SIPP User Notes

To: SIPP Users
From: Heather Boushey, economist, Center for Economic and Policy Research
RE: Set G: Program Participation
Date: February 13, 2006

Set G covers participation in public assistance programs. One of the goals of the Survey of Income and Program Participation is to track program participation so the survey includes variables on almost every government program. Set G does not even attempt to cover all of these issues; rather, it includes the "basics"—the most commonly referred to public assistance programs.

Tables 1 through 4 show the consistency of our SIPP analysis with publicly available data sources. In general, the SIPP, like other survey's, underreports participation, however, the discrepancies are not large in all cases.

CEPR encourages users who wish to look at participation in other public assistance programs to add variables to Set G and contribute to our Uniform Data Sets series.

Table 1: Food Stamp Check

	Participants	US Pop	USDA	CEPR
1990	20,396,000	247,982,569	8.2%	9.1%
1991	23,364,000	251,370,045	9.3%	10.1%
1992	25,759,000	254,929,355	10.1%	11.2%
1993	27,260,000	258,445,963	10.5%	11.8%
1994	27,207,000	261,713,525	10.4%	11.7%
1995	25,213,000	264,927,094	9.5%	11.4%
1996	25,874,000	268,108,316	9.7%	11.5%
1997	20,365,000	271,394,417	7.5%	10.7%
1998	18,152,000	274,632,728	6.6%	9.3%
1999	17,081,000	277,840,888	6.1%	8.4%
2000	16,714,000	281,421,231	5.9%	5.8%
2001				8.7%
2002				9.4%
2003				9.0%

Sources: Center for Economic and Policy Research. 2003. SIPP Uniform Data Files, Version 1.2. Washington, D.C.; USDA FNS: Food & Nutrition Services "Trends in FSP Participation Rates: 1994-2000", Table 1, http://www.fns.usda.gov/oane/menu/published/fsp/FILES/Participation/Trends94-00.pdf
Sources for Population Data: US Census Bureau. Population Estimates.
http://eire.census.gov/popest/data/states/tables/NST-EST2003-01.php and
http://eire.census.gov/popest/data/national/tables/intercensal/US-EST90INT-06.php. We use civilian population

Table 2: UI Recipiency Check

	Participants	US Pop	US DOL	CEPR
1990	8,628,557	247,982,569	3.5%	3.4%
1991	10,074,550	251,370,045	4.0%	4.3%
1992	9,243,338	254,929,355	3.6%	4.7%
1993	7,884,326	258,445,963	3.1%	4.2%
1994	7,959,281	261,713,525	3.0%	3.2%
1995	8,035,229	264,927,094	3.0%	2.6%
1996	7,989,615	268,108,316	3.0%	2.5%
1997	7,325,279	271,394,417	2.7%	2.2%
1998				2.0%
1999				1.9%
2000				0.9%
2001				2.8%
2002				3.1%
2003				2.5%

Sources: Center for Economic and Policy Research. 2003. SIPP Uniform Data Files, Version 1.1. Washington, D.C.; US Department of Labor "ET Financial Data Handbook 394". Tables, Section II, United States.
http://www.ows.doleta.gov/unemploy/content/hdbk394_99/lnkus.html

Sources for Population Data: US Census Bureau. Population Estimates. http://eire.census.gov/popest/data/states/tables/NST-EST2003-01.php and http://eire.census.gov/popest/data/national/tables/intercensal/US-EST90INT-06.php. We use civilian population

Table 3: TANF / AFDC Coverage Check

	Participants	US Pop	US HHS	CEPR
1990	11,460,382	247,982,569	4.6%	4.8%
1991	12,592,269	251,370,045	5.0%	5.3%
1992	13,625,342	254,929,355	5.3%	5.6%
1993	14,142,710	258,445,963	5.5%	6.0%
1994	14,225,591	261,713,525	5.4%	6.1%
1995	13,652,232	264,927,094	5.2%	6.2%
1996	12,648,859	268,108,316	4.7%	5.3%
1997	10,936,298	271,394,417	4.0%	4.9%
1998	8,770,376	274,632,728	3.2%	3.8%
1999	7,202,639	277,840,888	2.6%	2.7%
2000				1.5%
2001				2.2%
2002				2.0%
2003				1.8%

Sources: Center for Economic and Policy Research. 2003. SIPP Uniform Data Files, Version 1.1. Washington, D.C.; US Department of Health and Human Services. http://www.acf.hhs.gov/news/stats/6097rf.htm (1992-1999 information)

Sources for Population Data: US Census Bureau. Population Estimates. http://eire.census.gov/popest/data/states/tables/NST-EST2003-01.php and http://eire.census.gov/popest/data/national/tables/intercensal/US-EST90INT-06.php. We use civilian population

Table 4: WIC Coverage Check

	Participants	US Pop	USDA	CEPR
1990	4,517,000	247,982,569	1.8%	1.80%
1991	4,893,000	251,370,045	1.9%	2.10%
1992	5,403,000	254,929,355	2.1%	2.2%
1993	5,921,000	258,445,963	2.3%	2.3%
1994	6,477,000	261,713,525	2.5%	2.4%
1995	6,894,000	264,927,094	2.6%	2.3%
1996	7,191,000	268,108,316	2.7%	3.3%
1997	7,407,000	271,394,417	2.7%	3.3%
1998	7,367,000	274,632,728	2.7%	3.1%
1999	7,311,000	277,840,888	2.6%	2.9%
2000	7,407,000	281,421,231	2.6%	1.8%
2001	7,367,000	285,093,813	2.6%	3.3%
2002	7,311,000	287,973,924	2.5%	3.3%
2003				2.9%

Sources: Center for Economic and Policy Research. 2003. SIPP Uniform Data Files, Version 1.1. Washington, D.C.; US Department of Agriculture: Food and Nutrition Services. http://www.fns.usda.gov/pd/wisummary.htm

Sources for Population Data: US Census Bureau. Population Estimates. http://eire.census.gov/popest/data/states/tables/NST-EST2003-01.php and http://eire.census.gov/popest/data/national/tables/intercensal/US-EST90INT-06.php. We use civilian population

Appendix: Variable List

Variable	Labels
Merging Variables (appear on every Set)	
id	Unique ID
srefmon	Reference month
wave	SU: Wave of data collection
age	PE: Age as of last birthday
Variables in this set only	
ccare_r	GI: Receipt of Child Care assistance (96 and 01)
enrgy_a	HH: Amount of energy assistance
enrgy_r	HH: Receipt of energy assistance
ercvafdc	
fostkid_a	GI: Amount of foster child care
fostkid_c	PE: Foster Child Care coverage
fostkid_r	GI: Receipt of Foster Child care payments
fs_a	GI: Amount of Food Stamps
fs_c	PE: Food Stamp coverage flag
fs_r	GI: Receipt of Food Stamps (ISS
genasst_a	GI: Amount of General Assistance
genasst_c	PE: General Assistance coverage
genasst_r	GI: Receipt of General Assistance
hsg_r	housing receipiency (sect8, pubhou, lowrent)
lowrent_r	HH: Receipt of Government subsidized rent
othui_a	GI: Amount of other unemployment
othui_r	GI: Receipt of Other Unemployment Comp
othwelf_a	GI: Amount of other welfare
othwelf_c	PE: Other welfare coverage flag
othwelf_r	GI: Receipt of Other Welfare
pubhou_r	HH: Residence in public housing project
rent_a	HH: Amount of monthly rent
rot	SU: Rotation of data collection
sect8_r	HH: Residence in Section 8 or other (96 and 01)
socseca_a	GI: Amount of Social Security - Adult
socseca_c	PE: Social Security coverage
socseca_r	GI: Receipt of Social Security-Adult
socseck_a	GI: Amount of Social Security - Child
socseck_r	GI: Receipt of Social Security-Child
ssi_a	Amount of federal SSI (90, 91, 92, and 93)
ssia_a	GI: Amount of federal SSI - Adult (96 and 01)
ssik_a	GI: Amount of federal SSI - Child (96 and 01)
ssi_c	PE: Federal SSI coverage flag (92. 93. 96. and 01)
ssi_r	PE: Federal SSI receipiency flag (90, 91, 92, and 93)
ssia_r	GI: Receipt of federal SSI-Adult (96 and 01)
ssik_r	GI: Receipt of federal SSI-Child (96 and 01)
statessi_a	GI: Amount of state SSI (96 and 01)
statessi_r	GI: Receipt of state SSI (96 and 01)
stateui_a	GI: Amount of State unemployment
stateui_r	GI: Receipt of State Unemployment Comp
supui_a	Amount of supplemental unemployment (90, 91, 92, and 93)
supui_r	Supplemental unemployment benefits (90, 91, 92, and 93)
tanf_a	GI: Amount of AFDC,ADC Code 20)

tanf_c	PE: AFDC program coverage flag
tanf_r	GI: Receipt of AFDC,ADC (ISS Code 20)
ui_a	unemployment amount (stateui, othui)
ui_r	unemployment receipiency (statui, othui)
utilpay_r	HH: Payment of utilities in public housing
vets_a	GI: Amount of Veterans Compensation
vets_c	PE: Veteran payment coverage
vets_r	GI: Receipt of Veterans' Compensation
welfare_a	welfare amount (tanf_a, genasst_a, othwelf_a)
welfare_c	welfare coverage (tanf_c, genasst_c, othwelf_c)
welfare_r	welfare receipiency (tanf_r, genasst_r, othwelf_r)
wic_a	GI: Amount of WIC payments (ISS
wic_c	PE: WIC coverage flag
wic_r	GI: Receipt of WIC (ISS Code 25)

Note: variables are available in all panels except where noted