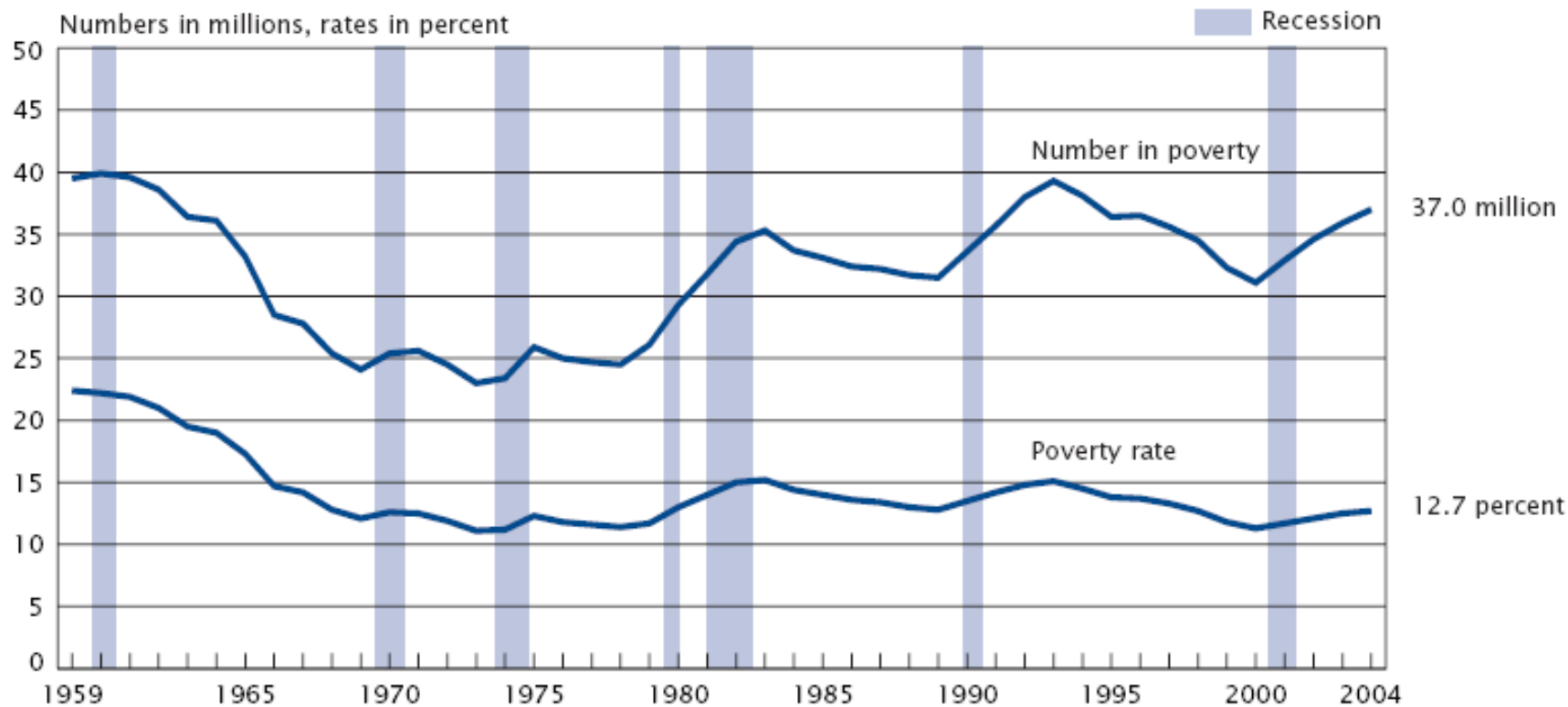


# **Measuring Poverty after Katrina**

**Douglas J. Besharov**  
**American Enterprise Institute**

**August 28, 2006**

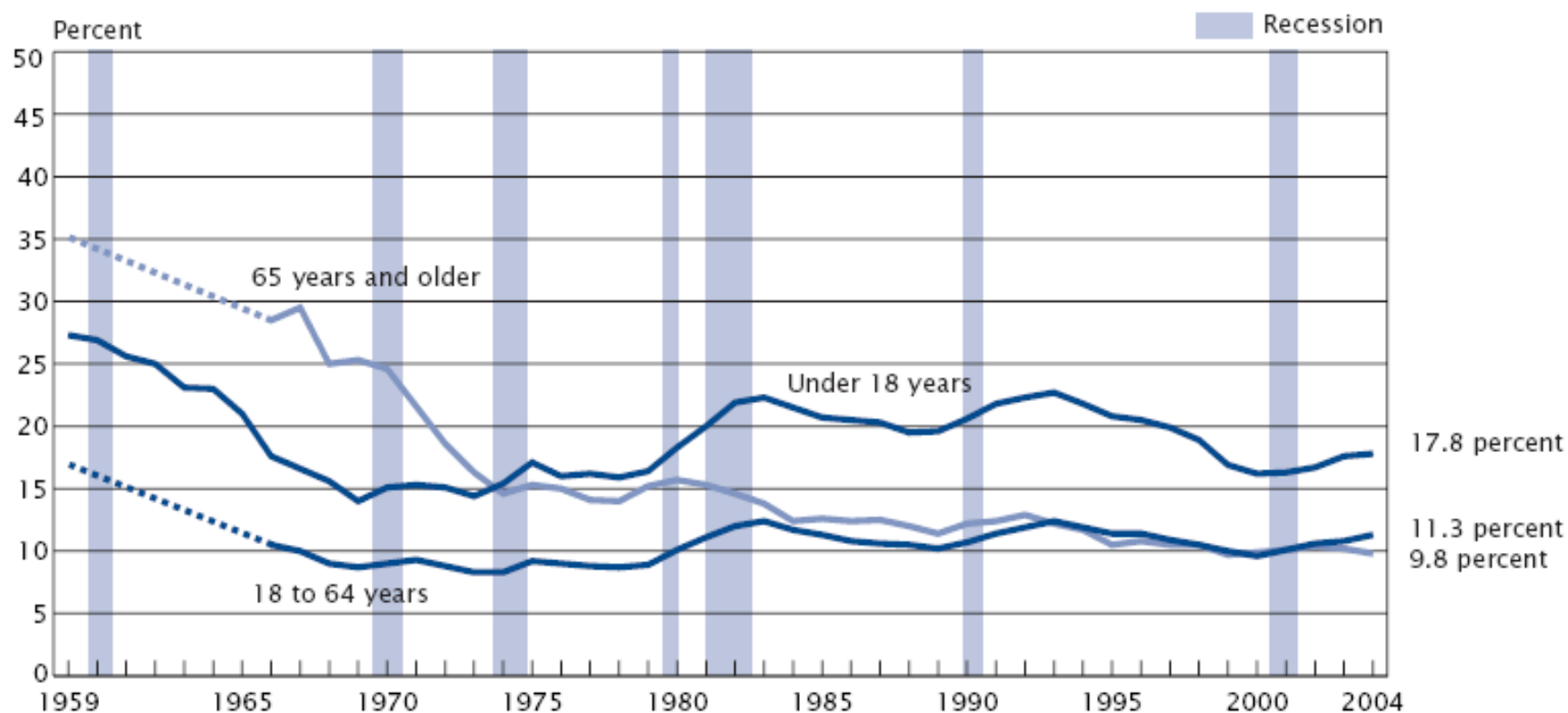
Figure 3.  
**Number in Poverty and Poverty Rate: 1959 to 2004**



Note: The data points are placed at the midpoints of the respective years.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 1960 to 2005 Annual Social and Economic Supplements.

Figure 4.  
**Poverty Rates by Age: 1959 to 2004**

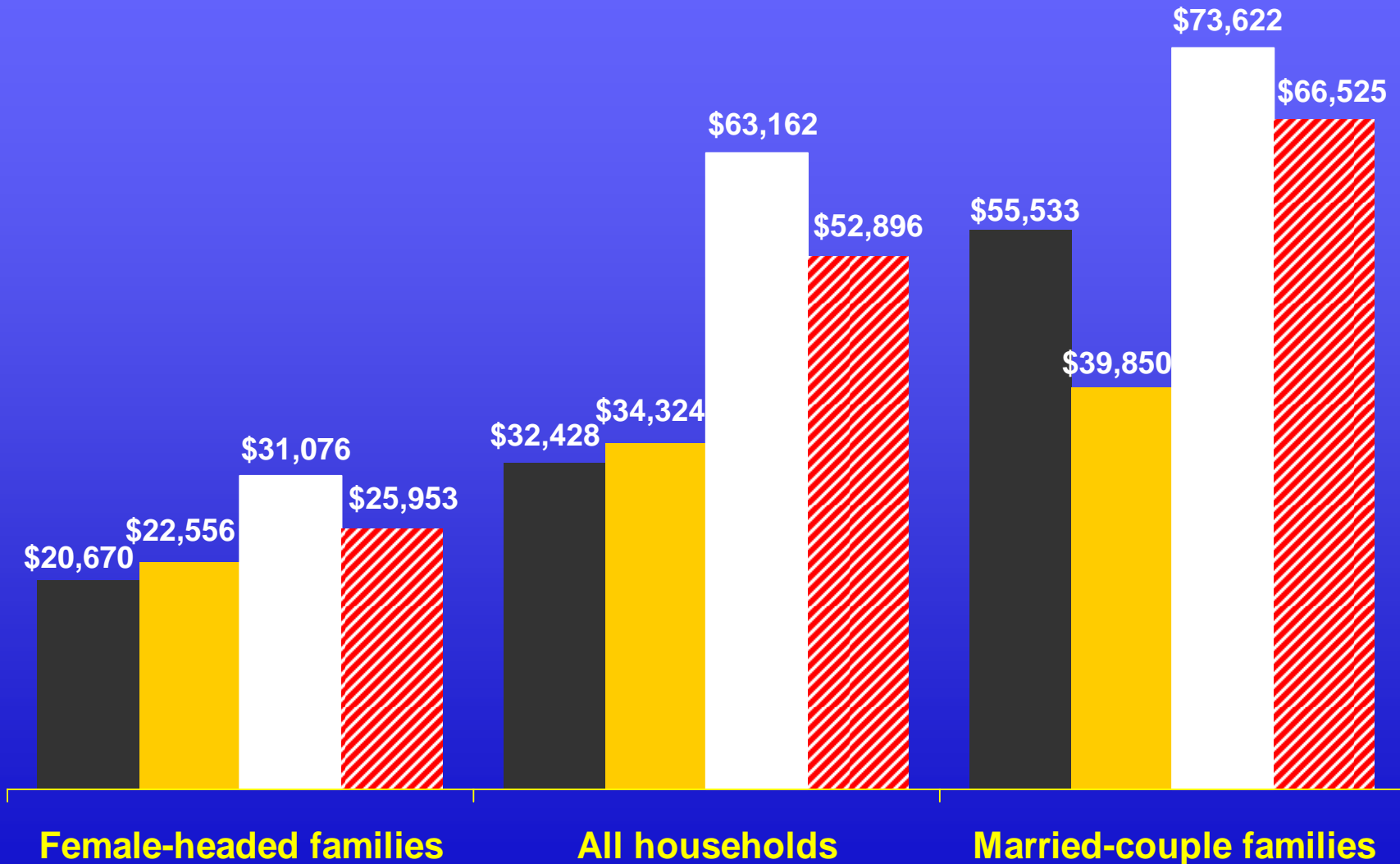


Note: The data points are placed at the midpoints of the respective years.  
 Data for people 18 to 64 and 65 and older are not available from 1960 to 1965.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 1960 to 2005 Annual Social and Economic Supplements.

# Family Structure and Income

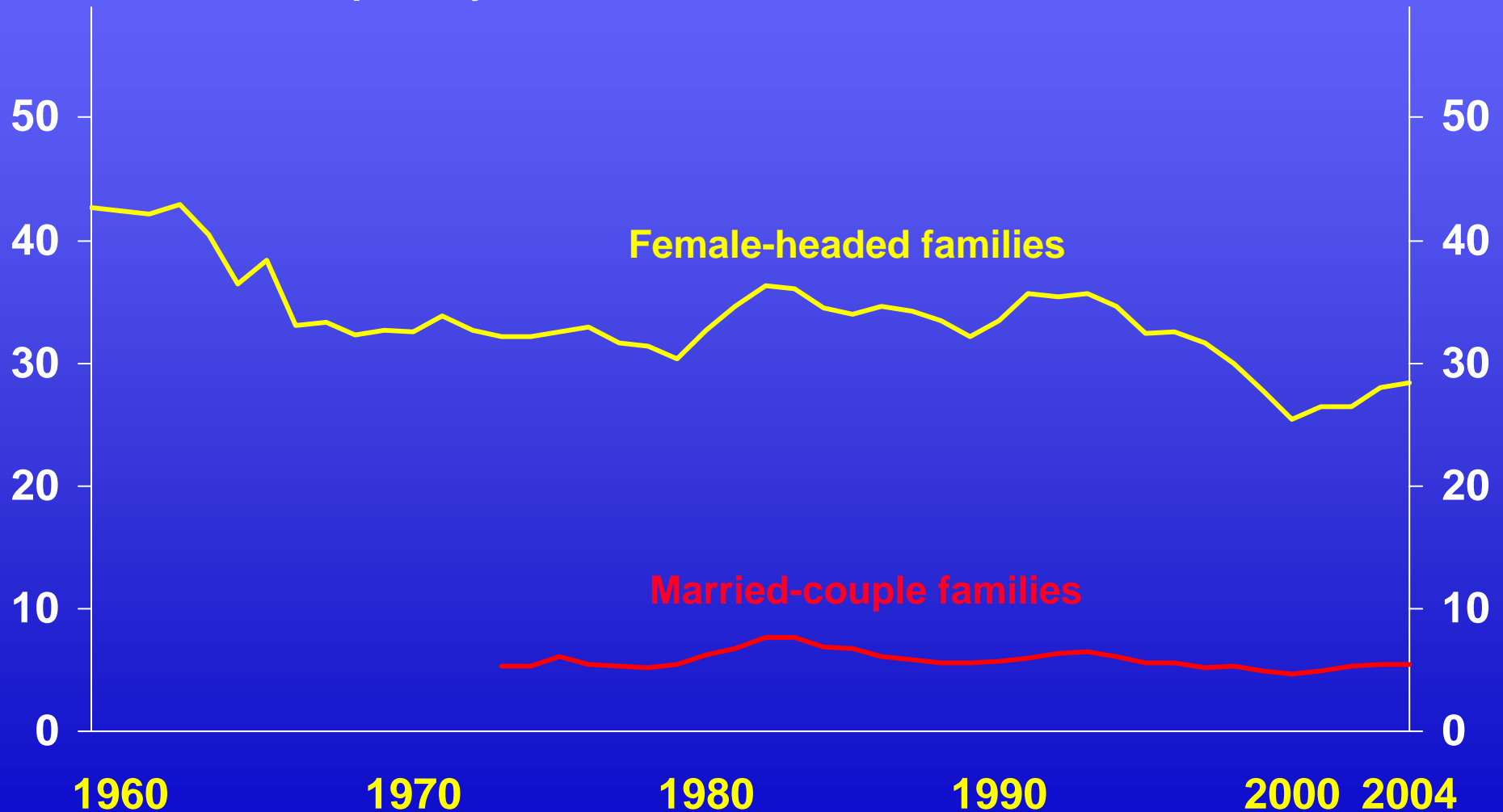
Households with children under age 18 (2003)



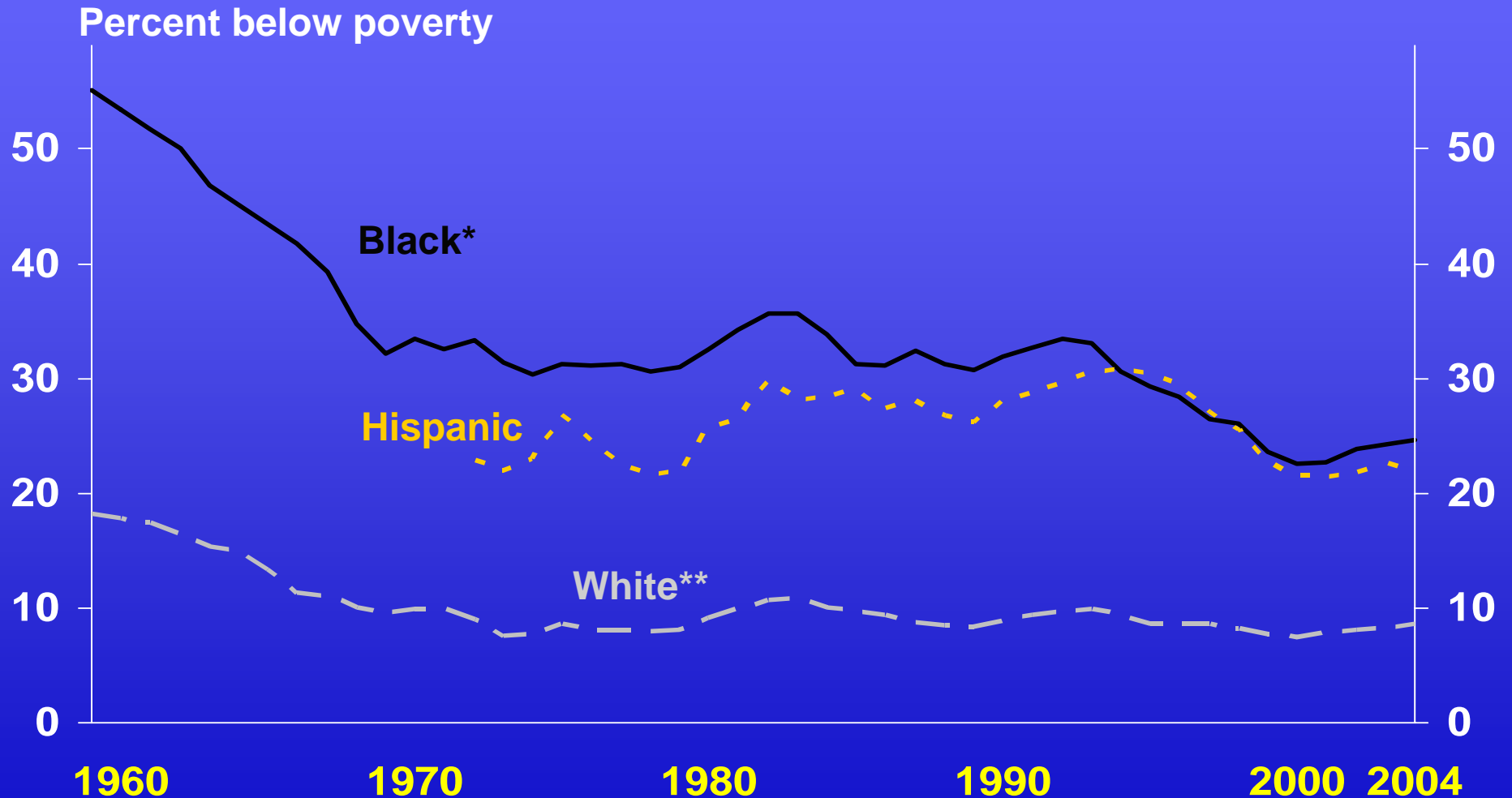
# Poverty Rates by Type of Family

(1959–2004)

Percent below poverty

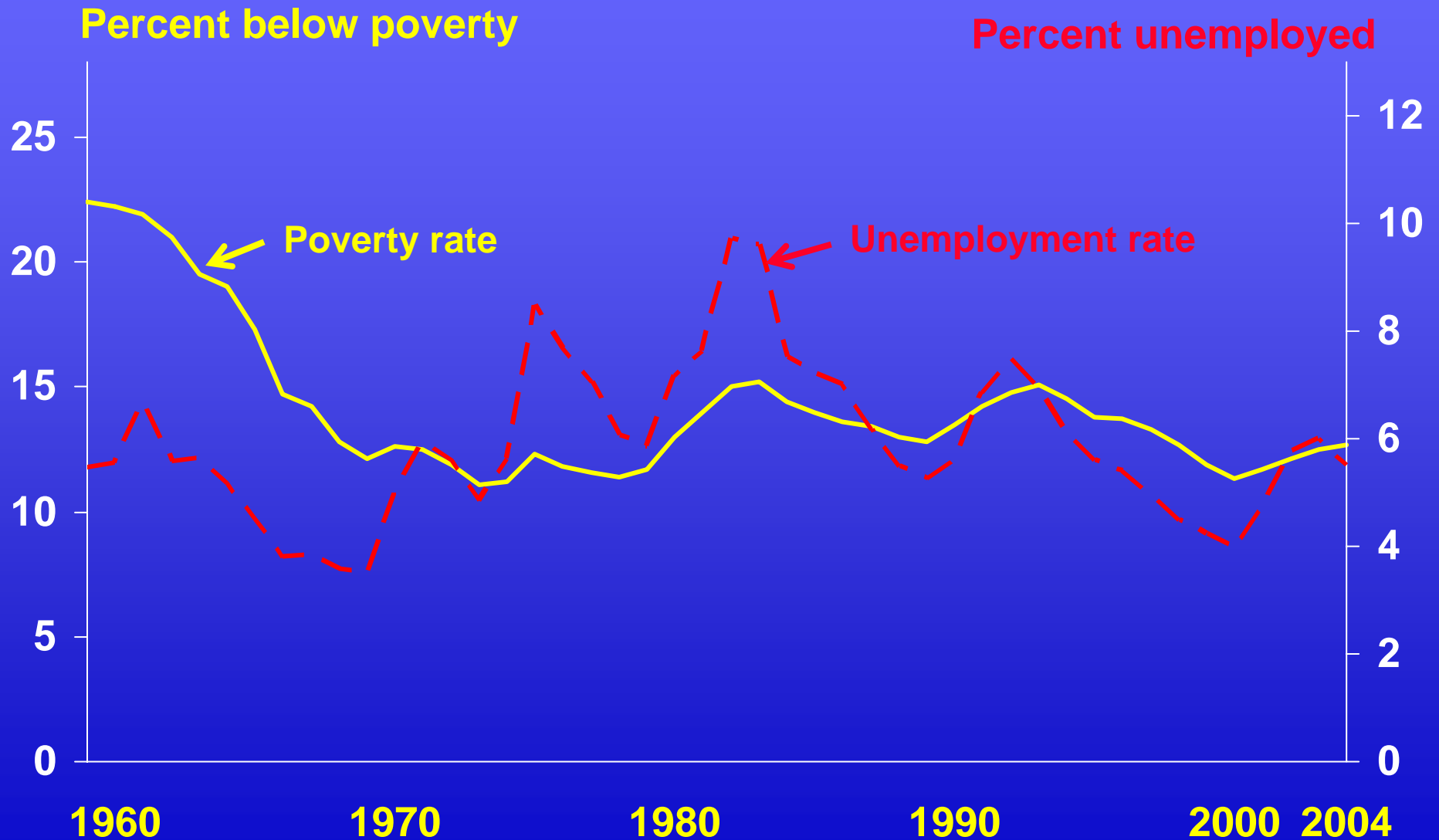


# Poverty Rates by Race/Ethnicity (1959–2004)



\*Figures for blacks between 1960 and 1965 are interpolated. \*\*Including white Hispanics between 1959 and 1972.

# Poverty vs. Unemployment (1959–2004)

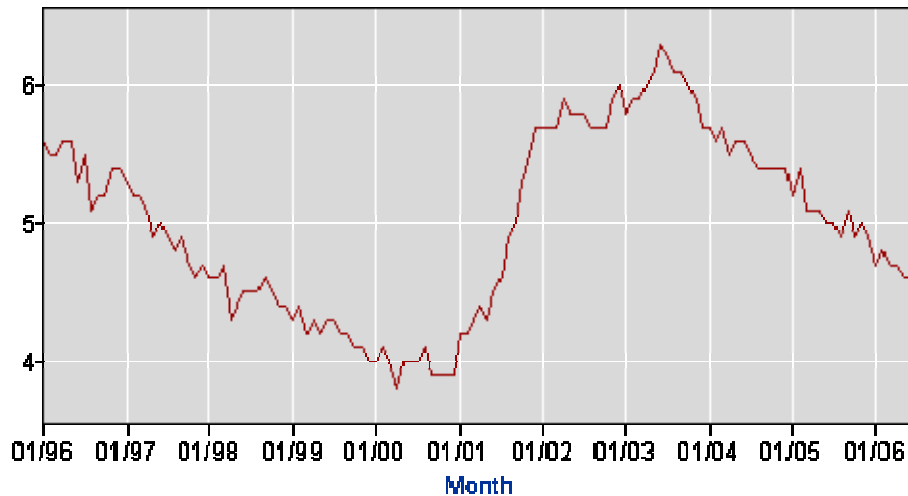


**U.S. Department  
of Labor**  
**Bureau of Labor  
Statistics**



*Bureau of Labor Statistics Data*

**Series Id:** LNS14000000  
**Seasonal Adjusted**  
**Series title:** (Seas) Unemployment Rate  
**Labor force status:** Unemployment rate  
**Type of data:** Percent  
**Age:** 16 years and over



Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual
1996	5.6	5.5	5.5	5.6	5.6	5.3	5.5	5.1	5.2	5.2	5.4	5.4	
1997	5.3	5.2	5.2	5.1	4.9	5.0	4.9	4.8	4.9	4.7	4.6	4.7	
1998	4.6	4.6	4.7	4.3	4.4	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.6	4.5	4.4	4.4	
1999	4.3	4.4	4.2	4.3	4.2	4.3	4.3	4.2	4.2	4.1	4.1	4.0	
2000	4.0	4.1	4.0	3.8	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.1	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.9	
2001	4.2	4.2	4.3	4.4	4.3	4.5	4.6	4.9	5.0	5.3	5.5	5.7	
2002	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.9	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.9	6.0	
2003	5.8	5.9	5.9	6.0	6.1	6.3	6.2	6.1	6.1	6.0	5.9	5.7	
2004	5.7	5.6	5.7	5.5	5.6	5.6	5.5	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4	
2005	5.2	5.4	5.1	5.1	5.1	5.0	5.0	4.9	5.1	4.9	5.0	4.9	
2006	4.7	4.8	4.7	4.7	4.6	4.6	4.8						

# Concentrated Poverty

	Percent of U.S. population	
	1989	1999
<b>Poverty areas</b> Census tracts with a poverty rate 20 percent or higher	21.5%	18.5%
<b>Extreme poverty areas</b> Census tracts with a poverty rate 40 percent or higher	4.6%	2.8%

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, "Poverty Areas," *Statistical Brief (1990 Census)*, June 1995, <http://www.census.gov/population/socdemo/statbriefs/povarea.html> (accessed August 24, 2006); U.S. Census Bureau, "Social and Economic Characteristics, United States," *1990 Census of Population*, 1990 CP-2-1, <http://www.census.gov/prod/cen1990/cp2/cp-2-1.pdf> (accessed August 24, 2006); and U.S. Census Bureau, "Areas with Concentrated Poverty: 1999," *Census 2000 Special Reports*, July 2005, <http://www.census.gov/prod/2005pubs/censr-16.pdf> (accessed August 24, 2006).

Note: A Census tract is a small statistical subdivision of a county that does not cross county boundaries. The population size of tracts varies between about 2,500 and 8,000 residents.

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