

Workshop on Redesigning the Consumer Expenditure Surveys

Issues in Implementing
Change in a Complex Survey



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- Context
- Planning the Change
- Stakeholders (Internal and External)
- Staffing
- Testing and Implementation
- Funding
- Cost
- Change in Contractor

- Why was I chosen to be this discussant?
- 33 year career at the Census Bureau
- 6 years in the private sector
- Redesign of the Current Population Survey
- Redesign of the National Crime Victimization Survey
- Introduction of CAPI in the CE Interview Survey

Planning the Change

- Long lead time required
- Organizational structure
- Meetings, meetings, meetings.....
- Partnership instead of client/contractor relationship
- How to resolve conflict?
- BLS Gemini Project

- Internal
 - BLS
 - Census Bureau
- External
 - Data Users
 - Political
- What do they want/when do they want it?
- Managing expectations

- Are separate staffs required?
- Maintaining the current time frame and operation

Testing and Implementation

- What to test?
- Is each change evaluated separately?
- Is an overlap survey required?
- Providing new technology to respondents
- How to phase in the redesign?

- Source of funding
 - Current program
 - New initiative
- Is the current/future political environment conducive to sustained funding?
- Change in the Administration

- Gemini Project Objective – The costs of a redesigned survey cannot exceed current budget levels
- Is the redesign effort DOA?

- Continue with the Census Bureau
- Release an RFP to gage the technical and budgetary options
- How best to evaluate:
 - Quality metrics
 - Best value
 - Nimbleness and ability to procure/develop required hardware and software