

Data Collection for the 2005 Interviewing Year

The 2005 Questionnaire Content

PSID continued its strong measurement of economic, demographic, and sociological core content areas. As in prior waves, the changing demographics of the sample families were accounted for by the updating of marital and fertility information, the movement of individuals into and out of the family, and the formation of new sample families (i.e., "split-offs").

The changes made to the 2005 question included the following: A series of questions on internet use and cable was added to the section on utilities (Section A); questions about the number of persons employed by the head/wives employer and the frequency with which the head/wife used a computer at work were added (Section BC/DE); Questions on reduced-cost meals for children and elderly and WIC were moved from Section R and incorporated in Section F ; the Food Security question series and question about whether the vehicle used by the head/wife was used to transport a disabled person (Section F) were discontinued. Five questions on household expenditures in the domains of home repairs and maintenance, household furnishings and equipment, clothing and apparel, trips and vacations, and recreation and entertainment were added (Section F). There were several question changes made in Section H. A question was added about missing a month or more of school before age 16. Followup questions about age of onset and recency for the health condition series were added; followup questions about cancer type and status (cured, in treatment, in remission) were added for those who endorsed having cancer; a followup question was added about type of emotional disorder was added. The use of "special equipment" was added to the questions about ADLs and IADLs. The series on 30-day emotional distress, started in 2001, was discontinued as were two questions were added about the experience of depression over the preceding 12 months. The questions about exercise were redesigned to be compatible with those asked in the National Health Interview Survey (light, heavy, strengthening). A question about gender-specific binge drinking was added. Medicare number was asked of individuals reporting Medicare coverage for the purposes of making links to Medicare claims data (data provided under restricted data contract). The types of health insurance coverage were updated. In Section K/L, a question was added for all respondents about race/ethnicity that is consistent with the question asked in the U.S. Census. In Section M, the series on philanthropy and volunteering, begun in 2001, was repeated, and a series of questions was added about aid for the 2004 tsunami.

Instruments and Methodology

The same CAI softwares used for the first time in 2003 were used for the 2005 instrument. Most of the interview retained a standard structured question list format. This portion of the interview was programmed in three instruments in Blaise, the new standard CAI software for SRC surveys, and presented to the interviewer and respondent in much the same way as in prior years. As in 2003, the residency changes and employment history series utilized an 'event history calendar' (EHC) methodology that allowed the interviewer to record spells of time directly onto a calendar display and interview in a less structured manner. The EHC methodology was found to enhance respondent recall making for potentially more accurate data and a more enjoyable interview experience for interviewer and respondent.

The same systems used for case sample management and related systems that were reprogrammed in new software in 2003 were used in 2005. Updates made in 2003 to the systems and programs that generate, distribute, and monitor sample and interview data to and from interviewers, and contact and pay our respondents continued to be used in 2005.

Sample and Subgroups

No changes in sample eligibility were made in 2005, and no supplemental sample was added. As in 2003, the sample was divided into two parts. The Core Sample consists of original 1968 sample families and all related families generated from them. Within this sample were 7,022 families who were successfully interviewed in 2003 (Reinterviews) and 328 families who were part of a responding family in 2001, but were non-response in 2003 on their own interview (Recontacts). These 7,350 families were the initial Core Sample eligible for interviewing in 2005. During interviewing, new sample families are generated as members move out of response families and establish their own families. In 2005, 644 such new families, called Splitoffs, were generated from response Reinterview families. An additional 18 families, called Recontacts or SplitRecons, were generated from responding Recontact families.

The second part of the sample is usually called the "New Sample", but more correctly called the Immigrant Refresher Sample, or just Immigrant Sample. These are a supplemental sample added in 1997 and 1999 to make the PSID nationally representative given the changes in population due to post-1968 immigration, plus new families generated from those responding in 1997-2003. Five hundred and thirty six such families were initially loaded eligible for a Reinterview in 2005. An additional 61 families were loaded as eligible Recontacts. Responding Reinterview families generated 66 new potential Splitoff families, and responding Recontacts generated 6 new ReContacts or SplitRecons.

Interviewing Procedures

Interviewer training was conducted in Ann Arbor in two sessions, February 27- March 1 and March 3-5 by a team of SRO and PSID staff. Training was comprehensive and covered all aspects of field procedures, study-specific content and methodology, and CAI equipment operations. All interviewers were given extensive practice, help sessions, and self-study prior to certification. Interviews were conducted by over 100 interviewers from the SRC National Field Team using CAI primarily via telephone (96.9%) from their homes. The data collection field period ran from March 6, 2005 to November 13, 2005.

Response Statistics

A total of 8,041 (of 8,596 eligible) interviews were completed for an overall response rate (RR%) of 94.6%. Within the Core Sample, 6756 Reinterviews (of 6,924 eligible) were completed for a wave-to-wave RR of 97.6%; 516 interviews (of 586 eligible) were completed with the Splitoff families generated from these Reinterviews for a response rate of 88.1%. Also within the Core Sample, 194 Recontact interviews (of 318 eligible) were completed for RR of 61%. Within the Immigrant Refresher Sample, 500 Reinterviews (of 536 eligible) were completed for a Reinterview RR of 93.3%; 45 Splitoffs (of 61 eligible) were completed for a RR of 73.8%. Recontact interviews in this subgroup were completed with 27 families (of 65 eligible) for a RR of 41.5%.

Average interview length over all respondents was 72.8 minutes. Additional time updating changes in the family composition and collecting respondent contact and payment information made the total average R burden 84.6 minutes. The respondent incentive was \$60.00.