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EFFECTS OF NEWS MEDIA COVERAGE OF NATURAL
DISASTERS ON THE AFRICAN
AMERICAN COMMUNITY

THESIS

SHARNAE MACKENIZE GILMORE

2012

**EFFECTS OF NEWS MEDIA COVERAGE OF NATURAL DISASTERS ON THE
AFRICAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY**

THESIS

Presented in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for
Master of Arts Degree in the Graduate School
of Texas Southern University

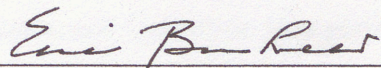
By

Sharnae Mackenize Gilmore, B.A.

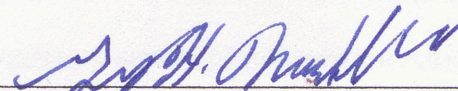
Texas Southern University

2012

Approved By



Chairperson, Thesis Committee



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EFFECTS OF NEWS MEDIA COVERAGE OF NATURAL DISASTERS ON THE AFRICAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY

By

Sharnae Mackenize Gilmore, M.A.

Texas Southern University, 2012

Professor Eui B. Lee, Advisor

While writing this thesis, Hurricane Sandy, the largest Atlantic hurricane on record, affected at least 24 states from Florida to New England in late October 2012. The hurricane devastated New Jersey and New York City with rising death toll and property damages. Hurricane Katrina was the deadliest in 2005. The hurricane killed 1, 833. African American residents in New Orleans were catastrophically affected in flooded parishes by the hurricane. The primary purpose of the current study was to examine the experience of natural disasters among local participants and to evaluate the local media coverage of such events.

A total of 128 adults living in the Houston and Galveston area participated in the survey questionnaire in September of 2012. This study is based on answering the following research questions: what are the experiences of the African American community in natural disasters, what is the primary source of information African Americans use to receive information about natural disasters and what are the long-term effects of natural disasters.

Even though local TV was the most preferred source of information, our participants also rely on the person-to-person contact in case of natural disasters. They

get informational and emotional support as well from family, church members, co-workers, and school. In terms of utilizing the new media such as the Internet, there was statistically significant gender difference: More male participants use the Internet than female adults.

The survey also examined the long-term effects of natural disasters on the financial, health and emotional aspect of respondents. About 28% of the participants revealed financial stress and problems from natural disasters, while 11% agreed on health and 20% on emotional trauma. They also indicated material support from such organizations as FEMA, Red Cross, Church organizations, etc. However, some participants pointed out the slow feedback and follow-up from FEMA.

Natural disasters are coverage heavily by the local media, but our respondents complained about the un-even coverage of certain areas of the city and about the potential stories in terms of importance of ratings. This exploratory study contains results from the African American communities in the Houston/Galveston areas.

Future study should examine the local risk responses with more diverse and large sample for prevention, warning system, and evacuations. In addition, the role of the new media in natural disasters and emergencies are in high demands today. News media uses the Internet to stream live news coverage for the public to see and hear about natural disasters.

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VITA

March 22, 1984.....Born- Houston, Texas

2008.....Clarence O. Bradford
Campaign Intern
Houston, Texas

2008.....Houston Community
Newspaper Writer
Houston, Texas

2009.....B.A., Texas Southern
University
Houston, Texas

Major Field.....Communications

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to thank God because without him I would not have come this far in my life. "No one is academically successful without a strong support system". I feel that it would have been difficult to complete this study if I did not have a support system. My strong support system included family, close friends, co-workers, my supervisors, professors and advisors.

They were encouraging, positive people who believed in everything I could possibly accomplish. I am happy to say that I really appreciate the support. I would like to dedicate this thesis to, first and foremost, my grandmother, Vallia Huff. She has been encouraging me to attend college to pursue college degrees. She motivated, inspired and pushed me to accomplish this particular goal. My grandmother has experienced many natural disasters during her lifetime living in Houston, Texas. I wanted to give her a voice and tell her story.

Moreover, I would like to acknowledge some special people who have helped me to stay focused on this study. I really appreciate the strength I gained from my son, Vysen Tyreake Scales. He is my motivation. Vysen was born in October 2006 and I struggled to finish college raising him. I reached out to everyone, family and close friends, to help me look after him while I continued college. He is the reason why I can say that I am a proud mommy who has conducted a study for a good cause. I would like to also acknowledge and give a special thanks to my close friend, Patrick D. Hughes, my Step-Mother, Tressa Pipkin, my sister Danyel Gilmore, to all my brothers and sisters, my Step-Father, Bobby

Lumpkin, and my Mother, Julie Gilmore for supporting me throughout this long journey in finishing and organizing this paper.

In conclusion, I would like to give thanks to Texas Southern University Communications Department, Dean, James W. Ward. I would like to also give a special thanks to my academic advisors and committee members for assisting me with the completion of this program especially, Dr. Eui B. Lee, who has been there to support me throughout the duration of my thesis project. I would like to thank Dr. Christian C. Ulasi for being a great professor and challenging my academic skills throughout the radio, television and film program. Recognition of committee members also includes Dr. Reza J. Poudeh, a professor in the RTF program. Last but not least, I would like to give a very special thank you to Dr. Robert L. Ford., a chemistry professor I chose to serve as my committee member.

DEDICATION

I would like to dedicate this thesis to the predominately African American neighborhood, Southpark. This neighborhood is located in Houston, Texas and needed someone to give them a voice because during natural disasters, flood waters entered their homes and they would lose almost all of their assets.

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

In the past couple of years, hurricanes, tornados, tropical storms, earthquakes and other natural disasters appear to be increasing in frequency and intensity around the globe. News media warns all communities equally or just certain cultures and/or neighborhoods? Research has shown that there is disparity in delivery of news about impending disasters with some communities being better informed than others. At this time, disaster communications research on black communities as compared to others exists, however, do black communities get emergency messaging about natural disasters that other communities receive these services and how does these communications affect their lives will be discussed in this study.

Furthermore, it has been stated by society, the communities, critics and authorities that the media has an influence on how they read and view the news. In the past, journalists have been accused of giving false information in their print and broadcast news stories. For example, in 2005 when news media were covering Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans, Louisiana, broadcast newscasters were calling American citizens refugees. Refugees are non-American citizens migrating from one country to the next; Hurricane Katrina victims were American citizens. Moreover, sources related to some news stories would address the public to clear up the issue presented because a journalist misinformed them. In the old media, (television, radio and newspapers) journalists were trustworthy and looked upon to tell the public what was going on around them. Today, journalists are very biased and opinionated when it comes to delivering the news. This research study

will focus on the behavior and attitudes of the African American communities when they are informed by mass media about natural disasters. This study will also discuss the media's role in covering natural disasters; will it have a positive or a negative influence and could it affect someone's personal life, business, relationships, etc. and it will discuss Hurricanes Katrina and Ike.

Purpose of Study

The purpose of this study is to examine the behavior and attitudes of African American people when they are informed by mass media about natural disasters. The primary sources of information about natural disasters in African American communities' communications may be in discrete position. Television, radio and print news were old media whereas the new media (the Internet) is the 21st century primary news source around the globe. The Internet consists of the World Wide Web which enables news media and the public to obtain news and search for sources of information to help construct news stories. Journalists are able to place their print news stories online for people to view and read. They are also placing video and audio on the news websites to deliver their stories to the public. Television and radio media may be the primary sources of information when learning about a natural disaster existence in the African American community. The following research questions will be answered in this study: RQ#1: What are the experiences of the African American community in natural disasters? RQ#2: What is the primary source of information African Americans use to receive information about natural disasters? RQ#3: What are the long-term effects of natural disasters?

I will use the quantitative and qualitative inquiry to define and research about how

the African American communities are being affected by news coverage of natural disasters by news media and what is the primary source of information in that community. In the literature review, one will see that other studies were conducted that are similar to my topic of interest.

Definition of Key Words and Terms

Agenda Setting-The process of the media telling the public what to think about; establishes the salient issues or images in the minds of the public.

Broadcasting- In the past, this term was used strictly to a process by which a transmitter delivers content through the airwaves to a television set or radio receiver. Today, it refers to the delivery of content not just through the airwaves, but also through cable, satellite and Internet technology.

Community- A social group of any size whose members reside in a specific locality, share government, and often have a common cultural and historical heritage.

Framing- refers to the process of putting a news story together, including the ways in which a story is organized and structured.

Hurricane- A violent, tropical, cyclonic storm of the Western North Atlantic, having wind speeds of or in excess of 72 miles per hour (32m/sec).

Media- plural of medium; the means of communication, as radio and television, newspapers, magazines, the new media "Internet" that reach or influence people widely.

Natural Disaster- Any event or force of nature that has catastrophic consequences, such as avalanche, earthquake, flood, forest fire, hurricane, lightning, tornado, tsunami, and volcanic eruption.

Refugee- is a person who flees for refuge or safety, especially to a foreign country, as in time of political upheaval, war, etc.

CHAPTER 2

LITERATURE REVIEW

Theoretical Overview

The impact news media has on society is further discussed by human communication theorists. Donald Shaw, Maxwell McCombs, and their colleagues claim that media depictions can affect how people think about the news, help organize the world of experience, and are “stunningly successful in telling us what to think about”. In other words, agenda setting establishes the salient issues or images in the minds of the public (Littlejohn & Foss, 2011). Shaw, McCombs and their colleagues mention news outlets make choices about what they report and how to report it. The media produce content of the news and place it on mediums for society to see and hear. News reporting in the United States, radio and television news generally aims at objectivity by balancing opinions and refraining from political commentary or advocacy journalism as part of a regular newscast (McKenzie, 2006). McKenzie also mentioned radio and television reports include “two sides” to controversial issues to achieve balance, which is seen as the central point of objectivity. Furthermore, society consider what they see and hear on television, radio, newspapers, magazines, and the Internet is the way we are supposed to live and view life. For instance, when news media informed the world about Hurricane Katrina, the people were shown standing on top of their homes waiting to be rescued and dying in the middle of the streets in New Orleans, Louisiana. The news media images were devastating and depressing. They told us to think about how the natural disaster hit a whole community and forced them to leave their homes. News Journalists informs the

public about the news and the public believe what is prearranged when all the facts are not given in a story. Society believe that the media is watching what is going on and stating their opinion instead of giving the news and staying objective and let the people tell their own stories.

Moreover, another theory will be discussed in which is called the Framing Theory. Goffman (1974) first used the term “frame” to describe what people use to make sense of their outside world based upon expectations from their experiences. In addition, he mentioned that frames could help people “to locate, perceive, identify, and label” (Worawongs, Wang & Sims, 2012). For example, news media framed Hurricane Katrina victims in 2005. The location is New Orleans, Louisiana; they perceived the victims as thieves, homeless, uneducated poor and low-income black people. They finally identified them as African American United States citizens whose city has been destroyed by a natural disaster and the people were labeled refugees. According to Littlejohn and Foss (2011), framing refers to the process of putting a news story together, including the ways in which a story is organized and structured. To further explain the framing theory, news media can use words and images to help shape and design a story the public can understand and change their mind frame of a certain subject they are speaking about. The frames are used result from the interaction between journalists, public and stakeholders. Media research shows that journalists use only a handful of non-specific frames to report news events. Stories may be framed in terms of conflict, responsibility, economic consequences, human interest, and ethical and moral considerations (Kutttschreuter, Gutteling, Hond, 2011). Time and viewer attention are both limited, so news media present issues as discrete “interpretive packages” that help viewers understand what the

essence of an issue is. These issue packages have, “at their core, a central organizing idea, or frame, for making sense of relevant events” (Mulligan & Habel, 2011). Mulligan and Habel (2011) further explains in the packaging, news media present some dimensions of an issue, or some relevant considerations, but not others. Moreover, “agenda setting identifies which issues are important; framing tells us how to understand those issues” (Littlejohn & Foss, 2011). The primary goal of this study is to test the theory and demonstrate how news media agenda setting and framing of news coverage of natural disasters can affect a community.

Media’s Role in Natural Disasters

News media has a responsibility to deliver factual news to the public. Their role is to inform the community about what is happening around them. They are required to provide the imagery to news story coverage throughout on-air newscasts. In covering a disaster, the media system (journalists and editors) decide on how to frame the event. Journalists create a central theme for the story and emphasize specific elements of the event. The central theme may relate to the definition of the problem, its causes, its treatment or its moral evaluation. In this process, journalists supply a context and interpretation of social problems and themes (Kuttschreuter, Gutteling, & Hond, 2011). During natural disasters, news media coverage has its demands to cover most areas in communities that are experiencing disastrous weather. When transferring information to the public about natural disasters, news journalists are apprehensive about the reactions of viewers. Viewers’ believe what is shown and discussed by news media on television and when the communities communicate among themselves, they find out the truth in great detail. “The media are a key source of information during a disaster and they create

myths about them when informing the public. During accidents and disasters, reporters leave things out view of disaster response and instead of focusing on what people do well and on problems of organizations, the media stress the negative about individual behavior” (Scanlon, 1998). For example, people believe warnings cause panic. They believe victims will be in shock, unable to help themselves let alone others. They believe responders keep calm and cool while others are in distress. These are false beliefs made by reporters which affect how emergency agencies respond (Scanlon, 1998). In addition, when reporting about Hurricane Katrina in 2005 in New Orleans, Louisiana, African Americans were dying and stranded for hours with no power, no food to eat and no water. The reporters were focused more on the imagery about African American people looting from nearby stores than about families missing and how the people were going to be rescued. This type of reporting caused the government to act in a slower pace than expected. The media stressed the negative about the predominately African American community. The agenda setting theory focuses on telling the public what to think about and what the news media want them to know. According to Worawongs (2012), amongst the three major broadcast television networks (ABC, CBS and NBC), Hurricane Katrina and the Indian Ocean Tsunami received the first and fourth highest amounts of airtime, respectively. News media broadcast their news on radio and television. According to McKenzie (2006), broadcasting refers to the delivery of content not just through the airwaves, but also through cable and satellite technology. In the past, the term broadcasting was used strictly to a process by which a transmitter delivers content through the airwaves to a television set or radio receiver. Television news programs are redistributed by cable providers, satellite and Internet and this transition changes the

meaning of broadcasting and it is increasingly being used to describe radio or television content. One can imagine how many people were viewing the broadcasting of Hurricane Katrina and other disastrous weather. Because of the news media reporting about Hurricane Katrina in 2005, viewers were able to observe what was happening in New Orleans. The media sets the agenda to shape the public perception of news stories.

Scanlon (1998) tells us that the media can help the public understand why a certain type of disaster is prevalent in a community, state or nation by “digging deeper” than the facts related to a specific news event. Agenda setting is relevant to the media because they choose which story is “newsworthy” and which is not. They are focused on getting the facts and digging deeper to get a story and also use propaganda to engage their audiences which lead them to framing the community. Research shows that human interest, conflict and responsibility or blame are used often in disaster coverage, with human interest frame dropping significantly after the first three weeks (Kuttschreuter, Gutteling, Hond, 2011).

Hurricane Katrina & Hurricane Ike

Jae-Hwa Shin, Shahira Fahmy and Richard A. Lewis (2012) describes the forecast of Hurricane Katrina (2012):

On Tuesday, Aug. 23, 2005, the National Hurricane Center projected that a major tropical depression would strike the Gulf Coast of the United States somewhere between Florida and Texas. Three days later, Katrina was now a category 5 storm with a path centering New Orleans. The storm made landfall on the morning of Aug. 29 near the Mississippi-Louisiana border. Not until the following day, when news of the levee failures in New Orleans emerged, was full of magnitude of the disaster recognized. News coverage of Hurricane Katrina dominated U.S. news

during the last quarter of 2005.

Hurricane Katrina was reported across America and around the world on all media platforms. The news gathering and the story unfolds in front of millions of people around the globe. News journalists/reporters gather, collect the news and provide a channel for public officials to communicate with the public about the meaning of events explains Miller and Goidel (2009). Miller and Goidel (2009) further explained that news organizations are subject to biases that may lead to distorted presentations of reality and that perpetuate misinformation, stereotypes, and misunderstanding. For example, news media were labeling Hurricane Katrina victims as refugees when they are citizens of the United States. Refugees are people who are migrating from one country to the next after a war. According to Dictionary.com, a refugee is a person who flees for refuge or safety, especially to a foreign country, as in time of political upheaval, war, etc. News media led the country and the world to believe that American citizens were refugees. When they were faced with political officials about the labeling, many news reporters changed their usage of vocabulary and then labeled the citizens "Hurricane Katrina Victims". This type of reporting is called framing. The media framed the American citizens by labeling them as refugees. This affected the African American community in America because our people were labeled and perceived as refugees to the world because of news media reporting. The effects of news media framing on opinions have been demonstrated over and over in studies involving a variety of news frames and political issues.

Misinformation of the media can affect a whole community if they are not careful of their word usage when broadcasting across media platforms like television, radio and the Internet. When reporting about a natural disaster, one should take in consideration

that people lives could possibly be affected and should gain immediate help by government officials, rescue crews and other helpful organizations. According to Nancy Snow (2005), journalists must recognize and confront the myths we live by. One myth is the supposed adversarial relationship between government and the media. This is convenient myth for both communities and is sustained for mutual benefit. Another common myth is that overt censorship in news organizations does not exist. It does because of the results of benefits that reporters receive and the benefits the government receives in return when the media mislead the public through domestic propaganda. The government and the media communicate on all levels of the news. The media basically provide the information and imagery to the government and then the government responds to what they see and hear. Disaster coverage in the United States tends to be individualistic and not collective, focusing on the individual stories and not the larger societal stories (Miller & Goidel, 2009). If the media delivers the message in a precise way, then emergency crews can be notified in a timely manner to rescue the people in disastrous weather. In the midst of natural disaster, the news media often assume the role of public representative, communicating public needs to the officials and advocating for their communities. But if news organizations move beyond traditional roles of objective observers to passionate advocates for their communities, they remain closely tied to official sources for interpretations and explanations of events (Miller & Goidel, 2009). News media must have communication among their communities to be able to receive information about their stories. Government officials tend to influence the media to be advocates for them and then they become biased by stating their personal opinions in which will shape how people perceive the news.

Furthermore, in Houston/Galveston, Texas on Sept. 13, 2008, Hurricane Ike crashed into the Texas Gulf Coast, Category 2 Hurricane, sending a 20-foot storm surge rolling over Galveston Bay in Harris County. The storm killed at least 32 people in Texas and 67 people nationwide, according to media reports. More than 220,000 Harris County residents were evacuated from coastal areas, more than 2.1 million county residents lost power, the area suffered billions of dollars in damage (American City & County, 2008). During Hurricane Ike, news media provided the imagery of the Galveston area and reported how residents were preparing for the disaster. They were interviewing mostly the Caucasian and the Hispanic community. They were also reporting the aftermath of the Hurricane. In the Houston areas, residents were also affected by Hurricane Ike and news media rarely reported in areas that were mostly affected by the Hurricane. The news media wanted the public to know about the Galveston residential areas and less about the people in the Houston area. Some people homes were destroyed and damaged as well. The agenda setting continues throughout news media broadcasting which causes the government and emergency officials to act in a prominent manner to a certain area because of news media information. "One of the biggest issues was we had a lot of people, members of Congress, others, who came down here and had press conferences, and they said things that are not right. Then that gets the residents all confused...others went to various sites and held press conferences and said things that are just wrong. Then the press, unfortunately, wants to focus on some little negative thing. Communication between the county, the state and the smaller municipalities can always be improved. Houston gets all the media attention, but, in fact, it was the smaller communities that were hit the hardest." American City & County (2008) spoke with Harris County Judge

Ed Emmett about the community's status two-and-a-half weeks after the powerful storm. Government officials knew what communities were hit the hardest and didn't communicate that to news media. The smaller communities he mentioned should have been the areas covered in the news coverage. Emergency officials could have helped the community in any possible way they could. Government official Emmett stated that it was difficult to constantly take care of the smaller communities' needs. I think if the media would have focused and communicated this message to the public, then there would have been more help.

Natural Disasters/Hurricane Ike & The African American Community

According to John C. Mutter (2008), Disaster coverage depends very much on who is affected and where they live or have lived. A natural disaster is a broad information source for mass media, and the information stream becomes less controlled and in some cases even uncontrollable (Seid-Aliyeva, 2006). Almost regardless of the death toll, disasters in remote parts of the world hold media attention for only a short time unless, like the Indian Ocean tsunami in 2004 they affect tourist resorts. There are countries that do not get media attention as do in the United States. News media informs the public what they want us to know about which is agenda setting and then frame the subject of the story in which allows the public to locate, perceive, identify and label. The tsunami coverage was recorded by tourists who sent the video to news stations all over the world. News media choose which area they want to cover and broadcast images on television, radio and on the Internet. The United States media grows cold to distant misery says Mutter (2008). Mutter also mentions that we witness in a near first hand way the plight of those caught up in the shock and chaos of disaster events and the efforts of

those who try to respond. Images of disasters are at first shocking, then uncomfortably revealing like Hurricane Katrina which was graphically documented in news coverage. Furthermore, the African American community was affected by Hurricanes Katrina and Ike.

The media news coverage was not only in these cities and states to cover the natural disasters that occurred, but wanted to reveal who was affected. The people that were affected the most in both Hurricanes were predominately African-American neighborhoods. African-American households reside in areas most vulnerable to hurricanes in the greater Galveston Bay area. Census tracts in which 60% or more of the population is comprised of African-American households are in the areas that were hardest hit by Hurricane Ike and remain most vulnerable to future damage in even low-grade tropical storms and category one hurricanes (Henneberger, 2009). Hurricane Katrina research reports states that, based in part on statistics from a Gallup/CNN/USA Today poll conducted in 2005, White and colleagues reported that “Black Americans were much more likely than White Americans to report feeling angered by what happened in the areas affected by the hurricane”. Furthermore, they indicated that “76% of Blacks reported being angry, whereas, only 60% of Whites indicated anger” (Pena, Istre, Cohen, and Klarman, 2010). Television news media did not follow-up with viewers about the black communities hit the hardest in Hurricane Ike. They only provided information about certain neighborhoods that were not predominately black people. According to Henneberger, it is clear that there is a high level of racial segregation present in the Galveston Bay area. Henneberger provided FEMA maps of Hurricane Vulnerability in 2000 and stated that future housing reconstruction needs to be

considered, so that these residents will not be threatened by the next weather disaster.

News Media is further discussed by Mulligan & Habel (2011), in which states that time and viewer attention are both limited, so news media present issues as discrete

"interpretive packages" that help viewers understand what the essence of an issue is.

These issue packages have, "at their core, a central organizing idea, or frame, for making sense of relevant events". Framing is a strategy that news media use to engage the audience into viewing their news stories on television or via other media platforms.

Framing is a way to gain the attention of viewers and news media also use propaganda to stir controversial topics as could arise in the news coverage of natural disasters like Hurricanes Katrina and Ike.

In conclusion to this literature review, I have explained about media agenda setting in which states that news media tells the people what they want them to know about and I have also explained and discussed the framing theory in which consists of news media trying to tell people how to perceive the issue they present. In Hurricanes Katrina and Ike, news media has used agenda setting and framing to provide the world with information about the issues that were presented when reporting from those areas. Also, I have elaborated on the reporting of Hurricane Ike and the African-American Community. News media has the decision to report in areas that are affected by natural disasters, but they chose certain areas to report that were not as bad as others as in the African-American communities.

CHAPTER 3

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The research methodology section presents the techniques used to collect the data. Survey questionnaires were given to the African-American communities to examine the attitudes and behavior of the African-American people who has experienced natural disasters in their lifetime.

Population/Sample

A sample of 128 African Americans who live in the Houston/Galveston areas whose community has been destroyed by natural disasters is selected. In addition to this qualification, I conducted a survey questionnaire for adults 18+ years within local African American communities to get a clear understanding about how the falsification of information in the news media can mislead a group of people and affect their lives in any possible way. I walked from door to door and asked relatives to help pass out the surveys. The participants took about 5 to 10 minutes to complete their survey questionnaire. Some individuals needed further explanation about why were they filling out surveys and I explained to them who, what, when, where, why and how the surveys were being conducted. Moreover, this sample of individuals can provide relevant issues or situations about how news media can change the way people see and hear the news about natural disasters.

Instruments & Figures

Natural Disasters and the African American Community survey form consisted of asking participants to fill out the survey and informing that we do not need to know their

names. In addition to the directions, I asked each participant for participation in the survey for my course assignment. In Appendix A, one will see the survey which included demographics and asking questions about their experiences in natural disasters. I was mainly concerned about people filling out the open-ended questions because I wanted them to explain their experiences in detail. I had no problems from the participants in doing so. One of my major questions was, "Please explain about your experiences about natural disasters in your lifetime. How many natural disasters did you experience? (Explain)". Another one of my major questions was "Please describe, in your own words, the image of African Americans you saw during the news coverage of Hurricane Katrina. (Please Print)". Participants politely filled out this part of the questionnaire.

In Appendix C are the answers to the open-ended questions. One will see that I have in depth answers from the African American community about the natural disasters they have experienced. I asked the respondents to please explain about their experiences about natural disasters in their lifetime and how many natural disasters did they experience. I have also asked the respondents to describe in their own words the image of African Americans they saw during the news coverage of Hurricane Katrina. The respondents gave in-depth feedback about their experiences and what they saw.

Data Collection

I printed out approximately 150 surveys and I began to distribute them throughout the Houston/Galveston African-American communities. I had two Hispanics to fill out the survey and maybe one other ethnic background. I did not have problems with the community filling out my surveys. The qualitative and quantitative information is collected through survey questionnaires with open-ended, closed ended, likert scale and

fill in the blank questions to answer. Demographic information is collected throughout the survey questionnaires as well. The survey questionnaire is completed once participants accept to participate in the study.

Data Analysis

I used two methods to analyze survey data. To identify key themes and concepts, I read through the survey questionnaire. Using this method, I will learn about the African American people whose lives were affected by misleading information given by news media about natural disasters in their news stories. This data will be transposed in a spreadsheet table to identify how and where the African American community obtains their emergency messages. This will further explain about African Americans being exposed to misleading information about natural disasters given by news media.

Research Design

The researcher used the SPSS (Statistical Program for the Social Sciences) program to run frequency distributions and crosstabulations. For open-ended questions, the researcher transcribed respondents' answers.

CHAPTER 4

FINDINGS

This chapter presents findings of the survey about natural disasters, communication media and the African American community. It is organized based on major research questions.

As shown in Table 1, one will see the demographic profile of the respondents. Female respondents were dominant in this study; about 54% females and 46% males. The majority of the respondents were African American (81%), Caucasian (5.5%), Mexican American (3.1%), and the rest were Asian Americans. About 36% of the respondents are single and not in a relationship. The majority of the respondents live in a house (53%). Only 34% of the respondents owned their homes. The average age of the respondents was 34 and they have lived in Houston/Galveston, Texas, about 8 years with the average of 1.6 children in homes. The majority of the respondents' (72%) income was less than \$50,000.

Table 1. Demographic Profile of the Respondents

<u>Variable</u>	<u>Characteristic</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>
Gender	Male	59	46.1
	Female	69	53.9
	Total	128	100.0
Race/Ethnic Background	African American/Black	104	81.3
	Caucasian/White	7	5.5
	Mexican American/Chicano	4	3.1
	Latino	8	6.3
	Asian	1	.8
	American/ Asian	0	0

	Other	4	3.1
	Total	128	100.0
Marital Status	Married	34	26.6
	Divorced or separated	13	10.2
	Single, living with someone	11	8.6
	Single, but in a relationship	22	17.2
	Single, not in a relationship	46	35.9
	Widowed	2	1.6
	Total	128	100.0
Residential Status	House	68	53.1
	Apartment	47	36.7
	Condominium/Townhome	13	10.2
	Total	128	100.0
Home ownership	Yes	43	33.6
	No	85	66.4
	Total	128	100.0

RQ#1: What are the experiences of the African American community in natural disasters?

Some respondents (19 people) experienced the natural disaster, Hurricane Katrina, whereas 67 respondents experienced Hurricane Ike in Houston/Galveston, Texas areas. Some of the respondents also stated they have been through both Hurricanes and have managed to survive. Some of the respondents say they have been through multiple natural disasters including tornados and earthquakes.

Table 2.**Experience with Natural Disasters****A. Hurricane Katrina**

	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>
Yes	19	14.8
No	109	85.2
Total	128	100.0

B. Hurricane Ike

	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>
Yes	67	52.3
No	61	47.7
Total	128	100.0

C. Street Flooding

	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>
Yes	54	42.2
No	37	28.9
Sometimes	37	28.9
Total	128	100.0

As shown in Table 2, 42% of respondents stated there is street flooding in their neighborhoods and 29% of participants experience street flooding sometimes in their neighborhoods. If street flooding is occurring in the Houston/Galveston areas, then the media should broadcast in those areas to gain flood relief for those victims. The majority of the community is African American people in which whom are United States citizens.

Moreover, respondents have experienced multiple natural disasters throughout their lifetime. Many of them were very emotional and concerned about experiencing another natural disaster. During Hurricane Katrina, respondents gave in-depth information about their experiences. Please view Appendix C, I asked respondents to

explain their experiences about natural disasters in their lifetime. During Hurricane Katrina, a respondent stated, "For the Hurricane Katrina...I was in undergrad at Grambling, I remember there were a lot of people that attended school there worried about their families because they were further south and couldn't leave the city. When we went to get supplies for our dorm, all the local stores and supermarkets were practically empty, no water or canned items in at least one hour in either direction. When we come back from the stores, gyms were full of evacuees and we had to give clothing and personal items to evacuees and share dorm rooms." When reading this statement I was emotional because these were African American United States citizens who lost their homes and families. These people were unable to leave the city because they may not have had the funds or transportation or places to go and seek shelter. Another respondent stated, "Only one, Katrina, my house was full of leaves and branches". Respondents continued to say, "Hurricane Katrina was the worst natural disaster I've ever been in. I lost my home and family members." "Family died or was lost in Hurricane Katrina" and "I only experienced one, which was Katrina, we had to drive to San Antonio with my newborn son."

Moreover, during Hurricane Ike, respondents continued to provide information about their experience; "Ike flooded my home", "Hurricane Ike...I was living with my grandmother she lives in a flood zone and I packed all my things up, put them up high, left with my relatives, and went to San Antonio. The experience was horrible, it was stressful and I hope I never experience it again." Respondents continued to describe their experiences and stated, "During Hurricane Ike, I was without power for two weeks". "Only thing I experienced during Hurricane Ike was the evacuation which took us about

18-20 hrs to get to Dallas." "During Hurricane Ike and afterwards, the power at my home were out for 5 days." "House was damaged in Hurricane Ike, and insurance did not pay for it, vehicle was damaged, I had liability only insurance."

Furthermore, during the natural disasters some of the respondents stated that there was flooding, power outages, evacuations and other events happening. Some of them have experienced Hurricane Katrina and Ike and others have experienced other natural disasters like earthquakes, tropical storm Allison and Hurricane Alisha. Respondents' stated, "water in the house in all three, specifically, Ike." "1, only the flooding and power outage", "I had two disasters, no lights, car under water." "Allison tore the roof off over 4 bedrooms apt... "I have been through Hurricane Alicia and Ike, tropical storm Allison and Shear a tornado. The worse experience was the tornado since I had a tree fall on my home. I incurred cost to cut down the tree as well as electrical wiring damage". Respondents' continues to tell their experiences, "Packed my belongings, drove with family to get out of harm's way. I was only able to travel a few miles in 13 hrs. Turned around because I was very low on gas fuel, no food, water, relied on water, food from charitable organizations without electricity for 14 days." "I am from California, so I have experienced a few earthquakes. Also, since relocating to Houston, TX, I have experienced Hurricane Ike". "Experienced earthquakes and floods...really too...a bad encounter, pondering thoughts about what would happen...will I make it out of this? Or would I not? Even after coming out of it the thought remain! What would have been?" "I experienced two and each cost me close to \$5,000 in relocating for less than a week. I took my family to East Texas. A two hour trip turned in to a 2-day trip by car. The disaster affected East Texas also and gas and food were a major expense."

Hurricane Ike had an impact on the African American community. They had to deal with flooding and power outages. Most of them had to deal with flooding and many power outages for long periods of time. A person without power for five days had to live without cooking food on the stove, if they had an electrical one, and they did not have the air conditioning system on which means they were probably hot. A natural disaster does affect the African American community financially. Most of them could not leave their homes because they did not have the monies for gas, water and food, and many relocated to other areas because of damages they could not afford to fix. If you refer back to Table 1, most of the respondents only make less than \$50,000 yearly. Half of their funding is spent recovering from natural disasters and some been through a couple.

In addition, I asked the respondents whether they received assistance from a charitable company and if so, what company and what type of assistance. Respondents' stated that, "All we received is a small amount of FEMA money". "Yes, FEMA and housing". FEMA, if that counts and they helped very little. Red Cross passed out plates like twice". "Red Cross came and passed out blankets and a \$20 check which was great help". "Water from a nearby church", " Lakewood Church, Red Cross, and FEMA gave cleaning supplies and in some cases, monies." "They were given food stamps, "Meals on Wheels". "No, but I did help others with Prince Gym in 5th Ward. "James Prince" helps the Katrina victims greatly." The rest of the respondents stated that they did not receive assistance from charitable companies. Charitable companies provided the community with toiletries, food, monies and clothes. They also provided housing vouchers for Hurricane Katrina and Ike victims. The other people who did not receive the help probably could not get to the locations where the help was given. They were stranded at

their homes or the homes of relatives.

All in all, the African American communities were impacted by Hurricanes Katrina and Ike and also other natural disasters. To them, financial stability is important when natural disasters occur.

RQ#2: What is the primary source of information African Americans use to receive information about natural disasters?

Table 3. Primary Source of Information for Natural Disasters

	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>
Cell	14	10.9
Internet	11	8.6
Newspaper	1	.8
Person to Person	28	21.9
Radio	5	3.9
TV	69	53.9
Total	128	100.0

Preferences

The primary source of information within the African American community is television (old media). About 54 % (see Table 3) of the community prefers to receive their news about natural disasters from television news, 22% person to person and 11% cellular phone. If television is the primary source of information in the African American community, then which is the TV news source the community rely on? About 45% of the respondents mostly rely on ABC News to receive information about natural disasters; 11% CBS News, 8 % NBC News, and 27% FOX News, as shown in Graph 1. All

television news sources broadcast their news stories differently. ABC News has a reputation of providing factual information to the public within their television newscasts. If this is so, the community was informed about natural disasters.

Furthermore, 18% of the African American community do not use their cell phones often and may be because they do not want a negative impact financially. However, 85% of the respondents have a computer in their home and this means that they can surf the web to see what the weather forecast is and prepare for these disasters ahead of time.

Men rely more on the Internet to receive their emergency messaging about natural disasters (See Table 5). It's a significant difference between male and female viewers. Nearly, 42% of males used the Internet to receive information about natural disasters.

Graph 1.

Television News Source

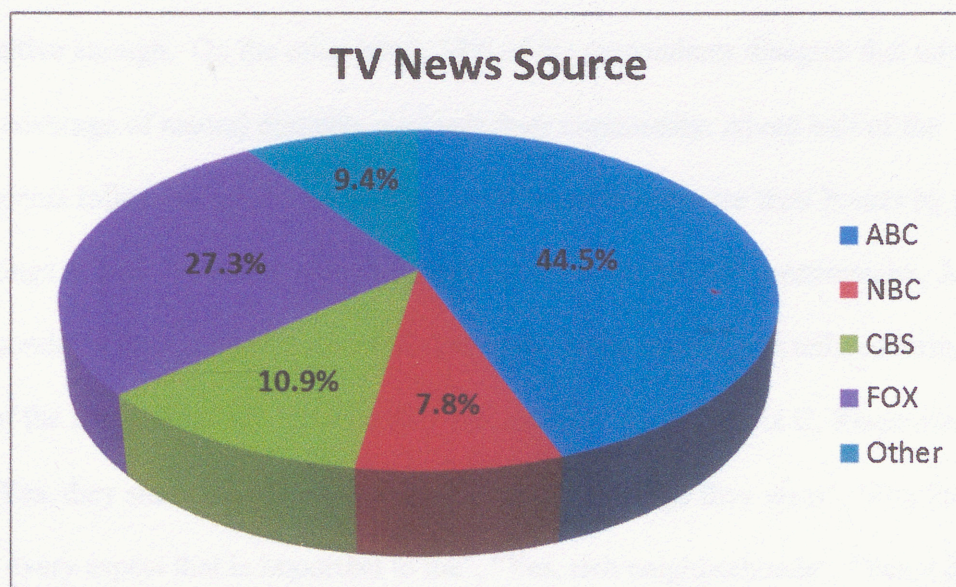


Table 4. Cellular Phone Usage

	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>
Very often	76	59.4
Often	29	22.7
Not Very Often	16	12.5
Don't have cell	7	5.5
Total	128	100.0

Internet Usage

	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>
Very often	49	38.3
Often	28	21.9
Not so often	41	32.0
Don't have Internet access	10	7.8
Total	128	100.0

Local Coverage

There were generally positive answers concerning local media coverage. About 42% agree that the information given about natural disasters by local media is informative enough. On the other hand, 34% of the respondents disagree that news media coverage of natural disasters misleads their community. About half of the respondents follow the necessary procedures if asked to evacuate their homes by placing belongings in their car and drive to relatives home. In the survey questionnaire, Appendix A, respondents were asked do they feel that news media coverage is only covering certain areas of the city and not all. How do they feel about it? In Appendix C, Respondents' said, "Yes, they show what they want to portray the message they want", "Fox 26 News covers every aspect that is important to me", "Yes, rich neighborhoods", "Yes, I do. I think that however they can focus a little more on the actions of reactions of politicians

since natural disaster occurrences.

Table 5.

Gender Difference on Internet Usage

Very often Often Not Often No Internet

Male	30	12	15	2
Female	19	16	26	8

$X^2=8.87, df=3, p=.031$

RQ3: What are the long-term effects of natural disasters?

In the survey questionnaire, Appendix A, I asked about the long-term negative impact on their personal finances, personal health, and emotional well-being. About 65% of the respondents stated that it has not had a long-term impact on their personal finances; whereas, 28% states that it has had a long-term impact, as summarized in Table 6. Moreover, about 82% stated that it has not had a long-term negative impact on their personal health, but 11% stated it has had a long-term impact. In addition, 71% stated that it has not had a negative long-term impact on their emotional well-being, but 20% stated that it has had a long-term impact on their emotional well-being. Over all, the Hurricanes did not have a long-term negative impact for the majority of the participants.

Table 6. Long-Term Impact of Natural Disasters**A. Finances**

	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>
It has	36	28.3
It has not	82	64.6
Somewhat	1	.8
Not applicable	8	6.3
Total	128	100.0

B. Health

	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>
It has	14	11.0
It has not	104	81.9
Somewhat	0	0.0
Not applicable	9	7.1
Total	127	100.0

C. Emotions

	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>
It has	26	20.3
It has not	91	71.1
Somewhat	2	1.6
Not applicable	9	7.0
Total	128	100.0

In addition, in Appendix A, on the survey questionnaire, I asked the respondents to please describe, in your own words, the image of African Americans you saw during the news coverage of Hurricane Katrina. The respondents' stated (Appendix C), "it was unreal to see so many people without help. Especially those women with children and babies, to think that Bush took his time in getting to know those people was a dam shame on him", "They were portrayed as if they were from a third world/under developing

country". "They showed us trying to get food, but we use this opportunity to steal and loot". "I saw dead people, people walking in water on top of houses. A lot of people were packing bags trying to get out and get somewhere safe."

"As a group, most African Americans were desolate; it was as if the entire world left them to become historical footnotes. Many groups that had resources to change the situation of those in need focused more on profiting from other's adversity. It was a gross extortion of their misery. It made me feel that it was clear that then the only people that were largely affected were black people, even though that is not true. It also made me feel that it is clear everyone seems to believe that black people are a completely different species as quickly as populating as rabbits and roaches, but only superfluous or as important as a pet bird. There was no thought to the needs of the people as to more of how to keep dependency". They continued to describe what they saw in the television news coverage of Hurricane Katrina, "it looked like it was another country not the U.S. I was ashamed how "US citizens" were treated just because of their social status and race. We can help other countries with their people, but not our own". The images that were shown by news media were very negative images according to the African American community. The media framed Katrina victims drastically in their reporting.

CHAPTER 5

CONCLUSION

This study was designed to determine how news media inform a community during natural disasters and how they affect African American community. News media inform communities about the weather daily and communities depend on the media to warn them about natural disasters. The problem is African American communities are often misinformed by local news media about natural disasters and with very little academic research to determine if this problem is consistent in our local community. This study shows how the African American community obtains their news and will discuss their personal experiences with natural disasters. One method was used in this study to determine the primary source to obtain the news about natural disasters and to learn about personal experiences with natural disasters.

Previous research shows that natural disasters have destroyed communities around the world. One particular natural disaster, Hurricane Katrina, destroyed the city of New Orleans, Louisiana and left many without home. It is important to conduct a study to understand how a local community can find out about an approaching natural disaster and how they are being affected by the media, social support system and family.

Conclusion and Discussion

In this study, the African American community has spoken about their experiences about natural disasters, their primary source of information used to receive information about natural disasters, and their long-term effects of natural disasters. The community receives emergency messages via TV, radio, person to person, Internet,

phone or a combination of the mass media. Our results indicate that of the primary source of information used in the African American community is television (old media). Our participants also rely on person-to-person communication, which is the old way of communicating, to receive emergency messages about natural disasters. Men rely on the Internet (new media) the most to receive messages about natural disasters. The answers are accurate and are relevant to the hypothesis of this study. The study also indicates that 42% of African Americans agree that the information given about natural disasters by local media is informative enough, but on the other hand, respondents replied strongly about news media coverage is only covering certain areas and not all. They feel the media should cover all areas of the city.

The community personal experience with natural disasters is relevant to this study because it indicates how news media coverage of natural disasters has an impact on African American communities long-term financially, physically, and emotionally. According to this study, the African American community is affected by natural disasters and is not able to receive aid to rebuild their community. Half of the community doesn't have insurance on their homes as well as not receiving aid from FEMA or any other community assistance program. Many are coming out of pocket to fix their homes or live in them as is.

In concluding with the findings of this study, it indicates that the African American communities are affected by natural disasters and maybe misinformed if they don't see nor hear news media. This study can give valuable insight for news media to make sure that every community is warned and that every African American adult ages 18+ has a source of news to view in the future. Understanding the how the African

American community is affected by natural disasters can maximize local news coverage. I believe that more information can be learned if more research is conducted and it could change the way news is covered and make the community more aware of natural disasters so they can be prepared for what's to come.

Implications for Future Research

The following recommendations resulting from the study should be taken under consideration. How African American communities receive emergency messages is very important and how news media can impact and affect a community. Both are influences of each other and can result in complications if not careful. This study was a class exercise and in the future there will be a larger sample size in different geological areas.

Limitations

The study had its limitations and can be extended for future references. There were limited amounts of participants, majority was African Americans, 18 and older, and who live in the Houston area and limited to a certain neighborhood as opposed to other areas. In depth interviews should have been conducted to get a full insight on how an African American is affected by a natural disaster and how do they feel about local news coverage on natural disasters.

Recommendations for Future Research

The results of this study raised many interesting questions for further investigation. Further research in this subject area might focus on using social media for more participants, conduct face-to face interviews, and expand the study according to other geological areas.

Faculty Questionnaire: The African American Community

We are conducting research about how you view your community and how the information from this survey affects your work. We do not need to know your name. Please feel free to answer the following questions as honestly as possible. Thank you for your cooperation.

Part I. Introduction

1. How often will _____

2. You probably will _____

APPENDIX A

SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRE

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____

9. _____

10. _____

11. _____

12. _____

13. _____

14. _____

15. _____

16. _____

17. _____

18. _____

19. _____

20. _____

21. _____

22. _____

23. _____

Natural Disasters & The African American Community

We are conducting a research project (for my class assignment) to find out how the information given about natural disasters affect black communities. We do not need to know your name. Please feel free to answer the following questions as accurately as possible. Thank you for your cooperation.

Part 1. Introduction

1. How old are you? _____

2. Your gender: Male Female

3. Please indicate the ethnic background of yourself.
 African American/Black Caucasian/White Mexican American/Chicano
 Latino Asian American/Asian Other

4. Are you:
 Married Divorced or separated Single, living with someone
 Single, but in a relationship Single, not in a relationship

5. Do you live in a: House Apartment Condominium/Townhome

6. Do you own your home? Yes No

7. How many years you've lived at your residence? _____

8. Do you have children, if so, how many? _____

9. What is your occupation? _____

10. Household income last year?
 Less than \$20,000
 \$20,000-\$29,999
 \$30,000-\$39,999
 \$40,000-\$49,999
 \$50,000-\$75,000

- \$75,000-100,000
- More than 100,000

11. Educational Attainment:

- Grade school Some high school High school diploma
- Some college College degree Post-graduate/professional school

12. Do you attend church?

- Every Sunday Once a month Not Very Often Once a year Never

Part 2: Natural Disasters & The Community

13. How do you receive emergency messages when natural disasters occur?
(1=Most important and 6= Least important)

___ Person to Person

___ TV

___ Radio

___ Newspaper

___ Cell Phone

___ Internet/E-mail

14. Which television news source do you mostly rely on to get information about natural disasters?

- ABC News NBC News CBS News Fox News

Other _____

15. How often do you use your cell phone during a natural disaster?

- Very often Often Not so often Don't have cell phone

16. Do you have a computer in your home? Yes No

17. How often do you use the Internet to receive information about a natural disaster?

- Very often Often Not so often Don't have Internet access

18. When informed about a natural disaster, do you take precautions? If so, how?
(Explain)

19. Are you a victim of Hurricane Katrina? Yes No

20. Are you a victim of Hurricane Ike? Yes No

21. Does your street flood during a natural disaster? Yes No Sometimes

22. I feel the information given about natural disasters by local media is informative enough.

Strongly agree Agree Don't know Disagree Strongly disagree

23. I feel no one cares about my community.

Strongly agree Agree Don't know Disagree Strongly disagree

24. I get water in my home when a natural disaster occurs.

Strongly agree Agree Don't know Disagree Strongly disagree

25. News media coverage of natural disasters misleads my community.

Strongly agree Agree Don't know Disagree Strongly disagree

26. I have to evacuate my home every time it rains.

Strongly agree Agree Don't know Disagree Strongly disagree

27. I get power outages during natural disasters.

Strongly agree Agree Don't know Disagree Strongly disagree

28. How closely have you been following the updated news about Hurricane Katrina victims?

Very closely Somewhat closely Not too closely Not at all

29. How closely have you been following the updated news about Hurricane Ike victims?

Very closely Somewhat closely Not too closely Not at all

30. How closely have you been following the news about the recent Hurricane Isaac victims?

Very closely Somewhat closely Not too closely Not at all

31. If asked to evacuate your home and/or neighborhood, how do you follow the necessary procedures to do so?

(Check one only)

- Place belongings in car and drive to relatives home
- Leave the city by bus or plane
- Leave immediately
- Stay at your home
- Don't have a car
- Other

32. Were your losses in the hurricane fully:

- Insured Partially insured Not insured

33. Would you say the hurricane has or has not had a long-term negative impact on your personal finances?

34. Would you say the hurricane has or has not had a long-term negative impact on your personal health?

35. Would you say the hurricane has or has not had a long-term negative impact on your emotional well-being?

36. Was your primary residence damaged by: Hurricane Katrina Hurricane Ike Both

37. Did you or any one in your immediate family suffer serious physical injury as a result of Hurricane Katrina or Hurricane Ike?

38. Please explain about your experiences about natural disasters in your lifetime. How many natural disasters did you experience? (Explain)

39. Did you receive assistance from a charitable company, if so, what company and what type of assistance?

40. Please describe, in your own words, the image of African Americans you saw during the news coverage of Hurricane Katrina. (Please print)

41. Do you feel that news media coverage is only covering certain areas of the city and not all? How do you feel about it? (Explain) Note: You may write in blank space below if needed.

Thank you for your time and cooperation.

APPENDIX B
CODEBOOK

Natural Disasters & The African American Community Codebook

Column Question

Page 1 & 2 of the Survey

- A Age: write down age
- B Gender: 1=male, 2= female
- C Race/Ethnic background: 1=African American/Black, 2=Caucasian/White, 3=Mexican American/Chicano, 4=Latino, 5=Asian, 6=American/Asian, 7=Other
- D Marital Status: 1=Married, 2=Divorced or Separated, 3=Single, living with someone, 4=Single, but in a relationship, 5=Single, not in a relationship 6= widow
- E Residential Status: 1=House, 2=Apartment, 3=Condominium/Townhome
- F Home Ownership: 1=yes, 2=no
- G Years Lived at Residency: 0=less than 6 months, 0.5= six months, write down year/s
- H Number of Children: write down number of children, 0= None
- I Occupation: write down occupation
- J Income: 1=Less than \$20,000, 2=\$20,000-\$29,000, 3=\$30,000-39,000, 4=\$40,000-\$49,000, 5=\$50,000-\$75,000, 6= \$75,000-\$100,000, 7=More than 100,000
- K Education: 1=Grade School, 2=Some high school, 3=High school diploma, 4=Some college, 5=College degree, 6=Post-graduate/professional school
- L Church Attendance: 1=Every Sunday, 2=Once a month, 3=Not very often, 4=Once a year, 5=Never
- M Receive Messages: Ranking 1 to 6. Just record number one choice only.
- N News Source: 1=ABC News, 2=NBC News, 3=CBS News, 4=FOX News, 5=other

- O Cell Phone Usage: 1=Very often, 2=Often, 3=Not so often, 4=Don't have a cell
- P Computer in Home: 1=Yes, 2=No
- Q Internet Usage: 1=Very often, 2=Often, 3=Not so often, 4=Don't have Internet access

Page 2 & 3 of the Survey

- R Taking Precautions: 1=Yes, get prepared, 2=Yes, have an evaluate plan, 3=Yes, secure household items, 4=other, 5=All of the above
- S Hurricane Katrina Victim: 1=yes, 2=no
- T Hurricane Ike Victim: 1=yes, 2=no
- U Street flooding: 1=yes, 2=no, 3=Sometimes
- V Question #22 1=strongly agree, 2=agree, 3=don't know, 4=disagree, 5=strongly disagree
- W Question #23 1=strongly agree, 2=agree, 3=don't know, 4=disagree, 5=strongly disagree
- X Question #24 1=strongly agree, 2=agree, 3=don't know, 4=disagree, 5=strongly disagree
- Y Question #25 1=strongly agree, 2=agree, 3=don't know, 4=disagree, 5=strongly disagree
- Z Question #26 1=strongly agree, 2=agree, 3=don't know, 4=disagree, 5=strongly disagree
- AA Question #27 1=strongly agree, 2=agree, 3=don't know, 4=disagree, 5=strongly disagree
- AB Question #28 1=Very closely, 2=Somewhat closely, 3=Not too closely, 4=Not at all
- AC Question #29 1=Very closely, 2=Somewhat closely, 3=Not too closely, 4=Not at all
- AD Question #30 1=Very closely, 2=Somewhat closely, 3=Not too closely, 4=Not at all

- AE Actions on Evacuation: 1=Place belongings in car and drive to relatives home, 2=Leave the city by bus or plane, 3=Leave immediately, 4= Stay at your home, 5=don't have a car, 6= other
- AF Losses Insurance: 1=Insured, 2=partially insured, 3=not insured, 4=Not applicable

Page 4 & 5 of the Survey

- AG Impact on Personal Finances: 1= It has, 2=It has not, 3=Somewhat, 4=Not applicable
- AH Impact on Personal Health: 1=It has, 2= It has not, 3= Somewhat, 4= Not applicable
- AI Impact on Emotions: 1= It has, 2= It has not, 3=Somewhat, 4=Not applicable
- AJ Residence Damaged By: 1=Hurricane Katrina, 2=Hurricane Ike, 3=Both, 4=Neither
- AK Physical Injuries: 1=Yes, 2=No, 3= Not applicable
- AL Question #38: write down
- AM Question #39: write down
- AN Question #40: write down
- AO Question #41: write down

National Literacy and The African American Community
Survey Questionnaire Answers

The following open-ended questions were asked in the survey questionnaire:

Q38 How important is it to you to have a good education? How many school degrees do you have? (Open-ended)

Q39 Did you receive any kind of financial help to go to school? If so, what kind? and what type of school?

Q40 Please describe in your own words the level of education you are currently receiving (percentage of household income) (Open-ended)

Q41 Do you feel that your education is helping you to get a better job? If so, how do you feel that your education is helping you to get a better job? (Open-ended)

APPENDIX C
ANSWERS ON OPEN-ENDED
QUESTIONS

Survey 1 Q38
Q39
Q40
Q41

Survey 2 Q38 As a child I finished high school but I did not finish college because of money. Q39 No. Q40 No. Q41 No.

Survey 3 Q38 I did not go to school because of money. Q39 No. Q40 No. Q41 No.

Survey 4 Q38 I did not go to school because of money. Q39 No. Q40 No. Q41 No.

Survey 5 Q38 I did not go to school because of money. Q39 No. Q40 No. Q41 No.

Survey 6 Q38 I did not go to school because of money. Q39 No. Q40 No. Q41 No.

Survey 7 Q38 I did not go to school because of money. Q39 No. Q40 No. Q41 No.

Survey 8 Q38 I did not go to school because of money. Q39 No. Q40 No. Q41 No.

Survey 9 Q38 I did not go to school because of money. Q39 No. Q40 No. Q41 No.

Survey 10 Q38 I did not go to school because of money. Q39 No. Q40 No. Q41 No.

Survey 11 Q38 I did not go to school because of money. Q39 No. Q40 No. Q41 No.

**Natural Disasters and The African American Community
Survey Questionnaire Answers**

The following open-ended questions that were asked in the survey questionnaire:

#38 Please explain about your experiences about natural disasters in your lifetime. How many natural disasters did you experience? (Explain)

#39 Did you receive assistance from a charitable company, if so, what company and what type of assistance?

#40 Please describe, in your own words, the image of African Americans you saw during the news coverage of Hurricane Katrina. (Please Print)

#41 Do you feel that news media coverage is only covering certain areas of the city and not all? How do you feel about it? (Explain) Note: You may write in blank space below if needed.

Survey 1: #38 Three... Ike... water all the house in all three
#39 No
40 N/A
#41 N/A

Survey 2: #38 As a child in Louisiana years ago our city was frequently hit by hurricanes
#39 No
#40 African Americans were not given the same support & etc. as the others, white people... #41 Yes

Survey 3: #38 I did once back in the mid-80s. I really sleep thru the hurricane woke up to no electricity #39 No
#40 it was unreal to see so many people without help. Especially those women with children & babies. To think that Bush took his time in getting to those people was a dam shame on him. #41 No, I feel the coverage was equal

Survey 4: # 38 Only two and personally was not effected
#39 No
#40 They were portrayed as if they were from a third world/under developing country
#41 No feelings about media coverage

Survey 5: #38 1... only the flooding and power outage
#39 No
#40 hundreds
#41 They cover what need to be covered

Survey 6: #38 I had two disasters no lights car underwater
 #39 No
 #40 I saw people on top of houses flooding
 #41 I feel hurt by it ...there are a lot of bad areas

Survey 7: # 38 The only one was Katrina but I lost almost everything but family
 #39 All we received is a small amount of FEMA money
 # 40 They showed us trying to get food but said we use this opportunity to steal and loot
 #41 Yes, they show what they want to portray the message they want

Survey 8: #38 I've experienced 2 natural disasters Katrina & Ike...Katrina has us stranded on the freeway with poor evacuation instructions. Ike, no evacuation but wind & water damage
 #39 Yes FEMA, and housing
 # 40 Abandoned African Americans without food, shelter & water. There was any precautionary procedures into aiding African Americans who suffered from Katrina.
 #41 Fox 26 News covers every aspect that is important to me.

Survey 9: #38 I experienced two and it was ok
 # 39 No
 #40 They was just struggling to make it
 #41 N/A

Survey 10: #38 N/A
 #39 FEMA
 #40 Very horrible and heart breaking to see people of all races and not just African Americans struggle and stuff like that.
 #41 N/A

Survey 11: #38 Tropical storm Allison and Hurricane Ike, Allison tore the roof off over 4 bedroom apt and Ike flooded my home
 #39 No we did not
 #40 Very mad, made it look very terrible, helpless...it was just a mess...it was very sad looking #41 I think the news does a very good in covering areas in Houston

Survey 12: #38 Hurricane Ike...I was living with my grandmother she lives in a flood zone and I packed all my things up, put them up high, left with my relatives, and went to San Antonio. The experience was horrible, it was stressful and I hope I never experience it again.

#39 No
 #40 I seen dead people, people walking in water on top of houses. A lot of people was packing bags trying to get out and get somewhere safe.
 #41 Yes, rich neighborhoods

Survey 13: #38 For the Hurricane Katrina...I was in undergrad at Grambling , I

remember there were a lot of people that attended school there worried about their families because they were further south and couldn't leave the city. When we went to get supplies for our dorm, all the local stores and supermarkets were practically empty, no water or canned items in at least one hour in either direction. When we come back from the stores, gyms were full of evacuees and we had to give clothing and personal items to evacuees and share dorm rooms.

#39 No

#40 As a group, most African Americans were desolate, it was as if the entire world left them to become historical footnotes. Many groups that had resources to change the situation of those in need focused more on profiting from other's adversity. It was a gross extortion of their misery. It made me feel that it was clear that then the only people that were largely affected were black people, even though that is not true. It also made me feel that it is clear everyone seems to believe that black people are a completely different species as quickly as populating as rabbits and roaches, but only superfluous or as important as a pet bird. There was no thought to the needs of the people as to more of how to keep dependency.

#41 Yes, I do. I think that however they can focus a little more on the actions of reactions of politicians since natural disaster occurrences. Most of the time the news media covers the inertial but forgets that after agencies promise that there should be some result as long as they say they will do something when it's okay is the attitude of the media until there is an event of civil unrest. The news media can focus on the general south because it was many places that were affected. The loss was so complete, it changed the dynamics and culture and well-being of an entire city looked on by the world as a civilization in itself.

Survey 14: #38 I only experience one disaster in my lifetime. It was hurricane Ike. Hurricane Ike was a wakeup call for me. Most people looked at it as a slap on the wrist. Hurricane Ike was not a great experience for me, but I have taught me a lesson.

#39 No I did not receive any assistance

#40 During the Hurricane Katrina disaster, I've actually met two people who were in Katrina. Their lives have totally changed. It made a very impact on them.

#41 No, I feel that the news covers all areas. It keeps us alert in what's going on.

Survey 15: #38 I think at least 5. The worse was Katrina we completed, relocated and started a new life. Things we once knew were gone.

#39 FEMA, if that counts and they helped very little. Red Cross passed out plates like twice #40 They portrayed us as dirty & reckless ignorant beings. It's a lot they didn't understand and some of it was not for the whole city.

#41 Yes. My part was decent and not filmed but the more project areas were

Survey 16: #38 A flood that happen when I was little as a kid

#39 No

#40 A lot of people died and families lots

#41 It was just a little that they covered and not all that they covered just

what they wanted the world to see...

Survey 17: #38 I experienced 3 or 4 in Louisiana and in Houston. It did a lot of damage. You can hear how you take something and it crumbled. We shared food and ice with neighbors and the lights were out. We had to spend most of the day in the house.

#39 Red Cross came and passed out blankets and a \$20 check which was great help

#40 People on top of houses on ABC, FOX News, and people were riding on ski boats, water was halfway in some houses

#41 They do cover all news; they kept broadcasting and I kept up with it

Survey 18: #38 N/A

#39 N/A

#40 Pretty sad to see people suffer like that but you have to help yourself and stop depending on the gov 4...

#41 No concerned

Survey 19: #38 Only Hurricane Ike...Very minor disaster

#39 No

#40 N/A

#41 N/A

Survey 20: #38 3-Lights out, no food, no water

#39 Yes, Mr. E's

#40 They looked helpless

#41 Certain parts of the city

Survey 21: #38 Growing up in Wisconsin, I've experienced the tumor of a tornado. It manifested a fear of tornados all together.

#39 No

#40 Honestly, in my small community in Wisconsin I was not fully aware of the tragedy that was Hurricane Katrina. It wasn't until I moved to Texas, where I was exposed to the survivors and heard their stories.

#41 N/A

Survey 22: #38 Not that many and I'm okay,

#39 No

#40 They were helpless,

#41 Yes, they give good coverage

Survey 23: #38 I have been through Hurricane Alicia and Ike, storm tropical Allison and Shear a tornado. The worse experience was the tornado since I had a tree fall on my home. I incurred cost to cut down the tree as well as electrical wiring damage.

#39 water from nearby church

#40 I vividly recall the face of pain and despair. I recall seeing a rescue from the rooftop of a person full of fear. A year or so later, I visited New Orleans and was appalled by the remaining ruins in the Ninth Ward. The people who lived there were still devastated by the experience.

#41 Never really thought about it. It is clear that they focus on the most devastation to get a good story.

Survey 24: #38 Have had to evacuate, experienced flooding and power outages, stranded until help could come. #39 No

#40 Displaced, underprivileged, poor

#41 Yes, angry and disappointed...all areas involved should have full coverage and details

Survey 25: #38 We have only experienced Hurricane Ike and had some house damage that was totally covered by insurance. #39 No

#40 I just felt that people, in general, were not fully supported during this time. There should have been more of a real time reacted measure in place for the people, lives could have been saved if the government had reacted differently.

#41 The news will always cover some areas more than others, but for the most part, Houston news does a good job at spreading coverage amongst the stations /areas.

Survey 26: #38 The experience have been very sad and dangerous, #39 Yes, FEMA

#40 Painful to watch, #41 Yes. Very logical

Survey 27: #38 (4) natural disasters, Alicia, Katrina, Allison and Ike. Each storm had a different effect, damages caused by Ike were less severe than Tropical storm Allison, but never the less, natural disasters caused a disruption in our lives temporarily.

#39 Lakewood, Red Cross, and FEMA gave cleaning supplies and in some cases monies.

#40 They were presented or posed as refugees in a third world country. The coverage appeared to be in Cambodia somewhere.

#41 The coverage was fair, they hit the most damaged areas and less severe areas also

Survey 28: #38 Packed my belongings, drove with family to get out of harm's way. I was only able to travel a few miles in 13 hrs. Turned around because I was very low on gas fuel, no food, water, relied on water, food from charitable organizations without electricity for 14 days.

#39 None

#40 Sorrow, helplessness, disbelief, pain

#41 The news media has always shown preference treatment to contain areas

Survey 29: #38 I have gone through 2 natural disasters (Alicia & Ike) and have been blessed not to lose anyone or anything.

#39 No

#40 It was an experience I wished I did have to see! So many people lost their loved ones and their homes. I can't imagine being up-rooted from my home where I have lived all my life. I just thank God that Houston was able to assist all the Katrina victims like we did.

#41 Yes, the news media usually report the worst area because they want more people to watch their particular broadcast station. I guess that's why their named "The Media Circus". I feel sometimes the new media are mainly concerned about their ratings, rather than the community.

Survey 30: #38 Food spoiled, no light

#39 No

#40 Homeless, people, no food, no light, no gas

41 It was fair to all

Survey 31: #38 I have experienced one flood and one hurricane. During the flood, I was not able to leave my neighborhood. I had gone to the store to get supplies before hand to properly prepare myself. During Hurricane Ike, I was without power for two weeks.

#39 No

#40 During the news coverage, it showed African Americans hopeless and left without a place to go.

#41 I feel the news only shows the areas that are mostly...it often or the hard hit area

Survey 32: #38 I have been in a total of 3 storms.

#39 No

40 Sad...the way our people look was just heartbreaking. I wished I could have helped them but at that time I couldn't...babies dying was too much

#41 Yes, sicken because that wasn't the only part hit

Survey 33: #38 My experiences with natural disasters is that my family never evacuated. We always stayed home and waited it out.

#39 Yes, Red Cross; ice, food

#40 The images of African Americans I saw during the news coverage of Hurricane Katrina was horrible. I feel that the rescue efforts took too long and help was not there fast enough. #41 I don't feel that the media covers certain areas of the city. I feel as though we need to take actions ourselves for the things that happen in our community.

Survey 34: #38 The whole apart complex was out of power for 3 weeks, we played, connected, shared food, they robbed the community, stores and split the stuff up

#39 FEMA, loud churches,

#40 Blacks suffering

#41 Yes

Survey 35: #38 Two natural disasters in my lifetime...they were very unorganized, people were running around everywhere..

#39 No assistance, were given in black neighborhoods

#40 Negative and disrespectful,

#41 N/A

Survey 36: #38 I only had a couple in my life whereas it flooded my streets and lights where off for 18 days but no real damage to my property.

#39 No

#40 It was very disturbing and sad for me to see a lot of people who lost their lives and their families.

#41 No, I think they did a great job on Hurricane Katrina.

Survey 37: #38 Power outage, shortage of food, water, etc. (two),

#39 No

#40 Worried, hungry, depressed, sadden,

#41 No, no related coverage

Survey 38: #38 Hurricane Alicia in 1981 stayed at home wasn't scared ... had little damage.. Hurricane Ike 2008 stayed at home wasn't scared...no power outage.

39 No

#40 They felt very helpless and had no one to turn to ...very sad

#41 No, I don't

Survey 39: #38 I have experienced earthquakes, hurricanes, and tornados,

#39 No

#40 Desolate with no opportunity to recover due to lack of resources

#41 Yes, they only show the areas that have money to bring the tourism to generate cash flow

Survey 40: #38 None,

#39 N/A

#40 It was horrible and I think government should respond to their aid...shelter, medication and mortgage,

#41 N/A

Survey 41: #38 None, #39 No, #40 1,000,000s, #41 It was cool and on point.

Survey 42: #38 None, #39 No, #40 Sad, #41 No

Survey 43: #38 I can remember all the way back to Hurricane Alisha in the 80s. We normally stayed home, but for Rita we evacuated because of what happened in New Orleans with Katrina. With Ike, we stayed home as well.

#39 No

#40 It looked like it was another country not the U.S. I was ashamed how

“US citizens” were treated just because of their social status and race. We can help other countries with their people, but not our own.

#41 The media never covers positive things in the black community only who got killed, who robbed, or shot someone. We as a people need to do better and get educated or the media will always stereotype us as drug dealers, thugs, murderers, and rappers. Not saying that rapping is bad because I listen to it just that everyone shouldn't want to be one when they grow up. We should strive for more and not fit into the stereotypes white people and the media wants to always put us in.

Survey 44: #38 Experienced Hurricane Ike, #39 Was given food stamps, #40 It was bad and derogatory #41 N/A

Survey 45: #38 I've experienced a few tornados back in my hometown of Nebraska, but none of them here impacting on my life. Only thing I experienced during Hurricane Ike was the evacuation which took us about 18-20 hrs to get to Dallas.

#39 No

#40 The image I saw was very sad; desperate portrayal of African Americans, in some cases we were portrayed in a negative image.

#41 Not too sure, but I do believe they pick & choose which areas they want to cover

Survey 46: #38 Once Katrina came, my family and I left but it wasn't as serious during Ike

#39 No

#40 I don't have any recollections of any images

#41 No

Survey 47: #38 None

#39 N/A

#40 Stealing just because not as a means of survival

#41 Of course only blacks will be showed on television doing what is necessary to survive.

Survey 48: #38 Two...1 evacuate

#39 No...No damage

#40 No they were helpless and didn't get enough help

#41 Yes, they focus on the people that needed one more help see as to get after media attention on...

Survey 49: #38 None personally...my dad's house was partially damaged by Hurricane Ike, but I was living out of state. The most impact it had on me was worrying about his safety. I know many people who lost a lot more in the storm and have had lasting effect.

#39 No, #40 N/A, #41 N/A

Survey 50: #38 Numerous hurricanes and tornados...each time my family is not prepared but we scrape by unscathed

#39 No

#40 Ignorant, destitute, lacking common sense, and irresponsible

#41 No. The media covers the entire city in its daily broadcast but is selective with the content they air

Survey 51: #38 Hurricane, Tropical storm all have effect me will living in Houston

#39 No

#40 Negative stereotype of African Americans not beholding civilian...even though the city completely left them to defend for themselves.

#41 Certain areas only work value to the city or resident of higher income always getting first reported then other community

Survey 52: #38 I've only experience one natural disaster in my life. My grandmother's house got flooded and my grandpa evacuated us but the house through his fishing boat.

#39 Red Cross

#40 They looked hopeless, most of them looked distraught and abandoned. They were in desperate need for aid and security.

#41 No. The new covers any place they feel that will be seriously affected by a natural disaster.

Survey 53: #38 1 Hurricane Allison, #39 N/A, #40 N/A, #41 Not sure, don't really look at the news

Survey 54: #38 Several, not that bad, #39 No, #40 Disappointment, Mad at the government

#41 Yes, not sure

Survey 55: # 38 Natural disasters

#39 No,

#40 I saw a lot of people need help and so many going the Hurricane Katrina suffered

#41 I feel that every area and city should know what's going on.

Survey 56: #38 Only one...Katrina my house was full of leaves and branches

#39 No

#40 It was terrible people losing their homes like nothing and no support from the govt. #41 Yes, but people need to take this more seriously

Survey 57: #38 N/A, #39 N/A

#40 The image of African American I saw were sad, pitiful and distraught...they looked as if then were no tomorrow...there wasn't any refugee and they were left to fend for themselves. #41 Yes, I feel they only cover certain areas so that the rest of the world doesn't worry.

Survey 58: #38 2 Katrina-Ike, #39 No,
 #40 Do not know did not look at the news (no light)
 #41 Yes, only the white people areas...I feel we are not equal

Survey 59: #38 Hurricane Anderson flooded inside most of my home. It always flood when it's a hurricane watch or hurricane.

#39 Yes, but I don't recall the name
 #40 It was depressing to see our people go through something so bad
 #41 Yes, every area should be covered not just a few, every county

Survey 60: #38 I've only been involved with Hurricane Ike, it was humbling experience

#39 No
 #40 It made them seem desperate, unprepared
 #41 Yes, I feel they dumb-down the news and leave at the important information that could save lives.

Survey 61: #38 N/A, #39 N/A, #40 N/A, #41 N/A

Survey 62: #38 I've dealt with not many disasters outside of Hurricane Ike and thunderstorms

#39 No
 #40 I saw many on television and in Houston complaining about being treated unfairly by the government
 #41 No

Survey 63: #38 I've never been apart of one, #39 N/A, #40 In need of help, #41 No, I feel it does a good job

Survey 64: #38 I never really experience any kind of disasters

#39 No
 #40 I can't remember a lot...I just remember them being begging, sad, suffering
 #41 I really don't watch the news so I don't know

Survey 65: #38 During Hurricane Ike and afterwards, the power at my home was out for 5 days.

#39 No
 #40 The city of New Orleans was not prepared for a disaster that...and it showed. The African American, portrayed by the media appeared to be helpless and they showed that some were looting/stealing from protecting and each other.
 #41 Yes, the news networks still want as many ratings as they can get ...which ever area has the story, they feel will yield the most viewership tends to get the coverage

Survey 66: #38 Hurricane Katrina was the worst natural disaster I've ever been in. I lost

my home and family members...Hurricane Ike I had damage to my home and had to move out for a month. #39 No

#40 Why is it hitting the African American community? I don't understand. It's very sad. #41 Yes, at times it could be meaningful

Survey 67: #38 Very horrible dwellings...I ever wanted to go through nothing like this

#39 Yes, FEMA

#40 Horrible. People needed assistance and didn't get any. We as American should have done better

#41 Yes, very informational

Survey 68: #38 Have experience at least 3 natural disasters...in my life time.

#39 Yes, FEMA

#40 Looks on their faces, I seen the horrible things they had to experience

#41 I feel they do the best they can

Survey 69: #38 3, floods, power shortages, etc.

#39 N/A

#40 Tragic!!! A mess, sad

#41 False information!!! Something needs to be done.

Survey 70: #38 Don't have any...not from here, #39 N/A, #40 N/A, #41 N/A

Survey 71: #38 None really...A tornado hit my town once, but it barely affected me

#39 No

#40 They looked disheartened, probably because they lost their homes and some of their possessions

#41 I think the news covers a natural disaster no matter where it happens

Survey 72: #38 Tornados have be the most eventful natural disaster I have experienced and the power went out.

#39 Nope

#40 They were left to fend for themselves

#41 Doesn't inform everyone about their issues

Survey 73: #38 N/A

#39 Yes, Food stamps

#40 During Hurricane Ike and the 3rd Ward was out of power for a week while my.....the West Alabama area was out of power for about 17 hours

#41 N/A

Survey 74: #38 I have yet to experience any.

#39 N/A

#40 It was awful , I remember the bodies that were shown on tv when it happened and still can get it out of my head

They obvious care more about the white community

Survey 75: #38 Family died or was lost in Hurricane Katrina, house was damaged in Hurricane Ike, and insurance did not pay for it, vehicle was damaged, I had liability only insurance

#39 No

#40 Looting, swimming in flooded streets and sitting on houses

#41 Yes, some areas with high crime rates are shown repeatedly...there is not much follow-ups for happy endings or positive twists.

Survey 76: #38 One Hurricane Ike, Flew out the day before but when I returned...I was still without power and food and transportation

#39 No

#40 Helpless

#41 News has always followed the story with the most impact regardless of type or situation.

Survey 77: #38 I am from California, so I have experienced a few earthquakes. Also, since relocating to Houston, TX, I have experienced Hurricane Ike.

#39 I did, but don't recall what company, I think it was FEMA.

#40 For Hurricane Katrina, I saw African Americans doing what they had to do to survive. They were not provided sufficient resources at the football stadium, so they relocated to take care of themselves.

#41 I think they do only cover certain areas due to ratings

Survey 78: #38 Going without power for weeks, having to fix food outside...that's about it besides the food when I had to get in a boat to be shipped to a factory AKA shelter

#39 Nope

#40 Pure BS at its finest, I mean no help, no food besides rice and water from the helicopters and that was probably twice a month not to add the dead bodies and mass amount of people dying of diseases daily.

#41 In a sense, but with "News Fix" and The Isaiah Factor", slowly but surely is covering the whole city

Survey 79: #38 Too much water and afraid of flooding

#39 N/A

#40 African Americans during Katrina was viewed as refugees and that had negative connotations. They weren't refugees fleeing from a war, they were fleeing a storm; that makes them survivors.

#41 Yeah, it seems that they only want to show the black areas as having the most distinction.

Survey 80: #38 Once experience an earthquake and Hurricane that wasn't too extreme....all experiences were terrifying and it would be nice not to have to go through

it then again

#39 My experience wasn't so bad, there were a lot of other affected victims that needed the assistance.

#40 I think it is weird that African Americans seem to be the victims most of the time. I guess that's just coincidence. I also notice that African Americans play the victim a lot of the time and look for pity instead of moving forward and being positive about their situation. They seem to blame any misfortune they experience on an event/disaster that occurred years ago.

#41 That is a possibility

Survey 81: #38 Experienced earthquakes and floods...really too...a bad encounter, pondering thoughts about what would happen...will I make it out of this? Or would I not? Even after coming out of it the thought remain! What would have been?

#39 N/A

#40 The news media portrayal of African Americans was really demanding and poor. Showing this ethnic background on the pour over and showing them suffer.

#41 Absolutely yes. News media today is biased and insincere. There's a lot that go in to a news item being broadcasted. Decisions are made as to whether a news item is news worthy or not. Most media houses at the end of the day are interested in attracting and keeping viewers. And so to do this they do have to report really controversial topics or news items that voice remain in circulation for the longest. No news today comes off the streets and straight on to any sources. It is edited and retold and at the end of the day it may still not be broadcasted if the report is found to not be news worthy.

Survey 82: #38 I have been through only 1 hurricane since I been here in USA.

#39 Yes, FEMA

#40 It was like a movie to see so many people die.

#41 I feel that the media fabricates a lot of the stories

Survey 83: #38 N/A, #39 N/A, #40 N/A #41 Yes, I feel every were in dangers would be covered.

Survey 84: #38 Only one. Ike was pretty bad.

#39 No

#40 I saw people floating on what even swimming just to stay alive.

#41 No

Survey 85: #38 N/A

#39 N/A

#40 It is difficult to describe images because I feel that the media did a very poor job of covering this disaster. What must want from this disaster is fair treatment. It is also difficult to predict the long term effect that this disaster will have on Louisianas.

#41 Yes

Survey 86: #38 A few, nothing too serious happened to me personally
 #39 No
 #40 I felt the coverage came across in a negative view, as if these persons were “no-bodies” asking for handouts. These persons were just a like any other human being. Unfortunately, they just lost everything due to a national disaster.
 #41 Yes, all areas should be broadcast

Survey 87: #38 Hurricane Ike
 #39 No
 #40 Suffering , pain
 #41 It is messed up how we don’t know the whole truth –govt. mediates everything

Survey 88: #38 1 Just Ike, #39 Yes, FEMA & Red Cross, #40 N/A, #41 N/A

Survey 89: #38 N/A, #39 N/A, #40 N/A, #41 N/A

Survey 90: #38 Tropical Storm Allison, Hurricane Alesha, Hurricane Ike lived through them all here in Houston.
 #39 No
 #40 As if we were salvages no morals
 #41 No, not at all..just the Afro-American community that was out of control to make good T.V.

Survey 91: #38 Four natural disasters, Allison, Ike, Rita
 #39 Red Cross-Vochers/clothing, bedding, etc.
 #40 I felt anger, sadness and very bitter, they were treated so badly and inhuman
 #41 Yes, media covers crime in our area...they never cover situations that are positive.

Survey 92: #38 None
 #39 None
 #40 I saw them in distress...lost of home and life....some lost everything...they were also crying.
 #41 Yes, the media coverage is bias

Survey 93: #38 I’m a survivor
 #39 No
 #40 Tragic
 #41 They cover certain areas.....

Survey 94: #38 Mostly hurricanes in my lifetime...experienced hurricanes from 1964-present
 #39 No

#40 It looked as if African Americans were displaced with no recovery in sight. The image looked as if African Americans were from another country.

#41 Not all. It's not right the way certain parts of the city is covered and not others

Survey 95: #38 I had many experiences especially with floods because I had to stay at the house and miss school or work at times, but was safe in the end. I say don't get caught in the flood because you can risk your life.

#39 No

#40 The image was bad because the Media made them look like refugees and treated them like refugees instead of citizens of America. I believe that the government saw them as less the people. #41 I feel that the media only do things to promote controversy because it's a thing called orientalism. They have a way of making people believe something. You should always do your research and learn the truth before letting the media tell you some things that are skewed one way and not capturing the whole truth.

Survey 96: #38 I've been through enough in my lifetime.

#39 Yes, FEMA

#40 It was unbelievable, saddens me to even write something about it

#41 Nope, lies about a lot of things

Survey 97: #38 N/A, #39 N/A, #40 N/A, #41 Yes, very informative

Survey 98: #38 Have experienced about several storms in my lifetime

#39 Yes

#40 Indescribable, it was very heart breaking

#41 Yes, good coverage

Survey 99: #38 It's been very rough. My family has been through a rough time with these hurricanes. #39 Yes

#40 Very sad and unsettling

#41 Yes to the best of their ability

Survey 100: #38 Sad, Need more assistance, #39 Not really, #40 Hopeless, no help needed someone, #41 Needs more coverage

Survey 101: #38 It's Really sad and disturbing on how many hurricanes I have been through

#39 Yes

#40 Hard to believe the pain and hardship these people went through

#41 Yes, on top of it

Survey 102: #38 Have not really had any

#39 No

#40 No comment
 #41 Yes very much so

Survey 103: #38 One and that was hurricane Ike

#39 No
 #40 No comment
 #41 No, not doing their very best

Survey 104: #38 News

#39 No
 #40 It was informative
 #41 Doing a good job

Survey 105: #38 Only had 1 experience

#39 No
 #40 Horrible, sad and upset
 #41 Sometimes, could do better

Survey 106: #38 None

#39 Meals on Wheels
 #40 Hurt, discouraged, frightened, alone
 #41 Yes, more on African Americans, we all have the same color blood regardless of race we've all seen poverty.

Survey 107: #38 None, #39 None, #40 None, #41 None

Survey 108: #38 1- Water in my home

#39 No
 #40 I have nothing to agree above
 #41 No

Survey 109: #38 One, which was Katrina we had to drive to San Antonio with my newborn son.

#39 No
 #40 The image I received...they tried to make African Americans seem so ghetto and uneducated no matter what the circumstance are.
 #41 I feel that they cover certain areas for entertainment and only poverty areas commit crimes for the lack of money. The area with above middle class commits more crimes they just have money to cover it.

Survey 110: #38 N/A, #39 N/A, #40 N/A, #41 It can better coverage

Survey 111: #38 The only natural disaster I've experienced are Hurricane Ike and Hurricane Allison. My experiences with them was the same. I suffer from power outages and didn't have contact with anyone for couple of hours. It was a horrible experience.

#39 No

#40 I hate thinking about Hurricane Katrina because they treat us like we were pack of wolves. They just left us to die in New Orleans, better yet, survive on our own.

#41 Yes, because the media only occurs what they want cover and show what they want when it comes different topics and situation.

Survey 112: #38 One, it took 14 hours to leave Houston

#39 No

#40 Sadness and hopeless of my people including others

#41 I think they are okay but can do better coverage. I feel that are not enough coverage on the urban and rural communities.

Survey 113: #38 Through the grace of God, I haven't really experienced natural disasters. I just experience a lot of flooding and heavy rains, but nothing would be considered a natural disaster.

#39 No

#40 All I am to say...we were portrays as refugees and white people was portrayed as survivors. Just like Kanye West said it, President Bush does not care about black people. People act like they didn't care during the news coverage of Katrina victims, especially the African Americans. That many of people should have not die like that.

#41 It can absolutely be better coverage

Survey 114: #38 N/A, #39 N/A, #40 Weak , needing help, poor , #41 N/A

Survey 115: #38 2, wasn't that bad as it could have been

#39 No

#40 Not people, poor dogs

#41 media don't care about anything

Survey 116: #38 10, we always get in the car and go somewhere

#39 No

#40 All poor people looking for help

#41 Nope!

Survey 117: #38 Two and it wasn't too bad

#39 No

#40 Hopeless, no nope at all

#41 The coverage is no better or less, than any other city

Survey 118: #38 Only 1 and it wasn't that bad

#39 No

#40 Like they were all really dead

#41 The media shows people everything

Survey 119: #38 Three in the 80s Houston flooded at U of H and twice after in the late 80s

#39 No

#40 Horrible and disgusting

#41 Yes, certain parts... need to do all

Survey 120: #38 5, it doesn't get as bad as other city

#39 No

#40 Heart breaking

#41 Some what

Survey 121: #38 N/A, #39 N/A, #40 N/A, #41 None

Survey 122: #38 N/A, #39 No, #40 N/A, #41 Yes

Survey 123: #38 2 Lost of power and food

#39 No

#40 Very poor and needing help for food, clothing, and money

#41 Yes

Survey 124: #38 (2)

#39 Yes, local churches

#40 Very sad

#41 Yes

Survey 125: #38 I haven't had any flooding or extremely dangerous experiences with natural disasters #39 No

#40 I saw African Americans needing immediate help and the U.S.

President taking his time as the death toll rose

#41 No, I enjoy Houston news coverage

Survey 126: #38 I experienced two and each cost me close to \$5,000 in relocating for less than a week. I took my family to East Texas. A two hour trip turned in to a 2-day trip by car. The disaster affected East Texas also and hotle, gas, and food were a major expense.

#39 No, but I did help others with Prince Gym in 5th Ward. "Jame Prince" Help the Katrina victims greatly.

#40 I saw exactly what the media wated me to see; women, children, and the elderly homeless and starving. I saw dead black men floating in water or their bodies like dogs dead in the street. The media turned their backs on George W. Bush, other wish they could have cared less about those individuals set-up to die!

#41 Yes, because of the "GE" Jim Crow secret society! Rick Perry is in position to seek years of revenge stemming from Reconstruct Amendments 1877. As a Texan and a minority it is scary to see how slavery still exists. Even this question is a trap to remind certain members of society they are not equal!

Survey 127: #38 Tropical storm Allison when I first came out there wasn't much damage to the house just flooding

#39 No

#40 Poor, poverty stricken homeless and in need...they were dirty and undoubtedly hungry #41 Yes, they are pretty much only showing the worst parts which is the most important.

Survey 128: #38 (1) Ike...our neighborhood lost power for 20 minutes...we got a new roof because of minimal shingle loss, new fence and made money in the end. I know we were among the few fortunate.

#39 N/A

#40 I saw the most gruesome and extreme poverty. I saw helplessness and anger. I saw brokenness in about half, but honestly, as someone who worked daily at George R. Brown helping to care for the victims. I saw people who didn't seem to care about what had happened...were at across the street in the beautiful Green Park using drugs and destroying our city. Crime in my neighborhood shot up 17% and our schools in West Houston were taken over and almost destroyed. Teachers left, kids were pulled out by parents and our district (Alief) has finally started to recover, but our financial resources for the children are tapped out! I truly saw pain and suffering followed immediately by destruction, ungratefulness, and selfishness. The people of Nola are very different people who have grown up in a society that didn't teach them any different than how they acted upon arrival here...Take, Take, Take!

#41 Not Sure

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