

1946 2021



Reimagine the future
for every child



Results of modeling the improvement of state targeted social assistance (TSA) to families with children

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for every child

TSA and child poverty in Belarus in 2020

Sources of data

- Administrative data
- MICS
- Households survey (Belstat)

Issue: TSA not identified separately

«Material assistance and other payments from the budget» includes payments for preparing for school, etc.

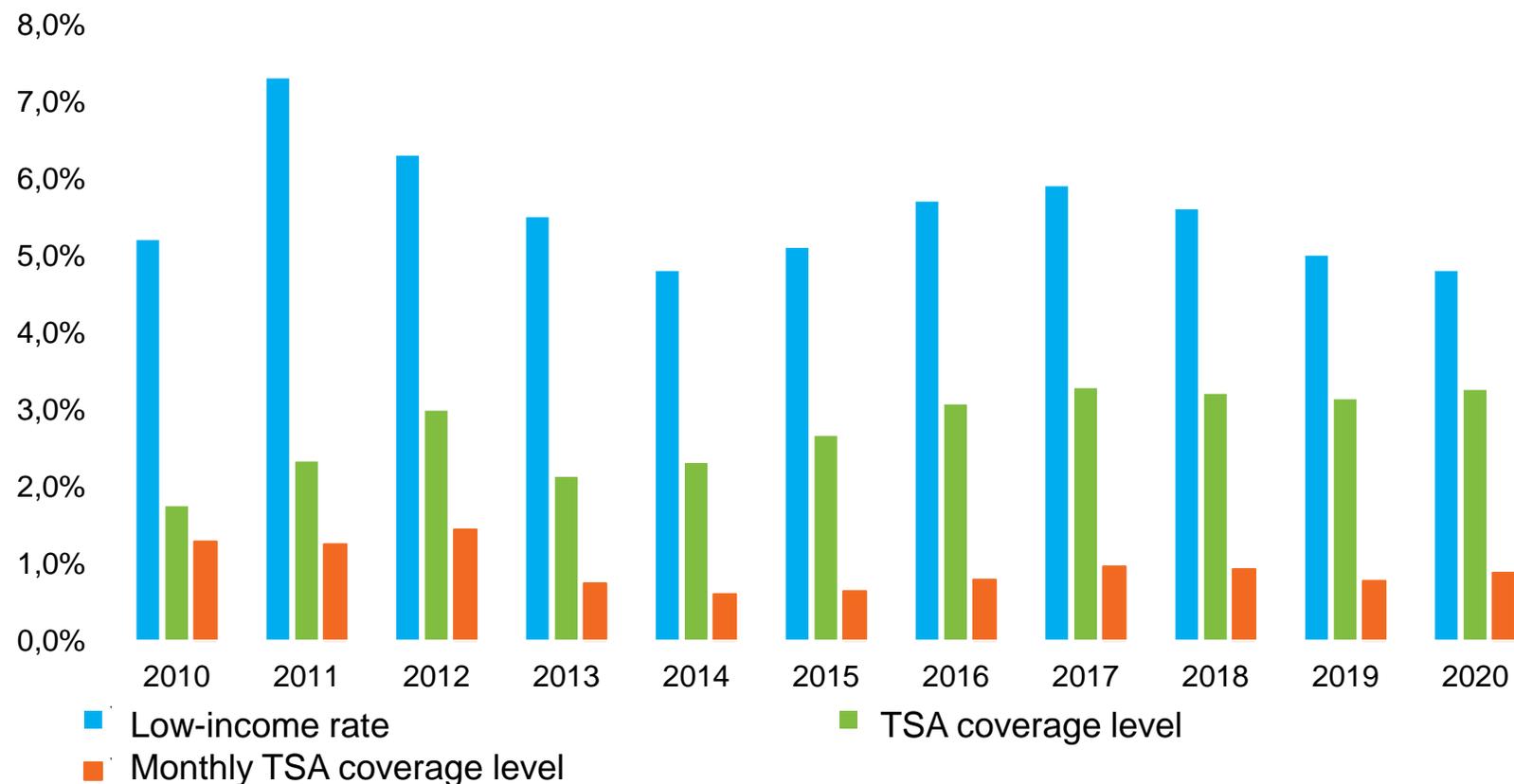
- Focus groups

Administrative data: better coverage by TSA

In 2020, the number of people who received TSA increased from **295 to 305 thousand people**.

Including growth in the number of those who received monthly payments from **73 to 83 thousand people**

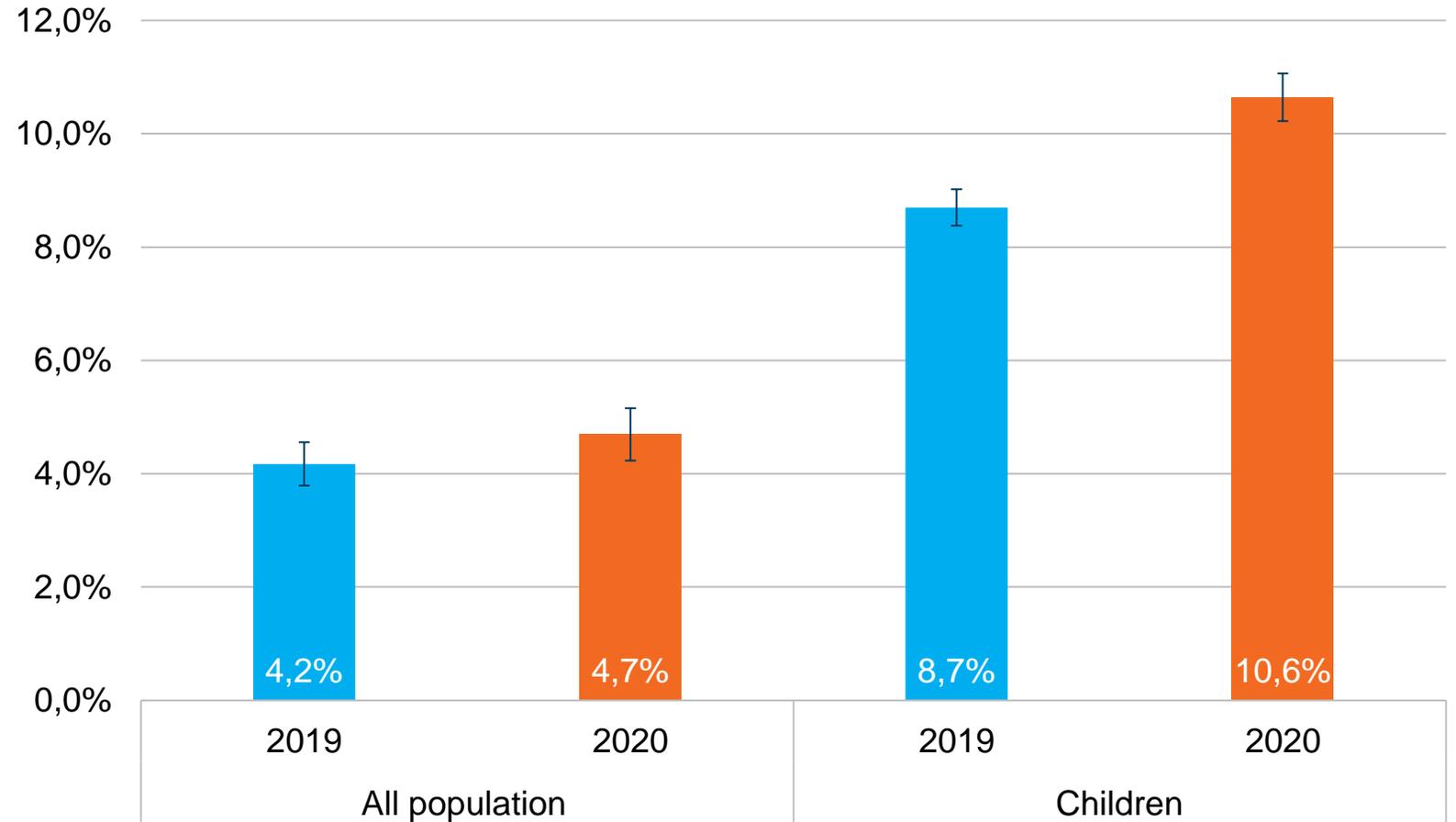
Monthly payment increased from **49 to 69 BYN**



Total household income: Share of population receiving TSA in 2019-2020

% of total population (total children), as per households survey

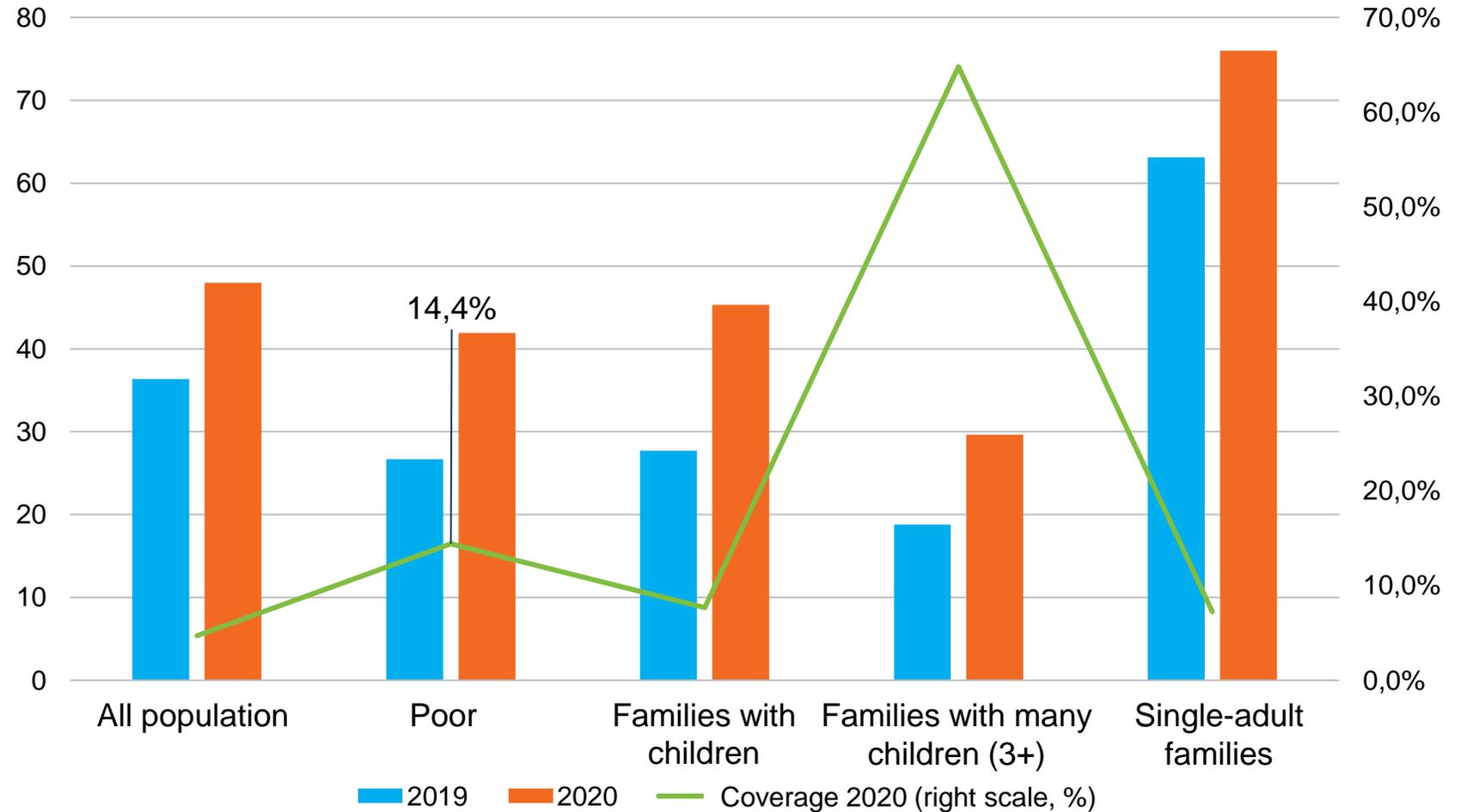
TSA coverage **increased** - there is a statistically significant difference both for the entire population and (especially) for **children**



Average TSA payment per family in 2019-2020

On an average monthly basis for the whole year, in BYN

Payments increased for all major vulnerable groups, although they remain low

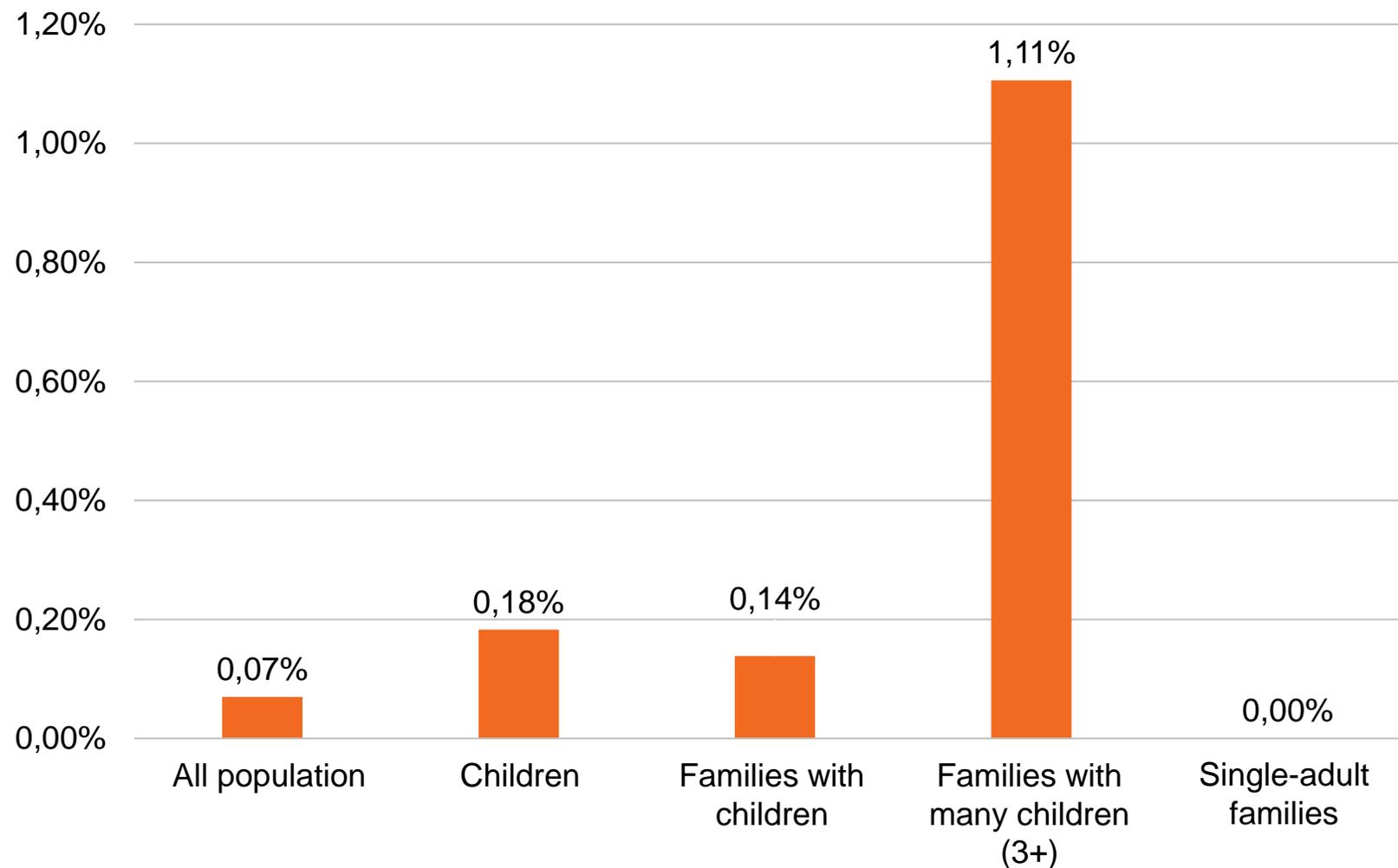


Reducing poverty through TSA in 2020

In percentage points

Poverty reduction through TSA **remains low** due to low coverage and amounts

Often getting TSA is not enough to get out of poverty



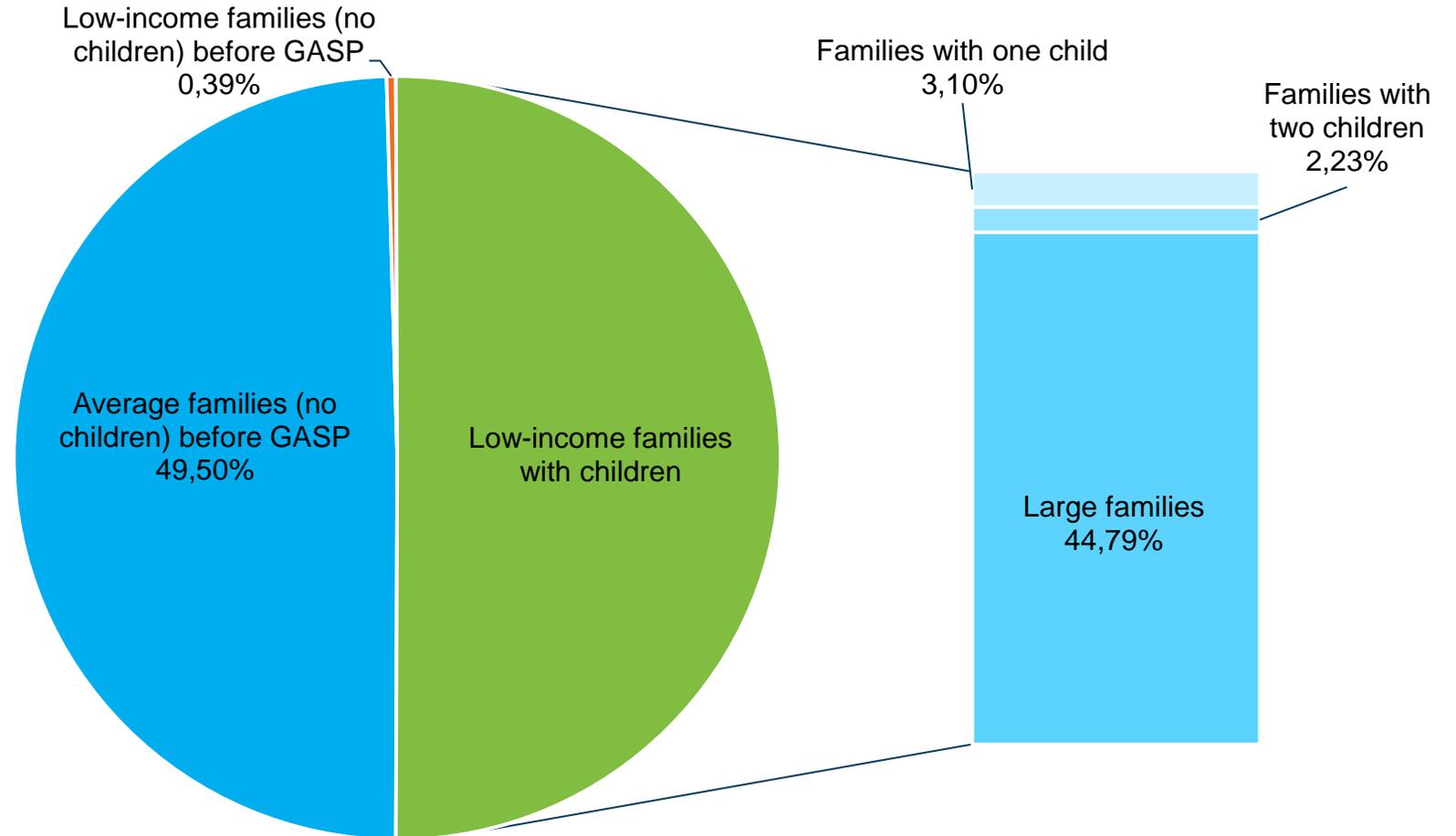
TSA recipients in 2020

In percentage of total TSA expenditures

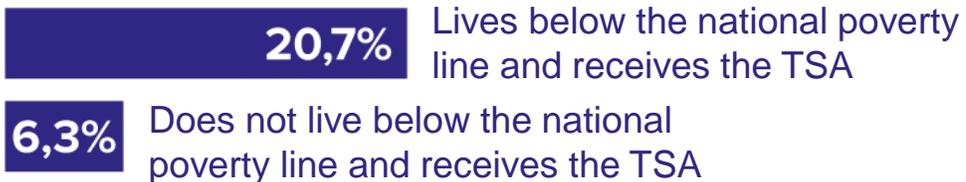
- Average families:
- Category-specific assistance
 - They all are low-income families

Large families dominate.

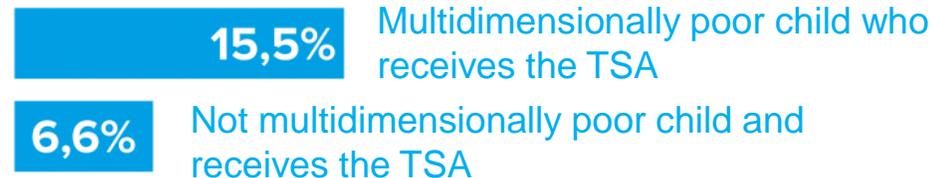
Single-parent families – 2%



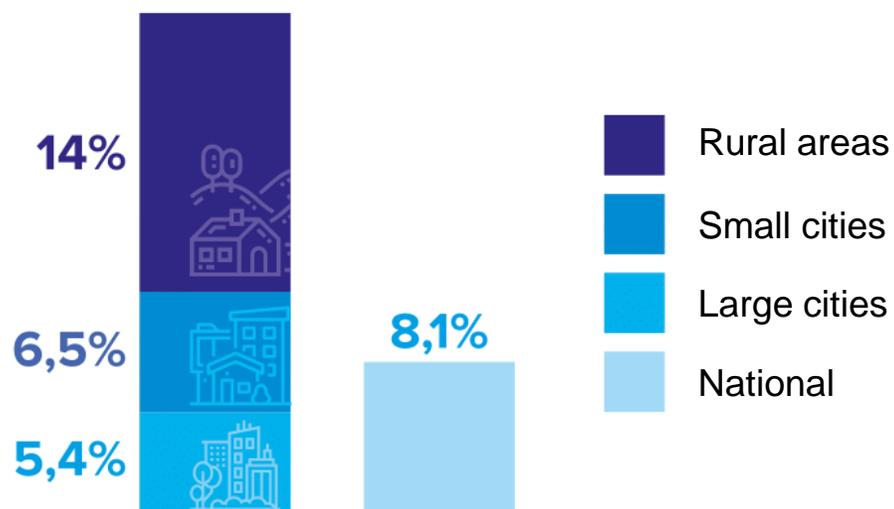
If a child lives below the national poverty line more likely they receive the TSA



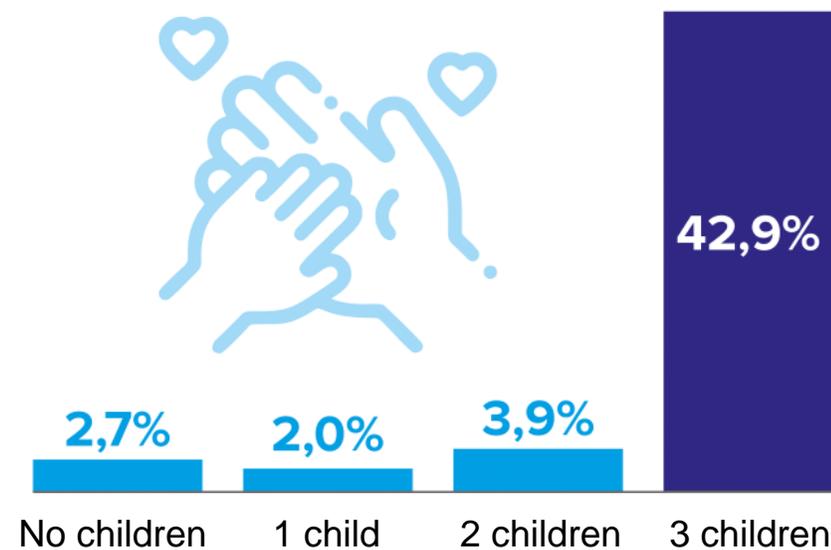
If a child is multidimensionally poor more likely they receive the TSA



Children living in rural areas are more likely to receive the TSA



The more children a family has, the more likely it is to receive the TSA



Modeling Social Protection Measures: A Tool to Halve Child Poverty by 2030

- In a joint study with the Institute of the Ministry of Economics, using the approach "Striving for justice for children", it was estimated that the combination of the introduction of category-specific benefits for large families and single-parent families and the expansion of the availability of TSA households with children will cost about 0.3% of GDP and will allow reduce poverty among the entire population by 2.8 p.p.
- See more at <https://www.unicef.by/ceq4c>

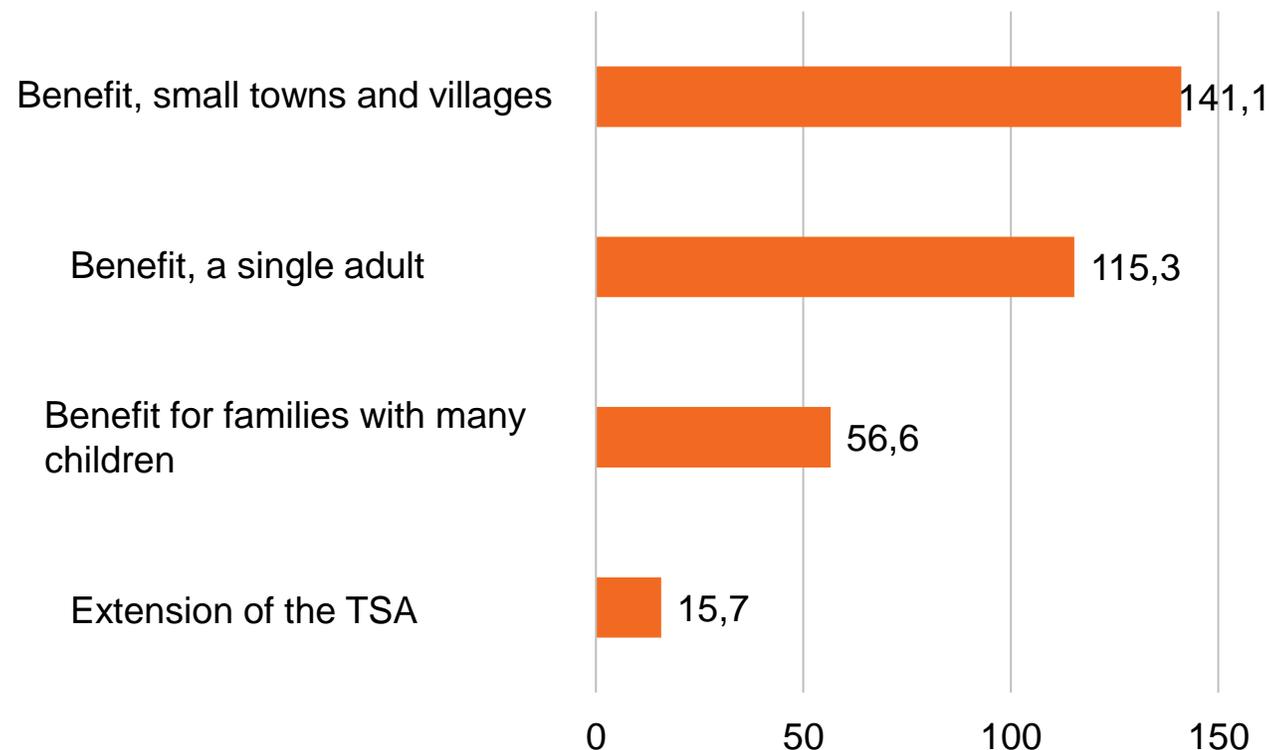
Simulations: Expanding Access to TSA

Simulations based on data from households survey 2016 :

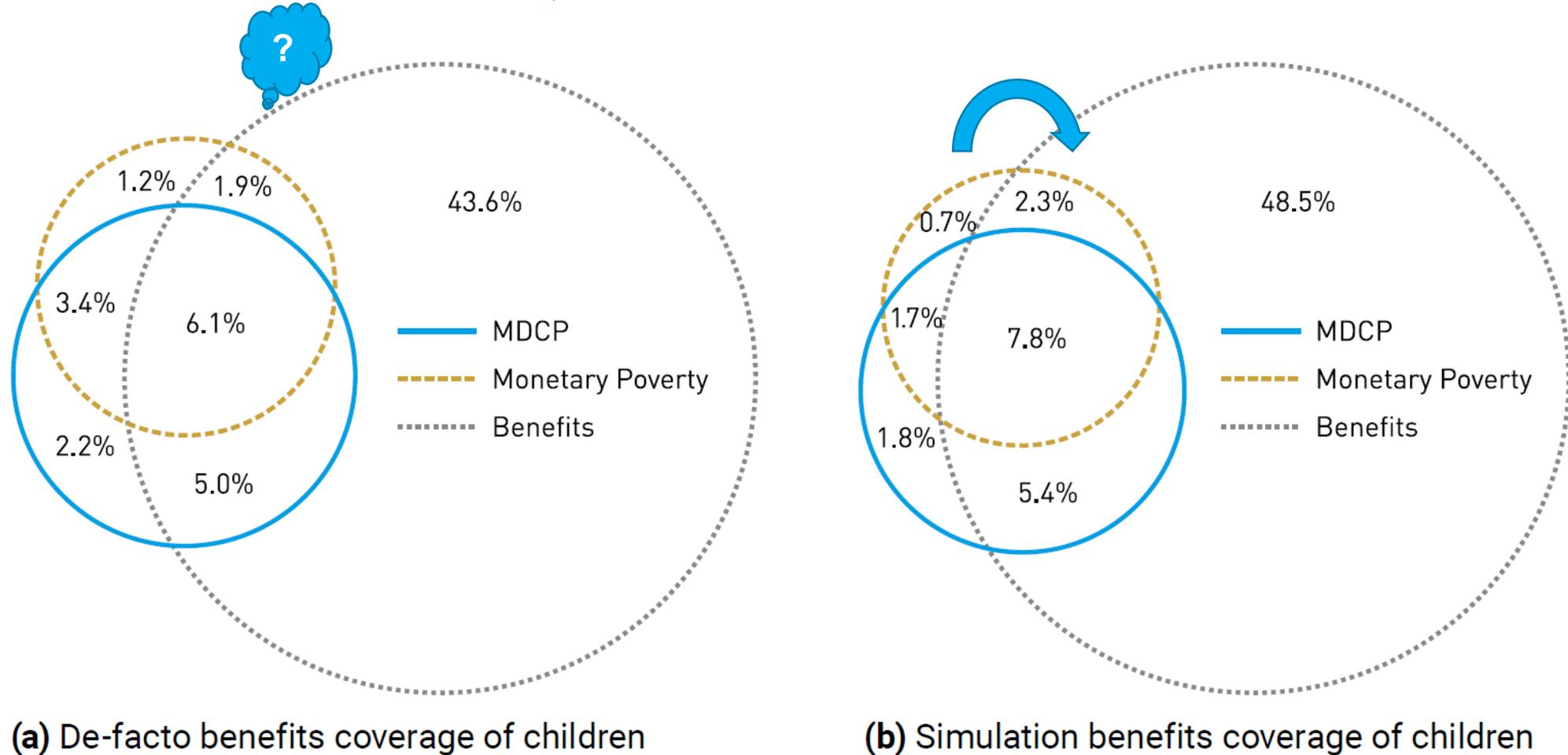
- Extension of the TSA to all low-income families with children (minimum 50 BYN) Benefit for large families (1 subsistence amount) Single parent family allowance (0.5 subsistence amount) Allowance for families with children in small towns and rural areas (0.5 subsistence amount)

Conclusion: TSA is the most effective
But: no accounting for administration costs

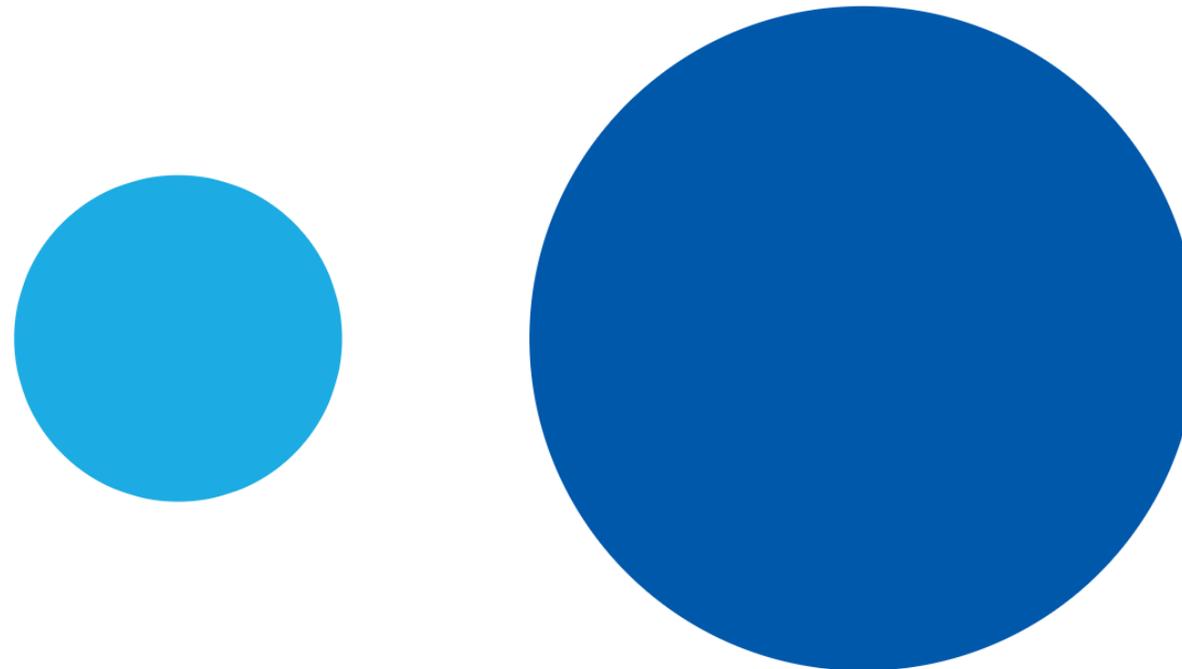
Cost of reducing child poverty by 1 pp, million rubles (2016)



Monetary and multidimensional poverty, coverage of benefits and allowances for children, in fact and simulation results



Simulations: How to Fund the TSA Expansion



Percentage of GDP;
according to
household surveys
2016

0,21%

0,87%

● Expansion of the TSA

● Reduction of non-targeted subsidies for housing and communal services to 80% of the cost price

Reducing utility subsidies as a source of funding

- The existing system of universal subsidizing of housing and utility tariffs is ineffective
 - The World Bank (Zhangh & Hankinson, 2015; Bornukova et al., 2018)
- Targeted non-cash housing subsidies introduced in Belarus in 2016
- Further reduction in the cost of subsidies for housing and communal services provides fiscal space for the introduction of targeted support (0.5-1% of GDP)
 - Approach recommended by ILO, World Bank, UNICEF for many countries

TSA as rated by the recipients

Woman, large city

«No one told us. I heard from a friend why my child was six months old, I could've been getting in for 6 months».

1

Woman, smaller town

«Not only you have to fight for it, be ready to have people come to your home for inspection, searching your every kitchen cabinet».

3

Woman, rural area

«we know about this help and it was all hushed, i'm not even talking about medicines and school. But we know about this help, but we don't even submit the documents, because there is a very large package of documents, it takes a lot of time, and the amount is small».

2

Woman, rural area

«..Well, I filed the request, as a single mother. You know, they said I was supposed to get 12,5 BYN. I was ashamed to go and claim it. ... I mean, why, I spent more to get there, I had to travel 10 km».

4

Conclusions and next steps

- TSA is the most effective tool in tackling child poverty, but more coverage is needed
 - Raise awareness
 - Reduce bureaucracy and stigma
 - Increase the size of payments
- Conducting a joint study with UNICEF to assess and justify the required amount of funds and their potential sources to improve TSA for families with children

Thank you!
