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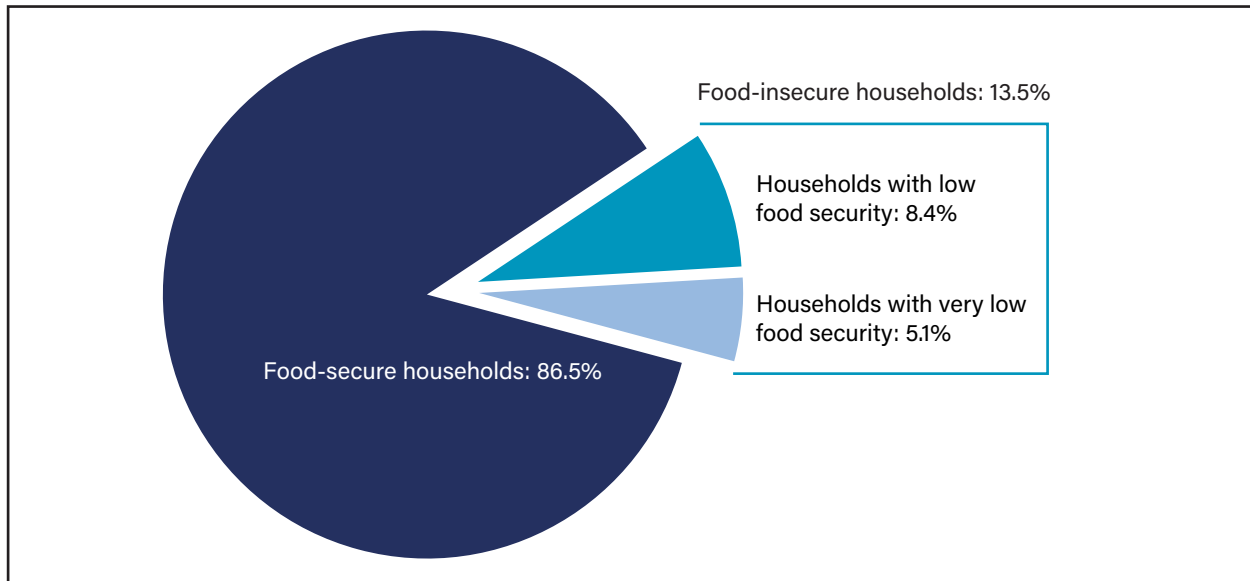








Figure 1  
**U.S. households by food security status, 2023**

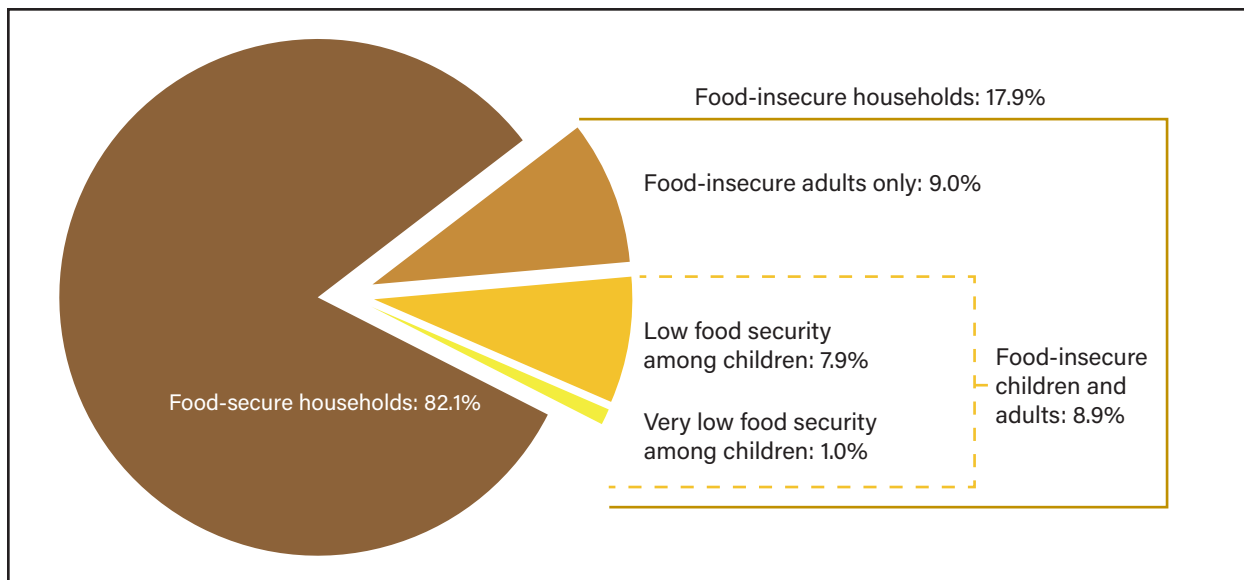


Source: USDA, Economic Research Service using U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, 2023 Current Population Survey Food Security Supplement data.

Among U.S. households with children under age 18, 82.1 percent were food secure in 2023. The remaining 17.9 percent of households with children (6.5 million households) were food insecure at some time in 2023 (figure 2; table 1b). Parents and caregivers often can maintain normal or near-normal diets and meal patterns for their children, even when the parents themselves are food insecure. In about half of food-insecure households with children in 2023, only adults were food insecure (9.0 percent of households with children). However, both children and adults were food insecure in 8.9 percent of households with children (3.2 million households) in 2023. In 1.0 percent of households with children (374,000 households), food insecurity among children was so severe that caregivers reported that children were hungry, skipped a meal, or did not eat for a whole day because there was not enough money for food. These households are described as having very low food security among children. Sometimes older children in such households suffer the more severe effects of food insecurity, while caregivers and other family members seek to protect younger children from those effects (Coleman-Jensen et al., 2013; Nord, 2009a).

Figure 2

**U.S. households with children by food security status of adults and children, 2023**



Source: USDA, Economic Research Service using U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, 2023 Current Population Survey Food Security Supplement data.

The food security survey is designed to measure food security status at the household level. Although it is informative to examine the number of persons living in food-insecure households, these statistics should be interpreted carefully. Within a food-insecure household, each household member may be affected differently by the household’s food insecurity. Some members—particularly young children—may experience only mild or no effects, whereas adults are more severely affected. It is more precise to describe these statistics as representing “persons living in food-insecure households” rather than as representing “food-insecure persons.” Similarly, “persons living in households with very low food security” is a more precise description than “persons with very low food security.”

In 2023, 47.4 million people lived in food-insecure households (table 1a, middle panel). They constituted 14.3 percent of the U.S. civilian noninstitutionalized population and included 33.6 million adults (table 1a, bottom panel) and 13.8 million children (table 1b, bottom panel). About 7.2 million children (9.9 percent of children) lived in households where at least one child was food insecure. About 12.2 million adults (4.7 percent of adults) lived in households with very low food security (table 1a, bottom panel), and 841,000 children (1.2 percent of children) lived in households with very low food security among children (table 1b, bottom panel).



























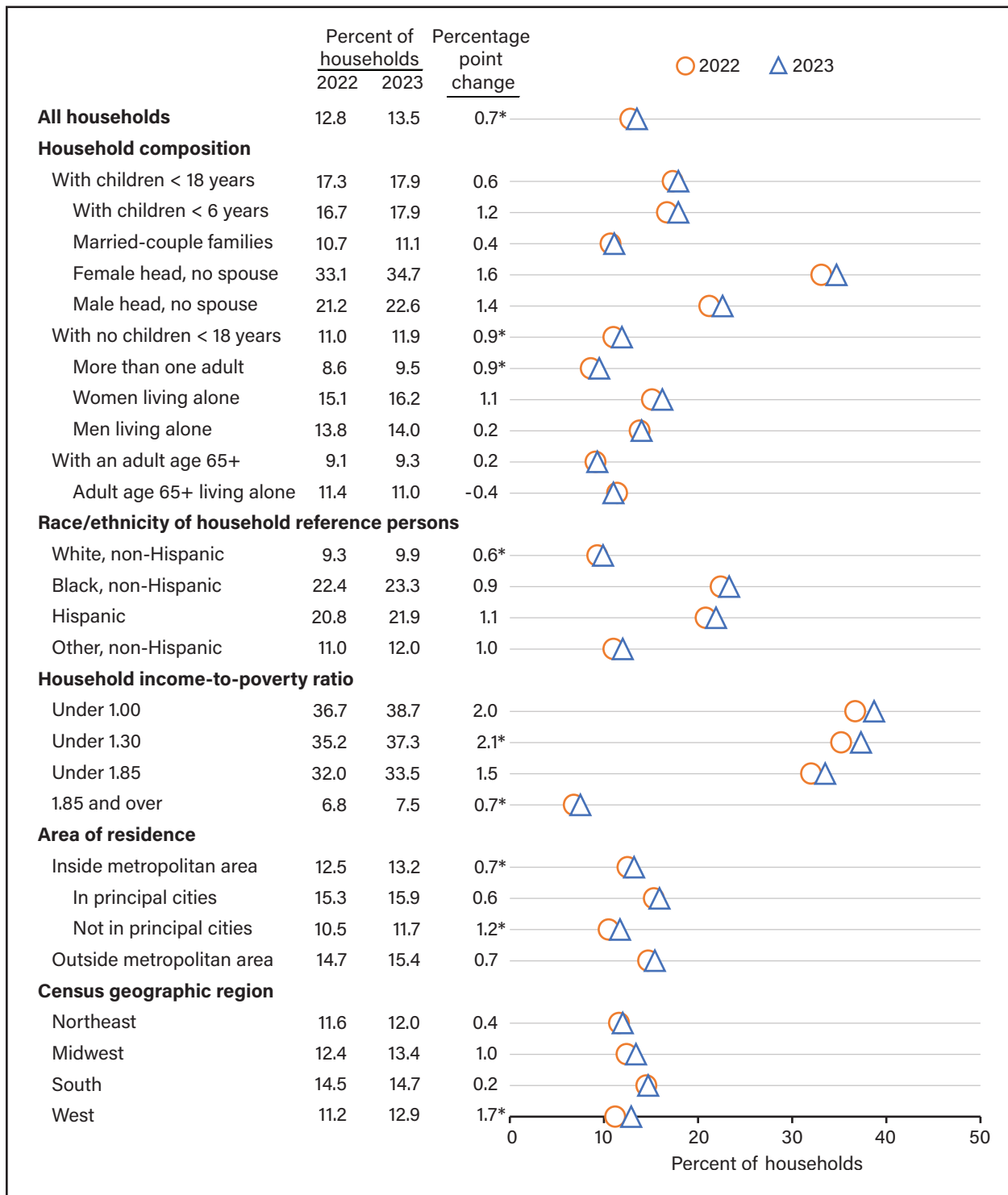
The percentage of households with food-insecure children was statistically significantly higher than the national average (8.9 percent) for the following groups (table 3):

- Female-headed households (18.0 percent) and male-headed households (12.4 percent);
- Households with a Black, non-Hispanic reference person (14.0 percent) or Hispanic reference person (14.0 percent); and
- Households with incomes below 100 percent of the poverty line (25.5 percent), below 130 percent of the poverty line (24.7 percent), and below 185 percent of the poverty line (20.7 percent).





Figure 5  
**Prevalence of food insecurity, 2022 and 2023**

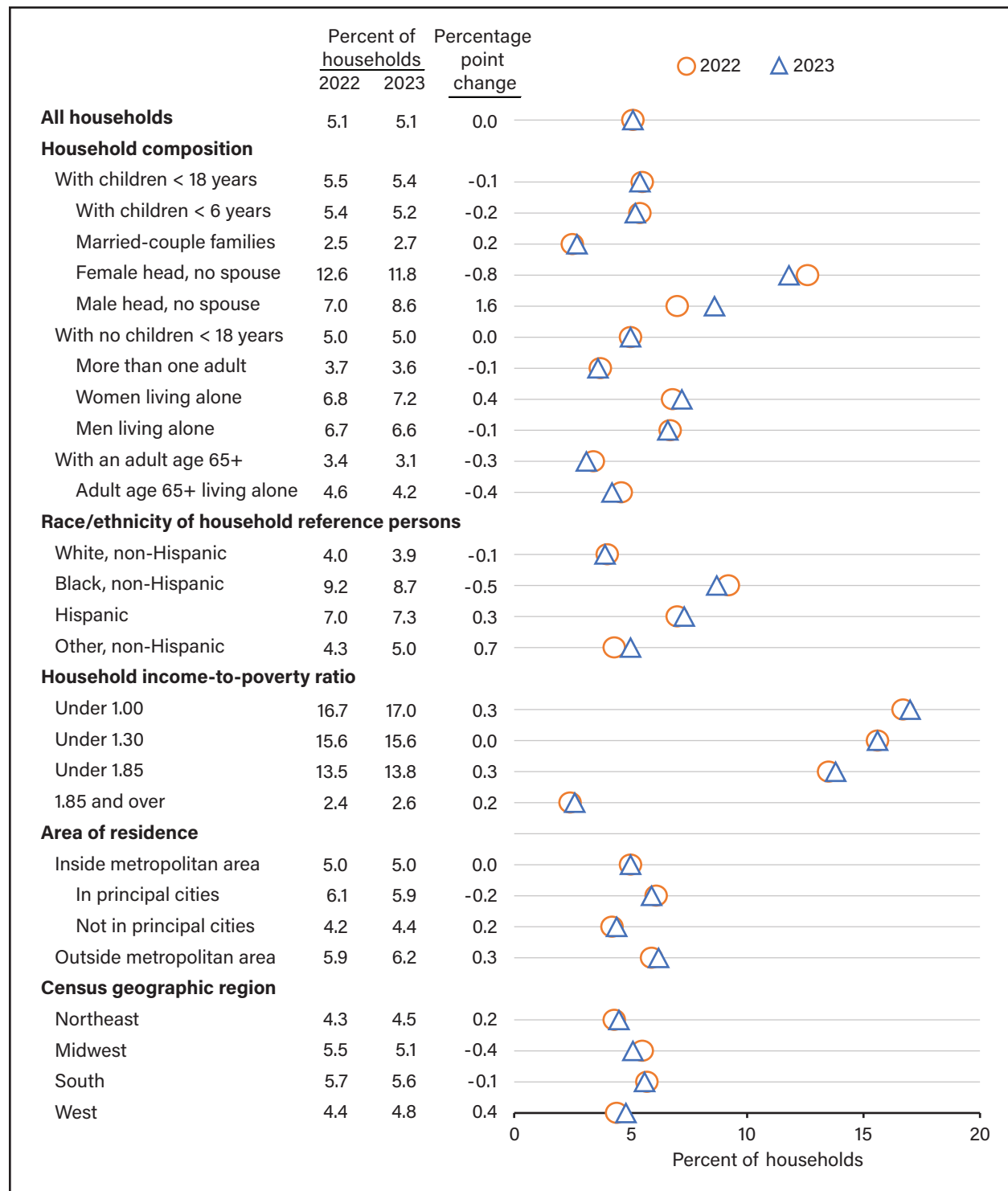


Note: An asterisk (\*) denotes the change is statistically different from zero at the 90-percent confidence level ( $t > 1.645$ ).

Source: USDA, Economic Research Service using U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, 2022 and 2023 Current Population Survey Food Security Supplement data.

From 2022 to 2023, there were no statistically significant increases or decreases in the prevalence of very low food security for any subpopulations (figure 6). Figure 6 displays prevalence rates of very low food security for both years, as well as percentage point changes between 2022 and 2023, with asterisks (\*) indicating statistically significant changes between years.

Figure 6  
**Prevalence of very low food security 2022 and 2023**



Note: An asterisk (\*) denotes the change is statistically different from zero at the 90-percent confidence level ( $t > 1.645$ ).

Source: USDA, Economic Research Service using U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, 2022 and 2023 Current Population Survey Food Security Supplement data.



































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