

# Health Insurance in the Current Population Survey: Redesign and Production

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# Health Insurance and the CPS

- Health insurance is increasingly important but difficult to measure
- CPS ASEC provides key estimates, but has limitations
- Redesigned instrument fielded in 2013 Content Test
- May replace production 2014 CPS ASEC, pending OMB approval

# Overview

- Background
- Objectives
- Data and methods
- Findings
- Discussion

# Development of Redesigned Health Insurance Instrument

- Limitation: uninsured rate may be too high
- Redesign based on over 10 years of research
- Improved calendar year by adding point-in-time

# Features of Redesigned Health Insurance Instrument

- Improved calendar year by adding point-in-time
- Takes full advantage of automated instrument
- Adds new content
  - Health insurance exchanges, “marketplaces”
  - Employer-sponsored insurance offers and take-up

# Objectives

- Comparing the content test to the production instrument:
  - How does the calendar year estimate of health insurance differ?
- Comparing estimates from different time frames within the content test:
  - How does the calendar year estimate differ from the point-in-time measure?

# Data and Methods

Differences between content test and production ASEC:

1. Survey questions
2. Survey mode: March call centers only
3. Survey sample: reweight data

	Production ASEC, weighted	March call centers, weighted	Content test, weighted	“Production ASEC,” reweighted
% under 65	86.1%	75.2%	85.3%	85.3%

# Data and Methods

## “Production ASEC”

- Unedited
- March call centers from 2013
- Reweighted to weighted content test sample
- Fully complete health insurance section
- 10,829 individuals

## Content test

- Unedited
- March call centers from 2013
- Weighted to national population
- Fully complete health insurance section
- 16,410 individuals

*Disclaimer:* These data are being released on request, despite concerns about their quality. The Census Bureau’s policy is not to withhold data that are available, unless releasing such data would violate confidentiality requirements. The Census Bureau recommends using these data only for research or evaluation purposes, and not to make statements about characteristics of the population or economy because they do not meet the criteria outlined in the Census Bureau’s Statistical Quality standard: Releasing Information Product.

# Health Insurance by Coverage Type

	“Production ASEC”	Content test	Difference (Content Test - “Production”)
Uninsured	13.9	10.6	-3.3*
Private	70.4	72.2	2.0
Government	29.0	28.2	-0.8
Medicare	15.6	15.7	0.1
Medicaid	10.8	11.2	0.4

Source: CPS ASEC health insurance production instrument and content test (2013)

Note: “Production ASEC” estimates are from unedited data that uses adjusted population weight; March call centers only; Content test estimates are from unedited data weighted to population level; March call centers only; \* indicates significant at the 90% confidence level

# Health Insurance by Coverage Type (Under 18)

	“Production ASEC”	Content test	Difference (Content Test - “Production”)
Uninsured	7.5	6.0	-1.5
Private	68.4	66.3	-2.1
Government	32.5	31.5	-0.9
Medicare	0.0	0.8	0.7*
Medicaid	27.2	28.5	1.3

Source: CPS ASEC health insurance production instrument and content test (2013)

Note: “Production ASEC” estimates are from unedited data that uses adjusted population weight; March call centers only; Content test estimates are from unedited data weighted to population level; March call centers only; \* indicates significant at the 90% confidence level

# Uninsured by Race and Hispanic Origin

Race and Hispanic origin	“Production ASEC”	Content test	Difference (Content Test - “Production”)
White alone	13.2	9.9	-3.3*
White non-Hispanic	8.5	6.4	-2.1*
Black alone	17.4	12.4	-5.0*
Asian alone	15.8	10.3	-5.5*
Hispanic	34.7	25.9	-8.8*

Source: CPS ASEC health insurance production instrument and content test (2013)

Note: “Production ASEC” estimates are from unedited data that uses adjusted population weight; March call centers only; Content test estimates are from unedited data weighted to population level; March call centers only; \* indicates significant at the 90% confidence level

# Uninsured by Age

Age	“Production ASEC”	Content test	Difference (Content Test - “Production”)
0 to 18	7.9	6.1	-1.8
19 to 25	26.2	18.3	-7.9
26 to 34	26.8	20.1	-6.6
35 to 44	24.3	14.1	-10.1*
45 to 64	12.7	11.4	-1.3
65+	1.7	1.5	-0.2

Source: CPS ASEC health insurance production instrument and content test (2013)

Note: “Production ASEC” estimates are from unedited data that uses adjusted population weight; March call centers only; Content test estimates are from unedited data weighted to population level; March call centers only; \* indicates significant at the 90% confidence level

# Content Test: Difference between Calendar Year and Point-in-Time

Estimate	Expected direction of difference	Difference (CY-PIT), percentage point
Uninsured	-	-1.4*
Private	+	1.6*
Government	+	0.3
Medicare	- or null	-0.4*
Medicaid	+	0.6*

Source: CPS ASEC content test (2013)

Note: Content test estimates are from unedited data weighted to population level; March call centers only; \* indicates significant at the 90% confidence level

# Discussion

- Production ASEC vs. Content Test
  - Content test yielded lower estimates of uninsured than production ASEC
- Point-in-Time vs. Calendar Year (Content Test only)
  - Calendar year estimate of uninsured was lower than point-in-time estimate

# Limitations and Future Research

- Initial support for the redesigned instrument
- Limitations: high nonresponse
- Future research
- May replace production ASEC in 2014, subject to OMB approval

# Thank you

Questions? Please contact:

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