

## **Katrina-Related Studies and Reports on the Web**

*La Rhonda Odom*

Nine months after Hurricane Katrina hit New Orleans and the Mississippi Gulf Coast, interest in the impacts and outcomes of the storm continues to be strong. Many people, from scholars to reporters to political pundits, have analyzed the storm's impacts on the country's social, economic, political and psychological landscapes. The following summaries provide the interested reader with information on a variety of Katrina- and Rita-related reports.



### **Numbers and Analysis**

The Brookings Institute has published two reports related to Hurricane Katrina. One report briefly illustrates, with tables, the program categories behind the federal allocations to date for hurricane recovery activities. It also includes a chronology of legislative and executive decision-making responding to the needs of the Gulf Coast (Federal Allocations in Response to Katrina, March 2006).

In another report, the authors create an index of economic and social indicators that measure the impacts of rebuilding efforts in Orleans Parish, the New Orleans Metropolitan Area, Louisiana and Mississippi (Katrina Index: Tracking Variables of Post Katrina Reconstruction, April 2006).



[www.brookings.edu](http://www.brookings.edu), click Publications and then click Reports.

*Decision Economics, Inc. (9/16/2005)* has published a report, "Economic Impacts of Hurricane Katrina", which presents an analysis of the potential economic impacts on the Coastal region and the U.S. The report presents data which measure the storms affect on economic indicators, its impact on the GDP, and the possibility that the storm could stimulate growth.

[www.nabe.com/publib/prospects0916decisionecon.pdf](http://www.nabe.com/publib/prospects0916decisionecon.pdf)

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has several maps available for viewing at its website. FEMA's remote sensing data is used to map areas affected by Hurricane Katrina. Typical examples of analysis include flooded, saturated and damaged areas. The data are made available for various purposes including businesses with vested interests, such as insurance agencies.



[www.gismaps.fema.gov/2005\\_pages/rsdrkatrina.shtm](http://www.gismaps.fema.gov/2005_pages/rsdrkatrina.shtm)


The Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) with the U.S. Department of Commerce has an online Hurricane Katrina Frequently Asked Questions page. Here you can find answers to questions, such as: *How is state personal income affected by natural disasters such as Katrina?* Or, *How is Gross State Product (GSP) affected by natural disasters such as Katrina?* The website includes a table that identifies the impacts of the 2005 hurricanes and links to data additional information on BEA's regional income and product accounts. [www.bea.gov/katrina/index2.htm](http://www.bea.gov/katrina/index2.htm)

Researchers with the RAND Corporation have completed a few studies and reports on Hurricane Katrina and disaster-related issues. One report currently in progress deals with the challenges of creating housing in coastal Mississippi to replace the estimated 50,000 homes damaged or destroyed by Hurricane Katrina. Many of these homes were owned or rented by low-income families. RAND has helped create "a broad and comprehensive set of recommendations for pilot development programs, building code changes, zoning strategies, planning initiatives, finance initiatives and other actions." The following link provides access to both the completed projects and those currently in progress.



<http://www.rand.org/rgspi/projects/> Scroll to the bottom for complete list of projects.

Oxfam America has several reports assessing recovery work in the Gulf Coast Region. One recently published report (March 6, 2006) entitled “Disaster and Recovery Along the U.S. Gulf Coast: Oxfam America’s Response to the Hurricanes” is a progress report on the recovery efforts and Oxfam America’s role in those efforts. In addition, typing “Hurricane Katrina” in the search field of the website would yield other reports including one entitled, “Recovering States? The Gulf Coast Six Months after the Storm.” [www.oxfamamerica.org/newsandpublications](http://www.oxfamamerica.org/newsandpublications)


The Children’s Defense Fund (CDF) issued a report entitled “Katrina’s Children:  A Call to Conscience and Action. The report suggests policy to address issues related to the youngest victims of Hurricane Katrina, the children of the Gulf Region. It includes stories from Katrina’s children and statistics on the status of children prior to the storm from each affected state.

[www.childrendefense.org](http://www.childrendefense.org)

The Institute for Women’s Policy Research has published a briefing paper on “The Women of New Orleans and the Gulf”. The paper, first in a two-part series, presents a detailed picture, supported by data, of the struggles the women of the region, both prior to and after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

[www.iwpr.org](http://www.iwpr.org) Scroll down to item number six on the main webpage.

The Multidisciplinary Center for Earthquake Engineering Research, or MCEER, has a report entitled, “MCEER Response to Hurricane Katrina”. The report is the last document on the bottom of MCEER’s main page.

In the preliminary report, MCEER teams investigate aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, including reports on buildings, bridges, remote sensing, emergency response, health and environmental issues.  MCEER “Related Links” include an internet map of Harrison County damage locations and links to federal reports. There is also a link to a November 2, 2005 seminar at the University of Buffalo examining Hurricane Katrina’s impacts. [www.mceer.buffalo.edu](http://www.mceer.buffalo.edu) Scroll to bottom of main page, then click MCEER Response to Hurricane Katrina

### Policy Recommendations

The Economic Policy Institute has published several reports on the economic policy implications of Hurricane Katrina particularly as they relate to labor issues in the region. Among other issues, the reports address joblessness, fair labor practices and affirmative action as they relate to rebuilding efforts. The EPI Policy Memo on this webpage provides guidelines intended to help structure the rebuilding process in a way that takes advantage of this opportunity to improve people’s lives. Policy recommendations cover such issues as local hiring, prevailing wages, health care, training, and ensuring a voice in the process for residents of the affected areas. [www.epi.org/content.cfm/katrina](http://www.epi.org/content.cfm/katrina)

The Heritage Foundation has a few “Web Memos” related to Hurricane Katrina and federal spending and policy. There are two related to the proposed redevelopment and restructuring of the CSX Railroad. One memo is a written response to the recently released report, *Hurricane Katrina: A Nation Still Unprepared*. Direct access to these reports can be gained through the following addresses:


[www.heritage.org/Research/HomelandDefense/wm1051.cfm](http://www.heritage.org/Research/HomelandDefense/wm1051.cfm)


[www.heritage.org/Research/Budget/wm1048.cfm](http://www.heritage.org/Research/Budget/wm1048.cfm)

[www.heritage.org/Research/Budget/wm1059.cfm](http://www.heritage.org/Research/Budget/wm1059.cfm)


The Center for Law and Social Policy makes recommendations regarding Katrina recovery and low-income families. There are also additional reports in the right margin that deal with child

support, disconnected youth, welfare policy and workforce issues as they relate to recovery efforts.  
[www.clasp.org/Katrina](http://www.clasp.org/Katrina)

The American Enterprise Institute's Director of Economic Policy Studies has a series of commentaries on the Bloomberg.com website. He has written a commentary entitled "For Katrina II, Let's Pretend There Are No Feds." (February 27, 2006) based on the notion that the Federal response to Katrina was so bad that the next time disaster strikes, states and local governments may want to pretend that Federal support will not be forthcoming.   
[www.bloomberg.com/news/commentary/hassett.html](http://www.bloomberg.com/news/commentary/hassett.html) Click: The last item on the list.

 Among the many reports produced by the AFL-CIO is one entitled, "America's Response to Gulf Coast Hurricanes". The report also includes an open letter to President Bush and other Congressional leaders, which makes recommendations for rebuilding, not just infrastructure, but lives, after Hurricane Katrina. The report discusses helping people return to their homes and jobs. It explains the issues people face as they try to rebuild their lives in the region.  
[www.aflcio.org](http://www.aflcio.org). Click About Us and then click Executive Council Actions.

In December 2005, the National Fair Housing Alliance issued a report on the investigation the agency sponsored into whether or not victims of Hurricane Katrina would be treated unfairly based on race when seeking rental housing. Testing was conducted in five states where evacuees were reportedly relocated after the storm. Their findings are presented in the report.  
<http://newreconstruction.civilrights.org/NFHAKatrinaDiscriminationReport.pdf>

A prominent professor of City and Regional Planning at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Raymond Burby, presented a paper at the International Symposium on Urban Disaster Reduction and Regeneration Planning, November 2005. The paper, entitled "Hurricane Katrina and the Paradoxes of Public Disaster Policy", supports the notion that federal policy initiatives that induce local governments to prepare comprehensive urban development plans that pay attention to hazard mitigation may prove beneficial in minimizing disaster losses. To find, go to   
[www.google.com](http://www.google.com) and search on "Hurricane Katrina and the Paradoxes."

The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science devoted its March 2006 issue (Vol. 604, No. 1) to research related to the political and social policy impacts of the hurricane. This volume, however, is only available to libraries and others with subscriptions.  
<http://ann.sagepub.com>

## **Resources**

The Mississippi Development Authority has information on the Hurricane Katrina Homeowner's Grant Program and the Gulf Opportunity Zone Act established to enable recovery post-Katrina. Go to [www.mississippi.org](http://www.mississippi.org)

The website of the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has information related to Hurricane recovery housing resources. The HUD website provides a links to HUD's Hurricane Recovery resources and programs which include waivers fro existing housing program requirements, the administration of \$11.5 billion in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) disaster funds, and a link to the federal register for additional funding sources.

In addition, there are resources for help with housing, reporting discrimination and common questions related to housing issues post-Katrina. Mississippi HUD:


[www.hud.gov/local/index.cfm?state=ms](http://www.hud.gov/local/index.cfm?state=ms) . Choose Mississippi.  
Hurricane Recovery Resources: [www.hud.gov/katrina/index.cfm](http://www.hud.gov/katrina/index.cfm)  
Hurricane Resources for Citizens: [www.hud.gov/katrina/citizens.cfm](http://www.hud.gov/katrina/citizens.cfm)  
HUD's Response to Gulf Coast Hurricane: [www.hud.gov/news/katrina05response.cfm](http://www.hud.gov/news/katrina05response.cfm)  
Mississippi Development Authority: [www.mississippi.org](http://www.mississippi.org)

### **Mississippi Universities**

Mississippi's universities have several research centers and institutes that may have Hurricane Katrina-related reports and studies. All public universities in the state can be accessed at [www.ihl.state.ms.us](http://www.ihl.state.ms.us). The Centers listed below have research currently available via their websites.


Mississippi State University: [www.ssrc.msstate.edu](http://www.ssrc.msstate.edu) Click on Katrina information at right.  
University of Mississippi: [www.olemiss.edu/depts/population\\_studies/](http://www.olemiss.edu/depts/population_studies/)  
Click on State Data Center and you will find results of research done for FEMA.  
University of Southern Mississippi: [www.usm.edu](http://www.usm.edu)--a google search of this website for "Hurricane Katrina" provides access to several reports of interest.  
Jackson State University: [www.jsums.edu/research/urban.htm](http://www.jsums.edu/research/urban.htm) Phone or email for access to papers presented at their fall conference on the effects of Katrina.

### **More Reports and Studies**

East Carolina University has been awarded grants through the National Science Foundation to study the effects of Hurricane Katrina on the Gulf region and to investigate reconstruction efforts in New Orleans. Among other issues, the research will look at whether there is perceived, or actual, "crowding out" when it comes to federal assistance. "Crowding out" refers to whether funds sent to New Orleans preclude projects on other parts of the Coast.   
[www.ecu.edu/cs-admin/news/releases](http://www.ecu.edu/cs-admin/news/releases)

The American Association of Museums has a running list of the historic sites in the Gulf Coast and detailed information on whether they received any damage, the extent of any damage sustained, and type. Several of the sites have links to additional information.  
[www.aam-us.org/aamlatest/news/HurricaneFirstReports.cfm](http://www.aam-us.org/aamlatest/news/HurricaneFirstReports.cfm)

*Dollars and Sense* magazine devotes its March/April 2006 issue to the impacts of Katrina on the communities of the Gulf Coast. The issue, entitled "Voices from the Gulf Coast", features several interviews with community leaders. The online version allows you to read the in-depth interview of community activist Derrick Evans entitled "Ground Zero of Someone Else's Future". In the interview, Evans discusses the future of the historic Turkey Creek Community of Gulfport, post-Hurricane Katrina.  
[www.dollarsandsense.org](http://www.dollarsandsense.org)

An article available at the American Psychological Association website summarizes the impacts of Katrina on the mental health of residents as presented at a congressional briefing in Washington, DC. The presentation was based on visits to Gulfport, Mississippi and other parts of the region.   
[www.apa.org](http://www.apa.org) search Hurricane Katrina. Scroll down to Monitor on Psychology-Psychologist describes mental health response to Katrina at Hill Briefing.