

Overview of Post-Katrina Surveys By Rick Weil, LSU/Sociology

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Status as of: May 21, 2008

2 Sets of Surveys

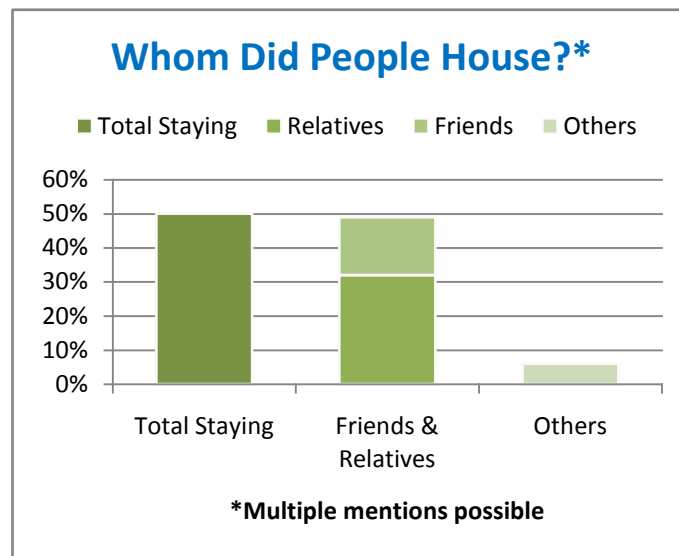
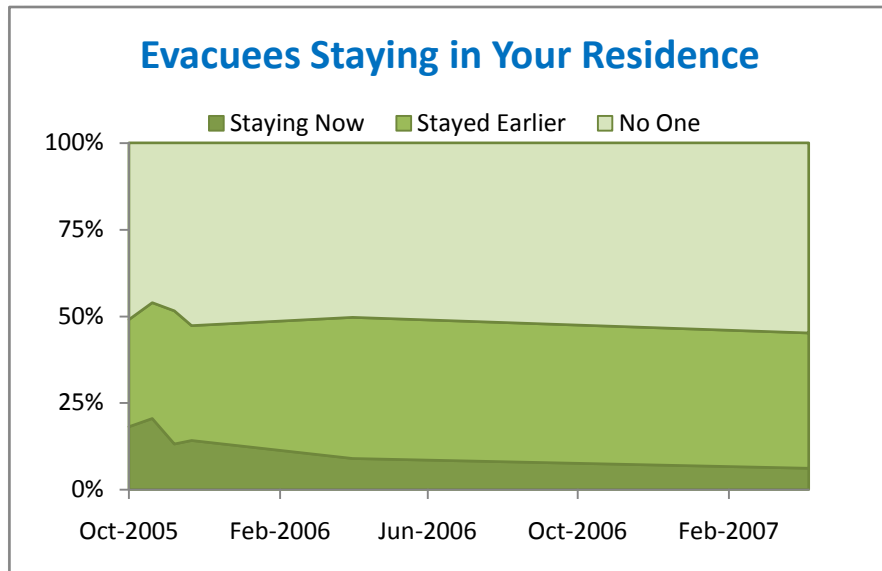
Both supported by the National Science Foundation

1. **Baton Rouge:** Impact on the Community
 - a. Total Interviews = 2,960.
 - b. September, 2005, to April, 2007, in 3 Waves.
 - c. Normal telephone sample.

2. **Greater New Orleans:** Return and Rebuilding
 - a. Total Interviews = 2,500, and growing.
 - b. Begun June, 2006. Still on-going.
 - c. **Sampling:** was somewhat unusual.
 - i. Normal polling is very difficult and expensive.
 - ii. We had no money till summer 2008.
 - iii. Representative of various communities.
 - iv. Includes many respondents who have not (yet) returned.
 - v. Post-weighted to be representative of the region.
 - vi. Multi-method, including door-to-door, at community gatherings, telephone, internet, other.

The impact of Hurricane Katrina on Baton Rouge, The closest large place of Evacuation (research supported by NSF)

- **Half** the households in Baton Rouge housed evacuees... almost entirely relatives and friends.

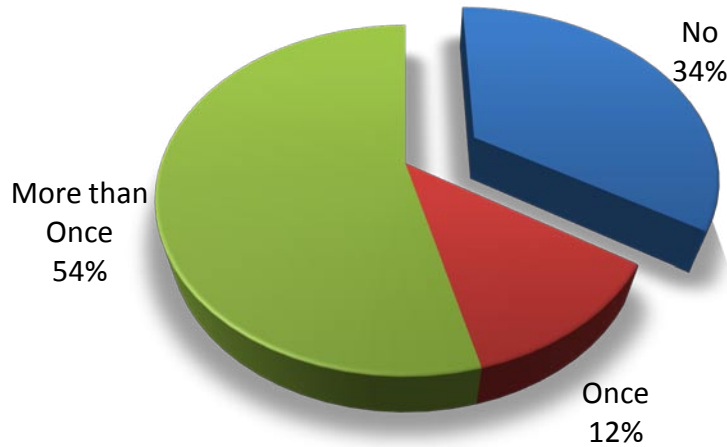


Factoid: Southern Louisiana has some of the densest social networks in America.

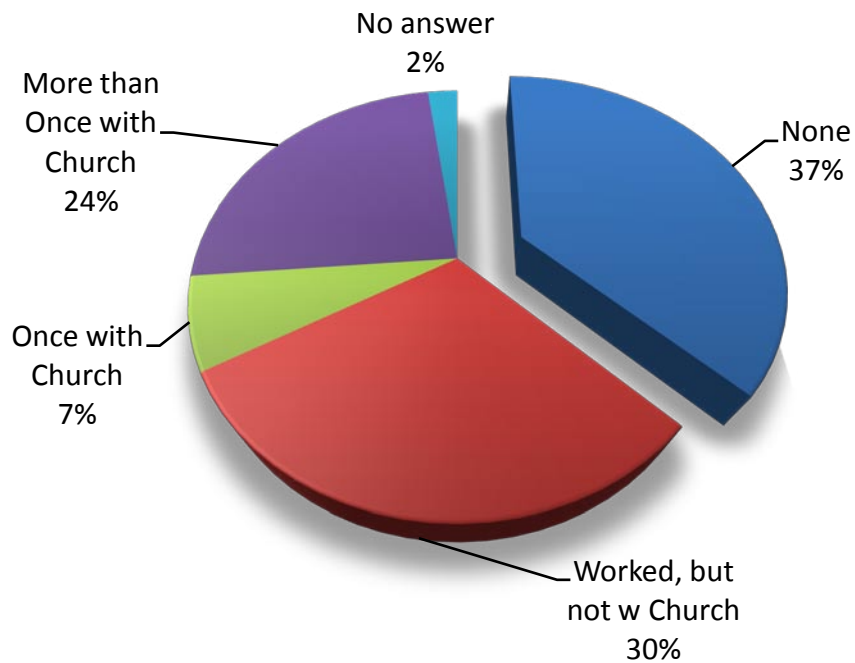
Question: Where would disaster evacuees have gone if this had happened some other place? ...The authorities would probably have had even more difficulty than in southern Louisiana.

- **Two thirds** of people in Baton Rouge did volunteer relief work – most more than once. Most of them volunteered with Religious Organizations.

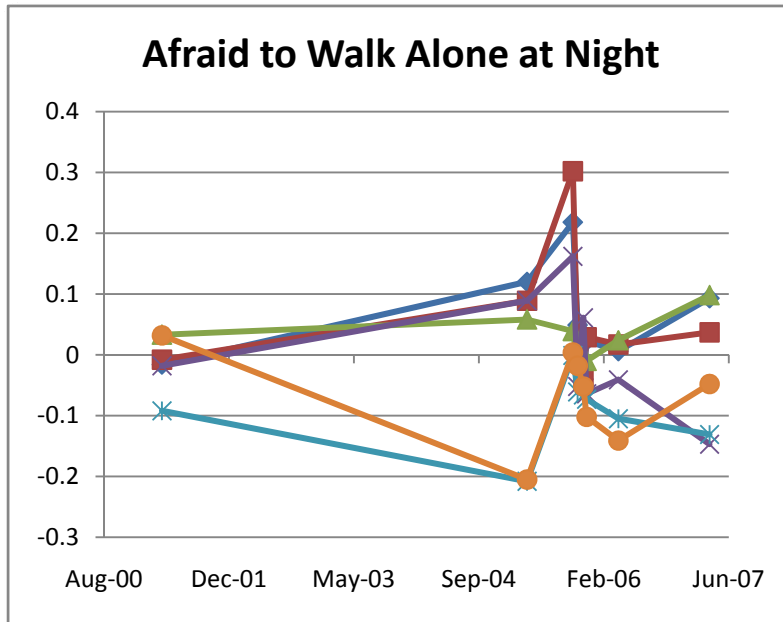
Did Volunteer work to Help Evacuees



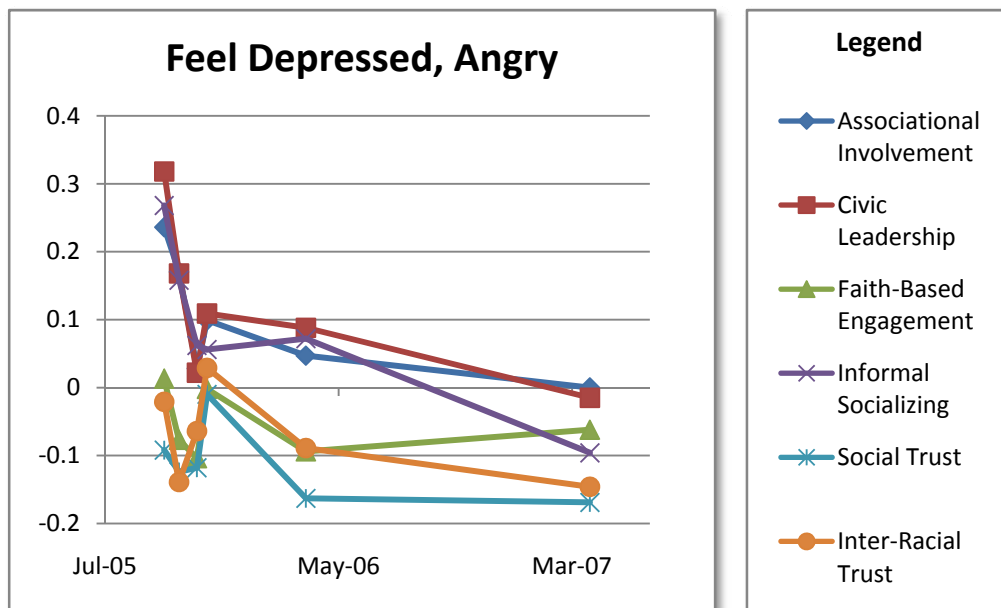
Did Volunteer work to Help Evacuees - with Religious Organization



- Social Capital and Stress.** Ordinarily, people with the *best social networks* handle stress better. But in Baton Rouge immediately after the storm, stress levels for the socially involved soared, because these people were most involved in relief work. Yet these same people also recovered the fastest after an initial spike in stress.



Time series from before and after the storm.



Time series from after the storm, only.

**Greater New Orleans: Studies of Community Resilience,
in Partnership with Community Leaders**
(research supported by NSF)

Partners	Community Samples: Examples
Faith-Based membership groups	Catholic Archdiocese. Endorsed survey and put a notice in weekly bulletin to parish church leaders. Varying partnership with individual parish churches, including very close with large churches in Lakeview and Chalmette, and moderate with churches in Metairie and Gentilly.
	Jewish Federation. Active support and assistance by Federation and Synagogues. Rs contacted by email, answered on web.
	Various African-American churches & organizations , e.g., Operation Brother's Keeper.
Other Faith-Based Groups	Other denominations , incl Episcopal Diocese and United Methodists. New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary has discussed cooperation.
	Operation Nehemiah volunteers went door-to-door, conducting face-to-face interviews.
Service Providers, Nonprofits, and Volunteer Agencies	Catholic Charities of N. O. and Baton Rouge, through their Community Centers and case managers
	Americorps, Hands-On , Student Hurricane Network, and others. Generally, partner with community organizations to utilize volunteer assistance.
	Sweet Home New Orleans , an agency that assists New Orleans musicians.
Community Groups and Neighborhood Associations	Broadmoor Improvement Association has distributed survey by email, on website, at neighborhood meetings, and door-to-door.
	Fr. Nguyen The Vien and Mary Queen of Vietnam Catholic Church and Community Development Corp. Questionnaire translated into Vietnamese; interviews currently being done, directed by community leadership.
	A couple dozen Neighborhood Assns , including in Lakeview, Pontilly, eastern New Orleans, Central City, Gert Town, Holy Cross/Lower 9 th Ward, Tremé/Lafitte.
Advocacy Groups	ACORN. Telephone interview among Acorn members from the Acorn offices and face-to-face interviews at Acorn-sponsored community meetings.
	PolicyLink. We are conducting surveys with Church & community leaders in Orleans & Terrebonne Parishes.
Rs Reached directly, without Associations	New Orleans Times-Picayune: their nola.com community forums posted a link to the survey.
Indirect Assistance	Steven Bingler , Concordia LLC and the Unified New Orleans Plan. He also organized the Community Center Consortium, which led to other contacts
Government Agencies and Agency Contracts	Providence Community Housing. Commissioned to build mixed-income housing to replace housing developments. We have submitted joint proposal with PCH to do surveys & damage assessments in the Tremé/Lafitte area.
	Various Schools are sending the paper questionnaire home with students to their parents to fill in and return.
	Also: partnership with FEMA VALs (Voluntary Association Liaisons), several New Orleans City Council members, the Baton Rouge Mayor's office, Louisiana Recovery Authority (LRA), and others.

- **Images of Data Collection:** Two Examples

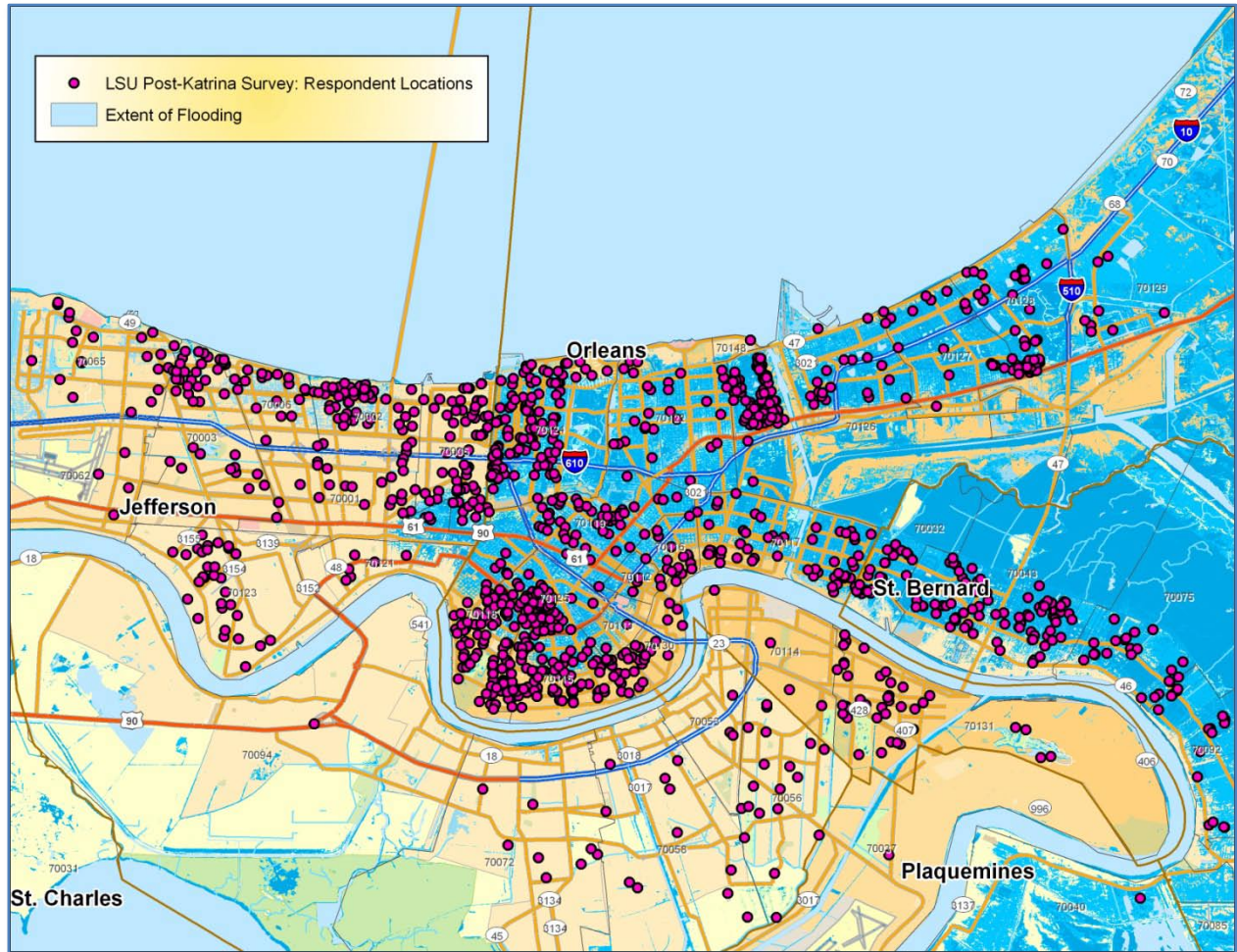
- *Renaissance Village, FEMA Trailer Park.* We worked with the resident leaders of Renaissance Village, served a Jambalaya dinner, brought in a New Orleans brass band ... and conducted the survey with the help of 30 resident volunteers.



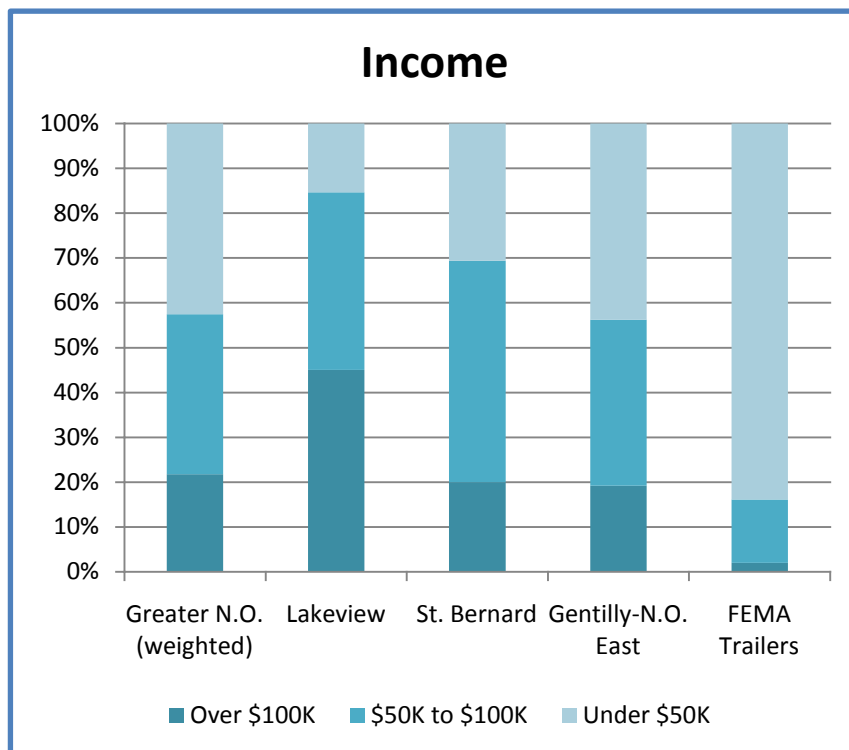
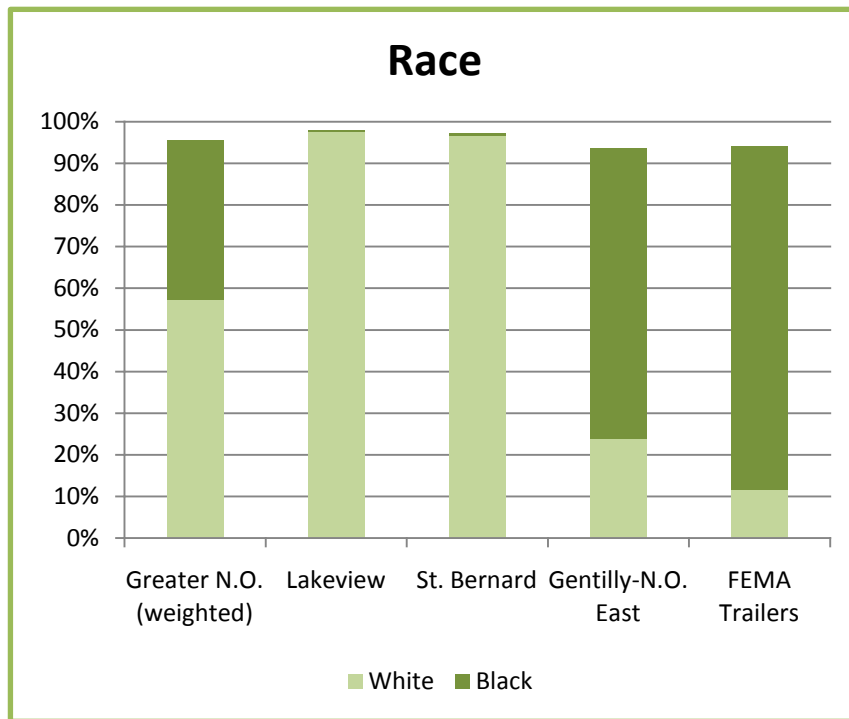
- *Pontchartrain Park & Gentilly Woods (Pontilly).* We worked with the Pontilly Neighborhood Association, who brought in 40 law student volunteers from around the country. We went door-to-door with them, doing the survey, and shared the results with the community.



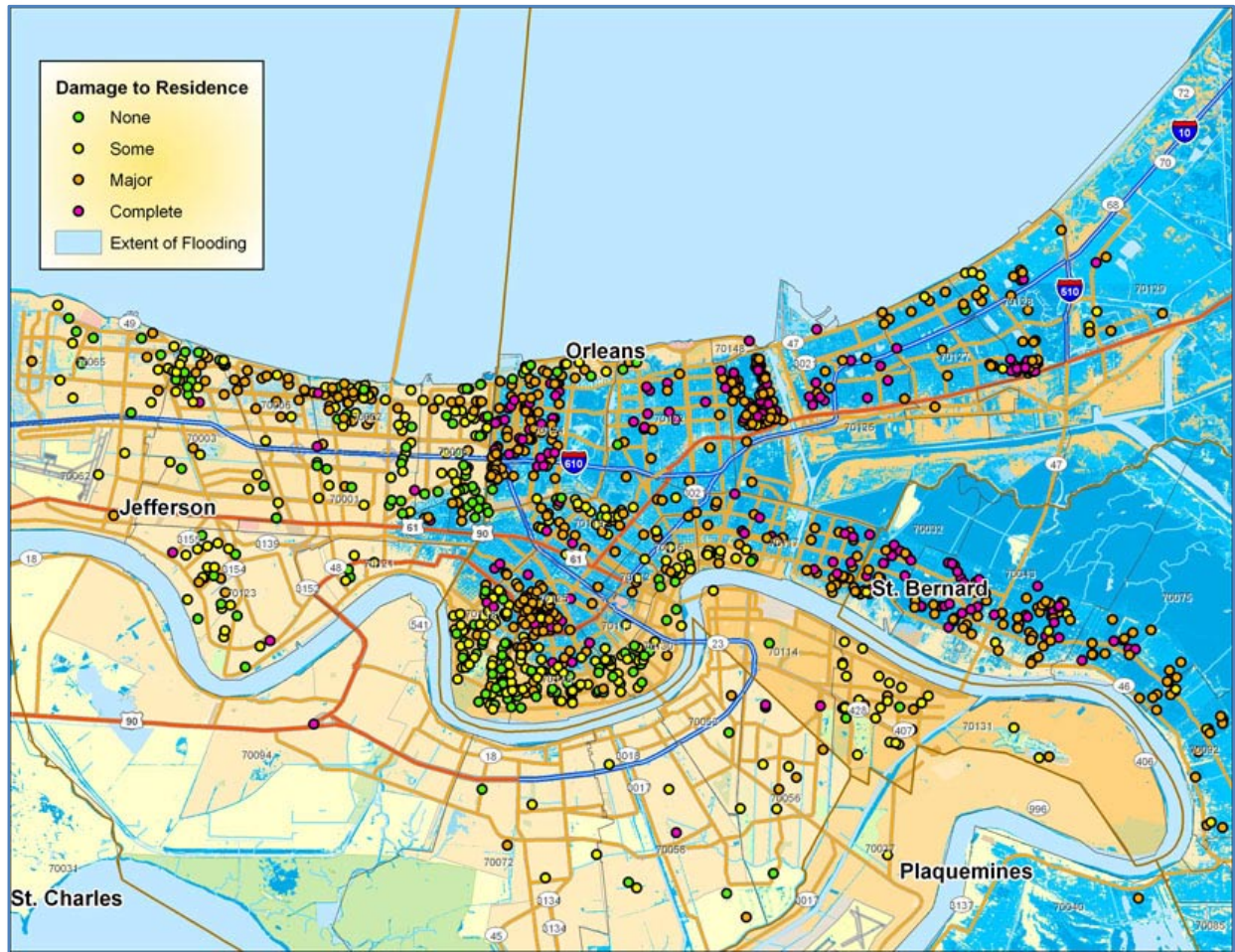
- **Location of Interviews (partial):** We have good coverage of the region, and we are now filling in the gaps.



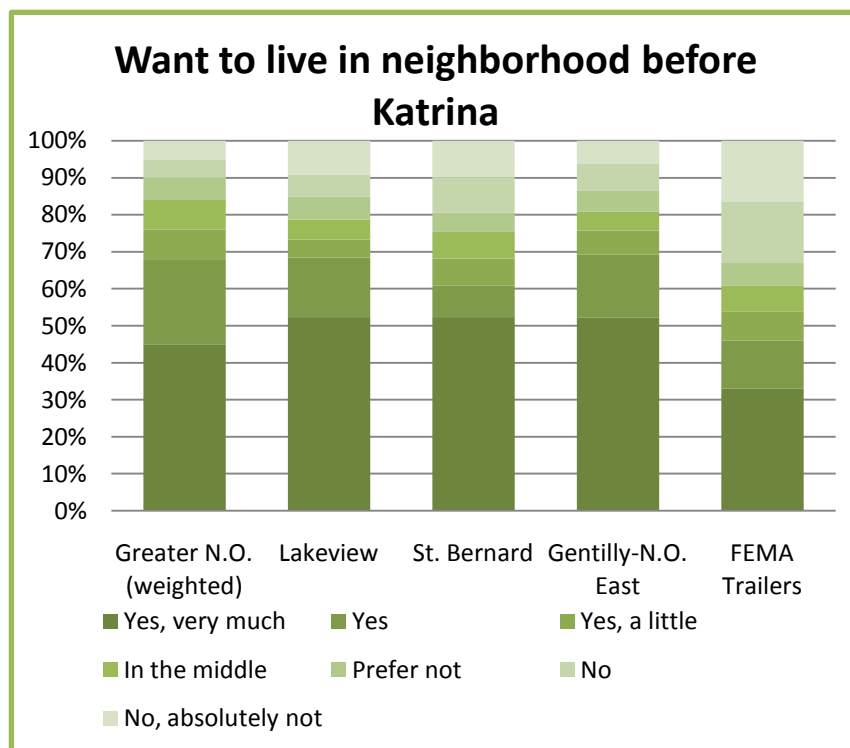
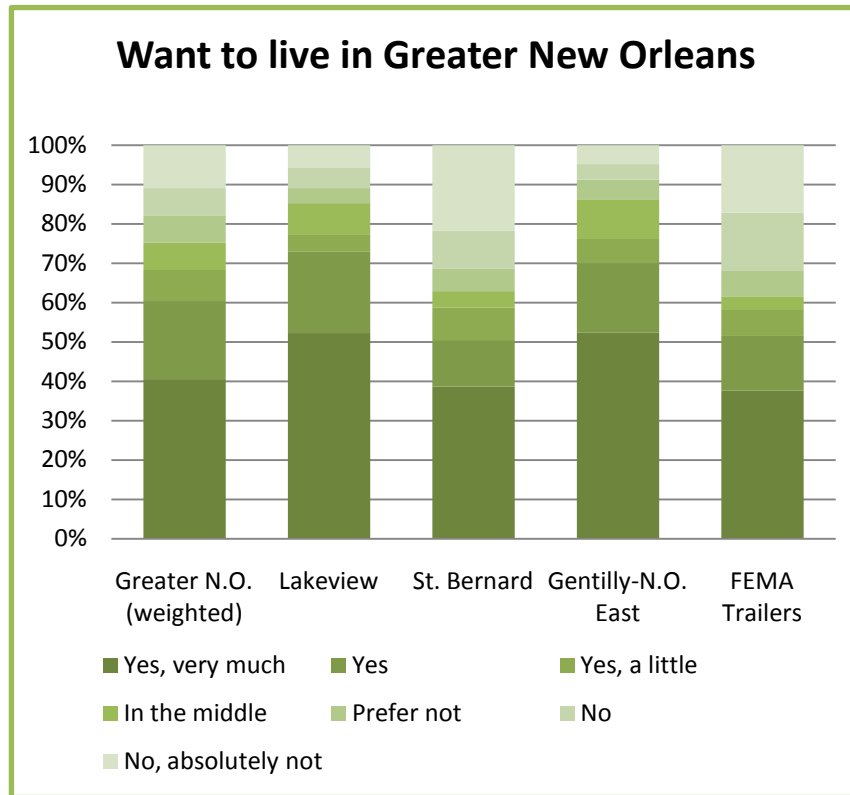
- **Some Demographic Characteristics** of the Sample, together with a few examples of hard-hit communities.



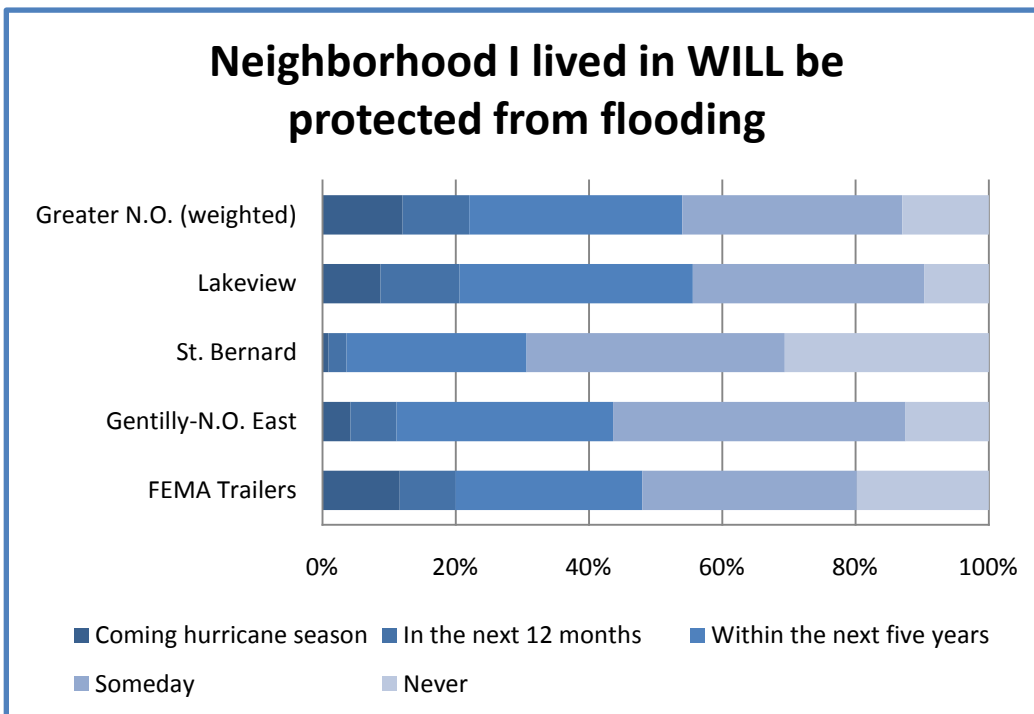
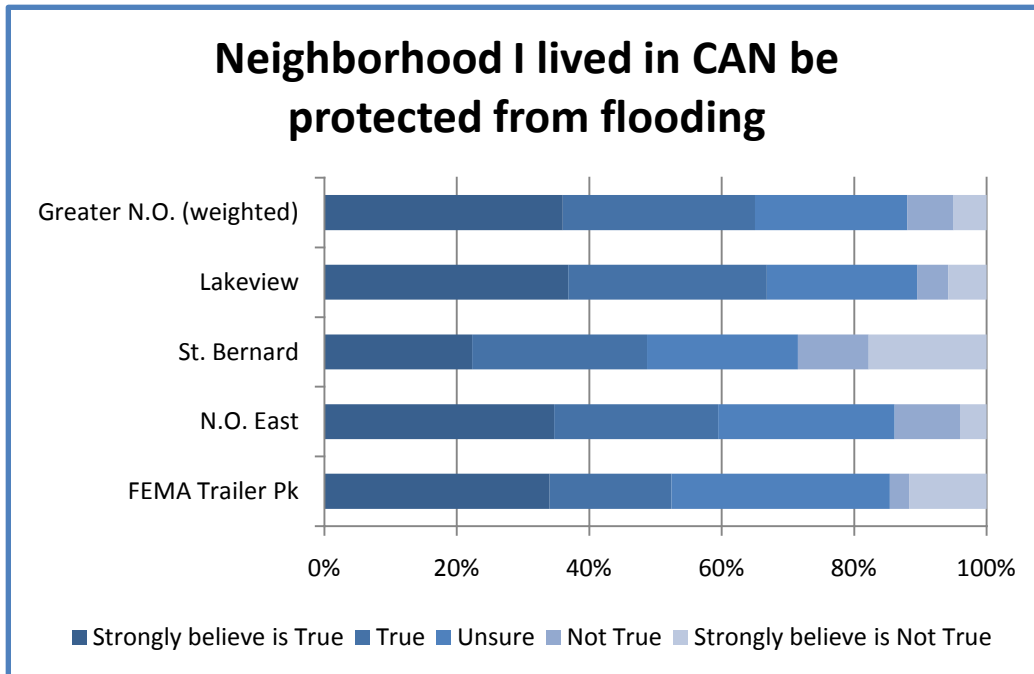
- **Storm Damage** mostly corresponds to flooding



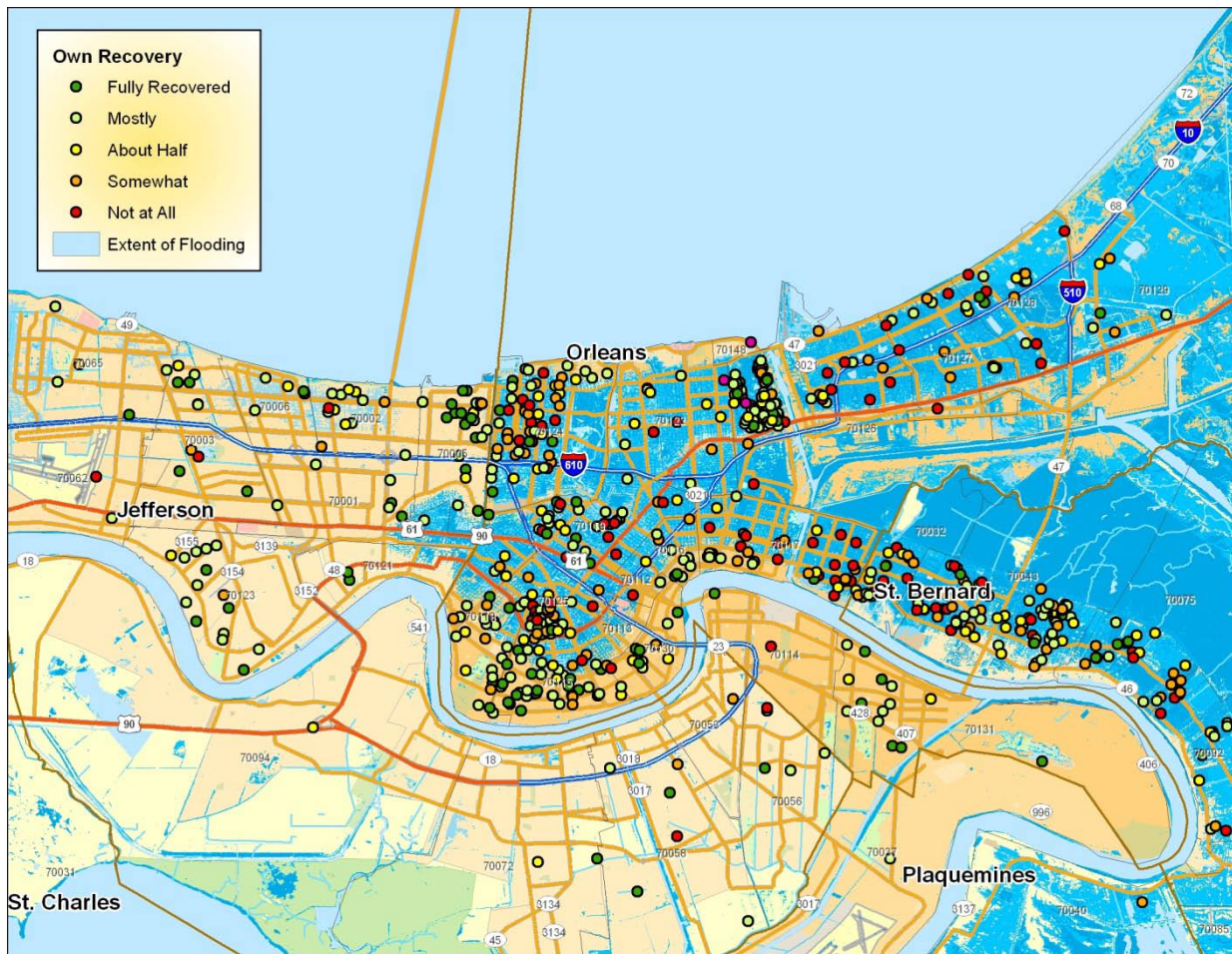
- **People *Want* to return to live in New Orleans, despite of the level of damage they sustained**



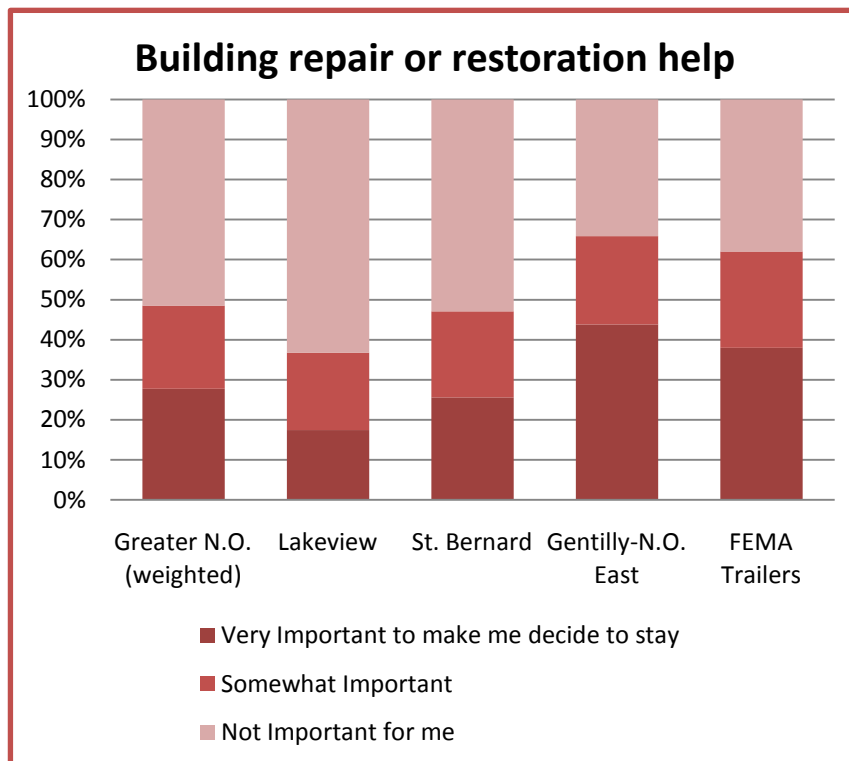
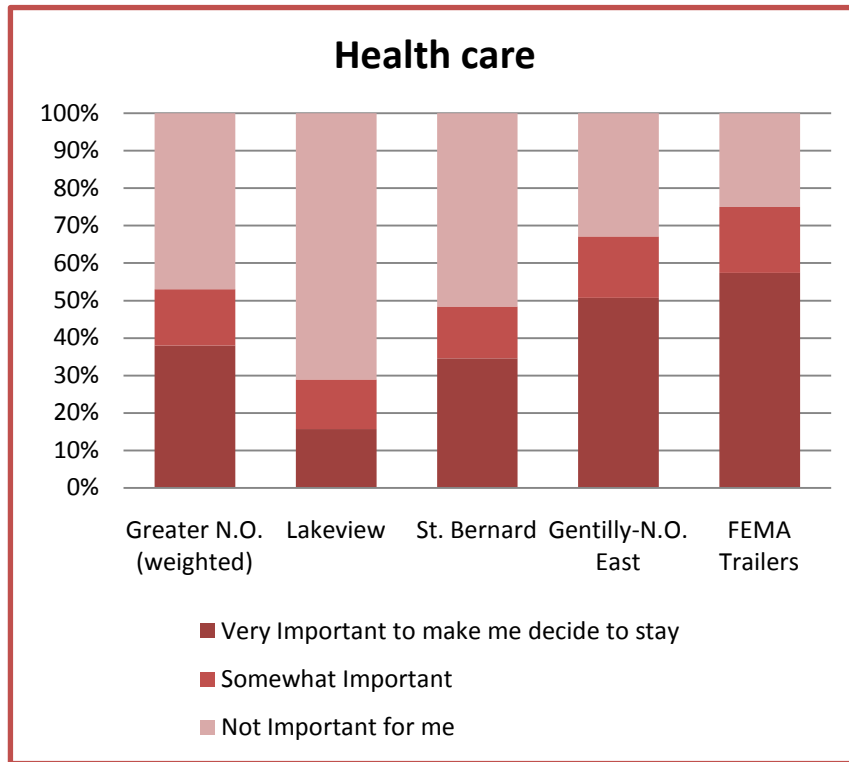
- **People are optimistic** that their neighborhood *can be* protected from flooding
- **But they are more cautious** about how long it will take



- **Degree of Hurricane Recovery** follows the flooded area to some extent – but not completely.
 - *What else plays a role?* This is part of what our research sets out to determine.
 - We believe that social support and community organization and strategies plays a role.



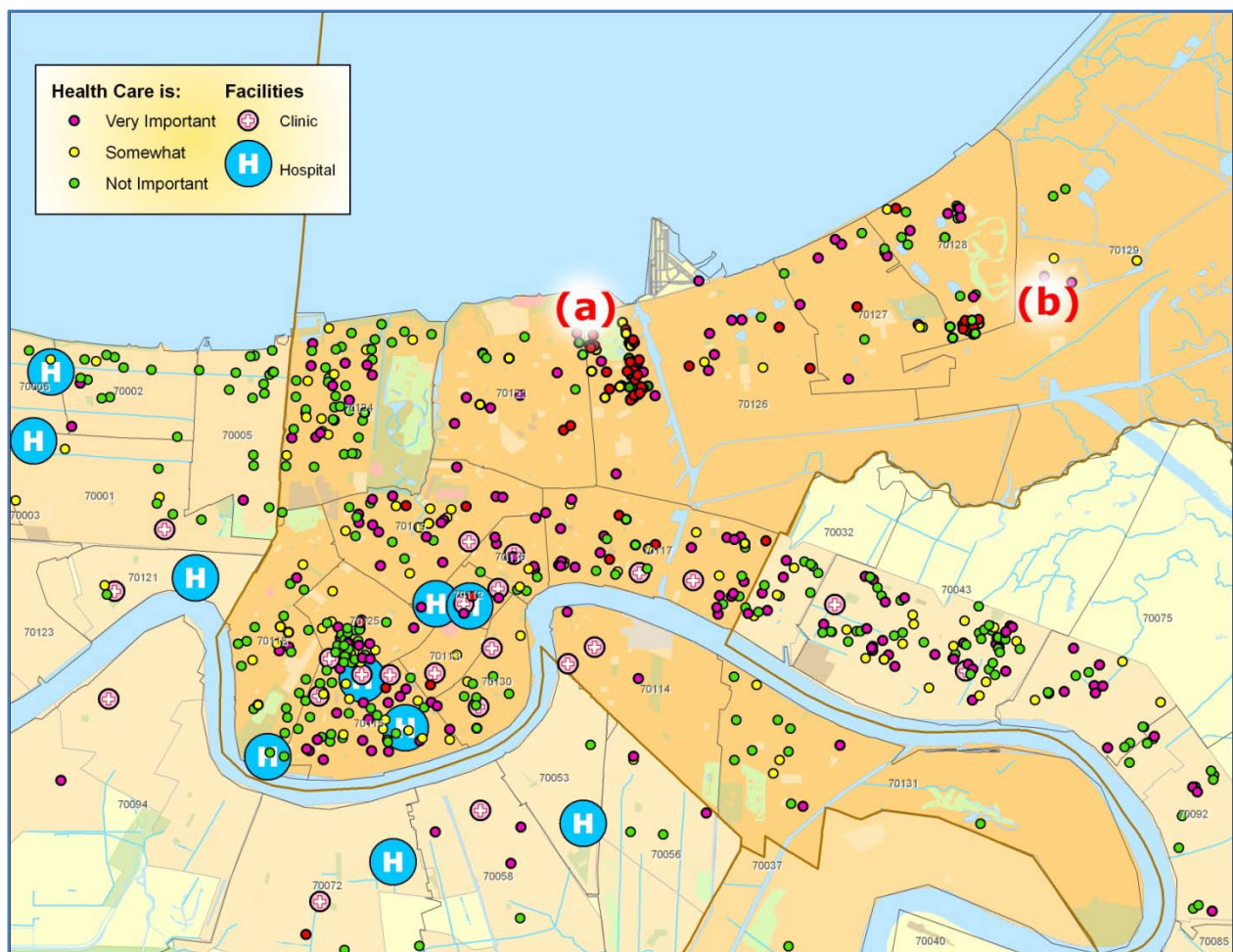
- **What People Need** in order to Return and Rebuild. Health Care and Rebuilding Help are two of the most important things.



- **People are More Worried about Health Care in the East, where there are fewer Medical Facilities**

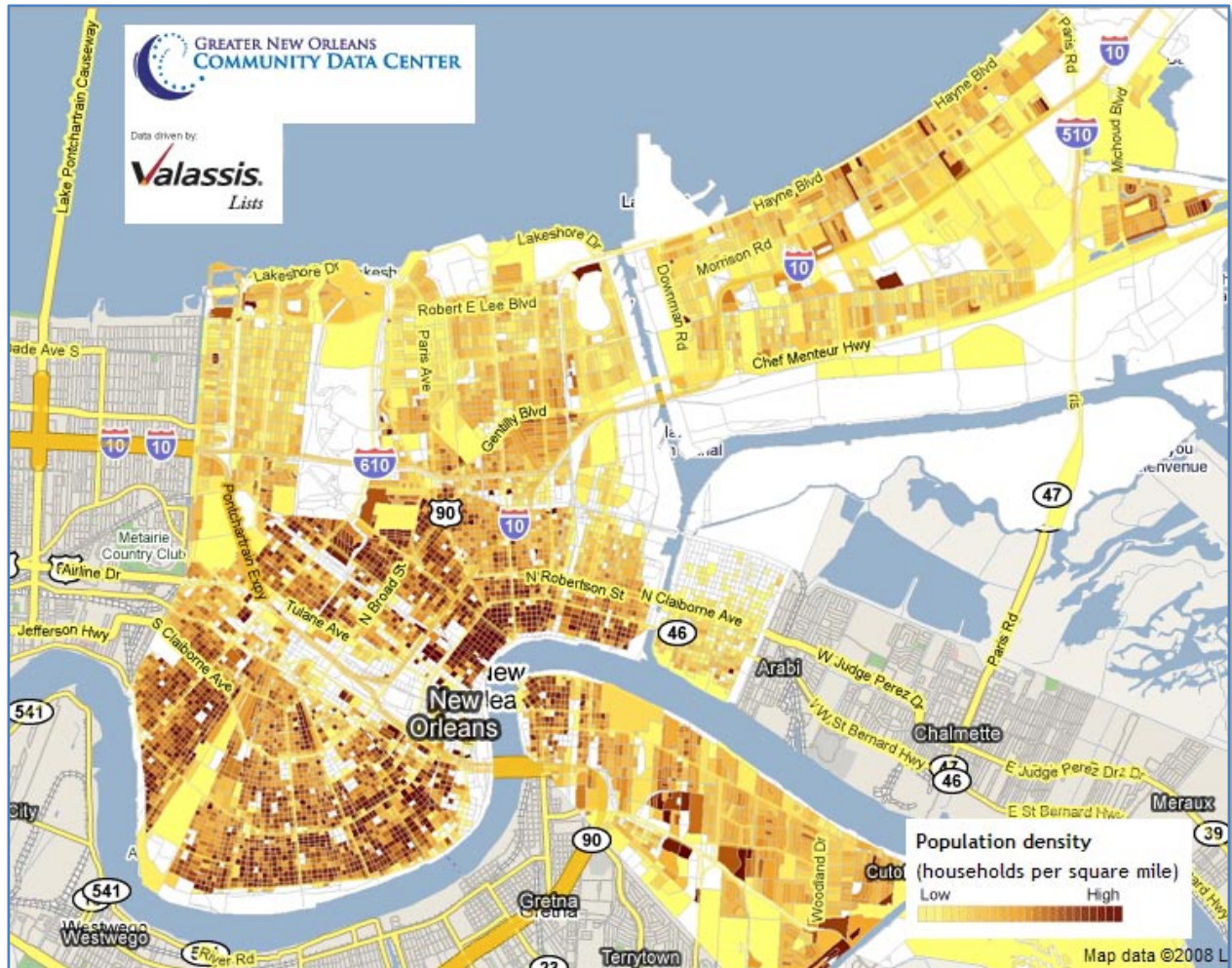
- **Policy Suggestions:**

- Install a Primary Care Clinic in rooms at one of the Universities in **Gentilly**: UNO, Southern, or Dillard. This will be a cost-effective means of providing health care quickly.
- Install another Primary Care Clinic in **Village de l'Est**, to anchor the eastern edge of the area.



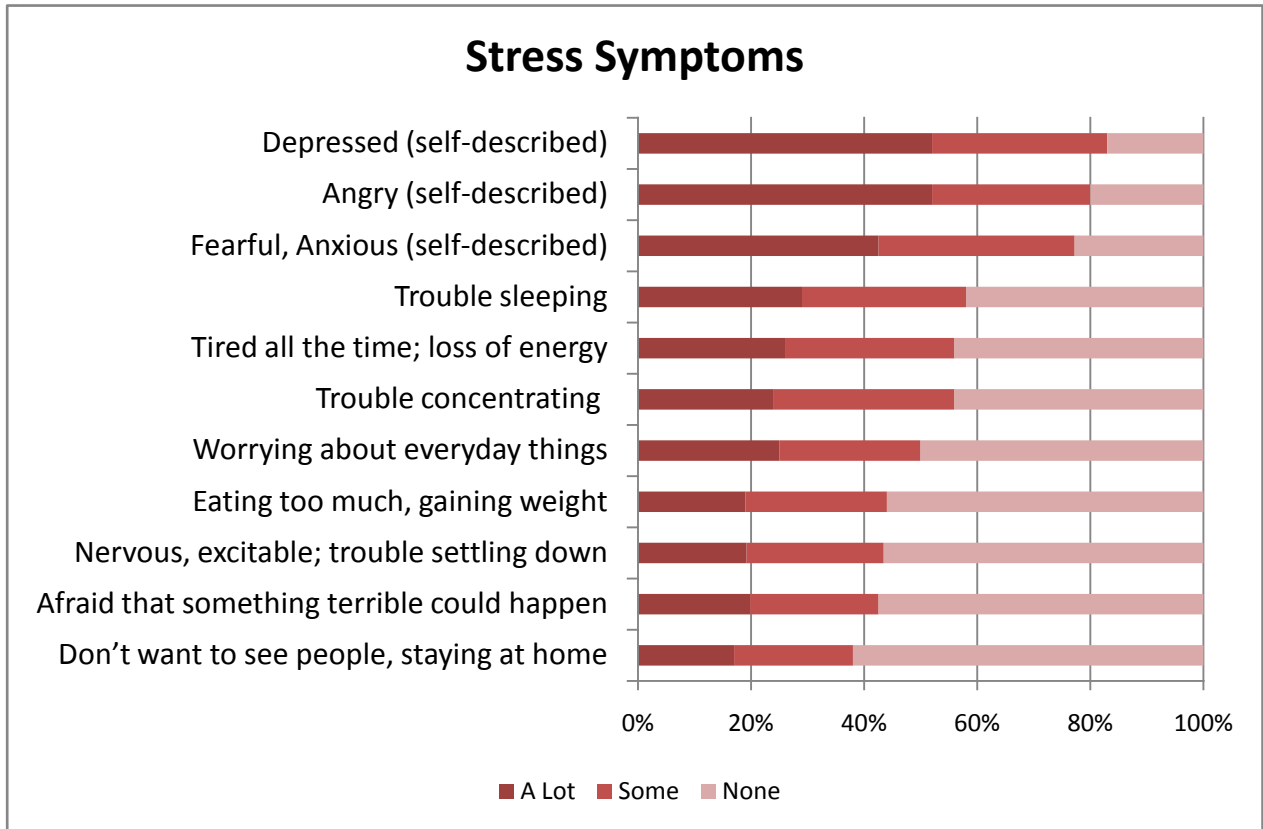
Source of data on Medical Facilities: Greater New Orleans Community Data Center, www.gnocdc.org

- Indeed, these are some of the **same areas that are re-populating more slowly**, as indicated by residential addresses actively receiving mail in February 2008. Lack of medical facilities may be one factor that is keeping people away.

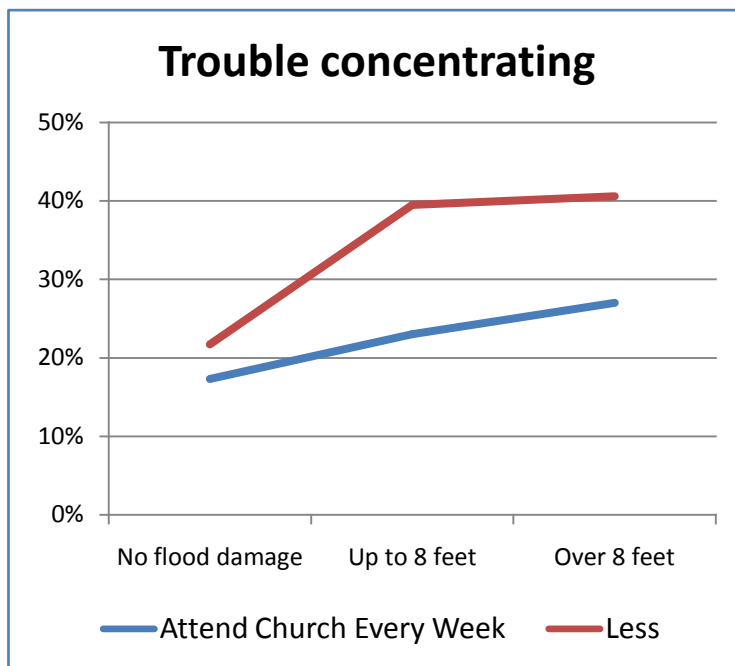
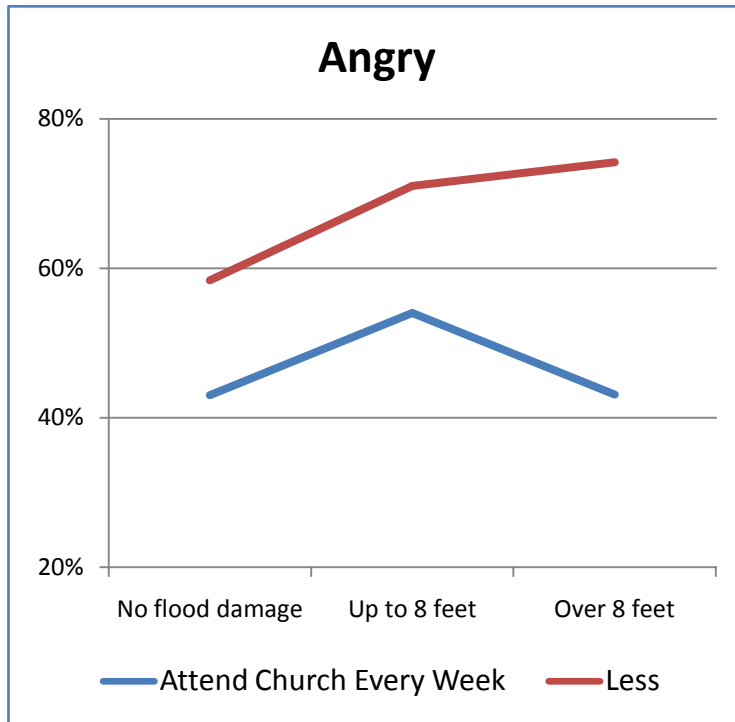


Source of Repopulation data: Greater New Orleans Community Data Center, www.gnocdc.org

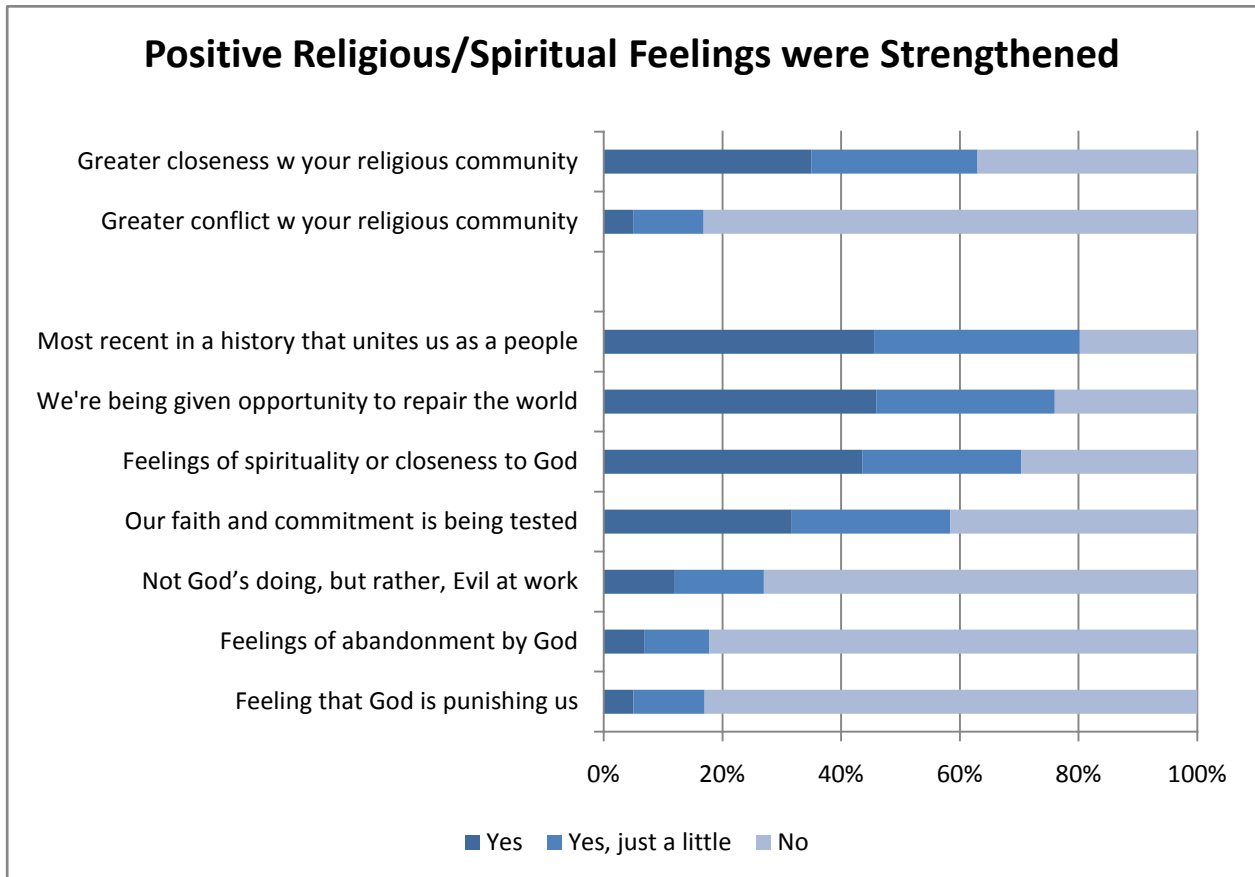
- **People have a lot of Stress**



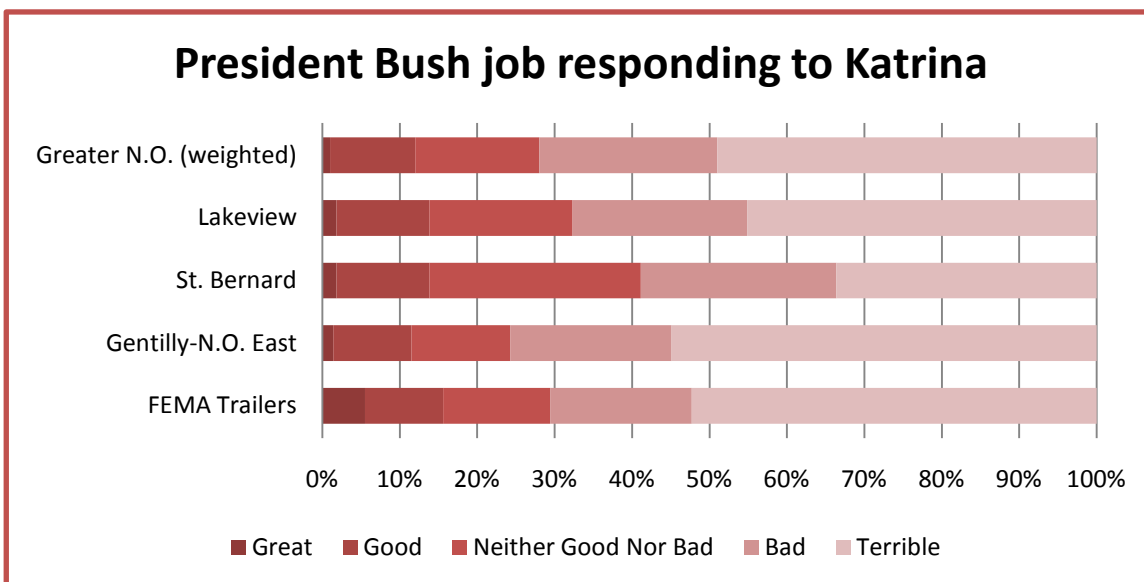
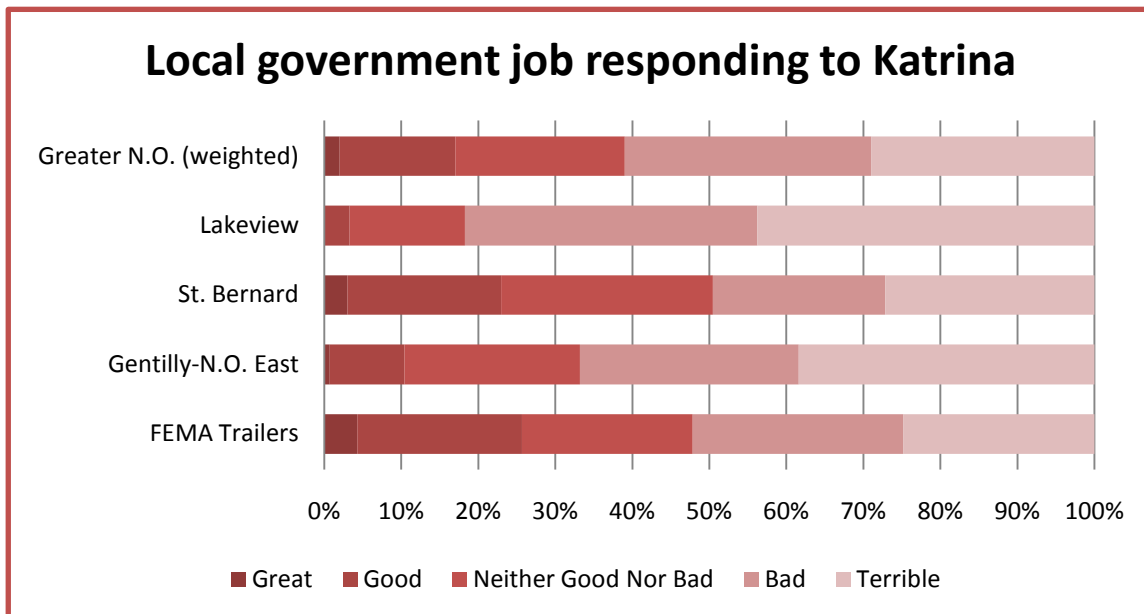
- **Social Support Reduces Stress:** Church Attendance is the most effective form of social support we have found in our data.



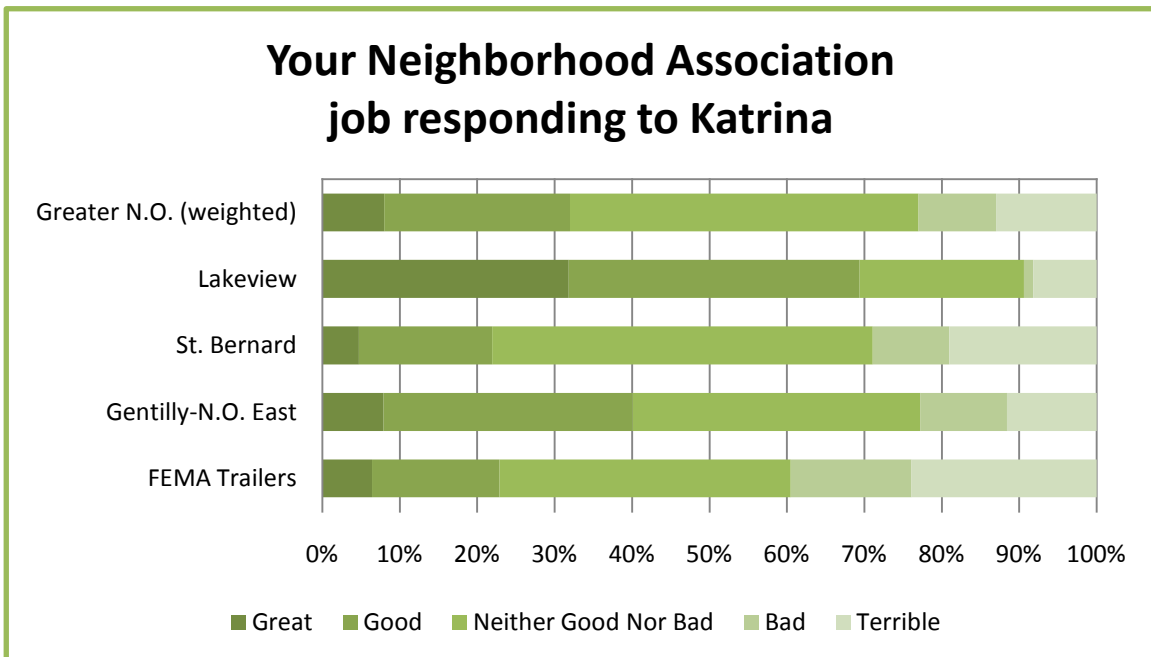
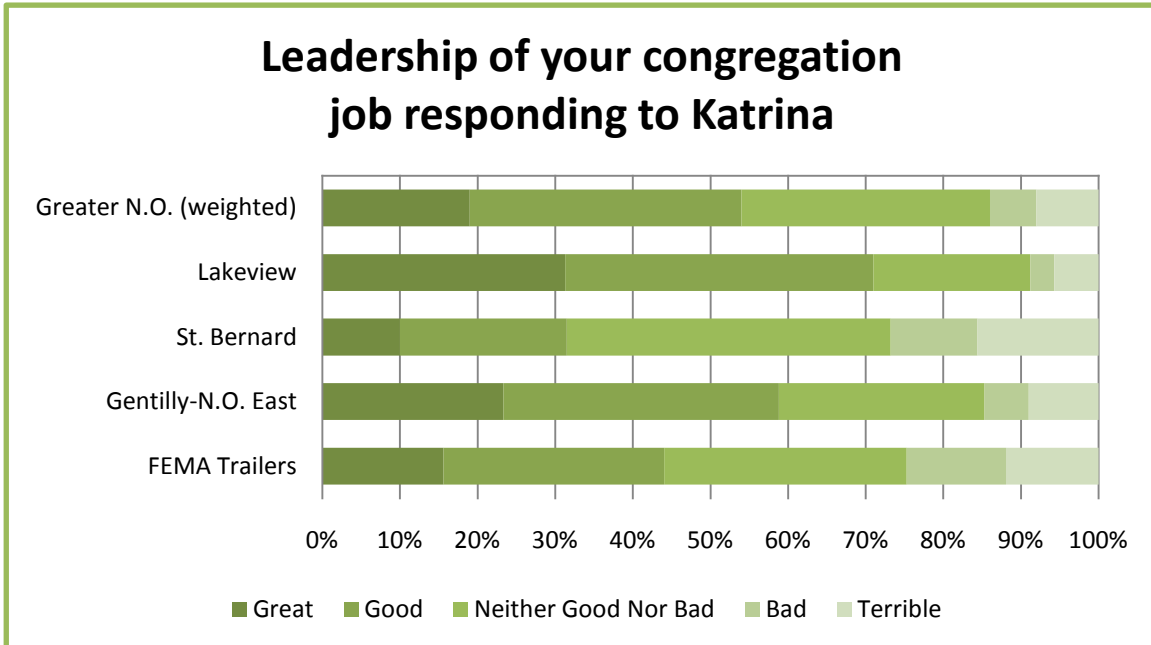
- People have derived mostly warm and **supportive feelings from their faith**. They *do not* feel they are being punished.



- People feel that **all levels of Government did a Bad Job** responding to the Hurricane – regardless of how much damage their own community sustained.




- People feel that **Faith-Based and Community Organizations did a good Job** responding to the Hurricane – again, regardless of how much damage their own community sustained.



- **Some communities have begun meeting** and comparing notes on Recovery Strategies.
 - Vietnamese and Jewish Community Leaders meeting below.
 - *Item:* It's not all "culture." Lots of it is *strategy and planning* that others can adapt.



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Jewish Family Service Launches Interest Free Loans



Where can members of the Jewish community find financial assistance for their businesses or to help rebuild their homes?

One place is the **Jewish Family Service Interest-Free Loan Program**, designed to help individuals, families, and businesses get past the financial hurdles that are preventing them from moving forward in their recovery.

The New Orleans Jewish Community Financial Recovery Plan, administered by the Jewish Family Service Financial Aid Center is ready to extend a helping hand to those in temporary financial crisis due to the devastation of Hurricane Katrina and its aftermath.

Funds for this program were made available to Jewish residents of our community who were affected by the storm through the generosity of donors. Specifically, the funds are intended "to lessen the financial hardships facing families and businesses due to the hurricane."

The program, open to Jewish residents of New Orleans, will provide funding in two areas:

- Home loans, not to exceed \$15,000 per household, will be available to assist in the restoration and/or repair of damaged residences.
- Business loans, not to exceed \$15,000 per business, will be available to Jewish-owned businesses in the greater New Orleans area for restoration of offices, equipment replacement, business start-up and/or operating capital.