

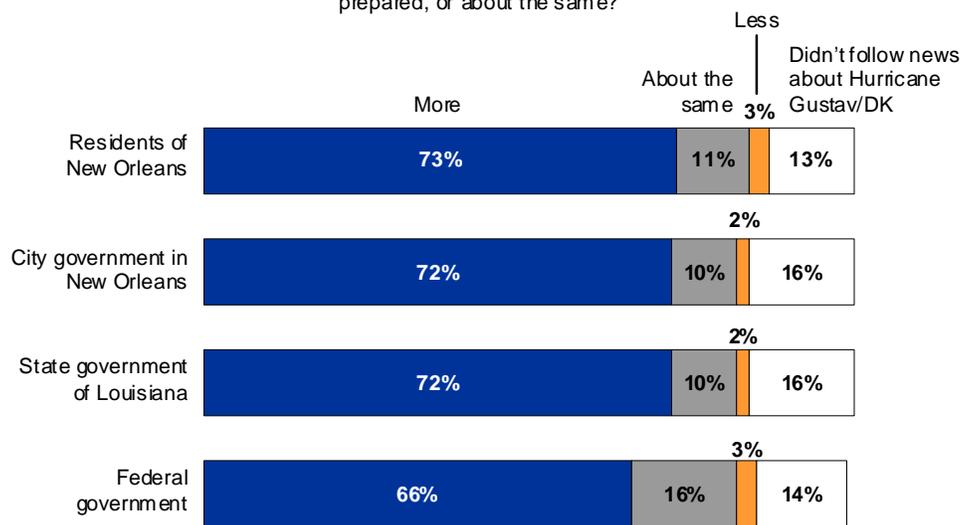
Preparedness for A Major Hurricane or Other Emergency

New Orleans residents and the government bodies that aided them last month in their hurricane evacuation process receive high marks for that effort from the American public, according to a new survey by the Kaiser Family Foundation.

Hurricane Gustav hit the Louisiana coast on the morning of Sept. 1, after a weekend in which nearly 2 million residents of the state evacuated their homes for safer ground. Asked to compare what they saw with the response to Hurricane Katrina, two thirds of Americans say that the federal government seems more prepared to handle a major hurricane now than it did in 2005. In addition, more than seven in ten say Louisiana's state government and New Orleans' city government and its residents also seem better prepared.

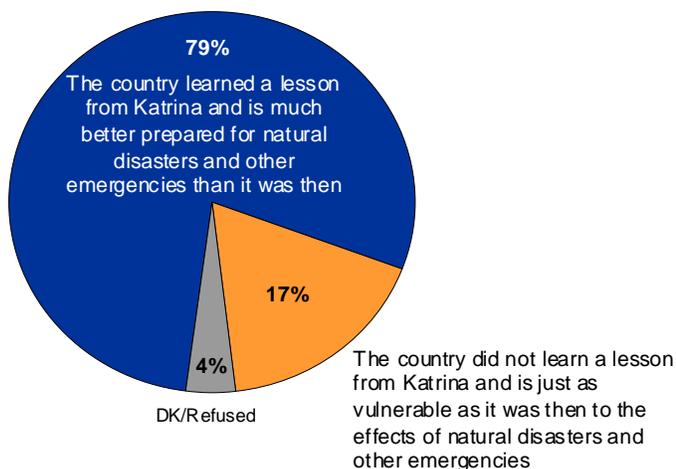
Views on Preparedness for a Major Hurricane

Compared to the way they handled Hurricane Katrina three years ago, would you say each of the following seem more prepared to handle a major hurricane now, less prepared, or about the same?



Is the Country Prepared for Another Emergency?

Thinking back to Hurricane Katrina in 2005, which of the following statements comes closer to your view?



Overall, a large majority (79 percent) now say that "the country learned a lesson from Katrina" and is better prepared for natural disasters and other emergencies than it was three years ago. Only 17 percent say the country is just as vulnerable on this score.

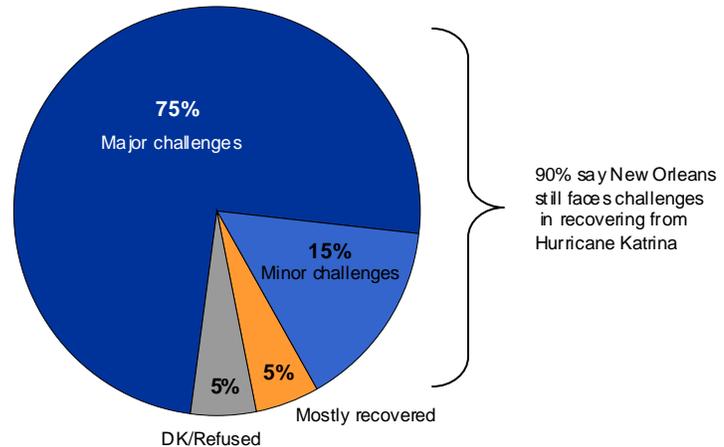
Additional copies of this publication (#7820) are available on the Kaiser Family Foundation's website at www.kff.org.

Americans feel New Orleans still faces challenges

Though a recent Foundation survey of New Orleans residents found that two in three believe that their fellow citizens have “forgotten about the challenges facing New Orleans,”¹ the current national survey suggests this is not the case. Overall, 75 percent of Americans say they believe New Orleans still faces “major challenges” in its recovery process, with 15 percent viewing the challenges left as “minor” and 5 percent reporting they believe the city is mostly recovered.

View that New Orleans Still Has Challenges

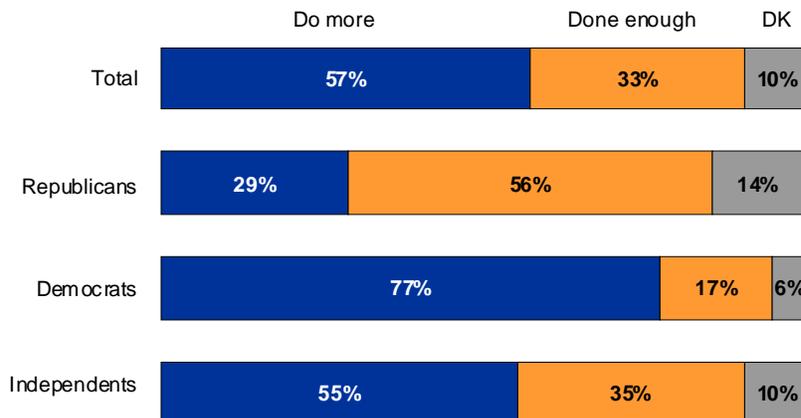
As far as you know, does the city of New Orleans still face MAJOR challenges in its continuing process of recovering from Hurricane Katrina, MINOR challenges, or is it mostly recovered at this point?



Partisan differences on whose responsibility it is to address challenges

Government Responsibility to New Orleans

Do you think the federal government should do more to help New Orleans in its efforts to recover from Hurricane Katrina, or do you think the federal government has already done enough?



Partisans differ, however, in their views of what the federal government should do in the face of these remaining challenges. A large majority of Democrats (77 percent) and a narrower majority of political independents (55 percent) say the federal government should do more to help New Orleans in its recovery process. Most Republicans (56 percent), however, say the federal government has already done enough.

Methodology

Data in this brief come from the latest *Kaiser Health Tracking Survey: Election 2008* survey, which was designed and analyzed by public opinion researchers at the Kaiser Family Foundation. The survey was conducted September 8-13, 2008, among a nationally representative random sample of 1,207 adults ages 18 and older. Telephone interviews were carried out in English and Spanish by Princeton Survey Research Associates. The margin of sampling error for the total sample is plus or minus 3 percentage points; for results based on subgroups, the sampling error is higher. Note that sampling error is only one of many potential sources of error in this or any other public opinion poll. Due to rounding, percentages may not add to 100. Full survey question wording and results are available at www.kff.org.

¹ 65% of New Orleans residents agree that “most Americans have forgotten about the challenges facing New Orleans.” *New Orleans Three Years after the Storm: The Second Kaiser Post-Katrina Survey, 2008* (<http://www.kff.org/kaiserpolls/posr081008pkg.cfm>).