

Title: *Assessing the Adult Well-Being Topical Module in the Survey of Income and Program Participation*

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In 1990 the U.S. Census Bureau began to investigate the possibility of including a module of questions covering indicators of material wellbeing and quality of life. In this effort, sets of questions were 'borrowed' from other surveys on a list of topics. These questions were first fielded in the Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP) in 1992. Despite the effort that was put into creating these measures, little is known about their relationships to one another and most research using these data employed ad hoc selections of variables, with no clear evidence that any particular combination provides a valid measure of material wellbeing. This study examines the use of similar types of data in work outside the U.S. and describes differences in the data collected. The study then uses factor analysis and structural equation modeling to ascertain the relation of a number of questions in the current questionnaire both to each other and the general concept of interest. Comparisons are made to results in other similar analyses.