READ ME FILE

Researchers using the Supplemental Poverty Measure (SPM) Research or the CPS ASEC public use files will not be able to exactly replicate the estimates in the published SPM reports or working papers. The SPM Research files are built using the public use version of the CPS ASEC while the SPM reports and working papers use the internal CPS ASEC file. The public use CPS ASEC file top codes some income (and expenditure) items and does not disclose some geographic identifiers. Therefore, a person's poverty status when estimated using the public use file may not be the same as his/her poverty status using the internal file.

The research file uploaded here for the 2020 CPS ASEC utilizes methodological improvements that were approved by the Interagency Technical Working Group on the Supplemental Poverty Measure in September 2020. The details of these changes are described in the following working paper: <www.census.gov/library/working-papers/2021/demo /SEHSD-WP2021-17.html>.

Beginning with the release of the 2021 CPS ASEC public use file, the SPM variables on the file reflect the methodological changes. This public use file is available at: <www.census.gov/data/datasets/time-series/demo/cps/cps-asec.html>. To allow researchers to construct a historically consistent time series, a SPM Research file for the 2020 CPS ASEC is at: <www.census.gov/topics/income-poverty/supplemental-poverty-measure/data/datasets.html>. As prior years become available, they will be posted at this location and this readme will be updated. Researchers will be able to merge in the new methodology data with their existing ASEC extracts using H_SEQ and PPPOS.

In order to facilitate the use of the SPM Research files, the following table shows total poverty counts (weighted and unweighted) using the originally published SPM 2019 estimates and the SPM 2019 Revised Research File.

Research File Year	FILEDATE	Unweighted	Weighted (in thousands)
2019 (SPM research file using revised methodology)	090721	17,848	38,260
2019 (Public Use ASEC person file)	031821	17,697	38,100