Why redesign the CE?

- Original design of the surveys - 1980s
- Improvements in data collection such as CAPI, improved diary forms
- Response rates a concern
- Surveys are burdensome
- Nature of how members of consuming units spend money has changed
- Concerns over underreporting of expenditures

The CE redesign process

- Management Structure
  - Executive Team
  - Steering Committee
  - Working Groups
- Planned series of workshops/forums/panels that will provide input to the redesign process
The CE redesign process

- Survey Redesign Panel
- Data capture forum
- AAPOR panel on record use
- Data users’ forum
- Household survey producers workshop

The CE redesign philosophy

- FY 2011 CE budget initiative
- Marginal changes and thinking outside the box
- Needs of the CPI
  - Cost weights
  - Item selection
  - TPOPS

The CE redesign process

- Methodology workshop
- Two independent contracts to outside survey houses to provide redesign options
- CNSTAT consensus panel

The CE redesign philosophy

- Interview of the future
- Role of technology in data collection
- Role of administrative data
The CE redesign philosophy

- Cognitive methods to reduce burden and improve the quality of the estimates
  - Role of incentives
  - Proxy reporting
  - Use of global questions and matrix methods
  - Questionnaire order effects
  - Structured vs conversational interviewing
  - Recall period

What are the goals of the CE Data Users’ Forum?

- Variety of stakeholders
  - CPI
  - CE program
  - Other government agencies
  - Policy makers
  - Academic researchers
  - Private business

What are the goals of the CE Data Users’ Forum?

- Variety of data analysis needs
  - CPI cost weights and item selection
  - CE analysis of expenditure trends and data quality
  - National Accounts
  - Sales tax analysis
  - Supplemental poverty thresholds
  - Consumption profiles by income group
  - Middle class thresholds

- Goals: Listen, document, decide
What are the goals of the CE Data Users’ Forum?

- **Goals:**
  - Document and understand the data needs of users of CE data
  - Clearly state the use of CE data by the CPI
  - To what extent can the redesign process meet the data needs of various user groups?
    - Tradeoffs
    - Pareto shifts

Influencing the tradeoff:

- Interview of the future
- Role of technology
- Role of administrative data
- Cognitive methods

Contact Information

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