

## Baseline Interview for the Hurricane Katrina Community Advisory Group

### INTRODUCTION

*NOTE: The survey begins by explaining the project to respondents and obtaining verbal informed consent. The household is then enumerated and a random adult respondent is selected, again obtaining informed consent if the respondent is different from the initial household informant. Contact information and tracking information (i.e., contact information for three close friends or relatives who will know where to find the respondent if he or she subsequently moves) is also obtained. The respondent will be referred to henceforth as R and we will refer to R as "him" even though R might be either male or female. We will refer to the household as the HU. Our survey traces R, not the HU, over time, which means that we will follow R to a new HU rather than select a new R in the original HU if R moves out of his original HU in the course of the tracking period. We mail R a card to keep in his wallet that contains the project 800 number. We ask R to call this toll-free number if he ever moves to help us find R again. This card also has the address of a web site that has information regarding the project which R can use to see how the project is progressing.*

### ORAL HISTORY

For the next part of the interview, we would like you to hear from you in your own words, about what happened to you from the time you first heard that Hurricane Katrina was coming until today. We would like you to take about 10 minutes to do this. We would like to tape your statement so we can possibly post it on our website. Would it be ok with you for us to record and post the recorded description of your experiences? *NOTE: The Interview uses probes to illicit information about both the events that made up the respondents' experiences and also the thoughts and feelings of the respondents during that period, including plans for the future.*

### PRE-AND POST HURRICANE LIFE SITUATION

1. How old are you?
2. IF NECESSARY: Are you a male or female?
3. In the week before the hurricane, were you married, separated, divorced?
4. In the week before the hurricane, were you living with someone in a marriage-like relationship? *NOTE: This question is asked only if R reported not being married. "Skip logic" of this sort is not rigorously mapped out in this document, but can generally be inferred from marginal comments.*
5. In the week before the hurricane, how many people lived with you, not counting yourself? *NOTE: Questions are then asked to record age, sex, and relationship to R for each such person.*
6. In the week before the hurricane, were you employed, self-employed, looking for work, disabled, a student, a homemaker, retired, or something else?
7. Who was the main breadwinner in your household before the hurricane - you, someone else, or both you and someone else?
8. And which one of those people made the most money?
9. In the week before the hurricane, was [MAIN BREADWINNER] employed, self-employed, looking for work, disabled, a student, a homemaker, retired, or something else?
10. What's (his/her) job situation now - employed, self-employed, looking for work, or what?
11. And what's YOUR job situation now - are you employed, self-employed, looking for work, or what?
12. In what state did you live the week before hurricane Katrina? In what town did you live? In what [county/parish] did you live? What was your zip code? IF NEC: Was your home in the New Orleans Metropolitan Area?
13. Was the home in which you lived owned by you or someone else in the household free and clear without a mortgage or loan, owned with a mortgage or loan, rented for cash rent, or occupied without having to pay cash rent?
14. Was your home a mobile home, a one-family house detached from any other house, a one family house attached to one or more other houses, an apartment, a boat, an RV or van, or something else?
15. How many apartments were in the building?
16. The next question is about how many rooms were in the [house/apartment/mobile home/van/boat]? Do not count bathrooms, porches, balconies, foyers halls or half-rooms. With these exclusions in mind, how many rooms were in your [house/apartment/mobile home/van/boat]?

*NOTE: The four preceding questions are taken from the 2000 Census and are included here to facilitate post-stratification of the sample to match the Census population of the affected areas in the 2000 Census. Other matching variables include age, sex, education, marital status, and number/ages of people in the HU.*

17. Are you still living in this same [house/apartment/mobile home/van/boat] now?
18. What was the main phone number of that household? Please start with the area code...
19. Do you currently live in the New Orleans Metropolitan Area?
20. IF LIVED IN NEW ORLEANS METRO AREA PRIOR TO STORM BUT NOT NOW: Would you say that you will DEFINITELY move back to the New Orleans area, PROBABLY will move back, probably will NOT move back, or DEFINITELY will not move back?
21. What will be the most important deciding factors in whether or not you move back?
22. If you do end up moving back, how long do you think it will be until you move back in terms of weeks, months or years?

#### **PRE-HURRICANE SOCIAL NETWORKS AND SUPPORT**

1. In the months before Hurricane Katrina, about how many relatives did you have who lived in the same [county/parish] as you, NOT counting those who lived with you?
2. About how many relatives did you have who lived someplace that was not affected by either Hurricane Katrina or Hurricane Rita?
3. Not counting relatives, about how many people in the [county/parish] were you friendly enough with that you could borrow a cup of sugar or have them pick up your mail if you were out of town?
4. About how many friends or relatives in the [county/parish] were you close enough to that you could talk about your private feelings without feeling embarrassed?
5. About how many friends or relatives who did NOT live in the [county/parish] were you close enough to that you could talk about your private feelings without feeling embarrassed?
6. About how many of your friends or relatives counted on you for emotional support when they needed it?
7. About how many of your friends and relatives counted on you for practical support or advice when they needed it?
8. About how many people CURRENTLY count on you for emotional or practical support?
9. About how many people do you CURRENTLY have who you could talk to about your private feelings without feeling embarrassed?
10. Since the hurricane, about how many NEW people have you met that you expect to continue to have as a friend?
11. About how many old friends have you lost since the hurricane, either because they died or because you lost track of them?

#### **PRE-HURRICANE LIFE SATISFACTION**

1. The next questions are about how satisfied or dissatisfied you were with various aspects of your life before the hurricane. Here's the first one. In the year before the hurricane, were you, in general, satisfied or dissatisfied with:
  - a. Your financial situation?
  - b. Your work situation?
  - c. Your health?
  - d. If married before the hurricane: your marriage?
  - e. Your relationships with your family?
  - f. Your friendships?
  - g. Your leisure activities?
  - h. Your neighborhood?
  - i. Your life overall?

*NOTE: For each response, R was asked if they were very, somewhat, or only a little (satisfied/dissatisfied).*

2. Using the same scale, how satisfied or dissatisfied are you with your life overall right now?

#### **LEADING UP TO THE HURRICANE**

1. How soon before hurricane Katrina hit did you first hear that it might be coming?
2. When they first announced the fact that Katrina was coming, local TV, radio, and newspapers told people four things they should do to prepare for the hurricane: to pack up three days of food and water to take with them if they had to evacuate; to get a flashlight, transistor radio,

- and batteries to take with them if they had to evacuate; to make sure all medicines needed by anyone in the house were up to date and available in case they had to evacuate; to have an evacuation plan so that all family members would know where to find each other if they had to evacuate and were separated. About how many times did you hear or see a TV, radio, or print message that gave these four evacuation preparedness recommendations before Katrina?
3. Which of the following four things did your family do in preparation for Katrina BEFORE it happened? - Don't count things you did AFTER the hurricane and you knew you had to evacuate, just those you did BEFORE. Did your family do this in preparation BEFORE Katrina? (a) Did you pack three days of food and water? (b) Did you pack a flashlight, transistor radio, and batteries? (c) Did you make sure all needed medicines were available and ready to take in case of an evacuation? (d) Did you have an evacuation plan that all household members knew about?
  4. Did you evacuate to a safe place outside of the hurricane area BEFORE Katrina hit?
  5. You mentioned living with [NUMBER] other [person/people]. Did [both/all] of you evacuate together? IF NOT: Why not?
  6. Some people who didn't evacuate in advance of the hurricane wanted to, but couldn't because of things like no transportation, no money, no place to go, or their job required them to stay through the hurricane. Other people decided not to evacuate even though they could have either because they didn't think the hurricane was going to be very bad, they needed to stay and take care of someone who couldn't travel, they wanted to protect their home, or for some other reason. Which one were you? Did you want to evacuate in advance but were unable to do so? Or did you decide not to evacuate even though you could have done so?
  7. What prevented you from evacuating in advance of the hurricane?
  8. Why did you decide not to evacuate?
  9. Did you evacuate eventually? Or did you stay in your home throughout the hurricane (and flood) and all the time since?
  10. Which of the following describes how you finally evacuated your home - you walked or swam through water, you walked or drove without getting wet, you took a bus, a train, a boat, you were rescued by a police or Coast Guard boat, you were rescued by helicopter, or you evacuated in some other way?
  11. You mentioned (walking/swimming) through water. I have three questions about the water: How deep did the water get that you had to walk through? How far did you have to walk through water? How far did you have to swim?
  12. Where were you during the worst part of Katrina - at home, in the home of someone else, in a shelter, or somewhere else?
  13. How long did you stay there after the hurricane hit?
  14. You mentioned living with [NUMBER] other [person/people] before the hurricane. Did [both/all] of you stay together through the hurricane? IF NOT: Why not?
  15. Did you have to be rescued?
  16. You mentioned being rescued. I'd like you briefly to describe where you were at the time of the rescue and how much danger you were in.
  17. I need to get a list of each place you spent at least one night after you evacuated, how you got there, and for how long you stayed up to now. How many places did you spend at least one night after you evacuated? *NOTE: For each such place, information is recorded about the type of place, how R got there, what the relationship is of R to the person that took R to this place, and how long R stayed at this place.*
  18. Would you describe your current living conditions as better, worse, or about the same as your living conditions in the few months before the hurricane? A lot, somewhat, or only a little (better/worse)?
  19. In what state do you currently live? In what town do you currently live? In what [county/parish] do you currently live?
  20. Do you live in the same residence as before the hurricane?
  21. How did you decide to move to [PLACE]?
  22. Do you think you will stay in this town permanently? Or is this only temporary?
  23. You mentioned living with [NUMBER] other [person/people] before the hurricane. [Does (he/she)/Do both of them/Do all of them] live with you currently?
  24. How many of them no longer live with you? *NOTE: For each person who no longer lives with R, information is recorded on relationship and reason.*
  25. How many other people currently live with you who did not live with you before the hurricane?

#### **EXPERIENCES IN THE HURRICANE AND AFTERMATH**

1. The next questions are about experiences you may have had DURING Hurricane Katrina and (the flood and) in the aftermath, including any time you were also exposed to Hurricane Rita. Were you also hit by Hurricane Rita?

2. In that case, I want you to tell me about experiences both in Katrina and Rita in answering the next questions. At any time during or in the aftermath of [either hurricane/the hurricane/or flood] did you think that you might die?
3. How much did you feel each of the following emotions during [either hurricane/the hurricane]: How much did you feel frightened -- Not at all, a little, some, a lot, or extremely? How much did you feel helpless? How much did you feel horrified?
4. How much during [either hurricane/the hurricane/or flood] did your sense of time change, so that things seemed to be happening in slow motion - did this happen not at all, a little, some, a lot, or extremely?
5. Did you see any dead bodies either during or after [either hurricane/the hurricane/or flood]?
6. Did you witness anyone drown - either see it yourself or hear it happen?  
(Other than NAMES OF RELATIONSHIPS OF PEOPLE ALREADY MENTIONED WHO WERE KILLED) Were any (other) members of your family members or close friends killed as a result of [either hurricane/the hurricane/or flood]?
7. Who were the (other) family members or close friends that died as a result of [either hurricane/the hurricane/or flood]?
8. Did you have any pets that were either killed or that you left behind and lost?
9. Not counting (PEOPLE KILLED), were any other of your family members seriously injured or become seriously ill as a result of [either hurricane/the hurricane/or flood]?
10. Who were the family members that were seriously injured or became seriously ill as a result of the hurricane?
11. Were YOU seriously injured or did you become seriously ill as a result of [either hurricane/the hurricane/or flood]? IF YES: Briefly, what happened?
12. Were you exposed to any chemicals or water that you think might have been toxic or contaminated?
13. At any time during or after [either hurricane/the hurricane/or flood] were you unsure about the safety or whereabouts of any family members or close friends?
14. Who were the people whose whereabouts you were unsure of? NOTE: For each, information is obtained on whether the person is still missing or, if not, how long it took to learn about this person.
15. As you probably know, the Red Cross, Salvation Army, CNN, and other organizations created lists that they posted to let people who lost track of their family members know they were alive and where to find them. (IF R LIVES ALONE: Did you put your name on any of these lists? ALL OTHERS: Did you or anyone else in your household put their name on any of these lists?) IF YES: How many different lists of this sort did (IF R LIVES ALONE: you put your name on/ALL OTHERS: you or anyone else in your household put their name on?)
16. In the first few weeks after [either hurricane/the hurricane/or flood], how much difficulty did you have in each of the following areas -- None, a little, some, a lot, or extreme difficulty? Shortage of food, water, or clothing? Problems getting needed medicines or medical attention? Financial problems? Crowded or unsanitary living conditions? Family arguments? Embarrassment or humiliation? Fear of crime? Lack of information from the authorities?
17. Did you apply to any of the following organizations for aid: FEMA? Any other government program such as food stamps, unemployment insurance, or welfare? The Red Cross? Any other voluntary or religious organization?
18. Some people who were displaced by [either hurricane/the hurricane/or flood] were victimized in various ways -- like having things stolen from them, being threatened, robbed, physically assaulted, or sexually assaulted. Have any of these things happened to you since the hurricane?
19. Have any of these things happened to any of your family members or close friends since the hurricane(s)?
20. Did you witness any of these things happening to a family member or close friend - either see it yourself or hear it while it was happening?
21. Did you witness any of these things happening to anyone else?
22. I'm going to read a list and ask you to say 'yes' or 'no' to whether each of the following things happened to you since the hurricane(s):(Did this happen to you since the hurricane(s)...) Was something stolen from you, including your home being vandalized? Were you threatened? Were you robbed? Were you physically assaulted? Were you sexually assaulted?
23. I'm going to read a list and ask you to say 'yes' or 'no' to whether each of the following things happened to any of your family members or close friends since the hurricane(s): Did this happen to any of your family members or close friends since the hurricane(s)...Was something stolen from any of these people, including their homes being vandalized? Were any of them threatened? Were any of them robbed? Were any of them physically assaulted? Were any of them sexually assaulted? NOTE: For each mention, information is recorded about who this happened to.
24. I'm going to read a list and ask you to estimate about how many times you witnessed each of the following things happen to someone since the hurricane(s): Being threatened, robbed, or mugged? Being physically assaulted? Being sexually assaulted?

25. Sometimes people in disasters have experiences they consider horrible or disgusting - like drinking muddy water or having to go to the bathroom in public or dealing with sewage. Did you have any horrible or disgusting experiences due to [either hurricane/the hurricane/flood]? IF YES: Briefly, what happened and how long did it go on?
26. What is your estimate of the total dollar value before any insurance compensation of all property and possessions that you or anyone else living in your household lost in [either hurricane/the hurricane/or flood] or in the looting that occurred afterwards?
27. About how much do you think you will get back from insurance coverage?
28. Taking everything into consideration, how stressful overall would you say your experiences with the hurricane(s) or the flood and the aftermath have been on a 0-to-10 scale where 0 means not at all stressful and 10 means the most stressful thing you can imagine? You can use any number between 0 and 10 to answer.
29. If you had to pick one and only one thing, what would be the one thing about the hurricane(s) or the flood or the aftermath that was MOST STRESSFUL to you?

#### **PRACTICAL PROBLEMS**

1. Most people who lived through Katrina [and Rita] have practical problems - like dealing with insurance issues, finding a permanent place to live, getting a job, and the like. What would you say are currently your most serious practical problems caused by Katrina?
2. If you could decide government policy, what three practical actions would you say the government could do right now that would be MOST HELPFUL to you in dealing with the effects of the hurricane(s)?

#### **PERCEPTIONS**

1. The next questions ask you to rate how well various people and organizations responded to the hurricane(s) [or flood]. Using the categories excellent, very good, good, fair, poor, or very poor, how would you rate each the following: FEMA? The state and local police? Other parts of state and local government? The national guard and armed forces? Other parts of the federal government? The Red Cross? Other relief agencies? The insurance industry? Your family? Your close friends? Your neighbors? The American public? You. How would you rate your own response to the Hurricane(s) [and flood]?
2. How ashamed do you feel about anything you did during or after the hurricane(s) [or flood] - very, somewhat, a little, or not at all ashamed?
3. How much do you think your family or friends are either upset with you or disappointed in you for anything you did during or after the hurricane(s)[or flood] - a lot, some, a little, or not at all?
4. IF AT ALL TO EITHER OF LAST TWO QUESTIONS: Briefly, what did you do that makes you most ashamed (and that) makes people most upset with you?
5. How proud do you feel about anything you did during the hurricane(s) [or flood] - very, somewhat, a little, or not at all proud?
6. How much do you think your family or friends admire the way you behaved in the hurricane(s) [or flood] - a lot, some, a little, or not at all?
7. IF AT ALL TO EITHER OF LAST TWO QUESTIONS: Briefly, what did you do that makes you most proud (and that) makes people most admire you?
8. Disasters can sometimes have positive effects. For example, they can bring people closer together with their loved ones. How much did the hurricane(s) [or flood] bring you closer together with your loved ones - a lot, some, a little, or not at all?
9. How much did the hurricane(s) [or flood] make you LESS close to your loved ones?
10. How much did YOUR EXPERIENCES WITH the hurricane(s) [or flood] make you feel emotionally closer to other people who were displaced by the hurricane?
11. How much did YOUR EXPERIENCES WITH the hurricane(s) [or flood] make you feel LESS emotionally close to other people who were displaced by the hurricane?
12. How much did YOUR EXPERIENCES WITH the hurricane(s) [or flood] make you have more faith and trust in people?
13. How much did YOUR EXPERIENCES WITH the hurricane(s) [or flood] make you have LESS faith and trust in some people?
14. How much did anyone in your personal life DISAPPOINT you by not responding to you or other hurricane(s) [or flood] victims in the way you would have expected?
15. How much did the hurricane(s) [or flood] make you feel more concerned or compassionate about the needs of other people?
16. How much did YOUR EXPERIENCES WITH the hurricane(s) [or flood] help you set new priorities for your life?

17. Disasters also sometimes help people find a deeper meaning and purpose in their lives. How much did the hurricane(s) [or flood] make you feel a deeper meaning or purpose in life?
18. How about the opposite - How much did the hurricane(s) [or flood] make you feel that life has no meaning or purpose?
19. How much did your experiences with the hurricane(s) [or flood] make you more spiritual or religious?
20. How much did your experiences with the hurricane(s) [or flood] make you LESS spiritual or religious?
21. How much did the hurricane(s) [or flood] make you feel less safe and secure in your day-to-day life?
22. How much did the hurricane(s) [or flood] make you more afraid about bad things that might happen in the future?
23. How much did the hurricane(s) [or flood] make you realize that you have inner strengths or competence that you didn't previously know you had?
24. How much did the hurricane(s) [or flood] make you realize BAD THINGS or weaknesses about yourself that you didn't previously know you had?
25. Disasters have different effects on different people. Some people become BETTER able to cope with future stresses, while other people become LESS able to cope with future stresses. Which of these effects do you think your experiences with the hurricane(s) [and flood] will have on you over time - will you be BETTER able to cope with future stresses or LESS able?
26. How optimistic do you feel about the way things will turn out for you in the future - very optimistic, somewhat, not very, or not at all optimistic?
27. How much faith do you have in your own abilities to rebuild your life - a lot, some, a little, or none?
28. How much faith do you have in your neighbors, friends, or relatives helping you rebuild your life - a lot, some, a little, or none?
29. How much faith do you have that the government will help you rebuild your life - a lot, some, a little, or none?
30. Now I want to ask you some questions about how you view other people. Generally speaking, would you say that most people can be trusted or that you can't be too careful in dealing with people?
31. How much do you trust each of the following groups of people, generally speaking, using the response categories a lot, some, only a little, or not at all: First, how much, generally speaking, do you trust: government officials; people who have the same religion as you; people who have a different religion from you; White people; Black people; Hispanic people; Asian people?
32. Some people displaced by Katrina [and Rita] ended up in a new town where the people helped them start a life as good as, or even better than, the life they had before. Did that happen to you?
33. Overall, would you say your current life is better, worse, or about the same as before the hurricane?

#### **PHYSICAL HEALTH**

1. The next questions are about your health. Would you say your physical health in the year or so BEFORE the hurricane(s) was excellent, very good, good, fair or poor?
2. Is your current physical health better, worse, or about the same as before the hurricane?
3. The next questions are about your health in the year BEFORE Katrina. In the year before Katrina, how much difficulty did you have with each of the following areas of life because of problems with your physical or mental health: Did health problems cause no difficulty, mild, moderate, or severe difficulty in this area in the year before Katrina? First, difficulty with mobility, like standing for long periods, moving around inside your house, or getting out of your house? Difficulty with your concentration, memory, understanding, and ability to think clearly? Difficulty with self-care, like taking a bath, dressing, or feeding yourself? Difficulty maintaining a normal social life and participating in social activities? Difficulty taking care of normal household responsibilities? Difficulty working or holding a job?
4. Which of the following health problems did you have in the year before Katrina: ARTHRITIS OR RHEUMATISM? BACK PAIN, NECK PAIN OR LUMBAGO? ASTHMA? CANCER? DIABETES? EMPHYSEMA? COPD, TB, OR ANY OTHER SERIOUS LUNG DISEASE? HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE OR HYPERTENSION? HEART ATTACK OR STROKE? HEART DISEASE? KIDNEY DISEASE? MIGRAINE HEADACHES? OTHER FREQUENT OR SEVERE HEADACHES? AN ULCER EITHER STOMACH, DUODENAL OR PEPTIC? ANY OTHER SERIOUS STOMACH PROBLEMS? DEPRESSION? ANY OTHER MENTAL HEALTH PROBLEM? A PROBLEM WITH DRINKING OR DRUGS? ANY OTHER SERIOUS HEALTH PROBLEM? (IF SO, DESCRIBE)
5. Some people with pre-existing health problems like this either stopped getting treatment in the months since Katrina [and Rita] or cut back on how frequently they got treatment because of

- various problems with insurance, transportation, moving, and other things caused by the hurricane. Did Katrina [or Rita] cause you either to stop getting treatment or to cut back on getting treatment for any pre-existing health problem?
6. For which health problems did you either stop getting treatment or cut back on getting treatment?
7. How many times have you seen a doctor for a pre-existing health problem in the months since Katrina?
8. And about how many times do you estimate that you would have seen a doctor for a pre-existing health problem during the same time period if Katrina had never occurred?
9. What were your main reasons for not seeing a doctor as often as if Katrina [and Rita] had not happened?

#### **EMOTIONAL REACTIONS**

1. After disasters like Katrina [and Rita], most people have emotional reactions of some sort, such as becoming more nervous, depressed, or withdrawn than usual. I want you to tell me how often you have had each of the following reactions in the past 30 days. How often have you had nightmares or upsetting dreams about the hurricane(s) [or flood] or aftermath - most every day, two to four days a week, about once a week, less than once a week, or never?
2. In the past 30 days, how often have you had upsetting thoughts or memories about the hurricane(s) [or flood] or aftermath?
3. In the past 30 days, how often have you found yourself thinking back and reliving your experiences in the hurricane(s) [or flood] or aftermath?
4. How often have you found yourself thinking how things might have turned out differently if you or your family or friends had made different decisions?
5. In the past 30 days, how often have you found yourself thinking how things might have turned out differently if the government or relief agencies had acted differently?
6. How often have you acted or felt as if you were living through the hurricane(s) [or flood] again?
7. How often have you felt upset by reminders of the hurricane(s) [or flood] or terrible things that happened to you after the hurricane(s)?
8. In the past 30 days, how often have you had bodily reactions - such as fast heartbeat, stomach churning, sweatiness, or dizziness - when reminded of the hurricane(s) [or flood] or aftermath?
9. How often have you had difficulty falling asleep or staying asleep?
10. How often have you been more irritable or angry than usual?
11. In the past 30 days, how often have you had more difficulty concentrating than usual?
12. How often have you had heightened awareness of potential dangers to yourself or others?
13. How often have you been more jumpy or easily startled than usual?
14. When a painful memory of the hurricane(s) [or flood] pops into your mind, how often do you do each of the following things - all the time, most of the time, some of the time, a little of the time, or never: (Do you do this ... all the time, most, some, a little of the time, or never?) How often do you try to push the memory out of your mind? How often do you try to think of something else that is more pleasant? How often do you try to distract yourself by doing something to get your mind off the painful memory?
15. How often in the past 30 days have you felt either anxious or worried or nervous - all of the time, most of the time, sometimes, rarely, or never?
- 15A. How often have you felt so anxious or worried or nervous that nothing could calm you down?
16. How often in the past 30 days have you felt restless or fidgety?
17. How often have you felt sad or depressed?
- 17A. How often have you felt so sad that nothing could cheer you up?
18. How often have you felt hopeless?
19. How often have you felt worthless?
20. How often have you felt that everything was an effort?
21. How often have you felt angry?
- 21A. How often have you felt so angry that you either lost your temper or felt out of control?
22. Thinking of all the emotional reactions I just asked you about, how much did these reactions interfere with your ability to get along with people in the past 30 days - not at all, a little, some, a lot, or extremely?
23. How much did your emotional reactions in the past 30 days interfere with your ability to work or do the practical things you needed to do?
24. Since the hurricane(s) have you received any sort of professional counseling for problems with your emotions, nerves, or mental health? IF YES: What kind of professional did you see?
25. How many sessions of psychological counseling or psychotherapy have you received since the hurricane?

26. How many minutes did [this session/these sessions] last (on average)?
27. Are you still going to counseling or psychotherapy sessions or have you stopped?
28. What were your reasons for stopping?
29. Since the hurricane(s) have you taken a prescription medicine for problems with your emotions, nerves or mental health?
30. What prescription medications have you taken for your problems with your emotions, nerves or mental health? [If you're taking more than one, please give me one name at a time. Let's start with the first one...] FOR EACH MEDICATION TAKEN: About how many days out of the past 30 did you take [MEDICINE]? How much [MEDICINE] did you usually take on the days you took it? IF NEEDED: Was that a pill, injection, teaspoon, tablespoon, drops or doses by syringe? Who prescribed [this medication/these medications]?
31. *NOTE: The following two questions were asked only of people who did not obtain any treatment.* Was there a time since the hurricane(s) when you felt that you might need to see a professional because of problems with your emotions, nerves, or mental health?
32. What were your reasons for not seeing a professional?

## **LOSS**

1. People lost many things because of Hurricane Katrina [and Hurricane Rita] - loved ones, property, a sense of community, and a way of life. On a 0-to-10 scale where 0 means no loss and 10 means the greatest loss you can imagine, what number describes how much you lost because of the hurricane(s)? You can use any number between 0 and 10 to respond. IF NOT 0: Briefly, what was your greatest loss due to the hurricane(s)?
2. In the past 30 days, how often have you found yourself longing or yearning for the people or things you lost?
3. How BITTER do you feel over your loss - not at all, a little, some, a lot, or extremely bitter?
4. How EMPTY or MEANINGLESS do things seem since your loss - not at all, a little, some, a lot, or extremely?
5. How difficult is it for you to accept your loss or to believe that it's real - not at all, a little, some, a lot, or extremely difficult?

## **HISTORY OF EMOTIONAL PROBLEMS**

1. The next questions are about terrible experiences that might have happened to you at any time in your life BEFORE Katrina. When I use the term "terrible experience" I mean things like physical or sexual assault, a natural disaster, a serious automobile accident, seeing someone killed or seriously injured, having a loved one die by homicide or suicide, or any other terrible experience that you either witnessed or that(READ SLOWLY)put-you-or-someone-close-to-you-at-risk-of-serious-harm-or-death. With that definition in mind, not counting Katrina and the events that happened after Katrina, did a "terrible experience" ever happen to you at any previous time in your life?
2. Not counting Katrina, about how many different times before Katrina did a "terrible experience" ever happen to you in your life?
3. Terrible experiences can sometime cause emotional problems that last for months or even years - like nightmares, very upsetting thoughts, feeling emotionally numb or detached from other people, and avoiding situations that remind you of the experience. Not counting time since Katrina, did you ever have problems like these after [your/either of your/any of your] other "terrible experience(s)"?
4. Not counting time since Katrina, what's the longest number of weeks, months, or years you ever had these kinds of emotional problems related to a "terrible experience" at least once or twice a week?
5. Did you ever get professional treatment for these emotional problems?
6. I need you to think back over your entire life to answer the next few questions. Not counting the time since Katrina, did you EVER IN YOUR LIFE have times lasting a month or longer when you felt sad or depressed most of the time? IF YES: About how many different years in your life did you have times like this lasting a month or longer? During the times your depression was at its worst, did you also have other problems like low energy, or changes in your sleep or appetite, or problems with your ability to concentrate? Did you ever get professional treatment for your depression? How much did your depression ever interfere with your life or activities - not at all, a little, some, a lot, or extremely?
8. Not counting the time since Katrina, did you ever have times in your life lasting a month or longer when you were nervous, or edgy, or anxious, or worried most of the time? IF YES: About how many different years in your life did you have times like this lasting a month or longer?

During the times your nerves or anxiety were at their worst, did you also have other problems like being restless, irritable, easily tired, or have difficulty falling asleep? Did you ever get professional treatment for your nerves or anxiety? How much did your nerves or anxiety ever interfere with your life or activities - not at all, a little, some, a lot, or extremely?

9. Not counting times since Katrina, did you ever in your life have "anxiety attacks" -- when all of a sudden out of the blue you felt very frightened or panicky, you had physical sensations like pounding heart, shortness of breath, dizziness, or feeling like you were going to throw up, that you might lose control, or that you might go crazy or die? IF YES: About how many different years in your life did you have anxiety attacks? Did you ever get professional treatment for your anxiety attacks? How much did your anxiety attacks ever interfere with your life or activities - not at all, a little, some, a lot, or extremely?

10 Not counting times since Katrina, did you ever in your life have "ANGER attacks" when all of a sudden you lost control and either yelled, broke things, or tried to hurt someone? IF YES: About how many different years in your life did you have anger attacks? How much did your anger attacks ever interfere with your life or activities - not at all, a little, some, a lot, or extremely?

11. Not counting times since Katrina, did you ever in your life have any problems with alcohol or drugs bad enough either that your family worried or that you had complaints at work or school or with the law? IF YES: About how many different years in your life did you have problems with alcohol or drugs? Did you ever get professional treatment for your problems with alcohol or drugs? How much did your problems with alcohol or drugs ever interfere with your life or activities - not at all, a little, some, a lot, or extremely?

12. The next set of questions are about thoughts of hurting yourself that you EVER had in your life, including the times since Katrina (and since Rita/and since the flood). Have you EVER in your life seriously thought about committing suicide? IF YES: How old were you the FIRST time this happened? Have you seriously thought about committing suicide at any time in the past 12 months? Have you had those thoughts in the past 30 days? How old were you the LAST time you thought about committing suicide?

13. Have you ever made a PLAN for committing suicide? IF YES: How old were you the FIRST time you made a suicide plan? Did you make a plan for committing suicide at any time in the past 12 months? Did you think about a suicide plan at any time in the past 30 days? How old were you the LAST time you made a suicide plan?

14. Have you ever ATTEMPTED suicide? IF YES: How many times did you attempt suicide in your lifetime? How old were you [the first time]? Have you attempted suicide in the past 12 months? Did it result in an injury or poisoning? Did it require medical attention? Did it require overnight hospitalization? Was your (most recent) attempt in the past 30 days? There are three statements I will read out loud. Please tell me which of these three statements best describes your situation when you attempted suicide (most recently): One, I made a serious attempt to kill myself and it was only luck that I did not succeed. Two, I tried to kill myself, but knew that the method was not fool-proof. Three, my attempt was a cry for help, I did not intend to die. Which of these three statements best describes your situation when you attempted suicide after Katrina - one, two, or three? Which of the following methods did you use? Just stop me when I get to your method: LIST OF METHODS FOLLOWED WITH AN OPEN-ENDED RESPONSE FOR OTHER METHODS.

33. Not counting times since Katrina, did you ever in your life get professional treatment for any emotional problem?

## **PERSONAL PROFILE**

1. How would you rate yourself on each of the following attributes, using the response options excellent, good, fair, and poor: How about... Your ability to keep calm and think of the right thing to do in a crisis? Your ability to concentrate and learn new things? Your ability to get along with people? Your ability to get people to do what you want them to do? Your ability to stay out of trouble when you're in a dangerous situation? Your ability to control your emotions when you need to stay in control? Your ability to keep a sense of humor in tense situations? Your ability to make a plan and follow through when planning is needed? Your ability to manage money? Your ability to stick to a job and finish it once it is started? Your ability to manage your time and get things done on schedule? Using the same response scale, how would you rate yourself on being responsible, such as showing up when you say you will and remembering to do things you promise to do?

## **DEMOGRAPHICS**

1. The last questions are for classification purposes. What is the highest degree or level of school you completed?

2. Are you of Hispanic or Latino origin?
3. Which of the following categories best describes your racial background...
4. And what's your religion - Protestant, Catholic, Jewish, Muslim, Other, or no religion?
5. How religious or spiritual are you - very, somewhat, not very, or not at all?
6. When you have problems in your day to day life, how often do you seek comfort in a religious or spiritual way - such as praying, meditating, attending a religious service, or talking to a spiritual advisor - often, sometimes, rarely, or never?
7. Some people have problems filling out forms because of their eyesight or reading ability or arthritis. When you have to fill out forms, such as FEMA applications or insurance forms, how often do you have someone help you read or fill out the materials - always, most of the time, sometimes, occasionally, or never?
8. How confident are you in filling out forms by yourself - extremely confident, quite a bit, somewhat, not very, or not at all confident?
9. The next question is about the total income of your household before taxes in the 12 months before Katrina, including income from all sources, such as wages, salaries, investment income, income from Social Security and retirement benefits, help from relatives, and so forth. Was your total household income in the 12 months before Katrina less than 20,000 dollars, between 20 and 40,000, between 40 and 80,000, or more than 80,000 dollars? BRANCHES DEPENDING ON RESPONSES: Was it less than 5000, between 5 and 10, between 10 and 15, or more than 15,000? Was it less than 25 thousand, between 25 and 30, between 30 and 35, or more than 35 thousand? Was it less than 50 thousand, between 50 and 60, between 60 and 70, or more than 70 thousand? Was it less than 100 thousand, between 100 and 150, or more than 150,000?
10. Was your total household income in the past 30 days more than the same time one year ago, less than a year ago, or about the same as a year ago?
11. Including income from all sources, such as wages, salaries, investment income, income from Social Security and retirement benefits, help from relatives, and so forth, was your total pre-tax household income in the past 30 days less than 1,000 dollars, between 1 and 2,000, between 2 and 3,000, or more than 3,000 dollars? BRANCHES DEPENDING ON RESPONSES: Was it less than 500, between 500 and 800, or more than 800? Was it less than 15 hundred, between 15 and 18 hundred, or more than 18 hundred? Was it less than 25 hundred, between 25 and 28, or more than 28 hundred? Was it less than 4000, between 4 and 6, or more than 6000?
12. BEFORE THE HURRICANE, which of the following kinds of health insurance did you have -- none, private insurance through a current or former employer or union, private insurance that you purchased directly from the insurance company, Medicare, Medicaid, other government insurance based on financial need, government insurance for military personnel or veterans, or some other kind of health insurance?
13. Is your current insurance coverage the same, or has it changed? IF CHANGED: What kind of health insurance do you have CURRENTLY?

#### **SUGGESTIONS FOR AUTHORITIES**

1. As I mentioned at the beginning of the interview, the goal of this survey is to assess the needs of people affected by hurricane Katrina. Given that goal, is there anything you think I should have asked you? IF YES AND IF NEC: What should I have asked? How would you have answered that question if I had asked it?
2. Is there anything the authorities should know about the effects of the hurricane that wasn't covered in this survey? IF YES AND IF NEC: What should they know?
3. Do you have any thoughts about things government relief agencies are not already doing that they should be doing? IF YES AND IF NEC: What should they do?