

The Supplemental Poverty Measure in the Survey of Income and Program Participation: 2009

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This paper reports the results of research and analysis undertaken by Census Bureau staff. It has undergone a more limited review than official Census Bureau publications. This report is released to inform interested parties of research and to encourage discussion. Any views expressed are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the U.S. Census Bureau

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In 1995, the National Academy of Sciences Panel on Poverty and Family Assistance (NAS) released a report recommending revising the current official poverty measure. Their revised measure, though still somewhat narrowly defined, broadened the scope of the poverty measure to include non-cash benefits and spending on such items as medical expenses and work-related expenses including child care and taxes -- items not explicitly included in the current measure. In 2010, an interagency working group headed by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) urged the Census Bureau to estimate a Supplemental Poverty Measure (SPM) along with the current official poverty measure. Following this, the Census Bureau released its first three reports on the SPM that compared the new measure to the official measure (Short, 2013). Both the SPM and the official poverty measure were estimated using data from the Annual Social and Economic Supplement to the Current Population Survey (CPS).

In its 1995 report, the NAS Panel recommended using the Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP) to measure poverty rather than the CPS. *Recommendation 5.1* states that the SIPP should become the basis of official U.S. income and poverty statistics because it collects most of the information required to estimate the recommended poverty measure (Citro and Michael, 1995). In this paper, we highlight the differences in using the CPS and SIPP to estimate poverty. Measures of poverty from the SIPP are compared to those previously calculated using CPS data. Besides exploring alternative poverty measures with the SIPP, this exercise provides insight into how well we are measuring income and poverty in the CPS. In addition, we illustrate the importance of the SIPP to our understanding of measurement issues in general. Differences in sample design and data collection, however small, can have a significant effect on measurement outcomes. As is shown here, comparing measures of poverty from the CPS and the SIPP, more than one measurement tool is important to form a real understanding of economic and social phenomena.¹

Short et al. (1998), and Short (2003) described the challenge of measuring poverty in the SIPP. Questions in the SIPP that collect items such as medical out-of-pocket (MOOP) expenditures, child care expenses, and child support paid,

¹ All comparative statements in this report have undergone statistical testing, and, unless otherwise noted, all comparisons are statistically significant at the 10 percent significance level.

were used as a starting point for including new questions in the CPS in 2010 for the SPM, that are used for the 2009 CPS estimates presented here. The focus of the 2003 study was on the different design and collection methods of each element of an experimental poverty measure and shows that there are important effects on our poverty estimates. Short and Giefer (2013) updated those estimates for 2004 and described upcoming changes to the SIPP and how design differences may effect SPM calculations. This paper updates that work, using the concepts of the SPM with 2008 panel data with estimates for calendar year 2009.

Beyond examining measurement differences from using different surveys there are additional reasons to reproduce the SPM in the SIPP. The presence of information about assets, liabilities, and material hardship allow for an examination of the poverty measures that incorporate wealth or analyses of correlations with other measures of economic wellbeing such as material hardship or levels of household debt (see Short, 2005, and Short and Ruggles, 2005, for earlier work with NAS-type poverty measures using SIPP). In addition, the longitudinal feature allows estimates of transitions, spells, and outcomes that are not possible in a cross-sectional data set.

Data

This paper uses several surveys to construct alternative poverty measures. The Consumer Expenditure Survey quarterly interview data for 2005-2010 are used to construct alternative SPM poverty thresholds. This procedure is not covered in detail in this paper (instead see Garner and Gudrais, 2011). Second, to measure family income or, as more broadly defined, family resources, the analysis uses the CPS for March 2010 (the source for the 2009 official measure of poverty) and the 2008 panel of the SIPP, with relevant information from selected topical modules.

The CPS and the SIPP are the primary data sources we use. The CPS, sponsored jointly by the Census Bureau and the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, is the country's primary source of labor force statistics for the entire population. The data in this report are from the 2010 CPS ASEC. The CPS uses two sets of questions, the basic CPS and a set of supplemental questions. Most of the data from the CPS supplement were collected in March (with some data collected in February and April), and the data were controlled to independent population estimates for March 2010. The population represented (the population universe) is the civilian noninstitutionalized population living in the

United States. Members of the Armed Forces living off post or with their families on post are included if at least one civilian adult lives in the household.²

Once a year, the CPS measures official poverty as the percentage of people whose annual family money income falls below their official poverty threshold, but does not address how poverty varies across shorter or longer time periods or how an individual's poverty status changes over time – topics that can be examined with the SIPP.³ The SIPP is a longitudinal, multi-panel survey that is sponsored and conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau. It was created for two specific purposes: to capture detailed data on income and program participation and to provide longitudinal estimates for the same individuals, families, and households over time. Core data collection covers demographic characteristics, general income sources and amounts, program eligibility and participation, cash assistance, and non-cash benefits. Additionally, topical modules provide in-depth data on other topics at specific points in time. The data in this report are from waves two through five of the 2008 panel. The SIPP interviews a representative sample of U.S. households every 4 months – a wave covers that period of time. The population represented (the population universe) is the civilian non-institutionalized population of the United States.

The Family Unit

The official poverty measure is a family level concept where a “family” is defined as all people living together related by birth, marriage, or adoption. The SPM unit includes family members, as well as cohabitators, unrelated children under the age of 18, foster children between the ages of 15 and 22, and unmarried parents of children in the family unit. In the SIPP it is set using detailed relationship information collected in wave two, spanning January to April of 2009. Any individuals formed into the SPM unit as of wave two are included in the income calculations for SPM resources for the year of 2009. In the CPS SPM units are formed based on family relationships reported in March of 2010.

² For further information about the source and accuracy of the estimates, go to http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/p60_238sa.pdf and <http://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/sipp/tech-documentation/source-accuracy-statements/source-accuracy-statements-2008.html>

³ See Edwards, 2014.

The SPM Resource Definition

Under the current official poverty measure, a family is defined as poor if total pre-tax money income is below an official poverty threshold (a dollar amount that varies with family size and composition). In addition to pre-tax money income, the SPM takes account of cash income, noncash transfers, and necessary expenses. Under the SPM, resources or “discretionary income” are those available to meet a family’s basic needs (food, clothing, shelter, utilities plus a little bit more) including noncash benefits such as SNAP or housing subsidies that help families meet those needs, and after subtracting necessary expenditures such as taxes, work-related expenses, and MOOP. In other words, SPM family resources are the sum of money income and the value of near-money benefits after subtracting necessary expenses.

The next sections of this paper describe the components of family resources used to create the SPM in the CPS and the SIPP. This exercise illustrates some of the important differences between the two surveys and sheds light on problems encountered and needed measurement research. This process reveals not only the steps taken to measure poverty in the SIPP, but differences between the SIPP and the CPS.

Gross Money Income from All Public and Private Sources

The calculation of the SPM starts with current money income as defined and measured in the CPS and used to calculate official poverty statistics. This is cash income received on a regular basis and includes earnings, cash transfers, and property income. It includes money income received during the previous calendar year by the family residing together as of March of the current year. It is before-tax income that was regularly received, and as a result does not include gifts, lump sum inheritances, or insurance payments.

Because the SIPP is a longitudinal survey, income information is collected over time in a series of interviews that span a multi-year period. While advantageous in important ways, this method of data collection also introduces some difficult statistical problems, such as sample attrition bias. It is, however, generally believed that there are better income data in the SIPP, particularly for lower income families (see Roemer, 2000, for a detailed comparison of cash

income between the SIPP and the CPS). Three-times-a-year interviews that collect income on a monthly basis gives respondents more opportunity to recall and report income that is received in relatively small amounts for short periods of time. More information on items other than income that are needed for the SPM is collected in the SIPP (e.g., participation in more programs and income received from more sources) than in the CPS. The topical modules in the SIPP collect information on the multiple dimensions of alternative poverty measures, such as work-related expenses and IRA and retirement account contributions and withdrawals.

Adding the Value of Noncash Government Subsidies

Constructing the SPM starts with gross cash money income and to this we add various noncash transfer payments. Following the recommendations of the NAS and an Interagency Technical Working Group (ITWG), these are non-medical noncash transfers and do not including the value of medical benefits such as Medicare and Medicaid. Health care needs are represented by medical out-of-pocket expenses (MOOP) and are treated as a 'necessary expense' subtracted from income. The noncash benefits considered are primarily from the large federal programs that are means-tested and aimed at helping poor families meet their needs for food, clothing, shelter and utilities. These include the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) or food stamps; the school lunch and breakfast programs; Supplementary Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC); housing subsidy programs; and the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). In this section of the paper, each program is considered in turn and the SIPP and the CPS are compared in terms of data collection methods and resulting benefit estimates.

SNAP or food stamps

SNAP benefits are designed to allow eligible low-income households to afford a nutritionally adequate diet.

Households who participate in SNAP are assumed to devote 30 percent of their countable monthly cash income to the purchase of food with SNAP benefits that are intended to cover the remaining cost of an adequate low-cost diet.

This amount is set by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Thrifty Food Plan. Total food stamp expenditures in 2009 were \$53.4 billion.⁴

⁴ Congressional Research Service, *Federal Benefits and Services for People with Low Income: Programs, Policy, and Spending, FY2008-FY2009, CRS-R41625, January 31, 2011.*

The value of SNAP benefits varies by household size, income, and maximum levels (which may vary by geographic location). Food stamp benefits are by far the easiest non-cash program to value. The information is collected somewhat differently in the two surveys. In the CPS, respondents report if they ever received food stamps in the previous calendar year and, if so, their value. In the SIPP, respondents report receipt of SNAP benefits in each of the previous four months and report a monthly amount. We expect to find more spells of short duration, and therefore, smaller average annual amounts, captured in the SIPP than in the CPS.⁵ In the CPS calculation, the method adds an annual figure to family income. In the SIPP, the calculation is more complex. Since family membership may change across the calendar year and this variation is captured in the SIPP, food stamp amounts are summed across family members in each month, and then family amounts are summed across months for each person.

Table 1 shows the percentage of all families receiving food stamp benefits and the percentage of all poor families receiving benefits in both surveys. The column 'percent poor' refers to families classified as poor using the current official poverty thresholds compared to pretax money income in each survey. A general pattern that is observed is that the SIPP captures more recipients but lower mean amounts than the CPS. This is a typical result, since the sub-annual reporting in SIPP allows for greater recall of short spells of receipt that yield lower annual amounts. Also note that SIPP indicates a higher percentage of the 'official' poor receiving SNAP benefits than is measured with the CPS, suggesting that the poor identified by the SIPP may differ in ways that they are more likely to receive SNAP..

Finally, the aggregate amounts in the SIPP show that, for SNAP benefits, the more frequent reporting of reciprocity results in higher aggregate amounts for all families than is measured in the CPS. Further, as with most of the information on income, both cash and non-cash, used in these calculations, there is generally evidence of significant underreporting of transfer receipt in both surveys when compared with administrative data. Aggregate amounts reported in the SIPP of \$42.4 billion and in the CPS of \$33.4 billion are lower than the \$53.4 billion total SNAP benefits reported by CRS.

⁵ Another reason may be the more precise assignment of coverage units in the SIPP compared with the CPS.

Housing Subsidies

Federal housing assistance consists of a number of programs administered primarily by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). These traditionally take the form of rental subsidies and mortgage-interest subsidies, targeted to very-low-income renters and is either project-based (public housing) or household-based subsidies.

Overall there a variety of housing subsidy programs including tax credits that may be included in the reports in both surveys. The largest of these includes Section 8 housing choice vouchers. This program generally reduces tenants' rent payments to a fixed percentage of their income after certain deductions, currently 30 percent. In 2009, about 2.1 million vouchers were used for Section 8 amounting to \$16.2 billion and 1.1 million housing units in public housing received such assistance and aggregate outlays for these two programs were about \$27.1 billion.⁶ Total spending for Housing and Development was about \$60.0 billion.

Including the value of housing subsidies in cash income is a more complex task than including the value of food stamps. In the CPS, respondents are asked only to report their current status as of the interview date concerning whether or not they live in public housing or receive help from the government with rent. There is no further information collected that helps to determine a dollar amount to add to family income. Furthermore, since we know only current status we must make assumptions about the duration of receipt of subsidies. For the CPS we assume the subsidy was received for all 12 months in the previous calendar year. In the SIPP we rely on monthly reports.

The value of housing subsidies is estimated as the difference between the "market rent" for the housing unit and the total tenant payment. The "market rent" for the household is estimated using a statistical match with (HUD) administrative data from the Public and Indian Housing Information Center and the Tenant Rental Assistance Certification System. For each household self-identified as receiving help with rent or living in public housing, a match is made on state, Core Based Statistical Area (CBSA), and household size.⁷ See Johnson et al. (2010) for more details

⁶ Congressional Research Service, *Federal Benefits and Services for People with Low Income: Programs, Policy, and Spending, FY2008-FY2009, CRS-R41625, January 31, 2011.*

⁷ HUD operates two major housing assistance programs: public housing and tenant-based or voucher programs. Since the HUD administrative data only include estimates of gross or contract rent for tenant-based housing assistance programs, the contract rents assigned to CPS ASEC households living in public housing are adjusted by a factor derived from data published in the "Picture of Subsidized Households" that estimates the average

on this method. Generally, participants in either public housing or tenant-based subsidy programs administered by HUD are expected to contribute the greater of one-third of their “adjusted” income or 10 percent of their gross income towards housing costs so with the CPS we subtract 30 percent of reported ‘countable’ income from the ‘rent’ amount.⁸

In the SIPP more information is available. The reference person reports current status every four months, so it is possible to capture spells of subsidy receipt that are less than a year. It also allows capture of more spells. There is additional information in the SIPP that is not available in the CPS. Respondents are asked to report the monthly rent paid, and whether it includes utilities. In the SIPP, respondents who report receiving help with their rent are also asked how much they paid for rent after the subsidy. For the SIPP calculations presented here, those reported amounts were subtracted from the ‘rent’ obtained from HUD records. These calculations are made on a monthly basis. In each month of the calendar year, individuals are grouped into households designated as receiving a subsidy or not. For each individual a housing subsidy value is assigned based on the composition of the family in each month. These amounts are then summed over the 12 months of 2009 and added to income.

Initially, subsidies are estimated at the household level. If there is more than one SPM family in a household, then the value of the subsidy is prorated based on the number of people in the SPM unit relative to the total number of people in the household. Housing subsidies help families pay their rent and as such are added to income for the SPM. However, there is general agreement that, while the value of a housing subsidy can free up a family’s income to purchase food and other basic items, it will do so only to the extent that it meets the need for shelter. Thus, the values for housing subsidies included as income are limited to the proportion of the threshold that is allocated to housing costs. The subsidy is capped at the housing portion of the appropriate threshold MINUS the total tenant payment.

tenant payment and the average subsidy by type of assistance. The average contract rent would be the sum of these two estimates, see <http://www.huduser.org/portal/datasets/picture/yearlydata.html>, accessed September 2013.

⁸ HUD regulations define “adjusted household income” as cash income excluding income from certain sources minus numerous deductions. Three of the income exclusions can be identified from the CPS ASEC: income from the employment of children, student financial assistance, and earnings in excess of \$480 for each full-time student 18 years or older. Deductions that can be modeled from the CPS ASEC include: \$480 for each dependent, \$400 for any elderly or disabled family member, child care, and medical expenses.

Given the information available and assumptions made about calendar year coverage, we expect that the CPS will produce larger subsidy amounts for fewer people than the SIPP. Table 1 shows 3.4 percent of families reported that they received housing subsidies in the CPS and 5.4 percent in the SIPP. Also, again note that the SIPP captures a higher percentage of the poor participating in programs than we find in the CPS, 20.2 versus 15.1 percent. Average subsidy amounts were higher in the CPS calculation, possibly due to the full year assumptions, while aggregate amounts were greater in the SIPP calculation.

School Lunch and Breakfast Programs

These programs offer children free meals if family income is below 130 percent of Federal poverty guidelines, reduced-price meals if family income is between 130 and 185 percent of the guidelines, and a subsidized meal for all other children. In the 2008-2009 school year, per-lunch subsidies ranged from 49 cents for full-price lunches to \$2.86 and \$2.46 for free and reduced-price lunches, respectively. Subsidies for breakfasts were significantly less, 26 cents, \$1.48, and 1.18 cents respectively for full-price, free, and reduced-price breakfasts.⁹ Total federal costs for these programs for 2009 were \$8.5 billion for lunches and \$2.5 billion for breakfasts.¹⁰

In the case of school lunches there is a large difference between the two surveys with respect to how information is collected. In the CPS the reference person is asked how many children 'usually' ate a complete lunch, and if it was a free or reduced priced school lunch. Since we have no further information, we assume that the children received the lunches every day during the last school year. Then we multiply the number of children by a dollar amount per lunch. That figure is then multiplied by the number of days in the typical school year.

SIPP collects information on participation in the school lunch program every four months. In 2004 the SIPP questionnaire asked about how many children 'usually' ate a school lunch and whether they were regular, free, or reduced price lunches. Clearly the number of children who 'usually' ate a school lunch in the last 4 months may differ from the number of children who 'usually' ate lunch in the previous year. For both the CPS and the SIPP we apply

⁹ Federal Register. Vol 73. No. 130. Monday, July 2008 notices.

¹⁰ Congressional Research Service, *Federal Benefits and Services for People with Low Income: Programs, Policy, and Spending, FY2008-FY2009, CRS-R41625, January 31, 2011.*

amounts on the cost per lunch from the Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Service that administers the school lunch program.

The difference in data collection methods yields some differences in the estimates of this subsidy from the two surveys. As might be expected, we estimate more children receiving school lunches in the SIPP. This is so because children who may not have 'usually' received a lunch in the previous year may be reported in the SIPP as 'usually' getting a school lunch in the previous four months. On the other hand, the average value of school lunches for a given year received per child is not statistically different. The general pattern suggests that the valuation procedure in the CPS is probably assigning too high a subsidy to too few families.

Nothing is collected in the CPS for school breakfasts so no income is assigned. In the SIPP respondents report the number of breakfasts eaten by the children per week, similar to the report of school lunches. Calculating a value for this subsidy in the same way as was done for the school lunch program adds approximately \$4.6 billion to income of families in the SIPP. (Note this exceeds the reported federal cost as reported above.)

Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)

This program is designed to provide food assistance and nutritional screening to low-income pregnant and postpartum women and their infants, and to low-income children up to age 5. Incomes must be at or below 185 percent of the poverty guidelines and must be nutritionally at-risk (having abnormal nutritional conditions, nutrition-related medical conditions, or dietary deficiencies). Benefits include supplemental foods in the form of food items or vouchers for purchases of specific food items. In fiscal year 2009, the total federal cost of the program was about \$7 billion.¹¹

There are questions on receipt of WIC in the CPS. In the SIPP, participation in this program is reported every month. The total value of the transfer is calculated using program information obtained from the Department of Agriculture. The amount used for 2009 was \$42.41 per recipient. The aggregate amount was about \$3.2 billion in 2009 using the

¹¹ CRS. 2011.

CPS and \$4.0 billion in the SIPP, not statistically different. The difference from this value and total federal cost is likely due to under-reporting of receipt in both surveys.

Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)

Under this program low income families receive help to pay heating or cooling bills, provide allotments for low-cost weatherization, or provide assistance during energy-related emergencies. States determine eligibility and can provide assistance in various ways, including cash payment, vendor payment, two-party checks, vouchers/coupons, and payments directly to landlords. In 2009, total federal spending for heating assistance was \$5.1 billion.¹²

Here is another major difference in data collection schemes in the 2009 estimates. The CPS asked if, for the previous year, the reference person received help with heating costs and, if yes, the amount received. In the SIPP, with interviews every four months all year round, information on help with heating and cooling are collected, whether or not help was received and the dollar amount received. Questions about amounts ask if the subsidy was paid directly to the utility company, and if so then no amount was collected. The estimates shown are only the reported amounts and, thus, on average are low. Using this information finds an aggregate amount of \$1.6 billion calculated in the CPS and \$1.0 billion in the SIPP. Both amounts reflect under-reporting of benefits from energy assistance programs.

Subtracting Necessary Expenses

The items described above represent all of the additions to income or family resources that are made to calculate the SPM. The next step is to subtract items that must be paid before determining how much is available to purchase basic necessities. The NAS panel and the ITWG recognized that families must first pay taxes and expenses required to work and to maintain health. They further suggested that any amount of child support paid should be deducted from income since it is included as income by the receiving family.

¹² CRS. 2011.

In the 2010 questions were added to the CPS on necessary expenses needed to calculation the SPM. These new questions covered information about child care expenses while parents worked, amount of child support paid by the non-resident parent, and medical out-of-pocket expenses for the previous calendar year.

It is important to note that, while all of the items included in income are collected in the SIPP on a monthly or 4-month basis, none of the items that will be subtracted from income as necessary expenses are collected this often. All of these items are collected in topical modules, supplementary questions usually asked only once per year or less often. The reference period for which the expenses were collected vary, but are annualized based on assuming similar spending for the non-covered portion of the year. Thus the relationship of estimates of these items between the SIPP and the CPS is different from the estimates of noncash benefits described above.

Subtraction of Taxes Paid

The calculation of SPM resources for poverty measurement subtract federal, state, and local income taxes, and Social Security payroll taxes (FICA) before assessing the ability to obtain basic necessities such as food, clothing, and shelter. Taking account of tax liability also allows us to account for receipt of an earned income tax credit (EITC) and other tax credits. The EITC is available to low-income working taxpayers.

The CPS does not collect information on taxes paid but relies on a tax calculator to simulate taxes paid.

The SIPP includes a supplementary questionnaire, or tax topical module, that includes questions about taxes paid. Besides amounts to be reported from specific lines on the tax return, respondents are asked about filing status, exemptions, forms that were filed, e.g. 1040ez, Schedule A (itemized deductions), and Schedule D (capital gains and losses). They are asked to report amounts from the calculated child care credit, elderly credit, Adjusted Gross Income, capital gains/loss, taxes owed, EIC, and property taxes paid. While there is an attempt to collect a great deal of information in this tax module, in fact very little is collected. Respondents are reluctant or find it difficult to report these items.

The low response rates in the tax topical module for SIPP are significant. For this paper we use the CPS tax calculator and simulate taxes using income information in the SIPP. These simulations include federal and state income taxes, and social security taxes. These simulations are based on a tax calculator and statistical matches to the American Housing Survey and the Statistics of Income data files.¹³ Summary statistics comparing taxes paid in the CPS and SIPP models are shown in table 1. The estimates are similar for families in both surveys though there are a higher percentage of families with federal income tax liabilities (before credits) in the SIPP, with the mean value lower for all families. The EITC estimates and payroll taxes (FICA) in the SIPP have lower mean amounts, likely reflecting the higher reporting of short spells of earnings in the SIPP relative to the CPS.

Expenses Related to Work Including Child Care

Typically, in order for a family to purchase a basic set of needed goods, some members of the family must work. Earning a wage may entail incurring expenses, such as travel to work and purchase of uniforms or tools. For work-related expenses (other than child care) the NAS panel recommended subtracting a fixed amount, \$750 for 52-week work-year per earner 18 years of age or older (or about \$14.42 per week worked) in 1992. Their calculation was based on 1987 SIPP data that collected information on work expenses in a set of supplementary questions. Then they calculated 85% of median weekly expenses -- \$14.42 per week worked for anyone over 18 in the family in 1992. Total expenses were obtained by multiplying this fixed amount by the number of weeks respondents reported working in the year. The panel argued that, since many families balance housing and commuting expenses in choosing where to live, it is better to use a fixed dollar amount for work expenses for all workers. Following their recommendation, this method is used in the calculations of poverty rates later on, for both the CPS and the SIPP, even though the SIPP offers an alternative.

In the SIPP 2009, a topical module collects information to calculate work-related expenses. Each person in the SIPP reports their own expenditures on work-related items in a given week. For each person we then sum the number of hours reported worked by the number of weeks worked in each month. The number of weeks worked is multiplied by

¹³ See Sisson and Short, 2001 for more details.

the weekly work-related expenses, and these are summed over the calendar year for each person. These amounts are then summed across unit members as of wave 2.

Due to assumptions made in the CPS calculations, more people are assigned work-related expenses than actually report them in the SIPP. The average CPS amounts, representing 85 percent of the median in the SIPP, are considerably lower than the mean of reported amounts in SIPP. The SIPP average is about three times that of the CPS values. Thus, the imputation recommended by the NAS panel, while covering a larger percentage of workers, is a conservative estimate of the amount that people report spending to go to work. Table 1 shows the NAS type calculations of work expenses for the SIPP and the CPS. Also shown are the reported amounts for the SIPP for comparison.

One other thing to note here is that a lower percentage of the official poor actually report work expenses in the SIPP than are imputed in the CPS, and the amounts that are reported by the poor are lower on average than those reported by all people. This may represent the fact that the working poor are constrained in their spending for these expenses and are reporting smaller amounts than they might spend if they could afford to (take the bus to work rather than drive your own car).

Child care expenses

Another important part of work-related expenses is paying someone to care for children while parents work. These expenses have become important for families where both parents work and for single parents who work. In 2010 questions were added to the CPS to collect information on amounts spent for childcare while parents worked.

For the SIPP calculation we show estimates based on reported spending in an expansive module of questions on childcare in wave 4 of the panel. Estimates are shown in table 1. The amount paid for any type of childcare, while parents are at work or attending school, are summed over all children. Weekly reported costs are then multiplied by the number of weeks worked by the parent or guardian. The table shows results for both surveys, a higher

percentage report paying for childcare in the CPS than in the SIPP while average reported amounts in the CPS are lower than those reported in the SIPP.

Subtraction of Medical Out-of-Pocket Expenditures (MOOP)

Other necessary expenses that we will account for in this poverty measure are those required to maintain the health of family members. While many individuals and families have health insurance that covers most of the very large expenses, there are the costs of health insurance premiums and other small fees that the typical family pays out of pocket. Further, there are some who are not covered by medical insurance. Expenditures on health care have increased and become a more significant portion of a family's budgets and spending for health care should be accounted for as an important expense.

In 2010, questions were added to the CPS to collect MOOP expenses. In the SIPP there is a topical module on utilization of health care that reports out-of-pocket health care expenses. In both cases, Medicare Part B premiums are calculated and included in MOOP to offset reported Social Security benefits that are recorded as gross amounts. Table 1 shows that the CPS assigns more expenses than are reported in the SIPP. This is true even for poor families.

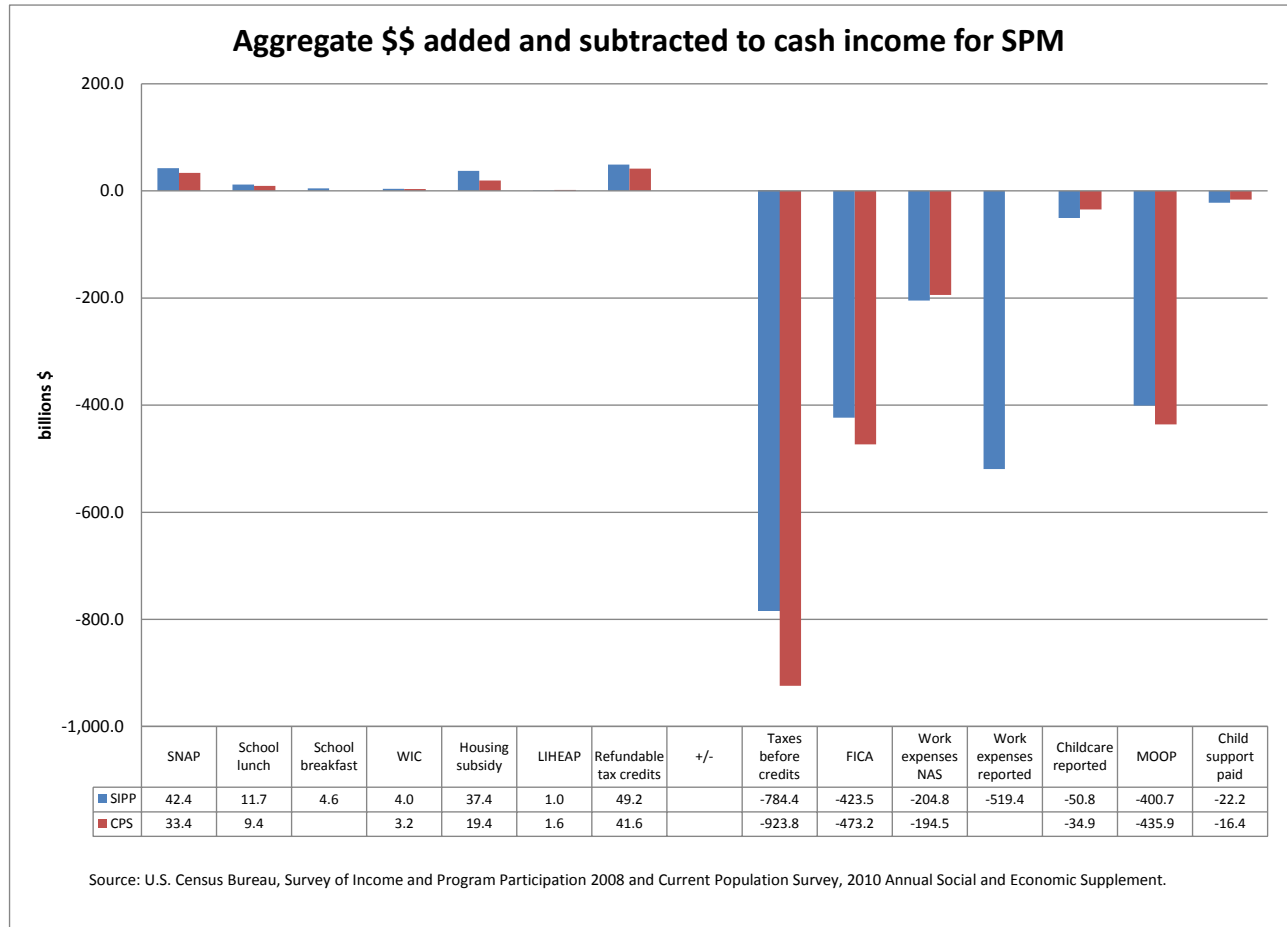
Child support paid

In the 2008 panel of the SIPP, respondents reported this information in supplementary questions. A topical module on child support is very comprehensive but not asked every year. There are also very brief summary questions included in wave 3. These questions attempt only to ascertain the amounts paid. The data shown here are from those brief questions. Even so the amounts presented do seem to be substantial and have been included in the CPS since 2010. The figures are slightly higher in the SIPP than in the CPS.

How It All Adds Up

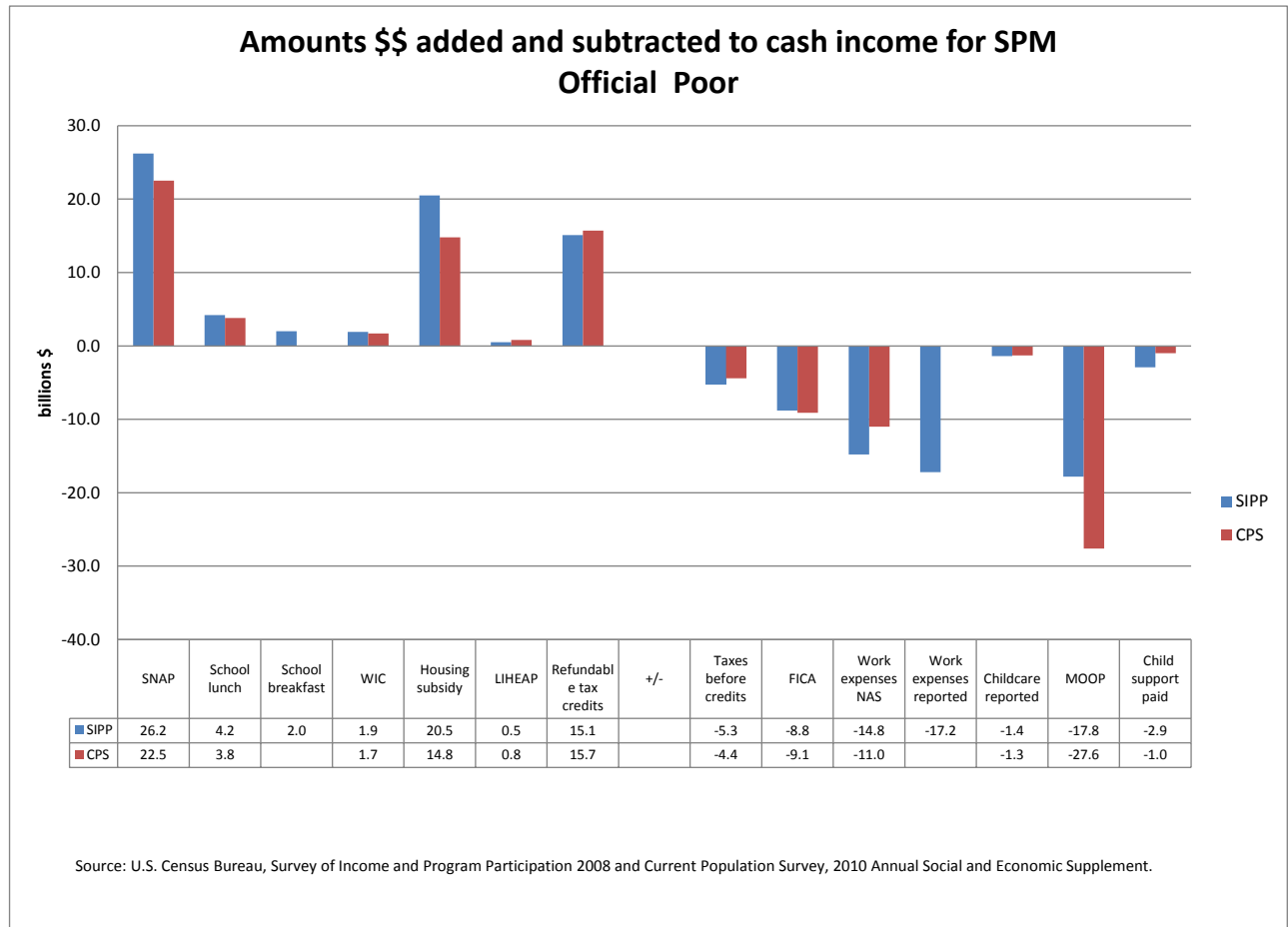
This paper described in some detail all of the calculations performed in two surveys to arrive at a measure of family resources similar to that used in the SPM. Table 1 and chart 1 show calculations in the aggregate by income source or expenditure categories, for all families or SPM units. Overall, more is subtracted than added to family income to move from an official measure of poverty to the SPM. This is particularly true for taxes – where aggregate amounts are lower in the SIPP than in the CPS. Medical out-of-pocket expenses also are quite large regardless of the method applied and are larger in the CPS. Noncash transfers, on the other hand, are very small when viewed across all families relative to subtractions, but are often greater in the SIPP. Specifically, overall amounts assigned are greater for SNAP, school lunch and breakfast, and housing subsidies using SIPP. Refundable tax credits are also greater when using SIPP compared with the CPS.

Chart 1



More interesting to this comparison of poverty measures is to examine what happens to family incomes or resources of those people who are classified as poor. The additions and subtractions for those who are classified as poor using the official measure show a more balanced picture, with additions exceeding subtractions. The major subtraction for the poor is for MOOP.

Chart 2



Poverty Rates: 2009

To determine poverty status, the comprehensive measure of family resources is compared to SPM thresholds for calendar year 2009. The official thresholds are used to calculate official poverty statistics. SPM thresholds use

expenditures at the 33rd percentile for consumer units with two children and 5 years of CE data. Both are adjusted for other family sizes using a three-parameter equivalence scale. Thresholds for this reference family are:

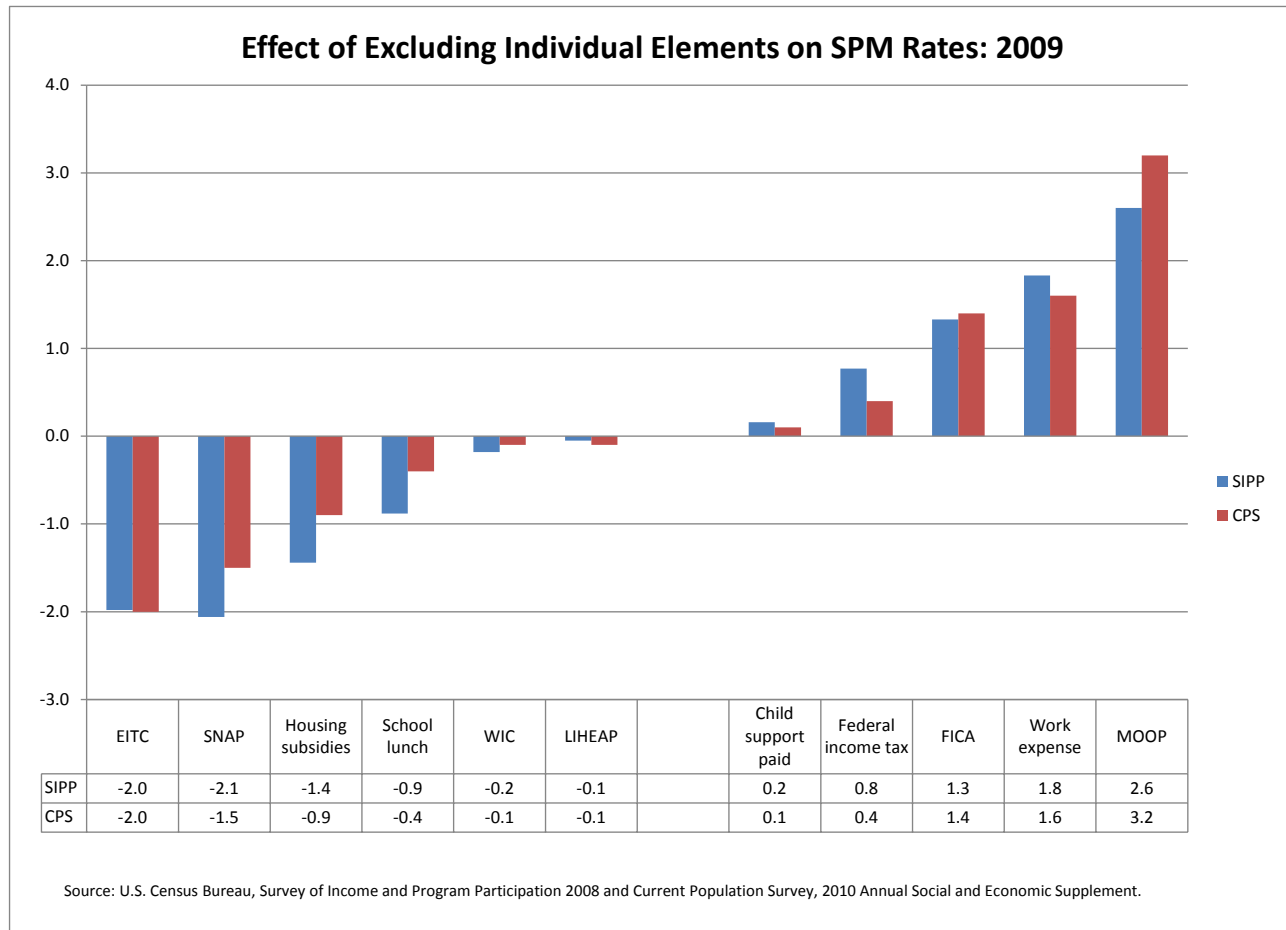
Poverty thresholds used in these calculations for two-adult two-child family: 2009	
Official	\$21,756
SPM Homeowners with mortgages	\$24,450
SPM Homeowners without mortgages	\$20,298
SPM Renters	\$23,874
Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, September 2014, < www.bls.gov/pir/spmhome.htm >.	

The measures in table 2 show the percent of people in SPM units with before tax cash income below official poverty thresholds. Note that a smaller percentage is classified as official poor in the SIPP than in the CPS. As seen in all previous such calculations, the SIPP appears to collect income information more comprehensively than the CPS and thus finds fewer families with incomes below the official poverty line, 13.2 percent compared with 14.5 percent poor in 2009. The SPM rates are also lower in the SIPP, 13.5 percent, rather than in the CPS, 15.1 percent.

The poverty rates shown in the lower section of table 2 are meant to illustrate the effect of the various additions and subtractions in the two surveys, though none are intended to stand as a measure of poverty per se. All are compared to the SPM thresholds and make one change at a time in the definition of income or SPM resources. All of these poverty rates are lower in the SIPP and differences reflect the surveys collection methods.

Tables 3 and 4 show poverty estimates for both measures using the SIPP by a variety of characteristics. Table 3 lists number and percent poor and Table 4 shows the distribution of the total and poverty populations by various characteristics. These tables illustrate differences across the two measures shown previously using the CPS ASEC (see Short, 2013).

Chart 3



Summary and further work

This paper has described in some detail the process of moving the measurement of poverty in the CPS to measuring poverty in the SIPP. Considerable detail was presented on the different design and collection methods of each element of a poverty measure. These differences have important effects on the estimation of the SPM. We have also described differences in measurement methods, and this is an area where more work needs to be done. All of estimates for the SIPP describe the survey in its present format. It is also important, however, to consider the effects of the redesign of the SIPP on the calculation of poverty statistics.

Comparing poverty measures in the SIPP with the CPS yields several conclusions. Alternative measures of poverty may be more accurate in the SIPP due to improved income data for those at the lower end of the income distribution. This

exercise yields a more informed view of what we are measuring in the CPS. Further analysis of SIPP may take advantage of the longitudinal nature of the survey and add insights into how families of varying types experience poverty over time. Implementing the SPM and the official measure together can tell us if a different measure tells us something new about the persistence of poverty. Other extended measures of well-being, such as ownership of durables and difficulty in meeting expenses, could add further insights into accurately measuring how families and individuals get along.

The SIPP Redesign

Beginning in 2014, a redesigned SIPP will be fielded. The biggest change associated with the redesign is moving from interviewing sample members every 4 months in the SIPP to interviewing respondents every 12 months in the 2014 SIPP panel. The panel nature of the SIPP will remain with the new design, meaning the same sample members will be followed over time. Tables 3a and 3b highlight the primary differences between the current SIPP and the re-engineered SIPP in relation to the SPM: the addition of noncash government subsidies are covered in Table 3a and the subtraction of necessary expenses are covered in Table 3b.

Using SNAP as an example, the first element in Table 3a, shows that SIPP respondents are asked about monthly SNAP receipt once every 4 months, while 2014 SIPP panel respondents will be asked about monthly SNAP receipt once every 12 months. The universes are a bit different. To reduce respondent burden, a behind the scenes “screener clump” in the 2014 SIPP panel limits asking SNAP questions to one adult in cases where married people or parents with children older than 15 lived together all year long.

The core section of SIPP contains the questions used to determine the addition of noncash income to SPM resources. The collection of SNAP, housing subsidies, and WIC will remain at the monthly level in the Re-SIPP. While asked the same way, the collection of school meals will change from usually during the past 4 months in the SIPP to usually during the past 12 months in the Re-SIPP. Similarly, the collection of LIHEAP will change from ever during the past 4 months to ever during the past 12 months.

The questions used to determine expenses to account for in available SPM resources are collected in topical modules in the SIPP. Because the same topical modules are not administered each wave, the timing of when the questions are asked is similar between the current SIPP and the 2014 SIPP panel. In some cases, though, there has been a change in the time-frame asked about. The collection of child care expenses while working changed from being asked about the typical week in each of the past 4 months in the current SIPP to the typical week in December in the 2014 SIPP.

Commuting costs and other work related expenses moved from being collected at one time for all jobs in the current SIPP to being collected for each job separately in the 2014 SIPP. Child support paid by a household member to a child living elsewhere changed from being asked about in each of the prior 4 months in the current SIPP to the amount paid in the last year in the new 2014 SIPP panel.

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Table 1a: Noncash Benefits and Necessary Expenses of SPM Resource Units: 2009 SIPP												
	% paid/received				Mean amount (\$)				Aggregate amount (bil\$)			
	All	s.e.†	Poor*	s.e.†	All	s.e.†	Poor*	s.e.†	All	s.e.†	Poor*	s.e.†
SNAP	12.9	0.2	49.7	0.8	2,676	40	3,278	62	42.4	0.9	26.2	0.8
School lunch	23.1	0.3	36.2	0.8	412	5	723	15	11.7	0.2	4.2	0.1
School breakfast	13.7	0.2	30.4	0.8	273	4	411	9	4.6	0.7	2.0	0.5
WIC	5.8	0.2	18.9	0.7	559	10	610	16	4.0	0.1	1.9	0.1
Housing subsidy	5.4	0.2	20.2	0.8	5,626	88	6,327	131	37.4	1.2	20.5	1.0
LIHEAP	5.5	0.2	18.4	0.8	145	21	168	27	1.0	0.1	0.5	0.1
Refundable tax credits	16.5	0.2	39.6	0.8	2,424	34	2,370	71	49.2	1.0	15.1	0.5
+/-												
Taxes before credits	70.4	0.3	14.5	0.7	9,059	265	2,267	254	784.4	23.3	5.3	0.7
FICA	75.0	0.2	53.6	0.9	4,590	31	1,016	33	423.5	3.1	8.8	0.4
Work expenses NAS	79.0	0.2	63.9	0.9	2,107	7	1,438	25	204.8	0.8	14.8	0.5
Work expenses reported	68.9	0.3	43.2	1.0	6,124	78	2,479	125	519.4	6.7	17.2	1.0
Childcare reported	5.2	0.1	3.2	0.3	8,008	314	2,626	275	50.8	2.4	1.4	0.2
MOOP	80.8	0.3	52.2	1.1	4,029	63	2,121	96	400.7	6.2	17.8	0.9
Child support paid	2.4	0.1	1.8	0.3	7,468	489	9,920	4397	22.2	1.7	2.9	1.3

Table 1b: Noncash Benefits and Necessary Expenses of SPM Resource Units: 2009 CPS												
	% paid/received				Mean amount (\$)				Aggregate amount (bil\$)			
	All	s.e.†	Poor*	s.e.†	All	s.e.†	Poor*	s.e.†	All	s.e.†	Poor*	s.e.†
SNAP	9.1	0.1	36.3	0.6	2,951	35	3,399	47	33.4	0.6	22.5	0.5
School lunch	18.7	0.1	26.3	0.5	403	4	780	10	9.4	0.1	3.8	0.1
School breakfast												
WIC	3.0	0.1	10.5	0.4	856	8	887	14	3.2	0.8	1.7	0.1
Housing subsidy	3.4	0.1	15.1	0.6	4,517	86	5,385	112	19.4	1.0	14.8	0.7
LIHEAP	3.3	0.1	11.3	0.4	397	8	403	11	1.6	0.1	0.8	0.1
Refundable tax credits	16.0	0.1	36.2	0.6	2,089	18	2,374	39	41.6	0.4	15.7	0.3
+/-												
Taxes before credits	69.8	0.2	11.7	0.4	10,603	125	2,052	150	923.8	11.0	4.4	0.3
FICA	76.7	0.2	47.9	0.6	4,943	24	1,034	17	473.2	2.4	9.1	0.2
Work expenses NAS	76.8	0.2	48.3	0.6	2,029	5	1,245	11	194.5	0.6	11.0	0.2
Childcare reported	5.6	0.1	3.5	0.2	4,966	107	2,112	116	34.9	0.9	1.3	0.1
MOOP reported	83.9	0.2	58.1	0.6	4,162	33	2,595	83	435.9	3.5	27.6	1.0
Child support paid	2.1	0.1	1.7	0.2	6,333	164	3,140	287	16.4	0.6	1.0	0.1

* Poverty status of SPM unit or family head based on official measure.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation 2008 and Current Population Survey, 2010 Annual Social and Economic Supplement.

For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions,

see <http://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/sipp/tech-documentation/source-accuracy-statements/source-accuracy-statements-2008.html> and http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/p60_238sa.pdf.

† s.e. obtained using replicate weights (Fay's Method)

Table 2. Effect of Excluding Individual Elements on SPM Rates: 2009

(Numbers in thousands, confidence intervals (C.I.) in thousands or percentage points as appropriate.)

	SIPP		CPS	
	Est.	s.e.	Est.	s.e.
Total Population	300,523		304,282	76
Official Poor	13.2	0.2	14.5	0.2
SPM or MSI	13.5	0.2	15.1	0.2
EITC	15.5	0.3	17.1	0.2
SNAP	15.6	0.3	16.6	0.2
Housing subsidies	15.0	0.3	16.0	0.2
School lunch	14.4	0.3	15.5	0.2
WIC	13.7	0.3	15.2	0.2
LIHEAP	13.6	0.3	15.2	0.2
Child support paid	13.4	0.3	15.0	0.2
Federal income tax	12.8	0.3	14.7	0.2
FICA	12.2	0.3	13.7	0.2
Work expense	11.7	0.3	13.5	0.2
MOOP	10.9	0.2	11.9	0.2

-Represents or rounds to zero.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation 2008 and Current Population Survey, 2010 Annual Social and Economic Supplement.

For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see <http://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/sipp/tech-documentation/source-accuracy-statements/source-accuracy-statements-2008.html> and http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/p60_238sa.pdf.

† s.e. obtained using replicate weights (Fay's Method)

Table 3: Number and Percent of People in Poverty by Different Poverty Measures using SIPP: 2009

(Numbers in thousands, confidence intervals (C.I.) in thousands or percentage points as appropriate. People as of March of the following year. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/apsd/techdoc/cps/cpsmar12.pdf)

	Number** (in thousands)	Official**				SPM				Difference	
		Number		Percent		Number		Percent		Number	Percent
		Est.	90 percent C.I.† (+/-)	Est.	90 percent C.I.† (+/-)	Est.	90 percent C.I.† (+/-)	Est.	90 percent C.I.† (+/-)		
All People	300,523	39,755	1,179	13.2	0.4	40,644	1,122	13.5	0.4	889	0.3
Age											
Under 18 years	74,602	15,164	613	20.3	0.8	11,487	504	15.4	0.7 *	-3677 *	-4.9
18 to 64 years	187,474	22,347	686	11.9	0.4	24,956	727	13.3	0.4 *	2609 *	1.4
65 years and older	38,446	2,244	188	5.8	0.5	4,202	253	10.9	0.7 *	1957 *	5.1
Type of Unit											
In married couple unit	185,405	13,534	839	7.3	0.4	19,739	811	10.6	0.4 *	6205 *	3.3
In female householder unit	62,235	15,620	712	25.1	1.1	12,794	583	20.6	0.9 *	-2826 *	-4.5
In male householder unit	30,104	4,421	346	14.7	1.1	4,911	333	16.3	1 *	490 *	1.6
In new SPM unit	22,704	6,167	445	27.2	1.6	3,200	357	14.1	1.5 *	-2967 *	-13.1
Race and Hispanic Origin											
White	240,195	27,572	990	11.5	0.4	30,698	1,113	12.8	0.5 *	3126 *	1.3
White, not Hispanic											
Black	37,880	9,063	547	23.9	1.4	6,726	461	17.8	1.2 *	-2337 *	-6.2
Asian	10,808	1,880	243	17.4	2	1,410	193	13	1.6 *	-470 *	-4.4
Hispanic (any race)	47,294	11,635	671	24.6	1.4	11,152	698	23.6	1.5	-483	-1
Nativity											
Native born	259,128	32,383	1,046	12.5	0.4	32,402	992	12.5	0.4	18	0
Foreign born	36,734	6,204	382	16.9	1	8,218	459	22.4	1.1 *	2014 *	5.5
Naturalized citizen	18,119	1,784	187	9.8	1	2,817	252	15.5	1.3 *	1033 *	5.7
Not a citizen	18,615	4,419	335	23.7	1.6	5,401	380	29	1.8 *	981 *	5.3
Tenure											
Owner	203,308	13,734	759	6.8	0.4	18,636	793	9.2	0.4 *	4902 *	2.4
Owner/Mortgage	138,143	6,602	506	4.8	0.4	11,010	648	8	0.5 *	4408 *	3.2
Owner/No mortgage/rentfree	65,165	7,132	581	10.9	0.8	7,626	535	11.7	0.8 *	494 *	0.8
Renter	97,215	26,021	898	26.8	0.8	22,008	795	22.6	0.8 *	-4012 *	-4.1
Residence											
Inside MSAs	250,661	31,513	1,280	12.6	0.4	34,097	1,256	13.6	0.4 *	2584 *	1
Inside principal cities	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	
Outside principal cities	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	
Outside MSAs	49,783	8,230	1,105	16.5	1.4	6,547	839	13.2	1.1 *	-1682 *	-3.4
Region											
Northeast	54,380	5,646	455	10.4	0.8	6,124	421	11.3	0.8 *	478 *	0.9
Midwest	65,705	8,015	509	12.2	0.8	7,207	472	11	0.7 *	-808 *	-1.2
South	110,084	16,667	792	15.1	0.7	15,871	740	14.4	0.7 *	-797 *	-0.7
West	70,274	9,414	582	13.4	0.8	11,442	638	16.3	0.9 *	2028 *	2.9
Health Insurance coverage											
With private insurance	250,579	16,126	769	6.4	0.3	22,284	903	8.9	0.4 *	6157 *	2.5
With public, no private insurance	39,177	19,933	903	50.9	1.7	14,158	725	36.1	1.6 *	-5776 *	-14.7
Not insured	10,766	3,695	346	34.3	2.4	4,203	403	39	2.8 *	507 *	4.7
Work Experience											
Total, 18 to 64 years	187,474	22,347	686	11.9	0.4	24,956	727	13.3	0.4 *	2609 *	1.4
All workers	144,952	11,430	510	7.9	0.3	14,764	563	10.2	0.4 *	3334 *	2.3
Worked full-time, year-round	62,596	1,154	136	1.8	0.2	2,326	196	3.7	0.3 *	1171 *	1.9
Less than full-time, year-round	82,355	10,275	474	12.5	0.5	12,438	505	15.1	0.5 *	2163 *	2.6
Did not work at least 1 week	42,523	10,917	451	25.7	0.9	10,192	424	24	0.9 *	-725 *	-1.7
Disability Status											
Total, 18 to 64 years	187,474	22,347	686	11.9	0.4	24,956	727	13.3	0.4 *	2609 *	1.4
With a disability	25,213	5,906	298	23.4	1	5,175	295	20.5	1 *	-731 *	-2.9
With no disability											

-Represents or rounds to zero.

*Statistically different from zero at the 90 percent confidence level.

**Includes unrelated individuals under the age of 15.

For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions,

see <http://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/sipp/tech-documentation/source-accuracy-statements/source-accuracy-statements-2008.html> and

http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/p60_238sa.pdf.

† s.e. obtained using replicate weights (Fay's Method)

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation 2008.

Table 4: Distribution of People in Total and Poverty Population using SIPP: 2009

	Total Population		Official*		SPM		Difference Official vs SPM
	Est.	90 percent C.I.† (+/-)	Est.	90 percent C.I.† (+/-)	Est.	90 percent C.I.† (+/-)	
All People	300,523		39,755	1,179	40,644	1,122	
	(percent of column total)						
Age							
Under 18 years	24.8	0.1	38.1	0.8	28.3	0.8	* -9.9
18 to 64 years	62.4	0.1	56.2	0.8	61.4	0.9	* 5.2
65 years and older	12.8	0.1	5.6	0.5	10.3	0.6	* 4.7
Type of Unit							
In married couple unit	61.7	0.3	34.0	1.7	48.6	1.3	* 14.5
In female householder unit	20.7	0.3	39.3	1.5	31.5	1.3	* -7.8
In male householder unit	10.0	0.2	11.1	0.8	12.1	0.8	* 1.0
In new SPM unit	7.6	0.3	15.5	1.1	7.9	0.8	* -7.6
Race and Hispanic Origin							
White	79.9	0.0	69.4	1.3	75.5	1.3	* 6.2
White, not Hispanic							
Black	12.6	0.0	22.8	1.2	16.5	1.1	* -6.2
Asian	3.6	0.2	4.7	0.6	3.5	0.5	* -1.3
Hispanic (any race)	15.7	0.0	29.3	1.4	27.4	1.4	* -1.8
Nativity							
Native born	86.2	0.3	81.5	0.9	79.7	1.0	* -1.7
Foreign born	12.2	0.3	15.6	0.9	20.2	1.0	* 4.6
Naturalized citizen	6.0	0.2	4.5	0.5	6.9	0.6	* 2.4
Not a citizen	6.2	0.2	11.1	0.8	13.3	0.9	* 2.2
Tenure							
Owner	67.7	0.5	34.5	1.5	45.9	1.4	* 11.3
Owner/Mortgage	46.0	0.6	16.6	1.2	27.1	1.4	* 10.5
Owner/No mortgage/rentfree	21.7	0.4	17.9	1.3	18.8	1.2	0.8
Renter	32.3	0.5	65.5	1.5	54.1	1.4	* -11.3
Residence							
Inside MSAs	83.4	1.7	79.3	2.6	83.9	2.0	* 4.6
Inside principal cities	83.4	1.7	79.3	2.6	83.9	2.0	* 4.6
Outside principal cities	83.4	1.7	79.3	2.6	83.9	2.0	* 4.6
Outside MSAs	16.6	1.7	20.7	2.6	16.1	2.0	* -4.6
Region							
Northeast	18.1	0.0	14.2	1.1	15.1	0.9	0.9
Midwest	21.9	0.0	20.2	1.2	17.7	1.1	* -2.4
South	36.6	0.0	41.9	1.5	39.0	1.4	* -2.9
West	23.4	0.0	23.7	1.3	28.2	1.4	* 4.5
Health Insurance coverage							
With private insurance	83.4	0.4	40.6	1.6	54.8	1.6	* 14.3
With public, no private insurance	13.0	0.4	50.1	1.6	34.8	1.5	* -15.3
Not insured	3.6	0.2	9.3	0.9	10.3	1.0	* 1.0
Work Experience							
Total, 18 to 64 years	62.4	0.1	56.2	0.8	61.4	0.9	* 5.2
All workers	48.2	0.3	28.8	1.0	36.3	1.0	* 7.6
Worked full-time, year-round	20.8	0.3	2.9	0.3	5.7	0.4	* 2.8
Less than full-time, year-round	27.4	0.3	25.8	0.9	30.6	0.9	* 4.8
Did not work at least 1 week	14.1	0.3	27.5	0.9	25.1	0.9	* -2.4
Disability Status							
Total, 18 to 64 years	62.4	0.1	56.2	0.8	61.4	0.9	* 5.2
With a disability	8.4	0.2	14.9	0.7	12.7	0.7	* -2.1
With no disability							

* Poverty status of SPM unit or family head based on official measure.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation 2008.

For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions,

see <http://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/sipp/tech-documentation/source-accuracy-statements/source-accuracy-statements-2008.html> and http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/p60_238sa.pdf.

† s.e. obtained using replicate weights (Fay's Method)

Appendix Table A

CPS Income Sources

Earnings
Unemployment compensation
Workers compensation
Social Security benefits
SSI benefits
Public Assistance, such as TANF
Veterans payments
Alimony payments received
Disability benefits
Survivor Payments
Pensions
Interest/Dividends
Rents, royalties
Educational assistance
Child support received
Regular private transfers

SIPP Income Sources

Earnings
Social Security/Railroad Retirement
SSI/federal and state
Unemployment Insurance
Supplementary unemployment insurance
Veterans compensation
Black lung benefits
Worker compensation
State temporary disability
Employer or union temp
Payments from insurance
AFDC/TANF/GA
Indian/Cuban or refugee assistance
Foster child care
WIC
Child support
Alimony
Pension, military retirement
Paid up life insurance policies
Annuities
Estates and trusts
Other retirement/survivor
GI bill
Educational assistance
Charitable income
Private transfers
Lump sums
National guard or reserve
Interest income from
 -savings accounts
 -money market deposit accounts
 -certificates of deposit
 -interest earning checking accounts
 -money market funds
 -US government securities
 -municipal or corporate bonds
Dividends from stocks or mutual funds
Rental property income
Mortgages
Royalties
Other financial investments

Table 3a. The Addition of In-Kind Government Subsidies in the SPM: 2004 SIPP and 2014 Re-SIPP

SPM Element	Survey	How often is the question asked?	What time frame is asked about?	Who gets asked the question?
Food Stamps/SNAP	SIPP	Once every 4 months	Monthly	Respondents 18+ and respondents 15-17 who are parents/guardians of child living in the hhld
	Re-SIPP	Once every 12 months	Monthly	Respondents 15+ (spouse/children of "screen clump" respondent exclu
Housing Subsidies	SIPP	Once every 4 months	Monthly	Respondents 15+
	Re-SIPP	Once every 12 months	Monthly	Respondents 15+
School meals	SIPP	Once every 4 months	Usually during 4 months	Respondents in household with children 5-18
	Re-SIPP	Once every 12 months	Usually during 12 months	Respondents 15+ who are parents/guardians of child 5-18 living in the hhld
WIC	SIPP	Once every 4 months	Monthly	Female respondents 15-4 who are parent/guardian children under 5
	Re-SIPP	Once every 12 months	Monthly	Respondents 15+ who are female OR parents/guard of children living in the l
LIHEAP	SIPP	Once every 4 months	Ever during 4 months	Household respondent
	Re-SIPP	Once every 12 months	Ever during 12 months	Household respondent

Table 3b. The Subtraction of Necessary Expenses in the SPM: 2004 SIPP and 2014 Re-SIPP

SPM Element	Survey	How often is the question asked?	What time frame is asked about?	Who gets asked the question?
Taxes	SIPP	Once every 12 months	Annual	Respondents 15+
	Re-SIPP	Once every 12 months	Annual	Respondents 15+
Child Care Expenses (while working)	SIPP	Once every 12 months	Typical week in each of the prior 4 months - amt paid for all arrangements for all children	Women 15+ with child(ren) under 15 who live in the hhld
	Re-SIPP	Once every 12 months	Typical week in Dec - amt paid for all arrangements for all children OR if not working in Dec typical week when parent(s) were working	Reference parent of child(ren) under 15 who live in the hhld
Commuting Expenses	SIPP	Once every 12 months	Typical week in the prior 4 months	Respondents 15+ who have a job
	Re-SIPP	Once every 12 months	Daily amount for each job	Respondents 15+ who have a job
Other Work Related Expenses	SIPP	Once every 12 months	Annual amount for all jobs	Respondents 15+ who have a job
	Re-SIPP	Once every 12 months	Annual amount for each job	Respondents 15+ who have a job
MOOP	SIPP	Once every 12 months	Annual amount	Respondents 15+ (child information collected from adult)
	Re-SIPP	Once every 12 months	Annual amount	All respondents
Child Support Paid	SIPP	Once every 12 months	Monthly amount in each of the 4 prior months	Respondents 15+ who have children who do not live in the hhld
	Re-SIPP	Once every 12 months	Annual amount	Respondents 15+ who have a child under 21 who does not live in the hhld