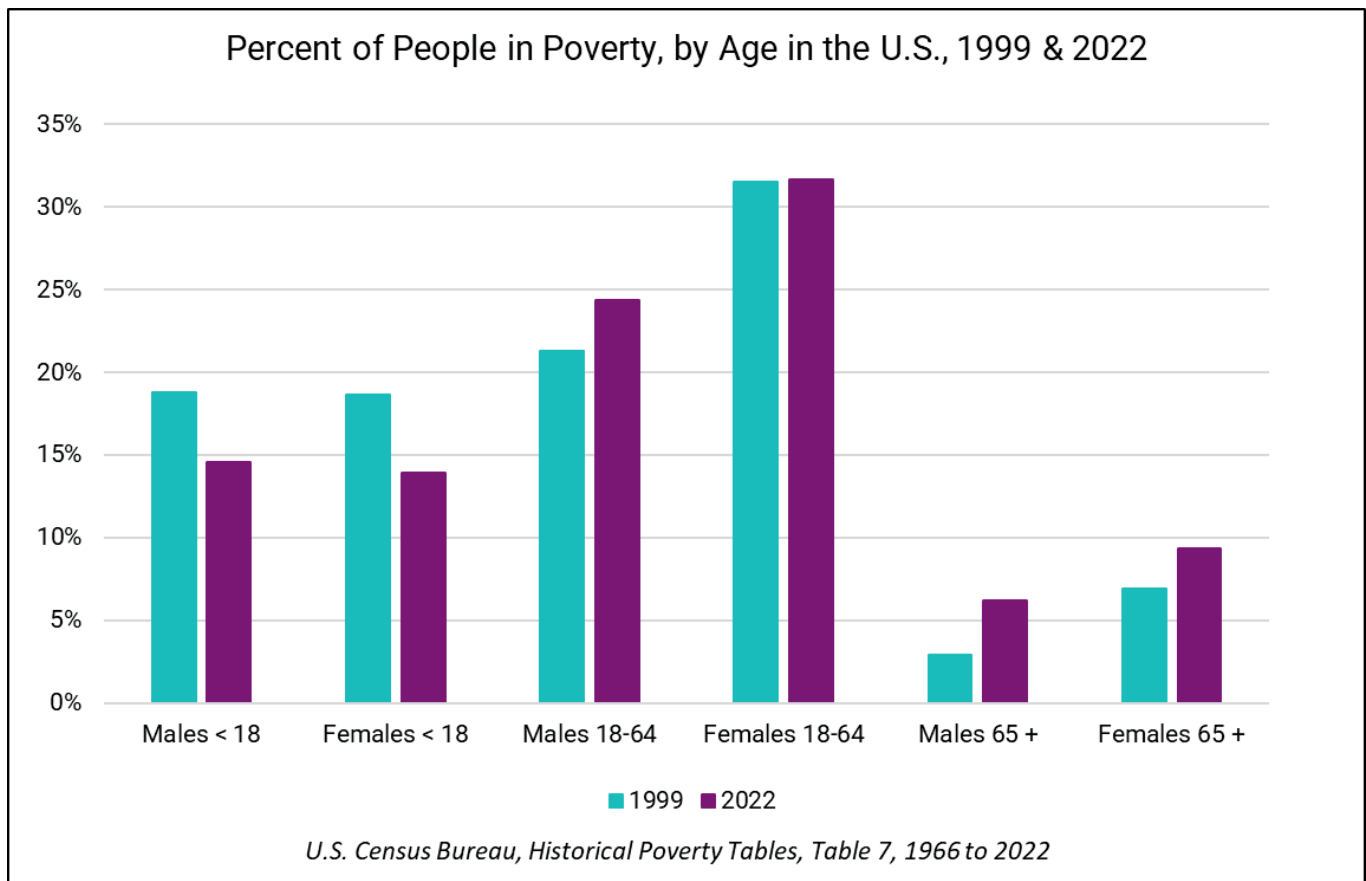




Poverty

In 1999, the poverty rate for working women was **5.9%** compared to 4.4% for men. By 2021: the rate had decreased to **4.5%** compared to 3.7% for men (U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2021b). Assuming a decrease by the same percentage point continues to 2046, the rate will be **3.1%**. One of the reasons that so many working women live in poverty may be that many are employed in low-wage jobs and industries. In NYS in 2021, women constituted 63% of the low-paid workforce and 15% of them lived in poverty (Tucker et al., 2023). Jobs such as child care workers, home health aides and housekeepers have typically been undervalued and underpaid, despite the importance of these occupations. For example, 94% of child care workers in NYS were women and 12% of them lived in poverty (NYS DOL, 2023). These figures highlight the ongoing need for policies and actions aimed at achieving gender equality in the workforce and addressing systemic barriers that disproportionately impact women's economic opportunities.



Call to Action: Advocate for fair wages and support education and job training programs!

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