

The Consumer Expenditure Survey's New Design and Implementation Plans

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Outline

1. Gemini Project to Redesign CE
 - a. Background
 - b. Redesign
 - c. Road Ahead

BACKGROUND

Current CE Design

Interview

- 5 waves of personal interviews
- 3 month recall
- Large or recurring expenditures

Diary

- 2 one-week household paper diaries
- Contemporaneous recall
- Small, frequently purchased items

**Consumer Expenditure
Survey Estimates**

Redesign Motivation

- Evidence of measurement error
- Changes in technology and spending behaviors
- Need for greater operational flexibility
- High level of burden – linked to data quality

Redesign Objectives

- Verifiable reduction in measurement error, with a particular focus on underreporting
- Reduction in burden

Data Requirements

- Annual expenditure estimates of total household spending for the US population
- Month of expenditure(s) for each expenditure category
- Data collected at a minimum of two points in time, one year apart
- Minimum set of expenditure/non-expenditure data elements from each household

Required level of detail

Current Design –



\$41.61



\$26.74



\$43.81



\$109.19



\$39.95

Redesign –



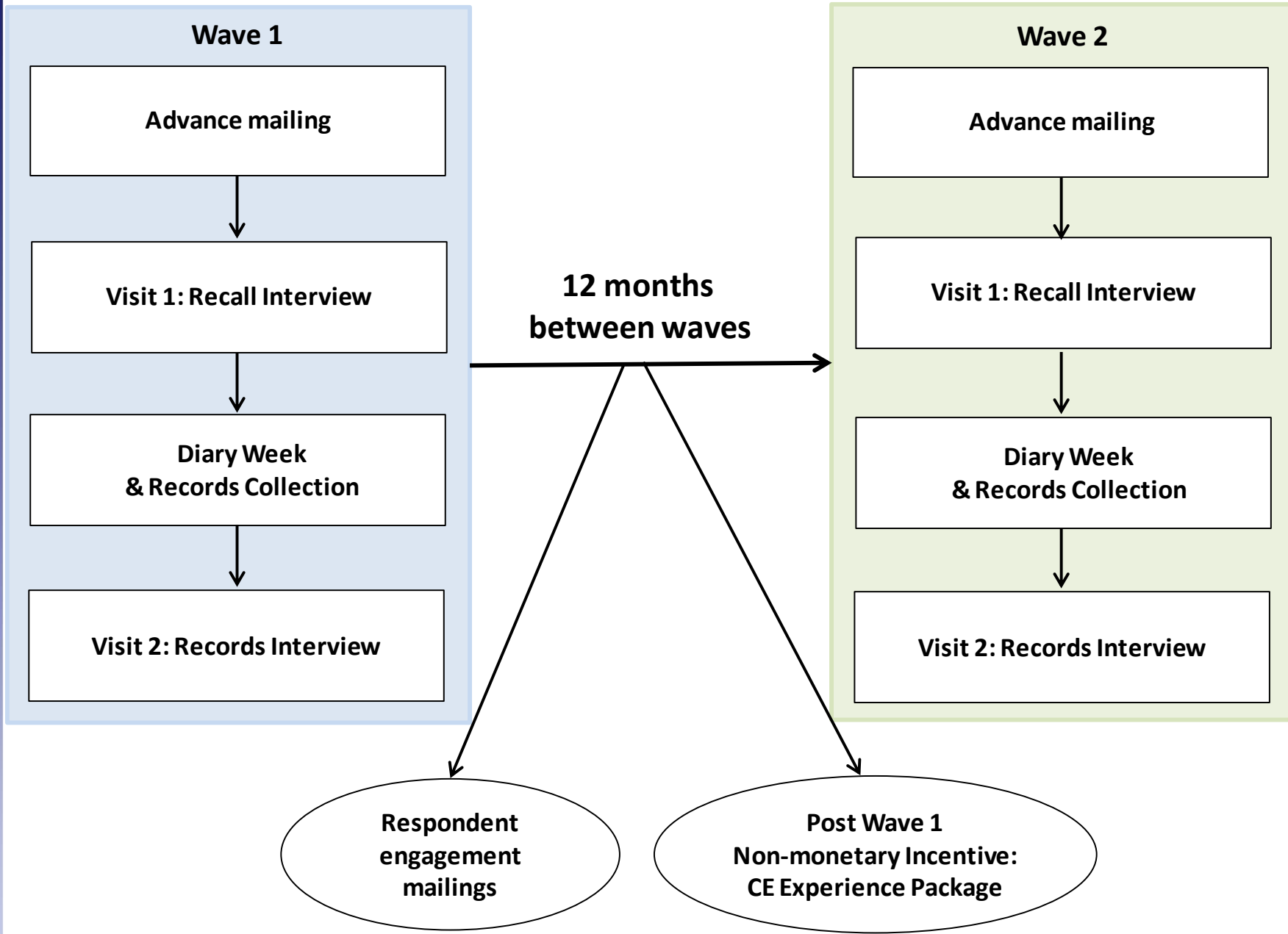
\$261.29

Key Proposal Inputs

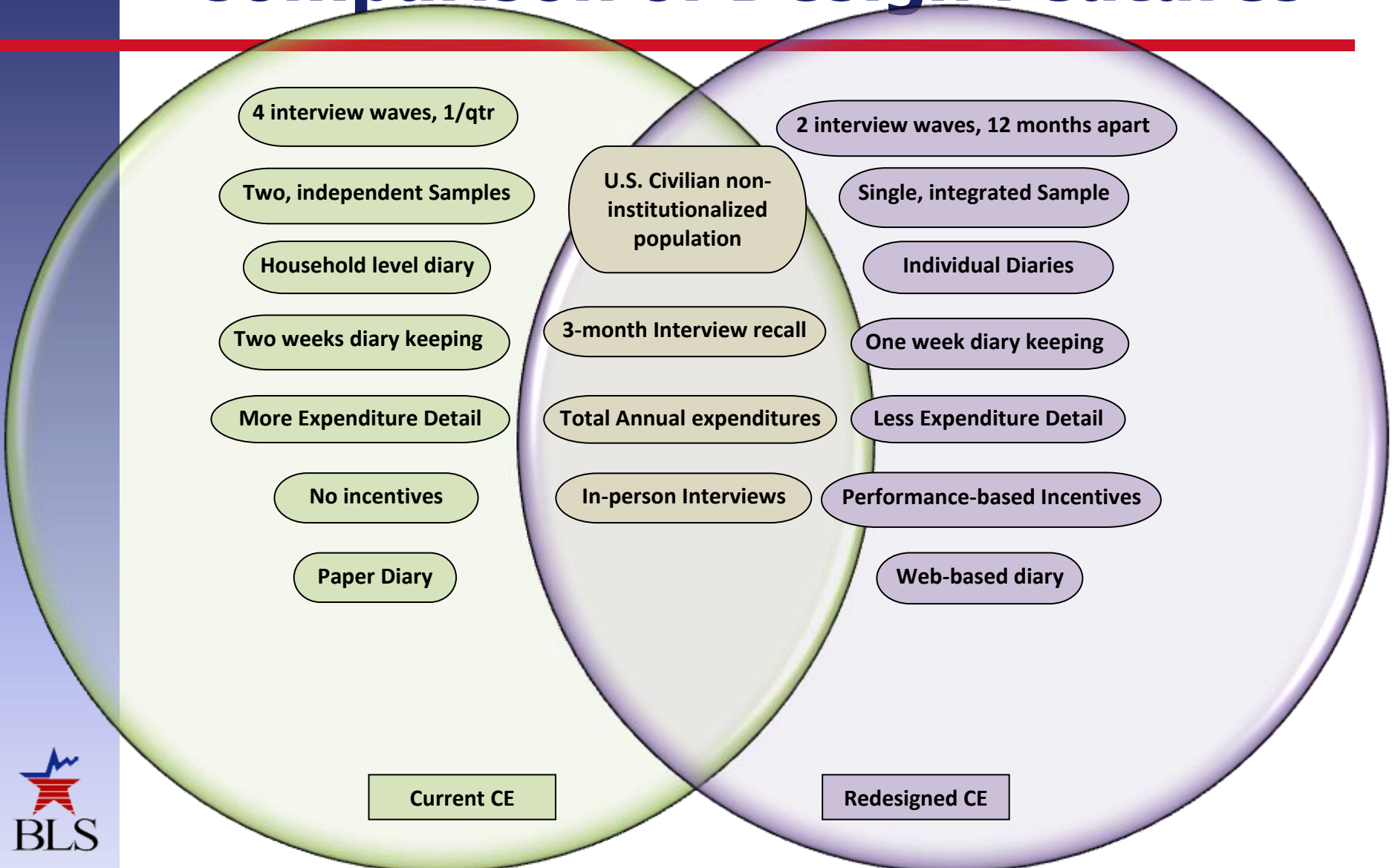
CE relied on several sources for proposal inputs:

- Expert panels
- External discussion events
- Ongoing research on key topics
- National Academies' Committee on National Statistics (CNSTAT)
- Westat independent proposal
- Census staff and Field Representative (FR) input

DESIGN PROPOSAL



Comparison of Design Features

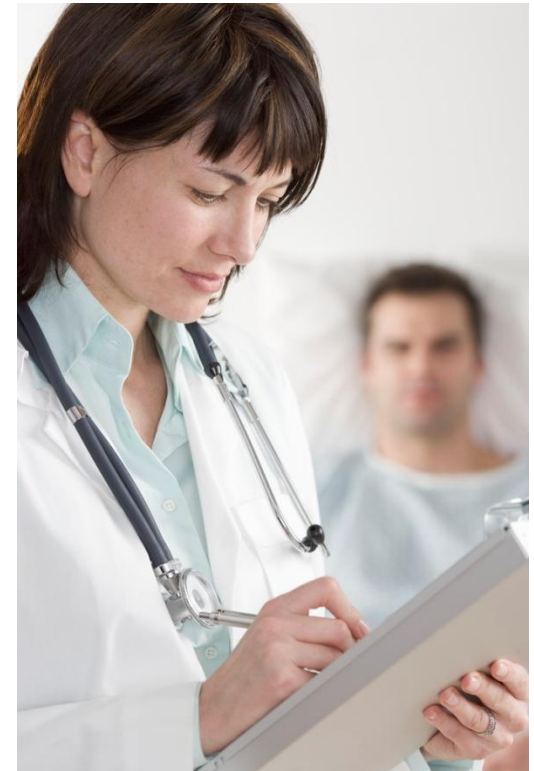


WAVE 1

Visit 1: Personal Interview



Visit 1: Recall-based expenditures



Visit 1: Training



Visit 1: Incentive



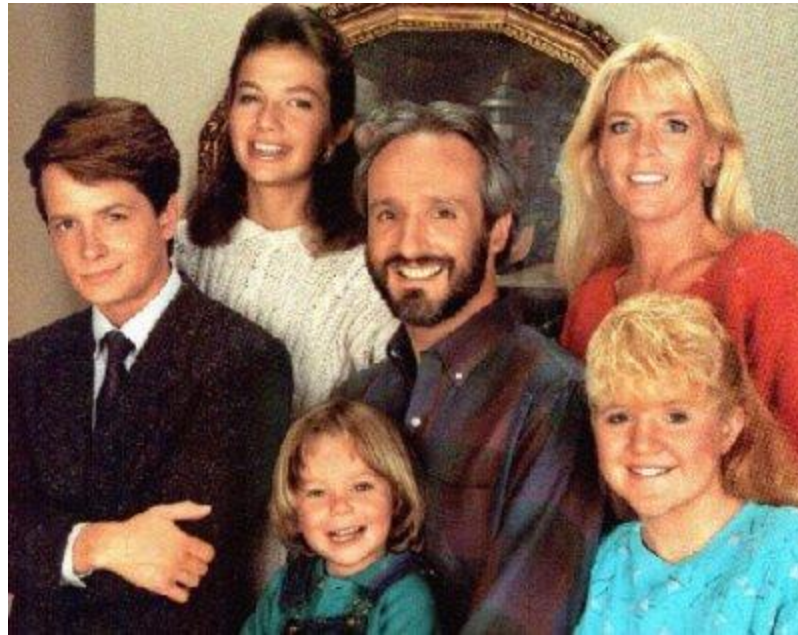
Diary Week



Diary: Content



Diary Week: Incentive(s)



Visit 2: Personal Interview



+



Visit 2: Records-based expenditures



STUB SAMPLES INC. 4891 INGLESIDE DRIVE HUNTINGTON BEACH CA 92649						Earnings Statement
EMPLOYEE NO.	EMPLOYEE NAME	SOCIAL SECURITY NO	PERIOD BEG.	PERIOD END	CHECK DATE	
045345	JOHN J. DOE	xxx-xx-9898	01/18/2011	02/01/2011	02/04/2011	
EARNINGS	HOURS	RATE	CURRENT AMOUNT	WITHOLDINGS/ DEDUCTIONS	CURRENT AMOUNT	YEAR TO DATE
REGULAR PAY	87.60		2307.69	STATE TAX AMT DEFERRED CMP FED TAX AMT HI TAX OASDI	87.69 0.00 281.54 33.46 96.92	350.77 0.00 1126.15 133.85 387.69
CURRENT AMOUNT	CURRENT DEDUCTIONS	NET PAY	YTD EARNINGS	YTD DEDUCTIONS	YTD NET PAY	CHECK NO.
2307.69	499.62	1808.08	9230.77	1998.46	7232.31	48974

Visit 2: Incentive



WAVE 2

Design Overview: Wave 2



Design Overview: Future Research & Decisions

Topics addressed during development:

- Wave 1 and 2 topics:
 - Incentive amounts and structure
 - Exact survey content (records vs. recall)
 - Use of records as data input
 - Length of Wave 1 and Wave 2 visits
- Diary topics:
 - Acceptance of annotated grocery receipts
- Other topics:
 - When the experience package will be sent

Development & Implementation Timeline

Design Proposal and Planning

- ▶ Approved redesign proposal released (July 2013)
- ▶ User impact of redesign (July-December 2013)
- ▶ Roadmap developed (September 2013)

Field Tests (Develop, Field, Analyze)

- ▶ Individual and Web Diaries (2012-14)
- ▶ Proof-of-Concept Test (2015)
- ▶ Large-Scale Feasibility Test (2018)
- ▶ Dress Rehearsal (2021)
- ▶ Implementation (2023)

Design Features Recommended by CNSTAT

- One sample design
- Modular design with a core survey
- Increased use of technology, especially to encourage 'in the moment' reporting
- Increased use of records
- Reduced proxy reporting
- Mixed mode data collection
- Large incentives

Design Features Recommended by Westat

- One sample design
- Two or three waves of data collection
- Individual diaries
- Use of a web-based diary to allow respondents to enter data via their Smart Phone, tablet or home PC
- Monitoring of incoming diary data during reporting periods with potential interviewer interventions
- Increased use of records
- Use of respondent-level incentives

Design Overview: Major Issues Addressed

1. Incentives → addresses respondent motivation
2. Technology → encourages real-time data capture
3. Individual diaries → reduces proxy reporting
4. Shortened interview length, reduced survey content, and increased record use → improve data quality

Design Team (past and present)

- Kathy Downey, formerly Bureau of Labor Statistics
- Jennifer Edgar, Bureau of Labor Statistics
- Dawn V. Nelson, U.S. Census Bureau
- Laura Paszkiewicz, Bureau of Labor Statistics
- Adam Safir, Bureau of Labor Statistics

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