2021 Household Pulse Survey User Notes

Phase 3.1

Date: May 19, 2021

Release Note on Edited Table Title

For Week 29 the title of Education Table 1a has been edited to reflect revised content for phase 3.1 of the survey. The title now reads:

Education Table 1a. Form of Education Currently Received for Children Enrolled in Public or Private School, by Select Characteristics: United States

The title of the previously released Week 28 version of this table has also been edited and reposted, although none of the estimates have changed.

The table title was also updated for the corresponding Standard Error Education Table 1a. This does not affect the Education Table 1a from prior phases.

Release Note on the Household Pulse Survey Public Use File (PUF)

This note is to alert data users of an update to the public-use file data dictionary.

Starting with Week 13 in Phase 3, Q47a asked:

> *During the last 7 days, on how many days did the student(s) have live contact with their teachers in person, by phone, or by video? Select only one answer.*
>
> O None (1)
>
> O 1 day (2)
>
> O 2-3 days (3)
>
> O 4 or more days (4)

The data dictionary, however, incorrectly stated:

> *During the last 7 days, on how many days did the student(s) have live contact either by phone or video with their teachers? Select only one answer.*
>
> O None (1)
>
> O 1 day (2)
>
> O 2-3 days (3)
>
> O 4 or more days (4)

This was updated correctly for Phase 3.1, however, the previously released PUFs from Week 13-Week 27 stated it incorrectly. The previously released PUF zipped files will not be re-released but this User Note is to alert data users to this correct question.

Date: May 5, 2021

Release Note on Phase 3.1 Collection of the Household Pulse Survey

Following a two-week break in data collection, the Household Pulse Survey has now entered Phase 3.1. Beginning with the Week 28 release (collection period April 14 – April 26, 2021), there have been multiple changes to the questionnaire, including the addition of new questions, the adjustment of existing questions, and the removal of some questions for which utility has declined over time (see Release Note on New Content and Updated Questionnaire below). New content topics include:

- Serving in the U.S. Armed Forces (active duty, reserve, or National Guard).
- COVID-19 prevention behaviors.
- Work setting and essential worker occupations.
- Utilization of telehealth.
- Children missing preventive health appointments due to COVID (and why).
- Vision, hearing, memory, and mobility disabilities.
- School-age children's access to food assistance.
- Childcare impacts related to coronavirus.

Phase 3.1 is currently scheduled to collect data through the beginning of July.

Release Note on New Content and Updated Questionnaire

New Questions for Phase 3.1

Beginning with Week 28 (collection period April 14, 2021 – April 26, 2021), the Household Pulse Survey questionnaire changed to include the following new items:

Q8a Are you or your spouse currently serving in the U.S. Armed Forces (Active Duty, Reserve, or National Guard)?

Reserve and Guard members/spouses who are full-time active duty (AGR/FTS/AR) or currently "activated" should select the "Reserve or National Guard" response(s). Select all that apply.

- ☐ No (1)
- ☐ Yes, I'm serving on active duty (2)
- ☐ Yes, I'm serving in the Reserve or National Guard (3)
- ☐ Yes, my spouse is serving on active duty (4)
- ☐ Yes, my spouse is serving in the Reserve or National Guard (5)

QV5a
Since getting a COVID-19 vaccine, in general have you increased or decreased how often you practice COVID-19 prevention behaviors when in public around people you do not know?

Examples of prevention behaviors include wearing a face mask, maintaining 6 feet of distance from others, and avoiding indoor events and large gatherings.

Please answer even if you have not received all required doses of a vaccine.

- ○ I have decreased prevention behaviors since getting a vaccine (1)
- ○ I have not changed my behavior since getting a vaccine (2)
- ○ I have increased prevention behaviors since getting a vaccine (3)

Q13c Since **January 1, 2021**, have you worked or volunteered **outside your home**? Select only one answer.

- ○ Yes (1)
- ○ No (2)

Q13d Since **January 1, 2021**, which best describes the primary location/setting where you worked or volunteered **outside your home**? *Select only one answer.*

- ○ Healthcare (e.g., hospital, doctor, dentist or mental health specialist office, outpatient facility, long-term care, home health care, pharmacy, medical laboratory) (1)
- ○ Social service (e.g., child, youth, family, elderly, disability services) (2)
- ○ Preschool or daycare (3)
- ○ K-12 school (4)
- ○ Other schools and instructional settings (e.g. college, university, professional, business, technical or trade school, driving school, test preparation, tutoring) (5)
- ○ First response (e.g., police or fire protection, emergency relief services) (6)
- ○ Death care (e.g., funeral home, crematory, cemetery) (7)
- ○ Correctional facility (e.g., jail, prison, detention center, reformatory) (8)
- ○ Food and beverage store (e.g., grocery store, warehouse club, supercenters, convenience store, specialty food store, bakery) (9)
- ○ Agriculture, forestry, fishing, or hunting (10)
- ○ Food manufacturing facility (e.g., meat-processing, produce packing, food or beverage manufacturing) (11)
- ○ Non-food manufacturing facility (e.g. metals, equipment and machinery, electronics) (12)

- ○ Public transit (e.g., bus, commuter rail, subway, school bus) (13)
- ○ United States Postal Service (14)
- ○ Other job deemed "essential" during the COVID-19 pandemic (15)
- ○ None of the above (16)

Q14c Have you received Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits in the **last 7 days**? *Select only one answer.*

- ○ Yes (1)
- ○ No (2)

Q21b
Prior to the coronavirus pandemic, in a typical week, did you use bus, rail, or ride-sharing services, like Uber and Lyft? *Select only one answer.*

- ○ Yes (1)
- ○ No (2)

QTH1 At any time in the **last 4 weeks**, did you have an appointment with a doctor, nurse, or other health professional by video or by phone? *Please only include appointments for yourself and not others in your household.*

- ○ Yes (1)
- ○ No (2)

QTH2 At any time in the **last 4 weeks**, did any children in the household have an appointment with a doctor, nurse, or other health professional by video or by phone? *Select only one answer.*

- ○ Yes (1)
- ○ No (2)

Q38d
The next question is about **preventative** health care for the children in your household.

At any time in the **last 12 months**, did any children in the household miss, delay or skip any PREVENTIVE check-ups because of the coronavirus pandemic? *Select only one answer.*

- ○ Yes (1)
- ○ No (2)

*If Yes:*Q38e Did any of the following reasons contribute to this child missing, delaying or skipping any PREVENTIVE check-ups? *Select all that apply.*

- ☐ Health care provider's location was closed due to the coronavirus pandemic (1)
- ☐ Health care provider's location was open but had limited appointments due to the coronavirus pandemic (2)
- ☐ Parent, adult caregiver, or child was concerned about going to the health care provider's location due to the coronavirus pandemic (3)
- ☐ This child no longer had health insurance or had a change in health insurance due to the coronavirus pandemic (4)
- ☐ Someone in the household was ill with the coronavirus (5)
- ☐ Someone in the household had been in contact with someone who was ill with the coronavirus (6)
- ☐ None of the above (7)

QD1 Do you have difficulty seeing, even when wearing glasses? *Select only one answer.*

- ○ No - no difficulty (1)
- ○ Yes - some difficulty (2)
- ○ Yes - a lot of difficulty (3)
- ○ Cannot do at all (4)

QD2 Do you have difficulty hearing, even when using a hearing aid? *Select only one answer.*

- ○ No - no difficulty (1)
- ○ Yes - some difficulty (2)
- ○ Yes - a lot of difficulty (3)
- ○ Cannot do at all (4)

QD3 Do you have difficulty remembering or concentrating? *Select only one answer.*

- ○ No - no difficulty (1)
- ○ Yes - some difficulty (2)
- ○ Yes - a lot of difficulty (3)
- ○ Cannot do at all (4)

QD4 Do you have difficulty walking or climbing stairs? *Select only one answer.*

- ○ No - no difficulty (1)
- ○ Yes - some difficulty (2)
- ○ Yes - a lot of difficulty (3)
- ○ Cannot do at all (4)

Q43a During the **last 7 days**, how did the children in this household receive their education? Select all that apply.

- ☐ Children received in-person instruction from a teacher at their school (1)
- ☐ Children received virtual/online instruction from a teacher in real time (2)
- ☐ Children learned on their own using on-line materials provided by their school (3)
- ☐ Children learned on their own using paper materials provided by their school (4)
- ☐ Children learned on their own using materials that were NOT provided by their school (5)
- ☐ Children did not participate in any learning activities because their school was closed (6)
- ☐ Children were sick and could not participate in education (7)
- ☐ Other, specify (8)

43aa
Because of the pandemic, are any of the children in your household currently receiving their education

with a combination of in-person learning at school and another form of learning (e.g., virtual instruction, online or paper material provided by the school)? *Select only one answer.*

- ○ Yes (1)
- ○ No (2)

Q48aa In the In the **last 7 days**, did the students in this household receive any food assistance from school? *Select only one answer.*

- ○ Yes (1)
- ○ No (2)

Q48bb Did the student(s)... *Select all that apply.*

- ☐ Pick up meals at a school or other location (1)
- ☐ Receive an EBT card to help buy groceries (2)
- ☐ Eat meals on-site, at school or other location (3)
- ☐ Have meals delivered (4)

Q49 Next we are going to ask about the childcare arrangements for children in the household.

At any time in the **last 4 weeks**, were any children in the household unable to attend daycare or another childcare arrangement because of the coronavirus pandemic? *Please include before school care, after school care, and all other forms of childcare that were unavailable. Select only one answer.*

- ○ Yes (1)
- ○ No (2)
- ○ Not applicable (3)

Q49b Which if any of the following occurred **in the last 4 weeks** as a result of childcare being closed or unavailable? *Select all that apply.*

- ☐ You (or another adult) took unpaid leave to care for the children (1)
- ☐ You (or another adult) used vacation, or sick days, or other paid leave in order to care for the children (2)
- ☐ You (or another adult) cut your work hours in order to care for the children (3)
- ☐ You (or another adult) left a job in order to care for the children (4)
- ☐ You (or another adult) lost a job because of time away to care for the children (5)
- ☐ You (or another adult) did not look for a job in order to care for the children (6)
- ☐ You (or another adult) supervised one or more children while working (7)
- ☐ Other, specify: (8) _____
- ☐ None of the above (9)

Updated Questions for Phase 3.1

Additionally, some items have been adjusted to include different reference periods, while others have been changed in more substantive ways. One of these variables, PLNDTRIPS, previously asked about trip cancellations but now collects information on planned travel in the next 4 weeks.

Q21c During the **next 4 weeks**, are you planning to take any overnight trips or trips to places more than 100 miles away? *Select only one answer.*

- ○ Yes (1)
- ○ No (2)

Users should note that despite this change, the variable name has not been changed. In all other instances where questions changed, variable names were adjusted to reflect a "revised" version of the previous variable names.

The following questions have also changed for Phase 3.1.

QV3 has a new "Be unsure about getting a vaccine" response category.

QV3 Once a vaccine to prevent COVID-19 is available to you, would you…

- ○ Definitely get a vaccine (1)
- ○ Probably get a vaccine (2)
- ○ Be unsure about getting a vaccine (3)
- ○ Probably NOT get a vaccine (4)
- ○ Definitely NOT get a vaccine (5)

Q13 has slightly updated response categories. Previously, the "sick with coronavirus symptoms or caring for someone" category was two distinct response options. The "did not have transportation" category is also new for Phase 3.1.

Q13 What is your main reason for not working for pay or profit? *Select only one answer.*
I did not work because:

- ○ I did not want to be employed at this time (1)
- ○ I am/was sick with coronavirus symptoms or caring for someone who was sick with coronavirus symptoms (2)
- ○ I am/was caring for children not in school or daycare (3)
- ○ I am/was caring for an elderly person (4)
- ○ I was concerned about getting or spreading the coronavirus (5)
- ○ I am/was sick (not coronavirus related) or disabled (6)
- ○ I am retired (7)
- ○ I am/was laid off or furloughed due to coronavirus pandemic (8)
- ○ My employer closed temporarily due to the coronavirus pandemic (9)
- ○ My employer went out of business due to the coronavirus pandemic (10)
- ○ I do/did not have transportation to work (11)
- ○ Other reason, please specify (12)

The topic of telework is now captured using a combination of the following two questions whereas the previous version asked about telework in one question.

Q13a Working from home is sometimes referred to as telework. In the **past 7 days**, have any adults in this household teleworked? *Select only one answer.*

- ○ Yes (1)
- ○ No (2)

If yes:

Q13b Have any adults teleworked **because of** the coronavirus pandemic? *Select only one answer.*

- ○ Yes (1)
- ○ No (2)

Likewise, the topic of receiving stimulus payments is now captured using a combination of the following two questions.

Q15 In the **last 7 days**, did you or anyone in your household receive a "stimulus payment," that is a coronavirus related Economic Impact Payment from the Federal Government? *Please report "yes" if you received the stimulus payment as a paper check, direct deposit, or part of your tax refund.*

- ○ Yes (1)
- ○ No (2)

If yes:
Q15a Thinking about your use of the "stimulus payment," did you:

- ○ Mostly spend it (1)
- ○ Mostly save it (2)
- ○ Mostly use it to pay off debt (3)

Household spending is now separated for household spending/shopping and services using the following questions:

Q19b In the **last 7 days**, have you or your household changed your spending or shopping in the following categories?

	Yes (1)	No (2)
Online purchases (Q19b_1)	○	○
Curbside pick-up (Q19b_2)	○	○
In-store shopping (Q19b_3)	○	○

Q19b2 In the **last 7 days**, have you or your household changed your use of the following services?

	Yes (1)	No (2)
Eating indoors at restaurants (Q19b2_1)	○	○
In-person medical or dental appointments (Q19b2_2)	○	○
Housekeeping or caregiving services (Q19b2_3)	○	○

Q19bb Did you or your household spend more or less in each category in the **last 7 days**?

	More (1)	Less (2)
Online purchases (Q19bb_1)	○	○
Curbside pick-up (Q19bb_2)	○	○
In-store shopping (Q19bb_3)	○	○
Eating indoors at restaurants (Q19bb_4)	○	○
In-person medical or dental appointments (Q19bb_5)	○	○
Housekeeping or caregiving services (Q19bb_6)	○	○

Household use of cash is now measured with an independent question:

Q19b3 In the **last 7 days**, have you or your household increased or decreased your use of cash for purchases as opposed to cashless payment methods (e.g., credit cards, debit cards, smartphone apps)? *Select only one answer.*

- ○ Increased use of cash (1)
- ○ Decreased use of cash (2)
- ○ No change in the use of cash (3)

Household shopping is now measured with the following question.

Q21aa Considering shopping in the **last 7 days**, because of the coronavirus pandemic have you or your household members: *Select all that apply.*

- ☐ Combined shopping trips so that you've taken fewer trips overall (1)
- ☐ Done more of your usual shopping online resulting in fewer trips to stores (2)
- ☐ Not made any changes in shopping trips in the last 7 days (3)

The question asking about reasons for food insecurity has updated response categories.

Q25 Why did you not have enough to eat (or not what you wanted to eat)? *Select all that apply.*

☐ Couldn't afford to buy more food (1)

☐ Couldn't get to store to buy food (for example, didn't have transportation, have mobility or health limitations that prevent you from getting out) (2)

☐ Couldn't go to store due to safety concerns (3)

☐ None of the above (4)

Receiving free food is now measured with a single question:

Q26 During the **last 7 days**, did you or anyone in your household get free groceries from a food pantry, food bank, church, or other place that provides free food? *Select only one answer.*

○ Yes (1)

○ No (2)

*The previous building description question has updated response categories.*Q39a Which best describes this building? Include all apartments, flats, etc., even if vacant. *Select only one answer.*

- ○ A mobile home (1)
- ○ A one-family house detached from any other house (2)
- ○ A one-family house attached to one or more houses (3)
- ○ A building with 2 apartments (4)
- ○ A building with 3 or 4 apartments (5)
- ○ A building with 5 or more apartments (6)
- ○ Boat, RV, van, etc. (7)

In addition to the new education content shown above, some of the existing education questions have also been updated.

Q42a
During the school year that started in the **Fall of 2020**, how many children in this household were

enrolled in Kindergarten through 12th grade or grade equivalent? *Enter numbers for all that apply. Enter '0' if none.*

☐ Number enrolled in a public school (1)
_____

☐ Number enrolled in a private school (2)
_____

☐ Number homeschooled, that is not enrolled in public or private school (3)
_____

☐ None (4)

Q47 has added a new "Not available in my home" response option.

Q47 Are Internet services in your home …? *Select all that apply.*

☐ Paid for by the children's school or school district (1)

☐ Paid for by someone in the household or family (2)

☐ Paid for by another source (3)

☐ Not available in my home (4)

For Phase 3.1, the following variables have updated reference periods.

Q9a Have you, or has anyone in your household experienced a loss of employment income **in the last 4 weeks**? *Select only one answer.*

- ○ Yes (1)
- ○ No (2)

Q14a Since **January 1, 2021**, have you applied for Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits? *Select only one answer.*

- ○ Yes (1)
- ○ No (2)

Q14b Since **January 1, 2021**, have you received Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits? *Select only one answer.*

- ○ Yes (1)
- ○ No (2)

Q14e Did you apply or attempt to apply for Social Security benefits (Retirement, Disability, or Survivors), Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits, or Medicare benefits after **January 1, 2021**? *Select only one answer.*

- ○ Yes, applied or attempted to apply (1)
- ○ No (2)

Q14g How likely are you to apply for Social Security benefits (Retirement, Disability, or Survivors), Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits, or Medicare benefits **during 2021**? *Select only one answer.*

- ○ Extremely likely (1)
- ○ Very likely (2)
- ○ Somewhat likely (3)
- ○ Not at all likely (4)

Q21b
Prior to the coronavirus pandemic, in a typical week, did you use bus, rail, or ride-sharing services, like Uber and Lyft? *Select only one answer.*

- ○ Yes (1)
- ○ No (2)

QPS1 How many members of your household, including yourself, are currently taking, or were planning to take classes **this term** from a college, university, community college, trade school, or other occupational school (such as a cosmetology school or a school of culinary arts)? *Please enter a number.*

QPS4 Why did household members' classes **this term** change? *Select all that apply.*

- ☐ Had coronavirus or concerns about getting coronavirus (1)
- ☐ Caring for someone with coronavirus (2)
- ☐ Caring for others whose care arrangements are disrupted (e.g., loss of day care or adult care programs) (3)
- ☐ Institution changed content or format of classes (e.g., from in-person to online) (4)
- ☐ Changes to financial aid (5)

☐ Changes to campus life (6)

☐ Uncertainty about how classes/program might change (7)

☐ Not able to pay for classes/educational expenses because of changes to income from the pandemic (8)

☐ Some other reason related to the pandemic, please specify (9) _____

Users can access the Phase 3.1 questionnaire on the Measuring Household Experiences during the Coronavirus (COVID-10) Pandemic website.

Removed Questions for Phase 3.1

During this same collection period, the following questions were removed from the survey and not replaced due to a decline in their utility:

Q27 Where did you get free groceries or free meals? *Select all that apply.*

☐ Free meals through the school or other programs aimed at children (1)

☐ Food pantry or food bank (2)

☐ Home-delivered meal service like Meals on Wheels (3)

☐ Church, synagogue, temple, mosque or other religious organization (4)

☐ Shelter or soup kitchen (5)

☐ Other community program (6)

☐ Family, friends, or neighbors (7)

Q45 Is the computer or other digital device …? *Select all that apply.*

- ☐ Provided by the children's school or school district to use outside of school (1)
- ☐ Provided by someone in the household or family, or it is the child's (2)
- ☐ Provided by another source (3)

Q48a During the **last 7 days**, about how many hours did the student(s) spend doing learning activities on their own? Do not include time spent with teachers or other household members. Enter the total number of hours for all students. *If none, enter 0.*

Q48b During the **last 7 days**, about how much time did the student(s) typically spend on all learning activities relative to a school day before the coronavirus pandemic? *Select only one answer.*

- ○ Much less than a school day before the coronavirus pandemic (1)
- ○ A little bit less than a school day before the coronavirus pandemic (2)
- ○ As much as a school day before the coronavirus pandemic (3)
- ○ A little bit more than a school day before the coronavirus pandemic (4)
- ○ Much more than a school day before the coronavirus pandemic (5)

QPS2

Thinking of all the members of your household who were planning to take classes from a college, university, community college, trade school, or other occupational school this fall, what type of program(s) are the classes a part of? *Select all that apply.*

- ☐ Certificate or diploma program from a school that provides occupational training (usually a 2-year program, often leading to a license, such as cosmetology) (1)
- ☐ Associate's degree program (usually a 2-year degree) (2)
- ☐ Bachelor's degree program (usually a 4-year degree) (3)
- ☐ Graduate degree program (for example, Master's, PhD, MD) (4)
- ☐ Another credential program not listed above (5)
- ☐ Classes that are not part of a credential program (6)

Release Note on Updated Population Controls

Certain demographic characteristics in the Household Pulse Survey (HPS) are controlled to two sets of independent population estimates. For Phase 3.1, both of these controls have been updated to the most recently available data sources.

The HPS now uses the 2019 American Community Survey (ACS) to control estimates to educational attainment by age and sex, and the survey also relies on the Census Bureau's 2021 Population Estimates Program to control estimates to Hispanic origin/race by age and sex.

Phase 3.1 of the HPS also uses the 2019 ACS for its occupied housing unit ratio adjustment.

Previous phases of the HPS were controlled to the 2018 ACS and 2020 Population estimates, respectively.

For more information, including Source and Accuracy statements for every collection period of the HPS, please visit the survey's Technical Documentation page.

Release Note on Updated Interactive Data Tool

The Household Pulse Survey Interactive Tool has been updated with a number of notable enhancements. Data users can now see every indicator from prior data collection phases (even those that have been discontinued), and with the tool's new dropdown menu selection feature, users can see and select the collection periods for every indicator. The indicators are also now grouped by topic. Additionally, the tool's collection period filters and map and chart display features have also been improved.

With the publication of the new Household Pulse Survey Vaccination Tracker (see more detail below), the **Received a COVID-19 Vaccine** and **Likelihood of Receiving a COVID-19 Vaccine** indicators will no longer be included in the data tool. The **Change in Postsecondary Education** indicator has also been discontinued.

Beginning in Week 28, the data tool includes a new Telework indicator. For Weeks 13-27, the Telework indicator relied on a single question, but the Phase 3.1 questionnaire has been updated to include two telework related questions. As such, the estimates have changed to a degree and are no longer comparable, therefore the two versions of the Telework indicator are displayed separately.

The updated data tool also includes the following new indicators beginning in Week 28:

Food Assistance from School (Percentage of adults in households with children enrolled in public or private school where students received food assistance from school in the last 7 days)

Childcare Disruptions (Percentage of adults in households where children were unable to attend daycare or another childcare arrangement because of the coronavirus pandemic in the last 4 weeks)

Household Telehealth (Percentage of adults who had an appointment with a doctor, nurse, or other health professional by video or by phone in the last 4 weeks)

Children's Telehealth (Percentage of adults living in households where children had an appointment with a doctor, nurse, or other health professional by video or by phone in the last 4 weeks)

Planned Trips (Percentage of adults who are planning to take any overnight trips or trips to places more than 100 miles away in the next 4 weeks)

Release Note on Household Pulse Survey Vaccination Estimates

The Week 28 estimates released on May 5th, 2021 showed a significant increase in the vaccination rate in the HPS (displayed in both the published detailed tables and updated vaccination tracker). HPS estimates are based on survey self-reports from specific time periods and may not align with published counts generated from other sources. Data users should continue to interpret these results with caution, especially when comparing them to other data sources or administrative records.

The Census Bureau recently released a Nonresponse Bias Report for the 2020 Household Pulse Survey, available on the survey's Technical Documentation page.

Release Note on Household Pulse Survey Vaccination Tracker

On 04/28/2021, estimates for Week 22 (01/06/2021 to 01/18/2021) in the Household Pulse Survey COVID-19 Vaccination Tracker were updated. The change involved removing some respondents with missing data from the denominator in calculating percentages in the visualization. Users may notice differences in the estimates for the 18-24year-olds as well as small changes for other estimates in the visualization if comparing to estimates in the original release.

Date: February 24, 2021

Release Note on Updated Interactive Data Tool

The measurement label for Housing Insecurity has been updated to better describe how the indicator is defined. The old label defined Housing Insecurity as "Percentage of adults who are not current on rent or mortgage payment, or who have slight or no confidence that their household can pay next month's rent or mortgage on time." The new label has been updated to replace the "or" with "and."

New Label:

Housing Insecurity

Percentage of adults who are not current on rent or mortgage payments and who have slight or no confidence that their household can pay next month's rent or mortgage on time

Release Note on Updated Interactive Data Tool

The bar graph feature of the Household Pulse Data Tool has been adjusted to no longer display confidence intervals below a given estimate's zero point. For all estimates displayed in the data tool, a negative lower bound for the confidence interval does not make sense, therefore the lowest possible bound is now displayed as zero. For more information please see the January 20, 2021 – February 1, 2021 Source and Accuracy Statement available on the survey's Technical Documentation page (specifically the "Standard Errors and Their Use" section on page 10).

Release Note on Renaming of the Household Pulse Survey Public Use Files

The Household Pulse Public Use Files are now named pulse2021 in the zipped files.

- pulse2021_data.dictionary_CSV_XX
- pulse2021_puf_XX
- pulse2021_repwgt_puf_XX

where XX represents the week of the release.

Release Note on Data Dictionaries for Week7-Week12 Public Use Files

On February 10, 2021, the Household Pulse is releasing the Week 22 Public Use File (PUF). During the update to the Data Dictionary to incorporate the new content added for Week 22 (see Release Note on New Content and Updated Questionnaire dated January 27, 2021), an error was discovered for Q19 which asks about what the respondent spent their stimulus payment on. This question, along with the preceding question Q15, was previously asked in Week 7 to Week 12.

Q15 In the **last 7 days**, if you or anyone in your household received a "stimulus payment," that is a coronavirus related Economic Impact Payment from the Federal Government, did you:
Select only one answer.

- ○ Mostly spend it (1)
- ○ Mostly save it (2)
- ○ Mostly use it to pay off debt (3)
- ○ Not applicable, I did not receive the stimulus payment (4)

Q15 yields the variable EIP with four answer categories.

<If Q15 = 1, 2, or 3, then display Q19>

Q19 What did you and your household mostly spend the most recent "stimulus payment" on?
Select all that apply.

- ☐ Food (groceries, eating out, take out) (1)
- ☐ Clothing (clothing, accessories, shoes) (2)
- ☐ Household supplies and personal care products (3)
- ☐ Household items (TV, electronics, furniture, appliances) (4)
- ☐ Recreational goods (sports and fitness equipment, bicycles, toys, games) (5)
- ☐ Rent (6)
- ☐ Mortgage (scheduled or monthly) (7)
- ☐ Utilities and telecommunications (natural gas, electricity, cable, internet, cellphone) (8)
- ☐ Vehicle payments (scheduled or monthly) (9)
- ☐ Paying down credit card, student loans, or other debts (10)
- ☐ Charitable donations or giving to family members (11)
- ☐ Savings or investments (12)
- ☐ Other, specify (13) _____

Q19 is a "select all that apply" that yields the variables EIPSPND1-EIPSPND13.

The Week 7 to Week 12 PUF Data Dictionaries mistakenly stated the universe for Q19 was when EIP=1. The Data Dictionary for Week 22 correctly states the universe for Q19 is when EIP in 1:3.

This User Note is to alert data users to this correction but we are not currently planning to re-release the Week 7 to Week 12 PUF zipped files.

Date: January 27, 2021

Release Note on Continuation of Phase 3 Data Collection

Following a two-week break in data collection, Phase 3 of the Household Pulse Survey has been extended from its original end date of December 21, 2020 to run through March 1, 2021. Beginning with the Week 22 release (collection period January 6, 2021 – January 18, 2021), there are multiple changes to the questionnaire, including the addition of questions regarding individuals' intention to receive a COVID-19 vaccine and the removal of some questions for which utility has declined over time (see

Release Note on New Content and Updated Questionnaire below). Questions related to stimulus payments have also resumed. We expect further revisions to the survey in March.

Release Note on New Content and Updated Questionnaire

Beginning with the Week 22 (collection period January 6, 2021 – January 18, 2021), the Household Pulse Survey questionnaire changed to include the following items:

QV1 Have you received a COVID-19 vaccine?

- ○ Yes (1)
- ○ No (2)

<If QV1 = 1 then display QV2>

QV2 Did you receive (or do you plan to receive) all required doses?

- ○ Yes (1)
- ○ No (2)

<If QV1 = 2 then display QV3>

QV3 Once a vaccine to prevent COVID-19 is available to you, would you…

- ○ Definitely get a vaccine (1)
- ○ Probably get a vaccine (4)
- ○ Probably NOT get a vaccine (5)
- ○ Definitely NOT get a vaccine (6)

<If QV2 = 2 OR QV3 = 2, 3, or 4 then display QV4>

QV4 Which of the following, if any, are reasons that you {QV4fill} {QV4fill2}? *Select all that apply.*

- ☐ I am concerned about possible side effects of a COVID-19 vaccine (1)
- ☐ I don't know if a COVID-19 vaccine will work (2)
- ☐ I don't believe I need a COVID-19 vaccine (3)
- ☐ I don't like vaccines (4)
- ☐ My doctor has not recommended it (5)
- ☐ I plan to wait and see if it is safe and may get it later (6)
- ☐ I think other people need it more than I do right now (7)
- ☐ I am concerned about the cost of a COVID-19 vaccine (8)
- ☐ I don't trust COVID-19 vaccines (9)
- ☐ I don't trust the government (10)
- ☐ Other (please specify) (11) _____

<If QV4 = 3 then display QV4>

QV5 Why do you believe that you don't need a COVID-19 vaccine? *Select all that apply.*

- ☐ I already had COVID-19 (1)
- ☐ I am not a member of a high-risk group (2)
- ☐ I plan to use masks or other precautions instead (3)
- ☐ I don't believe COVID-19 is a serious illness (4)
- ☐ I don't think vaccines are beneficial (5)
- ☐ Other (please specify) (6) _____

QV6 Has a doctor or other health care provider ever told you that you have COVID-19?

- ○ Yes (1)
- ○ No (2)
- ○ Not Sure (3)

Q15 In the **last 7 days**, if you or anyone in your household received a "stimulus payment," that is a coronavirus related Economic Impact Payment from the Federal Government, did you:
Select only one answer.

- ○ Mostly spend it (1)
- ○ Mostly save it (2)
- ○ Mostly use it to pay off debt (3)
- ○ Not applicable, I did not receive the stimulus payment (4)

<If Q15 = 1, 2, or 3, then display Q19>

Q19 What did you and your household mostly spend the most recent "stimulus payment" on?
Select all that apply.

- ☐ Food (groceries, eating out, take out) (1)
- ☐ Clothing (clothing, accessories, shoes) (2)
- ☐ Household supplies and personal care products (3)
- ☐ Household items (TV, electronics, furniture, appliances) (4)
- ☐ Recreational goods (sports and fitness equipment, bicycles, toys, games) (5)
- ☐ Rent (6)
- ☐ Mortgage (scheduled or monthly) (7)
- ☐ Utilities and telecommunications (natural gas, electricity, cable, internet, cellphone) (8)
- ☐ Vehicle payments (scheduled or monthly) (9)
- ☐ Paying down credit card, student loans, or other debts (10)
- ☐ Charitable donations or giving to family members (11)
- ☐ Savings or investments (12)
- ☐ Other, specify (13) _____

During this same collection period, the following questions were removed from the survey due to a decline in their continued utility:

Q14 Are you receiving pay for the time you are not working? *Select only one answer.*

- ○ Yes, I use paid leave (1)
- ○ Yes, I receive full pay but do not have to take leave (2)
- ○ Yes, I receive partial pay (3)
- ○ No, I receive no pay (4)

Q14c Including yourself, how many people in your household received Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits since **March 13, 2020**? *Please enter a number.*

_____

Q21d Were any of these trips canceled because of the coronavirus pandemic? Include trips you had not made travel reservations or arrangements for in your answer. *Select only one answer.*

- ○ Yes (1)
- ○ No (2)

Q23 Getting enough food can also be a problem for some people. Which of these statements best describes the food eaten in your household **before March 13, 2020**? *Select only one answer.*

- ○ Enough of the kinds of food (I/we) wanted to eat (1)
- ○ Enough, but not always the kinds of food (I/we) wanted to eat (2)
- ○ Sometimes not enough to eat (3)
- ○ Often not enough to eat (4)

Q27b In which month(s) were SNAP or food stamp benefits received? *Select all that apply.*

- ☐ January 2020 (1)
- ☐ February 2020 (2)
- ☐ March 2020 (3)
- ☐ April 2020 (4)
- ☐ May 2020 (5)
- ☐ June 2020 (6)
- ☐ July 2020 (7)
- ☐ August 2020 (8)
- ☐ September 2020 (9)
- ☐ October 2020 (10)
- ☐ November 2020 (11)
- ☐ December 2020 (12)

Q30 How confident are you that your household will be able to afford the kinds of food you need for the **next four weeks**? *Select only one answer.*

- ○ Not at all confident (1)
- ○ Somewhat confident (2)
- ○ Moderately confident (3)
- ○ Very confident (4)

Q31 Would you say your health in general is excellent, very good, good, fair, or poor? *Select only one answer.*

- ○ Excellent (1)
- ○ Very good (2)
- ○ Good (3)
- ○ Fair (4)
- ○ Poor (5)

Q40a How many bedrooms are in your home? *Please enter a number.*

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Release Note on Updates to the HPS Interactive Tool

The HPS Interactive Tool has been updated to include the following two indicators:

- Received a COVID-19 Vaccine - Percentage of adults who have received a COVID-19 vaccine
- Likelihood of Receiving a COVID-19 Vaccine - Percentage of adults who have not received a COVID-19 vaccine (but who definitely will once available)

All other indicators in the tool remained unchanged.

Release Note on Table Sourcing Specification

A sourcing specification for the continuation of the Phase 3 Detailed Tables is now available on the Technical Documentation website of the Household Pulse Survey. Please see the file labeled "Household Pulse Survey Table Specifications – Beginning January 26, 2021" for more detail. This updated sourcing document includes the new and modified items described above.

Date: December 16, 2020

Release Note on Updated Public Use File Data Dictionaries

The Public Use File (PUF) data dictionaries were updated for Weeks 13-18 and re-released. The answer categories for both the EVICT and the FORCLOSE variables should have been listed as very likely, somewhat likely, not very likely, and not at all likely. The previous data dictionaries incorrectly listed the answer categories as extremely likely, very likely, somewhat likely, and not at all likely.

The issue was only in the data dictionary. The datafiles in both CSV and SAS were correct.

Date: November 18, 2020

Release Note on Phase 3 Collection of the Household Pulse Survey

The Household Pulse Survey (HPS) ended Phase 2 on 10/31/2020. We entered Phase 3 to continue collecting information on how the coronavirus pandemic is impacting households across the country. Working with the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), the Census Bureau was approved to continue collecting the HPS with an expiration date of 10/31/2023.

Despite entering a new phase in collection marked by a new clearance from OMB, for the time being the Phase 3 content is the same as the Phase 2 content and will continue as is through 12/21/2020. We continue to collect and disseminate data on employment status, food security, housing, physical and mental health, access to health care, educational disruption, application and receipt of benefits, spending patterns, availability of financial resources, capacity to telework, and travel practices. In Phase 3, we continue to collect and disseminate data on a bi-weekly basis. The distinction between the phases is the approval to collect the HPS by OMB. Content is being reviewed and changes are being considered for early 2021.

Release Note on Corrected Standard Error Tables

Due to the errors discovered earlier for the Food Sufficiency and Food Security Tables, we are re-releasing the Food Sufficiency and Food Security Standard Error Table 2a, Standard Error Table 2b, Standard Error Table 3a, and Standard Error Table 3b with correct standard errors (SEs) for the “Did not report” category under “Currently caught up on mortgage or rental payments.” The previously calculated SEs for the “Did not report” was incorrectly calculated. The re-release of these tables affected Week 13 to Week17.

Phase 2

Date: November 4, 2020

Release Note on Detailed Tables and Table Sourcing Specification

The Week 13 through Week 16 Food2a, 2b, 3a, and 3b detailed tables were updated for the "Did not report" category under "Currently caught up on mortgage or rental payments." This category is a combination of three questions on the Household Pulse Survey. It combines the housing status (TENURE), whether the respondent is currently caught up on rental payments (RENTCUR), whether the respondents is currently caught up on mortgage payments (MORTCUR).

The original Week 13 to Week 16 tables were calculated if a respondent didn't respond to any of the items, which artificially inflated the "Did not report" population. The correct calculation of "Did not report" was the combination of these three variables. This correct calculation now makes the "Currently caught up on mortgage or rental payments" mutually exclusive. These tables have been re-run and re-released. The other estimates in these tables were not affected by this change.

Additionally, the Table Sourcing Specification on the Technical Documentation website was updated with this clarification.

Release Note on Updated Questionnaire

New updated English and Spanish questionnaires that include skip patterns were released on November 4, 2020 and are available from our main Household Pulse Survey website.

Date: October 21, 2020

Release Note on Public Use File (PUF)

The Household Pulse Survey started creating household-level weights for Phase 2. We went back and created these household-level weights for the previously released Public Use Files (PUF) from Phase 1 as individual SAS and CSV datasets. Data users can merge these household-level weights to the PUF using the record identifier variable SCRAM.

Release Note on Updates to the HPS Interactive Tool

The Household Pulse Survey updated the Interactive Tool with the following enhancements.

1. Included a new column in the table grid to show the denominator for each indicator.
2. Updated the definition for the Likelihood of Eviction or Foreclosure indicator.
3. Updated the tool notes and created a direct link to the Phase 1 Data Tool Indicators spreadsheet.

Date: October 7, 2020

Release Note on Table Sourcing Specification

A sourcing specification for the Phase 2 Detailed Tables is now available on the Technical Documentation website of the Household Pulse Survey. Please see the Phase 2 Household Pulse Survey Table Specification for more detail.

Release Note on Corrected Standard Error Tables

An error was discovered in the Week 13 and Week 14 Food Sufficiency and Food Security Tables Standard Error Table 2a, Standard Error Table 2b, Standard Error Table 3a, and Standard Error Table 3b. The standard errors for "Housing owned or payment not required" in these tables were incorrectly calculated due to a change in the table specifications from Phase 1 to Phase 2. All other cells in the Food Standard Error tables are correct as are the estimates in the detailed tables.

Currently caught up on mortgage or rental payments
Yes
No
Housing owned or payment not required
Did not report

DATE: September 9, 2020

Release Note

Phase 1 of the Household Pulse Survey (HPS) was collected and disseminated on a weekly basis. Phase 1 collection ended July 21, 2020. Phase 2 started collection August 19, 2020 but with a two-week collection and dissemination period. Despite going to a two-week collection period, the Household Pulse Survey continues to call these collection periods Weeks for continuity with Phase 1.

Phase 1 of the Household Pulse Survey asked individuals about their experiences in terms of employment status, food security, housing, physical and mental health, access to health care, and educational disruption. Phase 2 carried over many of these questions to allow users to understand how these domains are changing as the pandemic continues. Additional content included application and receipt of benefits, spending patterns, availability of financial resources, post-secondary education disruptions, capacity to telework, and travel practices.

Users can access the Phase 2 questionnaire on the Measuring Household Experiences during the Coronavirus (COVID-10) Pandemic website.