

5. Finding SIPP Information

SIPP data and supporting documentation are available in various forms. They include published estimates based on those data, microdata in several formats, documentation for each of the microdata files, and more general documentation about methodological issues in SIPP. In addition more information about SIPP can be found in the SIPP Quality Profile, working papers distributed by the Census Bureau, articles published in academic journals, and conference proceedings. This chapter discusses SIPP published estimates, briefly describes the data files and supporting documentation, and provides information on how to obtain them.

Published Estimates from SIPP

Published estimates from SIPP data are useful to data analysts in a number of ways. First, Census Bureau publications may already contain the estimates needed for the research project at hand, thus saving users the having to create those estimates themselves. Second, published estimates can often provide a useful cross-check for closely related estimates prepared by analysts.

Published estimates are based on the Census Bureau's *internal* data files. The internal files are not top-coded, however the public use files have been top-coded and some data suppressed to protect respondent confidentiality. It is expected, therefore, that outside analysts will often not be able to replicate published estimates exactly.

The Census Bureau's P-70 series of publications is a primary source for published estimates from SIPP. Table 5-1 displays the titles and publication numbers of reports in the series that are currently available from the Census Bureau. Copies of those reports can be obtained from the U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402. To order online, visit the U.S. Government Online Bookstore at <http://bookstore.gpo.gov>. To order by phone, call toll-free 866.512.1800 or, in the Washington, D.C. metro area, call 202-512-1800 from 7:00 a.m.- 9:00 p.m. EST. To order by fax, dial 202-512-2104. A continuously updated list of P-70 series reports can be obtained from the SIPP Web site (<http://www.bls.census.gov/sipp/>); each of the reports contains a phone number the reader can call for further information or clarification. Users can call the Demographics Call Center 866-758-1060 for general information.

Following data collection as described in Chapter 2 and post collection data processing as described in Chapter 4, the Census Bureau prepares data files in formats compatible with the most common methods of analysis. Those microdata are available in several file formats and can be obtained on a variety of media. The following sections describe the file formats currently in use, each of which is used for somewhat different SIPP data. Information is also provided about how to obtain those data and supporting documentation.

Table 5-1. Publications in the P-70 Series

Publication Number	Title
P-70-1	Economic Characteristics of Households in the U.S. Third Quarter, 1983
P-70-2	Economic Characteristics of Households in the U.S. Fourth Quarter, 1983
P-70-3	Economic Characteristics of Households in the U.S. First Quarter, 1984
P-70-4	Economic Characteristics of Households in the U.S. Second Quarter, 1984
P-70-5	Economic Characteristics of Households in the U.S. Third Quarter, 1984
P-70-6	Economic Characteristics of Households in the U.S. Fourth Quarter, 1984
P-70-7	Household Wealth and Asset Ownership, 1984
P-70-8	Disability, Functional Limitations, and Health Insurance Coverage: 1984-1985
P-70-9	Who's Minding the Kids? Child Care Arrangements: Winter 1984-1985
P-70-10	Male-Female Differences in Work Experience, Occupation, and Earnings: 1984
P-70-11	What's It Worth? Educational Background and Economic Status: Spring, 1984
P-70-12	Pensions: Workers Coverage and Retirement Income, 1984
P-70-13	Who's Helping Out? Support Network Among American Families,
P-70-14	Characteristics of Persons Receiving Benefits from Major Assistance Programs
P-70-15-RD-1	Transitions in Income and Poverty Status: 1984-1985
P-70-16-RD-2	Spells of Job Search and Layoff...and Their Outcomes
P-70-17	Health Insurance Coverage, 1986-1988
P-70-18	Transitions in Income and Poverty Status: 1985-1986
P-70-19	The Need for Personal Assistance with Everyday Activities: Recipients and Caregivers
P-70-20	Who's Minding the Kids? Child Care Arrangements: Winter 1986-1987
P-70-21	What's It Worth? Educational Background and Economic Status: Spring 1987
P-70-22	Household Wealth and Asset Ownership: 1988
P-70-23	Family Disruption and Economic Hardship: The Short-Run Picture for Children
P-70-24	Transitions in Income and Poverty Status: 1987-1988
P-70-25	Pensions: Worker Coverage and Retirement Benefits, 1987
P-70-26	Extended Measures of Well-Being: 1984
P-70-27	Job Creation During Late 1980's: Dynamic Aspects of Employment Growth
P-70-28	Who's Helping Out? Support Network Among American Families
P-70-29	Health Insurance Coverage: 1987 to 1990
P-70-30	Who's Minding the Kids? Child Care Arrangements: Fall 1988
P-70-31	Characteristics of Recipients and the Dynamics of Program Participation: 1987-1988
P-70-32	What's It Worth? Educational Background and Economic Status: Spring 1990
P-70-33	Americans with Disabilities: 1991-1992
P-70-34	Household Wealth and Asset Ownership: 1991

(table continues)

Table 5-1. Publications in the P-70 Series (continued)

Publication Number	Title
P-70-35	Monitoring the Economic Health of American Households: Average Monthly Estimates of Income, Labor Force Activity, Program Participation and Health Insurance, First Quarter 1984 to Third Quarter 1991
P-70-36	Who's Minding the Kids? Child Care Arrangements: Fall 1991
P-70-37	Dynamics of Economic Well-Being: Health Insurance 1990-1992
P-70-38	The Diverse Living Arrangements of Children: Summer 1991
P-70-39	Dollars for Scholars: Post secondary Costs and Financing 1990-1991
P-70-40	Dynamics of Economic Well-Being: Labor Force and Income: 1990-1992
P-70-41	Dynamics of Economic Well-Being: Program Participation: 1990-1992
P-70-42	Dynamics of Economic Well-Being: Poverty: 1990
P-70-43	Dynamics of Economic Well-Being: Health Insurance: 1991-1993
P-70-44	The Effect of Health Insurance Coverage on Doctor and Hospital Visits: 1990-1992
P-70-45	Dynamics of Economic Well-Being: Poverty: 1991-1993
P-70-46	Dynamics of Economic Well-Being: Program Participation: 1991-1993
P-70-47	Asset Ownership of Households: 1993
P-70-48	Dynamics of Economic Well-Being: Labor Force: 1991-1993
P-70-49	Dynamics of Economic Well-Being: Income: 1991-1992
P-70-50	Beyond Poverty Extended Measures of Well-Being: 1992
P-70-51	What's It Worth? Field of Training and Economic Status: 1993
P-70-52	What Does it Cost to Mind Our Preschoolers?
P-70-53	Who's Minding Our Preschoolers?
P-70-54	Who Loses Coverage and for How Long?
P-70-55	Dynamics of Economic Well-Being: Poverty: 1992-1993 Who Stays Poor? Who Doesn't?
P-70-56	Dynamics of Economic Well-Being: Income 1992-1993 Moving Up and Down the Income Ladder
P-70-57	Dynamics of Economic Well-Being: Labor Force 1992-1993 - A Perspective on Low-Wage Workers
P-70-58	1992-1993-Who Gets Assistance?
P-70-59	My Daddy Takes Care of Me! Fathers as Care Providers
P-70-60	Financing the Future: Post secondary Students Costs and Financial Aid
P-70-61	Americans with Disabilities: 1994-95
P-70-62	Who's Minding Our Pres Schoolers: Fall 1994 Update
P-70-63	Dynamics of Economic Well Being: Poverty 1993-94
P-70-64	Who loses Coverage and For How Long?
P-70-65	Moving Up and Down the Income Ladder
P-70-66	Seasonality of Moves and Duration of Residence

(table continues)

Table 5-1. Publications in the P-70 Series (continued)

Publication Number	Title
P-70-67	Extended Measures of Well-Being: Meeting Basic Needs
P-70-68	A Child's Day: Home, School, and Play (Selected Indicators of Child Well-Being)
P-70-69	Dynamics of Economic Well-Being: Program Participation Who Gets Assistance?
P-70-70	Who's Minding the Kids? Child Care Arrangements
P-70-71	Household Net Worth and Asset Ownership 1995
P-70-72	What's it Worth? Field of Training Economic Status, 1996
P-70-73	Americans With Disabilities: 1997
P-70-74	Living Arrangements of Children: Fall 1996
P-70-75	Did You Know? Homes Account for 44 Percent of All Wealth
P-70-76	Reasons People Do Not Work
P-70-77	Dynamics of Economic Well Being: Program Participation Who Gets Assistance? 1993 to 1995
P-70-78	Home-Based Workers in the United States 1997
P-70-79	Maternity Leave and Employment Patterns: 1961- 1995
P-70-80	Number, Timing, and Duration of Marriages and Divorces: 1996
P-70-81	Employment - Based Health Insurance: 1997
P-70-82	Fertility and Program Participation in the United States: 1996
P-70-83	Financing the Future - Post secondary Students Costs and Financial Aid: 1996 - 1997
P-70-84	Who's helping out Financial Support Networks Among American Households: 1997
P-70-85	Work and Work Related Activities of Mothers Receiving Temporary Assistance to Needy Families: 1996, 1998 and 2000
P-70-86	Who's Minding the Kids? Child Care Arrangements: Spring 1997
P-70-87	Detailed Tables and Documentation for Report P70-87
P-70-87	Extended Measures of Well Being: Living Conditions in the United States: 1998
P-70-88	Net Worth and Asset Ownership of Households: 1998 and 2000
P-70-89	A Child's Day: 1998 (Selected Indicators of Child Well Being) Detailed Tables
P-70-89	A Child's Day: 2000 (Selected Indicators of Child Well Being) Detailed Tables
P-70-89	A Child's Day: 2000 (Selected Indicators of Child Well Being)
P-70-90	Supplemental Security Income and Its Noninstitutional Recipients: July 1997 and 1999
P-70-91	Dynamics of Economic Well Being: Poverty 1996 - 1999
P-70-92	Dynamics of Economic Well Being: Health Insurance 1996 - 1999
P-70-93	Dynamics of Economic Well Being: Spells of Unemployment 1996 - 1999
P-70-94	Dynamics of Economic Well Being: Program Participation 1996 to 1999 Who Gets Assistance?
P-70-95	Dynamics of Economic Well Being: Movements in the U.S. Income Distribution 1996-1999

(table continues)

Table 5-1. Publications in the P-70 Series (continued)

Publication Number	Title
P-70-96	Dynamics of Economic Well Being: Labor Force Turnover, 1996-1999, Household Economic Studies
P-70-97	Number, Timing, and Duration of Marriages and Divorces: 2001
P-70-98	What It's Worth: Field of Training and Economic Status in 2001
P-70-99	Support Providers: 2002
P-70 -100	Dynamics of Economic Well Being: Moving Up and Down the Income Ladder 1998 to 1999
P-70 -101	Who's Minding the Kids? Child Care Arrangements: Winter 2002
P-70 -102	Participation of Mothers in Government Assistance Programs: 2001
P-70 -103	Maternity Leave and Employment Patterns of First Time Mothers: 1961-2000
P-70 -104	Living Arrangements of Children: 2001
P-70 -105	Dynamics of Economic Well Being: Spells of Unemployment 2001- 2003
P-70 -106	Health Status Health Insurance and Health Services Utilization: 2001
P-70 -107	Americans with Disabilities: 2002
P-70-108	Dynamics of Economic Well Being: Participation in Government Programs 2001 Through 2003 Who Gets Assistance?
P-70-109	A Child's Day: 2003 (Selected Indicators of Child Well Being) Detailed Tables
P-70-109	A Child's Day: 2003 (Selected Indicators of Child Well Being)
P-70-110	Extended Measures of Well Being: Living Conditions in the United States 2003
P-70-111	Reasons People Do Not Work: 2004
P-70- 112	Dynamics of Economic Well Being: Fluctuations in the U.S. Income Distribution, 2001-2003 (P70 112)
P-70-113	Maternity Leave and Employment Patterns of First Time Mothers: 1961-2003
P-70-114	Living Arrangements of Children: 2004
P-70-115	Net Worth and Asset Ownership of Households: 2002
P-70-116	Participation of Mothers in Government Assistance Programs: 2004

Formats and Contents of SIPP Microdata Files

SIPP public use microdata are available in four types of files: core wave files, topical module files, and full and partial longitudinal panel files. The files vary in content and structure. Analysts should be aware that their need for files depends on their particular application.

Data files are available through the Customer Services Section of the Publication Services Branch, Administrative and Customer Services Division, at (301) 763-4403. Users can also extract data files by using on-line data access tools, as described later in this chapter in Sources for Obtaining SIPP Microdata.

Core Wave Files

Core wave files contain the core labor force, income, household and family composition, and program participation data from one wave of interviews. The core wave files are currently available in person-month format, containing, for every person who was a member of a SIPP household for at least 1 month during the 4-month reference period for that wave, one record for each month that person was in-sample.¹ In other words, a person who was in-sample for all 4 reference months has four records one for each reference month. A person who was in-sample for only 1 month would have just one record. The core wave files are designed for cross-sectional analyses. Analysts who do not wish to wait for the release of certain files can link one or more core wave files to make their own longitudinal files. Chapter 13 discusses linking files. Table 5-2 illustrates the structure of the person-month format for core wave files.

The core wave files are the only source of monthly cross-sectional weights. When using data drawn from the full panel files, available for 1984-1993 Panels, for cross-sectional analyses, users must merge weights from the core wave files. Chapter 8 explains how to select and merge weights.

Topical Module Files

Each topical module file contains selected core information along with the data from the topical module administered in a given wave. As described in Chapter 2, different topical modules are administered in each wave of a SIPP panel. Table 5-3 shows which topical modules were administered for each wave of each SIPP panel. Table 5-4 lists topical areas along with the panels and waves in which they were administered. Topical module files are issued in person-record format; there is one record for each person who was a member of a SIPP household as of the 15th of the interview month. Table 5-5 illustrates the structure of a topical module file. Chapter 2 describes how the interviews are conducted and how topical module information is collected; Chapter 4 explains how missing data are handled in the files. In the 1996+ Panels, the month that determined the universe for the topical module files changed to month 4 of the reference period.

¹ Prior to the 1990 Panel, the Census Bureau issued core wave files in a format with a single record for each person. Those files are described in earlier editions of the SIPP Users' Guide

Table 5-2. Structure of the Person-Month Format Core Wave Files

SUID ^a	Person	Month	Household Vars	Family Vars	Subfamily Vars	Sample Status	Other Person Vars
1	1	1				Yes	
		2				Yes	
		3				Yes	
		4				Yes	
	2	1				Yes	
		2				Yes	
		3	Missing	Missing	Missing	No	Missing
		4	Missing	Missing	Missing	No	Missing
	3	1				Yes	
		2				Yes	
		3	Missing	Missing	Missing	No	Missing
		4				Yes	
2	1	1				Yes	
		2				Yes	
		3				Yes	
		4				Yes	
	2	1	Missing	Missing	Missing	No	Missing
		2				Yes	
		3				Yes	
		4				Yes	
3	1	1				Yes	
		2				Yes	
		3				Yes	
		4				Yes	
	2	1				Yes	
		2				Yes	
		3	Missing	Missing	Missing	No	Missing
		4	Missing	Missing	Missing	No	Missing
4	1	1				Yes	
		2				Yes	
		3				Yes	
		4				Yes	

^a Sample unit ID number. Chapter 4 provides more information about identification numbers in SIPP.

Table 5.3 Topical Modules by Wave and Panel

2008 Panel	
Wave	Subject Areas
1	Reciprocity History, Employment History, Tax Rebates
2	Work Disability History, Education and Training History, Marital History, Migration History, Fertility History, Household Relationships, Tax Rebates
3	Welfare Reform, Retirement and Pension Plan Coverage
4	Assets and Liabilities, Medical Expenses/Utilization of Health Care Adults, Medical Expenses/Utilization of Health Care Children, Work-Related Expenses, Child Well-Being
5	Child Care, Work Schedule, Annual Income and Retirement Account, Taxes
6	Adult Well-Being, Child Support Agreements, Support for Non-household Members, Functional Limitations and Disabilities - Adults, Functional Limitations and Disabilities - Children, Employer Provided Health Benefits
7	Assets and Liabilities, Medical Expenses/Utilization of Health Care Adults, Medical Expenses/Utilization of Health Care Children, Work-Related Expenses, Child Support Paid
8	Child Care, Work Schedule, Annual Income Retirement Accounts, Taxes
9	Informal Care-giving, Adult Well-Being
10	Assets and Liabilities, Medical Expenses/Utilization of Health Care Adults, Medical Expenses/Utilization of Health Care Children, Work-Related Expenses, Child Well-Being, Child Support Paid
11	Retirement and Pension Plan Coverage
2004 Panel	
1	Reciprocity History, Employment History
2	Work Disability History, Education and Training History, Marital History, Migration History, Fertility History, Household Relationships
3	Assets, Liabilities, and Eligibility; Medical Expenses/Utilization of Health Care Adults; Medical Expenses/Utilization of Health Care Children; Work-Related Expenses; Child Support Paid, Child Well-Being
4	Annual Income and Retirement Accounts, Taxes, Work Schedule, Child Care
5	Adult Well-Being, School Enrollment and Financing, Child Support Agreements, Support for Non-household Members, Functional Limitations and Disability Adults, Functional Limitations and Disability Children, Employer-Provider Health Benefits
6	Assets, Liabilities, and Eligibility, Medical Expenses/Utilization of Health Care Adults, Medical Expenses/Utilization of Health Care Children, Work-Related Expenses, Child Support Paid
7	Annual Income and Retirement Account, Taxes, Retirement and Pension Plan Coverage; Informal Care Giving
8	Welfare Reform
9	No Topical Modules - Topical Modules cancelled due to budget constraints
10	No Topical Modules
11	No Topical Modules
12	No topical Modules

(table continues)

Table 5.3 Topical Modules by Wave and Panel (continued)

2001 Panel	
Wave	Subject Areas
1	Reciency History, Employment History
2	Work Disability History, Education and Training History, Marital History, Migration History, Fertility History, Household Relationships
3	Assets, Liabilities, and Eligibility; Medical Expenses/Utilization of Health Care Adults; Medical Expenses/Utilization of Health Care Children; Work-Related Expenses; Child Support Paid
4	Annual Income and Retirement Accounts, Taxes, Work Schedule, Child Care
5	School Enrollment and Financing, Child Support Agreements, Support for Non-household Members, Functional Limitations and Disability Adults, Functional Limitations and Disability Children, Employer-Provider Health Benefits
6	Assets, Liabilities, and Eligibility, Medical Expenses/Utilization of Health Care Adults, Medical Expenses/Utilization of Health Care Children, Work-Related Expenses, Child Support Paid
7	Annual Income and Retirement Account, Taxes, Retirement and Pension Plan Coverage; Informal Care Giving, Child's Well-Being
8	Adult Well-Being, Child Support Agreements, Support for Non-household Members, Functional Limitations and Disability Adults, Functional Limitations and Disability Children. Welfare Reform
9	Assets, Liabilities, and Eligibility; Medical Expenses/Utilization of Health Care Adults; Medical Expenses/Utilization of Health Care Children; Work-Related Expenses; Child Support Paid
1996 Panel	
1	Reciency History, Employment History
2	Work Disability History, Education and Training History, Marital History, Migration History Fertility History, Household Relationships
3	Assets, Liabilities and Eligibility, Medical Expenses/Utilization of Health Care Adults, Medical Expenses/Utilization of Health Care Children, Work-Related Expenses, Child Support Paid
4	Annual Income and Retirement Accounts, Taxes, Work Schedule, Child Care, Disability Questions
5	School Enrollment and Financing, Child Support Agreements Support for Non-household Members, Functional Limitations and Disability-Adults, Functional Limitations and Disability-Children, Employer-Provider Health Benefits
6	Children's Well-Being, Assets, Liabilities, and Eligibility, Medical Expenses/Utilization of Health Care Adults, Medical Expenses/Utilization of Health Care Children, Work-Related Expenses, Child Support Paid
7	Annual Income and Retirement Account, Taxes, Retirement and Pension Plan Coverage; Home Health Care
8	Adult Well-Being, Welfare Reform
9	Assets, Liabilities and Eligibility; Medical Expenses/Utilization of Health Care Adults; Medical Expenses/Utilization of Health Care Children; Work-Related Expenses; Child Support Paid
10	Annual Income and Retirement Accounts, Taxes, Work Schedule, Child Care
11	Child Support Agreements Support for Non-household Members, Functional Limitations and Disability-Adults, Functional Limitations and Disability-Children
12	Assets, Liabilities and Eligibility, Medical Expenses/Utilization of Health Care-Adults, Medical Expenses /Utilization of Health Care-Children, Work-Related Expenses, Child Support Paid, Children's Well-Being

(table continues)

Table 5.3 Topical Modules by Wave and Panel (continued)

1993 Panel	
1	Reciency History Employment History
2	Work Disability History, Education and Training History, Marital History, Migration History Fertility History, Household Relationships
3	Work Schedule Child Care, Child Support Agreements, Support for Nonhousehold Members Functional Limitations and Disability, Utilization of Health Care Services
4	Selected Financial Assets; Medical Expenses and Work Disability; Real Estate Shelter Costs Dependent Care and Vehicles
5	Annual Income and Retirement Accounts Taxes, School Enrollment and Financing
6	Work Schedule, Child Care, Child Support Agreements, Support for Nonhousehold Members, Functional Limitations and Disability - Adults, Utilization of Health Care Services - Adults, Functional Limitations and Disability - Children, Utilization of Health Care Services - Children Children's Well Being
7	Assets and Liabilities; Real Estate Shelter Costs, Dependent Care, and Vehicles; Medical Expenses and Work Disability
8	Annual Income and Retirement Accounts Taxes, School Enrollment and Financing
9	Retirement Expectations and Pension Plan, Coverage Child Support Agreements, Child Care Support for Nonhousehold Members, Work Schedule, Children's Well Being, Basic Needs
1992 Panel	
1	Reciency History, Employment History
2	Work Disability History, Education and Training History, Marital History, Migration History, Fertility History, Household Relationships
3	Extended Measures of Well-Being (Consumer Durables, Living Conditions, Basic Needs
4	Assets and Liabilities, Retirement Expectations and Pension Plan Coverage, Real Estate Property and Vehicles
5	Annual Income and Retirement Accounts, Taxes, School Enrollment and Financing
6	Work Schedule, Child Care, Child Support Agreements, Support for Nonhousehold Members, Functional Limitations and Disability, Utilization of Health Care Services
7	Selected Financial Assets; Medical Expenses and Work Disability; Real Estate, Shelter Costs, Dependent Care, and Vehicles
8	Annual Income and Retirement Accounts, Taxes, School Enrollment and Financing
9	Work Schedule, Child Care, Child Support Agreements, Support for Nonhousehold Members, Functional Limitations and Disability -Adults, Utilization of Health Care Services -Adults, Functional Limitations and Disability – Children, Utilization of Health Care Services – Children, Children's Well-Being
10	No Topical Modules

(table continues)

Table 5.3 Topical Modules by Wave and Panel (continued)

1991 Panel	
Wave	Subject Areas
1	No Topical Modules
2	Reciprocity History, Employment History, Work Disability History, Education and Training History, Marital History, Migration History Fertility History, Household Relationships
3	Work Schedule, Child Care, Child Support Agreements, Support for Nonhousehold Members, Functional Limitations and Disability, Utilization of Health Care Services
4	Selected Financial Assets, Medical Expenses and Work Disability; Real Estate Shelter Costs, Dependent Care and Vehicles
5	Annual Income and Retirement Accounts, Taxes, School Enrollment and Financing
6	Extended Measures of Well-Being (Consumer Durables Living Conditions Basic Needs)
7	Assets and Liabilities, Retirement Expectations and Pension Plan Coverage, Real Estate Property and Vehicles
8	Annual Income and Retirement Accounts, Taxes, School Enrollment and Financing
1990 Panel	
1	No Topical Modules
2	Reciprocity History, Employment History, Work Disability History, Education and Training History, Marital History, Migration History Fertility History, Household Relationships
3	Work Schedule, Child Care, Child Support Agreements, Support for Nonhousehold Members, Functional Limitations and Disability, Utilization of Health Care Services
4	Assets and Liabilities, Retirement Expectations and Pension Plan Coverage, Real Estate Property and Vehicles
5	Annual Income and Retirement Accounts, Taxes, School Enrollment and Financing
6	Time Spent Outside Work Force, Child Support Agreements Support for Nonhousehold Members, Functional Limitations and Disability, Utilization of Health Care Services
7	Selected Financial Assets, Medical Expenses and Work Disability; Real Estate, Shelter Costs, Dependent Care, and Vehicles
8	Annual Income and Retirement Accounts, Taxes, School Enrollment and Financing

(table continues)

Table 5.3 Topical Modules by Wave and Panel (continued)

1989 Panel	
Wave	Subject Areas
1	No Topical Modules
2	Reciency History, Employment History, Work Disability History, Education and Training History, Marital History, Migration History, Fertility History, Household Relationships
3	Work Schedule, Child Care, Child Support Agreements Support for Nonhousehold Members, Home Health Care, Disability Status, and Utilization of Health Care Services, Functional Activities
4	The 1989 Panel was terminated following Wave 3.
1988 Panel	
1	No Topical Modules
2	Reciency History, Employment History, Work Disability History, Education and Training History, Family Background, Marital History, Migration History, Fertility History, Household Relationships
3	Work Schedule, Child Care, Child Support Agreements, Support for Nonhousehold Members, Long-Term Care, Disability Status of Children, Health Status and Utilization of Health Care Services
4	Selected Financial Assets, Medical Expenses and Work Disability; Real Estate, Shelter Costs, Dependent Care, and Vehicles
5	Annual Income and Retirement Accounts, Taxes, School Enrollment and Financing
6	Work Schedule, Child Care, Child Support Agreements, Support for Nonhousehold Members, Home Health Care, Disability Status of Children, Health Status and Utilization of Health Care Services, Functional Activities
7	No Wave 7
8	No Wave 8
1987 Panel	
1	No Topical Modules
2	Reciency History, Employment History, Work Disability History, Education and Training History, Family Background, Marital History, Migration History, Fertility History, Household Relationships
3	Child Care Arrangements/Child Support Agreements, Support for Nonhousehold Members, Work-Related Expenses, Shelter Costs/Energy Usage
4	Assets and Liabilities, Real Estate Properties and Vehicles
5	Annual Income and Retirement Accounts, Taxes, School Enrollment and Financing
6	Work Schedule, Child Care, Child Support Agreements, Support for Nonhousehold Members, Long-Term Care, Disability Status of Children, Health Status and Utilization of Health Care Services
7	Selected Financial Assets, Medical Expenses and Work Disability, Real Estate, Shelter Costs, Dependent Care, and Vehicles
8	No Wave 8

(table continues)

Table 5.3 Topical Modules by Wave and Panel (*continued*)

1986 Panel	
Wave	Subject Areas
1	No Topical Modules
2	Reciency History, Employment History, Work Disability History, Education and Training History, Family Background, Marital History, Migration History, Fertility History, Household Relationships
3	Child Care Arrangements/Child Support Agreements, Support for Nonhousehold Members, Job Offers, Health Status and Utilization of Health Care Services, Long-Term Care, Disability Status of Children
4	Assets and Liabilities, Retirement Expectations and Pension Plan Coverage, Real Estate Property and Vehicles
5	Annual Income and Retirement Accounts, Taxes, School Enrollment and Financing
6	Child Care Arrangements/Child Support Agreements, Support for Nonhousehold Members, Work-Related Expenses, Shelter Costs/Energy Usage
7	Assets and Liabilities, Pension Plan Coverage, Real Estate Property and Vehicles
8	No Wave 8
1985 Panel	
1	No Topical Modules
2	No Topical Modules
3	Assets and Liabilities, Real Estate Property and Vehicles
4	Support for Nonhousehold Members/Work-Related Expenses, Marital History, Migration History, Fertility History, Household Relationship
5	Annual Income and Retirement Accounts, Taxes, School Enrollment and Financing
6	Child Care Arrangements/Child Support Agreements, Support for Nonhousehold Members, Job Offers, Health Status and Utilization of Health Care Services, Long-Term Care, Disability Status of Children
7	Assets and Liabilities, Retirement Expectations and Pension Plan Coverage, Real Estate Property and Vehicles
8	Annual Income and Retirement Accounts, Taxes, School Enrollment and Financing
1984 Panel	
1	No Topical Modules
2	No Topical Modules
3	Education and Work History, Health and Disability
4	Assets and Liabilities; Retirement and Pension Coverage; Housing Costs, Conditions, and Energy Usage
5	Child Care, Welfare History and Child Support, Reasons for Not Working/Reservation Wage, Support for Nonhousehold Members/Work-Related Expenses
6	Earnings and Benefits, Property Income and Taxes, Education and Training
7	Assets and Liabilities, Pension Plan Coverage, Real Estate Property and Vehicles
8	Support for Nonhousehold Members/Work-Related, Expenses, Marital History, Migration History, Fertility History, Household Relationship
9	Annual Income and Retirement Accounts, Taxes, School Enrollment and Financing

Table 5-4. Topical Modules, by Subject

Subject Areas	Panel and Wave^a
Adult Well-Being	96-8, 01-8, 04-05
Annual Income and Retirement Accounts	84-9, 85-5, 85-8, 86-5, 87-5, 88-5, 90-5, 90-8, 91-5, 91-8, 92-5, 92-8, 93-5, 93-8, 96-4, 96-7, 96-10, 01-4, 01-7, 04-04, 04-07
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Table 5-4. Topical Modules, by Subject (*continued*)

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(table continues)

Table 5-4. Topical Modules, by Subject (*continued*)

Subject Areas	Panel and Wave ^a
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Taxes	84-9, 85-5, 85-8, 86-5, 87-5, 88-5, 90-5, 90-8, 91-5, 91-8, 92-5, 92-8, 93-5, 93-8, 96-4, 96-7, 96-10, 01-4, 01-7, 04-04, 04-07
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Work-Disability History	86-2, 87-2, 88-2, 89-2, 90-2, 91-2, 92-2, 93-2, 96-2, 01-2, 04-02

^a The number preceding the hyphen indicates the year of the panel, and the number following the hyphen indicates the wave number. Thus, 84-8 denotes that the information was collected in the 1984 Panel, during Wave 8.

Full and Partial Panel Files

For the pre-1996 Panels, at the conclusion of each panel, the Census Bureau created a single full panel file containing selected data from the core wave files for every person who was a member of the SIPP sample at any time during the life of that panel. The full panel files were issued in a format that contained one record for each person. That record contained either data or missing value codes for selected core questionnaire items for every month of the panel.² Chapter 3 discusses survey content, including information about the content of the core questionnaire. For the 1996 and the 2001 Panels, no full Panel-files were created, however demographics in each cross-sectional file were longitudinally edited based on the wave 4 values. Beginning with the 2004 Panel, this edit was discontinued.

² In the case of items that are asked only once per interview rather than for each month of the 4-month reference period, there is a field for each interview rather than for each month.

Table 5-5. Structure of Topical Module Microdata File

SUID ^a	Person	Interview Status in Interview Month	Core Vars	Topical Module Vars
1	1	Yes		
	2	Yes		
	3	No	Missing	Missing
	4	Yes		
	5	No	Missing	Missing
2	1	Yes		
	2	Yes		
3	1	Yes		
4	1	Yes		
	2	No	Missing	Missing
	3	Yes		
5	1	Yes		
	2	Yes		
	3	Yes		

^a Sample unit ID number. Chapter 4 provides more information about identification numbers in SIPP.

Sources for Obtaining SIPP Microdata

SIPP microdata files can be obtained from several sources. All public use microdata files can be obtained on magnetic media or CD-ROM directly from the Census Bureau. When microdata files are obtained directly from the Census Bureau, users are provided with a full set of documentation for those files, including all currently available applicable User Notes (discussed later in this chapter). Users can also be placed on a distribution list to receive information from the Census Bureau regarding any errors found in, or revisions made to, those files, by contacting the Customer Services Branch, Administrative and Customer Services Division, at (301) 457-4100. In addition, analysts affiliated with institutions that are members of the Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR) can obtain all SIPP microdata from that source. Users should contact the ICPSR representative at their institutions for more information. Finally, SIPP data and documentation, as released by the Census Bureau, are not copyrighted. The data files and supporting documentation can therefore be freely copied and distributed to other users.³

³ This provision pertains only to materials authored and distributed by the Census Bureau or other federal agencies. It does not imply any rights to copy and distribute material published by any other party.

For data from the 1996+ Panels and for the 1992 and 1993 longitudinal files, users can access the data through the Federated Electronic Research Review Extraction and Tabulation Tool also known as DataFerret. FERRET is the product of a joint project of the U.S. Census Bureau and the Bureau of Labor Statistics. It is a system enabling users to access and manipulate large demographic and economic data sets on-line. This data tool allows analysts to handle core data as well as topical module data without a lot of pre-coding. The user selects a data basket of variables and then recodes them as needed. Once the variables have been recoded, (if needed) tables and charts can be easily created or you can download your data.

FERRET is designed to aid sophisticated researchers, reporters, students, government policy makers, and amateur statisticians. SIPP is one of several surveys available through FERRET.⁴

DataFerret allows:

- Data to be downloaded in several different formats, (ASCII, SAS, SPSS, or Excel/Access file)
- Users move seamlessly between query, analysis, and visualization of data in one package
- Users share data and manage their own online data

You can download DataFerret and FTP data files at the SIPP Web site (<http://www.sipp.census.gov/sipp/>). The tutorial provides examples on how to use and move around DataFerret.

Other Sources of Information About SIPP

Other sources of information about SIPP include the SIPP Quality Profile, User Notes, and SIPP working papers. The SIPP Web site includes an extensive bibliography that provides references to SIPP-related research and documentation, data dictionaries, variable metadata documenting all information relevant to variables that appear on the public use microdata files, and a computer-based tutorial that introduces users to methods and concepts needed to use SIPP data.

⁴ Among the current and future topics accessible through FERRET are employment, health care, education, race and ethnicity, health insurance, housing, income and poverty, aging, marriage, and the family. FERRET allows users to quickly locate current and historical information from survey sources, get tabulations for specific information they need, make comparisons between different data sets, create simple tables, and download large amounts of data to desktop and larger computers for custom reports.

SIPP Quality Profile

The SIPP Quality Profile documents data quality issues related to SIPP. It summarizes what is known about the sources and magnitude of errors in estimates based on SIPP. The SIPP Quality Profile covers both sampling and nonsampling error, with an emphasis on nonsampling error. There have been three editions of the SIPP Quality Profile. The third edition, by Kalton, Winglee, & Jabine (U.S. Census Bureau, 1998a), updates the two previous editions, by King, Petroni, & Singh (U.S. Census Bureau, 1987) and Jabine, King, & Petroni (U.S. Census Bureau, 1990). The third edition of the SIPP Quality Profile is available on-line at the SIPP Web site.

SIPP User Notes

The SIPP User Notes, issued periodically by the Census Bureau, contain updated information for specific microdata files. The User Notes include corrections to the data dictionaries, announcements of errors found in the public use data files after their release, and recommended corrections for those data errors. Analysts obtaining SIPP microdata files directly from the Census Bureau will receive all User Notes that have been issued for those files at the time of purchase. Users who obtained files from other sources should contact the Publication Customer Services Branch, Administrative and Customer Services Division, at (301) 763-4400, to request the User Notes that have been issued for the data they plan to use. User Notes are also available at the SIPP Web site (<http://www.sipp.census.gov/sipp/>).

Microdata Technical Documentation

Users purchasing SIPP microdata files directly from the Census Bureau receive, along with the data files, a package of technical documentation. The technical documentation includes:

- A data dictionary, containing information about the file structure and the names, locations and contents of all variables. The printed version of the data dictionary also includes information about the structure of the machine-readable data dictionary supplied with each file.
- A source and accuracy statement, containing detailed information about sample weights and computation of standard errors using Census Bureau generalized variance procedures. This information is specific to the panel, wave, and content of the data file. For example, the topical module file and the core wave file for Wave 7 of the 1990 Panel have different source and accuracy statements.
- A copy of the questionnaire screens used to collect the information contained in the microdata file for the computer-assisted interviews for the 1996+ Panels are available from the SIPP Web site (Chapter 2).

SIPP Working Papers

The Census Bureau publishes a series of SIPP working papers. Those papers are written by authors inside the Census Bureau and by outside analysts. The series includes research papers based on SIPP data or related to the SIPP program. SIPP working papers can be obtained from the SIPP Web site (<http://www.sipp.census.gov/sipp/>) or ordered from the Publication Services Branch, Administrative and Customer Services Division, at (301) 763-4400.

Bibliography

A bibliography of works related to SIPP is available on-line from the SIPP Web site, <http://www.census.gov/sipp/aboutbib.html>. This relatively comprehensive bibliography contains references for journal articles, research papers, and working papers that use SIPP data or that discuss the SIPP survey.

Table 5-6 lists telephone numbers for additional information about specific aspects of SIPP.

Table 5-6. Telephone Numbers for Information About Specific Aspects of SIPP

Subject Fields	Telephone Number
Adult Well-Being	(301) 763 - 2464
Child Care	(301) 763 - 6314
Child Well-Being	(301) 763 - 2449
Education	(301) 763 - 2464
Fertility	(301) 763 - 6057
Health Insurance	(301) 763 - 3213
Income	(301) 763 - 6685
Labor Force, Employment, and Earnings	(301) 763 - 3230
Marriage and Family	(301) 763 - 6059
Migration	(301) 763 - 2454
Pensions	(301) 763 - 3187
Poverty	(301) 763 - 3213
Wealth (Assets)	(301) 763 - 3230
Citizenship	(301) 763 - 2454
Work Schedules	(301) 763 - 2454
Methodology	Telephone Number
Data Collection Procedures	(301) 763 - 4618
Questionnaire Design	(301) 763 - 4618
Estimation and Weighting	(301) 763 - 6645
Nonsampling and Sampling Errors	(301) 763 - 6645
Survey Design	(301) 763 - 6645