



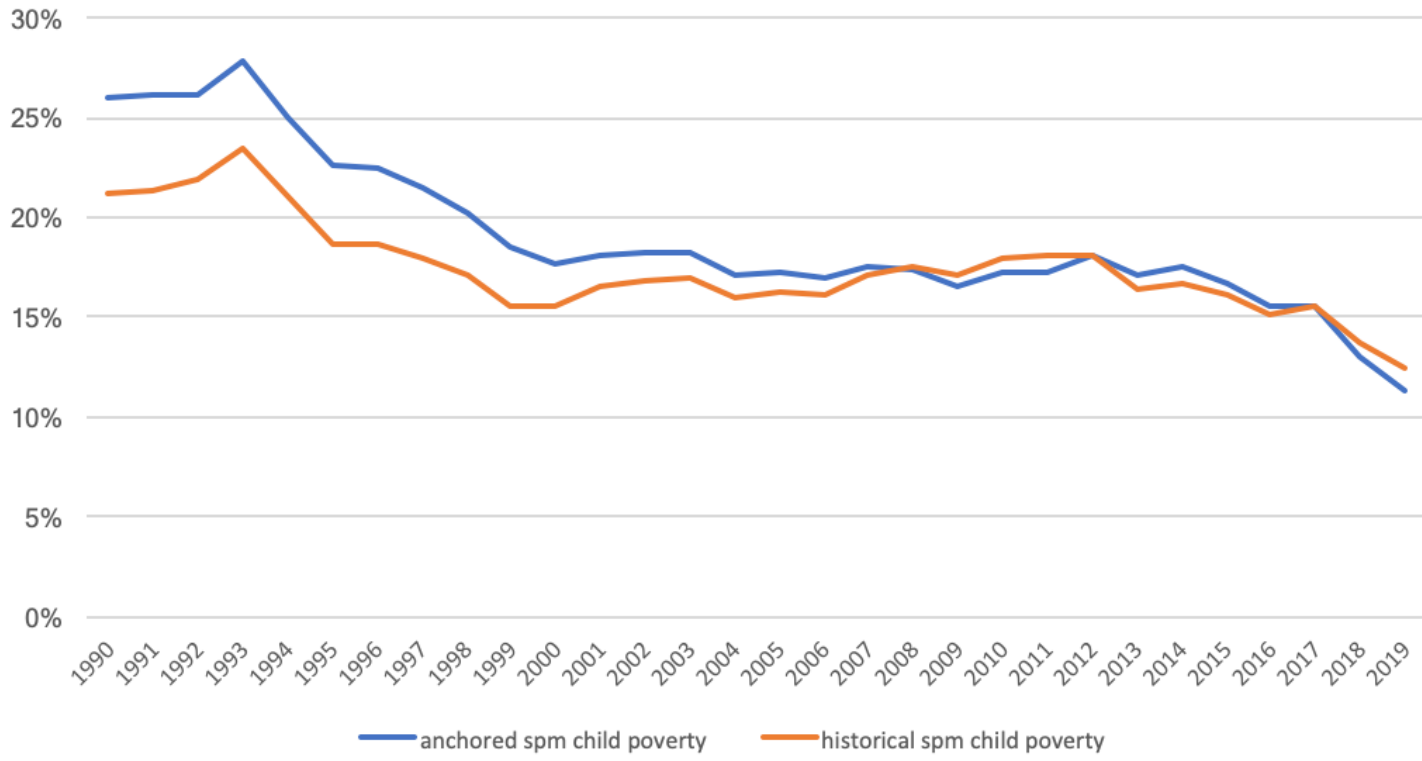
Trends in the Well-Being of Households with Children

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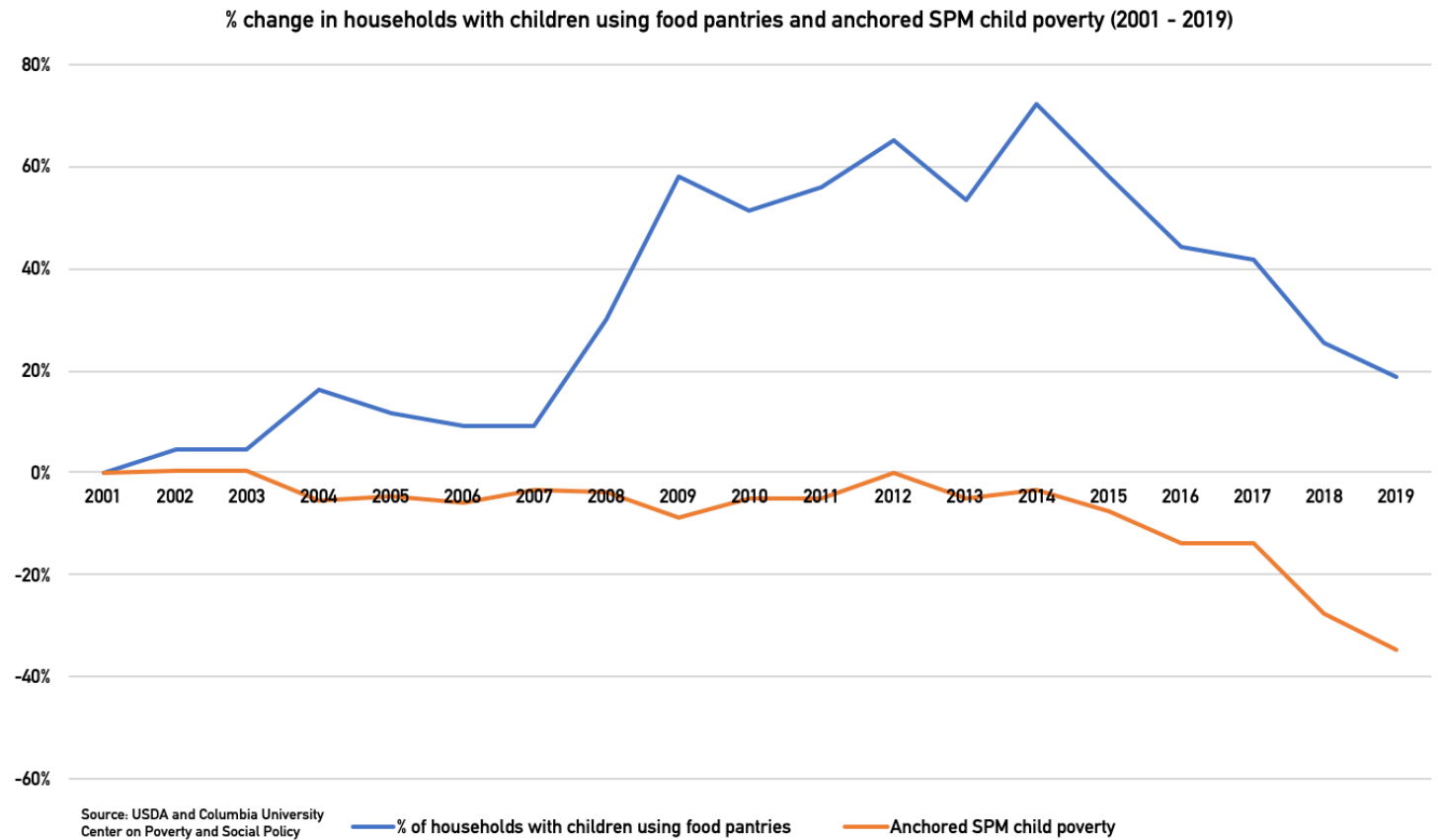
- Recent studies using an anchored Supplemental Poverty Measure conclude that child poverty fell precipitously between the early 1990s and 2019
- The Census SPM also shows significant declines in poverty
- Building on Edin and Shaefer's "multiple measures approach," we examine a series of other indicators of economic well-being see how they align with SPM child poverty trends
- We report all years for which these indicators are available
- Of all the measures examined, the anchored SPM is an outlier in showing major, long-term improvements in economic well-being

Anchored and Census SPM child poverty (1990 - 2019)



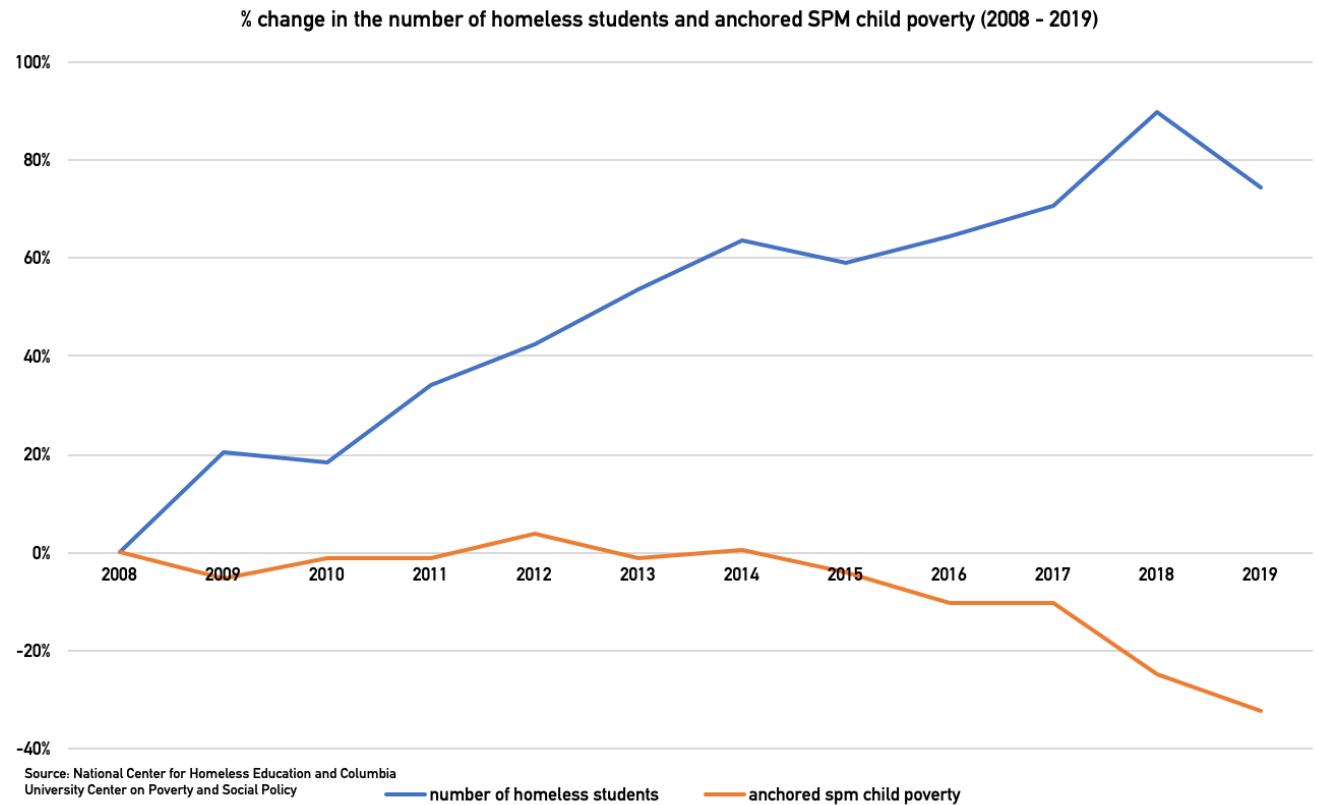
Between 2001 and 2019, the share of households with children seeking out help at food pantries rose by 18.6%

Between those same years, the anchored SPM child poverty rate fell by 34.8%



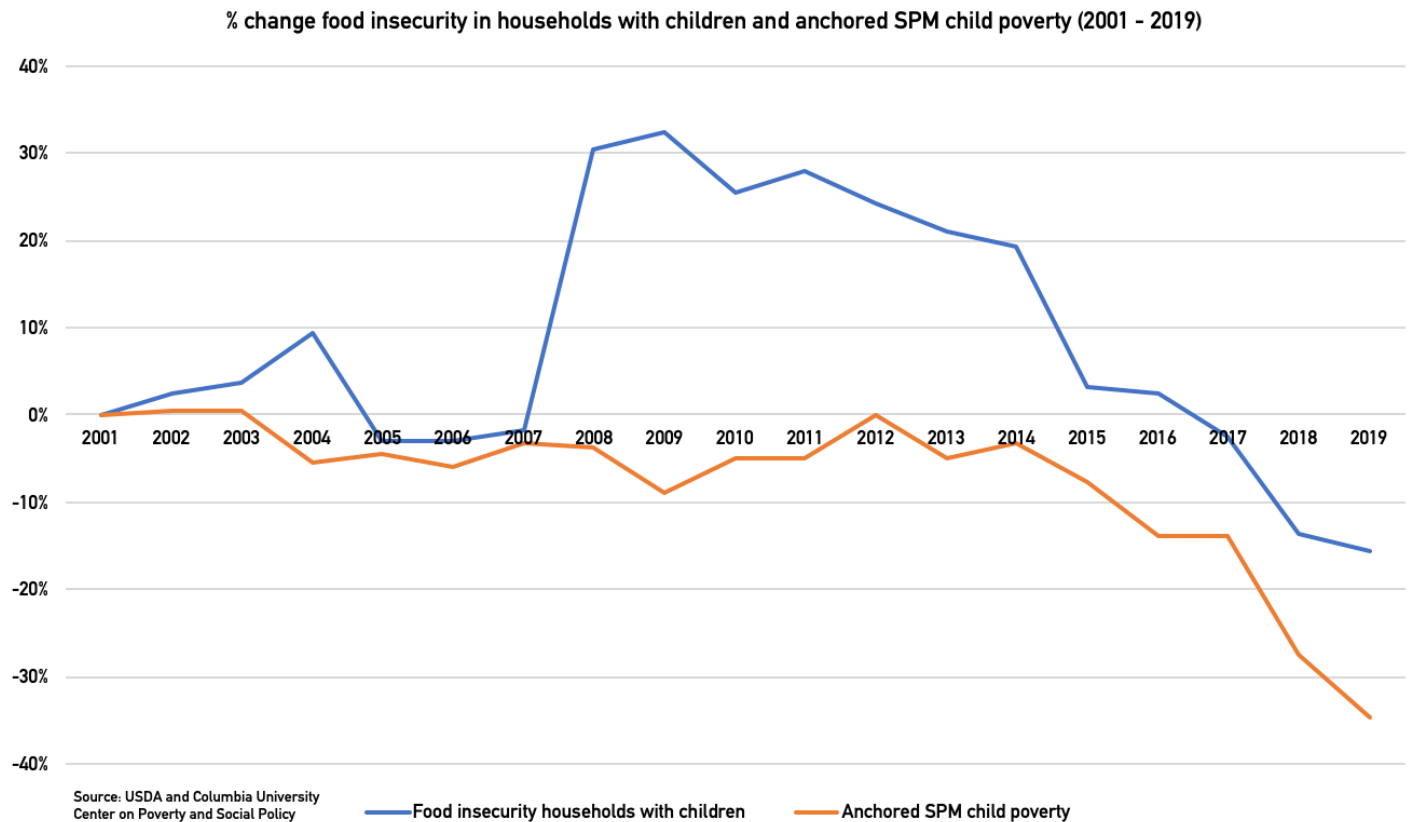
Between 2008 to 2019, the number of homeless children according the nation's public schools grew by 74.2%

Between the same years, the anchored SPM poverty rate falls by roughly a third



During the Great Recession, food insecurity spiked among households with children, while the anchored SPM child poverty rate remained stable

Overall, food insecurity fell 15.5% between 2001 and 2019 as the economy improved, but the decline in Anchored SPM was more than twice as large (34.8%)



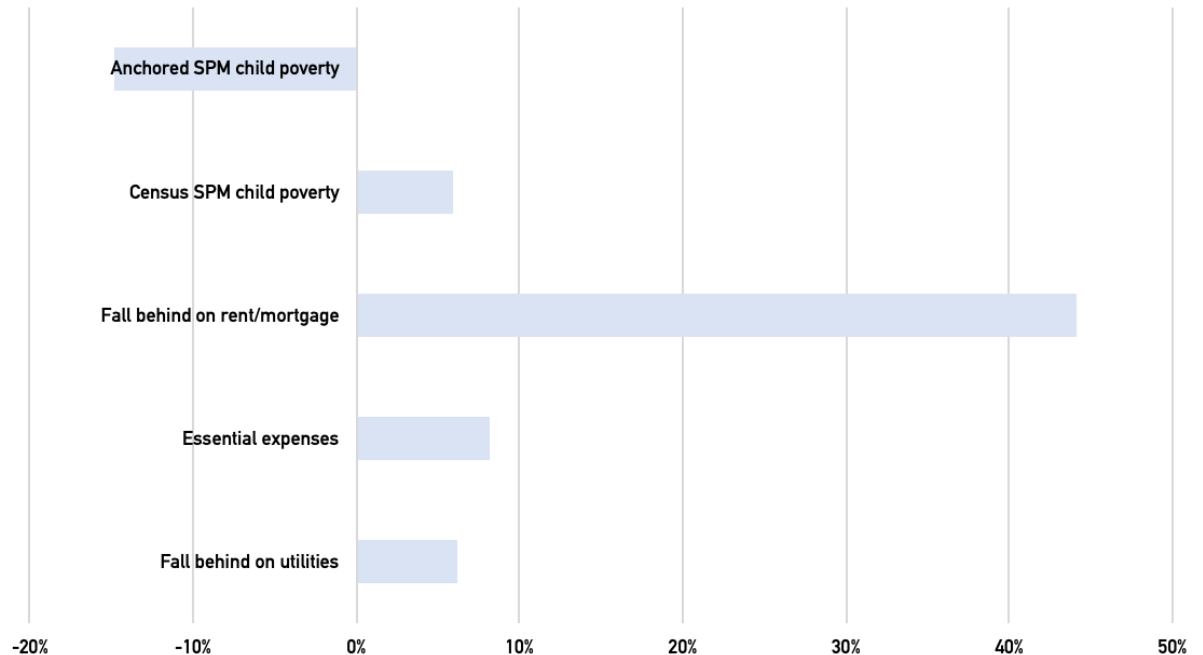
The Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP) offers nationally representative estimates of hardship in certain years

Between 1998 and 2011, the share children in households who reported falling behind on rent or mortgage payments increased by 44%

The rate of children in households reporting that they fell behind on utilities increased by 4.6%

Over this same period, the anchored SPM child poverty rate fell by 14.9%

Percent change in material hardship in households with children and anchored SPM child poverty 1998 - 2011

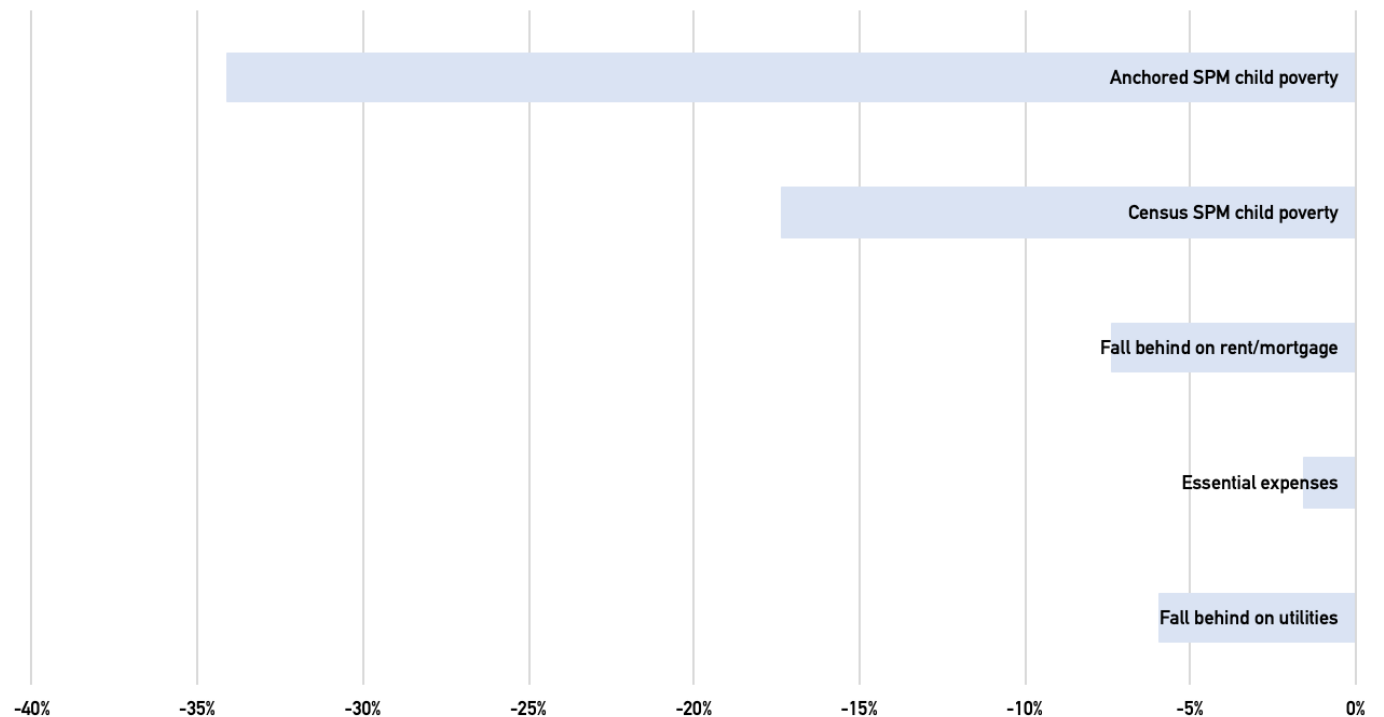


Source: Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP) and Columbia University Center on Poverty and Social Policy

If we take this hardship series back to 1992—a year of high unemployment, we see that between 1992 and 2011, the SIPP hardship measures examined here decline by 5-10%

Over this same period, the anchored SPM child poverty rate falls by 34.1%, three times greater than the changes in the SIPP measures

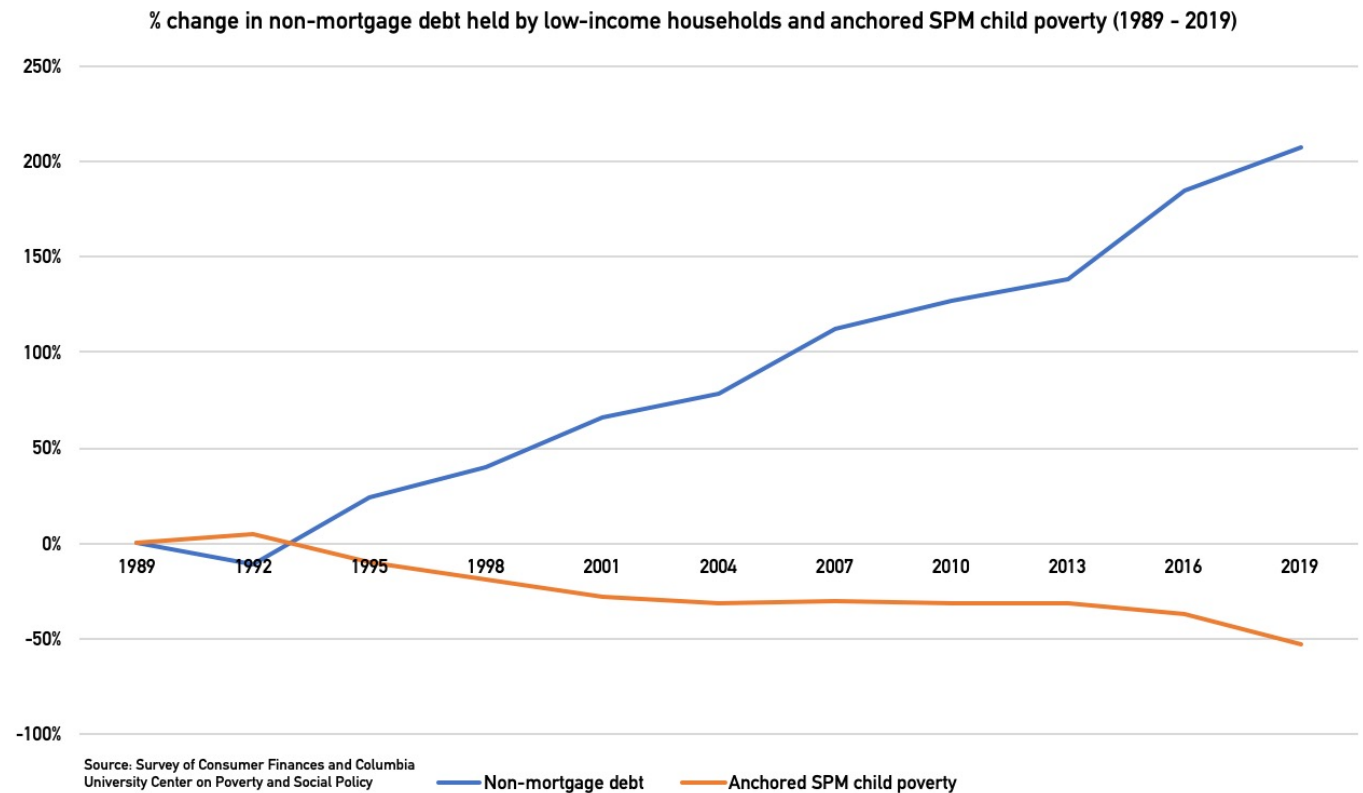
Percent change in material hardship and SPM poverty measures in households with children (1992 - 2011)



Source: Survey of Income and Program Participation and Columbia University Center on Poverty and Social Policy

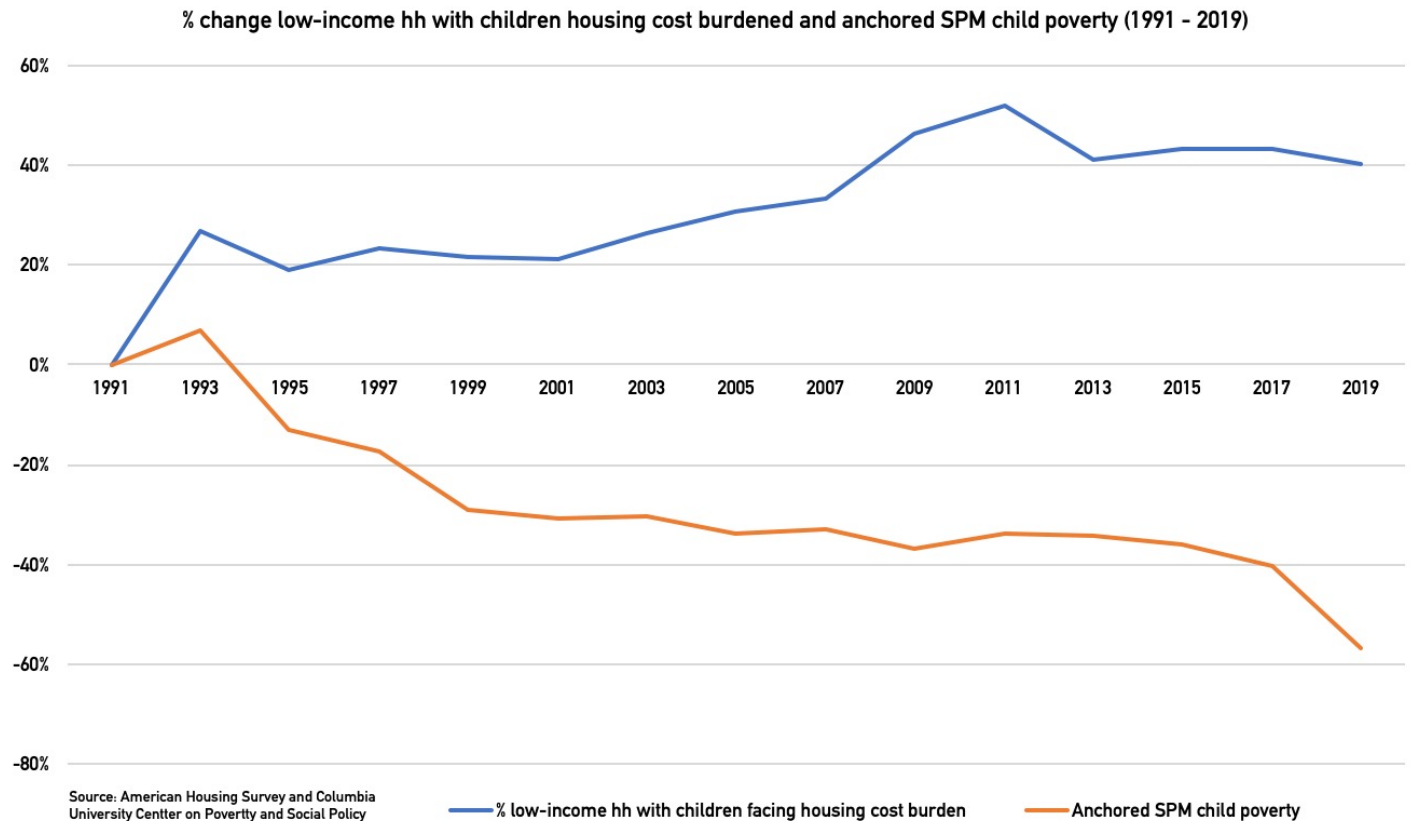
Between 1989 and 2019, the amount of non-mortgage debt held by low-income households rose by over 200%, after accounting for inflation

Between the same years, anchored child SPM fell by more than 50%



Between 1991 and 2019, the share of low-income households with children who were housing cost burdened (housing costs accounted for more than 30% of their cash income) rose by 40%

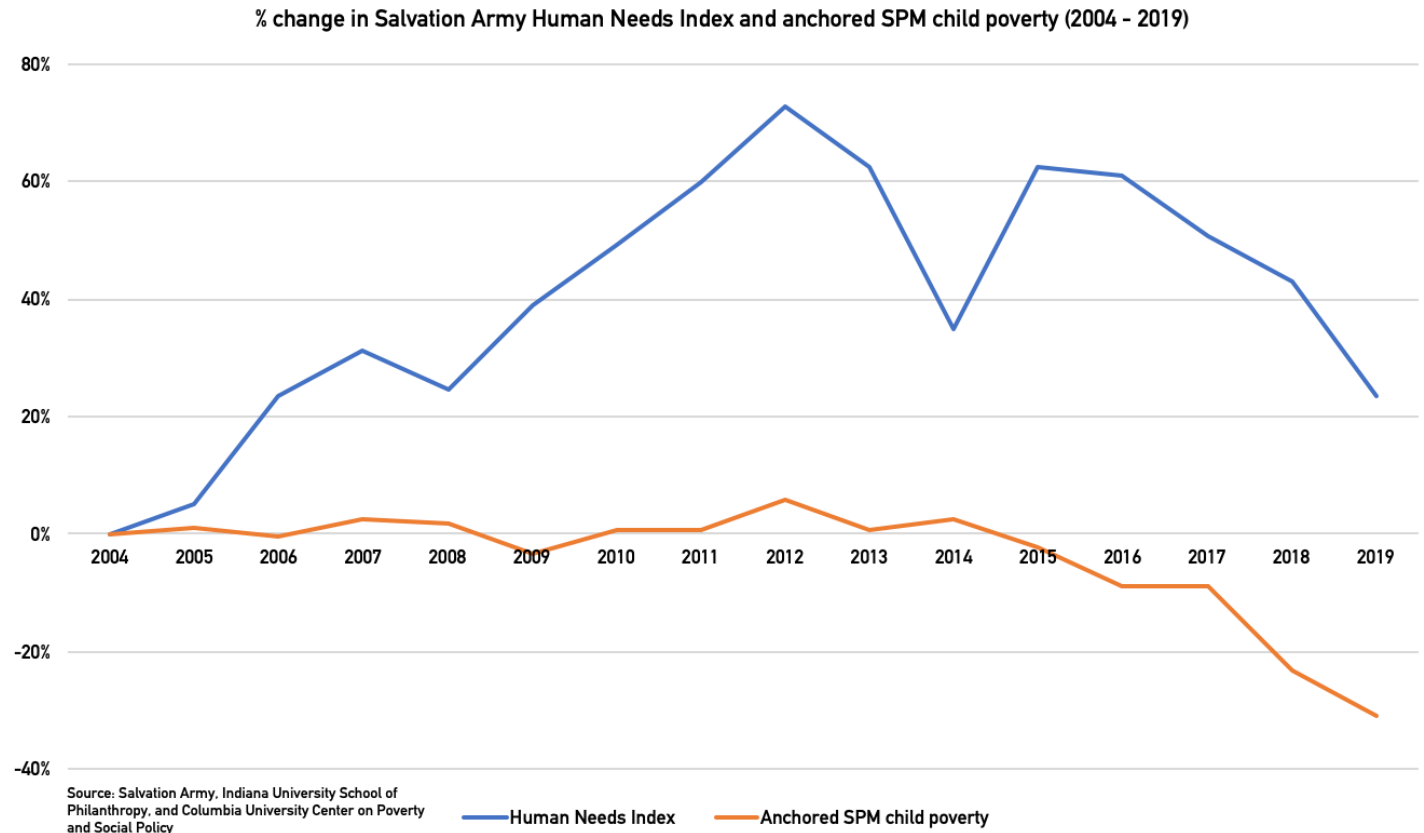
Between the same years anchored SPM fell by 56.8%



Between 2004 and 2019, the Human Needs Index – a measure of need developed by Indiana University and the Salvation Army, based on Salvation Army service data – rose by 23%

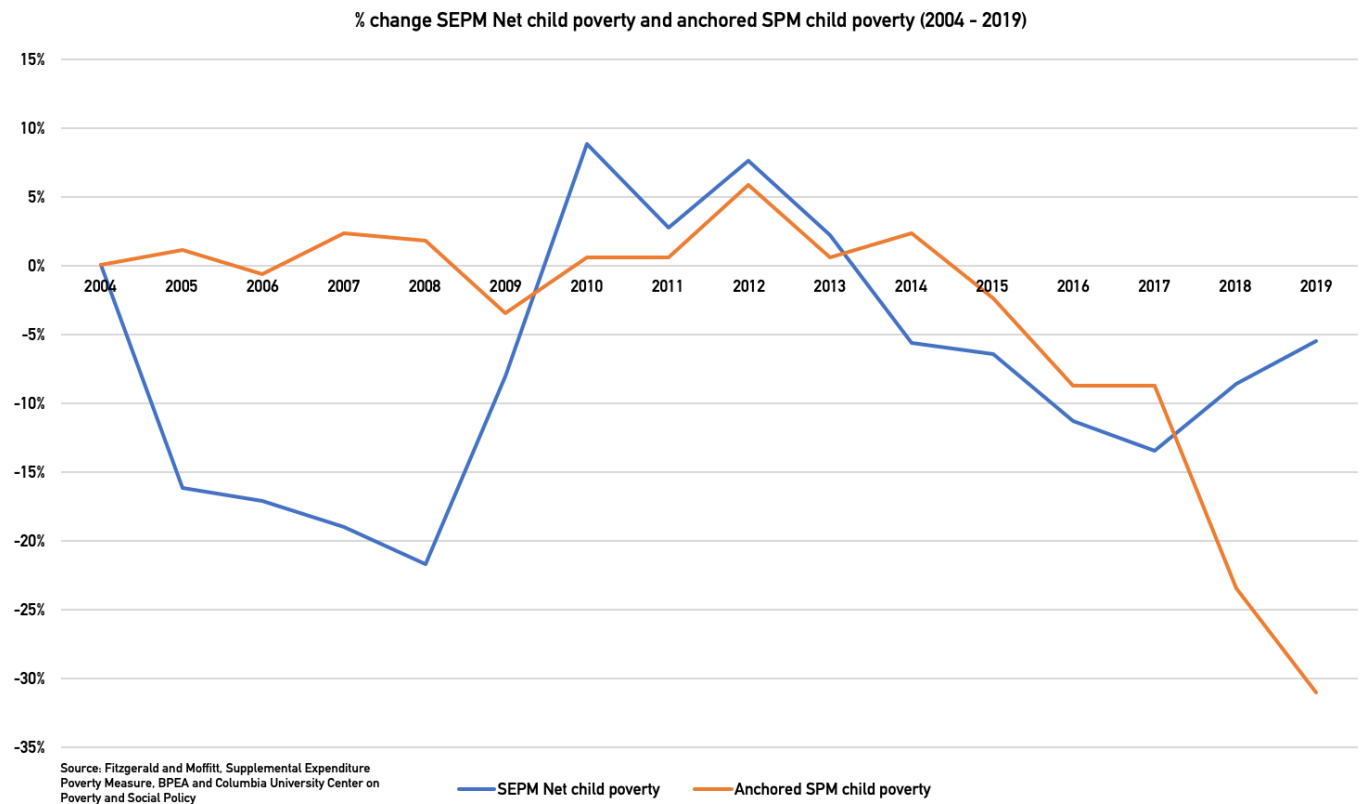
During the same years, the anchored SPM child poverty rate fell by 31%

The Human Needs Index is not specific to households with children, but households with children are overrepresented among those seeking out help



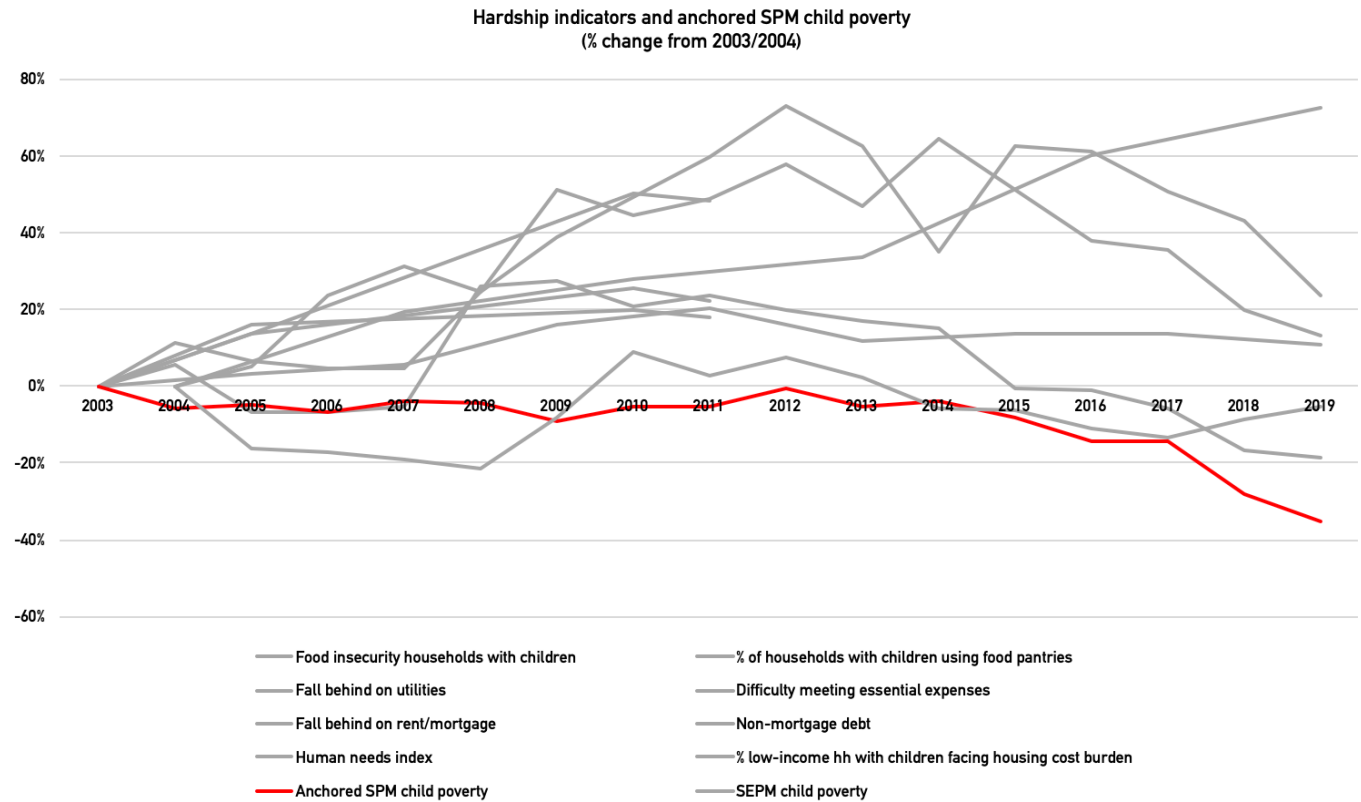
Fitzgerald and Moffitt's Supplemental Expenditure Poverty Measure (SEPM) estimates poverty using total household expenditures, rather than income.

In contrast to the anchored SPM, under this measure child poverty falls just 5.5% between 2004 and 2019, and we see a sharp increase during the Great Recession. We also see poverty *increase* after 2017.



When we look at the annual percent change in these indicators from a base year of 2003/2004, we see a general trend of rising hardship until around 2015, when most indicators begin to decline, but do not fall to base-year levels.

In contrast, the anchored SPM child poverty rate stays consistently at or below 2003 levels throughout the entire period and falls a great deal in the final years of the series



When we look at the total percent change for these indicators from 2003/2004 to 2019, we see the large decline in anchored SPM child poverty is not matched by changes in the other hardship indicators we track

