Workshop on Redesigning the Consumer Expenditure Surveys

Issues in Implementing Change in a Complex Survey

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Issues

• 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
Stakeholders

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

- 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?
Funding

- 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?
Change in Contractor

• 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