

Poverty in Oklahoma

A statistical overview of poverty and how to reduce it.

Anthony Flores, Research Director



OKPOLICY.ORG
Oklahoma Policy Institute

Agenda

1. What is poverty?
2. Who is in poverty?
3. What can we do to get people out of poverty?



What is Poverty?



What is Poverty?

Poverty is not having enough resources to meet basic needs.

- Poverty is measured as a **household-level** issue, not an individual one since households share resources.
- The Census Bureau's **Supplemental Poverty Measure (SPM)** is the current best measure of poverty in the US that captures this definition.



What Are Basic Needs?

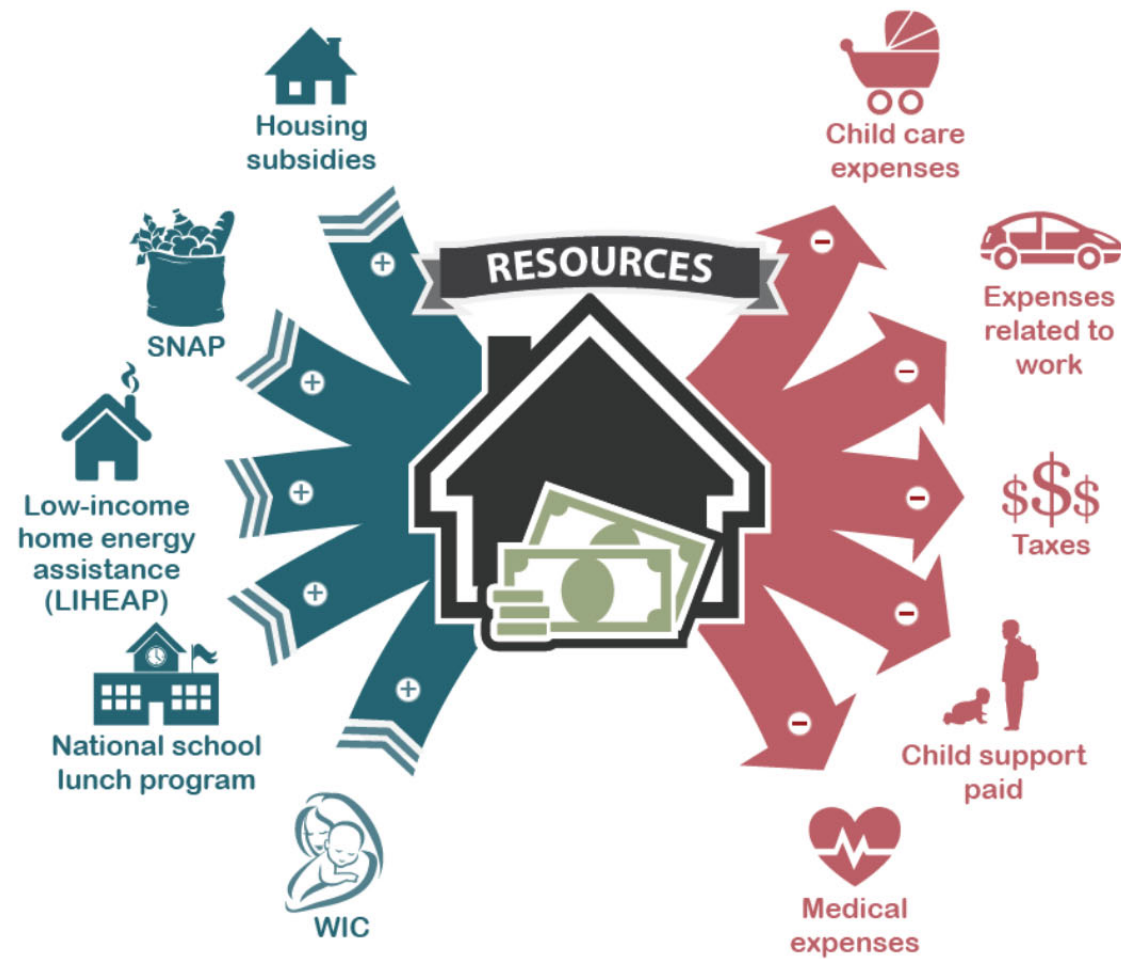
In the Census Bureau's Supplemental Poverty Measure:

- **Basic Needs** = Food, Clothing, Shelter, Utilities (FCSU).

What Counts as Resources?

- **Resources** = Income + Public Assistance - Expenses.



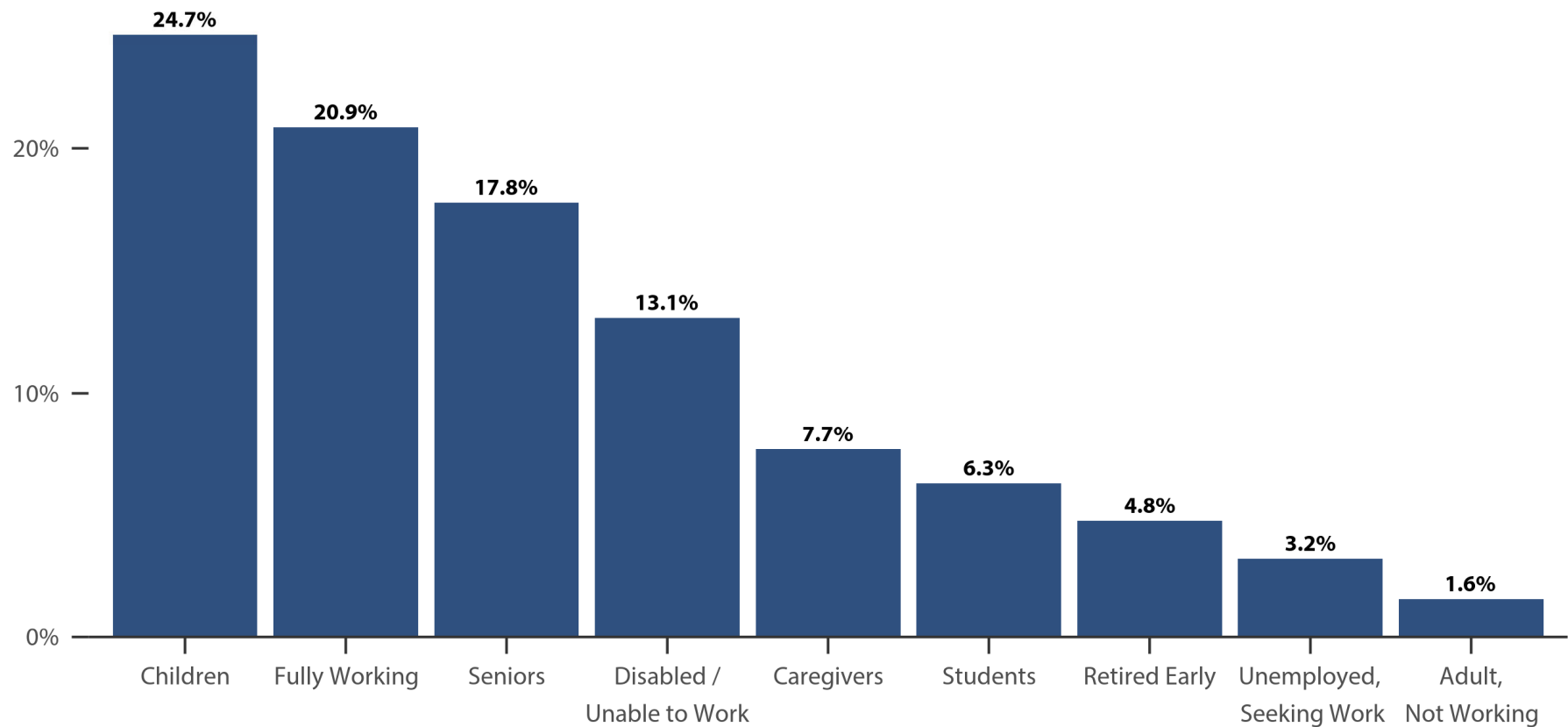


Who is in Poverty?



Almost all Oklahomans in poverty are already working, seeking work, or unable to work

The percentage of Oklahomans in poverty that are of a particular subgroup

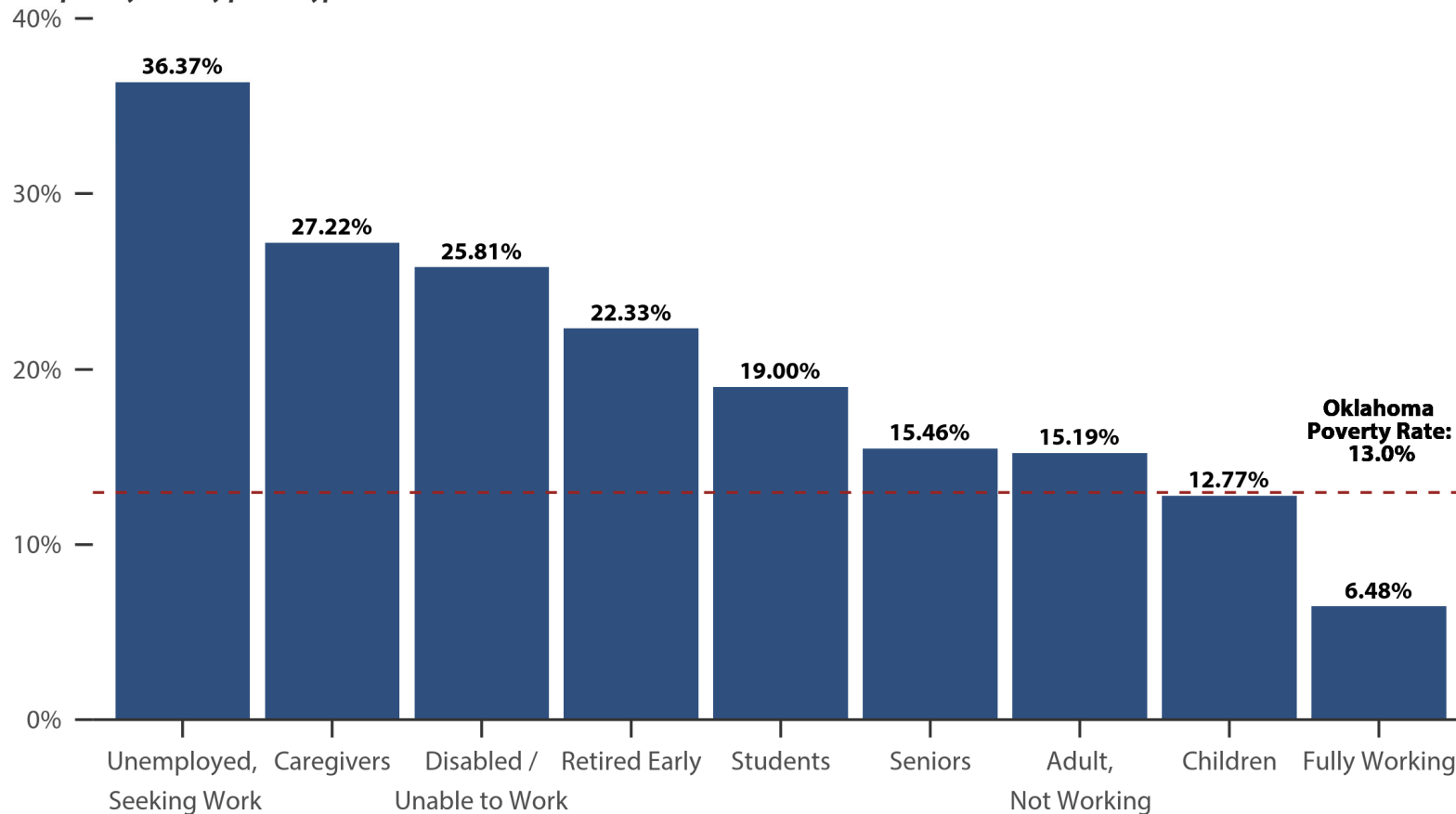


Source: Original analysis of IPUMS ASEC CPS 2023 (Census Bureau microdata).



Poverty rates are highest for those unable to work or seeking work

SPM poverty rates by person type

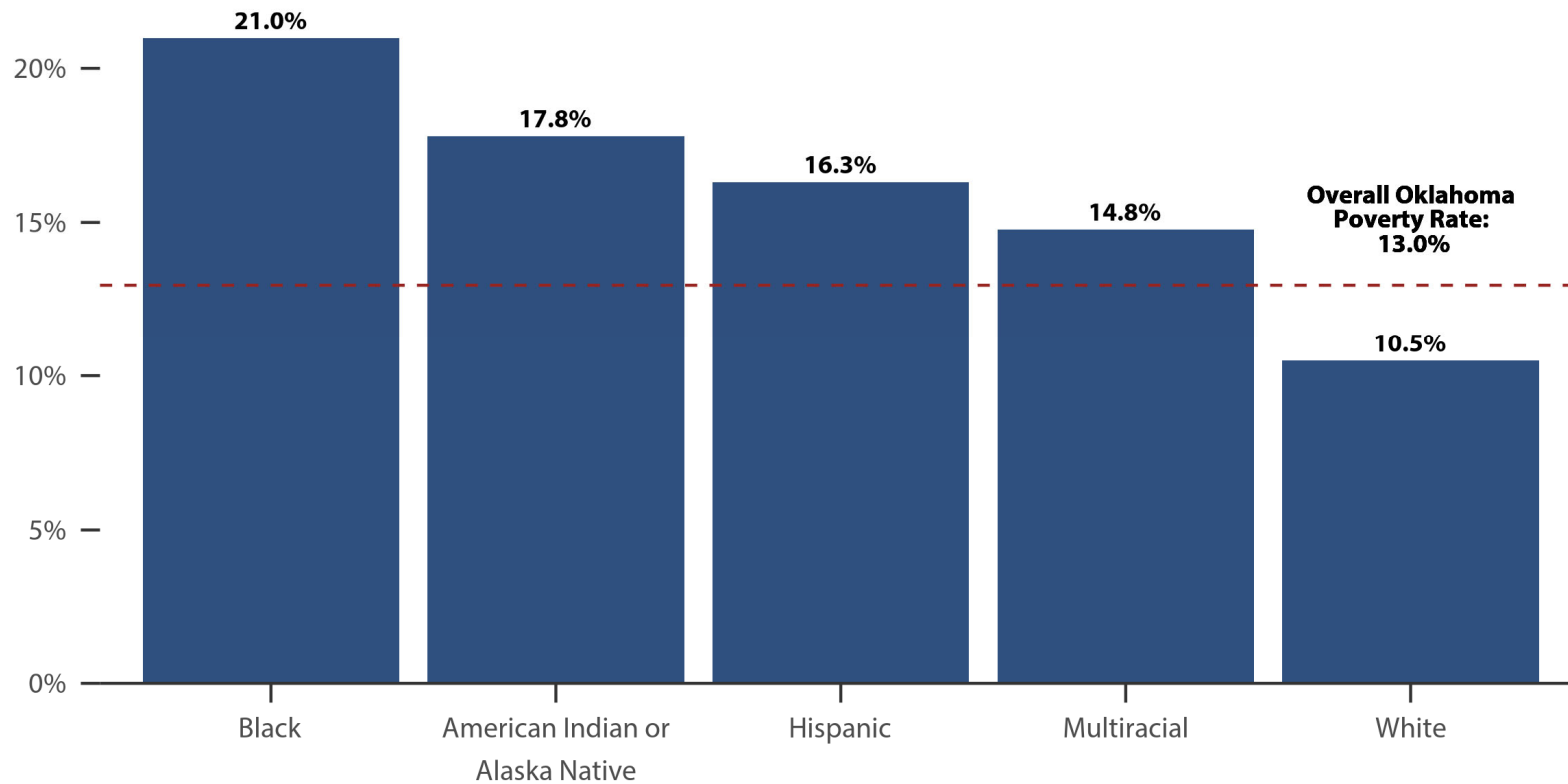


Source: Original analysis of IPUMS ASEC CPS 2023 (Census Bureau microdata).



Poverty rates are higher for Black, Native, Hispanic, and multiracial Oklahomans

SPM poverty rates by educational attainment

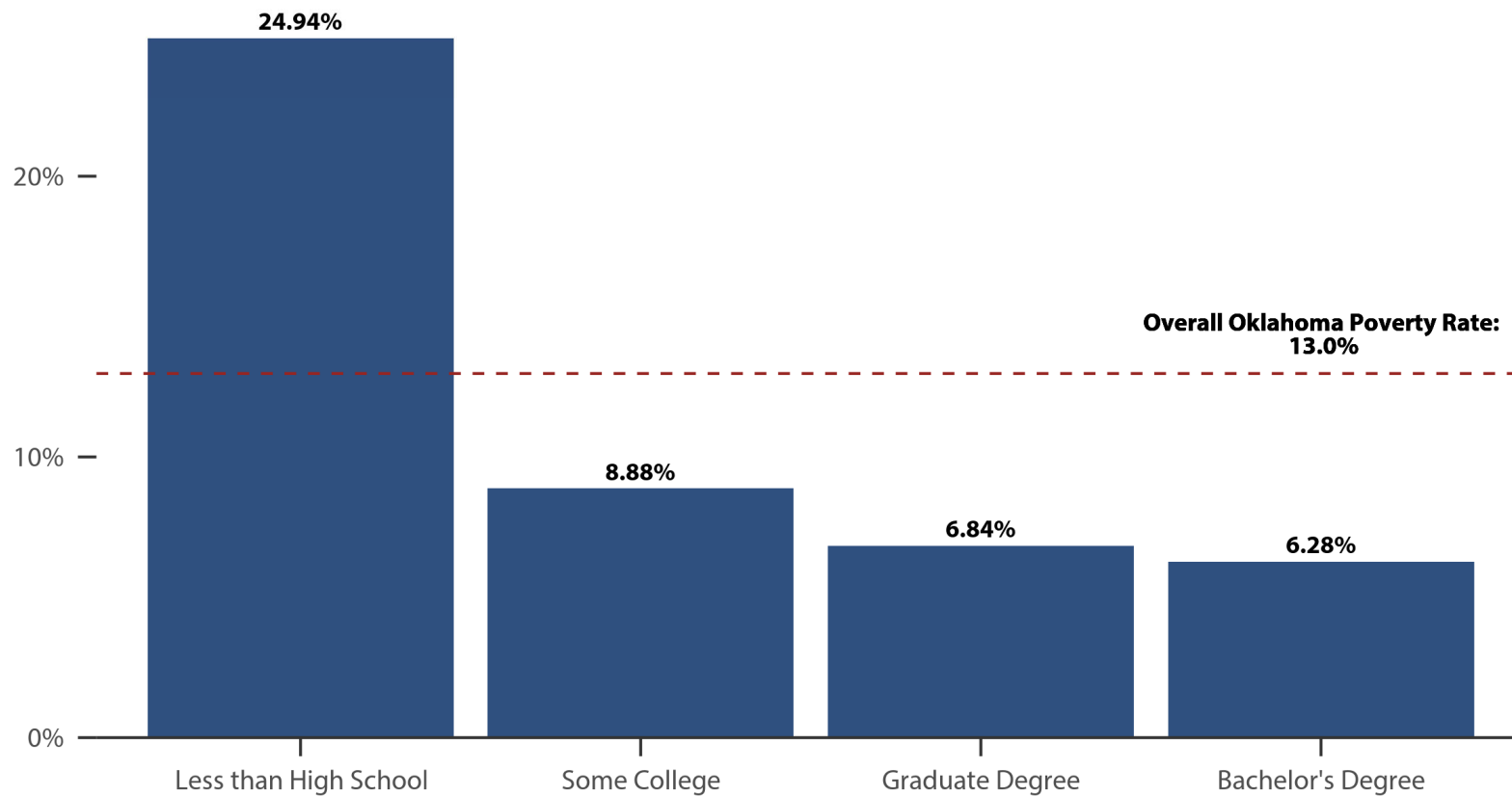


Source: Original analysis of IPUMS ASEC CPS 2023 (Census Bureau microdata).



Poverty rates are far higher for those with less than a high school education

SPM poverty rates by educational attainment

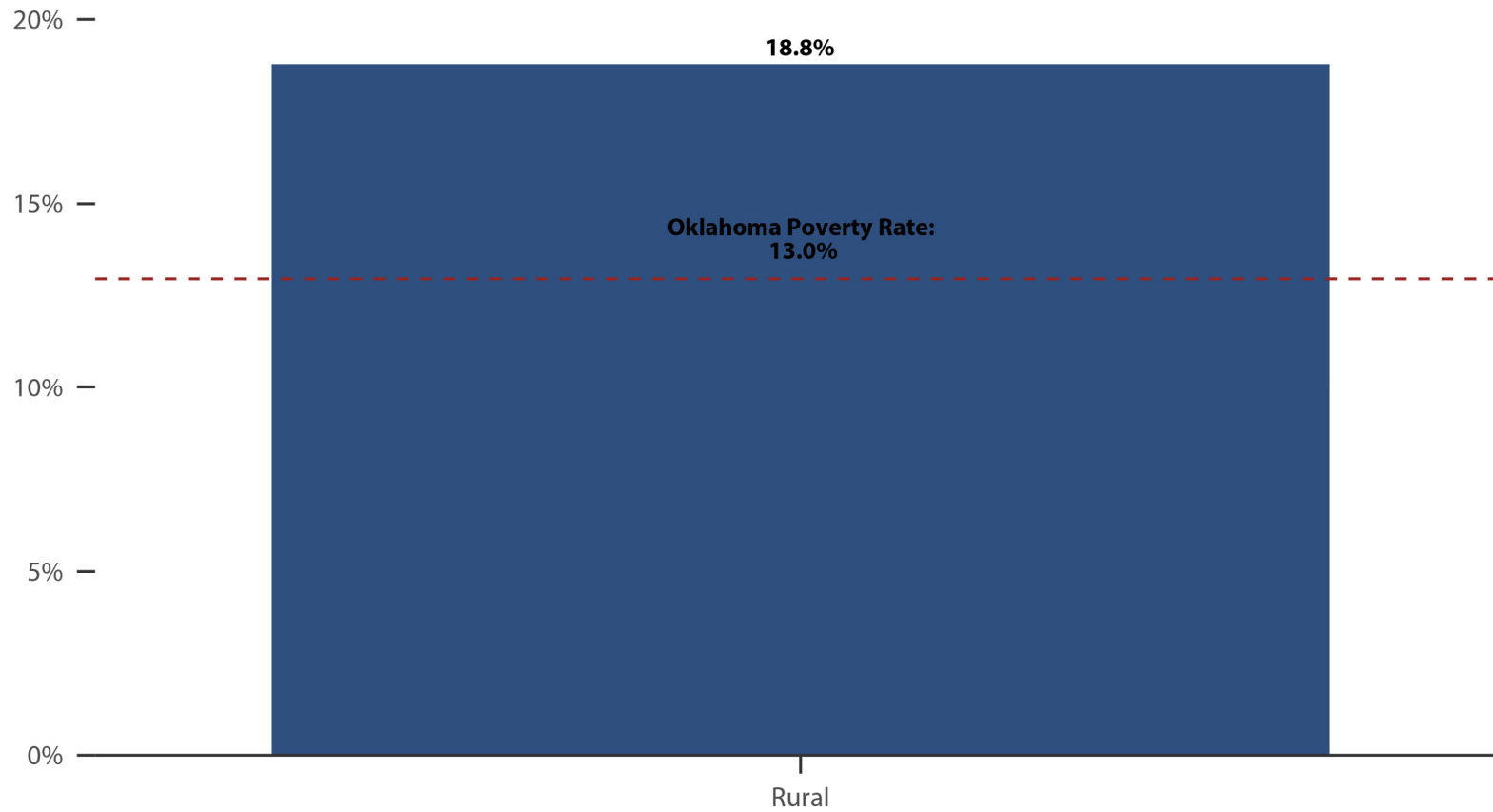


Source: Analysis of IPUMS ASEC CPS 2023 (Census Bureau microdata).



Rural Oklahomans are more likely to be in poverty

SPM poverty rates by Urban or Rural Status

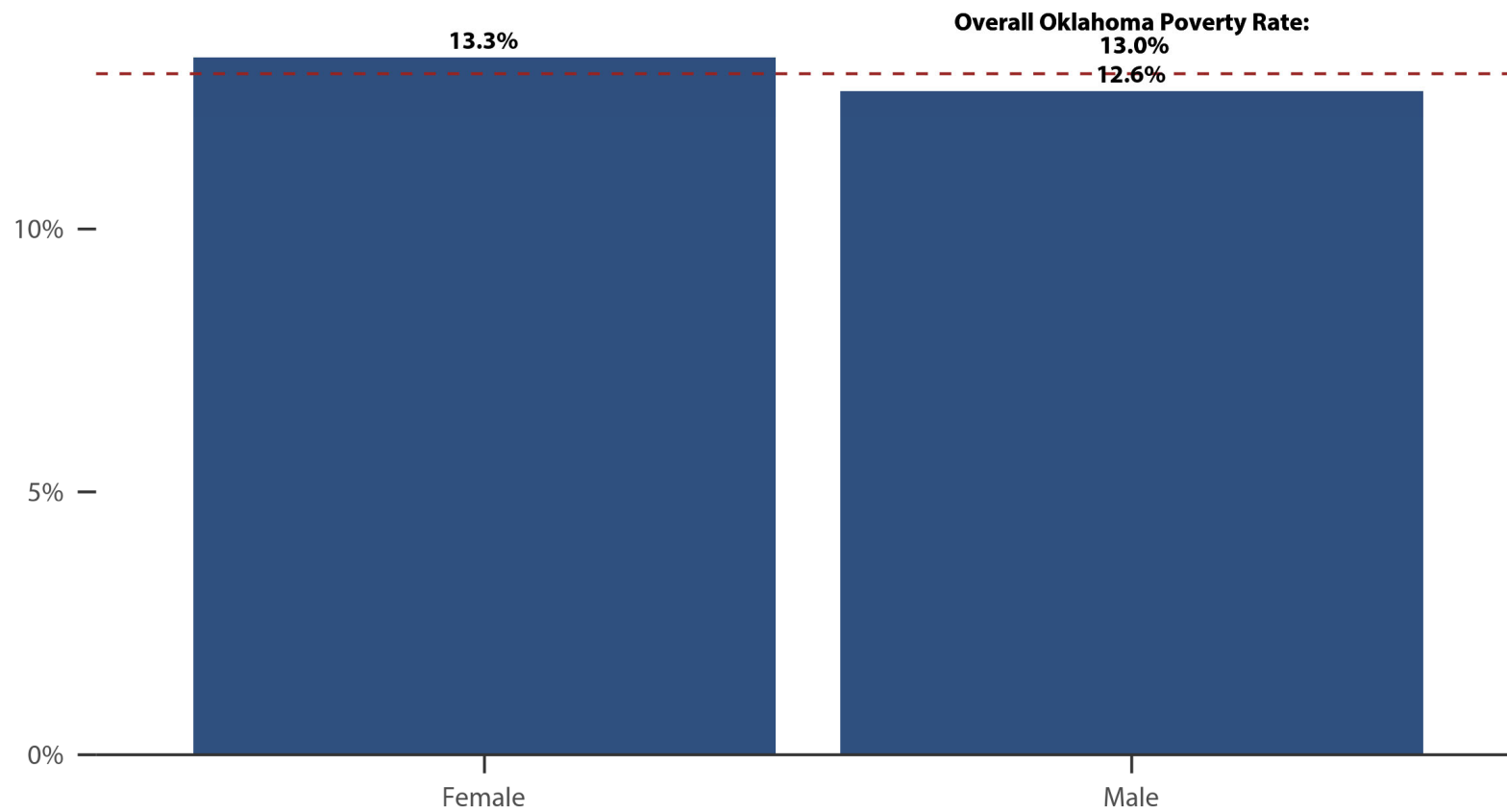


Source: Original analysis of IPUMS ASEC CPS 2023 (Census Bureau microdata).



Women are slightly more likely to be in poverty

SPM poverty rates by gender



Source: Analysis of IPUMS ASEC CPS 2023 (Census Bureau microdata).



What can we do to get people out of poverty?



Reducing expenses

- **Resources** = Income + Public Assistance - **Expenses**.
- Expenses here are often non-optional. So, the only way to reduce them is by reducing cost.
- Those in households with large number of dependents often also have more expenses.
 - Childcare expenses, child support paid, etc.
 - Medical expenses



Increasing income

- **Resources** = **Income** + Public Assistance - Expenses.
- Individuals in poverty often lack significant access to two out of the three sources of factor income:
 - Rent (property ownership)
 - Interest/profits (such as through stock ownership).
- The most significant factor income received is salary/wages.



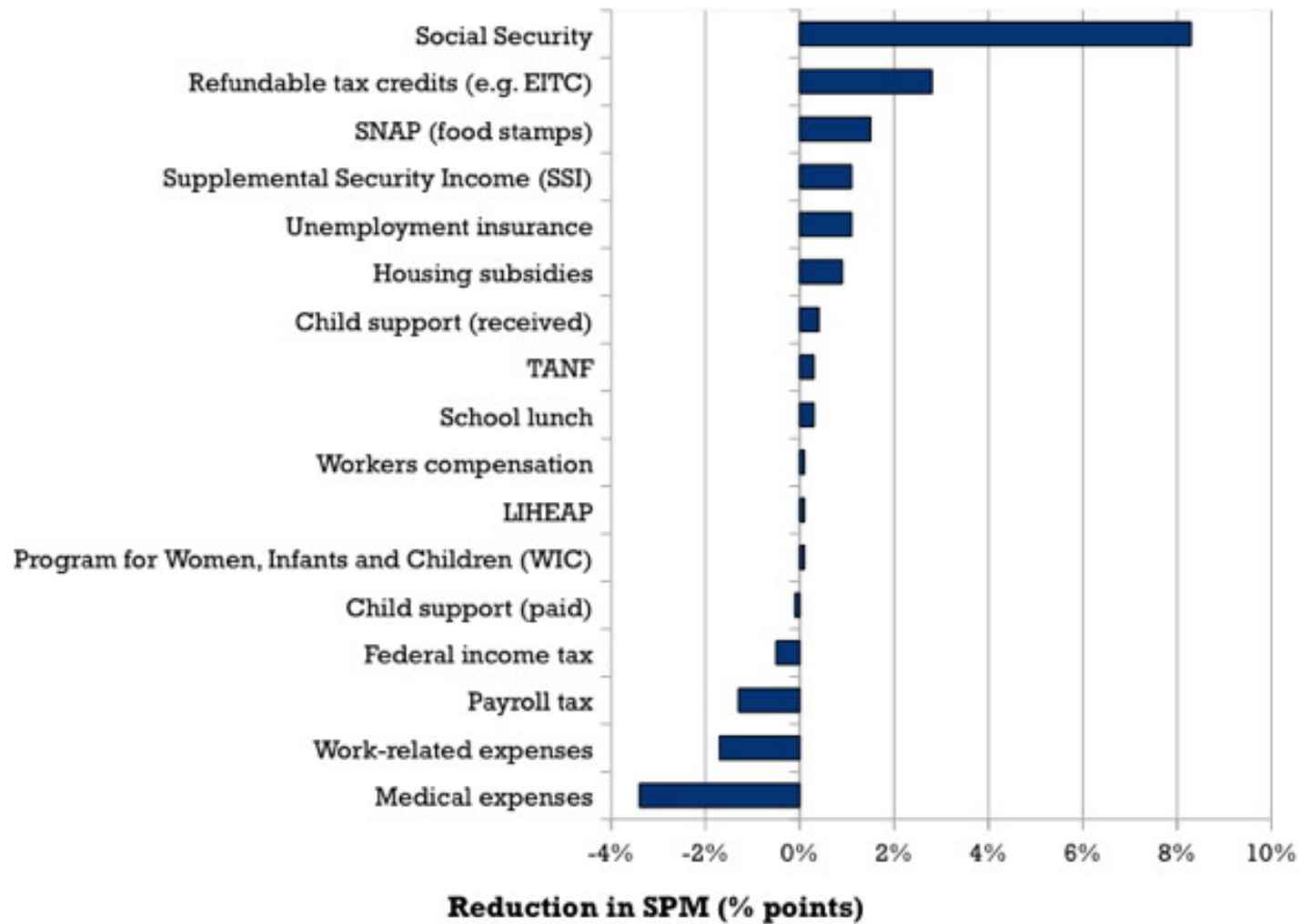
Increasing public assistance

- **Resources** = Income + **Public Assistance** - Expenses.
- Public assistance is often tailored to those in subgroups who are unable to work or have a reason for not doing so.
 - Examples
 - People with a disability: Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI)
 - Children: Child Tax Credit, EITC, WIC
 - Seniors: Social Security and Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
 - Unemployed: Unemployment Insurance
 - Caregivers: Caregiver tax credits
 - Students: Pell Grants, American Opportunity Tax Credit (AOTC)
- But can also be more generally eligible to people based on their income, such as SNAP, Medicaid, etc.



Effect of various programs/expenses on poverty

Source: Census Bureau



Questions?

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