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Home Visiting: A Valuable Investment in California's Families

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CalWORKs Home Visiting Program Stakeholder Meeting

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POVERTY

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Key Themes

What does child poverty look like in California and how does it compare to the rest of the country?

How can home visiting be a tool to address poverty's effects on children?

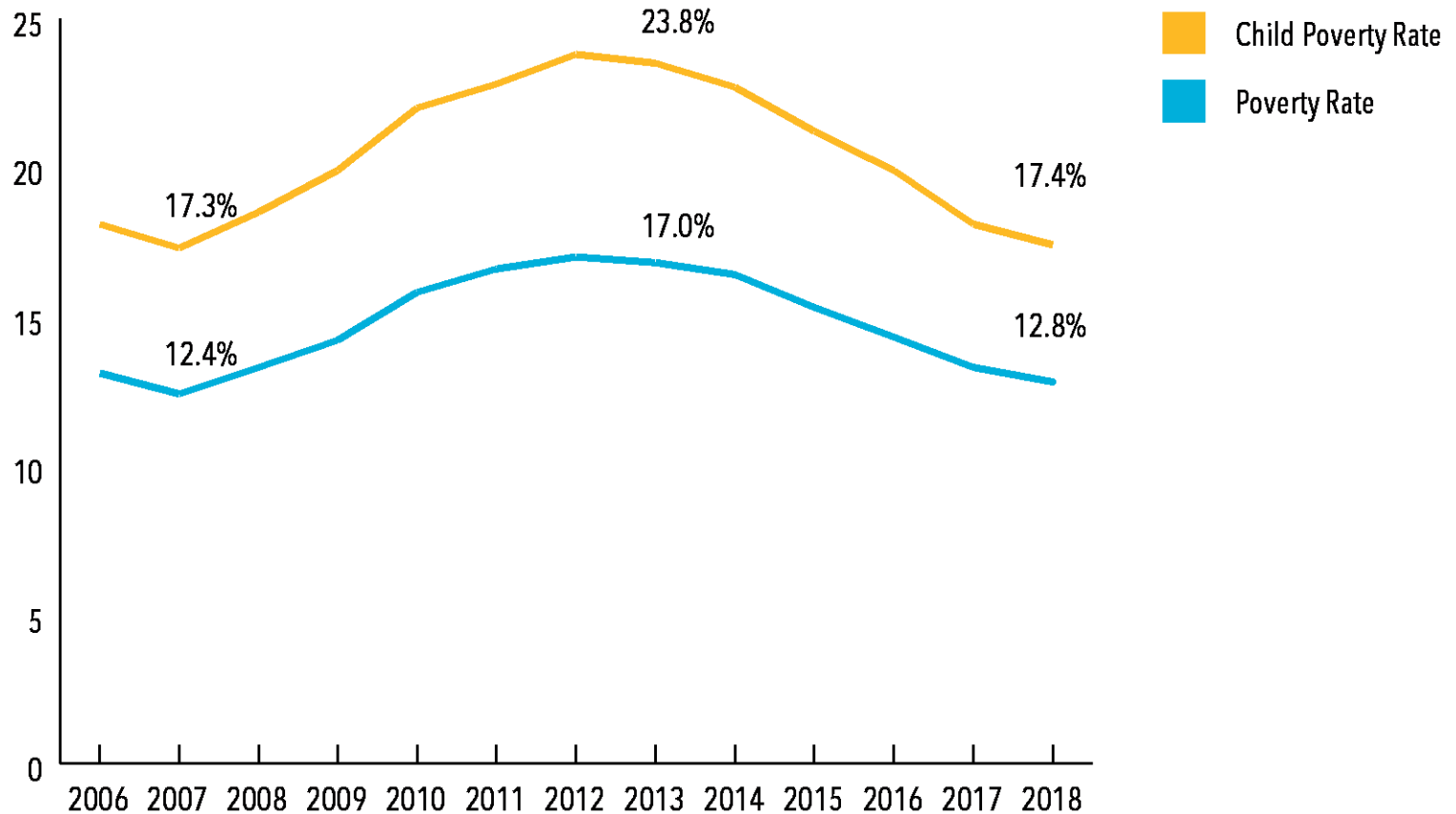


Child Poverty Is a Serious and Persistent Challenge in California.



California's Official Poverty Rate Continued to Decline in 2018, but Remains Above Its Pre-Recession Level

Percentage of Californians With Incomes Below the Official Federal Poverty Line

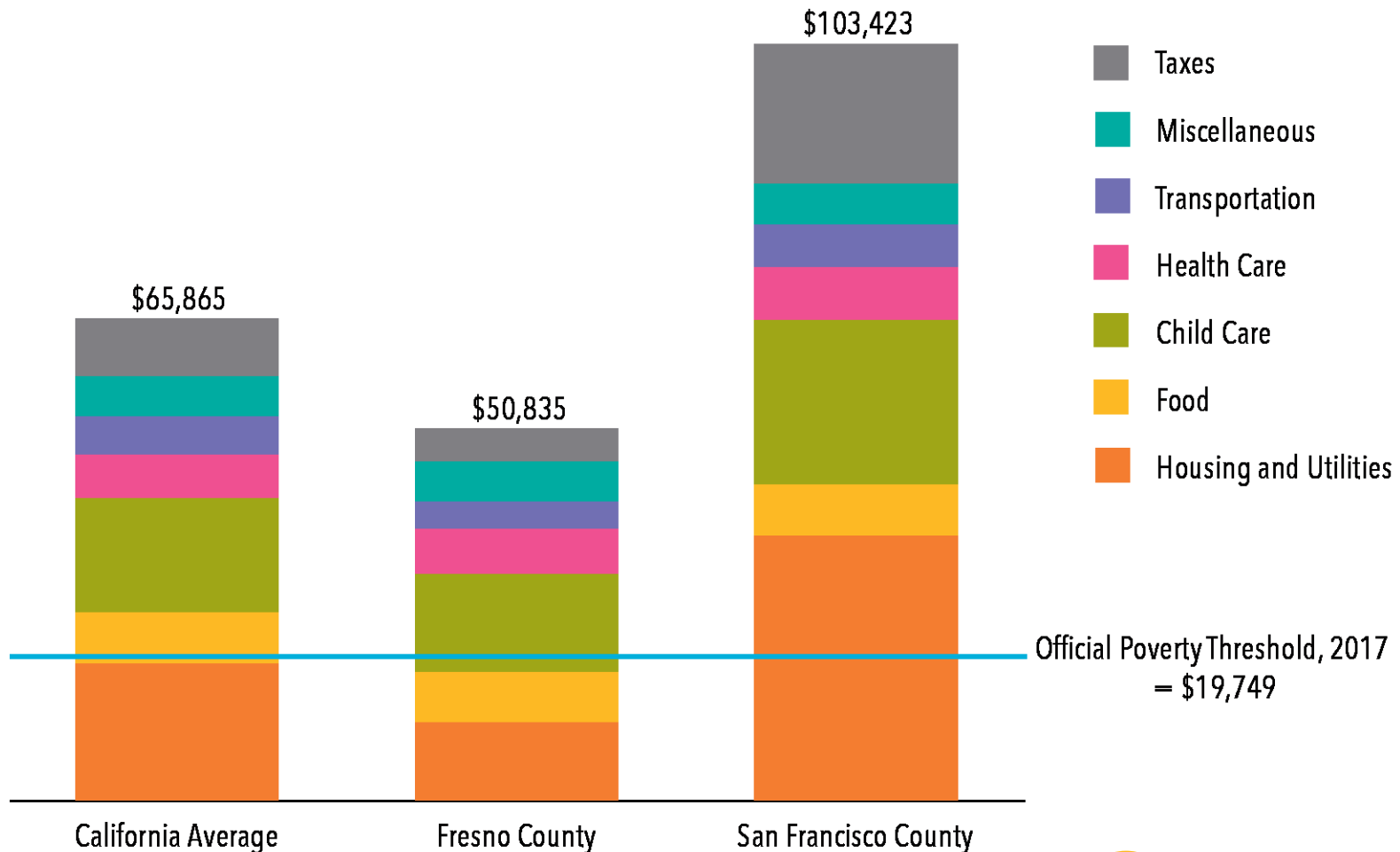


Note: The child poverty rates in 2007 and 2018 are not statistically different.
Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey



Official Poverty Thresholds Are Much Less Than the Basic Cost of Living for Families in California

Annual Basic Family Budget for a Single-Parent Family With Two Children, 2017

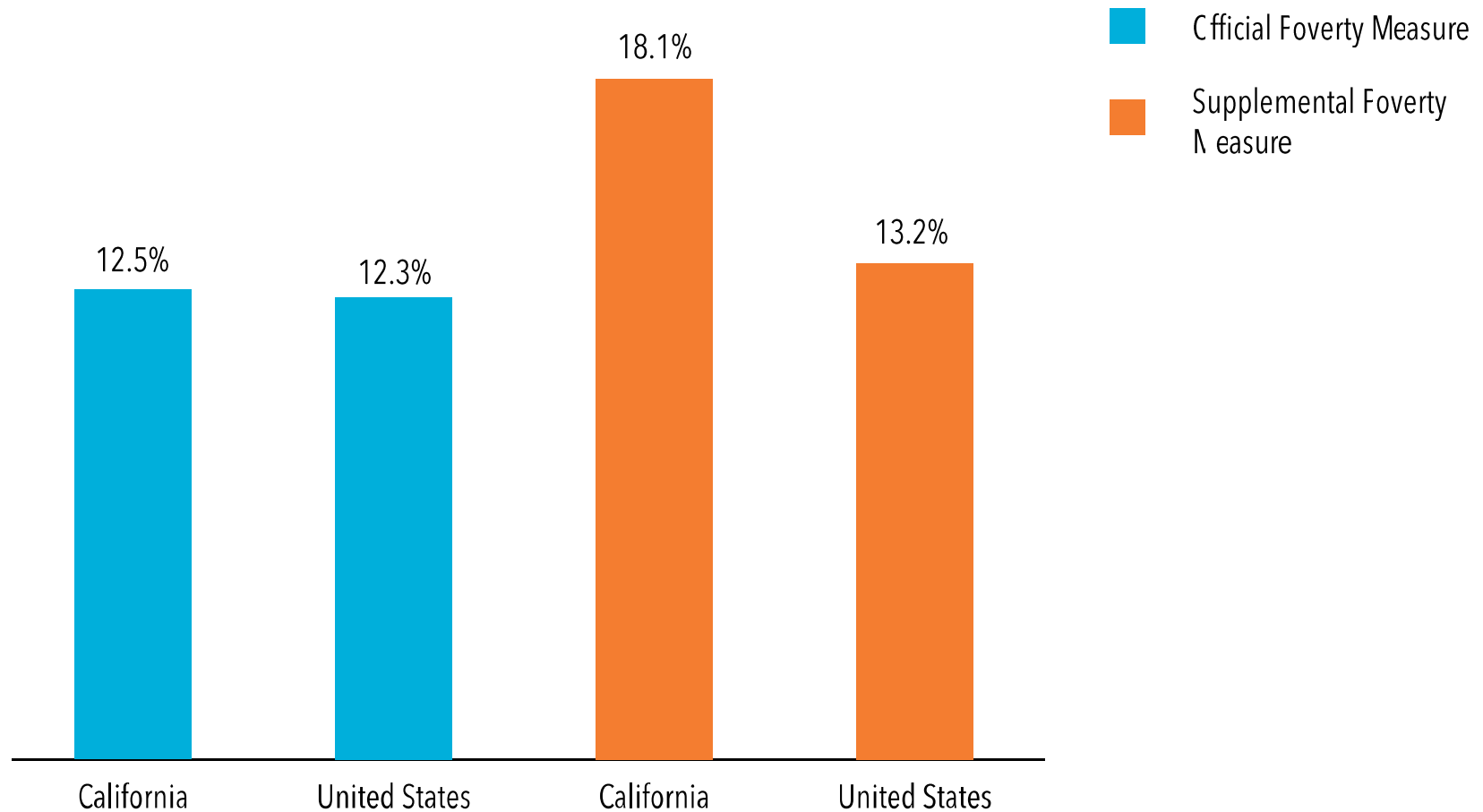


Note: Assumes one preschool-age and one school-age child and a single parent working full-time.
Source: Budget Center *Making Ends Meet* 2017 analysis and US Census Bureau



California's Poverty Rate Is Much Higher Than the US Average Under a More Accurate Measure of Hardship

Official Federal Poverty Rate and Supplemental Poverty Rate, 2016-2018

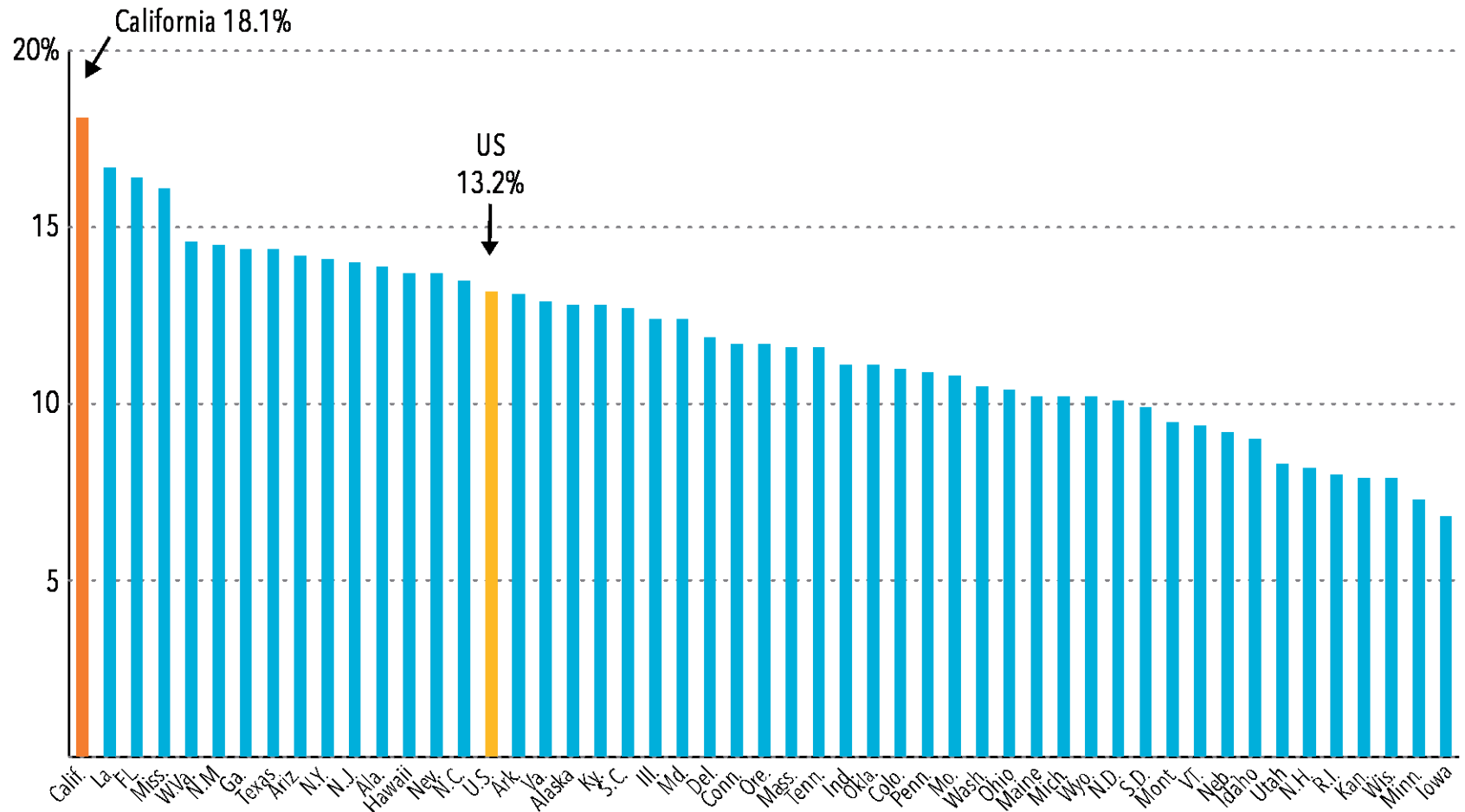


Source: US Census Bureau, Current Population Survey



California Has the Highest Poverty Rate of the 50 States Under the Supplemental Poverty Measure (SPM)

State Poverty Rate Under the SPM, 2016-2018



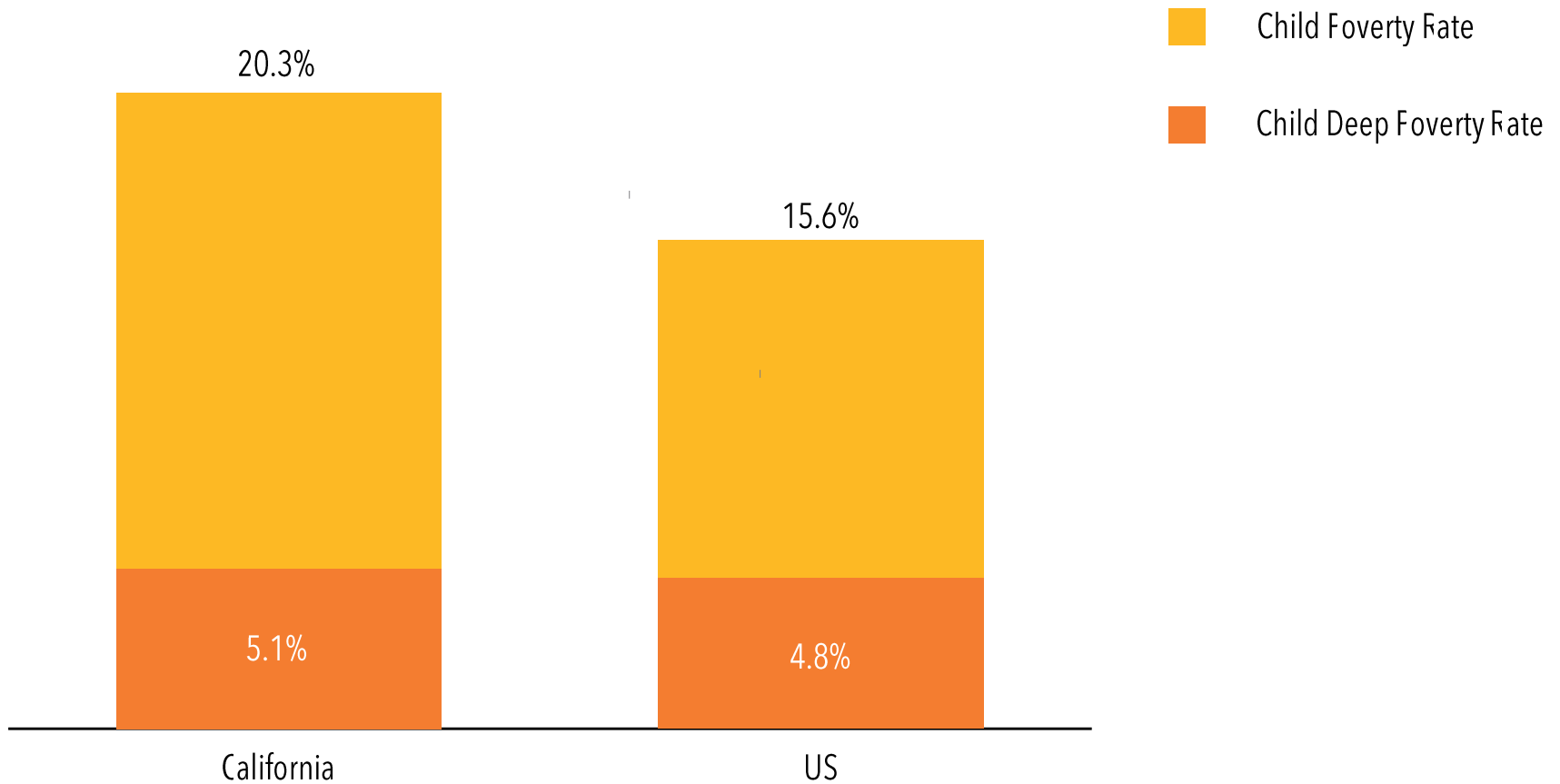
Source: US Census Bureau, Current Population Survey



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Under the Supplemental Poverty Measure, California's Child Poverty and Deep Poverty Rates Are Higher Than the US

Percentage of Children in Poverty and Deep Poverty Under the SPM, 2017



Note: Deep poverty is defined as family resources equal to less than half of the poverty threshold.
Source: Budget Center analysis of US Census Bureau, Current Population Survey microdata downloaded from IPUMS, University of Minnesota



How Can Public Policies Address Child Poverty?

Policies across many issue areas – including early care and education, housing, health, and income security – can make a difference for children growing up in poverty.



Basic Policy Approaches to Address Child Poverty

- **Increase families' incomes**
- Reduce the costs families face to meet basic needs
- Build resilience in children to minimize the long-term consequences of growing up in poverty



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Building Resilience in Children in Poverty

Cash, housing, and early childhood education, along with strategies like home visiting, are all linked to improved long-term outcomes for children in poverty.



Adverse Experiences Harm Children in the Long Term

- Chronic stress damages a child's well-being, especially in the early years.
- Living in poverty creates and exacerbates stress, imposing costs on children, their families, and society.
- Children living in poverty are at higher risk of:
 - being born prematurely or at a low birthweight.
 - abuse and neglect.
 - achieving lower educational outcomes.

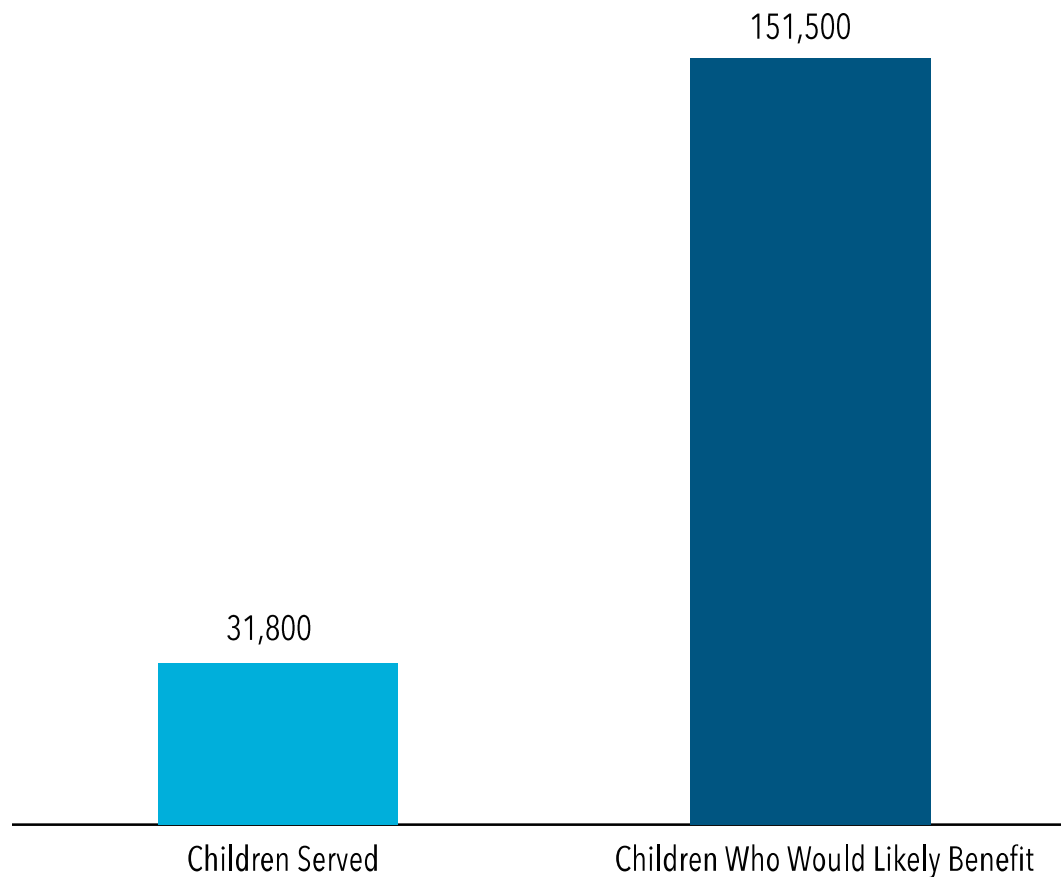


Home Visiting Programs Can Improve Children's Outcomes

- Home visiting programs offer parenting education and other assistance — such as help with navigating social services — to expecting parents and parents of young children.
- Research shows that home visiting is linked to improved outcomes in health and behavior for children growing up in poverty.
- Home visiting programs are also cost-effective in terms of public costs versus public benefits.



In California, Fewer Children Receive Home Visiting Services Than Those Who Would Most Likely Benefit



Note: Estimated likely beneficiaries defined as children ages 0 to 2 born with 6 or fewer California Strong Start assets. Service levels are for state fiscal year 2017-18. It is not possible to ascertain the asset scores of children receiving services. Data do not include the CalWORKs Home Visiting Program.

Source: Budget Center analysis of data from First 5 California, the California Department of Public Health, and the California Strong Start Index.



The Bottom Line

- Child poverty is a serious problem in California, but there are many effective state policy approaches to reduce child poverty and minimize its long-term effects.
- Home visiting is a useful tool to help address the negative effects of poverty on children and their families.
- California has made significant recent investments to address child poverty, but more still needs to be done.







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