The background of the slide features a faint, light blue illustration of several hands of different skin tones reaching out to hold a globe. The hands are positioned around the globe, with some from the top and others from the bottom, symbolizing global unity and support.

Design, Sampling and Fieldwork Organization of a TLS Survey (1): the Case of Homeless Surveys

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Homelessness issue in France

- 1950's: Statisticians underline the limits of the census
 - Increasing social demand (1954: Abbé Pierre, 70 's: economic crisis and labor market changes...)
- ⇒ Creation by the National Council for Statistical Information of a working group to focus on homelessness (1993)

Surveys among homeless people, a methodology adapted from...

American experiences: Surveys conducted from 1984 to 1996
by the Rand Corporation, the Urban Institute, the RTI, the Census Bureau.

⇒ **French surveys from 1995 to 2009:**

- 1995: **INED** – Marpsat, Firdion, Paris
- 1996: **Élan Retrouvé / INED** - Kovess et Mangin-Lazarus, Paris
- 1998: **INED** – Marpsat, Firdion: Young people (16 – 25), Paris & suburbs
- 2001: **INSEE / INED** - Brousse, Massé, Guiot de la Rochère: National survey
- 2002: **INED** - Marpsat: Paris & suburbs, Non-French speakers
- 2002: **INED** - Marpsat: Paris & suburbs, rough sleepers met by outreach services
- 2009 :**INSEE/INED EMSA2009** – Methodological survey – Toulouse
- 2009 : **Samu Social** : Samantha – Mental Health
- 2009 : **OFDT** : CHRS survey

A methodology also adapted to...

Other populations such as drug users:

2002: **InVS** / INED - J. Emmanuelli, M. Jauffret-Roustide,
Feasibility study conducted in Marseille
(southern France)

2004: InVS / INED – J. Emmanuelli, M. Jauffret-Roustide,
Extension of the survey to 5 French cities

The main methodological challenge and its implications

- No reliable sampling frame
 - ⇒ Implementation of a TLS design
 - ⇒ Involving the mediation of the centers designed for the homeless population: shelters, soup kitchens, day centers... both :
 - to design the sample of homeless people,
 - to interview the respondents through the services they use.

The main methodological challenge and its implications

TLS strategy implications

- 1/ Surveys on homelessness are, more precisely, surveys among **users of services** designed for the homeless population.
- 2/ Issues at stake:
 - ⇒ Ensure the **best coverage of all existing centers** & services,
 - ⇒ Obtaining **reliable data** about their activity in order to sample the services according to the number of users.

Main steps of the sampling process & TLS design

- Constructing a sampling frame by:
 - ⇒ drawing up a complete list of existing centers;
 - ⇒ collecting information about:
 - the services provided by each center,
 - the number of users of each center,
 - the type of public received
 - the way the service/center is run...

Main steps of the sampling process & TLS design

- Drawing a multi stage sample

- ⇒ Stage 1: Sampling of “centers / days”,

- Stratification of the centers by type (emergency, long-stay shelters, food distribution...) & classification according to the category of population they served,
- Sampling of centers, in each strata, with a probability of selection proportional to the number of services provided per week,
- Allocation of each center selected to one or several days of survey, selected randomly.

- ⇒ Stage 2: Sampling of services (beds, meals, etc.).

- Carrying out, by random sampling, 4 or 5 services per primary unit. Individuals are thus randomly selected through the service they use (beds, meals, etc.). This last step of the sampling is done by the interviewers, adapting the sampling method to the organization of the center where they work.

Main steps of the sampling process & TLS design

- Collecting data in order to estimate the probability for interviewees to be included
 - ⇒ Counting every service eligible user for the survey during the intervention in the service
Excluding non users of the service, minors and non French speaking users (who can't be interviewed)
 - ⇒ Collecting data on the respondent use of service during the week or days before the survey.

Main steps of the sampling process & TLS design

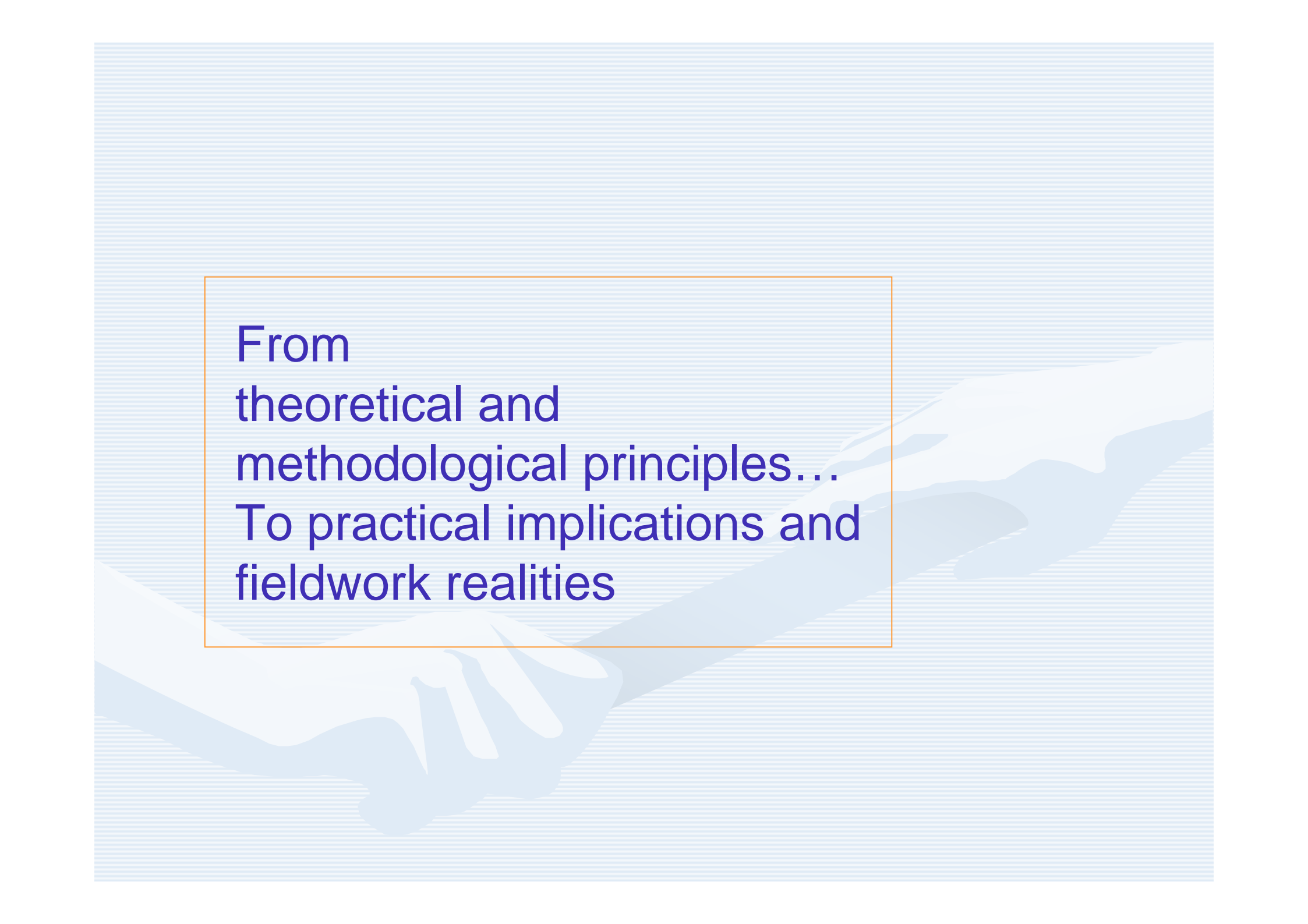
- Fieldwork

⇒ Dealing with a double constraint:

- Surveying in accordance with the organization and rules of each center,
- Respecting the survey methodology and ethical rules,

⇒ Very peculiar conditions of survey

- Interviewers' profiles and training,
- Fieldwork conditions : weather, time and places



From
theoretical and
methodological principles...
To practical implications and
fieldwork realities

Creating the sampling frame

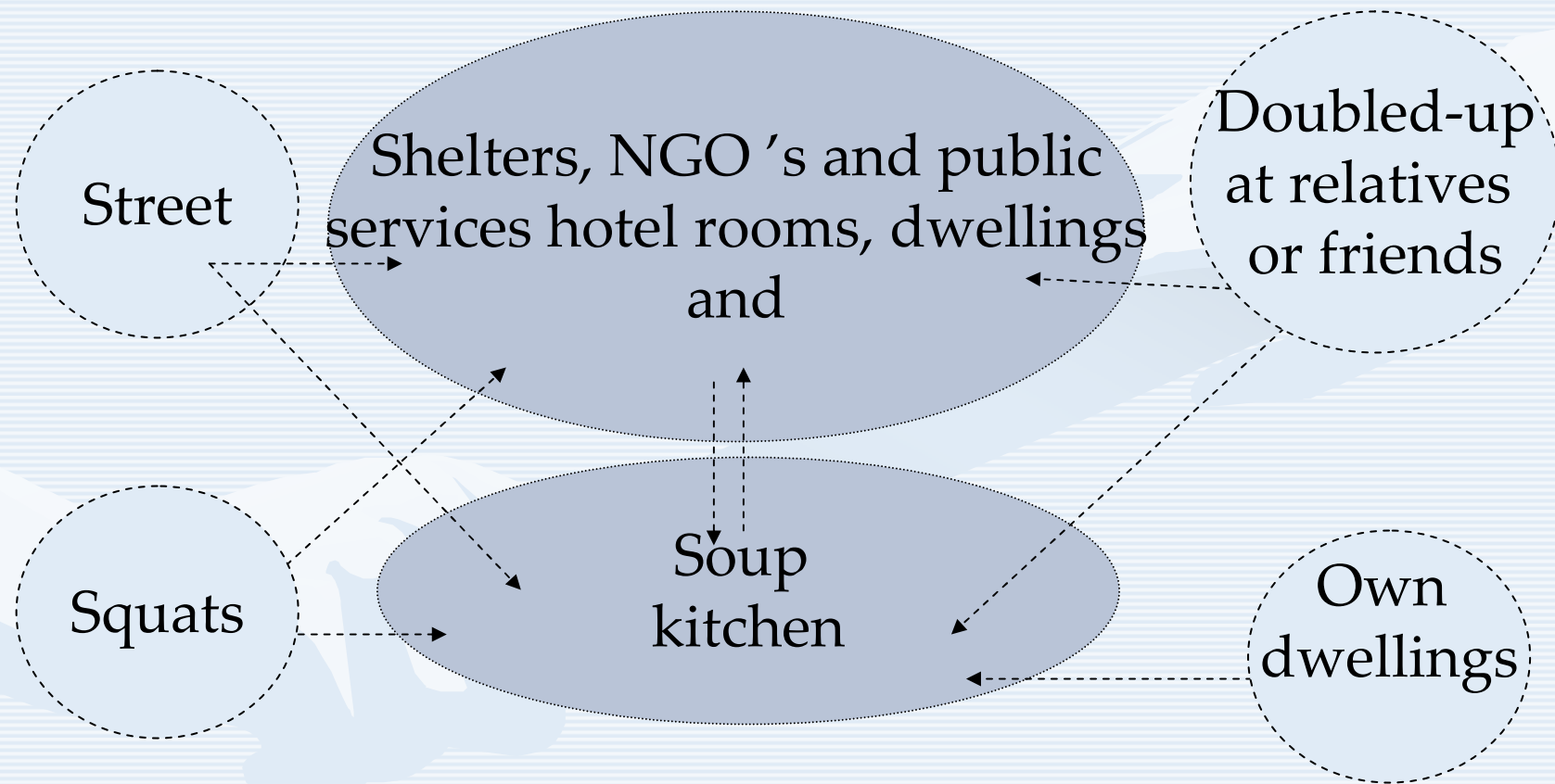
(1) Field coverage at stake

Issues and difficulties for a full coverage of the services

- Which services to include ?
Conceptual definition + Practical definition, feasibility
- Frequent changes in NGO's activities and environment
- Specificity of each service: Applying explicit or implicit policies and practices, the services attract and receive different kinds of publics...

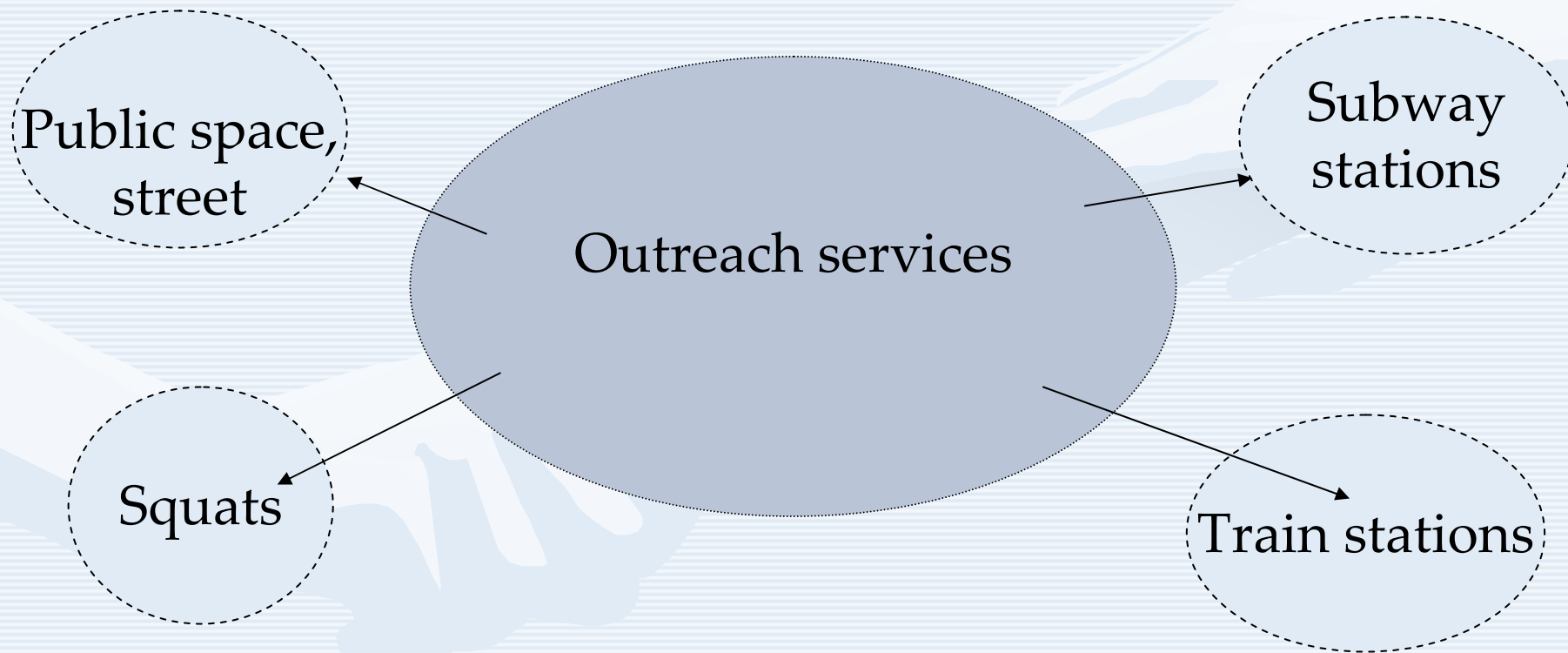
⇒ Evolutions from 1995 to 2002

Field of the surveys among users of services conducted from 1995 to 2001



Complementary survey among non-users of services (Ined 2002)

Field of survey



To improve the field coverage: Lessons from the outreach services survey

The complementary survey among rough sleepers met by outreach services (INED 2002) shown :

- Feasibility of the survey in outreach services,
- Possibility to include
 - new services such as breakfasts provided by day centers
 - places which can be assimilated to services (stations, camping sites...)
- Possibility to improve the knowledge about non-users with qualitative methodologies (in depth interviews, observation...)

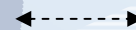
⇒ Survey among drug users (InVS-Ined 2004)

Field of survey:
⇒ Integration of both
service users and
non-users

Day centers,
Needle Exchange Programs,
drug treatment centers,
fixed and mobile
(buses, outreach teams)

Hospitals
Specialized shelters

General practitioners



Creating the sampling frame

(2) Surveying the centers

Survey by telephone and/or visits depending on the available means.

⇒ Several aims :

- Contact heads of centers and teams to present the project,
- Identify all services provided by a center,
- Eliminate non eligible services, if necessary,
- Collect data about the users of each service :
 - an average number of service users, on an average day,
 - non French speakers proportion...
- Find out about the center's rules and organization in order to prepare the fieldwork and the last step of the sampling, i.e. individuals drawing.

Creating the sampling frame

(2) Surveying the centers

Issues and difficulties regarding the services mediation and involvement

- **Social workers vs researchers problematic** ; Discussions about the objectives of the survey, its timeliness and legitimacy, its methods...
 - **Will to protect** a population considered vulnerable ⇒ **will to interfere** in respondent selection.
 - **Sensitivity of the data** collected: number of users related to budgets and financial stakes,
 - **Availability and matching of the data** required for the survey,
- ⇒ **Essential role of meetings with social workers** in order to explain, to convince, and to collect reliable data.

Sampling of individuals through the service they use: The role of interviewers

Each service user must have the same probability to be interviewed, without any prior selection made by the interviewer or social workers

Interviewers have to :

- Respect the sampled dates of interviews,
- Select individuals randomly, according to the sampling method, chosen by advance during a first visit in the service, in regard of:
 - The importance of active lines (too many or not enough people...)
 - The layout of premises (one / several doors...)
 - The organization of services (in line queuing...)
 - The possible anticipation of expected users

Sampling of individuals

⇒ Services users surveys (INED & INSEE, 1995 – 2001)

- Method **with list** (appointments, bed booking...) & **sampling worksheet**
- Method **without list** (random selection of chairs, queues...)

⇒ Outreach services surveys (INED 2002, InVS 2004)

According to the size of the active lines :

- Selection of the first person on the right of the group met
- No selection: every person met is interviewed
(excepted any situation which might be a constraint in regard to the person or the outreach team)

Collecting data for Weighting

Issues and difficulties:

- How to count all the service users while interviewing...?
 - Team work : Sampler + interviewer (Insee SD 2001, outreach services 2002)
 - Interviewer alone & social workers collaboration (Coquelicot 2004)
- How to make the difference between users & non users of services, under & over 18, French speakers & non speakers?
 - Handing out of 2 different lists of services according to the different groups of public (age group: under / over 18, ...)
- How to identify properly the different centers the respondent used during the last days before the survey...?
 - Memory biases lead to reduce the reference period
 - Providing a list of centers, taking into account the official name and the common names of a same site...

Peculiar populations & conditions of survey

- Going beyond common sense & preconceived notions about homelessness
- Tackle a sensitive population and questioning about difficult life histories
 - ⇒ Major importance of interviewer selection and training including:
 - a presentation of services and public
 - special focus on the importance of the random sampling to avoid interviewer subjective choices
 - ⇒ Close relationship between the research team and the field
 - ⇒ Unusual in the French context : compensation offered to interviewees

Peculiar populations & conditions of survey

- Interviewing conditions
 - Difficult: Maintaining a **distance with social workers** (services wanting to interfere...) ; Protecting interviewee **anonymity and confidentiality of responses** (position towards the service)
 - Precarious and uncertain...: **Places**: Interviews within the services but also in the street, buses, subway stations... Getting in touch with the person drawn (scattered accommodation, mobile teams...) **Weather conditions**, police controls...
 - **Unusual working hours** : Evening and night
 - ⇒ Refusal from professional interviewers
 - ⇒ Adapted selection of interviewers
 - ⇒ Presence of research team on field, regular contacts by phone or through regulation meetings

Thank you!

