

SUPPORTING STATEMENT

U.S. Department of Commerce
U.S. Census Bureau
Annual Social and Economic Supplement
to the Current Population Survey
OMB Control Number xxxx-xxxx

Part B - Collections of Information Employing Statistical Methods

Question 1. Universe and Respondent Selection

As discussed in Part A, Question 2 of the Supporting Statement, the main objectives of this information collection are to (1) produce comparisons between the 2015 Production ASEC and 2015 Parallel ASEC, and (2) have an estimate of the level of change in the uninsured rate from 2013 to 2014 based on the traditional ASEC design..

The sample selected for this collection is represented by a mix of continuing and outgoing sample. Continuing sample are those addresses from the 2000 sample design that continue to be in sample. Outgoing sample are those addresses that are being phased out of sample. For this collection, approximately 21,000 addresses are from continuing sample, and 7,000 are from the outgoing sample. The goal for this collection is to gain a response rate of 80 percent.

With respect to sample size, the Census Bureau determined that 28,000 addresses would be sufficient to produce the required health insurance estimates at the national level, and with a confidence interval of (+/-) 3.0 % or 0.3 percent.

Power analysis was performed by staff at ASPE and the Council of Economic Advisors and was confirmed by Census. The analysis showed that this sample size would provide both a sufficient sample to detect differences between the Parallel ASEC and the production ASEC; this is critical for assessing any break in trend. See the power analysis prepared jointly by ASPE and the Council of Economic Advisors (Attachment J) and the memo on sample size and power from the Census Bureau (Attachment K).

Question 2. Procedures for Collecting Information

All interviews will be conducted by either personal visit or telephone interviewers, by Census Bureau field representatives using laptop computers, or from one of three telephone centers using desktop computers. Attachment B gives an overview of the CPS sample, design, weighting methodology, and response rates.

Responses to the data collection will be edited for consistency and imputed for missing data using statistically scientific methods. Person, family, and household data will be processed through a weighting procedure to represent the civilian noninstitutional and armed forces members living in households with civilian adults. The weighting procedure for this collection begins with a base weight taking into consideration the geographic location, followed by adjustments for noninterviews, and an adjustment to balance the number of sample hits in each month-in-sample grouping. Then there are two rounds of ratio adjustments, which include national and state coverage steps and a raking procedure.

Question 3. Methods to Maximize Response

All interviewers working on this data collection have experience in working on the CPS and thus will have some familiarity with and skills at persuading respondents to participate in the survey. In addition to this general experience, interviewers will be trained in the content and purpose of the CPS Parallel ASEC, and they will be given a set of responses to address common objections from respondents. Specially-trained refusal conversion specialists are also assigned to aid in gaining responses.

Some amount of allocation for item nonresponse is done within the ASEC supplement for eligible people. Item nonresponse rates range from less than 2 percent for the work experience items to more than 15 percent for some of the income items, such as interest and dividends. For households, the basic CPS household-level nonresponse rate averages 11.5 percent. The household-level nonresponse rate for the ASEC averages an additional 10.0 percent. These two non-response rates lead to a combined supplement nonresponse rate of approximately 20.0 percent.

Question 4. Tests of Procedures or Methods

In recent years, the CPS completed a series of methodological and questionnaire tests; these are described in item 6 of Attachment B.

Question 5. Contacts for Statistical Aspects and Data Collection

The following individuals may be contacted on the statistical, data collection, and analysis operations:

Statistical Collection Operations:

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List of Attachments:

A - ASEC Questionnaire

B - Overview of CPS Sample Design and Methodology

C - Source and Accuracy Statement

D - CPS-263(MIS-1)(L), CPS Respondent Letter

E - Confidentiality Brochure

F - CPS-580(ASEC)(L), ASEC Respondent Letter

G - CPS-580(L)SP, ASEC Respondent Letter in Spanish

H - CPS-676, "Changing Situation" Pamphlet

I - CPS-676(SP), "Changing Situation" Pamphlet in Spanish

J - ASPE sample size calculations

K - Census calculations on power