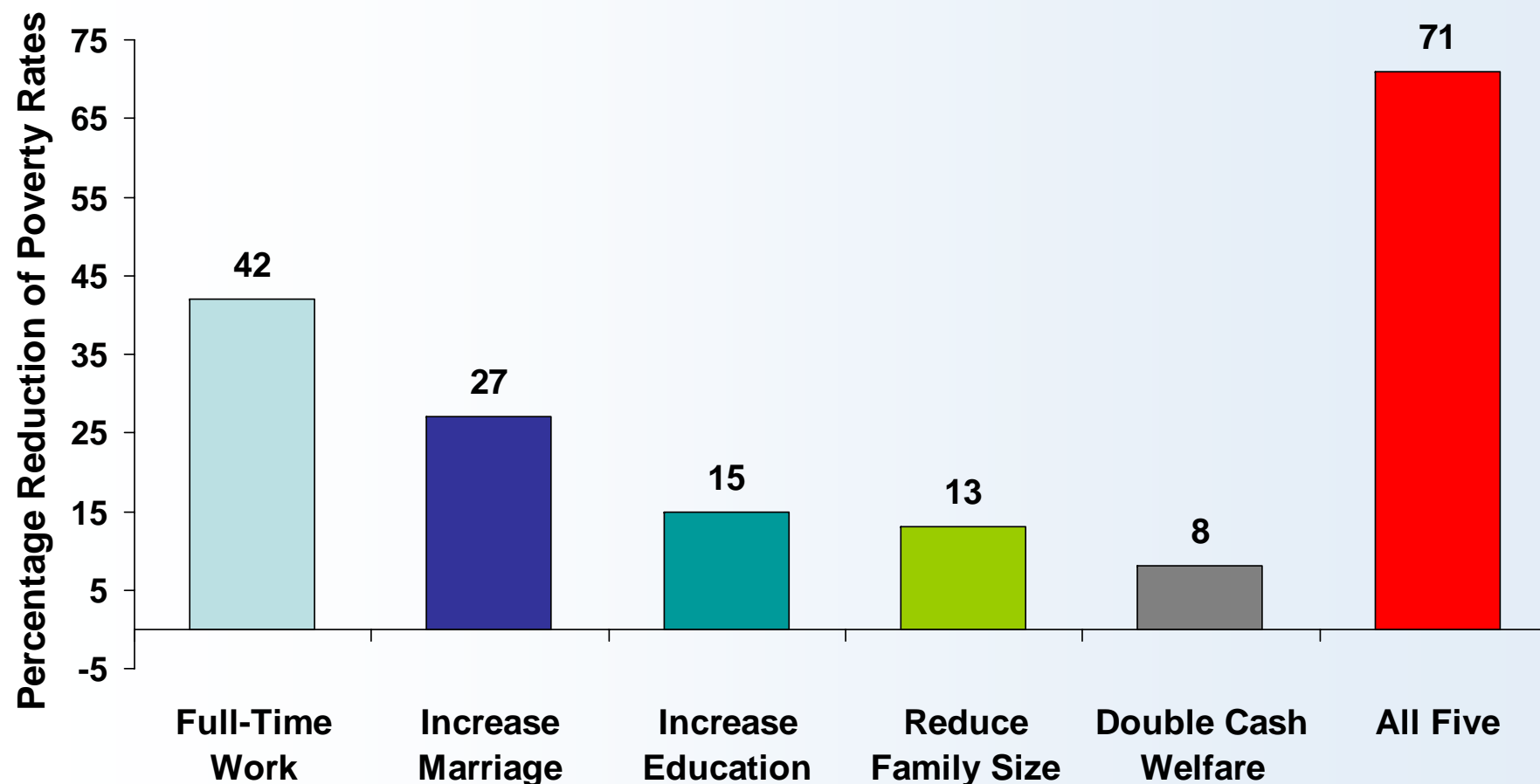


Mothers, Poverty, and Welfare Reform

Ron Haskins
The Brookings Institution

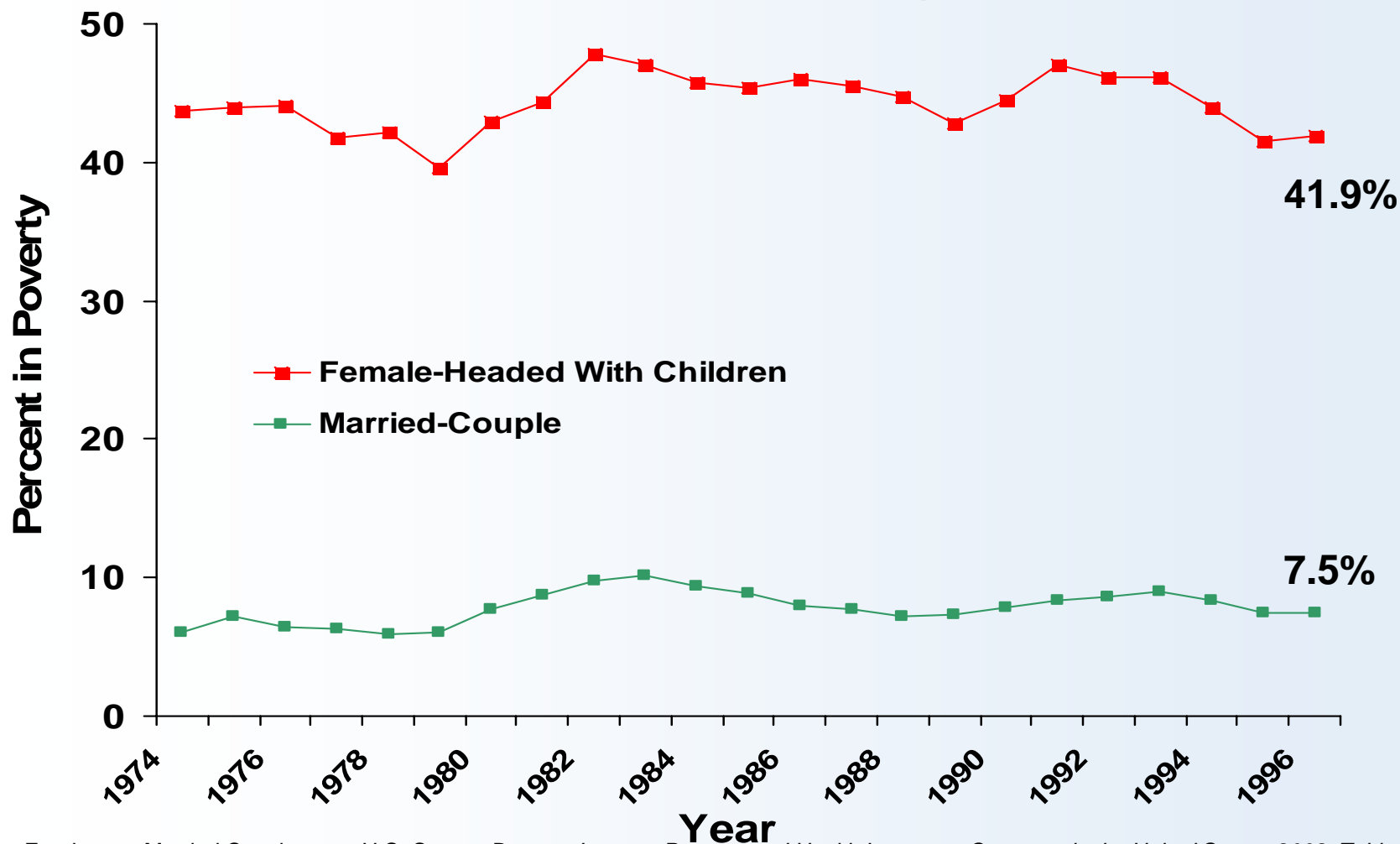
March 18, 2010

Effectiveness of Five Factors in Reducing Poverty Rates



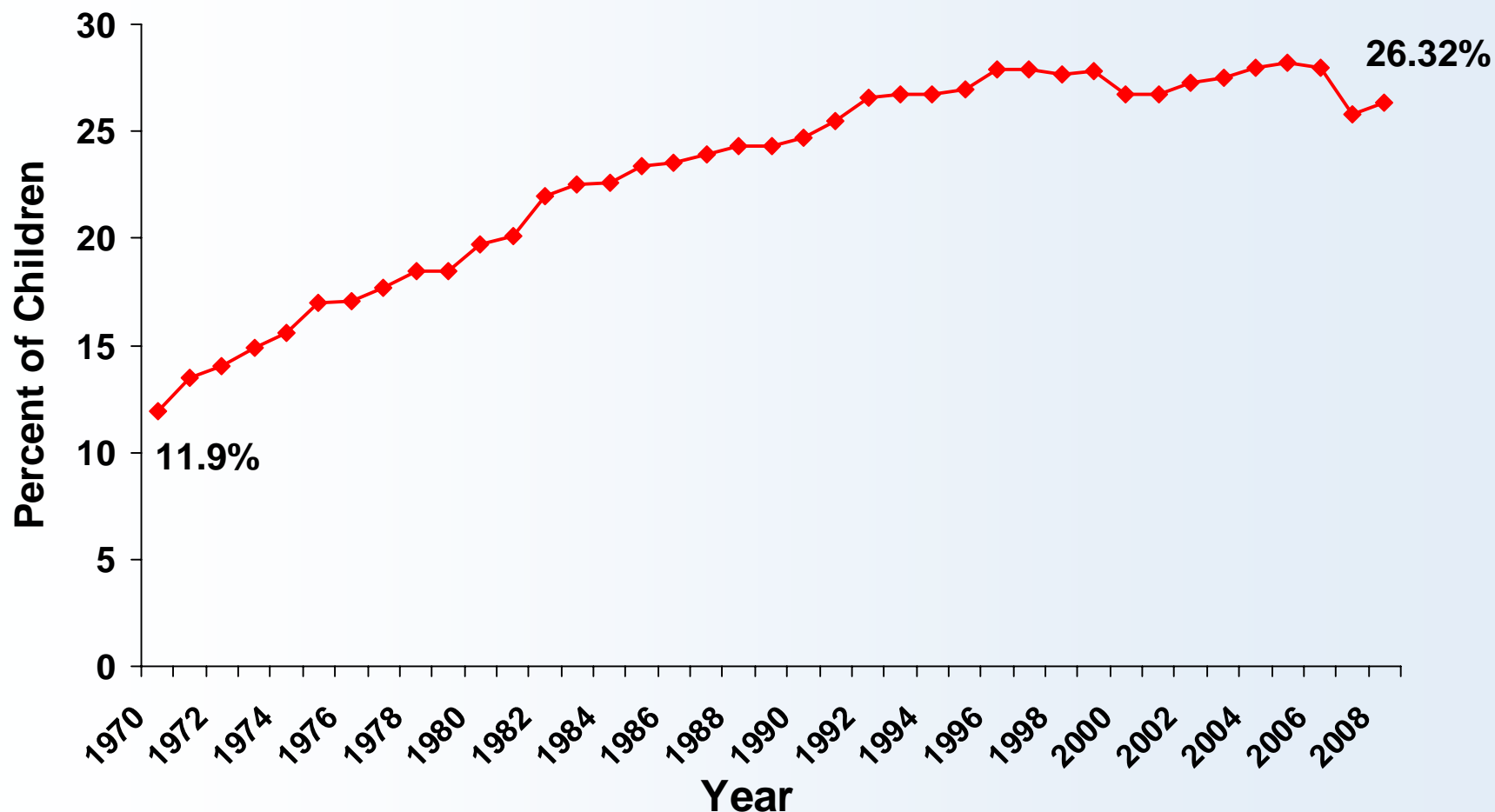
Based on Adam Thomas and Isabel V. Sawhill, "For Richer or for Poorer: Marriage as an Antipoverty Strategy," *Journal of Policy Analysis Management* 21, no. 4 (October 2002): 587-599; Ron Haskins and Isabel V. Sawhill, "Work and Marriage: The Way to End Poverty and Welfare," Welfare Reform and Beyond Policy Brief, The Brookings Institution (September 2003).

Poverty in Female-Headed Households with Children and Married-Couple Households, 1974 - 1996



Source: For data on Married Couples, see U.S. Census Bureau, *Income, Poverty, and Health Insurance Coverage in the United States: 2008*, Table B-3; for data on Female-Headed Households with Children, see: <http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/poverty/histpov/famindex.html>, Table 4.

Percent of Children Living in Single-Parent Families, 1970 - 2008

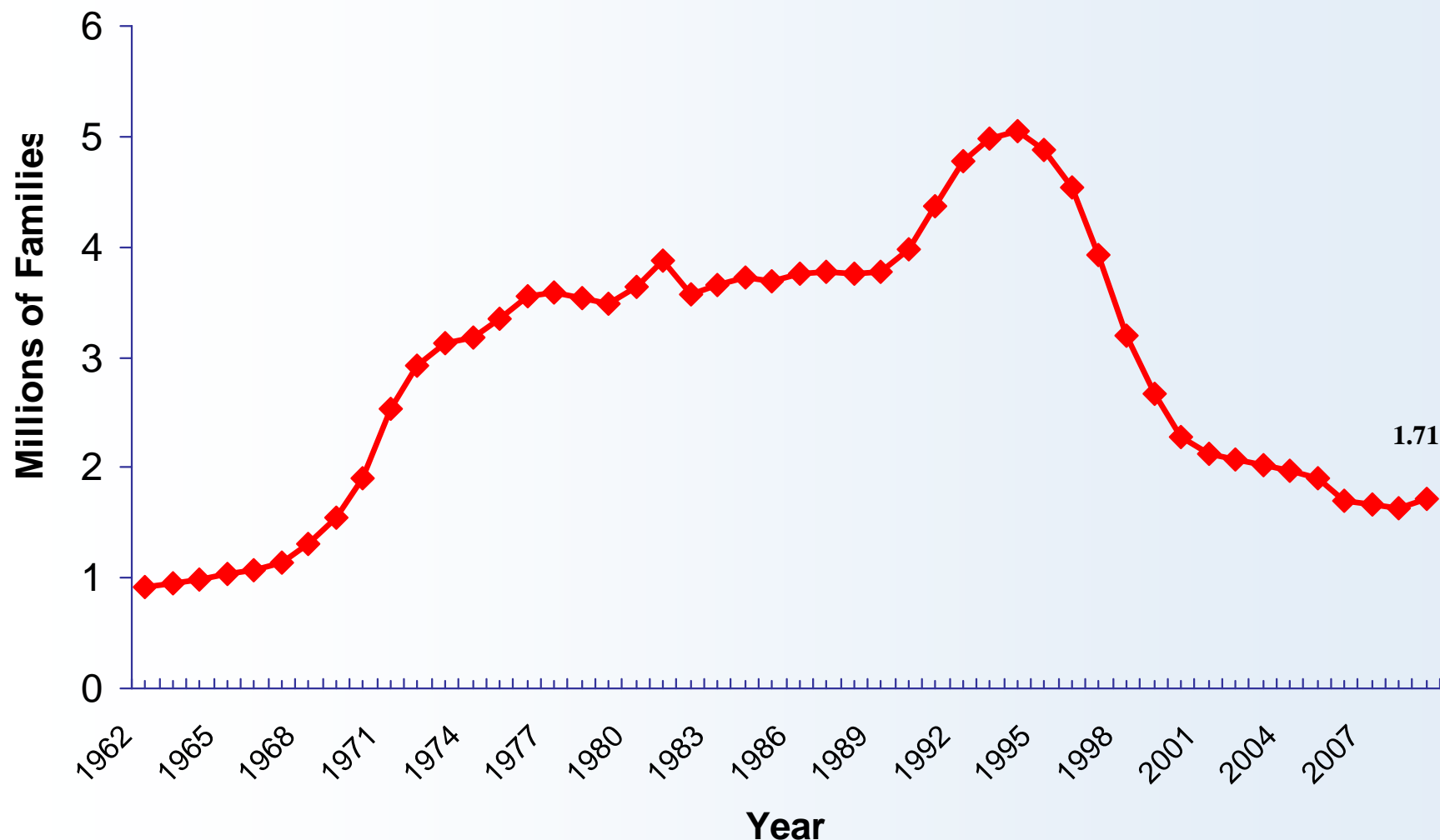


*2007 and 2008 are estimates produced using PELNMOM and PELNDAD, the new parent variables introduced in 2007.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, March and Annual Social and Economic Supplements, 2007 and earlier data available at <http://www.census.gov/population/socdemo/hh-fam/ch1.xls>.

Five Components of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)

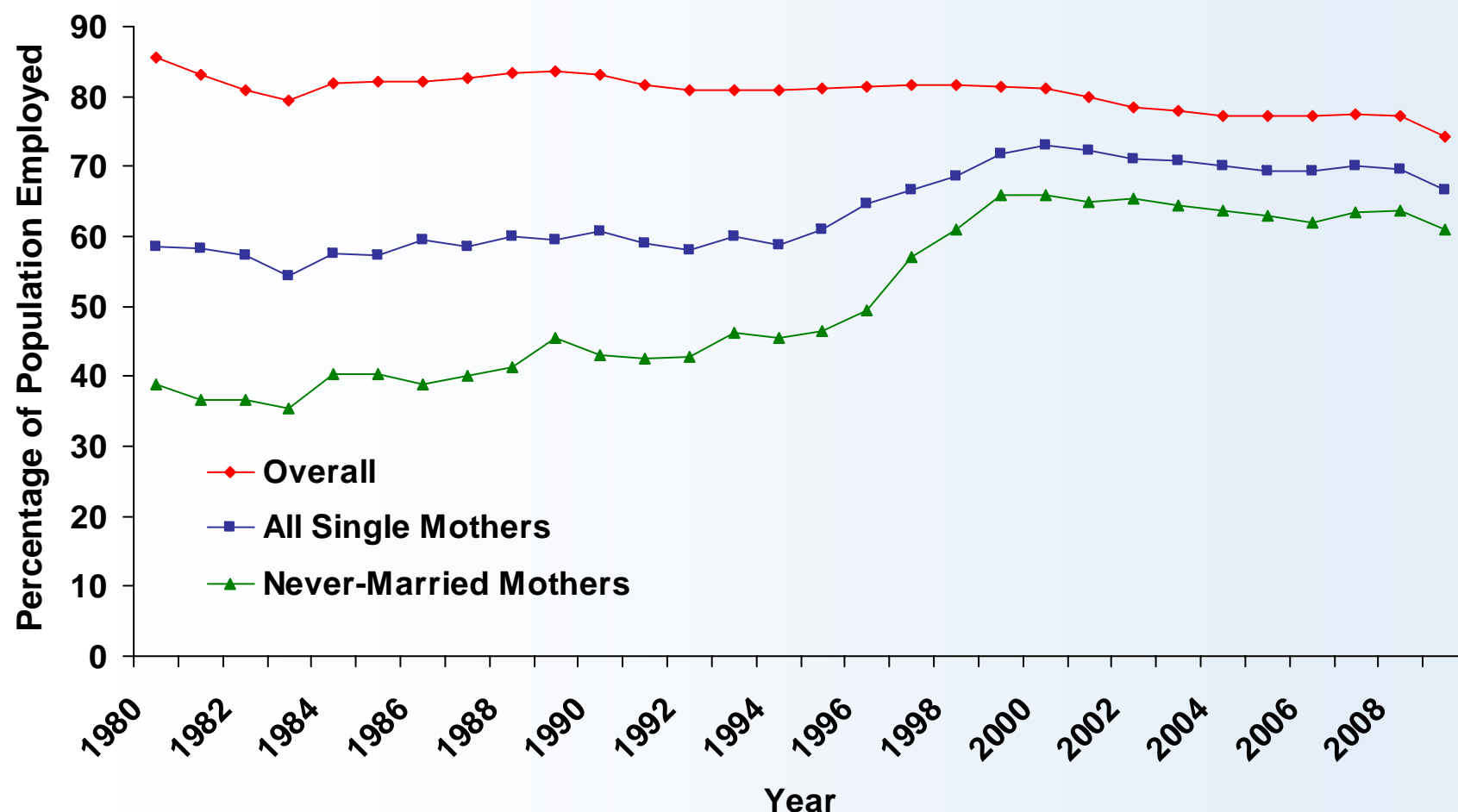
1. End Cash Entitlement
2. Block Grant Funding
3. Work Requirements
4. Sanctions
5. 5–Year Time Limit

AFDC/TANF Caseload, 1962 – 2009



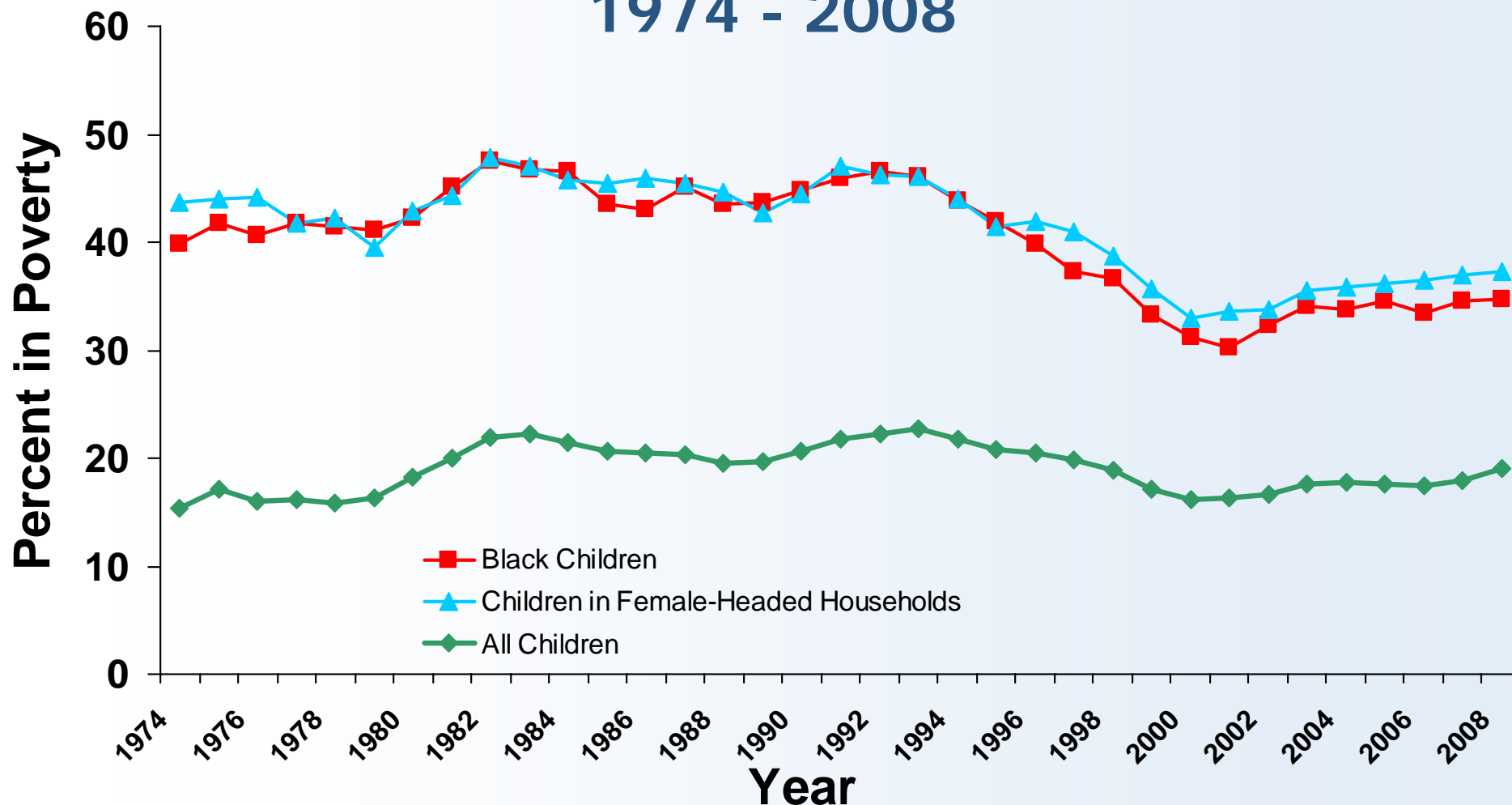
Sources: Congressional Research Service, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services,
http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ofa/data-reports/caseload/caseload_current.htm#2009 (2002-2008), <http://aspe.hhs.gov/HSP/indicators03/apa.htm#ttanf1> (1962-2001)

Employment-Population Ratio for Overall, All Single Mothers, Never-Married Mothers, 1980-2009



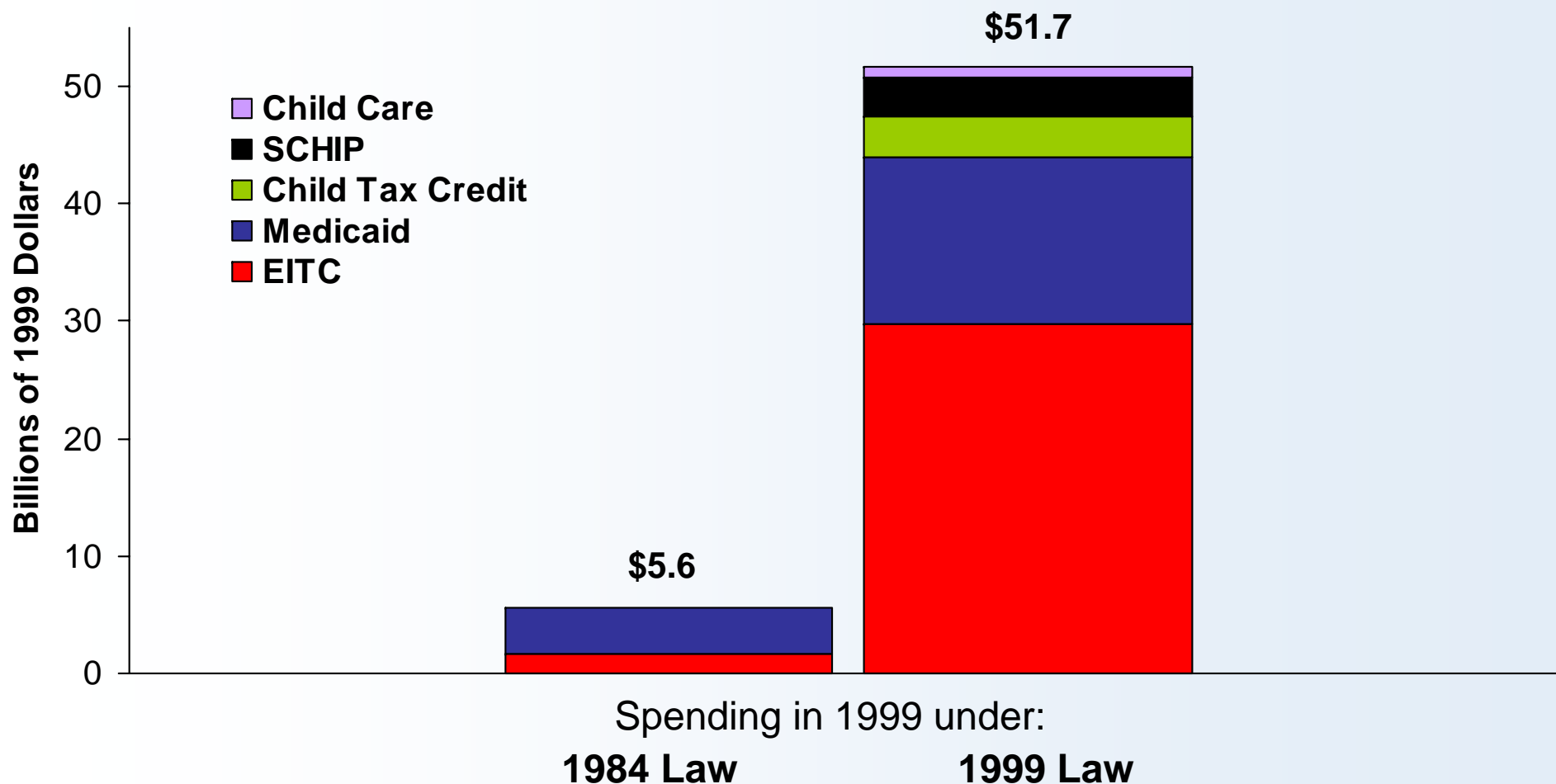
Source: Brookings tabulations of data from the Annual Social and Economic Supplement to the Current Population Survey, 1980-2009.

Poverty Rates for Black Children, Children in Female-Headed Households, and All Children 1974 - 2008



Source: For data on Black Children and all Children, see U.S. Census Bureau, *Income, Poverty, and Health Insurance Coverage in the United States: 2008*, Table B-2; for data on Children in Female-Headed Households see, *Poverty Status, by Type of Family, Presence of Related Children, Race and Hispanic Origin 1959 to 2008*, Table 4 <http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/poverty/histpov/famindex.html>

Support for Working Families Increases Dramatically, 1984 - 1999



Problems With Welfare Reform

- Work support system
- Wage progression (education and training)
- Disconnected mothers (casework and longer on welfare)