

Survey of Hurricane Katrina Evacuees

The Survey of Hurricane Katrina Evacuees took place Sept. 10-12, 2005 among 680 randomly selected adult evacuees residing in Houston shelters. Interviews were conducted face-to-face. The margin of error for overall results is plus or minus 4 percentage points. Fieldwork was conducted by International Communications Research of Media, Pa. You can find [more information on the survey's methodology](http://washingtonpost.com) at washingtonpost.com.

* = less than 0.5 percent

1. Where were you living when the storm hit: in New Orleans, on the outskirts of New Orleans, elsewhere in Louisiana or somewhere else?

	Total
New Orleans (net)	98%
New Orleans	92
Outskirts of New Orleans	6
Elsewhere in Louisiana	1
Mississippi	*
Another state	--
Don't know	--
Refused	*

Asked of respondents from New Orleans

2. What part of New Orleans are you from?

Ninth Ward	20
Viavant/Venetian Isles	1
New Orleans East	15
Algiers	5
New Aurora/English Turn	*
Bywater/ "Marigny"/ St. Claude/ St. Roch/ Desire	3
Gentilly	10
Lakeview	1
Mid-City	13
French Quarter/Central Business District	4
Central City/Garden District	3
Uptown/Carrollton	20
Don't know	2
Refused	1

Asked of respondents from New Orleans

3. How long have you lived in New Orleans?

Less than 6 years	5
6-10 years	3
11-20 years	7
More than 20 years	12
Whole life	73
Don't know	1
Refused	*

4. Were you living in a home that you or your family owned, were you renting a house or apartment, living in a facility such as a retirement home, or somewhere else?

	Home owned by self/family	Renting house/apt	Living in facility	Somewhere Else	Don't know	Refused
Total	33	64	3	1	*	*

5. As far as you know, was the place you were living destroyed by the hurricane or flood, seriously damaged but not destroyed, or not seriously damaged?

	Destroyed	Seriously damaged	Not seriously damaged	Don't know	Refused
Total	55	29	4	11	*

6. Before the hurricane hit, did you yourself hear that an order to evacuate had been given, or not?

	Yes	No	Don't know	Refused
Total	73	25	1	--

Asked of respondents who did not hear the evacuation order

7. Regardless of whether you heard it, do you happen to know if the government issued an evacuation order for your area, or not?

	Yes	No	Don't know	Refused
	19	62	19	--

Asked of respondents who heard the evacuation order

8. Where did you get most of your news about the evacuation order; from TV, radio, from the police, or from a friend or family member?

	TV	Radio	Police	Friend/Family	Somewhere else	Don't know	Refused
	79	13	1	4	*	1	1

Asked of respondents who heard the evacuation order

9. Did the evacuation message you heard give clear information about how to evacuate, or not?

	Yes	No	Don't know	Refused
	66	32	2	--

10. And did you yourself evacuate before the storm hit, or not?

	Yes	No	Don't know	Refused
Total	38	61	1	--

Q11a: Asked of respondents who did not evacuate

- 11A. For each, tell me if it a reason why you, personally, did not evacuate:
IF NECESSARY: Was this a reason why you did not evacuate?

	Q11A			
	YES	NO	DK	REF
a. I did not have a car or a way to leave	55	45	*	--
b. I was physically unable to leave	22	78	*	--
c. I had to care for someone who was physically unable to leave	23	76	*	--
d. I waited too long	42	58	*	--
e. I thought the storm and its aftermath would not be as bad as it was	64	35	1	--
f. I worried that my possessions would be stolen or damaged if I left	27	73	--	--
g. I didn't want to leave my pet	9	90	1	--
h. I just didn't want to leave	37	62	1	--

11B. Which of these was the biggest reason why you did not leave?

11A/B Combo Table

- 97** Said at least one of the following was a reason they did not leave
 - 35 Did not have a car or way to leave
 - 5 Physically unable to leave
 - 7 Had to care for someone physically unable to leave
 - 7 Waited too long
 - 28 Thought the storm and aftermath wouldn't be as bad as it was
 - 4 Worried possessions would be stolen/damaged
 - 1 I didn't want to leave my pet
 - 10 I just didn't want to leave
- 3** Said none of these were a reason they did not leave

Asked of respondents who did not evacuate

12. Looking back do you think you could have found a way to leave before the storm hit, or was there no way for you to leave?

	Yes, could have found a way to leave	No, could not have found a way	Don't know	Refused
	56	42	3	--

Items A-C are asked of respondents from New Orleans

Items D and E are asked of all respondents

13. Please tell me if any of the following apply to your situation before you came to this shelter:

	YES	NO	DK	REF
a. I spent time inside the Superdome in New Orleans	35	65	--	--
b. I spent time inside the Convention Center in New Orleans	7	93	--	--
c. I tried to get into the Superdome or Convention Center but was not able to	7	93	--	--
d. I spent at least a day living outside on a street or overpass	40	60	--	--
e. I was trapped in my home and had to be rescued	34	66	--	--

Asked of respondents who were trapped and had to be recovered

14. For how many days were you trapped in your home?

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7+	Less than a day	Don't know	Refused
	16	28	25	14	5	*	6	6	--	--

15. Who eventually rescued you?

	Total
Police or firefighters	7
Coast Guard, national guard or military	34
Friends or neighbors	25
Or did you rescue yourself	24
Other	7
Don't know	1
Refused	1

16. Since the hurricane hit, has there been a time when you:

	YES	NO	DK	REF
a. Didn't have enough fresh water to drink	54	46	--	*
b. Didn't have enough food to eat	56	44	--	*
c. Didn't have the prescription drugs or medicines that you needed	32	67	*	*
d. Were threatened by violence	22	78	--	*
e. Needed medical care and couldn't get it	25	75	--	--

17. How many days have you been in Houston?

	1-5 days	6-10 Days	11+ days	Less than a day	Don't know	Refused
Total	11	46	42	--	2	--

17a. How did you get to Houston: Were you brought to Houston as part of the government evacuation effort, did you get here on your own, or some other way?

	Brought to Houston as part of the government evacuation effort	Got to Houston on your own	Some other way	Don't know	Refused
Total	69	22	8	*	--

18. How many days have you been at this shelter?

	1-5 days	6-10 Days	11+ days	Less than a day	Don't know	Refused
Total	25	46	25	2	1	1

19. How would you describe conditions at this shelter--excellent, good, not-so-good or poor?

	EXCELLENT/GOOD			NOT-SO-GOOD/POOR			Don't know	Refused
	NET	Excellent	Good	NET	Not-so-good	Poor		
Total	85	43	42	14	10	3	1	--

20. Please tell me if any of the following words describe your feelings about your future:

	YES	NO	DK	REF
a. Frightened	35	64	1	--
b. Angry	39	60	1	--
c. Grateful	82	16	1	*
d. Depressed	50	49	1	*
e. Relieved	71	27	2	*
f. Hopeful	87	12	1	*

21. Now thinking about your immediate family – that is, the people who lived with you in your home before the hurricane. Which best describes your current situation...?

	All my immediate family is with me in this shelter	I am separated from some members of my immediate family but I know where they are	Some members of my Immediate Family are still missing	Don't know	Refused
Total	45	40	13	2	*

22. Aside from your immediate family, are any of your other close relatives or friends still missing, or have they all been accounted for?

	Still Missing	All accounted for	Don't know	Refused
Total	32	57	10	*

23. Are you supposed to be taking any prescription drugs or medicines prescribed by a doctor, or not?

	Yes	No	Don't know	Refused
Total	43	57	1	--

Asked of respondents who should be taking prescription medication

24. Are you having a problem getting the prescription drugs you need to take, or not?

	Yes	No	Don't know	Refused
	29	70	1	*

25. Have you experienced any health problems or injuries as a result of the hurricane and flooding, or not?

	Yes	No	Don't know	Refused
Total	33	66	1	--

Asked of respondents who experienced health problems

26. Were they serious, or not?

	Yes	No	Don't know	Refused
	41	57	2	*

Asked of respondents who experienced health problems

27. Are these problems currently being taken care of, or not?

	Yes	No	Don't know	Refused
	78	21	*	*

28A. Are you trying to do any of the following things right now?

	28A				
	YES	NO	NOT APP	DK	REF
a. Find family or friends	48	50	1	--	--
b. Get a job	64	33	2	1	--
c. Find a place to live	92	7	--	*	--
d. Get medical care	52	47	1	--	--
e. Enroll your children in school	35	52	13	*	*

28B. Which of those is most important to you right now?

28A/B Combo Table

- 97** Named at least one activity
- 23 Find family or friends
- 20 Get a job
- 49 Find a place to live
- 2 Get medical care
- 4 Enroll children in school
- 3** Said they weren't trying to do any of these activities right now

29. What best describes your situation?

	HAVE INSURANCE			I have no insurance	Don't know	Refused
	NET	I have insurance to cover most of my losses	I have insurance to cover some of my losses			
Total	24	10	14	72	3	*

30. Do you have any of the following?

	YES	NO	DK	REF
a. A bank savings or checking account from which you can withdraw money	31	68	*	*
b. Relatives or friends you can move in with until you are back on your feet	20	79	1	--
c. A working cell phone with you	46	54	*	--
d. Any useable credit cards with you, other than any debit card you may have recently received from the government or the Red Cross?	28	72	*	--
e. Enough clothes with you	57	42	*	*

31. How long do you expect to be living in a shelter like this: A few more days, a few more weeks, a few months, or don't you have any idea?

	A few more days	A few more weeks	A few months	Don't know/don't have any idea	Refused
Total	49	15	4	31	1

32. As things stand now, do you plan to:

	Stay in a shelter until you can move back home permanently	Stay in a shelter until you can move somewhere else permanently	Move somewhere temporarily until you are able to make a permanent move	Don't know	Refused
Total	12	41	34	13	*

Asked of respondents who plan to move temporarily

33. Do you plan to temporarily:

	YES	NO	DK	REF
a. Move in with relatives or friends	20	79	1	--
b. Move in with a family that has volunteered to share space	14	84	1	--
c. Rent a place in the Houston area	78	20	1	--
d. Rent a place somewhere else	24	74	2	--

34. Do you want to eventually move back to your hometown, or do you want to permanently relocate somewhere else?

	Move back to hometown	Permanently relocate	Don't know	Refused
Total	43	44	12	*

Asked of respondents who want to move back to their hometown

35. Do you want to eventually move back into your old home, move to another home in your old neighborhood, or move to a different part of town?

	Move back to old home	Move to another house in old neighborhood	Move to different part of town	Don't know	Refused
	53	24	14	9	1

Asked of respondents who want to permanently relocate somewhere else

36. Would that be somewhere else back in your home state, somewhere in the Houston area, somewhere else in Texas, or in another state?

	Back in home state	In Houston area	In Texas	Another state	Don't know	Refused
	4	65	12	11	7	1

Q34/Q36 Combo Table

- 43 Want to move back to hometown
- 2 Permanently relocate: somewhere else back in home state
- 29 Permanently relocate: somewhere in Houston
- 6 Permanently relocate: somewhere else in Texas
- 5 Permanently relocate: another state
- 15 Don't know
- 1 Refused

37. Just your best guess, about how long do you think it will be before you can move there: a few weeks, a few months, six months to a year, or longer than that?

	A few weeks	A few months	Six months to a year	Longer	Don't know	Refused
Total	32	12	17	10	28	*

38. Which comes closer to your view about how the government responded to the hurricane and flooding...?

	The response was too slow and there's no excuse	The time it took to respond was reasonable under the circumstances	Don't know	Refused
Total	76	17	7	*

39A Did any of the following help you during the flood and evacuation:

	39A			
	YES	NO	DK	REF
a. New Orleans police or fire department or other city agencies	14	85	*	*
b. National Guard, Coast Guard, or Military	41	58	*	*
c. State police or other state agencies	11	88	1	*
d. Officials from federal agencies such as Homeland Security or FEMA, the Federal Emergency Management Agency	27	71	2	*
e. Private organizations such as the Red Cross, the Salvation Army or other groups	39	60	1	*

39B. Of the organizations you named, who helped you the most?

39A/B Combo Table

- 61** Named at least one organization as helping them
 - 4 New Orleans police or fire department or other city agencies
 - 25 National Guard, Coast Guard or Military
 - 3 State police or other state agencies
 - 11 Officials from federal agencies such as Homeland Security or FEMA
 - 19 Private organizations such as the Red Cross, the Salvation Army or other groups
- 39** Said none of the organizations helped them

40. Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush has handled the situation caused by Hurricane Katrina?

	Approve	Disapprove	Don't know	Refused
Total	15	70	13	1

41. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Governor Kathleen Babineux Blanco has handled the situation caused by Hurricane Katrina?

	Approve	Disapprove	Don't know	Refused
Total	27	58	15	1

42. Do you approve or disapprove of the way New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin has handled the situation caused by Hurricane Katrina?

	Approve	Disapprove	Don't know	Refused
Total	33	53	13	1

43. Considering everything, who do you blame most for the problems that occurred due to the hurricane and flooding: the federal government, the state of Louisiana, the city of New Orleans, or someone else?

	Total
The federal government	28
The state of Louisiana	12
The city of New Orleans	19
Someone else	2
(Volunteered) All equally	22
(Volunteered) Nobody	8
Don't know	8
Refused	2

44. Do you think the federal government would have responded more quickly to rescue people trapped by floodwaters if more of them had been wealthier and white rather than poorer and black, or do you think race and poverty did not effect the speed of the rescue effort?

	Yes, would have responded quicker	No, race and poverty had no effect	Don't know	Refused
Total	68	23	8	1

45. Based on your own experiences, do you think the hurricane brought out the best in people or the worst in people?

	Best in people	Worst in people	(Volunteered) Both	Don't know	Refused
Total	28	28	38	5	*

46. Has your experience made you feel like the government cares about people like you, or has it made you feel like the government doesn't care?

	Government cares	Government does not care	Don't know	Refused
Total	28	61	10	1

47. How important a role has religion played in helping you get through these past two weeks?

	IMPORTANT			NOT IMPORTANT			Don't know	Refused
	NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Not too	Not at all		
Total	92	80	12	6	4	2	1	*

48. Has this experience strengthened your religious faith, weakened your faith, or has it made no difference to your religious faith?

	Strengthened religious faith	Weakened religious faith	No difference	(Volunteered) Not religious/ Don't believe in God	Don't know	Refused
Total	81	4	14	*	1	1

DEMOGRAPHICS

49. How old are you?

	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75+	Refused
Total	16	16	23	26	14	5	1	*

50. What is your Marital status—are you?

	Total
Married	24
Living as married	6
Single, never married	47
Separated	4
Divorced	11
Widowed	8
Don't know	--
Refused	*

51. What was your total annual household income before taxes last year—was it?

	Total
Under \$10,000	32
\$10,000 to under \$20,000	27
\$20,000 to under \$30,000	15
\$30,000 to under \$40,000	9
\$40,000 to under \$50,000	2
\$50,000 or more	1
Don't know	9
Refused	5

52. Do you have any children under the age of 18?

	Yes	No	Refused
Total	45	55	1

Asked of respondents with children under 18

53. Are any of them here in the shelter with you, or not?

	Yes	No	Don't know	Refused
	76	22	1	*

54. Are you, yourself, of Hispanic or Latino background, such as Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, or some other Latin American background?

	Yes	No	Don't know	Refused
Total	4	94	1	1

55. What is your race? Are you white, black, Asian, or some other race?

	White	Black	Asian	Some other race	Don't know	Refused
Total	5	93	*	2	--	*

56. What is the last grade or class that you completed in school?

	Total
HS or Less (net)	77
None, or grade 1-8	5
High school incomplete (grades 9-11)	24
High school grad	42
GED	7
Some College (net)	16
Business, technical, or vocational school after high school	4
Some college, no 4-year degree	13
College+	5
College graduate	5
Post-graduate training or professional schooling after college	1
Refused	1

57. Before the hurricane, were you yourself employed full-time, part-time, or not at all?

	EMPLOYED			Not at all	Don't know	Refused
	NET	Full time	Part time			
Total	67	52	15	32	*	*

Asked of employed respondents

58. How easy do you think it will be to get another job similar to the one you had before the hurricane? Do you think it will be very easy, somewhat easy, not too easy, or not easy at all?

	EASY			NOT EASY			Don't know	Refused
	NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Not too	Not at all		
	66	39	27	26	15	11	8	--

Asked of respondents who are not employed

59. Were you retired, a homemaker, a student, or unemployed?

	Retired	Homemaker	Student	Unemployed	Don't know	Refused
	33	16	9	41	2	1

60. Prior to this disaster, did you or your household have a disaster or emergency kit containing a three day supply of staples like food, water, clothing, medical supplies and other equipment?

	Yes	No	Don't know	Refused
Total	42	56	1	*

61. Prior to this disaster, did you or your household create a family emergency plan, by which we mean a plan for whom to contact in an emergency, where you would go if you had to evacuate, and where you would meet up with family members?

	Yes	No	Don't know	Refused
Total	29	70	1	*

62. Has a doctor or health professional ever told you that you had:

	YES	NO	DK	REF
a. Heart disease	9	90	*	--
b. Hypertension	23	77	*	*
c. Diabetes	12	88	*	--
d. Asthma or other lung disease	12	87	*	--
e. A physical disability	16	84	*	--
f. Cancer	1	98	*	--

Q62 Yes Summary Table

	Total
Ever had any (net)	41
Heart disease	9
Hypertension	23
Diabetes	12
Asthma or other lung disease	12
A physical disability	16
Cancer	1
None of these	59

63. Are you, covered by any form of health insurance or health plan or did you not have health insurance at the time of the hurricane?

	Yes	No	Don't know	Refused
Total	43	52	4	*

Asked of respondents who have health insurance

64. Which of the following is your main source of health insurance coverage--is it?

	Private insurance	Medicare	Medicaid	Don't know	Refused
	44	16	34	4	2

65. Before the hurricane, where did you mainly get your health care? (READ)

	At a hospital	At a clinic or health center	At a doctor's office	(Volunteered) No health care	Don't know	Refused
Total	46	20	20	9	2	3

Asked of respondents who get their healthcare at a hospital or clinic

66. What is the name of the hospital/clinic?

Ascension Hospital	*
Charity Hospital (New Orleans Charity Hospital/LA State Univ Hospital-Charity)	54
Children's Hospital	1
Columbia Lakeland Medical Center	--
De Paul-Tulane Behavioral Health	1
East Lake Hospital	*
Jo Ellen Smith Medical Center	*
Medical Center Of Louisiana	1
Memorial Medical Center	2
Methodist Health System Foundation	1
New Orleans Adolescent Hospital	*
Pendleton Memorial Meth Hospital	--
River Oaks Hospital	--
St Charles General Hospital	*
St Claude Medical Center Hospital	*
Touro Infirmary	4
Tulane University Medical Center	5
VA or US Veterans Medical Center	4
University Hospital	8
Vencor Hospital	--
West Bank Behavioral Health	--
Other	11
Don't know	4
Refused	2

And finally, can you tell me...

67. Were any members of your family, neighbors or close friends injured in the storm or flooding, or not?

	Yes	No	Don't know	Refused
Total	17	61	22	*

68. Were any members of your family, neighbors or close friends killed during the storm or flooding, or not?

	Yes	No	Don't know	Refused
Total	14	54	31	*

69. Looking ahead, do you think you will ever fully recover from the hurricane, or don't you think you will ever fully recover?

	Yes, think will recover	No, won't ever fully recover	Don't know	Refused
Total	53	38	9	*

70. Interviewer coded without asking:

	Male	Female
Total	50	50

71. Interviewer coded where the interview was conducted

	Reliant Park Complex (Astrodome and Reliant Center)	Brown Convention Center	A surrounding Red Cross shelter
Total	65	23	12