

# Preparing to Measure Welfare Reform Using the Longitudinal Survey of Program Dynamics: 2001

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*SPD Analytic Reports*

SPD-2001-1

## Preparing to Study Welfare Reform Using the Longitudinal Survey of Program Dynamics

The Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996, more commonly known as the 1996 Welfare Reform Act, replaced the Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) program with the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program. The AFDC and TANF programs differ in two distinct ways. First, AFDC was a federal-state matching program with low-income states contributing a smaller share of their welfare payments than high-income states (U.S. Committee on Ways and Means, 1998). TANF is a federal-to-state block grant program in which states receive a fixed amount of money from the federal government each year (U.S. Committee on Ways and Means, 1996). Second, AFDC is an entitlement program; that is, individuals who applied and were eligible for benefits received them. TANF is not an entitlement program; eligible applicants are not guaranteed assistance unless a state decides to adopt such a guarantee.

The Welfare Reform Act directed the U.S. Census Bureau to collect data to measure the effects of welfare reform. To carry out this task, the Census Bureau is conducting the Survey of Program Dynamics (SPD), a nationally representative, longitudinal survey that, in conjunction with the Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP), cover the period from 1992 through 2001. The SPD's primary goals are:

- To provide information on spells of actual and potential program participation over a period of 10 years
- To examine the factors related to program participation and the long-term well-being of recipients, their families, and their children
- To monitor the long-term changes for individuals associated with welfare reform

The SPD tracks individuals from households that were in the 1992 and 1993 panels of the Census Bureau's SIPP. Data from these panels are for 3 years (1992-94 or 1993-95) and thus provide 3 years of prewelfare reform information on demographic characteristics, family composition, employment, earnings, income, program eligibility, and program participation. The SPD is collecting data for 1996-2001, and this information, along with the earlier SIPP data, will measure participants' status before, during, and after welfare reform.

The first phase of the SPD was the 1997 SPD Bridge Survey, which reestablished contact with households from the 1992 and 1993 SIPP panels and collected employment, earnings, income, and program participation data for 1996 using a modified version of the Annual (March) Demographic Supplement to the Current Population Survey. The second SPD phase began in 1998 with a new, annually administered "core" questionnaire that captured employment, income, and program participation data for the previous year. In addition, the SPD core questionnaire collects information on:

by Jennifer Hess

Demographic Programs

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- Noncash benefits such as transportation and child care assistance
- Other welfare-to-work activities such as job training and school enrollment, and whether participation in training activities is required to receive public assistance or other benefits
- Family well-being measures, including disability status, health care use, health insurance coverage, child support and custody agreements, and food security
- Additional child well-being measures including school enrollment, enrichment activities, child care arrangements, and contact with parents who live outside the home

In addition to the annual core items, the SPD includes three modules to measure child well-being:

- The Adolescent Self-Administered Questionnaire (SAQ), administered to children ages 12 to 17 in 1998 and 2001
- The extended measures of children's well-being module,

administered to parents about their children ages 0 to 17 in 1999 and 2002

- The Children's Residential History Calendar (RHC), which collects retrospective data about children's living arrangements and was administered in 2000

Appendix A lists variables available in the first longitudinal SPD file for calendar years 1992-97. Users can also match data about the auxiliary topics shown in Appendix B to the longitudinal SPD file.

### Preliminary Results From the Survey of Program Dynamics

This section presents some preliminary results to give readers a hint of what will be available from the Survey of Program Dynamics. The data cover the years 1993, 1994, and 1996 and are from the 1992 and 1993 SIPP panels (for 1993 and 1994) and the 1997 SPD (for 1996). Only people who were interviewed in all 3 years are included in this

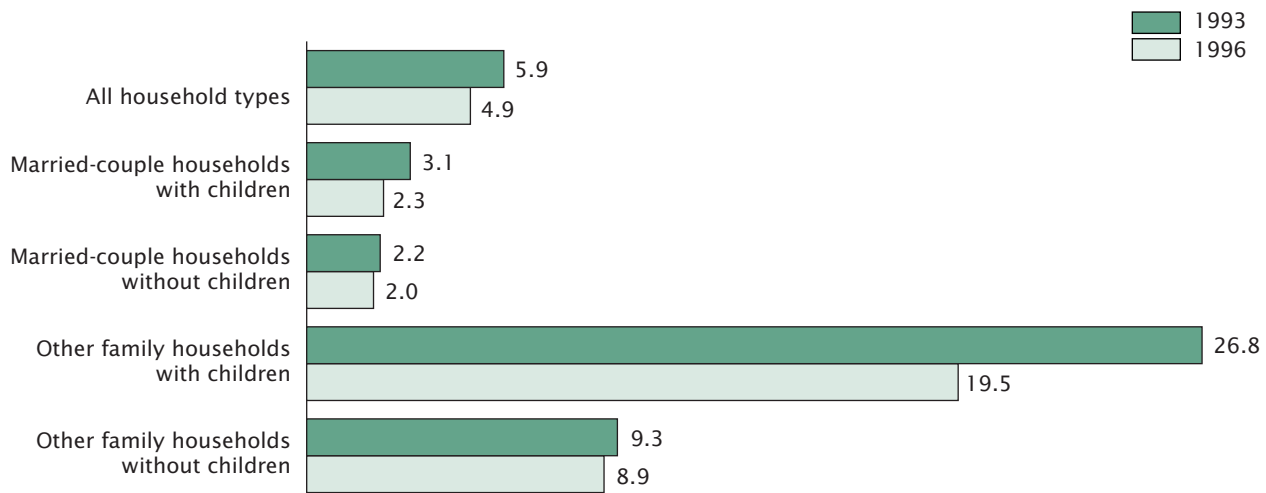
analysis. The percentages contained in the figures and tables should not be interpreted as estimates that are representative of the general population. Rather, they are cautiously generalizable to the special universe that the SPD represents; that is, the 1992-93 noninstitutionalized resident population that continues to live in the United States in 1997. Careful analysis and more years of data are needed before any conclusions might be drawn about effects of welfare reform, since the effective date for the Welfare Reform Act was October 1996.

The estimates in this report are based on responses from a sample of the population. As with all surveys, estimates may vary from the actual values for the entire population because of sampling variation or other factors. All statements made in this report have undergone statistical testing and pass the Census Bureau's standards for statistical accuracy.

Figure 1A shows the percentage of people age 15 or older who

Figure 1A.

### Percent of People in the SPD Universe Age 15 or Older Who Received Means-Tested Cash Benefits by Household Type: 1993 and 1996



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1992 and 1993 Panels of the Survey of Income and Program Participation and the 1997 Survey of Program Dynamics.

Table 1.

### Percent of People in the Survey of Program Dynamics Universe Age 15 or Over Who Received Means-Tested Cash Benefits in 1993, 1994, and 1996 by Household Type<sup>1</sup>

All households types	SIPP				SPD	
	1993		1994		1996	
	Percent	Standard error	Percent	Standard error	Percent	Standard error
Means-tested cash benefits, total . . . . .	5.9	0.18	5.8	0.18	4.9	0.16
AFDC/TANF . . . . .	2.5	0.12	2.4	0.12	1.6	0.09
Supplemental Security Income . . . . .	2.9	0.13	2.9	0.13	2.8	0.12
Other assistance . . . . .	1.1	0.08	1.0	0.08	0.8	0.07
<b>Married-Couple Households With Children</b>						
Means-tested cash benefits, total . . . . .	3.1	0.22	3.1	0.22	2.3	0.19
AFDC/TANF . . . . .	1.7	0.17	1.6	0.16	0.9	0.12
Supplemental Security Income . . . . .	1.1	0.13	1.2	0.14	1.1	0.13
Other assistance . . . . .	0.6	0.10	0.6	0.10	0.4	0.08
<b>Married-Couple Households Without Children</b>						
Means-tested cash benefits, total . . . . .	2.2	0.19	2.2	0.19	2.0	0.18
AFDC/TANF <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	0.1	0.04	0.1	0.04	0.0	0.00
Supplemental Security Income . . . . .	1.7	0.17	1.7	0.17	1.5	0.16
Other assistance . . . . .	0.5	0.09	0.4	0.08	0.4	0.08
<b>Other Family Households With Children</b>						
Means-tested cash benefits, total . . . . .	26.8	1.19	25.9	1.15	19.5	1.02
AFDC/TANF . . . . .	21.5	1.11	20.8	1.06	13.9	0.89
Supplemental Security Income . . . . .	6.0	0.64	6.4	0.64	5.6	0.59
Other assistance . . . . .	3.2	0.47	2.6	0.42	2.2	0.38
<b>Other Family Households Without Children</b>						
Means-tested cash benefits, total . . . . .	9.3	0.89	9.2	0.87	8.9	0.78
AFDC/TANF <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	0.7	0.25	0.5	0.21	0.8	0.24
Supplemental Security Income . . . . .	7.4	0.80	7.1	0.77	7.1	0.70
Other assistance . . . . .	1.8	0.41	2.2	0.44	1.3	0.31

<sup>1</sup>The sample includes people who completed the first and last interview for the 1992 or 1993 Survey of Income and Program Participation panel and completed the SPD Bridge Survey. The results are cautiously generalizable to the 1992-93 noninstitutionalized resident population that continued to live in the United States in 1997.

<sup>2</sup>Some households without children show participation in the cash assistance programs Aid to Families With Dependent Children (AFDC) and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) because household designation (e.g. married couples without children) is measured as of December of the calendar year for SIPP and as of the time of interview for SPD, but program participation refers to any time during the previous year.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1992 and 1993 Panels of the Survey of Income and Program Participation and 1997 Survey of Program Dynamics.

received means-tested cash benefits by household type. Means-tested cash benefits include AFDC/TANF payments; Supplemental Security Income (SSI), a federal cash assistance program for low-income disabled and low-income elderly individuals; and other government cash assistance payments to meet the needs of low-income individuals. More detailed data are provided in Table 1.

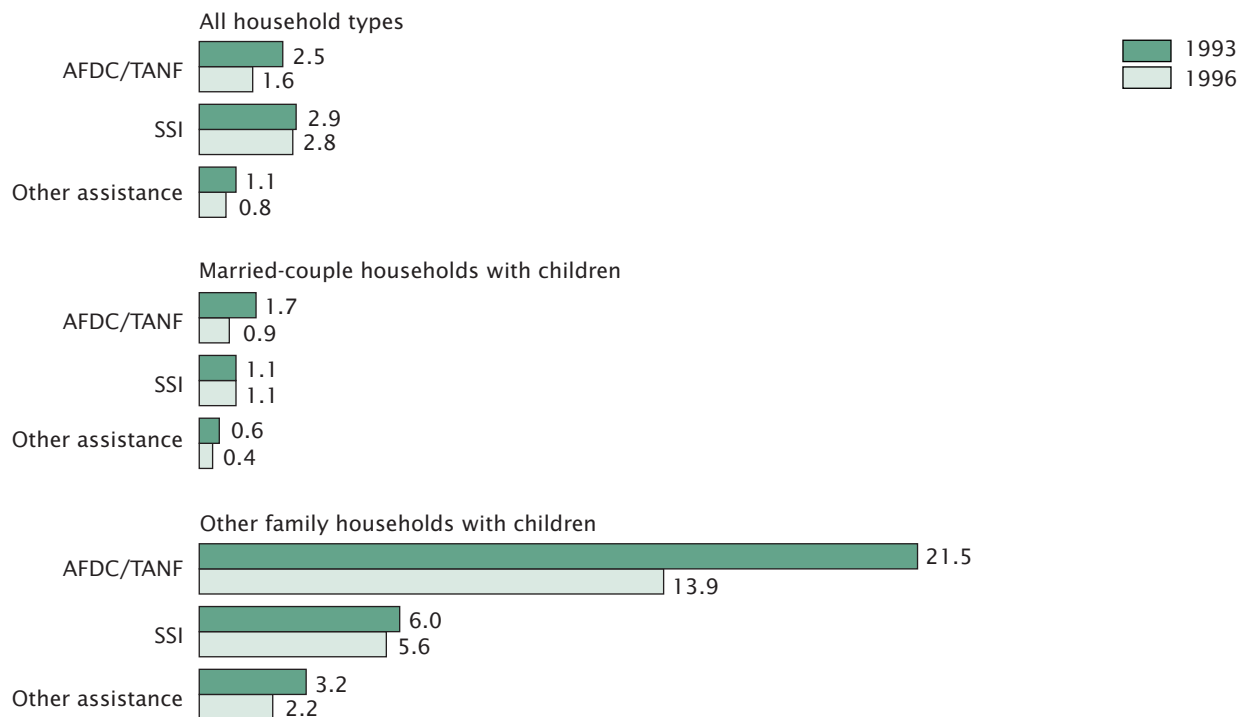
The percentage of individuals age 15 or older receiving means-tested cash benefits declined between 1993 and 1996 from 5.9 to 4.9 percent. Individuals in other family households with children — primarily single-parent families — had the highest rate of participation and experienced the largest percentage-point decline, from 26.8 percent in 1993 to 19.5 percent in 1996. Although individuals in married-couple households were much less likely to receive cash benefits than

other family households with children, the relative decline between 1993 and 1996 was similar for both groups.

Figure 1B shows participation of individuals age 15 or over in specific cash transfer programs for selected household types. Receipt of AFDC/TANF declined between 1993 and 1996 among all eligible household types from 2.5 percent in 1993 to 1.6 percent in 1996. Other family households with children had

Figure 1B.

**Percent of People in the SPD Universe Age 15 or Older Who Received Means-Tested Cash Benefits by Program and Household Type: 1993 and 1996**



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1992 and 1993 Panels of the Survey of Income and Program Participation and the 1997 Survey of Program Dynamics.

Notes: AFDC = Aid to Families with Dependent Children  
 TANF = Temporary Assistance for Needy Families  
 SSI = Supplemental Security Income  
 "Other assistance" includes cash payments from general assistance, emergency assistance, refugee cash and medical assistance, general assistance from the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and Tribal-administered general assistance.

the highest rate of participation and experienced the largest percentage-point decline during this period, from 21.5 percent in 1993 to 13.9 percent in 1996. Although married-couple households with children were much less likely to receive AFDC/TANF than their counterparts in other family households, the relative percentage decline between 1993 and 1996 was similar for both groups.

Receipt of "other" assistance, which includes cash payments from several smaller federal or state programs such as general assistance, emergency assistance, and refugee cash and medical, also declined during this period, from 1.1 percent of all

households in 1993 to 0.8 percent in 1996. The significant decline in participation among other family households — from 3.2 percent in 1993 to 2.2 percent in 1996 — was the primary reason.

In contrast to AFDC/TANF and other assistance, receipt of Supplemental Security Income remained essentially constant during this period for all three household types. Thus, the decline in receipt of means-tested cash benefits between 1993 and 1996 largely resulted from fewer public assistance payments.

Figure 2A shows the percentage of people (children and adults) by household type receiving means-

tested noncash benefits such as housing subsidies, energy subsidies, child care assistance, food stamps, and free or reduced-price school lunches. More detailed data are provided in Table 2. Although receipt of noncash benefits remains more common than receipt of cash benefits, participation in these programs also declined between 1993 and 1996 — from 24.7 percent to 18.9 percent among individuals in all household types. Individuals in other family households with children again had the highest rate of participation and experienced the largest percentage-point decline, from 69.0 percent in 1993 to 59.8 percent in 1996. Although married-

Table 2.

**Percent of People in the Survey of Program Dynamics Universe Receiving Government Means-Tested Noncash Benefits in 1993, 1994, and 1996, by Household Type<sup>1</sup>**

All Households Types	SIPP				SPD	
	1993		1994		1996	
	Percent	Standard error	Percent	Standard error	Percent	Standard error
Means-tested noncash benefits, total . . . . .	24.7	0.29	24.4	0.29	18.9	0.27
Food stamps . . . . .	13.3	0.23	12.7	0.23	8.6	0.19
Housing assistance . . . . .	5.4	0.15	5.2	0.15	4.1	0.14
Energy assistance . . . . .	5.1	0.15	4.9	0.15	3.2	0.12
Free or reduced-price school lunch . . . . .	17.4	0.63	17.6	0.64	13.4	0.57
<b>Married-Couple Households With Children</b>						
Means-tested noncash benefits, total . . . . .	26.9	0.48	26.9	0.48	20.7	0.44
Food stamps . . . . .	11.4	0.34	10.8	0.34	6.7	0.27
Housing assistance . . . . .	3.5	0.20	3.0	0.18	2.0	0.15
Energy assistance . . . . .	3.7	0.20	3.5	0.20	2.0	0.15
Free or reduced-price school lunch . . . . .	22.3	0.83	23.0	0.84	18.5	0.77
<b>Married-Couple Households Without Children</b>						
Means-tested Noncash benefits, total . . . . .	5.7	0.29	5.2	0.28	3.1	0.22
Food stamps . . . . .	3.0	0.21	2.5	0.19	1.8	0.17
Housing assistance . . . . .	1.4	0.15	1.4	0.15	0.7	0.10
Energy assistance . . . . .	1.2	0.14	1.3	0.14	1.0	0.12
Free or reduced-price school lunch <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	1.4	1.16	1.1	1.03	0.3	0.54
<b>Other Family Households With Children</b>						
Means-tested Noncash benefits, total . . . . .	69.0	0.98	68.7	0.99	59.8	1.04
Food stamps . . . . .	48.3	1.06	47.3	1.06	33.9	1.01
Housing assistance . . . . .	19.0	0.83	19.3	0.84	15.9	0.78
Energy assistance . . . . .	17.7	0.81	16.8	0.80	10.7	0.66
Free or reduced-price school lunch . . . . .	57.8	1.76	58.7	1.76	50.6	1.79
<b>Other Family Households Without Children</b>						
Means-tested noncash benefits, total . . . . .	22.1	1.07	20.4	1.04	17.2	0.97
Food stamps . . . . .	14.2	0.90	13.1	0.87	10.4	0.79
Housing assistance . . . . .	6.3	0.63	5.7	0.60	5.4	0.58
Energy assistance . . . . .	8.1	0.70	5.7	0.60	4.9	0.56
Free or reduced-price school lunch <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	4.5	1.76	3.0	1.45	3.7	1.60

<sup>1</sup>The sample includes people who completed the first and last interview of the 1992 or 1993 Survey of Income and Program Participation panel and completed the Survey of Program Dynamics Bridge Survey. The results are cautiously generalizable to the 1992-93 noninstitutionalized resident population that continued to live in the United States in 1997.

The percentages shown for food stamps, housing assistance, and energy assistance are based on the total number of people in households receiving each type of assistance divided by the total population. The percentages shown for free or reduced-price school lunches represent the number of children ages 5 to 18 receiving free or reduced-price school lunches divided by the total number of children ages 5 to 18.

<sup>2</sup>Some households without children show participation in the school lunch program because household designation (e.g. married couples without children) is measured as of December of the calendar year for SIPP and as of the time of the interview for SPD, but program participation refers to any time during the previous year.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1992 and 1993 Panels of the Survey of Income and Program Participation and the 1997 Survey of Program Dynamics.

couple families were less likely to receive noncash benefits than other family households with children, their relative percentage decline between 1993 and 1996 was actually greater.

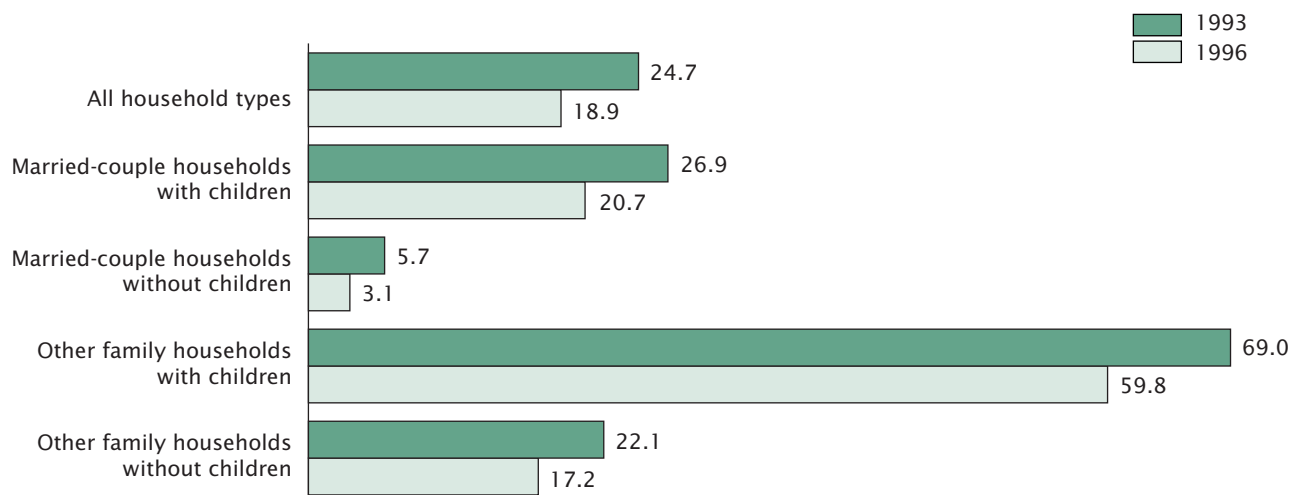
Figure 2B shows participation in noncash benefits by program for

selected household types. Participation in the four programs shown — food stamps, housing assistance, energy assistance, and free or reduced-price school lunches — declined significantly between 1993 and 1996 for all household types, for married-couple households with children, and for

other family households with children. Individuals in other family households with children were more likely to participate in these noncash benefit programs than their married-couple counterparts in 1996 — approximately one-third received food stamps, one-sixth received housing assistance, and

Figure 2A.

**Percent of People in the SPD Universe Who Received Means-Tested Noncash Benefits by Household Type: 1993 and 1996**



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1992 and 1993 Panels of the Survey of Income and Program Participation and the 1997 Survey of Program Dynamics.

one-tenth received energy assistance; about one-half of the children ages 5 to 18 in these households received free or reduced-price school lunches. Although individuals in married-couple households with children were less likely to participate in these programs than those in other family households with children, their relative decline in receipt of food stamps and housing assistance between 1993 and 1996 was greater. The two groups experienced similar declines in receipt of energy assistance and free or reduced-price lunches between 1993 and 1996.

**Comparing the 1997 SPD Bridge Survey and the 1997 Annual Demographic Supplement to the Current Population Survey**

The SPD Bridge Survey attempted to interview all the people who had completed the first and the last wave of the 1992 or 1993 SIPP panels. As in any longitudinal survey, members of the original sample

may decide not to participate during the cycle of the panel. The cumulative response rate from the first SIPP interview through the SPD Bridge Survey was 59 percent. Survey nonresponse is a concern since it may undermine the quality of the estimates, if nonrespondents differ from respondents. The SPD has suffered differential attrition since its inception — low-income households are more likely to become nonrespondents than higher-income households (Sae-Ung and Winters, 1998).

To assess the extent to which the SPD sample may have become nonrepresentative, Appendix C compares selected data from the 1997 SPD Bridge Survey and the 1997 Annual Demographic Supplement to the Current Population Survey (CPS) for all households and for households participating in one or more means-tested government programs. Although both surveys used basically the same instrument for data collection, the March CPS is cross-sectional and is not subject to the long-term attrition of the longi-

tudinal SPD. Comparability is also affected by how the two surveys are weighted to reflect the total population. The CPS is designed to provide national estimates of income and labor force characteristics at a single point in time — in this case, the 1996 calendar year. In contrast, the SPD Bridge Survey is designed to provide longitudinal information. Because it was developed using the 1992 and 1993 SIPP, the SPD Bridge Survey reflects the characteristics of the population in March 1993.

Average household income is similar in the two surveys. The average income from the SPD Bridge of \$47,381 is not statistically different from the CPS estimate of \$47,123, where both figures are measured in 1996 dollars. The average age of the householder for all households is significantly, although not substantively, lower in the March CPS than in the SPD (48.4 years compared with 50.0 years). Overall means-tested program participation rates between the two surveys are similar, although statistical differ-

ences between estimates from the SPD and the March CPS are evident for four of the six programs shown. The percentages of households receiving TANF and food stamps are significantly lower in the SPD than the March CPS (2.1 percent compared with 2.5 percent for TANF; 7.6 percent compared with 8.2 percent for food stamps), but receipt of Supplemental Security Income and receipt of energy assistance are significantly higher in the SPD (4.7 percent compared with 4.4 percent for SSI, 3.3 percent compared with 2.6 percent for energy assistance). The two surveys did not differ in terms of the percentage of households receiving housing assistance

or the percentage of children receiving free or reduced-price school lunches.

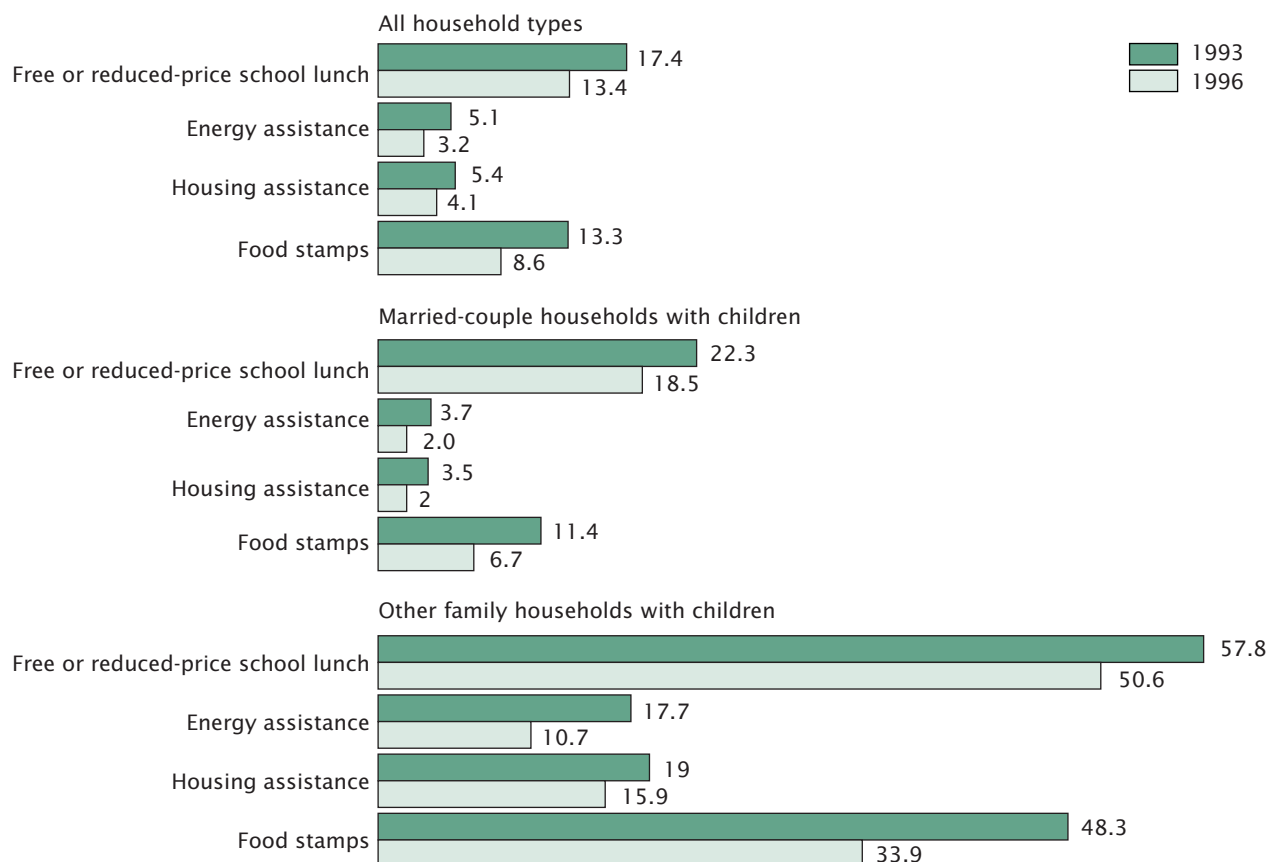
Among households receiving one or more means-tested government benefits, the SPD average household income estimate of \$20,110 is significantly higher than the March CPS estimate of \$19,119, as is the average age of householder (46.8 compared with 44.2 years). The average number of children per household is not statistically different between the two surveys, but the SPD households that received means-tested benefits were less likely to have children under the age of 18 in the household than

comparable households in the March CPS (65.7 percent compared with 67.9 percent).

Among households receiving means-tested benefits, however, estimates from the SPD show a population that is wealthier, older, and less likely to have children under 18 living in the household than the March CPS. These differences likely reflect attrition among low-income households in the SPD sample (Huggins and King, 1998). To reduce the bias from differential attrition, the Census Bureau is recontacting nonrespondents from the SPD in 2000 through 2002 and nonrespondents from the 1992 and

Figure 2B.

**Percent of People in the SPD Universe Who Received Noncash Benefits by Program and Household Type: 1993 and 1996**



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1992 and 1993 Panels of the Survey of Income and Program Participation and the 1997 Survey of Program Dynamics.

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1993 SIPP panels in 2001 and 2002. Monetary incentives are being used to encourage them to respond to the SPD (Creighton, King, and Martin, 2000). Early evidence shows an increase in the response rate.

### SPD Public-Use File

The first SPD longitudinal public-use file, containing data for 1992 through 1997, is scheduled for release in Summer 2001. For further information, contact the Census Bureau at 301-457-3185 or by e-mail at [hhes-info@census.gov](mailto:hhes-info@census.gov). Or visit the SPD Web page at [www.sipp.census.gov/spd/](http://www.sipp.census.gov/spd/).

### Accuracy of the Estimates

Statistics from surveys are subject to sampling and nonsampling error. All comparisons presented in this report have taken sampling error into account and meet the U.S. Census Bureau's standards for statistical significance. Nonsampling errors in surveys may be attributed to a variety of sources, such as how the survey was designed, how much nonresponse occurs, how respondents interpret questions, how able and willing respondents are to provide correct answers, and how accurately the answers are coded and classified. The Census Bureau employs quality control procedures throughout the production process including the overall design of surveys, the wording of questions, review of the work of interviewers and coders, and statistical review of reports.

The Survey of Program Dynamics employs ratio estimation, whereby estimates are adjusted to independent measures of the national population by age, race, sex, and Hispanic origin. This weighting partially corrects for bias due to under-

coverage, but how it affects different variables in the survey is not precisely known. Moreover, biases may also be present when people who are missed in the survey differ from those interviewed in ways other than the categories used in weighting (age, race, sex, and Hispanic origin). All of these considerations affect comparisons across different surveys or data sources.

Users of the Survey of Program Dynamics (SPD) data should be aware of some special concerns regarding the accuracy of its estimates and take these into consideration when interpreting the survey results. These concerns are:

- The cumulative response rates from the first SIPP interview through the SPD Bridge interview was 59 percent. The SPD data may contain unidentified biases due to its overall low rate of response.
- One bias identified in SPD is differential attrition associated with income — low-income households are more likely to become nonrespondents than higher-income households.
- Due to SPD's longitudinal nature, data users can generalize SPD results to the 1992-93 noninstitutionalized resident population that continues to live in the United States in 1997. The SPD sample does not reflect changes in the U.S. population between 1992-93 and 1997 due to immigration or emigration.

For further information on statistical standards and the computation and use of standard errors, contact Karen King at 301-457-4192.

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Appendix A.

**Variables Available in the First Longitudinal**

*Survey of Program Dynamics Public-Use File, 1992-97*

**Geographic and housing variables**

Type of household

State code

Region

Living quarters type

Rent or own home

Number of units in this structure

Public housing project

Reduced rent, federal, state, or local government paid part of cost

Section 8 (housing) assistance received

**Demographic characteristics (person-level variables)**

Age

Sex

Veteran status (adults)

Expanded relationship code

Marital status (adults)

Spouse's line number (adults)

Race

Hispanic origin

Country of birth

U.S. citizen

Parent identifier (child)

**Demographic characteristics (household and family variables)**

Number of persons in household

Persons in household under age 15

Persons in household age 5 to 18

Persons in household under age 18

Household respondent person number

Subfamily number

Family relationship

Family type

**Education (adults age 15 or older)**

Educational attainment

Enrolled in high school, college, or vocational school

**Labor force and earnings (adults age 15 or older)**

Work at job or business during year

Temporary, part-time, or seasonal work

Looking for work

Weeks looking for work or on layoff

Reason for not working

Weeks worked

Weeks lost from work

Reason not looking for work

Number of employers

Hours worked per week

Class of worker

Industry of longest job

Occupation of longest job

Full-time/part-time working status recode

Number of persons who work for employer

Earnings amount before deductions

Pension plan provided by employer or union

Pension plan participant

Total wage and salary earnings

Self-employed in own business

Self-employment earnings from own business

Farm self-employment

Farm self-employment earnings

Earnings, total value

**Income sources (adults age 15 or older; same variables available for families and households)**

Unemployment compensation received

Unemployment compensation annual amount

Retire or leave a job for health reasons

Health problem or a disability that prevents person from working

Disability income received

Disability income annual amount

Worker's compensation received

Worker's compensation annual amount

Social Security received

Social Security annual amount

Supplemental Security Income received

Supplemental Security Income annual amount

Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) received

AFDC or TANF annual amount

AFDC or TANF, number of months received

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Appendix A. — Con.

**Income sources (adults age 15 or older; same variables available for families and households) — Con.**

General assistance received  
General assistance annual amount  
General assistance, number of months received  
Other assistance received  
Other assistance annual amount  
Other assistance, number of months received  
Veterans payments received  
Veterans Affairs annual income questionnaire requirement  
Veterans payments annual amount  
Survivor's benefits received  
Survivor's benefits annual amount  
Pension or retirement income received  
Retirement income annual amount  
Interest received  
Interest income annual amount  
Dividends received  
Dividends annual amount  
Rent income received  
Rent income annual amount  
Alimony payments received  
Alimony income annual amount  
Child support payments received  
Child support annual amount  
Financial assistance from friends/relatives received  
Financial assistance from friends/relatives annual amount  
Other income received  
Other income annual amount  
Person income, total  
Educational assistance received  
Food stamps received  
Food stamps, months covered  
Food stamps annual amount  
Food stamps, children covered  
Children receiving free or reduced-price lunches

**Health insurance coverage (children and adults)**

Medicare coverage  
Medicaid coverage  
Months covered by medicaid  
Covered by TRICARE, CHAMPUS, CHAMPVA, or military health care  
Covered by Indian health  
Other state plan health coverage  
Covered by employer or union health plan  
Employer or union pay for all, part, or none of premium  
Direct purchase policyholder  
Covered by private plan not related to employment  
Coverage by someone not in the household  
Child covered by health insurance  
Current health insurance coverage  
Type of current health insurance coverage

**Poverty status (family-level variables unless otherwise stated)**

Ratio of family income to low-income level  
Ratio of related subfamily income to low-income level  
Low-income cutoff dollar amount of related subfamily  
Income percentile rank (household)

**Assets and program eligibility (will be available in the second longitudinal file only)**

Average held in interest-bearing accounts  
Average held in mutual funds or stocks  
Monthly mortgage/rent payment  
Amount spent on utilities  
Value of other real estate owned  
Number of cars owned  
Make, model, and year of cars owned  
Amount paid for child support  
Amount paid for alimony  
Amount paid to support someone not living in the household

## **Additional Topic Areas for Which Data Can Be Matched to the Longitudinal File**

### **Labor force**

Work-related variables listed in Appendix A will be available for up to three additional jobs from the previous calendar year.

### **Income sources and amounts**

Reasons someone started or stopped receiving benefits (SSI; Food Stamps; TANF; Women, Infant and Children's nutrition program (WIC); other welfare) and coping mechanisms used when benefits were cut off. Also asks whether someone applied for benefits, but was denied them and the reason for denial.

### **Expenses**

Work-related transportation expenses, out-of-pocket medical expenses, food expenses, and school-related expenses.

### **Educational enrollment**

Current enrollment and financial assistance received and whether welfare benefits were contingent on school enrollment.

### **Work training**

Type and length of training activities and whether welfare benefits were contingent on participation in training activities or work in an unpaid job.

### **Substance abuse**

Use of alcohol and drugs during previous year and whether they interfered with ability to function at school, work or home.

### **Functional limitations and disability**

Difficulty seeing, hearing, lifting and carrying objects, walking, or needing the assistance of another person to do daily activities.

### **Health care utilization**

Number of and reason for hospital stays, number of visits to a doctor's office.

### **Health insurance coverage**

Type of health insurance coverage, months covered, and whether employer/union paid for coverage.

### **Health care utilization while uninsured**

Received medical care while uninsured, type of care received while uninsured, and whether payment for services was subsidized.

### **Food security**

A limited number of items from the Food Security Supplement to the Current Population Survey to measure whether household members had trouble getting enough food to eat in the last 12 months because of inadequate income.

### **Children-related topics (conducted annually from the 1998 SPD through 2002 SPD)**

Current school enrollment, enrichment activities, disability status, health care utilization, child care arrangements, child support agreements, child support paid, and contact with absent parent.

### **Extended measures of children's well-being (available in the 1999 and 2002 SPD)**

Positive interactions between parents and children, cognitive stimulation, school engagement, family routines, mental health, positive behaviors and social competence, and conflict between parents.

### **Children's residential history (available in the 2000 SPD)**

Number and timing of residential moves made by a child from birth through age 17; number and timing of separations of 3 or more months from either of the child's biological parents; and number and timing of periods lasting 3 or more months when other adults lived with the child.

Appendix C.

**Selected Data from the 1997 Survey of Program Dynamics and the 1997 Annual (March) Demographic Supplement to the Current Population Survey for Households**

Variable	1997 SPD		1997 March CPS		Difference: SPD less CPS
	Estimate	Standard error	Estimate	Standard error	
<b>All Households</b>					
Average household income . . . . .	\$47,381	473	\$47,123	374	258
Average age of householder . . . . .	50.0	0.16	48.4	0.12	*1.6
Average number of children per household . . . . .	0.7	0.01	0.7	0.01	0.0
Percent of households with children under age 18 . . . . .	36.7	0.32	37.6	0.23	*-0.9
Percent of households receiving means-tested government benefits					
Total programs . . . . .	16.2	0.24	16.6	0.18	-0.4
TANF . . . . .	2.1	0.09	2.5	0.07	*-0.4
SSI . . . . .	4.7	0.14	4.4	0.10	*0.3
Food stamps . . . . .	7.6	0.17	8.2	0.13	*-0.6
Energy assistance . . . . .	3.3	0.12	2.6	0.07	*0.7
Housing assistance . . . . .	4.7	0.14	4.9	0.10	-0.2
Free school lunch . . . . .	8.7	0.18	8.8	0.13	-0.1
<b>Households Receiving Selected Means-Tested Benefits<sup>1</sup></b>					
Average household income . . . . .	\$20,110	421	\$19,119	334	*991
Average age of householder . . . . .	46.8	0.42	44.2	0.27	*2.6
Average number of children per household . . . . .	1.5	0.03	1.5	0.02	0.0
Percent of households with children under age 18 . . . . .	65.7	0.31	67.9	0.22	*-2.2

\* Denotes significantly different from zero at the 90-percent confidence level.

<sup>1</sup>Households that reported receiving one or more of the following income sources are included in this group: public assistance, also known as general assistance, Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF); Supplemental Security Income; food stamps; housing assistance, through Section 8 or if the household was located in public housing; energy assistance; or if any children reported receiving free or reduced-price lunches through the federal government's school lunch program.

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1997 Annual Demographic Supplement to the Current Population Survey and the 1997 Survey of Program Dynamics.

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