Eviction among Children Born in Large U.S. Cities:

Prevalence, Stratification, and Policy Levers

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Joint work with Louis Donnelly, Sarah Gold, Sara McLanahan, and Jeanne Brooks-Gunn

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Slides and source code are available at https://github.com/ilundberg/slides. We thank Sara S. McLanahan, Brandon M. Stewart, Matthew J. Salganik, Catherine Doren, three anonymous reviewers, and members of the Stewart Lab, Inequality Working Group, and Fragile Families Working Group for comments on earlier drafts. All errors are our own. Parts of this research were previously presented at APPAM 2018, PAA 2019, and a housing roundtable sponsored by the W.T. Grant Foundation at Princeton University. Research reported in this publication was supported by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and by The Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health & Human Development of the National Institutes of Health under Award Number P2CHD047879. Funding for the Fragile Families Study was provided through Award Numbers R01HD36916, R01HD39135, and R01HD40421 and by a consortium of private foundations. The content is solely the responsibility of the authors and does not necessarily represent the official views of the National Institutes of Health.

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(1) Published in *Demography* [link]
Replication code is on the Harvard Dataverse [link].

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Desmond, Gershonson, & Kiviat 2015

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Desmond & Kimbro 2015
Desmond & Shollenberger 2015

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Yet policymakers largely **ignore this problem.**

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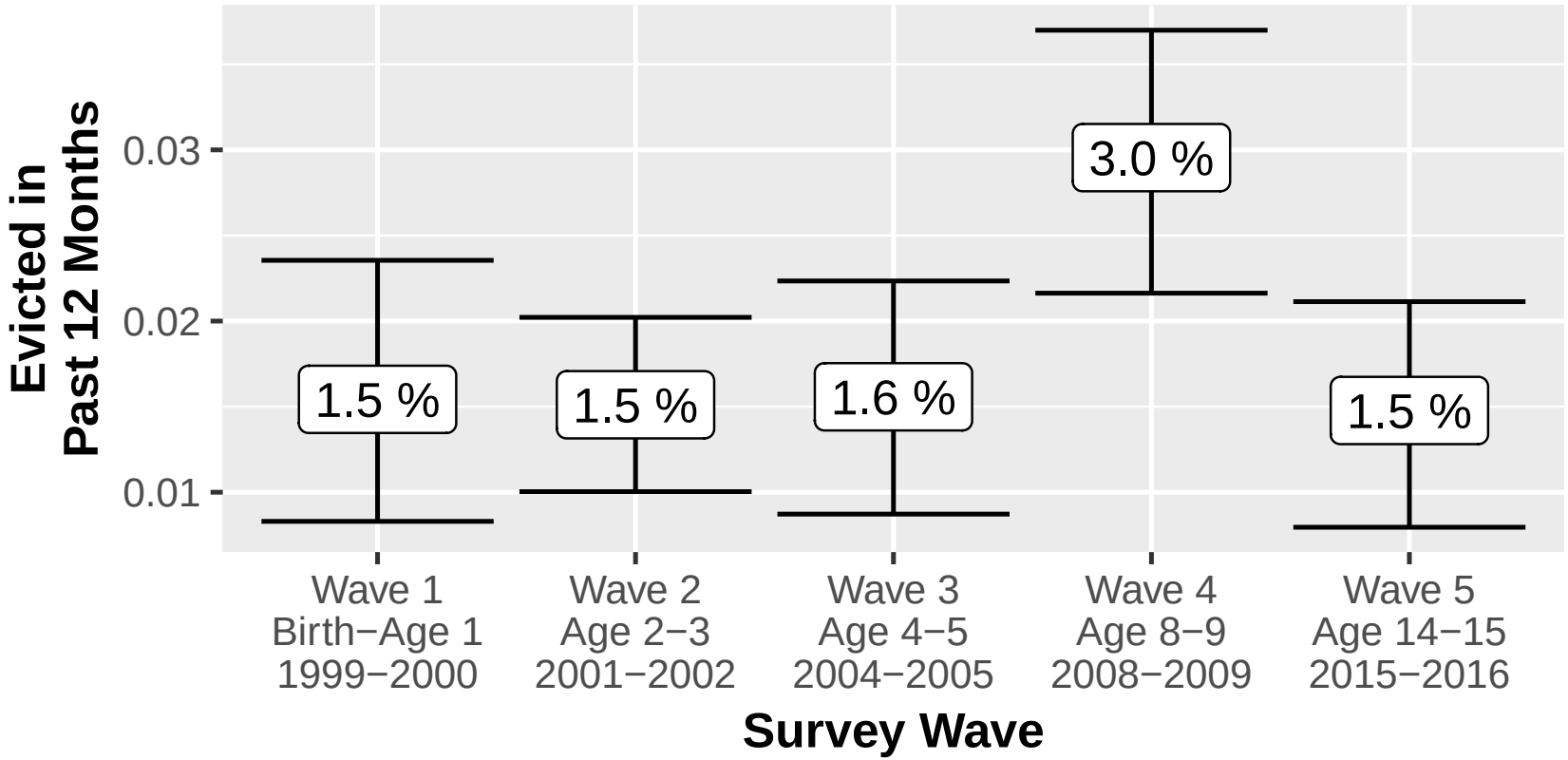
Fragile Families
& Child Wellbeing Study
PRINCETON | COLUMBIA

- Sampling frame: Births in 1998–2000 in U.S. cities with populations over 200,000
- $N = 4{,}898$ births in 20 cities
  - 16 cities are a probability sample
  - 4 cities added for funder interests
- Oversample (3:1) of non-marital births
- Interviews with each parent at child age 1, 3, 5, 9, and 15

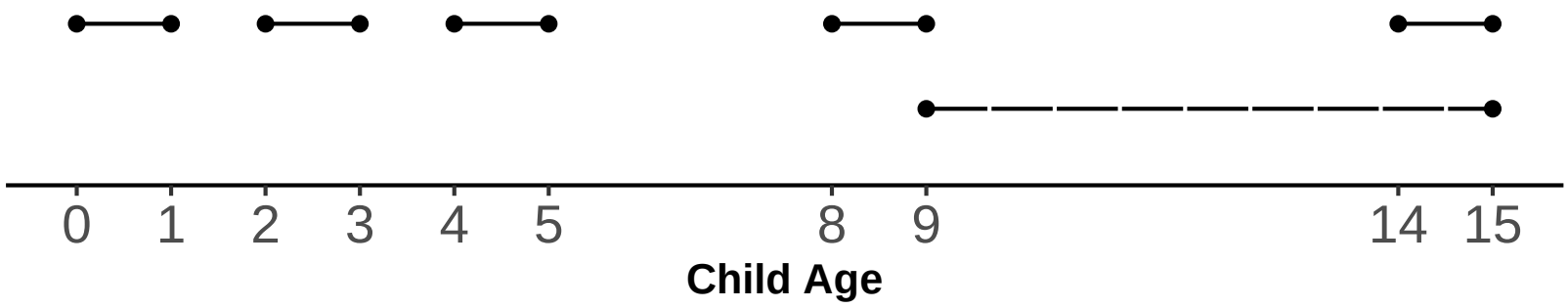
Survey instrument:

In the past 12 months, were you evicted from your home or apartment for not paying the rent or mortgage?

– Reported by mother or father with whom child lives more than half the time


Evicted in Past 12 Months
0.03
0.02
0.01
1.5 %
1.5 %
1.6 %
3.0 %
1.5 %
Wave 1 Birth−Age 1 1999−2000
Wave 2 Age 2−3 2001−2002
Wave 3 Age 4−5 2004−2005
Wave 4 Age 8−9 2008−2009
Wave 5 Age 14−15 2015−2016
Survey Wave

Child ages covered by eviction reports



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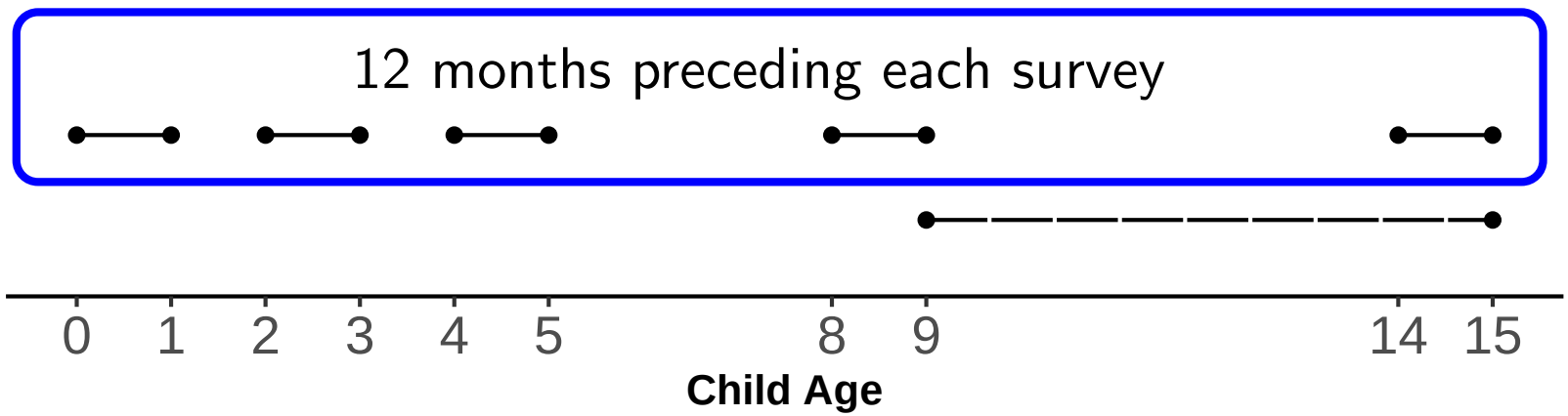

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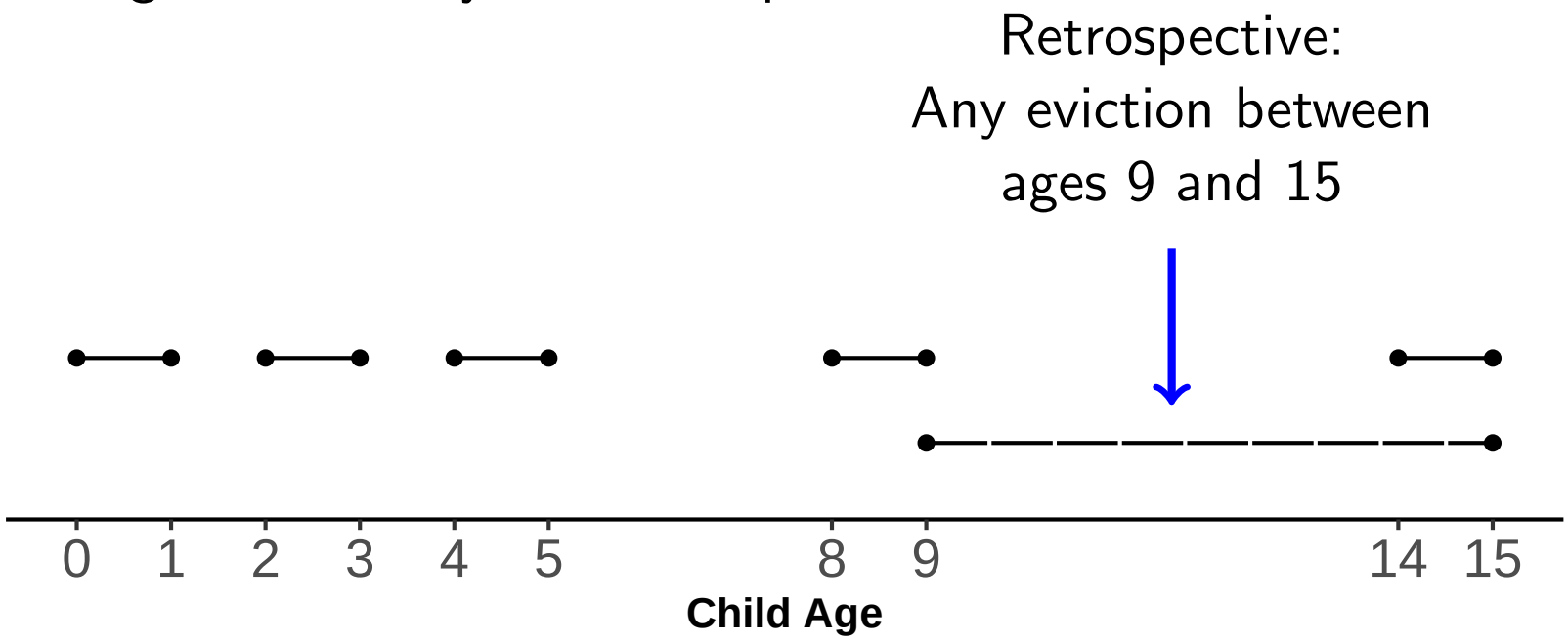

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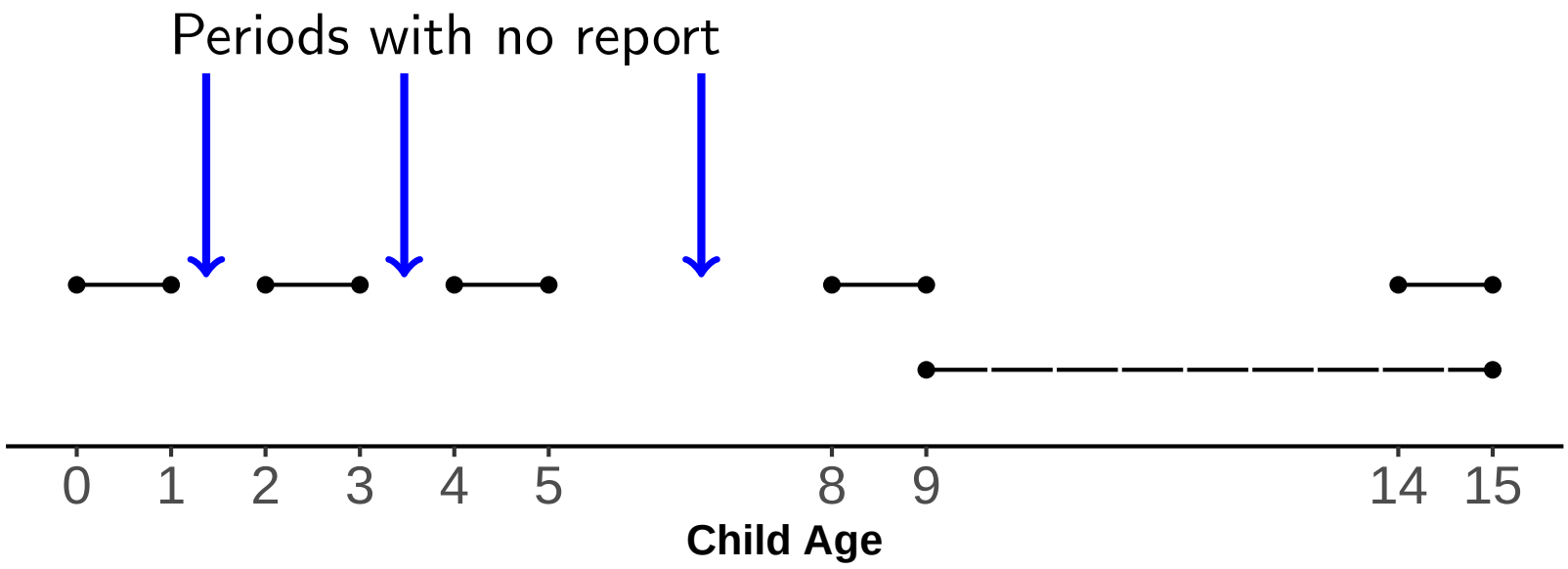

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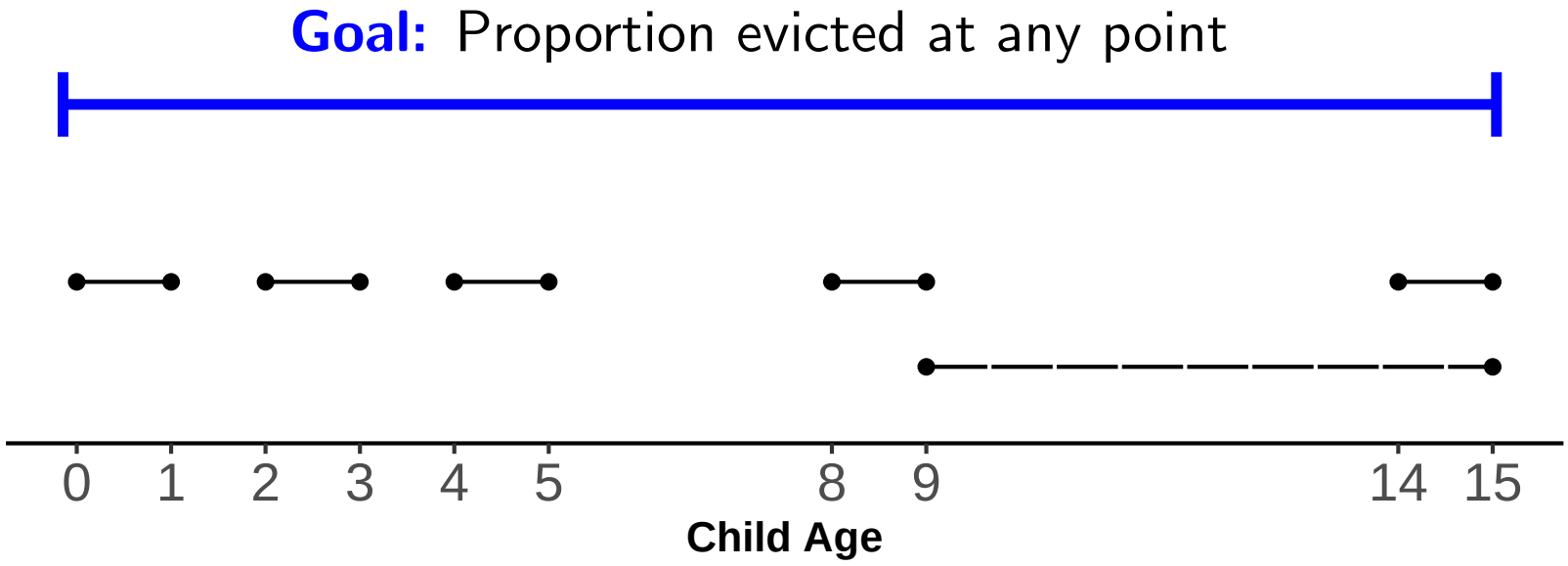
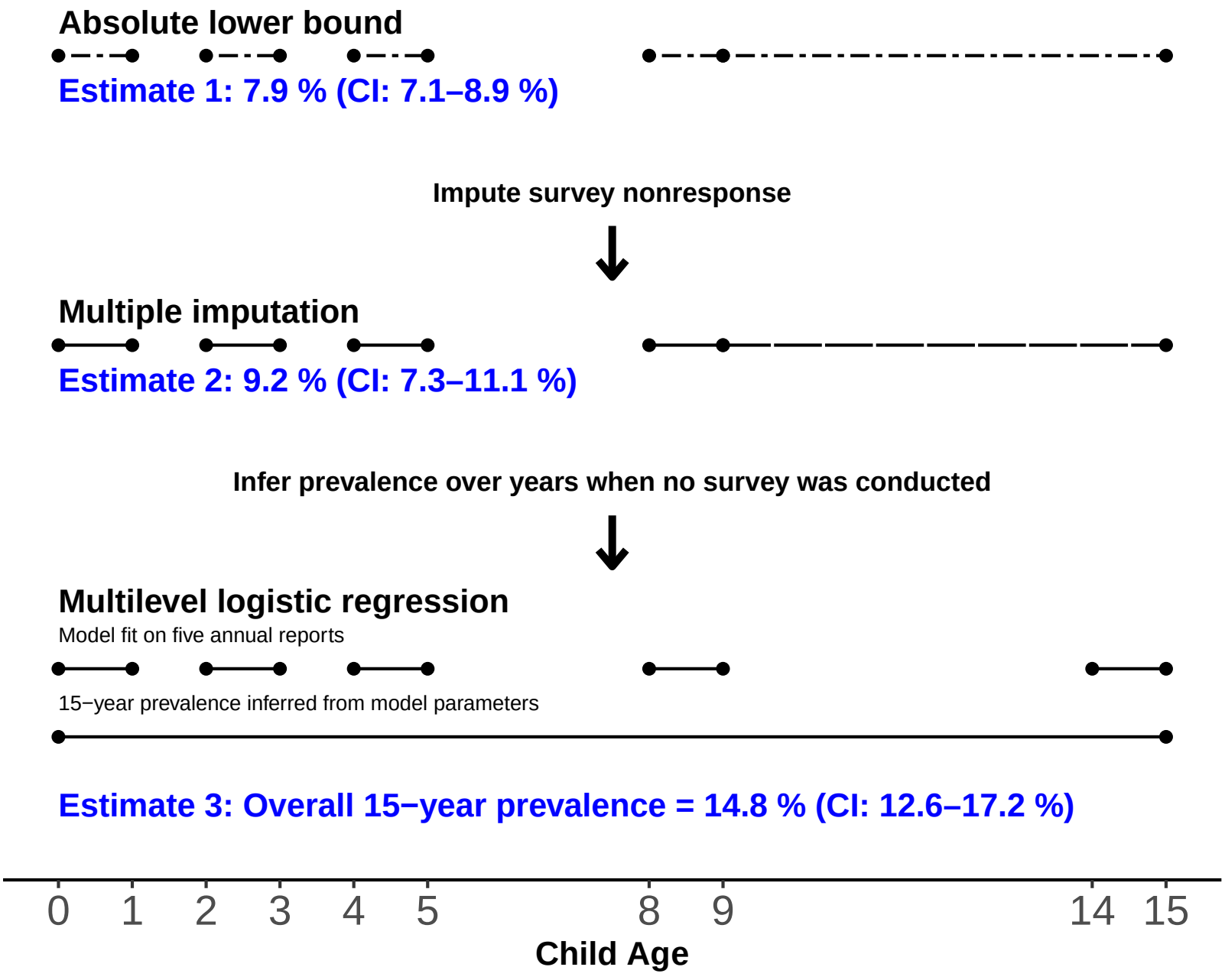
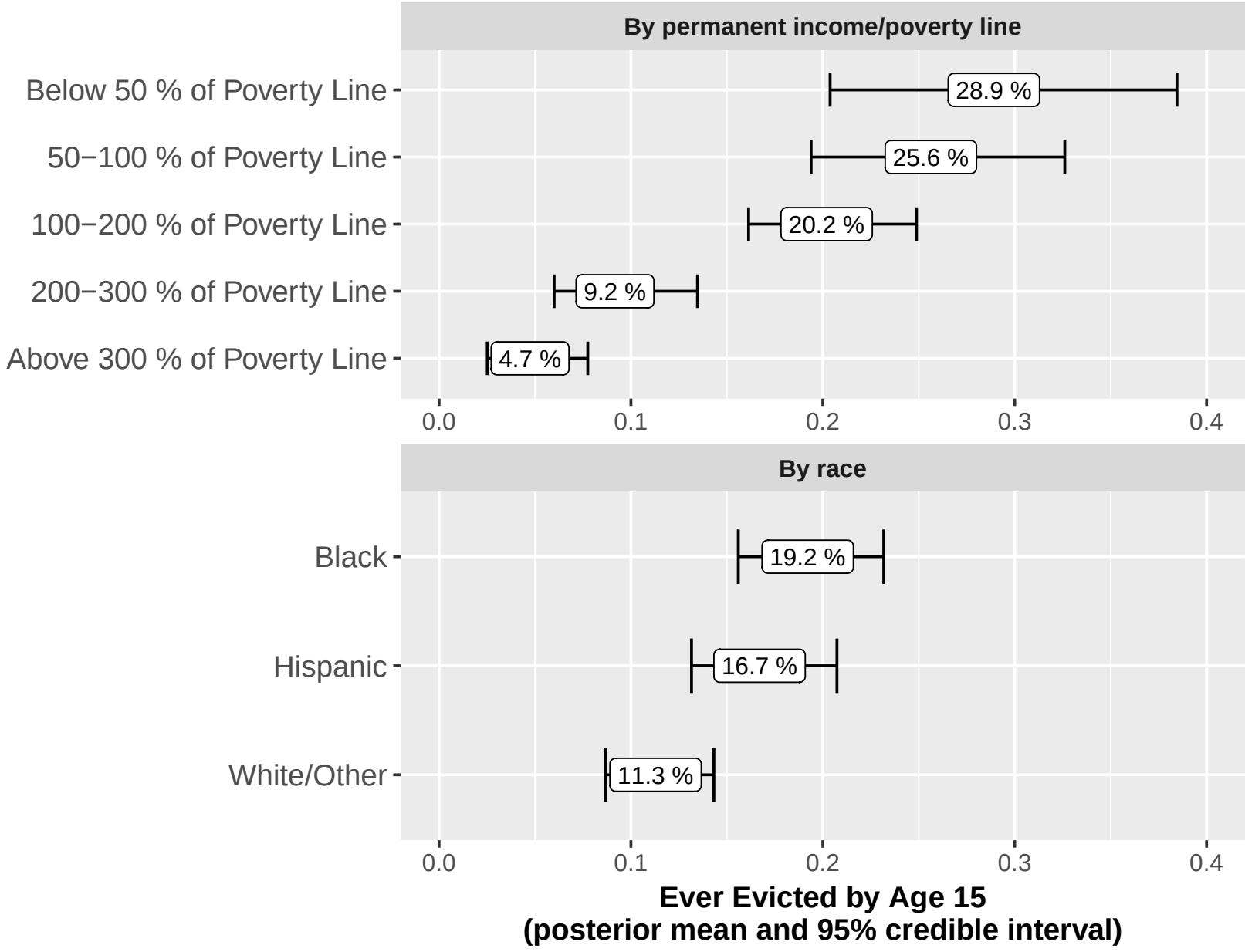
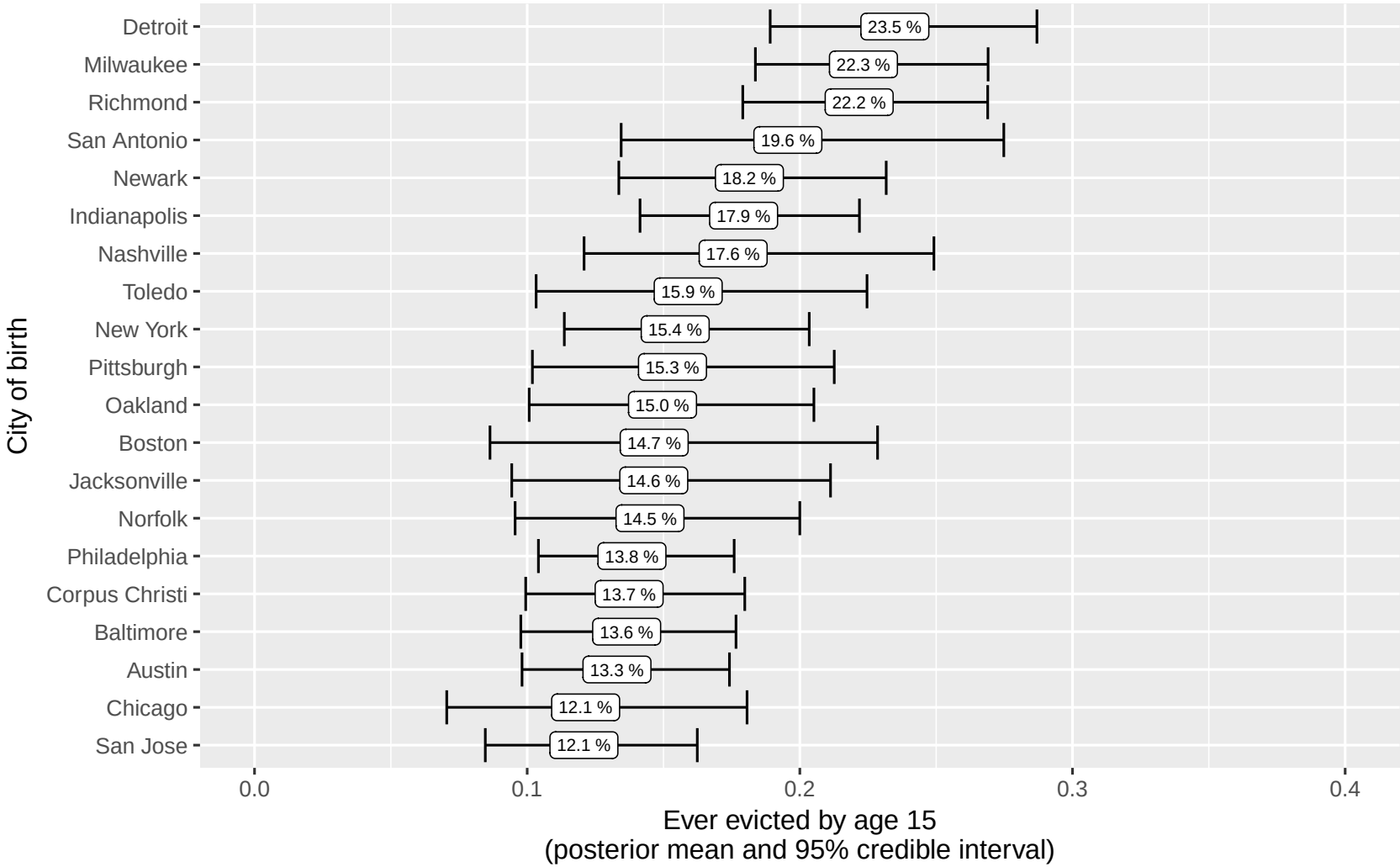


b. Three estimates of the proportion ever evicted by age 15



Given our model, we can aggregate across the covariate values of specific **subgroups**.


By permanent income/poverty line
Below 50 % of Poverty Line
50−100 % of Poverty Line
100−200 % of Poverty Line
200−300 % of Poverty Line
Above 300 % of Poverty Line
28.9 %
25.6 %
20.2 %
9.2 %
4.7 %
0.0
0.1
0.2
0.3
0.4
By race
Black
Hispanic
White/Other
19.2 %
16.7 %
11.3 %
0.0
0.1
0.2
0.3
0.4
Ever Evicted by Age 15
(posterior mean and 95% credible interval)


Detroit
Milwaukee
Richmond
San Antonio
Newark
Indianapolis
Nashville
Toledo
New York
Pittsburgh
Oakland
Boston
Jacksonville
Norfolk
Philadelphia
Corpus Christi
Baltimore
Austin
Chicago
San Jose
23.5 %
22.3 %
22.2 %
19.6 %
18.2 %
17.9 %
17.6 %
15.9 %
15.4 %
15.3 %
15.0 %
14.7 %
14.6 %
14.5 %
13.8 %
13.7 %
13.6 %
13.3 %
12.1 %
12.1 %
City of birth
0.0
0.1
0.2
0.3
0.4
Ever evicted by age 15
(posterior mean and 95% credible interval)

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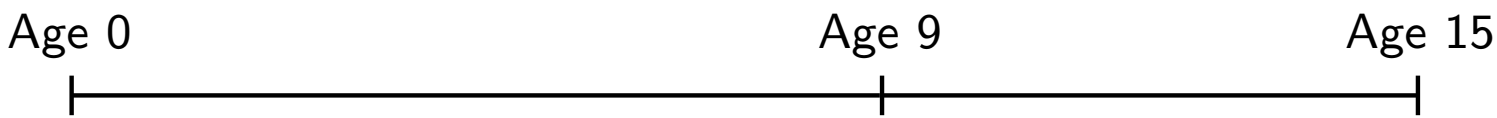

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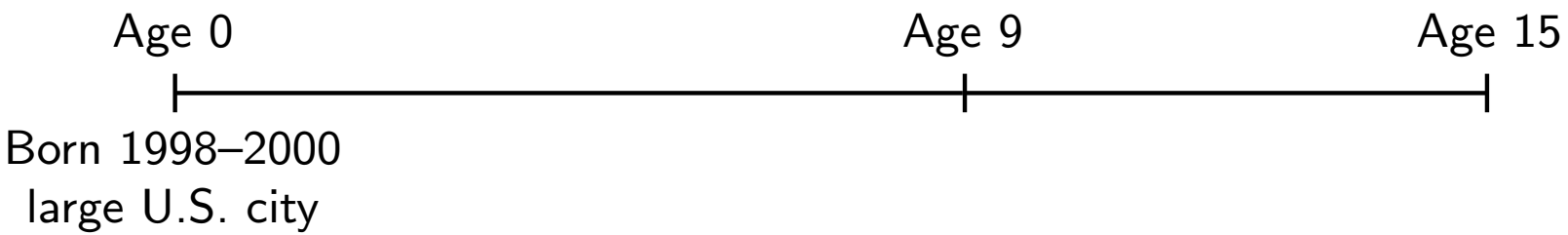

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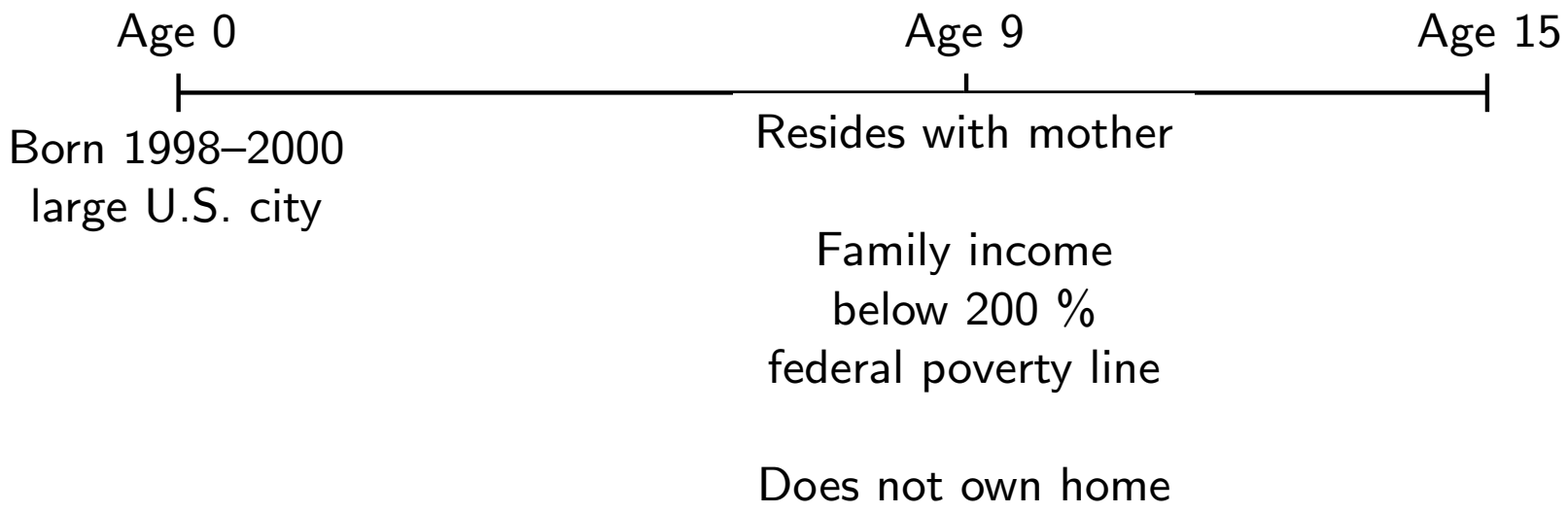

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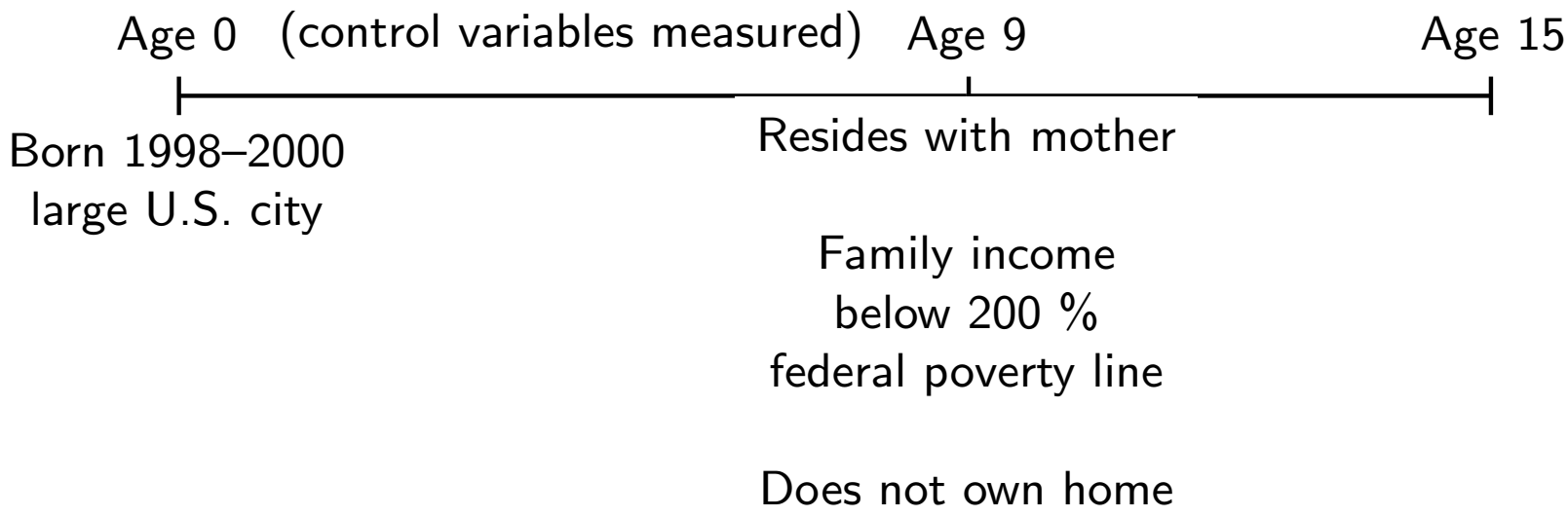

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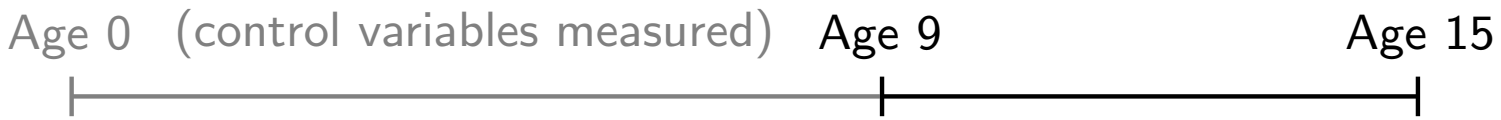

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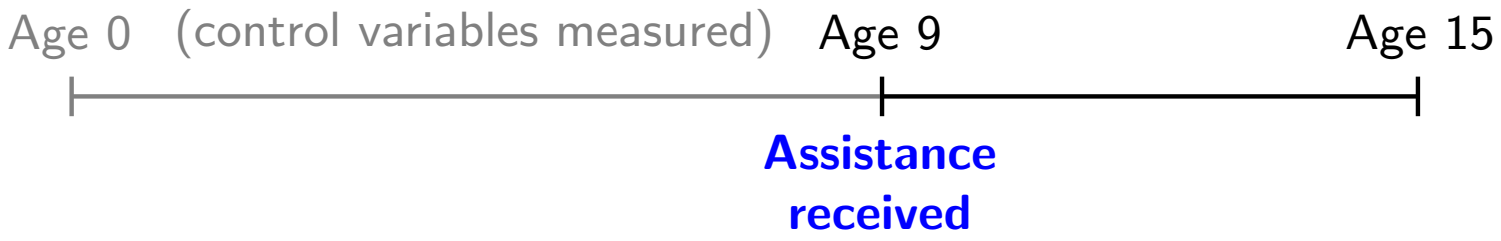

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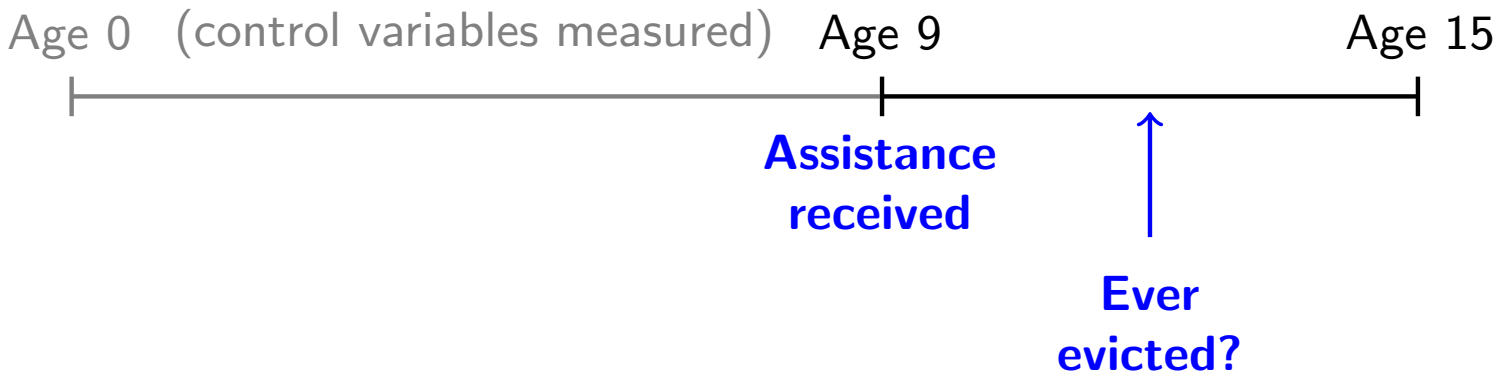
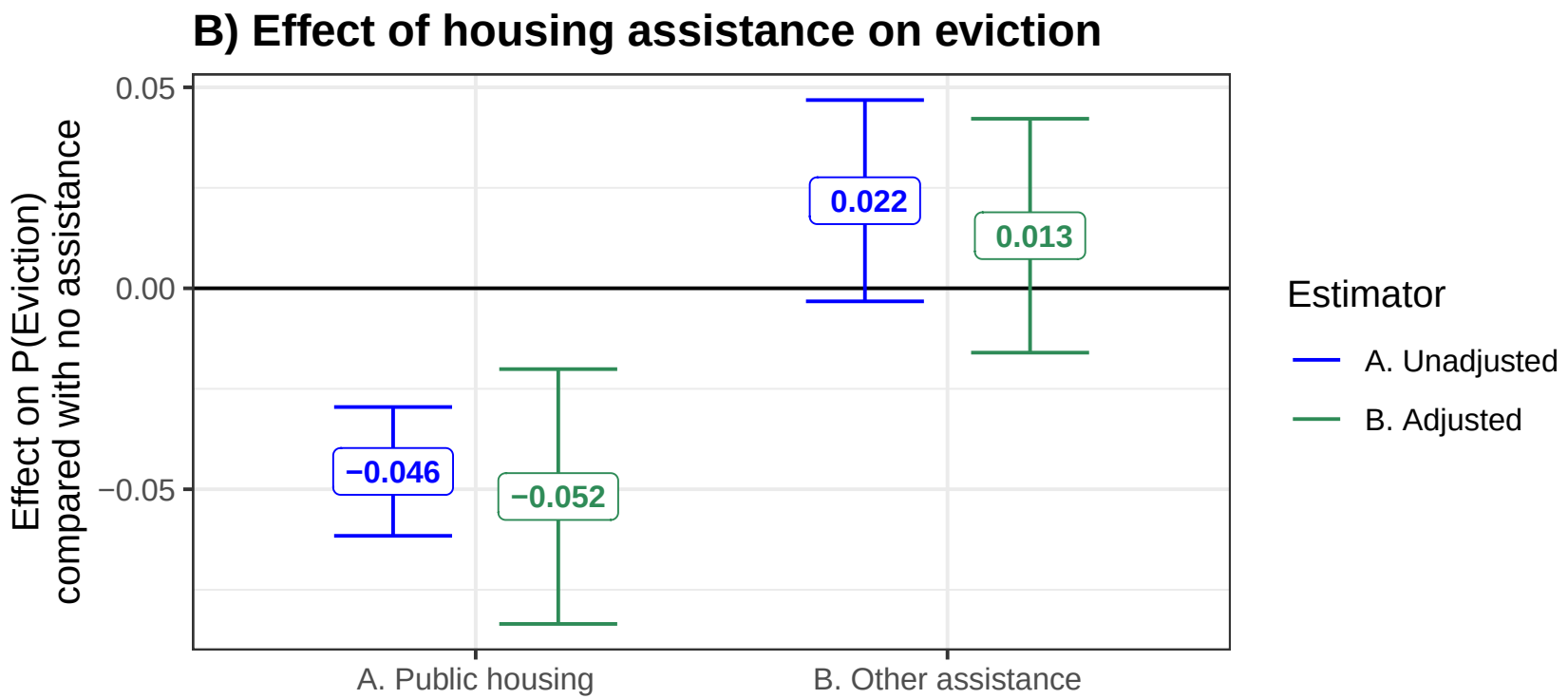


Results


B) Effect of housing assistance on eviction
Effect on P(Eviction) compared with no assistance
0.05
0.00
−0.05
−0.046
−0.052
0.022
0.013
A. Public housing
B. Other assistance
Estimator
A. Unadjusted
B. Adjusted

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