



data
snapshot
KIDS COUNT



Supplemental Poverty Measure

St. Louis Region

1990-2013 Data

MISSOURI
— KIDS COUNT —



KIDS COUNT® Measuring Access to Opportunity Report:

A February 2015 report by the Annie E. Casey Foundation shows that the federal government’s official poverty measure created in the 1960s uses outdated information on how U.S. families are faring today, failing to illustrate the effect of programs designed to help them.

The KIDS COUNT® Data Snapshot Report, *Measuring Access to Opportunity*, points to a new index for measuring poverty – the Supplemental Poverty Measure (SPM) – which captures the effect of safety net programs and tax policies on families. By using SPM, researchers have determined that the rate of children in poverty has declined from 33 percent to 18 percent as a result of these programs and policies. SPM was first used by the U.S. Census Bureau in 2010.

ARCHS - St. Louis’ KIDS COUNT® Partner:

The Missouri Family and Community Trust (FACT) is the official Annie E. Casey (AECF) KIDS COUNT® partner in Missouri. FACT promotes and supports collaboration and innovation in service delivery for Missouri’s children and families through its network of 20 “community partnerships” around the state. Area Resources for Community and Human Services (ARCHS) is the St. Louis region’s state designated community partnership.

ARCHS values and promotes the sharing and dissemination of research and data to help support the work of St. Louis area education and social service organizations. As St. Louis’ KIDS COUNT® partner, ARCHS designs, manages, and evaluates 15 education and social service programs provided at more than 275 locations that annually improve the lives of more than 90,000 of the St. Louis region’s most vulnerable children and their family members (FY2014 data).

SOURCE: University of Missouri Office of Social and Economic Data Analysis (OSED)



Report Notes:

What is the Supplemental Poverty Measure (SPM)?

- The Census Bureau introduced the Supplemental Poverty Measure in 2010 to provide an alternative view of poverty in the United States that better reflects life in the 21st century, including contemporary social and economic realities and government policy. As its name suggests, the SPM supplements but does not replace the official poverty measure, which remains the nation's source for official poverty statistics and for determining program eligibility.
- The SPM takes into account the following anti-poverty programs and policy initiatives that “transfer” cash and non-cash assistance to families: *Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)/Food Stamps, Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), School Lunch, Cash Welfare (TANF/AFDC), Housing Subsidies, Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), Social Security, Unemployment Insurance, Worker's Compensation, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Child Support, Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), and Child Tax Credits.*

National Trends using SPM

- The SPM clearly shows that child poverty has decreased since 1990, whereas the official federal poverty measure shows little difference since then. The SPM is important because it allows policymakers and other stakeholders to see the effects of anti-poverty initiatives that otherwise are not visible, given that many of the initiatives do not in fact increase a family household income from a wage/salary perspective.
- The SPM also helps illustrate which programs have the biggest effects on reducing family poverty. Refundable tax credits (EITC, child tax credits) make the biggest difference in helping families, followed by Social Security, SNAP, and housing subsidies.
- Overall, since 1990, families have benefitted from various poverty initiatives and programs. However, starting in 2010, the SPM has been increasing, whereas the official poverty measure has declined slightly.
- The percentage of “children on cash assistance” (TANF) shows an overall slow downward trend over time. This is due to the structural changes made to welfare in 1996—the shift from AFDC to TANF—which placed a general 5-year cap on receiving benefits. The decline in program participation reflects a change in program eligibility rules, not a decline in actual household poverty.

SOURCE: University of Missouri Office of Social and Economic Data Analysis (OSED)

Missouri's Poverty Measure without SPM

- In 2013, 23% of children under 18 were in poverty, based on the federal government's official poverty measure. Missouri ranks 25th on this measure. The national percentage of children in poverty for 2013 was 22%.

Missouri's Poverty Rate with SPM

- According to the SPM (2011-2013), Missouri's poverty rate was 30% *without* cash/non-cash transfers (i.e., not taking into account anti-poverty programs and initiatives). Missouri ranks 25th. The U.S. percentage of poverty without transfers was 33%.
- According to the SPM (2011-2013), Missouri's poverty rate was 15% *with* cash/non-cash transfers (i.e., taking into account anti-poverty programs and initiatives). Missouri ranks 28th. The U.S. percentage of poverty with transfers was 18%.

Trends in Poverty for Missouri

- Note that for Missouri, these are annual estimates (beginning in 2006) for children under 18 in poverty.
- For the most part, indicators of poverty track each other, showing a general increase since 2000.
 - The percentage of children on free and reduced lunch has been general increasing since 1996, with a sharper increase starting in 2009 coinciding with the latest recession.
 - SNAP usage bottoms out in 1998-2000, increases 2001-2004, roughly plateaus 2004-2007, and begins a steady uptick after that.
 - MO HealthNet usage plateaus from 1993-1998, then begins an increase (during the SNAP trough) until 2004, falls to a roughly stable level 2006-08, and then begins to trend upward. This variability reflects different eligibility levels promoted by various state administrations over time.

Trends in Poverty for the St. Louis Region

- Overall, the trends for the St. Louis region parallel Missouri trends.
- For St. Louis City, unlike most counties, the percentage of children on free/reduced lunch decreased from 2005 to 2009, then showed a sharp increase in 2010, with a steady increase afterwards. This trend anomaly is likely due in part to the school district improving its collection rate of free and reduced-price meal applications (Saint Louis Public Schools, (2014), *Report to the Community*, p.14).

SOURCE: University of Missouri Office of Social and Economic Data Analysis (OSED)

- A relative new indicator of poverty from the American Community Survey (ACS) is the “burden of high housing costs” (more than 30% of household gross income). The table below shows five-year estimates (2009-2013) for percentage of households that have a high housing cost burden, where the head of the household is less than 65 years old. Note there are two versions of this indicator: one for those who own their home, the other for those who rent.

County	Total HHs < 65	Total Cost Burdened HHs Head < 65	% Total HHs < 65 Cost Burdened	Owner HHs Head < 65	Cost Burdened Owner HHs < 65	% Owner HHs < 65 Cost Burdened	Renter HHs Head < 65	Cost Burdened Rental HHs < 65	% Renter HHs < 65 Cost Burdened
St. Charles County	112,370	27,373	24.4	86,959	18,332	21.1	25,411	9,041	35.6
St. Louis County	318,875	95,148	29.8	207,573	49,757	24	111,302	45,391	40.8
St. Louis City	124,188	48,906	39.4	47,875	13,336	27.9	76,313	35,570	46.6
St. Louis Region	555,433	171,427	30.9%	342,407	81,425	23.8%	213,026	90,002	42.2%

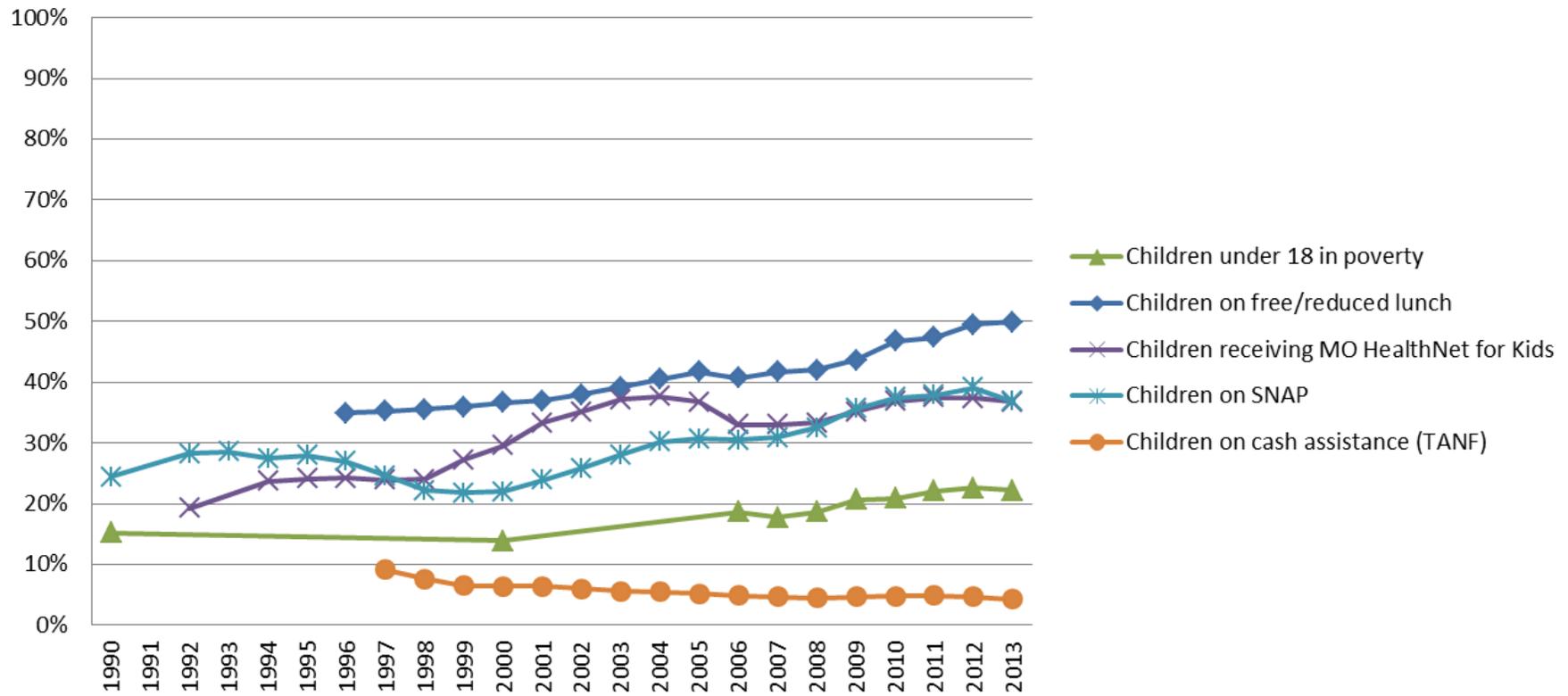
About the Graphs

- Graphs show several poverty indicators across time (1990-2013):
 - Children under 18 in poverty
 - Children on free/reduced lunch
 - Children receiving MO HealthNet for Kids
 - Children on SNAP
 - Children on cash assistance (TANF)
- Note that for children under 18 in poverty, the 2009 and 2012 data points represent the mid-year of a three-year estimate (i.e., for 2009, the data are for 2008-2010; for 2012, from 2011-2013). Three-year estimates are used due to lack of specific annual data for counties with less than 65,000 residents – this assures all counties to have data that are comparable. The 1990 and 2000 data points represent actual one-year figures based on the decennial census. The other data for children under 18 in poverty are from the American Community Survey (ACS).
- The other graphed poverty indicators are from Missouri KIDS COUNT data gathered from administrative sources (e.g., Missouri Department of Social Services).

SOURCE: University of Missouri Office of Social and Economic Data Analysis (OSED)

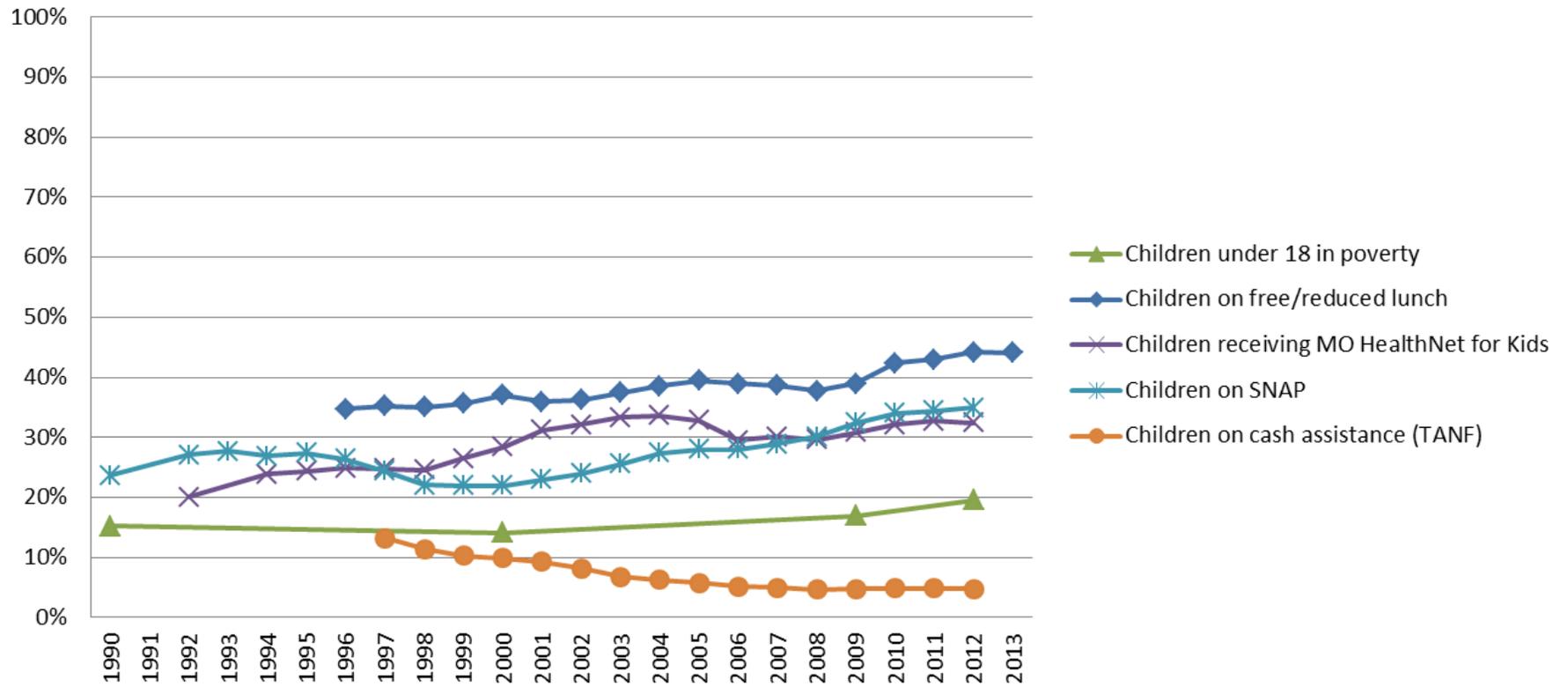


Missouri: Poverty Indicators 1990-2013



SOURCE: University of Missouri Office of Social and Economic Data Analysis (OSED)

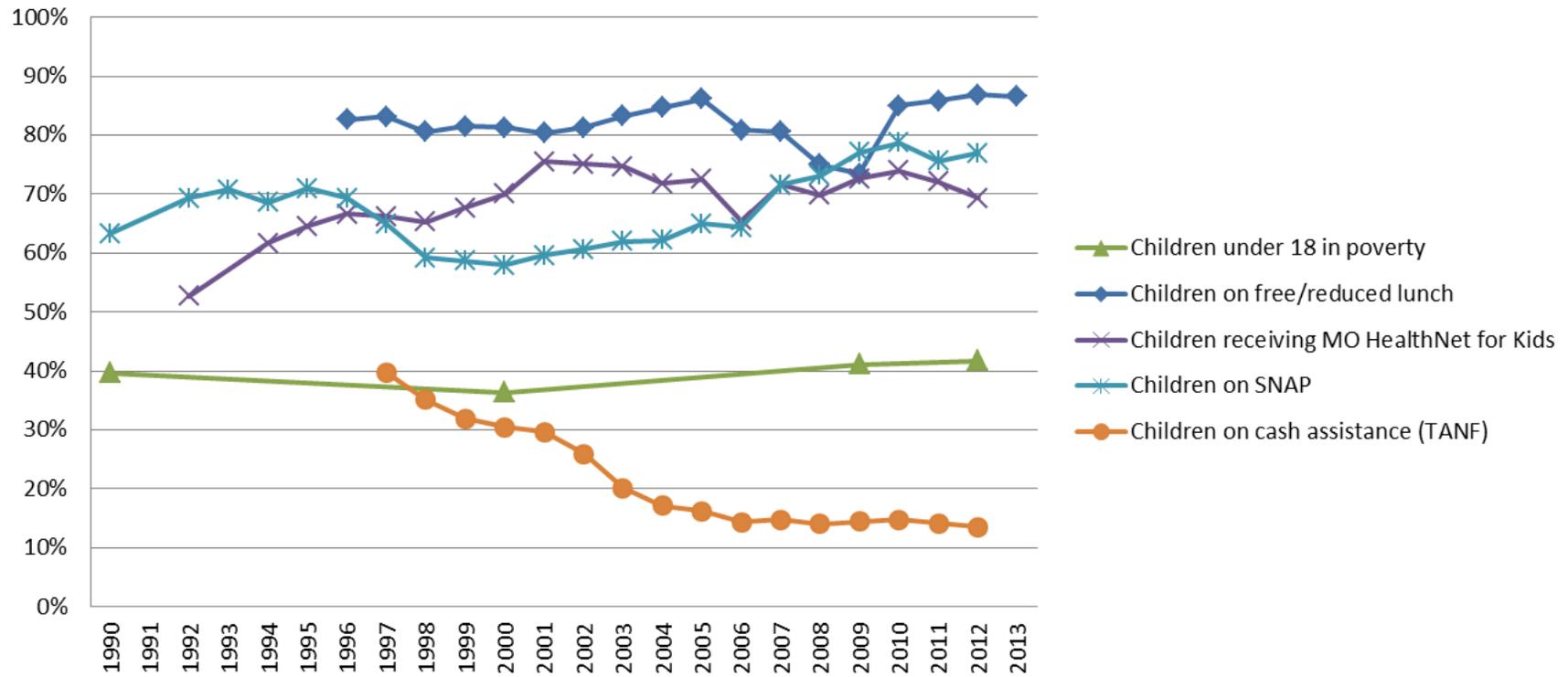
St. Louis Region: Poverty Indicators 1990-2013



SOURCE: University of Missouri Office of Social and Economic Data Analysis (OSED)

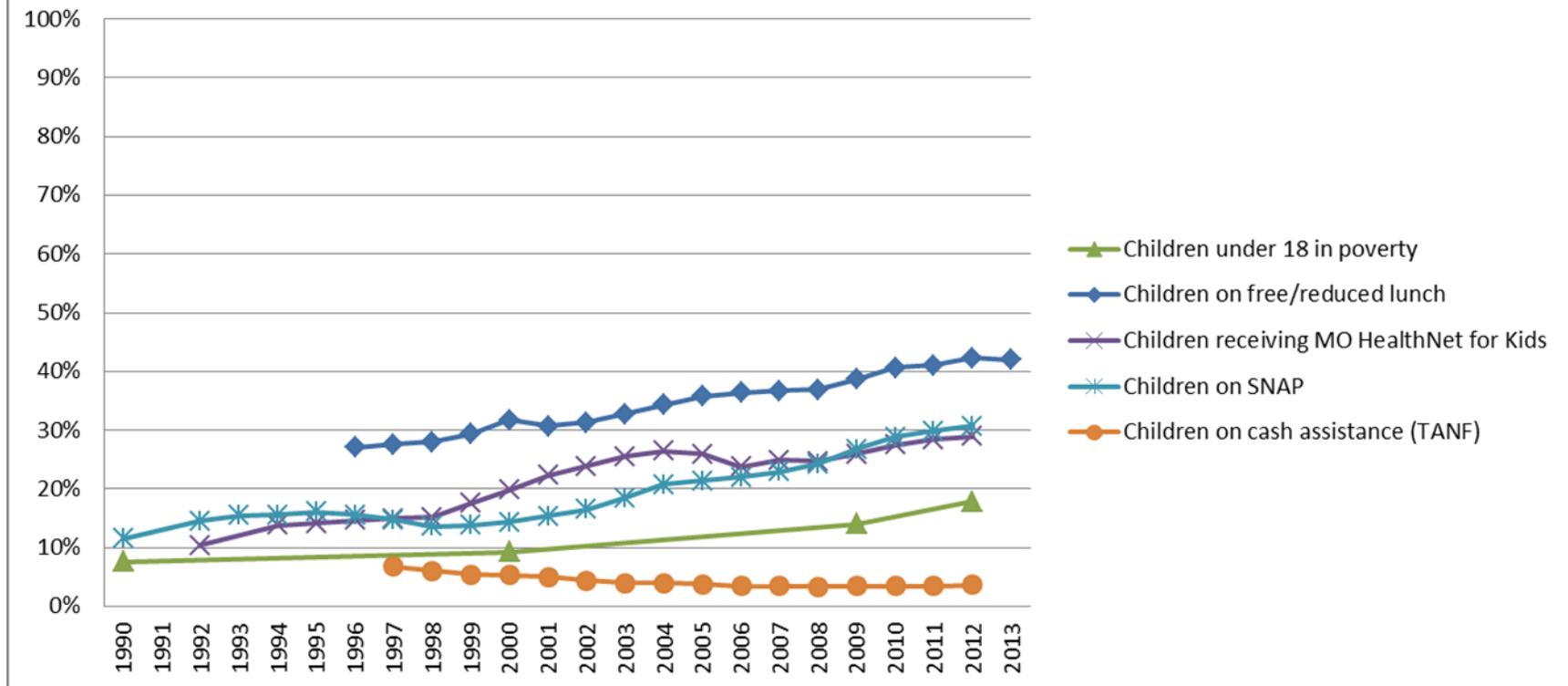


St. Louis City: Poverty Indicators 1990-2013



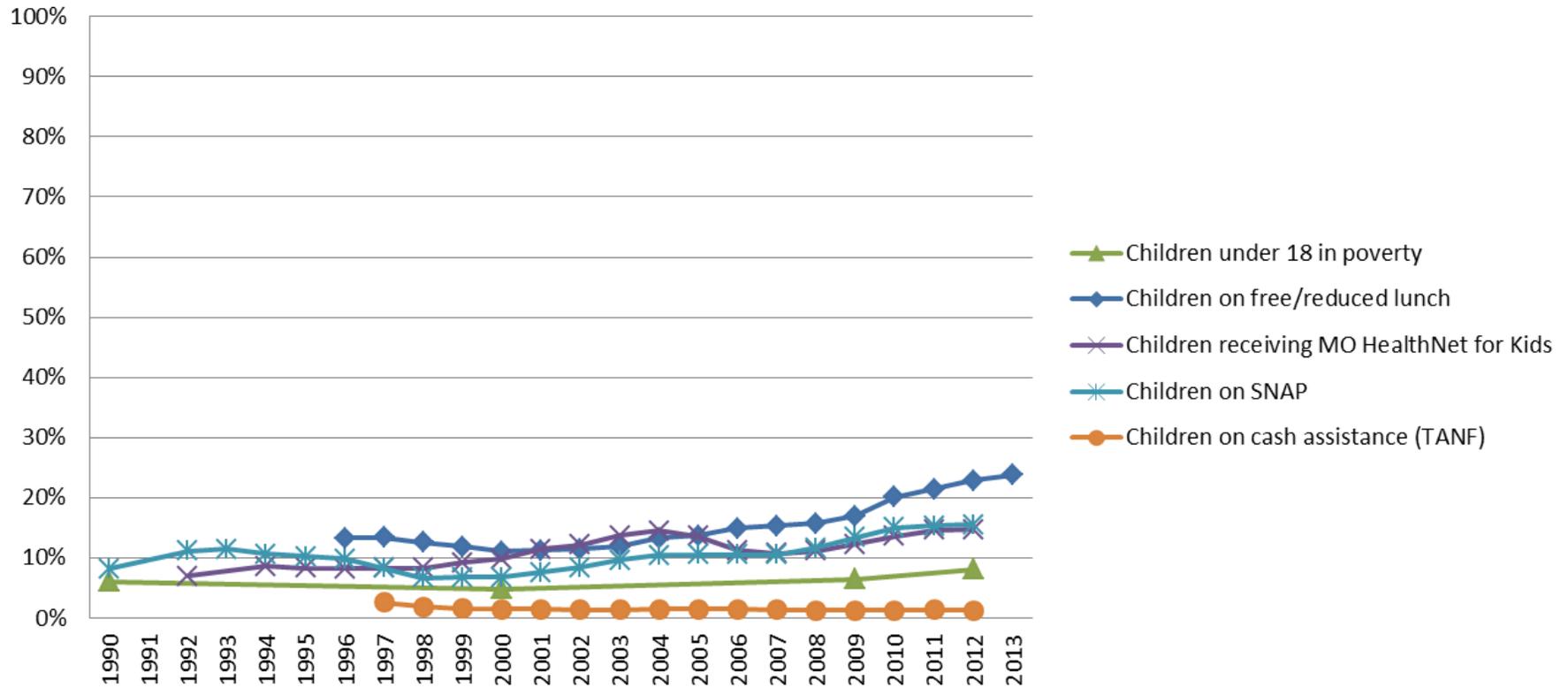
SOURCE: University of Missouri Office of Social and Economic Data Analysis (OSED)

St. Louis County: Poverty Indicators 1990-2013



SOURCE: University of Missouri Office of Social and Economic Data Analysis (OSED)

St. Charles County: Poverty Indicators 1990-2013



SOURCE: University of Missouri Office of Social and Economic Data Analysis (OSED)