

4 Technical appendix

We construct a sample of Americans who are likely to be subject to income redetermination as part of Medicaid eligibility in the 2021 & 2022 SIPP using the following criteria:

1. Stable household. This means that their household was unchanged throughout the calendar year, and is desirable because our analysis is on the household level.
2. Active workers, defined by having at least one job with positive earnings throughout the year.
3. 2021 household income to FPL ratio of less than 1.38 (where Medicaid eligibility is evaluated in the first six months of 2022)

For the purposes of this analysis, we use the definition of Medicaid eligibility based on the Medicaid expansion group authorized by US Public Law 111-148 (the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act). This analysis does not consider categorically eligible enrollees nor enrollees in waiver-based Medicaid programs.

Because survey responses in the SIPP obscure a lot of real-world income underreports income volatility, we augment the income data using administrative data from a payroll company. Specifically, we match each job in the SIPP to a job in the administrative payroll data which reported work for the same number of months, and which had a total income within the same earnings band. We then use this income data to analyze Medicaid eligibility, instead of the income data directly provided within the SIPP. The benefit of using the SIPP instead of directly using payroll data is that the SIPP connects multiple jobs to people and people to households, and that the SIPP contains useful information about the person’s demographics.