Welcome and CE Redesign Update
Challenges and Opportunities Facing BLS Household Surveys: ATUS, CE, CPS, and NLS

Parvati Krishnamurty
CE Survey Methods Symposium
July 16, 2019
The CE Survey Methods Symposium

Topic: Challenges and Opportunities Facing BLS Household Surveys

- We will hear about the experiences of four BLS surveys: CPS, ATUS, NLS, and the CE
- Sessions on (1) Incentive delivery methods and experiments (2) Assessment of data quality and (3) Alternate modes of data collection.
- Each session has a discussant, who will speak for a few minutes after which there will be time for questions for the panelists
- There will be short 10 minute breaks between sessions and tea, coffee and cookies will be provided in the lobby just outside this room
The Gemini Project to Redesign the CE
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.”
Current CE Design

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

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

Consumer Expenditure Survey Estimates
Design Elements

- Online diaries
- Personal diaries
- Streamlined CAPI instrument with a records focus
- Incentives
- Two visits per wave
- Two waves per household
- Single sample
Gemini Redesign Plan

- 2013: Redesign Plan approved
- 2015: Proof of Concept test complete
- 2016: Incentives test complete
- 2017: Large Scale Feasibility Online Diary Test Kickoff
- 2019-20: Large Scale Feasibility Online Diary Test Fielded
- 2022 onwards: Phased Implementation
Design Elements

- Online Diary - keep
- Personal diaries - remove
- Streamlined CAPI instrument with a records focus - keep
- Incentives - only keep token and records incentive
- Single sample - pending
- Two visits per wave - pending
- Two waves - pending
Where we’re going

- Phased implementation of the redesign plan to maintain effective design elements and implement them directly into CE’s CEQ and CED

- Online diaries, streamlined questionnaire with a record focus, and token/records use incentives.
  - Online diary in the CED in 2022 (pending testing)
  - Streamlined CAPI instrument in the CEQ in 2023

- Postpone single sample design pending changed requirements and/or additional funding and further testing
Contact Information

Parvati Krishnamurty
Senior Economist
Division of Consumer Expenditure Surveys
202-691-5727
krishnamurty.parvati@bls.gov