The 2009 Questionnaire Content

The 2009 questionnaire included the core content areas of economic, demographic, and sociological measurement. As in prior waves, families reported on demographic changes—marital and fertility history updates, the movement of individuals into and out of the family, and the formation of new sample families (i.e., split-offs”). Some changes were made to the questionnaire and they are listed below by section:

Section A
- Added a new question about life satisfaction.
- Added new series of questions on mortgage payment difficulties, foreclosures, mortgage and loan modification.
- Also added questions on past foreclosures, since 2001. This series asks for foreclosures on homes other than the current home.

Section BC/DE
- Removed Landmark domain from Event History Calendar.
- Removed question for T-2 work weeks, work hours, income from work.
- Added new series to verify number of weeks worked and average hours per week worked for T-1 and T-2.

Section F
- Revised Food Stamp question to ask for last month receipt instead of “this year”.
- Added interviewer instruction to food stamp series concerning the new federal food stamp program name (SNAP).
- Removed questions about time of vehicle purchase, trading or selling a vehicle for the purchase of a new one, and the amount of sale or trade for the vehicle.

Section G
- T-2 questions were moved from section R and placed at the end of section G.
- Several questions from T-2 series were removed. Specifics are listed under section R.

Section R
- Removed questions about employment of OFUMS (Other Family Unit Members) during T-2 year, job income during T-2, during which months job income was earned, number of hours worked per week, and which months OFUMS were unemployed.
- Removed questions about other type of income earned by anyone in the family during T-2. Other types of income include asses and transfer income, as well as any other type of income. Questions that were removed were asking who was receiving the income, during which months in the year and the amounts received.
- Removed questions about receiving help from relatives, who received help, during which months income was received, and the amounts received.
- Removed questions about receiving Social Security in T-2, for what disability SS was received, what amount was received, and for which months SS was received.
- Removed questions about receiving income from Veteran’s Administration during T-2, who received the income, during which months income was received, and the amount received.
- Moved question about receiving retirement pay in T-2 to section G, and removed the follow up questions asking who received the income, during which months, and the amount received.
- Moved question about receiving Unemployment Compensation income in T-2 to section G and removed the follow up questions asking who received the income, during which months, and the amount received.
Moved question about receiving Workers Compensation income in T-2 to section G, and removed the follow up questions asking who received the income, during which months, and the amount received.

Moved question about receiving TANF in T-2 to section G, and removed the follow up questions asking who received the income, in which state the income was received, which type of aid was received, during which months aid was received, and the amount received.

Moved question about receiving Supplemental Security Income in T-2 to section G, and removed the follow up questions asking who received the income, during which months, and the amount received.

Moved question about receiving child support, alimony, or separate maintenance in T-2 to section G and removed the follow up questions asking who received the income, during which months, and the amount received.

Section W
- Removed questions on wealth transfers. This was a one-time effort for 2007.
- Removed questions on living parents of Head and Wife/"Wife" and plans for financial support of parents, or cohabitation with parents in the future, cohabitation with parents in the past, and plans for caregiving to parents in the future. This was a one-time effort for 2007.

Section KL
- Section KL, which includes level of education, is normally asked for new Heads and Wives/"Wives" only. In 2009, KL43 – KL67 education series was asked of all Heads and Wives/"Wives". New Heads and Wives/"Wives" gave a baseline report and existing Heads and Wives/"Wives" gave an update on their education level.

Section Respondent Contact Info
- Removed questions asking for contact information on sample members who have become non-response in the past. This was a one-time effort for 2007.

Instruments and Methodology

The questionnaire was administered using Blaise, the computer assisted interviewing (CAI) software that has been used for PSID data collection since 2003. Blaise is the standard CAI software used for SRC’s studies. In addition, some portions of the interview are administered using an Events History Calendar (EHC). Specifically, residential mobility, employment and unemployment histories, and time away from work are being asked using the calendar. The EHC methodology allows 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.

For sample management, field staff used SurveyTrak a system developed at SRC and used for SRC projects since 2003. SurveyTrak was updated with PSID wave specific variables that interviewers and field managers used to manage the sample, perform quality control checks, communicate data to the central office, and contact and pay our respondents.

Sample and Subgroups

No changes in sample eligibility were made in 2009, and no supplemental sample was added. As in 2007, 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 families who were successfully interviewed in 2007 and are called Reinterviews, and families who were interviewed in 2005, but were non-response in 2007 and they are called Recontacts. During data collection, new sample cases
are generated when sample members move out of response families and establish their own families. These cases are called Splitoffs and there were 590 in 2009. An additional 13 families, called Recontacts or SplitRecons, were generated from responding Recontact families.

The second part of the sample is called the “New Sample”, but more formally, it is known as the immigrant Refresher Sample, or Immigrant Sample. This is 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 1997-2009. Five hundred and eighty one immigrant families were the initial Reinterview sample for 2009 and an additional 64 families were Recontacts. Responding Reinterview families generated 64 new Splitoff families, and responding Recontacts generated 1 new Recontact or SplitRecon.

Interviewing Procedures

A total of 114 interviewers were invited to the training, and were trained using a multi-mode training protocol. Two sessions of the main training, each lasting four days, were held in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Prior to the in-person training, interviewers received self study material, which they had to use to prepare for an on-line test. The results of the on-line test were used to provide individual feedback to interviewers, as well as inform trainers on the areas that would need more emphasis during the in-person training. All training and certification was completed on March 18th, and a total of 106 interviewers completed the training successfully.

Data collection started on March 19th and ended on December 18th, 2009, lasting a total of 40 weeks. The primary mode of data collection was phone (97% of IWs), and the remaining cases were interviewed via face to face visits. Before making the first call to each family, interviewers mailed a pre-notification letter. During the field period, other types of letters were mailed to those families that were either reluctant, or too busy to participate, as well as those who were hard to contact.

Response Statistics

A total of 8,738 interviews were completed for an overall response rate (RR%) of 94.7%. Response rates by sample subgroup are listed in the following table:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sample Type</th>
<th>Eligible sample</th>
<th>Interviews</th>
<th>RR%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Core Reinterview</td>
<td>7586</td>
<td>7372</td>
<td>97.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Core Recontact</td>
<td>330</td>
<td>185</td>
<td>56.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Core Splitoffs</td>
<td>590</td>
<td>536</td>
<td>90.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Core Recon Splitoffs</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>53.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Core Subtotal</strong></td>
<td><strong>8519</strong></td>
<td><strong>8100</strong></td>
<td><strong>95.1%</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Immigrant Reinterview</td>
<td>581</td>
<td>554</td>
<td>95.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Immigrant Recontact</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>45.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Immigrant Splitoffs</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>85.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Immigrant Recon Splitoffs</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Immigrant Subtotal</strong></td>
<td><strong>710</strong></td>
<td><strong>638</strong></td>
<td><strong>89.9%</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2009 Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>9229</strong></td>
<td><strong>8738</strong></td>
<td><strong>94.7%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The average interview length across all interview types was 74.29 minutes. Additional 13.76 minutes were spent in updating the family composition and collecting respondent contact and payment information. The overall average respondent burden was 88.05 minutes. The interview incentive was $65, and an additional $10 was offered as reimbursement for the use of cell phone for the completion of the interview.