

2020 Household Pulse Survey User Notes

Phase 3

Date: November 18, 2020

[Release Note on Phase 3 Collection of the Household Pulse Survey](#)

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

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

[Release Note on Corrected Standard Error Tables](#)

Due to the errors discovered earlier for the Food Sufficiency and Food Security Tables, we are re-releasing the Food Sufficiency and Food Security Standard Error Table 2a, Standard Error Table 2b, Standard Error Table 3a, and Standard Error Table 3b with correct standard errors (SEs) for the “Did not report” category under “Currently caught up on mortgage or rental payments.” The previously calculated SEs for the “Did not report” was incorrectly calculated. The re-release of these tables affected Week 13 to Week 17.

Phase 2

Date: November 4, 2020

[Release Note on Detailed Tables and Table Sourcing Specification](#)

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

The original Week 13 to Week 16 tables were calculated if a respondent didn’t respond to any of the items, which artificially inflated the “Did not report” population. The correct calculation of “Did not

report” was the combination of these three variables. This correct calculation now makes the “Currently caught up on mortgage or rental payments” mutually exclusive. These tables have been re-run and re-released. The other estimates in these tables were not affected by this change.

Additionally, the Table Sourcing Specification on the [Technical Documentation](#) website was updated with this clarification.

[Release Note on Updated Questionnaire](#)

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

Date: October 21, 2020

[Release Note on Public Use File \(PUF\)](#)

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

[Release Note on Updates to the HPS Interactive Tool](#)

The Household Pulse Survey updated the [Interactive Tool](#) with the following enhancements.

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

Date: October 7, 2020

[Release Note on Table Sourcing Specification](#)

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

[Release Note on Corrected Standard Error Tables](#)

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

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

DATE: September 9, 2020

Release Note

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

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

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