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STATE HEALTH ACCESS DATA ASSISTANCE CENTER



Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

## Availability of CPS Data in 2014 and 2015

The U.S. Census Bureau's Current Population Survey (CPS) collects data on health insurance coverage, income, and non-cash employment benefits through the survey's Annual Social and Economic Supplement (ASEC). The CPS estimates of health insurance coverage are among the most commonly cited estimates, and they are used to monitor both state and national trends in health insurance coverage. The health insurance coverage question series has undergone several changes over the years with the most recent changes implemented in 2014. Due to this change, coverage estimates from 2013 are not comparable with prior years.

The 2014 CPS, which provides coverage estimates for 2013, implemented a re-design of the health insurance question series to improve the measure of coverage and to add a point-in-time coverage measure. The re-designed CPS also includes a number of new questions related to provisions of the Affordable Care Act, including the purchase of coverage on the exchanges; the receipt of subsidies; and the availability and take-up of employer coverage offers.

### Split Sample

In addition to the re-designed health insurance questions, the 2014 CPS implemented a revised set of income questions. While the re-designed health insurance questions were implemented for the entire sample, the revised income questions were implemented using a split-sample approach -- 5/8 of the sample received the traditional income questions, and 3/8 of the sample received the revised questions. These data will be released in two stages:

- Partial sample (5/8): In September 2014, health insurance data that includes only the traditional income questions was released.
- Full sample (5/8 + 3/8): In January 2015, health insurance data that includes both the traditional and revised income questions is expected to be released.



#### September 16, 2014

Point-in-time coverage for Feb-Apr 2014 from partial sample

Past-year coverage for 2013 from partial sample



#### January 2015

Past-year coverage for 2013 from full sample



#### Summer 2015

New health insurance content for 2013



#### September 2015

Point-in-time coverage for Feb-Apr 2015

Past-year coverage for 2014

### New Questions

The Census Bureau is currently evaluating the estimates from the new health insurance coverage questions and new content is projected to be released in Summer 2015.

### Public Use Files

#### September 16, 2014

CPS 2013 public use file from partial sample

#### January 2015

CPS 2013 public use file from full sample

#### Summer 2015

CPS 2013 public use file with new content