

“Katrina evacuees in Houston: One-year out.”

Rick K. Wilson (Principle Investigator)  
and  
Robert M. Stein

Division of Social Sciences  
Rice University  
September 8, 2006

This research was supported by the National Science Foundation (SES 0552439) “SGER: Cooperation among evacuees in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.” The NSF bears no responsibility for the comments or conclusions reached herein. Rick K. Wilson is Chair of the Department of Political Science and the Herbert S. Autrey Professor of Political Science and Professor of Statistics and Psychology. Robert M. Stein is the Lena Gohlman Fox Professor of Political Science.

This report is an overview of a year-long study of Katrina evacuees living in Houston. Respondents were interviewed at three different times. The questionnaire was self-administrated (although respondents who could not read had the questionnaire read to them). The findings reported here constitute a brief overview of a large project involving 1,081 respondents.

The study was sponsored by the National Science Foundation (SES 0552439) “SGER: Cooperation among evacuees in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina” in a grant to Rick K. Wilson, Department of Political Science. The NSF is not responsible for any of the conclusions reached in this study.

The evacuees on whom we focus were first questioned in evacuation shelters throughout the city in early September 2005. The group is largely poor, overwhelmingly African-American and unemployed. The second wave of the study took place in late October through early November 2005. In this wave respondents were interviewed in motels and apartment complexes. The final wave of the study took place in July 2006 in apartment complexes. This portion of the study occurred almost a year out from the Hurricane.

The chief findings are broken into six parts.

### **Demographics**

- The samples have almost a third of the respondents with less than a high school education.
- The samples are overwhelmingly African-American (more than 98 percent).
- Almost half of the respondents reported incomes of less than \$15,000 per year *prior* to Katrina.

### **Employment in Houston**

- More than 60 percent of the respondents were employed prior to Katrina – now less than 20 percent are employed.
- Currently 74 percent of the respondents indicate they earn less than \$15,000 per year.

### **Future Plans**

- Over two-thirds of the respondents indicate it is likely they will stay in Houston.

### **Health**

- A sizeable group of people (almost 30 percent) feel that their health is worse today than before Katrina.
- The largest category changes over time relate to suffering allergies and depression.

- Around 75 percent of the respondents report feeling “lonely,” “blue,” or having “difficulty making decisions.”
- The percentage of people without health insurance has climbed from 29 percent to 46 percent.

### **Social Networks**

- Alienation is a common theme among the evacuees living in Houston.
- While schools and housing are rated as better in Houston, transportation and gaining access to friends are rated much worse for evacuees.

### **Political Attitudes**

- The approval ratings for President Bush and Governor Blanco have fluctuated over the three periods. Mayor Nagin’s approval rating has climbed. Houston Mayor Bill White has enjoyed exceptionally high approval ratings.
- Both FEMA and the Red Cross have experienced decreased approval ratings by evacuees over time.

Each of these findings are discussed at length below.

### **Demographics**

Who are the people in the samples? The table below compares the three waves across basic demographic categories. The entries in the tables are percentages. Although the samples were taken at different times there is considerable stability to who is being interviewed. The bulk of these respondents are unmarried, young, with low educational backgrounds and poor.

	Sept. 2005	Nov. 2005	July 2006
<i>Gender</i>			
Male	47.6	42.8	45.0
Female	52.4	57.2	55.0
<i>Education</i>			
Less than High School	31.0	38.3	32.7
High School/GED	39.4	36.9	34.2
Some college	22.9	21.1	20.5
College Graduate	6.7	3.6	11.9
<i>Marital Status</i>			
Married/Living with Partner	28.5	25.1	26.7
Divorced/Separated	9.8	10.6	14.2
Widowed	2.9	5.0	4.2
Single	58.8	59.2	54.9
<i>Age</i>			
18-34	47.9	55.9	47.6
35-49	34.3	31.4	30.0
50+	17.8	12.7	22.8
<i>Income in New Orleans</i>			
< \$15,000	51.1	59.7	43.8
15,000-24,999	30.5	23.5	31.8
25,000-49,999	13.6	12.4	16.6
50,000-74,999	3.0	2.1	5.4
75,000 +	1.8	2.4	2.3
<i>Sample Size (total n)</i>			
	352	367	362

Where did they come from in New Orleans? The following table gives the percentage in our sample and where they came from before coming to Houston. The people involved in this study were largely people who had been stranded in New Orleans after Katrina made landfall.

	September 2005
Superdome	30.4
Convention Center	4.2
Airport	2.5
Hotel	20.1
Friends/Relatives	26.2
Rooftop/Upper Story	12.4
Other	4.2

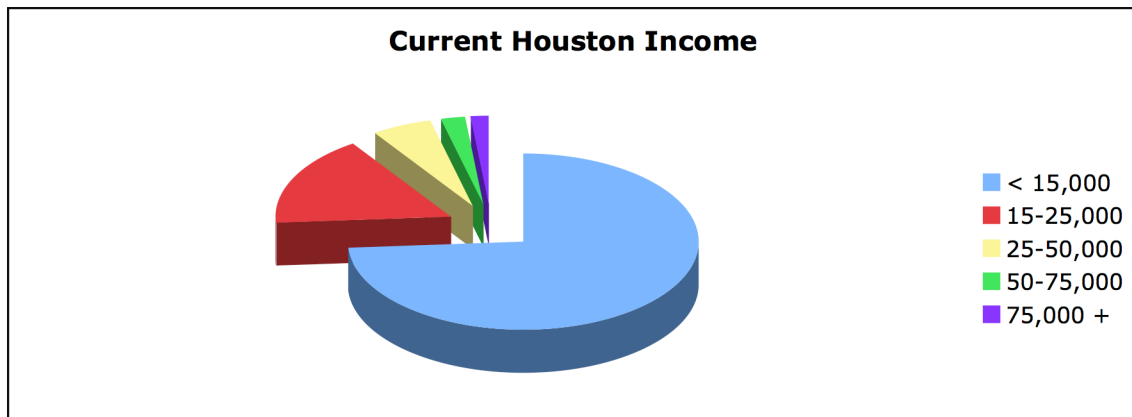
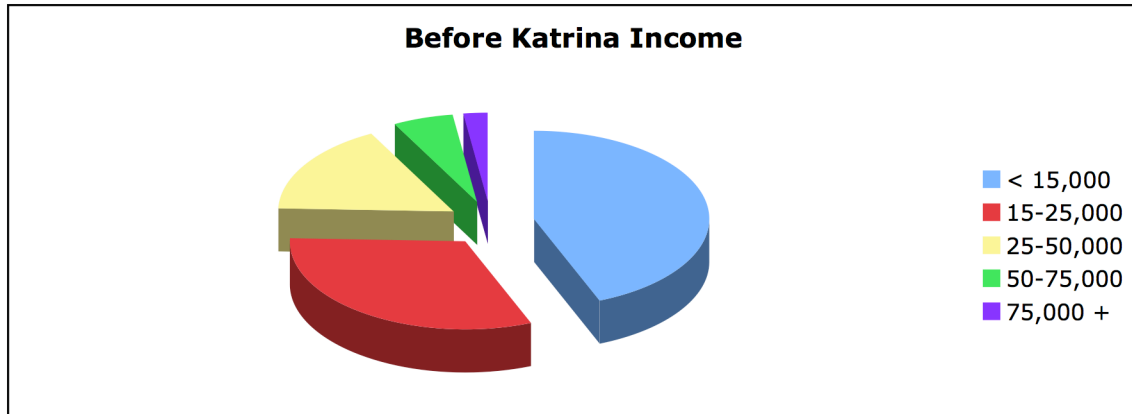
Where did they first stay in Houston? This is the percentage in the sample and where they first stayed in Houston. Almost all of our sample in September is with people who were in shelters.

	September 2005
Astrodome	18.0
Reliant Center	31.0
George R. Brown	28.9
Church	4.9
Other Shelter	11.62
Private Home, Other	5.6

### Employment and Income

*What was the income of these survey participants prior to Katrina and after Katrina?*

This is based on what respondents reported in July 2006. The slices of the pie indicate the relative percentages. While prior to Katrina people’s income was very low, it is currently much worse.

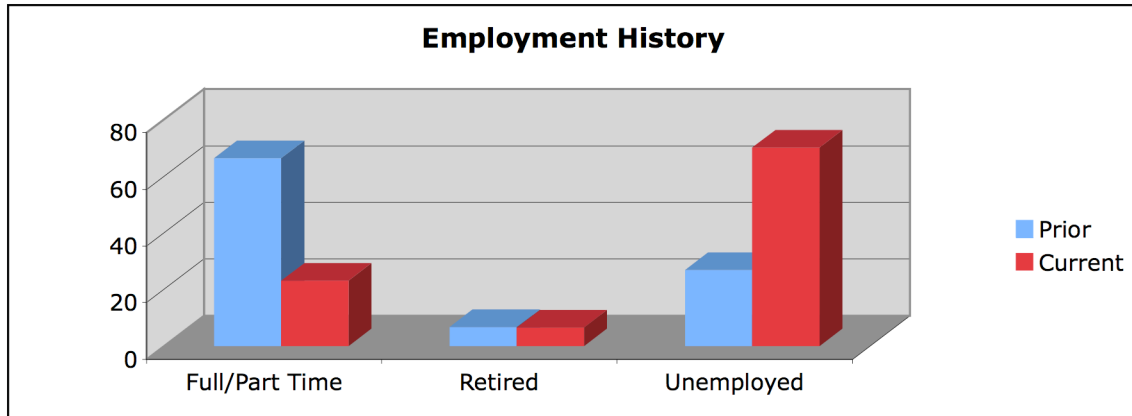


<The Table of Income Percentages for the above Pie Charts>

Income	Prior	Current
< 15,000	43.84	73.84
15-25,000	31.81	16.57
25-50,000	16.62	5.81
50-75,000	5.44	2.03
75,000 +	2.29	1.74

*Were they employed before Katrina? Are they employed now?*

The blue (left) percentages indicate respondent’s employment in New Orleans prior to Katrina in September 2005. The red (right) bar indicates the percentage who are currently employed in Houston based on the July 2006 portion of the study. What is clear is that people prior to Katrina were mainly employed. Now that they are in Houston, they are unemployed. Many state that a key problem is a lack of jobs in Houston. Much of this is exacerbated by problems with transportation.



<Note: Prior is based on Wave 1 data. Current is based on Wave 3 data. The following is a table of percentages for the above figure. >

	Prior	Current
Full/Part Time	66.37	23.21
Retired	6.73	6.6
Unemployed	26.9	70.2

### **Future Plans**

*Nearly one year after Katrina hit the Gulf Coast, what percentage of black, low-income evacuees in Houston say it is unlikely or very unlikely they will return to their residence in Louisiana?*

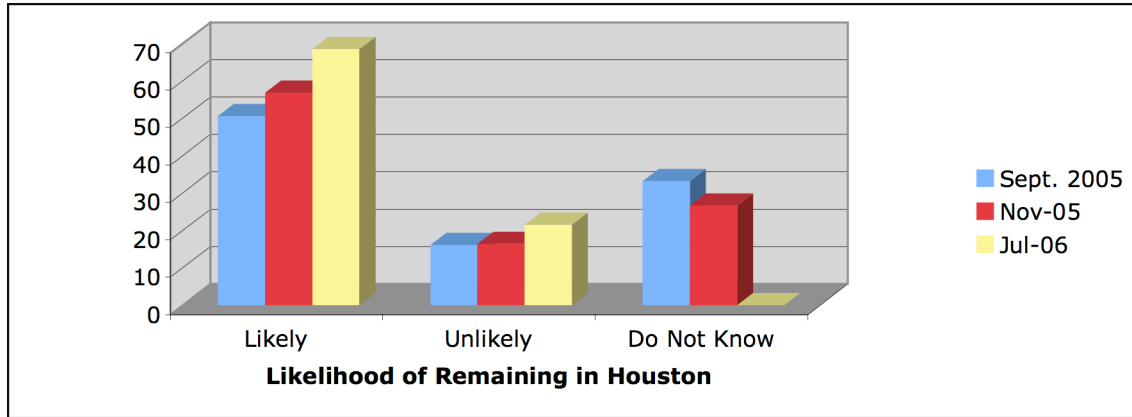
It is unlikely that those remaining in Houston will return. Currently (July 2006) 68.5 percent of those remaining in Houston think that it is very likely or likely they will stay in Houston. This is a group that does not see their future in New Orleans. Even though they indicate they are homesick and miss the neighborhoods from which they came, they do not see anything left in those neighborhoods. They are unlikely to return. A large part of this is because very few of these respondents owned their homes in New Orleans. Most rented (85 percent in the September wave, 89 percent in the November wave and 79 percent in the July 2006 wave).

Percentage responding to the question: “How likely is it that you will permanently stay in Houston?” (July 2006).

<i>Response Category</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Very Likely	33.2
Somewhat Likely	35.4
Unlikely	19.4
Very unlikely	12.1

*How does that figure compare to those interviewed last September shortly after they arrived in Houston?*

Among this group uncertainty about remaining in Houston has decreased. However, what is VERY interesting is that there were sizeable portions of the population who thought it was very unlikely they would return to Louisiana – even at the outset.



<Table below provides percentages for the above figure.>

	<i>Likely</i>	<i>Unlikely</i>	<i>Do Not Know</i>
Sep-05	50.6	16.2	33.2
Nov-05	56.8	16.4	26.7
Jul-06	68.5	21.5	0*

\*Respondents were not offered a “Do Not Know” category in the July 2006 questionnaire.

Even when they were asked how long they expected to stay in Houston, by November it was clear that they expected to be in Houston for a while. 17.4% expected to be in Houston at least 6 more months. 46.2% expected to be in Houston at least a year. 36.5% expected to be in Houston for more than a year.

When asked in the July 2006 questionnaire to recall how long they thought they would be staying in Houston when they first arrived the 25.1% indicated they thought they would be in Houston for a week. Another 34.2 thought they would be in Houston for less than 6 months. Finally, the remaining 40.7% expected to be in Houston for a year or more. There should be some caution in over-interpreting these data, because recall is fickle.

## Health

*How do they rate their current health? How does that compare to their health rating the day before Katrina?*

The way to understand this question is to ask respondents how they rate their health compared with others in their age group. Then compare this by how they felt before Katrina. We've included tables for both November 2005 and July 2006. The column percentages have stayed pretty much the same from November to July. What has happened, however, is that those who feel their health is fair to poor appear to also feel that their health is worse than before Katrina.

Wave 2 data.

November 2005		Health Today Compared with Day Before Katrina		
		Worse	Same	Better
Current Health Compared to Others of Same Age	Fair/Poor	35.2	23.5	26.2
	Good	39.2	26.7	27.9
	Very Good/Excellent	25.5	50.8	45.9
	(Column %s)	29.9%	53.6%	17.5%

Wave 3 data.

July 2006		Health Today Compared with Day Before Katrina		
		Worse	Same	Better
Current Health Compared to Others of Same Age	Fair/Poor	43.7	21.2	22.0
	Good	36.9	32.0	32.4
	Very Good/Excellent	19.4	47.8	45.6
	(Column %s)	29.2%	50.9%	19.9%

*What are their most common health problems (high blood pressure, diabetes, etc.)?*

The percentages are given for both the November and July studies. Respondents could select more than a single box, so these percentages are the percent suffering from this type of health problem. Especially notable is the increase in allergies (understandable given the change in location). Note worthy is the increase in the percentage who indicate they are suffering from anxiety or depression.

	Nov. 2005	July 2006
High blood pressure	23.2	29.5
Diabetes	6.3	8.1
Allergies	17.7	30.9
Asthma	15.3	16.2
Arthritis	10.1	21.8
Heart Disease (for example, angina, or heart attack survivor)	4.1	8.5
Cancer survivor	1.4	3.7
Stroke survivor	1.4	4.6
Anxiety or depression	18.3	28.9

The increase in anxiety or depression is perhaps a bit over-reported. The *New York Times* report on August 24, 2006 indicated that suicide was prevalent (quoting one source that 90 percent of the evacuees were thinking of suicide). We find that the rates are high, but nowhere near the 90% rate. A comparison group of 200 Black, low-income Houstonians, has 15% of the respondents thinking of “frequently” or “sometimes” taking their life.

What is clear from the table below is that the Katrina evacuees are lonely and depressed.

The percentages reported in this table is the sum of those indicating that they “Frequently” or “Sometimes” have the following thoughts. The third category, unreported here, is “Never.”

	Nov. 2005	July 2006
Thoughts of taking your life?	21.5	18.7
Felt Lonely?	78.0	76.0
Felt blue?	72.2	73.6
Had difficulty making decisions?	73.6	74.6
Felt hopeless about the future?	71.4	61.4
Felt worthless?	51.5	44.0

The following are the percentages making up the table above.

November 2005	Frequently	Sometimes	Never
Thoughts of taking your life?	6.4	15.0	78.5
Felt Lonely?	29.5	48.5	22.0
Felt blue?	23.3	48.9	27.8
Had difficulty making decisions?	27.9	45.7	26.4
Felt hopeless about the future?	26.7	44.7	28.6
Felt worthless?	18.5	33.0	48.7

July 2006	Frequently	Sometimes	Never
Thoughts of taking your life?	3.5	15.3	81.3
Felt Lonely?	28.5	47.5	24.0
Felt blue?	23.6	50.0	26.4
Had difficulty making decisions?	18.9	55.7	25.4
Felt hopeless about the future?	24.0	37.4	38.6
Felt worthless?	14.2	29.8	56.0

*What kind of health insurance did they have before Katrina? What coverage do they have today?*

Respondents have lost their health care. Prior to Katrina, health care was bleak with about a third indicating they had no coverage. Now almost half indicate they have no health insurance. This is tied, in part, to being unemployed.

We have included information gathered in November 2005 and again in July 2006. Both

time periods show similar patterns.

November 2005. Percentages with specific forms of Health Insurance prior to and following Katrina.

November 2005	Before Katrina	Current (Nov. 2005)
Private Health Insurance	12.0	8.5
Medicare	15.3	12.0
Medicaid	32.4	23.7
CHIP (LACHIP/Children's Health Insurance Program)	8.2	5.7
Military health care (TRICARE/VA/CHAMP-VA)	3.8	3.3
Other government program	4.9	3.0
No coverage of any type	35.4	50.0

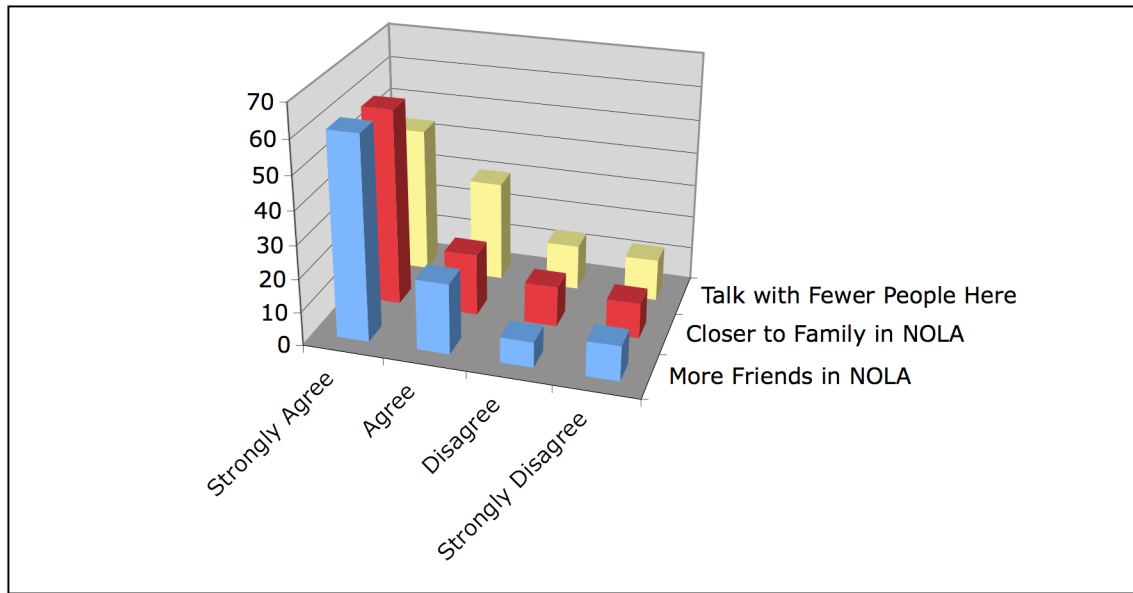
July 2006. Percentages with specific forms of Health Insurance prior to and following Katrina.

July 2006	Before Katrina	Current (July 2006)
Private Health Insurance	20.3	8.4
Medicare	18.0	18.0
Medicaid	31.7	26.4
CHIP (LACHIP/Children's Health Insurance Program)	7.9	4.5
Military health care (TRICARE/VA/CHAMP-VA)	2.5	3.4
Other government program	5.1	5.1
No coverage of any type	29.0	46.4

### Social Networks

*How has their social network changed since Katrina?*

These items point to a great deal of alienation. In each instance they see that they had a richer social life prior to Houston. This is supported by written comments that are quoted below.



<The table below provides the percentage agreeing with each statement>

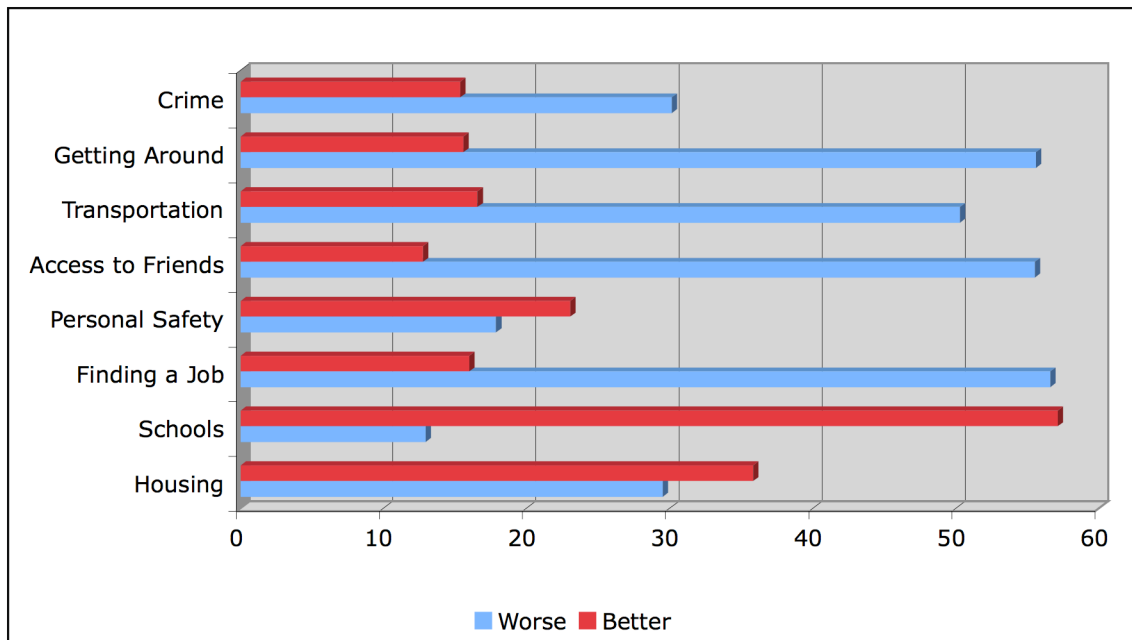
	Strongly Agree <sub>1</sub>	Somewhat Agree <sub>2</sub>	Somewhat Disagree <sub>3</sub>	Strongly Disagree <sub>4</sub>
I had a much larger group of friends to talk to before I came to Houston.	60.9	21.1	7.6	10.4
I was closer to my family before I came to Houston.	58.8	18.5	12.0	10.6
I talk to fewer people now than I did before I came to Houston.	43.8	30.1	13.6	12.5

How do evacuees compare Houston with New Orleans in terms of basic services? In many domains they find that life in Houston is worse than in Louisiana. Given the focus

on crime (and how “crime ridden” New Orleans was prior to Katrina), it is surprising to see that Katrina evacuees regard Houston as being worse. It is also no surprise that getting around, dealing with transportation issues, having access to friends and finding a job is far worse for Katrina evacuees in Houston.

Houston, however, fares much better with respect to schools and somewhat better in terms of personal safety and housing.

Figure reports percentages comparing “your life in Louisiana before Hurricane Katrina” with how “you rate your life in Houston.” The red bars indicate the percentage who feel that their life in Houston is better for the particular item. The blue bars indicate the percentage who think that Houston is worse than their pre-Katrina life for each item. Not reported is the percentage indicating “the same.”



<The following table gives the percentages for the above items by all categories. >

“Compared with your life in Louisiana before Hurricane Katrina how would you rate your current life in Houston for the following:”

	Better <sub>1</sub>	Same <sub>2</sub>	Worse <sub>3</sub>
Housing	35.8	34.6	29.5
Schools	57.1	29.9	13.0
Finding a job	16.0	27.4	56.6
Personal safety	23.1	59.0	17.9
Access to your friends and relatives	12.8	31.7	55.5
Transportation	16.6	33.1	50.3
Getting around Houston	15.6	28.8	55.6
Crime	15.4	54.5	30.1

This matches their statements about what is so hard about living in Houston. We have a series of open-ended items. The language has not been changed. These are verbatim responses as recorded on the questionnaire. Here’s a small sample of what they note:

“everyone thinks you don't want to work”  
“finding a job and stereotyped by no background”  
“Finding a job because I'm from New Orleans”  
“Won't hire N.O. Residents”

“being separated from family & friends”  
“being away from my family”  
“Children not having friend to play with”  
“My family isn't close by”  
“not see my family as often as I used to”  
“I cannot visit no one- transportation”  
“being away from lifetime friends”

“I've never lived anyplace this large”  
“you can't get around”  
“how far everything is”  
“How long the block is”  
“Things too far off”  
“lack of sidewalks in neighborhood”  
“The bigistness”

“always getting lost on the highway”  
“burning a lot of gasoline”  
“distances to travel to desired places”  
“I cannot get around like I want”

“Not having a car to get around”  
“knowing freeways (names)”  
“understanding directions”  
“getting directions to different locations”  
“Drive too fast and crazy”  
“Traffic is terrible all the time”  
“Getting lost all the time”

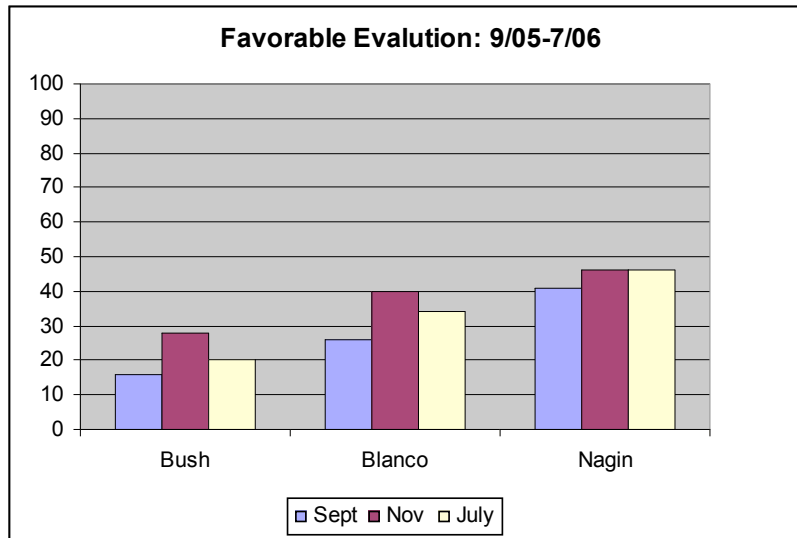
“It's too! Hot”  
“People aren't sociable/friendly”  
“Getting treated like a refugee”  
“Culture difference”  
“No zoning enforcement”  
“The media blame New Orleans people”  
“people think you are not grateful for help”  
“I miss N.O. food”  
“foods (no taste)”  
“food like New Orleans”  
“everyone think we are criminals”  
“People judging you because you are from LA”  
“Everyone don't speak English”

“Finding affordable housing”  
“Housing (don't like apt. living)”  
“going on the street without a place to stay with a 14 week pregnant spouse”

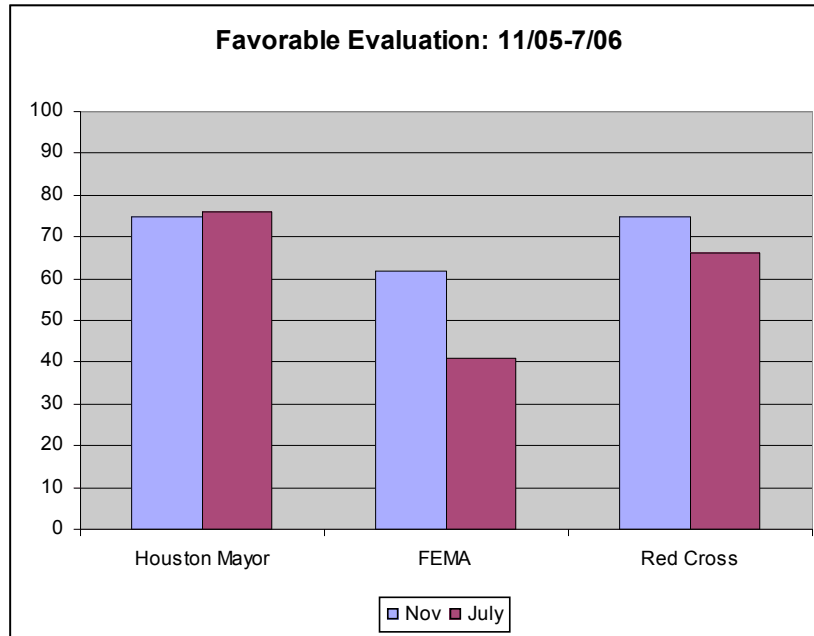
## Political Attitudes

### *Who is held responsible?*

Katrina evacuees were asked to evaluate the performance of several elected officials and governments agencies in responding first to the hurricane and flooding that resulted and later to the their experiences since arriving in Houston. We obtained evacuees' ratings of President Bush, Governor Blanco, and Mayor Nagin in September 2005, November 2005, and July 2006.



Ratings vary by time and clearly reflect how evacuees felt about each elected official in the context of their evacuation (September), relocation to Houston (November) and adjustment to living in Houston (July) The differential ratings in September reflect the greater responsibility evacuees assigned to the federal government and the President in providing emergency services and evacuation relief at the time of the hurricane. Subsequent evaluations in November 2005 and July 2006 show change in the evacuees' evaluation of President Bush and Governor Blanco and relative stability in their ratings of Mayor Nagin. Nagin's higher and stable ratings may be due to his successful reelection campaign conducted in Houston.



Evacuees in November 2005 and July 2006 were asked to rate the performance of public officials and agencies in ‘responding to Katrina since you arrived in Houston.’ Here we find a consistently high rating for Houston’s Mayor Bill White. Weaker and declining evaluations were given to FEMA and Red Cross. Again, expectations may have been much higher for the performance of FEMA and the Red Cross after evacuees arrived in Houston. Evacuees may have also expected these relief agencies to have taken greater responsibility for their relocation to Houston than either the Mayor or City Government.

Respondents were encouraged to write something to President Bush, Mayor Ray Nagin and Mayor Bill White. The question was worded: “What would you tell the following people if you could?” What is noted below is a sampling of written comments. Spelling and syntax are verbatim.

What is notable is that respondents disentangle the blame. The modal comments concerning President Bush pertain not to perceived failures in New Orleans, but rather to the use of federal funds on the Iraqi war rather than rebuilding at home.

Comments concerning Mayor Nagin are either supportive or hostile – respondents are split in their assessments.

Comments concerning Mayor White are laudatory and grateful.

President Bush.

I need much more help from fema, then the little which was given

pay more attention to what happening to your people in the US

We the people of Louisiana are depending & counting on him to help make things right for us. Lots of us are from the working class & are having a hard time adjusting to life as it is.

I would like to tell Bush he should have been the one to issue out the money for evacuees. Fema is not keeping us at all and my home was demolished and I haven't received anything but a denial letter.

no matter what the cost to rebuild the Gulf Coast. You're rebuilding Iraq. And last time I look Iraq wasn't a state.

stop the war. Help us people the US before you go over seas to help other countries

spend america money in america not in iraq or any other country first take care of home

president Bush need to care for he own country before taking care of others

I would tell him to honor the fact that we are US citizens and would like to be treated with respect and dignity

Send our troops home!! How can you build a wall across the border, but a levee can't protect a city?

Mayor Nagin:

I feel as though he did only what he could & was allowed to do. Maybe he could have helped a little more with transportation for people who needed it but he tried.

We the people are willing to stand behind you while you make positive decisions regarding our welfare. Lots of us are willing to come home but without adequate housing this is impossible. Keep thinking positive.

the mayor can only do what the gov. & president says do

can we trust you in trying to help the people come back to the city, because not too much has been done as far as I can see

Nagin started off as an accountant he had no experience, he evacuated the city too late. Elderly couldn't get out, he cost a lot of people their homes and lives, because he listened to someone else and not his gut!

keep Louisiana alive and rebuild so that we can come home.

please build some nice houses for the [renter] and talk to the landlords to drop their rent if they want their residence to return

you hung in with the people

hurry and implement a recovery plan. Keep the citizen up to date with the progress of the city. Become a statesman in your last term, focus on doing what is best for the city of New Orleans.

Stand your ground, no matter what and do right by the people of New Orleans

Get on your game and help us to be able to return home please

Mayor White:

thank you for all you have done also please help us find low income housing

thanks for all you and your city has done to help persons affected by hurricane Katrina

I would give him a special thanks for helping me during the horrible time I suffered during Hurricane Katrina I don't know what I would have done if he had not opened up the city to me.

We would like to thank you for all that you have done for us. Not everyone from Louisiana is a criminal some of us have good moral standards and expect the best out of life. We're used to going to work or taking care of our families without having to depend on hand outs from the state. Don't be too quick to judge the majority because of some bad seeds.

thanks for being there for us. God will bless you for your concerns and our well being. It takes mayors like you to make a difference in our lives.

thank you Mr. White. Please don't give up on those who are really trying and please, please don't group us all together for some of us are really trying to get it together and [give] our lives back. It's hard it's a struggle & it's scary!!!

Thanks for opening the doors of Houston. We are ever so grateful for your empathy.

Thanks for everything you have done for me and my family. You made a difference for us (Katrina) + helped us immeasurably. God bless you.

rebuild my city ASAP

## ***Appendix***

### *Research Design and Sampling Methodology.*

The project focuses on three different time periods. The “samples” involve three distinct cross sections. In the first wave the focus was on people who had recently arrived in shelters across Houston. This wave took place from September 10 through September 19, 2005. The second wave took place from October 21 through November 5, 2005 and was conducted in Hotels and Apartment complexes. This took place as evacuees were in transit between the two types of housing. The final wave was delayed until July 2006. In this wave, which took place from July 11-21, 2006, we interviewed and conducted laboratory experiments on evacuees in Apartment complexes. This took place almost a year out from the landfall of Katrina and after the evacuees had settled into Houston.

Rather than think of this as a population sample looking at all Katrina evacuees, this study focuses on a special sample of individuals. This is by no means a small group. It is estimated that even now, approximately 35,000 to 40,000 Katrina evacuees fit this category and remain in Houston. These respondents are poor, overwhelmingly African-American, unemployed and uneducated.

This project used a convenience sampling method. This meant that volunteers were solicited in each wave of the study. We tried to sample across different environments in Houston. The sample from the first and third wave is compared with similar samples taken at roughly the same time. These are compared at the end of this document.

To give a sense of the task in gathering participants in this study, it is instructive to go through the three different waves and discuss the sampling problems attendant with each wave. In the first wave the research team had two individuals who were charged with advance scouting. They were instructed to locate large shelters (with 150 or more evacuees), secure permission to carry out the study, and then begin recruiting participants. As soon as they had obtained permission, the remainder of the team drove to the site and upon arrival set up for the experiment. The first wave design called for 20 people to participate at a time. Recruiting, at first, was difficult. Evacuees were emotionally and physically exhausted. They were crammed into shelters with many strangers. They were suspicious of everyone who might be thought of as an official. Taking time to answer the questions of researchers from Houston was not high on their list of priorities. Even though those participating were compensated (and often quite well), at first participants did not believe us. After the first group in a shelter completed the study, then we had the opposite problem. Suddenly everyone wanted to participate (including those who had just participated – they wanted to do it again). In the smaller shelters we only conducted a single research session. In the Convention Center and the Reliant Center complex we conducted multiple sessions. The problem at both of these places became crowd control. Initially individuals were asked if they would like to

participate in a study and make some cash. Every effort was made to ensure a quota of males and females and young and old. Once the first group was participated, then the next several groups showed up and wanted to participate as well. Here too we tried to maintain quotas for each session.

The second wave had very different problems. By this time evacuees were strewn throughout the city. We obtained a list of hotels that were housing evacuees and focused on the largest concentrations of evacuees in different areas of the city. In this design we used smaller groups of participants. Frequently we would post flyers noting the times we would be conducting the study and where in the hotel. Oftentimes this meant conducting the research at a swimming pool where participants could be admitted in small groups and others could be kept behind the swimming pool fence. Again, after the first few participated, others showed up – usually realizing that the research was harmless, entertaining and financially rewarding. As the motels cleared out during the course of our research, we switched to apartment complexes, recruiting in much the same manner and using the complex's swimming pool area as our research space.

The third wave focused on Apartment complexes. In this wave a member of the team was hired to set up facilities in apartments and recruit participants. She had extensive experience working with Katrina evacuees, had carried out focus groups with Katrina evacuees and was effective in recruitment activities. During this wave of the study we conducted the research in Apartment complex “common” rooms, sometimes in apartments and in Church meeting rooms. As with the other waves, we had to overcome initial suspicion of what we were doing. Following the first group of participants, we usually had a full group. In this wave we aimed for 20 participants at a time.

*Comparison of Samples*

The first table is a comparison for the September 2005 sample with a sample by Brodie et al. (2006). Their sample was sponsored by the Washington Post, among others. The columns report the percentage of respondents for key demographic variables.

Demographic Characteristics	Sept. 2005 sample	Brodie et al. sample*
<i>Gender</i>		
Male	47.6	50
Female	52.4	50
<i>Age</i>		
18-34	47.9	32
35-49	34.3	37
50+	17.8	30
<i>Marital Status</i>		
Married/Living as Married	28.5	30
Single, Never Married	58.8	47
Separated/Divorced	9.8	15
Widowed	2.9	8
<i>Employment before Katrina</i>		
Employed (full or part time)	66.4	69
Retired	6.7	18
Unemployed	26.9	12
<i>Education</i>		
High School Graduate	62.3	70
College	6.7	6
Total # of respondents	352	614

\* Brodie, Mollyann, Erin Weltzlen, Drew Altman, Robert J. Blendon, and John M. Benson. 2006. "Experiences of Hurricane Katrina Evacuees in Houston Shelters: Implications for Future Planning." *American Journal of Public Health* 96(5): 1402-08. The study was conducted in the Reliant Center and the Astrodome. See the study for additional details.

The second table compares a survey in March 2006 conducted by Zogby International for the City of Houston with the July 2006 sample. The columns report key demographic variables.

Demographic Characteristics	July 2006 Sample	Zogby Sample*
<i>Gender</i>		
Male	45	18
Female	55	82
<i>Age</i>		
18-34	47.6	35
<i>Income</i>		
< \$15,000	43.8	56
\$15,000-\$24,999	31.8	32
\$25,000-\$49,999	16.6	6
\$50,000-\$74,999	5.4	4
\$75,000+	2.3	2
<i>Current Employment</i>		
Employed (full or part time)	23.2	15
Retired/ Unemployed	76.8	85
<i>Education</i>		
High School Graduate	34.2	22
College	11.9	31
<i>Total # of respondents</i>		
	362	606

\*The Zogby International sample was randomly drawn from a list of Hurricane evacuees residing in Houston provided by the City of Houston. Respondents were contacted by telephone on March 21-22, 2006.