UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
U.S. Census Bureau
Washington, DC 20233-0001

August 12, 2026

MEMORANDUM FOR Timothy R. Gilbert
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Subject: Nonresponse Bias Analysis for Calendar Year 2025 of the Survey of Income and Program Participation (ALYS-27)

This memorandum includes the documentation of the nonresponse bias analysis for Calendar Year 2025 of the Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP).

The U.S. Census Bureau has reviewed this data product to ensure appropriate access, use, and disclosure avoidance protection of the confidential source data used to produce this product (Data Management System (DMS) number: P-7516454; Disclosure Review Board (DRB) approval number: CBDRB – FY26-SEHSD003-086).

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Nonresponse Bias Analysis for Calendar Year 2025 Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP)

Version 1.0
August 12, 2026

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DMS Number: P-7516454; DRB Number: CBDRB-FY26-SEHSD003-086

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Executive Summary

The Office of Management and Budget Standards and Guidelines for Statistical Surveys and the U.S. Census Bureau's Statistical Quality Standards require surveys to conduct a nonresponse bias analysis if unit response rates are below 80 percent. This report documents the nonresponse bias analysis for Calendar Year 2025 of the Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP), which covered the reference period from January to December 2024 and had a unit response rate of 42.63 percent when weighted with base weights. The methods implemented in this study include: Comparing cross-sectional weighted response rates across several demographics of the SIPP sample; examining key estimates and characteristics of the full sample, respondents, and nonrespondents using data from SIPP Calendar Year 2025 and the 2024 Planning Database; and benchmarking Calendar Year 2025 estimates. Our findings are as follows:

- For all the waves of Calendar Year 2025, the response rates differed significantly across subgroups of the same characteristic. The largest response rate differences occurred in: for Wave 1, Census region, Metropolitan Statistical Area status, household size, multi-unit building block group, and vacant unit block group; for Wave 2, household size, race, Census region, Metropolitan Statistical Area status, tenure, and urban-rural status; for Wave 3, vacant units block group, multi-units block group, household size, race, tenure, and Census region; and for Wave 4, household size, race, vacant units block group, Metropolitan Statistical Area status, race, Census region, and tenure.

- Relative differences between some full sample and respondent estimates were significantly reduced when respondent estimates were calculated using the noninterview adjusted weights, demonstrating that the noninterview adjustment was effective in reducing nonresponse bias associated with some key estimates and demographic groups.

- The SIPP estimated median income in reference year 2024 computed with Calendar Year 2025 final weights was 4.38 percent lower than the value published in the 2024 Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplement Reports. The SIPP poverty rate estimate for the overall population was not statistically different from the estimate derived from the Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplement. SIPP generally underestimated program participations; the largest difference came from the participation in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

1. Introduction[1]

Unit nonresponse occurs when sample units – for example households in a household survey – do not respond to a survey. Nonresponse rates have been increasing in recent years among large government surveys, creating growing concerns over data quality and the loss of valuable information from the nonrespondents. Declining response rates increase the concern for *nonresponse bias*, or differences in survey estimates from the actual population values due to inherent dissimilarities between respondents and nonrespondents in the sample. However, there is not always a direct link between response rates and nonresponse bias. Different statistics within a survey can experience different degrees of nonresponse bias depending on the correlation between each statistic and a unit's likelihood of responding. Low response rates may result in significant nonresponse bias for some statistics but not others (Groves, 2006; Groves & Peytcheva, 2008). Similarly, high response rates will not lead to a reduction in nonresponse bias if there is no association between response propensities and the variables in question.

Therefore, the degree of nonresponse bias is a function of not only the response rate, but also how much the respondents and nonrespondents differ on the survey variables of interest. For a sample mean, an estimate of the bias of the sample respondent mean is given by:

$$B(\bar{y}_r) = \bar{y}_r - \bar{y}_t = \left(\frac{n_{nr}}{n}\right)(\bar{y}_r - \bar{y}_{nr})$$

where:

$\bar{y}_t$ = the mean based on all sample cases;
$\bar{y}_r$ = the mean based only on respondent cases;
$\bar{y}_{nr}$ = the mean based only on the nonrespondent cases;
n = the number of cases in the sample; and
n_{nr} = the number of nonrespondent cases.

Policymakers use estimates from the surveys conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau and other agencies to determine the impact of government programs and evaluate national economic indicators; therefore, understanding and measuring nonresponse bias associated with these key estimates is necessary. The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Standards, released in 2006, require survey programs to implement a nonresponse bias analysis if unit response rates fall below 80 percent (OMB, 2006). In addition to the OMB Standards, the Census Bureau's Statistical Quality Standards state that serious data quality issues related to nonsampling error can occur when cumulative response rates for a longitudinal survey fall below 60 percent and/or when sample attrition from one wave to the next is greater than five percent (U.S. Census Bureau, 2026).

[1] The U.S. Census Bureau has reviewed this data product to ensure appropriate access, use, and disclosure avoidance protection of the confidential source data used to produce this product (Data Management System (DMS) number: P-7516454; Disclosure Review Board (DRB) approval number: CBDRB – FY26-SEHSD003-086).

1.1 Data

The Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP) is a longitudinal survey designed to collect detailed information on income, employment, health insurance, and participation in government programs among the civilian noninstitutionalized population residing in the United States. The Census Bureau employed a two-stage sample design to select the SIPP Calendar Year (CY) 2025 sample, which consists of the SIPP 2022, 2023, 2024, and 2025 panels. Housing units in the Master Address File (MAF), which is created from the decennial censuses and frequently updated by the Census Bureau, were systematically selected from 686 Primary Sampling Units (PSUs) for the 2022 through 2024 panels and 518 PSUs for the 2025 panel. Selected housing units were partitioned into two strata, with one containing a higher concentration of low-income households than the other. Households located in the low-income stratum were oversampled by 30 percent to increase the accuracy of the estimates of low-income households.

Sampled households in each panel are interviewed annually over a period of four years, and data is collected on the 12 months of the preceding calendar year. Each cycle of interview is called a *wave*. The CY 2025 (i.e., SIPP 2025 Wave 1, SIPP 2024 Wave 2, SIPP 2023 Wave 3, and SIPP 2022 Wave 4) interviews occurred from February through May of 2025 and obtained data on the reference period covering January through December of 2024. During each interview, Field Representatives (FRs) identify an adult[2] reference person, also called the *householder*, in each household. The householder is often the owner or renter of the residence.

Adults in *original sample* households – households that were interviewed in Wave 1 – are followed in subsequent waves and interviews are attempted for all household members, including new household members who joined a previously interviewed household. Furthermore, when persons from original sample households join a new household that was not originally in the SIPP sample, the new household – referred to as a *spawned household* – also becomes part of the SIPP sample.

The designated sample in CY 2025 consisted of approximately 38,000[3] households, of which 32,500 households were eligible for interview. Of the eligible households, 14,000 were interviewed resulting in a weighted response rate of 42.63 percent (see Table 1).

Table 1 shows the number of eligible, interviewed, and noninterviewed households, and response rates in CY 2025. The sample loss rate for Wave 1 is calculated using Formula (1).

$$Sample\ Loss\ = \frac{A_1}{I_1 + A_1}, \tag{1}$$

[2] The SIPP defines adults as all household members age 15 or older.

[3] Unweighted household counts throughout this report are rounded and may not sum up to totals or match proportions that are computed from unrounded counts.

where:

A_1= weighted number of Type A noninterviewed households in Wave 1,
I_1 = weighted number of interviewed households in Wave 1.

Cumulative sample loss incorporates nonresponse[4] from the beginning of the panel in Wave 1 to the end of the current wave and accounts for the unobservable loss of nonrespondent spawned households using an estimated growth factor computed from interviewed households. The sample loss for Wave 2+ is calculated using Formula (2).

$$Sample\ Loss = \frac{(A_1 \times GF_c) + A_c + D_c}{I_c + (A_1 \times GF_c) + A_c + D_c} \quad (2)$$

where:

A_1= weighted number of Type A noninterviewed households in Wave 1
A_c = weighted number of Type A noninterviewed households in the current wave
D_c= weighted number of Type D noninterviewed households in the current wave
I_c = weighted number of interviewed households in the current wave
GF_c = growth factor associated with the current wave

Table 1. Calendar Year 2025 Household (Hhld) Total Counts, Response Rate, and Sample Loss Rate

Wave	Eligible Hhlds*	Interviewed Hhlds	Type A Hhlds	Type D Hhlds	Weighted Cross-Sectional Response Rate (percent)Ŧ	Weighted Sample Loss (percent)
1	11,500	4,100	7,600	-	35.17Ŧ	64.83
2	5,000	2,800	2,100	60	55.87Ŧ	77.21
3	5,600	2,600	2,900	100	46.19Ŧ	80.79
4	10,500	4,500	5,700	200	42.97Ŧ	86.79
Total	32,500	14,000	18,500	400	42.63Ŧ	80.30

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation, Calendar Year 2025.
*Interviewed and Noninterviewed Households may not sum up to Eligible Households due to rounding. Eligible Households by wave may not sum up to the total due to rounding.
ŦBase weights were used to calculate the weighted response rates within each panel. The total Calendar Year 2025 response rate shown in the results section does not match this table because it uses adjusted initial weights (defined in Section 2.1).

[4] There are two types of unit nonresponse in the SIPP: Type A and Type D nonresponse. Type A nonrespondent households are eligible households where the interviewer obtains no interviews while Type D nonrespondents are previously interviewed households who move to an unknown address or moved more than 100 miles from a SIPP interviewer and no telephone interview could be conducted. As a result, Type D noninterviews only occur after Wave 1.

Another source of data for the CY 2025 nonresponse bias analysis is the 2024 Planning Database (PDB)[5], which has population, housing, and socioeconomic variables from the 2018-2022 American Community Survey (ACS) and the 2020 Census at the block-group level.

This report analyzes nonresponse bias in CY 2025 eligible original sample households (households in SIPP 2025 Wave 1, households that were interviewed in SIPP 2024 Wave 1 and followed into Wave 2, households that were interviewed in SIPP 2023 Wave 1 and followed into Wave 3, or households that were interviewed in SIPP 2022 Wave 1 and followed into Wave 4) – hereafter referred to as original sample households or full sample households throughout the report – which were categorized as respondents or nonrespondents depending on whether FRs interviewed them in CY 2025. If a SIPP 2022 Wave 1, SIPP 2023 Wave 1, or SIPP 2024 Wave 1 interviewed household is associated with one or more spawned households in CY 2025, the address where the Wave 1 reference person resides – or whose householder is a Wave 1 interviewed adult if the Wave 1 reference person is not listed on any of the household rosters in CY 2025 – is used to determine the original household's response status. Table 1 summarizes the composition of the households used in the analysis of nonresponse bias in CY 2025. There are approximately 32,500 original sample households; 14,000 were classified as respondents and the remaining 18,500 were considered nonrespondents.

1.2 Nonresponse Bias in Panels Prior to Calendar Year 2025

Previous efforts to examine nonresponse bias and determine its impact on SIPP estimates involved comparing frame variables and data available from previous interviews between respondent households and households who were nonrespondents in the first or later waves of the survey. SIPP estimates were also compared to benchmarks – official statistics computed from administrative records or surveys and available to the public – to assess the likelihood of nonresponse bias.[6]

The CY 2022 nonresponse bias analysis results (Tersine, 2023) showed that SIPP underestimated median household income and program participation in Medicaid, SNAP, and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and overestimated Supplemental Security Income (SSI) enrollees and poverty rates in 2022 compared to benchmarks. The results also indicated that households with a Black householder and households in the South region had lower response rates than the overall response rate for all of Waves 1, 2, 3, and 4. Renters and households in the 50 percent to 75 percent multi-unit buildings block groups had significantly lower response rates for Waves 1 and 3, but the differences were not significant for Wave 2.

The nonresponse bias analysis results of SIPP CY 2023 (Tersine, 2024) indicated the SIPP estimated annual median household income and national poverty rate in 2022 were not significantly different from the Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic

[5] The Census Bureau's 2024 Planning Database can be found at https://www.census.gov/topics/research/guidance/planning-databases/2024.html

[6] Previous SIPP Nonresponse Bias Reports can be found at https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/sipp/tech-documentation/nonresponse-reports.html

Supplement (CPS ASEC) benchmark. Additionally, the nonresponse adjustments significantly reduced bias for 54 percent of the characteristics analyzed in Wave 1, 45 percent in Wave 2, 41 percent in Wave 3, and 26 percent in Wave 4.

The nonresponse bias analysis for SIPP CY 2024 (Tersine, 2025) found that the SIPP estimate of annual median household income did not differ significantly from the value reported in the 2023 CPS ASEC. However, SIPP overestimated both the 2023 poverty rate and the number of SSI recipients and underestimated participation rates in Medicaid, Medicare, TANF, SNAP, and Social Security programs. The analysis also found that renters and households with a Black householder had lower response rates than the overall response rate for all of Waves 1, 2, 3, and 4. Additionally, households that were located in the South and households with three persons had significantly lower response rates in Waves 2, 3, and 4. Consistent with previous years, the nonresponse adjustments significantly reduced the bias across the examined characteristics by 54 percent in Wave 1, 22 percent in Wave 2, 22 percent in Wave 3, and 35 percent in Wave 4. The average absolute relative bias among these characteristics decreased from 5.03 to 2.21 in Wave 1, from 5.42 to 4.42 in Wave 2, from 7.16 to 6.44 in Wave 3, and from 8.62 to 7.30 in Wave 4.

2. Methodology

Three methods were used to investigate nonresponse bias in CY 2025 of SIPP, all of which were previously used to assess nonresponse bias in the CY 2022, CY 2023, and CY 2024 of SIPP. The techniques analyze a combination of geographic frame variables and external benchmarks. Block group variables from the PDB were matched to the SIPP sample and analyzed. The methods include:

1. Comparing cross-sectional response rates for various subgroups of the original sample households in CY 2025.
2. Comparing household characteristics and block group characteristics from the PDB between the CY 2025 full sample and respondent households.
3. Benchmark analysis comparing CY 2025 key estimates to available corresponding administrative data statistics and estimates from other surveys.

The first two methods used to investigate nonresponse bias in CY 2025 of SIPP were applied to each wave separately:

A. Wave 1 of CY 2025 (i.e., SIPP 2025 Wave 1)
B. Wave 2 of CY 2025 (i.e., SIPP 2024 Wave 2)
C. Wave 3 of CY 2025 (i.e., SIPP 2023 Wave 3)
D. Wave 4 of CY 2025 (i.e., SIPP 2022 Wave 4)

This corresponds to how the noninterview adjustment is done separately by panel and wave during the SIPP weighting procedure.

The third method used all waves combined of the full CY 2025 sample (i.e., SIPP 2025 Wave 1, SIPP 2024 Wave 2, SIPP 2023 Wave 3, and SIPP 2022 Wave 4), since analysts are expected to use the entire CY 2025 dataset when producing survey estimates.

2.1 Weighting Procedure

SIPP sample households – and therefore sample persons – are selected with unequal probabilities. Appropriate weights, estimates of the number of households (persons) each sample household (person) represents in the population, should be used when computing SIPP estimates to account for the survey's sample design.

All sampled households were assigned base weights (BW) equal to the inverse of their selection probabilities at the beginning of the panel. Base weights were adjusted for additional subsampling done in the field and nonresponse during Wave 1 interviews using weighting control factors (WCF) and noninterview adjustment factors (NIF), respectively, to create Wave 1 household noninterview adjusted weights ($W1NIwgt$). The household noninterview weights were then assigned to each member of the household, adjusted for the overlapping panels design using an overlapping panel factor (OPF), and raked to independent population controls, i.e. applying a second stage adjustment factor (SSF), for each month in the reference year to determine monthly final person weights ($PFINwgt$).

Each eligible household in subsequent waves was assigned an initial weight ($INITwgt$) equal to its Wave 1 noninterview adjusted weight. Initial weights are multiplied by movers' adjustment factors (MF) to account for multiple chances of selection of movers[7]. The resulting movers' weights are multiplied by a noninterview adjustment factor (NIF) to obtain household noninterview adjusted weights for the current wave ($W\#NIwgt$), where # denotes the wave number. Finally, the household noninterview weights were then assigned to each member of the household, adjusted for the overlapping panels design using an overlapping panel factor (OPF), and raked to independent population controls, i.e. applying a second stage adjustment factor (SSF), for each month in the reference year to determine monthly final person weights ($PFINwgt$). Details of the SIPP cross-sectional weighting procedure are outlined in Tersine (2021a) and Tersine (2021b).
In summary, the household initial weights for Wave 2+ ($INITwgt$)[8], household noninterview adjusted weights for Wave 1 ($W1NIwgt$) and Wave 2+ ($W\#NIwgt$), and the final person weights ($PFINwgt$)[9] are computed as follows:

[7] Movers – persons who move into SIPP sample households after Wave 1 interviews – have two chances to become SIPP sample persons: (a) selection into original SIPP sample households in Wave 1 or (b) selection by moving into a sample household after Wave 1.
[8] A household's Wave 2+ initial weight is equal to its Wave 1 noninterview adjusted weight. As a result, statistics that are computed with the Wave 2+ initial weight have already been adjusted for Wave 1 nonresponse.
[9] Previous SIPP Panels published person, family, and household level final weights with cross-sectional public use files. The SIPP 2014 and later Panels however, only published final person weights. Household weights can be created by either using the final weights of the householder or averaging the final weights of all persons in the household; we use the first method to compute all final weighted household level estimates in Section 4.3 of this report.

$W1NIwgt = BW * WCF * NIF$ (Wave 1)

$INITwgt = W1NIwgt$ (Wave 2+)

$W\#NIwgt = INITwgt * MF * NIF$, where # = 2, 3 or 4 (Wave 2+)

$PFINwgt = W\#NIwgt * OPF * SSF$, where # = 1, 2, 3, or 4 (all waves)

2.2 Analytic Variables

Table2 and Table 3 list CY 2025 demographic and geographic sampling frame variables, key estimates, and PDB variables that are available for both respondents and nonrespondents. The variables in Table 2 are available for all waves. However, the variables in Table 3 use information collected from a previous SIPP interview and therefore are only available for Wave 2+. Some of these variables were used in the CY 2025 noninterview weighting adjustments. All PDB variables in this report are at the block group level and are from ACS 2018-2022.

The SIPP key estimates[10] examined in this analysis include:

- *Median annual household earnings*
- *Median annual household total income*
- *Median household net worth*
- *Household annual poverty rates*
- *Percent of households where at least one household member was covered by Medicaid*
- *Percent of households where at least one household member was covered by Medicare*
- *Percent of households where at least one household member received Social Security income*
- *Percent of households where at least one household member received Supplemental Security Income (SSI)*
- *Percent of households where at least one household member received Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits*
- *Percent of households where at least one household member received Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) benefits*
- *Percent of households receiving welfare income i.e., households where at least one household member participated in or received income from one of the following sources: Medicaid, SNAP, SSI, General Assistance, TANF, or Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)*

[10] The SIPP cross-sectional data files contain monthly and annual coverage indicator variables for most programs and topics collected during interview. We use the annual coverage indicators to determine programs' recipients in this report unless otherwise noted.

Table 2. Characteristics and Geographic Frame Variables Used to Assess Nonresponse Bias in Calendar Year 2025 (All Waves)

Variable/Characteristics	Level Definitions
*Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) status^*	Within MSA in Central City In MSA but not in Central City Not in MSA but in Census Place Neither in MSA nor Census Place
*Census Region^*	Northeast Midwest South West
*Household Size^*	1 Person Household 2 Person Household 3 Person Household 4 or More Person Household
*Race of Householder^*	Black Only Not Black Only
Sex of Householder	Male Female
*Tenure^*	Owner Renter
Urban/Rural Status	Household located in urban area Household located in rural area
*Within PSU Strata^*	Low income stratum Non-low income stratum
Multilingual Block Group ‡	In Multilingual Block Group Not in Multilingual Block Group
Low Education Block Group§	In Low Education Block Group Not in Low Education Block Group
High Public Assistance Block Group¶	In High Public Assistance Recipiency Block Group Not in High Public Assistance Recipiency Block Group
Home Value Block Group	Less than $200k $200k - $400k $400k and over
Multi-unit Buildings Block Group	Less than 25% 25% - 50% 50% - 75% 75% and over

Variable/Characteristics	Level Definitions
Vacant Units Block Group	Less than 20% 20% - 40% 40% - 60% 60% and over

For more information on sampling and nonsampling error, see the Calendar Year 2025 User's Guide.

^ Variables were used in computing Calendar Year 2025 noninterview adjustment factors.

ŦWe consider a block group to be multilingual if 30 percent or more of its residents speak a language other than English at home.

§ We consider a block group to have low education if 20 percent or more of its residents do not hold a high school diploma or the equivalent.

¶ We consider a block group to have a high public assistance recipiency if four percent or more of its occupied housing units receive income from general assistance or Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF).

Table 3. Additional Characteristics and Geographic Frame Variables Used to Assess Nonresponse Bias in Calendar Year 2025 (Wave 2+)

Variable/Characteristics	Level Definitions
Age of Householder	Under 25 years 25 to 34 years 35 to 44 years 45 to 54 years 55 to 64 years 65 years or older[ŧ]
*Assets**	Bonds – at least one household member possessed one of the following assets: U.S. Government savings bonds or securities, money market deposit accounts, certificates of deposit, mutual funds, stocks, rental properties, municipal or corporate bonds, other investments. Minimal – No one in household possessed any of the above assets.
*Educational Attainment of Householder**	Up to high school diploma Some college, no bachelor's degree Bachelor's degree or higher
*Hispanic Origin of Householder**	Hispanic Non-Hispanic
*Household Income to Poverty Ratio**	Less than 1.75 1.75 to 4.5 Greater than 4.5

Variable/Characteristics	Level Definitions
*Household Type**	Female householder with biological child and no spouse present Householder age 65 years or older[ŧ] Other
*Marital Status of Householder**	Married, spouse present Married, spouse absent Widowed Divorced Separated Never married
*Tenure^*	Owner Renter, no government subsidy Renter, receives government subsidy

^ Tenure was used in computing Wave 1 noninterview adjustment factors, but more specific renter categories are available for Wave 2+.
* Variables were used in computing Wave 2+ noninterview adjustment factors.
[ŧ] Estimates of the last category of the *Age of Householder* variable and the second category of the *Household Type* variable represent the same statistic: households whose householders were age 65 years or older.

2.3 Examining Weighted Unit Response Rates for Subgroups of the Eligible Households in Calendar Year 2025

Weighted unit response rates were calculated using base weights of Wave 1 or initial weights of Wave 2+ for different subgroups of the eligible households in CY 2025 and compared to the total weighted unit response rate for the wave in CY 2025. Pairwise comparisons of response rates across subgroups within the same demographic or geographic characteristic were also done and a Bonferroni correction was used to adjust for the multiple comparisons. Response rates were calculated using Formula (3).

$$Response\ Rate = \frac{\sum_{i \epsilon S} w_i R_i D_i}{\sum_{i \epsilon S} w_i D_i} \quad (3)$$

where:

i= index for each original sample household
S= set of all original sample households
w_i = Wave 1 base weight or Wave 2+ initial weight of the i^{th} household
R_i = response indicator
D_i = domain indicator

Dissimilar response rates among subgroups within the same characteristics indicate a potential for nonresponse bias. Subgroups with lower response rates compared to the other subgroups of the same variable may be underrepresented in the final sample and subgroups with high response rates compared to the other subgroups of the same variable may be overrepresented in the survey. Fay's modified Balanced Repeated Replication (BRR) was used to estimate the standard error of the difference between weighted unit response rates for each subgroup and the total unit response rate (Fay, 1984).

2.4 Comparing Key Estimates and Characteristics of the Full Sample to the Respondent Sample in Calendar Year 2025

We examined the distribution of geographic and householder demographic variables among all eligible households (which are also referred to as full sample in this report) and the respondents in CY 2025. The estimates derived from the Wave 1 sample were weighted using base weights, which are known at the time of sample selection, while the respondent sample estimates were computed using both base weights and noninterview weights. For Wave 2+, the estimates derived from the sample were weighted using initial weights, which incorporates unit nonresponse from Wave 1, while the respondent sample estimates were computed using both Wave 2+ initial and noninterview adjusted weights, respectively. Fay's modified BRR was used to estimate the standard error of the differences between full sample and respondent estimates.

The difference between the respondent statistics and the full sample statistic for each variable obtained from base weights for Wave 1 or initial weights for Wave 2+ is an estimate of nonresponse bias. However, the difference between the respondent statistics obtained with noninterview adjusted weights and the respondent statistic obtained with base weights or initial weights is reflective of the effects of the noninterview adjustments on the bias.

2.5 Benchmarking

We computed person and household level monthly, average monthly, and annual estimates using CY 2025 data for all persons or households that were interviewed and compared them to corresponding benchmark values. The benchmarking analysis accounts for item level nonresponse by incorporating post-interview item imputed responses for survey measures that interviewed persons did not provide[11] and gives an insight to the effect of combining the noninterview adjustments and post stratification adjustments on SIPP estimates.

SIPP estimates of monthly program participation counts in December 2024 were compared to monthly counts of programs' enrollees published by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (*Medicaid, Medicare*[12]), United States Department of Agriculture (*SNAP*), United States Department of Health and Human Services (*TANF*), and the Social Security Administration (*SSI,*

[11] Chapter 6 of the SIPP Users' Guide provides more details on the imputation methods for item nonresponse in the SIPP.

[12] Medicare estimates were average monthly enrollments over the course of calendar year 2024.

Social Security). Average monthly Social Security and SSI income in December 2024 were computed from the SIPP and compared to those published in the 2024 Social Security Annual Statistical Supplement. Annual median income and poverty rates computed from all CY 2025 interviewed households were compared to 2024 annual median income and poverty rates from the 2024 CPS ASEC, the official source of poverty estimates for the United States.

The SIPP estimates were calculated using final weights that are adjusted for nonresponse and raked to population control totals ($PFINWGT_{W\#}$). Standard errors of the estimates were calculated using Fay's method of BRR and t-tests were used to test for significant differences between SIPP estimates and benchmark statistics. Significant differences between the two values for any statistic may suggest that the SIPP underestimates or overestimates that statistic.

3. Assumptions and Limitations

In the event that a household is not interviewed in Wave 1, its householder race, household size, and tenure are guessed by the FR, which may not reflect the household's true characteristics.

Since geographical boundaries change over time, around one percent of the eligible households in CY 2025 households did not link to the PDB, which is based on the 2020 Census geographical boundaries. In addition, the ACS universe includes both the civilian (institutionalized and non-institutionalized) and military population, while the SIPP universe only includes the civilian noninstitutionalized population.

4. Results

4.1 Weighted Unit Response Rates for Subgroups of the Eligible Households in Calendar Year 2025

Tables 4 to 7 indicate that response rates in most subgroups differed from the overall cross-sectional unit response rate across all the waves.
Table , 6, and 7 summarize the results of individually comparing Wave 1, Wave 2, Wave 3, and Wave 4 cross-sectional response rates across different subgroups of the sample, respectively.

The second through fifth columns show the unweighted and weighted household counts in each subgroup, weighted response rates, and their corresponding standard errors, respectively. The sixth column displays results of multiple pairwise comparisons across subgroups within the same characteristics; response rates from subgroups with the same letters are not significantly different from each other. The last column indicates whether a subgroup's response rate is significantly different from the overall response rate of 35.17 percent in Wave 1 (Table 4), 54.94 percent in Wave 2 (Table 5), 46.38 percent in Wave 3 (Table 6), and 43.56 percent in Wave 4 (Table 7).

Tables 4 to 7 indicate that response rates in most subgroups differed from the overall cross-sectional unit response rate across all the waves.

Table 4. Calendar Year 2025 Weighted Response Rates for Different Subgroups of the Original Sample Households (Wave 1)

Characteristic	Unweighted[1] Households	Weighted[1] Households (in thousands)	Weighted Response Rate (percent)	Standard Error (percent)	Significance Grouping[Ŧ]	
Total	11,500	130,500	35.17	0.48		
Census Region						
Northeast	2,000	23,060	31.66	1.21	A	*
Midwest	2,500	28,160	35.42	1.07	A	
South	4,700	50,610	34.04	0.72	A	*
West	2,600	28,670	39.74	0.84	B	*
Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) Status						
Within MSA in Central City	4,000	43,000	32.26	0.65	A	*
Within MSA but Not in Central City	5,900	68,390	35.24	0.71	B	
Not in MSA but in Census Place	1,000	10,020	42.67	1.99	C	*
Neither in MSA nor Census Place	850	9,091	40.11	1.75	C	*
Sex of Householder						
Male	6,200	69,010	33.97	0.74	A	*
Female	5,500	61,500	36.52	0.59	B	*
Household Size						
1 Person Household	3,800	41,660	34.84	0.85	A, B	
2 Person Household	4,600	51,790	32.48	0.70	A	*
3 Person Household	1,500	16,630	36.91	1.19	A, B	
4 or More Person Household	1,800	20,430	41.24	1.16	C	*
Race of Householder						
Black Only	1,500	15,450	32.30	1.42	A	*
Not Black Only	10,000	115,100	35.56	0.50	B	*
Tenure						
Owner	7,300	83,490	37.76	0.62	A	*
Renter	4,400	47,010	30.57	0.77	B	*
Urban/Rural Status						
Urban	9,300	102,900	34.30	0.50	A	*
Rural	2,300	25,330	38.96	1.16	B	*
Within PSU Strata						
Low income	5,900	50,450	34.54	0.67	A	
Non-low income	5,800	80,060	35.57	0.62	A	

Characteristic	Unweighted[1] Households	Weighted[1] Households (in thousands)	Weighted Response Rate (percent)	Standard Error (percent)	Significance Grouping[Ŧ]	
Multilingual Block Group						
Multilingual	3,100	31,620	32.59	0.70	A	*
Not Multilingual	8,500	96,660	36.08	0.61	B	*
Low Education Block Group						
Low Education	2,000	18,720	34.48	1.04	A	
Not Low Education	9,500	109,600	35.35	0.53	A	
High Public Assistance Block Group						
High Public Assistance Recipiency	2,900	30,000	35.09	1.02	A	
Low Public Assistance Recipiency	8,600	98,170	35.26	0.56	A	
Home Value Block Group						
Less than $200k	5,000	51,750	35.84	0.82	A	
$200k - $400k	3,000	36,360	36.20	1.03	A	
$400k and over	1,600	21,120	37.20	1.09	A	*
Multi-unit Buildings Block Group						
Less than 25%	9,400	105,700	35.88	0.56	A	*
25% - 50%	1,600	16,460	32.85	1.29	A,B	*
50% - 75%	500	5,047	31.66	2.15	A,B	
75% and over	100	970	21.06	5.55	B	*
Vacant Units Block Group						
Less than 20%	10,000	111,200	35.33	0.52	A	
20% - 40%	1,300	14,120	33.52	1.44	A	
40% - 60%	200	2,240	41.66	3.38	A	*
60% and over	50	669	28.81	7.74	A	

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation, Calendar Year 2025 and Planning Database, 2024.

[1] Sums may not add up to total due to rounding.

[Ŧ] Response rates of subgroups within the same characteristic with same letters are not significantly different from each other at the α=0.10 level using a Bonferroni adjustment.

* Indicates subgroup response rate is significantly different from overall response rate of 35.17 percent at the α=0.10 level. Fay's modified BRR was used to estimate the standard error of the difference between weighted unit response rates for each subgroup and the total unit response rate to account for the correlation between the estimates.

Table 5. Calendar Year 2025 Weighted Response Rates for Different Subgroups of the Original Sample Households (Wave 2)

Characteristic	Unweighted[1] Households	Weighted[1] Households (in thousands)	Weighted Response Rate (percent)	Standard Error (percent)	Significance Grouping[Ŧ]	
Total	4,900	125,000	54.94	0.69		
Census Region						
Northeast	750	21,750	53.10	1.99	A	
Midwest	1,100	26,130	53.09	1.56	A	
South	2,000	48,740	54.26	1.10	A	
West	1,100	28,340	59.25	1.56	B	*
Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) Status						
Within MSA in Central City	1,700	43,240	54.08	1.21	A	
Within MSA but Not in Central City	2,400	64,130	54.31	1.04	A	
Not in MSA but in Census Place	450	9,241	59.84	2.65	A	*
Neither in MSA nor Census Place	400	8,348	58.89	2.62	A	
Sex of Householder						
Male	2,400	60,890	54.63	1.05	A	
Female	2,500	64,070	55.24	1.00	A	
Household Size						
1 Person Household	1,600	39,960	60.06	1.15	A	*
2 Person Household	1,700	46,420	54.93	1.19	B	
3 Person Household	650	16,990	46.95	2.07	C	*
4 or More Person Household	950	21,580	51.80	1.62	B, C	*
Race of Householder						
Black Only	600	15,400	45.22	2.36	A	*
Not Black Only	4,300	109,600	56.31	0.75	B	*
Tenure						
Owner	3,200	75,770	57.03	0.86	A	*
Renter	1,600	46,410	51.71	1.29	B	*
Renter, receives government subsidy	100	2,778	52.04	4.79	A, B	
Urban/Rural Status						
Urban	3,900	99,900	54.36	0.77	A	*
Rural	1,000	22,940	59.00	1.53	B	*
Within PSU Strata						
Low income	2,500	47,810	54.58	1.11	A	
Non-low income	2,500	77,150	55.17	1.01	A	

Characteristic	Unweighted[1] Households	Weighted[1] Households (in thousands)	Weighted Response Rate (percent)	Standard Error (percent)	Significance Grouping[Ŧ]	
Multilingual Block Group						
Multilingual	950	22,980	53.44	1.66	A	
Not Multilingual	2,600	66,660	55.99	1.01	A	*
Low Education Block Group						
Low Education	650	13,810	53.01	2.15	A	
Not Low Education	2,900	75,760	55.76	0.95	A	*
High Public Assistance Block Group						
High Public Assistance Recipiency	850	20,690	56.40	1.71	A	
Low Public Assistance Recipiency	2,700	68,730	55.04	0.97	A	
Home Value Block Group						
Less than $200k	1,600	38,230	54.49	1.34	A	
$200k - $400k	900	23,470	56.79	1.66	A	
$400k and over	500	14,780	55.60	2.19	A	
Multi-unit Buildings Block Group						
Less than 25%	2,800	71,070	55.82	1.00	A	*
25% - 50%	550	13,590	54.00	2.15	A	
50% - 75%	150	3,909	54.88	4.23	A	
75% and over	50	936	39.00	9.74	A	
Vacant Units Block Group						
Less than 20%	3,000	77,620	55.25	0.91	A	*
20% - 40%	450	10,120	56.47	2.35	A	
40% - 60%	50	1,374	51.79	7.50	A	
60% and over	< 15	387	53.95	13.6	A	

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation, Calendar Year 2025 and Planning Database, 2024.

[1] Sums may not add up to total due to rounding.

[Ŧ] Response rates of subgroups within the same characteristic with same letters are not significantly different from each other at the α=0.10 level using a Bonferroni adjustment.

* Indicates subgroup response rate is significantly different from overall response rate of 54.94 percent at the α=0.10 level. Fay's modified BRR was used to estimate the standard error of the difference between weighted unit response rates for each subgroup and the total unit response rate to account for the correlation between the estimates.

Table 6. Calendar Year 2025 Weighted Response Rates for Different Subgroups of the Original Sample Households (Wave 3)

Characteristic	Unweighted[1] Households	Weighted[1] Households (in thousands)	Weighted Response Rate (percent)	Standard Error (percent)	Significance Grouping[‡]	
Total	5,300	123,300	46.38	0.68		
Census Region						
Northeast	800	21,590	44.93	1.72	A, B	
Midwest	1,100	26,120	47.40	1.60	A, B	
South	2,200	47,690	44.32	1.17	A	*
West	1,200	27,850	50.08	1.52	B	*
Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) Status						
Within MSA in Central City	1,800	42,500	46.28	1.19	A	
Within MSA but Not in Central City	2,600	62,830	46.43	1.00	A	
Not in MSA but in Census Place	500	9,554	46.04	2.32	A	
Neither in MSA nor Census Place	400	8,375	46.99	2.65	A	
Sex of Householder						
Male	2,600	59,700	46.25	0.95	A	
Female	2,800	63,550	46.51	1.00	A	
Household Size						
1 Person Household	1,600	37,740	52.37	1.27	A	*
2 Person Household	2,000	47,260	45.98	1.10	B	
3 Person Household	650	15,540	41.48	1.82	B, C	*
4 or More Person Household	1,100	22,710	40.62	1.58	C	*
Race of Householder						
Black Only	700	14,680	40.94	2.03	A	*
Not Black Only	4,700	108,600	47.12	0.75	B	*
Tenure						
Owner	3,500	77,970	48.62	0.91	A	*
Renter	1,700	42,180	42.80	1.17	B	*
Renter, receives government subsidy	150	3,103	38.94	4.69	A, B	
Urban/Rural Status						
Urban	4,200	98,270	46.37	0.77	A	
Rural	1,100	23,540	46.52	1.58	A	
Within PSU Strata						
Low income	2,700	48,550	45.81	0.91	A	
Non-low income	2,600	74,700	46.76	0.98	A	

Characteristic	Unweighted[1] Households	Weighted[1] Households (in thousands)	Weighted Response Rate (percent)	Standard Error (percent)	Significance Grouping[Ŧ]	
Multilingual Block Group						
Multilingual	950	20,720	45.89	1.67	A	
Not Multilingual	2,900	68,940	47.16	0.97	A	*
Low Education Block Group						
Low Education	700	13,900	47.45	1.88	A	
Not Low Education	3,200	75,760	46.76	0.93	A	
High Public Assistance Block Group						
High Public Assistance Recipiency	900	20,010	46.43	1.72	A	
Low Public Assistance Recipiency	3,000	69,580	47.03	0.94	A	
Home Value Block Group						
Less than $200k	1,800	39,430	46.12	1.13	A	
$200k - $400k	900	22,280	47.76	1.88	A	
$400k and over	650	16,220	49.03	1.96	A	
Multi-unit Buildings Block Group						
Less than 25%	3,200	73,460	47.97	0.94	A	*
25% - 50%	550	12,260	42.31	2.06	A	*
50% - 75%	150	3,260	40.69	3.87	A	
75% and over	50	608	43.23	9.40	A	
Vacant Units Block Group						
Less than 20%	3,400	78,470	46.79	0.89	A	*
20% - 40%	450	9,510	46.22	2.46	A	*
40% - 60%	50	1,456	60.57	6.52	A	*
60% and over	< 15	164	18.71	17.72	A	*

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation, Calendar Year 2025 and Planning Database, 2024.

[1] Sums may not add up to total due to rounding.

[Ŧ] Response rates of subgroups within the same characteristic with same letters are not significantly different from each other at the α=0.10 level using a Bonferroni adjustment.

* Indicates subgroup response rate is significantly different from overall response rate of 46.38 percent at the α=0.10 level. Fay's modified BRR was used to estimate the standard error of the difference between weighted unit response rates for each subgroup and the total unit response rate to account for the correlation between the estimates.

Table 7. Calendar Year 2025 Weighted Response Rates for Different Subgroups of the Original Sample Households (Wave 4)

Characteristic	Unweighted[1] Households	Weighted[1] Households (in thousands)	Weighted Response Rate (percent)	Standard Error (percent)	Significance Grouping[‡]	
Total	9,700	122,300	43.56	0.53		
Census Region						
Northeast	1,600	21,320	43.87	1.39	A	
Midwest	1,700	26,220	43.01	1.34	A	
South	3,800	47,150	41.07	0.86	A	*
West	2,700	27,620	48.06	1.06	B	*
Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) Status						
Within MSA in Central City	3,400	41,690	43.49	0.84	A	
Within MSA but Not in Central City	4,800	62,470	42.55	0.73	A	*
Not in MSA but in Census Place	750	9,028	47.05	2.16	A	*
Neither in MSA nor Census Place	750	9,114	47.30	1.96	A	*
Sex of Householder						
Male	4,800	60,490	44.73	0.75	A	*
Female	5,000	61,810	42.41	0.78	B	*
Household Size						
1 Person Household	2,900	35,960	49.02	1.09	A	*
2 Person Household	3,400	46,410	44.20	0.88	B	
3 Person Household	1,400	16,540	38.93	1.41	C	*
4 or More Person Household	2,000	23,390	37.15	1.17	C	*
Race of Householder						
Black Only	1,100	13,860	37.38	1.61	A	*
Not Black Only	8,600	108,400	44.34	0.58	B	*
Tenure						
Owner	6,400	80,370	45.39	0.66	A	*
Renter	3,100	38,990	39.88	0.95	B	*
Renter, receives government subsidy	200	2,943	42.18	3.68	A, B	
Urban/Rural Status						
Urban	7,700	96,970	43.27	0.56	A	
Rural	1,900	24,350	44.73	1.23	A	
Within PSU Strata						
Low income	4,700	46,360	42.98	0.74	A	
Non-low income	5,000	75,940	43.90	0.74	A	

Characteristic	Unweighted[1] Households	Weighted[1] Households (in thousands)	Weighted Response Rate (percent)	Standard Error (percent)	Significance Grouping[Ŧ]	
Multilingual Block Group						
Multilingual	1,900	20,950	44.66	1.06	A	
Not Multilingual	5,100	66,910	43.89	0.82	A	
Low Education Block Group						
Low Education	1,300	13,750	45.54	1.44	A	
Not Low Education	5,700	74,110	43.80	0.76	A	
High Public Assistance Block Group						
High Public Assistance Recipiency	1,700	20,330	45.87	1.19	A	*
Low Public Assistance Recipiency	5,300	67,450	43.56	0.74	B	
Home Value Block Group						
Less than $200k	3,000	37,620	44.04	0.98	A	
$200k - $400k	1,700	22,350	44.04	1.30	A	
$400k and over	1,200	16,020	44.86	1.58	A	
Multi-unit Buildings Block Group						
Less than 25%	5,700	72,100	44.62	0.74	A	*
25% - 50%	950	11,710	41.04	1.64	A	
50% - 75%	250	3,170	43.18	3.04	A	
75% and over	50	804	44.55	6.57	A	
Vacant Units Block Group						
Less than 20%	6,100	76,560	44.20	0.66	A	*
20% - 40%	800	9,719	42.61	2.03	A	*
40% - 60%	100	1,211	47.82	4.79	A	*
60% and over	< 15	297	48.65	11.25	A	*

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation, Calendar Year 2025 and Planning Database, 2024.

[1] Sums may not add up to total due to rounding.

[Ŧ] Response rates of subgroups within the same characteristic with same letters are not significantly different from each other at the α=0.10 level using a Bonferroni adjustment.

* Indicates subgroup response rate is significantly different from overall response rate of 43.56 percent at the α=0.10 level. Fay's modified BRR was used to estimate the standard error of the difference between weighted unit response rates for each subgroup and the total unit response rate to account for the correlation between the estimates.

Table 8 summarizes by wave whether each subgroup's response rate was higher, lower, or not significantly different than the overall response rate in CY 2025.

There are some characteristics for which the subgroups consistently have response rates significantly lower than the overall wave response rate. Households that were renters and households with a Black householder had lower response rates than the overall response rate for all of Waves 1, 2, 3, and 4.

Additionally, households that were located in the South had significantly lower response rates for Waves 1, 3, and 4 , but the differences from the overall response rate were not significant for Wave 2.

Furthermore, households with three persons and households with four or more persons had significantly lower response rates in Waves 2, 3, and 4. In Wave 1, however, the response rate for households with three persons did not differ significantly from the overall response rate, whereas the response rate for households with four or more persons was higher than the overall response rate.

Response rates among urban households were lower than the overall wave response rates during Waves 1 and 2, although these differences were not statistically significant in Waves 3 and 4. Conversely, households residing in block groups with 20 to 40 percent vacant units showed lower response rates in Waves 3 and 4, but not in Waves 1 and 2.

In Wave 1, response rates were lower than the overall wave response rate for households with two persons, households located in MSA in central city, households in the Northeast Census Region, households in multilingual block groups, and households in block groups where 75 percent and more of housing units were in multi-unit structures. However, these differences were not statistically significant in Waves 2, 3 and 4.

Finally, households located within MSA but not in central city had lower response rates than the overall wave response rate for Wave 4, but the differences were not significant for Waves 1, 2, and 3.

Table 8. Summary of Weighted Response Rates Comparison Between the Subgroups and the Total Sample Households by Wave in Calendar Year 2025

Characteristic	Wave 1	Wave 2	Wave 3	Wave 4
Weighted Response Rate (percent)	35.17	54.94	46.38	43.56
Standard Error (percent)	0.48	0.69	0.68	0.53
Characteristic				
Census Region				
Northeast	Lower	Not Significant	Not Significant	Not Significant
Midwest	Not Significant	Not Significant	Not Significant	Not Significant
South	Lower	Not Significant	Lower	Lower
West	Higher	Higher	Higher	Higher
Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) Status				
Within MSA in Central City	Lower	Not Significant	Not Significant	Not Significant
Within MSA but Not in Central City	Not Significant	Not Significant	Not Significant	Lower
Not in MSA but in Census Place	Higher	Higher	Not Significant	Higher
Neither in MSA nor Census Place	Higher	Not Significant	Not Significant	Higher
Sex of Householder				
Male	Lower	Not Significant	Not Significant	Higher
Female	Higher	Not Significant	Not Significant	Lower
Household Size				
1 Person Household	Not Significant	Higher	Higher	Higher
2 Person Household	Lower	Not Significant	Not Significant	Not Significant
3 Person Household	Not Significant	Lower	Lower	Lower
4 or More Person Household	Higher	Lower	Lower	Lower
Race of Householder				
Black Only	Lower	Lower	Lower	Lower
Not Black Only	Higher	Higher	Higher	Higher
Tenure				
Owner	Higher	Higher	Higher	Higher
Renter	Lower	Lower	Lower	Lower
Renter, receives government subsidy	Not Applicable	Not Significant	Not Significant	Not Significant
Urban/Rural Status				
Urban	Lower	Lower	Not Significant	Not Significant
Rural	Higher	Higher	Not Significant	Not Significant
Within PSU Strata				
Low income	Not Significant	Not Significant	Not Significant	Not Significant
Non-low income	Not Significant	Not Significant	Not Significant	Not Significant
Multilingual Block Group				
Multilingual	Lower	Not Significant	Not Significant	Not Significant
Not Multilingual	Higher	Higher	Higher	Not Significant

Characteristic	Wave 1	Wave 2	Wave 3	Wave 4
Low Education Block Group				
Low Education	Not Significant	Not Significant	Not Significant	Not Significant
Not Low Education	Not Significant	Higher	Not Significant	Not Significant
High Public Assistance Block Group				
High Public Assistance Recipiency	Not Significant	Not Significant	Not Significant	Higher
Low Public Assistance Recipiency	Not Significant	Not Significant	Not Significant	Not Significant
Home Value Block Group				
Less than $200k	Not Significant	Not Significant	Not Significant	Not Significant
$200k - $400k	Not Significant	Not Significant	Not Significant	Not Significant
$400k and over	Higher	Not Significant	Not Significant	Not Significant
Multi-Unit Buildings Block Group				
Less than 25%	Higher	Higher	Higher	Higher
25% - 50%	Lower	Not Significant	Lower	Not Significant
50% - 75%	Not Significant	Not Significant	Not Significant	Not Significant
75% and over	Lower	Not Significant	Not Significant	Not Significant
Vacant Units Block Group				
Less than 20%	Not Significant	Higher	Higher	Higher
20% - 40%	Not Significant	Not Significant	Lower	Lower
40% - 60%	Higher	Not Significant	Higher	Higher
60% and over	Not Significant	Not Significant	Higher	Higher

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation, Calendar Year 2025 and Planning Database, 2024.

4.2 Comparing Key Estimates and Characteristics between the Full Sample and the Respondent Sample in Calendar Year 2025

Relative differences between CY 2025 estimates computed from all eligible households and respondents of Wave 1, Wave 2, Wave 3, and Wave 4 are presented in Table 9, 10, 11, and 12, respectively. Estimates from the Wave 1 all eligible sample were computed using base weights, while the estimates for the respondent sample were weighted using both base weights and noninterview adjusted weights. For Wave 2+, all eligible sample estimates were computed using Wave 2+ initial weights while estimates for the respondent sample were weighted using both Wave 2+ initial weights, as well as noninterview adjusted weights.

The relative difference for an estimate i, is calculated as $100 * (R_i - F_i)/F_i$, where F_i is the value of estimate obtained from the full sample and R_i is the value of the estimate obtained from the respondent sample. Relative differences between the base-weighted and initial-weighted estimates from Wave 1 and Wave 2+ samples, respectively – column six – are estimates of nonresponse bias. Comparing them with relative differences computed from

Wave 1 and Wave 2+ noninterview weighted respondent estimates – the ninth column – gives insight on the effect of the noninterview weighting adjustments on the bias.
Tables 9 through 12 show that many of the respondent-only estimates differ from the corresponding full sample estimates, prior to any weighting nonresponse adjustments. However, when using the nonresponse adjusted weights these differences are often, but not always, reduced.

For example, as shown in Table 9, race of householder, tenure, multi-unit buildings block group, certain Census regions (Northeast, South, and West), selected MSA status category (neither in an MSA nor a Census Place), and household size (households with four or more persons) have significant relative differences between the all sample cases and respondent-only estimates for Wave 1 when using the base weights. After the nonresponse adjustments are applied, the bias was reduced and the relative differences became non-significant.

Depending on the characteristic and wave, the nonresponse adjustment is not always as successful in reducing the bias. For example, in Table 10 for Wave 2, the estimated relative difference of -13.27 percent for annual household earnings using the initial weight was significant. After the nonresponse adjustment, the estimated relative difference is -10.09 percent, which is still significant.

In some cases, the nonresponse weighting adjustment can introduce or increase the bias associated with an estimate. In Table 11, for the households with income-to-poverty ratios between 1.75 and 4.5 and those with ratios greater than 4.5, the respondent sample estimates based on the Wave 3 initial weights were not significantly different from the full sample estimates. However, after applying the nonresponse adjusted weights, the absolute relative differences between the respondent sample and full sample estimates increased from 1.30 percent to 4.25 percent and from 1.38 percent to 4.05 percent, respectively. As a result, the relative differences for both income-to-poverty ratio categories became statistically significant.

There are also examples where the relative difference between the all sample cases and respondent-only estimates was not significant both before and after the nonresponse weighting adjustment. As shown In Table 12, across all categories of vacant-unit block group, home-value block group, within PSU stratum, urban or rural status, annual household income, and SNAP and SSI beneficiary status, the estimates in the respondent sample were not significantly different from the full sample estimates using the Wave 4 initial and noninterview adjusted weights.

Table 9. Comparison of Estimates between the Full Sample and the Respondents in Calendar Year 2025 (Wave 1)

Characteristics and Key Estimates	All Wave 1 Cases		Wave 1 Respondents					
	Base weight		Base weight			Noninterview Adjusted Weight		
	Percent/ Median	Standard Error	Percent/ Median	Standard Error	Relative Difference	Percent/ Median	Standard Error	Relative Difference
Census Region								
Northeast	17.67	0.17	15.91	0.62	-9.96*	17.90	0.23	1.30^
Midwest	21.58	0.19	21.73	0.63	0.70	21.32	0.23	-1.20*
South	38.78	0.21	37.53	0.66	-3.22*	38.69	0.30	-0.23^
West	21.97	0.17	24.83	0.53	13.02*	22.09	0.23	0.55^
Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) Status								
Within MSA in Central City	32.95	0.45	30.22	0.78	-8.29*	31.22	0.70	-5.25*^
Within MSA but Not in Central City	52.41	0.58	52.52	0.91	0.21	52.99	0.85	1.11
Not in MSA but in Census Place	7.68	0.42	9.32	0.62	21.35*	8.68	0.59	13.02*^
Neither in MSA nor Census Place	6.97	0.36	7.95	0.54	14.06*	7.10	0.48	1.87^
Household Size								
1 Person Household	31.92	0.44	31.63	0.78	-0.91	32.16	0.55	0.75
2 Person Household	39.68	0.47	36.65	0.84	-7.64*	38.05	0.64	-4.11*^
3 Person Household	12.74	0.31	13.37	0.55	4.95	13.72	0.48	7.69*
4 or more Person	15.66	0.35	18.36	0.63	17.24*	16.07	0.53	2.62^
Race of Householder								
Black Only	11.84	0.33	10.87	0.49	-8.19*	11.84	0.33	0.00^
Not Black Only	88.16	0.33	89.13	0.49	1.10*	88.16	0.33	0.00^
Sex of Householder								
Male	52.88	0.48	51.07	0.83	-3.42*	50.84	0.88	-3.86*
Female	47.12	0.48	48.93	0.83	3.84*	49.16	0.88	4.33*
Tenure								
Owner	63.98	0.45	68.69	0.79	7.36*	63.98	0.45	0.00^
Renter	36.02	0.45	31.31	0.79	-13.08*	36.02	0.45	0.00^
Urban/Rural Status								
Urban	80.25	0.41	78.15	0.68	-2.62*	79.26	0.64	-1.23*^
Rural	19.75	0.41	21.85	0.68	10.63*	20.74	0.64	5.01*^
Within PSU Strata								
Low income	38.66	0.39	37.96	0.69	-1.81	38.66	0.39	0.00
Non-low income	61.34	0.39	62.04	0.69	1.14	61.34	0.39	0.00

Characteristics and Key Estimates	All Wave 1 Cases		Wave 1 Respondents					
	Base weight		Base weight			Noninterview Adjusted Weight		
	Percent/ Median	Standard Error	Percent/ Median	Standard Error	Relative Difference	Percent/ Median	Standard Error	Relative Difference
Multilingual Block Group								
Multilingual	24.65	0.36	22.81	0.61	-7.46*	23.33	0.60	-5.35*^
Not Multilingual	75.35	0.36	77.19	0.61	2.44*	76.67	0.60	1.75*^
Low Education Block Group								
Low Education	14.59	0.32	14.28	0.53	-2.12	14.63	0.53	0.27
Not Low Education	85.41	0.32	85.72	0.53	0.36	85.37	0.53	-0.05
High Public Assistance Block Group								
High Public Assistance	23.41	0.38	23.32	0.76	-0.38	23.55	0.75	0.60
Low Public Assistance	76.59	0.38	76.68	0.76	0.12	76.45	0.75	-0.18
Home Value Block Group								
Less than $200k	47.38	0.52	46.88	0.95	-1.06	48.20	0.91	1.73
$200k - $400k	33.29	0.53	33.27	0.94	-0.06	33.09	0.92	-0.60
$400k and over	19.34	0.40	19.86	0.70	2.69	18.72	0.70	-3.21
Multi-unit Buildings Block Group								
Less than 25%	82.47	0.35	84.03	0.59	1.89*	82.72	0.61	0.30^
25% - 50%	12.84	0.34	11.98	0.61	-6.70*	12.69	0.65	-1.17^
50% - 75%	3.94	0.16	3.54	0.30	-10.15*	4.06	0.35	3.05^
75% and over	0.76	0.06	0.45	0.12	-40.79*	0.52	0.15	-31.58^
Vacant Units Block Group								
Less than 20%	86.72	0.39	87.02	0.60	0.35	87.04	0.62	0.37
20% - 40%	11.01	0.34	10.48	0.55	-4.81	10.57	0.57	-4.00
40% - 60%	1.75	0.14	2.07	0.22	18.29*	2.00	0.21	14.29
60% and over	0.52	0.09	0.43	0.13	-17.31	0.39	0.12	-25.00

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation, Calendar Year 2025 and Planning Database, 2024.

* Indicates full sample and respondent estimates are significantly different at the α=0.10 level. Fay's modified BRR was used to estimate the standard error of the difference to account for the correlation between the estimates.

^ Indicates noninterview adjustments helped to reduce the bias. The relative difference for the noninterview-adjusted estimate is either no longer significant (relative difference was significant for the base weighted estimate) or the difference is smaller than the relative difference using only the base weight at the 90 percent confidence level.

Table 10. Comparison of Estimates between the Full Sample and the Respondents in Calendar Year 2025 (Wave 2)

Characteristics and Key Estimates	All Wave 2 Cases		Wave 2 Respondents					
	Initial weight		Initial weight			Noninterview Adjusted Weight		
	Percent/ Median	Standard Error	Percent/ Median	Standard Error	Relative Difference	Percent/ Median	Standard Error	Relative Difference
Annual household earnings	46,790	1,464	40,580	1,960	-13.27*	42,070	1,968	-10.09*
Annual household income	75,240	1,445	72,150	2,041	-4.11*	72,150	1,994	-4.11*
Household net worth	196,600	7,020	212,600	11,240	8.14*	194,700	8,155	-0.97^
Households in poverty	11.86	0.45	11.12	0.60	-6.24	11.22	0.59	-5.40
Households receiving income from welfare programs	27.70	0.64	27.01	0.82	-2.49	27.34	0.81	-1.30
Program Participation								
Medicaid	22.56	0.60	21.73	0.80	-3.68	22.03	0.81	-2.35
Medicare	40.52	0.73	45.01	1.01	11.08*	44.00	0.98	8.59*^
Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP)	11.56	0.47	11.28	0.64	-2.42	11.36	0.64	-1.73
Social Security	36.70	0.71	41.34	1.02	12.64*	40.51	0.99	10.38*^
Supplemental Security Income (SSI)	6.79	0.38	6.85	0.48	0.88	6.94	0.49	2.21
Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)	0.31	0.08	0.41	0.14	32.26	0.42	0.15	35.48
Age of Householder								
Under 25 years	3.51	0.32	2.73	0.36	-22.22*	2.69	0.38	-23.36*
25 to 34 years	13.87	0.54	12.75	0.68	-8.07*	13.27	0.68	-4.33^
35 to 44 years	14.48	0.54	13.01	0.65	-10.15*	13.35	0.68	-7.80*^
45 to 54 years	14.72	0.53	13.28	0.68	-9.78*	13.52	0.69	-8.15*^
55 to 64 years	18.05	0.59	17.26	0.82	-4.38	17.32	0.82	-4.04
65 years or older	35.37	0.72	40.97	1.02	15.83*	39.83	0.99	12.61*^
Asset Ownership								
Bonds	57.02	0.75	54.55	0.97	-4.33*	55.87	0.92	-2.02*^
Minimal	42.98	0.75	45.45	0.97	5.75*	44.13	0.92	2.68*^

Characteristics and Key Estimates	All Wave 2 Cases		Wave 2 Respondents					
	Initial weight		Initial weight			Noninterview Adjusted Weight		
	Percent/ Median	Standard Error	Percent/ Median	Standard Error	Relative Difference	Percent/ Median	Standard Error	Relative Difference
Census Region								
Northeast	17.40	0.36	16.82	0.68	-3.33	16.97	0.71	-2.47
Midwest	20.91	0.34	20.21	0.64	-3.35	19.76	0.61	-5.50*
South	39.01	0.41	38.52	0.75	-1.26	38.71	0.77	-0.77
West	22.68	0.35	24.45	0.65	7.80*	24.56	0.65	8.29*
Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) Status								
Within MSA in Central City	34.60	0.72	34.06	0.94	-1.56	34.65	0.97	0.14
Within MSA but Not in Central City	51.32	0.74	50.73	1.01	-1.15	50.56	1.02	-1.48
Not in MSA but in Census Place	7.40	0.44	8.05	0.60	8.78*	7.89	0.59	6.62^
Neither in MSA nor Census Place	6.68	0.39	7.16	0.54	7.19	6.90	0.53	3.29
Educational Attainment of Householder								
Up to high school diploma	31.98	0.68	30.62	0.86	-4.25*	30.87	0.76	-3.47*
Some college, no bachelor's degree	27.61	0.63	27.74	0.89	0.47	27.93	0.77	1.16
Bachelor's degree or higher	40.41	0.78	41.64	1.04	3.04*	41.21	0.87	1.98*
Hispanic Origin of Householder								
Hispanic	14.25	0.52	13.11	0.73	-8.00*	13.97	0.74	-1.96^
Non-Hispanic	85.75	0.52	86.89	0.73	1.33*	86.03	0.74	0.33^
Household Income to Poverty Ratio								
Less than 1.75	23.61	0.63	23.48	0.78	-0.55	23.38	0.75	-0.97
1.75 to 4.5	36.37	0.73	35.85	1.04	-1.43	36.38	0.98	0.03
Greater than 4.5	40.03	0.73	40.67	1.02	1.60	40.23	0.97	0.50
Household Size								
1 person household	31.98	0.59	34.96	0.88	9.32*	34.56	0.87	8.07*
2 person household	37.15	0.60	37.14	0.84	-0.03	36.95	0.87	-0.54
3 person household	13.60	0.44	11.62	0.61	-14.56*	11.72	0.63	-13.82*
4 or more person	17.27	0.50	16.28	0.64	-5.73*	16.78	0.66	-2.84^

Characteristics and Key Estimates	All Wave 2 Cases		Wave 2 Respondents					
	Initial weight		Initial weight			Noninterview Adjusted Weight		
	Percent/ Median	Standard Error	Percent/ Median	Standard Error	Relative Difference	Percent/ Median	Standard Error	Relative Difference
Household Type								
Female householder with biological child and no spouse present	4.19	0.29	3.15	0.37	-24.82*	3.11	0.37	-25.78*
Householder 65 years or older	35.37	0.72	40.97	1.02	15.83*	39.83	0.99	12.61*^
Other	60.44	0.71	55.88	1.01	-7.54*	57.06	0.98	-5.59*^
Marital Status of Householder								
Married, spouse present	44.35	0.70	43.83	0.94	-1.17	43.83	0.90	-1.17
Married, spouse absent	1.89	0.21	1.74	0.27	-7.94	1.69	0.27	-10.58
Widowed	11.15	0.45	13.02	0.66	16.77*	12.60	0.65	13.00*^
Divorced	15.84	0.53	17.25	0.74	8.90*	17.23	0.76	8.78*
Separated	2.52	0.23	1.78	0.25	-29.37*	1.77	0.26	-29.76*
Never married	24.25	0.69	22.38	0.85	-7.71*	22.88	0.85	-5.65*^
Race of Householder								
White Only	78.19	0.50	80.93	0.74	3.50*	79.17	0.71	1.25*^
Black Only	12.32	0.30	10.14	0.57	-17.69*	11.12	0.60	-9.74*^
Asian Only	6.50	0.37	6.13	0.42	-5.69	6.70	0.47	3.08
Other	2.99	0.26	2.80	0.34	-6.35	3.00	0.36	0.33
Sex of Householder								
Male	48.73	0.78	48.45	1.11	-0.57	48.72	1.13	-0.02
Female	51.27	0.78	51.55	1.11	0.55	51.28	1.13	0.02
Tenure								
Owner	60.64	0.49	62.95	0.83	3.81*	60.90	0.58	0.43^
Renter, no government subsidy	37.14	0.51	34.95	0.84	-5.90*	36.98	0.62	-0.43^
Renter, receives government subsidy	2.22	0.23	2.11	0.27	-4.95	2.12	0.27	-4.50
Urban/Rural Status								
Urban	81.32	0.54	80.05	0.74	-1.56*	80.45	0.74	-1.07*^
Rural	18.68	0.54	19.95	0.74	6.80*	19.55	0.74	4.66*^

Characteristics and Key Estimates	All Wave 2 Cases		Wave 2 Respondents					
	Initial weight		Initial weight			Noninterview Adjusted Weight		
	Percent/ Median	Standard Error	Percent/ Median	Standard Error	Relative Difference	Percent/ Median	Standard Error	Relative Difference
Within PSU Strata								
Low income	38.26	0.49	38.00	0.84	-0.68	38.49	0.85	0.60
Non-low income	61.74	0.49	62.00	0.84	0.42	61.51	0.85	-0.37
Multilingual Block Group								
Multilingual	25.64	0.81	24.76	1.05	-3.43	25.58	1.11	-0.23
Not Multilingual	74.36	0.81	75.24	1.05	1.18	74.42	1.11	0.08
Low Education Block Group								
Low Education	15.41	0.56	14.77	0.77	-4.15	15.35	0.80	-0.39
Not Low Education	84.59	0.56	85.23	0.77	0.76	84.65	0.80	0.07
High Public Assistance Block Group								
High Public Assistance Recipiency	23.14	0.77	23.58	0.98	1.90	23.75	1.00	2.64
Low Public Assistance Recipiency	76.86	0.77	76.42	0.98	-0.57	76.25	1.00	-0.79
Home Value Block Group								
Less than $200k	49.99	0.91	49.16	1.33	-1.66	49.66	1.32	-0.66
$200k - $400k	30.69	0.90	31.45	1.25	2.48	31.18	1.26	1.60
$400k and over	19.32	0.69	19.39	0.99	0.36	19.16	0.99	-0.83
Multi-unit Buildings Block Group								
Less than 25%	79.40	0.67	80.11	0.92	0.89	79.65	0.93	0.31
25% - 50%	15.18	0.59	14.82	0.81	-2.37	15.05	0.83	-0.86
50% - 75%	4.37	0.38	4.33	0.48	-0.92	4.49	0.49	2.75
75% and over	1.05	0.21	0.74	0.24	-29.52*	0.81	0.26	-22.86^
Vacant Units Block Group								
Less than 20%	86.73	0.59	86.61	0.75	-0.14	86.76	0.75	0.03
20% - 40%	11.30	0.55	11.54	0.72	2.12	11.38	0.73	0.71
40% - 60%	1.53	0.23	1.44	0.29	-5.88	1.44	0.29	-5.88
60% and over	0.43	0.14	0.42	0.15	-2.33	0.42	0.15	-2.33

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation, Calendar Year 2025 and Planning Database, 2024.

* Indicates full sample and respondent estimates are significantly different at the α=0.10 level. Fay's modified BRR was used to estimate the standard error of the difference to account for the correlation between the estimates.

^ Indicates noninterview adjustments helped to reduce the bias. The relative difference for the noninterview-adjusted estimate is either no longer significant (relative difference was

significant for the estimate with adjusted initial weight) or the difference is smaller than the relative difference using only the adjusted initial weight at the 90 percent confidence level.

Table 11. Comparison of Estimates between the Full Sample and the Respondents in Calendar Year 2025 (Wave 3)

Characteristics and Key Estimates	All Wave 3 Cases		Wave 3 Respondents					
	Initial weight		Initial weight			Noninterview Adjusted Weight		
	Percent/ Median	Standard Error	Percent/ Median	Standard Error	Relative Difference	Percent/ Median	Standard Error	Relative Difference
Annual household earnings	47,270	1,615	37,530	1,988	-20.61*	9,030	2,005	-17.43*
Annual household income	71,270	1,330	68,210	1,480	-4.29*	67,520	1,515	-5.26*
Household net worth	195,700	5,336	17,300	9,838	11.04*	204,200	7,478	4.34^
Households in poverty	12.06	0.44	11.66	0.58	-3.32	11.65	0.61	-3.40
Households receiving income from welfare programs	27.61	0.63	27.34	0.89	-0.98	28.14	0.92	1.92
Program Participation								
Medicaid	21.84	0.56	22.08	0.89	1.10	22.78	0.91	4.30
Medicare	38.99	0.65	46.02	1.00	18.03*	45.47	0.99	16.62*
Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP)	13.24	0.43	13.82	0.63	4.38	14.01	0.67	5.82
Social Security Supplemental Security Income (SSI)	37.19	0.65	43.86	1.02	17.93*	43.56	0.99	17.13*
Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)	7.54	0.36	8.37	0.53	11.01*	8.74	0.56	15.92*
	0.58	0.11	0.31	0.11	-46.55*	0.34	0.12	-41.38*
Age of Householder								
Under 25 years	4.23	0.31	3.07	0.43	-27.42*	2.85	0.44	-32.62*
25 to 34 years	13.25	0.47	10.98	0.67	-17.13*	11.05	0.68	-16.60*
35 to 44 years	14.89	0.53	13.09	0.72	-12.09*	13.52	0.75	-9.20*^
45 to 54 years	15.04	0.46	13.73	0.64	-8.71*	14.04	0.65	-6.65*
55 to 64 years	18.83	0.55	18.28	0.80	-2.92	18.45	0.84	-2.02
65 years or older	33.75	0.63	40.85	1.03	21.04*	40.09	1.00	18.79*^
Asset Ownership								
Bonds	58.21	0.68	56.22	0.97	-3.42*	58.04	0.97	-0.29^
Minimal	41.79	0.68	43.78	0.97	4.76*	41.96	0.97	0.41^

Characteristics and Key Estimates	All Wave 3 Cases		Wave 3 Respondents					
	Initial weight		Initial weight			Noninterview Adjusted Weight		
	Percent/ Median	Standard Error	Percent/ Median	Standard Error	Relative Difference	Percent/ Median	Standard Error	Relative Difference
Census Region								
Northeast	17.52	0.33	16.97	0.66	-3.14	17.13	0.66	-2.23
Midwest	21.19	0.38	21.65	0.79	2.17	21.11	0.83	-0.38
South	38.69	0.44	36.98	0.82	-4.42*	36.96	0.86	-4.47*
West	22.60	0.40	24.40	0.71	7.96*	24.80	0.77	9.73*
Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) Status								
Within MSA in Central City	34.48	0.65	34.40	1.00	-0.23	34.71	1.00	0.67
Within MSA but Not in Central City	50.97	0.72	51.02	1.07	0.10	50.67	1.10	-0.59
Not in MSA but in Census Place	7.75	0.43	7.69	0.59	-0.77	7.71	0.62	-0.52
Neither in MSA nor Census Place	6.80	0.43	6.88	0.56	1.18	6.91	0.57	1.62
Educational Attainment of Householder								
Up to high school diploma	34.16	0.65	32.70	0.97	-4.27*	34.78	0.88	1.81^
Some college, no bachelor's degree	27.29	0.61	26.19	0.85	-4.03*	26.40	0.76	-3.26^
Bachelor's degree or higher	38.54	0.69	41.11	0.96	6.67*	38.82	0.81	0.73^
Hispanic Origin of Householder								
Hispanic	14.19	0.45	12.68	0.68	-10.64*	13.52	0.74	-4.72^
Non-Hispanic	85.81	0.45	87.32	0.68	1.76*	86.48	0.74	0.78^
Household Income to Poverty Ratio								
Less than 1.75	23.26	0.61	23.33	0.82	0.30	23.31	0.82	0.21
1.75 to 4.5	36.94	0.73	37.42	1.03	1.30	38.51	1.04	4.25*
Greater than 4.5	39.80	0.77	39.25	1.04	-1.38	38.19	1.00	-4.05*

Characteristics and Key Estimates	All Wave 3 Cases		Wave 3 Respondents					
	Initial weight		Initial weight			Noninterview Adjusted Weight		
	Percent/ Median	Standard Error	Percent/ Median	Standard Error	Relative Difference	Percent/ Median	Standard Error	Relative Difference
Household Size								
1 person household	30.62	0.52	34.58	0.86	12.93*	33.89	0.88	10.68*^
2 person household	38.35	0.6	38.01	0.94	-0.89	37.84	0.97	-1.33
3 person household	12.60	0.42	11.27	0.58	-10.56*	11.91	0.62	-5.48^
4 or more person household	18.43	0.47	16.14	0.68	-12.43*	16.37	0.71	-11.18*
Household Type								
Female householder with biological child and no spouse present	3.85	0.25	3.09	0.34	-19.74*	3.21	0.36	-16.62*
Householder 65 years or older	33.75	0.63	40.85	1.03	21.04*	40.09	1.00	18.79*^
Other	62.40	0.67	56.06	1.04	-10.16*	56.70	1.00	-9.13*^
Marital Status of Householder								
Married, spouse present	46.04	0.68	43.87	0.84	-4.71*	43.97	0.89	-4.50*
Married, spouse absent	1.95	0.19	1.79	0.28	-8.21	1.76	0.29	-9.74
Widowed	9.78	0.40	12.48	0.61	27.61*	12.25	0.65	25.26*
Divorced	16.70	0.54	17.19	0.77	2.93	17.45	0.79	4.49
Separated	2.25	0.20	2.24	0.30	-0.44	2.30	0.31	2.22
Never married	23.29	0.62	22.43	0.83	-3.69	22.27	0.83	-4.38*
Race of Householder								
White Only	79.23	0.52	81.78	0.82	3.22*	79.88	0.82	0.82^
Black Only	11.91	0.30	10.51	0.59	-11.75*	11.16	0.60	-6.30^
Asian Only	5.20	0.34	4.47	0.46	-14.04*	5.15	0.52	-0.96^
Other	3.66	0.30	3.24	0.34	-11.48*	3.81	0.40	4.10^
Sex of Householder								
Male	48.44	0.72	48.30	1.07	-0.29	47.78	1.13	-1.36
Female	51.56	0.72	51.70	1.07	0.27	52.22	1.13	1.28
Tenure								
Owner	63.26	0.47	66.31	0.89	4.82*	64.05	0.73	1.25^
Renter, no government subsidy	34.22	0.52	31.57	0.84	-7.74*	33.63	0.75	-1.72^
Renter, receives Government subsidy	2.52	0.30	2.11	0.32	-16.30	2.32	0.36	-7.94

Characteristics and Key Estimates	All Wave 3 Cases		Wave 3 Respondents					
	Initial weight		Initial weight			Noninterview Adjusted Weight		
	Percent/ Median	Standard Error	Percent/ Median	Standard Error	Relative Difference	Percent/ Median	Standard Error	Relative Difference
Urban/Rural Status								
Urban	80.68	0.57	80.62	0.82	-0.07	80.84	0.82	0.20
Rural	19.32	0.57	19.38	0.82	0.31	19.16	0.82	-0.83
Within PSU Strata								
Low income	39.39	0.46	38.91	0.84	-1.22	39.12	0.92	-0.69
Non-low income	60.61	0.46	61.09	0.84	0.79	60.88	0.92	0.45
Multilingual Block Group								
Multilingual	23.11	0.73	22.63	1.11	-2.08	23.38	1.17	1.17
Not Multilingual	76.89	0.73	77.37	1.11	0.62	76.62	1.17	-0.35
Low Education Block Group								
Low Education	15.50	0.58	15.69	0.82	1.23	16.15	0.84	4.19
Not Low Education	84.50	0.58	84.31	0.82	-0.22	83.85	0.84	-0.77
High Public Assistance Block Group								
High Public Assistance Recipiency	22.34	0.66	22.11	0.96	-1.03	22.19	0.98	-0.67
Low Public Assistance Recipiency	77.66	0.66	77.89	0.96	0.30	77.81	0.98	0.19
Home Value Block Group								
Less than $200k	50.60	0.84	49.45	1.29	-2.27	50.21	1.36	-0.77
$200k - $400k	28.59	0.80	28.93	1.24	1.19	28.39	1.25	-0.70
$400k and over	20.81	0.77	21.62	1.00	3.89	21.40	1.08	2.84
Multi-unit Buildings Block Group								
Less than 25%	81.99	0.72	83.87	0.91	2.29*	83.60	0.91	1.96*
25% - 50%	13.69	0.64	12.35	0.81	-9.79*	12.27	0.82	-10.37*
50% - 75%	3.64	0.33	3.16	0.37	-13.20	3.50	0.41	-3.85
75% and over	0.68	0.12	0.63	0.16	-7.35	0.64	0.16	-5.88
Vacant Units Block Group								
Less than 20%	87.58	0.51	87.37	0.72	-0.24	87.20	0.75	-0.43
20% - 40%	10.61	0.45	10.46	0.69	-1.41	10.48	0.71	-1.23
40% - 60%	1.62	0.23	2.10	0.32	29.63*	2.23	0.35	37.65*
60% and over	0.18	0.08	0.07	0.07	-61.10	0.09	0.09	-50.00

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation, Calendar Year 2025 and Planning Database, 2024.

* Indicates full sample and respondent estimates are significantly different at the α=0.10 level. Fay's modified BRR was used to estimate the standard error of the difference to account for the correlation between the estimates.

^ Indicates noninterview adjustments helped to reduce the bias. The relative difference for the noninterview-adjusted estimate is either no longer significant (relative difference was significant for the estimate with adjusted initial weight) or the difference is smaller than the relative difference using only the adjusted initial weight at the 90 percent confidence level.

Table 12. Comparison of Estimates between the Full Sample and the Respondents in Calendar Year 2025 (Wave 4)

Characteristics and Key Estimates	All Wave 4 Cases		Wave 4 Respondents					
	Initial weight		Initial weight			Noninterview Adjusted Weight		
	Percent/ Median	Standard Error	Percent/ Median	Standard Error	Relative Difference	Percent/ Median	Standard Error	Relative Difference
Annual household earnings	41,800	994.6	33,680	1,133	-19.43*	34,300	1,410	-17.94*
Annual household income	68,150	990.5	68,130	1,263	-0.03	66,760	1,390	-2.04
Household net worth	200,900	4886	246,200	8,610	22.55*	222,900	8,769	10.95*^
Households in poverty	11.63	0.34	10.87	0.46	-6.53*	10.97	0.47	-5.67*
Households receiving income from welfare programs	26.29	0.48	25.12	0.69	-4.45*	26.21	0.71	-0.30^
Program Participation								
Medicaid	21.66	0.41	20.70	0.62	-4.43*	21.57	0.69	-0.42^
Medicare	40.78	0.51	47.87	0.77	17.39*	47.60	0.77	16.72*
Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP)	13.06	0.38	12.45	0.53	-4.67	12.73	0.51	-2.53
Social Security	38.28	0.49	45.21	0.76	18.10*	44.72	0.76	16.82*^
Supplemental Security Income (SSI)	5.41	0.24	5.55	0.37	2.59	5.72	0.37	5.73
Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)	0.55	0.08	0.33	0.08	-40.00*	0.37	0.09	-32.73*
Age of Householder								
Under 25 years	3.98	0.19	2.43	0.23	-38.94*	2.37	0.25	-40.45*
25 to 34 years	12.54	0.33	10.05	0.48	-19.86*	9.93	0.49	-20.81*
35 to 44 years	15.15	0.38	12.73	0.54	-15.97*	13.23	0.57	-12.67*^
45 to 54 years	14.81	0.38	13.02	0.54	-12.09*	13.41	0.56	-9.45*^
55 to 64 years	19.46	0.39	20.47	0.60	5.19*	20.52	0.62	5.45*
65 years or older	34.07	0.46	41.30	0.77	21.22*	40.54	0.76	18.99*^

Characteristics and Key Estimates	All Wave 4 Cases		Wave 4 Respondents					
	Initial weight		Initial weight			Noninterview Adjusted Weight		
	Percent/ Median	Standard Error	Percent/ Median	Standard Error	Relative Difference	Percent/ Median	Standard Error	Relative Difference
Asset Ownership								
Bonds	57.92	0.52	55.02	0.77	-5.01*	56.59	0.73	-2.3*^
Minimal	42.08	0.52	44.98	0.77	6.89*	43.41	0.73	3.16*^
Census Region								
Northeast	17.43	0.23	17.56	0.55	0.75	17.35	0.55	-0.46
Midwest	21.44	0.21	21.17	0.60	-1.26	20.93	0.62	-2.38
South	38.55	0.28	36.36	0.65	-5.68*	36.47	0.69	-5.40*
West	22.58	0.23	24.92	0.61	10.36*	25.25	0.63	11.82*
Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) Status								
Within MSA in Central City	34.08	0.53	34.03	0.79	-0.15	34.35	0.82	0.79
Within MSA but Not in Central City	51.08	0.62	49.9	0.86	-2.31*	49.44	0.88	-3.21*
Not in MSA but in Census Place	7.38	0.42	7.97	0.61	7.99*	8.00	0.62	8.40*
Neither in MSA nor Census Place	7.45	0.40	8.09	0.54	8.59*	8.22	0.55	10.34*
Educational Attainment of Householder								
Up to high school diploma	33.01	0.51	30.01	0.68	-9.09*	32.32	0.60	-2.09^
Some college, no bachelor's degree	27.09	0.48	27.24	0.69	0.55	27.53	0.65	1.62
Bachelor's degree or higher	39.90	0.50	42.75	0.77	7.14*	40.15	0.63	0.63^
Hispanic Origin of Householder								
Hispanic	13.41	0.37	11.74	0.52	-12.45*	12.84	0.56	-4.25^
Non-Hispanic	86.59	0.37	88.26	0.52	1.93*	87.16	0.56	0.66^
Household Income to Poverty Ratio								
Less than 1.75	22.82	0.48	22.39	0.68	-1.88	22.82	0.66	0.00
1.75 to 4.5	36.79	0.55	36.14	0.85	-1.77	36.95	0.84	0.43
Greater than 4.5	40.39	0.52	41.47	0.83	2.67*	40.23	0.77	-0.40^

Characteristics and Key Estimates	All Wave 4 Cases		Wave 4 Respondents					
	Initial weight		Initial weight			Noninterview Adjusted Weight		
	Percent/ Median	Standard Error	Percent/ Median	Standard Error	Relative Difference	Percent/ Median	Standard Error	Relative Difference
Household Size								
1 person household	29.40	0.41	33.09	0.71	12.55*	32.28	0.73	9.80*^
2 person household	37.95	0.46	38.51	0.74	1.48	37.78	0.74	-0.45
3 person household	13.52	0.32	12.09	0.45	-10.58*	12.55	0.48	-7.17*^
4 or more person household	19.13	0.35	16.31	0.54	-14.74*	17.39	0.57	-9.10*^
Household Type								
Female householder with biological child and no spouse present	4.43	0.20	2.57	0.25	-41.99*	2.70	0.27	-39.05*
Householder 65 years or older	34.07	0.46	41.30	0.77	21.22*	40.54	0.76	18.99*^
Other	61.50	0.46	56.13	0.76	-8.73*	56.77	0.74	-7.69*^
Marital Status of Householder								
Married, spouse present	47.44	0.52	47.89	0.83	0.95	48.11	0.78	1.41
Married, spouse absent	1.70	0.13	1.53	0.19	-10.00	1.40	0.19	-17.65*
Widowed	10.82	0.35	13.10	0.58	21.07*	13.02	0.59	20.33*
Divorced	15.53	0.36	15.95	0.58	2.70	15.89	0.59	2.32
Separated	2.48	0.16	2.35	0.22	-5.24	2.41	0.23	-2.82
Never married	22.03	0.45	19.18	0.61	-12.94*	19.17	0.62	-12.98*
Race of Householder								
White Only	79.17	0.32	81.32	0.61	2.72*	79.23	0.56	0.08^
Black Only	11.34	0.20	9.73	0.43	-14.2*	10.64	0.44	-6.17*^
Asian Only	6.25	0.22	6.00	0.38	-4.00	6.83	0.42	9.28*
Other	3.25	0.19	2.96	0.25	-8.92	3.31	0.27	1.85
Sex of Householder								
Male	49.46	0.48	50.79	0.77	2.69*	50.49	0.78	2.08^
Female	50.54	0.48	49.21	0.77	-2.63*	49.51	0.78	-2.04^
Tenure								
Owner	65.72	0.36	68.48	0.69	4.20*	66.33	0.52	0.93^
Renter, no government subsidy	31.88	0.37	29.19	0.65	-8.44*	31.16	0.51	-2.26*^
Renter, receives government subsidy	2.41	0.19	2.33	0.28	-3.32	2.51	0.29	4.15

Characteristics and Key Estimates	All Wave 4 Cases		Wave 4 Respondents					
	Initial weight		Initial weight			Noninterview Adjusted Weight		
	Percent/ Median	Standard Error	Percent/ Median	Standard Error	Relative Difference	Percent/ Median	Standard Error	Relative Difference
Urban/Rural Status								
Urban	79.93	0.50	79.39	0.70	-0.68	79.55	0.72	-0.48
Rural	20.07	0.50	20.61	0.70	2.69	20.45	0.72	1.89
Within PSU Strata								
Low income	37.91	0.31	37.41	0.67	-1.32	38.39	0.71	1.27
Non-low income	62.09	0.31	62.59	0.67	0.81	61.61	0.71	-0.77
Multilingual Block Group								
Multilingual	23.84	0.50	24.16	0.75	1.34	25.44	0.80	6.71*
Not Multilingual	76.16	0.50	75.84	0.75	-0.42	74.56	0.80	-2.1*
Low Education Block Group								
Low Education	15.65	0.44	16.17	0.65	3.32	16.74	0.70	6.96*
Not Low Education	84.35	0.44	83.83	0.65	-0.62	83.26	0.70	-1.29*
High Public Assistance Block Group								
High Public Assistance Recipiency	23.16	0.55	24.09	0.74	4.02*	24.48	0.78	5.70*
Low Public Assistance Recipiency	76.84	0.55	75.91	0.74	-1.21*	75.52	0.78	-1.72*
Home Value Block Group								
Less than $200k	49.51	0.66	49.32	0.98	-0.38	49.78	1.00	0.55
$200k - $400k	29.41	0.64	29.3	0.95	-0.37	29.28	0.99	-0.44
$400k and over	21.08	0.45	21.39	0.76	1.47	20.93	0.75	-0.71
Multi-unit Buildings Block Group								
Less than 25%	82.13	0.46	83.12	0.65	1.21*	82.84	0.69	0.86^
25% - 50%	13.34	0.39	12.42	0.59	-6.90*	12.62	0.63	-5.40^
50% - 75%	3.61	0.24	3.54	0.33	-1.94	3.57	0.36	-1.11
75% and over	0.92	0.11	0.93	0.18	1.09	0.97	0.19	5.43
Vacant Units Block Group								
Less than 20%	87.21	0.50	87.43	0.7	0.25	87.31	0.72	0.11
20% - 40%	11.07	0.45	10.70	0.63	-3.34	10.85	0.66	-1.99
40% - 60%	1.38	0.16	1.50	0.23	8.70	1.47	0.24	6.52
60% and over	0.34	0.08	0.37	0.12	8.82	0.37	0.13	8.82

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation, Calendar Year 2025 and Planning Database, 2024.

* Indicates full sample and respondent estimates are significantly different at the α=0.10 level. Fay's modified BRR was used to estimate the standard error of the difference to account for the correlation between the estimates.

^ Indicates noninterview adjustments helped to reduce the bias. The relative difference for the noninterview-adjusted estimate is either no longer significant (relative difference was significant for the estimate with adjusted initial weight) or the difference is smaller than the relative difference using only the adjusted initial weight at the 90 percent confidence level.

Table 13 summarizes for all key estimates and characteristics presented in Tables 9, 10, 11, and 12 the overall effect of the noninterview weighting adjustments on nonresponse bias for CY 2025. As shown in Table 13, the weighting adjustments eliminated some, but not all, significant bias. Before the noninterview weight adjustment, the respondent estimates had larger relative differences to the sample estimates. However, the average absolute value of the relative bias decreased after the noninterview weighting adjustment in each wave:

For Wave 1 respondents, 59 percent of the variables in Table 9 were significantly biased before noninterview weighting adjustments. After the adjustments, 28 percent of these variables were significantly biased, with the bias having been reduced for 51 percent of the variable categories.

For Wave 2 respondents, 45 percent of the variables in Table 10 were significantly biased before noninterview weighting adjustments. After the adjustments, 35 percent of these variables were significantly biased, with the bias having been reduced for 31 percent of the variable categories.

For Wave 3 respondents, 49 percent of the variables in Table 11 were significantly biased before noninterview weighting adjustments. After the adjustments, 33 percent were significantly biased, with the bias having been reduced for 26 percent of the variable categories. Note for a variable category, bias can be reduced but still be significant or bias can be increased after adjustments.

Finally, for Wave 4 respondents, 56 percent of the variables in Table 12 were significantly biased before noninterview weighting adjustments. After the adjustments, 47 percent of these categories were significantly biased, with the bias having been reduced for 35 percent of the variable categories.

Table 13. Summary of Relative Bias Before and After Noninterview Weighting Adjustment, by Wave in Calendar Year 2025

	Average of Absolute Relative Bias		Percent of Variable Categories Significantly Biased		Percent of Variable Categories Having Their Bias Significantly Reduced
	Initial Weight	Noninterview Weight	Initial Weight	Noninterview Weight	Noninterview Weight
Wave 1	6.97	3.79	58.97	28.21	51.28
Wave 2	6.43	5.05	44.87	34.62	30.77
Wave 3	8.11	6.30	48.72	33.33	25.64
Wave 4	7.77	6.63	56.41	47.44	34.62

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation, Calendar Year 2025 and Planning Database, 2024.

4.3 Comparing Estimates to Benchmarks

Findings from comparing various SIPP person and household level final weighted estimates – computed from all interviewed households in CY 2025 – to corresponding administrative data sources and estimates from the CPS ASEC are summarized in Table 14. The statistics examined include: annual median household income by race and Hispanic origin of the householder; percent of persons in poverty by race and Hispanic origin, sex, and age; number of persons enrolled in Medicaid, Medicare, SNAP, Social Security, SSI, and TANF; and average monthly Social Security and SSI income among respective program recipients. The table displays benchmarks and standard errors when available, SIPP estimates and their standard errors, and relative differences between the benchmark and SIPP estimates, computed as $100 * (SIPP - benchmark)/benchmark$.

The reference period – duration for which an estimate is computed – depends on the benchmarks available. Median household income and poverty rates are annual estimates for the entire 2024 reference year. Medicaid, SNAP, Social Security, and SSI statistics are monthly counts of persons who received benefits from these programs in December 2024. The Medicare statistic is the average monthly number of persons that participated in the program during the 2024 reference year.

SIPP estimated annual median household income in 2024 was 4.38 percent lower than the CPS ASEC median annual income of $83,730 and 7.31 percent lower among non-Hispanic White householders compared to the CPS ASEC benchmark. SIPP estimated annual median household income among non-Hispanic Asian householders of $131,000 was 7.64 percent higher than the benchmark of $121,700. Although, the national poverty rate estimated from SIPP in 2024 was not significantly different from the poverty rate estimated from CPS ASEC, there were noticeable differences across age groups and the race and Hispanic origin, whereas no

significant differences were observed by sex. The SIPP poverty rates for individuals aged 18 to 64 and 65 and over were 8.23 percent higher and 10.96 percent lower than the CPS ASEC poverty rates, respectively. By race and Hispanic origin, the SIPP poverty rate was 10.13 percent higher for non-Hispanic White individuals and 17.23 percent lower for households with non-Hispanic Black individuals.

SIPP underestimated overall participation in SNAP, TANF, Medicaid, and Medicare during the month of December 2024 compared to the programs' data by 27.28 percent, 24.32 percent, 13.89 percent, and 1.81 percent, respectively.

The number of Social Security beneficiaries in December 2024 computed from the SIPP also differed from benchmarks published in the 2024 Social Security statistical supplement by age[13]. The SIPP estimate of the number of Social Security recipients was 7.77 percent lower than the benchmark estimate for recipients aged 62 year and older, but 52.13 percent higher than the benchmark estimate for recipients under age 62. The SIPP-estimated average monthly Social Security income in the same month was 6.11 percent lower than the benchmark among all recipients, 4.95 percent lower among males, and 7.69 percent lower among females.

SIPP-estimated SSI recipient counts were 17.26 percent higher than the counts produced by the Social Security Administration at the national level. SIPP estimates were 33.15 percent higher for SSI beneficiaries aged 18 to 64 years. The SIPP-estimated average monthly SSI income exceed the benchmark estimate by 10.62 percent among all recipients, 6.48 percent among recipients aged 18 to 64, and 24.06 percent among recipients aged 65 years and older.

The SIPP sample universe is the same as that of the CPS ASEC, but different from the population enrolled in the various government programs. The SIPP and CPS ASEC sample universes are restricted to civilian noninstitutionalized persons residing in the United States. While program participation benchmark counts for Medicaid and Medicare are also restricted to persons residing in the U.S.[14], they include institutionalized persons. Social Security and SSI participation benchmark counts and average monthly benefits include all persons in the United States and in eligible U.S. territories, as well as institutionalized persons.

[13] The earliest age persons can begin receiving social security retirement benefits is age 62.

[14] The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Service also produce counts of Medicare and Medicaid participants that include recipients residing in U.S Territories.

Table 14. Comparing Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP) Calendar Year 2025 Key Estimates to Benchmarks from Administrative Data and Estimates from the 2024 Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplement (CPS ASEC)

Characteristic and Subgroups	Benchmark	Benchmark Standard Error	SIPP Estimate	SIPP Standard Error	Relative Difference (percent)
Annual Median Income (in Dollars)					
All households	83,730	1,050	80,060	882	-4.38*
Race and Hispanic Origin					
White Only	92,530	1,271	85,770	1,057	-7.31*
Black Only	56,020	1,244	57,830	2,055	3.23
Asian Only	121,700	3,993	131,000	4,281	7.64*
Hispanic of any race	70,950	1,001	73,090	2,231	3.02
Poverty Rates (Percentages)					
All persons	10.60	0.20	10.90	0.32	2.83
Age					
Under 18 years	14.30	0.60	14.34	0.88	0.28
18 to 64 years	9.60	0.20	10.39	0.31	8.23*
65 years or older	9.90	0.40	8.815	0.35	-10.96*
Race and Hispanic Origin					
White Only	7.60	0.30	8.37	0.36	10.13*
Black Only	18.40	1.00	15.23	1.27	-17.23*
Asian Only	7.50	0.90	8.69	1.16	15.83
Hispanic of any race	15.00	0.70	15.42	0.99	2.80
Sex					
Male	9.60	0.30	9.91	0.33	3.23
Female	11.60	0.30	11.86	0.42	2.24
Social Security Participation					
All Recipients	68,455,973	.	68,340,000	800,500	-0.17
Age[1]					
Under 62 years	8,689,995	.	13,220,000	719,500	52.13*
62 years or older	59,765,978	.	55,120,000	351,900	-7.77*
Sex					
Male	31,128,074	.	31,620,000	461,100	1.58
Female	37,327,899	.	36,730,000	505,600	-1.60

Characteristic and Subgroups	Benchmark	Benchmark Standard Error	SIPP Estimate	SIPP Standard Error	Relative Difference (percent)
Average Monthly Social Security Income (in Dollars)					
All Recipients	1,767	.	1,659	10.45	-6.11*
Sex					
Male	1,966	.	1,869	15.19	-4.95*
Female	1,601	.	1,478	11.91	-7.69*
Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Participation					
All Recipients	7,423,856	.	8,705,000	359,500	17.26*
Age					
Under 18 years	1,002,887	.	1,002,000	139,100	-0.09
18 to 64 years	3,951,886	.	5,262,000	289,800	33.15*
65 years or older	2,469,103	.	2,441,000	159,200	-1.14
Average Monthly Supplemental Security Income (in Dollars)					
All Recipients	696.7	.	770.7	12.54	10.62*
Age					
Under 18 years	812.5	.	800.3	29.46	-1.51
18 to 64 years	743.1	.	791.3	14.80	6.48*
65 years or older	575.6	.	714.1	23.02	24.06*
Participation in Other Programs					
Medicaid	78,838,502	.	67,890,000	1,292,000	-13.89*
Medicare	68,665,010	.	67,420,000	528,400	-1.81*
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)	42,957,379	.	31,240,000	1,019,000	-27.28*
Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)	2,116,773	.	1,602,000	264,300	-24.32*

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation, Calendar Year 2025;
U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey 2024 Annual Social and Economic Supplements;
The Centers for Medicaid & Medicare Services (CMS) Program Statistics, 2024 Medicare Enrollment Section;
The Center for Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) Services, Monthly Medicaid & CHIP Application, Eligibility Determination and Enrollment Reports & Data, Monthly Enrollment, December 2024;
Social Security Administration, Social Security Annual Statistical Supplement, 2024;
U.S Department of Agriculture, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Monthly State Participation and Benefit Summary – Public Data, Fiscal year 2024;
U.S Department of Health & Human Services, Office of Family Assistance, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Caseload Data 2024.

[1] Social Security participation by age benchmarks obtained from Tables 5A.1 to 5A.8 of the 2024 Social Security Annual Statistical Supplements.
* Indicates SIPP estimates are significantly different from benchmarks at the α=0.10 level.

Note regarding benchmark analysis in CY 2025*: A person who received social security benefits on behalf of children is counted in this report as a social security recipient.*

5. Discussion and Conclusions

This analysis employed different techniques to investigate the potential for nonresponse bias in the SIPP CY 2025 data including: comparing weighted response rates across subgroups of the sample; examining frame, demographic, and block group characteristics among full sample, respondents, and nonrespondents; and benchmarking. Some of the methods identified variables correlated with nonresponse while others provided estimates of nonresponse bias for specific estimates and the effect of noninterview adjustment on these statistics. Since CY 2025 consists of multiple waves, we conducted the analysis on each wave of the full CY 2025 dataset.

For all the waves of the CY 2025, almost all subgroups' weighted response rates were significantly different from the overall weighted response rates. The largest response rate differences occurred in Census region, MSA status, household size, multi-unit building block group, and vacant unit block group in Wave 1; household size, race, Census region, MSA status, tenure, and urban-rural status in Wave 2; vacant units block group, multi-units block group, household size, race, tenure, and Census region in Wave 3 ; household size, race, vacant units block group, MSA status, race, Census region, and tenure in Wave 4.

Comparison of the wave sample and respondent estimates before and after the nonresponse adjustment revealed that the weighting procedure significantly reduced nonresponse bias for all waves. Table 13 shows that among the characteristics analyzed, the nonresponse adjustments significantly reduced the bias for 51 percent in Wave 1, 31 percent in Wave 2, 26 percent in Wave 3, and 35 percent in Wave 4. Also, the average absolute relative bias among these characteristics decreased from 6.97 to 3.79 in Wave 1, from 6.43 to 5.05 in Wave 2, from 8.11 to 6.30 in Wave 3, and from 7.77 to 6.63 in Wave 4.

Comparison of various SIPP program and poverty estimates to benchmarks showed that SIPP generally underestimated program participation in Medicaid, Medicare, TANF, and SNAP enrollees and overestimated SSI enrollees in 2024. However, some of these differences may be influenced by the exclusion of the institutionalized population in the SIPP sample.

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