



**University of  
New Hampshire**

Carsey School of  
Public Policy

# **DATA PRESENTATION: FAMILY, POVERTY, & WORK IN RURAL PLACES**

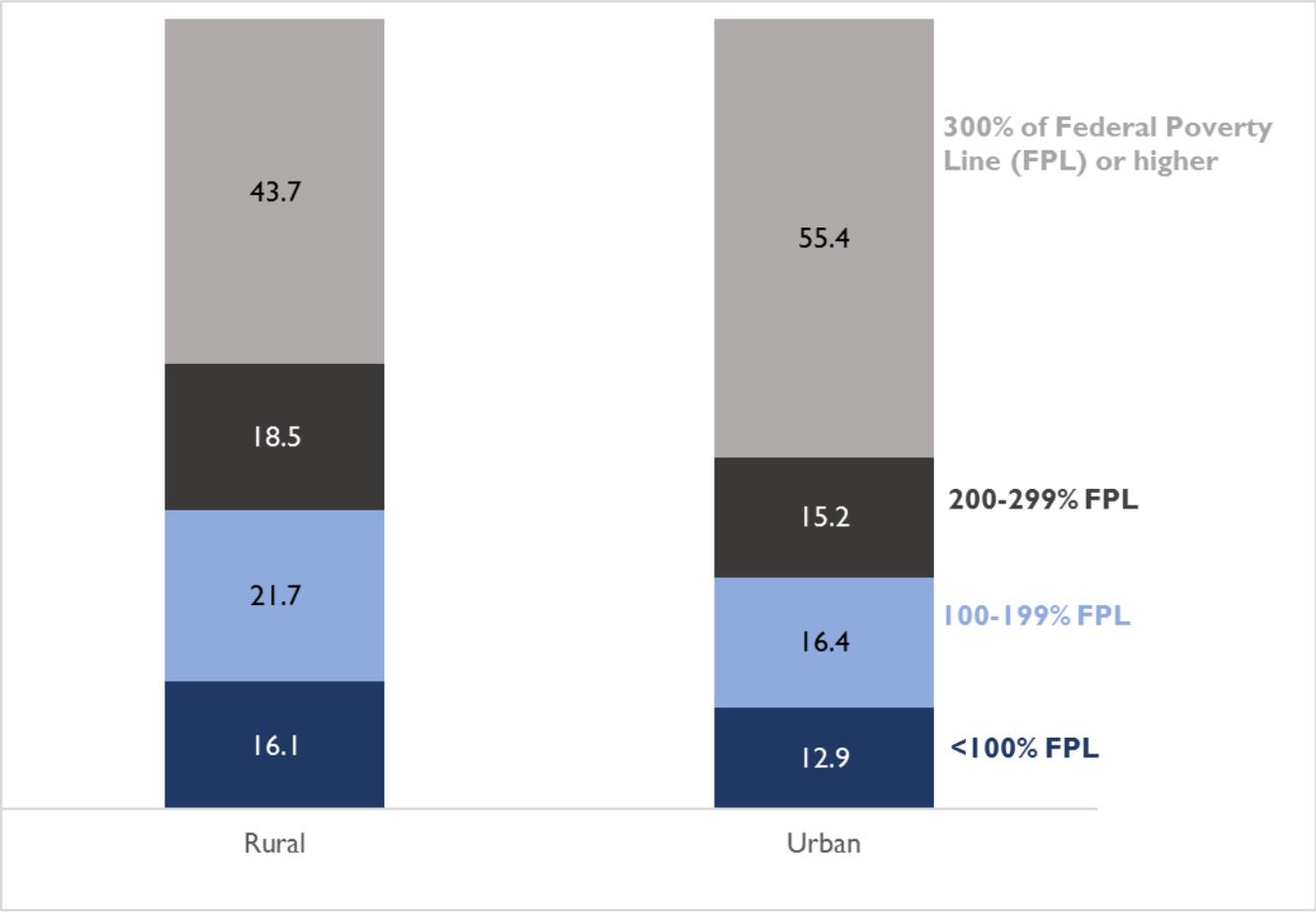
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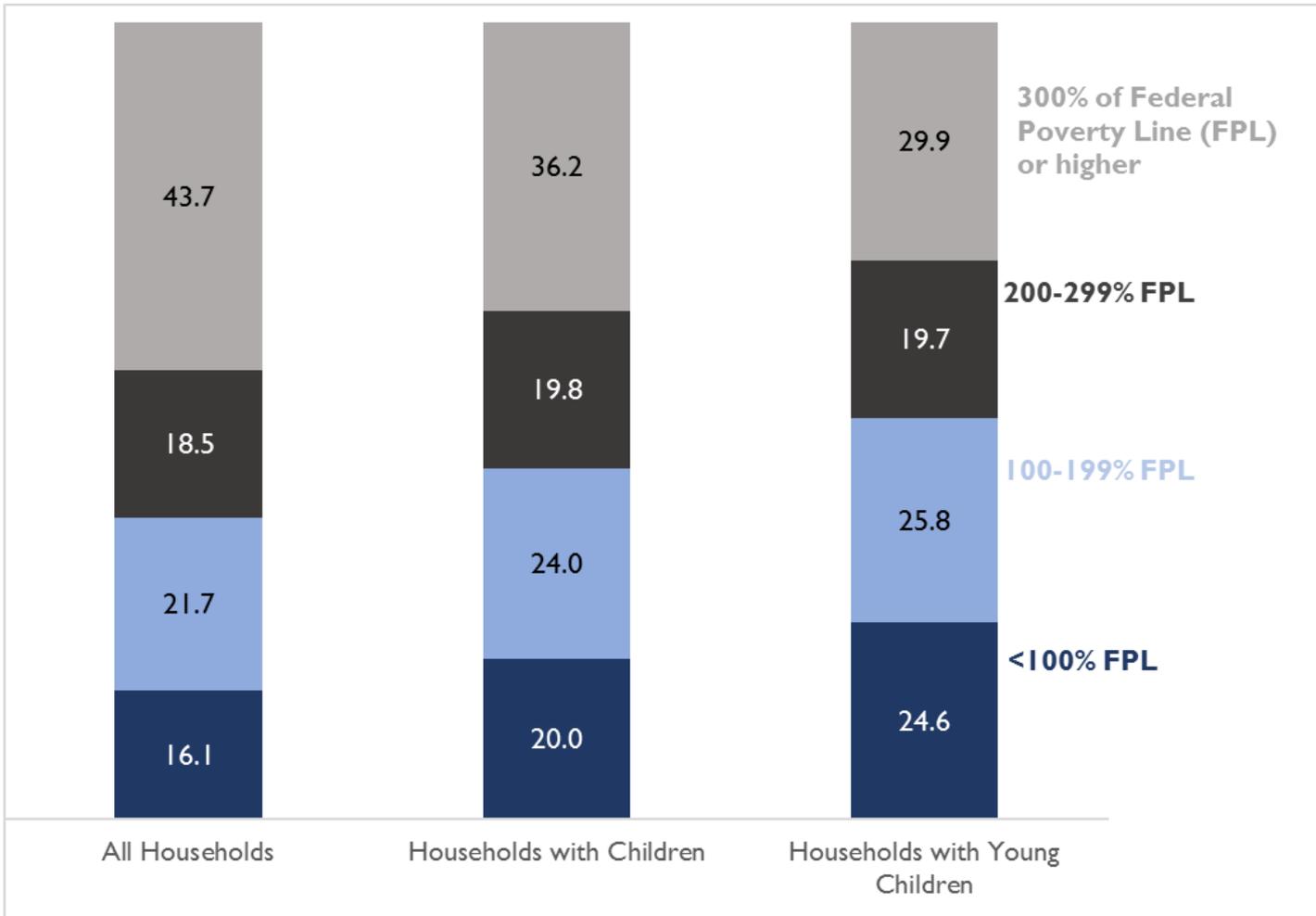
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# Family Income among Rural & Urban Households



Source: American Community Survey, 2015-2017  
Notes: Respondents whose metropolitan status is unidentified are excluded here.  
In 2017, 100% of the federal poverty line (FPL) for a family of two adults and two children was \$24,848.

# Family Income among Rural Households



# Poor (<100%FPL) Rural Families With Young Children

- Clustered in the Midwest and South (73%)
- 19% are aged 18-24, compared with 7% of their nonpoor counterparts
- More than 75% are non-Hispanic white
- More than half have at least some college education (51%)
- 50% are working, with another 10% looking for work

# Finding & Maintaining Work

- Nature of rural economies
  - Economic restructuring
  - Wages are lower
  - Adults are less likely to work full time year round than in urban places
    - Among rural residents aged 20-24, just 32% work full time year round
- Transportation challenges matter
  - 6.7% of rural households have no vehicle available

“There’s not an expectation [that you can] get a full-time job. And so you get an idea that ‘I’ll work really hard for three or four months, and then I’ve got to make it on that for the rest of the year.’”

– Union County human services provider

“Most of the people that I know either sell retail or do housekeeping or wait tables...it’s really a lot of hard work and not a lot of money.”

- Clay County resident

# Early Childhood Care and Education is...

- **Scarce**
  - 9 children under age 3 for every one child care slot in rural counties
- **Expensive**
  - Half of **poor families** with young children who pay for child care spend at least 10% of their income on that care
  - Across all **rural families** with young children who pay for care, 23% spend at least 10% of their income
- **Variable in Quality**
  - Rural parents more often choose family- or home-based care over center-based, which may not be as strictly regulated

# Questions & Comments

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