factor of 4/3.

[4] When estimating the percent of the 2007 population in poverty for at least 2 months and in poverty for the year, rotation group 1 was excluded and estimates were weighted up by 4/3. The respective "a" and "b" parameters used to create the standard errors were also inflated by a factor of 4/3.

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

Table A-18.

The Duration of Poverty Spells Across the 3- and 4-year Periods of the 2004 Panel

(Excludes spells underway in January 2004)

Spell characteristic	Estimate	90 percent C.I. [1] (+/-)
Percent of spells in interval		
2004–2006 [2]		
2 to 4 months	47.7	1.3
5 to 8 months	19.9	1.1
9 to 12 months	9.2	0.8
13 to 16 months	5.3	0.6
17 to 20 months	2.9	0.4
21 to 24 months	2.6	0.4
25 or more months	12.4	0.9
2004–2007 [2]		
2 to 4 months	46.0	1.3
5 to 8 months	19.8	1.1
9 to 12 months	9.1	0.8
13 to 16 months	4.9	0.6
17 to 20 months	2.9	0.5
21 to 24 months	2.6	0.4
25 to 36	4.0	0.5
37 or more months [3]	6.7	1.3
Median spell length (in months)		
2004–2006 [2]	4.5	0.2
2004–2007 [2]	4.9	0.2

[1] 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.

[2] The 3-year and 4-year are based on different samples. The 3- and 4-year panel estimates include respondents in the panel for 10 and 12 waves, respectively, and the total number of respondents in each sample are: 27,840 in the 3-year panel and 25,916 in the 4-year panel. In wave 9 of the SIPP 2004 Panel, a 53 percent sample reduction was made. However, the calendar year weights for 2006 and 2007 and the 3- and 4-year panel weights correct for that sample reduction. The 4-year estimates use the carry forward imputation method to account for months October, November, December 2007 being missing for some of the rotation groups. When the carry forward imputation method was unreliable, rotations groups were excluded. See note 3 for more details.

[3] The 4-year panel estimate of the percentage of people in poverty 37 or more months excludes rotation groups 1, 2, and 3, and the estimate was weighted up by a factor of 4 to represent the underlying SIPP population. The respective "a" and "b" parameters used to create the standard errors were also inflated by a factor of 4. As such, the base used to calculate to percentage of spells lasting 37 or more months (approximately 113 million spells) differs from the base used to calculate the other intervals (approximately 105 million spells) and the total percentage of spells does not add up to 100 percent.

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

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