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Supporting Statement-Part A

2021 Identity Theft Supplement

Overview

The Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) requests clearance to conduct the 2021 Identity Theft Supplement (ITS) as a supplement to the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) to collect information about identity theft. The NCVS and all related contacts and protocols have been previously approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) (OMB No: 1121-0111) and this request is specifically for a supplemental data collection instrument that will be added to the approved NCVS core from July 2021 through December 2021. The last ITS was administered from January 2018 through June 2018. It was approved under OMB Control No. 1121-0317, which expired October 31, 2018. The ITS is the only national data collection that provides reliable person-level information on identity theft. Data are collected from persons age 16 or older who complete an NCVS interview. Typically, the ITS is given every two years. However, the ITS was delayed to allow research to be conducted to revise the questionnaire amid methodological concerns. This is a request to continue the conduct the ITS with significant changes to the questionnaire that will cause a break in series from data collected in previous waves (Attachment 1).

A. Justification

1. Necessity of the Information Collection

Identity theft has affected a significant portion of persons in the United States with an estimated 23 million persons or about 9% of persons age 16 or older reporting being victims of the crime in 2018.^a The Identity Theft Supplement (ITS) to the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) is essential to measure identity theft and better understand the resources needed to address the problem. There is no other reliable, person-level source of national data on identity theft victimization. The ITS is administered to a nationally representative sample of U.S. residents and collects data that can be used to measure the prevalence of identity theft among persons, the characteristics of identity theft victims, and patterns of reporting to the police, credit bureaus, and other authorities. The ITS also gathers important information on the characteristics of identity theft such as how the victim's personal information was obtained; the physical, emotional, and financial impact on victims; offender information; and the measures people take to avoid or minimize their risk of becoming an identity theft victim. This data collection fits within BJS's mission to collect, analyze, publish, and disseminate information on victims of crime.^b

The impact of identity theft on victims is significant. In 2018, 70% of victims reported a financial loss of at least \$1 or more. According to the 16.3 million persons age 16 or older who

^a Harrell, E (2021). *Victims of Identity Theft, 2018*.

^b <https://www.bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=abu>

experienced one or more incidents of identity theft with known losses of \$1 or more, total financial losses across all incidents of identity theft totaled \$15.1 billion in 2018.

We are requesting a two-year clearance from OMB that will cover the 2021 ITS data collection. The ITS will be conducted from July 1, 2021, through December 31, 2021. During this 6-month period, the supplement will be administered to all NCVS respondents age 16 or older, following the completion of the NCVS screener and the NCVS crime incident report (if applicable NCVS crimes were reported).

BJS is authorized to collect statistics on the operations of the criminal justice system under Title 34, United States Code, Section 10132 of the Justice Systems Improvement Act of 1979 (Attachment 2).

2. Needs and Uses

Uses of ITS data

The ITS data allow BJS to measure a number of issues, including the prevalence of identity theft among persons age 16 or older; the types of identity theft experienced by victims; demographics of identity theft victims; physical, emotional, and financial effects of identity theft on victims; and the participation in behaviors aimed at preventing identity theft. Estimates that will be available from the 2021 ITS include the following:

- Rate/percent of persons 16 or older who experienced one or more types of identity theft during the past year
- Rate/percent of credit card holders 16 or older who experienced misuse of existing credit card
- Rate/percent of bank account holders 16 or older who experienced misuse of existing checking or savings account
- Rate/percent of persons 16 or older who experienced misuse of an existing credit card
- Rate/percent of persons 16 or older who experienced misuse of an existing banking account
- Rate/percent of persons 16 or older who experienced misuse of an existing email account
- Rate/percent of persons 16 or older who experienced misuse of an existing social media account
- Rate/percent of persons 16 or older who experienced misuse of another existing account
- Rate/percent of persons 16 or older who experienced misuse of personal information to open a new account
- Rate/percent of persons 16 or older who experienced misuse of personal information for another fraudulent purpose
- Rate/percent of persons 16 or older who experienced multiple types of identity theft
- Percent of persons 16 or older who experienced multiple incidents of identity theft during the past year
- Percent of id theft victimizations that involved existing account misuse
- Percent of id theft victimizations that involved use of personal information to open a new account

- Percent of id theft victimizations that involved use of personal information for other fraudulent purposes.
- Demographic characteristics of persons 16 or older who experienced one or more types of id theft during the past year
- Financial loss (direct and indirect) attributed to all incidents of id theft experienced by victims 16 or older during the past year
- Type of id theft experienced during most recent incident
- How the most recent incident of id theft was discovered, by type of id theft
- How long the misuse occurred during the most recent id theft incident, by type of id theft
- How the victim's personal information was obtained during the most recent incident of id theft, by type of theft
- Percent of most recent id theft incidents reported to police, by type of id theft
- Reasons for not reporting to the police among those who did not report, by type of id theft
- Percent of most recent id theft incidents reported to credit bureau, by type of id theft
- Time spent resolving most recent id theft incident, by type of id theft
- Financial loss (direct and indirect) attributed to most recent id theft incident, by type of theft
- Emotional distress experienced as result of most recent id theft incident, by type of id theft
- Percent of respondents who have taken various actions to prevent personal information from being obtained in response to an experience with identity theft
- Percent of respondents who have taken various actions to prevent personal information from being obtained as a preventative measure
- Percent of persons 16 or older who experienced at least one incident of identity theft at any point their lives, by type of theft experienced
- Percent of persons 16 or older who experienced an incident of identity theft more than 12 month prior to the interview but were experiencing the consequences of id theft within the 12-month reference period

Since the initiation of the collection in 2008, BJS has published five substantive reports using the ITS data:

Langton, L. & Planty, M. (2010). *Victims of Identity Theft, 2008*.

Harrell, E. & Langton, L. (2013). *Victims of Identity Theft, 2012*.

Harrell, E. (2015). *Victims of Identity Theft, 2014*.

Harrell, E. (2019). *Victims of Identity Theft, 2016*.

Harrell, E. (2021). *Victims of Identity Theft, 2018*.

Data Users: Needs and Uses Identified

Public Use files with ITS data are available to the public via download from the website for the Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR) at the University of Michigan. There have been 1,973 downloads of ITS documentation and data from the website.^c

Policy makers, researchers, and practitioners who use the ITS data include—

Center for Victim Research - used ITS data in their 2019 summary of identity theft research to show where the gaps exist in the field and where resources need to be focused in order to help victims (https://ncvc.dspace.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11990/1544/CVR%20Research%20Syntheses_Identity%20Theft%20and%20Fraud_Report.pdf).

Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia - researchers at the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia referred to results from the ITS in a 2020 working paper about the financial consequences of identity theft (<https://doi.org/10.21799/frbp.wp.2020.33>).

Federal Trade Commission (FTC) - refers to statistics from the ITS in its PowerPoint presentation that is listed on the FTC website as a community resource (<https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/sites/default/files/powerpoint/itgov.pptx>).

Government Accountability Office (GAO) - GAO referred to the ITS results in a 2019 study of information and expert views on the effectiveness of consumer options to address data breach risks. (<https://www.gao.gov/assets/700/697985.pdf>) and in a 2017 study of the usefulness of identity theft services (<https://www.gao.gov/assets/690/683842.pdf>).

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Academia and Independent Researchers – published uses of the ITS include the following examples—

Burnes, D., DeLiema, M., & Langton, L. (2020). Risk and protective factors of identity theft victimization in the United States. *Preventative Medicine Reports*, 17, 1-8. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.pmedr.2020.101058>

Golladay, K. & Holtfreter, K. (2017). The Consequences of Identity Theft Victimization: An Examination of Emotional and Physical Health Outcomes. *Victims & Offenders*, 12, (5), 741-760, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/15564886.2016.1177766>

Golladay, K. A. (2017). Reporting behaviors of identity theft victims: An empirical test of Black's theory of law. *Journal of Financial Crime*, 24, (1), 101-117. <https://doi.org/10.1108/JFC-01-2016-0010>

Green, B., Gies, S., Bobnis, A., Piquero, N. L., Piquero, A. R., & Velasquez, E. (2020). The Role of Victim Services for Individuals Who Have Experienced Serious Identity-Based Crime. *Victims and Offenders*, 15, (6), 720-743. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15564886.2020.1743804>

^c As of April 1, 2021.

Holt, T.J., Smirnova, O., Chua, Y.T. (2016). The Economic Impact of Stolen Data Markets. In: *Data Thieves in Action. Palgrave Studies in Cybercrime and Cybersecurity*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan. https://doi.org/10.1057/978-1-137-58904-0_3

Hu, X., Zhang, X., & Lovrich, N. P. (2020). Forecasting Identity Theft Victims: Analyzing Characteristics and Preventive Actions through Machine Learning Approaches, *Victims & Offenders*, DOI: [10.1080/15564886.2020.1806161](https://doi.org/10.1080/15564886.2020.1806161)

Navarro, J. C. & Higgins, G. E. (2017). Familial Identity Theft. *American Journal of Criminal Justice*, 42, 218–230. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12103-016-9357-3>

Randa, R. & Reyns, B. W. (2020). The Physical and Emotional Toll of Identity Theft Victimization: A Situational and Demographic Analysis of the National Crime Victimization Survey. *Deviant Behavior*, 41(10), 1290-1304, DOI: [10.1080/01639625.2019.1612980](https://doi.org/10.1080/01639625.2019.1612980)

Reynolds, D. (2020). The differential effects of identity theft victimization: how demographics predict suffering out-of-pocket losses. *Security Journal*, 33, (3), <https://doi.org/10.1057/s41284-020-00258-y>

Tcherni, M., Davies, A., Lopes, G., & Lizotte, A. (2016). The Dark Figure of Online Property Crime: Is Cyberspace Hiding a Crime Wave? *Justice Quarterly*, 3, (5), 890-911, DOI: [10.1080/07418825.2014.994658](https://doi.org/10.1080/07418825.2014.994658)

Ylang, N. (2020). “Capable guardianship against identity theft: Demographic insights based on a national sample of US adults.” *Journal of Financial Crime*, 27,130-142. <https://doi.org/10.1108/JFC-12-2018-0140>

Not only do policymakers and researchers use statistics from previous waves of the ITS but members of the media have used findings from the ITS to describe to the public the nature of identity theft and its effect on victims.

3. Use of Information Technology

The ITS will be conducted in a fully automated interviewing environment using computer-assisted personal interviewing (CAPI) methods in which field representatives use a laptop computer to display questions and record answers. The use of CAPI technology reduces data collection costs as well as respondent and interviewer burden. Furthermore, automated instruments afford the opportunity to implement inter-data item integrity constraints, which minimize the amount of data inconsistency. More consistent data, in turn, reduce the need for extensive post-data collection editing and imputation processes, which significantly reduce the time, needed to release the data for public consumption. The use of technology results in more accurate data products that are delivered in a timelier fashion, giving data users access to information while it is still relevant.

4. Efforts to Identify Duplication

Several organizations, both public and private, have sponsored surveys and studies relating to identity theft over the last few years to understand identity theft. However, these studies have not been able to provide a comprehensive picture of identity theft. Each of the identified studies falls short of collecting data with the same breadth of information and/or sample size that the ITS will attain. The ITS meets the recommendation mentioned in the former President's 2007 Strategic Plan that, "The BJS should conduct its surveys in collaboration with subject matter experts from the FTC." (p. 70).^d

Previous studies are listed below, beginning with the most recent. The 2021 ITS will be larger in scope and size than studies conducted by other public and private organizations.

- The FTC released the *Consumer Sentinel Network Data Book* annually from 2008 to 2019, which provided information on identity theft reported to the Consumer Sentinel Network which is an investigative tool from the FTC. These reports are located here: <https://www.ftc.gov/enforcement/consumer-sentinel-network/reports>. While these reports presented data from a victim's perspective, they were not based on a nationally representative sample of persons, but instead were based on data from victims who report identity theft to law enforcement agencies that participate in the Consumer Sentinel Network. The experiences of these victims may not be generalizable to all identity theft victims.
- Javelin Strategy and Research released the Identity Fraud Survey Reports annually from 2004 to 2020. For each wave, Javelin collected data from approximately 5,000 adults age 18 or older via an online survey across two weeks during the previous year. These data were presented from a victim's viewpoint. Those without internet access may not have been able to access the survey. This may affect the generalizability of the results. In addition, questionnaires for the study are not available to the public unlike the ITS questionnaires.
- The Identity Theft Resource Center released reports titled, *Identity Theft: The Aftermath*, in 2003, 2004, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2013, 2014, 2016, 2017, and 2018. These reports are available here: <https://www.idtheftcenter.org/identity-theft-aftermath-study/>. While these reports present data from a victim's perspective they are not based on a nationally representative sample of persons or even victims, but are instead based on data from victims who worked with the Identity Theft Resource Center in that particular year. The experiences of these victims may not be generalizable to all identity theft victims.
- In late 2004, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) released a study regarding 'account hijacking', which involves the misuse of someone's personal information to access, and misuse a person's existing accounts. The full report is located at http://www.fdic.gov/consumers/consumer/idtheftstudy/identity_theft.pdf. This study

^d <https://www.ftc.gov/sites/default/files/documents/reports/presidents-identity-theft-task-force-report/081021taskforcereport.pdf>

specifically focused on this subset of identity theft because the misuse of a person's existing accounts primarily affects institutions insured by the FDIC.

- The FTC sponsored identity theft surveys in 2003 and 2006.^e The 2003 study surveyed 4,000 adults through random digit dialing sampling on their experiences with identity theft. The 2006 survey interviewed nearly 5,000 adults and obtained a 26% response rate. Recognizing the NCVS's potential to collect data from a larger sample, the FTC became a co-sponsor on the 2008 ITS and ceased conducting its own identity theft survey.

5. Efforts to Minimize Burden

N/A. The NCVS is a household-based sample and does not impact small businesses or small entities.

6. Consequences of Less Frequent Collection

The supplement will be conducted from July 2021 through December 2021. Regular inclusion of this supplement into the NCVS is typically on a biennial basis. However, the next ITS is scheduled to occur after the date of the typical biennial administration in order to allow time for research and changes to the ITS questionnaire to address methodological concerns.

Because of the growing and evolving nature of identity theft, it is important to conduct the ITS frequently to identify trends and changes in the nature of this crime. A large gap between data collections could inhibit the identification of growing and changing types of identity theft and victimization risk and limit the utility of the data. Stakeholders, including policymakers, law enforcement agencies, the financial community, and the media, rely on timely data. When more time passes between collections, the published reports become dated and less utilized. Less frequent collection would limit the ability to present timely statistics on various types of identity theft.

7. Special Circumstances

No special circumstances have been identified for this project.

8. Federal Register Publication and Outside Consultation

The research under this clearance is consistent with the guidelines in 5 CFR 1320.6. Comments on this data collection effort were solicited in the 60-day notice for public commentary was published in the Federal Register, Volume 86, Number 20, pages 7880-7881, on February 2, 2021 (see Attachment 3). Following the publication of the 60-day notice, BJS received no requests for the instruments and two substantive comments, one that suggested that the ITS not

^e Please see <https://www.ftc.gov/sites/default/files/documents/reports/federal-trade-commission-2006-identity-theft-survey-report-prepared-commission-synovate/synovaterreport.pdf> and <https://www.ftc.gov/sites/default/files/documents/reports/federal-trade-commission-identity-theft-program-synovaterreport.pdf> for more information.

be administered but did not give a reason as to why. Another that suggested interviewing persons who used an identity theft prevention strategy because they would have direct knowledge of a victim and the consequences of being a victim. Since the 2021 ITS will ask all respondents about their use of behaviors to prevent being a victim of identity theft, these persons will already be included in the data collection. The 30-day notice for public commentary was published in the Federal Register, Volume 86, Number 78, page 22075 on April 26, 2021 simultaneously with the submission of this OMB package (Attachment 4).

The 2021 ITS questionnaire has changed substantially from the questionnaire used in the 2018 ITS, causing a break in series from previous waves. These changes were made due to methodological concerns that BJS had regarding telescoping in NCVS supplements, distinction of email and social media as a separate type of identity theft, and lack of use of certain questions. These changes include:

- (1) creating of a separate type of identity theft for misuse of an existing email or social media account.
- (2) creating a dual reference period within each screener question, asking respondents about lifetime and past year exposure to each type of identity theft.
- (3) capturing the date that the most recent incident of each type of identity theft occurred.
- (4) excluding attempted incidents from the questionnaire.
- (5) deletion of questions asking about internet use and online shopping, and knowledge of obtaining a free credit report from the national credit bureaus annually.
- (6) change to text in questions asking about experience with data breaches.
- (7) the deletion of questions that were not used by BJS and non-substantive wording changes to questions in Section G (Long Term Victimization and Consequences).

More information about these changes can be found in Part B of the Supporting Statement.

BJS collaborated with the Census Bureau and outside experts at RTI, International to develop changes that were implemented in the 2021 ITS questionnaire. For the 2021 ITS, principal consultants from the Census Bureau included Meagan Meuchel, Megan Ruhnke, Marquita Hutchins, Meredith Mouser, Salenna Nickerson, and Steve Bittner. Outside experts who collaborated to help develop the questionnaire were Lynn Langton, Christopher Krebs, Michael Planty, Sarah Cook, Yuli Patrick Hsieh, Wayne Pitts, Rachel Caspar, and Gretchen McHenry from RTI, International.

9. Paying Respondents

The ITS is a voluntary data collection and respondents are notified in written communication that participation is voluntary. No gifts or incentives will be given.

10. Assurance of Confidentiality

All NCVS and ITS information about individuals is confidential by law under Title 13, United States Code, Section 9, and Title 34, United States Code, Sections 10231 and 10134. By law, the

Census Bureau is not permitted to publicly release survey responses in a way that could identify survey respondents or their households. Census Bureau employees who may see the ITS responses are sworn to preserve this confidentiality. Even BJS, as the sponsor of the survey, is not authorized to see or handle the data in its raw form. All unique and identifying information is scrambled or suppressed before it is provided to BJS to analyze. Data are maintained in secure environments and in restricted access locations within the Census Bureau. All data provided to BJS must meet the confidentiality requirements set forth by the Disclosure Review Board at the Census Bureau.

In a letter from the Director of the Census Bureau, sent to all households in the NCVS, respondents are informed of these laws, and assured that the laws require that all information provided by the respondent is kept confidential.^f

11. Justification for Sensitive Questions

Not applicable. The ITS does not ask questions relating to sexual behaviors, drug use, religious beliefs, or other matters commonly considered private or of a sensitive nature.

12. Estimate of Respondent Burden

The expected size of the 2021 NCVS sample, the yield received from the 2018 ITS, and an examination of the 2021 ITS questionnaire were used to develop projected burden hour estimates for the 2021 ITS. These were the most up-to-date data available at the time this estimate was produced.

It is expected that a total of 127,000 households will be in the NCVS sample in July through December 2021, yielding approximately 143,320 persons 16 years of age or older in interviewed households.

Based on the 2018 ITS data collection, we expect that about 73.2% or 104,910 of the 143,320 NCVS persons 16 years of age or older will complete an ITS interview. Of the 104,910 ITS respondents, an estimated 90.2% (94,630) will complete the short ITS interview, and the remaining 9.8% (10,280) will complete the long interview (i.e., will be screened into the identity theft incident questions).

Based on 2018 ITS actual interview times, an analysis of the 2021 ITS questionnaire changes and mock interviews done with the 2021 questionnaire, we expect the 2021 ITS short interview will take an estimated 0.13 hours (8 minutes) to complete and the long interview to take an estimated 0.25 hours (15 minutes) to complete. The total respondent burden is estimated to be approximately 15,185 hours (see table for calculation).

Table 1. Calculation of Respondent Burden

^f https://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/ncvs_advance_letter.pdf

	Number of ITS Persons (A)	Time per interview (hours) (B)	Burden hours (AxB)
Total Expected ITS eligible persons	143,320		
Expected ITS interviews	104,910		
Expected ITS short interviews	94,630	0.13	12,615
Expected ITS long interviews	10,280	0.25	2,570
Expected ITS noninterviews	38,410		
2021 ITS burden hours estimate			15,185
2016/2018 ITS burden hours on file*			10,227
Change in respondent burden hours from 2016/2018 to 2021			4,958

Note: Detail do not sum to total due to rounding.

*Obtained from https://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAViewICR?ref_nbr=201508-1121-002

13. Estimate of Respondent's Cost Burden

There are no costs to respondents other than that of their time to respond.

14. Costs to Federal Government

Data Collection Agent Cost Summary

The Census Bureau will act as the data collection agent for the 2021 ITS. Under an Interagency Agreement (IAA), Census finalized the 2021 ITS survey instrument; will develop all data collection support and training materials; train interviewers and support staff; and will collect, process, and disseminate the 2021 ITS data. The total estimated cost of these activities is \$1,548,754. BJS will bear all costs.

Estimated Census Bureau Costs

Division	Estimated Cost
DSMD (Sample Design and Estimation)	\$75,271
ADSD (Instrument Development)	\$48,363
DSD (Data Processing)	\$157,944
FLD (Data Collection)	\$918,059
ADDP-SO (Survey Operations and Project Management)	\$349,117
Census Subtotal	\$1,548,754

BJS Cost Estimate Summary

These costs include data collection of the 2021 ITS, overall program management, data analysis, publication review, and dissemination by BJS:

Staff salaries	Base salary	Fringe	Salary estimates
GS-15 Supervisory Statistician (1 @ 10%)	\$150,000	\$42,000	\$19,200
GS-15 Chief Editor, BJS (1 @ 3%)	\$150,000	\$42,000	\$5,760
GS-13 Statistician, BJS (1@ 10%)	\$110,000	\$30,800	\$14,080
Subtotal: Salary and fringe (28%)			\$39,040
Other administrative costs of salary & fringe (15%)			\$5,856
 BJS Subtotal			 \$44,896
Census Subtotal			\$1,548,754
Total estimated BJS and U.S. Census Bureau costs			\$1,593,650

15. Reasons for Change in Burden

The total number of burden hours for the 2021 ITS is expected to be 15,185 hours, an increase of 4,958 hours compared to the 2016/2018 ITS. For short interviews, the expected time per interview increased from 0.08 hours for the 2016/2018 ITS to 0.13 hours for the 2021 ITS. For long interviews, the expected time per interview increased from 0.23 hours for the 2016/2018 ITS to 0.25 hours for the 2021 ITS. Also, the proportion of the sample expected to receive the longer interviews increased from 7% for the 2016/2018 ITS to 9.8% for the 2021 ITS while the proportion of the sample expected to receive the short interview decreased from 93% for the 2016/2019 ITS to 90.2% for the 2021 ITS. The expected increase in the percentage of the sample that will receive the long interview is due to some of the modifications made to the ITS questionnaire; specifically, the addition of a screener question regarding the misuse of an existing email or social media account, which may allow more respondents to report “yes” to a type of identity theft. This, in turn will allow more respondents to receive the long interview. See the table below:

	Short interviews		Long interviews	
	2016/2018 ITS	2021 ITS	2016/2018 ITS	2021 ITS
Time per interview (hours)	0.08	0.13	0.23	0.25
Expected number of interviews	113,000	104,910	113,000	104,910
Proportion of sample	93%	90.2%	7%	9.8%

The 2021 ITS questionnaire contains several major changes to address known telescoping issues, add categories for new types of identity theft, and improve data quality by collecting more information in the screeners. These include –

- (1) creation a dual reference period within each screener question, asking respondents about lifetime and past year exposure to each type of identity theft.
- (2) addition of a separate type of identity theft for misuse of an existing email or social media account.
- (3) capturing the date of the most recent incident of each type of identity theft.

Additionally, several changes were made to reduce burden:

- (1) excluding attempted incidents from the questionnaire.
- (2) deletion of questions asking about internet use and online shopping, and knowledge of obtaining a free credit report from the national credit bureaus annually.
- (3) change to text in questions asking about experience with data breaches.
- (4) the deletion of questions that were not used by BJS and non-substantive wording changes to questions in Section G (Long Term Victimization and Consequences).

These changes to the ITS questionnaire resulted in a net increase in the number of burden hours per interview for both the short (increase of 0.05 hours) and long interviews (increase of 0.02 hours). Additionally, the proportion of the sample receiving the long interview is expected to increase 2.8%. This net increase in burden is justified by the expected improvements in the quality of data collected.

16. Project Schedule and Publication Plans

The schedule for the 2021 ITS is as follows. The dates are good faith estimates and are subject to change:

- May 2021: Complete the development and testing (by the Census Bureau) of the CAPI instrument, ensuring that it functions as designed and that all survey skip patterns have been properly programmed. The testing will be done in consultation with BJS.
- June 2021: The Census Bureau completes the development of all training materials and distributes to the field representatives.
- July 2021–December 2021: Interviews for the 2021 ITS are conducted by the Census Bureau field representatives.
- During the interview period, the Census Bureau provides BJS with monthly reports on response rates, contact ‘hit rates,’ and the number of interviews conducted in a language other than English.
- August 2021–April 2022: Data monitoring and processing takes place on an ongoing basis.
- May 2022: Computer processing and weighting of the data are completed.
- June 2022: The Census Bureau prepares and delivers a 2021 ITS public use file and accompanying file documentation to BJS.

BJS will be responsible for the statistical analysis and publication of the data from the 2021 ITS. Contingent on the processing and delivery of the final data file, BJS anticipates releasing a report on the prevalence of identity theft and characteristics of identity theft victims within a year of receiving the data file.

Immediately following the publication of the BJS report, the data are archived at the Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR) at the University of Michigan. Researchers can download public use files of the ITS data and codebooks to conduct their own analyses. The public use files are produced by the Census Bureau and ICPSR. All information that might identify individual respondents is removed from the files prior to being sent to the ICPSR.

To further enhance the utility of the data, in addition to the public use files housed at ICPSR, the geographically identified ITS files will now be available in the Census Bureau secure federal statistical research data centers (FSRDC). The FSRDC files can be accessed by researchers who submit a proposal approved by BJS for the research they plan to conduct using the data and agree to all confidentiality and protected use constraints. Data are typically available through ICPSR and the FSRDCs by the fall of the year following collection.

17. Display of Expiration Date

The OMB approval number and expiration date will be displayed on the ITS introduction screen within the CAPI instrument. The final ITS CAPI instrument for fielding in July 2021 must be finalized and put into the Census production system in June 2021.

18. Exceptions to the Certificate Statement

There are no exceptions to the Certification Statement. The collection is consistent with the guidelines in 5 CFR 1320.9.