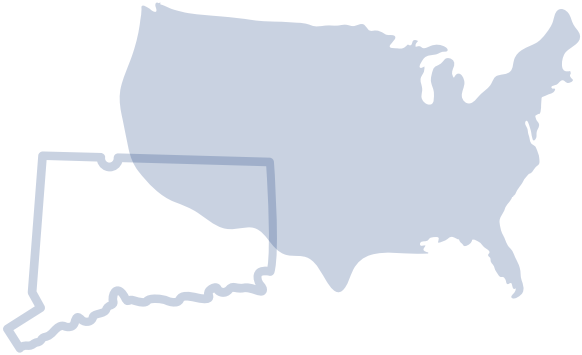
POVERTY IN THE U.S. AND CONNECTICUT, 2019-2023



Dr. Patrick O'Brien, Research and Policy Director

OCTOBER 2024

CONNECTICUT VOICES FOR CHILDREN

Table of Contents

Introduction **3**

Data Sources: CPS ASEC and ACS SPM **6**

Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplement 6

American Community Survey Supplemental Poverty Measure 6

The Use of the Two Data Sources 7

Poverty Measures: The OPM and SPM **8**

Differences Between the OPM and SPM 8

Differences in SPM Methodology in the CPS ASEC and ACS SPM 9

Poverty in the U.S. and Connecticut Using the CPS ASEC **13**

Estimates of Poverty and Near Poverty 13

Estimates of the Impact of Public Benefits and Expenses on Poverty 20

Poverty in Connecticut Using the ACS SPM **26**

Estimates of Poverty and Near Poverty 26

Estimates of the Impact of Public Benefits and Expenses on Poverty 35

Policy Options to Reduce Poverty in Connecticut **41**

Key Design Features of a CT CTC 41

Policy Options for a CT CTC 42

Conclusion **46**

Acknowledgments **46**

References and Notes **47**

Introduction

A landmark 2019 report on child poverty by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine concluded that "a child growing up in a family whose income is below the poverty line experiences worse outcomes than a child from a wealthier family in virtually every dimension, from physical and mental health, to educational attainment and labor market success, to risky behaviors and delinquency."[1] The report also found that the "weight of the causal evidence indicates that income poverty itself *causes* negative child outcomes, especially when it begins in early childhood and/or persists throughout a large share of a child's life."[2]

To help address this critical issue, the U.S. Census Bureau releases annual national estimates of poverty for the total population and key demographic groups using two measures: the Official Poverty Measure (OPM) and the Supplemental Poverty Measure (SPM). The Census Bureau also provides annual national estimates of the impact of major public benefits and nondiscretionary expenses on poverty. At the state level, however, the Census Bureau's primary annual publication on poverty only includes three-year average estimates for SPM-based poverty overall, with no demographic breakdowns or estimates of the impact of public benefits and expenses on poverty.

Considering the importance of child poverty and the gaps in state-level data, this report has three primary objectives. The first objective is to explain the different data sources available for measuring poverty, the distinctions between the OPM and SPM, and the lack of state-level SPM-based poverty estimates to date.

The second objective is to provide an extensive empirical overview of poverty in Connecticut, building on the annual national analysis that the Census Bureau provides. This includes providing poverty and near poverty estimates overall and for key demographics for the two primary measures of poverty, and it also includes providing estimates of the impact of major public benefits and nondiscretionary expenses on SPM-based poverty. This information is essential for policymakers addressing issues such as income security, taxation, housing, food security, child care, health care, and more.

The third objective is to provide detailed policy options to reduce poverty in Connecticut, especially for children. While it is possible to expand or improve many existing federal and state programs that play a critical role in reducing poverty—such as Social Security, tax credits, food assistance, and housing subsidies—the policy options presented here focus specifically on establishing a Connecticut Child Tax Credit.

To achieve these objectives, the report proceeds in five sections. The first section provides an overview of the two data sources: public use microdata sample files from the Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplement (CPS ASEC) and the American Community Survey Supplemental Poverty Measure (ACS SPM).

The second section provides an overview of the differences between the OPM and SPM as well as the methodological differences in the development of the SPM in the CPS ASEC and ACS SPM datasets. The key finding is:

- Compared to the Official Poverty Measure (OPM), the Supplemental Poverty Measure (SPM) provides a more accurate assessment of poverty by improving two key components: the *poverty threshold measure* incorporates updated spending costs on essential items and varies based on location and housing status; and the *resource measure* incorporates cash and noncash benefits as well as necessary expenses like taxes, medical costs, and work-related transportation and child care.

The third and fourth sections provide parallel overviews of poverty using both poverty measures and the two data sources. Specifically, the third section provides an overview of poverty in the U.S. and Connecticut using CPS ASEC data, and the fourth section provides an overview of poverty in Connecticut using ACS SPM data. As explained in more detail in the report, CPS ASEC data are primarily designed for national-level estimates and are available for all years from 2019 to 2023, whereas ACS SPM data are primarily designed for state-level (and sub-state-level) estimates and are currently only available for the years 2019, 2021, and 2022. The parallel overview in these sections proceeds in two parts and allows readers to focus on the data most useful to them while also considering the strengths and limitations of each data source.

The first part of the third and fourth sections provides estimates of poverty and near poverty. For the estimates of poverty, the key findings for the U.S. (using CPS ASEC data) and Connecticut (using ACS SPM data) are:

- In the U.S., the SPM-based poverty rate in 2023 was 12.9 percent (43 million people), up from a low of 7.8 percent (25.5 million people) in 2021, and higher also than the rate of 12.4 percent (41 million people) in 2022. For children, the SPM-based poverty rate in 2023 was 13.8 percent (10 million children), up from a low of 5.2 percent (3.8 million children) in 2021, and higher also than the rate of 12.4 percent (9 million children) in 2022.

- In Connecticut, the SPM-based poverty rate in 2022 was 12.1 percent (423,200 people), up from a low of 8.4 percent (294,400 people) in 2021. For children, the SPM-based poverty rate in 2022 was 11.6 percent (84,440 children), up from a low of 6.8 percent (49,430 children) in 2021.

For the estimates of near poverty, the key findings for the U.S. (using CPS ASEC data) and Connecticut (using ACS SPM data) are:

- In the U.S. in 2023, the SPM-based near poverty rate was 14.8 percent (49.1 million people), bringing the total population living in poverty or near poverty to 27.7 percent (92.1 million people). For children, the SPM-based near poverty rate was 19.1 percent (13.9 million children),

bringing the total child population living in poverty or near poverty to 32.9 percent (23.9 million children).

- In Connecticut in 2022, the SPM-based near poverty rate was 13 percent (457,530 people), bringing the total population living in poverty or near poverty to 25.1 percent (880,720 people). For children, the SPM-based near poverty rate was 16.8 percent (122,440 children), bringing the total child population living in poverty or near poverty to 28.4 percent (206,880 children).

The second part of the third and fourth sections provides estimates of the impact of major public benefits and nondiscretionary expenses on poverty. The key findings for the U.S. (using CPS ASEC data) and Connecticut (using ACS SPM data) are:

- In the U.S. in 2023, the public benefits that lifted the most people out of poverty were Social Security (27.6 million people), the federal income tax when including refundable tax credits (5 million people), and food assistance programs (4.5 million people). The largest contributors to poverty were medical expenses (7.4 million people), federal payroll taxes (4.6 million people), and work expenses (3.8 million people).

- In Connecticut in 2022, the public benefits that lifted the most people out of poverty were Social Security (218,730 people), food assistance programs (51,630 people), and housing subsidies (51,160 people). The largest contributors to poverty were medical expenses (81,700 people), federal payroll taxes (39,320 people), and work expenses (36,870 people).

The fifth section provides policy options for establishing a Connecticut Child Tax Credit (CT CTC) to reduce poverty. The first part outlines key design features of a CT CTC and the key finding is:

- To provide the most support for families and children in poverty and near poverty, a CT CTC would include the following key design features: full refundability, no income floor, no income-based phase-in, and no cap on the number of children.

The second part presents three policy options, all of which are modeled using ACS SPM data and cost close to $300 million a year. The key finding is:

- The most well-designed of the three CT CTC options would provide support for up to 591,480 children (81.2 percent) and 1.3 million people in total (36.8 percent), including up to 84,440 children in poverty (100 percent) and 122,440 children in near poverty (100 percent).

Data Sources: CPS ASEC and ACS SPM

This section provides an overview of the two data sources used throughout the report: public use microdata sample files from the Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplement (CPS ASEC) and the American Community Survey Supplemental Poverty Measure (ACS SPM).

Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplement

The CPS ASEC is a nationally representative survey designed by the U.S. Census Bureau to provide the primary estimates for both the Official Poverty Measure (OPM) and the Supplemental Poverty Measure (SPM).[3] As addressed more fully in the next section, these measures often generate significantly different assessments of poverty. The OPM is the long-established measure but is widely considered by poverty experts as outdated and flawed. The newer SPM, in contrast, is specifically designed to provide a more accurate measure of poverty by incorporating additional factors, such as noncash benefits, tax credits, and necessary living expenses.

While the CPS ASEC provides essential national-level poverty estimates, it has significant limitations for analyzing poverty at the state level. The public use microdata files contain an annual average of about 150,000 observations, a relatively small sample compared to some other surveys. As a result, the Census Bureau recommends using three-year averages when analyzing poverty at the state level with the dataset. This approach improves the reliability of the estimates, but it also means that single-year state-level poverty estimates are not publicly available—an issue that is especially critical when poverty rates shift substantially from year to year, as has occurred in recent years.

American Community Survey Supplemental Poverty Measure

The Census Bureau's American Community Survey Supplemental Poverty Measure (ACS SPM) research files are the second data source used in this report and build on the standard American Community Survey (ACS).[4] Compared to the CPS ASEC, the ACS is significantly larger, with public use microdata files containing an annual average of more than 3 million observations. This larger sample size makes the ACS superior for generating reliable single-year state-level poverty estimates and for analyzing smaller geographic areas or specific demographic groups.

A major limitation, however, is that the standard ACS only provides poverty estimates based on the OPM, which, among its many flaws, excludes important noncash benefits and tax policies included in the SPM. For example, the expanded federal Child Tax Credit (CTC) and other temporary tax changes that significantly reduced poverty in 2021 are incorporated in the SPM in the CPS ASEC but not in the OPM in the standard ACS. Recognizing this limitation, the Census Bureau recently developed the ACS SPM research files that allow for reliable single-year state-level poverty estimates based on the SPM.

The Use of the Two Data Sources

Three key issues regarding the use of the two data sources are addressed below: custom estimates, data availability, and report structure.

Custom Estimates: The analysis presented in this report relies on public use microdata sample (PUMS) files from both the CPS ASEC and ACS SPM. These PUMS files allow for the creation of custom estimates that are not available in the pre-tabulated data products published by the Census Bureau. This means that many of the Connecticut-specific estimates presented in this report are not publicly available elsewhere. However, it is also important to note that estimates generated from PUMS files may not exactly match the Census Bureau's pre-tabulated estimates because PUMS files represent a subset of the full sample used by the Census Bureau. For example, the SPM-based child poverty rate in the U.S. in 2023 is 13.7 percent when using the Census Bureau's pre-tabulated estimates and 13.8 percent when using the CPS ASEC PUMS file.

Data Availability: The available data differ between the CPS ASEC and the ACS SPM, which affects the scope of the analysis presented in the report. CPS ASEC data are available for each year from 2019 through 2023, allowing for a complete year-to-year analysis of trends. In contrast, ACS SPM data are not available for 2020 due to data collection issues caused by the pandemic. Additionally, while the Census Bureau has released pre-tabulated data for the 2023 ACS, the PUMS files for the 2023 ACS and ACS SPM are not yet available. The lack of data for 2020 and 2023 results in a more limited analysis of poverty trends at the state level during and after the pandemic using this data source.

Report Structure: Following this section, the report proceeds as follows:

- The second section provides an overview of the two poverty measures, the OPM and SPM.
- The third section provides an overview of poverty in the U.S. and Connecticut using public use microdata from the CPS ASEC. This includes single-year estimates for Connecticut, though caution is advised in using these state-level estimates due to the large margins of error.
- The fourth section provides an overview of poverty in Connecticut using the ACS SPM research files, which is the superior dataset for state-level estimates. However, the lack of data for 2020 and 2023 limits the scope of this section.
- The fifth section provides an overview of policy options to reduce poverty in Connecticut, focusing on establishing a Connecticut Child Tax Credit modeled using ACS SPM data.

This structure allows readers to use the data most relevant to their needs while considering the strengths and limitations of each data source.

Poverty Measures: The OPM and SPM

This section provides an overview of the two poverty measures. The first part reviews the differences between the Official Poverty Measure (OPM) and the Supplemental Poverty Measure (SPM). The second part highlights methodological differences in the calculation of the SPM in the CPS ASEC and ACS SPM datasets.

Differences Between the OPM and SPM

Compared to the Official Poverty Measure (OPM), the Supplemental Poverty Measure (SPM) provides a more accurate assessment of poverty by improving two key components: the *poverty threshold measure* incorporates updated spending costs on essential items and varies based on location and housing status; and the *resource measure* incorporates cash and noncash benefits as well as necessary expenses like taxes, medical costs, and work-related transportation and child care.

While many measures of financial well-being exist, this analysis focuses on the two poverty measures provided by the federal government: the Official Poverty Measure (OPM) and the Supplemental Poverty Measure (SPM).[5] **Table 1** summarizes the key differences, which fall into two categories: the poverty threshold measure and the resource measure.[6]

Poverty Threshold Measure

The OPM and SPM differ significantly in measuring the poverty threshold, which is the minimum resources necessary to meet basic needs. The long-established OPM sets a nationwide threshold based on three times the cost of a minimum food budget in the 1960s, adjusted annually for inflation. The OPM then adjusts for family size, composition, and the age of the householder, but it does not account for geographic differences in living costs or variation in housing status.

The SPM, in contrast, uses a more precise poverty threshold that accounts for recent spending on essential items, including food, clothing, shelter, utilities, telephone, and internet. The SPM also adjusts for geographic differences in housing costs as well as differences in housing status—specifically, whether a family owns a home with or without a mortgage or rents. Like the OPM, the SPM further adjusts for family size and composition.

To demonstrate the differences between the OPM and SPM, **Figure 1** shows the poverty thresholds in 2023 for a family of one adult and two children.[7] The OPM threshold is $24,549 and remains unchanged regardless of housing status or location. The SPM threshold, in contrast, varies by both housing status and location. For example, for a family of one adult and two children that rents their housing, the SPM poverty threshold ranges from $25,120 (102 percent of the OPM threshold) in lower-cost areas to $47,890 (195 percent of the OPM threshold) in higher-cost areas.

Resource Measure

The OPM calculates resources based on pre-tax cash income, such as wages, salaries, Social Security benefits, and other cash transfers. It excludes noncash benefits like food assistance, housing assistance, and tax credits, which are critical sources of support for many low-income families. The OPM also does not account for necessary expenses, such as taxes, medical costs, or work-related expenses like transportation and child care.

The SPM provides a more complete measure of total resources by including both cash income and noncash benefits like the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), housing assistance, and tax credits such as the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and Child Tax Credit (CTC). The SPM also accounts for nondiscretionary expenses that reduce total resources, including the federal personal income tax, federal payroll taxes, state personal income taxes, medical expenses, and work-related transportation costs and child care.

To demonstrate the differences between the OPM and SPM, **Figure 2** shows cash income and total resources by percentile for the bottom 50 percent of the resource distribution in the U.S. in 2023.[8] At the 10th percentile, cash income is $16,020, while total resources are $15,730, or 98.2 percent of cash income. This indicates that noncash benefits and tax credits mostly offset nondiscretionary expenses but did not significantly boost total resources, leaving many families in poverty. At the 50th percentile, cash income is $75,000, but total resources drop to $57,990, or 77.3 percent of cash income. In this case, nondiscretionary expenses—such as taxes, medical costs, and work-related expenses—substantially reduced available resources and public benefits failed to fully offset the expenses, making families more vulnerable to poverty or near-poverty.

Combining the two key components—the poverty threshold measure and the resource measure—a family is living in poverty if their cash income (under the OPM) or total resources (under the SPM) fall below the relevant poverty threshold. Conversely, a family is not living in poverty if their cash income (OPM) or total resources (SPM) meet or exceed the relevant poverty threshold. By improving both key components, the SPM provides a more accurate assessment of poverty compared to the OPM.

Differences in SPM Methodology in the CPS ASEC and ACS SPM

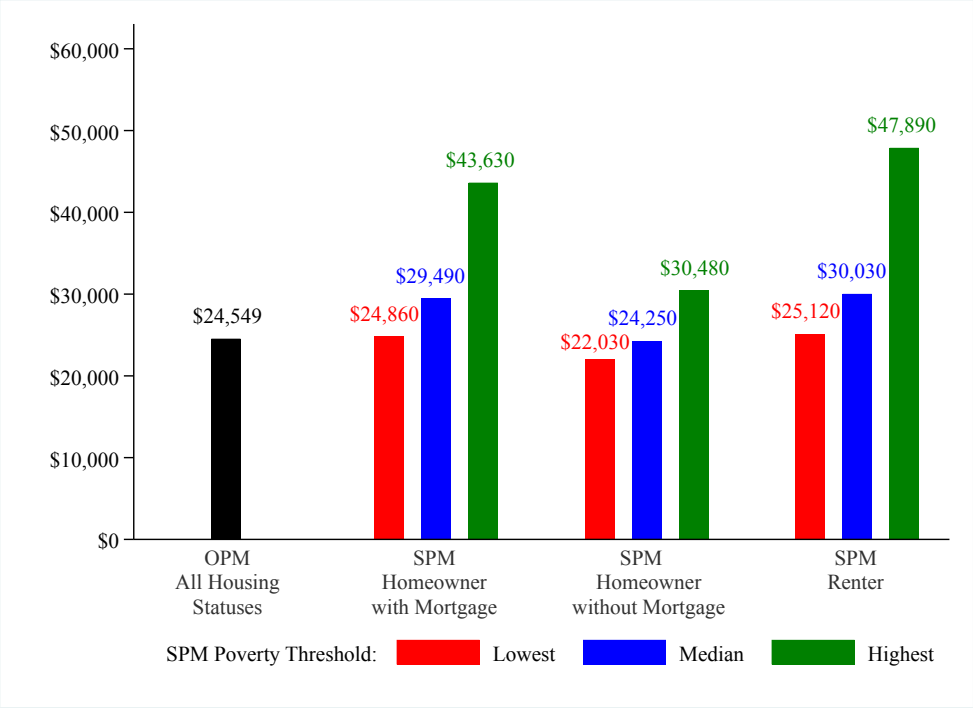
In addition to the key differences between the OPM and SPM, the calculation of the SPM itself differs in the CPS ASEC and ACS SPM datasets. **Table 2** provides a summary of the major differences.[9] One prominent difference involves the tax models: the CPS ASEC uses the Census Bureau's own tax model, while the ACS SPM relies on the National Bureau of Economic Research's tax model. Assessing the impact of this and other differences is beyond the scope of this report, but they present an important avenue for further research in future studies on poverty in the U.S. and Connecticut.

Table 1. Differences Between the OPM and SPM

Poverty Measure Component	Official Poverty Measure	Supplemental Poverty Measure
Time Series	1959 - present	2009 - present
Universe	Civilian noninstitutionalized population, excluding unrelated individuals under the age of 15 for whom poverty status cannot be determined.	Official poverty measure universe, plus unrelated individuals under the age of 15.
Measurement Units	Families (individuals related by birth, marriage, or adoption) or unrelated individuals.	Resource units (official family definition plus any coresident unrelated children, foster children, and unmarried partners and their relatives) or unrelated individuals (who are not otherwise included in the family definition).
Poverty Threshold	Three times the cost of a minimum food diet in 1963.	Based on recent expenditures for food, clothing, shelter, utilities, telephone, and internet (FCSUti).
Threshold Adjustments	Vary by family size, composition, and age of householder.	Vary by family size, composition, and housing tenure with geographic adjustments for differences in housing costs.
Updating Thresholds	Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers: all items.	Most recent 5-year moving average of expenditures on FCSUti, lagged 1 year.
Resource Measure	Gross pretax cash income.	Cash income, plus noncash benefits that resource units can use to meet their FCSUti needs, minus taxes (or plus tax credits), work expenses, medical expenses, and child support paid to another household.

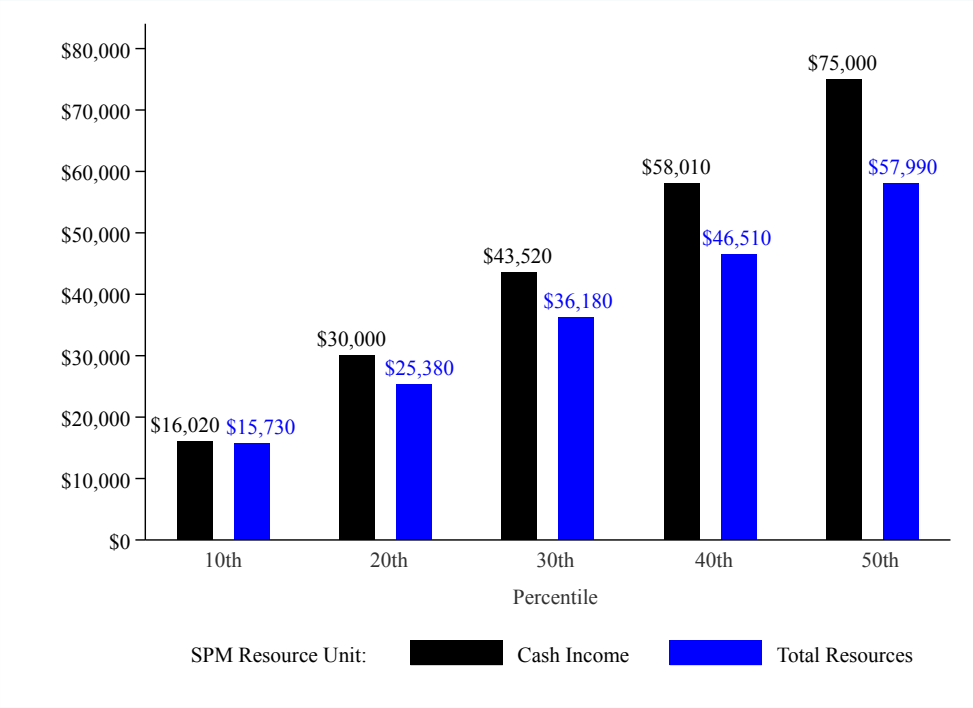
Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

Figure 1. U.S. Poverty Threshold:
One Adult and Two Children, 2023



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, CPS ASEC, and author's calculations.

Figure 2. U.S. Resource Measure:
Cash Income and Total Resources, 2023



Source: CPS ASEC and author's calculations.

Table 2. Differences in SPM Methodology in CPS ASEC and ACS SPM

Survey Component	CPS ASEC	ACS SPM
Poverty Universe	Resident civilian noninstitutionalized population	Resident civilian population living in a household (no group quarters)
Family Identification	Detailed information about relationships among household members	Relationships only to the household reference person; relationship pointers are assigned where possible
Supplemental Nutrion Assistance Program (SNAP)	Survey asks if person receives the benefit and the amount they receive	Survey asks if household receives benefit; amount of benefit is imputed
Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)	Survey asks if household receives the benefit and the amount they receive	Receipt of the benefit is imputed and amount of benefit is estimated
Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), School Lunch, and Housing Assistance	Survey asks if person receives the benefit; the amount they receive is estimated	Receipt of the benefit is imputed and amount of benefit is estimated
Tax Obligations and Tax Credits	Modeled using U.S. Census Bureau tax model	Modeled using National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER) TAXSIM
Child Care	Survey asks respondents whether they pay for child care and how much they spent	Whether a family pays for childcare and how much they pay was imputed
Work Expenses	Assigned using number of weeks worked multiplied by 85% of median weekly work-related expenses which are calculated from the Survey of Income and Program Participation	Same method but weeks worked is categorical; weeks worked is the midpoint of ranges
Medical Out of Pocket Expenses (MOOP)	Survey asks respondents about MOOP spending	MOOP spending is imputed
Geographic Adjustments	Thresholds are adjusted using median gross rents for two-bedroom units from 5 year ACS by MSAs, metro areas of a state, and nonmetro areas of a state	Thresholds are adjusted using median gross rents for two-bedroom units from 5 year ACS by MSAs, metro areas of a state, and nonmetro areas of a state
Child Support Received and Paid, Unemployment Insurance, and Workers' Compensation	Survey asks respondents if they receive each of these and, if so, the amount they receive	Survey does not ask about the receipt or amount of these separately; child support paid is not included in SPM calculations

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

Poverty in the U.S. and Connecticut
Using the CPS ASEC

This section provides an overview of poverty in the U.S. and Connecticut using public use microdata sample files from the U.S. Census Bureau's Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplement (CPS ASEC). The first part provides estimates of poverty and near poverty. The second part provides estimates of the impact of major public benefits and nondiscretionary expenses on poverty.

Estimates of Poverty and Near Poverty

In the U.S., the SPM-based poverty rate in 2023 was 12.9 percent (43 million people), up from a low of 7.8 percent (25.5 million people) in 2021, and higher also than the rate of 12.4 percent (41 million people) in 2022. For children, the SPM-based poverty rate in 2023 was 13.8 percent (10 million children), up from a low of 5.2 percent (3.8 million children) in 2021, and higher also than the rate of 12.4 percent (9 million children) in 2022.

Figure 3 shows the poverty rate for both the total population and children in the U.S. based on the OPM and SPM using CPS ASEC data.[10] For the total population, the OPM-based poverty rate remained relatively stable between 2019 and 2023, ranging from a low of 10.5 percent (34 million people) to a high of 11.6 percent (37.9 million people). The SPM-based poverty rate, in contrast, varied significantly, decreasing from 11.7 percent (38.1 million people) in 2019 to a low of 7.8 percent (25.5 million people) in 2021 and then increasing to a high of 12.9 percent (43 million people) in 2023.

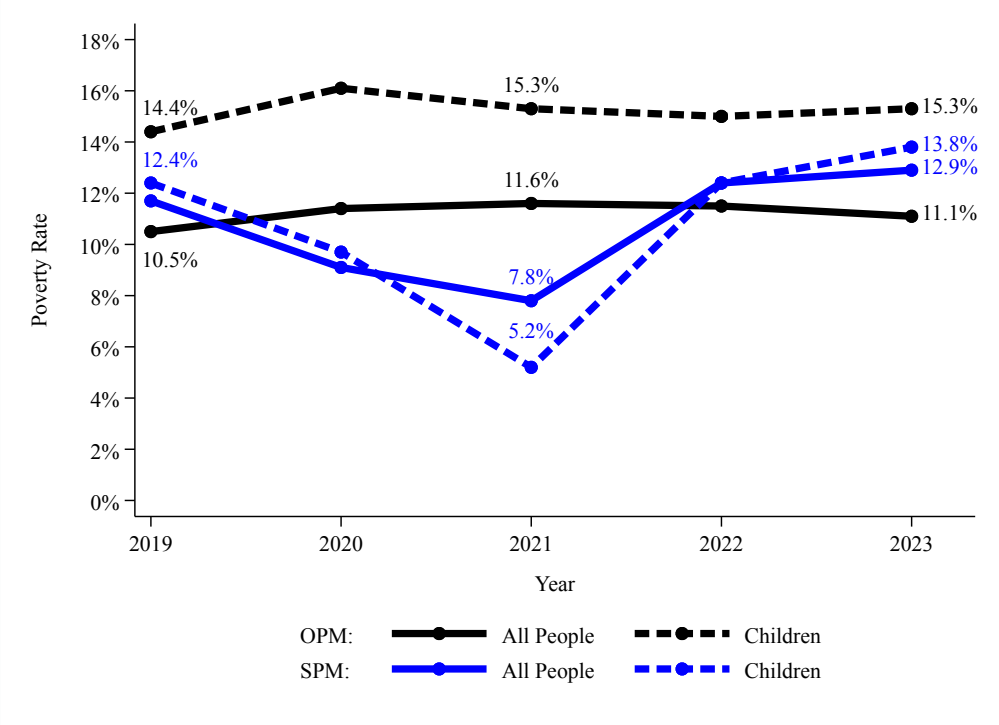
The disparity between the OPM and SPM is even more evident for child poverty during this period. The OPM-based child poverty rate remained relatively stable, ranging from 14.4 percent (10.5 million children) to 16.1 percent (11.6 million children). The SPM-based child poverty rate, in contrast, decreased from 12.4 percent (9.1 million children) in 2019 to a low of 5.2 percent (3.8 million children) in 2021 and then increased to a high of 13.8 percent (10 million children) in 2023.

The substantial differences between the OPM and SPM, especially for children, and the sharp rise in the SPM-based poverty rates after 2020 and 2021 are largely due to the SPM's inclusion of the federal income tax, which had major changes during this period. In 2020, the federal income tax included Economic Impact Payments (EIPs), the refundable Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), and the refundable Child Tax Credit (CTC). In 2021, the federal income tax then included another EIP along with temporary expansions of the EITC, CTC, and Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit (CDCTC). In 2019, 2022, and 2023, in contrast, the federal income tax only included the standard EITC, CTC, and CDCTC.[11]

Poverty rates also vary significantly by race and ethnicity based on both the OPM and SPM. Focusing on the SPM, the overall poverty rate in the U.S. in 2023 was 12.9 percent but ranged from 8.9 percent for the white alone, non-Hispanic population to 18.5 percent for the Black alone, non-Hispanic population and 21 percent for the Hispanic population.

For a more comprehensive overview, **Table 3** provides OPM- and SPM-based poverty estimates for the U.S. from 2019 to 2023 using CPS ASEC data, and **Table 4** provides estimates for Connecticut.[12]

Figure 3. Total and Child Poverty Rate in the U.S., 2019–2023



Source: CPS ASEC and author's calculations.

Table 3. Poverty in the U.S., 2019–2023

Demographic Group / Year	OPM-Based Poverty				SPM-Based Poverty			
	Number	MOE	Percent	MOE	Number	MOE	Percent	MOE
All People								
2023	36,790,330	896,950	11.1	0.3	42,979,700	1,002,770	12.9	0.3
2022	37,922,820	999,620	11.5	0.3	40,959,980	947,280	12.4	0.3
2021	37,935,050	908,340	11.6	0.3	25,539,700	704,310	7.8	0.2
2020	37,246,530	886,070	11.4	0.3	29,781,090	760,850	9.1	0.2
2019	33,984,340	798,520	10.5	0.2	38,099,880	906,210	11.7	0.3
Children (Under 18)								
2023	11,018,120	448,600	15.3	0.6	10,026,050	410,130	13.8	0.6
2022	10,783,830	432,500	15.0	0.6	8,988,900	371,160	12.4	0.5
2021	11,148,640	443,880	15.3	0.6	3,803,660	259,600	5.2	0.4
2020	11,606,810	410,760	16.1	0.6	7,044,260	323,920	9.7	0.4
2019	10,465,770	366,120	14.4	0.5	9,086,990	352,690	12.4	0.5
Adults (18 to 64)								
2023	20,003,950	543,950	10.0	0.3	24,615,630	662,360	12.3	0.3
2022	21,241,590	623,930	10.6	0.3	23,769,610	656,280	11.9	0.3
2021	20,982,080	516,420	10.5	0.3	15,750,120	493,640	7.9	0.2
2020	20,639,670	523,760	10.4	0.3	17,446,130	515,930	8.8	0.3
2019	18,660,490	514,490	9.4	0.3	22,040,810	615,420	11.2	0.3
Seniors (65 and Over)								
2023	5,768,260	242,620	9.7	0.4	8,338,020	301,940	14.1	0.5
2022	5,897,390	258,260	10.2	0.4	8,201,470	294,050	14.2	0.5
2021	5,804,330	235,640	10.3	0.4	5,985,920	239,080	10.7	0.4
2020	5,000,050	243,300	9.0	0.4	5,290,700	244,430	9.5	0.4
2019	4,858,070	200,160	8.9	0.4	6,972,090	260,520	12.8	0.5
White Alone, Non-Hispanic								
2023	14,886,870	518,640	7.7	0.3	17,151,040	625,640	8.9	0.3
2022	16,686,110	612,040	8.6	0.3	17,707,500	598,840	9.2	0.3
2021	15,807,070	528,120	8.1	0.3	11,139,730	442,750	5.7	0.2
2020	15,941,570	509,980	8.2	0.3	12,635,470	480,210	6.5	0.2
2019	14,151,760	463,410	7.3	0.2	15,882,320	499,260	8.2	0.3
Black Alone, Non-Hispanic								
2023	7,443,520	422,460	18.0	1.0	7,669,100	433,430	18.5	1.0
2022	7,066,560	357,510	17.1	0.9	7,117,560	409,440	17.2	1.0
2021	7,906,680	455,000	19.3	1.1	4,583,200	318,060	11.2	0.8
2020	7,882,790	399,410	19.5	1.0	5,940,180	336,850	14.7	0.8
2019	7,535,050	378,140	18.8	0.9	7,335,040	384,050	18.2	0.9
Hispanic, Any Race								
2023	10,886,490	475,390	16.6	0.7	13,752,590	538,340	21.0	0.8
2022	10,775,870	491,440	16.9	0.8	12,364,090	483,840	19.3	0.8
2021	10,689,900	468,830	17.1	0.8	7,002,780	346,600	11.2	0.6
2020	10,409,050	473,540	17.0	0.8	8,579,030	434,090	14.0	0.7
2019	9,544,720	437,360	15.7	0.7	11,440,460	476,210	18.8	0.8

Source: CPS ASEC and author's calculations. MOE is margin of error. Number estimate and MOE rounded to nearest 10.

Table 4. Poverty in Connecticut, 2019–2023

Demographic Group	OPM-Based Poverty				SPM-Based Poverty			
Year	Number	MOE	Percent	MOE	Number	MOE	Percent	MOE
All People								
2023	301,010	67,930	8.3	1.9	363,590	76,780	10.0	2.1
2022	367,510	93,180	10.2	2.6	363,620	92,260	10.1	2.5
2021	285,480	69,750	8.0	1.9	249,790	65,380	7.0	1.8
2020	389,020	78,410	11.2	2.3	364,370	80,290	10.5	2.3
2019	290,810	62,400	8.3	1.8	328,300	71,860	9.4	2.1
Children (Under 18)								
2023	78,320	30,180	10.7	4.0	79,170	35,720	10.8	4.8
2022	105,760	37,290	14.4	5.1	82,050	33,320	11.1	4.5
2021	52,250	24,320	7.4	3.4	27,080	16,410	3.8	2.3
2020	112,850	34,360	15.9	4.9	74,520	29,470	10.5	4.1
2019	80,140	27,330	10.8	3.6	73,990	29,000	9.9	3.8
Adults (18 to 64)								
2023	160,550	38,460	7.4	1.8	209,880	51,310	9.7	2.4
2022	209,490	62,850	9.6	2.9	233,340	63,340	10.7	2.9
2021	176,490	49,650	8.2	2.2	162,840	51,230	7.5	2.3
2020	224,660	53,580	10.8	2.6	217,850	58,570	10.5	2.8
2019	150,990	40,500	7.3	2.0	198,090	51,960	9.6	2.5
Seniors (65 and Over)								
2023	62,140	25,160	8.6	3.3	74,540	24,860	10.3	3.3
2022	52,260	23,150	7.5	3.1	48,230	20,940	6.9	2.8
2021	56,730	22,880	8.3	3.4	59,870	26,180	8.7	3.8
2020	51,520	19,960	7.4	2.8	72,000	24,490	10.3	3.4
2019	59,670	22,930	8.8	3.2	56,220	21,870	8.3	3.0

Source: CPS ASEC and author's calculations. MOE is margin of error. Number estimate and MOE rounded to nearest 10.

In the U.S. in 2023, the SPM-based near poverty rate was 14.8 percent (49.1 million people), bringing the total population living in poverty or near poverty to 27.7 percent (92.1 million people). For children, the SPM-based near poverty rate was 19.1 percent (13.9 million children), bringing the total child population living in poverty or near poverty to 32.9 percent (23.9 million children).

While poverty rates identify the most financially vulnerable, near poverty rates capture those who are also struggling and at high risk of falling into poverty due to unexpected events, such as a job loss, medical bills, or changes in public assistance programs. Examining both poverty and near poverty is essential for gaining a fuller understanding of financial vulnerability.

Table 5 provides OPM- and SPM-based estimates of poverty, near poverty, and combined poverty and near poverty in the U.S. in 2023 using CPS ASEC data, and **Table 6** provides estimates for Connecticut.[13] In this analysis, *poverty* is defined as the population living with resources below 100 percent of the poverty threshold, *near poverty* is the population living with resources between 100 percent and 149 percent of the poverty threshold, and *poverty and near poverty* is the population living with resources below 150 percent of the poverty threshold.[14] For example, for a family of one adult and two children that rents their housing, the median SPM poverty threshold in the U.S. in 2023 was $30,030 and ranged from $25,120 in lower-cost-of-living areas to $47,890 in higher-cost-of-living areas. Additionally, the median SPM near poverty threshold was $45,050 and ranged from $37,690 in lower-cost-of-living areas to $71,830 in higher-cost-of-living areas.

The major differences between the OPM and SPM, as reviewed earlier, make the SPM a more accurate measure of not only poverty but also near poverty. In 2023, the OPM-based near poverty rate in the U.S. was 7.6 percent (25.3 million people), bringing the total population living in OPM-based poverty or near poverty to 18.7 percent (62.1 million people). The SPM, in contrast, showed a much larger financially vulnerable population, with 14.8 percent (49.1 million people) living in near poverty in the U.S., bringing the total population in poverty or near poverty to 27.7 percent (92.1 million people).

When expanding the analysis to include near poverty, the disparity between the OPM- and SPM-based estimates is largely due to the SPM's inclusion of nondiscretionary expenses, such as taxes, medical costs, and work-related expenses, which reduce available resources and push many people into poverty or near poverty. For example, at the 50th percentile of the resource distribution in the U.S. in 2023, the OPM-based cash income was $75,000, but after accounting for nondiscretionary expenses, the SPM-based total resources fell to $57,990, or 77.3 percent of cash income.

The substantial disparity between OPM- and SPM-based estimates of near poverty is even more evident when examining the child population. In 2023, the OPM-based near poverty rate in the U.S. for children was 10.2 percent (7.4 million children), bringing the total child population living in OPM-based poverty or near poverty to 25.5 percent (18.4 million children). The SPM, in contrast, showed a much larger financially vulnerable population, with 19.1 percent (13.9 million children) living in

near poverty, bringing the total child population in poverty or near poverty to 32.9 percent (23.9 million children).

The SPM also highlights much larger financially vulnerable populations by race and ethnicity compared to the OPM when expanding the analysis to include near poverty. For example, in 2023, the OPM-based poverty and near poverty rate in the U.S. for the Black alone, non-Hispanic population was 28.9 percent (12 million people), whereas the SPM-based poverty and near poverty rate was 39.2 percent (16.3 million people). Likewise, for the Hispanic population, the OPM-based poverty and near poverty rate was 28.4 percent (18.6 million people), whereas the SPM-based poverty and near poverty rate was 44.3 percent (29.1 million people).

Table 5. Poverty and Near Poverty in the U.S., 2023

Demographic Group	OPM-Based Estimate				SPM-Based Estimate			
Poverty Status	Number	MOE	Percent	MOE	Number	MOE	Percent	MOE
All People								
Poverty	36,790,330	896,950	11.1	0.3	42,979,700	1,002,770	12.9	0.3
Near Poverty	25,334,730	713,000	7.6	0.2	49,132,580	1,061,560	14.8	0.3
Poverty + Near Poverty	62,125,060	1,118,340	18.7	0.3	92,112,290	1,389,900	27.7	0.4
Children (Under 18)								
Poverty	11,018,120	448,600	15.3	0.6	10,026,050	410,130	13.8	0.6
Near Poverty	7,396,330	339,100	10.2	0.5	13,889,810	471,500	19.1	0.6
Poverty + Near Poverty	18,414,450	507,040	25.5	0.7	23,915,860	546,810	32.9	0.8
Adults (18 to 64)								
Poverty	20,003,950	543,950	10.0	0.3	24,615,630	662,360	12.3	0.3
Near Poverty	12,637,090	439,360	6.3	0.2	26,420,450	668,330	13.2	0.3
Poverty + Near Poverty	32,641,040	714,420	16.3	0.4	51,036,080	927,040	25.5	0.5
Seniors (65 and Over)								
Poverty	5,768,260	242,620	9.7	0.4	8,338,020	301,940	14.1	0.5
Near Poverty	5,301,320	202,490	8.9	0.3	8,822,330	319,290	14.9	0.5
Poverty + Near Poverty	11,069,580	325,000	18.7	0.5	17,160,350	384,320	29.0	0.6
White Alone, Non-Hispanic								
Poverty	14,886,870	518,640	7.7	0.3	17,151,040	625,640	8.9	0.3
Near Poverty	10,850,550	493,010	5.6	0.3	20,955,950	683,370	10.9	0.4
Poverty + Near Poverty	25,737,420	766,260	13.4	0.4	38,106,990	969,830	19.8	0.5
Black Alone, Non-Hispanic								
Poverty	7,443,520	422,460	18.0	1.0	7,669,100	433,430	18.5	1.0
Near Poverty	4,530,480	314,950	10.9	0.8	8,623,580	449,080	20.8	1.0
Poverty + Near Poverty	11,974,000	508,180	28.9	1.2	16,292,680	584,700	39.2	1.4
Hispanic, Any Race								
Poverty	10,886,490	475,390	16.6	0.7	13,752,590	538,340	21.0	0.8
Near Poverty	7,716,880	400,710	11.8	0.6	15,310,380	625,720	23.4	1.0
Poverty + Near Poverty	18,603,360	533,020	28.4	0.8	29,062,960	701,590	44.3	1.1

Source: CPS ASEC and author's calculations. MOE is margin of error. Number estimate and MOE rounded to nearest 10.

Table 6. Poverty and Near Poverty in Connecticut, 2023

Demographic Group	OPM-Based Estimate				SPM-Based Estimate			
Poverty Status	**Number**	**MOE**	**Percent**	**MOE**	**Number**	**MOE**	**Percent**	**MOE**
All People								
Poverty	301,010	67,930	8.3	1.9	363,590	76,780	10.0	2.1
Near Poverty	212,160	65,910	5.9	1.8	438,330	82,850	12.1	2.3
Poverty + Near Poverty	513,170	89,670	14.2	2.5	801,910	121,170	22.2	3.3
Children (Under 18)								
Poverty	78,320	30,180	10.7	4.0	79,170	35,720	10.8	4.8
Near Poverty	52,010	33,370	7.1	4.5	119,570	35,050	16.3	4.7
Poverty + Near Poverty	130,320	44,180	17.7	5.9	198,730	48,420	27.0	6.4
Adults (18 to 64)								
Poverty	160,550	38,460	7.4	1.8	209,880	51,310	9.7	2.4
Near Poverty	113,060	36,760	5.2	1.7	238,150	54,780	11.0	2.5
Poverty + Near Poverty	273,610	50,340	12.6	2.3	448,020	76,670	20.7	3.5
Seniors (65 and Over)								
Poverty	62,140	25,160	8.6	3.3	74,540	24,860	10.3	3.3
Near Poverty	47,100	17,430	6.5	2.4	80,610	28,580	11.2	4.0
Poverty + Near Poverty	109,240	31,360	15.2	4.1	155,160	38,730	21.5	5.2

Source: CPS ASEC and author's calculations. MOE is margin of error. Number estimate and MOE rounded to nearest 10.

Estimates of the Impact of Public Benefits and Expenses on Poverty

In the U.S. in 2023, the public benefits that lifted the most people out of poverty were Social Security (27.6 million people), the federal income tax when including refundable tax credits (5 million people), and food assistance programs (4.5 million people). The largest contributors to poverty were medical expenses (7.4 million people), federal payroll taxes (4.6 million people), and work expenses (3.8 million people).

Another major advantage of the SPM's more complete measure of resources is that it is possible to estimate the individual impact of all the included major public benefits and nondiscretionary expenses. Specifically, to estimate the impact of benefits that decrease poverty, the value of the benefit is subtracted from each unit's resources and poverty status is recalculated. Conversely, to estimate the impact of nondiscretionary expenses that increase poverty, the value of the expense is added back to each unit's resources and poverty status is recalculated. Following the methodology used by the U.S. Census Bureau, these adjustments are made independently and assume no behavioral changes, such as shifts in employment or expenses.

Table 7 provides estimates of the impact of major public benefits and nondiscretionary expenses on SPM-based poverty rates in the U.S. and Connecticut in 2023 using CPS ASEC data.[15]

Decrease in Poverty Due to Public Benefits

Social Security was the largest antipoverty program in the U.S. in 2023, lifting 27.6 million people out of poverty, equivalent to an 8.3 percentage point decrease in the poverty rate. Social Security primarily benefited seniors, lifting 19.6 million out of poverty, though it also lifted many adults (6.7 million) and children (1.3 million) out of poverty.

The federal income tax, which includes the refundable Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and refundable Child Tax Credit (CTC), was the second-largest antipoverty program in the U.S. in 2023, lifting 5 million people out of poverty, equivalent to a 1.5 percentage point decrease in the poverty rate. The EITC was the largest component, lifting 4.1 million people out of poverty, primarily children (2.1 million) and adults (1.9 million). The CTC also had a major impact, lifting 2.3 million people out of poverty, primarily children (1.3 million) and adults (0.9 million). However, the total number of people lifted out of poverty by the federal income tax is lower than the combined total for the EITC and CTC because other parts of the federal income tax reduce people's total resources.

Food assistance, specifically the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and the National School Lunch Program, was the third-largest antipoverty program in the U.S. in 2023, lifting 4.5 million people out of poverty, equivalent to a 1.4 percentage point decrease in the poverty rate. SNAP was the larger of the two programs, lifting 3.4 million people out of poverty, primarily adults (1.5 million) and children (1.3 million). The National School Lunch Program also had a major impact,

lifting 1.2 million people out of poverty, primarily children (0.6 million) and adults (0.5 million). Notably, the combined impact of these programs exceeds the sum of their individual contributions because many people relied on both public benefits to stay out of poverty.

Increase in Poverty Due to Nondiscretionary Expenses

Medical expenses were the largest contributor to poverty in the U.S. in 2023, pushing 7.4 million people into poverty, equivalent to a 2.2 percentage point increase in the poverty rate. Medical expenses primarily pushed adults (3.8 million) into poverty, though they also pushed a substantial number of seniors (2.2. million) and children (1.5 million) into poverty.

Federal payroll taxes were the second-largest contributor to poverty in the U.S. in 2023, pushing 4.6 million people into poverty, equivalent to a 1.4 percentage point increase in the poverty rate. Payroll taxes primarily pushed adults (2.9 million) into poverty, though they also pushed a substantial number of children (1.4 million) into poverty.

Work expenses, including child care and transportation costs, were the third-largest contributor to poverty in the U.S. in 2023, pushing 3.8 million people into poverty, equivalent to a 1.1 percentage point increase in the poverty rate. Work expenses primarily pushed adults (2.4 million) into poverty, though they also pushed a substantial number of children (1.1 million) into poverty.

Impact of Public Benefits and Nondiscretionary Expenses on Poverty Over Time

The impact of public benefits and nondiscretionary expenses on poverty can change significantly over time, as policies and economic conditions shift, making it important to examine more than a single year of poverty data. To demonstrate this dynamic, **Table 8** shows the public benefits that generated the largest decreases in SPM-based poverty in the U.S. and Connecticut from 2019 to 2022 using CPS ASEC data, and **Table 9** shows the nondiscretionary expenses that generated the largest increases in SPM-based poverty during the same period.[16]

The most significant change in the impact of major public benefits occurred with the federal income tax. In the U.S., the federal income tax lifted 17.6 million people out of poverty in 2020 and 19.9 million people out of poverty in 2021, largely due to the inclusion of Economic Impact Payments in 2020 and 2021, as well as temporary expansions to the Earned Income Tax Credit, Child Tax Credit, and Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit in 2021. However, by 2022, these temporary provisions had expired, reducing the poverty-decreasing impact of the federal income tax to 5.3 million people.

The major contributors to poverty—medical expenses, federal payroll taxes, and work expenses—remained relatively stable from 2019 to 2022, pushing millions of people in the U.S. into poverty each year.

Table 7. Impact on SPM-Based Poverty, 2023

Public Benefit / Expenses	Impact on Poverty in the U.S.				Impact on Poverty in Connecticut			
Demographic Group	Number	MOE	PP	MOE	Number	MOE	PP	MOE
Decrease in Poverty								
Social Security	**-27,583,500**	**638,700**	**-8.3**	**0.2**	**-280,280**	**63,590**	**-7.7**	**1.7**
Children	-1,340,360	166,810	-1.8	0.2	-24,360	22,940	-3.3	3.1
Adults	-6,667,660	315,740	-3.3	0.2	-51,710	23,400	-2.4	1.1
Seniors	-19,575,480	436,240	-33.0	0.7	-204,210	46,930	-28.3	5.7
Federal Income Tax	**-5,027,110**	**499,600**	**-1.5**	**0.2**	**-31,190**	**24,840**	**-0.9**	**0.7**
Children	-3,175,540	267,830	-4.4	0.4	-16,860	13,460	-2.3	1.9
Adults	-1,898,700	265,600	-0.9	0.1	-14,330	12,050	-0.7	0.6
Seniors	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Earned Income Tax Credit	**-4,066,250**	**371,210**	**-1.2**	**0.1**	*	*	*	*
Children	-2,085,480	213,070	-2.9	0.3	*	*	*	*
Adults	-1,930,520	178,020	-1.0	0.1	*	*	*	*
Seniors	-50,240	19,440	-0.1	0.03	*	*	*	*
Child Tax Credit	**-2,253,560**	**314,300**	**-0.7**	**0.1**	*	*	*	*
Children	-1,327,770	190,140	-1.8	0.3	*	*	*	*
Adults	-897,200	129,160	-0.4	0.1	*	*	*	*
Seniors	-28,580	18,060	-0.05	0.03	*	*	*	*
SNAP and School Lunch	**-4,515,740**	**340,460**	**-1.4**	**0.1**	**-59,330**	**38,570**	**-1.6**	**1.1**
Children	-2,003,050	203,860	-2.8	0.3	-26,270	24,370	-3.6	3.3
Adults	-1,956,570	157,090	-1.0	0.1	-18,460	13,050	-0.9	0.6
Seniors	-556,120	75,530	-0.9	0.1	-14,590	9,990	-2.0	1.4
SNAP	**-3,364,300**	**284,140**	**-1.0**	**0.1**	*	*	*	*
Children	-1,338,300	166,730	-1.8	0.2	*	*	*	*
Adults	-1,491,060	130,520	-0.7	0.1	*	*	*	*
Seniors	-534,940	73,500	-0.9	0.1	*	*	*	*
School Lunch	**-1,152,420**	**193,090**	**-0.3**	**0.1**	*	*	*	*
Children	-649,670	115,020	-0.9	0.2	*	*	*	*
Adults	-480,530	85,960	-0.2	0.04	*	*	*	*
Seniors	-22,220	17,390	-0.04	0.03	*	*	*	*
Housing Subsidies	**-2,811,900**	**268,560**	**-0.8**	**0.1**	**-61,670**	**32,310**	**-1.7**	**0.9**
Children	-878,240	146,930	-1.2	0.2	-17,880	16,190	-2.4	2.2
Adults	-1,209,930	130,310	-0.6	0.1	-25,940	15,660	-1.2	0.7
Seniors	-723,730	84,890	-1.2	0.1	-17,850	11,640	-2.5	1.6
Supplemental Security Income	**-2,516,890**	**227,890**	**-0.8**	**0.1**	**-34,800**	**22,620**	**-1.0**	**0.6**
Children	-338,440	82,620	-0.5	0.1	*	*	*	*
Adults	-1,585,200	150,760	-0.8	0.1	-28,720	17,450	-1.3	0.8
Seniors	-593,250	79,690	-1.0	0.1	*	*	*	*

Table 7. Impact on SPM-Based Poverty, 2023 (continued)

Public Benefit / Expenses	Impact on Poverty in the U.S.				Impact on Poverty in Connecticut			
Demographic Group	Number	MOE	PP	MOE	Number	MOE	PP	MOE
Child Support Received	**-577,140**	**138,970**	**-0.2**	**0.04**	*	*	*	*
Children	-344,230	94,020	-0.5	0.1	*	*	*	*
Adults	-232,710	55,180	-0.1	0.03	*	*	*	*
Seniors	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
TANF / General Assistance	**-521,630**	**121,330**	**-0.2**	**0.04**	*	*	*	*
Children	-261,070	76,450	-0.4	0.1	*	*	*	*
Adults	-217,560	58,270	-0.1	0.03	*	*	*	*
Seniors	-42,990	21,660	-0.1	0.04	*	*	*	*
Unemployment Insurance	**-293,140**	**85,440**	**-0.1**	**0.03**	*	*	*	*
Children	-57,130	28,120	-0.1	0.04	*	*	*	*
Adults	-188,900	62,060	-0.1	0.03	*	*	*	*
Seniors	-47,110	23,410	-0.1	0.04	*	*	*	*
Utility Assistance	**-226,820**	**58,070**	**-0.1**	**0.02**	*	*	*	*
Children	-37,650	21,190	-0.1	0.03	*	*	*	*
Adults	-120,520	38,860	-0.1	0.02	*	*	*	*
Seniors	-68,650	25,160	-0.1	0.04	*	*	*	*
WIC	**-219,820**	**91,450**	**-0.1**	**0.03**	*	*	*	*
Children	-103,400	48,360	-0.1	0.07	*	*	*	*
Adults	-116,420	54,650	-0.1	0.03	*	*	*	*
Seniors	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Increase in Poverty								
Medical Expenses	**7,441,470**	**365,270**	**2.2**	**0.1**	**66,570**	**42,850**	**1.8**	**1.2**
Children	1,481,170	159,730	2.0	0.2	*	*	*	*
Adults	3,798,640	222,490	1.9	0.1	37,100	22,220	1.7	1.0
Seniors	2,161,660	151,670	3.6	0.3	11,200	7,510	1.6	1.0
Federal Payroll Taxes	**4,593,010**	**346,080**	**1.4**	**0.1**	**50,350**	**43,880**	**1.4**	**1.2**
Children	1,436,460	152,470	2.0	0.2	*	*	*	*
Adults	2,913,920	237,670	1.5	0.1	29,340	27,840	1.4	1.3
Seniors	242,630	49,740	0.4	0.1	5,780	5,760	0.8	0.8
Work Expenses	**3,751,680**	**300,290**	**1.1**	**0.1**	**17,450**	**16,500**	**0.5**	**0.46**
Children	1,115,610	134,530	1.5	0.2	*	*	*	*
Adults	2,408,520	202,690	1.2	0.1	10,700	10,580	0.5	0.49
Seniors	227,550	47,570	0.4	0.1	*	*	*	*
State Income Tax	**246,150**	**188,690**	**0.07**	**0.06**	*	*	*	*
Children	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Adults	236,150	124,510	0.12	0.06	*	*	*	*
Seniors	58,440	40,210	0.10	0.07	*	*	*	*

Source: CPS ASEC and author's calculations. MOE is margin of error. PP is percentage point. Number estimate and MOE rounded to nearest 10. *Estimate not provided because MOE is equal to or greater than estimate.

Table 8. Largest Decreases in SPM-Based Poverty, 2019–2022

Year	Impact on Poverty in the U.S.				Impact on Poverty in Connecticut			
Public Benefit	Number	MOE	PP	MOE	Number	MOE	PP	MOE
2022								
Social Security	**-28,923,600**	**607,230**	**-8.7**	**0.2**	**-336,050**	**73,800**	**-9.3**	**2.0**
Federal Income Tax	**-5,263,060**	**439,430**	**-1.6**	**0.1**	**-32,040**	**30,530**	**-0.9**	**0.8**
Earned Income Tax Credit	-3,908,030	356,420	-1.2	0.1	-25,720	24,130	-0.7	0.7
Child Tax Credit	-2,420,230	303,360	-0.7	0.1	-25,720	24,130	-0.7	0.7
SNAP and School Lunch	**-5,116,920**	**386,270**	**-1.5**	**0.1**	**-73,190**	**42,130**	**-2.0**	**1.2**
SNAP	-3,652,140	323,700	-1.1	0.1	-53,400	30,750	-1.5	0.9
School Lunch	-1,458,350	242,510	-0.4	0.1	*	*	*	*
2021								
Social Security	**-26,257,330**	**623,520**	**-8.0**	**0.2**	**-297,880**	**71,170**	**-8.4**	**2.0**
Federal Income Tax	**-19,893,350**	**734,110**	**-6.1**	**0.2**	**-120,970**	**48,210**	**-3.4**	**1.3**
Economic Impact Payment	-8,955,870	450,980	-2.7	0.1	-91,580	42,180	-2.6	1.2
Child Tax Credit	-5,396,760	400,490	-1.6	0.1	-42,910	29,300	-1.2	0.8
Earned Income Tax Credit	-2,623,180	233,200	-0.8	0.1	-32,480	26,710	-0.9	0.7
Child and Dep. Care Tax Credit	-109,300	65,320	-0.03	0.02	*	*	*	*
SNAP and School Lunch	**-3,453,630**	**264,510**	**-1.1**	**0.1**	*	*	*	*
SNAP	-2,829,180	242,790	-0.9	0.1	*	*	*	*
School Lunch	-581,200	118,010	-0.2	0.04	*	*	*	*
2020								
Social Security	**-26,505,390**	**658,130**	**-8.1**	**0.2**	**-238,920**	**49,630**	**-6.9**	**1.4**
Federal Income Tax	**-17,615,560**	**648,830**	**-5.4**	**0.2**	**-69,960**	**35,320**	**-2.0**	**1.0**
Economic Impact Payments	-11,712,300	542,720	-3.6	0.2	-50,870	24,500	-1.5	0.7
Earned Income Tax Credit	-3,210,470	287,410	-1.0	0.1	*	*	*	*
Child Tax Credit	-1,149,350	181,260	-0.4	0.1	*	*	*	*
Unemployment Insurance	**-5,533,090**	**357,800**	**-1.7**	**0.1**	**-55,500**	**30,990**	**-1.6**	**0.9**
2019								
Social Security	**-26,395,680**	**651,790**	**-8.1**	**0.2**	**-255,930**	**52,310**	**-7.3**	**1.5**
Federal Income Tax	**-6,422,270**	**456,420**	**-2.0**	**0.1**	**-45,020**	**33,690**	**-1.3**	**1.0**
Earned Income Tax Credit	-4,634,840	361,270	-1.4	0.1	-39,100	32,730	-1.1	0.9
Child Tax Credit	-2,437,180	280,630	-0.7	0.1	-16,350	15,800	-0.5	0.5
SNAP and School Lunch	**-3,765,120**	**331,020**	**-1.2**	**0.1**	**-42,300**	**24,970**	**-1.2**	**0.7**
SNAP	-2,515,420	269,400	-0.8	0.1	-23,870	17,630	-0.7	0.5
School Lunch	-1,137,490	184,570	-0.3	0.1	*	*	*	*

Source: CPS ASEC and author's calculations. MOE is margin of error. PP is percentage point. Number estimate and MOE rounded to nearest 10. *Estimate not provided because MOE is equal to or greater than estimate.

Table 9. Largest Increases in SPM-Based Poverty, 2019–2022

Year	Impact on Poverty in the U.S.				Impact on Poverty in Connecticut			
Expenses	Number	MOE	PP	MOE	Number	MOE	PP	MOE
2022								
Medical Expenses	7,106,360	389,950	2.1	0.1	46,260	24,630	1.3	0.7
Federal Payroll Taxes	4,050,690	350,520	1.2	0.1	35,150	24,610	1.0	0.7
Work Expenses	3,322,580	307,510	1.0	0.1	27,580	20,240	0.8	0.6
2021								
Medical Expenses	4,682,540	292,030	1.4	0.1	41,590	24,440	1.2	0.7
Work Expenses	2,090,500	214,210	0.6	0.1	*	*	*	*
Federal Payroll Taxes	1,922,670	220,200	0.6	0.1	*	*	*	*
2020								
Medical Expenses	5,013,700	294,610	1.5	0.1	87,550	35,430	2.5	1.0
Work Expenses	2,287,390	226,660	0.7	0.1	44,600	26,050	1.3	0.7
Federal Payroll Taxes	2,009,330	214,440	0.6	0.1	61,390	34,420	1.8	1.0
2019								
Medical Expenses	7,593,050	421,970	2.3	0.1	46,800	26,550	1.3	0.8
Work Expenses	4,603,090	325,650	1.4	0.1	29,320	22,520	0.8	0.6
Federal Payroll Taxes	4,038,190	308,630	1.2	0.1	29,320	22,520	0.8	0.6

Source: CPS ASEC and author's calculations. MOE is margin of error. PP is percentage point. Number estimate and MOE rounded to nearest 10. *Estimate not provided because MOE is equal to or greater than estimate.

Poverty in Connecticut
Using the ACS SPM

This section provides an overview of poverty in Connecticut using public use microdata sample files from the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey Supplemental Poverty Measure (ACS SPM). Like the parallel analysis in the preceding section, the first part provides estimates of poverty and near poverty, and the second part provides estimates of the impact of major public benefits and nondiscretionary expenses on poverty.

Estimates of Poverty and Near Poverty

In Connecticut, the SPM-based poverty rate in 2022 was 12.1 percent (423,200 people), up from a low of 8.4 percent (294,400 people) in 2021. For children, the SPM-based poverty rate in 2022 was 11.6 percent (84,440 children), up from a low of 6.8 percent (49,430 children) in 2021.

Figure 4 shows the poverty rate for both the total population and children in Connecticut based on the OPM and SPM using ACS SPM data.[17] For the total population, the OPM-based poverty rate remained relatively stable between 2019 and 2022, ranging from a low of 9.9 percent (347,500 people) to a high of 10.2 percent (351,730 people). The SPM-based poverty rate, in contrast, varied significantly, decreasing from 12.5 percent (431,740 people) in 2019 to a low of 8.4 percent (294,400 people) in 2021 and then increasing to 12.1 percent (423,200 people) in 2022.

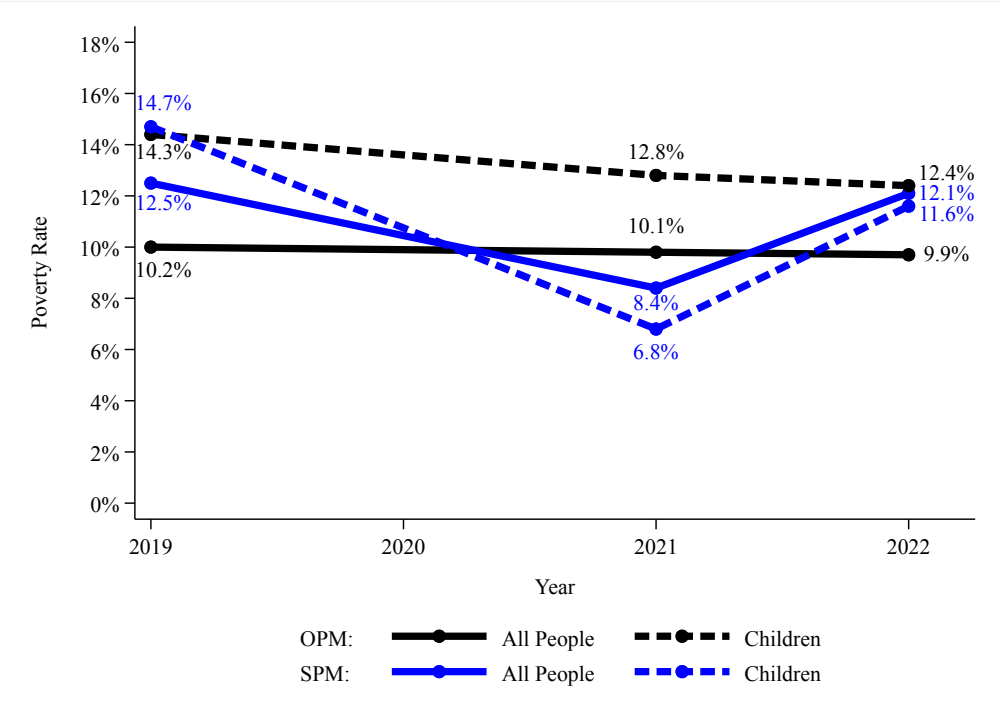
The disparity between the OPM and SPM is even more evident for child poverty during this period. The OPM-based child poverty rate remained relatively stable, ranging from 12.4 percent (89,100 children) to 14.3 percent (102,840 children). The SPM-based child poverty rate, in contrast, decreased from 14.7 percent (107,010 children) in 2019 to a low of 6.8 percent (49,430 children) in 2021 and then increased to 11.6 percent (84,440 children) in 2022.

The substantial differences between the OPM and SPM, especially for children, and the sharp rise in SPM-based poverty rates after 2021 are largely due to the SPM's inclusion of the federal income tax, which had major changes during this period. In 2021, the federal income tax included an Economic Impact Payment along with temporary expansions of the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), Child Tax Credit (CTC), and Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit (CDCTC). In 2019 and 2022, in contrast, the federal income tax only included the standard EITC, CTC, and CDCTC.[18]

Poverty rates also vary significantly by race and ethnicity based on both the OPM and SPM. Focusing on the SPM, the overall poverty rate in 2022 was 12.1 percent but ranged from 8.6 percent for the white alone, non-Hispanic population to 18.1 percent for the Black alone, non-Hispanic population and 20.3 percent for the Hispanic population.

For a more comprehensive overview of OPM- and SPM-based poverty in Connecticut from 2019 to 2022 using ACS SPM data, **Table 10** provides estimates by age, **Table 11** provides estimates by race and ethnicity, and **Table 12** provides estimates for children by race and ethnicity.[19]

Figure 4. Total and Child Poverty Rate in Connecticut, 2019–2022



Source: ACS SPM and author's calculations. No data available for 2020.

Table 10. Poverty by Age in Connecticut, 2019–2022

Demographic Group	OPM-Based Poverty				SPM-Based Poverty			
Year	Number	MOE	Percent	MOE	Number	MOE	Percent	MOE
All People								
2022	347,500	19,610	9.9	0.6	423,200	25,030	12.1	0.7
2021	353,470	19,540	10.1	0.6	294,400	16,090	8.4	0.5
2020	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
2019	351,730	14,200	10.2	0.4	431,740	18,520	12.5	0.5
Children (Under 18)								
2022	89,100	9,950	12.4	1.4	84,440	9,590	11.6	1.3
2021	91,920	9,160	12.8	1.3	49,430	6,990	6.8	1.0
2020	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
2019	102,840	8,690	14.3	1.2	107,010	8,740	14.7	1.2
Adults (18 to 64)								
2022	202,740	11,670	9.4	0.5	254,520	16,280	11.9	0.8
2021	205,690	11,730	9.5	0.5	185,600	11,560	8.7	0.5
2020	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
2019	203,140	9,450	9.5	0.4	259,780	12,400	12.2	0.6
Seniors (65 and Over)								
2022	55,660	5,230	8.6	0.8	84,240	6,750	13.1	1.0
2021	55,860	5,000	8.8	0.8	59,370	4,540	9.5	0.7
2020	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
2019	45,750	4,640	7.5	0.8	64,960	5,110	10.7	0.8

Source: ACS SPM and author's calculations. MOE is margin of error. Number estimate and MOE rounded to nearest 10.
*No data available for 2020.

Table 11. Poverty by Race and Ethnicity in Connecticut, 2019–2022

Demographic Group	OPM-Based Poverty				SPM-Based Poverty			
Year	Number	MOE	Percent	MOE	Number	MOE	Percent	MOE
All People								
2022	347,500	19,610	9.9	0.6	423,200	25,030	12.1	0.7
2021	353,470	19,540	10.1	0.6	294,400	16,090	8.4	0.5
2020	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
2019	351,730	14,200	10.2	0.4	431,740	18,520	12.5	0.5
White Alone, Non-Hispanic								
2022	143,010	11,230	6.6	0.5	185,950	13,230	8.6	0.6
2021	149,950	10,190	6.8	0.5	143,250	10,010	6.5	0.5
2020	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
2019	130,950	9,600	5.8	0.4	183,450	13,100	8.1	0.6
Black Alone, Non-Hispanic								
2022	48,710	8,200	14.2	2.3	61,670	9,500	18.1	2.7
2021	49,410	6,500	14.5	2.0	38,930	5,900	11.5	1.7
2020	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
2019	63,730	8,040	18.4	2.4	75,780	9,970	21.9	2.8
Asian Alone, Non-Hispanic								
2022	15,730	3,600	9.6	2.2	19,600	4,210	11.9	2.5
2021	12,930	3,500	7.9	2.1	11,820	2,700	7.2	1.7
2020	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
2019	14,030	3,590	8.8	2.2	19,460	4,190	12.2	2.6
Other Races, Non-Hispanic								
2022	20,100	4,860	10.9	2.5	25,350	5,790	13.7	2.9
2021	19,170	3,690	10.8	2.1	18,270	3,980	10.3	2.2
2020	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
2019	14,740	4,220	15.2	3.7	16,000	4,240	16.5	4.0
Hispanic, Any Race								
2022	119,960	11,730	18.7	1.8	130,630	14,220	20.3	2.2
2021	122,000	12,680	19.6	2.0	82,130	10,250	13.2	1.6
2020	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
2019	128,270	11,830	21.9	2.0	137,050	12,530	23.4	2.1

Source: ACS SPM and author's calculations. MOE is margin of error. Number estimate and MOE rounded to nearest 10.
*No data available for 2020.

Table 12. Child Poverty by Race and Ethnicity in Connecticut, 2019–2022

Demographic Group	OPM-Based Poverty				SPM-Based Poverty			
Year	Number	MOE	Percent	MOE	Number	MOE	Percent	MOE
Children (Under 18)								
2022	89,100	9,950	12.4	1.4	84,440	9,590	11.6	1.3
2021	91,920	9,160	12.8	1.3	49,430	6,990	6.8	1.0
2020	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
2019	102,840	8,690	14.3	1.2	107,010	8,740	14.7	1.2
White Alone, Non-Hispanic Children								
2022	17,730	3,600	5.1	1.0	20,970	4,080	5.9	1.2
2021	22,020	3,920	6.1	1.1	15,540	3,360	4.3	0.9
2020	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
2019	18,260	4,170	4.8	1.1	24,700	5,110	6.4	1.3
Black Alone, Non-Hispanic Children								
2022	14,380	4,410	20.0	5.8	14,380	4,200	19.8	5.5
2021	11,290	3,260	15.3	4.4	5,560	2,250	7.4	3.0
2020	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
2019	22,110	4,240	27.9	5.4	25,470	5,330	31.1	6.3
Asian Alone, Non-Hispanic Children								
2022	2,920	1,460	8.7	4.2	2,930	1,250	8.7	3.6
2021	3,510	1,700	10.6	5.0	1,170	840	3.5	2.5
2020	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
2019	3,080	1,750	9.3	5.1	3,500	1,750	10.5	5.0
Other Races, Non-Hispanic Children								
2022	8,780	2,940	13.0	4.1	9,200	3,120	13.5	4.3
2021	5,320	1,970	8.4	3.1	4,040	1,790	6.3	2.8
2020	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
2019	5,060	2,470	12.5	5.5	5,960	2,700	14.6	6.1
Hispanic, Any Race Children								
2022	45,290	6,530	23.1	3.3	36,950	6,220	18.4	3.1
2021	49,780	7,080	26.1	3.7	23,130	5,410	12.0	2.8
2020	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
2019	54,320	7,000	29.9	3.9	47,380	6,350	25.8	3.5

Source: ACS SPM and author's calculations. MOE is margin of error. Number estimate and MOE rounded to nearest 10.
*No data available for 2020.

In Connecticut in 2022, the SPM-based near poverty rate was 13 percent (457,530 people), bringing the total population living in poverty or near poverty to 25.1 percent (880,720 people). For children, the SPM-based near poverty rate was 16.8 percent (122,440 children), bringing the total child population living in poverty or near poverty to 28.4 percent (206,880 children).

While poverty rates identify the most financially vulnerable, near poverty rates capture those who are also struggling and at high risk of falling into poverty due to unexpected events, such as a job loss, medical bills, or changes in public assistance programs. Examining both poverty and near poverty is essential for gaining a fuller understanding of financial vulnerability.

Using ACS SPM data for Connecticut in 2022, **Table 13** provides OPM- and SPM-based estimates of poverty, near poverty, and combined poverty and near poverty by age, **Table 14** provides estimates by race and ethnicity, and **Table 15** provides estimates by race and ethnicity for children.[20] In this analysis, *poverty* is defined as the population living with resources below 100 percent of the poverty threshold, *near poverty* is the population living with resources between 100 percent and 149 percent of the poverty threshold, and *poverty and near poverty* is the population living with resources below 150 percent of the poverty threshold.[21] For example, for a family of one adult and two children that rents their housing, the median SPM poverty threshold in Connecticut in 2022 was $30,010 and ranged from $27,570 in lower-cost-of-living areas to $34,840 in higher-cost-of-living areas. Additionally, the median SPM near poverty threshold was $45,010 and ranged from $41,350 in lower-cost-of-living areas to $52,260 in higher-cost-of-living areas.

The major differences between the OPM and SPM, as reviewed earlier, make the SPM a more accurate measure of not only poverty but also near poverty. In 2022, the OPM-based near poverty rate in Connecticut was 5.9 percent (207,740 people), bringing the total population living in OPM-based poverty or near poverty to 15.8 percent (555,240 people). The SPM, in contrast, showed a much larger financially vulnerable population, with 13 percent (457,530 people) living in near poverty in Connecticut, bringing the total population in poverty or near poverty to 25.1 percent (880,720 people).

When expanding the analysis to include near poverty, the disparity between the OPM- and SPM-based estimates is largely due to the SPM's inclusion of nondiscretionary expenses, such as taxes, medical costs, and work-related expenses, which reduce available resources and push many people into poverty or near poverty. For example, at the 50th percentile of the resource distribution in Connecticut in 2022, the OPM-based cash income was $83,000, but after accounting for nondiscretionary expenses, the SPM-based total resources fell to $63,370, or 76.3 percent of cash income.

The substantial disparity between OPM- and SPM-based estimates of near poverty is even more evident when examining the child population. In 2022, the OPM-based near poverty rate in Connecticut for children was 7 percent (50,330 children), bringing the total child population living in OPM-based poverty or near poverty to 19.4 percent (139,430 children). The SPM, in contrast, showed

a much larger financially vulnerable population, with 16.8 percent (122,440 children) living in near poverty, bringing the total child population in poverty or near poverty to 28.4 percent (206,880 children).

The SPM also highlights much larger financially vulnerable populations by race and ethnicity compared to the OPM when expanding the analysis to include near poverty. For example, in 2022, the OPM-based poverty and near poverty rate in Connecticut for the Black alone, non-Hispanic population was 23.2 percent (79,390 people), whereas the SPM-based poverty and near poverty rate was 36.7 percent (124,950 people). Likewise, for the Hispanic population, the OPM-based poverty and near poverty rate was 29.3 percent (187,780 people), whereas the SPM-based poverty and near poverty rate was 45.5 percent (292,970 people).

Table 13. Poverty and Near Poverty by Age in Connecticut, 2022

Demographic Group	OPM-Based Estimate				SPM-Based Estimate			
Poverty Status	Number	MOE	Percent	MOE	Number	MOE	Percent	MOE
All People								
Poverty	347,500	19,610	9.9	0.6	423,200	25,030	12.1	0.7
Near Poverty	207,740	13,060	5.9	0.4	457,530	27,150	13.0	0.8
Poverty + Near Poverty	555,240	23,200	15.8	0.7	880,720	29,690	25.1	0.8
Children (Under 18)								
Poverty	89,100	9,950	12.4	1.4	84,440	9,590	11.6	1.3
Near Poverty	50,330	6,410	7.0	0.9	122,440	11,310	16.8	1.6
Poverty + Near Poverty	139,430	10,510	19.4	1.5	206,880	11,860	28.4	1.6
Adults (18 to 64)								
Poverty	202,740	11,670	9.4	0.5	254,520	16,280	11.9	0.8
Near Poverty	114,480	7,820	5.3	0.4	253,520	15,740	11.9	0.7
Poverty + Near Poverty	317,220	14,710	14.8	0.7	508,040	19,220	23.8	0.9
Seniors (65 and Over)								
Poverty	55,660	5,230	8.6	0.8	84,240	6,750	13.1	1.0
Near Poverty	42,920	4,030	6.6	0.6	81,560	5,650	12.7	0.9
Poverty + Near Poverty	98,580	6,460	15.3	1.0	165,800	7,600	25.8	1.2

Source: ACS SPM and author's calculations. MOE is margin of error. Number estimate and MOE rounded to nearest 10.

Table 14. Poverty and Near Poverty by Race and Ethnicity in Connecticut, 2022

Demographic Group	OPM-Based Estimate				SPM-Based Estimate			
Poverty Status	Number	MOE	Percent	MOE	Number	MOE	Percent	MOE
All People								
Poverty	347,500	19,610	9.9	0.6	423,200	25,030	12.1	0.7
Near Poverty	207,740	13,060	5.9	0.4	457,530	27,150	13.0	0.8
Poverty + Near Poverty	555,240	23,200	15.8	0.7	880,720	29,690	25.1	0.8
White Alone, Non-Hispanic								
Poverty	143,010	11,230	6.6	0.5	185,950	13,230	8.6	0.6
Near Poverty	85,430	7,650	3.9	0.3	186,640	11,850	8.6	0.5
Poverty + Near Poverty	228,440	14,890	10.5	0.7	372,590	17,220	17.1	0.8
Black Alone, Non-Hispanic								
Poverty	48,710	8,200	14.2	2.3	61,670	9,500	18.1	2.7
Near Poverty	30,680	6,320	9.0	1.8	63,290	8,530	18.6	2.4
Poverty + Near Poverty	79,390	8,710	23.2	2.4	124,950	11,870	36.7	3.3
Asian Alone, Non-Hispanic								
Poverty	15,730	3,600	9.6	2.2	19,600	4,210	11.9	2.5
Near Poverty	8,930	3,260	5.4	2.0	22,620	6,000	13.7	3.6
Poverty + Near Poverty	24,660	4,350	15.0	2.6	42,220	6,490	25.7	3.8
Other Races, Non-Hispanic								
Poverty	20,100	4,860	10.9	2.5	25,350	5,790	13.7	2.9
Near Poverty	14,870	4,270	8.1	2.2	22,650	4,940	12.3	2.6
Poverty + Near Poverty	34,970	6,400	18.9	3.0	47,990	6,820	26.0	3.2
Hispanic, Any Race								
Poverty	119,960	11,730	18.7	1.8	130,630	14,220	20.3	2.2
Near Poverty	67,820	8,700	10.6	1.4	162,340	16,570	25.2	2.6
Poverty + Near Poverty	187,780	13,600	29.3	2.1	292,970	16,050	45.5	2.5

Source: ACS SPM and author's calculations. MOE is margin of error. Number estimate and MOE rounded to nearest 10.

Table 15. Child Poverty and Near Poverty by Race and Ethnicity in Connecticut, 2022

Demographic Group / Poverty Status	OPM-Based Estimate				SPM-Based Estimate			
	Number	MOE	Percent	MOE	Number	MOE	Percent	MOE
Children (Under 18)								
Poverty	89,100	9,950	12.4	1.4	84,440	9,590	11.6	1.3
Near Poverty	50,330	6,410	7.0	0.9	122,440	11,310	16.8	1.6
Poverty + Near Poverty	139,430	10,510	19.4	1.5	206,880	11,860	28.4	1.6
White Alone, Non-Hispanic Children								
Poverty	17,730	3,600	5.1	1.0	20,970	4,080	5.9	1.2
Near Poverty	12,640	2,680	3.6	0.8	30,350	4,020	8.6	1.1
Poverty + Near Poverty	30,370	4,130	8.7	1.2	51,320	5,810	14.5	1.6
Black Alone, Non-Hispanic Children								
Poverty	14,380	4,410	20.0	5.8	14,380	4,200	19.8	5.5
Near Poverty	6,800	2,670	9.5	3.7	18,250	4,110	25.1	5.3
Poverty + Near Poverty	21,180	4,580	29.5	5.9	32,630	5,370	44.8	6.3
Asian Alone, Non-Hispanic Children								
Poverty	2,920	1,460	8.7	4.2	2,930	1,250	8.7	3.6
Near Poverty	2,740	1,350	8.1	3.9	5,400	2,080	16.0	5.9
Poverty + Near Poverty	5,660	1,810	16.8	5.1	8,330	2,120	24.6	5.7
Other Races, Non-Hispanic Children								
Poverty	8,780	2,940	13.0	4.1	9,200	3,120	13.5	4.3
Near Poverty	4,340	1,900	6.4	2.7	7,170	2,350	10.5	3.2
Poverty + Near Poverty	13,120	3,640	19.5	4.9	16,370	3,910	24.0	5.0
Hispanic, Any Race Children								
Poverty	45,290	6,530	23.1	3.3	36,950	6,220	18.4	3.1
Near Poverty	23,810	4,760	12.1	2.4	61,280	7,530	30.6	3.8
Poverty + Near Poverty	69,110	7,110	35.3	3.7	98,230	7,400	49.0	3.7

Source: ACS SPM and author's calculations. MOE is margin of error. Number estimate and MOE rounded to nearest 10.

Estimates of the Impact of Public Benefits and Expenses on Poverty

In Connecticut in 2022, the public benefits that lifted the most people out of poverty were Social Security (218,730 people), food assistance programs (51,630 people), and housing subsidies (51,160 people). The largest contributors to poverty were medical expenses (81,700 people), federal payroll taxes (39,320 people), and work expenses (36,870 people).

Another major advantage of the SPM's more complete measure of resources is that it is possible to estimate the individual impact of all the included major public benefits and nondiscretionary expenses. Specifically, to estimate the impact of benefits that decrease poverty, the value of the benefit is subtracted from each unit's resources and poverty status is recalculated. Conversely, to estimate the impact of nondiscretionary expenses that increase poverty, the value of the expense is added back to each unit's resources and poverty status is recalculated. Following the methodology used by the U.S. Census Bureau, these adjustments are made independently and assume no behavioral changes, such as shifts in employment or expenses.

Table 16 provides estimates of the impact of major public benefits and nondiscretionary expenses on SPM-based poverty rates in Connecticut in 2022 using ACS SPM data.[22]

Decrease in Poverty Due to Public Benefits

Social Security was the largest antipoverty program in Connecticut in 2022, lifting 218,730 people out of poverty, equivalent to a 6.2 percentage point decrease in the poverty rate. Social Security primarily benefited seniors, lifting 156,540 out of poverty, though it also lifted many adults (51,810) and children (10,380) out of poverty.

Food assistance, specifically the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and the National School Lunch Program, was the second-largest antipoverty program in Connecticut in 2022, lifting 51,630 people out of poverty, equivalent to a 1.5 percentage point decrease in the poverty rate. SNAP was the larger of the two programs, lifting 37,220 people out of poverty, primarily adults (16,620) and children (13,170). The National School Lunch Program also had a major impact, lifting 9,960 people out of poverty, primarily children (5,710) and adults (4,130). Notably, the combined impact of these programs exceeds the sum of their individual contributions because many people relied on both public benefits to stay out of poverty.

Housing subsidies were the third-largest antipoverty program in Connecticut in 2022, lifting 51,160 people out of poverty, equivalent to a 1.5 percentage point decrease in the poverty rate. Housing subsidies primarily lifted adults (24,430) and children (17,340) out of poverty, though they also lifted a substantial number of seniors (9,390) out of poverty.

Increase in Poverty Due to Nondiscretionary Expenses

Medical expenses were the largest contributor to poverty in Connecticut in 2022, pushing 81,700 people into poverty, equivalent to a 2.3 percentage point increase in the poverty rate. Medical expenses primarily pushed adults (48,650) into poverty, though they also pushed a substantial number of seniors (23,480) and children (9,570) into poverty.

Federal payroll taxes were the second-largest contributor to poverty in Connecticut in 2022, pushing 39,320 people into poverty, equivalent to a 1.1 percentage point increase in the poverty rate. Payroll taxes primarily pushed adults (29,080) into poverty, though they also pushed a substantial number of children (8,230) into poverty.

Work expenses, including child care and transportation costs, were the third-largest contributor to poverty in Connecticut in 2022, pushing 36,870 people into poverty, equivalent to a 1.1 percentage point increase in the poverty rate. Work expenses primarily pushed adults (26,830) into poverty, though they also pushed a substantial number of children (8,090) into poverty.

Impact of Public Benefits and Nondiscretionary Expenses on Poverty Over Time

The impact of public benefits and nondiscretionary expenses on poverty can change significantly over time, as policies and economic conditions shift, making it important to examine more than a single year of poverty data. To demonstrate this dynamic, **Table 17** shows the public benefits that generated the largest decreases in SPM-based poverty in Connecticut from 2019 to 2022 using ACS SPM data, and **Table 18** shows the nondiscretionary expenses that generated the largest increases in SPM-based poverty during the same period.[23]

The most significant change in major public benefits occurred with the federal income tax. In 2021, it lifted 162,840 people out of poverty in Connecticut largely due to the inclusion of an Economic Impact Payment and temporary expansions to the Earned Income Tax Credit, Child Tax Credit, and Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit. However, by 2022 these temporary provisions had expired, reducing the poverty-decreasing impact of the federal income tax to 29,570 people.

The major contributors to poverty—medical expenses, federal payroll taxes, and work expenses—remained relatively stable from 2019 to 2022, each pushing tens of thousands of people in Connecticut into poverty each year.

Table 16. Impact on SPM-Based Poverty in Connecticut, 2022

Public Benefit / Expenses Demographic Group	Impact on Poverty in Connecticut			
	Number	MOE	PP	MOE
Decrease in Poverty				
Social Security	**-218,730**	**11,870**	**-6.2**	**0.3**
Children	-10,380	2,910	-1.4	0.4
Adults	-51,810	6,410	-2.4	0.3
Seniors	-156,540	7,330	-24.4	1.1
SNAP and School Lunch	**-51,630**	**8,500**	**-1.5**	**0.2**
Children	-21,830	5,340	-3.0	0.7
Adults	-22,370	4,360	-1.0	0.2
Seniors	-7,430	1,660	-1.2	0.3
SNAP	**-37,220**	**7,470**	**-1.1**	**0.2**
Children	-13,170	4,560	-1.8	0.6
Adults	-16,620	3,640	-0.8	0.2
Seniors	-7,430	1,660	-1.2	0.3
School Lunch	**-9,960**	**4,370**	**-0.3**	**0.1**
Children	-5,710	2,580	-0.8	0.4
Adults	-4,130	2,040	-0.2	0.1
Seniors	*	*	*	*
Housing Subsidies	**-51,160**	**8,740**	**-1.5**	**0.2**
Children	-17,340	4,790	-2.4	0.7
Adults	-24,430	4,660	-1.1	0.2
Seniors	-9,390	1,890	-1.5	0.3
Other Income (UI, VA Payments, etc.)	**-33,570**	**5,970**	**-1.0**	**0.2**
Children	-7,920	2,960	-1.1	0.4
Adults	-18,800	3,690	-0.9	0.2
Seniors	-6,840	1,510	-1.1	0.2
Supplemental Security Income	**-30,370**	**6,140**	**-0.9**	**0.2**
Children	-6,010	3,090	-0.8	0.4
Adults	-16,740	3,620	-0.8	0.2
Seniors	-7,620	2,000	-1.2	0.3
Federal Income Tax	**-29,570**	**9,610**	**-0.8**	**0.3**
Children	-22,310	4,870	-3.1	0.7
Adults	-7,790	5,610	-0.4	0.3
Seniors	530	1,060	0.1	0.2
Earned Income Tax Credit	**-31,890**	**8,250**	**-0.9**	**0.2**
Children	-16,150	4,600	-2.2	0.6
Adults	-14,760	4,080	-0.7	0.2
Seniors	-970	610	-0.2	0.1

Table 16. Impact on SPM-Based Poverty in Connecticut, 2022 (continued)

Public Benefit / Expenses	Impact on Poverty in Connecticut			
Demographic Group	Number	MOE	PP	MOE
TANF / General Assistance	**-7,610**	**2,710**	**-0.2**	**0.1**
Children	-1,660	990	-0.2	0.1
Adults	-4,480	1,740	-0.2	0.1
Seniors	-1,470	770	-0.2	0.1
State Income Tax	**-4,750**	**5,540**	**-0.1**	**0.2**
Children	-5,710	2,690	-0.8	0.4
Adults	*	*	*	*
Seniors	*	*	*	*
Energy Assistance	**-3,240**	**2,620**	**-0.1**	**0.1**
Children	*	*	*	*
Adults	-1,480	1,430	-0.1	0.1
Seniors	-1,270	840	-0.2	0.1
Increase in Poverty				
Medical Expenses	**81,700**	**10,370**	**2.3**	**0.3**
Children	9,570	2,520	1.3	0.3
Adults	48,650	7,390	2.3	0.3
Seniors	23,480	3,960	3.7	0.6
Federal Payroll Taxes	**39,320**	**7,650**	**1.1**	**0.2**
Children	8,230	3,160	1.1	0.4
Adults	29,080	5,490	1.4	0.3
Seniors	2,010	860	0.3	0.1
Work Expenses	**36,870**	**7,290**	**1.1**	**0.2**
Children	8,090	3,160	1.1	0.4
Adults	26,830	5,020	1.3	0.2
Seniors	1,940	850	0.3	0.1

Source: ACS SPM and author's calculations. MOE is margin of error. PP is percentage point. Other income includes unemployment insurance (UI), veterans' (VA) payments, child support, and alimony. Number estimate and MOE rounded to nearest 10. *Estimate not provided because MOE is equal to or greater than estimate.

Table 17. Largest Decreases in SPM-Based Poverty in Connecticut, 2019–2022

Year	Impact on Poverty in Connecticut			
Public Benefit	**Number**	**MOE**	**PP**	**MOE**
2022				
Social Security	**-218,730**	**11,870**	**-6.2**	**0.3**
SNAP and School Lunch	**-51,630**	**8,500**	**-1.5**	**0.2**
SNAP	-37,220	7,470	-1.1	0.2
School Lunch	-9,960	4,370	-0.3	0.1
Housing Subsidies	**-51,160**	**8,740**	**-1.5**	**0.2**
Other Income (UI, VA Payments, etc.)	**-33,570**	**5,970**	**-1.0**	**0.2**
2021				
Social Security	**-206,670**	**9,340**	**-5.9**	**0.3**
Federal Income Tax	**-162,840**	**15,120**	**-4.7**	**0.4**
Earned Income Tax Credit	-29,410	6,180	-0.8	0.2
Other Income (UI, VA Payments, etc.)	**-67,350**	**8,990**	**-1.9**	**0.3**
Housing Subsidies	**-39,320**	**6,750**	**-1.1**	**0.2**
2020				
*	*	*	*	*
2019				
Social Security	**-224,460**	**13,080**	**-6.5**	**0.4**
Federal Income Tax	**-52,290**	**13,110**	**-1.5**	**0.4**
Earned Income Tax Credit	-45,910	10,910	-1.3	0.3
Housing Subsidies	**-44,750**	**7,280**	**-1.3**	**0.2**
SNAP and School Lunch	**-38,410**	**8,780**	**-1.1**	**0.3**
SNAP	-33,770	8,870	-1.0	0.3
School Lunch	-9,840	4,270	-0.3	0.1

Source: ACS SPM and author's calculations. MOE is margin of error. PP is percentage point. Other income includes unemployment insurance (UI), veterans' (VA) payments, child support, and alimony. Number estimate and MOE rounded to nearest 10. *No data available for 2020.

Table 18. Largest Increases in SPM-Based Poverty in Connecticut, 2019–2022

Year	Impact on Poverty in Connecticut			
Expenses	**Number**	**MOE**	**PP**	**MOE**
2022				
Medical Expenses	81,700	10,370	2.3	0.3
Federal Payroll Taxes	39,320	7,650	1.1	0.2
Work Expenses	36,870	7,290	1.1	0.2
2021				
Medical Expenses	59,010	7,230	1.7	0.2
Work Expenses	27,640	5,790	0.8	0.2
Federal Payroll Taxes	17,380	3,780	0.5	0.1
2020				
*	*	*	*	*
2019				
Medical Expenses	83,140	9,870	2.4	0.3
Work Expenses	60,230	8,270	1.7	0.2
Federal Payroll Taxes	44,810	7,600	1.3	0.2

Source: ACS SPM and author's calculations. MOE is margin of error. PP is percentage point. Number estimate and MOE rounded to nearest 10. *No data available for 2020.

Policy Options to Reduce Poverty in Connecticut

As demonstrated in the previous sections, many federal and state programs—such as Social Security, tax credits, food assistance, and housing subsidies—play a critical role in reducing poverty. While policymakers could expand or improve any of these programs to reduce poverty in Connecticut, this section focuses specifically on policy options for establishing a Connecticut Child Tax Credit (CT CTC). The first part outlines key design features of a CT CTC. The second part presents three policy options. For more details, including a more comprehensive case for establishing a CT CTC, see Connecticut Voices for Children's report, "An Overview of the CT Child Tax Credit."[24]

Key Design Features of a CT CTC

To provide the most support for families and children in poverty and near poverty, a CT CTC would include the following key design features: full refundability, no income floor, no income-based phase-in, and no cap on the number of children.

Below is an overview of key design features for policymakers to consider when establishing a CT CTC. This includes a comparison of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)-based federal CTC in 2021 and the Tax Cut and Jobs Act (TCJA)-based federal CTC currently in effect.

Refundability. A refundable tax credit is paid to a tax filer even if it exceeds their income tax liability, benefiting the poorest families who have little or no tax liability. The ARPA-based CTC was fully refundable, whereas the TCJA-based CTC is currently 80 percent refundable.

Income Floor. An income floor is the minimum income required to receive the tax credit. The ARPA-based CTC had no income floor, ensuring that even the poorest families could receive the full benefit. The TCJA-based CTC has a $2,500 income floor, limiting the benefit for the poorest families.

Income-Based Phase-In. An income-based phase-in increases the value of the tax credit as a tax filer's income increases, limiting the size of the tax credit available to the poorest families. The ARPA-based CTC had no income-based phase-in, whereas the TCJA-based CTC has an income-based phase-in that allows a tax filer to receive a tax credit equal to 15 percent of earnings above $2,500, up to the maximum refundable portion of the tax credit.

Cap on Number of Children. A cap on the number of children limits the number of tax credits that a tax filer can claim. The ARPA-based CTC had no cap on the number of children, whereas the TCJA-based CTC provides a different standard for calculating the refundable portion of the CTC for families with three or more children, decreasing the amount of the tax credit per child for larger families.

Overall, the ARPA-based CTC in 2021 had full refundability, no income floor, no income-based phase-in, and no cap on the number of children. These key design features, along with an increase in

the maximum amount of the tax credit, contributed to the historic decrease in child poverty in 2021. In contrast, the current TCJA-based CTC has partial refundability, an income floor, an income-based phase-in, and a restriction on the amount of the tax credit available to families with three or more children, all of which reduce the tax credit's impact on poverty.[25]

Policy Options for a CT CTC

The most well-designed of the three CT CTC options would provide support for up to 591,480 children (81.2 percent) and 1.3 million people in total (36.8 percent), including up to 84,440 children in poverty (100 percent) and 122,440 children in near poverty (100 percent).

To most effectively support Connecticut's families and children, especially those living in poverty and near poverty, all the policy options here reference the key design features reviewed above. **Table 19** shows the three options modeled using ACS SPM data.[26] The models are based on 100 percent participation, which is unlikely to occur, but necessary to show the full potential cost and benefits.

The estimates provided for each option include:

Cost of CT CTC: The estimated total cost of the tax credit.

Eligible for CT CTC: The estimated number of children eligible to receive the tax credit.

Total Support: The estimated number of people eligible to benefit based on one or more children in their SPM resource unit receiving the CT CTC.

Support for People in Poverty: The estimated number of people living in SPM-based poverty eligible to benefit based on one or more children in their SPM resource unit receiving the CT CTC.

Support for People in Near Poverty: The estimated number of people living in SPM-based near poverty (between 100 percent and 149 percent of the poverty threshold) eligible to benefit based on one or more children in their SPM resource unit receiving the CT CTC.

Support for People in Poverty Plus Near Poverty: The estimated number of people living in SPM-based poverty plus near poverty (defined as living with resources below 150 percent of the poverty threshold) eligible to benefit based on one or more children in their SPM resource unit receiving the CT CTC.

Decrease in People in Poverty: The estimated number of people lifted out of SPM-based poverty based on an eligible child or children in their SPM resource unit receiving the CT CTC.

The three policy options, each designed to cost close to $300 million annually, are summarized below.

Policy Option 1

- **Cost**: $275.5 million a year
- **Design**: A maximum $600 CT CTC that is 80 percent refundable, has an income floor and income-based phase-in, and is capped at three children per tax filer.
- **Impact**:
  - Support up to 519,830 children (71.4 percent) and 1.2 million people in total (33.4 percent)
  - Support up to 55,390 children in poverty (65.6 percent) and 111,290 children in near poverty (90.9 percent), for a combined 166,680 children in poverty and near poverty (80.6 percent)
  - Lift up to 6,020 people out poverty, including 3,010 children and 3,010 adults

Policy Option 2

- **Cost**: $287.7 million a year
- **Design**: A maximum $600 CT CTC that is 100 percent refundable, has an income floor and income-based phase-in, and is capped at three children per tax filer.
- **Impact**:
  - Support up to 519,830 children (71.4 percent) and 1.2 million people in total (33.4 percent)
  - Support up to 55,390 children in poverty (65.6 percent) and 111,290 children in near poverty (90.9 percent), for a combined 166,680 children in poverty and near poverty (80.6 percent)
  - Lift up to 6,110 people out poverty, including 3,060 children and 3,050 adults

Policy Option 3

- **Cost**: $293.5 million a year
- **Design**: A maximum $500 CT CTC that is 100 percent refundable, has no income floor or income-based phase-in, and has no cap on the number of children.
- **Impact**:
  - Support up to 591,480 children (81.2 percent) and 1.3 million people in total (36.8 percent)
  - Support up to 84,440 children in poverty (100 percent) and 122,440 children in near poverty (100 percent), for a combined 206,880 children in poverty and near poverty (100 percent)
  - Lift up to 6,630 people out poverty, including 3,380 children and 3,250 adults

While all three policy options would provide essential support, policy option 3 would provide the most support for Connecticut's families and children living in poverty and near poverty.

Table 19. CT Child Tax Credit Policy Options

Cost, Design, and Support		Policy Option		
		1	2	3
Cost of CT CTC				
Total		$275.5 million	$287.7 million	$293.5 million
Design of CT CTC				
Maximum CT CTC Per Child		$600	$600	$500
Refundable:	Dollar	$480	$600	$500
	Percent	80%	100%	100%
Cap on CT CTCs Per Tax filer		3	3	None
Income Floor		$1	$1	None
Income-Based Phase-In Rate		4.5%	4.5%	None
Start of Income-Based Phase-Out				
Single		$100,001	$100,001	$100,001
Head of Household		$160,001	$160,001	$160,001
Married Filing Jointly		$200,001	$200,001	$200,001
Eligible for CT CTC				
Children:	Number	519,830	519,830	591,480
	Percent	71.4%	71.4%	81.2%
Total Support				
All People:	Number	1,171,410	1,171,410	1,291,720
	Percent	33.4%	33.4%	36.8%
Children:	Number	532,830	532,830	591,840
	Percent	73.2%	73.2%	81.3%
Adults:	Number	605,600	605,600	663,640
	Percent	28.3%	28.3%	31.1%
Seniors:	Number	32,970	32,970	36,230
	Percent	5.1%	5.1%	5.6%
Support for People in Poverty				
All People:	Number	118,580	118,580	171,790
	Percent	28.0%	28.0%	40.6%
Children:	Number	55,390	55,390	84,440
	Percent	65.6%	65.6%	100.0%
Adults:	Number	61,770	61,770	84,070
	Percent	24.3%	24.3%	33.0%
Seniors:	Number	1,420	1,420	3,280
	Percent	1.7%	1.7%	3.9%

Table 19. CT Child Tax Credit Policy Options (continued)

Cost, Design, and Support		Policy Option		
		1	2	3
Support for People in Near Poverty				
All People:	Number	228,620	228,620	251,260
	Percent	50.0%	50.0%	54.9%
Children:	Number	111,290	111,290	122,440
	Percent	90.9%	90.9%	100.0%
Adults:	Number	111,070	111,070	121,980
	Percent	43.8%	43.8%	48.1%
Seniors:	Number	6,260	6,260	6,840
	Percent	7.7%	7.7%	8.4%
Support for People in Poverty + Near Poverty				
All People:	Number	347,200	347,200	423,050
	Percent	39.4%	39.4%	48.0%
Children:	Number	166,680	166,680	206,880
	Percent	80.6%	80.6%	100.0%
Adults:	Number	172,840	172,840	206,050
	Percent	34.0%	34.0%	40.6%
Seniors:	Number	7,680	7,680	10,120
	Percent	4.6%	4.6%	6.1%
Decrease in People in Poverty				
All People:	Number	-6,020	-6,110	-6,630
	Percentage Point	-0.2	-0.2	-0.2
Children:	Number	-3,010	-3,060	-3,380
	Percentage Point	-0.4	-0.4	-0.5
Adults:	Number	-3,010	-3,050	-3,250
	Percentage Point	-0.1	-0.1	-0.2
Seniors:	Number	0	0	0
	Percentage Point	0.0	0.0	0.0

Source: ACS SPM and author's calculations. Number estimates rounded to nearest 10. Income thresholds are based on federal adjusted gross income (AGI). For all three options, the tax credit is fully phased out at a federal AGI of more than $109,000 for single tax filers, more than $169,000 for head of household tax filers, and more than $209,000 for married filing jointly tax filers. Following the U.S. Census Bureau's approach, the model assumes that all non-married tax filers with children file as head of household tax filers.

Conclusion

Research shows both that "a child growing up in a family whose income is below the poverty line experiences worse outcomes than a child from a wealthier family in virtually every dimension" and that "income poverty itself *causes* negative child outcomes, especially when it begins in early childhood and/or persists throughout a large share of a child's life." Addressing the critical problem of poverty, especially for children, this report makes three primary contributions. First, it explains the different data sources available for measuring poverty, reviews the distinctions between the Official Poverty Measure (OPM) and Supplemental Poverty Measure (SPM), and highlights the lack of accessible state-level SPM-based poverty estimates to date. Second, it provides an extensive empirical overview of poverty in Connecticut, including estimates of poverty, near poverty, and the impact of public benefits and nondiscretionary expenses on SPM-based poverty. Third, it provides detailed policy options to reduce poverty in Connecticut, specifically through the creation of a state-level Child Tax Credit.

Acknowledgments

Connecticut Voices for Children thanks The Connecticut Project for their funding and support for this report.

References and Notes

[1] National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, "A Roadmap to Reducing Child Poverty," 2019, quote on page 67.

[2] National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, "A Roadmap to Reducing Child Poverty," 2019, quote on page 89.

[3] U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplement data, reports, and research files, September 2023.

[4] U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey Public Use Microdata Sample files, May 2024; U.S. Census Bureau, ACS Supplemental Poverty Measures Research Files, April 2024.

[5] One example of another measure is the self-sufficiency standard, which "identifies what income is required for families in Connecticut to afford their basic needs, such as housing, child care, food, transportation, and health care without any financial assistance from any sources. See Connecticut Office of Health Strategy, "CT Affordability Index Self-Sufficiency Standard." Another example is the United Way's measure of asset limited, income constrained, employed (ALICE) families. See the United Way, ALICE State Reports.

[6] Emily A. Shrider and John Creamer, "Poverty in the United States: 2022," U.S. Census Bureau, September 2023.

[7] U.S. Census Bureau, 2023 Poverty Thresholds, September 2024; U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplement data, reports, and research files, September 2023.

[8] U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplement data, reports, and research files, September 2023.

[9] Liana Fox, Brian Glassman, and José Pacas, "The Supplemental Poverty Measure Using the American Community Survey," U.S. Census Bureau Social, Economic, and Housing Statistics Division (SEHSD) Working Paper #2020-09, July 2020.

[10] U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplement data, reports, and research files, September 2023.

[11] Emily A. Shrider and John Creamer, "Poverty in the United States: 2022," U.S. Census Bureau, September 2023.

[12] U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplement data, reports, and research files, September 2023.

[13] U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplement data, reports, and research files, September 2023.

[14] Using 150 percent of the poverty threshold as the ceiling for defining near poverty is the same approach used in the National Academy of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. See National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, "A Roadmap to Reducing Child Poverty," 2019.

[15] U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplement data, reports, and research files, September 2023.

[16] U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplement data, reports, and research files, September 2023.

[17] U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey Public Use Microdata Sample files, May 2024; U.S. Census Bureau, ACS Supplemental Poverty Measures Research Files, April 2024.

[18] Emily A. Shrider and John Creamer, "Poverty in the United States: 2022," U.S. Census Bureau, September 2023.

[19] U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey Public Use Microdata Sample files, May 2024; U.S. Census Bureau, ACS Supplemental Poverty Measures Research Files, April 2024.

[20] U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey Public Use Microdata Sample files, May 2024; U.S. Census Bureau, ACS Supplemental Poverty Measures Research Files, April 2024.

[21] Using 150 percent of the poverty threshold as the ceiling for defining near poverty is the same approach used in the National Academy of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. See National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, "A Roadmap to Reducing Child Poverty," 2019.

[22] U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey Public Use Microdata Sample files, May 2024; U.S. Census Bureau, ACS Supplemental Poverty Measures Research Files, April 2024.

[23] U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey Public Use Microdata Sample files, May 2024; U.S. Census Bureau, ACS Supplemental Poverty Measures Research Files, April 2024.

[24] Patrick R. O'Brien, "Supporting the Economic Well-Being of Connecticut's Families and Children: An Overview of the CT Child Tax Credit," Connecticut Voices for Children, January 2024.

[25] U.S. Code, Title 26, Section 24, Child tax credit; Emily A. Shrider and John Creamer, "Poverty in the United States: 2022," U.S. Census Bureau, September 2023.

[26] U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplement data, reports, and research files, September 2023; U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey Public Use Microdata Sample files, May 2024; U.S. Census Bureau, ACS Supplemental Poverty Measures Research Files, April 2024.