

## SIPP User Notes

To: SIPP Users

From: Heather Boushey, economist, Center for Economic and Policy Research

RE: Set C: Household and Family Relationships

Date: January 30, 2006

Set C covers the household and family relationships of SIPP respondents. This note documents the correspondence of the SIPP with published data sources, finding that they match closely. The definitions of variables are consistent across panels with the exception that the 1996 and 2001 SIPP panels identify the mother, father, and/or guardian of each child, while in the 1992 and 1993 panels, only the primary parent or guardian is identified. This means that we can count the number of children per father or mother in the later panels, but it is not possible in the 1992 and 1993 panels. Appendix 1 provides a list of the variables included in Set C.

### ***Defining households and families***

Households are uniquely identified in the SIPP so that a user can follow one household over the course of the panel. However, families are not as they are subject to changes in composition. Thus, the SIPP only provides indicators for whether a group of individuals constitutes a family (primary or sub-family). One idea for following families over time is to create a unique family id variable by concatenating the *id*'s of all family members in the first month of interest and then determining if this same configuration of individuals remains in the family. Set C includes all variables that the user would need to make these determinations.

For each panel, CEPR and Census come up with the exact same number of individuals in households, families, and sub-families.<sup>1</sup> However, CEPR counts do not identically match counts of children within families or subfamilies. According to Census staff, this is because there are children who point to unrelated parents.<sup>2</sup> Tables 1 through 4 show the differences in the counts of children in families between the CEPR calculations and the Census calculations. The counts are by person-month; the 1992 and 1993 panels are about half as large as the 1996 and 2001 panels. The 2001 panel is still small, compared to the 1996 because we only have the first six waves at this time.

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<sup>1</sup> We match our count of household members to *ehhnp*, for families to *efnp*, and for sub-families to *esfnp*. Our counts for subfamilies do match exactly, however, because we put all individuals in a sub-family, whereas Census only puts those in sub-families in households with more than one family into a sub-family. This way, our sub-family id variable identifies all unique families.

<sup>2</sup> Correspondence with Jason M. Fields, MPH, PhD, Family Demographer Fertility and Family Statistics, 4700 Silver Hill Road, US Census Bureau - Rm 2353 - FOB3, Washington DC 20233, Phone: (301)763-2465.

A second issue in Set C is the matching of children to adults. This requires that a unique id be created for all parents, which are then matched to the ids noted in the children's file pointing to their parent. We have created a program entitled "attach" that attaches children to their parents. After doing so, we can count the number of children per parent (mother, father, or guardian in the 1996 and 2001 panels; primary parent/guardian in the 1992 and 1993 panels), per family, or per household. Set C includes the number of children by age group for mothers and fathers in the 1996 and 2001 panels, as well as sub-family for all panels. Users may choose other ways of counting the number of children by age, such as children in households, or change the age groups, by making changes to the "attach" program embedded in the "Clean Set C".

**Table 1. Counting Children (1992 panel)**

CEPR's SIPP famkid	Census Number of Children in Family (rfnkids)												Total
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	12	
0	756,640	1,622	78	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	758,34
1	6,209	310,714	1,947	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	318,890
2	79	2,730	375,787	1,189	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	379,785
3	0	0	1,081	180,280	612	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	181,973
4	0	0	0	794	68,805	270	0	0	0	0	0	0	69,869
5	0	0	0	0	515	20,951	103	0	0	0	0	0	21,569
6	0	0	0	0	28	160	9,465	9	0	0	0	0	9,662
7	0	0	0	0	0	24	101	5,768	9	0	0	0	5,902
8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	33	1990	0	0	0	2,023
9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	352	0	0	352
10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	206	0	206
11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	128	0	128
12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	150	150
Total	762,928	315,066	378,893	182,283	69,960	21,405	9,669	5,810	1999	352	334	150	1748849

CEPR's SIPP famkid	Census Number of Own Children in Family (rfoklt18)											Total
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
0	756,874	1,403	63	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	758,340
1	45,384	272,044	1,442	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	318,890
2	21,342	13,255	344,245	943	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	379,785
3	8,359	3,566	7,512	162,154	382	0	0	0	0	0	0	181,973
4	4,545	2,093	2,136	4,279	56,678	138	0	0	0	0	0	69,869
5	1,295	534	1,041	1,584	1,400	15,687	28	0	0	0	0	21,569
6	1,119	80	605	263	682	1,083	5,830	0	0	0	0	9,662
7	432	244	139	260	160	284	714	3,669	0	0	0	5,902
8	12	0	253	109	241	49	0	201	1,158	0	0	2,023
9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	352	0	352
10	0	0	26	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	180	206
11	128	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	128
12	0	0	0	0	150	0	0	0	0	0	0	150
Total	839,490	293,219	357,462	169,612	59,693	17,241	6,572	3,870	1,158	352	180	1748849

**Table 2. Counting Children (1993 panel)**

CEPR's SIPP		Census Number of Children in Family (rfnkids)											
famkid	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	Total
0	757,252	1,601	36	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	758,889
1	5,763	302,168	1,809	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	309,752
2	9	2,641	374,683	1,074	64	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	378,471
3	0	67	1,134	191,902	550	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	193,653
4	0	0	24	644	66,936	338	0	0	0	0	0	0	67,942
5	0	0	0	7	381	24,865	167	0	0	0	0	0	25,420
6	0	0	0	0	35	67	8,372	132	0	0	0	0	8,606
7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4,395	40	0	0	0	4,435
8	0	0	0	0	0	0	24	10	2,820	0	0	0	2,854
9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	722	0	0	722
10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	192	0	192
11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	34	34
Total	763,024	306,477	377,686	193,639	67,966	25,270	8,563	4,537	2,860	722	192	34	1,750,970

CEPR's SIPP		Census Number of Own Children in Family (rfoklt18)									
famkid	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Total
0	757,377	1,476	36	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	758,889
1	44,787	263,463	1,490	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	309,752
2	20,190	12,450	344,985	846	0	0	0	0	0	0	378,471
3	9,387	2,732	6,843	174,322	369	0	0	0	0	0	193,653
4	2,623	1,192	1,398	4,616	57,950	163	0	0	0	0	67,942
5	2,251	305	889	972	1,804	19,064	135	0	0	0	25,420
6	958	36	133	542	309	669	5,923	36	0	0	8,606
7	297	0	0	0	131	535	32	3,400	40	0	4,435
8	276	0	0	0	279	0	100	0	2,199	0	2,854
9	0	0	135	0	0	70	0	0	0	517	722
10	0	0	192	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	192
11	0	0	34	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	34
Total	838,146	281,654	356,135	181,310	60,842	20,501	6,190	3,436	2,239	517	1,750,970

**Table 3. Counting Children (1996 panel)**

CEPR's SIPP		Census Number of Children in Family (rfnkids)											
famkid	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	Total
0	1,680,385	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,680,385
1	14,697	699,753	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	714,450
2	24	1,880	828,762	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	830,666
3	0	22	785	427,904	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	428,711
4	0	0	0	387	153,025	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	153,412
5	0	0	0	0	24	53,232	0	0	0	0	0	0	53,256
6	0	0	0	0	0	28	20,309	0	0	0	0	0	20,337
7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9,232	0	0	0	0	9,232
8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3,350	0	0	0	3,350
9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2,595	0	0	2,595
10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	679	0	679
11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	104	104
Total	1,695,106	701,655	829,547	428,291	153,049	53,260	20,309	9,232	3,350	2,595	679	104	3,897,177

CEPR's SIPP		Census Number of Own Children in Family (rfoklt18)											
famkid	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	Total
0	1,680,385	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,680,385
1	113,839	600,611	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	714,450
2	54,422	29,274	746,970	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	830,666
3	26,969	7,655	18,977	375,110	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	428,711
4	9,350	4,125	5,111	9,900	124,926	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	153,412
5	3,508	1,399	2,274	1,795	4,319	39,961	0	0	0	0	0	0	53,256
6	1,030	146	577	690	1,243	2,296	14,355	0	0	0	0	0	20,337
7	138	256	203	138	329	161	1,050	6,957	0	0	0	0	9,232
8	0	320	0	105	174	94	402	260	1,995	0	0	0	3,350
9	65	0	280	0	120	0	274	96	209	1,551	0	0	2,595
10	351	0	0	207	0	0	0	0	0	0	121	0	679
11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	104	104
Total	1,890,057	643,786	774,392	387,945	131,111	42,512	16,081	7,313	2,204	1,551	121	104	3,897,177

**Table 4. Counting Children (2001 panel)**

CEPR's SIPP		Census Number of Children in Family (rfnkids)											
Famkid	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	Total
0	777,250	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	777,250
1	5,671	314,620	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	320,291
2	4	787	369,121	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	369,912
3	0	0	623	194,206	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	194,829
4	0	0	0	287	68,610	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	68,897
5	0	0	0	0	0	21,815	0	0	0	0	0	0	21,815
6	0	0	0	0	0	0	8,982	0	0	0	0	0	8,982
7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3,642	0	0	0	0	3,642
8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2,025	0	0	0	2,025
9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	949	0	0	949
10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	632	0	632
11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	414	414
Total	782,925	315,407	369,744	194,493	68,610	21,815	8,982	3,642	2,025	949	632	414	1769638

CEPR's SIPP		Census Number of Own Children in Family (rfoklt18)											
famkid	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	Total
0	777,250	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	777,250
1	50,836	269,455	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	320,291
2	26,132	12,816	330,964	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	369,912
3	11,450	3,976	8,632	170,771	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	194,829
4	4,773	1,715	2,457	4,908	55,044	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	68,897
5	1,133	676	891	1,358	1,864	15,893	0	0	0	0	0	0	21,815
6	1,156	246	566	439	342	791	5,442	0	0	0	0	0	8,982
7	476	193	160	0	22	400	44	2,347	0	0	0	0	3,642
8	302	117	44	40	0	0	72	10	1,440	0	0	0	2,025
9	0	0	0	272	0	112	0	0	0	565	0	0	949
10	0	0	0	0	0	0	52	0	0	0	580	0	632
11	0	0	0	133	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	281	414
Total	873,508	289,194	343,714	177,921	57,272	17,196	5,610	2,357	1,440	565	580	281	1769638

**Comparing the SIPP with other published data**

Table 5 shows the average number of children and adults per household, for March of each year. The SIPP Set C variables used here are *famkid* and *hh\_ads*. The “check” data are taken from the March CPS. The standard errors of the CPS data generally fall between 0.01 and 0.02, so for most of the years shown below, the differences for the children data are not statistically significant, though for the adult data the differences are statistically significant (greater than twice the standard error).

**Table 5: Average Number of Children and Adults Per Household**

<i>Panel</i>	<i>Year</i>	Children per household			Adults per household		
		SIPP	CPS	Percent difference	SIPP	CPS	Percent difference
1992	1992	0.72	0.69	0.04	1.87	1.93	-0.03
	1993	0.69	0.70	-0.02	1.88	1.94	-0.03
	1994	0.71	0.72	-0.01	1.88	1.95	-0.04
1993	1993	0.73	0.70	0.04	1.87	1.94	-0.04
	1994	0.71	0.72	-0.02	1.88	1.95	-0.04
	1995	0.73	0.71	0.03	1.86	1.93	-0.04
1996	1996	0.68	0.71	-0.04	1.87	1.94	-0.04
	1997	0.72	0.71	0.01	1.85	1.93	-0.04
	1998	0.72	0.70	0.03	1.86	1.92	-0.03
	1999	0.72	0.69	0.04	1.82	1.93	-0.06
2001	2001	0.67	0.67	-0.01	1.87	1.91	-0.02
	2002	0.65	0.66	-0.01	1.86	1.92	-0.03

Sources: Center for Economic and Policy Research. 2003. *SIPP Uniform Data Files, Version 1.1*. Washington, D.C.; U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division. 2003. Table HH-6. Average Population Per Household and Family: 1940 to Present (Based on Current Population Survey (CPS)): <http://www.census.gov/population/socdemo/hh-fam/tabHH-6.pdf>

**Appendix: Variable List**

variable	label
<b>Merging Variables (appear on every Set)</b>	
id	Unique ID
srefmon	Reference month
wave	Wave of data collection
age	Age in this month
<b>Variables in this set only</b>	
dkid0	Number of Infants (first year) for a Dad (96 and 01)
dkid1	Number of Children in their first year for a Dad (96 and 01)
dkid2	Number of Children in their second year for a Dad (96 and 01)
dkid3	Number of Children in their third year for a Dad (96 and 01)
dkid4	Number of Children in their fourth year for a Dad (96 and 01)
dkid5	Number of Children in their fifth year for a Dad (96 and 01)
dkid0t5	Number of Children aged 0 to 5 for a Dad (96 and 01)
dkid0t17	Number of Children aged 0 to 17 for a Dad (96 and 01)
dkid6t12	Number of Children aged 6 to 12 for a Dad (96 and 01)
dkid13t17	Number of Children aged 13 to 17 for a Dad (96 and 01)
dyngst	Age of the Dad's youngest child (96 and 01)
fam_ads	Number of adults in family, including subfamily
famkid	Number of kids (less than 18) in family, including subfamily
hh_ads	Number of Adults in the household
hhid	Unique Household ID
mkid0	Number of Infants (first year) for a Mom (96 and 01)
mkid1	Number of Children in their first year for a Mom (96 and 01)
mkid2	Number of Children in their second year for a Mom (96 and 01)
mkid3	Number of Children in their third year for a Mom (96 and 01)
mkid4	Number of Children in their fourth year for a Mom (96 and 01)
mkid5	Number of Children in their fifth year for a Mom (96 and 01)
mkid0t5	Number of Children aged 0 to 5 for a Mom (96 and 01)
mkid0t17	Number of Children aged 0 to 17 for a Mom (96 and 01)
mkid6t12	Number of Children aged 6 to 12 for a Mom (96 and 01)
mkid13t17	Number of Children aged 13 to 17 for a Mom (96 and 01)
myngst	Age of the Mom's youngest child (96 and 01)
pfid	Unique Family ID
rfnkids	FA: Total number of children under 18 in family
rfoklt18	FA: Number of own children under 18 in family
sfam_ads	Number of Adults in the subfamily
sfid	Unique Family ID, sub/primary families separate
skid0	Number of Infants (first year) for a Family (by sfid: sub/primary families separate)
skid1	Number of Children in their First year for a Family (by sfid: sub/primary families separate)
skid2	Number of Children in their Second year for a Family (by sfid: sub/primary families separate)
skid3	Number of Children in their Third year for a Family (by sfid: sub/primary families separate)
skid4	Number of Children in their Fourth year for a Family (by sfid: sub/primary families separate)
skid5	Number of Children in their Fifth year for a Family (by sfid: sub/primary families separate)
skid0t5	Number of Children aged 0 to 5 for a Family (by sfid: sub/primary families separate)
skid0t17	Number of Children aged 0 to 17 for a Family (by sfid: sub/primary families separate)
skid6t12	Number of Children aged 6 to 12 for a Family (by sfid: sub/primary families separate)
skid13t17	Number of Children aged 13 to 17 for a Family (by sfid: sub/primary families separate)
spouseid	Spouse id
syngst	Age of the Family's youngest child (by sfid: sub/primary families separate)

**Note: variables are available in all panels except where noted**