

# POINT-IN-TIME COUNT BARBADOS

## Summary of Results and Findings

### Overview

The Sagcor Cave Hill School of Business and Management conducted a Point-in-Time Count in Barbados on December 12, 2023, as part of a Situational Analysis commissioned by the Ministry of People Empowerment and Elder Affairs to assess the level of homelessness in Barbados.

### What is a Point-in-time Count?

Point-in-time Counts offer a snapshot of homelessness (both sheltered and unsheltered persons) on a single night (Baiocchi et al., 2019). PIT Counts have been used in previous studies across the world to get an accurate count of the homeless persons in a country (Agans et al., 2014; Schneider, Brisson & Burnes, 2018; Suarez et al., 2018). The Barbados Point-in-Time Count consisted of two primary components:

**PIT Count - Street Count:** A nighttime count of unsheltered homeless individuals and families from approximately 8:00 p.m. to midnight. This included those: sleeping outdoors on the street; at bus and terminals; in parks, tents, and makeshift shelters; and in vehicles and abandoned properties.

**PIT Count – Shelter Count:** A count of homeless individuals and families staying at publicly and privately operated shelters on that night. This included those who occupied emergency shelters, transitional housing, and domestic violence shelters.

The Point-in-Time count also included a Homeless Questionnaire which was an in-person interview of the unsheltered individuals conducted by trained outreach surveyors. This questionnaire was a supplemental component and was only conducted with homeless persons who were awake, coherent and willing to participate.

The PIT count was useful for garnering an estimate of homeless persons in Barbados, but there were various factors that should be considered in its future execution. These include:

- Timing of the PIT Count – In some areas in Barbados, the PIT Count should start earlier or later to consider the urban and rural context as it relates to night life and activities. Moreover, the PIT Count should be conducted in a period during the year where night activity is at a minimal to control for any effects of increased night activity during the PIT Count. However, in some areas this may be unavoidable.

Results and Findings

*The Point-in-Time Count*

The PIT counted 225 persons living on the streets and in shelters. The total number of unsheltered persons counted was 139, and the 86 individuals included in the shelter count were primarily in emergency shelter programmes (Figure 1). Appendix A Table 1 and 2 provide a further break down of the location of the sheltered and unsheltered by parish and street.

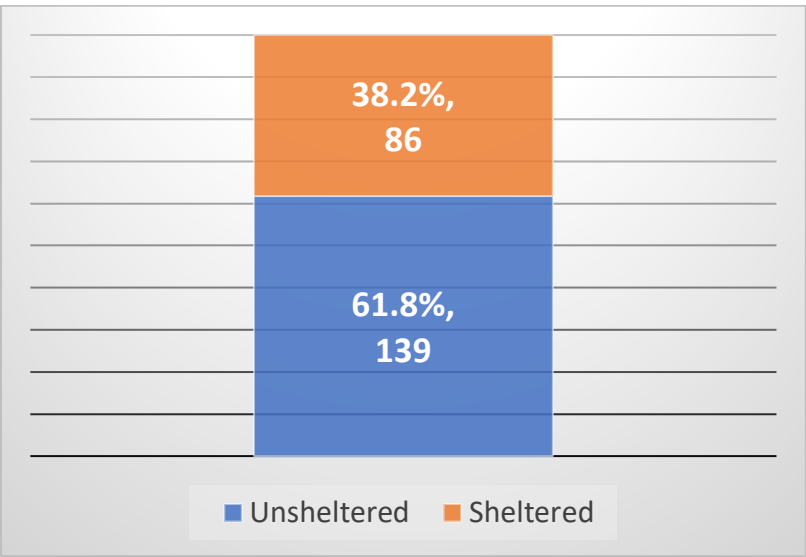


Figure 1. Total Number of Persons experiencing homelessness by Shelter Status, 2023

## **General Population Survey**

A General Population Survey was conducted as part of the methodology of the Situational Analysis study on homelessness in Barbados. The survey collected information from 1303 Barbadians which represents a 97% confidence interval and a 3% margin of error. A stratified random sampling approach was used to ensure that data was adequately collected from each demographic segment of the general population based on several attributes including age, gender, and socio-economic status.

One of the questions on the survey asked persons to indicate whether there was a relative or friend who was sleeping by them temporarily due to homelessness (hidden homelessness). Of the respondents surveyed, 273 respondents (21.9%) indicated that there was a relative or friend by them who was experiencing hidden homelessness (i.e., living temporarily with family/ friends also referred to as doubling up or couch homelessness) (Figure 2), thus indicating the occurrence of hidden homelessness in Barbados. This requires further investigation into the context, nature and driving factors of hidden homelessness in Barbados.

## **Recommendations**

The results of the study indicate the prevalence of hidden homelessness in Barbados. Although the PIT Count is effective for counting sheltered and unsheltered individuals, another method may be needed to assess the level of hidden homelessness in Barbados. In countries where hidden homelessness is prevalent, Meyer, Wyse and Corinth (2022) have proposed the use of a Population Census to aid in counting homeless persons in this category because of the complexity associated with accurately capturing the group. Therefore, a population census or household survey in Barbados may be the most effective method to assess the level of hidden homelessness as it takes a household-by-household approach to data collection (Richard et al., 2021a).

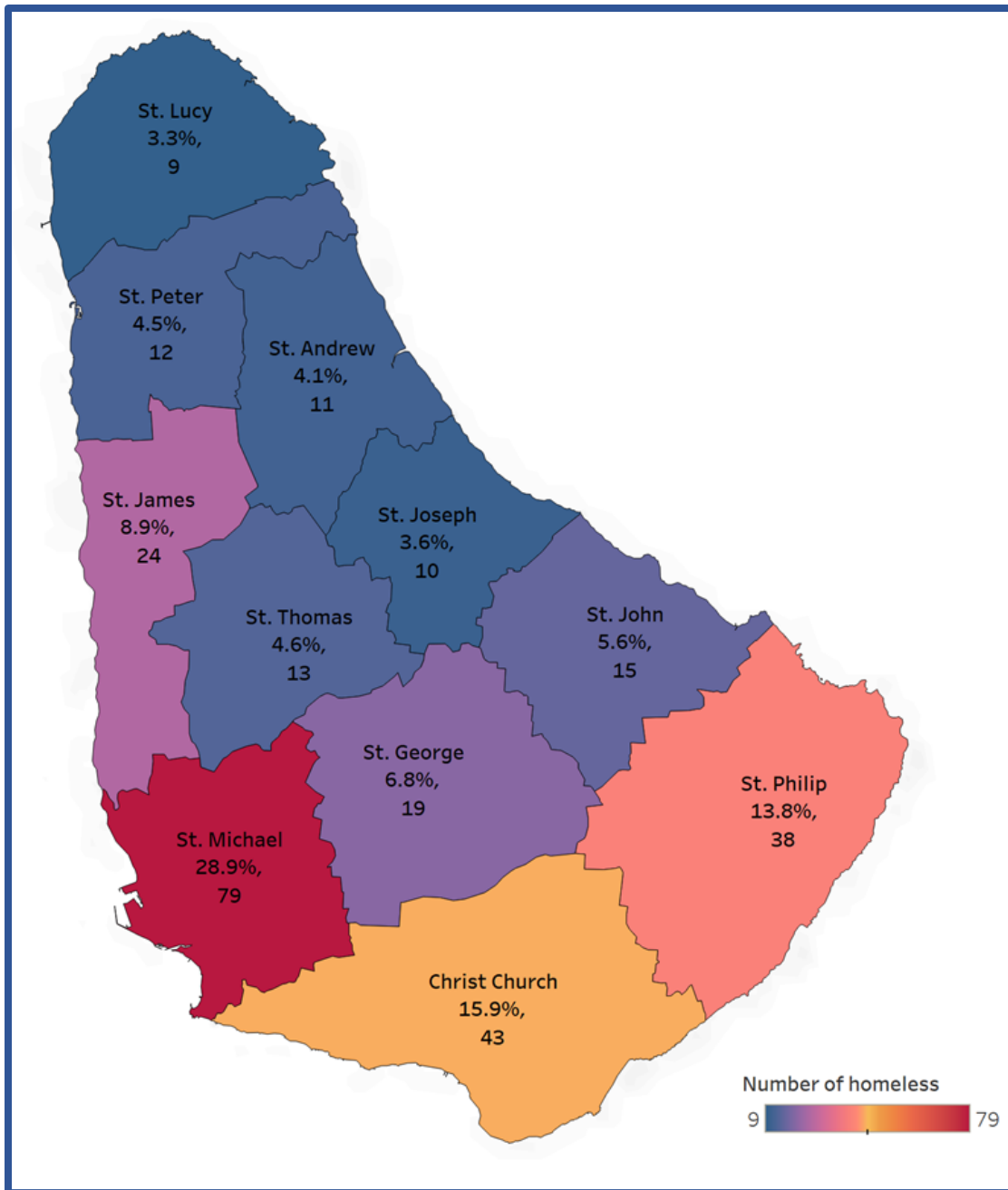


Figure 2. Percentage and Number of Persons experiencing Hidden Homelessness by Parish

## APPENDIX A

**Table 1**

### Number of Homeless Persons on Streets

Parish/Constituency	Location	Number of Homeless Persons
Christ Church	Richard Haynes Boardwalk	1
	Clapham Drive	1
	Worthing Main Road (Beach Side)	3
	Bartletts Tenantry road	1
	Ealing Groove	1
	Oistins	10
	Inch Marlow	1
	Green Garden	4
St. Philip	St. Philip Post Office	1
St. John	Gall Hill	1
St. James	Highway 1 – Berbice road	1
	Mayhoe Avenue	1
	Holetown	4
	1 <sup>st</sup> street	1
St. Peter	Queen's Street	1
	General Speightstown Area	5
	Niles Road	8
	Maynard's Road	1
St. Michael	Black Rock Main Road	4
	Mighty Grynner Highway	1
	Goodland Tenantry Road	1
	Highway 3 – Academia Estates	1
	Eagle Hall Market	1
	Tudor Bridge	1
	Warrens Terrace East	4
	Canewood	1
	Bibby's lane	2
	Bay Street	4
	New Orleans	2
Bridgetown	Baxter's Road	5
	Crichlow Alley	4
	Princess Alice Highway	2
	Helipad	17
	Jubilee Gardens	1
	National Heroes Square	8
	Independence Square	8
	Wharf Road	1
	Broad Street	1
	Golden Square Freedom Park	5
	Martindale's Road	1
	Maidens Lane	1
	Spry Street	1
	Louis Lynch	16

**Table 2**

**Number of Homeless Persons in Shelters**

<b>Shelter</b>	<b>Number of Homeless Persons</b>
Barbados Alliance to End Homelessness	30
Clyde Gallop	24
Salvation Army	18
Women's Shelter	14