

participation and the motivation group, interviews with both the youth and their parents occurred. A split sample experiment was conducted during the pretest interviews in order to more formally assess the effect of monetary incentives on respondent participation. The most notable findings from the YRBS on the effect of respondent payments are:

- Youth who are aware that they will be paid for completing an interview are more likely to agree to participate (the cooperation rate increased from 79 percent to 90 percent because of the respondent being paid for participating in the survey).

NOTE: The youth group participants stated that monetary compensation (the youth received \$20 for participating in the study) was important to their keeping their appointments to participate in the study.

- Youth feel that monetary compensation increases the seriousness with which they approach the task of answering questions and increases the accuracy and truthfulness of their responses. This point is particularly relevant, given the personal nature of the HPWUS questionnaire (i.e., drug and alcohol use and mental health status) and the fact that the HPWUS questionnaire will be administered at the service provider facilities.

The first two studies show that the response rates for economically disadvantaged populations, which include homeless persons who use services, are significantly improved by offering monetary incentives. While the University of Michigan survey only dealt with the effects of monetary incentives on youth, the results not only show that youth respondents are more willing to cooperate when they receive payment but that the parents of the youth also feel that payment is beneficial in obtaining the respondents participation. The results from this survey are noteworthy since the respondents for the HPWUS will include both youth and adults.

No surveys have been conducted with homeless persons to actually compare the response rates of homeless persons who receive a monetary incentive for participation to those homeless persons who do not receive a monetary incentive for participation. However, there have been numerous studies conducted dealing with the homeless population, in which respondents were paid.

In a paper presented at the Fannie Mae Annual Housing conference in Washington, DC on May 14, 1991, Dr. Michael Dennis of the Research Triangle Institute, presented a chronological summary of ten relevant studies on homelessness completed since 1983. (See Attachment H for a list of these studies.) In all ten studies, the respondents received payment for participating in the study. In February 1991, the Research Triangle Institute conducted the Washington, DC Metropolitan Area Drug Study (DC-MADS) and paid participants \$10 along with offering them coffee, juices, Pop Tarts, and/or toothbrushes for taking the time to participate in the survey. The Research Triangle Institute also gave a \$35 food donation to the service providers each morning they sampled at the provider's facility. In October 1991, the Wilder Foundation completed a statewide enumeration of homeless persons in Minnesota. Respondents received a \$5 cash payment for the half-hour interview.