

The Methods Development Survey (MDS) is a research project designed to test alternative data collection methodologies and concepts for use in the Current Population Survey (CPS) in order to improve the quality and reliability of the CPS data. In addition the MDS provides a vehicle for testing and evaluating recommendations, as appropriate from the National Commission on Employment and Unemployment Statistics (NCEUS). Although this project addresses issues which have generally applicability to many demographic surveys, its primary focus is on conceptual and methodical issues relating to labor force and other socio-economic data collected in the CPS.

The survey was initiated in 1978 as the Methods Test Panel (MTP). Research from May 1978 through November 1979 focused on the effects of alternative data collection techniques. During 1980 thru 1984, the focus was on questionnaire modications and additions recommended for the CPS by the NCEUS. In mid FY 83 and continuing through FY 84 the MDS interviewing was conducted by random digit dialing rather than personal interviews. This was the first time a panel survey using random digit dialing had been conducted.

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7 ITEM NO	8 DESCRIPTION OF ITEM (With Inclusive Dates or Retention Periods)		9 SAMPLE OR JOB NO	10 ACTION TAKE
	In 1985 Phase I of MDS which involves computer assitelephone Interviewing (CATI) from a centralized telephone center. The primary purpose of conducting CPS through CATI was to determine the feasibility conducting panel surveys from a centralized telephocenter. Phase II will measure differences in labor force estimates produced by the regular CPS methodology and the CATI procedures and measure difference in data quality between these two methodologies.	ng of one		
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	This disposition is approved for recording Phases I and II, plus those of any fut		ases.	
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