

their entire social security number. These questions, along with the name and the other variables described above, are being collected for purposes of unduplicating respondents.

#### Section 1: Current Living Condition

##### Questions 1a-7

These questions determine whether or not the respondent is homeless, and are considered essential by all participating agencies. With minor modifications, they are the same screening questions used in Rossi's (1986) Chicago studies, in the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA, 1992) Washington, D.C. Metropolitan Area Drug Study (DC\*MADS), and in the Urban Institute's national study (Burt and Cohen, 1988, 1989) which the HPWUS methodology is designed to parallel and extend. For purposes of continuity and comparison, it is important that they remain essentially the same as they were in earlier studies.

#### Section 2 - Without Permanent Housing

#### Section 3 - Currently With Permanent Housing

Section 2, Questions 8a-10b, 24-27

Section 3, Questions 33a-40

The answers to these questions are necessary to make estimates of the size of the homeless population. Sampling and estimation experts from the Urban Institute and the Census Bureau developed the questions. Questions 8 and 9 parallel similar questions asked in the 1987 Urban Institute study.

The Census Bureau requires Question 33b to determine if asking respondents to report names of shelters can be used to assess the completeness of the survey's list of shelters.

Section 2, Questions 11-23, 28-32

Section 3, Questions 41-55

These questions are needed to understand the circumstances affecting the respondent in the period immediately before becoming homeless. They have been compiled from similar questions asked in the 1987 Urban Institute study, the DC\*MADS study, and other studies. These previously used questions were augmented by questions or item content which pretests revealed to be necessary to give a reasonable understanding of the respondent's experiences. They will reveal the proximate causes of each individual's current homeless episode (or their last homeless episode if they are not now homeless but have been homeless in the past).

HHS considers these questions to be essential and the VA considers them highly desirable. Other agencies whose mission includes efforts to prevent homelessness as well as ameliorate it may also consider them desirable. An understanding of proximate causes can help guide the development of preventive strategies.

Section 2, Questions 11-15

Section 3, Questions 41-44