

13. Reason for Change in Burden

Not Applicable. This is a new survey. There are, therefore, 0 hours in the current OMB inventory.

14. Project Schedule

The Census Bureau plans on mailing the listings of service providers (shelters, soup kitchens, and homeless outreach programs) from the combined FEMA Local Recipient file and the HPWUS - L1 letter along with the HPWUS - 100B(X) questionnaire as is appropriate, for those areas in sample to obtain the list of service providers and food pantries in the rural areas. Census Bureau personnel also will contact individuals from federal and state governments, agencies, organizations and knowledgeable local persons and administer the HPWUS-100A questionnaire to obtain the lists of service providers. The Census Bureau will conduct a short 5 minute interview with each service provider to obtain preliminary information and ask all service providers to review the list for their area for accuracy. The Census Bureau will conduct these operations during March and April of 1995. The Census Bureau will also conduct interviews with the service providers during March and April of 1995. The Census Bureau will conduct the interviews with the respondents during April 1995.

B. Collection of Information Employing Statistical Methods**1. Universe and Respondent Selection**

The Census Bureau will conduct the pretest of the HPWUS in three areas: Pittsburgh, PA, (includes Allegheny, Fayette, Washington, and Westmoreland Counties); Armstrong County Community Action Agency Catchment area, a Community Assistance Program (CAP) outside the Pittsburgh area; and Atlanta, GA. The Census Bureau will select a sample of three shelters, soup kitchens and/or homeless outreach programs per area and conduct five interviews at each site, twice during the month, for a total of 90 interviews.

The survey will provide detailed characteristics about literally homeless persons who use services. Most research to date has been conducted in urban and suburban areas. For such areas, there is a growing consensus among researchers that a service-based survey design with multiple visits will give a good representation of the homeless population. For other areas, such as nonmetropolitan counties and rural parts of metropolitan areas, the consensus is that service sites are sometimes not adequate to cover the homeless. The Department of Agriculture asked us to expand the survey so that information about rural homelessness can be collected. The Census Bureau identified ways to design the survey to produce reasonably precise estimates of rural homelessness. However, it should be noted that the procedures for measuring rural homelessness will be less sophisticated than our procedures in urban areas. There is much to learn about rural areas and the HPWUS is an excellent opportunity to collect information about rural homelessness. The sampling frame for the rural population of the survey is Community Assistance Program (CAP) "Catchment Areas". CAP catchment areas are counties grouped together to receive funding and provide services to the needy and are served by a CAP agency. Our preliminary research indicates that CAP agencies are a good source for lists of services in the nonmetropolitan areas they cover.