

Questions 134, 145

These questions assess the respondent's age when heavy alcohol or drug use began. We are including these questions to assure that we will know the duration of the respondents substance abuse problems. Answers to these questions augment the information on the earliest and most recent treatment, and will provide a more complete picture of the respondents' involvement with alcohol and drugs.

Question 151

This question is asked so that respondents can provide their general impressions on the availability and quality of services in their community.

3. Efforts to Minimize Burden

Not applicable. Respondents are individuals at service sites who cannot respond with computer tapes, disks or punch cards. We are also minimizing the burden of the FEMA Local Board Contact Persons, government contacts, service providers and knowledgeable local persons by giving them the combined FEMA listing to review as opposed to asking them to list all service providers in their area.

4. Efforts to Identify Duplication, and Use of Available Information

HUD consulted with other government agencies and outside experts and determined that the proposed national HPWUS will be the only current, national data source with detailed information on the number of literally homeless persons who use services. The most recent national data is the 1987 Urban Institute Study.

In March 1987, the Urban Institute conducted a survey of homeless persons who used services in cities of 100,000 or more. The HPWUS is intended to parallel and extend the methodology used by the Urban Institute in the 1987 survey to capture a higher proportion of the literally homeless population who use services.

- a. The HPWUS will include additional geographical coverage. Cities with populations of 100,000 or less and areas outside of cities will be included in the survey sample. (The 1987 Urban Institute survey only included cities with populations over 100,000.)
- b. The HPWUS will include additional topic coverage. The respondent questionnaire covers more topics and in greater depth than was covered in the 1987 Urban Institute Survey. There are also some questions similar to those in the 1987 survey so that a comparison may be made between the results of the two surveys. (The 1987 Urban Institute survey only asked about drug treatment. The HPWUS asks about drug treatment, as well as, types and frequencies of drugs used, and information about mental health.)
- c. The interview period for the pretest of the HPWUS will be two weeks and for the national survey a month. The interview period for the Urban Institute's 1987 survey was one week.