The Oregon Poverty Measure

New Insights into Poverty and the Safety Net

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Senate Human Services, Mental Health and Recovery Committee April 22, 2021

Motivation

Project Purpose and Goals

- Build off the limitations of the Official Measure and the Supplemental Poverty Measure to create a more valid measure of poverty for Oregonians.

- Establish repository of best data and methods to study poverty in Oregon now and into the future.

The starting point: What is poverty?

- Insufficient resources to meet basic needs

- In poverty when **Resources < Threshold**

- Can apply to individuals or families/households

- It matters how we define the family, measure resources and identify the threshold

The Oregon Poverty Measure Project

To achieve an improved poverty measure we do the following:

- Use the American Community Survey 2014-2018 - large sample and geographies

- Improve definition of family, e.g., foster children and cohabiting

- Include safety net transfer programs and some expenses

- Improve resource measurement via simulation models (TAXSIM, TRIM) and adjustment from administrative data (DHS, OED, OHCS)

- Oregon-based geographic adjustment of the thresholds

Methods: Adjustments and data sources

Component	Source
Market income	ACS
SNAP	CPS - TRIM - ORadmin
TANF	CPS - ORadmin
Housing subsidies, LIHEAP, ERDC	ORadmin
Tax credits	Taxsim
Taxes	CPS - TRIM
Medical expenses	CPS
Child care and work expenses	CPS

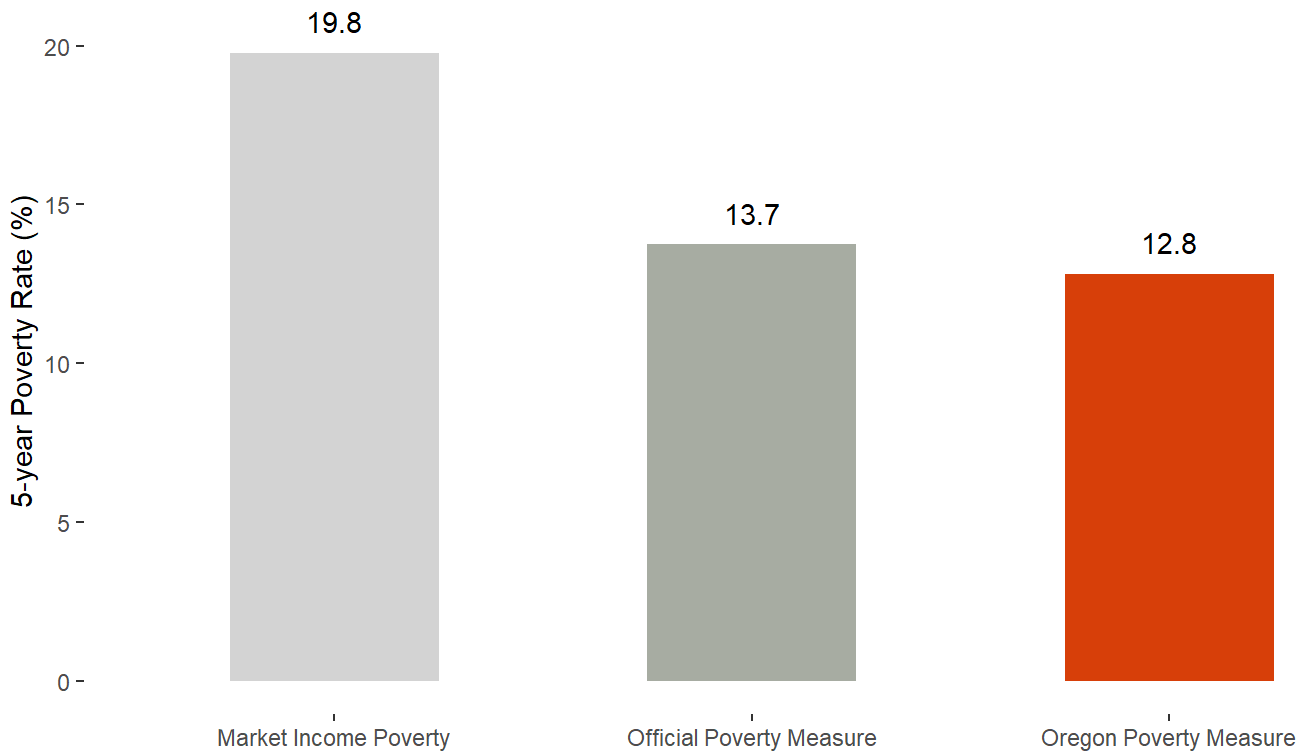# Finding 1: Overall poverty lower

Source: Oregon Poverty Measure Project
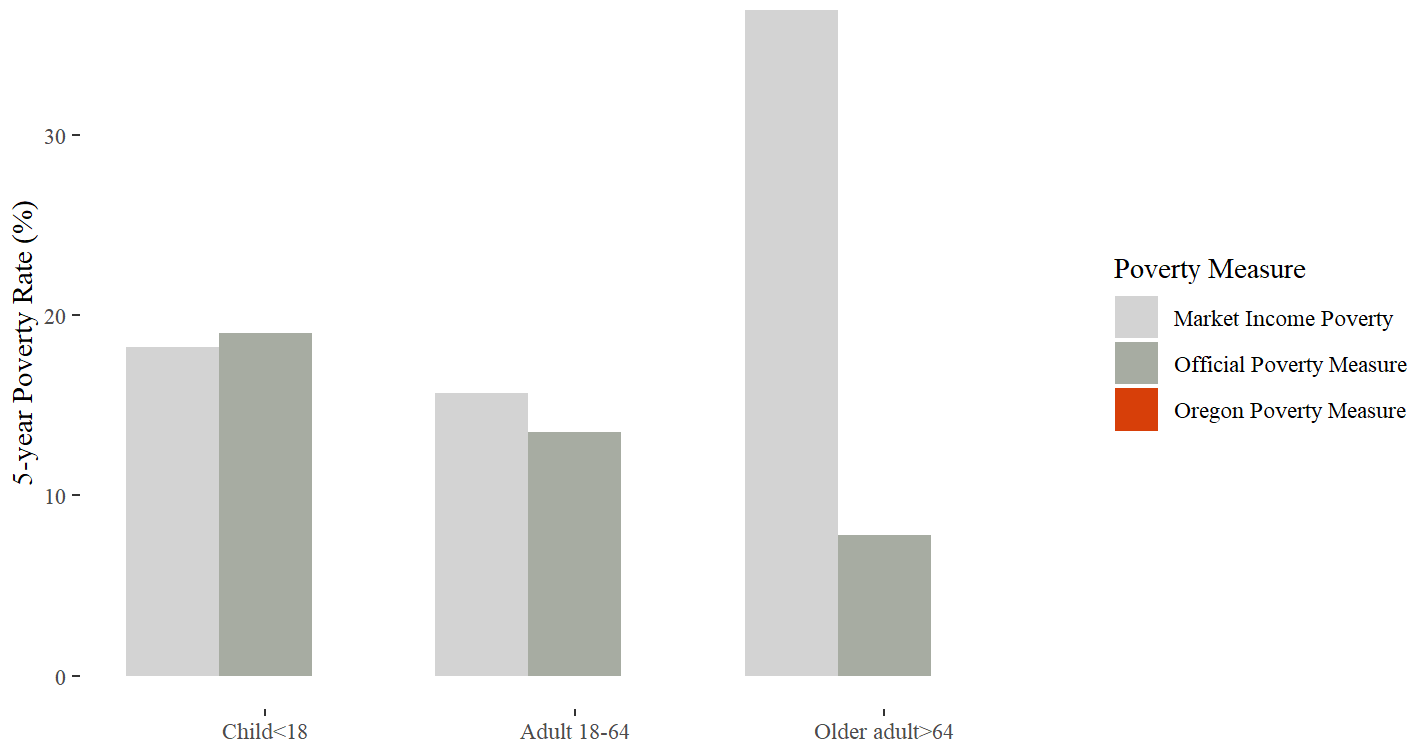
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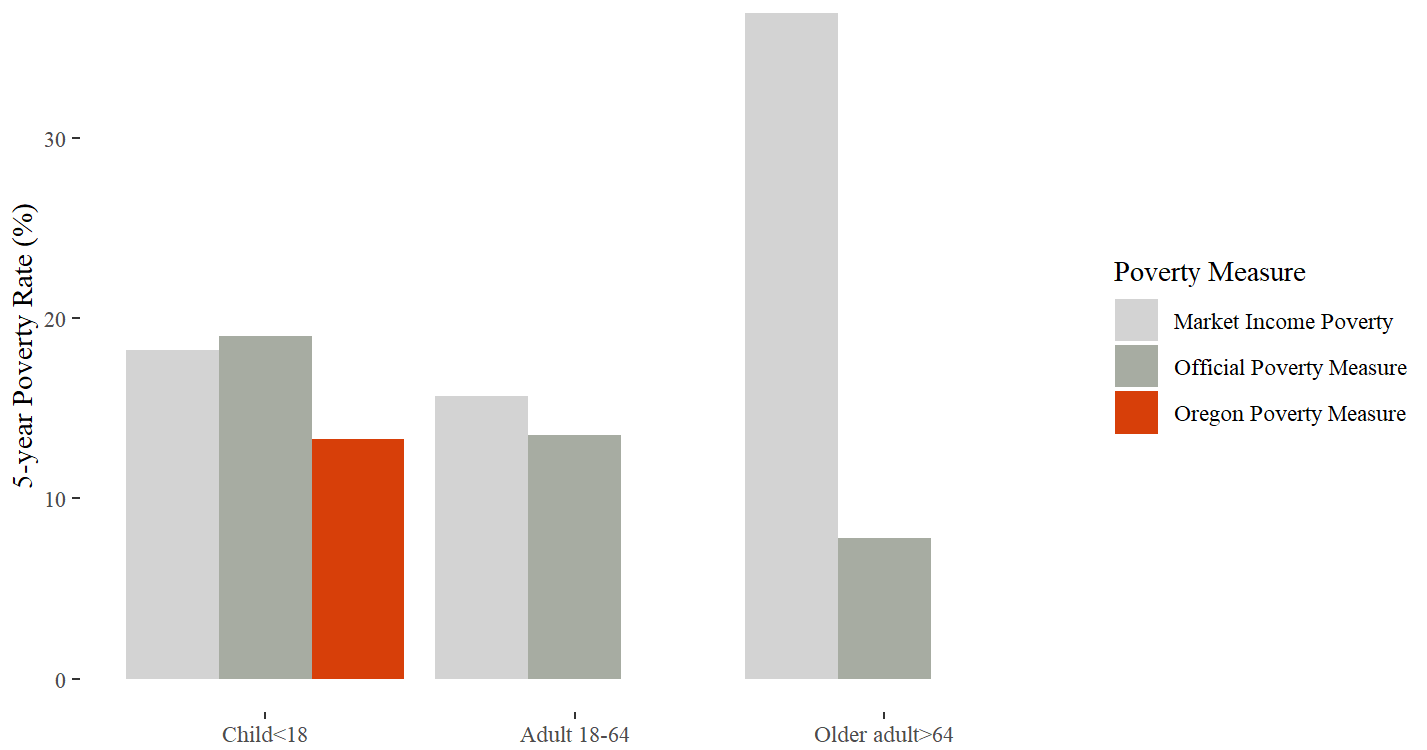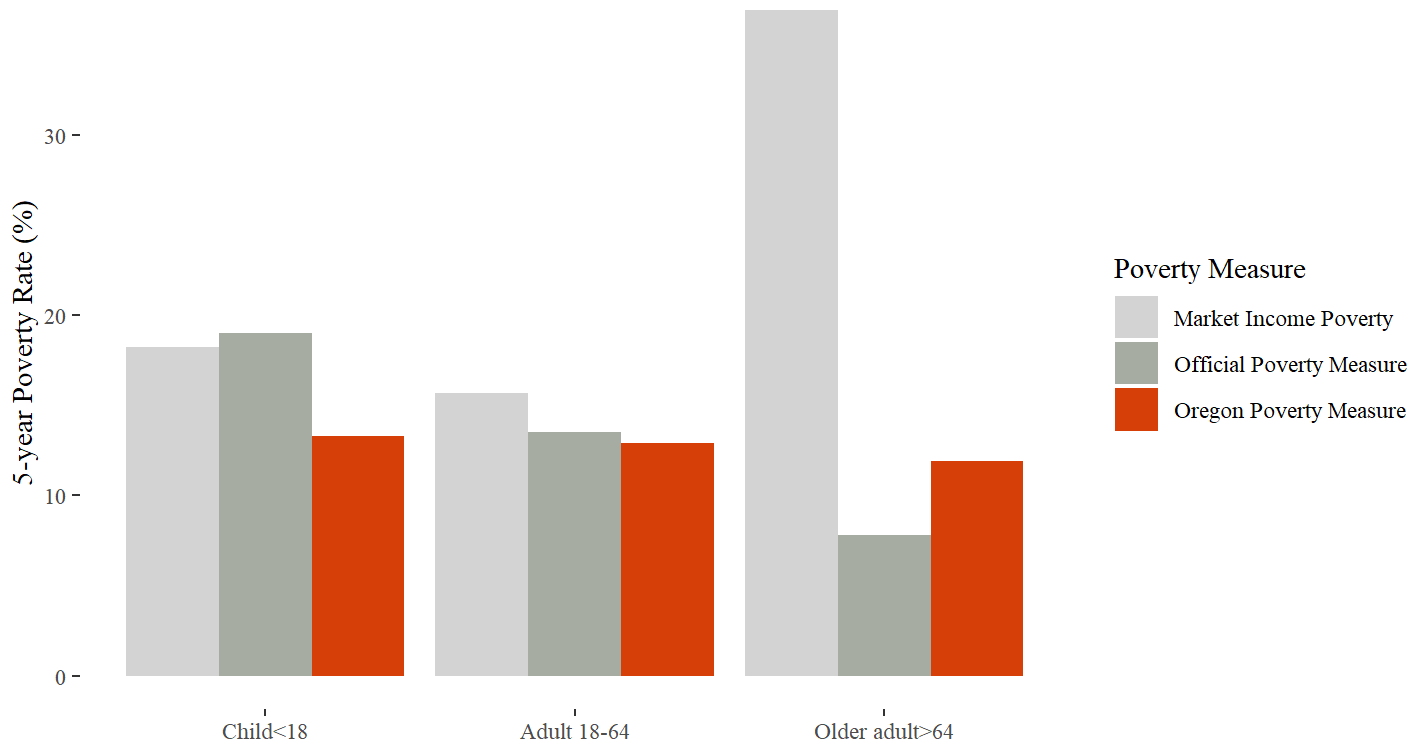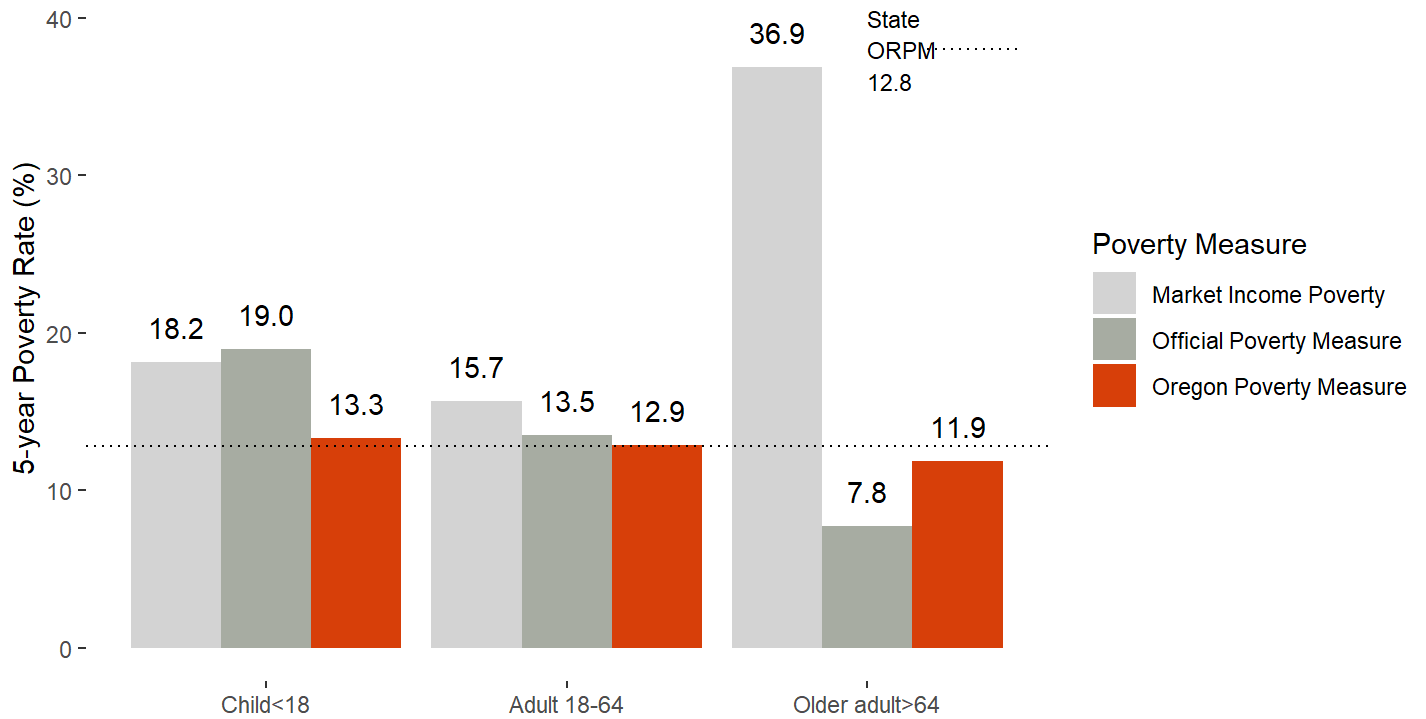# Finding 1: Overall poverty lower

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Finding 2: Age matters

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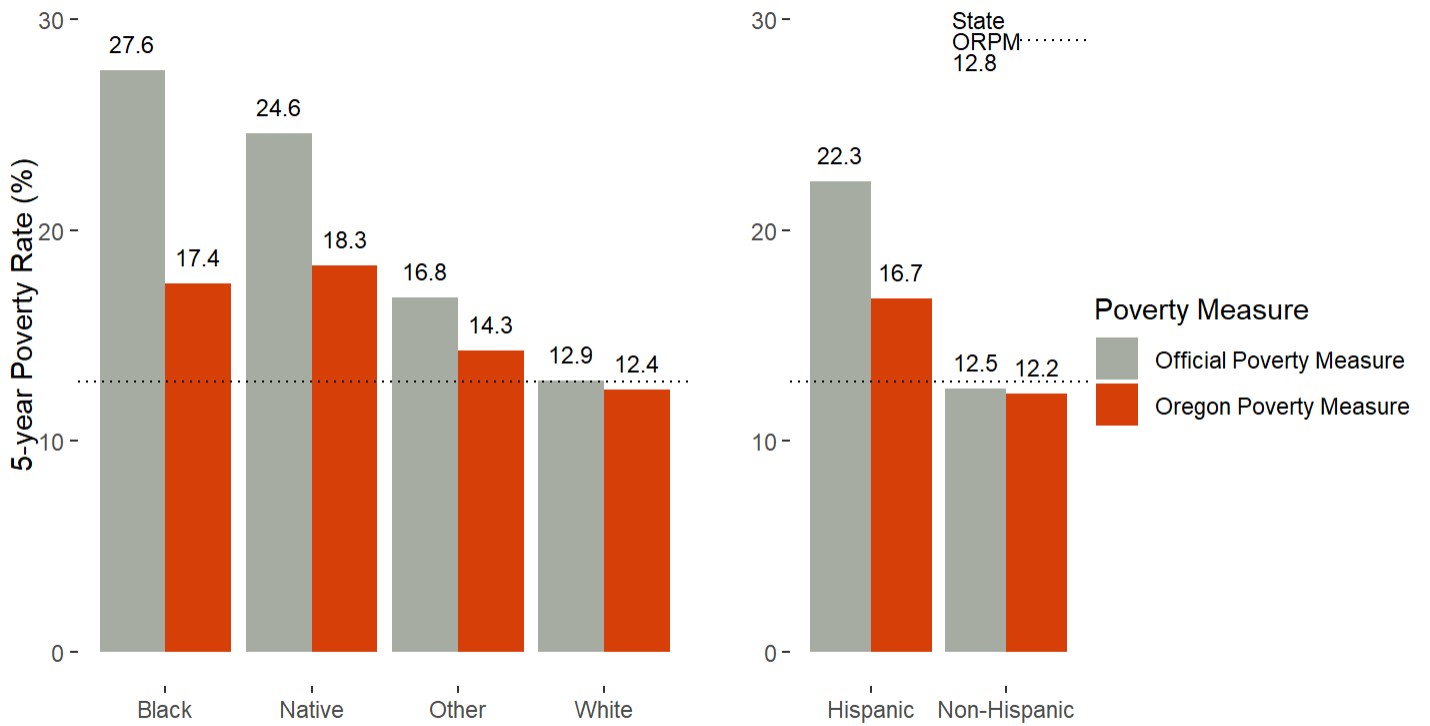
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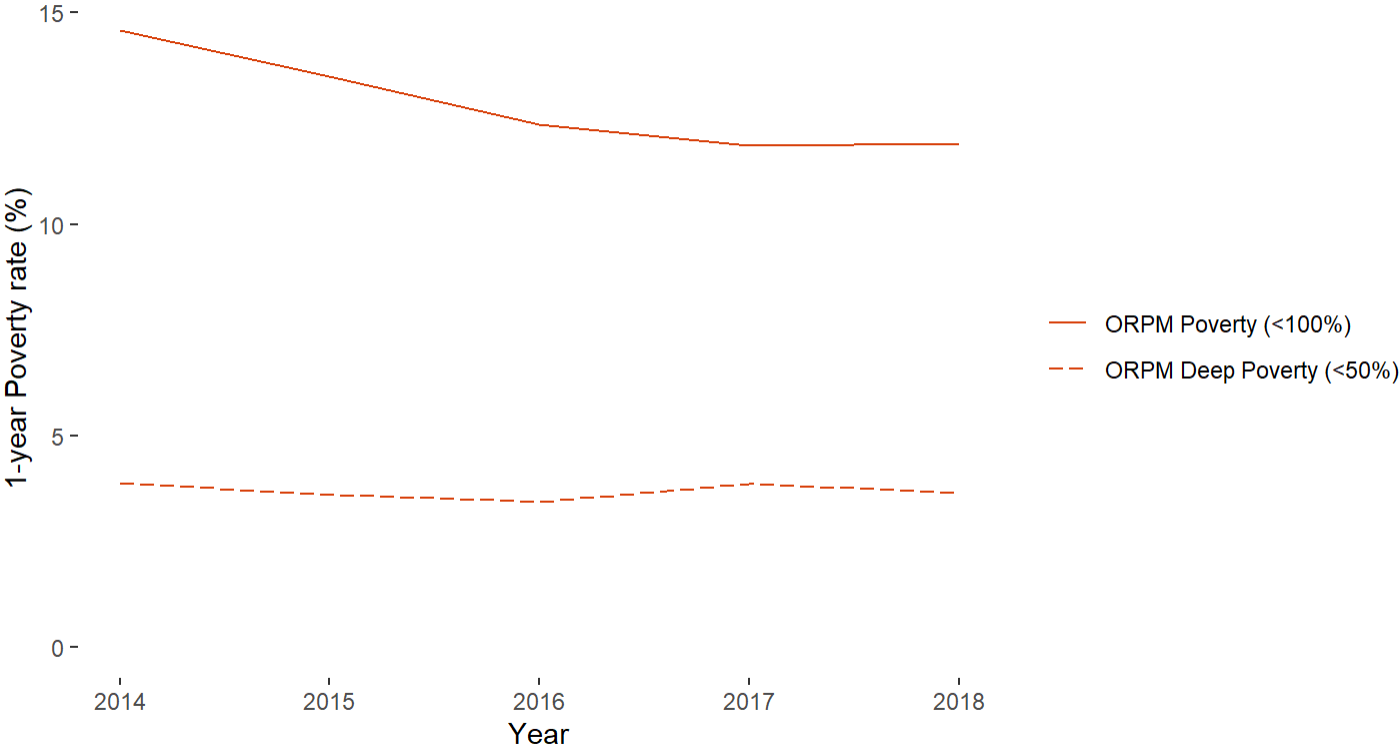

Source: Oregon Poverty Measure Project

Finding 3: Poverty lower across race/ethnic groups

Source: Oregon Poverty Measure Project

Finding 4: Deep poverty did not improve
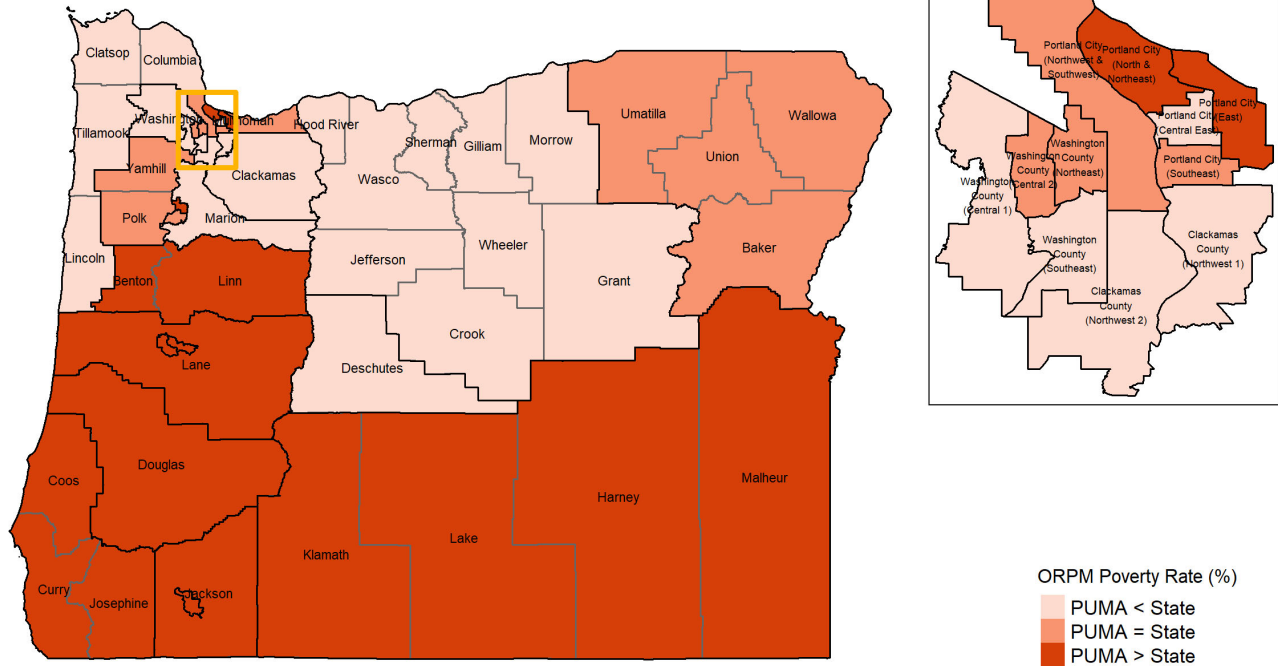
Finding 4: Deep poverty did not improve

Source:Oregon Poverty Measure Project

What explains the differences we find?

1. Geographic adjustments

2. Policies are included

Finding 5: Geographic variation

5-year ORPM Poverty Rate by PUMA

Portland Metropolitan Area (inset)

ORPM Poverty Rate (%)

- PUMA < State
- PUMA = State
- PUMA > State

Source: Oregon Poverty Measure Project

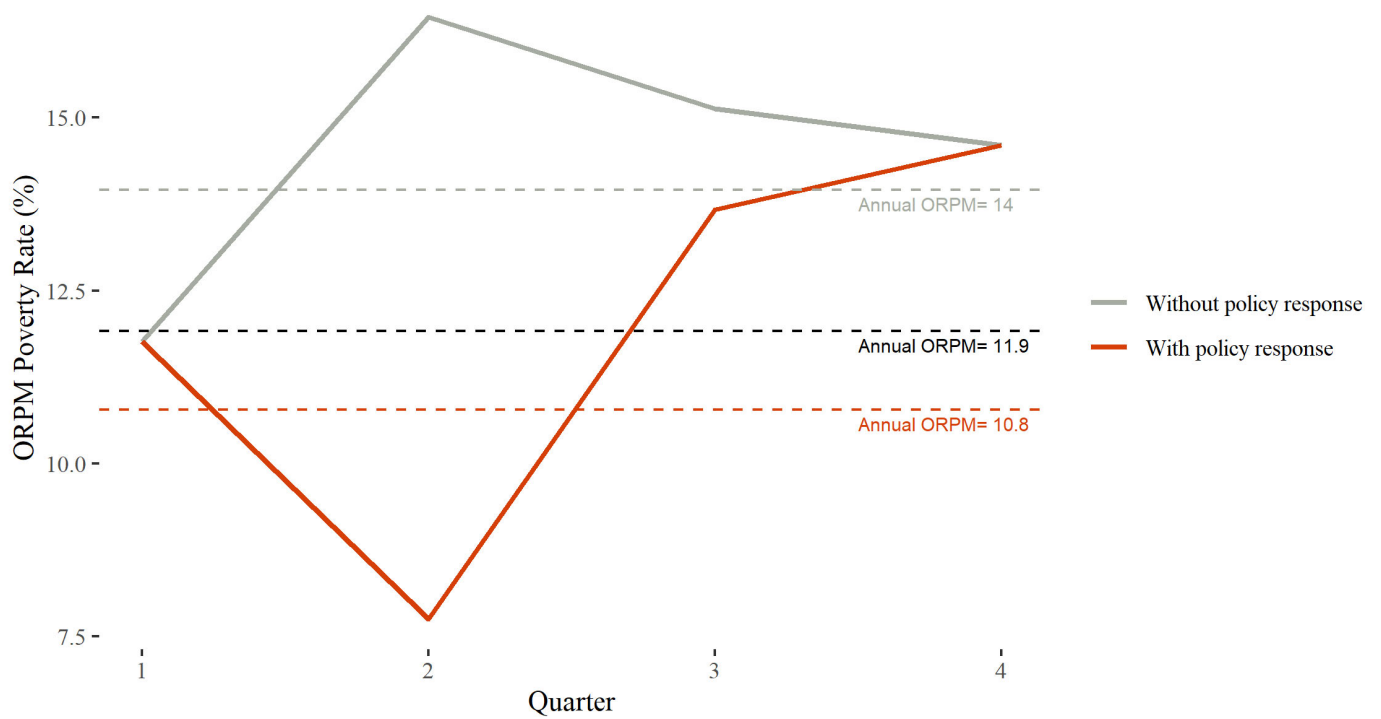# Finding 6: Safety net offsets much poverty

Source: Oregon Poverty Measure Project

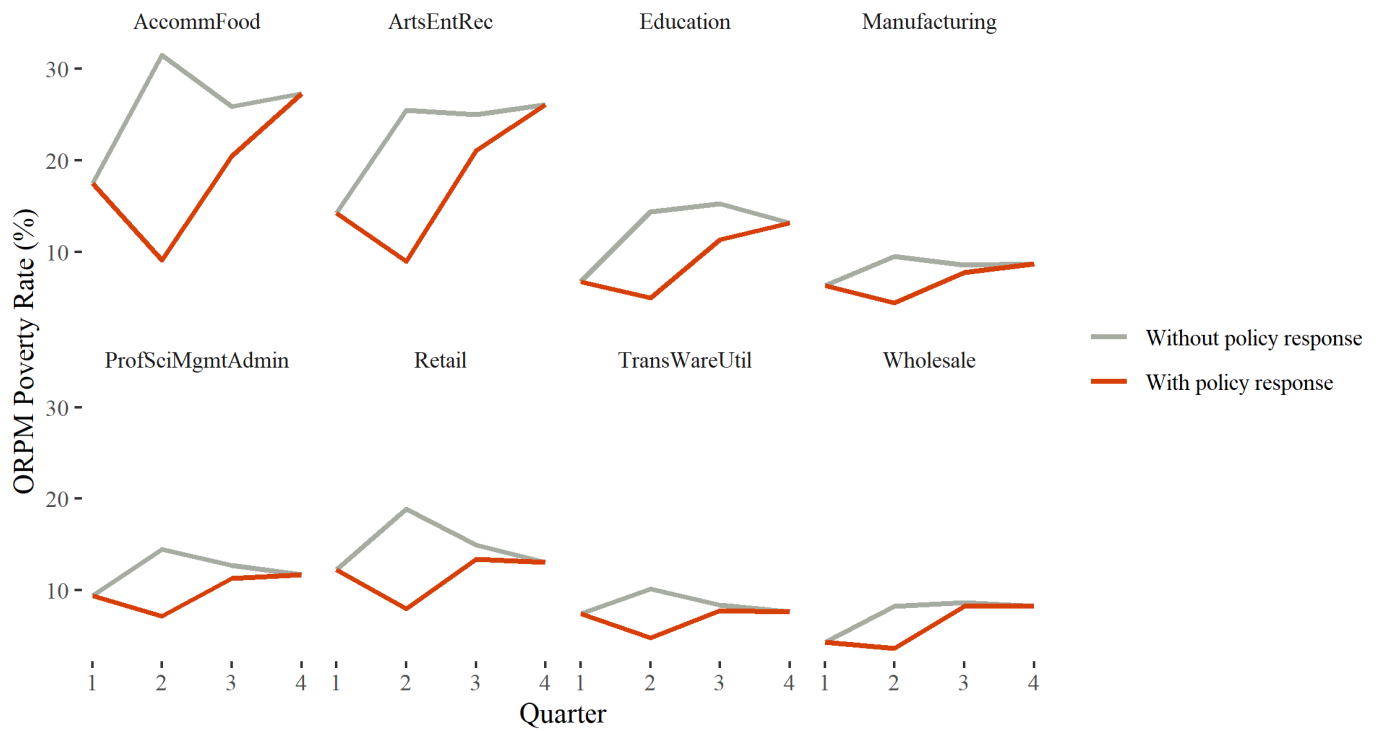# Finding 6: Safety net offsets much poverty

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Finding 7: COVID poverty projections
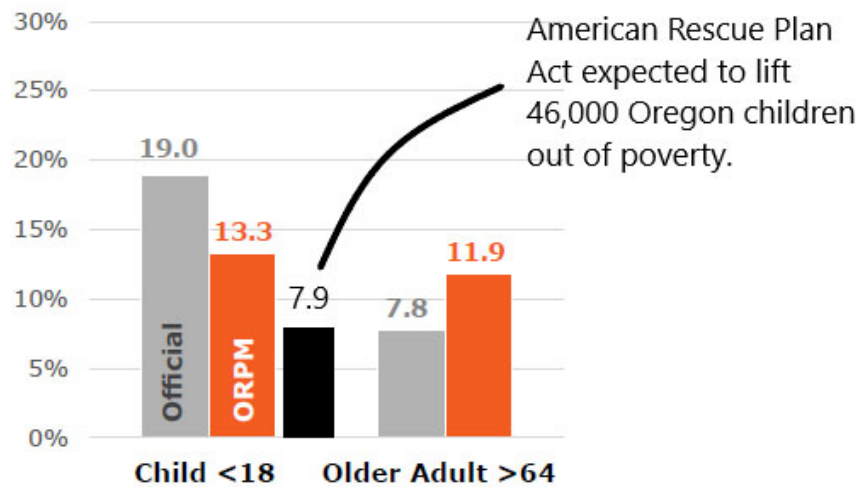

Source: Oregon Poverty Measure Project

Finding 7: COVID poverty projections

Source:Oregon Poverty Measure Project

Finding 8: American Rescue Plan poverty projections

Age | The ORPM highlights higher rates of poverty among older adults, largely due to medical expenses, and the positive effects of safety net programs for children and youth.

American Rescue Plan Act expected to lift 46,000 Oregon children out of poverty.

Oregon Poverty – Next Steps and Future Directions

- 5-year report, technical appendix: https://health.oregonstate.edu/research/group/poverty/

- Code online soon

- Analysis on Multnomah County, SW Oregon, COVID

- Oregon policies (e.g., minimum wage changes, Oregon Earned Income Credit)?

Thank you

Please contact us with feedback and questions:
https://health.oregonstate.edu/research/group/poverty

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