

## SIPP OMB comments

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Sat 9/16/2023 2:24 PM

To:Census SIPP (CENSUS) <census.sipp@census.gov>

I am writing to give comments about the U.S. Census Bureau request for OMB clearance for the collection of data concerning the Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP) (FR Doc. 2023–15442, OMB Control No. 0607-1000), which proposes to make permanent a 2023 reduction in the sample size of the SIPP by at least one third. I am a tenured professor of Economics at UC Davis, a faculty research associate of the National Bureau of Economic Research, a research affiliate of the University of Wisconsin's Institute for Research on Poverty, and a former member of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine's consensus panel evaluating the redesign of the SIPP. The SIPP is a crucial data set for research on poverty and program participation. It has consistently done a better job of collecting self-reports of program participation than other survey data sets (e.g., research by Bruce Meyer and Wallace Mok and James Sullivan in the *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 2015). It also collects important data on hardships not collected in other data sets that are unavailable from administrative sources. Smaller samples will restrict the ability of researchers to understand differences across many race and ethnic groups. I have used the SIPP in the past to study small businesses and the returns to effort as well as the effects of WIC on child outcomes.

Best,

Marianne Bitler

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