

Status Update, Economic Table Subcommittee,  
June 22, 2011

The subcommittee has focused on preparing questions for Mary Hammerly, Dr. Betson, and Dr. Macpherson [ prior to his becoming unavailable ]. In addition, discussions have been held to attempt to achieve some consensus concerning whether or not to recommend collapsing the current two columns into a single column.

The question posed to the group was:

“Assuming no changes to the current table, would you be in favor of recommendation a weighted averaging of the current 2 columns into a single value, weighing by number of years per the current column?”

Three group members were in favor of this, and two were not comfortable using data from the current table's first column [ 0-11 yrs ], and one was not present. We are awaiting the discussions with Ms. Hammerly, and Dr. Betson in the hope that we can gather more insight into the nature of the current table. Concerns about using column one of the current table revolve around a perception that it is below the cost of child-rearing, especially at the lower income levels. We are not able to determine whether this is the case at this time.