

SIPP User Notes

To: SIPP Users

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RE: Set B: Demographics

Date: December 22, 2005

Set B covers demographic characteristics of SIPP respondents. The definitions of variables are consistent across panels except in the cases of education, cohabitation, ethnic origin, state code, and citizenship status. In the cases of education, ethnic origin, state code and citizenship status, the questions changed between the 1993 and 1996 SIPP panels. Cohabitation was asked beginning in the 1996 panel. (See Appendix 1 for a list of the variables included in Set B.)

Tables 1 through 6 show how well the SIPP demographic data correspond across panels and how well they match up to other published data sources. For each table, we have included information from one year of data from each panel and, to the extent possible, matched it to other data to verify our SIPP findings. The data used to “check” our SIPP data usually came from the U.S. Census. In general, the matches are quite close and variables are consistent across years. However, in nearly all cases, the “check” data is outside the 95 percent confidence interval for the SIPP data.

Table 1 compares the percent native in the SIPP to other published data. The percent native variable is asked in Topical Module 2 of each SIPP panel so we chose to use data from the first year of each panel. The SIPP reports a slightly higher proportion of non-natives than do our check data, except for the 1996 panel, which appears to understand the native population.

Table 1: Citizenship Status (Percent Native)

Calendar year (SIPP panel)	SIPP	Check	Percentage Point Difference
1994 (1992)	92.9%	90.5%	2.2
1994 (1993)	92.5	90.5	2.0
1997 (1996)	89.4	92.1	-2.7
2001 (2001)	86.4	88.5	1.9

Notes: Data refer to all U.S. residents except 1997, which refer to only residents ages 20-64. Data on citizenship are not yet available from the 2001 SIPP panel.

Sources: Center for Economic and Policy Research. 2003. *SIPP Uniform Data Files, Version 1.0*. Washington, D.C.; U.S. Bureau of the Census. 1995. *The Foreign-Born Population: 1994*. P20 Series, No. 486, Table 1. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office. <<http://www.census.gov/prod/1/pop/p20-486.pdf>>; U.S. Bureau of the Census. 1996. *Profile of the Foreign-Born Population in the United States, 1995*. (PPL-127), Table 1.1. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office. <<http://www.census.gov/population/socdemo/foreign/cps1995/tab0101.txt>>; U.S. Bureau of the Census. 2003. *The Foreign-Born Population in the United States: March 2002*. P20 Series, No. 539, Table 1.1. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office. <<http://www.census.gov/population/socdemo/foreign/ppl-162/tab01-01.txt>>.

Table 2 shows the proportion of individuals who have an “employment limiting” disability. The SIPP findings are quite close to the check data, with less than a one percentage point difference found for all four panels.

Table 2: Employment Disabilities (Percent Disabled)

Calendar year (SIPP panel)	SIPP	Check	Percentage Point Difference
1994-95 (1992)	12.8%	13.6%	-0.8
1994-95 (1993)	12.8	13.6	-0.8
1997 (1996)	11.1	11.1	0.0
2000 (2001)	11.2	11.9	-0.7

Notes: Data refer to all U.S. residents ages 21-64 (1994-95), ages 25-64 (1996), and ages 16-64 (2000). For the 1992 SIPP panel, data are from 1994; for the 1993 SIPP panel, data are from 1995.

Sources: Center for Economic and Policy Research. 2003. *SIPP Uniform Data Files, Version 1.0*. Washington, D.C.; U.S. Bureau of the Census. 1997. *Americans with Disabilities: 1994-95*. P70 Series, No. 61, Table 9.

Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office.

<<http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/disable/sipp/disab9495/ds94t1c.html>>; U.S. Bureau of the Census. 2001.

Americans with Disabilities: 1997. P70 Series, No. 73, Table 2. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office. <<http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/disable/sipp/disab97/ds97t2.html>>; U.S. Bureau of the Census.

2003. *Disability Status: 2000*. Table 1. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office.

<<http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/disable/disabstat2k/table1.html>>.

Table 3 shows the discrepancies between the SIPP and check data by educational attainment. The questions for determining educational attainment in the Core SIPP data changed in the 1996 panel. Previously, to determine the highest grade level completed, SIPP programmers had to use two variables, highest grade attended and whether the respondent completed that grade. After the 1996 panel, one variable indicates the highest level of school or degree completed. To further examine the implications of this change in the question, we include educational attainment from Topical Module 2 of the 1992 and 1993 SIPP panels because these are more similarly worded to those in 1996 than are the questions in the Core data.

This change in educational attainment questions mirrors changes made to the Current Population Survey in 1992. As Jaeger (1997)¹ makes clear, “[p]rior to the change in the educational attainment question, the CPS and Census survey instruments asked individuals what was the highest grade they had attended and whether they had finished that grade... After the change, the question has focused instead on degree receipt.” Our method for creating a consistent educational attainment variable across panels is similar to the methods employed for the CPS.

¹ David A. Jaeger. 1997. “Reconciling the Old and New Census Bureau Education Questions: Recommendations for Researchers.” *Journal of Business & Economic Statistics*, Vol. 5(3) (July), p 300.

Table 3: Educational Attainment (Percent Attained, Age 25 and over)

Calendar year (SIPP panel)	Less than High School Diploma	High School Diploma	Some College, No Degree	College Degree
SIPP				
1992 (1992)	20.8%	34.6%	22.4%	22.2%
<i>TM2 1992*</i>	18.7	35.0	22.7	20.6
1993 (1993)	20.5	34.3	23.0	22.2
<i>TM2 1993*</i>	18.6	34.5	23.4	20.6
1997 (1996)	17.7	31.4	27.7	23.2
2001 (2001)	20.8	29.4	27.7	22.2
Check				
1992 (1992)	20.6%	36.0%	22.1%	21.4%
<i>TM2 1992*</i>				
1993 (1993)	19.8	35.4	23.0	21.9
<i>TM2 1993*</i>				
1997 (1996)	17.9	33.8	24.4	23.9
2001 (2001)	21.3	30.3	25.7	22.6
Percentage point difference				
1992 (1992)	0.2	-1.4	0.3	0.9
<i>TM2 1992*</i>	-1.9	-1.0	0.6	-7.5
1993 (1993)	0.8	-1.0	0.0	0.3
<i>TM2 1993*</i>	-1.2	-0.9	0.4	-8.4
1997 (1996)	-0.2	-2.4	3.3	-0.7
2001 (2001)	-0.6	-1.0	2.0	-0.4

Note: Data for 2001 refer to individuals ages 15 and over.

* Topical Module 2 for the 1992 and 1993 panels include a series of educational attainment questions that more closely mirror the questions from the 1996 and 2001 SIPP panels. These are included here to further show consistency across panels.

Sources: Center for Economic and Policy Research. 2003. *SIPP Uniform Data Files, Version 1.0*. Washington, D.C.; U.S. Bureau of the Census. 1994. *Educational Attainment in the United States: March 1993 and 1992*. P20 Series, No. 476, Table 17. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office.

<<http://www.census.gov/population/socdemo/education/p20-476/tab17.pdf>>; U.S. Bureau of the Census. 1998.

Educational Attainment in the United States: March 1996. P20 Series, No. 493, Table 1. Washington, D.C.: U.S.

Government Printing Office. <<http://www.census.gov/prod/2/pop/p20/p20-493u.pdf>>; U.S. Bureau of the Census. 2003.

Educational Attainment in the United States: March 2001. PPL-157, Table 1. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office. <<http://www.census.gov/population/socdemo/education/ppl-157/tab01.txt>>.

Table 4 shows the proportion of individuals who live in metropolitan areas. The differences between the SIPP and check data are quite large for this variable, with the SIPP undercounting the proportion of individuals in metropolitan areas, compared to our check data sources. The SIPP question refers to individuals who live in an MSA, while that from the check data sources refer to 258 metropolitan statistical areas and 18 consolidated metropolitan statistical areas as defined by U.S. Office of Management and Budget.

Table 4: Metropolitan Residence (Percent Metropolitan)

Calendar year (SIPP panel)	SIPP	Check	Percentage Point Difference
1994 (1992)	74.9%	79.8%	4.9
1994 (1993)	75.7	79.8	4.1
1996 (1996)	78.0	79.8	1.9
2000 (2001)	78.1	80.3	2.2

Note: All U.S. residents.

Sources: Center for Economic and Policy Research. 2003. *SIPP Uniform Data Files, Version 1.0*. Washington, D.C.; U.S. Bureau of the Census. 1996. *Statistical Abstract of the United States: 1996*. Sec. 1, No. 42. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office. <<http://www.census.gov/prod/2/gen/96stab/pop.pdf>>; U.S. Bureau of the Census. 1998. *Statistical Abstract of the United States: 1998*. Sec. 1, No. 42. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office. <<http://www.census.gov/prod/3/98pubs/98stab/sasec1.pdf>>; U.S. Bureau of the Census. 2003. *Statistical Abstract of the United States: 2002*. Sec. 1, No. 29. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office. <<http://www.census.gov/prod/2003pubs/02statab/pop.pdf>>.

Table 5 shows the marital status of adults (over age 15). The SIPP and check data match very closely for this variable, with no gap over 0.8 percentage points.

Table 5: Marital Status (Percent of Population age 15 and over)

Calendar year (SIPP panel)	Married	Never married	Widowed	Divorced
SIPP				
1993 (1992)	57.4%	27.3%	6.6%	8.6%
1993 (1993)	57.3	26.8	6.9	9.0
1996 (1996)	57.2	26.7	6.8	9.4
2001 (2001)	56.2	27.2	6.5	10.0
Check				
1993 (1992)	58.1%	26.5%	6.9%	8.4%
1993 (1993)	58.1	26.5	6.9	8.4
1996 (1996)	57.0	27.5	6.6	8.9
2001 (2001)	56.2	27.9	6.4	9.5
Percentage point difference				
1993 (1992)	-0.7	0.8	-0.3	0.2
1993 (1993)	-0.8	0.3	-0.1	0.6
1996 (1996)	0.2	-0.8	0.2	0.4
2001 (2001)	0.0	-0.7	0.1	0.6

Note: Data from 2001 for "Check" are based on Census 2000 controls and expanded SCHIP sample.

Sources: Center for Economic and Policy Research. 2003. *SIPP Uniform Data Files, Version 1.0*. Washington, D.C.; U.S. Bureau of the Census. 2003. *Children's Living Arrangements and Characteristics: March 2002*. P20 Series, No. 547. (and earlier reports) Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office. <<http://www.census.gov/population/socdemo/hh-fam/tabMS-1.pdf>>

Table 6 shows the racial composition of SIPP respondents compared to check data. The match is quite close, although a gap emerges in the 2001 panel. In all likelihood, this is due to the fact that the questions in the SIPP do not match U.S. Census questions after 2000, as individuals are now able to report more than one race. The SIPP continues to insist that respondents choose a single race.

Table 6: Race (Percent of Total Population)

Calendar year (SIPP panel)	White	African American	Hispanic	Other
<i>SIPP</i>				
1992 (1992)	75.2%	11.3%	9.9%	3.7%
1993 (1993)	74.7	11.3	10.1	3.9
1996 (1996)	72.6	12.3	10.8	4.3
2001 (2001)	70.1	12.3	12.8	4.9
<i>Check</i>				
1992 (1992)	74.8%	11.9%	9.5%	3.8%
1993 (1993)	74.3	11.9	9.8	3.9
1996 (1996)	73.1	12.0	10.7	4.2
2001 (2001)	68.9	11.7	13.0	6.4
<i>Percentage point difference</i>				
1992 (1992)	0.4	-0.6	0.3	-0.1
1993 (1993)	0.3	-0.6	0.3	0.0
1996 (1996)	-0.5	0.2	0.2	0.1
2001 (2001)	1.2	0.5	-0.2	-1.6

Notes: Whites and African Americans are of non-Hispanic origin. Hispanics may be of any race except 2001 where "Check" data includes only African American and white Hispanics.

Sources: Center for Economic and Policy Research. 2003. *SIPP Uniform Data Files, Version 1.0*. Washington, D.C.; U.S. Bureau of the Census. 1997. U.S. Population Estimates by Age, Sex, Race, and Hispanic Origin: 1990 to 1996. PPL Series, No. 57. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office.

<<http://www.census.gov/prod/3/97pubs/97statab/pop.pdf>> (*Statistical Abstract of the United States: 1997*. Sec. 1, No. 19.); U.S. Bureau of the Census. 2003. *Statistical Abstract of the United States: 2002*. Sec. 1, No. 14. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office. <<http://www.census.gov/prod/2003pubs/02statab/pop.pdf>>

Appendix: Variable List

variable name	label
Merging Variables (appear on every Set)	
id	Unique ID
srefmon	Reference month
wave	Wave of data collection
age	Age in this month
Variables in this set only	
citizen	Citizenship status
cohab	Cohabiting (96 and 01)
disabled	Disability that limits work
educ	Educational attainment
educ_tm2	TM2: Educational Attainment
ethnic	Ethnic Origin (96,01 differ)
female	Female
metro	Metropolitan Residence
ms	Marital status
msa	HH: CMSA/PMSA/MSA Code
race	Race (W, B, H, O)
race1	SIPP race (unedited)
region	Census Region (9)
sipp_st	HH: FIPS State Code
state	CPS State Code (w/SIPP aggr.)
ststat	School status
student(90-93)	Student this month
student (96,01)	Student this month (missing values seperate)

Note: variables are available in all panels except where noted