
Notes

The Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP) is a household survey of the noninstitutionalized resident population of the United States conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau. The survey was designed to improve the measurement of the economic situation of persons, families, and households in the United States and to provide a tool for managing and evaluating government transfer and service programs.

The 2001 SIPP panel consists of 9 interviews, or waves, each of which gathered 4 months of retrospective data. The initial sample includes approximately 36,700 households, divided into 4 rotation groups. The SIPP has been matched to the Social Security Administration's (SSA's) administrative records for respondents who provided their Social Security number. The administrative records provide data on the receipt and amount of Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Old-Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance (OASDI, or Social Security) benefits for all months covered by the SIPP panel. For SIPP respondents who did not provide their Social Security number, benefit receipt and amounts are taken from the SIPP. All other characteristics and income amounts are taken from the SIPP.

The tables in this section use data from wave 2 of the 2001 SIPP. Social Security Disability Insurance beneficiaries are identified as of reference month 4 of the wave 2 interviews, which corresponds to May, June, July, or August 2001, depending on the rotation group. Sample cases are weighted using SIPP person weights. In this year's tables, the weights are adjusted by type of beneficiary so that the weighted total number of Social Security Disability Insurance beneficiaries matches the estimated number of noninstitutionalized Social Security Disability Insurance beneficiaries in SSA administrative records. Beneficiary characteristics, such as age, sex, race, education, marital status, living arrangements, and health insurance, reflect reference month 4. Income and poverty data are based on all 4 months included in the wave 2 interviews and thus cover a 4-month period between February 2001 and August 2001, depending on the rotation group. The poverty thresholds are provided in the SIPP for the 4 months covered in wave 2 and are adjusted for family size and composition.

The use of a single wave, or 4 months, of data for income and poverty estimates is a significant change from previous years, in which annual income and poverty data were reported. The single-wave approach, and particularly the use of wave 2, was followed for several reasons: Social Security numbers for matching to SSA administrative records were collected in wave 2; the sample in the 2001 SIPP panel was cut between waves 1 and 2; and sample attrition is less of a concern early in a panel.

An additional change from the SIPP-based estimates published in the 2002 *Annual Statistical Report on the Social Security Disability Insurance Program* is the method of defining Disability Insurance beneficiaries. In the 2002 publication, estimates were based on actual payments received in a given month, which may include lump-sum payments of retroactive benefits. This year, the estimates are based on payment eligibility, which is consistent with the definition of beneficiaries used elsewhere in the report.

In tabulations of Medicaid coverage for SSI recipients, the SIPP Medicaid variable has been recoded to reflect the fact that SSI recipients in certain states, sometimes referred to as Section 1634 states, are automatically covered by Medicaid. Thirty-two states and the District of Columbia provide automatic Medicaid coverage for SSI recipients, accounting for approximately 78 percent of all SSI recipients.

SIPP and SSA counts of disabled beneficiaries differ because the SIPP excludes people living in institutions or outside the continental United States. In addition, the match rate between the SIPP and SSA records is not perfect; thus, self-reported benefit information must be used for individuals who could not be matched to SSA records. Furthermore, the SIPP estimates are based on a sample and therefore are subject to sampling error. Standard errors can be used to measure this sampling variability and to determine the statistical significance of the estimates. Various sources of nonsampling error also may be important.

Because the SIPP uses a complex sample design, it is inappropriate to calculate standard errors assuming a simple random sample. Doing so will result in estimated standard errors that are biased downward. Readers interested in information about SIPP variance estimates are referred to the *SIPP Users' Guide*, available on the SIPP Web site at <http://www.sipp.census.gov/sipp/usrguide/sipp2001.pdf>. The *Users' Guide* provides information on direct calculation of standard errors for SIPP estimates. It also provides detailed instructions for calculating standard errors using generalized variance parameters.

Because of concerns about sampling variability and statistical reliability, distributions for which the base is fewer than 150,000 weighted cases are not shown. In addition, individual cells that contain less than 1.0 percent of a distribution are rounded to zero. Therefore, some distributions will not sum to the total.
