

## 2. Procedures for Collecting Information

### Sampled Service Sites

The Census Bureau will conduct the pretest in three areas. Within each site, a comprehensive list of service providers will be developed. Service providers will be randomly selected for inclusion in the pretest, and randomly assigned two days for interviewing. The sample of service providers will be stratified by type of service provided and volume of activity.

To reduce the total duration of the pretest, the pretest sample will be selected from an early version of the list of providers, rather than waiting for the final, comprehensive list. This will still give an adequate test of all procedures.

### Sampled Respondents

Respondents will be randomly selected for inclusion in the survey at each of the service sites in sample.

### Estimation

No estimation will result from the pretest, but information will be collected during the pretest to evaluate estimation methods for the national survey in 1996.

Several basic types of estimates are needed from the survey:

- a. Weighted estimates of the average number of persons using services on any given day in April;
- b. Weighted estimates of the total number of persons using services at any time during April.

Other estimates can be derived from these. For example, the weights applied to obtain estimates a. or b. could be used for estimates only of those service-using persons who are homeless according to different definitions of homelessness. For the national survey, it is likely that we will give a range of estimates, corresponding to different assumptions about coverage and multiplicity biases.

The weights for a. will be standard survey weights based on the selection probability, with adjustments for nonresponse. There will need to be a "multiplicity" adjustment to reduce the relative weight of people who have two chances of selection because they use both shelters and soup kitchens, as determined from the questionnaire. The pretest results will be used to determine the optimum mix of shelters and soup kitchens for the 1996 national survey.

For b. we are considering three estimation methods. One purpose of the pretest is to get information to evaluate these methods.

**METHOD 1:** The weight will be proportional to the number of consecutive days prior to the interview (up to 28 days) that the person did not use a shelter (for the shelter sample) or soup kitchen (for the soup kitchen sample). For example, a person who says this is their first