

push of no services or no jobs in the community left behind and the pull of expected services and economic opportunities in the community where respondents are interviewed. They will also help identify the conditions that generate homelessness, which may not be the same conditions as those in the community where homeless people are interviewed.

Section 4: Demographics

Questions 56-64a

All the sponsoring agencies consider basic demographic questions which describe the population to be essential. In addition, Question 60 may help explain a lack of participation in the labor force at the time of the interview, and Questions 61a, 61b, 62a and 62b provide data about possible educational difficulties and deficits in addition to the simple fact of "last grade completed." They may help define possible prevention strategies.

Questions 58, 64, and 64a

Question 58 asks for the respondent's date of birth. The date of birth serves a very important purpose of eliminating duplicate interviews. A unique identifier is created using the respondent's date of birth, gender, and one or two other variables. The data set is then searched for duplicates. Because the sampling and data collection design calls for multiple visits to each provider site, and because one homeless person could be found in more than one sampling frame (e.g., in both soup kitchens and shelters), unduplicating is central to the process of estimating the size of the population.

Question 64 asks for the respondent's social security number. Question 64a asks for the first five digits of the respondent's social security number if they refuse to give their entire social security number in response to question 64. These are being collected as one of the other unduplicating variables. The Bureau of the Census, HHS, and the other sponsoring agencies will hold this information in the strictest of confidence and will ensure it is available only to researchers at HHS, the other sponsoring agencies and Bureau of the Census staff.