

*Toplines*

Selected Findings from the *Kaiser Health Poll Report Survey*

# **The Public's Views on the Response to Hurricane Katrina**

**August 2006**

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### **Methodology**

The Kaiser Family Foundation *Health Poll Report Survey* was conducted and analyzed by researchers at the Kaiser Family Foundation. A nationally representative sample of 1,217 adults ages 18 and older was contacted by telephone by Princeton Survey Research Associates International between June 12 and June 19, 2006. Interviews were conducted in English and Spanish.

The margin of sampling error for the survey is plus or minus 3 percentage points for total respondents. For results based on smaller subsets of respondents the margin of sampling error is higher. Note that sampling error is only one of many potential sources of error in this or any other public opinion poll.

Values less than 0.5% are indicated by an asterisk (\*). “VOL” indicates that a response was volunteered by respondent, not an explicitly offered choice.

4. How often do you think about Hurricane Katrina and its aftermath? Would you say **(READ)**
- 20 Very often
  - 40 Somewhat often
  - 29 Not too often OR
  - 11 Not at all?
  - 1 **(DO NOT READ)** Don't know/Refused
5. Do you think that by now, most people affected by Hurricane Katrina have gotten the help they need with housing, health care, and restoring their lives, or do you think that most people affected by the hurricane have NOT yet gotten the help they need?
- 23 Yes, have gotten the help they need
  - 70 No, have not gotten the help they need
  - 7 Don't know/Refused
6. Do you think that the state and local governments in the areas affected by Hurricane Katrina have gotten the help they need from the federal government to restore services and infrastructure, or do you think the state and local governments have not yet gotten the help they need?
- 30 Yes, have gotten the help they need
  - 56 No, have not yet gotten the help they need
  - 15 Don't know/Refused
7. Now thinking specifically about New Orleans, which of the following do you think best describes the situation in New Orleans today? Would you say that **(READ)**
- 2 Things are largely back to normal
  - 11 There is some work to be done, but most people are back to their normal lives
  - 52 There is still major work to be done to get the city up and running normally again OR
  - 30 The city is still in crisis and not functioning well at all?
  - 5 **(DO NOT READ)** Don't know/Refused
- 8a. How prepared do you think state and local government officials are to deal with this year's hurricane season? **(READ)**
- 7 Very prepared
  - 47 Somewhat prepared
  - 24 Not too prepared OR
  - 17 Not at all prepared?
  - 5 **(DO NOT READ)** Don't know/Refused
- 8b. And overall, how prepared do you think FEDERAL government officials are to deal with this year's hurricane season? **(READ)**
- 10 Very prepared
  - 47 Somewhat prepared
  - 22 Not too prepared OR
  - 17 Not at all prepared
  - 4 **(DO NOT READ)** Don't know/Refused

9. Which of the following comes closer to your view...(READ AND ROTATE STATEMENTS)

1. The federal government learned a lesson from Hurricane Katrina and the nation is better prepared for a major disaster as a result (OR)
2. The federal government failed to learn from Hurricane Katrina and the nation is no better prepared for a major disaster than it was before

- 50 First statement
- 43 Second statement
- 4 Neither statement (VOL)
- 3 (DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused

10. Did the government's handling of Hurricane Katrina have a positive impact, negative impact, or no impact on your confidence in government overall?

- 13 Positive impact
- 53 Negative impact
- 28 No impact
- 5 Don't know/Refused

10b. Would you say that the failures in the response to Hurricane Katrina were mostly... (RANDOMIZE 1-3)

- 31 Failures of government institutions and agencies (or)
- 22 Failures of residents to adequately prepare and leave in time (or)
- 21 Failures of individual officials and leaders (or)
- 1 Neither (VOL)
- \* No failures/ Response was not a failure (VOL)
- 17 All (VOL)
- 7 (DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused

**DEMOGRAPHICS:**

**(READ)** Finally, I have just a few questions we will use to describe the people who took part in our survey...

**D1. RECORD RESPONDENT'S SEX**

- 48 Male
- 52 Female

**D2. What is your age? (RECORD EXACT AGE AS TWO-DIGIT CODE.)**

- 18 18-29
- 37 30-49
- 25 50-64
- 17 65 and older
- 3 Refused
  
- 55 Total Under 50
- 42 Total 50 and older

**D3. In politics today, do you consider yourself a Republican, Democrat, or Independent?**

- 27 Republican
- 32 Democrat
- 33 Independent
- 4 **(VOL.)** No preference/Not interested in politics
- 1 **(VOL.)** Other party
- 1 Don't know
- 3 Refused

**D4. These days, many people are so busy they can't find time to register to vote, or move around so often they don't get a chance to re-register... Are you NOW registered to vote in your precinct or election district, or haven't you been able to register so far?**

- 81 Yes, registered
- 18 No, not registered
- 1 Don't know/Refused

**D5. What is the LAST grade or class that you COMPLETED in school? (DO NOT READ)**

- 3 None, or grade 1-8
- 10 High school incomplete (grades 9-11)
- 32 High school graduate (grade 12 or GED certificate)
- 4 Technical, trade or vocational school AFTER high school
- 23 Some college, no four-year degree (includes associate degree)
- 16 College graduate (B.S., B.A., or other four-year degree)
- 10 Post-graduate or professional schooling after college (e.g., toward a Master's degree or Ph.D; law or medical school)
- 2 Refused

D6. Are you currently married, living with a partner, widowed, divorced, separated, or have you never been married?

- 54 Married
- 4 Living as married
- 9 Divorced
- 2 Separated
- 8 Widowed
- 21 Never been married
- 2 Don't know/Refused

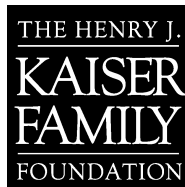
D7. Last year -- that is, in 2005 -- what was your total family income from all sources, before taxes? Just stop me when I get to the right category. **(READ)**

- 8 \$10,000 or less
- 6 \$10,001 to \$15,000
- 5 \$15,001 to \$20,000
- 9 \$20,001 to \$30,000
- 16 \$30,001 to \$50,000
- 16 \$50,001 to \$75,000
- 10 \$75,001 to \$100,000
- 8 \$100,001 to \$200,000
- 2 More than \$200,000
- 8 Don't know
- 12 Refused

D8. Are you, yourself, of Hispanic or Latino background, such as Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, or some other Spanish background?

D9. What is your race? Are you white, black, Asian or some other race? **(IF RESPONDENT SAYS HISPANIC ASK: Do you consider yourself a white Hispanic or a black Hispanic? CODE AS WHITE (1) OR BLACK (2). IF RESPONDENTS REFUSED TO PICK WHITE OR BLACK HISPANIC, RECORD HISPANIC AS "OTHER," CODE 4)**

- 71 White, Non Hispanic
- 26 Total Non-White
  - 10 Black or African-American
  - 10 Hispanic
  - 3 Asian
  - 3 Other or mixed race
- 3 Don't know/ Refused



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