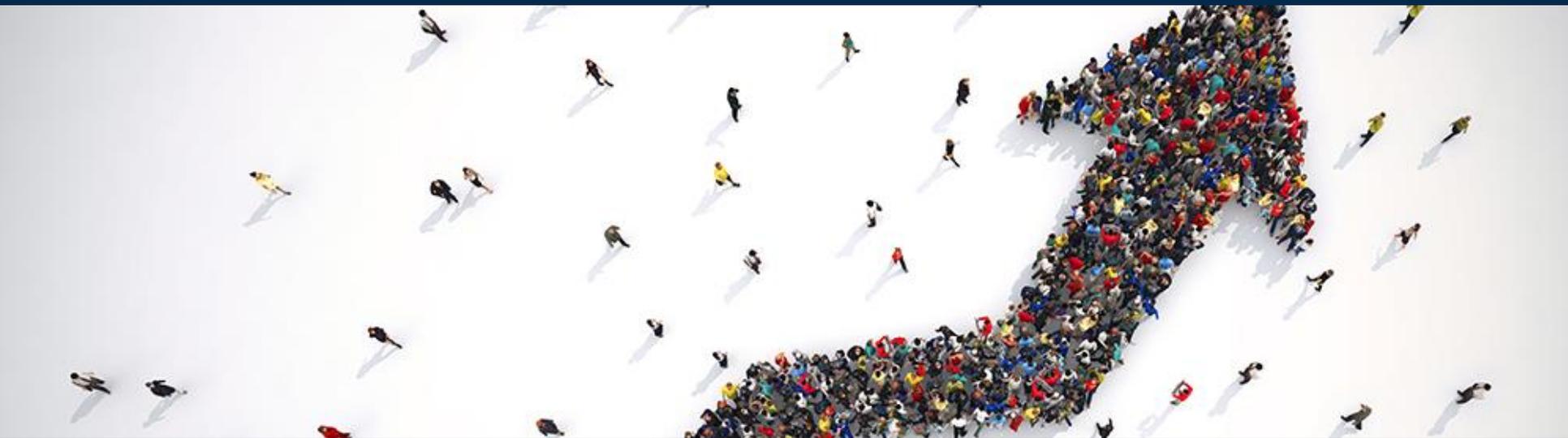




Motivated Misreporting in the Consumer Expenditure Household Survey

Stephanie Eckman

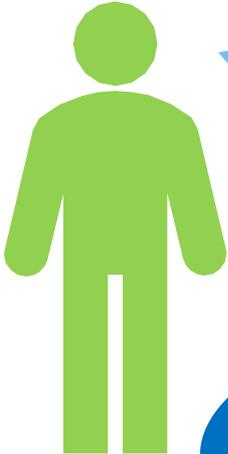
Research supported by ASA / NSF / BLS Fellowship



Motivated Misreporting

Mode	Screening	Filters	Loops
Face-to-Face	US	US	
Telephone	US	US, DE	
Web		US, NL	DE

- Clothing questions reliably generate motivated misreporting
- Effect stronger over questions within section
- However: not always as expected



Has anyone in this household had any expenses for:
Oil change, lubrication or oil filter?

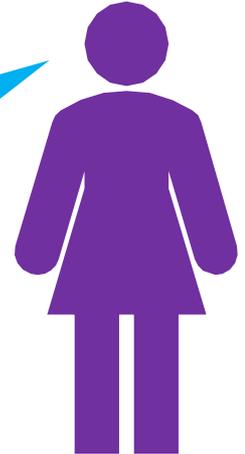
Did this expense include labor?
In what month?
What was the total cost?

Has anyone in this household had any expenses for:
Tire purchases or mounting?

Yes

Yes
May
\$49.99

Yes?



National Academy Review

- This sequence is repeated dozens of times during each interview and may affect respondent behavior.
- It seems likely that respondents **learn quickly in the first interview**, and are **reminded in each successive one**, that the interview will last longer if they answer “yes” to these screening questions.
- Fifty percent of field representatives said that it happened frequently or very frequently.

Research Questions

- **Paper 1:** Do Rs engage in **motivated misreporting** in **Wave 1**?
- **Paper 2:** Do Rs in **later waves** engage in **more motivated misreporting**?



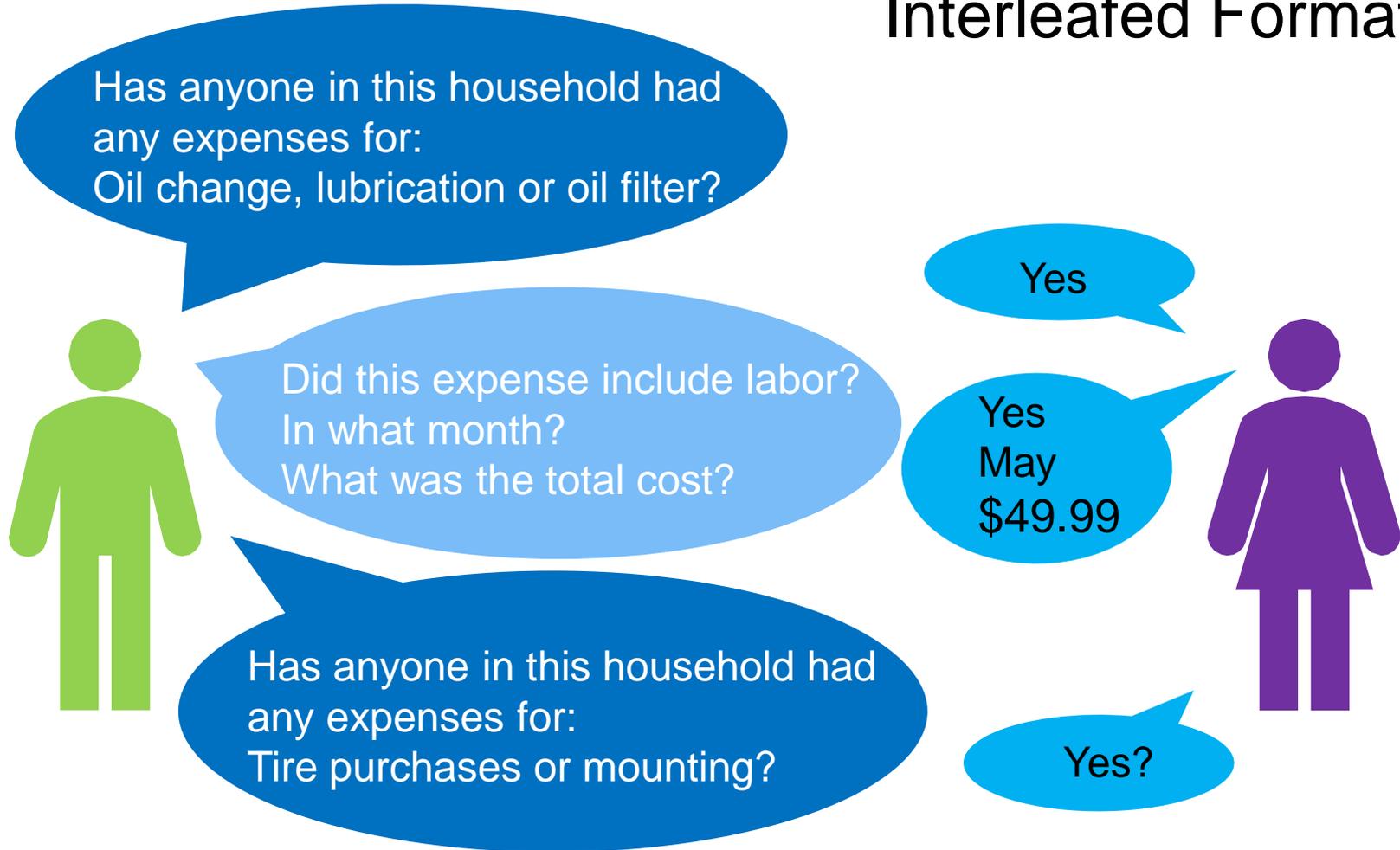


Motivated Misreporting in Wave 1 of CE

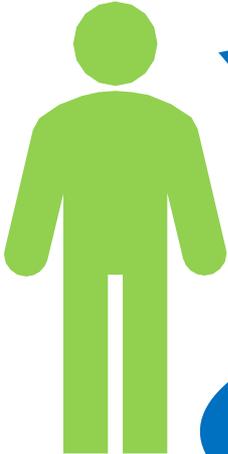
Does misreporting occur in Wave 1?

Eckman (2020) Under Review

Interleaved Format



Grouped Format



Has anyone in this household had any expenses for:
Oil change, lubrication or oil filter?

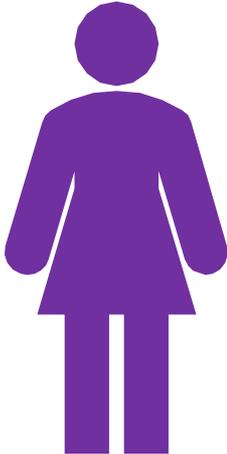
Has anyone in this household had any expenses for:
Tire purchases or mounting?

Has anyone in this household had any expenses for:
Tire repair?

Yes

No

Yes



How to Measure MM in CE

- CE asks filters only in interleaved format
- Web survey in both formats

How to Measure MM in CE

- CE asks filters only in interleaved format
- Web survey in both formats

	Interleaved	Grouped
Consumer Expenditure	980 cases 15,680 filters	
Web Survey	1,119 cases 17,904 filters	1,079 cases 17,264 filters

How to Measure MM in CE

- CE asks filters only in interleaved format
- Web survey in both formats

	Interleaved	Grouped
Consumer Expenditure	980 cases 15,680 filters	<i>980 cases</i> <i>15,680 filters</i>
Web Survey	1,119 cases 17,904 filters	1,079 cases 17,264 filters

Imputation Approach

- Multiple imputation of Yes/No to filter question
 - 6 models
 - 5 predictions from each model
- Predictors:
 - Format (grouped or interleaved)
 - Survey (CE or web)
 - Item
 - Section order
 - Respondent & HH characteristics

Results

	Interleafed % triggered	Grouped % triggered	Difference % points
Consumer Expenditure	33.5		
Web Survey	36.8	42.9	6.1 %points (0.80)

Results

	Interleafed % triggered	Grouped % triggered	Difference % points
Consumer Expenditure	33.5	38.5	5.1 %points (1.5)
Web Survey	36.8	42.9	6.1 %points (0.80)



Motivated Misreporting in Waves 2 - 4 of CE

Does misreporting *increase* in later waves?

Bach & Eckman (2019) *Economics Letters*

Eckman & Bach (2020) Under Review

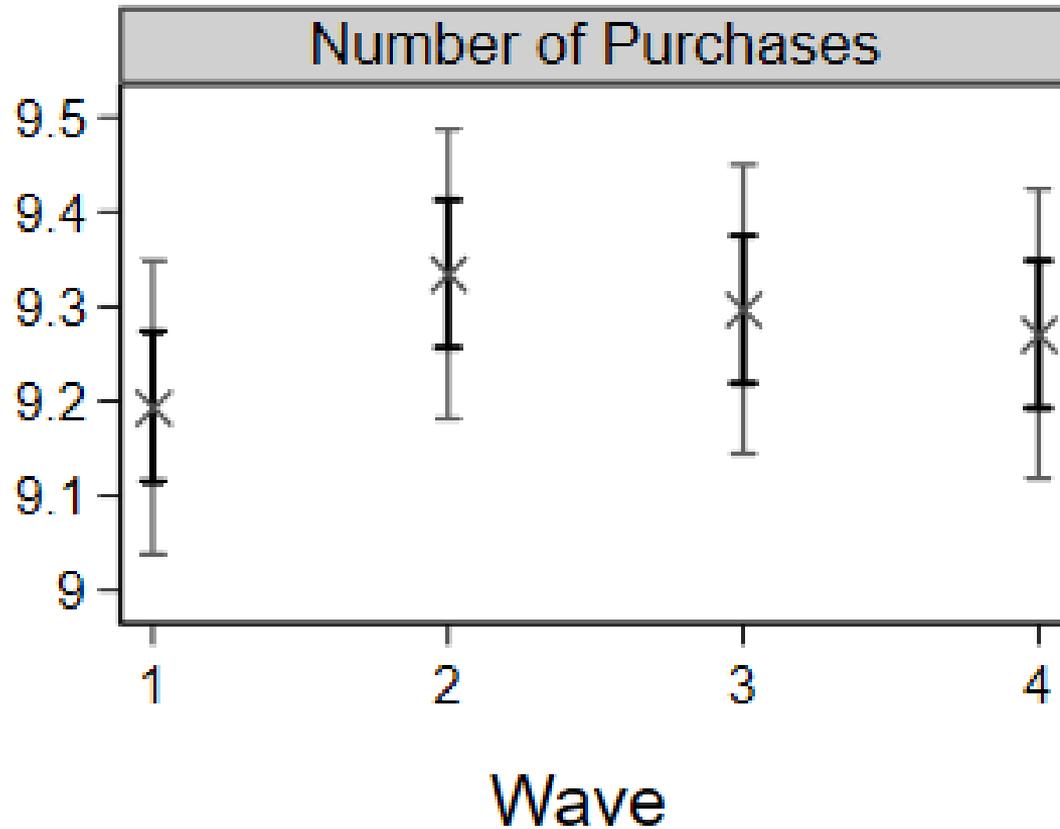
Selecting Cases for Analysis

Month	Panel A	Panel D	Panel G	Panel J
Jan 2016	1			
Apr 2016	2	1		
Jul 2016	3	2	1	
Oct 2016	4	3*	2*	1*
Jan 2017		4	3	2
Apr 2017			4	3
Jul 2017				4

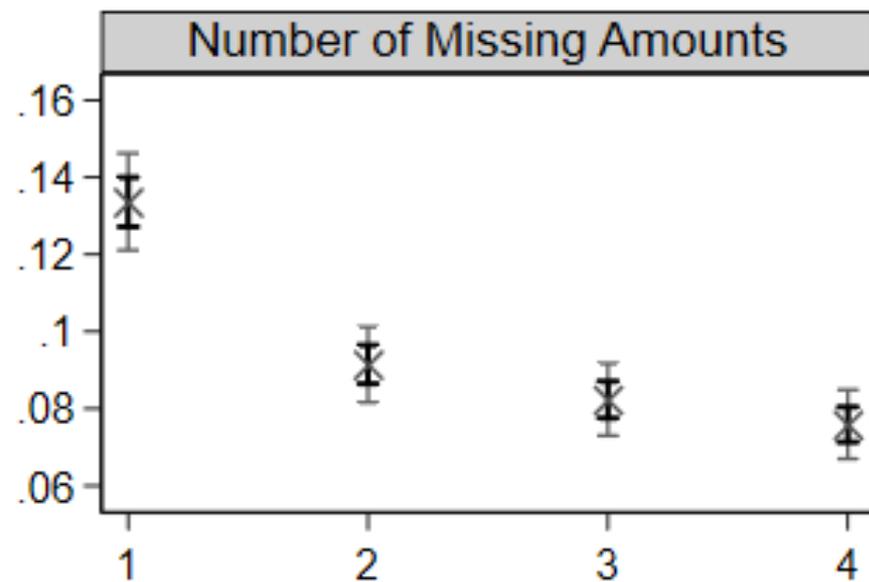
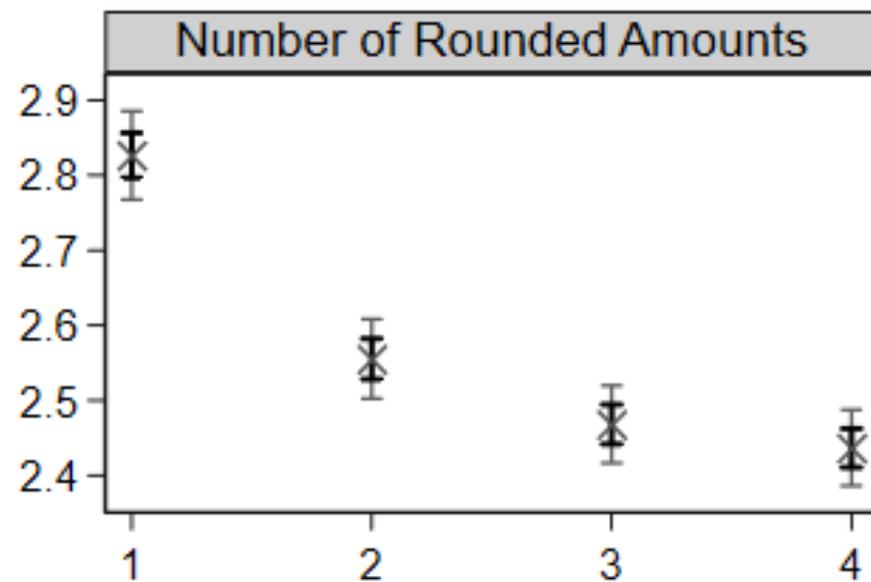
Outcome Measures

Variable	Motivated Misreporting Expects
Purchases	Fewer purchases
Price rounded # prices rounded for case-wave	More rounding
Price missing # prices missing for case-wave	More missing

Results



Results



Wave

Discussion

- Paper 1: Underreporting in Wave 1
- Paper 2: Data quality gets *better* over waves
 - Attrition: those who *would* underreport drop out
- How do we make interleaved format better?



Thank You

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All papers available here: <https://osf.io/mv3pq/>