

**2006 CGS Regional Poll
Citizens' Perceptions of Disaster
Preparedness and Emergency
Management**

*Auburn University Center for Governmental Services
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Forward

When we discussed government in the past, it was usually within the context of the routine issues of bureaucracy, planning, budgeting, working within the general, and established, principles surrounding governmental decision-making.

During the last few years the world has experienced unprecedented disasters that have prompted us to think about government beyond the norms of day-to-day politics and management – and instead, shift our focus directly to the core of our assumptions about the roles and responsibilities of our government.

Disasters, such as the terrorist attacks on 9/11, earthquakes, fires, the tsunami in Asia, and the devastation wrought by Hurricane Katrina on New Orleans (which is often described in the inundated American city as a modern Atlantis), and the Gulf Coast area, have necessitated our having to face the questions of how to function as responsible citizens and government in a more holistic manner.

According to the United States Conference of Mayors President, Dearborn Mayor Michael Guido, “the devastation of Hurricanes Katrina in New Orleans and the Gulf Coast area, and the terrorist attacks of 9-11 are like nothing this country has ever faced, as mayors, we saw ourselves in our own unnamed disaster that could easily strike any one of our cities.” Public officials nationwide acknowledge that more must be done to ensure that the nation is better able to respond to the challenges of an emergency response.

Our nation has approached the one-year anniversary of Hurricane Katrina and we now have to develop a better approach with responding to such disasters. Auburn University’s Center for Governmental Services has conducted a survey of the Gulf State region (Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, Florida, and Louisiana) to determine citizen perceptions of disaster preparedness and emergency management as a means to contributing and improving collective approaches to disaster preparedness.

The results should help public officials within Gulf States to more adequately target areas of perceived need and further improve the level of confidence that the public has in government. We intend to add to the general goal of assuring citizens that necessary wisdom and appropriate planning are explored within the fullness of America’s zone of capability.

Through this effort, the Center for Governmental Services at Auburn University seeks to impact long-range thinking with the intention of preventing citizens and governments from operating, in literal terms, in the dark.

Dr. Don-Terry Veal,
Director
Center for Governmental Services

Support for this survey was provided by the Office of the President and the Office of the Vice President for University Outreach at Auburn University.

Background

In the fall of 2006, one year after Hurricane Katrina, the Auburn University Center for Governmental Services (CGS) conducted a survey among the residents of five southern states to explore citizens' viewpoints of disaster preparedness and emergency management. The purpose of this research was to assess:

- Perceptions of how citizens feel about their own vulnerability to extreme weather events and other types of potential disasters (such as a pandemic, industrial accidents, or terrorist attacks).
- The extent to which citizens take steps to prepare themselves and their families for a disaster.
- The confidence of citizens that they will have food, supplies, information, shelter, and the ability to evacuate if necessary.
- The level of confidence among citizens that their local government officials have the necessary resources and training to effectively respond to a disaster.
- How optimistic citizens are that a future disaster in their area would be handled more effectively by federal, state and local officials than was the response surrounding Hurricane Katrina.

CGS conducted 1,071 telephone interviews in September and October of 2006. The survey sample included a minimum of 200 interviews from each of the following five southern states:¹

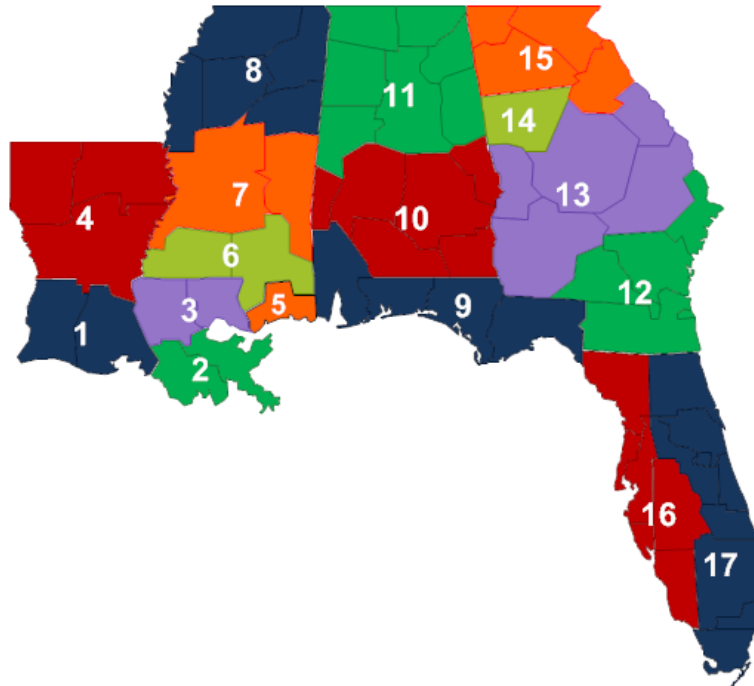
- Alabama (226)
- Florida (200)
- Georgia (231)
- Louisiana (200)
- Mississippi (214)

The survey was approximately 15 minutes in length, and was part of a larger study dealing with related topics to be published in separate documents. The interviews were conducted on weekdays from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., and on weekend afternoons. The following report discusses key findings of the study; a complete set of data tables are included in Appendices A and B.

The data presented in this report has been analyzed for the total sample of 1,071 respondents, by state, and by smaller regions comprised of clusters of 3-digit zip code areas. The map in Figure B-1 shows the boundaries of each zip-code region, followed by a brief description of each region. The sample sizes in each group of 3-digit zip code areas ranged from 36 to 135.

¹ The estimated average margin of error for the total sample of 1,071 was $\pm 3\%$. The estimated average margin of error for each state sub-sample was $\pm 7\%$.

Figure B-1. 3-Digit Zip Code Areas That Were Grouped Together for Regional Analyses



Map Key:²

1. **Southwest Louisiana:** Lafayette, Lake Charles, New Iberia, De Quincy
2. **Southeast tip of Louisiana:** New Orleans
3. **Baton Rouge and surrounding towns:** Zachary, Livonia, Bogalusa, Clinton
4. **Northern half of Louisiana:** Alexandria, Shreveport, Monroe
5. **Coastal Mississippi:** Gulfport, Biloxi, Pascagoula
6. **Southern Mississippi (not coastal):** Hattiesburg, Columbia, Natchez
7. **Central Mississippi:** Jackson, Meridian, Vicksburg
8. **Northern Mississippi:** Greenville, Tupelo
9. **Coastal Alabama and Florida Pan Handle:** Gulf Shores, Mobile, Panama City, Pensacola, Tallahassee
10. **Central and southwest Alabama (not coastal):** Montgomery, Auburn, Dothan
11. **Northern half of Alabama:** Birmingham, Tuscaloosa, Huntsville
12. **Southeast Georgia and northern Florida (excluding the Florida panhandle):** Savannah, Hinesville, Valdosta, Waycross, Brunswick and St. Simons Island, Georgia; Jacksonville, St. Augustine, and Live Oak, Florida
13. **Central and southwest Georgia:** Columbus, Statesboro, Augusta, Macon, Warner Robbins, Albany
14. **Atlanta metropolitan area:** (includes LaGrange, Noonan, and Peachtree City, Georgia)
15. **North Georgia:** Dalton, Toccoa
16. **Western half of Florida (excluding the Florida panhandle):** Gainesville, Ocala, Spring Hill, Clearwater, St. Petersburg, Sarasota
17. **Eastern half of Florida:** Daytona Beach, Orlando, Melbourne, Fort Lauderdale, Miami, Coral Springs, Florida Keys

² Not an exhaustive list of towns within each region.

Summary of Findings

- A fairly high percentage of residents from the five-state survey area felt that their communities were at least somewhat vulnerable to a variety of potential disasters. A majority of both inland and coastal residents believed that their communities were at least somewhat vulnerable to weather events such as hurricanes, tornadoes, strong thunderstorms, floods and droughts (76.4%). However, concerns about weather-related disasters were highest in areas close to the coast line. Among residents from Louisiana and Mississippi, almost one out of five respondents stated that the biggest problems facing their communities today are related to the devastation from Hurricane Katrina.
- Notable percentages of respondents also felt that their communities were at least somewhat vulnerable to other types of disasters such as medical emergencies (e.g. bird flu, West Nile virus) (55.9%), industrial accidents (46.2%), terrorist attacks (45.3%), and forest fires (38.5%). Differences were observed in the perceptions of vulnerability to these disasters in different regions of the five-state survey area. For example:
 - A high percentage of respondents (73.5%) from coastal Mississippi (Bay St. Louis, Gulfport, and Pascagoula) indicated that their communities are vulnerable to medical emergencies such as the bird flu or West Nile virus.
 - Residents of the Baton Rouge, Louisiana area expressed the highest concerns about industrial disasters (e.g. chemical spills, explosions) (76.3%).
 - 60.5% of New Orleans area residents felt at least somewhat vulnerable to terrorist attacks.
 - 60.5% of respondents from southern (non-coastal) Mississippi (Hattiesburg, Columbia, Natchez) felt that their communities were vulnerable to forest fires.
- The vast majority of respondents (83.5%) were at least somewhat confident that they knew how to prepare in advance for disasters that might occur in their communities (41.5% were *very confident* and 42.0% were *somewhat confident*). Furthermore, many indicated that they had taken steps to prepare themselves and their families for potential disasters, such as having a disaster kit with emergency supplies (60.3%), an evacuation plan (66.2%), a plan for reuniting separated family members (47.6%), and a plan for keeping their pets safe (62.5%). The percentage of respondents who reported that they had made personal disaster preparations was consistently higher in coastal areas.
- In the event of a disaster, almost three-fourths of the survey participants were *very confident* that they would be able to evacuate if necessary (71.0%), and a majority were also very confident that they would know where to obtain news and information (59.3%) and access to a shelter if necessary (56.0%).
- Respondents who had made personal disaster preparations (e.g. having an emergency kit, an evacuation plan, etc.) were consistently more confident that they would have food and supplies, information, the ability to evacuate and access to a shelter if a disaster occurred in their communities.
- Less than one-fourth of the respondents were *very confident* that their local officials have the necessary training or resources to respond effectively to a disaster. Confidence in the training and resources provided to local officials was lowest in non-coastal areas and in the New Orleans area. Therefore, it was not surprising to find that a large majority of respondents believed that improving disaster preparedness should be either an urgent or high priority for local officials (62.7%). This sentiment was highest among residents of Louisiana (74.0%).

- Respondents were asked to think about the government's response to Hurricane Katrina in 2005, and to rate how optimistic they were that government officials at all levels would respond more effectively if another disaster of the same magnitude were to occur in their communities. More than 70% were at least *somewhat optimistic* about the future performance of government officials at all levels. However, less than one-half of the respondents in each state were *very optimistic*. Overall, optimism that the response from federal officials would be improved was lower when compared to the expectations of state and local officials.
- In summary, individuals who live closer to coastal areas are more likely to feel vulnerable to weather related events, and tend to report that they are personally better prepared and more confident about their ability to protect themselves and their families in the event of a disaster. Residents throughout the five-state survey area also feel that their communities are vulnerable to other types of disasters. However, inland residents are not as confident that they would be prepared to respond effectively to a disaster when compared to coastal residents.
- Throughout both inland and coastal regions, most residents did not report a high level of confidence in the training and resources provided to their local officials. Despite this perceived lack of training and resources provided locally, respondents were more likely to expect an improved response to future, post-Katrina disasters from local or state officials when compared to their expectations of federal officials.

Detailed Findings

Perceived Vulnerability to Disasters

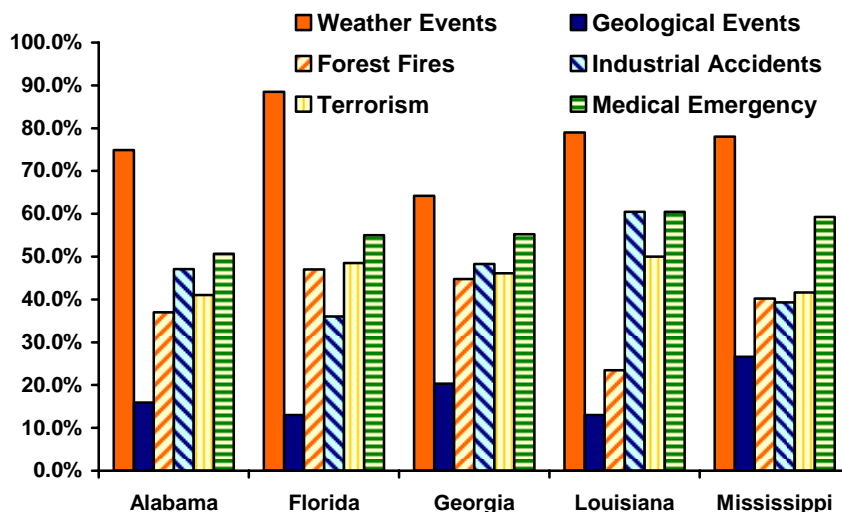
Respondents were asked to describe, in their own words, the biggest problem facing their communities today. In Mississippi (17.8%) and Louisiana (18.3%), almost one in five respondents reported that their communities' biggest problems were related to the disastrous effects of Hurricanes Katrina or Rita. In other states, the percentage of respondents who gave this response was three percent or less.

Participants were asked to rate how vulnerable they perceive their communities are to six types of disasters: weather events (such as hurricanes, tornadoes), forest fires, geological events (such as earthquakes, volcanoes, and tsunamis), industrial accidents, and medical emergencies. To rate the vulnerability of their communities to each of these types of disasters, respondents selected one of the following ratings: *very vulnerable*, *somewhat vulnerable*, *not too vulnerable*, *not at all vulnerable*, or *no opinion*. Figure 1 illustrates the percentage of respondents who believe that their communities are either *very* or *somewhat vulnerable* to each type of disaster.

Because the survey was conducted among residents of five coastal states, it was not surprising that many respondents believe their communities are vulnerable to weather events (76.4%). The percentage of respondents who rated their communities as either *very* or *somewhat vulnerable* to weather events was highest in Florida (88.5%) and lowest in Georgia (64.1%).

For the sample as a whole, the second most critical threat to their communities was believed to be a potential medical emergency such as the bird flu, West Nile virus, or mad cow disease (55.9%). Almost one-half of participants also felt that their communities were *very* or *somewhat vulnerable* to industrial accidents (46.2%) and terrorist attacks (45.3%).

Figure 1. Percentage Who Believe Their Communities Are Very or Somewhat Vulnerable to Each of Six Types of Disasters



Major Points:

In Mississippi (17.8%) and Louisiana (18.3%), almost one in five respondents reported that their communities' biggest problems were related to the disastrous effects of Hurricanes Katrina or Rita.

A fairly high percentage of respondents believe their communities are at least somewhat vulnerable to:

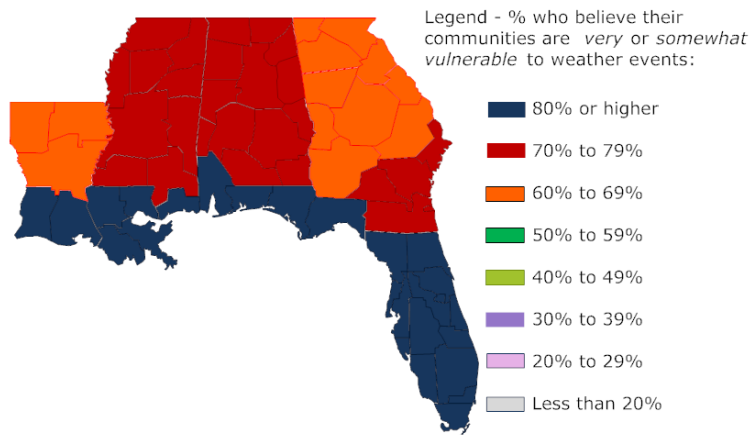
- Weather events (76.4%)
- Industrial accidents (46.2%)
- Terrorist attacks (45.3%)
- Forest Fires (38.5%)
- Medical emergencies (55.9%)

Almost one-fifth (18.0%) also believe their communities are at least somewhat vulnerable to geological events (e.g. earthquakes, volcanoes, tsunamis).

The maps in Figures 2 through 7 show the percentage of respondents who believe their communities are vulnerable to each type of disaster by smaller regions within each state.

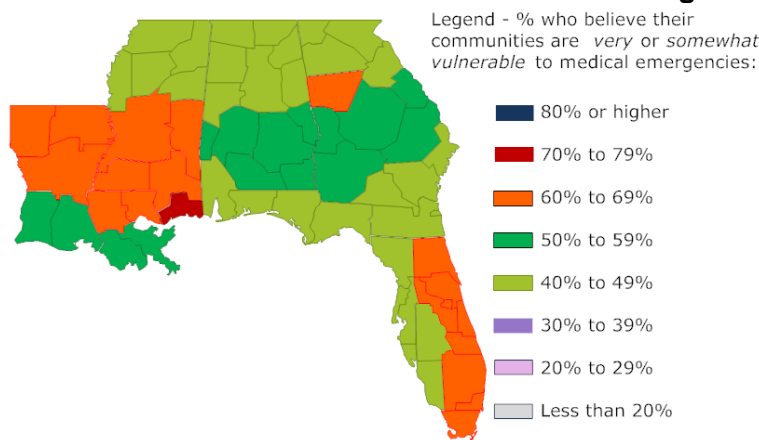
As shown in Figure 2, coastal residents were more likely to rate their communities as vulnerable to weather events, although percentages remained high (60% or greater) throughout all areas of the five states. (Weather events were defined for respondents as including hurricanes, tornados, strong thunderstorms, floods, droughts, etc.)

Figure 2. Percentage Who Believe Their Communities Are Very or Somewhat Vulnerable to Weather Events



In Figure 3, communities in orange and red have the highest percentages of residents who feel they are vulnerable to medical emergencies such as the bird flu or West Nile virus. In coastal Mississippi (Bay St. Louis, Gulfport, and Pascagoula), almost three out of four participants rated their communities as either *very* or *somewhat vulnerable* to such medical emergencies (73.5%). About two-thirds of residents feel vulnerable to medical emergencies in the Baton Rouge area (67.8%), central and northern Louisiana (65.4%), the Atlanta metro area (64.0%), and eastern Florida (64.0%).

Figure 3. Percentage Who Believe Their Communities Are Very or Somewhat Vulnerable to Medical Emergencies



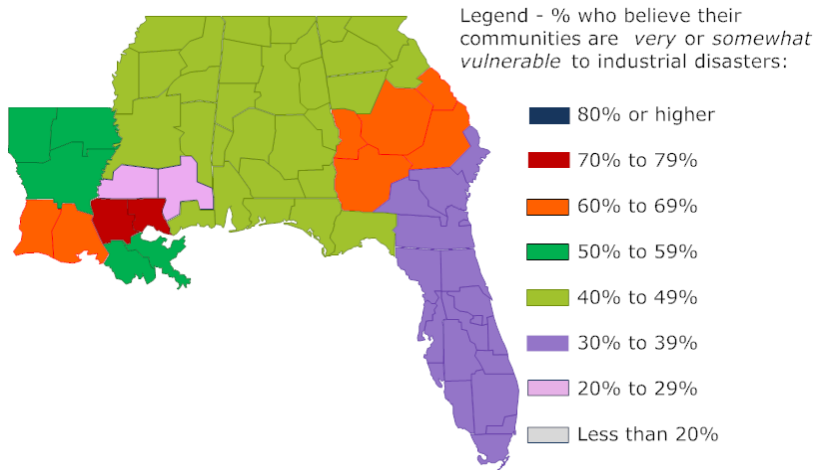
Major Points:

Residents throughout the five-state survey area feel that they are at least somewhat vulnerable to disasters caused by weather events (60% or higher).

Residents of southern Mississippi, in the vicinity of Bay St. Louis, Gulfport, and Pascagoula, appear to feel more vulnerable to medical emergencies such as the bird flu or West Nile virus than any other southeastern community (73.5% feel at least somewhat vulnerable).

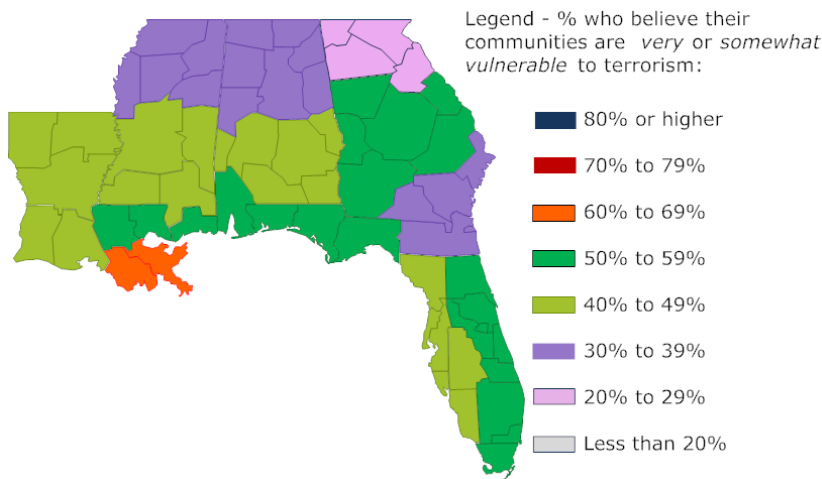
Approximately, three out of four (76.3%) residents of Baton Rouge and the surrounding area were most likely to rate their communities as being *very* or *somewhat* vulnerable to industrial disasters (chemical spills or explosions). More than one-half of residents throughout the state of Louisiana, and central/southwest Georgia believe that their communities are vulnerable to such disasters.

Figure 4. Percentage Who Believe Their Communities Are Very or Somewhat Vulnerable to Industrial Disasters



Respondents living in the southern tip of Louisiana most frequently rated their communities as being vulnerable to terrorism (60.5%). However, a majority of respondents who reside along the gulf coast, eastern Florida, the Atlanta metro area, and central/southwest Georgia also felt that their areas are vulnerable to terrorist attacks.

Figure 5. Percentage Who Believe Their Communities Are Very or Somewhat Vulnerable to Terrorism



Major Points:

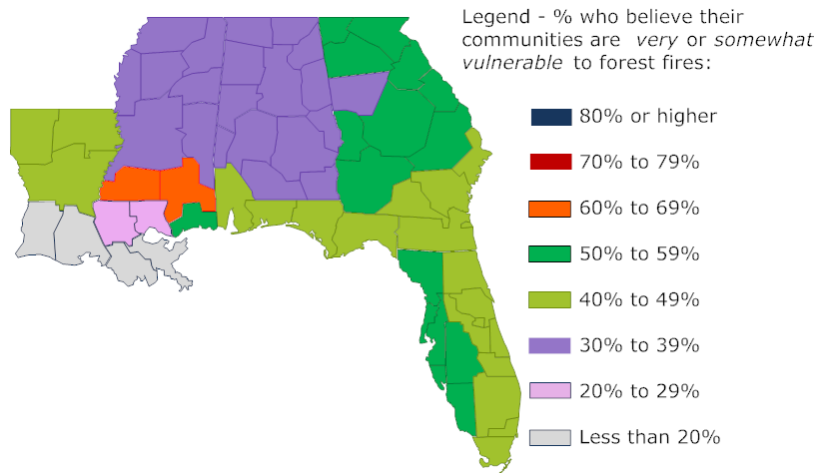
A majority of residents throughout Louisiana and central/southwest Georgia believe that their communities are at least somewhat vulnerable to industrial disasters.

Respondents residing in the vicinity of Baton Rouge, Louisiana were more likely than residents of any other area to feel vulnerable to industrial disasters (76.3%).

A majority of residents from the gulf coast, eastern Florida, the Atlanta metro area, and central/southwest Georgia felt that their areas are vulnerable to terrorist attacks, particularly those who live in the New Orleans area of Louisiana.

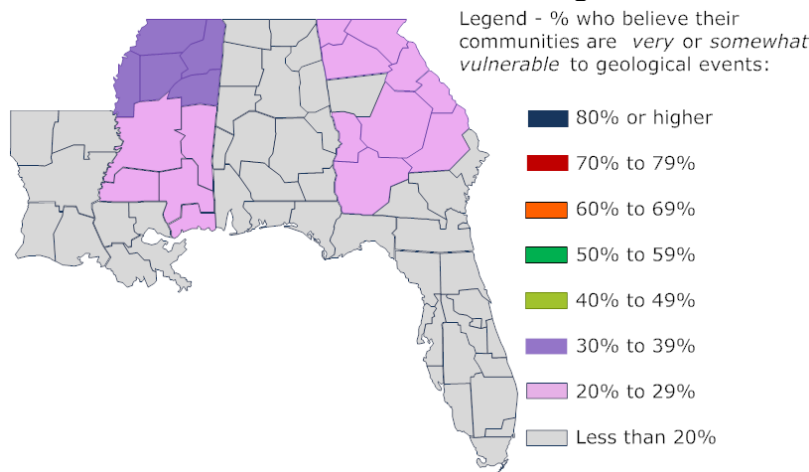
Concerns about forest fires were highest in southern Mississippi (coastal and non-coastal), non-coastal areas of Georgia (outside of the Atlanta metropolitan area) and the western coast of Florida. In the southern Mississippi area that is shaded in orange in Figure 6, 60.5% of respondents felt at least somewhat vulnerable to forest fires. During the summer of 2006, forests in southern Mississippi were plagued by fires fueled by the many dry trees that had been left on forest floors after Hurricane Katrina.³

Figure 6. Percentage Who Believe Their Communities Are Very or Somewhat Vulnerable to Forest Fires



Few residents in the five-state survey area believe that their communities are vulnerable to geological events such as earthquakes. The region with the highest percentage of respondents who feel at least somewhat vulnerable to this type of disaster was the northern half of Mississippi (35.4%).

Figure 7. Percentage Who Believe Their Communities Are Very or Somewhat Vulnerable to Geological Events



Major Points:

Concerns about forest fires were highest in southern Mississippi, non-coastal areas of Georgia (outside of the Atlanta metropolitan area) and the western coast of Florida.

Approximately one-third (35.4%) of northern Mississippi residents feel that they are at least somewhat vulnerable to geological events such as earthquakes, volcanoes or tsunamis.

In other areas of the 5-state survey region, few respondents believe their communities are vulnerable to geological disasters.

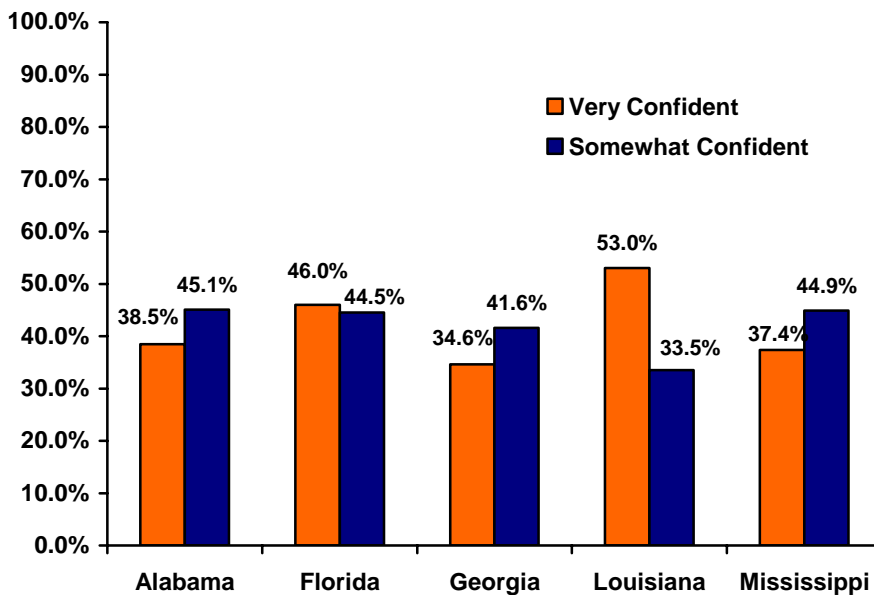
³ Fitzgerald, R. (June 6, 2006). Fuel to the fire: Counties emphasize burn bans. *The Sun Herald*, Biloxi, Mississippi.

Individual Preparedness

Respondents were asked to indicate the level of confidence they have in their own knowledge about how to prepare for future disasters. Participants rated their confidence using the following scale: *very confident*, *somewhat confident*, *not very confident*, *not at all confident*, or *no opinion*. Approximately four-fifths of the total sample (83.5%) felt at least *somewhat confident* that they knew how to prepare in advance for disasters that might occur in their areas (41.5% were *very confident* and 42.0% were *somewhat confident*).

Figure 8 shows the breakdown of personal confidence ratings by state. Compared to the other four states, Louisiana had a somewhat higher percentage of respondents who expressed very high confidence in their knowledge of how to prepare for future disasters (53.0%).

Figure 8. Percentage of Respondents Who Are Very or Somewhat Confident That They Know How to Prepare In Advance for Disasters That Might Occur in Their Area



Major Points:

83.5% of the survey participants were either *very confident* or *somewhat confident* that they knew how to prepare in advance for disasters that might occur in their communities:

- 41.5% were very confident
- 42.0% were somewhat confident

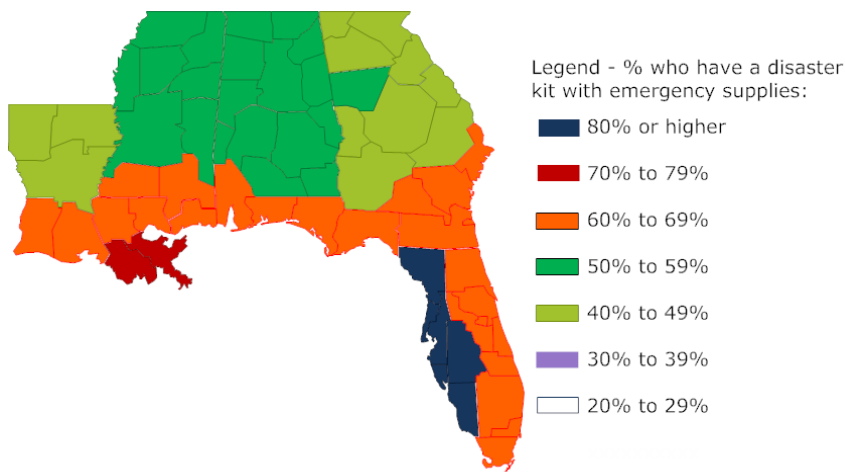
After asking respondents how confident they were that they knew *how* to prepare for a disaster, they were asked to indicate whether or not they *had made* the following disaster preparations:

	<u>% Who Said "Yes"</u>
• A disaster kit with emergency supplies in their home	60.3%
• An evacuation plan for themselves and the members of their household in case there is an emergency requiring them to leave the area	66.2%
• A plan for how and where family members would reunite if a disaster occurred and they were separated	47.6%
• A plan for keeping their pets safe in the event of a disaster (among respondents who own a pet)	62.5%

Figure 9 through Figure 12 illustrate geographic differences in the percentage of residents who have made these four types of preparations.

The dark blue, red, and orange regions shown in Figure 9 indicate that Floridians and others who reside in proximity to the coast are more likely to report having a disaster kit in their homes.

Figure 9. Percentage Who Have a Disaster Kit with Emergency Supplies at Home



Coastal residents were also more likely than residents of other regions to have an evacuation plan in case there was an emergency requiring them to leave the area (see Figure 10). In New Orleans and surrounding areas within the southern tip of Louisiana, 92.1% of respondents reported having an evacuation plan. In other coastal areas, the percentage of respondents with an evacuation plan was 86.1% in southwest Louisiana, 83.0% for the Alabama coast and Florida panhandle, and 81.3% on the east coast of Florida.

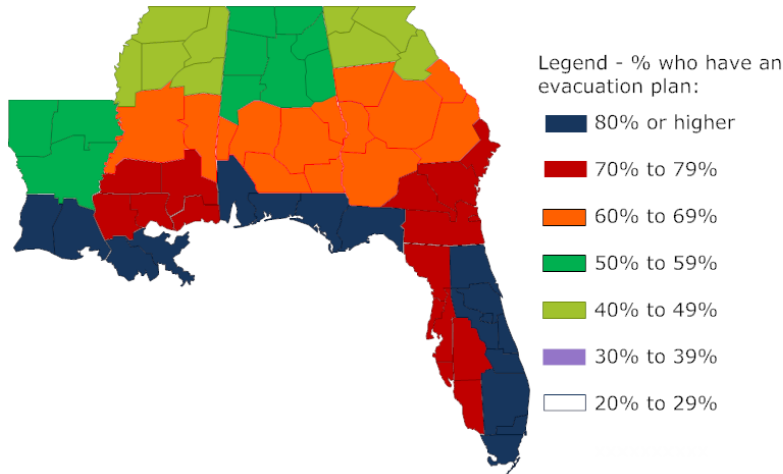
Major Points:

When asked about their own personal disaster preparations, two-thirds indicated that they had an evacuation plan (66.2%) and most also have a kit with emergency supplies in their homes (60.3%).

Among pet-owners, a large majority reported that they have a plan for keeping their pets safe (62.5%).

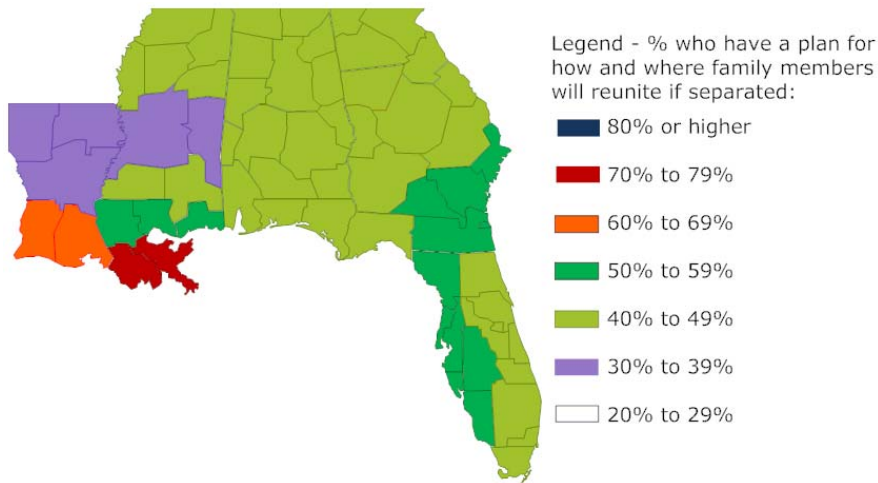
Coastal residents were more likely than inland residents to report that they have a disaster kit and an evacuation plan.

Figure 10. Percentage Who Have an Evacuation Plan in Case There Is an Emergency Requiring Them to Leave the Area



Respondents from southern Louisiana, particularly the New Orleans area, had the highest percentage of residents with a plan for themselves and household members for how and where family members would reunite if a disaster occurred and they were separated (71.1% for the New Orleans area and 66.7% for southwest Louisiana).

Figure 11. Percentage Who Have a Plan in Place for How and Where Family Members will Reunite if They are Separated During a Disaster



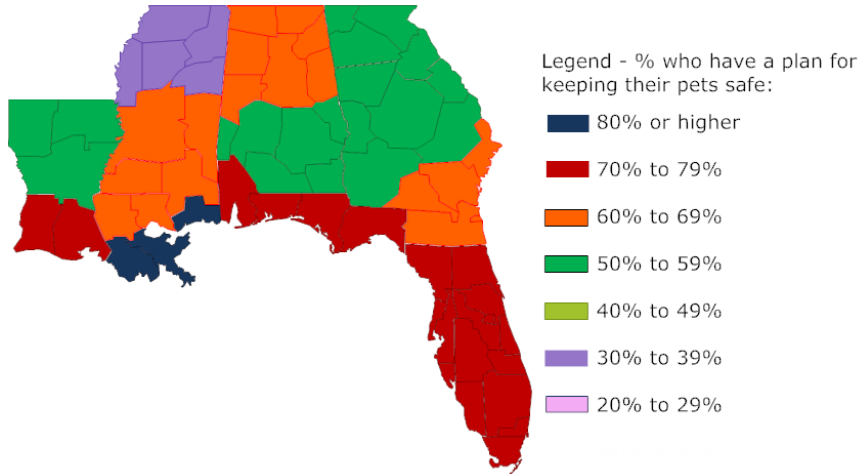
Major Points:

When asked if they had a plan for how they and their family members would reunite if they were separated during a disaster, the highest percentage of respondents reporting that they had such a plan were from southern Louisiana:

- New Orleans and surrounding area – 71.1%
- Southwest Louisiana – 66.7%

As mentioned earlier, 62.5% of the pet owners who were interviewed indicated that they have a plan for keeping their pets safe. This percentage was much higher in communities that are closer to the coast, particularly among residents of the New Orleans area (90.9%), and the coast of Mississippi (80.0%). Approximately three-fourths of pet owners in Florida and other coastal regions reported that they have a plan to keep their pets safe.

Figure 12. Percentage Who Have a Plan for Keeping Their Pets Safe in the Event of a Disaster



Major Points:

Coastal residents were much more likely than inland residents to have a plan in place for keeping their pets safe in the event of a disaster.

Confidence about the Future

After questioning respondents about their personal disaster preparations, interviewers asked them how confident they were that they would have the necessary supplies, information, ability to evacuate, and access to a shelter if needed. Participants rated their confidence using the following scale: *very confident*, *somewhat confident*, *not very confident*, *not at all confident*, or *no opinion*. The list below shows the percentage of respondents who were either *very* or *somewhat confident* about having what they would need if a disaster were to occur, and the percentages indicate that they were most confident about *being able to evacuate if necessary* (71.0% were *very confident*).

	<u>Very Confident</u>	<u>Somewhat Confident</u>
• Confident that they would be adequately prepared with the necessary food and supplies	39.7%	42.8%
• Confident that they would know where to obtain news and information from emergency officials	59.3%	27.8%
• Confident that they would be able to evacuate if necessary	71.0%	21.3%
• Confident that they would be able to obtain access to a shelter if necessary	56.0%	24.5%

An analysis was conducted to determine whether individuals who have made advance preparations would be more or less confident about their likelihood of having supplies, information, ability to evacuate, and access to a shelter in the event of a disaster. As shown below, respondents who reported that they had a disaster kit, an evacuation plan, a plan for reuniting with family members, and/or a pet plan consistently expressed a higher level of confidence:

Percentage of respondents who are very confident that they would be adequately prepared with the necessary food and supplies:

Disaster Kit		Plan for Evacuation		Plan to Reunite Family		Pet Safety Plan	
<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
49.5%	24.5%	47.3%	24.9%	51.7%	27.6%	47.7%	21.5%

Percentage of respondents who are very confident that they would know where to obtain news and information from emergency officials:

Disaster Kit		Plan for Evacuation		Plan to Reunite Family		Pet Safety Plan	
<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
66.6%	48.4%	64.9%	48.7%	67.5%	51.8%	62.6%	47.1%

Major Points:

71.0% of respondents were *very confident* that they would be able to evacuate in the event of a disaster.

A majority were very confident that they would know where to obtain news and information (59.3%) and that they would have access to a shelter if necessary (56.0%).

Confidence levels were notably higher among respondents who have made advance preparations for a disaster.

Percentage of respondents who are very confident that they would be able to evacuate if necessary:

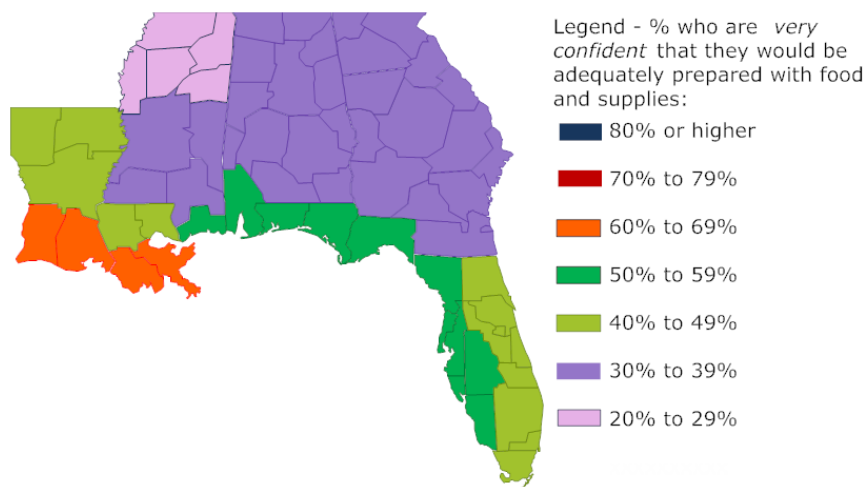
Disaster Kit		Plan for Evacuation		Plan to Reunite Family		Pet Safety Plan	
<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
77.1%	62.2%	80.3%	53.3%	80.6%	62.2%	78.2%	56.2%

Percentage of respondents who are very confident that they would be able to obtain access to a shelter if necessary:

Disaster Kit		Plan for Evacuation		Plan to Reunite Family		Pet Safety Plan	
<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
64.4%	43.8%	62.9%	43.3%	65.5%	47.3%	62.9%	44.9%

Figures 13 through 16 illustrate geographic differences in the confidence ratings. The overall pattern of differences was that individuals living closer to coastal areas were consistently more confident than inland residents about their ability to obtain food, supplies, information, an evacuation, and access to shelter if necessary.

Figure 13. Confidence That They Would Be Adequately Prepared with the Necessary Food and Supplies

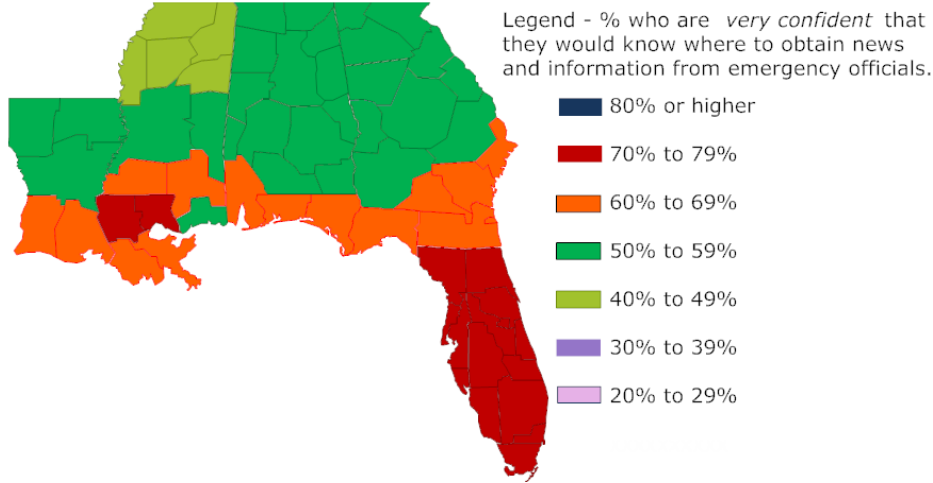


Major Points:

Respondents who live close to the coast were consistently more confident than inland residents about their ability to obtain food and supplies, information, evacuation, and access to a shelter if a disaster were to occur in their communities.

Compared to the residents of other geographic locations, respondents from the New Orleans area and southwest Louisiana most frequently expressed a high level of confidence that they would have the necessary food and supplies if a disaster occurred (63.2% and 61.1% respectively).

Figure 14. Confidence That They Would Know Where to Obtain News and Information from Emergency Officials

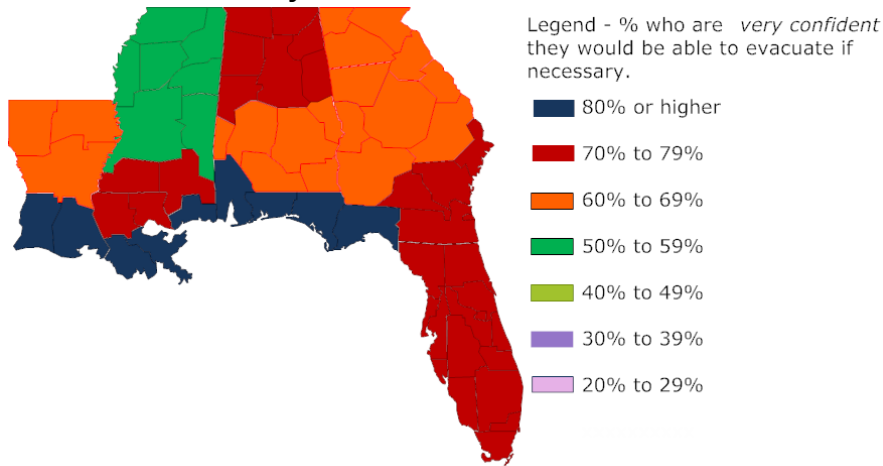


Major Points:

Locations where the residents were most confident that they would know where to obtain news and information from emergency officials were:

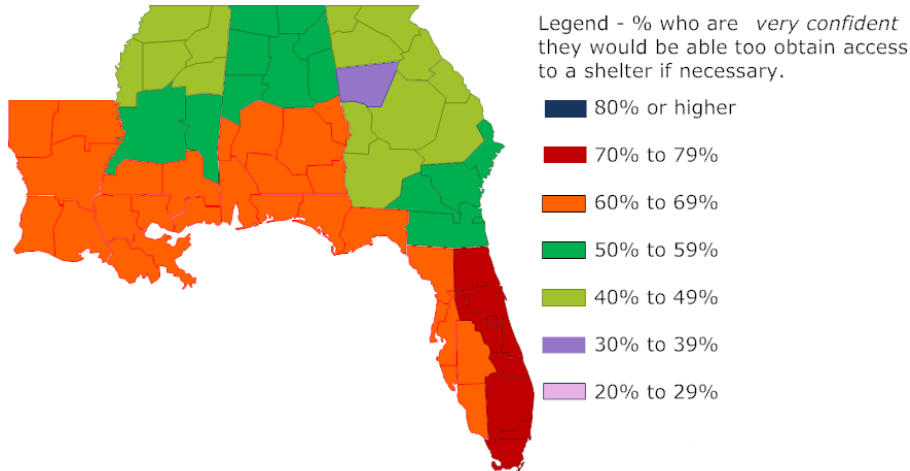
- The Baton Rouge area (76.3%)
- West Florida (71.1%)
- East Florida (70.7%)

Figure 15. Confidence That They Would Be Able to Evacuate if Necessary



At least 8 out of 10 respondents from southwest Louisiana (88.9%), the New Orleans area (84.2%), coastal Mississippi (81.0%) and coastal Alabama and the Florida panhandle (85.1%) were very confident that they would be able to evacuate in the event of a disaster.

Figure 16. Confidence That They Would Be Able to Obtain Access to a Shelter if Necessary



Residents of eastern Florida were most confident that they would be able to obtain access to a shelter if needed (72.0%). Confidence about gaining access to a shelter was lowest in the metropolitan Atlanta area.

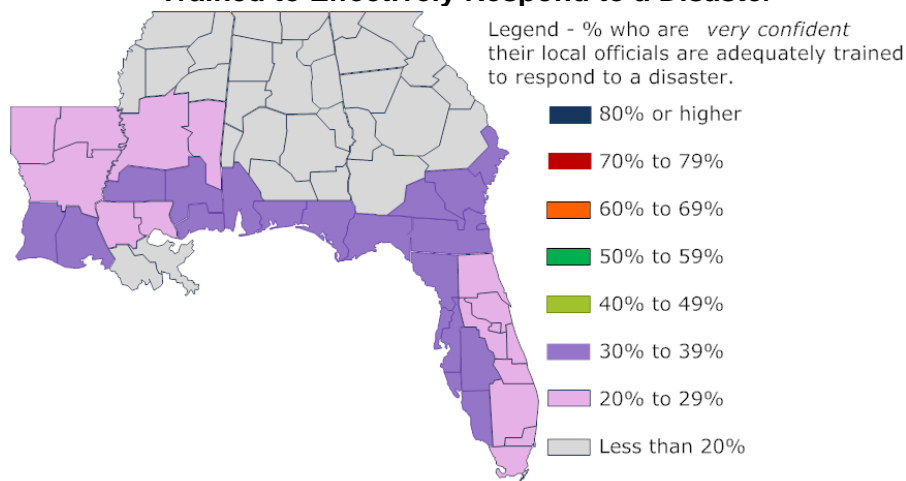
Confidence in Local Officials' Training and Resources for Responding to Disasters

Respondents were asked to indicate their level of confidence that their local officials were adequately trained and had the necessary resources to effectively respond to a disaster. Participants rated their confidence using the following scale: *very confident*, *somewhat confident*, *not very confident*, *not at all confident*, or *no opinion*. As shown below, most respondents were at least somewhat confident that their local officials have been provided with the necessary training and resources, although less than one-fourth reported that they were *very confident*.

	<u>Very Confident</u>	<u>Somewhat Confident</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How confident are you that your local officials are adequately trained to effectively respond to a natural, geological or man-made disaster? 	23.5%	44.2%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How confident are you that your local officials have the resources they need to effectively respond to a natural, geological, or man-made disaster? 	20.7%	41.8%

A comparison across geographic regions indicated that the New Orleans area of Louisiana was the only coastal region in which less than 20% of respondents were very confident in the training of their local officials (18.4%). The percentage of *very confident* residents was also low throughout most of Georgia, Alabama, and the northern half of Mississippi (see Figure 17). A similar pattern of differences was observed for confidence in the resources allocated to local officials (see Figure 18).

Figure 17. Confidence That Their Local Officials are Adequately Trained to Effectively Respond to a Disaster

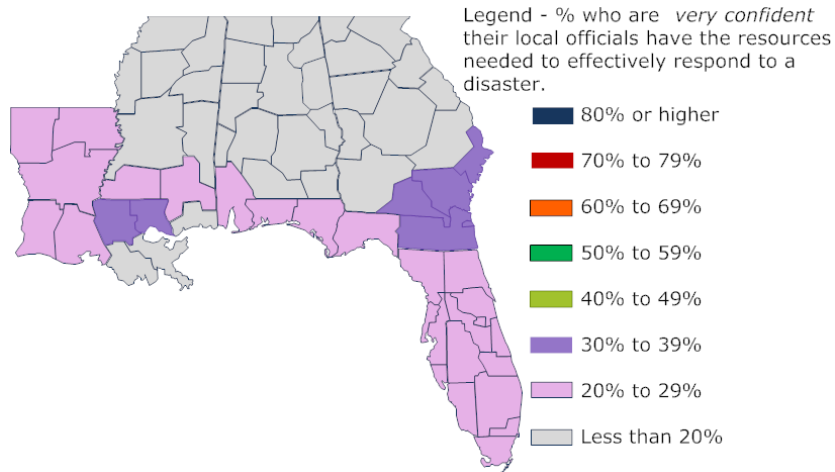


Major Points:

Most respondents were at least *somewhat confident* that their local officials have been provided with the necessary training and resources to effectively respond to a disaster. However, less than one-fourth reported that they were *very confident*.

In the New Orleans area, less than one-fifth of respondents (18.4%) were *very confident* that their local officials have been adequately trained to respond to a disaster.

Figure 18. Confidence That Their Local Officials Have the Resources to Respond Effectively to a Disaster



Respondents were asked whether improving disaster preparedness should be an *urgent priority*, *high priority*, *medium priority*, or *low priority* for local officials. As shown in Table 1, a majority of respondents reported that improving disaster preparedness should be either an *urgent* or *high* priority (62.7%), and this sentiment was highest among residents of Louisiana (74.0%).

Table 1. For your local officials, should improving disaster preparedness be an urgent priority, high priority, medium priority or a low priority?

	State					Total
	AL	FL	GA	LA	MS	
Urgent	12.4%	14.0%	14.7%	30.0%	21.5%	18.3%
High priority	45.6%	57.0%	36.8%	44.0%	39.7%	44.4%
Medium priority	31.4%	24.0%	37.7%	17.5%	26.6%	27.8%
Low priority	7.1%	3.0%	8.2%	6.0%	8.9%	6.7%
Don't know/no opinion	3.1%	1.5%	1.3%	1.5%	2.3%	2.0%
No answer	.4%	.5%	1.3%	1.0%	.9%	.8%
Total	226	200	231	200	214	1071
	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Major Points:

Slightly more than 1 out of 10 respondents from the New Orleans area were very confident that their local officials have the necessary resources to respond effectively to a disaster (13.2%).

Most respondents indicated that improving disaster preparedness should be either an *urgent* or *high* priority (62.7%), and this sentiment was highest among residents of Louisiana (74.0%).

Optimism about the Future

Participants were asked to think about the government's response to Hurricane Katrina in 2005, and to rate how optimistic they felt about how government officials at all levels would be expected to respond to future disasters of the same magnitude by answering the following three questions:

- If your area were to experience a disaster of the same magnitude as Hurricane Katrina in the future, how optimistic are you that federal officials would handle things better the next time?
- How optimistic are you that state officials in your area would handle things better than they were handled with Katrina?
- How optimistic are you that local city and county officials would handle things better in the future than were handled with Katrina?

Table 2 shows the percentage of respondents who reported being *very* or *somewhat optimistic* that government officials would handle future disasters better than Katrina. On average, more than 70% of respondents were at least *somewhat optimistic* about the future performance of government officials at all levels if a disaster were to occur in their areas. However, less than one half of the respondents in each state expressed that they were *very optimistic* about the future performance of government officials at any level. As shown in the table, participants in all states except Louisiana were more optimistic about how state officials would handle a future disaster when compared to their expectations of federal officials. Louisiana residents were most optimistic about their local city and county officials.

Table 2. Percent of Respondents Who Are *Very* or *Somewhat Optimistic* that Government Officials Will Handle Future Disasters Better than the Response to Katrina

	Optimism about Federal Officials		Optimism about State Officials		Optimism about Local City & County Officials	
	<u>Very</u>	<u>Somewhat</u>	<u>Very</u>	<u>Somewhat</u>	<u>Very</u>	<u>Somewhat</u>
Alabama	34.9%	35.8%	40.6%	34.9%	32.1%	41.5%
Florida	38.7%	36.0%	49.3%	39.3%	47.3%	40.7%
Georgia	36.4%	35.7%	37.0%	40.3%	39.0%	31.8%
Louisiana	30.2%	33.6%	29.3%	31.9%	41.4%	37.9%
Mississippi	33.9%	30.6%	40.5%	45.5%	40.5%	37.2%
All States	35.1%	34.5%	39.7%	38.6%	40.5%	37.6%

Major Points:

On average, more than 70% of respondents were at least *somewhat optimistic* about the future performance of government officials at all levels if a disaster were to occur in their areas.

However, less than one half of the respondents in each state expressed that they were *very optimistic* about the future performance of government officials at any level.

Figures 19 through 21 illustrate percentages of residents who were *very confident* about how government officials would respond to a disaster of the same magnitude of Katrina in the future.

Figure 19. Percentage of Respondents Who Are Very Optimistic About How Federal Officials Would Handle A Future Disaster of the Same Magnitude as Katrina

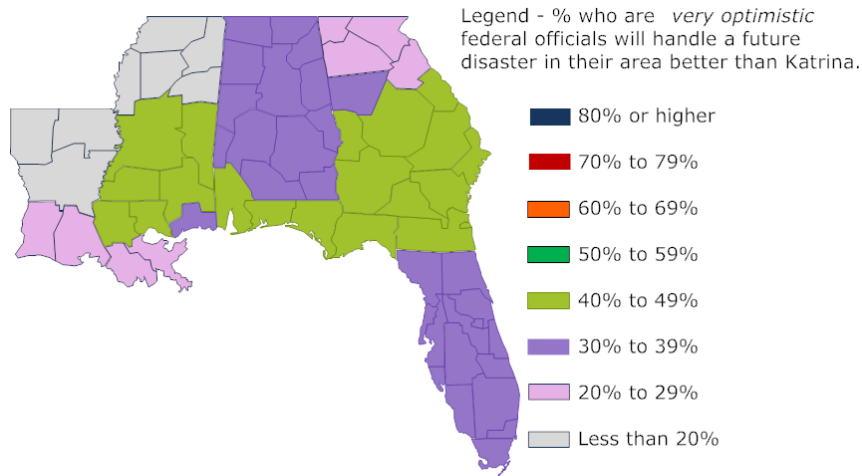
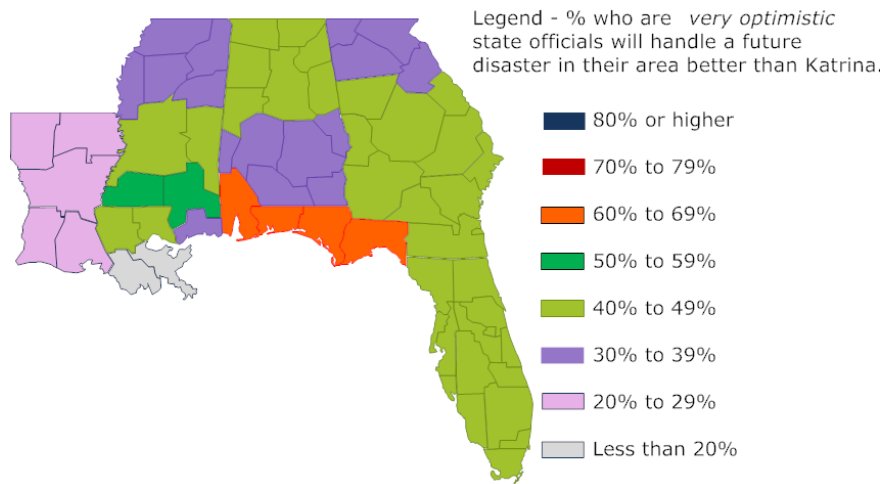


Figure 20. Percentage of Respondents Who Are Very Optimistic About How State Officials Would Handle A Future Disaster of the Same Magnitude as Katrina

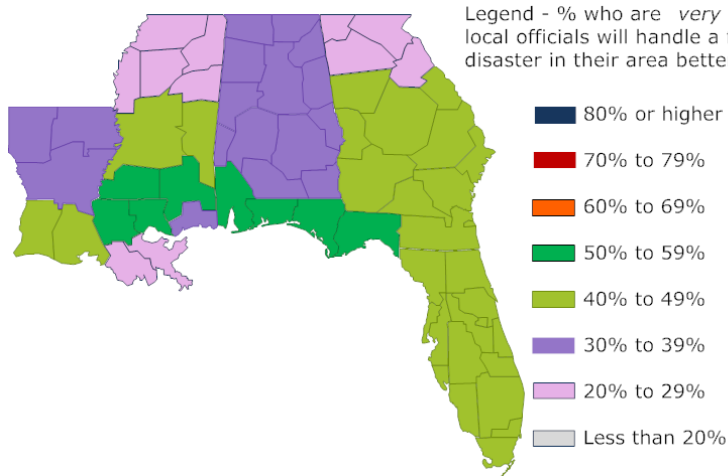


Major Points:

There was no geographic area in which a majority of residents felt very optimistic about the future performance of federal officials in the event of another disaster of the same magnitude as Katrina.

At least one-half of the respondents from coastal Alabama and the Florida panhandle (60.0%) and southern (non-coastal) Mississippi (50.0%) were very optimistic about how their state officials would respond to future disasters.

Figure 21. Percentage of Respondents Who Are Very Optimistic About How Their Local Officials Would Handle a Future Disaster of the Same Magnitude as Katrina



Major Points:

There were three geographic locations from which a majority of respondents felt *very optimistic* about the future performance their local officials in response to a disaster:

- Southern (non-coastal) Mississippi (57.7%)
- The Baton Rouge area of Louisiana (55.9%)
- The Alabama coast and Florida panhandle (52.0%)

Appendices

Appendix A: Respondent Characteristics

What is the highest level of education that you have achieved?

	State of Residence					Total
	Alabama	Florida	Georgia	Louisiana	Mississippi	
Less than high school	25 11.1%	4 2.0%	19 8.2%	17 8.5%	25 11.7%	90 8.4%
High school diploma/GED	66 29.2%	50 25.0%	55 23.8%	69 34.5%	67 31.3%	307 28.7%
Some college	50 22.1%	58 29.0%	51 22.1%	37 18.5%	48 22.4%	244 22.8%
Associate/technical degree	20 8.8%	12 6.0%	24 10.4%	10 5.0%	10 4.7%	76 7.1%
Bachelor's degree	32 14.2%	56 28.0%	58 25.1%	43 21.5%	38 17.8%	227 21.2%
Graduate/professional degree	32 14.2%	20 10.0%	24 10.4%	23 11.5%	26 12.1%	125 11.7%
No response/refusal	1 .4%	0 .0%	0 .0%	1 .5%	0 .0%	2 .2%
Total	226 100.0%	200 100.0%	231 100.0%	200 100.0%	214 100.0%	1071 100.0%

Are you employed full time?

	State of Residence					Total
	Alabama	Florida	Georgia	Louisiana	Mississippi	
Yes	108 49.8%	101 52.1%	132 60.0%	109 57.1%	106 51.5%	556 54.1%
No	107 49.3%	92 47.4%	86 39.1%	81 42.4%	100 48.5%	466 45.3%
Don't know/no answer	2 .9%	1 .5%	2 .9%	1 .5%	0 .0%	6 .6%
Total	217 100.0%	194 100.0%	220 100.0%	191 100.0%	206 100.0%	1028 100.0%

Which category best describes your annual household income?

	State of Residence					Total
	Alabama	Florida	Georgia	Louisiana	Mississippi	
Under \$25,000	38 17.5%	23 11.9%	26 11.8%	34 17.9%	53 25.7%	174 17.0%
\$25,000 to \$34,000	31 14.3%	22 11.4%	22 10.0%	16 8.4%	25 12.1%	116 11.3%
\$35,000 to \$49,000	23 10.6%	32 16.6%	33 15.0%	28 14.7%	26 12.6%	142 13.8%
\$50,000 to 74,000	37 17.1%	33 17.1%	34 15.5%	34 17.9%	37 18.0%	175 17.1%
\$75,000 to \$99,000	26 12.0%	21 10.9%	41 18.6%	18 9.5%	23 11.2%	129 12.6%
\$100,000 or more	17 7.8%	23 11.9%	38 17.3%	29 15.3%	13 6.3%	120 11.7%
No Answer	45 20.7%	39 20.2%	26 11.8%	31 16.3%	29 14.1%	170 16.6%
Total	217 100.0%	193 100.0%	220 100.0%	190 100.0%	206 100.0%	1026 100.0%

What race do you identify with?

	State of Residence					Total
	Alabama	Florida	Georgia	Louisiana	Mississippi	
African-American	34 15.7%	19 9.8%	45 20.5%	35 18.4%	68 33.0%	201 19.6%
Asian	2 .9%	1 .5%	0 .0%	2 1.1%	2 1.0%	7 .7%
Hispanic	3 1.4%	11 5.7%	9 4.1%	3 1.6%	0 .0%	26 2.5%
Native-American	5 2.3%	1 .5%	2 .9%	6 3.2%	1 .5%	15 1.5%
White	165 76.0%	152 78.8%	156 70.9%	134 70.5%	128 62.1%	735 71.6%
Other	7 3.2%	6 3.1%	2 .9%	3 1.6%	3 1.5%	21 2.0%
No response/refusal	1 .5%	3 1.6%	6 2.7%	7 3.7%	4 1.9%	21 2.0%
Total	217 100.0%	193 100.0%	220 100.0%	190 100.0%	206 100.0%	1026 100.0%

Political party affiliation:

	State of Residence					Total
	Alabama	Florida	Georgia	Louisiana	Mississippi	
Strong Democrat	45 20.7%	42 21.8%	39 17.7%	44 23.2%	52 25.4%	222 21.7%
Weak Democrat	18 8.3%	21 10.9%	23 10.5%	18 9.5%	19 9.3%	99 9.7%
Independent	51 23.5%	37 19.2%	42 19.1%	41 21.6%	40 19.5%	211 20.6%
Weak Republican	27 12.4%	27 14.0%	35 15.9%	23 12.1%	23 11.2%	135 13.2%
Strong Republican	43 19.8%	37 19.2%	47 21.4%	41 21.6%	35 17.1%	203 19.8%
Other	23 10.6%	18 9.3%	20 9.1%	15 7.9%	24 11.7%	100 9.8%
Don't know/no opinion	8 3.7%	6 3.1%	9 4.1%	4 2.1%	5 2.4%	32 3.1%
No response/refusal	2 .9%	5 2.6%	5 2.3%	4 2.1%	7 3.4%	23 2.2%
Total	217 100.0%	193 100.0%	220 100.0%	190 100.0%	205 100.0%	1025 100.0%

Political Ideology:

	State of Residence					Total
	Alabama	Florida	Georgia	Louisiana	Mississippi	
Very conservative	37 17.1%	28 14.5%	28 12.7%	30 15.9%	39 19.0%	162 15.8%
Conservative	82 37.8%	68 35.2%	78 35.5%	59 31.2%	75 36.6%	362 35.4%
Moderate	63 29.0%	49 25.4%	64 29.1%	73 38.6%	60 29.3%	309 30.2%
Liberal	16 7.4%	27 14.0%	24 10.9%	13 6.9%	14 6.8%	94 9.2%
Very Liberal	5 2.3%	10 5.2%	10 4.5%	3 1.6%	7 3.4%	35 3.4%
None of the above	8 3.7%	6 3.1%	8 3.6%	3 1.6%	3 1.5%	28 2.7%
Don't know/no opinion	4 1.8%	2 1.0%	4 1.8%	5 2.6%	2 1.0%	17 1.7%
No response/refusal	2 .9%	3 1.6%	4 1.8%	3 1.6%	5 2.4%	17 1.7%
Total	217 100.0%	193 100.0%	220 100.0%	189 100.0%	205 100.0%	1024 100.0%

Are you currently registered to vote in your state?

	State of Residence					Total
	Alabama	Florida	Georgia	Louisiana	Mississippi	
Yes	198 91.2%	179 92.7%	195 89.0%	174 92.1%	187 91.2%	933 91.2%
No	17 7.8%	14 7.3%	24 11.0%	13 6.9%	17 8.3%	85 8.3%
No response/refusal	2 .9%	0 .0%	0 .0%	2 1.1%	1 .5%	5 .5%
Total	217 100.0%	193 100.0%	219 100.0%	189 100.0%	205 100.0%	1023 100.0%

Appendix B: Survey Responses (For Total Sample and by State)

How vulnerable do you think your community is to: Disasters that result from extreme weather events such as hurricanes, tornados, strong thunder storms, floods, droughts, etc?

	State of Residence					Total
	Alabama	Florida	Georgia	Louisiana	Mississippi	
Very vulnerable	69 30.5%	92 46.0%	51 22.1%	85 42.5%	88 41.1%	385 35.9%
Somewhat vulnerable	100 44.2%	85 42.5%	97 42.0%	73 36.5%	79 36.9%	434 40.5%
Not too vulnerable	43 19.0%	14 7.0%	60 26.0%	31 15.5%	32 15.0%	180 16.8%
Not at all vulnerable	12 5.3%	9 4.5%	19 8.2%	8 4.0%	12 5.6%	60 5.6%
Neutral/no opinion	2 .9%	0 .0%	2 .9%	1 .5%	2 .9%	7 .7%
No answer	0 .0%	0 .0%	2 .9%	2 1.0%	1 .5%	5 .5%
Total	226 100.0%	200 100.0%	231 100.0%	200 100.0%	214 100.0%	1071 100.0%

How vulnerable do you think your community is to: Disasters that result from geological events such as earthquakes, volcanoes, or tsunamis?

	State of Residence					Total
	Alabama	Florida	Georgia	Louisiana	Mississippi	
Very vulnerable	11 4.9%	6 3.0%	14 6.1%	9 4.5%	24 11.2%	64 6.0%
Somewhat vulnerable	25 11.1%	20 10.0%	33 14.3%	17 8.5%	33 15.4%	128 12.0%
Not too vulnerable	58 25.7%	47 23.5%	50 21.6%	45 22.5%	49 22.9%	249 23.2%
Not at all vulnerable	130 57.5%	127 63.5%	128 55.4%	126 63.0%	108 50.5%	619 57.8%
Neutral/no opinion	1 .4%	0 .0%	4 1.7%	1 .5%	0 .0%	6 .6%
No answer	1 .4%	0 .0%	2 .9%	2 1.0%	0 .0%	5 .5%
Total	226 100.0%	200 100.0%	231 100.0%	200 100.0%	214 100.0%	1071 100.0%

How vulnerable do you think your community is to: Forest fires?

	State of Residence					Total
	Alabama	Florida	Georgia	Louisiana	Mississippi	
Very vulnerable	18 8.0%	26 13.0%	24 10.4%	16 8.0%	31 14.5%	115 10.7%
Somewhat vulnerable	65 28.8%	68 34.0%	79 34.2%	31 15.5%	55 25.7%	298 27.8%
Not too vulnerable	62 27.4%	36 18.0%	47 20.3%	43 21.5%	49 22.9%	237 22.1%
Not at all vulnerable	81 35.8%	70 35.0%	78 33.8%	108 54.0%	79 36.9%	416 38.8%
Neutral/no opinion	0 .0%	0 .0%	2 .9%	1 .5%	0 .0%	3 .3%
No answer	0 .0%	0 .0%	1 .4%	1 .5%	0 .0%	2 .2%
Total	226 100.0%	200 100.0%	231 100.0%	200 100.0%	214 100.0%	1071 100.0%

How vulnerable do you think your community is to: Industrial accidents such as chemical spills or explosions?

	State of Residence					Total
	Alabama	Florida	Georgia	Louisiana	Mississippi	
Very vulnerable	35 15.5%	19 9.5%	46 19.9%	55 27.5%	27 12.6%	182 17.0%
Somewhat vulnerable	72 31.9%	53 26.5%	65 28.1%	66 33.0%	57 26.6%	313 29.2%
Not too vulnerable	49 21.7%	50 25.0%	51 22.1%	33 16.5%	57 26.6%	240 22.4%
Not at all vulnerable	67 29.6%	74 37.0%	67 29.0%	43 21.5%	70 32.7%	321 30.0%
Neutral/no opinion	2 .9%	3 1.5%	1 .4%	2 1.0%	2 .9%	10 .9%
No answer	1 .4%	1 .5%	1 .4%	1 .5%	1 .5%	5 .5%
Total	226 100.0%	200 100.0%	231 100.0%	200 100.0%	214 100.0%	1071 100.0%

How vulnerable do you think your community is to: Terrorist attacks?

	State of Residence					Total
	Alabama	Florida	Georgia	Louisiana	Mississippi	
Very vulnerable	32 14.2%	34 17.0%	41 17.7%	33 16.5%	29 13.6%	169 15.8%
Somewhat vulnerable	61 27.0%	63 31.5%	65 28.1%	67 33.5%	60 28.0%	316 29.5%
Not too vulnerable	55 24.3%	44 22.0%	54 23.4%	40 20.0%	42 19.6%	235 21.9%
Not at all vulnerable	74 32.7%	58 29.0%	66 28.6%	55 27.5%	81 37.9%	334 31.2%
Neutral/no opinion	3 1.3%	1 .5%	2 .9%	2 1.0%	1 .5%	9 .8%
No answer	1 .4%	0 .0%	3 1.3%	3 1.5%	1 .5%	8 .7%
Total	226 100.0%	200 100.0%	231 100.0%	200 100.0%	214 100.0%	1071 100.0%

How vulnerable do you think your community is to: A large scale medical emergency, such as Bird Flu, West Nile virus, or Mad Cow Disease?

	State of Residence					Total
	Alabama	Florida	Georgia	Louisiana	Mississippi	
Very vulnerable	25 11.1%	34 17.0%	33 14.3%	50 25.0%	45 21.0%	187 17.5%
Somewhat vulnerable	89 39.4%	76 38.0%	94 40.7%	71 35.5%	82 38.3%	412 38.5%
Not too vulnerable	55 24.3%	48 24.0%	50 21.6%	37 18.5%	35 16.4%	225 21.0%
Not at all vulnerable	54 23.9%	37 18.5%	48 20.8%	36 18.0%	47 22.0%	222 20.7%
Neutral/no opinion	3 1.3%	4 2.0%	2 .9%	4 2.0%	5 2.3%	18 1.7%
No answer	0 .0%	1 .5%	4 1.7%	2 1.0%	0 .0%	7 .7%
Total	226 100.0%	200 100.0%	231 100.0%	200 100.0%	214 100.0%	1071 100.0%

How confident are you that you know how to prepare in advance for disasters that might occur in your area?

	State of Residence					Total
	Alabama	Florida	Georgia	Louisiana	Mississippi	
Very confident	87 38.5%	92 46.0%	80 34.6%	106 53.0%	80 37.4%	445 41.5%
Somewhat confident	102 45.1%	89 44.5%	96 41.6%	67 33.5%	96 44.9%	450 42.0%
Not very confident	22 9.7%	12 6.0%	37 16.0%	20 10.0%	26 12.1%	117 10.9%
Not at all confident	14 6.2%	6 3.0%	16 6.9%	5 2.5%	12 5.6%	53 4.9%
Neutral/no opinion	1 .4%	1 .5%	0 .0%	1 .5%	0 .0%	3 .3%
No answer	0 .0%	0 .0%	2 .9%	1 .5%	0 .0%	3 .3%
Total	226 100.0%	200 100.0%	231 100.0%	200 100.0%	214 100.0%	1071 100.0%

Do you have a disaster kit with emergency supplies in your home?

	State of Residence					Total
	Alabama	Florida	Georgia	Louisiana	Mississippi	
Yes	124 54.9%	151 75.5%	127 55.0%	123 61.5%	121 56.5%	646 60.3%
No	97 42.9%	48 24.0%	99 42.9%	74 37.0%	91 42.5%	409 38.2%
Not sure	5 2.2%	1 .5%	4 1.7%	2 1.0%	2 .9%	14 1.3%
No answer	0 .0%	0 .0%	1 .4%	1 .5%	0 .0%	2 .2%
Total	226 100.0%	200 100.0%	231 100.0%	200 100.0%	214 100.0%	1071 100.0%

Do you and the members of your household have an evacuation plan in case there is an emergency that would require you to leave the area?

	State of Residence					Total
	Alabama	Florida	Georgia	Louisiana	Mississippi	
Yes	130 57.5%	159 79.5%	136 58.9%	149 74.5%	135 63.1%	709 66.2%
No	94 41.6%	38 19.0%	91 39.4%	47 23.5%	75 35.0%	345 32.2%
Not sure	2 .9%	3 1.5%	3 1.3%	3 1.5%	4 1.9%	15 1.4%
No answer	0 .0%	0 .0%	1 .4%	1 .5%	0 .0%	2 .2%
Total	226 100.0%	200 100.0%	231 100.0%	200 100.0%	214 100.0%	1071 100.0%

Do you and the members of your household have a plan in place for how and where family members will reunite if a disaster occurs and you are separated?

	State of Residence					Total
	Alabama	Florida	Georgia	Louisiana	Mississippi	
Yes	97 42.9%	107 53.5%	100 43.3%	111 55.5%	95 44.4%	510 47.6%
No	125 55.3%	88 44.0%	122 52.8%	84 42.0%	113 52.8%	532 49.7%
Not sure	4 1.8%	4 2.0%	6 2.6%	4 2.0%	4 1.9%	22 2.1%
No answer	0 .0%	1 .5%	3 1.3%	1 .5%	2 .9%	7 .7%
Total	226 100.0%	200 100.0%	231 100.0%	200 100.0%	214 100.0%	1071 100.0%

**Do you and the members of your household have a plan for keeping your pets safe in the event of a disaster?
(Among pet owners only)**

	State of Residence					Total
	Alabama	Florida	Georgia	Louisiana	Mississippi	
Yes	95 57.2%	105 77.8%	89 54.9%	96 67.6%	86 58.1%	471 62.5%
No	70 42.2%	29 21.5%	68 42.0%	45 31.7%	61 41.2%	273 36.3%
Not sure	1 .6%	1 .7%	5 3.1%	1 .7%	1 .7%	9 1.2%
No answer	166 100.0%	135 100.0%	162 100.0%	142 100.0%	148 100.0%	753 100.0%
Total	95 57.2%	105 77.8%	89 54.9%	96 67.6%	86 58.1%	471 62.5%

In the event of a disaster, confidence that they would be adequately prepared with the necessary food and supplies.

	State of Residence					Total
	Alabama	Florida	Georgia	Louisiana	Mississippi	
Very confident	76 33.6%	93 46.5%	77 33.3%	104 52.0%	75 35.0%	425 39.7%
Somewhat confident	107 47.3%	92 46.0%	101 43.7%	66 33.0%	92 43.0%	458 42.8%
Not very confident	28 12.4%	10 5.0%	34 14.7%	23 11.5%	35 16.4%	130 12.1%
Not at all confident	14 6.2%	4 2.0%	16 6.9%	6 3.0%	9 4.2%	49 4.6%
Don't know/no opinion	1 .4%	1 .5%	2 .9%	0 .0%	3 1.4%	7 .7%
No answer	0 .0%	0 .0%	1 .4%	1 .5%	0 .0%	2 .2%
Total	226 100.0%	200 100.0%	231 100.0%	200 100.0%	214 100.0%	1071 100.0%

In the event of a disaster, confidence that they would know where to obtain news and information from emergency officials.

	State of Residence					Total
	Alabama	Florida	Georgia	Louisiana	Mississippi	
Very confident	135 59.7%	137 68.5%	121 52.4%	129 64.5%	113 52.8%	635 59.3%
Somewhat confident	70 31.0%	49 24.5%	65 28.1%	55 27.5%	59 27.6%	298 27.8%
Not very confident	11 4.9%	9 4.5%	28 12.1%	10 5.0%	30 14.0%	88 8.2%
Not at all confident	9 4.0%	5 2.5%	15 6.5%	4 2.0%	7 3.3%	40 3.7%
Don't know/no opinion	0 .0%	0 .0%	0 .0%	0 .0%	3 1.4%	3 .3%
No answer	1 .4%	0 .0%	2 .9%	2 1.0%	2 .9%	7 .7%
Total	226 100.0%	200 100.0%	231 100.0%	200 100.0%	214 100.0%	1071 100.0%

In the event of a disaster, confidence that they would be able to evacuate if necessary.

	State of Residence					Total
	Alabama	Florida	Georgia	Louisiana	Mississippi	
Very confident	156 69.0%	147 73.5%	159 68.8%	155 77.5%	143 66.8%	760 71.0%
Somewhat confident	51 22.6%	41 20.5%	54 23.4%	32 16.0%	50 23.4%	228 21.3%
Not very confident	12 5.3%	7 3.5%	7 3.0%	8 4.0%	13 6.1%	47 4.4%
Not at all confident	7 3.1%	5 2.5%	9 3.9%	3 1.5%	5 2.3%	29 2.7%
Don't know/no opinion	0 .0%	0 .0%	1 .4%	0 .0%	1 .5%	2 .2%
No answer	0 .0%	0 .0%	1 .4%	2 1.0%	2 .9%	5 .5%
Total	226 100.0%	200 100.0%	231 100.0%	200 100.0%	214 100.0%	1071 100.0%

In the event of a disaster, confidence that they would be able to obtain access to a shelter if necessary.

	State of Residence					Total
	Alabama	Florida	Georgia	Louisiana	Mississippi	
Very confident	132 58.4%	129 64.5%	95 41.1%	127 63.5%	117 54.7%	600 56.0%
Somewhat confident	56 24.8%	47 23.5%	63 27.3%	43 21.5%	53 24.8%	262 24.5%
Not very confident	23 10.2%	10 5.0%	38 16.5%	15 7.5%	24 11.2%	110 10.3%
Not at all confident	15 6.6%	11 5.5%	31 13.4%	13 6.5%	15 7.0%	85 7.9%
Don't know/no opinion	0 .0%	2 1.0%	3 1.3%	0 .0%	3 1.4%	8 .7%
No answer	0 .0%	1 .5%	1 .4%	2 1.0%	2 .9%	6 .6%
Total	226 100.0%	200 100.0%	231 100.0%	200 100.0%	214 100.0%	1071 100.0%

How confident are you that your local officials are adequately trained to effectively respond to a natural, geological or man-made disaster?

	State of Residence					Total
	Alabama	Florida	Georgia	Louisiana	Mississippi	
Very confident	43 19.0%	65 32.5%	39 16.9%	51 25.5%	54 25.2%	252 23.5%
Somewhat confident	111 49.1%	93 46.5%	102 44.2%	81 40.5%	86 40.2%	473 44.2%
Not very confident	37 16.4%	28 14.0%	45 19.5%	31 15.5%	38 17.8%	179 16.7%
Not at all confident	25 11.1%	8 4.0%	37 16.0%	30 15.0%	31 14.5%	131 12.2%
Don't know/no opinion	8 3.5%	6 3.0%	7 3.0%	4 2.0%	3 1.4%	28 2.6%
No answer	2 .9%	0 .0%	1 .4%	3 1.5%	2 .9%	8 .7%
Total	226 100.0%	200 100.0%	231 100.0%	200 100.0%	214 100.0%	1071 100.0%

How confident are you that your local officials have the resources they need to effectively respond to a natural, geological or man-made disaster?

	State of Residence					Total
	Alabama	Florida	Georgia	Louisiana	Mississippi	
Very confident	39 17.3%	57 28.5%	33 14.3%	52 26.0%	41 19.2%	222 20.7%
Somewhat confident	96 42.5%	95 47.5%	91 39.4%	78 39.0%	88 41.1%	448 41.8%
Not very confident	46 20.4%	29 14.5%	47 20.3%	30 15.0%	43 20.1%	195 18.2%
Not at all confident	29 12.8%	11 5.5%	42 18.2%	28 14.0%	32 15.0%	142 13.3%
Don't know/no opinion	8 3.5%	5 2.5%	8 3.5%	4 2.0%	6 2.8%	31 2.9%
No answer	8 3.5%	3 1.5%	10 4.3%	8 4.0%	4 1.9%	33 3.1%
Total	226 100.0%	200 100.0%	231 100.0%	200 100.0%	214 100.0%	1071 100.0%

For your local officials, should improving disaster preparedness be an urgent priority, high priority, medium priority or a low priority?

	State of Residence					Total
	Alabama	Florida	Georgia	Louisiana	Mississippi	
Urgent	28 12.4%	28 14.0%	34 14.7%	60 30.0%	46 21.5%	196 18.3%
High priority	103 45.6%	114 57.0%	85 36.8%	88 44.0%	85 39.7%	475 44.4%
Medium priority	71 31.4%	48 24.0%	87 37.7%	35 17.5%	57 26.6%	298 27.8%
Low priority	16 7.1%	6 3.0%	19 8.2%	12 6.0%	19 8.9%	72 6.7%
Don't know/no opinion	7 3.1%	3 1.5%	3 1.3%	3 1.5%	5 2.3%	21 2.0%
No answer	1 .4%	1 .5%	3 1.3%	2 1.0%	2 .9%	9 .8%
Total	226 100.0%	200 100.0%	231 100.0%	200 100.0%	214 100.0%	1071 100.0%

If your area were to experience a disaster of the same magnitude as Hurricane Katrina in the future, how optimistic are you that federal officials would handle things better the next time?

	State of Residence					Total
	Alabama	Florida	Georgia	Louisiana	Mississippi	
Very optimistic	37 34.9%	58 38.7%	56 36.4%	35 30.2%	41 33.9%	227 35.1%
Somewhat optimistic	38 35.8%	54 36.0%	55 35.7%	39 33.6%	37 30.6%	223 34.5%
Not very optimistic	15 14.2%	24 16.0%	23 14.9%	19 16.4%	16 13.2%	97 15.0%
Not at all optimistic	13 12.3%	12 8.0%	20 13.0%	22 19.0%	24 19.8%	91 14.1%
Don't know	1 .9%	0 .0%	0 .0%	1 .9%	2 1.7%	4 .6%
No response/refusal	2 1.9%	2 1.3%	0 .0%	0 .0%	1 .8%	5 .8%
Total	106 100.0%	150 100.0%	154 100.0%	116 100.0%	121 100.0%	647 100.0%

How optimistic are you that STATE OFFICIALS IN YOUR AREA would handle things better in the future than were handled with Katrina?

	State of Residence					Total
	Alabama	Florida	Georgia	Louisiana	Mississippi	
Very optimistic	43 40.6%	74 49.3%	57 37.0%	34 29.3%	49 40.5%	257 39.7%
Somewhat optimistic	37 34.9%	59 39.3%	62 40.3%	37 31.9%	55 45.5%	250 38.6%
Not very optimistic	15 14.2%	11 7.3%	18 11.7%	17 14.7%	6 5.0%	67 10.4%
Not at all optimistic	9 8.5%	6 4.0%	14 9.1%	25 21.6%	9 7.4%	63 9.7%
Don't know	2 1.9%	0 .0%	3 1.9%	3 2.6%	1 .8%	9 1.4%
No response/refusal	0 .0%	0 .0%	0 .0%	0 .0%	1 .8%	1 .2%
Total	106 100.0%	150 100.0%	154 100.0%	116 100.0%	121 100.0%	647 100.0%

How optimistic are you that LOCAL CITY AND COUNTY OFFICIALS IN YOUR AREA would handle things better in the future than were handled with Katrina?

	State of Residence					Total
	Alabama	Florida	Georgia	Louisiana	Mississippi	
Very optimistic	34 32.1%	71 47.3%	60 39.0%	48 41.4%	49 40.5%	262 40.5%
Somewhat optimistic	44 41.5%	61 40.7%	49 31.8%	44 37.9%	45 37.2%	243 37.6%
Not very optimistic	12 11.3%	15 10.0%	17 11.0%	9 7.8%	9 7.4%	62 9.6%
Not at all optimistic	13 12.3%	2 1.3%	24 15.6%	14 12.1%	16 13.2%	69 10.7%
Don't know	2 1.9%	1 .7%	2 1.3%	1 .9%	1 .8%	7 1.1%
No response/refusal	1 .9%	0 .0%	2 1.3%	0 .0%	1 .8%	4 .6%
Total	106 100.0%	150 100.0%	154 100.0%	116 100.0%	121 100.0%	647 100.0%