Design B: A Comprehensive Picture of Expenditures & Income

Workshop Discussion of NRC Report
October 16, 2012
Design B schematic

**In 6 Months**
- Tablet returned for Self Administration Wave 2

**Recall module – FR Assisted**
- 96 expense categories
- 6 month recall - major items
- shorter recall - other items
- income, assets, labor stat

Diary for 1 week,
Real-time upload of data

Return tablet / diary,
Mostly by mail

**Recall module – Self Administered**
- 96 expense categories
- 6 month recall - major items
- shorter recall - other items
- income, assets, labor stat

Diary for 1 week,
Real-time upload of data

Return tablet / diary,
Mostly by mail

**In 6 Months**
- Tablet returned for Self Administration Wave 3

**Recall module – Self Administered**
- 96 expense categories
- 6 month recall - major items
- shorter recall - other items
- income, assets, labor stat

Diary for 1 week,
Real-time upload of data

Return tablet / diary,
Mostly by mail

*FIGURE 6-2 Process flow for Design B – A Comprehensive Picture of Expenditures and Income.*
Potential strengths

- Large sample
- Detailed expenditure at the household level
  - Only imputation from *within* HH diary data
- No split sample—all data from all HHs
- Panel data
- “Gold standard” supplement
Potential weaknesses

- Loss of bounding information—are benefits of bounding worth the cost?
- Streamlining—will it mitigate response problems?
- Estimation—do individual HHs have to have records to “account” for spending rather than “recall” or “estimate” it?
- “Gold standard”—is there an operational gold standard?
What design is optimal?

- CPI weights—which design has lowest MSE?
  - Design B has large effective sample size
  - Evidence is that recall surveys have lower bias

- Research & other uses (e.g., poverty measurement, child support)
  - Design B is the only design with true HH microdata (with panel)

- Supplemental panel is potential vehicle for future design improvements
Data output

- Data produced by design B roughly comparable to current survey, but with less detail on recall survey
  - No processing of base records, such as receipts
- Minimal imputation (within HH from diary component)