



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE

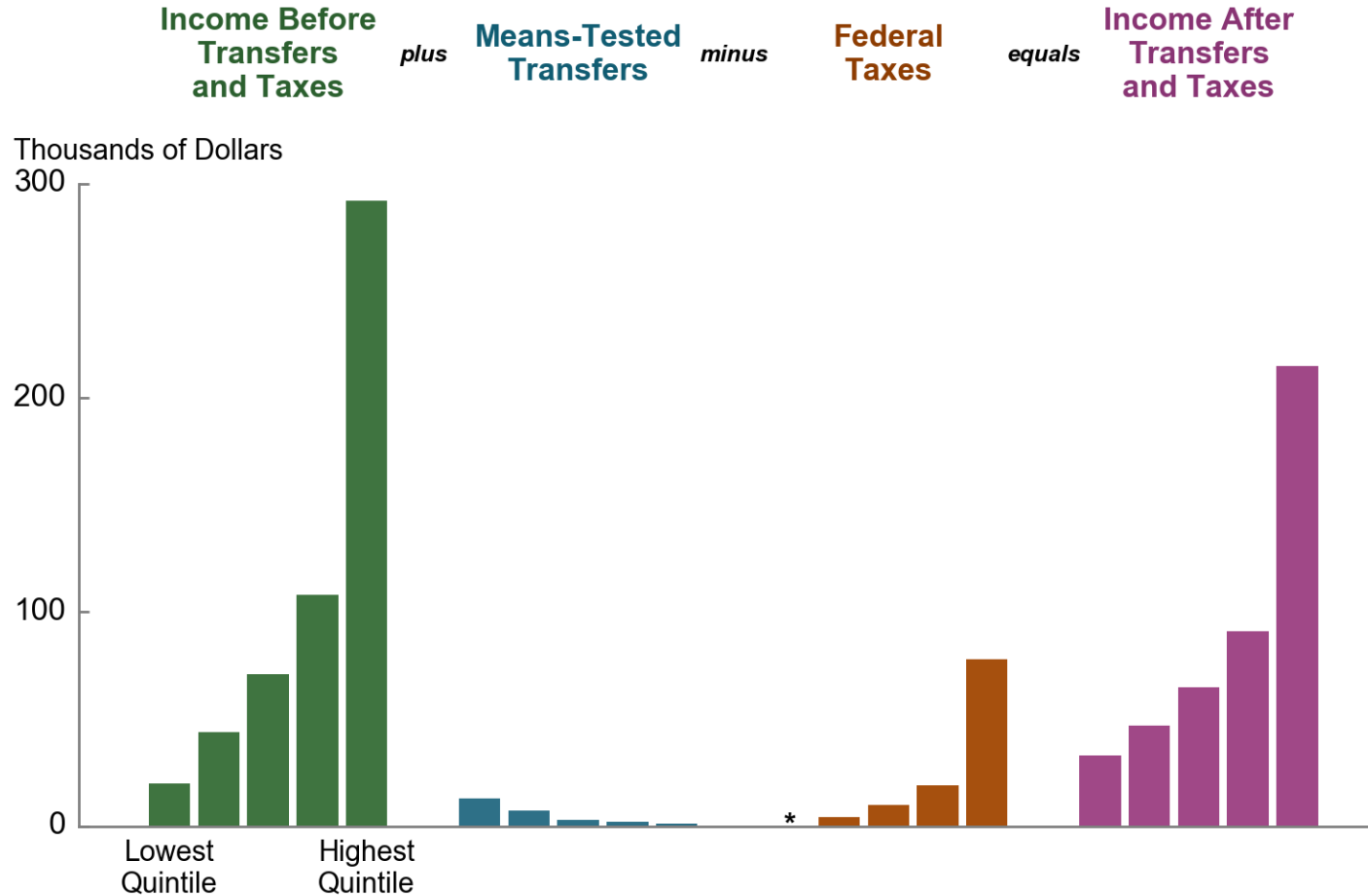
The Distribution of Household Income, 2015

November 2018

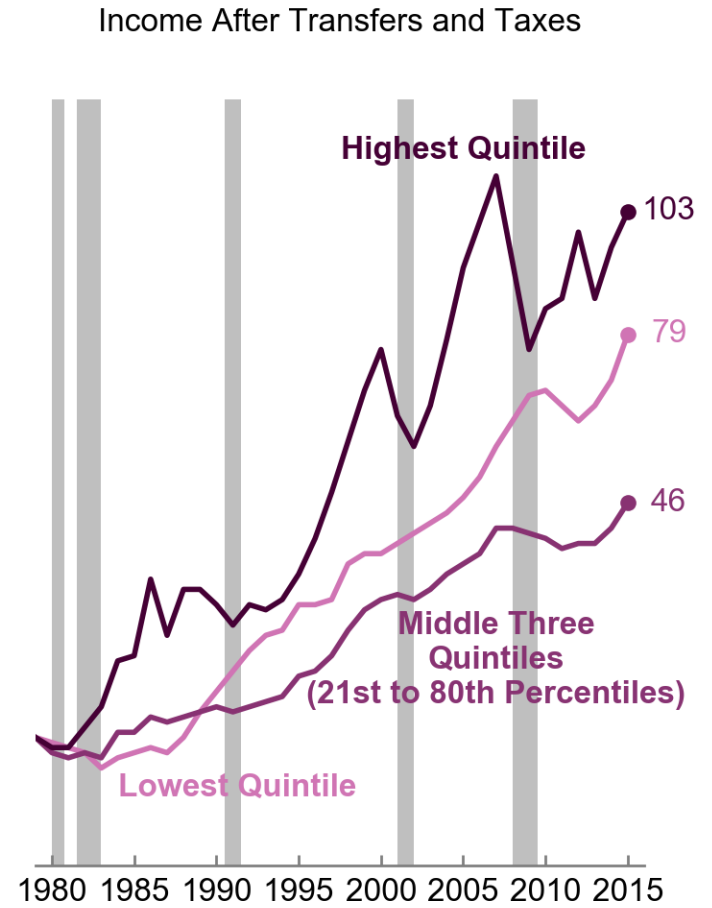
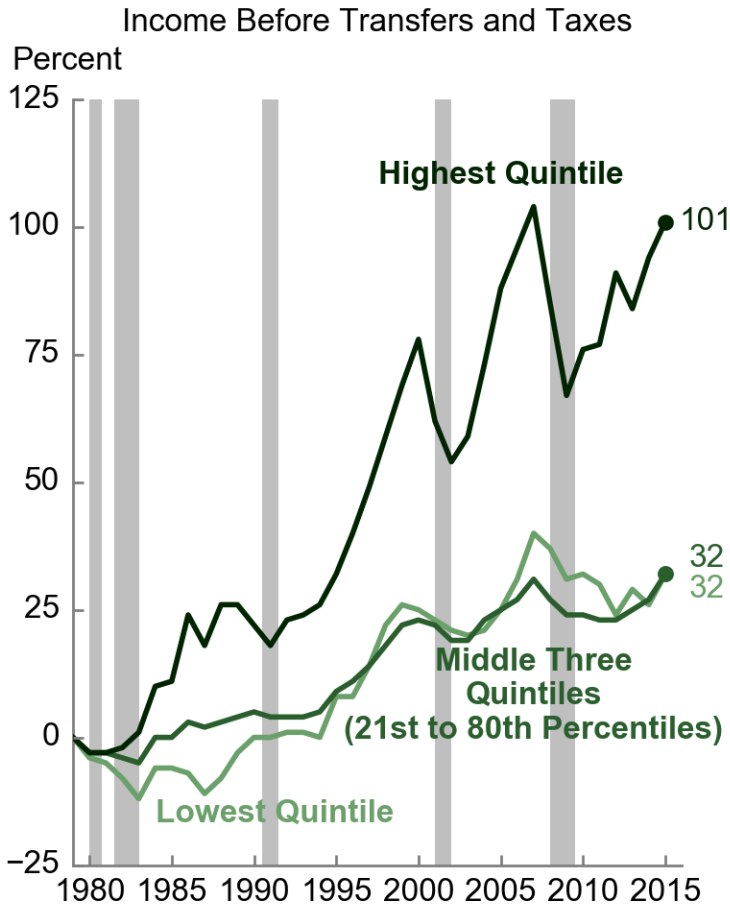
This publication updates the figures in CBO's report *The Distribution of Household Income, 2014* (March 2018), www.cbo.gov/publication/53597.

Summary

Average Income, Means-Tested Transfers, and Federal Taxes, by Income Group, 2015

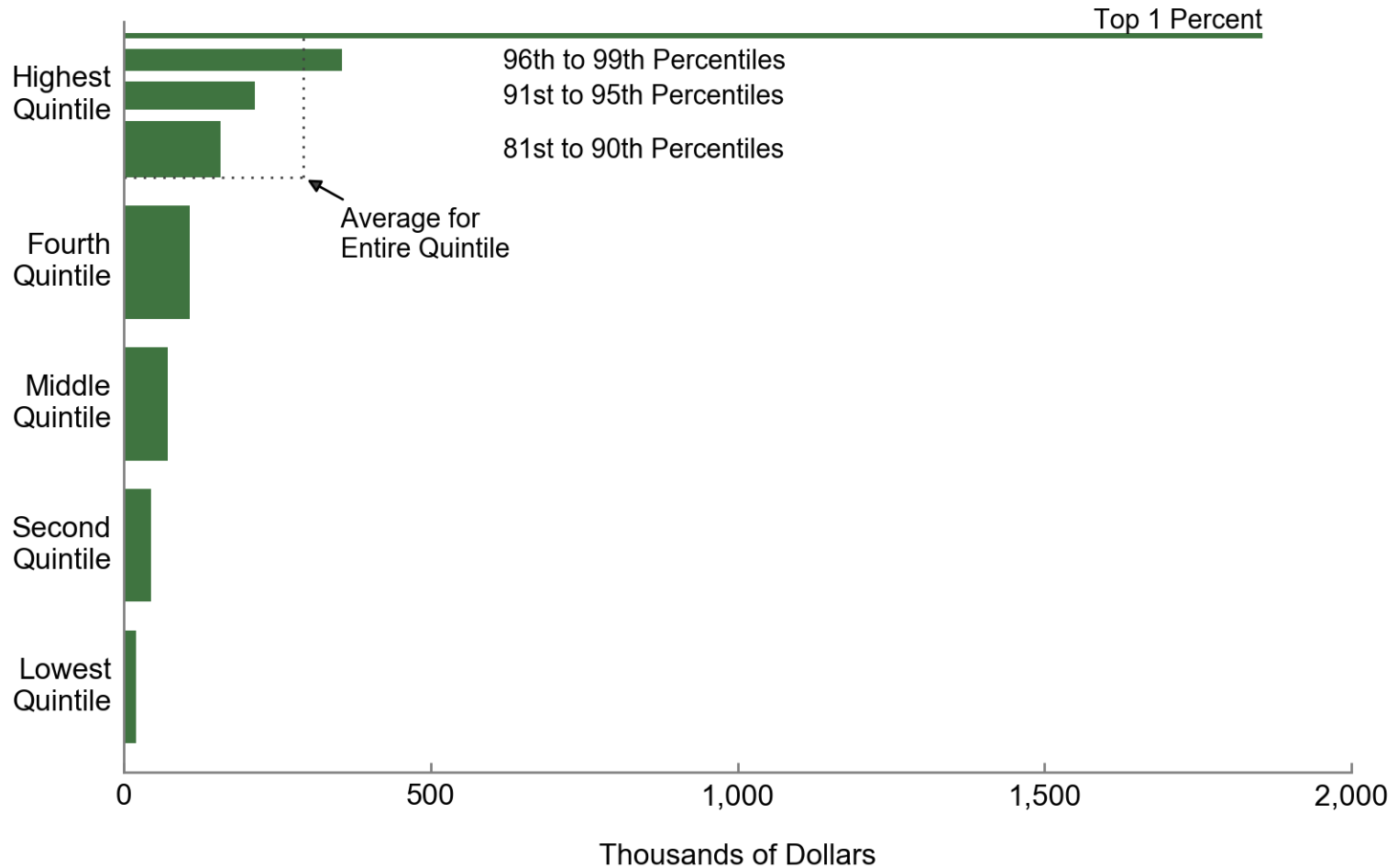


Cumulative Growth in Average Income, by Income Group, 1979 to 2015

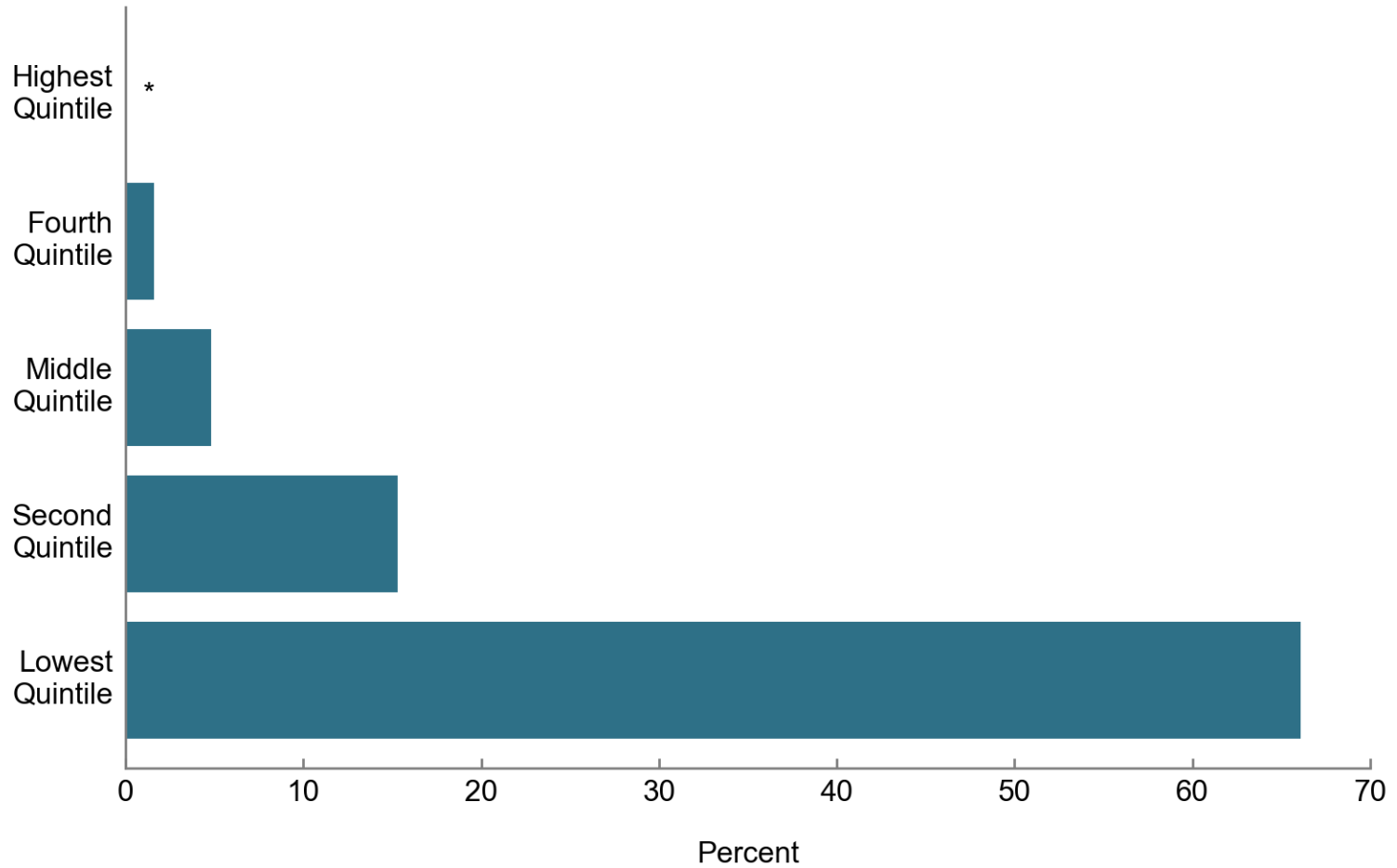


Income, Transfers, and Taxes, 2015

Average Income Before Means-Tested Transfers and Federal Taxes, by Income Group, 2015



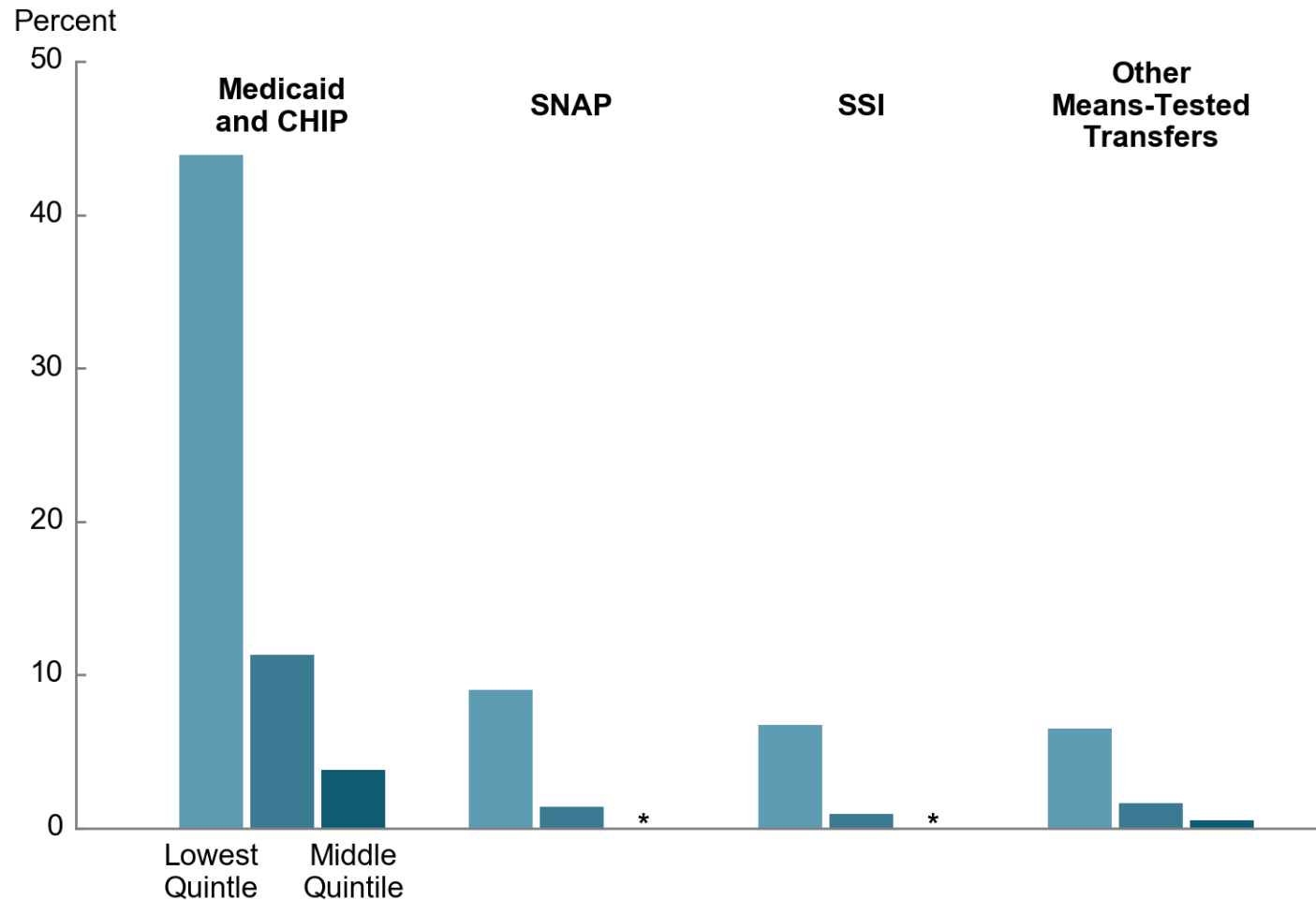
Average Means-Tested Transfer Rates, by Income Group, 2015



Source: Congressional Budget Office.

* = less than 0.5 percent.

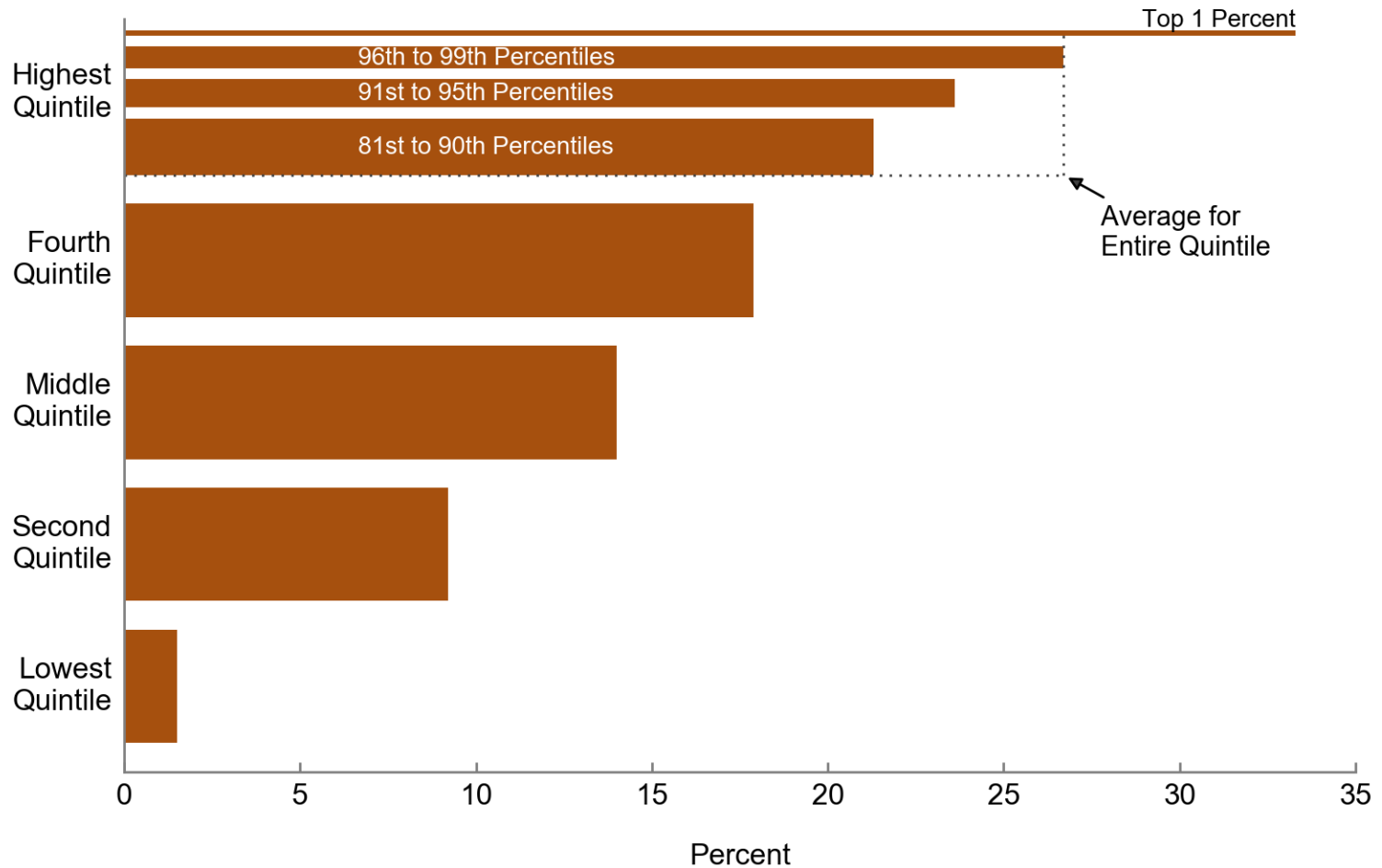
Average Means-Tested Transfer Rates, for Selected Income Groups, 2015



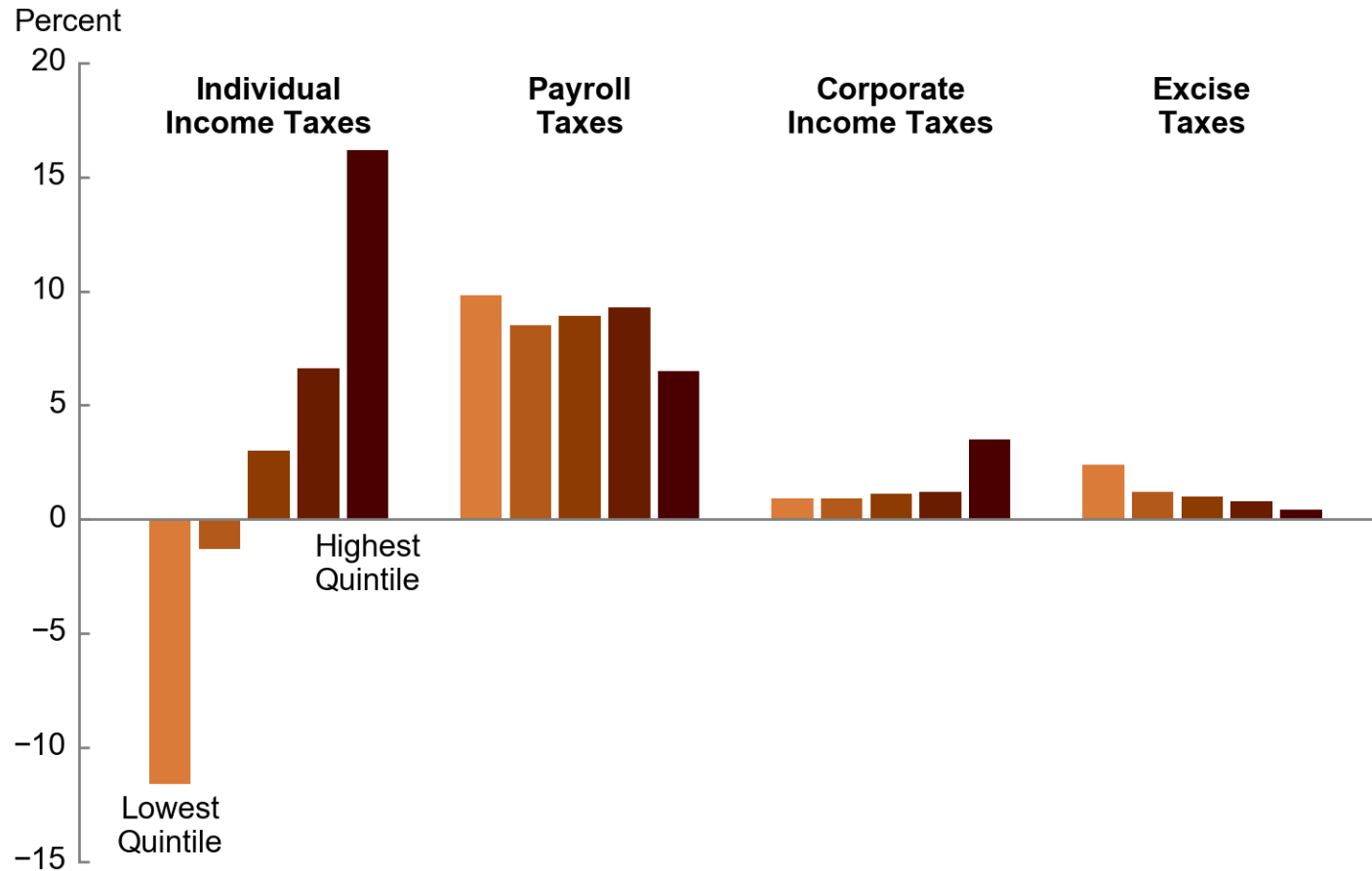
Source: Congressional Budget Office.

CHIP = Children's Health Insurance Program; SNAP = Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program; SSI = Supplemental Security Income; * = less than 0.5 percent.

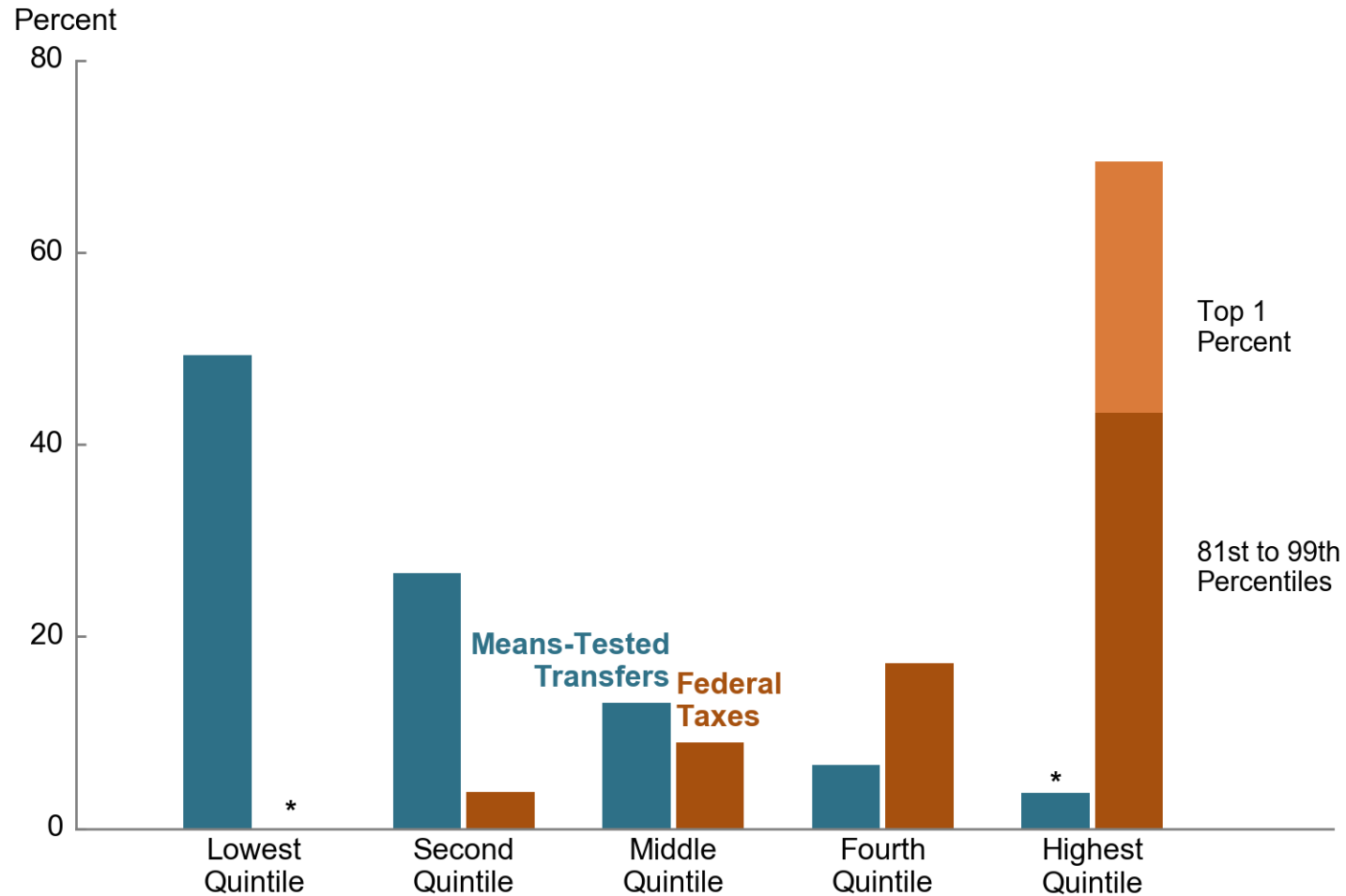
Average Federal Tax Rates, by Income Group, 2015



Average Federal Tax Rates, by Income Group and Tax Source, 2015



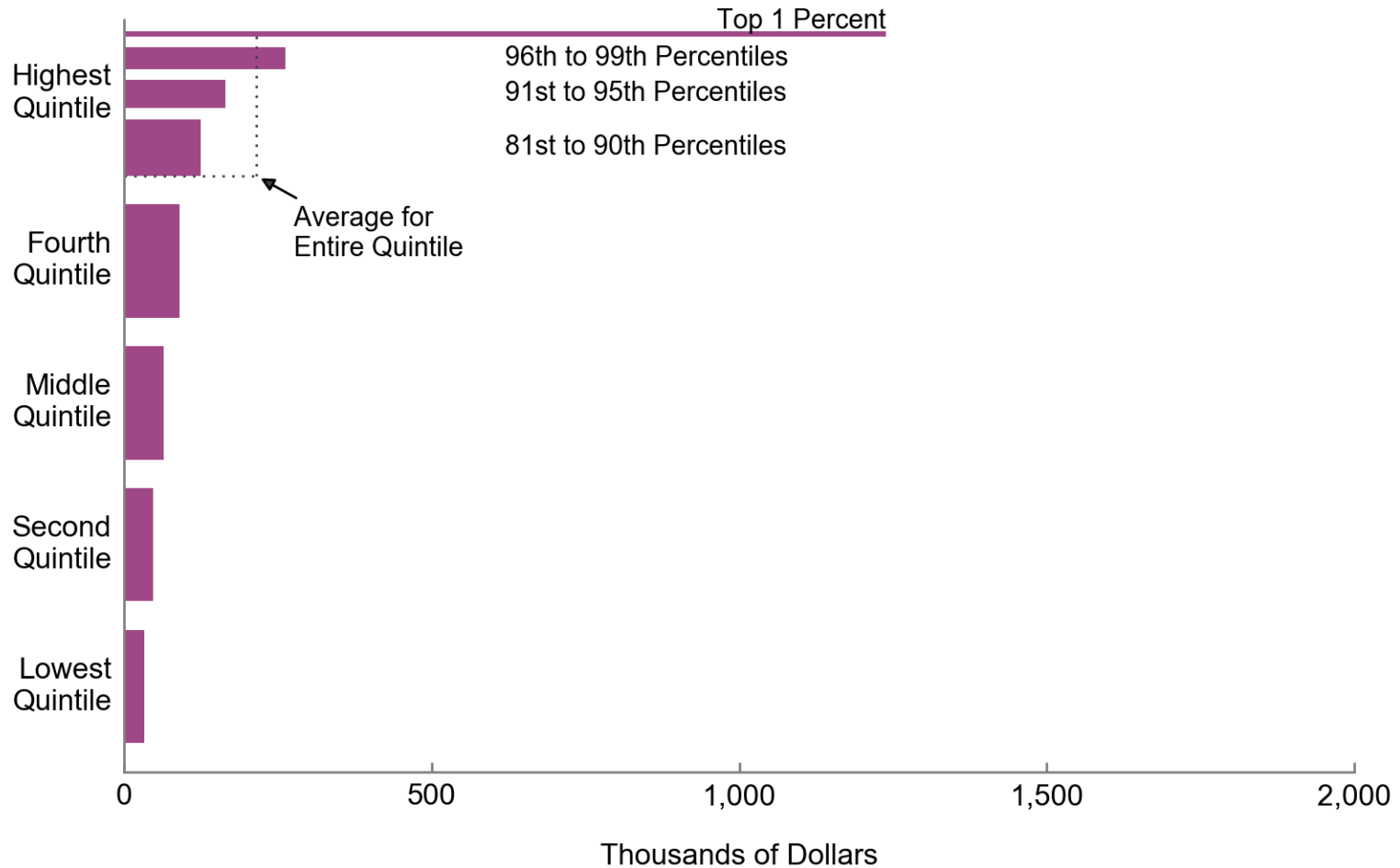
Shares of Means-Tested Transfers and Federal Taxes, by Income Group, 2015



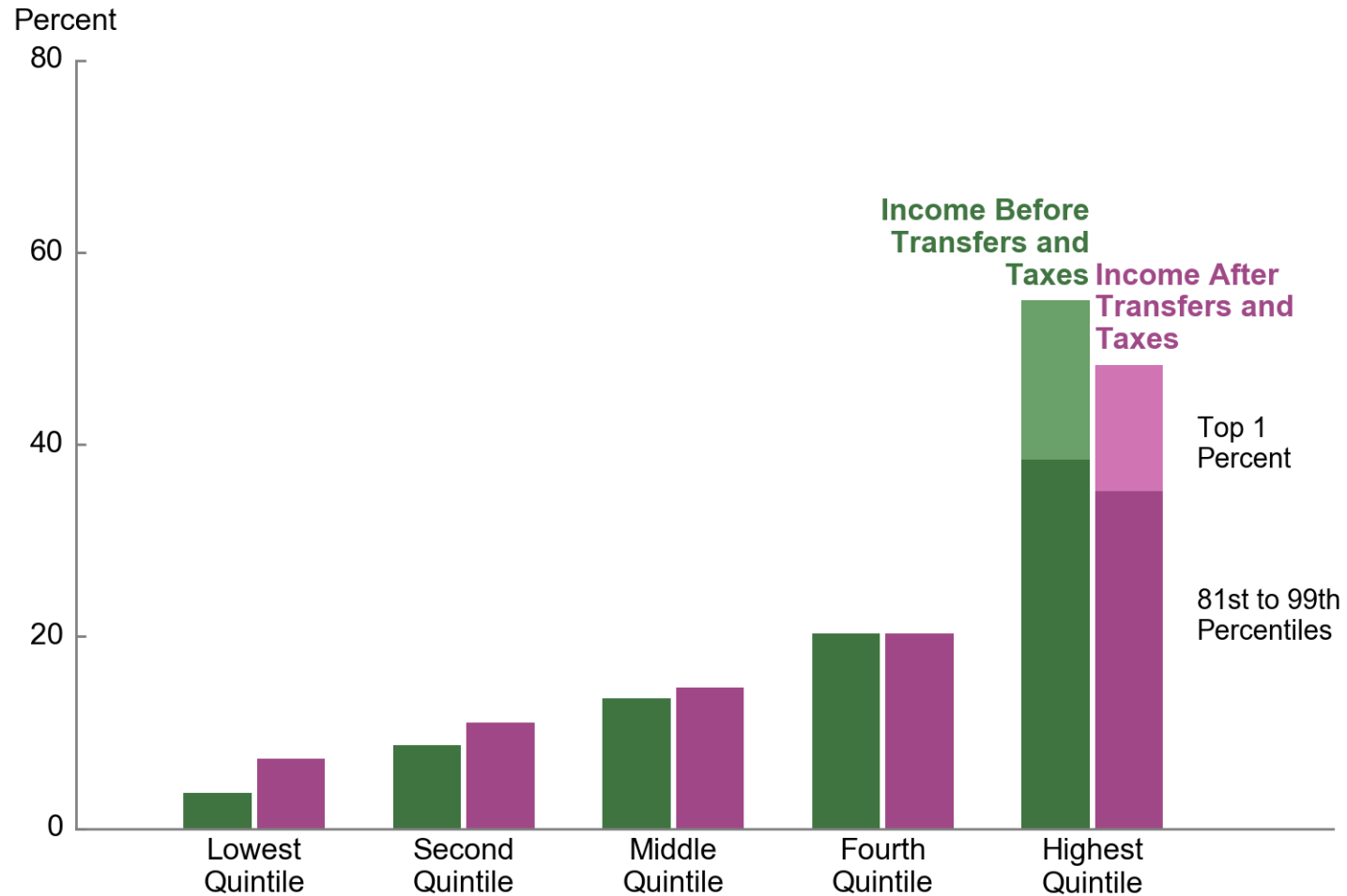
Source: Congressional Budget Office.

* = less than 0.5 percent.

Average Income After Means-Tested Transfers and Federal Taxes, by Income Group, 2015

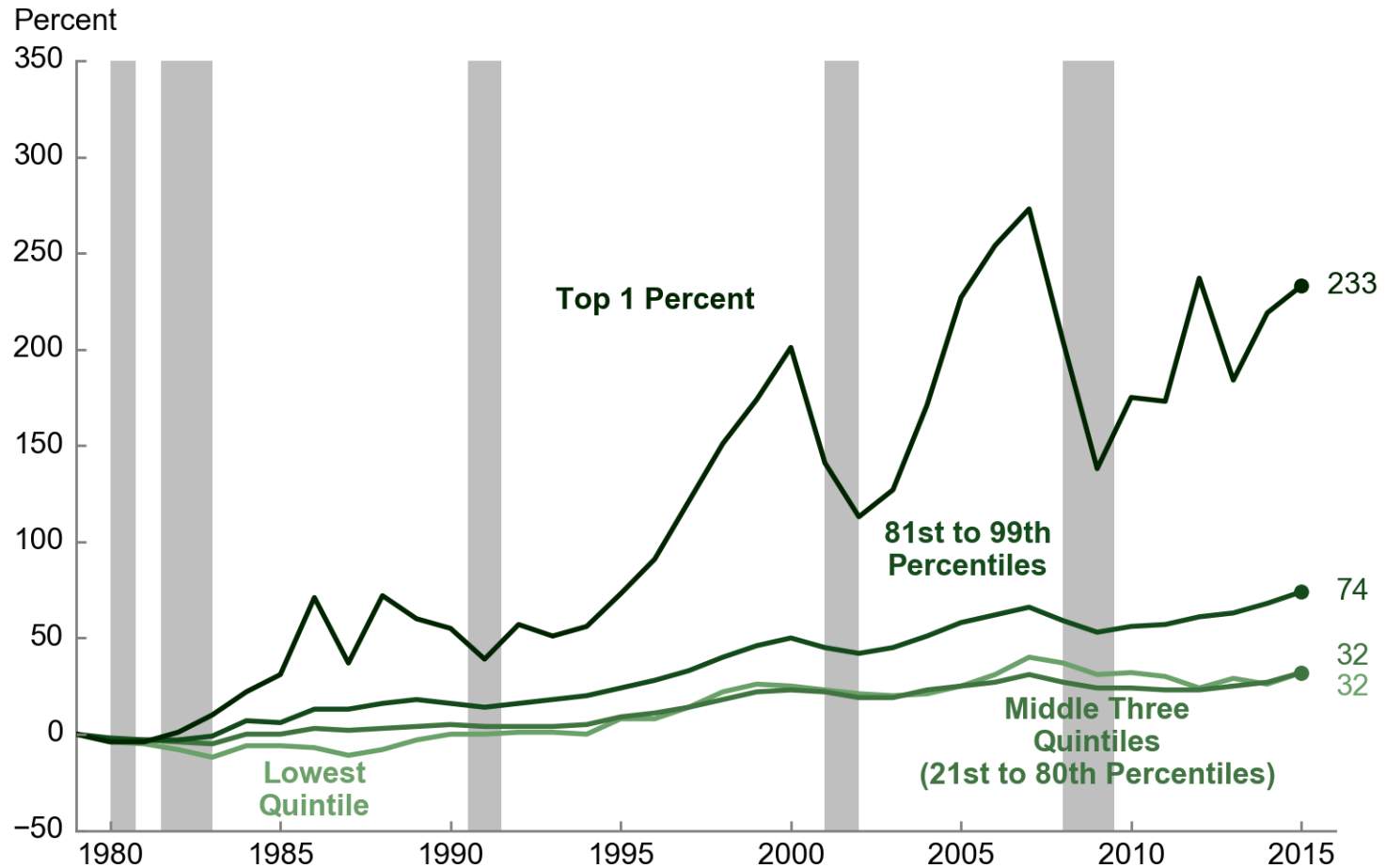


Shares of Income Before and After Transfers and Taxes, by Income Group, 2015

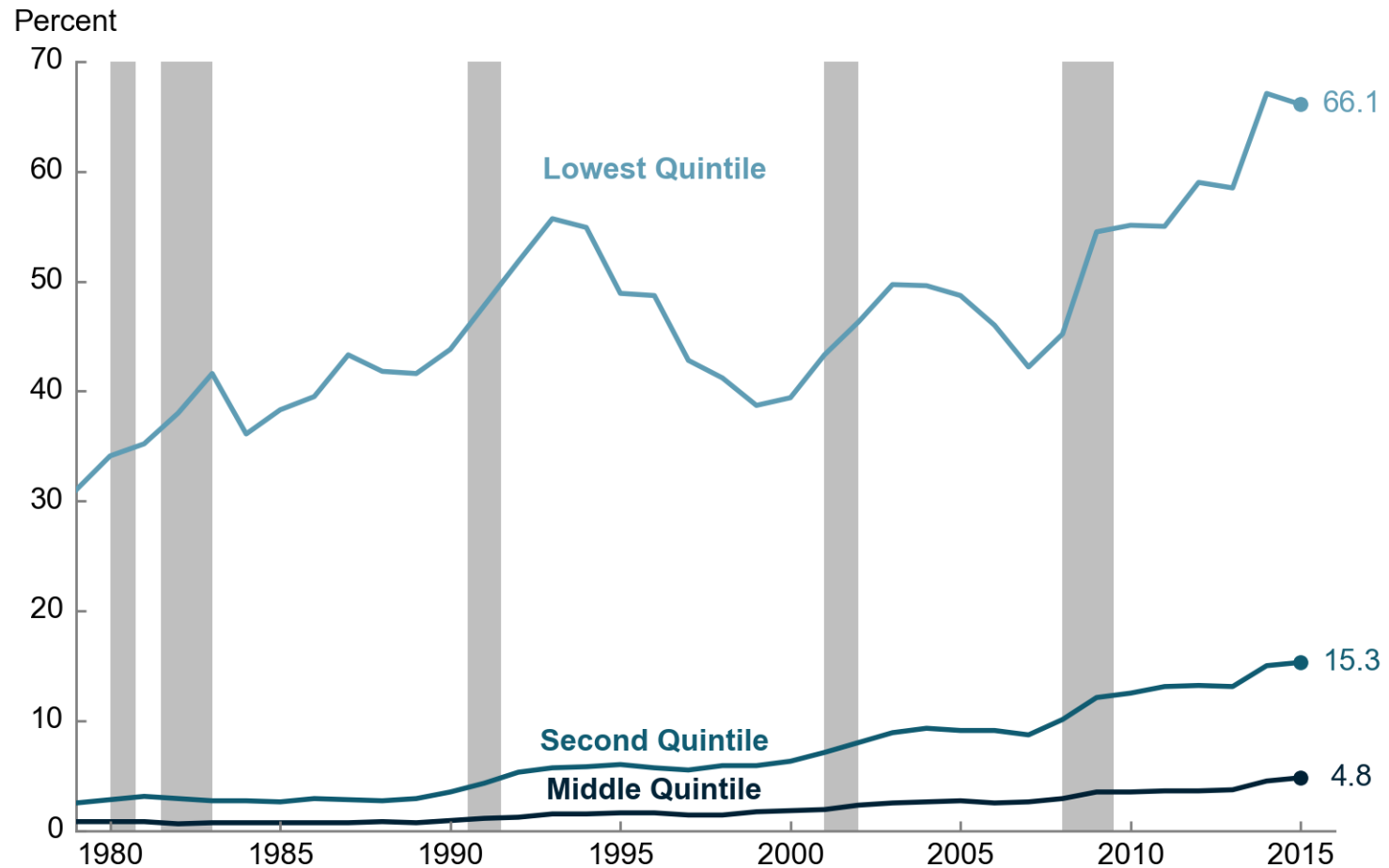


Trends, 1979 to 2015

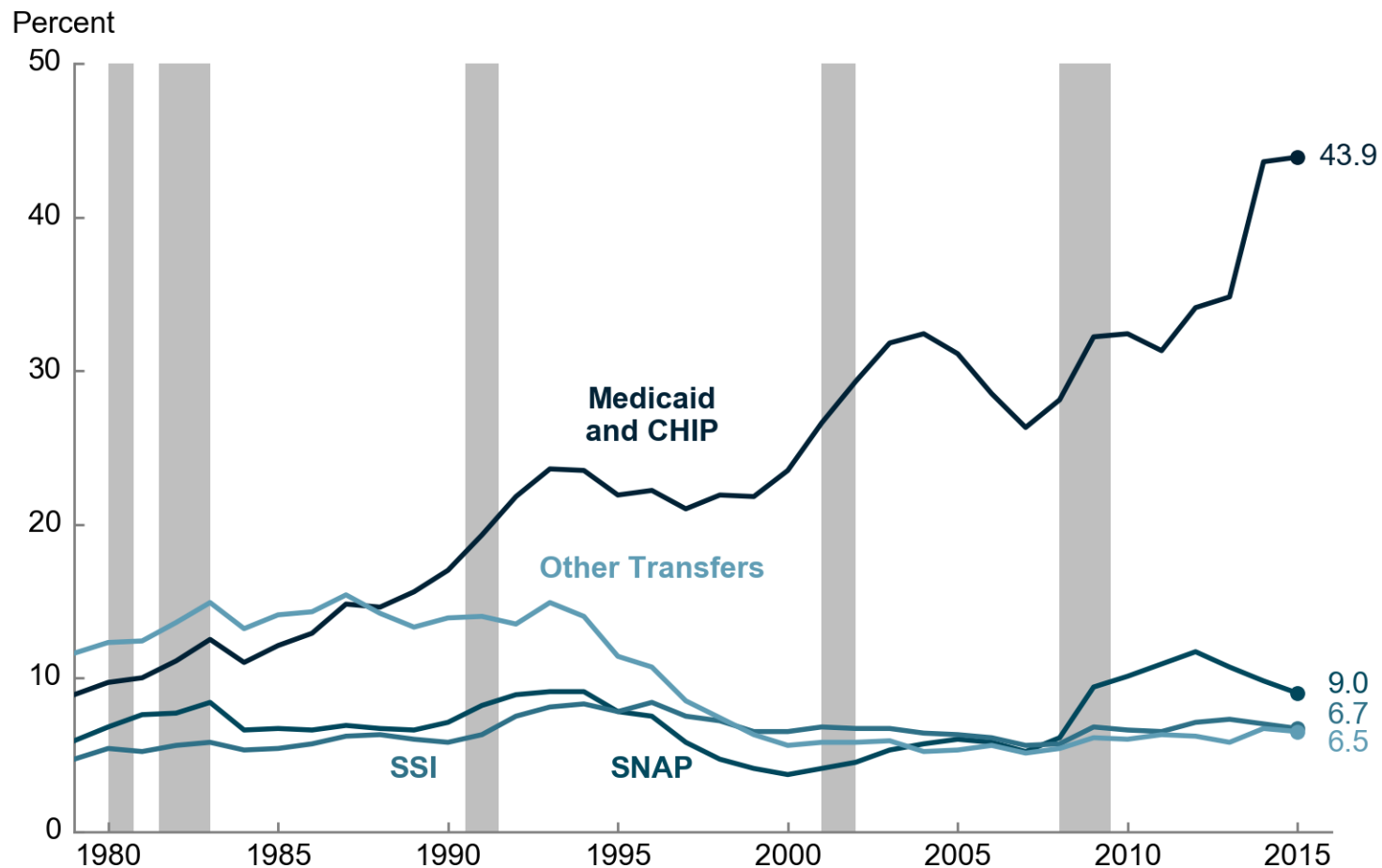
Cumulative Growth in Income Before Transfers and Taxes, by Income Group, 1979 to 2015



Average Means-Tested Transfer Rates, for Selected Income Groups, 1979 to 2015



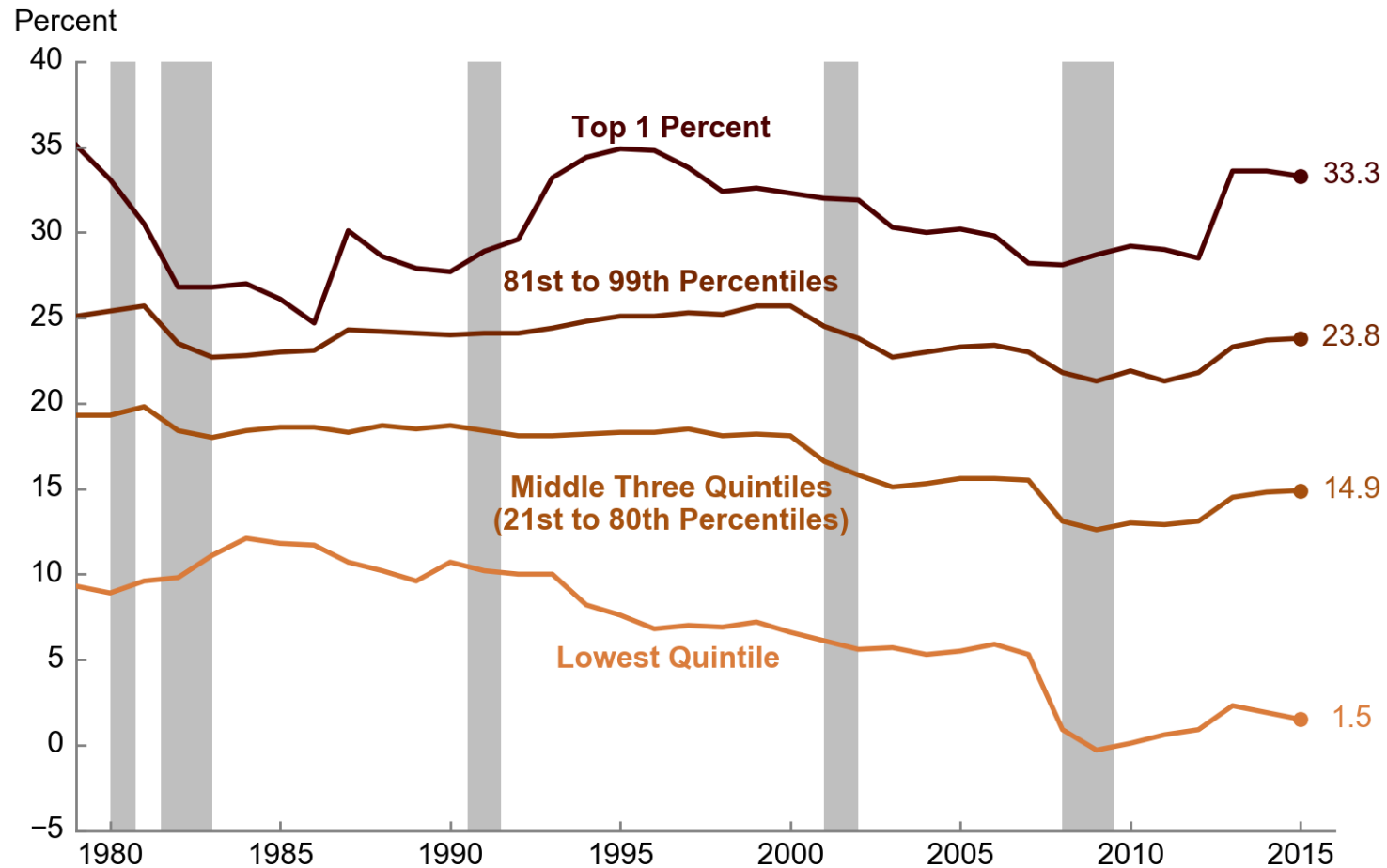
Means-Tested Transfer Rates, by Source, 1979 to 2015 (Households in Lowest Quintile)



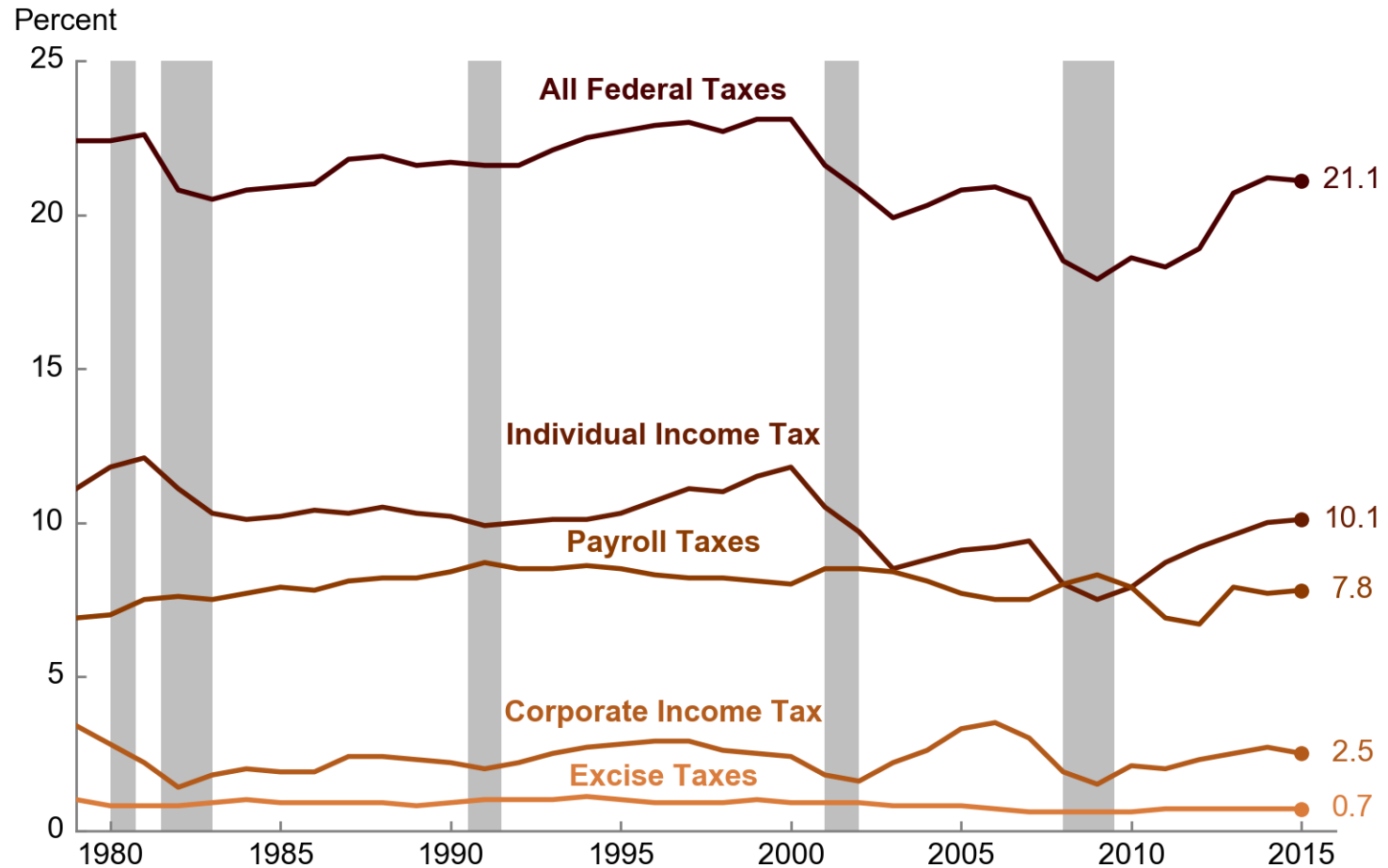
Source: Congressional Budget Office.

CHIP = Children's Health Insurance Program; SNAP = Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program; SSI = Supplemental Security Income.

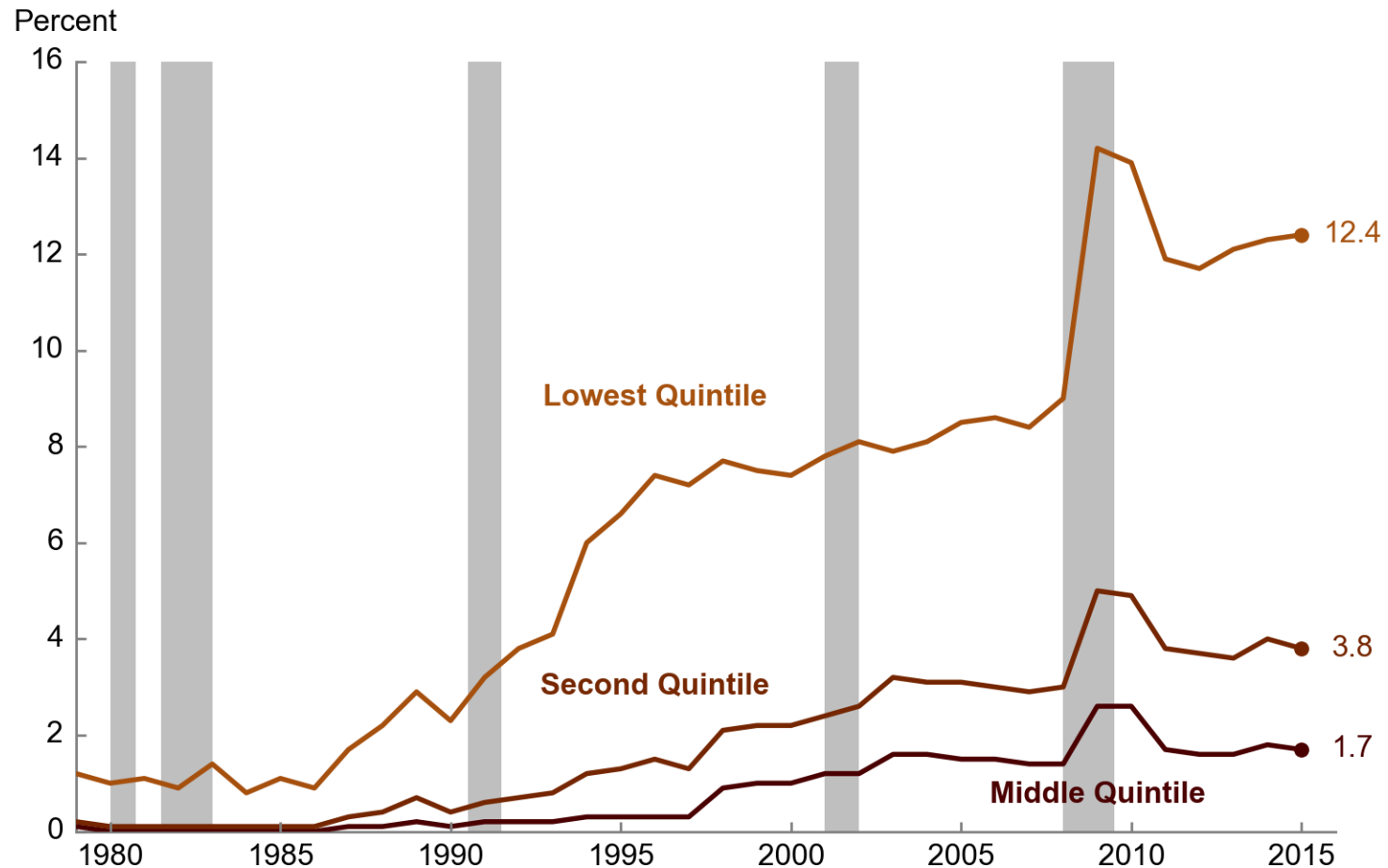
Average Federal Tax Rates, by Income Group, 1979 to 2015



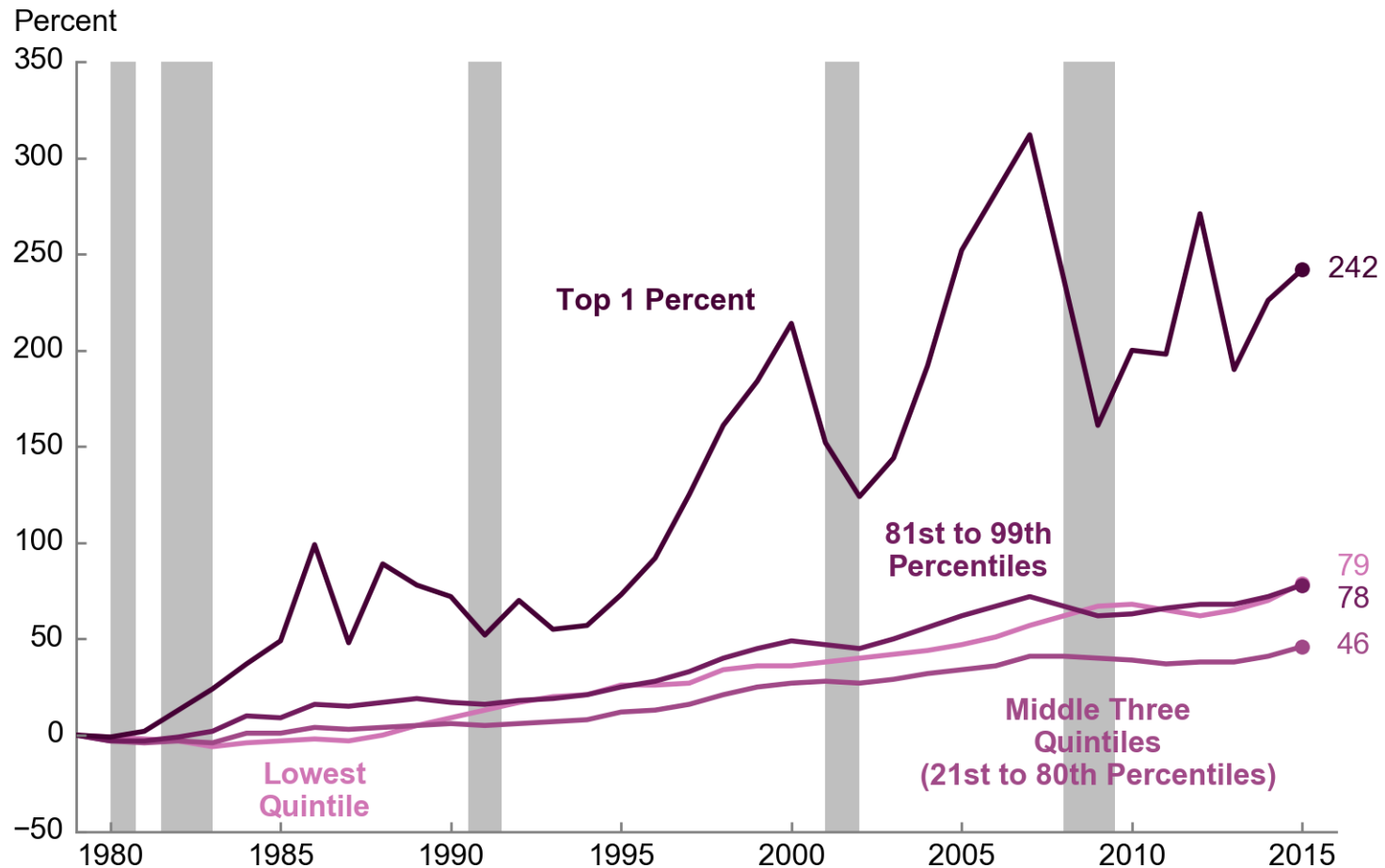
Average Federal Tax Rates, by Source, 1979 to 2015



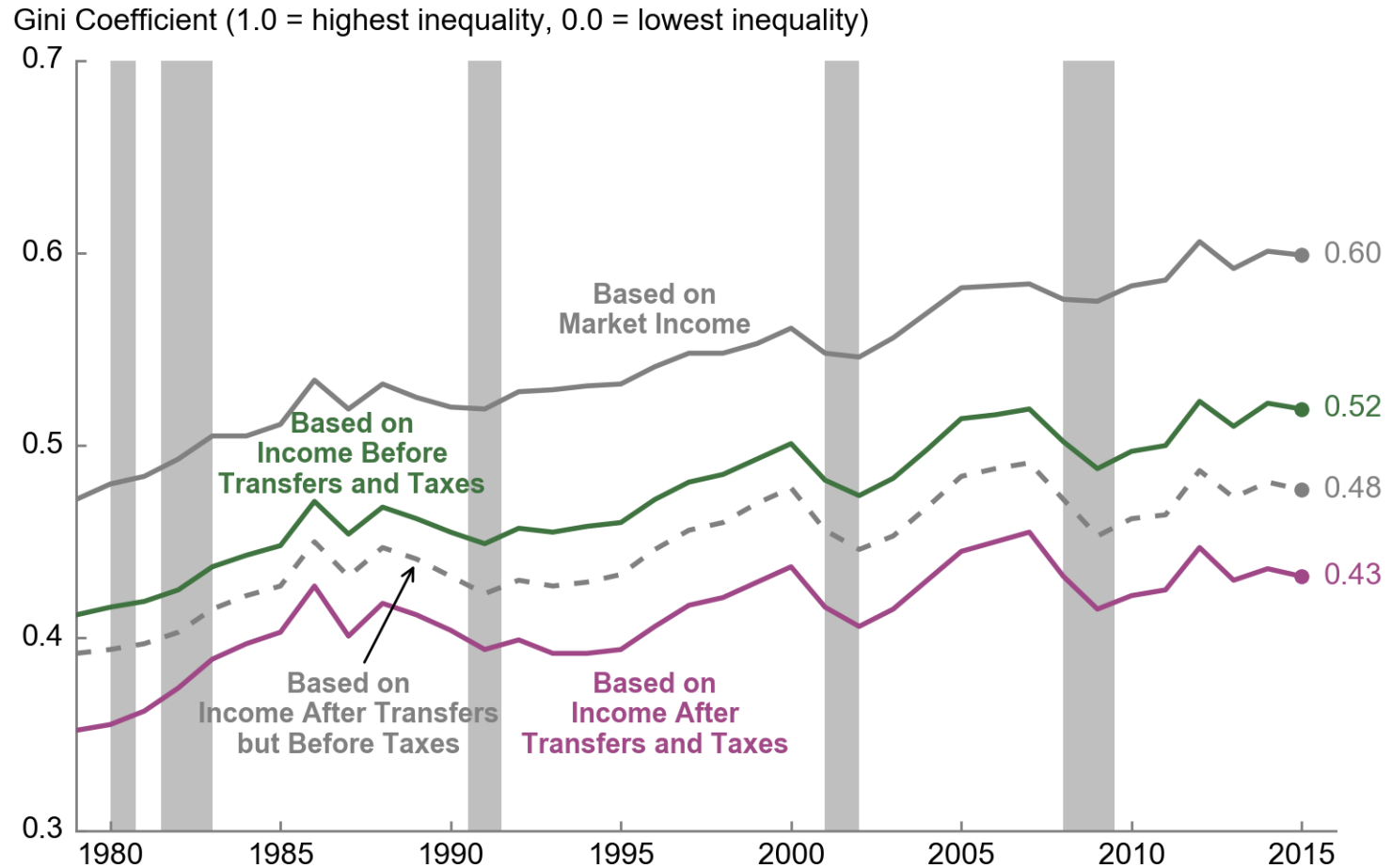
Average Refundable Tax Credit Rates, for Selected Income Groups, 1979 to 2015



Cumulative Growth in Income After Transfers and Taxes, by Income Group, 1979 to 2015



Gini Coefficients, 1979 to 2015



Additional Information

CBO has posted three data files with this document:

- [Data Underlying Figures](#)—an Excel file containing the data used to make each figure in this document
- [Supplemental Data](#)—an Excel file containing 12 additional tables of data related to the distribution of household income
- [Additional Data for Researchers](#)—a zipped archive of comma-separated values (CSV) files containing the supplemental data with household rankings based on alternative income definitions and with each ranking disaggregated by household type

For more information about CBO's methods and definitions of income, see its March 2018 report *The Distribution of Household Income, 2014* (www.cbo.gov/publication/53597).

About This Document

Unless this document indicates otherwise, all years referred to are calendar years.

Some of the figures have shaded vertical bars that indicate the duration of recessions. (A recession extends from the peak of a business cycle to its trough.)

Kevin Perese of CBO's Tax Analysis Division prepared this document with guidance from Edward Harris and John McClelland. Jeffrey Kling reviewed the document.