

## **NPN/LSU Neighborhood Association Survey, 2009-2010**

# **Neighborhoods Partnership Network / LSU Survey of New Orleans Neighborhood Associations, 2009-2010 (N=66 completed interviews)**

**Interim Report by  
Frederick Weil, LSU Sociology  
September 16, 2010**

As of September 16, 2010, there were 66 completed responses to the survey:

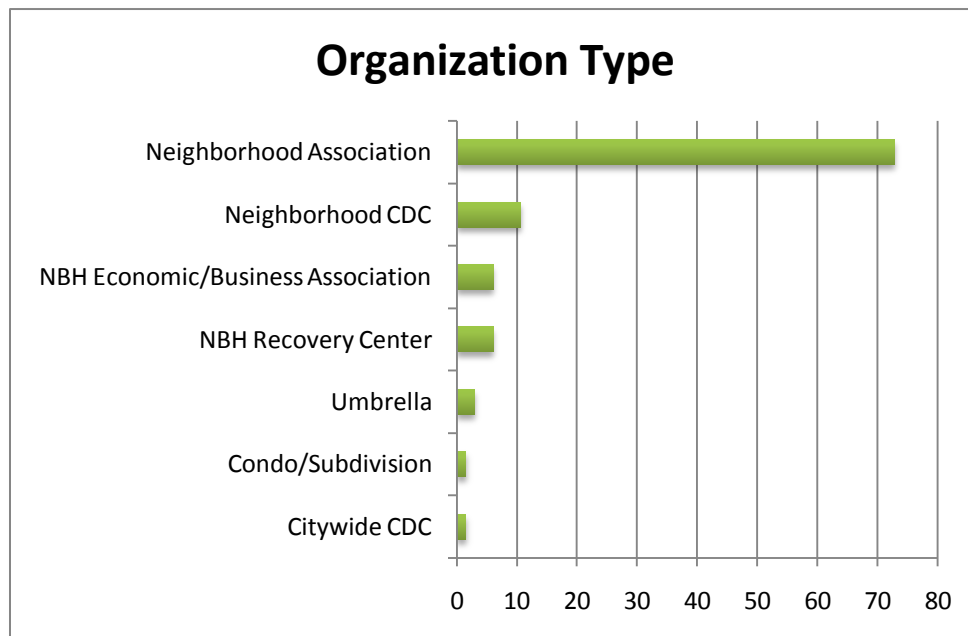
appapp.org....DBA Need-Heed	Hollygrove Neighbors
Audubon Area Zoning Association	Irish Channel Neighborhood Organization
Bocage Civic Association	Kenilworth Civic and Improvement Association
Broadmoor Improvement Association	Kingswood Homeowners Association
Bunny Friend Neighborhood Association	Lafitte Resident Council
Bywater Neighborhood Assn.	Lake Willow Homeowners Association
Carrollton/Riverbend Neighborhood Association	Lakeshore Property Owners' Association
Central Carrollton Association	Lakeview Civic Improvement Association
Central City Partnership	Lower 9th Ward NENA
Central City Renaissance Alliance	lowernine.org
Claiborne-University Neighborhood Association	Maple Area Residents, Inc.
Coliseum Square Association	Melia Subdivision
Common Ground Relief, Inc.	Mid-City Neighborhood Organization
DeSaix Area Neighborhood Association	Milneburg Neighborhood Association
Desire Street Ministries/CDC 58:12	Mirabeau Gardens Neighborhood Association
Donner Estates Homeowner's Association	MQVN Community Development Corporation
Downtown Neighborhoods Improvement Association	NHS
ENONAC	North Rampart Main Street, Inc.
Faubourg Delachaise Neighborhood Association	Oak Park Civic Association
Faubourg Marengo Neighborhood Association	Old Algiers Main Street Corporation
Faubourg Marigny Improvement Association	Operation S.O.W. Inc.
Faubourg Saint John Neighborhood Association	Oretha Castle Haley Boulevard Merchants & Business Assn & Main Street
Faubourg St. Roch Neighborhood Association	Paris Oaks/Bayou Vista
Filmore Gardens Neighborhood Association	Parkview St. John Homeowners Association
Freret Market	Phoenix of New Orleans, Inc
Gentilly Civic Improvement Association	Pontilly Neighborhood Association
Gentilly Heights East Neighborhood Association (GHENA)	Rosedale Subdivision
Gentilly Heights/Vascoville Neighborhood Watch	Seabrook Neighborhood Association
Gentilly Sugar Hill Neighborhood Association	StateStreetDrive.com
Gentilly Terrace and Gardens Improvement Association	Trinity Christian Community
Gert Town Enterprise Economic Redevelopment	Vieux Carre Property Owners, Residents, and Associates
Gert Town Revival Initiative	Vista Park Civic and Improvement Association
Hoffman Triangle Neighborhood Association	West Barrington Neighborhood Association

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### Organization Types

Most of the responding organizations are Neighborhood Associations, which were the primary target of the survey. In addition, there are some Neighborhood or city-wide Community Development Corporations (CDC's), Recovery Centers, Economic/Business Associations, Umbrella organizations, and Condo/Subdivision Associations.

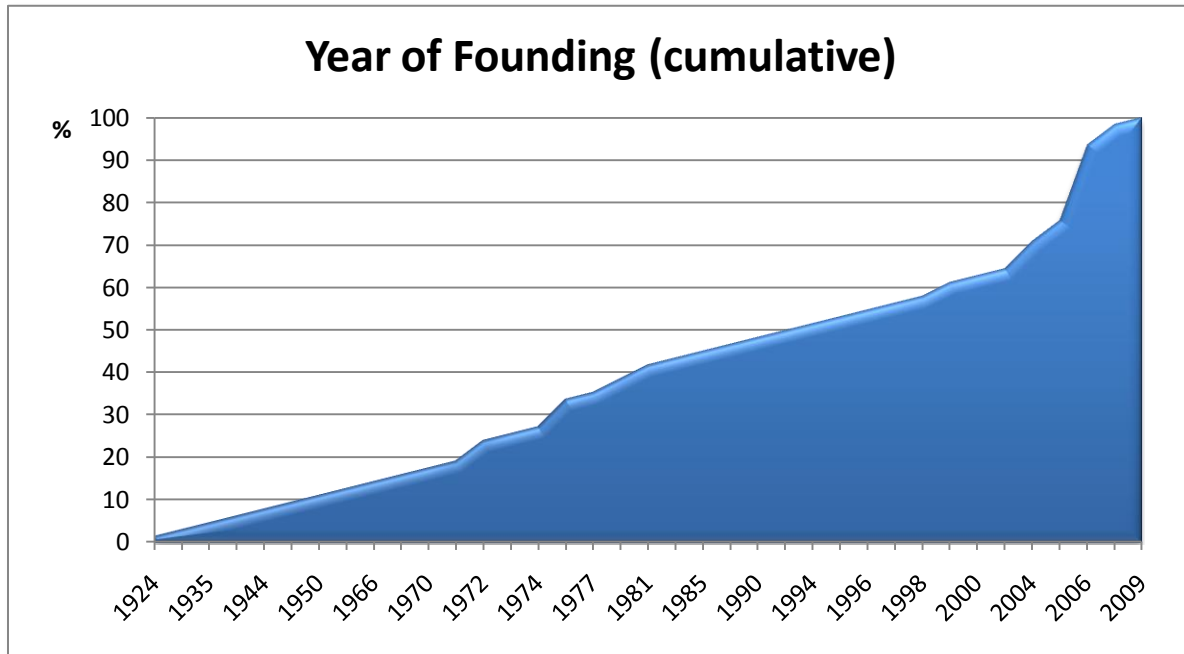
Neighborhood Association	48
Neighborhood CDC	7
NBH Recovery Center	4
NBH Economic/Business Association	4
Umbrella	2
Citywide CDC	1
Condo/Subdivision	1



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### Organization Age

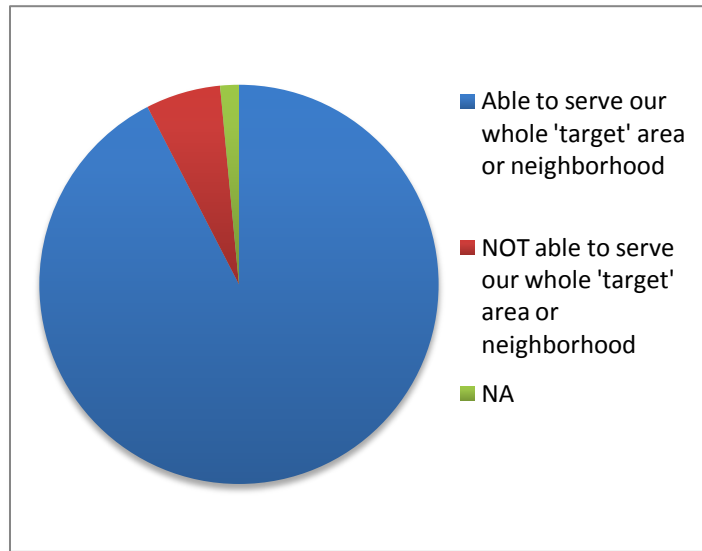
Roughly two-thirds of the organizations were in existence prior to Katrina, but there was a burst of organizational founding after the storm. The oldest of the neighborhood associations is the Lakeview Civic Improvement Association, founded in 1924.



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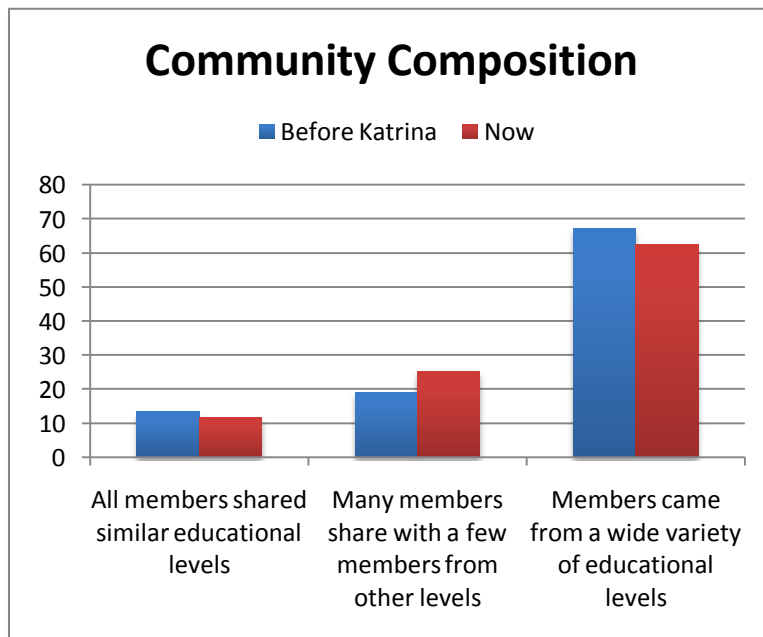
## Geographical Capacity

Almost all of the organizations feel they are able to serve their whole district area.



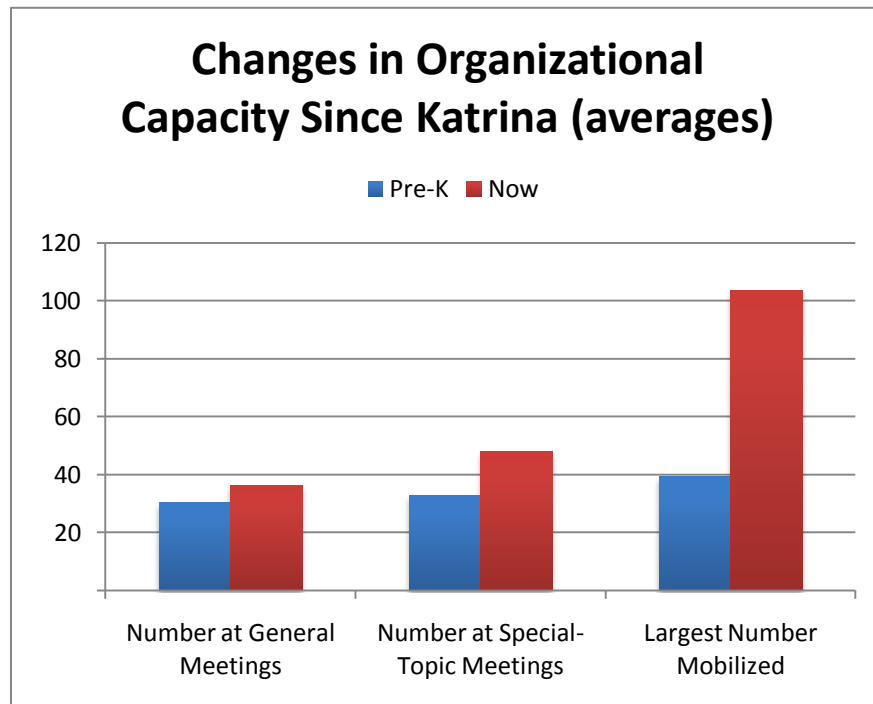
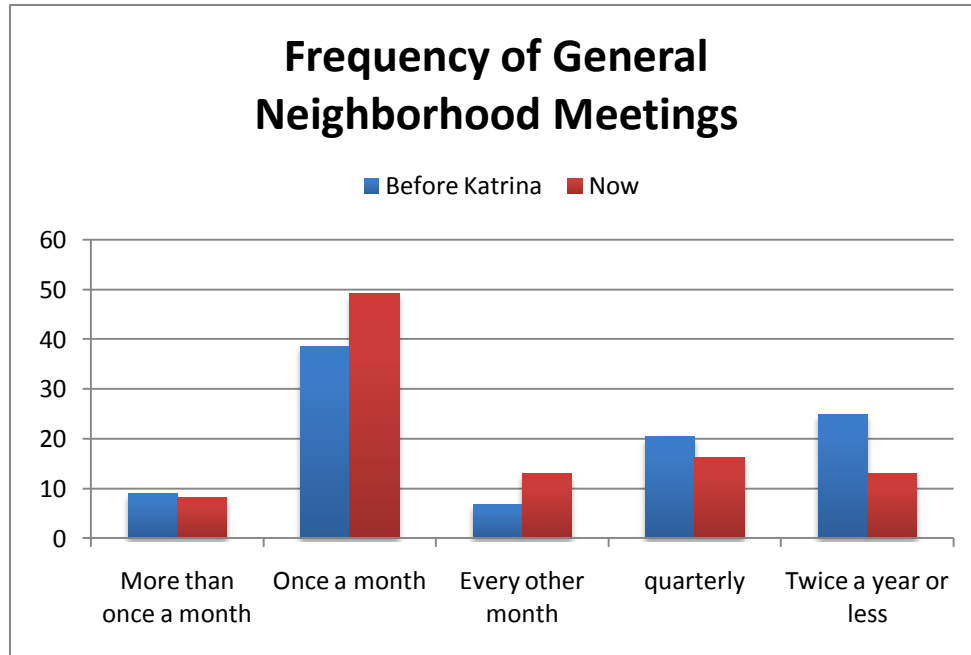
## Community Composition

And most of the organizations feel their neighborhoods' social composition has remained about the same since Katrina.



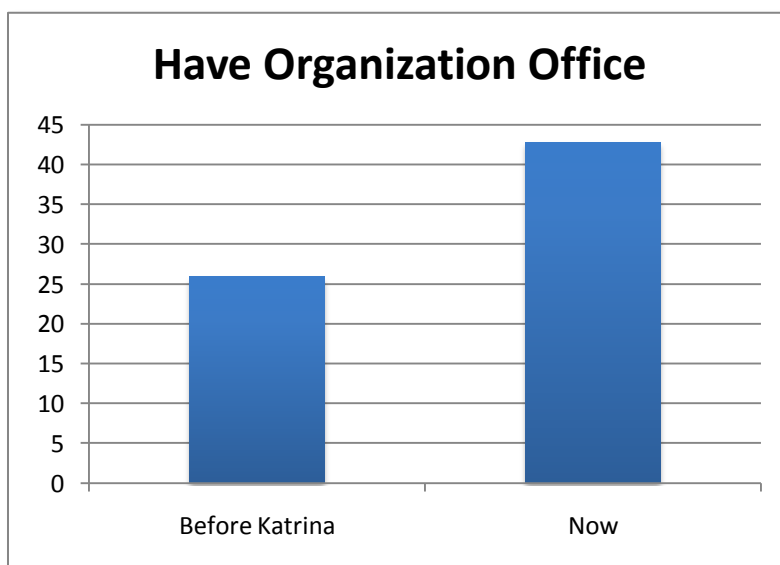
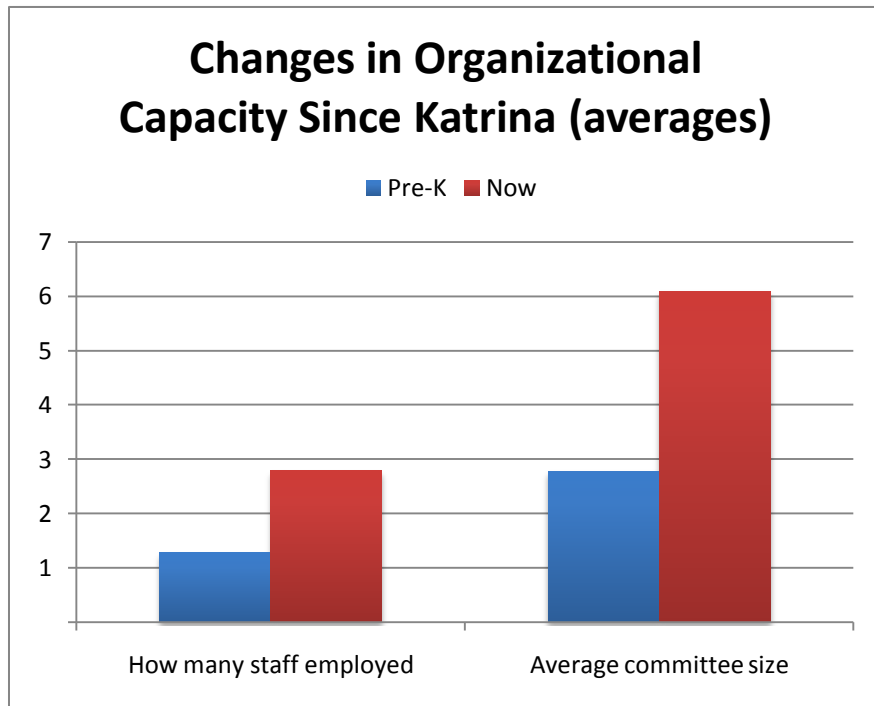
**Organizational Activity**

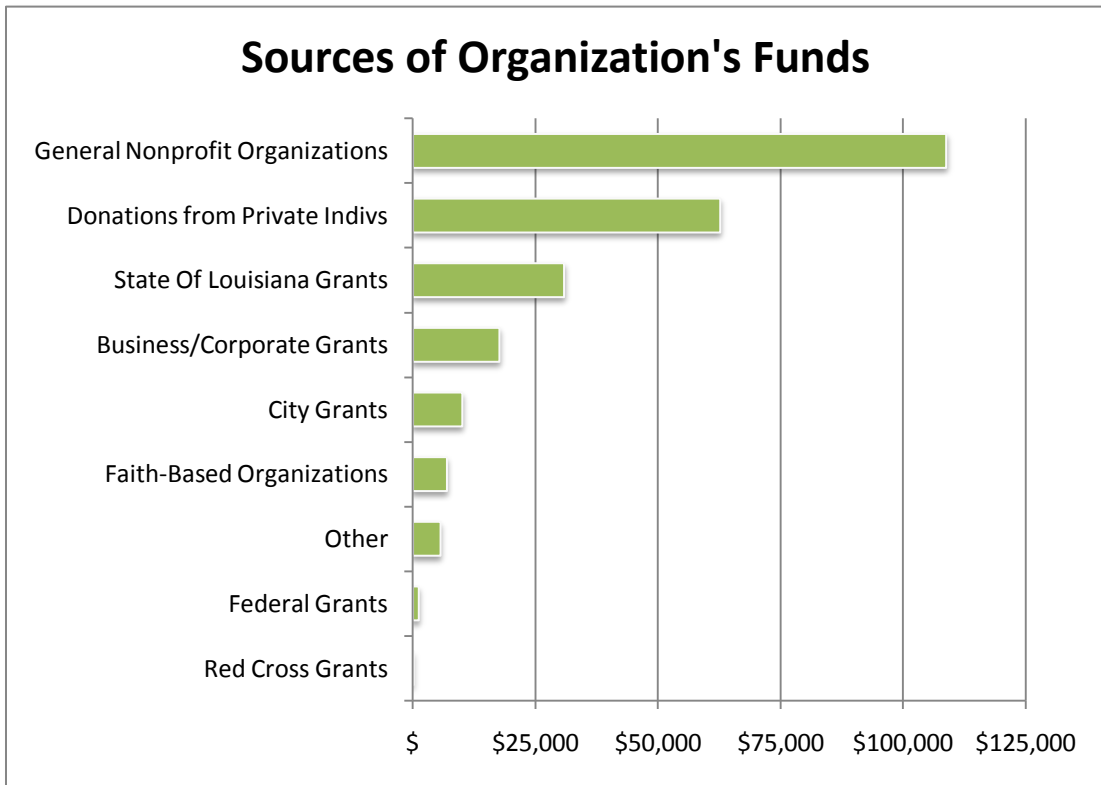
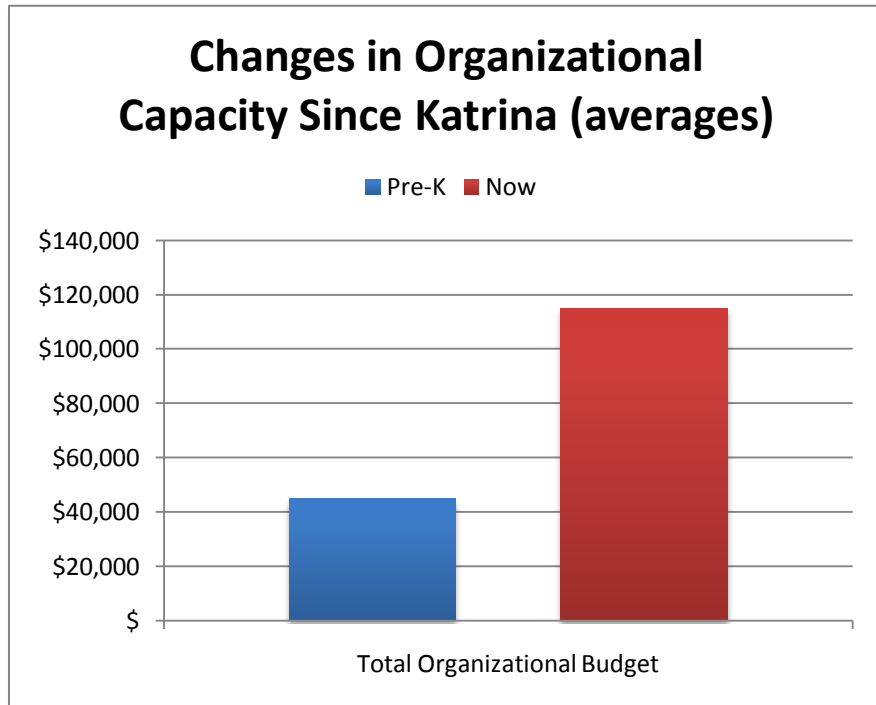
Generally, neighborhood associations have somewhat more active memberships since Katrina, and it has become easier to mobilize residents.



**Organizational Capacity**

Neighborhood associations have greater organizational capacity since Katrina: more staff, larger committees, organizational offices, and larger budgets. Interestingly, funding tends to come more heavily from foundation and private sources, more than government, and local/state government more than federal. Resident dues and fund-raisers are a significant source of funds (see appendix chart). Faith-based organizations are not a major source of funding – though, as shown below, they are a major source of volunteer labor.

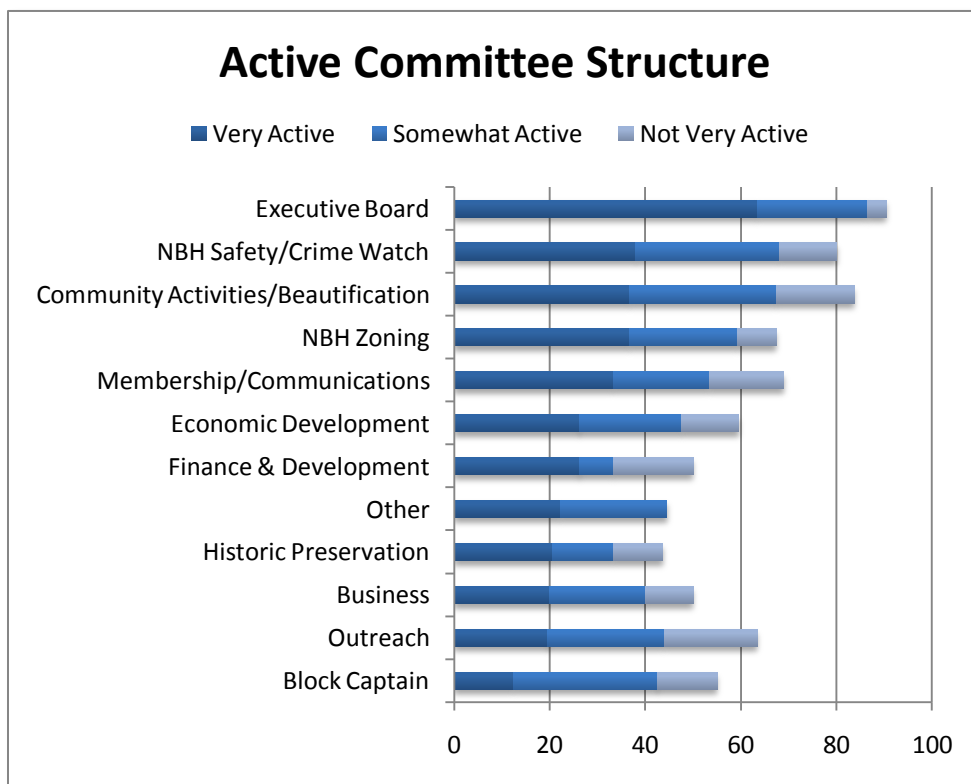
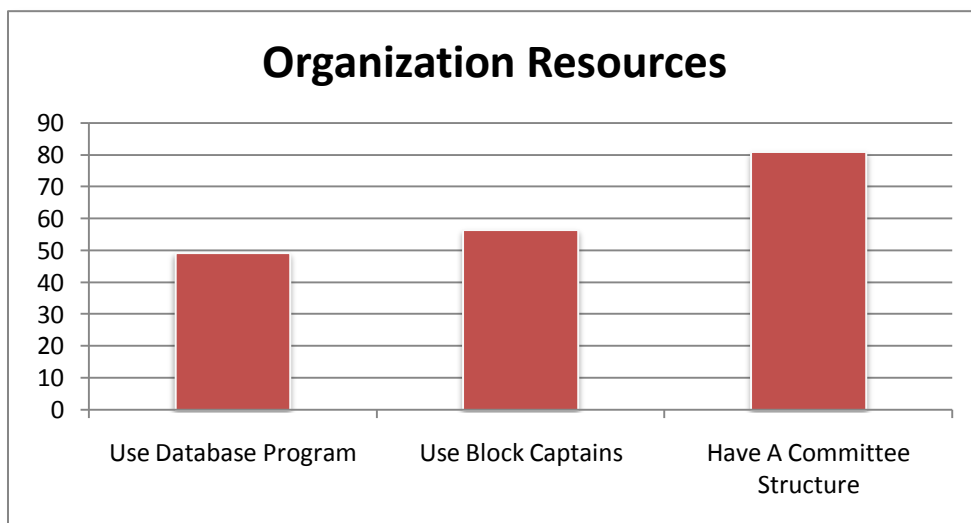




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## Organizational Resources

The most prevalent organizational resource is a committee structure. About half of the organizations also use computer database programs and have a system of block captains. However, the block captain system may be more in name than in practice, since their oversight committees are the least active. The most active committees, besides executive boards, are for safety, beautification, zoning, and membership. Development, business, and outreach committees tend to be less active.

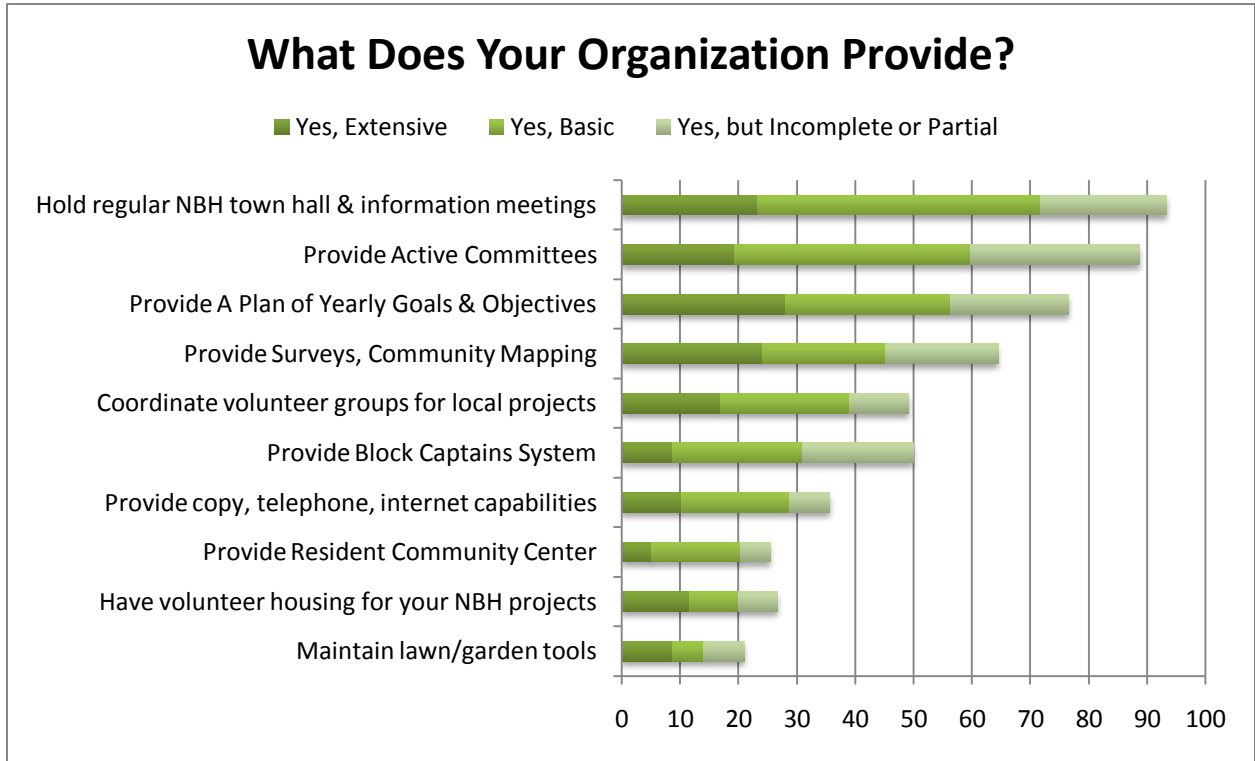


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## Organizational Services

Neighborhood associations tend to provide more informational and partnering services, than direct delivery of services, and the information tends to be more general than specialized. Thus, organizations send emails and produce newsletters and websites, but they don't provide much case management or medical or tax advising. They hold regular community meetings, but they tend not to provide community centers, tools or office equipment or housing for volunteers. And they coordinate information with city agencies, especially about blight, crime, and street/infrastructure conditions; but they more seldom pursue law/code enforcement or external investment.

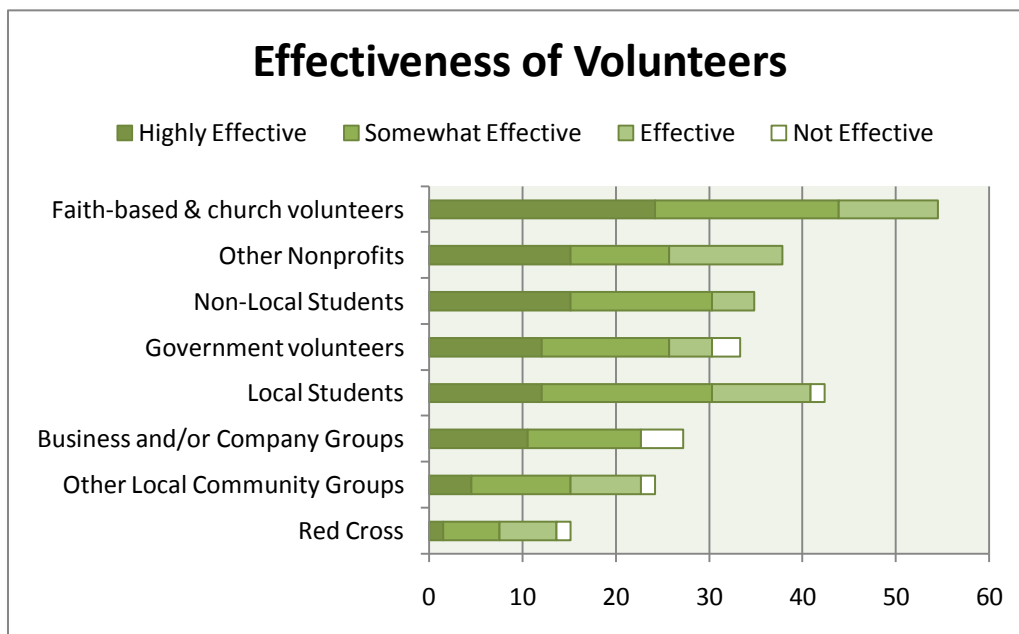
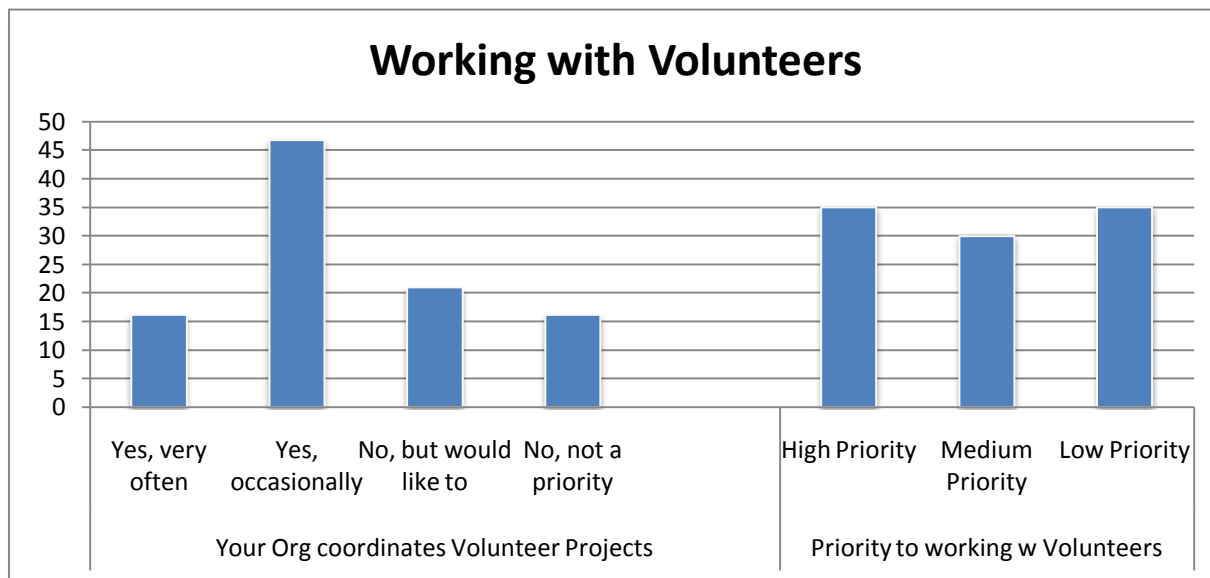


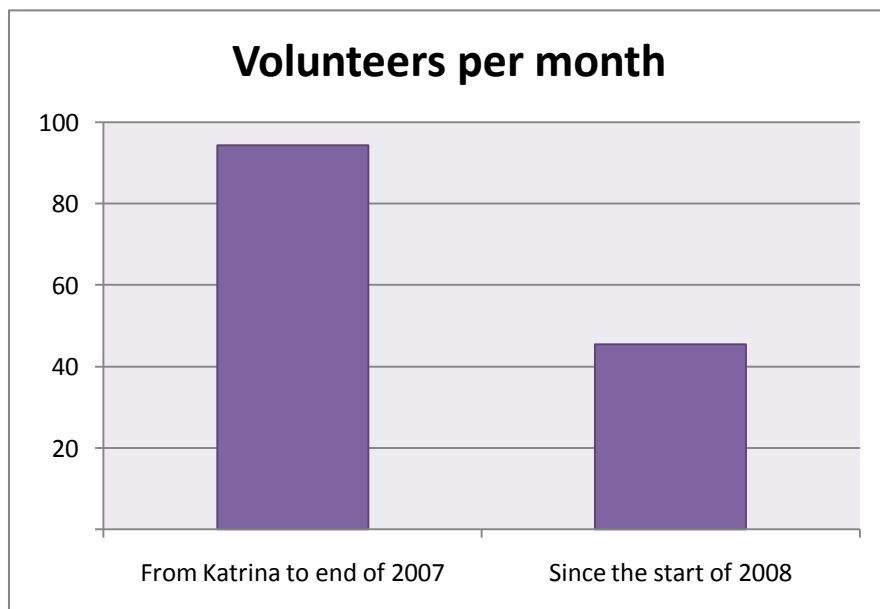
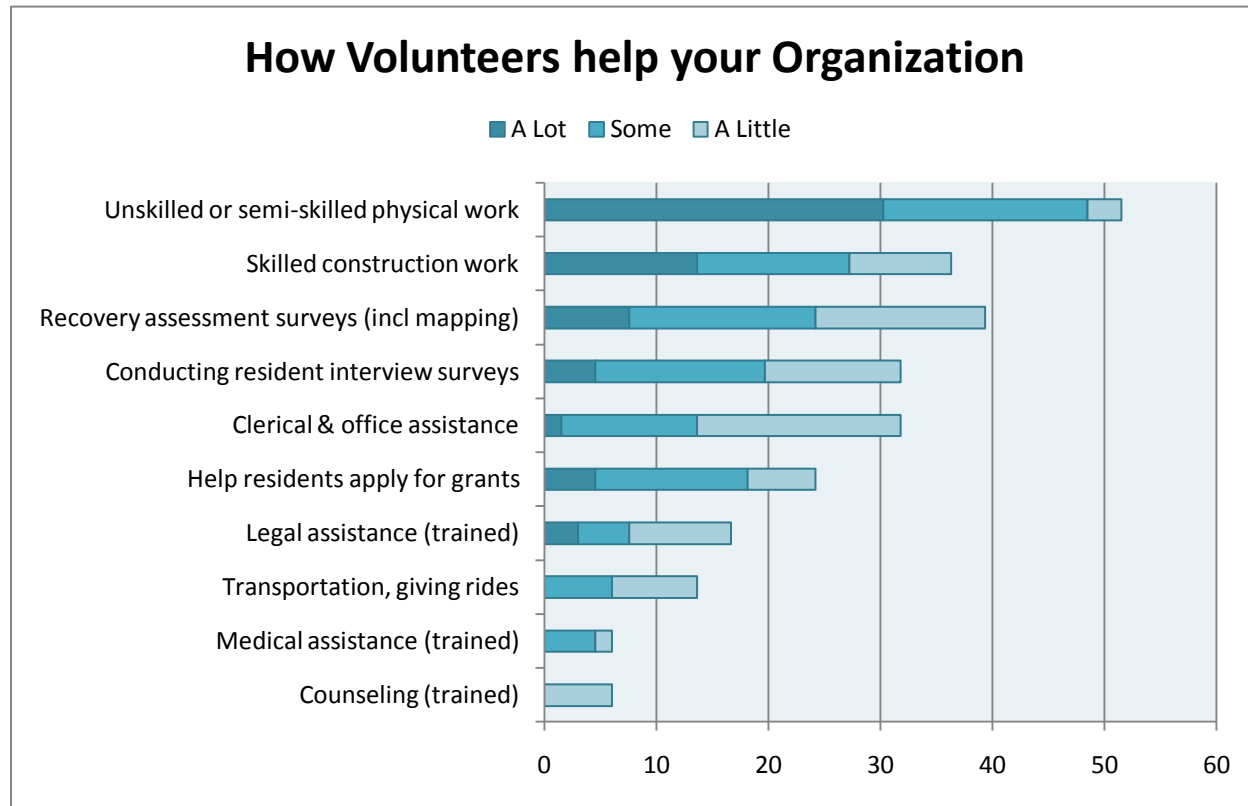




**Use of Volunteers**

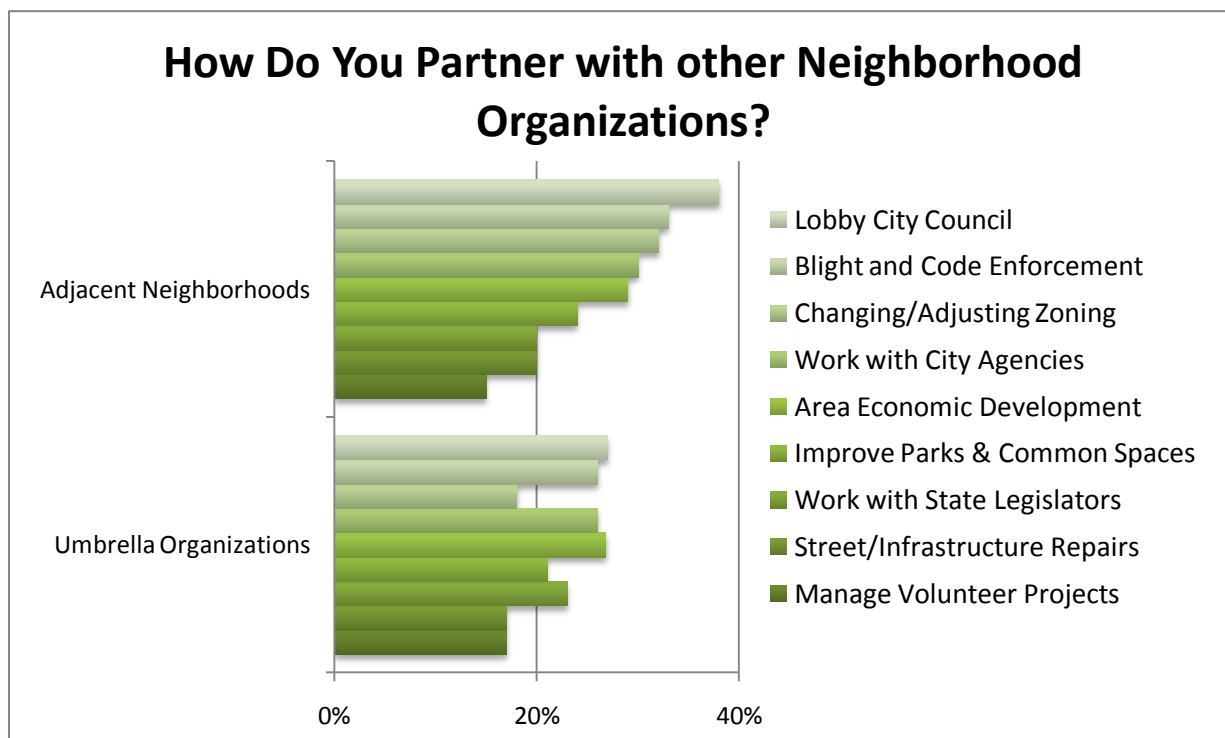
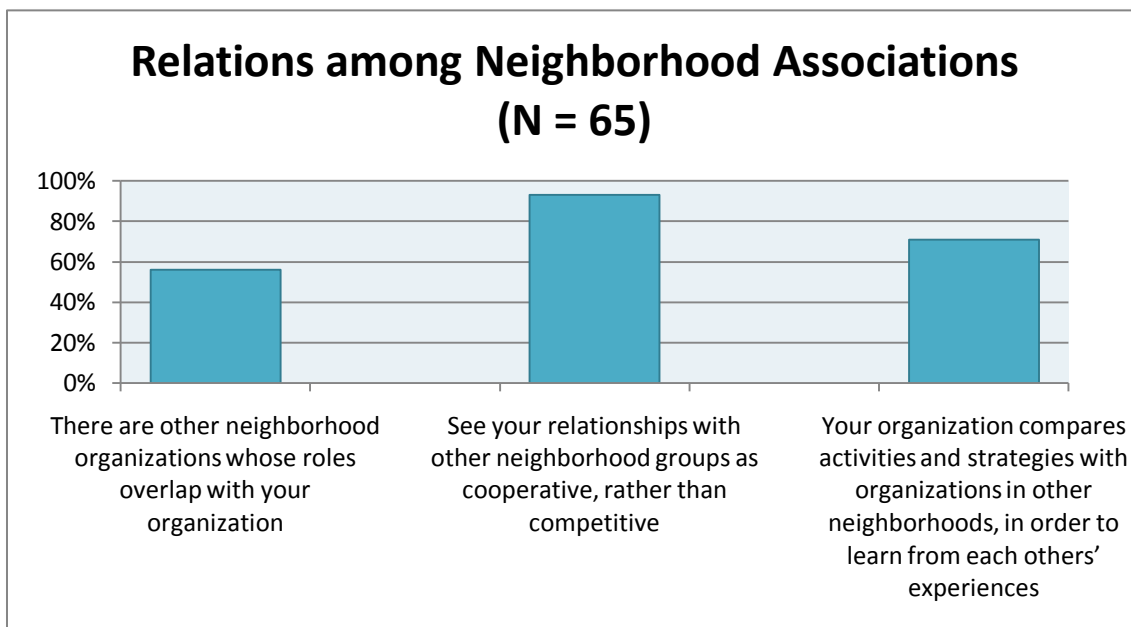
Although post-Katrina New Orleans has become well known for its extensive use of volunteer services, in fact, neighborhood associations have only sought or used volunteers to a moderate extent. Organizations are fairly evenly divided as to the priority they put on working with volunteers. Possibly, this is because they do not find volunteer labor to be universally useful or of high quality. Faith-based volunteers are judged to be highly effective; others, somewhat mixed. And volunteers tend to have only moderate to low skills: very few have brought professional training in any field. In any event, usage of volunteer labor fell off considerably after the first couple years of recovery.





**Relations among Neighborhood Associations**

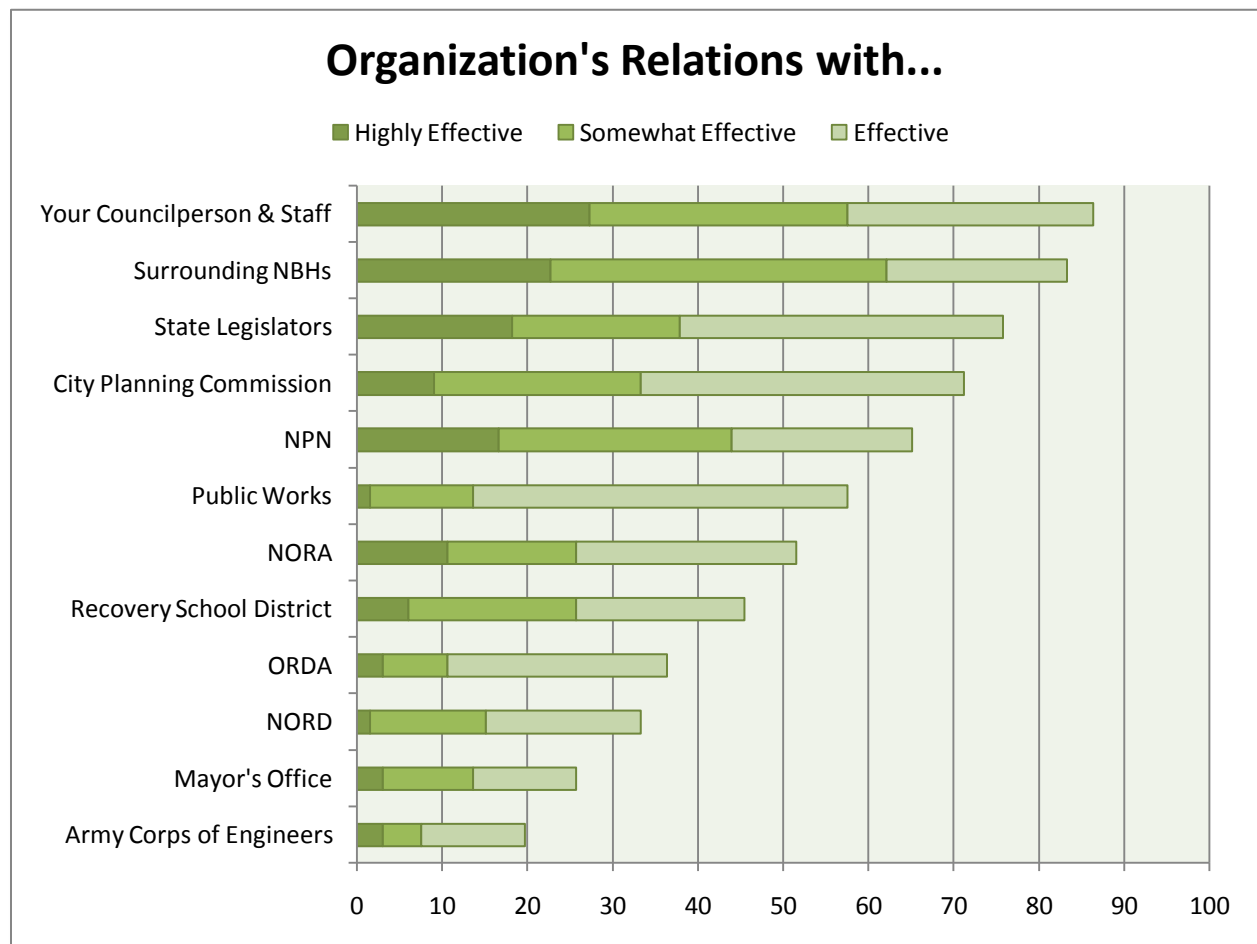
In contrast to their pre-storm reputation for beggar-thy-neighbor competition for resources and inter-communal conflict, post-Katrina New Orleans neighborhood associations take a notably cooperative view of their neighbors. Roughly 90 percent say their relations are cooperative rather than conflictual; and they list many areas in which they work together – especially in relations with city agencies.



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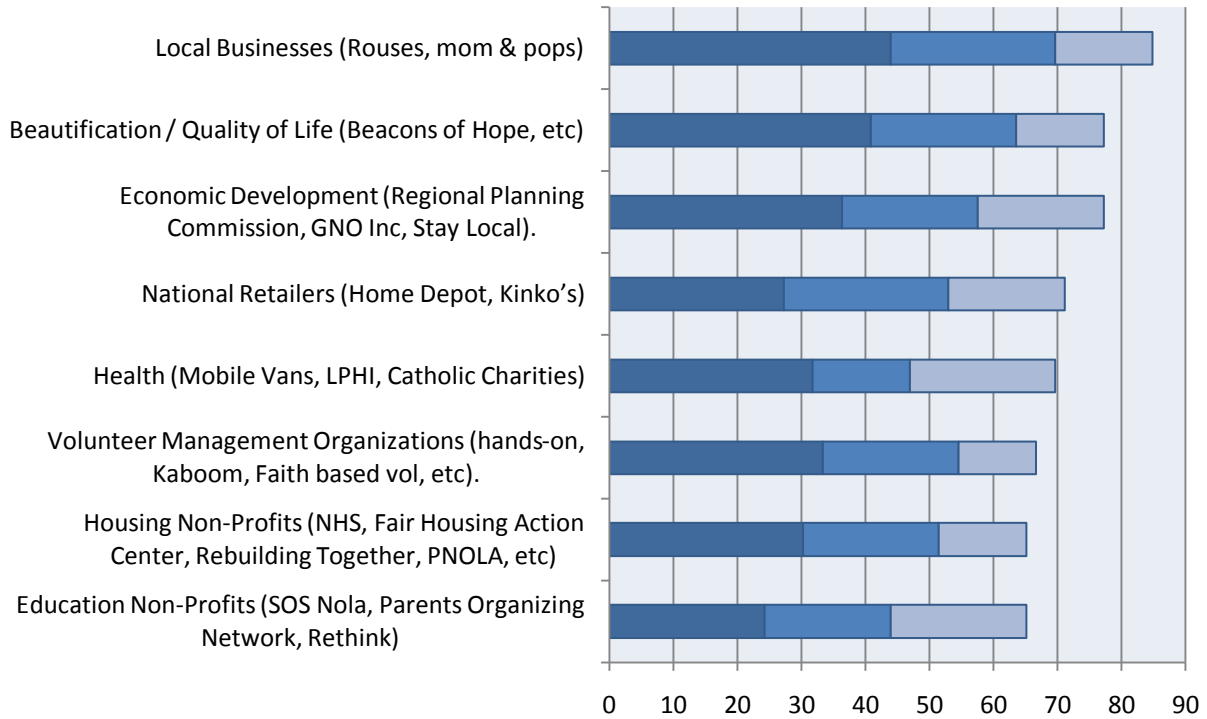
### Relations with Other Partners

Organizations' relations with other partners and agencies in Greater New Orleans is quite mixed. They rate as effective their relations with their own government representatives, their neighboring organizations, and NPN. They rate city agencies, and especially the mayor's office and the Army Corps of Engineers as ineffective. (To be sure, most survey responses were collected during the Nagin administration, so there may be improvement under Mayor Landrieu.) Neighborhood associations would *like to* partner with many organizations, especially business groups and major nonprofits and service providers.



## Who Would Be Helpful Partner for You?

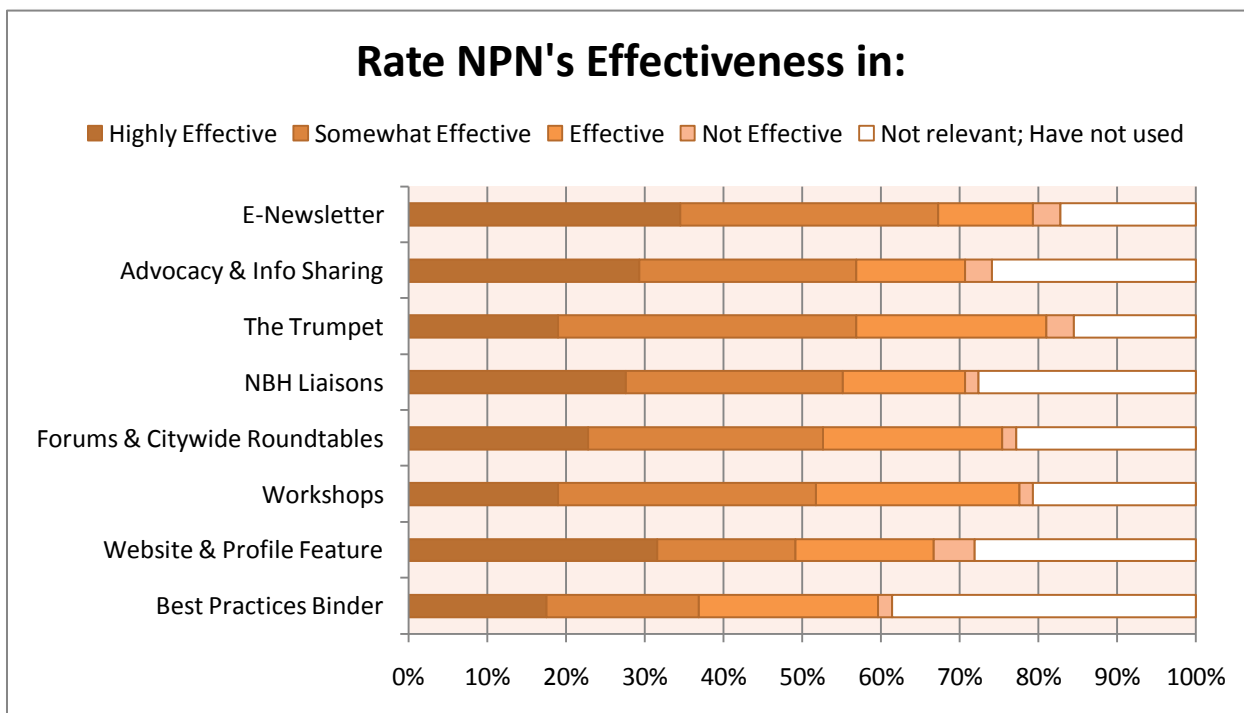
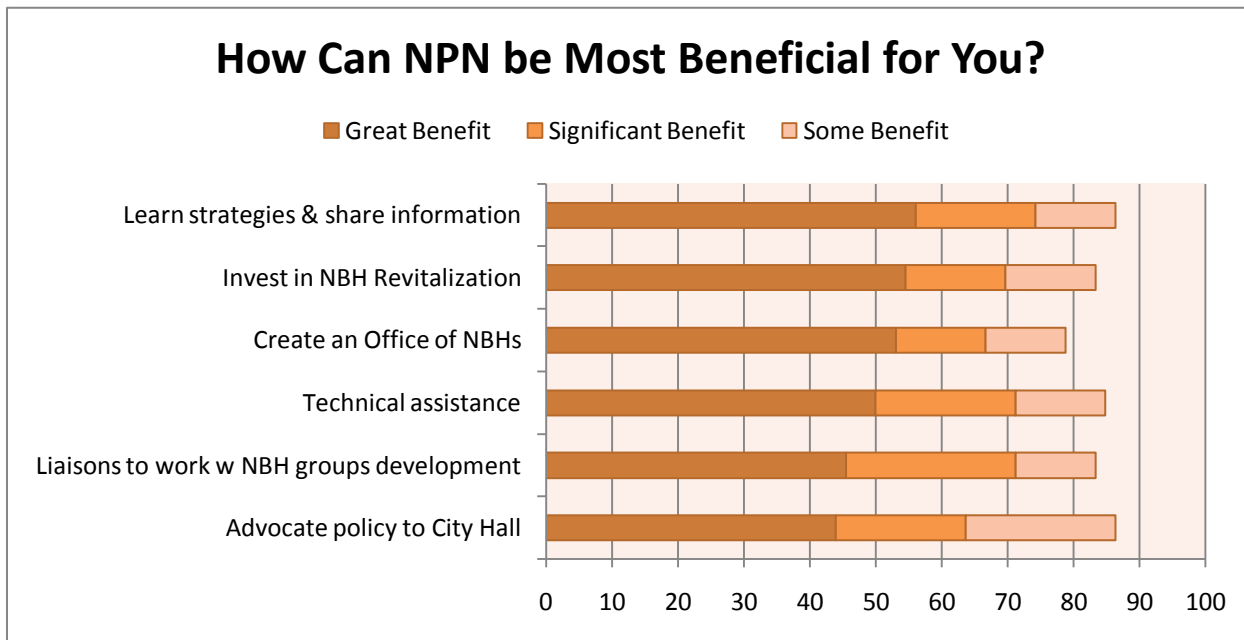
■ Very Helpful ■ Helpful ■ Somewhat Helpful



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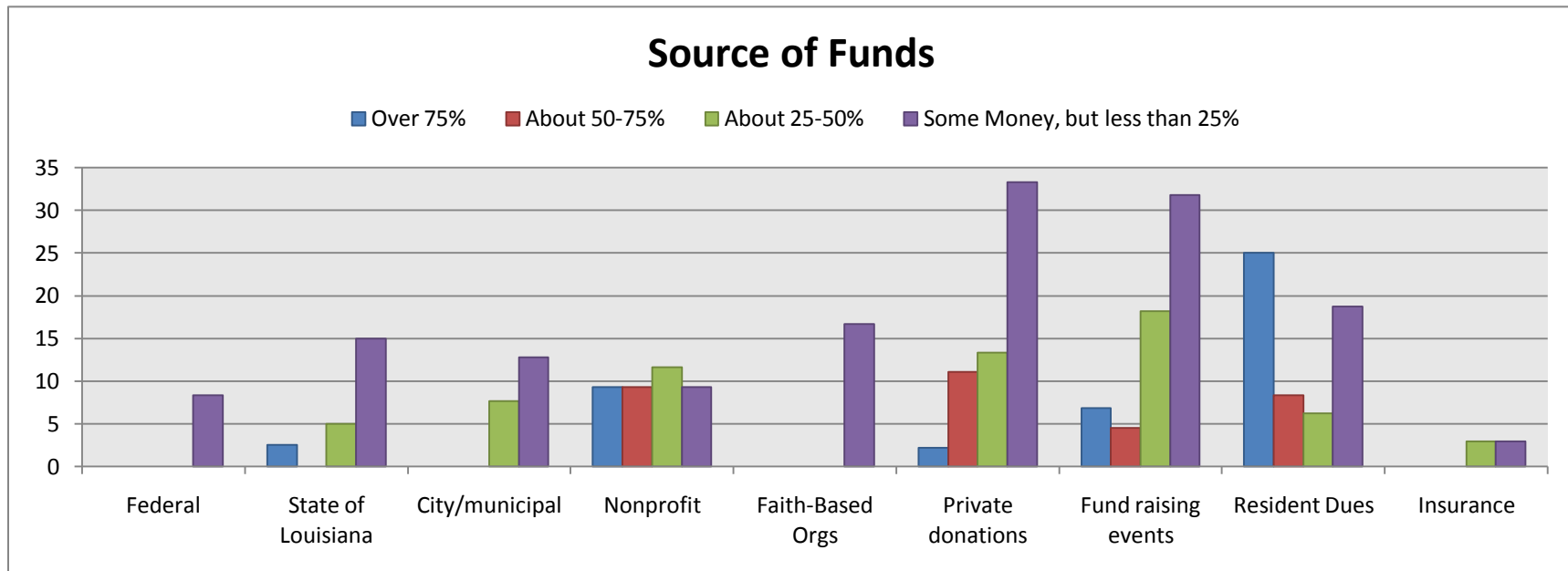
## Views of NPN

Neighborhood associations generally have a positive view of the Neighborhoods Partnership Network, and the ratings do not vary dramatically across the different services NPN provides.



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**NPN/LSU Neighborhood Association Survey, 2009-2010 – Appendix**

