SURVEY OF INCOME AND PROGRAM PARTICIPATION (SIPP)

WAVE 5 RECTANGULAR CORE AND TOPICAL MODULE MICRODATA FILE

TECHNICAL DOCUMENTATION

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TECHNICAL DOCUMENTATION

GENERAL INFORMATION

INTRODUCTION

Survey Content

There are three basic elements contained in the overall design of the survey content. The first is a control card that serves several important functions. The control card is used to record basic social and demographic characteristics for each person in the household at the time of the initial interview. Because households are interviewed a total of eight or nine times, the card is also used to record changes in characteristics such as age, educational attainment, and marital status, and to record the dates when persons enter or leave the household. Finally, during each interview, information on each source of income received and the name of each job or business is transcribed to the card so that this information can be used in the updating process in subsequent interviews. A facsimile of the control card appears in an appendix to the technical documentation of SIPP files.

The second major element of the survey content is the core portion of the questionnaire. The core questions are repeated at each interview and cover labor force activity, the types and amounts of income received during the 4-month reference period, and participation status in various programs. Some of the important elements of labor force activity are recorded separately for each week of the period. Income recipiency and amounts are recorded on a monthly basis with the exception of amounts of property income (interest, dividends, rent, etc.) which are recorded as totals for the 4-month period. The core also contains questions covering attendance in postsecondary schools, private health insurance coverage, public or subsidized rental housing, low-income energy assistance, and school breakfast and lunch participation. A facsimile of the questionnaire appears as an appendix in the technical documentation.

The third major element is the various supplements or topical modules that will be asked during selected household visits. The topical modules cover areas that need not be examined every 4 months. Certain of these topical modules are considered to be so important that they are viewed as an integral part of the overall survey. Other topical modules have more specific and more limited purposes. No topical modules were included in the first or second waves of SIPP. (See the following section on sample design for a definition of the term "wave.") The third wave topical module covers (1) educational attainment, (2) work history, and (3) health characteristics (including disability). The fourth wave topical module covers (1) assets and liabilities, (2) pension plan coverage, and (3) housing characteristics.

Sample Design

The SIPP sample design for the 1984 panel consists of about 26,000 housing units selected to represent the noninstitutional population of the United States of which about 21,000 of these were occupied and eligible for interview. The chart on the following page shows the sample design for the first panel of SIPP. The sample households within a given panel are divided into four subsamples of nearly equal size. These subsamples are called rotation groups and one rotation group is interviewed each month. Each household in the sample was scheduled to be interviewed at 4-month intervals over a period of 2 1/2 years beginning in October 1983. The reference period for the questions is the 4-month period preceding the interview. For example, households interviewed in October 1983 were asked questions for the months June, July, August, and September. This household was interviewed again in February 1984 for the October through January

Design of First SIPP Panel

Rotation	Wave	Interview month	Reference months
1	1	Oct. 83	June, July, Aug., Sept. (83)
2	1	Nov. 83	July, Aug., Sept., Oct. (83)
3	1	Dec. 83	Aug., Sept., Oct., Nov. (83)
4	1	Jan. 84	Sept., Oct., Nov., Dec. (83)
1	2	Feb. 84	Oct., Nov., Dec. (83), Jan. (84)
2	2	March 84	Nov., Dec. (83), Jan., Feb. (84)
3	2	April 84	Dec. (83), Jan., Feb., March (84)
4	3	May 84	Jan., Feb., March, April (84)
1	3	June 84	Feb., March, April, May (84)
2	3	July 84	March, April, May, June (84)
3	3	Aug. 84	April, May, June, July (84)
4	4	Sept. 84	May, June, July, Aug. (84)
1	4	Oct. 84	June, July, Aug., Sept. (84)
2	4	Nov. 84	July, Aug., Sept., Oct. (84)
3	4	Dec. 84	Aug., Sept., Oct., Nov. (84)
4	5	Jan. 85	Sept., Oct., Nov., Dec. (84)
1	5	Feb. 85	Oct., Nov., Dec. (84), Jan. (85)
2	5	March 85	Nov., Dec. (84), Jan., Feb. (85)
3	5	April 85	Dec. (84), Jan., Feb., March (85)
4	6	May 85	Jan., Feb., March, April (85)
1	6	June 85	Feb., March, April, May (85)
2	6	July 85	March, April, May, June (85)
3	6	Aug. 85	April, May, June, July (85)
4	7	Sept. 85	May, June, July, Aug. (85)
1	7	Oct. 85	June, July, Aug., Sept. (85)
2	7	Nov. 85	July, Aug., Sept., Oct. (85)
3	7	Dec. 85	Aug., Sept., Oct., Nov. (85)
4	8	Jan. 86	Sept., Oct., Nov., Dec. (85)
1	8	Feb. 86	Oct., Nov., Dec. (85), Jan. (86)
2	8	March 86	Nov., Dec. (85), Jan., Feb. (86)
3	9	April 86	Dec. (85), Jan., Feb., March (86)
4	9	May 86	Jan., Feb., March, April (86)
1	9	June 86	Feb., March, April, May (86)
2	9	July 86	March, April, May, June (86)

In general, one cycle of interviews covering the entire sample, using the same questionnaire, is called a wave.[1] This design was chosen because it provides a smooth and steady work load for data collection and processing.

A new panel of slightly smaller size is scheduled to be introduced in February 1985 and in January of each succeeding year. This overlapping design provides a much larger sample size (almost twice as large) from which cross-sectional estimates can be made. The overlap also enhances the survey's ability to measure change by lowering the standard errors on differences between estimates for two points in time.

Survey Operations

Data collection operations are managed through the Census Bureau's 12 permanent regional offices. A staff of interviewers assigned to SIPP conduct interviews by personal visit each month with most interviewing completed during the first 2 weeks of that month. Completed questionnaires are transmitted to the regional offices where they undergo an extensive clerical edit before being entered into the Bureau's SIPP data processing system. Upon entering this processing system the data are subjected to a detailed computer edit. Errors identified in this phase are corrected and computer processing continues.

Two of the major steps of computer processing are the assignment of weights to each sample person and imputation for missing survey responses. The weighting procedures assure that SIPP estimates of the number of persons agree with independent estimates of the population within specified age, race, and sex categories. The procedures also assure close correspondence with monthly CPS estimates of households. In almost all cases, a survey nonresponse is assigned a value in the imputation phase of processing. The imputation for missing responses is based on procedures generally referred to as the "hot deck" approach. This approach assigns values for the nonresponse from a sample person who did provide a response and who has characteristics similar to those of the nonrespondent.

The longitudinal design of SIPP dictates that all persons 15 years old and over present as household members at the time of the first interview be part of the survey throughout the entire 2 1/2 year-period. To meet this goal the survey collects information useful in locating persons who move. In addition, field procedures were established that allow for the transfer of sample cases between regional offices. Persons moving within a 100-mile radius of an original sampling area (a county or group of counties) are followed and continue with the normal personal interviews at 4-month intervals. Those moving to a new residence that fall outside the 100-mile radius of any SIPP sampling area are interviewed by telephone. The geographic areas defined by these rules contain more than 95 percent of the U.S. population. Persons moving to Alaska, outside the United States, or into an institution or military barracks are not interviewed.

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[1]As indicated in the chart on the previous page, wave 2 comprised only three rotation groups (three-fourths of the full sample). This exception was made in order to have the wave 6 topical module (covering taxes and other previous calendar year information) fall in the months of May, June, July, and August.

Because most types of analysis using SIPP data will be dependent not on data for individuals but on groups of individuals (households, families, etc.), provisions were made to interview all "new" persons living with orginal sample persons (those interviewed in the first wave). These new sample persons entering the survey through contact with original sample persons are considered as part of the sample only while residing with the original sample person.

PLANNED PRODUCTS FROM SIPP

Data from SIPP will be used to examine differences among groups at a given point in time (cross-sectional analysis) and differences over time in the status of given persons and households (longitudinal analysis). Examples of SIPP products planned or under consideration are discussed below. Check the Monthly Product Announcement (MPA), CENDATA, or Data User News for announcements and articles relating to these products. The MPA (free of charge) may be ordered from Customer Services and Data User News ($21 annual subscription rate) may be ordered from the U.S. Government Printing Office using the order forms on page 4-5. CENDATA is online information available through information services vendors. For further information, contact Data User Services Division on (301) 763-4100.

Monthly average reports. The current report, Economic Characteristics of Households in the United States: 3rd Quarter, 1983 (P-70, No. 1), showing average monthly labor force, income, and program participation statistics is an example of this type of report and is the first in a quarterly series. It is also possible to prepare monthly average estimates for longer time periods, and a publication is planned which will show monthly averages for calendar year 1984.

Monthly transition reports. Because information on many characteristics is collected for individual months, it is possible to tabulate data on month-to-month changes in labor force status, program participation status, and other statuses of interest. Monthly transition reports would present average monthly data for given reference periods (e.g., the average monthly rate of new labor force participants for the fourth quarter of 1983).

Calendar-year profile reports. These reports will provide data on the economic activity of persons and households over the course of a calendar year. Examples of the types of data that would be contained in these reports include annual earnings of persons, annual income of families and households, poverty status of persons and families, work experience during the calendar year, and compositional changes in families and households during the year.

Topical reports. The Census Bureau expects to produce periodic or single-time reports on particular topics (e.g. disability and earnings, health insurance coverage, household net worth). The source of the data for these reports may be either the core or topical modules or some combination of the two.

Characteristics of persons over 1 and 2 year span. By matching together consecutive interviews, it will be possible to obtain a month-by-month history of persons over periods of a year or longer. The reports in this series will provide information on changes in living arrangements, labor force participation, income, and program participation during 1-year or 2-year periods.

Characteristics of families and households over 1 and 2 year span. Reports in this series will be similar in concept to the person reports described above. A complicating factor is the compositional change that will occur in families and households over time.

Special analytical reports. These reports will focus on special topics and be based on a file constructed by matching consecutive interviews. The reports are likely to contain an analysis of the time period preceding and/or following a particular event such as a job change, a change in employment status, a marital disruption, or a move to a new address.

Public-use data files. Initially, files containing data collected in a full wave will be available. These files will be available for purchase by the public shortly after the quarterly reports are released. In addition to the modified hierarchical Wave I file, a rectangular file will be available in late December 1984. Other data files that will be made available for public use include calendar year longitudinal files showing monthly data for the 12-month period, panel longitudinal files showing monthly data for the entire life of the panel, and topical module files containing core and topical module data covering the 4-month reference period for a specified wave.

SOURCE AND RELIABILITY STATEMENT FOR THE SURVEY OF INCOME AND PROGRAM PARTICIPATION (SIPP) WAVE 5 1984 PUBLIC USE FILE

SOURCE OF DATA

The data were collected in the fifth interview wave of the 1984 panel of the Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP). The SIPP universe is the noninstitutionalized resident population living in the United States. This population includes persons living in group quarters, such as dormitories, rooming houses, and religious group dwellings. Crew members of merchant vessels, Armed Forces personnel living in military barracks, and institutionalized persons, such as correctional facility inmates and nursing home residents, were not eligible to be in the survey. Similarly, United States citizens residing abroad were not eligible to be in the survey. Foreign visitors who work or attend school in this country and their families were eligible; all others were not eligible to be in the survey. With the exceptions noted above, persons who were at least 15 years of age at the time of the interview were eligible to be in the survey.

The 1984 panel SIPP sample is located in 174 areas comprising 450 counties (including one partial county) and independent cities. Within these areas, clusters of 2 to 4 living quarters (LQs) were systematically selected from lists of addresses prepared for the 1970 decennial census to form the bulk of the sample. To account for LQs built within each of the sample areas after the 1970 census, a sample was drawn of permits issued for construction of residential LQs through March 1983. In jurisdictions that do not issue building permits, small land areas were sampled and the LQs within were listed by field personnel and then subsampled. In addition, sample LQs were selected from supplemental frames that included mobile home parks and new construction for which permits were issued prior to January 1, 1970, but for which construction was not completed until after April 1, 1970.

Approximately 26,000 living quarters were originally designated for the sample. For Wave 1, interviews were obtained from the occupants of about 19,900 of the 26,000 designated living quarters. Most of the remaining 6,100 living quarters were found to be vacant, demolished, converted to nonresidential use, or otherwise ineligible for the survey. However, approximately 1,000 of the 6,100 living quarters were not interviewed because the occupants refused to be interviewed, could not be found at home, were temporarily absent, or were otherwise unavailable. Thus, occupants of about 95 percent of all eligible living quarters participated in wave 1 of the survey.

For the subsequent waves, only original sample persons (those interviewed in the first wave) and persons living with them were eligible to be interviewed. With certain restrictions, original sample persons were to be followed even if they moved to a new address. All noninterviewed households from Wave 1 were automatically designated as noninterviews for all subsequent waves. When original sample persons moved without leaving a forwarding address or moved to extremely remote parts of the country, additional noninterviews resulted.

Sample households within a given panel are divided into four subsamples of nearly equal size. These subsamples are called rotation groups, denoted R (R = 1, 2, 3, or 4), and one rotation group is interviewed each month. Each household in the sample was scheduled to be interviewed at 4 month intervals

over a period of 2 1/2 years beginning in October 1983. The reference period for the questions is the 4-month period preceeding the interview. In general, one cycle of four interviews covering the entire sample, using the same questionnaire, is called a wave.

The wave 5 public use file includes core data and supplemental (topical module) data. Core questions are repeated at each interview over the life of the panel. Topical modules include questions which are not asked every month. The wave 5 topical module covers (1) Child Care, (2) Welfare History and Child Support, (3) Reasons for Not Working/Reservation Wage and (4) Support for Nonhousehold Members/Work Related Expenses.

Table 1 indicates the reference months and interview month for the collection of data from each rotation group for wave 5.

For example, rotation group 2 was interviewed in March 1985 and data for the reference months November 1984 through February 1985 were collected.

Table 1. Reference Months for Each Interview Month - Wave 5

Month of Interview	Rotation	Reference Period								
		Third Quarter (1984)			Fourth Quarter (1984)			First Quarter (1985)		
		Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
January	4			X	X	X	X			
February	1				X	X	X	X		
March	2					X	X	X	X	
April	3						X	X	X	X

The estimation procedure used to derive SIPP person weights involves several stages of weight adjustments. These include determining the base weight, adjusting for movers and noninterviews, adjusting to account for the SIPP sample areas not having the same population distribution as the strata from which they were selected and adjusting persons' weights to bring sample estimates into agreement with independent population estimates.

Each person received a base weight equal to the inverse of his/her probability of selection. The SIPP base weight W indicates that each SIPP sample person represents approximately W persons in the SIPP universe. Due to funding difficulties, a sample cut of 17.8 percent was implemented in March 1985. Each rotation group was reduced by about 850 interviewed housing units. Both self representing (SR) PSUs and nonself-representing (NSR) PSUs were subject to the cut; furthermore, noninterviews as well as interviews were subject to the cut. In some instances, the base weight was adjusted to reflect subsampling done in the field. For each subsequent interview, each person received a base weight that accounted for following movers.

A noninterview adjustment factor was applied to the weight of each interviewed person to account for persons in occupied living quarters who were eligible for the sample but were not interviewed. (Individual nonresponse within

partially interviewed households was treated with imputation. No special adjustment was made for noninterviews in group quarters.) A first stage ratio estimate factor was applied to each interviewed person's weight to account for the SIPP NSR sample areas not having the same population distribution as the strata from which they were selected. In particular, the first stage ratio estimate factors ensure proportional representation by race and by metropolitan and non-metropolitan residence defined as of June 1981.

An additional stage of adjustment to persons' weights was performed to bring the sample estimates into agreement with independent monthly estimates of the civilian (and some military) noninstitutional population of the United States by age, race, and sex. These independent estimates were based on statistics from the 1980 Decennial Census of Population; statistics on births, deaths, immigration, and emigration; and statistics on the strength of the Armed Forces. Weights were further adjusted so that sample estimates would agree with special Current Population Survey (CPS) estimates of the prevalence of different types of householders (married, single with relatives or single without relatives by sex and race) and different relationships to householders (spouse or other). Also, husbands and wives were assigned equal weights. As a result of these adjustments, the following types of consistency are attained by race and sex on a monthly basis:

1. The sum of weights of civilian (and some military) noninstitutionalized persons agrees with independent estimates by age groups.

2. The sum of weights of civilian (and some military) noninstitutionalized persons is within a close tolerance of special CPS estimates by householder type and relationship to householder. (The special CPS estimates are similar but not identical to the monthly CPS estimates.)

3. Husbands and wives living together have equal weights. Thus, if a characteristic is necessarily shared by a husband and wife (such as size of family), then the sample estimate of the number of husbands with the characteristic will agree with the corresponding estimate for wives.

Use of Weights. Each household and each person within each household on the Wave 5 tape has five weights. Four of these weights are reference month specific and therefore can be used only to form reference month estimates. To form an estimate for a particular month, use the reference month weight for the month of interest, summing over all persons or households with the characteristic of interest whose reference period includes the month of interest. Multiply the sum by a factor to account for the number of rotations contributing data for the month of interest. This factor equals four divided by the number of rotations contributing data for the month of interest. For example, November data is only available from rotations 1, 2, and 4, so a factor of 4/3 must be applied. December data is available from all all four rotations, so a factor of 4/4 = 1 must be applied. Reference month estimates can be averaged to form estimates of monthly averages over some period of time. For example, using the proper weights, one can estimate the monthly average number of households in a specified income range over October and November 1984. The remaining weight is interview month specific. This weight can be used to form estimates that specifically refer to the interview month (e.g., total persons currently looking for work), as well as estimates referring to the time period including the interview month and all previous months (e.g., total persons who have ever served in the military). There is no weight for characteristics that

involve a person's or household's status over two or more months (e.g., number of households with a 50 percent increase in income between October and November 1984).

When estimates for all months except December are constructed from wave 5 data, factors greater than 1 must be applied. However, when the wave 5 core data are used in conjunction with the wave 4 and wave 6 core data, data from all four rotations will be available for all months except July and the factors will equal 1.

To estimate monthly averages of a given measure (e.g., total, mean) over a number of consecutive months, sum the monthly estimates and divide by the number of months.

Producing Estimates for Census Regions. The total estimate for a region is the sum of the state estimates in that region. However, one of the group of states, formed for confidentiality reasons, crosses regional boundaries. This group consists of South Dakota (Midwest Region), Idaho (West Region), New Mexico (West Region), and Wyoming (West Region). To compute the total estimate for the Midwest Region, a factor of .203 should be applied to the above group's total estimate and added to the sum of the other state estimates in the Midwest Region. For the West Region, a factor of .797 should be applied to the above group's total estimate and added to the sum of the other states in the West Region.

Estimates from this sample for individual states are subject to very high variance and are not recommended. The state codes on the file are primarily of use for linking respondent characteristics with appropriate contextual variables (e.g., state specific welfare criteria) and for tabulating data by user-defined groupings of states.

Producing Estimates for the Metropolitan Population. For 15 states in the SIPP sample, metropolitan or nonmetropolitan residence is identified. (On the relational file, use METRO, character 24, on the household record. On the rectangular file, use variable H*-METRO,[1/] characters 94, 350, 606, and 862.) In 21 additional states, where the nonmetropolitan population in the sample was small enough to present a disclosure risk, a fraction of the metropolitan sample was recoded so as to be indistinguishable from nonmetropolitan cases (H*-METRO=2). In these states, therefore, the cases coded as metropolitan (H* METRO=1) represent only a subsample of that population.

In producing state estimates for a metropolitan characteristic, multiply the individual, family, or household weights by the metropolitan inflation factor for that state, presented in table 4. (This inflation factor compensates for the subsampling of the metropolitan population and is 1.0 for the states with complete identification of the metropolitan population.)

The same procedure applies when creating estimates for particular identified MSA's or CMSA's--apply the factor appropriate to the state. For multi-state MSA's, use the factor appropriate to each state part. For example, to tabulate data for the Washington, DC-MD-VA MSA, apply the Virginia factor of 1.0778 to weights for residents of the Virginia part of the MSA; Maryland and DC residents require no modification to the weights (i.e., their factors equal 1.0).

*=1, 2, 3, or 4

In producing regional or national estimates of the metropolitan population, it is also necessary to compensate for the fact that no metropolitan subsample is identified within two states (Maine and Iowa) and one state-group (Mississippi-West Virginia). There were no metropolitan areas sampled in South Dakota-Idaho-New Mexico-Wyoming. Therefore, a different factor for regional and national estimates is in the right-hand column of table 4. The results of regional and national tabulations of the metropolitan population will be biased slightly. However, less than one-half of one percent of the metropolitan population is not represented.

Producing Estimates for the Nonmetropolitan Population. State, regional, and national estimates of the nonmetropolitan population cannot be computed directly, except for the 15 states where the factor in table 4 is 1.0. In all other states, the cases identified as not in the metropolitan subsample (METRO=2) are a mixture of nonmetropolitan and metro-households. Only an indirect method of estimates is available: First compute an estimate for the total population, then subtract the estimate for the metropolitan population. The results of these tabulations will be slightly biased.

RELIABILITY OF THE ESTIMATES

SIPP estimates in this report are based on a sample; they may differ somewhat from the figures that would have been obtained if a complete census had been taken using the same questionnaire, instructions, and enumerators. There are two types of errors possible in an estimate based on a sample survey: nonsampling and sampling. We are able to provide estimates of the magnitude of SIPP sampling error, but this is not true of nonsampling error. Found below are descriptions of sources of SIPP nonsampling error, followed by a discussion of sampling error, its estimation, and its use in data analysis.

Nonsampling Variability. Nonsampling errors can be attributed to many sources, e.g., inability to obtain information about all cases in the sample, definitional difficulties, differences in the interpretation of questions, inability or unwillingness on the part of the respondents to provide correct information, inability to recall information, errors made in collection such as in recording or coding the data, errors made in processing the data, errors made in estimating values for missing data, biases resulting from the differing recall periods caused by the rotation pattern used and failure to represent all units within the sample (undercoverage). Quality control and edit procedures were used to reduce errors made by respondents, coders and interviewers.

Undercoverage in SIPP results from missed living quarters and missed persons within sample households. It is known that undercoverage varies with age, race, and sex. Generally, undercoverage is larger for males than for females and larger for Blacks than for non-Blacks. Ratio estimation to independent age-race-sex population controls partially corrects for the bias due to survey undercoverage. However, biases exist in the estimates to the extent that persons in missed households or missed persons in interviewed households have different characteristics than the interviewed persons in the same age-race-sex group. Further, the independent population controls used have not been adjusted for undercoverage in the decennial census.

The following table summarizes information on household nonresponse for the interview months used to produce this file.

Sample Size, by Month and Interview Status

Month	Household Units Eligible			
	Total	Inter-viewed	Not Inter-viewed	Non-Response Rate[1/]
Jan 1985	5,600	4,700	900	16
Feb 1985	5,600	4,700	1,000	17
Mar 1985[2/]	4,600	3,800	800	18
Apr 1985	4,700	3,800	900	18

[1/]Due to rounding of all numbers at 100, there are some inconsistencies. The percentage was calculated using unrounded numbers.

[2/]A sample cut was implemented for budgetary reasons.

Some respondents do not respond to some of the questions. Therefore, the overall nonresponse rate for some items, such as income and money-related items is higher than the nonresponse rates in the above table. The Bureau has used complex techniques to adjust the weights for nonresponse, but the success of these techniques in avoiding bias is unknown.

Comparability with other statistics. Caution should be exercised when comparing data from this file with data from other SIPP products or with data from other surveys. The comparability problems are caused by the seasonal patterns for many characteristics and by different nonsampling errors.

Sampling variability. Standard errors indicate the magnitude of the sampling error. They also partially measure the effect of some nonsampling errors in response and enumeration, but do not measure any systematic biases in the data. The standard errors for the most part measure the variations that occurred by chance because a sample rather than the entire population was surveyed.

The sample estimate and its standard error enable one to construct confidence intervals, ranges that would include the average result of all possible samples with a known probability. For example, if all possible samples were selected, each of these being surveyed under essentially the same conditions and using the same sample design, and if an estimate and its standard error were calculated from each sample, then:

1. Approximately 68 percent of the intervals from one standard error below the estimate to one standard error above the estimate would include the average result of all possible samples.

2. Approximately 90 percent of the intervals from 1.6 standard errors below the estimate to 1.6 standard errors above the estimate would include the average result of all possible samples.

3. Approximately 95 percent of the intervals from two standard errors below the estimate to two standard errors above the estimate would include the average result of all possible samples.

The average estimate derived from all possible samples is or is not contained in any particular computed interval. However, for a particular sample, one can say with a specified confidence that the average estimate derived from all possible samples is included in the confidence interval.

Hypothesis Testing. Standard errors may also be used for hypothesis testing, a procedure for distinguishing between population parameters using sample estimates. The most common types of hypotheses tested are 1) the population parameters are identical versus 2) they are different. Tests may be performed at various levels of significance, where a level of significance is the probability of concluding that the parameters are different when, in fact, they are identical.

To perform the most common test, let X_A and X_B be sample estimates of two parameters of interest. A subsequent section explains how to derive a standard error on the difference X_A-X_B. Let that standard error be s_{DIFF}. Compute the ratio $R=(X_A-X_B)/s_{DIFF}$. If this ratio is between -2 and +2, no conclusion about the parameters is justified at the 5 percent significance level. If, on the other hand, this ratio is smaller than -2 or larger than +2, the observed difference is significant at the 5% level. In this event, it is commonly accepted practice to say that the parameters are different. Of course, sometimes this conclusion will be wrong. When the parameters are, in fact, the same, there is a 5% chance of concluding that they are different.

Note when using small estimates. Because of the large standard errors involved, there is little chance that estimates will reveal useful information when computed on a base smaller than 200,000. Nonsampling error can occasionally occur in one of the small number of cases used in the estimate, causing large relative error in that particular estimate. Also, care must be taken in the interpretation of small differences. Even a small amount of nonsampling error can cause a borderline difference to appear significant or not, thus distorting a seemingly valid hypothesis test.

Standard Error Parameters and Tables and Their Use. To derive standard errors that would be applicable to a wide variety of statistics and could be prepared at a moderate cost, a number of approximations were required. Most of the SIPP statistics have greater variance than those obtained through a simple random sample because clusters of living quarters are sampled for SIPP. Two parameters (denoted "a" and "b") were developed to quantify these increases in variance. All statistics do not have the same variance behavior; statistics with similar variance behavior were grouped together. These "a" and "b" parameters are used in estimating standard errors of survey estimates. The "a" and "b" parameters vary by type of estimate and by subgroup to which the estimate applies. Table 8 provides base "a" and "b" parameters for various subgroups and types of estimates. For SIPP wave 5 core and topical module characteristics, f factors for each of the single reference months, September 1984 through March 1985, are provided. The factor f multiplied by the base

parameters for a given subgroup and type of estimate gives the "a" and "b" parameters for that subgroup and estimate type in the chosen time period. For example, the base "a" and "b" parameters for total income of households are -0.0000835 and 7390, respectively. The f factor for September 1984 is 4, so that "a" and "b" parameters for total household income in September 1984 are -0.000334 and 29,560, respectively.

The "a" and "b" parameters may be used to directly calculate the standard error for estimated numbers and percentages. Because the actual variance behavior was not identical for all statistics within a group, the standard errors computed from these parameters provide an indication of the order of magnitude of the standard error for any specific statistic. Methods for using these parameters for direct computation of standard errors are given in the following sections.

The user can create far more types of estimates than standard errors are provided for here. Procedures for calculating standard errors for the types of estimates most commonly used are described below. Note specifically that these procedures apply only to reference month estimates or averages of reference month estimates. Refer to the section "Use of Weights" for a detailed discussion of construction of estimates.

Stratum codes and half sample codes are included on the tape to enable the user to compute the variances directly by methods such as balanced repeated replications (BRR). William G. Cochran provides a list of references discussing the application of this technique.1/

Standard errors of estimated numbers. The approximate standard error of an estimated number can be obtained by using formula (1) below.

$$s_x = \sqrt{ax^2 + bx} \qquad (1)$$

Here x is the size of the estimate and "a" and "b" are the parameters associated with the particular type of characteristic for the appropriate reference period.

Illustration of the computation of the standard error of an estimated number.

Suppose that the estimated number from SIPP of employed women with at least one child under 5 years of age that provided child care arrangements for their youngest child at a group care center in March 1985 was 752,728. Then the appropriate "a" and "b" parameters and f factor to use in calculating a standard error for the estimate are obtained from table 3. They are a = -0.0000689, b = 5980 and f=4, respectively.

Using formula (1), the approximate standard error is

$$\sqrt{(-0.000268)(752,728)^2 + (23,920)(752,728)} \approx 133,617$$

1/ Sampling Techniques, 3rd Ed. (New York: John Wiley and Sons, 1977), p.321.

The 90-percent confidence interval as shown by the data is from 538,941 to 986,515. Therefore, a conclusion that the estimate derived from all possible samples lies within a range computed in this way would be correct for roughly 90 percent of all samples. Similarly, using twice the standard error, we could conclude that the average estimate derived from all possible samples lies within the interval 485,494 to 1,019,962 with 95 percent confidence.

Standard errors of estimated percentages. This section refers to percentages of a group of persons, families, or households possessing a particular attribute (e.g., the percentage of employed mothers with at least one child under 5).

The reliability of an estimated percentage, computed using sample data for both numerator and denominator, depends upon both the size of the percentage and the size of the total upon which the percentage is based. Estimated percentages are relatively more reliable than the corresponding estimates of the numerators of the percentages, particularly if the percentages are 50 percent or more, e.g., the percent of people employed is more reliable than the estimated number of people employed. When the numerator and denominator of the percentage have different parameters, use the parameter for the numerator. The approximate standard error, $s_{x,p}$, of the estimated percentage p can be obtained by the formula (2) below.

$$s_{x,p} = \sqrt{\frac{b}{x}\,(p[100-p])} \qquad (2)$$

Here x is the size of the subclass of households or persons in households which is the base of the percentage. p is the percentage (0<p<100), and b is the "b" parameter for the numerator.

Illustration of the computation of the standard error of an estimated percentage.

Continuing the example from above, suppose that of the 752,728 employed mothers with at least one child under 5 that provided child care arrangements for their youngest child at a group care center, 85.0 percent were White. Using formula (2) and the appropriate "b" parameter and f factor from table 3, the approximate standard error is

$$\sqrt{\frac{(23,920)}{(752,728)}\,(85.0)\,(100-85.0)} \approx 6.4 \text{ percent}$$

Consequently, the 90 percent confidence interval as shown by these data is from 74.8 to 95.2 percent, and the 95 percent confidence interval is from 72.3 to 97.7 percent.

Standard error of a difference. The standard error of a difference between two sample estimates is approximately equal to

$$s_{(x-y)} = \sqrt{s_x^2 + s_y^2} \qquad (3)$$

where s_x and s_y are the standard errors of the estimates x and y. The estimates can be numbers, percents, ratios, etc. The above formula assumes that the

sample correlation coefficient, r, between the two estimates is zero. If r is really positive (negative), then this assumption will lead to overestimates (underestimates) of the true standard error.

Illustration of the computation of the standard error of a difference.

Suppose that SIPP estimates show the number of persons age 35-44 years in nonfarm households with mean monthly household cash income of $4,000 to $4,999 during the first quarter of 1985 was 3,186,000 and the number of persons age 25-34 years in nonfarm households with mean monthly household cash income of $4,000 to $4,999 in the same time period was 2,619,000. And suppose that the standard errors of these numbers are 250,000 and 227,000, respectively. Assuming that these two estimates are not correlated, the standard error of the estimated difference of 567,000 is

$$\sqrt{(250,000)^2 + (227,000)^2} \approx 338,000.$$

Suppose that it is desired to test at the 5 percent significance level whether the number of persons with mean monthly household cash income of $4,000 to $4,999 during the first quarter of 1985, (X), was different for persons age 35-44 years in nonfarm households than for persons age 25-34 years in nonfarm households. The difference, $X_{35-44} - X_{25-34}$ is 567,000. The difference divided by the standard error of the difference, $(X_{35-44} - X_{25-34})/s_{DIFF}$, is 1.68. Since the ratio is between -2 and 2, no conclusion about the parameters is justified at the 5 percent significance level.

Standard error of a mean. A mean is defined here to be the average quantity of some item (other than persons, families, or households) per person, family, or household. For example, it could be the average monthly household income of females age 25 to 34. The standard error of a mean can be approximated by formula (4) below. Because of the approximations used in developing formula (4), an estimate of the standard error of the mean obtained from that formula will generally underestimate the true standard error. The formula used to estimate the standard error of a mean $\bar{x}$ is

$$s_{\bar{x}} = \sqrt{\frac{b}{y} s^2} \qquad (4)$$

where y is the size of the base, s^2 is the estimated population variance of the item, and b is the parameter associated with the particular type of item.

The estimated population variance, s^2, is given by formula (5):

$$s^2 = \sum_{i=1}^{c} p_i x_i^2 - \bar{x}^2 \qquad (5)$$

where it is assumed that each person or other unit was placed in one of c groups; p_i is the estimated proportion of group i; $x_i = (Z_{i-1} + Z_i)/2$ where Z_{i-1} and Z_i are the lower and upper interval boundaries, respectively, for group i. x_i is assumed to be the most representative value for the characteristic of interest in group i. If group c is open-ended, i.e., no upper interval boundary exists, then an approximate value for x_c is

$$x_c = \frac{3}{2} z_{c-1} \qquad (6)$$

Illustration of the Computation of the Standard Error of an Estimated Mean.

Suppose that the average of monthly household incomes during the first quarter 1985 of persons age 25 to 34 are given in the following table.

Table 2. Distribution of Monthly Household Income Among Persons 25 To 34 Years Old

	Total	under $300	$300 to $599	$600 to $899	$900 to $1,199	$1,200 to $1,499	$1,500 to $1,999	$2,000 to $2,499	$2,500 to $2,999	$3,000 to $3,499	$3,500 to $3,999	$4,000 to $4,999	$5,000 to $5,999	$6,000 and over
Thousands in interval	39,851	1371	1651	2259	2734	3452	6278	5799	4730	3723	2519	2819	1223	1493
Percent with at least as much as lower bound of interval	--	100.0	96.6	92.4	85.7	79.9	71.2	55.5	40.9	29.1	19.7	13.4	6.8	3.7

Using formula (5) and the mean monthly household cash income of $2,530 the approximate population variance, s^2, is

$$s^2 = \frac{1,371}{39,851} (150)^2 + \frac{1,651}{39,851} (450)2 + \ldots\ldots$$

$$\frac{1,493}{39,851} (9,000)^2 - (2,530)^2 = 3,159,887.$$

Using formula (4), the appropriate "b" parameter from table 3 and the f factor for the first quarter of 1985, the estimated standard error of a mean $\bar{x}$ is

$$s_{\bar{x}} = \sqrt{\frac{11,074}{39,851,000} (3,159,887)} = \$30$$

Standard error of a median. The median quantity of some item such as income for a given group of persons, families, or households is that quantity such that at least half the group has as much or more and at least half the group has as much or less. The sampling variability of an estimated median depends upon the

form of the distribution of the item as well as the size of the group. An approximate method for measuring the reliability of an estimated median is to determine a confidence interval about it. (See the section on sampling variability for a general discussion of confidence intervals.) The following procedure may be used to estimate the 68-percent confidence limits and hence the standard error of a median based on sample data.

1. Determine, using formula (2), the standard error of an estimate of 50 percent of the group;

2. Add to and subtract from 50 percent the standard error determined in step (1);

3. Using the distribution of the item within the group, calculate the quantity of the item such that the percent of the group owning more is equal to the smaller percentage found in step (2). This quantity will be the upper limit for the 68-percent confidence interval. In a similar fashion, calculate the quantity of the item such that the percent of the group owning more is equal to the larger percentage found in step (2). This quantity will be the lower limit for the 68-percent confidence interval;

4. Divide the difference between the two quantities determined in step (3) by two to obtain the standard error of the median.

To perform step (3), it will be necessary to interpolate. Different methods of interpolation may be used. The most common are simple linear interpolation and Pareto interpolation. The appropriateness of the method depends on the form of the distribution around the median. We recommend Pareto interpolation in most instances. Interpolation is used as follows. The quantity of the item such that "p" percent own more is

$$X_{pN} = A_1 \exp\left[\mathrm{Ln}\left(\frac{pN}{N_1}\right) \mathrm{Ln}\left(\frac{A_2}{A_1}\right) \Big/ \mathrm{Ln}\left(\frac{N_2}{N_1}\right)\right] \qquad (7)$$

if Pareto interpolation is indicated and

$$X_{pN} = \frac{N_1 - pN}{N_1 - N_2} (A_2 - A_1) + A_1 \qquad (8)$$

if linear interpolation is indicated, where

N	is size of the group,
A_1 and A_2	are the lower and upper bounds, respectively, of the interval in which X_{pN} falls,
N_1 and N_2	are the estimated number of group members owning more than A_1 and A_2, respectively,
exp	refers to the exponential function, and
Ln	refers to the natural logarithm function.

It should be noted that a mathematically equivalent result is obtained by using common logarithms (base 10) and antilogarithms.

Illustration of the Computation of a Confidence Interval and the Standard Error for a Median

To illustrate the calculations for the sampling error on a median, we return to the same example used to illustrate the standard error of a mean. The median monthly income for this group is $2,158. The size of the group is 39,851,000.

1. Using formula (2), the standard error of 50 percent on a base of 39,851,000 is about .8 percentage points.

2. Following step (2), the two percentages of interest are 49.2 and 50.8.

3. By examining table 2, we see that the percentage 49.2 falls in the income interval from $2,000 to $2,499. Thus A_1 = $2,000, A_2 = $2,500, N_1 = 22,106,000, and N_2 = 16,307,000. Implementing Pareto interpolation, the upper bound of a 68% confidence interval for the median is

$$\$2{,}000 \exp\left[\operatorname{Ln}\left(\frac{(.492)(39{,}851{,}000)}{22{,}106{,}000}\right) \operatorname{Ln}\left(\frac{2{,}500}{2{,}000}\right) \Big/ \operatorname{Ln}\left(\frac{16{,}307{,}000}{22{,}106{,}000}\right)\right] = \$2{,}183$$

Also by examining table 2, we see that the percentage of 50.8 falls in the same income interval. Thus, A_1, A_2, N_1, and N_2 are the same. So the lower bound of a 68% confidence interval for the median is

$$\$2{,}000 \exp\left[\operatorname{Ln}\left(\frac{(.508)(39{,}851{,}000)}{22{,}106{,}000}\right) \operatorname{Ln}\left(\frac{2{,}500}{2{,}000}\right) \Big/ \operatorname{Ln}\left(\frac{16{,}307{,}000}{22{,}106{,}000}\right)\right] = \$2{,}133$$

Thus, the 68-percent confidence interval on the estimated median is from $2,133 to $2,183. An approximate standard error is

$$\frac{\$2{,}183 - \$2{,}133}{2} = \$25.$$

Using linear interpolation, the 68-percent confidence interval of the estimated median is $2,161 to $2,215 and the approximate standard error is $27.

Standard errors of ratios of means and medians. The standard error for a ratio of means or medians is approximated by formula (9):

$$s_{\left(\frac{x}{y}\right)} = \sqrt{\left(\frac{x}{y}\right)^2 \left[\left(\frac{s_y}{y}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{s_x}{x}\right)^2\right]} \qquad (9)$$

where x and y are the means or medians, and s_x and s_y are their associated standard errors. Formula (9) assumes that the means or medians are not correlated. If the correlation between the two means or medians is actually positive (negative), then this procedure will provide an overestimate (underestimate) of the standard error for the ratio of means and medians.

TABLE 3. SIPP 1984 Generalized Variance Parameters for the Wave 5 Public Use File

PERSONS	a	b
Total or White[1/]		
16+ Program Participation and Benefits (3)		
Both Sexes	-0.0001030	17,539
Male	-0.0002167	17,539
Female	-0.0001962	17,539
18+ Welfare History and AFDC		
Both Sexes (2)	-0.0001026	17,539
Male	-0.0002162	17,539
Female	-0.0001952	17,539
16+ Income and Labor Force[2/] (5)		
Both Sexes	-0.0000351	5,980
Male	-0.0000789	5,980
Female	-0.0000689	5,980
0-15 Children Receiving Child Care (6)	-0.0001156	5,980
18+ Women Receiving Child Support (4)	-0.0000791	7,390
All Others[3/] (7)		
Both Sexes	-0.0000943	21,746
Male	-0.0001951	21,746
Female	-0.0001827	21,746
Black (1)		
Both Sexes	-0.0002918	8,045
Male	-0.0006266	8,045
Female	-0.0005453	8,045
HOUSEHOLDS/Families/Unrelated Individuals[4/]		
Total or White	-0.0000835	7,390
Black	-0.0005091	5,106

"f" Factors to be Applied to Base Parameters to Obtain Parameters for Specific Reference Periods

September 1984	4.0000
October	2.0000
November	1.3333
December	1.0000
January 1985	1.3333
February	2.0000
March	4.0000
4th Quarter 1984	1.2222
1st Quarter 1985	1.8519
4th Quarter 1984 & 1st Quarter 1985	1.0586

[1/]For cross-tabulations, apply the parameters of the category showing the smaller number in parentheses.

[2/]Also use these parameters for tabulations on reasons for not working, reservation wage, and work-related expenses.

[3/]These parameters are to be used for all tabulations not specifically covered by any other category in this table, e.g., for retirement and pension tabulations, for 0+ benefits, 0+ income, and 0+ labor force tabulations.

[4/]Also use these parameters for tabulations on support for non-household members.

Table 4. Metropolitan Subsample Factors (Multiply these factors times the weight for the person, family or household)

		Factors for use in State or NSA Tabulations	Factors for use in Regional or National Tabs
Northeast:	Connecticut	1.0390	1.0432
	Maine	--	--
	Massachusetts	1.0000	1.0040
	New Jersey	1.0000	1.0040
	New York	1.0110	1.0150
	Pennsylvania	1.0025	1.0065
	Rhode Island	1.2549	1.2599
Midwest:	Illinois	1.0232	1.0310
	Indiana	1.0000	1.0076
	Iowa	--	--
	Kansas	1.6024	1.6146
	Michigan	1.0000	1.0076
	Minnesota	1.0000	1.0076
	Missouri	1.0611	1.0692
	Nebraska	1.7454	1.7587
	Ohio	1.0134	1.0211
	Wisconsin	1.0700	1.0782
South:	Alabama	1.1441	1.1511
	Arkansas	1.0000	1.0061
	Delaware	1.0000	1.0061
	D.C.	1.0000	1.0061
	Florida	1.0333	1.0396
	Georgia	1.0000	1.0061
	Kentucky	1.1124	1.1192
	Louisiana	1.1470	1.1540
	Maryland	1.0000	1.0061
	North Carolina	1.0000	1.0061
	Oklahoma	1.1146	1.1214
	South Carolina	1.1270	1.1339
	Tennessee	1.0000	1.0061
	Texas	1.0192	1.0254
	Virginia	1.0778	1.0844
	West Va.-Miss.	--	--
West:	Arizona	1.0870	1.0870
	California	1.0000	1.0000
	Colorado	1.0000	1.0000
	Hawaii	1.0000	1.0000
	Oregon	1.0879	1.0879
	Washington	1.0868	1.0868

-- indicates no metropolitan subsample is shown for the State.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Bureau of the Census
Washington, D.C. 20233

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Additions to the Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP) Working Papers and report series are now available. These additions include:

- The Working Papers (Nos. 8401-8407, Nos. 8501-8507, and Nos. 8601, 8602, 8604, and 8607.
- Compilation of papers presented in the SIPP sessions at the American Statistical Association meetings in August 1984 and August 1985.
- "Economic Characteristics of Households in the United States" (Current Population Report Series P-70, Nos. 1-5)
- A special issue of the Journal of Economic and Social Measurement containing the proceedings of a conference sponsored by the National Science Foundation, the Social Science Research Council and the Census Bureau. The table of contents of this issue is attached for your information.

SIPP public-use microdata files can be purchased through the Census Bureau's Data User Services Division (301-763-4100). Another way of accessing SIPP data is through the University of Wisconsin's Research Network and Data Center for SIPP. Call Alice Robbin at (608) 262-4574 or Martin David at (608) 262-3281 for more information.

See the attached listing for a description of the available products from the Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP). Please note that Working Paper 8401 was revised in December 1985 to account for program additions and changes which took place in 1985. If you want to receive any of these products, put a check by the appropriate number and mail to:

Daniel Kasprzyk, Special Assistant
Population Division, Room 2025-3
Bureau of the Census
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SIPP Working Papers

1984

_____ 8401 (Update No. 1, revised 12/85)
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_____ 8404
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_____ 8502
_____ 8503
_____ 8504
_____ 8505
_____ 8506
_____ 8507

1986

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_____ 8602
_____ 8603 Forthcoming
_____ 8604
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SIPP WORKING PAPERS - 1984

8401 - (Update No. 1, Revised 12/85) "An Overview of the Survey of Income and Program Participation," by D. Nelson, D. B. McMillen, and D. Kasprzyk.

8402 - "Toward a Longitudinal Definition of Households," by D. B. McMillen and R. A. Herriot.

8403 - "Papers Presented at the Survey of Income and Program Participation, Session I, at the annual meeting of the American Statistical Association in Philadelphia, Pa., August 13-16, 1984." The papers presented include:

a. "An Analysis of Turnover in the Food Stamp Program," by T. Carr and I. Lubitz, Mathematica Policy Research, Inc.

b. "The Measurement of Household Wealth in SIPP," by E. J. Lamas and J. M. McNeil, Census.

c. "The Wealth and Income of Aged Households," by D. P. Radner, Social Security Administration.

8404 - "Papers Presented at the Survey of Income and Program Participation, Session II, at the annual meeting of the American Statistical Association in Philadelphia, Pa., August 13-16, 1984." The papers given include:

a. "Toward a Longitudinal Definition of Households," by D. B. McMillen and R. A. Herriot.

b. "Lifetime Work Experience and Its Effect on Earnings," by J. M. McNeil, Census, and J. T. Salvo, New York City Department of Planning.

c. "Panel Surveys as a Source of Migration Data," by D. Dahmann, Census.

d. "SIPP and CPS Labor Force Concepts: A Comparison," by P. M. Ryscavage, Census.

e. "Matching Economic Data to the Survey of Income and Program Participation: A Pilot Study," by S. Haber, George Washington University, and P. Ryscavage, D. Sater, and V. Valdisera, Census.

8405 - "The Survey of Income and Program Participation," by R. A. Herriot and D. Kasprzyk, Census.

8406 - "Papers Presented at the Survey of Income and Program Participation, Session III, at the annual meeting of the American Statistical Association in Philadelphia, Pa., August 13-16, 1984." The papers given include:

a. "Obtaining a Cross-Sectional Estimate From a Longitudinal Survey: Experiences of the ISDP," by H. Huang, Census.

b. "Weighting of Persons for SIPP Longitudinal Tabulations," by D. Judkins, D. Hubble, J. Dorsch, D. B. McMillen, and L. Ernst, Census.

c. "Longitudinal Family and Household Estimation in SIPP," by L. Ernst, D. Hubble, and D. Judkins, Census.

d. "Early Indications of Item Nonresponse in SIPP," by J. Coder and A. Feldman, Census.

8407 - "Papers Presented at the Survey of Income and Program Participation, Session IV, at the annual meeting of the American Statistical Association in Philadelphia, Pa., August 13-16, 1984." The papers given include:

a. "Month-to-Month Income Recipiency Changes in the ISDP," by J. C. Moore and D. Kasprzyk, Census.

b. "Findings From the Student Follow-Up Investigation of the 1979 ISDP," by A. M. Roman and D. V. O'Brien, Census.

c. "The ISDP 1979 Research Panel as a Methodological Survey: Implications for Substantive Analysis," by R. A. Kulka, Research Triangle Institute.

d. "Some Data Collection Issues for Panel Survey with Application to SIPP," by A. Jean and E. K. McArthur, Census.

e. "Managing the Data From the 1979 ISDP," by P. Doyle and C. Citro, Mathematica Policy Research, Inc.

SIPP WORKING PAPERS - 1985

8501 - "The Survey of Income and Program Participation: Uses and Applications," by K. S. Short, Census.

8502 - "Applications of a Matched File Linking the Bureau of the Census Survey of Income and Program Participation and Economic Data," by S. Haber, George Washington University.

8503 - "Using the Survey of Income and Program Participation for Research on the Older Population," by D. B. McMillen, C. M. Taeuber, and J. Marks, Census.

8504 - "Summary of the Content of the 1984 Panel of the Survey of Income and Program Participation," by D. T. Frankel, Census.

8505 - "Enhancing Data From the Survey of Income and Program Participation With Data From Economic Censuses and Surveys," by D. K. Sater, Census.

8506 - "Methodologies for Imputing Longitudinal Survey Items," by V. Huggins, L. Weidman, and M. E. Samuhel, Census.

8507 - "New Household Survey and the CPS: A Look at Labor Force Differences," by P. M. Ryscavage, Census, and J. E. Bregger, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

SIPP WORKING PAPERS - 1986

8601 - "Some Aspects of SIPP," by Roger Herriot and Daniel Kasprzyk, Census.

8602 - "Nonsampling Error Issues in the SIPP," by Graham Kalton, University of Michigan, David McMillen, and Daniel Kasprzyk, Census.

8603 - "An Investigation of Model-Based Imputation Procedures Using Data from the Income Survey Development Program," by Vicki J. Huggins and Lynn Weidman, Census. (FORTHCOMING)

8604 - "Food Stamp Participation: A Comparison of SIPP with Administrative Records," by Steve Carlson and Robert Dalyrmple, Food and Nutrition Services.

8605 - "SIPP Longitudinal Household Estimation for the Proposed Longitudinal Definition," by Lawrence R. Ernst, Census (FORTHCOMING)

8606 - "A Comparison of Seven Imputation Procedures for the 1979 Panel of the Income Survey Development Program," by Vicki J. Huggins, Census (FORTHCOMING)

8607 - "An Investigation of the Imputation of Monthly Earnings for the Survey of Income and Program Participation Using Regression Models," by Vicki J. Huggins and Lynn Weidman, Census

COMPILATIONS OF ASA PAPERS FOR 1984 AND 1985

In August 1984, five sessions concerning SIPP were included in the Annual meeting of the American Statistical Association in Philadelphia, PA. The papers presented in these sessions have been consolidated in: "Survey of Income and Program Participation and Related Longitudinal Surveys: 1984."

This volume not only includes the final version of some of the papers offered in the SIPP Working Paper Series, Nos. 8402-8407, but also includes papers that were unavailable at the time the working papers were released, and papers from the discussants at the meeting. These papers include:

"An Analysis of Turnover in the Food Stamp Program," written by T. Carr and I. Lubitz, Mathematica Policy Research, Inc.

"Using Subjective Assessments of Income to Estimate Family Equivalences Scales: A Report on Work in Progress," written by D. Vaughan, Social Security Administration.

"Longitudinal Item Imputation in a Complex Survey," written by M. E. Samuhel and V. Huggins, Census.

"The German Socio-Economic Panel," written by Ute Hanefeld, Deutches Institut fur Wirtschaftsforschung.

"Household Market and Nonmarket Activities--The First Year of a Swedish Panel Study," written by N. Anders Klevmarken, University of Goteborg, Sweden.

"The Australian National Longitudinal Survey," written by Ian McRae, Bureau of Labour Market Research, Australia.

In August 1985, two sessions concerning SIPP were included in the ASA meeting held in Las Vegas, Nevada, The papers are consolidated in "Survey of Income and Program Participation: 1985."

These papers are included:

"Item Nonresponse in the Survey of Income and Program Participation," written by D. B. McMillen and D. Kasprzyk, Census.

"Characteristics of Sample Attrition in the Survey of Income and Program Participation," written by E. McArthur and K. S. Short, Census.

"Compensating for Wave Nonresponse in the 1979 ISDP Research Panel," written by G. Kalton, J. Lepkowski, and Ting-Kwong Lin, University of Michigan.

"Alternative Definitions of Longitudinal Households in the Income Survey Development Program: Implications for Annual Statistics," written by C. F. Citro, Census.

"Do We Learn From the Past Experience When Constructing Complex Data?," written by P. Doyle, Mathematica Policy Research, Inc.

"Operationalizing the Poverty Line in a Survey Using Subannual Reference Periods," written by D. Vaughan, Social Security Administration.

"Short Term Change in Household and Family Structure," written by H. Koo, Research Triangle Institute.

"Characteristics of Program Participants: Some Early Evidence From SIPP," written by D. B. McMillen, Census.

"An Exploration of the Applicability of Hazards Models in Analyzing the Survey of Income and Program Participation: Labor Force Transitions," written by K. S. Short and K. Woodrow, Census.

"Gross Changes in Income Recipiency from the Survey of Income and Program Participation," written by D. Burkhead and J. Coder, Census.

"Designing a Data Center for SIPP: An Observatory for the Social Sciences," written by M. David, University of Wisconsin.

Discussants:

John Czajka, Mathematica Policy Research

Robert Teitel, Teitel Data Systems

A3

Current Population Reports, Household Economic Studies, Series P-70--
"Economic Characteristics of Households in the United States"

Third Quarter 1983 (P-70, No. 1)

Fourth Quarter 1983 (P-70-83-4)

First Quarter 1984 (P-70, No. 3)

Second Quarter 1984 (P-70, No. 4)

Third Quarter 1984 (P-70, No. 5)

(These reports contain average monthly data from the SIPP.)

JOURNAL OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL MEASUREMENT

Volume 13, Numbers 3 and 4, 1985

Contents

Special Issue: Survey of Income and Program Participation

Guest Editor: Martin David

Demographic Dynamics

Major Social Issues

Enhancing Data on Human Capital

Improving the Design of SIPP

Analysis of Families Over Time

APPENDIX B-GLOSSARY OF SELECTED TERMS

Population coverage. The estimates are restricted to the civilian noninstitutional population of the 50 States and members of the Armed Forces living off post or with their families on post.

Farm-nonfarm residence. The farm population refers to rural residents living on farms. Under this definition, a farm is any place in rural territory from which sales of crops, livestock, and other agricultural products amounted to $1,000 or more during the previous 12-month period.

Householder. Survey procedures call for listing first the person (or one of the persons) in whose name the home is owned or rented. If the house is owned jointly by a married couple, either the husband or the wife may be listed first, thereby becoming the reference person, or householder, to whom the relationship of the other household members is recorded. One person in each household is designated as the "householder." The number of householders, therefore, is equal to the number of households.

Household. A household consists of all persons who occupy a housing unit. A house, an apartment or other group of rooms, or a single room is regarded as a housing unit when it is occupied or intended for occupancy as separate living quarters; that is, when the occupants do not live and eat with any other persons in the structure and there is either (1) direct access from the outside or through a common hall or (2) a kitchen or cooking equipment for the exclusive use of the occupants.

A household includes the related family members and all the unrelated persons, if any, such as lodgers, foster children, wards, or employees who share the housing unit. A person living alone in a housing unit or a group of unrelated persons sharing a housing unit as partners is also counted as a household. The count of households excludes group quarters. Examples of group quarters include rooming and boarding houses, college dormitories, and convents and monasteries.

Family. A family is a group of two or more persons (one of whom is the householder) related by birth, marriage, or adoption and residing together; all such persons (including related subfamily members) are considered members of one family.

Family household. A family household is a household maintained by a family; any unrelated persons (unrelated subfamily members and/or secondary individuals) who may be residing there are included. The number of family households is equal to the number of families. The count of family household members differs from the count of family members, however, in that the family household members include all persons living in the household, whereas family members include only the householder and his/her relatives.

Nonfamily household. A nonfamily household is a household maintained by a person living alone or with nonrelatives only.

Race. The population is divided into groups on the basis of race: White; Black; American Indian, Eskimo, or Aleut; Asian or Pacific Islander; and "other races."

Persons of Spanish origin. Persons of Spanish origin were determined on the basis of a question that asked for self-identification of the person's origin or descent. Respondents were asked to select their origin (or the origin of some other household member) from a "flash card" listing ethnic origins. Persons of Spanish origin, in particular, were those who indicated that their origin was Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central or South American, or some other Spanish origin. It should be noted that persons of Spanish origin may be of any race.

Work disability. Persons were classified as having a work disability if they were identified by the respondent as having a physical, mental, or other health condition that limits the kind or amount of work they can do.

Monthly income. The monthly income estimates for households are based on the sum of the monthly income received by each household member age 15 years old or over.

Cash income includes all income received from any of the sources listed in Appendix B-1. Rebates, refunds, loans, and capital gain or loss amounts from the sale of assets, and interhousehold transfers of cash such as allowances are not included. Accrued interest on Individual Retirement Accounts, KEOUGH retirement plans, and U.S. Savings bonds are also excluded. This definition differs somewhat from that used in the annual income reports based on the March CPS income supplement questionnaire. These data, published in the Consumer Income Series, P-60, are based only on income received in a regular or periodic manner and, therefore, exclude lump-sum or one-time payments such as inheritances and insurance settlements. The March CPS income definition, however, does exclude the same income sources excluded by SIPP.

The income amounts represent amounts actually received during the month, before deductions for income and payroll taxes, union dues, Part B Medicare premiums, etc.

The SIPP income definition includes three types of earnings: wages and salary, nonfarm self-employment, and farm self-employment. The definition of nonfarm self-employment and farm self-employment is not based on the net difference between gross receipts or sales and operating expenses, depreciation, etc. The monthly amounts for these income types are based on the salary or other income received from the business by the owner of the business or farm during the 4-month reference period.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics publishes quarterly averages for an earnings concept called "usual weekly earnings" for employed wage and salary workers. The concept differs from the SIPP earnings concept since it is based on usual, not actual earnings, excludes the self-employed, and excludes earnings from secondary jobs.

While the income amounts from most sources are recorded monthly for the 4-month reference period, property income amounts, interest, dividends, rental income, etc., were recorded as totals for the 4-month period. These totals were distributed equally between months of the reference period for purposes of calculating monthly averages.

Means-tested benefits. The term means-tested benefits refers to programs that require the income or assets (resources) of the individual or family be below specified guidelines in order to qualify for benefits. These programs provide cash and noncash assistance to the low-income population. The major sources of means-tested cash and noncash assistance are shown in Appendix B-2.

Medicare. This term refers to the Federal Health Insurance Program for the Aged and Disabled as provided for by Title XVIII of the Social Security Act. The phrase "Medicare covered" refers to persons enrolled in the Medicare program, regardless of whether they actually utilized any Medicare covered health care services during the survey reference period.

Medicaid. This term refers to the Federal-State program of medical assistance for low-income individuals and their families as provided for by Title XIX of the Social Security Act. The phrase "Medicaid covered" refers to persons enrolled in the Medicaid program, regardless of whether they actually utilized any Medicaid covered health care services during the survey reference period.

Unemployment compensation. This term refers to cash benefits paid to unemployed workers through a State or local unemployment agency. These include all benefits paid under the Federal-State unemployment insurance program as established under the Social Security Act, as well as those benefits paid to State and local government employees, Federal civilian employees, and veterans.

Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program. Benefits from the Federally funded LIHEAP authorized by Title XXVI of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1981, or comparable assistance provided through State funded assistance programs, may be received in the form of direct payment to the household as reimbursement for heating or cooling expenses or paid directly to the fuel dealer or landlord.

Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC). Benefits are received in the form of vouchers that are redeemed at retail stores for specific supplemental nutritious foods. Eligible low-income recipients are infants and children up to age five and pregnant, postpartum, and breastfeeding women.

With a job. Persons are classified "with a job" in a given month if they were 16 years old or over and, during the month, either (a) worked as paid employees or worked in their own business or profession or on their own farm or worked without pay in a family business or farm or (b) were temporarily absent from work either with or without pay. In general, the word "job" implies an arrangement for regular work for pay where payment is in cash wages or salaries, at piece rates, in tips, by commission, or in kind (meals, living quarters, supplies received). "Job" also includes self-employment at a business, professional practice, or farm. A business is defined as an activity which involves the use of machinery or equipment in which money has been invested or an activity requiring an office or "place of business" or an activity which requires advertising; payment may be in the form of profits or fees.

The Current Population Survey (CPS), the official source of labor force statistics for the Nation, uses the same definition for a job or business. The term "with a job," however, should not be confused with the term "employed" as used in the CPS. "With a job" includes those who were temporarily absent from a job because of layoff and those waiting to begin a new job in 30 days; in the CPS these persons are not considered "employed." See "Worked each week" below.

Worked each week. Persons "worked each week" in a month if, for the entire month, they were "with a job" and not "absent without pay" from the job. In other words, a person worked each week in any month when they were (a) on the job the entire month, or (b) they received wages or a salary for all weeks in the month, whether they were on the job or not. Persons also worked each week if they were self-employed and spent time during each week of the month at or on behalf of the business or farm they owned, as long as they received or expected to receive profit or fees for their work.

In the CPS, the concept "at work" includes those persons who spent at least 1 hour during the reference week at their job or business. In the CPS, however, "at work" does not include persons who were temporarily absent from their jobs during the entire reference week on paid vacation, sick leave, etc. In SIPP, "worked each week" does include persons on paid absences.

Absent 1 or more weeks. Absent 1 or more weeks means absent without pay from a job or business. Persons were absent without pay in a month if they were "with a job" during the entire month, but were not at work at that job during at least 1 full week (Sunday through Saturday) during the month, and did not receive wages or a salary for any time during that week. Reasons for an unpaid absence include vacation, illness, layoff, bad weather, labor disputes, and waiting to start a new job.

Looking for work. Persons who "looked for work" in a given month are those who were 16 years old or over and (a) were without a job during at least 1 week during the month, (b) tried to get work or establish a business or profession in that week, and (c) were available to accept a job. Examples of jobseeking activities are (1) registering at a public or private employment office, (2) meeting with prospective employers, (3) investigating possibilities for starting a professional practice or opening a business, (4) placing or answering advertisements, (5) writing letters of application, and (6) being on a professional register.

The CPS uses a similar concept of "looking for work." The term "unemployed" as used in the CPS includes persons who were looking for work in the reference week and those who were "on layoff" or "waiting to begin a new job in 30 days."

Layoff. In general, the work "layoff" means release from a job because of slack work, material shortages, inventory taking, plant remodeling, installation of machinery, or other similar reasons. For this survey, persons were also on "layoff" who did not have job but who responded that they has spent at least 1 week on layoff from a job and that they were available to accept a job.

In addition, persons were on "layoff" in a given month if they were 16 years old or over and (a) were "with a job" but "absent without pay" from that job for at least 1 full week during that month, and (b) they responded that their main reason for being absent from their job or business was "layoff." "On layoff" also includes a small number of persons who responded that they were waiting to report to a new wage and salary job that was to begin within 30 days. In other words, persons waiting to begin a new job are classified together with persons waiting to return to a job from which they have been laid off.

Full time and part time. The data on full- and part-time workers pertain to the number of hours a person usually worked per week during the weeks worked in the 4-month reference period of the survey. If the hours worked per week varied considerably, the respondent was asked to report an approximate average of the actual hours worked each week.

Persons 16 years old and over who reported usually working 35 or more hours each week during the weeks they worked are classified as "full-time" workers; persons who reported that they usually worked fewer than 35 hours are classified as "part-time" workers. The same definitions are used in the CPS.

With labor force activity. The term "with labor force activity" includes all persons with a job (as defined above) and those looking for work or on layoff from a job for at least 1 week during a given month. Conversely, those persons "with no labor force activity" had no job, were not on layoff from a job and made no effort to find a job during the month.

SURVEY OF INCOME AND PROGRAM PARTICIPATION (SIPP)

WAVE 5 RECTANGULAR CORE AND TOPICAL MODULE MICRODATA FILE

TECHNICAL DOCUMENTATION

TECHNICAL INFORMATION

USER NOTES

This section will contain information relevant to SIPP that becomes available after the file is released. The cover letter to the updated information should be filed behind this page.

User Notes will be sent to all users who (1) purchased their file (or technical documentation) from the Census Bureau and (2) returned the coupon following the title page.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Bureau of the Census
Washington, D.C. 20233

Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP)

Wave 5 Rectangular Microdata File

User Note No. 1

Subject: SIPP 1984 Panel Wave 1 and Wave 2 Cases where Armed Forces Status was Incorrectly Classified as "Active Duty"

This is to follow up on my July 25 memorandum on "SIPP Armed Forces Population Estimate Discrepancies -- Results of Field Followup." It was suggested that SIPP file users be allowed to correct their public use files to account for these discrepancies if their analysis warranted. (that is, person record field U-AF should equal 2, not 1 as shown on the file). The attached list shows scrambled PSU, segment and serial number for each person on the Wave 1 and Wave 2 files where this error exists. Also shown are person number and wave number. Note that for all cases on this list Address ID is equal to 11.

Similar errors may exist on tapes for Waves 3, 4 and 5, but no work has been done to identify these, and none is planned. Beginning with Wave 5 rotation 2, efforts have been made to correct this information at the point of data collection.

Attachment

ARMED FORCES DISCREPANCIES
(Waves 1 and/or 2)

PSU	SEGMENT	SERIAL	PERSON NUMBER	WAVE
209	0190	49	101	1, 2
855	6796	09	101	1, 2
430	0380	32	101	1, 2
489	9163	16	103	1
404	3925	47	101	1
112	5661	91	101	1, 2
375	6249	88	102	1, 2
183	6244	66	101	1
408	0112	44	101	1
749	2293	16	103	1, 2
430	4040	54	101	1
604	0388	16	101	1
193	2299	31	101	1
917	3921	08	102	1
917	3921	08	101	1
542	8116	06	101	1, 2
634	8119	67	101	1, 2
529	1460	27	101	1, 2
055	8114	40	101	1, 2
730	6790	98	102	1
547	4894	86	103	1, 2
446	6673	44	101	1, 2
643	6796	88	101	2
597	3923	59	101	1, 2
898	9164	09	101	2
486	7401	01	101	1, 2
058	1237	35	101	1, 2
566	7388	87	101	1
486	7401	01	101	1, 2
778	4048	55	103	1
199	0118	84	101	1, 2
075	0779	40	101	1, 2
943	7942	31	101	2
943	7947	08	103	2
097	1709	28	101	1
645	8790	17	101	2
489	8115	08	101	2
778	2461	14	101	1
566	8088	55	101	1
566	8088	55	102	1, 2
912	6133	03	101	1
795	5149	96	101	1, 2
945	4715	01	101	1, 2
462	5834	30	101	2
317	4716	84	101	1, 2
806	2464	18	101	1, 2
539	1961	26	101	1, 2
258	7309	15	101	1
991	2577	73	101	1
803	0386	33	101	1, 2
110	1040	21	106	

PSU	SEGMENT	SERIAL	PERSON NUMBER	WAVE
675	1675	90	101	1, 2
617	1675	13	101	1
472	7383	82	101	1
141	9524	55	101	1
849	3652	95	101	2
923	6132	54	101	1, 2
835	6193	78	111	1, 2
830	9520	73	104	1
396	7308	63	102	1, 2
810	4692	85	101	1, 2
838	4693	63	102	1, 2
472	7383	82	101	2
146	2460	17	101	1
201	5831	13	101	2
258	4718	90	101	1, 2
522	5833	90	101	1, 2
617	6193	42	101	1
201	5831	13	101	1
948	7381	53	101	1, 2
199	8051	01	101	1, 2
317	3925	05	101	1
884	4372	97	101	1, 2
893	4882	09	101	2
441	7388	24	101	2
236	7842	45	101	1, 2
090	8082	45	101	1, 2

July 25, 1985

Subject: **SIPP Armed Forces Population Estimate Discrepancies — Results of Field Followup**

In a recent analysis of SIPP and CPS labor force data, Paul Ryscavage and Jack Bregger (BLS) discovered an inconsistency in the population estimates from the two surveys. For the purposes of their study they were adjusting the SIPP estimate to the CPS estimate for the third quarter of 1983. When they added in persons in farm households to the SIPP universe 16 and over, and took out the Armed Forces living on or off posts in households, their civilian noninstitutional population was about 500,000 below the CPS figure. When the fourth quarter of 1983 and first and second quarter of 1984 were adjusted in a similar manner, the SIPP civilian noninstitutional population averaged about 460,000 below the CPS figure. Therefore, it appeared that SIPP's estimate of the Armed Forces population was too high. Based on tables generated by POP Division, we discovered some inconsistency between the control card item dealing with active duty Military status (control card item 32c) and the labor force class of worker question (source code 2012 and 2112). POP Division generated a listing of all Wave 1 and Wave 2 cases where control card item 32c indicated the respondent was currently on active duty in the Armed Forces but source code 2012/2112 showed only an employer(s) other than Armed Forces (e.g. a private company, Federal, state or local government, or unpaid in family business). The results showed 99 out of 337 Wave 1 active duty Armed Forces respondents and 79 of 263 Wave 2 active duty Armed Forces respondents where this condition existed.

During SIPP interviewing for Wave 5, rotations 2 and 3 and Wave 6, rotations 4 and 1 (March through June 85) interviewers were instructed to verify Armed Forces status as of the appropriate Wave 1 interview month (October 83 through January 84). If the person was found not to be on active duty during the Wave 1 interview month, the interviewer marked control card item 32c by circling the "2-No" below the question. If the person was found to be correctly identified as on active duty, the interviewer circled the "1-Yes" below the question. Current Armed Forces status was then verified and updated. Some cases could not be verified since they had been dropped in the SIPP sample reduction or were now part of a noninterviewed household.

As a result of the field work, 77 of the 99 Wave 1 cases could be followed up, (15 had been deleted and 7 were now noninterviews). Of the 77 verified, 65 were determined to be incorrect (not in the Armed Forces during Wave 1) and 12 were correctly identified as in the Armed Forces. For Wave 2, 64 of the 79 cases could be followed up (11 had been deleted and 4 were noninterviews). Of these 64, 51 were verified as incorrect and 13 as correct. Thus, 84% of Wave 1 and 80% of Wave 2 cases were determined <u>not</u> to be on active duty during the Wave 1 interview. (See Attachment 1 for comparisons by regional office).

In an effort to determine the impact of these cases on SIPP estimates, I first apportioned the not-reported cases to the "correct" and "incorrect" categories based on the percentage breakdown for the reported cases (Attachment 2). Then, since final weights were not available from listings we were provided, approximate weighted counts, derived by Dave Hubble of SMD, were applied to the adjusted counts. A Wave 1 weight of 4439 was obtained by comparing third quarter 1983 estimates of the civilian population with the total noninstitutionalized population. The difference, being the military population, was then divided by 337, the number of survey respondents reported as being on active duty. Wave 2 weights of 5919 were estimated using Wave 1 weights (4439 x 4/3). Attachment 2 shows that SIPP estimates of the active duty Armed Forces population were approximately 372,876 too high for Wave 1 and, an almost identical 372,897 too high for Wave 2 due to the incorrect recording of Armed Forces status on the control card.

In conclusion, we have resolved a considerable amount (81%) of our differences with CPS, as observed by Ryscavage and Bregger, by studying cases that showed an employer other than the Armed Forces. (The remaining 87,000 weighted difference is well within sampling variability at 2 standard deviations). Naturally, we may have errors going the other way which have gone undetected, (that is, Armed Forces personnel incorrectly classified as not on active duty). However, given our differences with CPS it is unlikely that there are many of these. It is hard to explain why so many cases were recorded incorrectly in SIPP since the questions are identical to CPS and the interviewer instructions are very similar. One possible explanation is that most SIPP interviewers were new hires in Wave 1, had no practical experience asking these questions, and the training materials did not discuss control card item 32c other than in the mock interviews. Given our problems in recording this item, future manuals and training should discuss the importance of correctly recording this information. We also should try to institute a preedit check, if possible, to reject cases where cc item 32c is equal to 1 but source codes 2012 and 2112 are not equal to 5 (Armed Forces). Due to the fact that source codes 2012 and 2112 are keyed under Program 8 (fixed field data) this kind of check, at this time, is not possible. However, it will be explored in the future when time and resources allow.

Since these errors were not detected until midway through Wave 5 interviewing, at which time they should have been corrected on the control cards, we have several public use files which have been released that have some incorrect Armed Forces status designations. We will not re-release these files with corrections for the cases we have identified in this study. Rather, we will provide a list of public use control numbers, along with selected demographic characteristics, for these cases so that users can correct their files, if their analysis warrants.

Attachments

Attachment 1

ARMED FORCES DISCREPANCIES BY RO

	RO	Type 1's (Correct)	Type 2's (Incorrect)	Deleted Cases	Noninterviews
Wave 1					
	21	0	6	0	0
	22	1	4	0	0
	23	0	13	3	0
	24	0	6	1	0
	25	0	2	0	0
	26	0	3	1	0
	27	1	5	1	0
	28	1	4	3	1
	29	4	12	1	0
	30	1	5	2	3
	31	4	3	3	1
	32	0	2	0	2
Total		12	65	15	7
Wave 2					
	21	0	4	0	0
	22	0	2	0	0
	23	0	8	3	0
	24	0	5	1	1
	25	0	4	0	0
	26	0	2	0	0
	27	1	5	0	2
	28	3	2	0	0
	29	3	9	0	0
	30	1	4	2	1
	31	4	2	4	0
	32	1	4	1	0
Total		13	51	11	4

Attachment 2

Wave 1	Actual	Adjusted[2]	Weighted[3]
Total Discrepancies	99	99	439,461
Reported as Correct	12	15	66,585
Reported as Incorrect	65	84	372,872
Not Reported[1]	22	0	0
Wave 2			
Total Discrepancies	79	79	467,601
Reported as Correct	13	16	94,704
Reported as Incorrect	51	63	372,897
Not Reported[1]	15	0	0

1 Includes Type A, C and D noninterviews in Wave 5/6 and cases dropped as a result of the sample reduction.

2 Not Reported cases have been apportioned to "Reported as Correct" and "Reported as Incorrect" categories based on the actual rates for reported cases.

3 The 1984 Panel Base weight of 4439 for Wave 1 and 5919 for Wave 2 was applied to adjusted totals to derive approximate weighted totals.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Bureau of the Census
Washington, D.C. 20233

Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP)

Wave 5 Rectangular Microdata File

User Note No. 2

Because of budget cuts in the Census Bureau's Fiscal Year 1986 budget, aporoximately 15-percent of the 1984 Panel sample was eliminated from rotation groups 2 and 3 of wave 5 and rotation groups 4 and 1 of wave 6. Cases with the values listed below in the sample-unit reduction code field (SU-RGC) will not appear in wave 5 (rotation groups 2 & 3) or wave 6 (rotation groups 4 & 1) files. This will produce several legitimate nonmatches when matching to previous waves.

SU-RGC		
004	039	072
010	044	078
016	050	083
021	055	089
027	061	094
033	066	100

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Bureau of the Census
Washington, D.C. 20233

Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP)

Wave 5 Rectangular Microdata File

User Note No. 8

Subject: Resolution of Nonmatches; 1984 SIPP Panel, Waves 4 and 5

We have completed a match of Wave 4 and Wave 5 of the 1984 SIPP Panel and researched the nonmatches.

The largest number of nonmatches between Waves 4 and 5 of the 1984 Panel of SIPP data are caused by sample reduction. The size of the SIPP sample was reduced during the Wave 5 collection period. A total of 5069 persons appearing on the Wave 4 file had no potential for match on the Wave 5 file, because their addresses were eliminated from the sample design.

There are a total of 1741 persons on the Wave 4 file who were not carried on the Wave 5 file and who were not lost because of sample reductions. The reasons for most of these cases are evident from an examination of the Wave 4 data.

1) The household in which the person resides became a Type A Non-interview in Wave 4 — 485 persons

2) The household in which the person resides became a Type C or D Non-interview in Wave 4 — 503 persons

3) A person with a person number of 200 or greater no longer lives with 100 level adults — 457 persons

4) During the Wave 4 reference period, a person left the universe of persons to be interviewed

a)	Deceased	56 persons
b)	Institutionalized	17 "
c)	Living in Armed Forces barracks	12 "
d)	Moved outside U.S.	15 "
		100 persons

5) Persons merged into an existing sample household and therefore assumed new identifiers — 8 persons

6) Children who moved sometime during the Wave 4 reference period and no longer live with 100 level adults — 33 persons

The following additional cases are not obvious from a review of the Wave 4 data. In each case, the person could no longer be interviewed because of some changes in their status which took place during the first half of the first month of the Wave 5 reference period

1)	200+ level person, no longer living with a 100 level adult	64 persons
2)	100 level children, no longer living with a 100 level adult	10 persons
3)	Persons moving outside U.S.	24 persons
4)	Became institutionalized	12 persons
5)	Became deceased	5 persons
6)	Moved into Armed Forces barracks	1 person
7)	Person moved from an interviewed household to a non-interviewed household during Wave 4 interview month	1 person

In addition there were 7 persons identified as persons who were incorrectly reported to be household members in an earlier wave and 31 persons who were deleted from the Wave 5 file because of an error in cross-sectional processing. These persons are identified in the attachment.

There were 1501 persons with a 500 level person number on the Wave 5 file. These persons obviously have no potential for a match with the Wave 4 file.

There were a total of 391 persons on the Wave 5 file, with person numbers less then 500, who were not on the Wave 4 file. The largest group of these, 161 persons, were deleted from the Wave 4 cross-sectional processing because of an error in a computer program. This is the same error that accounted for the loss of 31 persons from the wave 5 file. The remaining 230 cases fall into the following categories.

1)	Persons living in Type A or D non-interview households in Wave 3 who were converted to interviews in Wave 5	179 persons
2)	Persons living in Type A or D non-interview households in Wave 2 who were converted to interviews in Wave 5	36 persons
3)	Persons with 400 level person numbers who joined the sample after the Wave 4 reference period but before the Wave 4 interview	13 persons
4)	Merged household (180 level) persons	1 person
5)	One person who apparently was incorrectly reported as deceased in Wave 3	1 person

The following persons are not shown on the wave 5 file because they became separated from all 100 level persons because one or the other moved during the first half of the first wave 5 reference month.

025/3154/25/41/401
025/5833/97/41/401
025/5833/97/41/402
077/4897/52/21/202
077/4897/52/21/203
077/4897/52/21/201
077/4897/52/21/204
089/3965/43/41/401
089/7173/44/41/401
090/2465/39/11/401
090/2465/39/11/402
090/2465/39/21/401
097/0114/03/21/201
097/0114/03/21/202
097/0114/03/21/203
105/6244/21/41/401
171/4372/59/11/403
174/7406/02/41/401
223/2022/36/31/301
235/6793/59/11/201
236/0001/72/41/402
236/0001/72/41/401
236/3152/15/41/402
236/4671/01/11/201
284/1679/29/11/302
362/4691/69/11/201
365/2466/02/31/401
377/6875/05/41/402
417/6683/53/31/302
417/6683/53/31/301
457/4675/79/11/410
514/7388/60/41/401
514/7388/60/41/402
524/2468/60/11/401
594/8089/87/11/401
613/5873/52/41/402
613/5873/52/41/401
617/2463/99/11/301
618/6877/23/41/401
636/7389/04/11/201
638/7843/77/41/402
643/3864/07/21/303
643/3864/07/21/302
643/3864/07/21/301
675/6678/97/21/201
691/6681/14/11/201
695/7842/81/11/301
708/2468/83/41/402
708/2468/83/41/401
708/2468/83/42/401
710/1303/99/11/301
725/2461/87/11/401
742/2468/59/31/401
843/4894/06/21/201
847/6689/08/31/301
847/6689/08/31/401
873/7383/84/11/401
883/5839/40/11/202
883/5839/40/11/201
954/3986/84/11/402
979/4448/60/43/401
979/6680/57/31/401
995/6245/55/11/402
995/6245/55/11/401

The following persons do not appear on the wave 5 file because they are children under the age of 15 who are no longer living with 100 level adults. They became separated from all 100 level adults during the first half of the first month of the wave 5 reference period.

225/2468/84/11/103
225/2468/84/11/102
291/0002/59/11/102
365/4896/31/11/102
404/1700/51/11/106
514/4675/47/11/103
645/6682/56/11/102

733/6852/36/11/102
981/4373/55/11/104
991/4373/55/11/103

The following persons do not appear on the wave 5 data file because they moved outside the United States presumably very early in the first month of the wave 5 reference period.

077/4897/52/11/101
248/9525/94/11/106
248/9525/94/11/103
337/0005/47/11/103
337/0005/47/11/107
337/0005/47/11/104
337/0005/47/11/102
337/0005/47/11/106
337/0005/47/11/108
337/0005/47/11/101
337/0005/47/11/105
337/0005/47/41/404
337/0005/47/41/403
337/0005/47/41/402
337/0005/47/41/401
337/0005/47/42/403
337/0005/47/42/402
337/0005/47/42/401
337/0005/47/42/404
603/5874/03/11/103
774/8536/89/11/104
845/8085/27/11/103
897/3152/26/11/401
936/4443/79/11/104

The following persons are not shown on the wave 5 file because they were institutionalised in the first half of the first month of the wave 5 reference period

021/6199/58/11/101
066/6790/92/11/103
066/6790/92/11/102
066/6790/92/11/101
236/0001/72/11/101
782/4370/03/11/101
785/0191/26/11/101
815/6858/28/11/103
893/8088/16/11/102
926/5835/45/11/101
945/5834/55/11/201
998/8761/44/11/102

The following persons are not shown on the wave 5 file because they became deceased in the first half of the first month of the wave 5 reference period.

296/8084/81/11/101
296/8089/82/11/102
479/4716/94/11/101
586/4896/47/11/101
955/6139/36/11/101

The following person was not shown on the wave 5 file because he moved into an armed forces barracks in the first half of the first month of the wave 5 reference period.

352/4049/25/11/103

The following person was not shown on the wave 5 file because he moved very late in the wave 4 interview month and refused further interviews. He is shown in his previous household for the entire wave 4 reference period.

427/8769/95/11/104

The following persons were not shown on the wave 5 file because they were incorrectly reported as household members at some earlier point in time.

010/7388/15/11/103
105/4715/41/11/103
227/7176/09/11/103
571/6248/60/11/103
884/7846/25/11/101
913/6876/95/11/301
995/3981/02/11/105

The following persons appear on the wave 4 file but not on the wave 5 file. These persons are children who left the sample universe sometime during the wave 4 reference period and were not followed since no sample adult lived with them.

137/2573/77/11/107
137/2573/77/11/104
137/2573/77/11/108
137/2573/77/11/103
139/4044/14/11/105
139/4044/14/11/104
139/4044/14/11/103
141/4042/19/11/103
146/1808/21/11/103
288/6462/81/11/103
373/7393/22/11/102
417/8089/46/11/104
436/4611/03/11/103
486/2026/84/11/104
538/3969/69/11/102
542/9166/47/11/105
574/0004/14/11/104
574/0004/14/11/103
574/0004/14/11/102
574/2466/09/11/108
634/6673/05/11/103
672/2296/31/11/103
685/4046/06/11/102
803/4224/15/11/102
838/8085/42/11/104
883/5834/76/11/103
912/2924/42/11/105
913/4583/99/11/103
917/8081/29/11/106
917/8081/29/11/105
932/0388/46/11/108
951/8792/61/11/107
977/2572/28/11/104

The following persons are not shown on the wave 5 file. They were deleted from the wave 5 data file because of an error in the processing system. These persons should have been included in the file and attempts will be made to reclaim their data when a longitudinal product is produced.

135/1964/18/11/301
248/7409/32/11/301
286/2466/94/11/105
288/2466/94/11/101
288/2466/94/11/102
404/0003/03/11/101
404/7408/55/11/102
404/7408/55/11/101
404/7408/55/31/401
423/0666/27/11/102
423/0666/27/11/101
423/0666/27/11/104
423/0666/27/11/103
514/9553/17/31/301
514/9558/47/11/101
514/9558/47/31/301
514/9558/47/31/302
582/5839/09/41/401
604/5146/11/11/301
657/3653/31/11/103
747/1702/74/11/303
803/0389/68/11/301
874/2572/62/11/101
874/2572/62/31/301
874/2572/62/31/302
874/2572/62/31/401
917/3858/22/11/101
917/3858/22/11/102
917/3858/22/11/103
917/3858/22/31/301
917/3858/22/31/302

Persons who were deleted from the wave 4 file in error. They were mistaken for people who entered the sample during the month of interview. They actually entered the sample or at least moved one year prior to the month of interview.

015/0003/22/11/101
021/6193/79/11/201
030/0114/25/11/101
030/0114/25/11/102
030/0115/69/11/103
030/0115/69/11/101
030/0115/69/21/201
030/1965/55/11/104
030/1965/55/11/101
030/1965/55/11/103
030/1965/55/11/102
055/2929/22/11/201
063/6682/58/11/202
063/6682/58/11/201
063/6688/49/11/103
063/6688/49/11/102
063/6688/49/11/101
063/6688/49/21/202
063/6688/49/21/201
063/6688/49/21/203
066/7308/92/41/401
066/7308/92/41/403
066/7308/92/41/402
110/2034/52/11/201
110/7381/47/11/101
110/7381/47/21/201
139/0773/73/11/103
139/0773/73/11/104
139/0773/73/11/102
139/0773/73/11/101
193/4713/05/11/201
201/6682/26/11/101
201/6682/26/11/103
201/6682/26/11/102
224/2021/71/11/101
225/8080/69/31/301
275/7945/09/11/104
275/7945/09/11/105
282/8086/52/11/201
317/7383/24/11/201
324/6793/79/11/201
365/0004/03/11/201
365/4674/00/11/101
365/4674/00/11/102
365/4674/00/21/201
365/4896/89/11/104
365/4896/89/11/101
365/4896/89/11/103
365/4896/89/11/105
365/4896/89/11/102
373/6970/13/11/201
401/6243/44/11/201
417/7388/10/11/104
417/7388/10/11/105
417/7388/10/11/103
417/7388/10/11/102
417/7388/10/11/101
438/2926/45/11/203
438/2926/45/11/202
438/4586/77/11/104
438/4586/77/11/103
438/4586/77/11/102
438/4586/77/21/205
438/4586/77/21/204
438/4586/77/21/203
438/4586/77/21/202
438/4586/77/21/201
513/5832/36/11/104
513/5832/36/11/103
513/5832/36/11/102
513/5832/36/11/101
513/5838/10/11/101
513/5838/10/21/403
513/5838/10/21/402
513/5838/10/21/401
524/1967/04/11/103
524/1967/04/11/102
524/1967/04/11/101
524/4693/56/11/201
524/4694/21/11/104
530/5831/28/11/105
530/5831/28/11/104
530/5831/28/11/103
530/5831/28/11/102
530/5831/28/11/101
551/7841/62/11/201
563/5144/24/21/201
571/0118/09/11/102
571/0118/09/22/202
571/0118/09/22/201
578/7842/53/11/102
578/7842/53/21/202
578/7842/53/21/201
579/6137/48/21/201
582/3962/74/11/106
582/3962/74/11/105
582/3962/74/11/104
582/3962/74/11/103
582/3962/74/11/102
582/3962/74/11/101
582/4588/49/11/102
582/4588/49/11/101
598/2463/20/11/101
613/3659/23/11/201
632/1961/28/11/102
632/1961/28/21/201
632/4678/21/11/103
632/4678/21/21/201
661/8792/12/11/102
661/8792/12/11/101
680/5833/34/11/201
737/4622/34/11/201
737/5870/13/11/103
737/5870/13/21/201
737/5870/13/21/301
767/7381/17/11/101
797/4717/98/11/104
797/4717/98/11/103
797/4717/98/11/102
797/4717/98/11/101
800/7381/37/11/102
800/7381/37/11/101
810/0385/47/11/105
810/0385/47/11/104
810/0385/47/11/103
810/0385/47/11/102
810/0385/47/11/101
810/0385/47/21/301
810/0385/47/22/203
810/0385/47/22/202
810/0385/47/22/201
811/2461/14/11/101
811/2461/14/11/104
811/2461/14/11/102
811/7381/33/11/201
815/0382/19/21/201
815/7386/34/11/104
815/7386/34/21/201
820/0166/77/11/107
820/0166/77/21/306
820/0166/77/21/305
820/0166/77/21/304
820/0166/77/21/303
820/0166/77/21/302

820/0166/77/21/301
830/6130/59/11/201
849/4699/67/11/101
849/4699/67/22/201
855/6791/28/11/201
855/6793/99/11/101
855/6793/99/11/102
884/0117/04/11/201
893/3929/92/21/201
898/7844/72/11/201
903/4671/13/11/103
932/2574/10/11/101
932/2574/10/21/201
948/0138/03/11/101
948/4671/02/11/101
948/4671/02/21/201
988/2468/10/11/201

Person who merged into an existing sample household in wave 5

533/6975/27/11/180

Person who was reported to be deceased in wave 3

916/7384/72/11/101

Persons with a 400 level person number who joined a sample household after the middle of the last wave 4 reference month but before the wave 4 interview.

015/7380/33/41/401
037/7380/92/11/401
047/8083/28/11/401
075/4040/78/11/401
112/0199/32/41/401
227/9168/27/11/401
288/4890/57/11/405
557/1041/43/42/401
604/3856/70/31/401
717/1044/02/42/401
742/2464/87/11/401
810/0385/47/22/401
849/2463/20/41/401

Persons who re-entered the interviewed sample after being non-interviewed, ouside the sample area or unable to locate for several waves.

005/3029/44/11/101
007/4040/68/11/103
007/4040/68/11/102
007/4040/68/11/104
007/4040/68/11/101
021/2836/35/11/201
035/4716/09/11/101
035/4716/09/11/102
105/2466/25/11/101
270/0199/23/11/101
270/0199/23/11/102
270/0199/23/11/103
441/4719/67/11/101
511/3658/24/11/102
563/3927/12/11/105
579/7387/25/11/101
579/7387/25/11/102
579/7387/25/11/103
694/6683/06/11/101
694/6683/06/11/102
739/4715/43/11/101
815/6686/06/11/103
884/2023/47/11/105
884/2023/47/11/101
884/2023/47/11/106
884/2023/47/11/102
884/2023/47/11/103
884/2023/47/11/104
920/7941/99/11/101
920/7941/99/11/102
920/7941/99/11/103
921/3703/02/11/101
942/2578/66/11/101
942/2578/66/11/102
942/2578/66/11/103
942/2578/66/11/104

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Bureau of the Census
Washington, D.C. 20233

Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP)
Wave 5 Rectangular Core Microdata File

User Note No. 4

Beginning with Wave 4, items I20AMT1 through I20AMT4 (positions 4054, 4060, 4066, 4072) are 6-character fields. Data are right-justified.

Please replace the corresponding pages in your technical documentation with the attached revised sheets.

March, 1987

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Bureau of the Census
Washington, D.C. 20233

Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP)
Wave 5 Rectangular Microdata File

User Note No. 5

Attached is a revised list of "a" and "b" parameters to use with wave 5. Please replace page 21 in your documentation with the revised sheet.

May 1987

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Bureau of the Census
Washington, D.C. 20233

SURVEY OF INCOME AND PROGRAM PARTICIPATION (SIPP)
1984 PANEL
WAVE 5 RECTANGULAR CORE AND TOPICAL MODULE
MICRODATA FILE

USER NOTE NO. 6

Subject: Frequency Diskette

Enclosed is a 5-1/4 High density PC diskette containing frequencies from the SIPP 1984 Wave 5 Rectangular File. Please read the README.DOC file on this diskette to obtain instructions for installing and accessing the frequencies file on your hard disk drive.

ABSTRACT

Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP) Wave 5 Rectangular Core and Topical Module Microdata File [machine-readable data file] / conducted by the U.S. Bureau of the Census. --Washington: The Bureau [producer and distributor], 1987.

TYPE OF FILE:

Microdata; unit of observation is an individual.

UNIVERSE DESCRIPTION:

The universe is the resident population of the United States, but excluding persons living in institutions and military barracks.

SUBJECT-MATTER DESCRIPTION:

The file contains basic demographic and social characteristics data for each member of the household. These include age, sex, race (White; Black; American Indian, Eskimo, and Aleut; Asian or Pacific Islander; and Other), ethnic origin (23 categories including 7 Spanish origin categories), marital status, household relationship, education, and veteran status.

Limited data are provided on housing unit characteristics such as units in structure, tenure, access, and complete kitchen facilities.

Core questions, which are repeated at each interview, cover labor force activity, types and amounts of income, and participation in various cash and noncash benefit programs for each month of the four-month reference period. Data for employed persons include number of hours and weeks worked, earnings, and weeks without a job. Nonworkers are classified as unemployed or not in the labor force. In addition to income data associated with labor force activity, data include nearly 50 other types of income. Core data also cover post secondary school attendance, public or subsidized rental housing, low-income energy assistance, and school breakfast and lunch participation.

The topical modules added to the Wave 5 interview include child care, welfare history and child support, reasons for not working/reservation wage, and support for nonhousehold members/work-related expenses.

The child care topical module includes data about child care arrangements such as who provides the care, the number of hours of care per week, where the care is provided, and the cost.

The questions in the welfare history and child support topical module focus on receipt of aid from specific welfare programs and child support agreements and their fulfillment.

The reasons for not working/reservation wage topical module presents data on why persons are not in the labor force and the conditions under which they

might join the labor force. Data cover job search activities, pay rate required, and if a respondent received, but did not accept a job offer, the reason the respondent refused it.

Information is provided in the support for nonhousehold members/work-related expenses topical module about regular support payments for nonhousehold members and expenses associated with a job such as union dues, licenses, permits, special tools, uniforms, or travel expenses.

The sample consists of 4 rotation groups, each interviewed in a different month from January to April 1985. For each group the reference period for reporting labor force activity and income is the four calendar months preceeding the interview month.

SIPP is a longitudinal survey where each sampled household and each descendent household is reinterviewed at 4-month intervals for 9 interviews or "waves." This file contains the results of the fifth interview. Unique codes are included on each record to allow linking together the same persons with the preceding and subsequent waves.

GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE:

United States. Codes are included for 38 individual States, although the sample was not designed to produce State estimates. Areas in the SIPP sample in six other States are identified in two groups for confidentiality reasons. Some cases are coded to other States not originally sampled, reflecting persons in the original sample who moved. The file identifies a subsample of metropolitan residents, along with codes for selected metropolitan statistical areas (MSA's) and consolidated metropolitan statistical areas (CMSA's).

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION:

FILE STRUCTURE: Rectangular. Each logical record for a sampled person includes information on the household and family of which the person was a part during each month of the reference period, as well as characteristics of the person and each source of income received during the period.

FILE SIZE: 51,075 logical records; 5,860 character logical record length.

FILE SORT SEQUENCE OF SAMPLE UNITS: Rotation group (i.e., month of interview) by FIPS State of sampling unit within rotation group by sampling unit identification number within State by entry address ID and person number within sampling unit.

REFERENCE MATERIALS:

Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP) Wave 5 Rectangular Core and Topical Module Microdata File Technical Documentation. The documentation includes this abstract, data dictionaries, indexes to the data dictionaries, relevant code lists, a questionnaire facsimile, and general information relevant to SIPP. One copy of the technical documentation

accompanies each file order, but also may be purchased separately for $25 from Data User Services Division, Customer Services, Bureau of the Census, Washington, D.C. 20233.

Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP) Users' Guide. The Users' Guide will contain general information on the background, survey content, sample design, and procedures for estimation and calculation of sampling variability, as well as a glossary of selected terms. The Users' Guide is not yet available.

Interviewers' Manual (1984). Survey of Income and Program Participation. U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census. The Manual is available for $10 from Data User Services Division, Customer Services, Bureau of the Census, Washington, D.C. 20233.

RELATED PRINTED REPORTS:

See Appendix A--Bibliography in the General Information section of the techical documentation for information on products available from SIPP. These products include working papers, compilations of papers presented at annual meetings of the American Statistical Association, articles appearing in the Journal of Economic and Social Measurement, and reports in the P-70 series of the Current Population Reports.

Current Population Reports, Series P-70. "Child Care Arrangements of American Youth: Winter 1984 85." Scheduled to be available May 1987. Call Customer Services (301/763-4100) for ordering information.

RELATED MACHINE-READABLE DATA FILES:

SIPP files are available from Data User Services Division, Customer Services, Washington, D.C. 20233.

	Number of Reels		Cost	
Rectangular Files	1600 bpi	6250 bpi	1600 bpi	6250 bpi
Wave 1 Core	8	2	$1,400	$350
Wave 2 Core	6	2	$1,050	$350
Wave 3 Core	8	2	$1,400	$350
Wave 3 Core & Topical Module	9	3	$1,575	$525
Wave 4 Core	8	2	$1,400	$350
Wave 4 Core & Topical Module	10	3	$1,750	$525
Wave 5 Core	7	2	$1,225	$350
Wave 6 Core	7	2	$1,225	$350
Wave 7 Core	7	2	$1,225	$350
Wave 8 Core	5	2	$ 875	$350

	Number of Reels		Cost	
Relational Files	1600 bpi	6250 bpi	1600 bpi	6250 bpi
Wave 1 Core	11	3	$1,925	$525
Wave 2 Core	9	3	$1,575	$525
Wave 3 Core	12	3	$2,100	$525
Wave 4 Core	12	3	$2,100	$525

Wave 5 Core	12	3	$2,100	$525
Wave 6 Core	10	3	$1,750	$525
Wave 7 Core	9	3	$1,575	$525
Wave 8 Core	7	2	1,225	$350

A machine-readable data dictionary is available at the end of the last reel at either density or may be purchased separately on 1 reel for $175.

FILE AVAILABILITY:

The file may be ordered from Data User Services Division using the order form on the following page.

File	Number of Reels 1600 bpi	6250 bpi	Cost 1600 bpi	6250 bpi
Wave 5 Core & Topical Module	9	3	$1,575	$525

A machine-readable dictionary is contained at the end of reel 9 at 1600 bpi and reel 3 at 6250 bpi. It is also available separately for $175 on 1 reel at either density.

GPO Order Form (Publications)

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FILE INFORMATION

Geographic Coverage

State codes are shown except for six States which are identified in two groups. A subsample of metropolitan residents is identified along with codes for selected metropolitan statistical areas (MSA's) and consolidated metropolitan statistical areas (CMSA's). The sample was not designed to produce State or MSA/CMSA level estimates. State codes are primarily useful in relating a respondent's recipiency of benefits to thresholds which may vary from State to State. MSA/CMSA codes may be used in relating respondent characteristics with contextual variables.

Identification Number System

The SIPP identification scheme is designed to uniquely identify individuals in each wave, provide a means of linking the same individuals over time, and group individuals into households and families over time.

The various components of the identification scheme are listed below:

Sample Unit Identification Number
Address ID
Entry Address ID
Person Number

The sample unit identification number was created by scrambling together the PSU, segment, and serial number used for Census Bureau administrative purposes. This identifier is constructed the same way on each wave regardless of moves, to enable matching from wave to wave.

The two-digit address ID code identifies each household associated with the same sample unit identification number. The first digit of the address ID code indicates the wave in which that address was first assigned for interview. The second digit sequentially numbers multiple households that have the same serial number. The address ID code is 11 for all sample addresses, that are the same as in Wave 1. As SIPP sample persons move to new addresses, new address ID codes are assigned. Any new address to which sample unit members moved during Wave 4 is numbered in the 40's.

The person ID is a five-digit number consisting of the two-digit entry address ID and a three-digit person number. Person numbers 101, 102, etc., are assigned in Wave 1; 201, 202, etc., are assigned to persons added to the roster in Wave 2, and so forth. This five-digit number is not changed or updated, regardless of moves.

The sampling unit serial number and address ID code uniquely identifies each household in any given wave. The sampling unit serial number can link all households in subsequent waves back to the original Wave 1 household.

Topcoding of Income Variables

To protect against the possibility that a user might recognize the identity of a SIPP respondent with very high income, income from every source is "topcoded" so

that no individual income amounts above $100,000 are revealed. While the data dictionary indicates a topcode of $33,332 for monthly income, this topcode will rarely be used. In most cases the monthly income is shown as individual dollar amounts of $8,333, with $8,333 actually representing "$8,333 or more." (The $100,000 income topcode is $8,333 multiplied by 12 months). Individual monthly amounts above $8,333 may occasionally be shown if the respondent's income varied considerably from month to month, as long as the average does not exceed $8,333. For example, if a respondents' income from a single job were concentrated in only one of the four reference months, a figure as high as $33,332 could be shown. (Income from interest or property have lower topcodes).

Summary income figures on the person, family, and household records are simple sums of the components shown on the file after topcoding, and are not independently topcoded. Thus, a person with high income from several sources (jobs, businesses, property) could have aggregate monthly income well over the topcode for each source. Families and households with a number of high income members could theoretically have aggregate income shown well over $100,000, through well below the $1.5 million shown as the highest allowable value in the data dictionary.

The user is cautioned against trying to make much use of the occasional monthly figures above $8,333, except in calculating aggregates or observing patterns across the 4-month period for a single individual, family, or household. Those units with higher monthly amounts shown are a biased sample of high income units, more likely to include units with income from multiple sources than other units with equally high aggregate income which comes from a single source.

HOW TO USE THE DATA DICTIONARY

The Data Dictionary describes the contents and record layout of the public-use computer tape file. The first line of each data item description gives the data name, size of the data field, relative begin position of the field,[1] and the begin position of the field. The term TABLE may follow if the data item contains data dimensioned in an array (i.e.- 6 cells of 3-characters each; 18 total characters for the field).

The next few lines contain descriptive text and any applicable notes. Categorical value codes and labels are given where needed. Comment notes marked by an (*) are provided throughout. Comments should be removed from the machine-readable version of the data dictionary before using it to help access the data file.

DATA. 8 characters--alphabetic, numeric, and the special character (-). No other special characters are used. It may be a mnemonic such as "H1-STATE" or "HIGRADE", or a sequential identifier such as "SC1620," "TMIMP38," or "WS2-2036." Data item names are unique throughout the entire file.

SIZE. Numeric. The size of a data item is given in characters. Indication of implied decimal places is provided in notes.

RELATIVE BEGIN. Identical to the begin position in the core data dictionary; for topical modules, relative begin position shows the location of the item within the topical module.

BEGIN. Location in the data record of the first character of the data item.

The first line of the data item description begins with the character "D" (left-justified, two characters). The "D" flag indicates lines in the data dictionary containing the name, size, and begin position of each data item. This information (in machine-readable form) can be used to help access the data file. The line beginning with the character "U" describes the universe for that item. Lines containing categorical value codes and labels follow the universe description. Although not shown in the core section of the printed version of the data dictionary, all lines containing value codes begin with the character "V." The special character (.) denotes the start of the value labels. Three examples of data item descriptions follow:

CORE DICTIONARY

	DATA	SIZE	BEGIN[1]
D	WS1-2030	1	3297
	During the 4 month period how often was...paid on the job?		
U	Persons 15 years old and older		
V	0 .Not in universe[2]		
	1 .Once a week		
	2 .Once each 2 weeks		
	3 .Once a month		
	4 .Twice a month		
	5 .Some other way		

[1] The relative begin position, while present on the machine-readable version of the data dictionary, is not indicated on the printed version of the core dictionary. However, both the relative begin and begin positions are identical.

[2] The character "V" is present on the machine-readable version of the data dictionary for all lines containing a value code.

```
    DATA          SIZE      BEGIN

D WEEKSLK          18        2525[1/]  TABLE
     Was this person looking for work
     or on layoff during this week of the
     reference period.  There are 18 answer
     fields, one for each week of the
     reference period.
U Persons 15 years old or older
V 0 .Not applicable[2/]
  1 .Yes
  2 .No
```

TOPICAL MODULE DICTIONARY

```
                                  RELATIVE
    DATA          SIZE      BEGIN     BEGIN

D TM8070           1         76[3/]     5424
     Has... ever been authorized to receive
     food stamps
U Persons 18 years old or older not authorized
  to receive food stamps who applied for the
  food stamp program
V           0 .Not applicable
V           1 .Yes
V           2 .No   skip to check item I7
```

[1/]The relative begin position, while present on the machine-readable version of data dictionary, is not indicated on the printed version of the core dictionary. However, both the relative begin and begin positions are identical.

[2/]The character "v" is present on the machine-readable version of the data dictionary for all lines containing a value code.

[3/]The relative begin position in the topical module data dictionary shows the location of the item within the topical module.

INDEX TO SIPP RECTANGULAR CORE FILE

This is an index to the data dictionary for the SIPP Wave 3 rectangular file. This index can also be used with SIPP Wave 2. Only Wave 1 has a slightly different layout.

The five columns at the right present the beginning character location for the referenced data field or fields. Entries in the four righthand columns refer to data specific to particular months during the reference period. For example, data in the column headed "MO 1 LOCATION" refer to the first reference months (four months prior to the interview). Entries in the column headed "INTV LOCATION" refer to characteristics as of the interview date, e.g., the highest grade attended, or other items not differentiated by month during the reference period. Where the entry refers to more than one consecutive data field, the location is that of the first character of the first field.

The column headed "MNEMONIC" presents the same 8-character data names as are shown in the data dictionary, with two exceptions. Where there are separate entries for the four reference months, an asterisk (*) replaces the 1, 2, 3, or 4 that would appear in the actual mnemonic. (Where there is an entry in the "INTV LOCATION" column as well as the four months, the data item refers to the same characteristic as of the interview date, and would carry a 5 in place of the asterisk in the mnemonic.) Where a colon appears in the mnemonic, as in SC1660:78, the index entry applies to two or more consecutive fields, in this case starting with SC1660 and ending with SC1678.

This index may also be used as an index to the questionnaire document itself, reproduced in the Users' Guide text. Each item on the questionnaire carries a boxed 4-digit number next to the answer fields. This number appears as part of the mnemonic wherever the correspondence between the item on tape and the questionnaire item is direct. The 4-digit number is usually preceded by "SC", but when other characters appear they add meaning. For example, WS1-2012 corresponds to questionnaire item 2012 (on class of worker) and the "WS1" distinguishes the response for the first wage/salary job from a response for the second such job, which would begin with "WS2". Mnemonics without 4-digit numbers are associated with items from the control card or are the result of manipulating or "recoding" one or more items from the questionnaire.

INDEX TO SIPP RECTANGULAR CORE FILE

REFERENCE	MNEMONIC	INTV LOCATION	MO 1 LOCATION	MO 2 LOCATION	MO 3 LOCATION	MO 4 LOCATION
Absence Without Pay, Imputation Flags	PP-IMP10:16	3158				
Absence Without Pay, Reason	SC1098	2745				
Absence Without Pay, Reason	SC1174	2783				
Absence Without Pay, Specific Weeks	SC1058:96	2725				
Absence Without Pay, Specific Weeks	SC1136:72	2764				
Access to Unit	H*-ACCESS		99	355	611	867
Access to Unit, Unedited	U*-ACCES		120	376	632	888
Address ID from CC of New Add. (Movers)	CC-ADENT	2176				
Address ID from CC of Previous Address	CC-ADLFT	2174				
Address ID of Household	H*-ADDID	1077	43	299	555	811
Address ID of Person at Entry, Edited	PP-ENTRY	2012				
Address ID of Person at Entry, Preedited	U-ENTRY	2155				
Address ID's, # in Sample Unit by Month	SUHHCNT*	24	16	18	20	22
Address ID, Previous Wave	PW-ADDID	2067				
AFDC ($)	I20AMT*		4054	4060	4066	4072
AFDC Coverage	AFDC*		2640	2641	2642	2643
AFDC Payment for Family ($)	F*-AFDC		1193	1307	1421	1535
AFDC Payment for Household ($)	H*-AFDC		245	501	757	1013
AFDC Payment for Subfamily ($)	S*-AFDC		1649	1763	1877	1991
AFDC, Imputation Flags	I20IMP01:04		4109	4110	4111	4112
AFDC, Persons Covered (by #)	AFDC3034:54	4078				
AFDC, Recipiency	RECIPSUM	2400				
AFDC, Recipiency	SC1486	2961				
AFDC, Recipiency	I20REC*		4050	4051	4052	4053
Age	AGE-*	2093	2085	2087	2089	2091
Age: Month of Birth, Preedited	U-BRTHMN	2178				
Age: Year of Birth, Preedited	U-BRTHYR	2180				
Aid to Families w/Dep. Children-See AFDC						
Alimony Payments ($)	I29AMT*		4389	4394	4399	4404
Alimony Payments, Imputation Flags	I29IMP01:04		4409	4410	4411	4412
Alimony Payments, Recipiency	RECIPSUM	2409				
Alimony Payments, Recipiency	SC1416	2927				
Alimony Payments, Recipiency	I29REC*		4385	4386	4387	4388
Alimony Payments, Recipiency, Imp Flag	PP-IMP42	3190				
Ancestry - See Ethnicity						
Annuity Income, Recipiency	SC1382	2911				
Annuity Income, Recipiency as Widow(er)	SC1446	2940				
Annuity Income, Recipiency, Imput. Flag	PP-IMP38	3186				
Armed Forces Status	IN-AF	2154				
Armed Forces Status of Spouse	SC1696	3132				
Armed Forces Status of Spouse, Imp Flag	PP-IMP83	3220				
Armed Forces Status, Unedited	U-AF	2203				
Asset Income, # Person in SU with	SU-TOTG2	36				
Asset Income, Imputation Flags	G2-IMP01:27	5321				
Asset Income-See Also Property Income						
Asset Ownership Summary	ASSETSUM	2456				
Asset Source Codes	ASTSOURC	2597				
Assets Owned Same as Previous Wave	SC1588:1620	3045				
Assets Owned Same as Previous, Imp.Flags	PP-IMP98:99	3235				
Assets Owned Same as Previous, Imp.Flags	PPIMP100:05	3237				

REFERENCE	MNEMONIC	INTV LOCATION	MO 1 LOCATION	MO 2 LOCATION	MO 3 LOCATION	MO 4 LOCATION
Assets Owned, New Since Last Wave	SC1622:54	3087				
Assets Owned, New Since 1st Wave,Imp.Flg	PPIMP106:07	3243				
Assets, Ownership of Various Types (New)	SC1626:54	3089				
Bonds, Money Market Funds in Own Name	0104YN-*		4955	4956	4957	4958
Bonds, Money Market Funds, Joint	J104YN-*		4935	4936	4937	4938
Bonds, Money Market Funds, Ownership	SC4400:06	5220				
Bonds, Municipal or Corporate, Own.(New)	SC1640	3095				
Bonds, Municipal or Corporate, Ownership	ASSETSUM	2462				
Bonds, Municipal or Corporate, Ownership	SC4404	5222				
Bonds, U.S. Savings, Ownership (New)	SC1641	3097				
Business--See Self-Employment						
Calendar Month	H*-MONTH		45	301	557	813
Calendar Month	F*-MONTH		1093	1207	1321	1435
Calendar Month	S*-MONTH		1549	1663	1777	1891
Calendar Month of Interview	H*ITM38B		139	395	651	907
Calendar Year	H*-YEAR		47	303	559	815
Calendar Year	F*-YEAR		1095	1209	1323	1437
Calendar Year	S*-YEAR		1551	1665	1779	1893
Cash Benefits, Receipt by HH Member(s)	H*-CASH		171	427	683	939
Casual Earnings--See Incidental Earnings						
Certificates of Deposit, Ownership	ASSETSUM	2458				
Certificates of Deposit, Ownership	SC4304	5203				
Certificates of Deposit, Ownership (New)	SC1630	3091				
Change in Composition--See also Movers						
Change to Family Compos., Month-to-Month	FCHANGE*		2225	2226	2227	2228
Change to HH Composition, Month-to-Month	HCHANGE*	2224	2220	2221	2222	2223
Change to Subfamily Comp, Month-to-Month	SCHANGE*		2229	2230	2231	2232
Charitable Group, Money from, ($)	I50AMT*		4669	4674	4679	4684
Charitable Group, Money from, Imp. Flags	I501MP01:04		4689	4690	4691	4692
Charitable Group, Money from, Recipiency	RECIPSUM	2430				
Charitable Group, Money from, Recipiency	I50REC*		4665	4666	4667	4668
Checking Accounts, Interest-Earning	SC4306	5204				
Checking Accounts, Interest-Earning(New)	SC1632	3092				
Child Support Payments ($)	I28AMT*		4361	4366	4371	4376
Child Support Payments, Imputation Flag	PP-IMP44	3192				
Child Support Payments, Imputation Flags	I28IMP01:04		4381	4382	4383	4384
Child Support Payments, Recipiency	RECIPSUM	2408				
Child Support Payments, Recipiency	SC1420:22	2929				
Child Support Payments, Recipiency	I28REC*		4357	4358	4359	4360
Child/Adult Status	POP-STAT	2117				
Child/Adult Status, Previous Wave	PW-POPST	2077				
Children 5-18 in Household	H*-4826		270	526	782	1038
Children--See also Own Children						
Class of Worker	SC1714	3147				
Class of Worker	WS1-2012	3280				
Class of Worker	WS2-2012	3365				
Class of Worker, Imputation Flag	WS1IMP03	3322				
Class of Worker, Imputation Flag	WS2IMP03	3407				
Class of Worker-See also Self-Employment						
Clerical Review Time in Minutes	IT10B	2680				

REFERENCE	MNEMONIC	INTV LOCATION	MO 1 LOCATION	MO 2 LOCATION	MO 3 LOCATION	MO 4 LOCATION
College Term System	SC1680	3115				
College Term System, Imputation Flag	PP-IMP78	3215				
Company Pension--See Pension						
Coverage by Health Insurance	HIMNTH*		2573	2574	2575	2576
Coverage by Medicaid	CAIDCOV*		2548	2549	2550	2551
Coverage by Medicare	CARECOV*		2543	2544	2545	2546
Coverage by WIC	WICCOV*		2552	2553	2554	2555
Coverage Questions for New Pers.in Samp.	SC0900:12	2687				
Coverage Recodes, AFDC	AFDC*		2640	2641	2642	2643
Coverage Recodes, Food Stamps	FOODSTP*		2644	2645	2646	2647
Coverage Recodes, Foster Care Payments	FOSTKID*		2652	2653	2654	2655
Coverage Recodes, General Assistance	GENASST*		2648	2649	2650	2651
Coverage Recodes, Other Welfare Payments	OTHWELF*		2656	2657	2658	2659
Coverage Recodes, Railroad Retirement	RAILRD1		2664	2665	2666	2667
Coverage Recodes, Social Security	SOCSEC*		2660	2661	2662	2663
Coverage Recodes, Veterans Payments	VETS*		2636	2637	2638	2639
Date of Birth: Month	U-BRTHMN	2178				
Date of Birth: Year	U-BRTHYR	2180				
Day Job Ended	WS1-2022	3288				
Day Job Ended	WS2-2022	3373				
Day Job Started	WS1-2018	3284				
Day Job Started	WS2-2018	3369				
Day of Interview, Unedited	IT8DAY	2675				
Day Person Entered this Address	U-DAYENT	2298				
Day Person Left this Address	U-DAYLFT	2170				
Disability Income, Recipiency	SC1386:88	2913				
Disability Income, Recipiency, Imp Flag	PP-IMP39:40	3187				
Disability Income, Types Received	SC1390:1412	2915				
Disability Income, Types, Imput. Flag	PP-IMP41	3189				
Disability Insurance--See Insurance Inc						
Disability, VA Rating	SC1336	2887				
Disability, Work	SC1386	2913				
Disability, Work, Imputation Flag	PP-IMP39	3187				
Discouraged Worker	SC1048:54	2719				
Discouraged Worker	SC1222:28	2807				
Discouraged Worker, Imputation Flag	PP-IMP22:28	3170				
Dividends--See Stock Dividends						
Duration of Job	WS1-2016:22	3282				
Duration of Job	WS2-2016:22	3367				
Earnings after Expenses from Business($)	SE12260	3501				
Earnings after Expenses from Business($)	SE22260	3607				
Earnings after Expenses, Imputation Flag	SE1IMP11	3516				
Earnings after Expenses, Imputation Flag	SE2IMP11	3622				
Earnings by Month (Before Deductions)($)	WS1-2032:38		3313	3308	3303	3298
Earnings by Month (Before Deductions)($)	WS2-2032:38		3398	3393	3388	3383
Earnings by Month, Imputation Flag	WS1CAL01:04		3326	3327	3328	3329
Earnings by Month, Imputation Flag	WS2CAL01:04		3411	3412	3413	3414
Earnings from this Job ($)	WS1-AMT*		3259	3264	3269	3274
Earnings from this Job ($)	WS2-AMT*		3344	3349	3354	3359
Earnings from this Job, Receipt of	WS1-RECI*		3255	3256	3257	3258

REFERENCE	MNEMONIC	INTV LOCATION	MO 1 LOCATION	MO 2 LOCATION	MO 3 LOCATION	MO 4 LOCATION
Earnings from this Job, Receipt of	WS2-RECI*		3340	3341	3342	3343
Earnings of Family ($)	F*-EARN		1140	1254	1368	1482
Earnings of Household ($)	H*-EARN		186	442	698	954
Earnings of Person, Total ($)	PP-EARN*		2293	2301	2309	2317
Earnings of Subfamily ($)	S*-EARN		1596	1710	1824	1938
Earnings: Gross of Business >$1000	SE12214	3452				
Earnings: Gross of Business >$1000	SE22214	3558				
Earnings: Gross of Business, Imput. Flag	SE1IMP04	3509				
Earnings: Gross of Business, Imput. Flag	SE2IMP04	3615				
Earnings: Other Inc from Bus., Imp Flag	SE1IMP08	3513				
Earnings: Other Inc from Bus., Imp Flag	SE2IMP08	3619				
Earnings: Other Income from Business	SE12234	3468				
Earnings: Other Income from Business	SE22234	3574				
Earnings: Salary from Bus., Imput. Flag	SE1IMP07	3512				
Earnings: Salary from Bus., Imput. Flag	SE2IMP07	3618				
Earnings: Salary from Business	SE12232	3467				
Earnings: Salary from Business	SE22232	3573				
Education, Attendance beyond HS Level	SC1658	3104				
Education, Attendance beyond HS,Imp Flg	PP-IMP75	3212				
Education, Finished Grade	GRD-CMPL	2151				
Education, Finished Grade, Unedited	U-COMPL	2200				
Education, Highest Grade Att., Unedited	U-HIGRDE	2198				
Education, Highest Grade Attended	HIGRADE	2149				
Educational Assistance	SC1660:78	3105				
Educational Assistance ($)	SC1690	3124				
Educational Assistance ($), Imput. Flag	PP-IMP81	3218				
Educational Assistance, Imputation Flag	PP-IMP82	3219				
Educational Assistance, Imputation Flags	PP-IMP76:77	3213				
Educational Assistance, Work-Study Prog.	SC1692	3130				
Employees, Number in Own Bus., Imp Flag	SE1IMP04	3509				
Employees, Number in Own Bus., Imp Flag	SE2IMP04	3615				
Employees, Number in Own Business	SE12218	3454				
Employees, Number in Own Business	SE22218	3560				
Employer Educational Assistance	SC1672	3111				
Employers, Number During 4-Month Period	SC1716	3148				
Employment Status Recode	ESR-*		2469	2470	2471	2472
Energy Assistance	H*-ENRGY		257	513	769	1025
Energy Assistance in Subs Hous, Imp Flag	H*-IMP06:10		284	540	796	1052
Energy Assistance in Subsidized Housing	H*-4816:24		260	516	772	1028
Entry Address ID, Edited	PP-ENTRY	2012				
Entry Address ID, Preedited	U-ENTRY	2155				
Entry Address ID, Previous	SC0064	2215				
Entry into New Address, Reason	U-REAENT	2164				
Entry Month for Person Who Moved In	U-MONENT	2168				
Estate or Trust Income ($)	I37AMT*		4585	4590	4595	4600
Estate or Trust Income, Imputation Flags	I37IMP01:04		4605	4606	4607	4608
Estate or Trust Income, Recipiency	RECIPSUM	2417				
Estate or Trust Income, Recipiency	I37REC*		4581	4582	4583	4584
Estate or Trust, Payments for Widow	SC1448	2941				
Ethnicity	ETHNICTY	2152				