Health Care in New Orleans
Before and After Hurricane Katrina

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for

Alliance for Health Reform
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Key Characteristics of Pre-Katrina Louisiana Compared to the U.S., 2004-2005

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Louisiana</th>
<th>United States</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Percent Living in Poverty</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent of Adults with Diabetes</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent of Nonelderly Uninsured</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent of Nonelderly with Medicaid</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent African American</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Health Care Pre-Katrina in New Orleans

- Medicaid/LaCHIP coverage for children and pregnant women up to 200% FPL ($34,340/year for family of 3)
- Medicaid coverage for working parents at 20% FPL ($3,434/year for family of 3 in 2007)
- Care for uninsured financed through DSH (19% of Medicaid spending in LA vs. 6% nationally)
- Care for uninsured delivered primarily through Charity Hospital; limited access to community-based services
- Governor’s Task Force formed to consider health system reforms
# Impact of Hurricane Katrina

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lives lost</td>
<td>1,464</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People displaced</td>
<td>900,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing with major/severe damage</td>
<td>204,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Occupied FEMA trailers</td>
<td>81,688</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jobs lost*</td>
<td>183,800 (-30%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Businesses destroyed</td>
<td>18,750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operational Hospitals in Orleans**</td>
<td>52%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Debris Generated</td>
<td>22 million tons</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Jobs lost as of June 2006.
**Hospitals operational as of April 2006. Low of 9% was reached in October 2005.
Figure 4

Impacts of Hurricane Katrina for Greater New Orleans Residents

Percent who reported having an impact in each of the following areas after Hurricane Katrina:

- Financial situation worse after Katrina: 52%
- Experienced significant life disruption in terms of housing or social network: 37%
- Access to health care compromised: 36%
- Stress took personal toll: temper, alcohol use, tension in marriage: 23%
- Physical health worse after Katrina: 19%
- No job or worse job after Katrina: 17%
- Mental health worse after Katrina: 16%

Example: 33% said housing costs increased A LOT
Example: 14% said a close friend or family member died as a result of Katrina
Example: 9% increased their alcohol use due to Katrina

IMPACTED IN AT LEAST 1 AREA: 81%
IMPACTED IN 2 OR MORE AREAS: 55%
IMPACTED IN 3 OR MORE AREAS: 32%

Source: The Kaiser Post-Katrina Baseline Survey of the New Orleans Area (conducted September 12 – November 13, 2006)
### Portrait of Problems Faced by Greater New Orleans Residents

Percent who reported having a problem in each of the following areas:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Health care coverage and access problems</td>
<td>49%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical health challenges</td>
<td>43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No job or inadequate wages</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mental health challenges</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child in home troubled or not getting needed care</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**PROBLEMS IN AT LEAST 1 AREA**

77%

**PROBLEMS IN 2 OR MORE AREAS**

44%

**PROBLEMS IN 3 OR MORE AREAS**

19%

Example: 27% have no usual place of care besides the ER; 25% of non-elderly adults are uninsured

Example: 13% said their job doesn’t pay enough to cover basic expenses

Example: 9% of those with a child in their home (3% overall) said a child didn’t get needed health care

Source: *The Kaiser Post-Katrina Baseline Survey of the New Orleans Area* (conducted September 12 – November 13, 2006)
Agreement About Lack of Health Care Providers, Services

Do you think there are enough of the following to take care of the people living in the greater New Orleans area, or not?

- Hospitals, clinics and medical facilities currently operating
  - 88% No
  - 8% Yes
  - 4% No answer

- Health care services currently available for uninsured and low-income people
  - 89% No
  - 8% Yes
  - 3% No answer
Hospitals and Providers Top Health Priorities

In terms of health issues, please tell me whether you think each of the following should be one of the top priorities for rebuilding New Orleans’ health care system, very important, somewhat important, not too important, or not at all important:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Health Priority</th>
<th>One of the top</th>
<th>Very important</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reopening hospitals in your community</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>51%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bringing in more doctors, nurses, and other health workers</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>58%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opening more emergency care services</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>61%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Getting more community clinics up and running</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>63%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Making mental health counseling and services more available</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>59%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: The Kaiser Post-Katrina Baseline Survey of the New Orleans Area (conducted September 12 – November 13, 2006)
Figure 8
Desire to Expand Health Access

Please tell me whether you would strongly favor, somewhat favor, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose the following options for making health care more available for uninsured and low-income people in the greater New Orleans area:

- Building a new hospital to replace Charity Hospital and have it play much of the role Charity had played before the storm
  - Strongly favor: 73%
  - Somewhat favor: 20%
  - Somewhat or strongly oppose: 7%

- Building more community clinics that would offer basic medical care
  - Strongly favor: 70%
  - Somewhat favor: 27%
  - Somewhat or strongly oppose: 2%

- Expanding public health insurance programs, like Medicaid and LaCHIP, to cover more people
  - Strongly favor: 65%
  - Somewhat favor: 27%
  - Somewhat or strongly oppose: 6%

Source: The Kaiser Post-Katrina Baseline Survey of the New Orleans Area (conducted September 12 – November 13, 2006)
Challenges Ahead

• **Rebuilding Health Care Services**
  – Health care workforce
  – Community-based primary care
  – Hospital and specialty services
  – Mental health care

• **Financing Health Care Services**
  – Medicaid and LaCHIP
  – Broadened health coverage
  – Funding for uncompensated care