Overview of the Gemini Project

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BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Outline

- What is the Gemini Project?
- Milestones since the design plan release
- Underway and upcoming projects
- Highlights of projects
  - ▶ Proof of Concept
  - ▶ Incentives
  - ▶ Large-Scale Feasibility
  - ▶ Questionnaire Development

WHAT IS THE GEMINI PROJECT?

What is the Gemini Project?

"...aims to redesign the Consumer Expenditure (CE) survey to improve data quality through a verifiable reduction in measurement error—particularly error caused by underreporting."

Redesign Objectives

- Verifiable reduction in measurement error, with a particular focus on underreporting

- No harmful effect on response rates

- Neutral impact on budget

- Secondary objective: Reduction in burden
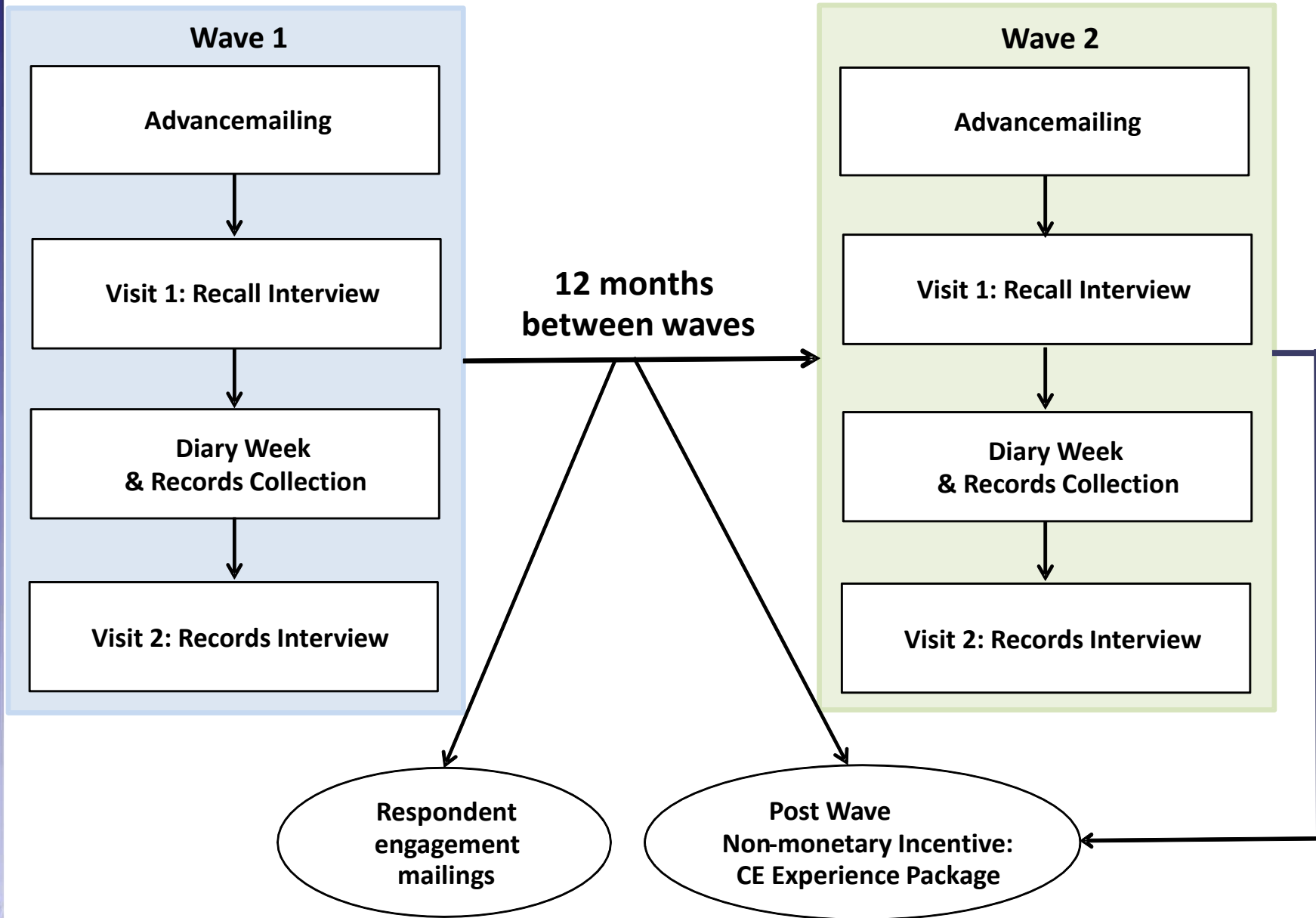
Current CE Design

Interview

- 4 waves of personal interviews
- 3 month recall
- Large or recurring expenditures

Diary

- 2 one-week household paper diaries
- Contemporaneous recall
- Small, frequently purchased items

Consumer Expenditure Survey Estimates

CE Redesign: New Protocol

Wave 1

Advancemailing

↓

Visit 1: Recall Interview

↓

Diary Week & Records Collection

↓

Visit 2: Records Interview

12 months between waves

Wave 2

Advancemailing

↓

Visit 1: Recall Interview

↓

Diary Week & Records Collection

↓

Visit 2: Records Interview

Respondent engagement mailings

Post Wave Non-monetary Incentive: CE Experience Package

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Milestones since the design plan

1. Roadmap developed
2. **Outreach/Data User's Impact Report**
3. Web Diary Test Analysis complete
4. Individual Diaries Field Test complete
5. Data Quality Profile prototype created

Projects underway and upcoming

- **Major Field Tests**
  - ▶ Proof-of-Concept Test
  - ▶ Incentives/Outlets Test (2016)
  - ▶ Large-Scale Feasibility Test (2019)
- **Questionnaire development**
  - – Recall protocol
  - – Recall question development
  - – Records Protocol

MAJOR FIELD TESTS

Proof-of-Concept Test

- Ensure that the basic underlying structure and components of the new design are feasible.

- Designed to mirror the proposed design to the fullest extent possible

Incentives Test

- Test the use of incentives in CE production sample
- Follow proposed Gemini Redesign structure of incentives
- Look at operational issues, effects on data quality, and effects on response rates

Large-Scale Feasibility Test

QUESTIONNAIRE DESIGN

Content Division (2013)

Records

Diary

Recall

Recall Question Development

- 126 Expenditure Categories → develop questions to gather the expenditure data
- Recommended question order
- Cognitive testing of 85 participants, 60 minute interviews

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Records Protocol

- Respondent-Track
  - ▶ the respondent handles the records and determine the order of the interview
- Interviewer Track
  - ▶ the interviewer organizes the records and follow a scripted order of the interview
- 50 participants

Recall Protocol

- Respondent-Driven/Grouped
- Interviewer-Driven/Grouped
- Respondent-Driven/Interleafed
- Interviewer-Driven/Mixed

- Expenditure Driven Order/Interleafed

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