

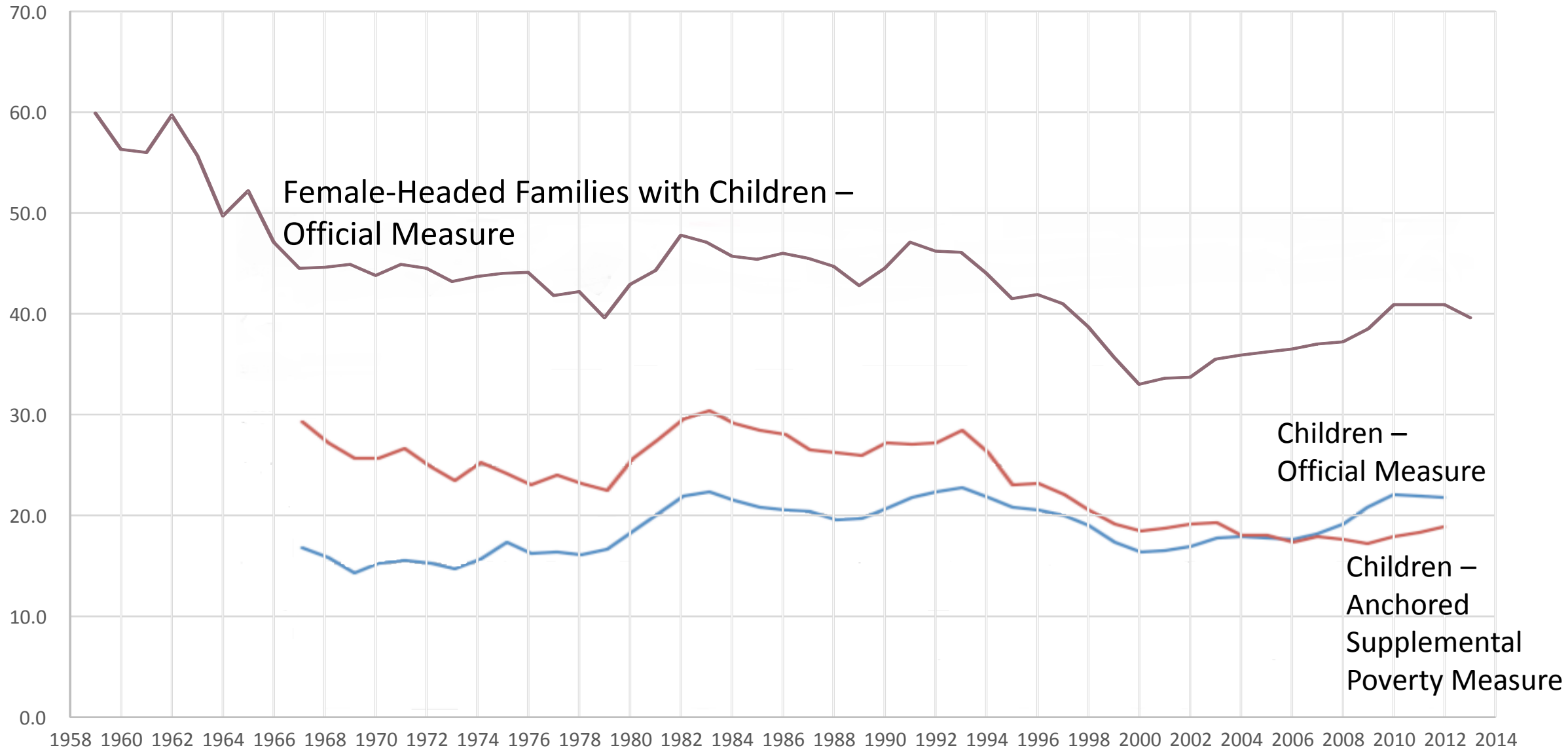
Presentation to the National Hunger Commission

SCOTT WINSHIP

WALTER B. WRISTON FELLOW, MANHATTAN INSTITUTE FOR POLICY
RESEARCH

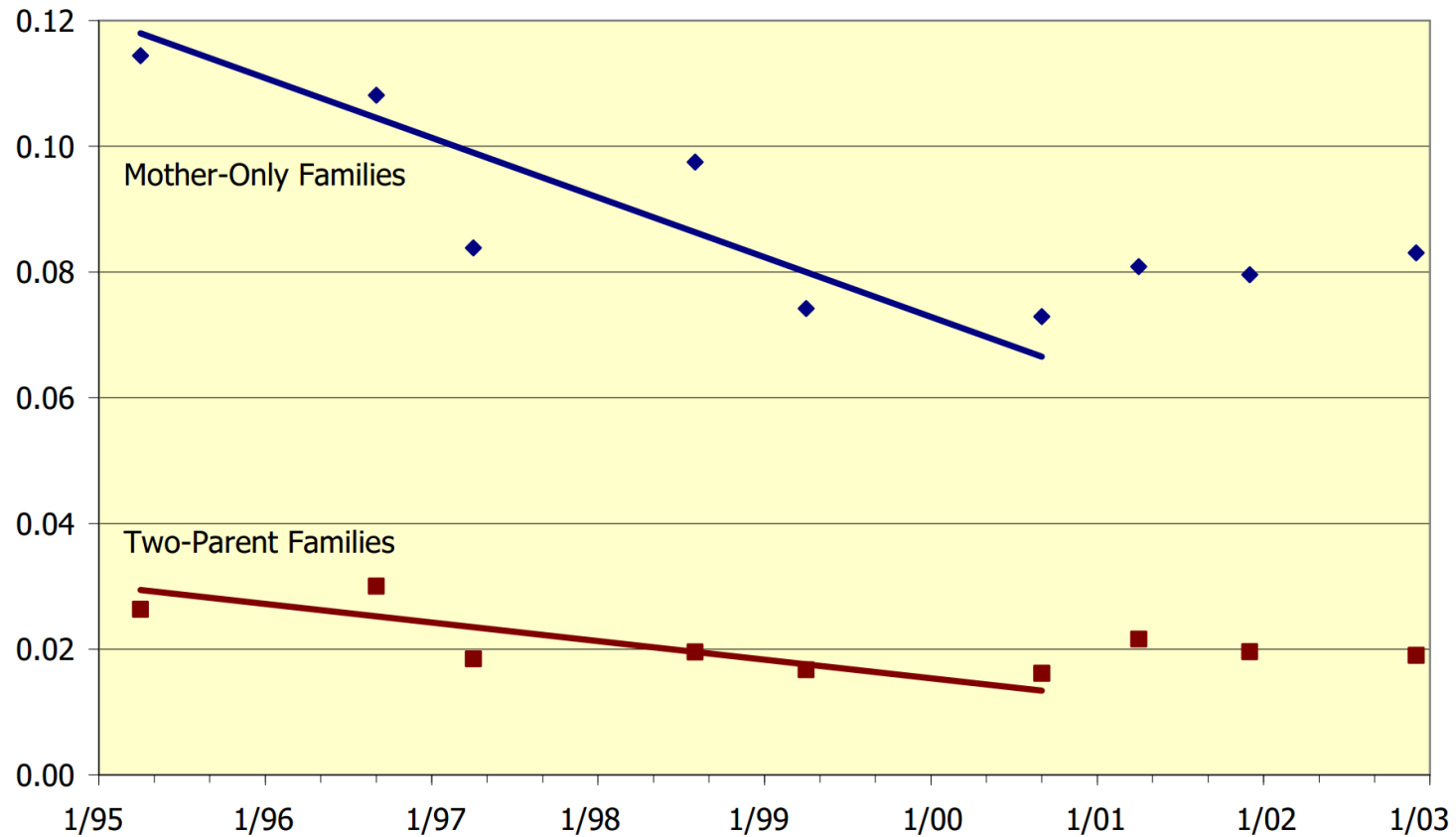
MAY 2, 2015

Poverty Fell After Welfare Reform (and Stayed Down)



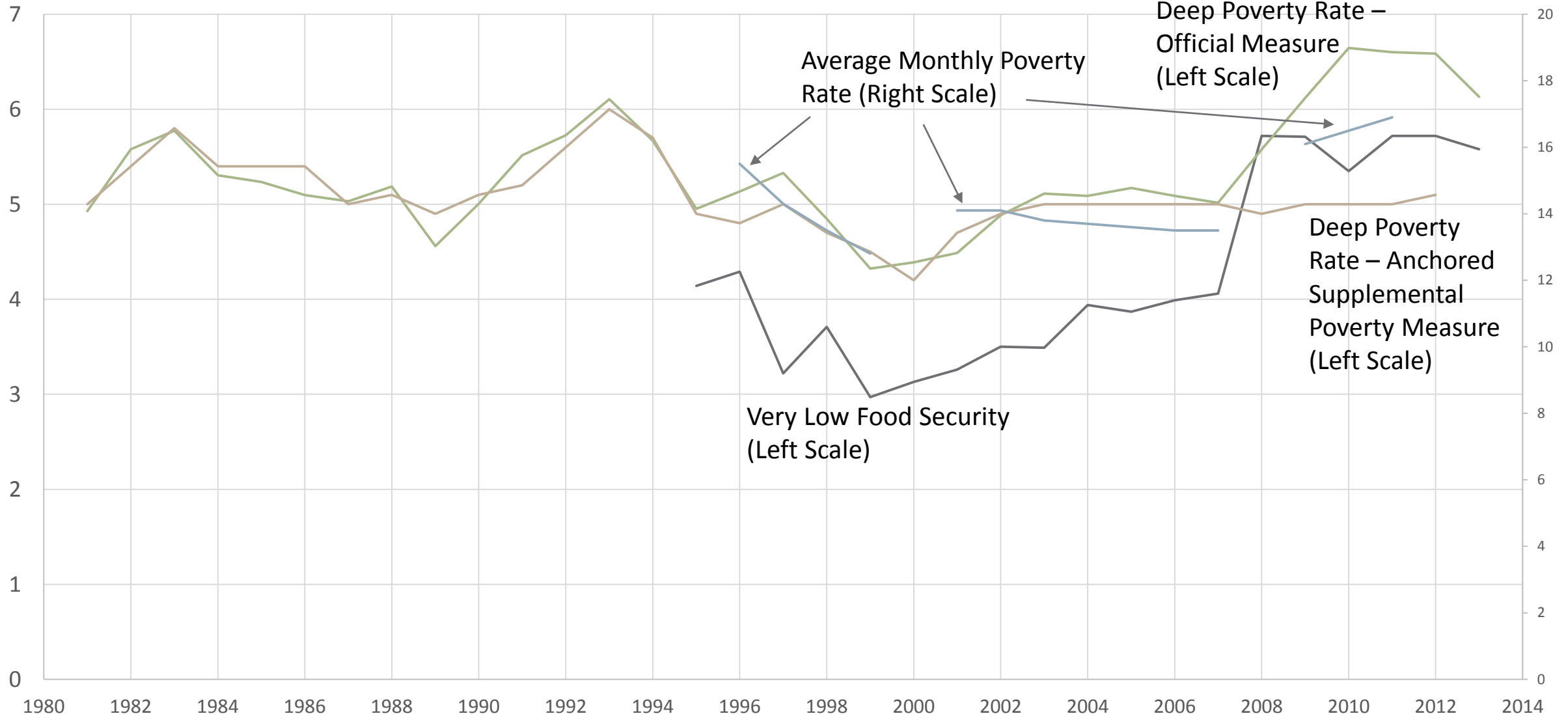
Very Low Food Security Declined More Among Mother-Only Families After Welfare Reform than Among Two-Parent Families

Figure 3: Proportion of Mother-Only and Two-Parent Families with Eight or More Problems, April 1995 - Dec. 2002



Note: Black diamonds denote survey means with no seasonal adjustment. Trend line indicates 1995-2000 trend with a seasonal adjustment.

Deep Poverty vs. Very Low Food Security



Policy Recommendations

Reform Means-Tested Benefit Programs

- Block Grants with State Flexibility
- Consolidation
- Work Requirements
- Time Limits
- Work Supports – EITC, Child Care Funding
- Careful Thought to Phase-Outs
- SNAP, SSI, Housing Assistance
- Opportunity Grants, Flex Fund
- Consider Payroll Tax Cut As Alternative to EITC
- SSDI Reform

Policy Recommendations

Promote Delayed Marital Childbearing

- Marriage Promotion Programs Don't Seem to Work
- Take a Page From the Success of the EITC
- Refundable Married Parent Tax Credit

Promote Upward Mobility of Poor Children

- Light-Touch Parenting Support (e.g., Tips by Text)
- Vouchers to Help Parents Purchase Early Childhood Investments
- Career Academies
- Apprenticeships
- Income Share Agreements