

Consumer Expenditure Survey Data Users' Need Forum

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Outline

- Why redesign the CE?
- The CE Redesign Process
- The philosophy of CE redesign
- What is the goal of the CE Data Users' Forum?



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Why redesign the CE?

- Original design of the surveys - 1980s
- Improvements in data collection such as CAPI, improved diary forms
- Response rates a concern
- Surveys are burdensome
- Nature of how members of consuming units spend money has changed
- Concerns over underreporting of expenditures



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The CE redesign process

- Management Structure
 - ▶ Executive Team
 - ▶ Steering Committee
 - ▶ Working Groups
- Planned series of workshops/forums/panels that will provide input to the redesign process



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The CE redesign process

- Survey Redesign Panel
- Data capture forum
- AAPOR panel on record use
- Data users' forum
- Household survey producers workshop



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The CE redesign process

- Methodology workshop
- Two independent contracts to outside survey houses to provide redesign options
- CNSTAT consensus panel



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The CE redesign philosophy

- FY 2011 CE budget initiative
- Marginal changes and thinking outside the box
- Needs of the CPI
 - ▶ Cost weights
 - ▶ Item selection
 - ▶ TPOPS



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The CE redesign philosophy

- Interview of the future
- Role of technology in data collection
- Role of administrative data



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The CE redesign philosophy

- Cognitive methods to reduce burden and improve the quality of the estimates
 - ▶ Role of incentives
 - ▶ Proxy reporting
 - ▶ Use of global questions and matrix methods
 - ▶ Questionnaire order effects
 - ▶ Structured vs conversational interviewing
 - ▶ Recall period



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What are the goals of the CE Data Users' Forum?

- Variety of stakeholders
 - ▶ CPI
 - ▶ CE program
 - ▶ Other government agencies
 - ▶ Policy makers
 - ▶ Academic researchers
 - ▶ Private business



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What are the goals of the CE Data Users' Forum?

- Variety of data analysis needs
 - ▶ CPI cost weights and item selection
 - ▶ CE analysis of expenditure trends and data quality
 - ▶ National Accounts
 - ▶ Sales tax analysis
 - ▶ Supplemental poverty thresholds
 - ▶ Consumption profiles by income group
 - ▶ Middle class thresholds



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What are the goals of the CE Data Users' Forum?

- Variety of data analysis needs
 - ▶ Micro foundations - analysis of consumer behavior
 - ▶ Macro statistics
- Goals: Listen, document, decide



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What are the goals of the CE Data Users' Forum?

- Goals:
 - ▶ Document and understand the data needs of users of CE data
 - ▶ Clearly state the use of CE data by the CPI
 - ▶ To what extent can the redesign process meet the data needs of various user groups?
 - Tradeoffs
 - Pareto shifts



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What are the goals of the CE Data Users' Forum?

- Influencing the tradeoff:
 - ▶ Interview of the future
 - ▶ Role of technology
 - ▶ Role of administrative data
 - ▶ Cognitive methods



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