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UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY
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Comments on “Changing the Frame: Child Well- Being as a Guide for Budget & Policy”

Washington, D.C.

Thomas L. Gais

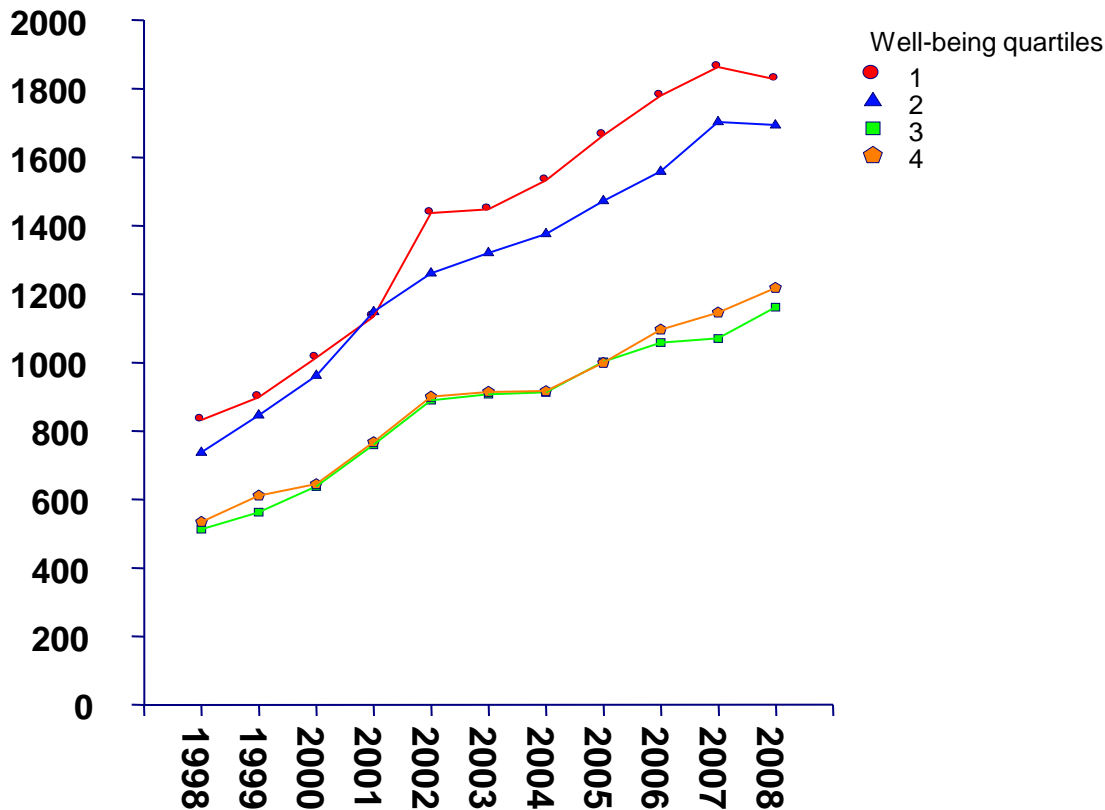
January 26, 2012

Changes in state spending on health care, per low-income child: state averages by well-being quartiles

For data on child spending, see

http://www.rockinst.org/government_finance/casey_database.aspx

Health care spending per low-income child



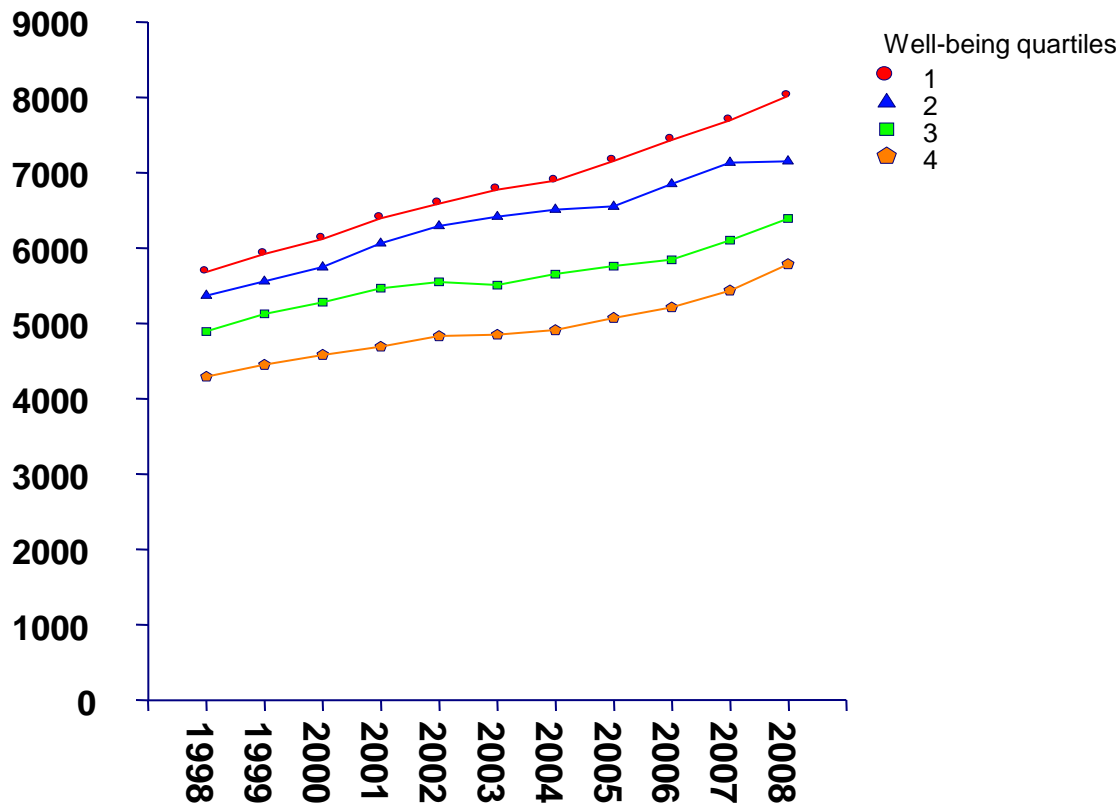
As “Changing the Frame” shows, there’s a correlation between measures of child well-being and state spending on children.

Each line shows average state spending on health care for a group of states. Each group differs in child well-being. States in Quartile 1 have the highest child well-being scores. States in Quartile 4 have the lowest child well-being scores.

State spending on health care has grown in the last decade, as have differences between spending of high and low child well-being states.

Changes in state spending on K-12 education, per child: state averages by well-being quartiles

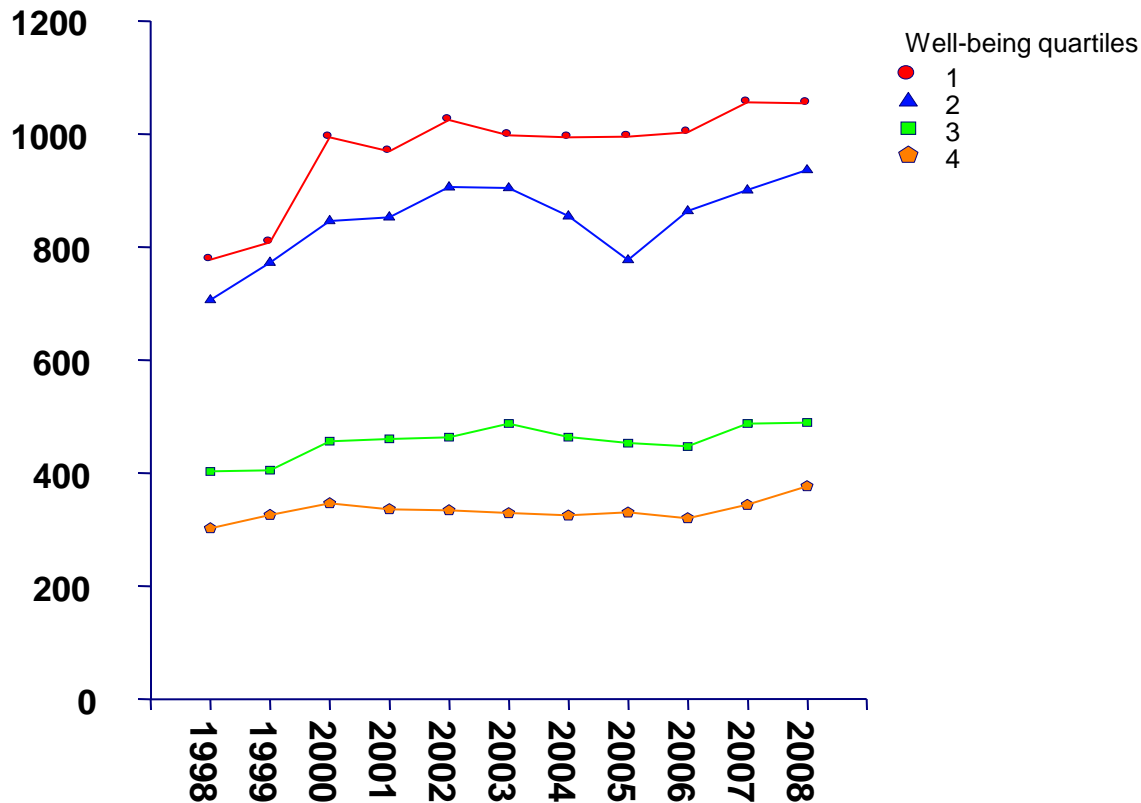
K-12 education spending per child



Relationship between child well-being and state spending on education (per child) has been positive throughout last decade. Education spending has grown in real terms, though not as much as health care. As with health care, though less so, there's a growing difference in spending between higher and lower well-being states.

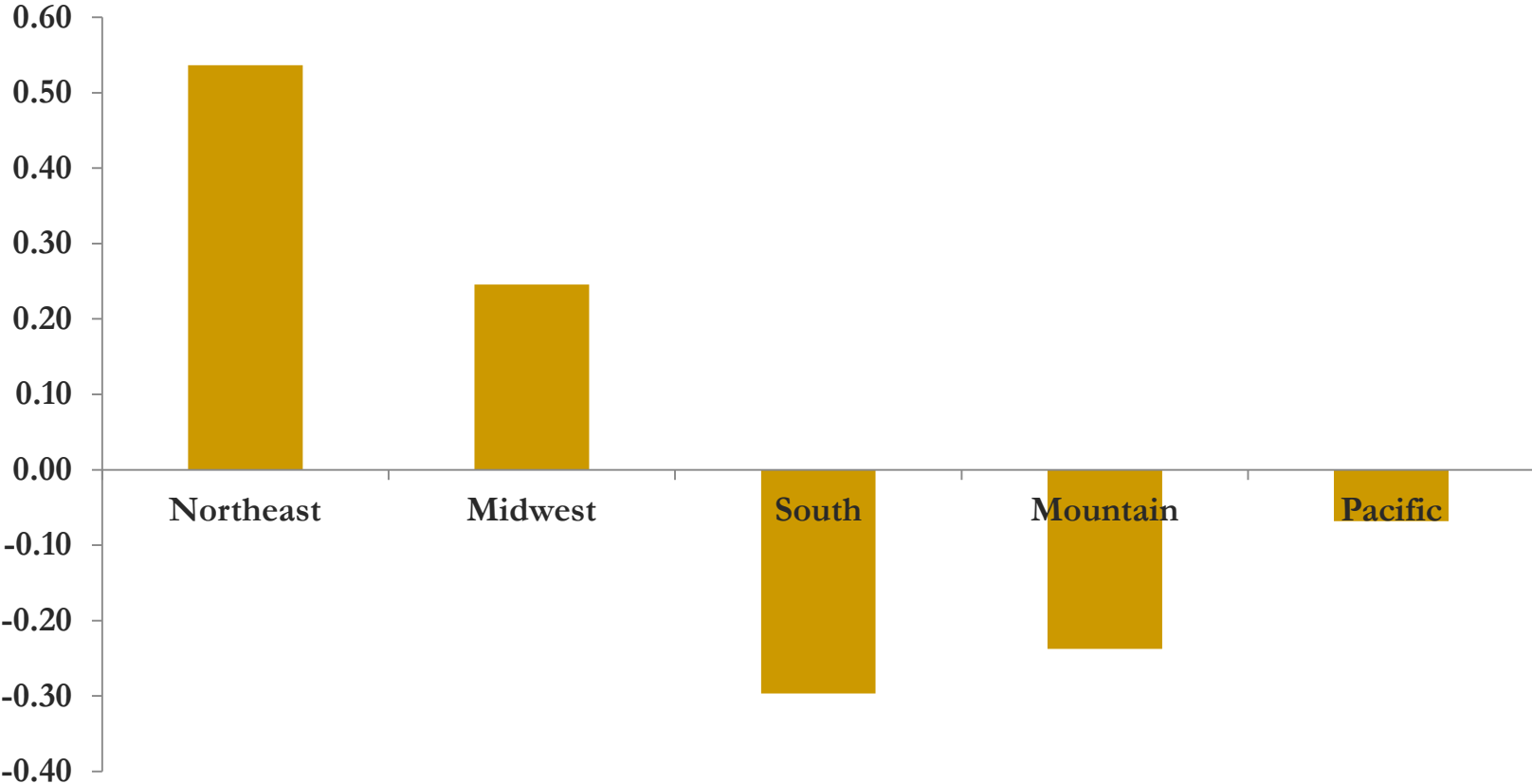
Changes in state spending on income support/social service programs, per low-income child: state averages by well-being quartiles

Income support/services spending per low-income child

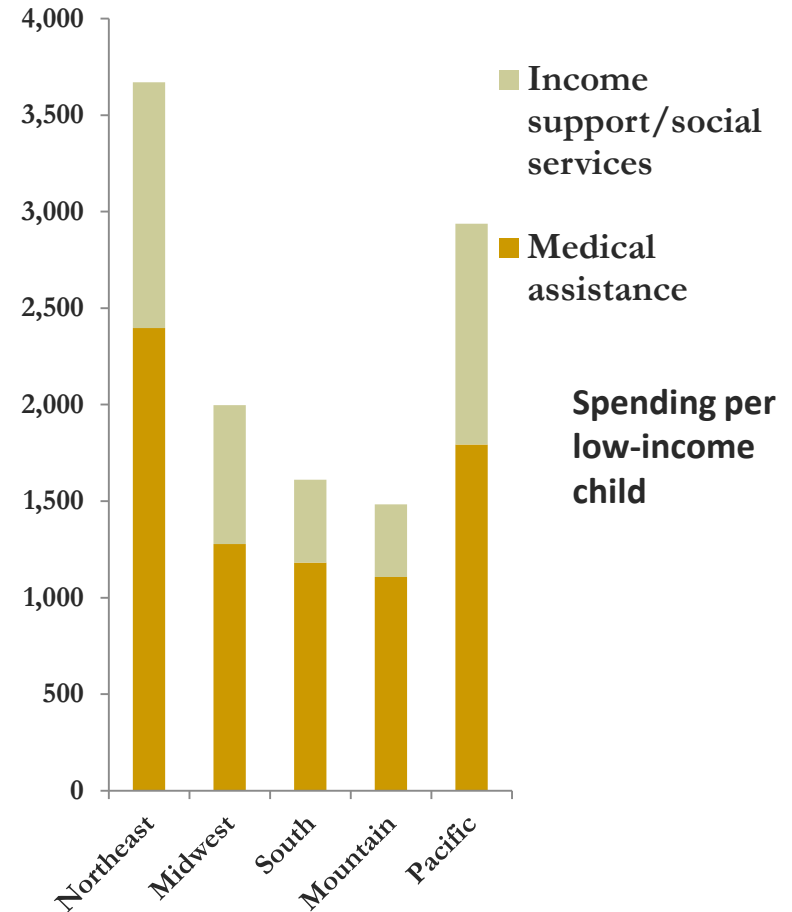
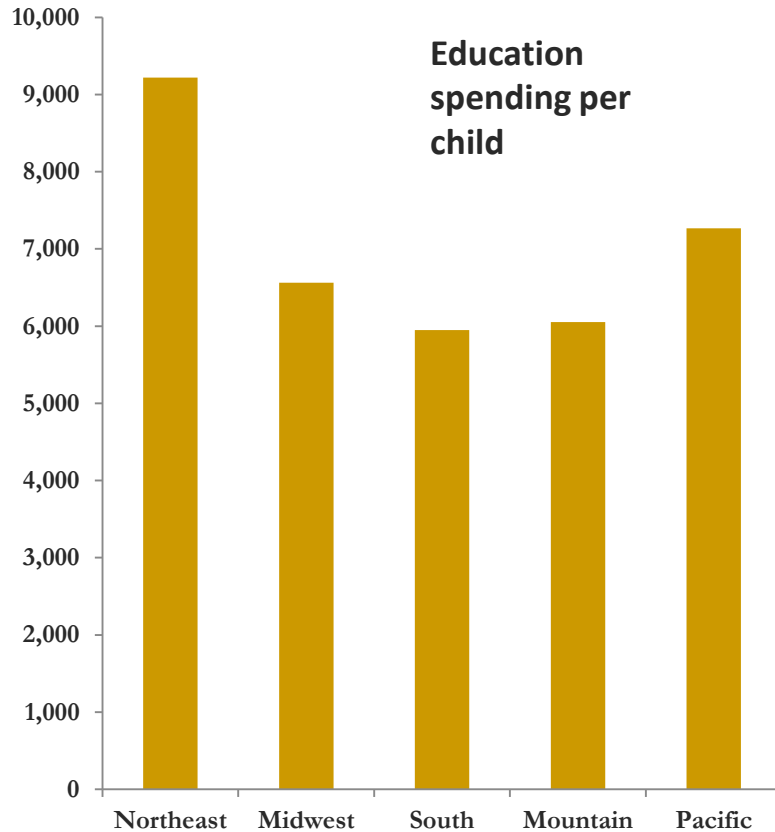


By contrast to health care and education, real state spending (standardized, per low-income child) has not grown much over the last decade. For states in lower well-being quartiles, very little growth. Somewhat greater growth among states with higher child well-being scores.

Child well-being scores (state averages) vary by region; higher in Northeast and Midwest, lower in South and Mountain states

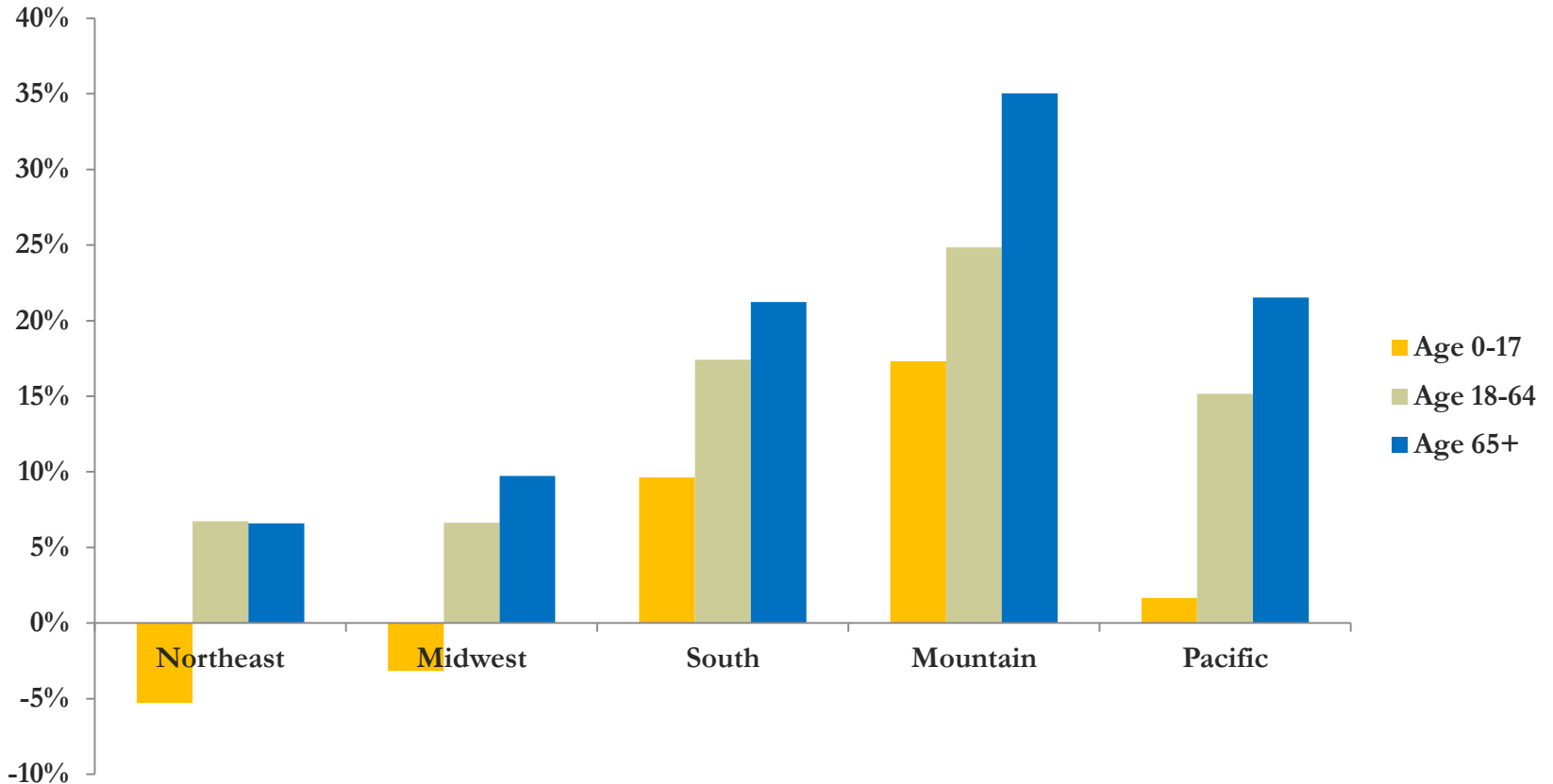


State spending on children also varies by region: Average state spending (2008) by region

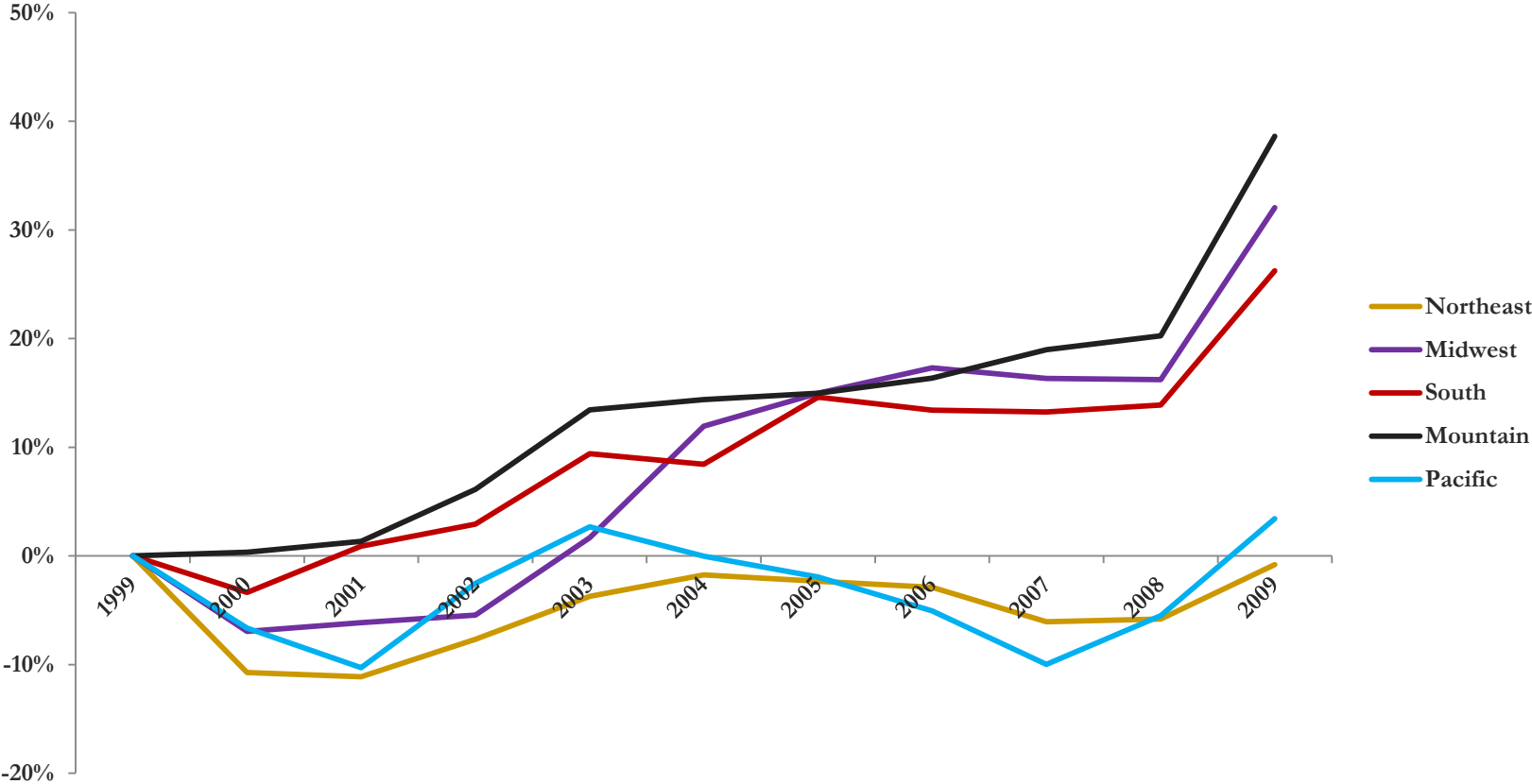


Shifts in age distributions:

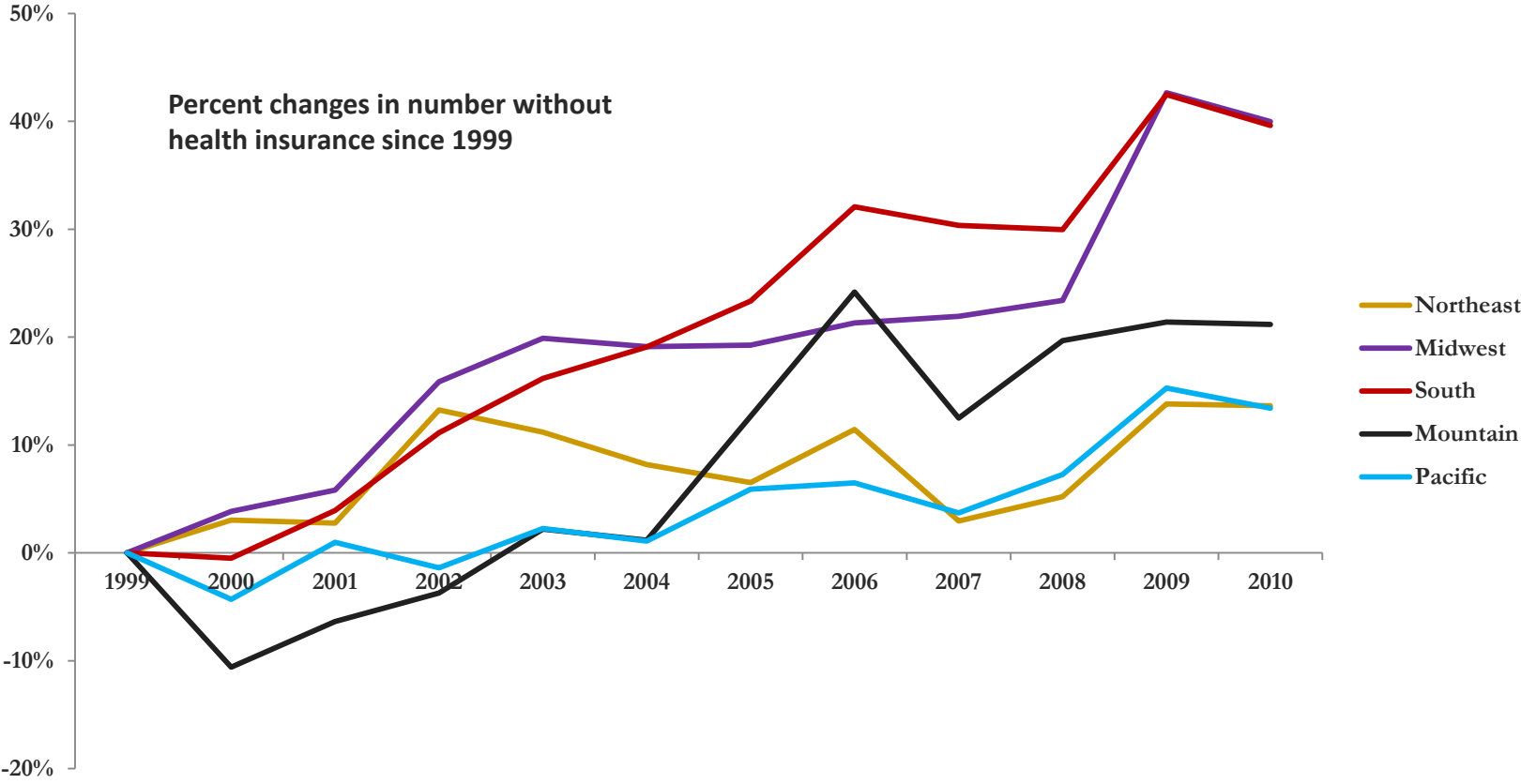
Changes in number of persons between 1999 and 2010, by age and region; more children in regions where child well-being is relatively low; also, more elderly people in same states.



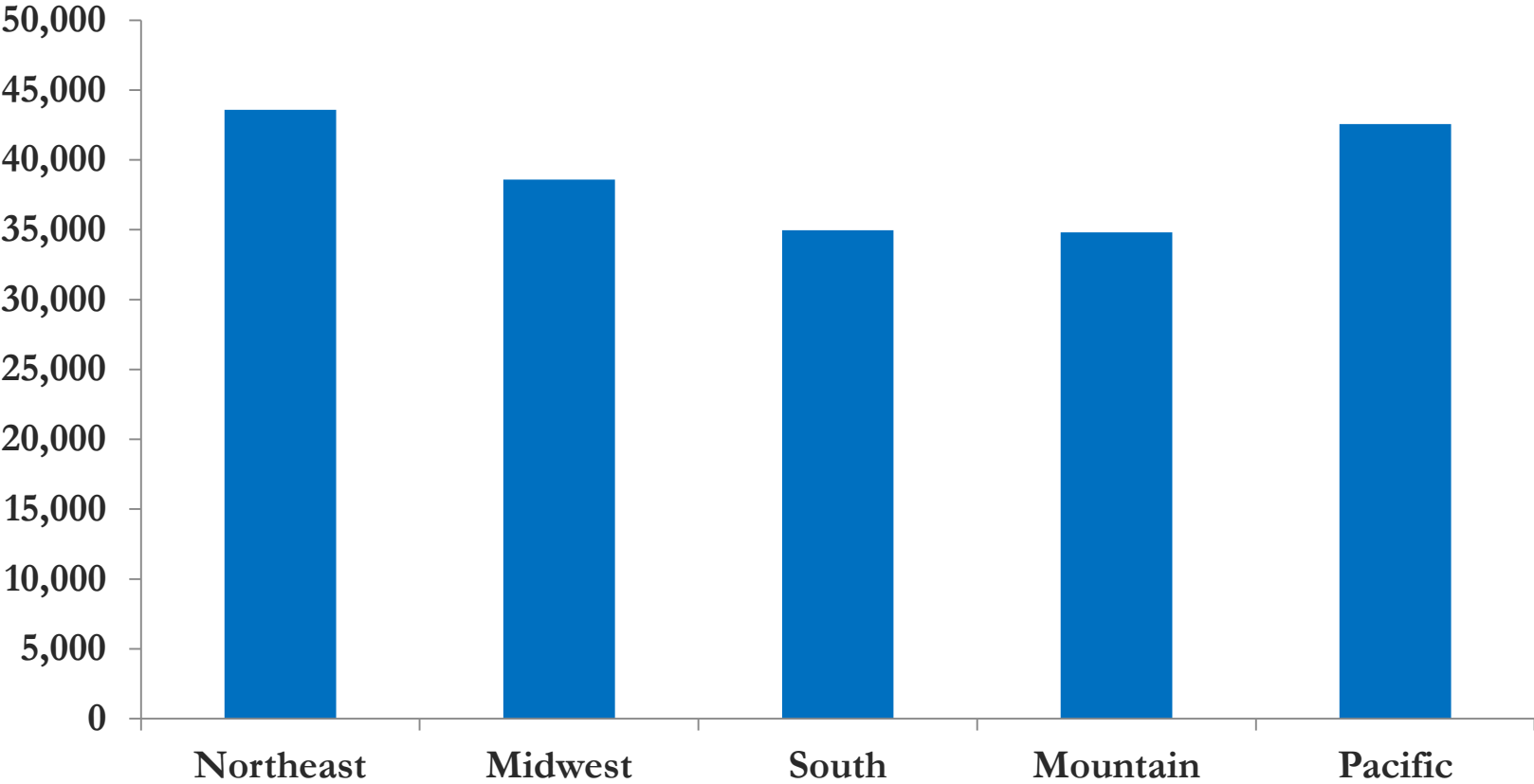
Change in the geographic distribution of public needs in the U.S.: Percent changes in the number of children in poor households, 1999-2009



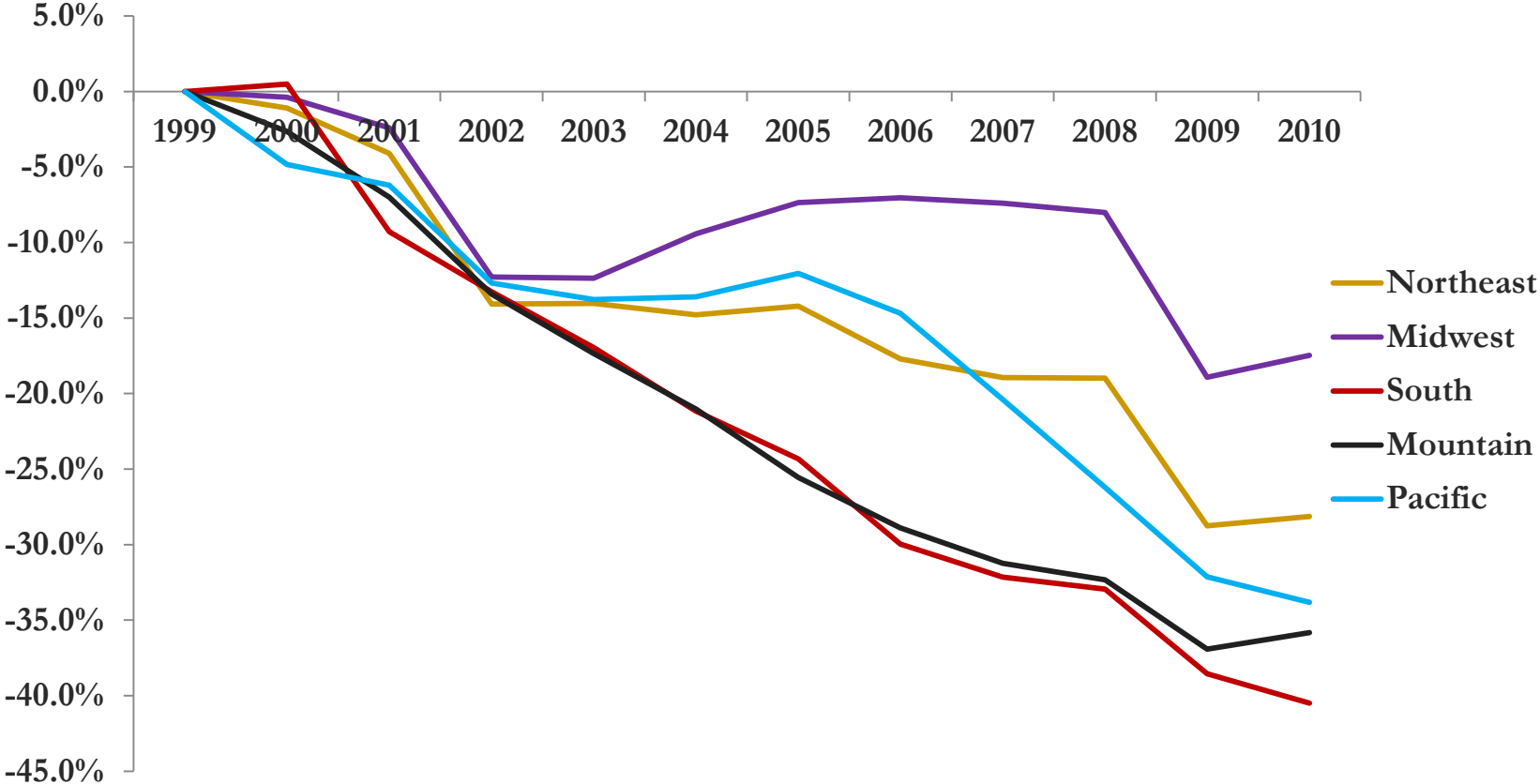
Other changes in distribution of needs: Changes in persons without health insurance by region



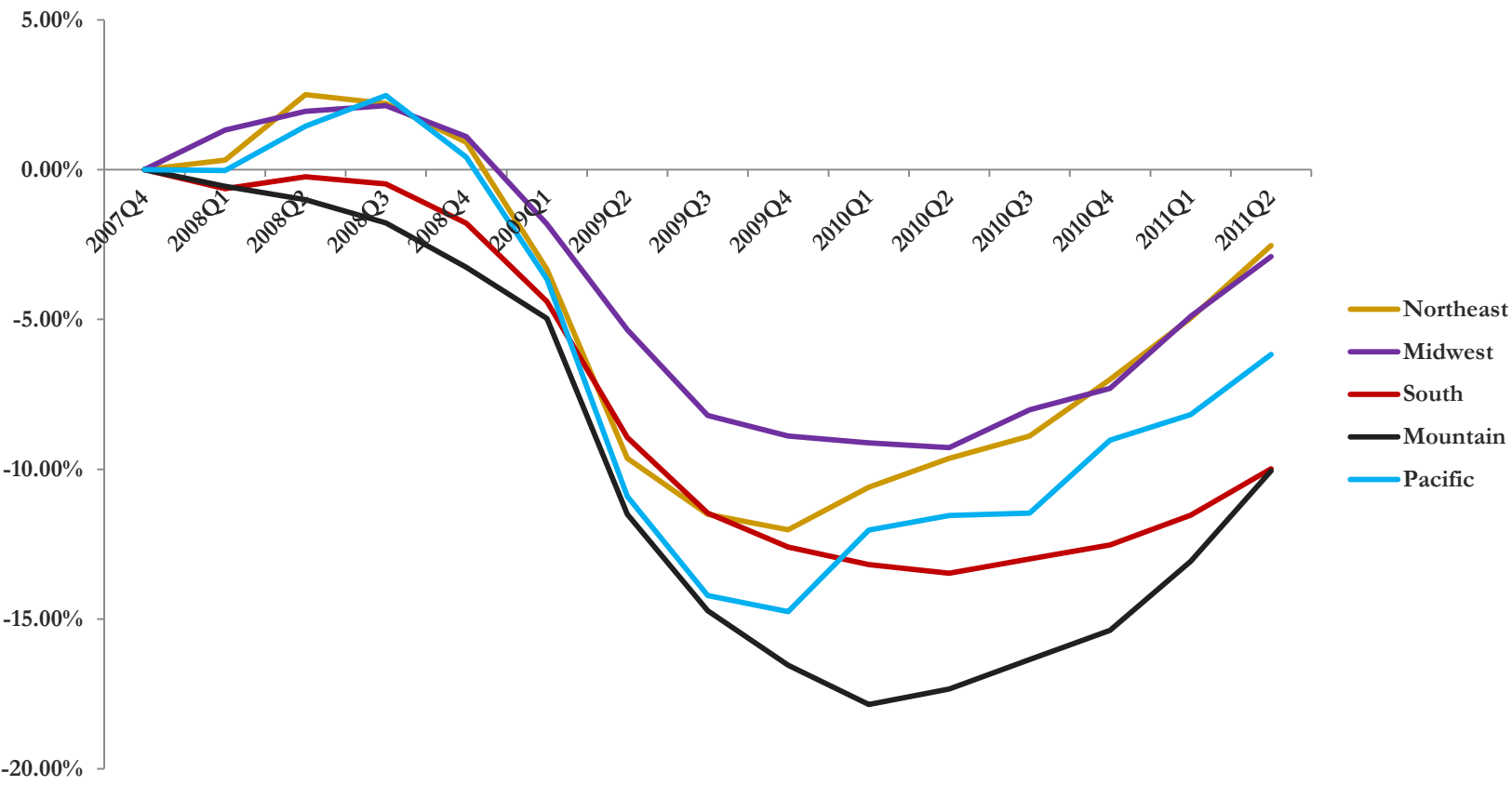
Fewer private resources in states where children increasingly live: Southern, Mountain states have lower per capita personal incomes; median state PCPI (2010) by region



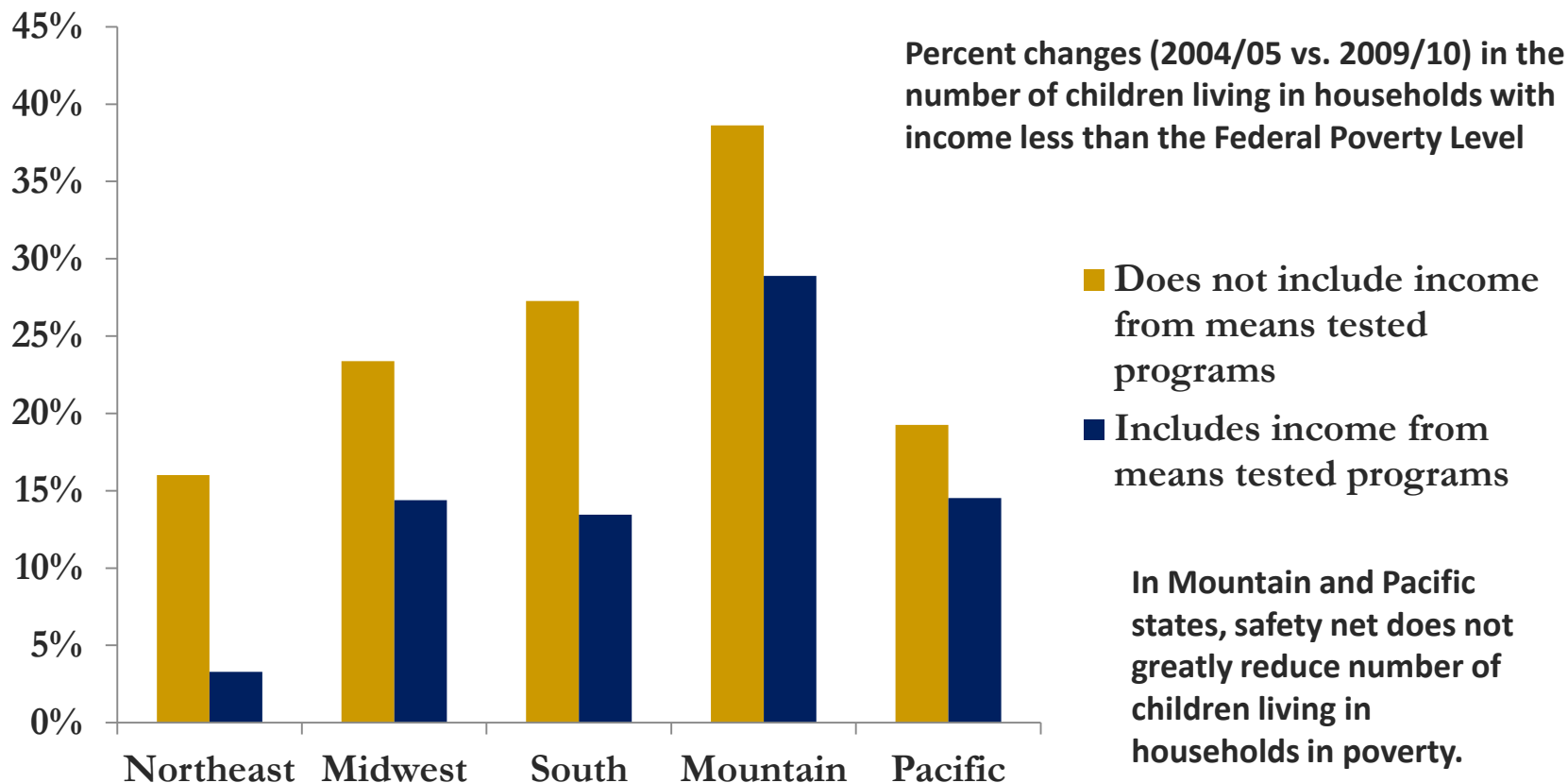
Declines in public resources in states where children increasingly live: Changes in state tax revenues as percent of gross state product since 1999; biggest declines in West and South



Drop in public resources have been particularly acute in in South and West during Great Recession: State revenue changes since start of recession

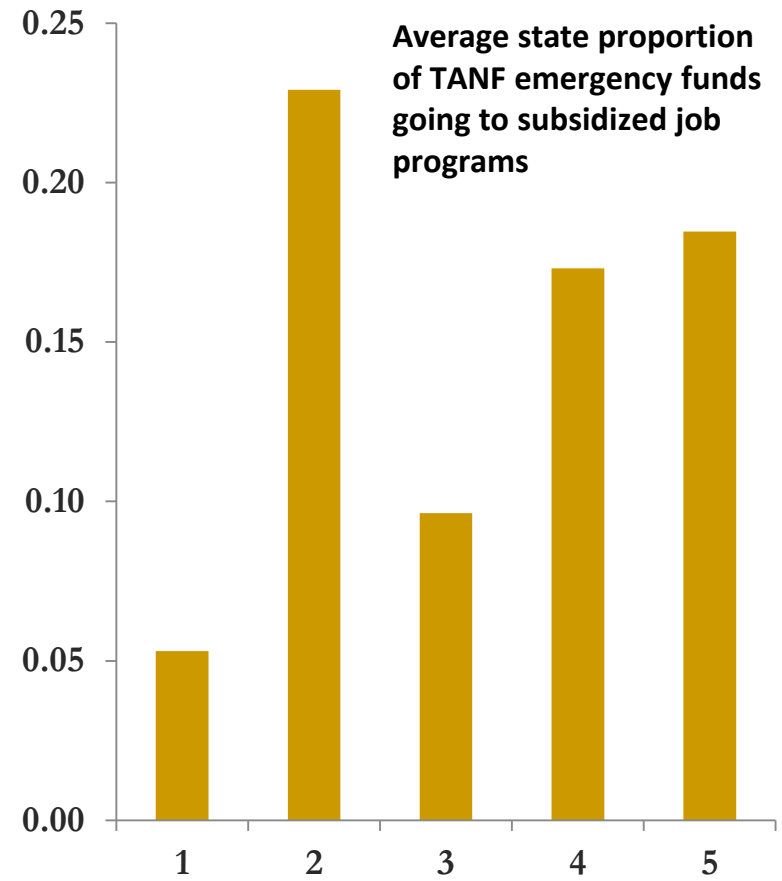
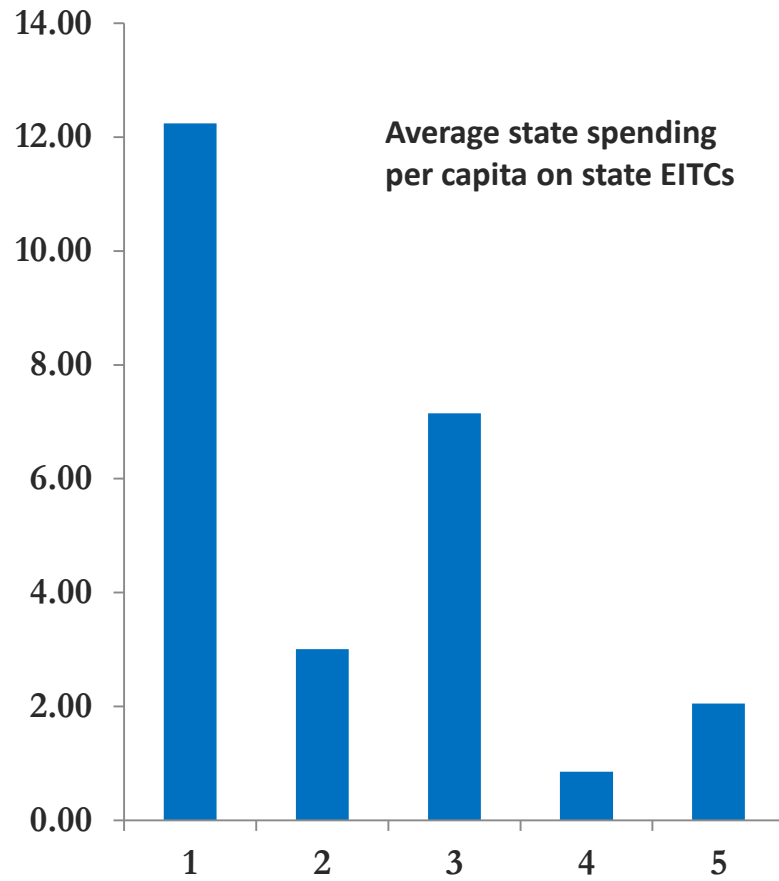


Not only are there differences in public and private resources for children in states where they increasingly live; there are also differences in the implementation of the federal safety net



Need to find income support policies that appeal to wider variety of states: wealthy & poor states differ in their adoption and funding of policies.

State EITCs vs. subsidized work programs, by state fiscal capacity (PCPI quintiles; 1 = wealthiest; 5 = poorest)





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