

January 12, 2012

MEMORANDUM FOR Rose Kreider
Chief, Fertility Statistics Branch
Social Economic and Housing Statistics Division

From Theresa J. DeMaio
Center for Survey Measurement

Subject: Report of Testing of the 2012 CPS Fertility Supplement

At your request, staff from the Center for Survey Measurement cognitively pretested the revised 2012 Current Population Survey Fertility Supplement.

Results of 18 cognitive interviews conducted in November and December, 2011 showed that there were no problems with the new questions asking about the birth of the woman's youngest child rather than her oldest child and asking about marital and cohabitation status at the time of first birth. However, some respondents reacted negatively to the term "live births" in the first question in the supplement. It was perceived as sensitive in some instances, particularly when the respondent had a miscarriage. Switching to the question used in the Survey of Income and Program Participation, we found no problems related to question sensitivity. A complete list of findings as well as recommendations to address the problems is included in the attached report.

If you have any questions, please contact Rachel Freidus (x36763).

Attachment

Cc:
M. O'Connell (SEHSD)
R. Ellis "
P. Miller (CSM)
R. Freidus "
K. Drom "