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Notes on Producing Estimates for the OECD Inequality Questionnaire

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Meeting of providers of OECD income distribution data
Paris
February 21-22, 2013

Standard Statistics Canada Poverty/Inequality Indicators

- Low income (rates, gap, persistence)
 - LICO (EF)
 - LIM(HH)
 - MBM(EF)
- Quintile shares (equivalized and 'individualized')
- Gini coefficient (equivalized and 'individualized')
- Missing: polarization and broad mobility indicators

Data sources change over time

- Survey vehicle
 - SCF (1976-1997) – SLID (1993-2011) – CIS (2012->)
 - Ongoing historical revisions

- Income Data
 - Paper questionnaire 1976-1995
 - Link to administrative tax data 1996-Present

- Response rates and bias (cell phones)

Income Data Production Timeliness

- SLID releases data 1.5 years after the end of the calendar year for which the data applies
 - Linkage of tax data lags collection by 10 months

- In June 2013 standard results to be released for 2011

- August 2013: Updated OECD tables covering the period from 1976 to 2011

OECD Inequality Questionnaire

- Completed by different divisions and income analysts
 - ISD - Kevin Bishop pre -1990
 - SEMD - Brian Murphy 1990
 - SEMD - Shawna Brown 1995-2000
 - ISD - Paul Roberts 2005-2010

OECD Inequality Questionnaire

- Not a simple straightforward table
 - 20 files with 5,000 lines of SAS code
- Expertise required in income concepts/analysis
- Complexity increases risk of errors
- Historical survey revisions require updates to full OECD data series
- Interaction with OECD on detailed validation has been important

Issues

- Burden vs continuity
- Research vs. indicators
- Reduced number of annual indicators and table cells desirable – especially for regions
- Black-boxes contain risks