

Center for Economic and Policy Research
Key Characteristics of Major Population Surveys

	Current Population Survey (CPS)			American Community Survey (ACS)	Decennial Census Public Use Microsample (PUMS)	Survey on Income and Program Participation (SIPP)	Panel Survey on Income Dynamics (PSID)	National Longitudinal Survey of Youth (NLSY)
	CPS (Basic Monthly)	Annual Demographic Survey (March Supplement)	Outgoing Rotation Group (ORG)					
Overview	Household survey on labor force participation, employment, and unemployment	Detailed benefit and income supplement to monthly CPS	Wage and earnings supplement to monthly CPS	Supplement to decennial census (replacing the "long form")	Publicly available records from the decennial census	Detailed income, program, demographic information.	Detailed income and demographic data.	Labor market and program participation of young adults.
Primary Agencies	Census Bureau of Labor Statistics	Census Bureau of Labor Statistics	Census Bureau of Labor Statistics	Census	Census	Census	Survey Research Center of the Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan	Center for Human Resource Research; Bureau of Labor Statistics
Interviewees	Civilian noninstitutional population, over 15	Civilian noninstitutional population, over 15	Civilian noninstitutional population, over 15	Household population	Household population	Civilian noninstitutional population, over 15	sample of US families in 1968	varies: two core groups of individuals born in 1957-64 & 1980-1984
Coverage	Monthly	Annual	Monthly, 1979-present	Annual for population groupings of 65k or more; triennial to quinquennial for smaller groups	Decennial	Monthly, 1984-present	1968-1996: annually 1997-present: biennially	1979-1993 annually 1994-present biennially
Sample size	60,000 households	62,500 households	25,000 individuals	600,000 households	1-5% of Census records	40,188 households in the 1996 (fewer in earlier panels)	currently 8,000 families	8,000-12,000 individuals
Non-response rate* (ratio of uncompleted interviews to attempted interviews)	2004: 6 – 10%	2000: 14% 2001: 16% 2002: 16%		2001: 30% 2002: 31% 2003: 31% 2004: 32%		1992: 9% 1993: 9% 1996: 8%	after 1969: 1 – 3%	
Attrition rate** (the loss of responses gathered over time; applicable only for longitudinal surveys)		not applicable		not applicable	not applicable	As of wave 9 of the following panels: 1992: 17% 1993: 18% 1996: 24%	As of 1988: 43%	As of 1992 in the 1979 panel: 25.5 %
Key Features	Standard source for monthly employment and unemployment statistics	Provides noncash benefit information for previous year.	Wage data	Basic demographic, housing, and income information	Basic demographic, housing, and income information	Tracks the same individuals over a period of 3-4 years	Tracks same families and descendents since 1968.	Tracks two core groups of "youths" over decades.
Data collection	personal/phone interview	personal/phone interview	personal/phone interview	mail/phone/personal interview	mail	personal/phone interview	phone interview	personal interview

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The latest version of this chart is available at www.ceprdata.org.

*** Notes on nonresponse rates**

All of the response rates listed here are unweighted.
ACS nonresponse calculated from one minus the ratio of "final interviews" to "initial addresses selected." ACS also publishes their own weighted response rates.
SIPP nonresponse calculated from initial wave of the survey panel; nonresponse in later waves included in attrition rate. 2001 and 2004 nonresponse rates unavailable.
Basic CPS nonresponse varies due to interview type and month.
The March Supplement to the CPS asks additional questions of March Basic CPS respondents; the nonresponse rate reported here is the sum of nonresponse to the Basic Survey and March Supplement.
For example, the March 2002 Basic CPS nonresponse rate was 8.3%, and the March 2002 Supplement nonresponse was an additional 8.6%, for a total supplement nonresponse rate of 16.2%.
PSID nonresponse is an average for each year since 1969; PSID does not attempt to reinterview attrites from previous years.

**** Notes on attrition rates**

SIPP attrition rate for 1992, 1993, and 1996 panels is the difference of Wave 9 total nonresponse and Wave 1 initial nonresponse

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PSID attrition rate is the nonresponse rate in 1988 for households originally in 1968 survey.
NYSL attrition rate is the nonresponse rate in 1992 for those originally interviewed in 1979.

	<u>Sample Size</u>	<u>Nonresponse</u>
CPS	http://www.bls.gov/news.release/pdf/empisit.pdf	http://www.bls.census.gov/cps/basic/perfmeas/typea.htm
March	http://www.bls.census.gov/cps/ads/2000/ssrcacc.htm#march	http://www.bls.census.gov/cps/ads/
ORG	CEPR CPS Uniform Extracts	
ACS	http://www.census.gov/acs/www/UseData/sse/sam/us.htm	http://www.census.gov/acs/www/UseData/sse/sam/us.htm
Census		
SIPP	http://www.sipp.census.gov/sipp/overview.html	http://www.sipp.census.gov/sipp/types_non.html
	http://www.sipp.census.gov/sipp/vs.html	
PSID	http://psidonline.isr.umich.edu/	http://psidonline.isr.umich.edu/Guide/ug/chap5.html
NLSY	http://www.bls.gov/nls/79guide/2001/nls79g1.pdf	http://www.bls.gov/ore/pdf/nl950030.pdf
	http://www.sipp.census.gov/sipp/vs.html	http://www.bls.gov/ore/pdf/nl950030.pdf