

TABLE X.—Range in annual 1960 per capita cost for refuse collection of 38 public agencies financing their system exclusively through service charges, by type of service

| Extent and character of service                                                                                     | Number of cities | Maximum | Median | Minimum |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|---------|--------|---------|
| Complete residential and commercial service (all classes and almost all kinds of refuse collected).....             | 25               | \$7.40  | \$5.02 | \$2.04  |
| Complete residential service only (some small commercial establishments may be included).....                       | 6                | 3.72    | 2.57   | .64     |
| Citywide service, but some kinds of refuse not collected or 1 or 2 classes omitted from business area.....          | 4                | 4.58    | 4.01   | 2.25    |
| Only 1 class of refuse collected in residential area or business area or partial service throughout the agency..... | 3                | 3.25    | 2.78   | .24     |

Source: APWA Refuse Collection Practice, 3d edition, scheduled for publication in the late summer of 1966.

The table indicates the great differences in cost and user charges at various levels of service. Again, caution should be exercised in drawing conclusions. Some of the differences are due to variations in wage rates, population densities, collection methods, length of hauls, and other factors.

Finally, surveys conducted by APWA in 1955 and 1964 indicate that the number of cities using service charges to finance all or part of their refuse collection increased by about 20 percent in the 1955-64 time period. The current status of financing refuse collection in communities of various sizes is shown in table XI on the following page.

The data shows that the smaller communities tend to rely more on service charges than do the larger communities.

(b) *Extent to Which User Charges Cover Annual Maintenance and Operation Expenses Plus Debt Service*

User charges significantly exceed the sum of prorated operating and capital costs only in communities where refuse disposal is exclusively handled by private companies. This is the case in less than 13 percent of the Nation's communities according to a 1964 APWA survey of refuse collection practices.

TABLE XI.—Method of financing refuse collection services, 1964, by size of community

| Population size of community | Distribution of financing methods in percent |         |             |                |                        |       |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|---------|-------------|----------------|------------------------|-------|
|                              | Total                                        |         | General tax | Service charge | Tax and service charge | Other |
|                              | Number of communities in sample              | Percent |             |                |                        |       |
| 5,000 to 9,999.....          | 180                                          | 100     | 47.2        | 39.0           | 13.4                   | 0.6   |
| 10,000 to 24,999.....        | 307                                          | 100     | 46.0        | 38.0           | 16.0                   | 0     |
| 25,000 to 49,999.....        | 190                                          | 100     | 51.5        | 32.7           | 14.2                   | 1.6   |
| 50,000 to 99,999.....        | 93                                           | 100     | 58.0        | 28.0           | 12.9                   | 1.1   |
| 100,000 to 999,999.....      | 74                                           | 100     | 59.5        | 27.0           | 13.5                   | 0     |
| 1,000,000 and over.....      | 6                                            | 100     | 66.6        | 0              | 33.4                   | 0     |
| Total sample.....            | 850                                          | 100     | 50.1        | 34.9           | 14.4                   | .6    |

Source: Survey made in 1964 by APWA in cooperation with the U.S. Public Health Service.

According to the 1962 U.S. Census of Governments, user charges, on a nationwide basis, cover only 17.6 percent of the governmental operating and maintenance expenditures for sanitation other than