2020 Household Pulse Survey
Interagency Federal Statistical Rapid Response Survey to Measure Effects of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic on the United States Household Population

Suggested Citation
Fields JF, Hunter-Childs J, Tersine A, Sisson J, Parker E, Velkoff V, Logan C, and Shin H. Design and Operation of the 2020 Household Pulse Survey, 2020. U.S. Census Bureau. Forthcoming.

This document is being released in advance of its formal publication to provide background and guidelines for users of the recently released data files.

Table of Contents

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Objectives

This document presents the background for the purpose, planning and development, and operational implementation of the 2020 Household Pulse Survey to measure the impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic[1]. To help understand the social and economic impacts of COVID-19 on American households the U. S. Census Bureau developed the Household Pulse Survey (HPS) in partnership with five federal statistical partner agencies: the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the National Center for Health Statistics, the United States Department of Agriculture's Economic Research Service, the National Center for Education Statistics, and the Department of Housing and Urban Development. From the experimental survey's inception on March 23, 2020 through the start of data collection on April 23, 2020, the Census Bureau staff worked with experts from the five partner agencies to launch this urgent endeavor. The ability to understand how individuals are experiencing this period is critical to governmental and non-governmental response in light of business curtailment and closures, stay-at-home orders, school closures, changes in the availability of consumer goods and consumer patterns, and other abrupt and significant changes to American life. The survey is designed to meet the goal of accurate and timely weekly estimates.

The survey demonstrates the unique ability of the federal statistical system to rapidly respond and provide salient information based on a high quality sample frame, data integration, and cooperative expertise. The question domains seek to measure impacts on employment status, consumer spending (including use of stimulus payments), food security, housing, education disruptions, and dimensions of physical and mental wellness. This experimental survey adds a new resource to the federal statistical systems ability to address emergent data needs, and demonstrates a new paradigm of possibility to leverage the infrastructure of the Federal Statistical System, developing and fielding a rapid household survey via a new sampling, new instrument, and new delivery method in an exceptionally short period.

Methods

The HPS utilizes the Census Bureau's Master Address File (MAF) as the source to select a very large sample, one sufficient in size to accommodate anticipated lower response rates and still produce estimates at the state level as well as for 15 Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs). The MAF is the gold standard frame for U.S. statistics and provides sampled respondents all of the strict confidentiality protections afforded them under Title 13 U.S.C. To enable the HPS's use of a rapid deployment internet and telephone interview system, we add email and mobile telephone numbers from the Census Bureau Contact Frame to the MAF.

Newly sampled households will be contacted by email and text if both are available, by email if no cellphone number is available, and by text if no email is available. This contact strategy was fully implemented starting on May 14. Contact email addresses and cellphone numbers will be rotated daily until all are exhausted and then return to the initial addresses and numbers. Once a complete interview is obtained from a household, that household remains in sample for up to two additional weekly interviewing periods. These modes are expected to yield response rates much lower than traditional in-

---

[1] Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a viral respiratory illness caused by a new coronavirus. Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses that are common in people and many different species of animals, including camels, cattle, cats, and bats. COVID-19 was first reported in Wuhan, Hubei Province, China in November 2019. Over the next few months, the illness spread to almost every country. COVID-19 was declared a pandemic by the WHO on March 11, 2020. (https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/cdcresponse/index.html)

person or mail surveys usually conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau. The benefits to this collection plan are implementation efficiency, cost, and timeliness of responses. Initially, interviews are planned for twelve weekly samples, with each household expected to be interviewed up to three times.

The Center for Behavioral Science Methods completed a thorough expert review that consisted of nine independent experts reviewing the questionnaire independently, followed by a consensus meeting to discuss comments and come up with recommendations. The recommendations were then passed to the Demographic Directorate and subject matter representatives from the partner agencies, who accepted most of the expert recommendations and responded with subject-matter justifications for those recommendations that were not accepted. In the end, the questionnaire comprised a consensus of the expert survey methodologist recommendations and the subject matter needs. The week 1 data collection instrument is included as attachment 1.

The Census Bureau will conduct this information collection online using Qualtrics as the data collection platform. Qualtrics is currently is used at the Census Bureau for research and development surveys and provides the necessary agility to deploy the Household Pulse Survey quickly and securely. It operates in the Gov Cloud, is FedRAMP authorized at the moderate level, and has an Authority to Operate from the Census Bureau to collect personally identifiable and Title-protected data.

Standard errors will be large due to the low expected response rates and sample sizes, but will be available for data users to understand the quality of the estimates. Nonresponse bias is likely to be an issue, but measures such as the demographic distribution of the survey respondents compared to benchmarks will be produced for data users to consider in their analyses. Weekly survey estimates will be produced by weighting the results to the Population Estimates Program estimate of the number of adults in households at the state level. There are no other known data sources that can provide the comprehensive, relevant, and timely information expected from this collection.

Results

Data collection began on April 23, 2020, conducted by an internet questionnaire, with links sent by email. Outbound email to a single email address per household were sent to 1,867,126 email addresses. In week two, the capacity to email up to five email addresses per household was added. With email now fully available as a contact method we continued the initial sample for an extra week. The combined response from week one and the added second week for the week one sample generated 74,413 complete and sufficient partial interviews, approximately a 3.8% weighted response rate. This was less than the 93,500 expected interviews and 5% response rate, but represents contacts only through email.

On May 7, 2020, the second weekly sample was released combing households with completed interviews from the initial sample with new households for a total of 1,048,950 households. This second sample, also marked the addition of the capacity to invite survey responses through text messaging. The cases now include up to five email addresses, and up to five cellular telephone numbers. Initial contact plans for the second sample specified contacting the previously interviewed households by whichever means they identified as their preferred method and contact. Between May 7 and May 12, 2020 another 41,996 interviews were collected, an approximately 1.3% weighted response rate.

Data were released May 20, 2020, marking a very rapid 6-weeks since the first discussion of an interagency rapid response survey to measure the COVID-19 pandemic's impact on American households. Data expected to be released through tables, interactive data tools, and microdata accessible from the U.S. Census Bureau's Experimental Data webpage.

Keywords

Coronavirus, COVID-19, employment, health, food security, food sufficiency, education, housing, interagency, mental health, unemployment, distance learning, computer access, stimulus, economic impact payment, consumer spending, disruptions.

INTRODUCTION

The U.S. Census Bureau, in collaboration with five federal agencies, is in a unique position to produce data on the social and economic effects of COVID-19 on American households. The Household Pulse Survey (HPS) is designed to deploy quickly and efficiently, collecting data on a range of ways in which people's lives have been impacted by the pandemic. Data will be disseminated in near real-time to inform federal and state response and recovery planning.

The Household Pulse Survey will ask individuals about their experiences in terms of employment status, spending patterns, food security, housing, physical and mental health, access to health care, and educational disruption. The questionnaire is a result of collaboration between the U.S. Census Bureau and the USDA Economic Research Service (ERS), the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), and the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

The data collected will enable the Census Bureau and these partner agencies to produce statistics at a state level and for the 15 largest Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs). The survey also is designed to be longitudinal: data will provide insights with regard to how household experiences changed during the pandemic.

The Census Bureau and its federal statistical partners are considered the preeminent source of the nation's most important benchmark surveys. Many of these surveys have been ongoing for more than 80 years and provide valuable insight on social and economic trends. The production of these benchmark surveys is by nature a highly deliberative process. While efforts are underway to introduce COVID-19 questions into these surveys, that process can take months, sometimes years, before data are made available.

The approach for the Household Pulse Survey is different: It is designed to be a short-turnaround instrument that will provide valuable data to aid in the post-pandemic recovery. The Census Bureau is fielding the Household Pulse Survey as a demonstration project that is part of the Experimental Data Product series.

SAMPLE DESIGN AND ESTIMATION

The Household Pulse Survey is designed to produce estimates at three different geographical levels. The first level, the lowest geographical area, is for the 15 largest MSAs. The second level of geography is for state-level estimates for each of the 50 states and the District of Columbia, and the final level geography are national-level estimates.

Sampling rates within each county are determined at the state level. If a county is part of an MSA and requires more sample at the county level based on the MSA sampling size requirements, then more

sample will be included in the MSA counties to satisfy the MSA level sample size requirements. An example is the Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV MSA. In this MSA the required sampling interval is smaller than the Maryland sampling interval; thus, requiring more sample in the MSA counties of Maryland compared to the balance of the state. These sampling rates are the basis for the base weights of the sample.

Sampling for the HPS is drawn from the Census Bureau Master Address File (MAF), and supplemented by the Census Bureau Contact Frame. Since 2013, the Census Bureau has maintained contact frames to allow appended contact information onto sample units within household sample frames to aid in contacting respondents at those households. The primary motivation for creating this contact frame was to support research on potential contact strategies for the 2020 Census.

The Contact Frame information is maintained in two separate files – one containing phone numbers (both landline and cell phones) and the other containing email addresses. Information is obtained primarily from commercial sources, with additions from respondents to the American Community Survey and Census tests, as well as participants in food and other assistance programs from a few states, as well as from the Alaska Permanent Fund Division. Commercial sources were evaluated against respondent reported phone numbers to determine which sources would be acquired, after determining which vendors provided the best value for the government.

Commercial, survey, and administrative record data providers link phone numbers and email addresses to physical addresses before providing them for the Contact Frame. Addresses were matched to the MAF. For addresses matched with confidence, the contact information was added to the frame along with the unique identifier from the MAF. Approximately 140,000,000 housing units are represented in the MAF and we consider valid for sampling. The phone frame contains over a billion phone/address pairs, and the email frame contains over 686 million well-formed email/address pairs. The phone frame contains phone/address pairs for over 88 percent of addresses in the country, and over three quarters of those phone numbers were acquired in the past two years. The email frame contains email/address links for almost 80 percent of addresses in the country, and two-thirds of those emails were acquired in past two years. Unique phone numbers and email addresses were identified and assigned to only one housing unit (HU). The HUs on MAF were then limited to these addresses on the Contact Frame as the final eligible HUs for the HPS.

The weighting procedure will be applied within each state and consist of four adjustments that will be applied to the base weights to account for nonresponse and coverage of the demographics of the interviewed persons. These adjustments are: 1) the household nonresponse adjustment to account for households that do not respond to the survey; 2) an adjustment to control the weights to the occupied housing unit counts using the ACS occupied housing unit estimates based on the 2014-2018 5-year estimates; 3) an adjustment to account for the number of adults within the housing unit; and 4) a two-step iterative raking procedure.

The two-step iterative raking procedure rakes the demographics of the interviewed persons to known educational attainment /sex/age distributions and ethnicity/race/sex/age population distributions . Within the states, we will assess the number of interviewed cases by the demographic groups to determine if collapsing will be necessary before we apply the raking procedure.

COGNITIVE TESTING

The Census Bureau's Center for Behavioral Science Methods completed a thorough expert review that consisted of nine experts reviewing the questionnaire independently, followed by a consensus meeting to discuss comments and come up with recommendations. The recommendations were then passed to the Demographic Directorate, who accepted most of the expert recommendations and responded with subject-matter justifications for those recommendations that were not accepted. In addition to the expert and subject matter review at the Census Bureau, the cognitive testing labs at the Bureau of Labor Statistics and the National Center for Health Statistics, as well as subject matter experts at all the partner agencies reviewed and provided input on the questionnaire content. In the end, the questionnaire comprised a consensus of the expert survey methodologist recommendations and the subject matter needs.

Given the rapid response nature of this effort and in keeping with the agile approach in which the Household Pulse Survey is being deployed, the Census Bureau implemented a cognitive testing instrument concurrent with the week 1 sample release. The qualitative responses from hundreds of survey interviews with follow-up probes were collected from respondents from around the country who have opted into a testing panel for Census Bureau survey development.   Feedback from the expert reviewers and information from the probing questions will be consolidated to yield recommendations for question improvements. This process was repeated during the second week of data collection to further refine the suggested content changes. Those changes, once reviewed by the cross-agency cognitive experts will be vetted with subject matter staff and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) before being implemented in production.

Questions identified as priorities for testing include those that were developed specifically to address the COVID-19 pandemic; items developed for potential future deployment to understand households' decision-making in light of receiving economic stimulus payments; and questions deemed to be overly complex from a cognitive standpoint. Simplifying question content is balanced against the required information needs and continuous efforts to keep the number of items to a minimum to reduce burden.

CONTENT AREAS

The content for the HPS was determined by integrating the substantive needs of the six agencies involved in the project. The specific content areas are described below. The survey content was limited by the determination that we did not want an interview to exceed 20 minutes. The initial administration of the survey was conducted without the content in the Spending and Economic Impact Payments section. As new content, this area was held back pending additional cognitive reviews in the first and second weeks. Most content was sourced directly from other survey programs with long timelines of successful implementation. The content areas in the survey are described below.

Employment

The employment section asks direct questions about the household and respondent experience of employment loss. Questions then focus on the respondent experience of work, and for those who did not work in the last seven days, what the reasons for not working. These reasons include choices that specifically refer to various impacts associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. Respondents can identify their own illness with coronavirus symptoms, caring for ill family members, accommodating the

caretaking caused by closed services, and employment loss due to furlough or shuttering of employment due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Spending and Economic Impact Payments (Stimulus)

Much like the addition of questions to household surveys in 2008 to understand the impact of the Tax Rebate Stimulus, a series of questions has been prepared for the HPS in collaboration with the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The CARES[2] act provides direct economic assistance for American workers and families, small businesses, and preserves jobs for American industries. This series of questions identifies the receipt of stimulus payments, the amount, and the timing of the payment. Importantly, as was done for the Tax Rebates in 2008, the survey asks about the use of the stimulus for increasing spending, saving, or paying debt. Additionally, if the stimulus was mostly spent, the survey asks about what it was mostly spent on. These questions were not administered in the first four data collections. At the request of the Office of Management and Budget, these questions were included for additional cognitive testing prior to being activated in the survey.

Food Sufficiency and Food Security

Losses in employment income, along with disruptions in other parts of the economy, have led to significant efforts to provide food in many communities. The HPS measures food sufficiency and security, asking food sufficiency for the period prior to March 13th, 2020 in addition to the last seven days. For households that do not get enough needed or wanted food, the HPS asks why. The HPS asks about the receipt of free food, the source of the free food, the amount of money spend on food to be prepared at home, the amount spent on food prepared by outside vendors, and finally the confidence about being able to afford food over the next four weeks. The Census Bureau worked with USDA's Economic Research Service to develop these questions to align with those collected on other surveys and address food insecurity during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Physical and Mental Wellness

The National Center for Health Statistics collaborated with the Census Bureau to incorporate mental health and health access measures. The section begins with the well tested general health status used on many surveys, followed by four questions that focus on mental health. Borrowed from the NHIS, the first two address anxiety, and the second two are focused on depression.

Health Insurance and Health Access

In addition to the questions that measure aspects of mental health and general health status, the HPS includes the health insurance item used on the American Community Survey, and then follow-up with two questions that address delayed and forgone medical care as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Housing

The HPS includes three items to help understand housing security and the expectations of being able to pay rent or mortgage. In cooperation with the Department of Housing and Urban Development, these items include the tenure item used by most surveys, whether the prior month's rent or mortgage was paid on time, and the respondents expectations of their ability to pay next month's rent or mortgage on time.

---

[2] See the U.S. Treasury website (https://home.treasury.gov/policy-issues/cares) for more information about the Economic Impact Payments and the CARES Act.

Education Disruptions

The COVID-19 pandemic has led to stay-home orders in most areas for at least some time since March 13th. As a result, many people have children who were not able to attend school in-person and many school systems turned to alternate methods of continuing course work. Together with the National Center for Education Statistics, the Census Bureau included questions that ask how education changed for these households, identifying households with children enrolled in school, and whether classes were cancelled, shifted to distance learning, or changed in some other way. As a result of school systems being moved to distance learning formats, another concern raised has been children's access to computers and the internet. The HPS asks about the access that children have to both, and how they were paid for. Finally, the education section includes two items to that ask about the time students spend in contact with their teachers and, separately, working on school activities within the household.

Demographics

Finally the HPS includes basic demographic items necessary to weight the data. The birth year of the responding adult, sex, race, and Hispanic origin are collected and used to align the survey estimates with population controls based on the 2019 vintage geographic estimates updated with 2020 estimates. The number of people in the household, as well as the number of children (under 18) are asked, in order to help align the weighted estimates with the adult population distribution. As an additional characteristic of the responding adult, their educational attainment is asked, and used to align the final weighted distribution with the 2018 American Community Survey estimates of the adult population's educational attainment adjusted by age and sex to the population controls. Lastly, we ask the before tax household income to help understand the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic across the income spectrum.

EDITING AND IMPUTATION

The HPS utilizes limited edit and imputation to support the ability to provide nationally, and state representative estimates. Only birth year, sex, race, Hispanic origin, educational attainment, number of people, number of children, and the number of adults are edited in the HPS. Editing focuses on the use of simple hot deck imputation. Respondent data are sorted with criteria that includes some geography, then cases with completed data fill the hot deck cells based on each record's combination of respondent characteristics. As each record with missing data passes through the processing system, the most recently filled donor cell that matches their characteristics provides the imputation information. This limited imputation provides the sufficient data necessary for weighting. The remaining data include missing values in their distributions. It is recommend that data users pay special attention to the missing data. Including them in the denominator for percentages may artificially lower the percentages being represented.

The detailed tables released for the experimental Household Pulse Survey show frequency counts rather than percentages. Showing the frequency counts also allow data users to see the count of cases for each topic and variable that are in each response category and in the 'Did Not Report' category. This 'Did Not Report' category is not a commonly used data category in U.S. Census Bureau tables. Most survey programs review these missing data, and statistically assign them to one of the other response categories based on numerous characteristics.

In these tables, we recommend choosing the numerators and denominators for your percentages carefully, so that you deliberately include or exclude these counts with missing data. In the absence of external information, the percentage based on only the responding cases will most closely match a

percentage that would result from statistical imputation. Only including the missing data in the denominator of your percentages will lower the percentages that are calculated.

Microdata will be available by FTP in the future. Users may develop statistical imputations for the missing data, but should ensure that they continue to be deliberate and transparent with their handling of these data.

APPENDIX 1 – The Household Pulse Survey Instrument

2020 Household Pulse Survey

Welcome! Thank you for participating in this survey sponsored by the U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Census Bureau. This survey is available in another language. Please select the language in which you prefer to complete the survey. If you would like to change your language selection later, please use the drop down menu in the upper right corner of each page to select the language in which you prefer to complete the survey.

○ English

○ Español

Welcome! Thank you for participating in the **Household Pulse Survey During COVID-19** sponsored by the U.S. Census Bureau and other federal agencies. This survey will help measure the impact of coronavirus (COVID-19) on topics like:

- employment status
- food security
- housing security
- education disruptions
- physical and mental wellbeing.

In this survey we refer to the **coronavirus (COVID-19)** as **coronavirus**.

This survey is not the 2020 Census.

This survey is a cooperative effort across many government agencies to provide critical, up-to-date information about the impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic on the U.S. population. Completing this short 20-minute survey will help federal, state, and local agencies identify coronavirus (COVID-19) related issues in your community.

The U.S. Census Bureau is required by law to protect your information. The Census Bureau is not permitted to publicly release your responses in a way that could identify you. We are conducting this voluntary survey under the authority of Title 13, United States Code, Sections 8(b), 182 and 196 to study the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic in the United States. Federal law protects your privacy and keeps your answers confidential (Title 13, United

States Code, Section 9). Per the Federal Cybersecurity Enhancement Act of 2015, your data are protected from cybersecurity risks through screening of the systems that transmit your data.

We estimate that completing this survey will take 20 minutes on average. Send comments regarding this estimate or any other aspect of this survey, including suggestions for reducing the time it takes to complete this survey to adrm.pra@census.gov. This collection has been approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). This eight-digit OMB approval number, 0607-1013, confirms this approval and expires on 07/31/2020. We are required to display this number to conduct this survey.

Your privacy is protected by the Privacy Act (Title 5, U.S. Code, Section 552a). Routine uses of these data are limited to those identified in the Privacy Act System of Record Notice titled, "SORN COMMERCE/Census-3, Demographic Survey Collection (Census Bureau Sampling Frame)." The Census Bureau can use your responses only to produce statistics, and is not permitted to publicly release your responses in a way that could identify you.
To learn more about this survey go to: https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/surveyhelp.html.

*** U.S. Census Bureau Notice and Consent Warning ***
You are accessing a United States Government computer network. Any information you enter into this system is confidential. It may be used by the Census Bureau for statistical purposes and to improve the website. If you want to know more about the use of this system, and how your privacy is protected, visit our online privacy webpage at
http://www.census.gov/about/policies/privacy/privacy-policy.html.

Use of this system indicates your consent to collection, monitoring, recording, and use of the information that you provide for any lawful government purpose. So that our website remains safe and available for its intended use, network traffic is monitored to identify unauthorized attempts to access, upload, change information, or otherwise cause damage to the web service. Use of the government computer network for unauthorized purposes is a violation of Federal law and can be punished with fines or imprisonment (PUBLIC LAW 99-474).

These questions are for statistical purposes only.

Q1 What year were you born? *Please enter a number.*

_____

Q2 Are you… *Select only one answer.*

○ Male

○ Female

Q3 Are you of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin?

○ No, not of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin

○ Yes, Mexican, Mexican American, Chicano

○ Yes, Puerto Rican

○ Yes, Cuban

○ Yes, another Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin

_____

Q4 What is your race? *Please select all that apply.*

☐ White

☐ Black or African American

☐ American Indian or Alaska Native

_____

☐ Asian Indian

☐ Chinese

☐ Filipino

☐ Japanese

☐ Korean

☐ Vietnamese

☐ Other Asian _____

Page 3 of 17

☐ Native Hawaiian

☐ Chamorro

☐ Samoan

☐ Other Pacific Islander _____

Q5 What is the highest degree or level of school you have completed? *Select only one answer.*

○ Less than high school

○ Some high school

○ High school graduate or equivalent (for example GED)

○ Some college, but degree not received or is in progress

○ Associate's degree (for example AA, AS)

○ Bachelor's degree (for example BA, BS, AB)

○ Graduate degree (for example master's, professional, doctorate)

Q6 What is your marital status? *Select only one answer.*

○ Now married

○ Widowed

○ Divorced

○ Separated

○ Never married

Q7 How many total people – adults and children – currently live in your household, including yourself? *Please enter a number.*

_____

Page 4 of 17

Q8 How many people under 18 years-old currently live in your household? *Please enter a number.*

_____

This survey is a cooperative effort across many agencies to provide critical, timely information about the experience of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and its impact on the population of the United States. This survey is not the census. The 2020 Census is also underway.

Q9 Have you, or has anyone in your household experienced a loss of employment income **since March 13, 2020**? *Select only one answer.*

     ○ Yes

     ○ No

Q10 Do you expect that you or anyone in your household will experience a loss of employment income in the **next 4 weeks** because of the coronavirus pandemic? *Select only one answer.*

     ○ Yes

     ○ No

Q11 Now we are going to ask about your employment. In the **last 7 days**, did you do **ANY** work for either pay or profit? *Select only one answer.*

     ○ Yes

     ○ No

Q12 Are you employed by government, by a private company, a nonprofit organization or were you self-employed or working in a family business? *Select only one answer.*

○ Government

○ Private company

○ Non-profit organization including tax exempt and charitable organizations

○ Self-employed

○ Working in a family business

Q13 What is your main reason for not working for pay or profit? *Select only one answer.*

○ I did not want to be employed at this time

○ I did not work because I am/was sick with coronavirus symptoms

○ I did not work because I am/was caring for someone with coronavirus symptoms

○ I did not work because I am/was caring for children not in school or daycare

○ I did not work because I am/was caring for an elderly person

○ I am/was sick (not coronavirus related) or disabled

○ I am retired

○ I did not have work due to coronavirus pandemic related reduction in business (including furlough)

○ I am/was laid off due to COVID-19 pandemic

○ My employment closed temporarily due to the coronavirus pandemic

○ My employment went out of business due to the coronavirus pandemic

○ Other reason, please specify

_____

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

○ Yes, I use paid leave

○ Yes, I receive full pay but do not have to take leave

○ Yes, I receive partial pay

○ No, I receive no pay

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

○ Enough of the kinds of food (I/we) wanted to eat

○ Enough, but not always the kinds of food (I/we) wanted to eat

○ Sometimes not enough to eat

○ Often not enough to eat

Q24 In the **last 7 days**, which of these statements best describes the food eaten in your household? *Select only one answer.*

○ Enough of the kinds of food (I/we) wanted to eat

○ Enough, but not always the kinds of food (I/we) wanted to eat

○ Sometimes not enough to eat

○ Often not enough to eat

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

☐ Couldn't afford to buy more food

☐ Couldn't get out to buy food (for example, didn't have transportation, or had mobility or health problems that prevented you from getting out)

☐ Afraid to go or didn't want to go out to buy food

☐ Couldn't get groceries or meals delivered to me

☐ The stores didn't have the food I wanted

Q26 During the **last 7 days**, did you or anyone in your household get free groceries or a free meal? *Select only one answer.*

○ Yes

○ No

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

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

☐ Food pantry or food bank

☐ Home-delivered meal service like Meals on Wheels

☐ Church, synagogue, temple, mosque or other religious organization

☐ Shelter or soup kitchen

☐ Other community program

☐ Family, friends, or neighbors

The next questions are about how much money you and your household spend on food at supermarkets, grocery stores, other types of stores, and food service establishments, like restaurants and drive-thrus. When you answer these questions, please do not include money spent on alcoholic beverages.

Q28 During the **last 7 days**, how much money did you and your household spend on food at supermarkets, grocery stores, online, and other places you buy food to prepare and eat at home? Please include purchases made with SNAP or food stamps. *Enter amount.*

_____

Q29 During the **last 7 days**, how much money did you or your household spend on prepared meals, including eating out, fast food, and carry out or delivered meals? Please include money spent in cafeterias at work or at school or on vending machines. Please do not include money you have already told us about in item Q28(above). *Enter amount.*

_____

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

○ Not at all confident

○ Somewhat confident

○ Moderately confident

○ Very confident

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

○ Excellent

○ Very good

○ Good

○ Fair

○ Poor

Q32 Over the **last 7 days**, how often have you been bothered by the following problems ... Feeling nervous, anxious, or on edge? Would you say not at all, several days, more than half the days, or nearly every day? *Select only one answer.*

○ Not at all

○ Several days

○ More than half the days

○ Nearly every day

Q33 Over the **last 7 days**, how often have you been bothered by the following problems ... Not being able to stop or control worrying? Would you say not at all, several days, more than half the days, or nearly every day? *Select only one answer.*

○ Not at all

○ Several days

○ More than half the days

○ Nearly every day

Q34 Over the **last 7 days**, how often have you been bothered by ... having little interest or pleasure in doing things? Would you say not at all, several days, more than half the days, or nearly every day? *Select only one answer.*

○ Not at all

○ Several days

○ More than half the days

○ Nearly every day

Q35 Over the **last 7 days**, how often have you been bothered by ... feeling down, depressed, or hopeless? Would you say not at all, several days, more than half the days, or nearly every day? *Select only one answer.*

○ Not at all

○ Several days

○ More than half the days

○ Nearly every day

Q36 Are you currently covered by any of the following types of health insurance or health coverage plans? *Mark Yes or No for each.*

	Yes	No
Insurance through a current or former employer or union (through yourself or another family member)	○	○
Insurance purchased directly from an insurance company, including marketplace coverage (through yourself or another family member)	○	○
Medicare, for people 65 and older, or people with certain disabilities	○	○
Medicaid, Medical Assistance, or any kind of government-assistance plan for those with low incomes or a disability	○	○
TRICARE or other military health care	○	○
VA (including those who have ever used or enrolled for VA health care)	○	○
Indian Health Service	○	○
Other	○	○

Q37 At any time in the **last 4 weeks**, did you DELAY getting medical care because of the coronavirus pandemic? *Select only one answer.*

○ Yes

○ No

Q38 At any time in the **last 4 weeks**, did you need medical care for something other than coronavirus, but DID NOT GET IT because of the coronavirus pandemic? *Select only one answer.*

○ Yes

○ No

Q39 Is your house or apartment…? *Select only one answer.*

○ Owned free and clear?

○ Owned with a mortgage or loan (including home equitly loans)?

○ Rented?

○ Occupied without payment of rent?

Q40 Did you pay your last month's rent or mortgage on time? *Select only one answer.*

○ Yes

○ No

○ Payment was deferred

Q41 How confident are you that your household will be able to pay your next rent or mortgage payment on time? *Select only one answer.*

○ No confidence

○ Slight confidence

○ Moderate confidence

○ High confidence

○ Payment is/will be deferred

Q42 At any time during **February 2020**, were any children in this household enrolled in a public school, enrolled in a private school, or educated in a homeschool setting in Kindergarten through 12th grade or grade equivalent? *Select all that apply.*

☐ Yes, enrolled in a public or private school

☐ Yes, homeschooled

☐ No

Q43 How has the coronavirus pandemic affected how the children in this household received education? *Select all that apply.*

☐ Classes normally taught in person at the school were cancelled

☐ Classes normally taught in person moved to a distance-learning format using online resources, either self-paced or in real time

☐ Classes normally taught in person moved to a distance-learning format using paper materials sent home to children

☐ Classes normally taught in person changed in some other way -- Please specify:
_____

☐ There was no change because schools did not close

Q44 How often is a computer or other digital device available to children for educational purposes? *Select only one answer.*

○ Always available

○ Usually available

○ Sometimes available

○ Rarely available

○ Never available

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

☐ Provided by the children's school or school district to use outside of school

☐ Provided by someone in the household or family, or it is the child's

☐ Provided by another source

Q46 How often is the Internet available to children for educational purposes? *Select only one answer.*

○ Always available

○ Usually available

○ Sometimes available

○ Rarely available

○ Never available

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

☐ Paid for by the children's school or school district

☐ Paid for by someone in the household or family

☐ Paid for by another source

Q48 During the **last 7 days**, about how many hours did the student have live contact either by phone or video with their teachers? *Enter number of hours (if none, enter zero).*

_____

Q49 Including hours spent during weekdays and weekends, about how many hours did household members spend on ALL teaching activities with the children in this household during the **last 7 days**? *Enter number of hours (if none, enter zero).*

_____

Q50 In 2019 what was your total household income before taxes? *Select only one answer.*

○ Less than $25,000

○ $25,000 - $34,999

○ $35,000 - $49,999

○ $50,000 - $74,999

○ $75,000 - $99,999

○ $100,000 - $149,999

○ $150,000 - $199,999

○ $200,000 and above

The U.S. Census Bureau is interested in understanding geographic differences in experiences with the coronavirus pandemic. To help us analyze survey responses across the entire United States, please provide your complete street address below. Your address information will only

be used for statistical analyses conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau and will not be used for any other purpose or shared with any other parties.

○ Address Number _____

○ Street Name _____

○ Apt Unit _____

○ City _____

○ State _____

○ Zip _____

Because we are interested in how coronavirus experiences change over time, we may contact you again in the coming weeks. What is the best way for us to contact you?

○ Text message

○ Email

To help us contact you, please provide the best phone number to reach you.

_____

To help us contact you, please provide the best email address to reach you.

_____

Q69 That concludes the survey. Please click on the "Submit" button when you are finished. Thank you for participating in the 2020 Household Pulse Survey. If you have any questions about this survey please visit www.census.gov/plan. You can validate that this survey is a legitimate federally-approved information collection using the U.S. Office of Management and Budget approval number 0607-1013, expiring on 07/31/2020.