

The Public Policy Research Lab

A Partnership of the Manship School of Mass Communication's
Reilly Center for Media & Public Affairs and the E.J. Ourso College of Business

The 2006 Louisiana Survey



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The Reilly Center for Media & Public Affairs
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

The mission of the Louisiana Survey is to establish benchmarks and assess progressions and regressions in residents' assessments of state government services. Within this context, the 2006 Louisiana Survey provides a unique opportunity to assess the effects of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita on state public opinion. It also illustrates the value of longitudinal surveys as barometers of public attitudes, and our continuing need to track changes in the public mood over time. Beginning in 2003, we began asking residents their opinions on a set of core items, including: (1) The direction of the state; (2) The most important problem; (3) Preferences for taxes and spending; and (4) Grades for various areas of state government service. With this baseline of data in hand, we are well-positioned to track opinion change in the wake of recent storms and to begin to understand how the dramatic events of the past year have restructured the basic contours of public opinion within the state.

Each year the Louisiana Survey also includes items designed to tap opinion on current public policy issues. This year's survey is - not surprisingly - devoted to state rebuilding efforts. While most of the items included in this portion of the survey are new, some of the items are repeated from the Post-Hurricane Community Audit conducted in November 2005. Where these items have been repeated, we make explicit comparisons in how these attitudes have changed over the past several months. Collectively, the data reveal an important facet of Louisiana public opinion: The public is more willing to make trade-offs, more responsive to changing political context and more rational than is commonly assumed.

We would be remiss if we did not note the challenges of polling in the post-Katrina/Rita environment. Results of an in-state telephone survey miss the opinions and attitudes of residents who have been displaced out-of-state, and also likely underestimate households that have been displaced within state but are currently living with friends or relatives or in FEMA trailer parks. Telephone surveys will also miss those residents (mostly in New Orleans) who are still without telephone service. Currently, Bell South estimates 144,000 households are without service. While one could make sampling adjustment based on availability of telephone service, such a strategy has its own risks as many households that lack service are empty while others are inhabited. Short of going door-to-door, there is no way for a survey to discern between these two possibilities. The best way to overcome these problems is to utilize area probability sampling and to conduct face-to-face interviews within census tracts and city blocks. Unfortunately, the costs of such an approach are prohibitive. This leaves us with the second best alternative - weighting according to current population estimates. For our purposes, we utilize estimates from the Department of Health & Hospitals and the City of New Orleans which place the current New Orleans residential population at 181,400.* Such estimates are

* Data from the Department of Health and Hospitals are based on their March 2006 estimates. The Rapid Estimate Projections from the City of New Orleans are based on a January 28-29, 2006 Survey, and reflects population in residential structures. This does not include other population sources (hotels, university dormitories, and cruise ships). The total nighttime estimate from the City of New Orleans is 210,000. All of

themselves problematic but represent the "best" estimates to date on changes in state population.

As part of an effort to ensure that the Louisiana Survey fulfilled its public service mission, input was solicited from a 15-member Advisory Committee. The Advisory Committee provided invaluable insight into the design of the questionnaire and in identifying the issues that most needed to be addressed by the survey. While we are greatly indebted for committee members' time and contributions, they bear no responsibility for any mistakes in the questionnaire, analysis or interpretation presented in this report. Questions regarding the content of this report should be directed to:

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THE DIRECTOR OF THE LOUISIANA SURVEY

Kirby Goidel (Ph.D., University of Kentucky, 1993) joined the Reilly Center for Media & Public Affairs in 2002 as the Director of the Louisiana Survey. He is the author of two books and over 20 journal articles, and has served as op-ed columnist for the Terre Haute Tribune Star and the Chair of the Department of Political Science at Indiana State University. His most recent academic research examines public opinion and public participation in debates over the use of embryonic stem cells in medical research.

METHODOLOGY

The 2006 Louisiana Survey is a telephone survey of 960 randomly selected adult Louisiana residents conducted from March 13-April 17, 2006. The survey has a margin of error of +/- 3.2 percentage points. The cooperation rate was 53 percent, meaning 53 percent of calls to households that answered the phone resulted in a completed interview. Final results are weighted by income, education, age and gender to match Louisiana demographic characteristics as estimated in the 2004 American Community Survey. Results were also weighted by region based on the current New Orleans population as estimated by the Department of Health & Hospitals and the rapid population estimates provided by the City of New Orleans. These estimates place the current population of New Orleans at 181,400.

these estimates can be found at the Greater New Orleans Community Data Center (www.gnodc.org). The estimate of customers currently out of telephone service (144,000) is taken from www.bellsouth.com/community/hurricane.

SUMMARY OF MAJOR FINDINGS

Wiping Out the Incremental Gains: The unprecedented events of the past year illustrate the importance of the core mission of the Louisiana Survey - to serve as a barometer of state public opinion by tracking progressions and regressions in citizen attitudes over time. This year's survey illustrates how dramatic events can fundamentally restructure the social, political and economical environments, and wipe out incremental gains that have accrued over several years. Specifically, in the 2006 Louisiana Survey, we see substantial declines in the number of residents who say the state is heading in the right direction, who believe the economy has gotten better over the last year, and in perceptions that the state had become less corrupt.

- In the spring 2005 survey, 52 percent of respondents said the state was moving in the right direction, an incremental gain over the 2004 survey of 48 percent. In the 2006 survey, the number of respondents saying the state was moving in the right direction dropped 18 points to 34 percent.
- Perceptions of the state economy had steadily improved from 2003-2005, as the percent saying the state economy had gotten worse declined from 37 percent in 2003 to 32 percent in 2004 to 25 percent in spring 2005. In 2006, the percent of residents saying the state economy had gotten worse increased to 49 percent, an increase of 24 percentage points.
- Louisiana's reputation for corruption has been widely noted by the news media over the past year and is ingrained into the state's collective psyche. Yet, our perceptions of ourselves as corrupt had notably improved from 2003 to 2005. From 2003 to 2005, the percent of Louisiana residents saying the state had become more corrupt dropped from 47 percent in 2003 to 28 percent in spring 2005, while the percent of residents saying the state had become less corrupt increased from 8 percent in 2003 to 34 percent in spring 2005. In 2006, these gains were ameliorated as 37 percent of respondents said the state was more corrupt, while only 19 percent said the state was less corrupt.

We're All in the Same Boat Now: In previous years, views regarding the direction of the state have been highly dependent upon one's socio-economic status. Higher educated, wealthier and Caucasian respondents were generally more positive about the direction of the state. In the 2006 survey, these differences are muted, such that - with the exception of age and gender - there is little difference in perception across demographic characteristics. Substantively, this means declines have been most precipitous among those groups most optimistic in the past, including:

- A 24-point drop among Caucasian respondents from 56 percent in spring 2005 to 32 percent in 2006. African-Americans were also less positive but the drop was less substantial: 6 points from 43 percent in 2005 to 37 percent in 2006.
- A 21-point drop among college-educated respondents from 59 percent saying the state was moving in the right direction in spring 2005 to 38 percent in 2006.
- A 19-point drop among respondents making \$75,000 or more per year. Notably, the most dramatic drop was among middle income groups (\$30,000

- \$75,000) who went from 60 percent of respondents saying the state was moving in the right direction in spring 2005 to 33 percent in 2006.
- Older (55 and older) respondents dropped from 53 percent in spring 2005 to 29 percent in 2006. Younger respondents (18-34) were more optimistic with 38 percent saying the state was moving in the right direction compared with 58 percent in 2005.

Rebuilding Emerges as the Most Important Problem, Confidence Declines: From 2003-2005, education and the economy dominated the landscape as the most important problems confronting the state. This year, education and the economy finish a distant second to rebuilding. When asked to select the three most important problems, 61 percent of respondents selected some aspect of rebuilding, while 38 percent selected education and 39 percent selected the economy. By comparison, in spring 2005, 60 percent of respondents selected education and the economy respectively. We see a similar pattern when respondents were asked to select the most important problem - 36 percent selected rebuilding while 18 percent selected education and 13 percent selected the economy. In spring 2005, 34 percent selected education and 19 percent selected the economy.

With the shift in the landscape, confidence that public officials will effectively address the most important problem has subsequently declined. In spring 2005, 15 percent of respondents said they were very confident and 41 percent somewhat confident that the most important problem would be effectively addressed by public officials. In 2006, only 5 percent of respondents said they were very confident and 28 percent somewhat confident that state officials would effectively address the most important problem.

Grading Louisiana as a Place to Live: Grades for Louisiana as a place to live fell over the past year, though notably the decline is reflected primarily in fewer "B" grades and more "C" grades in 2006 relative to spring 2005. In both 2005 and 2006, approximately 18 percent of respondents gave the state an "A" as a place to live, but 22 percent of respondents gave the state a "B" in 2006 compared to 30 percent in 2005. Lower grades for Louisiana as a place to live correspond with lower grades for Louisiana's arts and culture. In 2006, 22 percent of respondents gave the state's arts and culture an "A" compared to 31 percent in spring 2005. Likewise, 39 percent of respondents gave the state a "C" or below as a place to live in 2006 compared to 29 percent in spring 2005.

Spending Priorities: When it comes to spending priorities, public preferences in 2006 are similar to those in spring 2005. Residents express support for spending across a range of government services (provided such spending involves no costs), and are particularly supportive of spending on education, public health, roads and infrastructure. When asked about spending on rebuilding, a near consensus of residents (81 percent) believe the state should increase spending. The most notable shift across years is a 10-point increase in support for spending on coastal restoration from 64 percent in spring 2005 to 74 percent in 2006.

When only allowed to increase spending in one area, residents continue to express a preference for spending on primary and secondary education (35 percent) and public

health (13 percent), though there are also notable declines (9 points) in support for each of these areas. As with overall spending preferences, we see a notable (7 point) increase in support for spending for coastal restoration. In spring 2005, 4 percent of respondents selected coastal restoration as their top spending priority. In 2006, 11 percent of respondents selected coastal restoration.

For purposes of comparison with previous years, we did not allow respondents to select rebuilding as their top spending priority but instead asked a follow-up question in which respondents decided between rebuilding and their top spending priority. Fifty-nine percent of respondents opted for their top priority, while 41 percent opted for rebuilding.

Budgetary Splits: When it comes to paying off Louisiana's \$3.7 billion hurricane related debt to the federal government, residents are decidedly split. Forty-two percent of respondents prefer cutting services compared to 39 percent who favor raising taxes and 18 percent who said they didn't know or were unsure. A third of New Orleans area residents said they did not know or were unsure how the debt should be paid off. Residents were likewise divided on whether additional revenue should be used to pay for teacher pay raises, retire the state debt, or something else. While a plurality of respondents (44 percent) opted for teacher pay raises, 25 percent wanted to retire state debt, and 27 percent opted for something else.

Recognizing Responsibilities for Rebuilding: Louisiana residents were more than willing to assign different rebuilding responsibilities to different levels of government. Residents saw the federal government as most responsible for rebuilding levees (64 percent), restoring coastal wetlands (57 percent), and providing loans for small businesses (51 percent). State government, in contrast, was seen as responsible for rebuilding infrastructure (50 percent) and developing evacuation plans (57 percent). Respondents were most divided over responsibility for rebuilding housing, though a plurality of respondents believe the federal government should have primary responsibility for rebuilding housing in general (39 percent) and rebuilding uninsured housing specifically (34 percent).

Allocation of Funds for Rebuilding: When asked whether Louisiana had been allocated enough funds for rebuilding, 54 percent of respondents say the state has not been allocated enough, 35 percent of respondents said the state had been allocated enough, and 11 percent said they did not know or were unsure. Residents in affected regions (Orleans, the Orleans suburban parishes, and Southwestern Louisiana) were most likely to say the state had not been allocated enough money, while Baton Rouge and the Capitol region and North Louisiana were more likely to say the state had been allocated enough money for rebuilding.

While a majority of respondents (56 percent) say that areas not directly affected by hurricanes should receive funding, there has been a significant drop since the November, Post-Hurricane Community Audit. In the November survey, 79 percent of respondents said areas not directly affected by the storms should receive funding.

When it comes to allocating resources for rebuilding, respondents would prefer allocating funds more slowly to avoid waste as opposed to allocating more quickly to address immediate needs. Sixty-six percent of respondents said they preferred allocating

money more slowly to avoid waste, while 27 percent preferred allocating more quickly to address needs and 7 percent were unsure or didn't know.

A Longer Recovery: Compared to the November Post-Hurricane Survey, respondents were more likely to say the recovery would take longer. In the current survey, 56 percent of respondents said that recovery would take at least six years, including 26 percent who said recovery would take between 6-10 years, 16 percent more than 10 years, and 13 percent who said Louisiana would never recover. In the November Post-Hurricane Survey, 46 percent of respondents said recovery would take at least six years, including 19 percent who said 6-10, 17 percent who said more than 10 years, and 10 percent who said Louisiana would never recover.

The Role of the Public in the Rebuilding Process: Public participation in the rebuilding process has largely been through contributions to religious and charitable organizations. Sixty percent of respondents report having contributed to religious or nonprofit charitable organizations as part of the rebuilding process, while over a third reported volunteering at religious (38 percent) or charitable organizations (34 percent). Respondents were less likely to have attended a community forum (21 percent), called in to a talk radio program (10 percent), written a letter to a newspaper (6 percent) or attended a planning session (8 percent). Beyond existing levels of participation, Louisiana residents express a strong desire to do even more, but are unsure of what to do. Eighty-six percent of respondents strongly agreed (16 percent) or agreed (60 percent) that they would like to do more to help the state in the rebuilding and recovery process but were unsure what to do. Residents also express confusion about their role in the rebuilding process: 67 percent of respondents believe that "people like me have no say in the rebuilding process."

Louisianans report being very (32 percent) or somewhat informed (54 percent) about the rebuilding process, and give local television and newspapers relatively good marks for covering the rebuilding process. Twenty percent of respondents say local newspapers have done an excellent job covering the rebuilding process, while 39 percent say they have done a good job. For local television, 27 percent say coverage has been excellent while 45 percent say coverage has been good. Yet, if respondents report being reasonably well-informed, they also acknowledge that the rebuilding process is difficult to understand. Fifty-seven percent of respondents strongly agreed or agreed that "the rebuilding process is so complicated that a person like me can't really understand what is going on."

Perceptions of Louisiana's Image in National Media: When asked about the portrayal of Louisiana in the national media, 63 percent of Louisianans say the image was generally negative, 21 percent generally positive, 4 percent neither positive nor negative and 13 percent mixed. When asked about the accuracy of the image, 47 percent said the image was accurate, 38 percent inaccurate, 3 percent neither and 13 percent mixed. Among respondents who said the image was generally positive, 78 percent said the image was also accurate. Among respondents who said the image was negative, only 38 percent said it was accurate while 57 percent said the image was inaccurate.

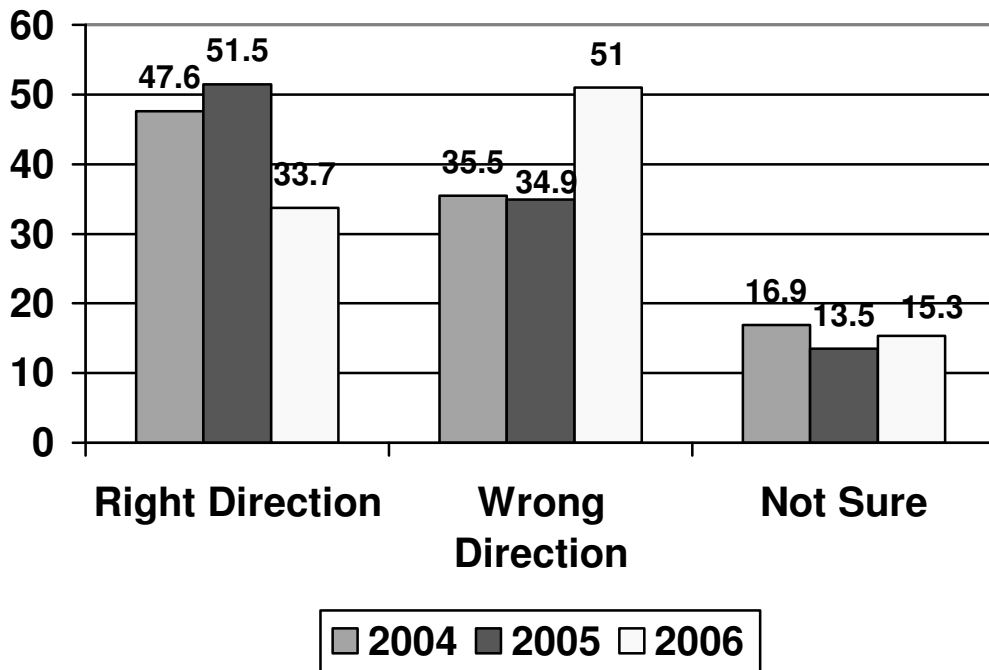
Privacy versus Access -- Electronic Health Records: In the aftermath of the hurricanes, many residents found themselves without access to their health records. The need for electronic health records has been recognized by the federal government for quite some time, yet public opinion has remained skeptical of whether such databases -- once created -- can remain secure and individual privacy protected. In the 2006 Louisiana Survey, we asked respondents whether they were more concerned about access to individual health records or about maintaining the privacy of health records. A majority of respondents (51 percent) said they were more concerned about privacy, while 39 percent said they were more concerned about access, 4 percent said they didn't know and 7 percent said they were concerned about both. Such a finding should not be read as opposition to electronic health records per se, but rather as a clear indicator that to be successfully implemented the public must be convinced that electronic health records are secure.

State Mental Health: In the November Post-Hurricane Survey, we asked respondents whether they had felt depressed because of what has happened in the areas affected by the hurricanes, and whether they or anyone in the immediate family had sought counseling or other professional help for depression, anxiety or stress caused by the hurricanes. At the time, 53 percent of respondents said they had felt depressed and 7 percent said either they or someone in their immediate family had sought counseling. In April 2006, 59 percent of respondents said they had felt depressed and 11 percent said either they or someone in their family had sought counseling.

I. Direction of the State

Over the past year, we have seen a substantial drop -- 18 percentage points -- in the number of respondents saying the state is moving in the right direction. In the 2005 Louisiana Survey, 51 percent of respondents said the state was moving in the right direction, 35 percent said the state was moving in the wrong direction, and 14 percent were unsure or didn't know. One year later these numbers were reversed: 34 percent said the state was moving in the right direction, 51 percent said the state was moving in the wrong direction, and 15 percent said they didn't know or were unsure.

Figure 1: Louisianans' Perceptions Regarding the Direction of the State, 2004-2006



Looking at demographic differences, we find few significant differences across race, education, income or partisan affiliation. This lack of difference is important as it contrasts significantly with previous years when perceptions of the direction of state were tied closely to socio-economic status, and indicates the most significant change in perception has been among wealthier, better-educated, Caucasian respondents.

- **Race:** Over the past year, the percent of Caucasian respondents saying the state was moving in the right direction dropped by 24 points (from 56 percent in 2005 to 32 percent in 2006). The African-American percentage also dropped though less substantially from 43 percent to 36 percent.

- ❑ **Gender:** The percent of men saying the state was moving in the right direction dropped by 26 points from 56 percent in 2005 to 30 percent in 2006. Among women, the percent dropped from 47 percent in 2005 to 38 percent in 2006.
- ❑ **Education:** The percent of college-educated respondents saying the state was moving in the right direction dropped 21 points from 59 percent in 2005 to 38 percent in 2006. Among respondents with less than a high school education, the drop in the percentage of respondents saying the state was moving in the right direction was less substantial -- from 38 percent in 2005 to 26 percent in 2006.
- ❑ **Income:** The percent of respondents earning less than \$30,000 per year saying the state was moving in the right direction declined from 35 percent in 2005 to 32 percent in 2006. The decline among wealthier groups was more substantial: The percent of respondents earning \$75,000 or more saying the state was moving in the right direction declined from 56 percent in 2005 to 37 percent in 2006. The declines were most substantial for respondents in the middle income categories (\$30,000-\$75,000) where the percentage of respondents saying the state was moving in the right direction dropped from 60 percent in 2005 to 33 percent in 2006.
- ❑ **Age:** As in 2005, we find that younger respondents are more likely to say the state is moving in the right direction. Thirty-eight percent of respondents aged 18-34 said the state was heading in the right direction compared to 34 percent in the 35-54 age group and 29 percent among respondents 55 and older. Looking across years, the most dramatic drop has been among the older age group (55 and older) where the percent saying the state was moving in the right direction dropped from 53 percent in 2005 to 29 percent in 2006. Younger respondents also experienced a significant drop -- 20 points -- from 58 percent to 38 percent, as did the 35-54 age group which dropped from 46 percent in 2005 to 34 percent in 2006.
- ❑ **Region:** We find no statistically significant differences by region, though respondents in the Orleans area were least positive about the direction of the state. In the Orleans area, 27 percent of respondents said the state was moving in the right direction compared to 30 percent in the Orleans suburban parishes, and 35-37 percent in the rest of the state.♦

♦ For the purposes of this analysis, we utilized area codes to define regions, with the Orleans region represented by the 504 area code, Baton Rouge as 225, Southwestern Louisiana as 337, North Louisiana as 318, and the Orleans Suburban Parishes as 985.

II. Most Important Problems

From the inception of the Louisiana Survey, two issues have dominated all others in terms of importance -- education and the economy. In the 2006 survey, rebuilding emerged as the most important problem noted by 61 percent as one of three most important problems and by 36 percent as the most important problem. A couple of important clarifications are in order: (1) Rebuilding is not really a single category, but encompasses levies, housing, and the politics of rebuilding and the government's response to the immediate crisis of the hurricanes; (2) The effect of rebuilding is even larger than these initial numbers indicate as many of the other problems are subsumed by the rebuilding process. For example, someone citing education in the Orleans area is likely referring to problems in rebuilding public schools, while someone citing jobs is most likely referring to re-establishing the economy. Quite simply, divisions across problems are less clear than at any time in the immediate past.

Figure 2: Selection of Three Most Important Problems, 2003-2006

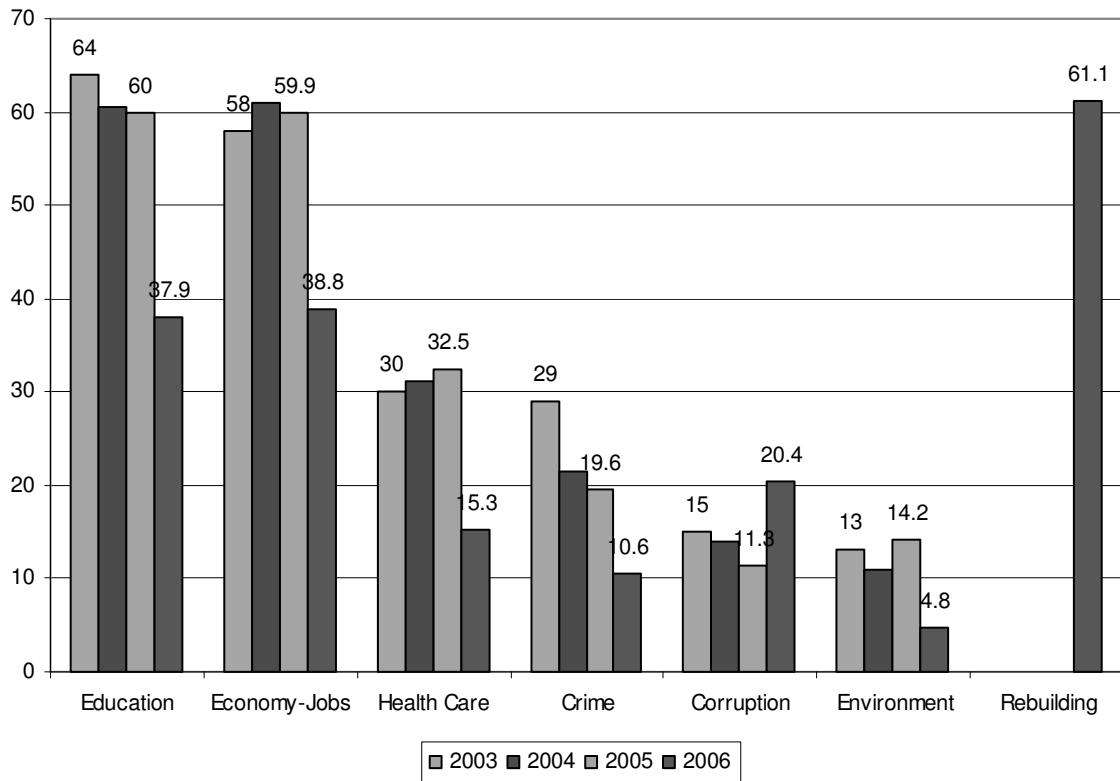
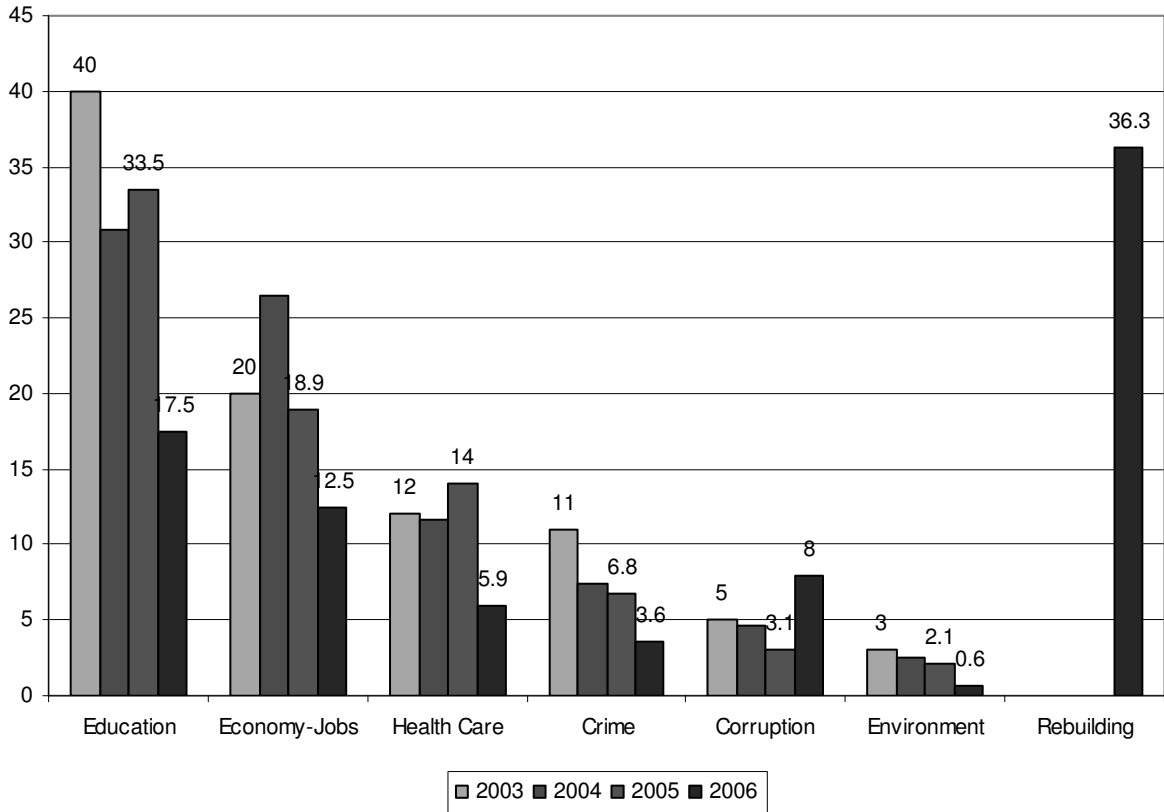


Figure 3: Selection of the Most Important Problem, 2003-2006



Education was more likely to be selected by wealthier and better-educated respondents. Only 24 percent of respondents making less than \$30,000 selected education as one of three most important problems compared to 49 percent of respondents making \$75,000 or more. Similarly, 28 percent of respondents with less than a high school degree selected education compared to 48 percent with a college degree.

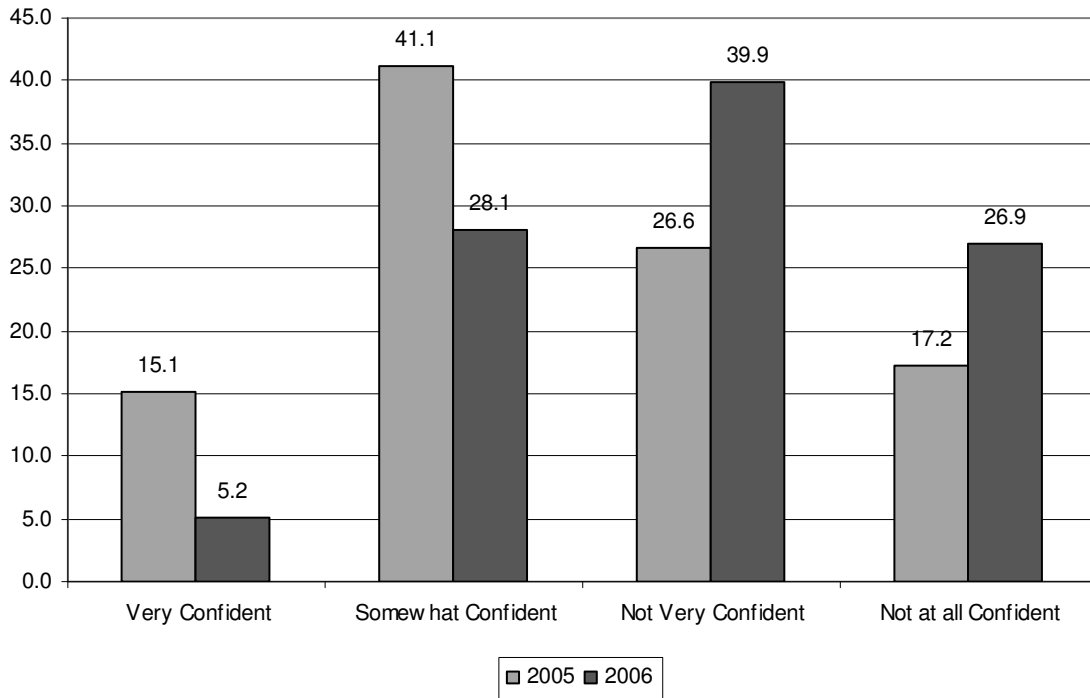
In terms of the economy, Baton Rouge area residents were least likely (28 percent) while North Louisianans were most likely (49 percent) to select the economy as one of three most important problems. Wealthier respondents (defined as \$75,000 or more) were also more likely to select the economy (46 percent) than poorer respondents (35 percent).

When it comes to rebuilding, concern was greatest in the New Orleans suburban parishes where 79 percent of respondents selected rebuilding as one of three most important issues, followed by the Orleans area cited by 65 percent of respondents. Rebuilding was cited least by residents in Southwestern Louisiana where only 47 percent of respondents mentioned it as one of three most important problems. More educated respondents were also more likely to cite rebuilding as one of three most important problems. Among respondents with less than a high school education, 54 percent selected rebuilding as one of three most important problems compared to 68 percent of respondents with some college, 66 percent with a college degree, and 70 percent with a graduate education.

III. Confidence that Most Important Problem Will be Effectively Addressed

Given the scope of rebuilding, it is perhaps no surprise that respondents are less confident that the most important problem will be effectively addressed. Only 5 percent of respondents reported they were very confident that the most important problem will be effectively addressed, while 28 percent said they were somewhat confident. This reflects a 10-point drop in the percent saying they were very confident and 13-point drop among those saying they were somewhat confident. There are corresponding increases among respondents saying they are not very confident (a 13-point increase) or not at all confident (a 10-point increase).

Figure 4: Louisianans' Confidence that State Government Officials Will Effectively Address the Most Important Problem, 2005-2006



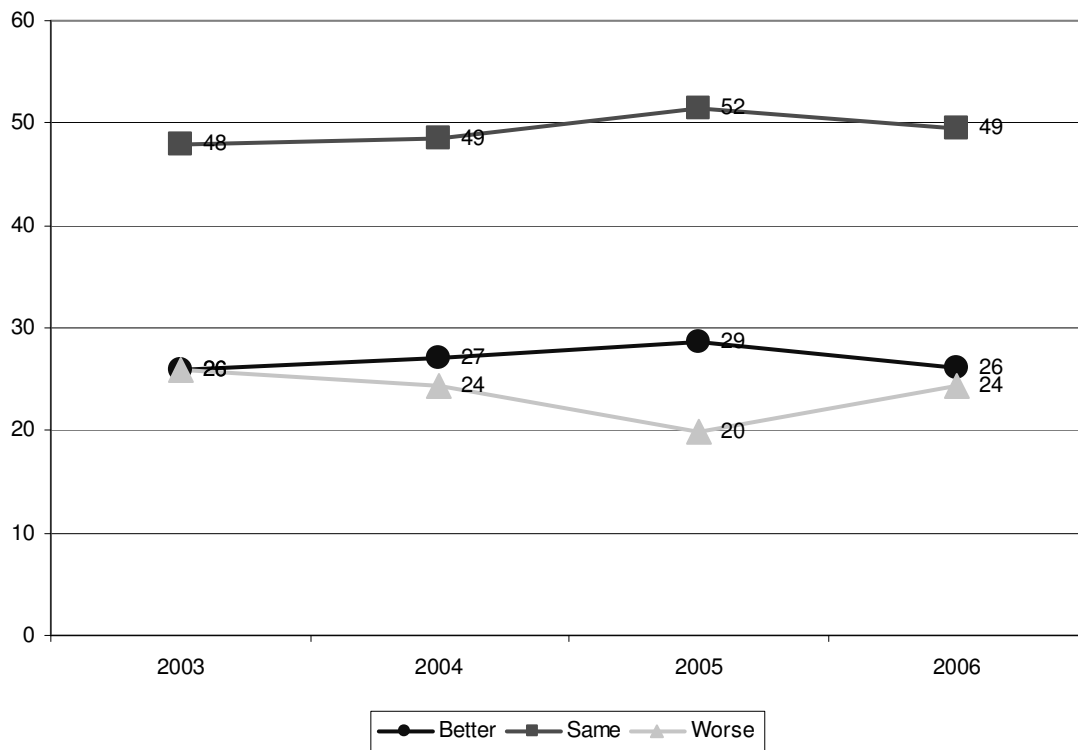
While overall confidence was clearly down, respondents who selected rebuilding were slightly more optimistic that the problem would be effectively addressed than respondents who selected education or the economy. Seven percent of respondents who selected rebuilding were very confident the most important problem would be addressed compared to only 1 percent of respondents who selected either education or the economy, respectively.

IV. Economic Evaluations

Personal Finances: Evaluations of personal finances declined slightly but remained largely unchanged over the past year. The percent of respondents saying their personal financial situation had gotten better dropped from 29 percent in 2005 to 26 percent in 2006, while the percent saying their personal finances had gotten worse increased from 20 percent in 2005 to 24 percent in 2006.

- Income: 38 percent of respondents earning \$75,000 or more per year said their personal financial situation had gotten better compared to 18 percent earning \$30,000 or less.
- Education: 19 percent of respondents with less than a high school education said their personal financial situation had gotten better compared to 31 percent with a college education.
- Age: 34 percent of respondents 18-34 said their personal financial situation had improved compared to 16 percent of respondents 55 and over.
- Region: Baton Rouge area residents were much more likely to say they were better off and New Orleans much less so. Thirty-seven percent of Baton Rouge residents said they were better off than last year compared to 17 percent of New Orleans residents. In the remaining regions, differences were more muted with between 25 and 28 percent of respondents saying they were better off than in the previous year.

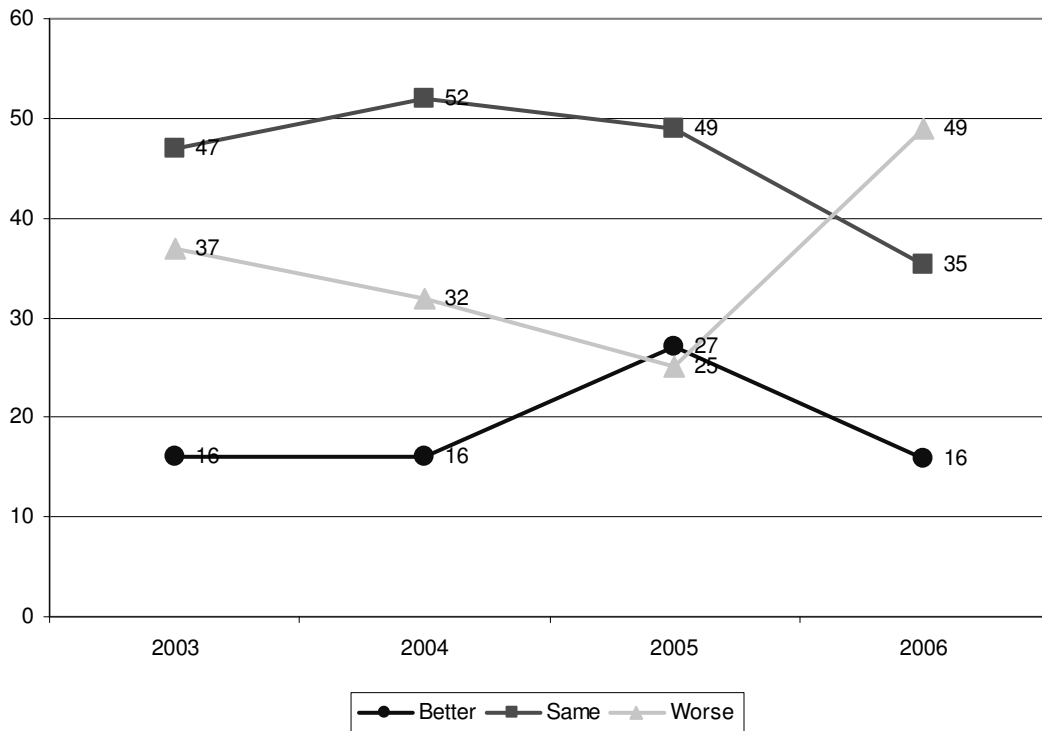
Figure 5: Personal Financial Evaluations, 2003-2006



State Evaluations: After a significant increase in the percent of respondents believing the state economy was improving in last year's survey, this year there was a significant drop in evaluations of state economic conditions. The percent of respondents believing the economy had gotten worse increased by 24 points from 25 percent in 2005 to 48 percent in 2006. The percent of respondents saying the state economy had gotten better dropped from 27 percent in 2005 to 16 percent in 2006.

- Age: Nineteen percent of 18-24 year olds said state economy had gotten better compared to 11 percent of respondents 55 and older.
- Race: 52 percent of Caucasian respondents compared to 38 percent of African-Americans say the state economy has gotten worse over the past year.
- Region: As with personal finances, Baton Rouge area residents were most positive about the state economy. Thirty percent of Baton Rouge area residents said the state economy had gotten better compared to 7 percent in the New Orleans region. Next to Baton Rouge, Southwestern Louisiana was most optimistic with 19 percent saying the state economy had gotten better, followed by North Louisiana at 14 percent, and the Orleans suburban parishes at 11 percent.

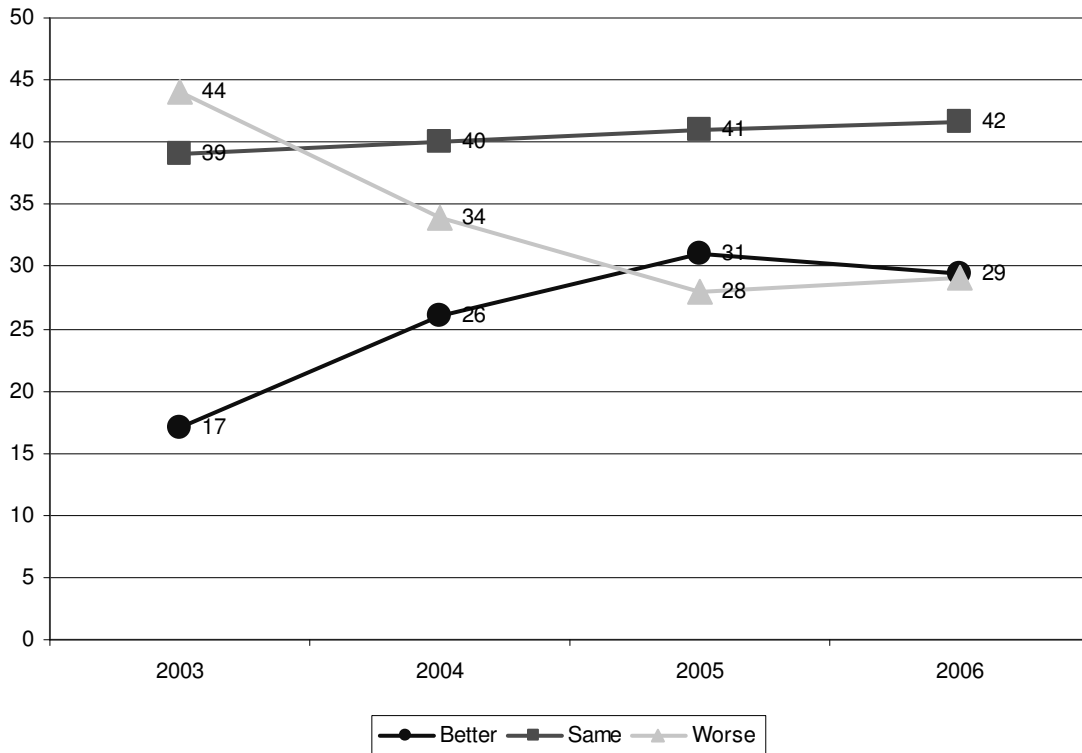
Figure 6: State Economic Evaluations, 2003-2006



National Economic Evaluations: Perceptions of the national economy also declined though the change was not nearly as substantial as state evaluations. The percent of respondents saying the national economy had gotten better declined slightly from 31 percent in 2005 to 26 percent in 2006, while the percent saying the national economy had gotten worse increased from 28 percent to 31 percent.

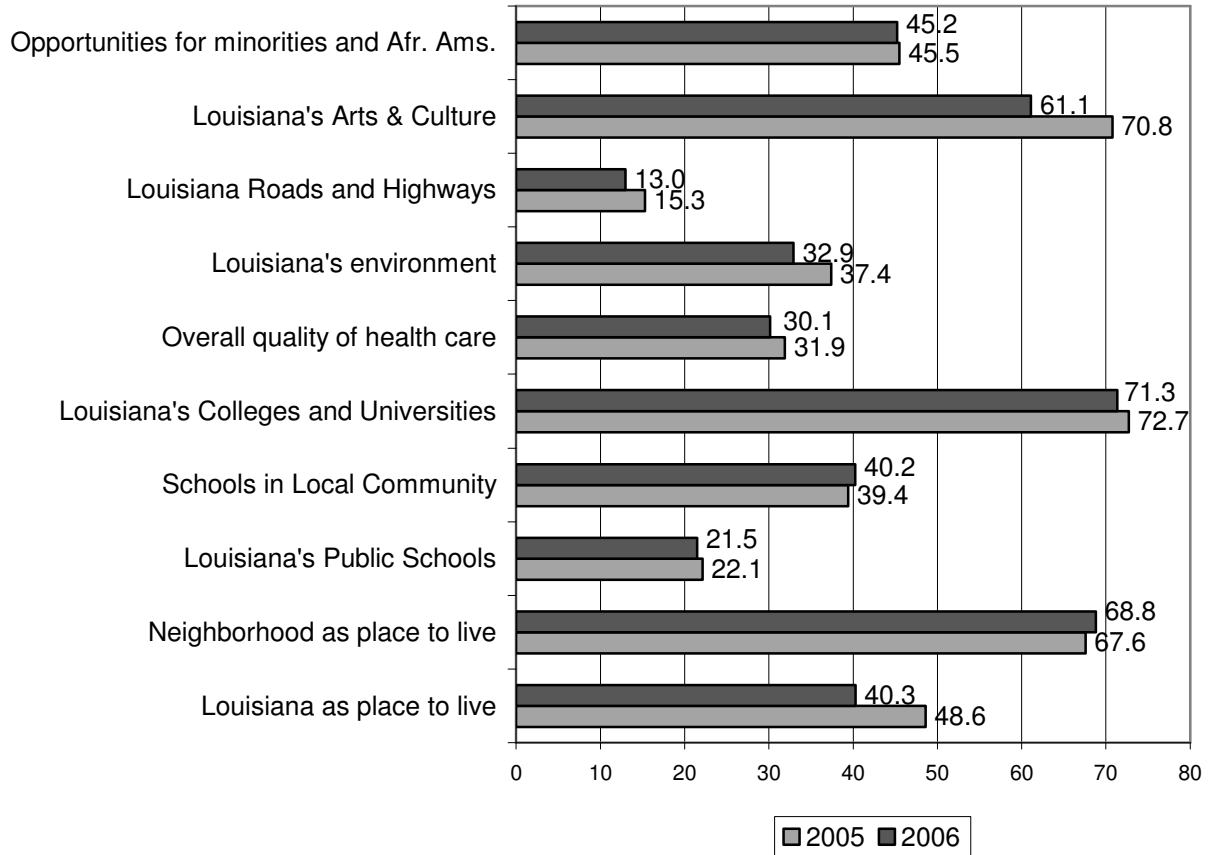
- Gender: Thirty-three percent of men compared to 25 percent of women said the national economy had gotten better over the past year.
- Education: Differences in education are reflected primarily in terms of whether the economy had stayed about the same or gotten worse with the better-educated more likely to say the national economy had stayed the same and less-educated respondents saying the national economy had gotten worse. Thirty-eight percent of respondents with less than a high school education said the national economy had gotten worse compared to 22 percent with a college education.
- Income: Nineteen percent with income under \$30,000 and 43 percent with income \$75,000 or greater said national economy had gotten better.
- Age: The middle age group (35-54) was the most negative regarding the national economy as 24 percent said national economy had gotten better compared to 31 percent of 18-34 year olds and 35 percent of those 55 and over.
- Race: Thirty-six percent of Caucasians compared to 15 percent of African-Americans said the national economy had gotten better.

Figure 7: National Economic Evaluations, 2003-2006



V. Grading the State

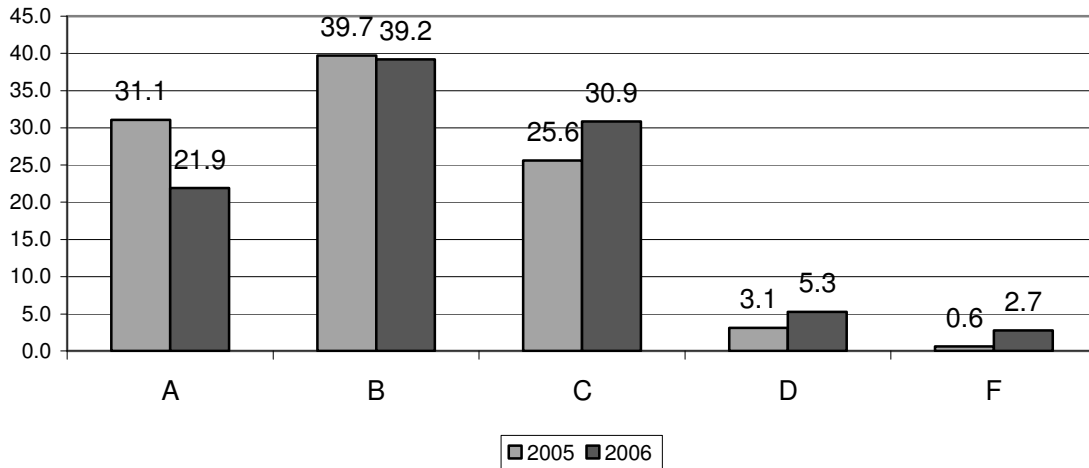
Figure 8: Percent of Louisiana Residents Grading Various Areas as an "A" or "B," 2005-2006



Consistent with previous versions of the Louisiana Survey, respondents were asked to grade Louisiana across various dimensions of government service and quality of life, including public schools, public health, the environment and Louisiana as a place to live. For the most part, the results across years are remarkably stable with only marginal differences. Several of the results, however, are noteworthy:

- The percent of Louisiana residents grading arts and culture as an "A" or "B" dropped by approximately 10 points from 71 percent in 2005 to 61 percent in 2006. Such a finding likely reflects concerns about the impact of Hurricane Katrina on the New Orleans area and the distinct culture of the region. Declines in evaluations of Louisiana were most dramatic in the regions most directly affected by the hurricanes. In the New Orleans region, the percent grading Louisiana as an "A" declined from 38 percent in 2005 to 27 percent in 2006. In Southwestern Louisiana, the percent grading arts and culture as an "A" dropped from 38 percent in 2005 to 21 percent in 2006.

Figure 9: Grades for Louisiana's Arts and Culture, 2005-2006



- The percent of Louisiana residents grading Louisiana as a place to live as an "A" or "B" dropped from 49 percent to 40 percent. Somewhat surprisingly, it was the less-affected areas that graded Louisiana more negatively as a place to live. Within the Baton Rouge Area, the percent of respondents giving the state as an "A" grade declined from 20 percent in 2005 to 12 percent in 2006. Most of the movement, however, was from an "A" grade to a "B" grade. In North Louisiana, the percent of respondents giving an "A" grade only moved from 18 percent in 2005 to 15 percent in 2006, but the percent giving a "B" declined from 38 percent in 2005 to 19 percent in 2006. Southwestern Louisiana was the only region to become more positive about the state as a place to live and the movement was primarily from "B" to "A" grades.

Figure 10: Grades for Louisiana as a Place to Live

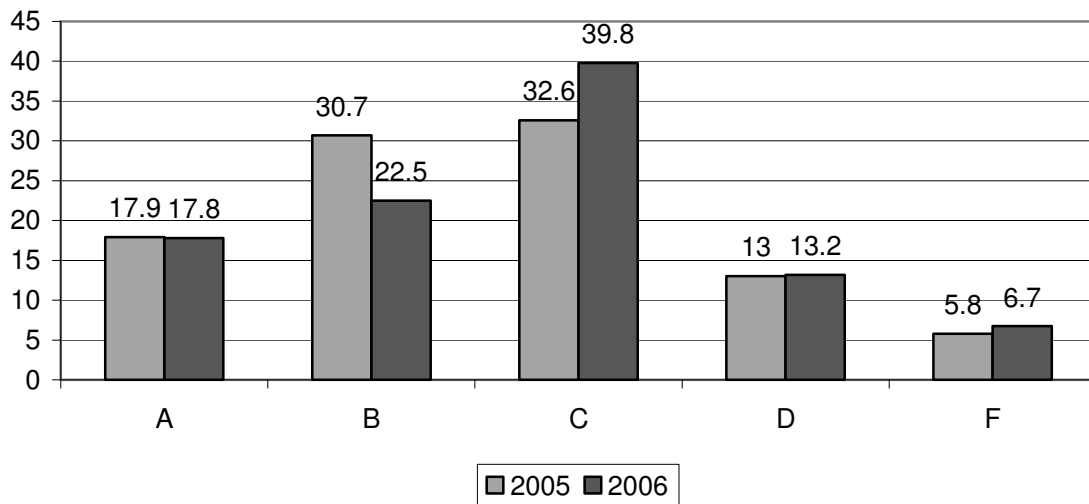
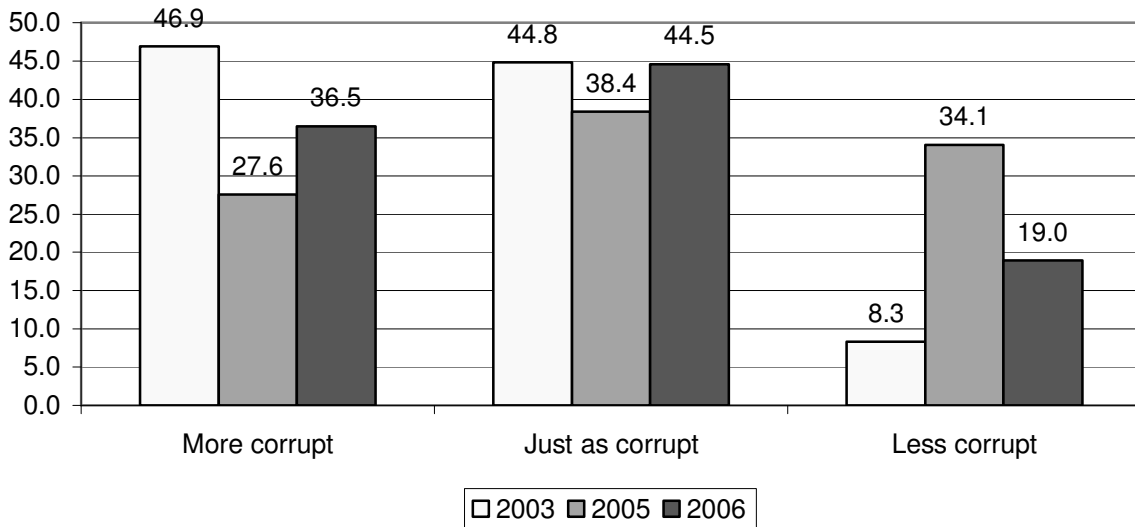


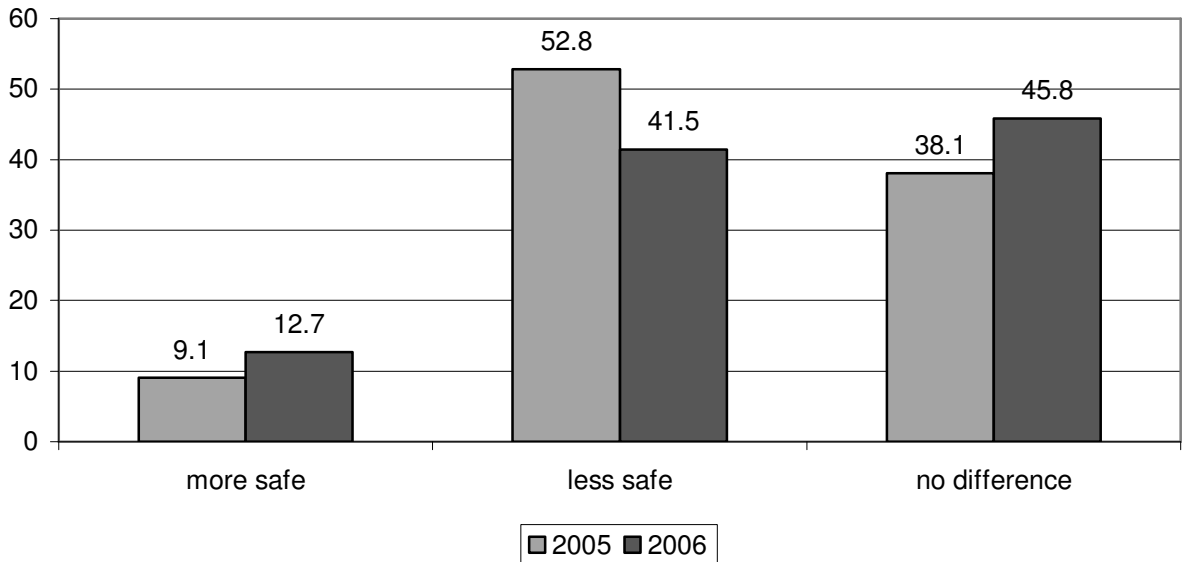
Figure 11: Perceptions of Corruption, 2003, 2005 and 2006



Corruption: As part of the 2005 Louisiana Survey, we noted significant improvements in public perceptions of corruption as the percent of respondents perceiving the state had become more corrupt declined from 47 percent to 28 percent. In 2006 in the wake of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, perceptions that the state had become more corrupt increased from 28 percent in 2005 to 37 percent in 2006. As Figure 9 illustrates, while this is a significant increase, residents continue to see the state as less corrupt than in 2003. In 2004, the question was not asked.

- As in the 2005 Louisiana Survey, lower-income and less-educated respondents were more likely to believe the state had become more corrupt. Forty-two percent of respondents making less than \$30,000 per year said the state was more corrupt compared to 30 percent of respondents making \$75,000 or more. Similarly, 44 percent of respondents with a high school education said the state was more corrupt compared to 28 percent of respondents with a college education and 19 percent of respondents with a graduate degree.
- One notable difference across years: In 2005, we found no significant differences by respondent age. In 2006, we find that younger respondents were more likely to say the state was more corrupt. Forty-five percent of 18-34 year olds said the state was more corrupt compared to 29 percent of respondents 55 and over. In 2005, only 27 percent of 18-34 year olds said the state was more corrupt compared to 29 percent of 35-54 year olds and 25 percent of respondents 55 and over.

Figure 12: Public Perceptions of Safety, 2005-2006

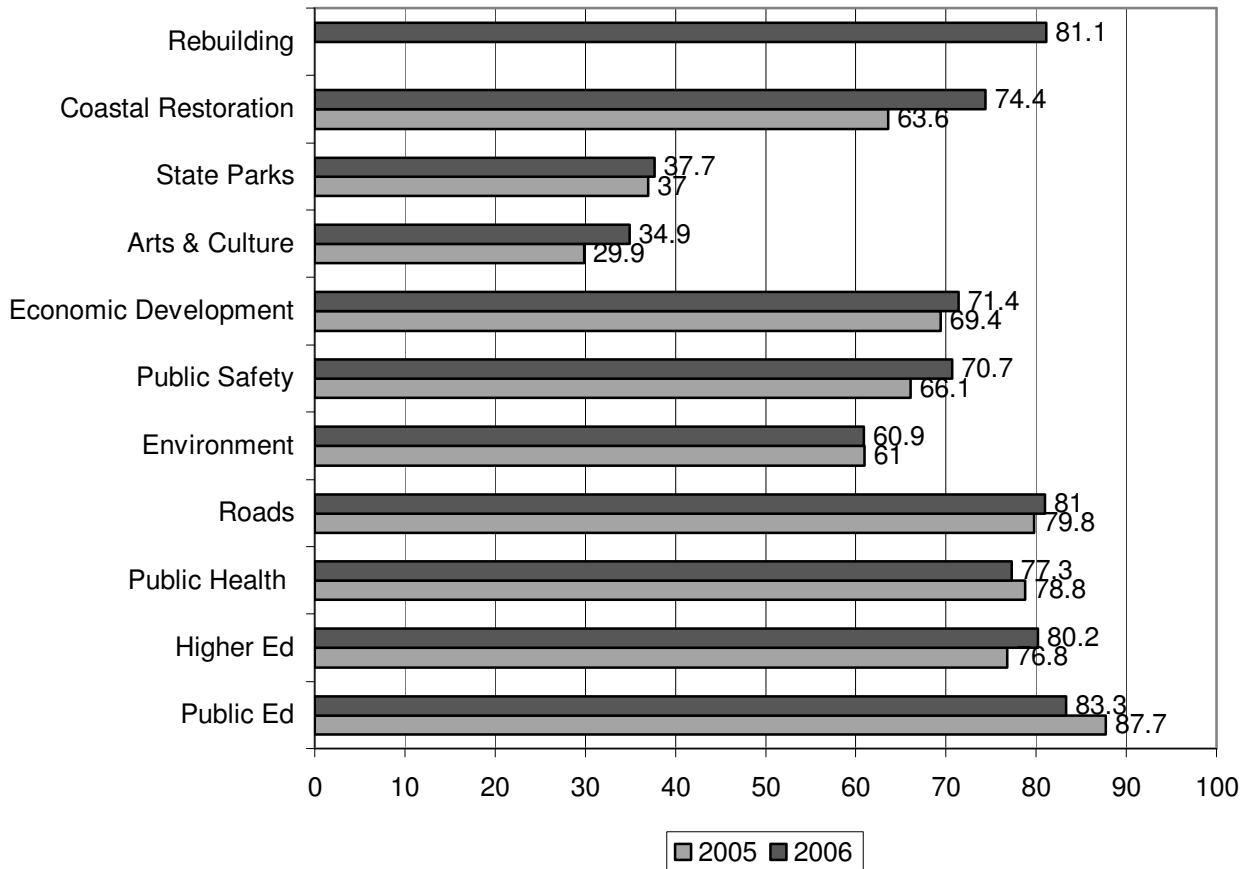


Public Safety: Since Hurricanes Katrina and Rita crime rates in the states have declined, a reality reflected in public perceptions. Compared to 2005, we see only a slight increase in the percent of respondents saying the state is more safe. In 2005, 9 percent of respondents said the state had become more safe compared to 13 percent in 2006. However, there was dramatic decline in the percent of respondents saying the state was less safe. In 2005, 53 percent of respondents said the state was less safe compared to 42 percent in 2006.

- ❑ The most dramatic increases in perceptions of public safety occurred in the New Orleans area where the percent of respondents saying the state had become more safe increased from 5 percent in 2005 to 16 percent in 2006.
- ❑ African-Americans were also more likely to believe the state was safer than in 2005. In 2005, 9 percent of African-Americans said the state was more safe, 42 percent just as safe, and 49 percent less safe. By comparison, in 2006, 16 percent of African-Americans said the state was more safe, 47 percent just as safe, and 37 percent less safe.

VI. Spending Priorities

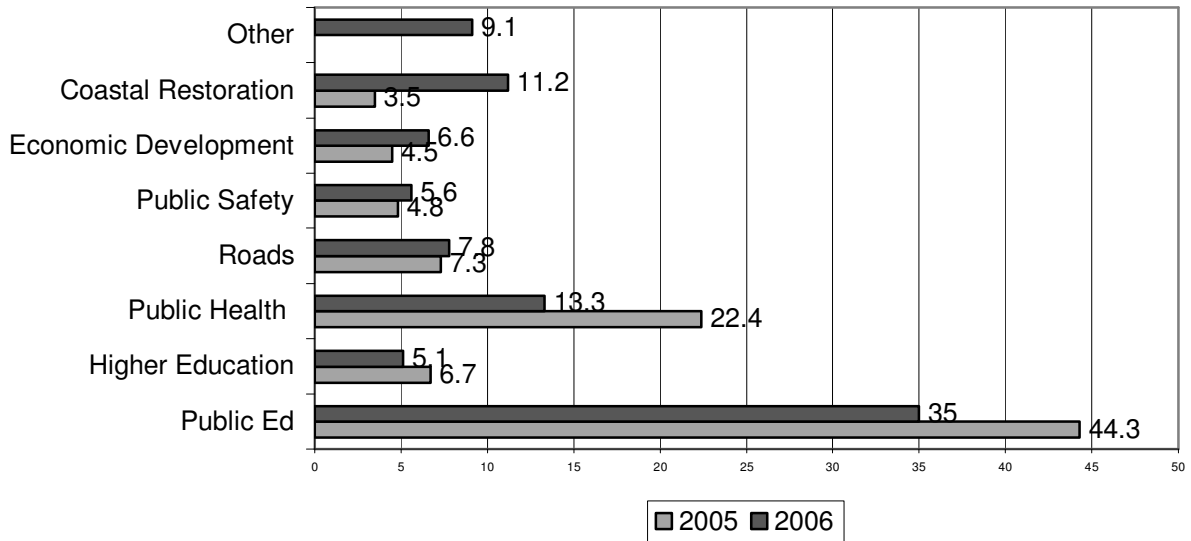
Figure 13: Spending Preferences by Area of State Government Service, 2005-2006



To gauge spending priorities, respondents were asked whether they would increase spending, decrease spending or keep it about the same across a number of areas of government service. As a follow-up question, respondents were asked to identify their top spending priority. To assure responses were comparable across years, respondents were not allowed to identify rebuilding as their top spending priority but were instead asked a separate question in which they decided between their top spending priority and rebuilding.

By and large, spending priorities in 2006 were similar to spending priorities in 2005 with one notable exception. There was a 10-point increase in the percent of respondents saying spending on coastal restoration should be increased. Seventy-four percent of respondents said spending on coastal restoration should be increased compared to 64 percent in 2005. There was a corresponding increase in the identification of coastal restoration as the top spending priority. Eleven percent of respondents selected coastal restoration as their top spending priority in 2006 compared to only 4 percent in 2005. While this increase is important, it is also important to note as a relative priority, coastal restoration continues to fall behind education and public health, though it has moved ahead of other areas such as roads, public safety, and higher education.

Figure 14: Preference for Spending in Most Important Issue Area, 2005-2006



As a follow-up question, respondents were asked whether they would prefer spending on their top priority or on rebuilding. A majority of respondents (59 percent) said they preferred spending on their top priority while 41 percent said they preferred spending on rebuilding. Importantly, the choice is somewhat artificial as preferences for spending on education or health care in the affected areas are inevitably part of the rebuilding process.

Figure 15: Preference for Spending on Rebuilding Versus Top Spending Priority

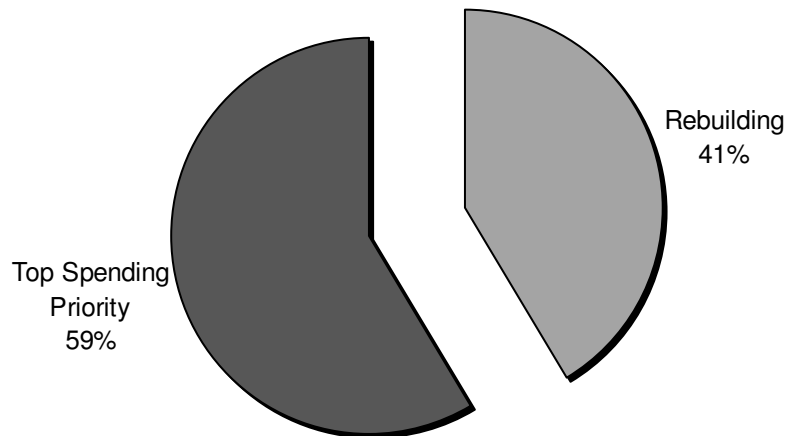
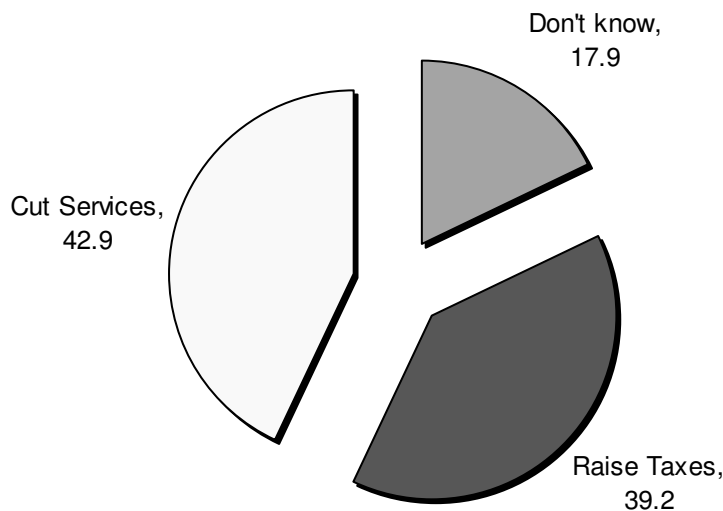
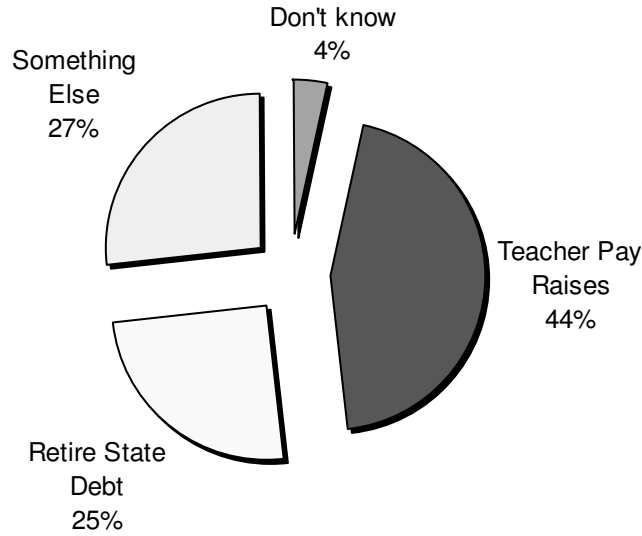


Figure 16: Preference for Cutting Services or Raising Taxes to Repay \$3.7 Billion Debt to Federal Government



When it comes to paying off the \$3.7 billion debt to the federal government for spending associated with Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, respondents were decidedly split between cuts in services or raising taxes. Forty-three percent of respondents opted for cutting services to pay off the debt to the federal government compared to 39 percent who opted for raising taxes. Older respondents were more likely to say they didn't know which was the better option. Twenty-seven percent of respondents 55 and over said they didn't know compared to 18 percent of 35-54 year olds and 16 percent of 18-24 year olds. In terms of regional differences, Orleans area residents were most likely to say they didn't know and least likely to opt for cutting government services. A third of Orleans area residents said they didn't know compared to 15-19 percent in the remaining regions. Likewise, only 29 percent of Orleans area respondents said they preferred cutting services compared to 43-49 percent in the remaining regions.

Figure 17: Preference for Using Extra Revenue in the State Budget – Teacher Pay Raises, Retire State Debt or Something Else

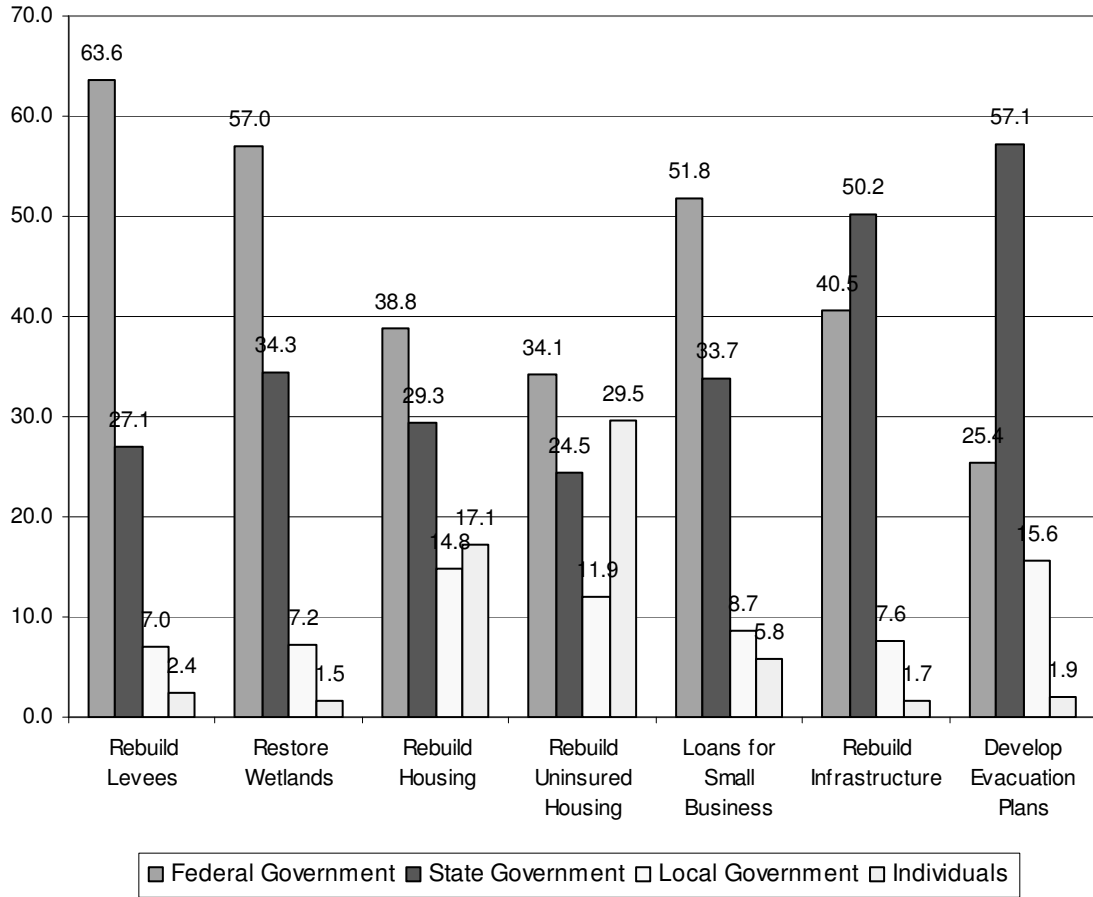


Respondents were also asked whether they would prefer to use additional revenue in the state budget for teacher pay raises, to retire state debt, or to be used for something else. While a plurality of respondents (44 percent) opted for teacher pay raises, a quarter of respondents (25 percent) wanted to use the additional revenue to retire state debt and 27 percent wanted to use it for something else. Women were more likely to want to use the additional revenue for teacher pay raises, while older respondents were more likely to want to retire state debt. Fifty percent of women compared to 32 percent of men wanted to use additional revenue for teacher pay raises. Thirty-two percent of respondents earning \$75,000 or more per year compared to 20 percent of respondents earning \$30,000 or less wanted to use additional revenue to retire state debt. Lower-income residents were not more likely to prefer using the revenue for teacher pay raises but were instead more likely to want to use it for something else.

When asked to identify the "something else" in an open-ended question, a plurality of respondents (23 percent) said rebuilding. Rebuilding was followed by education (17 percent), health care (15 percent) and economic development (13 percent). A fairly substantial number of respondents (14 percent) said they did not know what the "something else" was.

VII. The Politics of Rebuilding

Figure 18: Responsibilities for Rebuilding



Louisiana residents were more than willing to assign different rebuilding responsibilities to different levels of government. Residents saw the federal government as most responsible for rebuilding levees (64 percent), restoring coastal wetlands (57 percent) and providing loans for small businesses (51 percent). State government, in contrast, was seen as primarily responsible for rebuilding infrastructure (50 percent) and developing evacuation plans (57 percent). Respondents were most divided over responsibility for rebuilding housing, though a plurality of respondents believe the federal government should have primary responsibility for rebuilding housing in general (39 percent) and rebuilding uninsured housing specifically (34 percent). Important demographic differences emerged in terms of perceived responsibilities.

- *Rebuilding Levees*: Men, Caucasians, wealthier, better-educated, older, and Orleans and Baton Rouge area residents were more likely to say the national government should have responsibility for rebuilding the levees. Despite important demographic differences in levels of support, a majority of

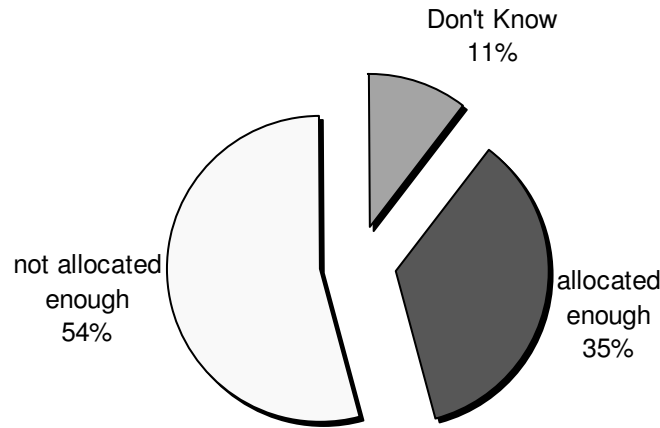
respondents consistently said the federal government should have primary responsibility for rebuilding the levees.

- Sixty-eight percent of men compared to 60 percent of women thought the federal government should have primary responsibility for rebuilding levees.
 - Sixty-eight percent of Caucasian respondents compared to 58 percent of African-Americans thought the federal government should have primary responsibility for rebuilding levees.
 - Seventy-one percent of respondents making \$75,000 or more compared to 57 percent of respondents making less than \$30,000 per year assigned primary responsibility for rebuilding levees to the federal government.
 - Seventy-six percent of respondents with a college degree compared to 51 percent without a high school degree and 57 percent with a high school diploma believed the federal government should have primary responsibility for rebuilding levees.
 - Sixty-eight percent of respondents 35-54 years old and 55 and over said the federal government should have primary responsibility for rebuilding levees compared to 55 percent of 18-34 year olds.
 - Seventy-eight percent in the Orleans area and 75 percent in the Baton Rouge/Capitol region said that rebuilding levees was the primary responsibility for the federal government. This drops to 64 percent in the Orleans suburban parishes, 56 percent in Northern Louisiana, and 50 percent in Southwestern Louisiana.
- *Restoring Coastal Wetlands:* We see similar patterns with respect to restoring coastal wetlands. Caucasians, higher-income, better-educated, older and Orleans residents were most likely to identify the restoration of coastal wetlands as a federal government responsibility:
- Sixty-two percent of Caucasians compared to 46 percent of African-Americans.
 - Sixty-five percent of respondents making more than \$75,000 per year compared to 48 percent making less than \$30,000.
 - Seventy-three percent with a college degree compared to 49 percent with a high school degree.
 - Sixty-six percent of respondents 55 and over compared to 45 percent of 18-34 year olds.
 - Seventy-four percent in Orleans area, 64 percent in Orleans suburban parishes, 58 percent in Baton Rouge/Capitol region, 49 percent in Northern Louisiana and 46 percent in Southwestern Louisiana.
- *Rebuilding Damaged Housing:* Wealthier, Caucasian and better-educated respondents more likely to say rebuilding is the responsibility of individuals. Older respondents were more likely to believe rebuilding is the responsibility of the federal government.
- Twenty-three percent of Caucasian respondents compared to 5 percent of African-Americans believed rebuilding housing should be the individual's responsibility.

- Twenty-seven percent of respondents earning \$75,000 or more compared to 6 percent earning less than \$30,000 per year believed rebuilding should be the individual's responsibility.
- Twenty percent with a college degree compared to 5 percent with less than a high school education and 15 percent with a high school diploma believed rebuilding should be the individual's responsibility.
- 47 percent of respondents 55 and over thought rebuilding damaged housing should be the responsibility of the federal government compared to 31 percent of 18-34 year olds.
- *Rebuilding Uninsured Housing:* Similar patterns emerge when we consider uninsured housing, though notably the respondents tend to place more responsibility on the individual. With uninsured housing, men, Caucasians, better-educated, and wealthier respondents are more likely to say it is the responsibility of the individual. What follows is a comparison of the percent of respondents assigning responsibility for rebuilding uninsured housing to the individuals (as opposed to one of the levels of government):
 - Thirty-five percent of males compared to 24 percent of females.
 - Thirty-eight percent of Caucasians compared to 11 percent of African-Americans.
 - Forty-nine percent of respondents earning \$75,000 or more per year compared to 13 percent earning \$30,000 or less.
 - Thirty-seven percent with a college degree compared to 17 percent with less than high school and 27 percent with a high school diploma.
- *Rebuilding Infrastructure:* Few differences emerged in terms of perceptions that the state government should have primary responsibility for rebuilding roads and infrastructure. One important difference that does emerge is that Orleans area respondents were more likely to say that rebuilding roads and infrastructure is a responsibility of the federal government. Fifty-six percent of Orleans area residents compared to 35-40 percent in the remaining regions believed the federal government should have primary responsibility for rebuilding infrastructure.
- *Providing Loans to Small Businesses:* There are limited differences in perceptions regarding the responsibility for providing loans to small businesses. The Orleans area was most likely to say the federal government should have primary responsibility for providing loans to small businesses. Sixty-three percent of respondents in the Orleans area, 56 percent in the Orleans suburban parishes and Baton Rouge, 52 percent in Southwestern Louisiana, and 39 percent in North Louisiana said the federal government should have primary responsibility for providing loans to small businesses in affected areas.
- *Developing Evacuation Plans:* Lower-income, less-educated and African-Americans were more likely to say the federal government should have responsibility for developing evacuation plans.
 - Thirty-six percent of African-Americans compared to 21 percent of Caucasians believed the federal government should have primary responsibility for developing evacuation plans.

- Thirty-three percent earning less than \$30,000 compared to 18 percent earning \$75,000 or more believed the federal government should have primary responsibility for developing evacuation plans.
- Twenty-eight percent with a high school diploma compared to 19 percent with a college degree believed the federal government should have primary responsibility for developing evacuation plans.

Figure 19: Whether the Federal Government has Allocated Enough Resources for Rebuilding

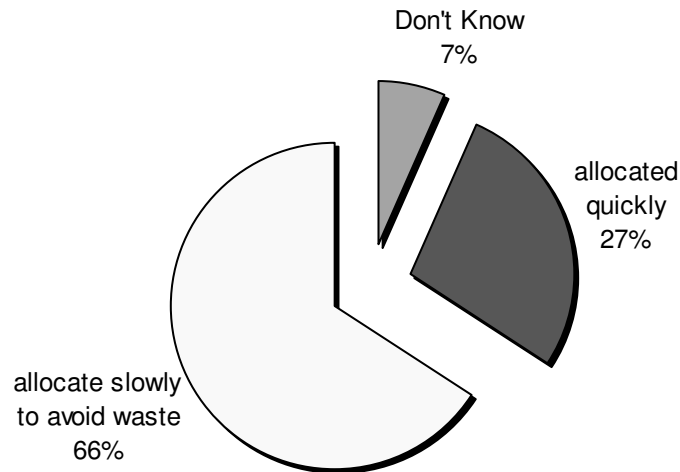


When asked whether Louisiana had been allocated enough funds for rebuilding, 54 percent of respondents say the state has not been allocated enough, 35 percent of respondents said the state has been allocated enough, and 11 percent said they did not know or were unsure. Residents in affected regions (Orleans, the Orleans suburban parishes, and Southwestern Louisiana) were most likely to say the state had not been allocated enough money, while residents in Baton Rouge and the Capitol region and North Louisiana were more likely to say the state had been allocated enough money for rebuilding.

- Race: Sixty-five percent of African-Americans compared to 40 percent of Caucasians said the state had not been allocated enough.
- Income: Sixty-eight percent of respondents earning less than \$30,000 said the state had not been allocated enough compared to 45 percent among respondents earning \$75,000 or more.
- Education: Largest differences were between less than high school and other respondents. Seventy-two percent of respondents with less than a high school education said the state had not been allocated enough compared to roughly 50 percent in other education groups.
- Region: Baton Rouge and North Louisiana most likely to say the state has been allocated enough, while Orleans was most likely to say the state has not been allocated enough. Forty-five percent of respondents in the Baton Rouge

area and 49 percent in North Louisiana say state has not been allocated enough compared to 63 percent in Orleans, 59 percent in Orleans suburban parishes and 57 percent in Southwestern Louisiana.

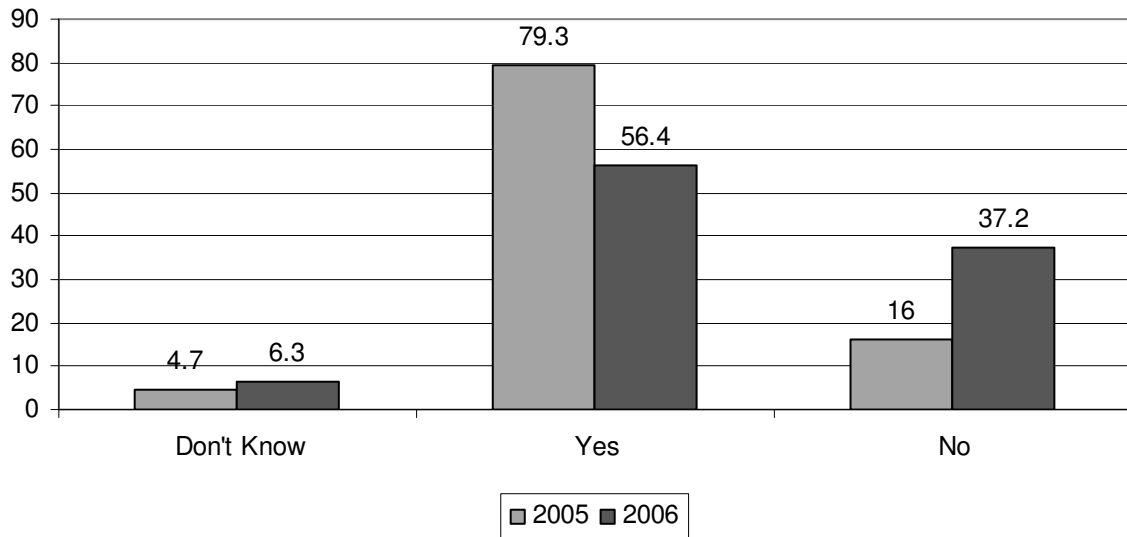
Figure 20: Preferences for Allocating Rebuilding Money Quickly to Address Immediate Needs or Slowly to Avoid Waste



When it comes to allocating resources for rebuilding, respondents would prefer allocating funds more slowly to avoid waste as opposed to allocating more quickly to address immediate needs. Sixty-six percent of respondents said they preferred allocating money more slowly to avoid waste, while 27 percent preferred allocating more quickly to address needs and 7 percent were unsure or didn't know. There are few demographic differences and even where differences emerge they reflect the broader pattern: Respondents prefer allocating money more slowly to avoid waste.

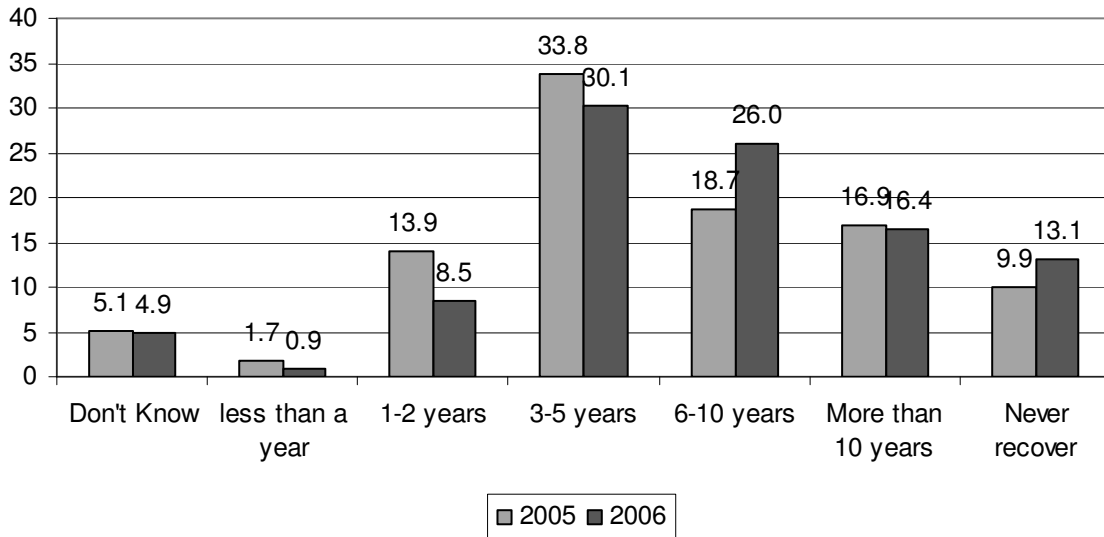
- ❑ Lower-income respondents were more likely to say they preferred allocating money more quickly: 33 percent of respondents earning less than \$30,000 per year wanted to allocate money more quickly to address needs compared to 22 percent of respondents earning \$75,000 or more per year. Despite this difference, 62 percent of respondents earning less than \$30,000 per year wanted to allocate money slowly to avoid waste.
- ❑ Thirty-three percent of 18-34 year olds prefer allocating more quickly compared to 25 percent of respondents 55 and over.
- ❑ Perhaps surprisingly, regional differences were not particularly strong, though Orleans area residents were more likely to want to allocate money more quickly to address needs.

Figure 21: Whether Rebuilding Money Should be Allocated to Areas Not Directly Affected by Hurricanes, November 2005 and April 2006



While a majority of respondents in 2006 (56 percent) say that areas not directly affected by hurricanes should receive funding, there has been a significant drop since the November Post-Hurricane Community Audit. In the November survey, 79 percent of respondents said areas not directly affected by the storms should receive funding. Preferences for spending in unaffected areas did not differ by income, education, age, race or region.

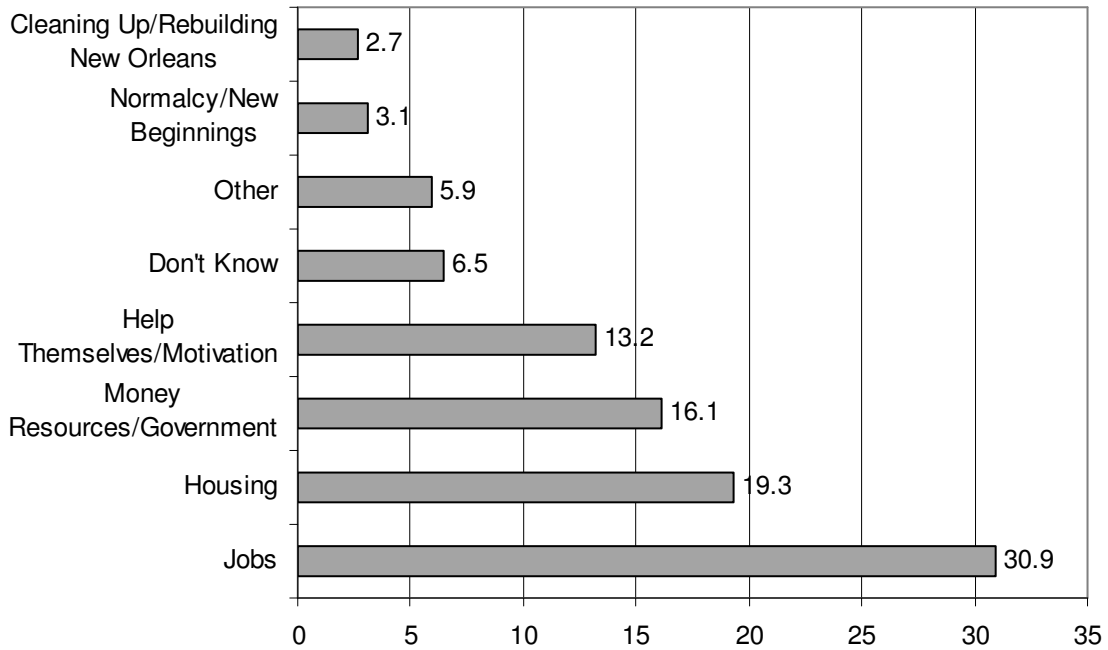
Figure 22: How Long it Will Take the State to Recover from Hurricanes Katrina & Rita, November 2005 and April 2006



Compared to the November Post-Hurricane Survey, respondents were more likely to say the recovery would take longer. In the current survey, 56 percent of respondents said recovery would take at least 6 years, including 26 percent who said recovery would take 6-10 years, 16 percent who said more than 10 years, and 13 percent who said Louisiana would never recover. In the November survey, 46 percent of respondents said recovery would take at least 6 years, including 19 percent who said 6-10 years, 17 percent who said more than 10 years, and 10 percent who said Louisiana would never recover.

- ❑ Race: African-Americans were more optimistic about rebuilding than Caucasians. Fourteen percent of African-Americans compared to 6 percent of Caucasians said rebuilding would take 1-2 years.
- ❑ Income: Lower-income respondents were more likely to say the state would never recover. Eighteen percent of respondents earning less than \$30,000 per year compared to 7 percent making \$75,000 or more said the state would never recover.
- ❑ Education: Twenty-four percent of respondents with less than a high school education, 12 percent with a high school diploma, and 8 percent with a college degree said the state would never recover.
- ❑ Age: Sixteen percent of respondents 18-34 said rebuilding would take 1-2 years compared to 6 percent of respondents 55 and over.
- ❑ Region: In terms of regional differences, Baton Rouge area residents were most pessimistic about rebuilding while Orleans residents were most optimistic. 19 percent of Baton Rouge area residents said the state would never recover compared to 9 percent of Orleans area residents.

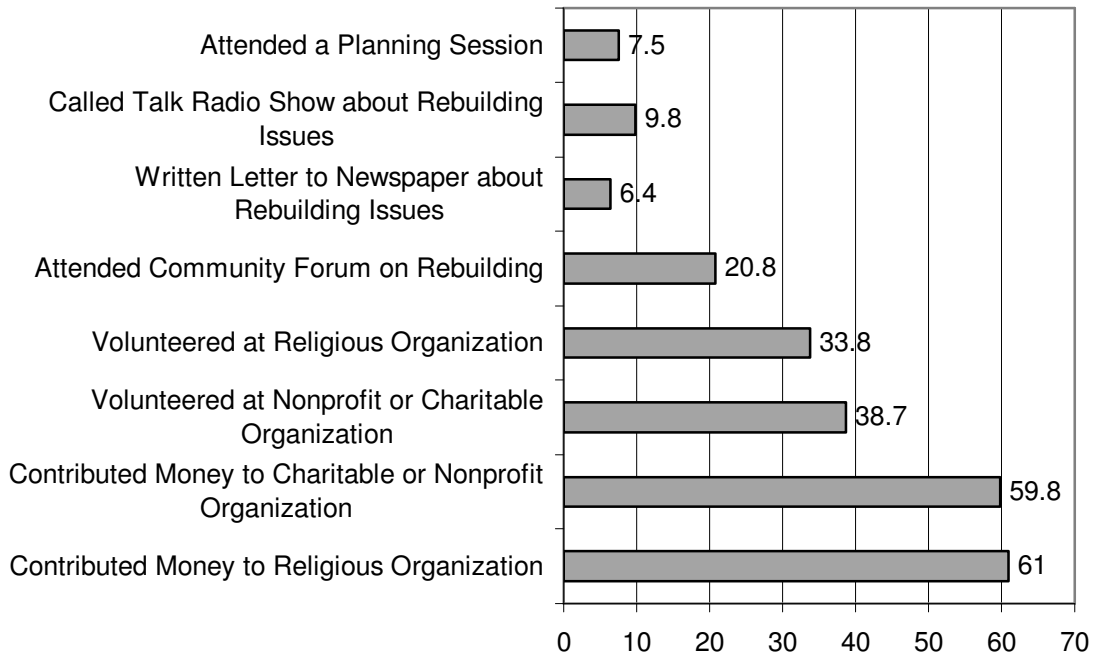
Figure 23: What Displaced Residents Most Need for Recovery



When asked what individuals displaced by the storms most need to recover, the most frequent response was a job (noted by 31 percent), followed by housing (19 percent), and money, government assistance, or other resources (16 percent). A fairly substantial number -- 13 percent -- said that displaced individuals needed motivation or needed to help themselves. To some extent, this sentiment is also reflected in the 31 percent of respondents who identified jobs as the greatest need for recovery and the perception that those displaced by the storms need to go to work and rebuild their lives without further government assistances. Notably, however, the jobs response also reflects concern about economic recovery in the affected areas.

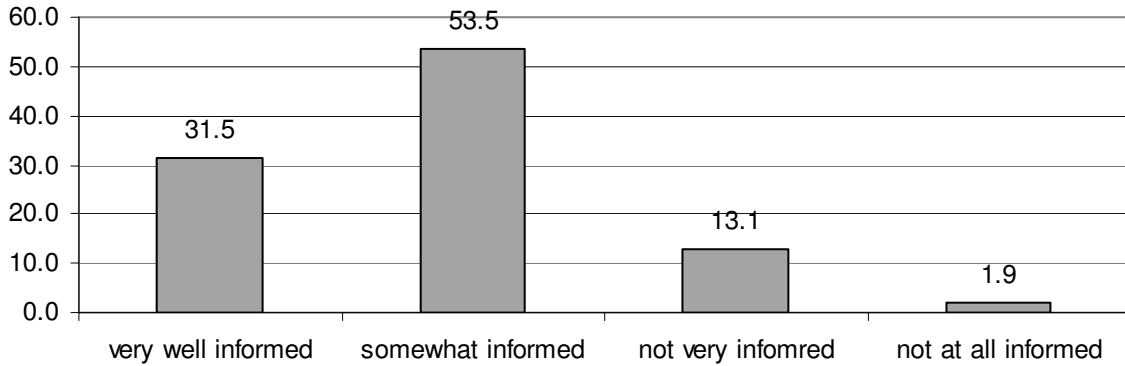
VII. The Media, Rebuilding, and the Public

Figure 24: Rebuilding Related Participation



Public participation in the rebuilding process has largely been through contributions to religious and charitable organizations. Sixty percent of respondents report having contributed to religious or nonprofit charitable organizations as part of the rebuilding process, while over a third reported volunteering at religious (38 percent) or charitable organizations (34 percent). Respondents were less likely to have attended a community forum (21 percent), called in to a talk radio program (10 percent), written a letter to a newspaper (6 percent) or attended a community forum (8 percent). Demographic differences in participation largely reflect well-noted differences in socio-economic status with participation greater among better-educated, wealthier, and older respondents.

Figure 25: Self-Reported Information Levels About the Rebuilding Process



Louisianans also report being very (32 percent) or somewhat informed (54 percent) about the rebuilding process, and give local television and newspapers relatively good marks for covering the rebuilding process. Twenty percent of respondents say local newspapers have done an excellent job covering the rebuilding process, while 39 percent say they have done a good job. For local television, 27 percent say coverage has been excellent while 45 percent say coverage has been good.

Figure 26: Evaluations of News Media Coverage of Rebuilding and Hurricanes, November 2005 and April 2006

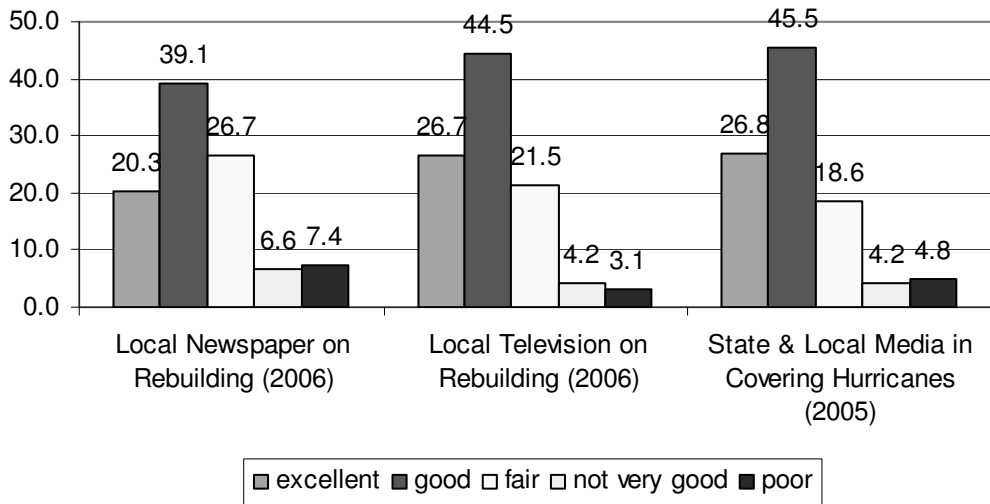
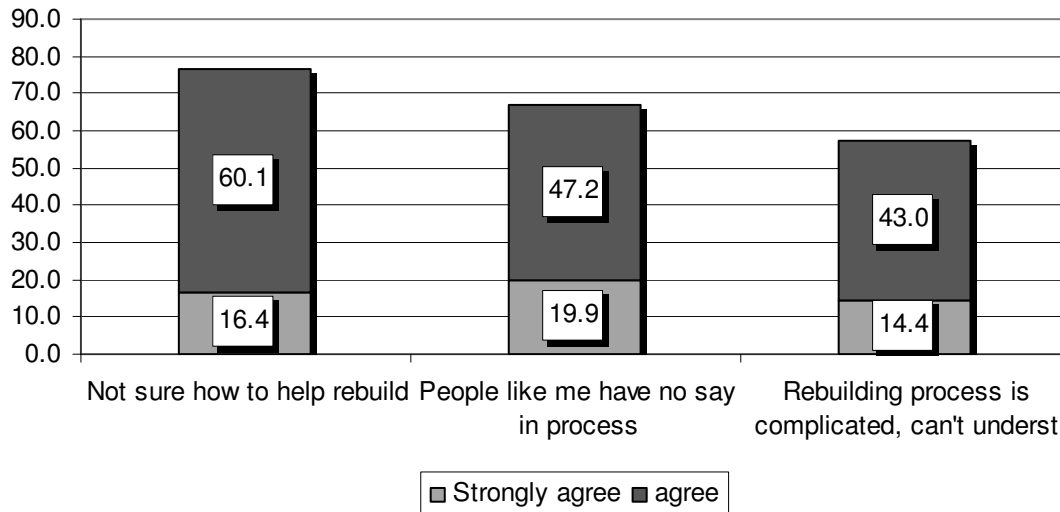


Figure 27: Public Perceptions Regarding the Role of the Public in the Rebuilding Process



Beyond existing levels of participation, Louisiana residents express a strong desire to do even more, but are unsure of what to do. Eighty-six percent of respondents strongly agreed (16 percent) or agreed (60 percent) that they would like to do more to help the state in the rebuilding and recovery process but were unsure what to do. Residents also express confusion about their role in the rebuilding process: 67 percent of respondents believe that "people like me have no say in the rebuilding process." Despite reporting that they are reasonably well-informed and giving the news media reasonably good grades for covering the rebuilding effort, 57 percent of respondents also agree (43 percent) or strongly agree (14 percent) that the process is so complicated they can't understand what is going on.

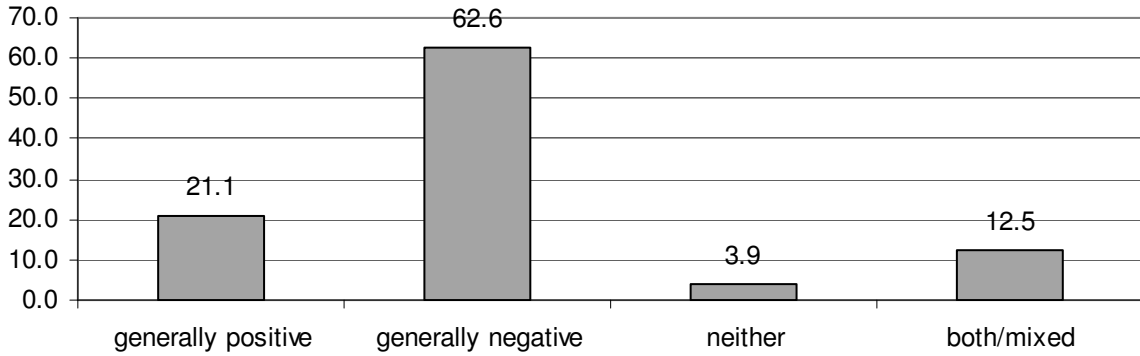
□ *Would Like to Do More But Not Sure How To Help:*

- Race: African-American respondents were more likely to strongly agree (24 percent) or agree (62 percent) that they would like to do more but were unsure how. In comparison, 15 percent of Caucasian respondents strongly agreed and 58 percent agreed that they would like to do more but were unsure how.
- Income: Higher-income respondents were more likely to strongly agree that they would like to more, though differences across income levels were primarily differences in whether respondents strongly agreed or agreed with the statement. Twenty-five percent of respondents earning \$75,000 or more per year strongly agreed that they would like to do more but were unsure what to do compared to 14 percent of respondents earning \$30,000 or less.
- Education: Among respondents with less than a high school education, 20 percent of respondents strongly agreed and 68 percent agreed that they would like to do more. Among

respondents with a college degree 15 percent strongly agreed and 57 percent agreed.

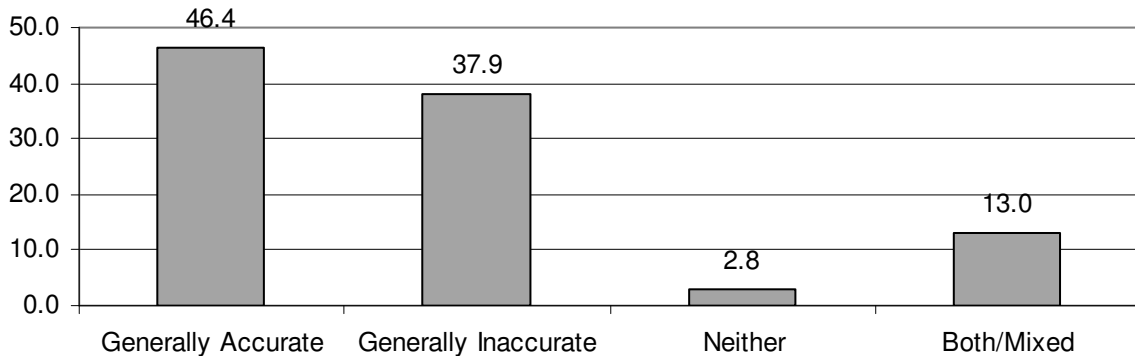
- *People Like Me Have No Say in the Rebuilding Process*
 - Income: Higher-income respondents were more likely to strongly agree that they have no say in the rebuilding process. 35 percent of respondents earning \$75,000 or more compared to 15 percent earning \$30,000 or less strongly agreed with the statement that "People like me have no say in the rebuilding process."
 - Region: In terms of region, overall differences comparing respondents who either agree or strongly agree are not particularly large. However, respondents in the Orleans suburban parishes and Southwestern Louisiana were more likely to strongly agree with the statement. Twenty-seven percent of respondents in Southwestern Louisiana and 24 percent in the Orleans suburban parishes strongly agreed that people like them have no say in the rebuilding process compared to 12 percent in North Louisiana, 18 percent in Orleans, and 20 percent in Baton Rouge.
- *Rebuilding Process is so Complicated, It is Hard to Understand What is Going On.*
 - Income: Lower-income respondents were more likely to say the process was so complicated that they could not understand what was going on; Sixty-eight percent of respondents earning less than \$30,000 strongly agreed or agreed compared to 45 percent of respondents earning \$75,000 or more per year.
 - Education: Eighty-three percent of respondents with less than a high school education, 62 percent with a high school diploma, and 38 percent with a college education strongly agreed or agreed with the statement that the process was so complicated they couldn't understand what was going on.

Figure 28: Louisiana's Image in the National Media



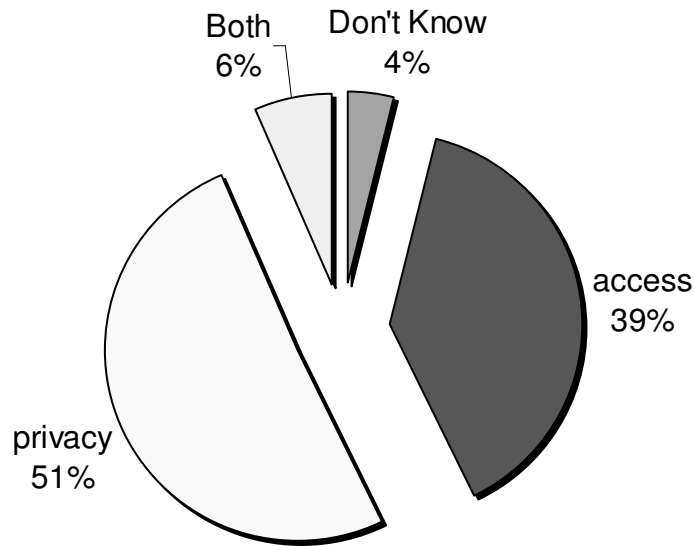
When asked about the portrayal of Louisiana in the national media, 63 percent of Louisianans said the image was generally negative, 21 percent said generally positive, 4 percent said neither positive nor negative, and 13 percent said portrayal was mixed. When asked about the accuracy of the image, 47 percent said the image was accurate, 38 percent inaccurate, 3 percent neither, and 13 percent mixed. Among respondents who said the image was generally positive, 78 percent said the image was also accurate. Among respondents who said the image was negative, only 38 percent said it was accurate while 57 percent said the image was inaccurate. Less-educated and lower-income respondents were more likely to say Louisiana's image in the national media was generally positive or mixed while better-educated and higher-income respondents were more likely to say the portrayal was negative. Fifty-four percent of respondents earning less than \$30,000 per year said the image was generally negative compared to 73 percent of respondents earning \$75,000 or more. Likewise, 47 percent of respondents with less than a high school education, 60 percent with a high school diploma, and 75 percent with a college education said Louisiana's image was generally negative.

Figure 29: Accuracy of Louisiana's Image in the National Media



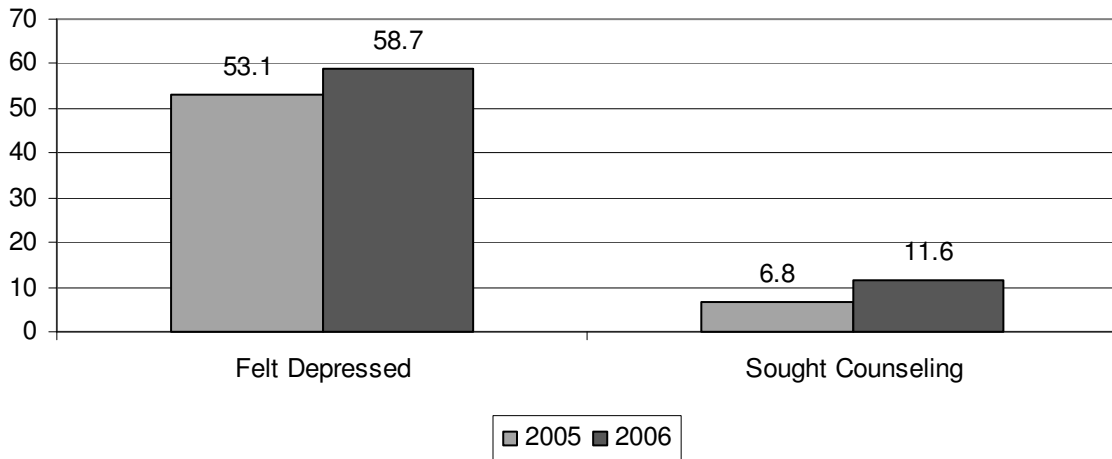
VII. Electronic Medical Records and Mental Health

Figure 30: Protecting Privacy Versus Assuring Access to Health Records



without access to their health records. The need for electronic health records has been recognized by the federal government for quite some time, yet public opinion has remained skeptical of whether such databases -- once created -- can remain secure and individual privacy protected. In the 2006 Louisiana Survey, we asked respondents whether they were more concerned about access to individual health records or about maintaining the privacy of health records. A majority of respondents (51 percent) said they were more concerned about privacy, while 39 percent said they were more concerned about access, 4 percent said they didn't know and 7 percent said they were concerned about both. Such a finding should not be read as opposition to electronic health records per se, but rather as a clear indicator that to be successfully implemented the public must be convinced that electronic health records are secure. Importantly, 53 percent of African-Americans compared to 48 percent of Caucasians said they were most concerned about privacy.

Figure 31: Percent of Louisiana Residents Reporting Having Felt Depressed by Hurricanes and Having Sought Counseling, November 2005 and April 2006



In the November Post-Hurricane Survey, we asked respondents whether they had felt depressed because of what has happened in the areas affected by the hurricanes, and whether they or anyone in the immediate family had sought counseling or other professional help for depression, anxiety or stress caused by the hurricanes. At the time, 53 percent of respondents said they had felt depressed and 7 percent said either they or someone in their immediate family had sought counseling. Five months later, 59 percent of respondents said they had felt depressed and 11 percent said either they or someone in their family had sought counseling.

- ❑ Women were more likely to report having felt depressed and to have sought counseling. Sixty-eight percent of women compared to 49 percent of men said they had felt depressed as a result of the storms.
- ❑ 55 percent of African-Americans compared to 45 percent of Caucasians reported having felt depressed, though notably Caucasians were more likely (12 percent) to have sought counseling than African-Americans (9 percent).
- ❑ In terms of regional differences, those in affected areas were most likely to report have felt depressed and sought counseling. Seventy percent of respondents in the Orleans area, 63 percent in the Orleans suburban parishes, 58 percent in North and Southwestern Louisiana, and 43 percent in Baton Rouge said they had felt depressed because of the storms.

Topline Results for the 2006 Louisiana Survey

1) Q: Q1

To begin with, would you say things are generally going in the right direction, or do you think things are going in the wrong direction here in Louisiana?

	<u>Percent</u>
Right Direction	33.7
Wrong Direction	51.0
Not Sure/No Opinion	15.3

2) Q: Q2

What do you think are the THREE most important problems facing the state of Louisiana?

	<u>Percent</u>
Education	37.9
Unemployment	21.3
Health Care	15.3
Taxes	8.9
Crime	10.8
Economic Issues	20.4
Corruption	20.6
Environment	2.7
Coastal Erosion	4.1
Youth Leaving State	1.2
Roads	4.1
Quality of life issues	0.9
Rebuilding	61.1
Don't Know	9.0
Refused	2.4

3) Q: Q3

Of these problems, which do you think is the SINGLE most important problem facing the state of Louisiana?

	<u>Percent</u>
Education	17.5
Unemployment	7.1
Health Care	5.9
Taxes	1.7
Crime	3.6
Economic Issues	5.4
Corruption	8.0
Environment	0.6
Coastal Erosion	2.8
Youth Leaving State	0.1
Roads	0.8
Quality of life issues	0.2
Rebuilding	36.3
Don't Know	7.5
Refused	2.3

4) Q: Q6

How much confidence would you say you have in state government to effectively address this problem? Would you say you are very confident, somewhat confident, not very confident, or not at all confident?

Very Confident	5.2
Somewhat Confident	28.1
Not Very Confident	39.9
Not at all Confident	26.9

5) Q: Q7

We are also interested in how people are getting along financially these days.. would you say that you are better off financially, worse off, or about the same as you were a year ago?

Better	26.2
Same	49.5
Worse	24.3

6) Q: Q8

What about business conditions in the state of Louisiana -- do you think that at the present time business conditions in Louisiana are better, worse, or about the same as they were a year ago?

Better	15.8
Same	35.3
Worse	48.9
	100.0

7) Q: Q9

And what about business conditions in the nation -- do you think that at the present time business conditions in the country as a whole are better, worse, or about the same as they were a year ago?

Better	29.3
Same	41.6
Worse	29.0

8) Q: Q10

About the big things people buy for their homes -- such as furniture, a refrigerator, stove, television, and things like that. Generally speaking do you think now is a good time or a bad time for people to buy major household items?

Better	46.8
Same	19.6
Worse	33.6

9) Q: Q27

As you know students are often given grades A through F.
Please indicate what grade you would give each of the following items.

First, using the grading scale, how would you grade Louisiana as a place to live?

a	17.8
b	22.5
c	39.8
d	13.2
f	6.7

10) Q: Q27A

How would you grade the town or city you are currently living in as a place to live?

A	26.1
B	31.4
C	24.7
D	9.0
F	8.7

11) Q: Q28

And how would grade your local neighborhood as a place to live?

A	35.8
B	33.0
C	20.1
D	5.1
F	6.0

12) Q: Q29

How would you grade Louisiana's public schools?

A	6.3
B	15.1
C	32.3
D	24.4
F	21.9

13) Q: Q30

And how would you grade the public schools in your local community?

A	12.9
B	27.4
C	27.5
D	17.1
F	15.2

14) Q: Q31

How would you grade Louisiana's colleges and universities?

A	22.1
B	49.2
C	23.1
D	4.4
F	1.2

15) Q: Q32

How would you grade the overall quality of health care in Louisiana?

A	8.0
B	22.1
C	37.8
D	17.1
F	15.0

16) Q: Q34

How would you grade the overall quality of Louisiana's environment, including clean air and drinking water?

A	5.6
B	27.4
C	37.7
D	16.6
F	12.8

17) Q: Q36

How would you grade Louisiana's arts and culture?

A	21.9
B	39.2
C	30.9
D	5.3
F	2.7

Q: Q37

How would you grade Louisiana's roads and highways?

A	3.7
B	9.3
C	32.9
D	27.8
F	26.4

18) Q:Q38

Finally, how would you grade Louisiana in terms of the opportunities available to African-Americans and other minorities?

A	14.8
B	30.4
C	34.2
D	12.3
F	8.2

19) Q: Q39

Thinking now about corruption, would you say that Louisiana has become more corrupt or less corruption over the last several years, or would you say corruption hasn't changed much?

More corrupt	36.5
Just as corrupt	44.5
Less corrupt	19.0

20) Q: Q40

And thinking about crime and public safety, would you say Louisiana is safer, just as safe, or not as safe as other states in the region?

More safe	12.7
Less safe	41.5
No difference	45.8

21) Q: Q40A

And what about your local TOWN OR CITY, would you say your local TOWN OR CITY has become safer or less safe over the last several years?

More safe	31.1
Less safe	34.8
No difference	34.0

22) Q: Q40B

And what about the quality of health care, would you say the overall quality of health care in Louisiana has gotten better, gotten worse, or hasn't changed much over the last several years?

Gotten worse	16.9
Gotten better	32.4
Hasn't changed	50.7

23) Q: Q41:

Prompt:

Now I am going to read a list of areas where state government generally spends taxpayer dollars. As I read through the list please tell me whether you would increase state government spending in the area, decrease spending in the area, or keep it about the same?

Public Education (Primary and Secondary):

increase spending	83.3
decrease spending	5.1
stay the same	11.6

Higher Education:

increase spending	80.2
decrease spending	3.6
stay the same	16.2

Public Health and Hospitals:

increase spending	77.3
decrease spending	5.9
stay the same	16.8

Roads and Transportation:

increase spending	81.0
decrease spending	4.8
stay the same	14.2

Environmental Protection:

increase spending	60.9
decrease spending	6.3
stay the same	32.8

Public Safety/ Criminal justice:

increase spending	70.7
decrease spending	5.1
stay the same	24.2

Economic Development:

increase spending	71.4
decrease spending	6.1
stay the same	22.4

Arts and cultural institutions:

increase spending	34.9
decrease spending	13.7
stay the same	51.5

State parks and tourism:

increase spending	37.7
decrease spending	13.8
stay the same	48.4

Coastal Restoration:

increase spending	74.4
decrease spending	6.0
stay the same	19.6

Rebuilding of those areas most affected by recent hurricanes:

increase spending	81.1
decrease spending	7.2
stay the same	11.7

24) Q: Q42

Aside from rebuilding, if you could increase spending in only one of these areas, which area would you choose?

Public Education	35.0
Higher Education	5.1
Public Health and Hospitals	13.3
Roads	7.8
Environmental Protection	2.8
Public Safety/Criminal Just.	5.6
Economic Development	6.2
Arts and Culture	0.4
Parks and Tourism	0.8
Coastal Restoration	11.2
Rebuilding from Hurricane	9.1
Don't Know	2.8

25) Q: Q26ADD

If you could only increase spending on rebuilding or on which area would you choose?

Rebuilding	42.8
Person's 1st priority	57.2

26) Q: Q27ADD

As you may be aware, Louisiana owes the federal government \$3.7 billion which is the state match for the billions of federal aid to our citizens since the hurricanes. Louisiana must pay this bill. Would you favor raising taxes or cutting services to pay the money the state owes?

Don't know	19.5
Raise Taxes	38.4
Cut Services	42.0

27) Q: Q28ADD

Based on current estimates, the state will have an additional \$200 million in revenue for the current fiscal year. If it were up to you would you:

Don't know	4.3
Teacher Pay Raises	44.0
Reduce Debt	24.8
Something Else	26.9

28) Q: Q29ADD

And how would you use the additional revenue? [Open ended]

29) Q: Q55

Now thinking about state income taxes, would you say that state income taxes are too high and need to be reduced, too low and need to be increased, or just about right?

Too high	29.8
Too low	11.1
Just right	59.1

30) Q: Q56

What about the state sales tax, would you say that the state sales tax is too high and needs to be reduced, too low and needs to be increased, or just about right?

Too high	42.2
Too low	5.9
Just right	51.9

31) Q: Q57

And what about local property taxes, would you say local property taxes are too high and need to be reduced, too low and need to be increased, or just about right?

Too high	34.6
Too low	9.4
Just right	56.0

32) Q: Q32ADD

I am going to read a list of responsibilities involved in rebuilding those areas most affected by the hurricanes. As I read the list please tell me who you think should have the primary responsibility for each item - National Government, State Government, Local city and Parish Governments, or private individuals.

Rebuild Damaged Levees

national gov't	63.6
state gov't	27.1
local gov't	7.0
individuals	2.4

Restore Wetlands

national gov't	57.0
state gov't	34.3
local gov't	7.2
individuals	1.5

Rebuild Damaged Housing

national gov't	38.8
state gov't	29.3
local gov't	14.8
individuals	17.1

Rebuild Uninsured Housing

national gov't	34.1
state gov't	24.5
local gov't	11.9
individuals	29.5

Provide loans to finance small businesses

national gov't	51.8
state gov't	33.7
local gov't	8.7
individuals	5.8

Rebuild Infrastructure

national gov't	40.5
state gov't	50.2
local gov't	7.6
individuals	1.7

Develop Evacuation Plans

national gov't	25.4
state gov't	57.1
local gov't	15.6
individuals	1.9

33) Q: Q33ADD

Thinking specifically now about Louisiana Residents who are still displaced and living in hotels, FEMA trailer parks, or with family and friends, what do you think are the greatest challenges to then in getting back on their feet? [Open ended]

Jobs	30.9
Housing	19.9
Money/Resources	16.1
Help Themselves/Motivation	13.2
Don't know	6.5

34) Q: Q34ADD

Approximately how long do you think it will take Louisiana to recover from recent hurricanes?

Don't Know	4.9
Less than a year	0.9
1-2 years	8.5
3-5 years	30.1
6-10 years	26.0
More than 10 years	16.4
Never recover	13.1

35) Q: Q35ADD

Overall, do you think the federal government has allocated enough money to the state for rebuilding?

Don't Know	10.5
Allocated enough	35.4
Not allocated enough	54.1

36) Q: Q36ADD

When it comes to allocating money for rebuilding, do you think it is better to allocate money quickly even if some of the money is wasted, or is it better to allocate money more slowly to limit wasteful spending - even if it means taking longer to get money to people who really need it?

don't Know	6.7
allocated quickly	27.4
allocate slowly to avoid waste	65.9

37) Q: Q37ADD

When it comes to allocating money for rebuilding, should additional resources go to areas not directly affected by the hurricanes but struggling with increased demands on existing infrastructure, such as roads, public schools, and other public facilities?

Don't Know	6.3
Yes	56.4
No	37.2

38) Q: Q38ADD

Thinking now specifically about your local community, do you think the local community has been allocated its fair share of rebuilding dollars?

Don't Know	15.7
Allocated fair share	50.6
Not allocated fair share	33.7

39) Q: Q43AADD

One of the issues that emerged in the wake of recent hurricanes was the difficulty people had accessing their health records.

As a result, some people have suggested that we provide easier online access to individual health records. Others worry that providing such access will threaten the privacy of individual health records.

What about you? Are you more concerned about access to individual health records or about maintaining the privacy of health records?

Don't Know	3.9
Access	39.0
Privacy	50.7
Both (volunteered)	6.5

40) Q: Q44AADD

Using a scale from 1 to 10, where 1 indicates providing easy access to health records even if it means not being able to protect individual privacy and 10 indicates protecting privacy even if it makes access difficult- where would you place yourself?

Mean 6.20 SD 2.99

41) Q: Q39ADD

Please tell me whether you strongly agree, agree, neither agree nor disagree, disagree, or strongly disagree with the following statements:

I would like to do more to help the state in the rebuilding and recovery process, but am not sure what to do.

strongly agree	16.4
agree	60.1
neither agree nor disagree	8.0
disagree	13.8
strongly disagree	1.8

42) Q: Q40ADD

People like me have no say in the rebuilding process.

strongly agree	19.9
agree	47.2
neither agree nor disagree	5.2
disagree	23.5
strongly disagree	4.2

43) Q: Q41ADD

The rebuilding process is so complicated that a person like me can't really understand what is going on.

strongly agree	14.4
agree	43.0
neither agree nor disagree	5.7
disagree	30.2
strongly disagree	6.6

44) Q: Q42ADDA

Now I am going to read a list of ways that people have become involved in the rebuilding process, as I read through the list please tell me whether you have engaged in these activities as part of the rebuilding process

Contributed money to a religious organization

Yes	61.0
No	39.0

Contributed money to a charitable or non-profit organization

Yes	59.8
No	40.2

Volunteered at a non-profit or charitable organization

Yes	38.7
No	61.3

Volunteered at a religious organization

Yes	33.8
No	66.2

Attended a community forum on rebuilding

Yes	20.8
No	79.2

Written letter to newspaper about rebuilding issues

Yes	6.4
No	93.6

Called talk radio show about rebuilding issues

Yes	84	9.8
No	772	90.2

Attended a planning session

Yes	7.5
No	92.5

45) Q: Q43ADD

Have you yourself felt depressed because of what's happened in areas affected by the hurricanes?

Yes	58.7
No	41.3

46) Q: Q44ADD

Have you or anyone in your immediate family sought counseling or other professional help for depression, anxiety, or stress caused by the hurricanes?

Yes	11.6
No	88.4

47) Q: Q45ADD

On a scale from zero to ten, where ten means VERY STRONG TRUST IN GOVERNMENT TO DO WHAT IS RIGHT, zero means VERY STRONG DISTRUST IN GOVERNMENT to do what's RIGHT, and five means you NEITHER TRUST NOR DISTRUST THE GOVERNMENT:

How much do you trust the federal government in Washington to do what is right in responding to the damage left by Hurricane Katrina?

Mean 4.67 SD 2.78

48) Q: Q46ADD

How much do you trust the Louisiana state government in Baton Rouge to do what is right in responding to the damage left by hurricane Katrina?

Mean 4.59 SD 2.649

49) Q: Q47ADD

How much do you trust local, city and parish governments in Louisiana to do what is right in responding to the damage left by hurricane Katrina?

Mean 5.23 SD 2.64

50) Q: Q48ADD

How much do you trust the federal government in Washington to do what is right in protecting Louisiana's ports from terrorist threats?

Mean 5.05 SD 3.00

51) Q: Q49ADD

How much do you trust the Louisiana state government in Baton Rouge to do what is right in protecting Louisiana's ports from terrorist threats?

Mean 5.15 SD 2.69

52) Q: Q50ADD

How much do you trust local, city and parish governments to do what is right in protecting Louisiana's ports from terrorist threats?

Mean 5.32 SD 2.72

53) Q: Q51ADD

How much do you trust the federal government in Washington to do what is right in guaranteeing adequate public education?

Mean 4.85 SD 2.72

54) Q: Q52ADD

How much do you trust the Louisiana state government in Baton Rouge to do what is right in guaranteeing adequate public education?

Mean 4.82 SD 2.59

55) Q: Q53ADD

How much do you trust local, city and parish governments in Louisiana to do what is right in guaranteeing adequate public education?

Mean 5.19 SD 2.76

56) Q: Q54ADD

And how much attention do you pay to news specifically about the rebuilding process: a great deal, quite a bit, some, very little, or none?

a great deal	39.8
quite a bit	26.7
some	20.2
very little	10.7
none	2.6

57) Q: Q14

Do you get most of your news about Louisiana public affairs and politics from television, newspapers, radio, or the internet?

Television	62.5
Newspapers	21.7
Radio	4.9
Internet	7.6
Other	3.3

58) Q: Q56ADD

In general, how would you rate the job YOUR LOCAL NEWSPAPER have done informing citizens about the rebuilding process?

Excellent	20.3
Good	39.1
Fair	26.7
Not very good	6.6
Poor	7.4

59) Q: Q56AADD

How would you rate the job YOUR LOCAL TELEVISION STATIONS have done informing citizens about the rebuilding process?

Excellent	26.7
Good	44.5
Fair	21.5
Not very good	4.2
Poor	3.1

60) Q: Q57ADD

Overall, how well informed would you say that you are about the rebuilding process - very well informed, somewhat informed, not very informed, or not at all informed?

very well informed	31.5
somewhat informed	53.5
not very informed	13.1
not at all informed	1.9

61) Q: Q58ADD

Would you agree, disagree, or neither agree nor disagree with the following statement:

News coverage of the rebuilding process focuses so much on the politics of rebuilding, that it is hard to learn about what actually is being done.

Agree	77.2
Disagree	17.1
Neither agree nor Disagree	5.7

62) Q: Q59ADD

Thinking about how Louisiana has been portrayed in the national media since the hurricanes, which would you say the portrayal has been generally positive or would you say it has been generally negative?

Generally positive	21.1
Generally negative	62.6
Neither	3.9
Both/mixed	12.5

63) Q: Q55ADD

And would you say the portrayal of Louisiana in the national media has been generally accurate, or would you say it has generally been inaccurate?

Generally Accurate	46.4
Generally Inaccurate	37.9
Neither	2.8
Both/Mixed	13.0

64) Q:Q15

In the past week, how many days did you read a newspaper?

0	16.1
1	7.3
2	9.2
3	11.8
4	6.6
5	6.6
6	2.2
7	40.2

65) Q:Q16

In the past week, how many days did you watch a local television news program?

0	7.7
1	3.1
2	3.8
3	6.3
4	4.0
5	9.1
6	1.6
7	64.4

66) Q:Q17

In the past week, how many days did you watch a national network news program?

0	16.2
1	6.6
2	7.1
3	8.9
4	4.7
5	7.2
6	2.2
7	47.1

67) Q:Q18

In the past week, how many days did you watch a news program on one of the cable news networks?

0	23.6
1	7.0
2	6.5
3	7.3
4	4.5
5	6.2
6	1.2
7	43.6

68) Q:Q19

In the past week, how many days did you listen to a news program on radio?

0	44.3
1	7.9
2	6.5
3	6.6
4	4.3
5	6.9
6	0.6
7	22.8

69) Q:Q20

In the past week, how many days did you go on-line to get news about public affairs and politics?

0	59.6
1	3.9
2	6.1
3	3.6
4	4.1
5	4.2
6	0.6
7	18.0

70) Q:Q21

On a 10 point scale where 0 indicates no effect and 10 indicates the strongest possible effect, how much do you think the media effects your opinion?

Mean 4.98 SD 3.16

71) Q:Q22

Using the same scale, how much do you think the media effect other people in the United States?

Mean 7.29 SD 2.30

72) Q: Q68ADD

Are you still living in the same address you did before the hurricanes?

Yes	89.4
No	10.6

73) Q: Q69ADD

Did you move specifically because of the hurricanes?

Yes	72.1
No	27.9

74) Q: Q70ADD

Do you have any displaced family members or friends currently living in your home?

Yes	13.9
No	86.1

75) Q: Q91

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

democrat	38.0
independent	25.2
republican	29.1
other	7.6

76) Q: Q92

When it comes to politics, do you consider yourself liberal, moderate, or conservative?

liberal	16.9
moderate	39.3
conservative	43.8

77) Q: Q73ADD

Are you currently registered to vote?

Yes	89.4
No	10.6

78) Q: Q74ADD

And did you vote in the 2004 presidential election between George W. Bush and John Kerry?

Yes	80.0
No	20.0

79) Q: Q75ADD

Please tell me whether you agree, disagree, or neither agree or disagree with the following statements:

Sometimes politics and government seems so complicated that a person like me can't really understand what is going on.

agree	55.5
disagree	40.3
neither	4.2

80) Q: Q76ADD

People like me don't have any say about what the government does.

agree	56.6
disagree	38.0
neither	5.4

81) Q: Q77ADD

Public officials don't care much about what people like me think.

Agree	61.2
Disagree	32.0
Neither	6.8

82) Q: Q93

Age

18-24	12.8
25-34	19.0
35-44	19.5
45-54	20.1
55-64	13.7
65 and over	14.9

83) Q: Q94

Which of the following categories best describes your level of education?

Please stop me when I get to that category.

Less than High School	20.3
High School	31.3
Some College	24.2
College Degree	16.0
Graduate Degree	8.1

84) Q: Q95

Which of the following best describes you? Are you White, Hispanic, African-American, Asian, or something else?

White	66.7
Black	26.1
Other	7.3

85) Q: Q96

Is your religious preference Protestant, Catholic, Jewish, none, or something else?

Protestant	27.1
Catholic	41.4
Jewish	0.0
Muslim	0.8
Other	23.4
None	7.3

86) Q: Q97

Besides weddings and funerals, how often do you attend religious services?

more than once a week	15.1
at least once a week	36.9
a few times a month	17.0
several times a year	14.5
once a year	3.9
never	12.7

87) Q: Q98

How much guidance do you get from religion in your daily life - a great deal, quite a bit, some, not very much, or none at all?

a great deal	50.6
quite a bit	18.5
some	18.8
not very much	5.8
none at all	6.4

88) Q: Q100

Do you or does your family own your home, pay rent, or what?

own home	76.1
rent	20.9
other	3.1

89) Q: Q101

Do you have any children in your house under the age of 18?

Yes	43.8
No	56.2

90) Q: Q103

How long have you lived in the community in which you currently reside?

less than a year	10.1
1-5 years	20.0
6-10 years	14.5
11-20 years	12.3
more than 20 years	43.1

91) Q: Q104

Are you currently single, married, widowed, divorced, or separated?

single	25.8
married	55.1
widowed	7.5
divorced	9.2
separated	2.3

92) Q: Q105

Are you currently employed full-time, employed part-time, retired, unemployed and looking for work, or not employed and not looking for work?

employed full time	49.7
employed part time	8.1
retired	16.4
unemployed and looking for work	9.9
Not employed not looking	9.0
on Disability	6.9

93) Q: Q106

We would like to know what your family income was last year before taxes.

I will read several income categories. Please stop me when I get to the

category that includes your family income. Your best guess is fine.

[If they refuse to answer remind them that this confidential and

we are only collecting this information for statistical purposes]

under 10,000	7.8
10,000-19,999	10.5
20,000-29,999	15.5
30,000-39,999	12.2
40,000-49,000	13.1
50,000-74,000	14.3
75000-99,999	11.7
100,000 or more	14.8

94) Q: Q107

Gender

male	48.9
female	51.1

Region (Based on Area Codes):

Baton Rouge/Capitol Region (225)	17.7
North Louisiana (318)	26.8
Southwestern Louisiana (337)	20.9
Orleans Area (504)	17.0
Orleans Suburban Parishes (985)	17.7