

Annual Social and Economic Supplement (ASEC) Modernization

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Disclaimer: Any views expressed are my own and not those of the U.S. Census Bureau.

Agenda

- What is ASEC?
- Why are changes needed?
- Components of ASEC modernization
- Project timeline
- Testing plan
- Areas of research
- Production implementation plan
- Stay up to date

What Is ASEC?

Annual Social and Economic Supplement (ASEC)
to the Current Population Survey (CPS)

- Collected in some form since 1947.
- Collected in February, March, and April each year.
- A CPS supplement, asked in a CPS interview and collected in the same mode.

What Is ASEC? (Cont.)

Topics

- Work experience
- Income
- Non-cash benefits
- Health coverage
- Health expenditures
- Migration

Key Estimates

- Official poverty rate
- Supplemental poverty rate
- National health insurance coverage rate

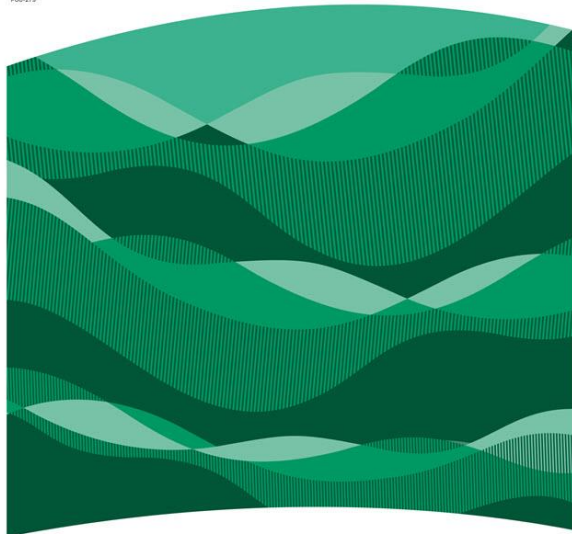
What Is ASEC? (Cont.)

- Main reports and microdata released in September each year.

Income in the United States: 2022

Current Population Reports

By Gloria Guzman and Melissa Kollar
Issued September 2023
PEO-279

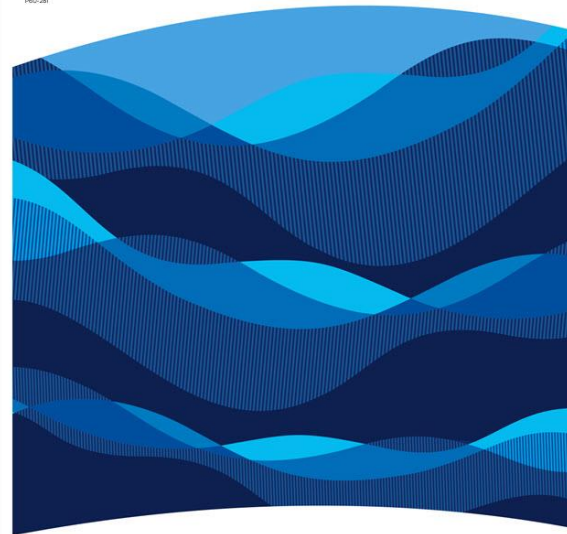


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Health Insurance Coverage in the United States: 2022

Current Population Reports

By Katherine Keiser-Starkey, Lisa N. Bunch, and Rachel A. Lindstrom
Issued September 2023
PEO-281

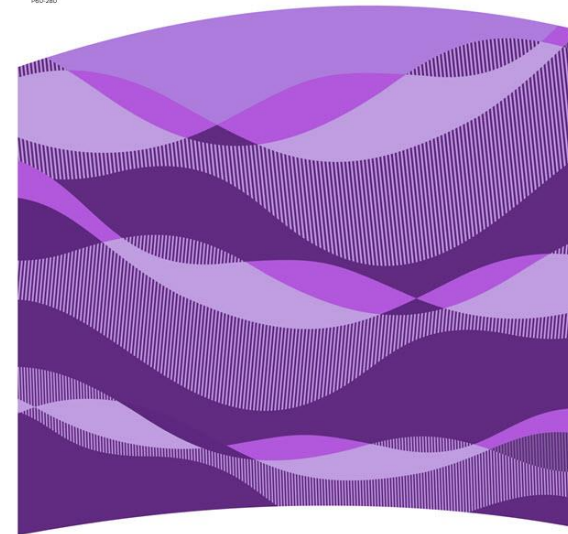


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Poverty in the United States: 2022

Current Population Reports

By Emily A. Shrider and John Creamer
Issued September 2023
PEO-280



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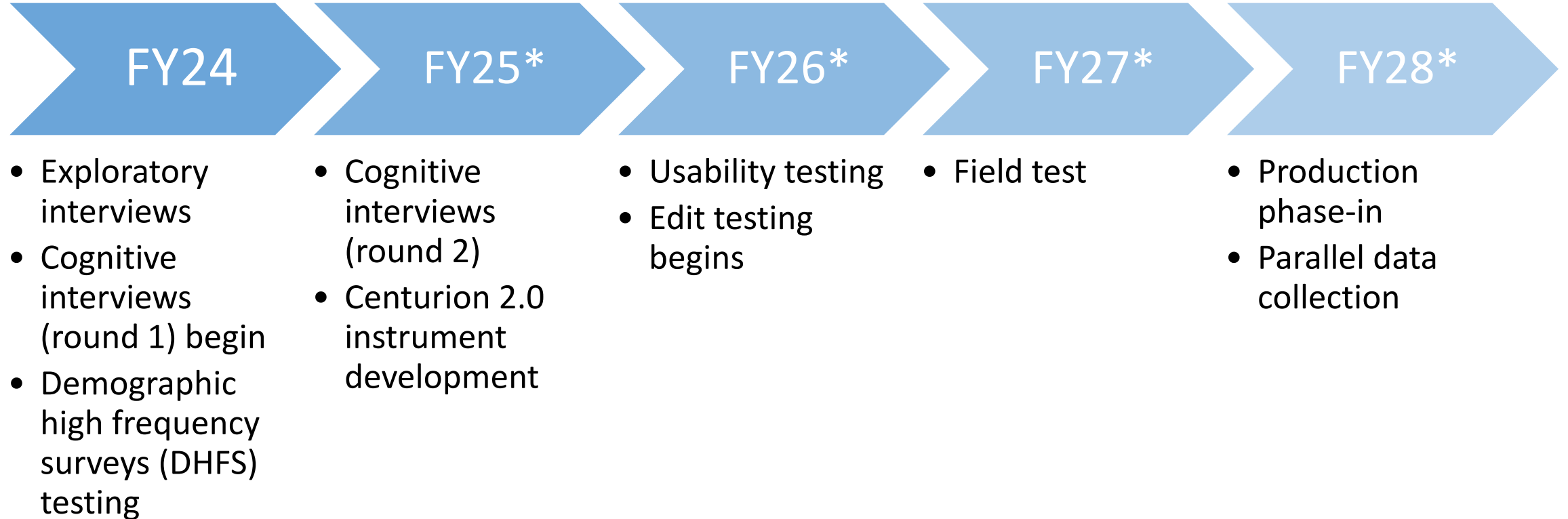
Why Are Changes Needed?

- ASEC must be collected in the same mode as Basic CPS.
 - If CPS has implemented internet self-response (ISR) mode and ASEC has not, we lose all cases collected in that mode from our sample.
- ISR instruments need to be simplified for user navigation purposes.
- Census is moving to new operational systems, known as the Business Ecosystem (BE).
- Items with longstanding measurement challenges can be addressed in this development cycle.

Components of ASEC Modernization

- Data collection
 - Internet self-response (ISR) mode
 - Content updates
- Operational changes
 - All BE systems
 - SAS to Python
- Introduction of administrative records into production

ASEC Data Collection Transition Timeline



*Activities in future years are contingent on securing sufficient funding.

Testing Plan

- Qualitative research
 - Exploratory interviews
 - Cognitive interviews
- Demographic High Frequency Surveys (DHFS) testing
 - Field test of select questions in internet mode on panel survey
 - Topics tested separately
 - Unfolding brackets test

Testing Plan (Cont.)

- Usability testing
- Field test
 - CAPI and ISR modes
 - Split A and B questionnaire design
- Edit testing
 - Usability and field test data used to develop and test edits

Areas of Research

- Health insurance
 - Anchoring in current coverage to improve recall.
 - Funnel design versus laundry list design for type of coverage.
 - Timing for collection of details for other household members on a plan.
 - Individual months of coverage vs. collapsed categories.
- Migration
 - Reason for move category answer list.
 - Using known geographies to display applicable answers.

Areas of Research (cont.)

- Income

- Separating tips from other earned income.
- Testing new formats for amounts.
- Displaying and collecting subtype of income on initial screen for each source.

- Poverty

- Augmenting child care questions.
- Expanding school meals to include breakfast.
- Grid formatting on select questions.

Production Implementation Plan

- Data collection will begin in February 2028.
- Phase-in plan will be determined by the Basic CPS design and the availability of funding.
 - Basic CPS intends to begin phase-in as early as May 2027.
- Expanded production sample would ensure both CPS and ASEC have proper bridge estimates.
- Bridge file and estimates.

Stay Up to Date on ASEC Modernization

- ASEC modernization website: <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/cps/about/modernization/asecmodernization.html>
- Sign up for our [GovDelivery List](#).
- Email us at demo.asec.modernization@census.gov.
- ASEC modernization webinar.
- Future conference presentations.

Thank You

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ASEC modernization questions

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