Surveys of the Jewish and General Communities of Greater New Orleans since Hurricane Katrina

Conducted June-December, 2006

Preliminary Findings

Jewish Community: N = 707. Representative sample
General Community*: N=436. Not Representative

*Includes:
Orleans (with a few Jefferson), N=221
St. Bernard, N=166
St. Tammany, N=49

Frederick Weil, LSU
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Most people in the samples experienced a good deal of damage, and had at least some flooding.

Damage to Residence & Flooding

- Major damage to Residence, Unsalvageable
- Some damage
- Little or No Damage
- More than 4 feet of Flooding
- Up to 4 feet
- No Flooding

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Yet most people in these samples have resources to repair or replace at least some of the damage.
The money for repair has come mostly from insurance or people’s own money. Government programs have also helped. Jews also received (mostly nominal) help from their community.
Most people in the samples feel their household has recovered, and that their neighborhood is part-way recovered. They are much more worried about their city’s recovery.
People feel their own community leaders did a very good job responding to the Hurricane and its aftermath … but that government – at all levels – did a bad job.
What Effect did Storm Damage have on Stress?
People whose Houses were Damaged Suffer more Stress

Nervous; Trouble Settling Down
[Jewish Sample]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Damage Level</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Little or No Damage to Residence</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some physical damage</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Major damage, Unsalvageable</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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The Same is True for People Whose Houses were Flooded

Nervous; Trouble Settling Down [Jewish Sample]

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The Same Pattern is Repeated for Different Symptoms of Stress:

**Trouble concentrating** [Jewish sample]
The Same Pattern is Repeated for Different Symptoms of Stress:

Trouble Sleeping [Jewish sample]
The Same Pattern is Repeated for Different Symptoms of Stress:

**Tired all the time; loss of energy** [Jewish sample]
Going to Church or Synagogue Reduces or Removes this Stress.
This is the only type of social support that consistently helps.

Trouble concentrating
[Jewish Sample]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Damage Level</th>
<th>Attend Synagogue Weekly</th>
<th>A few times per year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No flood damage</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Up to 4 feet</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Over 4 feet</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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The Same Pattern is Repeated for Different Symptoms of Stress:

**Trouble concentrating** [Jewish sample]

- [Graph 1: Trouble concentrating vs. Residence Damage]
  - Little Damage to Residence
  - Some physical damage
  - Major damage, Unsalvageable
  - Green: Attend Synagogue Weekly
  - Red: A few times per year

- [Graph 2: Trouble concentrating vs. Flood Damage]
  - No flood damage
  - Up to 4 feet
  - Over 4 feet
  - Green: Attend Synagogue Weekly
  - Red: A few times per year

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The Same Pattern is Repeated for Different Symptoms of Stress:

**Trouble concentrating**  [General sample]

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**General sample**

The graphs illustrate the occurrence of trouble concentrating for different levels of damage to residence and flood damage. The left graph shows a decrease in trouble concentrating as the level of damage to residence increases, with individuals attending church weekly reporting lower stress than those attending less frequently. The right graph demonstrates a similar trend for flood damage, with higher percentages of trouble concentrating as the level of flood damage increases, again with a distinction between attending church weekly and less frequently.
The Same Pattern is Repeated for Different Symptoms of Stress:

**Tired all the time; loss of energy** [Jewish sample]

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![Graph](image1.png)

![Graph](image2.png)

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The Same Pattern is Repeated for Different Symptoms of Stress:

**Tired all the time; loss of energy**  [General sample]

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The Same Pattern is Repeated for Different Symptoms of Stress:

Nervous, excitable; trouble settling down [Jewish sample]
The Same Pattern is Repeated for Different Symptoms of Stress:

Angry due to Hurricane

[General sample]

Preliminary Results: Not for Publication.
Is there a “Brain Drain” in New Orleans?

“New Orleans Threatened by 'Brain Drain,“”

“…New Orleans is losing an alarming number of young professionals in Katrina's aftermath. Many doctors, lawyers, architects, engineers and other highly educated people are gone. Some left during the storm and never came back. Others came back, but soon gave up and moved out altogether. Whether a full-blown brain drain is under way is unclear. But some suspect so, and fear the exodus will only get worse.”
There is no “Brain-Drain” in the Jewish Community. Professionals are returning in the same numbers as other members of the Jewish Community.

![Chart showing the percentage of professionals staying in New Orleans.](chart)

**Staying in New Orleans: Professions**

(Average staying = 77%)

- Physician, Psychiatrist, Dentist
- Lawyer, incl Judge & Law Degree
- Professor, Scientist, incl PhD
- Business, Finance, etc.
- All Others

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Survey and Analysis
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