



California Budget
& Policy Center

Child Poverty and Deep Poverty in California: Data and Trends

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LIFTING CHILDREN AND FAMILIES OUT OF
POVERTY TASK FORCE MEETING
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Key Themes

Examining rates and trends in child poverty and deep poverty in California through different lenses:

- Official poverty measure
- Supplemental Poverty Measure
- California Poverty Measure

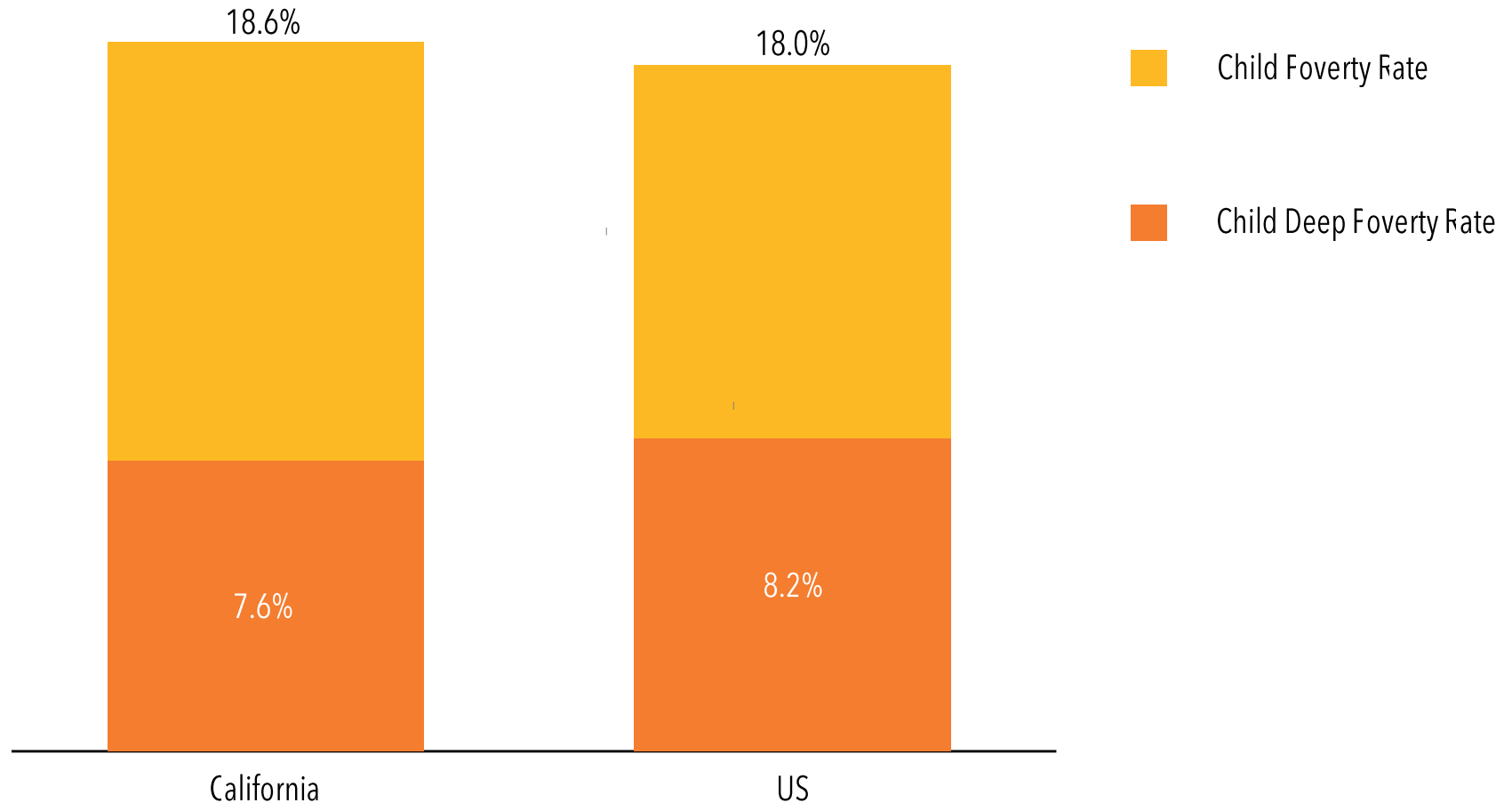


Child Poverty in California Under the Official Poverty Measure



Under the Official Poverty Measure, California's Child Poverty and Deep Poverty Rates Are Similar to the US

Percentage of Children in Official Poverty and Deep Poverty, 2016

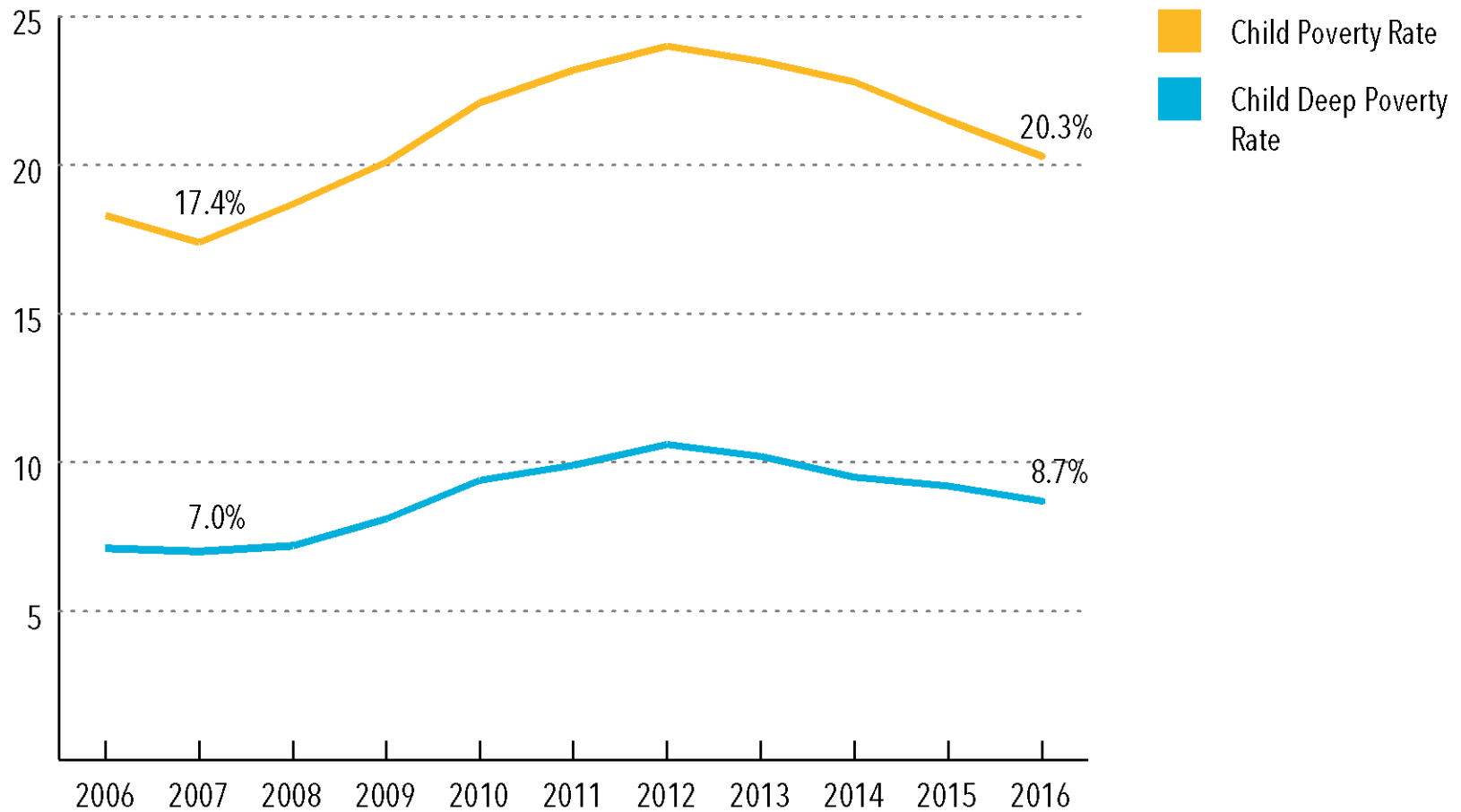


Note: Deep poverty is defined as family income equal to less than half of the poverty threshold.
Source: Budget Center analysis of US Census Bureau, Current Population Survey microdata downloaded from IPUMS, University of Minnesota



Official Child Poverty and Deep Poverty Rates Have Declined, but Are Higher Than Before the Great Recession

Percentage of California Children in Official Poverty and Deep Poverty, 2006 to 2016

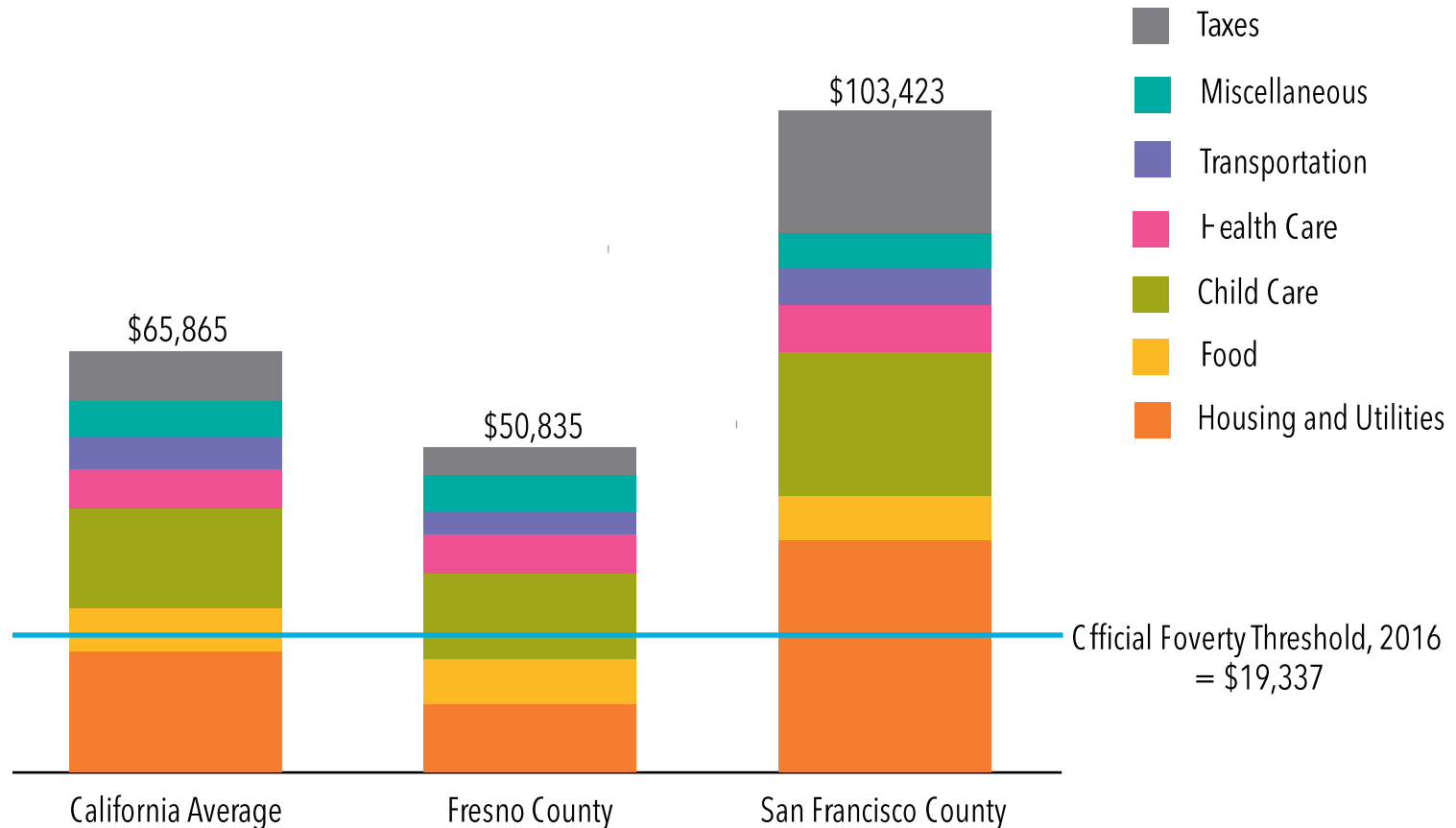


Note: Deep poverty is defined as family income equal to less than half of the poverty threshold. Official poverty rates calculated for the same year using different Census data sources may differ. Source: Budget Center analysis of US Census Bureau, American Community Survey microdata downloaded from IPUMS, University of Minnesota



Official Poverty Thresholds Are Much Lower Than the Basic Cost of Living for Families in California

Annual Basic Family Budget for a Single-Parent Family With Two Children, 2017



Note: Assumes one preschool-age and one school-age child and a single parent working full-time.
Source: Budget Center *Making Ends Meet* 2017 analysis and US Census Bureau



The Supplemental Poverty Measure (SPM) Addresses Some Shortcomings of the Official Poverty Measure



Official Poverty Measure

- Poverty threshold is based on 1960s food expenditures



Supplemental Poverty Measure

- Poverty threshold is based on current spending on basic needs



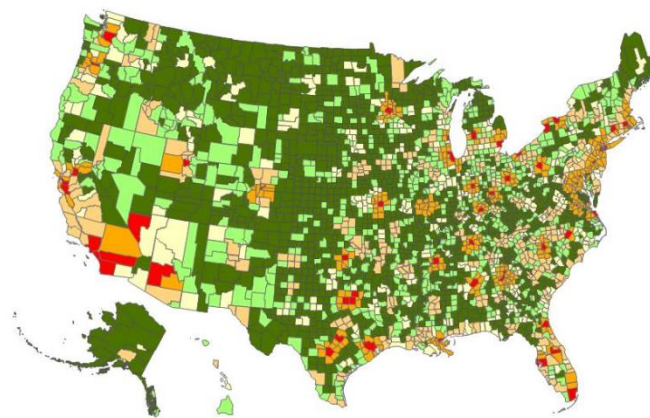
Official Poverty Measure

- Same threshold for all parts of the country



Supplemental Poverty Measure

- Threshold is adjusted for cost of living in different areas



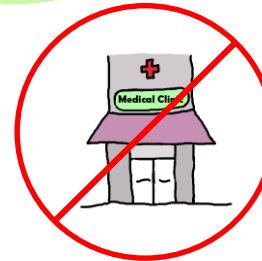
Official Poverty Measure

- Only counts cash income
- Does not account for non-discretionary expenses



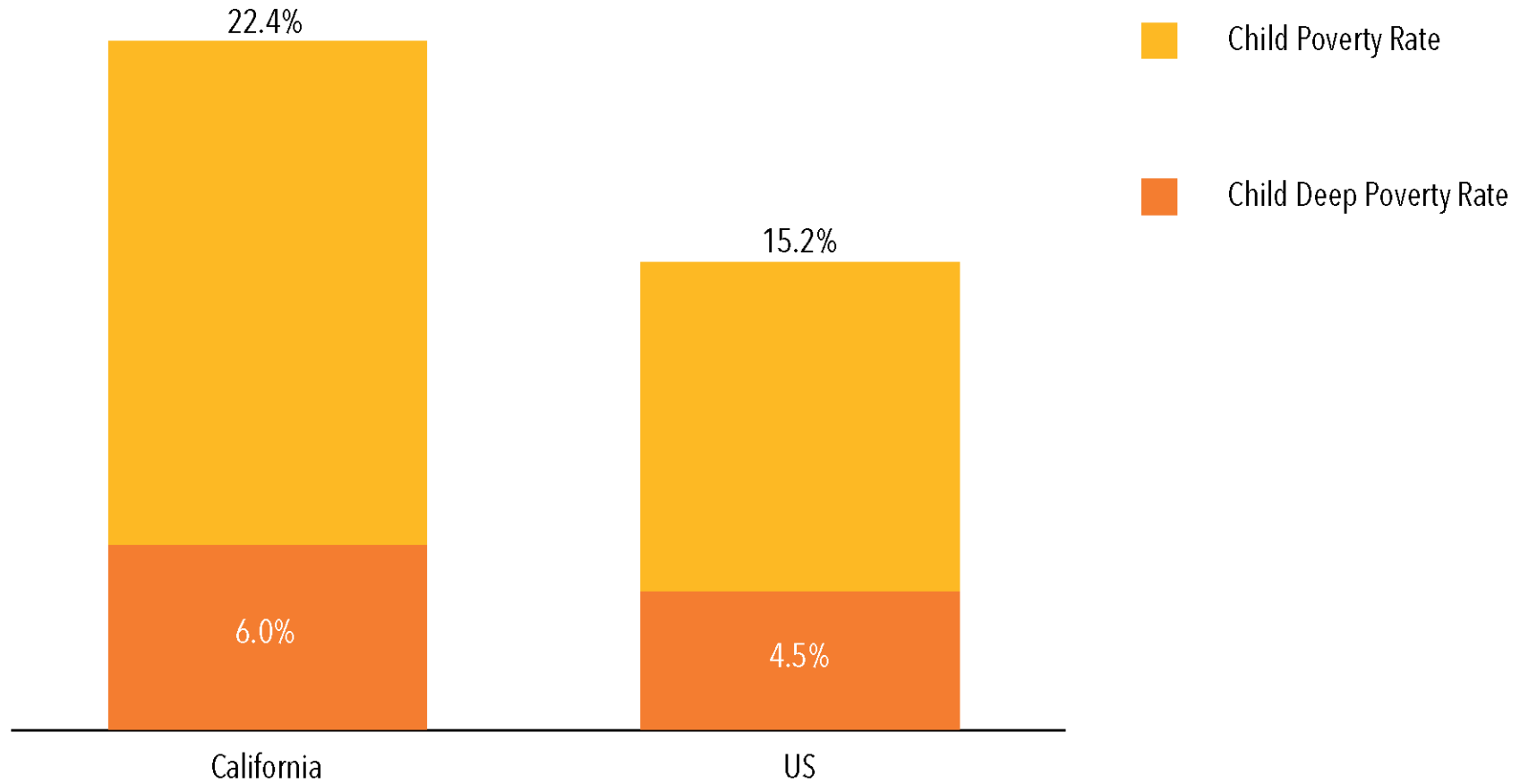
Supplemental Poverty Measure

- Counts cash income plus non-cash benefits like CalFresh and EITC
- Subtracts non-discretionary expenses like child care and medical bills



Under the Supplemental Poverty Measure, California's Child Poverty and Deep Poverty Rates Are Higher Than the US

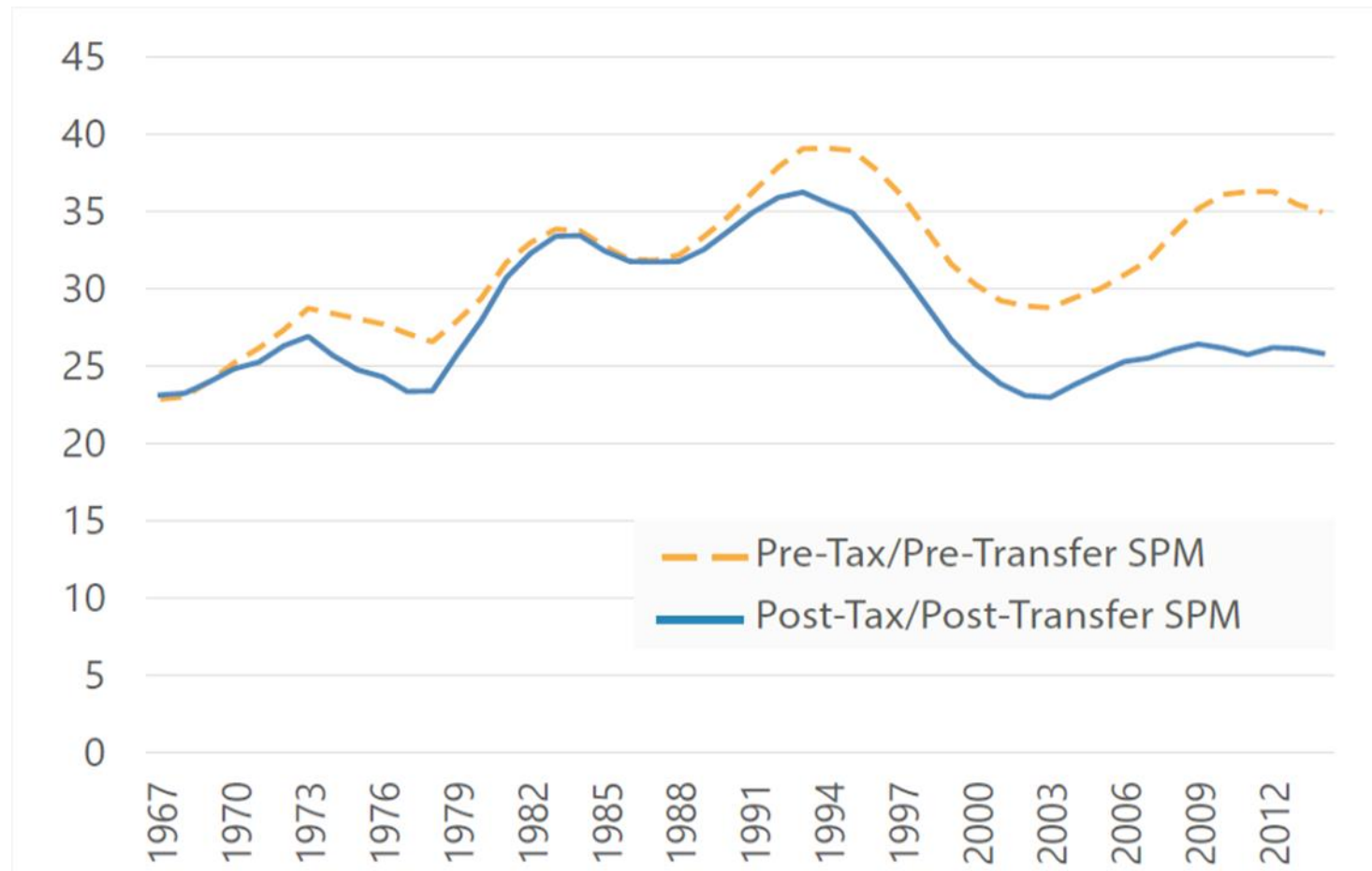
Percentage of Children in Poverty and Deep Poverty Under the SPM, 2016



Note: Deep poverty is defined as family resources equal to less than half of the poverty threshold.
Source: Budget Center analysis of US Census Bureau, Current Population Survey microdata downloaded from IPUMS, University of Minnesota



Anchored Supplemental Poverty Measure (SPM) Poverty Rate of Children (Ages 0 to 17) in California



Source: Center on Poverty and Social Policy, Columbia Population Research Center



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The California Poverty Measure Offers a State-Specific Measure of Poverty



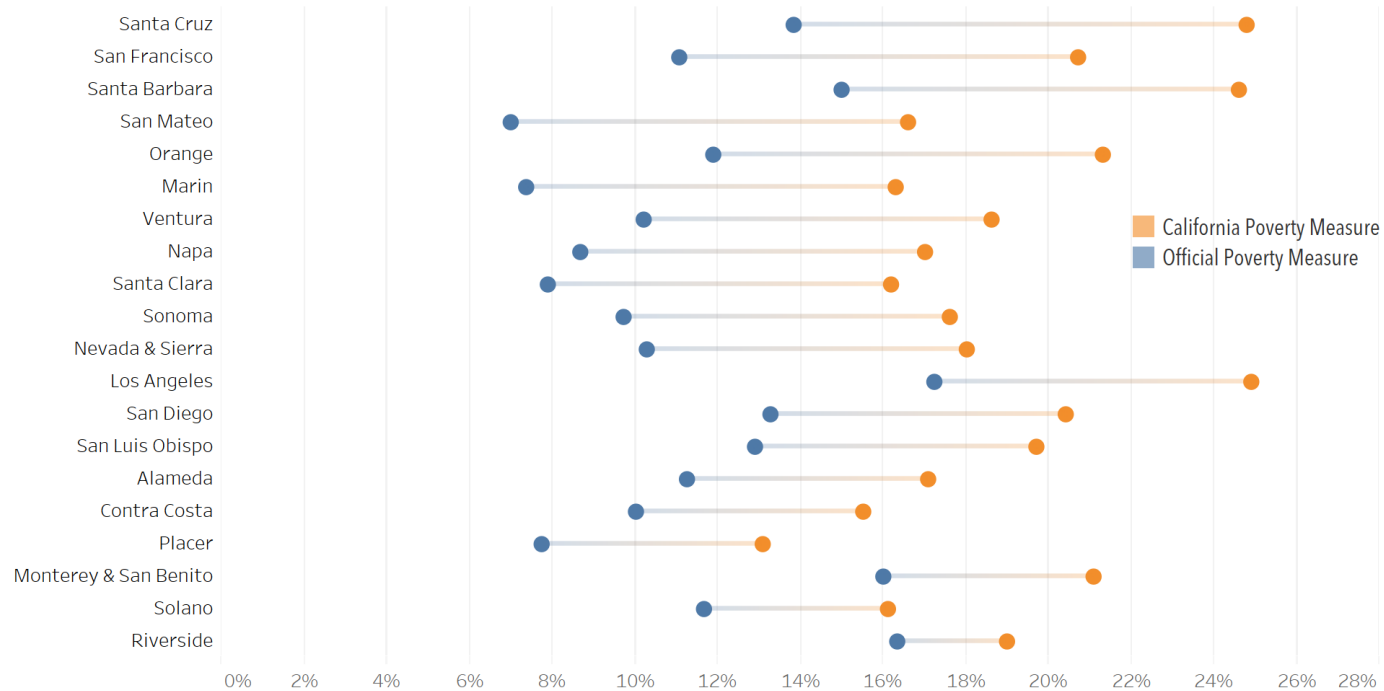
California Poverty Measure

- Modeled after the Supplemental Poverty Measure
- Accounts for state-specific policy context and demographics
- Unlike the SPM, can be used to examine poverty at the sub-state level (e.g., by region or county) and for some demographic subgroups



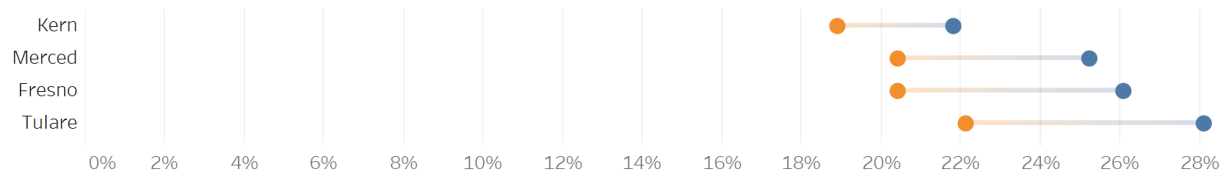
Poverty Rates Are Much Higher in Many Counties Based on the California Poverty Measure (CPM)

Poverty Rate, 2013-2015



In a Few Counties, Poverty Rates Based on the CPM Are Lower

Poverty Rate, 2013-2015



The Bottom Line

- Child poverty and deep poverty in California look different through different measurement lenses
- Accounting for the cost of living and impact of non-cash supports is important
- The California Poverty Measure offers the most detailed picture of poverty within California that accounts for the cost of living and comprehensive public supports





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