

## Trends in Memphis Poverty with Detailed Poverty Tables, 2012-2014

### Poverty Rates by Demographic Characteristics & Location

#### Key Findings:

- ❖ Poverty rates in Memphis generally continue to increase for all groups, with certain apparent decreases at the Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) level.
- ❖ The overall poverty rate in the United States decreased from 15.9% to 15.5% from 2012 to 2014, despite the population increasing by more than 2.7 million.
- ❖ The poverty rate in Tennessee increased over this same period of time, rising from 17.9% to 18.3%. All races accounted for in this study (Hispanic or Latino, Non-Hispanic White, and African American) experienced a rise in poverty; however African Americans witnessed the largest growth in poverty, afflicting 30.9% of the population in 2014 compared to 25.2% of the population in 2012.
- ❖ The overall percentage of unmarried female householders living in poverty decreased from 31.8% to 30.5% over the three years studied. African American women experienced the sharpest drop in this area, from 38.8% to 36.8%.
- ❖ The percent of Hispanic and Latino female householders with no husband present living in poverty rose from 57.3% to 65% in Tennessee. This was the largest contribution to the overall growth in this category for all races from 36% to 36.9% in Tennessee.
- ❖ The percentage of white Tennesseans under the age of 18 living in poverty was reduced from 18.2% to 17.8%. However, this number increased by 3 percentile points for African Americans and 2.3 percentile points for Hispanic and Latino youth.
- ❖ The percentage of Hispanic or Latino Tennesseans aged 65 and older that live in poverty shrank from 17.1% in 2012 to 10.1% in 2014. This occurred despite the fact that the poverty rate for all elderly Tennesseans increased by 0.1% during this span of time.
- ❖ The poverty rate for African Americans in Shelby County rose from 26.3% to 31.7% despite a population decline of roughly 4,000.
- ❖ Poverty among children rose 2.7% overall in Shelby County. The percentage of white youth in poverty decreased slightly, but rose by nearly 5% among African Americans.

- ❖ The percentage of impoverished, white, female householders with no husband present in Shelby County rose 6.3% to 17.6%. The percentage of this population with children rose 11.2% to 29.6%, or nearly one third.
- ❖ The number of white residents of Shelby County decreased by over 4,000. More than 0.01 percent. Simultaneously, the poverty rate for this demographic rose by 0.7 percentile points.
- ❖ The population of African Americans in Memphis rose by 10,218. Simultaneously, the poverty rate for this group rose 5.1 percentile points to 35.1%. The number of African American youth living in poverty in the City of Memphis is now solidly over half, at 53.3%.
- ❖ Shifts in poverty among the elderly in the City of Memphis were drastic over these three years, falling from 15.9% to 11.6% from 2012 to 2013, only to rise again to 14.5% in 2014.
- ❖ Percentages of female householders with no husband present who have children under the age of 5 dropped significantly among Non-Hispanic Whites and African Americans in the City of Memphis. The percentage of Non-Hispanic Whites of this description fell from 65.3% in 2013 to 52.8% in 2014, while African American women of the same demographic decreased by 2% to 60% in the same timeframe. However the percentage of Non-White female householders with children under the age of 18 increased drastically in the city of Memphis, rising from 20.8% in 2012 to 39.2% in 2014.
- ❖ As the Hispanic and Latino and African American populations within the Memphis TN-MS-AR Metro Area grew over the three years studied, so did their poverty rates at 1.6% and 0.6% respectively. The population of Non-Hispanic Whites dropped by several hundred during this time, yet the poverty rate for this group also rose by 1.2%.
- ❖ The percentage of African American families with children under 18 in the Memphis Metro Area increased from 33.1% to 35.4%. However for families within this group with children under the age of 5, the poverty rate decreased from 37.1% to 28.8%.
- ❖ As always, changes from one year to the next do not indicate a trend and may simply constitute a statistical anomaly. As a result, these numbers must be interpreted with extreme caution.

# Trends in Memphis Poverty with Detailed Poverty Tables, 2012-2014

2016

	United States											
	All Races			Hispanic or Latino			Non-Hispanic White			African American		
	2012	2013	2014	2012	2013	2014	2012	2013	2014	2012	2013	2014
<b>Total population</b>		316,128,839	318,857,056		53,986,412	55,279,452		197,392,411	197,409,353		38,807,755	39,267,149
<b>Overall Poverty Rate</b>	15.9%	15.8%	15.5%	25.3%	24.8%	24.1%	11.0%	11.1%	10.8%	28.1%	27.5%	26.9%
<b>Under 18</b>	22.6%	22.2%	21.7%	33.4%	32.8%	32.1%	13.6%	13.5%	13.0%	39.6%	39.1%	38.5%
<b>18-64</b>	14.8%	14.8%	14.6%	21.4%	20.9%	20.4%	11.2%	11.4%	11.2%	24.5%	24.1%	23.6%
<b>Over 65</b>	9.5%	9.6%	9.5%	19.3%	19.5%	19.4%	7.3%	7.4%	7.3%	19.0%	18.2%	17.8%
<b>People in Families</b>	13.4%	13.1%	12.8%	23.9%	23.1%	22.5%	7.9%	7.8%	7.5%	26.0%	25.3%	24.5%
<b>All Families Under Poverty</b>	N/A	11.6%	11.3%	N/A	22.3%	21.7%	N/A	73.0%	71.0%	N/A	23.6%	22.9%
<b>Families with Children Under 18</b>	18.8%	18.5%	18.0%	29.1%	28.6%	28.0%	12.3%	12.1%	11.7%	33.2%	32.9%	32.0%
<b>Families with Children Under 5</b>	19.3%	18.3%	17.5%	27.5%	25.6%	24.7%	14.2%	13.3%	12.8%	36.2%	36.0%	33.8%
<b>Married-Couple Families (MCF)</b>	5.8%	5.8%	5.6%	15.4%	14.8%	14.3%	3.9%	3.9%	3.7%	8.4%	8.5%	8.0%
<b>MCF with Children Under 18</b>	8.7%	8.5%	8.2%	19.5%	18.7%	18.2%	5.4%	5.3%	5.0%	11.0%	11.3%	10.6%
<b>MCF with Children Under 5</b>	7.1%	7.0%	6.5%	15.8%	14.8%	13.0%	5.1%	5.0%	4.6%	10.7%	10.3%	10.4%
<b>Female Householder No Husband Present (FHNHP)</b>	31.8%	30.9%	30.5%	40.7%	40.2%	40.0%	24.5%	24.1%	23.5%	38.8%	37.5%	36.8%
<b>FHNHP with Children Under 18</b>	41.5%	41.0%	40.6%	48.6%	48.7%	48.4%	34.2%	34.1%	33.6%	47.5%	46.5%	46.0%
<b>FHNHP with Children Under 5</b>	48.0%	46.2%	45.4%	50.8%	48.5%	48.8%	44.9%	42.7%	42.9%	51.4%	50.9%	47.8%

Tables and charts prepared by Elena Delavega, PhD, MSW, Department of Social Work, University of Memphis, from US Census 2014 ACS 1-Year Estimates and 3-Year Estimates, Table S0201; 2014 ACS 1-Year Estimates and 3-Year Estimates, Table S0201; and 2012 ACS 1-Year Estimates and 3-Year Estimates, Table S0201

# Trends in Memphis Poverty with Detailed Poverty Tables, 2012-2014

2016

	Tennessee											
	Total Population			Hispanic or Latino			Non-Hispanic White			African American		
	2012	2013	2014	2012	2013	2014	2012	2013	2014	2012	2013	2014
<b>Total population</b>		6,495,978	6,549,352		309,224	322,339		4,862,093	4,881,929		1,095,847	1,098,287
<b>Overall Poverty Rate</b>	17.9%	17.8%	18.3%	34.3%	33.9%	35.5%	14.1%	14.2%	14.3%	25.2%	28.8%	30.9%
<b>Under 18</b>	25.8%	26.5%	26.2%	44.1%	45.5%	46.4%	18.2%	19.3%	17.8%	42.4%	43.7%	45.5%
<b>18-64</b>	16.8%	16.4%	17.4%	28.9%	27.0%	29.1%	14.2%	14.1%	14.6%	24.5%	23.9%	26.4%
<b>Over 65</b>	10.0%	9.7%	10.0%	17.1%	16.6%	10.1%	8.7%	8.6%	9.0%	19.9%	17.6%	18.9%
<b>People in Families</b>	15.4%	15.2%	15.5%	33.4%	34.5%	36.3%	11.1%	11.1%	10.9%	27.4%	27.5%	29.2%
<b>All Families Under Poverty</b>	N/A	13.3%	13.7%	N/A	30.7%	34.3%	N/A	10.2%	10.2%	N/A	25.2%	26.9%
<b>Families with Children Under 18</b>	21.9%	22.0%	22.4%	39.1%	38.4%	42.7%	16.8%	17.1%	16.6%	34.9%	36.3%	38.1%
<b>Families with Children Under 5</b>	23.3%	23.6%	22.9%	37.5%	42.8%	40.6%	17.0%	18.3%	18.1%	38.9%	39.7%	38.2%
<b>Married-Couple Families (MCF)</b>	6.8%	6.5%	6.6%	24.7%	21.7%	24.9%	5.9%	5.7%	5.6%	7.5%	8.2%	9.2%
<b>MCF with Children Under 18</b>	10.1%	9.8%	10.0%	30.4%	27.8%	31.7%	8.5%	8.5%	8.2%	10.0%	9.4%	12.2%
<b>MCF with Children Under 5</b>	8.6%	9.0%	9.5%	29.3%	29.6%	29.0%	6.4%	7.1%	8.0%	9.2%	14.6%	13.8%
<b>Female Householder No Husband Present (FHNHP)</b>	36.0%	35.6%	36.9%	57.3%	61.1%	65.0%	31.6%	31.3%	31.4%	40.1%	39.9%	42.0%
<b>FHNHP with Children Under 18</b>	46.4%	47.9%	48.7%	63.7%	65.8%	69.7%	42.6%	43.6%	42.4%	48.7%	51.2%	53.8%
<b>FHNHP with Children Under 5</b>	56.3%	54.0%	56.3%	71.7%	76.0%	68.4%	51.4%	52.7%	54.8%	59.5%	51.9%	55.4%

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# Trends in Memphis Poverty with Detailed Poverty Tables, 2012-2014

2016

	Shelby County, Tennessee											
	All Races			Hispanic or Latino			Non-Hispanic White			African American		
	2012	2013	2014	2012	2013	2014	2012	2013	2014	2012	2013	2014
<b>Total population</b>		939,465	938,803					352,708	348,359		494,397	493,330
<b>Overall Poverty Rate</b>	21.7%	21.8%	22.9%	36.4%	38.6%	N/A	8.1%	7.6%	8.8%	26.3%	29.8%	31.7%
<b>Under 18</b>	32.8%	35.8%	35.5%	48.9%	52.2%	N/A	8.9%	10.0%	7.8%	43.2%	46.3%	48.1%
<b>18-64</b>	18.7%	18.3%	20.0%	29.7%	30.4%	N/A	8.7%	7.8%	10.4%	25.3%	24.2%	26.1%
<b>Over 65</b>	12.7%	9.1%	10.6%	13.5%	20.3%	N/A	4.9%	4.2%	3.8%	23.5%	15.6%	20.1%
<b>People in Families</b>	19.0%	20.6%	21.5%	36.4%	39.7%	N/A	4.9%	5.0%	5.2%	28.7%	29.2%	30.9%
<b>All Families Under Poverty</b>	N/A	17.2%	18.2%	35.9%	38.5%	N/A	N/A	4.6%	5.4%	N/A	25.8%	27.3%
<b>Families with Children Under 18</b>	25.8%	27.5%	29.1%	46.4%	47.5%	N/A	7.0%	7.2%	8.3%	35.0%	37.7%	39.6%
<b>Families with Children Under 5</b>	28.0%	29.1%	27.1%	56.3%	56.9%	N/A	10.6%	6.0%	10.4%	36.1%	44.0%	36.1%
<b>Married-Couple Families (MCF)</b>	5.7%	6.1%	6.5%	31.4%	27.8%	N/A	2.9%	2.2%	2.6%	7.0%	8.8%	9.9%
<b>MCF with Children Under 18</b>	7.7%	8.6%	8.8%	40.1%	35.5%	N/A	4.3%	2.1%	2.5%	7.4%	10.3%	12.1%
<b>MCF with Children Under 5</b>	8.3%	6.8%	9.9%	57.6%	50.0%	N/A	6.2%	N/A	N/A	N/A	11.4%	14.6%
<b>Female Householder No Husband Present (FHNHP)</b>	37.4%	36.8%	38.2%	62.5%	74.7%	N/A	11.3%	17.0%	17.6%	41.3%	39.4%	41.7%
<b>FHNHP with Children Under 18</b>	47.2%	49.0%	54.3%	66.8%	78.4%	N/A	18.4%	24.0%	29.6%	50.4%	51.7%	56.4%
<b>FHNHP with Children Under 5</b>	54.9%	58.6%	58.7%	76.7%	77.3%	N/A	27.6%	32.5%	48.9%	59.7%	61.0%	60.0%

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# Trends in Memphis Poverty with Detailed Poverty Tables, 2012-2014

2016

Population Group	City of Memphis, Tennessee											
	All Races			Hispanic or Latino			Non-Hispanic White			African American		
	2012	2013	2014	2012	2013	2014	2012	2013	2014	2012	2013	2014
<b>Total population</b>		653,450	656,876					178,557	171,427		410,080	420,298
<b>Overall Poverty Rate</b>	28.3%	27.7%	29.8%	40.7%	43.3%	N/A	11.9%	9.8%	13.9%	30.0%	33.3%	35.1%
<b>Under 18</b>	44.3%	45.7%	46.9%	54.9%	59.3%	N/A	14.0%	9.9%	13.1%	49.2%	52.6%	53.3%
<b>18-64</b>	24.0%	23.2%	25.7%	33.1%	33.9%	N/A	12.70%	11.1%	16.5%	28.1%	27.2%	29.0%
<b>Over 65</b>	15.9%	11.6%	14.5%	15.8%	14.0%	N/A	6.8%	4.9%	4.9%	23.2%	16.9%	22.0%
<b>People in Families</b>	27.3%	27.1%	29.2%	40.9%	45.2%	N/A	7.3%	5.7%	8.4%	32.9%	33.0%	34.5%
<b>All Families Under Poverty</b>	N/A	22.9%	24.9%	38.8%	42.6%	N/A	N/A	5.8%	8.2%	N/A	29.1%	30.4%
<b>Families with Children Under 18</b>	35.7%	36.2%	39.6%	51.3%	53.2%	N/A	11.2%	10.1%	14.1%	40.4%	43.2%	44.7%
<b>Families with Children Under 5</b>	33.9%	39.7%	35.0%	57.4%	55.5%	N/A	8.8%	11.9%	14.5%	39.8%	51.4%	40.1%
<b>Married-Couple Families (MCF)</b>	8.7%	8.5%	10.3%	34.7%	33.1%	N/A	4.7%	2.4%	4.1%	8.7%	9.9%	12.0%
<b>MCF with Children Under 18</b>	12.4%	13.2%	16.2%	45.5%	41.5%	N/A	7.7%	3.5%	5.0%	9.2%	13.2%	17.2%
<b>MCF with Children Under 5</b>	11.2%	12.2%	15.7%	63.5%	51.0%	N/A	8.6%	N/A	5.0%	N/A	21.2%	18.4%
<b>Female Householder No Husband Present (FHNHP)</b>	42.5%	40.9%	42.1%	62.7%	72.7%	N/A	14.2%	21.4%	20.8%	43.9%	42.2%	43.8%
<b>FHNHP with Children Under 18</b>	53.1%	54.5%	58.5%	67.5%	78.3%	N/A	20.8%	33.9%	39.2%	54.5%	55.2%	56.0%
<b>FHNHP with Children Under 5</b>	58.1%	63.5%	60.0%	74.2%	77.3%	N/A	N/A	65.3%	52.8%	62.0%	61.7%	60.0%

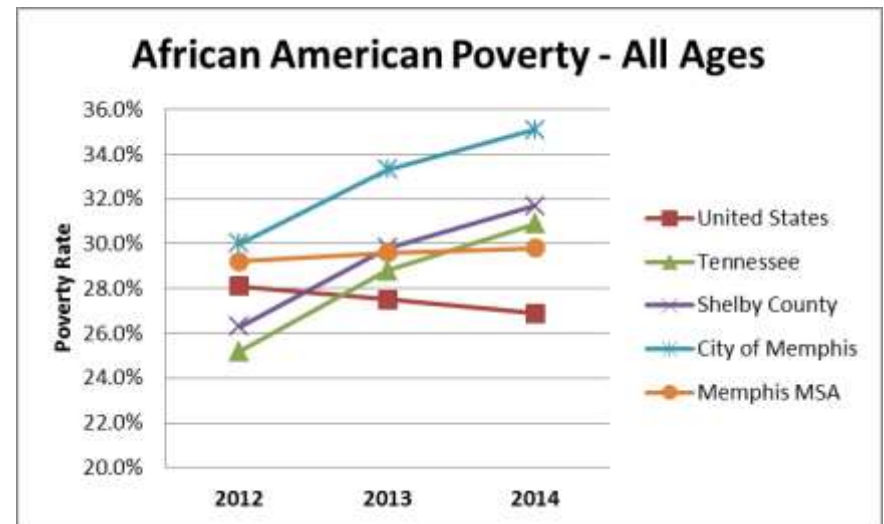
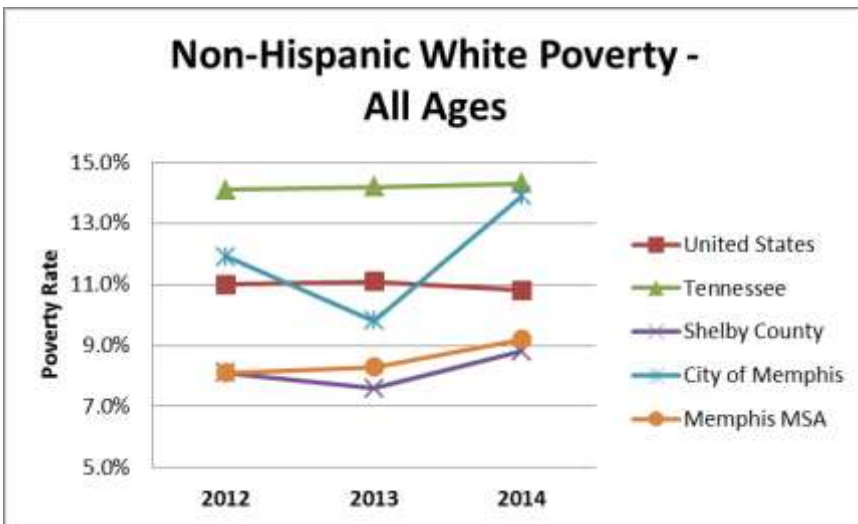
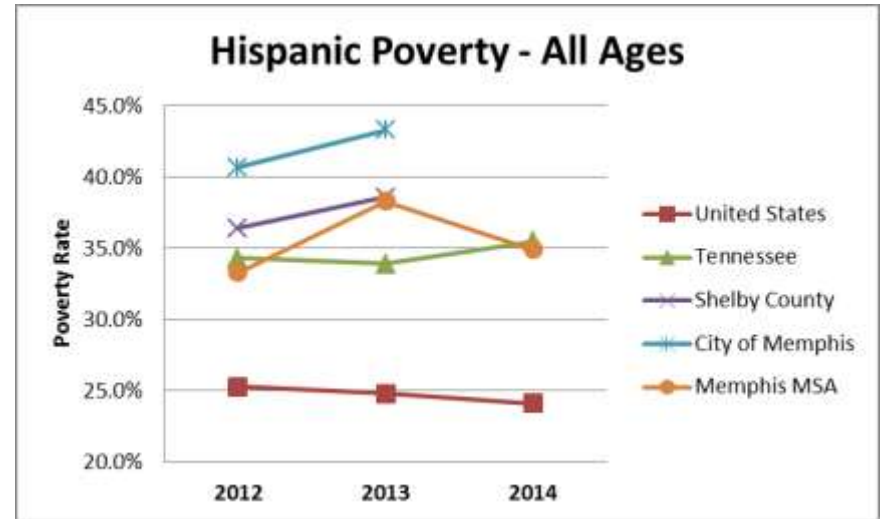
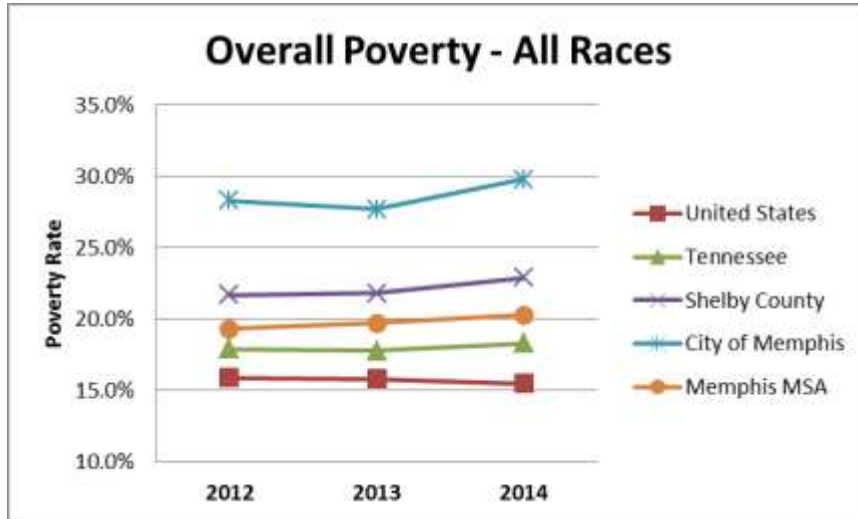
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2016

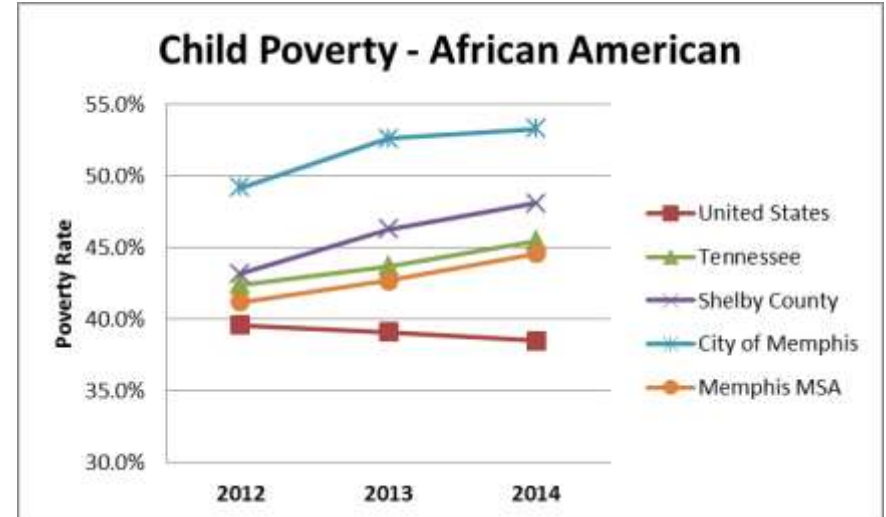
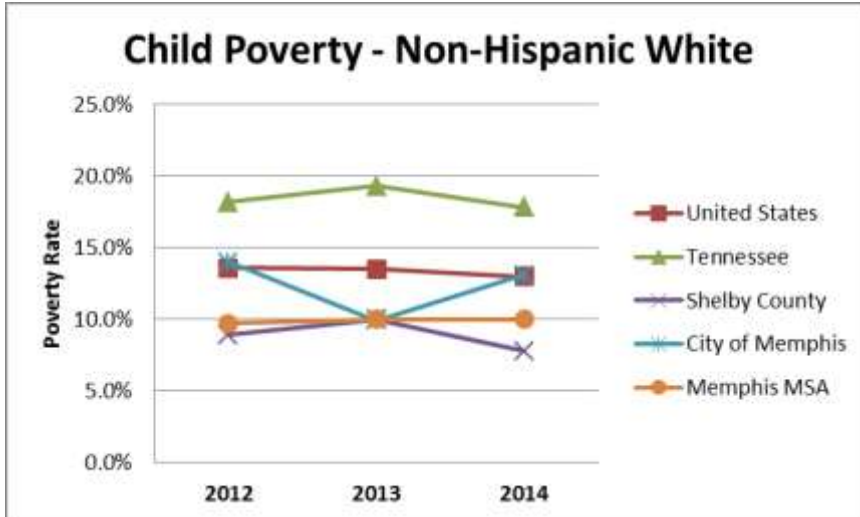
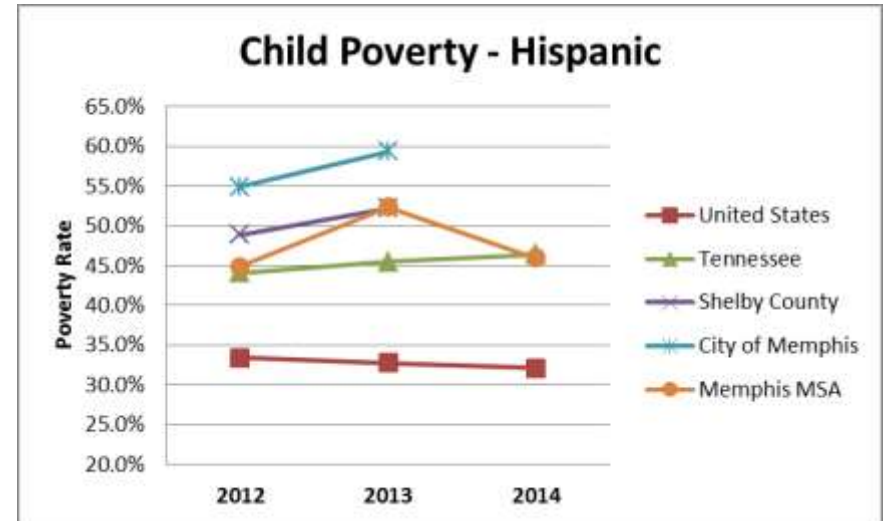
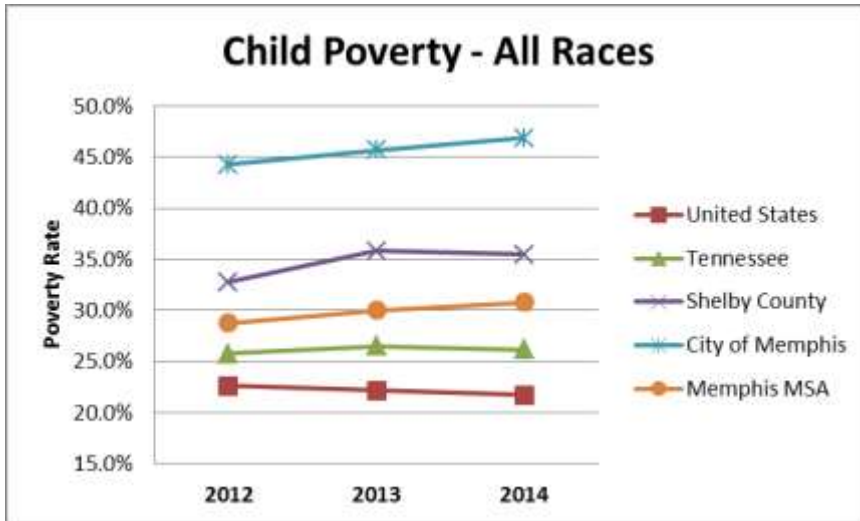
	Memphis, TN-MS-AR Metro Area											
	All Races			Hispanic or Latino			Non-Hispanic White			African American		
	2012	2013	2014	2012	2013	2014	2012	2013	2014	2012	2013	2014
<b>Total population</b>	1,325,160	1,338,445	1,344,121	69,623	69,241	69,927	605,602	608,523	605,252	602,966	613,019	617,261
<b>Overall Poverty Rate</b>	19.3%	19.7%	20.3%	33.3%	38.3%	34.9%	8.1%	8.30%	9.2%	29.2%	29.6%	29.8%
<b>Under 18</b>	28.8%	30.0%	30.8%	44.9%	52.4%	46.0%	9.7%	10.00%	10.0%	41.2%	42.7%	44.6%
<b>18-64</b>	16.8%	16.9%	17.9%	26.0%	29.8%	28.3%	8.1%	8.20%	10.1%	24.6%	24.7%	24.5%
<b>Over 65</b>	11.0%	11.6%	10.7%	20.0%	18.0%	24.0%	5.8%	6.60%	5.3%	20.9%	20.8%	21.0%
<b>People in Families</b>	17.8%	18.1%	18.4%	33.5%	39.8%	36.1%	5.9%	5.80%	6.3%	28.1%	28.6%	28.6%
<b>All Families Under Poverty</b>	15.2%	15.4%	15.9%	32.3%	37.1%	31.4%	5.7%	5.30%	6.5%	24.9%	25.6%	25.3%
<b>Families with Children Under 18</b>	22.8%	23.4%	25.0%	39.0%	44.0%	42.2%	8.9%	8.20%	10.5%	33.1%	34.8%	35.4%
<b>Families with Children Under 5</b>	25.6%	25.8%	22.1%	38.4%	46.4%	45.0%	12.3%	9.30%	13.0%	37.1%	40.2%	28.8%
<b>Married-Couple Families (MCF)</b>	5.5%	5.6%	6.0%	24.3%	25.7%	22.6%	3.0%	3.0%	3.2%	7.6%	8.6%	9.3%
<b>MCF with Children Under 18</b>	7.7%	7.6%	8.0%	29.5%	33.1%	31.6%	3.8%	3.7%	3.6%	8.8%	10.1%	11.4%
<b>MCF with Children Under 5</b>	8.8%	6.6%	7.4%	N/A	40.1%	40.7%	4.3%	3.2%	2.9%	9.0%	7.9%	10.9%
<b>Female Householder No Husband Present (FHNHP)</b>	34.1%	34.3%	36.4%	64.4%	69.6%	65.2%	18.10%	16.20%	22.7%	38.7%	38.9%	39.5%
<b>FHNHP with Children Under 18</b>	42.6%	44.1%	50.2%	66.5%	72.3%	75.3%	25.80%	23.70%	37.0%	46.8%	48.3%	51.5%
<b>FHNHP with Children Under 5</b>	50.4%	53.8%	52.1%	100.0%	N/A	68.8%	38.00%	32.80%	52.7%	54.3%	59.3%	51.6%

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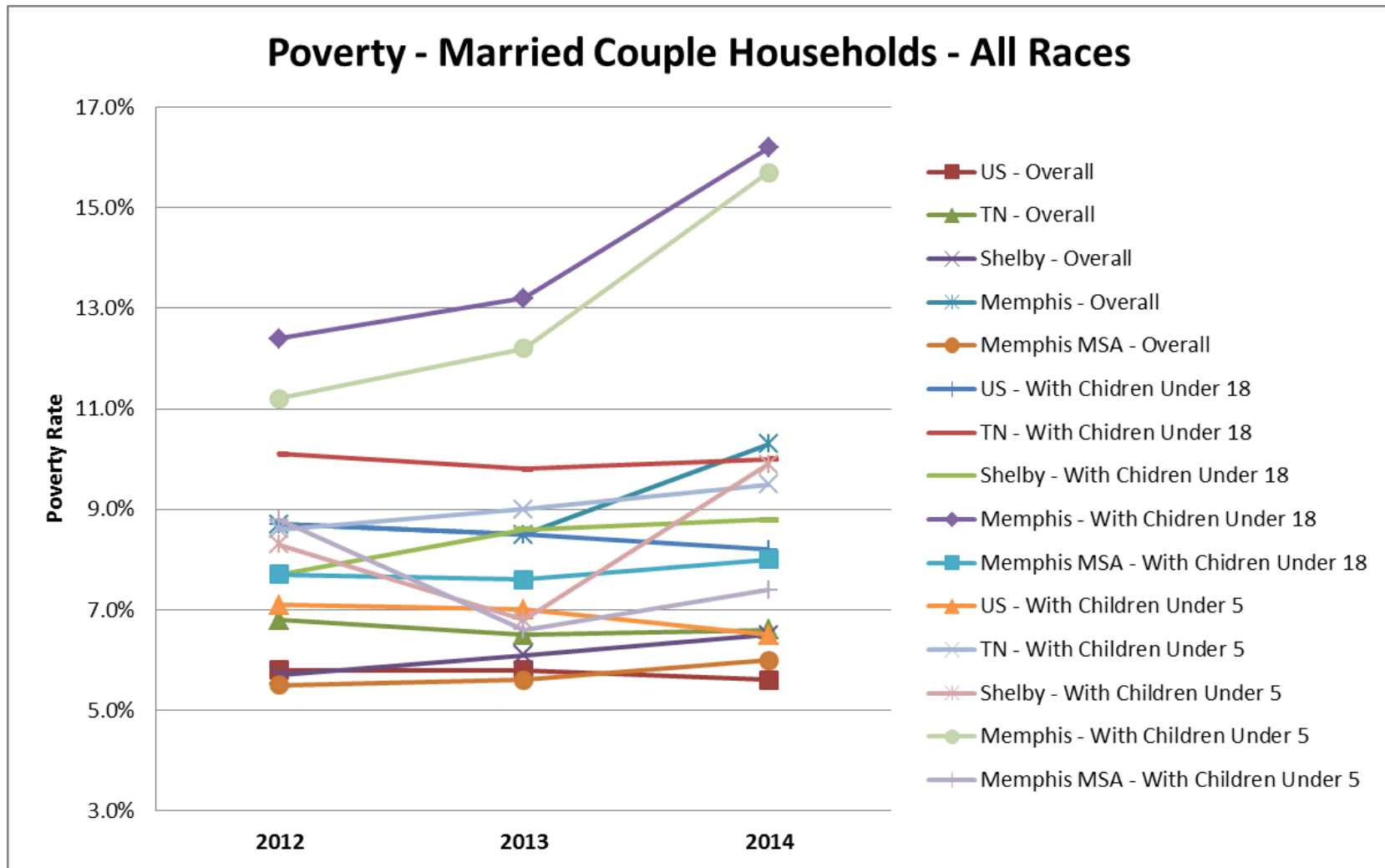


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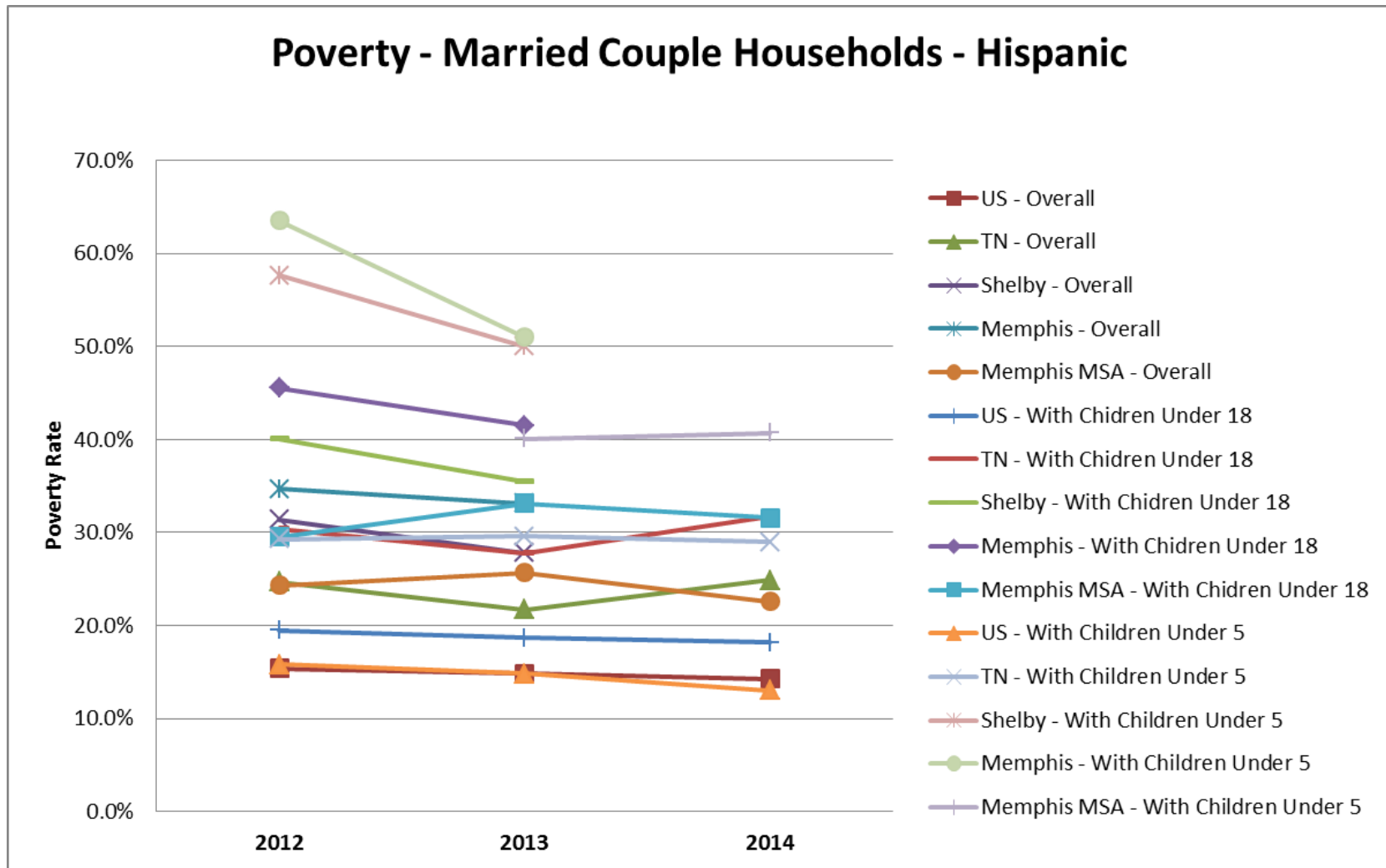




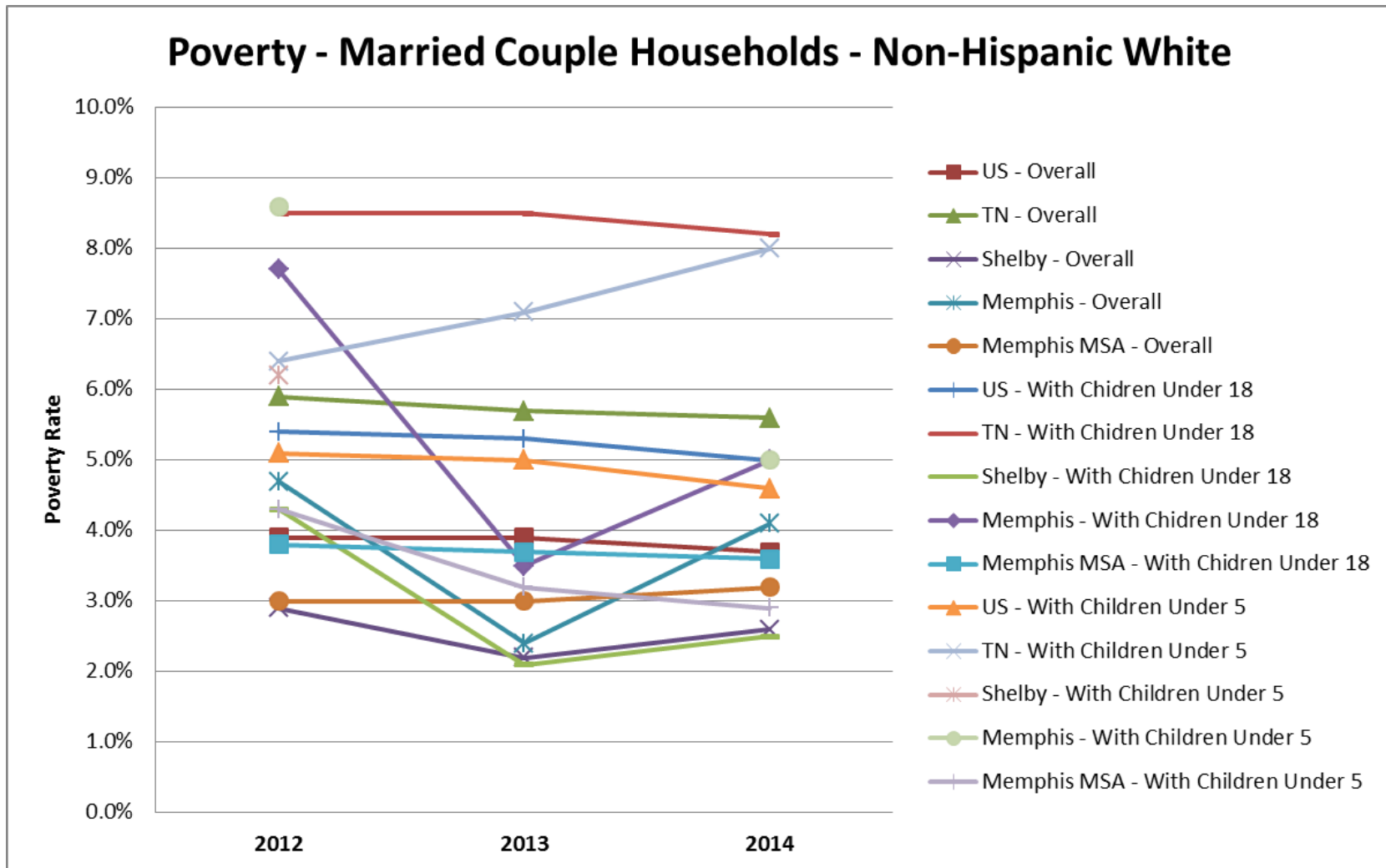
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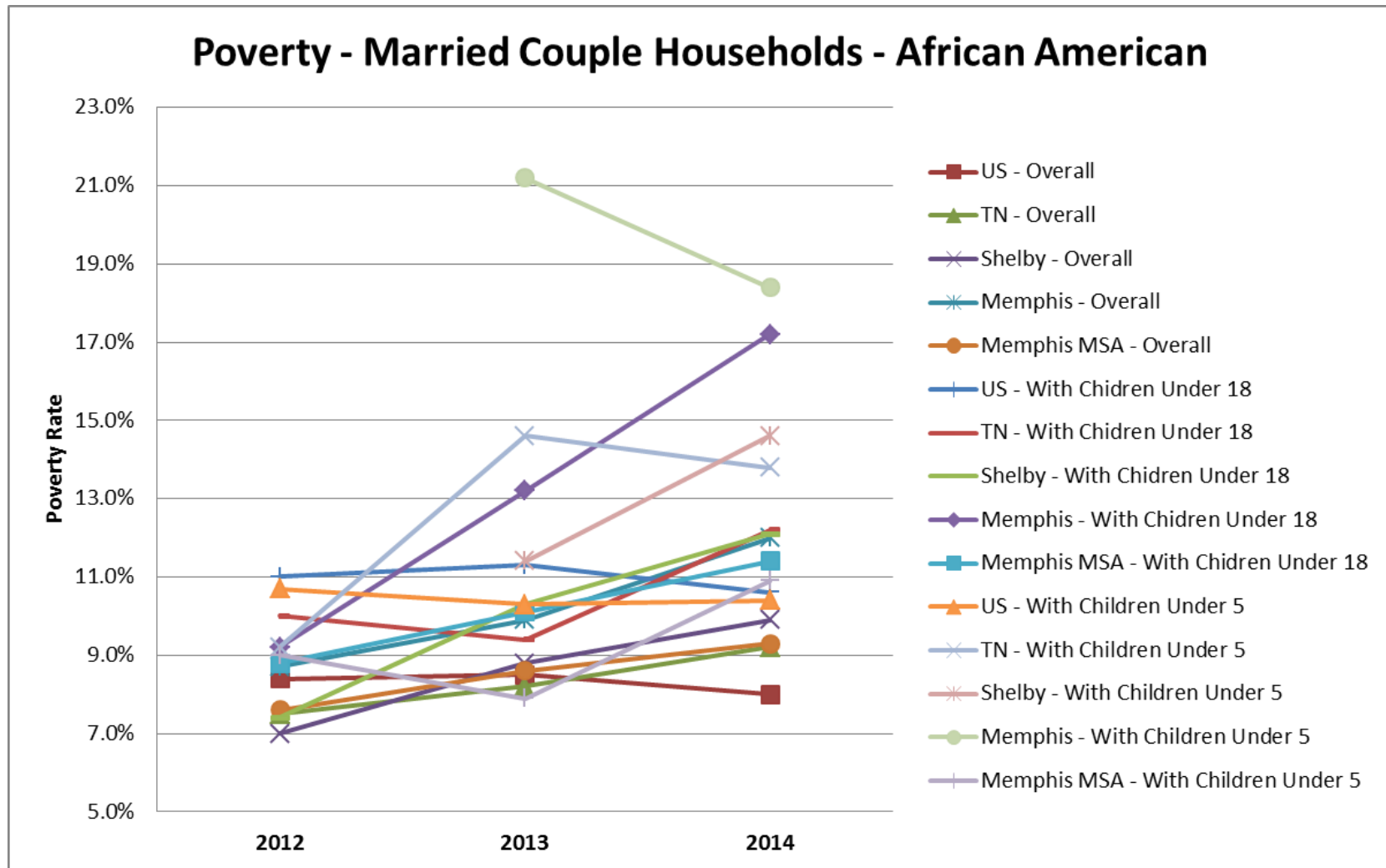
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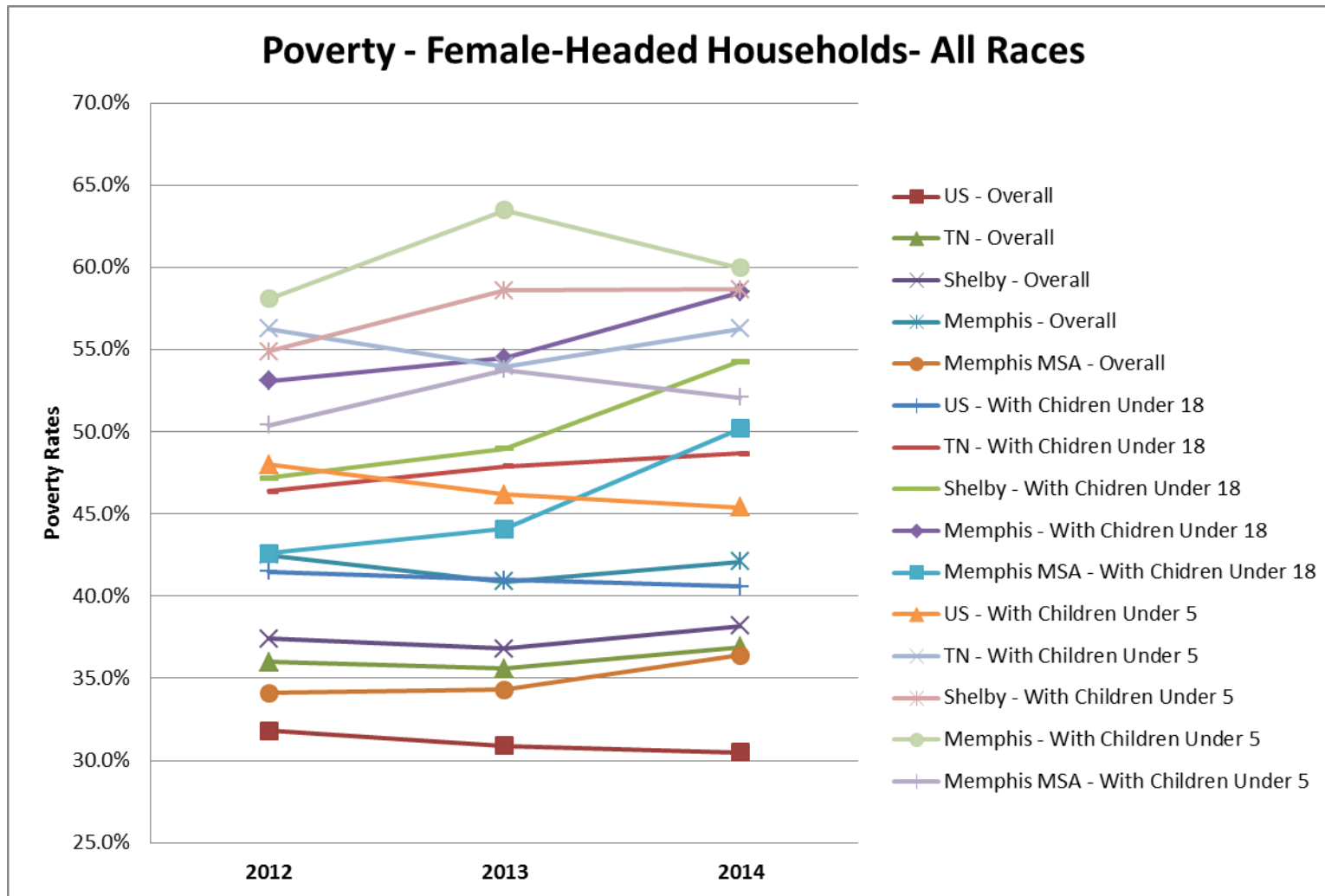
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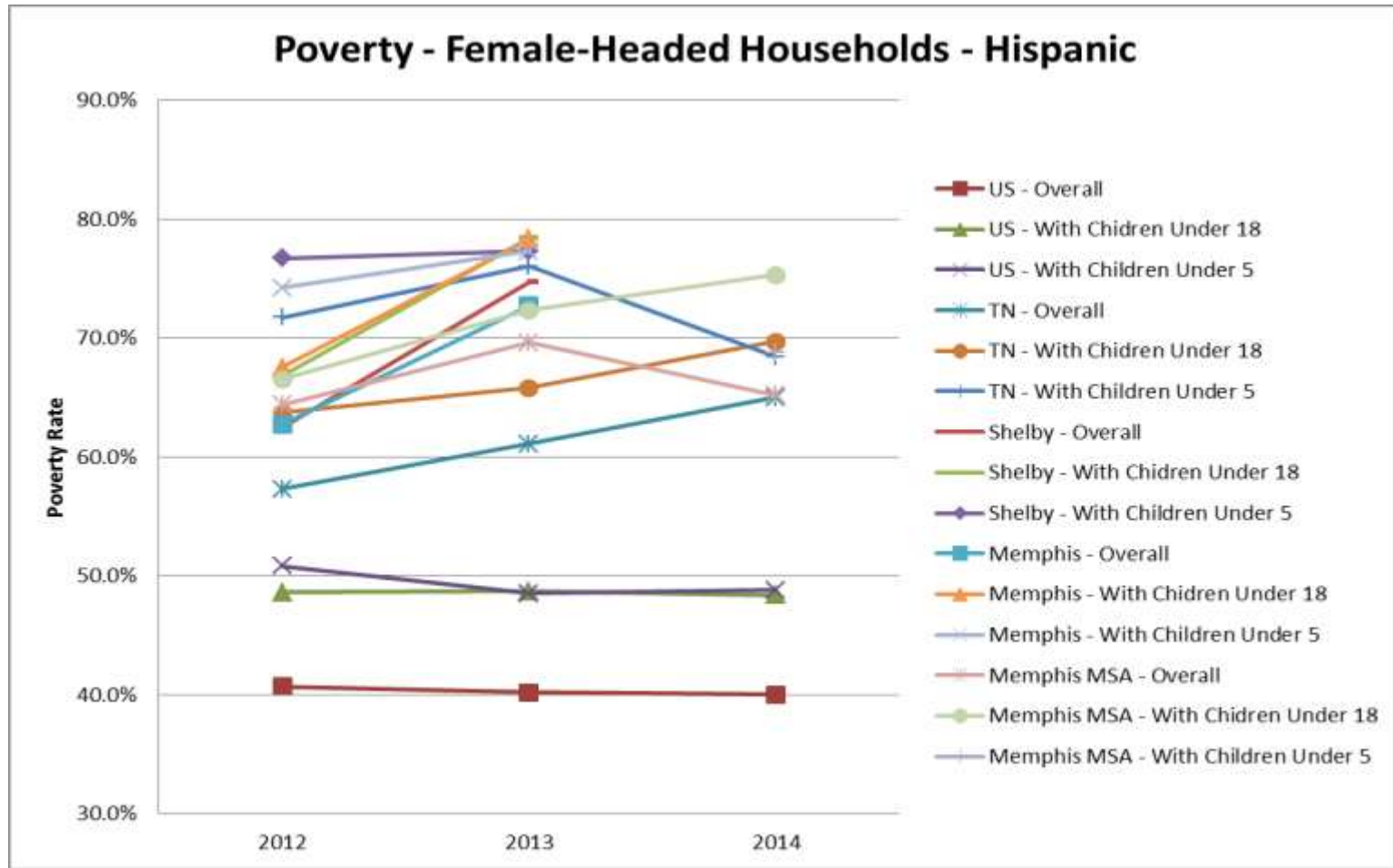
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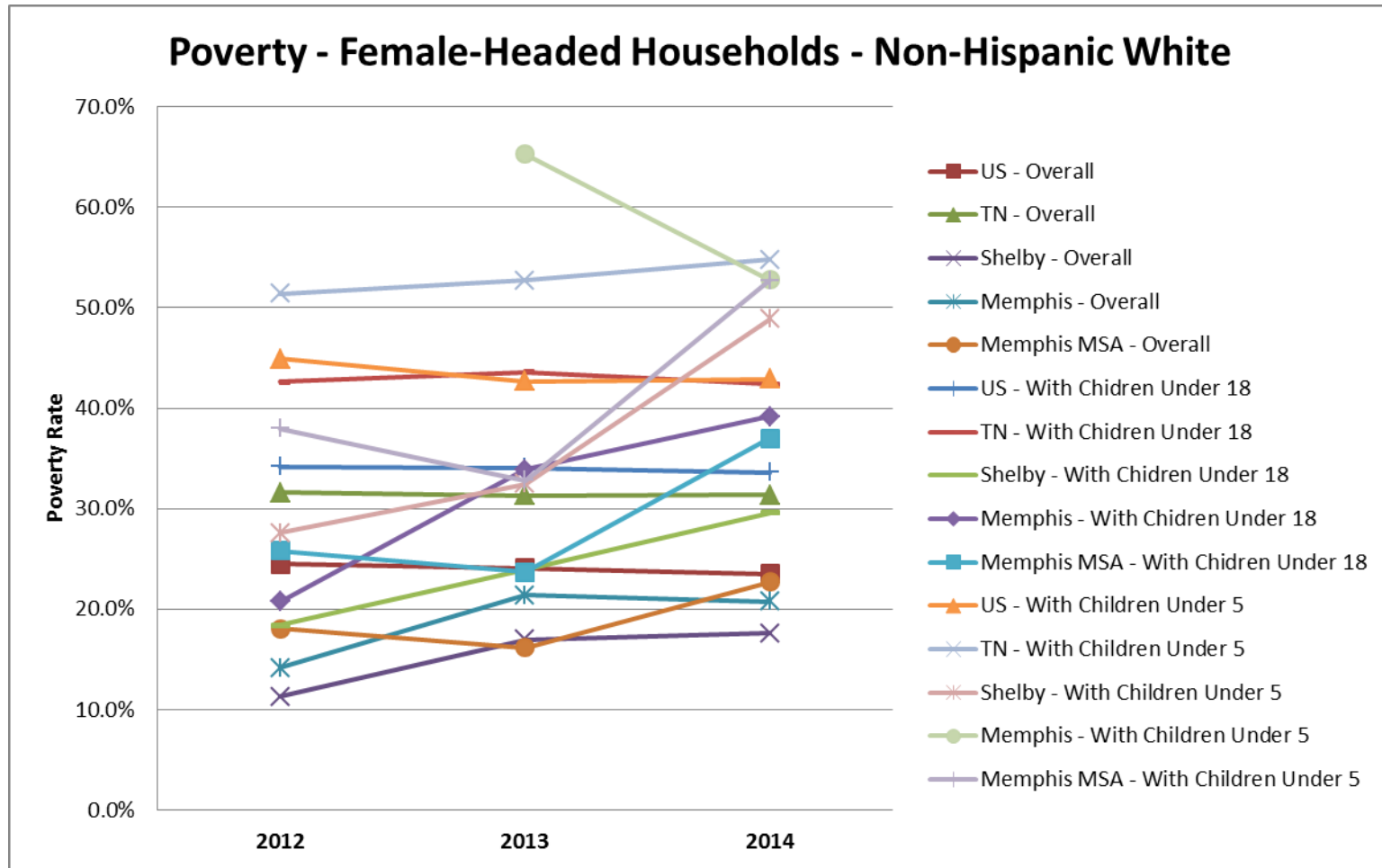
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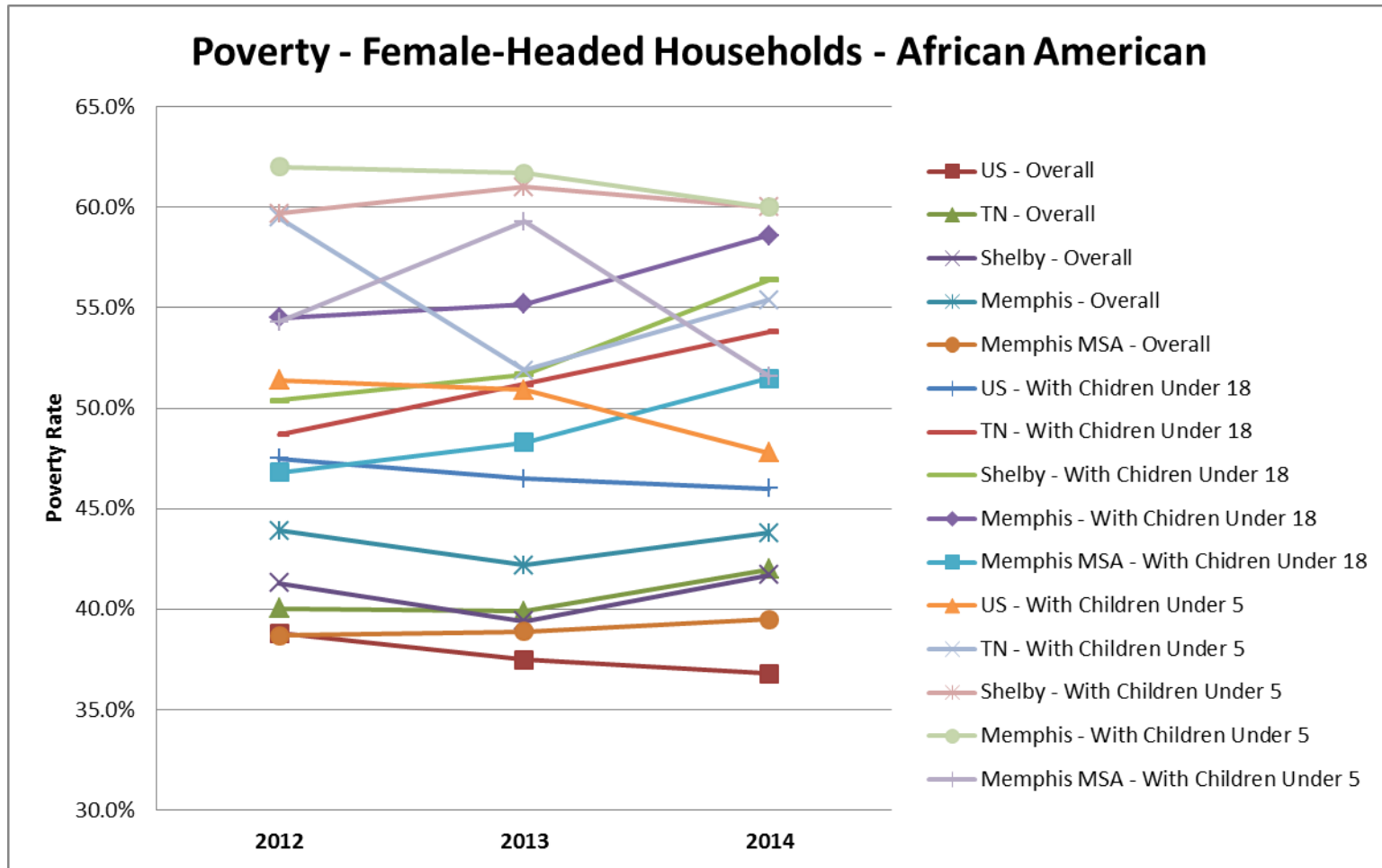


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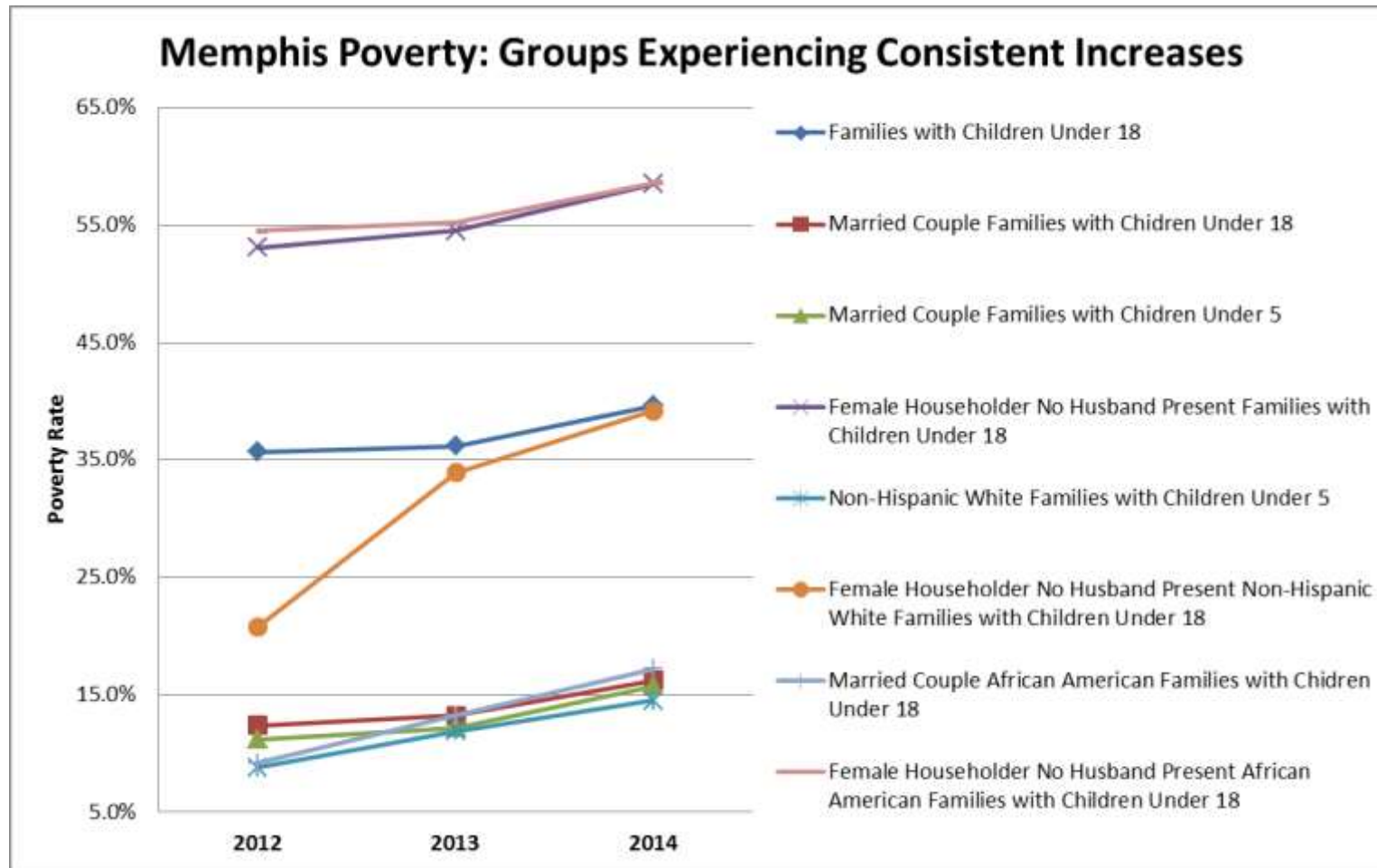


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Department of Social Work in the School of Urban Affairs and Public Policy at the University of Memphis is dedicated to understanding poverty and its causes through research and engaged scholarship. Our purpose is to identify the most effective ways to eliminate poverty and promote social and economic development for our region. If you would like more information on Memphis poverty, please contact Dr. Elena Delavega at [mdlavega@memphis.edu](mailto:mdlavega@memphis.edu)