

UNITED NATIONS

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS

UNECE online meetings on measuring poverty and inequality, 2-4 December 2020

ABSTRACT

| | |
|--|--|
| Title | <i>Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic in the U.S.: Results from a Federal Government Household Pulse Survey</i> |
| Author Name | <i>Jason Fields, Thesia I. Garner, Stephen J. Blumberg, Veronica E. Helms, Chris Chapman, Christian A Gregory, Julie Hatch Maxfield, Adam Safir, Jake Schild</i> |
| Author Organization | U.S. Census Bureau, Bureau of Labor Statistics, National Center for Health Statistics, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, U.S. Department of Education, and United States Department of Agriculture - Economic Research Service |
| Author email address | <i>Primary contact: garner.thesia@bls.gov</i> |
| Topic | <i>A2. The Urgent Need for Data During the Pandemic</i> |
| <p>The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted individuals, families, and household across the world. While certain groups in society have been disproportionately harmed, everyone has been impacted. These impacts are multifaceted, not unidimensional. In an attempt to ascertain how people are functioning during these trying times and to provide rapid critical information to government and the public, researchers from several U.S. government agencies developed the COVID-19 Household Pulse Survey. The Survey was developed and administered in two phases. The first phase, with questionnaire development and administration, began in March 2020 and focused on the early stages of the pandemic; the second phase, with the addition of new questions that added aspects of program use, telework, and post-secondary education began in August 2020 and continues into November 2020. The sample, based on the Census Master Address File and supplementary contact information, has yielded between 70,000 and 133,000 interviews per cycle. From about 20,000,000 sample addresses, these interviews have yielded about 1,650,000 completed interviews to this point. Data collected from this survey are weighted to represent adults in all 50 states and 15 of the largest metropolitan areas. This study represents one of the first looks at these data presented to the public. Responses to the survey allow us to “take the temperature” of the people living in the U.S. during this time period by asking about their being able to adapt to what many see as the “new normal,” and about changes they are experiencing regarding, income, employment/unemployment, meeting spending needs, food security/insecurity, burdens related to meeting housing needs, difficulties maintaining K-12 education, and impacts on health and well-being. We focus on the development, implementation, and selected results from the Household Pulse Survey to date.</p> | |