



**LSU** | **Manship School of  
Mass Communication  
Reilly Center For  
Media & Public Affairs**

## **Views of Recovery Ten Years after Katrina and Rita**

A survey of residents of the City of New Orleans and  
residents throughout Louisiana

Conducted by the Public Policy Research Lab

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Special thanks to the dedicated callers of the lab.

## Reilly Center for Media and Public Affairs

The Reilly Center for Media & Public Affairs, an integral part of Louisiana State University's Manship School of Mass Communication, uses the intellectual muscle of the school's faculty to help solve practical problems and advance good government initiatives. The Reilly Center's mission is to generate thoughtful programs, dialogue, and research about mass communication and its many faceted relationships with social, economic, and political issues. Evident in everything the Center does is its commitment to strengthen and advance the Manship School's national leadership in media and politics.

The Center's agenda is diverse and fluid – from the annual John Breaux Symposium, which brings in national experts to discuss a topic that has received little or no attention, to conducting the annual Louisiana Survey, a vital resource for policymakers, which tracks advancements and regressions of citizen attitudes about state services. The Center's role, within the state's flagship university, is to respond quickly to the needs of state governance in addressing challenges facing Louisiana, particularly in times of crisis such as during Hurricanes Katrina and Rita and the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill. Its action-oriented and partnership-driven philosophy underscores the Reilly Center's dedication to tackling ideas and issues that explore the relationship of media and the public in democratic society.

# About the Public Policy Research Lab

Louisiana State University's Public Policy Research Lab (PPRL) is a non-partisan center for high quality, state-of-the-art data collection and analytics, with a special emphasis on survey research and policy evaluation. PPRL is a joint effort of the Manship School of Mass Communication's Reilly Center for Media and Public Affairs and the College of Humanities and Social Sciences.

PPRL provides a variety of services including survey research, 'big data' analytics, social media tracking, and focus group interviews. The Lab is primarily known for its telephone survey work. PPRL has 52 computer-assisted telephone interview call stations and a corps of highly-trained, well-supervised professional callers. It is one of the largest phone survey data collection facilities in the Southeastern Conference.

The Lab is dedicated to meeting the unique goals and objectives for each project by working closely with those seeking data, research expertise, or analysis. PPRL's clients have included: the federal Center for Disease Control and Prevention, the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals, the Louisiana Department of Labor, Louisiana Public Broadcasting, the Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant Consortium, and the Baton Rouge Area Foundation.

More information on previous surveys may be found at: [www.survey.lsu.edu](http://www.survey.lsu.edu)

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# Executive Summary

## New Orleans

The views of New Orleans residents about the extent of recovery are starkly divided along racial lines. Almost four in five white residents (78 percent) say the Louisiana has “mostly recovered,” while nearly three in five African American residents (59 percent) say it has “mostly not recovered.” This survey from the Reilly Center for Media and Public Affairs at Louisiana State University’s Manship School of Mass Communication further shows:

- Across a range of topics – such as the local economy, the public schools, hurricane and flood protection, and the overall quality of life in their communities – the city’s white residents think things are better than before Hurricane Katrina made landfall a decade ago. African Americans are far more skeptical.
- One topic on which majorities of white and African American residents agree, however, is that their voices were not heard in the rebuilding process. Overall, 60 percent of residents say people like them had no say in the rebuilding process, including 65 percent of African Americans and 52 percent of whites.
- Among residents who returned to New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina, African Americans – particularly African American women – faced the most difficulty getting back into their homes.
- Nearly one quarter of the city’s residents today have moved there since Hurricane Katrina. These new arrivals to New Orleans have brought a markedly different demographic and socio-economic profile. They are relatively younger, more highly educated, higher earning, and more white than the long term residents who lived in New Orleans before the storm and still do today.

## Beyond New Orleans

Across a range of topics – perceptions of recovery, the fairness of the recovery funding, and evaluations of the government’s performance in helping those displaced by storm damage – the views of New Orleans residents stand apart from their neighbors throughout Louisiana. Among the findings that raise questions about the political dynamics across the state on these issues, this survey reveals:

- The extent of local flooding ten years ago appears strongly related to perceptions of recovery today. The suburban areas around New Orleans in Jefferson and St Tammany Parishes are generally more positive about the recovery and life in their community. This is also generally true for residents of the state living in areas of the state not directly hit by Hurricane Katrina, even including those living in the region struck by Hurricane Rita. On the other hand, Plaquemines and St Bernard Parishes, which neighbor New Orleans to the south and east, experienced catastrophic flooding and near total inundation. Residents of these areas generally see even less progress than residents of New Orleans.
- Approximately one in ten Louisiana residents believes that the state has not yet recovered and that it never will. This percentage does not vary significantly across regions of the state.

- Throughout the state, 77 percent of Louisiana residents feel the government should have done everything it could to help those displaced by these hurricanes to return to their homes, but only 38 percent feel the government actually lived up to that obligation. This disparity between what people think the government should have done and what they believe the government actually did is widest in New Orleans, and shrinks in areas that escaped the worst of Hurricane Katrina's devastation.
- Residents of New Orleans are more likely than residents throughout the state to say that Louisiana did not receive enough federal support for recovery and that their local community failed to receive its fair share of recovery dollars.
- Partisanship plays an important role in how residents attribute blame for the problems surrounding the hurricanes of 2005. Republicans tend to blame the state government more than the federal government, while Democrats spread blame equally across these two. However, when reminded of the leaders of the federal and state governments in 2005 – President George Bush and Governor Kathleen Blanco – Republicans increase the blame they put on the state and Democrats increase the blame they put on the federal government.

# Section 1: New Orleans

Hurricane Katrina was among the deadliest and costliest natural disasters in American history, wreaking havoc over hundreds of miles along the Gulf Coast. The hurricane came ashore southeast of New Orleans in the early morning hours of Monday, August 29, 2005. Winds topped 120 miles per hour, uprooting trees, mangling billboards, shattering windows, shredding power and trolley lines, and stripping roofs off homes. Yet the wind was nothing compared to the water.

Even before dawn, the tidal surge pushed water from the Gulf of Mexico into the lakes that surround the city and the canals that cut through it. By midmorning billions of gallons of water were pouring into New Orleans through breached or overtopped levees and floodwalls. The flood wiped out entire blocks, tossing buildings and cars aside. After the torrent quieted, 80% of the city sat underwater.<sup>1</sup> Much of it remained underwater for weeks as stagnant floodwater mixed with sewage, industrial chemicals, and gasoline – a brew that left a glossy sheen on all it touched. Approximately 70 percent of the city’s occupied housing units – 134,000 homes – were damaged. This damage and the lingering effects of the flood kept many residents out of their homes for months.<sup>2</sup>

## The Road Home

Among the residents of the city in 2005 who continue to live there today, half were able to return their homes within a year of the storm. Another 39 percent eventually made it back into their homes after a year had passed. One in ten, despite moving back into the city, were never able to return to the residences they lived in before the storm.<sup>3</sup>

For a time the impact of Hurricane Katrina kept New Orleans residents of all demographic and socio-economic backgrounds out of the city, but the process of return was far less egalitarian. African Americans – particularly African American women – faced greater challenges returning to their pre-Katrina homes (Table 1).

Whites who returned to New Orleans were generally able to get back into their homes sooner than African Americans, typically within a year (70 percent). Only 42 percent of African Americans were able to get back home in that time.

The difference is even starker when looking across race and gender simultaneously. Most

**Table 1: African American Women Had the Most Difficulty Returning to Their Homes**

*Percent able to return to their homes within given timeframe, among residents who live in New Orleans today and lived there at the time of Hurricane Katrina*

	All	Whites	African Americans	White Men	White Women	African American Men	African American Women
Within a year	50	70	42	77	62	55	34
More than year	39	21	47	20	22	39	52
Never	10	9	11	3	16	5	14

NOTE: New Orleans residents only

SOURCE: Public Policy Research Lab

<sup>1</sup> The Data Center, “Facts for Features: Katrina Impact”.

<sup>2</sup> The Data Center, “Facts for Features: Katrina Impact”.

<sup>3</sup> It should be recalled these estimates describe current residents who lived in New Orleans in 2005. They do

not capture the share of the city’s 2005 population who no longer live there.

**Table 2: Newer Residents Arrive with Different Demographic Profile**

*Percent in each demographic category by length of residency in New Orleans*

	Lived in New Orleans in summer of 2005	Moved to New Orleans since 2005
Age		
18-29 years	27	35
30-49 years	26	42*
50-64 years	27	20
65 years or older	18	3**
Education		
Less than a high school diploma	16	15
High school diploma, but no college	27	16
Some college, no degree	23	18
College degree	34	52*
Household Income		
Under \$25,000	20	17
\$25,000-\$49,999	23	16
\$50,000-\$99,999	21	29
\$100,000 or more	13	26*
Race		
White	27	56**
African American	64	40**
Other	7	4

NOTE: New Orleans residents only. \*\* Difference is statistically significant at 0.05 level; \* at 0.10 level.

SOURCE: Public Policy Research Lab

white men who returned to the city were able to move back into their homes within a year (77 percent). Fewer – but still most – white women (62 percent) and African American men (55 percent) were able to get back to their residences within a year. In contrast, only about one third of African American women (34 percent) were able to get back into their homes in that time. Instead, most (52 percent) had to wait more than a year.

## A Changing Population

The demographic and socio-economic profile of New Orleans has changed in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. Census data show the city's residents today are less African American, more highly educated, and have higher household incomes than before the storm.<sup>4</sup> While much of the conversation about the shifting demographic and socio-economic mix in New Orleans has focused on the residents who never returned, it is

also a consequence of the in-migration of new residents after the storm.

Nearly a quarter of the city's current residents (23 percent) moved there after Hurricane Katrina. Over half of these new arrivals (57 percent) came from outside of Louisiana. They bring a different demographic and socio-economic profile that contrasts with the city's long term residents (Table 2). They are younger, better educated, and live in households with higher incomes. The biggest difference, however, is in the racial profile of these groups. Nearly two thirds of the city's residents who lived there before the storm are African Americans (64 percent). More than half of the city's new residents (56 percent) are white.

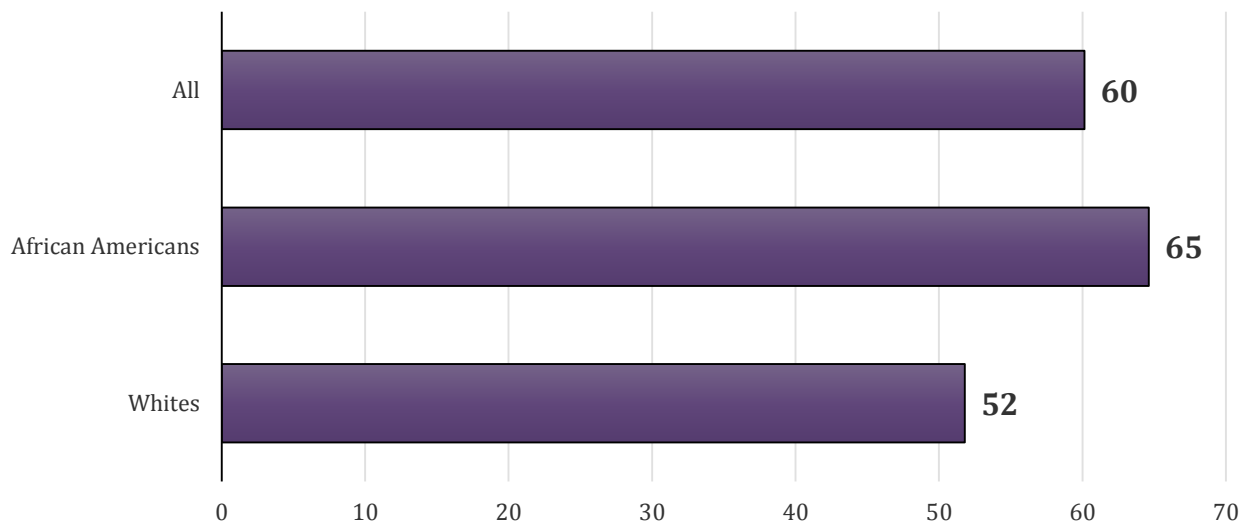
The shifting demographics that accompanied migration into and out of the city since Hurricane Katrina mean that African Americans in the city today tend to have longer roots there than white

<sup>4</sup> U.S. Census data



## Figure 1: New Orleans Residents Feel Their Voices Not Heard in Rebuilding

Percent who agree with the statement: "People like me had no say in the rebuilding process"



NOTE: New Orleans residents only.  
SOURCE: Public Policy Research Lab

residents. Less than two thirds of the city's white population (61 percent) lived there before the storm, but 84 percent of African Americans did.

These groups bring different histories to the city, different impacts from Hurricane Katrina, and different experiences of the recovery. These differences manifest in a persistent racial gap in perceptions of life in the city and in sense of recovery since the storm.

While 57 percent of African Americans say their own life was affected "a great deal" by the hurricane, only 40 percent of the city's white population say that. Even when examining just those current residents who lived in the city in 2005, more African Americans (61 percent) than whites (47 percent) say the hurricane had "a great deal" of impact on their own lives.

### Perceptions of Fairness

Many residents in the city feel the rebuilding effort proceeded without their voice. A majority (60 percent) agree with the statement: "People like me had no say in the rebuilding process." Both whites and African Americans feel they had little influence on the policies that shaped

rebuilding, but nonetheless a significant racial gap remains (Figure 1).

### Perceptions of Recovery

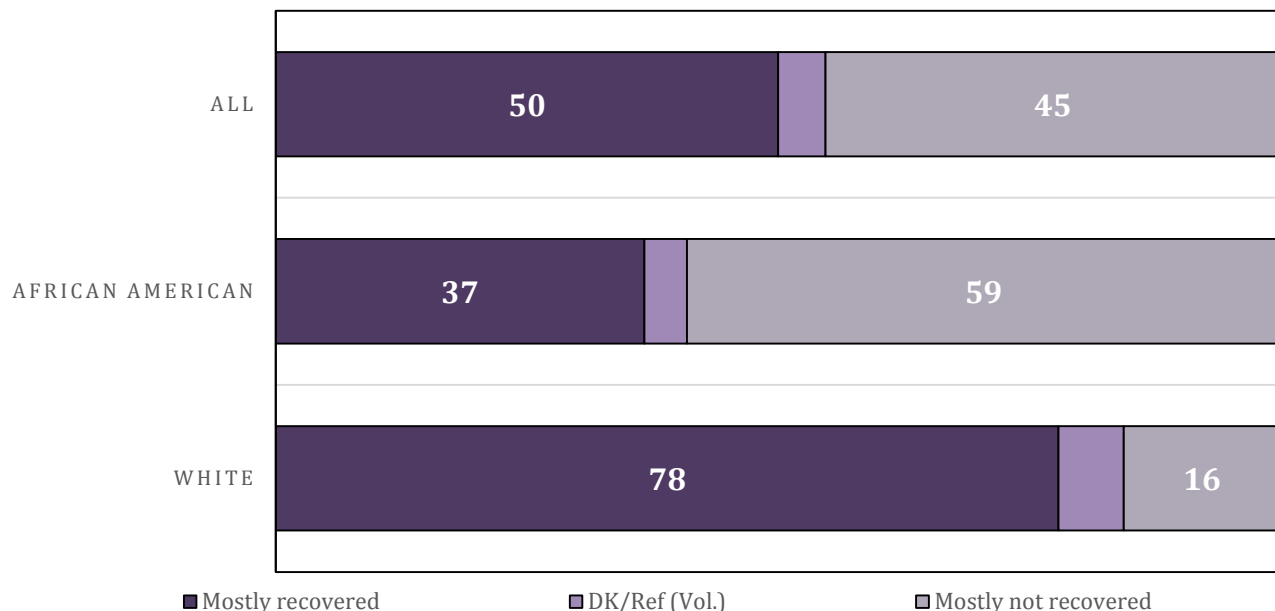
Residents of New Orleans are evenly split in their assessments of the state of recovery. Fifty percent say that Louisiana has "mostly recovered," and 45 percent say the state has "mostly not recovered" (Figure 2). As with most topics associated with Hurricane Katrina, there is significant racial disparity in perception and opinion. A majority of white residents of New Orleans (78 percent) believe Louisiana has mostly recovered, but only 37 percent of African Americans think so. Instead, a majority of African Americans in New Orleans (59 percent) say the state has not yet recovered.

### Perceptions of Change in New Orleans

There is little consensus today about whether life in the city has improved or worsened compared to life before Hurricane Katrina. When combining "better" and "about the same" responses to questions asking for this comparison across a range of topics – quality of

## Figure 2: Racial Split in New Orleans about State of Recovery

Percent who say Louisiana has "mostly recovered" or "mostly not recovered" from the hurricanes of 2005

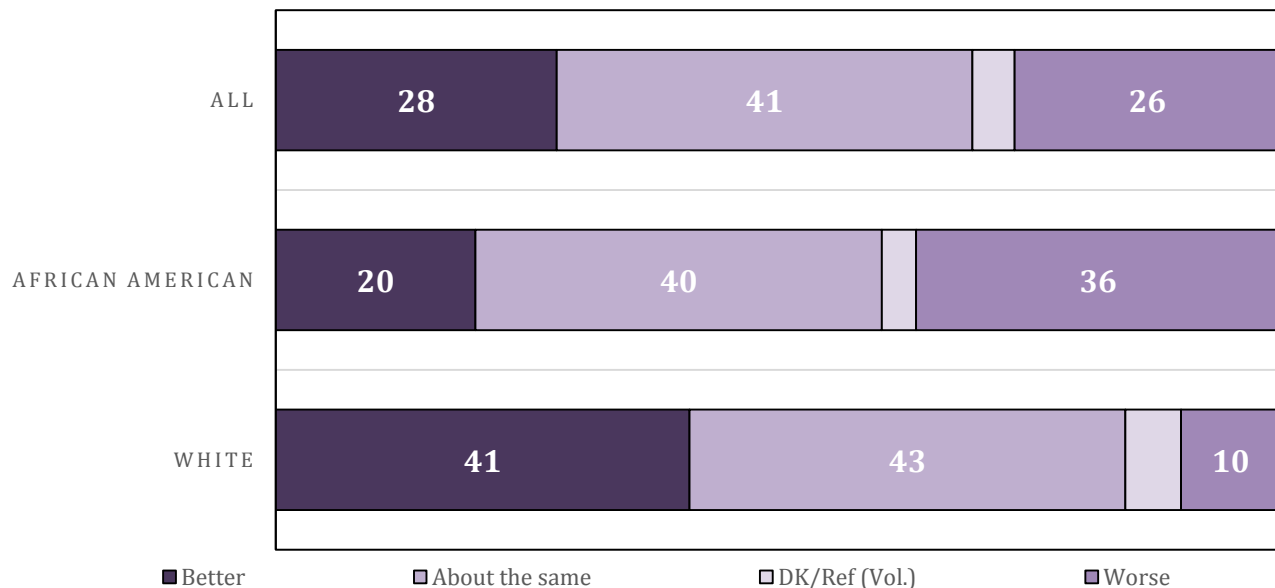


NOTE: New Orleans residents only. DK/Ref (Vol.) is the percent of respondents who refused to answer the question or said they did not know an answer.

SOURCE: Public Policy Research Lab

## Figure 3: Whites More Likely to Say Their Quality of Life is Better

Percent who say their own quality of life is better, worse, or about the same as ten years ago before Hurricane Katrina

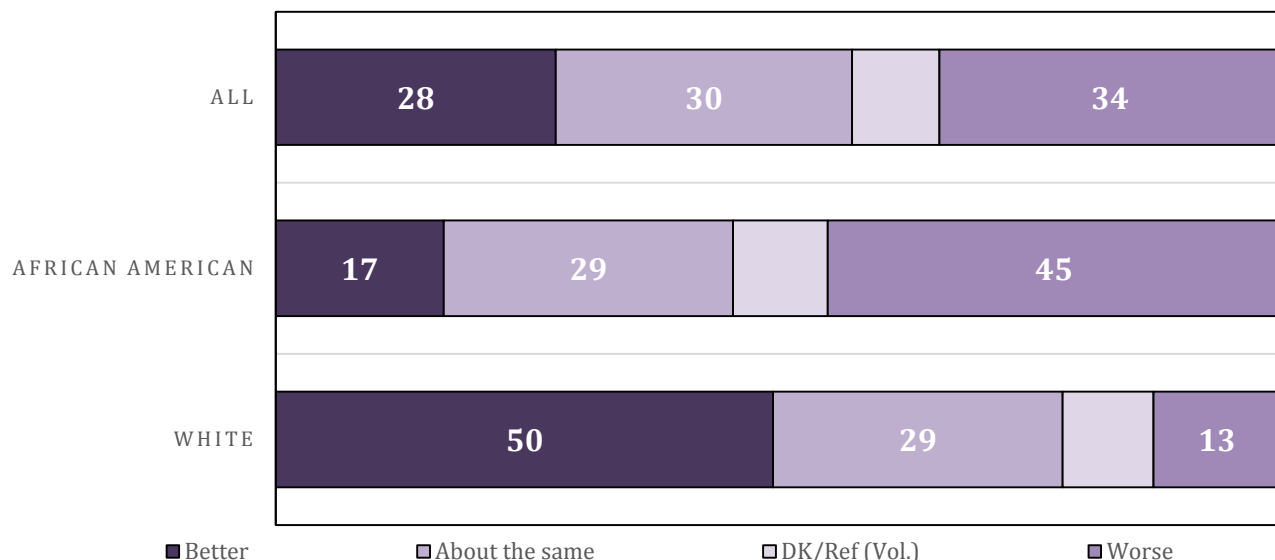


NOTE: New Orleans residents only. DK/Ref (Vol.) is the percent of respondents who refused to answer the question or said they did not know an answer.

SOURCE: Public Policy Research Lab

## Figure 4: Half of Whites Say Quality of Life in Community is Better, Nearly Half of Blacks Say Worse

Percent who say the quality of life in their local community is better, worse, or about the same as ten years ago before Hurricane Katrina



NOTE: New Orleans residents only. DK/Ref (Vol.) is the percent of respondents who refused to answer the question or said they did not know an answer.

SOURCE: Public Policy Research Lab

life, the economy, schools, access to health care, and hurricane and flood protection – majorities feel things are at least as good as they were before the storm.

The overall responses, however, mask significant differences along racial lines. For example, when asked to compare their own quality of life today to 2005, most residents feel their quality of life has returned at least to pre-Katrina levels: 41 percent say “as good as” plus 28 percent say “better” (Figure 3). Still, white residents are more than twice as likely as African Americans to say their own quality of life is better than before the storm. African American residents are more than three times as likely as whites to say it is worse.

This pattern is even more obvious when considering how residents evaluate quality of life in their communities (Figure 4). Half of whites feel their communities are better today than they were before the storm, and nearly half of African Americans say they are worse. Similarly, most

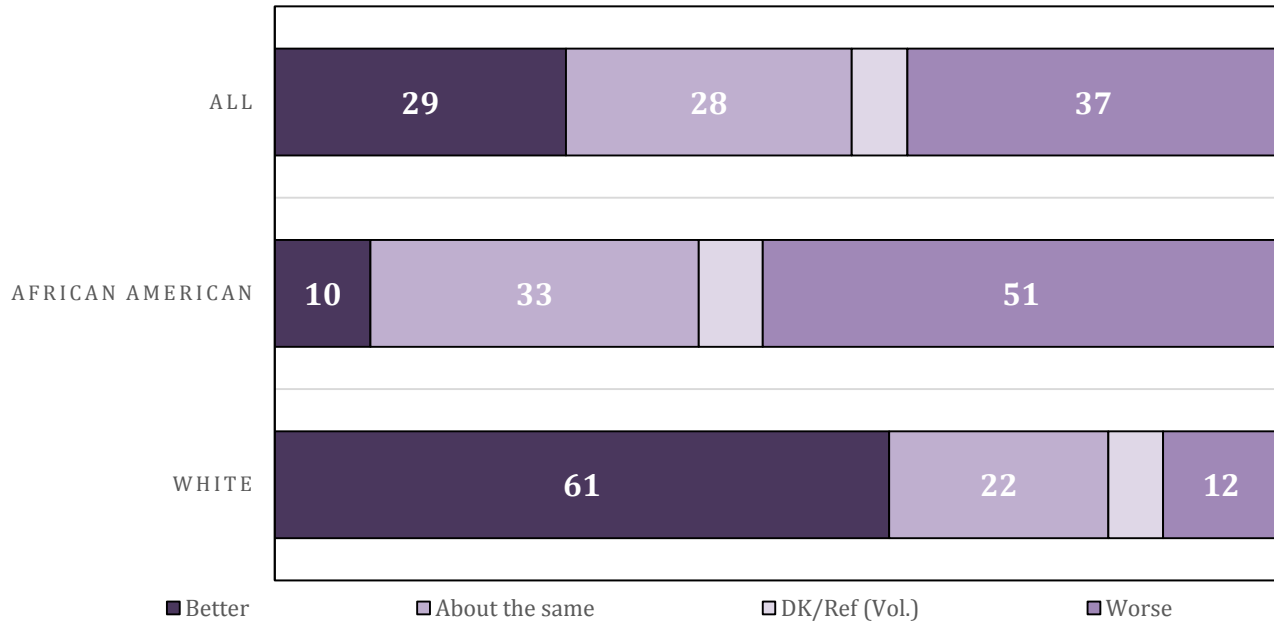
white residents (61 percent) think the local economy is better than before the storm while half of African Americans say it is worse.

In other words, most white residents think life in New Orleans is better today – not simply better than when the city had its toughest days in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, but better than it was *before the storm even arrived*. Most African American residents feel life in the city has gone downhill since then.

The racial differences are somewhat less pronounced when evaluating changes to public services. New Orleans has seen significant policy changes in the delivery of public services – particularly public schools and health care. Before Hurricane Katrina, the New Orleans Public Schools was widely regarded as among the worst urban districts in the nation – with crumbling facilities, dismal academic performance, and an ongoing legacy of corruption. Today, few public schools in the city are operated by the local school board. Instead, almost all are now charter

### Figure 5: Whites See More Progress in Local Economy

Percent who say the economy in their local community is better, worse, or about the same as ten years ago before Hurricane Katrina



NOTE: New Orleans residents only. DK/Ref (Vol.) is the percent of respondents who refused to answer the question or said they did not know an answer.

SOURCE: Public Policy Research Lab

schools. Overall, a plurality of the city’s residents (42 percent) say the schools are better than before the storm, and only one quarter say they are worse. Yet, the positive appraisals are mostly coming from the city’s white residents, a majority of whom say the schools are better today (Figure 6). African Americans, whose children disproportionately make up the student population of these schools, are not convinced. A third say the schools are better today, but nearly as many (28 percent) say they are worse.

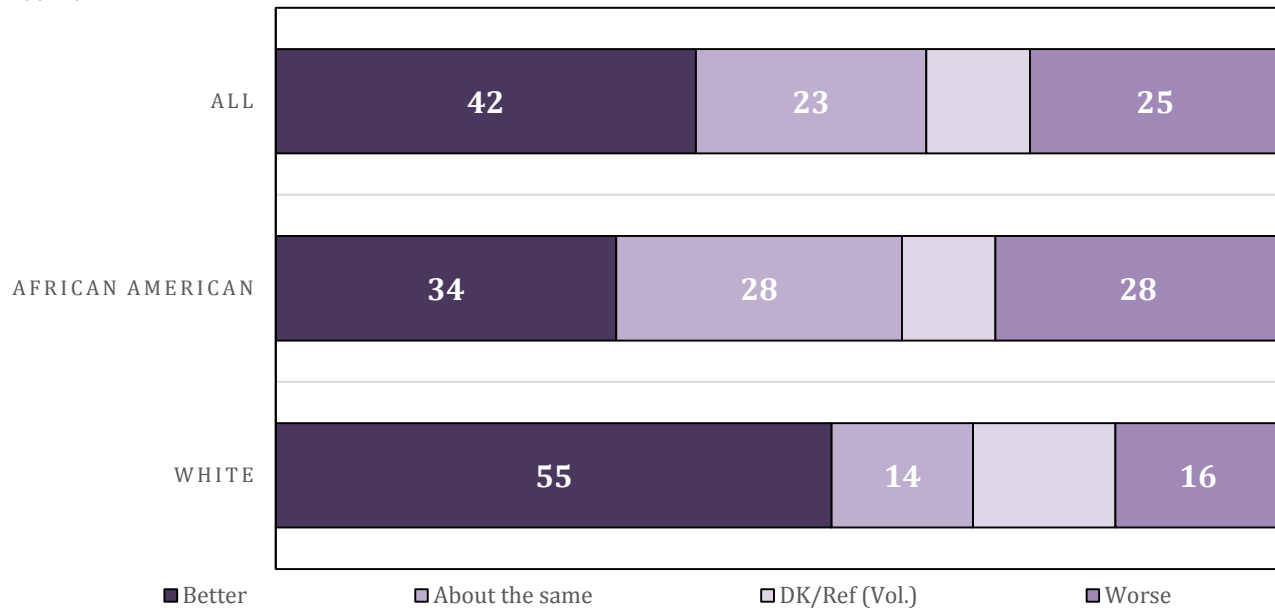
During the same period New Orleans also saw the closure of Charity Hospital, a public hospital that served the health needs of the city’s lower income population. Some African Americans (31 percent) say that access to health care is better today than it was before Hurricane Katrina, but more (42 percent) say it is worse. Fewer whites see any change, either positive or negative (Figure 7).

Nearly half of the city’s residents think hurricane and flood protection is better than before the storm. As with the public schools, white residents provide much of the praise while African American opinion remains mixed (Figure 8). Roughly two-thirds of whites say the city is better protected from hurricanes and flooding, but only about half as many African Americans think so.

The most consensus is found on the subject of disaster preparedness. A majority of residents – including majorities of both white and African American residents – believe their community is more prepared to respond to a disaster than before Hurricane Katrina (Figure 9).

### Figure 6: African Americans Less Enamored with School Changes than Whites

Percent who say the public schools in their community are better, worse, or about the same as ten years ago before Hurricane Katrina

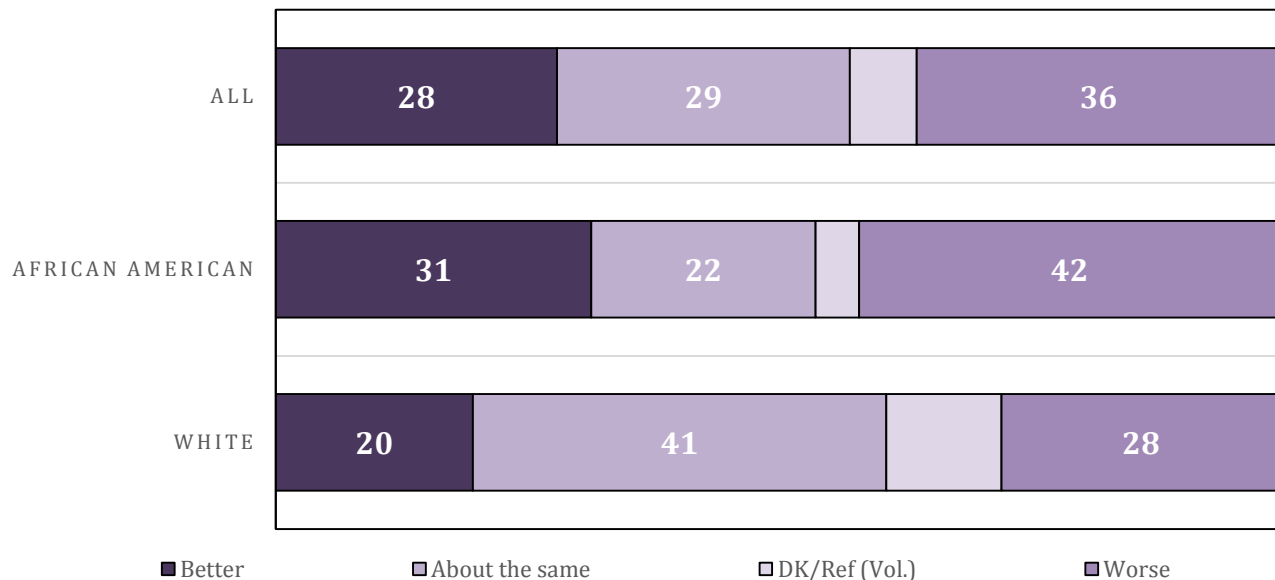


NOTE: New Orleans residents only. DK/Ref (Vol.) is the percent of respondents who refused to answer the question or said they did not know an answer.

SOURCE: Public Policy Research Lab

### Figure 7: More Say Access to Health Care is Worse than Say Better

Percent who say access to health care in their community is better, worse, or about the same as ten years ago before Hurricane Katrina

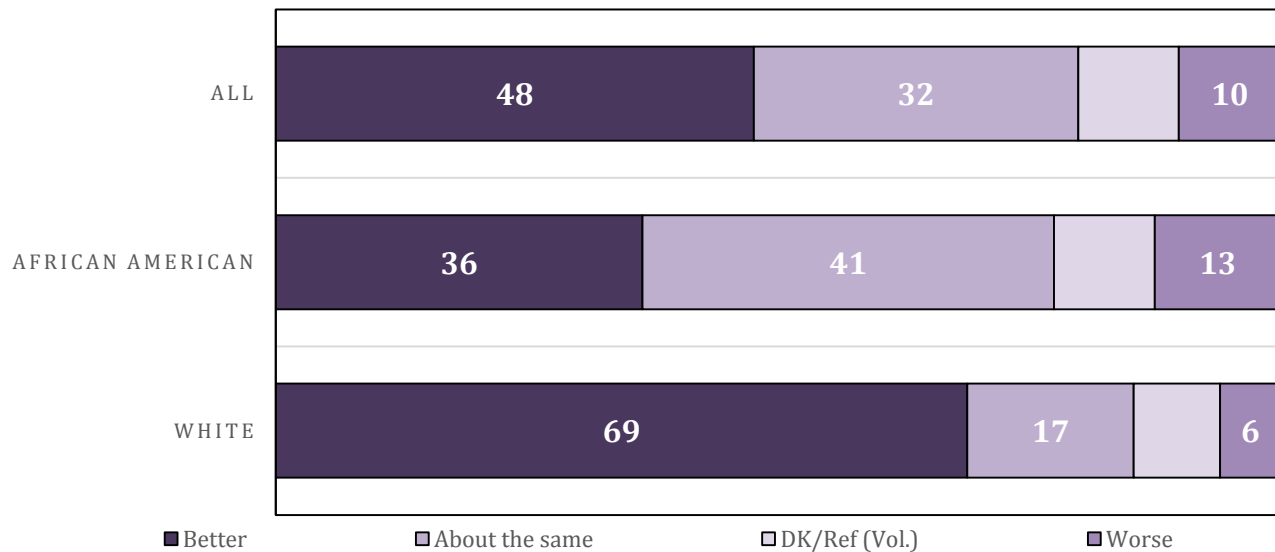


NOTE: New Orleans residents only. DK/Ref (Vol.) is the percent of respondents who refused to answer the question or said they did not know an answer.

SOURCE: Public Policy Research Lab

### Figure 8: Whites and African Americans Have Different Views About Progress of Hurricane and Flood Protection

Percent who say hurricane and flood protection in their community are better, worse, or about the same as ten years ago before Hurricane Katrina

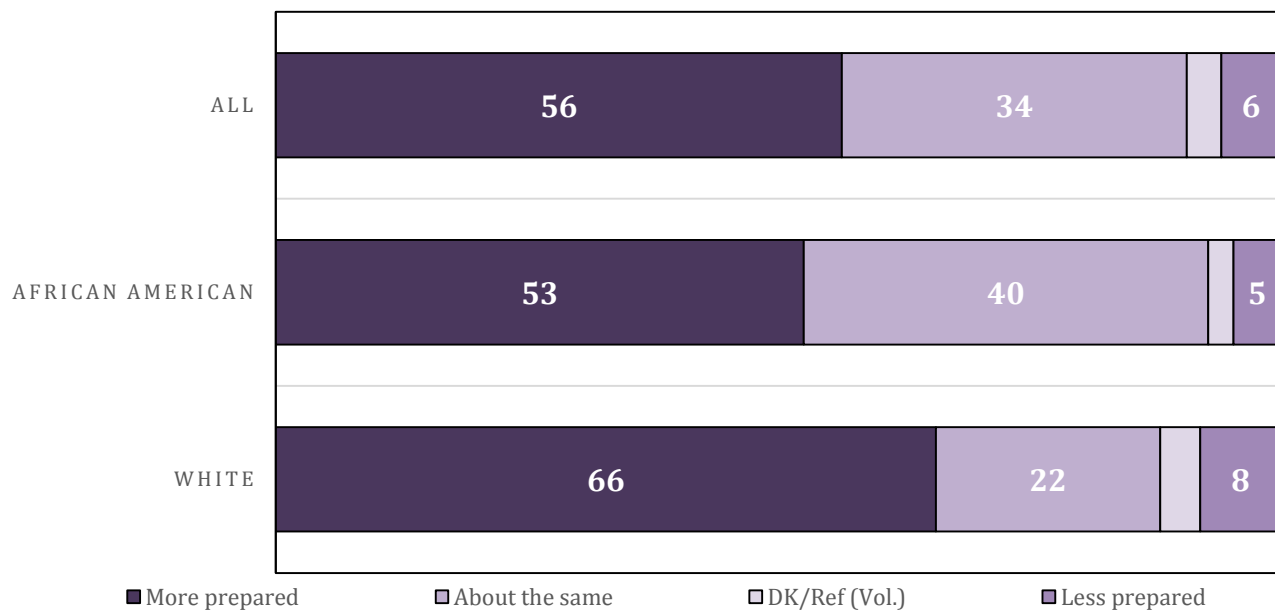


NOTE: New Orleans residents only. DK/Ref (Vol.) is the percent of respondents who refused to answer the question or said they did not know an answer.

SOURCE: Public Policy Research Lab

### Figure 9: Most Say Disaster Preparedness is Better Today

Percent who say their community is more/less prepared to respond to disasters than ten years ago before Hurricane Katrina



NOTE: New Orleans residents only. DK/Ref (Vol.) is the percent of respondents who refused to answer the question or said they did not know an answer.

SOURCE: Public Policy Research Lab



Public Policy Research Lab

## Section 2: Greater New Orleans

Hurricane Katrina did not spare the areas surrounding the city. Floodwaters covered at least part of every parish in the Greater New Orleans area.<sup>5</sup> The impact was most severe to the south and east of the city in Plaquemines and St Bernard Parishes. These parishes experienced total inundation when the storm surge pushed water from the Gulf through and over the wetlands and levees that had once shielded them. West of New Orleans, water from Lake Pontchartrain flowed into the populous suburbs of Kenner and Metairie in Jefferson Parish. North of the lake, the storm surge washed into suburban communities of St Tammany Parish. Throughout the entire region, hundreds of thousands of individuals were forced from their homes. While residents in some areas were able to return home shortly after the storm, people from the most severely impacted areas like Plaquemines and St Bernard Parishes were displaced for considerably longer. The different experiences across Greater New Orleans, first of the hurricane itself and later of the recovery effort, are apparent in how these communities assess the progress in their community.

### The Road Home

Nearly four in five people (79 percent) who live in the parishes adjacent to New Orleans also lived in this region at the time of Hurricane Katrina. Most were forced to evacuate their homes during the storm or its aftermath, but there is significant variation across the region in the experiences of displacement (Table 3).

Essentially everyone who lives in Plaquemines or St Bernard Parish today and lived there during the storms had to leave their home for some period of time. Twelve percent were able to return to their homes within a month, and another 46 percent before a year passed. More than one third (36 percent) had to wait over a year before they could get back into their pre-storm residence. Another six percent, although living in the area again today, were never able to get back into the homes they had before the hurricane.

**Table 3: Plaquemines Residents and St Bernard Parish Residents Unable to Return to Homes for Longer Period of Time**

*Percent able to return to their homes within given timeframe, among residents who live in specified areas today and lived there at the time of Hurricane Katrina*

	Greater New Orleans (excluding Orleans Parish)	Jefferson Parish	St Tammany Parish	Plaquemines & St Bernard Parishes
Never left home	16	14	27	0
Less than one month to return home	19	20	23	12
Between one month and one year to return home	48	53	41	46
More than one year to return home	8	6	2	36
Never returned home	9	7	7	6

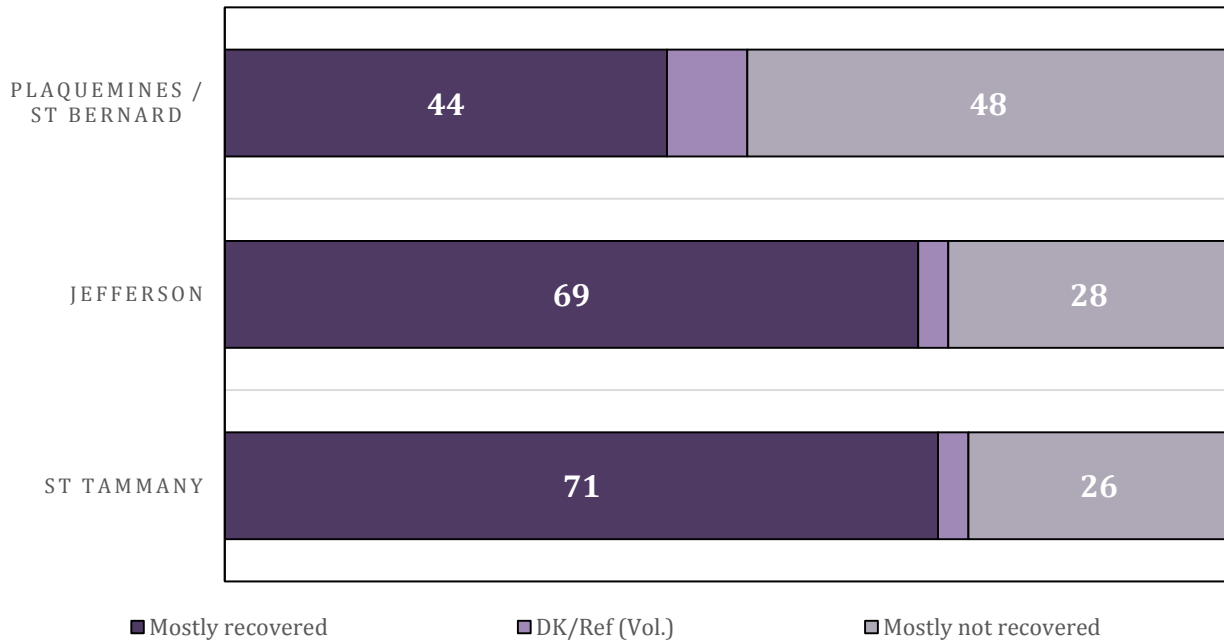
SOURCE: Public Policy Research Lab's *State of Recovery: Ten Years After the Storms* survey

<sup>5</sup> Greater New Orleans is defined here as Orleans Parish (which is entirely contiguous with the city limits of New Orleans), Jefferson Parish, Plaquemines

Parish, St Bernard Parish, and St Tammany Parish. In this section the focus is on the parishes that surround New Orleans.

**Figure 10: Plaquemines and St Bernard See Less Recovery than Other Areas Surrounding New Orleans**

Percent who say Louisiana has "mostly recovered" or "mostly not recovered" from the hurricanes of 2005



NOTE: DK/Ref (Vol.) is the percent of respondents who refused to answer the question or said they did not know an answer.  
 SOURCE: Public Policy Research Lab

St Tammany, by no means unscathed, fared better relative to the region as a whole. About one quarter were able to remain in their homes throughout the storm and its aftermath (27 percent), and a similar share (23 percent) returned home within a month. Within a year, more than 90 percent were back in the same homes they had before the hurricane.

Taking the area as a whole, 44 percent of residents say the storm impacted their life “a great deal”. However, this share is far higher in Plaquemines and St Bernard Parishes (62 percent) than in Jefferson Parish (42 percent) or St Tammany Parish (43 percent).

**Perceptions of Fairness**

Throughout the region most residents (66 percent) agree with the statement that people like them had no say in the rebuilding process.

**Perceptions of Recovery**

Taken as a whole, the region surrounding New Orleans generally has a positive appraisal of the extent of recovery. Two thirds of respondents in this area (67 percent) say that Louisiana has mostly recovered. This overall share, however, largely reflects the opinions of the more populous Jefferson and St Tammany Parishes where 69 percent and 71 percent say the state has mostly recovered respectively (Figure 10).

In Plaquemines and St Bernard Parishes, opinion is divided with roughly equal shares believing the state has “mostly recovered” (44 percent) and “mostly not recovered” (48 percent). The responses of Plaquemines and St Bernard Parishes look much more like the responses from New Orleans shown in the previous section than like the responses of Jefferson or St Tammany Parishes.



## Perceptions of Change Since 2005

The residents of the parishes surrounding New Orleans show little variation in how they perceive their own quality of life compared to a decade ago (Figure 11). However, there is a large difference in how they perceive the quality of life in their communities (Figure 12). About half of all residents in Jefferson Parish or St Tammany Parish think the quality of life in their communities is about the same as before the storm. Another 21 to 24 percent think it has improved. In Plaquemines and St Bernard Parishes nearly half of residents (48 percent) say the quality of life in their community is worse today than before the storm.

A similar pattern appears in evaluations of the local economy (Figure 13). Opinion is evenly mixed in Jefferson and St Tammany Parishes. Each of the responses – better, worse, or about the same – receive similar shares of respondents. In Plaquemines and St Bernard Parishes, more than two thirds of the population (69 percent)

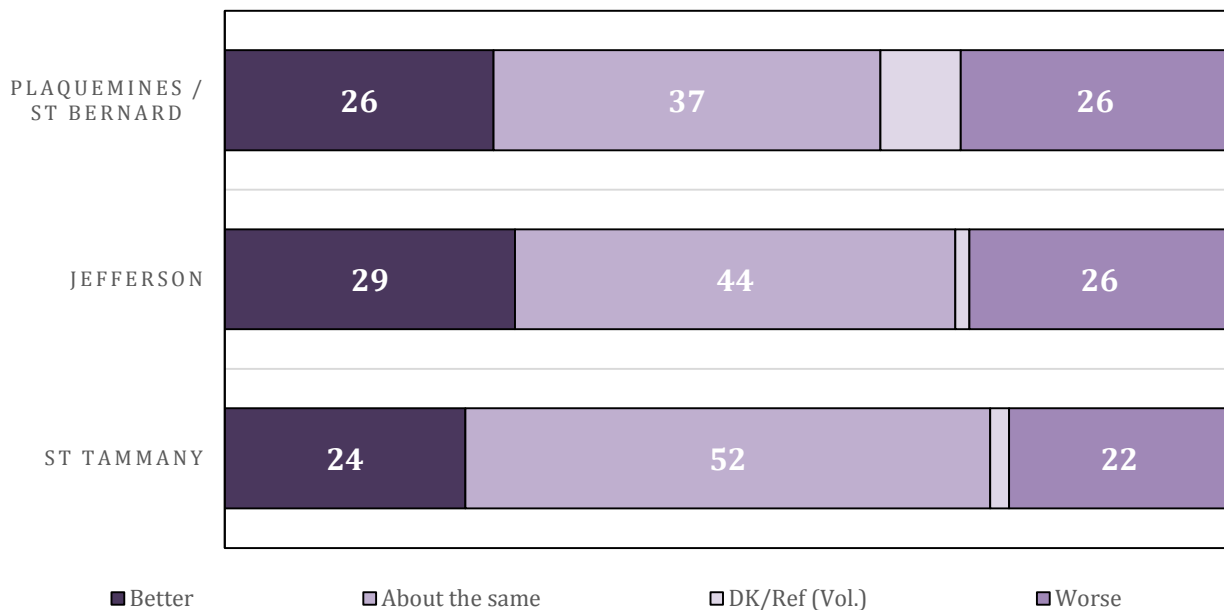
believe the economy is worse today than before Hurricane Katrina. Only nine percent think it has improved.

Opinion is more positive on the subject of hurricane and flood protection. Sixty one percent of residents in Plaquemines and St Bernard Parishes believe they are better protected from hurricane and floods than ten years ago (Figure 14). St Tammany Parish residents see less improvement, but even so, half believe protections are as good as before the storm.

On disaster preparedness, the region is more homogenous (Figure 15). Across the region, 64 percent of residents believe their communities are more prepared than before Hurricane Katrina. Each parish has a roughly similar share.

**Figure 11: Most in Greater New Orleans See Their Quality of Life Same or Better Than Before Hurricane**

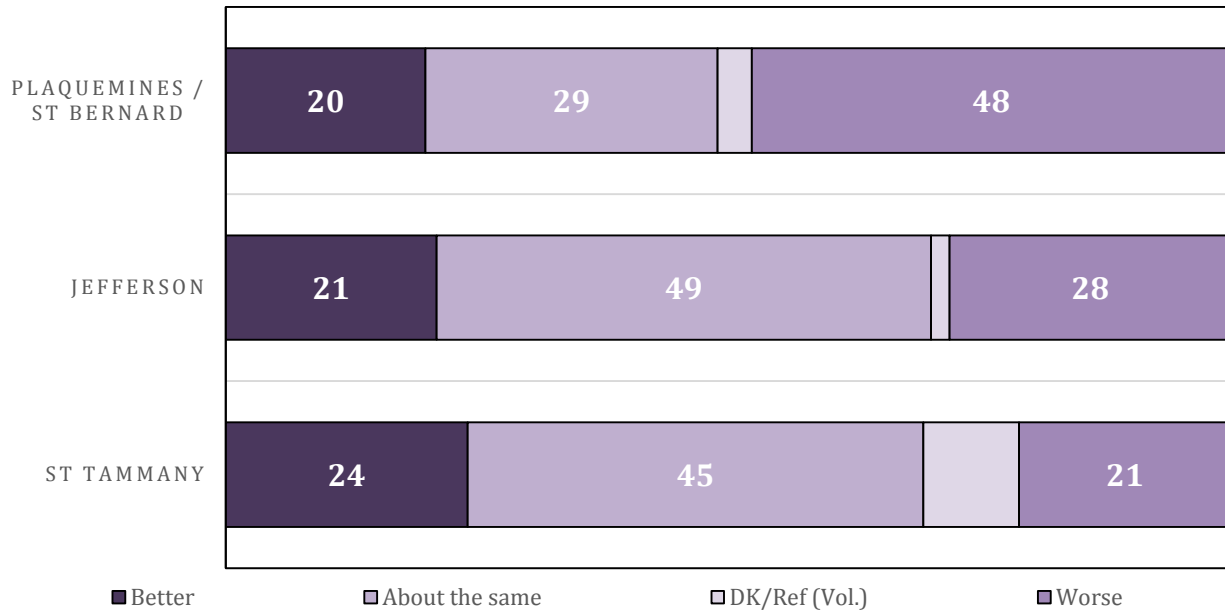
*Percent who say their own quality of life is better, worse, or about the same as ten years ago before Hurricane Katrina*



NOTE: DK/Ref (Vol.) is the percent of respondents who refused to answer the question or said they did not know an answer.  
SOURCE: Public Policy Research Lab

**Figure 12: Plaquemines and St Bernard See Greater Decline in Local Quality of Life**

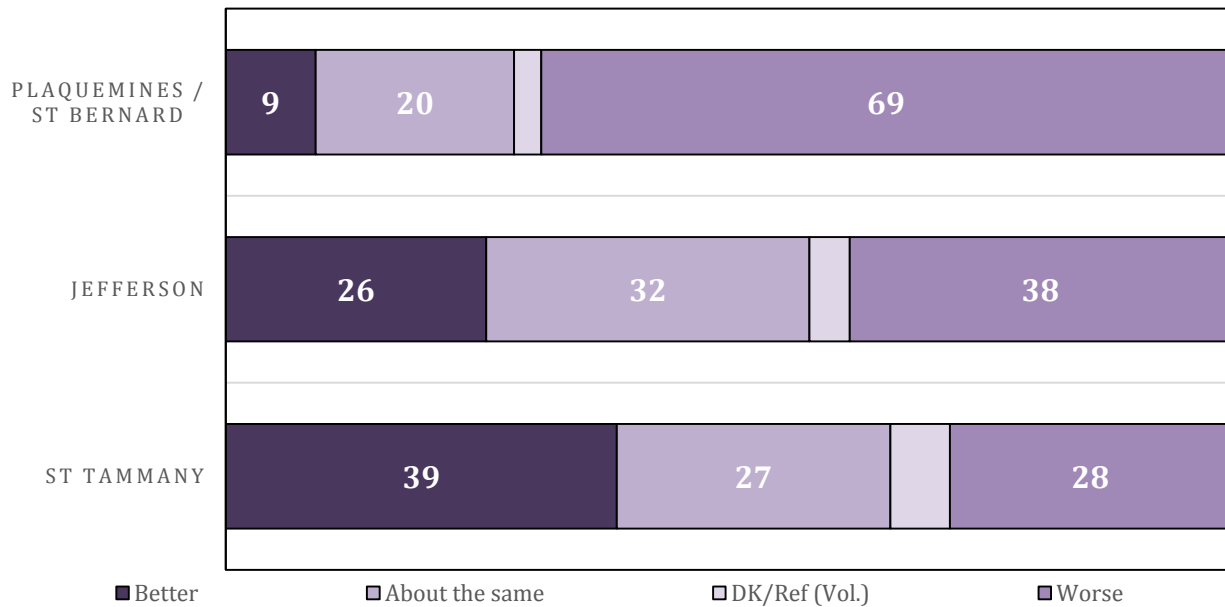
Percent who say the quality of life in their local community is better, worse, or about the same as ten years ago before Hurricane Katrina



NOTE: DK/Ref (Vol.) is the percent of respondents who refused to answer the question or said they did not know an answer.  
SOURCE: Public Policy Research Lab

**Figure 13: Plaquemines and St Bernard Say Local Economy is Worse**

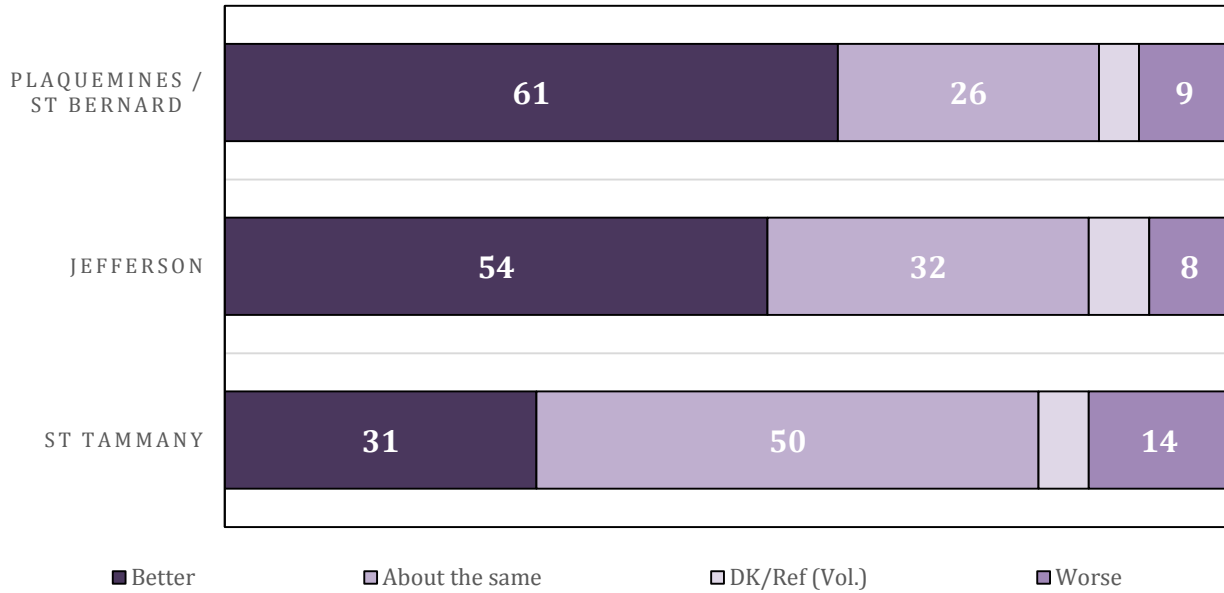
Percent who say the economy in their local community is better, worse, or about the same as ten years ago before Hurricane Katrina



NOTE: DK/Ref (Vol.) is the percent of respondents who refused to answer the question or said they did not know an answer.  
SOURCE: Public Policy Research Lab

**Figure 14: Hurricane and Flood Protection Seen as Improving in Parishes South of Lake Pontchartrain**

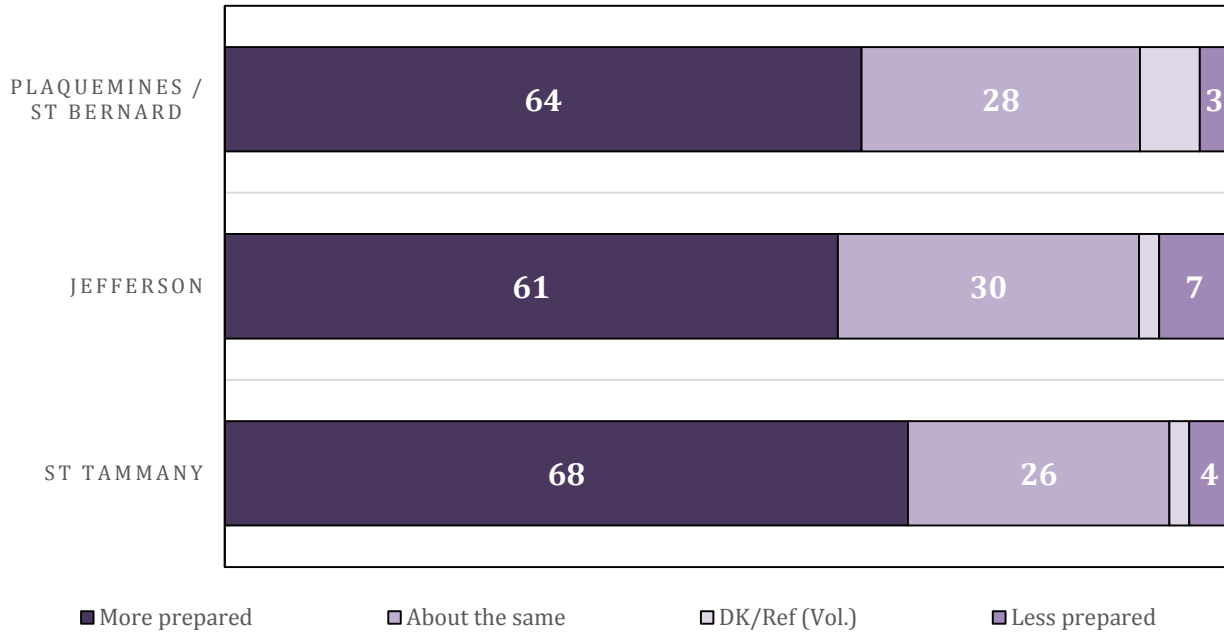
Percent who say hurricane and flood protection in their local community is better, worse, or about the same as ten years ago before Hurricane Katrina



NOTE: DK/Ref (Vol.) is the percent of respondents who refused to answer the question or said they did not know an answer.  
SOURCE: Public Policy Research Lab

**Figure 15: Throughout Region Residents See Improved Disaster Preparedness**

Percent who say their community more/less prepared to respond to disasters compared to ten years ago before Hurricane Katrina



NOTE: DK/Ref (Vol.) is the percent of respondents who refused to answer the question or said they did not know an answer.  
SOURCE: Public Policy Research Lab

## Section 3: Hurricane Rita and Southwest Louisiana

On September 24, 2005, less than one month after Hurricane Katrina came ashore in southeast Louisiana, Hurricane Rita, a category five storm, made landfall in southwest Louisiana near the state's border with Texas. A 10 to 15 foot storm surge flooded the low lying rural communities of southern Cameron and Vermilion Parishes. The surge also pushed water northward up waterways to flood Lake Charles and Calcasieu Parish.

### The Road Home

Nine in ten residents of Calcasieu, Cameron, and Vermilion Parish today also lived there ten years ago before Hurricane Rita. About three fourths of them (74 percent) were forced out of their home by the hurricane. Thirty eight percent returned to their homes within a month, another 27 percent within a year (Table 4). All told, about 90 percent of these residents either never had to leave their homes or were able to return within a year.

The personal impact of Hurricane Rita was less widely distributed across this region than was the impact of Hurricane Katrina throughout Greater New Orleans. About one quarter of residents of the parishes directly hit by Hurricane Rita (27 percent) say the hurricane had “a great deal” of an impact on their own lives, well below

the share who said so about Hurricane Katrina in Greater New Orleans. Over half of southwest Louisiana residents (53 percent) say the hurricane either did not have an impact on their lives or did not have much of an impact.

### Perceptions of Fairness

Residents in the southwest region of the state feel they had little influence on the policy decisions that shaped rebuilding. Fifty eight percent agree with the statement that people like them had no say in the rebuilding process.

### Perceptions of Recovery

Residents of the region hit by Hurricane Rita have a relatively positive view of the state's recovery. Three fourths (75 percent) say the state has “mostly recovered.” Residents of rural Cameron and Vermilion Parishes, however, are less likely to say the state has recovered (65 percent) than their neighbors in urban Calcasieu Parish (78 percent).

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**Table 4: Nearly All Residents of Areas Hit by Hurricane Rita Able to Return to Homes Within a Year**

*Percent able to return to their homes within given timeframe, among residents who live in Calcasieu, Cameron, or Vermilion Parishes today and lived there at the time of Hurricane Rita*

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Never left home	26
Less than one month to return home	38
Between one month and one year to return home	27
More than one year to return home	3
Never returned home	6

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NOTE: DK/Ref (Vol.) is the percent of respondents who refused to answer the question or said they did not know an answer.

SOURCE: Public Policy Research Lab

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## Perceptions of Change Since 2005

Residents of this area are more positive about the changes in their own quality of life since before Hurricane Rita than they are about the quality of life in their communities. Most think their own quality of life is about the same as it was in 2005 (58 percent). Another 27 percent say it is better. Responses are comparable across the urban and rural parishes in the region (Figure 16).

Half of residents say the quality of life in their communities is about the same as before the hurricane, and 19 percent say it is worse. The parishes diverge on this question, with residents of Calcasieu Parish taking a more positive view (Figure 17). One third (34 percent) say the quality of life in their community is better and only 13 percent say it is worse. In Cameron and

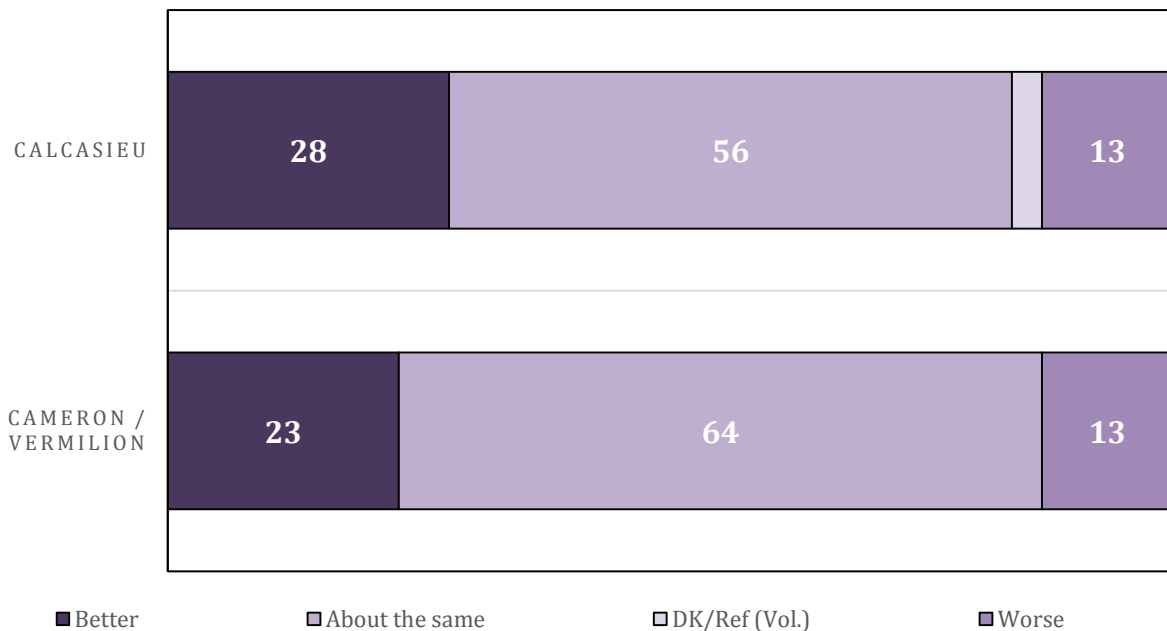
Vermilion Parishes, the figures are swapped. One third (35 percent) say the quality of life in their community is worse than before the storm, and just 13 percent say it is better.

The differences within the region extend to perceptions of the local economy as well (Figure 18). Twenty-six percent of Calcasieu Parish residents think their economy has suffered since Hurricane Rita. This share rises to 40 percent in Cameron and Vermilion Parishes.

Only about one quarter of residents in this part of the state feel hurricane and flood protection has improved in their communities (Figure 19). A plurality thinks protection is about the same as before the storm, and one fifth think it is worse. However, most residents feel their communities are better prepared to respond to a disaster than they were a decade ago (Figure 20).

**Figure 16: Most in Southwest Louisiana See Their Own Quality of Life as Same as Before Hurricane Rita**

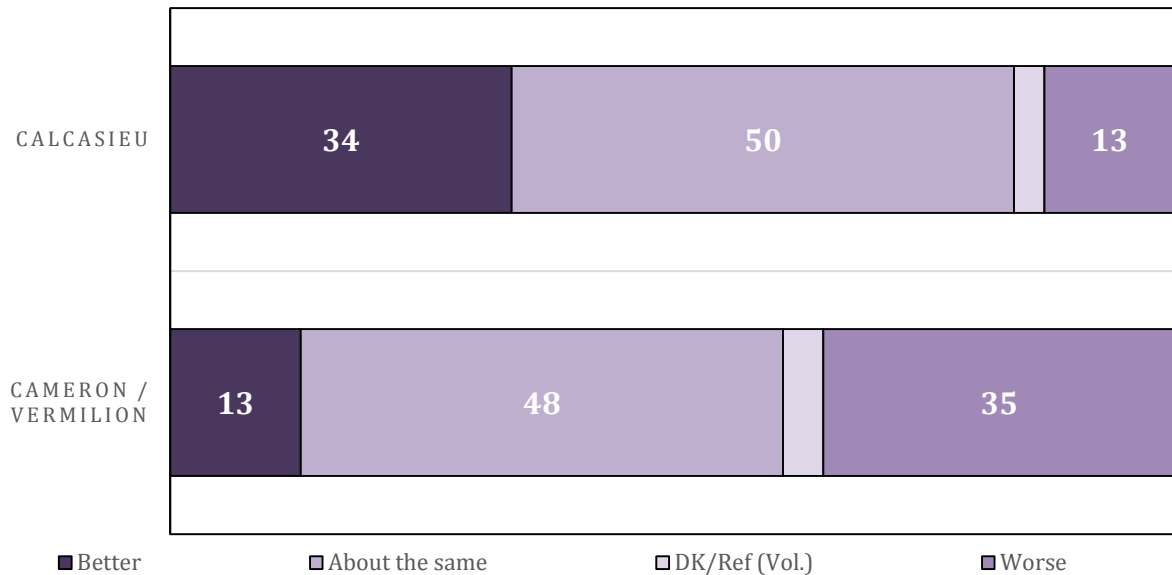
*Percent who say their own quality of life is better, worse, or about the same as ten years ago before Hurricane Rita*



NOTE: DK/Ref (Vol.) is the percent of respondents who refused to answer the question or said they did not know an answer.  
SOURCE: Public Policy Research Lab

**Figure 17: Rural Areas See More Decline in Quality of Life in Their Community After Hurricane Rita**

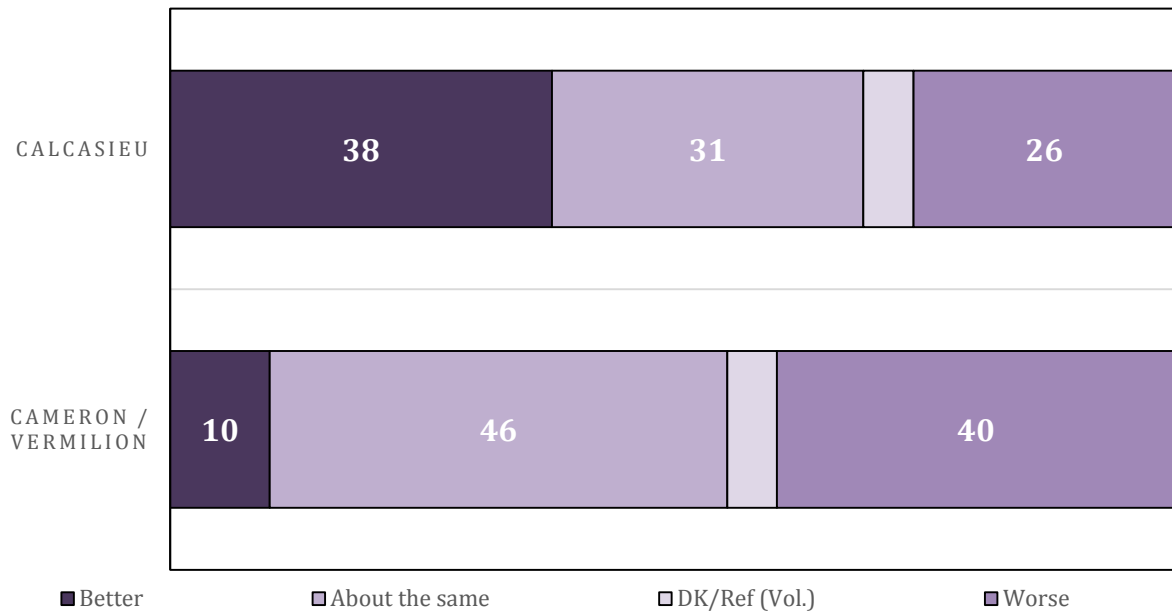
Percent who say the quality of life in their local community is better, worse, or about the same as ten years ago before Hurricane Rita



NOTE: DK/Ref (Vol.) is the percent of respondents who refused to answer the question or said they did not know an answer.  
SOURCE: Public Policy Research Lab

**Figure 18: Rural Areas See More Decline in Local Economy Since Hurricane Rita**

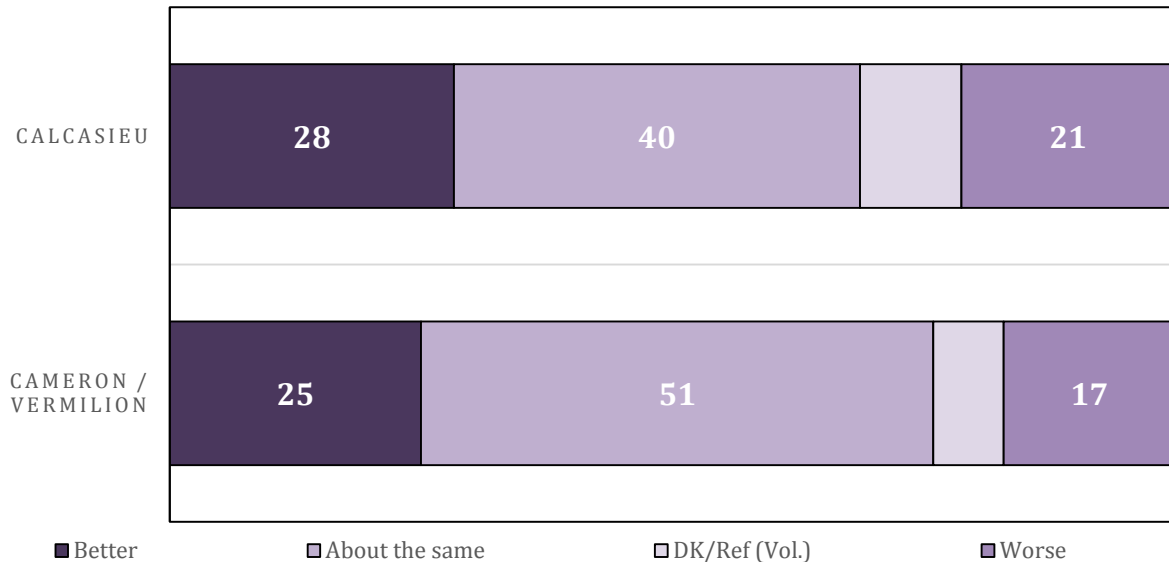
Percent who say the economy in their local community is better, worse, or about the same as ten years ago before Hurricane Rita



NOTE: DK/Ref (Vol.) is the percent of respondents who refused to answer the question or said they did not know an answer.  
SOURCE: Public Policy Research Lab

**Figure 19: Only One in Four Think Hurricane and Flood Protection is Better than Before Hurricane Rita**

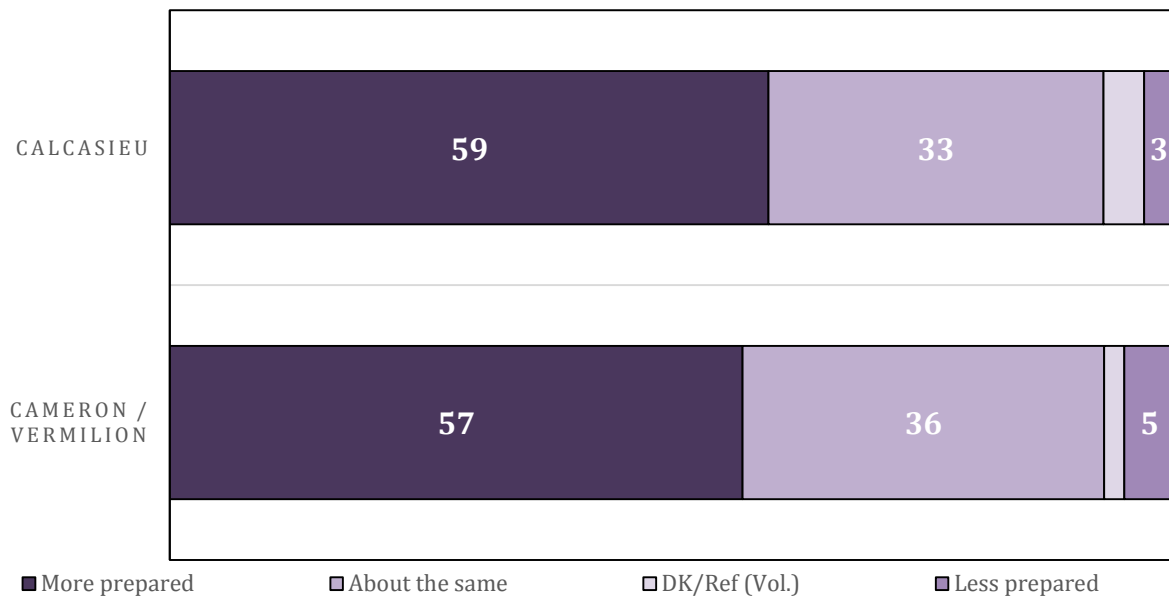
Percent who say hurricane and flood protection in their local community is better, worse, or about the same as ten years ago before Hurricane Rita



NOTE: DK/Ref (Vol.) is the percent of respondents who refused to answer the question or said they did not know an answer.  
SOURCE: Public Policy Research Lab

**Figure 20: Most Think Disaster Preparedness Has Improved Since Hurricane Rita**

Percent who say their local community is more/less prepared to respond to a disaster as ten years ago before Hurricane Rita



NOTE: DK/Ref (Vol.) is the percent of respondents who refused to answer the question or said they did not know an answer.  
SOURCE: Public Policy Research Lab

## Section 4: Across the State

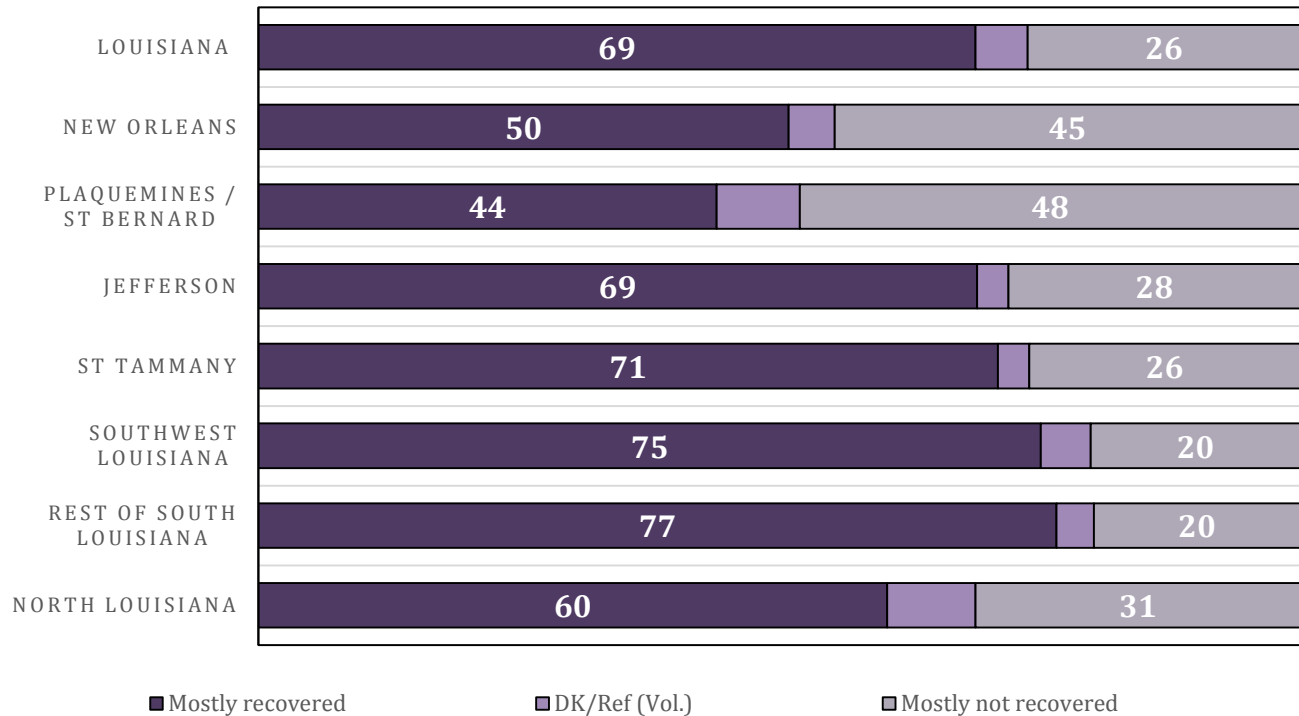
Although the devastation and most direct impacts of the 2005 hurricanes occurred in specific regions of the state, in many ways these disasters had statewide implications. First, residents displaced by these storms sought shelter in communities throughout Louisiana (and beyond). Many of these communities saw their populations grow, at least temporarily, and demands on public services such as roads and schools increase. Second, thousands of residents of Greater New Orleans never returned to the area, instead establishing new homes in other parts of the state. Third, many of the decisions that set policy for recovery and rebuilding occurred at the state rather than the local level. These decisions were made in a political context that included electoral constituencies far from the areas of Louisiana most directly impacted by the Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

### Perceptions of Recovery

Across the state, 69 percent of Louisiana residents believe the state has mostly recovered from the hurricanes of 2005 (Figure 21). In New Orleans, 50 percent of residents say the state has mostly recovered, and 45 percent say it has mostly not recovered. Plaquemines and St Bernard Parishes take a similarly mixed view with 44 percent saying it has mostly recovered and 48 percent saying it has mostly not recovered. Views of the recovery are rosier in Jefferson and St Tammany Parishes, where 69 and 71 percent respectively say the state has mostly recovered. In southwest Louisiana, flooded by Hurricane Rita one month after Hurricane Katrina, 75 percent say the state has mostly recovered.

**Figure 21: Areas With Most Flooding From Hurricane Katrina See Least Recovery**

Percent who say Louisiana has "mostly recovered" or "mostly not recovered" from the hurricanes of 2005



NOTE: DK/Ref (Vol.) is the percent of respondents who refused to answer the question or said they did not know an answer.  
SOURCE: Public Policy Research Lab



Overall, 26 percent of Louisiana residents say the state has mostly not recovered. One third of that group goes on to say that the state will never recover when asked a follow up question about how long the recovery process will take. Taken together, these two questions show that 9 percent of Louisiana residents think the state not only has yet to recover but also will never recover. This share who takes the most pessimistic view does not vary significantly across regions of the state.

## Evaluations of Decisions to Return or Relocate

Residents in different parts of the state also have different opinions about how much individuals displaced by the storms should have done to return home. Statewide, 44 percent of Louisiana residents agree with the statement “People whose homes were damaged by Hurricanes Katrina or Rita should have done everything they could to move back to their communities after the storms. A similar share (38 percent) disagree with this statement.

This sentiment is highest in the areas hit by Hurricane Rita, where 68 percent agree and only 13 percent disagree – a 55 point difference. The sentiment that residents have an obligation to return to their communities is far lower in the areas most devastated by Hurricane Katrina. In New Orleans, there is no consensus about the wisdom of decisions to return to impacted areas or to remain away. Half of New Orleans residents believe the displaced should have made every effort to return, but a third disagree – a 17 point difference.

Again, responses in Plaquemines and St Bernard Parishes resemble those of New Orleans more than other parishes surrounding the city. In Plaquemines and St Bernard 44 percent of residents there agree with the statement, but 35 percent disagree – a nine point difference. It appears that those living in the areas most directly impacted by the floodwaters of Hurricane Katrina are less interested in putting the obligation to return on the shoulders of the

displaced than those living in the areas flooded by Hurricane Rita.

## Evaluations of Government Performance in Helping the Displaced

The population is more certain that the government should have played a strong role in helping individuals displaced by the storms. When asked whether they agree or disagree with the statement, “The government *should have done* everything it could to help the people whose homes were damaged by Hurricanes Katrina or Rita to move back to their communities after the storms,” 77 percent agree and 12 percent disagree.

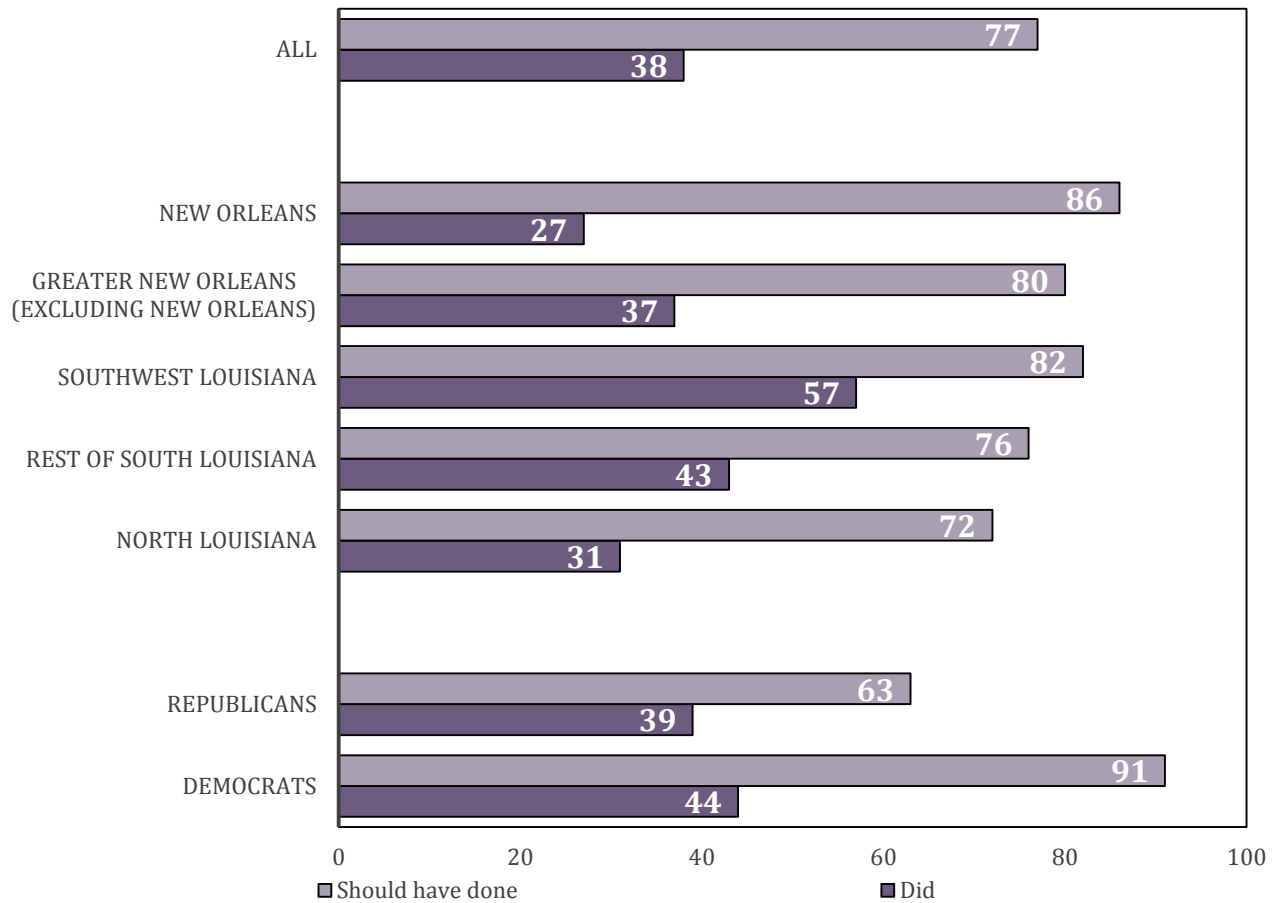
Louisiana residents generally feel the government did less than it should. Thirty eight percent agree with the statement, “The government *did* everything it could to help the people whose homes were damaged by Hurricanes Katrina or Rita to move back to their communities after the storms.” Fifty one percent disagree.

This gap between how much people believe the government should have done and how much they perceive it actually did varies by region (Figure 22). The gap is largest in the city of New Orleans. Further away from the city, people see a smaller gap between what the government should have done to help people return home and what it did.

In addition to capturing different experiences of devastation from the 2005 hurricanes, these questions also tap individual’s underlying political predispositions about the role of government generally. This can be seen in the difference between how Republicans and Democrats respond to the question. Democrats see a greater disparity between what the government should have done and actually did than Republicans do.

**Figure 22: Most Think Government Fell Short in Efforts to Help Displaced Return Home**

Percent who agree that "The government SHOULD HAVE DONE everything it could to help the people whose homes were damaged by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita to move back to their communities after the storms," and the percent who agree that "The government DID everything it could to help the people whose homes were damaged by Hurricanes Katrina or Rita to move back to their communities after the storms



NOTE: Version of the question wording randomly assigned to different respondents.  
 SOURCE: Public Policy Research Lab

**Evaluations of Government Responsibility for the Problems Faced During and After the Storms**

Partisanship also shapes blame attribution. We asked two versions of this question, each to a separate randomly selected group of respondents. One group was asked, "In your opinion which of the following was most responsible for the problems that resulted from these two hurricanes in 2005... the federal government, the state government, or local governments in the affected areas?" We

presented the same question to the second group but with modified response options, "The federal government under President Bush, the state government under Governor Blanco, or local governments in the affected areas?" Pres Bush led a Republican administration in the federal government in 2005, and Gov Blanco led a Democratic administration in the state.

When people are not reminded about the leaders of the federal and state governments at the time of the hurricanes, 24 percent blame the federal government and 30 percent blame the state government. There are small statistically

insignificant differences in how Republicans and Democrats respond to this question (Figure 23). When people are reminded about the leadership of Pres Bush and Gov Blanco, the overall distribution of responses does not change much – 27 percent blame the federal government and 28 percent blame the state government. The similarity in the overall responses between the two questions masks tremendous cross-cutting movement among partisans. The share of Republicans blaming the federal government drops from 20 to 14 percent and the share blaming the state government rises from 34 to 42 percent. Democrats blaming the federal government rises from 27 to 44 percent, while the share blaming the state drops from 28 to 18 percent.

### Perceptions of Fairness

Close to half of Louisiana residents (45 percent) say the state did not receive enough recovery dollars from the federal government compared to other states affected by these storms. The share

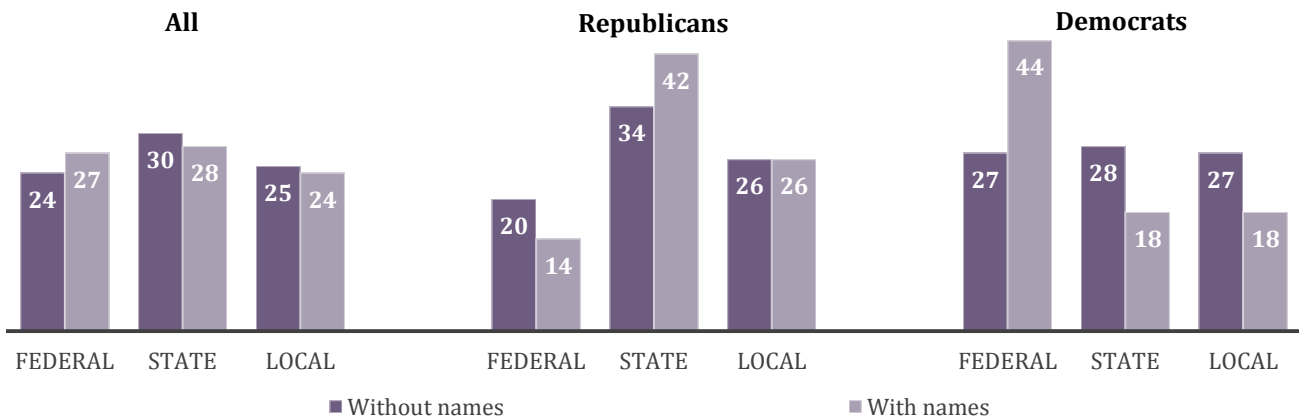
who believe the state received enough federal money is lower, at 38 percent.

In New Orleans, 62 percent of residents say the state did not receive enough federal support. Throughout the rest of the state, opinion is more evenly divided (Figure 24).<sup>6</sup>

Again, partisan beliefs play a role in these opinions about the role of the government in recovery. More than half of Democrats (54 percent) say the state did not receive enough support compared to other states, while just 35 percent of Republicans say so. Similar geographic regional patterns emerge when residents are asked about their own communities' share of recovery dollars. Specifically, the survey asks, "Some areas of the state were impacted by the hurricanes directly, other areas saw increased demands on roads, schools, and other public facilities as people moved there from affected areas. Do you think your local community was allocated its fair share of recovery dollars?"

**Figure 23: Partisans Shift Responsibility When Reminded About Who Led Federal and State Governments in 2005**

*Percent who say the federal, state, or local governments were most responsible for the problems that resulted from the hurricanes in 2005*



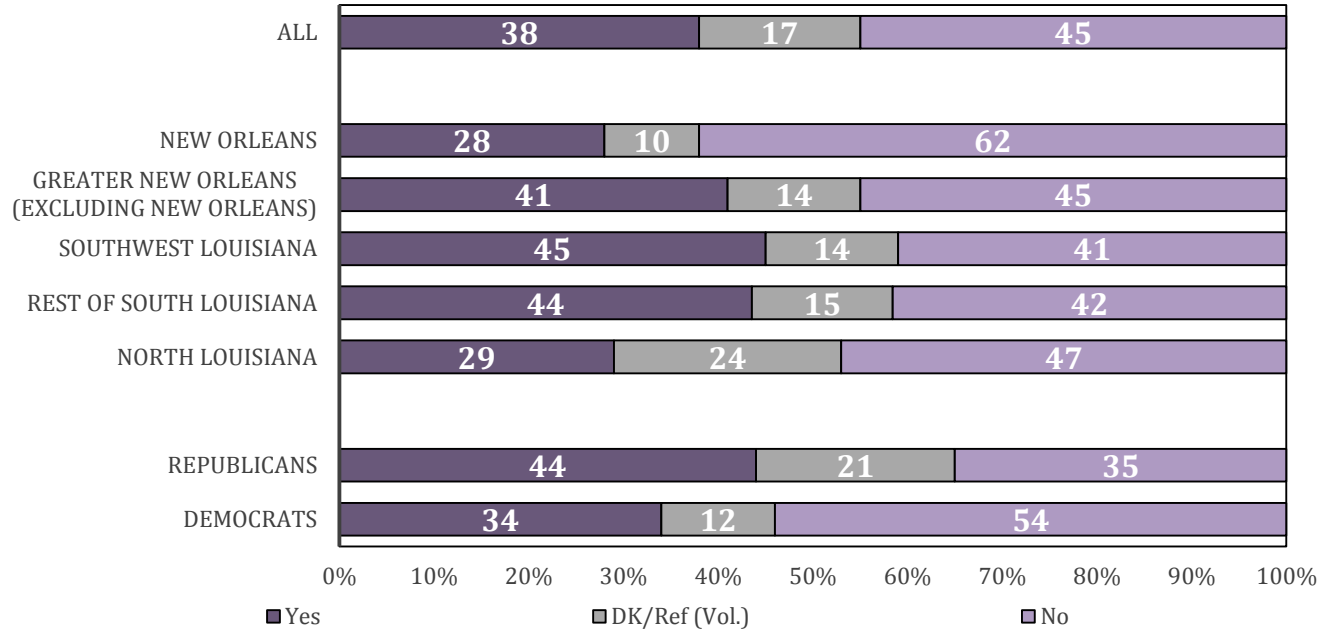
NOTE: Respondents randomly assigned to one of two versions of the question. Response options to version 1 include: The federal government, the state government, and local governments in the affected areas. Response options to version 2 include: The federal government under the leadership of President Bush, the state government under the leadership of Governor Blanco, and local governments in the affected areas. In both versions the order of first two response options was randomized.

SOURCE: Public Policy Research Lab

<sup>6</sup> An exception is the Plaquemines and St Bernard, where 39 percent say the state received enough federal support and 54 percent say it did not.

**Figure 24: Regional and Partisan Disagreement Over Whether Louisiana Received Enough Federal Money**

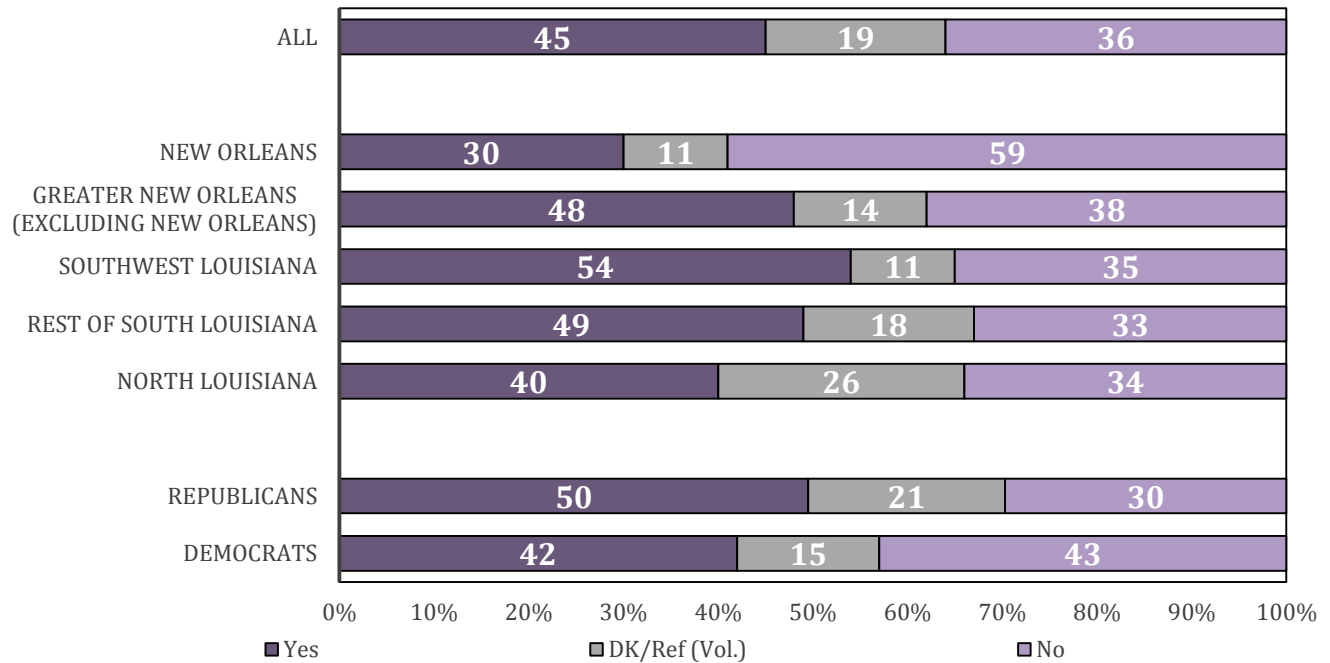
Percent who say yes or no to question about whether state received enough federal money for recovery compared to other states affected by these hurricanes



NOTE: DK/Ref (Vol.) is the percent of respondents who refused to answer the question or said they did not know an answer.  
SOURCE: Public Policy Research Lab

**Figure 25: New Orleans Residents Most Likely to Say Local Community Did Not Receive Fair Share of Recovery Funds**

Percent who say yes or no to question about whether local community received fair share of recovery dollars



NOTE: DK/Ref (Vol.) is the percent of respondents who refused to answer the question or said they did not know an answer.  
SOURCE: Public Policy Research Lab



Forty-five percent of state residents feel their local communities received their fair share, while 36 percent believe they did not (Figure 25). New Orleans is the only part of the state where residents are more likely to say their community did not receive its fair share (59 percent) than to say it did (30 percent).<sup>7</sup> Throughout south Louisiana, the pattern is reversed. They are more likely to say their communities received their fair share than to say they did not (although only in southwest Louisiana does a majority say their communities received their fair share). In north Louisiana opinion is more evenly split.

## Perceptions of National Attention

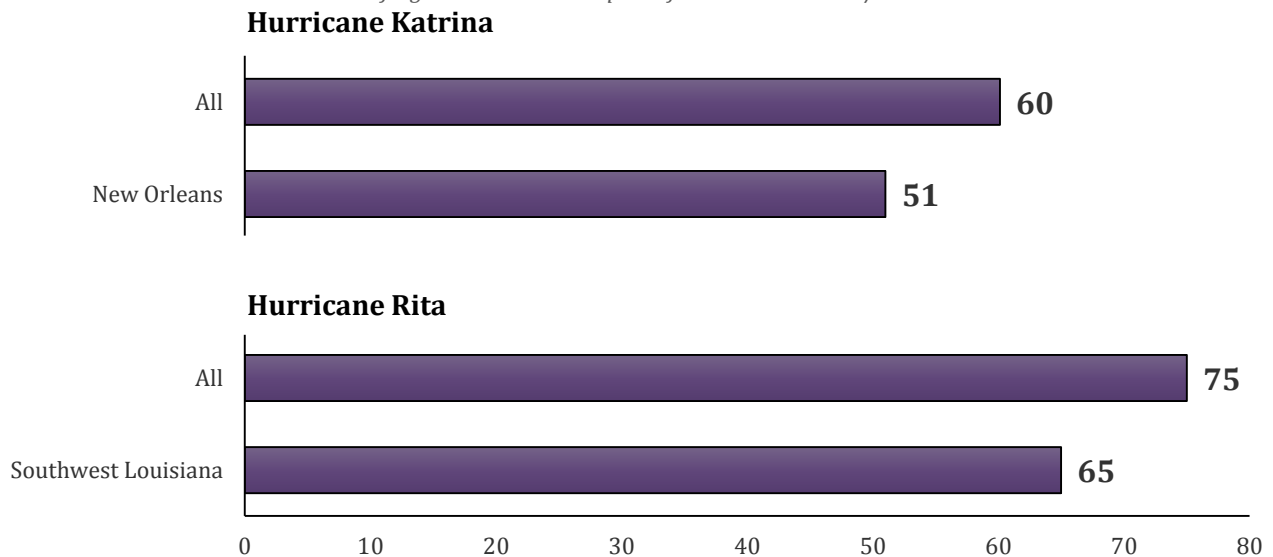
Most Louisiana residents feel the nation has moved on from the hurricanes that hit the state in

2005. Sixty percent say that most Americans have forgotten about the impact Hurricane Katrina had on Louisiana. Interestingly, this share is lower in New Orleans, where 51 percent say most Americans have forgotten and 48 percent say that most are still aware of the impacts (Figure 26).

A similar pattern holds for Hurricane Rita. Three fourths of state residents say that most Americans have forgotten about Hurricane Rita's impact on Louisiana. This share is lowest in the region of the state most directly impacted by Hurricane Rita, where the share slips to 65 percent. It appears, then, that residents in those areas most directly impacted by these storms are the least likely to say Americans have forgotten about them.

**Figure 26: Most Think Nation Has Moved On, Less So in Regions Directly Affected**

*Percent who think most Americans have forgotten about the impact of Hurricane Katrina/Rita*



NOTE: DK/Ref (Vol.) is the percent of respondents who refused to answer the question or said they did not know an answer.

SOURCE: Public Policy Research Lab

<sup>7</sup> Even in Plaquemines and St Bernard Parishes, which were also heavily devastated by Hurricane Katrina, the difference between those who think their communities

received their fair share and those who did not is within the margin of error.

# Survey Methodology

Data in this report are from randomly selected representative samples of adult residents of New Orleans, Greater New Orleans (including Jefferson, Orleans, Plaquemines, St Bernard, and St Tammany Parishes), and southwest Louisiana (including Calcasieu, Cameron, and Vermilion Parishes), as well as randomly selected representative statewide sample of adult Louisiana residents. The parishes within the targeted samples were selected because of the direct impacts either Hurricane Katrina or Hurricane Rita had on them.

The total combined sample contains 2,195 respondents, including 422 respondents in New Orleans, 682 additional respondents from the other parishes in the Greater New Orleans area, and 370 respondents from the southwest Louisiana.

Data were collected via telephone interviews conducted from July 7 to August 10, 2015. The survey includes a traditional landline telephone survey combined with a survey of Louisiana cell phone users. Forty eight percent of respondents in the total sample were interviewed on a cell phone. The design of the landline sample ensures representation of both listed and unlisted numbers by use of random digit dialing. The cell phone sample is randomly drawn from known, available phone number banks dedicated to wireless service.

For the targeted samples the response rate is 9.5 percent for landline interviews and 6.5% for cell phone interviews. For the statewide sample the rates are 12.9 percent and 6.1 percent respectively. This response rate is the percentage of residential households or personal cell phones for which an interview is completed. The rates are calculated using the American Association for Public Opinion Research's method for Response Rate 3 as published in their Standard Definitions. Response rates have declined steadily for all surveys over the past several decades. The response rates for this survey are within or near the range of what national survey research organizations such as Gallup and the Pew Research Center have reported.

Each targeted sample as well as the total combined sample is weighted using an iterative procedure that matches race and ethnicity, education, household income, gender and age to known profiles for the respective populations found in the Census Bureau's American Community Survey. The sample is also weighted for population density by parish using parameters from United States Census data. Weighting cannot eliminate every source of nonresponse bias. However, proper conduction of random sampling combined with accepted weighting techniques has a strong record of yielding unbiased results.

The margin of error for each sample is included in the table below:

New Orleans only	+/- 5.2 percentage points
Greater New Orleans (including New Orleans)	+/- 3.0 percentage points
Southwest Louisiana	+/- 5.1 percentage points
Total combined (including above and statewide sample)	+/- 2.1 percentage points

The margin of error and tests for statistical significance take the weighting into account.

In addition to sampling error, as accounted for through the margin of error, readers should recognize that questions wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of opinion polls.

Please direct any questions concerning survey methodology to:

Dr. Michael Henderson, Research Director, PPRL  
mbhende1@lsu.edu  
225-578-5149

## Question Wording and Topline Frequencies

NOTE: Results are shown for the total sample of all respondents (combining statewide sample and regional oversamples), New Orleans only, Greater New Orleans (including Orleans, Jefferson, Plaquemines, St Bernard, and St Tammany Parishes), and the southwest region of the state (including Calcasieu, Cameron, and Vermilion Parishes). Frequencies represent percentages of respondents who received the question. Percentages may not sum to 100 due to rounding.

Q PARISH. What parish do you live in?

[ANSWERS CODED INTO REGIONAL CATEGORIES]

	Total	New Orleans	Greater New Orleans	Calcasieu, Cameron, Vermilion
New Orleans	7	100	30	0
Greater New Orleans, but not New Orleans	14	0	70	0
Calcasieu, Cameron, or Vermilion	6	0	0	100
Rest of South Louisiana	46	0	0	0
North Louisiana	27	0	0	0
Don't know / Refused (Vol.)	0	0	0	0

Q1 THROUGH Q13 ASKED TO STATEWIDE SAMPLE ONLY. DID NOT INCLUDE HURRICANE RELATED QUESTIONS. PREVIOUSLY RELEASED.

Q14. Now we'd like to ask you about life in Louisiana since Hurricanes Katrina and Rita hit the state ten years ago in the late summer of 2005. To what extent has your own life been affected or disrupted by either Hurricane Katrina or Hurricane Rita – a great deal, a fair amount, not much, or not at all?

A great deal	24	50	46	27
A fair amount	17	27	23	20
Not much	30	15	22	39
Not at all	28	8	8	14
Don't know / Refused (Vol.)	0	0	0	0

Q15. Were you living in Louisiana ten years ago just before Hurricanes Katrina and Rita hit the state?

Yes	94	87	90	95
No	6	13	10	5
Don't know / Refused (Vol.)	0	0	0	0



[ASK Q16 ONLY IF ANSWERED “Yes” TO Q15]

Q16. What parish did you live in before the hurricanes?

[ANSWERS CODED INTO REGIONAL CATEGORIES]

	Total	New Orleans	Greater New Orleans	Calcasieu, Cameron, Vermilion
New Orleans	9	77	32	0
Greater New Orleans, but not New Orleans	15	9	64	1
Calcasieu, Cameron, or Vermilion	7	0	0	95
Rest of South Louisiana	41	1	2	3
North Louisiana	28	13	1	1
Don't know / Refused (Vol.)	0	0	0	0

[ASK Q17 ONLY IF ANSWERED “Yes” TO Q15]

Q17. Are you living in the same city or community today as you did before the hurricanes?

Yes	75	82	79	85
No	25	18	21	15
Don't know / Refused (Vol.)	0	0	0	0

[ASK Q18 ONLY IF ANSWERED “Yes” TO Q15]

Q18. Were you forced to leave your residence and live somewhere else for any length of time because of Hurricane Katrina or Hurricane Rita?

Yes	38	95	87	73
No	61	5	13	27
Don't know / Refused (Vol.)	0	0	0	0

[ASK Q19 ONLY IF ANSWERED “Yes” TO Q18]

Q19. How long did you live somewhere else before you were able to move back into the home you had before the hurricanes?

Less than a month	35	4	15	50
Between one month and one year	38	47	52	38
More than a year	11	38	19	4
Never moved back	15	10	14	7
Don't know / Refused (Vol.)	1	0	0	0

[RESPONDENTS RANDOMLY ASSIGNED EITHER TO Q20A OR Q20B]

Q20A. In your opinion which of the following was most responsible for the problems that resulted from these two hurricanes in 2005? [ORDER OF FIRST TWO RESPONSE OPTIONS RANDOMIZED]

	Total	New Orleans	Greater New Orleans	Calcasieu, Cameron, Vermilion
The federal government	24	33	31	30
The state government	30	26	29	26
The local governments in affected areas	25	23	20	18
Don't know / Refused (Vol.)	21	18	19	26

Q20B. In your opinion which of the following was most responsible for the problems that resulted from these two hurricanes in 2005? [ORDER OF FIRST TWO RESPONSE OPTIONS RANDOMIZED]

The federal government, under President Bush	27	44	28	14
The state government, under Governor Blanco	28	18	25	21
The local governments in affected areas	24	24	25	21
Don't know / Refused (Vol.)	21	14	22	43

[RESPONDENTS RANDOMLY ASSIGNED TO Q21A, Q21B, OR Q21C]

Q21A. Please tell me whether you strongly agree, agree, neither agree nor disagree, disagree, or strongly disagree with the following statement: People whose homes were damaged by Hurricanes Katrina or Rita should have done everything they could to move back to their communities after the storms.

Strongly agree	13	19	23	28
Agree	31	33	29	41
Neither agree nor disagree	22	14	19	15
Disagree	21	27	20	10
Strongly disagree	8	4	6	3
Don't know / Refused (Vol.)	6	3	3	4

Q21B. Please tell me whether you strongly agree, agree, neither agree nor disagree, disagree, or strongly disagree with the following statement: The government should have done everything it could to help the people whose homes were damaged by Hurricanes Katrina or Rita to move back to their communities after the storms.

	Total	New Orleans	Greater New Orleans	Calcasieu, Cameron, Vermilion
Strongly agree	50	57	50	43
Agree	27	26	32	40
Neither agree nor disagree	9	2	5	7
Disagree	7	6	6	6
Strongly disagree	5	10	6	1
Don't know / Refused (Vol.)	2	1	1	2

Q21C. Please tell me whether you strongly agree, agree, neither agree nor disagree, disagree, or strongly disagree with the following statement: The government did everything it could to help the people whose homes were damaged by Hurricanes Katrina or Rita to move back to their communities after the storms.

Strongly agree	9	7	8	7
Agree	29	16	27	45
Neither agree nor disagree	8	2	7	6
Disagree	30	46	34	24
Strongly disagree	21	24	21	13
Don't know / Refused (Vol.)	3	4	3	4

Q22. Thinking about the your own quality of life, would you say that it is better now than ten years ago before Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, worse now, or about the same?

Better	27	28	28	27
Worse	17	26	26	13
About the same	54	41	44	58
Don't know / Refused (Vol.)	2	4	3	2

Q23. Now, thinking about the overall quality of life in the local community where you currently live, would you say the quality of life in your community is better now than it was ten years ago before Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, worse now, or about the same?

	Total	New Orleans	Greater New Orleans	Calcasieu, Cameron, Vermilion
Better	20	28	24	28
Worse	24	34	30	19
About the same	53	30	41	50
Don't know / Refused (Vol.)	3	9	5	3

THERE IS NO Q24.

Q25. Overall, would you say Louisiana has mostly recovered or mostly not recovered from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita?

Mostly recovered	69	50	62	75
Mostly not recovered	26	45	34	20
Don't know / Refused (Vol.)	5	4	4	5

[ASK Q26 ONLY IF ANSWERED "Mostly not recovered" TO Q25]

Q26. How much longer do you think it will take for the state to recover?

1 to 5 more years	22	22	14	20
6 to 10 more years	21	28	26	9
More than 10 years	11	17	16	8
It will never recover	33	25	36	53
Don't know / Refused (Vol.)	12	8	8	10

Q27. Do you think the economy today in your community is better, worse or about the same as it was before Hurricanes Katrina and Rita ten years ago?

Better	21	29	28	30
Worse	35	37	38	30
About the same	41	28	30	35
Don't know / Refused (Vol.)	3	6	4	5

Q28. Do you think hurricane and flood protection today in your community is better, worse or about the same as they were before Hurricanes Katrina and Rita ten years ago?

	<b>Total</b>	<b>New Orleans</b>	<b>Greater New Orleans</b>	<b>Calcasieu, Cameron, Vermilion</b>
Better	32	48	48	27
Worse	14	10	10	20
About the same	46	32	35	43
Don't know / Refused (Vol.)	8	10	7	9

Q29. Do you think your community is more prepared to respond to a disaster today than it was before Hurricanes Katrina and Rita ten years ago, less prepared, or about the same?

More prepared	56	56	62	59
Less prepared	5	6	6	3
About the same	37	34	30	34
Don't know / Refused (Vol.)	2	3	2	4

Q30. Do you think public schools in your community are better, worse or about the same as they were before Hurricanes Katrina and Rita ten years ago?

Better	23	42	30	27
Worse	31	25	26	21
About the same	36	23	32	46
Don't know / Refused (Vol.)	10	10	12	7

Q31.

Do you think access to health care in your community is better, worse or about the same as it was ten years ago before Hurricanes Katrina and Rita?

Better	26	28	24	27
Worse	30	36	34	23
About the same	38	29	37	43
Don't know / Refused (Vol.)	6	7	5	6

Q32. Compared to other states affected by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, do you think the federal government allocated enough money to Louisiana for rebuilding?

	Total	New Orleans	Greater New Orleans	Calcasieu, Cameron, Vermilion
Yes	38	31	39	44
No	45	59	48	42
Don't know / Refused (Vol.)	17	10	13	15

Q33. Some areas of the state were impacted by the hurricanes directly, other areas saw increased demands on roads, schools, and other public facilities as people moved there from affected areas. Do you think your local community was allocated its fair share of recovery dollars?

Yes	45	32	45	54
No	36	56	42	33
Don't know / Refused (Vol.)	19	13	13	13

Q34. Please tell me whether you strongly agree, agree, neither agree nor disagree, disagree, or strongly disagree with the following statement: People like me had no say in the rebuilding process.

Strongly agree	27	32	35	24
Agree	33	28	29	34
Neither agree nor disagree	9	7	7	14
Disagree	20	21	19	17
Strongly disagree	6	6	5	5
Don't know / Refused (Vol.)	5	5	4	5

Q35. Do you think most Americans are still aware of the impact Hurricane Katrina had on Louisiana, or do you think most Americans have forgotten?

Most are still aware	38	45	40	49
Most have forgotten	60	52	58	50
Don't know / Refused (Vol.)	2	2	2	1

Q36. Do you think most Americans are still aware of the impact Hurricane Rita had on Louisiana, or do you think most Americans have forgotten?

Most are still aware	23	21	16	34
Most have forgotten	75	77	82	63
Don't know / Refused (Vol.)	2	2	2	3

Q37. We just have a few follow up questions left. Your data is very helpful and will be used only for statistical purposes. In what year were you born?

[OPEN-ENDED ANSWERS CODED INTO CATEGORIES]

	Total	New Orleans	Greater New Orleans	Calcasieu, Cameron, Vermilion
18-29	24	29	24	19
30-49	30	30	31	35
50-64	27	25	27	27
65 or older	17	14	16	17
Don't know / Refused (Vol.)	2	2	2	2

Q38. Generally speaking do you consider yourself a Democrat, Republican, Independent, or what?

Democrat	33	55	39	29
Republican	28	13	22	22
Independent	27	18	25	29
Other	8	11	10	10
Don't know / Refused (Vol.)	5	3	5	10

[ASK Q39A ONLY IF ANSWERED "Democrat" OR "Republican" TO Q38]

Q39A. Would you consider yourself a strong or a not so strong [INSERT ANSWER TO Q38]?

Strong	60	67	60	52
Not so strong	37	32	39	47
Don't know / Refused (Vol.)	3	1	1	1

[ASK Q39B ONLY IF DID NOT ANSWER "Democrat" OR "Republican" TO Q38]

Q39B. Would you say, you lean to the Democratic Party or Republican Party, or would you say you don't lean to either party?

Democratic Party	11	23	11	8
Republican Party	19	11	19	23
Independent (Don't lean to either party)	60	53	61	58
Don't know / Refused (Vol.)	10	13	9	11

Q40. Which of the following categories best describes your level of education? Please stop me when I get to that category.

	<b>Total</b>	<b>New Orleans</b>	<b>Greater New Orleans</b>	<b>Calcasieu, Cameron, Vermilion</b>
Less than 9 <sup>th</sup> grade	6	5	6	6
9 <sup>th</sup> – 12 <sup>th</sup> grade but did not graduate high school	11	11	10	11
High school diploma	34	24	29	37
Some college or vocational school but no degree	21	22	23	20
Associates degree	5	4	5	6
Bachelor’s degree	15	19	18	13
Graduate or professional degree	7	14	10	5
Don’t know / Refused (Vol.)	0	0	1	0

Q41. Are you of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin, such as Mexican, Puerto Rican, or Cuban?

Yes	4	5	8	3
No	95	94	91	97
Don’t know / Refused (Vol.)	1	0	1	0

Q42. Which of the following best describes you? Are you white, African-American, or something else?

White	61	34	57	74
African Americans	32	59	34	22
Other	5	7	7	4
Don’t know / Refused (Vol.)	2	1	1	0

Q43 THROUGH Q45 ASKED TO STATEWIDE SAMPLE ONLY. PREVIOUSLY RELEASED.



Q46. We would like to know what your household income was last year before taxes. This information will remain strictly confidential and will only be used for statistical purposes. Please stop me when I get to the category that includes your household income.

	<b>Total</b>	<b>New Orleans</b>	<b>Greater New Orleans</b>	<b>Calcasieu, Cameron, Vermilion</b>
Under \$10,000	10	14	10	9
\$10,000 - \$14,999	6	5	5	6
\$15,000 - \$24,999	10	10	8	11
\$25,000 - \$34,999	6	6	7	5
\$35,000- \$49,999	6	6	4	6
\$50,000 - \$74,999	17	15	16	17
\$75,000 - \$99,999	11	9	11	11
\$100,000 - \$149,999	11	8	11	11
\$150,000 - \$199,999	4	3	4	4
\$200,000 or more	3	4	4	3
Don't know / Refused (Vol.)	18	20	19	17

Q47. [RECORD GENDER. DO NOT ASK.]

Male	48	47	48	48
Female	52	53	52	52