Current Population Survey (CPS)

General Description and Unique Aspects

Lisa Clement
Current Population Survey

• Purpose and Uses
  – Monthly Labor Force Data

  – Supplements
    • Tobacco Use Supplement
    • Annual Social and Economic Supplement (ASEC)
    • Other Supplements
Current Population Survey

• Basic CPS Labor Force Information
  – Unemployment Rate
  – Hours Worked/Absent
  – Reasons for Absence
  – Full-Time/Part-Time
  – Industry and Occupation
  – Job Search Methods
  – Usual Weekly Earnings
  – Union Membership
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• Features of the Tobacco Use Supplement
  – Smoking Status
  – Level of Addiction
  – Monetary Costs of Smoking
  – Changes in Smoking Norms and Attitudes
  – Medical and Dental Advice to Quit Smoking
  – Quitting Attempts
  – Work Place Smoking Policies
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• **Annual Social and Economic Survey (ASEC)**
  Produces annual statistics and data on:

  – Income, including poverty figures
  – Health Insurance
  – Noncash Benefits (such as food stamps)
  – Work Experience
  – Migration
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Annual Social and Economic Survey (ASEC)

Data are used by government and private analysts to:

- Chart effectiveness of government assistance programs
- Gauge the economic well-being of the nation
- Develop marketing strategies for business and entrepreneurs
- Provide a basis for monitoring changes in demographic patterns
- Determine trends in migration patterns for planning schools, transportation systems, and other civil services
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• Upcoming Supplements in 2010
  – January Displaced Workers
  – February, March and April ASEC
  – April Child Support
  – May and August Tobacco Use
  – June Fertility
  – July Veterans
  – September Volunteers
  – October School Enrollment
  – November Voting and Registration
  – December Food Security
Current Population Survey

• Sample Design
  – Rotation Pattern
  – Sample Sources
  – State Based Sample
  – PSU Creation and Selection
  – 72,000 selected housing units/month
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• Rotation Pattern
  – 4-8-4 Pattern
    • In sample for 4 consecutive months this year
    • Off 8 months
    • In for the same 4 months next year
  – 75 percent month-to-month overlap
  – 50 percent year-to-year overlap
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• Sample Sources
  – Address Lists
  – Area Listing Operation
  – New Construction (Building Permits)
  – Group Quarters
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• State Based Sample Design
  – 53 Separate Samples
    • 48 States
    • District of Columbia
    • New York
      – New York City
      – Balance of State
    • California
      – Los Angeles County
      – Balance of State
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• PSU (Primary Sampling Units) Creation and Selection
  – Adjacent Counties Grouped Together to form PSUs
    • Metropolitan Areas formed into Single PSUs
    • Rural Areas Grouped as appropriate
  – Selection Criteria-Stratification
    • With Certainty—Self Representing—only one PSU within the stratum
    • Selection proportional to population—multiple PSUs per stratum—Non-Self Representing
    • Only one PSU selected per stratum
Current Population Survey

• Field Structure

Headquarters
  • 12 Regional Offices
    – Supervisory Field Representatives
    – Field Representatives (FRs)
  • 3 CATI Centers
    – CATI Interviewers
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- FR/Interviewer Initial Training
  - 2 days of home study
  - 4 day classroom training
  - CATI
    - Monitoring
  - CAPI
    - First month observation
    - Second month observation
    - Fourth - Sixth month observation
Current Population Survey

• Ongoing Quality Control and Training
  – Monthly home studies
  – Monthly feedback on household nonresponse
  – Annual classroom refresher training
  – CATI
    • Regular Monitoring
  – CAPI
    • Annual observation
    • Special needs observation
    • Reinterview
Current Population Survey

• Monthly Data Collection
  – First Month - Personal Visit
  – Months 2-4 - Telephone or Personal
  – Fifth Month - Attempt One Personal Visit First, Telephone Calls permissible after that
  – Months 6-8 - Telephone or Personal
  – Overall - 67 percent collected by telephone
  – Months 2-4 and 6-8 - 85 percent telephone
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- Monthly Data Collection
  - Demographics - only in Month 1 or replacement households, updates in other months
  - Most labor force data collected each month, though some is dependently captured
    - Industry and Occupation
    - Retired/Disabled Status
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- Demographic Data
  - Personal Characteristics
    • Age, Race, Sex, Origin, Educational Attainment, etc.
  - Family and Household Formation Data
    • Addition of mom and dad line number pointers
    • Addition of cohabitation question and pointers
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- Demographic Data Captured for:
  - Adults (15+)
  - Children (0-14)
  - Armed Forces Members who are usual household members
  - Data for college students usually collected at their parents’ home
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• Industry and Occupation Data
  – Initial Collection - Months 1 and 5
  – Dependent Collection - Months 2-4, 6-8 if possible
  – Coding Procedures
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• Disability Questions
  – Added June 2008
  – Collected for household members 15+
  – Data on Public Use File starting in January 2009
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• Data Processing
  – Edits
  – Weighting
  – Public Use File
Current Population Survey

• Edit Types
  – Consistency Edits
  – Longitudinal Edits
  – “Hot Deck” Edits
Current Population Survey

• Edit Modules
  – Household
  – Demographics
  – Labor Force
  – Disability
  – Industry and Occupation
  – School Enrollment
  – Earnings
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• Weighting Steps
  – Base Weights
  – Noninterview Adjustment
  – First Stage
  – Second Stage
  – Compositing
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- Second Stage Weighting
  - Source and Use of Controls
  - Raking Procedures
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- Geography Available on Public Use Files
  - State for all Records
  - Metro/nonmetro status - 99 percent of records
  - Specific metro identifiers - 85 percent of metro areas
  - Central city/balance – 80 percent of metro areas
  - About 225 counties can be identified
Current Population Survey

• Tobacco Use Supplement Processing
  – Editing Procedures
    • Consistency Edits
  – Weighting
    • Self Response
    • Nonresponse
    • Replicate
  – Sponsor Review
Current Population Survey

- American Time Use Survey
  - Select sample from retired CPS
  - Two month lag
  - One 15+ person selected from each sample unit
  - Approx. 1,000-1,200 respondents interviewed each month
  - Data collected at Census Telephone Centers
  - Can be matched to CPS
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• American Time Use Survey
  – Updates labor force, I&O and earnings
  – Respondents complete a diary of activities for a 24 hour period
  – Collects detailed data on specific activities
  – Recent module on Eating and Drinking
  – Upcoming module on Well Being
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