

# SIPP Core and Topical Modules Organization and Issues

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Session 4: Designs that effectively mix global and detail information to reduce burden and measurement error.

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Committee on National Statistics

Household Survey Producers Workshop

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# Current SIPP Basics

National panel survey – Since 1984 with sample size between about 11,000 and 45,000 interviewed households

The duration of each panel varies from 2½ yrs to 4 yrs

The SIPP sample is a multistage-stratified sample of the U.S. civilian noninstitutionalized population

The current production survey uses a 4-month recall period  
– 3 interviews / year

The sample is divided into 4 rotation groups for monthly interviewing

Interviews are conducted by personal visit and by decentralized telephone

## SIPP USERS' GUIDE SAMPLE DESIGN AND INTERVIEW PROCEDURES

**Table 2-1. Summary of the 1984 - 2008 SIPP Panels**

Panel <sup>a</sup>	Date of First Interview	Date of Last Interview	Number of Wave 1 Eligible Households	Number of Waves	Short Waves <sup>b</sup>
1984	Oct. 83	Jul. 86	20,897	9	2.8
1985	Feb. 85	Aug. 87	14,306	8	2
1986	Feb. 86	Apr. 88	12,425	7	3
1987	Feb. 87	May 89	12,527	7	-
1988	Feb. 88	Jan. 90	12,725	6	
1989	Feb. 89	Jan. 90	12,867	3	
1990	Feb. 90	Sep. 92	19,800	8	
1991	Feb. 91	Sep. 93	15,626	8	
1992	Feb. 92	May 95	21,577	10	-
1993	Feb. 93	Jan. 96	21,823	9	
1996	April 96	Mar. 00	40,188	12	
2001	Feb. 01	Jan. 04	50,500	9	
2004	Feb. 04	Jan. 08	51,379	12	
2008	Sept. 08	Dec. 12	52,031	13	

<sup>a</sup> No new panels in 1994 and 1995.

<sup>b</sup> Short waves contained three rotations instead of the standard four.

Source: SIPP Quality Profile, 3rd Ed. (U.S. Census Bureau, 1998a).

# SIPP Core Content

- Coverage
  - Demographics
- } Household Level – Rostering and demographics.
- Labor Force 1
  - General Income 1
  - Assets 1
- } Receipt incidence for each topic – (collects monthly data)
- Labor Force 2
  - General Income 2
  - Assets 2
- } Amounts received for each topic observed – (collects monthly data)
- Health Insurance
  - Education
  - Programs
- } Additional ‘core’ items asked each wave  
- (collects monthly data for Health Insurance and Education)  
- these programs are household level school meal receipt – person level monthly programs are collected in general income.

# Topical Modules for the 1984 Panel

WAVE	TIME PERIOD	TOPICAL MODULES
1	Oct 83 - Jan 84	No Topical Modules
2	Feb 84 - Apr 84	No Topical Modules
3	May 84 - Aug 84	Education and Work History Health and Disability
4	Sep 84 - Dec 84	<a href="#">Assets and Liabilities</a> Retirement and <a href="#">Pension Plan Coverage</a> Housing Costs, Conditions and Energy Usage
5	Jan 85 - Apr 85	Child Care Welfare History and Child Support Reasons for Not Working/Reservation Wage <a href="#">Support for Nonhousehold Members/Work Related Expenses</a>
6	May 85 - Aug 85	Earnings and Benefits Property Income and <a href="#">Taxes</a> Education and Training
7	Sep 85 - Dec 85	<a href="#">Assets and Liabilities</a> <a href="#">Pension Plan Coverage</a> Real Estate Property and Vehicles
8	Jan 86 - Mar 86	<a href="#">Support for Nonhousehold Members/Work Related Expenses</a> Marital History Migration History Fertility History Household Relationships
9	Apr 86 - Jul 86	Annual Income and Retirement Accounts <a href="#">Taxes</a> School Enrollment and Financing

# Topical Modules for the 2004 Panel

WAVE	TIME PERIOD	TOPICAL MODULES	WAVE	TIME PERIOD	TOPICAL MODULES		
1	Feb 04 - May 04	Reciprocity History Employment History	5	Jun 05 - Sept 05	Adult Well-being School Enrollment and Financing Child Support Agreements Support for Non-household Members Functional Limitations/Disability - Adults Functional Limitations/Disability - Children Employer-Provided Health Benefits		
2	Jun 04 - Sept 04	Work Disability History Education and Training History Marital History Migration History Fertility History Household Relationships					
3	Oct 04 - Jan 05	<u>Assets and Liabilities</u> <u>Real Estate, Dependent Care, and Vehicles</u> <u>Int Accts, Stocks, Mortg, Val of Bus, Rental,</u> <u>Other</u> <u>Medical Expenses/Utilization of Health Care –</u> <u>Adults &amp; Children</u> <u>Work-related Expenses/Child Support Paid</u> <u>Child Well-Being</u>			6	Oct 05 - Jan 06	<u>Assets and Liabilities</u> <u>Real Estate, Dependent Care, and Vehicles</u> <u>Int Accts, Stocks, Mortg, Val of Bus, Rental,</u> <u>Other</u> <u>Medical Expenses/Utilization of Health Care –</u> <u>Adults &amp; Children</u> <u>Work-related Expenses/Child Support Paid</u>
		<u>Annual Income and Retirement Accounts</u> <u>Taxes</u> <u>Work Schedule</u> <u>Child Care</u>					7
4	Feb 05 - May 05	<u>Annual Income and Retirement Accounts</u> <u>Taxes</u> <u>Work Schedule</u> <u>Child Care</u>	8	Jun 06 - Sept 06	Welfare Reform <u>Child Care</u> <u>Child Well-being</u>		
			9-12	Oct 06 - Jan 08	None		

Table 2-2. 2008 Panel: Rotation Groups, Waves (W), Reference Months, and Interview Months

	<u>Rotation Group 1</u>		<u>Rotation Group 2</u>		<u>Rotation Group 3</u>		<u>Rotation Group 4</u>				
	<u>Reference Month</u>	<u>Interview Month</u>	<u>Reference Month</u>	<u>Interview Month</u>	<u>Reference Month</u>	<u>Interview Month</u>	<u>Reference Month</u>	<u>Interview Month</u>			
2008 May	W1	1									
June	W1	2									
July	W1	3			W1	1					
Aug.	W1	4			W1	2	W1	1			
Sept.	W2	1	Wave 1 Intvw.	W1	4	W1	3	W1	2		
Oct.	W2	2		W2	1	Wave 1 Intvw.	W1	4	W1	3	
Nov.	W2	3		W2	2		W2	1	Wave 1 Intvw.	W1	4
Dec.	W2	4		W2	3		W2	2	W2	1	Wave 1 Intvw.
2009 Jan.	W3	1	Wave 2 Intvw.	W2	4	W2	3	W2	2		
Feb.	W3	2		W3	1	Wave 2 Intvw.	W2	4	W2	3	
Mar.	W3	3		W3	2		W3	1	Wave 2 Intvw.	W2	4
April	W3	4		W3	3		W3	2	W3	1	Wave 2 Intvw.
May	W4	1	Wave 3 Intvw.	W3	4	W3	3	W3	2		
June	W4	2		W4	1	Wave 3 Intvw.	W3	4	W3	3	
July	W4	3		W4	2		W4	1	Wave 3 Intvw.	W3	4
Aug.	W4	4		W4	3		W4	2	W4	1	Wave 3 Intvw.
Sept.	W5	1	Wave 4 Intvw.	W4	4	W4	3	W4	2		
Oct.	W5	2		W5	1	Wave 4 Intvw.	W4	4	W4	3	
Nov.	W5	3		W5	2		W5	1	Wave 4 Intvw.	W4	4
Dec.	W5	4		W5	3		W5	2	W5	1	Wave 4 Intvw.
2009 Jan.	W6	1	Wave 5 Intvw.	W5	4	W5	3	W5	2		
Feb.	W6	2		W6	1	Wave 5 Intvw.	W5	4	W5	3	
Mar.	W6	3		W6	2		W6	1	Wave 5 Intvw.	W5	4
April	W6	4		W6	3		W6	2	W6	1	Wave 5 Intvw.
May	W7	1	Wave 6 Intvw.	W6	4	W6	3	W6	2		
June	W7	2		W7	1	Wave 6 Intvw.	W6	4	W6	3	
July	W7	3		W7	2		W7	1	Wave 6 Intvw.	W6	4
Aug.	W7	4		W7	3		W7	2	W7	1	Wave 6 Intvw.

CONTINUES TO BEYOND WAVE 13 FOR 2008 SIPP

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Nov.	W2	3		W2	2		W2	1	Wave 1 Intvw.	W1	3
Dec.	W2	4		W2	3		W2	2	W2	4	Wave 1 Intvw.
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April	W3	4		W3	3		W3	2	W3	4	Wave 2 Intvw.
May	W4	1	Wave 3 Intvw.	W3	4		W3	3	W3	1	Wave 3 Intvw.
June	W4	2		W4	1	Wave 3 Intvw.	W3	4	W3	2	Wave 3 Intvw.
July	W4	3		W4	2		W4	1	Wave 3 Intvw.	W3	3
Aug.	W4	4		W4	3		W4	2	W4	4	Wave 3 Intvw.
Sept.	W5	1	Wave 4 Intvw.	W4	4		W4	3	W4	1	Wave 4 Intvw.
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Feb.	W6	2		W6	1	Wave 5 Intvw.	W5	4	W5	2	Wave 5 Intvw.
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June	W7	2		W7	1	Wave 6 Intvw.	W6	4	W6	2	Wave 6 Intvw.
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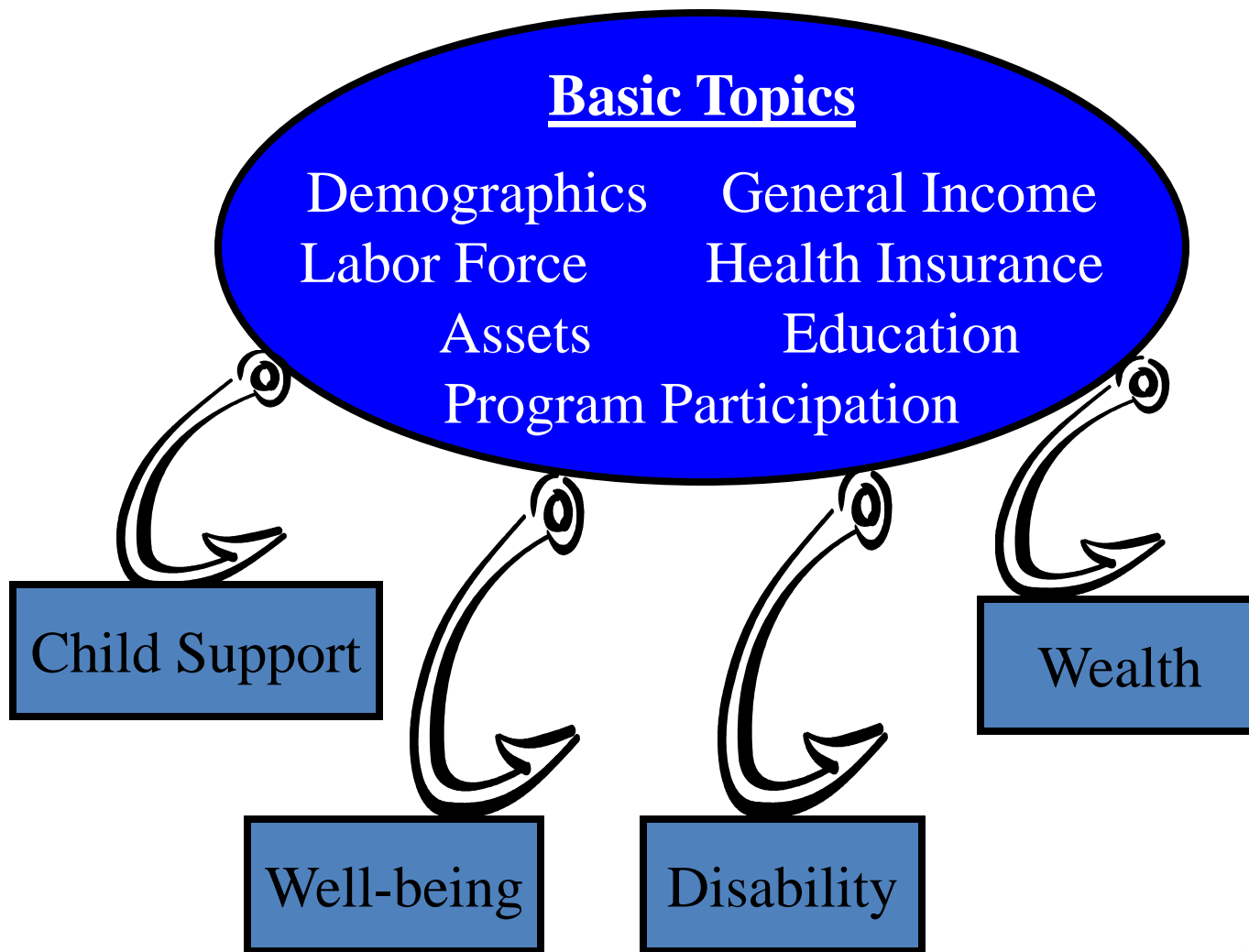
CONTINUES TO BEYOND WAVE 13 FOR 2008 SIPP



# Approach to Content for SIPP-EHC

- Content review and stakeholder involvement.
  - Started with most reduced form of ‘essential’ SIPP – public use longitudinal research file contents from 1990’s Paper SIPP
  - Held repeated stakeholder meetings after proposing that limited content.
  - Meetings added in some ‘critical’ content from almost all topical modules.
- Continued efforts to serve needs where specific ‘critical’ content is required for a limited user base.
  - Ability to field ‘inter-wave’ reimbursable supplements as stand-alone surveys administered to the full or a subset of SIPP respondents.
  - Social Security supplement on retirement and pensions needed for future use in their program models.
- Modeled data for systematically staggered content was not endorsed by SIPP stakeholders.

# New Survey: Basic versus supplemental products



# Re-engineered SIPP - Contents

## 2011 Re-engineered SIPP-EHC high-level instrument contents and flow

The roster, demographics are collected by the household respondent for the whole household.

The Type-2 items are answered by the household respondent for the people they live with all year, additionally the income screener is answered for a subset of those people meeting a relationship restriction, else these two sections are person level.

Person level interviewing begins with the Event History Calendar and continues to the wrap-up section. Each available household member 15 and over are interviewed in person and data are collected for each household member (by proxy for those under age 15). Respondents are subject to the universe restrictions of each section and item.

The last interviewed knowledgeable person age 15 and over responds to the final section of the interview.

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Address Verification

Sample address characteristics and coverage

Roster creation and demographics

Roster creation for Type 2  
(people who the sample members lived with during the year, but who don't live here now)

Income Screener for Programs

Landmark Events

Residence History

Marriage and Cohabitation

School Enrollment

Labor Force  
(Jobs, Businesses, Contingent Work, Unemployment, Not In Labor Force, Commuting, Work Schedule)

Programs  
(SSI,FS,TANF,GA,WIC)

Health Insurance  
(Private, Medicare, Medicaid, Military, Other, and Uninsured)

Fertility - Child Care  
Dependent Care

Social Insurance -  
Annual Programs - Other GI -  
Lump Sum - Child Support

Assets / Balances

Health (Medical Expenditures -  
Utilization, Disability)

Housing - Material Wellbeing, Food  
Security, Basic Needs,  
Child Well-Being

Wrap-up and Missing  
Follow-up visit/call Info

Interview Closeout -  
Respondent Debriefing Items -  
Interviewer Debriefing Items

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Interviewer Debriefing Items

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# Interview Time

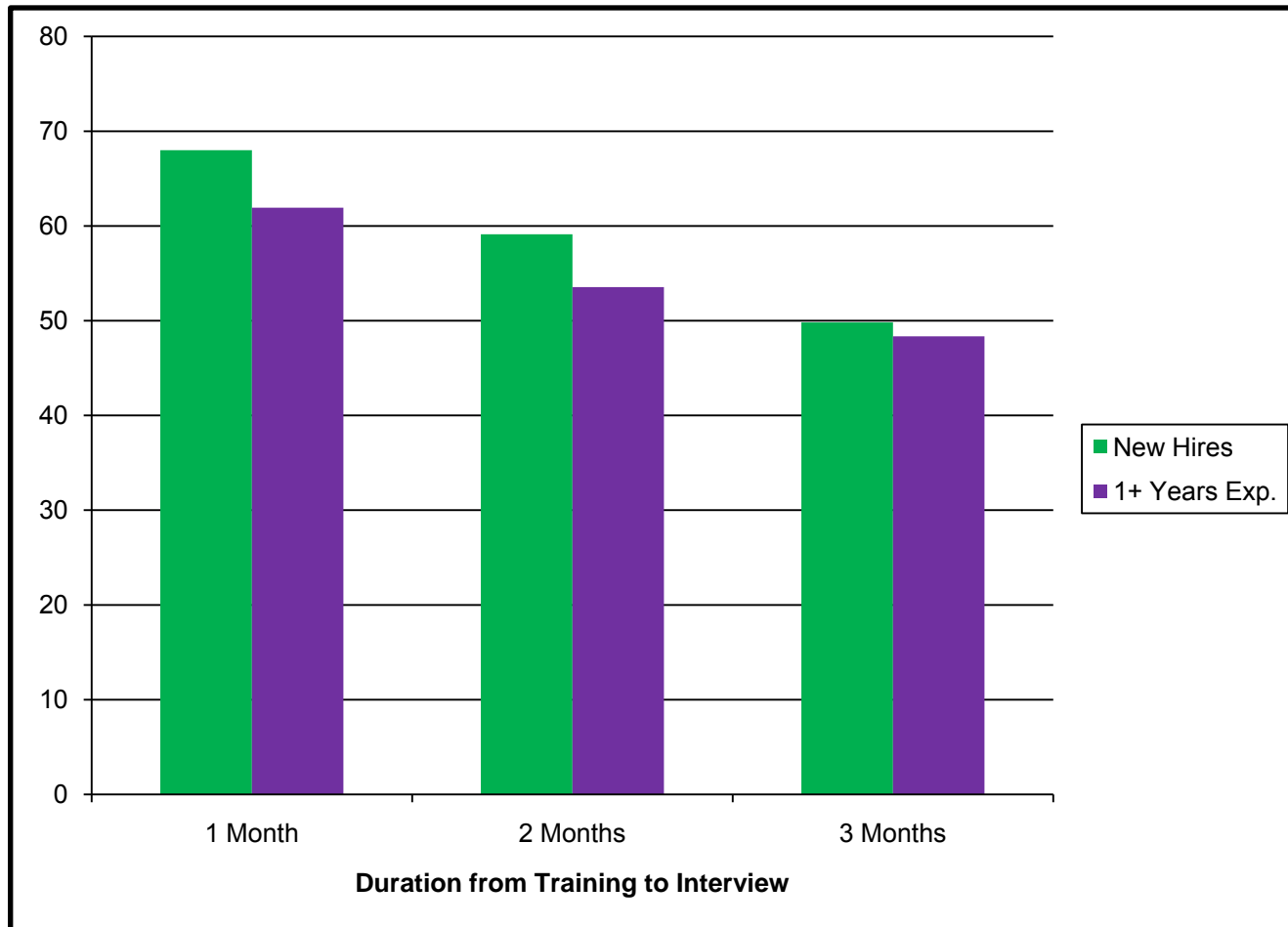
- 2004 SIPP Panel interview length varied by wave, but the mean Core time per adult ranges from 30 min or so to about 15 in later waves by use of dependent interviewing.
  - ‘Same as Last Time’ ...
- 2004 SIPP Topical Module content length also varied by wave from about 5 to about 20 min on average per adult.
- Total time stayed between 30 min and 1 hr per adult, depending on household characteristics.

# Interview Time

- 2010 SIPP-EHC Initial test indicated that interviews were about 45 min to 1 hr per adult.
- Efficiencies in questionnaire flow for 2011 SIPP-EHC expected to reduce average adult interview time by 10-15 minutes.
- 2012 SIPP-EHC will include (limited) dependent data, and is expected to further reduce burden.
- Research results further showed strong evidence of a learning curve for interviewers associated with reduced interview length later in interview period.

# Learning Curve by Level of Experience

2010 SIPP-EHC Field Test



Note: Interview period began in January 2010 and ended in March 2010

# Additional Instrument Design Efforts to Reduce Measurement Error

- Dependent Interviewing – potential to reduce burden, but also reduce measurement error if erroneous transitions are being reported in longitudinal data due to changing respondents or recall difficulty.
- Within household streamlining of reporting
  - Populating data across household members
  - Streamlining ‘who reports’
  - Topic versus person level reporting
- Calendar as a tool to both improve recall and increase concurrence.



# Assessing Users' Needs

U.S. Census Bureau

## Survey of Income and Program Participation

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(Formerly, DEWS)

URL: <http://www.census.gov/sipp/>

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