

RELEASE NOTES: 2021 SIPP

Revision History		
Date	Change	Updated by
8/31/22	Initial version	A. Smith

Version 1.0 (Released 8/31/22)

The U.S. Census Bureau released public-use data from the 2021 Survey of Income and Program Participation (2021 SIPP). The [data](#) are available in SAS, Stata, and pipe-delimited text formats. Accompanying the data release are several supporting materials, including:

- (1) An online, interactive [Codebook](#) for browsing and searching metadata
- (2) An updated [Users' Guide](#) to assist data users and provide background on the survey
- (3) The 2021 SIPP [instrument specifications](#) detailing question wording and response categories
- (4) A [data dictionary](#) PDF providing metadata for all variables in the 2021 dataset
- (5) [User notes](#) describing nuances and other data issues that users should be aware of
- (6) [Crosswalks](#) that map 2021 SIPP variables to their analogues in 2020 SIPP data, and vice versa

SIPP provides comprehensive information about the income and program participation of individuals and households in the United States. The survey collects data and measures change for many topics, including economic well-being, family dynamics, education, assets, health insurance, child care, and food security. SIPP is a longitudinal survey – following the same set of respondents over a multi-year period – allowing researchers to understand how these contexts change over time.

The 2021 SIPP continued to face data collection complications because of the COVID-19 pandemic and a general lower-than-average unit response rate nationally. For technical documentation and more information about SIPP data quality, please visit the [Technical Documentation](#) page at <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/sipp/tech-documentation.html>.

Several questions were added to 2021 SIPP that focus on four subject areas: Marital History, Parental Mortality, Disability, and Retirement Income and Pensions. These additions are designed to produce detailed statistics about: personal retirement plans such as Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs), Keogh accounts, 401k, 403b, 503b, and thrift plans; participation in pension and retirement plans provided by an employer or business; current and previous marital status; parental mortality; self-designation of health status; work disability; and adult and child disability. The additional content was added through a joint statistical agreement between the Census Bureau and the Social Security Administration (SSA) and is largely a subset of questions that were included in the “2014 SIPP SSA Supplement”

All 2021 SIPP data-release materials are available on the [SIPP website](#) at www.census.gov/sipp. Additional announcements, including notifications of version updates, will be made as necessary through the SIPP website and the SIPP email notification system. To be added to the SIPP email notification system, visit the [Contact Us](#) page on the SIPP website at <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/sipp/contact.html>.