



November 10, 2022

MEMORANDUM FOR Robert Sivinski
Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs
Office of Management and Budget

From: Hyon B. Shin, Assistant Division Chief
Social, Economic, and Housing Statistics Division
U.S. Census Bureau

Subject: 2023 Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP) 30-Day
Notice Responses

This memo is in response to the three public comments received regarding the 2023 SIPP 30-day notice posted on [reginfo.gov](https://www.reginfo.gov) for the Information Collection Request (ICR) 0607-1000 posted on the Federal Register Notice (FRN) on August 24, 2022.

The SIPP program understands the importance of measuring the dynamics of income, employment, household composition, and program participation for myriad demographic groups, including reporting program participation by racial and ethnic groups and for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, and other sexual and gender minority (LGBTQI+) populations. We appreciate the public comments for assessing the potential impact before certain COVID-19 federal programs expire as well as collecting information on sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI).

Regarding assessing the impacts of federal programs before expiring, SIPP did collect information on the Child Tax Credit (CTC) and the Economic Impact Payments (EIP) in 2020 and 2021 while the programs were administered. Since the CTC and EIP programs have expired, however, collecting information on the 2023 SIPP is untenable. Any additional questions about discouragement from working or not pursuing opportunities due to fear of losing benefits would require research and testing of questions, or use of previously designed questions, to ensure that the questions are collecting the desired information accurately. SIPP does currently collect information on reasons for beginning and ending of social welfare items, such as reasons for job ending that could serve as a proxy for some social welfare programs.

Additionally, the SIPP is not designed to collect qualitative data. Any qualitative testing and interviewing would have to occur outside of the yearly SIPP questionnaire.

Regarding collecting SOGI information on the SIPP, the Census Bureau is committed to continuing the research necessary to ensure the accurate and reliable collection of SOGI data in

its current surveys. There are several components of collecting SOGI in SIPP that still need to be addressed before implementing, however. For instance, unlike the Household Pulse Survey (HPS) which is a self-administered questionnaire, SIPP is an interviewer-administered survey and there is concern about how openly respondents may or may not respond to SOGI questions to an interviewer as opposed to a self-response survey. SIPP also collects information via proxy reporting and continued research is needed to assess the quality of the data based on the ability or willingness to respond to SOGI questions for other members of a household. Additionally, as SIPP collects information on children in the household, care must also be taken to determine the best method of collecting data for youth populations. As SIPP is a longitudinal survey, we must determine how best to implement SOGI questions to balance accuracy and respondent burden of sensitive questions.

We look forward to continuing engagement with the public and OMB on future SIPP collection instruments.

cc:
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