

Advisory Council on Child Poverty
& Strengthening Families
Presentation: Child Well-being Indicators

October 2018

Voices
for Vermont's Children



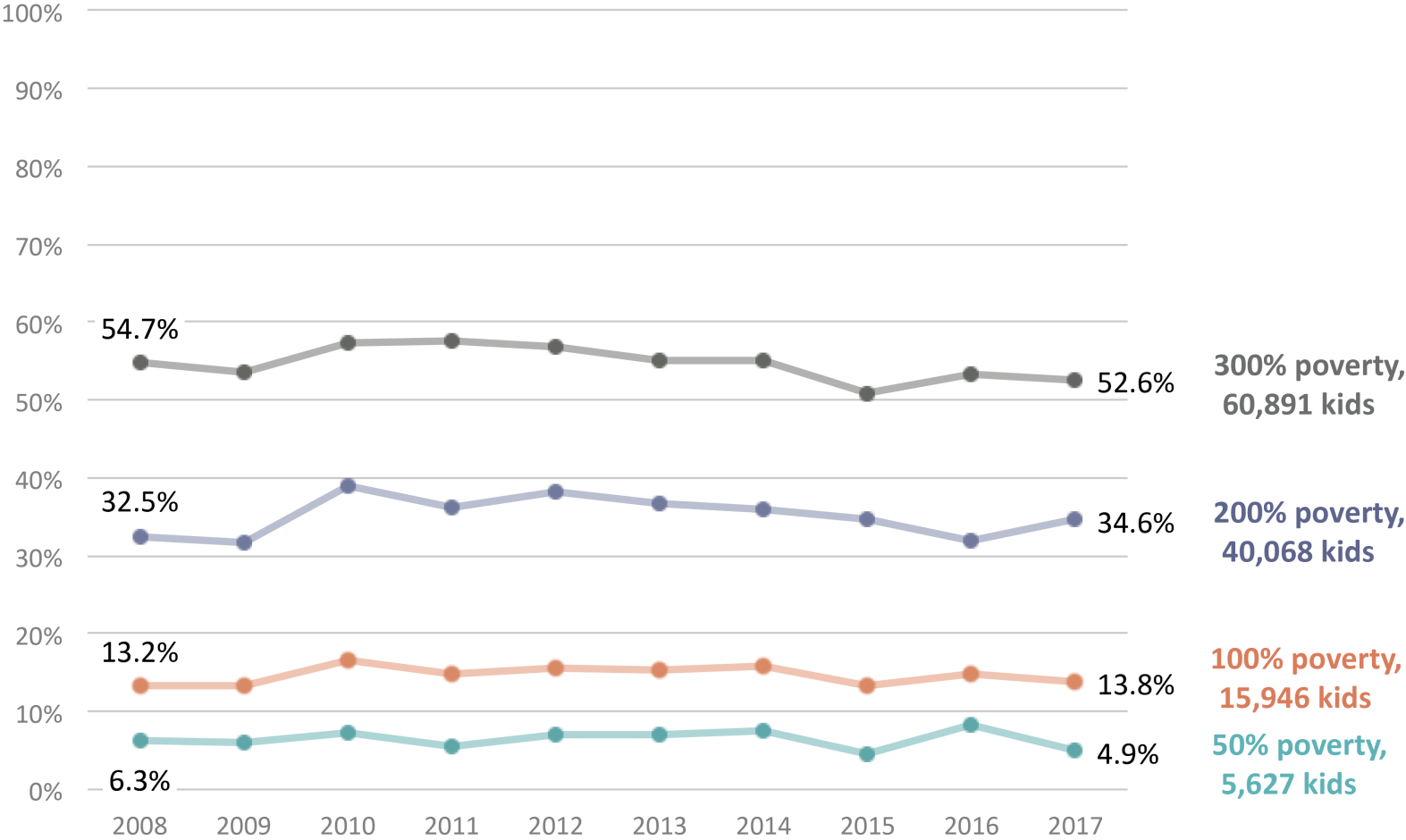
802-229-6377

PO Box 261
Montpelier, VT
05601

www.voicesforvtkids.org

Promoting public policy that enhances the lives of children and youth in Vermont

Percent of kids with household incomes at various ratios to the poverty line, over time, in Vermont



Source: U.S. Census, American Community Survey 1-year estimates, 2008-2017 data, derived from American FactFinder table C17024: Age by ratio of income to poverty level in the past 12 months.

Rural Vermont, Top Five Monthly Expenses Vermont Basic Needs Budget

Top 5 expenses, Vermont Basic Needs Budget

1 adult, 1 child 2 adults, 2 children

Food	\$487	\$997
Housing	\$984	\$984
Transportation	\$459	\$1,089
Health Care	\$300	\$519
Child Care	\$758	\$1,255

*Excerpted from the 2017 Basic Needs Budget and Livable Wage Report, prepared by the VT Legislative Joint Fiscal Office. Highlighted budgets assume rural Vermont, no employer sponsored health care, and all available parents working. Budgets for different circumstances can be found in the [full report](#).

Poverty thresholds by household size, in dollars, 2017

\$16,414, single parent & one child

\$24,858, family of four

	# children	1	2	3	4
Two people					
Householder under 65 years		16,895			
Householder 65 years and over		16,831			
Three people		19,730	19,749		
Four people		25,696	24,858	24,944	
Five people		30,933	29,986	29,253	28,805

Another Indicator for Consideration Supplemental Poverty Measure

Researchers have found that, on average, families need an income of roughly twice the official poverty threshold, currently about \$24,000 per year for a family of four, to cover the entire cost of basic expenses for housing, food, transportation, health care and child care.

To better understand how families are faring, the U.S. Census Bureau created the Supplemental Poverty Measure (SPM) in 2011. It is based on decades of research culminating in recommendations made by a National Academy of Sciences panel in the mid-1990s. The SPM measures the impact of a number of important social programs such as SNAP and the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and accounts for rising costs and other changes that affect a family's budget.

Supplemental Poverty Measure

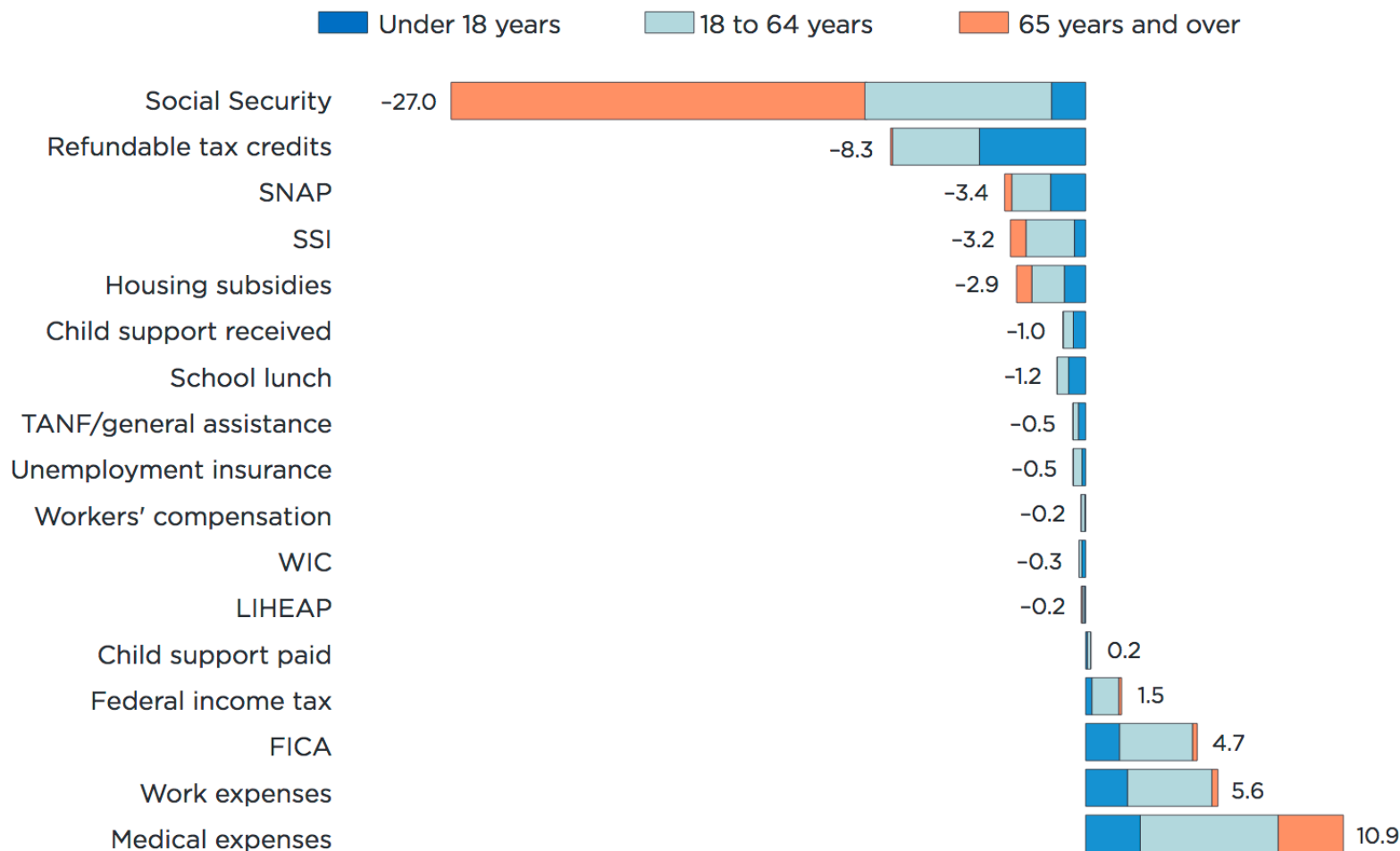
POVERTY MEASURE CONCEPTS: OFFICIAL AND SUPPLEMENTAL		
	Official Poverty Measure	Supplemental Poverty Measure
Measurement Units	Families (individuals related by birth, marriage, or adoption) or unrelated individuals	Resource units (official family definition plus any coresident unrelated children, foster 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 expenditures of food, clothing, shelter, and utilities (FCSU)
Threshold Adjustments	Vary by family size, composition, and age of householder	Vary by family size and composition, as well as geographic adjustments for differences in housing costs by tenure
Updating Thresholds	Consumer Price Index: all items	5-year moving average of expenditures on FCSU
Resource Measure	Gross before-tax cash income	Sum of cash income, plus noncash benefits that resource units can use to meet their FCSU needs, minus taxes (or plus tax credits), work expenses, medical expenses, and child support paid to another household

Source: US Census Bureau, *The Supplemental Poverty Measure: 2017*, Current Population Reports, September 2018, <https://www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/publications/2018/demo/p60-265.pdf>

Figure 8.

Change in Number of People in Poverty After Including Each Element: 2017

(In millions)



Note: For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see <www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/cps/techdocs/cpsmar18.pdf>.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 2018 Annual Social and Economic Supplement.

Focus on What Works to Support Children and Families

- Adequate Financial Support - Reach Up - *Much of the benefit of antipoverty programs appears to derive from helping low-income families pay for basic needs like food, housing or health care, or simply reducing the intense economic pressure they face.*

Council of Economic Advisers chair Jason Furman

- Housing - *A safe, decent, affordable home is like a vaccine – it literally keeps children healthy.*

Children's Health Watch

- Nutrition - *Children who eat school meals have improved nutritional health.*

Hunger Free Vermont

Having access to SNAP in early childhood improves adult outcomes including health and economic self-sufficiency.

CLASP

- After-School - *Quality afterschool and summer learning programs keep kids safe & healthy, inspire learners help working families.*

Vermont After School

- EITC, Health Insurance