Rebuilding after Hurricane Katrina: The Big Easy, and the Long Road Home

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Political Science Senior Thesis
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I wanted to see why the U.S. can help other nations rebuild, but were struggling to rebuild our own city.

I wanted see if media reports were accurate on racial polarization & socioeconomically inequalities.

Why five years after the fact people are still displaced.
Hurricane Katrina Facts

ORLEANS PARISH

AUGUST 29TH, 2005

CATEGORY 4

WIND

WATER
Previous Research

- Race, Socioeconomic status, and return migration to New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina
  - Fussell, Sastry, and Landingham 2009

- An estimate of the cost of Hurricane Katrina flood damage to single-family residential structures in Orleans Parish
  - Brinkmann 2006

- (Mis)uses of data: what counts as damage in post-Katrina New Orleans recovery planning
  - Bates & Green 2009
Unit of Analysis

73 Neighborhoods within Orleans Parish

Dependent Variable

Households Actively Receiving Mail

Data Used

Greater New Orleans Community Data Center
Census Bureau
ESRI (GIS shape files)
Percentage of Structures with 50% or More Damage

Data Sources: ESRI & City of New Orleans
Cartographer Jennifer Boucher
March 15, 2011
### Correlations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Pearson Correlation</th>
<th>Sig. (2-tailed)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>50% or less damage</td>
<td>0.471**</td>
<td>0.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50% or more damage</td>
<td>-0.366**</td>
<td>0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average household income</td>
<td>0.087</td>
<td>0.466</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anglo-American</td>
<td>0.085</td>
<td>0.473</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>African American</td>
<td>-0.147</td>
<td>0.213</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total number of organizations</td>
<td>-0.015</td>
<td>0.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

** Dependent Variable is Percentage Mail recovered

** correlations is significant at the .01 level (2-tailed)
Conclusion

- **Major factor for the slow return**
  - Housing damage

- **Historical processes/uneven recovery of neighborhoods**
  - Vulnerable city

- **More research**
  - Ground truthing
  - Actual numbers rather than estimated
Sources

The Greater New Orleans Community Data Center
U.S. Census Bureau
ESRI
Bring New Orleans Back Commission (BNOB)
Louisiana Recovery Authority (LRA)
Greater New Orleans Foundations (GNOF)
Office of Recovery Management (ORM)
Questions?