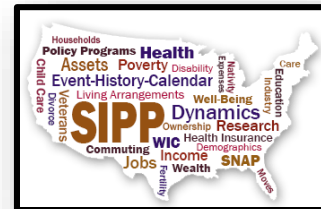






# Purpose of SIPP

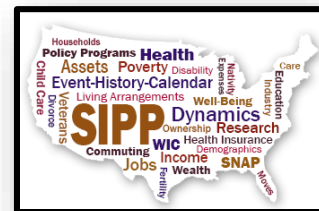
- “The two primary goals of SIPP should be to provide improved information on the distribution of income and other economic resources for people and families and on eligibility for and participation in government assistance programs.”
  - The Future of the Survey of Income and Program Participation, NAS, 1993
  
- “... [The SIPP] provides an unprecedented opportunity to ascertain the nature of income flows and program participation, both for relatively short periods of time and over extended periods of time, for individuals and families as they experience changes in household composition, income, and labor force participation.”
  - Improving National Statistics on Children, Youth and Families, 1984



# The SIPP Mission

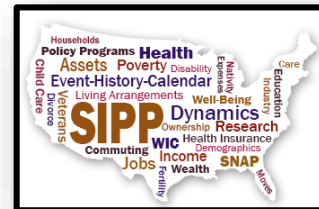
The mission of the Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP) is to provide a nationally representative sample for:

- evaluating annual and sub-annual dynamics of income,
- movements into and out of government transfer programs,
- family and social context of individuals and households, and
- interactions between these items.



# The SIPP

- Originally designed to compensate for the limitations of the Current Population Survey (CPS)
  - CPS ASEC (March Supplement) uses a very long recall period
    - Not good at measuring irregular/ odd sources of income
    - High levels of under-reporting of program participation
    - Doesn't capture changes in family structure
    - Note: if this makes you panic about the accuracy of our official poverty/ insurance estimates from CPS, no-one will blame you
- SIPP was designed to have a (much) shorter recall period
- SIPP is meant to provide better estimates of income and public program participation
- Offers the most detailed income and comprehensive program participation variables of the major nationally representative surveys





# Classic SIPP Design: National Panel Survey

## Paper SIPP Interviewing (1984-1993)

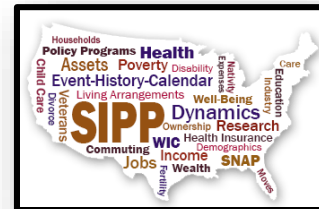
- About 2½ years

## CAPI (1996 – present)

- 4 years

## 2008 Panel:

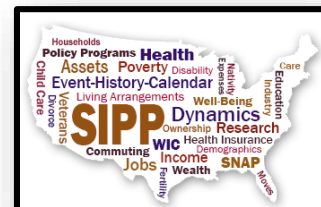
- Extended to 16 waves - about 5 years
- Wrapped up interviews in December 2013
- All files now available for data users
  
- Panel bridges recession
- Provides data over five-year period, spanning crash and recovery
- Monthly, full-sample data from August 2008-May 2013



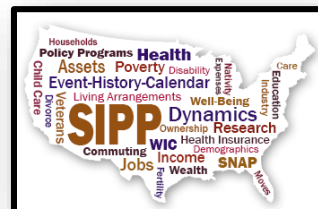
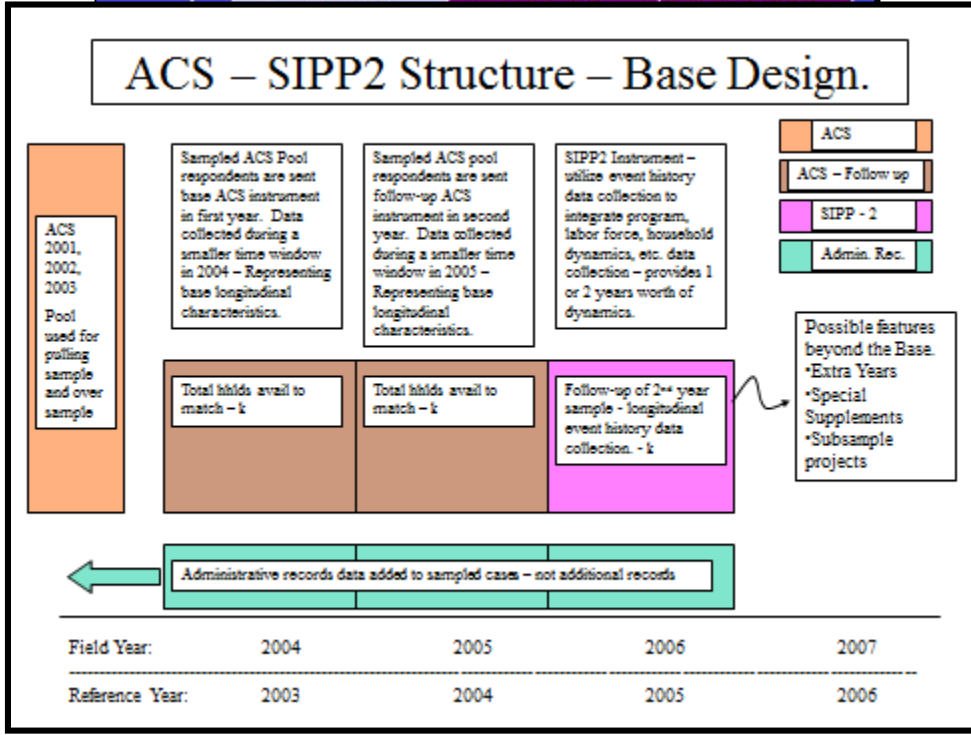
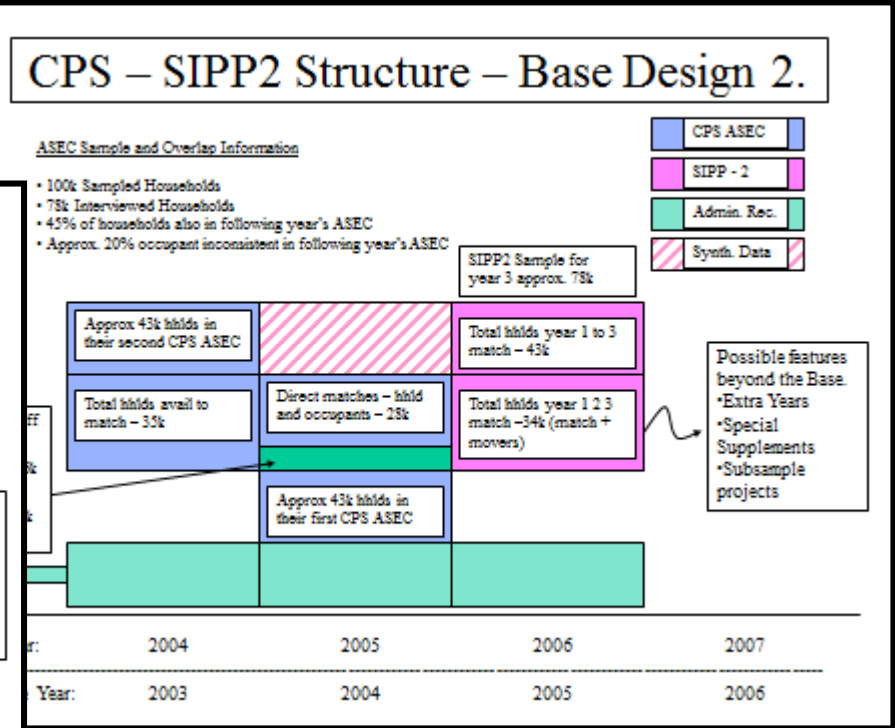




# ***March 2006***



# We began brainstorming options



# June 2006 @ Brookings

## Possible sample sources

- There are several options for generating a sampling frame:
  - sampling from the Master Address File;
  - sampling directly from ACS interviewed cases;
  - sampling directly from administrative data;

## Possible modes of data collection



Mail out/mail back

## Administrative records successes

Medicare Enrollment Database (MEDB)	→ Medicare health insurance
Master Beneficiary Record (MBR)	→ Work disability and social security income (e.g., Social Security Disability Insurance)
IRS 1040, 1099-INT, and 1099-DIV	→ Asset ownership, income from a job, profit from a business, unemployment compensation, and alimony
Census Numident	→ Demographic characteristics: age, race, Hispanic or Latino
SSA SSR	→ Receipt of Federal/state unemployment benefits
HUD-TRACS	→ Public housing and receipt of rent subsidies

## Questions

- What aspects of the current SIPP do you feel are the most important for measuring economic well-being? And in particular, what would you be willing to give up?
- Do you have examples of research (or products) that you regard as “best practices” in the use of SIPP data?
- Do you have needs for both the cross-sectional and longitudinal aspects of the data?

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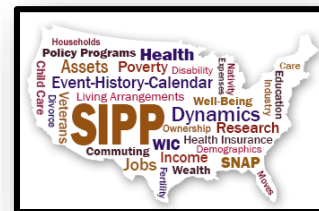
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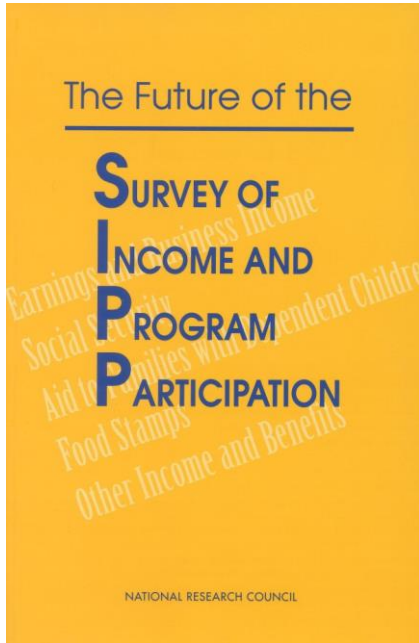


# Goals for SIPP Re-engineering

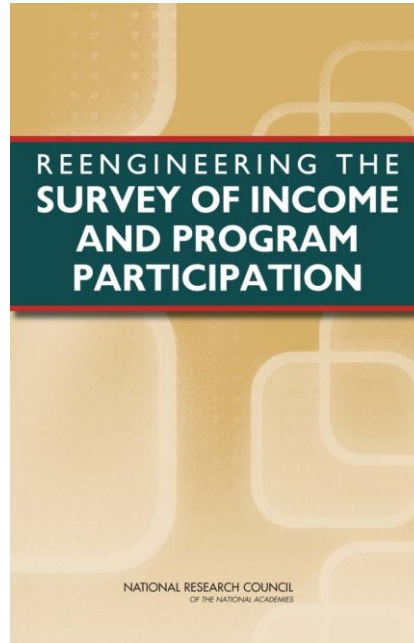
- Include a new household survey data collection
- Modernize the data collection instrument
- Reduce respondent burden
- Integrate survey data and administrative records data
- Require fewer resources than the current SIPP program
- Improve processing efficiency
- Be releasable to the public in a timely manner



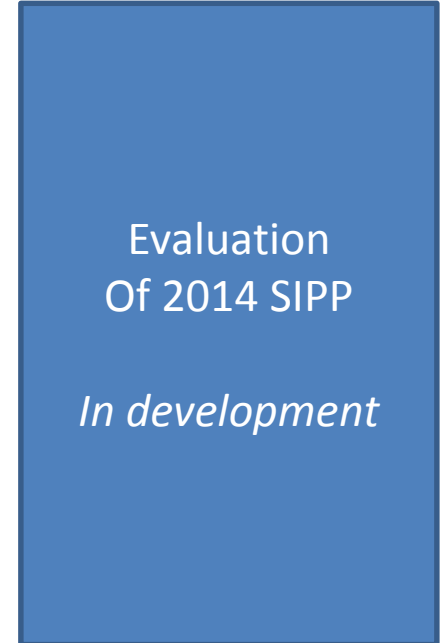
# CNSTAT Reports on SIPP



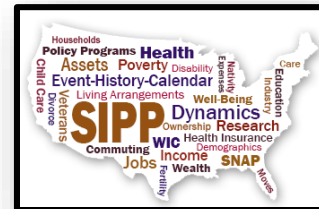
1993



2009



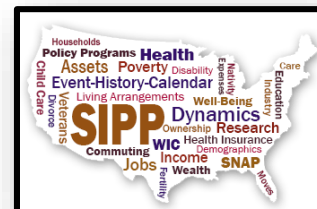
2017



# Recommendations from the 2009 NAS Report

- **Rec 2.1 – Goal is short-run dynamics**
- **Rec 2.2 – Evaluate all innovations**
- **Rec 3.1 – Acquire more admin data from Federal sources**
- **Rec 3.2 – Develop plan to obtain admin data from States**
- **Rec 3.3 – Evaluate data quality and reporting errors**
- **Rec 3.4 – Evaluate imputation methods**
- **Rec 3.5 – Have OMB set-up SIPP advisory group**
- **Rec 3.6 – In short run focus on indirect uses of admin data**
- **Rec 3.7 – Evaluate possible direct uses of admin data**
- **Rec 3.8 – Develop methods to create public data and data access**
- **Rec 4.1 – Develop intensive plan to evaluate EHC**
- **Rec 4.2 – Create a bridge between EHC and current SIPP**
- **Rec 4.3 – Don't rush implementation (shoot for 2012)**
- **Rec 4.4 – Evaluate trade-offs with data quality and respondent burden**
- **Rec 4.5 – Establish SIPP advisory group**
- **Rec 4.6 – Release data within one year of collection**

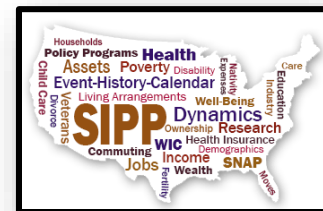
**Recommendations in process**  
**Recommendations on a longer timeline**





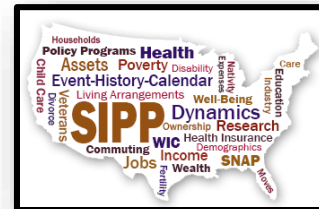
# Challenges & reality of a full re-engineering

- When can you have it done?
  - First thoughts – new data in 2009
  - Quickly determined the need for thoughtful and more comprehensive redesign
- Make your decisions and move forward
- Work issues thoroughly from beginning to end
- Innovate!
  - Biggest gains and what direction?
    - Respondent burden
    - Administrative data
    - Modeling
    - Monitoring
  - Data quality
- Challenges
  - New processing system
  - Field staffing, training, and monitoring
  - More for less



# Challenges

- Instrument design
  - Blaise and C# integration
  - Ability to allow conversational collection and navigation
- Fieldwork
  - Hiring
  - Training
  - Retention
- Data processing
  - Create in SAS from new comprehensive specs
  - Changing data structure and content through development
  - Once file structure available reconciling the timeline to develop, test, correct
- Expectations

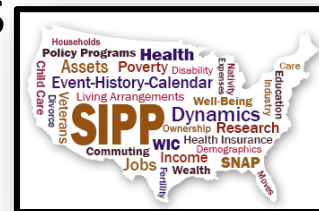






# SIPP 2014 File Structure for Public Use

- Person-month file structure - 12 month reference period (January – December )
- Household structure is defined by interview month household composition - Relationships captured monthly for reference period
- Fully edited and imputed file with ‘status’ flags - Reported, NIU, hot deck, cold deck, logical, model based, etc.
- Restricted access files available for RDC projects



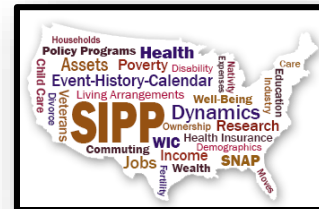
# What is the SIPP Good For?

- Estimates of the income for the majority of the population
- Focus is on eligibility and take-up of public transfer and assistance programs
- Focus on inter-related topics and the complexity of messy questions
- You want to conduct longitudinal analyses over relatively short periods (month-to-month; annualized, up to 4 years)
  - Classic SIPP and current SIPP – Pay attention to recall issues and seams
  - Estimates must be adjusted for sample design



# SIPP Innovations

- Content enhancements to meet existing and new needs
- Integrated use of an Event History Calendar (EHC)
- Administrative data integration – Model-Based Imputation
- Model-based incentive assignment
- Adaptive design and case prioritization
- Monitoring
  - Computer Audio Recorded Interviewing (CARI)
  - Paradata



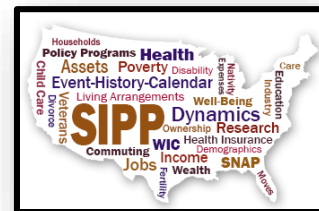
# Lessons learned (and still learning)

- Where is the time?
  - Instrument design (iterative)
  - Processing development (need to work from stable platform to avoid rework)
- Successes
  - Flexible data collection – stable instrument
  - Training and evaluation
  - Supporting stakeholders with integrated and updated content
  - Administrative data integration
- Lessons
  - Timeline expectations
  - Response, cost, quality, and burden
  - Holistic data editing – many decisions need to be made up front
  - Opportunity for innovation and a blank sheet



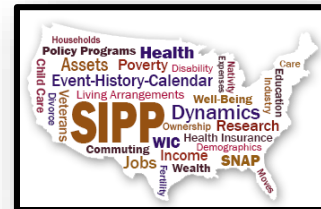
# Enduring strategies and principles

- Plan for iterative development
  - Nimble sprints and plan for cascading changes
  - Final collection and format decisions need to be as early as possible
  - Consider the impact of rework to instruments and processing
  
- Embrace innovation
  - Foundation for “what’s next”
  - For SIPP - Focus on data quality and providing a platform for innovation



# Enduring strategies and principles

- Extend your vision
  - Impact to hiring and collection represent ongoing commitments
  - Data editing and processing development can't easily be done up front
  - Take the time to outline the minimum and ideal development once the final goal has been identified
  - Redeveloping an existing product is different than creating from scratch









# THANK YOU!

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