Welcome to the CE Survey Methods Symposium

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Welcome to the Survey Methods Symposium

We are here to:

1. Share CE research findings with stakeholders, survey researchers, and data users.

2. Promote a discussion about common challenges and solutions facing CE and other surveys as we try to produce high quality data in a time of declining response rates, changing respondent behavior, and rising costs of data collection.
Outline

- Gemini Project
  - Overview
  - Recent research and field tests
  - Upcoming field tests

- CE Symposium
  - Topics
  - Agenda
Gemini Project
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.”
Objectives

- Verifiable reduction in measurement error, with a particular focus on underreporting
- No harmful effect on response rates
- Neutral impact on budget
- Secondary objective: Reduction in burden
Current CE Design

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

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

**Consumer Expenditure Survey Estimates**
CE Redesign Protocol

Wave 1
- Advance Mailing
- Visit 1: Recall Interview
- Diary Week & Records Collection
- Visit 2: Records Interview

12 months between waves

Wave 2
- Advance Mailing
- Visit 1: Recall Interview
- Diary Week & Records Collection
- Visit 2: Records Interview

Respondent engagement mailings

Post Wave Non-monetary Incentive: Spending Summary Report
Recent Research and Field Tests

- Proof of Concept Test
- Incentives Test
- Questionnaire cognitive testing
- Online diary development and usability testing
- Data quality profile
Upcoming Field Tests

- Large Scale Feasibility Test
- Online Diaries Implementation Test
- Spending Summary Report Field Test
CE Symposium
Symposium Topics

- Incentives
- Record Use
- Online and Personal Diaries
- Data Quality Efforts
Symposium Agenda

- Four sessions on the symposium topics with presentations by CE staff and outside researchers
- After each session there will be time for questions for the panelists
- Short breaks between sessions and a lunch break from 11:45 am to 1 pm
Contact Information

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