



# Completing the Census Picture: *Bermuda's Experience Counting the Non-sheltered*

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*CARICOM Meeting of Population and Housing Census Experts*

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# OUTLINE

- Definition
- Objective
- Enumeration Procedures
- Coverage Strategy
- Recommendations
- United Nations' Perspective
- The Way Forward





# OBJECTIVES

The enumeration strategy was centred around:

- Expanding the coverage of the census
- Understanding the magnitude of homelessness
- Collecting benchmark data
- Providing information for policy formulation and planning





# DEFINITION

Who comprise the non-sheltered population?

- The non-sheltered population are those who have no fixed abode and who do not stay temporarily in shelters. Such persons have no habitable dwelling to call home and usually sleep outdoors or in abandoned buildings. The non-sheltered form part of the civilian non-institutional population.





# ENUMERATION PROCEDURES

How did we find the missing piece of the puzzle?

- Field operations began 17 July 2000
- A team of 2 enumerators visited each location with a supervisor
- Supervisor liaised with (non-sheltered) contact person
- Introduced self and greeted respondent
- Listed each respondent and street in Visitation Record, marked non-sheltered population



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# ENUMERATION PROCEDURES

- Completed a separate main questionnaire for each location
- Printed non-sheltered location on the front cover of the questionnaire
- Wrote “Non-sheltered” and inserted an oval as the 11<sup>th</sup> option under the type of building question
- Filled in supplementary questionnaires to capture 5 or more persons at the same location
- Transferred the book number from each main questionnaire to each supplementary questionnaire





# ENUMERATION PROCEDURES

- Collected information on 17 items:
  - Record Type
  - Parish
  - Constituency
  - Town or City
  - Census District Number
  - Person Number
  - Name of Individual
  - Sex
  - Date of Birth
  - Age
  - Race
  - Marital Status
  - Country of Birth
  - Highest Level of Schooling
  - Physical or Mental Health Conditions
  - List of Health Conditions
  - Location on Census Night





# COVERAGE STRATEGY

## How did we maximize coverage?

- Hired community advocates
- Conducted enumeration over a six-week period
- Field staff dressed to suit the circumstances
- Supervisors ensured surroundings were safe
- Enumerators did not awake anyone but completed a partial interview
- Field staff converted refusals, if possible, by estimating
- Supervisor observed that all persons were interviewed
- Supervisor provided support to enumerators and, if necessary, conducted interviews





# RECOMMENDATIONS

- Liaise with other statistical agencies
- Collect more details of the location of the respondents in the Visitation Record
- Pretest non-sheltered enumeration procedures
- Include an ethnographic component during the pretest
- Explore the possibility of conducting some of the enumeration during the day
- Add a response option for the non-sheltered under the type of building question





# RECOMMENDATIONS

- Ask some additional questions such as occupation and economic activity
- Develop a communication strategy to gain support among outreach workers and non-sheltered individuals
- Recruit more community advocates as field staff
- Email interviewers an up-to-date list of non-sheltered persons who were interviewed
- Make provisions for personal security for enumerators and supervisors
- Provide supervisors with cellular phones and or purchase telephone minutes





# RECOMMENDATIONS

- Establish temporary “field offices” where the non-sheltered gather
- Collaborate with the non-sheltered and the following organizations to obtain proposals for questions, identify outdoor sites and alternative strategies for enumeration:
  - Parish Councils
  - Police Parish Constables
  - Churches
  - Ministry of Culture and Social Rehabilitation
  - Bermuda Housing Corporation
  - Charities





# UNITED NATIONS' PERSPECTIVE

- Twenty-one years ago, the United Nations designated 1987 as the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless.<sup>1</sup> This declaration was made because "... the living conditions of the majority of people in slums and squatter areas and rural settlements ... continue to deteriorate..."<sup>2</sup>
- One of the objectives for 1987 was "...to demonstrate by the year 2000 ways and means of improving the shelter and neighbourhoods of the poor and disadvantaged..."<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>United Nations. (1982). *International year of shelter for the homeless*. [www.un.org/documents/ga/res/37/a37r221.htm](http://www.un.org/documents/ga/res/37/a37r221.htm) (accessed March 7, 2008).

<sup>2</sup>United Nations. (1982).

<sup>3</sup>United Nations. (1982).





# THE WAY FORWARD

- Develop or improve the strategy to find the missing piece of the puzzle, the non-sheltered population.
- Charge CARICOM Member States and Associate Members to consider completing the census picture so that all members of a population, from the “roof” to the “roofless” can be counted.



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# *Thank You*

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