

SUPPORTING STATEMENT

Part B

MEPS COVID-19 Changes

June 2022

Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ)

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B. STATISTICAL METHODS

1. Potential Respondent Universe and Sample Selection Method

The Medical Expenditure Panel Survey Household Component (MEPS-HC) core interview will include new questions related to COVID-19. The MEPS is a nationally representative sample of households within the United States. For a detailed description of the MEPS sample design see Chowdhury, S.R., Machlin, S.R., and Gwet, K.L. *Sample Designs of the Medical Expenditure Panel Survey Household Component, 1996–2006 and 2007–2016*. Methodology Report #33. January 2019. Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, Rockville, MD.
https://meps.ahrq.gov/data_files/publications/mr33/mr33.shtml

The new CAPI questions collecting information about COVID-19 will be integrated into the core interview for MEPS beginning with data collection for Panel 24 Round 9, and Panel 26 Round 5, Panel 27 Round 3, and Panel 28 Round 1 in January 2023. New questions on COVID-19 capture information on whether household members have ever had COVID-19 and when with a follow-up question each round to determine if household members have had COVID-19 in the interview reference period. Revised questions about COVID-19 vaccination continue to capture whether household members have ever received a COVID-19 vaccination. Rather than asking about whether household members have had a booster vaccination, instead there will be question each round to determine if household members have had any COVID-19 vaccination during the interview reference period. The information collected on COVID-19 will be folded into the regular processing stream of MEPS data to produce estimates of health care utilization and expenditures. The increase in burden associated with the addition of these items to the core CAPI questionnaire is minimal at 1 minute per interview.

2. Information Collection Procedures

COVID-19 questions will be integrated as part of the core MEPS CAPI questionnaire so there is no need for specialized data collection procedures.

3. Methods to Maximize Response Rate

COVID-19 questions will be integrated as part of the core MEPS CAPI questionnaire and are included under all existing methods to maximize response rates.

4. Tests of Procedures

As part of the CAPI questionnaire, testing of the questions related to COVID-19 will be folded into the regular testing protocol already established for MEPS.

5. Statistical Consultation and Independent Review

The following are responsible for statistical aspects of the MEPS Study:

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