

## Alternate Orders for Blocks in CPS

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The Current Population Survey's Annual Social and Economic Supplement (CPS ASEC) generates widely used estimates on detailed income data and benefit programs. Concerns of "fatigue effect" were raised in regards to the way the information was collected. After researching and completing cognitive testing on paper, it was determined that an alternate approach should be tested in the automated instrument. The idea was to collect age and income related information first and then tailor the order of questions based on the information collected. Instead of asking the questions in the benefit blocks in the same order for all respondents, they wanted to alternate the order in which the blocks were asked to optimize the responses. Three alternate paths were identified: low income, seniors, and all others.

This paper discusses how the alternate block order was implementation into the production CPS ASEC instrument and will focus on.

- *Background and reasons for re-ordering the blocks*
- *How the alternate block order was implemented in Blaise and challenges with it*
- *How the Data Storage in the instrument was implemented and the issues encountered in the data extraction*
- *Lessons learned and possible solutions for the next iteration of the CPS ASEC in 2015*