Outline

1. Ongoing Survey Improvements
2. Research Agenda
4. Redesign Challenges
1. Ongoing Improvements

- 2003 – CAPI (CEQ)
- 2004 – CAPI (CED) demographics and income
- 2004 – Income imputation
- 2005 – Contact History Instrument (CHI)
- 2005 – User friendly diary form
- 2005 – Diary keying and auto-coding system
- 2009 – Telephone thresholds (CEQ)
- 2013 – Federal and state tax estimation
- 2015 – Bounding interview elimination
- Ongoing – Biennial CEQ instrument revisions
2. Research Agenda

CE Redesign Elements
- Reduce error (in particular, underreporting)
- Reduce burden ("secondary" objective)
- Keep costs neutral (find cost savings)
- Monitor redesign results (verify effectiveness)

Gemini Project Plan

Related CE Research

Research Agenda
### 3. Research Highlights

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Reduce Error: Measurement

- Auxiliary Data Sources
  - New method with potential to inform about measurement error properties of CE estimates, supplement respondent-collected data, and reduce data collection and processing costs (McBride et al. 2015)
  - Current project: Linking auxiliary housing data to CEQ records and comparing results to determine quality of CEQ estimates
  - But a data source preference question (in CEQ Research Section) found that respondents preferred being personally surveyed regarding their expenditures, over data linkage
Reduce Error: Measurement

- **Proxy Knowledge (CEQ Research Section)**
  - Respondents who reported being “very knowledgeable” of other consumer unit member expenditures showed an increase in total reported expenditures compared to those reporting less proxy knowledge (McBride et al. 2015)

- **Proxy Reporting Lab Study**
  - Resulted in recommendations for the design of future proxy protocols (Yu 2013)
Respondent Use of Financial Software/Websites (CEQ Research Section)

- Associated with significantly higher expenditures and greater record use (McBride et al. 2015)

Landmark Event Questions (CEQ Research Section)

- Few respondents reported landmark events (McBride et al. 2013); unclear if questions prompted reports of expenditures that might have otherwise been missed
Reduce Error: Measurement

- CEQ Worksheet
  - Since CEQ respondents are asked to recall expenses from a 3-month period, it may be helpful to provide them with a worksheet to use during those months (To 2014)
  - First stage focused on gathering FR input
Reduce Error: Nonresponse

- Predicting Panel Survey Response from Wave 1 CHI Doorstep Concerns
  - Reporting quality in final wave found to be differentiable by initial respondent concerns (Kopp et al. 2013)
  - Initial respondent concerns are also associated with likelihood of nonresponse (McBride & Tan 2014)
Reduce Error: Nonresponse

- CE CHI Text Analysis Project
  - Three additional themes consistently emerged from the refusal note field: *privacy*, *anti-government*, and *voluntary* nature of the survey (Martinez & Tan 2015)
  - Connection found between the CHI doorstep concern items and the reasons for non-interview captured in the ‘Other- specify’ field of the CAPI instrument
Reduce Burden

- **Respondent Burden Questions (CEQ Research Section)**
  - Interview length and quantity of interviews identified as the most burdensome dimensions (McBride et al. 2015)
  - Perceived burden linked to external indicators, such as interview length
  - Survey effort lower in respondents who reported high burden; this was partially mediated by disinclination to participate in the survey, such that pre-interview reluctance may be a component of later perceptions of burden irrespective of effort
Cost Neutral

- **Optimal Contact Attempts Verification**
  - From a total survey error perspective, seven contact attempts was identified as an optimal threshold (Safir & Tan 2015)

- **Bounding Interview Elimination**
  - Eliminating the bounding interview can reduce data collection costs without adversely affecting data quality (Elkin 2013)
Monitor Redesign Results

Data Quality Profile

- A consistent, well-defined set of metrics can be used to establish baselines for monitoring trends in the quality of routine survey production activities over time (Fricker & Tan, 2012)
- These metrics also can be drawn upon to evaluate the impact of survey design options under consideration, as well as external interventions that affect the survey
- Will be available to external users, making data quality assessment more transparent
Monitor Redesign Results

- CE Measurement Error Study
  - Analyzed differences in measurement error over time due to design changes (Meekins 2014)
  - Recommended metrics to be used in the ongoing Data Quality Profile Project to monitor and evaluate measurement error
4. Redesign Research Challenges

- Timing of ancillary research findings, synthesizing results into major in-progress redesign testing & implementation
  - Proof of concept test, large scale feasibility test, etc.
- Budget for research, testing, evaluation, and implementation
- Sample size requirements
- Pace of technological change
- Limitations of emergent technologies
References

Reduce Error

Admin Data
- Using Alternative Data Record Linkage to Enhance CE Data Quality: Scope of Work

Proxy Knowledge (CEQ Research Section)
- 2013 Research Section Analysis Final Report
  McBride, B, N. To, and E. Yu (2015)

Proxy Reporting Lab Study
- Asking Questions about Household Member Activities to Improve Expenditure Reporting
  Yu, E. (2013)

Landmark Event Questions (CEQ Research Section)
- 2012 Research Section Analysis Final Report
References

**Reduce Error**

**FR Assessment of Respondent Effort (CEQ Research Section)**
- 2012 Research Section Analysis Final Report

**Respondent Use of Financial Software/Websites**
- 2012 Research Section Analysis Final Report

**CEQ Worksheet**
- CEQ Worksheet Phase 1 Final Report
  To, N. (2014)

**Predicting Panel Survey Response from Wave 1 Doorstep Concerns**
- An Exploratory Study on the Association of Doorstop Concerns with Three Survey Quality Measures for the CE Interview Survey

- Quantifying CHI Doorstop Concerns as Risk Factors of Wave 1 Nonresponse for the CE Interview Survey
  McBride, B., and L. Tan (2014)
References

Reduce Error

CE CHI Text Analysis Project
- An Exploratory Text Analysis Project for the Consumer Expenditure Interview Survey
  Martinez, W., and L. Tan (2015)

Burden

Respondent Burden Questions (CEQ Research Section)
- 2013 Research Section Analysis Final Report
  McBride, B, N. To, and E. Yu (2015)

Cost Neutral

Optimal Contact Attempts Verification
- Verification of an Optimal Contact Attempt Threshold for the Consumer Expenditure Interview Survey
References

Cost Neutral

Bounding Interview Elimination
- Recommendation Regarding the Use of a CE Bounding Interview
  Elkin, I. (2013)

Monitor Redesign Results

Data Quality Profile
- A Proposal for a Preliminary Framework for Monitoring and Reporting on Data Quality for
  the Consumer Expenditure Survey
  Fricker, S., and L. Tan (2012)

CE Measurement Error Study
- Longitudinal Assessment of Measurement Error on the Consumer Expenditure Interview
  Meekins, B. (2014)
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