

**Department of Commerce  
United States Census Bureau  
OMB Information Collection Request  
Current Population Survey (CPS) June Fertility Supplement  
OMB Control No. 0607 - 0610**

A. JUSTIFICATION

1. Necessity of the Information Collection

The purpose of this request for review is to obtain clearance for the supplemental inquiry concerning fertility to be conducted biennially in conjunction with the June Current Population Survey (CPS).

This supplement is sponsored by the U.S. Census Bureau. The collection of these data is authorized under Title 13, United States Code, Sections 141 and 182.

The 2016 June Fertility supplement, as it will appear in the CPS instrument, is shown in Attachment A. This year, the 2016 Fertility Supplement will ask fertility questions (Items SF1 and SF2) and questions on marital and cohabitation status (SF3a and SF3b) of females 15-50 years of age. These items, which were also asked in the June 2012 and 2014 supplements, provide additional information about mothers' living arrangements at the time of the first birth.

The June 2010 and 2008 Fertility Supplements asked women about the birth of the last child. These differed from the June 1998 and the June 1995 supplements, which only included fertility items. The 1998 supplement contained fertility and birth expectations items, whereas the 1995 supplement contained fertility and marital history items.

2. Needs and Uses

The data collected from this supplement are used primarily by government and private analysts to project future population growth, to analyze childbearing patterns, and to assist policymakers in making decisions that are affected by changes in family size and composition. Past studies have documented profound changes to historical patterns that have occurred in fertility rates, family structures, premarital births, and the timing of the first birth. The data collected from the "marital and cohabitation status items" will be used by government and private analysts to analyze mothers' living situations at the time of the first birth; the data will also fill a need for information that is not available in other Census Bureau surveys.

The CPS characteristics, such as family income, household relationships, and labor force status, when matched with fertility data, can produce estimates of potential needs families may have for governmental assistance. For example, these needs include aid to families with dependent children, childcare, and maternal health care for single-parent households. The fertility data also assist researchers and analysts who explore such important issues as premarital childbearing and postponement of childbirth because of educational or occupational responsibilities and goals. As a result of the rapid changes in the economy, the June Fertility supplement offers analysts with a key indicator of family economic resources, namely, the employment status of women with infant children.

Item SF1 establishes the number of children ever born, and Item SF2 asks in what year the **first** child was born. Fertility Items SF1 and SF2 have been a part of the June CPS Supplement annually or on a regular basis for over 40 years.

Discontinuance of the Fertility Supplement would interrupt a data series, which is built upon previous surveys first collected in June 1971. Without current fertility data, data for the most recent female cohorts (age 18-24) would be missing in fertility projections. The statistics and projections from these data are useful for legislators in the public sector and businesses that make policy and resource decisions about childcare, development, and changes in family life.

Information quality is an integral part of the pre-dissemination review of information disseminated by the Census Bureau (fully described in the Census Bureau's Information Quality Guidelines). Information quality is also integral to information collections conducted by the Census Bureau and is incorporated into the clearance process required by the Paperwork Reduction Act.

### 3. Use of Information Technology

Since January 1984, we have collected the CPS data using computer-assisted interviewing. We designed the supplemental questions to obtain the required information with minimal respondent burden. The proposed items and interviewer procedures were developed over years of consultation among the Census Bureau, the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), and other government agencies. The use of computer-assisted personal and telephone interviewing is deemed the most appropriate collection methodology given existing available information technology.

#### 4. Efforts to Identify Duplication

The Census Bureau has consulted with other government agencies, such as the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) and the National Institute for Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) to develop the Fertility Supplement. The Census Bureau has investigated other Census Bureau surveys and determined that the data in this supplement are not collected in any other survey that could provide the user with comparable accuracy in detailed fertility patterns.

The American Community Survey (ACS), in an effort to reduce respondent burden, contains one fertility question that asks whether the women gave birth in the last year, which can only be compared to the previously collected 2008 and 2010 CPS June Fertility Supplements. This provides needed data at state and local levels for planning purposes in examining the potential needs of mothers with newborns. However, the absence of a question on children ever born on the ACS means that we do not know parity of the birth--i.e., whether it was a first birth or higher order birth. In addition, the June Fertility Supplement can provide analysts with the ability to track childlessness over time, which provides an important measure of how family life has changed and resources needed by families differ by the childbearing experiences of American women. The American Community Survey does not provide these data.

The 2016 June Fertility Supplement begins with two birth-related items. First, there is a question on how many children a woman has ever had, followed by the year of the first birth. This is followed by items on marital and cohabitation status at the time of first birth. Since the 2010 June Fertility Supplement, similar estimates of births in the last year as in the ACS (i.e., births that have occurred since the previous June), provided us with the birth order of the child and a duration specific estimate of when the woman last had a birth. In the June 2012 report (Attachment B2), the ACS question on women who had a recent birth permitted us to examine labor force patterns of women who had a birth in the last 12 months (see page 10) and were in the labor force (see Table 3). This is similar to the data we used to have in the CPS Fertility Supplement. The CPS Fertility Supplement data, however, will provide a look at completed fertility, changes in childlessness over time, and the living arrangement of the woman at the time of her first birth. None of these estimates can be made using ACS data.

The CPS Fertility Supplement is the only source of data that provides a comprehensive set of historical analysis as described in item A2. No other data set collects these measures as regularly and as often as CPS, providing a long historical series of estimates.

Refer to Attachment B1 for a recent table using 2014 fertility data. For additional information published using the 2014 CPS Fertility Supplement, access the following link:

<http://www.census.gov/hhes/fertility/data/cps/2014.html>

Refer to Attachment B2 for a report published using estimates from the CPS data on fertility.

5. Efforts to Minimize Burden on Small Business

The collection of fertility information does not involve small businesses or other small entities.

6. Consequences of Less Frequent Collection

The June Fertility Supplement is conducted to determine current fertility rates for women in different socioeconomic groups and to project future population growth. If the collection of information was conducted less frequently, the fertility data would not be sufficiently monitored to accurately measure fertility events of women as they enter the ages when marriage and childbearing typically begin. Less frequent reporting would result in a distortion of segments of the population whose fertility backgrounds change most rapidly.

In addition, there would be no consistent measure of fertility characteristics of women who are graduating from school and entering the labor force.

7. Special Circumstances

There are no special circumstances. We collect the CPS data in a manner that is consistent with the OMB guidelines.

8. Consultations Outside the Agency

The following person has been in frequent consultation since October 1997 concerning the development of this supplement:

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Dept of Sociology  
3620 Vermont Avenue  
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The result of these consultations is the final set of questions. In addition, a statement soliciting comments for improving the CPS data is prominently placed in all the Census Bureau publications that cite the CPS data. We include a similar statement in the technical documentation that accompanies the microdata files. Finally, we published a notice of our intent to ask the fertility questions in the October 16, 2015, edition of the Federal Register (see Vol. 80 pg. 62513). We did not receive any comments relevant to the collection. The CPS advance letter (see attachment C) provides respondents with an address at the Census Bureau to which they can submit general comments on the survey and specifically those comments regarding respondent burden.

9. Paying Respondents

The Census Bureau does not make any payments or provide any gifts to individuals participating in the CPS.

10. Assurance of Confidentiality

The Census Bureau will collect the Fertility Supplement data in compliance with the Privacy Act of 1974 and the OMB Circular A-130. Each sample household receives an advance letter approximately one week before the start of the initial CPS interview (see Attachment C). The letter includes the information required by the Privacy Act of 1974, explains the voluntary nature of the survey, and states the estimated time required for participating in the survey. Interviewers must ask if the respondent received the letter and, if not, provide a copy and allow the respondent sufficient time to read the contents. Also, interviewers provide households with the pamphlet *The U.S. Census Bureau Respects Your Privacy and Protects Your Personal Information*, which further states the confidentiality assurances associated with this data collection effort and the Census Bureau's past performance in assuring confidentiality (see Attachment D). All information given by respondents to Census Bureau employees is held in strict confidence under Title 13, United States Code, Section 9. Every Census Bureau employee has taken an oath to that effect and is subject to a jail penalty or substantial fine if they disclose any information given to them.

11. Justification for Sensitive Questions

The June Fertility Supplement does not include any questions of a sensitive nature.

12. Estimate of Hour Burden

The estimated respondent burden is 500 hours. This is based on an average one-minute interview for each of the 30,000 women in the supplement universe.

The actual respondent burden is dependent upon the size of the household and the characteristics of its occupants. One respondent answers for the entire household.

13. Estimate of Cost Burden

There are no costs to respondents other than that of their time to respond.

14. Cost to Federal Government

The estimated cost to the government for the CPS program is \$94 million in FY 2016. The costs are to be borne by the Census Bureau, the BLS, and other government agencies, if involved. We estimate the cost of the supplement on fertility to be \$142,000, all in FY 2016.

15. Reasons for Change in Burden

The estimate of burden in hours is unchanged from the previous collection request.

16. Project Schedule

The June CPS, of which this supplement is a part, will be conducted during the week of CPS interviewing. Processing of this supplement will commence in July. The public use file will be released in the spring of 2017. Final reports will follow late that same year.

17. Request to Not Display Expiration Date

The June Supplement is administered as part of the CPS monthly interview. However, this supplement (as well as all the CPS supplements) bears an OMB control number and expiration date which is different from the basic CPS interview. The OMB control number and expiration date for the CPS basic interview is included in the advance letter we give respondents (see Attachment C). Because of these difficulties and anticipated respondent confusion involved with expressing a separate control number and expiration date to respondents for the supplement questions, we do not wish to display the OMB control number and expiration date for the CPS June Supplement.

18. Exceptions to the Certification

There are no exceptions to the certification.