

GUS Pilot: Telephone Respondent Debriefing Interview Protocol

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Research Questions

- Are respondents comprehending the meaning of certain words and phrases correctly?
- What is the effect of including section headers within the instrument?
- Is the form applicable to all types of governments?
- What is the appropriate estimate of burden?

Expected Interview Length

30 minutes, by phone

Materials Needed

- One copy of the form the respondent sent to the Census Bureau. (The respondent also needs this. Fax it to him/her prior to interview, if necessary)

Introduction

- Purpose:
 - To understand the process used to answer the questions on the GUS
 - To get feedback on the form
- No right or wrong answers. All feedback is useful.

Before the Questionnaire

- Tell me a little bit about how you were selected to be the person to report for your government.
- Have you filled out forms like this in the past?
- Were there any questions on the form that you thought were particularly difficult to answer?
- Were there any questions on the form that you thought were particularly confusing?

Item 2 (dependent government)

- How did you choose your answer to this question?

- Do you recall whether or not you read the instruction that accompanies this question? (If yes, was it helpful to you?)
- How would you describe your government and its state of dependence or independence?

Items 14-15 (retirement/pension/retiree healthcare plans)

- How did you go about answering these questions?
- (If necessary, clarify any abbreviations reported in these items.)
- How easy or difficult was it to provide the names of the plans for this item?
- How easy or difficult do you think it will be for other governments like yours to provide an accurate response to these questions?

Item 35 (open space/land preservation)

- How did you go about answering this question?
- What sorts of activities does your government participate in that relate to open space and land preservation?
- Do you recall if you included or excluded parks in your response to this question?
- How easy or difficult do you think it will be for other governments like yours to provide an accurate response to this question?

Item 46 (correctional facilities)

- Tell me about the types of correctional facilities your government operates.
- (If R mentions prisons and jails) How are the prisons different from the jails?
- Does your government have any juvenile correctional facilities? Are they separate from any prisons/jails your government operates?
- Does your government have any facilities where people are held for a brief period of time, like a temporary lockup?

Wrap Up

- Do you have any thoughts to share regarding the way the survey looks?
- Do you have any thoughts to share regarding the length of the survey?
- (If section headers) Do you have any comments about the presence of section headers on the form? (Did they help, or were they confusing?)
- Did you have any other comments concerning your experience completing the Government Units Survey?
- Thank you for your time and feedback. We appreciate your comments on this form.